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# North American Birds

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

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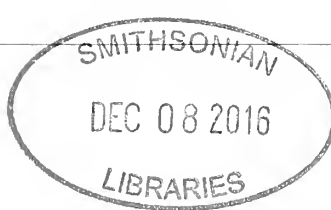


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Black Rosy-Finches. Watercolor by John Sill

Representing the first verified American Birding Association Area record was this Loggerhead Kingbird at Fort Zachary Taylor State Park, Key West, Florida 8-27 March 2007. Its blackish cap and nape contrasting with grayish back, bold crest, prominent white-edged wing coverts and tertials, and white underparts indicate that this individual was one of three subspecies: from the Cuban mainland, the Island of Youth, or Grand Cayman Island. *Photograph by Carl Goodrich.*



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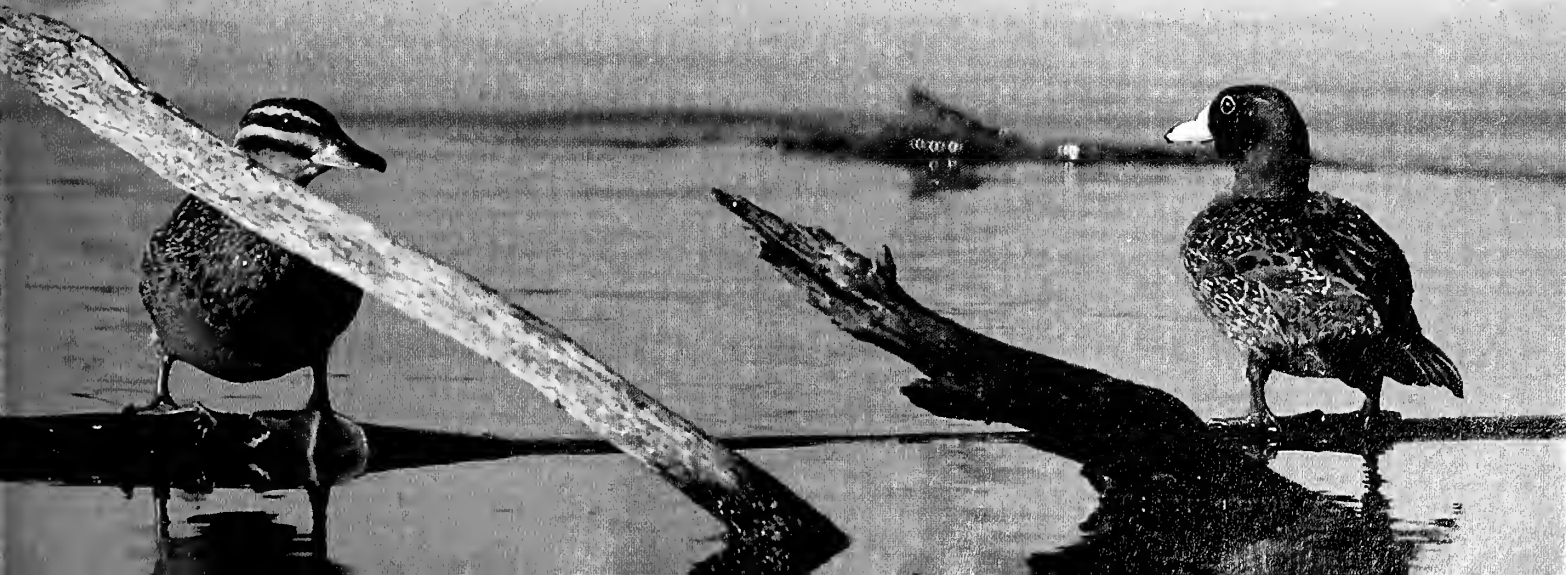
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*Masked Ducks. Photograph by Glenn Perrigo. See page 473.*





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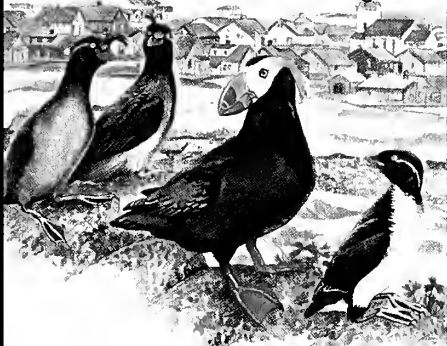
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# The Changing Seasons: Signs?

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This American Woodcock chick was one of three young observed with an adult in Pittsylvania County, Virginia 25 March 2007, while the photographer was off the beaten birding track, looking for orchids. Young of this retiring species are seldom observed and even more rarely documented. *Photograph by Larry Lynch.*

I have a marvelous coworker who is fond of saying, on unusually warm winter days or as hurricanes rake the coast, “Signs! The signs are all around us! The signs!” His reference is not to the 1970 Five Man Electrical Band hit song (“Long-haired freaky people need not apply...”) but quite openly to the Book of Revelations, that enigmatic text that appears to forecast the End of Days. I love his candor; his enthusiasm for the Apocalypse is almost infectious.

The Changing Seasons has flirted with references to “strange times,” with titles like “Rome Burning” and subtitles such as “Drought, Fire, Plague, and a Penguin,” but the latest climate-change forecasts from scientists have begun to read more and more like Revelations: the sea ice will disappear in 2050, then 2030, and now... 2012? We read of massive declines in penguin populations, of Ivory Gulls and Polar Bears rapidly losing prey base and habitat, and of lost Arctic seals wandering

in tropical waters. The drumbeat seems inexorably toward widespread extinctions, disappearing coastal wetlands (eventually disappearing coastal cities), and the disinterest and intransigence of nations. These stories, alas, are buried in so many of the mass media’s communications beneath tales of the latest exploits of O. J. Simpson or Anna Nicole Smith. My coworker’s worldview has come to seem pedestrian, almost sanguine in our age, in which hard scientific data have become like the prophetess Cassandra, accurate but widely ignored, or denied, or drowned out.

However well scientists working in the polar regions may have identified clear causal links between carbon dioxide levels and ecosystem collapse, we birders in the temperate zones usually lack interpretive frameworks, much less evidentiary connections, for the many disparate phenomena we observe. True, we document a great many species of southerly breeding distribution expanding

their ranges northward, a good many boreal or upland or montane species withdrawing northward or repairing to higher elevations, and very few species expanding their breeding ranges southward in the Northern Hemisphere. And true, we detect latitudinal vagrants with what appears to be increasing frequency. At least some of these shifts appear to be consistent with predictions about climate change. But are there other signs around us, away from the Arctic, that there are problems? After all, we read about “good numbers” of American Bitterns in many of this season’s regional reports, about rebounding counts of Rusty Blackbird in some areas, about burgeoning goose numbers all around, and high and record-high counts of scores of species in dozens of regions—from Stilt Sandpiper to Blue Jay to Black Skimmer. Spring for birders is often a time of wonder and optimism, of reveling in the return of both short- and long-distance migrants. Amid our scramble to see as much as we can see, are we missing the signs? Is my coworker’s ear simply better at detecting the hoofbeats than my own?

## The Weather

Taking a cue from Marshall Iloff and Derek Lovitch (2007), I would like to offer a rather brief synopsis of the continent's weather patterns here, saving two juicy exceptions for separate sections, below. Weather, and climate, are so heavily in the news of late, and the data on weather trends so readily available via the Internet, that our summaries here seem more and more a cumbersome afterthought. And we find ourselves repeating the mantra: hot and dry. To be sure, there were a few exceptional cold fronts, a mid-April coastal gale in the Atlantic, and deluges without end in the southern Great Plains. Continentally, spring 2007 was the fifth warmest spring on record, according to the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina. A strong frontal boundary brought devastating tornadoes to the middle of the United States in early May, while in the Southeast, drought conditions worsened steadily (becoming critical in the summer and fall months over many areas). Continued extreme dryness in May east of the Mississippi River and in the Far West expanded the drought area. The global land-surface temperature was the highest for the month of May, as well as for boreal spring. The combined global land-and ocean-surface temperature was fourth warmest on record for May, and 2007 tied with 1998 for the warmest January-through-May period in history.

## Ocean arrhythmias

I had never seen the term "arrhythmia" applied to fluctuations in ocean conditions (sea surface temperatures, food availability, etc.)—until I read the Oregon & Washington regional report, which is recommended reading. Apparently, another anomaly in the patterns of seawater upwelling, on which so much of the marine food chain is dependent, caused localized starvation among Rhinoceros Auklets, Horned Puffins, and Tufted Puffins. Beach surveys in Oregon began finding corpses of these species in some numbers late in February, with a peak in late March, when hundreds of alcids, plus several Mottled Petrels, were found. Dead Horned Puffins were found as late as 22 May at the Tijuana River mouth in southern California.

Live alcids, of course, were also detected. Over 50 Horned Puffins in northern California (plus birds well into the summer season), 13 in Oregon (seven of these on a pelagic trip) through 1 April, three in British Columbia through 27 May, and one in Washington 3 April were all newsworthy. Researchers also

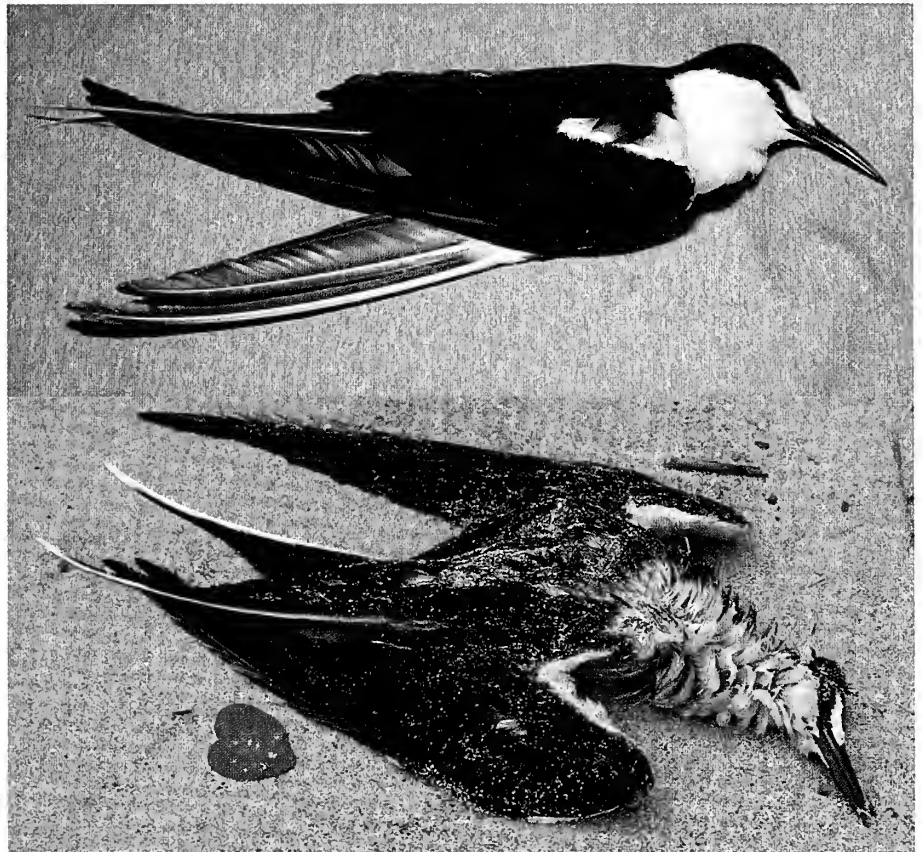


Figure 1. These two Sooty Terns, both found 17 April 2007, were casualties of a hurricane-force storm; three others were also recorded in New England as a result of this storm. One (bottom photograph) was found dead on a beach in Little Compton, Rhode Island; the other died shortly after it was discovered in moribund condition roughly 32 kilometers from the coast in Southington, Connecticut. Photographs by Geoff Dennis (lower image) and Bruce Finnan (top image).

made large counts of Parakeet Auklets off Oregon/Washington, and seven were found 21 April off southern California, a red-letter bird and a high count for so far south. Thick-billed Murres played a minor role in this event, noted mostly in the Puget Trough (mostly in winter), with one seen from shore in British Columbia 20 May.

Although the signs of trouble spanned thousands of kilometers, the number of birds actually tallied in this "event" was not terribly large and certainly not without precedent in the eastern North Pacific Ocean. Most of the birds were reported between Oregon and northern California. The human mind delights in making connections, in reading disparate bits of information as parts of a greater whole, with an underlying single cause. However much we might want to connect these events to global climate change—and throw in the whole panoply of vagrant tubenoses, while we're at it, e.g., another Ringed Storm-Petrel (Oregon), a few more Yellow-nosed Albatrosses (New England, Figure 3)—we lack a way to integrate the scattered bits of data to

make this assertion confidently. We perceive far less than one per cent of the phenomena involving pelagic birds, surely, and so we see as through a glass darkly.

## Rough winds

While many in the United States were struggling to locate receipts to finalize federal income taxes (and residents of Maine and Massachusetts prepared to mark Patriot's Day), a wicked storm began brewing in the Gulf of Mexico and swept up toward the Middle Atlantic and Northeast, where it pounded shorelines for several days with hurricane-force winds, moving inland through Connecticut and toward Québec. Birders, being birders, knew that birds would be affected, but we have little record of storms like this one, at least of this intensity at this time of the year and with this trajectory. So scads of us mobilized, wondering what we would find.

The results were surprising. Few would have guessed that Sooty Terns would be the stars of such a storm, but in fact seven were found in the Northeast (Figure 1). Most of



Figure 2. This American Oystercatcher at Nockamixon State Park, Bucks County, Pennsylvania 19 April 2007 was apparently a result of the coastal storm of days earlier and represented the fifth record for Pennsylvania, two of the previous reports coming from this location. Photograph by Cameron Rutt.

these birds were moribund or appeared exhausted; two were found dead. Point Judith, Rhode Island had three; Southington, Connecticut had one; two were noted on Long Island (one dead); and another dead one was found at Goosewing Beach, Rhode Island. We know that the storm moved through part of the Gulf Stream, but data off North Carolina suggest that the Sooties weren't entrained at this latitude. However, the recently published paper of Bob Wallace and Russ Wigh (2007) confirms that Sooties are present off central Florida's Atlantic coast at this time of year. It seems likely that the birds were swept northward in southerly winds on the "right" side of this storm, then moved into the coast around the top of the system. Not part of a larger pattern in this particular storm—but part of a weak/subtle pattern, typically connected to tropical storms—an American Oystercatcher in Bucks County, Pennsylvania (Figure 2) was another victim of the foul weather. No others were reported inland this season, other than a lost bird in Sheffield, Alabama 24 May, a perplexing record, as there are rather few such interior records anywhere in the United States.

Mid-April is the time for Indigo Buntings, Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, and Blue Grosbeaks to move northward from wintering areas, at least in the southern United States, but arrivals of these species en masse in the North at this time of year is usually the product of a fast-moving low-pressure system coming up the coast. However, early spring "overshoots" (or pioneers, depending on one's interpretation) may arrive well north of typical breeding range during periods of southerly winds. And so, unlike in the Canadian Maritimes, in areas

like the Hudson-Delaware region, it can be difficult to distinguish storm-displaced birds from the normal seasonal haul of northerly migrant cardinalids (we may as well lump *Piranga* tanagers in here): some appeared during or just after the storm, but by no means all. However, if we look to the Bahamas and to Bermuda, the association between the Patriot's Day storm and fallouts of such species is clear: a record-high six Summer Tanagers and 20+ Scarlet Tanagers on Bermuda, mostly 14-21 April, plus 12 Scarlet Tanagers in the northern Bahamas 16-21 April. In Nova Scotia, the first of 10 Summer Tanagers was found 19 April, as the storm moved inland. In addition, good numbers of Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and over 100 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were recorded in Nova Scotia, many arriving on the heels of the storm. New England surprisingly had smaller numbers of these storm-birds, but their lot included a remarkable Painted Bunting, filling out a grand slam of the colorful granivores for the Bay State (with an early Baltimore Oriole thrown in). Simon Perkins notes that the storm's veering inland meant that seawatch sites along the Massachusetts coast failed to astonish, as winds never came around to the northeast, as they would have if the storm had moved up the coast, and so Rhode Island and Connecticut saw more of the action.

So, although there are interpretive gray areas, and although each storm is distinctive in the birds it transports or grounds, we feel confident in assigning records such as the Sooty Terns to discrete weather events such as the Patriot's Day Storm. But was that wicked weather itself a sign, as my coworker calls the

frequent hurricanes of late? "No," he says; "that was just a bad nor'easter." (Or a sou'easter, depending on your point of view, I suppose.) I still have much to learn about the End Time, clearly.

A week or so before the coastal storm, 4-8 April, a severe cold snap dropped temperatures by dozens of degrees across the southern Plains through the Ozarks and Mississippi Valley to Appalachia and down the upper Gulf Coast. The effect on trees, already budded or blooming, was chilling (see the S.A. reports in the Tennessee & Kentucky regional report and the accounts in the Arkansas & Louisiana and Alabama & Mississippi reports): observers say the woods looked brown and lifeless, "as though a defoliant spray had been applied," according to Steve McConnell. The effect on birds was likewise stark: hundreds of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and dozens of Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were driven to feeding stations. Insectivorous birds, with fewer options during the hard freeze, were probably more severely affected. A few days later, the same front interacted with a second front, bringing a fallout of Neotropical migrants on the upper Gulf Coast 10-11 April. Such late-season cold fronts are not unusual, by any means, but don't seem to fit neatly with our anticipation of increasingly warm springs. Nevertheless, the overall picture was of a very warm March-through-May period.

## A Day in May

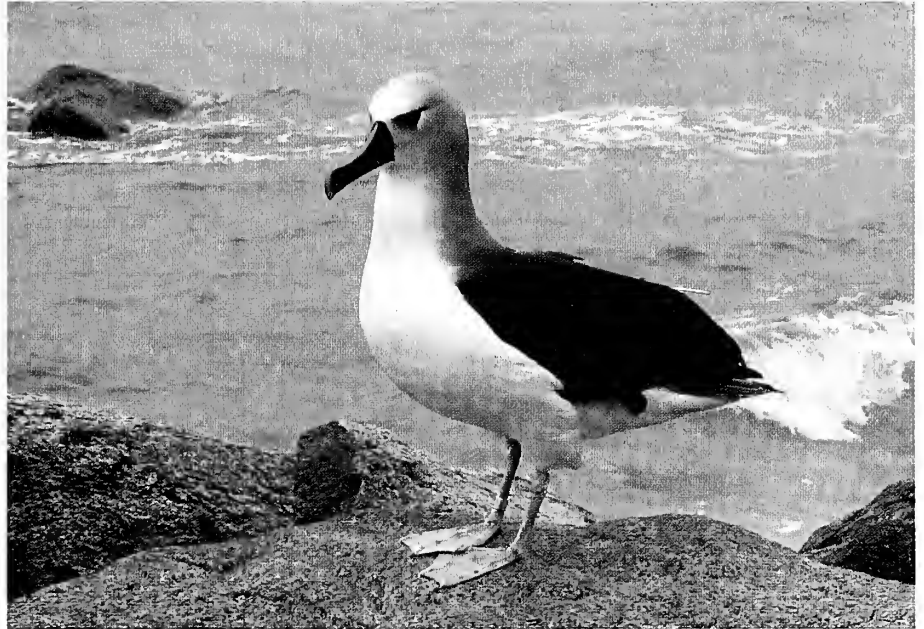
I won't pretend that any *North American Birds* reader actually has the inclination, or spare time, to read this journal cover to cover. Having read each issue at least four, and usually six, times for the past seven years, I may have an unusual, if almost pathological, perspective: though retaining individual records is impossible, I find there is a collection of impressions about early and late dates and about range contractions and expansions that rattles around in my head. (All of this accreted material taking up mental shelf space means that I have little trouble taking home the Cliff Clavin award at the local Irish pub on any given night; friends shake their heads when the TV newscaster starts in on some story about invasive weeds on the prairie or a birder shooting a cat to save Piping Plovers—they know what's coming. So you may wish to order a drink before reading on here. "It's a little known fact...")

So indulge me. I have always wanted to pick a calendar day in North and Central America and review the day's birding on just that single date. Has the reader never won-



dered, when out in the field on some glorious day: "What are other birders seeing today around the continent?" Let's pick, at random, the Fourth of May, a day that has always seemed to hold a nice cross-section, at the middle latitudes (not so much in northern-tier states or Canada), of both short- and long-distance migrants, as well as a few vagrants. In 2007, the Fourth fell on a Friday, so there was a little more birding going on than during midweek but not so much as on subsequent weekend days. Weather was relatively mild across much of the Lower 48 states—with the exception of the continent's center. A terrible outbreak of tornadoes occurred, beginning in the evening of 4 May, with about as about 95% of the city of Greensburg, Kansas destroyed by an EF-5 tornado; 12 people were killed and over 60 injured. The outbreak extended across a wide swath of Oklahoma, Colorado, South Dakota, and Kansas and spawned perhaps 150 tornadoes in total. In reviewing all of the day's records mentioned in the regional reports, I think it will be interesting to see how many of these fall into larger patterns (or suggest broader issues)—and whether there are any of those elusive "signs" in this snapshot.

On the Fourth of May at Florida's Viera Wetlands, in Brevard County, 94 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were counted. Although there are more intrepid species expanding ranges northward in North America (Black-necked Stilt, Carolina Wren), few are more audaciously tropical in appearance than Black-bellieds. What better "poster bird" for global warming in these pages? New records came from areas of Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana this season, with more to follow in the summer report. For waterfowl otherwise, 4 May marked a late date for four species: the last of the Aleutian Canada Geese were at Shoreline Park in Santa Clara County, California; the last of the Eurasian Teal were noted in Oregon/Washington; a late Cinnamon Teal was at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Texas; and Guadeloupe's latest Ring-necked Duck ever tarried at Gaschet Reservoir. These dates seem mostly normal, and late waterfowl are also sometimes birds wounded in the winter hunt, so it is difficult to read much into such records. Five Black Francolins near Makakilo, Oahu Island constituted the only galliform record mentioned from 4 May. On the continent, several regional reports mentioned that introduced gamebirds of this sort were holding their own but that populations of native species continue to decline, without exception. No mystery of Biblical proportions here—just habitat loss and degradation,



**Figure 3.** This Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross endured many hardships during its prolonged visit to New England. Here, it contemplates its freedom before taking flight from a beach in Falmouth, Massachusetts 20 May 2007—its first release from rehabilitation. There has been a notable surge in reports of Yellow-nosed Albatrosses in the North Atlantic in recent years, notably from western Europe in Sweden, Norway, and the United Kingdom. Photograph by Jay Sisson.

much of which is preventable.

By the Fourth, most of season's push of Red-necked Grebes had moved through the East, but imagine Cameron Rutt's pleasure on pulling up to the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and finding the state's first Yellow-billed Loon, an adult in flawless breeding plumage—not a species one expects to see here, or anywhere in the East, but one of a growing number of extralimital records across the Lower 48 in the past decade or so. Whether this stark increase in records relates to a shift in wintering patterns or to greater observer scrutiny of inland waters is not known, but I rather suspect the latter.

Seabirds received rather little comment on the Fourth. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was found dead near La Jolla, California that day, and Woody Bracey found a very nice assortment of tubenoses—a Black-capped Petrel, plus a Sooty, 3 Cory's, and 4 Greater Shearwaters east of Abaco Island. While the storm-petrel was possibly tied to the influx of northern alcids well south of range off the West Coast, and also possibly to the die-off of the alcids and of Mottled Petrels, the Bahamian procellariids are typical birds for the date and location but notable because of the dearth of data on seabirds from this area. The only other seabird mentioned on the Fourth was a Brown Pelican at Patagonia Lake, Arizona—a species reported with increasing frequency in the Southwest in recent years but

typically later, in summer or early autumn. Brown Pelican movements in the continent's interior in spring show little rhyme or reason that I can discern.

Early May would seem a fine time to hunt for wading birds in many areas. The season's first Little Blue Heron for Pennsylvania turned up in Bucks County on 4 May, and a Reddish Egret was at Sunner Lake, New Mexico that day, while Least Bitterns called at California's Sutter National Wildlife Refuge. Of these, the Reddish Egret is most iconic of wandering/expanding southern species: not only have records increased in the Southwest and Southeast, but the Midwest and Northeast have seen records increase notably in the past few years (Illinois had its third record in May this year, for instance). But Glossy Ibis takes the wading bird cake: found across the interior West and upper Midwest this spring, Glossics were seen at two locations on New Mexico's Vermejo Ranch 4 May and at Mid-Ocean Golf Course in Bermuda that day. For birders who take this species (or White-faced or White Ibis, for that matter) for granted as locally common species, the phenomenal appearances of extralimital ibises may be underappreciated. But to a birder who has canvassed the same patch for decades and is suddenly finding one or more ibis species (and their hybrids), these Signs of the Times are nearly as jarring a sight as the flocks of tootling whistling-ducks.

An early migrant even among plovers, three European Golden-Plovers put in an appearance at Kilbride, Newfoundland 4 May, still a good date to look for this vagrant, which typically shows up in Newfoundland in April, en route to Iceland. Will others turn up in New England some day? Another Palearctic early migrant, a fancy Ruff of the rufous sort made its presence known 4 May in Blaise, Québec; my impression is that Ruffs, after something of a lull in the mid-1980s through the 1990s, have begun to increase (or be detected increasingly often) across much of our fair continent. Migration of shorebirds across the interior of the continent was well reported this season, and many high counts came in. It is tempting to see in these numbers some much-needed good news about shorebird populations, but shorebirds in the interior gather rather opportunistically in ephemeral areas of optimal habitat, and our random observations probably provide insufficient data for celebration. In well-studied species, such as Red Knot (see the Middle Atlantic regional report), the news is not especially good. Nonetheless, larger species in particular—such as Whimbrel, Willet, and Marbled Godwit—posted fine tallies from across a large swath of the continent this spring: 33 Willets and a Marbled Godwit around Waterloo, Alabama 4 May was typical of the season. Ruddy Turnstones were also reported in excellent numbers, from New York to Nebraska, in early May, while Wilson's Phalaropes peaked at 1180 at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico 4 May (and later at 6000 in Oklahoma).

In a season recovering from a surfeit of Iceland Gulls out West, the Fourth of May was not a date to go gulling in most places. Three Laughing Gulls at Otter Slough Conservation Area, Iowa and three Franklin's Gulls at Kodiak Island, Alaska would certainly have been more newsworthy even just a few years ago, but such sightings have become more routine in recent times, as with Glossy Ibis at the margins of range. Rails still moving (?) in early May included Soras in western North

Carolina and Virginia Rails in Bermuda and Tennessee.

Raptors have mostly completed their migrations through the middle latitudes by early May, though Mississippi Kites (one on the Virginia coast 4 May) are still moving, along with Broad-winged Hawks in some numbers, particularly year-old birds. A Crested Caracara in Hereford, Arizona 4 May may pale next to one seen the next day at Sandy Hook, New Jersey and another (or the same bird?) nine days lat-

Seasons spring essay since 1997.) An Elegant Trogon along the upper San Pedro River in Arizona 4 May was surely a migrant, as were two Black Swifts at Redding, California, in the Central Valley that day. Birds reported as Black Swifts on the Alabama coast, at Fort Morgan and Dauphin Island, could well have been Caribbean birds—reported several times in Florida, but photographic or specimen evidence continues to be elusive. The Fourth also had records of a Costa's Hummingbird at Veneta, Oregon and a Downy Woodpecker at Quarai, California, both of local if not global interest.

Flycatchers of note 4 May were a Wisconsin Scissor-tailed in Bayfield County, a few Gray Flycatchers in Oregon and Washington, and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Warrior Mountain, North Carolina (the season's fanciest flycatcher appeared in March; Figure 4), while thrush highlights included a late Hermit Thrush on the Dry Tortugas, Florida and a timely Veery at Lake Tawakoni State Park, Texas. Both Bahama and Northern Mockingbirds were also on the Dry Tortugas 4 May, while a Brown Thrasher graced Portal, Arizona. A Red-throated Pipit near Crowley Lake in Mono County was a great reward for Friday birding in California—the state's second in spring (followed by another 8-12 May at Fort



**Figure 4.** Florida's first truly confirmed Loggerhead Kingbird entertained birders 8-27 March 2007. It is seen here eating a wasp-mimic moth on 11 March 2007. This bird was found by Carl Goodrich—who also found and photographed Florida's first Neotropical Cormorant and probably first Caribbean Martins! Who says one birder can't rewrite the record books in a season? Photograph by Roger Clark.

er on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts—but all of these records tie in to a larger, and rather recent, pattern of extralimital dispersal that spans from California to Washington state to Iowa to New Brunswick. Where would a caracara seem implausible at this point? Or, for that matter, a Zone-tailed Hawk (one in Nebraska this spring) or a Snail Kite (one in South Carolina)?

Near-passerines, that awkward grab bag, had a few highlights on 4 May. Minnesota's eleventh White-winged Dove chowed down at a feeding station in Kittson County that day, while a Ruddy Ground-Dove was seen at Patagonia Lake, Arizona. (If you need to catch up on the expansions of these species, or of other doves', consult most any Changing

Dick) and most unexpected inland.

Hands down, however, the warbler clan held the largest number of 4 May reports—13—of all taxonomic groupings, even though the date is well early for the push of eastern warblers out West, which is typically a later May/early June phenomenon. In fact, the only California report on that date was of a Northern Parula, possibly a bird that had wintered (another parula was in Roosevelt County, New Mexico that day), and the only other West Coast report was of a Palm Warbler at Cape Blanco, Oregon, also a species that migrates rather early. A Mourning Warbler in Lincoln County, Colorado seemed remarkably early 4 May, as did a Hooded Warbler in Bozeman, Montana and a Connecticut War-

bler at Hendersonville, North Carolina, but less so the Kentucky Warbler in Cave Creek Canyon, Arizona or the Swainson's Warbler in Alabama's Tennessee River Valley or the Chestnut-sided Warbler at Lake Tawakoni, Texas or the Prairie Warbler at Mason City, Iowa. Yellow-rumped Warblers were still moving through Washington County, Arkansas in some numbers (22) on 4 May, when an Audubon's Warbler turned up at South Padre Island, Texas—a place where just about any bird seems possible. If there is a trend detectable among parulids, in my completely unreliable and unscientific opinion, it is a slowly creeping trend toward earlier and earlier first-arrival dates in nearly all regions. A Sign, to be sure, but not an especially dramatic one and possibly not one that would survive a statistician's audit.

Summer Tanagers started to hit famed Point Pelee 4 May, the first of ten for the season there, while a single Summer visited a vagrant "trap" in Roosevelt County, New Mexico that day, and an "early" Varied Bunting was not too far to the southwest in Eddy County. Unlike the cardinalids, sparrows are mostly "done" by early May, at least as migrants

(with exceptions among the *Ammodramus*), but lingering birds are often mentioned as late as 4 May, among them this season a Lincoln's Sparrow at Quintana, Texas, a Harris's Sparrow in Floyd County, Indiana, a first Golden-crowned Sparrow on St. Pierre (that productive French island off the coast of Newfoundland), and another Golden-crowned in Sioux County, Nebraska, just the fourth documented by photograph in the state. Extralimital *Zonotrichia* seem to me to be on the increase from coast to coast. Finally, in the introduced-but-who-cares category, Michigan had a Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Cass County 4 May (and three the next day in Keweenaw County); a European Goldfinch dropped in to a feeder at Ituna, Saskatchewan; and two Yellow-faced Grassquits were seen on Waianae Mountain, Oahu Island, Hawaii.

In the little exercise above, I failed to detect anything that we didn't already know: southern birds north, early arrivals, a few lingering and late birds—just another day in May, in a spring that was, again, warm but not the warmest on record. If I have seemed to make light of the search for Apocalyptic bird records, it is not because I find humor in

watching canaries expire in coal mines. Rather, I have reached a point of subdued incredulity in watching such rapid changes in bird distribution, a sense of astonishment only amplified by narratives of doomsday from the scientific community and from what was once, not long ago, considered the religious fringe, now often the decisive voting block in national (and many state and local) elections in the United States. Whether or not individual bird records reflect the warming of the climate is moot, in some sense; if sea ice is gone by 2012, or even 2050, and Greenland's ice pack with it, many of us will live to see a metamorphosis in avian distribution unimagined by our forebears. Whether our interpretive framework is scientific or religious, there is One Story of our time: carbon dioxide emissions.

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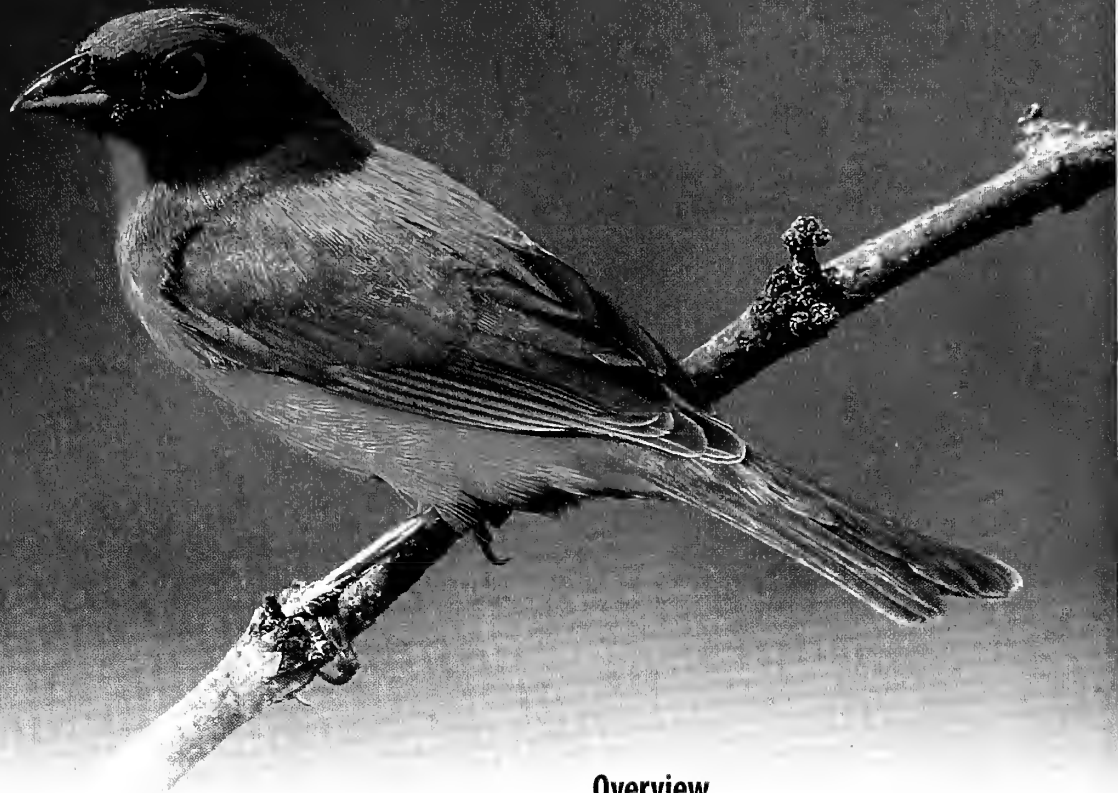
WORKSHOPS FOR BIRDERS 2008

# Current range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)—Part II: Winter range

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## Abstract

The importance of wintering areas for Neotropical migrants is well established. The wintering range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) is described in detail and presented in maps. The paper also discusses extralimital records from islands in the Caribbean Basin as well as scattered wintering individuals outside the winter range. The possibility of eastern birds wintering on the Yucatán Peninsula and adjacent Central America is considered.

An extensive treatment of the protected areas of Peninsular Florida, the northern Bahamas, and Cuba describes the importance of upland habitats within these protected areas for wintering buntings. This information should be useful to land management agencies, conservation organizations, and private landholders for the welfare of the bunting and biodiversity in general and may also be of interest to ornithologists, other biological disciplines, naturalists, and birders.

## Overview

In Part I of this article, we describe the current breeding range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (Sykes and Holzman 2005). Herein we present the winter distribution of this population. We define the winter season as 15 November through 31 March, although it is clear that some migration may occur on either side of this time frame. The winter range of the eastern breeding birds given in the current literature is somewhat generalized, to include

much of the Florida Peninsula, the Florida Keys, the northern Bahamas, and Cuba (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994, A.O.U. 1998, Raffaele et al. 1998, White 1998, Lowther et al. 1999, Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000).

The vital importance of wintering areas to Neotropical migrants has been widely discussed in the contemporary ornithological literature (Soulé and Wilcox 1980, Hagan and Johnston 1992, Stotz et al. 1996, Parker et al. 1996, Greenberg and Marra 2005), and so we have attempted to present the winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting in as much detail as possible, using the most current information. However, there are still gaps in our knowledge about the winter range of this population. This appears to be the first attempt to develop detailed maps for the winter range of the eastern population. Further refinement of this winter range should evolve as research and field activities continue in the region; thus the maps should be considered works in progress.

Most protected lands within the winter range in Florida, the Bahamas, and Cuba are shown on the maps, with additional information provided in the tables and appendices. The inclusion of public lands was suggested by the Eastern Painted Bunting Working Group to aid land management agencies in developing conservation strategies for this declining species. This information may be of interest to the birding public, although some of these sites are not open to the public or have other access restrictions.

## Methods

The current winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting in Florida is derived from the literature, Christmas Bird Counts (C.B.C.), Cornell Lab of Ornithology Feeder Watch Program, recoveries of banded birds from the United States Geological Survey Bird Banding Lab, a study in progress on the survival of eastern Painted Buntings (Sykes et al., in prep.), various web sites, and personal insights contributed by biologists and others with current or recent experience in various areas of the region, as well as our own work. The winter range is presented in a suite of maps at different scales in order to provide adequate details of the range in relation to

physical features and political boundaries. Abbreviations and acronyms are listed in Table 1.

The maps were designed to meet the information needs of a broad spectrum of users. The range was drawn onto paper maps from available data. These paper maps were scanned and georeferenced to digital county boundaries obtained from the Florida Geographic Information Systems (GIS) clearinghouse website and Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) standard data sets. ESRI ArcGIS software was used to create an

the Gulf Coast counties. When a protected land parcel (e.g., Everglades National Park) encompasses portions of more than one Florida county or Cuban province, these lands are generally listed under that county/province with the largest portion; the portions in other counties/provinces are given in parentheses. The size of a given land parcel is for the entire area in all counties or provinces; thus the total size of these protected areas is not additive for those counties or provinces in which it is listed (counties of Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Dade, Glades, Highlands, Lake,

Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Sarasota, and Seminole in Florida and provinces of Granma, Holguin, Pinar del Rio, and Villa Clara in Cuba). However, in Table 2 only that portion of the given area occurring within a county is listed. Three protected status categories for public lands in Florida are used in the appendices. These categories are adapted from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida State University, Tallahassee.

Category I. The highest protection is reserved for lands that are specifically and judiciously managed for biodiversity. This category includes lands owned by private entities that are managed for biodiversity conservation and lands administered by public agencies that are designated for biodiversity through legislative action where natural events proceed without interference or are mimicked through management. The governmental agency acting alone cannot change these designations without legislative action and public involvement. Examples include preserves owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy, Florida Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, and Archbold Expeditions, Inc.; preserves and other private preserves committed to biodiversity conservation; preserves that are state-owned and managed; most national parks and seashores; federal wilderness areas; and some local preserves.

Category II. This category applies to lands managed for their natural values but may incur additional uses such as habitat manipulation for game species and/or some recreation infrastructure. These activities will likely degrade the quality of natural communities locally, but the majority of the land will be managed for biodiversity protection. It also includes public lands with administrative designations for biodiversity conservation. Exam-

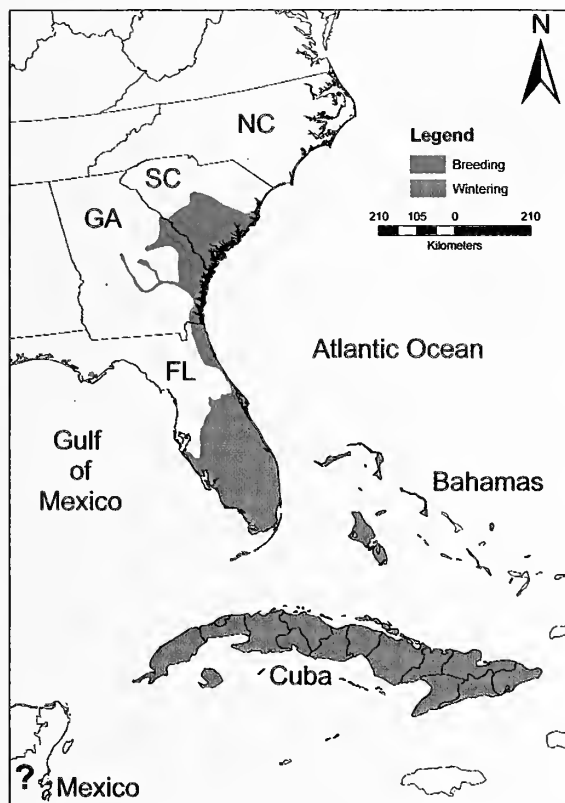


Figure 1. The breeding and wintering range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting. The breeding range is approximately 55,190 km<sup>2</sup> and the winter range 173,902 km<sup>2</sup> as shown. See discussion for explanation of the question mark in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

ArcGIS shapefile by digitizing the boundary onscreen. This boundary was adjusted by overlaying data from Christmas Bird Counts, Project Feeder Watch, and band recoveries.

For Florida and Cuba, the extent of each protected area is presented in the appendices. Information was obtained through consultations with staff members of the agencies managing these properties and from owner/agency websites. Florida counties are listed from north to south, Atlantic coastal counties first, then noncoastal counties, followed by

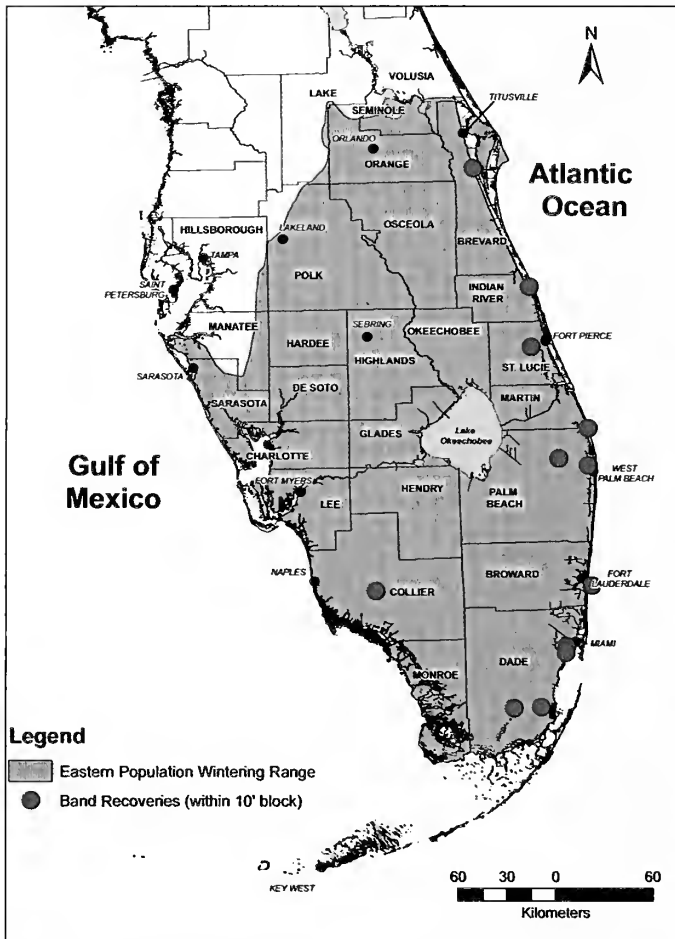


Figure 2. The winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting in Florida in relation to band recoveries. The recovery of wintering banded birds is from the files of the United States Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Bird Band Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland, and study in progress on annual survival of the eastern population (Sykes et al., ms. in prep.). The twelve sites shown represent 94 recoveries for the period 1940 through 2005.

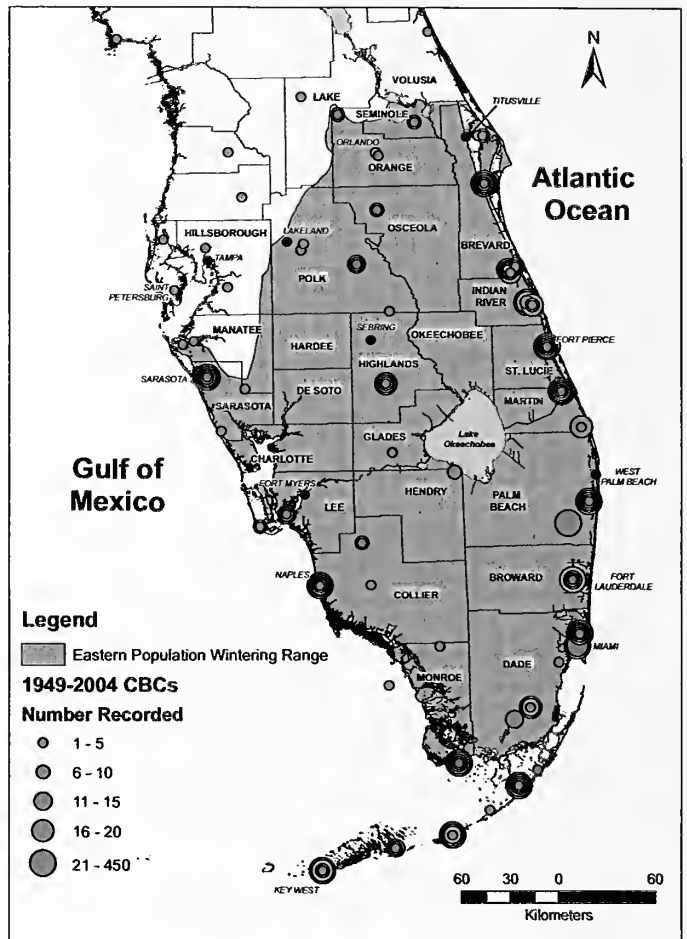


Figure 3. The winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting in Florida in relation to National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts, 1949 through 2004. Within the range shown, the buntings have been recorded at 43 count circles with an approximation of 601 count years.

ples include private preserves managed for game species; national wildlife refuges; Bureau of Land Management areas of critical environmental concern; and state parks.

Category III. This category applies to lands maintained for multiple uses, including consumptive or recreational values, and not specifically or wholly dedicated to biodiversity conservation. It also includes lands with restricted development rights. Unrestricted public access is one criterion that may result in a property being placed into this category. Examples include most nondesignated (i.e., multiple-use) public lands administered by the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management; Department of Defense lands; state forests; regional and large local parks and open space; and private lands protected from subdivision by conservation easements and other title restrictions.

With our maps and discussion, we hope to

bring the winter range of the eastern population into sharp focus to aid in management and conservation efforts on behalf of these colorful songbirds.

### Results

The seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds* (1998), does not specifically describe the winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting, although one could interpret the text to indicate that its range extends from southern Florida and the northwestern Bahama Islands south through Cuba and Jamaica. Bond (1956) describes the winter range as southern Florida, Cuba, and the Bahamas; Bond (1974) later indicates it winters in southern Florida, Cuba, casually in Jamaica, and in the Bahamas is recorded from the "north-west" islands; and Raffaele et al. (1998) list the bunting as a nonbreeding resi-

dent in the Bahamas and Cuba primarily from mid-October to the end of April. The popular North American field guides likewise provide generalized and somewhat different interpretations of this winter distribution on maps and in texts, some not showing or mentioning Cuba or the Bahamas as a part of the winter range (Pough 1949, Robbins et al. 1983, Farland 1983, Sibley 2000, Peterson 2002, National Geographic Society 2002).

The known distribution of the eastern birds is depicted in Figure 1. As readily seen here, the distance traveled during its spring and fall migrations is rather short for a Neotropical migrant. The breeding and wintering ranges overlap primarily in Volusia and Brevard Counties, Florida. The winter range is roughly 174,902 km<sup>2</sup> versus 55,190 km<sup>2</sup> for the breeding range. Thus, the breeding range is only 31% of the winter range. The question mark in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico is explained below.

Florida—Robertson and Woolfenden

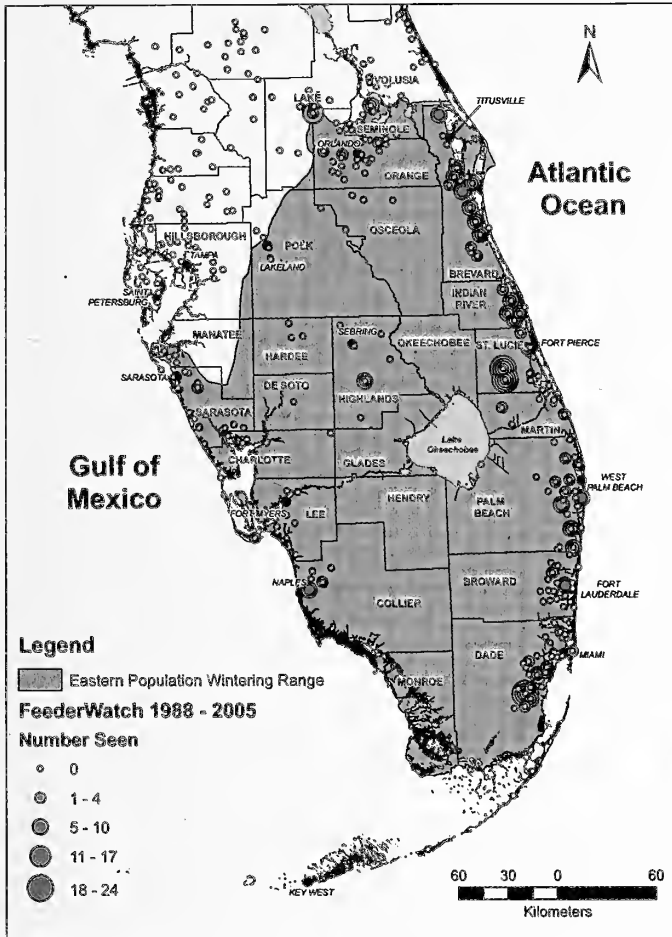


Figure 4. The winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting in relation to Project Feeder Watch Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1988-2005. Sixty-one sites have recorded buntings within the designated winter range in Florida and represent 907 site days on which buntings were observed at feeders.

(1992) list Painted Bunting as regular in winter in much of the Peninsula and on the Keys and occasional to irregular elsewhere in the state. Stevenson and Anderson (1994) give the winter range from Central Florida southward and indicate that it is a fairly common but formerly more common winter resident at Ft. Lauderdale and uncommon throughout the remainder of the South Florida mainland, the Upper Keys, and north to Brevard County on the east coast and Collier County on the west coast. They further state that it is rare to casual on the Lower Keys and in the Peninsula north to Pinellas, Polk, and Lake Counties, and occasional in North Florida (Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Panama City, and Pensacola).

The winter range in Florida extends from the keys northward to Volusia, Seminole, Lake, Polk, Hillsborough, and Manatee Counties (Figures 2-5). Twenty-six counties are within this range. The northern limit of the

range may vary annually. Individuals and small numbers of buntings are frequently observed north of the delineated range (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994) but are not consistently present at most of these localities for more than two or three winters. Most information on wintering buntings comes from the coastal counties (Figures 2, 3, 4). Whether this is an artifact of observer coverage is uncertain; however, most observers live near the coast or visit coastal birding areas more frequently than the interior.

Protected lands within the Florida winter range are concentrated in the eastern and southern parts of the Peninsula (Figure 5), with some of the larger areas named for general reference. Protected lands total 2,229,907 ha or 32% of the range (Table 2). Of these areas, 2,201,235 ha are in public ownership (local governments 117,371 ha, state government 1,133,739 ha, and federal government

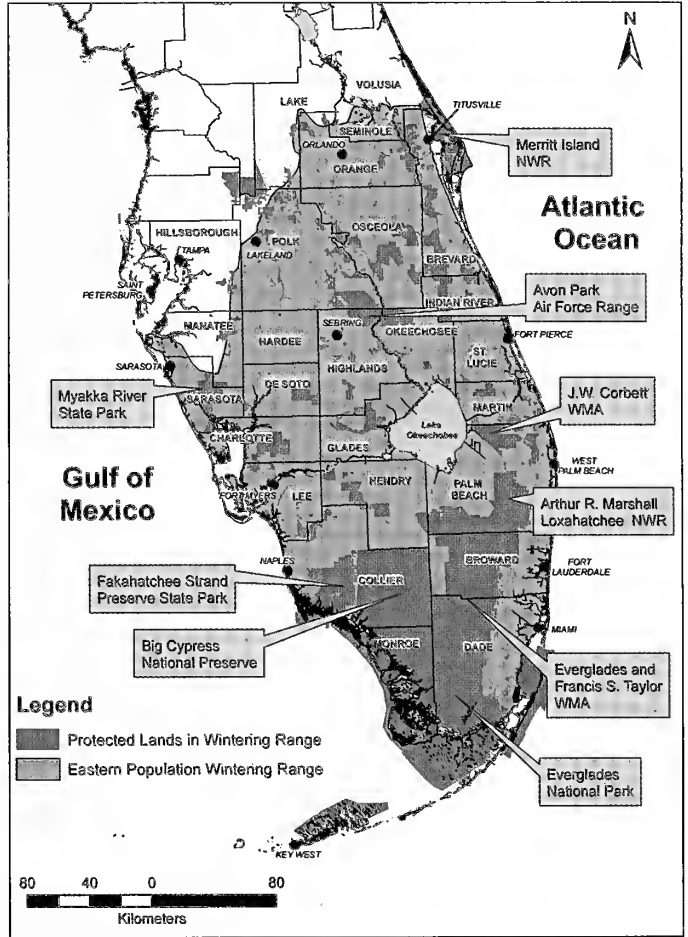


Figure 5. The winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting in Florida in relation to protected lands. Some of the larger protected areas are named to help orient the reader. A complete listing of all protected lands by county is presented in Appendices 1-12.

950,125 ha) and 28,676 ha are in private ownership. Details of ownership, protected status, and size of protected lands for individual counties are given in Appendices 1-12.

In addition to the protected lands in public and private ownership within the winter range of Painted Bunting in Florida, there are two international categories of cooperative management. These are the Biosphere Reserve System (Florida Everglades) and the Ramsar Sites (Florida Everglades and Pelican Island).

A biosphere reserve is a unique concept that includes one or more protected areas and surrounding lands that are managed to combine both conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It is an area of international significance. Each biosphere reserve conserves examples of characteristic ecosystems of one of the world's natural regions, managed for their protection and study. It is a land and/or coastal/marine area in which people are an integral component; and it is managed for objec-

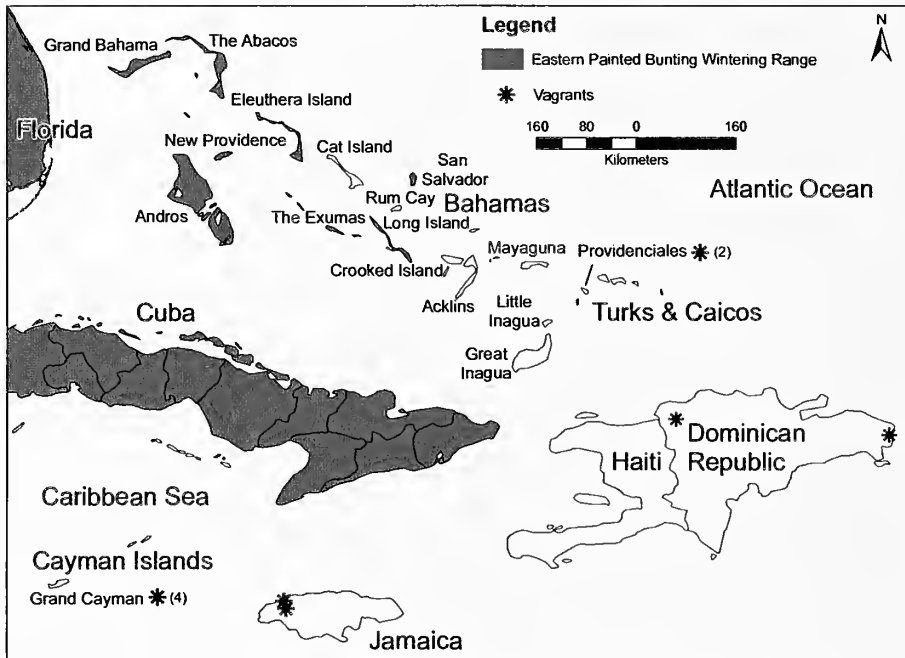


Figure 6. The winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting in the Bahamas and nearby regions. Locations for known vagrants are shown.

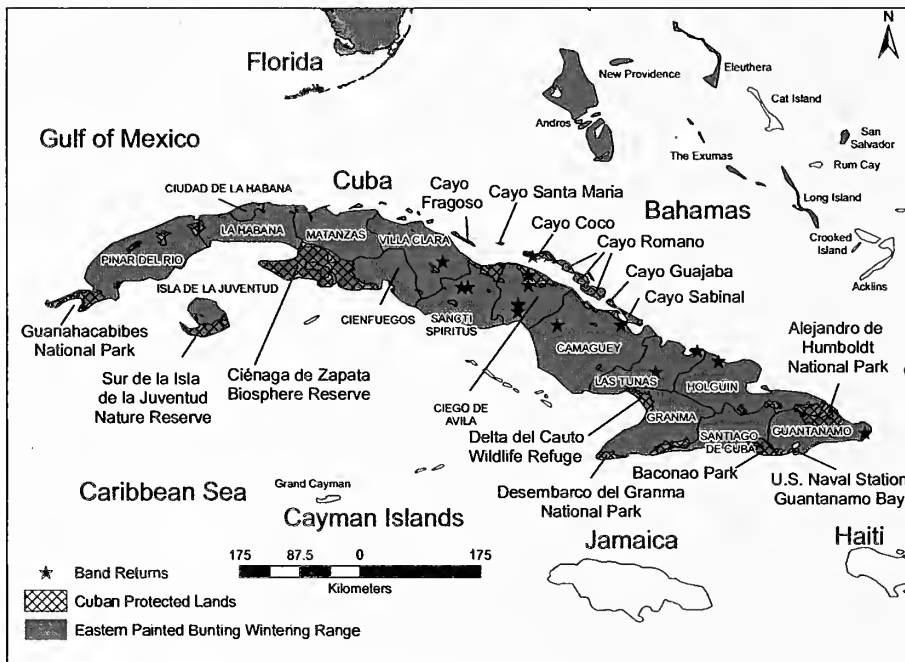


Figure 7. The winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting in Cuba and nearby regions. All 15 provinces are in capital letters and other localities in upper and lower case. The keys (cayos) named along the northern coast are a part of the extensive Archipiélago de Sabana-Camagüey. Localities for band recoveries (Table 6) of the eastern birds through 2006 are shown by black stars (\*). A few stars represent more than one bunting at a given locality. All band recoveries are of birds initially banded in the southeastern United States, except for one bird banded in Cuba that was recovered in Georgia. Many of the protected areas in Cuba are shown by cross-hatching, and a selected few are named (see Appendices 13, 14, and 15).

tives ranging from complete protection to intensive yet sustainable production. Biosphere Reserve is an international designation made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization on the basis of

nominations submitted by countries participating in the Man and the Biosphere Program. The mission statement of the Ramsar Convention is the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional, and nation-

al actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world. The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. While the Ramsar Sites are primarily wetlands, within these sites there is a significant amount of upland that is used by Painted Buntings during winter in the Everglades and Pelican Island.

Bahamas—Bond (1956) stated that Painted Bunting had been recorded from Grand Bahama, New Providence, and the Berry Islands, and nearly 20 years later, from the northwestern islands of the Bahamas Group, 22 July through 27 April (Bond 1974). Brudenell-Bruce (1979) considered the species to be an uncommon winter visitor, only recorded from the northern islands but presumably occurring throughout the islands in migration. White (1998) listed it as readily found in winter (December through February) on five islands (Andros, Cay Sal Bank, The Exumas, Grand Bahama, and New Providence); difficult to find on five other islands (The Abacos, Berry Islands, Eleuthera, Long Island, and San Salvador); and extremely difficult to find on The Biminis (Figure 6). Raffaele et al. (1998) listed it as common in the Bahamas, while Lowther et al. (1999) indicated that it is uncommon in the islands. The most recent publication on birds in the Bahamas (Hallett 2006) calls Painted Bunting a rare to uncommon winter resident and transient in the northern Bahamas and portions of the central Bahamas and unrecorded or accidental in southern Bahamas. Thus there is some variance in describing the winter status and distribution of Painted Bunting in the Bahamas. Research on Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) on southern Eleuthera, in progress since 2004, has commonly captured Painted Buntings in mist-nets at the study sites during the winter months (Joseph M. Wunderle, pers. comm.). The bunting has not been reported from Cat Island nor from islands in the southern Bahamas (Buden 1987a, 1987b; White 1998; Hallett 2006).

Painted Bunting has been recorded from 11 islands or island groups (Figure 6) in the Bahamas (White 1998; Table 3). Those islands or island groups where the species has not been recorded are also given in this table. What is surprising is that there have been no reports from Cat Island, Conception Islands, or Rum Cay, but birds have been found on San Salvador.



**Table 1.** Abbreviations and acronyms used in this paper.

a	Acre
AS	Air Station
ASY	after second year
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BR	Biosphere Reserve
CA	Conservation Area
Co(s).	County/Countries
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DOF	Division of Forestry
DRP	Division of Recreation and Parks
EP	Environmental Park
ER	Ecological Reserve (Cuba)
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida State University
FR	Floral Reserve (Cuba)
Ft.	Fort
FWCC	Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
ha	hectares
HP	Heritage Park
HSP	Historic State Park
Is.	Island
MA	Management Area
NA	Natural Area
NC	Nature Center
ND	Navigation District
NP	National Park
NPS	National Park Service
NR	Nature Reserve (Cuba)
NS	National Seashore
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
ONF	Outstanding Natural Feature (Cuba)
PAOMR	Protected Area of Managed Resources (Cuba)
Pk	Park
PNL	Protected Natural Landscape (Cuba)
PSP	Preserve State Park
Pt.	Point
RA	Recreation Area
RP	Regional Park
RS	Research Station
RtA	Restoration Area
SAS	State Archaeological Site
SF	State Forest
Soc.	Society
SP	State Park
SR	State Reserve
Sta.	Station
TIIF	Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund
USAF	U.S. Air Force
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDI	U.S. Department of the Interior
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USN	U.S. Navy
WA	Wilderness Area
WaMA	Waterfowl Management Area
WCA	Water Conservation Area
WEA	Wildlife & Environmental Area
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMD	Water Management District
WP	Wilderness Preserve
WR	Wildlife Refuge (local or national) (Cuba)

There are twelve protected areas for biodiversity in the islands within the bunting winter range, totaling about 21,000 ha or about 1.6% of the total land mass (Table 4). These areas are listed in Table 5; much of the protected area includes open water, as most encompass primarily marine ecosystems. The largest single area consists of five tracts that form the Central Andros Park on the largest island in the archipelago. There are no Biosphere Reserves or Ramsar Sites in the winter range of the bunting in the Bahamas.

Cuba—The literature (1939-1990) on Cuban birds gives few specific details on the distribution and status of Painted Bunting, and many publications for specific localities or regions of the island do not mention the species at all or report it as rare, as summarized by Thompson (1991). Barbour (1943) simply says a few winter in Cuba, and we interpret this to mean the entire island. Bond (1956) reports that it is found throughout the island in winter but is rather rare, occurring generally from 15 October through 12 April. Garrido and García-Montaña (1975) considered the bunting to be common during migration, and later Garrido (1988) listed it as not rare. Raffaele et al. (1998) listed it as a migrant and nonbreeding resident from mid-October through the end of April, uncommon during migration and rare in winter, while Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000) list it as a common transient and rare winter resident on the main island, Isla de Pinos (Isla de la Juventud), and some large northern keys 15 October through 29 April. Thompson (1991; *vide* O. Garrido) was able to locate only 15 Painted Bunting specimens collected in Cuba, seven in United States museum collections and eight elsewhere. There do not appear to be any specimens of Painted Buntings collected in the West Indies (excluding the Bahamas) outside of Cuba (Bond 1956 and supplements 1951-1987; Thompson 1991; Christopher W. Thompson, pers. comm.).

Painted Bunting has been recorded in all 15 provinces of Cuba (Figure 7). Current evidence suggests the species is more common during spring and fall migrations from western Cuba and along the northern part of the island, at least as far east as central Holguin Province, but less common to rare over much of the island in winter. While regularly recorded from keys along the northern coast, they are absent from the offshore keys of the southern coast (Garrido 1980, Buden and Olson 1989, Rodríguez et al. 1994, González et al. 1999, Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000, González et al. 2000, González and Barrio 2005, González et al., in press, Kirkconnell et al., in press, Llanes et al., in press, Iñigo-Elias, pers. obs., Hiram González, Guy M. Kirwan, Nils Navarro, Daisy Rodríguez Batista, Kenneth Rosenberg, Douglas F. Stotz, and George E. Wallace, pers. comm.). During a Rapid Biological Inventory on the Zapata Peninsula, Painted Bunting was considered a rare winter visitor (Kirkconnell et al. 2005). Because Painted Buntings generally do not sing while in Cuba, many individuals may be overlooked in the scrub-shrub habitats where they tend to occur (Guy M. Kirwan, pers. comm.).

Some important regions for buntings in Cuba include but are not limited to: (1) The keys within the Archipiélago de Sabana-Camagüey along the northern coasts in the provinces of Matanzas, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Ávila, and Camagüey (this region is rapidly being developed for the growing tourist trade); (2) From the northeastern coast of Las Tunas Province, eastward along the northern coast of Holguín Province to Bahía de Naranjo, to include areas in and around the village of Gibara, City of Holguín, Bahía de Nipe, and from Mayari and Nipe eastward to Bahía Sagua de Tánamo (Nils Navarro, pers. comm.); (3) The Peninsula de Guanahacabibes; (4) Mil Cumbres in Pinar Del Río Province; (5) The northern coast of La Habana Province; and (6) The Península de Zapata in Matanzas Province, including the Zapata Swamp, the area from Jagüey Grande southward to Palpite (Nils Navarro, pers. comm.), and nearby areas in the southern part of the province.

Large numbers of Painted Buntings have been observed at some localities. During several days in early May 2003, an estimated 700 buntings were trapped for the cagebird trade at a single locality along the northern coast of La Habana Province, just west of the capital city of La Habana (Iñigo-Elias, pers. obs.). In city markets of the City of La Habana and Gibara (Holguin Province), large numbers of Painted Buntings are sold in the cagebird trade to foreign tourists and local people (James W. Wiley and Nils Navarro, pers. comm., Iñigo-Elias, pers. obs.). For example, Iñigo-Elias took a photograph of a cage containing 15 adult (ASY) male buntings at the La Habana City Market. Painted Bunting has apparently become rarer in Cuba recently in winter, particularly in the heavily trapped region at Gibara (Peña 2003). At Playa Larga at the north

**Table 2.** Summary of protected lands (in hectares) by county (n=26) within the wintering range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting in Florida.

County	Public Owned				Protected Total	County Total	Percent Protected
	Local	State	Federal	Private <sup>1</sup>			
Brevard	4,516	63,965	58,364	0	126,845	270,185	47
Broward	2,149	172,914	69	0	175,132	314,028	56
Charlotte	720	40,558	0	81	41,359	180,452	23
Collier	316	91,625	269,387	4,014	365,342	525,595	70
Miami-Dade	3,909	110,503	224,022	36	338,475	506,007	67
DeSoto	0	16,268	0	0	16,268	164,998	10
Glades	0	25,588	0	10,587	36,179	199,650	18
Hardee	0	275	0	0	279	165,344	<1
Hendry	0	37,393	24	8	37,421	301,205	12
Highlands	587	20,182	22,788	3,719	47,275	286,404	17
Hillsborough <sup>2</sup>	23,735	13,286	2,254	0	39,275	276,086	14
Indian River	482	36,551	2,206	0	39,242	132,949	30
Lake <sup>2</sup>	3,153	42,569	34,710	16	80,443	298,928	27
Lee	6,297	19,441	1,505	1,246	28,490	208,215	14
Manatee <sup>2</sup>	10,186	10,918	12	522	21,634	193,967	11
Martin	915	28,000	425	49	29,388	143,778	20
Monroe	12	4,500	234,867	308	239,683	255,490	94
Okeechobee	0	31,897	53	125	32,075	201,196	16
Orange <sup>2</sup>	2,485	32,079	0	65	34,629	259,940	13
Osceola	441	63,119	0	2,137	65,693	390,155	17
Palm Beach	18,442	113,405	57,421	93	189,361	511,524	37
Polk <sup>2</sup>	4,213	71,880	21,837	5,253	103,179	520,582	20
Sarasota <sup>2</sup>	15,192	22,314	0	166	37,672	148,482	25
Seminole <sup>2</sup>	2,683	8,660	190	247	11,784	82,876	14
St. Lucie	3,675	6,904	0	0	10,578	148,364	7
Volusia <sup>2</sup>	13,266	48,943	19,991	4	82,204	291,833	28
Totals (ha)	117,371	1,133,739	950,125	28,676	2,229,907	6,978,235	32
Totals (acres)	290,030	2,801,530	2,347,810	70,860	5,510,220	17,243,594	32

<sup>1</sup>Protected private lands include owners such as Florida Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, research institutions, and private individuals.

<sup>2</sup>The protected area summaries for these eight counties include some areas outside of the winter range as delineated.

end of Bahia de los Cochinos in the Zapata Region of Matanzas Province, Arturo Kirkconnell has reported observing flocks of 30-50 buntings in late winter (George E. Wallace, pers. comm.). During two winter seasons (1995-1997), Wallace (pers. comm.) trapped and banded 35 Painted Buntings at Cayo Coco, Ciego de Ávila Province.

Buntings are scarce and erratic along the arid southeastern coast of Cuba. At the United States Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Guantanamo Province, during the October through March seasons 1998-2002, a research team from the Institute for Bird Populations (Point Reyes Station, California) captured 17 different individuals at their study sites (none in 1999; 4 in October, 12 in November, and one on 12 December) but observed none except those trapped in mist-nets. No banded buntings were seen or recaptured in subsequent years (Rodney Siegel, pers. comm.). From 21 January through 3 February 2005, a survey of the 166 km<sup>2</sup> Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay found no Painted Buntings (Sykes, pers. obs.). During the period 2-9 February 2004, only one green-plumaged bird was

observed in a survey of the El Zapato area of Bayamesa National Park, in Granma Province and Santiago de Cuba Province, and during an additional two weeks in other localities of eastern Cuba in February 2004, there were no encounters with the species (Douglas F. Stotz, pers. comm.).

We are aware of at least 17 eastern Painted Buntings banded in the United States that have been recovered, primarily during the winter period, in central and eastern Cuba (Figure 7). These banding records are summarized in Table 6. Nine of the 10 buntings banded by Sykes on the breeding grounds in the southeastern United States and reported in Cuba were birds trapped for the cagebird trade. An adult male banded 9 December 1995 near Cayo Coco, Cuba by Hiram González Alonso was found dead 3 May 1997 on Skidaway Island, Georgia by John P. Davis. The specimen is retained at Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge. The absence of banding recoveries from the western provinces of Cuba cannot be readily explained.

Thompson (1991) suggests that Painted Buntings may only migrate through Cuba, and we now believe that this is probably the case for some undetermined percentage of the birds, based on circumstantial evidence (see Discussion).

The National System of Protected Areas (Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Cuba—SNAP) consists of 263 natural terrestrial and marine areas important to Cuba that currently are established or proposed. SNAP is a part of the National Center for Protected Areas (Centro Nacional de Áreas Protegidas—CNAP) of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment (Ministerio de Ciencia Tecnología y Medio Ambiente—CITMA) which coordinates the work of SNAP with the principal agencies that physically administer these areas. The

main mission of SNAP is to guarantee continued protection and conservation of the natural resources of national heritage for the use of present and future generations as a part of the sustainable development of Cuba. The fully established protected areas (70 of the 263) are summarized in Table 7.

The protected areas listed in Appendices 13, 14, and 15 are the terrestrial portions and exclude all marine areas. These terrestrial habitats include both uplands and freshwater wetlands. The protected upland area for Cuba totals over 1,936,267 ha; of this, about 1,340,970 ha are currently included in established management entities, and 595,297 ha are sites that are proposed. Some of the larger protected areas are shown in Figure 7.

Cuba uses eight classifications for its protected areas: Reserva Natural (Nature Reserve); Parque Nacional (National Park); Reserva Ecológica (Ecological Reserve); Reserva Florística Manejada (Flora Reserve); Elemento Natural Destacado (Outstanding Natural Feature); Paisaje Natural Protegida (Protected Natural Landscape); Refu-

**Table 3.** Painted Bunting winter distribution on the principal islands and island groups in the Bahama Archipelago (Norton 1986; Aldridge 1987; Buden 1987a, 1987b; White 1998; B. Hallett and A. W. White, pers. comm.).

The Bahamas	
Reported	Not Reported
The Abacos	Acklins Island
Andros	Cat Island
Berry Islands	Conception Island
The Biminis	Crooked Island
Cay Sal Bank	Great Inagua
Eleuthera	Little Inagua
The Exumas	Mayaguana
Grand Bahama	Ragged Islands
Long Island	Rum Cay
New Providence	
San Salvador	
Turks and Caicos	
Reported	Not Reported
Providenciales	Grand Turk
	Middle Caicos
	North Caicos
	South Caicos

gio de Fauna (Wildlife Refuge); and Area Protegida de Recursos Manejados (Protected Area of Managed Resources, which includes Biosphere Reserves). In the last category, we have separated out Biosphere Reserves from other Protected Area of Managed Resources. There are six Biosphere Reserves and five Ramsar Sites in Cuba, many of which may be used by wintering Painted Buntings.

**Turks and Caicos**—Painted Bunting is a vagrant to these islands (Figure 6), with just two reports. Two were at Providenciales 30 March 1985, seen by Beverlea Aldridge (Norton 1986), possibly individuals that were banded at that locale (the first for the species in these islands) in 1985-1986 (Aldridge 1987). Aldridge's table lists only one bird, while the text states two, so it is not clear if one or two were banded. She gives arrival and departure dates of 20 December and 22 April in Table 3 without further explanation. Ground (2001) reports photographs taken in the islands of a green-plumaged bunting listed in the text as a "bird of passage." No specific locality, date, or additional details were provided.

**Dominican Republic**—Painted Bunting is a vagrant to this country, with just two reports, one published and one unpublished. An ASY male was captured in a mist-net at Punta Cana, at the east end of Hispaniola and released after being measured, weighed, and photographed on 3 January 2007 (Dhondt and Dhondt 2007). As many as a six green-plumaged Painted Buntings were seen in an opening at the edge of a marsh surrounded by xeric shrub/scrub on 24 March 2003 in Monti Cristi National Park and about 1 km north of Copey, Rio Chacuey (19° 41.5' N, 71° 40.6' W; Figure 6). This locality is within a few kilometers of the border with Haiti. The observer had excellent views of the birds but could not be certain of the exact number, as the site was teeming with birds of various species (Mark P. Robbins, pers. comm.).

**Haiti**—We have been unable to locate any published reports of Painted Buntings from this country (Bond 1956 and supplements, 1974, 1993; A.O.U. 1957, 1983, 1998 and supplements; Raffaele et al. 1998; Lowther et al. 1999; Figure 6). Thompson (1991) included it in

**Table 4.** Biodiversity and protected areas adapted from Earthtrends 2003 for the Bahamas. Areas given in hectares.<sup>1</sup>

Category <sup>2</sup>	Bahamas
Total Land Area	1,388,000
<b>Protected Areas</b> — (Extent of Protected Areas by IUCN Category, 2003):	
Nature Reserves, Wilderness Areas, and National Parks (Categories I and II)	21,000
Total Area Protected (all categories)	21,000
Protected Areas as a Percent of Total Land Area, 2003	1.6
Number of Protected Areas, 2003	12

<sup>1</sup>Sources: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (2002), United Nations Environmental Programme (2003), and World Resources Institute (2003).

#### <sup>2</sup>PROTECTED AREAS

**Total Land Area** as reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The area of inland water bodies is included in the totals.

#### *Extent of Protected Areas by IUCN Category*

An IUCN Management Protected Area is defined by IUCN as "an area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means." IUCN categorizes protected areas by management objective. All calculations for the analyses were performed by WRI using the WDPA GIS point file containing all nationally designated protected areas, joined with a corresponding table showing area in hectares (provided by UNEP-WCMC). Due to variations in consistency and methodology of collection, data on protected areas are highly variable among countries.

#### **Nature Reserves, Wilderness Areas, and National Parks (categories I and II)**

include all land area protected in the following IUCN categories:

Category Ia. Strict nature reserve: a protected area managed mainly for scientific research and monitoring; an area of land and/or sea possessing some outstanding or representative ecosystems, geological or physiological features and/or species.  
 Category Ib. Wilderness area: a protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection; a large area of unmodified or slightly modified land and/or sea retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.  
 Category II. National park: a protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation; a natural area of land and/or sea designated to: (a) protect the ecological integrity of one of more ecosystems for present and future generations; (b) exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area; and (c) provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational, and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible.

the winter range but gave no reference.

**Puerto Rico**—Painted Bunting has not been reported from this island (Bond 1956 and supplements, 1974, 1993; Leopold 1963; Raffaele 1983; Raffaele et al. 1998; Oberle 2000).

**Jamaica**—Painted Bunting is a vagrant to this country, with two published sight records for the island (Figure 6) as cited by Levy (1993). On 30 December 1962, a green-plumaged bird was at Montego Bay (it was described as "a female," but females cannot be separated in the field in winter from young males less than two years of age). This individual remained at the site until 10 February 1963 (Downer 1963, Bond 1964). Very near Montego Bay, another individual was cited as seen on 29 October 1980 by Lisa Salmon at Anchovy (Anonymous 1981).

**Table 5.** Protected areas in the Bahamas within the winter range of the Painted Bunting.<sup>1</sup>

Number	Area Name	Island	Area <sup>2</sup> Size (ha)
1	The Rand NC	Grand Bahama	41
2	Lucayan NP	Grand Bahama	16
3	Walker's Cay	Abaco	1,554 <sup>3</sup>
4	Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park	Abaco	850 <sup>3</sup>
5	Abaco NP	Abaco	8,297
6	Central Andros Pk Area (5)	Andros	115,780 <sup>3</sup>
7	The Retreat	New Providence	5
8	Harold and Wilson Ponds	New Providence	101 <sup>3</sup>
9	Bonefish Pond	New Providence	518 <sup>3</sup>
10	Primeval Forest	New Providence	3
11	Exuma Cays Land and Sea Pk	Exuma	45,587 <sup>3</sup>
12	Moriah Harbour Cay	Exuma	5,439 <sup>3</sup>
Total	—	—	178,191 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Information contained in this table obtained from the Bahamas National Trust, courtesy of Eric Carey.

<sup>2</sup>Areas rounded to nearest whole unit.

<sup>3</sup>These sites include open water areas; size of upland habitats not available.

**Table 6.** Banded Painted Buntings of the eastern population recovered in Cuba that were banded in the southeastern United States.

Wintering in Cuba				Banded in U.S. on Breeding Grounds			
Band No.	Sex <sup>1</sup>	Date Observed	Locality	Date	Age <sup>2</sup>	Locality	Bander
0500-17200	?	19 Nov 1954	Vicinity Punta de Quemados, Guantanamo Province	02 Nov 1954	?	Miami-Dade, FL	?
0730-08016	?	28 Mar 1967	Villa Clara Province	31 Oct 1966	HY	Vicinity Naples, FL	?
0950-97159	?	28 Oct 1983	Playa Caletones, Holguin Province	7 Oct 1982	?	South end Jekyll Is., Glynn Co., GA	Doris Cohrs (1983)
2020-86887	F	10 Mar 1988	Granma Province	6 Oct 1986	AHY	Isle of Palms, Charleston Co., SC	Will Post
2011-02729	?	___ Nov 1992	Las Tunas Province	5 Oct 1988	?	South end Jekyll Is., Glynn Co., GA	?
2191-31268	F	21 Dec 1996	Gurugú, Camagüey Province	29 Sep 1996	HY	South end Jekyll Is., Glynn Co., GA	Don Cohrs
2191-71099	M	16 Feb 2001	Cabaiguán, Sancti Spiritus Province	21 Jun 1999	ASY	Black Hammock Is., FL	Paul Sykes
2020-65189	M	___ Nov 2001	Morón, Ciego de Ávila Province	18 Aug 1999	ASY	St. Catherines Is., GA	Paul Sykes
2020-65234	M	2 Dec 2001	Ciego de Ávila, Ciego de Ávila Province	23 Aug 1999	ASY	ACE Basin NWR, SC	Paul Sykes
2020-65440	M	13 Mar 2001	14 km north of Morón, Ciego de Ávila Province	22 Sep 1999	ASY	Spring Is., SC	Paul Sykes
2020-52400	M	23 Dec 2000	9 km south of Ciego de Ávila in Caroline, Ciego de Ávila Province	8 Aug 2000	HY	Harris Neck NWR, GA	Paul Sykes
2020-65574	F	10 Jan 2001	SE of Gibara, Holguin Province	24 Aug 2000	HY	Carolina Beach St. Pk., NC	Paul Sykes
1561-12065	?	20 Oct. 2000	Mejia, Holguin Province	28 Aug 2000	HY	Charleston, Charleston Co., SC	Will Post
2020-52567	M	10 Feb 2004	Gibara, Holguin Province	30 Jul 2001	SY	Ft. Clinch St. Pk., FL	Paul Sykes
2020-67357	F	11 Dec 2002	2 km north of Ciego de Ávila, Ciego de Ávila Province	14 Aug 2002	HY	Black Hammock Is., FL	Paul Sykes
2020-67605	F	11 Dec 2002	2 km north of Ciego de Ávila, Ciego de Ávila Province	1 Sep 2002	HY	James Is., SC	Paul Sykes
2020-68243	M	27 Oct 2003	Las Tunas, Las Tunas Province	21 Aug. 2003	HY	Little Talbot Is. St. Pk., FL	Paul Sykes

<sup>1</sup>Sex: F = female; M = male.

<sup>2</sup>Age: ASY = after second year; HY = hatch year; SY = second year.

Cayman Islands—Painted Bunting is a vagrant to this country, with four reports of Painted Buntings at Grand Cayman (Figure 6). Three were photographed at George Town over four days in early April 1981; a green bird was at Government House 15 December 1994; an adult male and two green birds were observed daily at English Point, 26 January through 12 February 1998, with the male remaining until 16 April; and an individual was at Wight's 28 February 1999 (Bradley 2000).

## Discussion

We have attempted to clarify the winter range of the eastern population of Painted Bunting in the three principal regions in which it has been documented to occur: the peninsula of Florida, the northern portion of the Bahamas, and Cuba. Much is yet to be learned of the winter distribution and status of the buntings in the Bahamas and Cuba and to a lesser degree in Florida. Further field work in these regions should clarify the gaps in our knowledge.

Outside the winter range, there are at least 160+ reports through 2005 from coastal areas in winter from Georgia north to New Jersey (Georgia—6+ [Beaton et al. 2003; Sykes, unpubl. data], South Carolina—15+, North Carolina—65+ [AVENDEX data file program; Ricky Davis, John O. Fussell, Jeff Lewis, and Patricia Moore, pers. comm.], Virginia—39, Maryland—14, Delaware—9, and New Jersey—19 [Mlodinow and Hamilton 2005]). Of these 160+ reports, 146 were north of the breeding range. Work is in progress to determine which population(s) is represented by these buntings (J. Klicka, Sykes et al., unpubl. data). The number of reports has increased in recent years, as Mlodinow and Hamilton (2005) indicate. Many reports from North Carolina are of multiple birds ranging up to 15 individuals per site, especially since the mid-1980s (Ricky Davis, pers. comm.). Whether this increase is real or an artifact of increased coverage is not known (Mlodinow and Hamilton 2005). Are these birds vagrants, or do they indicate a shift in the winter range in response to global warming? It will be interesting to see if this trend continues in future decades.

Circumstantial evidence suggests that some eastern Painted Buntings probably cross from Cuba to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico during migration and possibly winter somewhere in Mexico or Central America.

In Cuba, this species is considered common in spring and fall migrations but rare to uncommon in winter in Cuba (Bond 1956, Raffaele et al. 1998, Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000), an appraisal that fits this hypothesis. In the Greater Antilles, Painted Buntings are vagrants away from Cuba in winter, and we are not aware of any reports from the Lesser Antilles or northern South America. Thus, they are probably going somewhere other than Cuba, and the most likely scenario is to the Yucatan and possibly farther south into Central America. Furthermore, on three days in early May 2003, Iñigo-Elias accompanied three Cuban bird trappers to Santa Fe in the province of La Habana. During the course of this brief time, the three men captured 700 or so Painted Buntings of all ages and both sexes to sell in the cagebird trade. More than likely, most, if not all, of these birds were migrants coming from the west. Painted Buntings in the Yucatan, adjacent areas of Mexico, and throughout their Central American range should be examined genetically or by stable isotope analysis to establish the distribution and status of eastern Painted Buntings in this region. We are not aware of any band returns of eastern Painted Buntings from Mexico or Central America, where buntings of the western population winter.

Protected lands within Florida, the Bahamas, and Cuba must be maintained to support wintering eastern Painted Buntings as well as retaining biodiversity in these areas. The buntings spend at least half of each year on the wintering grounds, so adequate habitats in these areas are essential to maintain healthy populations.

Several questions regarding the winter distribution of the eastern population of Painted Bunting need to be resolved. What are the origins of buntings found during the winter months north of the breeding range along the Atlantic Coast, and do these individuals signal a permanent shift in their winter distribution? Are the eastern and western populations separate species as Thompson (1991) suggested? Do some eastern birds pass through Florida (Dry Tortugas) and Cuba to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, and perhaps elsewhere in Central America? Genetic studies underway at the Barrick Museum of Natural History, University of Nevada at Las Vegas (John Klicka, pers. comm.), may enable us to answer some of these questions.

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**Table 7.** Summary of established protected areas of Cuba by region and province. See Appendices 13, 14, and 15 for details on individual sites within provinces.

Region	Province	Number of Established (E) <sup>1</sup> Areas	Area Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)	
Western	Pinar de Río	8	189,522	
"	Isla de la Juventud	5	14,124+ <sup>4</sup>	
"	Habana	2	1,180	
"	Cuidad de la Habana	2	1,467	
"	Matanzas	15	399,644	
Central	Cienfuegos	1	1,704	
"	Villa Clara	8 (1) <sup>3</sup>	125,759	
"	Sancti Spiritus	7	54,769	
"	Ciego de Ávila	4	38,760	
"	Camaguey	5	21,874	
Eastern	Las Tunas	1	5,213	
"	Holguin	4 (2) <sup>3</sup>	292,413	
"	Granma	3 (2) <sup>3</sup>	105,834	
"	Santiago de Cuba	3	77,341	
"	Guantánamo	2	11,366	
Total	3	15	70	1,340,970+ <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>E refers to Established status listing in Appendices 13, 14, and 15.

<sup>2</sup>Only upland areas are included.

<sup>3</sup>Numbers in parentheses indicate that part of an area is in an adjacent province; sites herein are listed only in one province, that being the province containing the site's greatest number of hectares.

<sup>4</sup>Area size not available for one protected area in Isla de la Juventud.

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**Appendix 1.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting on the Atlantic coast of Florida: **Brevard County**. Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=9). Where a property extends into other counties, those counties are given in parenthesis under the site name.

Number	Site		Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
	Agency	Name		
1	FWS	Merritt Is. NWR (Volusia)	2	30,835
2	NPS	Canaveral NS (Volusia)	1	23,336
3	St. Johns WMD	Blue Cypress CA (Indian River)	3	21,672
4	St. Johns WMD	Three Forks Marsh CA	3	20,611
5	St. Johns WMD	River Lakes CA (Orange, Osceola)	3	15,118
6	Florida TIITF	William Beardall Tosohatchee SR (Orange, Osceola)	2	13,653
7	St. Johns WMD	Seminole Ranch CA (Orange, Seminole, Volusia)	3	11,766
8	Florida DRP	St. Sebastian River PSP (Indian River)	1	8,959
9	USAF	Cape Canaveral AS	3	6,348
10	St. Johns WMD	Buck Lake CA (Volusia)	3	3,919
11	FWS	St. Johns NWR	2	2,511
12	St. Johns WMD	Salt Lake WMA	3	1,998
13	St. Johns WMD	Canaveral Marshes CA (Orange)	3	1,797
14	Brevard Co.	Micco Scrub Sanctuary	2	1,713
15	St. Johns WMD	T. M. Goodwin WaMA	3	1,490
16	USAF	Patrick AFB	3	773
17	St. Johns WMD	Pine Is. CA	2	336
18	Brevard Co.	Valkaria Scrub Sanctuary	2	311
19	St. Johns WMD	Bird Lake Marsh	3	295
20	Florida DRP	Sebastian Inlet SP (Indian River)	3	295
21	Florida TIITF	Grissom Parkway	3	290
22	Brevard Co.	Valkaria Expansion	2	254
23	USAF	Malabar Transmitter Annex	3	247
24	St. Johns WMD	Met Life & Wheeler Farms Parcels	3	186
25	Brevard Co.	Kabboord Sanctuary	2	182
26	Brevard Co.	Malabar Scrub Sanctuary	2	159
27	Florida TIITF	Enchanted Forest Sanctuary	2	157
28	Florida DRP	Indian River Lagoon PSP	1	154
29	Brevard Co.	Jordan Scrub Sanctuary	2	150
30	Brevard Co.	South Babcock	2	73
31	St. Johns WMD	Wal-mart Parcels (Orange)	3	65
32	Brevard Co.	South Lake	2	65
33	Florida TIITF	Micco Expansion	3	65
34	Florida TIITF	Helen & Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary	2	60
35	Florida TIITF	Ten Mile Ridge	3	55
36	Brevard Co.	Malabar Expansion	2	52
37	Florida Audubon Soc.	Turkey Creek Sanctuary	2	49
38	FWS	Archie Carr NWR (Indian River)	2	41
39	Brevard Co.	Tico Scrub Sanctuary	2	40
40	Brevard Co.	Maritime Hammock Sanctuary	2	39
41	St. Johns WMD	Snag Point	3	39
42	St. Johns WMD	Chain-of-Lakes Storm-Water Pk	3	26
43	Brevard Co.	Coconut Pt. Sanctuary	2	21
44	Brevard Co.	Erna Nixon Pk	3	21
45	Brevard Co.	Diceranda Scrub Pk	2	18
46	Florida DRP	Coconut Pt. Pk	3	18
47	Brevard Co.	Washburn Cove Sanctuary	2	15
48	Brevard Co.	Lori Wilson Pk	3	11
49	Brevard Co.	Barrier Is. Ecosystem Center	2	11
50	Brevard Co.	Twin Shores Pk	3	10

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.  
<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole hectare; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.

**Appendix 2.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting on the Atlantic coast of Florida: **Indian River** and **St. Lucie Counties**. Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=1 Indian River, 4 St. Lucie).

Number	Site		Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
	Agency	Name		
<b>INDIAN RIVER COUNTY</b>				
1	St. Johns WMD	Ft. Drum Marsh CA	3	8,464
2	St. Johns WMD	Sand Lakes RtA	3	1,329
3	FWS	Pelican Is. NWR	2	262
4	Indian River Co.	Lost Tree Islands CA	2	139
5	St. Johns WMD	Oslo Riverfront CA	3	133
6	St. Johns WMD	Adams Property	3	73
7	Florida THIF	Jungle Trail CA	2	54
8	Indian River Co.	Treasure Shores	3	29
<b>ST. LUCIE COUNTY</b>				
1	Florida DRP	Savannas PSP	2	2,269
2	St. Lucie Co.	Bluefield Ranch	2	1,329
3	South Florida WMD	C-23/C-24 Storage Reservoirs	3	840
4	South Florida WMD	Ten Mile Creek	3	372
5	Florida DRP	Ft. Pierce Inlet SP	3	328
6	St. Lucie Co.	St. Lucie Pinelands	2	304
7	Florida DRP	Avalon SP	3	260
8	St. Lucie Co.	Greene Swamp Preserve	2	214
9	City of Ft. Pierce	Savannas Outdoor RA	3	198
10	Florida DRP	John Brooks Pk	2	164
11	Florida THIF	Queens Is.	2	156
12	Florida DRP	Blind Creek Pk	2	146
13	St. Lucie Co.	Indrio North Savannas	2	142
14	St. Lucie Co.	Bear Pt.	2	139
15	St. Lucie Co.	Dollman Tract	2	112
16	South Florida WMD	Oxbow EcoCenter	2	93
17	St. Lucie Co.	Kings Is.	2	67
18	St. Lucie Co.	Cappon Trail Pk	2	63
19	St. Lucie Co.	Middle Cove	2	56
20	St. Lucie Co.	Indrio Blueway Buffer	2	43
21	St. Lucie Co.	Platt's Creek Mitigation Pk	3	39
22	St. Lucie Co.	Spruce Bluff	2	32
23	St. Lucie Co.	Paleo Hammock	2	32
24	St. Lucie Co.	Wildcat Cove	2	32
25	Village of St. Lucie	St. Lucie Village HP	3	29
26	St. Lucie Co.	Ocean Bay	2	28
27	St. Lucie Co.	Pepper Pk	2	19
28	St. Lucie Co.	Ancient Oaks	2	19
29	City of Port St. Lucie	Oak Hammock Pk	3	17
30	St. Lucie Co.	Impoundment 5	3	13
31	St. Lucie Co.	Walton Scrub	2	12
32	St. Lucie Co.	Project 10B	3	11

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.  
<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.



**Appendix 3.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting on the Atlantic coast of Florida: **Martin County**. Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=24). Where a property extends into another county, that county is given in parenthesis under the site name.

Number	Agency	Site	Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
		Name		
1	South Florida WMD	Dupuis Reserve	3	8,923
2	South Florida WMD	Aliapattah Flats	3	8,053
3	Florida SP	Jonathan Dickinson SP (Palm Beach)	2	4,586
4	South Florida WMD	John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland WEA (Palm Beach)	3	4,374
5	South Florida WMD	Atlantic Ridge	3	2,321
6	South Florida WMD	Cypress Creek/Loxahatchee (Palm Beach)	3	1,362
7	FWS	Hobe Sound NWR (St. Lucie)	2	435
8	Florida DRP	Seabranh PSP	2	372
9	Florida DRP	St. Lucie Inlet PSP	1	366
10	Martin Co.	Bessemer	2	177
11	South Florida WMD	South Fork Addition	3	139
12	Martin Co.	Halpatiokee Regional Pk CA	2	88
13	Martin Co.	Lake Okeechobee Ridge	2	84
14	Martin Co.	Kiplinger	2	56
15	The Nature Conservancy	Blowing Rocks Preserve	1	44
16	Florida Inland ND	Peck Lake Pk	2	30
17	Martin Co.	Stuart Beach Pk	2	27
18	Martin Co.	Dutcher	2	24
19	Martin Co.	Palm City CA	2	24
20	Martin Co.	Gomez	2	23
21	Martin Co.	Phipp's Pk CA	2	21
22	Martin Co.	Pendavis Cove Pk	2	17
23	Martin Co.	Jensen Beach	2	17
24	Florida Inland ND	Martin County Spoil Islands	2	15
25	Martin Co.	Tilton	2	15
26	Martin Co.	Timer Powers Pk CA	2	14
27	Martin Co.	Jimmy Graham Pk	2	12
28	Martin Co.	Danforth Pk	2	10
29	Martin Co.	Indian River Pk CA	2	18

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.

<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.

**Appendix 4.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting on the Atlantic Coast of Florida: **Palm Beach County**. Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=10). Where properties extend into other counties, those counties are given in parenthesis under the site name.

Number	Agency	Site	Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
		Name		
1	South Florida WMD, FWS	Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR (CA1)	2	56,175
2	Florida FWCC	J. W. Corbett WMA (Martin)	3	24,728
3	South Florida WMD	Everglades Agricultural Area	3	21,052
4	City of West Palm Beach	Grassy Waters Preserve	3	5,332
5	Palm Beach Co.	Loxahatchee Slough NA	1	4,453
6	Palm Beach Co.	Pat-Mar NA	1	2,991
7	Palm Beach Co.	Hungryland Slough NA	1	1,197
8	South Florida WMD	Strazzulla Tract	3	1,108
9	Florida TIITF	Loxahatchee Slough Research NA	1	941
10	Palm Beach Co.	Pond Cypress NA	1	623
11	South Florida WMD	Loxahatchee Slough	3	599
12	South Florida WMD	C-5/L-8 Basin Mod & Reservoir	3	494
13	Palm Beach Co.	Sweetbay NA	1	400
14	Palm Beach Co.	South Co. RP	2	358
15	Palm Beach Co.	Okeeheelee Pk	2	353
16	Palm Beach Co.	Cholee Pk	2	319
17	Palm Beach Co.	Royal Palm Beach Pines NA	1	311
18	Florida TIITF	Loxahatchee Slough Public Use NA	3	256
19	Florida FWCC	Lake Harbor Public WA	3	249
20	Palm Beach Co.	Cypress Creek NA	1	237
21	Florida TIITF	Juno Dunes NA	1	232
22	Palm Beach Co.	Winding Waters NA	1	220
23	South Florida WMD	Reese Groves	3	216
24	Palm Beach Co.	Loxahatchee River NA	1	151
25	South Florida WMD	Wellington/Acme Marsh	3	141
26	Florida DRP	John D. MacArthur Beach SP	2	124
27	Florida TIITF	Jupiter Ridge NA	1	106
28	Florida TIITF	Yamato Scrub NA	1	88
29	Palm Beach Co.	Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens	2	75
30	Palm Beach Co.	River Bend Pk	3	68
31	Palm Beach Co.	Frenchman's Forest	1	63
32	Palm Beach Co.	Radnor	2	63
33	Palm Beach Co.	East CA	1	59
34	Palm Beach Co.	North Jupiter Flatwoods NA	1	53
35	Florida Atlantic Univ.	Florida Atlantic Univ. Ecological Site	2	49
36	Palm Beach Co.	Acreage Pines NA	1	48
37	Palm Beach Co.	Carlin Pk	2	44
38	Palm Beach Co.	C-18 Triangle NA	1	41
39	Palm Beach Co.	Hypoluxo Scrub NA	1	39
40	City of Boca Raton	Spanish River Pk	3	39
41	USDI, BLM	Jupiter Inlet	3	37
42	Palm Beach Co.	Pondhawk NA	1	32
43	Palm Beach Co.	Lake Pk Scrub NA	1	25
44	Palm Beach Co.	Seacrest Scrub NA	1	22
45	Florida TIITF	Pahokee Marina & Campground	3	20
46	Palm Beach Co.	Dubois Pk	2	20
47	City of Boca Raton	South Beach Pk	2	16
48	Palm Beach Co.	High Ridge Scrub NA	1	16
49	Florida TIITF	Big Mound State SAS	3	13
50	City of Boca Raton	Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex	2	12
51	City of Boca Raton	Red Reef Pk	2	12
52	Palm Beach Co.	Delray Oaks NA	1	10
53	Palm Beach Co.	Jupiter Beach Pk	2	10

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.

<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.

**Appendix 5.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting on the Atlantic Coast of Florida: **Broward County**. Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=50). Where properties extend into other counties, those counties are given in parenthesis under the site name.

Number	Agency	Site	Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
		Name		
1	Florida TITF, Florida FWCC	Everglades (WCA 2 & 3) & Francis S. Taylor WMA (Dade, Palm Beach)	3	269,518
2	South Florida WMD	Stormwater Treatment Areas (Hendry, Palm Beach)	3	19,277
3	Florida TITF, Florida FWCC	Holey Land WMA (Palm Beach)	3	14,307
4	Florida TITF, Florida FWCC	Rotenberger WMA (Hendry, Palm Beach)	3	11,639
5	South Florida WMD	East Coast Buffer (Dade, Palm Beach)	3	8,673
6	Broward Co.	West Lake Pk/Anne Kolb NC	3	421
7	City of Pembroke Pines	Florida Wetlands Bank	2	186
8	Broward Co.	Tradewinds RP	3	156
9	Florida DRP	John U. Lloyd Beach SP	3	106
10	Broward Co.	Dania Saltmarsh	1	103
11	Broward Co.	Fern Forest NC	2	101
12	Broward Co.	Tree Tops RP	3	98
13	City of Plantation	Plantation Central Open Space	3	84
14	Florida DRP	Hugh Taylor Birch SP	3	69
15	Broward Co.	Pond Apple Slough	1	68
16	Broward Co.	Snake Creek/Miramar Pineland NA	1	65
17	Broward Co.	Long Key/Flamingo Road NA	1	58
18	Broward Co.	Pine Is. Ridge NA	1	40
19	City of Ft. Lauderdale	Snyder Pk	2	36
20	City of Pompano Beach	Pompano Airpak	3	32
21	Broward Co.	Hollywood North Beach RP	3	27
22	Broward Co.	Hillsboro Pineland NA	1	27
23	City of Coral Springs	Tall Cypress NA	1	27
24	Broward Co.	Vista View	2	25
25	City of Pembroke Pines	Pines and 196th Avenue	3	22
26	Florida Inland ND	Deerfield Is. RP	3	22
27	City of Ft. Lauderdale	Mills Pond Pk	2	22
28	Broward Co.	Secret Woods Buffer & NC	1	21
29	Florida TITF	Snake Warrior's Is.	2	21
30	Broward Co.	Easterlin RP	3	19
31	Town of SouthWest Ranches	Rolling Oaks	2	18
32	City of North Lauderdale	Hampton Pines Pk	1	17
33	City of Coral Springs	Sandy Ridge	2	16
34	Broward Co.	The Jungle NA	1	13
35	City of Plantation	Volunteer Pk Addition	3	13
36	City of Coral Springs	Sherwood Forest	2	12
37	City of Coconut Creek	Winston Pk	2	12
38	Broward Co.	Parkland	2	10
39	Broward Co.	Crystal Lake Sand Pine Scrub NA	1	10
40	City of Parkland	Holmberg Road Pk Complex	2	10

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.

<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.

**Appendix 6.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting on the Atlantic Coast of Florida: **Dade County**. Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=53). Where properties extend into other counties, those counties are given in parenthesis under the site name.

Number	Agency	Site	Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
		Name		
1	NPS	Everglades National Pk (Collier & Monroe)	1	387,633
2	South Florida WMD	Southern Glades	3	13,560
3	Miami-Dade Co.	Model Lands Basin	2	4,741
4	South Florida WMD	Frog Pond/L-31 N Transition Lands	3	3,847
5	NPS	Biscayne National Pk (Monroe)	1	2,895
6	USAF	Homestead Air Reserve Base	3	778
7	Miami-Dade Co.	Crandon Pk	2	362
8	Florida TITF	Oleta River SP	3	345
9	Miami-Dade Co.	Miami Metrozoo	2	295
10	Miami-Dade Co.	Trail Glades Range	2	286
11	Florida TITF	R. Hardy Matheson Preserve	2	264
12	Miami-Dade Co.	Milton E. Thompson Pk	2	259
13	South Florida WMD	Biscayne Coastal Wetlands	3	188
14	Miami-Dade Co.	Matheson Hammock Pk	2	182
15	Miami-Dade Co.	Chapman Field Pk	2	180
16	Miami-Dade Co.	Cutler Wetlands	1	175
17	Florida DRP	Bill Baggs Cape Florida SP	3	162
18	Miami-Dade Co.	Mangrove Preserve	2	162
19	Miami-Dade Co.	Navy Wells Pk	2	144
20	Florida TITF	Deering Estate at Cutler Ridge	1	141
21	Miami-Dade Co.	Tropical Pk	2	115
22	U.S. Coast Guard	U.S. Coast Guard Communication Sta.	3	114
23	Miami-Dade Co.	Larry & Penny Thompson Pk	2	113
24	Miami-Dade Co.	Homestead Bayfront Pk	2	111
25	USDA	Subtropical Horticulture RS	3	80
26	Miami-Dade Co.	Haulover Beach Pk	2	71
27	Miami-Dade Co.	Greynolds Pk	2	61
28	Miami-Dade Co.	Tree Is. Pk.	1	49
29	Miami-Dade Co.	Kendall Indian Hammocks Pk	2	49
30	Miami-Dade Co.	Black Pt. Pk & Marina	2	44
31	Miami-Dade Co.	Lakes by the Bay Pk	2	40
32	Miami-Dade Co.	Ives Estate Pk	2	38
33	Miami-Dade Co.	Camp Owaissa Bauer	2	37
34	Miami-Dade Co.	Fairchild Tropical Garden	3	33
35	Miami-Dade Co.	Black Pt. Wetlands	1	32
36	Florida TITF	Boystown Pineland	1	31
37	University of Miami Campus	University of Miami Richmond	2	31
38	Miami-Dade Co.	Tamiami #8 Pineland (Nixon Smiley Addition)	1	27
39	Miami-Dade Co.	Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve	2	25
40	Miami-Dade Co.	Castellow Hammock Preserve	2	24
41	Miami-Dade Co.	A. O. "Doug" Barnes Pk	2	23
42	Florida TITF	Quail Roost Pineland	1	20
43	Miami-Dade Co.	Gold Coast Railroad Museum Pk	2	19
44	Miami-Dade Co.	Coral Reef Pk	1	19
45	Miami-Dade Co.	Sunny Palms Pineland	1	16
46	Florida TITF	Goulds Pineland Addition	1	15
47	Florida TITF	North Shore Pk	2	15
48	Florida TITF	Deering Estate South Addition	1	14
49	Miami-Dade Co.	Highland Oaks Pk	2	14
50	Miami-Dade Co.	Deering Estate North Addition	1	13
51	City of Miami	Virginia Key and Marine Stadium	3	13
52	Miami-Dade Co.	Dolphin Center Stadium Neighborhood Pk	2	11
53	Florida TITF	Tamiami Pineland Complex Addition	1	11
54	Florida TITF	Ross Hammock	1	11
55	Miami-Dade Co.	Bill Sadowski Preserve	2	10
56	Miami-Dade Co.	Seminole Wayside Pk	2	10
57	Florida TITF	Rockdale Pineland	1	10
58	Miami-Dade Co.	Fuchs Hammock Preserve	2	10
59	Florida TITF	Florida City Pineland	1	10

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.

<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.

**Appendix 7.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting inland in Florida: **Seminole, Lake, and Orange Counties.** Sites are ranked by size, large to small. Parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=Seminole 3, Orange 1). Where properties extend into other counties, those counties are given in parenthesis under the site name.

		Site	Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
Number	Agency	Name		
<b>SEMINOLE COUNTY</b>				
1	St. Johns River WMD	Lake Jessup CA (Volusia)	3	2,161
2	St. Johns River WMD	Little Big Econlockhatchee SF (Volusia)	3	2,235
3	St. Johns River WMD	Wekiva River CA	3	943
4	Seminole Co.	Black Bear WA	2	628
5	Florida TIITF	Spring Hammock Preserve	2	609
6	Seminole Co.	Black Hammock WA	2	283
7	Seminole Co.	Chuluota WA	2	251
8	Seminole Co.	Lake Proctor WA	2	193
9	USFS	Pineloch Tract	3	191
10	Seminole Co.	Lake Jessup WA	2	184
11	St. Johns River WMD	Econlockhatchee Corridor Project	3	175
12	Florida Audubon Soc.	Sabal Pt. Sanctuary	1	114
13	Seminole Co.	Econlockhatchee River WA	2	97
14	Seminole Co.	East 417 Property	2	74
15	Seminole Co.	Geneva WA	2	71
16	Seminole Co.	Electrical Workers Property	2	63
17	Seminole Co.	Charles Lee Property	2	47
18	City of Oviedo	Twin Rivers Two Preserve	2	16
<b>LAKE COUNTY</b>				
1	Southwest Florida WMD	Green Swamp (Pasco, Polk, and Sumter)	3	44,338
2	Florida FWCC	Hilochee WMA (Polk)	3	3,955
3	Florida DRP	Lake Louise SP	2	1,784
4	Florida TIITF	General James A. Van Fleet Trail (Polk, Sumter)	3	146
5	St. Johns River WMD	Don McCaffrey Parcels	3	35
<b>ORANGE COUNTY</b>				
1	Florida TIITF	William Beardall Tosohatchee State Preserve	2	13,653
2	St. Johns River WMD	Lake Apopka Restoration Area	3	8,129
3	Florida TIITF	Rock Springs Run State Reserve	2	5,693
4	St. Johns River WMD	Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Pk	3	3,464
5	Florida DRP	Wekiva Springs SP (Seminole)	2	3,127
6	Orange Co.	Split Oak Forest Mitigation Pk (Osceola)	3	724
7	South Florida WMD	Shingle Creek (Osceola)	3	714
8	Orange Co.	Moss Pk	3	401
9	Orange Co.	Long Branch Pk	3	234
10	South Florida WMD	Tibet-Butler Preserve	2	178
11	Orange Co.	Kelly Pk	3	79
12	City of Orlando	Turkey Lake Pk	2	69
13	City of Orlando	Lake Fran Conservation Easement	3	62
14	Town of Oakland	Oakland Nature Preserve	3	54
15	Orange Co.	Shadow Bay Pk	3	45
16	Florida Audubon Soc.	Egret Isle Sanctuary	1	10
<sup>1</sup> Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section. <sup>2</sup> Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.				

**Appendix 8.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting inland in Florida: **Polk and Osceola Counties.** Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=Polk 2). Where properties extend into other counties, those counties are given in parenthesis under the site name.

Site			Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
Number	Agency	Name		
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>				
1	Florida USFS	Lake Wales Ridge SF	3	10,791
2	Florida DRP	Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek PSP	1	3,339
3	Florida FWCC	Tenoroc Fish MA	3	3,019
4	Florida TIITF	Osprey Unit	3	2,470
5	The Nature Conservancy	Tiger Creek Preserve	1	1,927
6	Polk Co.	Sumica/Lake Walk-in-the-Water Tract	3	1,634
7	Florida TIITF	Homeland	3	778
8	Florida Port & Comp.	Hines Conservation Easement	3	667
9	Florida TIITF	Clear Springs	3	582
10	Polk Co.	Lake Hancock Circle B Bar Reserve	2	511
11	Polk Co.	Gator Creek Preserve	2	439
12	Florida TIITF	Bowlegs Creek	3	372
13	The Nature Conservancy	Saddle Blanket Lakes Preserve	1	303
14	Polk Co.	Saddle Creek County Pk	3	295
15	Polk Co.	North/Walk-in-Water Creek	2	260
16	Polk Co.	Lakeland Highlands Scrub	2	223
17	Polk Co.	Crooked Lake Prairie	2	213
18	Polk Co.	IMC-Peace River Pk	3	188
19	Florida Audubon Soc.	Saddle Creek Sanctuary	1	166
20	St. Johns River WMD	Lake Lowery Marsh	2	157
21	Florida TIITF	South Peace River	3	148
22	Southwest Florida WMD	Alafia Reserve	3	135
23	Southwest Florida WMD	Upper Lake Marion Creek Watershed	3	117
24	Florida TIITF	Little Payne Creek	3	110
25	Polk Co.	Sherwood L. Stokes Preserve/Lake Marion	2	89
26	Polk Co.	Lake Bonnet Marsh	2	68
27	Florida TIITF	South Prong Alafia River	3	55
28	Polk Co.	Hickory Lake Scrub County Pk	3	22
29	Polk Co.	Peace River Hammock	2	17
30	Polk Co.	Crooked Lake Sandhill	2	10
<b>OSCEOLA COUNTY</b>				
1	Florida FWCC	Three Lakes WMA	3	24,920
2	South Florida WMD	Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (Polk)	3	10,899
3	St. Johns River WMD, Florida FWCC	Bull Creek WMA	3	9,483
4	Florida FWCC	Triple N Ranch WMA	3	6,315
5	South Florida WMD	Upper Lakes Basin Watershed (Polk)	3	5,018
6	The Nature Conservancy	Disney WP (Polk)	1	4,850
7	Florida DRP	Lake Kissimmee SP (Polk)	2	2,375
8	Osceola Co.	Lake Lizzie Nature Preserve	3	386
9	Florida TIITF	Makinson Is. (Cypress Is.)	3	77
10	South Florida WMD	Oak Street Extension Preserve	3	58
11	Florida TIITF	Paradise Is.	3	49
12	City of Kissimmee	Shingle Creek Recreation Preserve	3	46
13	Florida USFS	Holopaw SF	3	26

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.

<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.

**Appendix 9.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting inland in Florida: **Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades, and Hendry Counties.** Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=Highlands 1). Where properties extend into other counties, those counties are given in parenthesis under the site name.

