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Distribution and Identification of Cackling Goose (Branta hutchinsii) Subspecies

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Abstract
In this paper, we review what is currently known about the status and distribution of Cackling Goose, Branta hutchinsii, and its subspecies: B. h. hutchinsii, taverneri, minima, and leucopareia. We also discuss field identification of Cackling Goose subspecies, incorporating information from our own recent field studies, and because Lesser Canada Goose (B. canadensis parvipes) closely resembles B. h. hutchinsii and taverneri, its range and identification are also reviewed.

Taxonomy
The taxonomy of Canada Goose (Branta canadensis) and Cackling Goose (B. hutchinsii), which are here collectively referred to as “white-cheeked geese,” has a long and interesting history. Some authorities have lumped all populations into a single species, Canada Goose (sensu lato) (A.O.U. 1910, Swarth 1913, A.O.U. 1931), but most have recognized two to four species (Brooks 1926, Taverner 1931, Sutton 1932, Aldrich 1946, Hellmayr and Conover 1948). Aldrich (1946) asserted that there was near-unanimous agreement among Arctic biologists that “Canada Goose” consisted of two species, whereas Delacour (1951, 1954) recognized only one species with twelve subspecies. Delacour’s taxonomy has generally been followed (e.g., Johnsgard 1975, Bellrose 1980, Madge and Burn 1988, del Hoyo 1992, Mowbray et al. 2002), though some authorities recognized fewer subspecies (A.O.U. 1957, Palmer 1976). In 2004, the American Ornithologists’ Union split Canada Goose (B. canadensis) into two species, Canada Goose (B. canadensis) and Cackling Goose (B. hutchinsii), based largely on mtDNA evidence (Banks et al. 2004) and essentially along the lines suggested by Aldrich (1946).

According to current taxonomy, Canada Goose consists mainly of large-bodied populations that breed away from tundra habitats, whereas Cackling Goose consists of smaller-bodied, tundra-breeding populations (cf. Hanson 2006-2007).

Studies of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) support the split of Canada Goose (sensu lato) into two species (Shields and Wilson 1987a, Van Wagner and Baker 1990, Baker 1998, Scribner et al. 2003). Furthermore, restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis of mtDNA by Shields and Wilson (1987a, 1987b) found a difference of 2% between the two taxonomic groups, placing the divergence of Canada and Cackling Geese at approximately one million years ago. These genetic data also generally support Delacour’s (1951)
subspecific classifications (Shields and Wilson 1987a, Van Wagner and Baker 1990, Baker 1998, Shields and Cotter 1998), though these distinctions were not detected by Scribner et al. (2003). The combination of geographical remoteness and uncertainties regarding identification led to past assertions that B. c. parvipes interbreeds with both taverneri and hutchinsii (e.g., Maclnnes 1962, 1966, Johnsgard 1973, Palmer 1976) and hence the “lumping” of parvipes with taverneri by some earlier authorities (e.g., A.O.U. 1937, Palmer 1976). However, direct evidence for hybridization between B. c. parvipes and any subspecies of Cackling Goose is lacking, and if such hybridization does occur, it is probably rather rare (J. Pearce, J. Leaflout, pers. comm.). This conclusion is supported by the broad array of DNA studies cited above.

The validity of Cackling Goose subspecific designations has sometimes been questioned, as some studies fail to show a mtDNA difference among the currently named subspecies (e.g., Scribner et al. 2003). However, one would expect a more rapid change in genes subject to natural selection than in the neutral mtDNA genes used by most recent studies evaluating taxonomic differentiation (Winker et al. 2007). Consequently, phenotypic differences between populations are likely to appear before such divergence is detectable by research using neutral mtDNA (Winker et al. 2007). Additionally, Baker (2007) argues that multiple markers are sometimes needed to distinguish even between well-differentiated subspecies.

To pose the question as to whether Cackling Goose populations comprise separate subspecies, despite having indistinguishable mtDNA (as currently evaluated), one must ask: “Are, or have, the Cackling Goose popu-

For the most part, Cackling Goose subspecies’ breeding ranges are well established (see Map 1 and subspecies’ accounts, below). The exception occurs along the mainland Arctic tundra from the Mackenzie River Delta west across Alaska’s North Slope. In the past, individuals west of the Mackenzie River Delta generally have been labeled B. h. taeverneri and those breeding on the Mackenzie River Delta and in areas to the east have been called B. h. hutchinsi (Delacour 1951, 1954). However, it has been suggested recently that nominate hutchinsi may breed west into northeastern Alaska (C. Ely, pers. comm.) and that the subspecies of Cackling Goose breeding on Alaska’s North Slope might be taeverneri (as currently labeled) or might be a different subspecies of Cackling Goose entirely (J. Pearce, pers. comm.).

Further complicating matters, some authors have suggested that B. c. parvipes breeds in tundra habitats on mainland western Canada and the North Slope of Alaska (e.g., Mowbray et al. 2002). Genetic and morphometric studies of breeding white-checked geese in the western Canadian tundra have, so far, detected mostly or entirely Cackling Geese, subspecies undetermined (Hines et al. 2000). In Alaska, limited studies have found mostly Cackling Geese, though two nests of apparent Canada Geese (presumably B. c. parvipes) have been found, suggesting that small numbers of Canada Geese may breed in portions of the Alaskan North Slope tundra (Pearce et al. 2006). We have reviewed photographs of breeders from Alaska’s Prudhoe Bay area and feel that they are phenotypically B. h. taeverneri. Examination of photographs taken in areas farther east, from the Yukon coast, has proven inconclusive because of the distance at which the birds were photographed.

During winter, Cackling Geese are widely scattered across the United States and northern Mexico, with concentrations in Washington and Oregon’s Lower Columbia River Valley and Columbia Basin, Oregon’s Willamette Valley, California’s Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, in the “Southwest” from northern Jalisco to eastern Colorado, and along the Gulf of Mexico from northern Veracruz to southeastern Louisiana. Wintering populations in colder regions tend to be more mobile, shifting their populations northward or southward, depending on weather conditions.

Ploeger (1968) suggested that the current biogeography of Cackling Goose subspecies might be explained by distributional differences during the Wisconsin glacial maximum, with nominate hutchinsi nesting in an ice-free area in the high Canadian Arctic, minima breeding on the Bering Shelf, and leucopareia using the south coast of the Bering Sea as a refuge. (Ploeger [1968] did not discuss taeverneri.)

Ridgway’s Goose – Branta hutchinsi minima Prior to 2004, Cackling Goose sensu stricto was generally referred to as the smallest subspecies of Canada Goose and then bore the scientific name B. c. minima (A.O.U. 1957). When split in 2004, Cackling Goose was given the name Branta hutchinsi, in accordance with the rules of taxonomic priority (Banks et al. 2004). The subspecies of Cackling Goose that bears the name minima—Branta hutchinsi minima—lacks an English name that differentiates it from the species as a whole; we use the name Ridgway’s Goose for the subspecies here as a matter of convenience, as Robert Ridgway first described this taxon in 1885 (A.O.U. 1957).

Ridgway’s Goose breeds on the tidal margins and coastal floodplains of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in western Alaska,
northwest to Pastil Bay and south to Kuskokwim Bay (Mowbray et al. 2002). More than 90% of the population (between 125,000 and 175,000 individuals) winters in western Oregon's Willamette Valley and along the Lower Columbia River Valley of western Oregon and Washington (Mowbray et al. 2002, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007). The remainder winters mostly in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys of central California (1000-5000 birds; D. Yparaguierre, D. Kraege, pers. comm.), along the Washington coast north to Grays Harbor, and in Washington's Puget Trough north to King County (approximately 2000 birds; Modinow et al. 2006a).

The winter distribution of Ridgway's Goose has shifted in recent times. Prior to 1970, nearly the entire population of 300,000-400,000 birds migrated from Alaska over water to the Washington/Oregon coast, then to the Klamath Basin of southeastern Oregon and northeastern California, and then southward to the main wintering grounds, which were the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys (Nelson and Hanson 1959, King and Lensink 1971, Raveling 1984). At that time, very few Ridgway's Geese stopped or wintered in western Oregon or Washington (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940, Kortright 1943). Beginning around 1970, the population of Ridgway's Goose declined precipitously, reaching a nadir of approximately 20,000 in 1984 (Pacific Flyway Council 1999). This decline was likely due to spring subsistence hunting in Alaska and fall harvest, predominantly in California (Pacific Flyway Council 1999). In response, intensive restriction on hunting was instituted, resulting in a rapid rebound, with the population again topping 200,000 in 1997 but subsequently averaging around 150,000 during the ensuing decade (Pacific Flyway Council 1999, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007). During the recovery period from 1983 to 1993, 15-30% of Ridgway's Geese started migrating through the Willamette Valley instead of the Klamath Basin on their way to California (Pacific Flyway Council 1999). Then in 1994, there was a sudden shift, and only 50% passed through the Klamath Basin; four years later, 95% were migrating to, and wintering in, the Lower Columbia River and Willamette Valleys (Pacific Flyway Council 1999). The reasons for these changes are unclear. However, a shorter migratory route, one not requiring flight over a major mountain range, is clearly advantageous. Furthermore, the habitat in the Willamette and Lower Columbia River Valleys was improving (partly due to management for Dusky Canada Goose, B. c. occidentalis) simultaneous with a decline in the habitat of the Sacramento Valley (B. Jarvis, in litt.).

Peak arrival on the breeding grounds typically occurs in the second week of May (Raveling 1978, Dau and Michelson 1979, Ely et al. 1996). The first southbound departures from the breeding grounds are typically in early September. Almost the entire minima population stages on the Alaska Peninsula before heading farther south, with numbers peaking there around 10 October (Bollinger and Sedinger 1985, Gill et al. 1996). Most then depart the Alaska Peninsula in mid-October and fly directly to the Lower Columbia and Willamette River Valleys, with a few passing on to the Klamath Basin and then central California (Pacific Flyway Council 1999). Some make the flight from the Alaska Peninsula to Klamath Basin in 48 to 72 hours (Gill et al. 1996).

The first flocks of Ridgway's Geese sometimes appear in southwestern Washington and western Oregon in mid-September, but large numbers typically do not arrive until mid- or late October, with peak numbers present from 25 October to 7 November (Pacific Flyway Council 1999). The first spring migrants leave California in late February, but most depart in early to mid-April (Raveling et al. 1985). Some northward movement in Washington is also apparent as early as mid-February (J. Barry, S. Modinow, pers. obs.), but the bulk of Oregon and Washington's Ridgway's Geese leave in late April and appar-
ently fly directly to Alaska’s Cook Inlet, where they arrive in late April and early May (Pacific Flyway Council 1999), though sizeable flocks (of 100+) are sometimes found in Oregon and Washington into late May (B. Jarvis, in litt.; S. Modinow, pers. obs.).

In addition to the distributional patterns noted above, Ridgway’s Goose is also uncommon during migration and winter among the goose flocks of southeastern Washington’s Columbia Basin (D. Schenwald, S. Modinow, pers obs.), and a few are regularly found in interior British Columbia, with dates ranging from 2 April through 5 June and 8 August through 12 November (Campbell et al. 1990). Furthermore, some are detected during migration along British Columbia’s coast (peak: mid-April/early May and October), with an occasional individual wintering (Campbell et al. 1990). Other “fringe” areas of occurrence include Nevada, where the species may be annual (Alcorn 1988) and the Pacific Coast of Oregon south to northern California (Harris 2005). Numbers on the northern California coast may be increasing, with more than 200 in Humboldt County alone during the winter of 2005-2006 (Cole et al. 2006).

Also, Ridgway’s Geese have recently been found among the flocks of Aleutian Geese (B. h. leucopareia) staging during spring in northwestern California, with up to 2000 present in Humboldt County between late February and late March 2007 (D. Bachman, in litt.).

Ridgway’s Geese have appeared from Siberia to Hawaii to Europe, but as a vagrant, it is the Cackling Goose subspecies that is most plagued by questions of provenance, as it is by far the most popular among North American aviculturalists (E. Todd, S. Langer, pers. comm.). Examination of birds of known provenance and identity, however, has shown that Ridgway’s Goose does disperse far and wide. Approximately 5800 were banded at California’s Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge (which is within the Klamath Basin) and Alaska’s Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta between 1937 and 2004 (BBL Game Bird CD 2005). Aside from a few entries that seem erroneous, the 13 band recoveries away from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California include five from Nevada, three from Idaho, and one each from North Dakota, Minnesota, Arizona, and easternmost Siberia (BBL Game Bird CD 2005). Furthermore, at least 30 individual Ridgway’s Geese have been identified in Hawaii (R. L. Pyle and P. Pyle, unpubl. data), further demonstrating this species’ ability to wander great distances. Additional extralimital reports that we have been able to review and endorse include: records of two individuals photographed in Idaho (see <www.idahobirds.net>); three to four records in Colorado (Righter and Semo 2006); two records in Japan (Braun 1991); five records from the Yukon (Sinclair et al. 2003); two records from North Carolina (including a record involving eight birds; Davis 2005, R. Davis, in litt.); and single records from Baja California Sur (Erickson et al. 2006), Illinois (photograph by B. Hughes, Connecticut (M. Szanty, in litt.), and Alabama (Summerour 1988). Cackling Geese that were likely minima have also been reported from Virginia (E. S. Brinkley, in litt.) and Tennessee (J. Wilson, in litt.), but photographs of these individuals were not obtained and thus we have been unable to review these reports.

In Europe, the provenance of reported Ridgway’s Geese may be more questionable. This subspecies has been well documented in England, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, and elsewhere (Batty and Lowe 2001, Batty et al. 2002, Berlijn and CDNA 2002, P. Adriaens, in litt.), but the ratio of minima to hutchinsii is suspiciously high (e.g., at least 5/2 in the Netherlands as of 2002; Berlijn and CDNA 2002). Even though only about 200 are kept in captivity in Great Britain (M. Ogilvie, unpubl. data), the above ratio and great distance between Europe and western North America have rightfully cast suspicion on the provenance of all European records of minima (Berlijn and CDNA 2002; K. Mullarney, L. Evans, H. Lehto, P. Adriaens, in litt.).

Aleutian Goose – Branta hutchinsii leucopareia

B. h. leucopareia is better known by its common name, Aleutian Goose or Aleutian Cackling Goose. This subspecies currently breeds on Bulkir, Attu, Agattu, and Alaid–Nizki Islands in the western Aleutians, Chagulak Island in the central Aleutians, and Kilkatgig and Anowik Islands in the Semidi Islands (Byrd 1998, Kraege 2005; V. Byrd, in litt.). The small Semidi Island population winters on the Oregon coast near Pacific City (Springer and Lowe 1998; Kraege 2005). The Aleutian Island breeding population winters predominantly in California’s San Joaquin Valley near Modesto and in the Sacra-
mento/San Joaquin Delta, though small numbers sometimes winter along the California coast in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties (Springer and Lowe 1998, Kraege 2005; P. Springer, unpubl. data), and approximately 350 Aleutian Island breeders winter with the Semidi Island breeders near Pacific City, Oregon (D. Pitkin, in litt.).

In the past, Aleutian Goose had a much larger breeding range, likely nesting on islands near Kodiak Island, west through the Aleutian Islands (leucopareia sensu stricto), to the Commander and northern Kuril Islands of Russia (Mowbray et al. 2002), though there is some debate as to whether the now-extirpated (or extinct) Russian birds once constituted a separate subspecies, B. h. asiatica (Delacour 1951, Mowbray et al. 2002). The near-extinction of Aleutian Cackling Goose was caused by the introduction of Arctic Fox (Alopex lagopus) and Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes/fulva) onto their breeding islands; between the years 1750 and 1936, foxes were introduced onto 190 islands within the breeding range of leucopareia (Bailey and Kaiser 1993). In 1967, leucopareia (then called Aleutian Canada Goose) was listed as "Endangered" by the U.S. Department of the Interior. At that time, only the western Aleutian Buldir Island population was known, and it was estimated at 200-300 birds in 1963 (Kraege 2005). In 1979, another small breeding population was found in the Semidi Islands, just south of the Alaska Peninsula (Hatch and Hatch 1983), and in 1982 a third small breeding population was detected on Chagulak Island in the central Aleutians (Bailey and Trapp 1984). Subsequent genetic studies support placing these three populations within the same subspecies (Sheilds and Wilson 1987a, Pierson et al. 2000).

Placement on the Endangered Species list led to decreased hunting pressure and some rebound in numbers. It was, however, the elimination of foxes from 41 Aleutian Islands (over one million acres) and translocation of geese from Buldir that led to the dramatic population increase that ensued (Kraege 2005, V Byrd, in litt.). The Aleutian Island population of leucopareia was estimated at 37,000 during the winter of 1999-2000, most of which were from Buldir Island (Kraege 2005). By the winter of 2006-2007, the population was estimated at nearly 119,000 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007). The Semidi Island population remains tiny, however, with an aerial survey during May 2005 detecting only 140-150 birds (D. Pitkin, in litt.). Because of the dramatic increase in numbers as a whole, Aleutian Goose was downgraded by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to "Threatened" in 1991 and de-listed entirely in 2001 (Kraege 2005).

The migratory and winter movements of Aleutian Geese are complex. Most depart Alaska between late September and mid-October, with few seen as far east as Adak Island (V. Byrd, in litt.). Most Aleutian breeders fly non-stop to areas around the Sacramento and San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuges in California’s Central Valley (Springer and Lowe 1998, Griggs 2006). Several thousand, however, also make a brief stop in the New River bottoms on southern Oregon’s coast (largely from late September into early November) or along the northern California coast in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties (Harris 2005). The Semidi Island breeders depart their breeding grounds in late September but do not arrive on the Oregon wintering grounds until mid-October and thus clearly pause somewhere on route (Marshall et al. 2003). By late January and early February, Aleutian Geese are already departing the San Joaquin Valley to stage in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, where large numbers are present into mid-April (Black et al. 2004, Griggs 2006). They depart quickly, and virtually all are gone by early May (Harris 2005). Increasingly, the central California wintering population is also using the New River bottoms as a spring staging ground, ci-
spring migration, with very small numbers found in southwestern Washington, mostly during February and March (Kraege 2005). This taxon is also a very rare spring and fall migrant in Washington's Puget Trough. Currently, there appear to be no valid records for British Columbia (P. Springer, pers. comm.).

Aleutian Geese—if one includes asiatica as part of leucoparia—were once a regular part of the Japanese avifauna, formerly fairly common between Hokkaido and Tokyo from October to March. Their numbers in Japan declined dramatically after 1900; flocks over 100 did persist into the 1920s, but after then, Aleutian Goose was rare in Japan, and by the late 1980s, one to three per winter had become the norm (Brazel 1991). Since 1995, Aleutian Geese have been reared in captivity and translocated to fox-free Ekarma Island in the Kuril Islands, with a total of 426 having been released as of 2006 (Masayuki Kurechi, Japanese Association for Wild Goose Protection, unpubl. data). Subsequently, small numbers of marked birds from this population have also been found wintering in Japan, with a maximum of 11 detected in 2006; concurrently, there has been an increase in unbanded Aleutian Geese (presumably of wild provenance) found in Japan, averaging about 18 annually since the winter of 1999-2000 (Masayuki Kurechi, Japanese Association for Wild Goose Protection, unpubl. data).

Between 1974 and 2001, approximately 550 Aleutian Geese were banded, mostly on the Aleutians, but also at wintering and staging sites in California (BBL Game Bird CD, 2005). Among the birds banded in California, one was recovered in eastern Washington and another at Cape Navarin, Siberia; among the birds banded in the Aleutians, recoveries in-clude single birds from Hawaii at Midway Island and Johnston Atoll, two in the Marshall Islands, three together in Sonora’s Rio Colorado Delta, and one each in northern Baja California, western Arizona, eastern Washington, and Russia’s Bering Island (BBL Game Bird CD 2003; Schipper 1985, Russell and Monson 1998).

Other records of vagrant Aleutian Geese that we have been able to examine have come from: Hawaii (at least five individuals; R. L. Pyle and P. Pyle, unpubl. data); Mexico as far south as La Paz, Baja California Sur, from 29 October 2001 to 1 February 2003 (Erickson et al. 2003), and San Jose del Cabo, Baja California Sur, 23 January 2005 (S. Miadznow, pers. obs.); and Kansas (specimen record; M. Thompson, in litt.). Accepted records of Aleutian Geese in California away from typical locations include five records from the Salton Sea (12 November to 18 March; Patten et al. 2004) and at least five records on the southern California coast from November through January (Lehman 1994, Hamilton and Willick 1996, Unitt 2004).

As of 2001, approximately 15 Aleutian Geese were in captivity in Great Britain (Ogilvie, unpubl. data). The numbers in captivity on mainland Europe are unknown. In North America, Aleutian Cackling Geese are somewhat uncommon in captivity, partly due to its current status as an Endangered or Threatened bird, formerly making ownership difficult (F. Todd, S. Langer, pers. comm.).

Taverner’s Goose – Branta hutchinsi taverneri

The existence of this taxon was first suggested by P. A. Taverner in 1931, when he observed a population of small black-white-cheeked geese in northwest Alaska (Taverner 1931). Since then, the existence of taverneri, particularly as distinct from B. c. parvipes, has been the matter of debate, until the examination of mtDNA placed these two taxa into different species. As with other Cackling Geese, Taverner's Geese is a tundra breeder. The full extent of its current breeding range is not precisely known. Taverner’s does nest in the Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta, on the Seward Peninsula, and along the northeastern Kotzebue Sound (Mowbray et al. 2002). Beyond that, matters are more complicated. Both parvipes and taverneri have been listed as breeding on Alaska’s North Slope (Mowbray et al. 2002), and genetic analysis of feathers from a small number of nests do seem to show both Cackling and Canada Geese on the North Slope, though the former in larger numbers (Pearce et al. 2006). The subspecific identity of the breeding Cackling Geese here, however,
is not certain (J. Pearce, C. Ely, pers. comm.). Review of a limited number of photographs from near Prudhoe Bay indicates that birds there appear to be, phenotypically, taverneri.

The eastern limits of the breeding range of Taverner's Goose is uncertain. Delacour (1951, 1954) stated that taverneri bred east along the Alaskan North Slope past the Canadian border to the Mackenzie River Delta, an assertion later supported by Sinclair et al. (2003), who considered the Yukon's tundra breeders to be taverneri. However, birds in the easternmost portion of this range have, at times, been considered B. c. parvipes (e.g., Mowbray et al. 2002). Our review of a limited number of photographs of breeding birds from this area indicates that they do appear to be Cackling Geese, but their subspecies could not be determined. It seems that most (or perhaps all) of the white-cheeked goose breeding on the Northwestern Canadian mainland and in northeastern Alaska are Cackling Geese, but their subspecific identification (i.e., taverneri vs. hutchinsii) remains uncertain.

Due to identification challenges and prior taxonomic uncertainty, the wintering range of B. h. taverneri is also poorly understood. It appears that most taverneri winter in the Willamette Valley, Lower Columbia River Valley, and Columbia Basin, with smaller numbers along the Washington coast north through Grays Harbor, in the Puget Trough north to Seattle, and in California's Central Valley (D. Kraege, pers. comm.). The estimated number of taverneri wintering in the Willamette and Lower Columbia River Valleys is 40,000-50,000 (Marshall et al. 2003, D. Kraege, pers. comm.). The number wintering in the Columbia Basin is unknown; the total of parvipes/taverneri there is approximately 100,000 (D. Kraege, pers. comm.), of which we estimate 5-15% are taverneri. Similarly, there are about 10,000 B. h. taverneri/B. c. parvipes wintering in central California, but the ratio of these taxa there is currently uncertain (D. Yparraguirre, pers. comm.).

Taverner's Geese breeding on the Seward Peninsula/Kotzebue Sound appear to winter in eastern Washington and Oregon, while those breeding in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta appear to winter in western Washington and Oregon (M. Eichholz, unpubl. data). The wintering destination of Alaska's North Slope birds is currently uncertain but has been suggested to be eastern Washington and Oregon by Mowbray et al. (2002). However, all recoveries of white-cheeked geese banded during molt (all adults) near Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's North Slope have come from east of the Rockies (M. Eichholz, unpubl. data). Similarly, all recoveries of molting white-cheeked geese banded on eastern Alaska's Arctic tundra have come from east of the Rockies (C. Ely, in litt.). It is entirely possible that some, perhaps most, of these birds were molt-migrant B. c. parvipes or even B. h. hutchinsii, but it is unlikely that none were the local breeders, which are likely mostly B. h. taverneri. Thus, an unknown number of taverneri may winter in the central United States or even into northern Mexico.

In western Washington and Oregon, arrival and departure dates for Taverner's Geese seem similar to those for Ridgway's Geese. In the Columbia Basin, movement is more complex. Southbound Taverner's first arrive between late October and mid-November, with peak arrival during the first two weeks of November (D. Schonewald, pers. obs.). Taverner's Geese are widespread in the Columbia basin as long as water is open and agricultural fields are not covered by snow. Harsh weather sufficient to cause lakes and reservoirs to freeze or depositing a few inches of snow on fields typically causes Taverner's Geese to disappear from much of the Columbia Basin [D. Schonewald, pers. obs.]. It appears that birds either retreat to areas adjacent to the Columbia River itself (which remains unfrozen) or, at times, move as far south as Summer Lake, Goose Lake, the Klamath Basin, and the

Figure 15. This Cackling Goose combines the bulk, head, and bill shape of taverneri Cackling Goose with the dark breast and strikingly marked wing coverts of minima. Apparent intermediate types occur and should be considered unidentifiable to the level of subspecies. Photographed at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Washington on 15 January 2006. Photograph by Steven G. Midonow.

Figure 16. The white breast, relatively slender bill, and indented cheek patch of this bird are all suggestive of hutchinsii Cackling Goose. However, the head shape is far more rounded than is normal for that subspecies; also, the bill has a swelling at the base of the mandible, atypical of nominate birds and more typical of taverneri. Within the range of hutchinsii Cackling Goose, such a bird might easily be labeled as one, but atypical birds (particularly in apparently extralimital contexts) such as this are best left unidentified to subspecies. Photographed at Shillapoo Bottoms, Washington on 13 January 2006. Photograph by Steven G. Midonow.
and Science (Bailey and Niedrach 1965; L. Semo, pers. obs.). A photograph from Polson, Montana during November 2004 depicts one of four taverneri that were present (note Dan Casey, Wayne Tree). Furthermore, ten apparent taverneri were among approximately 9000 parvipes and nominate hutchinsii in Weld County, Colorado on 11 January 2007 (Leukering et al. 2007), and five were among parvipes and nominate hutchinsii at Fort Collins, Colorado 5 January 2008, with another near Denver on 11 January 2008 (C. Cox, in litt.). Given the previous taxonomic and identification uncertainties of Taverner's Goose, and the huge numbers of other Cackling and Canada Goose present, small numbers of taverneri could easily pass through the mid-continent largely undetected.

Records from areas farther out of typical range include at least one well-documented bird in the British Isles, with several sightings from Ireland (January 2000, February 2001) and Scotland (November/December 2001, October 2002) thought to pertain to the same individual (C. Batty, in litt.; Batty and Lowe 2001, Batty et al. 2001). In eastern North America, well-documented vagrants include a bird photographed on Onondaga County, New York by Jay McGowan and Kevin McGowan (in litt.), 23-26 September 2004; another photographed at Janesville, Wisconsin during October 2004 by Tim Avery (in litt.); one photographed near Amherst, Hampshire County, Massachusetts 13-22 October 2007 by J. P. Smith (Ellison and Martin 2008); and one, possibly the same individual, photographed by Mark Szanty and others and seen by many observers in Middlefield, Connecticut 30 November through early December 2007 (Hunt 2008). In Hawaii, six Taverner's Geese have been identified through winter 2007-2008 (R. L. Pyle and B. Pyle, unpubl. data). In Mexico, one Taverner's was photographed with six minima at Laguna El Cipres, Baja California on 8 December 2004 (Erickson et al. 2005). Taverner's Goose is extremely rare in captivity in North America (E. Todd, S. Langer, pers. comm.) and essentially undocumented in captivity in Great Britain (M. Ogilvie, unpubl. data). Although we have not been able to review and vouch for all recent reports of extraliminal Taverner's Geese, those we have reviewed suggest that this subspecies does occur as a vagrant in Hawaii and east of the Rockies and should be looked for and carefully documented.

Richardson's Goose - Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii

The nominate subspecies of Cackling Goose, most commonly known as Richardson's Goose or Richardson's Cackling Goose (and also as Hutchins's Goose), breeds on the Canadian Arctic tundra from southern Baffin Island and northwestern Québec, west through the northern and western shores of Hudson Bay, to southern Banks Island and the Mackenzie River delta (Delacour 1951, 1954, Hines et al. 2000, Mowbray et al. 2002; J. Leafloor, Jack Hughes, pers. comm.). Richardson's Geese have apparently bred, at least on rare occasion, in western Greenland as well (Fox et al. 1996, Goutredson 2002). Though birds breeding on the continental Arctic slope from the Mackenzie River west are thought to be taverneri, the precise border between taverneri and nominate hutchinsii has not been defined, nor has the degree of potential or actual intergradation between the two (J. Leafloor, J. Pearce, D. Derksen, pers. comm.).

The main wintering range of Richardson's Goose is split in two, with an eastern population wintering along the coastal plain of the Gulf of Mexico from northern Veracruz to southeastern Louisiana and a western population wintering from northern Jalisco through western Texas and eastern New Mexico to eastern Colorado. Smaller numbers of birds winter between these two main groups. The northern boundary of the wintering range depends somewhat on snow cover and open water, particularly in the West, where birds might be common as far north as northern Colorado or may retreat well into Texas. Furthermore, depending on weather conditions, individuals and small flocks sometimes linger into winter, or even overwinter, as far north as the Canadian border. The eastern wintering population comes mostly from the "Tallgrass Prairie" breeding population of white-cheeked geese (Dickson 2000). The Tallgrass Prairie population is named for its original (precolonial) wintering habitat and breeds in the Canadian Arctic from Baffin Island west to Prince of Wales Island. It consists mostly of nominate hutchinsii but probably contains some parvipes as well; the mid-winter population totaled around 300,000 through most of the 1990s (Dickson 2000). The western wintering population is mostly derived from the "Short-
grass Prairie" breeding population (also nam ed for original wintering habitat), which breeds in the Canadian Arctic from Victoria Island to the Alaskan border (Dickson 2000, Hines et al. 2000). This population is said to consist of nominate hutchinssi and parvipes, in unknown proportions, with hutchinssi occupying tundra habitats and parvipes tundra and forested habitats (Dickson 2000, Hines et al. 2000), but given the “accepted” range of tundra, this taxon might be part of the Shortgrass Prairie population as well; midwinter surveys during the 1990s averaged around 400,000 birds total (Dickson 2000). Notably, a study of neck-handed birds in Lubbock, Texas revealed that birds wintering there originated from Baffin Island to the western Arctic, though most did come from the Shortgrass Prairie population, as expected (Ray and Miller 1997).

Migration occurs predominantly between the east slope of the Rocky Mountains and 95° W longitude. Southbound migration occurs rather rapidly, with initial or peak arrival usually occurring during the first half of October all the way from southern Manitoba to northern Mexico, though a few southbound migrants are found throughout this range as early as September (Howell and Webb 1995, Sharpe et al. 2001, M.A.R.C. 2003, Lockwood and Freeman 2004). Fall arrival can be somewhat later, however, depending on the timing of freeze-up at breeding and staging grounds. Departure from southern wintering grounds occurs mostly during February, with a few birds remaining into March (Howell and Webb 1995, Lockwood and Freeman 2004, Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007) and rarely into early April (T. Leukering, pers. obs.). In Nebraska, numbers of Richardson’s Geese begin to accrue in late February and peak in early to mid-March, with few remaining into April (Sharpe et al. 2001). In southern Manitoba, peak spring arrival is somewhat later, occurring during the first half of May (M.A.R.C. 2003).

Richardson’s Geese stray east of their main flight path with some regularity. For example, they are fairly common in northern Indiana during November and otherwise rare to uncommon in Indiana from October into April, with counts of 100+ coming from February, April, and November (Brock 2006). They are also considered uncommon fall and rare spring transients at Point Pelee, Ontario (A. Wormington, unpubl. data), and they occur regularly in small flocks in western New York (A. Wilson, R. Veit, in litt., Veit et al. 2008).

Farther east, the status of Richardson’s Geese is imperfectly known. A.O.U. (1937) simply states that they winter on the Atlantic Coast south to South Carolina but makes no reference to abundance. Most of this region’s recent literature on avian status and distribution (e.g., Bull 1974, Veit and Petersen 1993, Walsh et al. 1999, Zeranski and Baptist 1990) has not been revised since the split of Cackling and Canada Geese, though more recent texts (e.g., Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007) contain specific data on status and distribution of Cackling Goose. In the past four years, at least, birdier interest in identifying Cackling Goose sensu lato on the Atlantic coast and east of the Mississippi River generally has increased substantially, as one notes in reading the regional reports in North American Birds. Currently, Richardson’s Goose is identified regularly in small numbers from southern Quebec and Massachusetts south to Virginia (P. Bannon, D. Veit, M. Szantyr, A. Wilson, L. Larsen, P. E. Lehman, P. Davis, E. S. Brinkley, R. Davis, in litt.). North of Massachusetts, Richardson’s seems somewhat less regular, or at least less numerous, north to Nova Scotia (L. Bevier, I. McLaren, J. Wilson, in litt.), and it has yet to be found in Newfoundland (B. Mactavish, in litt.). In recent regional reports in North American Birds from August 2006 through February 2008, only two were reported from Atlantic Canada (Mactavish 2007, Dalzell 2007, Mactavish 2008, Dalzell 2008), whereas 72 were reported from New England (Ellison and Martín 2007, Hunt 2007, Ellison and Martín 2008, Hunt 2008), more than 61 (not fully enumerated) from New York, New Jersey, and Delaware (Veit and Paxton 2007, Rohrbacher et al. 2007, Veit et al. 2008, Rohrbacher et al. 2008), 100+ from Maryland and Virginia (Day 2007, Day and Brinkley 2007), and seven in North Carolina (Davis 2007a, Davis 2007b, Davis 2008a, Davis 2008b). Richardson’s Goose are much rarer along the Atlantic Coast south of North Carolina. There are currently at least five records from South Carolina (Post 2004, Davis 2006), three from Georgia (Davis 2006, Davis 2007b, Davis 2008b), and three records from Florida (Stevenson 1977, Pranty 2006, Simpson et al. 2007).

Richardson’s Geese occur regularly in Europe. They are annual in Great Britain and Ireland (Batty and Lowe 2001, K. Mullarney, L. Evans, in litt.) and Cackling Goose (likely mostly Richardson’s) have been recorded ten or more times in Belgium (P. Adriaens, in litt.), about four times in Finland (H. Lehto, in litt.), with other records extant from elsewhere in Europe. In Great Britain and Ireland, these birds have been generally considered wild (K. Mullarney, L. Evans, C. Batty, in litt.), but in mainland Europe, most countries’ authorities have considered them probable escapees (H. Lehto, P. Adriaens, in litt.), probably because they are waterfowl. Al-
though there are only about 60 in captivity in Great Britain compared with approximately 200 Ridgway's Geese (M. Ogilvie, unpubl. data). British records of Richardson's Geese greatly outnumber those of Ridgway's Geese (Batty and Lowe 2001, Batty et al. 2002, L. Evans, in litt.), which would appear to suggest wild provenance for many of the Richardson's found in Europe.

West of the Rockies, Richardson's Goose has been noted far less often, perhaps due to the montane barrier or perhaps due to the presence of numerous other Cackling Geese. There are three records from Washington's Columbia Basin (Modinow et al. 2006b, Modinow et al. 2007), which is perhaps not surprising, as many of that area's wintering mosst Canada Geese and Mallards (Anas platyrhynchos) originate in Alberta and thus cross the Rocky Mountains (D. Kraege, pers. comm.). Elsewhere, there are two specimens from the Lower Colorado River Valley (California/Azifornia; Rosenberg et al. 1991), a likely correct report from Oregon's Klamath Basin (Aldrich 1946), a group of eight photographed during 23 November 2007 in Oregon along the Columbia River Gorge (Modinow et al. 2008), and two photographed at Scottsdale, Arizona (Deviche and Moore 2007). Finally, a bird photographed in the Colorado plains had been banded as a molting adult in central Alaska, establishing that Richardson's has occurred in that state, at least as a molt-migrant (B. Schmoker).

Lesser Canada Goose —
Branta canadensis parvipes
We include Lesser Canada Goose (Branta canadensis parvipes) in this article because of
its similarity to Richardson’s and Taverner’s Geese. (The discussion of its status and distribution will be abbreviated.) It should be noted that identifying vagrant Lesser Canada Geese is made difficult not only by its similarity to Richardson’s and Taverner’s Geese but also because it may resemble other subspecies of Canada Goose and intergrades within the Canada Goose complex.


Identification

It is somewhat unusual to start an identification discussion with a volley of cavets. However, in the case of subspecies, which compel us to consider a great deal of technical literature (some of it not useful or reliable), extreme caution is in order. A quick review of the subject in Johnsingard (1975), Bellrose (1980), Madge and Burn (1988), Ogilvie and Young (1998), Sibley (2000), and Dunn and Alderfer (2006) may plunge a potential goose-watcher into dismay. The array of websites on the subject often do not agree on criteria for identifying subspecies of Cackling Geese.

To counter this confusion, the authors of the present paper were chosen to research and write this paper because of their varied backgrounds and expertise with at least two of the taxa discussed. Our level of experience was broadened by sharing a large number of photographs and visiting each other’s “homelands” to study geese in the field. Most importantly, we studied the birds within their normal ranges, where they can often be found in flocks numbering in the thousands—and typically, where only no more than two taxa are numerous. Between 2003 and 2007, we repeatedly visited the core wintering ranges of each subspecies: B. h. hutchinsii in Colorado, B. h. minima in the Willamette Valley and Puget Trough of Oregon and Washington, B. h. leucopareia in California, and B. c. parvipes in the Willamette Valley, Washington’s Columbia Basin, and Colorado. Given the number of birds counted and identified in the flocks studied, we conservatively estimate that minimally 100,000 of each taxon except taverneri were observed; the estimated minimum for tavereri is 50,000. All of our work was done between October and April. Consequently, the marks we discuss are most applicable to that time frame.

The most important caveat for field observers to keep in mind is that not all Cackling Geese can be identified to subspecies. Even under ideal circumstances, with highly experienced observers studying geese in typical wintering range, we estimate that only 90-95% of birds viewed closely well can be identified with a high degree of confidence. The presence of multiple geese for comparison is extremely helpful, as they provide bases for comparisons of color, size, and shape. Therefore, a lone bird is far less likely to be identified with confidence, and identifications from photographs can be even more difficult, as snapshots often capture structure poorly (cf. Figure 18). By our estimate (based on current knowledge), the chances for a solid identification of a lone photographed bird may be as low as 10-20%.

Accurate identification of Cackling Geese subspecies in the field must rely heavily on size and structure, as plumage features overlap broadly among taxa; the presence of birds of known subspecific identity thus greatly improves the chances of identifying flockmates of other taxa, whether of Cackling Goose or Canada Goose. Apparent size and structure can vary dramatically with changing posture, activity, and even distance. Also, apparent size of a bird in the field may not be as concrete as one might think: all taxa show some degree of sexual dimorphism, and goslings’ diets significantly influence their adult size (Leafloor et al. 1998; see also Aubin et al. 1993, Lindholm et al. 1994, Larsson and Forslund 1991, Sedinger and Flint 1991).

Underpart coloration is commonly used in subspecific identification of Cackling and Canada Geese. However, we find this character to be highly variable within each taxon, perhaps due to genetic variability, or perhaps also partly because of diet (Leafloor, unpubl. data, S. Langer, pers. comm.). Additionally, immatures of all subspecies average paler than adults, an important factor to bear in mind. However, and likely of greater importance, perceived coloration is highly subjective, even under the best circumstances, and even with birds of known subspecies for comparison. In an unpublished study, Pearce asked experienced goose biologists to rate a series of geese using the Munsell scale. These biologists then rated the same birds (in a different order of appearance) under the same conditions. The variation in the scoring of these geese in these experiments was striking, both between observers and for the same observer. What this means for us in the field is that our perceptions under far less ideal circumstances will be even less reliable.

In our discussion of cheek patches below, we mention the “gular stripe.” This is a dark line down the middle of the throat present on some birds. This line can be quite thin and is best seen on feeding birds facing away as they reach down to graze.

During our field studies, we looked at large numbers of birds, typically in several different locations. However, some of our conclusions may be skewed by the populations we encountered, as there may well be some interpopulation variation, especially in parvipes. Also, many of our estimates in frequency of neck collars and gular stripes were done without first distinguishing adults from immatures, which may also skew our data. Estimates regarding the frequency of field characteristics were made by counting the percentage of birds bearing or lacking the given feature in several portions (100 birds minimum) in the flocks examined.

With these caveats in mind, we are of the opinion that it is nonetheless possible to identify accurately most Cackling Geese found in flocks and a fair number of strays found singularly or in small groups. The reader should refer to the photographs (Figures 1-18) for more extensive consideration of subspecific identification features.

Head shape

minima: Typically moderately sloped forehead with rounded crown giving “cute” appearance. Angle of forehead slightly steeper than that of bill as it meets forehead. When alert, often shows “boxier” shape.

hutchinsii: Typically short steep forehead ris-
ing almost straight up from bill, with somewhat flat crown, peaking slightly toward rear. *leucopareia*: Forehead often steep, but usually not as much so as *hutchinsii*, and somewhat longer (distance between base of bill and top of crown greater). Crown relatively flat and rounded to rear as it curves into nape. *taverneri*: Somewhat similar to *minima*, but generally gives a more massive feeling. Tends to flatten crown when alert.

**parvipes**: Highly variable, with many birds having a head shape similar to a more delicate version of *B. c. moffitti* and other large taxa of Canada Goose. Some have a short steep forehead, much like *hutchinsii*, followed by a sloping crown with rounded rear-crown. Birds east of Rocky Mountains seem more likely to show initial steep forehead.

**Bill shape**

*minima*: Typically small and triangular, but somewhat variable. Rarely slender and long and rarely showing bulge near base of mandible.

*hutchinsii*: Typically long and narrow in profile, though shorter than *parvipes*. Often shows a bit of droop towards tip. Occasionally, shorter and more triangular like *minima*. Cullmen never convex.

*leucopareia*: Not as thick and triangular as *taverneri* but deeper in profile than *hutchinsii*. Longer and larger than *minima*. Almost an “average” of the other subspecies.

*taverneri*: Usually rather stout and somewhat triangular, often with a bulge near base of lower mandible, almost imparting a Snow-Goose-like appearance.

**parvipes**: Long and slender, sometimes with convex culmen. Often showing a rather pointed tip to bill, particularly in populations east of Rocky Mountains.

**Overall size and shape**


*hutchinsii*: Apparently quite variable, with western populations being smaller than those from east (J. Leafloor, pers. comm.). Often appears quite small, almost as petite as *minima*. Full extent of size variation not well established. Neck usually held down at angle when feeding, with little or no loop.

*leucopareia*: Mid-sized. Most birds clearly larger than most *minima* and clearly smaller than most *taverneri*, but size differences do not usually “jump out” at observer. Somewhat longer-necked than *minima*, but still fairly thick-necked. Somewhat big-chested in appearance. Neck sometimes bent or looped when feeding, but to a lesser degree and frequency than *taverneri*.

*taverneri*: Largest Cackling Goose, with some birds approaching size of Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*). Large-chested in appearance. Size difference with *minima* usually quite apparent in mixed flocks. There is enough overlap with *leucopareia* that size is not valuable in separating these subspecies. Additionally, though larger than *hutchinsii*, there is probably enough overlap in size that body size may not be useful in separating these. Smaller than *parvipes*, a difference typically apparent in field. Longer-necked than other Cackling Geese, which is especially obvious when in alert posture. Neck often somewhat bent or looped when feeding. Wings appear broader than those of *minima* in flight, and tail may be longer than that of other Cackling Geese and *parvipes* Canada Goose.

**parvipes**: Size similar to Pacific Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons frontalis*). Longer more slender neck than any of the Cackling subspecies, showing a distinct loop in neck as feeds.

**Underpart coloration**

*minima*: Averages darkest of Cackling Geese. Adults typically dark and glossy-breasted, with a purple to bronze sheen. Immatures are sometimes rather pale and are less often glossy-breasted, particularly when molting. There is near complete overlap in breast color (but not gloss) with *taverneri*, but *minima* are probably never as white-breasted as “typical” *hutchinsii*. Virtually all adults and most immatures are darkest on breast and paler on flanks/belly, the reverse pattern of *taverneri* and *hutchinsii*. Occasionally, *minima* are uniformly colored beneath, but rarely, if ever, palest on breast.

*hutchinsii*: Variable, but never appear as dark as “typical” *minima*. Almost complete overlap with other taxa. Rarely, if ever, glossy-breasted. Great majority are white- or whitish-breasted, averaging distinctly paler than *leucopareia* and paler than *taverneri*. Darkness of underparts typically uniform.

*leucopareia*: Gray- to bronze-brown-chested, with medium darkness between “typical” *taverneri* and *minima*. Less glossy than *minima*. Darkest and most bronze birds often monocromatic below, whereas paler birds often shade from a paler breast to darker belly/flanks (as in *taverneri*). Of 10,000 studied in Humboldt County, California during late February 2007, only 10 individuals showed a *minima*-like pattern in underparts.

*Semidi* Island birds average darker than Aleutian breeders (D. Pitkin, in litt.).

*taverneri*: Typically medium-gray-breasted, becoming darker on belly/flanks. Some can be quite brown and dark-breasted, but even the darkest birds do not show usual *minima* pattern of being darkest on breast and are very rarely glossy-breasted. Occasional birds are very white-breasted, like “classic” *hutchinsii*, but these pale *taverneri* are still darker on flanks/belly.

**parvipes**: Through almost entire range, majority of birds are quite white-breasted, with darker belly/flanks. However, a fair percentage shows medium-gray breasts (substantially overlapping with *taverneri*, though the difference in chest color is usually evident when comparing flocks of *parvipes* and *taverneri*). Birds breeding in south-coastal Alaska and wintering predominantly in Oregon’s Willamette Valley can be quite dark gray, with some individuals approaching Dusky Canada Goose (*B. c. occidentalis*) in darkness.

**Cheek patch and gular stripe**

*minima*: Gular stripe common, but exact frequency hard to assess; several flocks of 1000+ birds evaluated during winter of 2006-2007 in Washington showed surprising variability, ranging from an estimated 40% to 95% of birds in any given flock. Appearance of a gular stripe seems not to be dependent on age (in *minima* and other taxa).

*hutchinsii*: We estimate that up to, but not exceeding, 25% of this subspecies have a complete gular stripe. Many, perhaps most, show a step-off narrowing of cheek patch at level of eye, a feature that is uncommon in other taxa, excepting *parvipes*.

*leucopareia*: Gular stripe nearly always present. Fewer than 10 individuals of 5000+ studied in late February 2007 in Humboldt County, California lacked a complete gular stripe. Most of these exceptions still had a partial gular stripe. Also, we estimated that in 20% of *leucopareia*, the gular stripe was broad enough as to be visible from a strictly lateral view, a characteristic that is rare (we estimate below 5% of individuals) in other taxa.

*taverneri*: Similar to *minima* in shape of cheek patch and frequency of gular stripe. Frequency of gular stripe varied from 40-75% in flocks evaluated during winter of 2006-2007 in Washington and Oregon (flocks ranging from 100-600, percentages based on actual counts).

**parvipes**: Of 10,000+ birds evaluated in Colorado and eastern Washington during winter of 2006-2007, we estimated that fewer than 1% showed a gular stripe in both populations. In western Washington and Oregon, several
small flocks (<30 birds) of darker parvipes (presumably from south-coastal Alaska) were observed. Frequency of gular stripe not tabulated but within 25%-30% range. Check shape of Colorado birds often resembled that of hutchinsi, whereas eastern and western Washington birds showed this pattern infrequently.

Note that there may be subtle average differences in check patch shape that we did not detect; the only useful variation we found is discussed under hutchinsi. Additionally, when gular stripes are present, they can range from very thin to very wide; the subspecies that show more frequent gular stripes, on average, also seem to show wider gular stripes, but this was not closely studied and seems a valuable character only in leucopareia.

**Neck collars**

The neck collar, if present, is a white line separating the black neck from the body. It is highly variable in thickness, but it is virtually always thinnest anteriorly and typically (except in leucopareia) absent on the hind neck, thus forming an anterior crescent, not a complete ring. Readers should also note that neck collars, even when present, are most easily seen on birds with dark chests and can virtually disappear in conjunction with the very pale breast of many hutchinsi and parvipes.

**minima**

Of 10,000+ studied in Washington from November 2006 into February 2007, we estimated that 10-20% had at least partial neck collars. Unfortunately, we did not assess this mark by age class initially and thus do not have data for adults versus immatures. However, it was noted that immature minima were much less likely than adults to have neck collars from October into late February, when some molting immatures acquire this character. Only about 1% of minima, all adults, have a neck collar as broad as a typical leucopareia, and less than half of these had that neck collar subtended by a dark band, as in most leucopareia. Notably, minima with thick white neck collars tend to be among the darkest-breasted individuals. Very few (estimated at fewer than 1 in 1000) had white extending far (25% or more) up the anterior neck.

**hutchinsi**

Frequency of neck collars similar to that of minima, but collar never subtended by dark. White wedge extending up anterior neck is rare enough that we know of no instances.

**leucopareia**

A broad white neck collar is a hallmark of leucopareia and present on all adults. We estimated that in greater than 99% of adults examined in Humboldt County, California, during February 2007, there was a dark ring subtending the white neck collar. On an estimated 90% or more of adults, the neck collar was quite wide anteriorly, but even on those birds, most showed at least a small gap posteriorly. A wedge of white extending far up anterior neck was present on approximately 1% of adults. Findings were similar among immatures at that time, excepting that an estimated 5-10% had a very thin partial neck collar, about 5% lacked the dark collar subtending the white one, and none had a white wedge extending up anterior neck. Notably, most hatch-year birds are without any white at base of neck from October through December, and it is not clear when the collar molts in (D. Pitkin, R. LeValley, pers. comm.; contra Johnson et al. 1979).

**taverneri**

Perhaps the least likely to have a white neck collar. We estimated that more than 99% of immatures lacked a neck collar, at least into mid-February, and a neck collar was present on only approximately 2-5% of adults. We know of none with white extending far up anterior neck. During our four years of study, we found two or three individuals that may have been taverneri with a leucopareia-like neck pattern, including the dark ring beneath the white collar.

**parvipes**

Frequency of neck collars similar to that of minima and hutchinsi, but collar never subtended by dark. We found no birds with white extending far up anterior neck.

**Wing covert pattern**

**minima**

Approximately 75% of adults show a blue-gray base to each feather with a dark brown subterminal band and strongly contrasting white or whitish terminal band. Few if any immatures show this pattern, and in all subspecies, immatures have a less contrasting wing covert pattern than adults.

**hutchinsi**

Typically, brown or gray-brown base to each wing covert, darkening distally and forming a somewhat diffuse medium-brown subterminal band followed by a pale brownish terminal band. Occasionally terminal band broad and nearly white. Some with duller wing pattern. Rarely, if ever, shows "classic" adult minima wing covert pattern.

**leucopareia**

More minima-like than hutchinsi, but base to wing coverts still typically brownish rather than gray, and subterminal band tends to be more diffuse than that of minima but better defined than in hutchinsi. Terminal band often quite broad and well delineated but usually cream colored; only occasionally white or nearly white. Rarely (estimated below 1%) shows pattern of "classic" adult minima.

**taverneri**

Similar to hutchinsi, but more likely to show some features of minima, including grayish hues on bases of wing coverts and more likely to have a well-formed subterminal band and/or bright whitish terminal band. We estimated that fewer than 1% show a "classic" adult minima wing covert pattern.

**parvipes**

Similar to hutchinsi.

**Voice**

**minima**

A high yip or yelp. Little variation.

**hutchinsi**

Similar to minima.

**leucopareia**

Deeper than minima and often double-noted.

**taverneri**

Most commonly, a yip or yelp similar to minima, but deeper in pitch. Also a distinctive "whoop," reminiscent of some Canada Goose calls, most often given upon take-off or landing.

**parvipes**

Similar to a high-pitched Great Basin Canada Goose (B. c. moffittii).

**Acknowledgments**

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The Changing Seasons: Out on a limb

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The Bohemian Waxwing bonanza during the winter of 2007-2008 continued well into the spring season. Taken in Storrs, Connecticut 13 April 2008, this striking portrait highlights the fact that ornamental crabapples were an overwhelming favorite among the food types chosen by the invading horde. Photograph by Mark Szantyr.

If there were a self-help group for prognostication-addicts, I'd have to go. "I am a Forecast Junkie," I would bleat. "Climate change, hurricanes, winter finches, Britney Spears's career path—whatever it is, any crystal ball will do. I listen to anyone willing to make up a blowzy scenario based on a lot of data points. Oh, and I like to eat junk food while I study the predictions, anything with high-fructose corn syrup and partially hydrogenated fat. I need help."

Fortunately, I am already in recovery, so I can make fun of it all now. But when, in February 2008, I read the headline "NOAA scientists predict major flooding across most of the United States, due to record rainfall and snow pack" in winter 2007-2008," I fell back off the wagon for a while. Would it happen? How could it not? What would it mean for birds? Time to break out the nabs!

Like most of the predictions I've battened on, this one's accuracy was... disappointingly mixed. Major flooding did occur in some of the areas forecast to have heavy rain (parts of the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi drainages in the lower Midwest; Figure 3)—but most of the West returned to its long-term dry spell, so the heavy snows of the winter did not produce the major flooding foretold in New England, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the Rockies (especially Colorado and Idaho), and upper Midwest. Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) were correct in predicting the continuation of moderate La Niña conditions well into the spring season, leading to below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures in the Southeast and Southwest (Figures 1-3), as well as cooler temperatures in the...
North, but then, the Southern Oscillation tends to wax and wane over months, so it was a safe bet to predict a few more months of La Niña. From Alaska and British Columbia and eastward through almost all of Canada, the spring was unusually wintry from Manitoba westward and generally cooler than average west of the Maritime Provinces, where April and May were average or well above.

In global perspective, North America's snow cover was indeed above average, but Eurasia had the lowest snow cover on record, at least in the 42-year historical satellite record. Thus, the northern hemisphere's snow cover overall was the third least extensive. The combined global land and ocean surface temperature for spring 2008 was about 1°F above the twentieth-century mean of 56.7°F. For the land surface, spring was 1.87°F above the twentieth-century mean of 46.4°F and tied with 2000 as third warmest (NOAA data; <www.noaa.gov>). So though over two-thirds of North America, we experienced spring (at least March/April) as quite cool, it was still in the top five per cent of warmest spring seasons recorded in the northern hemisphere.

This very cool spring, with long periods of northerly and northeasterly winds, impeded migration of many species—including Asian species to Alaska, which had a relatively short list of vagrants in the Bering Sea this season. Birds of more Palearctic distribution were a bit more widespread than usual in the East—Common Pochard and Garganey (Quebec), European Golden-Plover (7 in Newfoundland), Eurasian Whimbrel (Virginia, Quebec, Newfoundland, Guadeloupe), Black-tailed Godwit (Newfoundland), Wood Sandpiper (Delaware), White-winged Tern (Delaware), Northern Wheatear (Pennsylvania, Maine, New Brunswick, plus 19 in Newfoundland!), Redwing (Newfoundland), but of these, the golden-plovers seem most likely to have been blown westward by northeasterly winds, while the rest could well have wintered in the New World, as the Eurasian Spoonbill did in St. Lucia. An apparent Eurasian Magpie in Nova Scotia in May would be a first for the New World if confirmed—but, as Blake Maybank notes, it’s not clear how the bird got to North America or even clear that the bird was a Eurasian rather than a Black-billed Magpie. In Virginia, a Great Egret of one of the Old World subspecies (“Great White Egret” as it came to be called) turned up in May at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, also potentially new for North America. Finally, northeasterly winds off North Carolina can be good for bottling up many pelagic migrants but in recent years seem to be especially useful when birders are looking for European Storm-Petrel, two of which were documented in May this year.

Spring as Prelude: Five Predictions

For those who follow the fortunes of the planet's non-human inhabitants, we are aware of living in a time that seems to hang on the cusp of mass extinctions; perhaps a third of the world's mammal species are considered

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**Mar - May 2008**

National Climatic Data Center/NOAA

![Temperature Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 3/1/2008 - 5/31/2008](image)

Figure 1. The meteorological spring season (March through May) of 2008 was, on average, near normal or cooler across most of the Lower 48 states, although about half of Texas had temperatures above normal. Globally, however, spring 2008 in the northern hemisphere was the seventh warmest on record (since records have been kept, 1880), and May 2008 was the eighth warmest on record. Map © and courtesy of the National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina.

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Figure 2. Away from the southern tier of states and the Middle Atlantic region, much of the contiguous United States had temperatures in spring 2008 that were below normal. This map shows (in greater detail than Figure 1) why migration might have seemed “normal” south of about 36° N and one or even two weeks later than average in more northerly areas, where cool conditions delayed leaf-out and insect activity and cool fronts impeded northward progress of migrants. Map © and courtesy of the National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina.

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**VOLUME 62 (2008) • NUMBER 3**
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endangered with extinction, and the number of birds that should be listed in this category is surely rising faster than our conservation groups can track. But in North America, at this pivotal moment in the history of the planet, those of us who watch birds are witnessing a resurgence in populations of many species, expansions of many breeding ranges, and a bewildering array of species found in extralimital settings, at least some of which have started to set up shop and nest in areas where they were vagrants just a few years ago. True, there is rather little good news about gallinaceous birds in North America—with the exception of Wild Turkey, which is on most fringes of its range expanding outward, as noted in many regional reports in recent years—and habitat loss continues to plague scores of scarce species in North America.

But some birds are increasing in number so quickly that we need to balance our awareness of what we’re losing with a sense of what species seem to be taking advantage of the changing conditions. In the world of waterfowl, we are seeing populations of Arctic-nesting geese increase almost without exception (Emperor Goose is declining), and expanding populations mean that we are much more likely to find a few species off course, including Palearctic species such as Pink-footed and Barnacle Geese, and it is by no means inconceivable that these once-rare species could begin nesting in North America. Swan numbers are similarly on the rise. Most who follow conservation news about ducks in North America are hunters, and duck numbers, in contrast to those of geese, have generally declined in recent decades. However, there are exceptions, and this group is dynamic, able to adapt to and exploit changing food resources. Mlodinow and crew, in the winter report, noted that Baikal Teal populations are increasing rapidly in Asia, which would appear to account for the recent uptick in reports in the West, including this season east of the Cascades (eastern birders should be on the lookout for Baikal as well). Canada had not only its first Common Pochard this spring but also its first Mottled Duck, in Ontario, one of a suite of ducks of southerly breeding distribution (along with Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Cinnamon Teal, even Mexican Duck and Masked Duck) that is turning up well out of range in recent years. (I am feeling the itch to forecast something. Prediction #1: Records of Mottled Duck will flourish across the Midwest and East in the next decade. Okay, that’s like saying La Niña will persist for a few more months, but I’ll start with the easy money.) Why Fulvous Whistling-Ducks seem to lag behind their Black-bellied brethren is unclear—perhaps because they have not adapted to golf courses and shopping mall ponds, as Black-bellieds have? Records of Fulvous out of range, from California to New Jersey, have seen a minor increase since the nadir of the 1980s through 1990s (and Kentucky got its first this spring!), but their numbers in the United States are far lower than they were even a half-century ago.

There are some trends of northward range expansion in duck species that nest primarily in Canada; if one reads the Canadian reports carefully, over the past several years, there are reports of species such as Northern Pintail and Gadwall well north of typical range, for instance. Also in the northern regional reports are counts of ducks that do seem quite high, at least locally, especially where Zebra Mussels have invaded, as they have done at Lake Champlain recently. In reading through regional reports east of the Mississippi River, I noticed that reports of White-winged Scoter, which had been in sharp decline, appeared to be very widespread this season—possibly a function of the cool season, but possibly indicative of a small population rebound? Our birding efforts at remote reservoirs rarely visited by waterfowl biologists can certainly help scientists interested in tracking numbers of ducks; careful counting is crucial, of course, but sharing the information is also crucial. eBird (www.ebird.org) is currently the most efficient way to disseminate such counts to the scientific community, as most journals, including North American Birds, lack the space to print over 99% of the reports received.

Population expansion seems almost the rule in Pelecaniformes: we see burgeoning extralimital records of both pelicans in this issue’s reports, Anhingas winging over northern hawkwatches in May, the continuing expansion of Double-crested Cormorant, new pioneering in Neotropic Cormorant (singles in Michigan, Iowa, and Maryland; a hybrid with Double-crested reported in Oklahoma), and

THE CHANGING SEASONS: OUT ON A LIMB

Mar - May 2008
National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA

Precipitation

Figure 3. Continuing an unwelcome trend, most of the West had below-normal precipitation in spring 2008, as did most of the Southeast, while the lower Ohio and and middle Mississippi River Valleys saw record-heavy rains and widespread flooding, with extensive precipitation also in parts of the Arkansas and Missouri River Valleys. These rains produced not just flooded fields but actual lakes in the karst region of Kentucky—large bodies of water (with names!) that attracted thousands of shorebirds of many species. Map © and courtesy of the National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina.
the return of Red-billed Tropicbirds to New England, plus one to Oregon, the state's first. White-tailed Tropicbird records have actually decreased in recent years, and no one mentions population gains in Great Cormorant or the Pacific cormorant species, but records of boobies of most stripes (a Red-footed in Louisiana this season!) and of Magnificent Frigatebird are increasing on both coasts, clearly.

Big wading birds also seem to be all in the news of late: vagrants of all three ibis species (plus hybrid Plegadis), both cranes, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Great White Heron, lately even Jabiru and American Flamingo pepper the regional reports in the warmer months. But most of our herons do not appear to be increasing, and several species (Black-crowned Night-Heron, Cattle Egret) are declining on the edges of their ranges. Certainly, a spring of northerly winds is not favorable for herons and their ilk to make it en masse to Canada, but over the past decade, Canadian counts of rarer ardeids (away from exceptional sites such as several in southern Manitoba) have been mostly unspectacular. So if southerly species are apparently expanding their populations or ranges, why are populations of the hardier northern ardeids not showing the same trends as their southern cousins? American Bittern, whose numbers seem to be slightly up in the past four or five years, may be an exception (and possibly too Least Bittern, with strays as far afield as Idaho), but as for many shy species, we are in a data-deficient situation with the thunderpumper and its little cousin. We will tack on the vultures here; both expanding (at least in rural areas), both wintering or lingering farther north, both still surprising observers at their hardiness but also often dependent on abattoirs or hunters' offal or outright handouts at the northern edges of winter range.

Diurnal raptors are a mixed bag, but there is an interesting pattern that recalls that of the wading birds: southerly species seem to be nesting farther and farther north—Mississippi Kite is the flagship of this armada (nesting in New Hampshire this year)—while more
northerly species such as Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, and Northern Goshawk seem not to be increasing or are even declining a bit (though some of their populations are clearly cyclical). Even in this chilly spring, early Swallow-tailed Kites broke into northern latitudes, to delight whoever looked up to see them, and Crested Caracaras continued to appear in California and Oregon. In recent seasons, White-tailed Kite (Missouri’s first, Minnesota’s second found this spring) and even a few Snail Kites have been found far north of typical range; in the southwestern quadrant of the continent, Harris’s, Gray, and Zone-tailed Hawks are turning up well out of range; and in Texas, White-tailed Hawk is being seen farther to the north and east than ever. Species of raptors with more southerly distributions are not just visiting, some are consolidating range increases, if small ones. In recent seasons, in West Texas, Black-tailed Kites were reported in a dozen locations, among them at Ash Meadows, Nevada, potentially the state’s first. Though Purple Gallinules turned up north of normal in several places this spring, none of the records seemed out of keeping with long-term overshoot averages—though it would be interesting to test that impression against actual hard date, which I think would show a decline in extralimital records the 1990s but a resurgence in recent years. (Would anyone like to write the paper? Like our recent paper on vagrancy in Painted Bunting, it would certainly prove interesting to see all records of this southern species in one place—including the records from South Africa!) No patterns were evident, in the regional reports, in other railids, but see the Photo Salon in this issue: after many years of faithfully checking Tocumen Marsh in Panama, veteran birders and tour guides here have hit rail pay dirt! (Somebody stop me! Prediction #3: The American Birding Association Area will add a new species of tropical rail in the near future. Ooh, now we’re out on a limb, even if a Sungrebe did just make it to New Mexico as we go to press.)

Shorebirds, most of which are of northerly breeding distribution, show varied patterns (as with waterfowl), but, again, the southern breeders—Black-necked Stilt is the vanguard species (328 in Illinois & Indiana this spring)—appear to be the most dynamic. Records of extralimital Snowy and Wilson’s Plover (and even of the endangered Piping Plover) dot the regional reports this season as well. Species such as American Oystercatcher and Willet (that is, the saltmarsh-nesting Eastern Willet) have little reason to go pioneering inland areas, tied as they are to outer-coastal habitats, and their numbers are mostly steady or falling slightly. But Long-billed Curlews posted significant records in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and possibly Alaska this season, and it will be fascinating, given the northerly wintering of this species in the Great Plains, to see whether Long-billeds reclaim any of their former range. We should not confuse records of extralimital wandering, as in the plovers, with good news about population growth, of course: there is no evidence of population increases in Wilson’s Plover, for instance, despite the increase in records of wanderers to New York and New Jersey (and California) in recent years—and in fact, most potentially suitable nesting habitat on the East...
Coast north of Virginia is heavily utilized by humans during the breeding season, so their options would be quite limited in any case. A Wilson’s Plover in western Pennsylvania follows one in Michigan last spring, part of a weak and surprising pattern of inland records that bears watching. There may be some cause for guarded optimism in Snowy Plover (records in Ontario, Wisconsin, South Dakota this spring) and Piping Plovers that nest inland, but let’s see how they fare over the next decade before we hazard hope. With the northern-nesting shorebirds, few regions (with the exception of Kentucky, which posted many record-high counts on its “transient” lakes) had cause to celebrate spectacular numbers. Red Knot counts were slightly up in the Delaware Bay, but still below counts from 20-30 years ago, and much the same is true of virtually any scolopacid one might care to name. But we can still be surprised: numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes staging off the Maine coast were without precedent for a spring season here, upwards of 50,000 birds (Figure 5)! The flight of this species through the continent’s center drew mention in over half the regions as well, even in Colorado.

A gull graces this issue’s cover—yes, our third cover gull in two years (lawsuits are being prepared to stop this, I hear)—to remind us, as with Southern Lapwing and White-crowned Elaenia of recent covers, that many of the additions to our avifauna in North America will come from farther south than we currently imagine. Swallow-tailed Gull was added to the American Ornithologists’ Union’s Check-list only this year, despite records from California dating back to June 1985, probably in part because the species seemed so impossible out of place staring down at its feet in Pacific Grove on Monterey Bay! One might rightly associate breeding failure and disappearance of this species with El Niño conditions, such as in 1982-1983, when the species turned up in Panama and Chile, but we know so little about pelagic waters of the Pacific off South America and southern Central America that it is difficult to say where dispersing birds go when not on the nesting grounds—and even more difficult in a night-forging species such as Swallow-tailed Gull! Even in the relatively well-plied pelagic waters off North America, birders are discovering new species every year, and what seems a vagrant one year may become a “regular rarity” the next, such as Streaked Shearwater or European Storm-petrel. (Happy Holidays! Prediction #4: Get ready for a Christmas Shearwater off California. Santa’s coming, Figure 6.) We will save a few more comments on gulls and terns for the Nesting Season report, but suffice it to say here that among this group are globe-trotters and pioneers without peer—which brings a combination of wonder (Slaty-backed Gull is possible anywhere now) and dread (ditto Lesser Black-backed Gull—which now seems to be taking up with Herring Gull; see the Pictorial Highlights).

Doves and family: what prediction would get your attention? Inca Dove in Massachusetts? (Alabama became the most recent eastern state to add Inca this spring.) Ruddy Ground-Dove in Montana? Really, nothing could shock us with this group, probably, unless quail-doves start to crown on the northeastern Gulf coast. Eurasian Collared-Dove finally arrived this spring in Nova Scotia and was greeted by birders looking at their watches and scratching their heads, “What took you so long?” Next stop, Newfoundland (that one’s not a prediction; it’s a pronouncement). Even Common Ground-Dove, which seemed left out of the Columbina jamboree, is turning up in regional reports in new spots, both at the edge of range and well beyond it.

While night birds (owls and nightjars), like rails, seldom provide fodder for the spring reports, at least in terms of high counts, there are a few indications of continuing range expansion upslope (in North Carolina’s mountains) and northward (in Ontario) in Chuck-will’s widow, and a Lesser Nighthawk in Colorado may hint at eastward range expansion in that state. By contrast, hummingbirds, whose winter range maps have to be redrawn with each new field guide published or revised, are making news in virtually every region, even the northernly regions. In the East, almost every regional report makes mention of early arrival by Ruby-throated Hummingbird, as early as late March or early April (five April reports in Quebec; two birds 2-3 April in Nova Scotia!), which strongly suggests that some of these birds are not crossing the Gulf of Mexico to the usual win-
Corvid populations, apparently still recovering from decimation by West Nile Virus, do not provide much fodder for discussion of high counts, extralimital birds, or expanding populations, but there are a few very interesting exceptions. Crows (species uncertain: Northwestern or American) have colonized Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, and Fish Crows continue to push a bit inland and northward, to Concord, New Hampshire and Point Pelee, Ontario recently. Common Ravens nestled inside the Capital Beltway—within sight of the Washington Monument!—in Maryland for the first time this spring, a symbol of the species’ increasing tolerance of human disturbance in the East. Among jays, Western Scrub-Jay’s range is moving northward in the Pacific Northwest and Steller’s Jay also appears to be expanding. On the vagrant front, a House Crow in Cameron Parish, Louisiana in May was looking a little rough around the edges and had probably arrived by ship, as is their wont, but a Chihuahuan Raven a month earlier and not far away was an almost-expected wanderer, as this species does appear to be exploring areas farther and farther from core range.

Among other passerines, the list of northbound expanders is rather long, and many are familiar from decades past, especially those in eastern half of the continent: Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and so forth. All of these species are still regularly mentioned in Canadian reports. Most Neotropical migrants—at least the warblers, tanagers, and buntings—have shown a different sort of trend in recent years, namely a rather conservative growth at the edges of range coupled with a general increase in the number of extralimital records—and also the geographic extent of extralimital wandering. To get a sense of the expanding “front” of vagrancy, it is necessary to read the northern-tier states’ and especially the Canadian reports in detail: for instance, the banding station at Thunder Cape, on northern Lake Superior, is recording a wide variety of species, among them many birds of southern breeding distribution, some of which are being found for the first time so far north. While many of these species are familiar to those of us living in the States, they are not typical of the boreal belt and are every bit as unusual as Mexican species in the southern tier of the United States, for example. We are mightily impressed that both of New England’s Painted Buntings this season came from the sparsely populated interior of New Hampshire; how

Figure 8. This Yellow-green Vireo captured (and, fortunately, photographed) at a banding station at Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish 3 May 2008 represents only about the sixth accepted Louisiana record. Photograph by Leanne LaFoye.
Changin-}

Seasmons: Out on a Limb

many more went undetected or unreported? Of course, it remains to be seen which of these Neotropical migrants will be able to expand their breeding ranges significantly; many of the more specialized foragers will surely not be able to adapt to very different habitats and so may end up simply producing wanderers that do not gain ground—we cannot predict nestings of Swainson's Warbler in southern Canada or Prothonotary Warbler in Montana, but the adaptable, hardy Yellow-throated Warbler, widely reported out of range this spring, may be another story; and what of the Grace's Warbler in Nebraska? Does that related species have habitat requirements that would prevent expansion? Truly explosive expansion is relatively rare among North American passerines, but Cave Swallow's population growth and range expansion has been nothing short of astonishing, and California now has a record of the species, much anticipated. The autumn (and early winter) spectacle of Cave Swallows is surely a product, at least partly, of this population explosion—but the population growth is neither a necessary nor a sufficient cause for this odd, often fatal late-autumn wandering toward the northeast. Only the harrowing of a non-passerine, Eurasian Collared-Dove or a waterbird, seems comparable in recent times to Cave Swallow's rise.

Short-distance migrants, exemplified by sparrows, are difficult to characterize neatly in the context of changing ranges. Extralimital birds were rather few this spring, with a scattering of wayward Zonotrichia (including a few Gambel's White-crowned in the East, where reports are apparently increasing), a good spread of Clay-colored in East and West (including a singing bird for several weeks in Washington, D.C.), a Black-throated Sparrow in Kansas, Cassin's Sparrows in Louisiana and California, and a few lost Lark Buntings in the East. Amsomimus sparrows are better reported in the past few years, say, than ever before in this journal, though it is my sense that we are looking harder for them and know more about how, when, and where to find them. Several regions, particularly in southern Canada and across the northern tier of the United States, report that some sparrow species are wintering farther north than usual and thus apparently returning up to several weeks earlier than was formerly the case.

Finally, among icterids, orioles take the cake. New York City's Scott's Oriole hung around through 7 April, Iowa's first-ever Scott's arrived on 7 April, and a dozen Bullock's were widespread from the Midwest to the East this spring, probably mostly birds that arrived in the autumn and wintered, part of a recent trend second only to the hummingbirds' range shifts and probably also tied to milder climate and the favorable micro-climate of lush backyards, with feeders, fruit, and ornamental plantings. While it is tempting to forecast a Streak-back Oriole in Massachusetts, really, would that surprise anyone, after the species has reached Colorado (this year), Hooded Oriole has made it to Ontario, and Audubon's Oriole to Indiana? Be on the lookout for Bronzed and Shiny Cowbirds, too, and not just in the Southeast!

The point of this little bit of prognostication is not to suggest that we should welcome our warming climate but to acknowledge that a wide array of species appears to be responding to climate change by both pioneering north of usual and, in some cases, also by gaining ground as nesting species or potentially nesting species. “Vagrancy,” as we think of it, is surely comprised of a broad range of actions on the parts of birds, some of which pertain to urges unrelated to the reproductive cycle, some of which may be the result of what we would classify as “errors,” some of which may be responses to habitat destruction or drought (as seems to be the case with widely roaming Lawrence's Goldfinches, Figure 9, and many other western species of late). But clearly, in this rapidly changing environment, birds that have seemed to be doomed without one year have turned out to be the scouts of a new population the next: ibises, Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are among the most obvious and easily found. Sometimes, it takes no more effort than to step outside the car at your local refuge to find an erstwhile mega-vagrant, but sometimes the search involves patient scanning through wading birds, or waterfowl, or swimmers, or listening carefully for a vireo that sounds odd, or watching marsh edges for hours, waiting for rails to pop out at the margins. So the not-so-tongue-in-cheek predictions here are a challenge to the reader: look at some of the more outlandish records in the regional reports in this issue, add 1000 or 2000 kilometers to them, and think: Where and when would this species turn up in my area? Is there any obvious association with weather or with climatic phenomena like El Niño? Am I prepared to identify this bird if I hear or see it? What are the prospects for this species to nest here?

And, well, if you plan don't like these predictions, here's a suggestion: Get out there in the field and prove that there are no Mottled Ducks in upstate New York, no Common Black-Hawks in the Southern Great Plains, no Yellow-green Vireos in Mississippi, no Christmas Shearwaters off Southern California—and no fancy crakes in South Texas! While gathering all the data to prove my predictions preposterous, though, please do send in your sightings to regional editors: I'll lay odds they'll include a few big surprises.
Cycles
Readers will notice that we have ceased to refer to gulls in these pages as “first-winter,” “second-winter,” and so forth, opting to take a page from Steve N. G. Howell and Jon Dunn’s *A Reference Guide to Gulls of the Americas* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007) and to adopt in their stead the concept of plumage “cycles” in gulls, thus “first-cycle,” “second-cycle” when used as adjectives. This is particularly useful when we make reference to plumages of species such as Kelp Gull or Gray Gull or Swallow-tailed Gull—South American visitors for whose plumages a lexicon based on the Northern Hemisphere’s seasons is inappropriate. Too, we have struggled to countenance the complex first-cycle molt strategies of northern gulls (there are at least four strategies, including that of Ivory Gull; see pages 44-45 in Howell and Dunn) in our captioning of gull photographs here, often finding the choice between “juvenile” and “first-winter” impossible to make, based on the image we receive, for instance.

No doubt, some of our readers find the dissection of gull plumages too technical for their tastes, so perhaps the new terminology, which is more straightforward, will be welcomed. Whatever one’s interests, we recommend owning and, yes, reading the Reference Guide to Gulls of the Americas, a tour de force of careful scholarship and clearly the product decades of careful and dedicated field work. One need not love gulls to appreciate that this book represents one of the highest achievements of North American birding and field ornithology to this point. We look forward to future publications from this dynamic duo.

New regional editors
Andy Bankert is now Florida’s newest *North American Birds* regional editor for the Nesting Season. Andy lives at Melbourne Beach, Brevard County, where he is a sophomore at the Florida Institute of Technology majoring in civil engineering but “on the side” also studying ornithology, and has prepared specimens for the collections at Florida Tech and University of Central Florida. A birder since he was seven, Andy has participated in the Great Gull Count and Texas Birding Classic. In 2007, he saw 360 species in his home state, the greatest number for any Florida Big Year. Andy has attended ABA’s Young Birders’ Conference and edited ABA’s *Birds-Eye View* in 2006-2007. He has recently co-authored “First Record of the Townsend’s Solitaire for Florida,” to be published in the Florida Ornithological Society’s Florida Field Naturalist.

Aaron Brees will take over for Bob Cecil as the Winter Season’s regional editor for Iowa & Missouri. Aaron began birding in 1994. Since that time, he has been a field technician on bird research projects in eleven states and provinces and has served as the Iowa Christmas Bird Count editor and on the Iowa Bird Records Committee. He holds a law degree from Drake University in Des Moines and is currently the Climate Change Ecosystems Specialist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Thanks to Bob for his seven years of faithful service to *North American Birds*—and we look forward to Aaron’s reports!

We are currently looking for a new seasonal regional editor for the Spring Migration for the Ontario region; thanks to Matthew Holder for holding down the fort for seven spring seasons!

Errata
As (almost) ever, we have several corrections from the previous issue. Among the more humorous misprints in recent years was the image of the Magnificent Frigatebird (*North American Birds* 62: 55) that was said to be “unidentified”—an incorrect attribution from an earlier version of the caption! In the same issue, the Snow Bunting touted as the first for southern Arkansas was in fact the second (page 96). And the image of that gangbuster Great Knot in West Virginia (page 189) was credited to Shawn Gillispie but should instead be credited to Steve Gillispie. Our apologies to Steve!