Site			Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
Number	Agency	Name		
<b>HARDEE COUNTY</b>				
1	Florida DRP	Paynes Creek HSP	3	161
<b>DESOTO COUNTY</b>				
1	Southwest Florida WMD	RV Griffin Reserve	3	2,367
2	Southwest Florida WMD	Lower Peace River Corridor	3	800
<b>HIGHLANDS COUNTY</b>				
1	USAF	Avon Pk Air Force Range (Okeechobee, Polk)	3	43,896
2	Florida DRP	Kissimmee Prairie PSP (Okeechobee, Osceola, Polk)	1	21,766
3	South Florida WMD	Kissimmee River (Okeechobee, Osceola, Polk)	3	14,897
4	Florida TIITF	Lake Wales Ridge WEA (Polk)	2	5,948
5	Florida DRP	Highland s Hammock SP (Hardee)	2	3,760
6	Archbold Expeditions, Inc.	Archbold Biological Sta.	1	3,580
7	South Florida WMD	Paradise Run (Okeechobee)	3	1,324
8	Florida FWCC	Platt Branch Mitigation Pk WEA	3	805
9	FWS	Lake Wales Ridge NWR (Polk)	2	755
10	Highlands Co.	The Preserve	2	543
11	Southwest Florida WMD	Jack Creek	3	519
12	Florida DRP	Lake June-in-Winter SP	2	350
13	The Nature Conservancy	Venus Flatwoods Preserve	1	33
14	The Nature Conservancy	Carter Creek	1	15
<b>OKEECHOBEE COUNTY</b>				
1	South Florida WMD	Lake Okeechobee Critical Project	3	2,024
2	South Florida WMD	New Palm Dairy	3	869
<b>GLADES COUNTY</b>				
1	Florida FWCC	Fisheating Creek WMA	3	7,255
2	Florida TIITF Sanctuaries	Lake Okeechobee	1	1,188
3	South Florida WMD	Nicodemus Slough	3	824
4	Floraglades Foundation	Moya Sanctuary (Hendry)	1	78
<b>HENDRY COUNTY</b>				
1	Florida FWCC	Dinner Is. Ranch WMA	3	7,960
2	South Florida WMD	Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir	3	3,661
3	Florida FWCC	Canoe Slough WMA	3	3,030
4	Florida FWCC	Okaloacoochee Slough WMA	3	1,183
5	South Florida WMD	C-43 Basin Aquifer Storage Part 1	3	410
<sup>1</sup> Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section. <sup>2</sup> Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.				

**Appendix 10.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting inland in Florida: **Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties**. Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=Charlotte 1). Where properties extend into other counties, those counties are given in parenthesis under the site name.

Site		Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
Number	Agency		
<b>MANATEE COUNTY</b>			
3	Manatee Co.	Duette Pk	7,235
2	Manatee Co.	Headwaters of Duette Pk	1,369
3	Southwest WMD	Upper Myakka Watershed	954
3	Florida TITF	Beker	685
<b>SARASOTA COUNTY</b>			
1	Florida DRP	Myakka River SP (Manatee)	14,961
2	Sarasota Co.	T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Pk	9,938
3	Florida DOF	Myakka SF	3,289
4	Sarasota Co.	Pinelands Reserve	2,485
5	Southwest Florida WMD	Deer Prairie Creek	2,481
6	Southwest Florida WMD	Myakka River	1,584
7	City of North Port	Myakkahatchee Creek EP	80
<b>CHARLOTTE COUNTY</b>			
1	Florida FWCC	Fred C. Babcock-Cecil M. Webb WMA (Lee)	28,229
2	Florida DRP	Charlotte Harbor PSP (Lee)	17,135
3	Florida TITF	Yucca Pens Unit (Lee)	5,749
4	Southwest Florida WMD	Prairie/Shell Creek	246
5	Charlotte Co.	Charlotte Flatwoods	204
6	Charlotte Co.	Tippecanoe EP	144
7	Florida DRP	Don Pedro Is. SP	94
8	Charlotte Co.	Amberjack EP	89
9	Florida DRP	Stump Pass Beach SP	77
10	Charlotte Co.	San Casa Pk	75
11	City of Punta Gorda	Alligator Creek	58
12	Charlotte Co.	Oyster Creek EP	55
13	Florida TITF	Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center	51
14	Charlotte Co.	Cedar Pt. EP	45
15	Charlotte Co.	Ollie's Pond Pk	17
16	Charlotte Co.	Sunrise Pk	16
17	Charlotte Co.	Hathaway Pk	16
18	The Nature Conservancy	James E. Cook Memorial Preserve	12
19	FWS	Island Bay NWR	10

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.  
<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.



**Appendix 11.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting along the Gulf of Mexico of Florida: **Lee County**. Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=4).

Number	Site		Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
	Agency	Name		
1	Florida DRP	Estero Bay PSP	1	4,217
2	FWS	J. N. Ding Darling NWR	2	1,551
3	Lee Co.	Prairie Pines Preserve	2	1,092
4	Lee Co.	Wild Turkey Strand Preserve	2	1,070
5	Florida DRP	Cayo Costa SP	2	892
6	Lee Co.	Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve	2	825
7	Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation	Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Land	1	674
8	Lee Co.	Caloosahatchee Creek Preserve	2	497
9	Lee Co.	Hickey Creek Mitigation Pk WEA	3	315
10	Florida DRP	Caloosahatchee RP	3	305
11	Lee Co.	San Carlos Bay-Bunche Beach Preserve	2	288
12	South Florida WMD	Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank	3	260
13	Lee Co.	Pine Is. Flatwoods Preserve	2	240
14	Lee Co.	Lovers Key Pk	3	205
15	FWS	Matlacha Pass NWR	2	182
16	FWS	Pine Is. NWR	2	165
17	Lee Co.	Greenbriar Swamp Preserve	3	157
18	Lee Co.	Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve	2	153
19	Lee Co.	Yellow Fever Creek Preserve	2	137
20	Lee Co.	Popash Creek Preserve	1	129
21	Lee Co.	Lakes Pk	3	116
22	Lee Co.	Hickey's Creek Mitigation Pk	2	114
23	Lee Co.	Deep Lagoon Preserve	2	96
24	Lee Co.	Estero Bay Buffer Preserve	2	96
25	Lee Co.	Imperial Marsh Preserve	2	95
26	Lee Co.	Yucca Pens Preserve	2	79
27	Lee Co.	Gator Hole Preserve	2	72
28	Lee Co.	Alva Scrub Preserve	2	70
29	Lee Co.	Bocilla Preserve	1	69
30	Florida TITF	Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve	3	67
31	Florida DRP	Mound Key Archeological SP	3	67
32	Lee Co.	Galt Preserve	2	65
33	Florida DRP	Koreshan State Historic Site	3	57
34	Lee Co.	Big Hickory Is. Preserve	1	54
35	Lee Co.	Pine Lake Preserve	2	51
36	Florida DRP	Gasparilla Is. SP	3	48
37	Lee Co.	Mullock Creek Preserve	1	48
38	Lee Co.	St. James Creek Preserve	1	46
39	FWS	Norberg Research NA	1	41
40	City of Ft. Myers	Calusa NC & Planetarium	2	41
41	Lee Co.	Powell Creek Preserve	2	31
42	Lee Co.	Flag Pond Preserve	2	31
43	Lee Co.	Hickory Swamp Preserve	2	27
44	Lee Co.	Hickey's Creek/Greenbriar Connector	3	27
45	South Florida WMD	Six Mile Cypress II	3	26
46	Univ. of Florida Foundation	Randell Research Center	3	25
47	Lee Co.	Orange River Preserve	2	23
48	Lee Co.	Matanzas Pass Preserve	1	23
49	Lee Co.	Old Bridge Preserve	1	19
50	Lee Co.	Conservation 2020 Site #216	2	17
51	Lee Co.	Eagle Lake Preserve	1	17
52	FWS	Caloosahatchee NWR	2	16
53	Lee Co.	Persimmon Ridge Preserve	1	15
54	Lee Co.	Imperial River Preserve	1	13
55	South Florida WMD	Critical Flowway	3	10

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.

**Appendix 12.** Protected lands within the winter range of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting along the Gulf of Mexico of Florida: **Collier** and **Monroe Counties**. Sites are ranked by size, large to small; parcels less than 10 hectares are excluded (n=Monroe 3). Where properties extend into other counties, those counties are given in parenthesis under the site name.

Number	Site		Protected Status <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup> (ha)
	Agency	Name		
<b>COLLIER COUNTY</b>				
1	NPS	Big Cypress Preserve (Broward, Dade, Hendry, Monroe)	1	119,410
2	Florida DRP	Fakahatchee Strand PSP	1	32,064
3	Florida DOF	Picayune Strand SF	3	29,983
4	South Florida WMD	Okaloacoochee Slough SF (Hendry)	3	13,058
5	Florida TIITF	Rookery Bay National Estuarine Reserve	2	12,306
6	South Florida WMD	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (Lee)	3	9,886
7	FWS	Florida Panther NWR	2	10,684
8	FWS	Ten Thousand Is. NWR	2	8,676
9	National Audubon Soc.	Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (Lee)	1	4,282
10	Florida DRP	Collier-Seminole SP	2	2,760
11	South Florida WMD	Lake Trafford Impoundment	3	253
12	Florida DRP	Delnor-Wiggins Pass SP	3	56
13	Collier Co.	Barefoot Beach Preserve	3	47
14	Florida TIITF	Jentgen Parcel	3	39
<b>MONROE COUNTY</b>				
1	FWS	Great White Heron NWR	2	6,210
2	FWS	Crocodile Lake NWR	2	2,258
3	USN	Key West Naval Air Sta.	3	1,517
4	Florida DRP	John Pennekamp Coral Reef SP	2	1,381
5	Florida DRP	Dagny Johnson-Key Largo Hammock Botanical SP	1	1,006
6	FWS	Key West NWR	2	790
7	Florida TIITF	Florida Keys WEA	2	762
8	FWS	National Key Deer Refuge	2	649
9	Florida DRP	Long Key SP	3	292
10	Florida DRP	San Pedro Archaeological SP	1	260
11	Florida DRP	Curry Hammock SP	2	229
12	Florida DRP	Lignumvitae Key Botanical SP	1	206
13	The Nature Conservancy	Saddle Bunch Keys	1	138
14	Florida DRP	Bahia Honda SP	2	125
15	The Nature Conservancy	Torchwood Hammock Preserve	1	68
16	The Nature Conservancy	Cross Key	1	50
17	Florida DRP	Indian Key Historic SP	3	45
18	FWS	Cottrell Key Research NA	1	19
19	Florida DRP	Ft. Zachary Taylor Historic SP	3	16
20	Florida DRP	Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological SP	2	13

<sup>1</sup>Categories (1, 2, and 3) of protected status are presented in Methods section.

<sup>2</sup>Areas are rounded to nearest whole acre; includes uplands and wetlands but not open water areas.

**Appendix 13.** Protected areas of Western Cuba in the provinces of **Pinar del Río, Isla de la Juventud, Habana, Ciudad de la Habana, and Matanzas.** Data was obtained from the web site of Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas (System of National Protected Areas of Cuba) <www.SNAP.cu/>, Cuban Centro Nacional de Areas Protegidas.

Province	Area Name	Type of Land Management	Total Area (ha)	Total Upland Area (ha)	Status <sup>1</sup>
Pinar del Río	Reserva de la Biosfera Guanahacabibes	Biosphere Reserve (BR)	153,136	103,628	E
	Guanahacabibes	National Park (NP)	39,826	23,633	E
	Ciénaga de Lugones	Wildlife Refuge (WR)	1,282	1,282	P
	Los Pretiles	Ecological Reserve (ER)	590	548	P
	Los Caimanes (PR)	Flora Reserve (FR)	169	169	P
	Culebra	FR	278	278	P
	Los Ocujes	FR	1,252	1,252	P
	Paso Real	FR	90	90	P
	San Ubaldo-Sabanalamar	FR	5,212	4,858	E
	Sierra de Guane	Outstanding Natural Feature (ONF)	391	391	P
	Punta Coco	WR	1,116	591	P
	Sierra del Pesquero-Mesa-Sumidero	ONF	5,319	5,319	P
	Sierra de San Carlos	ER	2,852	2,852	P
	Sierra de Contadores	FR	1,517	1,517	P
	Gramales-Caliente-La Pena	FR	3,375	3,375	P
	Cayo Ratones	WR	269	269	P
	Viñales	NP	11,119	11,119	E
	Cerro de Cabras-Guanito	FR	2,614	2,614	P
	Punta Caribe	WR	1,970	1,970	P
	Finca La Caridad	FR	10	1	P
	Cayo Levisa	Protected Natural Landscape (PNL)	31,516	679	P
	Mogote La Mina	ONF	70	70	P
	Sierra de la Guacamaya	ONF	2,074	2,074	P
	Los Paredones-Presa El Punto	FR	128	128	P
Encinar de Puerta de Golpe	FR	268	268	P	
Cayo Mono	WR	2,795	2,795	P	
Mogote de Pico Chico	FR	271	271	P	
Pinar del Río & Isla de la Juventud	San Felipe	NP	42,934	2,079	P
	Sierra Preluda-Cuabales de Cajalbano	Nature Reserve (NR)	1,416	1,416	P
	Mil Cumbres	Protected Area of Managed Resources (PAOMR)	17,129	17,129	E
	Sierra la Güira	NR	1,252	1,252	P
	Reserva de San Marcos	NR	254	254	P
	Pan de Guajabón	ONF	755	755	P
	Toscano-Cayo Alfiler	FR	764	764	P
	Cañón del Río Santa Cruz	ONF	937	937	P
	Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra del Rosario	BR	26,686	26,686	E
	Las Peladas	NR	1,429	1,429	E
El Salón	ER	1,040	1,040	E	
Isla de la Juventud	Punta Francés	NP	4,610	1,596	E
	Sur de la Isla de la Juventud	PAOMR, Ramsar Site	— No Data —		E
	Los Indios	ER	5,504	5,397	E
	Cerro Cristal	FR	85	85	P
	Sierra de la Cañada	PAOMR	765	76	E
	Sierra de las Casa	FR	579	579	P
	Sierra de Caballos	FR	447	447	P
	Pinar Calizo	ONF	684	684	P
	Cerro Daquilla	ONF	92	92	P
	Cerros Santa Isabel	FR	30	30	P
	Cerro San Juan	FR	75	75	P
	Punta del Este	ER	41,779	7,055	E
	Cayo Campos	WR	10,099	1,334	P
	Cayo Cantiles-Avalo- Rosario	NP	56,430	5,641	P
	Cay Largo	ER	71,151	2,905	P

Appendix 13 continued.					
Province	Area Name	Type of Land Management	Total Area (ha)	Total Upland Area (ha)	Status <sup>1</sup>
Habana	Mariel-Mosquito	WR	5,220	12	P
	Guajaibón	PNL	177	177	E
	Rotilla	FR	10	10	P
	Anafe	FR	200	200	P
	Cayamas	WR	7,832	2,458	P
	Río Ariguanabo	ONF	495	495	P
	Escalera de Jaruco-Tapaste	PAOMR	1,290	1,290	P
	Loma del Grillo	FR	730	730	P
	Camarones	ONF	401	401	P
	Canasí	FR	847	431	P
	Lomas de Galindo	FR	1,003	1,003	E
	Palenque	ONF	233	233	P
	Sureste de El Inglés	WR	9,318	9,310	P
Ciudad de la Habana	Ensenada de Portier-Lamas	PAOMR	216	69	P
	Monte Barreto	PNL	12	12	P
	Cojímar	FR	105	58	P
	Manigua Costera Celimar-Río Tarará	PNL	54	47	P
	Ensenada de Sibarimar	PAOMR	3,089	242	P
	Caubal de la Minas	FR	130	130	P
	Laguna del Cobre-Itado	WR	774	218	P
	Cubal de Bajurayabo	FR	139	139	P
	Loma de Guanabo	ONF	192	192	P
	La Coca	ER	1,392	1,392	E
	Rincón de Guanabo	PNL	582	75	E
Matanzas	Ciénaga de Zapata	NP	426,076	289,796	E
	Cayos Juan Ruiz-Cristóbal-Providencia	WR	17,333	952	P
	Pan de Matanzas	ONF	210	210	P
	Valle de Yumuri	PAOMR	10,229	9,753	E
	Bacunayagua	ER	645	224	E
	Tres Ceibas de Clavelinas	FR	390	390	E
	Cueva de la Pluma	ONF	150	150	P
	Reserva de la Biosfera Ciénaga de Zapata	BR, Ramsar Site	223,443	69,452	E
	Bellamar-Jarrito	ONF	1,629	1,629	E
	Cañón del Río Canimar	PNL	1,502	1,470	E
	Albufera Maya	WR	873	857	E
	Caverna de Santa Catalina	ONF	247	247	E
	Botinos	FR	4,141	4,141	P
	Jacán	FR	2,517	2,517	P
	Sistema Espelo-Lacistre de Zapata	ONF	14,912	10,506	E
	Varahicacos	ER	38,662	5,164	E
	Cayo Mono-Galindo	ER	19,073	2,582	E
	Los Sábalo	WR	3,242	3,242	E
	Cayos de la Cinco Leguas	WR	3,611	3,467	E
	Bermeja	WR	865	865	E
Sierra de Bibansi	WR	3,568	3,568	P	
Bahía de Cádiz	ONF	1,162	109	P	

<sup>1</sup>We list only two categories for status of the protected areas: E = Established—The protected area has a staff of personnel with infrastructure and is operational; and P = Proposed—Area is proposed for protection by SNAP (this also includes all other processes leading up to the establishment phase).

**Appendix 14.** Protected areas of Central Cuba in the provinces of **Cienfuegos, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, and Camaguey**. Data was obtained from the web site of Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas (System of National Protected Areas of Cuba) <www.SNAP.cu/>, Cuban Centro Nacional de Areas Protegidas.

Province	Area Name	Type of Land Management	Total Area (ha)	Total Upland Area (ha)	Status <sup>1</sup>
Cienfuegos	Guajimico-Gavilanes	Protected Natural Landscape (PNL)	1,624	127	P
	Guanaroca-Punta Gavilan	Wildlife Refuge (WR)	3,038	1,704	E
	Mataguá	Flora Reserve (FR)	1,677	1,677	P
	Yaguanabo	Protected Areas of Managed Resources (PAOMR)	3,904	3,904	P
	Pico San-Juan	Ecological Reserve (ER)	3,296	3,296	P
	Cueva de Martín Infierno	Outstanding Natural Feature (ONF)	44	44	P
	Mameyal	WR	1,452	1,452	P
	Aguacate Boca de Carreras	PNL	616	616	P
Villa Clara	Motembo	FR	756	756	P
	Monte Ramonal	FR	2,474	2,474	E
	Las Picúas-Cayo Cristo	WR	55,972	15,726	E
	Mogotes de Jumagua	ER	479	479	E
	Sabanas de Santa Clara	FR	7,237	7,237	E
	Lanzanillo-Pajonal-Fragoso	WR	87,071	10,586	E
Villa Clara & Sancti Spiritus	Reserva de la Biosfera Buena Vista	Biosphere Reserve (BR) Ramsar Site,	313,770	87,502	E
Villa Clara	Las Loras	WR	6,378	1,641	E
	Cayo Francés	ER	6,181	642	P
	Cayo Majá-Español de Adentro	WR	4,901	843	P
	Cayo Santa María	WR	2,567	1,547	P
	Los Caimanes	National Park (NP)	28,831	114	E
Sancti Spiritus	Topes de Collantes	PNL	29,425	29,425	E
	Pico Potrerillo	ER	328	328	P
	Arena Sílice de Casilda	FR	771	771	P
	Delta del Agabama	WR	8,477	5,464	P
	Lomas de Fomento	FR	225	225	E
	Delta del Higuanojo	WR	853	754	P
	Alturas de Banao	ER	6,177	6,177	E
	Tunas de Zasa	WR	6,044	5,312	E
	Hornos de Cal	ONF	50	50	P
	Loma Tasajeras	ONF	248	248	P
	Palmar de Romero	WR	191	191	P
	Caguanes	NP	20,488	8,499	E
	Jobo Rosado	PAOMR	4,181	4,181	E
	La Chucha	ONF	233	233	P
	Lebrige	WR	950	950	E
El Piñon	FR	19	19	P	
Ciego de Avila	Jardines de la Reina	NP	217,036	16,079	E
	Boquerón (CA)	ONF	3,190	3,190	P
	Monte Revacadero	FR	422	422	P
	Monte Cacarrata	FR	558	558	P
	Cayos de Ana María	WR	19,098	982	E
	Humedales del Norte de Ciego de Avila	PAOMR, Ramsar Site	259,189	103,829	P
	El Coy	FR	7,055	7,055	P
	Dunas de Cayo Guillermo	ONF	247	247	P
	Centro y Oeste de Cayo Coco	ER	36,387	17,980	E
	Laguna La Redonda	WR	602	602	P
	Cayo Alto	WR	95	95	P
	Loma de Cunagua	WR	8,228	8,228	P
	El Venero	WR	3,719	3,719	E

Appendix 14 continued.					
Province	Area Name	Type of Land Management	Total Area (ha)	Total Upland Area (ha)	Status <sup>1</sup>
Camaguey	Humedales de Cayo Romano y Norte de Camaguey	PAOMR	347,329	116,920	P
	Monte Caimanes	FR	4,153	4,153	P
	Escarpe de San Felipe	FR	3,817	3,817	P
	Noroeste de Cayo Cruz	FR	320	320	P
	Cayo Cruz	WR	18,698	1,223	P
	Tuabaquey-Limonos	ER	1,962	1,962	P
	Sierra de Maraguán	FR	5,600	5,600	P
	Correa	WR	6,049	3,895	P
	Sierra de Guaicanamar	FR	1,868	1,868	P
	Silla de Romano	FR	2,141	2,141	P
	Cangilones de Río Máximo	ONF	564	564	P
	Sierra de Camaján	FR	2,106	2,106	P
	Sierra del Chorrillo	PAOMR	3,410	3,410	E
	Bosque Fósil de Najasa	ONF	127	127	E
	Hornos de Cayo Guajaba	FR	1,007	925	P
	Río Máximo	WR, Ramsar Site	22,580	8,161	E
	Laguna Larga	FR	4,783	4,630	P
	Maternillo-Tortuquilla	ER	8,967	3,882	E
	Monte Grande	FR	3,893	3,893	P
	Barrera Submarina Santa Lucía	PNL	4,938	234	P
Cayos Los Ballenatos y Manglares de la Bahía de Nuevitas	WR	6,968	6,294	E	
Nuevas Grandes-La Isleta	ER	10,091	8,684	P	
Laguna de San Felipe	FR	41	41	P	

<sup>1</sup>We list only two categories for status of the protected areas: E = Established—The protected area has a staff of personnel with infrastructure and is operational; and P = Proposed—Area is proposed for protection by SNAP (this also includes all other processes leading up to the establishment phase).

**Appendix 15.** Protected areas of Eastern Cuba in the provinces of **Las Tunas, Holguin, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, and Guantánamo.** Data was obtained from the Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas (System of National Protected Areas of Cuba), [www.SNAP.cu/](http://www.SNAP.cu/), Cuban Centro Nacional de Areas Protegidas.

Province	Area Name	Type of Land Management	Total Area (ha)	Total Upland Area (ha)	Status <sup>1</sup>
Las Tunas	San Miguel de Junco	Flora Reserve (FR)	5,765	5,484	P
	Ojo de Agua-Guajairal	Wildlife Refuge (WR)	5,330	5,213	E
	Arenas Blancas de Tunas	FR	906	906	P
	Nuevas Grandes-La Isleta	Ecological Reserve (ER)	10,091	8,684	P
	Monte Naranjito	FR	782	782	P
	Bahía de Malagueta	WR	23,262	14,054	P
	Guayacán	FR	5,301	4,340	P
Holguin	Hacienda Las Calabazas	WR	358	358	P
	Cupey-Guacacoa	FR	1,387	1,387	P
	Dos Ríos	FR	103	103	P
	Caletones	ER	33,515	29,794	P
	Balsas de Gibara	WR	747	697	P
	Cerros de Norte de Holguin	Protected Natural Landscape (PNL)	823	823	P
	La Ceja de Melones	FR	996	996	P
	Cerro Galano	Nature Reserve (NR)	2,986	2,986	P
	Bahía de Naranjo	PNL	1,934	1,825	P
	La Española	WR	198	198	P
	La Mensura-Pilotos	National Park (NP)	8,467	8,467	E
	Cabo Lucrecia Punta de Mulas	FR	2,701	2,690	P
	Península de Ramón	PNL	1,566	1,526	P
	Cayo Saetía	PNL	4,779	3,663	P
	Pico Cristal	NP	18,537	18,537	E
	Bahía de Sagua de Tánamo y sus Cayos	WR	9,395	5,082	P
	Saltadero	WR	48	48	P
	Voceadero	WR	516	314	P
	Boca de Cananova	WR	582	463	P
Cerro Miraflores	FR	7,839	7,362	P	
" & Guantánamo	Reserva de la Biosfera Cuchillas del Toa	Biosphere Reserve (BR)	202,353	196,837	E
" & Guantánamo	Alejandro de Humbolt	NP	70,835	68,572	E
Granma	Desembarco del Granma	NP	32,660	26,528	E
	Desembocadura del Río Tana	FR	482	463	P
" & Las Tunas	Delta del Cauto	WR, Ramsar Site	66,375	56,384	E
	Peñón de Mota	PNL	55	32	P
" & Santiago de Cuba	Turquino	NP	22,926	22,922	E
Granma	Monte Palmarito	FR	657	657	P
" & Santiago de Cuba	La Bayamesa	NP	24,211	24,211	P
Granma	Batalla de Guisa	FR	1,240	1,240	P
	El Gigante	Outstanding Natural Feature (ONF)	694	694	P
Santiago de Cuba	Pico Caracas	FR	468	468	P
	Pozo Prieto	FR	1,596	1,596	P
	Los Galeones	WR	3,296	43	P
	Monte Bisse	FR	570	570	P
	Loma el Gato	FR	763	763	P
	Monte Barrancas	FR	301	301	P
	Cayo Rey	FR	919	919	P
	San Miguel de Parada	WR	297	297	P
	Siboney-Justisí	ER	1,857	908	E
	Reserva de la Biosfera Baconao	BR	84,857	75,342	E
	La Caoba	FR	927	927	P
	Gran Piedra	PNL	3,039	3,039	P
	El Retiro	PNL	1,490	1,091	E
	Pico Mogote	ER	1,493	1,493	P
	Charrascales de Micara	FR	430	430	P
Monte Micara	FR	357	357	P	

Appendix 15 continued.					
Province	Area Name	Type of Land Management	Total Area (ha)	Total Upland Area (ha)	Status <sup>1</sup>
Guantánamo	Hatibonico	ER	6,274	5,390	E
	Sierra de la Canasta (Majagual)	FR	5,976	5,976	E
	Parnaso-Los Montes	ER	9,091	9,091	P
	Resolladero del Río Cuzco	ONF	200	200	P
	Pinar de Montecristo	NR	76	76	P
	Monte Verde	FR	2,000	2,000	P
	Baitiquirí	NR	4,436	2,981	P
	Boquerón (Ote)	ER	9,492	7,823	P
	Pico Galán	FR	437	437	P
	Pan de Azúcar	ONF	93	93	P
	Abra de Marina	ONF	286	286	P
	Sierra del Convento	FR	1,046	1,046	P
	Macambo	FR	2,296	2,296	P
	Imías	NR	2,261	1,572	P
	Puriales	ER	3,012	3,012	P
	Quibiján-Yunque de Baracoa	ER	14,295	14,295	P
	Tacre	NR	2,329	2,328	P
	Alto de Cotilla	FR	388	388	P
	Esparto	FR	2,535	2,401	P
	Caleta	ONF	7,034	6,779	P
	La Victoria-Yumurí	ER	6,367	6,367	P
Cañón del Río Yumurí	ONF	870	870	P	
Maisí	ER	8,207	5,826	P	
Maisí-Yumurí	PNL	5,450	5,445	P	

<sup>1</sup>We list only two categories for status of the protected areas: E = Established—The protected area has a staff of personnel with infrastructure and is operational; and P = Proposed—Area is proposed for protection by SNAP (this also includes all other processes leading up to the establishment phase).



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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.)	juv. (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)
Twsp.	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

*Italics indicate name of county, parish, or municipality.*

# Atlantic Canada



## Blake Maybank

I can no longer divine the meaning of a "normal" spring, but most observers considered 2007 a relatively uneventful period, especially with respect to the weather, at least in the Maritime provinces. St. Pierre and the island of Newfoundland had a colder, stormier time of it, with considerable snowfall early on in eastern Newfoundland, though nothing record-breaking. The mild weather did bode well for the birds, and the general consensus was of a modest recovery in the migrant breeding bird populations that had suffered from weather-related migration mortalities the previous two springs. The smallest jurisdictions, Prince Edward Island and St. Pierre et Miquelon, claimed the three "firsts" this year, all well documented with photographs. Embrace the digital revolution!

Abbreviations: B.I. (Brier I., NS); C.S.I. (Cape Sable I., NS); G.M.A. (Grand Manan Archipelago, NB); H.R.M. (Halifax Regional Municipality, NS); NL (the province of Newfoundland & Labrador); Newfoundland (the island of Newfoundland only); N.S.M.C. (Nova Scotia Migration Count; May 13); N.S.B.S. (Nova Scotia Bird Society); S.P.M. (Saint Pierre et Miquelon, France).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH LOONS

As in 2006, few Snow Geese were noted away from their ne. New Brunswick staging areas, where the largest flock recorded was about 3000 birds 26 Apr. Brant numbers were well down in Nova Scotia, but it is unclear if the population has decreased or just shifted its migration route. There were at least two pairs of Eurasian Wigeon in e. Newfoundland, while there were 3 males in H.R.M. into mid-Apr, 4 males and a female in New Brunswick,

and one male in Prince Edward Island. The wintering male in St. Pierre lingered until 5 May. A female Northern Pintail wintered on St. Pierre et Miquelon, a rare event locally. A male Garganey was present on St. Pierre 24-31 May (LJ et al., ph.), the first for the French islands. By 31 May, it was keeping company with a female Blue-winged Teal. A freshly dead Canvasback was found during the 2nd week of Mar near Quispamsis, NB (*vide* JW), where less than annual. Of 4 Eurasian Teal reported, 3 were in New Brunswick and one in e. Newfoundland. There were still 7 Redheads at Oysterbed Bridge, PEI 7 Mar, a notable concentration (DS), while 2 lingered at C.S.I. through late Mar. At least a dozen Tufted Ducks were in the St. John's, NL area, and one lingered through 28 May (Anne Hughes). Elsewhere, New Brunswick had 2 males in Mar. The wintering Lesser Scaup on St. Pierre was last noted 9 May. Four male King Eiders were noted from e. Newfoundland in Mar-Apr, one was seen off Cape Tourmentine, NB in late Mar, and 2 were off St. Pierre et Miquelon in Apr. Observers in Nova Scotia commented on the low numbers of scoters,

but the migration past Pt. Lepreau, NB was normal. Several observers in different parts of the Region suggested that Long-tailed Duck numbers were low, but the data are insufficient to confirm or refute such suggestions, so observers should make an effort to count this common wintering species more precisely. There were 2-3 Ruddy Ducks in or near Halifax Harbour through late Apr, and a well-described pair at St. Pierre 5 or 6 May (*vide* PB) makes the 5th occurrence for the islands and first in spring. Etcheberry again bemoaned the scarcity of Red-necked Grebes off St. Pierre et Miquelon, but numbers farther s. were normal and sometimes notable, e.g., 600 off G.M.A. 7 Apr (Roger LeBlanc et al.).

## TUBENOSES THROUGH RAPTORS

A few Sooty Shearwaters were noted off C.S.I. by mid-May, but one off G.M.A. 25 Apr was notably early. A lone Northern Gannet 5 Apr off St. Pierre was 17 days earlier than average (LJ). There was an odd pattern to the annual overshoot of herons and egrets, with 6 Great Egrets arriving in the Avalon and Burin Peninsulas of Newfoundland 11-20 Apr, with some lingering until May. There was no corresponding arrival to the s. and w., so these birds must have been caught in a weather sys-

tem that tracked e. of the Maritimes, then hit se. Newfoundland. Elsewhere in the Region, and later in the season, the Great Egret totals for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were but 3 and one. Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons were not part of the early flight; provincial totals for Snowy were 5 in Nova Scotia, 9 in New Brunswick, and one in Newfoundland, and there were 5 Little Blues in Nova Scotia, 4 in New Brunswick, plus one on St. Pierre 15-26 May. No Tricolored Herons were reported, and there were but 2 mainland Cattle Egrets, both in New Brunswick in May. A Cattle Egret at Buchans, NL was both a rare spring and inland record (Dianne Reid). Glossy Ibis, however, broke the mold of this spring's tepid heron flight by staging a Regionwide arrival in the last six weeks of the season. There were at least 10 birds in New Brunswick, including an eventual group of 6 at Lower Jemseg, and a lone bird far n. at Miscou I. Four were noted together along the Glenfinnan R., PEI (Tom Duffy) 28 Apr, while 4 in s. Nova Scotia were more widely scattered. The flight extended farther n. as well, with at least 4 birds in St. Pierre et Miquelon



This male Garganey was present on St. Pierre 24-31 (here 25) May 2007. Photograph by Patrick Boez.

15-22 May, while some reached Newfoundland: 5 from 25 Apr-10 May at Bonavista, rising to 7 on 11-13 May (Jon Joy et al.), plus singles 24 May at Pasadena (Lois Bateman et al.) and the next day at Portugal Cove South (Dave Shepherd et al.).

There was belated news of a mid-winter Black Vulture near Dingwall, Cape Breton, NS (Storrs Olsen, ph.). This furnishes the 16th provincial record, of which seven have occurred during the Dec-Feb period. In Nova Scotia, Turkey Vultures staged a large movement in Apr and May away from their sw. stronghold, with more than 50 individuals noted, including 7 on C.S.I., 6 in Advocate, Cumberland, flocks of up to 11 at Canso, Guysborough, and at least 8 on Cape Breton,

including a group of 6 in Little Pond. Perhaps this year we will confirm nesting in the province. This flight also pushed a lone bird to Prince Edward Island, 9 May along China Point Rd. (John Hayden). For the first time since Etcheberry began keeping St. Pierre et Miquelon's bird records, in 1974, there were no reports of Osprey on the French islands. It is perhaps not a coincidence that the Osprey total of 111 on the N.S.M.C. was the lowest in the past nine years, down 27% over the long-term average.

## RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS

At least 6 American Coots wintered in ponds around Halifax Harbour; one or 2 is the norm. Two successfully wintered on St. Pierre et Miquelon for the first time, last seen 15 Apr. There were at least 7 Sandhill Cranes reported from New Brunswick in Apr and May, though none appeared to be paired. In Nova Scotia, the Lunenburg bird wintered and was last reported in late May, while a different bird was noted at Canso, *Guysborough* in early May.

There was a small influx of European Golden-Plovers to Newfoundland: up to 7 in Bonavista 23 Apr–13 May (Rod Cox et al.); one at Sandy Cove, Eastport Pen. 1 May (Greg Stroud); 3 at Kilbride 2–4 May (Paul Linegar et al.); and one on the w. coast at St. Paul's Inlet 11 May (Monique Vasallo et al.). Only 4 ad. American Oystercatchers were noted on C.S.I. this spring, down from 7 a year earlier. On 14 May, LJ found and photographed St. Pierre et Miquelon's 2nd Common Greenshank in the same pond where he discovered St. Pierre et Miquelon's first, four years earlier. Two Willets arrived at Renew's, NL in late May, and lingered, and though they showed agitated behavior, there was no evidence of nesting. The species is rare in Newfoundland, especially along the e. coast. On the N.S.M.C., totals of Red Knot (7) and Sanderling (9) were well below their long-term average, by 82% and 95%, respectively. The high Red Knot total at Maisonnette Dune, NB was only 14 (29 May), though as with 2006 this newly discovered spring shorebird site enjoyed some Regional high counts: 140 Black-bellied Plovers (23 May); 66 Semipalmated Plovers (26 May); 46 Short-billed Dowitchers (26 May); 12 Ruddy Turnstones (26 May); and 242 Least Sandpipers (17 May). A late snowstorm in Labrador City 31 May grounded many passerines as well as a Red Knot and a Purple Sandpiper, both very out of place at such an inland location. A Pectoral Sandpiper 29 Apr at Portugal Cove South, NL (Dave Shepherd) represented a rare spring record, as did 3 in Saint John, NB,

27 Apr (MC). A Stilt Sandpiper on St. Pierre 29 Apr (ph. LJ), was unseasonable and only the 4th local occurrence.

## GULLS THROUGH ALCIDIS

A Pomarine Jaeger off Colombier I., St. Pierre et Miquelon 27 May (RE) provided the only local report. A Long-tailed Jaeger, the only jaeger reported from Nova Scotia and the rarest jaeger at any season, was seen off Flint I., *Cape Breton* 19 May (Cathy & Allan Murrant). May brought a small movement of Laughing Gulls into Nova Scotia, with 3 in e. Cape Breton and at least 4 in the Halifax Harbour area. The province's 18th Little Gull was noted in Pictou during the N.S.M.C.; most previous records are from autumn and winter. At least 3 Mew Gulls were present in Hal-



In New Brunswick, this Le Conte's Sparrow at Mercer Settlement in Kings County 13–30 (here 14) May 2007 represented a second record for the province. Photograph by Hank Scarth.

ifax Harbour through late Mar, including a larger-billed individual that showed traits of the e. Eurasian subspecies *heinei*, and an ad. Mew Gull was at St. Pierre the first half of Apr; one of the wintering Mews in St. John's, NL, a second-cycle bird, lingered until 13 May. A classic first-cycle Thayer's Gull was photographed at Sullivan's Pond, H.R.M. 4 Mar (Bernard Burke); this is the 6th convincing Nova Scotia record for this problematic species. The ad. Slaty-backed Gull in St. John's, first discovered in late Nov 2006, was present until at least 25 Mar. Two Dovekies lingered into Apr in Nova Scotia, and a few Thick-billed Murres were still noted in the first half of May. The only Ivory Gull reported was one at Portugal Cove South, NL 2

Mar, stealing dog food from a dish (*vide* Dave Shepherd).

## DOVES THROUGH STARLING

A White-winged Dove at a St. John's feeder 14–18 May (Aidan Greene et al.) was at least the 5th for Newfoundland. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo 23 Mar at C.S.I. provided the only report for this spring rarity and was unexpectedly early (Garvin Swim). A Northern Hawk Owl made a too-brief appearance on C.S.I. 23 May (Wilfred Atwood); they are reported less than annually in the province. As in 2006, two nest-boxes on St. Pierre were occupied by Boreal Owls by mid-Apr (RE), though one nest was subsequently abandoned. Five calling Boreal Owls were tallied on the West Labrador Spring Count 12 May. Although Chimney Swifts have now been designated as Threatened in Canada, there was an encouraging resurgence of their numbers on the mainland, with the highest count in Nova Scotia being 760 in Pictou 25 May and in New Brunswick 200 at Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska 23 May. Farther n. at St. Pierre there were seven reports of one to 3 birds 12–29 May. A number of Red-bellied Woodpeckers wintered in Nova Scotia; two pairs in Yarmouth, one bird in Antigonish, 4 in Jollimore, H.R.M., and one in Queens. Breeding was only confirmed for the province last year in Jollimore. The Richibucto, NB individual, first found in Nov, was last reported 25 Apr, and a migrant appeared 10–12 May at Mary's Pt., NB (DC).

An Eastern Phoebe was quite far n. at St. Pierre 11 May (Patrick Asselin). While searching for a Mountain Bluebird, Donna Crosby found a rare spring White-eyed Vireo in Upper East Green Harbour, *Shelburne*, NS 26 May. Purple Martins appear to be extirpated as a breeding bird in Nova Scotia, and a single migrant was noted, 29 Apr, in Kings (m.ob.). With 7 present, Blue Jays are now almost considered resident on St. Pierre et Miquelon. The predicted extirpation of Black-capped Chickadees on St. Pierre et Miquelon might have been premature, as the population on Saint-Pierre has risen from one to 4; the recent arrivals bring fresh hope. Golden-crowned Kinglets enjoyed a banner year in 2006, but this spring their numbers fell sharply; perhaps the cold winter was to blame. Prince Edward Island had its first Carolina Wren in spring 2006, but this pioneer was followed by 2 that arrived in Summerside in mid-Dec 2006, and they remained through at least mid-Apr. Two Carolina Wren sightings in Fredricton, NB, 30 Mar and 2 Apr, were separated by some distance, so may represent 2 individuals. Once again, New Brunswick had the only Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 5 birds 10–23 May.

Northern Wheatears seen in e. Newfoundland included a female at Cape Spear 7-10 May (Terry Janes et al.) and a male at Bear Cove, Avalon Pen. date unknown (Terry Janes); another was on C.S.I. 25 May (Murray Newell), rather late. Vic Williams provided an accurate description of a Mountain Bluebird at Upper East Green Harbour, Shelburne 23 May (*vide* Donna Crosby); this is the 8th provincial record of this w. species. A Townsend's Solitaire at Shediac, NB 15 Apr (Stuart Tingley) and another at Tarantum, PEI 10-12 Mar (Dwayne Oakley, Dan McAskill) were both rare, though the latter bird represented just the 6th occurrence for that province. Hermit Thrush continues to be the commonest thrush on St. Pierre et Miquelon, with many more sightings (23) than Swainson's (7) and Gray-checked (3) combined. There was a large push of Northern Mockingbirds and Brown Thrashers into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia from late Apr onwards, with provincial totals of 3 and 9 for the mockingbirds and 15 and 14 for the thrashers, respectively. In addition, 2 thrashers and a mockingbird wintered in Nova Scotia, a thrasher reached Cape St. Mary's, NL 13 May (rare spring record; Gene Herzberg et al.), and a mockingbird reached St. Pierre 28 May.

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Two Orange-crowned Warblers wintered in H.R.M.; a rare spring migrant Orange-crowned was on G.M.A. 22 May (JW). Five Pine Warblers wintered, 3 in H.R.M. and 2 in New Brunswick. Etcheberry commented that on St. Pierre et Miquelon, in contrast to recent years, some species of warbler seemed more numerous, and the count of 17 species there this spring is encouraging. There was an impressive tanager show in May, concentrated as expected on the mainland, but with a few notably far-flung birds. Summer Tanagers arrived in numbers in Nova Scotia, with at least 10 mainland birds from Halifax southward, the first 19 Apr in conjunction with a powerful storm that swept in from the s., the rest through May. One reached Cape Breton, and there were 2 May birds in New Brunswick. Scarlet Tanagers, all in May, were more dispersed, with 4 in New Brunswick, 5 in s. Nova Scotia, and 2 in Newfoundland (one w. at Cornerbrook 3 May, one e. at St. Mary's 27 May), and the other a freshly dead male at Northwest River 20 May, just the 2nd Labrador record. Nova Scotia's 18th Western

Tanager successfully wintered in West Pubnico, Shelburne, but the provincial total was then augmented by 3 additional birds: a male 19 Apr at C.S.I. (m.ob.); a female in Canso 22-23 May (TK); and a male in Halifax's Public Gardens 30 May (ph. Tim Venters). Labrador's first Western Tanager (male), and the province's 3rd, was a media sensation in Happy Valley/Goose Bay 10-26 May (Tony Chubbs et al.).

There were 5 Eastern Towhees in Nova Scotia in May, plus three sightings of perhaps the



Furnishing a first record for Prince Edward Island, this Harris's Sparrow was at Corran Ban 18 May 2007. Photograph by Dwayne Oakley.

same individual on Machias Seal I., NB 9-15 May (Ralph Eldridge). A Chipping Sparrow near Mirande L., St. Pierre 29 Apr was three weeks earlier than average and the earliest ever on St. Pierre et Miquelon by four days (RE). There were but 2 Clay-colored Sparrows reported Regionwide; one wintered in Canso, NS, where routine, but more notable by far was St. Pierre et Miquelon's first and long-overdue Clay-colored Sparrow, present 23 May near Mirande L., well appreciated and photographed by local birders. Field Sparrows were scarce, with three reports in May, two in Nova Scotia, and one in New Brunswick. The Stellarton, NS Lark Sparrow wintered until 23 Apr, and there were 2 other early Apr birds in the province, both thought to be migrants. New Brunswick's 2nd Le Conte's Sparrow was a cooperative singing male, discovered 13 May+ near Mercer Settlement, Kings (Richard Blacchiere et al., ph.). Prince Edward Island enjoyed a one-day visit by its first Harris's Sparrow at Coran Ban; the bird was identified by Vince MacIntyre, who spread the word quickly enough for many of the province's birders to enjoy it. The Lunenburg, NS Harris's Sparrow (8th for the province) successfully wintered and was last reported 17 Apr. A variety of the commoner sparrows arrived on St. Pierre et Miquelon about a week earlier than

average (RE). The Golden-crowned Sparrow found last Dec on St. Pierre et Miquelon remained through 4 May, and though it remained frustratingly elusive, it was eventually photographed. For the 2nd spring in a row, an Oregon Junco reached Cape Breton, NS, this time in remote White Pt., where it lingered 7-13 May (Lisa Dixon et al.).

There was a memorable influx of colorful grosbeaks and buntings into the Region. More than 100 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported across Nova Scotia, and 12 reached St.

Pierre et Miquelon, an impressive count for the French islands (totals were not monitored in New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island). St. Pierre et Miquelon also enjoyed late May visits by a Blue Grosbeak and 2 Indigo Buntings. Apr/May mainland records for these two species were as follows: Blue Grosbeak 9/5 (NB/NS); Indigo Bunting 9/31 (NB/NS). Just one Indigo Bunting was reported from Prince Edward Island. Many of these birds were noted in conjunction with the intense mid-Apr storm that moved up the coast from the United States.

The only Yellow-headed Blackbird was an imm. male on C.S.I. 20 May (MN et al.). A Brown-headed Cowbird was notable 5 May in St. Lewis, Labrador (Eva Luther), where the species is less than annual. Six Common Grackles in Labrador in the last week of May also were noteworthy. Twelve Orchard Oriole sightings in May were split evenly between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but the rarest oriole was a male Bullock's Oriole 25 May in Argyle, Shelburne, NS (Ted d'Eon), the 11th provincial record. The Labrador West Spring Count found 94 Rusty Blackbirds, an encouraging number for this species in decline.

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Temperatures in spring 2007 fluctuated from slightly above normal in north-western Québec to slightly below normal on the Lower North Shore. Elsewhere, they were pretty close to normal. Precipitation was above normal in both southern and northern Québec but below normal in central Québec and on the North Shore. A series of late snow storms hit the south in early April, which may have resulted in some mortality among early insectivorous migrants such as swallows.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

For the 2nd consecutive spring, a Pink-footed Goose visited the Chambly-Carignan area 1-9 Apr (R. Belhumeur, m.ob., ph.). There are now more than 10 records for the Region, all since 1988. A Barnacle Goose stopped at Baie-du-Febvre 25 Apr (GP, JP. Santerre). A first-year Trumpeter Swan was identified at Rouyn-Noranda 12 May (LI), a 9th Regional record since 1990. A group of 4 Tundra Swans at Plaisance 7-15 Apr was notable (D. Lauzon et al.). A Common Peafowl at Cantley 6-13 May (L. Laperrière, W. Darou) was not clearly associated with an aviculturist.

Two ad. American White Pelicans stunned lucky observers at Saint-Fulgence 2 May when they spotted these birds from their kitchen window (GS, CC). A Great Egret at Sainte-Martine 26 Mar furnished a new record-early date for the Region (M. Ouellet). Herons and egrets from the south were represented by a Snowy Egret at Grosse-Île 7-12 May (A. Richard), a Tricolored Heron at Saint-Méthode 31 May (C. Launière), and a

Cattle Egret at Cap Tourmente 24 May (PL et al.). Glossy Ibis were more widespread than usual, with 4 at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce 23 Apr-1 May (N. Gagné, R. Poulin), one at Baie-du-Febvre 23-25 Apr (m.ob.), 2 at Saint-Alphonse-de-Caplan 25 Apr-1 May (B. Arsenault), one at Châteauguay 19 May (*vide* M. Groulx), and one at Saint-Blaise 20-21 May (R. & G. Boulet et al.).

## CRANES THROUGH OWLS

As usual, several Sandhill Cranes were reported away from their main migration corridor in w. Québec, including one as far e. as Bassin (Magdalen Is.) 13 May (R. Vigneau). A Black-tailed Godwit, the first since 1984, was briefly seen by a lucky observer at Lévis 21 Apr (G. Lemelin), providing a 4th Regional report (as yet, no report is substantiated by photograph). Single Marbled Godwits stopped at Métabetchouan 8-11 May (M. Tremblay, D. Gervais et al.), and Val-d'Or 13 May (R. Moreau). A Semipalmated Sandpiper in alternate plumage was convincingly described at Rivière-Ouelle 6 Apr, an incredibly early date surpassing the previous early date by almost a month (JF Rousseau). Always rare in spring, a Stilt Sandpiper brightened the Sabrevois-Saint-Blaise area 14-18 May (M. Gauthier, m.ob.). A rufous-morph Ruff delighted observers at Blaise 4-7 May (R. & G. Boulet, m.ob.), while another or the same was at Baie-du-Febvre 9 May (JF Jetté). Rare in spring, a Long-billed Dowitcher was discovered at Cap Tourmente 25 May (P. Otis, J. Laplante).

Single ad. Laughing Gulls appeared at Rivière-Ouelle 1 May (F. & R. Dion) and at Saint-Vallier 26 May (JL, D. Boutin). The number of Black-headed Gulls built to 32 birds at Cap-de-l'Est 9 May (DGG), while Lesser Black-backed Gulls reached 13 at La Malbaie 24 May (OB). A Black-legged Kittiwake at Lac-des-Écorces 16-17 May was a rarity for the Laurentians region (MA. Montpetit). A Caspian Tern at Angliers 22 May was also locally rare (JF). A concentration of 500 Black Terns at Baie-du-Febvre 23 May was notable (OB). The Eurasian Collared-Dove that wintered at Gallichan (Abitibi) was still there 24 Apr (S. Rivard).

Up to 19 Snowy Owls were present in the Lac St-Jean plain surrounding Hébertville 16 Mar (M. Savard, R. Bouchard). A Great Gray Owl in downtown Québec City 1 May was most unusual, considering the paucity of records last winter (C. Charest). A high count of 22 Northern Saw-whet Owls was detected at Fugèreville 25 Mar (JF). Ironically, only two nest boxes were occupied by the species out of 300 that were monitored farther n. in

the Abitibi region, compared to 18 last spring (*vide* LI).

## SWIFTS THROUGH THRASHERS

An interesting count of 130 Chimney Swifts came from Maria, Gaspé Pen. 30 May, in the ne. corner of their contracting range (C. Lamarre). A very early Ruby-throated Hummingbird was noted 23 Apr at Matapédia (P. Firth, P. Poirier, *vide* P. Beaupré).

The season's only Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from Trois-Rivières 11 May, in the midst of a warm spell that brought many s. species, chiefly passerines, to the n. of their range (J. Richard, *vide* S. Richard). A male Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Destor, Abitibi through 17 May (L. Beauregard), where it had apparently been present since Jan; wintering females in Saint-Hedwidge and Caplan were seen through 2 (I. Martel, A. Girard et al.) & 26 May (C. Saint-Denis), respectively. The species was found at four different locations in the Montréal area, where it is now regular and possibly prospecting new nesting sites. A Say's Phoebe was seen briefly at Saint-Anne-de-Beaupré 18 May (R. Lapensée et al., ph.), a 6th spring record for the Region. An ad. Loggerhead Shrike at Penouille 29 May was most surprising (J. Cousinard, ph.).

A White-eyed Vireo was at Saint-Anne-de-Sorel 11-12 May (P. Messier, J. Cadieux, ph.). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Cap Tourmente 18 & 31 May was locally unusual (JPO, RL). Only 4 Carolina Wrens were reported throughout the Region and without any evidence of breeding, somewhat perplexing and unlike the situation in 2002, following a mild winter similar to this year's. A total of 4 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in mid-May in the Québec City region was excellent. Far less regular in spring than in fall, male Northern Wheatears were reported from the North Shore at Port-Cartier 19 May (L. Dubé, M. Couette, ph.) and Les Escoumins 26 May (R. Pintiaux). Six Brown Thrashers in the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean region throughout the period was unprecedented (*vide* GS).

## WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A male Blue-winged Warbler was at Québec City 11 May (L. Messely) and another at Boucherville 24 May (DH, A. Boivin). Single Brewster's Warblers were at Frelighsburg 9 May (GP), Godmanchester 19 May+ (D. Ouellette), and Yamaska Park 21 May (G. Rossini, *vide* DH). Male Prairie Warblers were reported singly from Saint-Hyacinthe 11 May (R. Gauvin), Summit Park, Montréal 15 May (K. Emo et al.), and Cap Tourmente 23 May (PL). Rarely seen away from a few mature broadleaf forests in the sw. corner of the province, a

Cerulean Warbler was out of range and habitat at Baie-du-Febvre 10 May (H. Brunoni, M. Bisson). A female Prothonotary Warbler visited Sabrevois 23 May, providing a 14th Regional record (A. Labelle). The Louisiana Waterthrush pair was back in Gatineau Park 12 May (D. Dallaire, J. Dubois), though nesting could not be confirmed as last year. A male Yellow-breasted Chat at Cap Tourmente 31 May–2 Jun was notable (RL, m.ob.), but especially intriguing were 2 individuals, one of which was quite vocal, at Saint-Elzéar (Gaspésie) 26 May (M. Bourdages).

First-spring male Summer Tanagers were reported singly at feeders at Beauport 15-19 May (M. Lacroix, JD. Poulin, m.ob., ph.) and Grand-Ruisseau, Magdalen Is. 21 May (S. Cyr et al., ph.). A male Western Tanager frequented feeders at Saint-Méthode, *Lac-St-Jean* 23 May (P. Simard, J. Boulanger, ph.). Unlike most of its species seen in the Region away from the breeding range, which are usually observed at feeding stations, an Eastern Towhee protecting a territory atop Mt. Arthabaska, *Centre-du-Québec* 21 May+ (C. Roy) was behaving much like those of the small breeding population on Mt. St-Hilaire,

over 100 km to the southwest. An ad. Harris's Sparrow was at La Sarre, *Abitibi* 8 May (C. Saint-Pierre), the 3rd individual in that region since last Dec. Single Oregon Juncos were reported at Lac-St-Charles 10 Mar (R. Morin) and at Île-Bizard Nature Park, *Montréal* 11 Apr (P. Tarassof).

Largely irregular in spring, a Dickcissel at Baie-Saint-Paul 23 Apr bested the previous record arrival by three weeks (L. Rousseau, N. Burgdorfer). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 4 Mar was likely one of the birds that were sporadically seen in the area through the winter (E. Samson, A. Lacasse), while single males were reported from the w. of the province at Authier-Nord 13-17 May (J. Plante) and at Rouyn-Noranda 24 May (M. Bélanger, ML. Marcoux). Three Orchard Orioles were reported in mid-May in the Region: an ad. male at Saint-Thomas-de-Joliette 10 May (N. Coulombe), an imm. male at Île-de-la-Visitation Nature Park, *Montréal* 11-12 May (S. Vanier, J. Coutu), and a female at Cap Tourmente 18 May (JPO). A European Goldfinch, assumed to be an escapee, was at Destor, *Abitibi* 11 May (L. Beauregard).

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## New England



### Simon Perkins

A very intense, three-day “sou’easter” formed off the middle Atlantic coast in mid-April 2007, at a time of year when storms this powerful are rather rare. The storm tracked slowly northward along the coast, stalled once or twice, and eventually passed across the interior of the Region. Consequently, the winds, which briefly

reached hurricane force, never “backed” (counterclockwise) northeastward, as they would have had the storm passed offshore. Instead, they “veered” (clockwise) into the south, southwest, and eventually, northwest. As a result, birders on the shores of Rhode Island and Connecticut observed species that went undetected on the eastern shores of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bay, these latter areas being more productive during nor’easters. The storm’s fallout included various early (one record-early) marine migrants, five Sooty Terns, and a smattering of early trans-Gulf passerine migrants.

A classic example of “spring” weather in New England came in mid-March. On the 14th, in many parts of Massachusetts, the mercury reached 70° F. Two days later, Worcester, Massachusetts was hit with 46 cm of snow, Lenox, Massachusetts got 50 cm, and Millbury, Vermont was clobbered with 94 cm! These prodigious amounts of snow had predictable effects on early migrants such as American Woodcocks and Fox Sparrows.

The latest trend in the documentation of rarities is the use of cell phone cameras. While the resolution of such images is still



This Tundra Swan, the only one reported in New England in spring 2007, was in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts 27-30 (here 27) March 2007. Photograph by Jim Weidenfeller.

low (compared to standard digital cameras), the quality can be more than adequate for acquiring images through spotting scopes (“phone-scoping”). For examples, see White-faced Ibis, American Avocet, Ruff, and best of all, the Addendum!



This Eurasian Teal (left) at Bellow's Falls, Vermont 7-13 (here 7) April 2007 apparently represented the first photographically substantiated record for the state. Photograph by Hector Galbraith.

**Abbreviations:** C.R.V. (Connecticut River Valley); Hammonasset (Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, CT); M.A.R.C. (Massachusetts A.R.C.); M.V. (Martha's Vineyard, *Dukes*, MA); Monomoy (Monomoy Island N.W.R., Chatham, MA); Nantucket (Nantucket I., MA); P.R.N.W.R. (Parker River N.W.R.); P.I. (Plum I. area, including P.R.N.W.R., Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, and Ipswich, Essex, MA).

## WATERFOWL

Waterfowl made a splash this spring. The headliners were Rhode Island's first Pink-footed Geese, which first appeared during the winter season and remained in Richmond through 6 Mar (m.ob., *fide* R. Farrell). About 2400 Snow Geese spent the last week of Apr feeding in fields in Caribou, ME (BS), and an estimated 10,000 Snows ("and perhaps many times that...in three enormous flocks") on L. Champlain, Alburg, VT 24 Mar (TGM) were probably staging for their northward departure. Reports of Greater White-fronted Geese included at least 8 in Massachusetts, 5 in New Hampshire, and singles in Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Four Greater White-fronteds reported from Charlestown, NH 24 Mar and Northfield, MA 23 Mar (M. Taylor) were probably part of the flock of 5 that was on the Connecticut R. at Hinsdale, NH 18 Mar (EM, ph.). The Vermont bird was in Springfield 30 Mar (K. Cox), which is only about 76 km upriver; it may also have been part of this group. A big push of geese along the Bay State's length of the Connecticut R. in Hadley 25 Mar included 6000 Canada, 2 Cackling, and one Barnacle Goose (B. Zajda), the latter possibly the same individual as seen the day before in Deerfield (B. Kane) and again on the river just n. of the state line in Hinsdale, NH and Vernon, VT 25-28 Mar, also in the company of 2-4 Cacklings (ph. TW, M. Resch). Another Barnacle, a holdover from winter, was in Portsmouth, RI 4-5 Mar (E. Stedman, m.ob., ph.), and other Cackling Geese includ-

ed 2 elsewhere in Massachusetts, one elsewhere in New Hampshire, and 2 in Rhode Island, for a Regional total of 10-12.

Seven Trumpeter Swans that were tagged as part of Ontario's reintroduction program appeared in Connecticut: one was along the Connecticut R. between Hadlyme and Chester 10-18 Mar; another 2 were on Cedar L., Chester 18-22 Mar; and 4 were on the Pratt Read Res. 6 Apr (*fide* GH). The only

Tundra Swan report came from Bridgewater, MA 27-30 Mar (ph. J. Weindenfeller et al.). Brant reported from points inland included 22 in Littleton, Grafton, NH 17 May (B. Bradley), one in Clinton, MA 19 May (K. Bourinot), and one in Sunderland, VT 28 May (R. Stewart). The Regional total of 14 Eurasian Wigeons included 4 in Vermont, one of which was very late in Cornwall 13 May (TW); an American Wigeon × Eurasian Wigeon hybrid was in Concord, MA 26-28 Mar (SP, ph. BH); and a total of 10 Eurasian Teal in Mar and Apr included 5 in Massachusetts, 3 in New Hampshire, and 2 in Maine. One thousand American Black Ducks were reported from the Connecticut R. at Hinsdale, NH 9 Mar (EM); if accurate, this

count represented one of the highest known inland counts for the Region. As they have been for the past few years, both Northern Shoveler and Redhead continued to be cited by subregional editors as being present in above-average numbers. A Ruddy Shelduck in York, ME 10 Apr (SCBA) was presumed an escapee.

A Tufted Duck was discovered in Addison, VT 31 Mar (TGM), and a hybrid *Aythya* received a lot of scrutiny in Scarborough, ME 8-13 Apr (DL, ph. L. Seitz). Judging by its reddish head, one parent was probably Redhead,



This apparent hybrid *Aythya* in Scarborough, Maine 8-13 (here 13) April 2007 had birders guessing. Reddish tones about the head made a strong case for one parent being Redhead. The white wing-stripe seemed to indicate scaup, but the dark back and whitish sides were more consistent with either Ring-necked or Tufted Duck. Photograph by Luke Seitz.

the other either Ring-necked Duck, Tufted Duck, or a scaup. The best evidence for scaup parentage was its bold white wing stripe. A "major feeding group" of waterfowl off West-

**SA** The discovery of an **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** aground in a field in Maine set the stage for what became a sad saga. The bird was found in a cow pasture in Cape Neddick, ME 28 Apr (R. & S. Coite). It was meticulously rehabilitated for three weeks, initially at the Center for Wildlife clinic in Cape Neddick, then at the Tufts Wildlife Clinic in Grafton, MA. When it was deemed strong enough, it was fitted with a satellite transmitter and then released from a beach in Falmouth, MA 20 May. Two hours after the release, it was spotted flying down a highway in Plymouth, MA roughly 16 km from the release point, and, the next day, was found grounded again, sitting under an overpass along that same stretch of highway. Once again it was taken to Tufts, and on 2 Jun, it was released again, this time from a boat 48 km e. of Boston. Unfortunately, the transmitter failed, so no location data were received following this release. In the end, the bird was found dead on a beach in Barnstable, MA 26 Jun (B. Harris), and, based on the condition of the carcass, it was judged to have been dead for roughly two weeks. Because it did not survive long after the second release, the data probably would not have revealed much about the movements of an albatross in the "wrong" hemisphere in any case. Following a necropsy, the specimen will be housed at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

This outcome was especially disappointing in the context of a debate surrounding the recent increase in the number of Yellow-nosed Albatross sightings in the Northwest Atlantic: at issue is whether these sightings have involved one or more individuals. A ray of illumination came this summer, when at least 2-3 different birds appeared in various locations in Europe, including one wandering down a driveway in Somerset, England (see *Birding World* 20: 279-295). These records support the notion that the recent multiple albatross sightings in New England pertain to more than one bird.

**Table 1.** Marine birds associated with the "Patriot's Day Storm" in New England, 16-19 April 2007.

Date	Apr 16					Apr 17				Apr 18					Apr 19				
	NH	AP	PJ	HA	SO	NH	AP	LC	CB	AP	EX	CCC	SN	CB	PJ	NA	SN	CB	
Northern Fulmar		49												9					2
Sooty Shearwater		4																	
Leach's Storm-Petrel	5	66				1			3			8	12	4					
Red Phalarope										3		1	3	1	1				1
Pomarine Jaeger													1	2					
Parasitic Jaeger													2	1					
Black-legged Kittiwake		352							43				16	372					
Least Tern				1*															
Sooty Tern			3		1			1 dead											
Thick-billed Murre							27				5		3			5			4
Razorbill		390											2	14				14	
large alcid		290																	805

**Abbreviations for locations (and observers):**

NH: Hampton, NH (EM, SM); AP: Andrew's Pt, Rockport, MA (RSH); NA: Nahant, MA (L. Pivacek); CCC: Cape Cod Canal (east end), Sandwich, MA (M. Keleher)

SN: Sandy Neck, Barnstable, MA (M. LaBossiere, M. Malin); CB: Corporation Beach, Dennis, MA (BN, P. Flood); PJ: Point Judith, Narragansett, RI (PAB, W. Munns)

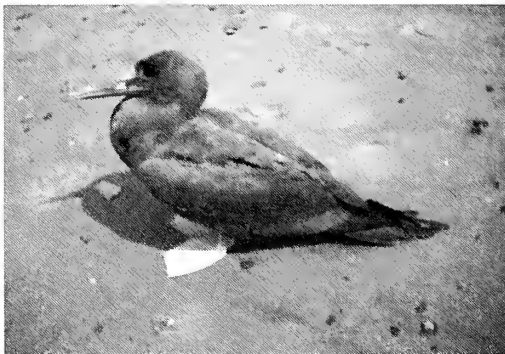
LC: Goosewing Beach, Little Compton, RI (G. Dennis); HA: Hammonasset Beach, Madison, CT (*vide* GH); SO: Southington, Hartford, CT (*vide* GH)

\* new record-early date for Region

port, MA 11 Mar (FM) included 2500 Greater Scaup, 1500 Long-tailed Ducks, 300 Common Goldeneyes, and 600 Bufflehead. Inland Barrow's Goldeneyes included a pair in Grand Isle, VT 24 Mar (TGM) and one on the Connecticut R. at Turner's Falls, MA 10 Mar (TP). Very rare inland anywhere s. of Canada, 4 Common Eiders at the Barkhamsted Res., CT 19 May (ph. FZ) represented the first inland record for state.

**LOONS THROUGH TROPICBIRD**

A total of 5 Pacific Loons included 4 in Massachusetts and one in New Hampshire, the



This Brown Booby, representing only the fourth for fifth record for Massachusetts and the first ever photographed, was found in Hull in late June or early July of 2005. It was standing on a busy beach filled with sunbathers, kite-fliers, and dogs. The photographer was a non-birder/passersby who clicked this shot with his cell phone and emailed it (albeit two years later) to Mass Audubon's Wildlife Information Line for an identification. Photograph by Marc Quigley.

latter in breeding plumage off Rye 15 May (SM et al.). Counts of 800 Red-throated Loons and 600 Common Loons in Nantucket Sound 5-7 May (RRV) were high for the date,

and a count of 9 Red-necked Grebes in Farmington, CT 2 May (P. Cianfalone) was noteworthy for an inland site. An Eared Grebe that spent part of the winter in Rye, NH was last reported there 14 Mar (B. Griffith), and the amazing Gloucester, Massachusetts Eared Grebe that spent its twelfth winter there was last reported 21 Apr (B.O.).

Records of waterbird species associated with the April Patriot's Day Storm are summarized in Table 1. Other records that were apparently also associated with the Storm included 2 Bonaparte's Gulls in Southwick, MA 15 Apr (SK), a Laughing Gull in Acton, MA 16 Apr (SP), 3 Bonaparte's Gulls in Turners Falls, MA 16 Apr (M. Taylor), and 3 Bonaparte's Gulls in Concord, MA 16 Apr (E. Nielsen et al.). In addition to those associated with the April Storm, other fulmar sightings that involved more than one or 2 individuals included 90 off Rockport, MA during a hard easterly blow 2 Mar (RSH) and 12 on 24 May (ST) in the "Mud Hole," an offshore fishing area e. of Block I., RI. Moderate easterly winds during the 3rd week of May persisted long enough to push modest numbers of pelagics into the North Shore of Massachusetts. At Rockport 18 May, these included 2 Northern Fulmars, 3 Manx Shearwaters, 16 Black-legged Kittiwakes, and a Thick-billed Murre (CC et al.); at the same site 19 May, a Parasitic Jaeger and 3 Razorbills (SM); and at P.I. 18 May, 5 Arctic Terns (T. Wetmore). During the same storm that produced the aforementioned Northern Fulmars on 2 Mar, pelagics seen from Rock-

**SA** Last year it was a White-tailed Hawk. This year the raptor quandary of the season involved a **Crested Caracara**, a one-day wonder on Martha's Vineyard 14 May (W. Manter). For years, caracaras, including the first in the Region (in Middleboro, MA 3-9 Jan 1999) were given short shrift, largely because caracaras away from Florida and the border states were, as yet, still few and far between. The 1999 record was not accepted because of questions of provenance. However, the numbers of extralimital Crested Caracaras in the United States and Canada have increased sharply since then, and, largely on the strength of this fact, the M.A.R.C. has since re-evaluated and accepted the 1999 record. The occurrence of the same or another Crested Caracara at Sandy Hook, NJ 5 May will add a bit more grit to the mill when it comes time for the respective records committees to do what they do!

port also included 2170 Black-legged Kittiwakes, 29 Common Murres, 3 Thick-billed Murres, 3760 Razorbills, and an additional 1090 large alcids (RSH). A Red-billed Tropicbird at Matinicus Rock, s. of Penobscot Bay, ME 28 May+ (*vide* Z. Klyver, ph.) was assumed to be the same individual that appeared at nearby Seal I. in Jul 2006.

**EGRETS THROUGH RAPTORS**

For the 3rd consecutive season, at least one small, white egret possessing traits consistent with both Snowy Egret and Little Egret was at Nantucket 16 May+ (ph. ER et al.). Photographs suggest that there may have been 2 such birds, which in the past have been presumed hybrids (but see <www.martinreid.com>). Connecticut's 5th White-faced Ibis



**SA** The remarkable, sudden colonization of New England by Sandhill Cranes continued this spring. A new all-time high total of roughly 27 Sandhill reports did not include the several (four or five) nesting pairs in Maine. The Bay State's 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas project got off to a fast and auspicious start when, shortly after the early Apr launch of the first Atlas field season, a resident in New Marlboro, *Berkshire*, MA added Sandhill Crane to the state list of breeding species with her discovery of a pair of ads. and a colt (S. Mullen). A pair of Sandhills that, for the past two years, had attempted but failed to fledge young in Bristol, VT returned to the same site again this year, but the outcome of their most recent effort is not yet known. Despite the presence this spring of a single Sandhill in Munroe, NH for the ninth consecutive year, no evidence of breeding has yet been found. Nonetheless, with birds now nesting in Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts, the species is halfway through the process of colonizing all six states in the Region. Sandhills presumed to be migrating included 4 over Hollowell, ME 31 Mar (J. Wells) and 3 over Ludlow, VT 1 May (C. Johnson). The latest of 16 Bay State reports this season included 2 in Northfield 18 May (M. Marchello) and 2 in Quincy 20-21 May (J. Poggi, ph.).



Except for the two longer plumes emerging from its bushy crest, this possible Little Egret x Snowy Egret hybrid at Nantucket, Massachusetts 16 May 2007 appeared to be identical in plumage and structure to nearby Snowy Egrets. Another possible hybrid, found nine days later and roughly 11 kilometers away, lacked recurved aigrettes on the back, indicating that it was almost certainly a different individual. The color of the facial skin can fade quickly from reddish-orange (breeding condition) to yellow, making this feature less useful than plumage for differentiating individuals. *Photograph by Eddie Roy.*

was at Hammonasset 18-22 Apr (R. Baade et al., ph.) and one or 2 toured four towns (Newbury, Rowley, Essex, and Topsfield) in Essex, MA 26 Apr+ (MD, ph. RSH, et al.). Three of 4 wayward Glossy Ibis found in Cornwall, VT 30 Apr were still there 1 May (TGM). Black Vultures were reported again from all three northern-tier states, the northernmost of which were 2 near Burlington, VT 8 Apr (G. Askew). Closer to the source, before roosts broke up in Mar, sample Black Vulture counts from three different interior regions of Connecticut included 31 in Kent (J. Dugan), 25 in Watertown (GH), and 7 in Storrs (S. Morytko).

The early appearance of a Swallow-tailed Kite in Aquinnah, Martha's Vineyard 16 Apr (N. Weaver) may have been associated with the Patriot's Day Storm, which was just beginning to strengthen. Other more seasonable Swallow-tailed Kite reports included singles in Wellfleet, MA 5 May (D. Murley et al.) and Rochester, MA 16 May (L. West). A Missis-

sippi Kite in Kensington, NH 24 Apr (D. Finch) might have been New Hampshire's first. The N. Truro, MA hawkwatch site produced a seasonal total of 5 Mississippi: one on 13 May, 2 on 16 May, and 2 on 30 May (D. Manchester et al.). Others were in Greenwich, CT 27 May (B. O'Toole et al.) and Provincetown, MA 26 May (BN). By recent standards (the past 25 years), the total of 669 Broad-winged Hawks in Holyoke 23 Apr (TG) represented a very high spring count for the Region. The fifth of May marked the first day in the ten-year history of the Pilgrim Heights hawkwatch in North Truro, MA ("kite central") on which the day total exceeded 300 birds (including vultures). Selected subtotals from the day-total of 302 included 44 Turkey Vultures, 4 Bald Eagles, 162 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 10 Cooper's Hawks, 37 Broad-winged Hawks, and 12 Merlins (DM).

## GALLINULE THROUGH TERNS

A Purple Gallinule adorned a small, backyard pond in Stratford, CT 29 Apr (S. Kruitbosch,



The presence of this Wilson's Plover in West Haven, Connecticut 11 May 2007 came to light only after it had departed and the photographer submitted the image to surprised experts for identification. *Photograph by Robert White.*

m.ob., ph.). Considering that the species occasionally misses New England entirely in spring, the occurrence of at least 7 American Golden-Plovers was remarkable, especially because half of the 6 total in Massachusetts were found in Apr, which is early. The Bay State birds were at P.I./Newbury 10-14 Apr (RSH), Orleans 22 Apr (J. Hoye et al.), Monomoy 24 Apr and (same?) 3 May (BH), Tuckernuck I., Nantucket 5 May (RRV), and P.I. 18 May (MD); another was at Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison, VT 22 May (R. Payne). Though Wilson's Plover is nearly annual in Massachusetts of late, one at Sandy Pt., West Haven 11 May (ph. R. White) furnished Connecticut's first record in 18 years. Plum I. hosted the Region's only American Avocet 13-20 Apr (B. Murphy, m.ob., ph.) and one of the 2 Marbled Godwits 11-19 May (J. Fenton, m.ob., ph.); the other was in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard 7-10



To the delight of its many admirers, this Purple Gallinule remained in a small pond in Stratford, Connecticut from 29 April (here) through the remainder of the spring 2007 season. *Photograph by Julian Hough.*

Mar (R. Culbert) and then (presumably the same) at Monomoy 11 Apr (BH). If this latter individual was the same as the bird recorded a few months earlier on the C.B.C. nearby in Bourne, MA, it probably overwintered. A Black-tailed Godwit in Cornwall, VT 29-30 Apr (P. Folsom, m.ob., ph.) represented the first record for Vermont and the 5th for the Region, the four previous records being from Massachusetts. A very early male Ruff that was in basic plumage when first found in Newburyport, MA 8 Apr (D. Chickering, m.ob., ph.) had molted in much of its black ruff by the time it left 5 May. Three other Ruffs included a Reeve in Saco 19-21 May (F. Mitchell et al.), a Reeve in Westerly, RI 31 May (C. Raitel et al.), and a black male at Hammonasset 22 May (T. Antanaitis et al.). A very early Short-billed Dowitcher was in Wakefield, RI 17 Mar (C. Nunes et al.). When and if they are definitively identified to species, early (and late) dowitchers in the Northeast usually prove to be Long-billed. As is often the



This "phonescoped" image of an American Avocet at Plum Island, Massachusetts 13-20 (here 13) April 2007 was captured with a cell phone through a spotting scope. Photograph by Richard Heil.

case with spring storms, heavy snows associated with a mid-Mar storm forced many American Woodcocks into urban areas and along plowed roads in search of open ground. Reports of this phenomenon were especially widespread in parts of Connecticut. In Downeast Maine along Rte. 1 in Machias, Jonesboro, and Columbia Falls, a systematic roadside count 24 Apr yielded 125+ displaying woodcocks (N. Famous). A Red Phalarope in Newburyport, MA 17 Mar was very early (M. Goetschkes et al.).

Two South Polar Skuas were photographed 24 May at the fishing grounds known as the "Mud Hole" e. of Block I, RI (ST et al., ph.),



Very rare anywhere south of Canada in spring, this Northern Wheatear was in Newport, Rhode Island 31 May 2007. Photograph by Robert Weaver.

and a Parasitic Jaeger in Newburyport, MA 7 Apr (P. Roberts et al.) was the Region's earliest ever. A Forster's Tern was at P.I. 22 May (RSH). Even though Forster's Tern has not been found breeding in New England since it was first confirmed in Newburyport in 1991, spring records such as this one, in addition to other occasional sightings during the nesting season, support the theory that the species is probably still nesting locally, at least sporadically. By far, the most surprising waifs of the April Storm were



One of these same two South Polar Skuas (left) illustrates the species' typical gray-brown plumage; Great Skua is distinguished by bold yellow streaks and spots on the back and upperwings. Photograph by Paul L'Etoile.

Sooty Terns, which, on the rare occasions they do appear in the Northeast, usually do so only when they are transported by tropical storms in late summer and fall. A total of 5 included 3 flybys and one dead bird in coastal Rhode Island, plus one moribund bird in cen. Connecticut that was found shortly before it died (Table 1).

### DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

A White-winged Dove that appeared at a feeder in Branford, CT in Feb remained through 31 May. Remarkably, it was joined by another 20-21 May (D. Lorello, ph.). The 2 birds were recognizable as different individuals by slight structural differences in their toes and bills. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Nantucket 18 Apr (S. Daniels) may have been another Storm waif. Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from two localities in Massachusetts: Franklin 8 May (T. & K. Mongeon) and Falmouth 31 May (T. Stone).

Common Ravens continue to reoccupy areas of their pre-colonial range. In Connecticut, this process was described as being "explosive"; the newest nesting "outpost" in Massachusetts was in Waltham, just inside Rte. 128, within clear view of downtown Boston.

A two-hour total of 10,000+



The sighting of a single South Polar Skua on any New England pelagic trip makes for a good day. This composite image showing two (right) off the coast of Rhode Island may represent a Regional first. Photograph by Carlos Pedro.

migrating American Robins parading eastward along the shore of Bridgeport, CT 17 Mar (M. Aronson) must have made for an impressive sight. A Varied Thrush, first found at a feeder in Dublin, NH in Feb, lingered until 17 Apr (ph. G. Bartlett), but the thrush high-

**Table 2.** Totals of selected species of migrant landbirds in northeastern Massachusetts, 15 and 19 May 2007.

Location and date	P.I. (15 May)	Cape Ann (19 May)
Observers	RSH	C. Caron, R. Jenkins
Species		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	44	0
Tree Swallow	2000+	0
Bank Swallow	200+	0
Barn Swallow	300+	0
Philadelphia Vireo	0	1
Gray Catbird	150+	224
Golden-winged Warbler	0	1
Northern Parula	65+	254
Yellow Warbler	110+	61
Chestnut-sided Warbler	19	48
Magnolia Warbler	120+	191
Black-throated Blue Warbler	80+	41
Black-throated Green Warbler	140+	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	31
Black-and-white Warbler	40+	46
American Redstart	100+	49
Common Yellowthroat	110+	93
Wilson's Warbler	13	21
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	1
warbler species	500+	300+
Clay-colored Sparrow	0	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	10	0
White-crowned Sparrow	5	0

light of the season was a Northern Wheatear in Middletown, RI 31 May (C. Avenengo et al., ph.). Wheatears are very rare in spring anywhere s. of Canada, yet this was the 2nd consecutive spring in which one has occurred in the Region. A Barn Swallow in Eastham, MA 23 Mar (D. Clapp et al.) was a bit early. A fallout on the North Shore of Massachusetts 23 Apr included about 100 each of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes in Marblehead (K. Haley) and 45 Hermit Thrushes at P.I. (TW). The next day, a high count of 139 Palm Warblers came from P.I. (TW). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler that wintered in Boxford, MA remained at least until 18 Mar (ph. C. Fitch), and the well-documented Townsend's Warbler that wintered in Cambridge, MA was last seen 10 Apr (ph., vt. J. Orr, L. Cohen, m.ob.). Am Audubon's Warbler in Eastham, MA 1-27 Mar (ph. J. Hanson) probably also wintered. A Swainson's Warbler that sang persistently but refused to reveal itself for several days at P.I. might have been dismissed as a Louisiana Waterthrush with an odd song if it had not flown into a mist net 24 May (b. J. Standley, B. Gette, ph.); it lingered at least until 28 May. No details accompanied the only Regional report of a Western Tanager at M.V. 26 Mar.

A huge push of migrant passerines at P.I. 15 May came just ahead of the aforementioned May storm that produced the modest seabird flight on the North Shore of Massachusetts. The deep southerly airflow ahead of that storm provided the impetus for this mass movement of landbirds, and a series of showers in the early morning hours of the 15th served to ground them. Another big concentration of migrants



This Smith's Longspur, seen by a single observer in Westport, Connecticut 23 March 2007, represented the third state record. Another was present at Jones Beach, New York from early February through roughly mid-March. Photograph by Larry Flynn.

collected just to the e. of P.I. on Cape Ann in the days immediately following this fallout. These were largely comprised of the same species that were recorded at P.I. and were no doubt lingerers from that flight whose progress northward had been stalled by the incoming storm (Table 2). Another heavy flight, but with many fewer species, included 500+ Yellow-rumped Warblers and 100+ Palm Warblers in Freeport, ME 2 May (DL).

### SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Grasshopper Sparrow at Gloucester, MA 23 Apr (ph. P. Cozza) was either an early migrant (Storm assisted?) or wintered locally. Much rarer in spring than they are in fall, single Lark Sparrows were found in Bloomfield, CT 20 Apr (S. Fried) and P.I. 10 May (G. Gove). A heavy snowfall in mid-Mar compelled big numbers of Fox Sparrows to converge on feeders or along the edges of plowed streets. In Connecticut, sample feeder counts

included 10 in Sterling 19 Mar (R. Dixon), 14 in Litchfield 17 Mar (D. Rosgen), and 20 in Barkhamsted 18 Mar (FZ), and an amazing 54 were counted along the streets of Westport 17 Mar (FM). In New Hampshire 16-26 Mar, 110+ were reported in Rockingham and Strafford alone (*vide* PH), and a sweep of coastal New Hampshire 18 Mar yielded a total of 45 (SM). An influx of migrant Song Sparrows at P.I. 26 Mar produced a high count of 274 (I. Davies), and a big movement of White-throated Sparrows 24 Apr was evidenced by counts of 740+ at P.I. (RSH) and 300 at Marblehead, MA (J. Offerman). A Harris's Sparrow that appeared at a feeder in Georgetown on Christmas Day 2006 remained through at least 1 Mar (ph. A. O'Hare).

A spate of classic trans-Gulf migrants, including tanagers, buntings, grosbeaks, and one oriole, were transported into the Region by the April Storm and appeared much earlier than normal at various Massachusetts coastal sites during and in the immediate aftermath of the Storm. The most notable among these waifs was a Painted Bunting at M.V. 16-20 Apr (J. Ganapole, ph.). Table 3 summarizes the other species reported. An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Nantucket 14 Apr (L. Zimmerman) came in just ahead of the Storm.

Bird of the Season was a Smith's Longspur in Westport, CT 23 Mar (ph. L. Flynn), identified later by photographs. A late Lapland Longspur was found in Westport, CT 3 May (FM). A slightly above-average total of 5 Yellow-headed Blackbirds included individuals in Granby, MA 8 Apr (L. Rogers) and Nantucket, MA 29 May (O. Small), and reports of

**Table 3.** Passerine fallout associated with the "Patriot's Day Storm," 16-21 April 2007, in coastal Massachusetts.

Location	Nantucket		M.V.			Chatham	Provincetown	Acushnet	Rockport	Gloucester			Newbury
Date	16 Apr	18 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	18 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr
Species													
Northern Parula													1 (SH)
Summer Tanager		1 ( <i>fide</i> ER)											
Summer Tanager		1 ( <i>fide</i> ER)											
Scarlet Tanager		2 ( <i>fide</i> ER)		1 (AW)									3 (SH)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					1 (JG)	2 (DS)							1 (LL)
Blue Grosbeak		4 ( <i>fide</i> ER)	1 (BK)				3 (GM)		1 (MF)	1 (JS)	1 (B.O.)		
Indigo Bunting	1 (DN)	8 ( <i>fide</i> ER)	2 (SA, FD)					1 (CL)		1			
Painted Bunting			1 (JG)										
Baltimore Oriole	1 (DM)												

**Observer(s):**

SA: S. Anderson; FD: F. Demers; MF: M. Flor; JG: J. Ganapole; SH: S. Hedman; BK: B. Kimberly; LL: L. Leka; CL: C. Longworth; GM: G. Martin; DM: D. Miller; DN: D. Nicholson; ER: Edie Ray; DS: D. Scott; JS: J. Standley; AW: A. Woodruff

3 different male Yellow-headed in Rhode Island came from West Warwick 18 Mar (R. Touhill), Westerly 13 Apr (L. Gosselin), and North Kingston 14 May (J. Magill).

On 13 Mar, a visitor to northernmost New Hampshire found finches virtually everywhere along the last roughly 80 km of road between Columbia and Pittsburg and the Canadian border. Purple Finches were the most abundant species; the day-total of 572 included 110 in Columbia, 100 in Clarksville, and 90 in Pittsburg. Pine Siskins numbered 510 on the day, and White-winged Crossbills totaled 135 (RSH). Many males of the latter two species were singing and displaying, and at least one siskin was seen collecting nesting material. The southernmost records of crossbills included 2 White-winged in Canton,

MA 26 May (E. Nielsen) and 6 Reds in Chatham, NH 19 Apr (B. Crowley). A European Goldfinch visited a feeder in Pepperell, MA 28 Mar–4 Apr (ph. J. Nevard).

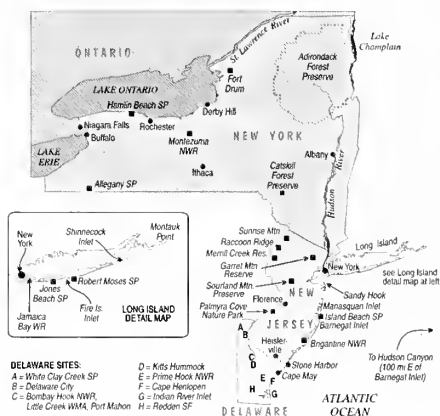
**Addendum:** The presence of a **Brown Booby** on a beach in Hull, MA in “June or July of 2005” came to light when a non-birding beachgoer (ph. M. Quigley), requesting an identification, emailed photos of the bird (standing at his feet!) to Mass Audubon’s Wildlife Information Line. The photographer had taken the images with his cell phone! The small orange object on the sand nearby is a cheese cracker that a thoughtful passerby offered the bird. There are fewer than five previous records of Brown Booby in the Region; this was the first to be documented photographically.

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## Hudson-Delaware



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**Robert O. Paxton**  
**Frank Rohrbacher**

The Region’s weather was dominated by two major storms, on 16 March and 15–16 April. The storm in March brought record snowfalls to upstate New York and heavy rain and snow farther south. The second storm, though not tropical in origin, brought hurricane-force winds to the outer coast and dumped a foot of snow upstate, leaving thousands of residents without power. The April “hurricane” brought a diverse assortment of seabirds, including alcids and a Northern Fulmar to Cape May, and two Sooty Terns to Long Island, plus a host of early Neotropical migrants: showing up on Long Island 16–18 April during and immediately following the storm were Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Ruby-throated Hum-

mingbird, Eastern Kingbird, 50 or more Barn Swallows, a Yellow-throated Warbler, about 25 Indigo Buntings, 7 Blue Grosbeaks, a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Scarlet and Summer Tanagers. Interestingly, for some of these species like Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Eastern Kingbird, individuals appeared before the storm, suggesting that exceptionally early migration was apparently underway before the storm hit. The April storm clearly had some effect upon migrant passerines as far north as New England. The low-pressure systems that converged to form this “southeaster” had their origins over Texas and the Gulf Coast. Some such storms in the past have been thought to transport trans-Gulf passerine migrants northwards earlier than normal, resulting in the sprinkling of Indigo Buntings and other birds along the northeastern coasts in April (see *North American Birds* 59: 409), although there is much variation in this theme, and storms that originate farther east, nearer Florida or the Bahamas, typically have far more Indigo Buntings and other eastern Gulf/Caribbean migrants.

Many southern-nesting species were recorded in relatively high numbers in 2007: there were 31 Summer Tanagers this year in the north coastal area (vs. 23 in 2005) and 17 Blue Grosbeaks (10 in 2005). Kentucky Warbler was an exception, just barely: 12 were recorded in 2007, vs. 13 in 2005 and 16 in



This female Curlew Sandpiper at Heislerville, New Jersey was a bonus for teams on the World Series of Birding (here 10 May 2007). Photograph by George L. Armistead.

2006). But most of the Summer Tanagers appeared either before the storm (one at Cape May 14 April) or well after it, while 7 of the 17 Blue Grosbeaks appeared during, or immediately after, the storm. So a substantial fraction of southern passerines occurring in our Region were not associated with storms and likely indicate population expansion, perhaps in response to climate change.

**Abbreviations:** Amherst S.P. (Erie, NY); Avalon (Avalon Seawatch, Cape May, NJ); Batavia (Batavia W.T.P., Genesee, NY); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Braddock Bay (Braddock Bay B.O., Rochester, NY); Brigantine (Forsyth N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Captree (Captree S.P., Suffolk, Long I., NY); Chazy (Chazy R. mouth, Clinton, NY); Derby Hill



This second-cycle Mew Gull, probably of the nominate subspecies (Common Gull), was found at Brooklyn, New York, New York on 8 April 2007. Photograph by Andy Guthrie.

(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., South Shore of Long I., NY); Little Creek (Little Creek W.M.A., Kent, DE); Mannington (Mannington Marsh, Salem, NJ); Montauk (Montauk Pt., Suffolk, Long I., NY); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., Seneca, NY); Moriches (Moriches Bay and Inlet, Suffolk, 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 Park (Jacob Riis Park, Queens, New York City); Ripley (Ripley Hawkwatch, *Chautauqua*, NY); Robert Moses (Robert Moses S.P., Fire Island, Suffolk, Long I., NY); Sagaponack (Sagaponack Pond, Bridgehampton, Long I., NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit/Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ); Shinnecock (Shinnecock Bay and Inlet, Suffolk, Long I., NY); Ted Harvey (Ted Harvey Conservation Area/Logan Lane Tract, Kent, DE); Tonawanda (Tonawanda W.M.A., *Niagara/Genesee*, NY).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

About 14 Greater White-fronted Geese were seen, including 5 at Iroquois 7 Apr (Mike Galas, Gail Seamans, JP), and one described as having a clearly pink bill was at Watermill, Long I. 24 Mar (HM). Snow Geese continue to increase; higher counts include 200,000

on the ground in Ontario, NY 21 Mar (MC, LJ), 25,200 flying by Derby Hill and 18,500 past Hastings, Oswego, NY, both 23 Mar (BPu). Five Ross's Geese were reported, about average for recent springs. A total of 25 Cackling Geese, mostly in w. New York, was near average for recent years. Five or more Black Brant wintered in the New York Harbor area; these included 3 seen together at the n. end of Staten I., NY 2 Mar (SW, Ray Mattarazzo). Fourteen hundred Tundra Swans were counted at Cayuga L. 18 Mar (TL), 600 at Hartland, Niagara, NY 22 Mar (Matthew Pestinger), and 130 at Brendan Byrne S.F., Burlington, NJ 16 Mar (LL). Fifteen Eurasian Wigeons were found Regionwide, as were 5 Eurasian Teal, 3 on Long I. 3-21 Mar (BBE, HM, PSc), one at Brigantine 18-25 Mar (J. Danzenbaker et al.), and the last at Cape May 23 Mar (PEL et al.). There were substantial counts of waterfowl

throughout the Region: 4000 Northern Pintails at Mannington and nearby Pedricktown 3 Mar (SK); 450 pintails at Cayuga Lake S.P. 25 Mar (TL); 9000 Canvasbacks on the Niagara R. 20 Mar (Jerry Lazarczyk); 8000 Canvasbacks at Cayuga L. 3 Mar (TL); 16,000 Redheads at Cayuga L. 3 Mar (TL); 1500 Ring-necked Ducks at Cayuga Lake S.P. 25 Mar (TL, TJ); and 375 Ring-neckeds at Whitesbog, Burlington, NJ 23 Mar (LL). A male Tufted Duck at Ausable Pt., Clinton, NY 23-25 Mar (BK, CM) was a rarity at that L. Champlain site. Numbers of scoters and other waterbirds were surveyed at Oneida L. by Bill Purcell: the peak of Surf Scoter migration was 34 on 30 Apr and of White-wingeds 123 on 7 May. Twelve hundred White-wingeds and 3000 Surfs were at Montauk 4 Mar (HM), relatively low totals for recent years. An ad. male King Eider was at Shinnecock Inlet 11-25 Mar (PJJ, SSM, TWB), and 1800 Common Eiders were counted at Montauk 3 Mar (HM). A high Regional total of 13 Barrow's Goldeneyes included 7 in the Adirondacks and 2 at Sandy

Hook, male and female, of which the female remained until 20 Mar (m.ob.).

Single Pacific Loons were at Deal, Monmouth, NJ 10-14 Mar (Tom Smith, Hal Smith, M. Bisignano, Bruce McWhorter, SB et al.) and at Sheldrake Bluffs, Seneca, NY 18-24 Mar (CW, JG, TL). There were many reports of small groups of Red-necked Grebes distributed over the interior of the Region, though the total number seen was much lower than has occurred during freeze-ups such as in 1977, 1994, and 2003. Larger counts included 46 at Onondaga L., Onondaga, NY 12 Apr (BPu), 44 at Oneida L. 5 May (BPu), 614 on Cayuga L., Monroe & Orleans, NY 23 Mar (RSp, D. Danials). Smaller numbers were seen on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the Region. Single Eared Grebes were seen at Aurora Bay, Cayuga, NY 3-24 Mar (TL, TJ) and at Indian River Inlet, Sussex, DE 4 Mar (BGP).

Two Greater Shearwaters seen from the beach at Cape May were quite early 29 Apr-1 May (Johan Antus, R. Notin); a few Sooty and Manx Shearwaters were seen off e. Long I. in late May; and a Cory's Shearwater was seen from Democrat Pt., Suffolk, NY 31 May (JF). A Northern Fulmar was seen from Cape May Pt. 15 Apr during the storm (MF), and another was 51 km s. of Shinnecock 27 May (*vide* SSM). An American White Pelican at Oneida L. 15 May (BPu) was unique this spring, and 2 Brown Pelicans were seen at Island Beach 31 May (Roger Jennings), rather early. Inland Great Cormorants included 2 ads. at Braddock Bay 8 May (DT) and one at Derby Hill 27 Apr (JvD). Two Anhingas were well described soaring over Ramshorn-Livingston, Greene, NY 2 May (Larry Federman et al.). A female frigatebird, most likely a Magnificent, was seen over Cape May 31 May (Sandra Campbell, CH).

## HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Herons unusually far n. included a Snowy Egret at Niagara Falls 20-21 May (BOS), a Tricolored Heron at Iroquois 28-30 May (Susan & Tom O'Donnell, m.ob.), 3 *Plegadis* ibis, one of which was certainly Glossy, in the Buffalo area 10-20 May (Paul Hess, JP et al.), and 2 other Glossies in the Oneida Lake Basin 19

**SA** A heron first reported as a Little Egret at Bombay Hook 6 Apr (APE et al.) was later thought to be a Snowy Egret × Little Egret hybrid. The egret had two elongate head plumes, like Little, but did not differ markedly from Snowy in either structure, plumage, or bare parts coloration. Similar birds have been seen in Massachusetts (2006, 2007) and elsewhere. Contrary to rumors, mixed breeding pairs of Snowy and Little Egrets have *not* been found at Barbados, the only place the two species are known to breed sympatrically. Indeed, the evidence from Barbados is that Snowies and Littles breed at the same locations *without* forming mixed pairs, so that they seem to be reproductively isolated at least there (Buckley, P. A. et al. 2007. *The Birds of Barbados*. B.O.U. Check-list. No. 24. London, British Ornithologists Union). The Delaware and Massachusetts birds may well be hybrids nonetheless; more attention to such birds may shed light on this interesting situation.



This Clay-colored Sparrow was mist-netted at Island Beach State Park, New Jersey on 20 May 2007. Photograph by Diane Bennett-Chase.

May (BPu, B. Best). There were two sightings of imm. White Ibis in Delaware, likely involving the same bird: one at Delaware Seashore S.P., Sussex 12 May (APE) and the other at Prime Hook 15 May (FR). Five or 6 White-faced Ibis were reported: one at Jones Beach 29 Apr (TWB, GB), 4 in New Jersey 29 Apr–20 May, and one at Prime Hook 5–15 May (BGP, FR), on the latter date with the White Ibis.

Black Vultures continue their expansion, at their own slow and dignified pace, through the Northeast. The more far-ranging ones this spring were at Ripley 8 May (Len DeFrancisco), Ellenburg, Clinton, NY 17 May (EDT) for a first county record, singles at Derby Hill 3 & 5 Apr, and one at Stargazer, Suffolk, Long I., NY 21 Mar (Joe Polashock). Peak counts of Turkey Vultures at Hamburg and Ripley were 2503 and 2453, respectively, on 26 Mar, representing a large movement of this increasing species. The first Mississippi Kite of the spring was at Cape May 30 Apr (WM, SM); thereafter singles included a subad. at Doo-

dletown Rd. near Bear Mt., Orange, NY 12 May (J. DiConstanzo, J. Dorman et al.) and one of unspecified age at Stafford Farm Trails, Camden, NJ 12 May (DM). The peak at Cape May was of 13 birds 19 May (LZ, PEL et al.), and 6 were still there 28 May.

The volume of hawk migration (see <www.hmana.org>) was about average this spring, following a rather poor season in 2006. Peak flights occurred 23 & 27–30 Apr and 8 & 15 May at the major New York hawkwatches and 30 Apr at Cape Henlopen, DE. An imm. dark-morph Swainson's Hawk flew over Braddock Bay 11 May (DT), the only one reported this spring. A dark-morph Western Red-tailed Hawk was seen at Hamburg 3 Apr (WD'A); *calurus* has probably been underreported in the past but is certainly rare. Thirty Rough-legged Hawks at Dayton, Cattaraugus, NY was an impressive total 31 Mar (BOS), as was 19 at BCF Pond Field, Tompkins, NY 3 Mar (StK). A gray-morph Gyrfalcon was observed feeding on a duck at Plattsburgh, Clinton, NY 8 Mar (BK).

## RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

Reports of both Yellow and Black Rails are increasing. A Yellow Rail was heard calling at Jakes Landing, Cape May, NJ 23 Apr (MO'B et al.), as was a Black Rail at Port Mahon Rd., Kent, DE 15 May (Forrest Rowland), a site where the species has not bred in years. A Clapper Rail at Shinnecock 21 Mar (KF) may have wintered there. Two ad. Purple Gallinules were found, one at Wreck Pond, Monmouth, NJ 20 Apr–12 May (M. & M. McMorrow, JC, Nick Taylor) and another at Cape May 5 May (CH). Sandhill Cranes continue to increase; 20 were in Youngstown, Niagara, NY 14 Mar (Lynne Landon), and 9 flew over Hamburg 25 Mar, as did 14 others 10 May (Fran Rew). Four flew over John Fitzpatrick's home in Tompkins, NY 31 Mar, and 7 others were scattered s. to Cape May through mid-May. A Whooping Crane from the recent reintroduction project returned to Lewis, NY for the 3rd consecutive year (JSB).

The largest aggregation of Black-bellied Plovers reported was of 380 at Heislerville, Cumberland, NJ 29 May (VE). Four American Golden-Plovers were reported: one at Batavia 25 Apr (Mike Zebchazy, Linda McElvany), one at Sagaponack 27 Apr (HM), one at Brigantine 29 Apr (PB), and one at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 21 May (John Donnelly, Dana Graham). A Wilson's Plover was at Brigantine 27 May (Steve Walter); this species has been reported with increasing frequency in recent spring seasons and may recolonize its former (nineteenth-century) breeding range in s. New Jersey. Northerly Black-necked Stilts included 2 in the Heislerville–Bivalve area, Cumberland, NJ 9–10 May (CJV et al.) and 2 at Colt's Neck, Monmouth, NJ 14–15 May (Andrew Spears, Sam Skinner). The largest count of Greater Yellowlegs was 500 at Raccoon Creek Marsh, Gloucester, NJ 19 Apr (SK). A Western Willet, uncommon in spring, was at Heislerville, Cumberland, NJ 29 May (VE). Two Willets were in St. Lawrence, NY 4–5 May (Ken Kogut et al.); all inland New York specimens are *inornata*. The highest counts of Whimbrels were 80 at Nummy's I., Cape May, NJ 15 Apr (RC) and 140 at Brigantine 29 Apr (PB). Single Marbled Godwits were at Mispillian, Sussex, DE 25 Apr, at Nummy's I. 9 May, at Reeds Beach, Cape May, NJ 13 May, and far inland at Tonawanda 5–7 May (WW, WD'A et al.), the last representing a 2nd record for that region. There seemed to be a fairly strong crop of Horseshoe Crab eggs this spring, and these were well attended by shorebirds. Six thousand Ruddy Turnstones were at Port Mahon Rd, Kent, DE 16 May (APE), 1930 (a record high count for New York) were at Shinnecock 19 May (PJL, SSM), and 25 at Chazy was a high count for that L. Champlain locality

**SA** A Crested Caracara flew by the Sandy Hook hawkwatch 5 May (CB, SB, LM, Donna Juettner). Another or perhaps the same bird appeared at Martha's Vineyard, MA 15 May. Most extralimital records of caracaras in the past have been dismissed as probable escapees. Yet Crested Caracaras are expanding their range in Texas and have dispersed widely to the West Coast in recent years. In addition, there are three records of vagrants from Ontario and one from New Brunswick. ISIS (<www.isis.org>) lists a total of 14 captive Crested Caracaras in the United States, all in Florida and Texas except for one in Grand Rapids, MI. The evidence available thus favors birds in the Northeast being wild vagrants.

(BK, CM). High counts included 2700 Red Knots at Mispillan Light, Kent, DE 12 May (FR), 3300 Sanderlings at Shinnecock 19 May (P JL, SSM), 665 Least Sandpipers at Sagaponack 11 May (HM), 15,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Heislerville, Cumberland, NJ 29 May (VE), 2000 Semipalmateds at Port Mahon Rd., Kent, DE 16 May (APE), and 70+ White-rumped Sandpipers at Brigantine 27 May (PB). A Western Sandpiper at Pike's Beach, Moriches Bay 20 May was rare for the Region in spring (HM, BKA et al.), and a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Belford, Monmouth, NJ 17 Apr (TBo) was early. It was a big spring for Curlew Sandpipers, perhaps the biggest since the 1950s: 3 were at Heislerville, Cumberland, NJ 30 Apr–17 May (CJV, Ed Deal, K. Rieker et al.), one at Brigantine 10 & 22 May (C. Cox et al.), and one at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 16 May (CJV). A Stilt Sandpiper at Jake's Landing, Cape May, NJ 20–21 Apr (Bill & Jane Welsh) was early; one at Iroquois 27–28 May (WD'A, BP) was unexpected there. The single Ruff of the spring was near Pedricktown, Gloucester, NJ, the traditional Ruff aggregation spot of the 1970s and 1980s, 14–22 Apr (DM, m.ob.). Some 120 Short-billed Dowitchers at Chazy 28 May (BK, CM) made a high count for the L. Champlain area. Storms this spring coincided with the northward migration of Common Snipe: 200+ were counted at Mannington 2 Apr (SB et al.), and 600+ were in Oswego, NY 7–9 Apr (BPu). Single Wilson's Phalaropes were at Oceanside, Long I. 2–4 May (Mike Farina) and at Prime Hook 21 Apr (FR); a pair, seen copulating once, was at Iroquois 20–28 May (PY, WD'A, WW, David Mark). Red-necked Phalaropes were seen at Brigantine 27 May (Tom Bailey), at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 19 May (2; Alfred Ulmer), and at Pike's Beach 27 May (Seth Ausubel).

A scattering of Parasitic Jaegers was reported during May, with a maximum of 4 at Cape May 19 May (S. Galick, CJV). Nineteen Little Gulls were at the Lewiston Docks on the Niagara R. 20 Mar (BOS); about 25 others included one at Chazy 30 May (BK) for a 3rd county record. About 10 Black-headed Gulls were reported, all at the coast except one at L. Assunpink, Monmouth, NJ 10 Mar (PJ). An ad. Mew Gull at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ 4 Mar (Michael Newlon) and again 1–2 Apr (*vide* SB) would be a first for New Jersey. Another Mew Gull, this one in second-cycle plumage, was at Marine Park, Brooklyn, NY 8–12 Apr (AW, m.ob.). A first-cycle Thayer's Gull was nicely photographed at Stevenson Rd., Tompkins, NY 10–12 Mar (TL, JG, TJ). About 15 Iceland and 7 Glaucous Gulls were reported Regionwide. Of about 50 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, the only concentrations were of 12 at Cherry Island Landfill, Newcas-



This Bullock's Oriole at Phoenicia, Ulster County, New York 9 March 2007 was one of many found in late winter and early spring east and north of typical range. Photograph by Lloyd Spitalnik.

tle, DE 17 Mar (Mike Smith et al.) and 30 at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ 10–14 Mar (FS). Coastal observers remarked on the frequency with which Gull-billed Terns were seen; 16 were at Brigantine 13 May (PB), and 5 were reported at Jones Beach on several dates in May. The count of 131 Caspian Terns at Dunkirk Harbor, Erie, NY 3 May is a typical count for an inland site, whereas 10 at Mecox 26 Apr (HM) was a substantial flock for the coast. A Sandwich Tern at Sandy Hook 18 Apr (Dave LaPuma) was far n. for that date and may have been influenced by the 15 Apr storm. An Arctic Tern at Cape May 8 May (S. Kacir, T. Croasdale) adds another to the increasing list of spring migrants seen there, while 3 Common Terns at Lancaster, Erie, NY 12 Apr (MM) were early. Four Forster's Terns at Myer's Pt., Tompkins, NY 27 Apr (TL) were noteworthy. Least Terns arrived early with the 15 Apr storm: singles were seen at Manasquan Inlet, Ocean, NJ 17 Apr (BR) and Staten I., NY 16 Apr (RRV). Two Sooty Terns appeared after the 15 Apr storm: one was picked up exhausted 16 Apr at Westhampton, Suffolk, Long I. (HM), and the other was found dead in the same area two weeks later (HM). This is unusually early for Sooty Tern, as almost all records n. of Virginia are from late summer and fall, usually but not always during or following tropical storms. Five other Sooty Terns were reported from New England as a result of this unusually strong Apr storm. Also during the storm, 5 large alcids and a Dovekie were seen at Cape May Pt. (MF).

## DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Of annual occurrence in the Region now, single White-winged Doves were at Cape May 30 Mar–9 Apr (Barb Bassett, m.ob.) and at Bombay Hook 20 May (Gary Zylkuski, Adrienne Papazian). Single Eurasian Collared-Doves were at Sandy Hook 11 May (JC) and Cape May 23 May (MO'B). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Sandy Hook 18 Apr (BR) was early. The latest of 7 Short-eared Owls reported was one at Jake's Landing, Cape May, NJ 14 Apr (CJV), and 3 Long-eared Owls were at Goldenhill S.P., Niagara, NY 13–18 Mar (BOS). A migrant Chuck-will's-widow was seen in Central Park 3 May (Andy Guthrie, m.ob.), and at least 2 others were on territory at now-traditional sites on e. Long I. in early May (HM). A count of 66 Whip-poor-wills at Lakehurst N.A.S., Monmouth, NJ (SB) is a significant number, especially given the recent substantial decreases in abundance of this species. Obvious migrant Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen at Cape May 5 & 12 May, and a migrant Hairy Woodpecker was there on the latter date (PEL). An American Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at the traditional location near Ferd's Bog, Hamilton/Herkimer, NY 23 May (Gary Lee), and a total of 7 Black-backed Woodpeckers was tallied among several localities in the Adirondacks.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

One hundred and fifty Eastern Kingbirds at Sandy Hook 12 May (TBo) was a count indicative of the volume of the passerine migration there on that day. A Western Kingbird at Cape May 12 May (Pdu, WCR, DF) is one of an increasing number of spring records of this species, more typically seen in fall. Loggerhead Shrikes, virtually extirpated as breeders in the Region and especially rare at the coast, were seen at Derby Hill 27 Apr (T. Carrolan, Cheri Sassman) and Cape May 11 May (Keith Dedrick, John Collins). Common Ravens at the border of their current range include 4 at Blairstown, Warren, NJ 11 Mar (Dana Beaton, Alan Boyd) and 2 at Garret Mt., Passaic, NJ 28–29 Apr. Two hundred Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Sandy Hook 23 Apr (PJ) made a high coastal count for spring. Five Bicknell's Thrushes were heard singing on Porter Mt., Essex, NY 19–20 May (Mathew D. Medler).

About 16 Orange-crowned Warblers were recorded throughout the Region, a near-average total for recent years. Three Brewster's and 4 Lawrence's Warblers were reported Regionwide. Six Yellow-throated Warblers were found (n. of s. New Jersey), the earliest 14 Apr in Belmar, Monmouth, NJ (NT); this count is far below the totals of the past two springs (16 and 10, respectively). A Yellow-

throated Warbler arrived at Allegheny S.P., Cattaraugus, NY 13 May (JP, RSp) at a site where they have bred for many years. A Blackpoll Warbler at North Cape May 29 Apr (J. Guerard) was slightly early but typical of recent first arrival dates. Reports of Cerulean Warblers included 17 at Howland I., Cayuga, NY 19 May, 7 at West Monroe, Oswego, NY 19 May, and 5 at Cape May 12 May (CJV et al.). Twelve Prothonotary Warblers were found in the New York City/Long I. area, the earliest 18 Apr; this is about half the 2005 total. Twenty-one Worm-eating Warblers were found in the same area, the earliest on 23 Apr. A Swainson's Warbler was at Sandy Hook 18 Apr (SB, CB, LM et al.), the only one of the spring. Twelve Kentucky Warblers were reported in the New York City/Long I. area (vs. 13 in 2005), the earliest being 28 Apr; one at Tift N.P., Erie, NY 26 May (Doug Happ) was unusual for Buffalo. Hooded Warblers in the downstate area numbered 20, with the earliest found 18 Apr.

### SPARROWS THROUGH DICKCISSEL

A Clay-colored Sparrow was banded at Island Beach S.P. 20 May (Mary Doscher); the species was reported as scarce in the upstate New York areas where they have bred in recent years. A presumed Clay-colored Sparrow × Field Sparrow hybrid was present at Round Valley, Hunterdon, NJ until 2 May (m.ob.). Three hundred Chipping Sparrows were at Sandy Hook 2 May (TBo). Vesper Sparrows were frequently reported this spring. A male Lark Bunting at Blaisdell, Erie, NY 19 May (Tina Schultz, Danielle Pecoraro) furnished one of the few Regional spring records. A Le Conte's Sparrow discovered in Feb at Abbott's Meadow W.M.A., Salem remained until at least 15 Mar (PJD), a rare instance of wintering in New Jersey. Five Henslow's Sparrows were noted on territory along Goodrich Rd., Schoharie, NY 31 May (WY). There was a big movement of Fox Sparrows this spring, some of which were forced out of the thickets by snowstorms: 50+ on Staten I., NY 18 Mar (RRV); 33 at Three Rivers W.M.A., Onondaga, NY 30 Mar (G. Dashnau); 31 in Porter and Wilson, Niagara, NY 7 Apr (WD'A); 27 at Mad Horse Creek W.M.A., Salem, NJ 18 Mar (T. Bailey); 23 at Jersey City, Hudson, NJ 14 Mar (Mark Benson); and 21 at Garret Mt., Passaic, NJ 23 Mar (Chris Takacs); and a high 165 in the Rochester area 12 Apr (BOS). On the major flight day of 2 May, 5000-10,000 White-throated Sparrows were estimated at Sandy Hook (TBo, CB), as were 45+ White-crowned Sparrows. A female Oregon Junco was photographed at Wilson, Niagara, NY 6-9 Apr (WD'A). A Harris's Sparrow was pho-

tographed at Batavia 1 Mar-9 May (Gerhard Leubner et al.).

A male Black-headed Grosbeak was clearly photographed at Newfane, Niagara, NY 5-11 May (*fide* JP). Seventeen Blue Grosbeaks appeared, the earliest of these seen 18 Apr at Sandy Hook, followed by 5 at Jones Beach and Robert Moses 20-22 Apr. Twelve Indigo Buntings appeared 16 Apr at Robert Moses, and these included one possible Indigo Bunting × Lazuli Bunting hybrid (SSM, PJJ); 4 other Indigos were at Sandy Hook 18 Apr (TBo). Three Dickcissels flew over Cape May 12 May; singles were at Reliance, Sussex, DE 16 May (Glen Lovelace) and Mannington 30 May (FL); and a pair was seen feeding young at Readington, Hunterdon, NJ 31 May (David Harrison et al.).

### BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

On the major flight day of 12 May, 225 Bobolinks were counted passing over Sandy Hook (TBo). A Western Meadowlark sang at Ripley 22 Apr-12 May (Tim Baird, WD'A, JP, m.ob.). Since the eastward surge of this species in the 1960s and 1970s, Westerns have been scarce, and this furnished the first local record since 1992. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Taghhanic Park, Columbia, NY 19 Mar (Allan & Phyllis Wirth). Higher counts of the declining Rusty Blackbird include 400 at Fairfield, Essex, NJ 31 Mar-1 Apr (Glenn Mahler, Mark Benson) and 200 at Montezuma 27 Mar (JG, CW). Eight Brewer's Blackbirds were at Pennsville, Salem, NJ 2-7 Apr (SB, PJD). Three Orchard Orioles were banded quite far n. at Crown Pt., Essex, NY 12-18 May (EDT).

Purple Finches were scarce during winter in the coastal parts of the Region, so counts of 50+ at Blue Ridge, Essex, NY and Sabattis Bog, Hamilton, NY are of interest. Forty or more Red Crossbills were at Sabattis Bog, Hamilton, NY 1 Mar (LM), and 40 were at North Lake, Essex, NY 2 Apr (LM). Thirty-two Red Crossbills were at Colton, St. Lawrence, NY 11 Mar (LM), and a pair with 2 recently fledged young was seen at nearby Low's Ridge 12 May (JSB). Twenty White-winged Crossbills were at Sabattis Bog 1 Mar and 5 at North Lake 2 Apr (LM). Hundreds of Evening Grosbeaks were reported in Newcomb, Essex, NY 12 Mar (Ellen Rathbone), proving that they are not yet quite gone from our Region!

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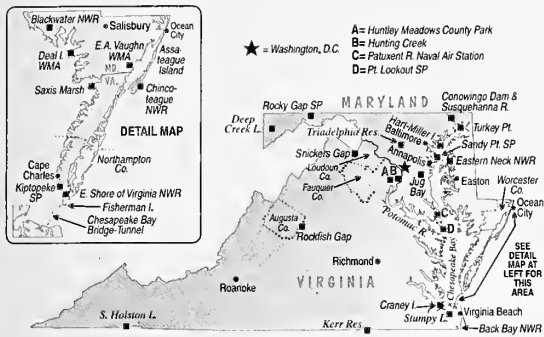
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The spring was marked, as is sometimes the case this season, with warm spells through late March into April but a reversal of fortune later in the season: northerly and easterly winds that persisted from late April into the middle of May meant a delay in migration for many species, a late spring. Some observers noted that Neotropical migrants, particularly May migrants, were a week or more later than usual in appearing. The Region remains on the edge of drought conditions; though certainly not as bad as central North Carolina, most parts of Virginia were drier than normal, with reservoirs reduced and typically productive shorebird habitats in some cases bone-dry.

**Abbreviations:** Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Northampton and Virginia Beach, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); Forman's Br. (Forman's Branch B.O., Queen Anne's, MD); Hart (Hart Miller I., Baltimore, MD).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Reports of noteworthy waterfowl were mostly below average, with scoters and Long-tailed Ducks being notable exceptions. A lone Greater White-fronted Goose from Bells Lane, Staunton, VA 1 Mar supplied the only report for the Region (AL). The sole report of Ross's Goose was one seen 8 Mar at Whiton, Wicomico, MD (SHD). A Barnacle Goose at Lilypons, Frederick, MD 21 Apr lacked extensive details (Michael O'Brien). Three reports of Cackling Geese made it to early Mar; 6 at Verona, Augusta, VA was the most notable count (AL). Two Mute Swans at Accotink Bay, Fairfax, VA 27 May bear watching (KGA); widespread breeding of these swans in this heavily populated portion of the Potomac R. that straddles state lines would be difficult to manage. The 2 patagial-tagged Trumpeter Swans frequenting Prince George's (tagged "962") and Anne Arundel (tagged "960"), MD

were seen through 6 & 18 May, respectively (m.ob., MS).

The male Eurasian Wigeon that wintered at Ridgeway Park, Hampton, VA was last reported 10 Mar (Ben Copeland); Maryland had 3 birds lingering from winter, none reported beyond 4 Mar (PC, Pete Webb, Brian Rollfinke). An American Wigeon at Swoope, Augusta was late 21 May (AL). Blue-winged Teal were seen in two potential breeding areas in Maryland: a drake 26 May at Hart (EJS et al.) and a pair at Pickering Cr., Talbot 27 May (TF et al.). The impressive number of Common Eiders at Ocean City, Worcester, MD was whittled down to 7 and last reported 4 Mar (Danny Poet); an imm. male was seen at Assat. 28 Apr and 12 May (MLH). A brace of Surf Scoters was reported 16 Apr at the inland Forman's Br. (JGr); one was near Crozet, Albemarle, VA (Jennifer Gaden). The number of White-winged Scoters reported away from the ocean was well above average. There were five reports of as many as 3 birds along the Potomac R. 12 Mar-14 Apr, between Montgomery and Charles, MD. Five other reports came from other scattered inland locations, with no more than 2 birds 8 Mar-29 Apr, the latest being at Burke L., Fairfax (ph. Allen Hart). An imm. drake Black Scoter was at Violette's Lock, Montgomery, MD 21 May (DCz, Andy Martin). Long-tailed Ducks were similarly well reported. Nine inland locations in the Region boasted birds, with five of the reports 24 Mar. All of these were of a minimum of 6 birds, with 13 flying over Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, D.C. (Paul Pisano) and 18 at Beaverdam Res., Loudoun (GK, MAK). Other reports were as late as 18 Apr. Two Common Goldeneyes were on the Potomac R. off Great Falls, Montgomery 21 May (Mike Bowen). The season's high count for Bufflehead was ca. 1000 at Holland Pt., Anne Arundel 1 Apr (TMD). Hooded Mergansers were confirmed breeding in seven counties between the two states: in Maryland in Allegany, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Frederick, and Worcester and in Virginia in Fauquier and Fairfax. Common Mergansers were confirmed breeding in two locations in Maryland: a hen with 14 downy young was seen 25 Apr and 12 May near Violette's Lock, Montgomery, where breeding had been confirmed in the previous two springs (DCz, RW); a hen and 7 downy young were at a new location, Buffalo Run, Garrett, MD 12 May (FP).

Red-throated Loons were found inland 24 Mar at Kerr Res., Mecklenburg, VA (AD); 2 were seen at Violette's Lock 4 Apr (DCz); and

one was at Liberty L., Carroll, MD 19-24 Apr (RFR, m.ob.). Some 200 Common Loons were on the water at Carvins Cove, Botetourt, VA 14 Apr, with 165 there the following day (MP). One hundred Horned Grebes were counted from Seneca, Montgomery, MD 24 Mar (DCz). An Eared Grebe was at Pt. Lookout, Saint Mary's, MD 3 Mar (HY, Gemma Radko).

A Sooty Shearwater was seen from shore 12 May at Assat. (Clive Harris). The impressive flock of American White Pelicans that wintered at Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester, MD dwindled to 10 by 24 Mar and was last reported 13 May (PC et al.); one was at Craney I. 2 Mar (DCI); and another was at Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach 13 Mar (RB). An ad. male Anhinga reported from Bellyache Swamp 20 May (Brenda Tekin) is suggestive of breeding, as the species was reported in numbers here in 2006, but breeding has never been confirmed in the Region. Thirty Great Blue Herons were seen amid active nests 13 Mar near Saltville, along the n. fork of the Holston R., Smyth, VA (Allen Boynton). A Glossy Ibis was well inland at Bells Lane, Augusta 12 May (AL).

## RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS

Swallow-tailed Kites were only reported from Maryland. One found dead 2 Mar at Shore Acres, Anne Arundel (ph. Ken Walsh) apparently starved to death, as its carcass was reportedly 20 per cent below average weight. One was seen 16 Apr at Redgate, Saint Mary's (Bev & Warren Walker); and another was at Blakeslee, Garrett 25 Apr (Jon Boone). The first Mississippi Kite for the site was a subad. 2 May at College Cr. hawkwatch, James City, VA (BT); another, an ad., was over Cape Charles, Northampton 4 May (ESB, Tom Saunders). Ft. Smallwood, Anne Arundel had four reports, all 13-17 May, with 2 on the 13th and 3 on the 16th and the others singles (Sue Ricciardi, Hal Wierenga). In Virginia, Mississippi Kites arrived 11-20 May at previously reported breeding or suspected breeding sites in Virginia at Buckland, Prince William (ICT), in Halifax (JB), at Huntley Meadows (Larry Meade), at Annandale, Fairfax (Stephen Eccles), and at Waynewood, Fairfax (Donald Sweig). A typical count of 10 came from southside Virginia counties (Greensville, Southampton, and Emporia) 20 May (Brenda Tekin et al.). Newly reported to the list of nest sites is near Evergreen, Prince William, where they have been nesting for at least the previous two springs (Randy Moran). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen 27-28 May at Syon Abbey, Franklin, VA (John Sebastian)—the species is a little-known breeder in Virginia.

**SA** Red-necked Grebes were reported in the Region with above-average frequency 1 Mar–1 May, though not on the scale of the Feb 1994 and spring 2003 influxes. This year's push (Table 1) was most similar to 2003, with nearly all reports from inland locations, concentrated in n. Virginia and Maryland. A closer look reveals that nearly all new discoveries of grebes at unexpected locations came 4–30 Mar, with a ten-day pause before several more were discovered 10–24 Apr. Overwhelmingly, the reports were of single birds, though 13 were found at one location, and there were two reports of 4 birds. This year's tally was akin to the "echo" years that followed the 1994 and 2003 invasions, with ca. 52 grebes reported in total this season.

**Table 1.** Records of Red-necked Grebe from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, 1 March through 24 April 2007.

Number	Date	Location		Observer(s)
1	1-Mar	Ocean City	Worcester, MD	Leo Weigant
1	4 Mar & 25 Mar	Washington Channel	D.C.	John Beetham; David Moulton
1	4-Mar	Rehobeth Branch	Somerset, MD	BH et al.
1	6-Mar	Violettes Lock	Montgomery, MD	DCz
1	6-Mar	Gloucester Point	Gloucester, VA	DH
1	7-Mar	C.B.B.T.	Northampton, VA	ESB
1	8-Mar	Ft. McHenry	Baltimore, MD	JP
2	10-Mar	Little Seneca Res.	Montgomery, MD	DCz
1–2	10–28 Mar	Loch Raven Res.	Corroll, MD	DT, Steve Collins
1	10–11 Mar	farm pond	Halifax, VA	JB
1	12-Mar	Little Falls	Montgomery, MD	DCz
2	13 Mar–14 Apr	off Riverbend Park	Montgomery, MD	RW
12	13-Mar	Ft. McHenry	Baltimore, MD	Lou Nielsen
1	13-Mar	Oxbow L.	Anne Arundel, MD	MS, Jay Sheppard
1	13-Mar	Liberty L.*	Carroll/Baltimore, MD	RFR
1	15-Mar	C.B.B.T.	Virginia Beach, VA	ESB
1	21-Mar	McMillan Res.	D.C.	Andrew Dubill
1	22-Mar	Cash L.	Prince George's, MD	Robert Ostrowski
4	24-Mar	Occoquan Bay N.W.R.	Prince William, VA	Mark Moran
1	24-Mar	North East	Cecil, MD	SA, EA
1	24-Mar	Dam #4	Washington, MD	TF
4	25-Mar	Burke L.	Fairfax, VA	KGa; one there 31 Mar
1	25 Mar & 20 Apr	Piney Run	Carroll, MD	RFR, DT
1	25-Mar	Rumbley Point	Somerset, MD	KGr
1	30-Mar	Jug Bay	Anne Arundel/Prince George's, MD	JS
1	10-Apr	Little Seneca Res.	Montgomery, MD	Andy Martin
1	14-Apr	Triadelphia Res.	Montgomery/Howard, MD	HH
1	15-Apr	Pt. Lookout	Saint Mary's, MD	Marty Cribb
1	19-Apr	Patuxent R. Naval Air Station	Saint Mary's, MD	KR
1	24-Apr	Potomac R.	D.C.	Jay Keller

\*Liberty L. had 1 on 20 Mar, 2 on 28 Mar, 1 on 19 Apr, 3 on 20 Apr, 2 on 24 Apr, and 1 on 1 May (all RFR, m.ob.)

The latest Rough-legged Hawk was a migrant spotted near Beaverdam Res., Loudoun 24 Mar (GK, MAK). Three Golden Eagles were reported as migrants in Mar, and one was seen 5 Apr at Chestertown, Kent, MD (Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin). In Highland, VA, where nesting has been suspected for decades, there were 15 sightings of Golden Eagles in Apr and seven in May; check the summer report for details of an apparent nest!

Two Yellow Rails were heard 13 Apr at Irish Grove, Somerset (Paul Bystrak, TF et al.); the species is very rarely detected as a migrant in the Region but has been detected

with increasing frequency in spring in Delaware and New Jersey of late. Two Black Rails heard 12 May at Elliott I., Dorchester constituted the season's only report (HTA et al.). King Rails returned to Occoquan Bay N.W.R. 21 Apr, with 2 reported (Steve Williams); 2 were reported 17 & 24 May from a survey of several marshes in Mathews, VA (DH). In Maryland, one was at Truitt's Landing, Worcester 24 Mar (MLH), one at Hart 12 May (EJS et al.), and one at Ft. McHenry 19 May (JP). Common Moorhens were reported from eight locations split between Maryland and Virginia, 19 Mar–26 May; notable among

these was one at Swoope, Augusta 21 May, and at Waynesboro, VA 22–26 May (both *vide* YL). Three American Coots at Pickering Cr., Talbot were in potential breeding habitat 27 May (TF et al.). Four reports of individual Sandhill Cranes reached the editors: 25 Mar at Airlie, Fauquier (ph. Jack & Joyce Palm); 28–31 Mar at Occoquan Bay N.W.R. (*vide* Joanna Taylor); 30 Apr at Darnestown, Montgomery, MD (Marcia Simonson); and a flyover 17 May at Jug Bay (Bob & Melinda Elvander).

American Golden-Plovers are of interest in spring, and this year had two Maryland sightings: 21–24 Apr at Covey's Landing, Talbot (JM, m.ob.), and 7 May at Pt. No Point, Saint Mary's (KR). The Region's earliest Piping Plover was seen at Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack 17 Mar (KGa); less expected were 7 at Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach 18 & 22 Mar (Dirk Huntington, RLA), where the species is now a migrant. Black-necked Stilts are expected at Virginia locales such as Chincoteague and Craney I. and were reported there; others from less-expected sites include one at Poplar I., Talbot 2 May (JR); one at Brown's Station, Prince George's 11 May (JS, Fred Fallon); 2 at Truitt's Landing (DP); one at Shirley Plantation, Charles City, VA 26 May (Arun Bose); 26 May at Fairmount W.M.A., Somerset (RFR); and 2 at W. Ocean City 31 May (MLH). Three Willets at Ocean City Inlet 4 Mar were unusual for that time of year; wanderers of that species were seen at Poplar I., 5 there 23 Apr (JR); 6 Westerns at Silver L. near Dayton, Rockingham, VA 1 May (Charles Ziegenfus); one Eastern

and 2 Westerns at North Beach, Calvert, MD 10 May (JLS); and one Eastern and an unknown at Hart 26 May (EJS et al.). An Upland Sandpiper was at Chino Farms, Queen Anne's 7 Apr (Dan Small, Maren Gimpel). A Whimbrel at Irish Grove, Somerset 13 Apr was a good date away from the immediate coast (TF). Two Red Knot reports were received from birders, 18–28 May, one from each state, and neither pertaining to more than 8 birds. A low-altitude flight by Barry Truitt and Bryan Watts over Virginia's barrier islands 22 May located 5939 knots (most, 1871, on Hog I.), 1456 fewer than detected in New Jersey and

Delaware combined the same day and more than twice the count from Georgia and the Carolinas combined 22-23 May. Purple Sandpipers persisted until 20 May at the C.B.B.T. (DCI) and 29 May at Cape Charles (ESB). Ruffs are always a delight, and this season claimed three: a male at Covey's Landing, MD 21-28 Apr (JM, m.ob.); a Reeve at North Beach, Calvert 10 May (JLS); and another Reeve at Craney I. 15 May (Ruth Beck, BW). Red-necked Phalaropes were at Poplar I. 14 May (KGr et al.), Hart 19 May and 3 on 26 May (EJS et al.), and one at North Branch, Allegany (J. B. Churchill).

Not atypical, all reports of Little Gull were in Maryland; there were 10 reports 10 Mar-11 Apr. Back R., Baltimore is the most reliable spot in the Region for them, and up to 3 were reported there 26-31 Mar (Fred Shaffer, Barry Cooper, m.ob.). One at Seneca along the Potomac R. 14 Mar was the most out of place (DCz); all reports that included age were of ads., except a second-cycle bird at Ocean City Inlet 10 Mar (JGo et al.). Black-headed Gulls were at Ft. Smallwood 11 Mar (Jay McGann); and an alternate-plumaged ad. was at Rock Run, Harford 1 Apr (*vide* JC). An Iceland Gull was at Assat. 12 May (MLH). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Hart 19 May and 3 there 26 May (EJS); this species has been regular at Virginia Beach in spring and summer but is still unusual in the upper Chesapeake Bay in late spring.

A Gull-billed Tern was at Assat. 28 Apr (MLH); another was a surprise at Pt. No Point, Saint Mary's 7 May (KR). Seven Caspian Terns were at Piney Res., Garrett 18 Apr (RFR, Bill Ellis); 3 were at Carvins Cove, Botetourt 20 May (MP). A Forster's Tern 19 May at L. Moomaw may be the first for Bath, VA (Tad Finnell). A Roseate Tern was seen over a marsh at Nickawampus Farm, Accomack 2 May (Les Willis), and an Arctic Tern was at Hart 26 May, a 2nd record for the island (ph. Brad Lanning). Single Black Terns were at Airlie, Fauquier 16 May (TMD) and along the Potomac R. at Violettes Lock, Montgomery 21 May (DCz). Three light-morph ad. Parasitic Jaegers were seen from the southernmost island of the C.B.B.T. 6 May (BT); a jaeger was left unidentified at Assat. 13 May (Clive Harris). The Thick-billed Murre seen at Ocean City Inlet in winter was last seen 1 Mar (Harvey Mudd et al.); a Razorbill was seen at that location 10 Mar (JGo et al.).

## DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES

Eurasian Collared-Doves have a moderately strengthening foothold in several Virginia locations but continue to be found in new

places. Five were found 1 Apr at McCoy, Montgomery only 3 km from a known population in nearby Pulaski (MH); 2 were at Sangerville, Augusta 9 Mar-26 May (Mike Shank, ph. m.ob.); and one was at Lebanon, Russell 20 Apr (*vide* RM). The species is still looking for purchase in Maryland; one was at Havre de Grace, Harford 22 Apr (JLS), and another was between Hancock and Pectonville, Washington 28 May (Tom Johnson). A flyby White-winged Dove was at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, Anne Arundel 9 May (Ed Boyd). Two Long-eared Owls were at Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area, Carroll, MD 4-18 Mar (RFR, m.ob.); another was in Garrett 11 Mar (DP); and one was near Rte. 642 along the West Virginia border in Highland, VA 19 May, a date that suggests breeding (*vide* PR). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard tooting at Bear Mt., Highland 21 Mar (PR). A Chuck-will's-widow was well out of place at Pleasant Valley, Garrett 12 May (*vide* FP); another was at Prince William Forest Park, Prince William 12 May+ where it has been the previous few springs and persists as the northernmost bird in the state. Four were along Indiantown Rd., Orange, VA 28 May (Phil Kenney). A Northern Flicker was banded at Forman's Br. and was determined to be a Yellow-shafted Flicker × Red-shafted Flicker intergrade (JGr).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was early at Rock Creek Park, D.C. 1 May (HY). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a one-day wonder at Concord, Campbell, VA (Peggy Lyons), and another was photographed in the Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA and vicinity at least 18-22 May (Susan Rice, ph. ESB, TS), the 13th county record. Alder Flycatchers were heard at Millington, Kent 12 May (JLS, HH), at Hart 19 May (Marcia Watson), and Myrtle Grove, Charles (GMJ, Gwen Brewer). The regular Western Kingbird at Ft. McHenry, Baltimore returned 8 May and was present through 3 Jun (JP, m.ob.). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from several known breeding spots in Virginia, and a few places where they are not known to breed. One was near Boyce, Clarke (Jon & B. J. Little), with 2 at that location 25 Mar; a pair was at Swoope 18 & 20 Mar (AL); a pair was at Sky Meadows, Fauquier 17 Mar-14 May (Scott Baron, m.ob.); one was near Lynchburg in Amherst 25 Apr (Gene Sattler); one was in Loudoun 12 May (*vide* JC); another was at Bedford 22 Apr-12 May (RB); and one was along Rte. 644, Highland 19 May (*vide* PR). A Northern Shrike was at Manchester, Carroll, MD 23 Mar (Steve Bystrak) and also along Boog Rd., Carroll 28 Mar, possibly the same bird (Sharon Schwemmer).

## CORVIDS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Common Ravens have in recent years been expanding across the Piedmont and at times nudging into the Coastal Plain. In Maryland, there were three reports from Montgomery 25 Mar-17 Apr; at Woodbine, Howard 10 Mar (DP); 2 at Marriottsville, Baltimore 11 Mar (Keith Eric Costley); and one at Font Hill, Howard 17 May (Bonnie Ott). Virginia's lone waif was seen 25 May, an unlikely date, from Monticello Park, Alexandria (Paula Sullivan). A Barn Swallow was very early for the Piedmont at Piney Run, Carroll, MD 13 Apr (RFR). Two Sedge Wrens were at Elliott I. 12 May (HTA et al.). A Marsh Wren was at Finzel Swamp, Garrett 2 May, and another was at North Branch, Allegany 14 May (both Mikey Lutmerding, DY). A Veery was late at Forman's Br. 28 May (b. JGr). Bicknell's Thrushes were reported three times this season: a nocturnal migrant from Tilghman Neck, Queen Anne 12 May (JLS, HH); singing at Ferndale, Anne Arundel 17-21 Mar (SA, EA, BH); and singing lustily in a Norfolk, VA yard 21 May (RLA).

Orange-crowned Warblers were found at two Maryland locations 12 May: Bowie, Prince George's (Meghan Tice), and Elk Neck S.F., Cecil (Parke John, Lisa Wilson). The Yellow-throated Warbler that wintered at Indian Head, Charles was last seen 24 Mar (Carol Gheblian). Two singing Yellow Warblers 28 Mar at Cockpit Point Rd., Prince William tied Virginia's early date, certainly a type of record that will repeatedly be broken in coming years (Rich Rieger). The Galax, VA Green-tailed Towhee (acc.) from winter was last reported 1 May (Bob Perkins, ph., m.ob.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Scotland, Saint Mary's 29 Mar (DP, HP). A Lark Sparrow was at Occoquan Bay N.W.R. 10 Mar (*vide* Marc Ribaud). A well-described Henslow's Sparrow was at Compton Mt., Buchanan, VA 30 Apr (RM). An Acadian Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found at Deal I., Somerset 1 May (SHD). The last Fox Sparrow for the Region was reported 21 Apr at Piney Res., outside the expected dates but not breaking the Regional late date (DY). Marylanders found 3 Painted Buntings this spring, a female 31 Mar in Prince George's (Dave Mozurkewich, m.ob.); an ad. male seen in flight at Friendship, Anne Arundel 12 Apr (JLS); and an ad. male singing at Upper Marlboro, Prince George's 20 Apr (JLS). A Dickcissel visited a Roanoke, VA feeder 13-17 Apr (Joyce Holt); the first migrant was detected nocturnally over Queen Anne's 12 May (HH). A singing male Western Tanager was found along Ross Drive in Rock Creek Park, D.C. 19 May (m.ob., *vide* Joe Coleman).

Rusty Blackbird numbers continue to

plummet. Only three Virginia locations could muster triple-digit numbers during the reporting period: several dates at Great Dismal Swamp, Suffolk (RLA); Huntley Meadows on a few occasions (m.ob.); and Bull Run Regional Park, Fairfax 6 Apr (FA). The balance of reports consisted typically of a dozen or fewer, with few reports of as many as 60 birds. A male Brewer's Blackbird was at Middletown, Frederick, MD 1 Mar (Rack Wickline). Two Boat-tailed Grackles were at Poplar I., Talbot 12 & 14 May, good for the mid-Chesapeake Bay (EJS et al.). Red Crossbills were seen from four locations in Virginia, all near potential breeding sites: 2 at Poverty Hollow, Montgomery 1 Apr (MH); a high of 7 at feeders on Bear Mt., Highland 21 Apr (PR); one near

Reddish Knob 28 Apr (William Leigh); and 2 at Shenandoah Mt. 17 May (Ken Hinkle), the latter two locations *Rockingham*.

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## Southern Atlantic



Ricky Davis

This spring's weather was generally drier than normal, continuing the dry or drought conditions in many areas of the Region. Some coastal sites were less dry this spring, due to several coastal lows bringing rain for several days. Prevailing winds in late April and early May were from the north and east (as in 1992 and 2003, but not as pronounced), which resulted in good diversity of pelagic terns, tubenoses, and tropicbirds. This pattern probably also resulted in a westward shift of passerine migration and in late departure dates for early migrants such as Merlin, Sora, and American Bittern. According to many observers, the passerine migration was a week or more behind schedule (a "late spring"), and while coastal birders commented on the paucity of migrants this season, many observers in the Piedmont and Mountain regions mentioned that numbers of many passerine migrants were up. Temperatures were average for the most part, with some areas experiencing periods of cooler weather

than normal. The avian highlight of the season was the Snail Kite found at a crayfish farm in Clarendon County, South Carolina—a most unexpected bird for the Region.

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 STORKS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to increase, with the best counts being 40+ at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 21 May (*vide* TM) and 20 in Beaufort, NC 13 May (*vide* AM). The latter birds were in the same area where a group was observed last spring. Unusual goose sightings included 12 Greater White-fronteds in Bartow, GA 3 Mar (BL et al.), 29 Snows at Santee Coastal Reserve, SC 1 Mar (JM), and a Ross's in the Macon, GA area 26 Apr (*vide* TM). Mute Swans continued at Pea I., where 6 were noted 22 Apr (RD), with 2 tending a nest. One must wonder why refuge personnel have not taken measures to prevent this troubling feral species from getting a foothold in the area. Easily more intriguing was the imm. swan photographed at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 20-21 Mar (DC, CC, BF et al.) that appeared to be a Bewick's Swan, the Eurasian subspecies of Tundra Swan. This taxon has not previously been documented in the state; as with most waterfowl, its provenance is open to question.

Several ducks lingered into the spring season, with the most unusual being a pair of Redheads and a Lesser Scaup at North Pond, Pea I. through the end May (ESB, m.ob.); an imm. male Common Eider in Pender, NC 19-28 May (RW et al.); a White-winged Scoter at the E.L.H. 5-12 May (DH et al., CL, m.ob.); a female Common Goldeneye on a pond near the Beavercreek area of Falls L., NC 1-2 May (BB, J&SSo); and a female Red-breasted Merganser at Cochran Shoals, GA 28 May (JFI). Hooded Mergansers, local nesters in the Region, were detected in all three states, with at least six different sightings of ads. with young. Inland loons of note included a Red-throated Loon at Piedmont N.W.R., GA 3-25 Mar (TMc, SB), another Red-throated at Falls L., NC 18 Mar (RD), and an alternate-plumaged ad. Pacific Loon photographed at L. Tahoma, McDowell, NC 6 May (DHo, RD; DM), the latter providing the first record for the mts. of that state. The usual handful of Red-necked Grebes was reported during Mar across the Region, but Western Grebe reports were above normal: 2 previously found in the winter season (at L. Norman, NC and L. Walter F. George, GA) were seen until at least mid-Mar (*vide* TP, *vide* TM), one was at Cumberland I., GA 20 Mar (*vide* JFI), and another was at the n. end of Pawleys I., SC 11 May (*vide* PTu).

Pelagic birding from Hatteras, NC was considerably more productive this spring, due to an increased number of trips and more prevalent easterly winds. Gadfly petrel reports were highlighted by an impressive 6 Herald Petrels 23 May, six different trips with single Fea's Pe-



Spring 2007 was the third spring in a row for European Storm-Petrel off Cape Hatteras; this bird was nicely documented 28 May. Photograph by Susan Hengeveld.

trels 22 May–1 Jun, and a Bermuda Petrel 29 May (BPI). The Sooty Shearwater migration was more in evidence this spring, as was the Manx Shearwater passage. Manxes were reported on 11 trips from 12 May–2 Jun, with a peak of 11-12 noted 26 May (BPI). Storm-petrel numbers were up slightly compared to the last two springs, and European Storm-Petrels were noted for the 3rd consecutive year, with one 28 May and one or 2 the next day off Hatteras (BPI). Tropicbirds were observed in about average numbers, with an ad. White-tailed 26 May and imm. or subad. Red-billed 19, 22, & 28 May (BPI). And very rare in spring was the subad. Masked Booby off Hatteras 19 May (BPI). American White Pelicans were again noted frequently in the Region this season. The farthest inland were the 10 at High Rock L., Davidson, NC 8-9 Apr (*fide* DD) and the 11 at L. Julian, Buncombe, NC 19-20 Apr (WF et al.). A Brown Pelican was at Lake Park, GA 3 Mar (*fide* TM), also an unusual inland occurrence. Very rare offshore was the Magnificent Frigatebird off Hatteras, NC 28 May (BPI). This species is usually found within sight of the beaches or right along the coast.

American Bitterns were reported more often than usual this spring. The most interesting report involved 2 in extreme se. Halifax, NC 14 Apr (DHo, RD) that flushed out of a wet briar thicket in a riverine swamp forest. Great Blue Herons continue to nest farther and farther westward. This spring, a colony containing at least four nests was found near the Tuckaseegee R. near Dillsboro, Jackson, NC in late Mar (TL), eclipsing the Ecusta Pond, Brevard, NC site started last year. Always noteworthy, especially in spring, Reddish Egret sightings

involved one at Little St. Simons I., GA 8 Mar (NVL, PH), 2 in Beaufort, SC 27 Mar (DF et al.), and one at H.B.S.P. 4 Apr (S&PTu). The most unusual Black-crowned Night-Heron reports were of one in the mts. in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson, NC 24 Apr (WF, RS) and a flock of 20 flying by a marsh along Twelve Bridges Rd., Sumter, SC 24 Mar (RC, CE). North Carolina's only known Wood Stork nesting site in extreme se. Columbus had increased from last year with 192 nests on 1 May (DA); one was locally unusual over Howell Woods, Johnston, NC 15 May (JSa).

### RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS

Swallow-tailed Kites were once again reported frequently. The earliest returning Swallow-tailed was at Bettie, e. of the North R., Carteret, NC 4 Mar (JF et al.).

The most interesting inland reports involved one near Oxford, Granville, NC 1 May (*fide* TP), 2-3 along Richardson Bridge Rd., Johnston, NC 6-16 May (ED, m.ob.), and one at Dawson Forest W.M.A., GA 1 Apr (GS). Five along North Carolina's Outer Banks between Avon and Salvo 28 Apr (HG) constituted a high count for that region. Easily the season's most unexpected bird was the ad. male Snail Kite found at a crayfish farm along Elliott's Landing Rd. near Rimini, Clarendon, SC 14 May (LM). The bird was present into Jun until the ponds were drained and provided the first documented report for the Region. There is one previous unconfirmed sight report from Long, GA in Apr 1971, which incidentally was also during a period of severe drought in Florida. The wintering Swainson's Hawk at Alligator River N.W.R., NC was last noted 5 Mar (JSa). Only one Golden Eagle was reported this spring, that being an imm. over Sprewell Bluff, Flint R., Meriwether, GA 16 Apr (TK et al.). A Merlin w. of Williamson, Martin, NC 11 May (FE) was quite late for that inland locality.

Soras apparently migrated over the w. portions of the Region in good numbers, as evidenced by the 14 at the E.L.H. 11 Apr (CL), 3 at Fletcher Park, Fletcher, NC 4 May (ST et al.), and 6 at a n. Greene, GA marsh 13 May (PS); a late coastal migrant was at Cedar Island N.W.R. 18 May (ESB). Purple Gallinules out-

side of their normal range included one at Oxbow Meadows, GA 20 Apr (WCh) and one at Duck, Dare, NC during the first week of May (MB et al.). Limpkins were once again found in the Region, with one still present at Reed Bingham S.P., GA in late May (*fide* TM) and one at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, SC 25-27 Apr (*fide* RC). Crane reports this spring included a Sandhill Crane at Hutchinson I., Savannah, GA 24 Apr (*fide* LR) and 3 Whooping Cranes of the experimental Wisconsin/Florida flock near Perry, GA 28 Mar (*fide* JO).

An American Golden-Plover in basic plumage in mid-coastal South Carolina 20 May (ND et al.) was a very good find; this species is extremely rare along the coast in spring. North Carolina got its 3rd Snowy Plover when one was at Mason Inlet, Wrightsville B. 6-11 Apr (RW, m.ob.). Only 2 Long-billed Curlews were mentioned this spring: one at Little St. Simons I., GA 8 Mar (NVL, PH) and one at Pinckney Island N.W.R., SC 22 Apr (DB). Willet is a rare inland spring migrant in the Region; thus of note was the excellent count of 11 on rocks in the Chattahoochee R., Cobb, GA 29 Apr (B&TDr). Upland Sandpiper migration through the Region this spring was little noted, with only two reports received: one at the



An extraordinary rarity in the United States away from Florida, this male Snail Kite appeared at a crayfish farm near Rimini, Clarendon County, South Carolina in mid-May 2007 (here 25 May) and remained until the pond was drained in the summer. The bird's appearance outside of Florida was most likely due to the drought conditions in that state. Photograph by Michael McCloy.

Bostwick Sod Farm, GA 29 Mar (CS) and 5-6 at Hoop, 19 Apr (WF, RS, ST). Very rare in the Region as a spring migrant, a Baird's Sandpiper was studied closely at North Pond, Pea I. 22 May (MT, SM). This species normally migrates northward through the interior of the continent. Another extremely rare spring shorebird, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, was photographed at Jackson's Pasture, Laurens, GA 14 Apr (TPa et al.). There are only a half-



North Carolina's third Snowy Plover was present at Mason Inlet 6-11 (here 8) April 2007. Photograph by Ricky Davis.

dozen spring reports for that state. Continuing a recent trend, South Carolina had another spring Ruff, a young male found on South I. 12 May (ND). Phalaropes were not mentioned too often this spring. The only reports involved a Wilson's at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC in mid-Apr (ND), a Red-necked at Brandon Farms Rd., Bartow, GA 29 May (B&DV), and 4 slightly late Reds off of Hatteras, NC 12 May (BPI).

Noteworthy inland Laughing Gulls included one at Thundering Springs L., Laurens, GA 14 Apr (TPa et al.) and 2 at Falls L., NC 15 Apr (BB). The imm. Black-headed Gull found at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway in the winter was last seen 6 Mar (CSo). White-winged gulls were very scarce this spring, with the only one reported being a Glaucous at Wrightsville Beach, NC 10 Apr (RW). Sooty Tern reports involved one returning to a lower Cape Fear R., NC tern colony in early May (WG) and one off of Hatteras, NC 22 May (BPI). Unusual inland was the Least Tern at the E.L.H. 25 May (CL). Onshore Roseate Terns have been very hard to find in the Region for a few years now. Thus of note were one inshore off Hatteras, NC 19 May (BPI) and 3 at Cape Point, Buxton, NC 26 May (SM, MT, ph.). Arctic Terns made a better showing this spring also, with single birds being found off Hatteras on five trips 23-30 May (BPI), up to 4 off Hatteras 31 May (BPI), and 2 about 64 km s. of Beaufort Inlet, NC 31 May (NB et al.). More South Polar Skuas were found this spring off Hatteras than in the past several years, with one on 25 May, 2-3 on 28 May, one on 29 May, and 2 on 30 May (BPI). Jaeger numbers were also up considerably, with the peak counts off Hatteras being 13 Pomarines 22 May, 5 Parasitics 25 May, and 7 Long-taileds 29 May (BPI). Also 2 Long-taileds 80 km s. of Beaufort Inlet, NC 29 May (JFe) were good finds.

Of interest was the ad. jaeger seen sitting on the water far from shore at Pea I. 6 Apr (JB, TPu et al.). The observers felt that the bird was a Long-tailed, which would be very early for a spring migrant. Two Razorbills were reported: one in the surf at Ft. Macon, NC 20 Mar (fide JF) and one on the beach at Emerald Isle, NC in mid-Apr (fide CC), which later died.

## DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

A White-winged Dove at feeders in Savannah, GA 21-22 Apr (SW) was the only one reported

this spring, while a Common Ground-Dove calling repeatedly in n. Greene, GA 31 Mar (PS) provided a very rare sighting for that part of that state's Piedmont region. Black-billed Cuckoos were found in all three states, and as usual most reports came from the mts. or the immediate coast. Northern Saw-whet Owls normally are found at the higher elevations during spring and summer, thus one found in a laurel thicket at 810 m elevation near Cherryfield, Transylvania, NC 22 May (AK) was quite a surprise. Georgia had some interesting hummingbirds this spring: its 2nd Broad-billed Hummingbird, a male, was photographed during a visit to a feeder on Sheffield I., Camden 3 Mar (fide GK); a few



Roseate Terns have been scarce onshore in North Carolina for the past several years, so this trio found at Cape Hatteras 26 May was a welcome sight. Photograph by Mike Todd.

winter Calliope Hummingbirds lingered into Mar; and the Broad-tailed Hummingbird from the winter at Mableton stayed until late Mar (fide LS). Olive-sided Flycatchers were at Kennesaw Mt. 30 Apr (fide BZ), near Stephens, Oglethorpe, GA 7 May (MF), and at Reynold Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC 15 May (JH). Locally unusual *Empidonax* flycatchers included a heard-only Yellow-bellied at Warrior Mt., Polk, NC 4 May (GM et al.), an Alder at Paulk's Pasture, GA 21-23 Apr (GK et al., BL et al.), an Alder at Ivey Manor,

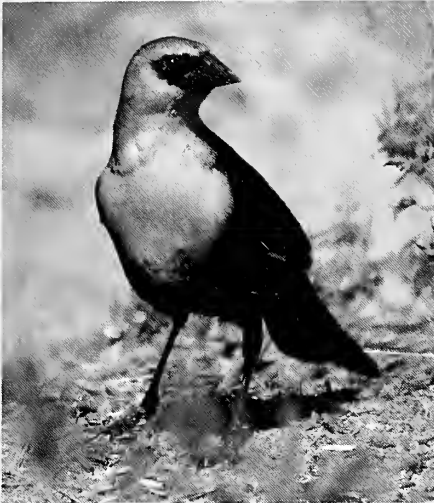
Forsyth, GA 8-10 May (GMc, B&DZ), a Willow in Biedler Forest, Harleyville, SC 12 May (AS), and a Least near Halifax, NC 20 May (FE). The Say's Phoebe that wintered near Goldsboro, NC was last seen 18 Mar (MBr). A male Vermilion Flycatcher, seen briefly at a bird bath in Davisboro, Washington, GA 26 Apr (fide LSc), was an obvious migrant. Gray Kingbirds were seen at the n. end of Folly Beach, SC 2 May (2 birds; BD, ND) and in Ocracoke village, NC 16 May (KH, SK). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were once again reported from all three states. In addition to the returning McDonough, GA and Monroe, NC nesting birds, other Scissor-taileds were at Jekyll I., GA 28-30 Apr (RT, MC), in Spartanburg, SC 12-13 May (LC, JBH), at the n. end of Folly Beach, SC 15 May (JB), and at North Pond, Pea I. 31 May (fide JL).

Migrant Warbling Vireos of note were at Kennesaw Mt. 17 Apr (GB et al.), at Mid-Pines Rd., Raleigh, NC 28 Apr (RD, DHo), at Kennesaw Mt. 30 Apr (BZ et al.), and at the Buford Fish Hatchery, Forsyth, GA 6-7 May (KT, JFI, EH). Common Ravens continued to be seen at several e. North Carolina locations such as Butner Game Lands, Durham 28 Apr (2 birds; RP), a Raleigh quarry 2 May (fide BB), and in the L. Glenwood area of Pitt near Greenville 11 May on into Jun (VP). A pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches feeding young in a nest cavity at Rabun Gap, GA 13-15 May (FR) provided a high-elevation record for nesting

by that species. Interesting migrant wrens included a late Sedge Wren at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R., SC 12 May (RC, CE) and a good count of 6 Marsh Wrens at a n. Greene, GA marsh 6 May (PS). Reports of extremely early thrushes, heard only, involved a Veery at Falls L., NC 2 Apr (BB), a Gray-cheeked at Durham, NC 31 Mar (LSz), and a Swainson's at Falls L., NC 1 Apr (BB). Four Swainson's heard singing along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Mt. Mitchell, NC 26 May (MW et al.) were rather late if migrants; breeding by this species in that state has not been confirmed. Of interest was an American Pipit in Watauga, NC in late May (DP, CSm, JG et al.) that was not only late but was unusually heavily streaked.

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The warbler migration, as with that of flycatchers and thrushes, was more prevalent in the w. portions of the Region. Coastal observers mentioned a lack of migrants this spring, but several locally noteworthy warblers were found. A Blue-winged Warbler was in Conway, SC 19 Apr (JPe), a singing Chestnut-sided Warbler was a good find at Mt.



This male Yellow-headed Blackbird was a good find for the spring at the E. L. Huie Water Treatment Facility in Clayton County, Georgia 28-30 (here 30) April 2007. Photograph by Dan Vickers.

Pleasant, SC 17 May (DAb), a Magnolia Warbler was at Sanderling, Dare, NC 22 May (JL), a Pine Warbler was at C. Lookout, NC 22 Apr (JF et al.), and 2 Cerulean Warblers were very rare at Hilton Head I., SC 24 Apr (DB). Another Audubon's Warbler was found in the Region, this time a female on St. Catherine's I., GA 28 Apr (BZ, JFI). Blackpoll Warblers usually migrate northward e. of the mts. This spring, however, the mts. had one of the best Blackpoll migrations in recent memory, with higher-than-normal numbers at most places through the month of May, including 25+ at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 5 May (WF et al.). Several early warblers included a Prothonotary at the Ocmulgee N.M., GA 11 Mar (TMc), a Northern Waterthrush at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, GA 23 Mar (TM), and a Yellow-breasted Chat in the Augusta, GA area 17 Mar (LS). Connecticut Warblers staged one of the best spring migrations ever in Georgia. There were 2-3 at Cochran Shoals, Cobb 5-10 May (MD, KB, BL et al., B&DZ), one at the Buford Fish Hatchery, Forsyth in mid-May (JFI, EH), one at Chickasawhatchee W.M.A., Calhoun 8-9 May (AA et al.), one in Fulton 9 May (TK), one in Catoosa 17 May (DH), up to 2 at Clyde Shepard Nature Preserve, Decatur 18-19 May (HG, JS et al.), one in another area of Decatur 19 May (JBr), and one at Jones Bridge, GA 20 May (KB). North Carolina reports involved one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville 4 May (WF et al.) and another in Hendersonville 12 May (ST). Only one Mourning Warbler was mentioned, a male at Dawson Forest, Dawson, GA 7 May (JFI, EH). Tanagers of note included a very early male Scarlet Tanager at Jekyll I., GA 23 Mar (fide MC), a Western Tanager at

a feeder in Washington, NC 5-19 Mar (fide CSm), and wintering Westerns in Conway, SC until at least 18 Apr (GP) and at Dublin, GA until at least mid-Mar (SS).

Several late sparrows were reported across the Region this spring: a Clay-colored singing at North River Farms, Carteret, NC 6 May (JF et al.); a Henslow's in marginal habitat at North River Farms, NC 28 Apr (JF et al.) and another even later at Clyde Shepard Nature Preserve, Decatur, GA 5 May (JS); and a White-crowned in n. Greene, GA 13 May (PS), plus one at Beaufort, NC 20 May (R&SBo). Of particular interest were the 4 singing Grasshopper Sparrows at North River Farms, NC 6-20 May (JF et al.), which suggests breeding in Carteret, previously undocumented. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported in above-average numbers this spring, with sightings coming from all three states. The latest individuals, most indicative of pure transients, were found in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson, NC 12 May (MW et al.) and at Ivey Manor, Forsyth, GA 12 May (SB). Dickcissel reports were somewhat down from previous spring seasons. The best count again came from North River Farms, Carteret, NC with 9 on 20 May (JF et al.).

This season's Yellow-headed Blackbird reports included 2 near Mocksville, Davie, NC in early Mar (fide TP), a female in Manteo, NC 13 Apr (LMg), a male at Harbison, Richland, SC 16-18 Apr (GR, JGi), a male at the E.L.H. 28-30 Apr (TMc et al., BZ et al.), and one at Cochran Shoals, GA 6 May (fide TMu). Other interesting blackbird reports involved 3 Brewer's Blackbirds somewhat late in Bartow, GA 6 Apr (B&DZ, PH), a Boat-tailed Grackle at the Tidewater Research Farm, Roper, NC 4 Apr (AM), and a male Shiny Cowbird near Darien, McIntosh, GA 27 May (BC). The wintering Bullock's Oriole in Dublin, GA was present until at least late Mar (fide LS). Baltimore Orioles also came through the mts. in good numbers, as evidenced by the 40+ at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 5 May (WF et al.), a very high number for the spring season. Always worth mentioning, Red Crossbill reports included 3 at a feeder in Epworth, Fannin, GA 29-30 Mar (NS), up to 3 at Asheville, NC 18-21 Mar and 14-28 Apr (ST), and 2 along Duncan Ridge Rd., Union, GA 28 May (HG et al.).

Contributors: David Abbott (DAb), David Allen, Alan Ashley, Nate Bacheler, Steve Barlow, Jeff Beane, Giff Beaton, Ken Blankenship, Brian Bockhahn, Rich & Susan Boyd (R&SBo), Mary Bridges (MBr), David Brinkman, Jerry Brunner (JBr), Mark Buckler, Lyle Campbell, Chris Canfield, Derb Carter,

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This female Red Crossbill (accompanied by another female and a male) was present at a feeder in Epworth, Fannin County, Georgia 29 and 30 (here) March 2007. Photograph by Dan Vickers.

(TMu), Jim Ozier, Veronica Pantelidis, Tommy Patterson (TPa), Brian Patteson, Inc. (BPI), Rick Payne, Jack Peachey (JPe), Gary Phillips, Taylor Piephoff, Doug Pratt, Todd Pusser (TPu), Glenda Rae, Frank Renfrow, Larry Russell, James Sasser (JSa), Lynn Schlup (LScl), Lois Schultz (LSz), Georgann Schmalz, Nedra Sekera, Ron Selvey, Jeff Sewell, Ann Shahid, Chris Skelton, Steve Slayton, Curtis Smalling (CSm), Clyde Sorenson (CSO), Josh & Sterling Southern (J&SSo), Lois Stacey, Paul Sykes, Karen Theodorou, Simon Thompson, Mike Todd, Rusty Trump, Sharon & Phil Turner (S&PTu), Nick Van Lanen (NVL), Steve Wagner, Marilyn Westphal, Robin Wood, Bob & Deb Zaremba (B&DZ). ☉

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## Bill Pranty

It was a heady spring, with three “first” records—one of these new to the American Birding Association Area—plus two additional potential first records—one of these new to the Area—which pushed the Florida list to more than 500 species. Three of these birds were located and photographed by Carl Goodrich! Winds during April and May were variable, at times from the east, bringing pelagics to the Atlantic coast and Caribbean-wintering or -migrating species to the “Green Key Migrant Funnel,” and at other times from the west, grounding uncountable numbers of trans-Gulf migrants, including what must have been thousands of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The best fallout days were 19-23 April and 15 May.

Abbreviations/definitions: C.W.A. (Critical Wildlife Area); F.O.S.R.C. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee); N.S.R.A. (North Shore Recreation Area, *Orange*); report (any observation); record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

As usual, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks lead off this report, with 510 at Gainesville, *Alachua* 13 Mar (B&JB), 141 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 1 Apr (HR), 3 at Tallahassee, *Leon* 29 Apr–2 May (EW, GM), 94 at Viera Wetlands, *Brevard* 4 May (DaF), 7 at St. Petersburg, *Pinellas* 7 May (*fide* MP), and 11 at Lake Townsen R.P., *Hernando* 24 May (A&BH). Perhaps the same single Common Eiders were at St. Augustine Inlet, *St. Johns* through 1 Apr (DRc) and Ft. Clinch S.P., *Nassau* 2 Apr (PLc). Evidently rare but regular breeders in the n., 6 Hooded Merganser chicks fledged at Tallahas-

see 9 Apr (JiS). Lingering waterfowl included 2 Ring-necked Ducks at Viera 31 May (AB), one Greater Scaup at Cedar Key, *Levy* 22 May (ReR), one Lesser Scaup at L. Maggiore, *St. Petersburg* 29 May (DG), and one Red-breasted Merganser at Green Key, *New Port Richey, Pasco* 31 May (BP).

Red-throated Loons lingered at Ulumay Sanctuary, *Merritt I., Brevard* through 3 Mar (DaF) and *Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa* through 8 Mar (JF), while an alternate-plumaged Pacific Loon paused at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* 12 Apr (BD, LD). Also in alternate plumage were 2 Horned Grebes at Cedar Key 22 May (ReR). The Eared

Grebe at Ormond Beach, *Volusia* remained through 5 Mar (MBo et al.). Trios of Black-capped Petrels and duos of Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were off Ponce de Leon Inlet, *Volusia* 3 Apr and 3 May, along with a subad. Red-footed Booby 3 Apr and a Sooty Shearwater 3 May (BoW, BHA et al., ph.). Off Miami, *Miami-Dade* were 60 Audubon's Shearwaters 27 Apr (RT, Tmi). Strong easterly winds in late May drove storm-petrels to the Atlantic coast, with one Leach's grounded at Jacksonville, *Duval* 16 km from the ocean 20 May (*fide* PP; \*University of Florida); 10 Wilson's at Canaveral N.S., *Brevard* 25 May (TD); a Leach's at Ft. George Inlet, *Duval* 27 May (RC); 2 Leach's at New Smyrna Beach, *Volusia* 27 May (BoW); 2 Wilson's and 4 Leach's at Ponce de Leon Inlet 29 May; 2 Wilson's and 4 Leach's at Sebastian Inlet S.P., *Brevard* 29 May (AB); and a Leach's at Boynton Inlet, *Palm Beach* 31 May (MBe). Boobies at Dry Tortugas totaled 67 Maskeds (64 ads.) and 27 Browns 18 Apr (MG). Single Browns were at New Smyrna Beach 8 May (MBo) and along the *Okaloosa/Walton* line 20 May (DW). The Marine Science Center at Ponce de Leon Inlet received 121 emaciated Northern Gannets, primarily yearlings, 21 Apr–17 May (MBo). Clearly lost, a Northern Gannet over Winter Park, *Orange* 17 May was 75 km inland (BHA)!

The high count of American White Pelicans at *Polk* phosphate mines totaled 5400 on 15 Mar (PF). For the first time ever, three species of cormorants were observed in Florida. In addition to a Great Cormorant at John U. Lloyd S.P., *Broward* 27 Mar–1 Apr (BRo et

al., LaM, ph.), casual so far s., the state's long-awaited first record of a Neotropic Cormorant came from Boca Chica Key, *Monroe* 13 Apr (CGo, ph., acc.), which proved to be a one-day wonder. An American Bittern at *Alturas, Polk* 30 May (CGe) was very late or summering. Extralimital Great White Herons made it to Tomoka Landfill, *Volusia* 1 Mar (DaF), *Ormond Beach* 24 Mar–10 Jun (MBo), *Uptegrove Beach, Okeechobee* 19 Apr (DS), and *Dry Tortugas* 27 Apr (MG). Reddish Egrets are increasing in the Panhandle but not yet breeding; this season, 7 graced *St. Marks N.W.R., Wakulla* 15-26 Mar (JuC et al.), with 5 at *St. Vincent N.W.R., Franklin* 22 May (BS). Also increasing in the state are reports of White-faced Ibis, with singles at Ft. Walton Beach W.T.P., *Okaloosa* 18 Apr–22 May (DW) and *Sanibel I., Lee* 28 Apr+ (CE et al., ph.), plus 4 at *St. Marks* 6 May (AB). At least one pair of Roseate Spoonbills bred at Gatorland, *Polk* 16 May (LR), furnishing one of the few inland breeding reports. A Black Vulture observed at Seven Springs, *Pasco* 12 May (KT) had been color-tagged at *Avon Park, Highlands/Polk* 10 Jan 2006 (JH).

## RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Three pairs of White-tailed Kites bred at *Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., Okeechobee* during the season (PMi). The drought probably caused some Snail Kites to disperse; 3 were e. of *Floral City, Citrus* 30 Mar (TR) and



Representing a first for Florida, this Neotropic Cormorant was nicely documented at Boca Chica Key, Monroe County 13 April 2007. Photograph by Carl Goodrich.

another near *Hudson, Pasco* 15 Apr (BSk). Mississippi Kite numbers in the cen. pen. were high: 2 in w. *Indian River* 9 Apr (DoF) and singles at *Colt Creek S.P., Polk* 11-15 May (CGe, B&LC), *Largo, Pinellas* 16 May (IH), *Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve, Hillsborough* 19 May (RG, JeD), and *Weekiwachee Pre-*





Buff-breasted Sandpipers are extremely rare in peninsular Florida during spring, and these two (of six present) 13 April 2007 also furnished the first ever for Lake Okeechobee. Their dramatic courtship display had apparently never been observed previously in Florida. Photograph by Bill Pranty.

serve, *Hernando* 23 May (A&BH). Another Mississippi Kite at Key Largo, *Monroe* 5 May (JBo et al.) was perhaps even more surprising. Bald Eagles are still recovering their breeding range in the w. Panhandle; this season, there were three nests in *Escambia* or *Santa Rosa* (*vide* BD). The 46 eagles at *Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P.*, *Alachua* 14 Apr (SRa) must have been an inspiring sight. Very late was the Sharp-shinned Hawk at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 27 May (HR). There were 10 reports of 22 Short-tailed Hawks (16 dark, 5 light, one unspecified) beginning 5 Mar, with apparent breeding pairs at *Sawgrass Lake Park*, *St. Petersburg* 19 Mar+ (RS, SPa et al.), one dark morph at *Dunedin Hammock Park*, *Pinellas* 22 Apr (KT), and as many as six pairs in *w. Pasco* (KT). There were 6 Crested Caracaras at *Viera* 6 Mar (DaF), while Malo found birds in three sites 12 May: singles at *Chuluota*, *Seminole* and *Seminole Ranch Conservation Area*, *Orange*, and 2 at *Orlando Wetlands Park*, *Orange*.

A Yellow Rail was a surprise at *Garcon Pt.*, *Santa Rosa* 1 Mar (DS), while 2 Black Rails en-

**SA** Lake Okeechobee reached its lowest recorded depth of <3 m this season, due to the extended drought. First-ever surveys of the nw. corner of the lake, *Glades* and *Okeechobee*, by airboat documented extensive shorebird use of the exposed flats, which normally would be under 1-2 m of water: 630 Lesser Yellowlegs, 6 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, 455 Stilt Sandpipers, 16,000 peeps, and 1180 Long-billed Dowitchers 13 Apr, and 265 Black-bellied Plovers, 18 Spotted Sandpipers, 251 Semipalmated Plovers, and 6650 peeps 8 May (BP, PG, GS et al.). Surveys continued through Aug.

livened *St. Vincent N.W.R.*, *Franklin* 21 May (BSt). Extralimital Limpkins were singles at *Key West*, *Monroe* 21 Mar and 29 Apr (CGo) and along the *Choctawhatchee R.*, *Walton* 17-20 May (JuS, ph.), while unusually high counts of 34 at *Lake Townsen R.P.* 25 May (A&BH) and 35 at *Lake Apopka N.S.R.A.* 30 May (HR) may have been drought-related.

Shorebirds at *Polk* mines included 251 American Avocets 1 Apr, 273 Stilt Sandpipers 28 Apr, 3700 Semipalmated Sandpipers 19 May, 10,500 Least Sandpipers 13 May, and 390 Long-billed Dowitchers 15 Mar (PT, CGe, PF). Late shorebirds included 2 American Golden-Plovers at *Myakka River S.P.*, *Sarasota* 26 May (RS) and 2 Piping Plovers at *Anclote Key*, *Pasco* 2 May (KT). Among 26 American Oystercatchers at *Little Estero Island*

*C.W.A.* 22 May (CE) were individuals banded in North Carolina, New Jersey, and Virginia (3). A good count of 25 Spotted Sandpipers came from *Port Orange*, *Volusia* 25 Apr (BO). High counts of Solitary Sandpipers were 29 at *Ft. De Soto Park*, *Pinellas* 10 Apr (RS), 52 at *Lake Apopka N.S.R.A.* 21 Apr (HR), and 20 at *Hague* 22 Apr (MM). Probably related to the big fallout (see Table 1) was the Upland Sandpiper at *Key West* 22 Apr (CGo). Rare but regular in Florida, single Hudsonian Godwits graced *St. Vincent N.W.R.* 19-22 May (BSt) and *Alafia Bank*, *Hillsborough* 19-29 May (CC et al., ph.). A flock of 1000 Red Knots at *Ft. George Inlet*, *Duval* 9 May included birds color-marked in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile (PLe). White-rumped Sandpipers were widespread, with 13 reports of 123 individuals 18 Apr-26 May. Unusually large for spring were the 29 Pectoral Sandpipers at *Lake Apopka N.S.R.A.* 11 Apr (HR). An aberrant Dunlin

with an orange bill and legs and white in the plumage was photographed at *Merritt Island N.W.R.* 24 Mar (S. Winston). Presumably the same Curlew Sandpiper was seen in *Duval* 30 Mar (BRi) and 20 May (PLe, ph.). A Wilson's Snipe at *Paynes Prairie Preserve* 26 May+ (SF) was very late, while 3 American Woodcock chicks killed by a cat at *Osteen*, *Volusia* 9 Mar (\*; *vide* AV) furnished very rare proof of breeding in the cen. pen. There was a mini-flight of Red-necked Phalaropes 27 Apr+, with singles at *L. Okeechobee* 8 May (BP, GS) and *Emeralda Marsh* 26-27 May (AL) estab-

lishing firsts for *Okeechobee* and *Lake*, respectively.

## GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A possible first-cycle Yellow-legged Gull at *Tomoka Landfill* 5 Mar (BoW, ph.; under review by F.O.S.R.C.) furnished the first Florida report. Another review species was the Iceland Gull at *Ponce de Leon Inlet* 4-5 Apr (MBo, BoW, ph.). Less rare were single Glaucous Gulls at *Milton*, *Santa Rosa* 30 Mar (HeM) and *Destin*, *Okaloosa* 7 Apr (SB), 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at *L. Okeechobee* 13 Apr (BP et al.), a Black-legged Kittiwake resting on the beach at *Guana Reserve*, *St. Johns* 29 Mar (LMe, ph.), and a Brown Noddy at *Sebastian Inlet S.P.* 31 May (AB et al.). A juv. Black Noddy was found, as usual, at *Dry Tortugas* 19 Apr-5 May (BM, ph.). Trips off *Ponce de Leon Inlet* netted 500+ Sooty Terns and 20 Bridled Terns 3 Apr, and 200 Sooties and 10 Bridleds 3 May (BoW et al.). Fifty other Bridleds were between *Key West* and *Dry Tortugas* 3 May (BM). Two Least Terns at *Lake Apopka N.S.R.A.* 18 Mar were early, and 77 there 15 Apr made a good number of nonbreeders (HR). The 150 Least nests at *Little Estero Island C.W.A.* 12 May were eventually lost to Tropical Storm



A second-cycle Iceland Gull at *Ponce de Leon Inlet*, Florida 4-5 (here 4) April 2007 followed a winter in which two were reported in the state. Photograph by Bob Wallace.

*Barry's storm surge* (CE).

The most significant of many Gull-billed Tern reports included 2 at a Least Tern colony at *L. Okeechobee*, *Glades* 13 Apr (BP et al.), 58, including 13 nests, at *Polk* mines 13 May (CGe, PT), and 70, including 31 nests, at *Four-Corners Mine*, *Hillsborough* 19 May (PF). A small flight of Common Terns 25 May-2 Jun was upstaged by a similar flight of Arctic Terns the same dates (not all were detailed): singles at *Lake Apopka N.S.R.A.* 25 May+ (HR), *Viera* 26 May (TD), *Biscayne N.P.*, *Miami-Dade* 27 May (EA et al., ph. RT),

**Table 1.** Migrants observed during a fallout at Dry Tortugas National Park, Monroe County, Florida, on 19 April 2007.

Species	Totals
Sora	3
Upland Sandpiper	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	150
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	150
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3
Acadian Flycatcher	2
Eastern Kingbird	100
Veery	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4
Wood Thrush	3
Swainson's Thrush	25
Gray Catbird	300
White-eyed Vireo	6
Red-eyed Vireo	5
Blue-winged Warbler	2
Tennessee Warbler	20
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4
Magnolia Warbler	8
Black-throated Green Warbler	5
Blackburnian Warbler	1
Western Palm Warbler	18
Cerulean Warbler	1
American Redstart	20
Worm-eating Warbler	8
Swainson's Warbler	1
Northern Waterthrush	20
Kentucky Warbler	16
Hooded Warbler	45
Summer Tanager	10
Scarlet Tanager	18
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7
Indigo Bunting	65
Dickcissel	1
Orchard Oriole	85
Baltimore Oriole	15
<b>Total individuals</b>	<b>1125</b>

Species listed were not present on 18 April or were present in smaller numbers; 90 species were observed on the 19th, 21 of these warblers. All observations by MG.

Ft. Pierce Inlet, *St. Lucie* 30 May (DS), Boynton Inlet 30 May (BH), and Port Canaveral, *Brevard* 31 May (KL), along with 6 at Ponce de Leon Inlet 28 May–2 Jun (MBo, BoW et al.) and 5 at Sebastian Inlet S.P. 29 May+ (AB et al.). Good counts of Forster's Terns were 201 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 21 Mar (HR) and 349 at *Polk* mines 19 May (PF). The wintering flock of Black Skimmers at L. Okeechobee numbered 1000 on 13 Apr (PG et al.),

while 410 others graced *Polk* mines 13 May (PT, CGe), with 89 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 27 May (HR). A Pomarine Jaeger was observed eating a Ring-billed Gull at New Smyrna Beach 25 May (JWi et al., ph.).

The Budgerigar population in *Pasco* seems limited to 3 birds at Hudson (KT, BP), while the *Hernando* population seems composed of eight pairs breeding in one yard at Hernando Beach (BP). A Black-hooded Parakeet at Spring Hill 9 Mar (DK), the first for *Hernando*, was either a pioneer or a local escapee. Black-billed Cuckoo reports were numerous, with singles at St. George I., *Franklin* 15 Apr (D&SJ, JiC), Key West 18, 21, & 23 Apr (CGo), Gainesville 29 Apr (PLa), Lake Pierce, *Polk* 5 May (JiD), and Cedar Key 26 May (DHe), plus 2 at Dry Tortugas 19 Apr (BM). Cavities in one palm snag at Matheson Hammock Park, *Miami-Dade* 27 Mar simultaneously supported apparent nests of Red-crowned Parrot and Eastern Screech-Owl, while a Red-bellied Woodpecker excavated a new cavity (BAi). One hundred Yellow-billed Cuckoos inundated Key West 11 Apr (CGo). A Barn Owl was a surprise at Dry Tortugas 18 Apr (MG), where casual. Two Lesser Nighthawks remained at Flamingo, Everglades N.P., *Monroe* through 26 Mar (AB et al.). Ten Chuck-will's-widows flew in from the Gulf during mid-morning at Little Estero Lagoon 31 Mar (CE et al.), while another was 97 km off Ponce de Leon Inlet 3 Apr (MBo, BoW). Jacksonville's Calliope Hummingbird remained through 19 Mar (PP). The last-lingering Belted Kingfisher tarried at Viera through 21 May (TD). Red-headed Woodpeckers, clearly migrants, paused at Elliot Key, Biscayne N.P., *Miami-Dade* 9-11 Apr (JV), Honeymoon Island S.P., *Pinellas* 24 Apr (WY), and St. Vincent N.W.R. 18-22 May (BSt).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWING**

Strong easterly winds for much of Apr and May created ideal conditions at the Green Key "Migrant Funnel," New Port Richey (Table 2). This is a stationary count along the cen. Gulf coast in which hundreds of birds—apparently blown across the peninsula and perhaps even over the Gulf of Mexico—head back eastward, then northward within the first hours of daylight. The Brown-crested Flycatcher that wintered at Flamingo, Everglades N.P. was seen until 26 Mar (AB et al.),

**Table 2.** Migrants recorded at the "Migrant Funnel" stationary count, Green Key, New Port Richey, Pasco County, Florida, spring 2007.

Species	Total	High Count	Date
Blackpoll Warbler	940	370	15 May
Palm Warbler	519	87	23 Apr
American Redstart	417	150	15 May
Black-throated Blue Warbler	203	88	15 May
Common Yellowthroat	158	30	15 May
Cape May Warbler	139	57	23 Apr
Prairie Warbler	128	18	22 Apr
Bobolink	373	62	15 May
Gray Catbird	198	33	17 Apr
Indigo Bunting	192	163	19 Apr
Barn Swallow	184	34	12 Apr
Identified warblers	2433	707	15 May
Unidentified warblers	5775	1275	23 Apr

These results digest 44 daily counts, 0630–0900 hours, 31 Mar–31 May. The species listed numbered 100 or more individuals each during the season. All observations by KT et al.

while one at St. George Island S.P. 15 Apr (JiC, †D&SJ) clearly was a migrant. Winter roosts of Western Kingbirds numbered 54 birds at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 23 Mar (HR) and 60 at The Villages, *Marion* 31 Mar (JiD). An Eastern Kingbird at Gainesville 15 Mar (SH) was early, while fallouts of 50 each were noted at Key West 17 Apr (CGo) and Dry Tortugas 19 Apr (BM). Thirty Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at Stock I. 28 Apr (DaF et al.) represented a high count there. Lingering Scissor-taileds were found at Pensacola 19 May (PMc) and Astatula, *Lake* 21 May (GQ).

Very rare in Florida, a Warbling Vireo added to the bounty at Ft. De Soto 16-18 Apr (LA et al.). Equally rare during spring were 2 Philadelphia Vireos at Key West 7 Apr (CGo).

**SA** Representing the first verified record for the United States was a **Loggerhead Kingbird** at Ft. Zachary Taylor S.P., Key West 8-27 Mar (CGo et al., ph., acc.). Its bold crest, blackish cap and nape contrasting with grayish back, prominent white-edged wing coverts and tertials, and white underparts indicate one of three subspecies: from the Cuban mainland, from the Island of Youth, or from Grand Cayman (JGr). Past reports of this species have not been documented adequately, and at least one appears to refer to Giant Kingbird. Required reading on the subject: Smith, P.W., G.E. Woolfenden, and A. Sprunt IV. 2000. The Loggerhead Kingbird in Florida: the evidence revisited. *North American Birds* 54: 235-240.

A Black-whiskered Vireo at Key West 9 Mar+ (CGo et al.) established the earliest date ever in Florida, while one at Captain Forster's Hammock, *Indian River* 12 May (RS, BAh)



Two Bicknell's Thrushes were banded at Cape Florida State Park, Florida 12 May 2007, establishing one of few Florida records; the species apparently migrates through the state in both spring and fall, between breeding areas in the Northeast and wintering grounds in the Greater Antilles. Photograph by Robin Diaz.

represented a spring overshoot. A martin at Key West 28 Mar (CGo, ph.), identified as a Caribbean Martin, is under F.O.S.R.C. review; field identification of *Progne* species from photographs is problematic. A Tree Swallow at Newnans L., Gainesville 24 May+ (ReR) was very late, as was a Bank Swallow at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 30 May (HR). There were eight reports of 11 Cliff Swallows 25 Mar–28 Apr, including 2 at St. George I. 15 Apr (AW) and 3 at Cape Canaveral 16 Apr (TD). Cave Swallows of the *pallida* (*pelodoma*) subspecies were reported at Ft. Pickens 12 Apr (2; BD, LD) and Bald Pt., Franklin 15 Apr (3; JM); 15 at Cape Canaveral 16 Apr (TD) were also thought to be of this subspecies. A Brown Creeper along the Choctawhatchee R., Holmes 20 Apr (JuS) furnished one of the latest reports in the state.

Lingerers from the winter's invasion were 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets at Goethe S.E., Levy 8 Mar (BAh) and one at Gainesville 27 Mar (ES). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Dry Tortugas 3 May (BM) furnished a rare report for the park. Two Bicknell's Thrushes were banded at Cape Florida S.P. 12 May (MD, RD, ph., acc.), establishing one of few confirmed Florida records. A Hermit Thrush tarried at Gainesville through 1 May (SF), with another at Dry Tortugas 4 May (BM, ph.). A minor flight of Wood Thrushes occurred 16–23 Apr, with at least 7 at Green Key 17 Apr (KT, BP) and 3 at Ft. De Soto 23 Apr (BAh et al.). All quite rare at the Dry Tortugas, a Northern Mockingbird 28 Apr–4 May (CGo, BM) was joined by a Bahama Mockingbird 4–5 May (BM, ph.), and both were preceded by a Brown Thrasher

20–23 Apr (MG). Other Bahama Mockingbirds enlivened Evergreen Cemetery, Ft. Lauderdale, Broward 7–8 Apr (MS et al.) and Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade 9 May (JBo et al.). Good numbers of Cedar Waxwings staged this spring, with 500 at Miami 21 Mar (JBo), 2240 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 8 Apr (HR; the 2nd highest Florida count), 400 at West Kendall, Miami-Dade 12 Apr (JBo), and 200 at Emerald Marsh C.A. 11 May (JiD).

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

There were 14 reports of 22 Blue-winged Warblers 4–21 Apr, with 3 at Cedar Key 17 Apr (MJ) and 4 at Ft. De Soto 11 Apr (BAh, JGa), and single Golden-winged Warblers at St. Marks 28 Apr

**SA** Found by three birders from St. Louis, the first-alternate male *alba* White Wagtail at Moon Lake Park, New Port Richey 18–19 & 22 Mar (DFa et al., ph., note to *Florida Field Naturalist* by BP) enthralled the few birders who saw it during its erratic visits. The wagtail furnished the first record for Florida (acc. by F.O.S.R.C. as state species #500) and the 5th for the Southeast; none has lingered longer than six days after discovery.

(DHo) and Viera 12 May (DaF et al.). A female Brewster's Warbler enlivened Key West 11 Apr (CGo). Warblers at Cape Florida include 24 Black-throated Blues banded 11 May, 152 Prairies 8 Apr, 120 Blackpolls 12 May, 134 American Redstarts (54 banded) 11 May and 450 (28 banded) 12 May, 27 Ovenbirds banded 28 Apr and 100 (27 banded) 9 May, 50 Northern Waterthrushes 9 May, and 200 Common Yellowthroats (31 banded) 10 May,



Florida's second Spotted Towhee turned up at Alligator Point, Franklin County on 10 March 2007 and remained through 24 (here 21) April. Photograph by Deanna Murphy.

225 (87 banded) 11 May, and 420 (55 banded) 12 May (RD). Good counts of warblers at Key West were 40 Blackpoll Warblers 29–30 Apr, 50 Black-and-white Warblers 23 Apr, 50 Ovenbirds 11 Apr, and 100 Common Yel-

lowthroats 23 Apr (CGo). A surprising 8 Nashville Warblers, all singles, were reported from Leon to Miami-Dade. Lingering Yellow-rumped Warblers were found at Newnans Lake 13 May (JBr) and Gainesville 15 May (RoR).

Simpson discovered a female Kirtland's Warbler, the 4th record for Florida, at Sebastian Inlet S.P. 10 May, which remained for two more days (RS, ph.). There were six reports totaling 7 Cerulean Warblers 16–28 Apr, including 2 at Ft. De Soto 21 Apr (PF), and nine reports totaling 21 Swainson's Warblers, including 10 at Key West 11 Apr (CGo) and 7 at Ft. De Soto 11 Apr (JGa, BAh et al.). Connecticut Warblers were also reported more frequently than usual, with 14 reports of 21 individuals 9–23 May, all singles or duos except for trios at Ft. De Soto 23 May (TD) and Plantation Key 8 May (BM). Fifteen other Connecticut Warblers were banded at Cape Florida 8–12 May, and a Mourning Warbler was observed there 8 May (RD). The 2 wintering

Western Tanagers at Tallahassee were last seen 19 Apr (FR). Three separate Western Spindalises were found in the state: the green-backed male that continued at Evergreen Cemetery, Ft. Lauderdale through 28 Apr (MBE et al.), and females discovered at Oleta River S.P., Miami-Dade 27 Apr (†VR) and Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Boca Raton, Palm Beach 28–29 Apr (PC, BH et al.).

A Spotted Towhee at Alligator Pt., Franklin 10 Mar–24 Apr (JM et al., ph.) furnished the 2nd record for Florida. Unusual was the Lark Sparrow heard singing at Bradenton, Manatee 4 Mar (JeD). Three Le Conte's Sparrows were banded in native dry prairie at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve 10 Mar (MK). Late or lingering sparrows included single Savannah Sparrows at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. (HR) and at Polk mine (PT, CGe), both 13 May, 2 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in w. Pasco 1 May (KT), a Song Sparrow in Walton 12 May (JWa), a Swamp Sparrow at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 9 May (HR), and a White-throated Sparrow at Dry Tortugas 3 May (BM). Always a good find, Lincoln's Sparrows brightened Falling Waters S.P., Washington 27 Mar (BAh), Long Key S.P., Monroe 8 Apr (BM), Key West 10 Apr

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(CGo), and Dry Tortugas 19 Apr (BM). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made news nearly statewide; the proprietor of a birding-supply store at Gainesville received calls from about 40 people whose feeders were visited by grosbeaks on 21 Apr, and numerous other observers reported similar events. The second-year male Lazuli Bunting at Oviedo 4-6 Apr (MA et al., ph.) furnished the 4th record for Florida. Large numbers of Indigo Buntings were associated with the 19 Apr fallout, with 250 at Ft. De Soto (LA, JGa et al.), 163 at Green Key (Table 2), 100 over Palm Harbor, Pinellas in 1.5 hours (MK), and 80 at Key West (CGo). The fallout reached the e. coast as well, with many Jacksonville feeders reporting 20 at a time, and one yard at Palatka, Putnam supported 100 buntings at once (*vide* PP). A female Painted Bunting at New Port Richey 31 May (ED) was quite late.

The only triple-digit count of Bobolinks away from Green Key (Table 2) was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., where 595 were found 29 Apr (HR). Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds brightened *Calhoun* 6 Mar (TMc), Punta Gorda, *Charlotte* 30 Mar (TL, TZ, ph.), and Ft. Walton Beach W.T.P. 14 Apr (BD). The male Brewer's Blackbird at Homestead, *Miami-Dade* 19 Mar (JBo, LaM, ph.) apparently furnished the first record for the s. peninsula. Mulrooney observed all three cowbird species at Eagle Lakes Park 28 Apr. Shiny Cowbirds totaled 11 reports of 17 individuals, with the northernmost being one at Alligator Pt. 22 May (JM); a specimen was taken in *Alachua* 29 May (MR). Numbers of Orchard Orioles included 85 at Key West (see Table 1), 15 at Clearwater, *Pinellas* 20 Apr (LC), and 20 at Ft. De Soto 21 Apr (PF et al.). The Bullock's Oriole that wintered at Tallahassee remained through 12 Mar (FR, JiC). Gainesville's wintering Purple Finch stayed through 10 Mar (RoR), while the appearance of 8 others at Niceville, *Okaloosa* 12 May (†PB et al.) was difficult to explain. House Finches showed up in several new areas, among them pairs at Vero Beach, *Indian River* 9 May (BiW), Dunedin, *Pinellas* 27-28 May (SRo), and Brandon, *Hillsborough* (DG), with 10+ at San Antonio, *Pasco* (SPh).

### UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS

Single White-faced Whistling-Ducks—presumably escapees—enlivened *Walsingham* Park, *Pinellas* 23 Mar (IH, ph.) and *Lakeland*, *Polk* 29 Apr–May (HMo, JoC, ph.). The juv. Trumpeter Swan in a canal in rural *Okeechobee* 27 Apr–2 May (PG, PMi et al., B&LC, ph.) furnished a bizarre record—only the 2nd for Florida. A nesting pair of Superb Starlings (*Lamprotornis superbus*), native to Africa,

brought color to a Hallandale Beach, *Broward* intersection in May (LaM, ph.) and was the latest nesting exotic to be verified in Florida. Further colonization of Common Mynas was provided by pairs at Punta Gorda (TZ et al.), Ft. Myers (CE), and *Flamingo* 27 May (MBe).

Cited observers (regional editors of the Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee in boldface): Mary Acken, Brian Ahern (BAh), Bruce Aikins (BAi), Elsa Alvear, Bruce H. Anderson (BHA), Lyn Atherton, Pat Baker, Andy Bankert, Steve Barlow, Mark Berney (MBe), Bill & Jan Bolte (B&JB), John Boyd (JBo), Michael Brothers (MBr), Judy Bryan (JBr), John Callaghan (JoC), Carol Casels, Jim Cavanagh (JiC), Liz Childress, Roger Clark, Pinya Cohen, Buck & Linda Cooper (B&LC), Judy Cooke (JuC), Michelle Davis, Robin Diaz, James Dinsmore (JaD), Jim DuBois (JiD), Eva DuPuis, Jeanne Dubi (JeD), Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Tom Dunkerton, Charlie Ewell, David Faintich (DFa), Paul Fellers, Scott Flamand, David Freeland (DaF), Dot Freeman (DoF), Jere French, Jill Gaetzi (JGa), Murray Gardler, Chuck Geanangel (CGe), Carl Goodrich (CGo), David Goodwin, Paul Gray, Jon Greenlaw (Jgr), Rick Green-spun, Al & Bev Hansen (A&BH), Dale Henderson (DHe), Irene Hernandez, Steve Hofstetter, Brian Hope, David Houle (DHo), John Humphrey, Marcy Jones, Dean & Sally Jue (D&SJ), Don Knodle, Marianne Korosy, Ken LaBorde, Phil Laipis (PLa), Pat Leary (PLe), Tony Licata, Angela Luzader, Lorne Malo (LoM), Mike Manetz, Larry Manfredi (LaM), Travis McClendon (TMC), Powers McLeod (PMC), Linda Melch (LMe), Gail Menk, Paul Miller (PMi), Trey Mitchell (TMi), Heidi Moore (HeM), Herman Moulden (HMo), Brennan Mulrooney, John Murphy, Brenda Orr, Scott Patterson (SPa), Mauri Peterson, Sharon Phillips (SPh), Peggy Powell, Bill Pranty, Gallus Quigley, Stefan Rayer (SRa), Diane Reed (DRe), Matthew Reetz, Bob Richter (BRi), Tom Ritchie, Bryant Roberts (BRo), Dotty Robbins (DRo), Harry Robinson, Ron Robinson (RoR), Susan Robinson (SRo), Larry Rosen, Victoria Rothman, Rex Rowan (ReR), Fran Rutkovsky, Earl Scales, Greg Schrott, David Simpson, Bud Skiba (BSk), Ron Smith, Justyn Stahl (JuS), Barbara Stedman (BSt), Jim Stevenson (JiS), Monte Stickel, Pete Timmer, Roberto Torres, Ken Tracey, Juan Valadez, Alex Vinokur, Billi Wagner (BiW), Bob Wallace (BoW), John Walton (JWa), Don Ware, Jennifer Winters (JWi), Ed Woodruff, Andy Wraithmell, Wilfred Yusek, Tom Zinneman. ☺

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Matthew L. Holder

As the lingering wintering birds extended their stay into the spring period, returning migrants began to arrive in Ontario on schedule, only to have winter-like conditions hit the province again in April. A shift to seasonal temperatures in late April accelerated the rate of migrant arrival, and a number of record-early species were noted in certain regions. Weather conditions on May 15 created fallouts in southern Ontario, leading to an exciting situation for many birders who were able to take the time mid-week to find the large numbers of landbirds seeking shelter. Interesting vagrants included Western Grebe, Snowy Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Sprague's Pipit, Townsend's Warbler, and Cassin's Sparrow.

**Abbreviations:** L.P.B.O. (Long Point B.O., *Norfolk*); N.P.H (Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch, *Niagara*); P. E. Pt. (Prince Edward Pt., *Prince Edward*); 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 IBISES

It was another good spring for Greater White-fronted Geese, with 4 at Long Pt., *Norfolk* 16 Mar–Apr (DS), 2 near Bourget, *Prescott & Russell* 25 Mar (*fide* CL), and one in Ottawa 26–27 Apr (TB). However, truly remarkable were the 35 birds at St. Clair N.W.A., *Chatham-Kent* 23 Mar (*fide* JGH), surpassed by the 37 at St. Joseph I., *Algoma* 27–28 Mar (BK), with 19 of this flock found to the n. at Echo Bay 1–3 Apr (KZ). Single Ross's Geese were at Long Pt., *Norfolk* 2 Mar–Apr (RR), near St. Isadore, *Prescott & Russell* 21 Apr (BY), and near Echo Bay, *Algoma* 1–3 Apr (KZ), the latter bird prob-

ably from the flock of 3 at nearby St. Joseph I. 28 Mar (KM, KZ). Alfred, *Prescott & Russell* hosted 2 Ross's Geese 7–9 May (JB), then 4 on 12 May (JB). A strong flight of Brant during May peaked with 5500 at Kingston, *Frontenac* 22 May (KFN). Single Eurasian Wigeons were at Big Cr., *Norfolk* 20–21 Mar (S&DJ), Port Rowan, *Norfolk* 23 Mar (ME), Reesor Pond, *York* 21 Apr (SLO), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* 21 Apr (GG), Amherst I., *Frontenac* 21 Apr–17 May (J&BM et al.), and Ripley s.l., *Bruce* 29–30 Apr (JT). A single male King Eider was at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 22–31 Mar (AW), and perhaps a different bird flew past the Tip 15 May (RC, KAM et al.). The usual smattering of Harlequin Ducks lingered from the winter at various s. Ontario locales, but 2 at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 7 May (JMT, RGT, MH) were noteworthy. Record early for Algonquin P.P., *Nipissing* were 4 Surf Scoters at L. of Two Rivers 1 May (KC, CDJ, JPe). Lingered Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Remic Rapids, *Ottawa*, and *Presqu'ile P.P.*, *Northumberland* through 11 Mar and at Strathcona Park, *Ottawa* 20 Mar, and a female was at P. E. Pt. 24 Mar (JHE, VPM, RDW et al.). A male Ruddy Duck at Emo s.l. 26 Apr (DHE) was rare for *Rainy River*.

Long Pt.'s first ever Pacific Loon was at Breakwater 19 & 21 May (EH, FIN), and an imm. was at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 30 May (BRH, LR). A good number of Eared Grebes was noted around the province, with as many as 13 observations and a total of four observations at the Tip of Pt. Pelee in Apr, including 2 there 14 Apr (PDP et al.). The first was at Humber Bay, *Toronto* 15 Mar (JS, JF) followed by one at Grimsby s.l., *Niagara* 30 Mar–30 Apr (CEE, DRD) for the area's earliest record. Other singles were at Ward's I., *Toronto* 9 Apr (NMU, MLV, EO), Long Pt. 17 Apr (LPBO), Colonel Samuel Smith Park, *Toronto* 20 Apr (NM), *Townsend s.l.*, *Haldimand* 21 Apr (KGB, MBu et al.), *Grand Bend s.l.*, *Lambton* 15 May (*fide* AR), and *Emo s.l.* and *Rainy River s.l.* in *Rainy River* 18 May (DHE). A Western Grebe was at Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* 9 Mar–8 Apr (RL, GC), and likely a 2nd bird was off Bronte, *Halton* 5–9 Apr (MWJ). Single American White Pelicans were at Cook's Bay, *York* 9–11 May (AD), *London, Middlesex* 21–22 May (BMc), and *Mitchell s.l.*, *Perth* 30 May (NK, GM). Two were at *Rondeau P.P.*, *Chatham-Kent* 19–25 May (m.ob.), and 3 were at *L. Nipissing, Nipissing* 27–30 May (TF).

A record-early Least Bittern for *Hamilton* was at *Hamilton Mt.* 26 Apr (PS et al.), and one was n. to *North Bay, Nipissing* 22 May (NNC). An ad. Little Blue Heron was at *Toronto* 20 Apr (ph. GJ et al.), and another at *St. Catherine's, Niagara* 13–16 May (S. Tay-

lor). A Green Heron was photographed at *Silver Harbour C.A.*, *Thunder Bay* 18 May (MRI), and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was in *Ottawa* 9 Apr (MRo). An unidentified ibis was at *Hillman Marsh, Essex* 29 Apr (*fide* AW), and single Glossy Ibis were at *Collingwood, Simcoe* 12–15 May (ph. D&JM), *Nepean, Ottawa* 16 May (*fide* CL), and *Casselman s.l.*, *Prescott & Russell* 20 May (BB, CL et al.), the latter moving to *Winchester s.l.*, *Storront-Dundas-Glengarry* 23 May (DBt, JR).

## VULTURES THROUGH SANDPIPERS

A Black Vulture was at *Long Pt.* 29–30 Apr (FIN, SAM), and another was *Pt. Pelee* 3 May (KGB et al.). An Osprey at *Cayuga, Haldimand* 17 Mar was record early for the area (L&AT). An imm. Mississippi Kite was at *Pt. Pelee N.P.* 11–18 May (MDF, SF, EAS). Very rare in the e., 2 apparently different dark-morph Broad-winged Hawks were noted in Apr: a bird in second-basic plumage (in its 3rd calendar year) at *Beamer C.A.*, *Niagara* 24 Apr (ph., RC, NPH), and a juv. (in its 2nd calendar year) at *Burlington, Halton* 26 Apr (TT). Away from the more traditional wintering areas in cen. Ontario, a migrant Golden Eagle was at *Pt. Pelee* 17 Mar (IMR).

A Yellow Rail was heard at *Long Point P.P.*, *Norfolk* 24 May (MDB), and remarkably, a King Rail was reported from *Pumpkin Marsh, Algoma* 29–30 May (KZ). A Sora heard in a marsh along Hwy. 60 on 29 Apr (BMD) was record early for *Algonquin P.P.* Several observations of migrating released Whooping Cranes were made at *Wheatley, Chatham-Kent* 23 Mar (GTH), in the *London* and *Long Pt.* areas in Apr (TBo, P&SH; JR, SAM), and in *Nepean, Ottawa* 26 May (TB, G&HS). A high count of 3832 Black-bellied Plovers was noted near *Merlin, Chatham-Kent* 27 May (AW), while the maximum count for *American Golden-Plover* near *Merlin* was 320 on 8 May (AW). A *Snowy Plover* lingered at *Pelee I.*, *Essex* 29 May–1 Jun (ph. ACP et al.), and a female *Black-necked Stilt* stayed for just one day at *Hillman Marsh, Essex* 22 May (ph. STP, MJSi). Three *American Avocets* were at *SE and SW Hillman Marsh* 5 May (MK, MAK), then at *NW Hillman Marsh* 16 May (*fide* AW). Single avocets were at *Grand Bend s.l.*, *Lambton* 10 May (RT) and *Leslie Street Spit, Toronto* 22 May (DD). Single *Willetts* were reported from *Durham, Niagara* and as far e. as *Alfred, Prescott & Russell* (JB) in May, but flocks were reported in Apr, the largest being 20 near *Pt. Pelee* 28 Apr (STP, IMR, GBM). Large numbers of *Whimbrels* were reported from w. L. Ontario during May, but especially noteworthy was a white-rumped bird (either the nominate subspecies or *variegatus*) on

Amherst I., *Frontenac* 22 May (BR). Away from sw. Ontario, single Marbled Godwits were at Amherst I. 1-5 May (JHE, VPM et al.), St. Isadore, *Prescott & Russell* 20-25 May (JB, CB) and Alfred, *Prescott & Russell* 23 May (*vide* CL). Pt. Pelee hosted a late Purple Sandpiper 15 May (BRH, EWH) and a male Ruff 24 May (AW, GLS, SES).

## GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Single Laughing Gulls were near Leamington, *Essex* 22 Mar (AW), at Bronte harbor, *Halton* 7 May (MWJ), at Long Pt. 16-19 May (SAM, FIN, EH et al.), near Wheatley Harbour, *Chatham-Kent* 19 May (BRH, GTH), and at Pt. Pelee 23 May (BRH, LR). In *Northumberland*, Cobourg's bird of the spring was a long-staying Laughing Gull at the harbor, 4 Mar-21 May (KN). Two were at Pelee I. 25 & 27 May (ACP) and at Black Willow Beach, *Essex* 26 May (STP, CG). A Franklin's Gull was at Wheatley Harbour 2 May (DSH, IS). A rare melanistic imm. Bonaparte's Gull was at Pt. Pelee 9 May (KAM). An apparent Herring Gull × Great Black-backed Gull hybrid was at Wheatley Harbour 27 Apr (AW), and up to 2 Great Black-backed Gulls were at Thunder Bay 30 Apr-5 May (GGO, KW, AHa). A Caspian Tern at Hamilton 28 Mar (RZD) marked a record-early arrival for the area.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was n. to Bala, *Muskoka* 26 May (D&NM). An exciting but saddening roadkill was a Barn Owl found near Wheatley, *Chatham-Kent* 16 Apr (*vide* PAW). A perched Chuck-will's-widow was found at Long Point P.P., *Norfolk* 12 May (JG), and another was at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 13-14 May (DWL, GML). The Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Hamilton Mt. 11 Apr (*vide* CC) was record early for Hamilton. Both very rare woodpeckers in *Thunder Bay*, a Red-headed Woodpecker visited a Pine Bay feeder 5-9 May (ph. S&RI), and single Red-bellied Woodpeckers were at Marathon 10 May (PC) and T.C.B.O. 18 May (AH, RG, MR). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was record early at Algonquin P.P. 30 Apr (ADo, RGT). Algonquin reported the largest irruption of American Three-toed Woodpeckers ever seen in the park this past winter, with the last observation on 12 May (WP).

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

It was a poor spring for rare flycatchers, with the usual Acadian Flycatchers seen on migration at s. Ontario locations and a Western Kingbird at Hurkett, *Thunder Bay* 22 May (BMO). A Black-billed Magpie associating with a flock of Blue Jays was at Cabot Head B.O., *Bruce* 14 May (TC, RS, DR et al.) but did not

linger for anyone else to spot this rare visitor to s. Ontario. At P. E. Pt., 22 Apr brought peaks of 110 Brown Creepers, 110 Golden-crowned Kinglets, and 400 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*vide* RTS). The wintering Varied Thrush at Selkirk P.P., *Haldimand* remained through 3 Mar (JH), and another was at Port Britain, *Northumberland* 29 Apr (GL). Brown Thrashers at Thunder Bay 6 May (FJ) and Pine Bay (S&RI) were rare sights in *Thunder Bay*.

It was a noteworthy spring for rare warblers, with many migrant overshoots and a few w. vagrants. Observers at Thunder Cape banded a Golden-winged Warbler 8 May (JW) and observed another 12 May (T.C.B.O.). Rare in Ontario, an Audubon's Warbler was at Presqu'île P.P., *Northumberland* 27 & 30 Apr (MB). The rarest warbler of the spring was an ad. male Townsend's Warbler at Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* 5 May (GS). The first Yellow-throated Warbler of the spring was identified as *dominica* at Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* 26-30 Apr (KDi). Others, of which at least some were identified as *abilora*, were at Long Pt., *Norfolk* (RR, SAM) and Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* (SL et al.), both 9 May, at Leslie Street Spit, Toronto 11 May (ph. DD), at Pt. Pelee N.P. 15 May (CH, RM, SM et al.), and n. to Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* 19 May (AH, RG, MR). A Pine Warbler at Hamilton 5 Apr was record early for the Region (BSC), and 2 Palm Warblers at Bronte, *Halton* 6 Apr (MC, JH) were also record early for the Hamilton area. An imm. female Kirtland's Warbler was at Pt. Pelee 14 May (RLW, KAM), followed by a male there 21-23 May (GBM); an imm. male Kirtland's was at Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* 18 May (BAM). A Bay-breasted Warbler at Cauliflower L. 6 May (DTo) was record early for Algonquin P.P. Outside of their usual occurrence in the spring, Prothonotary Warblers appeared at Tobermory, *Bruce* 15 May (M&GW) and Ottawa 28-30 May (BRo). A total of 7 Worm-eating Warblers was tallied in the P.P.B.A. in May (m.ob.), with the only other one reported occurring at Long Pt. 9 May (JG). North of its usual range in the province, a Louisiana Waterthrush was at Komoka, *Middlesex* 18 May (BM). Within Pt. Pelee N.P., *Essex*, 11 Kentucky Warblers were noted from 23 Apr-24 May (m.ob.). Elsewhere, single Kentucky Warblers were at Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* 30 Apr (DBr, MO) and 22 May (JL), at P. E. Pt. 9 (RTS et al.) & 19 May (RTS et al.), at Cootes Paradise, Hamilton 17 May (RZD, CEE), and at the Tip of Long Pt., *Norfolk* 27-28 May (ph. SAM). One of the more interesting observations of the spring was a possible hybrid warbler at Fanshawe Lake C.A.,

*Middlesex* 21 May (JMcG), exhibiting characteristics of both Mourning Warbler and Common Yellowthroat. It was vocalizing like a Common Yellowthroat but looked more like a Mourning Warbler, except for its whitish throat and upper breast. Three Hooded Warblers were at P. E. Pt. 11-23 May (m.ob.), and up to 5 Yellow-breasted Chats were there 9-19 May (DO).

Seven Summer Tanagers were at Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* during May (m.ob.), and 10 were at Pt. Pelee N.P. 4-19 May (m.ob.), including one at Tilden's Woods eating honeybees from a hive, a behavior regularly observed in the park (STP, DK, KK). Elsewhere, Summer Tanagers were at P. E. Pt. 13 & 23 May (*vide* RTS), Long Pt. P.P., *Norfolk* 16 & 26 May (RR), Oungah, *Chatham-Kent* 18 May (AVE), and High Park, Toronto 25 May (SMF).

The Eastern Towhee at Westover 14 Mar (BNC) represented *Hamilton's* earliest record. A highlight of the spring was a Cassin's Sparrow banded and photographed at the Tip of Long Pt., *Norfolk* 30 May (FIN, DRB), Long Pt.'s 2nd ever. Single Lark Sparrows were at Sturgeon Cr., *Essex* 28 Apr (JEB, DWB), at the Tip of Pt. Pelee 11 May (JBL), and at Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Toronto 21 May (WER). The Lark Sparrow near Walsingham, *Norfolk* 12 May grew to 2 singing birds into Jun (CEs, m.ob.). The Lark Bunting at Ruthven, *Essex* 9-10 May (HB, MBr) was photographed, as was the male Lark Bunting way to the n. in Minnikataki, *Kenora* 25 May (CE). The Savannah Sparrow at Beamsville, *Niagara* 13 Mar (BNC) provided an early record for the area. A total of 8 Henslow's Sparrows in Point Pelee N.P. was a great showing for this species, with the earliest ever seen 17 Mar (ACP). Away from Pt. Pelee, another was at Concession Road A, *Norfolk* 25 Apr (*vide* SAM). A Le Conte's Sparrow was record early at Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* 10 Mar (BAM). Three were at Pt. Pelee during the spring (m.ob.), another was at Toronto Island Airport 10 May (DB, JPs), and one was at Long Pt. 24 May (LPBO). Single Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Long Pt. 8 May (L.P.B.O.), at Sturgeon Cr., *Essex* 16 May (STP), and at Pt. Pelee N.P. 18 (HTO) & 22 May (BRH, LR). The Harris's Sparrow visiting a feeder near Bloomfield, *Prince Edward* remained until at least 25 Apr (NF); another was at Long Pt. P.P., *Norfolk* 28-29 Apr (K&RB).

The ad. male Northern Cardinal singing at Beaver Pond Trail 15 May (DA) was both very rare for Algonquin P.P., *Nipissing* and record early. Blue Grosbeaks were at Emsdale, *Parry Sound* 2-4 May (KD), Hungry Hollow, *Middlesex* 9-10 May (JPC), Pelee I., *Essex* 11 May

(RTy, DP), and Longlac, *Thunder Bay* 23 May (FJ). Single Dickcissels were at Pt. Pelee N.P. 15 (MJS, WW) & 27 May (RP, CS, JR), and an imm. male was banded and observed at Long Pt., *Norfolk* 26-29 May (TTH, SAM). A strong flight of Rusty Blackbirds at P. E. Pt. mid-Mar–late Apr peaked at 185 on 29 Apr (KFN).

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## Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



**Victor W. Fazio, III**  
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March began with a quick thaw of the late-winter snows of February. This melting of an especially thick snow pack left widespread agricultural flooding throughout the western till plains into early April, providing a very hospitable environment for migrant waterfowl. Late March was marked, as it has been normally of late, with dramatic warmth from southern climes. This brought record arrival dates for a few species, but the effect was neither so pervasive nor so pronounced as in previous years. The warm

spell was replaced by a dramatic return to winter in early April. In the east, mid-April was marked by a severe coastal storm, and its attendant heavy precipitation had immediate impacts on birds and birding. In the west, the inclement weather held up migration for weeks, allowing for a tremendous release of migrants the 23-24 April that was marked by record concentrations and a few rarities. Wave migration, with strong and frequent fallouts, was the norm into May, even as the month grew drier than normal. This led to some remarkable tallies of Neotropical migrants for mist-netting operations. For all its ups and downs, this was a fairly typical spring migration, despite the pendulum swings of weather and migratory movements. A first state record for West Virginia came in the form of Red Knot. Apart from lingering rarities from the winter season, the outstanding find had to be the Yellow-billed Loon in Pennsylvania, a state first. And finally, acceptance of a Red-naped Sapsucker and White-throated Swift from spring 2006 added to the Ohio state list.

**Abbreviations:** B.E.S.P. (Bald Eagle S.P., Centre, PA); B.S.B.O. (Black Swamp B. O., OH); B.C.S.P. (Buck Creek S.P., Clark, OH); C.F. Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, PA; Conneaut (Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula, OH); C.C.S.P. (Caesar Creek S.P., Warren/Greene, OH); C.F.R. (Clear Fork Res., Richland/Morrow, OH); G.L.R. (Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA); Green Bottom (Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell/Mason, WV); Headlands (Headlands Beach S.P. & N.P., Lake, OH); Hoover (Hoover Res., Delaware/Franklin, OH); H.W.S.P. (Hueston Woods S.P., Preble/Butler, OH); I.B.A. (Important Bird Area); Killbuck (Killbuck Marsh W.M.A., Wayne/Holmes, OH); Longbrakes (Longbrake Wetlands, Hardin, OH); L.N. (L. Nockamixon, Bucks, PA); L.O. (L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA); M.C.W.M.A. (Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster/Lebanon, PA); Magee (Magee Marsh W.M.A., Lucas/Ottawa, OH); Metzger (Metzger Marsh W.A., Lucas, OH); M.W.W. (Miami Whitewater Wetlands, Hamilton, OH); Ottawa (Ottawa N.W.R., Lucas/Ottawa, OH); P.M.C. (Pennsylvania Migration Count; 12 May); P.W.T. (Penn Warner



This Yellow-billed Loon at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 4-7 (here 6) May 2007 represented a first state record and was well documented by many. Photograph by Christopher Bohinski.

Tract, Bucks, PA); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); R.C.B. (Robert C. Byrd Lock & Dam, Mason, WV); Shawnee (Shawnee S.P. & S.F., Scioto, OH); S.L. (Struble L., Chester, PA); Spring Valley (Spring Valley W.M.A., Warren/Greene, OH); S.R. (Susquehanna R., Dauphin, PA); W.V.D.N.R. (West Virginia Department of Natural Resources); Y.C.S.P. (Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana, PA).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

The high count of Greater White-fronted Geese was 3 at G.L.R. 1 Mar (KFC). Still noteworthy in spring in Ohio, a Cackling Goose was at Spring Valley 8 Mar (JHg); 2 appeared 17 Mar in Hardin, OH (RC) and 2 the next day in Auglaize, OH (RA). Snow Goose numbers at M.C.W.M.A. peaked at 180,000 over 8-11 Mar (m.ob.), and 3 Ross's Geese were there 25 Mar (RK, AMa). Another Ross's was in Berks, PA 26 Mar (KFC). One was studied in Holmes, OH 9-10 Apr (*fide* BG, AN). A Ross's Goose was at Green Bottom 4-12 Mar (J. Waggy, DP, MG, GR) and one at Cowan L., Clinton, OH 3-8 Mar (ph. RA, B. Powell). Up to 3000 Tundra Swans were present at M.C.W.M.A. 8-11 Mar (*fide* MM); other good counts included 429 at L.O. 10-11 Mar (RKe) and 500 over Howard, Centre, PA 25 Mar (B. Snyder). A Eurasian Wigeon was at Killbuck 22 Apr (RT), possibly the same bird as one earlier at nearby Funk Bottoms W.M.A., Wayne, OH 22-26 Mar (LY et al., JMc, m.ob.); other males were at Ottawa 8 Apr (JP) and at M.C.W.M.A. 4 Mar (B. Carl, D. Gochnauser). An excellent count of 2200 Northern Pintails was made at L.O. 17 Mar (RKe); a late pintail was at G.L. 29 May (GF). A Eurasian Teal was at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia 8 Mar-5 Apr (T. Fellenbaum, m.ob.), and a Green-winged Teal × Eurasian Teal intergrade was at C.F. 19-21 Apr (BS).

Waterfowl concentrations in the Scioto R. valley were notable, e.g., 4000 Mallards, 400 Northern Pintails, 500 American Wigeons,

and 1200 Ring-necked Ducks at Deer Creek S.P., Pickaway, OH 6 Mar (RR). The 570 Ring-necked Ducks at Green Bottom 10 Mar (MG, DP) were noteworthy, as were up to 1580 at Big Island W.M.A., Marion, OH 1 Apr (VF), where accompanied by 480 Red-heads and 715 Lesser Scaup. The 476 Redheads and 40 Greater Scaup at East Fork L., Clermont 7 Mar (RF) were outstanding counts for sw. Ohio. In and around East Harbor S.P., Ottawa, OH 2 Apr, the scaup concentration of 9800 included no fewer than 500 Greater (VF). The species was reported on L. Erie throughout the season, with one late bird noted at Maumee Bay S.P., Lucas, OH 26 May (JMc). *Aythya* ducks lingered in Ohio, with 2 Lesser Scaup at Longbrakes 29 May (RC), a Redhead in Portage 26 May (GB), and a Canvasback in Trumbull, OH 15 May (CB), where accompanied by a Surf Scoter. A Canvasback at Green Bottom 22 May (GR) was record late for West Virginia. The return sea duck flight was average in the w., with just 32 Surf Scoters in Ohio led by 8-10 at C.F.R. 16-17 Apr (RT, BW); in the e., sea duck reports abounded: throughout Pennsylvania, up to 30 Surf Scoters 5 Apr-2 May and more than 100+ White-winged Scoters 7 Mar-2 May were reported. Three White-winged Scoters across West Virginia included a county first for Jefferson 16 Apr (MO). Black Scoters numbered 2 in Beaver, PA 15 Mar (GM), one in Chester, PA 17 Apr (RCo), and one inland Ohio bird in Guernsey 24 Mar (ES). A fall-out of ducks at B.E.S.P. 15 Apr included 27 White-winged Scoters and 224 Long-tailed Ducks (AW). Elsewhere the same day, another 77 Long-tailed Ducks were on the S.R., Dauphin (DH, CR); one in Paulding, OH 6 May was unexpected (D. & M. Dunakin); and 2 were still at Canaan Valley N.W.R., Tucker, WV 16 Apr (K. Sturm). The 555 Buffleheads around Kelleys I., Erie, OH 23 Apr (TB) and 400 at Y.C.S.P. 2 May (LC) were indicative of the late season. Hooded Merganser × Common Goldeneye hybrids continue within the Region. One was at Lorain Harbor, Lorain 17 Mar (JP) and another 15 Mar at P.I.S.P. (K. Goodblood, J. Stanley). Lingering Common Goldeneyes included 2 at C.F. 15 May (BS) and 2 at Longbrakes 18 May (RC). Roughly 15,000-20,000 Red-breasted Mergansers were at P.I.S.P. in early Apr (JM). Potentially breeding, a pair of Ruddy Ducks was

present at Longbrakes 29 May (RC).

Four Red-throated Loons were reported across Ohio 31 Mar-15 Apr (JP, RTh et al.), while 12 were reported in Pennsylvania 2 Mar-15 May. An average Regional flight saw a maximum Common Loon concentration in Pennsylvania of 115 on Ambridge Res., Beaver 16 Apr (MV, GM). Vying for Regional highlight of the season was the remarkable ad. Yellow-billed Loon on the S.R. near Harrisburg, Cumberland/Dauphin, PA 4-7 May (ph. CR, ph. JH, vt. RW, m.ob.) for a first state record. The bird was observed feeding mainly on crayfish. Ohio Eared Grebes were in Highland, OH 10 Mar (JMn et al.), at Killbuck 18 Mar (C. Fol-loway et al.), at Conneaut 14 Apr (CH), and in Huron, OH 22 Apr (TK), while up to 2 were in Lake, OH 15-17 Apr (JP, JT). Four Eared Grebes in Pennsylvania included singles in Dauphin 21-28 Mar (TJ, D. Yeany, m.ob.), York 15 Mar (MWe), Delaware 23 Mar (AG), and Luzerne 3 May (J. DeBalko). Few Red-necked Grebes were noted in Ohio, while 70+ Red-necked Grebes were reported throughout Pennsylvania 1 Mar-5 May, including a high count of 17 at L.O. 15 Apr (KL). That day also saw a fallout of 12 Red-neckeds and 188 Horned Grebes at B.E.S.P. (AW). Locally interesting were Red-necked Grebes in Jefferson, WV 16 Apr (MO), and Trumbull, OH 22 Apr (J. Lucas). A Horned Grebe at S.L. 28-29 May (RC, J. McNamara, AG) was late. Three American White Pelicans were at B.C.S.P. 21-25 Mar



Detected at West Fairview Boat Launch, Dauphin/Cumberland County, Pennsylvania 25 March 2007, this Sora was earlier than most Soras arriving in the state in spring. Photograph by Cameron Rutt.

(CT et al.), with one until 21 Apr (RA). Others were at Delaware W.M.A., Delaware, OH 30 Mar-1 Apr (J. Burt et al.) and Magee 4 May (E. Bruder). Two were at Pymatuning L., Crawford, PA 1-5 May (I. Frey, m.ob.), and another was on S.R., Dauphin, PA 28-29 May (*fide* DH).

A Least Bittern arrived at Spring Valley 3 Apr (JHg). American Bitterns were reported from Wayne, OH 25 Mar (m.ob.) and Berks,



PA 25 Mar (MW), with 2 following at Pickerington Ponds, *Fairfield*, OH 28 Mar (J. Faulkner). The 12 Snowy Egrets on P.M.C. in *Bucks*, PA 12 May made an excellent count (*fide* AM). Spring Little Blue Herons along the Ohio R. drainage are unexpected. This season saw singles at Indian Creek W.A., *Brown*, OH 30 Apr–5 May (RF, J. Stenger), in *Hamilton*, OH 25 Apr–7 May (J. Nicodemus, J. Williams), with one up the Little Miami R. tributary at Spring Valley 2–22 Apr (C. Schooley, JHb, LG) and adjacent C.C.S.P. 1–6 Apr (FF) and w. to H.W.S.P. 23 May (DR et al.). This was coincident with one at Shady Waters in *Ca-bell*, WV 3 Apr (WA) for that state's earliest spring record, and another appeared at Chestnut Ridge Regional Park, *Preston/Monongalia*, WV 12 May (L. Schwab et al.). Little Blue Herons in Pennsylvania included singles in *Centre*, PA 26–28 May (DG, GG), *Bucks* 4 May (M. DeBonis), L.O. 8 May (S. Schmoeyer), and *York* 3 May (L. Carpenter, D. Cleary). Exceptional away from L. Erie, a Tricolored Heron was present at Acton L., *Preble*, OH 21 Apr (BSs et al.). More typical was one at Pipe Creek W.A., *Erie*, OH 24 May (G. Leidy). Single Cattle Egrets were in *Bucks*, PA 28 Apr (DF) and 16 May (R. Smith) and another in *Northampton*, PA 25–26 Apr (RW). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in a *Lake*, OH yard 8 May was unexpected (JP). The Columbus, OH breeding site was occupied from 25 Mar+ (*fide* BWb), and the species was an early arrival in *Bucks*, PA 31 Mar (S. Charkes).

Thirteen Glossy Ibis recorded among six Pennsylvania counties 7 Apr–20 May (m.ob.) were led by 6 in *Chester* 20 May (A. Leidig). Four Glossy Ibis at Metzger 26 Apr attained celebrity status, with their numbers growing to 7 by 12 May (VF, S. Durris, m.ob.). Singles were at Sandy Ridge, *Lorain*, OH 15 May (C. Pierce et al.), Spring Valley 18–20 May (FF, LG), and *Prairie Oaks*, *Franklin*, OH 14 May (L. & M. Dudzinsky). Three more were in *Wayne*, OH 11–12 May (LH, LY, S. Weaver, G. Hochstetler), with a White-faced Ibis joining them on the 11th. Another White-faced Ibis joined the lone remaining Magee Glossy Ibis 29 May (KK). West Virginia shared in the *Plegadis* bounty, with a Glossy appearing at Green Bottom 6–8 May (MG, WA, P. Thorn).

## VULTURES THROUGH TERNS

Black Vultures ventured n. to L. Erie 1 Apr in *Lake*, OH (JP) and 26 Mar in *Erie*, PA (2 birds);



Black-necked Stilt is a casual spring visitor to Pennsylvania. This one at Fogelsville, Lehigh County 13–21 (here 18) May 2007 marked a first county record. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

JM); a flock of 100 was notable in *Montgomery*, PA 2 May (R. Grubb). Four Mississippi Kites in Pennsylvania appeared in *Berks* 29 Apr (K. Grim) and 12 May (RK, P. Saenger), *Lehigh* 15 May (*fide* DD), and *Lancaster* 28 May (M. Lombard, J. Yoder). Re-introduced breeding Ospreys were back by 21 Mar in *Wood*, WV (JE). A substantial flight of migrants through Ohio involved 20 over *Holmes*, OH 26 Apr (D. Kline), with flights at *Conneaut* of 31 on the 27th and 22 on the 23rd of Apr, respectively (BG et al., LH, ES et al.). The latter hawkwatch produced a remarkable flight of 578 Sharpshinned Hawks, 2323 Broad-winged Hawks, and an astonishing 2 Swainson's Hawks (ES et al.). The flight of the 27th also produced 56 Northern Harriers and 863 Broad-winged Hawks. Single Ohio Golden Eagles were in *Mahoning* 12 Apr (CH), in *Wayne* 21 Apr (TK), in *Wyandot* 16 Apr (JK), and passing through *Ross* 15 Apr (D. Hess). Two were still in the *Canaan Valley*, *Tucker*, WV 9 Apr (M. Croquette); breeding is likely in nearby *Highland*, VA, so observers should watch for signs of breeding



Oregon Junco, reported far more often than documented in Pennsylvania, was well photographed in East Allen Township, Northampton County on 18 March 2007. Photograph by Jim Figlar.

activity in West Virginia as well. The final tally of Golden Eagles at Tussey Mt. Hawkwatch, *Huntingdon/Centre*, PA was 152 (A. Haimon). Peregrine Falcons nested successfully in Reading, a first for *Berks*, PA (B. Uhrich).

A Yellow Rail was discovered in an over-

grown field near Messiah College, *Cumberland* 15 Mar (CR, A. Stuckert, J. Derr). Pending review, it would represent the earliest spring arrival for Pennsylvania. Single Black Rails were in *Bucks* 29 Apr–5 May (DF, m.ob.) and *Westmoreland* 12 May (J. Pemberton, T. Pegnato). King Rails garnered little mention with but one noted at Magee 5–16 May (AB, JK) and just 2 at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Seneca*, OH 5 May (TB). Early Soras reached *Cumberland*, PA 24–31 Mar (L. Usselman et al.) and Spring Valley 2 Apr (M. Boyd). Of local interest were 2 Sandhill Cranes over

*Preston*, WV 26 Mar (G. Felton) and 2 in *Seneca*, OH 5 May (TB). Notable were 9 in *Clinton*, PA 20 Apr (W. Laubscher) and 19 in *Lawrence*, PA 17 Mar (PH et al.). One was photographed from a plane at 2100 m in *Mifflin*, PA 29 Apr (K. Streidieck). The passage of 280 birds over sw. Ohio 1 Mar–1 Apr (N. Keller, m.ob.) was above average.

A powerful coastal sou'easter brought an American Oystercatcher to L.N. 19 Apr (R. Fergus, ph. JHo, vt. RW, m.ob.); it represents the 5th record for Pennsylvania. Ohio Piping Plovers included one at Metzger 28–29 Apr (ph. S. Durris et al., EK et al.), and up to 2 at Headlands 1–2 May (ph. JT, RH, J. McConnor, ph. J. Brumfield). A concentration of 435 Semipalmated Plovers at Metzger 10 May (PR) made the high spring record for Ohio. The flight of American Golden-Plovers through w. Ohio was protracted, as 1100 were within the Big Island–Killdeer Plains I.B.A., *Wyandot/Marion*, OH 27 Apr (TS), where 1000 had arrived by 1 Apr (VF). Elsewhere, 700 were in *Wyandot* 30 Mar (RC) and 400 in *Auglaize* 3 Apr (TS). A Black-necked Stilt at Fogelsville, PA 13–21 May was a first for *Lehigh* (DWe, ph. JH, vt. RW); another was at H.W.S.P. 18–21 Apr (B. Heck, m.ob.), while 2 appeared at M.W.W. 25 May (FF, N. Cade). Three American Avocets were at Y.C.S.P. 15 May (MH). Ohio avocet flocks were limited to a group of 4 at Metzger 29 Apr (EK et al.).