In the Changing Seasons essay (page 27), a record of Blackpoll Warbler is said to be from La Venta, in the state of Tabasco, Mexico; the record is in fact from a place called La Venta but in the state of Oaxaca, as noted in the regional report (but left out of the caption for the photograph). Also in that essay, Mexico is said to have, according to Howell and Webb’s *Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America*, just six records of Prairie Warbler. In fact, Howell and Webb correctly list Prairie Warbler as a regular transient in the eastern part of the Yucatan Peninsula. The six records referred to are from Mexico outside of this regular range. Thanks to Ricky Davis, Cynthia D. Ellis, Bill Shepard, and Héctor Gómez de Silva for these corrections.
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Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon

Blake Maybank

Canada's predicted cold, snowy winter persisted well into March, with Newfoundland receiving a large amount of snow in April. In the Maritime provinces, March was 1°C cooler than average, but things warmed quickly, with April almost 2°C above normal (with one-third more sunshine), while May produced average temperatures and less fog than expected. Precipitation in the Maritimes conformed to long-term averages, and there were no major weather events to disrupt migration. Consequently there were few major migration movements noted, and the rarity crop was on the thin side, although Nova Scotia did manage one (anticipated) addition to its avifauna list, as well as one “re-addition.” Coverage was good to excellent from Nova Scotia, but there were mostly rarity reports from the rest of the Region, and reports from the Atlantic Bird Observatory were not received in time for inclusion. Despite the availability of increasingly affordable and versatile digital cameras, many rarities are still reported without documentation.

Abbreviations: Avalon (Avalon Pen., Newfoundland); Cape Sable (Cape Sable I., NS); Halifax R.M. (Halifax Regional Municipality, NS); NF (the island of Newfoundland); NL (Newfoundland & Labrador); S.P.M. (Saint Pierre et Miquelon, France).

WATERFOWL

Single Greater White-fronted Geese were at Onslow, Colchester, NS 29 Mar-2 Apr (Jef Ogden et al.) and McGowan's Corner, NB 16 Apr (Gilles Belliveau). Thirty-five Snow Geese were reported across N. Nova Scotia, including a maximum of 25 at Onslow 29 Mar (ED). Another Snow at Frenchman's Cove, Burin Pen., NL 27 Apr (Paul Linegar, Allan Nolan) was seasonally rare in the province. Reporters from Cape Sable stated that Brant numbers were normal, a welcome sign after last year's low count. A Wood Duck reached S.P.M. 9 Mar (Pascal Asselin), where rare. At least 6 male Eurasian Wigeons were in Nova Scotia through early May, with nearly twice that total in New Brunswick, one as late as 30 May. Those at Avalon departed by early May. The wintering Eurasian Wigeon at S.P.M. was last noted 15 Apr. A drake Eurasian Teal was with 2 drake Green-winged Teal at Codroy Valley, NL 9 May.

Two Canvasbacks along the Saint John R., NB 14 Mar were likely spring migrants (Gilles Belliveau). No Tufted Ducks were reported from Nova Scotia, and one at Saint John during Mar-Apr furnished the sole report in New Brunswick. Two Tufted Ducks among 315 Great Scapu at Stephenville Crossing, NL 11 May were thought to be lingering wintering birds (BMT). Wintering Harlequin Ducks delayed their northward departure this spring; there were still more than 12 at S.P.M. during mid-May, and 25 off Prospect, Halifax R.M.—the bulk of the wintering flock—were still present on the remarkably late date of 25 May (Peter Browne).

PELICANS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Even a casual observer such as Henry van Bommel knew that an American White Pelican at Bayfield, Antigonish, NS 11 May was an unusual bird, and he contacted Randy Lauff to confirm the identification, which provided the 8th record for Nova Scotia. The bird lingered through the following morning. Great Blue Herons arrived during late Mar, on schedule for the mainland, but one at S.P.M. 25 Mar (PB) was unusually early. It was a modest spring for southern herons, with none reported in Newfoundland or S.P.M., the result of persistent northeasterly winds that swept those parts of the Region during much of Apr and May. Great Egret reports included 5 each in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and one at Prince Edward Island. Nova Scotia garnered all 5 Snowy Egrets, and the only Little Blue Heron was at Little Harbour, Prince Edward I. 30 May (DSe). There were single Tricolored Herons in Nova Scotia at Port Morien, Cape Breton 10-13 May (Junior Metcalfe) and Lawrencetown, Halifax R.M. 24-27 May (ED et al.). A Green Heron reached East L., Prince Edward I. 30 May (Randy Dibble), and the Region's sole Glossy Ibises was at St. George, NB 25 May (Eileen Pike). Vultures continue to spread through the s. part of the Region. Single Black Vultures at Canso, Guysborough 22 Apr (Jude Tom Kavanagh) and Enfield, Hunts 23 Apr (Joan Zapatlar) furnished the 22nd and 23rd reports for Nova Scotia, respectively. There were dozens of reports of Turkey Vultures across New Brunswick, where breeding has been confirmed, and from mainland Nova Scotia. A Peregrine Falcon on St. Pierre 20 Mar (LJ) was unusually early if it did not winter locally.

Sandhill Cranes are now annual in spring in the s. Region, although breeding has yet to be confirmed. Cranes arrived in flocks in Nova Scotia: 3 at Rose Bay, Lunenburg 3 Mar (James Hirtle) and a remarkable group of 6 over s. Halifax 14 Mar (Bernice Moores). Singles were noted elsewhere: at East Pt., Prince Edward I. 22 May (Ramsay Hart) and Miscou I., NB 31 May (Robert Doiron, Frank Branch). Two cranes near Goose Bay, Labrador 5-6 May (Lidija Chubbis) could have been breeding in nearby bogs, where ads. have been noted on aerial waterfowl surveys in recent years. Newfoundland garnered nearly all the shorebird news, including a late influx of species that breed to the west. European Golden-Plovers are now annual during spring in e. Newfoundland, and this year's tally included one at Cape Bonavista 6 May (JJ), 2 at Portugal Cove South 15-16 May (DSH et al.), and 6 at Cape Bonavista 26 May (JJ). The latter plowers were found on a rather late date but were thought to be recent arrivals because of their exhausted condition. The 3rd Black-necked Stilt for Newfoundland was found at St. Shotts, Avalon 31 May (ph. BMT et al.). A pair of Willets returned to Renews, Avalon 19 May, where a pair was present for two months during 2007; breeding was suspected but not confirmed. The province's only known Willet breeding site is the Stephenville Crossing/Sandy Pt. area on the island's w. coast, where two pairs are present. One Willet reached S.P.M. 31 May. An Upland Sandpiper, representing only the 4th record for Newfoundland, was found at Cape Race 25 May (ph. DSH et al.). Eurasian Whimbrels (presumably mostly of subspecies phaenicus) are nearly annual during spring, and

A flock of 9 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was discovered at Country Harbour, Guysborough, NS 24 May (James Rhynold, ph. Carol McIntosh et al.). The flock remained in the area through 4 Jun, then apparently turned up in Ipswich, MA 6 Jun. Photographs of the bird involved in the only previous Nova Scotia record—a bird that spent more than two months near Pointe d'Eglise in summer 1998—were recently re-examined; the bird clearly had a clipped halax indicative of captive provenance.
there were 3 singles this season, at Bear Cove 18 May (Dave Brown, Jen Harding), Lumsden 15-17 May (ph. Andy Gibbons), and St John’s 20 May (Gene Herzberg). A seasonally late Black-tailed Godwit was at Gambo 29 May (Bruce Bradbury). The sw. part of Newfoundland is seldom birded during early spring, so the status of American Woodcocks there is uncertain; 3 displaying males in the Codroy Valley 9-10 May were enjoyed by many (BMt et al.). The arrival of 5 Wilson’s Phalaropes in the Avalon at the season’s cusp was exceptional: 2 at Biscay Bay 31 May–1 Jun (ph. BMt et al.) and 3 at Kilbride 1 Jun (Todd Boland, Anne Hughes et al.).

**GULLS THROUGH MAGPIES**

Only 3 Laughing Gulls appeared in the Region, the poorest showing in many years, with singles at L’Ardoise, NS 16 May (Weldon MacPhail), Ingalls Head, NB 20 May (RB), and Biscay Bay, Avalon 19 May+ (DSh). The St. John’s wintering Yellow-legged Gull lingered into Mar. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to increase, with nearly 50 birds Region-wide. There is only one breeding record in North America, in Maine during May 2007 (Ellis et al. 2008, *North American Birds* 61: 546-548), but MacAvish believes that other Lesser Black-backed may be breeding with Herring Gulls in Labrador. At the Goose Bay, Labrador landfill 23 May, he observed one ad and 8 subads., along with 2 ad Lesser Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull hybrids, at a time when the local Herring Gulls were incubating. Two Caspian Terns, locally rare, were noted at S.P.M. 7 May (PA), with one remaining through 18 May (PH), along with another at Moser R., Halifax R.M. 14 May (Harry & Jean Brennan). A skua off Brier I. 31 May (Carl Haycock) could not identified specifically, so may have been either a Great or a South Polar. Our understanding of the distribution of these species in the Region remains rudimentary.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove found by a forest technician at Halfway Brook L. near Sheet Harbour, Halifax R.M. 13 May (ph. Mike Coady) furnished the first report for the province and Region, though its arrival had certainly been anticipated. The White-winged Dove continued at Halifax until 29 May, and another appeared at Little Harbour, Shelburne, NS 19-25 May (David Young); both were of the asiatica subspecies. Yellow-billed Cuckoos are Regionally rare during spring, so one was a highlight on a Nova Scotia Bird Society field trip to Port aux Hebert, Shelburne 24 May; another was found at White Head 1 in the Grand Manan Is. archipelago 22 May (Merv Comer). Snowy Owls were particularly scarce this past winter, so it was a surprise when one appeared at Canso, NS 23 Mar (Gertie MacKenzie). Only 2 Northern Hawk Owls were reported, one at Canso 10 Apr (TK) and one found injured at Prince Edward 1.28 Apr that had to be euthanized (Fiep de Bie). Birders monitoring Chimney Swift

**STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS**

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Italicics indicate name of county, parish, or municipality.
The sole record of magpie in the Region was of a Black-billed Magpie photographed at Brier I., NS 13 May 1973 by Wayne Neily. The species remains on the Nova Scotia list, pending an assessment by the province's rarities committee regarding the bird's provenance. This season, Joe and Janet McKinnon spotted a magpie foraging at their trout pond at Clam Harbour, Halifax R.M., 30 Apr. The bird was shy but quite vocal, and despite repeated attempts by many birders to see this bird over the next few days, only one photograph was obtained. Ian McLaren takes up the tale: "Some mentioned the particularly blue iridescence of its wings, and the one poor photograph available showed vivid blue with no shift to greenish on the coverts. This is characteristic of the Eurasian Magpie (Pica pica), but one birder who heard it call concluded...that the bird was a Black-billed Magpie." Reports of magpies along and near the Atlantic coast should consider the possibility of Eurasian Magpie, now considered a separate species from Black-billed. Captive provenance is a possibility for either species.

Swallows through redpolls

An extremal cliff Swallow reached S.P.M. 31 May (PH). The Tufted Titmouse at Gagetown, NB continued through Mar. Only one of the former pair of Carolina Wrens at Summerside, Prince Edward I., remained through Mar (Les Holmans), while another appeared at Petticodiac, NB 30 Apr (Catherine Hamilton). Winter Wrens were unusually scarce at S.P.M. this spring, with none at Miquelon and only 2 singing birds at Saint-Pierre. There was an influx of Northern Wheatears to e. and n. Newfoundland, totaling 19 individuals 11 May+, including 3 at Cape Freels 15 May (John Goss) and 3 at Blue Cove, Northern Pen. 14 May, increasing to 6 on 17 May (John & Ivy Gibbons). Singles were scattered from Cape Race to Cape Bonavista, but the flight did not extend to the remainder of the Region, except for one in the Grand Manan archipelago, NB 19-21 May (ph. RB et al.). A few Townsend's Solitaries from the Region's record-setting winter irruption continued, with singles at Edmundston, NB 15 Mar (Pat & Colette Lavio) and Cap Blute 26 Apr (Regan Godin). Wood Thrushes are now extremely rare in the Region, with the only report in the Grand Manan Is. 24-25 Apr (Roy LaPointe). A presumed wintering Redwing at St. John's 8-11 Mar (Otto Warren, m.ob.) provided the first Mar report for the province; reports now span the period Nov-Apr. Brown Thrashers numbered 3 in New Brunswick (where breeding now occurs), 3 in Nova Scotia, and one at Prince Edward Island. One thrasher at S.P.M. 31 May (Fespa) furnished the 5th report for the islands. The notable arrival of Bohemian Waxwings this past winter continued into spring, with some notable counts from Wolfville, NS: 800 on 2 Mar (Jim Wofford) and 300 on 5 Apr (Pat Hawes). The warbler migration was unremarkable. The rarest warblers locally were Prince Edward I.'s 2nd Blue-winged Warbler at North Cape 26 May (DS) and Nova Scotia's 22nd Golden-winged Warbler at Lower Rose Bay, Lunenburg 14-22 May (jde SF). An unseasonably late Orange-crowned Warbler was at Wilson Pt., NB 31 May (Frank Branch, Robert Doiron). There were no Cape May Warblers reported from Nova Scotia this season and only a few from New Brunswick, probably due to the lack of spruce budworm outbreaks across the Region's forests. However, one female Cape May reached S.P.M. 26-30 May. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Cape Sable 24 Apr (jde MN) provided the earliest provincial report by six days, and another appeared at Portuguese Cove, Halifax R.M. 28 May (ph. HT). The spring overshooting tanager and towhee flights were sparse. Nova Scotia produced the only Summer Tanager 14 May, and 9 Scarlet Tanagers during May were split between Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Two sightings of Eastern Towhees during May were similarly split between the two provinces. A Chipping Sparrow successfully wintered at S.P.M., as did a Clay-colored Sparrow in Nova Scotia. A Clay-colored linnet at a feeder at White Pt., Queens, NS 8-13 May (M. Millard). Five singing Vesper Sparrows in the North Cape area of Prince Edward I., 7 May through month's end (BD) suggest local breeding, which has never been confirmed in the province. There have been only three reports of this species in Prince Edward I., in the past 10 years. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Cherry Hill Beach, NS 6 May (SF) tied the earliest arrival date. The annual May "blues" were of a modest magnitude. The Nova Scotia/New Brunswick/Prince Edward I. totals were: Blue Grosbeak 2/10/0; Indigo Bunting 2/10/3. Three Indigo Buntings reached New- foundland during May, and one arrived at S.P.M. 16 May. A green Painted Bunting was a one-day wonder at Mary's Pt., NB 29 May (DC, Mary Majka, ph. Woody Gillies).

An Eastern Meadowlark wintered at Glace Bay, NS, while a meadowlark at Cape Sable feeder 16-29 Mar was photographed and found to be a Western Meadowlark, only the 2nd photographic record in the province. There was a pleasant arrival of male Yellow-headed Blackbirds at four sites in the Region, in Nova Scotia at Clam Harbour, Halifax R.M. 1 May (jde Angus Maclean), at S. Halifax 25-28 May (ph. Janice Wiscombe, m.ob.), in the Grand Manan archipelago 16-18 May (Norm Beliveau, m.ob.), and at Port-Aux-Chois, NL 31 May (ph. Sidney Torraville). Ten Orchard Orioles were noted across s. Nova Scotia during May, with 3 others in New Brunswick. The Regionwide heavy winter flight of redpolls, including unprecedented numbers of Hoary Redpolls, continued into spring before ending after mid-Apr. Hoary Redpoll sightings were too numerous to detail, although 30+ were tallied, and "observer fatigue" likely let many others slip by unnoticed.


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Severe winter conditions persisted for most of March, but April brought long-awaited relief. Temperatures finally rose above normal, and the snow melted rapidly, at least in the south. May was cool, with no severe weather. Overall for the Region, temperatures were normal or slightly below normal in the south but 2°C above normal in Nunavik. Precipitation was above normal almost everywhere, particularly east of Hudson Bay. The migration of Neotropical species was lackluster, with few falloutts and few unexpected species. The only significant shortfall consisted of an estimated 42,000 short-distance migrants moving westward for most of the day at Tadoussac 30 April. About 80 per cent were Dark-eyed Juncos and the rest was made up of American Robins, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Fox Sparrows, American Tree Sparrows, and White-throated Sparrows. A flurry of Eurasian waterfowl, including 2 Common Pochards, a Garganey, and a Tufted Duck around Lake Saint-Pierre 27 April–11 May, raised the usual questions about provenance: were they genuine vagrants attracted to this unique waterfowl staging area, or local escapes?

WATERFOWL THROUGH GULLS
A group of 5 Mute Swans appeared in the Saint-Blaise area 7 Mar–21 Apr (D. Jutras, m.o.b.), with singles at Yamaska 20 Apr (M. Cournoyer, J.G) and Saint-Barthélemy 2-11 May (OB et al.). Trumpeter Swans again strayed to the Abitibi region, with 3 at Rouyn-Noranda 4-5 May (R. Delorme, C. Montémurro, Y. Charron, ph. L.J) and 2 wing-tagged birds at Lac Duparquet 8 May—one of which had been marked at Hamilton, ON during spring 2007 and was seen at Lac Duparquet this past fall (J. Lapointe, et al.). The day when Trumpeter Swans will be found breeding in the Region is probably not too far away. A stray Tundra Swan lingered in the upper Richelieu valley 24-30 Mar (R. & G. Boulet, m.o.b.). A rare Eurasian Wigeon × American Wigeon hybrid was photographed at Rouyn–Noranda 5 May (L.J). A male Garganey was found at Saint-Anne-de-Sorel among a group of 400 Green-winged Teal 28 Apr–4 May (J. Lemoyne, m.o.b., ph. SD), which provides the earliest spring record for Quebec. Possibly the same bird was spotted at Montmagny 6 May (C. Lamontagne, G. Poisson). Canvasbacks made a good showing, with 8 at Magog 15-18 Mar (B. Turgeon), 2 at Verdun 30 Mar–3 Apr (D. Demers, m.o.b.), singles at La Baie 13-14 Apr (M. Tremblay, S. Tremblay et al.) and Nicolet 17-20 Apr (S. Saint-Louis, JG), and 2 at Beaupre 18 Apr (GC, G. Lord). A male Common Pochard was photographed and seen by many at Saint-Barthélemy 2-11 May (OB, I. Lechasseur), and a female was carefully described there 3 May (F. Grenon). The provenance of these birds will probably remain undetermined. A male Tufted Duck was at Saint-Barthélemy 27 Apr (R. Piche et al.). Three Common Eiders at Nicolet 28 Apr (SG) were out of range. A Wild Turkey at Huberdeau 18 May provided an interesting addition to the few recent sightings in the Laurentians (S. Maille et al.).

Tricolorered Herons are now reported annually in spring; this season, singles were at Neuviluve 27 May (PI, P. Brynace) and Rimouski 31 May (A. & F. Villeneuve). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Repentigny 26 Apr (Ph. P. Prevost). A flock of 5 Grey ducks stopped at Ille à l’Aigle, Varennes 24 Apr (P. Saint-Pierre, JG M. Robert); singles were also at Yamachiche 10-11 May (C. Maillou, F. Vivier) and Baie-Comeau 24 May (J.P. Barry). Two Sandhill Crane nests were documented in the south, the first at Dunooe contained one egg 26 Apr and one chick 29 May (A. Quinnivee), and the other at Ille du Grand-Calumet contained two eggs 5 May (M. Macquart, JG DT). A Piping Plover at Fatima 20 Apr was record early for the Region (AR), while a banded Piping at Saint-Barthélemy 27 May, several hundred km away from known breeding areas (PE, A. Gosselin, ph.), had been banded as a chick at Platte Pt., MI in summer 2007 (Judy F. Shafer). A Willet at Saint-Barthélemy 28 May was apparently of the inornata subspecies (M. Bertrand et al., ph. J. Hécault). An Eurasian Whimbrel photographed at Ile Verte 23-25 May (Y. Gauthier, PF et al.) provided a 2nd record of the phalopus subspecies (or subspecies group) for the Region. The only Marbled Godwit report came from Saint-Paul-de-l’île-aux-Noix 16-21 May (D. & S. Harvey et al.). Very rare during spring, 2 Baird’s Sandpipers were carefully identified at Pointe-a-Pere 28 May (J. Boula et al.). A male Ruff visited Angers 11-12 May (J. Savard).

It was a poor season for rare gulls. The only Laughing Gull was reported at Neuviluve 4 May (GC). Migrant Little Gulls appeared in areas where they are not usually seen, such as at Saint-Barthélemy 12 May (SG) and 3 at L. Témiscamingue 26 May (J. Frechette). Among many reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 12 at La Pocatière 6 Apr–25 May (C. Ancthu, C. Girard) and 9 ads. at Petit-Pabos 25 Apr (M. Larivière) were noteworthy. Also of note were single Lesser Black-backed at L. Blouin 22 Apr (RG, A. Lefebvre) and Val-d’Or 28 May (CS, RL), making the first two spring reports for Abitibi.

DOVES THROUGH ORIOLES
A White-winged Dove at Saint-Honoré-de-Chicoutimi 13-17 Apr provided a first report for the Lac Saint-Jean-Saguenay region and the earliest spring report for the Region (R. Gagnon, G. Boudreault et al.). At least 7 Great Gray Owls were reported during early spring in sw Quebec. In what is becoming somewhat of a trend these past few years, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are being reported increasingly earlier; a total of five reports during April is unprecedented. Singles at Saint-Hubert (N.
New England

Simon Perkins

In contrast to recent spring seasons, the weather this spring was very dry and rather benign. A late snow fell in western Massachusetts 19 May, but strong storm systems were virtually absent, and migrants apparently enjoyed a more or less routine passage. Despite its relatively quiet nature, spring migration generated just enough avian noise to keep us on our toes. Rarities included residuals from the massive invasion of boreal species this past winter, trophicbirds, ibises, doves, a wheateer, reduvius, and the most thoroughly documented Fork-tailed Flycatcher ever seen in the Region. Reporting coverage was better than ever this year. I want to extend hearty thanks to Jody Despres, a long-time compiler and editor of Maine bird reports who has for many years delivered comprehensive and highly informative seasonal summaries of the birds of Maine. Needless to say, these digests made the job of the regional editors much easier and directly enhanced our final reports. Jody is bowing out of this role to make time for writing projects, including contributions to the upcoming book, The Birds of Maine.

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 Despite the species' recent range expansion into New England, Black Vultures are still rarely photographed in the region outside Connecticut. Among at least five in New Hampshire, this individual was in Durham 29 Mar 2008. Photograph by Steve Mirick.

Furnishing a very rare spring record for Maine, this Curlew Sandpiper was in Phippsburg 23-26 (here 24) May 2008. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

tuet I., Nantucket, MA; Plum I. (including Parker River N.W.R., Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, and Ipswich, Essex, MA).

**WATERFOWL**

The recent increase in the numbers of Arctic-nesting geese in New England is assumed to be related to their increasing breeding populations in Canada and Greenland. This season's total of 15 Greater White-fronted Geese included 9 in Massachusetts, 3 in Connecticut, 2 in New Hampshire, and one in Rhode Island. Five Ross's Geese were noted at Fergusburg, VT 27 Mar (J. Mead) among the tens of thousands of migrant Snow Geese, while a single Ross's Goose at Durham, NH 29 Mar–5 Apr (ph. S. Young et al.) represented a first for the state, pending acceptance. Barnacle Geese and Cackling Geese, too, have become annual visitors to the Region. Single Barnacles, possibly the same individual, were at Hadley, MA 22 Mar (S. Burner) and Northfield, MA 26 Mar–2 Apr (M. Taylor et al.), while Cackling Geese included 4 in New Hampshire, 3 in Massachusetts, and one in Connecticut. An average seasonal total of 7 Tundra Swans, all in Massachusetts, included 2 at Longmeadow 19-22 Mar (J. Cavanaugh) and 5 at Sheffield 23 Mar (D. MacDonald). An impressive count of 220 Wood Ducks came from Bolton, MA 25 Mar (T. Pirro). A huge assemblage of well over 12,000 geese and ducks converged at the mouth of the Abbagadassett R., Bowdoinham, ME the week immediately following its ice-out 7 Apr. Sample numbers from this flock included 36 Snow Geese, 7000 American Black Ducks, 4000 Mallards, 80 Northern Pintails, 750 Green-winged Teal, and 500 Ring-necked Ducks (PDV, LS, MF et al.). Single Eurasian Teal were at Topsham, ME 13 Apr (MF), Yarmouth, MA 5 May (PT), and Charlestown, RI 5-8 Apr (S. Tsagarakis). Green-winged Teal x Eurasian Teal intergrades were noted at Scarborough, ME 6 Apr (LS) and the Abbagadassett R., Bowdoinham in early Apr. Thirty Northern Shovelers at Easton, Aroostook, ME 17 May (BS) represented a very high spring count for the Region.

As in the past two years, Canvasbacks and Redheads showed up in about-average numbers at points of their traditional wintering areas in s. New England. Mostly during Mar and early Apr, these included 20 Canvasbacks and 3 Redheads in s. Maine, a single Redhead at Rogue Bluffs, ME, 18 Canvasbacks and 10 Redheads in s. New Hampshire, and 14 Canvasbacks and 3 Redheads at L. Champlain, VT. The Vermont birds were associated with large rafts of scaup, numbers of which have increased there in recent years, probably as a result of the invasion of zebra mussels into L. Champlain. The scaup, of which 90% were Greeters, numbered roughly 2500, and were accompanied by 300 Common Goldeneyes, 3-7 Barrow's Goldeneyes, and a Common Goldeneye x Barrow's Goldeneye (TM). Two pairs of Redheads were at L. Josephine, Easton, Aroostook, ME during May (BS). For the 4th consecutive year, a Tufted Duck was found at L. Champlain, VT, this season at The strongly emarginated three outermost primaries of this Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Brookline, Massachusetts 12-15 (here 15) April 2008 indicated that the bird was an adult male of the southernmost, nominate subspecies. Photograph by Marshall IttFF.

South Hero 1-29 Mar (TM), while another Tufted continued at East Providence, RI until 10 Mar (RF). A Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser photographed at East Machias, ME this past year was rediscovered there 24 Mar (B. Southard).

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES**

Two Pacific Loons were reported this season, the first splendidly photographed at Providetown, MA 3 May (BN), the other at Nantucket 18 May (VL). The waters around Nantucket annually host the largest Regional congregations of staging Red-throated Loons during spring. On 26 Apr, 2500 Red-throateds were tallied from the ferry at Nantucket Sound (VL). A high spring count of 400 Common Loons came from Falmouth, MA, where they were noted migrating up Buzzards Bay and

**SA**

Aside from a single incubating bird discovered in Massachusetts during 1973, Manx Shearwaters known to breed in North America only in Newfoundland. In this context, it was with great interest that birders observed a minimum of 8 Manx Shearwaters at Revere, MA 22 Apr+. Moreover, a pair was photographed copulating in the water just off the beach here 25 Apr (A. Birch, ph. BHS et al.). The notion that Manx Shearwater nests in the vicinity (one of the Boston Harbor islands, perhaps?) has been further supported by multiple sightings there, albeit in smaller numbers, during previous spring or summer seasons. Plans are being made for next year to conduct night-time boat searches in the Boston Harbor basin, using playback and night-vision optics.

The regular presence of several Manx Shearwaters at Revere, Massachusetts (here 25 April 2008), including documented copulation between these individuals (right), provided strong circumstantial evidence of local breeding. Photographs by Robert H. Stymeist.
An estimated 25,000-50,000 Red-necked Phalaropes massed around Mt. Desert Rock, roughly 36 km. se. of Mt. Desert, ME 24 May (ph. T. Schottland et al.). These numbers pale compared to the millions of phalaropes that were occasionally seen around Mt. Desert Rock during previous fall seasons before a mysterious crash in the local numbers of copepods during the 1980s resulted in the complete disappearance of these great phalarope flocks. But even then, large numbers of phalaropes in the Gulf of Maine were always a fall phenomenon; tens of thousands during spring may be unprecedented.


Rare in New England at any season, and especially unusual in spring, this Lark Bunting was in Madison, Connecticut 22 May 2008. There has been a recent resurgence in extralimital records of this species, particularly in the East. Photograph by Nick Barnano.

Rarely, if ever, has a Pacific Loon been photographed in New England as clearly as this one was at Provincetown, Massachusetts 3 May 2008. Photograph by Blair Nikula.

The "Pategonia Picnic Table Effect" produced a Northern Wheatear at the same beach at Phippsburg, ME 24 May (R. Harrison) where the Curlew Sandpiper was present. A good written description accompanied the report of another wheatear at Sedgwick, ME 28 May (J. Fuller). Despite their (former?) extreme rarity anywhere s. of Canada during spring, this year marked the 3rd consecutive spring in which wheatears appeared in New England and the 2nd year during which 2 were seen. These spring reports of this species in New England in 2001 coincided with a huge influx into the Canadian Maritimes that culminated with a breeding record in s. Newfoundland. The year 2001 may have been a pivotal year that significantly altered the spring status of wheatear in New England.
and 133 Broad-winged Hawks on the surprisingly late date of 29 May (DM). Single Golden Eagles were reported at Danby, VT 10 May (N. Brown) and Wickford, RI 10 Apr (H. Willoughby), and 4 in Massachusetts singles over one of the Boston Harbor islands within a week of one another during late Mar (R. Donovan). Counts of 46 Northern Harriers and 376 American Kestrels at the Plum Island hawkwatch 13 Apr (RSH et al.) probably represented record counts for the Region during spring. A white-morph Gyrfalcon was reported at Whitefield, Coos, NH, where it was seen at

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cachusetts and Vermont (one each). Cranes away from known breeding sites included one that lingered at Monterey until 26 May among 11 in Massachusetts; 6 each in Maine, Connecticut, and New Hampshire; 2 in Vermont; and one in Rhode Island. A single crane returned to Munroe for its 9th year, and 4 were noted this spring at Warner, Merrimack, NH, some of which were displaying.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH MURRES

The season's only American Golden-Plover at

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son et al., ph.) and a white Ruff there 4-8 May (ph. H. D'Entremont et al.)---the 2 were not seen together---and a Ruff at Westport, CT 18 Apr–6 May (FM). A Long-billed Dowitcher made a rare spring appearance at Newbury-

port, MA 29 Apr (ph. RSH).

Ten Iceland Gulls were still at Nantucket 4 May (VL), and 20 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were lingering there 20 May (RRV). The Slaty-backed Gull at Gloucester, MA continued until 9 Mar (BO). Very scarce visitors to the Region, 2 Gull-billed Terns at Eastham, MA 18 May (P. Trull) provided a pleasant surprise. Caspian Terns were detected in average numbers, as evidenced by sample totals of 12 in Massachusetts 26 Apr–20 May (BO) and 16 in Rhode Island 13 Apr–18 May (fide RFAs). A Royal Tern was at Greenwich, CT 27 May (S. Marti). Migrant Long-tailed Jaegers typically pass far to the e. of New England during spring, with rare sightings almost always associated with sustained, strong onshore winds. This was not the case, however, with an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger that was studied for 20 minutes as it hunted low over the somewhat tundra-like coastal heathlands of s. Nantucket 31 May (VL). A late Common Murre loitered off Plum Island 22-29 May (SG).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

A Eurasian Collared-Dove at Hammonasset 22-23 May will represent the 2nd state report, pending acceptance. White-winged Doves were at Branford, CT Apr 3 (D. Lorello), probably the bird present during winter, and Monhegan 21 May (ph. GD). Barred Owls presumably abhor flying over open water, so what was one owl doing 9 km at sea on the Isles of Shoals, NH 10 May (fide PH)? It may have been one of the many Barred Owls that were part of the widespread movement earlier during winter. Single Great Gray Owls were at Burlington, VT 25 Mar (ph. M. & S. London) and Deer Isle, ME 19-24 Mar (ph. J. Burdo). Three pairs of Short-eared Owls at Tuckernuck I., Nantucket, MA (RRV) continued to hold onto what appears to be their last vestige of suitable, predator-free breeding habitat in New England.

A very early ad. male hummingbird that visited a feeder at Barrington, RI 7-9 Apr (S. Barrett) was almost certainly identified correctly as a Ruby-throated on the basis of gorget color. Twenty-nine migrating Ruby-throateds zipped past an observer at Plum Island 18 May (RSH). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Brookline, MA 12-15 Apr (vt., ph. D. Kier-
dorf et al.) was identified as an ad. male of the southernmost (nominate) subspecies. Loggerhead Shrikes have become Regionally rare during any season and have not been found breeding in New England for 30 years (Fer-

risburgh, VT, 1978), so a protracted visit by a singing---albeit single---shrike at Bourne, MA 27 May+ (ph. PT) was intriguing. A White-eyed Vireo at Monhegan 16 May (ph. GD) was roughly 160 km ne. of its known northermmost breeding range.

Fish Crows returned to Burlington, VT and bred at Concord, NH at what may be a new northermmost outpost in the state (R. Woodward). Two Fish Crows at Tuckernuck L., Nantucket, MA 25 May (RRV) made a first report for that locale and came 20 months after the species' first appearance at Nantucket. Fish Crows usually appear reluctant to cross large distances of open water. A flock of 18 Common Ravens collected around deer carcasses at

This Ross's Goose, in Durham 29 (here 30) March through 5 April 2008, represented a first for New Hampshire. Photographs by Steve Nick (left) and J. Lambert.

Ruff is one of very few (the only?) species of birds in the world in which the plumages of no two breeding males are alike. As such, differentiating between individuals can be straightforward, as was the case with the two here. One (left) was in Row-

ley, Massachusetts 3-4 (here 3) May 2008, and the other was also in Rowley 4-6 (here 4) May 2008, but they managed to avoid being seen together during their one-day overlap. Photographs by Linda Ferretro (left) and Phil Brown.
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NEW ENGLAND

Having gotten to Maine, this White-winged Dove flew an extra 16 kilometers out into the Gulf of Maine to arrive at Monhegan Island, Maine 21 May 2008. Photograph by Jeffy Dennis.

Gloucester, RI 10 Mar (fide RFa). A pair of ravens built a nest at White Island, Isles of Shoals, NH but fled to the mainland, following the annual arrival of seasonal biologists.

The Townsend's Solitaire at Rockport, MA continued until 3 Mar (BO). In the wake of the Great Invasion of 2007-2008, Bohemian Waxwings continued well into the spring season. The maximum number reported was 300 at Northfield, MA during late Mar, and the latest report pertained to one at Schoodic Pt., Winter Harbor, ME 14 May (L. Harter, DVP). An American Pipit at Plum Island 28 May (S. Sutton) was a bit late.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Among the bigger warbler waves, reports of maximas for several species came from two sites. Counts at Medford, MA included 300 Yellow-rumpeds 8 May, 57 Northern Parulas and 76 Black-and-whites 11 May, 34 Black-throated Blues 19 May, and 22 Canadas 23 May (MR). Maxima at Portland, ME included 30 Chestnut-sideds, 30 Magnolias, and 20 Black-throated Blues 18 May (A. Gilbert). An apparently single male Prothonotary Warbler at Medford, MA 20 May was observed carrying nesting material into a cavity 24 May but was not seen after 28 May (MR). An Ovenbird at Brewster, MA 31 Mar (R. Everett) may have wintered. An unidentified waterthrush at Nantucket 23 Mar (S. Langer) was quite early but matches arrival dates for Louisiana Waterthrush in the mid-Atlantic states. Most western strays, including Western Tanagers and Lark Sparrows, occur more frequently during autumn than spring. A remarkably high spring total of 5 tanagers included 2 at the same feeder at Brewster, MA 26-31 Mar (X. Maddock), an ad. male at Hampton, CT 2-4 May (M. Higgins), and single ad. males at Medford, MA 10 May (P. Ankers et al.) and Amherst, MA 18 May (H. Allen). Lark Sparrow reports included one at a feeder at Millbury, MA 3 Mar and 3-15 Apr (ph. D. Berard et al.) and one at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA 28 May (J. Moore et al.). Even rarer during spring was Connecticut's 3rd Lark Bunting at Hammonasset 22 May (ph. N. Bonomo). A Snow Bunting at Brother's Isl., Jonesport, ME 26-27 May (DVP) was very late.

What were the odds that the 2 Painted Buntings in the region—at Bow 6 Mar (E. Robinson) and at Jefferson 30 May (J. & T. Kennison)—would occur in interior New Hampshire? Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in Connecticut (fide GH) and at Monhegan 25 May (fide WT). Roughly 48 km e. of their only previously known New England breeding site in Stratford, CT, 3 Boat-tailed Grackles were found at Hammonasset 26 Apr (P. Fusco), and a female was seen carrying nesting material 4 May (GH). Just another 48 km and Boat-taileds will arrive in Rhode Island! A beautifully photographed Bullock's Oriole visited a feeder at Canaan, CT 25 Mar–4 Apr (J. & T. Schaefer). Sixty Purple Finches at a feeder at Little Compton 9 Mar (GD) represented a very high count for Rhode Island. A Red Crossbill at Provincetown, MA 31 May (BN) stirred suspicions that it may have bred somewhere locally. The southernmost Hoary Redpoll, a holdover from the winter invasion, was at Providence, RI 1-18 May (fide RFa, †). Plum Island is the best location in New England to observe the diurnal passage of a wide variety of northbound migrants; one observer counted 1057 migrating American Goldfinches, one of the standard constituents of local morning flights, in a little more than 4.5 hrs 18 May (RSH). During roughly this same period, 9 km farther n., at Seabrook, NH, two observers tallied a total of 1270 northbound American Goldfinches (S. & J. Mirick).


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380 NORTHEASTERN BIRDS
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The "average" spring of 2008 passed with few surprises in meteorology or bird distribution, though a patch of cool weather in mid-May provided scattered fallouts, mostly in southern and coastal portions of the Region. Birds that would have been boldfaced a decade or so ago—frigatebird, Swallow-tailed Kite, White-faced Ibis, Barnacle Goose, Black Brant, Yellow Rail—are now summarized with less fanfare, and even Wilson's Plover seems to be more regular in recent seasons. Wood Sandpiper and White-winged Tern, though recorded in the Region previously, were unexpected in spring and not part of strengthening patterns in the East as yet.

Abbreviations: Amherst S.P. (Amherst S.P., Amherst, Erie, NY); Avalon (Avalon Seawatch, Avalon, Cape May, NJ); Braddock Bay (Braddock Bay B.O., Rochester, NY); Brant Point (Brant Point N.R.W.R., Ireland, RI); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.R.W.R., Kent, DE); Chazy (Chazy R. mouth, Clinton, NY); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., near Rochester, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway N.P., New York, NY); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Long I., NY); Long I. (Long I., NY); Montauk (Montauk Pt., Suffolk, Long I.); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.R.W.R., Sussex, DE); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit/Gateway N.R.A., Monmouth, NJ); Shinnecock (Shinnecock Beach and Inlet, Suffolk, Long I.); Ted Harvey (Ted Harvey C.A./Logan Lane Tract, Kent, DE).

**WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS**

About 18 Greater White-fronted Geese were found, 16 of these in New York, including a maximum of 8 at Wilson, Niagara 17 Mar (GT et al.). Larger counts of Snow Geese included up to 60,000 at Ellisburg, Jefferson, NY and 45,000 from Pt. Au Roche to Chazy, Clinton, NY, both 25 Mar (BK, CM), and 35,000 at Prime Hook 2 Mar (JK). Seven Ross's Geese made a near-average total. Of about 60 Cackling Geese identified, 37 were in the Genesee region, NY. Half of the 8000 Brant at Jamaica Bay were seen departing northward 11 May (SSM, P.JL). Only a single Black Brant was found, at Staten Island, NY 30 Mar–6 Apr (TWWB, SSM et al.), following a series of years with multiple birds present. Two wintering Barnacle Geese continued into spring; one at Montauk until 9 Mar and another at Cape May until 18 Mar. Eight Trumpeter Swans were found in the St. Lawrence region, NY, and singles were at Walworth, Wayne, NY 16 May (R&Sp) and Walkill, Sussex, NJ 18 Apr (RD). Eight Gadwalls distributed through the Adirondacks were considered good finds 11 Mar–28 May. Fourteen Eurasian Wigeons Regionwide were a bit below totals in recent years. Counts of 1000 Northern Pintails were made at Wallkill R., Susquehanna, NJ 16 Mar (AS) and Brant Point 19 Mar (SG); these are substantial numbers away from Montezuma N.R.W.R., Seneca, NY. Totals of 2510 Green-winged Teal at Tuckahoe, Atlantic, NJ 7 Mar (MO'B) and 2000 at Heisler's Pond, Cumberland, NJ 29 Mar (J. Maloney) were similarly impressive. Six Eurasian Teal were found coastally on Long I. and in New Jersey.

Scap numbers indicate some changes: Greeters seem to be recovering from an all-time low, perhaps related to gillnet mortality, and Lessers may be increasing. A count of 15,000 Greeters and 3000 Lessers at Jamaica Bay was well documented 17 Mar (Peter Dorosh, SSM), and 1100 Lessers were at Eastport, Suffolk, Long I. 16 Mar (SSM). Five to 10 King Eiders at Ditcheat Pond near Montauk throughout February was a sizeable flock in light of their recent decline. Forty-one Harlequin Ducks were at Barnegat Inlet through Mar, and 6 others were seen at Long I., in a continuing southward shift of their winter range. Larger counts of Long-tailed Ducks included 1000+ at Chaumont, Jefferson 18 Apr (JSB) and 433 at Hamlin Beach 5 May (Rsp, WS). Totals of 30,000 Surf Scoters and 15,000 Black Scoters came from Montauk 5 Mar (SSM); these are high numbers for recent years, but no concentrations were found in Delaware Bay. Scoter flocks off Montauk during winter and spring are now dominated by Blacks and Surfscoters rather than White-winged. Male Barrow's Goldeneyes included one that continued at Bayville, Suffolk, Long I. through 7 Mar (n.m.e.) and another at Point Breeze, Orleans, NY also through 7 Mar. A count of 3695 Red-breasted Mergansers at Hamlin Beach 18 Apr (Rsp) was substantial.

A few Gyr Partridges in n. New York included the first Franklin and Clinton reports since 2002 (JMP). Several groups of 50-60 Wild Turkeys were reported in upstate New York. Totals of 873 Horned Grebes and 1433 Red-necked Grebes were along the L. Ontario shoreline w. of Rochester 27 Mar (RSp). The season's only Eared Grebes were one at Babylon, Suffolk, Long I. 14-16 Mar (JQ, m.e.) and one salvaged in a parking lot at Buffalo, Erie, NY 28 Apr (WDA). Two Western Grebes were seen: one at Staten I., NY and Sandy Hook 29 Feb–30 Mar (SW, m.e.) and almost certainly a different bird at Sandy Hook 29 May–July (TBo et al.). Thirty Northern Fulmars were seen on a pelagic trip off Sussex, DE 22 Mar (PAG et al.). Several Sooty Shearwaters were seen off New Jersey and Long I., including a rather early one off Sussex, DE 13 Apr (TF et al.). A Manx Shearwater off the beach at Amagansett, Long I. 20 Apr (AW) was a bit early. In line with their continuing increase and range expansion in e. Canada, Northern Gannets were present in large numbers along the coast from Long I. to Delaware; several groups of 2000-3000 were reported into early May, including 16,000 off Sandy Hook 20-27 Mar, probably feeding on herring (SB). Many of these were seen feeding, suggesting a widespread incursion of schooling baitfish into inshore waters. A frigatebird, apparently identifiable as Magnificus, was seen at Prime Hook 31 May (ES).

**HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS**

Of about 20 Least Bitterns reported, larger aggregations were 5 at Brant Point 16 May (L. Saccchetto) and 6 at Tuckahoe, Atlantic, NJ 5 May (TJ). Heron numbers were rather low; maximum counts of egrets were 57 Greats at Brant Point 3 Apr (LJM) and 200 Snowies at Avalon 6 May (MI). A Snowy Egret at Wilson–Tuscornor S.P., Niagara, NY 8 May (GT) and a Little Blue Heron at Dunkirk Harbor, Erie, NY (Terry Mosher et al.) were rare for these Great Lakes locales. One hundred and thirty-four Cattle Egrets in Newport, DE 10 May included 90 at Fort Dupont S.P. (WK et al.). Cattle Egrets are now uncommon to rare away from the Pea Patch L. colony in Delaware Bay. Larger groups of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons included 14 at Cedarhurst, Nassau, Long I. 13 Apr (Cindy Wodinski), 8 at highly urban Hackensack, Hudson, NJ 26 Apr (RD), and 14 at Avalon, Atlantic, NJ 5 May (Ian Lynch). There were 350 Glossy Ibises at Heislerville 19 Apr (DF), 140 at Brant Point 8 May (MI), and 175 at Fort Du Pont, Newport, DE 10 May (WK). Three White-faced Ibises were found in n. New Jersey 25 Apr–10 May (MOB, BH, KL et al.), fewer than in recent years.

The more far-flung Black Vultures were 2 in...
e. Long I. on 13 Apr and 29 May, 2 at Staten I., NY 26 Mar–2 May, 4 in the Genesee region, NY 5 Apr–7 May, and one at Amherst S.P., Erie, NY 22 Apr (RS). Five Swallow-tailed Kites were seen in New Jersey and Delaware; given the recent trend in sightings, it seems likely they were different birds: singles at Trap Pond, Sussex, DE 3 May (Dick Bingham, Steve & Pat Rushton, Lynn Shaw), Cape Henlopen 7 May (Sue Gruver), Sandy Hook 2 & 8 May (identifiable different birds from photographs; JrD), and Huber Woods, Mommouth, NJ 31 May (Sam Skinner). Only 3 Mississippi Kites were found at Cape May this season, but 4 were at Sandy Hook 8 May, and a 5th was there 18 May (JvD); others were at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY 18 May (SBL, DD, RC) and Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan, NY 25 May (Ken Allaire). Four Northern Goshawks were seen in New Jersey 15 Apr–16 May. An imm. light-morph Swainson’s Hawk flew past the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch 14 May (DT). A rare dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk was seen at Ripley Hawkwatch, Chautauqua, NY 27 Apr (WDA). For the 2nd year in a row, a gray-morph Gyr falcon was seen in the Adirondacks, this season at Cumberland Head 2 Mar (BK).

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

Unlikely as it may seem, Yellow Rails seem to continue to increase in the Region; singles were seen and heard calling at Jake’s Landing, Cape May, NJ 24 Apr (MOB) and Prime Hook 8 May (JL, Kevin Graffl) and were heard at Turkey Point, Cumberland, NJ 25 Apr (Mike Brit, Peter Burke). Eight King Rails were reported in New Jersey and 3 in Delaware. A count of 50 Soras at Great Swamp, Morris, NJ 7 May (Cornell Sapsuckers) was high, even for that location, in recent years. The Sandhill Crane population continues to grow; 24 passed Braddock Bay this season, and 15 others were seen in the Genesee region. One crane pair raised 2 young in Savannah, Wayne, NY, where they have bred since 2003. Three other cranes were seen in the St. Lawrence region, and one was as far s. as the Celery Farm, Bergen, NJ 24 May (RF).

eBird has facilitated the collection of quantitative data on shorebirds. Black-bellied Plovers seem to have declined, as counts of thousands are a thing of the past. The largest count received this season was of 400 at Heislerottle 27 May (JG), and this seems typical of maxima in recent spring seasons. Nine American Golden-Plovers at Bombay Hook 27 Apr (JK) furnished a high count for recent years; scattered singles were found elsewhere, w. to Barcelona Harbor, Chautauqua, NY 23 Apr (MMo). A Wilson’s Plover at Napeague, Suffolk, Long I. 11 May (Mike Bottini) extends the list of now almost annual appearances. Peak counts of Semipalmated Plovers were 850 at Heislerottle 24 May (TL) and 350 at Brantigat 8 May (MI). There were 287 Killdeer at Braddock Bay 1 Apr (DT). Two Black-necked Stilts at Hook Pond, Suffolg, Long I. 14 Mar established a record-early date by a month (KR), while another was at Cape May 17 May (SG); these presaged a general incursion to the northast. Greater Yellowlegs maxima were 325 at Heislerottle 27 Apr (SG), 250 at Brantigat 7 May (CW), and 200 at Ted Harvey 27 Apr (WK). A Wood Sandpiper at the Broadkill Beach section of Prime Hook 5-15 May (Sharon Lynn, Jeff Gordon, m.o.b.) furnished the 3rd report for the East, the others being from Orleans, NY in Oct 1907 and Westchester, NY in Oct 1990. A total of 400 Willats was counted at Brantigat 13 May (WK). For the 2nd year running, a Willet was found in the St. Lawrence region, NY, at Maton Marsh, Fort Drum (JSB); the only inland New York specimen is of w. inornata. Peaks of 100 Lesser Yellowlegs were at both Brantigat and Bombay Hook 27 Apr (SG, WE). There were 300 Whimbrels at Brantigat 13 May (WK) and 140 at Cape May 8 May. Marbled Godwits were unusual inland at Chaty 17-21 May (BK, CM), 2 were at Cape Vincent, Jefferson, NY 18-23 May (Jerry & Judy Letendre), and about 3 others were in New Jersey. There were 4270 Ruddy Turnstones feeding on horseshoe crab eggs at Fort Mahton 17 May (K. Graffl) and 720 at Monarchs Bay and Shinnecock Bay 26 May (SSM, PJL). The Red Knot count from Delaware Bay 28 May was 14,700, up from the all-time low of 13,300 in 2005 but still well below the 50,000 of 10 years ago. Other totals from the 28 May surveys were 21,300 Ruddy Turnstones, 53,300 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 13,200 Sanderlings, and 12,300 Dunlins (New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program). Larger counts of Least Sandpipers were 3000 at Hackensack, Bergen, NJ 15 May (CT) and 2000 at Brantigat 7 May (CW). A Purple Sandpiper at Hamin Beach 31 May (DT) was unusual for that of Dunlins were 20,000 at Slaughter Beach, Sussex, DE 17 May (LM) and 15,000 at Brantigat 7 May (CW). Like this past year, this was a banner spring for Curlew Sandpipers; as many as 4 were at Heislerottle 21-27 May (KE, KL, m.o.b.), and singles were at Bombay Hook 30 Apr (Bruce Mack), Nummyy I., Cape May, NJ 8 May (TJ, CW), and Taylor’s Gut, Kent, DE 17 May (D. Small). A higher-than-average (for recent years) 7 Ruffs were reported 9 Mar–26 May, all along the coast. There were 9000 Short-billed Dowitchers at Heislerottle 24 May (TL) and 3500 at Brantigat 7 May (CW).

Eight Long-billed Dowitchers at Massapequa, Suffolg, Long I. wintered and continued until mid-Apr (RJK et al.), and a rare spring migrant was at Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee and Orleans, NY 3 May (JP).

Seven Wilson’s Phalaropes were seen 5-26 May, all coastal except one at Chazy 16 May, the first report there in six years (BK). Wilson’s Phalaropes bred three times in the 1990s at Chazy, the only Regional breeding reports. Four Red-necked Phalaropes were at Cape May 13-18 May (KL et al.), and another was at Jamaica Bay 10 May (SA). The only Red Phalarope was at Shinnecock 18-24 May (Joe DiConstando et al.). A Franklin’s Gull was at Hanlin Beach 26 May (CW, JBA, RSp). At least 13 Little Gulls were reported, including 8 in the Genesee region during Mar–Apr. A Thayer’s Gull was at Braddock Bay 11 Mar (DT). Substantial counts of Lesser Black-backed Gulls included 84 at Spruce Run Res. 29 Mar (SG) and 20 at Cape Henlopen 3 Apr (Andrew Leidig). Ten Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen on the pelagic off Lewes, DE 22 Mar (PAG et al.). Thirty Gull-billed Terns at Brantigat 13 May (WK) are indicative of an increase there, and singles were again reported e. of their known breeding limits on Long I., also continuing a recent trend. Two Forster’s Terns were seen along the L. Ontario shoreline during May (RSp et al.), and 4 others were in the Niagara region during Apr and May (JNCP). A Sandwich Tern was at Cape May 24 May+ (K. Graffl, R. Fogg). A White-winged Tern at Ted Harvey 26-30 Apr (De-vich Farbotnik, Billy Weber, Andy Markel) furnished the 15th Regional report but only the 3rd in spring. Virtually all of the reports are along the coast from Bombay Hook to Ted Harvey. Six Parasitic Jaegers at Cape May 5 May (Michael Harvey) was the largest count. Four Dovbikies were seen off Lewes, DE 22 Mar (PAG et al.). A distant alcid at Jones beach 17 Apr was probably a Thick-billed Murre (Lloyd & Sandy Spitznahl).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Aside from 20-30 Eurasian Collared Doves at the colony established at Selbyville, Sussex, DE, 3 others were seen: singles at Cape May 23 Apr (TL) and 10 May (TJ) and Millville, Cumberland, NJ 4 May (CW). Single White-winged Doves were at Sandy Hook 8 May (TBo, JvD) and Cape May 13-14 May (KL et al.). Lone Monk Parakeets at Jones Beach 18 Apr (JF, GE, JQ) and nearby Cow Meadow 17 May (RJK) were outside their known breeding areas and provide further evidence of continuing range expansion at Long Island. A Snowy Owl continued at Liberty Park, Hudson, NY until 2 Mar (Edna Duffy). Twenty-one Long-eared Owls
were banded at Manitou Beach during Apr (Mike Fratt et al.), and singles were found at Saranac L. 12 May (G. Lawrence), DeKorte Park, Bergen, NJ 22 Mar (RD), and Calverton, Suffolk, Long I. 21 May (Bob McGrath), the latter report suggestive of breeding. Six Short- eared Owls were found on Long I. through 16 Apr, 12 were in New Jersey until 12 Apr, and 7 were seen in the Niagara area through 20 Apr. Forty Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at Manitou during Apr (Mike Fratt et al.). A Great Gray Owl was at Potsdam, St. Lawrence, NY 24-27 Mar (MaryBeth Wharburton, m.ob.). Barred Owls often suffer during late winter; this spring, 5 were brought to rehabilitation centers in Clinton, NY 14-18 Apr, and 3 others were noted coming to feeders in the Adirondacks during Mar. These few reports were part of a much more widespread pattern of Barred Owl mortality through the Northeast. Counts of 510 and 349 Common Nighthawks along the L. Ontario shore 28 & 29 May were the highest noted but are below previous years' counts (G. Lawrence, K. Scuy, DT). A Whip-poor-will at Central Park, Manhattan 14 Apr was early. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Manitou Beach 27 Apr (Braddock Bay) tied the early date there. About 13 Red-headed Woodpeckers in New Jersey and 3 in Delaware were about average, and a pair bred successfully at Calverton, Suffolk, Long Island. Six Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in the Adirondacks.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS**

A remarkable 28 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at Braddock Bay 27 May; this is by a wide margin a record count for New York. Ten Least Flycatchers banded at Braddock Bay 20 May was a more-average count. High counts of Eastern Phoebes, often good indicators of flight days, were 70 at Cape May 31 Mar (GD) and 50 at Duke Farms, Somerset, NJ 2 Apr. A Great Crested Flycatcher banded at Braddock Bay 26 Apr tied the record early date, and 62 were seen there 14 May furnished a high count (DT). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Brittingham 23 Apr (RD, Kimberly Sucon) was the only one reported. A long-tailed Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Cape May 12 Apr (Tom & Kristen Virzi) was thought to be a different bird than the one that appeared at Brightown, MA 13 Apr. Loggerhead Shrikes were seen at Fort Dupont S.P., Newcastle, DE 5-8 Apr (John Janowski, m.ob.) and Sandy Hook 6 May (Patty Dexter, Wendy Mahnif, JVD, m.ob.); this species is appearing with increasing frequency following its disappearance as a breeder since the 1970s. Thirty-five Blue-headed Vireos at Garrett Mt. 2 May (CT) furnished a good count. There were 5190 Blue Jays at Braddock Bay 14 May (DT). Fish Crows continue to expand their range toward the Great Lakes; singles were seen at Greece, Monroe, NY 14 Apr (KCG) and Hamlin Beach 25 Apr (DT). Six Common Ravens were seen at Braddock Bay during May, and 4 were at Eagle Rock, Essex, NJ, their southernmost breeding site in the Region, 19 May (Carole Hughes). A total of 1450 Horned Larks passed Braddock Bay 1 Apr (DT). Massive flocks of swallows at Hamlin Beach included 23,000 Northern Rough-winged and 17,000 Bank's 21 May (RS, WS). A Sedge Wren at Cape May 6 May (CJV) may well have wintered there; another was more seasonal at Cape May 10 May. The Townsend's Solitaires that wintered at Sandy Hook continued until 21 Mar (m.ob.). Relatively few counts of migrant thrushes were reported; 40 Veeries were heard at night over Cape May 9 May (MI), and 10 Gray-cheeked were at Bear Swamp, Cape May 25 May (DF). Two Bicknell's Thrushes were identified; one at Belleplain S.F., Cape May 8 May (MOB) and another at Jake's Landing, Cape May 16 May (SG). On the major flight day of 1 Apr, 86,000 American Robins were counted over Braddock Bay (DT). A dark-backed robin on the SUNY Plattsburgh campus 11 Mar (BK) was thought to be of the Newfoundland subspecies. Bothian Waxwings from this past winter's incursion continued through May; more than 250 at the Adirondacks included a maximum of 100 at SUNY Plattsburgh 1 Apr (John Hess), and 20 were seen at Gouverneur, St. Lawrence, NY 15 Apr. The first-ever spring reports for the Niagara region included 22 Bohemians at Wilson-Tuscarora S.P., Niagara, NY 15 Mar (Debbie Sharon) and 7 at Wilson, Niagara, NY 27 Mar (BPO). High counts of Cedar Waxwings included 250 at Cape May 15 Mar (MOB) and 4375 at Braddock Bay on the late date of 31 May (DT).

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Twenty-one Orange-crowned Warblers, more than average, included 2 at Cape May 30 Apr (JG, TR) and one at Staten I., NY 15-30 Apr (SW et al.). A Nashville Warbler at Portage, Livingston, NY 19 Apr (Ann Watson) was early. Totals of 35 Northern Parulas at Garret Mt. 7 May (CT) and 1175 Yellow Warblers at Braddock Bay 14 May (DT) were indicative of big flights. Five Cape May Warblers at Garret Mt. 7 May (RF) were a lot, considering their recent scarcity. Yellow-throated Warblers were far n. at Highland Park, Genesea, NY 30 Apr (K. Hartquist). Amherst S.P. 23-24 Apr (JP, RS), and Allegheny S.P., Cataraquagus, NY 31 May (TB, JP), as was a Prothonotary Warbler at Churchville, Monroe, NY 17 May (Fred Arnold). Three Worm-eating Warblers were found in the Genesee region during May. A Louisiana Waterthrush at Clove Lakes, Staten I., NY 25 Mar was early by historical standards but in line with arrival dates of recent spring seasons (R Armitage, C. Fallon). A Kentucky Warbler was at Beaver Island S.P., Erie, NY 21 May (D. Sharon). The only Connecticut Warbler reported was one at Amherst S.P. 27 May (JR, RS).

There were 172 Scarlet Tanagers counted at Braddock Bay 14 May (DT). A Western Tanager was at Central Park 26 Mar (Matt Pelikan, m.ob.). About 4 Clay-colored Sparrows were reported in the St. Lawrence and Genesee regions, NY, in areas where they now breed. More unusual were 2 Henslow's Sparrows seen along Tegaville Rd., Owls Head, Clinton, NY 15 May (Jan Tzczak, Rose Smith). Other Henslow's arrived at Ft. Drum 5 May (JSB). Fifteen to 20 Grasshopper Sparrows singing in a field at Harrington, Sussex, DE in late May provided a large concentration of this declining species. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at Hogan's Pt., Greece, Monroe, NY 25 May (DT), where they have been reported regularly in recent years. A count of 32 Fox Sparrows at Bombay Hook 2 Mar (BH) was substantial. A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was at Prime Hook (BH, Frode Jacobsen). There were 268 Lapland Longspurs at Braddock Bay during the major flight 1 Apr (DT), and 122 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were counted there 14 May (DT). Six Blue Grosbeaks were seen during May on Long I. (cf. 17, 3, 10 in the past three springs), while one at Woodlawn Beach S.P., Erie, NY 11-15 May (David Wheeler, m.ob.) furnished the 4th report for the Niagara region. An Indigo Bunting that wintered at Greece, Monroe, NY continued until 19 Apr (GL) to furnish the 2nd report of successful wintering in New York. Few Indigo Buntings were seen on Long I.; the first arrival was found 21 Apr (KF). A male and female Painted Bunting that wintered at a feeder at Georgetown, Sussex, DE continued until 19 Apr (Janet Davidson, m.ob.), while another female was seen at Cedarhurst, Nassau, Long I. 6 May (Cindy Wodinsky). Four migrant Dickcissels were in New York 23 Apr–26 May, and 4 territorial birds were near Harrington, Kent, DE 26 May (TF).

Three hundred seventy-eight Bobolinks were counted at Braddock Bay 14 May (DT). A Western Meadowlark was present for one day at Island Cottage Woods, Greece, Monroe, NY 13 Apr (ST); reports of this species have declined in the past 20 years. An ad. male Baltimore Oriole wintered in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY until 4 Mar (Alex Wilson), and 2962 Baltimoreans were counted at Braddock
May 14 May (DT). The Scott's Oriole in Manhattan continued until early Apr. The last of the winter's Pine Grosbeak invasion included 12 at Tupper L., Franklin, NY 5 Mar (Charlie Delehanty) and 50-60 at SUNY Plattsburgh campus 1 Apr (Candace Hess). The redpoll invasion likewise continued into the spring, 150 stayed at a Keene, Essex, NY feeder through Mar (JS&PT), 410 were at Braddock Bay 6 Apr (DT), and one lingered in the Genesee region, NY until the unusually late date of 19 May. Along the coast, 25 redpolls were at Montauk 10 Mar and 16 at Jamaica Bay 22 Mar. Three Hoary Redpolls were seen in the Adirondack region through 13 Apr, and 4 Greater Redpolls were included. Another Hoary was at Varsburg, N.Y. 21 Mar (WW, JP et al.). One hundred ten Pine Siskins and 1190 American Goldfinches passed Braddock Bay 14 May (DT). Eighty-four Evening Grosbeaks were at Saranac L., Franklin, NY 12 Apr (Linda LaPan), and 8 were seen in the Genesee region until 7 May.

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This report covers two seasons, the period from December 2007 through May 2008, with a few notes on birds in late November 2007 as well. The winter season was remarkably bracing, particularly after the recent series of mild winters, and a few heavy snowfalls recalled winters of the distant past, but no records were set in either Virginia or Maryland for temperature or precipitation. Hundreds of severely frostbitten Brown Pelicans were brought to rehabilitators in January, after the cold intensified, almost all of them juveniles found along the western shores of Chesapeake Bay. Many of these birds were in extremely poor condition and were euthanized—a brutal reminder that climate change is far from a steady warming process and that birds’ adaptations to the changing climate entail real risks. Invasive winter birds, especially those from the boreal zones, put on the best show in many a season. Northern Shrike numbers set records in Maryland (while Loggerhead Shrike seems to show signs of a small rebound in Virginia), and winter finches made the news most everywhere but on the outer Coastal Plain. The continuing flow of Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls, and Purple Finches delighted; Evening Grosbeaks tumbled into the Region in good numbers, mostly in western areas; and Red Crossbills were also widely distributed, though also mostly in the mountains. Above-average counts came in for Short-eared Owl, Northern Goshawk, American Tree Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, and Snow Bunting, among others, largely in the northern and western parts of the Region.

Spring migration was, as ever, a mixed experience, with mountain and Potomac basin observers reporting greater concentrations and more variety of Neotropical migrants than coastal observers. Virginia reports of Philadelphia Vireo (three; 24-30 April) and of Gray-cheeked Thrush (18 April) could be correct, and indicate perhaps climate-change-driven changes in the phenology of spring migration, but they present a challenge to the accurate compilation of records; observers of super-early birds (e.g., those arriving one or two weeks ahead of the record-early date for the state) should document their finds carefully, so that they may be confidently counted in these pages. Uncredited observations in this report were received by the Audubon Naturalist Society’s Voice of the Naturalist and are pending verification, when appropriate.

Some commentary may be appropriate here, from an interim regional editor writing a final seasonal report, about the tendentious treatment of reports in this column. It is true that some species observed in very small numbers in the Region (e.g., Short-eared Owl, Little Gull) are scarcely mentioned in these pages, whereas regular visitors such as Red Crossbill and Loggerhead Shrike occupy many lines. Typically, when this is the case, specifics are provided when birds were found in new settings or in unusually high numbers; the absence of mention is not meant to indicate that the species is not scarce in the Region, or its discovery not a cause for commendation—merely that it was found in relatively expected numbers and locations. When a species is expanding, as most of the goose species are, or declining, as has been the case for so long with Loggerhead Shrike, this column tends to pay closer attention to them. But, certainly, there is a subjective editorial process involved in selecting which species to focus closely on—and we hope that, over the years, each species with notable trends in numbers or other aspects of its occurrence in the Region will receive its due.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES**

Geese of all species appear to be increasing, although reports of Ross’s Geese have leveled off, possibly because many observers have seen their “fill” or have tired of poring through the Region’s hundreds of thousands of Snow Geese. Among a remarkable 26 Greater White-fronted Geese reported in Maryland in winter/spring were singles at Little Meadows L., Garrett, MD 25-28 Nov and 1 Dec (pink-billed ad.; ML), at Patuxent River Park, Prince George’s 13 Jan, at North Branch, Allegany on various dates 5 Jan–25 Feb (JBC et al., increasing to 10 there 2 Mar [Helen Patton]), at Jug Bay, Anne Arundel 20 Jan (Danny Bystrak), and along Sharp Rd., Talbot 12 Feb (Les Roslund); doubles were at various Dorchester sites including Blackwater 2-16 Feb (BH, Joe Hanfman, JBC, BR et al.); and up to 6 were at Piney Run Park, Carroll 30 Dec–20 Jan (m.o.). Many of these were specifically reported as having orange bills, thus potentially or presumably of the Greenland subspecies flavigrois, but of 2 birds at Broadford L., Garrett 17 Nov (BH), and again the next day at Trout Run, only one had a definitely orange bill. Among Virginia reports, 2 Greater White-fronted along with 2 Cackling Geese were not unexpected in Henrico 15 Dec, likewise in Faquier at The Plains 25 Dec (2 birds; Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koenke) and along Belvoir Rd. 2 Mar (one; TMD), but a lone ad. on the outer coast at Locustville 5 Jan (George Reiger et al.) provided one of few records for Accacoma. A rarity in the mts., a Snow Goose in Buchanan, VA 29 Nov was one of the first for the county. Ross’s Geese were in average numbers (e.g., 22 in Maryland through 22 Mar, including two groups of 3); one ad. at Larriland Farm 17 Dec (Bill Hill et al., ph.) that appeared nearby again 19 Dec (Nancy Magnusson) marked a first for Howard, MD, another that appeared 28 Feb-2 Mar at Burklittsville, Frederick may have been the same bird (these were the 4th and 5th Western Shore records from Maryland), while one in Bristol, VA on the C.B.C. there 30 Dec was a local first (Rack Cross).

A Barnacle Goose, a species perhaps soon not to be boldfaced in the Region, frequented Willow L., near Raphine, Rockbridge, VA 9 Mar–13 Apr (Dick Rowe, m.o., ph. Larry Lynch); provenance is still an issue with this species, of course. Cackling Geese were also reported in expected numbers, particularly in the Coastal Plain; Maryland alone had well over 50 birds, including 3 in Mar in Garrett.

Virginia’s second, this Townsend’s Solitaire in Williamsburg was a New Year’s Day 2008 surprise; it remained until the 29th (here the 12th) of January, seen by legions of birders, thanks to the welcome of the homeowner (whose yard also attracted several Baltimore Orioles) and neighbors. Photograph by Brenda Tekin.
One in Verona, Augusta, VA continued from the fall season; in the same w. county; another was near Lyndhurst, VA 8 Dec (AL). A "tiny" Cackling Goose at Bredimus Farm, Northampton, VA 16 Dec appeared to be an ad. of the subspecies minimus—with dark breast showing purplish/bronze sheen (but paler on flanks, belly), very short neck, small, triangular bill, rounded crown, and no white neck collar—but the flock of geese flushed before the bird could be photographed, and subspecific identification of Cackling Geese is not trivial (+ESB). This subspecies has been documented only rarely in the East, the nearest record coming from e. North Carolina. A Tundra Swan observed with 2 others in a pond on McCraes Rd., Fauquier, VA 4 Mar (TMD) and later (J. Whissel et al.) sported a blue neck collar with the code U376. It had been banded in Kotezue Sound, AK—an provenance unexpected for a bird wintering in the mid-Atlantic region. Tagged Trumpeter Swans continued through May in Maryland: #962 is still in Upper Marlboro and #960 remains at Little Patuxent Oxbox Lake Nature Preserve.

The Eurasian Wigeon reported quite late this year—9 Dec—to Ridgeway Park, Hampton, VA; this is the bird's 8th year here, assuming the same male has been involved in all cases; it was still present 17 Mar (Ben Copeland). Another spent the season, through at least 22 Mar, in Norfolk, VA (Robert L. Ake, David Clark). Fifteen hundred American Wigeon on Deal Island W.M.A., Somerset, MD 17 Feb (Jim Bright) made the region's high count, as did 800 Gadwalls at Piscataway Park, Prince George's, MD 1 Dec (Dave Mozurkewich et al.). A Blue-winged Teal at Hagerstown, Washington, MD 14 Jan (JLS) was very rare in midwinter, particularly off the Coastal Plain. Five thousand or more Ring-necked Ducks (85% male) were on a lake on Lagrange Lane, Westmoreland, VA 1 Dec (FA). Rare in the Piedmont were single Surf and White-winged Scoters at John H. Kerr Res., Mecklenburg, VA, starting 25 Dec (ADO), with a White-winged present through at least 10 Feb and 4 there 11 Mar, plus 3 Black Scoters (David Spears). The 8th Roanoke Valley record of White-winged Scoter came from Murray's Pond, Roanoke, with one female seen 2 Feb (MP), just after Barry Kinzie had found one on the James R. above Springwood 28 Jan, the Valley's 7th. In Maryland, 4 White-winged were reported above Riley's Lock on the Potomac R., Montgomery, MD 1 Mar (DCA), with 2 still there 18 Mar; one was at Jennings Randolph Res., Garrett 9 Feb-15 Mar (ML et al.); 2; and 5 were at Meadows L., Garrett 27 Mar (Jim Green). Long-tailed Ducks, quite scarce away from the ocean, were at Burke Lake Park, Fairfax, VA and Black Hill R.P., Montgomery, MD, both 28 Nov; 47 were counted in Garrett, MD 5 Apr. Two Harlequin Ducks on the Chinicoteague L, VA cutaway at the Queen Sound launch 1+ Dec (HTA, Jared Sparks) seemed out of place, but the species has been noted there in the past. Only a smattering of Common Eiders was found in winter, with up to 12 at Fort Story, Virginia Beach 16-24 Feb an exception (Karen Kearney et al.) and the last 2 for the period reported 6 Apr at Ocean City, MD. Just 2 King Eiders were reported: a female at Point Lookout S.P., St. Mary's, MD 23 Dec-12 Jan (MH, BH et al.) and an imm on Ocean City 30 Dec. With the restriction in birders' access to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel islands, Virginia now occasionally misses the species, which has declined over recent decades here in any case. The top count for Common Merganser in the Region—1200—came from Tidelphia Res., Montgomery 20 Jan (Nancy Magnusson); Virginia no longer has wintering flocks even approaching these numbers. This species has been confirmed again as a breeder in the n. part of the Region, with a hen accompanied by 13 ducklings at Violette's Lock, Montgomery, MD 6 Apr (DCs); the location of the nest is unknown and could have been in on either side of the Potomac. Hooded Mergansers with young were reported from three locations in Apr/May in Montgomery and Frederick, MD. Stray waterfowl pets included a Swan Goose at Fort Frederick S.P., Washington, MD 20 Jan (BH, Jim Bright), a Mandarin Duck at North Roanoke, VA 19 Mar (MP, Mike Donahue), and an Egyptian Goose at Stuarts Pond, Russell, VA 12 Apr (Tom Hunter).

For the 5th year running, a Pacific Loon was at John H. Kerr Res., Mecklenburg, VA, starting 25 Dec (ADO); it is typically seen from the Palmer Point Day Use Area and was seen at least through 24 Feb (Allen Bryan). A Red-throated Loon at Rockey Gap S.P., Allegany 13 Dec was rare for w. Maryland, likewise a Red-necked Grebe on Deep Creek L., Garrett 1 & 1 Dec (ML, BH, HH). Six Red-necked Grebes at Violette's Lock, Montgomery, MD 1 Jan (Elaine Hendricks) was the top single-site count in the Region; up to 3 per day were at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (m.Ob.). In w. Virginia, MP found a Red-necked Grebe at Carvins Cove, Botetourt 18 Feb; Greg Butcher and Gary Allport had one Christmas Even at Haines Pt., Washington, D.C. In Maryland, up to 2 Eared Grebes were at Point Lookout S.P., St. Mary's, MD at least 1 Jan-23 Mar (JLS, Jim Bright, Ron & Carol Gutterlet, m.Ob.), and singles were at Fairmount W.M.A. near Rumbley, Somerset 27 & 29 Dec, at Ocean City 2-22 Mar (Wayne Bell et al.), at Scientists Clf, Calvert 15 Mar (Sherman Suter), and near Greenbury Pt., Anne Arundel 19-22 Mar (MH, David Powell). One in alternate plumage was at L. Habeeb, Rocky Gap S.P., Allegany, MD 20 Apr (JLS et
al. An Eared in Virginia was on a private lake in Chesterfield 15 Mar (Randy Suhl). A Western Grebe at Governor's Run, Calvert, MD 9 Feb (Sherman Suter, Kurt Gaskill) was the only one reported this season.

American White Pelicans now seem a peripatetic part of our winter and spring avifauna; due to their wanderings, their actual numbers are difficult to determine. Twenty were on the James R. near Jordan Pt., Prince George, VA 14 (Charles Watson, fide Sergio Harding) & 18-19 Mar (Arun Bose). One ad. was at the mouth of Aquia Cr., Stafford, VA 5 Apr (Rob Hilton), and 14 circled over Occoquan Marina near Woodbridge, VA the same day (Kurt Gaskill). A farmer in Leesburg reported seeing several at the mouth of Poochett Cr., Westmoreland, VA in late Mar (fide FA). Up to 37 visited Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester, MD 1 Dec-1 Apr (HTA, m.ob), with 29 still present on the latter date, dwindling to a single on 3 May. Singles in Maryland were near Fort Smallwood Park, Annie Arundel 28 Mar (Sue Riccardi, Hal Wierenga), off North East Town Park, Cecil 29 Mar (Sean McCandless), and at Havre de Grace, Harford 4 Apr (Colleen Webster). A Great Cormorant in alternate plumage was locally rare 13 Mar at Hog Island W.M.A., Surry, VA (NF et al.). A subad. Neotropic Cormorant photographed along the Potomac R. from Washington, MD 9 May (JLS, Ed Boyd) would be the Region's 2nd if approved. Anhingas are reported with increasing frequency and from new locations each spring. This season, 2 were found in a small wetland 5 km e. of Heathsville, Northumberland, VA 1 May (ph. Richard Davis), and a female was seen soaring above a wetland along 1-95 at mile-marker 35.4, between Petersburg and Emporia (David Davis et al.).

With Virginia-based and Maryland-based pelagic trips currently nonexistent in the Region, at any season, we look to Lewes, DE, where recent trips cross pelagic state lines into Maryland waters. Paul Guris's trip 8 Dec found three tubenoses species: a Greater and a Manx Shearwater and 5 Northern Fulmars, along with two alcid (read on) and the likes of Pomarine Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, and Red Phalarope. Wouldn't some energetic individual in Virginia consider taking up the tradition of guiding offshore winter trips? Six Snowy Egrets and 3 Tricolored Herons were surprises, especially in a bitter winter, at Deal Island W.M.A. 17 Feb (BR). A Least Bittern at a small wooded marsh in n.e. Albemarle, VA 23 May (Stauffer Miller, Jenny Gaden) was the first at this site since 1978 and quite rare for the w. Piedmont. An early montane Snowy Egret graced a farm pond at Riner, VA 9 Apr (Clyde Kessler). A White-faced Ibis at the Berlin Sewage Treatment Plant, Worcester, MD 5 Apr apparently moved to West Ocean City 19 Apr. White Ibis flocks totaling 50 birds were noted on the C.B.C. at Back Bay N.W.R. 29 Dec (ESB, GLA, HTA et al.) for the first time in the Count's history (counts date back to the 1920s); the species has now become almost regular at Chincoteague N.W.R., with multiple observations in spring.

KITES THROUGH CRANES

A Swallow-tailed Kite flew over Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R. 2 May (refuge staff). Mississippi Kite reports were legion but from expected locations in n. Virginia, Maryland, and “southeast” Virginia; an exception was one in the ms. at Ninim Rod Hall, Bath, VA 24 May (Tina Kemper). The fall flight of Northern Goshawk was the best in years, with a high of 7 counted 27 Nov at Kiptopeke; scattered sightings were reported through the winter, including several in the Coastal Plain of Maryland. An imm. light-morph Swainson’s Hawk at Hurlock, Dorchester, MD 18 Dec (Dave Brenneman, Marcy Stuttsman, Winger West) added to the few winter-period records for the Region. Rough-legged Hawks were noted in both the c. and w. extremes of the Region in above-average numbers. Golden Eagles where unexpected were at Chino Farms, Queen Anne’s, MD 28 Nov (ad.; Dan Small, Maren Gimpel) and along Rte. 66 s. of Cavetown, Washington, MD the next day (IH); at least 3 wintered in s. Dorchester, and others were noted in Somerset, Kent, and Wicomico. A spring migrant was noted west of Linden, Warren, VA 7 May. All of Virginia's other reports came from expected w. locations; investigation of a reported nest in Highland assumed that the report referred instead to a raven nest (Center for Conservation Biology).

A Yellow Rail on Cedar Is., Northampton, VA 15 Dec was a first for the Wachapreague C.B.C. (HTA); another was flushed twice on the Back Bay C.B.C. 29 Dec by observers who had seen the species previously in nearly the same spot in 1981 and 1991, respectively (ESB, GLA). A Black Rail heard at an undisclosed site in Havanna, VA 25 May would represent a first for the county and 2nd for the cen. Piedmont if confirmed (Allen Bryan). The 3rd of May turned up newly arrived Common Moorhens on Powhatan Cr., James City, VA (Maryella Mitchell), at Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert, MD (David Kidwell), and at Henricus Park, Chesterfield, VA (Mike Iwank, Vickie Gullet); the latter stayed and was seen by many. Five Sandhill Cranes were seen from the Potomac Heritage Trail as they flew out of a wetland in the Lovel Island G.C., Loudoun, VA 16 Dec—probably the same as those seen near Hagerstown, Washington, MD 6-12 Jan (Bev Habes) and at the mouth of the Gunpowder R., Harford, MD 2 Mar (fide Gene Scarpulla). Four were at Piney Run, Carroll, MD 26 Mar (Dave & Maureen Harvey, BR). One at Tridelphia Res., Montgomery 6 Jan was the county's 4th, and other singles were at Joppa, Harford 5 Jan (Les Eastman, Brighton Dam, Howard 6 Jan (JS et al.), and Mountain L., Garrett 9 Feb-19 Mar (ML, Fran Pope et al.). One near Accomac, Accomack, VA 27 Dec-Jan (Josh Smith, Ph. Wayne & Dale Parks) was nicely documented. Spring migrants were seen over Bowie, Prince George's, MD 21 Apr, Poolesville, Montgomery, MD 3 May (Dalcio Dalco), and College Cr., James City 20 May (Brian Taber).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

An American Avocet was found at Ragged Island W.M.A., Isle of Wight, VA 18 Feb (NF). Very rare in spring, an America Golden-Plover
was studied carefully at Great Oak Pond, Kent, MD 17 May (Naucy Martin, Walter Ellison); several were reported at Chincoteague N.W.R. as well. An early Solitary Sandpiper turned up at Riverview Park, Radford, VA 8 Mar (Clyde Kesler). A Marbled Godwit lingering through 9 Dec at Skinner L., Worcester (JLS, BH) was rare for Maryland, though hundreds winter on the Virginia Eastern Shore. A Eurasian Whimbrel near Oyster, Northampton, VA 21 Apr and later (ph. Barry Truitt) was well documented, only the 2nd in the Region to be confirmed with photographs. A Ruff was at Tanyard Marsh, Caroline 19 Apr (Ron Guberlet). A Ruddy Turnstone at East Potomac Park, Washington, D.C. 16 May was locally rare (Barry Cooper, m.ob.), A White-rumped Sandpiper near Ledstown, Westmoreland, VA 11 May (FA) probably represented a first county record; definitely firsts for Washington, MD were 3 Sanderlings at Boonsboro 18 May and a Stilt Sandpiper at Hagerstown 11 May (FH et al.). Six Long-billed Dowitchers at Fairmount W.M.A., Somerset, MD 21 Feb (JLS) were the only ones reported. A first-cycle Glaucous Gull near Oyster, Northampton, VA 20 Jan (ESB) provided one of few winter records for the county; another was at Prince William County Landfill 26 Jan (Kurt Gaskill) and 2 Feb (Marc Ribando). A first-cycle Iceland Gull on the beach at Back Bay N.W.R. 15 Apr. (David L. Hughes) was on a late date typical of this age class at this latitude, though records extend well into May. Among notable gulls observed at Anacostia River Park, D.C. 8 Dec was a possible Yellow-legged Gull (Paul Pisano). The Christmas Bird Count at Banister River W.M.A., VA had a remarkable 6 Laughing Gulls at Staunton River S.P. 16 Dec (AD, Michael Bootwright); another was found 15 Dec on the New R. at McCoy, Montgomery, VA (MH, Kim Hafner, ph.) and another at Carvins Cove Res., Botetourt 19 Mar and 12 Apr (MP, Fenton Day). An ad. Franklin's Gull on the golf course at Haines Pt., Washington, D.C. 3 May furnished one of few records for the District and was just the start: a second-cycle bird turned up there 9-10 May, and another ad. (molted) appeared 12-14 May. Ninety Lesser Black-backed Gulls--half of them ads., with 9 third-cycle, 13 second-cycle, and 23 first-cycle birds--were counted at Assateague 1. 5 Apr, a record count for Maryland at any season (MH et al.). The landfill in Faquier, VA produced 2 Iceland Gulls and a first-cycle Thayer's Gull 21 Dec (ph. Clive Harris). Among the many gulls at Schoolhouse Pond, Upper Marlboro, Prince Georges, MD 17 Dec an ad. Black-headed Gull (Fred Shaffer); another was seen from the s. end of Scientists Cliffs, Calvert, MD 15 Mar (Sherman Suter).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Up to 4 Eurasian Collared-Doves were at South Pt., Worcester, MD from Nov+ (m.ob.), a new Maryland high count, and singles were at Shorter's Wharf, Dorchester 2 Feb (BH et al.), Stockton, Worcester, MD 14 Mar (Carol Bredock), and Lisbon, Howard in late May+ (fide JS). Four were joined 1-95 near Stafford, VA 26 Dec (David Gersten). Large counts (up to 25) continue from Sandbridge, VA. Two White-winged Doves visited a feeder off and on in Jan in w.-cen. Accomack (fide Steve Rulison). A Monk Parakeet visited a backyard feeder in Silver Spring, Montgomery, MD 30 Mar (fide JC).

At least 6-11 Dec, a "foreign" female Red-cockaded Woodpecker (from North Carolina) frequented the Nature Conservancy's Pinney Grove Preserve, Sussex, VA (Center for Conservation Biology). There is a possibility that habitat around Great Dismal Swamp N.W.R. will be restored with the intent of reintroducing a population in se. Virginia; stayed tuned for more details. Single Western Kingbirds were at Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach, VA 12-13 Dec (John Gallegos et al.) and on South Hays Street in Arlington, VA 29 Dec; the latter bird was turned over to a rehabilitator (David Bridge). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, rare in spring, was along the Arnold Trail of the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, w. Loudoun, VA 10 May (JC et al.); another was noted 17 May at Possum Pt., Prince William, VA. A singing Alder Flycatcher was along Peedee Cr., westmoreland, VA 17 May (FA), for a rare w. Bay record. Maryland and environs had 10 reports of Alder from six counties plus the District of Columbia, a good spring tally. A Cave Swallow at Blackwater 1 Dec (Amanda Spears), one at Deal I., Somerset 9 Dec (Jim Brightton), 2 at Eagles Landing Campground s. of Ocean City 1 Dec (HTA, Jared Sparks), and one at Canal Woods, Salisbury 16 Dec were the only ones reported in Maryland in Dec, and one at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences campus at Gloucester Point, VA 17 Dec (David Hewitt) was well documented and the specimen preserved (*College of William and Mary; chttp://www.vims.edu/fish/students/dhewitt/ caveswallow.htm*).

Loggerhead Shrike reports seem to be increasing in the past several years, perhaps just a function of more widespread reporting via the Internet. Reports from Virginia in winter included one intermittently s. of Leesburg, VA on Little River Farm, Loudoun 3-29 Dec (Laura Weidner); singles in Faquier at Sky Meadow S.P., through the winter (m.ob.) and along

The Lynnhurst, VA area was hummingbird Central this season. On 3 Nov, Bruce Peterjohn captured a female Rufous at a feeder in Amherst that had been banded there 2 Dec 2006 by Sue Heath; it was present here through 20 Mar at least. On 8 Dec, Peterjohn captured a female Rufous at the home of Wanda Pleasants on Chickasaw Drive in Lynnhurst that had been banded in the same yard (also 2 Dec 2006 by Sue Heath); it was last seen 9 Mar. A female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** first noted in mid- Nov at the home of Peg Williams in Lake Vista, VA; Peterjohn banded this bird 8 Dec (*fide Thelma Cullman*). All of these birds were tallied 15 Dec on the Lynnhurst C.B.C. and the Black-chinned, Virginia's 3rd, persisted through at least 15 Jan. Elsewhere in the Region, a male Rufous was at Potomac Overlook R.P., Arlington, VA 28 Nov through early Jan (Ritch Bailey, Larry Carwright et al.), tallied on the D.C. Christmas count; a probable Rufous was in Nidschich, VA Dec 11-6 Jan and possibly later (Park Snavely); and an ad. female Rufous/Allen's (? ) was on Smith Grove Rd., Dinwiddie, VA 14 Oct through 15 Dec (ADT). Maryland Rufous included an ad. female at Mechanicsville, St. Mary's 28 Dec-6 Jan (fide Tyler Bell; b. 1 Jan, Bruce Peterjohn). There persist reports of "Ruby-throated Hummingbird" across Virginia in the colder months, many from inexperienced observers who assume that Ruby-throated is also the winter hummingbird. Ruby-throated does winter occasionally in the mid-Atlantic, mostly Virginia Beach southward through e. North Carolina, but it appears to be quite rare, and w. of this coastal zone, especially in midwinter. The only confirmed report was of a female in Cape Charles, VA 5 Feb (ESR). Astonishingly early was a male in Dinwiddie 28 Mar (ADT), weeks ahead of normal—could this have been a bird that wintered in the state or nearby?

Autumn 2007 marked the 6th year of banding efforts in the Lynnhurst area for Northern Saw-whet Owls, 20 Oct through 14 Dec (47 nights total). Seventy-one saw-whets (plus one Eastern Screech-Owl) were captured, a new high for the station, with a high of 10 on 2 Nov and five foreign recaptures. From 2002 through 2006, the station had captured 39, 38, 52, 7, and 12 saw-whets per year, respectively. Thanks to Gene Satter for this summary of his and his team's fine work.
at Fairfax Station, VA (Bev Leeuwenburg) and the next in Ferndale, Anne Arundel, MD (Stan & Elaine Arnold). A Townsend’s Solitary turned up in Williamsburg, VA 1-29 Jan (Kathi Nestay et al., m.ob., ph.), a 2nd for Virginia, hard on the heels of its first on 19 Nov 2007 at Harvey’s Knob.

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Black-and-white Warblers were widespread, despite the bitter weather. In Newport News, VA, one was in the City Park 2 Dec and another at the Mariner’s Museum 23 & 28 Dec (NF); 2 were on the relatively new Nassawadox C.B.C. 16 Dec (HTA et al.); and a female was found near the entrance to Shirley Plantation, Charles City, VA 24 Dec and last. A Nashville Warbler, possibly of the w. subspecies, was at Weyanoke Sanctuary, Norfolk, VA 5 Dec–15 Apr (NE & Ben Copeland). An Audubon’s Warbler, quite rare in spring, was found 19 May at Idylwild W.M.A., Caroline, MD (Helen Patton). Single Yellow-throated Warblers at Indian Head, Charles, MD 15 Dec–11 Mar (Carol Ghelbian et al.) and at Ocean Pines, Worcester, MD 10 Jan (Jean Woods Leroy) continued the strengthening pattern in the Region. Yellow-breasted Chats were in backyards at Morgence, Kent, MD 23 Dec (Walter Ellison), in James City, VA at least 17-24 Feb (Bar Singler), at Chesapeake Beach, Calvert, MD in 13 Jan into Apr (Jude Sue Hamilton), and at Sandy Point, Anne Arundel 23 Jan (Kevin Graff, John Dennelly). A Scarlet Tanager consorting with Purple Finches was reported in Warren, VA 15 Dec (J. Little) and would be the latest on record in the Region if verified.

Single Clay-colored Sparrows were found in Westmoreland, VA 15 Dec and along the Pamunkey R. 30 Dec on the Walkerton C.B.C. (Bill Portlock). In Maryland, one visited Antietam Battlefield, Washington 10 Feb (MH) and another West Ocean City 27 Jan (Jennifer Elmer). A rare record of a singing spring bird, and in D.C. at that, came from the World War II Memorial 1-2 May (Marc Rubain, Skip Hyberg); what was presumably the same bird was seen later in nearby locations (East Potomac Park 4 May, The Mall 16-17 May). Another spring migrant was at Point Lookout, St. Mary’s, MD 4 May (MH, BH, John Hubbell). Gambel’s White-crowned Sparrows are being found almost annually in the Region lately, mostly in Maryland. An imm. was noted 23 Dec at Scotland, St. Mary’s (MH, BH) and another not far away at Ridge the same day (Patty Craig, Matt Tillet). An ad. was found at North Branch, Allegany 19 Jan (BH, Jim Brown, ML); imm. was photographed 27 Jan along Keysville Rd. in Carroll (BH et al.) and another the same day in n. Frederick (BR), and 2, an ad. and an imm., were photographed in Howard, MD 2 & 8 Feb (Bill Hill, Tom Feild et al., ph.). An apparent spring migrant 12 Apr at Perryman, Harford, MD (Dave Ziólkowski) provided a first county record. No reports of this subspecies were received from Virginia. A rare spring Le Conte’s Sparrow was found at Greenbury Pt., near Annapolis, Anne Arundel, MD 7 May (Bill Schreitz, MH, m.ob., ph.). A Lark Sparrow found in Nov at Blackwater persisted through at least 8 Dec (Chris Welsh); a rare record of a spring second-year bird was made along Laurel Fork Rd., Highland, VA 29 Apr (J. Spahr). Three Dec reports of Lincoln’s Sparrow in Maryland, including 2 on the Western Shore, were unusual. Among a flock of at least 650 Horned Larks in a recently harvested broccoli field in Leedstown, VA 15 Dec were 16 or more Lapland Longspurs, a fine count for this area (FA). Twenty Snow Buntings at Cranesy, Portsmouth, VA 2 Jan (P. W. Sykes et al.) made a recent good count but was a far cry from the flocks of hundreds in the Coastal Plain 30-40 years ago.

**John Sweet** documented Highland's first winter record of Indigo Bunting (first-year male, ph.) 2-3 Dec, also one of few for w. Virginia at this season. In the adjacent county, a Painted Bunting in Verona, Augusta lingered through at least 10 Feb (Jude AL), at least one male in Anne Arundel, MD obliged scores of fans late Dec through at least 6 Apr. Dickcissels, like Mississippi Kites, seem to be a regular constituent of our avifauna, reported widely in both Coastal Plain and Piedmont; a male singing 10 km n. of Kilmarnock, Northumberland 4 May (Tom Saunders) added yet another new site for the species, though it apparently did not linger to breed, likewise a transient in a yard in Fincastle, Botetourt 7 May (Zach Thompson). On the Christmas Bird Count at Banister River W.M.A., VA, Deb Henderson and Jeff Ballock found a Brewer's Blackbird 16 Dec; 2 were along Bell's Lane, Staunton, VA 12 Dec (AL). A good count for recent seasons, 14 Brewer's were with American Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds at Salisbury, MD 27 Feb (Paul Bystrak); 13 were noted among five other Maryland locations, 11 Dec-30 Jan. A good local count of Rusty Blackbird—244—came from Green Spring Trails, James City, VA 24 Feb (Jude Bill Williams), 250 were at Croom, Prince Georges, MD 1 Jan (Jeff Shenot) and the same number at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington, D.C. 3 Apr (Wallace Kornack), and 200 were at Huntley Meadows C.P., Fairfax, VA 18 Mar (Robert Klarquist et al.). A migrant flock of 350 Rusties graced Bull Run, Fairfax, VA 6 Apr (FA et al.). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was along Green Spring Trail,
Jamestown, VA 5 Jan (Ben Copeland, NF); 2 were at Turkey Point, Cecil, MD 24 Feb (Richard Mellor).

The top Regional count for Purple Finch in winter was of 150 at Woodpecker Ridge, Roanoke, VA 23 Feb (Barry Kinzie) and 60 at Hughes Hollow/Sycamore Landing, Montgomery, MD 23 Dec (Clive Harris), though migrating flocks in Russell, VA totaled more than 300 birds, many singing, between two yards 9 Apr (Tom & Laverne Hunter, Richard Kretz). Maryland had a flurry of Red Crossbill sightings through winter and early spring. Two were reported near the Visitors Center at Black Hill R.P., Montgomery, MD 2 Dec (David Gersten); singles were at the Finzel Swamp 21 (JLS, ML, JBC) & 26 Dec (HH, BH), Rocky Gap S.P. 27 Dec (HH, BH), and Dan's Rock 13 Jan (JBC), all Allegany, MD; and further singles were at Deep Creek L., Garrett (HH, BH) and at Morgan Run, Carroll 27 Jan (BH); and others were in Washington at Reno Monument 25 Nov (JLS), at Blairs Valley L. 11 Dec (HH), and on the Frederick line near High Rock 15 Mar (HH). Three Reds were at Dan's Rock, Allegany, 18 Mar (Kevin Graff, John Dennehy), and 3 more, possibly of Types 3/4, flew past the Bayside, Assateague Island N.S. parking lot, Worcester, MD 9 Dec (MH, JLS). An ad. male White-winged Crossbill visited a feeder in Silver Spring, Montgomery, MD off and on between 2 Dec and 19 Apr (Noah Kahn, m.o.b., ph.). In Virginia, 2 Red Crossbills were observed gathering grist at the entrance to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service shooting range in Wythe, near the Little Creek exit on I-77 10 Apr (Allen Boynton), 4 picking up grist on Reddish Knob, Rockingham (Mike Donahue), and a female at Flagpole Knob, Rockingham 25 May (William Leight). Birds attending feeders included 2 in Boxtowner 23-24 Feb (Nancy Young), one at a feeder at Claytor L. Pulsatki 5-6 Apr (Mark Mullins), and up to a minimum of 13 in Dayton, Rockingham 8-21 May (ph. Kevin Shank)—typical of recent w. Virginia appearances, as communication with feeder watchers in more remote areas continues to improve.

In a major light year for four taxa of redpolls, it was stunning that only about 100 were reported in our Region, all Common. In Washington, D.C., one was seen near Fletcher's Boathouse 1 Dec (Frank Hawkins), the first of the season. Virginia had far fewer reports than Maryland. One flew into the window in Dumfries (10 k. s. of Front Royal), Warren 10 Dec (Frederic Boga); one visited a feeder 17 Feb in Loudoun (JC), 2 were at Great Falls N.P., Fairfax 27 Jan; and 2 were at a Roadside feeder 15-16 Apr (Linda Cory). In Maryland, a flock of 40 was at Hance Pt., Cecil 12 Jan (Chris Starling) and 35+ at Pretty-boy, Baltimore 9 Mar (Peter Martin), the largest groups reported, though a "lock" was flying around in the snowstorm 17 Jan at Baltimore—Washington airport (Ed Boyd). Two were at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Montgomery, MD 13 Jan (Ed Patten); 2 were at Fort Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel on various dates 22 Feb through 2 Mar (BH et al.) and 2 at Sandy Point S.P., Anne Arundel 13 Jan; and a total of 12 singles were at various locations in Baltimore, Prince Georges, Carroll, Allegany, Garrett, Queen Anne's, Kent, Anne Arundel, and Washington, 7 Dec—20 Feb.

Evening Grosbeaks appeared in numbers not seen in some years; the Region has missed the species in some seasons. Up to 30 were in Monterey and 8 in Blue Grass, Highland on various dates from early Dec through 5 May (Albert Beverage, Edmund Hewes, Peter Reum, m.o.b.), and one was at the Virginia State Arboretum (Blandy Experimental Farm), Clarke, VA 8 Dec. Also in Virginia, one was in Powhatan 13 Jan (Wendy Ealding), and 2 reached as far s. as near Prince George, Lebanon (Sue D'Oonofto), one early bird in Exmore, Northampton in late Sep (Ken Dufay), and 6 to Newport News 24 Dec (Liz Danell). In Maryland, there were almost too many reports to list. On the coast, one flew over Assateague L. 30 Dec (JLS), a rare sight. One was along Monocacy Bottom Rd., Frederick 30 Dec (Gail McKracken), and 4 were at abandoned ferry in the same county 19-20 Jan (Pat Caro, Kathy Brown, Lois Kauffman). Three flew over North Branch, Allegany 1 Jan (ML); 5 were at Westminster, Carroll 20 Feb (Greg Klein); and up to 12 visited feeders in a yard in New Germany S.P., Garrett 13 Dec—mid-Mar (Garry Hagan). Two females were at Patuxent River S.P., Montgomery 4 Feb (Mark Staley) and 2 more at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert 10-15 Feb (Andy Brown, Dan Haas et al.). Single grosbeaks were at Quantico, Virginia 20 Jan (Judith Sagin). On the Howard County Midwinter Count at the intersection of McKendree Rd. and River Mill Rd. 2 Feb (male, Peter Osten- toon), in Garrett at Gladestown Park, n. of Oakland 15 Dec (Jo Anna Leachman, ML) and along Russell Rd. 20 Dec (ML).

Frequently cited observers (area compiler in boldface type): Henry T. Armistead, George L. Armistead, Fred Atwood, J. B. Churchill (JBC); Joe Coleman, David Czaplak, Todd M. Day, Adam D'Oonofto, Nicholas Flanders, Matt Hafner, Hans Holbrook, Bill Hubick, Allen Lamer, Mikey Luttridering, Mike Purdy, Bob Ringler, Joanne Soler (Howard, MD).

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Weather was one of contrasts: March was generally warmer than normal, with drought conditions persisting; April was generally cooler and wetter, especially in the eastern region; and May was cooler, but precipitation levels were again low. The western parts of the region continued to experience severe drought conditions, while the eastern areas saw some lessening of the severity. What this meant for the birds was that several migrants were detected somewhat early, and early breeders enjoyed relatively good conditions for rearing young. The most interesting birds included more European Storm-Petrels off North Carolina, the second Common Murre for North Carolina, South Carolina’s second Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Georgia’s first confirmed nests of Brown Creeper.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH WADING BIRDS**

After one of the best winter seasons for Greater White-fronted Geese, several continued into spring, such as 16 at Alligator River N.W.R., NC 1 Mar (JH et al.) and 17 along Fagala Rd., Murray, GA 16 Mar (Jide TM). A Ross’s Goose s. of Charleston, SC 13 Mar (Jide ND) was locally unusual. Also of interest were 7 Mute Swans at Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC 30 Apr-20 May (SC), indicating that this exotic species is continuing its spread into the Southeast. Common Eiders continued in the Ft. Macon, NC area, with 2 immns. 15 Apr (AG et al.) and one imm. 27 Apr (JF et al.). Inland waterfowl of note included 5 Surf Scoters near Armuchee, Floyd, GA 4 Apr (Jide AS), another Surf in Clayton, GA 7-8 Apr (CL), a White-winged Scoter at Broad River Canal, Columbia, SC until 17 Apr (JG), and a Long-tailed Duck at Buckhorn Res., Wilson, NC 7 Apr (RD). A Red-throated Loon at L. Norman, NC 5 Mar (DW et al.) was rare inland, while a Pacific Loon in transitional plumage at Figure Eight I, NC 19 Apr (DC) was most likely lingering. Red-necked Grebe reports included one continuing at L. Crabtree, Wake, NC until 10 Mar (SS), one at Clarks Hill L., GA 8 Mar (JF, EH), and one at Onslow Beach, NC 13 Mar (GM et al.). Eared Grebe reports were 2 in alternate plumage at L. Junaluska, Haywood, NC 29 Mar (CW, SW et al.) and one at Henderson Pt., Kerr L., Vance, NC 30 Apr (BB).

The pelagic birding season off the Outer Banks, NC included an unprecedented 17 consecutive days of coverage during the latter half of May (BPI). Pterodroma highlights included a total of 3 Herald, 5 Fea’s, and 3 Bermuda Petrels (BPI). Numbers of shearwater and storm-petrels were about average, with the best birds being single European Storm-Petrels off Hatteras 18 & 20 May (BPI). Masked Boobies were noted several times, with one off Hatteras 22 May and 2 off Oregon Inlet 24-26 May (BPI). Locally unusual American White Pelicans were 4 at L. Lanier, GA 3 Mar (Jide JF), 3 over Camp Lejeune, Onslow, NC 19 Mar (JC), and one at L. Acworth, Cobb, GA 29 May (Jide JF). A Brown Pelican was unusual inland at Big Lazur W.M.A., Talbot, GA 17 Apr (BM). Anhingas continue to be found at many inland sites, but the count at 13 at Brickhouse Rd., Durham, NC 7 May (BB) was most impressive. A Magnificent Frigatebird in the Savannah, GA area 9 Mar (Jide JCo) provided a very early report for the Region.

Inland wading bird reports were highlighted by the Great White Heron along the e. fork of French Broad R., Transylvania, NC during Apr (NS et al.). This was the 3rd sighting of this form for the mountains—and amazingly for that county! Other noteworthy wading birds included 2 Snowy Egrets at L. Junaluska, NC 12 Apr (BO et al.), a Cattle Egret at McCaysville, Fannin, GA 20 Apr (Jide NSe), and duos of Glossy Ibis at Bradley Unit, Eufaula N.W.R., GA 6 Apr (WC) and Goldsboro W.T.P., NC 6-8 May (ED). Reddish Egrets were reported at Bulls L, Cape Romain N.W.R., SC 4 May (Jide Ah) and Sullivan’s L., SC 28 May (NV). This season’s Roseate Spoonbill reports were one at Hilton Head I., SC 28 Apr (Jide JCo), 2 at Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC 30 Apr (SC), and one at Huntington Beach S.P., Georgetown, SC 1 May (Jide Stu). The Wood Stork breeding colony in se. Columbus, NC increased to 149 nests 16 May (DA, SCn). Of interest is that another breeding site may exist, as suggested by several sightings in Robeson and Bladen this season.

**RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS**

Swallow-tailed Kites were found in all three states, with the earliest arrival near Wilmington, NC 12 Mar (MJ) and the farthest inland at Howell Woods, Johnston, NC 13 May (Jvda). At least 4 Swallow-taileds were back at the Cape Fear R., Bladen and Columbus, NC site by 6 May (JD, RD), where breeding has not yet been confirmed. Very early Mississippi Kites included singles near the Satilla R., Atkinson, GA 20 Mar (AB) and at Francis Marion N.F., SC 21 Mar (ND). This species continues to increase in the Region, as evidenced by the count of 300 in the Lamar and Moncure area, GA 17 May (CM). Also early was the Broad-winged Hawk at Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Cobb, GA 29 Mar (BD). Noteworthy late raptors included single Northern Harriers at Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC 20 May (SC) and Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 30 May (DR), an American Kestrel at Futch Game Land, Tyrell, NC 17 May (RD), a Merlin in Lamar, GA 18 May (CM), and 3 Peregrine Falcons at Charleston, SC 4 May (Jide AH). This season’s Golden Eagle reports were one imm. in the Okelonee Swamp area, GA 11 Mar (Jide SW), an imm. near Huntersville, Mecklenburg, NC 26 Mar (GW), and one over Thundering Springs Rd., Laurens, GA 26 Apr (CM). A Purple Gallinule was present at Fort Macon, North Carolina 10 (here) through 15 April 2008. Not only was this bird out of range, it was out of its normal habitat, feeding in roadside grass and hiding in nearby thicket. Photograph by Randy Newman.
North Carolina’s second documented Common Murre was this individual (here 3 April 2008) that was found injured on the beach at Emerald Isle and taken to a local wildlife shelter. Unfortunately, the bird died almost a month later. Photograph by John Fussell.

at Bull I, SC 28 Mar (fide JCo), and 2 at Sapelo I, GA 23 Apr (fide TM).

American Golden-Plovers are normally very rare during spring, but there were at least five reports this season: 3 at Bear Island WMA, SC 14 Apr (CF et al.) and singles at Cat I, Georgetown, SC 26 Apr (ND), Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC 30 Apr (SC), Tybee I., GA 11 May (DCh), and Pea Island N.W.R., Dare, NC 17 May (RD). The Snowy Plover at Jekyll I, GA continued until 17 Apr (LT et al.) Wilters are rare inland, so of note were an impressive count of 12 at Garden Lakes, Floyd, GA 28 Apr (G&E, MD) and one at Pisgah Forest, Transylvania, NC 9 May (TJ). The only Upland Sandpipers report received was of 8 at Marshallville sod farm, GA 10 Apr (MM). Another very rare spring shorebird, Baird’s Sandpiper, was found at Cat I, Georgetown, SC 26 Apr (ND). Stilt Sandpiper is one of the rarer inland spring migrants, but good counts this season were 9 at L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA 18 May (NF) and 4 in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson, NC 18 May (WF et al.). Three Ruffs were found in s. coastal South Carolina this season, confirming that this area is a favored site in the Region: a male near Yemassee 7-9 Apr (GN), a female along US-17 in Jasper 6-8 Apr (ND et al.), and a male at Bear Island WMA 12 Apr (ND). In North Carolina, a female Ruff was an excellent find at Buxton, Dare 29 May (MJJ et al.). Short-billed Dowitchers were found in good numbers inland this season, with the best totals being 12 at the Marshallville sod farm, GA 11 May (NF), 5 at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 14 Mar (VS), and 5 at a Winston-Salem W.T.P., NC 3 May (DD et al.). The Long-billed Dowitcher at Ocmulgee N.M., GA 15 Mar (Pf et al.) had most likely wintered. Wilson’s Phalaropes were more common than usual, and with rare inland reports of one along Brandon Farm Rd., Bartow, GA 10 May (MM) and 2 along Talia Rd., Bartow, GA 21 May (KB). Single Wilson’s along the coast were at Pea Island N.W.R., Dare, NC 18 May (DC) and Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC 20 May (SC). Rare offshore Red-necked Phalaropes were at Pea Island N.W.R. 18 (DC) & 30 May (MJJ).

Noteworthy gulls included Georgia’s 2nd documented inland Little Gull at L. Lanier 4 Mar (JF, EH) and a somewhat late Glaucous Gull at Atlantic Beach, NC 12 Apr (JF). The most interesting inland tern sightings were a Gull-billed at Futch Game Lands, Tyrrell, NC 17 May (RD), 11 Caspian Terns at L. Wheeler, Raleigh, NC 10 Apr (SS), a Black Tern at Goldsboro W.T.P., NC 12 May (EM), 8 Forster’s Terns at Florence Marina, L. Walter George, GA 6 Apr (WC), and 4 Forster’s at Drerer Island S.P., SC 4 Apr (JG). Offshore jaegers of note included one Pomarine at Frisco, NC 26 May (RD) and single Parasitics at Figure Eight I., NC 19 Apr (DC) and Cape Hatteras, Dare, NC 8 May (JF). Offshore jaeger reports were highlighted by a good count of 10 Pomarines, one Parasitic, and 2 Long-taileds off Hatteras, NC 26 Apr (BPI). Several alcids continued from this past winter. A Dovèlie washed ashore at New River Inlet, NC 13 Mar (GM et al.). North Carolina’s 2nd documented Common Murre was an injured ad. in alternate plumage that was captured at Emerald Isle 2 Apr (JF) and died several weeks later. A Razorbill was in the Pamlico Sound, nw. of Ocracoke Village, NC 17 Mar (JF).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

White-winged Doves were again found in the Region, with singles in Dodge, GA during early Mar (PM), at Loris, SC 20 Apr (JCo), on James I., SC 20 Apr (fide ND), and n. of Horse Creek W.M.A., Teljair, GA 21 May (TK). Early cuckoos included a Yellow-billed at Lake Norman S.P., NC 23 Mar (TL) and a Black-billed at Tanglewood Park, Forsyth, NC 19 Apr (fide PD). Long-eared Owls are known to migrate in loose groups, but this is rarely noted in the Region. However, 4 or more Long-eareds came in to a roost in Wayne, NC on the morning of 1 Mar (ED); clearly resting for the day, they were not seen again. Very rare were 2 Chuck-wills-widows heard w. of Hot Springs, Madison, NC 20 May (KC); Chuck-wills are not known to breed in the mts., but the date seems too late for migrants. The Green-breasted Mango continued at Dublin, GA until 10 Apr (SS), while the Caliope Hummingbird continued at Gwinnett, GA until 14 Apr (R&SK). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Whitehall Forest, Clarke, GA 14 May (MP) was very late.

The number of Olive-sided Flycatcher sightings was about normal this season, with singles in sw. Atlanta, GA 26 Apr (fide JS), in Haywood, NC 10 May (SSRS), at Reynolds, Winston-Salem, NC 20-26 May (JH et al.), in Weaverville, Buncombe, NC 22-23 May (H&GL), and along Poplar Lane, Transylvania, NC 17 May (NS et al.). Of the normally occurring Empidonax Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is the rarest during spring, but singles were found this season in the upper Falls L., NC area 17 May (Lto) and at the State Botanical Garden, Athens, GA 31 May (EM). The Say’s Phoebe along Cobb-Check Rd., Sumter, GA continued until 29 May (JF, EH). The Region’s breeding Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned this season, with the Monroe, NC pair back by 22 May (A&BO), a female and second-year male at Southern Pines, NC 11 & 24-28 May (SH), and a male at McDonough, GA 10 May (JF). Another Scissor-tailed was a good find at Raleigh, NC 22-24 May (MD et al., DC). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher glimpsed near Seabrook, Beaufort 9 Apr (fide GN) provided the 2nd report for South Carolina.

Early vireos included a Yellow-throated at Panola Mountain S.P., DeKalb, GA 18 Mar (TK), several Red-eyes at Francis Marion N.F., SC 21 Mar (ND), and another Red-eyed at Lake Norman S.P., NC 23 Mar (TL). Note-
worthy Warbling Vireo reports involved a migrant far e. at Lock & Dam 1, Cape Fear R., Bladen, NC 10 May (RD), the breeding bird back at Anilacor Farm, Orange, NC 27 Apr (DC), and one or two pairs at Civilian Park, Winston-Salem, NC during late May (JH et al.). Very rare during spring, Philadelphia Vireos were highlights at Yates Mill Pond, Wake, NC 10 May (JCs) and Dug Gap, Whifield, GA 17 May (fide SHo). Most Neotropical migrants are noted in small numbers in the Region in spring migration; thus of note was the estimated 3000 Barn Swallows observed moving past St. Catherine’s L, GA in two hours on 4 May (PS, SHo). Several pairs of Red-breasted Nuthatches were documented at two sites in Rabun, GA during latter May (RC, KB), probably indicating breeding. The state’s first confirmed breeding report of this species was in Rabun during 2001. The first three breeding observations (ads. carrying nesting material and/or food) of Brown Creepers in Georgia were confirmed this season at Burrell’s Ford, Rabun 1 May (FR), along Billingsley Creek Rd., Rabun 11 May (KB), and in the Grassy Ridge, Rabun area 29 May (KB, PH).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Hybrid Vermivora of note included single Brewer’s Warblers at Ivy Manor Preserve, Forsyth, GA 30 Apr (GMcC) and Reynolda, Winston-Salem, NC 30 Apr (JH) and single Lawrence’s Warblers at Reynolda 28 Apr (JH) and along Max Patch Rd., Haywood, NC 4 May (JfGS). A Tennessee Warbler at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 17 May (NSw) was a good find; as it is rare during spring away from the mountains. A Northern Parula at Cape Lookout, NC 9 Mar (fide JF) was not only locally unusual but also very early. Also noteworthy were the 146 parulas in e. Congaree N.P., Richland, SC 22 Mar (fide JcR). A male Audubon’s Warbler was reported at Johnson Ferry Unit, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, GA 11 Apr (LC et al.). Locally rare Prothonotary Warblers in the mts. were singles at Williamson Cr., Transylvania, NC 18 Apr (NS et al.) and Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 26 Apr (WF). Always noteworthy migrants, this season’s Connnecticut Warblers were one at Ringgold, Catosa, GA 5-7 May (DH), 2 at Sandy Cr., Athens, GA 10 May (JN), one in Clayton, GA 10 May (CL et al.) and one at Standing Boy WMA., Columbus, GA 15 May (WC). Single Mourning Warblers brightened Jackson Park, NC 2 May (WF, RS), Clyde Shepherd National Preserve, GA 12-14 May (NF, DM), and Spring Park, Winston-Salem, NC 19 May (fide PD). Also rare along the coast in spring were Wilson’s Warblers at Rosnoke 1, NC 12 & 16 May (JL).

The male Western Tanager continued at Conway, SC through 30 Mar (GP). Clay-colored Sparrow reports included as many as 3 wintering birds near L. Phelps, NC until 12 Mar (JS) and another at North River Farms, Carteret, NC 6 Apr (JF et al.). The 2nd breeding report of Lark Sparrow in South Carolina involved a pair seen feeding young at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R. during May (JCN et al.). The only Henslow’s Sparrows reported included 2 near Havelock, NC 23 Mar (JF et al.) and one at Standing Boy WMA., Columbus, GA 12 Apr (WC). Single Le Conte’s Sparrows were at Bradley Unit, Eufaula N.W.R., GA 6 Apr (WC), Carter’s L., Murray, GA 8 Apr (Jsp), and North River Farms, Carteret, NC 13 Apr (JF et al.). There were more Lincoln’s Sparrow reports than usual, with singles in Blecley, GA 1 Mar (JF, EH), Gwinnett, GA 15 Apr (BBe), at Oxbow Meadows, GA 16 Apr (WC), Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC 22 Apr (SC), upper Falls L., NC 27-29 Apr (WCo et al., DC), and Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, GA 4 May (DB). Late or lingering sparrows included White-throateds at Gastonia, NC 25 May (StR) and Fort Mill, SC 25 May (SH), and a Fox along Shimpock Rd., Cabarrus, NC 29 Apr (JF). A Lapland Longspur was at Piney Creek, Alleghany, NC 10 Mar (JcM).

Early Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Athens, GA 26 Mar (fide JS) and Easley, SC 30 Mar (LS). A male Painted Bunting was considered out of range near McDonough, Henry, GA 6 May (fide PH). Dickcissels once again were found in all three states, continuing the recent trend. The best counts involved 20 singing males at North River Farms, Carteret, NC 25 May (JF et al.), three pairs along Brandon Farm Rd., Bartow, GA 11 May (MM), 5 in Monroe, GA 7 May (CM), and 5 along Mid-Pines Rd., Wake, NC 10 May+ (JM et al.) Spring flocks of Bobolinks are not normally very large; thus of interest were the 2500 in a field in Laurens, GA 4 May (GS et al.). Ten pairs of Bobolinks bred successfully at the usual Bamboo, Watauga, NC breeding site May+ (CS). Yellow-headed Blackbirds made news this season, highlighted by 6 near Montezuma, Macon, GA 8-17 Apr (MM et al.); another continued at Alligtor River N.W.R., NC until 12 May (JS). Reports of Shiny Cowbirds were one female at Harris Neck N.W.R., GA 24-25 May (PS et al.) and a male at Pea Island N.W.R., Dare, NC 30 May (MJ et al.). A Purple Finch at Wilmington, NC 3-4 May (Sco) was rather late. Red Crossbills were reported more frequently than usual. There were 10 crossbill reports in Georgia, including 8 near Helen, White during late Apr (EK), 7 near Woodstock, Cherokee 13 Apr (SA), 6 each at Dawson Forest WMA. 29 Mar (GMcC et al.) and Marblechill, Pickens 28 Apr (fide YB), 3 in n. Greene 23 Mar (PS), and one at Piedmont N.W.R. 22-25 Mar (PH et al.). Crossbills in North Carolina were 6 at Black Mt. 27 Apr (SG) and two pairs at Snowbird Lodge, Graham during late Apr (ST). One or 2 Common Redpolls lingered at Eachanck, Carruthc, NC 3-14 Mar (LW, m.ob.), with another at Laurel Gap, Great Smoky Mountains N.P., NC on the very late date of 18 Apr (BB).

Cited contributors: Sue Aughey, Brandon Best (BBe), Annette Bittaker, Ken Blankenship, Brian Bockhahn, Yvonne Bourdard, John Buckman, Kevin Caldwell, Steve Calver, Jamie Cameron, Der Carter, Robin Carter (RCr), Rachel Cass, Jeff Catlin (JcN), Walt Chambers, Diana Churchhill (DCh), Jack Colocolough (JcO), James Conon (JcM), John Connors (JCs), Will Cook (WCo), Sam Cooper (SCo), Leslie Curran, J.D. Davis, Ricky Davis, Matt Daff (MDa), Eric Dean, Nate Dias, Phil Dickinson, David Disher, Marion Dobbs, Bruce Drake, Gladys Edmondson, Nathan Farnau, Chris Feeen, Jim Flynn (JF), Wayne Forsythe, John Fussell, Al Gamauche, Stu Gibeau, Jason Giovannone, Joe Geykis (JGy), John Haire, Andy Harrison, Scott Hartry, David Hollie, Steve Holzman (SHo), Earl Horn, Pierre Howard, Marshall Iliff, Paul John- son, Mark Jones, Tom Joyce, Eugene Kelley, Tim Keyes, Rick & Sandra Krause (R&SK), Herman & Gail Lankford (H&GL), Carol Lambert, Jeff Lewis, Tomm Lorenzo, Ed Matorietto, Greg Massey, Grant McCrory (GMcC), Mark McShane, Max Medley (MMl), Ben Moore, Darlene Moore, Pamela Moore, Terry Moore, Charlie Muishe, Jim Mulholland, Gretchin Nareff, James Neves, Randy Newman, Anne & Blayne Olsen (A&BO), Bob Olthoff, Michael Parrish, Brian Patton, Inc. (BPI), Gary Phillips, Frank Renfrow, Don Rote, James Sasser (JSa), Georgiann Schmitz, Nedra Sebera (NSs), Ron Selvey, Jeff Sewell, Linda Sharp, Sandy & Ray Sharpton (SS&RS), Steve Shultz, Norma Siebenheller, Steve Clayton (Ss), Curtis Smalling, Jon & Glenda Smith (J&Gs), Jacob Socolar (Jso), Joshua Spence (JS), Vin Stanton, Ann Stewart, Nathan Swick (Nsw), Paul Sykes, Jerry Tallkington, Les Todd (LtD), Lydia Thompson, Steve Thomas (StH), Simon Thompson, Steve Tracy (Str), Sharon Turner (STu), Nona Valunas, Connie Ward, Linda Ward, Geoff White, Sheila Willis, David Wright, Stan Wulkowicz (SWu).

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Bill Pranty

Weather during the season was generally poor for producing significant bird activity. A slow-moving front from the west resulted in several late dates for migrants at Gulf Breeze, according to Bob Duncan's 40 years of data. Now in its eighth year, the "Green Key Migrant Funnel" in Pasco County recorded about 4400 warblers, a moderate number. Accepted rarities reported this season included Florida's fourth California Gull, its first Townsend's Solitaire, and its second (and the United States' second) Loggerhead Kingbird.

Abbreviations: N.S.R.A. (North Shore Restoration Area, Orange unless stated otherwise); S.T.A. (Stormwater Treatment Area, Hendry).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FLAMINGO

Large numbers of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were 223 w. of Cocoa, Brevard 3 Mar (DG), 300 at S.T.A.-5, Hendry 8 Mar (ME), 101 at The Villages, Marion 9 Mar (JD), and 68 at L. Wales, Polk 17 May (PF), with duos at new sites at Roosevelt Wetlands, Pinellas 22 May (S.P) and Inverness, Citrus 27 May+ (RS, TT). In contrast, no more than 17 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks each were found at five sites in the peninsula (m.obs.). An ad. Ross's Goose at Ellenton, Manatee 13 Mar reportedly was also seen in Feb (jide PR, ph.). Canada Geese seem to be increasing in the Tampa Bay area, with four reports this season, including 18 over Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, Pinellas 3 May (RS). Two Brants at Card Sound, Monroe 28 Feb-9 Mar (ph. BrD et al.) were far s. and represented the only report this season. Lingering Blue-winged Teal included singles at Dry Tortugas N.P., Monroe 29 Apr (CCG), Marco 1, Collier 15 May (TB), and Nokomis, Sarasota 23 May+ (JP), and 5 at S.T.A.-5, 17 May (ME et al.). Other waterfowl at S.T.A.-5 on 17 May included a Northern Shoveler and 5 Ring-necked Ducks (ME et al.). Two Redheads tarried at Tierra Verde, Pinellas until 4 May (PF), with another at Tram Road W.T.P., Leon 30 May (GM). Nine Ring-necked Ducks lingered at Emerald Marsh C.A., Lake until 18 May (JD). A Greater Scaup at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 27 Apr-4 May (HR) was casual inland and late, while lingering Lesser Scaup included 5 at Cockroach Bay, Hillsborough 22 May (BAh), one at Springhill Road W.T.P., Leon 30 May (GM), and 2 at Hickory Mound Impoundment, Taylor 30 May (BAh).

Surf Scoters that remained into May were 3 at Naples Beach, Collier 11 May (TB) and single males at Cedar Key, Levy 21-22 May (DHe) and Tierra Verde 28 May+ (ph. RS), while a female White-winged Scoter lingered at Honeyymoon Island S.R., Pinellas until 2 May (DGa). The last remaining Buffleheads were 2 at Spring Hill, Hernando 20 Apr (A&BH). Lingering Red-breasted Mergansers in female plumage were at Bayport Park, Hernando 14 May (A&BH), Cape Canaveral, Brevard 22 May (DF), and Anna Maria L., Manatee 26 May (RM).

A basic-plumaged Pacific Loon was salvaged at Casey Key, Sarasota 2 Mar (REP, *University of Central Florida). Eight Common Loons were at Fort Island Gulf Beach, Citrus 18 Mar (MG), while 41 others, including 26 in a flock, were migrating over Gainesville between 0726-0735 hrs 4 Apr (SN). A Horned Grebe in alternate plumage lingered at WeekiWachee Preserve, Hernando 10 May (A&BH). A Red-necked Grebe at Perdido Key, Escambia 20 Feb (GO et al.) furnished the 3rd accepted report in the state. Always rare, single Eared Grebes were at Fort Island Gulf Beach 11-13 Apr (TP et al.) and St. Marks N.W.R., Wakulla 28 Apr (MC et al.). Casual in the Gulf, a Greater Shearwater was reported 6 km s. of Destin, Okaloosa 30 May (PGo). Seabirds found moribund in Veuillez included Sooey Shearwaters 27 & 28 May, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel 30 May, and a Masked Booby 26 Mar (MBo, *Florida Museum of Natural History, *University of Central Florida). There were 5 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels e. of Dry Tortugas N.P. 29 Apr (CGo), 4 s. of Summerland Key, Monroe 10 May (BM), and 2 off Miami 23 May (RT). A subad. Red-billed Tropicbird was also off Miami 23 May (ph. RT, ph. TMI et al.). All four solid species were found at Dry Tortugas N.P. this season, including 67 ad. and 7 imm. Masked Boobies, 20 imm. Brown Boobies, and one imm. Red-footed Booby (MG).

Table 1. Results of a pelagic trip up to 154 km off Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia 17 May 2008 (MBo et al.),

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This male Masked Duck was observed near Pembroke Pines, Broward County, Florida 2 May 2008. Photograph by Larry Manfredi.
cans were 500 at Merritt Island N.W.R., 3rd Mar (DF); 100 at S.T.A.-5, 8 Mar (ME), 200 at St. Marks N.W.R. 20 Apr (RS, BAh), and 430 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 5 May (HR). A Brown Pelican in sw. DeSoto 27 Mar (DSi) furnished the first county report, while one pair with 2 nestlings at L. John, Lakeland, Polk 18 May (HM, ph.) provided the first Polk and only the 2nd inland breeding record. The imm. Great Cormorant continued at Ponce de Leon Inlet until 28 May (MBo et al.). Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. supported 17 American Bitterns 2 Mar, 33 Least Bitterns 28 May, a Great White Heron 9 May, 1310 Glossy Ibis 7 Apr, and 66 Roseate Spoonbills 25 May (HR). Another Great White spent the season at S.T.A.-5 (ME et al.). Two probable Scarlet Ibis x White Ibis were at Lakes Park, Fort Myers, Lee all season (AM et al.). White-faced Ibis, now regular in Florida, brightened Lake City 15 Mar-9 Apr (one, PBU) and Gulf Breeze 29 Apr (3, BDu). Three pairs of Roseate Spoonbills bred at L. John, Lakeland 18 May (HM) furnishing the 3rd Polk breeding report. Duos of American Flamingos at West Key Bank, Florida Bay, Mon-roe until 3 Mar (BM) and Cape Romano, Col-lor during early May (CM) were probably and possibly wild, respectively.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Twenty-five Swallow-tailed Kites at Bald Pt., Franklin 5 Apr (AL) may have represented a local communal roost. A female-plumaged Snail Kite at L. Tarpon, Tarpon Springs 20 Mar (KA, ph.) furnished the first for Pinellas since 1895. A Mississippi Kite at Gainesville, Alachua 3 Mar (DIs) was early, while singles at Jacksonville, Duval 22 (EB) & 25 May (BT) were outside their known breeding range. At least 14 Short-tailed Hawks (6 dark, 4 light, and 4 unknown) were reported from Taylor and Volusia s. through Lee (m.ob.). A Swain-son’s Hawk at Merritt Island N.W.R. 5 Mar (DF) presumably was northbound, while another at Stock L., Monroe 10 Apr (CGo) had probablywintered there. A Red-tailed Hawk that appeared to be of the “Krider’s” type visited Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 20-23 Apr (HR). A Crested Caracara nest e. of Geneva, Seminole contained 2 nestlings (date unspecified; DHa et al.). Seven Merlins were at Honey Island S.P., Pinellas 6 Apr (EK), and 6 were there 29 Apr (DGa). Multiples of Peregrine Falcons were 3 at S.T.A.-5, 15 Mar (ME) and 2 at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas 15 Apr (LA et al.).

Fifty Clapper Rails were heard at Hickory Mound Impoundment 30 May (BAh). An American Coot was at sea e. of Dry Tortugas N.P. 26 Apr (MB). There were 400 Black-bellied Plovers at Cramond Beach, Miami-Dade 3-8 Mar (RD), 100 at Sugarloaf Key, Monroe 23 Mar (CGo), and 50 at Werner–Boyce Salt Springs S.P., Pasco 21 Apr (KT). American Golden-Plovers were rather numerous, with singles at Honey Island S.P. 17 Mar (AK) and 28 Mar-4 Apr (DGa et al.), Dry Tortugas N.P. 25 Apr (MG), St. Marks N.W.R. 26 Apr (RC), and Boca Chica Key 5 May (CGo), and 5 at Springhill Road W.T.P., Leon 13 Mar (JC, GM). Following an absence of decades and thanks to Hurricane Opal’s winds in 2005, sev-
FLORIDA

Furnishing a seventh Florida record was this Black-headed Gull at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Brevard County 26 April–2 May (here 26 April) 2008. Photograph by Reinhard Geisler.

A Black-headed Gull at Merritt Island N.W.R. 26 Apr–2 May (RGe, ph., CN et al.) furnished the 7th Florida record; a first-cycle California Gull that continued at Daytona Beach Shores until 6 Mar (MBo) provided the 4th accepted state record; and a Thayer’s Gull was well described at Cocoa, Brevard 3–6 Mar (fABo). Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull hybrids were reported at Daytona Beach Shores 6 Mar (MBo) and Boca Chica Key 21 Mar (CGo). Among numerous reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were singles at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 2 Mar (HR), St. Marks N.W.R. 14 Mar (BB), Honeyymoon Island S.P. 15 Mar (RS), and Dry Tortugas N.P. 26 Apr (MG), 3 at Santa Rosa Landfill variously during Apr (BDu), 21 at Sugarloaf Key 23 Mar (CGo), and 29 at Crandon Beach 13 May (RD). Glaucous Gulls were also numerous, with singles at Key West until 8 Mar (CGo), Daytona Beach Shores 9 & 13 Mar (MBo), Pensacola Bay, Escambia 27 Mar–7 Apr (BDu, LD), and St. George L., Franklin 29 Apr (JC).

As usual, one imm. Black Noddy spent the season at Dry Tortugas N.P. (MG, BM et al.). Early Least Terns included 5 at Ponce de Leon Inlet 25 Mar (MBo) and 2 at Honeyloon Island S.P. 28 Mar (MK). Large numbers of Caspian Terns inland were 120 at Polk mines 26 Mar (PF) and 140 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 25 Apr (HR). A Black Tern in alternate plumage at Caxamash Pass 30 May (TB) was late. Always rare inland, a Common Tern was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 4 May, and as many as 5 were there 14 May (HR). Even rarer were ad. Arctic Terns at Jupiter Inlet, Palm Beach 29–30 Apr (fSLH) and 24 km off Summerland Key 10 May (fBM). Good counts of Black Skimmers inland included 95 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., Lake and Orange 9 May (HR), 575 at Polk mines 10 May (PT, CGo), and 160 at S.T.A.-5 on 17 May (ME et al.). A Razorbill salvaged at Vero Beach, Indian River 6 Apr (fule BW; to FLMNH) provided the 12th Florida record.

A lone Monk Parakeet at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., Okeechobee 2–3 Apr (fMI) was presumably a local escapee. Two Black-hooded Parakeets were at Parrish, Manatee 17 Apr (BAh), while another on the s. side of Manatans Inlet, St. Johns 28 May (BP) was part of the population in the St. Augustine area. Black-billed Cuckoos were highlights at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P., Key West 6 Apr (CGo) and Tequesta, Martin 25 Apr (fDf). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Alachua, Alachua 27 Mar (JdB) was quite early. The only Smooth-billed Ani reported was a one-day wonder at Virginia Key, Miami–Dade 17 May (fDR). Two Barred Owls attacked a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers at their nest at Lutz, Pasco 9 Apr (DBo) but failed to capture any nestlings. A Short-eared Owl at Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P. lingered until 30 Mar (DS), while 2 Caribbean Short-eareds spent the season at Dry Tortugas N.P. (MG). Twenty Chuck-will’s-widows were heard singing at Blackwater S.F., Santa Rosa 20 May (Pia, JL). A Chaetura over Winter Park, Orange 22 Mar (BHA) was likely an early Chimney Swift, while 450 Chimney Swifts were at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 15 Apr (HR). Good counts of migrant Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were 18 at Honeyloon Island S.P. 29 Apr (DGe), 20 at Dry Tortugas N.P. 29 Apr (CGo), and 25 at Key West 30 Apr (CGo). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Little Big Econ S.F., Geneva, Seminole 10 May (RBH) was tardy. Single Hairy Woodpeckers enlivened Dupuis Wildlife and Environmental Area, Martin 24 Apr (BAh) and Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P. 23 May (JH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPIPTS

Empidonax flycatchers found at Cape Canaveral, Brevard included a very rare Yellow-bellied 17 Apr (fDF) and a tardy Acadian 24 May (fDF). Also late was the Least Flycatcher seen and heard at Key West 1 May (CGo). The Say’s Phoebe continued near Ascatula, Lake until 22 Mar (DRe et al.). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was a surprise at Ferndale Preserve, Lake 14 Mar (GQ), while 3 others was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. until 13 Apr (HR). Other lingering tyrantids included a quiet Tropical/Couch’s Kingbird at Pensacola-Airport, Escambia 30 May (fPMC) and the continuing Cassin’s Kingbird in Hendry until 2 Mar (MBe et al.). Western Kingbirds were reported from 14 sites, all singles or duos except for 67 at The Villages, Marion 1 Mar (JDb), 10 at S.T.A.-5 on 1 Mar (ME et al.), 4 at Venice Airport, Sarasota 24 Mar (RO et al.), and 15 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 28 Mar (HR).
A Gray Kingbird at Gulf Breeze 20 Mar established by four days the earliest report for the w. Panhandle (BDu); other early arrivals were 2 at Venice Airport 24 Mar (RO et al.) and single at St. Marks N.W.R. 25 Mar (MaM) and Fort De Soto Park 25 Mar (RmH). Single Gray Kingbirds were inland to Sprucehill Road W.T.P., Leon 30 Apr–8 May (RC et al.), Tallahassee 16-23 May (LE), and Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 20 May (HR). A Loggerhead Kingbird was photographed at Dry Tortugas N.P. 14–22 Mar (ph. LN, ph. LM), the 2nd for Florida and for North America n. of Mexico. I received nine reports of one or 2 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers each, with the latest at Honey- moon Island S.P. 26 Apr (JMi).

A total of 18 Blue-headed Vireos at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 2 Mar (HR) was impressive, while another Blue-headed at St. Marks N.W.R. 20 Apr (BkH, RS) was on the late side. A Yellow-green Vireo at Stock Island Botanical Garden, Monroe 23 Apr (MG, CGo) provided the 8th accepted Florida report. A Black-whiskered Vireo at Key West 22 Mar (CGo) was early, as was the Bank Swallow at Bald Pt, 8 Mar (JMu). Eight Cliff Swallows at Hopkins Landing, L. Talquin, Gasden 6 Apr (DSi) furnished a good count for spring. Cave Swallows were numerous, with 12 reports; 16 of the w. subspecies were at Campbell Public Use Area, Palm Beach 2 Mar (MBb), one was at Bald Pt, 9 Mar (JMu), and one was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 18 May (HR). One hundred Barn Swallows and 20 Bank Swallows passed Seven Springs, Pasco 22 Apr (KT). An extra-limital White-breasted Nuthatch was in Walton 10 May (JW), a lingering Red-breasted was at Gainesville 18 Apr (HB), and 2 Brown-headed were at Blackwater Creek Preserve, Hillsborough, which locally rare, 29 Mar (BbH). A Brown Creeper with a "dark cinnamon rump" at Fort De Soto Park 20 Apr (DD, LA, ph.) was unusual.

Following a winter that was notable for its mini-invasion into the East, a second-year Townsends Solitaire at genius Drive Nature Preserve, Winter Park 9 & 13 Mar (CC, ABo, BbH et al., ph. LA, ph. BP) furnished the first Florida record. Although not discovered until Mar, the solitaire likely wintered at this site. A movement of thrushes was noted along the Gulf coast 29 Apr, with 6 Veeries and one Gray-cheeked at Green Key (KT); 4 Veeries, one Gray-cheeked, and one Wood at Fort De Soto Park (LA et al.); and 10 Gray-cheeked and 2 Hermit at Dry Tortugas N.P. (CGo). Three Wood Thrushes in song at Tall Timbers Research Station 20 Apr (RS, BAh) were undoubtedly breeding, while 2 at Honeyoom Island S.P. 23 Apr and another there 2 May (both DGa) were migrants. Were 172


WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Blue-winged Warbler at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P., Key West 6 Apr (CGo) and a male Golden-winged Warbler at St. Marks N.W.R. 19 Apr (CB) were the only reports of these species accepted. A scarce migrant throughout, a Nashville Warbler was at Key West 6 May (CGo). Good counts of Cape May Warblers were 25 at Key West 22 Apr (CGo), 33 at Honeyoom Island S.P. 23 Apr (Dga), 53 at Green Key 24 Apr (KT), and 16 inland at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 30 Apr (HR). A Black-throated Blue Warbler at Green Key 30 Mar (KT, MG) was early, while 41 there 25 Apr and 15 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 30 Apr (HR) were the only double-digit counts reported. Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. was inundated with 60 Prairie Warblers and 500 Palm Warblers 6 Apr (CGo), with 2 other Prairies at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami–Dade 9 Apr (RD) and 100 Palms at Honeyoom Island S.P. 23 Apr (Dga). A partially melanic male Bay-breasted Warbler was found at Dry Tortugas N.P. 25 Apr (CGo), with single Bay-breasted elsewhere at Honeyoom Island S.P. 29 Apr (Dga), Fort De Soto Park 29 Apr (LA et al.), and Key West 30 Apr 1-6 May (CGo). Nice counts of Blackpoll Warblers were 142 at Green Key 25 Apr and 168 there 1 May (both KT), 30 at Fort De Soto Park 26-27 Apr (CN et al.), 10 at Sebastian Inlet S.P., Indian River 13 May (DSi), and 72 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 13 May (RD). A Prothonotary Warbler at North Lido Key, Sarasota 13 Mar (RGr) was early, while 8 males were in song at Lower Suwannee N.W.R., Levy 8 May (BbH). A Worm-eating Warbler at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 5 Mar (RD) was early, and 20 at Key West 6 Apr (CGo) represented a very high count. Three Swainson's Warblers in song along CR-356, Taylor 30 May (BbH) were at the s.e. edge of their breeding range. There were 10 Northern Waterthrushes at Fort De Soto Park 26 Apr (CN et al.) and 23 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 13 May (RD). One or 2 Connecticut Warblers were found at each of 10 sites in the s. half of the peninsula or the Keys 30 Apr–15 May. A male MacGillivray's Warbler at Fort De Soto Park 22-23 Apr (PT et al., ph. LA) provided the 2nd verified record in Florida. Wilson's Warblers were reported, singles at St. George I. 19 Apr (JMu), St. Marks N.W.R. 27 Apr (RC), and Lori Wilson Park, Brevard 13 May (CN). Casualy reported during spring, a male Canada Warbler was a highlight at St. Marks

Only the second to be confirmed in Florida, this male MacGillivray's Warbler was at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County 22 (here) and 23 April 2008. Photograph by Lyn Atherton.

N.W.R. 4 May (RC).

The Bananqua continued at Hollywood, Broward until 9 Mar (LM), a male Western Tanager brightened Genius Drive Nature Preserve 13 Mar (BHa, ph. BP et al.), while another continued at Tallahassee until 22 Apr (FR). Duos of Clay-colored Sparrows were found at Cape Canaveral Air Station, Brevard 11 Mar (TD) and the Sarasota Celery Fields 17 Apr (RGr, Kt et al.), with one at Lake City, Columbia 15-16 Mar (BbH). A Field Sparrow at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 10 Apr (PMi) furnished the first for Okeechobee. Lingerin Savannah Sparrows were 3 at Seven Springs 26 Apr (KT) and one at Patrick A.F.B., Brevard 20 May (DF). This season, 84 singing male Florida Grasshopper Sparrows were detected at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. (PMi). A Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow photographed at Weekiwachee Preserve 13 Mar (KT, ph. MG) furnished the first recent record for Hernando. Lincoln’s Sparrows were good finds at Gulf Breeze 15 Apr (BDu, LD), Fort De Soto Park 3 May (CN et al.), and Roosevelt Wetlands, St. Petersburg 3 May (DM). A flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks along the Gulf coast was noted 29 Apr, with 12 at Honeyoom Island S.P. (Dga), 5 at Fort De Soto Park (LA et al.), and 5 at Dry Tortugas N.P. 29 Apr (CGo). The male Lazuli Bunting at Alva, Lee continued until 20 Mar (LCW et al.).

High counts of Bobolinks included 2000 at S.T.A.-5 on 26 Apr (ME et al.), 468 at Green Key 30 Apr (KT), 16,530 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 30 Apr (HR), and 300 at the Sarasota Celery Fields 2 May (RGr, Kt et al.). Yellow-headed Blackbirds, all males, were found at three sites: Winter Park 13-27 Mar (JDu et al., ph. AB), The Villages, Sumter 29 Mar

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(GB, ph. PN), and Eagle Lakes Park, Naples 24 Apr (BM). Shiny Cowbirds are now rare and local, with 2 males at Flamingo, Everglades N.P. 13 Apr+ (LF, BP et al.) and single males at Green Cay Wetlands, Palm Beach 21 Apr (MG) and Cedar Key 25 May (DHe). A recently established breeder in the s. peninsula, 2 displaying males and 4 female Bronzed Cowbirds were at Eagle Lakes Park, Naples 22 Mar (BJ), a well-known site, while single males at Pensacola 6 Apr (A&DF) and Cedar Key 5 May (DHe) were somewhat surprising. There were 17 Orchard Orioles at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., their southernmost known breeding site, 30 May (HR). An ad. male Bullock’s Oriole visited a Tallahassee feeder 26-31 Mar (ph. AR). A pair of House Finches produced one fledging at Brandon by 6 Apr (DGo), while 10 others were at Siesta Key 30 May (TMo). A Pine Siskin tarried at Chippewa Nature Center, Hernando until 5 Mar (A&BH), and lingering American Goldfinches were in Wayzata 22 May (LN) and at Lake City, Columbia 25 May (JA).

UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS

A Common Shelduck near Miami International Airport, Miami–Dade 30 Apr (LM, ph. TMI) and a male Ring-necked Pheasant at Inverness, Citrus 5-9 Mar (ph. KS) furnished the first verifiable records of these two exotics in Florida; another pheasant was reported in cen. Pasco 24 May (L&TMI). The identity of the black-hawks that have been observed in Miami–Dade for the past 30+ years seems to have been solved: an ad. Great Black-Hawk of the South American subspecies *bubo caledonicus* was studied at Virginia Key all season (ph. RD, ph. JB). As many as 8 Purple Swamphens remained at S.T.A.-5 (ME et al.). Two Blue-crowned Parakeets at Anna Maria L 26 May (RM) were rare in Manatee. Five Peach-faced Lovebirds, including at least 2 jvs., at Orlando, 29 May+ (CC et al., RGe, ph.) furnished the first Florida breeding report. The Red-capped Cardinal at Plantation, Broward was observed again 10 May (ph. BaD).

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Two Greater White-fronted Geese were at sw. Hillman Marsh, Essex 24 Mar; one was at ne. Hillman Marsh the same day (DJW); one was at Amherst I., Lennox & Addington 29 Mar (GPa); and 6 continued in the Pt. Hope–Cobourg area, Northumberland until 1 Mar (m.ob.). Good numbers of Snow Goose were reported, with peaks of 50,000 near Riceville, Prescott–Russell 17 Apr (REC), and 14,000 at Bourget, Prescott–Russell 27 Apr (TB). A smaller but equally significant peak for the area was 67 Snows at Prince Edward Pt., Prince Edward 6 Apr (JHE, RDW). Two Ross’s Geese near Wallaceburg, Chatham–Kent 5 Mar (JGH) were the first for that area.

Abbreviations: Pt. Pelee (Pt. Pelee N.P. and environs, Essex). Place names in italics refer to districts and regional municipalities as well as to counties.
Other Ross's were at Dunn's Bridge, Perth 22 Mar (KC), Saul's Ste. Marie 31 Mar (EN), near Echo Bay, Algoma 5-10 Apr (DMB), at Sturgeon Falls, Nipissing 10 Apr (DT), and s. of Navan, Ottawa 20 Apr (RJC et al.). A very heavy flight of Brant was observed in the Kingston, Frontenac area, with a peak of 9500 at Amherst I. 25 May (KFN). Three Cackling Geese at nw. Hillman Marsh, Essex 6-13 May (DJW, STP et al.) established a new late date for Pt. Pelee. Mute Swans are rare in the Ottawa area, so one at Alfred sewage lagoon, Prescott-Russell 26 May (TB et al.) and 2 at Carleton Place, Lanark 26-27 May (MJ, JJ) were noteworthy. Trumpeter Swans far from their usual haunts included 3 at Commanda L., Parry Sound 8 Mar (CO, SA) and one at Long Pt., Norfolk 13 May (fide SAM); 14 Trumpeters at Emo sewage lagoon 29 May (DHE) offered additional evidence of an increase in Rainy River. The cold and snowy season meant that large numbers of Tundra Swans were observed at Pt. Pelee, including a record 5060 n. of Pt. Pelee N.P. 18 Mar (AW), with 15,000 near Rondeau Bay, Chatham-Kent 21-23 Mar (JTB, BAM), and 23,000 near Sarnia, Lambton 1 Mar (AHR).

A female duck that appeared to be a Wood Duck × American Black Duck hybrid was noted at nw. Hillman Marsh 29 Apr-6 May (DJW et al.). Single Eurasian Wigeons were at Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay 24 Apr (Dan Basco), Prescott-P.P., Northumberland 2-3 Apr (FH), Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham 12 Apr (TH), Komoka P.P., Middlesex 19 Apr (CS), and Amherst I., Lennox & Addington 24-26 May (KH et al.). The highlight of the season was a male Mottled Duck at nw. Hillman Marsh 1 May (DJW et al.) that furnished the first report for Ontario and Canada. A Tufted Duck was at Sault Ste. Marie 8-15 May (Ph. RK). King Eider reports included 11 off Stoney Creek, Hamilton 29 Mar (RZD et al.), 2 at Pt. Pelee N.P. 8 Apr (AW et al.), and 2 off Winona, Hamilton 28 May (KAM). Single Harlequin Ducks continued near Bot, Ontario until 7 Mar (moh.) and at Erieau, Chatham-Kent until 31 Mar (IW); others were at Cobourg, Northumberland 6 Apr (MJCJ) and Wawa, Algoma 20 May (KM), plus as many as 4 off Toronto through 30 Apr (moh.) and 4 at Pikasuwa N.P. (Pointe La Canadienne), Thunder Bay 22 May (Christine Vance). A male Barrow's Goldeneye continued at Ottawa until 2 Apr (moh.). Four Red-breasted Mergansers at Bracebridge sewage lagoon 16 Apr (BT) furnished a rare sighting for Muskoka. Rare in Rainy River, a Ruddy Duck was at Emo sewage lagoon 27 May (JF), while 2 males displaying to one female at Rainy River sewage lagoon 29 May (DHE) indicated possible breeding (DHE).

An ad. Pacific Loon was at Hurkett, Thunder Bay 8 May (George A. Williams). Reports of Eared Grebe included one at Moosonee, Cochrane 31 May (Ernest Hunter), a first-ever record for James Bay (ph. to Ontario B.R.C.), one at Erieau, Chatham-Kent 14 Mar (JTB), with others in Algoma at Wawa 20-30 May (KM) and White River 26-30 May (KM). An American White Pelican at Rondeau P.P, Chatham-Kent 8 May (L&RG) was joined by another 9 May, and both remained through 12 May, then moved to Pt. Pelee N.P. 12 May (moh.), then Middle I., Essex 13 May (fide DT). Five other pelicans were at Rondeau P.P. 18 May, with one remaining until 23 May (KJB), 6 were at Holiday Beach C.A., Essex 19 May (MJ), and there were 5 near North Bay 23 May (fide DT). A very early Great Egret was spotted at kettle Pt., Lambton 7 Mar (AHR). Egrets are rare in n. and e. Ontario, so single Greats at Trout Cr., Parry Sound 8 Apr (AS), near Bouquet, Prescott-Russell 18 Apr (JG), and at Carp, Ottawa 4 May (RH) were noteworthy, as were Snowy Egrets at Leslie Street Spit, Toronto 26 Apr (SP), and Presqu'eile P.P., Northumberland 18 May (BD, BMD). Ad. Little Blue Herons were at nw. Hillman Marsh, Essex 26 Apr (EPL, MAB, RJC) and Triangle Marsh, Chatham-Kent 16 May (RC, GS), while one imm. at Long Pt. 28 Apr (TM et al.) moved to Pt. Rowan, Norfolk, where it remained until 6 May (moh.). The first Cattle Egret reported at Algomaq P.P. visited Lake of Two Rivers 27 Apr (SW, ph. JP). Other Cattle were at Pt. Pelee 3-4 (DJW et al.) & 8 May (JF), Pt. Alma, Chatham-Kent 3 May (AWH, IW), and Blenheim sewage lagoon, Chatham-Kent 5 May (BH). Three Glossy Ibis visited Triangle Marsh, Chatham-Kent 8 May (RC, GS).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Black Vulture was near Simcoe, Norfolk 26 Mar (MB), one flew past Beamie C.A., Niagara 1 Apr (N.PH.), and another in poor health lingered at Pt. Pelee N.P. 9-14 May (RS et al.) before it was taken in for rehabilitation. Pt. Pelee's earliest-ever Mississippi Kite was an ad. at nw. Hillman Marsh, then Pt. Pelee N.P. 5-6 May (GTH et al.); another was reported at Darlington P.P., Durham 18 May (TH). Golden Eagles were noted at a number of sites, but one at Pt. Pelee 27 Apr (DB, MCu, JM) was particularly noteworthy. Lingering Gyrfalcons in Ottawa included a dark morph downtown 1 Mar (NR), probably the same bird at Nepean 12 Mar (MPWR), and a gray morph at Deschenes Rapids 3 Mar (DWM). As many as 3 King Rails were at nw. Hillman Marsh 12 May (AW, DJW), and another was at sw. Hillman Marsh 21 May (HTO). A Whooping Crane observed in flight over London, Middlesex 7 Apr (MM) was presumably an introduced individual.

Many Black-bellied Plovers were noted staging in Essex and Chatham-Kent this season, with peaks of 3439 between Pt. Alma and...
Merlin 13 May (AW) and 4800 at nw. Hillman Marsh 16 May (AW, FDG, SSG et al.). The American Golden-Plover at Alfred sewage lagoon, Prescott–Russell 26 May (TB) was seasonally unusual in e. Ontario. A highlight was the Snowy Plover at Long Point P.P. 16-17 May, the area’s 3rd report (Anna Calvert, KGB et al.). A banded male Piping Plover was at Toronto I. 31 May (AA), 2 more were at L. of the Woods, Rainy River 31 May (m.ob.), and breeders returned to Sauble Beach, Bruce and Wasaga Beach P.P., Simcoe. There were up to 55 American Avocets at Pt. Pelee 19 Apr–2 May (m.ob., fide AW), with others at Toronto I. 24 May (GC et al.) and Wawa, Algoma, 30 May (KM). The 97 Willets at Pt. Pelee variously 23 Apr–19 May (m.ob.) were noteworthy, as were singles n. to Sault Ste. Marie 12 May (JR) and Marathon, Thunder Bay 10 May (Greg Stoudt). A Lesser Yellowlegs at Leslie Street Spit, Toronto 29 Mar was very early (NM, ML). The earliest-ever Spotted Sandpiper at Algonquin P.P., Nipissing was found at Tea L. dam 25 Apr (TSO). Twelve Whimbrels at Komoka P.P. 17 May (PR, RR, GP, IP) were rare in Middlesex. Reports of Marbled Godwits were singles at nw. Hillman Marsh 27 Apr (SM, RM et al.) and 31 May+ (DJW et al.), singles at Sault Ste. Marie 6-15 May (KM), near Kincardine, Bruce 24 May (m.ob.), and at Tilbury sewage lagoon, Essex 28 May (AW), 2 with 900 Black-bellied Plovers at Erieau, Chatham–Kent 10 May (SRC, BAM, MM), and 3 at Amherst L., Lennox & Addington 24 May, with 2 remaining until 31 May (KFN). A peak of 240 Red Knots was at Presqu’ile P.P., Northumberland 29 May (RDM et al.). Single Western Sandpipers were at Presqu’ile P.P. 29 Apr (DS, IS) and nw. Hillman Marsh 6 May (AW, CHG, EG et al.). A high count of 2100 Dunlins was at Triangle Marsh, Chatham–Kent 16 May (RC, GS). A female Ruff near Angus, Simcoe 22 Apr (JG) was joined by a male 27 Apr (DMI et al.) and then another male 2 May (m.ob.), with at least 2 of the Ruffs lingering until 5 May. Another Ruff was seen along Kaisor Rd., Prince Edward 23 May (fide RTS). Very rare during spring, single Long-billed Dowitchers were at nw. Hillman Marsh 6 May (AW, CHG, EG et al.), near Angus 2-3 May (MJCB, RP), and Big Creek N.W.A., Norfolk 28 May (fide SAM). A Red Phalarope near Pt. Pelee N.P. 4 May (RS, RRT) was seasonally rare.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Four or more Laughing Gulls were in Essex during May; singles near Wheatley Harbour 3 May (KGB, MVA), at nw. Hillman Marsh 8-9 May (KRO, WW), and Pt. Pelee N.P. 6 May (KAM, WGL) & 29 May (AH, RAH), and 2 there 13-21 May (MH). Other Laughing Gulls were at Rondeau P.P., Chatham–Kent 6 May (ph. AHR) and Cobourg, Northumberland 26 May (CEG). An imm. Franklin’s Gull was at Wheatley Harbour, Chatham–Kent 24 May (AW), where Bonaparte’s Gull numbers peaked at 8000 on 19 May (AW); 12 ad. lingered record late there until 25 May (AW, RPC); younger birds are frequently found through the summer here. Different ad. Calif. Gulls were seen near Peters Corners, Hamilton 12-20 Mar (KAM, RC) and 1 Apr (BRH), with another ad. at Toronto I. 24 May (GC et al.).

A Parasitic Jaeger was watched foraging off Darlington P.P., Durham 18 May (TH). Race in Ottawa, single Caspian Terns were at Dow’s L., 5 May (BB, CL) and Nepean 31 May (TB et al.). A Black Tern 25 Apr was record early for Pt. Pelee (AW, JMT). Arctic Terns were again seen along the Ottawa R., with up to 5 during late May (TB, DM et al.); one at Wheatley Harbour 18 May furnished Pt. Pelee’s 2nd record (AW); and singles at Presqu’ile P.P. 22 May (IS et al.) and Cobourg 29 May (RDM) provided the 2nd and 3rd records for Northumberland. The 257 Forster’s Terns at Pt. Pelee 20 Apr furnished a high count (AW).

A White-winged Dove at Lake-of-the-Mountain, Prince Edward 14 May (PS) was thought to have moved to Prince Edward Pt. 23 May+ (ph. DO et al.), while another was banded well to the n., at Thunder Cape B.O. 27 May (JW). A highlight of the season was the one-day-wonder Burrowing Owl at Pelee I., Essex 25 Apr (ph. KGB, MVA). The Redheaded Woodpecker at Ahmic L., Magnetawan, Parry Sound 12 May (AM) was unexpected so far north. Two male Red-bellied Woodpeckers n. of Rainy River, Rainy River (m.ob.) could indicate two breeding pairs; a female at Pearl Harbour Estates, Thunder Bay 17-19 May (Aarne Erroliaht) was impressively far north. A Northern Flicker integrade was banded at the Tip of Long Pt., Norfolk 21 Apr (fide SAM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Acadian Flycatchers were seen at traditional sites in s. Ontario, beginning with a record-early arrival of one at Pt. Pelee N.P. 26 Apr (AW, RJC, JMT). Also record early was a Willow Flycatcher seen and heard at Pt. Pelee N.P. 27 Apr (JMT, RJC, EPL). A Say’s Phoebe at Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay 28 Apr (Sue Bryan, Mike Bryan) was locally rare. Single Western Kingbirds were at Thunder Cape B.O. 26-27 May (JW) and Pelee I., Essex 28 May (AP). An ad. male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Rondeau P.P., Chatham–Kent 5 May (ph. KJ, SJ) constituted the 2nd report for the park. Remarkable was the White-eared Vireo at Sault Ste. Marie 16-24 May (DMB). Two Fish Crows, perhaps a pair, were at Pt. Pelee N.P. 7-8 May (DKS et al.), and Long Pt.’s first was at the Tip 19 May (Caroline Poli, Yousif Attia). A Tufted Titmouse continued at Embrun, Prescott–Russell until 3 Apr (JPC), with other extralimital singles at Cape Vesy, Prince Edward 12-13 Apr (fide RTS), Prince Edward Pt. 17-19 Apr (RTS), Presqu’ile P.P., Northumberland 14-18 & 30 Apr (FH), and Matchedash Bay, Simcoe 10 May (DBU et al.). Although a Brown Creeper at Old Cut, Long Pt., Norfolk 7 Apr (HM) was not unusual seasonally or geographically, it became the 750,000th bird banded at Long Point B.O., the first migration monitoring station to reach
May 401

Clay-colored NUMBER

Apr. was a Single furnished

Pelee Stokes grant

P.P., Northumberland 4, 19, & 24 May (RDM; BMD). Kentucky Warblers

were at Pt. Hope, Northumberland 5 May (PF), West Deane Park, Toronto 17-21 May (DP), and Darlington PP, Durham 25 May (TH et al.). An early arrival at Pt. Pelee N.P. was a Common Yellowthroat 17 Apr (LP). Record early was the Hooded Warbler at Long Point PP, Norfolk 20 Apr.