Willetts continue to show very well in Ohio, with flocks of 26 at Magee 26 Apr (D. Friedman), 15 at M.W.W. 16 May (FF), 10 at Columbia Station, *Lorain*, OH 2 May (R. Harlan), 10 at Metzger 29 Apr (EK et al.), and 9 at Delaware S.P., *Delaware*, OH 5 May (J. Stenger). This passage was also recorded in West Virginia—4 birds at R.C.B. 27 Apr (WA) and one in *Putnam* 29 Apr (K. Kazmierski). Always rare in spring, a Stilt Sandpiper in *Wood*, WV 16 May

(JE, J. Tharp II) was a county first. The only other reports came from *Wayne*, OH 12 May (ES) and *Clinton*, OH 21 May (LG). Whimbrels bypassed Ohio, with just one flock of 3 noted at Maumee Bay S.P., *Lucas*, OH 26 May (JMc). One at M.W.W. 23 May (PW) was exceptional for sw. Ohio. In Pennsylvania, singles were at Little Blue L., *Beaver* 27 May (MV), P.I.S.P. 21 May (E. Hall), *Dauphin* 29 May (TJ), while 9 were overhead in *Washington* 28 May (A. Berchin). A Spotted Sandpiper 1 Apr in *Wyandot*, OH (RC) was exceptionally early. The average arrival of *Tringa* saw a Lesser Yellowlegs in *Preble*, OH by 9 Mar (CT) and a Greater in *Summers*, WV 13 Mar (J&JP). *Calidris* migration was generally normal, but a Least Sandpiper at C.C.S.P. 30 Mar–1 Apr (RA, FF) was coincident with an early wave of Pectoral Sandpipers, including 450 in *Hardin* (RC), 390 in *Marion* (VF), and 123 in *Ottawa* (TB) on the 30th. The Least Sandpiper that wintered in *Cumberland*, PA continued through 9 Mar (CR, V. Gauthier, m.ob.). A concentration of 500 Least Sandpipers was tallied at P.W.T. 16 May (DF). The R.C.B. attracted 250 Least, 50 Semipalmated, and 10 White-rumped Sandpipers 16 May (WA). In the West Virginia panhandle, a 3rd record of White-rumped Sandpiper and 44 Least Sandpipers were notable 16 & 18 May in *Jefferson* (MO). A Western Sandpiper was at *Orwell Marsh, Ashtabula*, OH 31 May (CH). Dunlin topped out at 3050 at Metzger 10 May (PR). Harkening back to a bygone day, 18 Red Knots set down at Metzger 16 May (ES); 5 were there 28 May (KK). A Red Knot at R.C.B. 14–15 May (WA, ph. MO, DB, m.ob.) was a state first, after three near-misses previously on the Ohio side of the Ohio R. Single Red-necked Phalaropes were at Longbrakes 16–19 May (AB, RC), at R.C.B. 16 May (WA), and S.L. 26 May (L. Lewis, NP). By the end of the period, 3 Wilson's Phalaropes had returned to a recent breeding site in *Hardin*, OH (RC). A migrant was in *Lebanon*, PA 19 May (JH)

A Little Gull was a flyby in *Lake*, OH 31 Mar (JP). Outstanding were 9 along the S.R. in *Dauphin* 25 Mar (TJ, DH, S. Hayes) and 6 on the S.R. in *Lancaster/York* 31 Mar (JH). A Black-headed Gull along the S.R. in *Dauphin*, PA 30–31 Mar (CR) furnished a 3rd county record. An amazing movement of 75,000 Bonaparte's Gulls past P.I.S.P. 5 Apr (JM) may well establish a record count for L. Erie. Laughing Gulls were widespread in Ohio, arriving at Hoover 29 Apr (K. Davies), with 2 there 5 May (BWh). Two more were at B.C.S.P. the same day (D. Overacker). These birds were preceded by one at H.W.S.P. 27 Apr

(DR), and 2 appeared at C.C.S.P. 9 May (A. Oliver), with one there 24 May (LG). Near L. Erie, individuals were at Metzger 12–26 May (PG, A. Sewell, BSS), in *Summit* 21 May (GB), and in *Hancock* 27 May (RC). An ad. California Gull was closely studied at Green Pond, *Northampton*, PA 26 Mar, for a first county record (DD). Six Iceland Gulls and 5 Glaucous Gulls were at P.I.S.P. 6–8 Apr (JM), and 7 Icelands were at P.W.T. 14 Apr, with one lingering through 12 May (DF). Another remained at *Conneaut* 16 May (CH) in the company of 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A late Glaucous was in *Northampton*, PA 29 Apr (DD). A total of 456 Lesser Black-backed



This Lazuli Bunting found by George Franchois on 4 (here 8) March 2007 at Red Hill, Montgomery County was the third record for Pennsylvania and seen by many through 10 April. Photograph by Howard B. Eskin.

Gulls between two sites in *Bucks*, PA 17 Mar had the majority at L.N. (B. Etter). At *Lorain Harbor, Lorain*, OH 17 Mar, there were 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 3 Glaucous Gulls, and 2 apparent Great Black-backed Gull × Herring Gull hybrids (JP). The Central Basin in *Cuyahoga and Lake*, OH hosted up to 9 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in early Apr (G. Cudworth, m.ob.). The only inland Ohio reports came from C.F.R. 17 Apr (RT) and *Columbiana* 22 Mar (D. Koch). The 46 Forster's Terns at Y.C.S.P. 2 May (LC) and 32 at *Mosquito L., Trumbull*, OH 15 May were good spring counts (CB). Ohio Caspian Terns appeared at Hoover 28 Mar (G. Stauffer) and in *Hamilton*, OH 29 Mar (B. Hull).

## DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued at *Coatesville, Chester*, PA 28 Mar, although breeding has not yet been confirmed (LL), and another was at *Campbeltown, Lebanon*, PA 14 Apr (NP). A White-winged Dove was in *Delaware*, OH 28 Apr (JHg, D. Collopy, ph. TS). A Barn Owl was reported from *Wetzel*, WV 2 May (A. Sabatine), where the species' status is unclear. The total of 19 Barn Owls on P.M.C. in *Lycoming, Juniata, and Cumberland*

was encouraging (D. Ferry, C. Kauffman, CR). Whip-poor-wills arriving 2 Apr in *Scioto* (Z. Allen) and *Meigs*, OH (T. Morman) were preceded by one in *Indiana*, PA 27 Mar (K. Dudt, *vide* MH). A Chuck-will's-widow in *Butler*, OH 3 May (DR) was unexpected. Yellow-billed Cuckoos arrived 24 Apr in *Clermont*, OH (RF) and *Wood*, WV (J. Benedetti).

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at *Huntington Reservation, Cuyahoga*, OH 23 Apr (L. Richardson), part of a massive wave of migrants into the L. Erie region that day. A Bell's Vireo was back on the Ohio State University campus 10 May (A. Betuel). A pair of Blue-headed Vireos engaged in pre-copulatory display at *Hanging Rock, Lawrence*, OH 30 Mar (VF) were in suitable habitat for nesting. A Loggerhead Shrike was mist-netted 5 May at *Navarre Marsh, Ottawa*, OH (ph. B.S.B.O.); the species is rare and declining throughout the Region, and this is only the 4th record of the past 10 years within Ohio's L. Erie Basin. One reported from *Adams*, OH 19–27 Mar was at a potential breeding site (P. Whan). A West Virginia report came from *Jefferson* 14 Mar (MO); breeding within that state in 2006 was limited to *Hardy* (*vide* W.V.D.N.R.), while *Grant* and *Greenbrier* may be the only other source of the species in the Region. One found during the winter near *Gettysburg, Adams*, PA continued through 5 Mar (m.ob.). A Common Raven at P.I.S.P. 26 Mar added to a spate of recent records for the L. Erie shore (JM).

Purple Martins were widely noted across Ohio and West Virginia 25 Mar, with one n. to L. Erie (JP). Two Northern Rough-winged Swallows had arrived in *Dauphin*, PA by 19 Mar (TJ). Singles in *Clermont*, OH 22 Mar (D. Morse, Jr.) and in *Guernsey*, OH 24 Mar (ES) were exceptional. The latter was accompanied by a Barn Swallow; another early Barn Swallow was at M.W.W. the day before (S. Pelikan). Two Cliff Swallows 26–29 Mar in *Portage*, OH (GB, A. Bartley) predated all others by two weeks. A Black-capped Chickadee was well s. of normal range 7 Apr in *Hamilton*, OH (R. Canterbury). A singing male Golden-crowned Kinglet at *Mohican S.F., Ashland*, OH 12 May was in potential breeding habitat (ES). So many Ruby-crowned Kinglets wintered across Ohio that detecting early migrants is problematic. Difficult examples include singles in *Hamilton* 22 Mar (K. Westendorf) and in *Licking* 25 Mar (M. Bowman), although 6 in *Seneca* 31 Mar (TB) were new arrivals. A host of Gray Catbird reports from late Mar in Ohio were not accompanied by details, but one was present in *Franklin* 30

Mar (VF). The Townsend's Solitaire present in Erie, PA during the winter was seen through 25 Mar (M. Anderson, m.ob.).

Two Lawrence's Warblers were found in Cumberland, PA 11-16 May (RK, CR, AMa). The Franklin, OH wintering Orange-crowned Warbler made a last appearance 8 Mar (ph. N. Nye). Single Black-and-white Warblers were at Shawnee 2 Apr (RR) and in Summers, WV 24 Mar (J&JP). A record-early Prothonotary Warbler 29 Mar in Montgomery, OH (R. Williams) was coincident with the summer-like warmth of that week. Northern Parulas followed 2 Apr, both in Cincinnati (M. Bogosian) and Columbus, OH (S. Landes). Up to 13 Yellow-throated Warblers in Lawrence and one in Gallia, OH 30 Mar (VF) were well ahead of schedule, and one at Prince Gallitzin S.P., Cambria, PA 14 Apr (R. Bower) provided a first county record. A Black-throated Green Warbler had reached the L. Erie shore in Lake, OH by 3 Apr (JP). An early Blackpoll Warbler was in Cumberland, PA 26 Apr (RK). One remained in Columbus, OH 2 Jun (RTh), while 2 lingered in Wetzel, WV 31 May (W. Jarrell). An early Palm Warbler was in Erie, PA 26 Mar (K. Anderson), and a Yellow Palm was in Lorain, OH 31 Mar (T. Colborn). A Pine Warbler wintering in Warren, OH remained through 12 Apr (ph. L. Greene). A well-studied Connecticut Warbler at Green Bottom 29 Apr (MG, WA) represented one of very few Apr records in the Region. A singing Swainson's Warbler was present in North Fayette Twp., Allegheny, PA 12 May+ (F & C. McCullough, MF, ph. GM, DW). Louisiana Waterthrushes were in Summers and Jefferson, WV 26 Mar (J&JP, MO), after appearing 24 Mar in Clermont, OH (L. Romine) and Lawrence, PA (J. Mason). Extralimital Summer Tanagers in Pennsylvania included singles in Lancaster 1 May (T. Amico), Dauphin 9-10 May (DH, A. Stuckert), and Bucks 14 May (B. Graham).

A male Spotted Towhee was rare in Holland, Lucas, OH 28 Feb-4 Apr (ph. J. Dixon, m.ob.). One or more Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Metzger/Magee/Ottawa 1-12 May (KK, BW, PR, m.ob.), one was at Conneaut 20 May (CH), and 5 were recorded in Pennsylvania 5-15 May (m.ob.). The Lark Sparrow wintering in Bucks, PA last appeared 1 May (R. & V. Smith), and several returned to Oakes Quarry Park, Greene, OH 12-20 May (RA, D. Snuffer), where the species summered in 2006. A mid-Mar snowstorm in Pennsylvania drew many Fox Sparrows to feeders and roadsides, where 74 were reported in Berks 17 Mar (fide RKe) and 75 were counted by one observer without leaving his car in Dauphin/Lebanon that same day (fide AH). A Henslow's

Sparrow on territory at The Wilds, Muskingum, OH 26 Mar was extraordinarily early (J. Larson). A Harris's Sparrow was found in Cincinnati 28-29 Apr (PW, m.ob.). The wintering bird in Holmes, OH was present through early May (Eli D. Miller, m.ob.). A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was e. to P.I.S.P. 16 May (JM). A male Oregon Junco 7 May at Headlands established a new late date for Ohio (ph. JT, C. Takacs, m.ob.), while farther e. along L. Erie's shoreline, one at P.I.S.P. 18 May (JM, MW) was extraordinary. Another was at Moraine S.P., Butler, PA 17 Mar (PH, MF, J. Valimont), while the wintering Northampton, PA bird was nicely documented 18 Mar (ph. J. Figlar). A Lincoln's Sparrow 8 Apr in Randolph, WV (CRr) was early.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Calamus Swamp, Pickaway, OH 3 Mar (W. Grody) likely wintered locally, so too a female Indigo Bunting at a feeder near Quarryville, Lancaster, PA 18 Mar (DWe). A male Lazuli Bunting was present in Red Hill, Montgomery, PA 4 Mar-10 Apr (GF, ph. H. Eskin, vt. RW), representing a 3rd state record. A male Painting Bunting was in Meshoppen, Wyoming, PA 6 May (J. Skinner). Dickcissel reports in Pennsylvania included 2 in Allegheny 22 May (DW, MF), one in Cumberland 12 Mar (M. & D. Snell) and 12 May (Dave Grove), and one in Berks 1 Mar-1 May (D. Kendall). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were widespread in Ohio, with 2 at Springville Marsh S.N.P., Seneca 14 Apr (TB), one in Highland 29 Apr (J. Moore), another in Cuyahoga 21 Apr (fide VF), while one had returned to Magee 30 Mar (TB). In Pennsylvania, individuals were in Delaware 23 Mar-8 Apr (AG, m.ob.) and Northampton, PA 26 Apr (K. Sieminski). A Brewer's Blackbird was in Allegheny, PA 26 Mar (P. & S. Lynch). Three were reported from Indian Creek W.M.A., Brown, OH 18 Mar (B. Stanley). Four wintering Baltimore Orioles survived through early Apr in Bucks and Chester, PA (G. Carmichael, S. Meyers, R. Hickman, D. Kruel), and the wintering Scott's Oriole in Cumberland, PA was last seen 8 Apr (K. Atwood et al.). A Western Meadowlark was found in Wood, OH 15 Apr (PG).

The best count of Pine Siskin was 20 in Indiana, PA 4 Mar (H. Pollock, fide MH). Evening Grosbeak reports included 8-10 near Stahlstown, Westmoreland, PA 25 Mar (L. Hess) and 6 in Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill, PA (fide A. Koch). Single male Evening Grosbeaks were unexpected feeder visitors in Holmes, OH 21 May (fide BG) and Wood, WV 12 May (T. McPherson). Sporadic Common Redpolls appeared in Randolph, WV 19 Mar (CRr), Beaver, PA 10 Mar (B. Walbeck), and Bucks, PA 9 Mar (2 birds; J. Mertz). Away

from the Highlands, one was driven by wintry weather to a Columbus, OH feeder 12-16 Apr (ph. B. Master), exceptional for both date and location.

Addenda: A Red-naped Sapsucker was in Holmes, OH 4-10 Apr 2006 (ph. CT, m.ob.) for a first state record. A White-throated Swift was in Lucas, OH 2 Apr 2006 (E. Pierce, J. Johnson, R. Reyda, D. Vogus) for a first state record. A Eurasian Collared-Dove was in Licking, OH 15 Apr-24 May 2006 (N. Surrat).

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The spring season was generally warm and dry. March was 7° F warmer than average, and May was 5° F warmer than average, making this one of the five warmest spring periods since 1895. Despite the early warm temperatures, a killing frost hit most of the Region 4 April, bringing cold temperatures and strong northerly winds that halted migration for at least 10 days. May was particularly dry across the Region, many areas receiving less than a third of normal rainfall levels. Seventeen-year periodical cicadas emerged in northwestern Indiana and the Chicago region, providing several bird species an abundant food supply. There were several uncommon and rare species in the Region this spring, including King Eider, Western Grebe, Tricolored Heron, Reddish Egret, Swallow-tailed Kite, Prairie Falcon, Yellow and Black Rails, Purple Gallinule, Snowy Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Black-headed Gull, Townsend's Warbler, and Lazuli Bunting.

Abbreviations: Bellrose Reserve (Frank Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve, Pulaski, IL); Carl L. (Carlyle L., IL); Dunes (Dunes S.P., Porter, IN); F.W.A. (Fish and Wildlife Area); Goose Pond (Goose Pond F.W.A., Greene, IN); Horseshoe L. (Madison, IL); Jax. P. (Jackson Park, Chicago); Montrose (Montrose Pt., Lincoln Park, Chicago); Wakarusa (Wakarusa Wastewater Treatment Facility, Elkhart, IN).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLIFORMS

Indiana's only report of Ross's Goose consisted of a single at Kankakee F.W.A. 12 & 17 Mar (KJB, JKC, JJM et al.). A lingering Snow Goose in Carroll, IL 19 May (TAM) and 3 in Fulton, IL 17 May (LLH) were expected. Mute

Swans were widespread and seen in good numbers in Illinois, with 62 at Spring L., Tazewell 20 May (KAM) and 61 at Wolf L. 3 Mar (WJM). After their weak showing in winter, all dabbling ducks except Wood Duck and Blue-winged Teal provided peak counts that were below normal in Illinois. Especially noticeable was the reduced presence of American Wigeon, with no counts greater than the 80 tallied at Santa Fe Bottoms, Clinton, IL 8 Mar (DMK) and at Carl L. 25 Mar (DMK). For the 2nd consecutive spring, a male Cinnamon Teal was recorded in Indiana, this one a one-day wonder at Goose Pond 24 Apr (LWS). In contrast to the dabblers, bay ducks were noted in significant concentrations following a good winter season. Representative high counts from Illinois included 24,000 Canvasbacks and an outstanding 24,000 Lesser Scaup 7 Mar along the Mississippi R. in Hancock (AGD), 465 Redheads at Clear L., Mason 22 Mar (R&SB), and 7231 Ring-necked Ducks at L. Chautauqua N.W.R. 16 Mar (R&SB).

Reports of Harlequin Ducks included a male and female 20 Mar in Chicago (GAW), a male in Wilmette, IL 13 Mar (JP), and 2 males on the Mississippi R. in Rock Island 10 Feb–23 Mar (SMF et al.) that shuttled between Illinois and Iowa. Illinois reported 2 Surf, 4 White-winged, and 2 Black Scoters, with a late Surf Scoter at Lyerla L., Union (KAM) 26–28 Apr. Indiana reported 9 Surf Scoters, including 7 at Eagle Creek Park 22 Mar (LP, DW). Representing a good flight of White-winged Scoters were 2 on Brookville Res. 8 & 11 Mar (WHB) and an inland bird on L. Monroe 10–27 Mar (JD, DRW, MC); a maximum of 3 was reported at the lakefront at Dunes 18 Mar (BJG). Indiana's first spring record of King Eider (p.a.) occurred at Dunes 10 Mar when an imm. male flew by in the company of a number of *Aythya* species (KJB, JKC, JJM et al.). A nice total of 200 Buffleheads and an exceptional 3000 Common Goldeneyes were counted 7 Mar on the Mississippi R. in Hancock (AGD). A female Common Goldeneye observed away from L. Michigan in Chicago 25 May (ph. SSp) was very late. Low winter numbers of Common Mergansers continued into spring, the highest total consisting of 570 in Grundy, IL 10 Mar (DFS); the latest individual was at L. Monroe 8 May (DRW). The 28 Ring-necked Pheasants 5 May in Pecatonica (DTW) and the 63

Greater Prairie-Chickens 12 Mar at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (RES) provided noteworthy high counts. Reported Ruffed Grouse included a drumming male 9 May (MC) and a female with 8 young 15 May in Morgan–Monroe S.F. (JD).

## LOONS THROUGH IBIS

Indiana reported 4 inland Red-throated Loons, while at Dunes, counts of 10 and 4 were made 18 Mar (BJG) and 28 Apr (JJM), respectively. In Illinois, they lingered late, with an imm. at Johnson Sauk Trail S.P. 10–12 May (AFS, m.ob.) and 2 at Illinois Beach S.P. 5 May (EWW et al.). The high Common Loon tally for the season consisted of 93 birds at L. Monroe 31 Mar (DRW). A remarkable 183 Horned Grebes was tallied 20 Apr at Illinois Beach S.P. (CF). Red-necked and Eared Grebes were in short supply, with reports of 4 and 5, respectively. A Western Grebe was a nice find at Carl L. 5 May (RSH, DMK, KAM). The 7000 American White Pelicans along the Mississippi R. in Jersey 10 Mar (GAW) provided a record-high spring count for Illinois.

Numbers of American Bitterns reported were encouraging, bolstered largely by a tally



This Purple Gallinule was photographed in a Boone County, Indiana backyard on 26 April 2007. Photograph by John Cassidy.

of 10 birds at Goose Pond 5 May (LWS). Good numbers of Least Bitterns were reported across the Region, with maximum counts of 5 at Mermet L., Massac, IL 5 May (FKB) and 4 at Spring L., Carroll, IL 20 May (DTW, BCW). A Great Egret 14 Mar at L. Renwick (SM) was early, and the 245 at Baker's L. in nw. Cook, IL 5 May (GAW) formed a notable concentration. The 25 Snowy Egrets in Monroe, IL 27 May (DMK) was also a nice total. A Tricolored Heron flying past Montrose 27 May (†GAW) was among the latest of Illinois's spring records for this species (p.a.). Illinois's 3rd Reddish Egret, discovered at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, Cook 19–23 May (TE,



Illinois's third Reddish Egret was found 19 (here 20) May 2007 at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, Cook County, where it remained until 23 May. It then moved northward, appearing late on 23 May at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Lake County, and then to Waukegan Beach, where it stayed 24-25 May. Photograph by Carolyn Fields.

m.ob.), posed for many photographs before wandering northward into Lake, where it visited Great Lakes Naval Training Center 23 May (BS) and Waukegan 24-25 May (JOS et al.). A Green Heron 24 Mar in Shelby, IL (KF) was rather early. An exceptional count of 14 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons was made 24 Apr in Madison, IL (FRH).

It was a banner spring for Glossy Ibis, with 9 or more reported in Illinois and 4 in Indiana. Sightings in Lenzberg, St. Clair, IL peaked with 4 there 18 May (TJD). Others included 2 at Carl. L. 28 Apr (LN, *fide* DMK) and singles near Farina, IL 16 May (†JWW et al.), at Fairmont City, IL 26-29 May (P&BJ, m.ob.), and at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area 22 May (RES, SAS). A single Glossy Ibis was at Goose Pond 2 May (LWS), and 3 were at Cane Ridge W.M.A. 6 May (G&LB). A Black Vulture in Porter, IN 13 May (B&MB) represented only the 3rd lakefront record.

## KITES THROUGH SANDPIPERS

A Swallow-tailed Kite was observed in Lake, IL 9 May (DWi), providing the 5th state record (p.a.). Extralimital Mississippi Kites included imms. 10 May in Kankakee, IL (JBH) and 14 May at the L. Decatur dredge ponds (MFD), plus an ad. 23 May s. of Mokena, Will, IL (ABH). Northern Harriers lingered through mid-May, with sightings 18 May in s. Ogle, IL (TAM) and 17 May in Lake, IL (KAM). Two imm. Northern Goshawks

were reported: one 23 Mar–8 Apr at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (RES, CLH et al.) and another 14 Mar at Goose Pond (DRW, DB). A Rough-legged Hawk tarried at Goose Pond 5 May (LWS). Among 9 Golden Eagles reported from Indiana was a tardy imm. in Columbia City 20 May (JJM); 2 imms. in Lawrence 7 Mar (CLH) were the only ones in Illinois. A late Merlin was observed in Galena, IL 19 May (JWW). Most unusual was a Prairie Falcon 16 May near Farina, Fayette (p.a., †JWW, TLE, SAS) that provided the latest spring record for Illinois; one that wintered at Hawthorn Mines, Sullivan, IN was last seen 4 Mar (DRW).

An incredible 6 Yellow Rails were recorded 17-18 Apr at Karl Bartel Wildlife Sanctuary, Marion, IL (TAM, RES, TDF); 5 others were reported from Illinois, and a calling bird at Goose Pond 15-17 Apr (LWS et al.) provided Indiana's sole report. It was another great spring for Black Rails, with 6 singles reported: 15 Apr in Fayette, IL (DMK), 29 Apr in Massac, IL (FKB), at Hardy L., IN 17 May (JDW, *fide* JSC), 18 May at Illinois Beach S.P. (EWW), 25 May at Goose Pond (LWS), and 31 May at Muscatatuck N.W.R. (MM).

A Purple Gallinule was found at Mermat L. 5 May (FKB), where the species has previously nested, and a very cooperative individual was found in a tiny wetland near Thorntown, Boone, IN 24 Apr (H&RS-C, BB, m.ob.), remaining there until 7 May.

With only 11 prior Snowy Plover records for the Region, 3 in one season was remarkable. One was at the L. Decatur dredge ponds 30 Apr–2 May (MFD, ph. TAM), another was at Rend L. 28-29 May (ph., †DMK et al.), and the 3rd was found at L. Gibson 20-21 May (CEM, ph. G&LB, LP). Seven Piping Plovers were reported across the Region. A maximum count of 11 Black-necked Stilts was made 7 May at Goose Pond (LWS), while a group of 8 birds at East Cape Girardeau, Alexander 25 Apr (KAM) represented the high for Illinois. American

Avocets were well represented in Illinois as well, with a high count of 14 at Montrose 27 Apr (OM).

A large group of 58 Solitary Sandpipers was at Paradise L., Coles, IL 30 Apr (EWW). Carl. L. hosted 300 Greater and 1200 Lesser Yellowlegs 15 Apr (DMK), and 44 Willets were observed at the L. Decatur dredge ponds 30 Apr (MFD). Upland Sandpipers were in short supply across the Region. A rare inland Whimbrel at Goose Pond 30 Apr (LA) provided the season's only record of the species (p.a.). Godwits arrived early and were plentiful. Among 26 Hudsonian Godwits seen in Illinois, one 12 Apr at Bellrose Reserve (KAM) and 14 at Carl. L. 15 Apr (DMK) provided record-early arrival dates. An early Marbled Godwit was at Carl. L. 25 Mar–1 Apr (DMK, TAM, KAM), while 5 at L. Monroe 11 Apr (DRW) were record early for Indiana. The largest group among 17 Marbled Godwits seen in Illinois was of 6 at Carl. L. 22 Apr (DMK). The report of 6 Red Knots 25 May in Waukegan, IL (EWW) was noteworthy, as this species is scarce in spring. A Western Sandpiper at Carl. L. 30 Mar–1 Apr (DMK, ph. TAM) was exceptionally early; another at Goose Pond 28 Apr (LWS, JC, J&SH et al.) provided Indiana's first Apr record; and 12 at Carl. L. 26 May (DMK) tied the record spring high count from Illinois. A Least Sandpiper 19 Mar at Bellrose Reserve (KAM) provided Illinois's 2nd earliest arrival date. The Region's first Red-necked Stint



This Snowy Plover, present 28 (here) and 29 May 2007 at Rend Lake, Illinois, was one of an amazing three different individuals seen in the Region this spring; prior to this season, the state had just eleven total records of the species. Photograph by Dan Kassebaum.

(p.a.), molting into alternate plumage, was found 23 May at Wakarusa (JAH, JK, LP, DS et al.) by a group searching for the Curlew Sandpiper found 22 May by Dan Stoltzfus during a routine survey. Just Indiana's 2nd Curlew Sandpiper, the bird was in alternate plumage (ph. JKC) but unfortunately stayed



A Curlew Sandpiper found by Dan Stoltzfus at Wakarusa Wastewater Treatment Facility in Elkhart County was a second for Indiana 22 May 2007. Photograph by John Cassidy.

for only one day. An unusually large spring assemblage of 26 Baird's Sandpipers was noted 29 Apr at Carl. L. (DMK). Among a fine total of 21 Stilt Sandpipers was Indiana's highest ever spring total, 11, which was recorded at Goose Pond 15 May (DRW). The 200 Wilson's Snipe at Santa Fe Bottoms, Clinton, IL (DMK) 17 Mar made a notable count. A Wilson's Phalarope 26 Mar–2 Apr at Bellrose Reserve (KAM) was exceptionally early; this species peaked with a nice tally of 12 at Big L., Brown, IL 28 Apr (TW). Two Red-necked Phalaropes were reported from Illinois and one from Indiana.

## GULLS THROUGH SAPSUCKERS

An apparent Laughing Gull × Ring-billed Gull hybrid returned for the 4th consecutive year to Chicago 23 Apr (MLB, *fide* WJM). A Franklin's Gull graced TNC Kankakee Sands 13 Mar (JK, BKB), providing Indiana's earliest spring record. The ad. Black-headed Gull at Montrose 23 Feb (JWH, AH) was there almost daily until 25 Mar (m.ob.). A late first-cycle Iceland Gull was at Illinois Beach S.P. 18 May (EWW). A Caspian Tern found 17 Mar at Wolf L., Hammond, IN (MT) and 2 Caspian Terns at Chicago's L. Calumet 26 Mar (WJM) were record early, as was a Forster's Tern at L. Monroe 25 Mar (MC). A large group of 725 Common Terns was seen 15 May at Winthrop Harbor, IL (EWW).

White-winged Doves continued to show up with some regularity in Illinois. Individuals were noted at Springfield 1–3 May (ph. VMK), at Montrose 30 Apr and 8 & 10 May (RDH; ph., †GAW et al.), and in Evanston 26 May (ph., †JIE et al.). Among 6 Barn Owls re-

ported in Illinois, one 23 Apr at Montrose (RDH, ph. KH et al.) was away from known nesting locations. Seven Long-eared Owls were at Carl. L. (DMK) 17 Mar. A record-high spring count of 38 Short-eared Owls was tallied 3 & 7 Mar at Peabody R. King F.W.A., St. Clair, IL (TUM et al.). Northern Saw-whet Owls were noted 8 Mar at Carl. L. (DMK) and 2 Apr in Chicago (JS, ph. EJT).

A nice count of 65 Common Nighthawks was made 12 May at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL (KAM, DMK), while 8 Chuck-will's-widows heard in Greene-Sullivan S.F. 10 May (LWS) furnished a fine count for Indiana. A Whip-poor-will at Ferne Clyffe S.P., Johnson, IL 2 Apr was early (KAM), as were the 10 Chimney Swifts in Johnson, IL 26 Mar (KAM). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird 5–10 Apr in Massac, IL (FKB) was early, and 90 at Mode 8 May (KF) represented a record-high spring count for Illinois. A first-year fe-



This cooperative Townsend's Warbler was the fifth to be documented in Illinois. It lingered 5–9 (here 6) May 2007 at La Bagh Woods Forest Preserve in Chicago. Photograph by Kanae Hirabayashi.

male Rufous Hummingbird first noted in Nov 2006 at Jim McLane's feeder in Gallatin, IL remained until 13 Apr (CH, KAM). A female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker tarried in Indianapolis 7–18 May (LP).

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

An early Olive-sided Flycatcher was in McLean 30 Apr (MJW). The maximum count of 7 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers came 26–27 May in Chicago (GAW), while 14 Least at Jax. P. 8 May (PRC, SLC) was the high. Twenty-five Willow Flycatchers were count-

ed along the Indiana lakefront 23 May (JKC et al.). A sizeable group of 5 Western Kingbirds was in Madison, IL 30 Apr (FRH), another was in Massac, IL 13 Apr–5 May (FKB), and a singleton was reported in Newton, IN 21 May (AS, *fide* JJM). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was discovered 5 May at Horseshoe Lake F.W.A., Alexander, IL (ph. ID et al.). A Loggerhead Shrike 29 Mar at Montrose (ph. RC) provided a rare sighting for ne. Illinois. A Warbling Vireo 2 Apr at Mermet L., Massac, IL (KAM) was early. Bell's Vireos arrived early as well, with one 24 Apr at Carl. L. (KAM) and another at Goose Pond 27 Apr (DRW), the latter providing the first Apr record for Indiana in 45 years. A nice tally of 26 White-eyed Vireos was made 25 Apr in Jackson, IL (KAM). A singing Yellow-throated Vireo at L. Monroe 24 Mar (DRW) furnished the first Mar record for Indiana. Lingered Blue-headed Vireos were noted 27 May at Jax. P. (G&SD) and in Chicago's Lincoln Park (GAW). Two Fish Crows heard and seen 21 Apr in Springfield (VMK) were away from their normal areas. There is no evidence that West Nile Virus has decimated local Blue Jay populations, as 12,000+ were recorded along the lakefront this spring. Among these was a record high tally of 3009 at Dunes 1 May (KJB).

Cliff Swallows were early, with one in Golconda, IL 24 Mar (EWW). A Red-breasted Nuthatch 18 May at Montrose (KAM) was the latest of just 4 reported from Illinois. Brown Creepers were reported in reduced numbers and departed early; the latest report in Illinois was 6 May at Jax. P. (JSM, PRC). Winter Wrens were also scarce, but one 20 May in Jackson (RMR) was quite late for s. Illinois. Record early for Illinois were 2 Sedge Wrens 23 Mar at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (CLH). Contrastingly, Marsh Wrens were late to arrive in Illinois, the earliest seen 17 Apr in Marion (TAM). A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Dunes 19 May (JKC, JJM, RJP) provided the 2nd latest record for Indiana, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered in Beverly Shores, Porter, IN until 26 May (KJB, SRB, JKC, LSH). Overall numbers of thrushes and thrashers were below normal. The peak of 12 Hermit Thrushes noted at McHenry Dam, McHenry, IL 7 Apr (DTW) was especially low. The wintering female Varied Thrush in Rochelle, IL was seen until 17 Mar (m.ob.). A notable total of 400 American Pipits was recorded 15 Apr at Carl. L. (DMK), and a fine total of 1690 Cedar Waxwings was tallied at Dunes 15 May (KJB).



This Lazuli Bunting was photographed at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, Winnebago County, Illinois 29 April 2007. Photograph by John Longhenry.

## WARBLERS

Most warblers were present in normal numbers across the Region. An Orange-crowned Warbler 2 Apr at Ft. Massac S.P. (KAM) was notably early. In Indiana, a record spring total of Nashville Warblers was reported, the maximum tally consisting of 19 at Ft. Harrison S.P., *Marion* 29 Apr (DG). Northern Parulas at Rend L. 25 Mar (EWW) and at Mississippi Palisades S.P., *Carroll*, IL 26 Mar (ASt) were early. The 75 Magnolia Warblers in Chicago 15 May (GN) provided a high tally. A female Audubon's Warbler was reported without details at Carl. L. 6 Apr (DMK); rarer still was an ad. male Townsend's Warbler 5-9 May in Chicago (MF m.ob.). An early Palm Warbler was found in *Elkhart*, IN 26 Mar (DS). A total of 30 Blackpoll Warblers was logged 19 May along L. Michigan in Indiana (KJB, JKC, SRB, EMH et al.), tying the single-day lakefront record; 21 were at Carl. L. 12 May (KAM). A Cerulean Warbler found in *Martin* 2 Apr (JR, JG) provided a new early spring record for Indiana, and an eager Prothonotary Warbler 2 Apr at Ft. Massac S.P. (KAM) was record early for Illinois. A singing, apparently territorial Worm-eating Warbler at Dunes between 11 (MT) & 26 May (SRB, JKC, LSH, KJB) was exciting, as there are no breeding records for the species at Dunes. Providing a record-early arrival for cen. Illinois was a Louisiana Waterthrush 18 Mar in *Shelby* (KF), while a Connecticut Warbler 5 May in *Shelby* (KF) tied previous arrival records for that area. A nice total of 27 Wilson's Warblers was noted in Chicago 27 May (GAW).

## TANAGERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

A male Spotted Towhee found at Hammond Lakefront Sanctuary 26 (KJB, JKC) & 27 Apr (MT, *fide* PBG) provided the first record for the lakefront and 8th for Indiana. A nice accumulation of 50 Vesper Sparrows was in *DeKalb*, IL 12 Apr (REF). A Lark Sparrow in *Spencer*, IN 12 Apr (ph. DA) was rather early. Grasshopper

Sparrows were late, the first appearing 22 Apr in *Union* (KAM), while a Henslow's Sparrow at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area 25 Mar (SAS, CLH) was early. The 25 Henslow's Sparrows 22 Apr at Karl Bartel W.S., *Marion*, IL (KAM) and the 20 at Chinook Mine, *Vigo*, IN 12 May (PES) were notable. Two Le Conte's Sparrows at Prairie Ridge State Natu-

ral Area 9 Mar (CLH, RES) were early, and an impressive 8 Le Conte's were at Clinton L. 14 Apr (TDF et al.). The Hammond Lakefront Sanctuary hosted 3 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows 23 May (JKC, KJB), while 3 more were tallied at Montrose 24 May (RDH). Fox Sparrows departed somewhat early, with the latest seen 17 Apr in Downers Grove, IL (REF). The high Illinois count for Lincoln's Sparrow was lower than usual, with 18 at Jax. P 8 May (PRC, SLC). Also low was the peak of 55 Swamp Sparrows 27 Apr at Oakwood Bottoms, *Jackson*, IL (KAM). The Region hosted 5 Harris's Sparrows: 2 were at Moredock L., *Monroe*, IL 25 Apr (DJ), one was seen 5 May in *Knox*, IL (*fide* PR), one that had wintered in *Floyd*, IN remained until 4 May (GD), and another was in *Elkhart*, IN 2 May (PM, DS et al.), providing the first county record since 1932. A Dark-eyed Junco lingered through 28 May at Jax. P (PRC). Smith's Longspurs were scarce this spring, the largest group consisting of 120 birds in *Montgomery*, IN 19 Apr (J&SH, LWS, CCM). A strong flight of Lapland Longspurs was exemplified by a count of 1000 birds at TNC Kankakee Sands 13 Mar (JK). Snow Buntings departed 7 Apr with 2 at Montrose (LGM et al.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widely reported at feeders when the buds that they normally feed upon were damaged by frost. The peak tally of grosbeaks was of 42 birds in *Posey*, IN 1 May (SS). An ad. male Lazuli Bunting was mist-netted at Sand Bluff B.O., *Winnebago*, IL 29 Apr (JLA, ph. EC); the Region has only three prior accepted records. A pair of Painted Buntings returned to East St. Louis 6 May (DMK), with a male still there 12 May (DMK, KAM). An ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird 10 Mar at Heidecke L. (DFS) either wintered or was a very early migrant. Another good flight of Baltimore Orioles was punctuated by a longshore flight of 68 birds at Dunes 8 May (KJB et al.). Only 6 total Purple Finches were reported from Illinois, and the lone Common Redpoll was seen 17-24 Mar at

Severson Dells F.P., *Winnebago* (BCW, DTW). Indiana reported a few Pine Siskins, but none were reported from Illinois.

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# Western Great Lakes



Adam M. Byrne

A very warm late March brought many species north earlier than usual. Winter returned in early April when a powerful storm brought cold weather and snow Regionwide. Southern Michigan had only a few inches of snow, but Marquette in the Upper Peninsula accumulated four feet in just four days. The rest of the season experienced rather uneventful weather, with very few intense low-pressure systems. Many species arrived earlier than expected, but numbers remained low; many birders characterized this spring as one of the worst warbler migrations in decades.

## WATERFOWL

Michigan had very few rare geese this spring, with only 7 Greater White-fronted Geese in three counties and one Ross's Goose in Cass 27 Mar (JTW, p.a.). Minnesota reported a high count of 13,695 Greater White-fronteds in *Lac Qui Parle* 16 Mar (BJU) and a statewide total of 716 Ross's Geese in 25 counties that included a high count of 208 in *Lac Qui Parle* 15 Mar (BJU). Wisconsin recorded Ross's Geese in 11 counties. Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (hereafter P.M.S.G.A.), *Monroe*, MI had some impressive duck totals this spring, with peaks of 2329 Gadwalls 17 Mar and 2096 American Wigeons 23 Mar (AMB). Male Eurasian Wigeons were photographed in *Outagamie*, WI 6-14 Apr (m.ob.) and in *Mackinac*, MI 26 Apr (JZ). A bird originally reported as a Eurasian Wigeon at *Hyland L., Bloomington*, MN 25-26 Mar was actually an Eurasian Wigeon × American Wigeon hybrid (PCC). Wisconsin also had an unusual hybrid, a male Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal in *Sauk* 6 Apr (AH).

The 1304 Ring-necked Ducks on 29 Mar at *Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw*, MI (DP) was the highest Saginaw Bay area total since 1990, while 44,500 Greater Scaup in *Oconto* 4 Apr (JS) was Wisconsin's largest flock in many years. Wisconsin had wintering Harlequin Ducks stay through 25 May in *Sheboygan* (JC) and additional birds in *Racine* 20-28 Apr (RJ)

and *Ozaukee* 13 Apr+ (OB). A Black Scoter in *Renville*, MN 9-15 Apr made a first county record (RBW, m.ob.); Wisconsin had an unusual report of a young male Black Scoter at *Horicon Marsh, Fond du Lac* 12-19 May (TS). In Wisconsin, wintering male Barrow's Goldeneyes lingered through 10 Mar in *Milwaukee* (TW), and another was in *Ashland* 24-31 Mar (RB); Minnesota had a male in *Cass* 26 Mar-10 Apr (BAW).

## LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Wisconsin had a poor spring for Red-throated Loons, with only four reports from L. Michigan. Minnesota reported Red-throateds as usual at *Duluth, St. Louis* in May. Whitefish Point B.O. (hereafter W.P.B.O.), *Chippewa*, MI had 478 after 20 Apr, with a peak of 73 on 1 May. Two Horned Grebes in *Keweenaw*, MI 31 May were late (LCB). Michigan and Wisconsin both had two Eared Grebe reports, while one out of range in Minnesota was in *Lake* 19-20 May (JWL), and 2 were in *St. Louis* 19-22 May (AS, m.ob.). Interesting for Minnesota were 2 Western Grebes in *St. Louis* 19-24 May (AS, m.ob.), while Wisconsin reported one in *Dane* 23 May (CH, AS). Minnesota hosted the only Clark's Grebe at *Thielke L., Big Stone* 30 Apr+ (CMB, DBF, SLF, m.ob.). Large numbers of American White Pelicans in Michigan's Upper Peninsula were quite expected, as the status of this species changes to breeder. Minnesota's 4th Neotropic Cormorant was at *Diamond L., Hennepin* 9-18 May (PEB, m.ob.).

Southern heron diversity and numbers were down Regionwide. Michigan had only 3 Snowy Egrets and Wisconsin only one, while Minnesota had 13 in seven counties, including a record-early Snowy in *Dakota* 25-26 Mar (CMB, m.ob.). The only Little Blue Herons were singles in *Brown*, WI 10 May (TB) and *Rice*, MN 23 May (TFB). Tricolored Herons were found in *Roseau*, MN 14 May (JK et al., p.a.) and *Iosco*, MI 22 May (JD, GN, p.a.). Minnesota had 28 Cattle Egrets statewide in 13 counties, including one n. report in *Marshall* 10 May (GT). Michigan had 3 Cattle Egrets 19 May+ in *Bay* (JSo, GP, DJ, DD, m.ob.) and one at P.M.S.G.A. 19 May (AMB), while Wisconsin had only 4 birds in four counties. The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was an ad. in *Racine*, WI 27 Apr (PH). Ibis numbers were the only bright spot amongst the heron group, with good numbers reported in all three states. Minnesota's 3rd Glossy Ibis was in *Lac Qui Parle* 29 Apr-1 May amongst a flock of 22 White-faced Ibis (WCM, PME, PN, JPE, m.ob.). Michigan had 6 Glossy Ibis 20 May+ at P.M.S.G.A. (SM, m.ob., p.a.), and Wisconsin had one in *Grant* 18 May (TS) and 8 in *Fond du Lac* 19-27 May (TW).

## VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Minnesota recorded its 4th Black Vulture in *Washington* 24-25 Mar (BRL, m.ob.), while Wisconsin's 7th record was in *Brown* 28 Apr (TB). Michigan had only one Swainson's Hawk, on 22 Apr at W.P.B.O., while the only Ferruginous Hawks were 2 light-morph ads. at different locales in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN (BJU). Minnesota also hosted a wintering Gyrfalcon that lingered through 23 Mar in *Dakota* and a Prairie Falcon in *Meeker* 25 Mar (DMF). A Black Rail was heard by many 13-24 May in *Berrien*, furnishing Michigan with its 4th record and first for the spring season (JW, m.ob., p.a.). Michigan also reported the only King Rails, 2 in *St. Clair* 8 May (MS, p.a.). Far north were 3 Common Moorhens in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and one at *Duluth, St. Louis*, MN; this species seems to be doing quite well in Michigan of late, perhaps lending to the increase in the number of wandering birds.

Michigan had its best spring for American Golden-Plovers since 2004, with 9 birds in four counties. Minnesota recorded its 10th Snowy Plover at *Duluth, St. Louis* 30-31 May (SCZ, KRE, PHS, CLW) and a record-high spring tally of 300 Semipalmated Plovers at *L. Bylesby, Dakota* 15 May (JPM). Four Piping Plovers in three Minnesota counties was a major improvement after having none last spring; Wisconsin reported birds from three counties. Once again, all three states reported Black-necked Stilts. Wisconsin had one stilt on 23 Apr in *Eau Claire* (JP) and 2 there on 23 Apr (BS), plus another 19-23 May (PB) in *Jefferson*. Two stilts in *Berrien* 6 May+ (DV, m.ob., p.a.) provided Michigan its 6th record, while Minnesota had one in *Rock* 26 May (LS, KRE). Wisconsin had 14 American Avocets in 10 counties, making this season one of the best for this species in decades. Minnesota also had large numbers of avocets, with 85 birds in 15 counties; Michigan had only one in *Muskegon* 28 Apr (JL). Minnesota had a record-high count of 63 Upland Sandpipers in *Polk* 9 May (RPR et al.). Minnesota's only significant numbers of Hudsonian Godwits were at *Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall*, while Michigan and Wisconsin had very few godwits of either species. Minnesota had single Red Knots in *Pope* 17-18 May (HHD, RBW, CMB), *Lac Qui Parle* 19 May (PHS), and *St. Louis* 25 May (JLR). Wisconsin had only 2 knots in *Kewaunee* 3 May (TB), and Michigan had 2 in *Iosco* 24 May (SF) and one at W.P.B.O. 28 May. Unusual for Michigan were a Stilt Sandpiper 19 May (AMB) and a Long-billed Dowitcher 13 May (JJ), both at P.M.S.G.A. Casual in spring was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in *Marshall*, MN



14 May (PHS). Red-necked Phalaropes were scarce Regionwide; Michigan had only one in *Alger* 23 May (DS). One Red-necked at Duluth, *St. Louis*, MN 27 May (JLR) was unusual for that locale. Providing Minnesota's 3rd spring record and 15th overall was a female Red Phalarope in *Big Stone* 28 May (PHS).

## GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Michigan had three Laughing Gull reports in *Berrien* and one in the Upper Peninsula's *Keweenaw* 24-25 May (JKa, MH), all of single birds, while Wisconsin had five reports along L. Michigan, with a peak of 4 in *Ozaukee* 26 May (TU). Franklin's Gulls were scarce in both Wisconsin and Michigan; Wisconsin had only 3 Franklin's, while Michigan had only one in *Berrien* 26 May (TBa). Wisconsin had an incredible spring for Little Gull, totaling at least 10 birds from seven counties, including 4 in *Sheboygan* 31 May (JF). Minnesota had an ad. 23 May (KRE, RLE et al.) and first-year bird 27 May (TCL, CLW), both at Duluth, while Michigan had only one in *Iosco* 27 May (JZ). An imm. Black-headed Gull was found in *Sheboygan*, WI 30 May (DT, p.a.). A California Gull found in *St. Louis*, MN 27 May (CLW, TCL) was also reported from *Douglas*, WI. Casual for Michigan was a California Gull in *Berrien* 30 May (MHy, p.a.). A late Thayer's Gull was in *Lake*, MN 20 May (JCG, JWJ). Wisconsin's wintering Slaty-backed Gull in *Winnebago* remained through 11 Mar (SFr). A Black-legged Kittiwake in *Sheboygan* 27 May+ (SC) represents Wisconsin's 2nd spring record. An Arctic Tern frequented Duluth, *St. Louis*, MN 22-29 May (KRE, m.ob.); the same location hosted the Region's only jaeger, an ad. light-morph Parasitic 22 May (KRE).

Eurasian Collared-Doves are becoming very difficult to track in Minnesota, with reports coming from 20 different counties. Wisconsin had collared-doves in 11 counties, yet Michigan had only one in *Marquette* 30 May (SH, p.a.). Minnesota's 11th White-winged Dove visited a feeder in *Kittson*, MN 4-22 May (LW, m.ob.). A very cooperative Barn Owl spent the day roosting at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco* 17 May (JDu, LC, LG, m.ob., p.a.), providing Michigan with only its 4th record since 1987; Wisconsin had a Barn Owl in *Dane* 3-6 Mar (ASt, TP). Snowy Owls lingered in one Michigan and three Wisconsin counties. Minnesota had around 110 Short-eared Owls statewide, including high counts of 35 in *Wilkin* 9 Mar (JPE) and 27 in *Polk* 10 Mar (JMj). A change in methodology led to an amazing number of captured Northern Saw-whet Owls at W.P.B.O., with 835 after 16 Mar.

For the 3rd consecutive spring, Chuck-will's-widows returned to sites in both Michigan and Wisconsin; Michigan's bird was present in *Berrien* 2 May+ (MB), and Wisconsin had one in *Jackson* 21 May (AP). Unprecedented in spring for Michigan was an ad. Rufous Hummingbird in *Keweenaw* 16 May (FR, LCB, p.a.).

## WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Remaining from the impressive winter invasion were American Three-toed Woodpeckers in *Aitkin* and *Pine* in Minnesota and in *Marquette*, MI. The Region's first Couch's Kingbird was heard and photographed at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco*, MI 26-28 May (KO, BM, AMB, KZ, m.ob.). Wisconsin had Western Kingbirds in *Dane* 8 May (BB) and *Dunn* 26 May (PC), while Michigan had singles in *Delta* 21-22 May (MHe) and at W.P.B.O. 29 May (CB). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed in Minnesota 23-26 Apr in *Olmsted* (LAV, CMB, JPM) and 23-25 May at Duluth (SCZ). Wisconsin had Scissor-taileds in *Bayfield* 3-4 May (WV) and in *St. Croix* 28 May (LP), while Michigan had reports from *Chippewa* 7-8 May (MHe) and *Iosco* 25 May (JKe). Minnesota still supports breeding Loggerhead Shrikes, but their numbers continue to decline; this year, the statewide total was 24 shrikes in 14 counties, below the 1992-1996 average for the 11th consecutive spring. Wisconsin had four Loggerhead reports, including a nesting pair in *Bayfield* 19 May (TO), while a migrant in *Berrien* 19 May (EE) was Michigan's first spring record since 2003.

Minnesota reported a White-eyed Vireo in *Hennepin* 7-8 May (JEP, CMB, DAC) and Bell's Vireos at the usual Twin Cities and south-central/southeast locations. Wisconsin had a record-early Northern Rough-winged Swallow 26 Mar in *Portage* (JS). A Mountain Bluebird in *St. Clair* 2-4 Apr (TD, m.ob., p.a.) provided Michigan's 4th state record, while Minnesota had reports from *Pennington* 23 Mar (SAS) and *Clay* 28 Apr (PBB). Michigan had Townsend's Solitaires through 17 Mar in *Keweenaw* (TA) and on 16 Apr in *Marquette* (RR). Minnesota reported 5 solitaires in four counties and 8 Varied Thrushes in seven counties; the last of Wisconsin's wintering Varied Thrushes lingered through 13 Apr in *Bayfield* (RB). Northern Mockingbirds put on a great showing in Wisconsin, with reports from eight counties.

Wisconsin hosted its 3rd Audubon's Warbler in *Milwaukee* 23 Apr (SL), while Michigan's 7th Black-throated Gray Warbler was found at Ann Arbor, *Washtenaw* 24 Apr (RK, AK, LSh). A Yellow-throated Warbler in *Bay*,

MI 15 May (DD) was only the 3rd Saginaw Bay area record, and W.P.B.O. had its first record on 18 May (SZ, MHe); Wisconsin had Yellow-throateds in *Grant* and *Milwaukee* (SL). Pine Warblers in *Dane* (ML) and *LaCrosse* (JR) on 28 Mar tied for Wisconsin's record-early arrival date. A male Prairie Warbler set up territory in *Dakota*, MN 30 May+ (JSw, TPB, CLW, m.ob.); this same location hosted a Prairie Warbler during the summer of 2005. Wisconsin reported a Prairie Warbler in *Sauk* 23 May (RH). Cerulean Warblers were reported from 15 s. Minnesota counties, including a first county record in *Stevens* 20 May (BJU). Michigan reported 4 Worm-eating Warblers in *Berrien* after 3 May, while Wisconsin had one in *Brown* 4 May (TB). One Worm-eating Warbler in *Clay* 6 May (DPW, PBB) was Minnesota's 2nd record since 2001 of this formerly regular species. Minnesota had a male Kentucky Warbler return to *Blue Earth* 14-28 May for the 8th consecutive year and an out-of-range Hooded Warbler in *Lac Qui Parle* 15 May (BJU). North of normal for Michigan was a pair of Hoodeds in *Emmet* 29 May (K&SS).

## TANAGERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

Minnesota had Summer Tanagers in six counties, including first county records in *Fairbault* 8 May (WAF) and *Kittson* 28 May (GB), while Michigan had 6 birds in five counties. Wisconsin had 8 Summer Tanagers in seven counties and Western Tanagers in *Clark* 26 Apr (DF) and *Portage* 14 May (TS). Minnesota had Westerns in *Freeborn* 24-27 Apr (AEB, CMB, JEM), *Anoka* 25-29 Apr (TM, m.ob.), and *Lac Qui Parle* 21 May (BJU). Wintering Green-tailed Towhees remained through 5 Mar in *Marquette*, MI and 23 Apr in *Cottonwood*, MN, while the only Spotted Towhee was a male in *Hennepin*, MN 24-29 Apr (TMO, CMB, JPM). Migrant Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in *Milwaukee*, WI 22 May (SL) and *Muskegon*, MI 26 May (JVK). Minnesota had an impressive 240 Harris's Sparrows in *Lac Qui Parle* 6 May (BJU). Wisconsin recorded them in four counties, while Michigan had singles at W.P.B.O. 8 May and in *Keweenaw* 10 May (LCB). Unique to Minnesota were Smith's Longspurs in four counties, including a high count of 42 in *Big Stone* 26 Apr (BJU), a late May male Black-headed Grosbeak in *Wilkin* (L&PT, p.a.), and a Blue Grosbeak in *Clay* 6 May (RHO, PBB). Each state reported an ad. male Painted Bunting; Wisconsin had one in *Milwaukee* 10 May (TW), Michigan in *Berrien* 19 May (MW), and Minnesota in *Lake* 19-23 May (S&RC, JWJ, p.a.). Dickcissel reports from four

Michigan counties were strong indicators of a good summer invasion.

A record-high spring count in Minnesota was 1300 Rusty Blackbirds in *Lac Qui Parle* 21 Mar (BJU). Wisconsin's first Great-tailed Grackle from winter lingered through 19 Apr in *Dodge* (LM), and a 2nd grackle was located in *Grant* 3 May (JR); Minnesota reported Great-taileds from four counties. A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at *L'Anse, Baraga*, MI stayed through 16 Mar (TA), while the 3 in *Carlton*, MN lingered through 26 Mar (MSc, m.ob.). Michigan reported no Pine Grosbeaks but had impressive numbers of Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills that far exceeded anything in the last decade. W.P.B.O. reported 2182 White-wingeds for the season, with a peak of 937 on 30 Mar. Minnesota's 7th Eurasian Tree Sparrow was found in *St. Louis* 15 Apr (A&AB), while Michigan had one continuing in *Cass* until at least 4 May and a surprising group of 3 in *Keeweenaw* 5-11 May (LCB, m.ob., p.a.).

Corrigenda: From spring 2006, delete the Ross's Goose at *Eau Claire, Berrien* 18-21 Mar, the Tufted Duck in *Huron* 15-21 May, Bell's Vireo in *Wayne* 6 May, and Western Tanager in *Iosco* 26-27 May, all in Michigan.

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## Iowa & Missouri



### Stephen J. Dinsmore

The 2007 spring season was one of weather contrasts across the Region. A blizzard enveloped Iowa at the start of the season, but temperatures were above normal for the last two thirds of the month. This

warm weather and southerly airflow was responsible for record- or near-record-early arrivals of many passerines in both states. Colder weather and snow returned during the first half of April, slowing migration, but warmer temperatures quickly returned and reached record highs in some areas by month's end. The April cold snap negatively impacted many early shorebirds, Purple Martins, and Tree Swallows, as it refroze some wetlands and damaged early blooming plants. May saw above-normal temperatures and precipitation for much of the Region, finally ending the prolonged drought in most areas. A series of strong cold fronts with heavy rains passed through the Region in mid-May but generally resulted in a poor grounding of Neotropical migrants. Consequently, the spring passerine migration was considered slow. Rarities included Harlequin Duck, Glossy Ibis, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, and Bullock's Oriole. In addition, a nice flurry of White-faced Ibis, more White-winged Doves, 2 Western Tanagers, and a passle of Lazuli and Painted Buntings added spice to a good spring season.

**Abbreviations:** E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); Hawkeye (Hawkeye W.A., Johnson, IA); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Riverton (Riverton W.A., Fremont, IA); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); T.G.P. (Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City, MO).

### WATERFOWL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their presence in the Region, with two Iowa reports: 6 May at L. Manawa, *Pottawattamie* (†KDY) and 6 near Mt. Pleasant, *Henry* 27 May-4 Jun (Dick Peterson, ph.). The waterfowl migration was about average, with excellent numbers of *Chen* geese in both states. Along the Missouri R., counts of 500,000 Snow Geese 5 Mar in *Saline*, MO (SH, EW) and 3200 Ross's Geese 14 Mar at Riverton (SJD) were quite high. Trumpeter Swans are becoming routine, with good concentrations of 26 (all unmarked) on 10 Mar at Runnells W.A., *Polk*, IA (AB, JG) and 14 on 17 Mar at S.C.R. (LL), with one there through 26 Apr



These Glossy Ibis were part of a remarkable flock of seven discovered 7 May 2007 at Moeckley Prairie, Polk County, Iowa. Photograph by Jay Gilliam.

(TR). It was a great spring for Cinnamon Teal: 4 males were noted in Missouri 5 Apr–6 May and 7 males in Iowa 8 Apr–9 May; most were in the w. half of the Region. In addition, 2 hybrids with Blue-winged Teal were reported in Missouri. The 2 male Harlequin Ducks reported from winter lingered until 11 Mar at Lock & Dam 14, Scott, IA (m.ob.). A sprinkling of other sea ducks included 2 Surf Scoters and 4-5 Long-tailed Ducks in Iowa and 3 Surf Scoters in Missouri. Lingering waterfowl included a Ross's Goose 30 May in Polk, IA (AB), a Canvasback 31 May at R.M.B.S. (CM), and a Common Goldeneye 28 May in Marshall, IA (MPR).

## PARTRIDGE THROUGH RAPTORS

Gray Partridge appear to be slowly on the increase in n. Iowa, with numerous reports this spring in the n. half of the state. Native grouse did not fare as well. Ruffed Grouse were scarce, with single reports from strongholds in Allamakee and Lucas in Iowa and Warren, MO. Greater Prairie-Chickens are continuing their downward trend at leks in Benton (EW), Harrison (m.ob.), St. Clair (EW), and Sullivan (PW) in Missouri. At the lone Iowa lek at Kellerton Grasslands B.C.A., Ringgold, an encouraging 22 birds were tallied 1 Apr (Dennis Thompson) and a possible stray from South Dakota was in Plymouth 19 May (†SJD, †JG).

Two Pacific Loons were reported in Iowa: 10 May near Sioux Center, Sioux (†Ken Hollinga) and 18-27 May at the Council Bluffs energy ponds, Pottawattamie (†Bill Scheible). An impressive spring concentration of 177 Common Loons graced Clear L., Cerro Gordo, IA 13 Apr (Rita Goranson, PH). There were seven reports of Red-necked Grebe in Iowa 2 Apr–21 May, more than usual, to go along with four reports of Western Grebe 24 Apr–31 May. American White Pelicans continue to increase in the Region, as

counts of 5100 in Lincoln, MO 18 Mar (Eric Schuette) and 1500 in Polk, IA 11 Apr (BN) attest. American Bitterns had an excellent spring migration, with early arrivals on 24 Mar at R.M.B.S. (JWE) and 28 Mar in Fremont, IA (†KDY) and reports of up to 14 birds through the end of the season. Four Snowy Egrets and a Little Blue Heron in Iowa were about par for the spring; 1200 Little Blue Herons and 700 Cattle Egrets 20 May at a nesting colony in Scott, MO was impressive (JWE). A remarkable flock of 7 Glossy Ibis was seen 7 May at Moeckley Prairie, Polk, IA (†AB, ph., m.ob.), while a single was present at Hawkeye 12-16 May (THK, ph., m.ob.). White-faced Ibis had an average spring, with five reports of up to 10 birds in each state 13 Apr–19 May.

Mississippi Kites continue to expand in the Region. Numerous Missouri reports after 22 Apr included increasing numbers away from traditional Mississippi R. haunts. In Iowa, a record-early individual was seen 7 May in Fremont (KDY), and birds were back at their traditional Des Moines locales after 9 May (JB et al.). Bald Eagles continue to increase, with 150 nests in Missouri (Andrew Forbes) and a peak of 214 birds at Saylorville 18 Mar (SJD). The only Northern Goshawks were Iowa singles on 5 Mar at Saylorville (Darwin Koenig) and 13 Mar at Waubonsie S.P., Fremont (LJP, BKP). Red-shouldered Hawks appear to be slowly expanding in the n. part of the Region, with three reports in the n. third of Missouri and six Iowa reports away from traditional nesting areas. A few Swain-

son's Hawks were in each state after early Apr, about typical for spring. Golden Eagles lingered in both states; there were five Mar reports in Missouri and three reports in Mar–Apr in Iowa. The five Prairie Falcon reports, 2 birds in Missouri and 3 in Iowa, were all clustered in the period 4-14 Mar.

## RAILS THROUGH TERNS

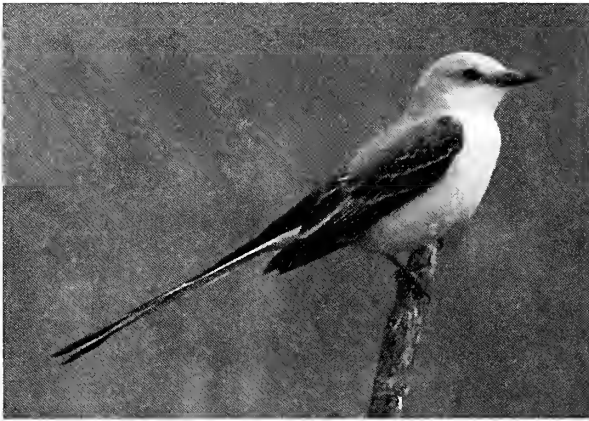
The only King Rails were one in Warren, IA 8 May (†JG) and 2 at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., Pike, MO 12 May (JWE). Early migrant rails included a Virginia on 23 Mar at S.C.R. (Peter Kondrashov) and a Sora on 31 Mar in Story, IA (SJD). Sandhill Cranes, possibly breeders, included a pair 6 Mar–31 May at S.C.R. (TR), where they nested last year, and numerous groups of up to 18 in the e. half of Iowa.

The shorebird migration was excellent again this spring. American Golden-Plovers put in a good early showing, with counts of 579 in Lincoln, MO 21 Mar (DR) and 147 in Fremont, IA 24 Mar (KDY). Counts of 100+ continued through May, with 139 on 18 May in Pocahontas, IA (SJD) being the last large group. Two Snowy Plovers at S.C.R. 29 Apr (JWE) was the only report of this rare migrant. Wandering Black-necked Stilts included one at E.B.C.A. 2 Apr (Bill Goodge), 2 at S.C.R. 14-29 Apr (TR), 3 at R.M.B.S. 2-3 May



This Whimbrel at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles County, Missouri 1 April 2007 was part of an early flight in the Iowa & Missouri region. Photograph by James P. Malone.

(DR et al.), one at Bob Brown C.A., Holt, MO 16 May (MBR), and a female on 9 May at Hawkeye (THK, ph., m.ob.). Widely scattered groups of up to 37 American Avocets were seen in both states after 12 Apr, about typical for spring. Whimbrels made news in both states, with up to 3 on 31 Mar–13 Apr at R.M.B.S. (†CM, ph., m.ob., record early); another record-early individual was seen 15-17 Apr at Coralville Res., Johnson, IA (†CRE, m.ob.). Three additional Missouri reports 12



This female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a one-day wonder on 7 May 2007 at Cottonwood Recreation Area below Saylorville dam, Polk County, Iowa. Photograph by Jay Gilliam.

Apr–22 May made for a good spring showing. An unusual flurry of Western Sandpiper sightings included three Missouri reports 2–24 May and three Iowa reports 22–25 May. These reports are later than expected when compared to historical reports and indicate a need for careful documentation of all spring reports of this species in the Region. Two Iowa Buff-breasted Sandpipers reports 15–17 May highlight the migration timing for this rare spring migrant. The only Red-necked Phalaropes were in Woodbury, IA: 7 (POR) & 19–20 May (SJD, JG, m.ob.). Many shorebirds arrived early this spring. Notable records included a record-early Piping Plover 8 Apr in Harrison, IA (Jonas Grundman), Upland Sandpipers on 17 Mar in Dunklin, MO (†Bill Reeves) and 2 Apr in Decatur, IA (NJM), 3 Dunlins on 1 Apr in Greene, IA (SJD, AB), and a record-early Wilson's Phalarope 24 Mar at B.K. Leach C.A., Lincoln, MO (DR, Tom Bormann).

Gulls made news in both states. An ad. Laughing Gull 11 Apr–9 May at Smithville L., Clay, MO (DW, †Kristi Mayo) was unusual away from the Mississippi River. Almost as remarkable was a report of 3 at Otter Slough C.A. 4 May (†Robert Lewis, Steve Dilks). As expected, rare gulls from winter lingered into spring in both states. An ad. Iceland Gull 3–4 Mar at Lock & Dam 14, Scott, IA (†SMF) was notable. Up to 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls remained through 13 Mar at the latter site (SMF, m.ob.); a minimum of 3 birds at R.M.B.S. this spring included one on 3 May (CM, ph.); and an ad. was late on 26 Apr at Coralville Res., Johnson, IA (CRE, CJC, Diana Pesek). Glaucous Gulls lingered through 11 Mar at R.M.B.S. (JWE, Dave Becher) and 15 Apr at Saylorville (Bery Engebretsen, AB, JG, record late). Young Great Black-backed Gulls lingered until 4 Mar at R.M.B.S. (JPM, CM, m.ob.) and 23 Mar in Scott, IA (†SMF). A

Caspian Tern was early on 31 Mar at R.M.B.S. (JWE).

## DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

White-winged Doves again made headlines, with one from 19 Apr–14 May in Johnston, Polk, IA (†Stephanie Flater, ph., m.ob.), up to 2 birds 20 Apr–20 May in East Prairie, Mississippi, MO (JWE, m.ob.), one on 19 May in Webster, MO (Jackie West), and one on 28 May in Jefferson City, Cole, MO (Jim Rathert). Single Greater Roadrunners were e. of their typical Missouri range in Reynolds 18 May (†Andrew Cox) and Shannon 18 May (†Paul McKenzie). Lingered Snowy Owls were restricted to Iowa, with singles at Neal Smith N.W.R., Jasper 20 Mar (Karen Vista-Sparkman), in Warren 24 Mar (JG, ph., m.ob.), and near Pella, Marion 8 Apr (BN, ph.); photographs suggest they may have been the same individual. A territorial pair of Short-eared Owls on 18 Apr at Copp Prairie, Kossuth, IA (MCK) suggests nesting for this rare Regional breeder. Unusually early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were found in both states: 22 Mar at Salem, Dent, MO (fide CM) and 22 Apr at Ames, Story, IA (David C. Edwards). The wintering Rufous Hummingbird at Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau, MO was last seen on 8 Apr (fide JPU).



An 11 April 2007 snowstorm grounded many longspurs in northern Iowa, including this male Smith's Longspur in Hamilton County. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

Red-headed Woodpeckers are drawing conservation attention in the Region, so counts of 48 on 3 May in Decatur, IA (NJM) and 62 on 12 May in Livingston, MO (SK) were encouraging. Yellow-bellied and Alder Flycatchers had a good spring migration; 12 Alders each on 21 May at S.C.R. (TR) and 24

May at Lime Creek Nature Center, Cerro Gordo (PH) were good counts. Eastern Phoebe arrived early in Iowa, with numerous reports 10–14 Mar, within a few days of the record-early date. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were more numerous than normal; out-of-range birds included a breeding pair in Livingston, MO (SK) and singles in Butler, MO (BB, JWE, JPM) and Mississippi, MO (JPU), in Fremont, IA 28 Apr (KDY, ph.), in Polk, IA 7 May (Dick Stilwell, ph., m.ob.), and in Dallas, IA 10 May (†Leland Searles). The last Northern Shrike was seen 27 Mar at Dunbar Slough, Greene, IA (RIA, PHA).

Early vireos in Missouri included a White-eyed 31 Mar in Butler (BB) and a Warbling 26 Mar in St. Louis (†Margy Terpstra). Black-billed Magpies maintained their lone outpost in Plymouth, IA, with one or 2 birds seen after 14 Apr (POR, m.ob.). Fish Crows continue to increase in Missouri and are being seen earlier and in greater numbers. Out-of-range birds included one at E.B.C.A. 13 Mar (Brad Jacobs) and one at Knob Noster S.P., Johnson 27 Apr (Neil Young). Purple Martins and Tree Swallows arrived very early in both states. Martins were in s. Missouri by late Feb (fide CM) and reached Wayne, IA by 24 Mar (AB). Tree Swallows were widespread in Missouri by early Mar, record early arrivals reached Scott, IA by 10 Mar (†Walter Zuurdeeg, †Don Robinson), and they were widely reported from several Iowa locales 11–13 Mar. Intriguing were reports of Carolina Chickadees expanding northward into Cooper and Moniteau, MO

(†EW); it would be interesting to know if any of these reports involve hybrids with Black-capped Chickadee. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered in both states, the last on 24 May in Sioux, IA (JVD). A Rock Wren in Montgomery, IA 1 May (†Dan Dorrance) furnished a rare spring report. Bewick's Wrens

had a good season, with more than usual reported in Missouri, including 4 from the n. part of the state, and two Iowa reports of singles after 21 Apr at the usual *Lee* locale (JG) and 9-14 May in *Madison* (Eugene & Eloise Armstrong, ph., m.ob.). A male Mountain Bluebird must have been a pleasant sight at Friendly Prairie C.A., *Pettis*, MO 21 Apr (†Adrian Andrei). The thrush flight was good in both states; counts of nocturnal migrants showed strong peaks on 7-8 May and 25-26 May in cen. Iowa, most of which were Swainson's (m.ob.). Wintering Varied Thrushes in Iowa lingered until 2 Mar at Mason City, *Cerro Gordo* (*fide* PH), 10 Mar near Seargent Bluff, *Woodbury* (POR), and 24 Mar at Sioux Center, *Sioux* (JVD).

## WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

The warbler migration can best be summarized as average, with the primary fallout on 5-6 May in Iowa. A few early records occurred this spring, including an Orange-crowned 5 Apr in *Polk*, IA (†Carol L. Berrier), a Black-throated Green 23 Mar in Hillsboro, *Jefferson*, MO (†Tom & Lynda Mills), 2 Yellow-throateds on 31 Mar at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., *Van Buren*, IA

there were 5 in Missouri in the period 11-24 May; a record-early arrival was seen 6 May at Cumming Wetlands, *Warren*, IA (†JG). A few warblers appear to be expanding northwestward in the Region: Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Kentucky and Hooded Warblers were all reported in small numbers from nw. Missouri or w. Iowa. Prairie Warblers made news in Iowa, with three reports: 4 May at Mason City, *Cerro Gordo* (Harsha Jayawardena, ph.), 7-31 May and later at Pleasant Creek Recreation Area, *Linn* (Jim Forde, m.ob.), and 14 May at Geode S.P., *Henry* (†PHA, RIA, ph.). Two male Western Tanagers graced nw. Iowa: at Ruthven, *Palo Alto* 16 May (Linda Foerster, ph.) and at Oak Grove Park, *Sioux* 20 May (†SJD).

## TOWHEES THROUGH SISKINS

Spotted Towhees made news with a good showing, especially in Iowa, where there were eight reports. Many were seen the first week of May; a male at Brown's L., *Woodbury*, IA 16 May (POR) and a female 23-28 May at T.G.P. (†JWE, m.ob.) were the latest. Two apparent Eastern Towhee × Spotted Towhee hybrids were reported in nw. Iowa in late May; observers should carefully eliminate this possibility when reporting Spotted Towhees. Henslow's Sparrows, on the increase in the Region as a breeder, arrived early this year in *St. Louis*, MO 21 Mar (Ian Hunt) and at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., *Van Buren*, IA 31 Mar (RLC). Smith's Longspurs were well reported in both states, with a peak of 300 on 8 Mar at Rosecrans Airport, *St. Joseph*, *Buchanan*, MO (MBR) and 3 record-late individuals on 8 May in *Kossuth*, IA (MCK). The Iowa blizzard on 11 Apr grounded impressive numbers of longspurs, including 4650 Laplands in *Wright* and 110 Smith's in *Hamilton* (SJD, ph.).

Lazuli Buntings staged a mini-flight into nw. Missouri, with one in *Clay* 3-7 May (Ron Barry, †Linda Williams, ph., m.ob.) and up to 4, including a hybrid, from 8-10 May at Fairfax, *Atchison* (Evonne & Wilbur Wright, †TR, ph., m.ob.). A male Painted Bunting re-



This male Lazuli Bunting graced a feeder 4 May 2007 at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, Clay County, Missouri. Photograph by Linda Williams.

turned to Brookside Park, Ames, *Story*, IA 8 May and was regularly seen thereafter (†JB, m.ob.). A female Bullock's Oriole at Galena, *Stone* 9 May (†Dave Gagne) was an excellent find in Missouri. A wintering Baltimore Oriole lingered through 21 Mar at Cedar Hill, *Jefferson*, MO (†Wally George), while an aberrant individual was photographed 9 May in *Boone*, IA (Barb Clay, Jim Moreland, ph.). Winter finch reports were pathetic: a lone Red Crossbill at Kansas City, *Jackson*, MO 2 Mar-12 Apr (Dick Dawson) and four Iowa reports of Common Redpolls 8 Mar-29 Apr were the only records of note.

Corrigendum: The report of 10,005 Lesser Yellowlegs at S.C.N.W.R. 13 May 2006 (*North American Birds* 60: 382) is an error; the peak was 3213 there on 15 May (Frank Durbian).

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This male Indigo Bunting x Lazuli Bunting hybrid photographed 9 May 2007 at Fairfax, Atchison County was only the second report ever of this hybrid in Missouri. Photograph by Tommie Rogers.

(RLC), single Black-and-whites on 21 Mar in *Barry*, MO (Nancy Rochovansky) and 31 Mar at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC), a Worm-eating 17 Apr in *St. Louis* (Nick Barber), and a Kentucky on 24 Apr (John W. Ruttenbeck) and a Canada on 6 May (CRE, CJC) at Croton Unit, Shimek SF *Lee*, IA. Cape May Warblers staged a below-average flight in Missouri, with nine reports 23 Apr-17 May; a strong Iowa flight included 21 reports 6-16 May. The season's lone Black-throated Blue Warbler was a male on 9 May at Smithville L., *Clinton*, MO (DW). Connecticut Warbler is always a good find, especially away from e. Iowa. This spring,

# Tennessee & Kentucky



**Chris Sloan  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.**

The spring 2007 season was one of extreme temperature variation. Following a colder-than-average period in February, temperatures in March averaged above normal, largely due to a period of near-record-high temperatures during the latter two weeks that made the month the fifth warmest March on record at Louisville. However, temperatures abruptly “went south” in early April, and a nearly two-week period of nearly record-cold temperatures from 4-15 April set spring back significantly. Emerging vegetation was significantly damaged, and it took several weeks for deciduous trees and shrubs to recover. As a result, returning summer residents and migrants were confronted with very unusual conditions. Temperatures during May subsequently returned to above normal. Precipitation was below average for the three-month period, with March and May being the driest months and southern portions of the Region suffering from lack of rainfall more than the northern portions. The loss of early season food due to the April freeze was likely at least partly responsible for an unprecedented showing of several species at feeding stations, including Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings. Rarity highlights included Great White Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Yellow Rail, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Little Gull, Iceland Gull, Painted Bunting, and continuing Spotted Towhee, Scott’s Oriole, and Common Redpoll.

Abbreviations: Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, sw. Shelby, TN); Kentucky Dam (n. end of Kentucky L., Livingston/Marshall, KY); Radnor (Radnor Lake 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

Waterfowl migration was relatively unspectacular across the Region. At least 4 Greater White-fronted Geese lingered into mid-May at three e. Tennessee locations. A sampling of additional late waterfowl reports included a Tundra Swan in Hawkins, TN 21 Apr–11 May (SHu) that may represent a new late date for the state; a male Gadwall at Standifer Gap through the period (*vide* KCa); a male Northern Shoveler in Ballard, KY 23 May (BPa); 3 Lesser Scaup on Douglas L., Sevier, TN 29 May (MS); a Canvasback in Anderson, TN 15 May (AT); a male Redhead in Pulaski, KY 31

May (RD); a male Bufflehead on Kentucky L., Marshall, KY through 31 May (m.ob.); a male Common Goldeneye in w. Fulton, KY through at least 24 May (BPa); and a female Red-breasted Merganser on the Ohio R. at Louisville 16 May (BPa). A female Blue-winged Teal at Ensley 19 May was on a nest with 9 eggs (JRW). There were several reports of Surf Scoter: one in Muhlenberg, KY 1 Mar (RD)—3 Mar (BY, MY); 6 at Booker T. Washington S.P., Chickamauga L., Hamilton, TN 19 Mar (KCa); a female at S. Holston L. 29 Mar–16 Apr (RK, m.ob.); 10+ on Kentucky L. above the dam 30 Mar (DR), with at least 9 there 31 Mar (BY, MY, BPa); and a male in Greenup, KY 21 Apr (ph. RSe). Lingered White-winged Scoters included 4 below Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton, TN 1 Mar (ph. DS) and one on the Ohio R. at Louisville 2 Mar (DA). In Kentucky, female Hooded Mergansers with young were observed in Ohio (DR), Boone (LM), Jefferson (two broods), and Henderson, (three locations) (BPa, CC). A hen with 6 young in White, TN 19 May (SJS, DD) furnished the 4th breeding record for the county.

The only Red-throated Loons reported were one on Kentucky L., Marshall, KY 30 Mar (DR) and one on S. Holston L. 16-17 Apr (RK, m.ob.).

There were three reports of single Eared Grebes in Kentucky: in Muhlenberg 10 Mar (BY et al.); above Kentucky Dam 21 Mar (†BPa, KH); and on L. Barkley, Trigg 30 Mar (DR). In Tennessee, 4 were at Douglas L., Sevier 13 Mar (MS), and 6 were at Ft. Loudoun L., Loudoun 29 Mar (SHo); wintering Eared

Grebes at S. Holston L. remained through 7 Apr (RC). Two Western Grebes were present on Kentucky L. above the dam 28 Mar–18 Apr (vt. DR et al.); 2 continued at Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN through 7 Mar (ph. MT).

Northbound Double-crested Cormorants peaked in late Mar at 15,000 (a new state high count) on L. Barkley, Lyon/Trigg, KY 30 Mar (DR). Three male Anhingas seen soaring over Fulton, KY 7 May (ph. DR) represented an early arrival date for the state and the first record of more than one individual since 1950. One was at Hatchie N.W.R., Haywood, TN 17 May (DPr). One to 3 American Bitterns were reported on eight occasions at five locations in Kentucky 9 Apr–17 May and on nine



These two Western Grebes (here 7 March 2007) at Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Henry County, Tennessee were holdovers from the winter season and may have been the same two present at the same location the previous winter. Photograph by Mike Todd.

occasions at four locations in Tennessee 20 Mar–28 Apr. Single Least Bitterns were heard calling at five locations in Kentucky and one location in Tennessee 29 Apr–24 May. Multiple Least Bitterns were at Standifer Gap 30 Apr+ (KCa, JE, DPa), and four nests with eggs were found there 29 May (DPa). A Great White Heron continued in Blount, TN



These three male Anhingas were seen flying northward over Fulton County, Kentucky 7 May 2007. The record represents the first since 1950 of more than one bird in the state. The species is not known to breed north of this location. Photograph by David Roemer.

through 27 Mar (WB). The expansion of nesting Great Blue Herons continues in Kentucky, with new colonies located in Elliott (SF), Calloway (HC), and Jefferson (DC) during the period. A new nesting site for Great Egrets was located in Muhlenberg, KY in late Apr (DR, KOS). There was a notable flurry of reports of



At least three Glossy Ibis put in appearances in Kentucky in spring 2007; this individual was found in Fulton County 3 May. Photograph by David Roemer.

Glossy Ibis in Kentucky, involving at least 3 ads. and including 2 different birds at Sauerheber 18 Apr (MM)–6 May (ph. DR et al.) and one at the Long Point Unit, Reelfoot N.W.R., Fulton 3 May (ph. DR); in Tennessee, 2 were at Douglas L., Sevier 7–10 May (ph. MS). Two Roseate Spoonbills were reported from Shelby Forest, Shelby, TN 9 May (DPr, MTOS).

Two Mississippi Kites in Fulton 26 Apr (BPa) established a new early arrival date for Kentucky. There were a number of reports of w. forms of Red-tailed Hawk, especially during the Mar migratory period for the species (DR, BPa, AS); an ad. light-morph *calurus* in Webster 8 Mar (AS) was a county first. A Red-tailed Hawk banded at French R., MN in Oct 1991 as a hatch-year bird was recovered in Muhlenberg, KY 13 Mar, making it nearly 16 years old (SR, *fide* AS). A Rough-legged Hawk in Nashville 3 Mar (RC) was a surprise. Juv. Golden Eagles were reported in Madison, KY 11 Mar (SM, RBr) and Ohio, KY 8 Apr (ph. DR). Six Merlins were reported 11 Mar–5 May across the Region. As of mid-May, eight of nine known nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons along the Ohio R., KY had active nests (SV, AS, BV). Two ads. were at the traditional nesting site on the railroad trestle below Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton, TN through the period, and a chick was present 30 May (*fide* KCa). In Kentucky, there were also 14 reports of migrants 18 Mar–5 May.

## RAILS THROUGH TERNS

At least one and possibly 2 Yellow Rails were observed during a prescribed burn of a native grass planting in ne. Crittenden, KY 23 Mar (†BM). The only King Rail in Kentucky was one at Sauerheber 10 Apr (BPa). One to 7 Virginia Rails were encountered at four Kentucky and five Tennessee locales 10 Mar–4 May; as many as 4 were at Standifer Gap

through the period, but no nests were found this season. Three imm. Virginia Rails and an imm. Sora at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Greeneville, Greene, TN 29 May (DMi) suggested that both species nested there. A tally of at least 65 Soras at Sauerheber 21 Apr (DR, KOS) established a new high count for Kentucky. In Kentucky, Common Moorhens were reported only from traditional breeding locales in Henderson (DR, CC et al.) and Union (BPa); in Tennessee, the lone report was of a single bird in Hawkins, TN 17–18 May (DK et al.), a rarity for e. Tennessee.

In Kentucky, shorebird migration was quite respectable, with significant numbers and diversity noted mostly in the w. portion of the state; Tennessee observers reported a below-average migration. A few early shorebirds included an American Golden-Plover in s. Warren, KY 3 Mar (DR); 2 Greater Yellowlegs in w. Fulton, KY 3 Mar (BY, MY); and a Solitary Sandpiper on Kentucky L., Marshall 26 Mar (BH). Tallies of 1200 Lesser Yellowlegs in



This female Hudsonian Godwit was one of two found in western Henderson County, Kentucky 25 April 2007. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr..

Dyer, TN 17 Apr (MT), 78 White-rumped Sandpipers at Ensley 10 May (JRW), 4800+ Pectoral Sandpipers at Ensley 14 Apr (JRW, EC), and 650+ Semipalmated Sandpipers in w. Henderson, KY 23 May (BPa) represented noteworthy high counts. A count of 110 Semipalmated Plovers in Jefferson, KY 15 May (BPa) established a new high count for the Louisville area. There were two reports of Piping Plover in Kentucky: one in Jefferson 27 Apr (LM, ph. BPa et al.) and one in Union 7 May (ph. BPa).

One to 4 Black-necked Stilts were reported

at six sites in w. Kentucky 18 Apr–23 May. There were three reports of American Avocets: 9 at Kentucky Dam 24 Apr (KA, ph. BPa); 8 at Radnor 1 May (JS, KB, BB); and one on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 3 May (ph. BPa). It was an excellent spring for Willets, with one to 60+ reported at 11 locales on 17 occasions 24 Apr–15 May. There were only two reports of Upland Sandpiper in Kentucky: one in Warren 18 Apr (ph. BPa) and one in Calloway 9 May (KCo); in Tennessee, one was in Anderson 16 Apr (AT), one was at Standifer Gap 1 May (CFe, LW), and 12 were at Ensley 8 Apr (JRW), with 5 there 21 Apr (JRW). A Hudsonian Godwit at Ensley 31 Mar–1 Apr (JRW) and 2 females in w. Henderson, KY 25 Apr (ph. BPa) provided exceptional spring reports for the Region. A flock of 37 Marbled Godwits at Kentucky Dam 19 Apr (ph. BPa) included an individual that had been banded in coastal Georgia; the flock represented a new state high count for the species. One to 6 Ruddy Turnstones were found at four locales in Kentucky 12–16 May (MA, BPa). Sanderlings are a good find in the Region in spring, and there were three reports: 4 in Union, KY 15 May (BPa), and 5 on L. Barkley, Lyon, and 10 at Kentucky Dam, both 16 May (ph. BPa). A Western Sandpiper on Kentucky L., Mar-

shall 15 Mar (BH) was either an overwintering bird or early migrant. A White-rumped Sandpiper in w. Henderson, KY 19 Apr (BPa) established a new early arrival date for the state. There were four reports of Baird's Sandpiper in Kentucky: singles in different parts of w. Henderson 19 Apr (BPa), 30 Apr (ph. DR), and 1 May (BPa), plus one in w. Fulton 1 May (HC, ME). In Tennessee, 4 were at Ensley 31 Mar (JRW), with 2 there 14 Apr (JRW, EC), 4 there 21 Apr (JRW, MT), and singles there 24

Apr and 2 May (JRW). A molting Ruff was in Lake, TN 27 Apr–1 May (ph. MT et al.) A Red-necked Phalarope in w. Henderson, KY 23 May (ph. BPa) was the only one reported in the Region.

One to 3 Laughing Gulls were reported at four Kentucky locales 3–18 May; a Laughing Gull, presumably the same bird, was reported from several locations in Sullivan and Hawkins, TN 16 May–5 Jun (RC, RPh, SHu). The only Franklin's Gull reported in Kentucky was an ad. on L. Barkley, Lyon 31 Mar (BPa, BY, MY). An ad. Little Gull was present on L.



These Marbled Godwits were part of a flock of 37 at Kentucky Dam, Marshall County, Kentucky 19 April 2007; the flock represented a new state high count. A green band on the leg of one bird indicated that it had been banded on the coast of Georgia. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Barkley, Lyon, KY 31 Mar–13 Apr (BY, MY, †BPa et al.). Approximately 1500 Bonaparte's Gulls were still on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 30 Mar (DR); a first-cycle bird lingered at Kentucky Dam through 10 May (KCo). A few Herring Gulls lingered at scattered locales into the 3rd week of May in Kentucky. The Region's only Thayer's Gull was a first-cycle bird at Kentucky Dam 28 & 31 Mar (ph. DR; †BPa, BY, MY). A first- or second-cycle Iceland Gull was present on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 28 Mar (vt. DR). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in Kentucky: an ad. on Kentucky L., Calloway 26 Mar (BH); an ad. on L. Barkley, Trigg 30 Mar (ph. DR); and a first-cycle bird on L. Barkley, Lyon 26 Apr (†BPa). Terns made an uninspiring showing across the Region during spring migration. The only report of Black Tern in Kentucky was of 2 above Kentucky Dam 17 May (BPa). Common Terns were scarcely noted, with one to 2 reported from three Kentucky locales 11–17 May.

### CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Black-billed Cuckoos put in an excellent showing this season: singles were reported from 10 Kentucky and seven Tennessee locales 21 Apr–25 May. There were four reports

of Barn Owl in Kentucky: one in Pulaski (RD); one at a previous year's nest site in Henry 4 Apr (BPa); a family of 5 young in Flem-



This Ruff was present in Lake County, Tennessee 27 April (here) through 1 May 2007. The species has been of nearly annual occurrence in the Tennessee & Kentucky region during the past decade. Photograph by Mike Todd.

ing 1 May (SF); and 4, including young, in e. Calloway 12 May (HC). Three Long-eared Owls lingered in Muhlenberg, KY through 20 Mar (BPa); 4 were discovered in a yard in ne. Boyle, KY in early Mar and lingered there through 21 Mar, with the one last observed 23

Mar (KS). Short-eared Owls lingered in Muhlenberg and Ohio, KY into early Mar. Single Whip-poor-wills in Carter, TN 25 Mar (B&JP) and Lewis, TN 27 Mar (BPu), and a Chuck-will's-widow in Jackson, TN 17 Apr (J&NL), were unusually early. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Knox, TN 10 May (CW) was late. A female Rufous Hummingbird that wintered at Louisville, KY was last observed 18 Mar (MC).

One to 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported at six Kentucky and two Tennessee locales 6–19 May, representing a below-average showing, especially in Tennessee. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers put in an average showing in Kentucky, with small numbers reported 8–12 May. One to 3 Alder Flycatchers at eight locales 3–23 May was a relatively typical showing for Kentucky; likewise 3 at three locations 11–26 May in Tennessee (away from established breeding areas) was normal. A Willow Flycatcher in Calloway, KY 1 May (HC) established a new early arrival date for the state. As many as 4 Western Kingbirds were present in Shelby, TN, where the species is now an annual breeder, by 12 May (JRW). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to traditional nesting territories in Lyon and Livingston, KY and Shelby, TN; a male at the first site 2 Apr (PN, DR) established a new early arrival date for Kentucky. Two Western Kingbird × Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hybrids—both females, and likely fledged from previous years in the vicinity—were paired with Western Kingbirds in Shelby, TN 27 May (JRW).

Common Ravens continue to be reported in Sullivan and Washington, TN away from the mts.; a nest with 5 young was found in Unicoi, TN 26 Apr (RK). Several reports of vireos tied or established new arrival dates for Kentucky; these included White-eyes in Lyon 30 (DR) & 31 Mar (BY, MY, BPa); Yellow-throateds in Trigg 30 Mar (DR) and Calloway 2 Apr (ME); and a Red-eyed in Madison 31 Mar (SM, RBr). A Bell's Vireo in Calloway, KY 12 May (fide HC) and one at Ensley 26–27 May (JRW) were away from known breeding areas. Swallows seem to arrive earlier each spring, and this year was no exception, with a Northern Rough-winged Swallow and a Barn Swallow in Memphis, TN 11 Mar (JRW) and 2 Bank Swallows at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton, TN 15 Apr (CB, KCa, GB, DJ). Following a poor winter showing across the Region, only a few Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported during spring, with the latest being one in Madison, KY 28 Apr (TH et al.).



**SA** The near-record cold snap of early Apr caused an unprecedented burning back of deciduous vegetation across most of the Region. The effects of the freezing weather were exacerbated by the fact that about two weeks of near-record warmth had preceded the cold snap; this warm spell had resulted in new leaves and flowers of deciduous trees and shrubs emerging well ahead of schedule, making them especially vulnerable to the cold temperatures. In the ne. portion of the Region, many trees had not yet broken winter dormancy, so other than being delayed by a few of weeks, emergence of leaves was relatively normal there. In a majority of the Region, however, the effect on forest trees was quite remarkable. Most sat lifeless in shades of brown and black for a period of nearly two weeks while vascular systems recovered and new lateral buds formed. When they did emerge again, however, most did not reflower, which resulted in the absence of many spring flowers and fruits on trees such as elms, maples, oaks, and hickories that are likely used heavily by migrant cardinals.

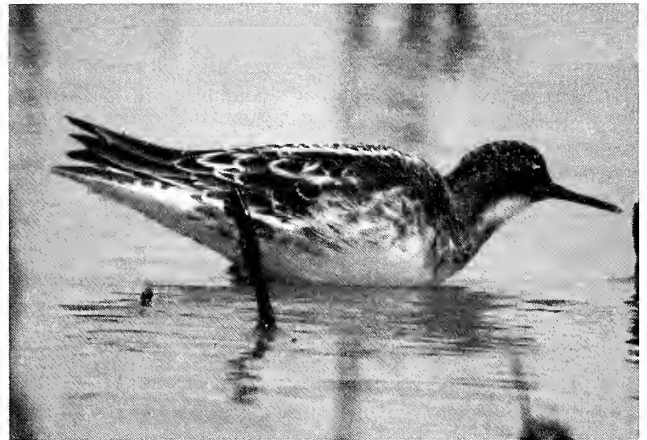
The result of the dearth of this food source had to have been at least partially responsible for an unprecedented showing of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders during the last week of Apr and the first 10 days of May. Dozens of reports came in from all across the affected area. Some observers reported 50 or more individuals at feeding stations in early May. Most birds disappeared by mid-May, but a few hung on until late in the month, with latest reports involving individuals in *Henderson, KY* (CC) and *Kenton, KY* (MAB, *vide* LM) 31 May. Although Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were the most conspicuous feeder birds reported, significant numbers of Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks were also involved in the event.

After not being reported at all in Kentucky in 2006, a singing Bewick's Wren was encountered on a B.B.S. route nw. of Beechwood, *Owen* 28 May (LM). Marsh Wrens were relatively scarce this spring, and, somewhat remarkably, only a single Sedge Wren—and a probable holdover from winter at that—was reported in the Region in *Marshall, TN* 18 Mar (DMo). Eastern Bluebird numbers were notably low in open farmland of the Bluegrass region of n.-cen. Kentucky during the spring season, most likely the result of the effects of the Feb cold snap. There were several reports of dead bluebirds being found in nest boxes (m.ob.) and simply out on the open ground (JL) in this region. An American Pipit in *Jefferson, KY* 15 May (BPu) was rather late.

Several observers noted below-average numbers of both transient and breeding warblers, a possible after-effect of the late freeze described above. A sampling of record-matching/record-setting early arrivals of warblers in

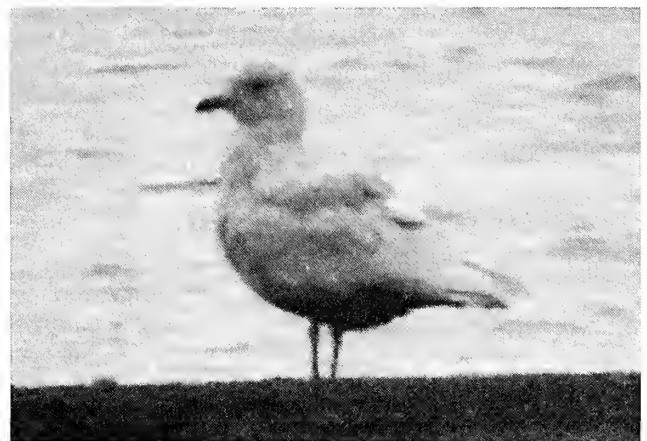
Kentucky included Blue-winged in *Trigg* 2 Apr (BL); Nashville in *Jefferson* 9 Apr (JBe, PB); and Louisiana Waterthrush in *Pulaski* 14 Mar (RD). In Tennessee, a Blue-winged in *Lewis* 1 Apr (BPu), 2 Ovenbirds in *Putnam* 4 Apr (RSi, BHS), and a Prairie in *Lewis* 5 Apr (BPu) were unusually early. It was an excellent spring for Cape May Warblers, with numerous reports and several comments concerning overall abundance; an especially remarkable concentration of no fewer than 30 and possibly as many as 50 birds frequented a single large spruce tree at Frankfort, *Franklin, KY* during the first week of May (AS, BSm, SV et al.). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Trigg, KY* 20 Apr (HC, JH) and single males in *Henry, TN* 23 Apr (MT), at Craven's House, *Hamilton, TN* 30 Apr (KCa, JE, CB), at Radnor 7 May (FF, JS, KB), and in *Putnam, TN* 12 May (JM) were w. of their regular migration and breeding areas. Transient Cerulean Warblers were reported in exceptional numbers from *Hamilton, TN*, with one to 4 reported on seven occasions 12 Apr–5 May. Swainson's Warblers singing in *Hamilton, TN* 17 Apr (BPu) and 11–20 May (BW et al.) and in s. *Boyle, KY* 21 & 23 May (MH) were not near known breeding locales. The only reports of Connecticut Warbler in Kentucky were one in *Jefferson* 11 May (BPu) and 2 in n. *Warren* 15 May (DR); in Tennessee, one to 3 were reported on seven dates at five locales 9–23 May. Single Mourning Warblers at nearly a dozen locations in Kentucky 8–19 May was a normal showing; reports were slightly down in Tennessee, with only 4 reported 28 Apr–20 May.

The wintering male Spotted Towhee in ne. *Hart, KY* was last observed 15 Apr (CFr). A Vesper Sparrow that lingered in w. *Henderson, KY* through 6 May (DR) may have been on territory. A White-throated Sparrow lingered in a *Madison, KY* yard through 31 May (TH). A Bachman's Sparrow in *Montgomery, TN* 30 Apr (DMo) was the only one reported in the Region. Early Henslow's Sparrows were re-



This Red-necked Phalarope was present in western Henderson County, Kentucky 23 May 2007. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

ported at Yanahli W.M.A., *Maury, TN* 10 Mar (TE) and *Marshall, TN* 26 Mar (DMo); 2 in *Putnam, TN* 12 May (BHS) established a first county record. Two Painted Buntings, a male and a green bird, were reported in a yard near Bethlehem, e.-cen. *Henry, KY* 12 May (†ML, EL); the species is quite rare in the state. Migrant Bobolinks were not numerous in Kentucky. A new nesting locale was reported just w. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer* during the latter



This first- or second-cycle Iceland Gull was present on Lake Barkley, Lyon County, Kentucky 28 March 2007. Video capture by David Roemer.

half of May (KD, GD et al.); at least 8 territorial males were present, and a female was on a nest containing 5 eggs there 28 May (GD). One to 4 Brewer's Blackbirds at five Kentucky locales 1 Mar–21 Apr was a relatively typical showing for spring. Five Western Meadowlarks were at *Ensley* 10 Mar (JRW). The wintering imm. female Scott's Oriole in *Franklin, KY* lingered through 23 Apr (F&DS et al.). An Orchard Oriole in *Lake, TN* 25 Mar (NM) was unusually early.

Following a dismal winter for Purple Finches and Pine Siskins, a few migrants were reported at scattered locales from mid-Mar through mid-Apr (m.ob.); a relatively tardy

siskin was reported from Black Mt., Harlan, KY 21 May (DR). A Pine Siskin nest with an egg on Roan Mt., Carter, TN 5-19 May (AT, RBi, NS) established the first nesting record in the state, although nesting has been assumed for many years. The Common Redpoll in Lewis, TN lingered through 9 Mar (BPu).

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# Alabama & Mississippi



**Steven W. McConnell**

The general weather pattern over the Region during spring 2007 would best be described as warm and dry: temperatures averaged 3-6° C above normal, and rainfall totaled only 40 per cent of the normal amount. A vivid reminder that circumstances could be much worse came in the form of frequent, irritating smoke swept into our Region from widespread brush fires in Georgia and Florida. Despite all the heat, probably the most memorable weather event of the season was a cold one! Passage of a strong front 4 April allowed a large Arctic air mass to drift southward, almost reaching the latitude of Birmingham, Alabama and Starkeville, Mis-

issippi. A hard freeze followed on the nights of 7-8 April, with the mercury dipping around 14° C below normal. All-time record lows were set across the Region, and early spring vegetation and planted crops suffered mightily. The full extent of the damage was perhaps best seen in early May, when many forest canopies normally dressed in bright, spring green looked as though a defoliant spray had been applied.

“Excellent” migrant numbers were noted at many coastal locations 10-11 April, as a strong low-pressure system moved rapidly eastward, causing widespread rain and storms. Weaker fronts on 19 and 26 April produced more local events, although the latter did create classic fallout conditions at Fort Morgan, Alabama. Here, only a few coastal veterans had done their homework and witnessed a “dizzying” number of warblers. The Duncans ended the day with 49 Neotropical migrant land bird species, their highest ever!

Proving once again that the birding action up north may rival the coast, the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge spring count 28 April compiled impressive totals for both residents and migrants. Twenty-seven species had their previous Tennessee Valley spring or all-time record counts broken, and the 1076 Indigo Buntings amassed set a new Alabama one-day maximum. A sprinkling of rarities across the season included an inland American Oystercatcher, one or two Black Swifts, and the appearance of the largest Cave Swallow flock ever recorded in the Region.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the valuable, long-term contributions made by Robert and Lucy Duncan to the bird knowledge of our Region and to this publication in particular. I only hope to wisely use what they have taught me as I assume this role. We all look forward to hearing of their future travel and birding adventures and sharing those we can.

**Abbreviations:** Coldwater R. (Coldwater River N.W.R., *Quitman/Tallahatchie*, MS); Dauphin I. (*Mobile*, AL); FM.N.H. (Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville); Ft. Morgan (*Baldwin*, AL); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., *Oktibbeha/Winston*, MS); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone/Morgan*, AL).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

The 2 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks discovered at Dauphin I. 1 May provided Alabama's 4th record but only lingered for one day (BCG, ph. DD, m.ob.). A single bird 28 May furnished the 5th state record when it appeared much farther n. in *Etowah*, AL and stayed a few days (ph. EG). A Ross's Goose observed at Coldwater R. 7 Apr was quite late (G&SK). Also rather tardy was a Green-winged Teal found at Eufaula N.W.R., *Barbour*, AL 29 Apr (LW); a male Greater Scaup was tardy in *Limestone*, AL 15 Apr (GDJ, DGJ). By May, scoters have typically disappeared from our Region, and finding all three species on any day of the year is no mean feat. The ob-



These two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks discovered 1 May 2007 (here) were a one-day wonder on Dauphin Island, Mobile County. They provided only the fourth documented Alabama record for this expanding species and the first on the coast. All previously accepted records were from the Tennessee Valley. Photograph by David Dortch.

server on a boat trip near Isle aux Herbes and Cat I., s. of mainland Mobile, AL, was therefore very surprised to find a male Surf (ph.), a White-winged, and a female Black Scoter, along with 6 unidentified scoters 17 May (RC). A late male Black Scoter in Oktibbeha, MS 8 May was a rare inland find (MS, TLS). A female Red-breasted Merganser at Dauphin I. 30 May (JFP) was quite late.

Pacific Loons are regular but still rare finds for our Region, making two early spring reports noteworthy. The first was in the surf at Ft. Morgan 3 Mar (LFG) and the other inland at Bay Springs Lake, Tishomingo, MS 2 Mar (†WP). Good numbers of Anhinga were reported from two inland locations. Up to 8 were present 26 Apr–2 May near Columbus, Lowndes, MS (MS, TLS, D&JP), and up to 3 were seen 29 Apr–20 May in Shelby, AL (AH). American Bittern is rarely detected inland, making the observation of up to 4 at Coldwater R. 7–21 Apr unusual (G&SK). Careful exploration of a rookery near Picayune, Pearl River, MS 19 May reformed since Hurricane Katrina revealed 75–80 pairs of Cattle Egret, 60–70 pairs of Little Blue Heron, 50–60 pairs of White Ibis, 8–10 pairs of Snowy Egret, and 7–8 Anhingas. All but the last were on nests (NB, GF). Roseate Spoonbills are always rare treats whenever they wander into our Region. The imm. noted 30 Apr at the Gulf Shores W.T.P., Baldwin, AL furnished only a

3rd state spring record (ph. MF). Wood Storks are also rarely found in spring, so 3 at Noxubee 22 May (JB) and an imm. the same day near Conecuh N.F., Covington, AL (ph. MB) were noteworthy.

## RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Impressive mid-spring counts for Swallow-tailed Kite were compiled 1 May in Pearl River, MS, with 5 on a roost near an old nesting area (JO&TDC) and 9 apparently late migrants 17 May moving straight northward into the wind over Waveland, Hancock, MS (NB). Golden Eagles are rarely seen in spring, so two Mississippi observations were noteworthy. The first was an imm. 5 Apr at Nox-

ubee (TLS), surpassing the previous late area record by 42 days. The other was even later and rarer on the coast 3 May at Ansley, Hancock, where only a few previous county



This Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was observed 28 May 2007 and later (here 2 June) along the banks of the Coosa River near Southside, Etowah County. It furnished a fifth documented Alabama record. Photograph by Esther Guenther.

records exist (NB). The Yellow Rail seen 16 & 21 Apr at the Dauphin I. airport provided only the 3rd spring and 18th Alabama record (JLT, DC, BKF). Late Sandhill Cranes were observed at two locations. On 18 Apr, a single crane, furnishing a potential first Lee, MS record, was seen near Shannon Hwy. 45 (WP). Much later in the season, a calling

crane seen 16 May in flight over the Dauphin I. airport provided a very late Alabama record of a locally rare species (BH, BS, AL).

While it is not unusual to find multiple Semipalmated Plovers during spring migration, a count of 82 at Coldwater R. 21 Apr was quite high (G&SK). The discovery by fishermen of an American Oystercatcher 24 May on rocks in the Tennessee R. near Sheffield, Colbert, AL was astounding for this strictly coastal species (ph. SH, RM). Not only did the one-day appearance around 550 km from the Gulf of Mexico furnish the first inland Alabama record (and unconnected to passage of a tropical weather system), but it apparently provided one of only a few documented records ever for inland North America! Although it is not unusual to find American Avocets along the Alabama Gulf Coast, the flock of 55 seen 30 Apr from the Mobile Bay ferry, Mobile/Baldwin was a very good high count (PEL). Willet is a regular late-spring migrant through our Region; however, some surprisingly high counts were reported this season. The champion and new spring maximum for Alabama was the total of 153 seen on Pelican I. and nearby Dauphin I. 23 Apr (GDJ, DGJ). Rarer inland, 7 were found 29 Apr at Eufaula S.P., Barbour, AL (LW); a total of 33 was counted 4 May at Waterloo and Wilson Dam, Lauderdale,

AL (SWM, DJS, JTG); and 3 were discovered 6 May at Bay Springs L., Tishomingo, MS (G&SK).

A migrant Whimbrel flock was recorded for the 3rd consecutive spring 18–23 Apr on a farm field s. of Grand Bay, Mobile, AL (RA&LBR, ph. BSu, m.ob.). This season a count of 100+ individuals 21 Apr established a new Alabama maximum. It could not be ascertained whether a flock of 41 Whimbrels seen 17 May at nearby Barton I., Mobile was part of the Grand Bay flock or was staging at a previously unknown location (RC). A lone Whimbrel 9–11 May at Speigner, Elmore provided only the 2nd spring Alabama record and the 16th inland state observation ever (ph. TRP). Marbled Godwits appeared at two locations this spring to furnish the 18th and 19th Alabama inland records. Five were discovered 11 Apr, with

many other migrant shorebirds at Town Creek Marsh, Colbert (ph. DJS). Later in the season, one was seen 4 May traveling with a flock of 25 Willets at Waterloo, Lauderdale (SWM, DJS, JTG). Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a rarely found Regional spring migrant, so 5 at a turf farm near Oxford, Lafayette, MS 11 Apr were unexpected (G&SK). A very im-



This American Oystercatcher on rocks in the Tennessee River near Sheffield was documented 24 May 2007 by two alert fishermen. This Colbert County location—550 km from the Gulf of Mexico—was amazing for this strictly coastal species and represents not only the first inland Alabama record but also one of only a few documented in interior North America. Photograph by Steve Hacker.

pressive number of Long-billed Dowitchers was documented 17 Mar when 2200 were tallied at Coldwater R. (G&SK). A female Ruff made a brief appearance 11 Apr at Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert*, furnishing a 7th Alabama record (†DJS).

## GULLS THROUGH PIPITS

Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings continue to become more expected; however, spring records are still only occasional, making two reports from Ft. Morgan interesting. A first-cycle bird was found 22 Apr (ph. GDJ, DGJ), and three weeks later a third-cycle individual was described at the same location (BH, BS, AL). Caspian Terns are regular spring migrants through our Region; however, the 133 found 16 Apr at Town Creek, *Colbert* established a new inland maximum for Alabama (DJS). White-winged Doves are rarely found away from the Alabama coast, making the observations of lone birds 17 Apr and 29 May near Valley, *Chambers* quite interesting (R&JMc). A late morning squall line at Ft. Morgan 26 Apr resulted in an impressive afternoon migrant fallout: at least 150 Yellow-billed and 3 Black-billed Cuckoos arrived at one point, impressive counts of both species (LRD, RAD). Another Black-billed Cuckoo heard 6 May at St. Florian, *Lauderdale*, AL was a rare inland find (DJS). A Chuck-will's-widow seen 4 Mar at Ft. Morgan was quite early for a migrant and may have been a wintering bird (MJJ). Another calling 2 Apr at Birmingham, *Jefferson* was definitely early for the Mountain Region of Alabama (RSH).

A bird described as a Black Swift 11-12 Apr at Ft. Morgan would represent a first state

record, if accepted by the Alabama B.R.C. The bird appeared as a front approached the coast from the w. and strong southeasterly winds swept through the area (†LRD, †MT, †CH, †MR et al.). Another Black Swift was reported 11 Apr over nearby Dauphin I., at about the same time of day the Ft. Morgan bird was also being observed (†PB). The male Black-chinned Hummingbird observed 4 Apr at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin I. provided one of only a few non-banding records for the species (BL). The singing Willow Flycatcher at Ansley, *Hancock* 5 May was a first for spring in coastal Mississippi (NB). A Western Kingbird at

the Tuscaloosa Airport, *Tuscaloosa* 5 Mar represented only a 5th inland spring record for Alabama (KGB, JH). Gray Kingbirds continue their slow return to the Alabama coast. The single bird banded 7 Apr at Ft. Morgan was a little early (b., ph. DBE, RRS). Two pairs at Gulf S.P., *Baldwin*, AL returned to nest again 5-7 May (RAD, LRD, BM). The Yellow-throated Vireo in *Limestone*, AL 30 Mar was carrying nest material, setting a new early mark (JTG, TMH). A Red-eyed Vireo on Dauphin I. 17 Mar (DD, CD), a Wood Thrush 17 Mar at Ft. Morgan, and 3 Swainson's Thrushes at Dauphin I. the same day were all likewise early (RS&DCH). The American Pipit in *Tuscaloosa* 1 May was unusually late for the Inner Coastal Plain region of Alabama (HHK, MSh et al.).

**SA** The 100+ Cave Swallows that appeared 7 Apr at Ft. Morgan followed behind passage of a strong cold front (HEH, BSu, ph. TS, m.ob.) and far exceeded the previous Regional high count of around 6! The flock dissipated quickly over the next few days, with the last report 12 Apr. A dead bird found 11 Apr was later determined to be of the *pallida* (*pelodoma*) subspecies (RAD, LRD, TW, \*F.M.N.H.). The Hummer/Bird Study Group banding operation managed to capture and examine 3 individuals, all of which were also *pallida* (DBE, FB, RRS). A single Cave Swallow 11 Apr at nearby Dauphin I. was likely part of this same influx (LW).

## WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

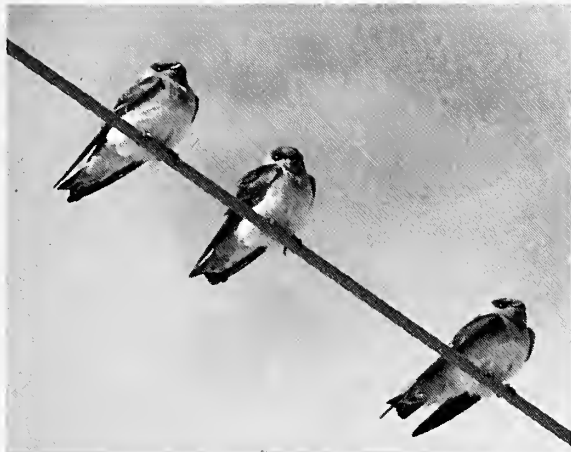
The male Lawrence's Warbler 22 Apr on Dauphin I. represented only the 9th Alabama record for this rare backcross (SF, DB, RAD, m.ob.). If a migrant, a Northern Parula 1 Mar at Dauphin I. was early (DD, CD); another 10 Mar in *Jefferson* furnished a new early record for the Mountain Region of Alabama (RR&MBS). Black-throated Blue Warblers are uncommon migrants through our area, making three reports noteworthy: males were discovered at Henleyfield, *Pearl River*, MS 28 Apr

(NB), inland at Monte Sano S.P., *Madison*, AL 28 Apr (GDJ, DGJ), and at Talladega N.F., *Cleburne*, AL 5 May (GDJ, DGJ). Cerulean Warbler has become an uncommon migrant and rare breeder in our Region, making reports from eight different locations encouraging. A female Cerulean at Opelika, *Lee*, AL 31 Mar was early (LW). A singing male in *Montgomery* 19 Apr was rare for the Inner Coastal Plain region of Alabama (LFG). A survey 21-30 Apr in *Choctaw/Lowndes/Oktibbeha*, MS found 1-2 Ceruleans at five different sites (TLS, MS, MC). Nests are rarely located, so finding a Cerulean pair with large young 25 May at Bankhead N.F., *Lawrence*, AL was exciting (ECS, JT). If migrants, 2 Black-and-white Warblers on Dauphin I. 1 Mar furnished a new Alabama early record (DD, CD). A singing Swainson's Warbler 4 May near Key Cave N.W.R., *Lauderdale* was a rare find for the Tennessee Valley region of Alabama, where the species is an occasional breeder (SWM, DJS, JTG). An impressive total of 21 Swainson's was found at 13 cen. Mississippi locations in *Choctaw/Lowndes/Oktibbeha/Noxubee* 21 Apr+, with up to 5 at one location (TLS, MS). Early Hooded Warblers were found at Noxubee 24 Mar (TLS, MS) and at Tannehill S.P., *Jefferson*, AL 30 Mar (HHK, RDK). A Kentucky Warbler 22 Mar at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, AL continued the early pattern (RR).

The singing Connecticut Warbler at Indian Creek Greenway, *Madison*, *Madison*, AL 19 May provided a noteworthy observation of this rarely detected migrant (GDJ, DGJ). Up to 3 Mourning Warblers were found at the same site 13-18 May for a new Alabama maximum (KW, HD, BM). While Summer Tanagers are not unusual in our Region, the 99 totaled during the Wheeler spring count 28

Apr furnished a new maximum for Alabama's Tennessee Valley region (CDC, m.ob.). A Le Conte's Sparrow 24 Apr on the Mississippi coast at Waveland, *Hancock* (NB) was rather late. A Dark-eyed Junco 11 Apr at Ft. Morgan provided a new late record for the Gulf Coast region of Alabama (RAD, LRD, LC).