Up to 17 Summer Tanagers were at Pt. Pelee during late Apr–May, with 3 at Rondeau P.P., Chatham–Kent; and singles near Sombra, Lambton 7 May (H), at Prince Edward Pt. 11 May (JHE, RDW), London, Middlesex 13 May (RKR et al.), West Deane Park, Toronto 18 May (GVR), Leslie St. Spilt 19 May (DD), Thunder Cape B.O. 28 May (JW), and Pelee 1. 28 May (AP). The first Western Tanager at Rondeau PP was an immature male 4 May (SRC, BAM), and Sauli Ste. Marie had one a few days later, 7-8 May (JJo). In Thunder Bay, records of Western Tanagers, all documented with photographs (to Ontario B.R.C.), were at Thunder Cape B.O. 5 & 7 May (JW, MW); single first-year males at Pass L. 24 Apr–5 May (Julie Welsh, Doug Thomas et al.) and at Thunder Bay 7-12 May (Gayle Rowland, Mike Rowland et al.); and a female at Sunshine 16-18 May (Jeff Robinson et al.).

The spring migration in Rainy River was characterized as outstanding, with unprecedented numbers of American Tree Sparrow and Lincoln’s Sparrow at Atikokan (m.ob.). Chipping Sparrows at Kettle Pt., Lambton 7 Mar (AHR) and Pt. Bolster, Durham 8-21 Mar (MLK, AH) had certainly wintered locally. Notable was a Clay-colored Sparrow near Verner, Nipissing 24 May (MY, LB). To the n., a locally rare Field Sparrow was banded at Thunder Cape B.O. 12 May (JW). A Lark Sparrow was at a Hamilton backyard 3 May (GMN); another n. of Sauli Ste. Marie 5 & 9 May (KM); and singles were banded at Thunder Cape B.O. 13 & 24-28 May (JW). Pt. Pelee’s 5th Lark Bunting was a male 11 May (GA, DBs, CBA et al.). Rare so far n., a Grasshopper Sparrow was seen well at Thunder Cape B.O. 3 May (JW). Henslow’s Sparrows at Pt. Pelee PP were 2 singles on 2 May (AW, THa) and one 13 May (MSt). Le Conte’s Sparrow was singing at the Tip of Long Pt., Norfolk 23 Apr (Yousif Attia). Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at Rondeau PP, Chatham–Kent 12 May (ph., m.ob.), Pt. Pelee N.P. 15 May (TT), and at Wheatley Harbour, Chatham–Kent 16 May (WGL). Also at Rondeau PP, Chatham–Kent was a Harris’s Sparrow 2-6 May (DC et al.), with another at Gore Bay, Manitoulin 6 May (ph. CB, RT). A Pink-sided Junco was at Steepstone, Thunder Bay 26 Apr–8 May (James Brewer, Lorena Sambry; ph. to Ontario B.R.C.). High numbers of Lapland Longspurs were noted in Chatham–Kent during early May, with peaks of 800 at Merlin 1 May (AW) and 1200 at Stewart 7 May (AW).

Northern Cardinals are very rare at Algonquin PP, Nipissing, especially during spring, so the following sightings of males were remarkable: at Algonquin Visitor Center 7-8 Apr (BSto et al.), near West Gate 9 May (JS), and at km 8 logging road 26 May (GZ). An ad. male Blue Grosbeak was banded at Long Pt., Norfolk 16 May (Stijn Coolman, Eleanor Page); another male at Squaw Bay (LSS), Thunder Bay 12-18 May (June Huston et al.) furnished one of few records for n. Ontario (ph. to Ontario B.R.C.). A Western Meadowlark was at Manitoulin I. 21 May (RT). The ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird continued near Williamstown, Stormont–Dundas–Glenary until 14 Mar (m.ob.), with other singles at North Bay 30 Mar (VR), Old Cut, Long Pt., Norfolk 19 Apr–14 May (DSa et al.), Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham 24-25 Apr (TH, ne. Hillman Marsh, Essex 3 May (GBM), Pt. Pelee N.P. 10 May (JMc), and Pelee I. 13 May. It was a banner year for Rusty Blackbirds at Atikokan, Rainy River, with a peak of 36 on 25 Apr (DHE). An extremely late Rusty was at Long Pt., Norfolk through 26 May (fide SAM). A total of 10 Orchard Orioles at and near Pt. Pelee N.P. 26 Apr was an exceptional tally for such an early date. Another Orchard at Pt. Bolster, Durham 18-20 May (MLK, AK) was noteworthy for its n. location.

A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at Crozier, Rainy River 8 Mar was a local first (Wayne R. Skirten, Shirley A. Skirten; ph. to Ontario B.R.C.). A female House Finch at Algonquin Visitor Center 3 Apr (JP) and a male there 4 Apr (RGT) provided rare sightings for Algonquin PP, Nipissing. Some Hoary Redpolls continued into spring, with singles at Elginburg, Frontenac 12 Apr (KFN) and Algonquin PP 16 Apr (JHS). A lone male House Sparrow made a rare appearance to Algonquin PP 19 Apr (RGT). A Eurasian Tree Sparrow at Port Burwell, Elgin 10 May (Aaron Allenson) was the 4th record for Ontario (ph. to Ontario B.R.C.).

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**Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley**

March and April were essentially an extension of a late winter, dominated by exceptionally cool, wet weather. At Lake Erie, ice remained well into April. The avifauna responded, with lingering waterfowl and gulls establishing record-late dates. Several wintering songbirds were found well after their normal departure dates. For the first time in years, we report no waves of early migrant songbirds, as most species fell in line with their long-term averages. Icy fronts in March and April produced some dramatic inland reservoir counts of waterfowl, gulls, and grebes.

We continue to see the likes of Black-necked Stilts and Wilson's Phalaropes making in-road within the former Prairie Peninsula of Ohio. The Conneaut, Ohio hawkwatch furthered our knowledge of raptor migration along the eastern Lake Erie flyway. We are pleased to see greater awareness of taxa below the species level; we are learning, for instance, that Eurasian Teal and Audubon’s Warbler are rare but annual visitors to the Region, as well as refining our understanding of the range limits of Yellow Palm Warbler and Oregon Junco.

Abbreviations: Berlin Res. (Berlin Res., Starh, Portage, and Mahoning, OH); B.C.S.P. (Buck Creek S.P., Clark, OH); Clear Fork. (Clear Fork Res., Morrow and Richland, OH); Funk Bottoms (Funk Bottoms W.A., Wayne, OH); Headlands (Headlands S.P. and S.N.P., Lake, OH); Green Bottom (Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell and Mason, WV); Hoover (Hoover Res., Franklin and Delaware, OH); Heinz (John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia, PA); Middle Creek (Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster and Lebanon, PA); M.L.R. (Mud Level Road, Cumberland, PA); Ottawa (Ottawa N.W.R., Lucas and Ottawa, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); Sandusky Plains (greater Big Island W.A., Marion, OH/Kilelee Plains W.A., Wyandot, OH/Hardin, OH wetlands Important Bird Area).

**WATERFOWL**

When added with Feb migrants, the 75 Greater White-fronted Geese observed this season brought the total spring flight in Ohio to 127 individuals, which surpassed the record set in 2006. This was a more widespread passage, with few sizeable flocks; high counts were 18 over Toledo 21 Mar (GLI), 12 at Funk Bottoms 15-16 Mar (KKD), 10 at B.C.S.P. 2 Mar (DO), and 8 in Brown 12 Mar (RF). Lingering Greater White-fronted included 5 in Wyandot 29 Mar (JL) and 3 at Grand L., Mercer and Auglaize, OH 31 Mar (JL). Also lingering was a Snow Goose in Summit, OH 24 Apr-8 May (GB). A flock of 46 Brant along the L. Erie shoreline in Lake 26 May (JP) furnished a record spring count for Ohio. A Ross’s Goose in Summit, OH 24 May (GB) represented a record-late date for Ohio, and 2 Ross’s in Paulding 16 Mar (DMD) furnished a first county report. Three Ross’s Geese were in Berks, PA 2-11 Mar (RK, M. Wlasniewski), and 3 or 4 others were at Middle Creek 9 Mar (fide SK), with one lingering until 19 May (T. Robertson). The 20 Cackling Geese in Ohio were led by flocks of 7 at Pine L., Mahoning 5 Mar (CH) and 6 in Clinton 1 Mar (RA). Coupled with 14 during Feb, the northward flight of 34 is a spring record for Ohio. Trios of Bar-headed Geese were found 320 km apart in Jackson, WV 15 Mar (K. Kazmierski) and Ashtabula, OH 9 Apr (CH).

More than 3200 Tundra Swans in Ohio during Mar made for an exceptional spring flight, with 600+ at Mosquito L., Trumbull (CB), and notable inland reports of 248 in Wayne 23 Mar (BG), 223 in Wyandot 29 Mar
(CBo), and 198 in Mahoning 9 Mar (RL, T. Dolan). As many as 3300 Tundra Swans were at Middle Creek 6 Mar (fide SK). There were 760 American Black Ducks remaining at Blendon Woods Metropark, Franklin, OH, an important wintering site, 10 Mar (ST). An impressive migration of Northern Pintails brought as many as 1231 to Funk Bottoms 16-25 Mar (KKl, SW), while 1380 visited Sandusky Plains 29 Mar (CBo). A lingering Gadwall in Northampton, PA 31 May established a new late date for the Lehigh Valley area (RW). The 245 Northern Shovelers at Sandusky Plains 29-30 Mar (CBo, RC) furnished a good concentration, as did 315 Green-winged Teal there 21-29 Mar (CBo, RC). Close scrutiny of teal in the Region has recently revealed that Eurasian Teal is an annual visitor, this season, singles were at Cuyahoga Valley N.P., Cuyahoga, OH 13-20 Apr (ph. JT, J. Woznaworski, GCu, E. Kisler, m.ob.) and Octoraro L., Lancaster, PA 29 Feb (T. Amico). A Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal was at Cannonsburg L., Washington, PA 31 Mar-14 Apr (MV, ph. GM). Single Eurasian Wigeons were at Pleasant Hill L., Ashland and Richland, OH 24-29 Mar (DS, B. Warner), Funk Bottoms 5 Apr (KKl), and in Ottawa, OH 17 Mar (JP), and were at P.I..P. 24 Mar-3 Apr (JM).

An outstanding passage of Ring-necked Ducks included 2900 in Wayne, OH 17 Mar (BG), 2000 on Delaware reservoirs 13-27 Mar (CBo, JKS, M. Dalrymple), 1500 in Mahoning 22 Mar (CH), and 1487 in Coshocton 9 Apr (Leroy E. Yoder). Sizeable Canvasbacks flocks were limited to 450 at Berlin Res. 17 Mar (Jks, RL) and 325 at Findlay Res., Hancock 18 Mar (RSs). More than 1100 Lesser Scaup were found on Delaware reservoirs 16-18 Mar (RTh, CBo, JKS), while 3 in Preston, WV 18 May (GF) were late. Findlay Res., Hancock, OH hosted a state-record inland count of 375 Greater Scaup 18 Mar (RSs), along with 450 Redheads, the 200 Greaters at Berlin Res. 20 Mar (BMo) would have set a state record.

With the usual L. Erie stopover sites frozen, and facing inclement weather, migrant waterfowl had few areas of open water available. The 840 Red-breasted Mergansers at Hoover 20 Mar (Jks) were further representative of the inland fallouts. L. Erie had 1100 Greater Scaup at Kelleys L., Erie, OH 19 Mar (TB et al.), 16,500 Red-breasted Mergansers in Lake 6 Apr (JP), and a state-record ground count of 8540 Redheads at Ottawa 6 Apr (D. Vogus et al.). Single Black Scoters were in Ashland, OH 31 Mar (CH) and Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA 27 Apr (fide SK). Of about 47 Surf Scoters in Ohio, 12 were in Delaware 1 May (Jks), 6 in Tuscarawas 13 Mar (D. Kramer), and 6 in Clermont 17 Mar (BG). Several Surfing lingered, including 4 in Putnam, WV 1 May (S. Gillespie), one in Wayne, OH 4 May (SS), one in Centre, PA 8-12 May (R. Bower), and 5 at L. Millon, Mahoning 20 May (Ab). This was the strongest inland flight of White-winged Scoters throughout the Region in 20 years; 10 were in Ohio 1 Mar-30 Apr (K. Robinson, Ab, m.ob.); 13 across six West Virginia counties 22-24 Mar were led by 6 in Pleasant 13 Mar (J. Benedetti). Thirteen White-winged were at L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA 19 Mar (RK), with 11 along the Susquehanna R., Dauphin, PA 28 Mar (RKh) and lingerers at Robert C. Byrd Lock & Dam, Mason, 3 May (DP) and in Beaver, PA 11-22 May (MV, GM). Four Harlequin Ducks off Headlands 10 Apr (RHi) were in keeping with this late sea duck movement, while another continued in Beaver PA until 4 Mar (fide PH). A modest flight of Buffleheads in Ohio produced a maximum of 250 at Conncut 15 Apr (RL) and 122 at Kelley L., Erie 20 Apr (PB et al., with lingerers in Summit 24 May (GB) and Hamilton 9 May (RF). In Pennsylvania, 300+ Buffleheads were at Bald Eagle S.P., Centre 20 Mar (J. Verica). An average flight of 31 Long-tailed Ducks in Ohio was led by 8 at Tappan L., Harrison, OH 6 Apr (GCu), while a more pervasive flight in Pennsylvania included 63 along the Susquehanna R., Dauphin 22 Mar (RKh), 76 at Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana 22-25 Mar (M. Higbee), 110 at L. Perez, Huntington 22 Mar (AW), and 109 at Lock Haven, Clinton 28 Mar (J. Schaffer). A late Red-breasted Merganser was at Byrd Lock & Dam, Mason, WV 23 May (MO, MG).

GREBES THROUGH IBISES
A flight of Eared Grebes (Table 1) matches the record count from spring 2004 in Ohio. A massive fallout of Horned Grebes across the w. Alleghenies 22 Mar included 1777 in five counties in w. Pennsylvania (fide PH), 300 in adjacent Mahoning, OH 22 Mar (CH), and 364 along the Susquehanna R., Dauphin, PA (RKh). By contrast, totals at L. Erie were negligible, led by 60 at Conneaut 15 Apr (RL). Late were a Horned in Jefferson, WV 1 May (MO), 2 at Pipe Creek W.A., Erie, OH 17 May (GL), one in Bucks, PA 19 May (AM), 3 in Hamilton 20 May (RF), one in Hardin 21 May (RC), and 2 in Hancock 23 May (RSs). Ten Red-necked Grebes were reported from seven counties in Ohio 15 Mar-7 Apr (Ab), J. G. Spalding, m.ob.); 10 or 11 were in Pennsylvania 1 Mar-30 Apr (m.ob.); and one was in Cabell, WV 6-21 Mar (K. Kozmski, m.ob.). Two Western/Clark’s Grebes were reported in Pennsylvania, singles at Pymatuning L., Crawford 23 Mar (C. Nicholls) and Blue Mash L., Berks 7 May (J. Silagy, J. Holcomb). Red-throated Loons in Ohio were limited to 2 at Hoover 20-24 Mar (CBo, JLN) and one at C.F.R. 24 Mar (L. Hershberger), while in Pennsylvania, an amazing 30 touched down at Jacobs Creek L., Fayette 18 Mar (M. Fialkovich). Common Loons in Ohio peaked at 100 at B.C.S.P. 23 Mar (DO). A modest flight of American White Pelicans through Ohio included 2 at Rocky Fork L., Highland 26 Mar (fide J. McCormac) and three 13-19 Apr (NK, J. Foor, M. Sims, m.ob.), 3 at B.C.S.P. 24-25 Mar (BMr, L. Lowry, DS), and 4 in Wayne 21-22 Mar (John A. Troyer, J. Brunfield). A Brown Pelican was a one-day wonder at B.C.S.P. 9 May (ph. L. C.). An Anhinga was seen at Rose Tree Park hawkwatch.

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<th>No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hoover Res., Franklin and Delaware</td>
<td>20-27 Mar</td>
<td>Al La Sala, Jen, CBo</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>East Fork L., Clermont</td>
<td>22 Mar</td>
<td>ph. D. Morse, Jr.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Findlay Res., Hancock</td>
<td>23 Mar</td>
<td>R. Sams</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Pleasant Hill L., Ashland and Richland</td>
<td>15-24 May</td>
<td>J. Miller, R. Hershberger, L. Yoder</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Big Island W.A., Marion</td>
<td>29 Mar</td>
<td>CBo</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Funk Bottoms W.A., Wayne</td>
<td>12-19 Apr</td>
<td>S. Snyder, Allen Troyer, K. Kline</td>
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The second record from southwestern Ohio in recent years, this Brown Pelican was a one-day wonder 9 May 2008 at Buck Creek State Park, Clark County. Photograph by Larry Jeanblanc.

Delaware, PA 12 Apr (J. Lockyer, G. Becker), while 2 over Struble L., Chester, PA 5 May represented a 3rd county record (L. Lewis).

A Least Bittern at Altona Marsh, Jefferson, WV 31 May (MO) was rare in the e. Panhandle. Little Blue Herons wandered from the Western Basin to Lake, OH 4 May (JP) and P.S.P. 25 May (MV), with other singles inland to Licking, OH 15 Apr (C. Dustheimer), Hocking, OH 2 May (J. Watts), and Hamilton 9 May (MB, C. Saunders, SP). Single Tricolored Herons were found nw of Bellevue, OH, 26 May (BC) and at Heinz 11 Apr (fide SK). Apart from 15 within the Western Basin, Snowy Egrets wandered to Lake, OH 6 May (Rhn) and Deer Creek WA, Fayette and Pickaway, OH 31 May (RA), one at Green Bottom 9 May (GR, J. Hubbard) was rare in the Allegheny Plateau. An early Great Egret appeared in Marion, OH 17 May (DT). Up to 9 Cattle Egrets were reported in Erie, OH 12 May (R. London), with 10 others at Ottawa 13 May (GS). Away from L. Erie, single Cattle were in Holmes, OH 12-13 Apr (M. Weaver), at Caesar Creek S.P., Warren and Greene, OH 30 Apr (LG), and in Clermont 17 May (D. Morse, Jr.), with 2 in Hamilton 15 May (ph. B. Hull). A Glossy Ibis was present at Pipe Creek WA, Erie, OH 4-11 May; and 2 were there 17 May (GL, SL, M. Stetz, m ob.). Several conflicting reports of Glossy/White-faced Ibis came from the Ottawa and Lucas, OH marshes, but convincing details were only received for one Glossy at Ottawa 10 May (Bst et al., B Dunan, L. Dornan, m ob.). Twenty Glossy Ibises in Pennsylvania 3 Apr–24 May were led by 9 at Heinz 14 Apr (DW).

VULTURES THROUGH TERNs

In Ohio, single Black Vultures in Geauga 17 May (IS) and Wayne 19 Apr (Andy & Marty Troyer) were n. of their typical range, but 12 at Charles Mill Res., Ashland 27 Apr (J. Eversmeyer) and 5 in adjacent Richland 24-27 May (GC) indicate continued range expansion, one at The Wilds, Muskingum 22 Mar (J. Velasquez) was unexpected. Ospreys found 15 Mar were early returning to breeding sites in Guernsey, OH (J. Spalding) and Wood, WV (fide S. Morrison); one at Winfield Locks, Putnam, WV 3 Mar was exceptionally early (C. Ellis). An early Mississippi Kite was at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, Berks and Schuykill, PA 26 Mar (AK), while singles elsewhere in Pennsylvania were in Lebanon 13 Apr (R. Miller), at Harrisburg, Dauphin 18 Apr (D. Hoffman), Trenchers, Lehigh and Northampton 7 May (D. Welch), and in Bucks 24 May (C. & E. Crunkleton). A Mississippi Kite returned to Grass Ring G.C., Hocking, OH 20 May (J. Fry et al.), where the state’s first successful breeding took place in 2007, and a migrant was over Oak Openings, Lucas, OH 24 May (RN). Single ad Northern Goshawks were reported in Lake 24 Mar (S. Wagner), at the Conneaut hawkwatch 25 & 31 Mar and 11 & 22 Apr (BG et al.), and a late bird in Summit 4 May (KM) Two-day totals from Conneaut 25-26 Mar, of 2495 Turkey Vultures and 223 Red-shouldered Hawks were especially illuminating. Additional noteworthy tallies there included 75 Northern Harriers and 116 American Kestrels 11 Apr and 305 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 8 Merlins 25 Apr. A Broad-winged Hawk at Big Island WA, Marion 29 Mar (Cbo) was exceptionally early for cen. Ohio, a day after one arrived in Summers, WV (JJP). Late Rough-legged Hawks were in Lucas 9 May (J. Fordge) and Lawrence, PA 22 May (M. Finkelovich). Note worthy in the w. Region, Golden Eagles included singles in Erie 23 Mar (R. Schneider) and Ashitabella 19 Apr (L. Rosche). A record seasonal count of 225 Golden Eagles was tallied at Tussey Mt hawkwatch, Huntingdon and Centre, PA 1 Mar–7 Apr, including an amazing 62 birds 2 Mar (T Magrann). The Prairie Falcon in Cameron, PA continued until 10 Mar (AM).

Flocks of Sandhill Cranes of 3 in Lake 20 Apr (JP), 20 at Grand L., Auglaize and Mercer, OH 22 Mar (JB), and 43 in Paulding 13 Mar (S. Meyers) represented late northeasterly movements. Coupled with Feb reports, the spring crane flight exceeded 160 birds. In the wake of record numbers breeding last year, Sandhill Cranes are exploring Ohio more than ever, with one in Hardin 21 May (RC), 2 at Mallard Club Marsh WA, Lucas 10-21 May (DO, D. Horne, m ob.), one in Summit 29 Apr (KM), and 2 at Deer Creek WA: 1 May (DT), 4 along Noble Ridge, Roane and Jackson, WV 14 Apr (M. Straley) were unexpected. A calling Yellow Rail at Geneva Marsh, Crawford, PA 28 May was surprising (Ron Leberman). King Rail reports in Ohio were limited to 2 at Big Island WA, Marion 24 May (SWs), one at Springfield Marsh S.N.P., Seneca 11 May (Rss), and one Killbuck Marsh WA, Wayne and Holmes, OH 3-7 May (JEF, KKI, RS). Two Kinds at Green Bottom 11-23 May (GR, WA, MO, m ob.) were a great find for West Virginia.

A Black-necked Stilt in Lorain 14 (ph. DA) provided the first verifiable record for the Cleveland Region, while 3 others appeared 25 May at Big Island WA, Marion, OH (SWs, m ob.), where breeding has been attempted in recent years. A flock of 12 American Avocets at Alum Creek Res., Delaware 25 May (K. & J. Davis) led Ohio reports, while one in Ma...
palmated Sandpipers at Heinz 26 May (T. Fellenbaum) furnished a good spring tally. A flock of 47 White-rumped Sandpipers at Big Island W.A., Marion was the 2nd largest spring count for the Ohio interior. Rare Stilt Sandpipers were reported in Ashland, OH 4 May (GC), Butler, OH 19 May (MB), and at M.L.R. 12 May (CR). A Baird’s Sandpiper, exceptional during spring, was noted at Pymatuning L., Crawford 14–17 May (A. Bledsoe, MV). Baird’s are reported annually but are frequently misidentified; there are fewer than 10 satisfactory spring reports in the Region. In Ohio, 28 Wilson’s Phalaropes were noted across seven counties 1–30 May (JP, DA, WB, GL), led by 15 at Big Island W.A., Marion 25 May (SWs, Tsh. m.ob.); as many as 2 in Mass., WV 23–28 May (WA, MG) and 2 in Mahoning, OH 19–20 May (CH) were notable from the Allegheny Plateau. Of 9 Wilson’s in Pennsylvania 10–29 May (m.ob.), 3 in Northampton (D. Welch, D. DeReamus) had the largest count. Rare in Ohio during spring, a Red-necked Phalarope was photographed in Lorain 12 May (DA), and 2 were in Warren 9 May (RF). A Red-necked in Mass., WV 1 & 15 May (WA, MG) was exceptional for the Allegheny Plateau, while singles were in Pennsylvania at L. Nockamixon, Bucks 12 May (J. Horn), Shartlesville, Berks 19–20 May (RK, M. Wlasniewski), and at Imperial, Allegheny 28 May (m.ob., ph. GM). The 130 Wilson’s Snipe in Clermont, OH 31 May (RF) provided a good concentration for the Ohio R. Valley; good counts in Pennsylvania were 51 at Philadelphia International Airport, Delaware 16 Mar (A. Guercante), 52 at Fairbrook, Centre 22 Mar (AW), and 60 at M.L.R. during early Apr (V. Gauthier). A snipe lingered in Hamilton, OH until 10 May (NK).

A Black-headed Gull at Marysville, Dauphin, PA 16–26 Mar was a nice find (RKh et al.), and 2 were there 3 Apr (CR). Single Little Gulls were in Lake, OH 30 Mar (JP) and Cuyahoga, OH 27 Mar (ph. B. McCarty), with as many as 5 along the Susquehanna R., Lancaster, PA 22–24 Mar (E. Witmer, CR et al.). Franklin’s Gulls in Ohio were one in Delaware 1 Apr (L. Powluck), one at Conneaut 16 May (CH), and 2 at B.C.S.P. 10 May (C. Little); in Pennsylvania, singles visited P.S.P. 16–19 May (JM, C. Tague) and L. Somerset, Somerset 30–31 May (J. Payne). Laughing Gulls in Ohio were 2 or more each along L. Erie in Lake 30 Apr–24 May (lde VF, RHJ, JP) and in Ashland 8 May (CH), one inland at B.C.S.P. 30 Apr (LJc) and 3 there 3 May (GS), and singles at Caesar Creek S.P., Warren and Greene 27–28 May (LG, E. Frick) and in Logan 26 May (GL).

Lesser Black-backed Gulls lingered well into May along L. Erie, with the latest at Conneaut 16 May (CH). After a record number of appearances in Ohio this past winter, the species invaded the interior of the west part of the Region, roughly doubling the number of spring reports for Ohio away from L. Erie and providing rare reports for West Virginia and sw. Pennsylvania (Table 2). An Iceland Gull at Kelleys L., Erie, OH 19 Mar (TB et al.) furnished a spring first there. In addition to those mentioned in the S.A. item, Glacous Gulls lingered at Conneaut 8 May (CH) and in Lorain 27 May (CH), and Great Black-backed Gulls were along L. Erie, where 62 at Conneaut 24 Apr dwindled to 49 by 16 May (CH). An early Caspian Tern was at Grand L., Mercer and Auglaize, OH 31 May (JB), and an especially strong flight through Ohio was led by flocks of 56 in Lorain 10 May (GB), 53 in Cuyahoga 18 Apr (J. Lenhart), 30 in Lake 19 Apr (GL), and 110 at Conneaut 15 Apr (RL). In Pennsylvania, a total of 60 Caspians was tallied along the Ohio R., Allegheny 8–13 Apr (GM, MV, DW). The largest flocks of Forster’s Tern in Ohio were 60 in Hancock 6 Apr (RSs) and 74 in Trumbull 15 May (CB).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES
Two Eurasian Collared-Doves at Fort Seneca, Seneca, OH 30 May (J. Hammond) represented a county first, another was discovered in Tuscarawas, OH early Apr–9 May (A.H. Yoder, m.ob.), and singles in Pennsylvania were noted in Lancaster 8 May (B. Schusky, T. Amico)
and Lebanon 15 May (T. Johnson). A Common Nighthawk in Allegheny, PA 23 Apr (R. Tomazin) preceded most Regional reports by 10 days. Two Long-eared Owls at Shawnee Prairie Preserve, Darke, OH in mid-Apr (RCd) may have been prospective breeders. A high count of 14 Short-eared Owls came from West Lebanon, Indiana, PA 14 Mar (K. DeSantis). A Selasphorus hummingbird was found dead at Bolivar, Indiana, PA 10 May (Jude M. Higbee). A remarkably early Ruby-throated Hummingbird was found dead at Pennsylvania State University, Centre, PA 22 Mar (D. Schmelh, Jude CR); the previous early date in Pennsylvania was 29 Mar. Overeager Chimney Swifts appeared 26 Mar near Toledo, OH (one; BC) and at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (2), preceding other reports by two weeks. Late Northern Saw-whet Owls were at Headlands 18 May (RHN) and in Lucas, OH 2 May (SWs).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was in Holmes 27 Apr (M. Hershberger) to provide a record early arrival in Ohio. A Willow Flycatcher in Franklin, OH 1 May (CoBo) was almost as impressive. Now annual within the Region, single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared at Salsburg, Westmoreland, PA 4 May (K. DeSantis, ph.), B.C.S.P. 9 May (ph. LjC, BMtr), and near Kempton, Berks, PA 14-23 May (L. Simpson, S. Metzler). A Purple Martin n. to L. Erie, Lucas, OH 4 Mar (D. Bonilla) preceded the main arrival by three weeks. A Barn Swallow reached Tuscarawas, OH 15 Mar (L. Schlabach), and 100 Tree Swallows swarmed Egypt Valley WA, Belmont, OH the same day (WJa) for an early triple-digit tally. A good count of 2700 Tree Swallows came from Prince Gallitzin S.P., Cambria, PA 30 Apr (J. Salvetti). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow reached Jefferson, WV 9 Mar (MO). A Common Raven in Wetzel, WV 17 Mar (WJa) was not far from recent Ohio activity. Single Loggerhead Shrikes appeared in Jefferson, WV 16 May (MO), Ottawa, OH 17-18 May (GL, C. Pierce), at Franklin, PA 1 Apr (R. Martz), and Perkins 5 May (R. Fergus); the latter report furnished the first in Bucks, PA in 20 years. Northern Shrikes lingered until 30 Mar in Mahoning (WJ) and Lorain (C. Caldwell). Eight Blue-headed Vireos were at Cabwaylinko S.E. Wayne, WV 30 Mar (DP). Rare during spring in e. Pennsylvania, single Philadelphia Vireos were in Berks 10 May (S. Fordyce) and Bucks 24 May (S. Furlong). A Tufted Titmouse at Kelleys L., Erie, OH 19 Mar (TB et al.) was about the 4th for the island. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Columbus 16 Mar (GS) and a House Wren in Chester, PA 3 Mar (K. Fryberger) may have wintered. A late Winter Wren was in Seneca, OH 28 May (D. Plots). Gray-cheeked Thrushes arrived 26-29 Apr in Ohio in Franklin (AS), Delaware (SWs), and Darke (RCd). A Swainson’s Thrush was detected at Columbus 6 Apr (DSn). Township Solitaires were at Sinnemahoning S.P., Cameron, PA 2-4 Apr (L. Crowell, ph. M. Johnson) and Palmerton, Carbon, PA 13-15 Apr (R. & R. Rehrig, ph. RW). Not to be outdone, a Northern Wheatear was seen at South Avis, Clinton, PA 1 Mar (D. Ferry, N. Frunk). Early Golden-winged Warblers arrived in Ohio 26 Apr in Delaware (R. Lowry) and Portage (GB). A Lawrence’s Warbler was at P.I.S.P. 11 May (JM). An Orange-crowned Warbler in Bucks, PA 2 May was rare during spring (B. Keim). An early Nashville Warbler reached the Ohio R. at Green Bottom 19 Apr (DP). Two Black-throated Green Warblers were in Wayne, WV 30 Mar (DP). A Yellow Palm Warbler was w. to Cuyahoga, OH 22 Apr (GL). An ad. male Audubon’s Warbler was at Veterans Park, Lake, OH 14-16 Apr (ph. JT, RHN). A probable Sutton’s Warbler—the rare apparent hybrid of Yellow-throated Warbler and Northern Parula—was banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland, PA 4 May (B. Mulvihill, ph.). A Prothonotary Warbler at Beaver, PA 13 Apr was early (B. Smith). A Swainson’s Warbler was well described near Eckville, Berks, PA 3 May (T. Claeuser). Louisiana Waterthrushes returned to Hocking, OH 27 Mar (D. McCoy) and Mercer, WV 21 Mar (JPP). A Connecticut Warbler in Lebanon, PA 17 May furnished a rare spring report there (R. & K. Miller). A Yellow-breasted Chat wintering in Bucks, PA continued until 25 Apr (B. Keim), and a probable wintering bird was seen near Newville, Cumberland, PA 16 Apr (V. Gauthier). A Common Yellowthroat at Green Bottom 2 Mar (S. Albright) likely wintered. Noteworthy Clay-colored Sparrows included summing individuals arriving in Stark, OH 16 May (KMr, S. Jackson) and Holmes, OH 10 May (Reuben Yoder). More typical migrants appeared in Wood, OH 1 May (T. Kemp), in Lake, OH 1 May (JP), and at P.I.S.P. 3 May (JM). Six Henslow’s Sparrows singing near Phillipsburg, Clearfield, PA 10 May furnished an excellent local count (J. Keller).
rows were found widely, owing much to Breeding Bird Atlas fieldwork in Ohio, with 5 at three Hamilton sites 4 May (P. Wharton) and one until 25 May (SP), 2 at Taylorsville Metropark, Montgomery 20-21 May (BMr et al.), and 2 in Greene 10 May (DSn). A Lark that wintered in Berkeley, WV continued until 10 Mar (S. Rosch). A singing White-throat-ed Sparrow at Huntingdon, Cabell, WV 27 May was unusual (J. Northheimer, M. Keat-ley). Single Gambels White-crowned Sparrows were e. to P.I.S.P. 26 Apr (M. Franz) and Peace Valley Park, Bucks, PA 7-8 Mar (AM, H. Eskin). Harris's Sparrows are now regular visitors to Ohio; singles were in Huron 19-21 May (ph. D. Sheldon) and Holmes 27 Apr-3 May (V. Kline, m.ob.), while the wintering bird in Cashocton continued until 30 Apr (DY). Single Oregon Juncos were in Allen, OH 22 Apr (L. Houshower) and Somerset, PA 29 Mar (R. Ogburn). Lapland Longspur in Wyandot, OH numbered 1000 on 16 Mar (RC). Early Lincoln's Sparrows appeared in Franklin, OH 4 Apr (ST) and Hancock, OH 8 Apr (Rss); 3 at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center represented a high spring count for Northampton, PA 7 May (RW).

A remarkable 730 Snow Buntings could still be found 9 Mar in Richland, OH (GC), with up to 45 in Seneca, OH 15 Mar (Rss). A Dickcissel was an unexpected feeder visitor at Morgantown, Monongalia, WV 12 May (ph. D. Panacciasto); while at Oxford, Chester, PA at the end of May (D. Tallamay) were seasonally rare. Extralimital Blue Grosbeaks in Ohio were n. to Lucas 4-5 May (ph. Tsh, m.ob.) and Geauga 7-13 May (Swr, L. Gilbert, W. Hatch), and an early migrant was in Montgomery 13 Apr (S. Neubauer). Indigo Buntings in Bucks, PA 28 Mar (M. Corn) and at P.I.S.P. 9 Apr were early (JM); one that wintered in Swarthmore, Delaware, PA continued until 1 May (JM). Extralimital Summer Tanagers in Pennsylvania were singles at Swarthmore College, Delaware 4 May (L. Lewis), Buffalo, Allegheny 6 May (J. Pemberton), Chickies Rock, Lancaster 10 May (CR, A. Stuckert), MaKa Nature Center, Montgomery 10 May (M. Rosengarten), and Franklin, Venango 24 May (N. Baker), plus 2 in Erie 17-25 May (B & P. Zelnak, R. Stringer, MV). Western Tanagers in Pennsylvania were at Heinz, Philadelphia and Delaware 13-15 Apr (m.ob., ph.) and Waterford, Erie 4-5 May (J & T. Cunningham, ph. JM). Two or 3 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in Ottawa, OH 17 Apr (KK, P. Palcini, RN, m.ob.); one at P.I.S.P. 3 May (I. Fields, J. Barker) was away from the Western Basin. A flock of 390 Rusty Blackbirds and a female Brewer's Blackbird were at Quakertown Swamp, Bucks, PA 7 Apr (B. Etter). Other single Brewer's were in Lucas, OH 13 Mar (KK), Wayne, OH 22 Mar (A. Yoder, DY), and Delaware, OH 20 Mar (Jks). Late Evening Grosbeaks were reported in Lake, OH 19-21 May (JP). Many observers enjoyed redpolls throughout Mar, with up to 50 at a Toledo feeder as late as 2 Apr (GL); one there that lingered until 16 Apr established a new record-date for nw. Ohio. Common Redpolls lingered in Mahoning, OH 19-24 Apr (RL), and 2 were in Indiana, PA 10 May (D. Clark). The Hoary Redpoll in Holmes, OH continued until 26 Mar (LY), while in Pennsylvania, single Hoaries were at Edinboro, Erie 18 Mar (D. Snyder) and Milk Can Corners, Susquehanna until 27 Mar (H. Flavell). Finally inexplicably, single Red and White-winged Crossbills were at Oak Openings, Lucas, OH 24 May (AB, P. Rodewald, J. Kuczenl, SL).

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The season was cool and wet, with strong fronts producing gusty winds. It was the tenth wettest spring on record, with much of the rain occurring early and late in the season. In southern Illinois, floodwaters provided excellent habitat for shorebirds, while many popular shorebird areas were simply too deep. Although there were a number of very early arrivals, the early push gave way to a delayed migration as a whole, and many observers commented that spring was 10 days or more behind schedule, especially regarding vegetation. The season produced a wealth of rarities, including many unusual flycatchers, with Indiana's first Fork-tailed Flycatcher among them. Especially evident were species associated with more southerly latitudes, such as Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Glossy Ibis, and notable was a continued expansion of Black-necked Stilts and White-winged Doves into the Region.

Abbreviations: Carlyle (Carlyle, IL, s. IL); Chautauqua (Lake Chautauqua N.W.R.); Dunes (Dunes S.P., Porter, IN); EWA (Fish and Wildlife Area); Goose Pond (Goose Pond EWA, Greene, IN); Montrose (Montrose Pt., Lincoln Park, Chicago).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck reports included 11 in Clay, IL 7 May (CLH, RES) and 8 in DeWitt, IL in May, where 2 stayed for several weeks (ph. BW); there were six prior reports in the Region. Good counts of Greater White-fronted Geese included 2507 at Chautauqua 7 Mar (R&SB) and Indiana's all-time spring high of 1700 at Goose Pond 11 Mar (LWS). Also notable were 80,000 Snow Geese between Carlyle and Santa Fe Bottoms 1 Mar (DMK) and 17 Ross's Geese in Kankakee, IL 5 & 10 Mar (JBH). Indiana's first blue-morph Ross's Goose was at Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area 9 Mar (MLR, MH). A record-high spring count of 18 Trumpeter Swans came from Winnebago, IL 16 Mar (DTW, LGB). The 55 Tundra Swans at Emiquon N.W.R., Mason, IL 20 Mar (LLH) also represented a strong tally.

A male Eurasian Wigeon was in McLean, IL 2-4 Apr (MEE, ph. DMK et al.). A male Cinnamon Teal was a one-day wonder in nw. Henry, IL 13 Apr (ph. EWW), while a Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid was at Willow Slough F.W.A. 16-23 Mar (JBH, EMH). A noteworthy 4664 Northern Pintails were at Chautauqua 7 Mar (R&SB). Two wintering Harlequin Ducks at the Port of Indiana remained through 23 Mar (JCK), a male in Chicago stayed until 9 Mar (TK, KB, RLS), and a female was on the Mississippi R. in Rock Island, IL 13 Apr (EWW). The scoter flight was impressive. Among 22 inland Surf Scoters was a 2nd report for Kosciusko, IN 10 May (S&CD), while along the lakefront, 42 at Beverly Shores, IN 26 Apr (BJG) furnished a record high spring count for the state; elsewhere, 13 were at Illinois Beach S.P. 27 Apr (RDH), and 9 at Beverly Shores, IN 10 May (KJB, JJM) represented Indiana's highest ever May tally. An unprecedented seasonal total of 478 White-winged Scoters was reported along the Indiana lakefront, including 32 in Lake, IL 1 Mar (DF'S), 35 at several Indiana locations 2 Mar (SRB, KJB, JKC), an astounding 90 birds at Hammond-Whiting, IN 5 Mar (JCK, MB), and 30 at Waukegan, IL 29 May.

&napolis 24 May (RFB). Long-tailed Ducks made a good showing, with 7 noted inland and 95 reported along L. Michigan, including 52 at Dunes 28 Apr (BJG). Providing Illinois's best spring tally in 12 years were 139 Hooded Mergansers at Chautauqua 7 Mar (R&SB).

At Prairie Ridge S.N.A., Marion, IL, 44 Greater Prairie-Chickens were noted 10 Mar (RES). The total of 80 Wild Turkeys at Pyramidal S.P., Perry, IL 21 Mar (DMK) was notably high. An unprecedented 69 Red-throated Loons were reported along the lakefront, with 24 at Dunes 19 Apr (BJG). The lone report away from L. Michigan was one at Carlyle 19 Apr (DMK, MS). A Pacific Loon was present in Gibson, IN 10-11 May (BF's, CEM, file GB). An impressive 349 Common Loons in Lake and McHenry, IL 4 Apr (DBJ) provided a record count for Illinois. Also impressive were 120 Horned Grebes at Baldwin L., Randolphp, IL 21 Mar (DMK). Regional totals of 6 Red-necked Grebes and 10 Eared Grebes were reported.

PELLICANS THROUGH RAILS

Seven American White Pelicans at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL 18 Feb were early migrants (KAM), a tally of 8 American Bitterns at Goose Pond 19 Apr (JID) provided Indiana's 3rd best count. An early Least Bittern was heard calling at The Nature Conservancy Kankakee Sands, Newton, IN 19 Apr (JCK). The 54 Snowy Egrets at Willard, IL 26 May (EWW) were notable. A Little Blue Heron at Goose Pond 2 Apr (JBS) was early, and the 119 at Horseshoe Lake C.A. 23 Apr, Alexander, IL (KAM) furnished Illinois's largest
while 2 Plegadis at Montrose 20 May (RDH) were not identified to species.

A Black Vulture was unusual for Putnam, IN 11 Apr (DW et al.). Straying northward was a Mississippi Kite at Lake Forest, IL 30 May (CG). The Region’s sole Northern Goshawk was at East Fork L., Richland, IL 6 Mar (CLH). A light-morph Rough-legged Hawk was observed at Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, DuPage, IL 3 & 18 May (JS), the latter date providing the 2nd latest report for Illinois. A Golden Eagle tarried at L. Lemon, Brown, IN 3 May (DRW et al.). Of the wintering Merlins in Sullivan, IN, 7 remained until 1 Mar (LWS, JID, JBS), and 4 were still there 20 Mar (LWS). The juv. Prairie Falcon that wintered at Hawthorn Mine, Sullivan, IN continued until 20 Mar (JBS, JID, DRW, MJ et al.), and one was seen in Coles, IL 12 Mar (TDF, RF). Most unusual was a Prairie Falcon reported in Brown, IL 10 May (p.a., MPW, TW); this and a Fayette, IL report 16 May 2007 avian review and would constitute the two latest occurrences in the Region. Although the 7 Yellow Rails reported from Illinois provided a good total, it was much reduced from the numbers observed the past two spring seasons. A Black Rail was at Goose Pond 29 May (BF, file LWS), and 4 King Rails were there 23 May (LWS, JcSH). There were 11 reports of King Rail in Illinois.

SHOREBIRDS

There was a fine flight of shorebirds in the Region this season, with many species passing through early and in good numbers. Two Black-bellied Plovers found in a flock of American Golden-Plovers in Knox 23 Mar (GB, LB) provided Indiana’s earliest report and the 2nd for Mar. The Region’s only Piping Plover was at Hammond, IN 2 May (KN). Indiana’s 2nd earliest report of Semipalmated Plover was furnished by one at Goose Pond 6 Apr (LWS).

Three American Avocets at Goose Pond 9 Apr (p.a. CD, LWS et al.) represented the 2nd earliest Indiana report. An exceptional tally of 101 Spotted Sandpipers came from Chautauqua 9 May (R&SB). Indiana’s highest tally of Greater Yellowlegs on record was 254 at Goose Pond 15 Apr (LWS). A fine flight of Willets included 30 in e. Monroe, IN 1 May (DD) and 40 at Montrose 2 May (RDH). Upland Sandpipers were reported in excellent numbers, including 6 at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie 10 May (CMA) and 5 in St. Joseph, IN 15 May (V&SML). The Region’s only Whimbrel was seen in Brown, IL 9 May (MPW, TW). Among 10 Hudsonian Godwits were 5 at Earlville, IL 15 May (EWW). The peak count of Marbled Godwits was 7 at Goose Pond 1 May (LWS, JCK). The Region’s 5 Red Knots included 3 at Great Lakes Naval Training Center 29 May (BS, file DRD). A Sanderling at Montrose 24 Apr (AB) was early. A notable 4500 Pectoral Sandpipers were in Greene, IN 2 Apr (DRW, JMM). The 37 Long-billed Dowitchers at Massac, IL 7 Mar (FKB) formed a large group for such an unusually early date. The 69 Long-billed Dowitchers in Indiana represented the highest spring total ever and included 20 at West Lafayette 23 Apr (EMH) and 20 in Lake 26 Apr (JMM et al.). A basic-plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher at the L. Decatur dredge ponds, Mazon, IL 13 May (TAM) was tardy. A good phalarope flight included 9 Wilson’s in Ogle, IL 9 May (EWW) and a strong Regional total of 6 Red-necked.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Among a good number of Laughing Gulls was a first county report for Delaware, IN 1 May (WG) and 2 at Great Lakes Naval Training Center 6 May (DRD). A Franklin’s Gull at Indianapolis 23 Mar (LP) provided the 4th Mar report for Indiana. Only 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted in Indiana, but a group of 9 at Winthrop Harbor 29 Mar (EWW) tied Illinois’ record high count. The ad. Glaucous-winged Gull discovered at Carlyle in Sep 2007 continued until 12 Apr (m.o.). A Black-legged Kittiwake at Waukegan 10 May (p.a. RDH) provided the 10th spring report for Illinois. A nice tally of 16 Least Terns came from Urbandale, Alexander, IL 24 May (DMK, MS), while the report of only one Least Tern from Indiana was probably due to the movement of the Gibson colony to an inaccessible L. Gibson site (file GB). Very early arriving Caspian Terns included one at Dunes 23 May (BJG), one at se. Chicago 25-26 Mar (CAM, WJG), and another at Carlyle 30 May (DMK, MS). Huge number of Caspians were reported along L. Michigan: 848 during 40 minutes near dawn at Evanston, IL 10 May (JJE) and 593 at Great Lakes Naval Training Center 12 May (DRD). A survey of the Caspian colony at Miltal Steel in nw. Indiana yielded 391 nests 28 May (JSC). Common Terns had a very poor flight in Indiana, with only 10% of the average number reported.

A count of 182 Eurasian Collared-Doves in Madison, IL 10 May (FRH) provided the largest spring total ever for Illinois. For the 10th consecutive spring, White-winged Doves visited the Region, with birds at Urbana, IL 12 Apr (p.a. RFBo, EJC, Ph. HP) and Valparaiso, IN 19-21 Apr (B&G, Ph. PBG). Monk Parakeets were noted at three different Lake, IN locations 17 Mar (CAM). A rufous-morph male Whippoorwill in Lake, IL 19 Apr (JCK, SRB, RJF, KJB) was notable. The LaGrange, IN Barn Owl continued until 5 Mar (JCK). Among 5 other Barn Owls were one of Goose Pond 11 Mar (LWS) and 2 in Edwards, IL 20 Apr (RES, CLH). Long-eared Owls at Montrose 27 Apr (DA) and Hammond Sanctuary 3 May (JCK, JMM, LP) were...
late to depart. The Indiana lakefront’s earliest ever—Ruby-throated Hummingbird was noted at Dunes 17 Apr (JJC). The 42 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Jackson Park, Chicago 9 Apr (PRC) provided the 2nd highest spring tally for Illinois.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Montgomery, IN 6 May (CCM) and a Acadian Flycatcher at Hammond, IN 3 May (KJB, JKC, LSH) were early. A Say’s Phoebe at Dunes 22 Apr (KJB, BB, BJG, PBG) provided the 6th Indiana record. Indiana’s earliest Great Crested Flycatcher on record was in Clark 20 Mar (JcPB). The season’s most significant flycatcher find was an unidentified Myiarchus at Carlyle 4 May (ph., †DMK, MS); the field marks are currently thought by experts to best fit Brown-crested Flycatcher. The 8 Western Kingbirds reported were confined to s. Illinois, except for one at Dunes 31 May (BJG). An Eastern Kingbird in Boone 7 Apr (ABR, MR) was early, and the 65 Eastern Kingbirds at Horseshoe L, Madison 10 May (FRH) provided Illinois’ best spring count ever. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Murphysboro, IL 27 Mar (ph DM) was rather early; another was at Miller Beach, Lake, IN 16 May (MT). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher found during Breeding Bird Atlas fieldwork in Owen 31 May–2 Jun (DA, DRW, †KesH, m.o.b.) was Indiana’s first.

The latest of a good number of Northern Shrikes was noted in St Joseph, IN 30 Mar (JoC). White-eyed Vireos at Carlyle 20 Mar (Jide DMK) and Mermet L., Massac, IL 31 Mar (KAM) were quite early. An extraliminal Bell’s Vireo was singing in Allen, IN 29 May (JAH). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Carlyle 22-24 Mar (DMK, MS, KAM) was record early for Illinois. Philadelphia Vireos had the poorest spring flight in Indiana in eight years. Two Fish Crows at Montrose 12 May (RDH, †GAW) were unusually far north. Early swallows included a Purple Martin at Pulaski, IL 1 Mar (FKB), a Northern Rough-winged Swallow in Clark 21 Mar (TsCB) that tied Indiana’s earliest arrival date, and a Cliff Swallow at Metropolis, IL 25 May (KAM). Indiana experienced its best ever flight of Red-breasted Nuthatch, of which several remained through the season. A Bewick’s Wren was noted in Knox, IL 20 Apr (†DJM), and 2 were at Siloam Springs S.P., Adams, IL 18 May (ph. BH, MAM, APS). An excellent count of 80 House Wrens came from Bureau, IL 10 May (DFS). A Winter Wren in Lake, IL 23 May (DRD) was the latest in a rather poor season.

The thrush flight was quite weak, with poor numbers noted for most species. Gray-cheeked Thrushes arrived early in the Region, with Illinois’ earliest noted in Sangamon 11 Apr (HDB). Indiana’s earliest Swainson’s Thrush on record was in Clark 21 Mar (TsCB). Also early was a Swainson’s Thrush at Carlyle 12 Apr (DMK, MS). The 40 Brown Thrashers at Carlyle 20 Apr (DMK) made a notable tally. An impressive flight of American Pipits included 600 at Carlyle 13 Apr (DMK), and 217 at Goose Pond 25 Mar (LWS); 2 in St Joseph, IN 24 May (JJM) were late. Two reports of Sprague’s Pipits included 3 at Pyramid S.P., IL 21 Mar (†DMK) and 2 in Clinton, IL 20 Apr (†DMK, MS). The winter invasion of Bohemian Waxwings was in evidence through 31 Mar, when 5 were observed at Dunes (JJC).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS

The warbler migration was most notable for the spate of early arrivals. Very early were Northern Parulas Mar at Carlyle 22-24 Mar (KAM, DMK, MS) and in Putnam, IN 29 Mar (WhM). Record early by one day for n. Illinois was a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Chicago 26 Apr (CMA), followed by another in Cook 27 Apr (WJM). Peak Illinois counts of 4 Bay-breasted Warblers and 6 Blackpoll Warblers reflected a poor flight of both species. An exceptional tally of 11 Connecticut Warblers, along with 13 Mourning Warblers, came from Urbana, IL 26 May (GSL). Indiana’s 3rd earliest Mourning Warbler was seen at Evansville 24 Apr (TG). Four separate Hooded Warblers in Illinois arrived earlier than the previous record date, led by one at Jackson 21 Mar (LW). The others were observed at Carlyle 22-24 Mar (ph. KAM, DMK, MS), in Union 25 Mar (KAM), and at Ft. Massac 25 Mar (KAM). A Wilson’s Warbler at Indianapolis 25 Mar (JCr) provided Indiana’s 2nd earliest arrival date, and a Canada Warbler at Pomona 25 Apr (KAM, MS) was the 3rd earliest for Illinois.

A female Summer Tanager in Floyd, IN 13 Apr (ph. TsCB) was early. Male Western Tanagers at Furnessville, IN 3-5 May (D&SMC, JKC, JJM, KJB et al.) and Mahomet, IL 27-28 May (ph. DiSMa, †FJC, ph. HP), both visiting feeders, represent Indiana’s 4th record and Illinois’ 4th in the last 10 years, respectively. A male Spotted Towhee visited Montrose 12 May (EK, GAW et al.). In Indiana, Clay-colored Sparrows are rare away from the lakefront, but singles were found in Huntington, Tippecanoe, Monroe, and Boone. A nice tally of 12 Clay-colored Sparrows on eight breeding territories came from Rockton, IL 26 May (DTW). A Vesper Sparrow at Prairie Ridge S.N.A., Marion, IN 9 Mar (DMK) was early. A good total of 136 Savannah Sparrows were reported at Chicago 17 May (GAW). An early Henslow’s Sparrow was at Grassy Slough Preserve, Johnson, IL 31 Mar (KAM). Le Conte’s Sparrows, first noted at Clinton L. 12 Apr (TDF et al.), arrived more than three weeks behind schedule. Le Conte’s and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows were not reported in Indiana. Although Harris’s Sparrow went unreported from Indiana, 9 in Illinois furnished the best total since 2002. Late Dark-eyed Juncos included birds at Galesburg, IL 28 May (PR) and Chicago’s Jackson Park 29 May (RSL). A nice tally of 900 Lapland Longspurs came from Kankakee, IL 28 Mar (JBB), while 10 in Porter, IN 10 May (BGG, NG, PBG) were quite late. The Smith’s Longspur flight was poor, with a peak count of 50 in Champaign, IL 19 Apr (SDB et al.). There were 350 Snow Buntings tallied in Kankakee, IL 28 Mar (JBB).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder at Newburgh 8 Mar (KG) was Indiana’s 3rd earliest. Single Blue Grosbeaks at two feeders at Evansville 13 Apr (StH, SS) provided Indiana’s earliest report on record, and a county first for Warobb, IN 5 May (LF) marked the species’ northward range expansion. A nice count of 8 Blue Grosbeaks came from Wildcat Bluff, Johnson, IL 24 May (DMK, MS). A male Painted Bunting at East St. Louis, IL 9 May (KAM) was expected, but males at feeders w. of Rockton, IL 28 Apr–2 May (RC, ph. MK) and at Harrisburg, IL 13 May (ph. KS) were surprising. The 120 Boholinks tallied at Goose Pond 11 May (DRW et al.) furnished Indiana’s 2nd highest spring count. Noteworthy was a Yellow-headed Blackbird at a feeder in Porter, IN 6 May (PK). Yellow-headed Blackbirds arrived late and were seen in smaller numbers than typical in Illinois, the
earliest a male in Boone 20 Apr (RB). A tardy Rusty Blackbird was at East Cape Girardeau, IL 26 Apr (KAM, MS). The peak count of Brewer's Blackbirds in an unprecedented flight of 50 throughout Indiana was 25 at Goose Pond 16 Mar (DRW).

Purple Finches were reported in very high numbers, with 23 in w. Monroe, IN 13 Apr (SRE) providing the high count. A female-type seen in Brown, WI through 25 May (JSH) furnished the latest among a number of lingering birds. It was an excellent spring for Red Crossbills in Indiana, with 8 at Dean L., Clark 15 Mar (T&CB), 8 or more at a feeder at Henryville, Clark, 11 May (KGS), and as many as 9 at a feeder at Scipio 31 Mar-14 May (Shi, fide JSC), the first report for Jennings. Four Red Crossbills were in Washington, IL 22 Mar (MS). The winter redpoll invasion was reflected in a strong spring flight, with 30 Commons continuing at Chicago Botanic Gardens 15 Mar (KAM) and 13 at River Forest, IL 24 Mar (JSA). A Common Redpoll at Montrose 7 Apr (RDH) represented the latest spring departure for Illinois since 1996. The Hoary Redpoll at a feeder at Calumet Park, IL continued to 20 Mar (MG, CMA, SF, ph. WSS, TWJM). A good candidate for a Hoary Redpoll was found at a feeder at River Forest, IL 22-24 Mar (ph. JSA). There were 20 Pine Siskins at Urbana, IL 20 Mar (EJC) and 19 at Dunes 14 Mar (BB, JCK). Pine Siskins lingered beyond the season at three Illinois locations. Two Evening Grosbeaks photographed at Michigan City, IN 22 Apr (ph. LJ, fide LSH) furnished the Indiana lakefront's first spring record since 1998; 2 other grosbeaks at a feeder at Burns Harbor, Porter, IN 18 May (WM) were late.

Corrigendum: The Cape May Warbler 17 Jun 2007 noted in the summer 2007 report (N.A.B. 61: 587) should be credited to Barbara C. Williams.


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Western Great Lakes

Adam M. Byrne

The Region experienced below-normal temperatures in March. April brought some heavy snowfall, prolonging the winter and delaying spring migration. Precipitation totals in Michigan's Upper Peninsula were double the norm; Marquette received nearly 102 cm of snow in April, about 83 cm above the monthly norm, and had 50 cm on the ground through 16 April. May precipitation levels were near normal, but temperatures remained cool; ice-out on the northern Great Lakes was a week or two behind historical averages.

WATERFOWL

Wisconsin witnessed its best showing of Greater White-fronted Geese, with dozens of reports totaling more than 1000 birds. Minnesota had a high count of 5500 Greater White-fronteds in Jackson 15 Mar (PEJ), while Michigan had a below-average 7 geese in four counties. Ross's Geese were found in 22 counties in Minnesota and nine in Wisconsin, while singles in Michigan were in Grand Traverse 13-31 Mar and Huron 5 Apr (SJ, KO). A Brant (subspecies hrota) lingered at Duluth, St. Louis, MN 19-27 May (m.o.h.). Cackling Geese were observed in 42 of Minnesota's 87 counties, including county firsts in Renville and Rock. A male Eulassian Wigeon was in Dane, WI 15-16 Mar (ST). The only Cinnamon Teal reports were in Minnesota, ad. males in Hennepin 7 Apr (SP, CMB, BAF, DAC) and Polk 26 Apr (ALD, KRE). A count of 3416 Greater Scaup at Duluth 29 Apr
(PHS) was Minnesota’s 2nd highest total. The male Harlequin Duck continued along the Mississippi R. in Dakota and Washington, MN and Pierce, WI until 3 Apr (BAF). Another Harlequin lingered in Sheboygan, WI until 2 Mar (TW), while 2 others were at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa, MI 2 May. Unusual for inland Wisconsin were five reports of Surf Scoters, Minnesota’s only report was of 2 in Goodhue 4 May (BL). Away from L. Superior, there were 10 White-winged Scoters in Big Stone, MN 5 Apr (DRB et al.) and one in Mower 12-14 Apr. Black Scoters were more prevalent than usual in Michigan, with at least 23 birds in eight counties; in Minnesota, singles were in Meeker 29 Apr (DMF) and Todd 15 May (BWF), and one or 2 females were at Duluth. A coordinated lakewatch along Michigan’s L. Michigan shoreline totaled 3311 Long-tailed Ducks 8 Mar (Jude CF), while Wisconsin’s highest total was 1500 in Manitowoc 9 Mar (CS). Barlow’s Goldeneyes continued in Wisconsin in Pierce 1 Mar (DJ) and Manitowoc 2 Mar (CS), while one of the males in Minnesota lingered in Wabasha until 4 Mar (BAF, PD). Noteworthy for Michigan’s Upper Peninsula were 5 Ruddy Ducks in Baraga 18 May (TA).

**GROUSE THROUGH FALCONS**

Spruce Grouse are furtive residents in n. portions of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, so one in Crawford 25 May (WW) was noteworthy; other singles were in Wisconsin in Vilas 16 Mar (TW) and Forest 23 Mar (T&EB). Numbers of Red-throated Loons peaked at 20 at L. Superior, Duluth, MN 6 May (PHS, KRE), while one in Douglas 20 Apr (p.a., JPE) was unusual inland. It was an excellent season in Wisconsin for Red-throats, with 16 reports from L. Michigan and L. Superior. There were fewer reported in Michigan, certainly due to the lack of an official waterbird count at Whitefish Pt. Pacific Loons grazed Minnesota’s Olmsted 11 Apr (RLE, m.ob.) and St. Louis 27-29 May (CMB, PHS), while one was in Michigan at Marquette 26 May+ (GS, SH). Late ice-out led to the accumulation of Horned Grebes on lakes in Minnesota’s Twin Cities, where 438 were tallied on two lakes in Hennepin 20 Apr (DKW); the state’s maximum was 902 at Duluth 6 May (PHS). Even more impressive were the 900 Red-necked Grebes at Colby L., St. Louis 22 Apr (ALE), equaling the state’s 2nd highest total. Eared Grebes were reported in eight counties in Michigan and six in Wisconsin. The wintering Western Grebe in Walworth, WI was last reported 1 Apr (WR) Clark’s Grebes were reported from five Minnesota counties, including a first county report in Blue Earth 17 May (CH, RMD).

An American White Pelican in Winnibago 14 Mar (AR) set a new early arrival record for Wisconsin. Michigan hosted its first Neotropic Cormorant in Ottawa 5-20 May (CF, m.ob.). Southern heron reports were again sparse Regionwide. Wisconsin reported no Snowy Egrets for the first time in 15 years, and no state reported Little Blue Herons, Tricolored Herons, or Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Six Snowy Egrets in Minnesota were below average, while 4 Snowies in Michigan was an average number. A Glossy Ibis and 3 White-faced Ibis were in Allegan, MI 6 May (FF), while another Plegadis was observed in Bay, MI (p.a., SG). A White-faced visited Steele, MN 24-25 May (AEB, LA, NFT).

**VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS**

Wisconsin’s 8th Black Vulture was in Door 15 Mar (p.a., SP). Kites in Minnesota were the state’s 2nd White-tailed Kite in Mower 4 May (BP) and a Mississippi Kite in Hennepin 3 May (p.a., MO). A Swainson’s Hawk was in Green Lake, WI 3 May (TS), while Michigan reported 5 Swainson’s in three counties. The only Ferruginous Hawks were in Minnesota, one imm. in Sherburne and Stearns 3 May (MCA et al.) and an ad. in Marshall 22 May (PHS). Michigan’s 3rd Prairie Falcon was in Huron 3 Apr (MKE), while there were reports in four counties in Minnesota.

Noteworthy for Michigan were flocks of 25 American Golden-Plovers in Hillsdale 19 Apr (JR) and 10 in Saginaw 25 Apr (LA). Wisconsin’s 2nd Snowy Plover was in Green Lake 27 May (TS). Above average were 7 Piping Plovers each in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It was a banner year in Wisconsin for large shorebirds, with good numbers of American Avocets, Willets, Whimbrels, and Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, more than 400 Whimbrels were reported, including a flock of 150 in Door 24 May (MM). Equally impressive was a Long-billed Curlew in Juncos 18 May (EE), the state’s first in more than 25 years. Michigan also reported above-average numbers of Willets and Marbled Godwits, as well as an unusual report from the w. side of the state of 43 Whimbrels in Muskegon 18 May (PV, m.ob.). In Minnesota, a high count of 78 Whimbrels was tallied in Cook 24 May (DFN), and new county records were established for Long-billed Curlews in Big Stone 17 May (DPG), and for Marbled Godwits in Itasca 15 May (EE). A count of 105 Rudy Turnstones at Point Mouillee S.G.A., Monroe, MI 25 May (AMB) was exceptional. There were 19 Red Knots in Michigan, including 13 at Tawas Point S.P., Joos 25 May (JD). Six knots in Minnesota were all in the Duluth area, while Wisconsin reported 8 birds from two counties. Noteworthy in Wisconsin were a Western Sandpiper in Dodge 6 May (JS) and a Ruff in Green Lake 17-18 May (TS). Rare in Berrien, MI were a Stilt Sandpiper 3-4 May (JW, m.ob.) and 3 Long-billed Dowitchers 2 May (AM). Wilson’s Phalarope...
numbers were well above average in Michigan, while Red-necked Phalaropes were reported from two counties in Michigan and five in Wisconsin.

**GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS**
The only Laughing Gull was in Monroe, MI 26 May (AMB). Little Gulls in Minnesota were single ads. in Chipewa and Lac Qui Parle 26-27 Apr (RBW, BJU) and at Duluth 6 May (PHS, KRE); Little gulls in Wisconsin in Dodge 17 (DT) & 27 Apr (LM) may have represented the same birds. Minnesota set a new high count of 7,782 Bonapartes Gulls at Duluth 6 May (K&CR), while Michigan’s peak was 1,300 in Chipewa 10 May. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from 11 Wisconsin counties, while Minnesota had only one in St. Louis 15-19 Apr (SLF). The wintering ad. Slaty-backed Gull in the Duluth, MNSuperior, WI area was last reported 12 Apr (PHS). Michigan’s 2nd Glaucous-winged Gull made a brief visit to Berrien 2 May (p.a., TB, AMB, MH, CP). A Black-legged Kittiwake in Manitowoc, WI 1 May (CS) furnished the state’s 3rd spring report. The only jaeger reports were 2 unidentified birds at Duluth 24 May (DWK, JLO, MO) and one at Whitefish Pt, Chipewa, MI 25 May.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue their expansion across Minnesota, with reports from 26 counties. In contrast, Wisconsin had collared-doves in only four counties, and Michigan had no reports. The only White-winged Dove was in Cook, MN 18-22 Apr (SHj). Snowy Owls were scarce, with 2 in Brown, WI 1 Mar (BS) and one in Midland, MI 13 Mar (GB). No Northern Hawk Owls were reported. A Burrowing Owl was in Clay, MN 20 May (+, DR, CMN, PHS). Single Boreal Owls in Minnesota were in Lake of the Woods 1 Mar (GA) and Aitkin 1-12 Mar (K&CR). Away from Whitefish Pt, where 64 were banded, there were 2 different Boreals in Houghton, MI 26 Mar (AP, JS, MHE) and 2 May (NNMA). An amazing 1023 Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported at Whitefish Pt. 16 Apr, with a peak of 112 on 21 Apr (CN, NM). Chuck-will’s widows returned for their 4th consecutive year in both Berrien, MI 8 May (MB, m.ob.) and Jackson, WI 14 May (AP).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS**
American Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported in four Minnesota counties. Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported region-wide at their normal haunts, but 25 pairs in Baraga, MI (JY) furnished an impressive count. A Say’s Phoebe visited Cook, MN 25 Apr (LG). Western Kingbirds were in Berrien, MI 3 May (TB) and losco, MI 23 May (JZ). A first in Michigan was a Western Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hybrid in Alger 10 May (SHI). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were in three Wisconsin counties, with another in Delta, MI 25 Apr–3 May (p.a., SH). Bells Vireos were previously annual in Michigan, but one in Oakland 26 Apr–2 May (p.a., CB, m.ob.) would be the only 6th report since 1994; Minnesota had Bells Vireos in se. and s-cal. locations n. to Dakota. A Black-billed Magpie was in Bayfield, WI 18 May (TO, MD). Michigan’s first Violet-green Swallow frequented Marquette 27-29 Apr (p.a., SH, m.ob.).

Outside their normal range in se. Minnesota were single Tufted Titmouse in Martin 1-16 Mar and Anoka 13 Apr (HHF). Notable for Michigan’s Upper Peninsula were a Carolina Wren in Chipewa 26 May and a Rock Wren in Baraga and Houghton 22 May (TA) that provided the 8th state report (and 9th in the past 10 years). Minnesota’s only Carolina Wrens were in Ramsey 17 Mar–3 Apr (m.ob.), while there were nine reports in Wisconsin. Wisconsin’s first Bewick’s Wrens in more than 10 years were in Ozaukee 2 May (TU) and Monroe 6 May (EW), while one in Manistee 10 May (KW) furnished Michigan’s first report since 1993 and its 10th overall. The only Mountain Bluebird was in Mecher, MN 19 Apr (DFM). Townsend’s Solitaries lingered in five counties in Wisconsin, with one in Sheboygan until 19 Apr (DB), while others in Minnesota were in Ramsey until 13 Mar (DAC, RBJ) and singles at Duluth 7-13 (PHS) & 27 Apr (SS). The sole solitaire in Michigan was in Keweenaw 9 Mar (MHe). Impressive were 274 Hermit Thrushes at Duluth 27 Apr (PHS), equaling Minnesota’s 2nd highest total. Also in Minnesota were wintering Varied Thrushes in St. Louis until 16 Mar and 11-17 Apr, and Mille Lacs until 29 Mar (fide PHS). A record count of 34 Gray Catbirds was in Hennepin, MN 18 May (ALD). Bohemian Waxwings were reported in high numbers and s. of their normal range in Michigan, including 180 in Midland 31 Mar (MKE) and 120 in Berrien 2 Mar (EEN, DP). In Minnesota, there were 500 waxwings at Duluth 20 Apr (MC), with reports s. to Meeker and Stevens.

A Blue-winged Warbler in Schoolcraft, MI 29 May (LL) was n. of its expected range. Other warblers in Michigan were an early Chestnut-sided in Bay 26 Apr (SMa) and a Northern Parula in Berrien 16 Apr (WG). High counts in Minnesota included 48 Nashville Warblers in Scott and Dakota 16 May (BAF), 15 Northern Parulas each in Dakota 15 May (JPM) and Cook 24 May (AG), 53 Yellows in St. Louis 30 May (PHS), and 25 Black-throated Greens in Dakota 15 May (JPM). Casual in Minnesota was a Yellow-throated Warbler in Dakota 25 May (LW); 6 in five counties in Wisconsin were the most ever. Also in Wisconsin were 4 Kirtland’s Warblers in Adams 29 May (TS) and a phenomenal 7 Prairie Warblers in six counties. A Cerulean Warbler in Marquette, MI 22 May (BO, SH) was the area’s first report in more than 20 years. Also noteworthy was a Worm-eating Warbler in Delta 20 May (SH) and the Upper Peninsula’s 3rd Louisiana Waterthrush in Keweenaw 4 Apr (MS). Wisconsin’s 4 Worm-eating Warblers was a count slightly above average. Up to 8 Kentucky Warblers in three Michigan counties and 5 in three Minnesota counties were counts above the norm. A record-early Wilson’s Warbler was in Dane, WI 20 Apr (AS). The only Yellow-breasted Chat in Minnesota was in Mower 17 May (R&V), while 8 chats were in six counties in Wisconsin.

**TANAGERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES**
Summer Tanagers staged an impressive invasion in all three states: there were 13 in Michigan, including 6 in the Upper Peninsula; 7 in Minnesota, with new county reports in Aitkin, Blue Earth, Sibley, and Stearns; and 18 in 16 counties in Wisconsin, for its best showing ever. Six Western Tanagers were in as many counties in Minnesota, with other singles in Chipewa, MI 13 May (p.a., SH) and Dane, WI 6 May (MHo). The only Spotted Towhees were in Lac Qui Parle, MN, a male 1 May and female 13 May (BJU). At least 7 Lark Sparrows in five counties furnished a record spring total for Michigan (all p.a.). Also noteworthy were a male Lark Bunting in Houghton, MI 17-19 May (TA) and a Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Monroe, MI 26 May (AMB, BM). An impressive 192 Fox Sparrows were at Duluth, MN 27 Apr (PHS), with another flock of 102 at a feeder in Anoka, MN 12 Apr (CBr). Harris’s Sparrows were found in 15 counties in Wisconsin and four in Michigan. A record-early Lincoln’s Sparrow was in Nobles, MN 21 Mar (BTS). A Golden-crowned Sparrow visited a feeder in Cook, MN 28 Apr–2 May (DBr). Up to 4 Smith’s Longspurs were in Milwaukee, WI 27 Apr (JG), with two reports in Minnesota of 8 each in Lac Qui Parle 30 Apr (BJU) and Clay 4 May (PBB). Noteworthy in Wisconsin were a Black-headed Grosbeak in Bayfield 31 May (TO), a male Blue Grosbeak in Rock 17 May (DG), and a male Painted Bunting in Grant 12 May (RH). Buntings in Minnesota...
included a male Lazuli in Hennepin 21 May (p.a., SM) and a male Painted in Waushara 13 May (p.a., fde WP). Dickcissels were scarce this season; the only one in Michigan was in Berrien 17 May (BB).

Great-tailed Grackles were in four Minnesota counties. The number of Orchard Orioles in the Upper Peninsula was unprecedented, with at least 9 in four counties. The only Bullock’s Oriole was a male in Walworth, WI 25 Apr (RB). Numbers of crossbills and Pine Siskins were generally very low, but there were good numbers of Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls. Red Crossbills were in eight counties in n. Minnesota, including a high of 23 in Cass (BAW). A White-winged Crossbill was in Itasca, MN 14 May (JB). Wisconsin’s last Hoary Redpoll from the winter influx was in Ashland 13 Apr (RB). Three Hoaries were in Chippewa, MI 18 Mar–4 Apr, while others were in four counties in Minnesota. Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in moderate numbers in Michigan, and they were in 12 n. Minnesota counties plus 12 in Fillmore, where one lingered until 30 Apr (NBO). Single Eurasian Tree Sparrows were in Chippewa, MI 7–8 & 25–29 May.

Corrigenda: From spring 2007, delete the Ross’s Goose in Cass, MI 27 Mar and the Loggerhead Shrike in Berrien, MI 19 May. Also, change the Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Macomb, MI 26 May to a Nelson’s/Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow.


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NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS
WATERFOWL
Migration began with a large influx into the Region in early Mar, many waterfowl species were stalled in their onward migration in n. Iowa until mid-Apr because of cool weather. Large numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese passed through during the first half of Mar. Snow Geese peaked at 100,000 int Fremont, IA 1 Mar (KDY), 150,000 at Swan Lake N.W.R., Chariton, MO 5 Mar (SK), and 100,000 in Woodbury, IA 12 Mar (GLV). Ross’s Geese were also numerous and lingered at Squaw Creek until 4 May (TR) and in Guthrie, IA until 11 May (SJD, JG). Trumpeter Swans peaked at 32 in Hamilton, IA 9 Mar (SJD), and a sick bird remained at Squaw Creek until 4 May (TR). Tundra Swans were scarce, with none reported in Missouri and one or 2 at each of three Iowa sites 9-26 Mar. A male Eurasian Wigeon made a brief appearance at Swan L., Johnson, IA 14 Apr (TJLF). Cinnamon Teal had a good showing, with six Missouri reports 28 Mar-20 May; the latter an unusually late bird at Nodaway Valley C.A., Nodaway (MBR). Five teal in Iowa were all in the s. half of the state 22 Mar-18 May. Many puddle ducks, especially Gadwalls, Blue-winged Teal, and Northern Shovelers, lingered in above-normal numbers in both states, presumably to breed as a result of the abundant temporary wetlands. The only scoter reports were from Iowa: 5 Surfs 28 Mar-10 May and 2 White-wingeds 29 Mar-9 Apr. Long-tailed Ducks were reported from both states with a late female at Mingo L., Nodaway, MO 23-29 Apr (DE) and five Iowa reports of one or 2 birds 3 Mar-23 Apr. Lingering diving ducks included a Bufflehead at Bob Brown C.A., Holt, MO 3 May (RM, LW) and a Common Goldeneye at Swan L., Carroll, IA until 28 May (MTW).

GROUSE THROUGH RAPTORS
Greater Prairie-Chickens continue to decline, as indicated by reports from traditional leks in Missouri, and approximately 10 males at Iowa’s only known lek at Kellerton Bird Conservation Area, Ringgold (m.o.b.). Northern Bobwhites probably suffered this past winter at the n. edge of their range in s. Iowa, where numbers were down dramatically from a year ago (m.o.b.). A Red-throated Loon at Maffitt Res., Dallas, IA 4-5 May (JG, ph) highlighted a good season for loons that also included 2 Pacific Loons at Table Rock L., Stone, MO 16 Mar (MT) and a Pacific at Amana L., Iowa, IA 14 Apr (TJLF). The 53 Horned Grebes at Table Rock L., Stone, MO 16 Mar (MT) furnished an excellent spring total; pairs lingered in Pecahontas, IA until 17 May (JG) and Nodaway, MO until 18 May (MBR). All five Red-necked Grebe reports were in Iowa 16 Apr-24 May. Eared Grebes had a good flight in both states, mainly in the w. part of the Region; one at Otter Slough C.A., Stoddard, MO 10 May (JWE, JFU, JPM) was late and unusually far east. There were six Western Grebe reports in Iowa 22 Apr-28 May, slightly above average for spring.

American White Pelicans lingered through the season in both states, with 200 at Riverlands 31 May (JWE). Iowa’s 4th Neotropic Cormorant, an imm., was present near River- ton, Fremont 3-6 May (ph, TJJD). Good numbers of Double-crested Cormorants included 1000 at Smithville L., Clay/Clinton, MO 1 Apr (KM, SK, LL) and 1800 at L. Colchester, Warren, IA 11 Apr (JG). Both bitterns were widely reported in the Region, perhaps a harbinger of a good breeding season. Extralimital “southern” herons included 6 Snowy Egrets in Iowa 16 Apr-3 May and single Little Blue Herons at Aldo Leopold W.A., Bremer, IA 7 May (Jackie Nooker) and Union Ridge C.A., Adair, MO 8 May (PW). Cattle Egrets were deemed scarce in Missouri (KM) but were more numerous than normal in Iowa, with groups of up to 34 after 18 Apr. Single Glossy Ibis, now seemingly annual during spring, were reported at Horseshoe L. and Buchanan, MO 18 Apr-6 May (LL, SK, ph, Jack Hillsabeck), Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO 10 May (PM, Brad Jacobs), and Riverton 18 May (TJFD). White-faced ibises were widespread in the w. part of the Region, beginning with one in Hancock, IA 12 Apr (AB, JG); impressive counts included 62 at Diel Wetlands, Warren, IA 19-20 Apr (AB et al.) and 57 at Squaw Creek 26 Apr (DE).

The 100 Black Vultures seen leaving a roost in Taney, MO 16 Mar possibly represents a record high number for the Region (MT). Missouri’s first definitive White-tailed Kite was seen at Columbia Bottom C.A., St. Louis 3 May (Dick Colles, John Soloher, BR, m.o.b.). Iowa recorded its earliest Mississippi Kites ever, singles in Page 30 Apr (KDY) and Polh 1 May (Jeff Karnicky). A Northern Goshawk continued at Clive until 1 Mar (Darwin Koenig). It was a good spring for Red-shouldered Hawks, with breeding confirmed in Clay, MO (IW, KM), Black Hawk, IA (DP), and Lucas, IA (AB); many other Red-shouldereders were reported w. of their traditional breeding range, especially in s. Iowa. A lackluster flight of Swainson’s Hawks included reports of as many as 19 birds 7 Apr-20 May primarily in the w. part of the Region. Six Merlins in Missouri and 16 in Iowa constituted good spring totals, with the latest at Dunbar Slough, Greene, IA 15 May (SJD). A single Prairie Falcon was reported in Dallas, IA until 8 Mar (JG).

Table: Abbreviations: Riverlands (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Riverton (Riverton W.A., Fremont, IA); Squaw Creek (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Hol, MO).
RAILS THROUGH TERNS
There were 2 Black Rails in Stoddard, MO 3-10 May (tCBa, m.ob.). Three Iowa reports of Yellow Rail 23 Apr-7 May spanned their typical migration window. The only King Rail was one at Cooley Lake C.A., Clay, MO 28 May (DW). Impressive numbers of migrant American Coots stalled in both states in mid-Apr, with 10,000 at Squaw Creek 13 Apr (KM) and 9100 at Sunken Grove L., Pocahontas, IA 13 Apr (SJF). Sandhill Cranes returned in numbers to traditional Iowa nesting locales by late Mar; a presumed nesting pair also returned to Squaw Creek, where they were seen after 16 Apr (TR, DE). A juv. Whoooping Crane, hatched in 2007 as part of the Wisconsin reintroduction project, wandered westward to Winnebago, IA 13-15 May (Robert Schwartz).

The shorebird migration was good this season, although perhaps not on par with 2007. The diversity was good, with many early arrival dates, but peak numbers for many common species were lower than normal. Missouri's excellent list included up to 7 Whimbrels at Riverlands 24-26 May (JWE), the state's 2nd Curlew Sandpiper at Squaw Creek 26-27 Apr (DW, ph., m.ob.), and 10 Long-billed Curlews in June 4 (tCharley Burwick), with another curlew at Squaw Creek 14 Apr (DW). In Iowa, 2 Black-necked Stilts at Riverton 13 May (TR), another in Emmet 14-15 May (Ed Thelen, m.ob.), and a Whimbrel at Riverton 20 May (KDy) were the highlights. The more notable early arrivals included a Semi-palmated Plover 7 Apr (JG) and a Piping Plover 12-13 April, both at Saylorville Res., Polk, IA (SJ); a Rudy Turnstone in Woodbury, IA 28 Apr (TLu, POR); and a Silt Sandpiper at Runnells WA, Marion 6 Apr (JG). A strong flight of American Golden-Plovers included a record count of 1500 to 2000 in Lincoln, MO 1 Apr (Charlene Malone), and numerous flocks of 100 to 165 in Iowa during mid-Apr. Black-necked Stilts continue to solidify their range in n. Missouri, with up to 11 at Columbia Bottom C.A., St. Louis after 25 Apr (Connie Alwood, m.ob.), and three other reports of one or 2 during 3-26 May. American Avocets staged a strong late Apr flight that included 129 at Saylorville Res. 26 Apr (JB) and 55 at Squaw Creek 27 Apr (DE). Willets also showed a strong Regional flight in late Apr that included counts of 90 at Bean L., Platte, MO 25 Apr (Laura Gilchrist) and 64 at Long Pt., Guthrie, IA 27 Apr (SJ, JG). None of the three reports of Western Sandpiper was well detailed; this status of this species remains enigmatic in the Region in spring, and there are very few documented records. Red-necked Phalaropes were reported from both states, with 6 in Iowa 3-20 May and 2 in Missouri 11-14 May.

The late spring had little effect on lingering gulls, especially in Iowa, where most of the large “winter” gulls had departed by late Mar. Laughing Gulls were reported only from Missouri, one at Smithville L., Clay 25 Apr (TDW) and one or more at Riverlands 26 May (BR, RM, m.ob.). Missouri confirmed its first Mew Gull with a first-cycle bird at Smithville L., Clay/Clinton 18-21 Apr (ph., TDW, m.ob.). Iowa's rarest gulls included five reports of one or 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls through 14 Apr and three Glaucous Gull reports 22-31 May. A widespread flight in Iowa of Common Terns occurred 11-12 May, with a peak of 26 in Guthrie 11 May (SJF, AB, JG); 55 at Riverlands 24 May (JWE) set a new record Missouri count.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS
White-winged Doves are on the verge of becoming regular in both states. There were four Missouri reports 18 Apr-21 May, including possible breeding in Mississippi (JWE, JPU, JPM), and five Iowa reports 27 Apr-30 May. The lone Greater Roadrunner was near Carr Lane, Stone, MO 17 Mar (MT). A Snowy Owl near Irvington, Kossuth, IA 18 Mar (MCK) was a straggler from the backwinter showing. A few Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were reported from each state, with no hint of breeding. The only nightjar news was from n. Missouri, where Chuck-wills-widows were thought more numerous than usual in Holt (DE) and Livingston (SK, Terry McLeely).

Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to draw attention because of their steady decline. The only bright spot was a report of 36 in Decatur, IA 5 Apr (Nathan J. Miller), an area where this species remains fairly common. Pileated Woodpeckers are slowly expanding in the w. part of the Region, with 2 at St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO 21 Mar (LL), one in Woodbury, IA 14 Apr (TLu, GLV), and one at Squaw Creek 18 May (MBR). Record early Yellow-bellied Flycatchers appeared in both states 3 May, in Boone, MO (JPM) and Polk, IA (Ann M. Johnson). This signaled a good spring for this species, with many reports after 20 May, including peak counts of 6 at Columbia Botoms C.A., St. Louis 26 May (BR), RM and in Kossuth, IA 28 May (MCK). Alder Flycatcher also appeared to be more common in both states, with peak numbers 22 May. Western Kingbirds continue to expand their range, especially in cen. Iowa and ne. Missouri. The news on Loggerhead Shrikes was mixed; they seemed more numerous than normal in cen. and sw. Iowa (SJ, JG), but only one was reported in w. Missouri. Northern Shrikes were present in near-record numbers this past winter, and reports continued into spring. There were four Missouri reports in early Mar, including a record-late bird at Smithville L., Clay 9 Mar (MBR). Northern Shrikes were reported from 16 Iowa counties, with the latest in Winnebago 3 Apr (J. Harley Winfrey). The Fish Crow expansion in Missouri continued, with one at Pershing S.P., Linn 3 May (HPatrick Harrison, Edge Wade) and an impressive count of 130 in St Charles 19 Apr (BR). Early swallows included a Northern Rough-winged at Grammar Grove W.A., Marshall, IA 5 Apr (Mark Proescholdt) and a Cliff at Table Rock L., Taney, MO 21 Mar (MBR).

The Red-breasted Nuthatch irruption this past winter continued, with many lingering late. Some significant dates from south to north include Springfield, Greene, MO 16 May (Zelda Ellison), Creve Coeur, St. Louis, MO 16 May (JWE, JPU), St. Joseph, Andrew, MO 27 May (Leo & Ruth Galloway), Cerro Gordo 31 May (Carolyn J. Fischer), and Kosswuth, IA 31 May (MCK). Alas, there were no hints of breeding. Biewick’s Wrens again returned to their lone Iowa haunt near Argyle, Lee after 22 Apr (CF, KD); the only report from n. Missouri was one at Thousand Hills S.P., Adair 28 Apr (PW). The thrush flight in Iowa was exceptional. Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Swainson’s Thrushes peaked 18-19 May; a count of nocturnal migrants at Grimes, Polk produced 34 Gray-cheekeds and 167 Swainson’s 19 May (JB). There was also a huge ground of Hermit Thrushes in n.-cen. Iowa 10-12 Apr (POR, SJ, MCK). Observers are encouraged to pay close attention to thrush identification, which is often oversimplified in field guides. Of particular interest are “early” Swainson’s and Gray-cheekeds, and “late” Hermits, all of which should be carefully documented to help sharpen our picture of their migration through the Region. A varied Thrush continued at Waukon, Allamakee, IA until 2 Apr (Joan Berns). Always of interest, a lone Sprague’s Pipit was seen at Prairie S.P., Barton, MO 20 Mar (MBR).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS
The warbler season was decent, with a steady flow of migrants beginning in early May, and a remarkable number lingering in Iowa at the end of the season. One of the few species making a strong showing this year was Gold-winged Warbler; there were 19 reports in Missouri 26 Apr-24 May, and the species was widely reported across Iowa 1-30 May. A Brewer’s Warbler was noted in Allamakee, IA 24 May (Suzanne Brown). The cool seasonal
weather stalled the arrival of many warblers, although there were still some early dates, including a Northern Parula and a record-early Hooded Warbler at Twpappity Towserside Scott, MO 22 Mar (tCBa), a Blackburnian at George Wyth S.P., Black Hawk, IA 25 Apr (tTom Shilke), a Kentucky at Shimek S.F., Lee, IA 24 Apr (CF), and another early Hooded at Forest Park, St. Louis, MO 24 Mar (tChris Ferree). Cape May Warblers were more numerous than normal in Iowa, with 18 reports in the ne, two-thirds of the state 4-26 May, there were three reports in Missouri 10-16 May. The lone Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen at Woodland Mounds, Warren, IA 17 May (Richard Trief). Iowa experienced an unprecedented influx of Pine Warblers, with nine reports statewide 22 Mar-25 May. Prairie Warblers were seen at Nine Eagles S.P., Dcatur, IA 2 May (tJeffrey R. Livingston, tChelem Wilson) and three locales in n. Missouri 17 Apr-13 May. Prothonotary Warblers seemed dispersed in May, possibly in response to flood conditions, with three reports in n. Missouri, where rare, and four in w. Iowa. Connecticut Warblers were well reported for the 2nd consecutive spring, with three Missouri reports 11-23 May and an impressive 19 birds in Iowa 21 May+. Aside from their early arrival in s. Missouri, Hooded Warblers made the news farther n., with five reports in n. Missouri 24 Apr-12 May, and eight extra-tanagers reported from all but sw. Missouri 22 Apr-20 May. A flurry of six Summer Tanager reports in the period 7-14 May from cen. and nw. Iowa was unusual.

**TOWHEES THROUGH SISKINS**

A few Spotted Towhees regularly linger in the region into Apr; the last this season was at Bronson, Woodbury, IA 3-7 May (TLu). The sparrow migration in both states was mostly unevenful. All three Zonotrichia lingered into late May, with a record-late White-crowned in Greene, MO 22 May (Drew Albert). Smith’s Longspurs were well reported in both states, perhaps because observers have discovered when and where to look. Flocks of up to 60 were reported in Missouri until 31 May. In Iowa, flocks were larger, such as the 300 in Johnson and Muscatine 6 Apr (Christopher J. Caster, Bill Scheible, DP), and a record-late flock that lingered at Bobolink Waterfowl Production Area, Kossuth until 7 May (MCK, DH). The last Snow Bunting was seen in Hamilton, IA 9 Mar (SJL).

There was a nice flight of Lazuli Buntings in May, with single males at Martha Latte Thompson Nature Sanctuary, Clay, MO 2 May (LV), Carroll, Carroll, IA 14-15 May (tShirley Schirle), and Sioux Center, Sioux, IA 26-28 May (tJohn Van Dyk). A male Painted Bunting returned to Brookside Park, Ames, Story, IA 3 May+, for the 3rd year (Hank Zalel, m.ob.). Another male was out of range in Missouri at Muskat L., Buchanan 5 May (TLU). Great-tailed Grackles seem to have slowed their Regional expansion, although counts in Warren of 370 on 17 Mar (AB) and 437 on 23 Mar (JG) beg the question, “Where are these birds breeding?” Iowa’s first Scott’s Oriole graced an Estherville, Emmet, yard 7-14 Apr (ph. tMary Balch, m.ob.).

On the heels of a great winter season, many Purple Finches lingered into late May in both states. The latest dates for each state, both record-late, were at Springbrook S.P., Guthrie, IA 20 May (MTW) and in Christian, MO 24-25 May (Marilyn Owens). A small flurry of Red Crossbills included one at Pierce Creek Pt., Page, IA 22 Mar (KDy), 2 at Algoma, Kos- suh, IA 2 Apr (MCK), up to 11 at a feeder at High Point, Jefferson, MO until 13 Apr (Chris Mizell, m.ob.), 2 in Calloway, MO until 28 Apr (Robert Hansen, John Besser), 7 in Marshall, IA 9 May (Greg Twedt, fide SJ), and as many as 15 at Cherokee, Cherokee, IA through the season (Dick Bierman). It would be interesting to know what type(s) these crossbills were. There were four reports of Common Redpolls in Iowa 13 Mar-12 Apr, about par, given the small numbers present this past winter. Like Purple Finches, Pine Siskins lingered well into May in both states; Missouri’s last was in Atchison 19 May (TR), while small numbers were still present at the end of the season at multiple Iowa locales.

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tions and one-day appearances of Snow Buntings in Boone County, Kentucky. In contrast to the previous spring, average rainfall and no periods of abnormally cold weather resulted in good seed crops on deciduous trees. Rarity highlights in Kentucky were numerous and included a flock of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks that will furnish a first state record, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Hudsonian and Marble Godwits, Ruff, Great Black-backed Gull, Say’s Phoebe, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Painted Bunting. In Tennessee, highlights included flocks of both whistling-duck species, Swallow-tailed Kite, Hudsonian Godwit, White-winged Dove, and Townsend’s Solitaire.

Abbreviations: Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw Shelby, TN); McElroy L. (McElroy L., Warren, KY); Morgan Pond (Morgan Pond, s. Christian, KY); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., Henderson, KY); S. Holston L. (s. Holston L., Sullivan, TN); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN).

**WATERFOWL**

There were two reports of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks: 5 in w. Fulton, KY 8 May (ph. BY, MY et al.) that represented a long-awaited state first, and 17 at Ensley 18 May (ph. JRW). Earlier in the season, 16 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found at Ensley 8 Apr (RG, ph. JRW), presaging a significant movement. A Ross’s Goose × Snow Goose hybrid was present at McElroy L. 21 Mar (DR); the fact that only one observer (DR) has reported this hybrid three times in the past three years suggests that other observers in the Region may be overlooking such individuals. Observers continue to help establish the status of Cackling Geese in the Region. At least 10 in Oldham, KY 6 Mar (ph. EH) represented a new late departure date for the state; one continued at Shelby Park, Nashville, TN until 2 Mar (ph. MH, m.ob.). One to 2 Mute Swans were reported at several Kentucky locales as late as 15 May (m.ob.). Six of the wintering Tundra Swans at Sauerheber 2 Mar (CC) were the last to be reported. Two male Gadwalls lingered at McElroy L. until 29 May (DR), and a male (possibly from McElroy L.) was at nearby Chancy L. 30 May (DR). It was an exceptional season for Blue-winged Teal in s.-cen. Kentucky, with breeding confirmed at McElroy L. (DR et al.) and Morgan Pond (BPa et al.). A male Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid was present in w. Fulton, KY 5 Apr (ph. RD, HC, ME, PH). A few Northern Shovelers lingered in Warren and Christian, KY well into May (m.ob.), suggesting the possibility of breeding.

A flock of about 100 Redheads on the Ohio R. at Louisville 18 Mar (EH) was a noteworthy count for the Region. Small numbers of spring migrant Surf Scoters were found in Kentucky, with one to 4 birds reported at five locales 6 Apr–14 May; an ad. male was present at McElroy L. 8 Apr–23 May (ph. DR et al.), while another male at Paris Landing S.P., Henry 13-24 Mar (MT) was the only report from Tennessee. There was an unprecedented flurry of reports of White-winged Scoter during early May, including two new state high counts for Kentucky, probably of separate flocks: 18 on the Ohio R., Oldham 2 Mar (ph. CD) and 13 on the Ohio R. at Louisville 3 Mar (ph. EH, JH, DS). Also reported were single White-winged Teal at Crossville, Cumberland, TN.
TENNESSEE & KENTUCKY

2 Mar (DSi) and S. Holston L., Sullivan, TN 2 & 21 Mar (AB, m.ob.; DMI); at least 3 at Hicks L., Hardin, KY 18 Mar (BPa); 2 that continued on the Ohio R. at Louisville until 19 Mar (EH); 2 at Woods Res., Franklin, TN 27 Mar (DSi, JSW, RL, Lpa); one female/imma. at Moss Island W.M.A., Dyer, TN 1-2 Apr (ph. SS); and 2 at Kentucky L., Trigg, KY 12 Apr (DR, AH) that established a new late departure date for the state. There were two reports of Black Scoters in Kentucky; 2 females/immas. on the Ohio R. at Louisville 18 Mar (EH) and an ad. male at Ft. Thomas, Campbell 13-17 Apr (ph. FR, DHa). A female Black at Ensley 5-6 Apr (JRW) was the only one reported in Tennessee. Single female Long-tailed Ducks were present at Robo L., Shelby, TN 1 Mar (JRW, Gk, RG) and at Lexington, KY 1-17 Mar (ph. JPRW). Two Common Mergansers at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 2 Mar (RK) and 4 in Rowan, KY 16 Mar (tGR) were the only ones reported.

GREBES THROUGH RAILS

A Red-necked Grebe at L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 18 Mar (1P1) furnished the sole report. An Eared Grebe at L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 18 Mar (1P1) was the only one in Kentucky, while in Tennessee there were 2 at Pickwick L., Hardin 9 Mar (JRW), one at Britton Ford, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee NWR, Henry 13 Mar (MT), 1 at Nickajack L., Marion 29 Mar (DJ, DC, BJ), and one at Woods Res., Franklin 13 Apr (DSi). A few Horned Grebes lingered into mid-May at several locations. A Western Grebe was present at L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 26-27 Apr (vt. DR, JRM). An ad. Brown Pelican was present below Barkley Dam, KY 25 Apr (ph. DB); another pelican, probably a Brown, was present on the Ohio R. at Dayton, Campbell, KY for a few days around 1 May (Dab, ph. CS). Single ad. male Anhingas were in Haywood, TN 8-13 Apr (ph. JRW, JG) and at Eagle L., Shelby, TN 16 May (JRW). One to 2 American Bitterns were reported at seven Kentucky locales 6 Apr–5 May, and singles were at seven Tennessee locales 15 Mar–13 May. No Least Bitterns were reported. Breeding Great Blue Herons continue to expand their range, with a new report from Johnson (ph. SB) in E. Kentucky. Two Glossy Ibis were present at McElroy L. 14 May (AH, ph. DR).

A Swallow-tailed Kite was near the Hatchie R., Haywood, TN 7 May (JRW). The only extralimital Mississippi Kites were 2 in Washington, TN 14 May (FA, SS et al.) and a subad.; over McElroy L. 23 May (DR, TD). An imm. Northern Goshawk, exceptionally rare in the Region, was in McNairy, TN 9 Mar (tJRW). A Rough-legged Hawk was still in Dyer, TN 10 May (BPu). Single Merlins were reported on nine occasions at four Kentucky and one Tennessee locales 15 Mar–30 Apr. Other than known local breeding birds, likely migrant Peregrine Falcons were reported at six Kentucky and four Tennessee locales 2 Mar–18 May; 2 in Unicoi, TN 30 May (SM). Could possibly have been breeding in the vicinities. A day-long visit to McElroy L. yielded observations of at least 3 and possibly as many as 6 Peregrines 9 May (DR). Up to 3 Virginia Rails were at Standifer Gap 3 May–11 Apr (DPa, DJ) and the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Greene, TN 15 & 29 Mar (DM); one was at Kyker Bottoms, Blount, TN 21 Apr (CM); there were no Kentucky reports. A Sora at Morgan Pond 30 May (ph. DR) established a new late departure date for Kentucky. Single Common Moorhens were at Chickasaw NWR, Lauderdale, TN 5 May (ph. MT). John Sevier L., Hawkins, TN 6-17 May (SH, m.ob.), and near Oak Ridge, Anderson, TN 20 May (KB); there were no Kentucky reports.

SHOREBIRDS

A Black-bellied Plover at Morgan Pond 12 Apr (BPa, BY, MY) was relatively early. Counts of 100 American Golden-Plovers at McElroy L. 4-5 Apr (AH, DR) were impressive away from the far w. part of the Region. A Semipalmated

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Plover at McElroy L 8 Apr (DR, AH) was somewhat early. Single Piping Plovers (perhaps the same bird) at McElroy L 5 & 9 May (DR) represented the only reports. Black-necked Stilts continued appearing with greater frequency at sites outside of their known breeding areas, with reports of one to 3 at karst lakes in s. Warren, KY on several dates 4 Apr* (AH, TD, DR et al.); one in Ballard, KY 24 Apr (SR); a pair in Union, KY 18 May (BPa); and 2 at Sauerheber 25 May (CC). At Morgan Pond, 3 were first seen 25 Apr (DR, JRN), but after an absence of a few weeks, a breeding pair was present 22 May (DR), with 12+ birds and 10 active nests there 30 May (ph. DR). The only reports of American Avocets were 17 at Old Hickory L, Davidson, TN 14 May (JBN) and one in Union, KY 18 May (ph. BPa). Two Greater Yellowlegs at McElroy L 29 May (DR) were the latest to be reported. A wintering Spotted Sandpiper in Ringsport, Sullivan, TN lingered into May (RK). As many as 41 Willets were reported at McElroy L on seven dates 18 Apr–14 May (DR, AH et al.), with 9 at Morgan Pond 7 May (BPa) being the only other Kentucky report. Willets were widely reported in Tennessee 20 Apr–4 May, with as many as 55 reported in each of five counties spread across all three major divisions of the state. Peak counts of Lesser Yellowlegs included 330 at McElroy L 30 Apr (DR), 407 on 5 May (DR et al.), and 300–400 there 9 May (DR et al.) and 324 at Chapman Pond, Warren, KY 10 May (DR). As is the case in most years, a few Upland Sandpipers arrived in t. Tennessee in late Mar, with 3 at Shelby Farms, Shelby 27 Mar (JRW) and 2 in Lake 5 Apr (JRW); one was also at Ft. Campbell, Montgomery, TN 29 Apr (DMo, SS). The only Upland reported from Kentucky was one heard over McElroy L 29 Apr (DR). Godwits are always a great find in the Region, and it was an excellent season. There were three reports of Hudsonian Godwits: one male at Enserly 11 May (ph. JRW, RG, GK), a female at McElroy L 11–12 May (ph. DR et al.), and 2 there 18 May (ph. DR et al.). There were four reports of Marbled Godwits: 10 at McElroy L 11 Apr (ph. DR et al.), one in Gibson, TN 19 Apr (MT), one at the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson, KY 26 Apr (†DSt, †TScB), and 2 at Enserly 8 May (RG, JRW). Ruddy Turnstones away from McElroy L included a female at Enserly 11 May (JRW, GK), one in sw. Logan, KY 16 May (MB), and 6 at Morgan Pond 17 May (BPa, MST). One to 4 Sanderlings were seen only at McElroy L, on twelve dates 3–23 May (DR et al.). A Semipalmated Sandpiper in Gibson, TN 6 Apr (MT) was unusually early. A Western Sandpiper at Kentucky L, Calloway, KY 29 Feb (HC, BH) may have been a wintering bird or extremely early migrating. The species put on a nice showing at McElroy L., with small numbers present on several dates 28 Apr–9 May (BPa, MST).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS

There were four Kentucky reports of Laughing Gull, including a relatively early one at L. Cumberland, Pulaski 21 Mar (ph. RD); one at Kentucky Dam 12 Apr (DR, AH) and 3 there 9 May (BY, MY); and one at Morgan Pond 30 May (ph. DR). In Tennessee, one was at S. Holston L., Sullivan 20 Apr (RK), and 3 were at Percy Priest L., Rutherford 26 Apr (TW, BI). The only Franklin’s Gull reported in Kentucky was an ad. at Barkley Dam 22 Mar (ph. EI, BPa, MS). As many as 4 or 5 different Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen off and on in the vicinity of Kentucky and Barkley dams, KY 18 Mar–6 Apr. In Tennessee, 3 Lesser Black-backed were at Pickwick Dam, Hardin 9 Mar (ph. JRW), with a third-cycle bird there 29 Mar (ph. JRW); the wintering...
PASSERINES

Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported at four Kentucky and two Tennessee locales 9 May+. Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported at three Kentucky and four Tennessee locales 7-28 May; these are relatively normal numbers. Alder Flycatchers were reported in above-average numbers, with one or 2 each at five Kentucky and four Tennessee locales 9-29 May. A Say's Phoebe in w. Fulton, KY 5 Apr (ph. RD, ph. HC, ME, PH) was only Kentucky's 4th. Western Kingbirds—as well as some first- and second-generation Scissor-tailed Flycatcher x Western Kingbird hybrids—bred at five locations in Shelby, TN (JRW). A breeding pair of Scissor-taileds returned to s. Livingston, KY again this year (m.ob.); at least five pairs returned to Tennessee by 31 May. The following swallows were relatively early; one Bank at McElroy L. 2 Apr (DR), 3 Banks at Standifer Gap 11 Apr (DJ), and one Barn in Calloway, KY 9 Mar (HC). The wintering Black-capped Chickadee at Blaine, Lawrence, KY was last reported 1 Mar (BY, MT). Small numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches continued feeding stations from winter, and although a pronounced spring movement was not detected, likely migrants were observed during mid- to late May (m.ob.). A few late migrants lingered until 10 May in Kentucky (m.ob.). A Brown-headed Nuthatch in Marshall, KY 9-19 May (BPa, MM, vt. BY, MY, ph. JRW, SH) represented a 2nd state record. A pair with a nest in Fentress, TN 21 Apr (ph. DSt&LC) represents the farthest n. the species has ever been reported breeding in Tennessee (ca. 10 km from the Kentucky state line). There were only three reports of Sedge Wren: singles in White, TN 22 Apr (EL), Ballard, KY 29 Apr (SR), and Henderson, KY 3 May (CC). Marsh Wrens were scarce, with only three Kentucky reports 19 Apr-9 May; in Tennessee, only 2 were reported away from Standifer Gap, where singles were observed 27 Mar (BPa), 11 Apr (DJ), and 10 May (DA). A Townsend's Solitaire in Fayetteville, TN 19-21 Apr (ph. AS) is Tennessee's and the Region's 3rd. American Pipits put in a good showing at McElroy L., with a peak count of 300 there 6 May (DR, AH); up to 6 lingered at McElroy L. until 24 May (DR), and an injured bird there 26-27 May (ph. DR) established a new late departure date for Kentucky.

Warbler migration was generally fair, with good numbers reported from some areas. Golden-winged Warblers were scarce in Kentucky, with one to 2 reported on six occasions 29 Apr-9 May. An Orange-crowned Warbler in Jefferson, KY 14 May (BPa, EH, MM) was relatively tardy, while a Yellow Warbler in Jefferson, KY 2 Apr (MW) was somewhat early. Cerulean Warblers were noted in above-average numbers in se. Tennessee. A Yellow-rumped Warbler in Marshall, KY 21 May (ME) was one day off the late departure date for the state. A male Audubon's Warbler in Knoxville, TN 18 Apr (JDE) added to the handful of reports from the region. Swainson's Warblers are very rare in cen. Tennessee, so singles at the Ellington Ag Center, Davidson 22 Apr (JJS) and Shelby Bottoms, Davidson 29 Apr (PC) were noteworthy. A Kentucky Warbler at Moss Island WMA, Dyer, TN 20 Mar (ph. DPe, MG) is the earliest ever reported in the region. Mourning Warblers were noted in average numbers. Single Connecticut Warblers were reported at eight locales in Kentucky and at nine sites in Tennessee 3-28 May.

A Bachman's Sparrow at the traditional breeding area at Fort Campbell, Trigg, KY 29 May (DSto) represented the only report. The 8 Mar snowstorm brought a few American Tree Sparrows to Kentucky feeding stations where they had not been present all winter; one at Johnson City, Washington, TN 5-6 Mar (PK) was rare, especially following a winter with none in the area. A Harris's Sparrow, always rare in the region, was in Carroll, TN 1-21 Apr (ph. MT). Tardy Vesper Sparrows in

A few Yellow-headed Blackbirds are found in the Tennessee & Kentucky region every year; this male was photographed in western Fulton County, Kentucky 12 May 2008. Photograph by Roseanna Denton.
Harrison, KY 10 May (SMa) and w. Henderson, KY 20 May (ph. CC) suggested breeding. There were a few interesting reports of Lark Sparrows in Kentucky, including a flock of 10 in w. Henderson 19 Apr (BPa, EH, BY, MY), with breeding confirmed in the vicinity during May (BPa), at least 2 territorial birds w. of Woodburn, Warren 29 Apr+ (DR et al.), and one at Fort Campbell, Trigg 29 May (DMo). Henslow’s Sparrows were reported at new probable breeding locales in Bullitt, KY (EH et al.), Adair, KY (BS), Marshall, KY (BPa, HC et al.), and Jackson, TN (JS, DD); 16 were in the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness, White, TN 22 Apr (EL). A Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 9 May (RK). A wave of Fox Sparrows appeared at Kentucky feeding stations following the 8 Mar snowstorm. A male Dark-eyed Junco at Lexington, KY 21 May (ph. ZC) was very tardy.

A few flocks of Lapland Longspurs appeared in n.-cen. Kentucky following the 8 Mar snowstorm (m.ob.); singles in Greene, TN 29 Mar (DMi) and at Melroy L. 31 Mar (DR) were the latest to be reported. Snow Buntings put in a brief appearance in w. Boone, KY following the 8 Mar storm; two mixed-species flocks of open-ground birds, each containing ca. 50 buntings, were found 9 Mar (ph. DMa). Painted Buntings are vagrants in the Region away from their small breeding population in sw. Shelby, TN, thus a male in Knox, TN 27 & 30 Mar (A&TN, MD, VF) and a female at Berea, Madison, KY 1 May (1RF) were both local rarities. There were two reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, a first-year male in w. Fulton, KY 12 May (ph. RD, SD) and a male at Morgan Pond 30 May (DR). Two male Bobolinks returned to last year’s breeding site in Washington, TN 5 May (RK). Purple Finch(es) increased in numbers from mid-Mar into mid-Apr as likely migrants passed through; a few birds lingered into May, with the latest being a female in Boone, KY 15 May (LM), 4 in Franklin, KY until 19 May (JBr), and a few in se. Jefferson, KY into mid-May, with at least one there during the end of May (EH, JH). Quite unexpected were up to at least 10 Red Crossbills at Nolin L., Hart, KY 10-11 May (RH, SK, vt. BY et al.) and 2 there until 13 May (LPe). A few Pine Siskins continued at scattered Kentucky locales into mid-Apr, with a few reports of likely migrants during the month (m.ob.); latest to be reported were one at Cumberland Falls S.P., McCrory, KY 13-14 May (JS, EM, JN), 4 at Nolin L., Hart, KY 14 May (BPa, EH, MM), and several singing at a Nashville, TN yard until mid-May (fide MLB).

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Alabama & Mississippi

Steven W. McConnel

With apologies to Forrest Gump, I’ve often thought birding spring migration in the Deep South is much like his box of chocolates: “you never know what you’re going to get.” Whether the arrival of the first swallows or Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in March, the passage of migrant-inducing fronts in April, or early breeders setting up house in May, the season never fails to bring about astounding changes to our birding patches. Much like the weather, if the birding conditions or species selection is not to your liking, no matter: just wait for the inevitably changes to come around the corner! Weather this season was, once again, generally warmer and drier than normal. Some welcome relief came in May when rainfall in the northern Region averaged about 6 cm above normal. We were fortunate to have several fronts pass through: 2, 5, 12, & 28 April, 4, 11-12 & 16-17 May. Migrant activity among many of these events was considered as “good” to “great.” Rarities included Alabama’s first Inca Dove, an inland Northern Gannet, and a very late Red-necked Grebe. An impressive movement of White-throated Swallows into Mississippi began in late April and continued through late May. At least for the moment, this species is still considered rare and continues to hold a spot on the state’s review list. Seven coastal Cave Swallows reports seems to be above normal; one group alone numbered more than 30.
These five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found and photographed on a private pond 5 May 2008 at Pascagoula in Jackson County, Mississippi. Overall seven different reports for the species were received from Mississippi in spring 2008, leading one to wonder how much longer the species will maintain the status of “rare” in the state. Photograph by William Lee.

Abbreviations: Coldwater R. (Coldwater Riv-er N.W.R., Quinlan and Tallahatchie, MS); Dauphin I. (Mobile, AL); Ft. Morgan (Bald-win, AL); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., Ok-tibbeha and Winston, MS); T.V. (Tennessee Valley Region of n. Alabama), Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., Limestone and Morgan, AL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Seven well-documented reports of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were received from throughout Mississippi, where it is at best a very rare visitor. High counts were 5 at a private lake in Jackson 5 May (ph. WL) and as many as 5 at Swan L., Washington 23 Apr–8 May (KH). A Greater White-fronted Goose at a refuge farm in Oxford, MS 26 Apr–10 May was very late (G&SK). Much rarer was the Cackling Goose in Ok-tibbeha, MS 6 Apr (TLS), marking only the 12th area report. New seasonal high counts for Canada Goose were re-ported 26 Apr for both the T.V. (62 during the Wheeler spring count) and mountain region of n. Alabama (191 during the Birmingham area count). Regular visits early in the season to the Seaman Rd. lagoons in Jackson, MS pro-duced significant waterfowl1 dividends. Impressive counts of 43 Mottled Ducks and 417 Blue-winged Teal were made 3 Apr, with 425 Green-winged Teal 6 Mar, and one very rare Cinnamon Teal 13 Mar (m.ob.). Only two spring scoter species were reported, both in Mississippi: 2 male Surfs at Columbus L., Lowndes 22 Apr (TLS) and 2 female White-winged that continued on the county lake in Oktibbeha until 22 Apr; a female Long-tailed Duck at the same location 15 Mar was rare and late for the area (both TLS, MS). The Wheeler spring count compiled an impressive total of 29 Hooded Mergansers 26 Apr.

The Region was blessed with excellent counts of Horned Grebes this past winter, and the trend con-tinued into spring, with 75 at Guntersville, Marshall, AL 8 Mar (SWM), 100+ in Colbert, AL 10 Mar (DJS), and 102 on the county lake in Oktibbeha, MS 15 Mar (TLS, MS). The al-ternate-plumaged Red-necked Grebe enjoyed at Yazoo N.W.R., Washington, MS 23-26 May (DL, RCap, Sc, ph. RH) was both very rare and ex-tremely late. The molting Eared Grebe spotted 8 Mar at Guntersville, Marshall, AL (ph. SWM) was strangely the only report. Rising fuel costs and the limited availability of fast boats in recent years have kept most pelagic birders onshore recently, but one exception was the Greater Shearwater found by a fishing charter offshore some 50 km s. of Perdido Pass, Baldwin, AL 20 Apr (RC). Mem-bers of a m.w. Alabama Big Day team were astounded 5 May when they came upon an ad. Northern Gannet 550 km from the Gulf, at the mouth of Town Creek, Colbert, AL (JTG, DJS, ph. SWM), which furnished only the 2nd inland Alabama report. Multiple reports of-increasing American White Pelicans were sub-mitted, with a peak flock of 192 in Colbert, AL 10 Mar (DJS). Repeated reports in the n. part of the Region indicate a slight comeback for Anhingas in recent years. Breeding is now suspected at a swamp in Shelby, AL, s. of Birmingham, where 2 birds re-turned 26 Apr–13 May and re-mained through the season (m.ob.). The count of 10 An-thingas from Interstate 65 n. of Montgomery, AL 6 Apr (LFG) was very unusual and likely re-presented migrants. American Bitterns are elusive inland, so repeated observations of a single (the same?) at Hacoda, Geneva, AL 11 Mar–26 Apr (OJ) was all the more exciting. At least 85 White Ibis were present at Coldwater R. 3 May (G&SK, DN), representing an unusually large total for n. Mississippi. Much more unusual was the alternate-plumaged White-faced Ibis discovered at Wheeler 19 Apr (ph. NC, BW) that furnishes a first report for T.V. The only Roseate Spoonbill reported, at Dauphin 1. 3 May (J&TS, HEH), was the only one, very rare, even along the Alabama coast. Wood Storks always bring elegance to a day in the field, but few are found during spring; this season was no exception with only three reports: 2 near Albertville in Marshall, AL 28 Apr (SGe) were farther n. than expected, an impressive flock of 30–40 was in Gene-va, AL 30 Apr–14 May (ph. OJ), and one was at Noxubee 14-28 May (TS).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Two Swallow-tailed Kites evidently overshot their target destinations and were the earliest ever in the mountain region of n. Alabama, where there were only seven previous reports: one was enjoyed at Oneonta, Blount 31 Mar (L&DB), and one graced the skies over Smith L., Winston 1 Apr (La). A new high count for Bald Eagle in the inner Coastal Plain was established 15 Mar when 11 were tallied in Perry, AL (m.ob.). A juv. Golden Eagle at Nox-ubee 12 Mar (TS) established the 2nd area spring report (TS). The 12 Broad-winged Hawks seen during 10 minutes in Mobile 9 Apr (CH) established a new high spring count for the Alabama coast. A census effort along the Alabama coast was rewarded with impres-sive totals of 62 Clapper Rails near Grand Bay, Mobile 29 May that furnished new state high count, and 12 King Rails at Lillian Swamp, Baldwin 28 May that tied previous high state count (ph. JT, CR).

Two notable American Golden-Plover flocks were reported from n. Mississippi: 64 at a turf farm in Lafayette 14-19 Mar, and 54 in Tuscany on the late date of 17 May (both...

This decked-out Red-necked Grebe was discovered 23 May 2008 (here 26 May) at Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge in Washington County, Mississippi. The species is at best rare in the Gulf coastal states, and the incredibly late departure date easily set a new standard for tardiness in Mississippi. Photograph by Rob Herlin.

G&SK). Observers at Wheeler found 22 Soli- tary Sandpipers 26 Apr (m.ob.), which ties the previous seasonal count in the T.V. A visit to the Tupelo W.T.P. in Lee, MS 1 May revealed a large migrant flock of 52 Willets (ph. WP). The previous Alabama high count for Whim-brels was exceeded by a wide margin when a feeding flock of 300 was discovered near...
from the coast. There were three reports at Dauphin 1. 18 Apr–17 May, including an excellent total of 4 birds 29 Apr (EC, CH), 3 at Ft. Morgan 12 May (RAD, LRD), and a single bird somewhere early 12 Apr in Jackson, MS (SK, FD). The Northern Saw-whet Owl banded 12 Mar at Clay, Jefferson, AL was at the same location where 8 others were captured this past winter (RRS, MBS). A calling Chuck-will’s-widow at Shorter in Macon, AL 26 Mar (ECS) was the earliest ever inland.

Eastern Wood-Pewees were surprisingly early finds at Ft. Morgan 5 Apr (MJ) and Noxubee 8 Apr (TLS). Another early migrant was an Acadian Flycatcher 8 Apr near Tallassee, Tallapoosa, AL (JT). Willow Flycatchers were represented by the earliest ever for Alabama, a calling bird in Montgomery 27 Apr (LFG); another was singing at Nanib Waia W.M.A., Neshoba, MS 21 May (ph. NW, JM). The 4 Least Flycatchers seen and heard in Limestone and Lauderdale 9 May (JM, DJ, RJM) established a new maximum for the T.V. The fiesty male Vermilion Flycatcher enjoyed at Wheeler 26 Apr (IRSH) furnished the 2nd T.V. sighting and the 3rd for spring in inland Alabama (IRSH). Also on 26 Apr, 64 Great Crested Flycatchers were totaled during the Wheeler spring count, to set a new T.V. spring high count. There were three reports totaling 4 Western Kingbirds at Mobile and Baldwin, AL 10-20 Apr (ph. DD, JR, MJ): the species is rare in spring in the Region. Early Yellow-throated Vireos were observed at Dauphin 1. 8 Mar (T&W) and in Montgomery, AL 16 Mar (LFG). A few early Red-eyed Vireos were noted, one at Ft. Toulouse, Elmore, AL 21 Mar (JT) and 2 at Noxubee 1 Apr (TLS). A surprising Black-throated Vireo at Dauphin 1. 17 May established a new late date for Alabama (fade HEH). Four Fish Crow reports came from the Tennesse R. in n. Alabama 9 Apr–5 May, where rare but increasing; the highest count was a flock of 6 over Decatur, Morgan 9 Apr (SWM).

At least 500 Tree Swallows were counted in Humphreys, MS 14 Apr (RH), a high number for that date. Early Cliff Swallows were found 7 Mar at Columbus L., Lowndes, MS (TLS) and 13 Mar in Elmore, AL (MJ). Six Cave Swallow reports were received from coastal Alabama, where now a fairly regular spring visitor; 30 or more at Ft. Morgan 3 Apr (RRS, MBS, m.ob.) furnished the Region’s 2nd highest total. Caves are reported much less often in Mississippi; a lone individual was found at the Seaman Rd. Lagoon, Jackson 10 Apr (m.ob.). An eager Barn Swallow was seen 1 Mar near Hartselle in Morgan, AL (SWM), for a very early report. Red-breasted Nuthatches staged an impressive surge into our Region during winter 2007-2008, but one lingering in Forrest, MS through 10 May (JSm) was noticeably tardy. Also rather late was the Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Shorter in Macon, AL 12 May (ECS). A new count of 179 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was established for the T.V. 26 Apr during the Wheeler spring count (m.ob.).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Even though Northern Parula is one of our earliest spring migrants, finding 15 at Dauphin 1. 8 Mar was a large count for such an early date (T&W). Some 40 Yellow and 25 Magnolia Warblers found at Dauphin 1. 16

**GULLS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS**

Bonaparte’s Gulls seemed especially numerous early in the season, with 100 at Weiss L., Cherokee, AL 30 Mar (GDJ, DJ). A late Bonaparte’s was spotted 3 May in St. Clair, AL (GDJ, GDJ). Sooty Terns are very rarely noted within sight of land, which makes the lone individual at Pelican 1. (just s. of Dauphin 1.) 20 Apr (BM) quite exciting. Good numbers of Forster’s Terns lingered early this season in n. Alabama, with more than 100 at Town Creek Marsh, Colbert 16 Mar (GDJ) and 100 at Gunterville, Marshall 29 Mar (SWM). Alabama’s first Inca Dove delighted many at Ft. Morgan 19-20 Apr (ph., v.r. LRD, RAD, m.ob.) as it was accompanied by 2 Common Ground-Doves. In contrast to most of this season, an excellent push of Yellow-billed Cuckoos was noted 16 May, when more than 50 were counted at Dauphin 1. (JNW). Black-billed Cuckoos are rarely found in our Region away

**This White-faced Ibis was a surprising discovery 19 April 2008 in a flooded field on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Limestone County, Alabama. It stayed only a few minutes but provided a long overdue first Tennessee Valley Region record for the state. Photograph by Neil Coules.**

Grand Bay, Mobile 30 Apr (CH); spring migrant flocks have been noted in the vicinity since 2005. A very impressive total of 28 Marbled Godwits was found 13 Apr at Gulfport, Harrison, MS (G&SK). Red Knots are not unexpected along the coast during spring, but 18 at Dauphin 1. 26 May (ph. T&W, HEH) made a nice surprise, especially considering the decline of this dapper species. The 700 migrant Dunlins at Grand Bay N.W.R., Jackson, MS 2 Mar furnished an excellent total (JF). Two rare breeding or potential breeding reports of American Woodcock came from s. Alabama, one of 2 ads. with 2 young at Coden, Mobile 4 Apr (ph. JF), and the other of 2 ads. together in Geneva 30 Apr (OJ).
early arrival dates were provided by a Black-and-white Warbler 8 Mar at Dauphin I. (T&J) and a Prothonotary Warbler 3 Apr in n. Mississippi at the Tupelo W.T.F., Lee (WP).

An excellent flight of Swainson’s Warblers apparently arrived on the coast 6 Apr, as demonstrated by the 10 banded that day at Ft. Morgan (RFS, MBS). The previous day, the same banders set new spring Alabama maxima by netting 49 Ovenbirds and 156 Common Yellowthroats. The male Mourning Warbler seen w. of Adaton, Okibbeha, MS 10 May (TLS, MS) furnished the 4th spring area report.

Quite early Hooded Warblers were noted near Tallasee, Tallapoosa, AL 26 Mar (JT) and at two different Okibbeha, MS locations 28 Mar (TLS). Wilson’s Warblers seemed especially prevalent this season, with nine reports, the most unusual being one very early arrival at Dauphin I. 30 Mar (DD, CD). Canada Warblers observed 23 May at the county lake in Okibbeha, MS (TLS) and a singing male 25 May in Jefferson, AL (RSD) were late. A new T.V. high count of Summer Tanagers was established when 118 were totaled during the Wheeler spring count 26 Apr. Not to be outdone, an excellent flight of Scarlet Tanagers was reported 29 Apr with “hundreds” appearing at Dauphin I. (CH).

Most Savannah Sparrows have typically departed our Region by mid-spring, making the 57 counted 26 Apr at Wheeler quite unusual. Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows were rather late 14 May at two sites along the Alabama coast (JT, CR). A Song Sparrow was seen carrying nesting material 25 May at Opelika in Lee, AL (LW) for a rare breeding report so far south. Migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are regular at our Region’s feeders in late spring, but 30 counted at an Anniston home in Calhoun, AL 7 May (DM) must have made an impressive sight. Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Lowndes 16 & 27 Mar and Lee 11 May in n. Mississippi (jeDn, WP); the latter was believed to represent a first county report. A cowbird trildecia was achieved at Dauphin I. 19 Apr when observers searching for a Shiny Cowbird that had been found earlier (ph. LFG) instead found a male Bronzed (BH) that furnished Alabama’s 14th report (BH). Two Red Crossbills were found at Talladega N.F., Cleburne, AL, a breeding site for the past 10 years, 1 Mar, with another there 10 May (KW, BS).


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Arkansas & Louisiana

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It was another exciting spring, perhaps somewhat more so in Louisiana, where two species were added to the state list. The dominant weather pattern was flooding rains in Arkansas and, to a lesser extent, northern Louisiana, which occurred intermittently for about two months beginning mid-March. The Mississippi River also ran at flood stage for much of the season and almost certainly caused breeding delays or losses for species using habitat within the levees. Flooding hindered breeding activity to many low-lying areas for lengthy periods. Although record counts were reported for several species of shorebirds, some Arkansas contributors remarked that overall numbers and diversity were down dramatically in traditionally productive areas such as Prairie County (Jae: Kenny Nichols), hopefully a result of dispersal over available habitat rather than a true decline in numbers. Observers along the coast experienced flight to moderate sightings of migrants with the passage of several cold fronts during the period 30 March–15 May. The most spectacular coastalfulloscurred at Grand Isle: mainly a “tanagers event” featuring a report of 300 Scarlet Tanagers 12 April, and exceptional numbers of Veeries (85), Gray Catbirds (475), more Scarlet Tanagers (160), and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (180) 27 Apr. But perhaps most noteworthy was a rare inland fallout in Craighead County in northeastern Arkansas 10–12 May that produced record numbers of Philadelphia Vireos and several warblers.

Abbreviations: C.F.H. (Centerton Fish Hatchery, near Centerton, Benton, AR); C.F.P. (Craighead Forest Park, Craighead, AR). Counties/parishes (italics) 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 reports of “review list” species, documentation has been received and reports have either been accepted by, or acceptance is pending by, the respective bird records committee. Significance for Arkansas reports is based on [Arkansas Birds, their Distribution and Abundance] (James and Neal 1986)plus the Arkansas Audubon Society online database, and, for Louisiana, on the bird record data.
Stragglers in Poinsett, AR 8 Apr (JE). The only American Black Duck report came from Bald Knob N.W.R., White, AR 18 Mar (KN), which is farther W. than normal. Closer inspection of an ad. male teal at Holla Bend N.W.R., Pope, AR 4 May (Kn&LN) revealed an apparent Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid that displayed hints of a pale flank patch and facial crescent.

Three Greater Scapulas at Holly Beach, Cameron 29 Apr (PEC) were apparently the latest ever for the SW Louisiana coast. Notably late coastal Surf Scoters included 5 near Cameron, Cameron 11-16 May (DBo, JBo) and one at Trinity L. in the Isles Derners barrier island chain, Terrebonne 20 May (JBo, EJR); one Surf at L. Maumelle, Pulaski, AR 20 Mar (Paul E. Lehman, KN, DB) was a very rare spring migrant in the interior. Convincing observations of White-winged Scoters, Louisiana's rarest scoter, included one near Cameron 13 Apr (ph. JBo, DBo), another near Holly Beach 27 Apr (DF; ph. PEC), and 2 there 4 May (a new late report for Louisiana; ph. JBo, DBo); one at Mallard L., Mississippi, AR 19 Mar (DB) was thought to be one of the 5 originally found there 22 Feb. A Black Scoter near Cameron 11 May (DBo) added to only a handful of other late spring reports.

A Horned Grebe at Wapanocca N.W.R., Crittenden, AR 14 May (ph. Chris Welsh, Larry French, Harold Howell, Ginger Goosby) was quite late. Rare in SE Louisiana, single Eared Grebes were noted on opposite sides of L. Pontchartrain at New Orleans, Orleans 8 Mar and Mandeville, St. Tammany 14 Mar (both ph. JBo, DBo); one in Desha 20 Apr (DB) was very rare and somewhat late in SE Arkansas. A solid flying eastward along Holly Beach 26 Apr was videotaped (vt. PAM, CCs), and about one hour later, and 32 km e., was collected along Rutherford Beach and confirmed as a subadult light-morph Red-footed Booby (ph. DLD, "SWO"). Louisiana's 2nd report; the first dates to 1 November 1940. A relatively early survey of breeding waterbirds at Grassly L., Hempstead, AR 15 Apr (DB, CM, KN, YR) produced some sizeable totals, including 200 Anhingas, 50 Snowy Egrets, 1200 Little Blue Herons, 8 Tricolored Herons, 50 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 300 White Ibises. A dark morph ad. Reddish Egret at Catahoula N.W.R., La Salle, LA 13 May (ph. E.V. "Tiny" Moore) was inexplicably and unprecedentedly far inland; previous "inland" occurrences have been fairly close to the coast. Anomally early Wood Storks included a flyby ad. near St. Gabriel, Iberville, LA 5 Apr (JVR) and an imm. at Gibbstown Bridge, Cameron 18 Apr-10 May (Bob Schutsky, JBo, DPM, ph. Linda Stewart et al.); these appear to be the first Apr reports since at least the 1930s and are among only a handful of Spring reports from recent decades.

KITES THROUGH FALCONS
Swallow-tailed Kites were confirmed breeding at White River N.W.R. near Weber, Arkansas, AR, where ads. were noted 9 Apr, a nest was found 15 Apr, and incubation began 18 Apr, unfortunately, as with other recent Arkansas breeding reports, the attempts ultimately failed, with the nestlings found dead 26 May (Scott Chiavacci). White-tailed Kites are seldom found deep into the interior, so one near Bossier City, Bossier PAR 3 Apr (JH, TD) was significant; one in SW Calcasieu 12 Apr, and a pair near Cameron until at least 27 Apr (both JBo, DBo), were suggestive of rare Louisiana breeding attempts. An ad. male Cooper's Hawk transporting food near Grand Isle SP. Jefferson, LA 18-19 Apr (ph. DLD, SWC) provided further circumstantial breeding evidence for the area. Imm. Broad-winged Hawks at Grand Isle 1 Mar (JBo, DBo, EJR) and near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron 19 Mar (vt. JBo, JBo) were thought to be winterers; one at Fayetteville, Washington 30 Mar (MAM, JN, JBo) was very early for N. Arkansas. Swainson's Hawks are sighted with increasing frequency during spring and summer.
mer in sw. Louisiana, but breeding evidence remains scant. Thus, a cupulating pair near Sweet L., Cameron 26 Apr (SWC, DLD), one ad. carrying nesting material near Bell City, Calcasieu 29 Apr (near a failed 2007 nest site; PEC), and an apparent pair performing aerial courtship displays at Willow L., e. of Cameron 4 May (SWC, DLD) were of interest. Elsewhere, Swainson's are scarce spring transient, so a concentration of 35 near Shreveport, Caddo 20 Apr (HH, TD) was expectation. Seven sightings of Swainson's in nw. Arkansas were above average and included a relatively early individual at Chesney Prairie N.A., Benton 6 Apr (MAM, ph. Jbr), plus one near Dardanelle, Yell 20 Apr (K&LN), up to 5 in the Holla Bend N.W.R. area, Pope and Yell 3-8 May (K&LN, DB, RH), one at Pea Ridge National Military Park, Benton 5 & 27 May (MAM, ph. DO, ph. Jbr), and one near Fayetteville 11 May (MAM). An ad. Red-tailed Hawk near Johnsons Bayou 16 May (DLD, SWC, Jbo, DB) was unusually late along the coast. A surprising find for so late and especially so close to the coast was an immature Ferruginous Hawk near Sweet L. 26-27 Apr (ph. DLD, SWC, ph. BMM, ph. FEC, pt. PAW et al.) that furnished Louisiana's first spring record and the 6th overall report. A Merlin at Johnsons Bayou 16 May (DB) tied the Louisiana spring date, and one or 2 late Peregrine Falcons there the same day (DLD, SWC, BMM, Jbo) were also well past peak for coastal migrants. A Peregrine made a rare and late appearance in nw. Arkansas at C.FH. 17 May (MAM, ph. DO, ph. Jbr).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS
Black Rails are surprisingly rare in Louisiana, with few documented records. Thus, at least 2 calling near Cameron 27 Apr-10 May were intriguing (v.r. PAW, CCS, BMM, DPM et al.) and established Louisiana's latest spring record. The waterbird survey at Grassy L. 15 Apr (DB, CM, KN, YR) estimated 400 Common Moorhens, presumably demolishing previous Arkansas counts. A spectacular count of 1350 American Golden-Plovers in Poinsett 2 Apr (DB) furnished the 3rd highest Arkansas total; 210 near Chesney Prairie N.A. the same day (JN) was also a local record, and one at Bald Knob N.W.R., White, AR 25 May (DB) was relatively late. A male Snowy Plover at Holly Beach 16 May, and 9 (three apparent pairs and 3 single males) at Rutherford Beach 17 May (ph. DLD, SWC) were late and suggestive of a continuing local breeding presence. Representing about the 13th spring report for Arkansas were 2 Piping Plovers in Desha 20 Apr, with one remaining until 26 Apr (ph. DB). A flock of 35 American Avocets at L. Fayetteville 18 Apr (HDC) provided a record Arkansas spring count.

Although only slightly inland, 135 Willets near Kaplan, Vermilion 20 Apr (PEC) furnished one of the largest non-coastal counts for Louisiana: 6 near Shreveport 15 May (ph. JT, Jean Trahan) represented one of very few spring reports from n. Louisiana. Tallies of 36 Willets in Boone and Carroll 22 Apr (Frank Reuter) and 32 in Desha 26 Apr (DB) ranked among the top 10 counts for Arkansas. Most recently reported in Arkansas in 2003, a Whimbrel at Millwood L., Hempstead 4-5 May (ph. CM) was long overdue at that well-covered site. A Long-billed Curlew near Chesney Prairie N.A. 10 Apr (JN, Joe Woolbright, Brandon Schmidt) was surprisingly the first reported in Arkansas since 1987, only the 2nd spring report, and the 7th overall. Another curlew near Johnsons Bayou 16 May (SWC, ph. DLD, BMM) furnished one of very few Louisiana occurrences from late May–early Jun. Seasonally rare in the interior, a Marbled Godwit in Poinsett 7 Apr (ph. DB, NA, RH) and 2 near Centerton, Benton 11 Apr (K&LN, DB) were also record early for Arkansas. Seldom documented away from the coast, a Sanderling at C.FH. 5 May (MAM, ph. Jbr, ph. DO) was the season's only inland report. One day shy of tying the earliest Louisiana spring record were 2 White-rumped Sandpipers at Cameron Prairie N.W.R., Cameron 13 Apr (Jbo, Dbo). An estimated 500 Dunlins in Poinsett 10 Apr (DB) appear to have established the state high count. Eight Bul-brested Sandpipers near Kaplan 19 Mar (EF, Jbr, Dbo) were one day from tying the early Louisiana record, but 2 at Bonnet Carre Spillway, St. Charles 21 May (ph. Melvin Weber) extended the late spring date by five days; another Bul-brested at C.FH. 14 May (MAM) added to the very few spring reports for Arkansas. Representing record-breaking numbers for Arkansas were up to 293 Wilson's Phalaropes at or near Holla Bend N.W.R. 3-4 May (K&LN). A Red-necked Phalarope was a pleasant surprise in a tornado-mudded field near Helena, Phillips 14 May (LA, Teresa Mathews); there are only about 13 prior spring reports for Arkansas.

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS
Laughing Gulls far inland were singles at Coutle L., Rapides, LA 4 Apr (JYH) and Treadway's Fish Farms, Prairie 9 Apr (K&LN). A Franklin's Gull in Desha 15 May (DB, Rosemary Baxter) was the easternmost and most

Remarkably, this Bell's Vireo at Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish 19 April 2008 was apparently the first well-documented spring record for southern Louisiana; less clear is whether the bird was more likely a true spring migrant or a lingering winter bird. Photograph by Devin Basler.

Truly shocking was this House Crow (Corvus splendens) lingering in a coastal cherry woodland near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish, Louisiana 10-18 (here 18) May 2008, tameness, apparent feather abrasion, and asymmetrical feather replacement suggests that the bird had been "confirmed" sometime in its recent past. Photograph by Paul E. Conover.

Seldom documented as a spring migrant in the interior of southern Louisiana, this singing Willow Flycatcher was one of at least two voice-confirmed individuals found near Sorrento, Ascension Parish 12 May 2008. Photograph by Donna L. Dittmann.
noteworthy of four Arkansas reports of this scarce migrant. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, including a first-cycle individual (Arkansas’s 8th report) and a second-cycle bird (present since Nov) at L. Dardanelle, Pope and Yell 4 Apr (KN) represented the first spring reports for Arkansas. Still one of the rarer land birds in Louisiana, first-cycle Glaucous Gulls were near Port Fourchon, Lafourche 31 Mar–5 Apr (ph. RMG, ph. RDP, ph. JBo, ph. DBo), and in the Wine L. and Trinity L. area of Isles Derniers 11-29 May (Cecilia Leumas, ph. JBo, EJR). After its discovery during spring 2007, a small colony of Least Terns was once again present in an agricultural area 70 km inland along I-10 at Lacassine, Jefferson Davis, with 12 nests 17 May (SWC, DLD). A Least Tern at L. Pine Bluff 19 May (Robert H. Doster) would appear to be the first found in Jefferson, AR. and was almost certainly of the interior subspecies. Black Terns appeared early along the Cameron coast, with 2 there 19 Mar, 45 on 30 Mar (both JBo, DBo), and 20 on 11 Apr (DFL). The only jaeger reported was a Pomarine that was apparently summering at Whiskey L., Terrebonne 10 May (ph. JBo, EJR).

Two recently fledged White-winged Doves at Cameron 4 May (ph. DBo) confirmed post-Hurricane Rita resumption of breeding at this locality, and one dove at Pangburn, White 24 May (ph. Terry & Judy Butler) was apparently a county first and relatively far nw. in Arkansas. A Common Ground-Dove near Hector, Pope 6 May (LA) was a first for the Ozarks region and furnished one of very few spring reports for Arkansas. Three Inca Doves at Grand Isle 30 Mar (PAW, DPM, RDP) were the first found there since Hurricane Katrina; the site previously supported an isolated breeding population. Although not the latest ever, a Short-eared Owl in Poinsett 7 Apr (JE, Melissa Patrick) was certainly the latest Arkansas report in recent decades. A “suspicious” nighthawk carefully studied and documented at Grand Isle 12 Apr (vt. DPM, vt. PAW, ph. RDP, CCS) proved to be a female Lesser Nighthawk, one of very few spring records along the se. Louisiana coast. Late migration of Common Nighthawks in Louisiana is poorly understood and not well documented, so apparent concentrations of 23 migrants each at Folsom, St. Tammany 19 May (JR) and Cottle L. 28 May (JHV) were important contributions.

**SWIFT THROUGH FLYCATCHERS**

Four Vaux’s Swifts, well described and confirmed by vocalizations at Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, LA 6 Mar (JBo, DBo), were thought to include some of the birds found there in late Jan–early Feb. A female Calliope Hummingbird continued near St. Gabriel until 9 Apr (DLD), which ranks among the latest departure dates for Louisiana. Red-headed Woodpeckers w. of Johnsons Bayou 12 Apr (DFL), at Cameron 4 May (SWC, DLD), and at Willow L. 16 May (JBo, DBo) were rare migrants along the sw. coast; the 16 May bird was also 2nd latest ever. Also of interest was a Red-bellied Woodpecker near Johnsons Bayou 29 Apr (PEC) that may have been a prospecting colonist; its scarcer and local breeding area along the sw. coast, and breeding is unknown w. of Cameron. An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Grand Isle 4 May (Glenn Gusset, Dan Carroll, Warren Preble) was relatively early and one of very few spring reports for se. Louisiana. An Eastern Wood-Pewee near Woodworth, Rapides 8 Apr (Steve Shively) was the earliest spring report for the Louisiana interior since the 1940s.

Up to 3 Willow Flycatchers, including 2 singing males, along the Red R. at Bossier City 12-17 May (TD, DBo, ph. JBo, ph. James W. Beck) were in an area of suspected breeding. Much more unexpected were 2 voice-confirmed Willow Flycatchers and one Alder Flycatcher near Sorrento, Ascension 12 May (ph. DLD, *SWC*); there are few (especially recent) documented spring records of migrants of either species away from the sw. and extreme nw. corners of the state. Louisiana’s first Gray Flycatcher, found near Benton, Bossier 24 Jan continued until 18 Mar (TD), and one Say’s Phoebe continued near Kaplan until 5 Apr (Jacob Saucier, Kevin Morgan). Record early for Arkansas were Great Crested Flycatchers in Saline 31 Mar (Janine Perlman), Ouachita 2 Apr (Kelly Chitwood), and Washington 5 Apr (HDC). Rather out of place was a westbound Great Kiskadee on the Louisiana side of Sabine Pass, Cameron 13 Apr (p.a., JLD); there are about 15 previous state reports. Although most of the documented Louisiana records of the Tropical/Couch’s Kingbird complex have proven to be Couch’s, one kingbird collected at Rutherford Beach 23 Apr (*BMM*, vt. PAW, CCS) provided the state’s 3rd record of Tropical Kingbird. A Western Kingbird unusually far e. at Saul’s Fish Farm 11 May (K&LN) appears to furnish the first spring report for well-covered Prairie. Four Gray Kingbirds in Louisiana provided an above-average tally, with singles at Grand Isle 19 (ph. DLD, SWC, vt. DBo, JBo) & 27 Apr (ph. DPM), New Orleans 23 Apr (DPM), and Trinity I. 25 May (ph. JBo, EJR).

**VIREOS THROUGH PIPITS**

White-eyed Vireos in Carroll 17 Mar (JAG) and at L. Fayetteville, Washington 19 Mar (MAM) were thought to be spring migrants; if so, they would be record early in nw. Arkansas. A Bell’s Vireo at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R., Orleans 8 Mar (DPM, PAW) was presumed to be the same bird videotaped there 18
Nov 2007 and provided one of the latest reports of a winterer. More intriguing was a Bell’s at Grand Isle 19 Apr (vt. DBo, JBo), only the 2nd report for this well-worked site. If a migrant, it would be the first spring record for Louisiana other than arrival dates in N. Louisiana breeding sites, but it may have been a previously undetected winterer. A singing Bell’s Vireo near Harrissburg, Poinsett 31 May (DB) hinted at a possible new breeding locality for this rare and local breeding resident in N. Arkansas. Other unexpectedly early vireos were Yellow-throateds near St. Gabriel 13 Mar (SWC) and in Carroll, AR 30 Mar (JAG), a Blue-headed and a Warbling at L. Fayetteville 11 Apr (MAM), and Red-eyed v. near St. Gabriel 19 (JVR) & 21 Mar (DLD, SWC). Single Blue-headed vireos near Johnsons Bayou 11 May (RDP, DPM) and at Cameron 17 May (DLD, SWC) were among the latest ever found in Louisiana, and a Warbling Vireo at Grand Isle 19-20 Apr (ph. DLD, JBo, DBo) was only about the 2nd found during spring along the sc. coast since 1975. Twenty Philadelphia vireos at C.F.P. 12 May (DB, RH) provided a record count for Arkansas. A Yellow-green vireo captured at a banding station at Johnsons Bayou, Cameron 3 May represented only about the 6th accepted Louisiana record (ph. Lainie L.Haye, Frank Moore, Emily Cohen). Single Black-whiskered Vireos were at Grand Isle (where now most expected during spring) 5 (DPM, D. Norman, DBo) & 19-20 Apr (SWC, ph. DLD, ph. JBo, m.ob.), with another more unusual near Johnsons Bayou 27 Apr (GB, vt. PAW, BMM, ph. PEC).

Perhaps the most bizarre bird of the season was a House Crow (Corvus splendens) at Hackberry Ridge, a coastal chenier woodland near Johnsons Bayou 10-18 May (ph. GB, ph. PEC); tameness, apparent exaggerated feather abra-

dison, and asymmetrical feather replacement could be interpreted as meaning that the bird had been kept captive. One or more pairs of House Crows have bred in Sarasota, FL since 2001. Surprisingly rare in extreme sw. Louisiana, American Crows venturing to the Cameron coast included 2 at Oak Grove 26 Apr (PEC, CCS, PAW, DP), at Johnsons Bayou 11 May (DPM, RDP), and one at Hackberry Ridge 18 May (PEC). A Chinuhuan Raven at Holly Beach 12 Apr (ph. DFL) provided Louisiana’s first verified record; a previous report from nearby Rutherford Beach 27 Apr 2003 has never been officially reviewed. A Tree Swallow exiting a cavity at Cotile L. 12 May (JHV) represented the 4th consecutive year of confirmed or suspected breeding there. A Cliff Swallow at Baton Rouge 4 Mar (FL) was one day earlier than the previous early Louisiana arrival. There were no signs this season that Cave Swallows persist at the mixed-species colony on the Louisiana side of the Hwy. 82 bridge at Sabine Pass, but one Cave was seen within 1 km of there 13 Apr (p.a. JLD), and another presumed migrant was found much farther e. at Cameron 27 Apr (ph. PEC); somewhat more interesting was a Cave Swallow colony near Kaplan 10 May (ph. PEC, DPM, ph. RDP). Adding to the few other early May reports for Arkansas, a Barn Swallow was noted at L. Fayetteville 4 Mar (HDC, MAM).

**NUTHACHES THROUGH WARBLERS**

Probably representative of a small c. Louisiana breeding population, at least one White-breasted Nuthatch continued to be seen intermittently at Cotile L. (JHV); one at Covington, St. Tammany 20 Apr. (Nancy L. Newfield, Steve Locke, ph. Joan Garvey) was in the “Florida parish/northshore” region, where there are few previous reports, including just one during spring. On the heels of a modest fall/winter irruption, several Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered relatively late, including at Baton Rouge (vt. Jeff W. Harris) and Mt. Sequoyah, Washington, AR (AD) both 5 May, Folsom, St. Tammany 8-9 May (JR), and C.I.P. 10 May (DB, RH, KSLN). A late, probable migrant Bewick’s Wren near Kelso, Desha 20 Apr (DB) was very unusual for sc. Arkansas. Tying the late spring date for Louisiana, and on the coast no less, was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Johnsons Bayou 11 May (DPM). Perhaps setting a new late date for Arkansas was a Sprague’s Pipit in Desha 20 Apr (ph. DB).

Four territorial male Blue-winged Warblers in w. Saline 31 May (DS, Craig & Dale Provost) added to the recent pattern of southward breeding range expansion into w. Arkansas. More reminiscent of coastal migrant groundings, some record-smashing warbler numbers resulting from the fallout at C.E.P. 10 May included 150 Tennessee’s, 30 Nashville’s, 75 Chestnut-sided, 85 Magnolias, and 30 Blackburnians; 20 each of Bay-breasted and Blackpolls were also near-record highs, and 25 American Redstarts was a record count for spring (DB, RH, KN). A Northern Parula at Willow 1. 16 May (JBo, DBo) was very late along the coast, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Grand Isle 5 Apr (vt. DBo) was about the 3rd earliest Louisiana report. For the 2nd year in a row, multiple Cape May Warblers were found at C.E.P., with up to 4 there 9-10 May (DB, RH, KN). A Black-throated Blue Warbler at Grand Isle 27 Apr (ph. RDP, DPM) was the only report. A very late Myrtle Warbler at L. Martin, St. Martin, LA 14 May (DMD) appeared to be unhealthy. A wintering Audubon’s Warbler continued at Grand Isle until 5 Apr (vt. PAW, PEC, DPM, RDP, JBo, vt. DBo) and provided one of few spring departure dates. Record early for Arkansas was a Black-throated Green Warbler at Little Rock 21 Mar (DS); 2 “early” males at Grand Isle 30 Mar (DPM, PAW, RDP) were likely the birds that wintered there and were thought to be present 5 Apr, along with several arriving migrants (JBo, DBo). Similarly, a Prairie Warbler at Grand Isle 12 Apr (RDP, PAW, RDP, CCS, EL) was speculated to have been the wintering bird found there 1 Mar (JBo, vt. DBo, EJ). Two Black-and-white Warblers at L. Fayetteville 19 Mar (MAM) were relatively early, especially for nw. Arkansas. In Louisiana, a record-early Prothonotary Warbler was at New Orleans 8 Mar (JBo, DBo), a Worm-eating Warbler at Sherburne W.M.A., St. Martin 16 Mar (DMD) was

This male Western Tanager at Cameron, Cameron Parish 17 May 2008 established the latest-ever Louisiana occurrence documented by hard evidence. Photograph by Donna L. Dittmann.

A mere three months or so after finding Louisiana’s first Gray Flycatchers, Terry Davis (and northwestern Louisiana) contributed yet another new species to the state list: this male Cassin’s Sparrow at Bossier City, Bossier Parish 10-13 (here 12) May 2008. Photograph by Devin Besler.
just two days off the early date, and a Swainson’s Warbler in Caddo 3 Apr (HH, TD) was record early for n. Louisiana by about 14 days. Another Swainson’s at Allsopp Park, Little Rock, AR 12 May (DS, Samantha Holshbach, Chad Fisher) was considered a late migrant. Roundout the early warbler reports were a Northern Waterthrush at L. Fayetteville 11 Apr (MAM), and a Hooded in Pulaski 23 Mar (Karen Holliday).

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Representing Louisiana’s latest spring record ever was a male Western Tanager at Cameron 17 May (SWC, ph. DLD). A rare Spotted Towhee lingered fairly late at L. Fayetteville 17 Apr (HDC). Capping off an amazing assortment of accidentals found during the season, a singing Cassin’s Sparrow at Bossier City 10-13 May (TD, ph. JT, ph. Charlie Lyon, vt. DBo, m.ob.) furnished yet another first record for Louisiana and, remarkably, the 2nd found by Davis in Bossier within a five-month period. Clay-colored Sparrows are scarce spring migrants, so one at C.E.P. 10 May was cause for excitement as was, to a lesser extent, a Lark Sparrow there the same day (DB, ph. RH, K&SL). A Savannah Sparrow near Johnsons Bayou 16 May (SWC) was exceptionally late along the coast. A singing Grasshopper Sparrow near Dixie, Caddo 12 May (JBo, DBo, TD) hinted at possible breeding; there are only two confirmed Louisiana breeding reports in recent decades. Along the same lines, Henslow’s Sparrows are rare and local breeders in nw. Arkansas, so up to 3 territorial males at Pea Ridge National Military Park 5-27 May (MAM, ph. DO, HDC, ph. JBr) were of great interest. Other tardy sparrows included a marginally late Fox in Washington 5 Apr (MAM), a very late Harris’s in Benton 10 May (JN), 6 White-crowns in sw. Caledonia 4 May (JBo, DBo) and 2 at Bossier City 12 May (JBo, DBo, TD), and a shockingly late Dark-eyed Junco in Boone 22 May (S&HR).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Shreveport 8 Apr (ph. Ron Martin, Susan Martinblack) was record early for n. Louisiana, and one at Baton Rouge 11 Apr (BJo) was record early for the s. interior; 35 at Grand Isle 12 Apr (PAW, DPM, RDP; CCS) was an unprecedented number for so early, and one in Montgomery, AR 19 Apr (Martha Koelemay, Ernestine Grunwald) was also ahead of schedule. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are scarce but regular late winter and spring visitors in sw. Louisiana, but the previous record high count was eclipsed when a flock near Sweet L. gradually increased from 2 on 9 Mar (ph. PEC) to an amazing 109 birds 13 Apr (ph. JBo, DBo), with about 100 still present 26 Apr (SWC, DLD); one at Cocodrie, Terrebonne 1 Mar (vt. PAW) was a more unusual winterer or very early migrant along the cen. coast, and one near Holly Beach 18 May (ph. PEC) furnished the 2nd latest for the state. Perhaps most interesting among four Yellow-headed Blackbird reports in Arkansas was a male in Boone 14 Apr (S&HR, ph. Sally Joh Gibson et al.), an area with few prior reports. A Brewer’s Blackbird in sw. Caledonia 27 Apr (JBo et al.) extended Louisiana’s late spring date by one day. A male Shiny Cowbird was at Grand Isle 19-21 Apr (JBo, vt. DBo, EJR, RMG) where nearly annual during spring and summer; there is no documented record of females in Louisiana. An ad. male Baltimore Oriole continued at Thibodaux, Lafourche until 24 Mar (Beth Maniscalco), producing yet another valuable spring departure date. An ad. male Bullock’s Oriole at Metairie, Jefferson, LA 20 Mar (ph. Beth Wiggins) was conceivably the same “one-day wonder” photographed in the same yard in Nov 2006 and Sep 2007.

Rare Red Crossbills were encountered at two sites in nw. Arkansas: one near Jerusalem, Conway 12 Mar (LA) and 8 in Scott 15 May (JN, J. Valentin), The Common Redpoll found between Harmon and Zinc, Boone, AR 16 Feb continued until 9 Mar (Sherry Stansbery). Unusually late Pine Siskins included 2 at L. Claiborne, Claiborne, LA 5 May (Mary Ellen Lewis), one at Skidell, St. Tammany until 8 May (vt. Sunday Alcorn), and up to 8 at Mt. Sequoyah until 17 May (AD, MAM, DO, JBr). An American Goldfinch near Johnsons Bayou 16 May (SWC, DLD) was likely an anomalous transient.


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produced some high numbers, such as 5180 Northern Pintails at M'Clintock Bay and Tagish 6 May, and 370 Canvasbacks at Tagish 10 May (JJa). A Common Goldeneye x Barrow’s Goldeneye hybrid was at Watson Lake, s. Yukon 16 May (ph. JJa). Seven Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen near the confluence of Mackintosh Cr. and the Nisling R., sw. Yukon 8 Mar (BS).

An impressive count of 17 Red-throated Loons came from Teslin L., s. Yukon 11 May (JJa). Wetland surveys in the Ross River area, s. Yukon turned up single Eared Grebes and Pied-billed Grebes 29 May (PS). Two Double-crested Cormorants, rare in s. Yukon, were at a gull colony at Teslin L. 30 May (JJa). A check of the St. George Society cliffs at Arctic Bay, Nunavut 20 Apr confirmed that a white-morph Gyrfalcon had returned to its nest site (ph. CK). A jaw-dropping total of 40,000 Sandhill Cranes migrated over Faro/Ross R. area, Yukon 9 May (PS). In recent years, the first golden-plovers to reach the Yukon in spring have more often been Pacifics. This season, one American Golden-Plover and 8 Pacific Golden-Plovers were at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon 9 May (CE). Two other Pacifics were near Burwash, sw. Yukon 17 May (HG). An early Killdeer was at Whitehorse, s. Yukon 28 Mar (SC). A flock of 30 Hudsonian Godwits was on the coastal flats at Akimiski L., Nunavut 29 May (KA et al.). The first Surfbird of the season came from aply named Surfbird Mt., along the Dempster Hwy. in cen. Yukon 26 May (KT). Three Red Knots, very rare in s. Yukon, and a Stilt Sandpiper, rare during spring, were highlights at Marsh L. 28 May (KT). A Short-billed Dowitcher, near the n. edge of its range, was singing at a wetland near Faro, s. Yukon 30 May (PS). The range of Wilson’s Phalaropes n. of the Southern Lakes area, s. Yukon is poorly known, so 2 near Ross River 29 May (PS) were noteworthy. Shorebird migration has not been well documented in se. Yukon, so I include the results of a migration watch at Watson Lake airport 17 May: one Black-bellied Plover, 66 American Golden-Plovers, 17 Semipalmated Plovers, 6 Upland Sandpipers, 398 Long-billed Dowitchers, 489 Pectoral Sandpipers, 88 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 5 Least Sandpipers, one Baird’s Sandpiper, 18 Lesser Yellowlegs, 38 Solitary Sandpipers, 2 Whimbrels, 2 Wilson’s Snipe, and 64 unidentified shorebirds (JJa).

**GULLS THROUGH FINCHES**

An ad. Ring-billed Gull, rare but regular in s. Yukon, visited Whitehorse 8 May (CE et al.), and one second-cycle bird was there 22 May (BE, JS). Glacous-winged Gulls are regularly seen in the Whitehorse area during spring, but reports elsewhere in the territory are scarce, so notable were 2 at Haines Junction, sw. Yukon 15 May (HG, TH). The return of gulls to Arctic Bay, Nunavut was reported 12-13 May, with 35 Glacous Gulls and one Iceland Gull (CK). About 30 Caspian Terns were at Akimiski L., Nunavut 29 May (KA). Caspian Terns showed up in s. Yukon in small numbers...
numbers this season, with 2 at Judas Cr. and 4 at M’Clintock Bay 30 May, and 6 at M’Clintock Bay 31 May (JJa). A Great Gray Owl was seen 11 km w. of Faro, s. Yukon 30 May (PS). Short-eared Owls were reported at Haines Junction, sw. Yukon 1 & 13 Mar (LF, TS). A Red-breasted Sapsucker, a fairly regular spring visitor to s. Yukon, was found at Marsh L. 6 Apr (NB). A Northern Flicker, well n. of its range, was at Baker L., Nunavut 24 May (ph. IQ). A Red-shafted Flicker × Yellow-shafted Flicker intergrade was seen near Jakes Corner, s. Yukon 12 May (CE).