The 54 Baltimore Orioles totaled during the Wheeler spring count 28 Apr established a new maximum for the Tennessee Valley region of Alabama (CDC, m.ob.). At least 150 Blue Grosbeaks 22 Apr at Ft. Morgan fur-



These three Cave Swallows at Fort Morgan, Baldwin County, Alabama were part of the 100+ that appeared 7 April 2007—easily the highest documented Regional count ever. During their brief stay, three flock members were banded and one dead specimen was recovered. Examination determined all to be of the southwestern subspecies *pallida* (*pelodoma*).

Photograph by Tom Siegwald.

nished a new maximum spring count for Alabama (GDJ, DGJ). The male Shiny Cowbird

21 Apr on Dauphin I. was the only spring report received for this occasional species (LRD). Up to 5 Bronzed Cowbirds were observed 5 May+ at Ansley, Hancock, MS, with some observed in courtship (NB). Impressive Bobolink numbers were noted 24 Apr–17 May at Waveland, Hancock, MS, with 300-400 early in the period falling to 60 by mid-May (NB).

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## Arkansas & Louisiana



**Steven W. Cardiff**

Passage of a strong cold front through the region 3-5 April allowed a cold air mass to penetrate unusually far south, resulting in a late freeze affecting the Ozarks region

of Arkansas on 7-8 April. The freeze caused widespread damage to buds, foliage, and flowers on many bird-important species of trees. Although some recovery and re-leaving was apparent later in the season, the timing of this event undoubtedly impacted northbound migrants and early nesting species. This same front, backing up as a warm front and then interacting with a second cold front on 9-12 April, precipitated fair numbers of trans-Gulf migrants on the Louisiana coast 10-11 April. Birding activity in southwestern Louisiana surged during late April and early May, fortunately in association with the joint American Birding Association–Louisiana Ornithological Society convention in Lafayette.

Abbreviations: County/parish names are italicized; counties/parishes are indicated only for the initial mention of a specific locality, and states are indicated only for the initial mention of counties/parishes, except to avoid confusion. For records of “review list” species, documentation has been received and records have either been accepted by, or acceptance is pending by, the respective state bird records committee. Significance for Arkansas records is based on James and Neal (1986) plus the Arkansas Audubon Society online bird record database, and, for

Louisiana, on the Louisiana bird record database at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS).

### WATERFOWL

Although Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are spreading in Arkansas, Fulvous Whistling-Ducks are still considered rare, so one near Arkansas City, Desha 25-26 May (ph. DB) and 11 at Bald Knob N.W.R., White (KN) were of interest. A Greater White-fronted Goose was a strange sight heading southwestward over Lacassine, Jefferson Davis, LA on the late date of 28 Apr (DLD, SWC). Breeding Mottled Ducks continued to thrive in Desha, with 20 ads. and 15 young counted 28 May (DB); a dozen Blue-winged Teal and 2 male Northern Shovelers there 26 May (DB) were most likely late migrants. An ad. male Cinnamon Teal in extreme sw. Cameron 8 May (PEL) established a new late spring record for Louisiana, and a female Greater Scaup at Craig Fish Hatchery, Benton 12 May (MAM, DC) was the 2nd latest all-time for Arkansas. The wintering male Tufted Duck on L. Dardanelle, Yell/Pope, AR (K&LN, m.ob.) was last seen 18 Mar. Late scoters included 4 Surfs at New Orleans 17 Mar (vt. PAW), one Surf at L. Fayetteville, Washington, AR 14 Apr (DC), an imm. male White-winged near Little Rock, Pulaski, AR

17-20 Mar (ph. Kelly Jobe, DM), a female Black at New Orleans 10 Mar (PAW, DMD), and another at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, LA 6 Apr (ph. PEC, BMM, Gay Gomez, Robin Doughty), and possibly the same bird there 27-28 Apr (JHo, PEL et al.). A Long-tailed Duck at New Orleans 3 Mar was likely the same bird seen 23 Feb (PAW, CCS). Spring migrant Red-breasted Mergansers are seldom detected inland, so 8 moving up the Red R. near Shreveport, *Caddo*, LA 16 Mar (TD) were of interest.

## GREBES THROUGH CARACARA

At L. Fayetteville, 115 Pied-billed Grebes 14 Apr (MAM, DC) was an impressive Regional spring concentration. Fifty-eight Horned Grebes at False R., *Pointe Coupee* 4 Mar (DBo, JBo) was an excellent count for the Baton Rouge area; one in *Desha* was rather late 27 Apr (D&SB). A Red-necked Grebe at Treadway Fish Farms, *Prairie* 5 Mar, with 2 birds on 11 Mar and at least one present to 14 Apr (ph. DBr, KN, DM, D&SB, ph. NA), would represent the 6th/7th Arkansas occurrences (if accepted as separate records). Single Eared Grebes at New Orleans 3 Mar (PAW) and on False R. 4 Mar (DBo, JBo) were unusual for s.-cen. and se. Louisiana; 2 in alternate plumage in *Prairie* 6 Apr (Rob Doster, DM) and one in *Craighead* 12 Apr (NA) were relatively late for Arkansas. An imm. Brown Pelican flying westward along I-10 in *Jefferson Davis* 1 May (PEL) was certainly out of place.

Single Swallow-tailed Kites in Louisiana at Palmetto I., *Vermilion* 9 May (JVH) and near St. Gabriel, *Iberville* 12 May (JVR) were probable late migrants away from known breeding locations. A White-tailed Kite at Mt. Magazine S.P., *Logan* 7 Mar (DSi) was completely unexpected and only about the 10th for Arkansas. Lingering female Northern Harriers were in *Desha* 10 May (DB) and at Searcy, *White* 24 May (KN). A very late Sharp-shinned Hawk at Fort Polk, *Vernon* 30 May (JJ) was suggestive of breeding; there is one previous confirmed nesting record from that area of w.-cen. Louisiana. A pair of Cooper's Hawks at Grand Isle, *Jefferson* 20 May (DPr) was also suggestive of breeding and would be a new coastal locale for the species. Swainson's Hawks were widely reported in sw. Louisiana; although some may have been migrants, most were thought to be territorial pairs. A pair with nest material near Chloe, *Calcasieu* 1 Apr (BMM, PEC, MJM, DP); a pair copulating at a com-

pleted nest near Bell City, *Calcasieu* 29 Apr (SWC, DLD et al.; nest inactive 5 Jun); and sightings relatively far e. in extreme se. *Vermilion* 11 Apr and 9 May (JVH) were among the more interesting reports. About a dozen Crested Caracaras reported from sw. Louisiana included 2 ads. and a subad. seen repeatedly near Bell City 24-29 Apr (two sightings of birds carrying nest material; SWC, ph. DLD, BMM et al.), and an ad. relatively far ne. (and n. of I-10) near Lacassine, *Jefferson Davis* 24 Apr (SWC, DLD, Jeff Gordon et al.). Ten Sandhill Cranes in *Poinsett*, AR 8 Mar (ph. NA) were relatively late for the Region.

## SHOREBIRDS

At Port Fourchon, *Lafourche*, LA, 130 Black-bellied Plovers 29 Apr (PAW) qualified as one of the larger state counts, and 6 American Golden-Plovers were late at Grand Isle 20 May



In Arkansas, a Red-necked Grebe at Treadway Fish Farms, *Prairie County* 5 March 2007 was joined by a second individual on 11 March, and at least one was present through 14 April 2007 (here). These represent the sixth and seventh state records. Photograph by Nick Anich.

(DPr). A Louisiana record high of 520 Semipalmated Plovers 21 Apr, mainly in *Acadia* and *Jefferson Davis* (SWC, DLD), and a concentration of 25 in *Benton* 28 Apr (MAM, Paige Mulhollan), clustered nicely with previous Regional spring high counts; 100 at Grand Isle 20 May (DPr) was a large number for the coast so late, and 3 in *Benton* 24-27 May (MAM, JN) were relatively late for Arkansas. Earliest ever for nw. Arkansas was a Lesser Yellowlegs in *Benton* 2 Mar (MAM, JN). Among four Arkansas reports of Willets, 2 in *Lonoke* 14 Apr (K&LN) were relatively early, and 14 in *Nevada* 30 Apr (ph. Eddie Daniel) was a relatively high number. Also record early was a Hudsonian Godwit in *Prairie* 12 Apr (KN), and several other reports in *Prairie*, *Lonoke*, and *White* 14-18 Apr (D&SB, ph. NA, K&LN, LY, Ken Dayer, DBr, Pat Braddy) were also relatively early; 200+ in se. *Calcasieu* and s. *Jefferson Davis* 6 May (BMM, ph. DP, PEC) surpassed the previous Louisiana high count by a wide margin. Very rare away from the coast, especially in spring, single Marbled Godwits

turned up in *White* 15 Apr (LY), *Prairie* 21 Apr (K&LN, D&SB), and se. *Calcasieu* 6 May (ph. DP, BMM, PEC). Somewhat more regular in the far interior but still noteworthy were a Ruddy Turnstone in *Benton* 24-25 May (MAM) and a Sanderling in *Prairie* 2 May (KN). About 300 Red Knots at Grand Isle 14-15 Apr (SWC, DLD, DBo, JBo) was an encouraging number. A Western Sandpiper in *Prairie* 1 Apr (K&LN) was considered a very early migrant. Thirty Baird's Sandpipers in *Lonoke* 14 Apr (NA, D&SB) was a relatively large number in Arkansas. An estimated 3000 White-rumped Sandpipers at *Cameron Prairie* N.W.R., *Cameron* 8 May (PEL) surpassed the previous Louisiana high total. About 5500 Stilt Sandpipers in ne. *Cameron* and *Jefferson Davis* 21 Apr (SWC, DLD) was also a new record, but was quickly eclipsed by 12,000 at *Cameron Prairie* N.W.R. 8 May (PEL). A total of 374

Buff-breasted Sandpipers in *Acadia* and *Jefferson Davis* 21 Apr (SWC, DLD) set yet another new state record. A male Ruff at Treadway Fish Farm 22 Mar (DBr) would be about the 11th for Arkansas and one of the earliest spring records. An aggregation of 2000 Short-billed Dowitchers at Grand Isle 14 Apr (SWC, DLD) was a fairly impressive number for one location. An estimated 17,000 Long-billed Dowitchers at *Lonoke/Prairie* fish farms 14 Apr, including 15,000 by one party (K&LN), appear to be unprecedented numbers in Arkansas (NA, D&SB); 155 in *Ben-*

*ton* 28 Apr (MAM et al.) was a new high for nw. Arkansas. Rounding out the array of record shorebird numbers were 440 Wilson's Phalaropes in *Cameron* 8 May (PEL), the 2nd highest count for Louisiana.

## GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A Laughing Gull in *Prairie* 2 May (K&LN) was a good spring bird for cen. Arkansas, and 5 Franklin's Gulls in *Benton* 24 May (MAM) were rare and relatively late for the state. Casual in Louisiana, a Little Gull was well described at *Cameron*. 31 Mar (DBo, JBo). Up to 400 Bonaparte's Gulls in the Holly Beach area 6 Apr (BMM, PEC) coincided with the species' migration peak during late Mar-early Apr. Now almost expected in spring, at least 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the Holly Beach-Cameron area 28 Apr-12 May (PEL, ph. BMM, DP, DBo, ph. JBo, DPM) were the only ones reported. A first-cycle Glaucous Gull was seen at *Cameron* 24-27 Apr (Jeff Antonellis-Lapp, ph. Gary H. Rosenberg, DPM, PEL, ESB, JHo et al.). Great Black-backed

Gull encounters included a third-cycle bird at Grand Isle 6 Apr (EJ), possibly the same bird there 13-14 Apr (vt. PAW, CCS, SWC, ph. DLD, JBo, DBo), and a first-cycle bird at Cameron 26-29 Apr (DPM, PEL, ph. Alvaro Jaramillo, JBo, DBo). A Black-legged Kittiwake near Holly Beach 20 Mar may have been the same individual found at nearby Cameron 29 Apr (ph. DBo, JBo et al.).

A Gull-billed Tern heard overhead near Sorrento, Ascension 6 May (SWC, DLD) was well inland from the species' normal spring coastal haunts. Also unexpected inland in sw. Louisiana were at least six pairs of nesting Least Terns along I-10 near Lacassine (BMM, SWC, ph. DLD et al.). Increasingly scarce, 3 ad. Common Ground-Doves near Franklinton, Washington, AR 18 May (Laura Palasz, A. Taylor) were a pleasant surprise and possibly suggestive of local breeding. A smattering of Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports in Baton Rouge and near St. Gabriel 24 Mar (SWC, DLD, JVR, R. Brumfield) and at New Orleans 25 Mar (DPM) represented an exceptionally early wave of arriving migrants. A Burrowing Owl wintering near Holmwood, Calcasieu was reported intermittently 9 Mar-11 Apr (vt. JB, JBo, DBo, BMM, PEC, ph. DP). Rarely detected spring Whip-poor-wills included singing males at Shreveport 28 Mar (TD) and near St. Gabriel 21 Apr (DLD).

## HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH VIREOS

A wintering female Calliope Hummingbird that remained near St. Gabriel through 13 Apr (ph. DLD, SWC) represented one of the latest spring departures. In Ouachita N.F., Scott, AR, 32 active Red-cockaded Woodpecker nests 8 May (JN) was the same number reported in 2006. Difficult to explain was a Pileated Woodpecker at Johnsons Bayou 25 Apr (DPM); there are only three previous records from the immediate sw. coast, all from mid-late Apr. Exceptionally rare in spring for se. Louisiana was an Olive-sided Flycatcher at New Orleans 19 May (DPM). An Acadian Flycatcher in Faulkner 3 Apr (John Workman) was very early for Arkansas. Up to 3 calling/singing Alder Flycatchers per day were noted in Caddo/Bossier 19-27 May (TD); the species is likely a regular spring migrant in nw. Louisiana, but there are still relatively few convincing records. Still considered extremely rare in Louisiana, Willow Flycatchers in Caddo/Bossier included 1-2 unusually early individuals calling/singing 25-30 Apr, then not detected again until 8 May, with numbers then building to a peak of 7+ on 19 May and at least 3 territorial birds through the end of the period (TD). A female Vermilion Flycatcher in Desha 30 May (D&SB) may furnish

the first May record for Arkansas and certainly one of very few spring/early summer records for the Region. Two Western Kingbirds at Grand Isle 15 Apr (SWC, ph. DLD et al.), 6 in Pulaski 11 May (DS, Robert Herron, Doris Boyles), and one in White 30 May (KN) were all relatively far east. Three male Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were relatively early in Bossier 22 Mar (TD).

A Yellow-throated Vireo near St. Gabriel 11 Mar (DLD) was apparently record early for the Baton Rouge area (and among the earliest



This Cave Swallow at Millwood Lake, Little River County 24 March through 15 (here 8) April 2007 supplied the second record for Arkansas. Photograph by Charles Mills.

ever for Louisiana); one in Craighead 23 Mar (Norman Lavers) was early for Arkansas. Some of this spring's exceptional vireo counts from the Louisiana coast included 143 White-eyes and 66 Yellow-throateds at Grand Isle 10 Apr (PAW, CCS) and 120 White-eyes and 25 Yellow-throateds at Johnsons Bayou 11 Apr (PEC, BMM). A Blue-headed Vireo near St. Gabriel 19 Apr (DLD) tied the area late record. Warbling Vireos at Homer, Claiborne 24 Mar (John Dillon) and in Bossier 28 Mar (TD) were very early, especially for n. Louisiana. Five Warbling Vireos in coastal Cameron 11 Apr (PEC, BMM) and 25-26 Apr (DPM) would normally be impressive, but an estimated 50-60 there 15 Apr (MJM) and 40 e. of Cameron the same day (DFL) were unprecedented Louisiana counts by an order of magnitude. Philadelphia Vireos on the Cameron coast numbered about 50 between multiple sites 25 Apr (PEL, ESB, m.ob.); one at Grand Isle 20 May (DPr) was late; and 8 in Benton 12 May (MAM, DC) was a large number for nw. Arkansas. Relatively early Red-eyed Vireos in Louisiana were near St. Gabriel 18 (DLD) & 19 Mar (JVR), in St. Martin 20 Mar (DBo, JBo), and in Union 4 Apr (SP). A Black-whiskered Vireo was a good find at Johnsons Bayou 13 May (ph. EJ).

## SWALLOWS THROUGH PIPITS

A Tree Swallow at Cotile L., Rapides 28 May,

and 2 there 31 May (JVH), were in an area where a pair nested the previous two years. Northern Rough-winged Swallows in Pulaski 7 Mar (DBr) and Arkansas 10 Mar (DS) provided some of the earliest records for Arkansas. A Cliff Swallow at Shreveport 6 Mar (TD) was apparently record early for the state, much less for n. Louisiana. Representing a 2nd Arkansas record, a Cave Swallow made itself available at Millwood L., Little River 24 Mar-15 Apr (ph. CM, Dolores & Donald Harrington, m.ob.). Another Cave Swallow found dead on a drilling ship in the Gulf of Mexico approximately 174 km sse. of South Pass of the Mississippi R. 10 Apr (Troy Reitan, \*LSUMNS) was the first specimen for Louisiana. Three or 4 Barn Swallows at Shreveport 1 Mar (TD) were early, and an estimated 700 on the Cameron coast 11 Apr (BMM, PEC) apparently made a new Louisiana spring high count. Although always scarce along the extreme sw. coast, 2 Carolina Chickadees in a beach chenier e. of Rutherford Beach, Cameron 9 Apr (PEC, BMM) was the first post-Hurricane Rita report from the area. Lingering Red-breasted Nuthatches at Little Rock 6 Mar (Mel White) and Searcy 2 Apr (KN) were the only reports. Presumably one of the birds that had wintered locally, a Rock Wren at Millwood L., Hempstead 16 Apr (WS) was the latest spring date for the state other than a 31 May 1958 record in Pike. Also very late was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Craighead 22 May (DB). A pair of Eastern Bluebirds using a nest box sw. of Thornwell, Jefferson Davis 21 & 24 Apr (SWC, DLD), and another pair s. of Holmwood 29 Apr (DBo), were at the sw. limit of the species' breeding range in Louisiana; a male at Cameron 6 May (PEC, DP, BMM) was exceptionally late for the coast.

Arkansas's 6th Townsend's Solitaire at Mt. Magazine S.P. 2-3 Apr (DSi, DBr) also represented the latest spring record. A Swainson's Thrush at Johnsons Bayou 6 Apr (PEC, BMM) and a lingering Hermit Thrush near St. Gabriel 19 Apr (DLD) ranked among the state's earliest and latest records, respectively. A Wood Thrush at Johnsons Bayou 17 May (BMM, PEC) was late for the coast, and Golden-crowned Kinglets at Grand Isle 1 Apr (DPM) and near Johnsons Bayou 2 Apr (JBo) were among the latest records for the coast and the state in general. Also late were 18 American Pipits near Lacassine 24 Apr, with one still present 26 Apr (SWC, DLD). At least one Cedar Waxwing on a drilling ship 24-32 km s. of South Pass 12 May (ph. Taylor Sullivan, Jessica Mucci) may represent the first spring record from the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana.

## WARBLERS

A conservative count of 27 Blue-winged Warblers at Johnsons Bayou 11 Apr (PEC, BMM) was a record number for Louisiana; 19 at Grand Isle 10 Apr (PAW, CCS) were also notable. A good bird in nw. Arkansas, a male Golden-winged Warbler at Mt. Sequoyah, Washington 18 May (MAM) was also late. Always interesting, reports of Blue-winged Warbler × Golden-winged Warbler hybrids/backcrosses included a male Lawrence's at Grand Isle 10 Apr (CCS, PAW) and a male Brewster's there 15 Apr (DLD, SWC). A scarce spring migrant on the coast, 2 Nashville Warblers were near Johnsons Bayou 11 Apr (PEC, BMM), and another was there 14 Apr (DMD, R. C. Dobbs); one at Mt. Sequoyah 28 Mar (MAM) was apparently a new early date for Arkansas. Forty Northern Parulas near Cameron 15 Apr (DFL) was a relatively high count of spring migrants. Most notable among four Arkansas reports of Cape May Warbler were a rather early singing male 25 Apr (DB) and an impressive 5 in *Craighead* 6 May (D&SB et al.); one at Grand Isle 29 Apr (PAW) was the sole Louisiana report. Late Yellow-rumped Warblers included one near Bell City 29 Apr (SWC, DLD), a late high count of 22 in *Washington*, AR 4 May (MAM), and singles at two other locations in *Washington* 6 & 12 May (MAM, DC). A rare

Audubon's Warbler wintering at New Orleans was last reported 10 Mar (PAW). Early Black-throated Green Warblers included singles at Johnsons Bayou 18 Mar (BMM, PEC) and in *Caddo* and *Bossier* 25 Mar (TD), plus 3 in *Ouachita* 26 Mar (JH, Robert Vinet). Also in *Ouachita* was an early male Blackburnian 2 Apr (JH); 15-20 in *Craighead* 3 May (DB) was a remarkable number inland. A rare spring migrant on the coast, a Prairie Warbler was at Oak Grove 26 Apr (DLD). The Palm Warbler in *Crittenden*, AR 29 Mar (ph. Ron Howard) could have been either a lingering winterer or a very early migrant. A Bay-breasted Warbler in *Caddo* 27 May (TD), a Blackpoll in *Washington*, AR 26 May (JN, MAM), and a Cerulean Warbler in *Ouachita*, LA 12 May (SP, JBr, CH) were all new local late records. A Black-and-white Warbler in *Caldwell* 10 Mar (JBr, SP, CH) and a Worm-eating in *Ouachita* 1 Apr (JH) were relatively early for n. Louisiana. Forty-five Worm-eating Warblers at Grand Isle 10 Apr (PAW, CCS) tied for the 2nd highest number ever in Louisiana. A Northern Waterthrush at Johnsons Bayou 31 Mar (JBo, DBo) was presumably a very early migrant, but an Ovenbird at New Orleans 17

Mar (C. Seidenberg) had most likely wintered locally. The 11 Apr fallout at Johnsons Bayou produced a nice count of 120 Hooded Warblers (PEC, BMM).

## SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

An Eastern Towhee at Johnsons Bayou 11 Apr (PEC, BMM), a Chipping Sparrow there 5 May (DBo, JBo), and 2 Field Sparrows e. of Cameron 15 Apr (DFL) all provided some of the latest records for the Louisiana coast. A wintering Clay-colored Sparrow at Metairie, *Jefferson* mid-Jan-2 Apr (ph. Beth Wiggins)



This wintering Clay-colored Sparrow at Metairie, Jefferson Parish remained from mid-January through 2 (here 1) April 2007; this represents Louisiana's second known instance of a wintering individual present for an extended period and provided a new late "last observed" date. Photograph by Beth Wiggins.

was only the 2nd known instance of a wintering bird present for an extended period and gave us a new late "last observed" date. One at Johnsons Bayou 11 Apr (BMM) was one of relatively few spring records for the coast and the first since 1998; there are also surprisingly few spring records for nw. Louisiana, so 1-2 in *Bossier* 14 Apr-1 May (TD) were of interest. Ten late Savannah Sparrows were in *Bossier* 16 May, with one still present 20 May (TD). Generally a seldom-detected inland migrant in the Region, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Fayetteville 13 May (JN, Ricky Corder, Rob Wiedenmann) marked only the 2nd spring record for the Ozarks. Lingering White-throated Sparrows included different birds in *Caddo* 13 & 30 May (TD) and a "defective" bird (with skin inflammations on its face) near St. Gabriel 30 Apr-4 Jun (SWC, DLD). An ad. male Harris's Sparrow in *Washington* 13 May (Jason Lusier) set a new late date for Arkansas. A dozen White-crowned Sparrows in *Jefferson Davis* 29 Apr (SWC, DLD) were thought to be late wintering birds; one was also late near Cameron 5 May (DBo, JBo). Late for the coast was a Blue Grosbeak at Grand Isle 20 May (DPr). The state's 8th

Lazuli Bunting, an ad. male, appeared in *Garland*, AR 3 May (ph. Carolyn Minson). Although not unprecedented as a breeder in se. Louisiana, up to 15 territorial male Dickcissels at Bonnet Carre Spillway 2 May+ (C. G. Brantley) was an exceptional concentration.

Reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, another scarce spring migrant, included an ad. male at Lecompte, *Rapides* 6 Apr (JJ), a female at Grand Isle 15 Apr (SWC, ph. DLD), and a singing ad. male near Lacassine 26 Apr (SWC, ph. DLD). Four female Brewer's Blackbirds were late near Sweet L., *Cameron* 26 Apr (SWC, DLD). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles at Lake End, *Red River* (Bill Fontenot) added another record for nw. Louisiana; at Craig Fish Hatchery, following a Jan count of 200, numbers had increased to 300 by 10 Mar (JN, MAM). A male Shiny Cowbird was at Grand Isle 14 Apr (JBo, vt. DBo). Still surprisingly scarce and of uncertain status in sw. Louisiana, a Bronzed Cowbird was observed at Johnsons Bayou 28 Apr (PEL et al.), and a male displaying to a female at Thornwell 12 May (BMM, PEC, DP) was suggestive of breeding. Separate counts of 148 and 140 Baltimore Orioles in *Cameron* 25 Apr (JBo, DBo, DPM) were, surprisingly, unprecedented; 3 wintering males at Thibodaux, *Lafourche* were last observed 22 Apr (Beth & Sammy Maniscalco). A pair of Red Crossbills in *Pope*, AR 13 May (Roger Gunter) provided the only report of the species.

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Nick Anich, Dick Baxter, Sarah Baxter, James Beck, Devin Bosler (DBo), Justin Bosler (JBo), Dennis Braddy (DBr), Edward S. Brinkley, Joan Brown (JBr), Steven W. Cardiff (Louisiana), David Chapman, Paul E. Conover, Terry Davis, Donna L. Dittmann, Danny M. Dobbs, Janis Harrison, Jim Holmes (JHo), Chuck Hughes, Jay V. Huner (JVH), Erik Johnson, Jim Johnson, Daniel F. Lane, Paul E. Lehman, Delos McCauley, Charles Mills, Michael A. Mlodinow, Michael J. Musumeche, David P. Muth (DPM), B. Mac Myers, Joe Neal (Arkansas), Kenny Nichols, LaDonna Nichols, Steve Pagans, Max & Helen Parker (Arkansas), Dave Patton, Dick Prenti (DPr), J. V. Remsen, Dan Scheiman, William Shepherd, Don Simons (DSi), Curt C. Sorrells, Phillip A. Wallace, Lyndal York. 🐦

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## Cameron D. Eckert

Spring in the Yukon began with a bitter cold snap in Mar, with temperatures plunging to  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Strong southwesterly winds in April may have pushed the Tundra Swan migration off its normal route through southern Yukon. In Northwest Territories, while winter temperatures were above average overall, the season was reluctant to release its grip: from March into April, the skies stayed overcast, with temperatures several degrees cooler than the monthly normals. A fairly heavy snowpack accumulated, especially in the western mountains, resulting in heavy spring runoffs. Ice breakup on the Mackenzie River was exceptionally early at Norman Wells.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The first Canada Geese of spring at Redknife R., NWT were noted 16 Apr (RN). Ross's Goose is rare in the Sahtu region, NWT; one was confirmed by a specimen from Willow L. 19 May (RD, RP). Early migrant waterfowl, including Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and swans, staged in unusually high numbers at Willow L. in late May (RP). In Northwest Territories, an unusual shift in the staging area of migrant geese on the n. coast—from the Anderson R. & Cape Bathurst area to Paulatuk proximity—was noted this spring (JN). Trumpeter Swan migration peaked at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 23 Apr with a count of 897 (JJ). Tundra Swan migration through s. Yukon was well off its regular track this year; M'Clintock Bay near Whitehorse had a high count of just 106 on 28 Apr (JJ), while 1237 were tallied flying over Albert Cr. near Watson L., se. Yukon (hereafter, Albert Cr.) 28 Apr (TMK); strong southwesterly winds through late Apr apparently pushed the migration e. from the Yukon R. valley to the

Liard Basin. A peak count of 836 Northern Pintails was recorded at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 25 Apr (JJ). A male Common Goldeneye  $\times$  Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid was at M'Clintock Bay 16 Apr, and another was at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon 18 Apr (JJ).

Dusky Grouse reports, all from s. Yukon, included 5 along the Annie Lake Rd. 22 Apr (HG), 6 at Montana Mt. 27 Apr (DK, YBC), and 4 on Grey Mt. 1-2 May (CE; BD, HG, CO, PS). A flock of 30 Sharp-tailed Grouse was observed in the headwaters of the Nisling R., sw. Yukon 14 Mar (MW). A breedings-plumaged Eared Grebe, rare in the Yukon, was a nice find in Whitehorse on the 26 May Yukon Birdathon (ph. MB, KM, WB); it was seen being courted by 2 Horned Grebes 28 May (HG, BStu). Bald Eagles returned to Trout L., NWT at the beginning of Mar (DD). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Arviat, Nunavut 15 May (ph. JS, LJS) was well beyond its range. A Golden Eagle was noted 4 Apr near Cache L., NWT in the mts. w. of Norman Wells (AV). The Tintina Trench is a major flyway for Sandhill Cranes across the Yukon to their breeding grounds in nw. Alaska; counts this year in the Faro-Ross R. area included 2995

Killdeer was reported at Trout L., NWT during a snowstorm 11 Apr (DD). An impressive shorebird fallout at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 12 May produced 300 Semipalmated Plovers, 1000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 100 Least Sandpipers, 40 Baird's Sandpipers, and 2000 Pectoral Sandpipers (CE). A flock of 17 Whimbrels first seen at M'Clintock Bay 12 May (CE) remained in the area for a week or so. A notable shorebird migration was observed in the Faro area, s. Yukon 16 May: 1450 shorebirds heading to the west-northwest in flocks of 60 to 200, were mostly (or all) Long-billed Dowitchers and Pectoral Sandpipers; another 295 of the same species was recorded early on 17 May (PS). A total of 28 Solitary Sandpipers, mostly migrants, was recorded during surveys of 67 wetlands in Faro/Ross R. area 16-17 May (PS). A Wandering Tattler at Albert Cr. 18 May (TMK) provided one of very few records for se. Yukon. Two Upland Sandpipers were seen along the Aishihik Rd., sw. Yukon 18 May (RRH). Whimbrel numbers peaked at 12 at Norman Wells, NWT 21 May (DW). Hudsonian Godwits are scarce in sw. Yukon; 4 were seen at Dezadeash L. 18 May (EK). A Red Knot, very rare in s. Yukon, was at Judas Cr. 23-27 May (ph. CE, PS). A White-rumped Sandpiper touched down at Herschel I., n. Yukon 30 May (AK, DR, EM). Single Short-billed Dow-



This Eared Grebe was first discovered 26 May 2007 in Whitehorse during the Yukon Birdathon; it was observed 28 May (here) being courted by two Horned Grebes. Photograph by Helmut Grünberg.

on 9 May and 3025 on 10 May (PS).

A Black-bellied Plover at Norman Wells, NWT 24 May (ph. DW) was a rare find in the Mackenzie Valley in spring. A flock of 116 American Golden-Plovers was recorded at Hay River, NWT 23 May (GV). A male Pacific Golden-Plover was right on cue for a group of birds on an outing along the Yukon R. in Whitehorse, s. Yukon 10 May (ph. CE, YBC); other reports included a male at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 12 May (ph. CE), a female at Horse Cr., s. Yukon 14-15 May (ph. CE), and a male there in mid-May (JJ). A single

itchers were displaying at Coffee L. near Ross R., s. Yukon 25 May and w. of Coffee L. 30 May (PS).

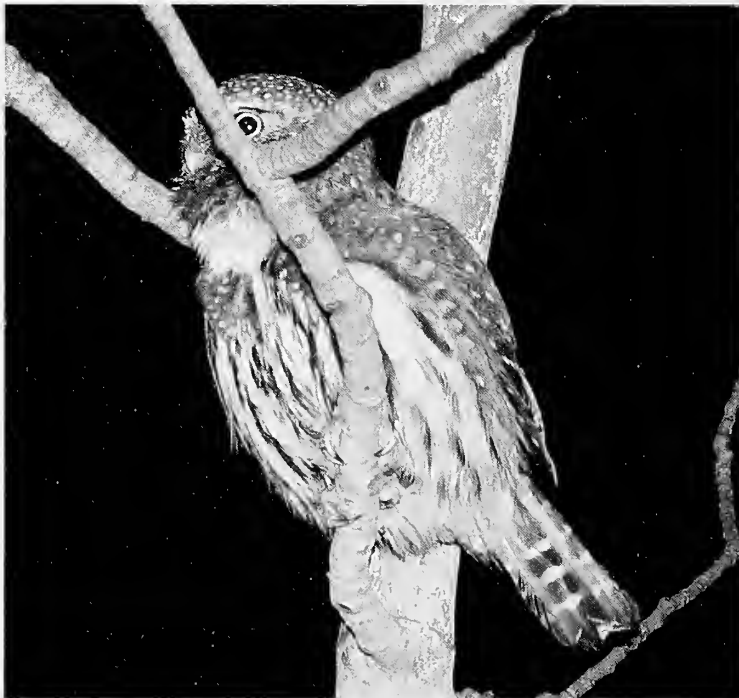
## GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

Wetland surveys in s. Yukon recorded a few concentrations of migrant Bonaparte's Gulls, including 115 at Johnson's L. near Faro 16 May and 128 at Jackfish L. near Ross R. 25 May (PS). A count of 100 Mew Gulls was made at Little Salmon L., s. Yukon 17 May (PS). Ring-billed Gull is rare in the Yukon; reports this year included a third-cycle bird at

Wye L. in Watson Lake 17 May, an ad. there 18 May (JJ), and an ad. in Mayo, cen. Yukon 19 May (ph. MOD). Herring Gull migration peaked at M'Clintock Bay with a count of 1250 on 22 Apr (JJ). The first Herring Gulls (6) arrived at Arviat, Nunavut 5 May (LJS). Seven Glaucous-winged Gulls (all first-cycle birds) were tallied during a scan of 250 Herring Gulls on the Yukon R. in Whitehorse, s. Yukon 1 May (CE).

A Great Gray Owl nesting at Swan L., near Whitehorse, s. Yukon 2 May (BD, HG, YS) was using a nest occupied by a Great Horned Owl in 2006 and a Harlan's Hawk in 2004 (*vide* HG). A cooperative Northern Pygmy-Owl, the Yukon's 3rd, was discovered calling on territory on Grey Mt. in Whitehorse 1 May (ph. CE); it stayed long enough for birders to enjoy a view the following day (PS, BD, HG, CO). The Ft. Simpson, NWT owl survey 20 Apr recorded 10 Boreal Owls (DT, SC), the highest number since its inception in 2003; there was a slight increase noted in the regional small mammal trapping this year (DA), which may help to explain owl abundance. A male Rufous Hummingbird was netted and released unbanded at Teslin L., s. Yukon 13 May (ph. BSc). A Red-shafted Flicker × Yellow-shafted Flicker intergrade was identified at a nest cavity at Carcross, s. Yukon 5 May (ph. AC); on 12 May, photographs of the bird showed the red malar stripes of the Red-shafted group, the red nape patch of the Yellow-shafted group, and reddish-yellow underwings (ph. CE). These are typical plumage features of coastal Red-shafteds at the n. edge of their range in se. Alaska (*vide* SH). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, rare in the Yukon, was banded at Teslin L. 28 May (BSc). A record-early Hammond's Flycatcher was at Carcross, s. Yukon 21 Apr (ph. BD). Single Dusky Flycatchers, rarely seen in s. Yukon lowlands, were banded at Teslin L. 21 & 28 May (ph. BSc). Heavy snow conditions in alpine areas of s. Yukon likely accounted for sightings of Dusky Flycatchers singing in lowland areas, including one at Jackfish Bay 25 May (HG), one at Marsh L. 27 May (CE, PS), and 2 on the lower slopes of Mt. McIntyre 31 May (SF, HG et al.).

A single Blue-headed Vireo was at Norman Wells, NWT 29 May (DW). At least a few



This cooperative Northern Pygmy-Owl, the Yukon's third, was discovered 1 May 2007 calling on territory at Grey Mountain in Whitehorse. It was easy to find on subsequent evenings, much to the delight of local birders. Photograph by Cameron D. Eckert.

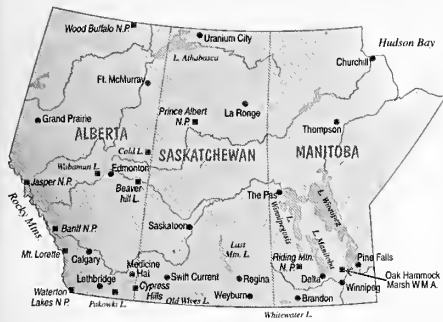
Steller's Jays survived the winter in the Yukon Southern Lakes area, as birds were reported from various locations from Mar through mid-May (m.ob.). The initiation of nesting by Common Ravens was unusually late in the Yellowknife area, NWT for unknown reasons (RB). A Black-billed Magpie, scarce in the area, was reported in Ft. Simpson, NWT 19 Apr (KL). A remarkable gathering of at least 10 American Dippers was recorded at the outflow of Doris L., w. of Norman Wells, NWT 21 Mar (ph. GG).

The first migrating Mountain Bluebirds were noted at Hay River, NWT 28 Mar (BL). Swainson's Thrushes returned early to s. Yukon this year; 6 were seen in the Faro area 10 May (PS), and one was banded along with a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Albert Cr. 11 May (TMK). A Cape May Warbler first heard singing at Albert Cr. 26 May was banded 31 May (JJ, TMK); another singing at Jackfish L. 30 May (PS) established the first record of the species for the Ross R. area, s. Yukon. A male Black-and-white Warbler, very rare but apparently now more regular, was recaptured at Albert Cr. 19 May (ph. JJ, TMK); it was originally banded there 21 May 2006 (TMK). Another Black-and-white was banded at Albert Cr. 20 May (JJ, TMK). Record-early warblers banded at Albert Cr. included a Northern Waterthrush 5 May and 2 Common Yellowthroats 11 May (TMK). A male Western Tanager, w. of its range, was seen at Teslin, s.

Yukon 29 May–1 Jun (ph. BSc). It was a banner year for sparrows at Albert Cr., with record-high numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos (339) and of American Tree (345), Lincoln's (120), and Savannah Sparrows (70), and near-record numbers of White-crowned (219) and Fox (60) Sparrows (TMK). Likewise, the Teslin L., s. Yukon banding station netted an amazing 579 White-crowned Sparrows, which accounted for 46% of the birds banded this spring (JJ, BSc). A White-throated Sparrow, n. of its range, was at Arviat, Nunavut 8 May (JS, LJS); another was banded at Teslin L., s. Yukon 26 May (ph. BSc). Oregon Juncos are very rare in s. Yukon; a female was at Carcross 12 May (ph. CE); another was banded at Albert Cr. 15 May (JJ, TMK). Two Smith's Longspurs were seen at Herschel L., n. Yukon 29 May (AK). Snow Buntings were reported n. to Inuvik, NWT on about 13 Apr (CB). A late report of a blackbird photographed 18 Feb (MC) at a Ft. Simpson, NWT feeder was an unusual winter record; the photographs did not allow confirmation of species. A patrol on Mt. Logan, sw. Yukon reported 2 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches 28 May–1 Jun (LF). A female Evening Grosbeak at Canyon 30 May (ph. RRH) established the first record for sw. Yukon.

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Spring "came grudgingly" to southern Alberta (TK), was generally cool and wet with widespread late frosts in Saskatchewan (GK), and was interrupted in Manitoba by prolonged northerly winds in the first half of April and cool, wet weather in the second half of May. Migration was lack-luster and late overall, though there were some early arrivals for dedicated observers, especially in the passerine "gravy" for Mt. Lorette, Alberta raptor watchers. Several observers remarked on relatively sparse shore-bird and warbler numbers. Only one major wave of Neotropical migrants was noted at Winnipeg 21 May. Rarities were sprinkled evenly but sparingly across the three provinces.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A figure rarely used in these reports, one million or more Snow Geese were reported along the Souris R. in Saskatchewan 7 Apr (MB, CB) and at Davidson, SK the following day (GK). Trumpeter Swans, mostly first-year birds, made a good showing in se. Manitoba, with up to 6 near Brightstone 29-30 May (C&LB, ph. PT) and a probable 3 at Moose L. near Lake of the Woods about 20 May (*fide* RP). Early waterfowl arrivals included a Ross's Goose at Windygates, MB 22 Mar (PT, RK, A&DS) and 14 Northern Pintails near Taber, AB 5 Mar (LB). As usual, there were 25+ reports of Eurasian Wigeon in s. Alberta (m.ob.), including 8 males at Fin-castle L. 24 Mar (LB). Cinnamon Teal made a fair showing in Saskatchewan, with a pair in the Qu'Appelle Valley 29 Apr (BL) and singles 26 May at Nickle L. (VT, DT) and near Morse (MD, LD). Apparently changing their migration patterns in recent years, Greater Scaup were reported in large numbers throughout s.

Alberta, including 211 at Pine Coulee Res. 31 Mar (TK). A male Smeu photographed near Mountain View, AB 7 Apr (GKu) furnished a first provincial record, with the usual questions about provenance.

Rare in spring in s. Alberta, 4 Pacific Loons visited Herbert L. in Banff N.P. 24 May (JH, *fide* JR). An American White Pelican was early at Taber 27 Mar (LB), as were 2 at Saskatoon, SK 4 Apr (NS), while one was far n. at Churchill 29 May (LM). A pair of Great Egrets returned to the Hastings L., AB breeding site in early May (*fide* JW), and one visited Pense, SK 25 Apr (LS). A Cattle Egret was found near Last Mountain Wildlife Refuge, SK 14 May (RD). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Oak Hammock Marsh, MB 27 May (VR et al.).

Four Turkey Vultures, including 3 on 30 Apr, was a high season's total at Mt. Lorette, with just nine previous records since 1993. Record seasonal and daily Bald Eagle totals were tallied at Windygates: 1267 between 5 Mar and 18 Apr, with a peak of 318 on 24 Mar (A&DS, m.ob.). About 60 Bald Eagles gathered to gorge on Richardson's Ground Squirrels at Pine Coulee Res. 18 Mar, along with 200+ Common Ravens (TK). Three Red-shouldered Hawks appeared in Manitoba: one near Whitemouth 25 Mar (ph. PT) and 2 at the St. Adolphe hawkwatch 30 Mar (BS, ACs). A good movement of Rough-legged Hawks included 26 near McTaggart, SK 15 Mar (VT, DT) and 80 in the Whitemouth-Hadashville area, MB 15 Apr (PT). The Golden Eagle total of 2141 at Mt. Lorette, AB was 35% below the 1993-2006 average,

noted at Kitsim Res. near Brooks, AB 18 May (JD). Black-necked Stilts made an excellent showing in Alberta, with 300+ estimated altogether (TK); 7 were found between four Saskatchewan locations (m.ob.). A pair at Reed L., SK already had 3 young 31 May, but



Red-shouldered Hawk is a less-than-annual visitor to Manitoba, so three birds documented in one season was above the norm. This bird was near Whitemouth on 25 March 2007. Photograph by Peter Taylor.

last year's breeders did not return to Whitemouth L., MB. The Whimbrel migration near Taber has become a regular feature of the Alberta birding calendar; this year, several large flocks totalled 1458 birds 12 May (LB, m.ob.). Elsewhere, 5 Whimbrels were noteworthy near Regina 24-25 May (JC, m.ob.), with a few scattered individuals in s. Manitoba (m.ob.). Almost annual in the Region, a Western Sandpiper visited Tyrrell L., AB 1 May (LB).

Three California Gulls were early at Calgary 7 Mar (BB). Lesser Black-backed Gulls made a good showing at Calgary: a second-cycle bird 18-22 Mar (RSt, m.ob.), 2 ads. 14 Apr (JP, m.ob.) and single ads. 29 Apr (TK) and 2 May (DF). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull paused at Grand Beach, MB 16-20 May (B&SS, ph. NSy). A first-cycle Iceland Gull visited Saskatoon 18-20 Apr (RJ, m.ob., ph.), and there was a possible Kumlien's at Calgary 28 Apr (TK). An Arctic Tern was a surprise visitor to Blackstrap L., SK 26 May (SS, JS).



Although there were at least three previous reports of Audubon's Warbler in Manitoba, this bird in Winnipeg on 2 May 2007 was the first one documented photographically. Photograph by Bob McKay.

though coverage at 1019 hours was 20% above average (PS). The 91 Golden Eagles at Windygates 5 Mar-18 Apr (A&DS, m.ob.) comprised a new season's record for that site.

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

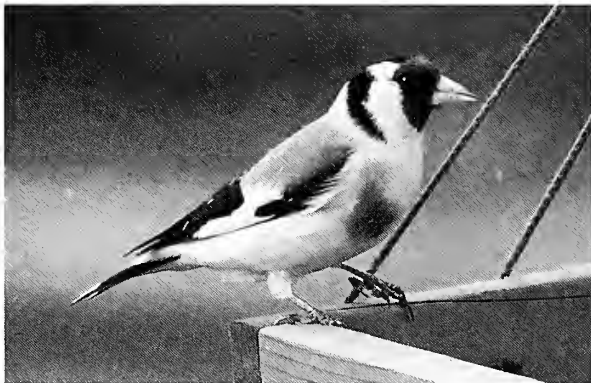
A fine total of 323 Black-bellied Plovers was



This first-spring male Summer Tanager at Clavet on 31 May was one of two reported in Saskatchewan in spring of 2007. It represents about the fifth sighting for the province. Photograph by Lou Baudru.



Saskatchewan has hosted several Painted Buntings in recent years, all of them at feeders. This male, the province's fifth, was at Aberdeen on 21 April 2007. Photograph by D. Bruce.



Although most European Goldfinches reported in North America no doubt involve escaped or released birds, they are nevertheless curiosities where they appear. This bird visited an Ituna, Saskatchewan feeder from 1-4 (here 4) May 2007. Photograph by William Anderson.

A Band-tailed Pigeon visited Brule, AB 29 Apr (*vide* JR). Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from several s. Alberta locations, westward to Calgary (m.ob.). Eastern Screech-Owl maintains a westerly toehold at Medicine Hat, AB, where one was observed in Mar and Apr (*vide* DB). A noteworthy owl concentration within about a square mile near Regina's Cinema Six Slough 31 Mar–7 Apr gave peak

counts of 16 Snowy Owls 2 Apr (JC, JN) and 27 Short-eared Owls 7 Apr (GK). Three Lewis's Woodpeckers were observed in Alberta: at Mt. Lorette 10 May (PS), e. of Milk R. 25 May (BC, ET), and w. of Turner Valley 26-27 May (AC, MH). A well-described Red-bellied Woodpecker in Calgary around 1 Mar (EO, *vide* TK) would be an Alberta first if accepted; less exceptional was one at a Seven Sisters Falls, MB feeder 9-10 May (RLO).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed at Dinosaur P.P., AB 20-21 May (ES, MS, m.ob.). A Yellow-throated Vireo was w. of its limited Saskatchewan range at Regina 31 May (BL). Following last winter's incursion, a few single Gray Jays lingered in the Winnipeg area until mid-Apr (m.ob.). A male Western Bluebird was near Longview, AB, where the species has previously nested, 25 May (JM, MM). A group of 3 or 4 Townsend's Solitaires made a special find at Regina 16 Apr (JN, m.ob.). Single Wood Thrushes visited St. Jean Baptiste, MB 8 May (LBI) and, exceptionally far w., the Cypress Hills, SK 31 May (RL, *vide* BL). At least 5 Varied Thrushes apparently wintered in Saskatchewan: one in Regina and 2 each in Saskatoon and Montgomery (m.ob.).

An early American Pipit was at Fish Creek P.P., AB 7 Apr (TK), while a late one at Hecla I., MB 30 May appeared to be slightly injured (PT, RK, LV). An Audubon's Warbler in Winnipeg 2 May (ph. BM) was perhaps the first to be documented

in Manitoba. Other noteworthy warblers were single Black-throated Blues near Last Mountain Lake N.W.A., SK 16 May and in Saskatoon 24-25 May (ph. NS) and a Yellow-breasted Chat near Melita, MB 29 May (KDS).

### TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

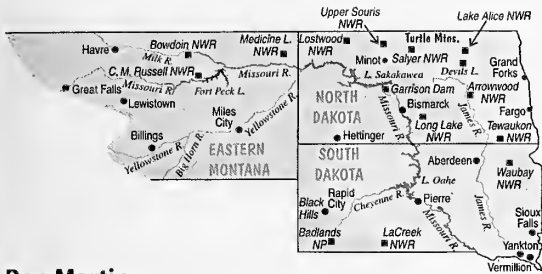
In keeping with recent years, some single, wandering male tanagers were noted: Sum-

mers at Regina 14 May (BL), Clavet, SK 31 May (*vide* NS, ph.), and Winnipeg, MB 27 May (JB, NB), and Westerns in different areas of Winnipeg 11 (LC) & 12 May (AD). A Green-tailed Towhee was a one-day wonder at Banff, AB 22 May (RS, EW). Well e. of breeding range were migrant Spotted Towhees at Headingley, MB 9 May (BS) and Grant's Lake, MB 10 May (KG). The season's passerine highlight at Mt. Lorette was a Field Sparrow with a flock of Chipping Sparrows 14 May (PS). Two Black-throated Sparrows were reported in Alberta: one at Irricana 12 May (DE, *vide* TK) and another at Lethbridge 26 May–1 Jun (DD, TD, m.ob.). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was well described near River Hills, MB about 21 May (AJ, *vide* AE).

A male Indigo Bunting was exceptionally early at Delta, MB 28 Apr (AE, PF), and another was far w. at Black Diamond, AB 22-25 May (RM, m.ob.). Saskatchewan's 5th Painted Bunting visited Aberdeen 21 Apr (DBr, ph.). Unexpected in a Winnipeg city park was a Dickcissel 15 May (ph. CA). Common Redpolls lingered exceptionally late in Calgary, with the last stragglers still visiting feeders in early Jun (m.ob.). A European Goldfinch visited an Ituna, SK feeder 1-4 May (SA, WA, ph.), presumably an escapee. A flock of 800 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches was an impressive sight as the birds "swept back and forth like a cloud of smoke" at Mt. Lorette 25 Apr (PS).

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March brought average temperatures and above-average precipitation over much of the Region. April was dry throughout, with cool temperatures in the first half of the month and above-average temperatures the second half of the month. The heavy rains started in mid-May and continued to the end of the period. The Red River on the North Dakota–Minnesota border ran high from mid-March to June.

There were many early dates for migrant species from late March to early May, but in general the migration was spotty and numbers were low. There were a few localized fall-outs in May, and a nice concentration of shorebirds occurred in May at Round Lake on the North Dakota–Montana border. Shorebird numbers in most of the Region were low. A first record for North Dakota, a Painted Bunting came to a feeder in early May.

## DUCKS THROUGH FALCONS

A Eurasian Wigeon at Upper Souris N.W.R. 7 Apr provided about the 17th report for North Dakota (p.a., RR). An American Black Duck was well w. of usual haunts in Williams, ND 26 May (NDBS). Very rare in the spring season, a White-winged Scoter was in Yankton, SD 8 Apr (GJS). Two Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen in North Dakota, the 18th and 19th reports for the state. One was at Arrowwood N.W.R. 1 Apr (p.a., SS) and another in Eddy 11 Apr (p.a., SLW). A late Barrow's Goldeneye was at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT 30 May (SD, PS). A Common Loon was early 31 Mar in Richland, ND (MAO), and a peak of 21 was noted 20 Apr at Ft. Peck, MT (CC). Horned and Eared Grebes were early 12 Mar in Charles Mix, SD (RM). Colonial waterbird nest counts in South Dakota turned up 6140 Double-crested Cormorant nests (ND). A new spring high count for North Dakota, 40 American Bitterns were at Kelly's Slough N.W.R. 18 May (EEF). Casual in South Dakota, a Tricolored Heron was in Brown 15 May (p.a., ND). Casual in cen. North Dakota, Green Herons were in Minot 23 May (REM) and in Sheridan 25 May (JL).

The Turkey Vulture in Clay, SD 16 Mar was early (NT), and the group of 33 in Brookings

21 Apr made an unusually high number for the e. Dakotas (KJ). If accepted, a Mississippi Kite 18 May in Butte, SD would provide the 6th record for the state (p.a., SW, BK). A peak of 552 Red-tailed Hawks was noted 24 Mar in 1.75 hours of watching along the Red R. at Grand Forks, ND (EEF). Rough-legged Hawks peaked at 115 in Grand Forks, ND 16 Mar (EEF), and a late bird was in Burke, ND 24 May (CDE). Four Peregrine Falcons were attending the large shorebird flock at Round L. near Westby, MT 19 May (TN).

## SHOREBIRDS

A Black-necked Stilt at Freezeout Lake N.W.R., MT 23 Mar was a month earlier than the average arrival date (JN). There were three Black-necked Stilt reports from North Dakota and one from South Dakota. A Long-billed Curlew was early 27 Mar in Custer, SD (MM). Two Long-billed Curlews in Williams, ND 8 May were a rare find n. of the Missouri R. (JT, AT). Rare in Montana, 5 Hudsonian Godwits were in Valley 10 May (JC). Casual in South Dakota, a Red Knot was in Sully 20 May (p.a., RDO). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers at Freezeout L., MT 1 Apr were a month earlier than the average arrival date (MS, JN). The 2nd earliest record for North Dakota, a Pectoral Sandpiper was at Minot 29 Mar (REM). The 2nd highest spring count for North Dakota, 80 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at the Minot Sewage Lagoons 22 May (REM). There was one other report of this species from North Dakota and two from South Dakota. An American Woodcock was early 11 Mar in Hughes, SD (KM). In North Dakota, cold weather and snow drove American Woodcocks to unusual localities. An individual was noted 4-13 Apr feeding along the snow-free edge of buildings on the Capitol grounds in Bismarck (CDE), and another was on the courtyard lawn at an elementary school in Grand Forks 5 Apr (DOL). Red-necked Phalarope peaked at 4460 at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT 24 May (SD, PS).

A good concentration of shorebirds was noted at Round L. on the North Dakota–Montana line near Westby, MT 10 May through early Jun. At least 22 species were recorded. Peak numbers from the estimated 25,000 birds present 23 May included 10,000 Sanderlings, 5000 Stilt Sandpipers, 5000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 1000 White-rumped Sandpipers, 1500 Wilson's Phalaropes, 500 Red-necked Phalaropes, and 100 Baird's Sandpipers. Rare in Montana, 5 Short-billed Dowitchers, one Ruddy Turnstone, and 4 Red Knots were seen 20 May (TN).

## GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A potential 7th record for South Dakota, a Laughing Gull was in Pierre 26-30 May (p.a., RDO). About the 18th report for North Dakota, 2 ad. Little Gulls were at Devils L. 23 May (p.a., TCL, DOL, CLW, PHS). A Bonaparte's Gull was early 28 Mar in Jamestown, ND (RBu). The only Mew Gull reported came from Pierre, SD 14-17 Mar (RDO, KM). The White-winged Dove reported last year from Beadle, SD continues at the same location in Huron (JSP, BH). A possible Eurasian Collared-Dove x Rock Pigeon first seen last year in Pierre, SD was seen 21 Mar this year mated with a Eurasian Collared-Dove. Two nesting attempts produced two unhatched clutches (RDO). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was early 8 May in Pierre, SD (ES). Black-billed Cuckoos were also noted earlier than average in the Dakotas. The earliest for South Dakota, a Barn Owl was in Sully 23 Mar (KM). Continuing the trend of increased sightings in North Dakota, a Barn Owl was flushed 15 Apr in Burleigh (CDE). Very rare in North Dakota, a rufous-morph Eastern Screech-Owl was in McHenry 9 May (REM). In Grand Forks, ND 72 Short-eared Owls were counted 5 Mar (EEF). A Red-naped Sapsucker was early 6 Apr in Meade, SD (AB). Pileated Woodpeckers were at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. and Minot, ND 29 Apr (REM, JS); these provided the first county records for McHenry and Ward and the first in the Souris R. loop.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was early 7 May in Union, SD (DS). An Eastern Phoebe in Clay, SD 13 Mar provided the earliest spring record for the state (DS). The Eastern Phoebe at Westby, MT 7 May would, if accepted, furnish the 10th record for the state (p.a., TN). Casual in South Dakota, a Cassin's Kingbird was in Custer 25 May (RDO). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher photographed in Burleigh, ND 7 May was the 10th reported in the state (p.a., AV). In South Dakota, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Mellette 31 May furnished the 15th report for the state (p.a., DB). A Warbling Vireo 29 Apr in Clay tied the earliest date for South Dakota (GJS). In North Dakota, a Plumbeous Vireo 14-17 May in Fargo provided the 5th report for the state and the 3rd documented (p.a., PB, RHO, GEM). The winter Gray Jay invasion in North Dakota ended with the last sighting 17 Apr in Grand Forks (DOL). Three Purple Martins around a nest box in Westby 30 May led to speculation about a first nesting for Montana (TN). Pygmy Nuthatch reports from the Black Hills of South Dakota have been on the increase recently. This spring, there were eight reports from three counties.

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was early 21 Apr in Union, SD (DS); three North Dakota reports spanned 5-15 May. A Hermit Thrush was early 29 Mar in Cass, ND (MAO). Two Wood Thrush reports from North Dakota were both far w. of usual haunts. A single was in McHenry 19 May (REM), and another was at Bowman 25 May (TCL, PHS, CLW). The Curve-billed Thrasher that wintered s. of Roundup, MT was last seen 13 Apr (LH). An American Pipit was early 31 Mar in McHenry, ND (REM). Territorial Sprague's Pipits were numerous in much of North Dakota this spring. Peaks of up to 30 per day were noted in McHenry, ND.

## WARBLERS

Five Golden-winged Warbler reports from the e. Dakotas spanned 5-27 May. An early Northern Parula was in Lake, SD 21 Apr (JSP). Cape May Warblers w. of the usual path included a single 12 May in Stark, ND (JWH), and one in Glasgow, MT 14 May (p.a., DE). The 14th record for Montana, if accepted, a Black-throated Blue Warbler was in Plentywood 27 May (p.a., CP). Rare in Montana, a Black-throated Green Warbler was in Ft. Peck 16 May (p.a., JC). The 6th record for South Dakota, if accepted, a Black-throated Gray Warbler was in Union 9 May (p.a., NT). Providing the

11th report for North Dakota, a Worm-eating Warbler was photographed 23 May in Grand Forks (TCL, DOL, PHS, CLW). A Prairie Warbler 27 May+ in Lincoln, SD would, if accepted, furnish the 10th record for the state (p.a., RDO, JSP). Connecticut Warblers made a stellar showing in North Dakota, with 15 reports and a peak of 7 in Kidder 27 May (PHS).

## TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Two Summer Tanager reports were singles at Pierre, SD 13-14 May (p.a., KM, DB) and in Stutsman, ND 26 May (p.a., WM). A potential 11th record for South Dakota, a Green-tailed Towhee was in Pennington 13 May (p.a., JF). An Eastern Towhee was early 11 Apr in Clay, SD (GJS), and a Spotted Towhee was e. of normal in Grand Forks, ND 26-28 Apr (DOL). Now a casual migrant in the Dakotas, a McCown's Longspur was early and e. of their normal route in Stanley, SD 15 Apr (DB, RDO). A Lazuli Bunting was early 29 Apr in Stanley, SD (RDO). A male Painted Bunting at a feeder in Stark 1-2 May provided the long-awaited first record for North Dakota (JPL, CDE, LL). The 2nd earliest for North Dakota, a Dickcissel was in Jamestown 3 May (SS). A Pine Grosbeak was a rare visitor in Ft. Peck, MT 24 Mar (JC). Casual in cen. South Dakota, a Hoary Redpoll was in Hughes 7 Mar (RDO). About

the 10th report for Montana, a Lesser Goldfinch was in Poplar 22 May (p.a., LL). A Chaffinch photographed 23 Apr in Ward, ND (SH, REM) was certainly an escapee.

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## Southern Great Plains



**W. Ross Silcock**  
**Joseph A. Grzybowski**

Early, early, early arrivals seemed to be an overriding theme of the season across taxonomic groups from shorebirds to swallows, flycatchers to warblers. However, the scattering of eastern birds west and western birds east was less evident this season than in many previous seasons.

The effects of very heavy rains, especially across more southerly stretches of the Region, persist, both in disruptions of breeding cycles and in augmentations of wetland areas. Western Nebraska, by contrast, was very dry. The season was strangely interesting, and strangely dull, as it just seems to be harder and harder to find substantial concentrations of Neotropical migrants, although "digging around" still has its rewards.

Abbreviations: Hackberry (Hackberry Flat W.M.A., Tillman, OK); Hefner (L. Hefner, Oklahoma, OK); McConaughy (L. Mc-

Conaughy, Keith, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Rainwater Basin (playas in s.-cen. and se. Nebraska); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Tenkiller (L. Tenkiller, Sequoyah, OK).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

The only regular Regional site for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is McCurtain, OK; best count there was 20 on 20 May (DA). Two Black-bellieds farther n. in Tulsa, OK 12 May were unexpected (BC). Clearly a Regional "zootie," 4 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen at Tishomingo N.W.R., Johnston, OK 30 Apr (EBr, JRe). Best Snow Goose counts were 350,000 between Gothenburg and Kearney, NE 4 Mar (SB), and 200,000 at Harvard Marsh 16 Mar (PD). Two Snows, one injured, were in Cimarron, OK 11 (JW) & 18 May (JAG). A Ross's Goose in Tulsa, OK 11 Apr (LMc) was tardy. Tundra Swan, now the rarer of the native swans, was reported from Quivira 3 Mar-1 Apr (family group of 5; SS, m.ob.), with 3 at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo, NE 4 Mar



An American Bittern nest discovered 15 May 2007 in Harper County, Oklahoma provides the first nesting record for Oklahoma in 50 years. Photograph by Eric Beck.

(SB, KS). Trumpeters were reported s. to McCurtain, OK, where 2 birds remained through 24 Mar (DA, BH, m.ob.).

Almost regular in Nebraska, a Eurasian Wigeon was in York 6 Mar (RE). Certainly a sight, 50 Cinnamon Teal were in Scotts Bluff, NE 22 Apr (KD). Easterly Cinnamon Teal were in Lancaster, NE 22 Mar (JGJ) and Neosho, KS 6 Mar (MG). About 20 Greater Scaup were reported in Nebraska and Kansas, with the latest 15 Apr in Sedgwick, KS (PJ) and 24 Apr in Dakota, NE (BFH). Scoters, rare in spring, included Surfs in Harper, KS 1 Apr (PJ, CGs, KG) and Phelps, NE 6 May (KS) and White-wingeds in Cedar, NE 4-9 Mar (RD, MB), Platte, NE 19 Mar (RE), and Tulsa, OK 4-18 Mar (JW, MF, m.ob.). The rarest, Black Scoter, was represented by one in Tulsa, OK, 4-18 Mar (JW, MF, m.ob.). Also rare in the Region, Long-tailed Ducks were reported in Tulsa, OK 10-18 Mar (PR, DRe), Sioux, NE 28 Mar (WF), and Sedgwick, KS 15 Apr (PJ), latter a late date. A female Common Goldeneye in Sarpy, NE 12 May (CNK) was also tardy.

Greater Prairie-Chicken is doing well in se. Nebraska and is adapting to non-traditional habitat by establishing leks in crop fields and in public wetland areas, even adjacent to water (fide WRS). A count of 48 Lesser Prairie-Chickens in Harper, OK 2 Mar (K&SM, WL) was encouraging. Tenkiller again provided a loon sweep. Two Yellow-billed Loons were noted there 31 Mar with 3 Red-throated Loons (JWA). Up to 2 Pacific Loons were observed there 6-31 Mar (SH, RP, m.ob.), among a maximum of 137 Common Loons counted 5 Mar (SBe). Away from Tenkiller, a Red-throated was at Hefner 3-10 Mar (L&MT, JW). A Horned Grebe in Keith, NE 20 May (JMi) was late. Western and Clark's Grebes reported in winter remained through at least 7 Mar in Comanche, OK (K&SM et al.), with and another Western at Tenkiller 31 Mar (JWA). A few

Neotropical Cormorants moved northward to Coffey, KS again by 11 Mar (M&EL), with an excellent tally of 11 in Cowley, KS 12 Apr (GY), but only one was found at Red Slough, that 11 & 17 Apr (DA). The 5000 Double-crested Cormorants in Lancaster 13 Apr (RE) was a record spring count for Nebraska.

American Bitterns were in good numbers at Quivira 16 May, when 13 were tallied (HH). Sightings of this species in at Red Slough spanned 13 Mar (one; DA) through 30 May (6; DA et al.); breeding was documented, with a nest located in Harper, OK 15 May (EBe). The only Nebraska report of Least Bittern was of one in Clay 28 May (PD). Tricolored Herons were seen in Tulsa, OK 29 Apr (BC) and as far n. as Riley, KS 29 Apr (CG). Early Cattle Egrets were in Otoe, NE 26 Mar (L&CF), record early, and also in Tulsa, OK 26 Mar (JSi). An early wandering White Ibis was in Canadian, OK 15 May (TU), as was the unexpectedly large group of 30 at Red Slough by 20 Mar (DA). Glossy Ibis reports continue to pepper the Region, up to 2 at Hackberry 13 Apr-15 May (L&MT) and singles in Sedgwick, KS 20 May (PJ) and Sarpy, NE 25 May (EB), plus 2-6 at Red Slough 10-31 May (DA, BH). A White-faced Ibis appeared at Red Slough 10 May (DA, BH), with as many as 13 there on 31 May (DA).

## RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Northwesterly Black Vultures have increased in the past few years; this season, one was in Sedgwick, KS 31 Mar (GY), up to 8 were in Comanche, OK 25 Apr (fide MH), and 2 were in Oklahoma, OK 15 Apr (NV). A pair of Ospreys was at a nest in McIntosh, OK 19 May (LR) for perhaps the 4th nesting attempt in Oklahoma. Mississippi Kites away from the Ogallala, NE breeding site included one in Lancaster 7 May (LE), with another still extralimital in Johnson, KS 20 Apr (MC). A westerly Broad-winged Hawk was in Morton, KS 19 Apr (DW). A Regional first (and quite a surprise) was the Zone-tailed Hawk roosting with 6 Turkey Vultures in Keith, NE 25 Apr (CBr, VOB, SK; ph.); it could not be relocated 28 Apr (MB). A Golden Eagle wintering in the e. part of the Region was in McCurtain, OK 1 Mar (DA). Peregrine Falcons were widespread throughout the Region, with early migrants by

25 Mar in Comanche, OK (JAG) and Tillman, OK (L&MT); one 19 May at Hackberry (L&MT) was rather late.

Black Rail is reported regularly from Quivira, where 1-2 were found 16 (HH) & 26 May (CG). It is probably more widespread in the Region than records indicate, as suggested by the presence of 1-2 at Hackberry 28-29 May (EBe). The only King Rails reported were 2 at Red Slough 27 Apr-1 May (DA, BH). A Virginia Rail in Pratt, KS 6 Mar (M&ER) may have wintered there, and another at Hackberry 28 May (L&MT) was late. A Sora in Cimarron, OK 21 Apr (DWO) was farther w. than expected. The 1-2 Purple Gallinules at Red Slough 10-31 May (DA, BH) maintained this Regional outpost for the species. Rare anywhere in the Region, up to 4 Common Moorhens at Red Slough 25 Apr-30 May (DA, BH) were perhaps less of a surprise than the single in Seward, NE 17 May (JG). An incredible 200,000 Sandhill Cranes were in the cen. Platte Valley, NE 12 Apr (CH). A Common Crane with about 1000 Sandhill Cranes was reported on private property e. of Wellen, Garden, NE 10 Mar (PH). A Whooping Crane with Sandhills "on the Platte River" in Ne-



Representing only the fourth reported nesting of Osprey in Oklahoma was this nest at Lake Eufala, McIntosh County, Oklahoma (photograph taken 19 May 2007). Photograph by Lorraine Richmond.

braska 16 Mar was thought to be the individual that has now spent its 3rd winter there (TS). In addition, about 65 migrant Whoopings were reported in the Region 17 Mar-3 May (fide WRS, fide LM, fide JAG).

Rare in the Oklahoma Panhandle were 1-2 Black-bellied Plovers in Cimarron 13 (JW) & 17 May (JW, MP). Early arriving American Golden-Plovers were 3 in Tulsa, OK 10 Mar (LMc) and 5 in Clay, NE 19 Mar (PD), the latter one day shy of being record early for the

state. The single Snowy Plover in Oklahoma, OK 10 Mar (JW) and the 15 at Hackberry 15 Mar (L&MT) were also rather early. A Snowy banded at Quivira 16 Jun 2005 was seen there 7 Apr (SS, M&ER). Piping Plover is a low-density migrant in the Region, so reports of 9 in the w. half of Oklahoma 14-28 Apr (*fide* JAG) and 5-10 at Quivira 29 Apr (DF) were of interest. Very early was one in *Saunders*, NE 2 Apr (RHe). Mountain Plovers were found at regular locations in *Cimarron*, OK 11-18 May (1-2; JW, G&MK) and *Kimball*, NE 26 Mar (LS).

Among an onslaught of early arrivals were 2 Black-necked Stilts at Hackberry 25 Mar (L&MT) and 6 in *Sheridan*, NE 12 Apr (WM). Once rare in the Region, numbers of Black-neckeds have increased substantially; 29 were in *Sheridan*, NE 8 Apr (L&MT), with 100+ at Quivira 3 May (M&ER) and 72 at Hackberry 13 May (L&MT). Among early arrivals at Hackberry were 6 American Avocets 21 Mar (L&MT), 4 Lesser Yellowlegs 4 Mar (L&MT), and a Spotted Sand-

piper 8 Apr (L&MT). Also early were 6 Lesser Yellowlegs at Red Slough 13 Mar (DA). A rare migrant, Whimbrel reports came only from Oklahoma: the peak count at Hackberry was 4 on 26 Apr, with at least one present 22 Apr-15 May (L&MT, EBe, in ob.); one was in *Cimarron* 11 May (JW); and 2 were in *Tulsa* 7 May (BC). An amazing 3000+ Long-billed Curlews coming to a roost in *Finney*, KS 29 Mar (T&SS) must have been a sight to behold; still a good number was the 30 in *Harper*, OK 25 Mar (EBe). Marbled Godwits are low-density migrants, making the 37 at Hackberry 16 Apr an unusual count (L&MT). Ruddy Turnstones appeared in excellent numbers, including a remarkable 44 in *Seward*, NE 19 May (JGJ). Elsewhere, 20 were reported 4-24 May in Nebraska (*fide* WRS), 3 in Kansas 15-17 May (MG, GP), and 4 in Oklahoma 11-19 May (L&MT, MJ, SBe).

Rarer westward, a Sanderling was in *Cimarron*, OK 17-18 May (MP). Reports of Semipalmated Sandpiper in early Mar are normally considered misidentifications; however, 9 were nicely documented at Hackberry 4 Mar, and 2-5 were there 10-29 Mar (L&MT). Western Sandpiper is usually scarce in the Region



Charles Brown, Valerie O'Brien, and Sarah Knute picked this Zone-tailed Hawk out of a Turkey Vulture roost near Lake McConaughy, Keith County, Nebraska 25 April 2007. Photograph by UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER.

in spring, thus the 200+ at Quivira 21 Apr (SS) was an unexpectedly high count. The 3 at Hackberry 25 Mar (L&MT) added to the list of early migrant shorebird species. Four thousand White-rumped Sandpipers in the e. Rainwater Basin 17 May (JGJ) was an excellent count, as was the tally of 2275 Baird's Sandpipers at Hackberry 15 Apr (L&MT). The 42 Baird's at Hackberry 4 Mar (L&MT) were early. Pectoral Sandpipers numbered 350 in *Thayer*, NE 11 May (JGJ), and Dunlins showed in record numbers in Nebraska, with 235 in the e. Rainwater Basin 17 May, 133 of these at a single *York* site (JGJ), and an additional 250 reported 2-24 May (*fide* WRS). Up to 3 Dunlins at Hackberry 10 Mar-22 Apr (L&MT) are part of an emerging pattern of occurrence before mid-Apr in the Region. A record-early arrival was a Silt Sandpiper at Hackberry 15 Mar (L&MT), with the 5 in *Seward* 4 Apr (LE) the 2nd earliest on record in Nebraska. Good tallies of Buff-breasted Sandpiper came from all three states, with 250 in the e. Rainwater Basin 17 May (JGJ), 41 in *Sedgwick*, KS 20 May (PJ), and 40 in *McClain*, OK 10 May (JAG).

Short-billed Dowitchers passed through in

timely fashion, with 60 in Nebraska 10-20 May (*fide* WRS) and 46 in *Tulsa*, OK 7 May (JWA). Long-billeds continued the early surge, with 197 at Hackberry by 4 Mar (L&MT) and a peak count of 4500 there on 22 Apr (L&MT). American Woodcock reports are becoming more numerous to the n. and w. of typical range in Nebraska, with one in *Lincoln* 27 Mar (TJW) and 2 in *Cherry* 23 Mar (WF). A Wilson's Phalarope in *Scotts Bluff* 17 Mar (AK) was record early by a day for Nebraska, and 2 at Hackberry 29 Mar (L&MT) were also quite early. The best count of Wilson's Phalaropes was the impressive 6000 at Hackberry 29 Apr (L&MT). Breeding of Wilson's in the e. Rainwater Basin is only sporadic; thus copulation 9 May (JGJ) and two nests each with four eggs in *Clay* 14 & 29 May (PD) were significant finds. Rare eastward was a Red-necked Phalarope in *Sarpy* 22-26 May (CNK, EB, JR).

Two Laughing Gulls trekked in at the end of the season in *Douglas*, KS 21 May (GP) and *Hefner* the next day (PV), while

an ad. Little Gull in *Lancaster*, NE 13 Mar (JGJ) was Nebraska's 11th in spring. An easterly California Gull was in *Lancaster* 24 Mar (D&JP), with sightings of singles at *Hefner* 3 & 20 Mar (JAG, TG) and another on 3 Mar at *L. Overholser*, Oklahoma (L&MT). Tardy for Oklahoma was a Thayer's Gull in *Oklahoma* 3 Mar (L&MT); only one other was reported, an ad. at *McConaughy* 1 Mar (JGJ). Occurring with regularity these days, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were in *Lancaster* 10 & 13 Mar (JGJ) and at *McConaughy* 28 Apr (MB). Glaucous Gulls in *Lancaster*, NE 9-11 Mar (JGJ, LE, CNK) and *Harlan*, NE 4 Mar (G&WH) were the only reports. Three Common Terns were in Nebraska 10-30 May (PD, JM, MB). The 4 Black Terns in *Harper*, OK 22 Apr (EBe) were early.

## ROADRUNNER THROUGH WAXWINGS

Greater Roadrunner continues to creep northward in Kansas; 8 individuals were reported in five s.-cen. counties n. to *Stafford* (*fide* LM)—but the real n. pioneer was one in s. *Chase* 30 Apr (JP). Black-billed Cuckoos, usually uncommon, were found 20 May in *Tulsa* (TM) and the next day in *Cherokee*, OK (D&JV),



with 5 more reported in Nebraska (L&CF, JR, JMi). Burrowing Owls are re-occupying e. Rainwater Basin sites at the e. edge of the range in Nebraska, with reports from three sites in Clay (JGJ, PD). An excellent count of Burrowing Owls was the 30+ on Nature Conservancy land in Barton, KS 14 Apr (SS, DK), while one showed up early in Geary, KS 22 Mar (C&JO). Barred Owls continue to expand westward along the Republican R. into Nuckolls, NE, with 1-2 noted 1 Apr (LRa, RH) and a single 20 Apr (DE). The only Northern Saw-whet Owl reported was one quite out of range in Sedgwick, KS 17 Mar (LH).

A Chuck-will's-widow in Comanche, OK 23 Mar (JAG) was early, as were Whip-poor-wills in LeFlore, OK 25 Mar (B&NL) and Osage, OK 26 Mar (MP). Other early arrivals were 3 Chimney Swifts in Tulsa, OK 20 Mar (TC), with Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in McCurtain, OK 21 Mar (MH) and Delaware, OK the same day (EW), and Black-chinned Hummingbirds as early as 20 (D&CS) & 25 Mar in Comanche, OK (K&SM) and in Grady 25 Mar (DL). A few Black-chinneds e. and n. of usual included singles in McClain 7 Apr (M&JF) and Payne 17 Apr (O&TT). Convincing details were provided for a Red-naped Sapsucker as far e. as Hall, NE 5 Mar (WF). Somewhat northerly in Oklahoma was a Ladder-backed Woodpecker in Harper 29 Apr (EBe).

A Western Wood-Pewee in Lincoln, NE 19 May (CNK) was at the e. edge of its range. The only Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reported was in Lancaster, NE 21 May (KP). An Acadian Flycatcher in Payne, OK 23 May (TO) was w. of the usual range. Cordilleran Flycatcher is rarely reported in migration in the Region; one was in s. Sioux, NE 30-31 May (HKH). The local Vermilion Flycatchers had returned to Cimarron, OK by 21 Apr (DW); a female was there 12 & 19 May (JW, MP). An early Ash-throated Flycatcher was in Tillman, OK 23 Mar (L&MT), with 2 n. to Harper, OK 22 & 29 Apr (EBe). Yet another early migrant was a Cassin's Kingbird in Cimarron, OK 21 Apr (DW); it was clearly outdone by an Eastern Kingbird as far n. as Riley, KS 23 Mar (CG). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports were led by one in McCurtain 21 Mar (BH). Scissor-tailed have established themselves as breeders n. to Buffalo (KS) and Sarpy, NE (JT). More early arrivals included White-eyed Vireo in Cleveland 21

Mar (RG), with 2 each in Comanche, OK 22 Mar (K&SM) and McCurtain, OK the same day (BH). The only report of Plumbeous Vireo was of a migrant in Scotts Bluff, NE 16 May (BN). A Blue-headed Vireo, rare westward, was in Harlan, NE 11 May (G&WH). Two Yellow-throated Vireos in McCurtain, OK 22 Mar (BH) were also early. A Philadelphia Vireo in Scotts Bluff, NE 26 May (KD) was only the 4th for the Nebraska Panhandle. Playing the early arrival game in almost treeless terrain was a Red-eyed Vireo in Tillman 21 Mar (L&MT), with another in McCurtain 1 Apr (MR).

Some 2152 Blue Jays in Payne, OK 21 Apr (SMC) made a splendid tally. Fish Crows expanding westward up river systems were one in Oklahoma, OK 30 Mar (NV) and as many as 19 in Sedgwick, KS 7 May (LH). A carefully identified Common Raven, a rare visitor in extreme sw. Kansas, was in Morton 12 Apr

NE 23 Mar (WF).

The only Veeries reported were 2 in Sarpy, NE 8 May (NF), one in Johnson, KS 10 May (MG), and one in Cherokee, OK 2 May (MP, MD, SH). A Gray-cheeked Thrush in se. Garden, NE 20 May (JMi) was a rarity that far w., and a Swainson's Thrush in Otoe, NE was record early 16 Apr (L&CF). Wood Thrushes in Cleveland, OK 27 Apr (DKa) and 26 May (JAG) were rare w. sightings. An early Gray Catbird was in Johnston, OK 19 Mar (EBr). Nebraska's 7th Curve-billed Thrasher was found in Perkins 22 Apr (JGJ); Nebraska's 6th, the long-staying male in se. Sioux, was observed trying to make a nest in mid-Apr (fide AK).

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Rare anywhere in the Region, 2 Blue-winged Warblers in Scotts Bluff, NE 8 May (AD, KD) made only the 4th spring Panhandle record; singles were in Cherokee, OK 2 May (MP, MD, SH) and in LeFlore, OK 24 May (G&MK). Seven Golden-winged Warblers were reported along the e. edge of the Region in the very short period 5-9 May (fide WRS, fide LM, fide JAG). Westerly Northern Parulas were one in Morton, KS 21 Apr (DW) and 2 in Comanche, OK 1 Apr (K&SM); rather early were singles in Washington, OK (MP) and Tulsa, OK (AR), both 21 Mar. Cape May Warbler, a Regional "zootie," made an outstanding showing, with 3 in Nebraska 7-17 May (LE, ST, JGJ) and 3 in Kansas 8-13 May (CL, MHi et al.). Kansas had the only Black-throated Blue Warblers, singles in Johnson 13 May (MHi et al.) and Kiowa 18 May (M&ER et al.). A Black-throated Gray Warbler in Morton, KS 21 Apr (DW) was unexpected. Westerly was a Blackburnian Warbler in Oklahoma, OK 7-8 May (NV), with others in Tulsa 16 (GK) & 19 May (BC). Yellow-throated Warblers arrived early in all three states: 19 Mar in Okmulgee, OK (JW), 29 Mar in Leavenworth, KS (JS), and 1 Apr in Sarpy, NE (RS). Quite unexpected was a Prairie Warbler w. to Cherry, NE 28 May (GW). Rare in spring, 6 Bay-breasted Warblers were reported (fide WRS, fide LM, fide JAG), most westerly a bird in Comanche, OK 28 May (L&MT, K&SM), with another rather late in LeFlore, OK 24 May (G&MK). Usually an early migrant, Black-and-white Warblers appeared at Red Slough 13 Mar (DA), with as many as 8 in McClain, OK by 18 Mar (PM). Prothonotary Warblers



This Eastern Screech-Owl at Black Mesa State Park, Oklahoma 18 May 2007 was in Cimarron County, where only Western Screech-Owl had ever been recorded. Photograph by Joseph A. Grzybowski.

(SS, TCa). Three early Tree Swallows were in Harlan, NE 18 Mar (G&WH), while an early Barn Swallow made it to Red Slough 4 Mar (DA), with 2 in Johnston, OK two days later (DWO). Creeping northward was a Tufted Titmouse in Thurston, NE 17 May (BFH). The latest Red-breasted Nuthatch reported was in Omaha 21 May (RS). Occasional in nw. Oklahoma, a Canyon Wren appeared in Ellis 31 Mar (ES). Two subspecies of Marsh Wren occur in Nebraska; the first singing Marsh Wrens on territory were westerners in Holt,

leading the pack were singles in *Johnston*, OK 30 Mar (DWo) and *McCurtain*, OK 2 Apr (MR). Rare away from e. Oklahoma and Kansas, Worm-eating Warblers were found in *McClain*, OK 30 Apr (M&JF) and *Sedgwick*, KS 6 May (PG). A *McCurtain*, OK specialty, 2-3 Swainson's Warblers were at Little River N.W.R. 21-23 Apr (MR). Early were Louisiana Waterthrushes in *Washington*, OK 14 Mar (MD) and *Tulsa* 19 Mar (TM) and a Kentucky Warbler in *McCurtain*, OK 1 Apr (MR). Another warbler "zootie," Connecticut Warblers were located in *Washington*, OK 8-9 May (MP et al.), *Douglas*, NE 12-13 May (TP), and *Sarpy*, NE 12 May (L&BP). Hooded Warblers in *McCurtain*, OK 24 Mar (DA) and 1 Apr (MR) were also a bit early.

A Summer Tanager, subspecies undetermined, was photographed in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 23 Apr (KD), a record-early date, with another in *McCurtain*, OK 2 Apr (MR). On the e. edge of migration corridors were a Western Tanager in *Morton*, KS 10 May (LL) and a Green-tailed Towhee in *Morton* 12 May (JPV). Spotted Towhees lingered in *Comanche*, OK through 23 May (VF) and in *Lancaster*, NE 24 May (LE). A phenotypically typical (but silent) Eastern Towhee was at McConaughy 21 Apr (BFH), far w. of the usual summer range in Nebraska. Going far eastward was a Canyon Towhee in *Gove*, KS 7 May (JPV).

A surprise for both location and date was a male Lark Bunting in *York*, NE 4 Apr (LE). Early Grasshopper Sparrows were in *Hall*, NE 26 Mar (DKi) and *Geary*, KS 25 Mar (BS). Early enough to suggest local wintering, 2 Henslow's Sparrows were at Red Slough 4 Mar (DA); one was there 27 Mar (DA). Seven Henslow's were found in a lightly grazed pasture in *Otoe*, NE 12 May (WRS). Late-migrating Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at Red Slough 15 May (DA) and in *Lancaster*, NE 21 May (KP). A Harris's Sparrow at Red Slough 22 May (DA) was very late that far south. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was in *Riley*, KS 7 Mar (LJ, CG), and Nebraska's 9th was in *Sioux* 4 May (B&DW). "Hundreds" of Lapland Longspurs migrating over McConaughy 21 Apr (BFH, JPr) were quite late.

Northern Cardinals at the nw. edge of the range in Nebraska were a pair in *Scotts Bluff* 16 May (KD) and singles in *Blaine* 24 Mar (WF) and *Thomas* 25 Mar (WF). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in *Washington*, OK 18 Apr (MP) was early, as was one in *Riley*, KS 16



This Golden-crowned Sparrow, Nebraska's fourth documented, was in Sioux County 4 May 2007. Photograph by Bruce and Donna Walgren.

Apr (DR); a Black-headed was e. to *Tulsa*, OK 27 Apr (D&RJ). Also easterly were Black-headed in *Riley*, KS 9 May (MM), *Sarpy*, NE 12 May (EB), and *Knox*, NE 14-15 May (MB). At least 10 Lazuli Buntings were reported from e. portions of the Region 5-20 May (*fide* WRS, *fide* LM, *fide* JAG), an above-average number. Painted Buntings at the edge of their range in Kansas were noted 1-11 May to *Riley* (CG), *Geary* (C&JO), and *Douglas* (KR). The only reports of the apparently declining Rusty Blackbird were of 1-2 in *Dixon*, NE 11-22 Mar (JJ) and 2 females in *Lancaster*, NE 22 Mar (LE). An early Bullock's Oriole was in *Comanche*, OK 17 Apr (L&MT), and another was easterly in *Arthur*, NE 20 May (CNK). The only reports of Red Crossbill were of singles in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 12 & 26 May (AK). Only one Common Redpoll was reported: a male first seen during winter which re-appeared after an absence at a feeder in *Wayne*, NE 15-16 Mar (JJ). Only moderate numbers of Pine Siskins were reported, the top counts being of 25-30 in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 29 Mar-5 Apr (AK). A surprising 6 or so Lesser Goldfinches found their way to *Grant*, KS 28 Mar and 11 Apr, as well as a pair 27 Apr (KH). In addition, single Lessers were in *McClain*, OK 18 Mar (M&JF), *Finney*, KS 26-27 Apr (T&SS), and *Scotts Bluff*, NE 25 May (*fide* AK).

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For much of Texas, the spring of 2007 was characterized by above-average precipitation and below-average temperatures. Of course, there were exceptions to this, but they were rather hard to find in the big picture. In the far west, El Paso received more than double its normal rainfall through May, with 92.4 mm vs. 43.4 mm. The Chisos Basin of Big Bend National Park reported 191.2 mm of precipitation during the season, up 142.7 mm from 2006. The Panhandle and South Plains received larger quantities of rain through the period, filling all of the playas to the point that some observers commented that there was too much water. This trend continued farther east, as much of north-central Texas received over 130 mm of rain above normal, resulting in levels in reservoirs raising as much as 3.7 m. On the Upper Coast, Houston received 511.5 mm of rain or 204.7 mm above normal.

All of this rain resulted in quality stopover habitat for passerine migrants at inland locations and abundant nesting areas for opportunistic grassland birds such as Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels. This also resulted in abundant habitat for shorebirds, but this made observing that migration very difficult by spreading out the birds. Lupardus noted a secondary problem in Midland, where shorebird habitat was limited due to shorelines being obscured by heavy vegetation.

Three of the highlights of the spring season actually involved nesting birds, a pair of Bald Eagles near Dalhart, the first nesting since 1916 in the Panhandle, a pair of Long-eared Owls in El Paso, the first documented since 1918 in the county, and the first documented nest in the United States of Mangrove Warbler in the Lower Laguna Madre. However, what garnered the most attention was the presence

of some relatively cooperative Masked Ducks in Kleberg County.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH SHEARWATERS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to spread northward, with several sightings from Hunt, Kaufman, and Jack this season (m.ob.). A rare find was 8 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* 19 May (DDC, DLI), also of interest was a high count of 350+ on Pelican I., *Galveston* 29 Apr (TE). Seemingly regular in far w. Texas, a Eurasian Wigeon was at Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 5 May (JKi) and another at nearby Tornillo Res., *El Paso* 7 May (†BZ). Less expected was a male at a neighborhood pond in *Dallas* 16-25 Mar (BLa, †GCo). A Cinnamon Teal at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 4 May was notably late (JBe). Inland Surf Scoters made a good showing this spring, with a pair in Midland, *Midland* 11-12 Apr (RMS), one at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 15 Apr (JSc, MSc), with 2 present there 26 Apr (LL), one recovered near Abilene 3 May (HT), and one at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 13 May (RD, SB). The *Grayson* White-winged Scoter present since late Nov lingered until 4 Mar (GCo, TR). Hooded Mergansers successfully nested at two *Brazoria* locations in mid-Apr: one brood

sighting was followed by another (or the possibly the same) female-plumaged bird near Riviera 22 Apr (†TPE). At a separate pond near Riviera, a pair of these ducks was present 11 May+ (ph. GP, †m.ob.).

The only Red-throated Loons reported were singles at L. Texoma, *Grayson* 4 & 25 Mar (GCo, TR) and L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 24 Mar and 14 Apr (GCo, BoS). Single Pacific Loons were on L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 18 Mar–15 Apr (m.ob.) and L. Texoma, *Grayson* 25 Mar (GCo, BoS), more unexpected was one at Richland Chambers Res., *Freestone* 17 Apr (TPo). Two Least Grebes were reported at Brazos River County Park, *Brazoria* 30 Mar (DVe), while another pair was at Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* 14 Apr (BG). Lingering Western Grebes included 2 on L. Kickapoo, *Archer* 14 Mar (SL, DHo), 5 on L. Buchanan, *Llano* 3 May (TFe), and 2 at L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley* 26 May (LSa). Details of a Sooty Shearwater reported from South Padre I., *Cameron* 17 May (†LMe) will be reviewed by the state records committee.

## PELICANS THROUGH RAPTORS

Almost an annual visitor to the El Paso area, 2 Brown Pelicans were at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 5 May (JPa), with one remaining through 12 May (MSt); another juv. was at the



What could be called a mini-invasion of Masked Ducks occurred in Kleberg County, Texas, when birds were found at three different locations between 2 April and 30 May 2007. This pair was the most cooperative during its stay near Riviera from 11 May through the season (here 20 May). Photograph by Glenn Perrigo.

near Shady Acres (JLa, ph. CBr) and another near Holiday Lakes (ph. MGr). This species also nested at the Heard National Science Museum, *Collin* in early May (GG) and in Longview, *Harrison* in late May (DBr, MEd). There was a mini-invasion of Masked Ducks into *Kleberg* this season. The first sighting involved a female-plumaged bird near Kingsville 2-19 Apr (MaG, TS, †m.ob.). This

same location 20-28 May (JPa). Another Brown Pelican was in *Real* 9 May (AB). An amazingly high count of 12,500 Double-crested Cormorants was tallied at L. Tawakoni, *Hunt*, *Rains*, and *Van Zandt* 8 Apr (RKI). For unknown reasons, colonial waterbirds failed to nest at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* for the first time in many years. By the end of the period, there was no breeding activity noted among



Providing the third record for the Upper Texas Coast, this Band-tailed Pigeon made a brief appearance at Houston, Harris County 12 April 2007. Photograph by Debra Logsdon.

Neotropic and Double-crested Cormorants or among Snowy and Cattle Egrets. Continuing a trend of lingering and possibly breeding American Bitterns along the coast, at least one bird was still present at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 27 May (JSt). Unusual in the South Plains, an early Snowy Egret was at White River L., *Crosby* 24 Mar (AHe), while another was in *Gray* 23 Apr (MDL). A Tricolored Heron in Midkiff, *Midland* 14 Apr (BLu et al.) was unusual, as was one in Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 7 May (MSt). A Reddish Egret flying over College Station, *Brazos* 10 May (ER) was a county first. A Glossy Ibis stopped briefly at Temple, *Bell* 25 Apr (RPi).

A Black Vulture was near Floydada, *Floyd* 27 May (AHe, AvH), where the species is quite rare. An ad. Greater Flamingo was in the Lower Laguna Madre, *Cameron* 28 May (ph. LSh), providing only the 8th record for the state. An impressive group of as many as 9 Swallow-tailed Kites overnighted on S. Padre I., *Cameron* 9-10 Apr (AS, ph. ScC). Farther away from their usual migration route were single Swallow-tailed Kites at Mitchell L., *Bexar* 24 Mar (*vide* SCo), in se. San Antonio 21 Apr (BW), and at Concan, *Uvalde* 22 Apr (C&CG). One seen near Gus Engling W.M.A., *Anderson* 25 May was late to be away from known breeding areas (HH, CS). A pair of nesting White-tailed Kites in n. *Kent* provided a first breeding record for

the area, though the nest was lost late in the season due to inclement weather (JCa, AHe). Also noteworthy were 2 White-tailed Kites in *Ellis* 20 Apr (AE, RRo, FF). A pair of Bald Eagles fledged a single young out of a nest on a manmade platform near Dalhart, *Dallam* (CBo), providing the first successful local nesting since 1916. A pair of Northern Harriers lingered throughout May at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso* (BZ), while a lone bird was seen at Balmorhea, *Reeves* 31 May (JPa). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks attending a nest was discovered in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 19 May (ML, M&ME)—the 2nd nesting record for the range. The Sylvan Beach Hawkwatch, *Galveston* had nice counts of 254 Mississippi Kites and 10,372 Broad-winged Hawks 11 Apr (DBe et al.). Over 50,000 Broad-winged Hawks were tallied at Calaveras L., *Bexar* 13 Apr (MR, SCo). A Short-tailed Hawk at Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 14 Apr (†BCI) was a nice find, though

one in nw. San Antonio, *Bexar* on the same date was farther n. than expected (†SCo). Unusual was a Golden Eagle observed in *Throckmorton* 1 Apr (GCo, BoS). Continuing to expand their range, Crested Caracaras were reported at no fewer than eight locations in n.-cen. Texas (m.ob.), including a nesting pair in e. *Dallas* 4-11 Mar (RRa).

## PLOVERS THROUGH GULLS

Large concentrations of American Golden-Plovers included an early count of 325 near Magnolia Beach, *Calhoun* 11 Mar (BFr), while a conservative estimate of 800+ individuals near Granger L., *Williamson* 25 Mar (TFe) was very impressive. Snowy Plovers made a good showing in cen. Texas, with three sightings 17-25 Apr (RPi) in Temple, *Bell*, plus singles at Pflugerville Res., *Travis* 25 Apr (TFe) and at Austin, *Travis* 16 May (MKI). Five Snowy Plovers on L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 25 Apr (MW) was a good count. Single Piping Plovers at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 25 Apr (MW) and at Temple, *Bell* 13 May (RPi) were notable, while another one at L. Buchanan, *Llano* 3 May (TFe) was a first for the Edwards Plateau. A single Whimbrel stopped at Southside W.T.P., *Dallas* 27 Apr-5 May (BoS), while a group of 19 on Ft. Hood, *Bell* 30 Apr (RKO, GE) was a very high count for cen. Texas. A Hudsonian Godwit in *Midland* 28 May (RMS) was a very good find. Rare on the South

Plains, 4 White-rumped Sandpipers were near Lubbock, *Lubbock* 22 Apr (AHe), while 3 were near Floydada, *Floyd* 26 May (AHe, AvH). An incredible 44 Dunlins were noted at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 16 May (RKi). A Curlew Sandpiper was studied briefly at S. Padre I., *Cameron* 16 May (†KT). Twenty-five Buff-breasted Sandpipers in *Archer* 14 Apr were noteworthy (J&TK). A Ruff was between High I. and Gilchrist, *Galveston* 16 Apr (†JW). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were studied at Southside W.T.P., *Dallas* 18 May (BoS, GCo), in Temple, *Bell* 19 May (RPi), and at Pelican I., *Galveston* 26-30 May (CTL, m.ob.). A Franklin's Gull in *Dallam* 14 Apr (LSa) represented a new county record, while one at Fort Clark Springs, *Kinney* 22 Apr (MHe) was at an odd location. A count of at least 60 Franklin's Gulls on Bull L., *Lamb* 21 Apr (AHe, AvH) was a high number for the South Plains. The 2 Little Gulls present from the winter season continued at White Rock L., *Dallas* until 15 Mar (MW), with the last report of a single bird on 19 Mar (BBa). An imm. Little Gull was seen along Bolivar Peninsula, *Galveston* 24 Mar (†JSt). A California Gull was observed at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 15 Apr (RKi, RBa), while one was present at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 5 May (JPa). Three second-cycle California Gulls were reported from Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 5 May (BBE). A first-cycle Thayer's Gull was found at the White Rock L. spillway, *Dallas* 8 Mar (CRu). The wintering Iceland Gull in Houston, *Harris* lingered until 3 Apr (ph. MR). The ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull present since winter at L. Ray Hubbard, *Dallas* stayed until 17 Mar (GCo, TR). A Glaucous Gull at East Beach, *Galveston* 23 Apr (JSt) was on the late side, as was one at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 28 Apr (SCo, MR, WS).

## TERNS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two Least Terns observed at L. Wichita Park, *Wichita* 15 (SL, DP) & 18 May (SL, DHO) were rare for the area. A young Common Tern put in a rare appearance at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 5 May (TR, GCo et al.). A Band-tailed Pigeon in Houston, *Harris* 12 Apr (ph. DLo) represented the 3rd record for the U.T.C. Single Black-billed Cuckoos were seen in ne. San Antonio, *Bexar* 25 Apr (HR) and in Temple, *Bell* 19 May (RPi). A very early arriving cuckoo, of unknown species, was noted in Houston, *Harris* 17 Mar (TAM), while an early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* 24 Mar (PB). The wintering Burrowing Owl at Ft. Travis, *Galveston* stayed until 31 Mar (m.ob.). A late spring Long-eared Owl was found at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 15 Apr (AHe). Of greater interest was

the discovery of roosting Long-eared Owls at the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso, *El Paso* 29 Apr+ (JSp), culminating in the detection of at least 2 juvs. in late May. This discovery provided the first documented El Paso nesting record since 1918, although there was evidence of nesting in 1934 and 1936. A late Short-eared Owl was observed hunting at dusk at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 18 Apr (GCo). A pair of Chuck-will's-widows at a nest with eggs along Mitchell Cr., *Donley* 26-28 May (ph. BP) provided the first confirmed breeding record for the Panhandle. A *Chaetura* swift believed to be a Chimney was a good spring find near Boot Springs, *Brewster* 11 Apr (BCa).

A Green Violet-ear took up residence in *Bastrop* 28 Apr+ (ph. †SF et al.), and another one was present near Burr, *Wharton* 11-13 May (†KD). A male Green-breasted Mango present at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 26 Apr (ph. EB) was a first for the U.T.C. Continuing the spate of recent local records, a male Broad-billed Hummingbird was at the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 19 Mar+ and was joined by a female 20 Apr+ (M&ME). Also continuing a trend of recent years, a male White-eared Hummingbird was in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 11 May+ (fide ML). On a different level altogether was the Violet-crowned Hummingbird in the Davis Mountains Resort 23 Apr (†M&ME), providing a first for *Jeff Davis* and the 8th for the state. A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Midland, *Midland* 8 May (D&JM) was noteworthy since this species is much more of a fall migrant in the area. An Anna's Hummingbird nest was found in w. El Paso, *El Paso* 5 Mar (MaS, JZ) producing 2 young by 24 Mar (JKi). This represents the 3rd documented nesting for the state, with previous records from *Jeff Davis* (1976) and *El Paso* (2000). Late and unusual for the season was an imm. male Anna's Hummingbird in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 2 May+ (ph. M&ME). Noteworthy was a Calliope Hummingbird photographed at South Llano River S.P., *Kimble* 14 Apr (fide RH). This species is much more likely in late summer and fall than the spring on the Edwards Plateau. A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird near Utopia, *Uvalde* 31 Mar–2 Apr (MHe) and a female near Cibolo, *Guadalupe* 16 Apr (SS) provided rare spring records for the Hill Country. An exciting find for North Texas was a Ringed Kingfisher at the L. Worth spillway, *Tarrant* 12 Mar–6 Apr (JCo et al.).



A one-day-wonder Violet-crowned Hummingbird brightened the central Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis* County, Texas 23 April 2007. Amazingly, this was the fifteenth species of hummingbird for this location—the top number anywhere in Texas. Photograph by Maryann Eastman.

Single Red-headed Woodpeckers wandered to coastal locations, with one at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 19 Apr (WB) and another at Galveston's Pelican I. 29 Apr (TE). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in *Donley* 5 May (BP) was late for the Panhandle. A pair of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers feeding young 21 Apr in w. *Waller*. (ph. JKe) constitutes the first documented nesting record for the county. A family group of Northern Flickers observed at the city park in Sierra Blanca on 5 May (JPa) made for a rare *Hudspeth* breeding record.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Greater Pewee at Ft. Bliss 8 May (BZ) was only the 2nd for *El Paso* and represented a very unusual lowland migrant record for the species. A Western Wood-Pewee was heard calling on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 3 May (JSt et al.). A Gray Flycatcher at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., *Randall* 22 Apr (BP) was only the 4th record for the Panhandle. Buff-breasted Flycatchers again returned to the cen. Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis*, with one pair and a territorial male found in mid-Apr+ (†ML et al.). A late Eastern Phoebe was seen on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 12 Apr (JSt). A very late Say's Phoebe was seen at Balcones Canyonlands N.W.R., *Burnet* 25 Apr (BSt). A pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers was located at Boot

Spring, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 24 Apr+ (MKo, ML et al.). Dusky-capped Flycatchers were also present in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 19 May+ (†ML, M&ME), with up to 6 birds on at least four territories. A calling Couch's Kingbird in Balmorhea, *Reeves* 26 May (RH) was a county first. A Couch's Kingbird, and possibly a pair, was present at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground, *Brewster* (MF, m.ob.). A Cassin's Kingbird ventured eastward to Lost Maples S.N.A., *Bandera* 5 May (MHe). Three Eastern Kingbirds present at Packery Channel, *Nueces* 17 Mar (MCo, AC) represented an early date for the Corpus Christi area. Farther w., an Eastern Kingbird in *Gray* 30 Mar (MDL) was very early, while another at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 29 Apr (MF) was a very rare migrant in the Region.

Single Bell's Vireos were in n.-cen. Texas, including L. Tawakoni S.P., *Hunt* 4 May (RKi), Fox Creek Greenbelt, *Denton* 10 May (LD), and Plano, *Collin* 22 May (PAs). Three presumably nesting Black-capped Vireos were seen in *Somervell* 13 May (DDC, DLI). A pair of Black-capped Vireos was discovered at a nest site at Cedar Hollow, L.

Georgetown, *Williamson* 16-19 May (TFe). Unfortunately, the nesting attempt failed, but this is the same location where a singing male was present the previous year. Most significantly, a singing Black-capped Vireo was found s. of Putnam, *Callahan* 27 May (DDC, DLI) for what is apparently the 2nd county record. A Yellow-throated Vireo at Prairie Creek Park, *Dallas* 3 May (RRa, DHi) and one at Plano Outdoor Learning Center, *Collin* 24 May (PAs) were rare finds for the Region. A territorial Hutton's Vireo was present in w. *Travis* 12 Apr–26 May (BR, JCh); this location is e. of the population that appears to be established in the sw. Hill Country. It was a banner season for Yellow-green Vireos, with at least 7 tallied from Sabine Pass, *Jefferson* to the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron*.

What must have been a stunning spectacle, an estimated 12,500 apparently migrating Blue Jays streamed along the shoreline at Lake Tawakoni S.P., *Hunt* 25 Apr (RKi). Three Brown Jays continue to be seen in the vicinity of Chapeño and Salineño, *Starr* and are the only known individuals presently in the United States (m.ob.). A pair of Tamaulipas Crows again returned to Brownsville, *Cameron* 8 Apr+ (BBu, m.ob.), where they successfully fledged one young. Three Cliff Swallows found in *Gray* 24 Mar (LSa) were very early



Hermit Warblers are always a treat in Texas away from the Trans-Pecos. This female at Port Aransas, Nueces County 21 April 2007 provided a rare Coastal Bend Record but was the second for the county. Photograph by Ron Hillstromb

for the Panhandle. A Cave Swallow in Kent 15 Mar (AHe) was the earliest recorded for the South Plains, while one in ne. Texas 31 Mar (PB) provided a Smith first. A Barn Swallow at L. Tanglewood, Randall 25 Mar (TJ) was early for the Panhandle.

## NUTHATCHES THROUGH WARBLERS

A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches feeding young at L. Waco, McLennan 17 Apr (FB, JMu) provided a first county nesting record. A Brown-headed Nuthatch well out of habitat near Anderson, Grimes 11 Mar (JO) was a surprise. A Brown Creeper in Bellaire, Harris 14 Apr (DVe) furnished the 2nd latest spring record for the U.T.C. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered near Cibolo, Guadalupe until 20 May (ph. SS et al.). A Veery in Lake Jackson, Brazoria 26 Mar (CRi) tied the early record for the U.T.C. Farther inland, single individuals were noted at Plano, Collin 28 Apr (PAs), Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 4 May (RKi), and Lubbock, Lubbock 19 May (AHe). Apparently territorial Wood Thrushes were found in nw. Travis 20 May (BSt) and Temple, Bell 21 May+ (RPi), both areas away from known nesting sites. A Clay-colored Robin was in Corpus Christi, Nueces 17 May+ (PY, MCo, WS, m.ob.). One of the birds of the season was a Rufous-backed Robin at Santa Ana, Hidalgo

8-13 Mar (RC, MP, †m.ob.) that represented the 4th Lower Rio Grande Valley record for the species. Westward-wandering Brown Thrashers included singles in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis 25 Apr (M&ME) and n. Hudspeth 2 May (JO). A Long-billed Thrasher 16 km ne. of Alpine, Brewster 29 May (BSt) was well outside of the expected range. Crissal Thrashers continue to be found at additional locations around Midland, Midland, confirming that the species is resident in that area (RMS). Cedar Waxwings invaded the coast and South Texas in huge numbers, with counts of around 100 birds reported in many areas during May with a few lingering into early Jun (m.ob.).

Golden-winged Warblers of interest included singles at Harrison 2 May (DBr, MEd), Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 4 (MW) & 19 May (GCo, BoS), and Big Bend's Rio Grande Village, Brewster 13 May (JF). A Virginia's Warbler was at Lubbock, Lubbock 19 May (AHe). Northern Parulas found farther w. than expected included singles at Lubbock, Lubbock 19 May (AHe) and near Fort Davis, Jeff Davis 26 May (RH). Single male Tropical Parulas were in w. Comal 19 Apr-7 May (BFR) and Fort Clark Springs, Kinney 25 Apr (ML). Although the population of Mangrove Warblers was discovered in the Lower Laguna Madre,

Cameron in 2005, the first documented nesting record for Texas and the United States was obtained 14 May (ph. ScC). Chestnut-sided Warblers of note included singles at Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 4 May (RKi), El Paso, El Paso 9 May (SH), and Junction, Kimble 15 May (RH). Lingering Yellow-rumped Warblers included Myrtles at Brazos Bend S.P., Fort Bend 6 May (MKi) and South Padre I., Cameron the same day (PL) and an Audubon's also at South Padre I. 4-5 May (PL et al.). Quite surprising were 2 Black-throated Green Warblers in the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 3 May (MCo). A Townsend's Warbler was far e. at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 26 Apr (EB et al.). The Hermit Warbler at Anzalduas County Park, Hidalgo present during the winter lingered until 9 Apr (PAb, TB). More unexpected was a female Hermit Warbler

at Port Aransas, Nueces 21 Apr (AC, MCo, SCo, MR et al.). A Blackburnian Warbler at L. Wichita Park, Wichita 10 May (SL, DHo) provided only the 2nd county record. A Yellow-throated Warbler wandered to Rio Grande Village, Brewster 26 Apr (JD). Grace's Warblers are rarely encountered in lowland habitats; this season, one was in El Paso, El Paso 8 Apr (JPa), and more unexpectedly, one was at a desert tank in n. Hudspeth 2 May (JO). A likely lingering winterer, a Pine Warbler was in Lubbock, Lubbock 15 Mar (JH).

**SA** Outside of the extensive Pineywoods of East Texas, Pine Warblers are only known to nest in natural pine forests in two other areas of e.-cen. Texas. So it was with great surprise to learn of nesting Pine Warblers in Robertson 21 Apr+ (RSm). The birds were present in a stand of pines and bald-cypress that were planted between 36 and 46 years ago. The pines are now 18-30 m tall and border another stand of cultivated pines.

A Palm Warbler in Lubbock, Lubbock 28 Apr (AHe) was the first spring sighting in five years. A Blackpoll Warbler at Quintana, Brazoria 28 May (DVe, RW) was late. Cerulean Warblers made an almost unbelievable passage though cen. Texas, with nine reports from Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Guadalupe, Travis,

and Washington spanning 25 Apr–1 May (m.ob.). Prothonotary Warblers in the w. included singles at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 5 May (AHe, Lma), Buffalo L., *Randall* 5 May (LSa), and Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 13 May (S&MP). A great find was a Worm-eating Warbler at Big Bend's Boot Springs, *Brewster* 24 Apr (RBo). A late migrant Worm-eating Warbler was at the Old State Fish Hatchery, *Dallas* 28 May (CRu). Single Ovenbirds made an appearance at Buffalo Springs L., *Lubbock* 19 May (AHe, AvH) and near Canyon, *Randall* 6-12 May (RM, MoS), providing unusual spring records for nw. Texas. A Connecticut Warbler was reported in Austin, *Travis* 13 May (†TE), and details will be reviewed by the state bird records committee. Details were provided of a very early male Mourning Warbler observed at the Montgomery County Preserve 21 Mar (GCl). Hooded Warblers w. of the normal migration corridor included singles at L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 1 Apr (RKi, RBa), at Midland, *Midland* 7 May (D&JM), and at Temple, *Bell* 9 May (RPi). A Slate-throated Redstart was in Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 25 Apr (†JBa), providing the 9th record for the state.

## TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

There was a bumper crop of Western Tanagers on the U.T.C., with 6 birds reported 3 Apr–7 May (m.ob.). A very late lingering Spotted Towhee was at El Paso, *El Paso* 24 May (BZ). Clay-colored Sparrows wandered to w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 19 Apr and 3 May (JSt). A Brewer's Sparrow in Richardson, *Dallas* 8 May (ph. DHi) provided a first fully documented local regional record. Eastward-wandering Lark Buntings were found at the Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 27 Mar (GCo, GM, BBu, CA) and w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 6-7 Apr (ph. JSt). A Savannah Sparrow at San Bernard, *Brazoria* 23 May (JSt) was late. A very high count of 77 Grasshopper Sparrows was made near Floydada, *Floyd* 26 May (AHe, AvH). Three Le Conte's Sparrows lingered at Granger L., *Williamson* until 5 May (TFe). Always a nice find inland, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was reported at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 20 May (MW). A Song Sparrow in Cove, *Chambers* 27 Apr (PF) was the latest-ever spring record for the U.T.C. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Quintana, *Brazoria* lingered until 4 May (RW et al.). A White-throated Sparrow lingered at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* until 5 May (BBe), while a lingering Harris's Sparrow was near Granger L., *Williamson* 12 May (JLe, KH). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Sierra Blanca, *Hudspeth* 5 May (†JPa), providing a 3rd county record.

A Black-headed Grosbeak was at Lake Wi-

chita Park, *Wichita* 2 May, and 2 were present 5 May (SL). An early arrival for East Texas, a Blue Grosbeak was in Central Heights, *Nacogdoches* 30 Mar (MHW). Dickcissels were in abundance on the South Plains, as illustrated by a count of 74 near Floydada, *Floyd* 26 May (AHe, AvH). Bobolinks made rare appearances in n.-cen. Texas, with one at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 25 Apr and 15 there 8 May (LL et al.). A Common Grackle made a brief appearance in Alpine, *Brewster* 8 Apr (ML). A male Great-tailed Grackle in *Angelina* 20 Apr (RT) was a nice find in an area where the species does not breed. Bronzed Cowbirds made a very good showing on the South Plains, suggesting that they are becoming established, with at least 26 individuals observed between 21 Apr and 28 May (m.ob.). Two Orchard Orioles at Alazan Bayou W.M.A., *Nacogdoches* 1 Apr (RT) tied the earliest spring record for the Pineywoods. A male Hooded Oriole was in Seabrook, *Galveston* 25 May (ph. VM); this species is being reported with increasing frequency on the U.T.C. Bullock's Orioles were reported in unusually large numbers in the e. part of the state (but w. of the Pineywoods), including a first-year male in *Waller* 16 May (MHo) that furnished a county first record. Red Crossbills nested in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* during Apr (ML), and flocks of 20+, including juvs., were seen on several occasions. Lingered Pine Siskins included singles in *Collin* 1 May (KC) and *Morris* 27 May (DBr, LB).

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# Colorado & Wyoming



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The Region experienced a warm spring. Compared to 112 years of climate records, the statewide temperature average in Wyoming ranked above normal (the twelfth warmest) and in Colorado, much above normal (the seventh warmest). As corollary, both states' precipitation levels for the period were much below normal. Wyoming saw its eleventh driest spring, while Colorado recorded its sixth driest (both out of 112 years). Still banking on exceptional snowfall from the winter, Colorado's Eastern Plains remained free of drought classification, but southwestern Wyoming graded into extreme drought.

A pleasant variety of particularly notable birds were spread throughout the checklist and throughout the Region this season. Four potential first state records punctuated the spring months. While three were single-observer reports, Colorado's first Lawrence's Goldfinch remained faithful to a feeder through the end of the period and most of the summer, providing looks and photographs to scores of observers. The hybrid assortment included goose, ibis, plover, and phoebe combinations. While northern gulls generally make it into the spring report as holdovers from winter, some persisted well into spring this year, including two pale-winged species lingering through April in northern Colorado. Other first-rate wanderers included King Rail and Painted Redstart in Colorado and Western Bluebird in Wyoming.

Abbreviations: Blue Mesa (Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison); Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo/El Paso); Crow Valley (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld); L.C.C. (Lamar Community College,

Prowers); Lower Latham (Lower Latham Res., Weld); Pastorius (Pastorius Res., La Plata); Tamarack (Tamarack Ranch S.W.A., Logan). "West Slope" denotes locations w. of the Rockies. Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Colorado except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text. Because most rarities are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are noted.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was reported from Teton, WY 21 May (†D. Brown; p.a.); there is only one previous Regional record. The most interesting of three May sightings of Ross's Goose was the individual at Sullenburger Res., Archuleta 2 May (P. Derven) in sw. Colorado, where the species is not regular. A Greater White-fronted Goose × Canada Goose hybrid was spotted in Jefferson 25 Mar (B. Shade). Four reports each were received of Mute Swan. That last species is not accepted as occurring "naturally" in Colorado, but is it possible that some recent reports pertain to individuals displaced from sources of naturalized occurrence? Male Eurasian Wigeons were reported thrice, oddly enough all from

Colorado, Scaled Quail are only rarely reported from there, so the 2 near Cortez, Montezuma 11 May (CD et al.) are of interest. Red-throated Loons were present in higher-than-normal numbers, with 2 at Pueblo Res., Pueblo: a basic-plumaged bird 10 Apr–8 May (RMI) and an alternate-plumaged bird 17 Apr–7 May (BKP). A transitional-plumaged Red-throated Loon visited Marston Res., Denver 19 Apr (TJ), and what may have been the same basic-plumaged individual was found (or refound) at Pueblo Res. 23 May (BKP). Wyoming also got into the Red-throated Loon act, with a basic-plumaged bird at Wheatland Res., Platte 23 Apr (ph. LS) accounting for the state's 5th record (3rd in spring). Loon reports are rounded out by two of Pacific and 13 of Common, with both of the former being found at interesting locations: at Yant's Puddle, Natrona, WY (BR) and a basic-plumaged bird at DeWeese Res., Custer 16 May (BKP, MP). An alternate-plumaged Red-necked Grebe was a nice find at Pueblo Res. 25–28 Apr (BKP).

An American Bittern was apparently early 23 Mar at the Las Animas Hatchery, Bent (CW, NE, IS); individuals at Lower Latham 27 Apr (R. Trinkner, R. Bolton) and Ft. Lyon, Bent 28 Apr (MP, BKP) were found on what is thought to be more typical arrival dates. A Least Bittern called 21 May at Ft. Lyon (DN), a location at



Two Iceland Gulls created quite a stir in Colorado when they were first found on 1 (here 16) April 2007 and lingered for most of the month. While usually seen singly after their discovery, these photographs from the Larimer County landfill near Fort Collins offer a good comparison of the duo. Photographs by Cole Wild.

locations on the West Slope. The first report came from Pastorius 6–27 Apr (RMo et al.) and the next from Blue Mesa 30 Apr (TH). The 3rd report was from Zink's Pond 20 May (J. & J. Rees), which is only a few km from Pastorius and, presumably, was of the same individual. The only spring "sea ducks" reported were in Larimer: a single Surf Scoter 1–9 Apr at N. Poudre Res. #3 (RH) and a spanking alternate-plumaged male Long-tailed Duck at Fossil Creek Res. 28 Apr (LS, RH). Rare at their respective locales, an ad. male Barrow's Goldeneye graced Pastorius 1 Apr (JBy), and an imm. male Red-breasted Merganser was at Craig, Moffat 23 Apr (FL).

Though presumably resident in sw. Col-

which the species has been suspected of breeding. All of the 15 reports of Green Heron originated from or near typical locations, with all but two reports being of single birds. The most interesting of the lot was of 3 at Thurston Res., Prowers 19 May (SM). We received "only" eight reports of Glossy Ibis this spring, all from typical e. Colorado locations. Two Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrids were found near Stearn's L., Boulder 25–26 Apr (L. Kilpatrick, TL, ph. T. Heinrich), continuing a run of at least four consecutive springs in which this hybrid combination has been found in Colorado.

## RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Single Mississippi Kites were a shade early 22





One of two Iceland Gulls found in the spring season in Colorado, this bird was found 1 April 2007 (here) in Weld County; and at least one bird lingered through 29 April in adjacent Larimer County. Photograph by Larry Semo.

Apr at Lamar and Granada, both *Prowers* (JK) and one at Gillette, *Campbell* 23 May (T. Jensen) was in Wyoming, where quite rare. Bald Eagle nesting distribution in Colorado continues to expand, with two "new" nests being found this spring, both in the se., in *Fremont* and *Crowley* (SM), firsts for both counties. Two Northern Goshawks (both subs.) were on the plains, where decidedly uncommon, one at Chico, *Pueblo* 19 Apr (BM), the other at Lamar 27 Apr (M. Ackley). A Common Black-Hawk ghosted around Grand Junction, *Mesa* 2-25 May with, oddly, only those with the initials of 'RL' being able to find it (R. Lambeth, R. Levad, R. Linfield). The number of Broad-winged Hawks reported this spring was much lower than usual due to the Dinosaur Ridge hawkwatch not being operated, but the 13 reports did include 2 dark morphs, a reported "imm." at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe* 22 Apr (quite early for non-ads.), and a nicely photographed ad. at Fort Lupton, *Weld* 28 Apr (TL). Many historic Swainson's Hawk territories in ne. Colorado

**SA** A bird first reported as an American Golden-Plover was found near Lower Latham 6 May (L. Griffin) and stayed through 8 May. Over the course of the next two days, the identification was changed to that of, possibly, Pacific Golden-Plover, which, of course, caused a bit of a twitch. Though many features of the bird appeared like that of Pacific, some features seemed more like that of American, and some observers were perplexed. A call for help in identifying the bird from pictures obtained resulted in worldwide experts disagreeing on the identification. Fortunately, a feather the bird removed during preening was obtained, and mitochondrial DNA analysis showed the maternal parent to be an American Golden-Plover. We await samples of Pacific Golden-Plover with which to compare the nuclear DNA and final details, when they are known, will appear elsewhere. For now, many are considering the bird to be of hybrid derivation.

were filled two to three weeks later than usual this spring (TL), despite typical arrival dates in at least a few places (e.g., Brush, *Morgan* 29 Mar [NE]). Single Rough-legged Hawks were quite late 19 Apr at Anton, *Washington* (D. Ely) and s. of Lamar (DAL).

At what has been thought to be an early date, 20 Black Rails were heard in the extensive Ft. Lyon marshes 27-28 Apr (MP et al.); obviously, some re-thinking may be in order on this subject. At least 2 Black Rails responding to playback at Chico 15-27 May

accounted for the first local and 2nd *Pueblo* records; the 3rd such was provided 20 May by a singing bird at Nepesta (the location of the first; AS). A calling King Rail 28 Apr at Ft. Lyon (MP et al.; p.a.) superceded even the aforementioned Black Rails as the night's highlight. Rare in spring and extremely rare in sw. Colorado, an American Golden-Plover (in basic plumage) was a superb find at Pastorius 21-25 Apr (RMO, JBr); another graced John Martin Res., *Bent* 29 Apr (DN).

Single Snowy Plovers were well out of range s. of L. John, *Jackson* 15 Apr (NK, S. Riffe), at Blue Mesa 30 Apr (TH), and at Goldeneye Res., *Natrona*, WY 12 May (BR). An Upland Sandpiper was well w. of normal, particularly for spring, at Chico, *Pueblo* 6 May (MP). The 16 reports of Whimbrel (slightly more than usual; 13 Apr-17 May) included that of 2 at Yant's Puddle 2 May (CM). Ruddy Turnstones made news in early May, with 3-4 at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso* 7-8 May (JD); 2 at Lake Henry, *Crowley* 12-13 May (T. Esteban, A. Burns); and a single at Lake Cheraw, *Otero* 13 May (MP et al.). A fallout of a whopping 9 basic-plumaged Red Knots at Blue Mesa Res. 29-30 Apr (TH) was nearly unprecedented, particularly for the West Slope. The only Dunlins reported were a single at L. Cheraw 22 Apr (CW, JK) and an outstanding 5 alternate-plumaged birds at San Luis Lakes, *Alamosa* 25 Apr (JBy). Of the seven reports of Short-billed Dowitcher 14 Apr-12 May, a single bird called at Pastorius (on the West Slope, where very rare) 5 May (JBy). The 175

Red-necked Phalaropes at Jumbo Res., *Logan/Sedgwick* 15 May (H. Armknecht) was a nice, but not at all unprecedented, count.

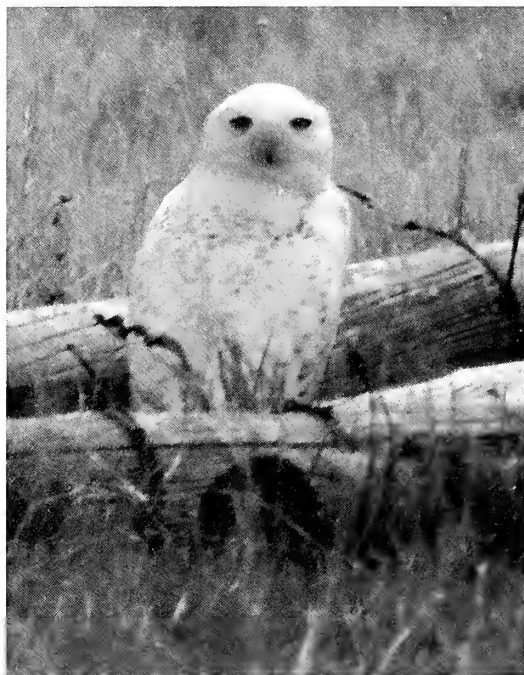
## GULLS THROUGH VIREOS

A Mew Gull was reported from Black Hollow Res., *Weld* 22 Mar (CW), but was trumped by not one, but 2, Iceland Gulls there on 1 Apr. The first of the 2 was found at the nearby Ault landfill (P. Lehman, ph. TL, ph. LS) and watched leaving the landfill heading in the direction of the res. Upon the masses (gulls and birders) arriving at the res., a 2nd individual (JM) was noted among the throng of other gulls, with the 2 birds being readily separable on plumage details and in view at the same time. Neither was found in that area again, but the first individual relocated to the Loveland/Ft. Collins area, *Larimer*, being seen at two sites there 8-29 Apr (NK), where a first-cycle Glaucous Gull was fairly late 15-29 Apr (JM, NK). Nearly as rare as Iceland Gull, at least in spring, was a Black-legged Kittiwake (first-cycle) at Pueblo Res. 3-8 May (ph. BKP).



Illustrating one hazard for southern birds expanding their ranges northward, this White-winged Dove appears to have lost some toe tips to frostbite but otherwise appeared no worse for wear on 3 May 2007 in Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado. Photograph by Rachel Hopper.

Two Least Terns were found at odd locations this spring, one each at Big Johnson Res. 15 May (MP, CW) and Cheney Res., *Mesa* 18 May (LA). The most interesting of four Caspian Tern reports was of a single at Buena Vista 6 May (SM), providing a *Chaffee* first. The 21 reports of White-winged Dove of which we are aware spanned the period and, undoubtedly, do not represent all individuals found, as the species is becoming a bit ho-hum, at least in Colorado. As we have been reporting for some years now, Inca Doves have still not spread be-



Big white birds on the prairie turn heads, as did this adult Snowy Owl southwest of Gillette, Campbell County, Wyoming on 21 April 2007. Photograph by R. T. Cox.

finds were the single Alder Flycatchers reported at Chico, *Pueblo* 16 May (BM) and at Crow Valley 22 May (CW). Least Flycatchers have been emigrating westward in Colorado. Pairs were present at Craig 23 May+ (Forrest Luke, m.ob.), which provided a first for *Moffat*, and Connected Lakes S.P., *Mesa* 25 May+ (m.ob.); where a nest was subsequently found.

Two Vermilion Flycatchers graced Colorado during the period, both on 28 Mar, a female at Chico, *El Paso* (JD) and a male s. of La Junta, *Otero* (B. Leininger). Far e. was the Ash-throated Flycatcher at Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa* 23 Apr (DAL, DN), and quite interesting was the report of a pair of "probable" Great Crested Flycatchers at Glendo Res., *Platte*, WY 18 May (A&W Hines); there is only one accepted record of the latter species in Wyoming. The presence of an Eastern Kingbird at Tennessee Pass, *Lake* 11 May was very unusual at such a high elevation (V. Truan). Three e. plains

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported in Colorado, one near Walsh, *Baca* 20 Apr (DAL), one s. of Lamar 29 Apr (AS, CW; a location where the species has nested for a few

*Las Animas* 20 May (AS) was of interest. Three Yellow-throated Vireos overshot onto the e. plains, with one at Chico, *El Paso* 27-28 Apr (BKP, BM et al.) providing a first record for that heavily birded ranch. Rare in spring, Cassin's Vireos were well reported this year, with no fewer than 6 being seen across e. Colorado (m.ob.). Rare for Colorado at any season, a Blue-headed Vireo was banded and photographed at Chico, *El Paso* 19 May (BG, LS). Two Philadelphia Vireos, a typical number for spring, were observed in e. Colorado, one at Chico, *El Paso* 16 May (BM), the other in Haxton, *Phillips* 25 May (JBy).

### JAYS THROUGH FINCHES

Blue Jays are rare visitants to the West Slope of Colorado, though wandering individuals tend to stay put for long periods of time; one was noted at Craig 24 Mar (MP, BSt). A Chihuahuan Raven was reported from Lower Latham 17 Apr (fCW), a site far n. of the species' normal range in Colorado. Farther e. than normal, a Violet-green Swallow whipped over L. Meredith, *Crowley* 17 Apr (BM). Bushtits were present along the Front Range foothills n. to *Larimer* (DAL); one present on the e. plains at Chico, *Pueblo* 15-19 Apr (BM) was more unusual and provided a 2nd Ranch record. Two singing male Carolina Wrens in Cañon City, *Fremont* 9 Mar+ (RMi) could oc-

yond their two isolated spots on the lower Arkansas R., nor have their numbers appreciated in any, well, appreciable way. A Snowy Owl was a one-day-wonder at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent/Kiowa* 7 Apr (S. Oswald), and another was nicely photographed at Gillette 21 Apr (R. T. Cox). A Northern Saw-whet Owl on the plains at Chico, *El Paso* 12 May (L. Johnson et al.) was inexplicable, considering that most montane breeders have large young in the nest at that date. The species is not known to breed on the plains, and it seems unlikely that the species could breed at this well-birded site without being seen (or heard) more than once during the season.

A calling *Chaetura* over Paonia, *Delta* 2 May (J. Beason) was identified as a Vaux's Swift. While there are no accepted Colorado records, the species is highly anticipated. Though numerous reports of *Chaetura* have come from the West Slope, all have either been definitively identified as Chimney Swifts or have been left unidentified. Though we doubt that this record will be accepted, the observer is quite experienced and capable. Like the aforementioned Inca Doves, the colony of Acorn Woodpeckers near Durango, *La Plata* continues without, apparently, increasing in size or spawning additional colonies. Three Eastern Wood-Pewees, all singles, were reported from Colorado, all in Lamar: L.C.C. 28 Apr (MP, L. Edwards, BSt, BKP), Fairmount Cemetery 15-16 May (ph. DAL), and L.C.C. 24 May (b., ph. MG). Nice

**SA** Black Phoebes continue to push northward as breeders in Colorado (Faulkner, D., C. Dexter, R. Leivad, and T. Leukering. 2005. Black Phoebe breeding range expansion into Colorado. *Western Birds* 36: 114-120). Though the recent n. limit in e. Colorado has been *Pueblo*, *Fremont*, and *Chaffee*, an intriguing pair of phoebes attempted to nest much farther n. at *Loveland*, *Larimer*. A phoebe singing an odd song was first found 21 Apr (E. Coley) and immediately thought to be an Eastern Phoebe x Black Phoebe hybrid (NK). A host of expert observers were able to study the bird and note many intermediate characters, and the bird's vocalizations were recorded and the resultant sonograms were compared to typical examples of the putative parental species and found to be intermediate. Later, the bird was found to be paired with an apparently pure Black Phoebe, and the birds seemed to be attending a partial nest built in an old Barn Swallow nest. Plans to capture the odd bird for feather sampling and genetic analysis were precluded by the apparent departure of the birds in early Jun (m.ob.). Further details will be published elsewhere.



years), and one in *Cheyenne* on 2 May (DN). Gray Vireos are poorly known breeders of pinyon-juniper woodlands in se. Colorado, so the individual reported from Bader Ranch,

casually both be heard from the same spot, while at least one lingered at L.C.C. until 24 Apr (m.ob.). More unusual was one in the mts. at *Salida*, *Chaffee* 17 May (RMi, SY). Well



Lamar, Prowers County, Colorado seemed to be an Eastern Wood-Pewee magnet this spring, with three reports spread out in April and May. This individual, photographed 15 May, was subsequently banded at the Lamar Community College. Photograph by David Leatherman.

n. of usual, a Bewick's Wren was a one-day wonder at Belmar Park, Jefferson 2 Apr (K. Schofield, IS).

A Western Bluebird (female) in Lander, Fremont, WY 31 Mar (D. Wagner, S. Orange) would provide the first definitive modern record of the species in Wyoming, and another at Cache Creek, Teton 13 May (J. Good) would provide the 2nd (both p.a.). Easterly was the pair of Western Bluebirds on the e. plains at Chico, El Paso 18 Mar (RO). Regionally rare, 3 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen, including singles at Chico 27 Apr (BKP et al.; Pueblo) and 3 May (b. BG; El Paso) and at Tamarack 12 May (SL). La Plata's 3rd Varied Thrush remained from the winter until at least 23 Mar (m.ob.), and one at Jackson, Teton, WY 7 May (fide B. Raynes) was fairly late. West and at high elevation was the Brown Thrasher in Chaffee 25 May (SY). This species is also rare in sw. Colorado, thus the report of one near the New Mexico border in La Plata 28-29 May (JBr, JBy) is noteworthy. The only report of Bohemian Waxwings was of the 10 seen near Cameron Pass, Larimer 6 Mar (DAL).

Since the removal of Blue-winged Warbler from the Colorado review list (Semo, L. S., T. Leukering, and J. E. Stewart. 2002. Amendments to the state review list. *J. of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 36: 131-143), there have been few observations in the state, and only one was found in 2007, that being a male at Picture Canyon, Baca 21 Apr (P. Dunne). Six Tennessee Warblers were in Colorado, a lower number than usual. In contrast, 11 Nashville Warblers, all from the e. plains, was a good number for that species. First discovered nesting at Yellowjacket Canyon, Montezuma in 2004, at least 4 Lucy's Warblers were found there this spring, first reported 28

Apr (m.ob.). Northern Parulas put on a grand show in e. Colorado, with no fewer than 21 reported during the season 5 Apr-19 May (m.ob.), with the lion's share, 12, reported from Chico (El Paso and Pueblo). A mighty push of Chestnut-sided Warblers also occurred, with 17 reports from 10 e. Colorado counties (m.ob.). Very rare in Colorado, a mostly heard (briefly observed) Cape May Warbler was reported from Crow Valley 29 May (NE). Four Yellow-throated Warblers was about on the recent

average in Colorado, with singles at Fairmount Cemetery 3-8 May (BKP et al.) and 16-18 May (DAL), Chico, Pueblo 5 May (m.ob.), and Fort Collins, Larimer 24 May (F Knopf). Establishing just the 5th record for Wyoming, a Yellow-throated Warbler was photographed in Casper, Natrona, where present 9-10 May (J&GL, CM). Grace's Warbler is an irregular and localized breeder in Ponderosa Pine forests in se. Colorado, so a singing male at Florence Mountain Park, Fremont 23 May is of interest (MP).

A female Bay-breasted Warbler at Wyoming's Hereford Ranch, Laramie 19 May (G. Johnson; p.a.) would provide the 5th record for that state. The only odd report of the 3 Worm-eating Warblers found came from montane L. Estes, Larimer 25-26 Apr (S. Roederer). Two each of Kentucky and Mourning Warblers were reported this season (all p.a.); singles of the former were at L.C.C. 6 May (DN) and Rocky Ford S.W.A., Otero 12 May (MP, BSt, CW, S. Runco), while singles of the latter graced a private ranch in Lincoln 4 May (CW et al.) and Last Chance, Washington 10 May (TJ, K. Koff). The highlight warbler of the season was the Painted Redstart that allowed some lucky birders ogling rights during its one-day stay at Cañon City 25 Apr (RMi); the occurrence will establish the 5th Colorado record. Greater scrutiny of mixed Ponderosa Pine and pinyon-juniper

woodland in se. Colorado is showing that Hepatic Tanagers are of regular occurrence in that portion of the state; 3 (2 males, one female) were discovered 13 May at Bader Ranch (TL). The 15 Summer Tanagers reported from e. Colorado was a bit more than normal, and a male Scarlet Tanager brightened Duck Creek S.W.A., Logan 24 May (AS).

"Pure" Eastern Towhees are very rare in Colorado, particularly outside late fall/winter, and song alone cannot preclude the possibility of a hybrid. Three Eastern Towhees were reported during the season: a female photographed at Chico, Pueblo 27 Apr (BM); a bird of unreported sex at L.C.C. 7 May (D. Russell, MG); and a female at Tamarack 12 May (SL). The tenet for the early arrival dates of Cassin's Sparrow in Colorado was always mid- to late Apr, but sporadically in recent years singing individuals have appeared in se. Colorado much earlier. The first report this past spring came 18 Mar, when 2 birds were discovered at Chico, El Paso (RO); up to 30 birds were present there by 23 Mar (BM). Interestingly, few could be found there after early May. Despite Colorado being in the presumed migration pathway of Baird's Sparrow, there are only 11 accepted records for the state, the dearth probably being due to the secretive nature of the species and the fact that few Regional birders walk grasslands in search of the species. A Baird's was reported by grassland birders 21 Apr near Campo, Baca (p.a.; CW, AS), though other observers present did not ob-



A combination of ideal habitat, excellent geographic placement, and heavy coverage by a corps of dedicated local birders produce copious enviable finds at Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo County, Colorado. Among this spring's highlights was a White-eyed Vireo 28 and 29 (here) April 2007. Photograph by Glenn Walbek.

tain good views. A Slate-colored Fox Sparrow was at Chico, El Paso 12 Apr (ph. BM) and provided one of very few good records for the plains.

The far-west male Northern Cardinal discovered at Colorado Springs in winter remained until 17 Mar (C. Pals); other Col-

orado reports of the species came from traditional spots on the e. border. Westerly reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak included one from Mancos, *Montezuma* 28 Apr–2 May (L. Flores) and another from Collbran, *Mesa* 30 May (LA). Three Painted Bunting reports (all p.a.) were all of singles: a male at La Veta, *Huerfano* 14–16 May (ph. P. Neidner); a female or first-spring male at Chico, *El Paso* 19 May (BKP, JD); and an ad. male at Bader Ranch 20 May (AS). Two Eastern Meadowlarks were reported from Colorado, one at Cañon City (a first for *Fremont*) 12 May (MP et al.) and another near Loveland, *Larimer* 22–27 May (CW, NK). Only one Rusty Blackbird was reported, that being a bird photographed at a private ranch in *Lincoln* 27 Apr (JK, GW, AH). Great-tailed Grackle sightings provided first county records for *Natrona*, WY (at Edness K. Wilkins SP 3 May [A. Hines]) and for *Custer* (male at L. DeWeese 16 May [MP, BKP]). Although Orchard Oriole is a common breeder across the plains of e. Colorado, the species is only rarely observed on the West Slope. An excellent find was of an imm. male at Nucla, *Montrose* 14–16 Apr (ph. B. Wright, CD). A bit w. of usual was the imm. male Baltimore Ori-

ole at Crow Valley 21 May (DAL, CW). Perhaps the easternmost Regional report ever of Scott's Oriole was provided by an ad. male at Fairmount Cemetery 17 Apr (BG). A single Common Redpoll was at Sterling, *Logan* 6 Mar (K. Kranik). Last, but certainly not least, the bird of the season in Colorado was its first Lawrence's Goldfinch, an ad. male, discovered at a Grand Junction, *Mesa* feeder 23 May (LA); more details will be provided in the summer report.

**Addendum:** An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull visited Rifle, *Garfield* 6 Sep 2006 (A. Dahl, ph. V. Zerbi) and would provide the first West Slope record (p.a.).

**Undocumented reports:** A Wilson's Plover was reported from Blue Mesa Res. 29 Apr (J. Berry), but no details are forthcoming; it would represent a first Regional record.

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## Idaho & Western Montana



### David Trochlell

It was one of the ten warmest springs in the Region's 113 years of recorded weather data. For Idaho, dry conditions held forth throughout the season, resulting in early runoff of a deficient snowpack, greatly reduced surface water supplies, and the promise of summer drought. Much of Montana received generous precipitation late in the sea-

On 11 March 2007, avid Montana birders Ed Harper and John Parker spotted an American Black Duck feeding among a large mixed species duck flock near Bozeman. It supplied western Montana's third record and the first state report in eleven years. Photograph by Ed Harper.

son, but even so, mountain snowpack conditions remained critically low by season's end. No unusual weather-related events were noted, but some observers reported fewer migrating birds than usual because of the predominating mild weather.

**Abbreviation:** Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); Latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana); L.M. (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., near Stevensville, MT).



Among the many sensational bird captures this spring at the Camas National Wildlife Refuge bird banding station was Idaho's second Wood Thrush on 19 May 2007. During its long stay at Camas, the bird was recaptured several times and was heard and seen by many thrilled birders. Photograph by Carlos Valeris.

## GEESE THROUGH GULLS

Greater White-fronted Geese wandered widely outside of typical range, with up to 12 in *Kootenai*, ID 11-29 Mar (m.ob.), 11 in Somers, MT 4 Apr (DC), up to 6 at L. Helena, MT 8-14 Apr (BM), and one near Belgrade, MT 16 Apr (LAH). The only reported Cackling Goose was near Sandpoint, ID 9 Mar (EC). The season's Eurasian Wigeon count was unusually high, with 6 reported in Idaho and 10 in w. Montana. Pending acceptance, an American Black Duck photographed near Bozeman 11 Mar (ph., †EH, JP) will represent w. Montana's 3rd record. A Eurasian Teal was detected in *Kootenai* 21-25 Mar (†LH); two previous reports also hail from n. Idaho. Also notable was a Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid in *Blaine*, ID 31 Mar (PWP). Early and out of habitat was a Harlequin Duck near Kalispell, MT 28 Mar (DC). Now virtually annual in Idaho, 2 Long-tailed Ducks were at Cascade 6 Apr (MC).

Sandpoint, ID hosted a Red-throated Loon 14-16 Apr, a Pacific Loon 7 Mar-15 Apr, and a Yellow-billed Loon 1 Mar-16 Apr (†EC, GSh). Great Egrets wandered to Salmon, ID 5-6 May (HR), Bozeman, MT 7 May (RI) and L.M. 20 May (ph. JH). Idaho's 2nd Little Blue Heron visited *Mimidoka* 2-9 May (ph., †SB, †CW). In a continuing trend, single Glossy Ibis discovered in *Fremont* 10 May and *Jefferson* 26 May

(†CW) represented Idaho's 6th and 7th records. White-faced Ibis also wandered out of range, with about 50 at Mann L., *Nez Perce*, ID 28 Apr (KCr), and singles in Montana locations at Warm Springs 28 Apr (NK, GS), near Somers 18 May (RBH), and near Kalispell 29 May (BT). An Upland Sandpiper in *Shoshone*, ID 30 May (LH) represented a county first. The Whimbrel at Mann L. 22-23 May (ph. KCr, BJ) was about Idaho's 20th. Idaho's 9th Hudsonian Godwit stopped in *Fremont* 15 May (ph., †CW). Unexpected in spring was a Stilt Sandpiper in *Ada*, ID 27 May (HK). A Red Phalarope at Mann L. 23-25 May (ph. KCr) represented Idaho's 11th report and only the 2nd in spring. Though rare but regular in autumn, a Sabine's Gull in *Lake*, MT 10 May (BR) was a surprising spring find.

## PIGEONS THROUGH FINCHES

The only Band-tailed Pigeon report came from Garden Valley, ID 30 Apr (*vide* SF). Eurasian Collared-Doves explored new locations at Somers, MT 2 Apr (DC), Eureka, MT 5 Apr (LY), the Helena Valley, MT 2 Apr (BM), and Post Falls, ID 1 May (DW). Earliest ever in nw. Montana were 8 Black Swifts in Somers 21 May (DC). Idaho's 6th Eastern Phoebe visited Carey 16 Apr (PWP, JS). A total of 6 Blue Jays in Idaho was about average for the period, but a pair seen carrying nest-

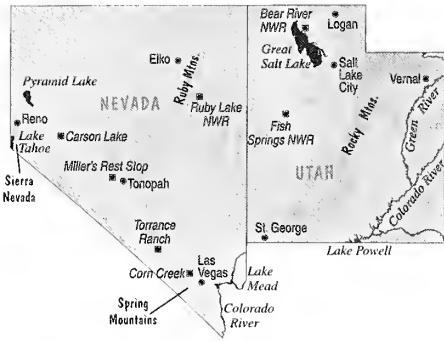
ing material in Helena, MT 29 Apr (MM) was especially interesting. A Wood Thrush at Camas 19-31 May+ (†JC, ph. CV) was only Idaho's 2nd report. The Brown Thrasher near Bozeman, MT since 23 Dec stayed until early Apr (JP). At least one Brown Thrasher was at Camas 16-23 May (ph. JC), where they are rare but nearly annual. The Curve-billed Thrasher that wintered in Eureka, MT remained through 24 Apr (LY).

The rare warbler tally at Camas included 2 Northern Parulas 26-27 May, a Magnolia Warbler 18-19 May, a Black-and-white Warbler 20 May, and at least 2 Ovenbirds 12-25 May (JC, BD). Single Ovenbirds were also reported in *Ada*, ID 15 May (RM) and near Bozeman, MT 28 May (JP). If accepted, a Hooded Warbler in Bozeman 4 May (MK) will be Montana's 3rd. The Gem State's 14th Summer Tanager appeared in *Jefferson* 12 May (ph., †TM, †CW). Far n. of expected range was a Sage Sparrow in Garden Valley, ID 18 Mar (SW). The Red Fox Sparrow that wintered in *Gem*, ID remained until 3 Apr (FZ). Especially rare in spring were Golden-crowned Sparrows near Nampa, ID 8 Mar (DH) and at Camas 18 May (GSt). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited feeders near Harrison, MT 19 May (SBe), Salmon, ID 20 May (CK), Boise 20 May (JB), and in Lincoln, MT 22 May (BO). Always rare, an Indigo Bunting was discovered in *Hailey*, ID 14-18 Mar (CC). Though nearly absent from Idaho in recent years, Great-tailed Grackles were recorded in *Twin Falls* 29 Apr (ZW) and *Jefferson* 28 Apr-26 May (CW). A Lesser Goldfinch in Blackfoot, ID 17 Mar (BC) provided a first for Latilong 21.

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# Great Basin



Rick Fridell

Weather this spring was unremarkable, with many observers reporting a slow spring migration. By the end of the season, most of the Region was unseasonably hot, with temperatures well above average and returning drought conditions. As usual, spring migration brought a variety of rare and vagrant species to the Great Basin Region. Nevada highlights included a Zone-tailed Hawk near Lake Mead and many eastern warblers, including Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, and Worm-eating Warblers. The second confirmed Philadelphia Vireo, a Common Ground-Dove, a Dickcissel, and a Lawrence's Goldfinch were Utah highlights. I sincerely appreciate the individuals who submitted a quarterly report and documentation on their sightings, and I'd like to extend a very special thanks to Joshua Kreitzer, who assisted with monitoring the hotlines and assembling the spring database.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); Farmington Bay (Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, UT); 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); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Drake Eurasian Wigeons were reported 3 Mar at Clear L. W.M.A., Millard, UT (EH) and 9 Apr at Farmington Bay (ph. TA), and a female was found 10 Apr in West Reno, Washoe, NV (EK). A male and female Black Scoter, first located 23 Feb at Sand Hollow S.P., Washington, UT lingered at least until 14 Mar (ph. RF). Up to 3 Long-tailed Ducks lingered at Antelope I. through 1 Apr (KE, JR), and 6 Barrow's Goldeneyes were a surprise at Rock-

port S.P., Summit, UT 23 Mar (KP). Utah's 2nd confirmed Scaled Quail, first found 6 Jan (JSh), were observed regularly through 14 Apr in Montezuma Creek, San Juan (LT et al.). Low numbers of Horned Grebes are often observed in the Region; however, up to 25 wintering at Sand Hollow S.P., Washington, UT (15 Mar, RF et al.) was quite an unusual count. A Least Bittern was observed again this season at H.B.V.P. 11 May+ (TW, JBr). A possible Glossy Ibis photographed 8 Apr at Hite Crossing, San Juan, UT (p.a., ph. TA, DSI) would be the 3rd for the state and the first for s. Utah.

## HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A White-tailed Kite was reported 11 Apr with limited details at Pahrnatag N.W.R., Lincoln, NV (p.a., B&BD). Nevada provided all Red-shouldered Hawk reports this spring, with single individuals at Pahrnatag N.W.R., Lin-



Zone-tailed Hawk sightings have been on the rise in recent years in the southern portion of the Great Basin, particularly southwestern Utah and southern Nevada. This individual was photographed 9 April 2007 at the Boulder Beach Campground, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Clark County, Nevada. Photograph by Dennis Ghiglieri.

coln 3 Mar–5 Apr (B&BD), Lemmon Valley, Washoe 8 Mar (MMe), and West Reno, Washoe 5 Apr (AW). A single Broad-winged Hawk was observed 2 Apr flying over Central, Washington, UT (LT), and another lingered at Lytle 20–28 Apr (LT et al.). A Zone-tailed Hawk photographed 9 Apr at Boulder Beach Campground, L. Mead (†RSt, ph. DG) constituted a rare s. Nevada record.

Fall is usually the premier time for finding rare and vagrant shorebirds in the Great Basin, but this was an exceptional spring, with Antelope I., as usual, leading the way with many noteworthy sightings. Three American Golden-Plovers were photographed there 16 Apr (TA), and a single was observed 10 May at



One of only a few notable flycatchers observed in the Great Basin during spring 2007, this Eastern Phoebe was seen 10 (here) through 20 April at the Corn Creek Unit of the Desert National Wildlife Range, Clark County, Nevada. Photograph by Dennis Ghiglieri.

H.B.V.P. (JBr). Surprisingly high numbers of Whimbrels were reported in the Region, with 6 at Fallon, Churchill, NV 7 Apr (GS), one at Antelope I. 27 Apr (JBi, BH), one at Amargosa Valley, Nye, NV 20 May (GS), and 7 at Panguitch L., Garfield, UT 31 May (JKr, KW). A well-documented Hudsonian Godwit was found 22 Apr at Farmington Bay (J&KB, ph., †TA). Ruddy Turnstones were observed 3 Apr at Fallon, Churchill, NV (CNI) and 6 May at Antelope I. (J&KB). Ten breeding-plumaged Red Knots were reported 30 Apr at Antelope I. (p.a., TA). Unprecedented numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported in the Region this spring, led by a remarkable 40 observed 5 May at Antelope I. (TA, CNe). Additional Semipalmated Sandpiper reports included an individual lingering at Lemmon Valley, Washoe, NV 23 Apr–6 May (HPe), 4 on at Chicken Creek Res., Juab, UT 27 Apr (TA, CNe), and one at Sand Hollow S.P., Washing-



This Philadelphia Vireo was observed 24 May 2007 in Capitol Reef National Park, Wayne County, Utah—the state's second. The other state record comes from 27 October 2002. Photograph by Tim Avery.



One of several noteworthy eastern warbler sightings this spring in desert migrant traps, this Magnolia Warbler was found 28 May 2007 at Miller's Rest Area along Highway 6/95, Esmeralda County, Nevada. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.



This Black-throated Blue Warbler made a rare spring appearance at the Circle L Ranch, Esmeralda County, Nevada on 26 May 2007. Photograph by Martin Meyers.



This male Hooded Warbler lingered 15 (here) through 19 April 2007 at the Torrance Ranch, Nye County, Nevada. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.

ton, UT 8 May (RF). Three Baird's Sandpipers were reported 17 Mar in Salt Lake, UT (CNe, TA), and 2 Pectoral Sandpipers were reported 28 Apr in St. George, Washington, UT (RF); both of these species are rarely found during spring migration in the Great Basin. A high

count of 30 Dunlins at Carson L., Churchill, NV 7 Apr was noteworthy; up to 9 were at Antelope I. 22 Apr-5 May (TA, CNe et al.). Short-billed Dowitchers were observed at Amargosa Valley, Nye, NV 15 Apr (GS), H.B.V.P. 27 Apr-3 May (fide JBr), and the Hurricane Fields, Washington, UT 30 Apr (RF, ph. KW).

Several wintering gulls lingered into the spring season, including Thayer's Gulls at Farmington Bay (3 Mar, TA et al.) and Walker L., Mineral, NV (9 Mar, MMe). Utah's first documented Western Gull (originally found 27 Dec) lingered at Farmington Bay through at least 4 Mar (†TA, KP). At least 2 wintering Glaucous Gulls lingered in Davis and Salt Lake, UT through 3 Mar (TA et al.). A possible Common Tern, rare in the Region in spring, was reported 15 May at the Lee Kay Ponds, Salt Lake, UT (TA).

## DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Wayward White-winged Doves were found n. of expected range at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT 16 Apr (JBa), Jensen, Uintah, UT 2 May (C&CJ), Dugway, Tooele, UT 20 May (CZ), and Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 26 May (JD, GS, RSt et al.). A Common Ground-Dove was observed in Santa Clara, Washington, UT 26 Apr-7 May (ph. LR); if submitted and accepted, this will be the 4th confirmed Utah record for this species. The only Vaux's Swift observed outside of expected Nevada areas was at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT (†KP, ph. TA). A female Magnificent Hummingbird was reported at a West Las Vegas residence, Clark, NV 7-17 Mar (p.a., ph. PG), and a male Costa's Hummingbird made a surprise appearance at a West Reno, Washoe, NV feeder 18 Apr (AW). An Acorn Woodpecker was observed 28 Apr near Kolob Res., Washington, UT (RF). A juv. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported 2 Mar at Lytle (p.a., LT), and an ad. female was seen 15 Apr at Salt Cr.,

Canyonlands N.P., San Juan, UT (†BGa). There are only two previously accepted Yellow-bellied Sapsucker records in Utah. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was a nice surprise in Dyer, Esmeralda, NV (6 May; GS, RSt, DG).



One of three Hooded Warblers found in Nevada in spring 2007, this female remained 27-31 (here 28) May at Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda County, a well-known vagrant trap in west-central Nevada. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

It was a relatively uneventful spring for flycatchers in the Region, with the notable exception of a Least Flycatcher observed 31 May at Miller Spring, Juab, UT (RF) and one to 2 Eastern Phoebes observed 10-20 Apr at Corn Cr. (RSt, ph. DG, ph. GS, m.ob.). Vermilion Flycatchers were reported at the unexpected locations of Escalante, Garfield, UT (18 May; LG) and Hurricane, Washington, UT (22 May; MG). Utah's 2nd accepted Philadelphia Vireo was a singing individual 24 May at the Capitol Reef N.P. picnic area, Wayne, UT (ph., †TA). A possible Gray-cheeked Thrush was observed at Lytle 22-26 May (p.a., RF, LT); this species is not currently on the Utah state list. Six Varied Thrushes were reported from four Nevada counties (Clark, Esmeralda, Pershing, and Washoe) between 11 Mar and 25 May; however, the only Utah report was from 1 Apr at Smithfield, Cache (SD). Surprising sightings of mimids included a Gray Catbird photographed at Lytle 22 May (ph. RF) and a Brown Thrasher at Porter Springs, Pershing, NV 18 May (FP).

Nevada provided four Northern Parula reports, including singles at Corn Cr. (11 Apr; RSt, DG, ph. GS), Dyer Pond, Esmeralda (19 May; GS, MMe), Dyer, Esmeralda (19 May; GS, MMe), and Tonopah, Nye (26 May; MMe, GS, D&RSe et al.). Utah's only parula was at Red Hills 21-22 May (ph. RF, †TA). A male Magnolia Warbler brightened Miller's R.A. 28 May (D&RSe, ph. GS et al.), and a female Black-throated Blue Warbler made a surprise spring appearance at the Circle L Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 26 May (JD, ph. MMe, ph. GS, ph. †DV). Equally surprising was singing male Blackpoll Warbler near Gunlock S.P., Washington, UT (26 May; LT). The only Black-and-white Warbler reported this spring was an early individual at Lytle 21 Apr (MW). Several American Redstarts were observed



Lark Buntings are rare migrants in the Great Basin region and particularly in Nevada, so this male was a surprise 12-13 (here 13) May 2007 in Dyer, Esmeralda County. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.

during May, including an ad. male at the Arlemonte Ranch, Esmeralda, NV (12 May; MMe, G&ES, DG, RSt), 2 at a private ranch, Box Elder, UT (18 May; CNe, TA), a male at Dyer Pond, Esmeralda, NV (19 May; GS, MMe), and females at Spring Mountain S.P., Clark, NV (22 May; J&MC) and Torrance Ranch, Nye, NV (27 May; RSt, DG, GS, MMe). A Worm-eating Warbler was a great find 25 May at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Clark, NV (p.a., DF). No fewer than 4 Ovenbirds were observed in Ne-



The female Dickcissel was found in the orchard 20 May 2007 at Lytle Ranch along the Beaver Dam Wash, Washington County, Utah. Dickcissels are very rare in the Great Basin, and this individual was the only the third confirmed in Utah. Photograph by Tim Avery.

vada: at the Circle L. Ranch and Dyer Pond, Esmeralda (19 May; GS, MMe), Tonopah Cemetery, Nye (26 May; MMe, GS, D&RSe et al.), and Porter Springs, Pershing (29 May; ph. GS). Twelve Northern Waterthrushes were observed 1-19 May in three Nevada (Clark, Esmeralda, and White Pine) and three Utah

counties (Box Elder, Davis, and Juab). Surprisingly, 3 Hooded Warblers were found in Nevada, including an early male 15-19 Apr at Torrance Ranch, Nye (ph. GS, JM), a male lingering 5-14 May at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Clark (ph. TC, ph. MK, DC, JB), and a female at Miller's R.A. 27-31 May (GS, D&RSe, ph. JSa). Painted Redstarts were observed again this spring in Zion Canyon, Zion; the first was found on 4 Apr (PR), and up to 3 singing individuals were observed through 28 Apr (RF, †TA et al.).

## SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

There were a few noteworthy sparrow sightings this spring, including a Clay-colored Sparrow lingering at Lytle 23-29 Apr (RF, LT), an ad. male Lark Bunting 12-13 May at the Arlemonte Ranch, Esmeralda, NV (MMe, ph. GS, RSt, DG), and Swamp Sparrows at Washoe L., Washoe, NV (28 Apr; H&KP) and Miller's R.A. (11 May; FP). Additional Lark Buntings were reported this May in Calao, Juab, UT (CG, *vide* RSt). Eight Rose-breasted Grosbeaks turned up during May in three Nevada (Clark, Washoe, and White Pine) and two Utah counties (San Juan and Washington). A female Painted Bunting made a brief appearance 19 May at the Dyer Pond, Esmeralda, NV (GS). One of biggest surprises of the season was Utah's 3rd confirmed Dickcissel record—a female photographed 20 May in the orchard at Lytle (ph., †TA).

Male Bobolinks made rare spring appearance in the s. portion of the Region 22 May at Spring Mountain S.P., Clark, NV (J&MC) and 26 May at Lytle (LT). A Common Grackle was a nice find 12 May at the Arlemonte Ranch, Esmeralda, NV (MMe, G&ES, DG, RSt). Hooded Orioles were observed n. of their expected range in Reno, Washoe, NV 29 Apr–11 May (JA, AG, DM) and at Miller's R.A. 26 May (D&RSe et al.). And finally, a male Lawrence's Goldfinch visited a feeder 20-31 Mar in Dammeron Valley, Washington, UT (ph., †BL, TA, JBi, LT); this is Utah's 4th accepted record for this species, all since 2002.

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This striking male Lawrence's Goldfinch visited a feeder in Dammeron Valley, Washington County, Utah, from 20 to 31 March 2007 (here 20 March). Lawrence's Goldfinch occurrences have been on the rise in the Great Basin in recent years with nearly annual sightings in southern Nevada. This is the fourth documented sighting in Utah, all since October, 2002. Photograph by Bob Lawson.

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## Sartor O. Williams III

Removal of livestock from much of New Mexico's parched rangelands, followed by a year of surprisingly generous precipitation, combined to present an unusual landscape in spring 2007—widespread relatively healthy grasslands and shrublands. One consequence of this bounty was booming small mammal populations, resulting in attractive conditions for many birds of prey, including breeding White-tailed Kites, Northern Harriers, and Long-eared Owls. Meanwhile, several high profile rarities were found, including reappearance of Green Kingfisher on the Gila River and Buff-breasted Flycatcher in the Animas Mountains.

**Abbreviations:** B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); G.B.A. (Gila Bird Area, Grant); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap w. of Melrose); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy); W.S.M.R. (White Sands Missile Range).

## SWANS THROUGH FALCONS

Surprising was an ad. Trumpeter Swan at Enbom L., Rio Arriba 12 May (DS). Last Tundra Swans were 3 near Cherry L., Mora 2 Mar (WWi) and one at Stubblefield L. 2-4 Mar (ph. DC, CMB). A female Lesser Scaup at B.L.N.W.R. 15-17 May (DK) was believed to be nesting. A female Long-tailed Duck at Stubblefield L. 2 Mar–20 Apr was joined by another female 14 Apr (ph. DC). Noteworthy for the lower Rio Grande were 2 Common Goldeneyes near Hatch 22-23 Mar (ph. CL, MS, ph. JZ, DG). Four Chukars, a Ring-necked Pheasant, and 4 Northern Bobwhites in the Mimbres Valley, nw. Luna 27 Mar (LM)

provided evidence of illegal game bird releases in sw. New Mexico. Single Pacific Loons were at Six Mile Dam, Eddy 10-16 Mar (SW, JR, WWi) and Ute L. 26 Apr (RV). Scarce in the ne., a Western Grebe was near Clayton 25 Mar (LS); 2 Clark's were e. to Clovis 25 May (JP). An active Brown Pelican season produced an ad. found dead at L. Lucero, Doña Ana 5 Mar (ph. D. Bustos), an ad. at Bonito L., Lincoln 19 Apr (EL), and an imm. downed by a storm at Upper Gallinas Campground in the Black Range, Grant 18 May (ph. JO). Double-crested Cormorant again nested at Clovis, with five active nests there 25 May (JO); some 14 Double-crested nests, but no Neotropical nests, were n. of E.B.L. 9 May (RD). An ad. male Anhinga at Bosque 24 Mar (G. Loos) provided New Mexico's 5th record.

Up to 3 American Bitterns were at B.L.N.W.R. 20 Mar–6 May (JH et al.), and one was at Mesilla 31 Mar–12 Apr (CL, MS, JZ, DG). Among several small Great Blue Heron colonies reported were one nest at Morgan L. 11 May (TR) and two nests each on the Navajo R. near Dulce 9 May (DS), Chama R. s. of Chama 4 Apr (DS), Apache Cr., Catron 1 May (EL), and Mule Cr., Grant 12 May (EL). An imm. Little Blue Heron at Brantley L. 30 May (SW) provided the lone report. Single ad. Tricolored Herons were at Stubblefield L. 12 May (ph. DC) and B.L.N.W.R. 23-29 May (m.ob., ph. JO). An ad. Reddish Egret wandered n. to Sumner L. 4 May (ph. CL). High counts for Cattle Egrets were 158 at Belen 15 Apr (DH) and 400 in s. Doña Ana 20 Apr (DG); 4 were at Carrizozo 28 May (JO). Earliest Green Heron was one at Six Mile Dam 24 Mar (SW); unusual for the locale was one at N.R.T. 11 May (JP). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was on a nest at Las Vegas 12-31 May (WWe, ph. L. Betlach, JP, WWi, ph. JO), the 2nd documented instance of New Mexico nesting. Migrant Glossy Ibis were much in evidence, with reports of ads. from eight locales in five counties: one at Bosque 8-13 Apr (CMB, ph. JB, ph. MB), 2 there 14 Apr (ph. JO), and a late one there 26 May (ph. JO, ph. CL); one near Vado, Doña Ana 12 Apr (MS, ph. JZ); an ad. at B.L.N.W.R. 15-17 May (MB, DK) and an imm. there 29 May (ph. DE-B); singles at two Vermejo Ranch sites 4 May (ph. DC), at French L. 8 May (ph. DC) at Stubblefield L. 7 & 12 May (ph. DC), plus a late one there 31 May (ph. JO); and one at Heron L. 12-13 May (WH, ph. DK, m.ob.).

Taking advantage of an abundant prey base, White-tailed Kites were much in evidence in the sw., with one in Doña Ana 3 May (MS, ph. JZ), 2 on Otero Mesa 8 May (RM), and others in Luna (DH, SOW) and Hidalgo (NM-C, AC) Apr–May, including a nest with eggs in s. Luna 19 Apr (RM) and a nest with 3 young in s. Hidalgo 13 May (ph. CL, ph. CRB). For the 2nd consecutive year, a Mississippi Kite was n. in the R.G.V. to San Juan Pueblo 19 May (BF). Only one Bald Eagle territory was active in Colfax (fide C. Hayes), down from three there in recent years; a nest in n. Rio Arriba had one large young by 31 May (DS). Another grassland species that benefited from ample prey availability was Northern Harrier, with evidence of local nesting in Hidalgo, Luna, Socorro, Sierra, Doña Ana, Otero, Colfax, Chaves, and Eddy, including prey delivery and territorial defense at B.L.N.W.R. 17 May (DK), a nest with eggs on Otero Mesa 6 May (RM), an ad. with fledglings in Doña Ana 12 May (MS, JZ), and prey exchange w. of Columbus 27 May (SOW). Common Black-Hawks were seldom reported included single ads. at L. Roberts 12 & 25 May (DB, J. DeLong), an ad. at Mesilla 12 Apr



This Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on a nest beside the Gallinas River at Las Vegas, San Miguel County 12-31 (here 20) May 2007 documented the second New Mexico breeding effort by the species since 2003. Photograph by Laurie Betlach.

(ph. DG), and an imm. near Anthony 27 Apr (MS, ph. JZ); n. in the R.G.V. were singles at Santa Clara Pueblo 16 May (ph. V. LaPolla) and Cochiti Dam 20 Apr (DK). Small numbers of Harris's Hawks were noted across the sw. in Hidalgo (NM-C, AC, JP), Luna (LM,



Over a dozen Glossy Ibises were found in New Mexico in spring 2007, with reports from five counties; this adult was near Heron Lake, Rio Arriba County 12-13 (here 13) May 2007. Photograph by David J. Krueper.

JB), Doña Ana (DG, CL, MS, JZ), and Otero ((WWi, CL); unusual were one to 2 at R.S. Apr–May (m.ob.). One to 2 Broad-winged Hawks were at eight sites from the R.G.V. eastward during the narrow 20 Apr–12 May period (m.ob.). Gray Hawk continued its spread into New Mexico, with singles in Guadalupe Canyon 8 & 14 Apr (JB, JP) and two active nests there 8 May (NM-C et al.), 2 ads. at Clanton Cienega 12 May (NM-C), and a well-documented pair at R.S. 22 Apr–May (m.ob., ph. JO). Earliest Swainson's Hawks were one near Radium Springs 21 Mar (MS) and a roost of 12 at Luis Lopez 25 Mar (JO);



Taking advantage of abundant small mammal prey, White-tailed Kites were found at several sites across southwestern New Mexico, including this adult tending nestlings in the Animas Valley, Hidalgo County 13 May 2007. Photograph by Charles R. Britt.

surprising in spruce-fir habitat at 3055 m was one at Cumbres Pass 11 May (DK, JR). Scarce in the lower R.G.V., a Zone-tailed Hawk was s. of Radium Springs 28-29 Apr (CL, MS, JZ). Noteworthy for DeBaca was an active Ferruginous

Hawk nest near Sumner L. 7 & 19 May (JB). A 2nd year of Golden Eagle surveys in ne. New Mexico documented 46 active nests in Mar (DS), bringing the two-year total there to 68 nests active in one or both years. Very late was a Merlin at Cumbres Pass 12 May (DK).

## PLOVERS THROUGH SKIMMER

A good American Golden-Plover season found 2 drab birds at L. Avalon 12 Apr (SW) and one at Bosque 27 Apr (ph. JO); singles in breeding dress were at B.L.N.W.R. 5-6 May (JP, WWi, ph. JO, ph. CL) and Maxwell 28-30 May (ph. DC). High water that flooded shorelines and mud flats hampered efforts to survey for Snowy

Plovers, including greatly reducing detections at B.L.N.W.R. (DK); notable discoveries included 20 at Grulla N.W.R. 31 May (DK), 4 at Lane Salt L., Lea 30 May (DK), 7 at Williams Sink ne. of Carlsbad 23 May (DK), one at Big Salt L., e. Sierra 8 May (WH), and an ad. with 2 chicks at L. Lucero 22 May (MEW, fide WH). High count for Semipalmated Plovers was 6 at Bosque 22 Apr (BV). Early were 10 Black-necked Stilts at Belen 10 Mar (BV). Earliest Solitary Sandpipers were singles at B.L.N.W.R. 6 Apr (JH), Animas Valley 13 Apr (JP), and Corralitos Ranch, w. Doña Ana 16 Apr (CL, MS, JZ). Willet maxima were 75 at Lordsburg 27 Apr (LM), 68 w. of Las Cruces 3 May (MS, JZ), and 45 at Cochiti L. 26 Apr (WWe); noteworthy for Catron was one at Quemado L. 28 Apr (DB). A good Whimbrel season found an early one at L. Avalon 12 Apr (SW), a high 5 at Holloman L. 3 May (ph. LM), one at B.L.N.W.R. 22 May (J. Montgomery), and 3 at Brantley L. 22 May (ph. RD). A Hudsonian Godwit was at B.L.N.W.R. 26-27 May (ph. N. Gains, P. McConnell). Scarce in the sw, a Marbled Godwit was at Lordsburg 13 Apr (JP, WWi); late was one at Brazel L. near Tularosa 25 May (CL).

A Sanderling was early at Lordsburg 13 Apr (JP, WWi) and another was w. to Morgan L. 11 May (TR); high counts were 4 at B.L.N.W.R. 14 May (JH) and 2 at Springer L. 17 May (DC). Bright Semipalmated Sandpipers w. of the plains were one at Bosque 21 Apr (JP) and 3 at Holloman L. 3 May (LM). White-rumped

Sandpiper arrived on schedule with 2 at B.L.N.W.R. 15 May (DK); w. of usual were 8-10 at Bosque 17-18 May (MB, NP, JO), one in the Uvas Valley, Doña Ana 20 May (ph. CL, MS, JZ) and 3 there 31 May (MS, ph. JZ), and up to 7 at Holloman L. 25-28 May (ph. CL, ph. JO). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Casa Colorado, Valencia 12 May (CMB) provided the lone report. A late Dunlin was at B.L.N.W.R. 5 May (JP). Impressive for the R.G.V. were 120 Stilt Sandpipers at Bosque 17 May (MB, NP); one was at Albuquerque 29 Apr (JP, BV). Migrant Wilson's Phalaropes numbered 1180 at B.L.N.W.R. 4 May (JH) and 1000 at Laguna Grande 6 May (DK). Red-necked Phalaropes where seldom seen included 6 at Heron L. 23 May (DE-B), 2 in the Uvas Valley 29 May (JO), and 2 at Corralitos Ranch 6 May (MS, ph. JZ). Last of the wintering Mew Gulls was one at E.B.L. 10 Mar (JP, WWi). An Iceland Gull at E.B.L. 6-10 Mar (ph. DC, ph. GF, JP et al.) was believed to be the same one documented at nearby Caballo L. in Feb. An ad. Least Tern was w. to Holloman L. 28 May (CL), high counts at Brantley L. amounted to



This Iceland Gull at Elephant Butte Lake, Sierra County, New Mexico 6-10 (here 7) March 2007 was likely the same one photographed at nearby Caballo Lake in February—but different from the state's first, a bird that wintered at Sunland Park. Photograph by Gory K. Froehlich.

only 5 ads. 22 & 28 May (RD, SW), where high water was a problem. Caspian Terns were 2 at Cochiti L. 26 Apr (WWe) and singles at L. Avalon 27 Apr (SW), Holloman L. 3 May (ph. LM), and Clovis 15 May (MB). Black Tern maxima were 75 at Bosque 17 May (NP), 40 at Stubblefield L. 15 May (DC), and 35 at B.L.N.W.R. 18 May (JS). Very early was a Forster's Tern at B.L.N.W.R. 4 Apr (JH); a high 50 were at Cochiti L. 1 May (MLW). New Mexico's 6th Black Skimmer was an ad. at Heron L. 12 May (WH, ph. MH).

## DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

New Mexico's cleanest Rock Pigeon was again nesting on a moving robotic arm inside a Los Lunas car wash 17 Mar (DH). Two Eurasian Collared-Doves were vocal at 2400 m near Chama 12 May (DK). A Common Ground-



Long-eared Owls nested widely in New Mexico this season, including this adult with nestlings at Hackberry Well, White Sands Missile Range, Otero County 11 April 2007. Photograph by Carl G. Lundblad.

Dove was with 2 Inca Doves at Rodeo 14 Apr (JP). Greater Roadrunner continued in evidence nw. to San Juan, where one that wintered in n. Farmington was seen again 8 Apr (ph. E. Bickford) and a pair was present 28 May (TR); others were singles at San Juan College 11 May (*fide* TR), Berg-Animas Park 18-20 May (*fide* TR), and Blanco 15 May (M. Ismay, *fide* TR). A Flammulated Owl was found impaled on an ocotillo stalk at San Andres N.W.R. 25 Apr (ph. MEW). Eddy Elf Owls numbered 7 in Last Chance Canyon 12 May (SW) and 8 in Dark Canyon 14 May (A. Johnson); noteworthy for *Doña Ana* was one at Davies Tank 6 May (DG). Another species that availed itself of abundant small mammal prey this season was Long-eared Owl, found nearly statewide and with active nests documented in nine counties, including two nests along the Vermejo R. (ph. DC) and single nests at or near Cerrillos (LS), Corrales (GG), Albuquerque (GG), Tijeras (D. Dane), Rodeo (RW), Hachita (RM), Hermanas (RM), Jornada Range (CRB, CL), Hackberry Well, W.S.M.R. (ph. CL), and Otero Mesa (RM). Not surprising in years of good grassland conditions, Short-eared Owls were relatively plentiful, including one or more in the Animas Valley 12 May (NM-C), one at McKinney Tank near Antelope Wells 3 Mar (DG), at least one near Hermanas 1-28 Apr (DH, RM) and 2 there 27 Apr (DH), 2 on W.S.M.R., e. Socorro 10 May (ph. D. Burkett), and singles at two Milnesand sites 13 & 14 Apr (T. Mitchusson). A Whip-poor-will returned n. to the Sandia Mts. 12 May (BV), while noteworthy for the Organ Mts. were 2 singing at Aguirre Springs 27-28 Apr (CL) and 4 singing there 12 May (MS, JZ); on the e. plains, one

was at Boon's Draw 12 May (JP).

Two male Costa's Hummingbirds were singing in Guadalupe Canyon 8 Apr (JB); single male Rufous were reported at L. Roberts 19 Mar and 13 Apr (*fide* DB). For the 2nd consecutive year, a Green Kingfisher appeared on the Gila R. near Gila, where discovered 15 May (HW) and seen again 19 (JP, WWi) & 29 May (HW). Lewis's Woodpeckers in unexpected locales were singles at Edgewood 19-24 Apr (CC) and Oscura Mts., e. Socorro 21 Mar (CL); one that wintered at Virden was still there 30 Mar (JP). Gila Woodpeckers increased along Deer Cr. near Antelope Wells, where 10 were found 3-4 Mar (CL). A Red-naped Sapsucker was e. to N.R.T. 6 May (JP), where rare in spring. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was near Cimarron 1 Mar (ph. DC), where rare at any season. Downy Woodpeckers s. in the R.G.V. were singles at San Acacia 20 May (BV), Luis Lopez 14 Mar (JO), and Las Palomas 7 Apr (CL); one at Quarai 4 May (HS) was a local first. An American Three-toed Woodpecker persisted at Sandia Crest 4 & 25 Mar (WH, JP). Single Least Flycatchers were at N.R.T. 11-13 (JP), 17 (MB, NP), & 31 May (DK) and at Boone's Draw 12 May (JP). A Hammond's Flycatcher that wintered at Percha was still there 24 Mar (JP); a Dusky that wintered at Bosque was singing 18 Mar (DH). Noteworthy was a singing Hammond's Flycatcher at Sugarite S.P. 19 May (CH), where Dusky is the common breeder. A Buff-breasted Flycatcher was in burned forest near Aspen Spring, Animas Mts. 12 May (ph. CL, ph. CRB); since its reappearance in New Mexico in 1995, the species has been reported in 10 of 13 years. Black Phoebes on their n. frontier were four pairs in the Cimarron-Springer area in May (DC), a pair at Sumner Dam 26 May (JP), and 2 at Trigg Ranch, e. San Miguel 11 May (MDM). Eastern Phoebe nests were one with eggs in nw. Union 25 May (DS) and another at Trigg Ranch 11 May (ph. MDM). Dusky-capped Flycatcher returned n. to Cherry Creek Campground, where there were 2 on 25 May (M. Fugagli). A Great Kiskadee at B.L.N.W.R. 13 May (ph. JH) provided a *Chaves* first. Peripheral Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were singles w. to

Mesilla 14-15 Apr (ph. CL, MS, ph. JZ) and Yeso 28 Apr (JO) and n. to San Jon and Glenrio 20 May (WH).

## VIREOS THROUGH THRUSHES

White-eyed Vireo was surprisingly plentiful, especially in the Cliff-Gila Valley, where singing singles were at Fort West Ditch 21 May (RS), the Nature Conservancy's farm 18 May (JP, WWi, vt. JO), the Hwy. 211 bridge over the Gila R. 18 & 20 May (vt. JO), and G.B.A. 28 May (RS), and at nearby Mangas Springs 18 May (vt. JO); others were singles at Corrales 25 May (TF), R.G.N.C. 3 May (b., ph. MM), and N.R.T. 26 Apr (RV). Noteworthy for the e. plains was a Bell's Vireo at N.R.T. 15 & 17 May (MB, NP). A Gray Vireo singing in Pinyon Canyon 19 May (HS) confirmed presence in the Los Pinos Mts., and a pair was



Since its reappearance in New Mexico in 1995, Buff-breasted Flycatcher has been reported in 10 of 13 years through 2007; this one was in the Animas Mountains, Hidalgo County 12 May 2007. Photograph by Charles R. Britt.

on the McGregor Range in W. McAfee Canyon, s. Sacramento Mts. 18 May (CL, CRB), a local first; surveys in the Organ Mts. documented seven territories in Soledad Canyon, one in North Canyon, and one at Aguirre Springs Apr-May (CL, CRB, DG, MS, JZ). Another good Yellow-throated Vireo season produced singles at Corrales 22 Apr (S. Drilling, CR), Sumner Dam 26 May (JP, WWi), N.R.T. 29 Apr (JO, DM) and 11-14



One of eight reported in New Mexico in spring 2007, this White-eyed Vireo was banded at Albuquerque, Bernalillo County on 3 May. Photograph by Michael D. Means.

May (JP, DH, RV), and Elida 6 May (MB). For the 2nd consecutive year, a Plumbeous Vireo pair nested in the middle R.G.V. near Veguita 31 May (DH). The only detailed Blue-headed Vireo was at N.R.T. 13 May (JP). Providing a first for the e. plains was a Hutton's Vireo at N.R.T. 27 Apr (JP, WWi); in the Organ Mts., two pairs—including one feeding nestlings—were at Aguirre Springs 28 Apr (ph. CL), and singles were at Dripping Springs 20 Apr (DG) and Fillmore Canyon 27 May (CL). A male Red-eyed Vireo was near Cedar Crest (where also detected in 2005 and 2006) 28 Apr–May (CMB, JP, BV, ph. DE-B, JB, m.ob.), but reports of possible nesting there were not confirmed; others were singles at Sugarite S.P. 11 May (DC), N.R.T. 12 May (JP), and B.L.N.W.R. 12 May (JP).

Single Blue Jays were w. to Santa Fe 16 Apr (JB) and Albuquerque 24 Mar–22 Apr (DM). A Black-billed Magpie was s. to Manzano 5 Mar (WWi). American Crows were nesting at Edgewood 23 Apr (CC) and Farmington 28 May (TR). A pair of Chihuahuan Ravens feeding nestlings ne. of Raton 16 May (CH) was the most northerly yet for *Colfax*; n. in the R.G.V. were 2 e. of Cochiti L. 1 Apr (WH). Early were 3 Purple Martins n. to Dillon Canyon near Raton 1 May (ph. DC). Up to 34 Tree Swallows were nesting at Chama 12 May

(WH). Unusually early was a Cliff Swallow at Bosque 10 Mar (DH); early for the n. were up to 16 at Cochiti L. 1 Apr (WH, BV). Cave Swallows expanded n. in Eddy, with 2 at a new breeding site near Rocky Arroyo 3 & 13 Mar (b., SW); in *Doña Ana*, Caves included 12 at the La Union colony 19 May (CL), with smaller numbers found at three additional sites n. to Radium Springs Apr–May (MS, JZ). Unexpected e. to the Texas line, a Bushtit was near Causey 15 Apr (CR). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was on Organ Peak 11 May (CL). Single singing Carolina Wrens were near the State Capitol, Santa Fe 29 Mar–27 Apr (WWe, ph. JB, m.ob.) and in Albuquerque's North Valley 29 Apr–29 May (R. Thomson, WH). Single Winter Wrens were near Milnesand 14 Apr (DM) and in San An-

dres Canyon, *Doña Ana* 6 Apr (CL). Up to 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets, including at least one singing male, were e. to Sugarite S.P. 2 May (CH). Eastern Bluebirds continued to increase in numbers and range in the middle R.G.V., with nests and/or fledglings at seven sites from *Bernalillo* s. to *Socorro* (DH, WH); three sites with single pairs in 2006 had two or three pairs this year (DH). Four Western Bluebirds were e. to Milnesand 15 Apr (CR). At least one Veery was singing at Chama 12–13 May (WH, MH, DK, JR). There were several reports of unusually early Swainson's Thrushes, including a detailed one at R.S. 22 Apr (MB) and the same or another there 29 Apr (MB), plus one at N.R.T. 26 Apr (RV) & 29 Apr (JO, MB). An ad. male Aztec Thrush was described in some detail from Sapillo Cr. near its junction with the Gila R. 27 Apr (D. Doland); although spring is considered an unusual season for the species, this observation followed an especially large influx into Arizona in 2006, which also produced New Mexico's first report.

### THRASHERS THROUGH TANAGERS

A Brown Thrasher that wintered at Santa Fe was last seen 31 Mar (J. Nelson-Moore); late were singles at R.S. 28 Apr (JP), Quarai 12 May (*fide* HS), and N.R.T. 17 May (NP, JS). A

Curve-billed Thrasher at French L. 28 Apr (ph. DC) furnished a new *Colfax* locale. Sprague's Pipits wintered near Hermanas, where 3 lingered 9 Mar (LM) and 5 were present 1 Apr (DH); apparent migrants were singles on Otero Mesa on four dates 3–25 Apr (DG); late Sprague's were 4 in the Animas Valley 12 May (NM-C) and one near L. Avalon 19 May (SW). Suggestive of possible local breeding, a pair of Cedar Waxwings was engaged in courtship feeding at Chama 13 May (WH). Surprising was a vocal male Olive Warbler n. to the Sandia Mts. 12 May (S. Stubbe). Single Tennessee Warblers were at Camp Robledo, *Doña Ana* 22 Apr (MS, JZ) and N.R.T. 28 Apr (JO). Lucy's Warblers returned to R.S. in force, with up to 7 singing 5–6 May (m.ob.) and a pair gathering nest material 7 May (CL); noteworthy for *Otero* was one at the historic Bill McNew homesite near Orogrande 21 Apr and 16 May (CL). Single Northern Parulas reached Bandelier N.M. 31 May (E. DeFonso), Cochiti 29 Apr (MLW), Sumner Dam 26 Apr (RV), N.R.T. 4–11 May (JP, WWi, CL, JB), and Milnesand 14 Apr (CR). A Chestnut-sided Warbler at N.R.T. 7 May (ph. JB) provided the only report, as did a Magnolia Warbler near Lingo 12 May (LS). A male Black-throated Gray Warbler was e. to N.R.T. 28 Apr (JO), as was a female Hermit 28–29 Apr (ph. JO, MB); a male Black-throated Green was there 11 May (JP). Single Palm Warblers were near Rincon 22 Apr (MS, JZ, ph. CL) and at B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr (JH). A Black-and-white Warbler was at Mesilla 17 Apr (CL); singles were at N.R.T. on various dates 29 Apr–31 May (m.ob.). American Redstarts w. of the plains were singles at Galisteo 21 May (ph. JB) and Albuquerque 29 May (BN). A Worm-eating Warbler was w. to Clanton Cienega 12 May (D. Johnson, sketch NM-C). A Kentucky Warbler was at N.R.T. 28 Apr (ph. JO); undetailed was another w. to Heart Bar W.M.A., *Catron* 24 May (*fide* DB). A good Hooded Warbler season produced single males at Corrales 17 May (ph. TF), Sandia Mts. 27–28 May (CMB), e. of Yrisarri, *Bernalillo* 24 Apr (ph. M. Martin), near Escondida 23 May (DH), N.R.T. 11–19 May (m.ob.), and Boone's Draw 12 May (JP). A male Hepatic Tanager was n. to the Cimarron area 31 May (DC); another was singing at G.B.A. 19 & 25 May (RS), where it is a rare breeder. Far n. was a female Summer Tanager at Chama 11–13 May (DK, JR, WH, MH); single males were in the e. plains at N.R.T. 4 May (CL) and Boone's Draw 5 May (CL). A male apparent Flame-colored Tanager × Western Tanager hybrid was in the Animas Mts. 12 May (ph. CL), the first such report for New Mexico.

## SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Wasting no time, Cassin's Sparrows were singing at Carlsbad 13 Mar (SW), Las Cruces 18 Mar (DG), and Jornada Range 19 Mar (MS, JZ). Noteworthy were 8 Black-chinned Sparrows in Goat Canyon s. of Mountainair 30 May (HS). Some 47 Vesper Sparrows were on Bartlett Mesa e. of Raton Pass 22 May (CH); farther e., 2 were on Horse Mesa 16 May (CH). Good grass conditions induced Lark Bunting to remain far s. of regular nesting areas, including 40 singing males and a female carrying nest material at Sevilleta N.W.R. 12 May (DH), several pairs on Otero Mesa 10-11 May, including singing males and a female carrying nest material (RM), and several pairs apparently nesting s. of Hope in May (RM). Healthy grasslands yielded singing Grasshopper Sparrows in the e. and s. in May, including 10 at Grulla N.W.R. 31 May (DK), one near Boone's Draw 12 May (JP), 5 near Hobbs 28 May (DH), one near R.S. 5 May (JR, DK), one on W.S.M.R. sw. of Bingham 11 May (D. Burkett), and 2 on Otero Mesa 7 May (DG). Baird's Sparrows reportedly outnumbered migrant Grasshopper Sparrows on Otero Mesa transects, where there were 9 Baird's 3 Apr, 3 on 4 Apr, 5 on 23-24 Apr, 9 on 25 Apr, and 2 on 7 May (DG, RM); one Baird's was e. of Three Rivers, n. Otero 30 Apr (L. Neely). Single gray (or slaty) Fox Sparrows were at R.G.N.C. 10 Mar (BV), Bosque 7 Mar (DC) and 15 Apr (JP), and Percha 7 Mar (GF); a reddish Fox Sparrow was at Silver City 21 Mar (ph. E. Limmer). The ad. Harris's Sparrow that wintered at Luis Lopez was last seen 11 Apr (JO), but an imm. appeared there 19 Apr (JO); a bright ad. was at Cimarron 12 May (ph. J. Duke). A late Golden-crowned Sparrow was window-killed near Cliff 27 Apr (E. Wootten). At least 4 Yellow-eyed Juncos were in the Burro Mts. 30 May (MB), but none was seen in the charred Animas Mts. 12 May (CL, CRB); one strayed to Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 27 Apr (LM).

A female Northern Cardinal at N.R.T. 15-26 May (ph. MB, NP et al.) provided a local first, and a male was singing at Santa Rosa 14 May (RV); in the sw., 3 were along Separ Rd. s. of White Signal 21 Apr (LM). A Pyrrhuloxia was singing at Waldrop Park, e. Chaves 25 May (JP). One to 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at 15 locales from the R.G.V. eastward 26 Apr-31 May (m.ob.), including 2 at the McNew homesite near Orogrande 16 May (CL); single males were w. to Silver City 18 May (ph. DZ) and Animas Valley 12 May (NM-C). Unusually early was an ad. male Black-headed Grosbeak singing at Albuquerque 18 Mar (J. Haskings). Earliest Lazuli Bunting was a male at Luis Lopez 19 Apr

(JO); unusual was an Indigo at Quarai 12 May (HS); an early Varied was in Walnut Canyon, Eddy 4 May (BF). A female Painted Bunting was n. to R.G.N.C. 14 May (b., ph. MM); a male was singing n. to Sumner Dam 17 May (MB, NP). An early Dickcissel was singing near Maxwell 1 May (DC); others were singles at N.R.T. 25 May (JP, JO) and Grulla N.W.R. 31 May (DK). Three Eastern Meadowlarks were singing at 2590 m near Chama 12 May (DK, JR). Common Grackles in the nw. were 2 at Aztec 30 Apr (TR) and 5 at Farmington 29 May (TR). Bronzed Cowbirds continued to occur n. of historic range, including up to 3 in ne. Albuquerque 22-30 May (DE-B, J. Stuart, BV, MB, ph. JO), 2 at Carrizozo 28 May (JO), up to 3 at B.L.N.W.R. 10-12 May (JH), and singles at Roswell 10 May (JP) and Grulla N.W.R. 31 May (DK). Orchard Orioles n. of expected were single ad. males at San Antonio 12 May (ph. A. Kerr) and Bosque 25 May (C. Lee), a young male at Maxwell 26 May (ph. DC) and an ad. male there 27 May (ph. DC), and single ad. males at N.R.T. 11 May (JP) and Ute L. 27 Apr (ph. DC); an apparent female was at Farmington 16 May (TR). Early Hooded Orioles were singles at Silver City 19 (*vide* DB) & 26-28 Mar (ph. D. Friedrich), Las Cruces 29 Mar (L. Schulte), and Virden 30 Mar (JP). Last of the Sandia Crest rosy-finches were 25, mainly Blacks, 18 Mar (N. Cox). A female Purple Finch was at a Madrid feeder 28-29 Apr (LS).

Initialed observers: Jonathan Batkin, Matt Baumann, David Beatty, Charles R. Britt, Celestyn M. Brozek, David Cleary, Celia Cook, Alan Craig, Robert Doster, Devin Eby-Bosler, Trevor Fetz, Bernard Foy, Gary Froehlich, Gail Garber, David Griffin, David Hawksworth, Marilyn Howe, William Howe, Jeff Howland, Charles Hundertmark, David Krueper, Eugene Lewis, Carl Lundblad, Martin D. MacRoberts, Larry Malone, Michael Means, David Mehlman, Raymond Meyer, Narca Moore-Craig, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, John Parmeter, Nicholas Pederson, Tim Reeves, Christopher Rustay, Janet Ruth, Lawry Sager, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, John Shipman, Roland Shook, Dale Stahlecker, Raymond VanBuskirk, Brad Vaughn, Mark L. Watson, Richard Webster, Mara E. Weisenberger, Steve West, William West, S. O. Williams, William Wittman, Hope Woodward, James Zabriskie, Dale Zimmerman. ☺

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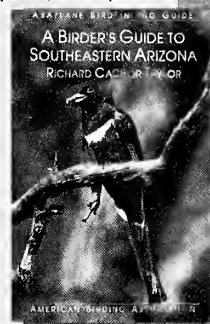
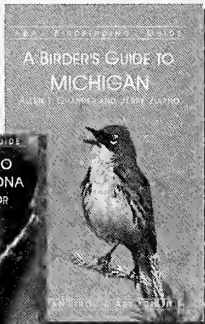


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The weather bywords for the season were overly familiar: dry and warm, with continuing drought. Stable weather provided good conditions for migration, and bird concentrations were mostly unremarkable. Highlights included nesting Short-tailed Hawk and Long-eared Owls.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum), 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 L. State Park), S.P.R. (San Pedro R.), Whitewater (Whitewater Draw W.A.).

## WHISTLING-DUCKS THROUGH TERNS

The Fulvous Whistling-Duck in Scottsdale was reported through 12 May (JW, RW), where it may be resident. A Ross's Goose in Scottsdale through the season (m ob.) furnished the first May record for *Maricopa* (fide JW). A Mexican Duck reported from G.W.R. 13 Apr (MM) continued a recent trend of reports from n. of the traditional range of this subspecies. Migrant Common Loons away from the L.C.R.V. were 3 on L. Pleasant 5-7 Apr (A. Jontz, fide TC), one on Black Mesa 13 Apr (CL), and another on L. Pleasant 19 Apr (JY). Seventy Eared Grebes at Palo Verde 12 May (TC) was a large number away from the Colorado R. Clark's Grebe is a rare migrant away from large lakes; singles were at P.L.S.P. 24 Apr-14 May (EW, SH) and Palo Verde 12 May (TC). At Willow L., 475 American White Pelicans 3 Apr (K. Euler, CST) was a very large flock for *Yavapai*, where they are casual

transients. A Brown Pelican strayed to P.L.S.P. 4-5 May (MB, ph. K. Smith); in Arizona, this species is primarily a summer and fall wanderer from the Sea of Cortez. Neotropic Cormorant numbers peaked at 25 at P.L.S.P. 29 Apr (SH), 10 at Arizona City 1 May (SH), and 98 at G.W.R. 6 May (MMo). Larger numbers were along the Gila R. in Phoenix (TC et al.). Out of place were one at Tucson 4-24 Mar (J. Higgins) and one at Roper L. 28 Apr (Arizona Field Ornithologists). A Black Vulture seen (but not documented) over Cottonwood 7 Apr was well n. of the species' range (T. R. Jones, fide TC). A Turkey Vulture at Vermilion Cliffs 16 Mar (TC) was quite early for far n. Arizona.

White-tailed Kites were widely reported again. Breeding behavior was observed at two sites along the upper S.P.R. (EW, MK) and at Buenos Aires N.W.R. (M. Hunnicut). The first Mississippi Kite returned to St. David on the early date of 21 Apr (MM). Bald Eagles were nesting again in Canyon del Muerto 19 Mar (fide C. Goetze) after first being found there last year. Late Northern Harriers at four locations into May in se. Arizona raised the possibility of nesting (EW, MM, DS, L. Liese). Sharp-shinned Hawks at Arlington and Wickensburg 12 May (TC, N. London et al.) were the first May reports for *Maricopa*. A Common Black-Hawk high in the Santa Catalina Mts. at Rose Canyon L. 3 May (MA) followed last year's documented report at this unusual location. One of the resident Red-shouldered Hawks at H.R.P. was inadvertently netted and then banded 4 Mar (fide TC). Two were seen nearby on 10 Mar (TC). Reports of Broad-winged Hawks were numerous this spring: on the early date of 24-26 Mar on the upper S.P.R. (P. Walsh, R. Romea, W. Wallraven), at Page Springs 14 Apr (KR, ph. M. VandeWater), along the Verde R. at Rio Verde Ranch 19 (†TM) & 20 Apr (TM), at B.T.A. 23 Apr (†CST), another at Page Springs 29 Apr (ph. N. Gaines), and one near Flagstaff 2 May (†P. Kline). Gray Hawk was locally extirpated as a nesting species in ne. Tucson in the 1960s. A pair there carrying sticks 16 Apr+ (P. Collins et al.) suggested their return. A pair was found nesting in oaks in lower Ramsey Canyon 10 May+ (JH, M. Pretti), an atypical location. Several Short-tailed Hawks were reported again in the Chiricahua Mts. in May (†G. Smith, P. Abbot), but the exciting news was the discovery of a nest there 25 May (ph. H. & N. Snyder), the details of which will be published elsewhere. Juveniles joining ads. in the Chiricahuas in recent years had been the sole previous evidence of nesting in the state. A Zone-tailed Hawk in Yuma 10-11 Mar (D. Taylor, fide HD) may have wintered locally. A

Harlan's Hawk was in Green Valley 11 Mar (ph. D. Dionne). A few Crested Caracaras continued in the Santa Cruz Flats through at least mid-May (DJ et al.), where they are not known to summer. Wandering caracaras turned up out of range again, with singles at Hereford 24 Apr-4 May (S. Williamson, T. Wood) and near Rio Rico 12 May (L. Liese).

A Black-bellied Plover at Rimmy Jim Tank 10-25 Apr (B. Gatlin, CL) was early for n. Arizona. An American Golden-Plover at Whitewater 6-9 May (JH, DB, REW) was a casual spring migrant. Snowy Plover is a rare nester in Arizona; four pairs were found nesting near Gila Bend 25 May (BG, TC), where they have nested before. Whimbrel is a casual migrant away from the L.C.R.V.; 2 were near Palo Verde 22 Apr (BG), and one was at Many Farms L. 19 May (BJ, ph. CB). Marbled Godwits were more widely reported away from the Colorado R. One was very early at Prescott 4 Mar (†CST, S. & S. Burk), and another made a pass around P.L.S.P. on the early date of 28 Mar (D. Porter). Flocks of 60+ godwits at Willow L. on 10 Apr (B. Thomen, S. & S. Burk) and 37 at Watson L. 24 Apr (S. & S. Burk) were notable away from the Colorado R. The only Sanderling reported was at Many Farms L. 19 May (CB, BJ). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Rimmy Jim Tank 24 Apr (B. Gatlin, CL) was only the 2nd spring record for the N.I.R., while one at Willcox on 12 May was casual there (J. Coons). The only Dunlin reported was at Willcox 24-28 Apr (DB). Casual in Arizona, a Laughing Gull was at P.L.S.P. 14 May (ph. SH). A Heermann's Gull at Arivaca L. 3 May (†J. Levy) followed their pattern of sporadic occurrence. At L. Havasu City, a Black-legged Kittiwake was a good find 25-31 Mar (J. Richardson, ph. A. Clare, B. Sutton); this is the first spring record for the L.C.R.V. and only the 7th statewide since 1990. Five Least Terns were reported, all but one in se. Arizona, fewer than in recent springs. A Black Tern was two weeks early at Green Valley 16-17 Apr (B. Postmus, ph. C. Postmus). Seven others were reported statewide. A Common Tern, casual in spring, was at Willcox 28 Apr (R. Eastman). Forster's Terns were well represented, with 14 statewide.

## DOVES THROUGH SAPSUCKERS

Ruddy Ground-Dove reports have dropped off. One was at P.L.S.P. 4 May (SH). After a winter in which they were more numerous than usual, some Long-eared Owls remained to nest in se. Arizona, with reports from the San Rafael Valley 16 Apr (M. Coker), Cave Creek near Portal 20 Apr (P. D. Hulce), Muleshoe Ranch 25 May (D. & B. Williams), and Cascabel 30 May (MA). A Northern Saw-

whet Owl was in the lowlands at B.T.A. 4 Mar (ph. J. Holloway); one was heard in Hualapai Mountain Park 27 Apr (L. Norris, S. Ganley), where they are seldom reported. Buff-collared Nightjars were heard again at Oro Blanco Mine near California Gulch 27 Apr+ (S. Hampton et al.), where they have been regular since 2002. A flock of 15-20 White-throated Swifts at Big Canyon on the Little Colorado R. were the earliest ever on the N.I.R. by a week (CL).

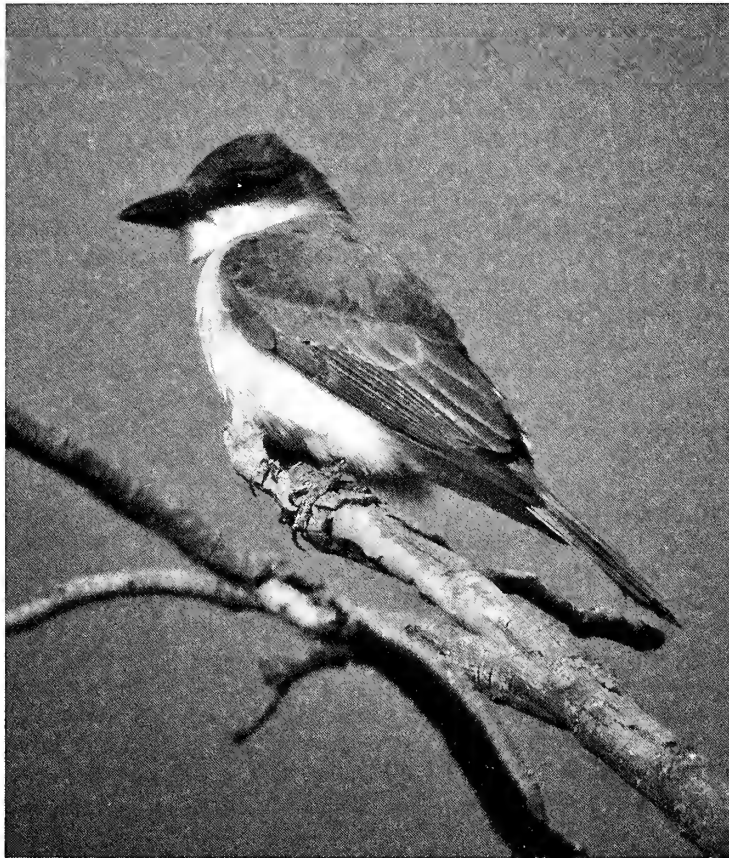
In Tucson, a Broad-billed Hummingbird was building a nest on the early date of 6 Mar (MMS, MP); one nesting in Portal 28 Apr was locally rare (D. Jasper). A White-eared Hummingbird returned to Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mts. 9 May+ (P. Campbell, T. Beatty). Still casual, a Berylline Hummingbird was in Ramsey Canyon 27 May+ (R. Behrstock); for the first time in years, no Berylline-derived hybrids were reported. Three migrant or overshooting Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were in the Tucson area 14 Mar-3 Apr (D. Gooding, J. Bock, B. Pollock), and another was in Green Valley 5-9 Apr (B. Massey). A peculiar hummingbird, apparently a hybrid, with the features of a male Blue-throated but sporting a rose-colored throat was seen at two locations on Mt. Lemmon (B. Bickel, MMS, MP). A similar bird was reported there in 1997 (D. Smyth). Lucifer Hummingbirds returned to eastside

Huachuca Mt. canyons starting 18 Mar (T. Beatty). Away from there (and from feeders), a female was found near Patagonia 21 Apr (DS), and another was in Guadalupe Canyon in May (N. Moore-Craig). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird building a nest on Mt. Ord 8 Apr was two to three weeks earlier than dates from the breeding bird atlas (TC).

Elegant Trogons are seldom seen away from the mid-elevation canyons of se. Arizona. A migrant was along the upper S.P.R. 4 May (MM), while a wandering male flying over a ridge on Mt. Ord 26 May furnished a 2nd record for *Maricopa* and likely the first for *Gila* (TC). A Belted Kingfisher carrying fish to a burrow at Rio Salado, Phoenix 15 Apr (TG) suggested a rare lowland nesting attempt; kingfishers were seen in the area through 12 May (*vide* TC). Single Green King-

fishers were seen in Mar along the upper S.P.R. near Fairbank and Hwy 90 (MA, B. Burns, M. Criley), where they are expected, but one found dead in S. Fork Cave Cr. Canyon 30 Mar (T. Wood) was only the 2nd ever for the Chiricahua Mts. A Lewis's Woodpecker was seen 28 Apr near Duncan (Arizona Field Ornithologists), where it had apparently wintered. Another Lewis's lingered

Canyon, and W. Turkey Creek during Apr and May suggest that a small population remains (and is possibly growing) in the Chiricahua Mts. An Eastern Phoebe reported along Cienega Cr. 20-27 Mar (MA) may have wintered locally, as there are very few true spring migrants known from the state. A calling Dusky-capped Flycatcher at P.L.S.P. 18 Mar (C. Cathers) was very early for a spring migrant. A pair of Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers returned for the 2nd year to Aspen Springs in the Sierra Prieta Mts. 28 May+ (CST); this species is casual as a summer visitor as far n. as the Mogollon Rim. Urban Tucson is generally low in elevation for breeding Cassin's Kingbirds; a pair found nesting at Fort Lowell Park 27 May+ (DS, MMS, MP) was of interest. Thick-billed Kingbirds appeared a bit more numerous and widespread than usual: singles were found at extralimital areas such as at the H.R.P. (for the 5th year) 3 May+ (C. Miller), in Huachuca Canyon 12-16 May (EW), and at Picacho Res. 27 May (DJ), as well as at several locations that don't support this species consistently year to year. More significant though, was one found at Wenima W.A. near Springerville 28 May (ph. GHR, KR), establishing a first record for *Apache* and for n. Arizona. The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reported was one at Camp Verde 11 May (P. Ollig). No Rose-throated Becards were reported this spring.



This Thick-billed Kingbird at Wenima Wildlife Area outside of Springerville 28 May 2007 represented a first record for northern Arizona. Photograph by Gary H. Rosenberg.

late until 12 May in Paradise (J. Lewis). A Williamson's Sapsucker was a surprise in the lowlands at Ajo 13 Mar (J. Higgins), a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was casual in Flagstaff 19 Mar (ph. N. Gaines), and a Red-naped Sapsucker was late in Scottsdale 12 May (J. Bartley). A Red-naped Sapsucker  $\times$  Yellow-bellied Sapsucker hybrid near Prescott 9-15 Mar ( $\dagger$ CST) was an unusual find.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

A Greater Pewee at Slate Cr. Divide 12-15 May (KR, CR) was n. of normal breeding areas in Arizona, but not unprecedented for this location. A Buff-breasted Flycatcher at the normal breeding area of Sawmill Canyon 13 Mar (ph. SH) established an early arrival date for se. Arizona. Scattered reports of this species from Cave Creek Canyon, Pinery

Although not known to breed in the Santa Catalina Mts., individual Gray Vireos were reported at Pima Canyon 23-26 Mar (P. Kline) and from Molino Basin 23 Apr (C. Cathers); we prefer that better documentation be provided for "migrant" records of this species in Arizona given the paucity of extralimital records—and the well-known pitfalls of distinguishing Gray Vireo from Plumbeous Vireo. A pair of Warbling Vireos on territory at Slate Cr. Divide 16 May (JW, RWi) suggested local nesting; this species has only been found nesting in *Maricopa* once previously, at this location in 1999. Casual in the state, and still found much less frequently than in the 1970s and 1980s, Red-eyed Vireos were reported from the Patagonia Roadside Rest 17 May ( $\dagger$ G. Smith,  $\dagger$ P. Abbot), and Paloma Ranch 25 May ( $\dagger$ BG, TC).

Five Mexican Jays at Slate Cr. Divide 12 May (KR, CR) were of note, as this species only occurs irregularly (and apparently is not known to breed) at higher elevations in *Maricopa*. Two Clark's Nutcrackers in the Chiricahua Mts. near Barfoot Park 27-31 May (A. Boyce et al., TM), and one near Rustler Park 31 May (REW) were late visitors this far s. in Arizona; this species is an irregular winter visitor to the mountains of s. Arizona. Two Barn Swallows at P.L.S.P. 1 Mar (SH) were very early for spring arrivals in s. Arizona. Two Barn Swallow nests found at Rio Salado, Phoenix 12 May (*fide* T. Gatz, JW) were of note, as this species had only been found breeding in *Maricopa* twice previously. A few Marsh Wrens lingered later than usual into the spring, with the latest being one along Cienege Cr. 17 May (MA). Pairs of Black-capped Gnatcatchers continued at P.L.S.P. and along Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon; nests were located at both locations. Young were observed at P.L.S.P. 26 Apr (SH), and at Proctor Rd. by 11 May (C. Charlesworth, m.ob.). The only "new" Black-capped location was at Grosvenor Hills, *Santa Cruz*, where a male was reported 28 May (C. Smith, S. Carnahan).

The 2 Rufous-backed Robins at Jake's Corner in the winter season were last reported 10 Mar (m.ob.); another was located at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix 22-23 Apr (G. Rice, S. Barnes, †D. Herron, ph. C. Campbell). There have been few Arizona reports during the spring of individuals not known to have wintered locally. Certainly casual during the spring, a Varied Thrush was at Yuma 26 Apr (C. Hurlock, ph. J. Bundy, *fide* HD). A Gray Catbird, casual in spring away from breeding areas in the White Mts., was at Round Valley near Portal 24 May (REW). The Brown Thrasher wintering at the B.T.A. was last reported 28 Apr (CST). Elsewhere, one was thought to have wintered locally at San Bernardino N.W.R., seen only 11 Mar-1 Apr (REW), and one was in Portal 3-4 May (L. & T. Gates). A lingering American Pipit was at Willcox 27 May (D. & B. Williams), where casual after mid-May.

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Single Tennessee Warblers, casual in spring, were at Rio Salado, Phoenix 3 Mar-13 Apr (TG, T. Brodner), at G.W.R. 29 Apr-1 May (†MM; v.r. PD), and at San Bernardino N.W.R. 7 May (†REW); it is still a review species for the A.B.C. Nine Northern Parulas, a greater-than-usual number for spring, were located in s. Arizona 28 Apr-31 May. Outstanding was a breeding-plumaged Chestnut-sided Warbler at Portal 11 May (T. Godfrey, DB); most records in the state have been of fall and win-

ter birds. A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Sweetwater 14 Apr (R. Payne). An apparent Yellow-rumped Warbler × Grace's Warbler hybrid was reported for the 2nd consecutive year at Aspen Springs, Sierra Prieta Mts. 29 May (†CST). Out-of-place Grace's Warblers were reported along the upper S.P.R. 11 Apr (MM), at Morgan City Wash 21 Apr (TC), and at San Bernardino N.W.R. 28 Apr (RAR, REW); this species is casual during spring at lowland locations. The wintering Pine Warbler in the Mule Mts. was last reported 18 Apr (I. Fraser, D. Mansour). Seven Black-and-white Warblers and 3 American Redstarts were reported this spring, about average. The only Prothonotary Warbler reported was at Cameron 18 May (ph. CBa). More unusual in spring, single Worm-eating Warblers were well documented at Southwest Research Station, Cave Cr. Canyon 16-28 Apr (S. & J. James; ph. T. Stawarczyk and at Paradise 26 Apr (ph. J. Lewis). Other Worm-eatings reported included one singing in Madera Canyon 16 May (D. Touret) and one at Seven Springs 18 May (TC). Individual Ovenbirds were reported at Tucson 23 Apr (J. Douglas), singing near Portal 24 Apr (G. Owings), and at Cameron 15-29 May (CL, B. Gatlin et al.). Kentucky Warbler is always a fine bird to find in Arizona, although annual in very small numbers in spring; one was in Cave Cr. Canyon 4 May (RAR, REW), while another was at Granite Cr. near Prescott 21-22 May (N. McMahon et al.; ph. N. Silacci). Hooded Warbler also appears to be a rare but regular late spring visitor, this year reported at Tempe 11 May (M. Scott), Las Cienegas National Conservation Area 14 May (KK), Sabino Canyon 21-22 May (DS, J. Hecimovich), Cameron 22-24 May (CL), and Eagar 23 May (DR, GC). Red-faced Warbler continues to be a scarce summer resident at high elevations in *Maricopa* at locations such as Mt. Ord and Slate Cr. Divide, with reports at both sites this spring (E. Hough, JW, RW). Casual in the lowlands, Red-faced were seen along the Gila R., *Greenlee* 28 Apr (Arizona Field Ornithologists, *fide* TC) and along the Agua Fria R., *Maricopa* 7 May (D. Wall et al.). Migrant Painted Redstarts were found in greater-than-usual numbers in the lowlands this spring.

The male Flame-colored Tanager returned for another year to Madera Canyon, first reported 6 Apr (ph. M. Brooks, ph. GHR) and apparently mated with a Western Tanager. Multiple Botteri's Sparrows were detected earlier than usual this spring, with the earliest reports including singing birds at Arivaca 10 Apr (MA) and in lower Carr Canyon 10 Apr (SH). Clay-colored Sparrows, casual in spring but prone to irruptions, were at Tuc-

son 8 Mar (MP, MMS), Rio Salado, Phoenix 15-16 Apr (TG), at San Bernardino N.W.R. 28 Apr (continuing from winter) (RAR, REW), at Whitewater 30 Apr (SH), and continuing along the upper S. P.R. through 25 Apr (MM). Harris's Sparrow continues to be rare to casual in s. Arizona, with one near Portal 24-30 Apr (T. Morgan et al.) and the G.W.R. bird continuing from winter until 25 Apr (m.ob.). The Lapland Longspur found near Elgin during the winter was last reported 16 Mar (EW). No fewer than 26 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found between late Apr and mid-May! A Blue Grosbeak near Avondale 20 Apr (TC) was nearly two weeks early for this *Maricopa* location.

A singing Bobolink was reported at Whitewater 25 May (DB); this species is rare to casual anywhere in the state in spring. An Orchard Oriole was in a nw. Tucson yard 26 Mar (ph. C. Sams), where it likely wintered locally. The Streak-backed Oriole that wintered at G.W.R. was again reported 8 & 20 Apr (P. Moulton). Male Baltimore Orioles, casual in the state, were documented at San Bernardino N.W.R. 17 May (ph. REW) and in Yuma 19 May (ph. HD). After what was a rather lackluster flight year for Lawrence's Goldfinch in se. Arizona during the winter of 2006-2007, individuals appeared at odd locations during the spring, including one along the Gila R. near Buckeye 14 Mar (TC), one in Ash Canyon 1 May (RB), and one in Willcox 7 May (EW). A singing male American Goldfinch was rather late in Springerville 28 May (GHR, KR); this species is not known to breed in Arizona.

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Three Smews in the Bering Sea at St. Paul I. 12-21 May and then one 21-23 May (St. Paul Tour) were unusually late and e. of typical areas of occurrence, while up to 6 around Shemya 24 Apr-21 May (MTS, ph. RT) were more standard.

Arctic Loons were reasonably represented, with a single at Attu 22 May (DWS), at least 3 around Shemya 15 Apr+ (MTS), and a season peak of

12 from Gambell 5 Jun (Wings, Inc.). Most interesting was an estimate of 700+ Pacific Loons staging in Yakutat Bay 17 May (BC). With recent sightings of large numbers staging inshore in the e. and ne. quadrants of the n. Gulf of Alaska (from Yakutat Bay, upper Lynn Canal, and Portland Canal), it appears that Pacific Loons stage and then disperse from here to points n. and e., along the coast and into the Interior. More unusual in spring than in fall was a single Pied-billed Grebe at Alaganik Slough, e. of Cordova 21 Apr (AL), where there are few reports. Two Horned Grebes ventured northward and offshore to Gambell 1 Jun (DF et al.), where they are casual. An early-season cruise across the Aleutians from Russia produced a fine cross-section of spring Mottled Petrel movements into the Region. Three hundred and then 125 birds were counted on 11 May at points on both sides of the International Dateline (BC).

## HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

A White-tailed Eagle was nicely documented from Gambell 2 Jun (ph. DP, Wilderness Bird Tours; Wings, Inc.). There have been a few brief sightings of eagles over Gambell, including reports of White-tailed Eagle, Steller's Sea-Eagle, and Bald Eagle. This year's Gun-sight Mt. hawkwatch produced exceptional totals of 584 dark-morph and 63 light-morph Harlan's Hawks (CF, PF et al.). The spring total of only 14 Red-tailed Hawks there represented what must be a representative indicator of the e. Interior's ratio of these two taxa. Two Sandhill Cranes on Prince of Wales I. 1 Apr (JL) were very early in the only offshore area of Southeast where they are probably breeding.

Given the spotty nature of Black-bellied Plover landfall patterns during spring passage, some 400+ near Gustavus 2 May (BP) was an exceptional concentration, especially for Southeast. A single Pacific Golden-Plover at Kodiak 11 Apr (JV) was the season's first landfall within the species' south-to-north oceanic migration corridor. Shorebird high-

lights were otherwise spotty and focused at Gambell, Shemya, or in the Interior, including: a peak of 5 Common Ringed Plovers at Gambell 23 May (PEL); a nice group of 5 Terek Sandpipers at Shemya 30 May (MTS) and a single e. at Adak 30-31 May (ph. JP); a rare Bering Sea Lesser Yellowlegs also at Gambell 23 May (PEL); up to 3 *hudsonicus* Whimbrels at Gambell 27-30 May (Wings, Inc.); single Great Knots, still not annual in the Region, on St. Paul I. 23-26 May (St. Paul Tour) and at Gambell 1-3 Jun (DF, Wings, Inc.); 4 Sanderlings at Fairbanks 29 May (ABO); and up to 4 Short-billed Dowitchers, casual in the Interior, at Fairbanks 22-26 May (PM). An at-sea Temminck's Stint was described from shipboard observers n. of Attu 12 May (BC), while another was casual and late at Gambell 7 Jun (DF Wings, Inc.). Another female Wilson's Phalarope was documented in Juneau 16 May (PS), where this probably annual migrant is most often located in spring.

As is typical for the spring season, gull reports were an interesting mix of late winter finds and regular migrants from standard areas of concentration. Kodiak observers located 3 alternate-plumaged Franklin's Gulls around the e. side of the island, from 23 Apr-4 May, 10 May, and 27-31 May (ph. RAM, JBA); fall records are considerably more regular. A Black-headed Gull was described from Gambell 31 May (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours), where the species is not regular, as was the season's only Kamchatka Mew Gull 2-5 Jun (Wings, Inc.). The Aleutians' earliest Black-tailed Gull was an ad. on the Shemya beaches 22 Apr (MTS, ph. RT), and another ad. was documented to the w. at Attu 18 May (ph. DWS). These represent about the 7th and 8th records from the Aleutians. The northward spring push of California Gulls commenced on time in Ketchikan, 24 Mar, with a season high of 25 on 11 May (AWP, SCH). The remaining Ketchikan area's Kumlien's Iceland Gull was last seen 20 Mar (AWP, SCH); another was documented from Kodiak 11 May (ph. RAM), the 2nd such documented record there. As is typical, Slaty-backed Gull reports were concentrated from St. Paul I., the greater Nome area, and at Gambell, with unremarkable numbers. Two Slaty-backed Gulls were more noteworthy with the late winter gull hordes around Kenai 1 Apr (TB, *vide* TE), which also included a nice spring tally of 5 Glaucous Gulls the same day. A Marbled Murrelet on Tern L. 28 May (AL) in the Kenai Mts. some 52 km from the nearest saltwater habitat was unusual but within the species' known coastal rainforest nesting habitat.

## Thede Tobish

It was an average spring season that otherwise included a mix of prolonged dry periods, below-average temperatures, and fewer low-pressure systems moving eastward into the northern Gulf of Alaska. Arrival dates for most areas and most groups were close to long-term averages, with perhaps fewer new record-early arrival dates than in most recent years. Coverage at the Region's periphery was again excellent and began early, which is becoming standard now for spring migration and which is contributing nicely to the arrival data at these sites. Weather patterns did little to generate any notable surges of Palearctic taxa in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, although easterly winds probably contributed to a decent push of Alaska's mainland birds into the Bering Sea. Early June conditions did produce a brief early June passerine wave into the western Aleutians.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH PETRELS

Two Bean Geese at St. Paul I. 15-17 May and 30 May-1 Jun (St. Paul Tour) and a single at Shemya I. 23 May (MS) were the season's only reports. Wood Ducks, not long ago considered accidental in Alaska, continue to show up in Southeast, showing this spring at Ketchikan, with a drake in salt water 16 Apr (SCH, ph. AWP) and a pair inland on the Unuk R. 20 Apr (AWP). As is typical of early spring, Eurasian Wigeon reports surfaced across the Region, most notable of which was a total of 6 at Gustavus 6 Apr (ND). A 3rd Aleutian record of Spot-billed Duck turned up 28 May+ at Adak (ph. JP), where Region's first ever was documented in the 1970s. Now annual in the Southeast in early spring, Cinnamon Teal showed up at two new sites, with a drake at Ketchikan 15 May (ph. SCH), a local first record, plus another single n. at Gustavus 26 Apr (ND) that was followed by 3 there 1 May and then one on 6 & 23 May (BP, ND).



Found and photographed on 28 May 2007 (here) at Clam Lagoon, Adak Island, Alaska, this Spot-billed Duck remained through 31 May. At least two other Spot-billed Ducks in Alaska stayed for at least a year. Photograph by Frank Haas.

## OWLS THROUGH PIPITS

Spring Western Screech-Owls are always notable away from the few standard presumed breeding sites (Sitka, Ketchikan, Juneau), so a single near the periphery at Gustavus 18-26 Apr (ND) was a great find. A Northern Pygmy-Owl from the greater Ketchikan area's White R. 31 May (AWP) and about 6 around Gustavus 4 Mar-25 May (ND) were the season's most significant reports. A Boreal Owl corpse located on the Southeast Mainland at the Unuk R. mouth 26 Mar (GW, ph. AWP) is considered extralimital, as we have few documented Southeast records. Following last year's first-ever Kodiak area record, 3 Northern Saw-whet Owls were found there 24-25 Mar (RAM). An Eastern Phoebe, reasonably well described from tidal flats at Haines 11 May (†AD), becomes the earliest of Alaska's now five records, which come mostly from Jun. This species gets close to the Region at similar latitudes on the Alberta-British Columbia border. A handsome ad. Brown Shrike photographed at Shemya 6 Jun (ph. MTS, RT) becomes only the 2nd from spring and 3rd overall in the Aleutians.

Mild conditions seemingly drew Tree Swallows into the Region on the early side, highlighted by 14 in Ketchikan 9 Apr (AWP, SCH), close to that locale's earliest ever. A single Tree Swallow was off course at sea at Shemya 3 Jun (MTS, RT). Although Tree Swallows are intermittent breeders at Unimak I. and occasional elsewhere in the e. Aleutians, there are only nine previous spring reports from the cen. and w. islands. A single Violet-green Swallow in Ketchikan 9 Apr (AWP, SCH) likely set a new record early arrival date for Alaska. Ex-

tralimital Barn Swallows made news early, including singles at Kodiak 27 May (ph. RAM), Fairbanks 13 May (LD, NH), where casual, and a pale-bellied bird offshore at Gambell 7 Jun (Wilderness Bird Tours). The season's only Taiga Flycatchers were 2 at Shemya 4-7 Jun (MTS, ph. RT) near the late end of known arrival dates.

Bluetheats crossing the Bering Strait seemed early at Gambell, with a single there 22 May followed by 5 the following day (Wings, Inc.); their breeding habitats inland on the Seward Pen. were likely still under snow. Of the usual handful of Mountain Bluebird reports, a single male near Fairbanks at Murphy Dome 29 Apr (A.B.O.) was most interesting at the nw. edge of the species' Interior range. Extremely rare offshore in the Bering Sea was a Swainson's Thrush at Gambell 31 May (DF, Wings, Inc.), where there were two prior spring observations. Only one Eyebrowed Thrush was located this season, at Shemya a little early on 10 May (MTS, RT ph.). The Mainland's first and the spring's only Dusky Thrush was described in the Askinuk Mts. in sw. Alaska 30 May (†LD).

## WAXWINGS THROUGH FINCHES

A lone Bohemian Waxwing that had wintered somewhere in the s. end of the Region became the latest ever for Ketchikan 1 May (AWP, SCH). Most Bohemians depart winter haunts in Southeast by late Mar. The Anchorage area's band of Cedar Waxwings, variously present and dispersed around the lowlands since the previous Aug, peaked in late winter at approximately 21 birds through late Mar

(TT). Audubon's Warblers were early, and n. of the norm, at Gustavus, including singles 20 & 26 Apr and 6 May (ND, BP, PV); this subspecies is typically reported with regularity from s. Southeast mainland sites (Hyder) or from the Ketchikan area. A male Western Tanager at Gustavus 27 May should be considered extralimital and was w. of the closest known breeding areas in Skagway and Haines. An overshoot Sooty Fox Sparrow at Gambell 27 May (Wilderness Bird Tours) was casual on St. Lawrence I., where most spring birds are Interior *zaboria* forms. Golden-crowned Sparrows showed offshore at quite a few sites, highlighted by 3 on a ship some 48 km s. of the Alaska Pen. 14 May (BC), one on St. Paul I. 30 May (St. Paul Tour), and singles from Gambell 28 May and 1-2 Jun (Wings, Inc.). A casual visitor from Southeast, a male Brewer's Blackbird was photographed n. of the regular sites at Gustavus 18 Apr (ph. ND), where a female was first noted last year. Included with the early Jun push of Palearctic passerines in the w. Aleutians was a female-plumaged Common Rosefinch at Shemya 8 Jun (MTS, RT). It was unusual that the season's only Hawfinch report came from well to the n. at Gambell, where one hung around 26 May-1 Jun (DF et al.). There are few St. Lawrence I. records.

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## Donald G. Cecile

March was cool, wet and often windy throughout. April dried out and warmed up a bit. But the weather never really showed promise of the summer to come until the last ten days of May, when hotter, dry weather prevailed. With wet and windy conditions prevailing, a good variety of interior birds was found along the coast, with the outer coast in particular capturing many vagrants.

## GEESE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Ross's Geese are very rare in the s. interior but this spring were found at a number of locations: on the early side, a single was in Kamloops 18 Mar (*fide* RH); another was between Pentiction and Summerland 21 Mar–4 Apr (ph. LN et al.); one was in Quesnel 25 Mar (*fide* PR); one was in Nakusp 19 Apr (GSD); one was seen in a flock of Canada Geese over Okanagan Falls 21 Apr (CC); and most remarkable was the report of a flock of 18 near Vernon 3 May (*fide* RJC). An astonishing number of Trumpeter Swans was seen in a field near Vanderhoof, where 900 were counted 24 Mar (CA), nearly doubling the previous high count for the interior. Rare along the coast, Eurasian Teal were found in Mar: in Courtenay 1 Mar (RH), Maplewood 3–16 Mar (RL), and Victoria 13 Mar (MB). The only Tufted Duck reported was a male seen from the Iona s. jetty 31 Mar (MKM). Casual in the Region, a second-summer male Steller's Eider was found near Gordon's Beach, s. Vancouver I. 26 May (ph. RTo, LH); this bird furnishes the 8th Regional record.

Arctic Loons have long been suspected of frequenting coastal waters, and there are now five reports spanning the past eight years. This spring, an alternate-plumaged ad. was well described with both Pacific and Common Loons

nearby for comparison near Gordon's Beach, s. Vancouver I. 20 May (ph. RTo, LH). The Kootenays experienced a good migration of Red-necked Grebes, with a large aggregation of 58 birds on Arrow L., Nakusp 19 Apr (GSD). Very rare on the coast, a Clark's Grebe was at Jordan R. 15 Apr (ph. RTo, LH et al.). American White Pelicans arrived early on Williams L., with one there 24 Mar (ph. CA), and one spent several weeks on Quamichan L., confirmed 12–14 May (*fide* DM), for a first local record. A tantalizing description of a possible Masked Booby was received, having been seen briefly in flight in Parksville 23 May (†RT, NR); there are no confirmed records for the province.

Very rare along the coast, particularly in spring, a Swainson's Hawk was seen heading northward over Martindale Flats, Victoria 11 May (CSa). A Richardson's Merlin, the prairie subspecies, was seen at Okanagan Lake PP near Summerland 21 Apr (RyT). Adding to the few sightings of the past decade in the cen. interior, a Whooping Crane was described from the n. shore of François L, as it flew at a height of 50 m, heading westward 16 May (†KW). Black-necked Stilts made their near-annual pilgrimage into the s. interior: 12 in the Kootenays at Wasa 7 Apr (JM); 5 at T'Kumlups Pond, Kamloops 9–30 Apr (PH, DW, RH), where they were successful nesters two years ago; 7 on Robert L., Kelowna 29 Apr (RC); 5 n. of Osoyoos 9 May (MB); and the last of the spring were 2 at Osoyoos L. 16 May (CC et al.). Rare spring transients in the Kootenays, American Avocets numbered 8 at Elizabeth L., Cranbrook 22 Apr (GR) and one at Burton 15 May (GSD). Greater Yellowlegs continue to push the early arrival envelope, with a record-setting arrival in Tofino 14 Mar (AD, RC); by the usual average arrival date, 26 birds were present 30 Mar (AD, RC). A single Spotted Sandpiper was record early in Oliver, s. Okanagan 6 Apr (DB). Whimbrel is rare in the interior, yet 2 were found this spring: one at Roundup L. in the Cariboo 12 May (ph. PR) and one on the Stump Lake Ranch near Kamloops 14 May (RH). Long-billed Curlews, a grassland species of concern, were found in very good

numbers in the cen. interior: 23 near Vanderhoof 18 Apr (SL) and 26 near Shelly 16 Apr (SL). Very rare in the interior, a Marbled Godwit was at Cranbrook 12 May (KY). Rare along the coast, a Ruff was at Reifel 10 May (JI), and another was at Grice Bay, Tofino 22–23 Apr (†JR, MC).