A Say’s Phoebe at Akimiski I. 25 May (ph. KA) provided the first record for Nunavut. A Blue-headed Vireo, reported only once before in the Whitehorse area, was singing at Hidden Lakes 26 May (PS). The first crow of the season was at Whitehorse 23 Mar (SC); numerous subsequent reports of small numbers of crows, some carrying nesting material, fueled the debate as to which species comprises the Whitehorse population. Cold weather during mid-May forced swallows to seek creative means of survival; one observer at Whitehorse watched 12 or more Tree Swallows cram into one nest box 14-16 May (ph. AS). Apparently bucking the cold weather was an outrageously early Barn Swallow at M’Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 2 Apr (JJa). Most intriguing was the report of a Gray-headed Chickadee at Tombstone Park, cen. Yukon 26 May (KT). A male Cape May Warbler banded at Teslin L., s. Yukon 31 May (BS) furnished the first for the area. A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Pauline Cove, Herschel L., n. Yukon 30 May+ (ph. AK et al.) was the first species of warbler observed on the island. A record-early male Blackpoll Warbler was banded at Albert Cr., sc. Yukon 9 May (JJo). Warblers accounted for the majority of the 207+ birds banded at Albert Cr. this season, with 468 Yellow-rumped, 361 Orange-crowned, 199 Yellows, and 139 Wilson’s (Jide TMK).

A singing Le Conte’s Sparrow was found at Akimiski I, Nunavut 28 May (BK). Dark-eyed Juncos dominated opening day at the Teslin L. banding station, s. Yukon 6 May with a total of 13b banded (JJa). White-crowned Sparrows ultimately surpassed the junco’s spring total of 255, with 311 banded (BS). A Vesper Sparrow at the Albert Cr. banding station, sc. Yukon 16 May (ph. JJa, JJo), furnished the 2nd Yukon record. A massive flock of about 2500 Lapland Longspurs was at the rodeo grounds n. of Whitehorse 7 May (CE). Snow Bunting migration seemed thin in s. Yukon this season, with one of the few notable reports being a count of 460 along the Alaska Hwy. between Mendenhall and the Donjek R., sw. Yukon 18 Mar (BS). The concern over Rusty Blackbird population declines has prompted more intensive surveys of their breeding areas and migration sites in the n. Region. Forty-seven Rusties were color-banded at Albert Cr., sc. Yukon during the season (Jide TMK). In sw. Yukon, breeding surveys located one Rusty nest at Sulphur L., and a pair with nesting material at Lloyd Keith pond 17 May (JuB, TH). An Evening Grosbeak, rare in s. Yukon, was a highlight at M’Clintock Bay 12 Apr (JJa).

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Prairie Provinces

Rudolf F. Koes
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The Region experienced a very cold spring, with persistent northerly winds and several large snowfalls. As a result, migration was generally well behind schedule, with flycatchers and vireos still poorly represented at the end of the season. However, weather conditions also caused some phenomenal foldouts and brought in many rare visitors, primarily from the West. One particularly stormy and snowy period 19-26 April ground American Robins by the thousands at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and ducks, loons, grebes, Fox Sparrows, and American Tree Sparrows in southern Manitoba. A spate of rarities in Manitoba included Tufted Duck, Barrow’s Goldeneye, and several gulls. Notable warbler waves came through southern Manitoba 16, 19, & 25 May; but the warbler migration in Saskatchewan was uneventful. Several hybrid waterfowl were reported from the Calgary, Alberta area.

GESE THROUGH CRANES

Canada Geese in s. Alberta probably had a disastrous breeding season due to the weather, something perhaps not entirely unwelcome (TK). Eurasian Wigeons numbered 38 in s. Alberta (m.ob., Jide TK). In Saskatchewan, where much rarer, Eurasians were noted at Cypress L. 11 May (AH) and Maple Creek 14 May (RD), while a male near
Golden Eagles 20 Feb-18 May, just below the 15-year average for the former Mt. Lorette count (PS). While this species still dominated the tally sheet, numbers for most other raptors were well above the Mt. Lorette averages (PS). Diurnal raptor migration in s. Manitoba was diffuse, with peak numbers at Windygates being 149 Bald Eagles 27 Mar and 929 Red-tailed Hawks 2 Apr (m.ob.). A count of 15 Ospreys at Saskatoon, SK 27 Apr was notable (GK). Two Whooping Cranes, rare anywhere in s. Alberta, were seen at close range at Immisfail, AB 27 Apr (I&MO, fide TK).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Shorebird migration drew little comment from Alberta and Saskatchewan, and it was poor in Manitoba except for some concentrations in the Whitewater Lake W.M.A. area. Standing water was at a premium; for example, Reed L., SK, usually a shorebird haven, was nearly dry. An excellent count of 1300 Whimbrels came from the Taber, AB area 10 May (LB). Most noteworthy of the few rarities reported were a Pacific Golden-Plover near Calgary 19 May (TK), 16 Black-necked Stilts in Saskatchewan variously 27 Apr-24 May, with one at Whitewater Lake W.M.A. 3 May (DD, ph.), and 2 northerly American Avocets near The Pas, MB 9 May (DR). Some 15 Thayer's Gulls were in the California area variously 22 Mar-19 May (TK et al.); a lone Thayer's was at Wascana Marsh, Regina, SK 24 Mar-7 Apr (Bl. et al.). Possibly 3 different Iceland Gulls were at Calgary 29 Mar (RB et al.), 30 Mar (ph. TK), and 1 Apr (HV), with others at Wascana Marsh 8-11 Apr (SW et al.) and Winnipeg 23 Apr (ph. CA). Likewise, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were numerous, with singles at Calgary 5 & 25 Apr (TK), Wascana Marsh 11 & 13-19 Apr (SW et al.), Saskatoon 18-19 Apr (R. Dudragne et al.), Winnipeg 23 Apr (BP, ph. CA) and Natalie L. 6 May (RK). An Arctic Tern at Riding Mountain N.P., MB 26 May (CA, AW et al.) was rare there.

Burrowing Owls staged a minor invasion into s. Manitoba: one in the Spruce Woods area 2 Apr was early, with others noted near Kleefer and Rosser in the se., where none had been seen in decades. A few owl territories in the extreme sw. were re-occupied (KD et al.). Another owl at Moose Jaw, SK 6 Apr (fide RP) was early. A few Boreal Owls were found dead or starving in s. Manitoba during late Mar, indicative of a low vole population (m.ob.). A Chimney Swift at Holland, MB 11 May (AW, GW) was a rare migrant; 2 at Agas-
PORTED iN s. MANITOA, while the wintering bird at POKOBA, AB continued into the season (JJ et al.). A Red-breasted Sapsucker at BAnff N.P. 24 Apr (pH. CG, Jule JR) provided about the 6th report for Alberta.

PASSERINES

A Cassin’s Vireo at Calgary 30 Apr (GY et al.) was record early. A Violet-green Swallow, the 4th for Manitoba, took shelter from the elements at Brandon Sewage Lagoon 26 May (KD). At least 12 Townsend’s Solitaires were present in s. Saskatchewan (Jule GK), with another at Winnipeg 17 Apr (CA). An early Manitoba egg-date for Eastern Bluebird was established when an abandoned clutch of 5 eggs was found near Treherne 27 Apr (AM). A Wood Thrush at Regina 9 May (jule BL) was locally rare, as was a Northern Mockingbird in the Seven Persons, AB area 4 May (BV). Huge numbers of Bohemian Waxwings gathered at Saskatoon; one flock was estimated at an astonishing 25,000 on 10 Apr (GK). A rather early Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Winnipeg 29 Mar (EG). Manitoba’s first Black-throated Gray Warbler, long overdue, frequented a Winnipeg garden and environs 21-22 May (pH. RS et al.). A possible Hooded Warbler was reported at Moose Jaw 12 May (DC). It was a good year for Western Tanagers in Manitoba, with singles at Brandon, Mar- hand, Morden, Portage la Prairie, and Root L., n. of The Pas variously 9 May+ (m.ob.).

A Summer Tanager was at Regina 26 May (BL), the 6th report for Saskatchewan. Another was photographed at Minnedosa, MB during late May (RC, fide CC).

Early Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows were near Gimli, MB 19 Apr (BC, PM) and at Holland 26 Apr (GW). There were several reports of a female Northern Cardinal at Calgary 29 Mar+ (m.ob.). For the 3rd year in a row, a male Black-headed Grosbeak was on territory near Coulter, MB by late May (KD et al.). A Brambling at Drumheller, AB 1-8 May was apparently photographed (LBr, fide JA). Tardy Common Redpolls visited a Grosse Isle, MB feeder 6 May (KG) and a Winnipeg garden 8 May (RK).


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The Bfi landfill at Calgary, Alberta produced some notable gull sightings during the spring of 2008. This Iceland Gull (center) on 30 March was one of the rarest birds. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.

This Lesser Black-backed Gull at Wascana Marsh, Regina, Saskatchewan on 13 April was one of at least seven reported across the Prairie Provinces region during the spring of 2008. Photograph by Steven Weir.
Northern Great Plains

Ron Martin

The season was cooler than average, with little spring run-off and thus continuing drought conditions in many areas. Eastern Montana and the extreme western Dakotas had good rainfall, but rains did not arrive in the rest of North Dakota until mid-May. Even though wind is a constant in the Northern Plains, this season was notable for the many days of high winds. Memorable swallow fall-outs occurred 26-27 April and 1 and 10 May; the last coincident with several inches of snow. Warbler numbers were notable beginning 20 May. The dry conditions were no doubt responsible for low waterbird numbers.

Migration peaks overall were generally late, with little singing evident in May, particularly in the grasslands. Highlights in North Dakota were the first Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in ten years, returning Snowy Plovers, and strong warbler and sparrow numbers. Notable in Montana were Glossy Ibises, Iceland Gull, Arctic Tern, Golden-winged Warbler, and Prothonotary Warbler. South Dakota had a returning Snowy Plover and a Green-tailed Towhee.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Bewick’s Swan was photographed at Benton L., MT 4 Apr (AE); this subspecies has been reported in Montana in three of the past four years. Accidental during spring in North Dakota, a Harlequin Duck was in McLean 11 May (p.a., RS). A White-winged Scoter at Drayton 25 May (JPL) was similarly rare for North Dakota. Twenty Red-breasted Mergansers in Griggs and Foster, ND 27 Apr (CDE) furnished a good peak for spring. Ring-necked Pheasant and Sharp-tailed Grouse populations remain very high in North Dakota. In contrast, Greater Sage-Grouse are at their lowest point since lek counts were initiated. Only 77 males were noted on 18 leks in the extreme SW corner of North Dakota (AR). West Nile virus and oil development seem to be the major causes of the declines. Common Loon numbers peaked at 123 at Fort Peck, MT 24 Apr (CC). A good count of 1500 Horned Grebes was noted at Grand Forks, ND 10 May (EEF). Casual in w. South Dakota, a Red-necked Grebe was in Pennington 11 May (JB, JF). A Tricolored Heron at Lake Alice N.W.R., ND 30 Apr was in the same area where a single bird was seen during 2006 and 2007 (p.a., CD). Furnishing the first report for North Dakota since 1998, a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Valley City 11 Apr–1 May was enjoyed by many (p.a., BJA et al.). A Glossy Ibis at Bowdon N.W.R. 24 & 31 May (p.a., SD) provided the 2nd report for Montana. The only Red-shouldered Hawk report was last year’s breeding site in Sully, SD were seen 19 Apr–15 May (p.a., RDO, KM), while 4 other Snowies returned to their 2007 breeding site at Long Lake N.W.R., ND by 30 Apr (p.a., CA). A Solitary Sandpiper in Charles Mix 13 Apr (RM) furnished the earliest report for South Dakota. Single Long-billed Curlews at Audubon N.W.R., ND and in Divide, ND 15 Apr (LL, TN) were outside their typical breeding range. A Red Knot was a highlight in Sully, SD 15 May (p.a., RDO, KM). A Baird’s Sandpiper at Benton L., MT 21 Mar (JN) was early. Shorebird peaks at Long Lake N.W.R., ND included 9350 Sandpipers, 13,930 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 6200 White-rumped Sandpipers 27 May (MJR). A Red-necked Phalarope at Long Lake N.W.R. 4 Apr (p.a., MJR) was record early for North Dakota by two weeks.

GULLS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Little Gull in Minnehaha 15 Apr (p.a., DC) furnished the 10th report for South Dakota, while an Iceland Gull photographed at Ft. Peck 14 Mar (CC) provided the 4th for Montana. Among the Lesser Black-backed Gull reports for North Dakota was a single at Fargo 3 May, a first report for Cass (KRC, DWR). Accidental in Montana, an Arctic Tern was at Bowdon N.W.R. 24 May (p.a., SD). A pair of Barred Owls was noted 24 May n. of Grand Forks (NDBS); presently, this is the only area where they regularly occur away from the Sheyenne R. valley in the se. part of the state. Providing the 2nd confirmed breeding report for North Dakota, a Northern Saw-whet Owl pair inhabited a Wood Duck box in the Turtle Mts. (p.a., TG). A Red-naped Sapsucker at Ft. Peck, MT 18 May was well ne. of its normal range in the state (CC). Accidental away from the ne. corner of South Dakota, a Pileated Woodpecker was in Clay 16 May (p.a., DB).

An Eastern Phoebe at Ft. Peck 24 Apr (p.a., JC) provided the 12th report for Montana, while 2 phoebes were far w. in Stark, ND 2 May (JWH). A casual spring migrant in South Dakota, a White-eyed Vireo was at Pierre 10 May (DB, RDO). A Blue-headed Vireo at Westby, MT 1 May was early (TN). Black-billed Magpies, once common over much of the Dakotas, are now rare in many areas; West Nile virus and land use changes lead the list of culprits. A Common Raven carrying food at Cando Agricultural Experiment Station, Town, ND 22 May (JPL, CDE) provided the first potential breeding report in the county. Unusual were three reports of Townsend’s Solitaires in North Dakota during May, the last of these at Fargo 29 May (MAO).

An amazing 3 Blue-winged Warblers were
found in North Dakota, the first since 2003, one in Barnes 23 May (p.a., MAO), one in Jamestown 24 May (p.a., DBa), and the other in Ward 27 May (p.a., JT). Singles in South Dakota were in Union 14 May (GJS) and Lincoln 31 May (JSP). Golden-winged Warblers also made a strong showing, with eight North Dakota reports 20-27 May, plus reports in four South Dakota counties 21-25 May. Topping these reports was a Golden-winged Warbler at Ft. Peck 23 May (p.a., CC) that furnishing the 3rd report for Montana. Northern Parulas also made a strong showing, with six reports in North Dakota and nine in South Dakota, among these one far west in Pennington 6 May (JB). Cape May Warblers peaked at 30 in ne. North Dakota 22 May (CDE, JPL). Very rare during spring, Black-throated Blue Warblers were at Grafton, ND 24 May (DDJ), in Stanley, SD 22 May (RDO, DC), and in Clay, SD 26 May (RDO, DC). A Townsend’s Warbler at Hettinger 18 May (p.a., JPL) furnished the 12th report for North Dakota. One or 2 Pine Warblers were at Fargo, ND 3-5 May (DPW, RHO), and 3 singles in Minnehaha, SD spanned 2-29 May (TJ, DL, MZ). One each of Black-and-White Warbler, Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush at Weston, MT 1 May (TN) were early. Another warbler highlight was the Prothonotary Warbler at Ft. Peck 21 (CC) & 24 May (EH, SD) that provided the 3rd report for Montana. Single Prothonotary Warblers were seen in Mountrail 11-17 May (p.a., DL, REM; at a feeding station) and in Emmons 20 May (p.a., REM, CDE, JPL), the 14th and 15th reports for North Dakota, while 5 others were in South Dakota: one in Clay 8 May (DS), in Moody 19 May (DC), and one in Minnehaha 25 May (DC). Warblers casual in the Region were a Kentucky Warbler in Minnehaha, SD 14 May (DC) and Hooded Warblers at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., ND 2 May (p.a., GAE) and in Minnehaha, SD 30 May (DC).

A Brewer’s Sparrow in Stark, ND 9 May (REM) was a bit n of typical range. Le Conte’s Sparrow numbers were very low, reflecting the dry conditions. An early Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow was in Grand Forks, ND 28 Apr (DOL). Peak counts of Fox Sparrows were 53 in Lincoln, SD 6 Apr (TJ) and 33 in Towner and Cavalier, ND 26 Apr (CDE, SDL). High counts of Lincoln’s Sparrows were 35 in Wesby, MT 1 May (TN), and 68 in sw. North Dakota 10 May (CDE). Very rare during spring in Montana, a Swamp Sparrow was at Ft. Peck 2 May (JC). The Zonotrichia fallout at Wesby, MT 1 May included 330 White-throateds, 350 White-crowned, and 100 Harris’s (TN). The 412 White-crowned Sparrows tallied in sw. North Dakota 10 May (REM) established a new state high count. A Golden-crowned Sparrow in Ward 1-2 May (p.a., RR) furnished the 7th report for North Dakota, while another at Wesby 14 May (ph DJ) was casual in Montana. Two reports of Gray-headed Juncos were seasonally unusual in South Dakota, singles in Meade 3 May (AB) and Dewey 6 May (SS).

A Northern Cardinal nest found in Lawrence, SD 30 May provided the first breeding report for the Black Hills (DGP). Out-of-range Lazuli Buntings in North Dakota were in Wells 19 May (REM) and Barnes 31 May (MAO). A Bullock’s Oriole in Hughes, SD 13 May (KM) was far e. of usual areas. A Great-tailed Grackle in Shannon, SD 14 May (DGP) provided the first county report. An interesting convergence took place in Ft. Peck, MT 12 May, when all three Carpodacus finches were seen at Carlson’s feeder. A Lesser Goldfinch near Great Falls 4-7 May (JB) provided about the 12th report for Montana, while one in Lawrence 5 May (SW) furnished the only South Dakota report.

One of two found in North Dakota this spring, this Prothonotary Warbler was in Mountrail County 11-17 (here 13) May 2008. Photograph by Dave Lindee.


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Swans are expanding into the s. Region, with 20-25 in Kansas (fide LM). The only Eurasian Wigeons reported were singles in the Rainwater Basin, NE in Adams 5 Mar (KS) and York 6 Apr (JGJ). Cinnamon Teal in the e. part of the Region included 5 or more in the e. Rainwater Basin 24 Mar-4 May (PD, JGJ, TJW), one in Muskogee, OK 11 Mar (CCh), and 3 singles (likely not the same bird) in Tulsa 11-21 Apr (JWA, GST). A Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal hybrid was in Tulsa 11 Apr (JWA). One or more Mottled Ducks at Red Slough 12, 13, & 20 May (DA) were quite unusual. A Norther Pintail lingered at Red Slough until 20 May (DA).

A Canvasback in Kiowa, OK 8 May (VF) was late, as were 2 in the e. Rainwater Basin 26 May (JGJ). Greater Scap are increasing in numbers; a surprising 600 were in Noble and Pawnee, OK 21 Mar (JWA, JTh), and 33 were reported in Nebraska (fide WRS), with the latest report of 2 in Scotts Bluff 29 Apr (KD). Any scoter is rare in the Region, so notable were 2 Surf in Noble, OK 21 Mar (JWA, JTh), a female Black in Johnson, KS 11-23 Apr (ML, Ds), and a lingering first-spring Surf in Johnson, KS 13 May (MC). The only Long-tailed Ducks reported were as many as 3 at S. L., Pawnee/Noble, OK 10-21 Mar (JW, JWA, JTh). A Regional highlight was the Barrow's Goldeneye in Sedgwick, KS 15 Mar (BR, MN). A Common Goldeneye in Sarpy, NE 10 May (CNK) was tatty. Hooded Mergansers have bred sporadically in the Region, mostly in the e. portion; this season, a female and 3 young were noted at Omaha 9 May (CNK), providing only the 3rd confirmed breeding report for Nebraska since 1915. As many as 2 female Hooded were noted at Red Slough 12-13 May (DA). Red-breasted Mergansers have increased in recent years, and counts of 50 in e. and cen. Oklahoma are now routine (fide JAG), but the 300 at L. Yankton, Cedar 29 Mar (BFH) furnished by the record-high spring count for Nebraska.

The only Pacific Loons were singles in Lancaster, NE 20 & 28 Mar (HLE) and Pawnee, OK 10 Mar (JW et al.). There were 14,100 Western Grebes at McConaughy 16 May (SJD). Westerns reported easterly were singles in Pawnee, OK 10 Mar (JW) and Sedgwick, KS 11 May (PG). The best count of American White Pelicans was 3000 at Cheyenne Bottoms 13 Apr (SS). Neotropic Cormorants are becoming widespread in the s. Region, with up to 2 at Red Slough 9 Apr (DA), one at Cheyenne Bottoms 17 May (SS), and two breeding pairs—avec one ad. being apparently a hybrid with Double-created Cormorant—

**WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES**

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks keep edging northward, with 6 in Sedgwick 17 Apr (HG), 5 at Cheyenne Bottoms 23 May (RP, KG), as many as 5 in McCurtain, OK, where now regular, 1 Apr+ (DA), and 3 in Grady, OK 26 May (JAG). Three Greater White-fronted Geese lingered in Clay, NE 31 May (JGJ). Snow Geese were unusually numerous in the Nebraska Panhandle, with 50,000 or more at Cochran L. 11 Mar (AK). Tundra Swans are rare migrants in the Region; 2 ads. and one imm. were at Quivira 24-28 Mar (MR), with 3 others in Dakota, NE 24 Mar (JJ). Trumpeter

**Joseph A. Grzybowski**

**W. Ross Silcock**

*Seasonal patterns in spring 2008 were varied. Some irruptive species such a Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin completed their winter cycles with above-average numbers. Early arrivals continued to set new records, and in Nebraska, some species may be establishing new wintering patterns. Glossy Ibis, and their hybrids with White-faced Ibis, continue to expand their ranges. This was a good season for Red-faced Phalaropes, particularly at Salt Plains, Oklahoma. There was a strong surge of Neotropical migrants in eastern Nebraska in late May. Birders were charmed with an array of extralimital species, including first records of Common Crane in Kansas and Grace's Warbler in Nebraska.*

Abbreviations: Hackberry (Hackberry Flat W.M.A., Tillman, OK); McConaughy (L. McConaughy, Keith, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Rainwater Basin (plays in s.-cen. and se. Nebraska); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Salt Plains (Salt Plains N.W.R., Altajfa, OK).

**Southern Great Plains**

*A single Common Crane was noted among Sandhill Cranes in the Platte River flats near Kearney, Nebraska 6-9 (here 6) March 2008. Photograph by Stan Tekiela.*

**Small but apparently increasing numbers of Sharp-tailed Grouse are found s. of the Platte R. in the Nebraska Panhandle; 8 were in Banner 18 Apr (JGJ). Greater Prairie-Chickens are doing well in Nebraska, although now under threat from the expansion of the wind-power industry on the Great Plains. A count of 21 leks, including one with 40 males, in a 56-km survey route in n. Lincoln 20 Mar (TIV) suggests a healthy population there, while this species continues to adapt to playa wetland sites in the e. Rainwater Basin. Greater Prairie-Chickens have hybridized with Sharp-tailed Grouse in Nebraska and with Lesser Prairie-Chicken in Kansas. One lek along the ELs and Trejo, KS line 15 Apr contained 5 males: 3 Grouse, one Lesser, and one that exhibited hybrid characters (TM). Lessers may be faring poorly in w.-cen. Kansas, where leks included only 6 in Kiowa 8 Apr (MR, KB) and 7 in Rush 1 May (SS). A better count of 17 Lessers, 14 of them males, were at a Morton, KS site 24 Mar (MA, PH, HO).***

[Image of map showing Nebraska and Kansas with labels for various bird locations]
Among an exceptional number of Red-necked Phalaropes in the Southern Great Plains region in spring 2008 was this one at Hackberry Wildlife Management Area, Tillman County, Oklahoma 13 May 2008. Photograph by Lou Trues.

Egrets were w. to Scotts Bluff, NE 25-28 May (KD, AK). Seventy-five Black-crowned Night-Herons were present at Cheyenne Bottoms 30 Apr (RB, MR). About a month early were 14 White Ibis at Red Slough 5 Mar (DA). Glossy Ibis continued to push northward in the Great Plains, as numbers of White-faced Ibis also increase markedly. Documented reports of Glossy Ibis in Nebraska were singles in Clay 3-4 May (ph. JG), at McConaughy 16 May (tSJ), and in Fillmore 18 May (ph. JG), while there were four Oklahoma reports: 3 in Alfalfa 15 May (JWA, JTh), and singles at Hackberry 23 Apr (M&SM), in Tulsa 28 May (BC), and in Major 2 May (JAG). Reports of Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrids included one in the e. Rainwater Basin 12 May (JG), 3 in Alfalfa, OK 15 May (JWA, JTh), and one in Kingfisher, OK 2 May (JAG). Four Plegadis ibis, likely White-faced, arrived early at Red Slough 5 Mar (DA), while 33 White-faced visited Hackberry 9 Mar (JAG).

Black Vultures are now rare and regular in Cherokee, KS, where one was seen 7 May (LP), and in Comanche, OK, where there were several during May (VE JAG). Exciting were two breeding attempts in the Region by Osprey. The first breeding record for Kansas was furnished by a nest under construction in Jackson 12 May, then with a female apparently incubating 19 May (BK). The first breeding attempt in Nebraska in more than 40 years was of a nest under construction in Scotts Bluff 15 May that blew down in a storm 24 May (BGR, Jake AK). Tardy were single Ospreys in Tulsa, OK 30 May (BC) and Sarpy, NE 29 May (AR). A Mississippi Kite at Ogallala, Keith, NE 24 Apr (Jade CWH) was early. There are now 50 pairs of Bald Eagles in Nebraska (Jade JG). The only Northern Goshawk reported was in Douglas, NE 16 Mar (JR). The Nebraska Panhandle had westerly Broad-winged Hawks in Banner 4 May (KD) and Garden 16 May (JTh). Another Broad-winged in Cedar, NE 29 Mar (BFH) was early. An imm. Golden Eagle was eagerly in Wabanaee, KS 15 Apr (MG). A Merlin in Pawnee, KS lingered until 30 Apr (SS). Peregrine Falcon nests at Lincoln, NE and Omaha, NE were unsuccessful (Jade JG). As expected, migrant Peregrines were widely reported 4 Apr–28 May (m.ob.).

A Yellow Rail was found in York, NE 15 May (tSJ). Quivira is the most reliable place for Black Rails in the Region; as many as 3 were there 30 Apr–3 May (RP, MR, DS, BG). A single King Rail at Quivira 30 Apr (RP, MR) was northerly, but good numbers were found in Oklahoma, with up to 8 at Hackberry 1 Mar+ (L&M) and up to 3 at Red Slough 17 Mar–14 May (DA, M&SM). Single Virginia Rails were in Sioux, NE 17 Mar (HKH) and Texas, OK 9 Apr (PVE, SR), with 2 at Red Slough as late as 19 May (DA et al.). A Sora at Red Slough 11 Mar (DA) was early or wintering, while another in Cimarron, OK 11 May (M&SM) was rare there. Purple Gallinules at Red Slough returned 5 May, and as many as 6 were there until 27 May (DA). Red Slough also has become a haven for Common Moorhen, with a very early bird noted 3 Mar and a peak of 27 there 29 Apr (DA). The only other moorhen reported was in Douglas, KS 10 May (RA). Best counts of Sandhill Cranes were 30,000 at Quivira 2 Mar (SS) and up to 30,000 in Lincoln 25 Mar (TJW). A pair of Sandhills in Morrill, NE raised a colt for the 4th consecutive year (Jade AK). A Common Crane at Quivira 23 Mar (MA, PH, HO) provided a first Kansas record. Quite possibly the same crane appeared in Lincoln, NE 30 Mar–6 Apr (LF, m.ob.), while another was in Buffalo and Kearney, NE 6-9 Mar (SS, ST, m.ob.).

**PLOVERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS**

Good tallies for Black-bellied Plovers were 200 in the e. Rainwater Basin 12-13 May (JG) and 133 at Cheyenne Bottoms 16 May (HHa). Snowy Plovers, rare in Nebraska, were found in Clay 1 & 10 May (PD, JG). Of interest was the return of a Piping Plover to Crescent Lake N.W.R., Garden, NE 16-17 May (SJ), where birds bred during 2007. The earliest migrant Piping was in Tulsa, OK 11 Apr (BC et al.). Three Mountain Plovers in Kimball, NE 26 Mar (LS) were early. Black-necked Stilts are doing locally well in the w. Region, particularly at Hackberry (L&M), while singles arrived at two locations in the e. Rainwater Basin 26 (JG) & 31 May (KS). Stilts in Oklahoma were one at Red Slough 8 Apr (DA) and 2 in Sequoyah 21 May (SB). The spring status of Greater Yellowlegs has become muddled by wintering birds, although one in Lancaster, NE 3 Mar (JG) was an early migrant, while 3 Lesser Yellowlegs at Hackberry 9 Mar (L&M) were rather early. The best count of Whimbrels in the Region was 16 at Salt Plains 15 May (JW et al.). A Long-billed Curlew in York, NE 7 Apr (JG) furnished one of very few reports for e. Nebraska, while another at Hackberry 18 May (L&M) was very tardy. Best counts of Hudsonian Godwits were 107 in Phelps, NE 18 Apr (JG) and 78 in Tulsa and Wagoner, OK 8 May (JWA). Uncommon in the Region, good counts of Ruddy Turnstone included a surprising 50 in Washington, OK 10 May (M&SM), 21 at Salt Plains 16 May (JWA et al.), and 10 in Clay, NE 18 May (JG). One of the Region's rarer spring shorebirds is Red Knot, with 2 or 3 at Quivira 15 May (MR) and one at Salt Plains the same day (JWA, JTh). The 110 Sanderlings at Quivira 19 May (MR) furnished an excellent count. There were 800 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Salt Plains 22 Apr (JWA, JTh) and 3500 in the e. Rainwater Basin 4 May (JG). Surprisingly early were single Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers at Hackberry 9 Mar (JG) and 5 Semipalmateds there 19 Mar (L&M). Numbers of Dunlins have been increasing in recent years; nearly 300 were reported in the e. and cen. parts of the Region, including 86 in Tulsa and Wagoner, OK 26 May (JWA) and 50 in the e. Rainwater Basin 18 May (JG). Two or 3 Dunlins were at Hackberry 9 Mar (JAG) and one at Quivira 22 Mar (SS). The 2800 Stilt Sandpipers in the e. Rainwater Basin 18 May (JG) established a record spring count for Nebraska; the 1000 in Alfal
fa, OK 15 May (JWA, JTh) were also impressive. Three Stilt Sandpipers at Hackberry 5 Apr (L&MT) were early. Recent studies have shown that Buff-breasted Sandpipers choose particular sparsely vegetated fields in the e. Rainwater Basin (JG); 850 there 17 May, with 422 of these in a single field (JG), set a new high count. Fifty Buff-breasted were noted in Sedgwick, KS 12 May (B&NB), and 6 others in Tulsa, OK 26 May (JWA) were tardy. Few Short-billed Dowitchers appear in the Region until May, and so four reports in Nebraska during Apr (J, PD, TJ, KD), and one at Quivira 26 Apr (SS) were significant. Other Short-billeds were more typical in their seasonality, with 140 in the e. Rainwater Basin 12 May (JG), 22 at Red Slough 14 May (DA), and 5 at Salt Plains 15 May (JWA et al.). Early were 474 Long-billed Dowitchers at Hackberry 9 Mar (L&MT, JAG), while the 4750 Long-billeds in the e. Rainwater Basin 4 May (JG) depicted the peak of migration. Who wouldn't be amazed by the spectacle of 10,000 Wilson's Phalarope at Cheyenne Bottoms 16 May (HHa), 7000 at Salt Plains 15 May (JWA et al.), or 5000 in the e. Rainwater Basin 4 May (JG) Red-necked Phalarope surrounded a lot of birds this spring, with one quite early in Lincoln, NE 23 Apr (TJW), as many as 4 at Hackberry 11-13 May (JAG, K&SM), a very surprising 247 at Salt Plains 15 May (JWA et al.), and one in Tulsa 26 May (JWA). Perhaps more surprising was the Red Phalarope at Quivira 4 May (DS, BG).

California Gulls are rare in the Region away from McConaughy, so one ad at Lincoln, NE 19 Mar (JG) and one at Salt Plains 1+ May (JWA, JTh) were notable. The only Thayer's Gulls reported were one first-cycle bird in Douglas, KS 5 Mar (MA, PH) and 3 in Gosper, NE 31 Mar (JG). A significant rarity southward in the Region, a first-cycle Kumbien's Gull was identified in Douglas, KS 1 Mar (MA). There were seven reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the Region 5 Mar-13 Apr (m.ob.). Three Glaucous Gulls continued from winter, with one “near-ad.” at Lincoln, NE 31 Mar (JG) lingering the latest. A Least Tern at Salt Plains 22 Apr (JWA, JTh) was early. The 11 Common Terns at McConaughy 16 May (SJD) furnished a very good spring total.

The Band-tailed Pigeon continued in Saunders, NE until 22 Mar (fide MB). White-winged Doves are now locally common in the Region, with reports nw. to Dawes, NE (fide WRS). Locally rare was an Inca Dove in Crawford, KS 3 May (MH). The last of the winter's few Snowy Owls lingered in Kimball, NE until 26 Mar (LS). Three Long-eared Owls close to fledging were in Keith, NE 28 May (ph. CWPh); nests are seldom reported in the Region. A Northern Saw-whet Owl in Douglas, KS 2 Mar (PW) presumably was near the end of its winter's stay. Intriguing were a Northern Saw-whet Owl calling at Chadron S.P., Dawes 16 Apr (JG) and 2 or 3 others heard in Lincoln, NE 19 May (TJW); breeding in the Pine Ridge of nw. Nebraska has never been confirmed. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird arrived back in Muskogee, OK 22 Mar (fide JM). Three rather early Black-chinned Hummingbirds were in s.-cen. Oklahoma in Grady 23 Mar (DL), Comanche 25 Mar (K&SM), and McClain 4 Apr (M&JF). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Tulsa, OK 3 May (MJ) et al.) was tardy so far south. The long-staying female Ladder-backed Woodpecker in Riley, KS appeared 15 Mar (Sf, KG), while one in Morton, KS 20 Apr (MG) was barely within its expected range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Comanche, OK 27 Apr (L&MT) arrived early. Rare so far was an Eastern Wood-Pewee in Lincoln, NE 27 May (TJW). A Dusky Flycatcher in Kimball 16 May (TJD) furnished the 5th spring report for Nebraska. Seldom detected in migration, the only report of Cordilleran Flycatcher was of one at Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff, NE 18 May (SJD). An early Say's Phoebe in Fillmore, NE 11 Mar (JG) was early. At least one Vermilion Flycatcher had returned to Cimarron, OK by 11 May (M&MP), as had an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Morton, KS 20 Apr (MG). Northerly was another Ash-throated in Logan, KS 3 May (Pf). A real surprise was an extraliminal Cassin's Kingbird e. to Quivira, Stafford, KS 10 May (SS, DK). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers arrived 22 Mar in Oklahoma, with singles in McCurtain (DA) and Muskogee (fide JM), and in Comanche (K&SM). A Northern Shrike lingered in Buffalo, NE until 14 Apr (LE). Among an increasing array of early arrivals were single White-eyed Vireos in Atoka, OK 19 Mar (DWO et al.) and Stockton, OK 20 Mar (DWO), 2 Yellow-throated Vireos at Red Slough 22 Mar (DA), and a record-early Warbling Vireo in Sarpy, NE 9 Apr (EB). Philadelphia Vireos were present in good numbers, notably in Nebraska, with 15 reports 12-29 May (PS, JWH), including 5 in Douglas 23 May (TP). A Philadelphia in Tulsa, OK 27 Apr (FS, SM) was early.

Steller's Jays are occasional visitors to the w. edge of the Region, so surprising were 20 in Cimarron, OK 6 Mar (BH et al.). Finken Jays, too, wander to the w. part of the Region, with one this season in Russell, KS 7 May (DK). Two Black-breasted Magpies were found e. to Clay, KS 14 Mar (HH). Fish Crows appear to be expanding westward and now occur to Sedgwick, Sumner, and Cowley, KS (fide LM), and Oklahoma, OK 21 Mar (PL), with singles this season n. to Douglas, KS 25 Apr (MA) and 8 May (RA). Barn Swallows arrived record early at Hackberry 1 Mar (MV) and in Lancaster, NE 28 Mar (LE). Likewise early was the Northern Rough-winged Swallow in McCurtain, OK 1 Mar (DA). The winter incursion of Mountain Chickadees in Nebraska lasted until 20 Apr in Banner (WF). Red-breasted Nuthatches were widely reported away from breeding areas well into May, following a winter influx. A Rock Wren in Douglas, KS 25 Apr (PW) was surprising so far east. Carolina Wrens now breed westward through the Republican River Valley in s. Nebraska; a singing bird was at McCook 17 May (WRS). Rare in Nebraska, a Bewick's Wren was at a Sarpy feeder 2 May (TCNK). Also in Sarpy, a House Wren 5 Apr (GG) was very early or had wintered. Easterly Townsend's Solitaries were in Sedgwick, KS 19 Mar (RJ) and Douglas, NE 16 Mar (JR). A Veery in Lincoln, NE 31 May (TJW) was likely of the w. subspecies. Graycheeked Thrushes appeared westward in Cheyenne, NE rather early 26 Apr (TAS), Finney, KS 11 May (T&SS), and Garden, NE
19 May (LE). Three Swainson's Thrushes in Sarpy 14 Apr (+CNK) were record early for Nebraska. Westerner Wood Thrushes were one at Salt Plains 10 May (M&MP) and 2 or 3 in Sedgwick, KS 13 May (JC). The only Varied Thrush reported was a male at Omaha, NE 21-28 Apr (CH). A Brown Thrasher survived the winter at Lincoln, NE until 9 Mar (LG). However, our long-staying male Curve-billed Thrasher, present in extreme NE Sioux, NE since Oct 2002, disappeared around 1 May—it likely succumbed, as it had been busily singing and building a nest (LFr, fide AK, fide KD). The only Bohemian Waxwings reported were a flock of 20 or more at Scottsbluff, NE 13 Mar (BN).

Blue-winged Warblers made a good showing, with 12 along the e. edge of the Region, including 4 in Delaware, OK 21 Apr (M&MP). Golden-winged Warblers also appeared in good numbers, primarily in e. Nebraska, where 12 were reported, including 4 in Sarpy 14 May (JR) and a westernly female at McConaughy 16 May (SDJ). A rare migrant in low numbers, Virginia’s Warblers were in Scotts Bluff, NE and Kimball, NE 18 May (SDJ). Westernly was a Northern Parula at Salt Plains 15-16 May (JWA, JTh). About 45 Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported, mostly in e. Nebraska, with 20 in Omaha 23 May (L&BP, TB); westernly were singles in Huchcock, NE 17 May (WRS) and, surprisingly, Cimarron, OK 11 May (M&MP). The only Cape May Warbler was well w. of usual in Lancaster, NE 13 May (LE), whereas the only Black-throated Blue Warblers were 2 in Sedgwick, KS 7-9 May (RB et al.) and one in Johnson, KS 13 May (BW). Surprising were Black-throated Gray Warblers in s. Sioux, NE 12 May (HKH) and Garden, NE 16 May (SDJ). Blackburnian Warblers also appeared in excellent numbers, with about 45 observed in e. Nebraska alone, including 15 at Omaha 23 May (L&BP, TB). The first Yellow-throated Warbler returned to Red Slough 22 Mar (DA). A great find was a Grace’s Warbler in Garden 4 May (ph. CG)—the first for Nebraska. A Pine Warbler in Riley, KS 19 Mar (DB) was out of range. Rare westerly, a Palm Warbler in Lincoln, NE 3 May (TJW) was a surprise. The only Bay-breasted Warbler reported was in Sedgwick, KS 13 May (JC). A male Blackpoll Warbler in Cheyenne, NE 19 Apr (AS) was early. Of special interest, 3 Cerulean Warblers were reported at Sequoyah N.W.R., Sequoyah, OK 30 Apr (VF), with singles in Tulsa, OK 8 May (JS et al.) and Sarpy, NE 10 May (D&JP). Two singing male Prothonotary Warblers in Sarpy 18 May (L&BP) were at the n. edge of their range. Worm-eating Warblers struggled northwest to Sarpy 10-28 May (CW, JR) and Douglas, NE 20 May (JED) and westward to Sedgwick, KS 15 May (PG). Swainson’s Warblers were reported from their only regular site in the Region, at Little River N.W.R., McCurtain, OK by 12 Apr (MRe). Louisiana Waterthrushes in Rogers, OK 14 Mar (M&ML) and Tulsa 18 Mar (JJ et al.) were early. Another rare migrant, single Connecticut Warblers in Nebraska were in Douglas 24 May (L&BP) and Sarpy 28 (female; JR & 31 May (male; CNK). A rare find westward, single Mourning Warblers were highlights at McConaughy 16 May (SDJ) and in Garden, NE 19 May (LE); the latter furnished the 4th record for the Nebraska Panhandle. Up to 6 wintering Common Yellowthroats were noted at Hackberry 9 May (JAG, L&MT), with another in Tulsa 8 Mar (TMI). A Hooded Warbler wandered westward to Finney, KS 21 Apr (MO, T&SS). A Wilson’s Warbler in Sioux, NE 20 Apr (KD) was early.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Western Tanagers e. of typical range included one very early male in Catt, NE 26 Apr (KSc) and others in York, NE 2 May (WCI) and Douglas, NE 19 May (CC). Rare were one or 2 Bachman’s Sparrows in Osage, OK 15-29 Apr (JWA, JTh et al.) and a Field Sparrow in Scotts Bluff, NE 18 May (SDJ) was westward. A notable find away from Cimarron, OK was a Black-throated Sparrow in Finney, KS 16 Apr (ph. T&SS). A Lark Bunting at Konza Prairie, Riley, KS 20 May (BS) was farther e. than expected. A Savannah Sparrow in Kearney, NE 9 Mar (ph. PS) was early and had wintered. A Henslow’s Sparrow arrived early in Osage, OK 2 Apr (BGa). One or 2 Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows, probably more frequent than noted, were found in Douglas, KS 16-27 May (MA, RA). Lincoln’s Sparrows in Sedgwick, KS 3 Mar (PT) and Gageo, NE 13 Mar (LE) were early or wintering. Rare in sw. Oklahoma, as many as 10 Swamp Sparrows at Hackberry 9 Mar (JAG) were a surprise. Amazingly, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows were found at feeders: one in Knox 1-4 May (ph. CK, MB) furnished Nebraska’s 5th report, while one in Sumner 22 Apr (WC, MT) provided the 8th for Kansas. The 6500 Lapland Longspurs in Thurston, NE 2 Mar (JJ) furnished an excellent count. A Chestnut-Colored Larkspur in Comanche, OK 24 Apr (L&MT) was somewhat late. Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the Nebraska Panhandle 17-20 May (AK, LE) and one in Comanche, OK 2 May (K&SM) were rare in the w. part of the Region. Eastern Black-headed Grosbeaks in Kansas included singles in Harvey 25 Apr (GF) and Pownee 19 May (SS). There were nine reports of 11 Lazuli Buntings in the c. Region (m.ob.).

Painted Buntings in Nebraska were singles in Clay 12 May (PD) and Buffalo 14 May (KS). The 150 Bobolinks in Sedgwick, KS 11 May (PJ, m.ob.) were indicative of peak migration. A flock of 50 Great-tailed Grackles in Scotts Bluff, NE 29 Apr (KD) provided an unusually high count. The earliest Bullock’s Orioles were one in Comanche, OK 18 Apr (L&MT) and a singing male in Lincoln, NE 7 May (TJW). The only Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch reported was at Scotts Bluff N.M., Scotts Bluff, NE 1 Mar (JCI). The large Regional winter influx of Purple Finches was reflected in the good numbers this season, with 38 in Oklahoma, OK 11 Mar (TU), 65 in Lancaster, NE 28 Mar (LE), and 25 in Louemsworth, KS 16 Mar (D&JP). Straggling Purples included 5 westward in se. Garden, NE 13 Mar (JGJ), 6 westerly in Ellis, KS 30 Mar (MS, TM), and 2 at Dodge, NE until mid-May (D&JP). Small groups of Red Crossbills were reported Regionwide; best counts were 30 in Oklahoma, OK 28 Mar (CB), 20 in Comanche, OK 29 Mar (L&MT), up to 13 in Cleveland, OK 13-28 Apr (JAG), and 20 at Omaha, NE 17 Apr (JR). Occurrences of White-winged Crossbills are erratic; rare for a non-invasion year was a female among a small flock of Red Crossbills at Omaha, NE 13 Mar (Chy). A banding station in Cowley, KS captured seasonal totals of 944 American Goldfinches and 789 Pine Siskins (MT). A surprising 3 Lesser Goldfinches were reported in Nebraska, singles in Scotts Bluff yards 15 Mar (AK) and 28 Apr (KD), plus a black-backed male elsewhere in Scotts Bluff 27 May (ECT). Also surprising were as many as 3 Lessers in Comanche, OK (K&SM) as early as 13 Mar.

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Throughout Texas, the season could be described as hot and dry. In the western third, rainfall was nearly nonexistent; a number of Trans-Pecos locations received less than 3 cm of year-to-date rainfall by the end of the season. In the Panhandle and South Plains, there was more precipitation, but much of it fell near the end of the season, too late to provide habitat for migrant shorebirds. Farther east, below-average precipitation was again the rule. Rainfall for the period at Houston was 21.4 cm, or 9.3 cm below normal. Despite the poor habitat conditions in much of the state, many observers reported excellent numbers of migrants. There was a definite push of eastern migrants into the western half of the state. This movement provided the best spring in recent memory for eastern warblers, at least in the central Trans-Pecos; perhaps birds were more concentrated at oases and thus were easier to locate. Events of note also included a major fallout in north-central Texas in the three counties surrounding Lake Tawakoni on 16 May. The ranges of several species also appear to be creeping northward, highlighted by Vermilion Flycatchers at Palo Duro Canyon in the Panhandle and in Archer County in north-central Texas, and by the numbers of Least Grebes through the central portion, punctuated by two in Tarrant County.

WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to be reported in e. Texas, including 20 in Franklin 25 Mar (Fele Bsa) and 9 in Smith 30 Mar (G RO), as well as an explosion in the Bell population, with almost daily sightings at Temple (RP). A great find for n.-cen. Texas was 2 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Hagerman N.W.R., Galveston 26 Apr (TR, m.ob.). Five Cinnamon Teal in Clay 26 Apr were notable (DDC, DL). The only reports of White-winged Scoters were singles at Bolivar Flats, Galveston 13 Mar and 15 Apr (JK, MiR et al.) and the 2 continuing at Lubbock, Lubbock until 21 Mar (BGi, PK, TS, m.ob.). A Black Scoter was at Bolivar Flats, Galveston 5 & 15 Mar (JK). The lone Long-tailed Duck of the season was at Offutt’s Bayou, Galveston 19 Apr (CTL). A pair of Hooded Mergansers bred at Gene Howe WMA, Hemphill 4 Apr (BJ), but the nest tree was damaged in a fire; this cavity had been used for four years and was the only breeding site known in the Panhandle. As many as 5 Masked Ducks continued at King Ranch, Kleberg through the season (TMob). Two Gambel’s Quail wandered to Big Bend N.P., Brewster 30 Apr (DR).

A Red-throated Loon was reported at L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt 30 Mar (RKi, RB). A Red-throated and 2 Pacific Loons at Lake O’ the Pines, Marion 14 Mar (TF) provided rare reports for the Pineywoods, with the Pacifics still present 16 Mar (PeB). Other Pacific Loons were singles at Lighthouse Marina, Grayson 4 Mar (CR), Preston Pt., Grayson 29 Mar (GC, TR), and L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt 30 Mar (RKi, RB). At Offutt’s Bayou, Galveston, a 2nd Pacific Loon joined the wintering bird 13-21 Apr (CTL et al.), with one bird remaining until 3 May (DSa). Least Grebes continue to push northward, with at least 5 at Temple, Bell until 26 May (RP) and, more surprisingly, 2 at Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant 25 May (MR, SC, m.ob.) that provided a first area report. Impressive numbers of Eared Grebes were on the move in cen. Texas 18 Apr, with 19 at Meadow L., Williamson and 57 at L. Plutgerville, Travis (TF). Nice inland spring re-
HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

American Bitterns at Midland, Midland 15 Mar (MN) and in Gray 22 Apr (PS) were good finds. An impressive 1100 Little Blue Herons and 8600 Cattle Egrets migrated over Matagorda Bay, Port O'Connor, Calhoun 11 Apr (Bfr). A Tricolored Heron was at L. Fort Phantom Hill, Taylor 26 Apr (LB). Glossy Ibis put on a good showing away from their strongholds on the upper and cen coasts, with one at Santa Ana NWR, Hidalgo 6 Apr (DJ), 2 between Temple and Belton, Bell 29 Apr (RP), and one at Hagerman N.W.R., Grayson 26 Apr–11 May (TR, m ob.). In mid-Apr, up to 4000 White-faced Ibis roosted at Keystone Ranch, Park, El Paso, and careful searching of the flock revealed one to 2 Glossy Ibis each evening 11-15 Apr (ph. JPa). Another Glossy was at Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso 23 Apr (ph. BZ). Seasonally quite unusual was a single Wood Stork over Mitchell L., Bexar 9 Apr (DE, LEN). The well-known "par" of flamingoes—a vibrant American Flamingo from Mexico and an escapee Greater Flamingo from Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kansas—observed up and down the Texas coast over the past few years put in appearances near Yarbrough Pass, Padre Island N.S., Kleberg 15 Mar (TA, JCa) and Bolivar Flats, Galveston 12 Apr (ph. BD, JFr, MB).

A Black Vulture at Sheffield, Terrell 8 Apr (ph. ML) was farther up the Pecos drainage than is typically expected. Probably as a result of the drought, Hook-billed Kites were slightly out of range, with singles at Resaca de la Palma S.P., Cameron 24 Mar (JHi) and along the river at San Ygnacio, Zapata 11 May (TD). Swallow-tailed Kites continue to do well, with breeding suspected near Sweeney, Braza (CBr), Sout L., Jefferson (HJ), and Tomball, Harris (BR1). White-tailed Kites made an excellent showing in the Trans-Pecos: there were three sightings at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso, 28 Mar–12 May (Sp), where sporadic sightings have occurred since 2001. Other singles were at Grapevine Hills, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 6 Mar (DHu), Canutillo, El Paso 26 Mar (JPa), along Rte. 13, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 11 Apr (CD), and near Esperanza 3 May (ph. BJo), which furnished the 3rd report for Hudspeth. A breeding pair of Cooper's Hawks raised 2 nestlings at Houston Arboretum near Memorial Park, Harris 26 Mar+ (BE), while another pair bred at Smith Point, Chambers (JA). It seems as if this species now breeds annually in small numbers on the Upper Texas Coast, following a decades-long absence. A Common Black-Hawk at Sanderson, Terrell 11 Mar (ph. PE) was away from normal haunts, but a well-described individual in far nw. Travis 2 Apr (CN) was more impressive. Single Harris's Hawks at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 22 Apr (MF) and Coyan- daw Pw, Pecos 17 May (SMi) were away from known areas. A Red-shouldered Hawk at Pres- disio, Presidio 31 Mar (JBo) was an excellent find. Light-morph Short-tailed Hawks were near Utopia, Uvalde 8 Apr (TMH) and, perhaps the same individual, at nearby Lost Maples State Natural Area, Bandera 24 Apr (TMH), while a dark morph was at there 7 May (TMH). An imm. White-tailed Hawk was a surprise over Mitchell L., Bexar 3 May (ph. MMS), while 2 others just w of Sabine Woods, Jefferson 13 Apr (WRI) indicate continued movement eastward. A Zone-tailed Hawk made it as far west as El Paso, El Paso 3 May (JPa). A Golden Eagle was reported near McCook, Hidalgo 2 Mar (fide MG).

RAILS THROUGH JAEGERS

Two King Rails heard calling in Kaufman 3 May (GC, TR) provided a first county report. Two migrating Whoooping Cranes stopped briefly at Waco sewage ponds, McLennan 1 Apr (YJ). An inland count of 32 black-bellied Plovers stopped at Hagerman N.W.R., Grayson 11 May (GC, TR, BS). Up to 4 American Golden-Plovers were present at L. Meredith, Moore 12-27 Apr (BP). Very rare in the area, a Whimbrel was nicely described along US-67 just s. of Marfa, Presidio 29 May (PaB, TBa). Two Hudsonian Godwits in Gray 22-24 Apr (ph. PS) were among just a handful of sightings for the Panhandle. Twelve Marbled Godwits at Muleshoe N.W.R., Bailey 10 May (AH) furnished a high count for the South Plains. Rare in the region, up to 10 Ruddy Turnstones were reported at Hagerman N.W.R., Grayson 11 May (GC, TR, BS). A Sanderling at Balnorte L., Reeves 25 Apr (CBe, DL). A Long-billed Dowitcher was found at another Balnorte L., Reeves 4 May (CG, RW). A good report for the Trans-Pecos, where reported irreguarly Twenty-five dunlins were observed at Hagerman N.W.R., Grayson 27 May (LL, JCh). A Ruff delighted Austin-area birders as it lingered for a couple weeks at the Hornsby Bend ponds, Travis 12-27 Apr (MO, RW). This Red-necked Phalarope was found near Riviera, Kleberg 16 Apr (FB). Westward-wandering Laughing Gulls included one at Balnorte L., Reeves 25 Apr (CBe, DL) and 2 at Junction, Kimble 14 May (RH). Ten Franklin's Gulls in ne. Harris 8 Mar (CTL) provided a large number for such an early date. A Little Gull was at White Rock L., Dallas 1-8 Mar (ph. BSt, CR). California Gulls were found at Bolivar Flats, Galveston 26 Apr (ph. DD) and Southside W.T.P. Dallas 9 Mar (GC, RLa). First-winter Thayer's Gulls were noted at Houston, Harris 10-15 Mar (JOb et al.) and Quintana, Braza 20 Mar (RW et al.). One of the outstanding finds of the season was a first-cycle Iceland Gull at Houston, Harris 8-15 Mar (ph. TMRe, m ob.) that provided the 5th report for the state. The Mew Gull continued at El Paso until 31 Mar.
Away from migrant traps on the immediate coast, Veery can be a difficult species to detect in Texas. This is particularly true in the western half of the state. This individual fed on mulberries in Alpine, Brewster County, 15-21 (here 19) April 2008 and provided the first fully documented record for the Trans-Pecos. Photograph by Carolyn Old-Johnson.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS**

An early Black-billed Cuckoo was at West Galveston I., Galveston 11 Apr (JS), while a group of 3 others at Gus Engling W.M.A., Anderson 16 May (CS) was very unexpected inland. Another of the season's highlights was a Northern Pygmy-Owl audio-recorded in the Chisos Mts., Brewster 28 Mar (JFF). Lingering Short-eared Owls included singles in w. Jeff Davis 3 May (JPO) and at Quintana, Brazoria 8 May (SH). Common Poorwills on the periphery of their range include: singles in Archer 29 Apr (BFr) and Somervell 17 May (GC). A great find was a calling Whip-poorwill at Lake Arrowhead S.P., Clay 17 May (TMc, TJW). A lone *Chaetura* swift was seen over El Paso, El Paso 24 Apr (JPa). Broad-billed Hummingbirds continue to be found in the Davis Mts., with multiple individuals present 12 May (MEA, ME, KB). Far more unexpected were single Broad-billeds near Ennis, Ellis 23-29 Mar (ph. JAKe) and at Bastrop, Bastrop 27 May (ph. CED), which both provided first area reports. In what is becoming a trend, up to 3 White-eared Hummingbirds were in the Davis Mts. 3 May+ (ph. TML et al.). An outstanding find was a male Lucifer-bellied Sapsucker at High L., Galveston 27 Apr (SWo et al.) late; and single Red-naped Sapsuckers at Pinto Canyon, Presidio 2 May (ML et al.) and Lawrence E. Wood picnic area, Jeff Davis 3 May (SG) were tardy as well. A bird showing all signs of being a Red-breasted Sapsucker × Red-naped Sapsucker hybrid was photographed at El Paso, El Paso 15 May (BZ). A female Ladder-backed Woodpecker wandered to Galveston L., Galveston 15 Apr (Jk). A Pileated Woodpecker was spotted flying across San Antonio Bay, Aransas N.W.R., Calhoun 7 Apr (BRo et al.), while perhaps another was at Fort O'Connor, Calhoun 20 Apr (BFr). Also of note was a Pileated in Clay 27 Apr (DHa), probably a county first.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS**

A Western Wood-Pewee calling at Archer City, Archer 7 May (BFr) was c. of its normal typical corridor. A Dusky and 2 Gray Flycatchers were at Muleshoe N.W.R., Bailey 10 May (AH). Buff-breaded Flycatchers were located at two locations in their traditional haunts in the Davis Mountains Preserve, Jeff Davis 16 Apr+ (ph., TML). An unexpected find was a Say's Phoebe at Padera L., Ellis 4 Apr (TD). Surveys detected 7 territories of Dusky-capped Flycatchers in the Davis Mountains Preserve, Jeff Davis 10 May+ (ph., TML). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was noted at Quintana, Brazoria 20 Mar (RW et al.). Two Vermillion Flycatchers wandered to Palo Duro Canyon, Randall 29 May (KS), but they were eclipsed by a breeding pair near Windthorst, Archer 27 Apr-12 May (BFr). The Great Kiskadee continued at Lubbock, Lubbock until 21 Mar (BGi, TS), with another at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground, Brewster 2 May (JBA, JMc). Kiskadees were seen in record numbers on the Upper Coast this season, with birds noted as six locations scattered across Chambers, Galveston, and Jefferson (m.ob.). Among the many highlights of the season was a Piratic Flycatcher at Corpus Christi, Nueces 3-6 May (ph. GBl, fM.ob.), which provided the 5th state report. Couch's Kingbirds continue to be found with increasing frequency on the Upper Coast, with singles at East Beach, Galveston 19 Apr (CTL) and in Waller 10 May (AH). Another Couch's returned to Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground, Brewster 22 Apr+ (ME, m.ob.). A Gray Kingbird visited Port O'Connor, Calhoun 13-16 May (ph. tBFr) for the 9th state report and the 5th since 2005. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso 3 May (MM) furnished a rare area report. Fork-tailed Flycatchers were documented at two sites, with singles near Sabine Pass, Jefferson 15-18 Mar (ph. tJaW, m.ob.) and at Brownsville's Southmost Preserve, Cameron 19 Mar-4 Apr (tGB, m.ob.).

A White-eyed Vireo was at Ft. Davis, Jeff Davis 7 May (KB). A Bell's Vireo at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 12 Apr (WRI) was notable. An early arriving Yellow-throated Vireo was found in Waller 6 Mar (CS), while Yellow-throateds of note in the Panhandle were at L. Meredith, Potter 26 Apr (BP) and Palo Duro Canyon, Randall 14 May (KS). Lingering Blue-headed Vireos were found 11 May at High L., Galveston (CTL) and Quintana, Brazoria (CIt et al.). A Cassins Vireo was found at Muleshoe N.W.R., Bailey 10 May (AH). Hutton's Vireos appear to be well established on the sw. Edwards Plateau, but one at Government
Canyon State Natural Area, Bexar 5 Apr (MRe) was away from that area. A Yellow-green Vireo was at High L, Galveston 27 Apr (SWo). Purple Martins farther w than expected included singles at Rio Grande Village, Brewster 21 Apr (MF) and Marfa, Presidio 16 May (MLC). Cave Swallow continue to increase on the South Plains, with 8 near Matador, Motley 30 Mar (AH) and 12 near Lakeview, Crosby 4 May (BGR) providing first county reports.

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS

Green Jays continued on the Edwards Plateau through Apr, including 10 at Concan, Uvalde (m.ob.) and three pairs at Uvalde, Uvalde (MH). The Clark’s Nutcracker continued near Pantex, Carson until 7 Apr (BP). A Tamaulipas Crow at Brownsville Municipal Landfill, Cameron 31 Mar (ph., TBW) was the only one found during the season. Fish Crows continue to expand their range into Harris, with at least one in nw. Houston 14-22 Mar (MAu, DDi). A Violet-green Swallow at High L, Galveston 5-6 Apr (TE et al.) provided the 2nd report for the Upper Coast. Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered well into Apr in many areas, and into May in the Trans-Pecos, with a few birds in the Davis Mts. as late as 26 May (MEn, ME, DE, LEn). Up to 3 White-breasted Nuthatches were reported in nw. Harris, where they have been present for two years (BtB). A Brown-headed Nuthatch wandered to Port Bolivar, Galveston 1 Mar (DP). A Brown Creeper at College Station, Brazos 24 Apr (CH) was very late, as was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Edinburg, Hidalgo 19 May (TBb). A Veery at Alpine, Brewster 19-21 Apr (ph. COJ) may have provided the first record for the Trans-Pecos. Single Swainson’s Thrushes of the rust-set-backed subspecies group were in El Paso 9 & 15 May (JPa); this group is poorly documented in Texas but appears to be possibly regular but rare in the west. Singing Wood Thrushes in n-ccn. Texas were at Plano Outdooor Learning Center, Collin 19 Apr–5 May (PA), Prairie Creek Preserve, Dallas 5-6 May (DHI), and the Old Fish Hatchery, Dallas 14 May (BS, CRu). Two Clay-colored Thrushes were at Pleasanton, Atascosa 31 May–1 Jun (MP), while at Utopia, Uvalde 11 May (MH) furnished a first for the Edwards Plateau. A White-throated Thrush at Pharr, Hidalgo 18 Mar–12 Apr (ph. AW, m.ob.) was the first since the invasion of early 2005. A Long-billed Thrasher at Dripping Springs, Hays 28 Apr (DLb) was n. of its expected range. A Curve-billed Thrasher at Quintana, Brazoria 20-22 Apr (HS, SG et al.) was the first for the Upper Coast in many years. A Sprague’s Pipit at Roberts 25 Apr (PS) was rare in the Panhandle.

A Blue-winged Warbler at Rio Grande Village, Brewster 13 May (ph. JGr) was an outstanding find. Golden-winged Warblers of interest were singles at Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 3 May (Rki), the Old Fish Hatchery, Dallas 14-May (CRu), and Littlefield, Lamb 22 May (ph. AR, JeR). An impressive count of 20 Tennessee Warblers came from the Old Fish Hatchery, Dallas 6-8 May (CRu, JPe). A Nashville Warbler at Houston, Harris 11 May (DDI) was late for the Upper Coast. A Virginia’s Warbler was at Muleshoe N.W.R., Bailey 10 May (AH). A Kentucky Warbler near Ft. Davis, Jeff Davis 26 Apr (LHi) provided a rare county report. Hooded Warblers made an exceptional push westward, with singles on the South Plains at Brownfield, Terry 27 Apr (AH) and Lubbock, Lubbock 22 May (KD); four reports in the Trans-Pecos: singles at Davis Mountains S.P. 26 Apr (Gbi, JDu), Dugout Wells, Brewster 30 Apr–1 May (Bga), near Ft. Davis, Jeff Davis 4 May (Bgi), and at El Paso, El Paso 24 May (BZ); and one in Midland 12-13 May (DMe, JMe). An amazing count of 147 Wilson’s Warblers was made at L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt 16 May (Rki). Red-faced Warblers were seen in the Chisos Mts., Brewster on three occasions, with singles in the upper elevations 2 (JMa) & 3 May (DSh) and at Chisos Basin 4 May (DHu). A Painted Redstart that paused at...
made a good showing in n.-cen. and ne. Texas, with nine sightings 3-11 May. A male Varied Bunting at Hucos Tanks S.P., El Paso 14 May (JFo, JSp) provided a rare county report. A Painted Bunting at High L., Galveston 22 Mar (MAI) could have been either a winterer or a migrant. Inland Bobolinks are always interesting, and this season had more than its share of surprises, with up to 11 at Temple, Bell 10-17 May (RP), as many as 27 at Archer 28 Apr-12 May (BFr), up to 20 in Delia 2 May (MW), 8 at Fannin 3 May (MW), 6 at Johnson 4 May (CEA), and 20 males at Hagerman N.W.R., Grayson 3-11 May (TR, m.o.b.). Bronze Cowbirds continue on the South Plains, with 2 near Matador, Moloty 30 Mar (AH) and 2 at Petersburg, Hale 31 May (AH), and less-expected occurrences of singles in Dallas 27 Apr (CM) and Williamson 3 May (TF). An early Orchard Oriole was at High L., Galveston 1 Mar (WBU). A Hooded Oriole at El Paso 12 Mar (BZ) was about two weeks ahead of schedule. Out-of-range Hooded orioles included duos at Palo Duro Canyon, Randall 14 May (KS) and nw. Austin, Williamson 28 Mar (SMc). Audubon's Orioles continued to be found in the s.-cen. Hill Country, with singles at Garner S.P., Uvalde 19 Apr (ZL), near Vanderpool, Bandera 21 Apr (GLa), and at Big Springs Ranch, Real 29 Apr (ZL). The Baltimore Oriole continued at Rio Grande Village, Brewster until early Apr (m.o.b.), while a migrant was at Lubbock, Lubbock 5 May (BGI). An early Scott's Oriole was at El Paso, El Paso 12 Mar (BZ).

Cassin's Finches lingered in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis until 2 May (KB), but less expected were 2, at least one male and one female, at El Paso, El Paso 23 Apr–17 May (JPa) that provided a new late spring date for the area. Small numbers of Red Crossbills lingered at El Paso until 24 May. Pine Siskins remained in the Davis Mts., where breeding occurred during 2007, all season (KB), while other siskins lingered at L. Cherokee, Rusk 1 Apr (DO) and Ft. Hood, Bell 10 Apr (Rko). After a hint during this past winter, the evidence of a minor influx of Lawrence's Goldfinches into the w Texas was more evident this season, with a male at Davis Mountains S.P., Jeff Davis 12 Mar (ph. JTu) and 3 at El Paso yards: a male 15 Mar (JPa) and females 23 (JPa) & 27 Mar (ph., JBi). An American Goldfinch at Houston 10 May (KH) was late.

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Colorado & Wyoming

Overall, both states experienced a cooler-than-normal spring, with only northeastern Colorado a bit above normal. Central Wyoming saw the largest departure below the 1971-2000 period used by NOAA to evaluate climate in this decade, with some areas 3°C or more below the norm. Precipitation graded from above-normal in most of Wyoming to below-normal in Colorado, with the driest areas throughout Colorado's Eastern Plains. Southwestern Wyoming saw reduction in the severe drought coverage there, but below-normal precipitation preserved a tenacious patch of severe drought. Colorado's Eastern Plains stayed abnormally dry except for the far southeast, which degraded to mostly moderate drought classification. The season upheld the annual vernal expectations of Regional birders, delivering a pleasing variety of rarities, high counts, and in one case remarkably high counts of a rare species. The cream of the Region's seasonal crop includes Reddish Egret, Ruff, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Swainson's Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Connecticut Warbler. Pending acceptance, Wyoming could add Eastern Meadowlark to its state list.

Abbreviations: Bonny (Bonny Res., S.P., and S.W.A., Yuma), Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso and Pueblo); Crow Valley (Crow Valley campground, Pawnee National Grassland, Weld); Fountain Creek (Fountain Creek R.P., El Paso); Hereford (Wyoming Hereford Ranch, Laramie, WY); Two Buttes (Two Buttes Res. and S.W.A., Baca). “West Slope” denotes locations west 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 the great majority of rarities are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are noted. Undocumented reports from Colorado of Colorado Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review species (www.cfo-link.org) are summarized at the end of this report.

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

The largest group of Greater White-fronted Geese reported was 200 at Elliot S.W.A., Morgan 18 Mar (JR), and late birds included singles in Jefferson 4 May (G. Tomasevich) and Mesa 5 May (Jbn), the latter on the West Slope, where rarer. Three Snow Geese were still at Jumbo Res., Logan 28 May (SL), but very small numbers summer in the Region. Although Cackling Geese are now known to be common and widespread migrants and winter residents in e. Colorado, the occurrence patterns on the West Slope need to be clarified. Thus, single Cacklings in Garfield 12 Mar (LS) and La Plata 15 Mar (Jby) provide some important data; subspecies determination was not made for either. After the winter's intriguing report, a Mute Swan was noted in Adams 4 Mar (L. Wilson, JR). A male Ring-necked Duck x scaup hybrid at Lagerman Res., Boulder 3 May (WS) provided a nice find. The typical number of spring reports of Greater Scaup included an abnormal percentage from the West Slope, with 4 in Delta, 2 each in Garfield and Moffat, and one in Montezuma. Typically quite rare during spring, all three scooper species were found this season, with an imm. male White-winged in Larimer 31 Mar–2 Apr (ph. T. & M. France), another there 14 Apr (RH), male and female Blacks at Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe 8-11 Apr (DB), and an ad. male Black near Ray L., Fremont, WY 17 Apr (D. Wagner, S. Orange) accounting for the reports of the two rarer species. Three spring reports of Long-tailed

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Ducks furnished an average number, with all in the e. plains. After the huge numbers of Barrow's Goldeneyes from the Roaring Fork valley, Garfield, it was not too surprising when as many as 135 were found at Spring Park Res., Eagle 30 Mar-30 Apr (DFy), a site just to the east. A single Pacific Loon that continued at Blue Mesa Res. until 16 May (JBy, VZ) provided for the only good report, despite a very large spring flight of Common Loons—33 reports and 66 individuals, all in Colorado. The highest single-location count of Commons was of 10 at Harvey Gap Res., Garfield 19 Apr (T. McConnell), one of many West Slope locations. The only Red-necked Grebe found this season was at Greeley, Weld 10 May (JBy). Although a common and widespread migrant, the Eared Grebe in Gilpin 18 Apr (L. Edwards, BKp) was in a county with very little water and might account for the first county report.

HERONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Of the nine American Bittern reports, all but two were from known breeding locations. Most notable were singles at Carter City, Fremont 27 Apr (S. Moss) and near Salida, Chaffee 5-6 May (B. Escapule, ph. MP). A Least Bittern put in an appearance at Bent's Old Fort, Otero 29 May (JD) that would, if accepted, provide for a first local report in this well-worked marsh complex. Just more than half of the 13 reports of Great Egret came from five counties in w. Colorado and Wyoming, where fairly rare. The only Little Blue Heron of the season was an ad. in Provo 24 May (JS). The areal of the season was a one-day-wonder subad. dark-morph Reddish Egret prancing around Neenushe Res., Kiowa 21 May (ph. AS). Two of the 13+ reports of Cattle Egrets came from Wyoming, with singles in Laramie 21 Apr (P. Deibert) and Uinta 25 Apr (J. Woolf). Of the 19 reports of Glossy Ibis, only six were documented, all of singles: at Pastoral Res., La Plata 19 Apr (JBy); Chico, Pueblo 30 Apr-17 May (BM, tBG); just w. of Las Animas on US-50, Bent 30 Apr (tTRL, MP); with 2 hybrid ibis near there 30 Apr (MP, tTRL); near Salida 14 May (NP); and at Florence, Fremont 16 May (MP, tLS). Mississippian Kites were a bit late in returning to breeding sites, and overshoots were found twice in El Paso (continuing a trend) 15 & 18 May and photographed well n. at Crow Valley 24 May (M. Chavez). The winter spate of low-elevation Northern Goshawks continued, with an ad. at Chico, El Paso 1 Mar (BM) after a juv. was seen there 29 Feb; the ad. remained until 15 Mar (ph. MP). It was a good season for Broad-winged Hawks, with 30 reports; none were submitted from the Dinosaur Ridge hawkwatch, Jefferson. Broad-wingeds away from e. Colorado included singles at Wetmore, Custer 24 Apr (RM); Yampa River Preserve, Routt 30 Apr (T. Litteral); and Grand Junction, Mesa 10 May (jde CD). The most interesting sighting was of an ad. carrying nesting material 8 km nw. of Rye, Pueblo 24 Apr (DS), the location where breeding was suspected during 2007 (there is only one confirmed breeding report for Colorado). The first Swainson's Hawk was slightly early at Redvale, Montezuma 26 Mar (CD). Merlins continue to be found in Colorado into May, with two reports this season, a phenomenon that just might presage breeding in the state.

Different subspecies of Sandhill Cranes migrate through e. and w. Colorado, respectively, and their high counts came from opposite ends of the state. About 2000 Lessers were at Bonny 13 Apr (T. Jones), and the season's estimate of Greaters using Fruitgrowers Res., Delta was of 14,000 (E. Horn). Snowy Plovers at decidedly atypical locations were singles at Highline Res., Mesa 1 Apr-18 May (H. Stephens) and Ball Res., Elbert 24 May (MP). Not quite so rare, one was photographed at Saratoga L., Carbon, WY 11-24 May (FB, S. Waltz) for the 5th straight year that birds have been present there. Black-necked Stilts are fairly rare on the West Slope, so singles at Totten Res., Montezuma 11 Apr (S. Meyers), Craig, Moffat 12 Apr (FL), and Rio Blanco Res., Rio Blanco 5 May (VZ) are of more-than-

SA Among a snowstorm-caused fall-out of shorebirds and other aquatic migrants in the Boulder area 1 May, the Ruff seen and photographed by many at Boulder Res., Boulder (TF) was the highlight and accounted for the 4th state report. Size comparison to the few nearby shorebirds led many to believe that the bird was a female, but expert European and American opinion from the ID- Frontiers listserve was unanimous in that the bird was probably a "faeder" male, a female-sized and -plumaged male whose female-like attributes enable it to copulate with females by stealth on the leks. Those wishing to delve into the subject might start with a paper by J. Jukema and T. Piersma, 2006, Permanent female mimics in a lekking shorebird, Biology Letters 2: 161-164, <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1618908>.

SA Larry Arnold could not have known that his sighting of a West Slope record early Red-necked Phalarope at Grand Junction 11 Apr would kick off what may well have been the largest-reported flight of the species through Colorado. It wasn't until 10 May that additional phalaropes were found: one in high-elevation and water-poor San Juan (PD), double-digit counts at five sites in Kiowa, Otero, and Pueblo, and 120 at Huerfano Res., Pueblo (DS). The next day, observers in the San Luis Valley (AS, CW) discovered the mother lode, with 1200 at Smith Res., Castilla and a whopping 6650 at San Luis Lakes, Alamosa, where 1000 lingered 17 May (JBy). The single Red-necked with Wilson's Phalaropes near Salida 16-17 May (BKp) may seem paltry in comparison but represented a Chaffee first.
passing interest. Although not on the West Slope, the 5 at Beck L., Park 23 Apr–19 May were locally rare. A West Slope record-early American Avocet was found at Sweitzer L., Delta 1 Mar (DFy).

Willets are sporadic in both time and place as a breeder in nw. Colorado, and the 2 at Big Bottom, Moffat 17 May (FL) occurred after most migrants have moved through. The high count among the 15 Whimbrels reports this spring 29 Apr–25 May was of an amazing 39 at Black Hollow Res., Weld 29 Apr (CS). A Hudsonian Godwit at Union Res., Weld 16–18 Apr (B. Prather) was seen and photographed by many. The 20 Sanderlings at Rio Blanco Res. 2 May (DH) would have been a large number for spring in e. Colorado but was an amazing number on the West Slope. Also of West Slope interest were the single Semipalmated Sandpipers in Delta, Mesa, and Montezuma 1–7 May (fale CD), and single White-rumped Sandpipers out of range and early at Paradise, Montrose 7 May (+AS) and “just” out of range at Craig 28–29 May (FL, ph. DH). The only spring Dunlin was, oddly, in Alamosa 11 May (JR). An excellent spring count of 300 Stilt Sandpipers graced Bonny 17 May (BR), but three West Slope reports—of singles at Totten Res. 9 May (AS) and Big Bottom 17 May (FL) and 8 at Fruitgrowers Res. 18 May (LA)—were less expected. The only documented report of Short-billed Dowitcher was of one at Florence, Fremont 30 Apr (TTL, MP)

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A first-cycle Mew Gull at Pueblo Res. 29 Feb–9 Mar (IBM, ph. BKP) was probably one of the wintering birds missing since early Jan. An ad. Mew Gull was in Larimer 20–21 Mar (NK). The 308 Herring Gulls at Bonny 1 Mar (TRL) made for a very high spring count, and tucked among them was an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull (TRL), surprisingly a first for Yuma. An ad. Thayer’s Gull lingered in Arapahoe until 12 Apr (LS), and an ad. Iceland Gull at Boyd L., Larimer 1 Mar (ph., TAS, NK) was the first of its age found in the Region. First-cycle Glaucous Gulls were appreciated at Bonny 12 Mar (JR), fairly late at Jumbo Res., Logan and Sedgwick 13 Apr (H. Armkrecht), and quite late at Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe 28 Apr (DB). An ad. Least Tern at Neeness Res. 3 Apr (DN) was early; another ad. was out of place in Boulder 28–29 May (K. Mihm-Dunning). Three single Caspian Terns 29 Apr–2 May, and three reports totaling 8 Common Terns 15–31 May—all the Region’s borders could muster this spring—were in e. Colorado. Black Terns were typically widespread late-spring migrants, with the high count of 300 at Jumbo Res. 28 May (SL).

Reports of Band-tailed Pigeon from the Flatlands, all of singles, came from Chico, El Paso 4 May (BKP), Pueblo S.P., Pueblo 10 May (BKP), and Van’s Grove, Bent 10 May (LS). Although the species has not yet been reported from all 64 Colorado counties, the Eurasian Collared-Dove at Silverton 16 Apr (MP et al.) in San Juan, the state’s highest-average-elevation county, suggests that they have now occurred in all of the state’s counties. The 15 reports of 16 White-winged Doves this season was about on par with recent occurrence rates, except for the lack of any double-digit counts.

Western Screech-Owls were found in two odd locations this season: one heard near Franktown, Douglas 24 Apr (H. & U. Kingery), where there have been a few previous reports, none documented, from the n. side of the Monument Divide; and one seen and heard at Two Buttes 3–11 May (SL, JK), which provided a first report for this well-worked location. Two Buttes now joins a very select list of places in Colorado where both screech-owls have occurred. Two of the 4 Short-eared Owl reports came from little-birded Phillips. A well-seen female Lesser Nighthawk was found at Chico, Pueblo 25 May (BG, m.o.b.) and continued until at least 30 May, when one or 2 males were found (MP, TRL). In excess of 1000 Common Nighthawks in the Nucla, Montrose area during late May and early Jun provided the “best nighthawk show that I have ever seen in spring migration” (CD). An early Chachalaca swift at Boulder, Boulder 10 Apr (TF) sported several characters suggestive of Vaux’s, for which there are no accepted Colorado reports. Single male Black-chinned Hummingbirds were a bit out of place in the n. Front Range, thrice in Jefferson at Highlands Ranch 5 May (L. Ackerman) and Wheat Ridge 15 & 27 May (DWF), and in Larimer 27 May (D. Steinbrauer). Spring Caliope Hummingbird reports from Colorado are rare (despite breeding as close as sw. Wyoming), so it was somewhat astonishing to receive not one but three reports this season: at Hotchkiss, Delta 2-3 May (AR), La Veta, Huerfano 3 May (B. Jensen), and Boulder 6 May (J. & B. Cobb).

Single Lewis’s Woodpeckers in Natrona (CM) and Sweetwater (A. Lowe) during May were in Wyoming, so of some interest. Two Larimer reports of Red-headed Woodpecker came from w. of the plains and included one at Rocky Mountain N.P. 26-28 May (J. Wright, K. Waagan). The Durango, La Plata Acon Woodpecker colony continues, but numbers have declined recently; there now appear to be only 2 remaining (previous counts had reached 6). Very rare on the plains, particularly during spring, single Williamson’s Sapsuckers graced Las Chance, Washington 2 May (male; LK) and Crow Valley 10 May (female; J. Hackos). A juv. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (apparently the same bird from early winter) was present at Cope, Washington 1 Mar, while a female Red-naped Sapsucker at Lamar, Prowers 3 May (both ph. TRL) was well out on the plains. Another Red-naped Sapsucker, an imm. male, was not quite as far e. at Van’s Grove 11 May (LS, TS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

Eastern Wood-Pewees at Lamar, Prowers 1 May (AS) and L. Beckwith, Pueblo 25 May (DS) were rare in Colorado. A calling Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Two Buttes 20 May (AS). Alder Flycatchers at Crow Valley 28 May (D. Leatherman, RH) and Las Animas, Bent 29 May (JD) were the only two documented reports out of 10 received. The only out-of-range Black Phoebe visited Chatfield S.F., Douglas and Jefferson 3 May (GW). Male Vermilion Flycatchers brightened three Colorado sites: Highline S.P. 29 Mar–6 Apr (J. Toolen et al.) that provided a county first and w. Colorado’s 4th; Canon City 13 Apr (RM, BKP et al.); and in rural Prowers 26–27 Apr (J. Ogle, BKP). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from the e. plains of Colorado: at Barr L., Adams 3 May (NK); on a Cheyenne ranch 4 May (R. Olson, NE, JK, GW); and at Chico, Pueblo 11 May (BM, J. Maynard, D. Maynard).

Four White-eyed Vireos, a bit more than typical, were reported this season 6–23 May. The Bell’s Vireo at Dixon Res., Larimer 24 May (BR) was well w. of its range. The Colorado B.R.C. removed Yellow-throated Vireo from its
Many passerine migrants were found on record-early dates in w. Colorado this season, with flycatchers leading the way. Early were a Western Wood-Pewee at Grand Junction 2 May (early by one day; LA); a Gray Flycatcher at Highline S.P., Mesa 6 Apr (seven days; L. Stigsten, C. Barr); a Black Phoebe in Montrose (four days; CD); a Cassin’s Kingbird at Sweitzer Lake S.P., Delta 24 Apr (two days; AR); a Western Kingbird at Eckert, Delta 4 Apr (15 days; AR); a Plumbeous Vireo near Pinyon, Mesa 19 Apr (eight days; CD, BW); Barn Swallows 11 Apr (two days) in Delta (fide CD) and Montrose 11 Apr (CD); a Cliff Swallow at Pinyon, Montrose 10 Apr (eight days; BW); a Gray Catbird at Jack’s Canyon, Mesa (three days; fide LA); a Virginia’s Warbler at Paonia, Delta 18 Apr (one day; JL); a Yellow Warbler at Hotchkiss, Delta 14 Apr (three days; AR); a Black-throated Gray Warbler at Paradox, Montrose 12 Apr (tied the early date; AS); a Grace’s Warbler in Mesa 27 Apr (tied the early date; LA); Northern Waterthrush in Mesa 7 May (two days; LA); a MacGillivray’s Warbler in Mesa 2 May (three days; LA); and a Blue Grosbeak at Hotchkiss 5 May (four days; AR). Ash-throated Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, Gray Vireos, Lazuli Buntings, and other passerines also arrived earlier than expected but did not set new early dates.

Of these species, only the Western Wood-Pewee is not a typical early migrant in Colorado, expected here before the arrival of May. Interestingly, unlike all the others, Eastern Kingbirds and Gray Catbirds are near the edge of their ranges in w. Colorado and arrive one or two weeks later than in e. Colorado—a reversal of the occurrence patterns of a fair number of true “western” species. Also, despite the seasonal envelope-pushing individual above, poves do not arrive in the state en masse until mid-May at the earliest. It is debatable whether these early arrivals were due to some weather factor, the increasing amount of birding effort, or both. But in keeping with the spirit of the argument by Leckinger and Gibbons (2005, The Changing Seasons: Spring 2005—early and late. North American Birds 59: 386–394), we should also disclose that a number of species arrived in w. Colorado well later than their record dates: Dusky Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Tree Swallow, Sage Thrasher, Wilson’s Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow. Interestingly, all of these species are among the most common migrants of their genus/family in w. Colorado, which causes us to pause.

Righter et al. (2004, Birds of Western Colorado Plateau and Mesa Country, Grand Valley Audubon Society, Grand Junction, Colorado) provided many of the record-early dates for w. Colorado, without which this note could not have been written.

main review list in 2002; since then, reports have been few. This season’s showing, however, supported the decision, as no fewer than 6 Yellow-throateds were reported 27 Apr., with the most interesting being one s. of Durango 31 May (PD. E. Derven) that furnished a La Plata first. Although regular during fall, Cassin’s Vireos occur much less frequently in the Region during spring, so 13 this season (3-17 May) were exceptional and included the season’s first in Wyoming at Riverton, Fremont 3 May (B. Hargis) and two reports in w. Colorado, in Alamosa 7 May (JS) and La Plata 13 May (JBY). Very rare was the Blue-headed Vireo at Prewitt Res., Washington 13 May (GW, NE, LM). Three Philadelphia Vireos were reported, singles at Chico, El Paso 7-8 May (b.; BW), Forest Creek 17 May (SS), and Chico, Pueblo 20-23 May (+TB et al.)

RAVENS THROUGH WAXWINGS

If identified correctly, single out-of-range Chi-hualalan Ravens in Alamosa 21 Mar (TF) and Larimer 28 May (TH) were extraordinary, providing that our understanding of raven ranges is accurate. Purple Martins of the nominate subspecies are very rare in Colorado, so the martin possibly of that subspecies at Lamar 6 May (BG) is of interest. Mountain Chickadees lingered on the Plains from the major dispersal to that area during the fall and winter, with most birds seemingly gone by early May; the latest was at Cheyenne, Laramie, Wyoming 31 May (E. Lesbassak). The 2 singing Carolina Wrens at Canon City continue, being present for well more than a year now. Northerly was the Bewick’s Wren at Doudy Draw, Boulder 26 Apr (NP). Continuing the thread of early migrants to the West Slope, a Sedge Wren near Hygiene, Boulder 12 Apr (p.a., WS; p.a) would represent the 17th or 18th report for Colorado. Gray-cheeked Thrush reports included singles banded at Chico, El Paso 14 & 17 May (BG) and another there, but on the Pueblo side, 14 May, 16 May (BG), plus singles at Fountain Creek 13-16 May (MP, BKP) and Hereford 19 May (G. Johnson, J. Anderson, C. Seniawski). A Wood Thrush hopped on the turf at Lake Hasty S.P., Bent 9 May (pH.TRL), while Wyoming hosted one at Hereford 11 May (M. Churchill). The Gray Catbird at Franktown, Douglas 12 Mar (TH) was either extremely early or, more likely, had wintered. The Sprague’s Pipit at Table Mountain, Goshen, Wyoming 16 May (G&JL) represented a rare report for that state, although e. Wyoming is probably within its regular migration route. Bohemian Waxwings from the massive irruption continued in many portions of the Region, with the last report at Westminster, Jefferson 17 Apr (LS).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Two Blue-winged Warblers in Colorado, at Alamosa, Alamosa 23 May (JR, JS, J. Poe) and Chico, El Paso 27 May (BM, BKP et al.) were slightly fewer than normal. A Golden-winged Warbler was found at Chico, El Paso 1 May (JD). Lucy’s Warblers continue to breed along Yellowjacket Cr. in Montezuma and were first seen this season 12 Apr (PD). Cape May Warblers at Fountain Creek 16 May (SS) and Chico, El Paso 27 May (BKP, BM et al.) were nice finds; there are only 22 previous Colorado records. Surprisingly, no Black-throated Blue Warblers were detected in Colorado. Four Black-throated Blues were found in Wyoming, 13-18 May, in Natrona (CM), Carbon (fide FB), Laramie (fide DWF), and Goshen (CM, JL, GL). Black-throated Green Warblers graced Chracr, Otro 10 May (LS, TS) and Chico, Pueblo 13 May (BG, BKP). Continuing the incredible run of Yellow-throated Warblers in recent years, one was in ne. Bent 4 May (JK, ph. TRL et al.). Grace’s Warblers pushed far northward and eastward during the season, with singles at Crow Valley 30 Apr–1 May (AS; CW, ph. RH) and 10 May (RH) and Olney Springs, Crowley 1 May (AS). A Pine Warbler in Larimer 16 Mar (NK) probably wintered, while a Prairie Warbler at Lafayette 26 May (TF) certainly did not. The male Bay-breasted Warbler at Chico, El Paso 17 May (S. Gallagher, BG, LS) was quite rare for the state but the 4th for the ranch.

Prothonotary Warblers brightened Colorado at John Martin Res., Bent 6 May (DN) and Caon City 28 May (RM). The 4 Worm-eating Warblers 25 Apr–19 May is about average, with singles in Provo, Wld. Crowley, and Boulder. A Swainson’s Warbler at Boulder 14 May (p.a., WS) furnished the state’s 8th report. A Louisiana Waterthrush photographed at Boulder 25-26 Apr (M. Miller, M. Marvin, m.o.b.) was only the 5th for Colorado. Kentucky Warblers were near Grena-da, Provo 16 Apr (N. Stocker) and at Two Buttes 1-3 May (AS). A Connecticut Warbler seen well at Casper 25 May (p.a. CM) represents one of few reports for Wyoming. Mourning Warblers visited each state, with singles at Cheyenne 17 May (fide DWF) and Chico, Pueblo 23 May (GW, LM, NE). The 11 Hooded Warblers in e. Colorado was about par. A Canada Warbler at Chico 28 May (p.a., BM et al.) provided a Pueblo first, while another was at Two Buttes 4 May (LK, AS).

Rare in Wyoming, a Summer Tanager was at Laramie, Albany 16 May (fide D. McDonald). Unusual were 3 Baird’s Sparrows near Two Buttes 28 Apr (J. Carlisle), although this is the season and subregion in which a few of the more recent accepted occurrences have taken place. The Golden-crowned Sparrow continued at Canon City until 27 Mar., and a tardi migrant was discovered at Chico, El
The event of the season was the incredible and unprecedented incursion of Blackpoll Warblers into the region that coincided with the Colorado Field Ornithologists convention. The season’s first Blackpoll was in Baca 4 May (AS); there was a large fallout 13 May, with 26 at Chico, El Paso and Pueblo (fairly far w. for such a large number) and scattered birds elsewhere; and a trickle of either newly arrived or tarrying birds discovered over the next few days at widely scattered plains locations. At this point, the flight would already be remembered as the one of the best in history. Then came 17 May, when the convention field trip to Chico and the effort of Gibbons (the resident bander) tallied at least 72 Blackpolls, along with 5 each at Crow Valley (JBg) and Last Chance (TF), 2 at Dixon Res. (N. Matheson, T. Lechleitner, NK), “good numbers” in Cheyenne (ide DWF), and scattered singles w. to Cañon City (MP et al.). Occurrence of the species during the remainder of the season was slightly higher than normal.

Blackpoll Warblers are regular migrants in e. Colorado in low numbers (much more common during spring than fall), and this season’s tally of 163 birds (Wyoming had 6, plus Cheyenne’s “good numbers”) was certainly the largest total reported in the Region. Of course, with such a flight, one would expect other similar species, and such was the case, with the aforementioned Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers.

One among an unprecedented surge of Blackpoll Warblers passing through Colorado in mid-May 2008, this bird paused at the Chiricahua Ranch, El Paso County on the 16th of the month. Photograph by Bill Schmoker.

Paso 15 May (BG, T. Riecke). A Northern Cardinal at Chatsfield S.P. 13-14 Mar (J. Schmoker) was westward, but one in Park, Wyoming 24 Apr (C. Luskus) was more surprising. A Painted Bunting near Lamar, Prowers 5 May (JS) was a bit n. of its limited Colorado breeding range. An Eastern Meadowlark near Cheyenne 16 May (CM) would establish the first record for Wyoming, if accepted. A Great-tailed Grackle in Goshen 16-17 May (G&JL) broadens the species’ known range in Wyoming. Westward in Wyoming, Baltimore Orioles were seen at two Goshen locations during May (A. Fitz, C. Fitz).

Very strange following a year with no detectable irruption was the report of a female-plumaged Pine Grosbeak at Crow Valley 11 May (BR). Holdovers from this past winter’s irruption of Purple Finches were of up to 11 near Bonny 1 Mar (TRL, LS, TS), with 2 lingering until 20 Mar (NE et al.) and one at Colorado Springs, El Paso 11 May (A. Burns). Single Common Redpolls at Aurora, Arapahoe 12 Mar (T. Hablitzel) and in rural Larimer 23 Mar (CS) were about average for the season. Lesser Goldfinches continue to expand their range northward into Wyoming, with singles at Saratoga 9 Apr (FB) and, even farther n., Casper 29 May (R. King, A. Hines, B. Roberts).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following review species were reported without details in Colorado: Trumpeter Swans in Eagle, Garfield, Lincoln, and Washington; Tundra Swans in Douglas, Moffat, and Washington; Eurasian Wigeons in Garfield, Gunnison, and Rio Grande; Pacific Loon in Park; Glossy Ibis in Baca, Boulder, Crowley, Custer, Douglas, El Paso, Fremont, Prowers, Rio Grande, and Weld; Black Rail in Crowley; Red Knot in Elbert; Short-billed Dowitchers in Baca, Boulder, Broomfield, and Prowers; Red Phalarope in Bent/Kiowa; Iceland Gull in Arapahoe; Great Black-backed Gulls in Larimer, Sedgwick, and Washington; Lesser Nighthawks in Baca and Montrose; Eastern Wood-Pewees in Baca, El Paso, and Washington; Alder Flycatchers in Baca, Boulder, Elbert, El Paso, Pueblo, and Washington; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Cheyenne; Blue-headed Vireo in Larimer; Philadelphia Vireos in Boulder, El Paso, Prowers, and Weld; Gray-checked Thrushes in Baca, El Paso, and Washington; Varied Thrush in Kit Carson; Lucy’s Warbler in Mesa; Yellow-throated Warbler in Boulder; Prairie Warbler in Weld; Cerulean Warbler in El Paso; Kentucky Warbler in Kiowa; Mountain Warblers in Baca, Butler, Fremont, and Pueblo; Scarlet Tanager in Alamosa; Golden-crowned Sparrows in El Paso and Mesa; Lilian’s Eastern Meadowlark in Baca; and Purple Finches in Montrose.


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The season was unusually cool, with a much-delayed melt of the winter season's generous snowpack. The unseasonably frigid temperatures and lingering snow cover made higher-elevation habitats inaccessible to birds and had the effect of concentrating them in lowland staging areas, delaying migration, and disrupting passerine breeding. In fact, some coniferous forest birds, such as Red-breasted Nuthatch and Western Tanager, lingered in low-elevation valleys well into summer. Although Cassin’s Finches had been largely unreported for the past several years, they made an excellent showing at feeders this season and were joined by appreciable numbers of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH RAiLS**

Extralimital Greater White-fronted Geese included one at Warm Springs, MT 13 Mar (NK), 2 in Flathead, MT 14–15 Mar (BR), and 5 at Salmon, ID 30 Mar–6 Apr (HR). Very exciting was the discovery of a Brant near Livingston, MT 17 May (R&RW) that provided about the 6th report for w. Montana and the state's first report in 12 years. The only Cackling Goose reported were 2 hutchinsii at American Falls 2 Apr (CT). At least one Bewick’s Swan was photographed at Camas 27 Mar (BS), perhaps a first report of this Eurasian subspecies in Idaho. The number of Eurasian Wigeons reported this season is possibly a record high, with 7 in Idaho and 14 in w. Montana. A male Tufted Duck in Sanders 6–9 Mar (ph. DC, JG) provided a 2nd record for Montana. Four Long-tailed Ducks represented a better-than-average showing. A Clark’s Grebe at Salmon, ID 23 May furnished a 2nd local report. Out-of-range Great Egrets were spotted near Challis, ID 24 Apr (D&EF), at Swan L., MT 27 Apr (AM), and near Bridger, MT 10 May (DE). Snowy Egrets also went astray near Challis, ID 13 Apr (D&EF), at Three Forks, MT 27 May (CA), and Bozeman, MT 30 May (LAH). A Glossy Ibis in Owyhee 17 May (**HK**) will represent the westernmost report in the Region and Idaho’s 6th report, pending acceptance. White-faced Ibis also wandered out of range, with 5 in w. Montana during Apr and May (JP), 2 near Salmon, ID 5 May, and as many as 2 near Challis, ID 29–30 May (D&EF).

If accepted, a Red-shouldered Hawk in Elmore 17 May (**HK**) will furnish about the 7th report for Idaho and the first May occurrence. Broad-winged Hawks, especially rare during spring, appeared in both states, with an ad. near Challis, ID 11 May and an imm. photographed there 31 May (D&EF), plus an astounding kettle of 16 over Bozeman, MT 23 May (**MM**). Idaho’s first wintering Common Moorhen continued in Canyon until 24 Apr (IH).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS**

Two Snowy Plovers in Owyhee 10 May (**HK**) were noteworthy, as there are only three accepted reports for Idaho. One hendersoni Short-billed Dowitcher near Deer Lodge, MT 21 May (**NK**) was especially rare. If accepted, a Lesser Black-backed Gull near American Falls 8 Apr (**CT**) will provide Idaho’s 5th report. Two rare Glacous-winged Gulls were found in Idaho, singles in Elmore 8 Mar and Owyhee 6 Apr (**HK**). Also notable was a Glacous Gull in Elmore, ID 1–15 Mar (ph., **HK**). Perhaps only the 2nd spring report for Montana was a Sabine’s Gull at Glacier N.P. 27–28 May (**SG**). Northern Mockingbirds were rarities at Warm Springs, MT 15 May (**NK**) and near Shoshone, ID 27 May (**JC**). Blackpoll Warblers moved through in near-record numbers, with at least 13 in w. Montana and 2 in Idaho 21–27 May. Idaho’s bird of the season was a Canada Warbler at Camas 31 May (ph. JB, SB, **CW**) that furnished a first state record.

The first Clay-colored Sparrow to winter in Idaho continued at Garden Valley until 9 Apr (**SF**). Two Le Conte’s Sparrows at Bozeman, MT 15 May (**LM**, **BM**) provided a surprising latilong first; few reports are known outside their limited range in w. Montana. A well-documented Red Fox Sparrow in Gem, ID 17–26 Apr (**FZ**) was one of very few reports in the state. Golden-crowned Sparrows, casual during spring, were reported in Owyhee, ID 15 Mar (**HK**), at Moscow, ID 30 Apr (**BF**), and Thompson Falls, MT 11 May (**J&LG**). Widespread sightings of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occurred 8–30 May, with 7 in Montana and 2 in Idaho. The only reported Rusty Blackbird was at Somers, MT 30 Apr (**DC**).

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**Abbreviation:** American Falls (American Falls Res., Bingham and Power, ID); Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID).
The spring 2008 season was characterized by dry conditions and seemingly relentless winds that continued into May. Numerous migrants occurred in unusual numbers, including record numbers of some shorebirds and especially eastern waders (notably Yellow-throated, Blackpoll, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, and Hooded). Several surprising rarities were documented, and, after an absence of nearly a century, Buff-breasted Flycatcher returned to breed.

**Abbreviations:** B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.), Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.), E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); G.B.A. (Gila Bird Area, Grant); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.), Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); N.R.T. (r. Roosevelt migrant trap, w. of Melrose); P.O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy).

**WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS**

Up to 12 Greater White-fronted Geese lingered at Bosque through Apr, with 9 until 2 May (MB, NP). The last Tundra Swans were at Maxwell 14 Mar (B. Percival) and 5 at L.V.N.W.R. 22 Mar (J. Hirth). An ad male Eurasian Wigeon at Hayden L. 10 May (DS) provided a Rio Arriba first and the state’s latest ever. A busy Surf Scoter season found singles at Hoholman L. 9 Apr (JN), B.L.N.W.R. 13-14 May (JEP, WW, ph. JO), and Santa Rosa 16 May (RV). A White-winged Scoter was along the Rio Grande near Truth or Consequences 17 Mar (ph. KS). A male Barrow’s Goldeneye lingered at Stubblefield L. until 20 Mar (ph. DC). Noteworthy for n. Curry were 3 Lesser Prairie-Chickens near Broadview 25 Apr–13 May (JO, JEP WW), with another near Eunice, s. Lea 24-25 Mar (P. McConnell). Near the n. edge of their range, 2 Montezuma Quail were at Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts. 25 May (M. Ristow); in the San Mateo Mts., duos each were at Little Monica Canyon 10 May (SM) and Bear Trap Canyon 19 May (AJ). A Horned Grebe was late at Heron L. 10 May (WH). More than 500 American White Pelicans were at E.B.L. 22 Mar (CR), a large number for so early in the season. An impressive sparrow showing by Brown Pelican produced an ad at L. Van, Chaves 15 Apr (TM) and single imm. at Sumner L. 16 Mar (ph. JO), E.B.L. 22 May (JL), and Que-mado L. 27 May (WW).

Rare in the west, an American Bittern was at Zuni’s Ojo Caliente, Cibola 23 May (JT). Great Egrets continue to increase in numbers and expand in distribution, including a high of 36 at Bosque 29 Apr (CR); among the farther-flung reports were 4 at Playas 4 May (BC) and singles at Zuni’s Eustace L. 23 May (JT) and Ute Cr., Harding 22 Apr (WW). An ad Little Blue Heron at Bosque 10-14 May (m. ob.) provided the only report. A Green Heron at Las Animas Cr., Sierra 1 May (JEP, CJW) may have wintered locally, one at Quari 9-17 May (N. Vaughan, CJW) furnished a local first. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Bosque 29 Apr-14 May (ph. MH, m. ob.). Glossy Ibis are increasingly regular during spring in New Mexico; this season, ads. were at L. Avalon 14 Apr (SW), Bosque on multiple dates 19 Apr-11 May (m. ob.), and B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr (JEP WW, ph. JO) and 19 May (LM). Possible Glossy x White-faced Ibis hybrids were at B.L.N.W.R. 19 (ph. MH) & 26 Apr (JEP) and at Bosque 2 May (CJW).

An Osprey prey below Navajo Dam (Ms JO) provided a first for San Juan; elsewhere, a pair reoccupied a territory at Cochiti L. during May (MH, DI), and 17 territories were occupied in Rio Arriba (DS). A White-tailed Kite was n. to Albuquerque 4-25 Apr (NP, ph. CJW, ph. GE, m. ob.), and another was at Bosque 7-16 Mar (ph. JNS, ph. NP, m. ob.). To the south, single White-tails were in the Animas Valley during Apr (BC); in s. Grant, w. of Sepan, 9 May (LM); w. of Deming 4 May (BO); and at Mesilla Dam 1 Apr (N. Stots).

**Mississippi Kites** w. to the Rio Grande valley were 2 at Alamedia 25 May (JEP) and singles at Bosque 10 May (GF), near Las Cruces 25 May (CR), at Los Chaves, Valencia 29 May (DH), and at Corrales 31 May (DK). New Mexico’s active Bald Eagle territories increased to four with discovery of a 2nd nesting pair in Rio Arriba; two pairs nested in traditional Colfax territories (DS). Late was an imm. Bald Eagle at Seco Cr., Sierra 10 May (BV), late or summer-
morphy s at Mesilla Park 20 Apr (ph. J. Groves) and Bosque Redondo 16-17 May (JEP, WW). Gray Hawks returned in force, with up to 4 at Guadalupe Canyon 5 Apr (JEP, WW, ph. CJW, ph. MB) and 10 May (AM), an ad. at Mesilla Park 18 May (JN), and one on 24 R.S. 8 Apr (m.o.b., ph. JO); noteworthy for the habitat was an ad. Gray Hawk in foothill oak woodland near Cloverdale 30 Apr (SOW, ph. HW). Zone-tailed Hawks were widely reported, including singles n to N.R.T. 11 May (LS) and at Alamita 12 Apr (MH). Very late was an ad. male Merlin at Chama 10 May (DK).

PLOVERS THROUGH TURNS
High counts for Black-bellied Plover were 5 at Caballo L. 10 May (B) and 2 at E.B.L. 10 May (ph. DC, JPB). Semipalmated Plover occurred statewide 19 Apr-10 May; high counts were 12 at Bosque 23 Apr (DC) and 6 at Weatherley L., Union 30 Apr (DS). Providing a local first were one or 2 Spot-billed Sandpipers at N.R.T. 13-16 May (JEP, DK); unusual was one strolling down a Playas street (!) 4 May (BC). Solitary Sandpipers are relatively scarce during spring, so 6 at Bosque 3 May (CR) and singles w. to G.B.A. 17 Apr (RS) and Clift-Gala Valley 23 Apr (RS) were notable. Rare during spring, an Upland Sandpiper was at Jual 15 Apr (WW). A good season for Whimbrels produced one early at Davies Tank, Dona Ana 2 Apr (ph. DG), plus singles at B.L.N.W.R. 3 May (JEP, WW, ph. JO, ph. CJW, ph. MB) and Bosque 10 May (m.o.b.). Long-billed Curlews may have benefited from recently burned rangeland in Lea, where 7 were counted near Hobbs 26 May (DH). A Marbled Godwit w. to Zuni's Ojo Caliente 23 May (JT). Early and a Socorro first

One of a record four found in New Mexico this season, this Yellow-throated Warbler was at Caballo Lake, Sierra County 22-24 (here 23) May 2008. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

was a Ruddy Turnstone at Bosque 25 Apr (R. Merkel). On schedule were 3 White-rumped Sandpipers at B.L.N.W.R. 15 (DK) & 28 May (MH); w. were one to 2 at Holloman L. 19 & 21 May (LM, ph. DG) and 5 near Moriarty 30 May (CR, BN). Six Dunlins were at Laguna Grande 12 Mar (SW), and 2 each were at Brantley L. 18 Mar (ph. JO) and E.B.L. 22 Mar (CR); late were 2 at Morgan L. 2 May (WW). Nine Wilson's Snipe were winnowing s. of Chama 10 May (WH); it was estimated the Chama Valley may support 50-100 breeding pairs. Unusual numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes occurred near the Colorado line in Rio Arriba 10 May, including 127 on a pond n. of Chama (DK) and 16 at Stinking L. (DS); other concentrations included 15 at Clovis 16 May (JEP) and 24 at Bosque 21 May (DC).

An ad. Laughing Gull was at Brantley L. 29 May (SW). A first-cycle Mew Gull at Sunland 11 May (JNP) was later photographed in adjacent Texas; another first-cycle Mew was at Morgan L. 27 Apr (ph. TR). A first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull at Sunland Park 22 Apr (JNP) was believed to be the same individual in Feb. Least Terns away from known breeding areas were singles at Quemado L. 3 May (WW) and Clovis 12 (JEP) & 20 May (JPB). Single Caspian Terns were at Cochiti L. 9 May (ph. WW) and E.B.L. 10 & 15 May (ph. DC, JPB). A remarkable concentration of more than 300 Black Terns was at Clovis 16 May (JEP, WW). An ad. Arctic Tern at Cochiti L. 13 May (ph. JNS) pro-

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS
A good season for Common Ground-Doves produced 4 in the Animas Valley at Double Adobe 10 May (NM-C) and singles at P.O. Canyon 25-27 May (CL) and Columbus 28 May (SOW). A Ruddy Ground-Dove was described at Redrock 11 May (E. Rominger). Noteworthy for the e. plains was a Flammulated Owl at Boone's Draw 20 Apr (ph. MH). A survey of Whiskered Screech-Owls in Skeleton Canyon located a minimum of six territories 29 Apr (SOW, HW). Maintaining an Eddy presence, 2 Elf Owls were at Rocky Arroyo 26

One of three found in New Mexico this season, this Magnolia Warbler provided a local first at Quinta Road, Torrance County 17 May 2008. Photograph by Nancy E. Hatrick.

Apr (MB, NP, CJW). No Spotted Owls were detected in the Animas Mts. 10 May (AC), where the resident population may have succumbed to the Jun 2006 fire. Single Short-eared Owls were at B.L.N.W.R. 3 Mar (WW) and near Orogrande 1 Apr (DG); a winter roost discovered during Feb near Corr. s. of Dona Ana (RM) held 5 Short-eareds 8 Apr (DG). Northern Saw-whet Owls fledged young from low-elevation nest boxes near Santa Fe 19 May (ph. L. Jones, BF) and Cerrillos 21 May (LS, CR, ph. JPB). The earliest Common Poorwills were one at La Mesa, Dona Ana 5 Mar (K. & W. Lane) and 2 at Dark Canyon, Guadalupe Mts. 18 Mar (AJ). Vocal Whap-poor-wills where seldom reported were one at Cedar Crest 24 May (DL) and one or more at Jack's Peak, Burro Mts. 29-31 May (DG).

Black Swifts are unexpected in New Mexico prior to late May; this season produced reports of one at Farmington 7 May (TR) and 2 n. of Chama 10 May (DK). Far w. was a well-studied Chimney Swift at Petroglyph N.M. 24 May (CCW); a Chachalaca at Bosque 2 May was not identified (CJW, MB, NP). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird was n. to Sapillo Cr., Grant 29 May (BZ, ph. J. Blumberg); n. in the Peloncil-lo Mts. were one in P.O. Cortez 17 & 21 May
Acorn Woodpecker was near Santa Teresa 10 May (JNP). An apparent mixed woodpecker pair consisting of a male Hairy and a female Downy was discovered at Galisteo 18 May into Jun (JPB et al., ph. JPB); the birds were observed copulating, excavating a cavity, and otherwise behaving as a mated pair, but the breeding effort ultimately was disrupted by Cooper’s Hawks; such a mixed pairing is unprecedented (fide Jerome A. Jackson).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CHICKADEES**

At least 2 Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets were at Guadalupe Canyon 5 Apr (JEP, CJEW); undetailed was one heard in upper Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 10 May (fide AC). Greater Pewees were at two Burro Mts. sites, one singing at Jack’s Peak 26 May (ph. DG) and one singing at Axel Canyon 30 May (BZ). Unexpected in the Peloncillo Mts. was one Greater singing at Geronimo Seep 1 May (SOW, HW). Identified largely by its “pip” call-notes, an apparent Eastern Wood-Pewee was extensively detailed at N.R.T. 15 May (JEP, ph. DK). Far e. was a Western Wood-Pewee singing near Hobbs 29 May (DH). Least Flycatchers found in areas where seldom reported were singles w. to Quarai 24 May (MB, NP) and Ramon, Lincoln 9 May (SW). Southerly was a Dusky Flycatcher nest-building at Bell Canyon, San Mateo Mts. 21 May (AJ). Two Empidonax in the n. Burro Mts. 24 May (JT) gave calls characteristic of Pacific-slope Flycatcher, but whether such calls are diagnostic is unclear. Increased presence of Buff-breasted Flycatchers in the Peloncillo and Animas ranges since 1995 contributed this season with discovery of a nest at Aspen Spring, Animas Mts. 10 May (AC, ph. C. Britt), the first confirmation of breeding in New Mexico in nearly a century. Another Buff-breasted was 1.6 km away at Indian Cr. Canyon the same day. Consolidating their northward range expansion, 2 Black Phoebes were along the Mora R. near Wautrous 3-4 Apr (MM). An Eastern Phoebe was tending fledglings at Clayton L. 24 May (ph. JO). A male Vermilion Flycatcher n. to Ocate 30 May (L. Knutson) provided a Mora first, and another was n. to the Dry Cimarron R. near Folsom 31 May (CR, BN); unusual was a male Vermilion at Monica Cabin, San Mateo Mts. 4 May (SM), apparently a first for that range. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher n. to the Gila Cliff Dwellings 27 May (B. Norris) provided a Catron first; a silent Myiarchus at R.S. 22 Apr (SW) was identified as this species. Unusual was an Ash-throated Flycatcher at 2565 m elevation at Angel Fire 13 May (ph. EW). A Great Crested Flycatcher near Lingo 10 May (LS) provided a rare spring report. A vocal

One of three that reached New Mexico this season, this Blackpoll Warbler was at the Melrose Trap in northern Roosevelt County 16 May 2008. Photograph by David J. Krueger.

(CL) and as many as 4 at Skeleton Canyon 29-30 Apr (SOW, HW). Far n. was a female Magnificent Hummingbird at Angel Fire 12-20 May (ph. J. Eggert). Lucifer Hummingbirds returned to P.O. Canyon 25 Mar, where the number of males peaked at 23 on 22 Apr and 13 May; the high count for females was 6 on 24 May (CL). Early was a male Black-chinned Hummingbird at Las Cruces 9 Mar (J. Douglas). Small numbers of Anna’s Hummingbirds passed through P.O. Canyon 21 Mar–24 May, including as many as 4 there 2-11 Apr (CL); the one that wintered at Carlsbad continued until 9 Mar (SW). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were more evident than usual on the e. plains, including at N.R.T. on multiple dates 12-23 May (in. ob.) and one at Boone’s Draw 12 May (JEP). Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds historically were unexpected during spring, but this season, single Calliope were at Las Cruces 3 Apr (DG), P.O. Canyon 11 & 29 Apr (CL), and Luis Lopez 6 May (JO), while up to 6 Rufous per day (high count on 2 Apr) were logged at P.O. Canyon on 13 dates between 18 Mar and 18 Apr (CL).

A Belted Kingfisher was at bone-dry Skeleton Canyon 29 Apr (SOW, HW); another far from suitable habitat was at Playas 22 Apr–4 May (BC). Following removal of nesting snags, the Bosque Farms, Valencia Lewis’s Woodpecker colony disappeared this season (DH). The Red-headed Woodpecker that wintered at Las Animas Cr., Sierra continued until 20-23 Mar (ph. JO, JEP); noteworthy were single Red-headeds at Waldo, Santa Fe 10 May (R. Oclott, ph. T. Seamster) and Sabinoso Canyon, San Miguel 10 May (SB, ph. SN). Unusual in the lower Rio Grande Valley, an

![Image](image_url)

This Prothonotary Warbler was at Socorro’s New Mexico Tech University, Socorro County 10-15 (here 11) May 2008. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

Couch’s Kingbird at N.R.T. 31 May (JEP) furnished the 5th well-documented report for New Mexico. A silent Couch’s/Tropical Kingbird at Socorro 10 May (GF) provided the 6th for the state since 1965; Tropical Kingbird has yet to be verified in New Mexico. Only one Thick-billed Kingbird was at Guadalupe Canyon 10 May (AM). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continue to appear w. and n. of their expected range, including singles at Mesilla 19 Apr (ph. KS), Bosque 3 & 10 May (MH, DH, CR, BN), LVN,W.R. 11 May (J. Saunders), near Springer 14 May (ph. EW), and at Trigg Ranch, e. San Miguel 10 May (MM).

Single White-eyed Vireos were singing along the Black R., Eddy 22 Apr (JO), at Boone’s Draw 3 May (NP, CJEW, ph. JO), and Bosque 12 May (JL). Bell’s Vireos in non-traditional locales in the e. part of the Region included one near Hope 29 May (SW), 2 singing at Jll 15 Apr (SW), 2 (one singing) near Lingo 10 May (LS), and one singing at Summer Dam 31 May (JEP). An apparent Black-capped Vireo was described at La Cueva Picnic Area, Dripping Springs 18 May (SM); there are but two previous (one verified) state records. Eur...
ly were 2 Gray Vireos singing at Guadalupe Canyon 5 Apr (JEP, MB, NP). Single Yellow-throated Vireos were at N.R.T. 16-18 May (JEP, ph. JO, ph. DK, NP, MB) and Boone’s Draw 10 (MB, NP) & 20 May (JFB); a dead Yellow-throated was found at Mesa Rest Area 28 May (ph. RD). A Hutton’s Vireo at Dark Canyon 18 Mar (AJ) provided the 5th report for the Guadalupe Mts.; another was at Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mts. 2 Apr (SOW). Possible Philadelphia Vireos were singles near Blue 10 May (LS) and at Socorro 23 May (MH). A Red-eyed Vireo was at Boone’s Draw 4 May (JO). Up to 250 Pinyon Jays were building nests in the Zuni Mts. 8 Mar (CCW, AJ), and a pair was nest-building at Monica Cabin, San Mateo Mts. 4 May (SM). Noteworthy so far e. were 107 Pinyons at Trigg Ranch, e. San Miguel 12 Apr (MM). Rare on the e. plains, 2 Purple Martins were at Clovis 16 May (JEP); in the San Mateo Mts., small colonies of up to 10 birds were in Bear Trap and West Red Canyons 20 May (AJ). Surveys for nesting Bank Swallows found an estimated 700 pairs in 14 colonies during May (HW, MB), primarily at nine Sandaval and three Bernadillo sites, but also small colonies along the Rio Ojo Caliente, Taos and the Chama R. near Abiquiu 21 May (MB). Noteworthy away from the Rio Grande Valley, a mixed chickadee pair consisting of a male Mountain and a female Black-capped was nesting at Galisteo during May (BF, JPB, SOW). Apparently another victim of the 2006 fire, no Mexican Chickadee was detected in the Animas Mts. 10 May (AC).

**THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS**

Eastern Bluebirds had clutches of eggs in nest boxes at Albuquerque by 19 Mar (M. Means). Early was a Veery singing at Chama 9 May (DK), while an early Swainson’s Thrush was at Corrales 27 Apr (DK). A high count of 120 Hermit Thrushes was at N.R.T. 4 May (CJW). A singing Wood Thrush was at N.R.T. 20 May (LM, ph. JPB). The winter’s Rufous-backed Robin continued along Las Animas Cr. until 25 Mar (m.ob.); undetailed was an Internet report 11 Apr. Late was an ad. male Varied Thrush at B.B.L. Dam 25 Apr (DC). A Gray Catbird was w. to Zuni’s Ojo Caliente 23 May (JT); late were singles at Fort Sumner 25 May (MH) and N.R.T. 31 May (JEP). Providing New Mexico’s 4th report and 3rd verified record was a Long-billed Thrasher at Crossroads, Lea 25 Apr (ph. JO, JEP, WW). A male Phainopepla was a surprise n. to Galisteo Cr., Sandaval 12 May (DK). A Blue-winged Warbler was reported near Abiquiu 24 Apr (D. Byen); another was at Cedar Crest 18 May (S. Ligon, fide DL). A Tennessee Warbler was w. to Silver City 15-17 May (ph. D. Zimmerman), only the 5th there in 30 years; others were singles at R.S. 5 May (SW) and N.R.T. 7 (WW) & 17 May (JEP, DK). Far n. was a Lucy’s Warbler at Blackrock Dam 23 May (JT), the 3rd year in the Zuni area; 2 others returned to R.S. by 22 Apr (JO, DG), where 3 were singing 29 May (RD). A strong showing by Northern Parulas was indicated by singles at seven sites from the Rio Grande Valley eastward: at Albuquerque 24-25 Apr (ph. NP, MB), Capitan 24 Apr (ph. JO), Tatum 26 Apr (NP, CJW), N.R.T. 3-5 & 9 May (m.ob.), Dixon 13 May (ph. R. Templeton), Cerillos 13 May (LS), and Luis Lopez 22 May (JO). Single Magnolia Warblers were at E.B.L. Dam 12 May (DC), Quarai 17 May (CJW, ph. N. Hetrick), and Socorro 23 May (ph. MH, NP). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler at Water Canyon 10 May (BN) provided the lone report, as did a Black-throated Green at Albuquerque 11 May (CB). Far e. were single Black-throated Gray Warblers at N.R.T. 20 Apr (MH) and 3-4 May (m.ob.), Boone’s Draw 3-5 May (m.ob.), and Bosque Redondo 16 May (DK). Lowland Hermit Warblers were singles in the Animas Valley at Clanton Cienega 10 May (NM-C) and along the Gila R. at Nichol’s Canyon 24 May (RM). A record season for Yellow-throated Warblers produced singles at Caballo L. 22-24 Mar (CR, m.ob., ph. JO, ph. MB, ph. CJW), Milnesand 12 Apr (CR, LS), Bosque 27-28 Apr (BV, MH), and N.R.T. 3-5 & 9-10 May (JEP, m.ob., ph. JO, ph. MH). Early Grace’s Warblers were 3 singing at Emory Pass 4 Apr (JEP) and 2 singing at Cherry Cr., Pinos Altos Mts. 6 Apr (MH). At least one Palm Warbler was at Bosque 27 Apr (CB) and 3 May (MH). Single male Blackpoll Warblers were at B.L.N.W.R. 5 May (BO), Bosque Redondo 16 May (DK), and N.R.T. 16 May (JEP, WW, ph. JO, ph. DK). One to 2 Black-and-white Warblers were at nine sites from the Pecos Valley westward 17 Apr-18 May; westward was one at Farmington 6 May (TR). A record total of 6 Prothonotary Warblers involved singles at Branntle L. 26 Apr (R. Munro), R.S. 26 Apr (JEP, ph. JO), Conclus Dam 10 May (SB), Socorro 10-15 May (m.ob.), Luis Lopez 23 May (NP, ph. MH), and Bosque Redondo 26 May (JEP, ph. JO). At least 4 Worm-eating Warblers were documented, including one w. to Silver City 1 May (ph. JB); the others were at R.S. 22 (ph. DG) & 30 Apr (WW), White Rock, Los Alamos 24 Apr (ph. S. King), and N.R.T. 11 May (JEP). Surprising was a Louisiana Waterthrush at lower East Red Canyon, San Mateo Mts. 19 Apr (SM, ph. C. Brown); there were fewer than 20 credible New Mexico reports. A male Kentucky Warbler at El Morro 4-18 May (ph. CG, ph. MB, CJW, ph. JPB) provided a Cibola first; others were at Socorro 9 May (ph. JO, ph. JPB) and R.S. 6 May (JL). Very rare in the region, at least one male Mourning Warbler was at N.R.T. 15 (DK) & 20 May (LM). Hooded Warblers made a spectacular showing, with a minimum 13 individuals at 12 sites, including singles w. to Playas 18-22 Apr (BC) and G.B.A. 25 May (JT), plus singles at Cedar Crest 27 Apr and 6 May (DL), Percha 29 Apr and 2 May (D. Paez, DC), Tijeras 5 May (L. Butler), Tatum 9 May (JEP, WW, MH), Boone’s Draw 10 May (JEP), Bosque 12 May (JL), R.G.N.C. 12 May (CR), Sandia Mts. at
Doc Long Picnic Area 13 May (CB), Quail 18 May (ph. MH), and N.R.T. 13 May (JEP, WW, ph. JO), with 2 there 22 May (ph. MH). Red-faced Warblers in lowland habitats were singles at Deming 25 Apr (DB), R.G.N.C. 4 May (DH), and Socorro 24 May (HW). Unusual was a Painted Redstart at Percha 15-19 Mar (BN, JL, S. Sermay).

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Noteworthy ne. to Union were 6 Hepatic Tanagers along the Dry Cimarron R. near Folsom 31 May (CR, BN). Far-flung Summer Tanagers were singles n. to Blackrock Dam 23 May (JT) and Santa Fe 19 May (F. Barnes); an early tanager at Cedar Crest 16-20 Apr (DL) provided a local first, while 3 were at Quail 10 May (HS). An ad. male Scarlet Tanager was near Cerrillos 17-18 May (ph. JPB, ph. CJW, ph. JO), and a female was at N.R.T. 20 May (ph. JPB). A Field Sparrow at Jal. L. 17 Mar (ph. JO) provided the only report. Northerly was a Black-chinned Sparrow singing at Diablo Canyon near Buckman, Santa Fe 27 May (ph. JPB). The Fox Sparrow continued at Luis Lopez until 25 Mar (JO); single migrant schissataca were at PO. Canyon 8-10 & 13 Apr (CL). Late Lincoln’s Sparrows were singles near Folsom 31 May (CR, BN) and N.R.T. 31 May (JEP). Scare in Santa Fe, a Swamp Sparrow was at La Cienega 11 Apr (JPB). Far w. was a White-throated Sparrow at Viden 28 May (JEP, WW), while one at Bosque Redondo 16 May (DK) was late. A Harris’s Sparrow was at Abiquiu 10-15 May (ph. K. Bowers). Very early was a dark-olred White-crowned Sparrow at R.G.N.C. 22 Mar (CCW). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were at Tyeone 30 May (EL) and Alameda 6 Apr (m.ob.). No Yellow-eyed Junco were detected in the Animas Mts. 10 May (AC). As many as eight pairs were breeding in the Burro Mts. by May (DG), but the picture was complicated by one or more

Yellow-eyed Junco x Gray-headed Junco hybrid (ph. DG), along with one or more pairs of breeding *dorsalis* Gray-headed Juncos. Northern Cardinals continued in evidence in the Canadian basin, with a male at Sabinon Canyon 10 May (SB), one or 2 males in the Pajaro Valley nw. of Tucum- cari 16 Mar (JO) and 27 May (WH), 2 males at Tucumcari 24 May (JO), and one near San Jon 22 May (MH). Other cardinals of note were single males at Santa Rosa 24 May (JEP), s. of Hillsboro at Tierra Blanca Cr. 17 May (ph. DC), at Santa Teresa 24 May (JNP), and at Tatum 25 May (CJW). Late for the n. were single Pyrrhuloxi- as at N.R.T. 16 & 22 May (JEP MH) and at Mesa Rest Area 14-15 May (RD). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks flooded the state 2-24 May, with multiple reports from 17 counties, including w. to San Juan (TR), Catron (JH), Grant (JB), and Hidalgo (CW); early was a male at Luis Lopez 18 Apr (ph. JO). Providing a Roosevelt first was a male Varied Bunting near Lingo 10 May (jude A. Nelson) and Mimbres Valley 29-30 May (jude DB); in Dohia Ana, singles were at Radium Springs 10-14 Apr (MS, JZ) and 16 May (MS) and w. of Las Cruces 28 May (JZ). A male Hooded Oriole was n. to Luis Lopez 16 Apr (ph. JO). A male Bullock’s Oriole at Las Animas Cr., Sierra 30 Mar (BV) was early. An impressive season for Baltimore Orioles resulted in single ad. males at Carlsbad 13 Apr (SW), El Morro 13-21 May (ph. CG), Escondida 16-17 May (ph. S. LaBrier), and Luis Lopez 22 May (ph. JO).

By 30 Mar, 462 rosy-finchs had been banded at Sandia Crest: 295 Brown-cappeds, 97 Gray-crowneds (including 29 Hepburn’s), and 70 Blacks (N. Cox et al.); the last birds were there 2 Apr (20 birds; *jude K. Schneider*).

Cassin’s Finch was unusually conspicuous in lowland areas Mar-Apr, and several, including singing birds, lingered at Albuquerque through May (HS, CCW). Pine Siskin likewise was conspicuous in non-traditional locales into May; noteworthy was a nesting at Cochiti Village 17 May (MW) and a female with a brood patch at Albuquerque 25 May (CCW). It was a good spring for Lawrence’s Goldfinches, with 6 at Cabello Dam 2 Mar (ph. GF) and 2 there 8 Mar (MH), plus singles at Las Cruces 21-23 Mar (ph. DG), Bayard 6-25 Apr (ph. D. Morehead), and Cliff-Gila Valley 26 Apr (jude DB).


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17 May (PL, BC). A male Eurasian Wigeon spotted at Nutrioso 4 Apr (EH) was very unusual in Apache. Although there are reports (including breeding reports) of Mexican Ducks from the Springerville area, overall reports from n. of the Mogollon Rim have been few. A male Mexican Duck (along with an intergrade male and female) was found at Lower L. Mary 16-28 Apr (ph. LH, DVP), and a pair was at Eggar 3 May (DVP, LH). Blue-winged Teal is a rare transient in the Prescott region. Three were at Willow L. 1 Mar (D. Inversen), and one was at Watson L. 7 Apr (S. Burk). An Eurasian Teal at G.W.R. 2 Mar (ph., tPD, MMo) was the first to be verifiably documented in the state; the one prior report was at Picacho Res. in 1953. Lingering Canvasbacks included 4 at n. L. Havasu 29 Apr (PL) and one at Benson 7-8 May (DS). New dates for Ring-necked Duck in the L.C.R.V. included 3 at Cibola N.W.R. 28 Apr, 3 at L. Havasu 29 Apr, and up to 5 at L. Havasu 16-18 May (PL, BC). A Greater Scaup at Dudleyville 15 Mar (ph. MMo) was a casual transient there. In the L.C.R.V, Greater Scaups were present in relatively large numbers and on unprecedented late dates: 41 were seen from Parker Dam to n. L. Havasu 27-29 Apr (PL, BC), and up to 7 were at B.W.D. 16-17 May (PL, BC). Surf Scoters are rare transients across the state; one female was at L. Havasu 30 Mar (MMo), and a male was at Gila Bend 10-25 May (BG, ph. CB). Another White-winged Scoter joined the late Feb bird at B.W.D. for one day 23 May (PL), and one remained until 6 Apr. What was likely one of the same birds was on a canal e. of Parker L. 25 Mar (K. Blair). Likely a holdover from winter and the latest that one has been seen in the state, a White-winged Scoter was at Saguaro L. 23 May+ (ph. MMo). Also late was a Long-tailed Duck at lower L. Havasu 30 Mar (ph. MMo). Ten Buffleheads at n. L. Havasu 18 May (BC, PL) was a large number at a time when they are considered rare. A female Common Goldeneye at Wilcox 10 May (EW) and one the same day at P.R.D. (BG) were a month late in s. Arizona. A Common Merganser was late at Wilcox 14-15 May (BC et al.), and one lingered at Patagonia L. through the season (m.o.b.). Red-breasted Mergansers are sparse transients in s. Arizona. One was at San Carlos L. 2 Mar (PK et al.), 11 were at B.A.N.W.R. 29 Mar (PC), and as many as 9 were still passing through L. Havasu 18 May (PL, BC).

The wintering Red-throated Loon at L. Havasu was last reported 6 Apr (ph. S. Fitzgerald). A rare migrant Pacific Loon was at Saguaro L. 30 Mar (ph. K. Rosenberg). The latest report of Pacific Loons at L. Havasu was of 2 on 28 Apr (PL), when they are casual. Common Loon is a rare migrant away from the L.C.R.V. Singles were at Kearny L. 5 Apr (ph. M. Peterson), Flagstaff 16 Apr (LH, DVP), Pasture Canyon 16 May (CB, BJ), Ganado L. 17 May (CB, BJ), and L. Mary 31 May (ph. T. McCallie). In the L.C.R.V, spring numbers at L. Havasu peaked at 19 on 23 Mar, with 4 still present 17 May (both PL). The wintering Yellow-billed Loon at Lake Havasu City was last reported 6 Apr (DVP et al.). Seeming like a mirage in the May heat, a first-year Yellow-billed Loon at Tempe Town L. 20-24 May (D. Barrett; ph. TMMo; ph. B. Grice) provided the first record of a spring transient in the state. Large numbers of Eared Grebes were late at n. L. Havasu, with 400 on 17 May and 250 on 18 May (PL, BC).

Neotropic Cormorants remained abundant in greater Phoenix. Outliers included one at Saguaro L. 28 Mar (D. Barrett), one at Roosevelt L. 12 Apr (DVP et al.), one at B.W.D., La Paz 16-29 Apr (PL, BC), 2 at Paloma 7-14 May (PL, BC, G. McCaskie), and 3 at Roosevelt L. 16 May (MA). Also of note were several Neotropical courting and carrying sticks at G.W.R. 7 Apr (MMo); despite the large numbers resident in greater Phoenix, there have been few breeding reports. At San Carlos L., Gila, there were 50 active Double-crested Cormorant nests 2 Mar (PK et al.). Although nests had been found there as long ago as 1968, they were not found during the Breeding Bird Atlas project. Migrant American Bitternas at Watson L. 22 Apr–2 May (M. Nicosa) and Kachina Wetlands 27 May–1 Jun (ph. D. Lamkin) were very rare locally. In the L.C.R.V, 500 pairs of Cattle Egrets were nesting n. of Poston 28 Apr+ (PL). Glossy Ibises have become nearly annual in Arizona. Single ads., believed to be different birds, were n. of Poston 27 (tPL, tBC) & 28 Apr (tPL). White-faced Ibises were first found breeding in Arizona at Cibola N.W.R. in 2000, with the next report coming from P.R.D. in 2005. Twenty-five pairs nesting in a mixed-species colony n. of Poston 28 Apr+ (PL) furnished the 3rd report. Up to 1500 presumed migrant ibises were roosting there 28 Apr (PL).

White-tailed Kites were widely reported again; a pair in the High Cr. drainage of the Galvano Mts. 16 May (A. Casey, S. Leric) was at an unusual location. A Mississippi Kite was early at Dudleyville 6 May (PK), and an early migrant passed through Rio Rico 8 May (SS, KK). Casual in much of Arizona after mid-March, an ad. Bald Eagle was near Winkelman 25 Apr (DJ et al.), and another was at n. L. Havasu 29 Apr (PL). The importance of the Santa Cruz R. as a migration corridor was highlighted by a high count of 42 Common

Mark M. Stevenson (Non-passerines) Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)
Black-Hawks departing riparian forest at Tubac on the morning of 19 Mar (R. Hoyer et al.). The resident pair of Red-shouldered Hawks continued at H.R.P. (L.H. ph. C. Miller), while a wanderer was at Patagonia 11–27 Mar (M. Kehl, ph. MB). Rare as a spring migrant, a Broad-winged Hawk was at Dead Horse Ranch S.P. 24 Apr (DVP), and another was at Tubacacori 25 May (J. Spence). Early Gray Hawks were seen at Tubacacori 5 Mar (MA) and Arivaca the next day (MA). Gray Hawks continue to extend their range northward and upslope. A pair nesting at H.R.P. 10 May (TC) was only the 2nd for Maricopa. Other outliers included a pair at Alamo L. near Brown's Crossing 21 May (SB fide TC), where they were found in 2007 (fide R. Glinksi), one at Tonto N.M. 23 Apr (MA), and one at Seven Springs 23 May (R. Glinksi). In Tucson, the wintering Short-tailed Hawk was last reported 13 Apr (DS). In the Chiricahua Mts., only one Short-tailed was reliably reported 14 Apr+ (H. Snyder et al.; one reported at Madera Canyon 20 May (L. Halsey) was undocumented. Zone-tailed Hawks were reportedly more numerous and widespread than usual in both s. and n. Arizona (m.o.). A Harlan's Hawk was casual at Continental 26 Mar (G. West). A Rough-legged Hawk was over Tucson 19 Mar (C. Danforth), an unusual location for this rare winter visitor. Crested Caracaras continued in the Santa Cruz Flats. Two pairs were observed “investigating nesting material and displaying” 4 Mar (MA), and one was seen as late as 29 May (MF, MMS, DJ). Near Tubacacori, up to 2 juvs. were seen 12 Mar–13 May (MM, S. Carnahan).

A Sora was late at G.W.R. 1-15 May (MMS). A Sandhill Crane near Tubacacori 12-21 Mar (MM) was unusual in Santa Cruz. Another Sandhill was in the Arlington Valley on the late date of 29 Apr (T. Hildebrandt). Casual as spring migrants, the only Black-bellied Plover reported was at Vicksburg 27 Apr (PL), where a rarer American Golden-Plover was also present 27 Apr–3 May (+PL; ph. KR, +D. Powell). Snowy Plovers again bred at Patagonia near Gila Bend, with up to 10 ads. and 5 chicks 25 Apr–10 May (BG). Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets seen migrating over n. L. Havasu through 18 May (PL, BC) were late there. The Northern Jacana was last seen at Casa Grande 9 Apr (m.o.). A Solitary Sandpiper was early at Saguaro L. 30 Mar (K. Rosenbarger), while one at B.A.N.W.R. 17 May (PC) was late. A late Greater Yellowlegs was at Santa Cruz Flats 29 May (DJ). A Lesser Yellowlegs at Dome Valley 18 May (PL, BC) was late. A Whimbrel was early at Parker Valley 23 Mar (PL), and migrants were seen over L. Havasu through 16 May (PL, BC). Away from the L.C.R.V., 2 Whimbrels were at Paloma 25 Apr (BG), and one was at Palo Verde 10 May (BG). Long-billed Curlews are very rare breeding species in Arizona, so 4 seen w. of Eagar 6 May and 1 Jun (C. & S. Wood), near known breeding areas, were of interest. Seventy-two Marbled Godwits at Vicksburg 10 Apr (P. Norton) made a large group, likewise the flock of 12 at B.A.N.W.R. 12 Apr (PC). Seldom reported from s. Navajo, 2 godwits were at Clear Creek Res. 7 May (Z. Zdimal). Late godwits included 2 at n. L. Havasu 16 May (PL), one near Poston 17 May (PL, BC), and one at El Mirage 23 May (CB). A Sandering was a good find at Ganado L. 17 May (BJ, ph. CB). Semipalmated Sandpipers are casual spring migrants in Arizona. One was at Willcox 30 Apr (ph. DS), and 4 or more were there 4 May (DS, CDB). Also at Willcox, a White-rumped Sandpiper 20-24 May (1D. Pearson; ph. RR & R. Colwell) was good for the 10th for Arizona. Single Dunlins were reported at Willcox 5-11 Apr (RT) and Vicksburg 10-11 Apr (P. Norton). Stilt Sandpipers are casual spring migrants, so 4 at Willcox 17-18 May (KKe) and 11 at G.W.R. 17 May (N. Gaines, ph. MMo) were very surprising. An injured Long-billed Dowitcher at Aztec 14-23 May (REW, PL, BC) was late, as was a Wilson’s Phalarope at Aztec 18 May (SB). Red-necked Phalaropes, rare spring migrants in Arizona, were reported in unusually large numbers across the state, beginning with one at Amado on the very early date of 11 Mar (R. Palmer), followed by 9 at n. L. Havasu 27 Apr (BC, PL), and 4 there 28 Apr (PL). Selected peak counts included 29 Red-necked at Aztec 16 May (PL), 45 at B.A.N.W.R. 17 May (PC), 50 at Willcox 18 May (DS), 82 at Clear Creek Res. 19 May (TC), and 5 at Luna L. 20 May (SH). Putting all of those in the shade were the phenomenal numbers seen at L. Havasu. On the evening of 16 May, 3000 were at n. L. Havasu, and the next morning numbers built up from 100 to 1100 (PL), matching the highest count ever reported during spring at the Salton Sea in California.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

One of few ever found in the L.C.R.V., an ad. Laughing Gull was at n. L. Havasu 17 May (+PL, +BC). Franklin's Gulls were widely reported, with the season's high counts including 100 at Roosevelt L. 15 May (MA) and 135 at n. L. Havasu 17 May (PL, BC). Bonaparte's Gulls are rare spring migrants in the L.C.R.V.; migrants were at L. Havasu 16 Apr–18 May, with a peak count of 10 on 16 Apr (PL). Heermann's Gulls are sporadic visitors from the Gulf of California. A second-cycle bird was at Sweetwater 28 Mar (S & +), an ad. was in the Avra Valley 30 Mar (J. Higgins, ph. D. Clark), and an ad. was at Willcox 5 May (R. Littlewood, fide J. Hand). Published data show California Gulls essentially absent in the L.C.R.V. during Apr–late Jul; Lehman observed singles at B.W.D. and Lake Havasu City 16 May, 19 at L. Havasu 17 May, and 68 at L. Havasu 18 May. At Willcox, up to 5 were present 19-21 May (KKe, BZ, B. Behrstock), and 4 were at G.W.R. 23 May (ph. MMo). An ad. Sabine's Gull at n. L. Havasu 16 May (PL) was abundant during spring. Terns are rare spring migrants in Arizona, particularly away from the L.C.R.V. Least Terns had another good showing, with singles at Willcox 14 Apr (L. Allerton), 30 Apr (ph. MMS), 9-11 May (TC), and 16 May (BZ), at G.W.R. 5 May (J. Kopitzke), at Gillespie Dam 16 May (PL), at n. L. Havasu 18 May (PL, BC), and at Patagonia L. 22 May (MB). Single Caspian Terns were at Clear Creek Res. 7 May (Z. Zdimal) and Patagonia L. 12-13 May (SH, ph. DS). Though rated an “uncommon” transient, Black Tern was seen by Lehman only once at L. Havasu during his lakewatches, on 18 May. Elsewhere, one was at Buckeye 30 Apr (TC), 2 were at Willcox 17 May (KKe), and one was at G.W.R. 23 May (D. Pearson). Common Terns had been rated “accidental” during spring in the L.C.R.V.; one was at B.W.D. 16 May (PL), 39 (including a flock of 34) were at n. L. Havasu 17 May, and 3 were there 18 May (both PL, BC). Away from the L.C.R.V., Forster's Terns included one at Arlington 10 May (BG), one at Roger L. 14 May (ph. O. Lowe), 2 at Ganado L. 17 May (CB, B), and one at Becker L. 22 May (ph. SH). Counts at L. Havasu included 31 on 16 May, 48 on 17 May, and 22 on 18 May (PL, BC), which were high concentrations there, especially in spring.

There were few reports of Ruddy Ground-Doves, with up to 3 at Red Rock until 15 Mar (m.o.), one at w. Phoenix 21 Apr (BG), and 2 at Red Rock 14 May (fide SH). Elf Owls were in early 12 Mar at Portal (H. Snyder) and Saguaro N.P. (B. Etter). Rare visitors to the lowlands, an injured Northern Saw-whet Owl was found at Tucson 8 Mar (fide S. Pike), 2 were found at Fortuna Wash, Yuma, 11-25 Mar (ph. L. Piest), and one was at Catalina S.P. 15 Mar–1 Apr (J. Leone, ph. C. Cathers). At the Oro Blanco Mine site near California Gulch, as many as 3 Buff-collared Nightjars were present 15 Aprs (M. Pike, tMMS). A Whip-poor-will was out of place in the desert at P.R.D. 10 May (BG).

A Vaux's Swift n. of Globe 25 Apr (JY) was not seen. A few unusual migrants appeared. White-eared Hummingbirds returned to their traditional sites in the Huachuca Mts. at Miller Canyon 6 May+ (T. Beatty) and Ramsey Canyon 16-18.
May (G. Dunnire). They are more sporadic in Madera Canyon, where a male and female were at the Lodge 6-9 May (ph. C. Postimus), and a male was at nearby Kuro 8 May+ (GB, ph. L. Halsey). A banded Berylline Hummingbird returned to Ramsey Canyon 6 May+ (ph. H. Dettler). In the Santa Catalina Mts., a hybrid hummingbird superficially resembling an Amethyst-throated Hummingbird was again at Willow Canyon 6 Apr-23 May (B. Bickel, ph. RT). An imm. male Magnificent Hummingbird was out of place in the lowlands at Sabino Canyon 31 May (E. Fazio). Among a flurry of reports of Plain-capped Starthroats this season, the only ones accompanied by descriptions were at California Gulch 20 May+ (†P. Weber) and S. Fork, Cave Creek Canyon 22 May (T. Lewis); the A.B.C. will review both reports. Lucifer Hummingbirds returned to the Huachuca Mts. by 28 Mar (M.J. Ballator, ph. L. Williams, J. & M. Hirsh).

Elegant Trogons turned up in several unexpected locations, although none was far from known breeding areas, with 5 at Walker Canyon W. of Nogales 3 May (M. Bissontz), 5 at Temporal Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. 11 May (MB et al.), one at W. Turkey Cr., Chiricahua Mts. 20 May (L. Figueroa, D. Touret), and a calling male at upper Carr Canyon, Huachuca Mts. 29 May (SH). Green Kingfishers remain rare, with the only reports being the Ari- vaca Cienega bird continuing until 6 Mar (m.o.b.) and one along lower Sonora Cr. 8-19 Mar (M. Bissontz). A Downy Woodpecker at Upper Verde R. WA. 15 Mar (W. Anderson) was at a low elevation.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS**

The highlight of the season was a Tufted Flycatcher found at Herb Martyr, Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. 5-17 May (D. Mitchell, P. D. Hulse; ph. J. Palladino, REW, CDB, GHF, T. Godfrey, O. Niehuis; v.r. CDB), which represented the 2nd Arizona record; in the United States elsewhere, there are but two other records, both from Texas. A few reports of this individual later in May were undocumented and unconfirmed. Greater Pewees are seldom reported in the lowlands during spring, so singles along the Santa Pedro R. 19 Apr (A. Miller) and at San Bernardino N.W.R. 5 May (RAR, REW) were of note. A Western Wood-Pewee along the Santa Pedro R. near Hwy 90 on 5 Apr (DB) was considered casual at that early date. A Hammond’s Flycatcher at Morgan City Wash 24 May (TC) was extremely late for s. Arizona. Gray Flycatchers typically linger late in s. Arizona, but singles at Dateland 16 May (PL), near Portal 17 May (DS), and at Patagonia L. 27 May (SH) were later than usual. Eastern Phoebes are considered casual during spring; one at Becker L. 22 May (SH) was thus of interest. Vermillion Flycatchers, casual in Arizona away from the s. half of the state, were at Prescott 14 Mar (M. Nicossia) and Johnson Tank, Cococino 15 May (SB). An early Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at Patagonia 27 Mar (MB). A vocal Brown-crested Flycatcher reported at Prescott 3 May (CST) was n. of previous reports in the state. At least one Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher returned for a 3rd spring to the Sierra Prieta Mts., sw. of Prescott, 30 May (CST); this species is considered casual in the state anywhere of s. Arizona. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher put in a repeat performance (last spring) at Camp Verde 13 May (P. Ollig ph. S. Rasmussen), where one was seen carrying nestling material. No Rose-throated Bets were reported this season.

A White-eyed Vireo was along the San Pedro R. near Hereford 28 May (ph. DB); and the one that wintered at Tubac was singing when last reported 1 Apr (m.o.b.); this species is still considered casual in the state. A Gray Vireo was at Montosa Canyon 8-14 May (GB; ph. KZ, BZ), where this species is not known to breed. Other scattered “migrant” reports of this species were undocumented. A Yellow-throated Vireo, still casual in the state, at San Bernardino N.W.R. 30 May (v.r. REW) was the only one reported. A late Cassin’s Vireo was at Madera Canyon 29 May (TC). Early Warbling Vireos were at Patagonia L. 11 Mar (MB) and Tubac 18 Mar (GB). Scattered lowland Purple Martin reports were received from late May, suggesting a rather late northward push through the state in small numbers, or perhaps individuals forced out of higher elevations due to late cold weather. A Tree Swallow at Arivaca 17 May (PC) was late. An unusually large concentration of Violet-green Swallows along the Colorado R. from Glen Canyon Dam s. to Lee’s Ferry during a “cold snap” 23-24 May (ph. G. Nealon) were perhaps also driven out of the highlands by a late snow storm. Scattered individuals to large flocks were reported elsewhere around the state during these same dates. A very late Bank Swallow was at Willcox 29 May (DS).

Although no quantitative data exist, it was the impression of several long-time Arizona residents that numbers of Mexican Chickadees appeared “way down” at known breeding locations in the Chiricahua Mts.; observers should pay special attention to this situation. Widespread reporting of Red-breasted Nuthatches from Mar and Apr at a number of locations where this species does not breed suggests either a lingering or a northward migration of individuals from this past winter’s irruption into s. Arizona. A Brown Creeper was out of place this late in the season at Betty’s Kitchen near Yuma 10 May (M. McLean, C. Hurlock). An American Dipper at Prescott 7-8 Mar (CST) was considered casual.

A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Tu- macacori 17 May (L. Norris). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was already nesting at Madera Canyon on the early date of 3 Apr (MMS, MP). Black-capped Gnatcatchers continued this spring at known locations, such as Patagonia L., Sonora Cr. near Patagonia, and Proctor Rd. and Montosa Canyon in the Santa Rita Mts. Other reports from Chino Canyon (where seen during the 1980s and 1990s) and Salero Ranch were undocumented; a distant outlier report from Gila Bend on 19 Mar (T. Blacklock) will be reviewed by the A.B.C. Although this species has proliferated in s. Arizona during the past decade, it remains a review species, and we urge observers to not take for granted the identification of Black-capped Gnatcatchers, and to please document its occurrence (and future occurrences) in Arizona.

The Rufous-backed Robin continued at Douglas until 20 Mar (A. Moorehouse; ph. M. Carlson). Quite unexpected for spring, although not unprecedented, was a female Azure Thrush at Huachuca Canyon 29 May (ph. G. Froehlich); Arizona’s first state record was also from Huachuca Canyon 30 May 1978! A migrant Gray Catbird was at Portal 28 May (REW). The Brown Thrasher continued at Boyce Thompson Arboretum until 27 Apr (CST). Curve-billed Thrashers were confirmed breeding at Prescott for the first time ever 14 May (J. Morgan) and for the 2nd time (different pair) 28 May+ (CST).

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Several late-migrant Orange-crowned Warblers were reported around s. Arizona 22-24 May. Scarse above the Mogollon Rim, migrant Lucy Warblers were at Flagstaff 3 Apr (JPC, Wenina W.A. 4 Apr (EH), Lower L. Mary 3 May (JC), and Cameron 18 May (N. Gaines). A Crescent-chested Warbler at San Bernardino N.W.R. 29 Apr (+REW) was thought by the observer to be a migrant; all previous Arizona reports (except one wintering bird along Sonora Cr.) have been from more typical breeding habitat in the canyons of s. Arizona. Seven Northern Parulas, about normal for a spring, were found statewide 21 Apr-18 May. Chestnut-sided Warblers are casual at best during spring, so an ad. male at Prescott 31 May (B. Stewart) was of note. The Black-throated Blue Warbler that wintered along the Santa Cruz R. at Tucson began singing in late Mar and was last reported 16 Apr (m.o.b.). Scattered Yellow-rumped Warblers
were reported later than usual into May at migrant locations. An apparent Black-throated Gray Warbler x Yellow-rumped Warbler hybrid was well described from Mingus Mt., Yavapai 23 Apr (TLH, DVP et al.), and another Grace's Warbler x Yellow-rumped Warbler hybrid was reported singing at Prescott 19-27 May (CST). Single Prothonotary Warblers, still casual to rare in the state, were at Lower L. Mary 28 Apr–4 May (ph. DVP, L.H), at G.W.R. 9 May (ph. B. Grice), and (eating peanut butter!) at Paradise 12 May (M. Smith, J. Lewis). A Kentucky Warbler, most regular during May and Jun, was banded along the San Pedro R. near Kingsfisher Pond 1 May (J. Whetstone; ph. A. Willcox). Remarkable is the report of a male Mourning Warbler at a Phoenix yard 14 May (v.r. TC), there are fewer than 10 accepted Arizona reports, and this report will be evaluated by the A.B.C. Several common migrants in s. Arizona were noted as passing through very late into the end of May, including both MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers. Five Hooded Warblers, an above-average number for spring, were reported, with singles at Las Cienegas 21 Apr (A. Johnson), along the San Pedro R. near Hwy 90 on 22 Apr (D. Wiggins), at Lee's Ferry 6-13 May (V. Firth; ph. J. Malone), at Willcox 23-30 May (ph. P. Tenney), and at St. David 24 May (MMS). An early Yellow-breasted Chat was at Sweetwater 2 Apr (J. Bock).

A Summer Tanager banded at Tumacacori in 1997 was recaptured there 3 May (L. Norris). “Big Flame,” the long-returning Madera Canyon male Flame-colored Tanager, returned 27 Mar+ (C. Lansky, B. Postmus; ph. G. Hallgren). Another male Flame-colored was located at Miller Canyon 18 Apr-25 May (J. Woodley, ph. B. Feltner); despite the long-term presence of a male in Madera Canyon, this species remains a casual spring and summer visitor in s. Arizona. Individual Clay-colored Sparrows, casual spring transients, were at Benson 2-3 May (GB), Avondale 6 May (TC), and Portal 15 May (ph. GHR, RT).

Ten Brewer's Sparrows were very late (particularly for such a high number) at Willow Tank, Portal 17 May (DS), and a single was along the San Pedro R. near Hwy. 90 on 19 May (EW). Harris's Sparrows are casual during spring, therefore one in breeding plumage at Sipe White Mountain W.A. 16 May (D. Roten, G. Crandall) was of interest. Numbers of late White-crowned Sparrows (mostly orioantha but with a few gambelii mixed in) were present late into May. Late caniceps Dark-eyed Juncos were at Cave Creek Canyon 16 (GHR) & 18 May (DS). One of the more exciting finds of the season was a female Yellow Grosbeak at Slaughter Ranch 5 May (v.r. REW); there are fewer than 20 reports from Arizona, virtually all during May and Jun. About 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found during the season; reports during May have become more frequent in recent years.

Individual male Baltimore Orioles, casual transients in Arizona, were at Tucson 2 May (TD. Smyth) and Prescott 7-11 May (T. Beere, S. Morelock, fide CST). Numbers of lingering Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, and Pine Siskins were reported from a variety of lowlands. Arizona locations as well as along and above the Mogollon Rim during the spring, likely representing returning irruptive birds. Following this past winter's widespread incursion into Arizona, moderate numbers of Lawrence's Goldfinches continued across s. Arizona during Mar and early Apr, with just a few lingering into May.


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**Great Basin**

Rick Fridell

After several years of drought and abnormally high temperatures, the region experienced a well-received "average" spring season. Among many significant sightings were Clapper Rail, Ruff, and Magnolia Warbler in Nevada and Yellow-billed Loon, Wood Thrush, and Painted Bunting in Utah. Potential state firsts included Black Rail in Nevada and Mississippi Kite in Utah.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Ash Meadows (Ash Meadows N.W.R., Nye, NV); Bear R. (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT).

**WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS**

A remarkable 6 male Eurasian Wigeons were found in the Region, in Nevada at Lemmon Valley, Washoe 3 Mar (EP) and Ash Meadows 20 Apr–4 May (ph. CL) and in Utah at Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis 15-31 Mar (S&CS), Antelope 23 Mar (J&KB), Benson, Cache 5-12 Apr (RR, KA, RO), and Richfield, Sevier 13 Apr (JL). A Long-tailed Duck at Lee Kay Ponds, Salt Lake, UT 12-26 Apr (TA, CN) was a surprise, while a female lingering at Antelope I. until 23 Apr (DO) was more typical. One of the highlights this season was an alternate-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon at Jordanelle S.P., Wasatch, UT 18-20 May (ph. MW, tRO, LW et al.). Another surprise was Utah's 11th Red-necked Grebe at Little Dell Res., Salt Lake 21 Apr–5 May (JB, ph. JL et al.). An ad. Glossy Ibis was photographed at Bear R. 11 May (JB). Since their debut in Jun 2006, Glossy Ibis has been found annually in Utah in spring and/or early summer.

A White-tailed Kite was a nice find at Carson Slough, Ash Meadows 8-11 May (CL), and a Mississippi Kite at Logan River G.C., Cache, UT 5 May (p.a., tRO, tCF) would...
supply a first state record. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in Nevada in Lyon, Nye, and Washoe, but there were no reports in Utah. Broad-winged Hawk sightings included individuals at Lylle 2 May (LT), Bear R. 5 May (JCo), and Tonopah Cemetery, Esmeralda, NV 31 May (ph. GS, ph. CL). Zone-tailed Hawk sightings continue to increase, with birds near Silver Reef, Washington, UT 29 Mar (ph. RF), Buck Spring, Spring Mts., Clark, NV 6 Apr (CL, EK), and Shivwits, Washington, UT 24 Apr (ph. RF). A Black Rail, heard at Ash Meadows 5 May (†CL, EK) provided the first report for Nevada. Up to 3 Clapper Rails were also heard at Ash Meadows 19 Apr–14 May (CL, EK et al.). It was an exceptional season for Whimbrels, with singles in Clark, Churchill, Esmeralda, and Nye, Nevada, and Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Juab, Salt Lake, and Washington, UT, 18 Apr–24 May. Six Red Knots visited Antelope I. 27 Apr–10 May (J&KB), and 2 others were at Carson L., Churchill, NV 3 May (GS). Two Stilt Sandpipers made a rare appearance at Logan, Cache, UT 21 May (RO). Another spring highlight was a Ruff at Crystal Res., Ash Meadows 9 Apr (ph., †CL). A Short-billed Dowitcher was found at Logan, Cache, UT 27 Apr (RO, MC).

**GULLS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA**

Several rare gulls were found at Virginia L., Reno, Washoe, NV: the dark-backed, mystery gull (see the winter season report) continued until 31 Mar (MM et al.); Mew Gulls were there 9-14 Mar (AQ, JBa, TF), 28 Mar (MM), and 11-12 Apr (ph. ST), and a first-cycle Thayer’s Gull made a brief appearance 13 Mar (MM). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull was at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 3 Apr (KE et al.). White-winged Doves were n. of their expected range at Lovelock, Pershing, NV 11 May (DP), Henry Mts., Garfield, UT 12 May (PH), Miller’s Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV 19 May+ (FP, BB), and Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT 24 May (CN, JBl). The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Pinto Cr., Washington, UT 30 May (LT). A Black Swift was reported at Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV 26 May (JT, KD). Vaux’s Swifts outside their expected range in ne. Nevada were at Corn Cr. 11 May (FP), Gunlock S.P., Washington, UT 17 May (LT), and Bountiful, Davis, UT 18 May (J&KB). A Costa’s Hummingbird visiting a Reno, Washoe, NV feeder 6 Apr (JH) was also extralimital. Acorn Woodpeckers continue to be found at Kolob Meadows, Washington, UT 4 May+ (JB, BH, DH).

It was an unusually slow season for flycatchers, but there were a few noteworthy exceptions, such as an Eastern Phoebe at Lylle 31 Mar (ph. RF) and an Eastern Kingbird at Montello, Elko, NV 17 May (JN). A striking male Vermilion Flycatcher made a rare appearance at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 23 May (GS, Rst, DG). A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Baker Res., Washington, UT 28 May (LT). Red-eyed Vireos were found at Sugarhouse Park, Salt Lake, UT 4 May (TA) and Recapture Res., San Juan, UT 27 May (LG). A Veery visited Lytle 22 May (RF). Utah’s 4th documented Wood Thrush was found at Lucin, Box Elder 26 May (ph. CN, ph. JBl). A Varied Thrush was at Bountiful, Davis, UT 19 Apr (ph. BP). Gray Catbirds were found in several unexpected sites in w. Utah, such as Callao, Juab 21 May (MM, MWe), Lucin, Box Elder 24-26 May (CN, JBl), and Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab 28 May (MM, MWe). A Phainopepla was a surprise so far n. at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 21 May (GS, CL, FP).