## GULLS THROUGH THRASHERS

As gull numbers increased in the cen. interior this spring, two rarities were picked out of the flocks in Prince George: a Glaucous-winged Gull was at Cottonwood Island Park 18 Apr (NH et al.); and a Glaucous Gull was there 19 Apr (NH et al.). Both furnished 2nd records for the local checklist area. Among the thousands of gulls feeding on herring roe, an ad. Slaty-backed Gull was located in Qualicum Bay, mid-Vancouver I. 13–15 Mar (AM, RS, JS). Very rarely seen from shore, a basic-plumaged Thick-billed Murre was off Gordon's Beach 20 May (LH, †RTo). Also rather cooperative from shore were single Horned Puffins: off Amphitrite Pt., Ucluelet 15–25 Mar (MT, AF); off Botanical Beach, Port Ren-



This adult male Costa's Hummingbird was a surprise find at Jordan River, on the southwestern coast of Vancouver Island, 7 April 2007. Photograph by Rick Toochin.

flew 27 May (†RTo, LH); and off the s. tip of the Queen Charlotte Is. 22 May (BW, RB).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue their expansion in the s. interior and along the s. coast. The most significant sighting this season came from Carmanah Point Lightstation,



Normally restricted in British Columbia to the very dry southern interior, a few Sage Thrashers wandered to the coast, such as this individual at Nanaimo River Estuary 14 (here) and 15 April 2007. Photograph by Guy L. Monty.

a well-known vagrant trap on the w. coast of Vancouver I. 16 May (JE). Casual in the province, a male Costa's Hummingbird was heard singing and seen performing territorial flights at Jordan R. on the sw. coast of Vancouver I. 7 Apr (ph. RTo). Another hummingbird rarity was also found at Jordan R., a male Calliope Hummingbird, normally destined for the dry s. interior; it too was a one-day wonder 15 Apr (†RTo). Other interior birds found along the coast include: a Say's Phoebe in Sooke 24 Mar (RTo) and another at Maplewood 6 Apr (MW); and single Western Kingbirds on Mt. Douglas, Victoria 21 Apr (MMG) and in Duncan 2 May (DM).

Very rare in the province, a Loggerhead Shrike was near Knutsford 21 May (ph. GG). Very rare in the w. Kootenays, except the extreme s., a Black-billed Magpie was at Kaslo 27 Mar (DP). Sage Thrashers are very sparsely scattered in the sagebrush habitats of the extreme s. interior, yet remarkably, 2 were found on the coast: one was in North Vancouver 5 Apr (RL), and another was at the Nanaimo River Estuary 14-15 Apr (ph. GLM et al.). The latter furnished a 5th record for Vancouver I., with all previous records occurring in May.

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Previously accidental but now annual over the past six years, a Northern Parula was

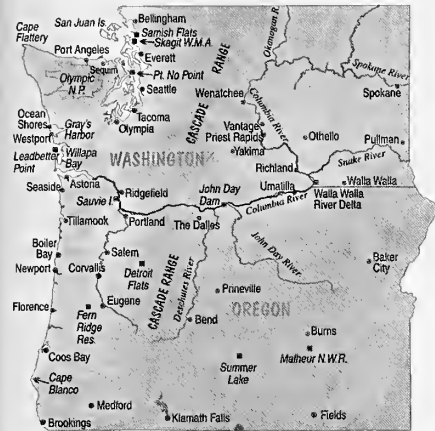
found singing in s. Surrey 30 May (†CG, ph. PC et al.), falling well within the usual late May-early Jun window for e. passerines. A Chestnut-sided Warbler, however, did not follow the rules of vagrancy, arriving extremely early in Jordan River 1 May (RTo). A Cape May Warbler was a very good find at Tumbler Ridge 26 May (GLM, BSc). Very rare in the Region, a male Hermit Warbler was found within a flock of Townsend's Warblers at Jordan River 21 Apr (†RTo); even more shocking was the discovery of a pair of Hermit Warblers in Sooke Mountain Park 12 May (†RTo, CI). Very rare in the Lower Mainland, a Black-and-white Warbler was found scaling the local Alder and Cottonwoods at Maplewood 21 May (RL). A Brewer's Sparrow was unusual at Wilson Cr., Sunshine Coast 22-23 Apr (AS). Casual in the province, single Black-throated Sparrows were found along the Grant Narrows Nature Trail, Pitt Lake 17-26 May (in ob., ph. LJ, KL) and along the Nighthawk border w. of Osoyoos 24 May (JG). Also casual in the province and well out of habitat and range, a Sage Sparrow was at Iona I. 14 Mar (†TP), just 75 m from the site of the previous Iona record. This species had not been recorded in the province since Apr 2000. The only report of Harris's Sparrow came from Alaksen N.W.R. 24 May (PD).

Black-headed Grosbeaks rarely stray n. of the Okanagan Valley into the Cariboo, but

one such male was found singing near Milburn L. 11 May (fide PR). Lazuli Buntings were again recorded on the coast in small numbers, the most out of place being a female seen at Carmanah Point Lightstation 25 May (JE) and a male near Long Beach 26 May (GB). Astonishingly early (especially considering the latitude) and setting a record-early arrival date for the province, a male and 2 female Bobolinks were well described visiting a feeder in Quesnel 11-12 May (VW). The only report of Common Grackle away from the Peace R. area involved a single in Tofino 25 May (AD) at the exact location where one was discovered last year. The Bullock's Oriole that wintered just n. of Qualicum Beach returned to the feeder after a 54-day absence 21 Mar-19 Apr (CB). Very rare in the s. interior, a pair of Purple Finches was on Anarchist Mt. 26 May (JG, RS). A diligent observer picked out a Hoary Redpoll from a flock of 400 Commons in Prince George 31 Mar (SL), and 2 were at a feeder in the same area 1 Apr (ph. NH et al.). After a long absence, Pine Siskins returned to the Kootenays in mid-Apr (GSD) and to the Okanagan 24 Mar (DGC). Accidental in the province, a green-backed male Lesser Goldfinch was well described from Lardeau 6 May (MJ); there are only four confirmed records of this species, the most recent from Princeton in May 1999.

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This spring brought a potpourri of exciting events. Migrants were numerous, and rarities abounded. Wintering birds lingered rather late, only to mix with migrants, which came and left a week or two early. More importantly, the conditions off our coast remained abnormal. Pacific oceanographers are using the term arrhythmia to explain this phenomenon, and they noted that these recent large-scale “changes in the timing of upwelling may favor particular seabird or salmon species, changing the make-up of animals along the coast.” Some of these changes seemed quite evident this spring, partly because of extensive offshore coverage: in addition to three organized pelagic trips (from Newport 25 March and from Westport 28 April and 19 May), there were observations from a cruise ship off Oregon 3 May (JG, OS, R. & N. Armstrong), a NOAA research vessel 8-11 May (SMi, TG), a survey in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary 8 May (CW), and a fishing vessel 15-16 May (BT). The spring was dry, averaging about 75% normal precipitation on the westside and 50% normal on the east. The season was also warm, especially March, when the Region averaged 5° F above normal, among warmest 10% of Marches during the past 112 years.

Abbreviations: Finley (Finley N.W.R., *Benton*); F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*); Lower Klamath (Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Klamath*); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, *Coos*); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, *Snohomish*); P.T. (Puget Trough); W.V. (Willamette Valley); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, *Walla Walla*). Eastside and westside indicate e. and w. of the Cascade crest, respectively.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Greater White-fronted Geese abounded

across the Region. A likely w. Oregon record 7615 flew over Finley 27 Apr (WDR), while tallies of 555 at P.S.B. and 460 at Crockett L., *Island* 29 Apr were probably record highs for the P.T. (SM, N. Bonomo, RM). Additionally, 3600 at Conboy N.W.R., *Klickitat* 23 Apr was exceptional (JE). Two Greater White-fronted Goose x Snow Goose hybrids were near Merrill, *Klamath* 11 Mar (DI). Fairly typical for spring, 3 Emperor Geese were found through 9 Apr. Single Blue Geese at Harney Basin 24 Mar (A. Sohlstrom), P.S.B. 8 Mar (SM), and Fir I., *Skagit* 20 Apr-6 May (RM, SM, BSW) were at locations where small numbers are now expected, though the latter bird was a month late. Two Blue Geese at Othello 10 Apr, however, provided a very rare e. Washington record (RH). Snow Geese dawdled this year, highlighted by 1000 at Fir I. through 7 May, a goodly three weeks late for such numbers (M. Axelson). Later yet was one near Wilson Cr., *Grant* 18 May (TL). A Ross's Goose x Snow Goose hybrid visited Carnation, *King* 4 Mar (ph. T Mansfield), while another led 2 imms. around Fir I. 8 Mar (SM, R. Caniff, V. Baranyuk). Ross's Geese have been recorded a number of times at Siberia's Wrangel I. Snow Goose colony, and hybrids have been noted there as well, though no mixed pairs have been detected (V. Baranyuk); 50% of Wrangel's Snow Geese winter in California's Central Valley, the likely source of these errant Ross's. Excellent numbers of stray Ross's Geese were detected, with 7 in w. Oregon, 2 in w. Washington, and 21 in e. Washington, 12 Mar-30 Apr; peak passage was late Mar/early Apr. A Black Brant, very rare on the eastside, graced Lower Klamath 17 Mar (F. Mayer). Two Barnacle Geese wandered near Brady, *Grays Harbor* 27 Mar+ (T. O'Brien); Barnacle Geese, undoubtedly escapees from captivity, have been noted several times in Washington.

Trumpeter Swans tarried again this year, the latest remaining at Graysmarsh, *Clallam* through 12 May (J. Coyle) and near Snohomish into Jun (SM, G. Toffic); the last have typically departed by mid-Apr. Similarly tardy was a Tundra Swan at Calispell L., *Pend Oreille* 25 May (TL). The Satsop, *Grays Harbor* Bewick's Swan reappeared 3-16 Mar (ph. P&RS), while another that had mostly wintered in California crossed into Oregon at Lower Klamath 9 Mar (C. Kising). The *Lane*

Falcated Duck remained until 12 Apr (D. Brown). Eastside Eurasian Wigeons were generally scarce, with 11 in Washington and 6 in Oregon, excepting 15 at Lower Klamath 10 Mar (DI); a similar concentration was found in the Klamath Basin last Mar. On the westside, Eurasian Wigeons lingered unusually late, with one at Ridgefield into Jun (BF) and another at Vanport Wetlands, *Multnomah* through 21 May (JG). A near-normal 10 Eurasian Teal were noted through 4 May; eastside singles, where annual of late, visited Corfu, *Grant* 29 Mar-10 Apr (RH), Othello 29 Mar (RH), and Grandview, *Yakima* 10 Apr (W. Terrell). Eleven Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal intergrades were reported through 10 May; given that these sightings stem from just a few observers, the actual number of such birds present in the Region is likely greater. A Tufted Duck was on the eastside, where now nearly annual, at Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 10-16 May (C&MM), while one on the westside at Nehalem, *Tillamook* through 21 May was three weeks late (M. Simper); 3 others, all in w. Oregon, rounded out another excellent spring for this species. A White-winged Scoter adorned S. Twin L., *Ferry* 30-31 May (G. Gumm); four of the six antecedent e. Washington spring records are from mid- to late May. Now an annual eastside spring visitor, a Long-tailed Duck graced



This Bewick's Swan at Satsop, Grays Harbor, Washington was present 3-16 (here 4) March 2007 and was likely the same bird present there in December 2006. This subspecies has been found annually during recent years in the Oregon & Washington region. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

*Madras, Jefferson* 17 Apr (C. & M. Miller). Another Common Goldeneye x Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid was detected, this one at Penn Cove, *Island* 29 Apr (SM, N. Bonomo).

An Arctic Loon lingered off P.N.P. 8-18 Apr, about the 7th for Washington and the first after Mar (VN, +CCx, ph. P&RS). A goodly 15,000 Pacific Loons passed Ft. Canby, *Pacific* 21 Apr (CW), while one near Wanapum Dam 18 Mar provided a very rare eastside spring record (S. Downes). Loon counts at Boiler Bay were fair, with maxima of 1500 Red-throateds



A Long-billed Murrelet found in December 2006 at Point No Point, Kitsap County, Washington led to a definite "Patagonia Picnic Table Effect" over the subsequent six months, and the bonanza included this Arctic Loon, which was present from 8 to 18 (here 14) April 2007. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

1 Apr and 17,000 Pacifics 11 May (PP). An above-average 6 Yellow-billed Loons included a slightly late bird at Cape Arago, Coos 13 May (R. Namitz). On the westside, Clark's Grebes again attended their F.R.R. breeding colony, and 10 inhabited Vancouver L., Clark 26 May (SM, JW, BF). The 13 Clark's noted elsewhere on the westside included 2 stragglers at Pacific City, Tillamook 25 May (RHy) and tardy singles at Ankeny N.W.R., Marion 28 May (J. Epstein) and Yaquina Head, Lincoln 25 May (RHy); nonbreeders typically have departed by 15 May.

An excellent 5 Laysan Albatross were found off Oregon 25 Mar–16 May. A deceased Mottled Petrel was at Clatsop Beach 22 Mar (DB), adding to 2 found in Clatsop this Feb; these birds' demise was likely related to this spring's acid die-off. A concentration of 1000 Pink-footed Shearwaters off Coos Bay 16 May was exceptional for spring (BT). Three Flesh-footed Shearwaters 15–16 May was fairly typical for spring (BT). A passage of 115,000 Sooty Shearwaters at Ft. Canby, Pacific 31 May was extraordinarily early (TG); such numbers are usually not encountered until Aug. Seven Manx Shearwaters from Boiler Bay to Pt. Grenville, Grays Harbor 1 Apr+ has become, amazingly, somewhat typical spring fare. Remarkable counts of 1000+ Leach's and 200+ Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels off s. Oregon 3 May (JG) provided a great backdrop for a Black/Markham's Storm-Petrel off Goids Beach, Curry (†JG, †OS) and North America's 2nd Ringed Storm-Petrel off Coos Bay (†JG, †N. Armstrong) the same day. A flock of Blacks inshore at Seaside, Clatsop 8 Sep 1983 provided the only other Regional record. See Pyle et al. 2005 (*North American Birds* 60: 162–163) for information regarding North America's first

Ringed, or Hornby's, Storm-Petrel, found among California's Channel Islands 2 Aug 2005.

Westside American White Pelican numbers were unexceptional, with a maximum of 20 at F.R.R. 17 May (D. Schrouder), plus 7 scattered across w. Washington in late May. A Brown Pelican at Yaquina Head, Lincoln 12 Mar was about a month early (CA). Brown Pelicans again entered the P.T. early, with one at Port Angeles 12 May (T. Noyes) and 3–4 around Port Townsend 15 May (B. Marston, R. Rogers); the first usually appear in Jul. The Coos Bay Great Egret rookery, first noted in 1988, sported a record 65 nests 30 Apr (TR). A Snowy Egret at Wallula, Walla Walla 20 May yielded Washington's first spring record since 2002 (M&MD); Washington has about 46 records, all since 1975. Glossy Ibis continue to spread northwestward across the continent, with 2 at Malheur 30 May (†JG, †OS) providing Oregon's 2nd record, the first coming from Malheur last spring.

Snohomish's first White-tailed Kite was near Snohomish 25 May (DD); this species seems to be slowly expanding its westside range. Three of Washington's wintering Red-shouldered Hawks lingered into spring, with the last seen 27 Mar. Swainson's Hawks were exceptionally rare on the westside prior to 1997, but numbers subsequently increased sharply, now averaging 2–3 per spring. This year, 5

were found in w. Washington and 3 in w. Oregon, 19 Apr–15 May. A Swainson's at Bonanza, Klamath 17 Mar was about a month early (J. VanMoorhem). Rough-legged Hawks remained later than normal, with the last appearing at Rock L., Whitman 5 May (D. Weber) and P.S.B. 6 May (SM, BSW). For the 3rd consecutive spring, a Crested Caracara graced Oregon. One visited Floras L., Curry 22 Mar, a site that has provided two of Oregon's five previous records (R. McKenzie); this, or another caracara, was about 30 km away at Myrtle Point, Coos 21 Apr (R. Brooks). An extraordinary 4 Prairie Merlins (subspecies *richardsoni*) were on the westside from Portland northward, 18 Apr–6 May; this subspecies may prove annual in small numbers on the westside, perhaps occurring more as a migrant than winter resident. An unremarkable 6 Gyrfalcons were found through 18 Mar, all but one in Washington. A Yellow Rail at Ridgefield 6 May would provide Washington's 3rd record, if accepted by the B.R.C. (†E. Scattergia, C. Hinkle, A. Hinkle); notably, Yellow Rails arrive at their s. Oregon breeding grounds in late Apr/early May.

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Sixteen Black-bellied Plovers were tallied from five e. Washington sites, where not annual during spring, 3 May+; the maximum was 8 at Wilson Creek, Grant 18–20 May (TL). Crook's first American Golden-Plover visited Powell Butte 19 May, providing only the 4th eastside record of a northbound bird (CG); single Americans at Brady, Grays Harbor 26 Apr (TA) and Sauvie I. 12 May (JW) represented a typical spring for the westside. The Skagit Pacific Golden-Plover was last seen 11 Mar (GB); otherwise this spring was unremarkable for Pacifics, with 5 on the westside, 21 Apr–13 May. Two other golden-plovers remained unidentified. The P.T.'s 4th Snowy Plover adorned P.S.B. 30 May (R. Fuller). Black-necked Stilts are now firmly entrenched as a W.V. breeder; pairs were noted at seven or more sites, with nesting evidence from at least four. The greatest concentration was at F.R.R., with 28 birds recorded from late Apr+ (D. Farar). Western Washington had a goodly 6 stilts, 29 Apr–9 May. Five westside American Avocets 25 Apr+ was about average.

**SA** White-faced Ibis irrupted Regionwide for the first time since 2001, with 77 in Washington and 63+ in w. Oregon. Washington's maxima were 44 at Columbia N.W.R., Grant 1 May (RH) and 21 at Ridgefield 19 May (D. Hayden), while w. Oregon's high count was 40 at F.R.R. 28 Apr (P. Sherrell). The northernmost bird visited Ferndale, Whatcom 24–26 May (J. Bird), and 18 at New R., Coos 14 May furnished the only outer coast sighting (TR). This irruption occurred in conjunction with drought in the species' breeding range, as have past incursions (Tweit and Flores, 2006. *Washington Birds*). Interestingly, this spring's invasion began a week or two earlier than usual, and virtually all birds had departed by May's end.

Thirty westside and 6 eastside Solitary Sandpipers, mostly 17 Apr–5 May, was unremarkable; the maximum was 5 near Banks, Washington 5 May (GG). A Willet at Kennedy Cr., Mason, found 12 Aug 2006, remained until 7 Apr (J. Buchanan); this species is not annual in the P.T. Fourteen Whimbrels near Merrill, Klamath 12 May was among the highest spring tallies ever for the eastside (DI, KS), while a lone Whimbrel graced Creston, Lincoln 25 May (K. Knittle, MB, M. Houston). A superb 9 Long-billed Curlews visited the W.V./P.T., where rare, 7 Apr–20 May. Thirty Marbled Godwits at Dungeness Bay, Clallam 26 Apr (BN) yielded an excellent count for the P.T., while 2 others inhabited Marchs Pt., Skagit 20–23 Apr (P. Webster, RM); this species is not annual during spring in the P.T./W.V. Four Marbleds in e. Washington 3–25 May was twice the norm. Five Red Knots at Dungeness Bay 20 May were in the P.T., where not annual during spring (SM, BSW). A Sanderling, not annual during spring on the eastside, adorned Soap L., Grant 25 May (MB). Five Semipalmated Sandpipers, 9–19 May, was near normal. A congregation of 800 Least Sandpipers at Klipsan Beach, Pacific 16 Mar (MP) was unusual for such an early date and well exceeded the Washington winter record of 300. Ten Baird's Sandpipers, mostly 1–11 May, was about twice the long-term norm but typical of recent years. Four Pectoral Sandpipers, 17–24 May, was also about average. A Ruff graced the Region for the 3rd consecutive spring, with one at Ridgefield 21–23 May (BF). A Short-billed Dowitcher, not annual on the eastside, enlivened Little Houston L., Crook 19 May (CG). The westside's first *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitcher brightened P.S.B. 17 May (SM); the two antecedent Regional records are both from e. Washington (Paulson 1993; *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*). A Wilson's Phalarope at Richland 2 Apr was about three weeks early (B. Clarke). In w. Washington, Wilson's were unusually numerous, highlighted by 28 at P.S.B. 28 May (SM); in w. Oregon, two nests at Finley 18 May provided *Benton's* first breeding record and added to a growing list of W.V. breeding sites (R. P. Moore).

South Polar Skuas arrived early again, with lone ads. off Coos Bay 16 May (BT) and Westport 19 May (B. LaBar) furnishing the first May records since 2004; most spring/early summer skua records have been of ads. Otherwise, jaegers were not numerous, with about 12 Pomarines, 41 Parasitics, and 31 Long-tailed Jaegers reported offshore. All but one of the Long-taileds were at the Continental Shelf edge off s. Oregon 3 May (JG). In the P.T., where not annual during spring, a Parasitic



A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker appeared in Shoreline, King County, Washington 23–27 (here 26) April 2007, providing about the seventh Washington record. Spring vagrant Yellow-bellieds are quite rare along the Pacific coast, where two to three are found annually, almost entirely from October through March, and peaking in November/December. Photograph by Ryan J. Merrill.

visited Dungeness Bay, Clallam 20 May (BSW, SM). Spring Franklin's Gulls are not quite annual on the westside and average about 5 per year in e. Washington. This spring, stray Franklin's included 2 at Reardan, Lincoln, WA 12 May (TL) and singles at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, OR 17 May (D. Rymal), FR.R. 23 May (R. Robb), and Ft. Canby, Pacific 31 May (TG). A Little Gull passed P.N.P. 1 May (VN); this species is not quite annual during spring, and nearly all recent sightings are from P.N.P. Two Heermann's Gulls at Port Angeles to 16 Mar were holdovers from winter (BN, J. Mullaly); Washington's first spring sightings are usually during early or mid-May. Washington's 2nd Black-tailed Gull materialized among a small group of Ring-billed Gulls in farmland near Corfu, Grant 12 May (RH); this species' pattern of occurrence in North America remains utterly enigmatic. A Lesser Black-backed Gull inhabited Moses L., Grant 18–23 Mar (DS, ph. RM); this is probably the same bird that furnished Washington's 6th record at Moses L. in Mar 2006. An astounding 32 Glaucous Gulls, all but 3 on the westside, was more than quadruple normal. Maxima included 8 near Brady, Grays Harbor 11 Mar (CW) and 8 in Clatsop 26 Mar (JG, S. Finnegan, B. Stites). Most had left by 10 Apr, but an exceptionally late bird lingered at Yaquina Bay through 25 May (RH, CA, W. Hoffman).

A Least Tern on N.S.C.B. 30 May provided the Oregon 8th record (DL, KC); about half of the Region's records are from late May/early Jun. Caspian Terns arrived early again. One at the W.W.R.D. 17 Mar was but two days shy of the e. Washington record early. date (M&MD), while one at Bandon, Coos 10 Mar

was about two weeks early for the westside (R. Namitz). Black Terns returned to their sole consistent westside nesting location, FR.R., 30 Apr (D. Schrouder); elsewhere on the westside, 6 in the W.V. from Baskett Slough to Ridgefield, 12–26 May, was near normal. Western Washington's 8th and 9th spring Forster's Terns enlivened Post Office L., Clark and Vancouver L., Clark 26 May (BF, JW, SM). In w. Oregon, where nearly annual during spring, 3 graced Lebanon, Linn 12 May (J. Harding). Marbled Murrelets remained exceptionally numerous in Admiralty Inlet this spring, highlighted by 500 off Pt. Wilson, Jefferson 22 Apr (SM, BSW). Further circumstantial evidence of Ancient Murrelets breeding on the Olympic Pen. was provided by 52 between La Push and Cape Alava 31 May (RM). Parakeet Auklets appeared again in stunning numbers, though not quite matching last spring's 60: Washington had 3 off Grays Harbor and 20 off Clallam/Jefferson, all between 20 and 50 km from shore during the first half of May (SMi), and Oregon had 5 off Lincoln and 2 off Clatsop 9–11 May (SMi).

A decade ago, Band-tailed Pigeons were considered vagrants to the eastside, but recently numbers have been found in e. Klickitat, and 40 at Snoqualmie Pass 23 May suggests that this species is a normal part of e. Kittitas's avifauna (TA); a Band-tailed at Klamath Falls 16 Apr was the only other eastside report (J. Van Moorhem). White-winged Doves at Canby, Clackamas 7 Mar (*vide* HN) and Cape Blanco 17–18 May (TJW) added to 11 prior Oregon records; there have now been eight Oregon records since 2000. Eurasian Collared-Doves are now so numerous in e.

**SA** During Mar, beached bird surveys detected a dramatic die-off among some larger alcids. Most affected were Rhinoceros Auklets, Horned Puffins, and Tufted Puffins. Starting in late Feb, informal tideline searches from Coos through Clatsop found carcasses of Horned Puffins and Rhinoceros Auklets on nearly all beaches surveyed. This die-off reached its apex around 22 Mar, when 286 Rhinoceros Auklets, 97 Horned Puffins, and 18 Tufted Puffins were found on Clatsop beaches (MP, DB). The sole Mar pelagic trip, off Newport 25 Mar, encountered nearly 500 Rhinoceros Auklets and an Oregon-record 7 live Horned Puffins, though several appeared to be ailing (GG). Six more live Horned Puffins were seen from land in Oregon 4 Mar–1 Apr, and one passed Cape Flattery 3 Apr (CW). Two to 3 Horned Puffins, living and dead, are found in Oregon during a typical year, and this species is not annual in Washington.

This year's event seemed similar to last year's in that there were large numbers of live Parakeet Auklets offshore and dead Rhinoceros Auklets onshore. This year's occurrence was even more extensive, however, involving Horned and Tufted Puffins, plus a few Thick-billed Murres and Mottled Petrels. Furthermore, one wonders if this winter's incursion of Thick-billed Murres into the P.T. was related. These events seem related to the oceanic arrhythmia, but why certain species suffered and why the mortality seemed limited largely to Oregon remains mysterious.

Washington that many observers have stopped reporting them. Most "new arrivals" were found late Apr–late May. Collared-doves appeared at a record six locations in w. Washington, where still rare, including 2 on the Olympic Pen. at the Region's nw. tip. We prognosticate that the Region will be fully colonized within a decade.

This spring's Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Fields 20 May (D. Robberson); virtually all recent Regional records are from se. Oregon 28 May–15 Jun. Amazingly, a Flammulated Owl in Ritzville, Adams 14 May furnished Washington's first spring record away from breeding habitat (B. Lyle). A few Snowy Owls lingered from last winter's "echo invasion," including one at Peone Prairie, Spokane 28 Apr that was about a month late (H. Ferguson, C. McCormack). A Northern Hawk Owl brightened Driveway Butte (elevation ~ 1600 m), Okanogan 29 May (†T. Paprocki); one wonders if this species occasionally breeds in the state. A Great Gray Owl, not annual in w. Washington, was on Geumes I., Skagit 12 Mar (W. McDougal). The status of Long-eared Owl on the westside is poorly understood, but most records are from Nov–Mar, so one in Kent, King 22 May was unexpected (RM).

Unprecedented numbers of Black Swifts passed along the Coos coast 16–23 May, with an Oregon record 248 along the New R. 16 May and 211 there 22 May (TR). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at Wapato, Yakima 15 Apr was two weeks early (AS), while singles at Mt. Pleasant, Skamania 21 Apr (WC) and Lorane, Lane 30 Apr (fide T. Mickel) yielded rare westside records. Oregon's Costa's Hummingbird for the spring visited Veneta, Lane 4 May (fide T. Mickel). A Calliope Hummingbird at College Place, Walla Walla 8 Apr was also two weeks early (M&MD). On the westside, Calliope appeared in record numbers, with 5 in Washington, 15 Apr–8 May and approximately 30 in Oregon, 15 Apr–6 May. A stunning 129 Rufous Hummingbirds were banded at two houses on cen. Whidbey I. 14 May (M. Myers). A Lewis's Woodpecker, not annual in w. Washington during spring, visited P.N.P. 12 May (BSW, VN). An Acorn Woodpecker at Oakville, Grays Harbor 12–16 May was about

the 5th for w. Washington (ph. P&RS); after approximately 15 years of being restricted to a small portion of Klickitat, Acorn Woodpeckers have, since 2005, popped up at seemingly random locations statewide. Rare w. of the Cascades, an exceptional 7 Red-naped Sapsuckers were detected 1 Mar–27 Apr, including one on the outer coast, where very rare, at Astoria 10 Apr (TG). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Shoreline, King 23–27 Apr was approximately Washington's 7th and the latest by five weeks (C. Turner).

## PASSERINES

A Western Wood-Pewee at Toppenish, Yakima 26 Apr was about ten days early and was e. Washington's earliest ever (RH). This spring's Least Flycatchers included an early bird at Coppei Cr., Walla Walla 19 May (M&MD), plus singles at Upper Klamath L. 28 May (KS, D. Heyerly, M. A. Heyerly) and Fields 28 May (AC). A Gray Flycatcher at Steigerwald L., Clark 6–14 May provided w. Washington's 7th record, all but one of which have been during May (†WC). In the W.V., Gray Flycatchers are annual during spring, but 4 during 1–4 May was supranormal. Dusky Flycatchers, not annual in w. Washington, were noted at Kirkland, King 2 May (†RM, N. Bonomo) and in Skagit near Nehalem 5 May (GB, H. Armstrong); most lowland w. Washington records are from mid-May. This species is more regular in w. Oregon, but 10 there 24 Apr+ was exceptional, and one at Astoria 22 Apr was on the outer coast, where very rare (MP). For the 7th consecutive year, a Black Phoebe appeared in Washington, with one on Puget I., Wahkiakum 18 Mar furnishing the state's 11th record (†BT, R. Shaw). An unprecedented 11 Say's Phoebes were in w. Washington, 5 Mar–6 Apr, while 10 in w. Oregon was about average. Singleton Scissor-tailed Flycatchers adorned Fields 20 May (D. Robberson) and Malheur 21–26 May (DS); this species is now annual in Oregon.

Three westside Loggerhead Shrikes, 25 Mar–12 May, was fairly typical. Single Plumbeous Vireos inhabited Malheur 19 (OS, †DS) & 24–26 May (TR, DI), representing an average spring; in our Region, this species oc-

curs almost exclusively in se. Oregon mid-May–mid-Jun. A Warbling Vireo in Corvallis 6 Apr was at least two weeks early (WDR). A Blue Jay remained on Fidalgo I., Skagit through Apr (M. Smith, R. Hamerly), while 5 appeared in e. Washington 5–15 May—not an unusual spring for this species. Western Scrub-Jays were found n. to P.N.P. (VN, BSW) and e. to Prosser, Benton (NL, BL). A group of 6–10 Bank Swallows were at a potential nest site along the Columbia R. near St. Helens 12 May (JW), while Clallam's first Bank Swallow visited Dungeness Bay 20 May (SM, BSW) and Kitsap's first passed P.N.P. 25 May (BSW, VN), all likely evidence of continuing westside range expansion. Two Chestnut-backed Chickadees in Yakima 18 Mar were e. of their normal range, where not annual (R. Repp). The only lowland Mountain Chickadees brightened Sherwood, Washington 8 Mar (D. Robberson) and Redmond, King 12 Mar (P. Cozens). Two Juniper Titmice occupied Langell Valley in e. Klamath 27 Apr (KS); local efforts at distinguishing Juniper from Oak Titmice suggest the former may occur farther w. than previously appreciated.

Lone Rock Wrens appeared at Tarboo Bay, Jefferson 11 May (F. Krause), Bullard's Beach, Coos 12 May (K. Tran), Corvallis 15 May (J. Geier), and near Florence, Lane 13 May (B. Combs). Traditionally, this species has been considered very rare in the P.T./W.V. and extremely rare farther w., but sightings across the westside have been increasing. Several Varied Thrushes dawdled on the eastside lowlands, the last of which was about three weeks late at Sun Lakes, Grant 6 May (S. Downes). Mountain Bluebirds exploded into the westside lowlands, with 32+ in Washington and 6 in Oregon, 18 Mar–11 May, including an extraordinary 10 on the outer coast at Hobuck Beach, Clallam 2 Apr (CW); the lowland westside averages about 4 per spring. It was also an extraordinary year for Townsend's Solitaires in the westside lowlands, with the award for most bizarre going to a solitary approximately 60 km off Westport 15 May (BT). Two solitaires at Corvallis 22 May were about three weeks tardy (T. Snetsinger). Single Gray Catbirds visited Malheur 27 May (Paul Sullivan)



and Roaring Springs Ranch, *Harney* 31 May (RH); migrant catbirds are rare in e. Oregon and typically found in late May. Six Northern Mockingbirds in Oregon was somewhat subpar, but 6 in Washington was above average. Peak occurrence was 1-16 May; surprisingly, none were on the eastside. Sage Thrashers seem to have become rare-but-annual spring vagrants to the westside, evidenced by one at Westport 29 Apr (B. Bell, R. Lawson) and 2 at Marymoor Park, *King* 3 May (M. Hobbs). The Eugene Brown Thrasher remained until 21 Mar (D. Turner). Rather unexpected was a Bohemian Waxwing at N. Baldy (elevation about 1800 m), *Pend Oreille* 25 May, two months after the last migrants have typically departed (TL); there are a few nesting records from similar habitat in the n. Cascades.

A Tennessee Warbler visited Milwaukie, *Clackamas* 20 May (J. Allinger); though annual during northbound migration, most records are from se. Oregon 20 May-15 Jun. Single Northern Parulas enlivened Malheur 13 May (D. Evered) and Fields 28 May (AC); the Region averages about one per spring, usually at the se. Oregon oases. This spring's Chestnut-sided Warbler was near Lakeview, *Lake* 29 May (J. Harding). Three different Magnolia Warblers visited Malheur 17-28 May (OS, M&MD), roughly thrice the spring norm for Oregon. Oregon's 11th Black-throated Green Warbler graced Finley 25 Apr (WDR); this record is extremely early for anywhere in the West—even in California, most spring vagrants are found mid-May-mid-Jun (Dunn and Garrett 1997; *Warblers*). Salem's wintering Hermit Warbler disappeared after 10 Mar (J. Vincent). The wintering Palm Warbler at Renton, *King* remained until 27 Mar (L. Rutter), while migrants were near Sequim, *Clallam* 1-3 Apr (S. Atkinson, CW) and at Cape Blanco 4 May (TJW); this species is rare away from the outer coast, and northbound migrants are not found annually. The Region's first northbound Blackpoll Warbler since 2003 visited Malheur 27 May (D. Hale). A Black-and-white Warbler enlivened Windust Park, *Franklin* 27 May (CW); Washington averages about one per year, with records widely scattered throughout the seasons. Oregon had a subpar 2 Black-and-whites, with singles at Portland 5 May (J. Leaptrott) and Frenchglen, *Harney* 27 May (AC). A Worm-eating Warbler at Malheur 15 May would provide Oregon's 3rd record if accepted by the B.R.C. (D. Evered). A Northern Waterthrush, extremely rare during spring in w. Washington, graced Rattlesnake L., *King* 30

May (*vide* M. Donahue). The recolonization of w. Washington by Yellow-breasted Chats seemed to accelerate suddenly, with 11+ birds, including 6+ at Ridgefield/Shillapoo Bottoms 26 May+ (SM, BF, JE). The Summer Tanager wintering at Alvadore, *Lane* remained through 5 Apr (J. & G. Jacobson), while a Summer Tanager at Malheur 27 May (m.ob.) was about the 19th for the state, most of which have occurred mid-May-mid-Jun. A Regional record 450 Western Tanagers streamed over P.N.P. 9 May (VN, BSW).

An American Tree Sparrow at Marymoor Park, *King* 12 Apr was record late for w. Washington (M. Hobbs), while one at Port Orford, *Curry* 14-18 Mar was in sw. Oregon, where not annual (L. Miller). A wintering Clay-colored Sparrow remained at N. Bend,



Tricolored Blackbirds continue to expand their range in eastern Washington. In early May 2007, up to 22 descended on a feeder in College Place, Walla Walla County (one male, photographed on 3 May, shown here). Tricolored Blackbirds were first recorded in Walla Walla County in November 2004. Photograph by MerryLynn Denny.

Coos through 26 Mar (B. Griffin), whereas one at Steptoe Butte, *Whitman* 29 May+ was at a location where one summered last year (M. Woodruff). Another Clay-colored at Bennington L., *Walla Walla* 15 May was in e. Washington, where nearly annual as a spring migrant (M&MD), but one at N.S.C.B. 29 May may have been the first spring migrant ever detected in w. Oregon (DL, KC). Single Brewer's Sparrows at Redmond, *King* 10 Apr (J. Tubbs) and P.N.P. 25 & 28 May (BSW) added to about 12 w. Washington records; most have been 2 Apr-5 Jun. A superb 6 Vesper Sparrows were found away from their restricted breeding range in w. Washington, 2-28 May; the recent spring average has been about 2. Seven Lark Sparrows at Cape Blanco 10 May (TJW) were on the s. Oregon coast, where annual, but one at Cascade Head, *Tillamook* 19 May was in nw. Oregon, where not annual (PP). A Black-throated Sparrow returned to its traditional breeding location near Vantage, *Kittitas* 31 May (TA), and 2 inhabited a new site near Prosser, *Benton* 20 May (S. Wierenga), hinting that e. Washington might have

another good summer for this scarce species. As often happens when numbers are high on the eastside, several Black-throateds were found on the westside, including 3 in Oregon 8-22 May and 2 in Washington 13-27 May. Western Washington's 7th Sage Sparrow enlivened Marymoor Park, *King* 29 Mar-2 Apr (M. Flint); five of the antecedent records have been in spring, four in Mar. An apparent *altivagans* Fox Sparrow was at Nisqually, *Thurston* 19-20 Mar (ph. P&RS); this mysterious subspecies and/or hybrid swarm is probably a scarce migrant in our Region. A Red Fox Sparrow (subspecies group *iliaca*), annual in the Region, visited Bellingham 9-11 Apr (G. Heleker, ph. MB). Most wintering Swamp Sparrows seem to have departed by mid-Mar. Migrants are not annual and are found mostly on the westside, mid-Mar-mid-Apr. This spring, 4 apparent northbound birds appeared on the westside, the latest of which inhabited Finley 28 Apr, furnishing Oregon's 4th latest record (WDR). Even rarer on the eastside, northbound Swamp Sparrows visited Crow Butte, *Benton* 15 Mar (DR) and W. Richland 30 Mar-1 Apr (NL). A goodly 6 Harris's Sparrows were found through 6 May. Golden-crowned Sparrows tarried throughout the Region; Oregon's latest was at Bend 28 May (RH), and Washington's were in Jun. A Washington-record 3000+ White-crowned Sparrows filled fields near Quincy, *Grant*

22 Apr (DS). Single Golden-crowned Sparrow × White-crowned Sparrow hybrids graced Seattle 22 Apr (†A. Grenon) and Portland 25 Apr (ph. S. Finnegan). A Slate-colored Junco (subspecies *hyemalis*) at Skagit W.M.A. 11 May was record late for Washington (TA). Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 3 in Oregon and 2 in Washington, 21 May+, was about half the norm. A Lazuli Bunting in Yakima 11 Apr was Washington's earliest for spring since 1913 (*vide* DG); the first usually appear around 1 May. An Indigo Bunting visited the same Mukilteo, *Snohomish* feeder that harbored one last winter/spring but was noted this year only 24-26 Apr (I. Beegle, DD); Washington has about 19 records. Annual in Oregon during spring, an Indigo Bunting visited Paulina, *Crook* 19 May (CG).

Tricolored Blackbirds continued to cement their footholds in Washington. At Wilson Cr., *Grant*, a maximum of 48 was tallied 14 Apr (E. Kane), while 50 inhabited Othello, *Adams* 18 Apr (BT). Tricoloreds were also noted near Texas L., *Whitman* in mid-Apr, where they have bred previously (D. Weber), and up to

22 visited a feeder in College Place, Walla Walla throughout early May (M&MD). Just s. in Oregon, a new colony of 250 ads. was discovered near Umapine, *Umatilla* 20 May (MD). A Rusty Blackbird near Othello 28 Mar furnished the Region's first spring record since 2004 (AS); most Rusties are found mid-Oct–late Jan. Washington's 14th Common Grackle, and first since Jan 2003, was near Sequim, *Clallam* 22-30 Apr (ph. SM, vt. BSW); most of Washington's records have been Mar–Jul, and this was only w. Washington's 4th. Now annual during spring in Oregon, single Common Grackles inhabited Malheur 12 May and Fields 16 May (S. Dowlan). Washington's 4th Great-tailed Grackle returned for its 5th consecutive year to Liberty L., *Spokane* 13-30 Apr (R. Dexter). Great-tailed Grackles arrived in Oregon during the 1980s, occurring almost entirely in the se. portion of the state. Times are a-changing, and 6 of this spring's 9 Oregon Great-taileds were on the westside, almost all during May. Washington's 8th Hooded Oriole returned to Seattle 12 Apr–23 May (C. Conolly). A Baltimore Oriole, now a nearly annual northbound migrant in Oregon, inhabited Malheur 25 May+ (D. Herr). Astoria's wintering Bullock's Oriole lasted until 9 Mar (MP). Exceptionally early were Bullock's at Longview, *Cowlitz* 27 Mar (M. Green) and near Moxee, *Yakima* 7 Apr (*fide* DG); the first usually arrive late Apr/early May. Additionally, Bullock's

Orioles seem to be increasing throughout w. Washington, highlighted by a w. Washington record 31 at Ridgefield/Shillapoo Bottoms, *Clark* 26 May (SM, BF, JW). Washington's 2nd Scott's Oriole was near Selah, *Yakima* 12-17 Apr (†S. Hall); the first was in sw. Washington, Feb–Apr 1980!

Five wintering Pine Grosbeaks lingered in the Oregon Cascades at Todd L., *Deschutes* through 17 Mar (S. Dougill), and one remained in Portland until 15 Mar (W. Gross); amazingly, Oregon Pine Grosbeak breeding records are very few, and are all from the Wallowa and Blue Mts. A Pine Grosbeak in Edmonds, *Snohomish* 30 Apr was a goodly month late for the westside lowlands (DD). Red Crossbills, following the pattern of recent years, burst across the Region in late May/early Jun, with a high count of 600 at Cascade Head, *Lincoln* 28 May (PP); additionally, singles appeared in the Columbia Basin, where rare, at Vantage 1 Jun (SM) and Washtucna, *Adams* 3 Jun (G. Sheridan). Lesser Goldfinches again flung themselves across Washington, a sign of continuing range expansion, with singles at Battle Ground, *Clark* 7 Apr (J. Danzenbaker), P.N.P. 9 May (VN, BSW), and Walla Walla 19 May (G. & R. Shoemaker); indeed, Lessers have probably re-established themselves in *Clark*, where extirpated in 1991, and the *Walla Walla* bird was that county's 4th, all in the past three years.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Cindy Ashy, Tom Aversa (Washington), David Bailey, Range Bayer (*Lincoln*), Gary Bletsch, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder (*Spokane*), Cameron Cox, Mike & MerryLynn Denny (M&MD), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (*Clark*), Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (*Crook*), Roy Gerig (*Polk, Marion*), Jeff Gilligan, Denny Granstrand (*Yakima*), Troy Guy, Randy Hill, Rich Hoyer (RH), Stuart Johnston (*Klickitat*), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Terry Little, Ryan Merrill, Tom Mickel (*Lane*), Craig & Marilyn Miller (*Deschutes, Jefferson*), Scott Mills (SMi), Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Clarence and Marilyn O'Leary (*Grant*), Michael Patterson (*Clatsop*), W. Doug Robinson (*Benton, Linn, Marion*), Tim Rodenkirk (*Coos, Curry*), Owen Schmidt, Doug Schonewald, Kevin Spencer (*Klamath*), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick & Ruth Sullivan (P&RS), Dennis Vroman (*Josephine*), Brad Waggoner (BSW), Terry J. Wahl, Jay Withgott, Charlie Wright. ☺

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## Northern California

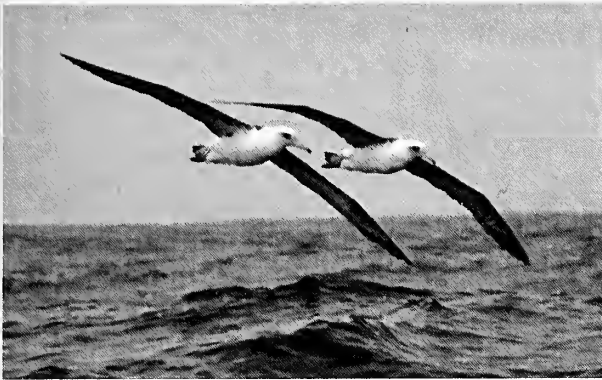


**Scott B. Terrill**  
(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)  
**Michael M. Rogers**  
(Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds)  
**Steven A. Glover**  
(Doves to Wrentit)  
**Ed Pandolfino**  
(Thrashers to Finches)

This spring offered an interesting mix of unusual birds. There was a nearly unprecedented influx of nearshore Horned Puffins in the Region. This species occurs far offshore in winter, but it is unclear why so many individuals wandered into in-shore waters this year. Most dead birds examined were emaciated, indicating a lack of food. The only other period with similar numbers of Horned Puffins was May–June 1975, when over 200 were recorded in the state. There were also late Ancient Murrelets

and, just after the end of the season in June, there were very unusual reports of Thick-billed Murres and Parakeet Auklets. It is tempting to speculate that the incursions of these four alcids, all Alaskan breeders, in spring and early summer were related.

Unusual numbers of desert and Great Basin breeding sparrows (Brewer's and Black-throated) were noted north and west of their normal range. In addition, Black-chinned Sparrows showed up north and west of more typical breeding locations. Much of the desert southwest and the high desert of the Great Basin experienced a severe drought this winter and spring. Much of these areas supported virtually no primary productivity, and breeding birds were essentially absent. During such years, it is likely that migrant species such as the sparrows continue to move in an effort to locate more favorable breeding conditions. Noteworthy vagrants included the rare-in-spring



Three Laysan Albatrosses were seen together 16 kilometers west of the Eel River mouth in Humboldt County, California on 6 April 2007. Laysan are rare in the county, and most records are of single birds. Only 23% of Humboldt County observations have come from the spring and summer seasons, and there are only six reports of multiple (2-4) birds together. Photograph by Kerry Ross.

Red-throated Pipits and our most southerly record for Common Redpoll.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (Big Sur Ornithology Lab); C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.C.F.S. (Coyote Creek Field Station, *Santa Clara*); C.R.P. (Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.V. (Central Valley); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward Regional Shoreline, *Alameda*); O.S.P. (Open Space Preserve), P.R.B.O. (Pt. Reyes B.O.); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest); 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.

## WATERFOWL

An ad. Fulvous Whistling-Duck was seen again at the "Dead Pig Ponds" n. of Angiola, *Tulare* 2 Apr (SDS). An ad. Emperor Goose was found at the n. jetty of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 2 Mar (†Steve Gellman). A count of 8 blue-morph Ross's Geese tallied at the Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 21 Mar (PJM) doubled the previous high count in our notebooks. Brant were well reported this spring; birds slightly inland included one at Huichica Creek W.A., *Napa* 7 Apr (MBe), one at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* through 23 May (RSTh et al.), and at least one continuing in *Santa Clara* at Sunnyvale, Mountain View, and Palo Alto through 6 May (m.ob.). More surprising was a Brant far inland at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 27 Apr (Bob Chase). Aleutian Cackling Geese lingered at Shoreline Park in Mountain View, *Santa Clara* through 4 May (MMR) and at El

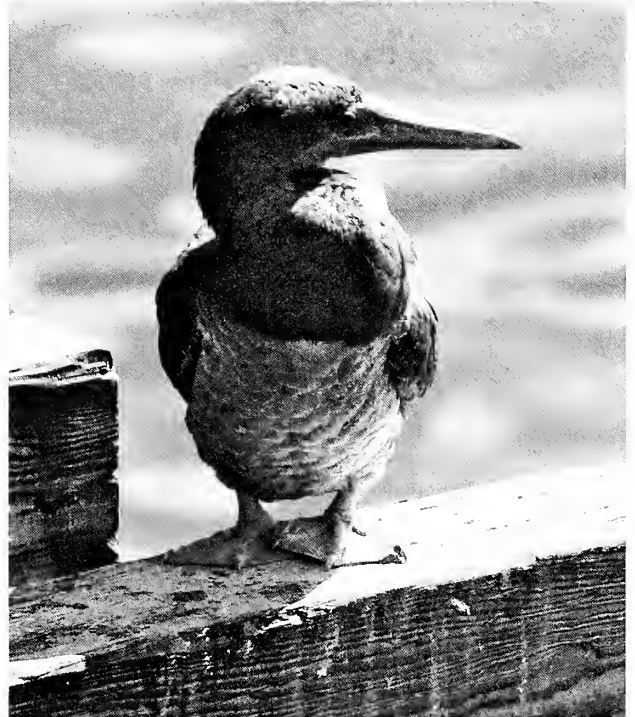
Estero, *Monterey, Monterey* through 3 Jun (AB, BTM, m.ob.). Two male Eurasian Wigeons at the mouth of Jacoby Cr., *Humboldt* 12 May (JTz) were likewise late. Fourteen Blue-winged Teal at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 4 Mar (RSTh) were the most ever for that location. Seven Eurasian Teal from four counties included a rather late bird in Novato, *Marin* 21 Apr (Harrison Karr). Late Ring-necked Ducks included a pair at Monte Bello O.S.P., *Santa Clara* through 19 May (GrH) and a male in Walnut Creek, *Contra Costa* 25 May (Hugh Harvey). Male Tufted Ducks were in Benicia, *Solano* 28 Mar (EPI) and at L. Merritt, *Alameda* through 2 Apr (Marilyn Trabert,

Debbie Viess). Besides the usual lingering birds in *Mendocino* and *Monterey*, May Harlequin Ducks included a male near Chimney Rock, outer Pt. Reyes N.S., *Marin* 1 May (Bob Power) and a female at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 18 May (RSTh). A male Surf Scoter far inland at Bridgeport, *Mono* 15 Apr (FrO) was particularly unexpected in spring. Five Long-tailed Ducks were reported through 1 Apr (m.ob.), and a lingering male was seen at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* 18 May (ph. Shannon Lyday, *fide* RS). On the heels of last season's bird, another Bufflehead × goldeneye hybrid was at the Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* 7-9 Apr (†RE, ph. Mike McVay). A female Hooded Merganser brooding eggs in a Wood Duck box 18 km w. of Gridley, *Butte* 18 Mar (Bill Wade) was from a location where breeding has occurred since 1996. Common Mergansers away from inland breeding areas included 2 at H.R.S. 4 Mar (RJR), one at Golden Gate Park, *S.F.* 22 Mar–20 Apr (Martha Wessitsh, m.ob.), and a female with 9 small young at the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 27 May+ (BHL, ph. BTM). Inland Red-breasted Mergansers included a continuing female at Kutrass L., *Redding, Shasta* through 12 Mar (RBr, B&CY)

and the 5th spring record for *Lake* at Clear L. 11 Mar (FHa).

## LOONS THROUGH BOOBIES

The only inland Pacific Loon reported was at L. Berryessa, *Napa* 1 Mar (EP, FRo). "Al," the infamous Laysan Albatross that has spent the past 14 winters at Pt. Arena Cove, *Mendocino*, was last noted 16 Mar (GS, Jeanne Jackson, m.ob.). Offshore Laysans were off *Humboldt* 6 Apr (3 birds; KGR) and off *Monterey* 9 (Brent Williamson, *fide* RgW) & 24 Apr (Greg Frankfurter). An imm. Short-tailed Albatross was 15 km w. of Cypress Pt., *Monterey* 22 Apr (Matt Sadowski, ph. DR, ph. m.ob.). Over a century ago, this species was fairly common in coastal inshore waters of the Region, but it nearly went extinct during the last century. Due to intensive conservation efforts, it has been making a comeback and has been reported nearly annually in the Region since the late 1990s. Relatively scarce in spring, a



This long-staying Brown Booby was enjoyed by many birders at the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz, California, photographed here on 27 March 2007. Photograph by Jeff Poklen.

Flesh-footed Shearwater was on *Monterey Bay, Monterey* 13 Apr (RgW, RT). The latest Short-tailed Shearwater reported was on *Monterey Bay, Monterey* 17 Mar (RgW, RT). A nearshore Manx Shearwater was seen from Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 15 Apr (BLS). Single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels reported from *Monterey Bay, Monterey* 15, 18, 20, & 23 May (RT, SHJ) were the only ones reported. Brown Boobies continue to invade the Region, with one to 2



Crested Caracaras continue to appear in California. This individual was photographed near Ferndale, at the Eel River Bottoms, on 26 March 2007. Photograph by Kerry Ross.

at Ft. 3 Mar–9 Apr (P.R.B.O., *vide* Russ Bradley) and one to 3 in Monterey Bay in Monterey and Santa Cruz Mar–Apr (m.ob.).

## HERONS THROUGH CRANES

An American Bittern at L. Merced, first found 29 Jan (BFi), remained through 11 Mar (Dorothy Reinhardt) for one of few S.F. records. Least Bitterns were reported from Sutter N.W.R., Sutter 4 May (SAG, LWC) and Alpaugh, Tulare 25 May (SDS). Little Blue Herons were at Antioch 26 Apr (4th *Contra Costa* record; Greg Scyphers) and Yolo Bypass W.A., Yolo 1 May (imm.; FS). Small numbers of Cattle Egrets were found in coastal areas through the period (m.ob.). Many pairs near Dixon 10 Apr (GoM) provided Solano's first nesting record, and 4 at Mono L. 29 May (GWP) provided a record count for Mono. Coastal White-faced Ibis 26 Mar–29 May included flocks of up to 60 birds in s. S.F. Bay 6–9 May (m.ob.).

Two pairs of California Condors in the Ventana Wilderness, Monterey hatched single chicks in late Apr–early May (*vide* DR). Ospreys 3 km e. of Dillard provided the first nest record for Sacramento (Dan Kopp, CCo). Nesting Bald Eagles were reported near Van Arsdale Dam, Potter Valley 6 May (Mendocino's first confirmed nesting; *vide* CEV), at Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sonoma (*vide* Stan Moore), at Davis Creek Res., Yolo 9 May (JMHu), at Calaveras Res. 17 Mar+ (*Santa Clara*'s 2nd confirmed nesting; Linda Kincaid, m.ob.), and at three locations in Monterey (*vide* Sal Lucido). A Northern Goshawk over Rayhouse Rd., Yolo 26 Apr (JMHu) was late

for a migrant. The Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sonoma Common Black-Hawk was seen again 20 Mar+ (Stan Moore), although the local landowner claimed it never left this winter. The only Broad-winged Hawk reported was one over the Marin Headlands, Marin 6 May (Tim Behr). Swainson's Hawks near the coast included one at Tres Pinos, San Benito 23 Mar (CKI), 4 at Ed Levin C.P., Santa Clara 23 Mar–26 Apr (MMR et al.), 2 in Monterey, near Castroville 16 Apr (†BMMo, Gary Kittleson) and at Salinas 28 Apr (†TAM), near Eureka 30 Apr (8th *Humboldt* record; †lvS), and at Coyote Pt., San Mateo 24 May (RSTh). All 3 Crested Caracaras continued from winter. The Ferndale, *Humboldt* bird was last seen 28 Mar (m.ob.), the ad. bird in coastal n. Monterey was seen through 23 May (m.ob.), and the first-winter Monterey bird was apparently re-found at Moss Landing S.B. 1 Mar (†Jean de Marignac, Robert Lea). Late Merlins included 2 in coastal *Humboldt* 13 May (RbF, JTz, DCo, KGR) and one in Half Moon Bay, San Mateo 15 May (AJ). Peregrine Falcons continue to expand in the Region; a nest with 3 young along the upper North Fork of the American R. 14 Apr+ (DeR) marked the first confirmed breeding record for Placer, whereas a nest in Vallejo 20 Mar+ (JGE, RLCL, Ken Dexter) was Solano's 3rd. In Santa Clara, a pair successfully fledged 2 young from last year's salt pond nest, while a 2nd pair fledged 3 young from a tower only 1500 m away (MMR, FV, MJM, RGJ)! Another pair fledged 3 young from a ledge on the 19th floor of San Jose's City Hall (*vide* MMR), marking the first urban breeding for Santa Clara. A Virginia Rail at Wawona Meadows, Mariposa 10 Mar (EPI) was unseasonal. One of a pair of dancing Sandhill Cranes at Bridgeport 9 Apr, apparently the first Mono spring migrants since the 1950s, remained through the season (JSL, KNN).

## SHOREBIRDS

Two Black-bellied Plovers at the Loyalton S.T.P. 16 Apr (JSL) were the first ever for Sierra. Twelve Pacific Golden-Plovers reported from six counties included 5 from Shollenberger Park, Sonoma 12 Mar–13 Apr (RS, AWG), 3 wintering birds in Fresno and Kings 5 Mar–3 Apr (GaW, David Gaylor, JSy), the 2nd spring record for H.R.S. 8 Apr (RJR), and lingering migrants at Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 5 May (DCo, KGR et al.) and near Collinsville, Solano 10 May (Phil Gulley, RLCL). The

Madera W.T.P. hosted up to 2 Snowy Plovers 27–29 Mar (ph. GaW) and another 7–13 May (GaW) for just the 3rd and 4th records for Madera. Four American Avocets at the Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou (RE) were unexpected. Eighteen northbound Solitary Sandpipers in 12 counties were all one-day wonders within the narrow window 15–30 Apr (m.ob.). A Wandering Tattler at the outer edge of a Mountain View salt pond 7–14 May (ph. Kathleen Henderson) was only the 2nd spring record for Santa Clara, although apparently 2 were there the same time last year as well. A Willet near Williams 7 May (RbF) was perhaps only the 3rd for Colusa. Late Lesser Yellowlegs included the 2nd May record for the n. C.V. near Sutter Buttes, Sutter (SAG, LWC), the 3rd May record for H.R.S. 9 May (RJR), and 3 near Loleta, *Humboldt* 17 May (BS). A count of 4000 Whimbrels near Alpaugh, Tulare 31 Mar (SAL) doubled the maximum in our notebooks; notably the previous high of 2000 s. of Dinuba 27 Apr 1983 (RHG) was also in Tulare. A Siberian Whimbrel (subspecies *variegatus*) flying northward past Pigeon Pt., San Mateo 16 Apr (RSTh) was one of only about a half dozen ever recorded in the Region. Eleven Ruddy Turnstones at San Pablo Bay R.S. 5 May (Laura Look) was the largest group ever for *Contra Costa*. Surveys of the n. shore of Mono L. 29 May turned up 11 Sanderlings (GWP), a high count for Mono, especially in spring. A *Humboldt* Big Day produced the only Semipalmated and Pectoral



Spring 2007 followed an above-average winter for Horned Puffins in Monterey Bay and preceded one of the largest summer invasions of Horned Puffins ever recorded in California. Early signs of the invasion came on 19 May, when four were found in and around Monterey Bay on a pelagic trip, including this bird off Hopkins Marine Station. Photograph by Don Roberson.

Sandpipers reported this season, at Humboldt Bay N.W.R. 30 Apr (TMcK, BS). An ad. Red-necked or Little Stint found nearby the same day (TMcK, BS), too distant to identify to species, was seen again briefly the next day (KGR). The Rock Sandpiper along West Cliff

Dr. in Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* remained through 12 Apr (ph. SGe, Jean Harrison). A Stilt Sandpiper at the Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 22 Mar (PJM) likely wintered and was possibly the same individual found at this location 6 Mar 2006 (PJM, ADeM) and 6-14 Feb 2005 (LCh et al.). Continuing Ruffs lingered through 5 Mar at Sherman I., *Sacramento* (ad; m.ob.) and through 2 Mar in Alviso, *Santa Clara* (FV). A big northward push of Red Phalaropes was noted nearshore, with about 10,000 seen from Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 12 May (MtB, RyT), 8700+ from Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 13 May (RSTh), and 15,600 at Drake's Bay, *Marin* 23 May (RS); the only reports slightly inland were 2 to 4 at Hayward R.S. 27-31 May (RJR) and one in Richmond, *Contra Costa* 28 May-5 Jun (Cathy Bleier et al.).

## JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Jaegers were quite scarce, with only 3 reported: Pomarines were on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 31 Mar (RgW, RT) and off *Humboldt* 6 Apr (KGR), and a Parasitic was at the n. jetty of *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt* 11 Mar (ScC). Rare in the Region, Laughing Gulls were at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 8-10 Mar (Alexander Lamb, SWH, ph. RbF, ScC, GAB) and at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 22 May (†Greg Frankfurter). It was a banner year for Franklin's Gulls, with 99 reported in the Region. The species was well represented throughout the Region, with the largest numbers, as expected, in the northeast. A Mew Gull at Trinity L. 10-17 Mar (JSL, JLx, FrO) was only the 2nd for *Trinity*. A probable Vega Gull was well photographed at Lucchesi Park, *Sonoma* 10 Mar (ph. BLS, ph. EWP, RS, m.ob.). Reports of Vega-type gulls are increasing, and it will be interesting to track the status of this taxon in North America s. of Alaska. Twenty-two Glaucous Gulls were reported, with several reported up to the end of May in *Humboldt*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Monterey*, which is quite late for the Region. The colony of Caspian Terns at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey* is now estimated to contain 500 birds (*vide* RF). An early Elegant Tern was at Zmudowski S.B., *Monterey* 28 Apr (TAm et al.). A Regional record high count of 50+ Black Skimmers was at a Mountain View salt pond in *Santa Clara* 4 Apr (Larry Parmeter). On the late side, an Ancient Murrelet was off *Monterey*, *Monterey* 19 May (TAm, DR), and 2 were off Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* 20 May (RLeV, m.ob.). Horned Puffins made the news in the Region. Over 50 were reported to us, with

many not reported, as a number of birds were found dead on shore. Efforts are being made to compile a total for the Region, but that total will span the summer season as well.

## DOVES THROUGH SOLITAIRE

A Band-tailed Pigeon 6 Mar at Davis, *Yolo* was an unusual find for the C.V. floor (JCS). First county records of Eurasian Colared-Doves were tallied 6 Apr at Nice, *Lake* (JRW) and 12 May at Corning, *Tehama* (nesting pair; *vide* M. Rogner). Observers in numerous counties with previous records noted range expansions and an obvious increase in total numbers. A vagrant White-winged Dove was along the Pajaro R. near Pajaro, *Monterey* 1 May (DLSu). A Snowy Owl at the s. spit of *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt* 26 Mar-1 Apr provided the first county record since 1978 (Carol Wilson, ph. m.ob.). The species has been recorded in *Humboldt* on over 80 occasions, accounting for about two-thirds of all California records (*vide* JTz). Great Gray Owls in *Fresno* near the s. edge of the breeding range were at



Following a good winter for Snowy Owls in California, this bird was on the South Spit of *Humboldt* Bay on 26 March 2007. Photograph by Kerry Ross.

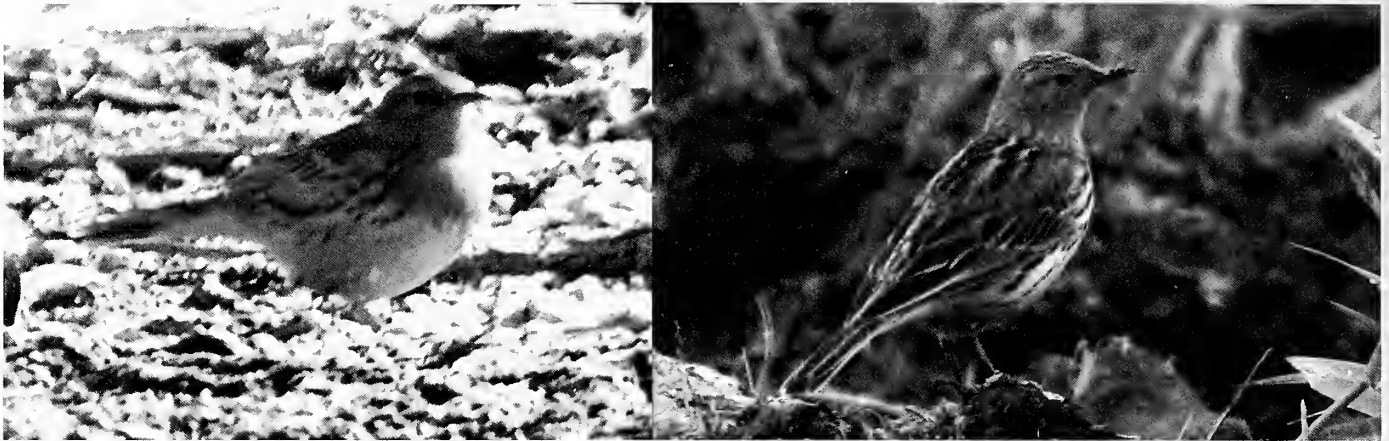
of 68 individuals 4 Mar may represent the largest congregation ever reported in California (BLS). An out-of-place Short-eared Owl at Twin Peaks 17 Apr provided a rare record for mainland S.F. (JsC, HuC, ASH, PSar). Rare C.V. Northern Saw-whet Owls continued through 28 Mar at both Fair Oaks, *Sacramento* (DJo, m.ob.) and Ryer I., *Solano* (4; Raye Hansen). Black Swifts are rarely found in the C.V., so 2 on 4 May at Redding, *Shasta* (JCS, BY, JSL, SAG) and 4 on 14 May at the Fremont Weir, *Yolo* (AEn) were noteworthy. Four Black Swifts flying northward over Wild Horse Ridge 17 May provided the first *Napa* record since 1959 (†MBe). Three White-throated Swifts 31 May at *Trinidad*, *Humboldt* were well n. of any known breeding stations (Melody Hamilton). Calliope Hummingbirds were reported widely and in higher numbers than is typical in the Region's lowlands, 30 Mar-17 May.

Not a single Lewis's Woodpecker was detected in *Madera*, this following a record-setting spring in 2006 in which thousands of birds were present (*vide* JND). A male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Millerton L. 11 Mar provided an overdue first county record for *Madera* (ph. Leonard Williams). Other Yellow-bellieds were at the Presidio, S.F. 3 Mar (JsC) and at Ed Levin C.P., *Santa Clara* through 30 Mar (DvWb, m.ob.). Out-of-place Pileated Woodpeckers, a phenomenon almost unknown just a few years ago, were once again detected this season. A single bird at Pedro Pt. near *Pacifica* 22 Apr (W. Poinot), the 2nd ever found along the outer coast of *San Mateo*, was outdone by 2 at Coyote Pt. 8 May (RSTh, AME), the first ever found in *San Mateo* near the shore of S.F. Bay. An additional bird in the



This Bell's Vireo at Hot Creek, Mono County, California on 28 May 2007 showed characters of the nominate subspecies, such as a greenish back and yellowish underparts. Photograph by John Sterling.

Musick Meadow 19 Apr and Swanson Meadow 3-24 May (Rodney Olson et al.). The Great Gray which has apparently wintered near Camp-tonville, *Yuba* each of the past three winters was present 28 Mar-13 Apr (Jan Evers, m.cb.). Mercy Hot Springs, *Fresno* has been a traditional site for wintering Long-eared Owls, but a count



This May produced the second and third spring records of Red-throated Pipit for California. The bird on the left was photographed at Crowley Lake, Mono County 4 May 2007 and is the first of this species found inland in the state in spring. The other was near Fort Dick, Del Norte County 8-12 (here 12) May and was one of two at this location. Photographs by Debbie House and Ron LeValley, respectively.

Presidio 10 May (B. Corff) provided just the 2nd record for mainland S.F. A Least Flycatcher made a rare spring appearance 8 May at outer Pt. Reyes (RS). A fine year for migrant Gray Flycatchers produced records of at least 15 individuals from the Region's lowlands, including a very early record 6-7 Apr at Vallejo, *Solano* (JCS, JSL). An Eastern Kingbird at Alturas 26 May (SCR) was one of few ever found in summer in *Modoc*, though the species is annual in adjacent *Siskiyou*; another individual was at outer Pt. Reyes 31 May-3 Jun (RS). Northern Shrikes included one at Hayfork, *Trinity* 10-13 Mar (FrO, JSL, JLx) and one in Potter Valley, *Mendocino* 18-25 Mar (ADeM, GEC, Kelly Austin, Phil Austin).

A Bell's Vireo at Long Valley 29 May was the 3rd ever found in *Mono* (JCS). All 3 have been identified as nominate *bellii*. An American Crow at Simis Ranch 18 Apr was a spring rarity for *Mono* (KNN). A Common Raven nest at Upper Bidwell Park, Chico 19 May provided a first nest record for *Butte* (JHS). A pair of nesting Purple Martins near Rocklin 23 May+ (Dan Kopp, m.ob.) furnished the first breeding record for *Placer* since 1909 (*fide* EP)! Fifteen nesting pairs of martins were tallied at Jones Valley, Shasta L., *Shasta* 25 May (Len Lindstrand), a significant tally for a species that is quite local in the Region. A male Mountain Bluebird made a rare coastal appearance at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 6 Mar (P. Couch). Similarly rare Townsend's Solitaires were recorded at Mt. Davidson, S.F. 26 Apr (BFI) and El. 16 May (P.R.B.O., *fide* Russ Bradley).

### THRASHERS THROUGH TANAGERS

The only Gray Catbird report came from Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 30 May (Nick Whelan). Out-of-range Sage Thrashers included *Mendocino's* 4th record in Ft. Bragg 2 May (DAJ); singles were in *Yolo* along Sand Creek Rd. 27 Apr (Sami

LaRocca, Karen Hochgraf), along White Rock Rd. in w. *Mariposa* 4 Mar (JCS, EP), and s. of Elk Grove, *Sacramento* 25 Apr (CCo). A highlight for the Region was a Red-throated Pipit near Crowley L., *Mono* 4 May (†KNN, JLD, ph., †DHo). Two more were near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 8-12 May (Lucas Brugge, ADB et al.).

An otherwise ho-hum warbler season was brightened by a singing male Golden-winged Warbler in Pacific Grove 22 Apr (†Bill & Emmy Reese). If accepted by the C.B.R.C., this will be the first record for *Monterey*. We received only two reports of Tennessee Warblers: one from Vista Grande Canal, S.F. 26 Apr (BFI) and one from Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 31 May (RS). A Lucy's Warbler at Coyote Pt. 29 Apr (†RSTh) provided a rare spring record for *San Mateo*. Five of our 7 Northern Parulas (3 in *San Mateo* and one each in *Alameda*, *Humboldt*, *Marin*, and El.) were reported as singing males, and all were found after 12 May. Among the rarer warblers were Magnolias in Lee Vining Canyon, *Mono* 22 May (M. Lester) and Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 31 May-2 Jun (David Lewis); a Chestnut-sided at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 28 May (RS); a male Prairie near Campbell Cove, *Sonoma* 21 May (LLu); and a Hooded at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 22-23 May (Mark Butler, m.ob.). Of the dozen Palm Warblers, all but 2 were probably lingering from winter. The 2 likely migrants were at Pt. Joe, *Monterey* 27 Apr (OsJ, MtB) and at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 7 May (RSTh). At least 3 Black-and-white Warblers stayed over from winter, including 2 S.F. birds found in Ferry Park and the Presidio, which were present until 13 (DSW) & 15 Apr (HuC), respectively. Another Black-and-white at Laguna Grande Park, *Monterey* 19 Mar (Judy West) was likely the same bird first found there 13 Jan. Black-and-white Warblers were also at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 16 Apr (KGR) and Gazos Cr., *San Mateo* 28 May

(GrH). The American Redstart that wintered in Alice Street Community Garden, S.F. remained at least until 14 Mar (KAr, m.ob.). The only other American Redstart was a singing male along Pescadero Cr., *San Mateo* 28 May (RSTh). An Ovenbird was at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 30 May (Nick Whelan). A singing Northern Waterthrush along Stevens Cr., *Santa Clara* 1 May (MMR) was in the same area where at least 2 wintered. A Summer Tanager apparently returned 14 May to the same area near Colfax, *Placer* (Larry Risser, m.ob.), where it spent last summer. The bird was present and singing through the end of the period. A Summer Tanager in El Dorado Hills 12-14 Mar (ph. Karla Meadows) was *El Dorado's* first. Summer Tanagers were also at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 13 May (Bob Speckels) and near Oasis Ranch, *Mono* 26 May (DVP, DCo et al.).

### SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

An American Tree Sparrow in Arcata, *Humboldt* 3-5 Mar (Russ Namitz, RbF) was apparently a holdover from winter (*fide* JTz). A Clay-colored Sparrow 8 May at Coyote Pt. (RSTh) marked the first spring record for *San Mateo*. The Clay-colored that wintered at Bartlett C.P., *Tulare* was last seen 26 Mar (Tony Kurz). Clay-colored Sparrows were also at Mad River C.P., *Humboldt* 22-24 Mar (Jherime Kellermann, KGR, DCo) and Corona Heights, S.F. 20 Apr (Lew Ellingham, BFI, m.ob.). Brewer's Sparrows, normally a rather rare spring transient in the C.V., made quite a showing late Apr-early May. Local observers reported unusually high numbers in *Madera*, *Tulare*, *Sacramento*, and *Merced*, with *Madera* reporting an unprecedented 20+ (*fide* JND). *Sacramento*, where even one is unusual, reported 6. *Solano's* first spring record was s. of Dixon 7 May (EP). Another was near Loma Rica, *Yuba* 6 May (BDW), and also notable, though outside the

C.V., were 2 in Panoche Valley, *San Benito* 29 Apr (MtB, OsJ, RyT). Two Black-chinned Sparrows singing in potential breeding habitat on Blue Ridge 12-19 May (UzW, ph. CLo, m.ob.) constituted *Solano's* 3rd record. Many unsuccessful attempts to re-find the birds suggest that they were migrants. The Santa Cruz Mts. of *Santa Clara* and *San Mateo* held at least 9 Black-chinned Sparrows at four different locations 17 May+. Black-throated Sparrows were widely reported, with a pair visiting a suburban feeder in Lincoln, *Placer* 12 May (†Pat Boudreaux) and singles at two locations in *Yuba*: Beale A.F.B. 20 Apr (Mike Bumgartner) and Spenceville W.A. 28 Apr (Scott Hoppe). Black-throateds were also in Quincy, *Plumas* 25 May (BBg), Fl. 10-20 May (P.R.B.O., *vide* Russ Bradley), and se. of *Clio* 29 Apr (*Sierra's* 3rd record; Chris Collins). The Lark Bunting at Byron Hot Springs, *Contra Costa* 9 Mar (Dick Norton) was a winter holdover, but the male 23 May at Herbert Wetlands Prairie Preserve, *Tulare* (RH, ph. Gary Lindquist, JLt, SDS) was likely a rare C.V. late spring migrant. All 5 Swamp Sparrows (3 in *Humboldt*, one each in *Marin* and *Monterey*) appeared to be lingering from winter. Among the 35 or so White-throated Sparrows that extended their visits into spring, the tardiest was found 12 May in Reichmuth Park, *Sacramento* (KKw). Three Golden-crowned Sparrows were present well into May: 21 May along Stevens Cr., *Santa Clara* (MMR), 23 May at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* (b. B.S.O.L.), and 23 May s. of Elk Grove, *Sacramento* (CCo). A wintering Harris's Sparrow was seen last 28 Mar in Arcata, *Humboldt* (ScC).

Of the 15 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported, all were coastal except for singles at Grasslands Park, *Yolo* 18 May (TEa), Chalfant Valley, *Mono* 15 May (A. Zdon), and McGee Canyon, *Mono* 18 May (C. Wooley). Notable Blue Grosbeak reports included *Lassen's* 2nd at Eagle L. 18 Apr (Lew Oring) and the first record for Panoche Valley, *San Benito* 29 Apr (MtB, *vide* KVV). An Indigo Bunting seen briefly on Pleasants Valley Rd. 17 Apr (AEn) was a 2nd for *Solano*. Our other 4 Indigos were all coastal (one each from *Marin*, *F.I.*, *San Mateo*, and *Monterey*). A singing male Bobolink at Monte Bello O.S.P. 29 May (GrH) furnished a first spring record for *Santa Clara*. Incremental range expansions were noted for Great-tailed Grackles in *Calaveras* (Angels Camp), *Modoc* (Tulelake), and *Plumas* (Marble Hot Springs Rd.). *Humboldt* reported our only vagrant orioles: an Orchard Oriole present 10 Mar–16 Apr at Arcata Marsh

(RbF, ph. KGR, TMcK, m.ob.) and an ad. male Baltimore Oriole in Eureka 14 Mar (BS). A Common Redpoll in Ft. Bragg 5-10 Mar (Maria Wetzel, ph. MMtt, †GEC, ph. †RJK, †CEV, m.ob.) was a first for *Mendocino* and only the 7th occurrence of the species in the state. Out of respect for the wishes of the landowner, the presence of this bird was not widely communicated. Lawrence's Goldfinches enjoyed a remarkable season throughout the Region. Reports from local observers noted unusually high numbers and/or birds in



Backyard feeders in Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, California held this Common Redpoll's attention from 5 (here) through 10 March 2007, marking the farthest south this species has ventured into California. Photograph by Matthew Matthiessen.

new locations from *Trinity*, *Tehama*, *Glenn*, *Butte*, *Yuba*, *Sacramento*, *Contra Costa*, *Alameda*, *Santa Clara*, and *Madera*. Some suggested that unusually wet springs in 2005 and 2006 may have produced an abundance of fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* spp.), a major food source for Lawrence's Goldfinches.

Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Roger Adamson (*Yolo*), Tim Amaral, Kumaran Arul, Alan Baldrige (AB), Alan D. Barron (ADB) (*Del Norte*), Bob Battigan, Murray Berner (*Napa*), Gary Bloomfield, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Matthew Brady, Ray Bruun, Scott Carey, George E. Chanot, Les Chibana, Josiah Clark, Daryl Coldren, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (CCo) (*Sacramento* and *Yolo*), Hugh Cotter, Jeff N.

Davis (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Alan M. Eisner, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Andrew Engilis, Jules G. Evens, Brian Fitch, Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF), James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Ron H. Gerstenberg, Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Rob Hansen, Stanley W. Harris, Garth Harwood, Floyd Hayes, Bill Hill, Alan S. Hopkins, Debbie House, Joan M. Humphrey, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Alvaro Jaramillo, Richard G. Jeffers, David Jensen,

David Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, Keith Kwan, Stephen A. Layman, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Ron LeValley, Leslie Lieurance, John Lockhart, Jim Lomax, Calvin Lou (CLo), John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Blake Matheson, Matthew A. Matthiessen, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Bryan J. McIntosh, Tristan McKee, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Brian Mori, Gordon Murphy, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Frances Oliver, Gary W. Page (GWP) Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Eric Pilotte, Gary W. Potter (*Fresno*), Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), Eric Preston (EWP), Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Ivan Samuels, Paul Saraceni, Barry Sauppe, Jeff Seay, Jim H. Snowden, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, and *Calaveras*), Fritz Steurer, Grace Steurer, Tim Steurer (*Amador* and *El Dorado*), Brad Stovall (*Lassen*), David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Richard Ternullo, Ryan Terrill (*Marin*), Ronald S. Thorn, James R. Tietz (*Humboldt* and *F.I.*), Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Frank Vanslager,

Chuck E. Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Dave Weber, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Alan Wight, Denise S. Wight, Brian D. C. Williams (*Nevada*), Uzelle Williams, Roger Wolf, Gary Woods, Bob & Carol Yutzky (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

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# Southern California



Guy McCaskie  
Kimball L. Garrett

The end of the spring season also coincided with then end of the driest fall-through-spring period on record for many portions of the Region. The impacts on migrant and breeding landbirds were likely extensive. For many birders, the most noticeable effect was some spectacular concentrations of migrants at well-watered oases in the deserts. Migration through well-planted parks and residential areas on the coastal slope was also impressive, most notably for Calliope Hummingbirds, which were far more numerous than usual. The drought may also have had a role in greater numbers than normal of "interior" species such as Brewer's Sparrows and Yellow-headed Blackbirds along the coast. Many common western migrants also straggled late into May or even early June, perhaps a consequence of poorer feeding conditions on migration.

An interesting assortment of northern alcid during the period continued into June (more to come in the Summer Season report). Three very rare shorebirds late in the period at China Lake in extreme northeastern Kern County included California's long-awaited first Wood Sandpiper.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base, ne. Los Angeles); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary, near Ventura, Ventura); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve, near Weldon, Kern). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County) and SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observ-

er(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review list (see <www.wfo-cbrc.org>) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH SPOONBILLS

The only Fulvous Whistling-Duck was one at S.E.S.S. 17 Apr (KLG) and 1 Jun (GMcC). About 25 Greater White-fronted Geese flying northward off Malibu, Los Angeles 27 May (DSC) were exceptionally late for migrants. A flock of 43 Brant in El Monte, Los Angeles 29 Apr (MCL) was along the presumed "path" followed by this species when migrating from the Gulf of California through the Salton Sink to the Pacific Coast each spring; a single bird at Owens L., Inyo 18 Mar (SLS) was the only one reported inland away from this "path." A wintering Eurasian Wigeon in Goleta, Santa Barbara remained through the late date of 20 Apr (JMG). Single male Eurasian Teal were in Goleta 17 Mar (NAL) and Los Osos, San Luis Obispo 3 Mar–8 Apr (TME). A Harlequin Duck at Cayucos, San Luis Obispo 8–17 May (TME) was the only one reported. Seventeen Surf Scoters on Klondike L. near Big Pine, Inyo, along with 5 more on nearby Tinemaha Res. 20 Apr (T&JH), was an amazing number for this area; elsewhere inland, away from the Salton Sea, one was at Owens L., Inyo 12 May–3 Jun (SLS), and 2 were in Baker, San Bernardino 20 Apr (JEP). Two White-winged Scoters on the Salton Sea at North Shore, Riverside 19 Apr (BMi) were inland; a flock of 35 on Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 24 Mar (TME) was a large number for S. California. The latest of the wintering Black Scoters were 2 at Pt. Mugu, Ventura through 27 Mar (PGR) and one at San Simeon 2 Jun (MLS). A Long-tailed Duck at S.E.S.S. 8 May–13 Jun (EM)



The strongly banded tail shows well on this first-summer Mississippi Kite, photographed on the second day of its 26 May through 4 June 2007 stay at the South Coast Botanical Garden on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles County, California. Photograph by Larry Sansone.

was inland, where unexpected; one in Ventura 13 Apr–7 May (KR) and a wintering bird in El Segundo, Los Angeles through 29 Apr (MSanM) were on the coast.

Late Red-necked Grebes were in Santa Barbara 20–21 Apr (JR) and on Morro Bay 6 May (LT). A Manx Shearwater 13 km off Carpinteria 2 Mar (WTF) provided the 2nd record for Santa Barbara, and another was seen from Pt. Dume, Los Angeles 3 Mar (KLG). Unexpected were 4 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels in San Diego, with one alive 5 km inland near Encinitas 28 Mar (SD'V; \*SDNHM), and dead birds on the beach in Coronado 11 & 27 Apr (MS, LH; \*SDNHM), and near La Jolla 4 May (AR; \*SDNHM), along with single birds farther n. off Ventura 16 Apr (JSF) and at Morro Bay 22 Mar (RO). An ad. Brown Booby was off La Jolla 28 May (TRS, EA); considering the number



These two White-rumped Sandpipers at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, Kern County, California 23 May 2007 were, remarkably, the third and fourth to be found at this location. Photograph by Bob Steele.





This Baird's Sandpiper was in Imperial Beach, San Diego County, California on the exceptionally early date of 11 March 2007. Photographs by Matt Sadowski.



now present on the nearby Los Coronados Is., more can be expected. A Brown Pelican at the Carrizo Plain, *San Luis Obispo* 23 Apr (MLS) was far inland and at an unexpected time of the year.

The only Little Blue Heron found away from coastal *San Diego* was an ad. at Hansen Dam, *Los Angeles* 9 May (KLG). A Tricolored

well photographed in the *San Bernardino* portion of the Prado Basin 3-8 Apr (JEP), with a 2nd present 5-11 Apr (JEP). The 2 Roseate Spoonbills at S.E.S.S. through Feb were joined by a 3rd on 17 Mar (JC) and remained through 10 May (GMcC).

### HAWKS THROUGH PUFFINS

A first-summer Mississippi Kite, a casual stray to coastal California, was on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles* 26 May-4 Jun (SWo, KGL), and another was near San Marcos Pass, *Santa Barbara* 27 May (WC). Hawk-watchers counted 2419 Swainson's Hawks passing northward at Borrego Springs, *San Diego* 2 Feb-30 Apr, with an impressive 1365 on 20 Mar (PJ); elsewhere, far more than normal were seen, particularly in *San Luis Obispo* and *Santa Barbara* in Apr. A Zone-tailed Hawk near Norco, *Riverside* 5-7 May (HBK, JFG) and another near Borrego Springs 21 Apr (SES) appeared to be migrants. A late-staying Merlin remained in Coronado through 30 Apr (MJB).

Flocks of 82 and 88 Sandhill Cranes near Independence 24 Apr (JM) were unprecedented for *Inyo*. Three Pacific Golden-Plovers at Seal Beach, *Orange* 28 Apr (TAB), about 15 on San Clemente I. through 16 Apr (JEB), 2 at the Tijuana R. mouth through 24 Mar (MJB), and one in Del Mar, *San Diego* 24 Mar (DH) were the latest of the wintering birds; a migrant at C.L. 9 May (SLS) was only the 3rd ever in Kern. Eight American Golden-Plovers were reported in the e. portion of the Region, with single birds at S.E.S.S. 18 Apr (JP) and 3 May (GMcC), 3 there 10-18 May

(GMcC, JL, EM), one at N.E.S.S. 17 May (JSF), and 2 at C.L. 28-30 Apr (AH, AEK); normally only one or 2 are found each spring. An American Oystercatcher in La Jolla 20 May (AB) was probably the same bird present here during the winter, and another was on Anacapa I. 10 Mar (RAH).

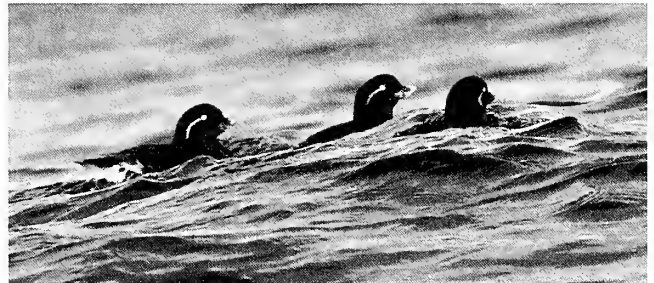
A Wood Sandpiper photographed at C.L. 22-23 May (SLS, BS) establishes the first record for California; one at Masset in British Columbia 3-9 Nov 1994 (*Birders Journal* 3: 257-260) is the only other to be found on the Pacific coast s. of Alaska. A Solitary Sandpiper near Calipatria, *Imperial* 4 Apr (GMcC) was the earliest of the nearly 30 reported this spring. A late Hudsonian Godwit at C.L. 7-8 Jun (SLS) was only the 4th to be found in this Region in spring. A Black Turnstone, rare inland, was at S.E.S.S. 5 May (JL). An impressive 800 Surfbirds were 2-3 km upstream from the mouth of Ballona Cr. in Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles* 8 Apr (KGL). Seven Sanderlings in *Inyo* between 15 Apr and 20 May and 2 in Lancaster 5 May (KLG) were the only ones reported inland away from the Salton Sea. The only Semipalmated Sandpiper was one in Goleta 27 Apr (NAL). Two White-rumped Sandpipers at C.L. 23 May (GMcC) provided the 14th spring record for California and the first involving more than a single bird. Single Baird's Sandpipers in Imperial Beach 11 Mar (MS), near Imperial, *Imperial* 19 Mar (GMcC), and at P.P. 3 Apr (MSanM) were early spring migrants.

A Long-tailed Jaeger, rare in spring, was at the Cortez Bank sw. of San Clemente I. 17 Apr (JSF). At least 3 Laughing Gulls were found along the coast in *San Diego* during the period. Franklin's Gulls moving through the Region were earlier and in far larger



This first-cycle Black-headed Gull was with migrant Bonaparte's Gulls in Goleta, Santa Barbara County, California on 20 April 2007. Photograph by Wes T. Fritz.

Heron at the Tijuana R. mouth, *San Diego* 10 May (RTP) was probably the bird present during the winter; one at S.E.S.S. 3 May (EM) and 3 Jun (HBK) was inland. At least 5 Reddish Egrets were on the coast of *San Diego* and *Orange* during the period; inland, single ads. were seen at S.E.S.S. 30 Apr (DM) and 20 May (JSF). A continuing pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Imperial Beach, *San Diego* was attending a nest in May (GMcC); one, paired with a Black-crowned Night-Heron, was attending 2 hybrid young at a nest on North Island Naval Air Station, *San Diego* in May (MM), and a subad. was at Point Mugu, *Ventura* 17-23 May (MR). A Glossy Ibis was



Seven Parakeet Auklets were encountered about 73 kilometers west-southwest of San Nicolas Island during the Los Angeles Audubon Society's 21 April 2007 pelagic boat trip to deep waters off Southern California. Photograph by Glen Tepke.

numbers than expected, with the earliest being single birds at Mystic Lake, *Riverside* 11 Mar (CMcG) and at S.E.S.S. 18 Mar (HD); numbers at S.E.S.S. increased to an unprecedented 175 on 13 Apr (GMcC), and 48 were still at N.E.S.S. 17 May (MJB, JSF); farther n., over 85 were reported after mid-Apr, includ-



This male Calliope Hummingbird in Ventura, Ventura County, California on 20 April 2007 was one of many found along the coast of Southern California this spring. Photograph by Robert McMorran.



This young male Hairy Woodpecker, with its head protruding from a nest cavity in Bakersfield, Kern County, California on 20 April 2007, provides the first documentation of the species breeding in the San Joaquin Valley. Photograph by Ken and Brenda Kyle.

ing 18 near Lancaster, Los Angeles 18 May (MSanM) and 20 at Owens L., Inyo at the end of the period (SLS), and an additional 8 were along the coast. An ad. Little Gull, rare in California, was at Playa del Rey 3 Mar (KGL). A first-cycle Black-headed Gull in Goleta 20 Apr (WTF) was the 9th to be found in S. California but the 5th in Santa Barbara. Inland, an ad. Heermann's Gull was associating with nesting Caspian Terns at S.E.S.S. 19 Mar+ (GMcC), and a first-cycle bird was there 8 Apr (ST). A first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull remained at S.E.S.S. 8-25 Apr (GMcC), establishing the latest date for this species in California. At least 7 Glaucous Gulls were along the coast, with the latest being one in Oxnard, Ventura 16 May (RS), and another was inland at S.E.S.S. 17-25 Apr (KLG). A Sabine's Gull was on the coast in San Diego 15 Apr (MS), and over 1000 were encountered to the w-sw. of San Nicolas I. 21 Apr (JSF). Three Elegant Terns,

rare inland, were at Salton City, Imperial 18 Apr (BKS). Up to 4 Least Terns were inland at S.E.S.S. 3 May+ (GMcC), and another was in the Riverside portion of the Prado Basin 30 May (JEP).

A Pigeon Guillemot in La Jolla 22 May-14 Jun (SWa) was at the extreme s. limit of the species' known range. Seventeen Marbled Murrelets at Cayucos 8 May (TME) was a high number for this far s., and one 16 km off Ventura 24 Mar (OJ) was even farther south. Seven Parakeet Auklets about 70 km w-sw. of San Nicolas I. 21 Apr (OJ) were in an area where this species has been encountered on five previous occasions. Dead Horned Puffins on the beach in Oxnard 22 May (RS) and at the Tijuana R. mouth 3 May (RTP; \*SDNHM) were undoubtedly associated with the influx and die-off to the north; the latter establishes one of the southernmost records for the species (*Western Birds* 16: 99-102).

## DOVES THROUGH THRASHERS

Three White-winged Doves on the coast of San Diego in May was about average. Single Lesser Nighthawks at Torrey Pines S.P., San Diego 11 Mar (SES) and in Goleta 18 Mar (JH) were believed to be early migrants, and another in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo 8 May (BKS) was in an area where considered casual. A Common Poorwill in El Centro 22 May (DRW) was in an area where few have been recorded. A Black Swift at San Simeon 21 Apr (MLS) was unusually early, with most moving through the Region in early May, as indicated by such sightings as 17 over Chula Vista, San Diego 6 May (MS). Well above-average numbers of Calliope Hummingbirds were in the coastal lowlands and foothills from late Mar into May, as indicated by at least 16 reported in San Luis Obispo 29 Mar-8 May, 51 in Santa Barbara 14 Apr-20 May, 13 in Ventura 17 Apr-1 May, over 30 in Los Angeles 29 Mar-7 May, and unprecedented numbers in Orange and San Diego. Single male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, most unusual on the coast, were photographed in Goleta 5 May (HPR) and Valencia, Los Angeles 15 Apr (RMEM). A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers found excavating a hole along the Kern R. in Bakersfield, Kern on 6 Mar successfully fledged young in early May (K&BK), providing the first nesting record

for the San Joaquin Valley.

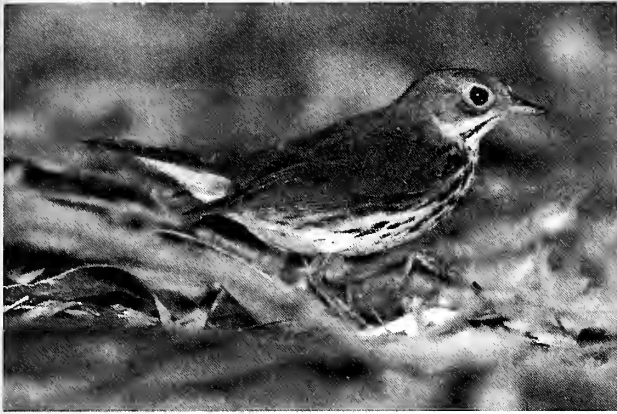
A Greater Pewee in Griffith Park, Los Angeles 6-15 Apr (DSC) was almost certainly the same bird present at the same spot in Apr 2006 (and likely wintering both years). A Willow Flycatcher e. of Lancaster, Los Angeles 29 Apr (TMcG, MSanM) was one of the earliest arrivals in recent years in the Region. A Dusky Flycatcher near El Centro, Imperial 7-14 Apr (KZK, GMcC) was an early date for a rare migrant in the Salton Sink. Unprecedented were 2 late spring Eastern Phoebes, one in Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino 8-9 May (AEK) and one in Newhall, Los Angeles 13 May (MSanM); most California records fall from Oct-Mar. A Brown-crested Flycatcher at Baker Meadow, Big Pine, Inyo on 12 May (T&JH) was away from known breeding localities. Wintering Tropical Kingbirds remained as late as 1 May in Santa Barbara (PAG) and 2 May in Long Beach (KSG); one in Coronado, San Diego 22 May (MJB) was a presumed spring vagrant. Eastern Kingbirds were found in Goleta 30 May (DMC), Zzyzx, San Bernardino 26 May (HBK, BMO), and F.C.R. 2 Jun (V&GW). Vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were on San



Still a rarity in California, this Yellow-throated Warbler stopped on 6 May 2007 at a small desert oasis near the Hayfield Pumping Station, Riverside County. Photograph by Julian P. Donahue.



Vagrant Palm Warblers are more numerous on the coast than inland in California, especially in spring, so this one at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County on 6 May 2007 came as a surprise. Photograph by Dave Furseth.



A few Ovenbirds are found in the eastern half of the Southern California region each spring, with this one in El Centro, Imperial County found on 16 May 2007. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

Clemente I. 19 May (MRS) and Zzyzx 27 May (MT); another at Twentynine Palms 6 May+ (DE) was eventually seen constructing a nest, perhaps paired with one of the local Western Kingbirds.

The only Red-eyed Vireo reported was at Mesquite Springs, Inyo 26 May (AH); this species has greatly declined as a vagrant in the Region. Purple Martins arrived at breeding sites at Atascadero, San Luis Obispo by 23 Mar (MLS); 25+ migrants of this declining species were noted elsewhere on the coastal slope, and one was at Wiest L., n. of Brawley, Imperial 13 May (BMi). Tree Swallows continue to reclaim former breeding areas, with documented nestings in Apr and May at Goleta (MJK), Big Tujunga Wash, Los Angeles (KLG), and Orange, Orange (DRW).

Quite out of place, and several kilometers from nearest breeding habitat, was a Cactus Wren in a busy container port in Los Angeles Harbor 7 May (LRH). Up to 8 singing Winter Wrens at Montana de Oro, San Luis Obispo 5-26 May (AFS, JSR) were at the s. end of the species' coastal breeding range. Late Mountain Bluebirds from last winter's movement were on San Clemente I. 28 Apr (JEB) and at G.H.P. 27 Apr-6 May (TEW, LLA). Late Varied Thrushes were in El Centro on 7 Apr (KZK), on San Clemente I. 26 Apr and 16 May (PET, CLD). A Gray Catbird was in Jawbone Canyon, Kern 29 May (DV). Bendire's Thrashers at Clark Dry Lake in the Borrego Valley, San Diego on 18 Mar (JEB) and 20 Apr (EK) were in an area where the species is quite rare.

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only spring vagrant Tennessee Warblers were singles in Palos Verdes 28 Apr (KGL), Goleta 12 May (SG), Los Osos, San Luis Obispo 20 May (JSR), and San Clemente I. 29 May (NNJ). A Virginia's Warbler in Goleta 3 May (PAG) was only the 2nd to be found in spring in Santa Barbara; one at Playa del Rey 10 Mar-1 Apr (KGL) had probably wintered locally. A Lucy's Warbler in Borrego Springs 21 Mar (RT) had arrived at the w. end of the species' breeding range. In addition to known wintering birds and one at Oceano 4-5 Mar (RHZ) that undoubtedly wintered locally, only 5 Northern Parulas were found along the coastal slope 4 May-3 Jun, another 10+ were found on the



Although Clay-colored Sparrows are rare but regular fall migrants and winter visitors to California, few are found in spring, so this one in the Tijuana River Valley, San Diego County 15 May 2007 was unexpected. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

deserts, including Inyo's earliest ever at China Ranch 21 Apr (JEP). The only Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Sage Flat Rd. s. of Olancho, Inyo 1 Jun (C&LL), G.H.P. 3 Jun (TEW, LLA), and Baker, San Bernardino 5 Jun (AEK). Magnolia Warblers were at Montana de Oro 26 May (JSR) and San Clemente I. 30 May (JEB) and inland at Bishop 23 May (J&DP) and

G.H.P. 3 Jun (TEW, LLA). Townsend's Warblers in San Dimas, Los Angeles 1 Jun (AL) and Santa Catalina I. 3 Jun (RH) and a Hermit Warbler in Rowland Heights, Los Angeles 1 Jun (AL) exemplified a spring in which many straggling w. migrants were noted later than usual in both coastal and desert regions. Yellow-throated Warblers were near Hayfield Pumping Station, Riverside 6 May (JPD), at Hansen Dam 12-13 May (KLG), and 11 km off Channel Islands Harbor, Ventura 19 May (WTF); the first 2, at least, were of the expected subspecies *albiflora*. An amazing 4 singing male Pine Warblers were found, with one in Costa Mesa 4-8 Apr (BH), 2 at different parks in Chula Vista, San Diego 5-16 Apr and 6-23 Apr (MS), and one in Orange 15-21 Apr (HPR); most or all of these may have wintered, being in areas that received little coverage in winter. A Palm Warbler on San Clemente I. 11 Mar (SWS) undoubtedly wintered locally, but migrants were at F.C.R. 3 May (C&RH), Morongo Valley 6 May (DF), and in the Blair Valley, San Diego 12 May (RT). A singing Bay-breasted Warbler in Huntington Beach 26-28 May (JEP) established only the 2nd spring record for Orange. Blackpoll Warblers were at S.F.K.R.P. 23 May (TB) and F.C.R. 28 May (TEW, LLA).

In addition to Black-and-white Warblers known or suspected to have wintered locally, at least 4 migrants were on the coastal slope and a dozen more on the deserts during the period. Six American Redstarts were along the coast 5-29 May, with another 9 on the n. deserts in May and early Jun. Prothonotary Warblers were in Victorville, San Bernardino 16 May (SJM), Lancaster, Los Angeles 18 May (VB; \*LACM), in the Amargosa Canyon, Inyo 18 May (CMcC), and at F.C.R. 27-28 May (MB). A good showing of Ovenbirds included 6 along the coast 3-29 May and another 10 on the deserts 15 May+. The 8 Northern Waterthrushes encountered 3 May+ were divided equally between the coast and n.

deserts; one near Wister at S.E.S.S. 7 Apr (RF) was quite early and likely wintered locally. The period's only Kentucky Warbler was at China Ranch 20 May (M&NF). Hooded Warblers were on Pt. Loma 25-28 May (DA) and San Clemente I. 27 May (JEB) and in the interior at Twentynine Palms 17 May (TAB) and China Ranch 30 May (C&LL). A Painted Red-



This lost Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Mission Bay in San Diego, San Diego County, California on 20 May 2007 was away from the salt marshes the species inhabits in winter and was found on an exceptionally late date. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

start at Agua Dulce Cr. in the Laguna Mts., San Diego 6 May+ (DH) was at a known breeding locality. Two female Hepatic Tanagers at Horsethief Spring, San Bernardino 26 May and another at nearby Pachalka Spring the same day (TAB, SJM) were outside of breeding habitat but in the e. desert ranges where a few nest.

Ten Clay-colored Sparrows through the period in the Region included some that may have wintered locally. Brewer's Sparrows were reported more widely than normal on the coastal slope in Apr and early May. A singing Brewer's Sparrow × Black-chinned Sparrow hybrid was in the Cuyamaca Mts., San Diego 19 May–9 Jun (PU; details in press in *Western Birds*). Black-chinned Sparrows in unexpected localities included up to 3 w. of Seeley, Imperial 18–19 Apr (TC) and one in Goleta 15 May (HPR). Four Black-throated Sparrows along the coast 9–29 Apr was about normal. At least 8 singing male Grasshopper Sparrows were on San Clemente I. during the period (MRS). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Mission Bay, San Diego 20 May (MJB, MS) represented an unusual occurrence of a spring vagrant away from saltmarsh wintering habitat. The only Lark Buntings were singles at Clark Dry L. 11 Apr (JP) and Independence 26 Apr (ET). A singing Swamp Sparrow at G.H.P. 7–10 Jun (KSG) was remarkably late. The latest White-throated Sparrow reported was 21 May at China Ranch (M&NF). Three Chestnut-collared Longspurs in Independence 8–22 Apr (RHu) were quite late. A Lapland Longspur in Im-

perial Beach 5–10 Mar (MBS) had not been reported during the winter.

A bumper crop of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks included 27 in coastal counties 13 May–1 Jun and another 25 on the deserts 7 May–5 Jun; males found in coastal Santa Barbara 10–21 Mar (PP) and 18 Mar (RM) had likely wintered locally, and one in Bishop 11–14 Apr (BT) was exceptionally early for the n. deserts. A very early Black-headed Grosbeak was at Pt. Loma 19 Mar (RF). Seven Indigo Buntings were in coastal counties 18 May–3 Jun, and another 19+ were on the deserts 3 May–1 Jun. A male Painted Bunting was at Deep Springs, Inyo 23–24 May (JI). A Dickcissel at China Ranch 23 Mar (T&JH) was so early that local wintering was suspected; another was at 2538 m elevation near Aspendell, Inyo 16 May (JZ).

Up to 3 Bobolinks were at F.C.R. 25–28 May (LLA, TEW et al.), with another at Independence 3 Jun (SLS) and 2 different individuals at C.L. 31 May and 2 Jun (SLS, AH). Many observers commented on the greater-than-usual numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds along the coast in Apr and early May. A Tricolored Blackbird near Calipatria 20 May (JSF, TMcG) was in the Salton Sink, where very rare. Male and female Baltimore Orioles in Goleta 7 Mar (JEL) were wintering locally; other vagrants were at Pt. Loma 28 May (GS) and Huntington Beach 1 Jun (BED), along with 3 on the n. deserts 13–29 May. A total of 3 Scott's Orioles made it out to San Clemente I. 25 Mar–28 May (JEB). A Pine Siskin on San Clemente I. 8 May (JEB) was unusual in

spring, especially after a winter with no lowland flight in the Region.

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It was generally a lackluster season, but there was little coverage except in the Cape District early. The Cory's Shearwater did return to Islas Los Coronados for another year, reintroduced California Condors nested in Mexico for the first time, and apparently wintering Long-tailed Jaegers were again found in the southern Gulf of California.

**Abbreviations:** C.P.G.P. (Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds); E.S.J. (Estero San José, San José del Cabo).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH JAEGER

A Ross's Goose found in Jan continued in Tijuana 8 May (ph. †MJB), establishing the first Regional record outside Nov–Mar. Nine Brant at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr (MS, ph. MJB, LDS) were inland, and 2 in La Paz 28 Mar (ph. SGM) were southerly. A male Wood Duck at the Mexicali Zoo 28 Apr (MJB, MS, LDS) provided the first single-bird observation at that location since Mar 2004, and 40 Mallards at the Colonia Zaragoza sewage ponds the same day included a brood (MJB, ph. MS, LDS) that provided only the 2nd breeding record for the ne. Late ducks from Leyes de Reforma n. and w. 14–15 May included 6 Northern Shovelers, 2 Northern Pintails, 2 Green-winged Teal, a Ring-necked Duck, and a Bufflehead (all RAE). A male Black Scoter about 5 km n. of San Felipe 13 Mar (GK, HS) was presumably moving northward with the 3000–4000 Surf Scoters there and established the first Regional record in the Gulf of California.

The only loons found inland this season were 8 Commons at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr (ph. MJB, MS, LDS). Unidentified *Pterodroma* petrels

were seen at sea off Cabo San Lucas 18 Mar (GK, HS) and from Pta. Arranca Cabellos, n. of La Paz, 29 Mar (†SGM). The Cory's Shearwater returned to Is. Los Coronados for its 3rd consecutive year. It was seen on Middle Rock and heard calling 20 Mar–11 Jun (DWP, ph. MS et al.); but on 31 Mar, it was foraging nearby at the Nine Mile Bank (†GMcC et al.). Although regular, Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels are scarcely reported in the Region: 2 were at sea off Cabo San Lucas 18 Mar (GK, HS). Up to 35 Brown Boobies were tallied at/near Is. Los Coronados 8 Jan–24 Jun, including 2 fledglings (HRC et al.); but most remarkable was an ad. Blue-footed there 10 Feb–24 Jun that “appeared to be bonding with an ad. Brown Booby” (ph. WTH et al.).

Nesting herons at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr included at least 12 Great Blue Herons, 25 Great Egrets, and 35 Snowy Egrets (MJB, MS, LDS). Eighteen California Condors have been released in Baja California, some of which frequented the desert w. of San Felipe last winter and some that ranged as far afield as Tecate. A nest with a chick was found high in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir this spring, establishing the first



The booby bonanza at Baja California's Islas Los Coronados continued this year, with up to 35 Brown Boobies (including two nesting pairs) and this adult Blue-footed Booby seen from 10 February 2007 into summer (here 20 March). Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

confirmed breeding record in Mexico. The chick did not fledge (all *fide* HdIC). At least one Broad-winged Hawk remained at Miraflores 7 Apr, but the report of another dark-morph individual (†KAR, CR; undocumented in the Region) did not rule out other potential species. Single Swainson's Hawks about 6 km w. of Tecate 31 Mar & 27 Apr (JS) were the only ones reported in the n.

We have much to learn about golden-

plovers in the Region. Two Americans in basic plumage were at Lagunas de Chametla 28–29 Mar (ph. SGM); Pacific remains unreported in the far s. A Black Oystercatcher near Puerto Lopez Mateos 18 Mar (REW) was apparently the southernmost ever recorded. One of 3 Spotted Sandpipers at Heroes de la Independencia 15 May was “very aggressive toward another,” perhaps hinting at the possibility of nesting, but no sandpipers were there 6 & 18 Jun (RAE). Three Sanderlings at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr (ph. MJB, MS, LDS) were the only ones found inland this season and a Baird's Sandpiper at the El Centenario tank 3 Mar, believed to be a migrant (ph. †MJI), established one of few, and the earliest, Regional spring record.

Franklin's Gulls were at Lagunas de Chametla 29 Mar (ph. SGM), I. San Esteban 5 Apr (2; MG), and C.P.G.P. 28 Apr (2; MJB, ph. MS, LDS). There have been many conflicting reports involving Yellow-footed/Western Gulls from Bahía Magdalena, and this spring was no exception. Iliff saw at least 4 confusing birds with yellowish legs “not as bright as on *livens*” 28 Feb–2 Mar, and Webster reported a Yellow-footed and 750 Westerns (many having “pink legs with extensive areas of dull yellowish”) at Puerto Lopez Mateos 17 Mar. He also noticed discolored legs on nearby Herring Gulls and suggested that some environmental factor or toxic agent might be responsible. We encourage observers to examine these gulls carefully to better understand this new or previously unnoticed situation. Sabine's Gulls were reported from the w. coast of Baja California (18; 26 Mar–11 Jun), the w. coast of Baja California Sur (21; 18–30 Mar), and the s. Gulf (11+; 4 Apr). Black-legged Kittiwakes are rarely reported in the Region, so different individuals at Is. Los Coronados 20 & 31 Mar (DWP, ph. MS et al.) were noteworthy. Nesting birds at C.P.G.P. 28 Apr included 150 Gull-billed, 75 Caspian, and 30 Forster's Terns, and 50 Black Skimmers (MJB, MS, LDS). Two Long-tailed Jaegers in the s. Gulf near Los Islotes and 30+ about 8 km se. of I. Espíritu Santo 4 Apr (PAG) were seemingly early and included only one ad. in alternate plumage, suggesting that they may have wintered locally. The presence of unseasonable Long-tailed Jaegers in the Gulf has been one of the greatest Regional surprises recently and demands further study.

## DOVES THROUGH ORIOLES

A record number of Mourning Doves was recorded at I. Guadalupe 17 Mar: 470 at the n. end (MSM et al.). Four Ruddy Ground-Doves remained at Bahía de Los Angeles 1–20 Mar (MF, GF), and 45 were in a flock at Todos San-

**SA** Islands in the Gulf of California are ideally situated for studies in island biogeography and consequently they were the focus of books published in 1983 and 2002 (*Island Biogeography in the Sea of Cortéz* and *A New Island Biogeography of the Sea of Cortéz*). While basic concepts concerning taxonomic differentiation and island size/breeding bird community associations are well covered, insufficient caution was used in the preparation of individual island bird lists. The same is true of a paper on birds of the Midriff (n. Gulf) Islands published in *Ecography* 23: 693–701 (2000).

We are fortunate to receive regular reports from Mike Greenfelder, who visits many of the Gulf islands as a guide each tourist season. From Dec through Apr, he recorded 47 shore- and land-bird species on eight islands, including a number of bird-island combinations not reported previously: Great Egret on Carmen; Black-crowned Night-Heron on Ildefonso; American Oystercatcher on Danzante; Merlin on Carmen; Peregrine Falcon on San Francisco; Belted Kingfisher on Santa Catalina and Danzante; Gila Woodpecker on Danzante; Gray Flycatcher on Santa Catalina; Gray Vireo on Espíritu Santo and Santa Catalina; Violet-green Swallow on Santa Catalina; Marsh Wren on Carmen; and Northern Mockingbird on San Francisco.

We are aware of a considerable amount of similar unpublished data from other observers in previous years and we look forward to the eventual careful compilation of this information. In the meantime, we welcome all reports from this fascinating area.

tos 13 Mar (MJI). Only 4 Vaux's Swifts were seen at E.S.J. this year (24 Mar; SGM), where up to 20 wintered the year before. Rufous Hummingbirds were reported from Bahía de



Like most American Golden-Plovers recorded in the Baja California Peninsula region, this cooperative individual was in southern Baja California Sur, where it was one of two at Lagunas de Chametla 28-29 (here 28) March 2007. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

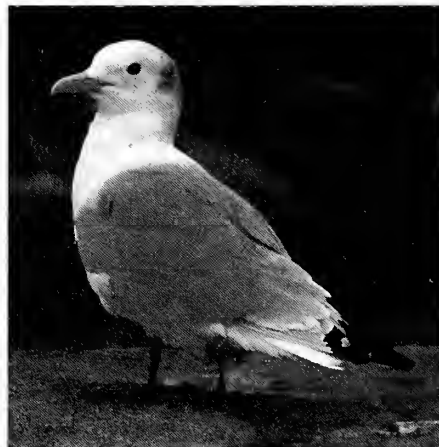
Los Angeles northward 9 Feb–mid Apr, with individuals noted offshore at Bahía Todos Santos 15 Mar (PP et al.) and the Nine Mile Bank 31 Mar (GMcC et al.). Notable woodpeckers near Tecate in the far n. included a record-late Red-breasted Sapsucker through 17 Mar that was replaced by a male Downy Woodpecker 17 Mar–late Jun (†JS).

Real del Mar was good for migrant flycatchers, with a record-late Olive-sided Flycatcher 4 Jun (RAE) and the season's only Willow Flycatcher 8 May (ph. †MJB). Two migrant Hammond's Flycatchers were in the nw. 8 May (†MJB), and 3 Hammond's and a Dusky Flycatcher were in the Mexicali Valley 22 Apr (KAR). Four Bell's Vireos at Lagunita del Saucito, near the confluence of Arroyo San Juan de Dios and Arroyo El Cartabon, 27 Apr (ph. GR-C et al.) were at a previously unreported locality. Up to 3 Bank Swallows at E.S.J. 6-24 Mar (MJI, SGM) had undoubtedly wintered at the Cape, whereas 6 in the extreme ne. near Algodones 22 Apr (KAR) were migrants. Up to 3 migratory Ruby-crowned Kinglets on I. Guadalupe 17-19 Mar (KAR et

al.) were in the same groves once occupied by the now-extinct endemic subspecies *obscurus*.

For a species reported to be "fairly common in winter locally s. over the whole peninsula" (Grinnell, 1928, *A Distribution Summation of the Ornithology of Lower California*) and "locally common in the n. but rarer in the south" (Wilbur, 1987, *Birds of Baja California*), we receive very few reports of Sage Thrasher. Granted, recreational birders do not typically frequent the desolate habitats favored by this species. The four scattered reports of individuals since Dec 2006 and daily observations of a few at Bahía de Los Angeles in Jan/Feb (MF, GF) exceeded the number reported for the previous six years. Two were seen on islands: Guadalupe 16 Mar (PP, ph. MJB et al.) and San Benito Oeste 27 Mar (PAG). We encourage the reporting of at least summaries of all observations of this species in the Region.

More than 100 Nashville Warblers in the Mexicali Valley 22 Apr (KAR) established a record Regional count. A Green-tailed Towhee at the Mexicali Zoo 28 Apr (LDS) was judged to be a migrant. Presumably wintering, sparrows on I. Guadalupe 17-19 Mar included 2



Generally rare in Mexican waters, this adult Black-legged Kittiwake was on Baja California's Islas Los Coronados 20 March 2007. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

Chipping, a Savannah, a Lincoln's, 8 White-crowned, and 8 continental Oregon Juncos (MJB et al.). In the Cape District, good coverage produced high counts of 25 Blue Grosbeaks at Todos Santos 4 Mar (MJI) and 24 Varied Buntings at Miraflores 25-27 Mar (SGM). Suspicions of far s. nestings were generated by 50 Red-winged Blackbirds, including singing males, at E.S.J. 23-24 Mar (SGM) and 2 singing Western Meadowlarks at El Centenario 3-28 Mar (ph. MJI, SGM). Both species were first recorded nesting in Baja California Sur in May 2006. Visitors to the Cape District know how common the Hooded Oriole is; Mlodinow estimated 200+ at E.S.J. 24 Mar and 225 at Miraflores 25-27 Mar.

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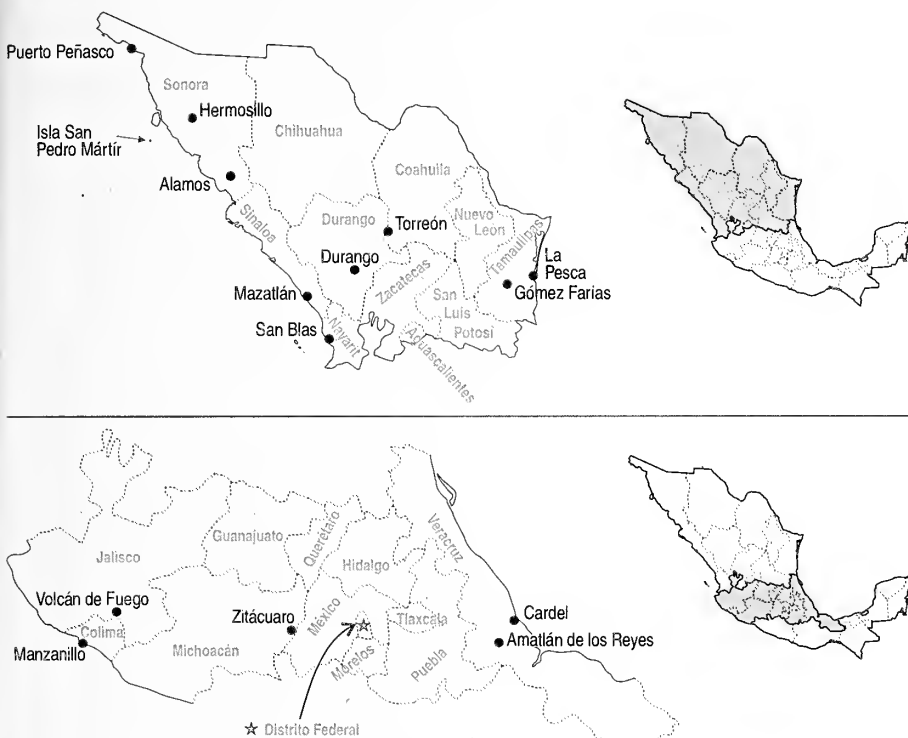
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## NORTHERN &amp; CENTRAL MEXICO



At least 8 Thicket Tinamous were heard at Chipinque Park and La Estanzuela Park, both in Monterrey, N.L. in mid-Mar (JG, AH, RD, m.ob.). Groups of 2-4 Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen 13 Apr and again 5 May in a sewage pond on the Nazas R. between Torreón and Gómez Palacio (RLL, FVP). A pair of Mallards and seven pairs of Mexican Ducks were at the Puerto Peñasco, Son. sewage pond 8 Apr (MDC). Two active Turkey Vulture nests were in cliffs on the Río Aros, Son. 12 Apr (NM-C).

A single female Northern Harrier was seen on the Nazas R. near the city of Lerdo, Dgo. 5 Apr, a late date, considering that harriers tend to depart the subregion in Feb (RLL, FVP). A White-tailed Kite was at Almoloya del Río, Méx. 30 Mar (MDC). A single juv. Gray Hawk was recorded in Bosque Venustiano Carranza, an urban park in Torreón 8 Apr, and a Broad-winged Hawk was there 15 Apr (RLL, WB, FVP); the latter species was also noted there also 16 Apr 2003 (FVP). A Common Black-Hawk was at 2500 m elevation near Ejido Ojo de Agua del Cazador, Dgo. 22 Mar (MG, HS, GK). An imm. Solitary Eagle was photographed about 1 km from Alta Cima toward Gómez Fariás, Tamps. 14 Mar (RJ), in the same area that furnished the only previous state record about a year before.

A Southern Lapwing was found in the fields just e. of the little pond near the San Blas Suites in San Blas, Nay. in mid-Mar (B&DS, JM, VA, ph.) but not in Apr or May (MS). This South American species has invaded Central America in the past 10 years, and even though there is one previous record from Mexico, as well as several from Florida and one from Maryland, this find in n. Mexico was a big surprise. More than 20 Wilson's Phalaropes were seen 13 Apr and 5 May in a sewage pond near Ejido Las Huertas between Torreón and Gómez Palacio (RLL, FVP). An ad. Franklin's Gull in alternate plumage was at the Puerto Peñasco sewage pond, and 2 more were at the golf course on Sandy Beach 8 Apr (MDC).

Seven Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen in Laguna del Rey, Coah. 16 May (MCS), up to 6 were seen daily around Colonia Mina Bismark, Chih. 1-8 Mar (AM, JM, ph.), and one was in Zuazua, N.L. 15 Apr (JIGP, ph.). Military Macaws arrived a few

weeks earlier than usual at Salto del Agua Llovida, Dgo., with two pairs seen 23 Apr (MAM). Lesser Nighthawks were seen 5 Apr along the Nazas R. near the city of Lerdo, Dgo. (RLL, FVP), 26 Apr in Torreón (FVP), and at a sewage pond near Ejido Las Huertas on the Nazas R. 5 May (RLL, FVP).

Four White-throated Swifts were in Cañon del Realito along the Aguanaval R., s. of Torreón 15 May (RLL, FVP). A vocal group of Violaceous Trogons was found near Gómez Fariás on the rd. to El Azteca 28 Mar (RJ, ph.). A Gila Woodpecker discovered 8 Mar just n. of Colonia Mina Bismark was e. of normal range (AM, JM). A single female Williamson's Sapsucker was seen in Arroyo Las Playas in the w. Sierra Madre of Durango 3 Mar (WB, RLL, FVP, RS, JIS, AGS). Four White-striped Woodcreeper territories were Barbisal de Arriba, Son. in mixed riparian forest with sycamores, palms, oaks, and other trees 14-15 Apr (NM-C, AC, NS, PW, JS, DU ph.).

A Brown-crested flycatcher was recorded at Cañon de Fernández S.P. on the Nazas R. 1 May (RLL, FVP). Three Great Crested Flycatchers encountered 20 May in Xalapa were late migrants (AM). An Eastern Phoebe near Colonia Mina Bismark 3 Mar was w. of normal range (AM, JM). A pair of Black-crowned Tityras was observed nesting at La Florida below Gómez Fariás, Tamps. 4 Apr (WC). A Black-capped Vireo was seen in Bosque Venustiano Carranza 8 Apr (WB, FVP), and a Yellow-green Vireo was at Los Pavos Canyon, Son. 11 Apr (PW, NM-C). A Bell's Vireo was at Laguna Rodeo, Mor. 22 Feb (MDC). A Black-throated Magpie-Jay was seen in Cañon del Realito being mobbed by 2 Northern Mockingbirds 15



Two Christmas Shearwaters, including this bird (at rear) swimming with Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, were seen 8-10 kilometers off Puerto Angel, Oaxaca, Mexico on 8 March 2007. This photograph furnishes rare documentation of the species for the state and for the country. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

May (FVP); this species is occasionally traded as a cage bird in Torreón, but the theory that it was an escapee has to be proved, as Torreón is 72 km away. A female Prothonotary Warbler

struck a window in Monterrey 6 May (JG). A Palm Warbler was found in Presa e. of Tula, Tamps. 8 Mar (JT, EB, KB, MP) A Worm-eating Warbler was seen in Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón 6 May, the first such record in the subregion, and an American Redstart and Northern Waterthrush were there the same day (RLL, WB, FVP); the latter species was also noted in Cañón del Realito on the Aguanaul R. 15 May (RLL, FVP, who also saw one there 1 May 2006).

Up to 4 White-throated Sparrows were seen daily 1-5 Mar near Colonia Mina Bismark, well out of normal range (AM, JM, ph.), and a lone White-throated Sparrow was seen foraging with a Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow along the La Petaca rd., Sin. 9 Mar (DM). A Harris's Sparrow discovered 2 Mar near Colonia Mina Bismark was well s. of normal range (AM, JM). Despite intensive searching, only a



This adult Broad-winged Hawk was found at Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coahuila 15 April 2007. Photograph by Francisco Valdés Perezgasga.

single Sierra Madre Sparrow was found at Ejido Ojo de Agua del Cazador 22 Mar (MG, HS, GK). A breeding colony of Montezuma's Oropendolas with 27 nests was noted just w. of El Naranjo, S.L.P. 3 Apr (WC).

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## SOUTHERN MEXICO



Surprisingly, no Singing Quail were heard around Campamento El Triunfo, Chis. in the first week of Mar (MDC). Pied-billed Grebes seen in Apr near La Ventosa were late migrants or possibly residents (AM, JM). Least Grebes continue to show up in the inland lakes in Gro., with more than 10 at Laguna de Tuxpan 29 Mar (MDC). Four Blue-footed Boobies were roosting on a rock off the tip of Punta Diamante, Acapulco, Gro. 23 Mar (MDC). Two A Boat-billed Heron roost was at Botazo Park, La Cruccecita, near Huatulco, Oax. 8 Apr (MG, HS, GK). A flock of 22 American White Pelicans soared over 2800 m in the Sierra de Atoyac, Gro. 4 Apr (MG, HS, GK). Eleven, 15, & 16 Brown Pelicans were observed moving northward near La Ventosa 15 Mar, 31 Mar, and 3 May, respectively (AM, JM). Up to 4 Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen almost daily moving northward near La Ventosa late Mar-early May (AM, JM).

A total of 696 Wood Storks was counted migrating northward near La Ventosa late Mar-early May, usually in low numbers but with a high single-day count of 331 (AM, JM). A King Vulture was below Paraíso, Gro. 7 Apr (MG, HS, GK). Two White-tailed Kites were on the flats n. of the Acapulco, Gro. airport 23 Mar, and one was at Almoloya del Río, Mex. 30 Mar (MDC). A Swallow-tailed Kite near La Ventosa 8 Apr was out of normal range (AM). Single Cooper's Hawks were seen above Finca Prusia, Chis. 3 Mar and at Paval, Chis. 8 Mar (MDC). A Barred Forest-Falcon was at 400 m elevation on the Atoyac rd. 24 Mar, and 2 were at 2400 m on that rd. 28 Mar (MDC). Two Collared Plovers were at Presa Tepecoacuilco near Iguala, Gro. 28 Mar (MDC). Four Sandwich Terns were feeding along the shore at Puerto Paredón, Chis. 11 Mar, and 4 were at Playa Paraíso near Atoyac 26 Mar (MDC).

A pair of Mourning Doves discovered nesting near La Ventosa 5 Apr was out of normal breeding range (AM). A Striped Owl was seen near the Tapachula, Chis. airport 10 Mar

(MDC), and a Stygian Owl was seen above Filo de Caballo, Gro. 28 Mar (MDC). Four Northern Potoos were above 400 m elevation at km 27 on the Atoyac rd. 24 Mar (MDC). A Common Pauraque was photographed at

Campo Morado near Acatempan, Gro. 18 May (ORS), an area indicated by a question mark in the range map in Howell and Webb (1995). A Chimney Swift was at La Venta, Oax. 15 Apr (MG, ph.). Up to 3 Beautiful Hummingbirds were present near La Venta 28 Mar-21 Apr (AM, ph.). A Wedge-billed Woodcreeper was in the coffee finca above Paval 9 Mar (MDC).

A White-throated Flycatcher was at Laguna de Tuxpan 29 Mar (MDC). A strong passage of Cedar Waxwings was noted at Finca el Paraíso, Oax. 10 Apr, with more than 1000 birds estimated in half an hour, in flocks of 20 to 100 (MG, HS, GK). A Yellow-green Vireo was early at Paval 9 Mar (MDC). A Blue-headed Vireo was at Taxco El Viejo 30 Mar (MDC), and a Bell's Vireo was at Laguna de Tuxpan 29 Mar (MDC). Up to 85 Mangrove Swallows per day were observed migrating northward near La Ventosa in late Mar and early Apr (AM, JM). A Cave Swallow seen 12 Apr at Rio La Venta was well out of normal range (AM). Several Northern Mockingbirds were singing and defending territories near La Ventosa Apr-mid-May, outside of normal breeding range (AM).

A Chestnut-sided Warbler discovered 9 May near La Venta was well out of normal range (AM), and a Magnolia Warbler was at Laguna de Tuxpan 29 Mar (MDC). A female Cerulean Warbler observed 19 Apr near La Ventosa was well outside of normal range (AM). A Palm Warbler was above 2500 m elevation along the Atoyac rd., Gro. 3 Apr (MG, HS, GK), while a male Hooded Warbler seen 16 Mar near La Ventosa was s. of normal range (JM). A female Brewer's Blackbird was on a golf green on the shore of Presa Tepecoacuilco 28 Mar (MDC). Several Hooded Orioles near La Venta 24 Mar were east of normal wintering range (AM, JM).

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## YUCATAN PENINSULA



Although reports were scarce this spring, it is obvious that a migration of warblers and seedeaters entered the central and southern coasts of Quintana Roo 22-24 April, during a period of strong southeasterly winds. We are beginning to understand spring migration routes more clearly, Barn Swallows, for instance, move toward Cuba from Yucatan's north coast, whereas many flycatchers and orioles appear to transit the southern portion of the peninsula, perhaps in order to take an overland route back north or shortening the trip across the Gulf of Mexico.



Another raptor of interest at Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coahuila was this Gray Hawk, photographed 8 April 2007. Photograph by Francisco Valdés Perezgasga.

Abbreviations: F.C.P. (Felipe Carrillo Puerto); C.V. (Chanca Veracruz, 8 km s. of F.C.P.); C.Y. (Colonia Yucatán s. of El Cuyo, Yuc.); D.C. (Dzonot Carretero, Yuc.); L.O. (Laguna Ocom, 8 km s. of F.C.P.); P.M. (Puerto Morelos); R.L. (Río Lagartos); R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve); R.S.S. (Rancho San Salvador); S.A.C. (San Antonio Chel, Hunucma, Yuc.); S.F. (San Felipe, Yuc.); V.C. (Vigia Chico rd., Q. Roo).

## DUCKS THROUGH SKIMMER

About 30 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, local migrants, were still in a pond behind El Cuyo 3 May (BM), while 300 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen 8 Mar on the Palizada rd. between Jonuta and hwy. 185, with 500 Blue-winged Teal (RH). A Muscovy Duck

was seen at Celestún 30 Apr. Blue-winged Teal lingered into May, with two pairs at a pond near Sacbo, 8 km se. of El Cuyo, and three pairs in a nearby pond 3 May (BM); 3 males were at a pond e. of Dzonot Carretero 9 May (SC, BM). Six pairs of Northern Shovelers were still in the Celestún estuary 30 Apr (MA, AD, BM). A single Red-breasted Merganser, first seen in front of lighthouse at R.L. 10 Mar (IN), was seen again 11 Mar (BS, MS) and is presumed to be the one seen in same area 7 May (BM, DN).

The forest s. of F.C.P. still provides good habitat for species such as Great Curassow; a pair was seen perched near the rd. leading to C.V. 18 Mar (AH); on the other side of the hwy., 3 Ocellated Turkeys preened predawn 27 Mar (BM, WS). Records of Yucatan Bobwhite from areas disputed by Yuc. and Camp., but s. of the areas where mapped by Howell & Webb (1995), included 4 at Puchnanchen 15 Apr, 3 at Arroyo Negro 16 Apr, 2 at Cristobal Colón 18 Apr, and 8 at Veinte de Noviembre 19 Apr (MPV). Approximately 1000 American White Pelicans were observed between Celestún and Palmar 23 Apr (MA), and a Black-crowned Night-Heron was at pond near Sacbo 4 May (BM). Thirty Glossy Ibis with 45 White-faced Ibis were counted along the Palizada rd. 8 Mar (RH), and a Glossy was at C.Y. 14 Mar (JA, AC, CN, PP, MS, LT). Eight dark ibis were 10 km s. of El Cuyo 3 May, and most likely were Glossy, as 3 were in ponds near Sacbo the same day (BM).

A White-tailed Kite flew over C.V. 21 Mar, and shortly afterwards 6 Swallow-tailed Kites moved over the same village, located w. of the savannah zone behind Bahía de Ascención in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (AH, WS). A flock of 30 of the latter kites were seen at R.L. 25 Mar (IN), and in the early afternoon 30 Mar a flock of nearly 100 birds was observed flying eastward against a 30-km easterly wind over R.S.S., feeding on dragonflies. At 6:00 p.m., they were in the area of Peñon Tucha, R.L.B.R. (IN). A Northern Harrier was seen 8

Mar on the Palizada rd. (RH), while a pair of Crane Hawks was calling in duet to each other, perched in different trees near Sacbo 3 May (BM). A pair of White-tailed Hawks was observed at a nest high up in a tall, leafless tree 2 km s. of S.F. 1 Apr (SC); chicks were observed 6 May (SC, BM, AR, ER). A rare Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle was seen in the area of Bacalar 22 Mar (BS, MS), while a pair of Ornate Hawk-Eagles was seen and heard calling to each other near their nest at L.O. 16 Mar (BM, WS) and in the nest 23 Mar (AH).

An ad. Purple Gallinule in a pond near Sacbo 3 May (BM), and 6 in pond at Dzonot Carretero 6 May (where a juv. was reported last year), could be either residents or migrants (BM, LP). At the latter location on the same date were 2 ad. Common Moorhens with 3 chicks (BM, LP). Three American Coots were still in pond near Sacbo 3 May (BM). Nineteen migrant American Avocets returning northward were at Celestún 19 Apr (AD, BM). A regular but hard-to-find migrant Upland Sandpiper was spotted near



This immature Solitary Eagle was identifiably photographed near Alta Cima, Tamaulipas on 14 March 2007; the species is quite rare in the state. Photograph by Ricardo Jiménez.

the estuary at Celestún 22 Apr (FC), and a Whimbrel was in the salt flats at Santa Clara 16 Mar (LT). A transient White-rumped Sandpiper was reported at Celestún along with 8 Pectoral Sandpipers 17-18 May (VM). The wetlands along the Palizada rd. produced 40 Stilt Sandpipers and 100 Long-billed Dowitchers 8 Mar (RH), and 10 other Stilts were at Chabihau 16 Mar (JA, AC, CN, PP, MS, LT). Four Long-billed Dowitchers were identified at Celestún 17-18 May (VM). A single Wilson's Phalarope was sighted at Chabihau 16 Mar (JA, AC, CN, PP, MS, LT), while 6 ad. Forster's Terns were in the Celestún estuary 30 Apr (AD, BM). A Least Tern showed up a month early at El Cuyo on 14 Mar (JA, AC, CN, PP, MS, LT), while 800 Black Skimmers were still in the harbor at Chuburná 31 Mar, where they winter each year in such numbers (BM).

## DOVES THROUGH TITYRAS

Four rarely reported Plain-breasted Ground-Doves were found 8 Mar along the Palizada

rd., exactly where they should be (RH). Six Eurasian/African Collared-Doves were reported in the mangrove at El Cuyo in Apr (LG). Pheasant Cuckoo can be found just about anywhere there are overgrown fields but is rarely seen and therefore not often reported. However, an individual calling in an overgrown pasture was tape-recorded 4 km e. of Dzonot Carretero 6 May (BM). A single Common Nighthawk, a migrant seen in great numbers during fall migration, was flying circles over L.O. area 25 Apr (BM, WS); in the same area 23 Mar, an ad. Northern Potoo was observed during the day in a leafless tree (BM, WS) and photographed on 10 May with a chick (WS).

Approximately 500 Vaux's Swifts circled down into a cave behind the hwy. at Tulum village at dusk 22 Mar (AH, BM, WS). Two female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at S.A.C. 13 May, a location that places the bird close to the w. coast of the peninsula, perhaps facilitating a shorter Gulf crossing than during fall migration (BM). A Ringed Kingfisher, a species found scattered around the n. portion of the peninsula where bodies of fresh water exist, was at Cobá 20 Mar (JA, AC, CN, PP, MS, LT). Tawny-winged, Ruddy, Olivaceous, Northern Barred-, and Ivory-billed Woodcreepers were all noted at L.O. 23 Mar (AH, BM, WS). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was first observed in the area of Central Vallarta near the Botanical Garden at P.M. on 29 Oct 2006 and was seen a total of eight times up until 22 Apr (LK). A single Eastern Kingbird flew over Noh Cah, Q. Roo 19 Apr, and 2 were noted along the rd. to V.C. 26 Apr (BM, WS). Another was at Peten Tucha, R.L.B.R. 8 May (SC, BM, ER, AR), and 4 were at S.A.C. 13 May (BM). Three Fork-tailed Flycatchers were observed for two hours, feeding continuously on fig fruits at Nachi Cocom, along the Chetumal-Escarcega rd. 18 Mar (AH, BM). A female Gray-collared Becard was observed while calling to its mate 17 Mar at Calderon near the Belize border (BM). Three Black-crowned Tityras were perched over the rd. to V.C. 21 Mar (AH, BM, WS).

## MANAKINS THROUGH WARBLERS

A female White-collared Manakin was heard at Calderon 17 Mar (AH, BM), where its habitat is disappearing rapidly. A Blue-headed Vireo was observed on eight occasions from Nov 2006 through 6 Mar in the Botanical Garden at P.M. (LK). A single Gray-breasted Martin was identified along the rd. from El Cuyo to D.C. 15 Mar (JA, AC, CN, PP, MS, LT). Fifty Tree Swallows were seen making their way back northward along the Palizada rd. 8 Mar (RH). Three Bank Swallows were spotted along the coast between P.M. and Cancún 21 Mar (JA, AC, CN, PP, MS, LT). The spring migration of Barn

Swallow through the pen. was first reported 31 Mar, with 300 flying over Chuburna Harbor in a northeasterly direction (BM); 500 were flying northward 30 Apr over Celestún (AD, BM); and 100 were perched on wires along rd. 12 km s. of El Cuyo at dusk 3 May; all were gone the next morning (BM). A Veery was in forest at L.O. 23 Apr (WS), and a Wood Thrush was seen in the same area 25 Apr (BM, WS).

Cedar Waxwings were in evidence this spring, with 50 observed 3 Mar feeding in a fig tree at S.A.C. (EC, DC). A flock of 30 was feeding in a garden in F.C.P. 16 Mar (BM), while 40-45 were near the Celestún bridge 13-14 May, and 10-20 were in the Celestún park during the same period (VM). The call of the species was heard in the area through 21 May (VM). A Blue-winged Warbler, a bird of special interest in the sub-region, was feeding in the forest at L.O. 21 Mar (AH, BM, WS). On 24 Apr, a migration of Yellow Warblers passed along the n. coast of the S.K.B.R., where they were common in the dune vegetation during a strong easterly wind (BM, WS). A late individual was at Sacbo 4 May (BM). Reports of Magnolia Warbler are common, but late migration dates included an individual at L.O. 23 Apr (BM, WS) and another at Sacbo 3-4 May (BM). A Black-throated Green Warbler was at L.O. 23 Apr (BM, WS), along with a Black-and-white Warbler (WS) and a female of the latter was at Sacbo 4 May (BM). A male American Redstart was among the warbler species at L.O. 23 Apr (BM, WS). A wintering Worm-eating Warbler was feeding in the underbrush at Calderon 17 Mar (BM), and a Kentucky Warbler was reported 6 Mar at Solferino in n. Q. Roo (S.F.).

## TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES

An ad. Gray-headed Tanager was feeding a fledgling as early as 29 Mar S.K.B.R. (WS), while a rare pair of Crimson-collared Tanagers was spotted briefly in the village of Calderon 18 Mar (AH). A Blue-gray Tanager was reported at C.Y. 14 Mar (JA, AC, CN, PP, MS, LT). Yellow-faced Grassquits, which have spread throughout the general Bacalar area, were seen feeding in grasses around homes in the village of Chachoben 24 Mar (AH, BM). A single Savannah Sparrow was reported at R.L. 22 Apr (ER). Movement of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks through

the peninsula during spring migration tends to show that they enter the e. coast and move in a west-northwesterly direction, no doubt in seeking a shorter route across the Gulf of Mexico. Between 20 and 30 of the species were scattered throughout the woods at S.A.C. 29 Mar (BM); a female was in the forest on the n. coast of S.K.B.R. 24 Apr (BM, WS); and another was at Sacbo behind El Cuyo 4 May (BM). A male Blue Grosbeak, a species decreasing on the peninsula, was on the V.C. rd. 21 Mar (BM); 4 were at Noh Cah 19 Apr (BM, WS); and another was on the S.K.B.R. n. coast 24 Apr (BM, WS). Six Indigo Buntings were also at Noh Cah 19 Apr (BM, WS), and 30

were seen moving through the coastal scrub on the n. coast of S.K.B.R. 24 Apr (BM, WS). A Dickcissel was also at Noh Cah 19 Apr (BM, WS). Male Orchard Orioles appear to move through the pen. earlier than females, and those coming from farther s. apparently travel across the s. portion of the pen. in order to exit somewhere along the sw. coast. Twelve were feeding on nectar in flowering shrubs at Calderon 17 Mar (AH, BM); and 14 were feeding nectaring on *Lonchocarpus*, locally called *jabin verde*, for two hours

18 Mar at Nachi Cocom on the Chetumal-Escarcega hwy. (AH, BM); 2 males were in area of L.O. 20 Mar (BM); one male was singing the same day at Señor, nw. of F.C.P. (AH, BM, WS); 2 males were at C.V. 21 Mar (AH, BM, WS); and 4 were at S.A.C. 29 Mar (BM). A male Baltimore Oriole was at Noh Cah 19 Apr (BM, WS).

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In Tamaulipas, a pair of Violaceous Trogons was found near Gómez Farias, on the road to El Azteca, 28 March 2007 (here). Photograph by Ricardo Jiménez.



H. Lee Jones  
Oliver Komar

Shorebirds and pelagics are the new frontier in parts of Central America. On 13 April, for example, many of El Salvador's birders took part in the second national shorebird count, resulting in large counts of rarely reported species such as Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers. And pelagic trips off El Salvador and Guatemala in March added incrementally to our knowledge of seabirds in the nearshore Pacific Ocean. Well away from the sea, a dead Red-billed Tropicbird was found on the slope of Cordillera Talamanca in Costa Rica. Inland occurrences of pelagic species are always of interest, and suggest that trans-isthmus dispersal may be the mechanism for gene flow in some pelagic species with populations in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific Ocean

Meanwhile, the march of open-country species into new regions continues unabated, as illustrated this season by the expansion of Grayish Saltator into eastern Costa Rica and western Panama. El Salvador added yet another new species to its growing list with the capture of a Black-banded Woodcreeper at a banding station only a kilometer or so from the Guatemala border.

**Abbreviations:** C.B.W.S. (Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, *Stann Creek*, Belize); U.C.R. (Universidad de Costa Rica bird collection).

## DUCKS THROUGH STORKS

A group of 750 Blue-winged Teal at the El Progreso oxidation ponds, *Yoro* 4 Mar (DA) were accompanied by a Cinnamon Teal, perhaps the first recorded in Honduras since 1958. Little known and rarely reported in Guatemala, a male and female Ocellated Quail were seen 5 km e. of San Pedro Carchá, *Alta Verapaz* 10 Apr (RC). Providing both the earliest seasonal record and a high count for the species in El Salvador were 152 Audubon's Shearwaters seen on a pelagic out to 50 km off the coast of *Ahuachapán* 3 Mar (JRS, ph. TJ). And in Panama, an Audubon's Shearwater and a Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel seen near *Islas Frailes del Sur*, *Los Santos* 20 May (BA, CAh, SA, DM,

DeM) provided the first provincial records for these two species.

A dead juv. Red-billed Tropicbird was found on the boundary cut between pasture and montane forest on the slope of Cord. Talamanca, *Altamira, Puntarenas* 3 Mar (LS, \*U.C.R.). Another juv was found dead in the mts. of Heredia on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica's Central Valley 6 Feb 2004. Five Nazca Boobies and a single Brown Booby seen on the 3 Mar pelagic trip off Ahuachapán were the earliest in the year for each species in El Salvador (JRS, TJ). With only three previous records for El Salvador, 3 Blue-footed Boobies seen in Bahía de La Unión, *La Unión* 26 Mar (ph. RIP) were noteworthy. A feeding group of approximately 20 Red-footed Boobies were 5 km e. of Carrie Bow Caye on Belize's barrier reef 9 Apr, and 18 were between Carrie Bow Caye and Glovers Reef on 1 May (PB). Unlike other boobies, this species, which breeds at Half Moon Caye, typically forages well offshore and is seldom seen near the reef.

In El Salvador, 2800 Magnificent Frigatebirds, mainly imms. and females, 26 Mar at Isla Pirigallo, *La Unión* (ph. RIP) was made an exceptionally high count. Two separate sightings of Bare-throated Tiger-Heron on the Río Sapo, *Morazán* 8 & 12 Mar were noteworthy for that part of El Salvador (ph. RIP, JSG). In Guatemala, an ad. Reddish Egret at San Pedro La Laguna, *Lake Atitlán, Sololá* 19 Mar (ph. CCA) was one of the few ever recorded inland in Central America. Single Agami Herons were reported at Summit Ponds, *Panamá* 1 & 28 Mar (CB and GAR, respectively) where they are rarely seen. On the Pacific slope of Nicaragua, where it is not often reported, a Jabiru was seen 13 Apr at Laguna de Tisma, *Masaya* (LC, GD, PS).

## RAPTORS

A pair of Hook-billed Kites at Normandía, *Usulután* 12 May (CF) provided a good record of this rarely reported species in El Salvador. A subad. male Northern Harrier, rare on the s. Pacific slope of Costa Rica, was seen in a rice-growing area at Palmar Sur, *Puntarenas* 25 Mar (JZ). It was in habitat similar to that in the Tempisque Basin, where it occurs regularly in small numbers. Cooper's Hawks were reported passing La Virgen, *Rivas, Nicaragua* between 29 Mar and 21 Apr in northward migration, and another was seen on the late date of 3 May at Laguna de Apoyo, *Masaya* (all PS, AC). On

all but one of the five days with sightings, single birds were seen, with 3 passing on 7 Apr. This species is rare in Nicaragua, where it has been reported previously only in fall migration. Rarely seen in Central America, an ad. Solitary Eagle was reported in Costa Rica on two consecutive mornings in mid-Apr, one day soaring over mt. ridges above San Gerardo Biological Station, *Monteverde, Alajuela* with both Black and Ornate Hawk-Eagles, which provided good size comparisons (CG). In Guatemala, another ad. was seen 1 May at 1600 m in the Los Trrales Reserve, *Succhitepéquez* (LC, KE, MC).

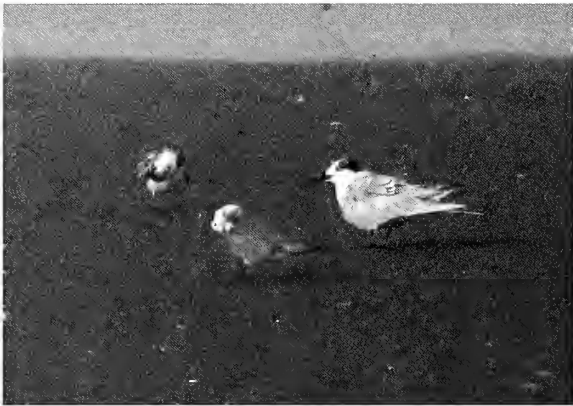
Short-tailed Hawk is typically sedentary, but occasionally small groups of migrating birds are reported. In Nicaragua, a remarkable 85 were seen migrating northward past La Virgen 22 Mar, with from one to 6 birds reported



Four Surfbirds were found at Arcos del Espino, Department of Usulután in El Salvador on 2 April 2007. Although the species is surely a regular spring transient, there are only a few records of Surfbird from El Salvador. Photograph by Ricardo Ibarra Portillo.

there on four subsequent dates through 11 Apr (PS, AC). A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks that appeared to be nesting in mangroves at Puerto Parada, *Usulután* 12 May (RP) would be the first to nest in the coastal lowlands of El Salvador. In Panama, along Achiotte Rd. in San Lorenzo N.P., *Colón*, a rare juv. Crested Eagle was seen 28 Mar (JCG). And an ad. Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle was seen on the morning of 1 Mar at 1500 m at Las Alturas on the Pacific slope of Cordillera Talamanca, *Puntarenas* (JZ, AO, JG). This species is rare in Costa Rica, especially at this elevation and location. Despite a year and a half of fieldwork in the Río Cangrejal Valley, Pico Bonito N.P., *Atlántida*, Ornate Hawk-Eagle was not reported until 9 Apr (DA), when one was seen soaring over primary humid forest. After years of relentless persecution by local residents, few large raptors remain in this valley.

Rarely reported on the Pacific slope of Guatemala, a Barred Forest-Falcon was heard



Five Roseate Terns were found along the Pacific coast of southwestern El Salvador on 14-15 April 2007 (one here 15 April, at Bocana San Juan, Department of Sonsonate). There are only three previous records for the country. Increased spring observations are needed to determine if this species is regular in spring on the Pacific coast. Photograph by Ricardo Ibarra Portillo.

calling in the Los Andes Reserve, *Suschitepéquez* 4 Apr (KE, CA). Another rarely reported raptor, Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon was seen along Pipeline Rd., *Colón* 18 & 22 Mar (GAR). At least one Collared Forest-Falcon was heard in the arid Valle de Aguán at El Poligono, *Yoro* 1-3 Mar (DA). Although common in wet forests in Honduras, this was in thorn forest where the species is seldom reported. Two Crested Caracaras were reported in Belize this spring. One seen regularly n. of the Spanish Lookout ferry crossing of the Belize R., *Cayo* in Feb, Mar, and early Apr (JT, ph. FT, ET et al.). Specific dates indicated were 10 & 26 Mar and around 4 Apr. Providing the first documented record for s. Belize was an ad. seen aggressively pursuing an Osprey carrying a fish at Aguacaliente Lagoon, *Toledo* 9 Mar (LJ). In Panama, one at Summit Ponds 30 May (KA) was at an unusual location.

Merlin is rare in spring in many parts of Central America away from the Caribbean coast, so one each in Costa Rica on Volcán Irazú, *Cartago*, La Gamba, *Puntarenas*, and Sabalito, *Puntarenas* near the Panama border 10, 25, & 28 Mar, respectively (all JZ) were noteworthy, as was one in Honduras in the Valle de Aguán 1 Mar (SC), and another in Guatemala at Los Tarrales Reserve 17 Mar (KE, JP). The Volcán Irazú bird may have been wintering, as the species is periodically reported in the cen. highlands of Costa Rica in winter. On 8 & 16 May, at least one Peregrine Falcon pair and up to 2 other birds were seen perching and flying together at El Imposible N.P. *Ahuachapán* (RP). The pair was seen performing territorial displays—diving, circling, and calling—but nesting was not observed. Meanwhile, in Nicaragua, a wintering Peregrine Falcon observed at Montibelli Pri-

vate Reserve, *Managua* 10 Feb–13 Mar (PoS, MT) was the first reported from that site.

## RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES

The rarely seen Uniform Crake was reported from Panama, Costa Rica, and Belize this spring. Two were located near the Continental Divide Trail, Fortuna, *Chiriquí* 5 May, and one was heard on the same date at Chiriquí Grande (both DM, WA). In Costa Rica, one was seen repeatedly from 10 Feb+ in Santa Teresa de Sabalito, *Puntarenas* (CM, FO), an interior valley adjacent to Panama. Very rare and local in the s. Pacific interior, this was the first reported

from the Coto Brus region. In Belize, one was seen 11 Mar (LJ, BF) near the visitor center in C.B.W.S., where it is known to occur but is seldom reported. A Paint-billed Crake in the La Gamba rice-growing area of *Puntarenas* 25 Mar (JZ) was in the same spot where JS collected a dead individual 28 Feb and a live bird was seen 6 Mar (PM).

Two Southern Lapwings by a golf course in Cariari-Herradura, *Heredia* 18 Apr (JW) were apparently the first in the Central Valley for this recently established species in Costa Rica. American Golden-Plover is rarely reported in El Salvador, so a spate of records this spring was noteworthy, although perhaps due to increased observer effort. Four were at Río Jiboa, *La Paz* 27 Mar, and 3 were present there 2 Apr (both TJ); 2 were at Las Bocanitas, *La Libertad* 11 Apr (RIP, IV); 2 were at Cerrón Grande Res., *Cuscatlán* 13 Apr (RIP, IV); 7 were at Laguna El Jocotal, *San Miguel* 13 Apr (RM, MR); and one was at Bahía de Jiquilisco, *Usulután* 14 Apr (OK). A Collared Plover was at Gra Gra Lagoon N.P. s. of Dangriga 5 Mar (JD). This species is seldom reported in Belize away from shrimp farms. An Upland Sandpiper in a maize field beside Lago de Güija 15 Apr (NH) provided only the 5th record for El Salvador and the first for *Santa Ana*.

There are only a handful of records of Surf-bird for El Salvador, so a group of 4 photographed at close range at Arcos del Espino,

*Usulután* 2 Apr (ph. RIP) provided a rare opportunity. Records of Red Knot in El Salvador are few, and the first spring record came as recently as Apr 2004. Therefore, a group of 5 at Bahía de Jiquilisco 14 Apr (OK, EM, ST, JJ) was worth noting. As the world population continues to decline dramatically, reports of knots may become even rarer. Five Pectoral Sandpipers at Aguacaliente Lagoon 3 Mar (LG, BF, et al.) matched the earliest arrival date on record for this species in Belize. In El Salvador, a group of 700 at Cerrón Grande Res. 13 Apr was exceptional, as were 260 Stilt Sandpipers there the same day (ph. RIP, IV). Five more Stilt Sandpipers were at Laguna El Jocotal 13 Apr (RM, MR). In with a flock of Red-necked Phalaropes 30 km s. of Punta Blanca off the sw. tip of the Osa Pen. 4 Apr were 4 Red Phalaropes (JZ, ph. JPE et al.). This species is a rare but probably regular migrant in the Pacific off Costa Rica. Additionally, 6 Red Phalaropes were seen on the 3 Mar pelagic trip about 30 km off the coast of *Ahuachapán* (JRS, ph. TJ). There are few previous records for El Salvador.

## GULLS THROUGH CUCKOOS

An ad. Swallow-tailed Gull in alternate plumage seen in a spotlight beam for 10 minutes around 7:45 p.m. while circling a boat 71 km wsw. of Punta Guiones 9 Apr (RG, PM,



The first Sabine's Gull reported in El Salvador since 1991, this bird was seen at El Majahual beach, La Libertad Department 12 April 2007. Photograph by Ricardo Ibarra Portillo.

BY, JZ) provided only the 3rd record for Costa Rica, and at 9° 44' N was the farthest n. yet reported. Providing the first report for El Salvador since 1991, an imm. Sabine's Gull molting into ad. plumage was seen at El Majahual, *La Libertad* 12 Apr (ph. RIP, IV). With only two previous records for El Salvador, a single Brown Noddy at Río Jiboa, *La Paz* 13 Mar was a big surprise and the first with documentary evidence (ph. TJ). One or 2 Sooty

Terns on each of three pelagic trips off Golfito, Tambor, and Los Sueños in Mar and Apr (CS, SW, PH, JZ) were the first reported on the Pacific pelagic day-trips run off Costa Rica in recent years. An exceptionally high count of 400 Least Terns at Isla San Sebastián, *Usulután* 14 Apr was double the previous maximum for El Salvador (OK, ph. EM, ST, JJ). Also exceptional were 3000 Black Terns observed during the 3 Mar pelagic trip off *Ahuachapán* (JRS, TJ), along with 1500 counted at Río Jiboa 13 May (TJ).

With only three previous records in El Salvador, 5 Roseate Terns on 14-15 Apr, including 2 at El Zapote, *Ahuachapán* 14 Apr and 3 at Bocana de San Juan, *Sonsonate* 15 Apr (both RIP, AEA), were exceptional. Could this species be an overlooked but regular transient on the Pacific coast, or was this simply an exceptional year? A single Forster's Tern was at Bahía de Jiquilisco 13 Apr (OK, EM, ST, JJ). Another was at Río Jiboa 15 Apr, and 2 were there 29 Apr (TJ). With only eight previous records for El Salvador, 4 birds in one month was unusual, although Apr was the month with most previous records. In the vicinity of Panama City, Elegant Terns were seen on several occasions in Mar: 30 were in Santa Clara 13 Mar, 3 were in Panama City 20 Mar (both GAr), and 10 were in Panama City 31 Mar (LN); also, 3 were at Amador 24 Mar (LN). Elsewhere in Panama, 3 at Venado Beach, *Los Santos* 20 May (BA, CAh, SA, DM, DeM) provided the first provincial record. Two Pomarine Jaegers 5 km off *Santa Rosa* on Guatemala's Pacific coast 28 Apr (PV, ph. VD), while not unexpected, nonetheless provided the first photographic documentation of this species for the country. An exhausted Parasitic Jaeger found on a beach at Cutuco, *La Unión* 27 Apr (ph., *fide* RIP) furnished only the 5th record for El Salvador.

A group of 15 White-crowned Pigeons was in Sittee River Village, *Stann Creek* 9 Apr (PB). Given previous reports of the species in coastal areas of the mainland near Dangriga during the breeding season, a mainland breeding site for this insular species is suggested. A Gray-headed Dove 20 Mar (JV) brought out into the open with a tape-recording on Oxbow Lake Trail in Carara N.P., *Puntarenas* provided a solid report for a confusing species whose distribution is poorly understood outside of its strongholds in the Nicoya Pen., Cord. Guanacaste, and n. Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica. As with Collared Forest-Falcon (see above), a Ruddy Quail-Dove was mist-netted in arid thorn forest in Valle de Aguán, El Polígono 1 Mar (DA) where the species was not expected. Two Pheasant Cuckoos were reported in Costa Rica this spring: 1 heard 1 Mar at

Las Alturas (JZ, AO, JG) and another heard 3 Apr at Durika (JZ) 35 km n. of Las Alturas, both on the Pacific slope of Cordillera Talamanca. Supported by other reports of this elusive species from the Las Alturas area in the past two years, this may be the most reliable spot in Costa Rica to find the species.

## OWLS THROUGH KINGFISHERS

Rarely reported in El Salvador, a Spectacled Owl was at Normandía, *Usulután* 12 May (CF). An Ocellated Poorwill was heard in late Mar (CS) at Crucitas de San Carlos, about 45

served 30 May (JoP, KA).

White-tipped Sicklebills are recently turning up much farther n. on the s. Pacific slope of Costa Rica. After being reported only as far n. as Parrita until recently, 3 were seen this spring for the first time in the Carara area: one along Oxbow Lake Trail 17 Mar (GR), another in the same area in late Mar (KEa), and a 3rd at Pura Vida Gardens, up the road from Hotel Villa Lapas, in the mts. behind Carara N.P. 27 Apr (RG). It will be interesting to see if this species persists in the area or if this is only a temporary seasonal expansion. Always



This Spotted Woodcreeper photographed 13 May 2007 is only the fourth recorded in El Salvador and the second recorded at the bird monitoring station in the cloud forest of Montecristo National Park. The species is apparently a very rare resident or occasional visitor to the country's cloud forests. Photograph by Roselvy Juárez.

km se. of Los Chiles on the Río San Juan, *Alajuela*. The only other Costa Rican records have come from the extreme nw. part of the Caribbean lowlands near Brasilia. This bird, at the Nicaraguan border, was much farther e. in central Costa Rica. As nightjars often go unnoticed, this species may be an established, albeit overlooked, resident in this area. Providing a first locality record, a Dusky Nightjar was heard near the Continental Divide Trail, Fortuna 5 & 7 May (DM, WA). Northern Potoo is seldom reported in Guatemala, at least in part because of its nocturnal habit, so one seen 17 Mar at Patrocino Reserve, *Quetzaltenango* (ph. KE, CA) was considered noteworthy. More interesting, though, was a pair found nesting in Los Trrales Reserve 1 Apr (KE, CA). Both members of the pair took turns incubating. Rarely seen from the Canopy Tower, *Panamá* was a Black Swift ob-

of interest in the Belize lowlands, a Brown Violet-ear was seen in mid-Apr on the outskirts of Punta Gorda (PHe). A female Black-crested Coquette in the Patrocino Reserve in Guatemala 29 Mar (KE) and another female in the Belize Botanical Gardens 6 km s. of San Ignacio, *Cayo* 3 May (JoG) were at localities where the species had not been previously recorded. A male Blue-throated Goldentail made a one-day appearance at The Lodge at Big Falls, *Toledo* 16 May (R&MH, *fide* LJ). There are only two previous records for Belize. Providing a first record for *Bocas del Toro* was a Blue-throated Goldentail at Isla Escudo de Veraguas 12 Apr (AK, TB).

Easily the most abundant hummingbird in Belize, the Rufous-tailed Hummingbird is, however, virtually unrecorded on the Belize cayes. A well-documented bird on Northeast Caye, Glovers Reef Atoll 8 Apr (PB) provided



This female Gray-collared Becard netted in El Salvador's pine-oak forest on 8 April 2007 represents just the third record for Montecristo National Park. Photograph by Vicky Galán.

the first record for the outer cayes. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Belmopan 22 Apr (PB) matched the latest spring date on record for Belize. In Honduras, a pair of Mountain Trogons was seen at a nest at the summit of Cerro Uyuca, *Francisco Morazán* 10 Mar (DA). Although not unexpected, few nests of this species have been reported in the Region. Also of interest were an ad. male and 2 juv. Resplendent Quetzals in the same area 10-12 Mar (DA). This record may be of conservation interest because the extent of cloud forest on Uyuca is small, amounting to 250 ha, and the pine forests below are extensively burned most years, potentially jeopardizing its continued presence in the area. An Amazon Kingfisher at Río Guaco, *Morazán* 8 Mar provided a new locality record for El Salvador (RIP, AEA).

## WOODPECKERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

In Panama, an Olivaceous Piculet was at the Gamboa Ammo Dump, *Colón* 16 Apr (JCG), where rare. A bird showing characteristics of both Hoffman's and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers was photographed at Río Torola, *Morazán* 8 Mar (JTG). There is one previous record of a hybrid in El Salvador and one record of an apparently pure Hoffman's. The first Black-banded Woodcreeper ever recorded in El Salvador was trapped at the SalvaNATURA banding station in the cloud forest at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* 6 Apr (ph. VG, RJ, CZ, GF, ARL). Remarkably, a Spotted Woodcreeper, only the 4th documented for the country, was

trapped at the same banding station 13 May (ph. VG, RJ, CZ, IV). Another individual was banded there 22 Mar 2006. A pair of Bare-crowned Antbirds near Aguacaliente Lagoon 14 Mar (LJ) was at a new locality. This species is being reported with increasing frequency in s. Belize where it is likely on the increase as it takes advantage of the proliferation of second-growth forest in the Region.

Two Olive-sided Flycatchers at Red Bank, *Stann Creek* 6 Mar (JD) and one at Ben's Bluff, C.B.W.S. 11 Mar (MH, JH) may have been wintering, as was a singing Willow Flycatcher at The Dump, *Toledo* 18 Mar (LJ). A female Gray-collared Becard was netted in the Montecristo pine-oak forest 8 Apr (ph. VG, RJ, CZ, GF, ARL). There are few reports of this species in El Salvador, and this bird represented only the 3rd record for Montecristo N.P. Three Bare-necked Umbrellabirds were found in a two-day period: one each on 6 May along the Continental Divide Trail, *Chiriquí* and the 3 de Noviembre Trail, Palo Seco Protection Forest, *Bocas del Toro*, and another 7 May at Bijao, Fortuna (DM, WA); also at Palo Seco was a Sharpbill 8 May. These two species are infrequently reported in Panama. The Blue-headed Vireo that wintered in Belmopan was last seen 22 Apr (PB). This wintering individual provided the 3rd documented record for Belize and the 2nd from this site. In Costa Rica, Warbling Vireos were seen along the Oxbow Lake Trail 17 Mar (JV) and at Hotel Villa Lapas in late Mar (DVP), both in Carara N.P. These were the 2nd and 3rd reports this winter for

this casual species. On Glovers Reef Atoll, a Black-whiskered Vireo seen 6 Apr (PB) provided only the 5th record for Belize, the 2nd for Glovers Reef. As would be expected, all have been from the cayes, and all have been seen in spring between 22 Mar and 22 May.

An apparently late migrant Tree Swallow was on Glovers Reef Atoll 7 Apr (PB). This species is among the last to arrive in Central America in fall and the first to leave in spring. Providing a first record for Caquipec Mt., *Alta Verapaz* was an American Dipper at Sequixpur, 18 km se. of San Pedro Carchá 30 Apr (RC). In Belize, White-throated Robin is normally restricted to elevations above 600 m; however, a group of 8 highly vocal birds 8 May near the C.B.W.S. visitor center was less than 100 m above sea level (JB) and likely signified a small, recently established lowland population. Several birds have been seen consistently at this popular birding destination over the past three years (LJ, JB et al.). The influx of Cedar Waxwings into the Region this winter continued into spring. In Costa Rica, waxwings were widespread, occurring mostly in small flocks ranging from 6 to 29 birds; however, 300 were in the Altamira area on the Pacific slope of Cordillera Talamanca 3 Mar (several observers). In Guatemala, the species was widespread, with numbers ranging from 10 to 50 per report. The latest occurrences were 15 May at Naranjo, *Alajuela* (JZ) and 16 May in the Chelemhá Reserve, *Alta Verapaz* (KE).

## WARBLERS

A well-studied Orange-crowned Warbler in Costa Rica at Cariari-Herradura, *Heredia* 16 Apr (JS) was in with a group of Tennessee Warblers. This species is seldom documented in Central America s. of the Guatemala highlands. A Northern Parula, only the 6th for El Salvador, was found in mangroves at Normandia 9 Mar (RIP). Two Northern Parulas were seen in the Los Tarrales Reserve 18 Mar (KE, JP, JDe). The species is rare in Guatemala away from the Caribbean lowlands. Two Magnolia Warblers on the outskirts of Belmopan, Belize 12 May (PB) were late spring migrants. Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported this spring from two localities on the mainland: in Panama, a male was at Chiriquí Grande 6 May (CAh), and in Guatemala, a male was seen 19 Apr (ph. CA) at 2000 m in the Chelemhá Reserve, where it had not previously been recorded. Winter 2006-2007 was not noteworthy for Yellow-rumped Warblers, so a worn female at Las Alturas 8 Apr (JZ, AO, JG) was of interest. Only one other was reported in Costa Rica this winter.

Golden-cheeked Warbler continues to be reported in Costa Rica after first being docu-

mented in autumn 2002. A female at Cedral, Cerros de Escazú on the s. border of the Central Valley 8 Apr (RD, DMac, LSt) was the country's 5th. All have been found in the highlands surrounding the Central Valley, and all but one have been females. Although nw. Nicaragua is within the species' accepted winter range, it is not often reported there, so a male seen at 1350 m in El Jaguar Private Reserve, *Jinoteca* 4 Mar (LC) is worth reporting. In El Salvador, one at Montecristo N.P. 6 Apr (VG) provided a late record, as this species usually has departed the Region by the end of Mar. Also worth noting is a Yellow-throated Warbler seen at Fortuna 5 May (WA); this species is rare in Panama. A male Prairie Warbler at Pelican Beach, Dangriga 5 Mar (JD) was at the same site where reported last year. This species is not often seen on the mainland. Tying the latest spring date for the species in Belize was a Palm Warbler on Glovers Reef Atoll 3 May (PB).

A female Blackpoll Warbler was mist-netted at La Isla de San Vito, *Puntarenas* 14 Apr (CM, FO) and recaptured 16 days later. Most Costa Rica records are from Nov–Jan; few are from spring. The only Cerulean Warbler reported in Costa Rica this spring was a male seen 3 Apr at Kéköldi, *Limón* (DMar, JR). A Hooded Warbler was seen in the Patrocinio Reserve 29 Mar (KE, CA). This species is rare in winter on the Pacific slope of n. Central America. Exceptionally late was a Wilson's Warbler in the Chelehmá Reserve 27 May (KE). A Red-faced Warbler was observed at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* 6 Apr (VG), providing only the 3rd spring report for El Salvador. The orange-breasted Yellow-breasted Chat found at Sabalito 27 Feb was still present 28 Mar (JZ). Following the report of Gray-throated Chats in two localities within C.B.W.S. 29 & 31 Dec was a report of one from yet another locality within C.B.W.S. 11 Mar (LJ). Whether or not this uncommon but widely distributed species in Belize has recently colonized this heavily birded park or has been overlooked before is unknown.

## SWALLOW Tanager THROUGH ORIOLES

Providing the westernmost record for the species was a male Swallow Tanager at Diablo Heights, Panama City 17–18 Mar (C&BT). This species is very rare w. of e. *Darién*. The peripatetic Grassland Yellow-Finch is as unpredictable as the Slate-colored Seedeater. In some areas (e.g., near Burrell Boom, Belize), it can be reliably found year after year; in other areas, it will appear for only a year, or less, before moving on. Such appears to be the case for The Dump ricefields 20 km nw. of Punta Gorda, where flocks of 65 and 40 were reported in Nov and Dec, respectively. On 8 Mar, only 15 were seen (LJ), and none have been seen in the area since. Apparently, they were only wintering. Only recently reported from the Monteverde area around Santa Elena, a Prevost's Ground-Sparrow was at the San Gerardo Biological Station in mid-Mar (KEa). This bird was farther down on the Caribbean slope than any reported previously.

A Lark Sparrow at La Angostura, Pérez Zeledón, *San José* 29 Mar (JZ) provided the 6th record for Costa Rica and the 2nd from the San Isidro de El General area. First recorded in Panama in 2003, a Grayish Saltator at Paso Ancho above Volcán in Mar and Apr (JC) was the first reported e. of westernmost *Bocas del Toro* and provided the first provincial record for *Chiriquí*. This species continues to expand its range into s. Costa Rica as well, but more advanced on the Caribbean side where it recently reached Panama. On the Pacific slope, it was first reported from about 700 m in the hills behind Uvita on 3 Jan 2006. One seen 2 May at Copal de Agua Buena, 1 km w. of the Wilson Botanical Gardens (CM, FO), was only 5 km from the Panama border and represented a major expansion to the south. Rare in Alta Verapaz, which is on Guatemala's Caribbean slope, was a Spot-breasted Oriole at Cobán 25 Mar (RC).

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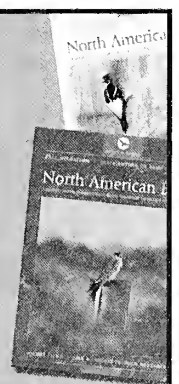
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# West Indies & Bermuda



**Anthony White**  
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Global warming is expected to hasten spring migration, and the ever-earlier arrival dates of Gray Kingbird and Black-whiskered Vireo in the Bahamas support that prediction. The number of new latest departure dates from Guadeloupe appears to conflict with the prediction but may be ascribed to more thorough coverage and reporting. Spring is a nesting season in our Region, and there are reports of early nesting by Pied-billed Grebes and Ospreys and of ground-nesting by Bahama Mockingbirds. Venezuelan ornithologists surveyed a huge tern colony on Aves Island this season. A severe late-winter storm moving up the Eastern Seaboard of the United States in mid-April brought record numbers of Eastern Kingbirds and Summer and Scarlet Tanagers to Bermuda. The Bahamas also had an unusually large number of Scarlet Tanagers. Seawatches at Guadeloupe provided most of the seabird records for the Region, and large numbers of moorhens, coots, and swallows were found on that island.

Rarities for the season included Ross's Goose (Bahamas), Garganey (Guadeloupe and Bermuda), Gray Heron (Bermuda), Little Egret (Martinique and Antigua), White Stork (Martinique; older record), Great Black-backed Gull (Nevis), Short-eared Owl (Bahamas), White-collared Swift (Guadeloupe), and Orchard Oriole (Bahamas). Birding tours of Dominican Republic and the Lesser Antilles enabled participants to see the endangered endemics of those islands; only a few highlights are listed here. We are still looking for res-

ident reporters from both the Greater and Lesser Antilles (except for Guadeloupe).

## GEESE THROUGH FALCONS

The Canada Goose at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama was last reported 3 Mar (BP). An imm. Canada Goose was seen at Spittal Pond and Princess Pond, Bermuda 5-15 Apr (DBW, AD), while another flew over Spittal Pond 16 May (KR). The Ross's Goose that wintered at Reef G.C. was last seen 17 Mar (EG). Some 102 West Indian Whistling-Ducks were at Bethesda Dam, Antigua 29 Apr (JP, AO); only 8 were at McKinnon Salt Pond, Antigua 17-18 Apr (JVG et al.). In the Bahamas, 2 ads. with 3 young were at Tarpon Pond, Andros 6 May (CW, ALa), and another pair flew over Georgetown Harbour, Great Exuma 15 May (LK). A male Mallard at Fortune Bay, Grand Bahama 5 May (BP) was unusual. An American Wigeon was on Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 14 Mar (IF, PW). A White-cheeked Pintail was found at Reef G.C. 12 May+ (EG, ph. NB, m.ob.). Surprisingly, this is the first report of this species from Grand Bahama. Two male Garganeys were at Gaschet Res., Guadeloupe 8 Mar (JF). A male at Jubilee Rd. 19-23 Apr (DW) and a female at Spittal Pond 7-26 May (EA, DBW) provided Bermuda's 3rd and 4th records of Garganey. A pair of Green-winged Teal was at Gaschet Res. 9 Mar (AL), and a Eurasian Teal was at Jubilee Rd., Bermuda 20

Mar (IF, PW). A Lesser Scaup and a Ring-necked Duck at Gaschet Res. 4 May were the latest ever seen on Guadeloupe (FD). A Red-breasted Merganser was in Great Sound, Bermuda 24 Apr (AD). At Gaschet Res., there were counts of 16 Masked Ducks 9 Mar (FD) and 86 Ruddy Ducks 26 Mar (AL). A Pied-billed Grebe with young at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 3 Mar was indicative of early nesting (BP). FD found 109 Pied-billed Grebes at Gaschet Res. 16 Apr.

Seawatches from Guadeloupe continue to provide the majority of seabird sightings for the Region, but a watch from Bermuda also had interesting sightings (Table 1). Seventeen Sooty Shearwaters passing Cooper's Pt., Bermuda 17 Mar (IF) were the earliest ever recorded by at least three weeks. Manx Shearwater passage peaked on the same day at 2 birds per minute. Poor weather hampered seabirding from fishing boats off Abaco; nevertheless, on 4 May EB saw a Black-capped Petrel, 3 Cory's Shearwaters, 4 Greater Shearwaters, and a Sooty Shearwater e. of Abaco. On 17 May up to 16 km e. of Tilloo Cay, EB and TW found small flocks totaling about 50 Audubon's Shearwaters that also contained 4 Cory's Shearwaters and a Black-capped Petrel, while the next day, TW saw a lone Wilson's Storm-Petrel off Elbow Cay. Approximately 25 White-tailed Tropicbirds were seen around Castle Rock, Acklins I., Bahamas 6-8 May; the

Location	Cooper's Pt., Bermuda	Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe	Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe	Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe
Date(s)	23 Mar	19, 20, 27 May	Month of April	Month of May
Duration	2 hrs	9 hrs	13:45 hrs	9:45 hrs
Observer(s)	IF, PW	AM, TB, FD, AL	AL	AL
Bermuda Petrel	14			
Cory's Shearwater		5	1	28
Greater Shearwater		2		5
Sooty Shearwater		2		
Manx Shearwater	72		132	1
Audubon's Shearwater		11	7	17
large shearwater				2
small shearwater			5	20
Leach's Storm-Petrel	3		7	5
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	3		5	8
unidentified storm-petrel		10	188	33
Brown Booby			1	
unidentified sulid				1
Great Skua		3		
South Polar Skua		1		
Pomarine Jaeger		1	8	
Parasitic Jaeger	2	2	23	1
Long-tailed Jaeger	2	1		
unidentified jaeger			16	8





This Garganey was present at Jubilee Road, Bermuda 19 (here) through 23 April 2007, the third record for Bermuda. A female was Garganey was also present 7-26 May 2007. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

same number was seen at Rum Cay and 10+ off Conception I., both 18 May (all GS). A Masked Booby at Désirade I., Guadeloupe 9 Apr was a rare sighting there (AM). Two pairs of Anhingas nested at Twin Lakes, Paradise I. this spring (*vide* PD). A Magnificent Frigatebird was seen at Challenger Banks off Bermuda 24 Apr (CB).

An American Bittern moved between Non-such I. and Cooper's Pt., Bermuda 1-23 Mar (JM). Single Least Bitterns were at Fort de France's Baie Mangrove, Martinique 18 Mar (GL), Firefly N.R., Bermuda 4 Apr (DBW), and Cloverdale, Bermuda 24 Apr (EA), and 3 were at Port Louis, Guadeloupe 17 Apr (AL). A Great Blue Heron with 3 imms. on Gibbett's I. 16 May strongly suggested successful nesting in Bermuda (DBW). Bermuda's long-staying Gray Heron was present through 31 May and later (AD). A Little Egret was at Salines, Sainte Anne, Martinique 17 Mar (GL); another in breeding plumage (and with bright yellow lores) was at McKinnon Salt Pond, Antigua 18 Apr (JVG et al.). Black-crowned Night-Herons were found in Bermuda at Spittal Pond 5 Apr (DBW) and Pilchard Bay 15 Apr (DW). A Glossy Ibis was on the Mid-Ocean G.C., Bermuda 14 Mar-4 May (AD) and another at Ely's Harbour 24 Apr (CB).

Two ad. Ospreys with a young bird in the nest 3 Mar at Madeira Rd., Eleuthera, Bahamas (PD) show how early the resident birds nest. Eight Ospreys were at Port Louis Swamp, Guadeloupe 15 Mar (FD). In the Bahamas, a Swallow-tailed Kite was seen at Rock Sound, Eleuthera 1 Mar (RB, JDW, SL), and one was at the Retreat, Nassau 13 Apr (CW). A Northern Harrier was at the Fruit Farm, Abaco 14 Apr (EB) and a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 4 Mar (BP). On 5 Mar, a pair of endangered Ridgway's Hawks was nesting on the e. side of Los Haitises N.P., Dominican Republic (KW, BH, EB, TW). In Bermuda, 2 Red-tailed Hawks were present through the season and had again

built a nest on Morgan's Pt. but ceased to visit it (DBW). On Guadeloupe, single Peregrine Falcons were reported at Saline du Gosier 28 Mar, Port Louis 12 Apr (both AL), and Pointe des Châteaux 26 Apr (FD).

## RAILS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A Virginia Rail was last seen at South Pond, Bermuda 4 May (AD). There were high counts of 1250 Common Moorhens 13 May (AL) and 29 Caribbean Coots 16 Apr (FD) at Gaschet Res., Guadeloupe; 3 Purple Gallinules were there 26 Mar, and an imm. was at Pelletant, Port Louis 5 Apr (both AL). PD found 14 Piping Plovers on Girls Bank, Harbour I., Eleuthera 1 Mar and 8 Whimbrels at Spanish Wells the same day. A Black-necked Stilt was at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 1 May+ (KR); on 19 May, 4 stilts were at Pointe des Châteaux (AMZ) and 2 at Gaschet Res. (FD). An American Avocet at Harrold & Wilson Ponds N.P., New Providence I., Bahamas 14 Mar was in alternate plumage (PD). Shorebirds at Las Salinas, Dominican Republic 12 Mar included 9 Snowy and 4 Semipalmated Plovers, 13 Black-necked Stilts, 12 Stilt Sandpipers, and 54 Least and 33 Semipalmated Sandpipers (KW et al.). JP and SP found 2 color-banded Snowy Plovers, 3 banded Piping Plovers, 16 Wilson Plovers, 14 Semipalmated Plovers, 2 Marbled Godwits, and 4 Wilson's Phalaropes at McKinnon Salt Pond, Antigua 22 Apr. A Willet was at Pointe des Châteaux 30 May (FD). A Eurasian Whimbrel discovered by IF at Stocks Harbour, Bermuda 17-20 Mar was the first since 1995 (ph. AD), and a *hudsonicus* Whimbrel at Petite-Terre N.R. 26 May set a new late date for Guadeloupe (AL). A Red Knot was on Cobblers I., Bermuda 16 May (DBW). Three basic-plumaged Western Sandpipers were at Crossing Rocks, Abaco 19 May (TW, EB, ML, MM, HP). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Pelletant, Port Louis 5 Apr established the first spring record for Guadeloupe (AL). Two Stilt Sandpipers at Pointe des Châteaux 30 May set the new late date for Guadeloupe (FD).

Single Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers were seen off Cooper's Pt., Bermuda 22 Mar (IF), the first of the few jaegers reported this spring. On 17 May AM, OT, and others found a Great Skua between Désirade I. and Pointe des Châteaux—apparently the southernmost record of this species in the w. North Atlantic. A first-winter Great Black-backed Gull seen at Oualie Bay, Nevis 11-20 Mar was possibly the first for the island (ph. MML, JY, MB). Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the Region included 5 at Rivière Sâlée 1 Mar (AL), 8 at Bahama Bay, Bimini 11 Apr (PD), and a first-cycle bird at McKinnon Salt Pond, Antigua 18 Apr (JVG et al.). At least 24 Bonaparte's Gulls were in the Great Sound area of Bermuda 9 Mar (PW), and one bird remained at Mid-Ocean G.C. through 3 May (DBW). Fourteen Sandwich Terns were observed at Bahama Bay, Bimini 11 Apr (PD) and 2 at Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe 19 (TB) & 28 May (FD). JP and SP found over 400 Least Terns at McKinnon Salt Pond 22 Apr. Almost 200 Least Terns with at least 65 nests were at Petite-Terre N.R. 28 May (AL). A Common Tern was noted 23 Mar on the coast at Spittal Pond, Bermuda (PW, IF), and 5 were at Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe 27 May (FD, AL). A Black Tern in Hamilton Harbour 21 Apr (WF, DW) furnished the first spring record in Bermuda. A Black Skimmer was at Brown's Pt., New Providence 2 May (ph. PD).

On 9 Mar, EB found a flock of Plain Pi-



A Common Greenshank (center) moved between several Barbados locations since its discovery on 4 February 2007 (here, East Point, 9 April)—remarkably the sixth record from Barbados. Photograph by Edward B. Massiah.

geons near Puerto Escondido, Dominican Republic. On Guadeloupe, 10 White-winged Doves were at Moule 5 May, 4 at Petite-Terre N.R. 21 May, and up to 12 at Pointe des Châteaux 23-28 May (AMZ, AL). A critically endangered Grenada Dove was seen and 2 others heard at Mt. Hartman, Grenada 7 Apr (JVG et al.). This refuge, the species' last stronghold, is in danger of being sold to developers. Parrot searches 12-13 Apr at Syndicate Estates, Dominica yielded 50+ Red-necked Parrots and only one or 2 critically endangered Imperial Parrots (JVG et al.). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 13 May (GK). Five Barn Owls were observed on a tower at the

entrance to Coral Harbour, New Providence 18 May (CW). Two reports of Ashy-faced Owl were received. A pair of owls nesting near Sabana de la Mar, Dominican Republic was seen poorly and heard well 4 Mar (KW et al.); they were tentatively identified as Barn Owls based on their vocalizations, though Barn Owl is not known here. Two *Tyto* owls seen in silhouette and heard at Mt. Hartman, Grenada 7 Apr (JVG et al.) were identified as Ashy-faced Owls, probably correctly, though the American Ornithologists' Union considers these birds to be Barn Owls. Further study is needed of *Tyto* owls throughout the Region. A Short-eared Owl on Highborne Cay, Exumas 28-30 Mar constitutes the 2nd record in the Bahamas (JT, ph. NSR). There is also a record from Turks & Caicos. Arrival dates for Antillean Nighthawk in the Bahamas were 13 Apr at Rock Sound, Eleuthera (JW, JDW, RB) and 24 Apr at Sandport, New Providence (JBU); 3 were at Belle-Plaine Abymes, Guadeloupe 20 May (FD). Guadeloupe's first White-collared Swift was reported at Pointe des Châteaux 17 May (JF). A Chimney Swift was at East End Dairy, Bermuda 16 Apr (PW), with others observed through May. On 7 Apr, a Rufous-breasted Hermit was at Grand Etang N.P., Grenada, where the species had been missed during tours since Hurricane *Ivan* in 2004 (JVG et al.).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MANNIKINS

A wintering Eastern Phoebe was last seen at Wreck Hill, Bermuda 8 Mar (WF). A pair of Lesser Antillean (St. Lucia) Pewees at Union Forest Reserve 10 Apr was at a lower altitude than expected (JVG et al.). Single Lesser Antillean Flycatchers were at Petit-Bourg and Capesterre Belle-Eau 11 Apr (AL), and a Fork-tailed Flycatcher, the 4th for Guadeloupe, was at Désirade I. 9 Apr (AM). A Western Kingbird was at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 4 Mar (BP). The first of an influx of about 11 Eastern Kingbirds was reported 14 Apr at Jubilee Rd., Bermuda. A record spring flock was at Bermuda Airport, with 8 or 9 on 20 Apr on the perimeter fence (GA, AD, DBW). Three Eastern Kingbirds were at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 7 Apr (GK), one at the Fruit Farm, Abaco 11 Apr (EB), and one near Lucaya N.P., Grand Bahama 17 Apr (BP). Gray Kingbirds were first seen in the Bahamas at Andros 5 Apr (CW), Grand Bahama 7 Apr (BP), Rock Sound, Eleuthera 11 Apr (JW, JDW, RB), and Rainbow Farms, New Providence 17 Apr (PD, TH).

Large numbers of Caribbean Martins were found at Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe this spring; counts between 456 and 620 were made 10 & 25 Mar, 5, 17, & 25 Apr, and 7, 15,

& 25 May (all AL). Single male Cuban or Purple Martins were seen there on 10 & 25 Mar (AL). The presence of 3 Bahama Swallows on the s. shore near the mouth of Adelaide Creek 5 May (CW) suggests that the species still breeds on New Providence. A Tree Swallow was at The Causeway, Bermuda 4 Mar (AD, JEM). CW, PM, and SH found 12+ Cave Swallows at Nine Tasks L. and the same number at Twin L., South Andros, Bahamas 22-23 May. Four hundred Barn Swallows were at Port Louis Swamp, Guadeloupe 2 Mar, but one at Pointe-à-Pitre 15 May set a new late date (all AL). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at St. George's Park, Grand Bahama 3-5 Mar was a rare find (BP et al.), and one at Wreck Rd., Bermuda remained until 9 Mar (WF). A Hermit Thrush was in the Arboretum, Bermuda 15 Mar (IF), and a Swainson's Thrush was on Gwelly Lane, Bermuda 15 May (WF). AL found a Bare-eyed Robin at Port Louis, Guadeloupe 17 Apr. Three La Selle Thrushes and a Western Chat-Tanager were seen at dawn along the Dominican/Haitian border above Zapotan, Sierra del Baoruco N.P. 8 Mar (KW et al.).

A Northern Mockingbird was in Hamilton, Bermuda 19 Apr (GP), and another was at Hungry Bay 21 Apr (DG). On 13 Apr, at Alcorine Cay, Middle Bight, Andros, SB found three pairs of Bahama Mockingbirds nesting on the ground inside recently burnt bushes that were sending up new shoots. A Pearly-eyed Thrasher was seen at the Retreat, Nassau 25-31 Mar (CW). Two critically endangered White-breasted Thrashers were well seen at Presqu'île de la Caravelle, Martinique 15 Apr (JVG et al.). A White-eyed Vireo was at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 28 Apr (EG), and single Blue-headed Vireos were at St. George's Park, Grand Bahama 5 Mar (BP) and the Retreat, Nassau 9 Mar (CW, JB, BPr). A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Southside, Bermuda 22 Mar (IF). First reports of Black-whiskered Vireos in the Bahamas were 30 Mar at the Retreat, Nassau (CW), 31 Mar at Rainbow Farm, New Providence (NL), 6 Apr at Grand Bahama (BP), and 9 Apr at Rock Sound, Eleuthera (JW, JDW, RB). In Cuba, single arriving migrant Black-whiskered Vireos were found at La Guira and Cueva de los Portales 1 Mar and Hacienda Cortina and near Hotel Rancho San Vicente 2 Mar (WS, BH, *fide* JC). On Guadeloupe, Red-eyed Vireos were found at Pointe des Châteaux 26 Apr (FD) and 5 May (AL) and on Désirade I. 17 (AM) & 26 May (AL), the latter a new late date.

An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Hog Bay Park, Bermuda 12-16 Mar (WF). Guadeloupe's 2nd Tennessee Warbler was banded at Pointe des Châteaux 24 Apr (AL). Two Northern Parulas and 2 Black-throated Green War-

blers on Barbuda 19 Apr (JVG et al.) were good finds. A female Cape May Warbler 20 May (BM) at St. Georges G.C., Bermuda was nine days later than the previous late spring record. A Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Désirade I., Guadeloupe 8 May (AL, FD). This past winter and spring, the Kirtland's Warbler Research and Training Project on s. Eleuthera I., Bahamas banded 38 new Kirtland's Warblers and found 18 color-banded individuals, 2 of which had been banded in Michigan last summer (*fide* JDW). A Yellow Palm Warbler was photographed on Great Inagua, Bahamas 20 Mar (TH). Single Palm Warblers were at Petite Terre N.R. 8-10 & 28 May (AL, FD). A Blackburnian Warbler was n. of Forfar Field Station, Andros 6 May (CW, ALA). Recently split St. Lucia Warblers, Barbuda Warblers, and Barbados Bullfinches were found readily on their home islands mid-Apr (JVG et al.). A Prothonotary Warbler was at Hog Bay Park, Bermuda 4 Mar (DW) and another at Baie Mangrove, Martinique 18 Mar (GL). A Swainson's Warbler remained at Wreck Hill, Bermuda until 12 Mar (WF). Two Worm-eating Warblers were at La Guira, Cuba 1 Mar (WS, BH, *fide* JC). In Nassau, a Wilson's Warbler was at the Retreat 28 Mar (NL), and a Nashville Warbler was at Sans Souci 11 Mar (CW, FH).

A record number of spring Summer Tanagers occurred in Bermuda, with 6 individuals 18-21 Apr (AD). The first of a record influx of Scarlet Tanagers in Bermuda was reported 14 Apr on Mid-Ocean G.C. (RC). By the month's end, there had been at least 20 individuals reported, with 7 on 19 Apr (m.ob.). Scarlet Tanagers were also well represented in the Bahamas: 3 at Marsh Harbour, Abaco 16 Apr (DR), one near Port Lucaya, Grand Bahama 18 Apr (BP), 4 males at Chub Cay, Berry Is. 18 Apr (PD), one at St. George's Park, Grand Bahama 19 Apr (BP), singles at the Fruit Farm, Abaco 18 & 21 Apr (EB), and one at Bahama Palm Shores, Grand Bahama 20 Apr (BN). In Guadeloupe, single male Scarlet Tanagers were at Pointe des Châteaux 8 (AL, FD) & 24 Mar (AR). Two Chipping Sparrows were on Mid-Ocean G.C. 23 Mar (EA), and a White-throated Sparrow was at Hog Bay Park, Bermuda on 4-5 Mar (DW). A Savannah Sparrow was at Windemere, Eleuthera 24-25 Mar (EJ). Cuban Grassquits were reported from Overlyonder Cay, Exumas (*fide* CW), where they had probably been released by well-meaning yachtsmen. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were recorded in above-average numbers throughout Bermuda, with groups of up to 5 birds visiting several bird feeders 20-30 Apr (*fide* AD). Two Blue Grosbeaks were at Cooper's I., Bermuda 24 Apr (EA). An Indigo Bunting at Petite Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 28 May was late (AL, ASA).

On 9 May, BP found 300+ Bobolinks at the poultry farm n. of the Grand Bahama Highway. There could have been hundreds more, as he only flushed the ones near the road. Two Bobolinks were at Pitman's Pond, Bermuda 13-15 May (DBW). Further evidence of Shiny Cowbird's establishment on New Providence I. was the group of 12-15 at Rainbow Farms, Cowpen Rd. 31 Mar (NL), one at Mount Pleasant Village 4 Apr (CW), and 2 at St. Augustine's Monastery 29 Apr (PD, ph. TH). On 13 Apr, 5 critically endangered Montserrat Orioles were present in the Centre Hills along with 4 Forest Thrushes and 3 Brown Tremblers (JVG et al., *vide* MK). There are fewer than five reports of Orchard Oriole from the Bahamas. A mixed flock of 4 Baltimore Orioles and 4 Orchard Orioles (2 first-year males and 2 females) near Shirley Street, Nassau 18-22 May (ph. TH, PD) provided the first documented record for the country. Five Hispaniolan Crossbills were near the upper end of the Alcoa Rd., Sierra del Baoruco N.P., Dominican Republic 9-10 Mar (KW et al.), a typical location. Nutmeg Mannikins were noted on Dominica (JVG et al.).

Addenda: GL reported and photographed a White Stork in ne. Martinique near the mouth of Rivière du Lorrain 5 Feb. The first West Indian report of a White Stork was at Antigua 14 Aug 1993 (NG).

Venezuelan ornithologists (RL, DE, and JPa) surveyed Aves I. (15° 40' N, 63°37' W) in Feb and found 12,100 breeding pairs of Sooty Terns and 5500 breeding pairs of Brown Noddies. If they had been able to conduct the survey later in the season, the numbers would have been even higher.

Observers: AMAZONA (Guadeloupe NGO) (AMZ), Eric Amos, Gerry Ardis, Rudy Badia, Thomas Bouchara, Elwood Bracey, Noreen Brent, Margot Britton, Julie Brownie, Jolika Buckner (JBU), Sandra Buckner, Chris Burville, Rob Chandler, Julie Craves, Paul Dean, Andrew Dobson, Frantz Duzont, Diana Esclasans, Ian Fisher, Wendy Frith, Jacky Froidefond, Erika Gates, Derek Gibbons, Nathan Gricks, Bruce Hallett (BHa), Faye Hands, Sharon Henfield, Bud Henning, Tony Hepburn, Everton Joseph, Martyn Kenefick, Geana Knowles, Lee Kristofs, Anthony Laquidara (ALA), Samara

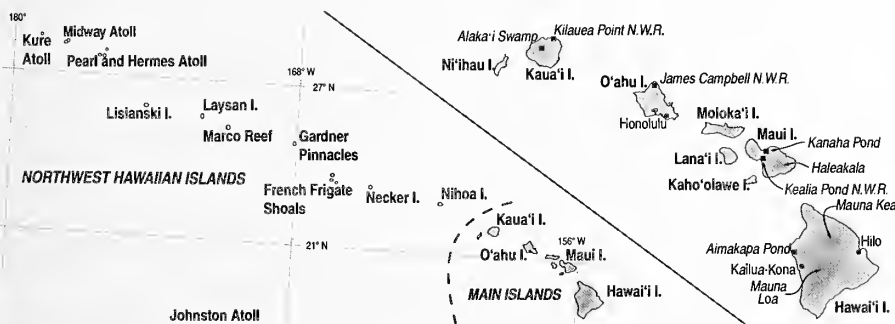
Lawrentz, Rodrigo Lazo, Gilles Leblond, Nick Lethaby, Anthony Levesque (AL), Michael Lightbourn, Mark Michael Ludlow (MML), Jeremy Madeiros (JM), Mike Mathos, Alain Mathurin, Blake Mathys, John Meadows (JEM), Predensa Moore, Bill Nielsen, Andrea Otto, Juan Papadakis (JPa), George Peterich, Hagen Peters, Beverley Price (BPr), Junior Prosper, Shanee Prosper, Bruce Purdy, Armelle Rio, Darin Roberts, Nikita Shiel Rolle (NSR), Keith Rossiter, Alain Saint-Auret (ASA), Geoff Schultz, William Suarez, John Thompson, Olivier Tostain, Jay VanderGaast (Field Guides, Inc. Tour) (JVG), David Wallace (DW), Kate Wallace, Carolyn Wardle, Paul Watson, Jennifer D. White (JDW), Tony White, David Wingate (DBW), Joe Wunderle, John Yearwood. 🌐

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## Hawaiian Islands



**Robert L. Pyle**  
**Peter Donaldson**

Spring can be a very quiet season in the Hawaiian Islands, but this year we received good numbers of observations. A few very rare migrants that lingered into the spring provided some excitement, but there was bad news about the native forest birds on Kauai Island. The weather was generally dry, but the one rainy period was disruptive for native waterbirds.

**Abbreviations:** FFS. (French Frigate Shoals, Hawaiian Islands N.W.R.); H. (Hawaii I.); HRBP (Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photo-

graph; used with image catalog number from the HRBP file at Bishop Museum, Honolulu); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawaii I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kauai I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); K. (Kauai I.); Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Ki'i Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I.); Kokee (Koke'e S.P., Kauai I.); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kauai I.); M. (Maui I.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.); O. (Oahu I.); Ohiaipilo ('Ohi'apilo Pond, Molokai I.); Pouhala (Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Oahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH PHEASANTS

A Greater White-fronted Goose remained at Kualapu'u Res., Molokai I. Mar-9 May (ADY), and one that has been at Waiakea Pond, H. for several years was joined by another 18-20 Apr (DL). A Snow Goose lingered at Kawai'e, K. Mar-26 Apr (V.E.N.T., EV, RD); another was at Kealia Mar-5 Apr (MN). A Brant was at Hanalei Mar-30 Apr (BZ). Greater White-fronteds are rare in the Region, but Snow Geese are even rarer, while Brant are uncommon. Two imm. Bewick's Swans that had been on Molokai I. were last seen mid-Mar at Kualapu'u Res. (ADY). Two Whistling Swans, first seen 30 Jan, lingered at the Kauai Lagoons, K. through at least 8 Mar (S&PS). Both of these subspecies of Tundra Swan are very rare in the Region. A Gadwall that had frequented Waiakea Pond, H. since Jan (m.ob.) remained Apr+. A flock of 4 Garganeys was observed on Laysan I. 15-21 Mar (CM, KP, CT). Both species are rare in the Region. The last reports of diving ducks were 4 Ring-necked Ducks and 14 Lesser Scaup at Kualapu'u Res., Molokai I. (ADY).

Five Black Francolins were found near Makakilo, O. 4 May (EV). Black Francolins have rarely been reported on O'ahu, but they seem to have increased in abundance recently in w. O'ahu. Common Peafowl were found to be abundant over a large area of s. Maui I. in May. The birds ranged from near sea level to 1600 m (RD). Common Peafowl have been long established in the Region, but we seldom get much information on their abundance.

## ALBATROSSES THROUGH FALCONS

Two Short-tailed Albatrosses (Endangered) were observed on Midway. An ad. frequented Sand I. near a group of decoys Oct 2006–7 Mar, while an imm. was seen mainly on Eastern I. Oct through at least 7 Mar (JK). Single Red-billed Tropicbirds were observed on Nihoa I. 24 Mar (IJ, CR, CS) and in Waimanalo O. 2 (EV, LY) & 10 Apr (MW). Two Red-billeds were observed in Waimanalo 1–4 Apr (EV, LY). Red-billeds are rare in the Region but have been reported fairly regularly in the



Among the waterfowl that lingered well into the spring of 2007 was this drake Gadwall photographed at Waiakea Pond on the Big Island of Hawai'i on 8 April. Gadwall is rare in the Hawaiian Islands region, and most Gadwalls that are discovered are too shy to be photographed well. This bird was in a pond where resident ducks and geese are frequently fed and was much tamer than the usual migrant ducks in the region. Photograph by Michael Walther.

past few years. A Nazca Booby was observed at F.E.S. 30 Mar (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). This is the 3rd report in the Region for the species, which was split from Masked Booby in 2000. Observers on Laysan I. discovered a Brewster's Brown Booby 7 Apr (CM, KP, CT). Another Lesser Frigatebird was seen at F.E.S. 31 May (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).

An imm. Great Blue Heron was observed at K.P. 26 Mar (DL, m.ob.), and an imm. remained in Kahuku, O. Dec–28 Mar (MS). Great Blues are rare but regular in the Region. A White-faced Ibis remained on Moloka'i I. Mar+ (ADY), and another was at Kii Mar–26 Apr (MS). A single White-faced was observed 19 Mar at Kealia (DP, m.ob.). Three White-faced Ibis were seen at Honouliuli 25 Mar (PD); 2 remained 11 Apr (MS). An ibis at Honouliuli 25 Apr (MS) represented the last report of the sea-

**SA** The reports on Kaua'i I. forest birds are discouraging. David Kuhn reports that the 'Akikiki (Endangered) continues its decline. Even more disturbing, the population of the 'Akeke'e, which is not even listed federally as Endangered, has crashed. According to David, other native birds, including the 'Anianiau, Kaua'i 'Amakahi, 'Iiwi, and 'Apapane have also declined in the past several years. Sadly, there may not be much anyone can do. According to Eric VanderWerf, many native forest birds are extremely vulnerable to mosquito-borne diseases, and disease-bearing mosquitoes are moving into higher elevations that used to be mosquito-free.

son. *Plegadis* ibises are historically rare in the Region but have been reported regularly since a flock of 10 appeared on Kaua'i I. in autumn 2003. So far, all the birds that have been identified to species have been White-faced. Single Peregrine Falcons were observed at Kealia 3 Mar (*vide* MN), at Kaneohe O. 22 Mar (DN) and at K.P. 18 Apr (EV, BZ).

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PASSERINES

Dry weather produced poor conditions for Hawaiian Stilts (Endangered) on Maui I., and numbers there were very low (MN). Rainfall averaged near normal on O'ahu I., but rainy weather in Mar and dry weather later in the season disrupted nesting (MS, PD). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was observed at Kii 27 Mar (PD), and 3 were present on Laysan I. 4–21 Apr (CM, KP, CT). Sharp-taileds are regular in the fall but very rare in the spring. A Dunlin in alternate plumage was observed at Ohia-pilo 22 May (ADY). Four Ruffs, making an unusually high count, were seen on Laysan I. 4–7 Apr (CM, KP, CT). There were 2 Red Phalaropes on Laysan I. 3–7 Apr (CM, KP, CT), a species rare but regular in the Region.

Laughing Gulls were widespread Mar+ (m.ob.), with an unusually high count of 4 at Kawai'ele 22 Mar (MW). Single Franklin's Gulls were seen on Laysan 9 May (CM, KP, CT), at Kealia 17 May, and at F.E.S. 19 & 31 May (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). Sin-

gle Ring-billed Gulls were spotted at Honouliuli 25 Mar (PD) and Waiawa 26 Mar (PD). A Common Tern, not common in the Region, was observed at an aquaculture farm in Palaaui Moloka'i I. 20 & 23 Mar (ADY). A flock of 56 parakeets, mostly Red-masked with several Blue-crowned, was observed in e. Honolulu, O. 3 Mar (MO). This flock has persisted for several years and seems to be growing. Fourteen Burrowing Parrots were seen in Kainaliu, H. 7 Apr (RD). These parrots are infrequently reported, and their status is poorly known. Hundreds of Rose-ringed Parakeets were observed in the Makiki area of Honolulu, O. 19 Mar (DP). Rose-ringed seem to be well established on O'ahu I. but are seldom reported. That may be because the birds are found in urban areas not popular for birding.

Japanese Bush-Warblers were heard calling



Yellow-faced Grassquits, native to the Caribbean region, have been established in the Ko'olau mountains of O'ahu Island for several decades but had not been found elsewhere on the island until Eric VanderWerf discovered some in the Waianae Mountains of southwestern O'ahu Island in early (here 15) May 2007. Photograph by Michael Walther.

around Volcano, H. late May into early Jun, a new location for this species, which continues to expand its range (RC, TP, CC). Two Yellow-

**SA** The **White-tailed Eagle** first reported on Kaua'i I. in Dec 2006 apparently remained on Kaua'i Mar+ (m.ob.). This is the only White-tailed Eagle ever reported in the Region. The eagle reportedly flew threateningly toward a tour helicopter 30 Apr (fide BZ). (A Golden Eagle that lived on Kaua'i I. for many years was killed when it attacked, and collided with, a tour helicopter.) After stories about the White-tailed Eagle appeared in the local news media, reports proliferated. Some of these reports were obviously incorrect, and it became difficult to separate genuine reports from erroneous ones. It does appear that the eagle ranged widely on Kaua'i. A report of a large raptor on O'ahu I. led to speculation that the White-tailed Eagle had left Kaua'i I., but photographs of a raptor at Pearl Harbor 7 May proved to be of an Osprey (ph. MW).

Yell-faced Grassquits were seen in the Waianae Mt. area of sw. O'ahu I. 4 May (ph. EV), and 4 were seen in the same area 15 May (ph. MW). Yellow-faced Grassquits had previously been reported only in the Ko'olau Mt. of ne. O'ahu I. In the past few years, grassquits have become hard to find in the Ko'olau. We continue to get regular reports from tour groups of very rare birds on the big island. Palila, 'Akiapola'au, and Hawai'i Creepers (all Endangered) were found regularly Mar+ (H.F.T., DP), but few details were provided. We did get more specific data on 'Akiapola'au and Hawaii Creeper in the Humu'ula Saddle, H., where up to 4 'Akiapola'au were counted regularly Mar+ (BR) and single Hawaii Creepers were located 5 Apr and 5 May (BR). One 'Akohekohe (Endangered) was seen and others heard at Waikamoi 20 Mar (DP, m.ob.).

**Contributors:** Angela Anders, David Bremer, Rick Camp, Tom Coles, Christina Cornett, Reg David, Arleone Dibben-Young (ADY), Peter Donaldson, Hawaii Forest & Trail (H.F.T.), Michael Hawkes, Alvaro Jaramillo, Ian Jones, John Klavitter, David Kuhn, Dan Lane (DLA), Dan Lindsay, Chris Malachowski, Dennis Nakashima, Mike Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Rob Pacheco, Kevin Payne, Doug Pratt, Thane Pratt, Brooks Rownd, Craig Rowland, Dorcie Sakuma, Mike Sefton (MSe), Mike Silbernagle, Forest & Kim Starr, Steve & Priscilla Summers, Chris Swenson, Carissa Turner, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Eric VanderWerf, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (V.E.N.T.), Michael Walther, Geoff Williamson, Lindsay Young, Brenda Zaun. 📷

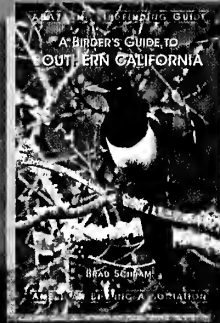
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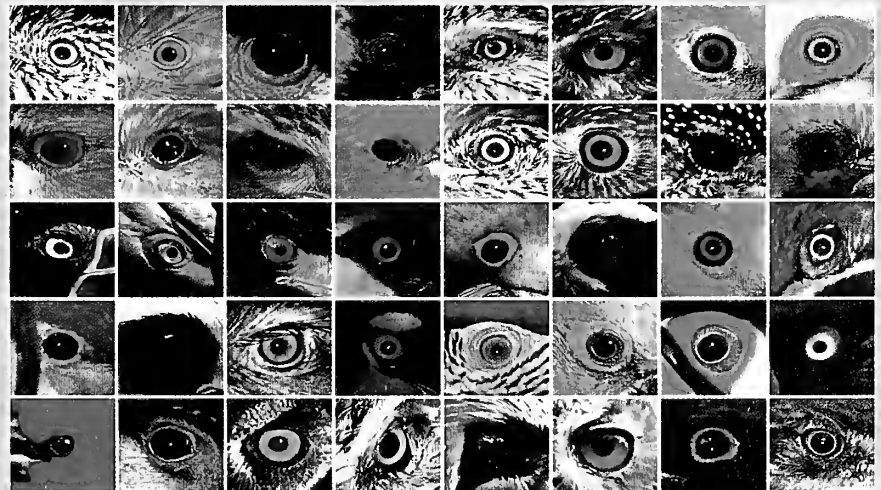
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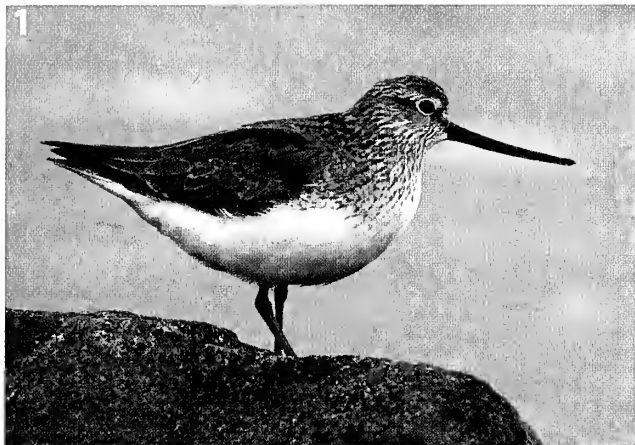
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# Pictorial Highlights



1 • This Terek Sandpiper found by Frank Haas on Sweeper Creek, Adak Island, Alaska 30 May 2007 stayed through the next day. *Photograph by John Puschock.*

2 • This Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed 23 May 2007 on St. Pierre. *Photograph by Roger Etcheverry.*

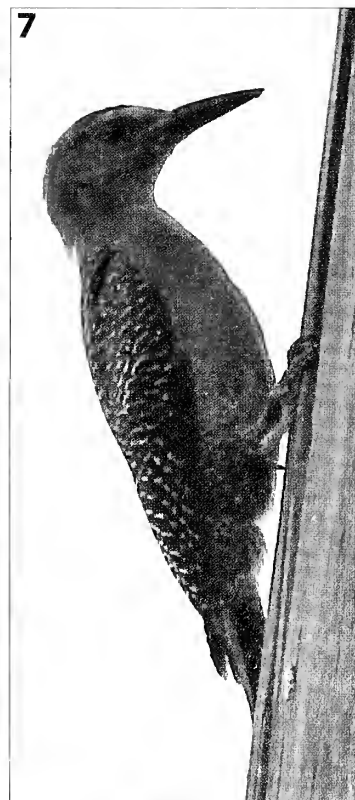
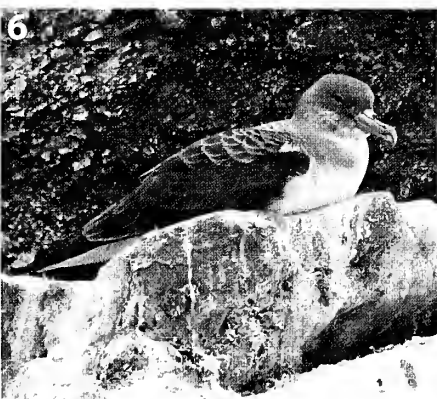
3 • This Black-banded Woodcreeper furnishes a first record for El Salvador. It was netted in the cloud forest at Montecristo National Park, Santa Ana Department on 6 April 2007. *Photograph by Vicky Galán.*

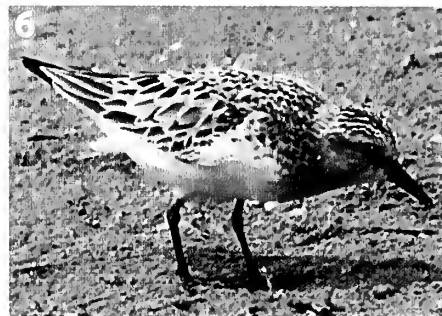
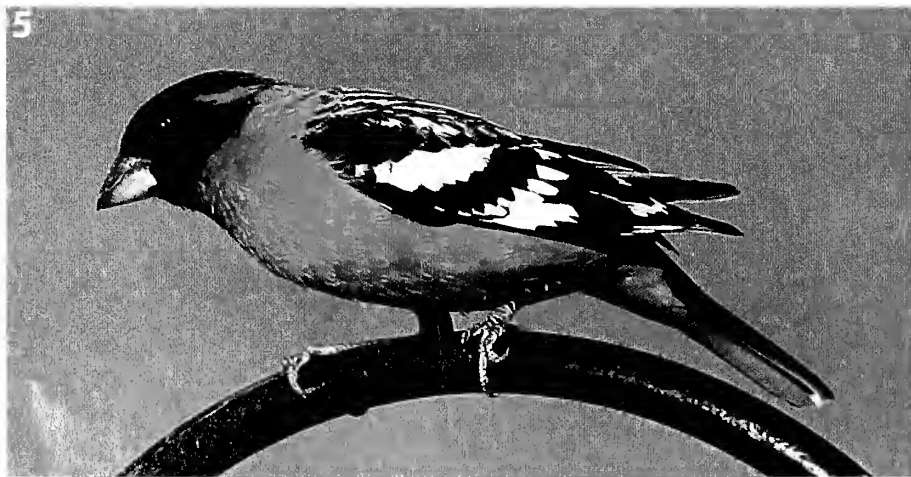
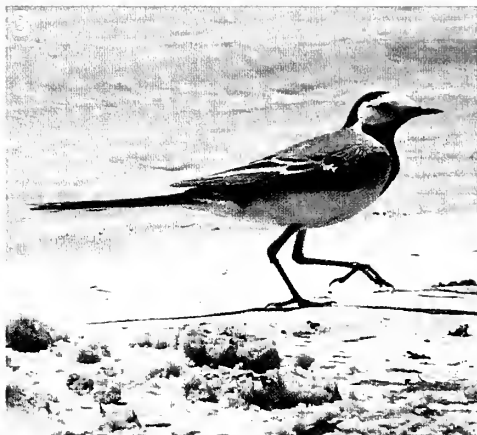
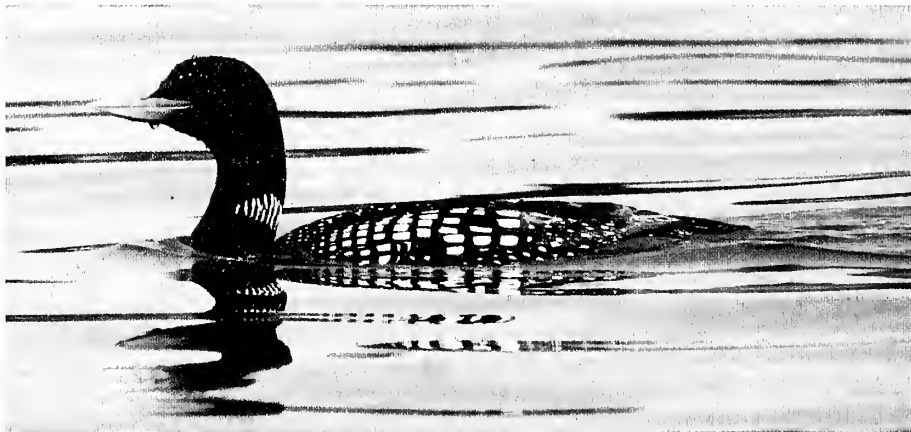
4 • Two Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrids (front birds) were noted at Stearns Lake, Boulder, Colorado 25-26 (here 26) April 2007. *Photograph by David Waltman.*

5 • Two nests of Mangrove Warbler were found along the Lower Laguna Madre, Cameron County, Texas in May 2007 (here 27 May); these represent the first nest of this distinctive subspecies of Yellow Warbler for the United States. *Photograph by Scarlet Colley.*

6 • Baja California's Cory's Shearwater returned to Islas Los Coronados for a third year, 20 March-11 June 2007, and was photographed there on the initial date. *Photograph by Matt Sadowski.*

7 • This male *Melanerpes* woodpecker at Rio Torola, Morazán Department, El Salvador on 8 March 2007 shows characteristics of both Hoffman's and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. There is one previous record of a hybrid in El Salvador and one record of an apparently pure Hoffman's. Hybrids have been reported in nearby Honduras since the 1960s, and Hoffman's has been expanding its range in Costa Rica in recent years. *Photograph by J. Tobias Guevara.*





1 - This Yellow-billed Loon found by Cameron Rutt at Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania 4-7 (here 5) May 2007 represented a first state record. It spent most of its stay catching and eating crayfish. *Photograph by Christopher Bohinski.*

2 - This *Progne* martin at Key West, Florida 28 March 2007, tentatively identified as a Caribbean Martin, is under review by the state committee. Key West has old records of Cuban Martin (9 May 1895) and Southern Martin (14 August 1890); this record would give the island a remarkable four-martin score, if approved! *Photograph by Corl Goodrich.*

3 - Found by three birders from St. Louis, Missouri, this first-alternate male White Wagtail (of the nominate subspecies) at Moon Lake Park, New Port Richey, Florida was present 18-19 and 22 (here 18) March 2007. It furnishes the first record for the state (accepted by state committee as species #500) and the fifth for the Southeast; none has lingered longer than six days after discovery. *Photograph by David Faintich.*

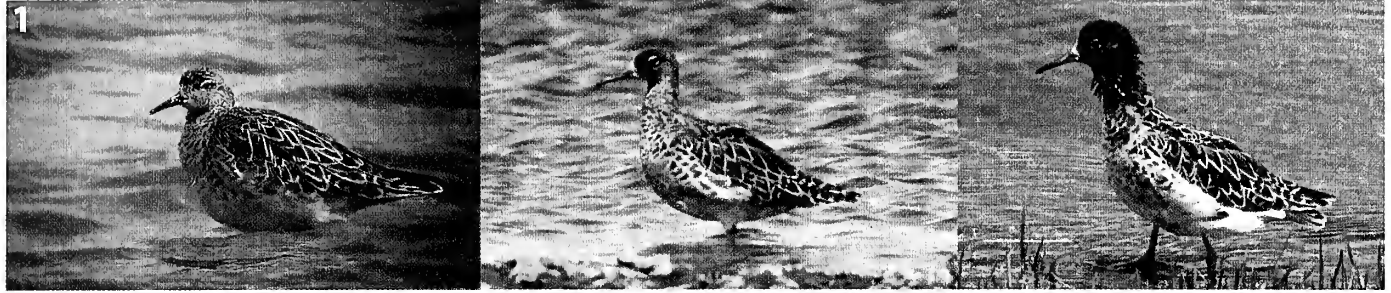
4 - This Black-tailed Godwit in Cornwall, Vermont 29 and 30 (here) April 2007 furnished the first state record and just the fifth for the New England region. How remarkably fortuitous it was that a birder bumped into this bird "in the middle of nowhere" (at least 16 kilometers from the nearest Lake Champlain shoreline) and that he recognized it as something unusual! Imagine how many such vagrants go undetected. *Photograph by Hector Golbroith.*

5 - Rare at any season in the Hudson-Delaware region, this Black-headed Grosbeak at Newfane, New York 5-11 (here 10) May 2007 is at least two years old, as indicated by the solidly black primaries. *Photograph by Celeste Morien.*

6 - This Red-necked Stint, a first for Indiana, was discovered by a group of birders while looking for the Curlew Sandpiper at Wakarusa Wastewater Treatment Facility 23 May 2007. *Photograph by John Cossody.*

7 - The adult Black-headed Gull found late in the winter season remained through most of March 2007 at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, through 25 March. During that time it began to molt in its dark hood, as seen in this image from 15 March. It marked Illinois's first record of this species since November 1995. *Photograph by Emil Mortinec.*





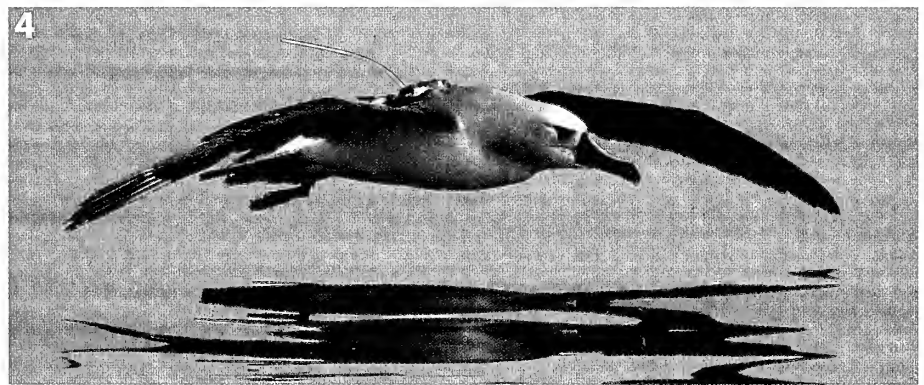
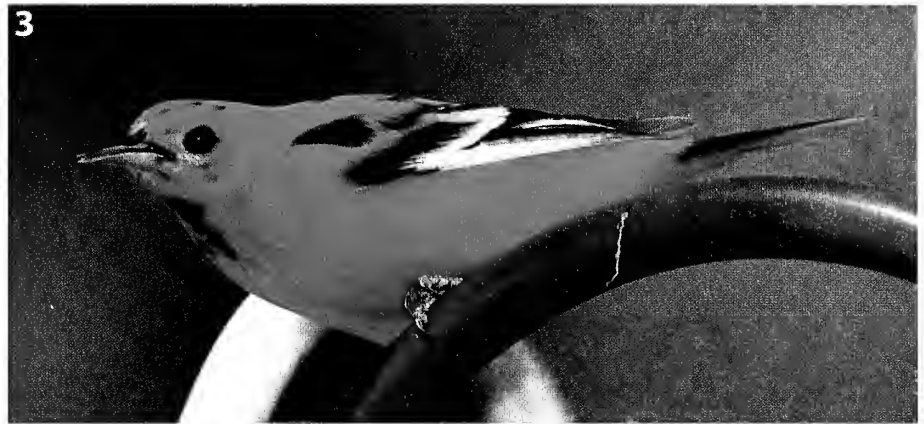
1 • During an unusually lengthy visit in Newburyport, Massachusetts 8 April through 5 May 2007, this Ruff provided a rare opportunity to observe the rate and tract sequence of a portion of its molt from basic to alternate plumage. Photographs by, from left to right: Jeremiah Trimble (10 April) and Phil Brown (23 and 30 April).

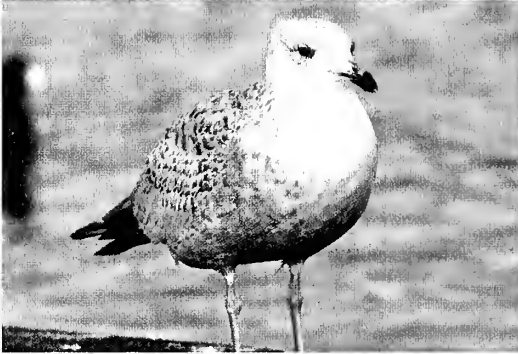
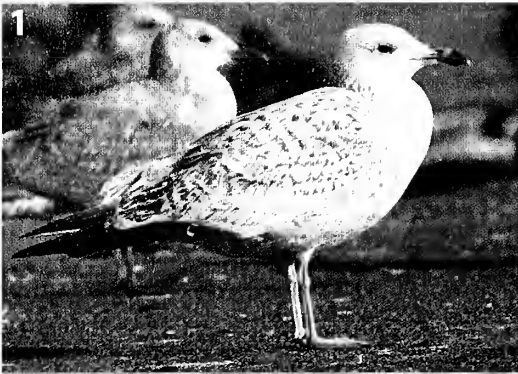
2 • This White-faced Ibis, Connecticut's fifth, was at Hammonasset Beach State Park, in Madison 18-22 (here 21) April 2007. Photograph by Paul Fusco.

3 • This aberrant Baltimore Oriole caused a stir on 9 May 2007 in Boone County, Iowa; it is thought that carotenoids from introduced (exotic) fruiting plants are the source of rich color in some aberrant orioles but probably not in this one. Photograph by Jim Moreland.

4 • The Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross first found at Cape Neddick, Maine was released offshore at Stellwagen Bank, roughly 48 kilometers east of Boston, Massachusetts 2 June 2007—its second release. Photograph by Craig Gibson.

5 • This *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitcher (at right with Long-billed Dowitchers) graced Port Susan Bay, Snohomish County, Washington 17 May 2007, providing the first record for western Washington. Note the virtually unmarked underparts, which help distinguish this taxon from alternate-plumaged Long-billed Dowitchers and other Short-billed Dowitcher taxa. Also, compare the brightly marked upperparts with those of the nearby Long-billed. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.





1 • This bird, dubbed the "Petaluma Gull," was found at Lucchesi Park, Petaluma County, California 8-11 March 2007. Its striking pale white ground color and finely patterned mantle and coverts suggested first-cycle Mongolian Gull (*Larus [argenteus] mongolicus*) to the original observers. Upon closer examination, the age of the bird came into question, and others thought it might be in its second cycle. Vega Gull (*Larus [argenteus] vegae*) can become very pale when worn, and the ultimate conclusion after consulting Asian experts was that this bird is likely the pale extreme of a first-cycle Vega Gull. The tail pattern is more typical of Vega Gull, though little is known about variation in Mongolian Gull. Mongolian Gull is a relatively poorly known taxon and is rare in winter in Japan. A pale Vega Gull is the most likely explanation for such a bird in North America, but more research on differentiating these two taxa is required. Photographs by Brian L. Sullivan (standing bird 8 March) and John Sterling (11 March).

2 • Golden-crowned Sparrow x White-crowned Sparrow hybrids are being found at a rapidly escalating rate in Oregon and Washington, but few have been documented as nicely as this one in Portland on 25 April 2007. Photograph by Showneen Finnegan.

3 • Furnishing the first record of Eurasian Whimbrel on Bermuda since 1995, this individual was at Stock's Harbour 17 (here) through 20 March 2007. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

4 • California's first Wood Sandpiper was always expected on the coast in fall, so this one, photographed on the first day of its 22-23 May 2007 stay at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, Kern County, defied those expectations by showing up in the Mojave Desert in spring. Photograph by Bob Steele.

5 • Among 22 White-faced Ibis was Minnesota's third Glossy Ibis (left) near Madison, Lac Qui Parle County, which stayed 29 April through 1 May (here) 2007. It was appreciated and photographed by many observers. Photograph by James P. Mottsson.

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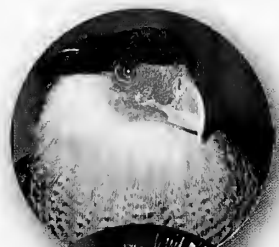
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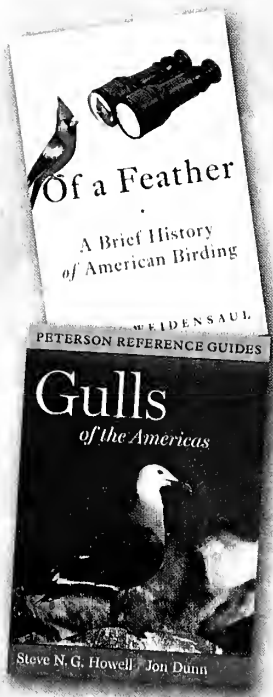


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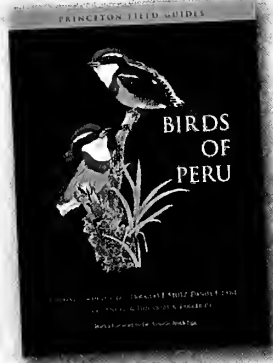
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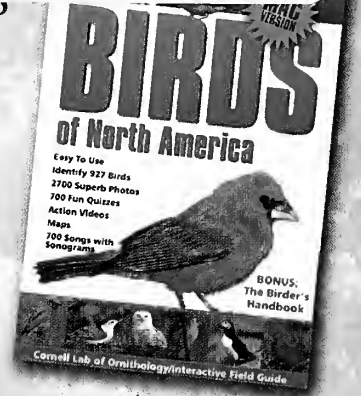
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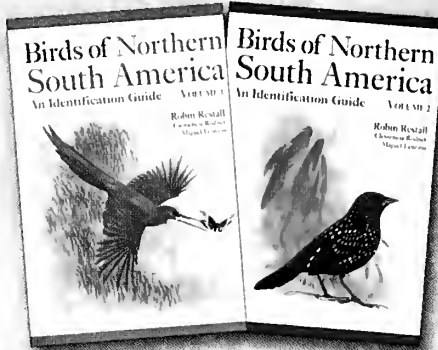
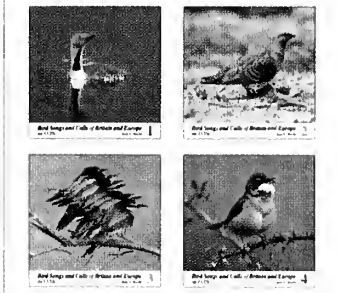
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