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**

A Lucy’s Warbler at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 31 May (GS, CL, FP) was n. of its expected range. Northern Parulas were found at Gunlock S.P., Washington, UT 17 May (LT) and Lucin, Box Elder, UT 27 May (DW, LW). The only Magnolia Warbler of the season brightened Corn Cr. 23 May (RS). A very early male Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Laughlin, Clark, NV 29 Mar (CR). Another surprise was a Yellow-throated Warbler at Lytle 17 May (LT). Two Palm Warblers were at Bear R. 24-26 Apr (BBe, ph. LIta et al.), with another at Welcome Spring, Washington, UT 1 May (PF). There was strong showing of Black-and-white Warblers, with singles at Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT 2 May (JB, BH, SH), Tonopah Cemetery, Esmeralda, NV 11 May (GS, MM), Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 17 May (GS), Lida, Esmeralda, NV 17 May (GS), Capitol Reef N.P., Wayne, UT 17 May (CL), La Verkin, Washington, UT 23 May (RF), Callao, Juab, UT 26 May (CN, JBl), and Lucin, Box Elder, UT 26-27 May (CN, JBl). Three American Redstarts were found in Esmeralda, NV 24 May+ (GS et al.), and singles were in Box Elder, Juab, and Washington, Utah. As many as 4 Northern Waterthrushes were at Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 1-18 May (PH, BH, JB), and singles were at Logan, Cache 5 May (ph. RO), Circle I. Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 10 May (GS, MM), Dyer Pond, Esmeralda 10 May (FP), Tonopah, Nye, NV 11 May (GS, MM), and Arlemonite Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 26 May (GS, Rst, DG). Male Hooded Warblers were found in Esmeralda, NV at Leidy Cr., Dyer 25 May (ph. GS, Rst, DG) and Circle I. Ranch 31 May (GS, ph. CL). A Hooded edging along Pinto Cr., Washington, UT 31 May (LT) furnished the 5th report for Utah. At least 3 singing Painted Redstarts were found again this year along the Virgin R., Zion N.P., Washington, UT 6 Aprs (TA, RF et al.), while another Painted Redstart at Johnson Canyon, Snow Canyon S.P., Washington, UT 3 May (AF, ph. RF) was quite surprising. Vagrant Lark Buntings were at Searchlight, Clark, NV 21 Apr (DS), Bear R. 26 May (JC), and Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 29 May (ph. PH). White-throated Sparrows were found at
One of eight observed in the Great Basin this spring, this male Black-and-white Warbler was photographed 11 May 2008 at the Tonopah Cemetery, Esmeralda County, Nevada. Photograph by Greg Sypch. 


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Generally, spring 2008 arrivals, and the onset of breeding behavior, were characterized as very late across the Region. While some locales produced a few early reports, most arrivals were one to three weeks late. Cool conditions delayed leaf-out. Snow storms during March and April added to an average snowpack accumulation throughout, which delayed break-up. The mass of cool water in the North Gulf of Alaska must have influenced this year's very late and cold spring. As a result of the combination of the recent strong La Niña and the early stages of the cool phase of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, the eastern North Gulf's seawater surface temperatures were 6-8°F below long-term April norms. Consequently fog, clouds, intermittent precipitation, low ambient temperatures, and constant surface winds dominated local conditions, especially south of the Alaska Range, and even into the interior, where it was not consistently warm until June. While these conditions did not particularly impede the timing of the season's early spring migrants (waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds), they certainly delayed local breeding. For instance, biologists in the Yakon-Kuskokwim Delta region reported that shorebirds, waterfowl, and gulls initiated nesting up to two weeks later than long-term averages. The early season weather provided circumstances that grounded large numbers of many species, such as Snow Goose and Brant, which typically overly the southerly portions of the Region.

Passerines were very late both in timing and in numbers, with many species, especially insectivores, trickling in small numbers well into mid-June. Songbird concentrations were generally unreported. It was an odd season for storm tracks, and it appeared that the Aleutian Low was rather weak and situated more to the north than usual. This situation brought fewer cyclones into the Aleutians and funneled systems either into the southern Bering Sea, from which they then moved inland, or farther south across the mid-North Gulf. A strong late-season high-pressure mass built in the North Pacific, which further limited storm conditions and winds favorable for bringing Asian birds into the Region.

Abbreviations: South-east (South-east Alaska); North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska). Documentation for records (flagged with †, ph., vid., or vr.) is on file at the University of Alaska Museum. Reports posted to websites, rather than sent to the Regional Editor, are not so annotated and are not considered to have been formally documented or submitted.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS**

North Gulf observers reported elevated spring numbers and/or late dates of geese that normally overfly this area for more northerly staging sites, including a peak of 2240 Greater White-fronted Geese at Kodiak 27 Apr (JBA, RAM), large numbers of Snow Geese at Sitka 26 May (MRG) and Juneau 30 May (PMS), and 500 Brant at Gustavus 4 May (NKD, BBP). It was otherwise a rather substandard and late season for migrant waterfowl, except for notables such as a rare North Gulf Blue-winged Teal at Kodiak 20-27 May (ph. RAM et al.) that furnished about the 6th from that locality, a pair of Cinnamon Teal at Juneau 10 May (PMS), at least one Eurasian Teal at Juneau 27 Apr and 20 May (PMS, BA, *RJG), and a male Tufted Duck at Fairbanks 8 May (ph. NH), where casual Offshore in the Bering Sea, it was a poor waterfowl year: up to 6 American Wigeons in the w. Aleutians at Shemya 14-30 May (MTS, ph.) and 3 at Adak 26-30 May (SGM, BT); a rare female Lesser Scap at Adak 1. 28-29 May (BT, ph. SGM); a Scaup at Shemya 22-28 Apr and up to 6 there 14-30 May (ph. MTS); and a very rare Surf Scoter at Gambell, St. Lawrence I. 27 May (PEL). An imm. male King Eider near Juneau 5 & 19-26 May (RJG, PMS) was one of the latest extralimital records from Southeast, where the species is casual mostly during winter and early spring. The season's best scoter concentration from the Southeast's herring spawning grounds peaked at 14,000 Surfs at Ketchikan's Clover Passage 27 Apr (AWP).

Arctic Loons continue in good numbers in the Aleutians, with up to 5 at Shemya 14-18 Apr, followed by a lone bird there 16 May (ph. MTS), and possibly 2 described from Adak 25 & 30 May (SGM, BT). Early spring single Arctic had been the norm in previous decades of active Aleutian coverage. The Gambell seabird generated a seasonal total 10 Arctics 27 May–5 Jun (PEL et al.). A Yellow-billed Loon on fresh water in the Taku R. watershed near the Sittakannay R. confluence 23-24 May (AD) was casual inland in Southeast. Western Grebes n. of their normal winter range were one at Juneau 4 Mar and 2 there 6 May (PMS). About 9 Red-necked Grebes off the Point at Gambell 26 May–5 Jun (vf. PEL) furnished an exceptional spring tally from the n. Bering Sea, where they are very rare, mostly seen as singles. Three Brandt's Cormorants along the Ketchikan waterfront 17 Apr (SCH) were the last of this past winter's reports. An imm. eagle that drifted in and out of fog at Gambell 29 May was apparently a White-tailed Eagle, and photographs are still being scrutinized (ph. TB, *TDG); there are at least three White-tailed Eagle reports, and several brief spring sightings of eagles under similar circumstances at Gambell. An American Kestrel at Ketchikan 3 Apr (AWP) was record early there, the species is generally rare away from the Southeast mainland. Two Soras arrived at Juneau's Pioneer Marsh 25 May (GBV), where the species seems to be regular and where breeding occurred in 2007.

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH DOVES**

Weather conditions produced a mostly uneventful and late shorebird passage across the Region, with few significant finds. Interesting fallout concentrations were noted from Kodiak and some Southeast locations. A Pacific

**Theede Tobish**
Golden-Plover photographed at Gustavus 8 Mar (NKD) was one month ahead of normal early arrivals and was certainly recorded early in the Region, although they winter casually in s. British Columbia occasionally to the Queen Charlotte Is., there is no Alaska winter report of the species. Up to 7 Common Ringed Plovers at Gambell 28 May–3 Jun (vt. PEL et al.) provided an above-average tally for St. Lawrence I. Extralimital shorebirds included a Lesser Yellowlegs at Shemya 29 May (ph. MTS), a Common Greenshank at Adak 31 May–2 Jun (ph. FH, BH), 2 Wood Sandpipers at Adak 27 May and one the next day (ph. SGM, BT), a Western Sandpiper at Shemya 16 May (ph. MTS), and a Rufa extremely early at Kodiak 27 Apr (ph. RAM). More unusual was a Long-billed Curlew reasonably described from the Sittik R mouth e. of Yakutat 30 May (JD), the Region’s 3rd record; lacking verifiable evidence, this species remains in the Alaska Checklist’s unsubstantiated category. Significant shorebird concentrations in Southeast included a new high count of 600 Black Turnstones at Ketchikan 3 May (AWP) and more than 1000 turnstones near Sitka during early May (MRG), 4000 Surfbirds in one flock near Juneau 5 May (PMS) and another 950 at Ketchikan 9 May (AWP), and 42 Red Knots at Juneau 18 May (PMS). MacIntosh scrambled around the Kodiak shorebird spots during mid-spring storms to search through huge shorebird flocks, high counts included 183 Black-bellied Plovers 27 Apr (RAM, JBA), a local record 161 Greater Yellowlegs 27 Apr (RAM, JBA), 12 Bar-tailed Godwits 9 May (ph. RAM, WED), and 46 Marbled Godwits rather late 27 May (JBA, ph. RAM). Three reports of Wilson’s Phalaropes came to 2 females at Fairbanks 21 May (JBA, ph. JD), one at Gustavus 26 May (BBP), and 2 at Healy near Denali N.P. 29 May (CM).

Gulls mostly arrived late in the s. Region, and rarities were few. The season’s only Franklin’s Gull report was of an ad. at Kodiak, North Gulf 27 Apr (ph. RAM), where there are a few previous spring reports. An ad. Black-headed Gull at Gambell 26 May (PEL) was casual during spring. An estimated 12,000 Bonaparte’s Gulls descended on the herring spawn at Clover Passage, Ketchikan 20 Apr (SCH), a new local record count. An ad. Ring-billed Gull up the Taku R. 31 May (AD) and a second-cycle bird at Kodiak 31 May–1 Jun (ph. RAM) furnished about the 5th area report and the first record. This year’s maximum Thayer’s Gull aggregation over herring spawn included 10,000 at Pt. Bridget near Juneau 7 May (PMS, GBV, MWS), where massive feeding flocks typically concentrate. Thayer’s Gulls annually stage and take advantage of these fish masses before dispersing and heading northward and northeastward across the Coast Ranges to Arctic breeding areas. An ad. Black-tailed Gull was documented at Shemya 15-24 May (ph. MTS), the season’s only report. Single Slate-backed Gulls were good finds in Southeast, at Sitka 25 Mar (ph. MRG) and Juneau 7 May (ph. PMS, GBV, MWS). Sitka also produced an ad. Western Gull 14 Mar (ph. MRG), while a third-cycle bird at Ketchikan 2 Apr (AWP, SCH) appeared to be a Glaucous-winged × Western Gull hybrid. The late spring and protracted northerly ice retreat contributed an unusually late total of 12 Ivory Gulls at Gambell’s Northwest Cape 23 May–3 Jun, with a peak of 7 ads. 26 May (vt. PEL et al.). Small numbers of Caspian Terns, rare but regular each spring in Southeast, were at Gustavus 3 May (NKD), with a peak of 11 near Juneau 30 May (PMS). Possibly record-high counts of Black Guillemots were off Gambell this season, with an unprecedented 24 counted 24 May (vt. PEL). Band-tailed Pigeons were late in arriving in the Ketchikan area, with one 13 Apr (CAF) more than two weeks late. A flock of 28 Band-tailed at a Ketchikan feeder 12 May (ph. CAF) represented a new local record.

**OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES**

Noteworthy along the Taku R. was a calling Western Screech-Owl 3 May (AD) that was at the limit of its known coastal range. Lingering Northern Pygmy-Owls were 2 along the Taku R. 15 Apr (AD) and singles at Gustavus 26 Apr (PV) and Juneau 26 May (BP); there is only one documented Alaska breeding report, at Mitkof I., Southeast. Two Short-eared Owls over the Palmer Hayflats 23 Mar (BM) continue the string of recent late-winter reports. A nest box provided great viewing opportunities and a chronology of a breeding pair of Northern Saw-whet Owls at Gustavus; the first eggs were laid some time between 14 and 26 Mar (NKD), 5 nestlings fledged 17-25 May, and presumably the same female began another clutch in a nearby box, with eggs by early Jun. Relatively modest data exist for double-clutching in Alaska. A female Anna’s Hummingbird at a remote cabin feeder up the Taku R. 29 May (AD) furnished a very rare spring report in the Region. Although Rufous Hummingbirds arrived mostly on time (31 Mar–5 Apr) in s. Southeast locales, they were considered late farther n., and numbers materialized slowly across the Region until mid-Apr (fide SCH, AWP).

Probably record early for the Region and especially significant given the cold 2008 season, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher ventured into environs around still-frozen Hugh Smith L., on the Southeast Mainland 23 Apr (AWP); other Pacific-slopes were not detected until mid-May in Southeast. A Cassin’s Vireo at Juneau 27 May (PMS, PAR) was somewhat early and in an area with reports in seven of the past 10 years (see Western Birds 39: 36-38, 2008 for occurrence patterns and a recent breeding at Haines). Extralimital swallows included an offshore Tree at Adak 25 May (BT, SG3), 3 Cliff Swallows at Kodiak 23 May (RAM), and single white-bellied Barns at Gambell 28-29 May and 1-2 Jun (WINGS). Surprising in the cold conditions was a new record-early Violet-green Swallow at Ketchikan 5 Apr (CAF, AWP).

A Haines feeder 30 Mar (AD) produced the Region’s first Mountain Chickadee since winter 2001-2002; the species is a casual winter visitor known from Southeast sites and a rare and localized breeder in s. Yukon Territories. Casual at n. Bering Sea sites was a male Siberian Rubythroat at Gambell 3 Jun (WINGS). Northern Wheatears were clearly pouring across the Bering Sea, where 30+ were counted along a short stretch of the Shishmaref runway 17 May (KS). Townsend’s Solitaires continued in Fairbanks until 21 Mar (ND) and 1 Apr (NH). Catharus thrushes were noticeably late or absent from the North Gulf Coast until late May. Especially casual in the Bering Sea away from the w. Aleutians, a handsome Dusky Thrush skulked around Gambell 26-27 May (WINGS, vt. PEL). Always notable on the Bering Sea/Northwest coast were single Varied Thrushes at Shishmaref 8 May (KS) and Gambell 3-6 Jun (WINGS, vt. PEL), where the species is not annual.

**WAGTAILS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW**

White Wagtails of the lagus subspecies were at Shemya, with one 17 May and a group of 4 there until 30 May (ph. MTS). A more intriguing White Wagtail report came from Kodiak, where MacIntosh was able to piece together a saga of 2 birds that apparently arrived on a tour ship from Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka during early May, both departed the ship at Kodiak Harbor 4 May and were seen around town 10 & 17 May (ph. RAM). Photographs show an obvious male lugus and a female-type that looks more like ocularis. To my knowledge, this represents the first documented instance of an Asian passerine surviving a multi-day journey onboard a ship from Russia to Alaska, although the point at which the birds came to rest on the vessel is unknown. The Bohemian Waxwing continued at Kodiak until 21 Mar (RAM) and provided Kodiak’s first spring report. Cedar Waxwings arrived earlier than normal in Southeast, including 12 along the Taku R. 23 May (AD), 6 at Juneau’s productive Pt. Brid-
get 29 May (PMS), and 2 at Ketchikan 31 May (EBH). Warbler migration was dismal, with low numbers and a slow, protracted, late season: Townsend's Warblers were not reported at Ketchikan until 27 Apr (AWP, SCH) nearly two weeks past the local early norm, and most warbler species were sporadic and curiously quiet until the end of May. Two Orange-crowned Warblers successfully wintered at an Anchorage feeder until 9 Apr (CS), when they started to sing: one of maybe two instances of successful wintering in this species for the Region, and the first at Anchorage.

Sparrow migration was a relatively late and slow, mainly building steam in the later part of May, although some Southeast sites produced reasonably early or on-time arrivals. For instance, a Lincoln's Sparrow along the Taku R. 15 Apr (AD) seemed especially early for inland Southeast, and a Golden-crowned Sparrow at Ketchikan 14 Apr (AWP, SCH) was that site's 3rd earliest ever. Practically annual but still notable along the nw. coast as a spring overshoot, 2 singing Golden-crowned Sparrows reached the Bering Sea coast at Shishmaref 25 May (ph. KS). There were few other highlights except for 2 Sooty Fox Sparrows rare in the Bering Sea at Gambell 27 May–1 Jun and 28 May (vt, PEL et al.). A male Brown-headed Cowbird set a new record-early arrival at LOCATION 30 Apr (ph. JFK); this rare summer visitor to Southeast normally arrives after mid-May.

The Brambling at Gustavus was last seen 3 Apr (NKD), when the observer left town. Up to 4 Pine Grosbeaks wandered around Shemya, with 2 found 15 May (ph. MTS) and as many as 3 there 16-29 May. Another grosbeak was at Attu 31 May (DWS). A handful of Alaska reports exists from the w. Aleutians and the Pribilofs that include the small Siberian subspecies hantschatenkis. Single Hawfinches at Shemya 15 & 18-26 May (MRS, ph. RT) were the season’s only reports and were within the norm of spring arrivals. Casual in Alaska, a female Evening Grosbeak at Ketchikan 10 May (ph. JHL) provided the 5th area report. At least two of the previously reported House Sparrows continued at Shishmaref to 6 May (KS, ph.), where they often associated with Snow Buntings and McKay’s Buntings.


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This report covers the winter and spring seasons together. On the whole, the winter was colder than normal across the Region. There were only minor Arctic outbreaks during December, but these were frequent enough to make their presence felt. The big news was the Deep Freeze that set in during the last week of January and the first ten days of February. Bitterly cold air down into the +40° C range across the northern third of the Region, the -30° C range across central sections, and -20° C range across the southern inland sections held sway during this period. Even on the coast, outflow winds kept things relatively frigid. The traditional winter thaw waited until this episode was over to kick in. Valley and alpine snow packs were near normal everywhere by the end of the winter season.

A persistent pool of warm water well offshore anchored a cold trough over the Region through the bulk of the spring season. The result was the coldest spring in over 40 years at most locations. There was even snow at valley level on Vancouver Island in the third week of April, the latest ever. The pattern finally switched to warm and dry in the middle of May. Deciduous green-up was about two weeks late.

**British Columbia**

**WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS**

A very late imm. swan, thought to be a Trumpeter, was photographed from a distance near Atlin 23 Jan (ph. AL), where any swan would be remarkable in winter. Very rare in winter in the Interior, a male Eurasian Wigeon was along the Penticton beachfront 28 Jan (RJC). An imm. Tufted Duck was on Yellow L., e. of Williams L. 13 Apr (ph. PR) and an ad. male was at the Reifel Bird Sanctuary in Delta 25 Apr–1 May (m.ob.), an ad. male was on O’Keefe’s Pond near Vernon 24 Mar (GSD, CS). Very rare so far n., a pair of Hooded Mergansers was at King Salmon L., near Atlin 28 May (MC). A trio of loons was found in the Interior on Osoyoos L., where a Common, a Pacific, and a Yellow-billed Loon were all observed 13 Jan (LN).

During a trip off Ucluelet, a trio of albatrosses was observed: among several Black-footed and Laysan Albatrosses was a single Short-tailed Albatross 7 Jan (KC) for a 9th Regional record. During a ferry ride on the MV Coho, a Buller’s Shearwater was seen 2
km s. of the Ogden Pt. backwater, Victoria 19 Dec (GLM); this species is unheard of in winter and even less expected in the strait of Juan de Fuca. Most often found in New Zealand waters, a veryired Cook's Petrel was picked up alive in Lilolet 6 Dec (ph. IR, ph. KW); it likely arrived with the recent "Pineapple Express." This bird had crashed into a homeowner's front door and was lying on the front porch; the house was otherwise surrounded by ice-covered snow that may have given the appearance of open water.

A Great Egret furnished one of few interior sightings at Salmon Arm 3 May (TH). Casual in spring, a Cattle Egret was a surprise at Otter L. near Vernon 18 May (PB) and furnished a first spring record for the Okanagan. Swainson's Hawks are very rare along the coast, especially in spring, yet one light-morph ad. was observed at Derby Reach Regional Park, Langley 5 May (DT). Kelowna's returning Gyrfalcon remained until 9 Mar (CC et al.), one of few reported this winter. Long overdue, Canada's first Eurasian Dotterel was photographed at Sandspit Airport, Queen Charlotte Is. 23 Apr (ph. PH). A single Black-necked Stilt was at the s. end of Columbia L., e. Kootenays 27 Apr (CG), with 13 there 30 Apr (ED); another single was at Elizabeth L. 28 Apr (DN); 10 were at Alki L., Kelowna 14 May (RYT); and the farthest w. was a pair in Tsawwassen 23 May (TG). Very rare in the interior, a Whimbrel was on the mudflats in the sw. corner of Duck L., n. of Creston, 3 May (MAB). Canada's 4th C.B.C. record for Pectoral Sandpiper was a single from the Sunshine Coast 13-27 Dec (TG, et al.). A single Ruff was found at Beach Grove, Tsawwassen 12-14 Apr (JP et al.). Rare on the coast, a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes was discovered at Holden Cr., Nanaimo 24 May (ph. RC); another pair was in Victoria 25 May (AL); and there was evidence of a coastal invasion, with 21 at Iona 26 May (MT) and 28 in Tsawwassen the next day (MT).

**GULLS THROUGH STARLING**

While there have been a few prior reports of Kamchatka Gull in the Region, none has been so well photographed as the individual at Jordan River 26 Dec (ph. RTO); this gull, usually considered a subspecies of Mew Gull, is typically considered accidental in the Region, though it is a regular visitor to far w. Alaska. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull, likely a returning individual, remained throughout the winter, wandering between Vernon and Penticton and last reported from Gelatly Bay, Kelowna 6 Feb (EF). Slaty-backed Gulls were reported at the Vancouver Landfill 23 Dec (Jk, MT), at the Sooke River Estuary 27 Jan (ph. RTO, LH), at Boundary Bay 27 Jan (MT, JT), and again there 6 Apr (MT, JT). Elegant Terns are very rarely reported in the Region; one was seen in flight past Jordan River 24 May (RTO, LH). In company with Common Murres, an ad. Parakeet Auklet in basic plumage (TRTO, LH) was close to shore off Botanical Beach Park, Port Renfrew; 8 Dec; the species is considered casual in the Region, usually well offshore. Eurasian Collard-Doves now appear to have a foothold in the s. Okanagan, with as many as 10 appearing at an Oliver feeder 14 May (SK).

A male Costa's Hummingbird, a casual spring vagrant, visited a feeder in Abbotsford 2 May (fide G. Gadsden, ph.), Calliope Hummingbirds are very rare on the coast in spring; one was photographed at a feeder in Saanich 23 Apr (ph. T2) and yet another on Burnaby Mt. 3 May (DP, GC). A young male Rufous Hummingbird spent the winter in the Nanoaimo area, for one of very few winter records, 2 Jan-20 Feb (GF et al.). Williamson's Sapsuckers returned early this year, with at least 3 at August L., sw. of Princeton, 9 Mar (DT, LG). A White-headed Woodpecker was at Wynndel near Creston 20 Dec (GT) for a 3d w. Kootenay record. An Eastern Phoebe was of typical range at French Creek, Qualicum 22 Apr (ph. JP). A Say's Phoebe was seen picking bugs from a sunlit wall at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan Campus 22 Jan (JP). Rarely observed on the coast but well within the species' migration window, a Say's Phoebe was at Rathrevor P.P. 17 Mar (GLM); others were at Campbell River Spit 26 Mar (fide GLM), at Campbell River 7 Apr (fide CPB), and at Iona 23 Apr (MN). Casual in the region, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Botanical Beach P.P. near Port Renfrew 19-25 May (ph. RTO).

Violet-green Swallows were remarkably early at Waldie, w. Kootenays 19 Feb (PM), and on this same date, 5 early arrivals were along the Sunshine Coast at Ruby L. (AC). Rare on the coast, especially in spring, a Bank Swallow was at Swan L., Victoria 23 May (CSa). A very early returning Barn Swallow was in Oliver 2 Mar (DB), and another single was in Kelowna 7 Mar (CC). Bewick's Wrens have only very recently been recorded in the Okanagan Valley; one such individual was singing along Mission Creek, Kelowna 4-24 Feb (ph. CC et al.). A Gray Catbird was found in Kelowna feeding on Mountain Ash berries 22 Dec--29 Feb for the 3rd wintering record for the province (CC, RyT et al.); another was reported from Castlegar, where it visited a feeder daily 8 Jan through the end of Feb (ph PM). Rarely if ever does European Starling receive mention, but a single bird found at Iskut along the Klappan R. 12 Apr (BS) was far n. of typical range in the province.

**WAXWINGS THROUGH FINCHES**

Very late was a flock of 5 Bohemian Waxwings at low elevation in Vernon 5 May (DGC). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was in Nanoose Bay, where it visited suet feeders 16 Dec--17 Feb (DF, LF, ph. MY et al.) and became by far the longest staying of the previous 17 records. The Spotted Towhee that first appeared in Prince George 2 Nov remained through 26 Jan (HM), well n. of its usual winter range. Rare on the coast, a singing Clay-colored Sparrow was at Swan L., Victoria 31 May (CSa). Also rarely ever found on the coast, a Brewer's Sparrow was photographed 24 May at Port Renfrew (ph. RTO, LH). A Vesper Sparrow was a surprising winter find at Nakusp 1-2 Dec (GSD). An imm. Lark Sparrow was a very rare find at Deer Lake Park, Surrey 12 Apr (MN et al.). Probably a local first, a White-throated Sparrow was photographed at a feeder in Atlin 37 Feb (HDV) during 25°-37° C weather. Rarely observed in the Okanagan, 2 Snow Buntings were in Penticton 14-17 Apr (RJC et al.).

A Brambling was visiting a feeder with junco's and chickadees in Price Creek, just w. of Cassiar Junction; another was visiting a feeder in Belcarra, Vancouver 8-16 Mar (fide RF, ph. JR); and another was reported from Ucluelet 14-20 Apr (BSI). Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were extraordinarily abundant in the e. Kootenays during the month of Feb, with the largest flock numbering 400 in Invermere (DN) and four flocks numbering 600 in Cranbrook 17 Feb (TW, LC). A minor irruption of White-winged Crossbills was detected in the Cariboo in early Dec (PR). A single Hoary Redpoll was with a small flock of Common Redpolls in the Hall Road subdivision in Kelowna 30 Dec (RyT, CC, MF).

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Oregon & Washington

The weather offered something for everyone. Eugene, Oregon reached record-high temperatures of 85°F on 12 Apr. On the following Saturday, its residents woke to 3-10 cm of snow. In general, however, it was a cold spring, with heavy snow cover persisting at mid-elevations (600-1200 m) through the season. Delayed foliation at higher elevations likely caused the accretion of upslope breeders in the lowlands after their arrival via lowland routes. Exceptional pelagic coverage uncovered several fantastic rarities, including one species new to the Region. Strong easterlies blew across the western portions of the Region, producing interesting rollouts and passerine mortality along the coast.

Abbreviations: Baskett Slough (Baskett Slough N.W.R., Polk), Fern Ridge (Fern Ridge Res., Lane), Lower Klamath (Lower Klamath N.W.R., Klamath), North Spit (North Spit Coos Bay, Coos), Ocean Shores (Grays Harbor); Pt. No Pt. (Point No Point, Kitsap).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES
Greater White-fronted Goose movements through w. Oregon were more protracted and conspicuous than normal; the maximum was 3500 flying past Yaquina Bay 3 May (NS), and the latest were one at Otello, Adams 26 May (RH) and 10 at Sauvie I. 28 May (AF, WG). The season’s 4 Emperor Geese included 3 winter holdovers during Mar and a late bird that appeared briefly near Florence, Lane 15 May (ph. J. Little). Large numbers of Snow Geese tarried again in the Puget Trough; 4000 were at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish 8 May (SM), with 75 there 21 May (TA). All 4 westside Blue Geese were in Skagit during Apr (SM, RM). As recently as 2003, there were fewer than 20 reports of Blue Geese in Washington; the recent flurry of reports corresponds with the start of breeding (1993) by this morph in the Snow Goose colony at Wrangel I. in the Russian Far East. Although more expected in the Great Basin, 10 Blues at Summer Lake W.M.A., Lake 10 Mar (PS) furnished an excellent count for se. Oregon. Only 3 Ross’s Geese strayed to the westside, which has averaged 5+ over the past five years. One at Gold Beach 1 Mar (DM) was Curry’s 2nd. A Ross’s at Burns 25 May was nearly a month late (SS). The Region’s 4th and 5th blue-morph Ross’s Geese enlivened Burns, Harney 14 Mar (J. Carlson) and were near the site where 2 were observed in Apr 2006. A Barnacle Goose that flew northward past Edmonds, Snohomish during mid-Apr (DD) and the Red-breasted Goose consorting with Cackling Geese near Amity, Yamhill 25 Mar (M. Alex) were presumed escapes. A stunning 35,100 Cackling Geese passed the mouth of Willapa Bay, Pacific 27 Apr. At least 95% of these birds were B. h. minima (BSW, SM), representing approximately 23% of that subspecies’ total population (U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2007); although wintering and breeding ranges of minima and B. h. tavernei overlap considerably, they rarely migrate in mixed flocks. The floating carcasses of more than a 1000 Tundra Swans—victims of avian botulism—littered Lower Klamath during early Mar (DI). Late eastside swans included an unidentified pair at Dry Falls L., Grant 20 May (RFR), 2 Tuendras near Burns 26 May (m.ob.), and 2 Trumpeters at Moses L. 24 May (DSc).

Eurasian Wigeon numbers continued their dramatic increase on the eastside. From 2000...
through 2005, the eastside generated about 18 Eurasians per spring, more than doubling 1990s tallies, while the last three years have produced nearly 40 per season. Eastern Washington’s 32 Eurasians fell just two shy of the record spring tally (2006), while most of e. Oregon’s 20+ Eurasians came from favored Lower Klamath. These spring migrants occur mostly early Mar-mid-Apr. Washington hosted 3 of the 4 eastside Eurasian Wigeon × American Wigeon hybrids reported. A male American Black Duck at Port Susan Bay 4 May (SM) was likely same individual seen at nearby Stanwood in Nov 2007, aside from a failed introduction at Everett, there are just six credible reports for Washington. An American Black Duck × Mallard hybrid at Everett 5 Apr demonstrates that black duck genes persist in that area even though no “pure” American Black Ducks have been documented there since 1999. This season’s roster of hybrid dabblers was extensive, particularly in Washington. A Mallard × Northern Pintail hybrid at Snohomish 13 Mar (DD) was somewhat expected, as this cross is nearly annual in the Region, while a Northern Pintail × American Wigeon hybrid there 9 Mar (SM, RM ph., JP) is apparently the Region’s first. All 3 Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrids were in Washington, as were 6 of the 7 Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal intergrades. Eighteen Eurasian Teal nearly doubled the recent norm. Singles at Othello, Adams 9 Apr (RH) and near Kittitas 25 May (DSw) were on the eastside, where they were nearly unknown a decade ago but are now annual. Perhaps we shouldn’t be surprised that the Region’s 6th Baikal Teal appeared at Columbia N.W.R. 30 May (ph. RH); this species has occurred in the Region three of the past four years, and the Columbia Basin has hosted several Asian strays in recent years, including a Black-tailed Gull 10 km away in May 2007. The teal’s quick disappearance (suggesting it was a northbound migrant), combined with the recent uptick in North American reports, lend support to the notion that it was a vagrant; previously accepted Regional reports have all occurred during Dec–Mar. Three Tufted Ducks graced the Region, including a bird returning for its 3rd year to Fern Ridge 16 Mar (D. & A. Heyerly). The Tufted first detected in Feb amidst the carpet of Aythya at Priest Rapids Pool was seen in both Grant and Yakima, until 13 Apr (Ast, ES); it furnished Yakima’s first. Given the lowland location, two pairs of Harlequin Ducks at Spokane L., Lincoln 16 May (RH) were likely still headed to inland breeding sites. Two White-winged Scoters were at Priest Rapids Pool 20 Apr (Ast, ES). Although annual during fall, these are just the 8th and 9th spring birds for e. Washington. Four eastside Long-tailed Ducks 5 Mar–17 May were all in Washington, which gets far more reports than e. Oregon.

Wild Turkeys continue to expand their range westward and southward into the Columbia Basin, as evidenced by flocks found in Grant of 14 at Northrup Canyon 6 Apr (DSc, BSc), 5 at Coulee City 6 Apr (DSc, BSc), and 3 near Moses L. 4 May (DSc, BSc). Twelve Red-throated Loons at Vancouver L., Clark 12 Mar (WC) provided an exceptional inland tally; their appearance was likely related to the unprecedented numbers that wintered along the nearby Columbia River. Six eastside Pacific Loons were along the Columbia R. between the Priest Rapids Dam, Grant and John Day Dam, Sherman until 18 May; prior to this past decade, this species was not annual on the eastside during spring. Peak flights of Pacifics passed along the cenn. Oregon coast (Lane and Lincoln) 21 Apr–7 May, producing counts of 2000-3300/hour and pulses of up to 200 birds/minute (DI, PP). This season’s Yellow-billed Loon was at Port Townsend 7 May (B. Willkerson). Western Washington hosted a paltry 3 Clark’s Grebes, all during Mar, while Oregon’s coastal reports were a meager 5.

This season’s superb offshore coverage substantially added to our knowledge of the Region’s spring pelagic birds. Reports from organized trips off Westport 26 Apr and 10 & 17 May, and off Newport 1 Mar (GG), were supplemented by data from NOAA research vessels that were in our waters 18-23 Mar (T. Guy), 2-19 Apr (TH, SMi, MS), and 2-3 May (TH, SMi). Observations from a cruise ship off Oregon 11 May (JGi, DI, OS, SW) rounded out excellent offshore coverage. Two first-year Short-tailed Albatrosses were found, one off Washington 6 Apr (TH, SMi) and the other 32 km off Gold Beach, Curry 19 Apr (ph. SMi, MS). Laysan Albatrosses were unusually numerous, with approximately 17 reported, including a maximum of 8 off Newport 1 Mar (GG) and a late bird off Curry 11 May (JGi, DI, OS, SW). Three Black-footed Albatrosses found dead at Cannon Beach, Clatsop included one banded at Oceania 6 Jun 2006 (L. Sheffield). Spring Pterodroma reports are infrequent, thus 12 Mottled Petrels off Oregon and 10 Murphy’s Petrels (2 off Washington, 8 off Oregon) found by NOAA researchers 2-19 Apr (SMi et al.) added to our sparse knowledge; all of these gadfly petrels were 80 km+ offshore. Additionally, 6 Murphy’s were 80-100 km off Oregon 11 May (JGi, DI, OS, SW). These findings suggest that Murphy’s are likely regular in the Region during spring, mirroring the well-known pattern off California, where 120 were detected this season. Northern Fulmar numbers seemed normal offshore during Mar, but were far below normal later in the season. Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were off Westport 17 May (BT). Manx Shearwaters, now expected dur-
km from the nearest salt water. Oregon's only other report more than a few km inland involved a carcass found in e. Curry's Siskiyou Mts. (Birds of Oregon, Marshall et al. 2003). Washington's 2nd Ashy Storm-Petrel was found offshore 6 Apr (15MI).

The bird of the season was the Region's first Red-billed Tropicbird 40 km w. of Florence 13 May (ph. L. Hawley). American White Pelicans are now barely newsworthy on the westside, particularly in the Willamette Valley, where dozens appear each spring. Twenty-four pelicans at Fern Ridge 16 May was this spring's maximum (Kit Larson). Fourteen on the coast at Leadbetter Pt., Pacific 15 May (TA) were far less expected. Annual of late in the Puget Trough, single pelicans graced Stanwood, Snohomish 19 May (S. Atkinson) and Nisqually 28 May (P. Kelley). Reports of an unidentified frigatebird seen from various sites along the Columbia R. (Munuah and Slamania) 12-16 Apr (L. Withers, B. Russell et al.) were intriguing. The soaring bird was observed independently by several biologists—some of whom are keen birders—who were attending a conference at Stevenson, Slamania. The collective details and experience level of the observers leave little doubt that a frigatebird was seen, but the views were distant enough and brief enough that the species was undetermined. For the 3rd consecutive spring, a Glossy Ibis was identified in s. Oregon's Harris Neck. This year's bird was s. of Burns 15 May (OS).

Still very rare in n. Washington, a Red-shouldered Hawk continued at LaConner, Skagit until 22 Mar (B. Sundstrom). Another Red-shouldered was at Ridgefield, where rare but annual 3 May (B. Bell). Swainson's Hawks made a typical westside showing, with 2 in Oregon and 4 in Washington. The Washington birds included a surprising group of 3 passing Pt. No Pt. 17 May (BSW, D. Watkins), plus an even rarer coastal bird at Oysterville, Pacific 18 May (GJ); these reports came following two days of strong easterly winds. A Rough-legged Hawk migrating along Upper Klamath L. 17 May was a month tardy (DH). For the 4th consecutive spring, a Crested Caracara was documented in Oregon, with one at Frenchglen 26 Apr (ph. L. Burman) that furnished the state's 6th and the Region's first on the eastside. Increasingly detected in the Region, this season's Prairie Merlin (F. c. richardsoni) visited Seattle 24 Mar (K. McCormick). A Gyrfalcon hunting Samish Flats 6 Mar (B. Anderson) and another flying over Bend 25 Apr (T. Crabtree) were the only reports; the Region has averaged about 6 per spring of late.

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS**

No explanation presents itself for the 358 Black-bellied Plovers that amassed at White L., Klamath 12 Apr (S. Nord); this tally more than tripled the prior eastside record. A single Black-bellied at Walla Walla River Delta, Walla Walla 17 May (M&MLD) was the only one from e. Washington, where this species is not quite annual during spring. The showing of golden-plovers was abysmal, with just one Pacific in Oregon, plus 3 Pacifics and one American in Washington. All four Pacifics were westside, including the single bird that continued at Samish Flats until 16 Mar (MBR). The lone American, at Tonasket, Okanogan 9 May (ph. G. Peterson), furnished just the 6th report of a nonlocal individual on the eastside. Nine Black-necked Stilts in w. Washington 23 Apr–9 May approximates recent norms. Four Stilts at Cape Meares, Tillamook (B. Matheson), were exceptional for the outer coast. American Avocets appeared in supranormal numbers on the westside; 3 flew past Boiler Bay 6 May (PP), a first for this heavily covered site; one visited Crockett L., Island 19 May (SM, BSW); and the Willamette Valley hosted pairs of avocets at Turner, Marion 29 May and Fern Ridge 13 May+ (J. Hansen, SMa et al.). Washington logged nearly two-thirds of the 40 Solitary Sandpipers in the Region, but just 3 were detected on the eastside. This spring's top count of Whimbrels was 1000 at Cape Blanco 30 Apr (L. Miller), a location that has hosted large numbers previously. Seventeen Whimbrels at Sauvie I. 14 May represented one of the highest tallies ever in the Willamette Valley (WG), while one Whimbrel at Malheur 31 May (JV, MC) was on the eastside, where not annual. Rare away from the coast in w. Washington, 2 Long-billed Curlews enlivened

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**SA** A year ago, this column chronicled an "invasion" of White-faced Ibis that pales in comparison to this spring's incursion. Approximately 200, perhaps many more, passed through w. Oregon 15-26 May. This event commenced modestly on 15 May, when 24 appeared at Bandon, Coos (K. Anderson) and 9 visited Fern Ridge (TA). Over the next two days, flocks of 33 (16 May) and then 80 (17 May) turned up at Coos Bay (TR, RN, J. Sullivan, L. Johnson). Farther n. in Lincoln, flocks of 35 and 44 passed just offshore at Yachts (B. Lockett) and Yaquina Head (WJ) 19 May. While plausible that these sightings might be attributed to one large group, it seems likely that at least 100 White-faced Ibis moved northward along the outer coast 15-19 May. In the Willamette Valley, 27 White-faced were near Harrisburg, Linn 16 May (J. Jabsouek), and the Fern Ridge flock had grown to 24 (K. Larsen). Additional flocks of 7-27 birds in the Willamette Valley pushed the tally there to no fewer than 98 birds during this 12-day span. Past invasions, including the 2007 edition, were attributed to drought, likely not the case in this year of abundant snowpack and heavy runoff. It appears more likely that the rapidly expanding Great Basin population is prospecting new areas. Incredibly, this invasion was confined to Oregon, with the lone w. Washington ibis near L. Sammamish, King 17-19 May (M. Saint Clair).
Samish Flats 12 Apr (GB). Five curlews passed through the Willamette Valley, where they are now annual, 10 Apr-13 May. Representing the Region’s 12th northbound bird, a Hudsonian Godwit stopped at Ocean Shores 26 May (M. Carmody, ph J. MacGregor). Marbled Godwits showed well on the eastside, flocks of 20 at Lower Klamath 24 Mar (RR), 35 at Hines, Hayne 14 Apr (S. Dowlen), and 24 near Spokane 2 May (M. Woodrufl) were exceptional. Less than annual inland, a Black Turnstone at Fernhill Wetlands, Washington 14 May (T. Hammer) was that county’s 4th. At first glance, the 3175 Red Knots at Grass Cr, Grays Harbor 12 May (J. Buchanan) seem amazing; 20 years have passed since such numbers were noted. However, this site has not been surveyed since the mid-1980s and perhaps is regularly visited by large numbers of northbound knots. All but two of the season’s 13 Semipalmated Sandpipers were in Washington, nearly doubling the recent Regional average and likely yielding a record spring tally. The lone eastside report, one at Redmond, Deschutes 15 May (SD), was in Oregon, where this species continues to be quite rare during spring. A Sanderling at Hood River 11 May (SJ) was on the eastside, where not annual in spring. Seventeen of the 18 Baird’s Sandpipers reported came from Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla 10-14 May (M&MLD), providing Washington’s highest spring tally in the past 10 years. The only westside Baird’s was at Tualatin River NWR 3 May (E. Knight). Generally rare during spring, Pectoral Sandpipers grazed both states one was at North Spit 16 May (TR), and 7 were at Port Susan Bay 21 May (TA).

Oregon’s 8th northbound Stilt Sandpiper, at Turner, Marion (TRG) 29 May, was the Region’s first spring bird since 2003. Formerly extremely rare during spring, the Region has witnessed northbound Ruffs four years running. Singles enlivened Ocean Shores 29-30 Apr (TO, ph RS) and LaComber, Shore 5-7 May (J. Brady-Power, ph RM). A hender- som Short-billed Dowitcher was again detected on the westside, where first reported during spring 2007, a singleton was among a flock of expected caurina Short-billeds at Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor 26 Apr (SM, ph, RM, BSW). These reports, along with two westside reports from summer 2007, suggest that hendersomi may be a rare-but-regular migrant in the Region. Wilson’s Phalaropes were unusually numerous in w Washington, highlighted by 39 near Stanwood, Snohomish 19 May (SM, BSW). The eastside passage of Red-necked Phalaropes was above average in both states, with flocks of 10-50 birds each at several sites. A flock of 250 Red-necked at Malheur 24 May (NS) was exceptional. An estimated 50,000 Red-neckeds streamed past Boiler Bay during a 4.75-hour seawatch 7 May (PP).

Oregon produced a record 21 westside Franklin’s Gulls, highlighted by a flock of 12 that flew past Brookings 4 May (DM) and 7 that passed Boiler Bay 5-7 May (PP). One at White City, Jackson 27 Apr (CK, PS) provided the sole interior westside report. On the eastside, a flock of 42 Franklin’s at Hatfield L., Deschutes 10 May (JM) was likely a record count away from breeding colonies. This season’s Little Gull was, expectedly, amidst a modest flocking Franklin’s. At Port No Pt 27 Apr (VN), this site produces the bulk of the Region’s spring reports. The gathering of Bonaparte’s at Pt. No Pt. was perhaps 10-20% of the norm, the smallest in recent memory, peak spring counts at this site usually range 2000-3000 (VN). A Lesser Black-backed Gull visited the Coos Lake for the 4th consecutive spring, with one at L. Lenore 7 Mar (RFF). With only about 20 antecedent reports for the Region, most from winter, this season’s 4 Slaty-backed Gulls were stunning. An impressive winter/spring incursion of Slaty-backs occurred along the West Coast, with no fewer than 9 wintering in the Northern California region. Most departed California by late Feb, perhaps explaining the Mar/Apr appearances in our Region. An ad. Slaty-backed was found at Brady, Grays Harbor 9 Mar (ph F. Boescche, JF), and 2 third-cycle birds were detected 10 Mar (ph. M. Pike). Another ad Slaty-backed at Devils Elbow SP, Lane 6 Apr (ph. C. Turner) provided the 2nd spring report for Oregon and about the 9th overall. Twenty-nine Glaucous Gulls, 2 Mar-11 May, nearly matched last spring’s record of 32. Sixteen were in Washington, including a maximum of 5 at Brady, Grays Harbor (RS). The Oregon birds included 5 in the Willamette Valley, where one or 2 per season is the norm.

A Caspian Tern at McNary Dam 1 Mar eclipsed the record eastside arrival by nearly two weeks (jde M&MLD). A Common Tern near Otishe 14 May (RHF) was on the eastside, where rare during spring. A single Forster’s Tern at Finley 15 May (WDR) was Benton’s first, while 3 were at Fern Ridge 18 May (SM, DS et al.), where they are nearly annual during spring. Three Black Terns in the Puget Trough was about par, with one at Port Susan Bay 5 May (G. Toffle) and 2 near Snohomish 26 May (R. Taylor). Two Blacklets at Philomath 19 May (R. & N. Armstrong. DL, L. Irons) were Benton’s first since 1995, while another at Lincoln City 23 May was on the outer coast, where not annual (PP). Cassin’s Aukslets are extremely rare in the Puget Trough outside Jul-Dec, so one rescued from a road at Ballard, King 9 Apr (J. Mullen) was quite surprising. During Apr, NOAA researchers encountered 61 Parakeet Aukslets, 31 off Washington and 30 off Oregon (SMH, TH); although inshore reports are few, this
species has proven regular far offshore, Nov.
through Apr. Sixty Tufted Puffins at the nest-
ing colony at Protection L. Jefferson 10 May
(L. Robinson) was about thrice the norm for
that locale. This season's inshore Horned Puf-
fin flew past Boiler Bay 6 May (PP).

Surprising e. of the Cascades, single Band-
tailed Pigeons stayed at Prineville 12 May
(S. Miller) and Vantage, Kittitas 31 May (J.
Higgins). A Burrowing Owl at Marymoo Park
10 Mar (BB) furnished the 5th spring report for
w. Washington. Another Burrowing at North
Spit 20 Apr (TR) was similarly rare for Coos.
A Common Poorwill flushed at Portland's Mt.
Tabor 1 May (C. Warren) was on the west-
side, where it is not annual. A male Black-chinned
Hummingbird at Tulalip Bay, Snohomish 27
May (M. Reid) was w. Washington's 11th; all 3
have come from Clark or Skamania. Ad-
ditional out-of-range Black-chinned males
are reported on the west-side.

May Rufous Hummingbird hybrid that frequented a Hines, Har-
ney feeder 3-5 May (ph. W. & P. Bowers, ph R.
Vetter), would be the first documented cross of these species, and the male Anna's Hum-
ningbird x Rufous Hummingbird hybrid that inhabited Eugene's Skinner Butt 20-29
Apr (TDL, L. Johnson, B. M, Bmc, ph. P. Patri-
celli, J. Sullivan) was similarly unique. Calliope Hummingbirds again flooded w. Oregon low-
lands, with 35+ reported 19 Mar-w., which 7
passed through w. Washington, where not an-
annual. Many remain in the lowlands through
May, whereas the last have usually departed
by early May. Eight Calliope were at Eden Valley in e. Coos 4 May; where annual in rec-
cent years (TR). A Lewis Woodpecker was at
County Line Ponds, Skagit 14 May (RM, JB-
P); spring birds have now appeared in w. Washington during five consecutive years. An
imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker enlivened Vantage 13 Apr (DSw); there are approxi-
mately seven prior Washington reports. Seven
Red-naped Sapsuckers in the westside low-
lands 4-28 Apr was slightly above average.
The only Red-naped Sapsucker x Red-breast-
ed Sapsucker hybrid reported away from the
Cascades, where the two species are symp-
thetic, was near Vantage 17 Apr (R. Lawson).
A Black-backed Woodpecker was along Naches
Pass Trail, King 31 May (EH); this species is loca-
local and rare at high elevations on the w.
side of the Cascades.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Single Olive-sided Flycatchers at Bothell, King
12 Apr (D. McRae) and Seattle 13 Apr (C. An-
derson) were two weeks early, as was a West-
ern Wood-Pewee at Portland 17 Apr (KT).
Gray Flycatchers at Washougal, Skamania 5
May (WC) and Seattle 12 May (JF, M. Be-
navent, PR) added to seven prior w. Wash-
ington reports, all but one of which have been
during May. One Gray Flycatcher at Foster R.,
Linn 10 May (JH) was subpar for w. Oregon,
which averages 2 or 3 per spring. A record 19
Dusky Flycatchers were noted w. of the Cas-
cades; 3 were in Washington 10-14 May, 
where not annual, and 10 of Oregon's birds
were in Late 19 Apr-May (DI, D. Farrar, L.
McQueen). A very rare coastal Dusky was at
Astoria 11 May (MP). Black Phoebes were un-
reported in w. Washington for the first spring
since 2000. The 24 Say's Phoebes in w. Wash-
ington 10 Mar-28 Apr more than doubled last
spring's record of 11. Three of these were at
American Camp, San Juan 27 Apr (RK). Ten
Say's in w. Oregon 2 Mar-9 Apr are more
typical. Four Ash-throated Flycatchers wan-
dered into the w. Willamette Valley, with a pair
to Jasper, Lane 9 May (M), one to Creswell, 
Lane 16 May (H. Lown), and a returning male
(2nd year) near Brownsville, Linn 24 May+ (SMa, DS). Western Kingbirds showed well in
w. Washington, highlighted by 48 that passed
over Pt. No Pt. 16 May; tripling the prior w.
Washington maximum (BSW, VN). An early
Eastern Kingbird at Cloverdale, Tillamook 4
May (MH) was on the coast, where not an-
annual. Each state hosted westside Loggerhead
Shrikes, with one at Brownsville 8 Mar (JH) and
another at Seattle 12 Apr (D. Cisco). Two
Plumbeous Vireos visited Harney oases 7-25
May; this species has proven rare but annual
in w. Oregon during May-Jun. Though Red-
eyed Vireos breed at multiple Willamette Val-
ley locales, migrants are rarely detected, so
doubles at Skinner Butte 4 May (P. Johnston)
and in the Coast Range at Thornton Cr., Lin-
coln 16 May (D. Faxon) were of interest; addi-
tionally, Red-eyes usually arrive in late May.
A Red-eyed near Sisters, Deschutes 21 May
(JM, TR) was rare migrant for cen. Oregon.
A Blue Jay at Ocean Park, Pacific 3 Apr (JH
MP) was highly unusual; this species is not
annual in w. Washington during spring and is
ever rarer along the coast. The Blue Jay at
Bend continued until 12 Apr (S. Doran). 
Western Scrub-Jays continue to expand east-
ward in Washington, with a resident pair in
Prosper, Benton and one near Yakima 18 May
(L. Somers). Eight highly unseasonable
Clark's Nutcrackers were at Mt. Bolivar, Coos
4 May (TR); all prior county reports have oc-
curred during Oct-Jan. A pair of Common
Ravens bred in Portland, where they were once
quite rare (J. Schvile, seemingly part of a
more widespread recent movement of ravens
into westside urban areas.

A Purple Martin near Pendleton 18 May was
Umballillas 2nd (McMLD). Part of an on-
going westside expansion, the Bank Swallow
colony discovered in 2007 at Prescott, Colum-
bia contained 80 birds 11 May (H. Horvat, J.
Gatchel); several colonies have been estab-
lished since 1991, when just one existed w.
of the Cascades. Two Mountain Chickadees
at New R., Coos 15 Mar (TR) were holdovers
from the winter incursion. A Blue-gray Gnat-
catcher at Skinner Butte 27 Apr (SMa, BMc)
was a surprising first for this well-covered
site; there are 20+ local reports, the majority
from Mt. Pisgah only 8 km away. Another
gnatcatcher at Smith Rocks S.P. was De-
shutes 4th, all during Apr. Since 2003, gnat-
catchers have been annual in cen. Oregon
during spring. An amazing 37 Mountain
Bluebirds in w. Washington's lowlands, 1
Mar-26 Apr, surpassed last year's record of
32; outside coastal birds were at Ocean Shores
7 Apr (TO) and Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor
26 Apr (BSW, SM, RM). Only 5 Moun-
tain Bluebirds ventured to w. Oregon, includ-
ing 4 at South Jetty Columbia R., Clatsop
27 Mar-5 Apr (MP, S. Hagen). A Townsend's Soli-
taire reached the coast, where very rare, at
Neskowin, Tillamook 15 Mar (WG). A
singing Veery at Bend 31 May (H. Horvat, D.
Hale) was 115 km sw of the nearest known
nesting outpost. Northern Mockingbirds re-
ports were supranormal, with 10 on the west-
side and 4 eastside. As is typical, many of the
westside birds were discovered during Mar,
while all eastside birds were found 18 Apr+.
The only westside Sage Thrasher, at Oak Har-
bor, Island 4 May (JHC, S. Ellis), was in Wash-
ington, where spring reports are now annual.
Oregon's 3rd Eastern Yellow Wagtail, at Cas-
cade Head, Tillamook 16 May (YPP), was per-
haps less surprising considering that 3 were
in California during fall 2007. A very late Bo-
hemian Waxwing strayed westward to Mon-
mouth, Polk 23-24 May (F. Kolwick).
Strong easterly winds rotating off the backside of a high-pressure system produced incredible fallout of migrant warblers along the Oregon Coast during late May. The most impressive numbers descended on Cascade Head, Tillamook, including 300 Yellows and 200 Wilson's (PP). More modest numbers of at least 11 other species of passerines were noted, including four rarities: the aforementioned Eastern Yellow Wagtail, an American Redstart (4th for this location), a Brewer's Sparrow (2nd for this locale), and a Bullock's Oriole, which is rare but annual locally. Fifty Wilson's Warblers were observed at mostly treeless Yaquina Head, Lincoln (R. Lowe) that day. Dozens of dead warblers were found in the wrack along Oregon's beaches 16-27 May (D. Bailey, MP). Among the wash-ups were 95 Townsend's (along a 1.6-km stretch of Clatsop Beach), 30 Wilson's, 15 Yellows, one Hermit, and 10 MacGillivray's. Additional dead landbirds included 5 Pacific-slope Flycatchers and 4 Warbling Vireos. Clearly, these winds carried nocturnal migrants out to sea, where they succumbed to exhaustion before making landfall.

cold snap produced low-elevation (<150 m) snowfall in the Willamette Valley, likely stalling dispersal to higher-elevation breeding grounds. Daily counts of 8-20 birds were the norm at Skinner Butte 18 Apr-4 May (DI), and 8 at Rockport, Skagit 11 May (GB) was a record-high Puget Trough count. A Northern Parula near Florence 4 May (ph. J. Little) was the 3rd for Lane.

Although not considered a "late" migrant, large numbers of Yellow Warblers were still northbound along the Oregon Coast during late May, as evidenced by 150 at Cascade Head 24 May and 50 there 30 May (PP). The Hermit Warbler at Roseburg, Douglas 13 Mar (M. Hamm) surely wintered locally; while one at Seattle 10 May (PR) was in the Puget Trough, where very rare. Even more surprising was a well-described Hermit at Septoe Butte, Whitman 31 May (J. Cebula, T. Gray), they are extremely rare at the far e. margins of the Region. All but one of 6 Palm Warblers were found along the Oregon coast 2-16 Mar. The outlier, at Yakima 3 May (fide AS), was on the eastside, where not annual. The season's Blackpoll Warbler was a female at Fields, Harney 24 May (TR). Two Black-and-white Warblers, both at Fields 19 & 24-26 May (fide HN), represented a typical showing. A Northern Waterthrush at Skagit WMA 12 & 19 Apr was suspected of wintering nearby (SM). A Hooded Warbler at Malheur 22-26 May (M, m.ob.) highlighted the vagrant season in se. Oregon, while another appeared at Mt. Tabor 26 May (J.C & A. Hinkle, E. Scattaregia); these provided Oregon's 13th and 14th reports. In addition to Wilson's Warblers at Cascade Head 16 May (see above), 200 more were there 24 May (PP). The astounding early flights of 1450 Western Tanagers past Pt. No Pt. 16 May (BSW, VN) more than tripled the prior Regional report of 450 encountered there 9 May 2007.

Although common along the e. slope of the Cascades, Green-tailed Towhees rarely ventured to the westside; one mist-netted at Grants Pass, Josephine 9 May was a nice surprise (DV). The wintering American Tree Sparrow continued at North Spit until 11 Apr (TR); another at Langlois, Curry 3-11 Apr (K. Anderson) also likely wintered locally. Similarly, a long-staying Clay-colored Sparrow at Newport remained until 3 May (NS et al.). Another Clay-colored at North Spit 31 May (TR) marked the 2nd consecutive year with a late May migrant at this site; prior to discovery of the 29 May 2007 bird, w. Oregon had no reports of spring migrant Clay-colored Sparrows. Five reports of Brewer's Sparrows on the westside was a return to normal after the 2007 incursion. Rare coastal sightings included the Cascade Head bird (see above) and the 3rd for Coos at North Spit 20 Apr (TR). A Lark Sparrow at Pt. No Pt. 17 May (BSW) was w. Washington's 11th, while singles of Eugene 23 Apr (DI) and at Portland Airport 26 May (DH) were in the Willamette Valley, which averages 2 or 3 per spring. By 24 May, a Black-throated Sparrow had returned to Vantage (SDo), where they are nearly annual. Thousands of migrant Savannah Sparrows blanketed n. Lake 5 May (DI, DPe). The prairie restoration project at Finley N.W.R. is successfully attracting Grasshopper Sparrows, with 10 territorial males noted 19 May+ (WDR); Benton had just three antecedent reports. Single Red Fox Sparrows of the Ilaca group brightened Mt. Pleasant, Shamina 9 Apr (ph. WC) and Fort Hill Trails, Pierce 21 Apr (CW); this subspecies is now annual in Washington. Notably, P. l. alvagans, which winters in California, is an uncommon migrant through the Region in Mar/Apr, so one cannot assume that reddish Fox Sparrows are of the Ilaca group. The only Swamp Sparrows were at South Jcty Columbia R., Clatsop 24 Mar (BM) and Seattle 3-21 Apr (JP). There were 5 Harris's Sparrows on the eastside and 3 on the westside, of which singles at Renton, King 20-25 Apr (T. Brennon) and Newport 8-9 May (B. Berman, C. Lippincott) seemed to be migrants. A patry 5 Lapland Longspurs were reported, 3 along the Oregon coast 27 Mar-30 Apr, and 2 eastside in the Okanagan Highlands 2 Mar (KT). The presence of 3 Northern Cardinals in the n. Willamette Valley 1 Mar-5 May was curious and raised obvious questions of provenance; there is no pattern of vagrancy that suggests this species might reach the Region without human assistance. Nine Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 1-26 May, 7 in Oregon and 2 in Washington, represent a typical spring. Male Indigo Buntings brightened Eugene 19 May (N. Curran) and Malheur 31 May (JVC).

Locally wintering Tricolored Blackbirds lingered at multiple sites around Walla Walla, Othello, and Moses Lake, which hosted the latest bird 12 May (DSC). A colony at Texas L., Whitman held 30 birds 13 Apr (D. Weber), while a colony of 100+ birds persists at Powell Butte, Cook (CG). Rarely annual on the coast, Yellow-headed Blackbirds strayed to Newport 13 May (D. Cottam et al.) and North Spit 16 May (TR). Harney hosted both of the Region's Common Grackles, singles at Fields 16 May+ (M) and Frenchglen 24 May+ (R. Hoyer, m.ob.). All 5 Great-tailed Grackles were on the eastside, including a returnee (its 5th year) at Liberty L., Spokane 16 Apr (R. Dux)., and 3 attending a feeder at Burns Junction, Malheur 24 Apr+ (L.&K. Cottrell). Both of the season's Hooded Orioles were in w. Oregon, with singles at Eagle Pt., Jackson 18 Apr (ph. H. Sands) and Brookings 25 Apr (ph. M. Collin.). The Bullock's Oriole continued at Florence until 11 Apr (DPe).

Imagine the incredulity of tree planters who discovered a flock of 25,000 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches at Wooten WMA near Pomeroy, Garfield 24-26 Mar (ph. D. Kuehn); there is no Regional precedent for such an assemblage, with top counts in both states at about 3000. Two Pine Grosbeaks at Lacey, Thurston 24 Mar (SM) furnished the only lowland westside sighting. Nearly as mind-boggling were the 200+ Cassin's Finches at Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Mts., Clallam 7 Mar (ph. S. Grennel, Dave Manson). Admittedly, the Olympics get minimal birding attention during Nov-Mar, but the entire Olympic peninsula has just two antecedent reports of the species, both of single birds at lowland sites. Despite hints of a Cassin's Finch irruption in the Cascades this past winter, scenarios that might cause a sizeable flock to wander so far to the w. are purely speculative. Single Cassin's at South Beach, Lincoln 26 May (R. Cheek) and Portland 31 May (AF) were the only w. Oregon reports. White-winged Crossbills lingered at Stevens Pass, King and Chelan into Mar and Apr. Most intriguing was the group of 4 that included 2 juvs. 2 Apr (TA). Although Washington has no confirmed breeding reports, ads. seen carrying nesting material at Stevens Pass 23 Feb (S.S. Fleming) and Wauconda, Okanogan 2 Mar (KT) suggests local breeding attempts.
Twenty White-wings lingered at Wauconda until 25 May (L. Johnson). Six Common Redpolls at Coos Bay 25 Apr (D. Varoujejian) were completely out of season and out of place, though there is a Jul (2002) report of 2 redpolls from nearby Bandon. Incredibly, 3 Lawrence's Goldfinches visited feeders in Oregon, with singles at Eugene 24 Apr (J. Lewis-Case, ph. E. Case), Eagle Point, Jackson 8 May (ph. H. Sands), and Oregon City 12 May (TLF); although still a meg-a-rarity just a few years ago, Oregon has six reports since Dec 2006.

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**Northern California**

**WATERFOWL**

Greater White-fronted Geese lingered late, with 31 at Sacramento River N.W.R., Butte 20 May (JHS) and up to 13 at Moro Cojo Slough, Monterey 24 May (RF). Six Snow Geese at Sacramento River N.W.R. 6 May (JHS) were likewise late, as was a single n. of Pt Lobos S.R., Monterey until 4 May (CHZ); Brant inside S.F. Bay included up to 3 at Emeryville, Alameda 21 Mar–10 Apr (KRB et al.) and the 3rd spring record for H.R.S. 3 May (RJR), 9 at Crowley L. 4 May (MdB et al.) furnished a large number for Mono, although at the expected time of year for inland migrants. Cackling Geese lingered at H.R.S. until 12 May (RJR), at Monterey, Monterey until 23 May (Aletuin, RJA), and at Vasona Res., Santa Clara until 26 May (ph. Chris Kruger). A Tundra Swan at Pixley N.W.R., Tulare 25 May (Maggie Smith) was late and far s. for the Central Valley.

Lingering male Eurasian Wigeons were at Alviso, Santa Clara 3 May (WGB) and Humboldt Bay N.W.R., Humboldt 11 May (DFx et al.). Other males were at Strove Slough 12 Apr (the first spring record for Santa Cruz; ELM et al.), sw. of Hensley L. 21-23 Mar (3rd ever in Madera; ph. GaW, m.o.b.), near Sheridan, Place 24 Mar (EP), and at Fresno W.T.P., Fresno 19 Mar (BBr et al.). Eurasian Teal lingering until 8 Apr were in Marin (ph. Ron Storey, BBg) and San Mateo (RSTh, PFM); single Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal intergrades were reported in Humboldt 6 Apr.
(Alexandra Lamb) and 11 May (DFx et al.). The male Tufted Duck at L. Merritt, Alameda was last seen 25 Mar (Hilary Powers). Greater Scaup lingered in above-average numbers through May, with 400 on s. Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 13 May (MWa), 28 at Alviso, Santa Clara 26 May (MMR, RJG, MJM), and a kite bird inland at Modoc N.W.R., Modoc 17 May (SCR). Harlequin Ducks inside S.F. Bay included a male at Richmond, Contra Costa 25 Mar–3 May, together with a female 3 May (Jeri Arko, Bob Dunn, Roger Polik); the continuing male at Heron's Head Park, S.F. until 25 Mar (Dominik Mosur); and the resident male at Coyote Pt., San Mateo (RSTh, AME). A female White-winged Scoter and a female Black Scoter were at Benicia, Solano 4 Apr (RMu), with the latter remaining until 6 Apr (LLu, CLu). Other Black Scoters on S.F. Bay included as many as 4 at Richmond, Contra Costa 19 Mar–8 Apr (Jeff Hoppes, m.o.b., ph.) and single females in Alameda at San Leandro 16 Mar (RJR) and Emeryville 19 Mar (Tony Brake). Reports of 27 Long-tailed Ducks were received from 11 counties; 6 lingered into May, the latest being at Ft. Bragg, Mendocino 24-30 May (Greg Giusti, David Jensen). Late Common Goldeneyes included females at s. San Jose, Santa Clara 10 May (Ryan Phillips) and Ano Nuevo S.R., San Mateo 12 May (MtB). A pair of Hooded Mergansers at Sutter N.W.R. 5 Apr (Jim Laughlin) apparently provided just the 2nd record for Sutter; a female with 11 young near Lincoln, Placer 5 May+ (BDW, m.o.b.) marked the 5th consecutive year of breeding there. Red-breasted Mergansers at San Leandro, Alameda 24 May (RJR) and Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz 24 May (Paul Miller) were late, and 3 at Bravo L., Tulare 27 Apr (JL, TK2) were unexpected inland.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

The Arctic Loon continued at Stone Lagoon, Humboldt until 5 Mar (SmA). Horned Grebes inland were one at Davis Wetlands, Yolo 4 Mar (GEW), 3 at L. Natoma, Sacramento 31 Mar (CrS), 2 in Plumas 7 May (Timothy Guida), and one at Madera W.T.P., Madera 10 May (JND, Jsy, ph. GaW). Even rarer inland were Red-necked Grebes in Placer, with as many as 3 at n. L. Tahoe 8-21 Mar (TEa, Lisa Jorgenson; m.o.b.) and one at Lincoln W.T.P. 5-6 May (Charley Walker, ph. Mark Aring, ph. DeR); another was at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 31 May (Mike Taylor). Up to 3 Clark's Grebes w. of Sutter N.W.R. 26-29 Apr (Jim Laughlin, FrO) provided the 3rd Sutter record, while 3500 Aechmophorus grebes at Moss Landing S.B., Monterey 12 Apr (BLS) furnished a high regional count. The Pt. Arena, Mendocino Layasan Albatross was last seen 4 Mar (T. Reid, GS, m.o.b.); 2 on Monterey Bay, Monterey and Santa Cruz 2 Mar (ShJ) included the first report for Santa Cruz since 2003. A Short-tailed Albatross, likely a second-year bird, was in S.F. waters s. of Rittenberg Bank 11 Apr (MtB). The only Short-tailed Shearwater was on Monterey Bay, Monterey and Santa Cruz 2 Mar (ShJ). A Manx Shearwater at Bodega Canyon 7 Apr (MtB, SW) provided an overdue first Sonoma report and continued the region's 10-year streak of spring records. Tubenoses in unusual estuarine settings included a Northern Fulmar at San Leandro Marina, Alameda 13-14 Mar (RJR, JSL) and a Leach's Storm-Petrel at King Salmon, s. Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 28 Apr (MWa et al.).

Brown Boobies have been recorded annually at Southeast Farallon L., S.F. since 2002; this spring, 2 were together 2-5 Apr, with one seen sporadically through the season (Pete Warzybok). A subad. booby that roosted at Bird Rock, Pebble Beach, Monterey 26 Apr–11 May (Jso, RFT, ph. DR, ph. BLS) was twice seen foraging 5-19 km off Pt. Pinos (RT). Normally fairly scarce along the coast, American White Pelicans were found in unusually high numbers throughout the season in Santa Cruz, peaking at 88 near the Pajaro R. mouth, Santa Cruz and Monterey 31 May (RgW).

HERONS THROUGH CRANES

The ad. Little Blue Heron near Ft. Dick, Del Norte continued until 27 Mar (ADB et al.). Coastal Cattle Egrets were at Redwood Shores, San Mateo 22 Apr+ (PJM, RSTh, m.o.b.), Mono Cojo Slough, Monterey 26 Apr (DR, RC), and Palo Alto, Santa Clara 27 Apr and 6 May (ViT et al.). Otherwise this species drew little comment, with only one other report, of 30 birds roosting at Rancho Esquin, Butte 8 Mar (BDW). Coastal White-faced Ibis were well reported, with the biggest numbers reported during mid-May; larger counts included 127 at Gilroy 13 May (new high count for Santa Clara; MJM), 35 or more at Humboldt Bay N.W.R. and Arcata Marsh, Humboldt 16 May (Steve Lewis, DFx, JCP), 11 at H.R.S. 20 May (RJR), and 15 in w. Potter Valley, Mendocino 28 May (Catherine de la Cruz), and 28 at Napa W.T.P., Napa 31 May (MBe). About 150 pairs of ibis were breeding at Stockton W.T.P. 22 Apr in response to a newly established wetlands project, the first confirmed breeding for Santa Cruz (DGY).

Two new California Condor nests, each with one chick, were found along the Big Sur coast, Monterey by Apr (Jude DR). An imm. Northern Goshawk heading northward over Kirby Cove, Marin 2 May (Tim Behr, Herb Brandt, Lew Cooper) was unexpected. The common Black-Hawk returned for its 4th summer to Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sonoma; it was seen 14 Apr (ph. Stan Moore) but had ap-
parently arrived about a week earlier according to the property owner. Common Black-Hawks seen heading northward near Aromas, San Benito 31 Mar (ad); Debbie Testaguzza and over Ring Mt., Marin 2 Apr (ph. Bob Stewart, Len Blumin) may have been the Sonoma bird. Broad-winged Hawks were seen at Arcata 1 Apr (dark morph, 5th Humboldt record; sC) and over the Presidio, S.F. 15 May (molting imm. light morph; Andy Kleinhesselink). Coastal migrant Swainson’s Hawks included 9 birds in five counties 5 Apr–15 May; a pair nested again n. of Napa County Airport, Napa 19 Apr+ (Richard Clark, MBe). The Harlan’s Hawks of Arcata, Humboldt was last seen 20 Mar (George Green). Most Rough-legged Hawks departed by early Mar, but stragglers lingered in Humboldt until 17 Apr (SMa), along Walz Rd. nw. of Lincoln, Place 24-30 Apr (Dee Warenycia, EP, m.ob.), and over Kirby Cove, Marin 9 May (imm.; Tim Behr). The Del Norte Crested Caracara continued near Ft. Dick through the season (Lucas Brug, ADB et al.); Santa Clara’s 2nd was photographed heading northward over Coyote Valley 7 Mar (ph. Ryan Phillips et al.). The presumably escaped Yellow-headed Caracara was seen heading northward high above Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 7 Mar (KGR) and was next found near Ft. Dick, Del Norte 13-14 Mar (Jeff Dayton, Lucas Brug), providing compelling evidence that caracara reports from these two counties may pertain to the same birds. Late Merlins included 3 in May in Santa Cruz, the latest being at College L. 11 May (MBJ, OsJ), and one very late at Burlingame, San Mateo 15 May (George Chrisman). A Sandhill Crane at the Community Park at Garberville, Humboldt 18 May was late and at a surprising location (RBS et al.).

SHOREBIRDS

A Snowy Plover at Beale A.F.B. 29 Apr (ph. Jim Laughlin) furnished Yuba’s first. A Black-necked Stilt at Indian Creek Res. 31 Jul (JL) was about the 6th for Alpine. Two American Avocets at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 12 Apr–8 May evidently did not attempt to breed (RE). At least 26 Solitary Sandpipers were detected in 13 counties 3 Apr–12 May, including a remarkable 5 at Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt 29 Apr (RBf) and birds well inland sw. of Eastman L., Madera 17 Apr (PPa), along White Rock Rd., Mariposa (JC), and as many as 2 at Quincy. Pumas 6-7 May (BBg et al.). A Wandering Tattler at Indian Valley Res. 14 Apr (Brent Campos) provided the first for Lake. A Willet at n. L. Tahoe was a rare find in Placer (WR). Up to 2 Marble Godwits along Marcus Rd. 3-6 May (Jim Laughlin, JLx) provided the 3rd record for Sutter, whereas up to 2 at Madera W.T.P 23-30 May (PPa, m.ob.) represented the 4th record for Madera. The spring movement of Ruddy Turnstones was highlighted by a count of 16 near Newark, Alameda 29 Apr (JMI) and one well inland to Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 29-30 Apr (RE). A Black Turnstone at Alviso 10-12 May (WGB et al.) furnished the first spring record for Santa Clara. Nine Surfbirds at Pinole Bayfront Park 30 Apr (LLk) comprised a large flock for Contra Costa and were quite late. An ad. Red Knot reported with scant details from Sawtelle Rd. 13 May (Jim Laughlin) would be the first for Sutter; the other inland report was of an ad. at Gustine W.T.P., Merced 20 May (PJM). Madera’s 2nd Sanderling record was of up to 12 birds at Madera W.T.P. 20-23 May (12 on 21 May, ph. GaW, m.ob.). Semipalmated Sandpiper reports included one at Ukiah W.T.P., Mendocino 17 Apr (CEV), 2 at Salinas W.T.P., Monterey 1-3 May (ph. BLS, ph. DR), and one at H.R.S. 19 May (RJ). Single Baird’s Sandpipers were at Salinas W.T.P. 18 Apr (MTb, Adam Scaryy) and H.R.S. 5-6 May (RJ). Pectoral Sandpipers paused at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., Humboldt 20-24 Apr (RBf, MWA, TWL) and H.R.S. 15 May (RJ). The Santa Cruz Rock Sandpiper was last seen 7 Apr (LGo), completing its 5th winter along West Cliff Drive. A Stilt Sandpiper at Merced N.W.R., 16 Apr (PJM) may have been the bird that has wintered there for the past four years; another Stilt at Alviso 27 Apr (MMR, MJM, RGJ) provided the 7th spring record for Santa Clara. Two Ruffs (male and female) were at Yolo Bypass W.A., Yolo through 21 Mar (m.ob.), with another near Coyote Hills, Alameda 17 Apr (MJM). Inland Short-billed Dowitchers included 2 at Visalia W.T.P, Tulare and one at n. L. Tahoe, Placer 30 Apr (SAbb, TFe, TaF, BBW). Most coastal Wilson’s Snipe depart by late Apr, so one at Quail Hollow C.P., Santa Cruz 25 May (Alex Rinkert) was anomalous. A big onshore push of Red-necked Phalaropes occurred 11 May, with 4000 at Salinas W.T.P., Monterey (DR), 1000+ in Bodega Harbor, Sonoma (Dea Freid), and 700 at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., Humboldt (DFx et al.); 800 were at Crittenden Marsh, Santa Clara 12 May (WGB). Many Red-necked liggers were later, including 44 at Alviso, Santa Clara 26 May (MMR, MJM, RGJ) and 40 at Salinas W.T.P., Monterey 1 Jun (DR). The largest movement of Red Phalaropes reported was 1400 that passed Fleener Creek Overlook, Humboldt in 4.5 minutes 2 May (TWL, MAW, et al.); otherwise, modest numbers were reported from coastal areas 21 Apr-26 May, with mostly singles or duos inside S.F. Bay 5-19 May (m.ob.).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

A flock of 650 Franklin’s Gulls n. of Tule Lake

This Hooded Warbler was found singing 16 May along the American River east of Sacramento, Sacramento County, California. This short “Gristmill” portion of the extensive American River Parkway has produced more than its share of Central Valley rarities over the past few years, including Eastern Wood-Pewee, Bay-breasted Warbler, Northern Parula, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, to name a few. Photograph by Chris Conard.
doubled the recent seasonal average; most were first-cycle birds, but ads. were at Davis Oxidation Ponds, Yolo 4 Mar (GEw) and McLaren Park, S.F. 17 Apr (ASH).

Caspian Terns over the Santa Cruz Mts. included 81 on 25 Apr and 91 on 2 May, indicating heavier use of this flyway between Monterey Bay and S.F. Bay than reported in recent years (DLSu). Coastal migrant Black Terns appeared in scattered locations, with a high of 22 at H.R.S. 5 May (PDr, Brian Hill). A Pigeon Guillemot at San Leandro Marina, Alameda 24 May (RJR) was unusual so far s. in S.F. Bay. Dawn surveys at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., Santa Cruz produced encouraging numbers of Marbled Murrelets during early May, peaking at 58 detections 8 May, but counts dwindled later in the month (DLSu). After the huge influx of Horned Puffins this past spring and summer, only 2 were reported this season: singles at Pt. Pinos, Monterey 14 Apr (BLS) and from a boat on Monterey Bay, Monterey 24 Apr (BGE).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES
The lone White-winged Dove was at Pt. Bragg. Mendocino 5 Apr (DAJ). A Burrowing Owl wintered at Southeast Farallon L., S.F. until 16 Mar (PR.B.O.). A Spotted Owl at Lambphere Dunes, Humboldt 24 Apr was the first to be confirmed at that location (Carol Ralph, Judit Szabo). A Northern Saw-whet Owl along Mines Rd., Alameda 3 May seemed unusually late (DEQ et al.). The Whip-poor-will found last summer at Willow Creek, Humboldt returned 19 Apr+ (Marla Shull et al.); it is unlikely to find a mate. Ten Black Swifts at Alpcaugh, Tulare 30 Apr provided a rare Central Valley record and were notably early (SAL); 3 in the Warner Mts. 18 May furnished a rare Modoc report (SCR), and one at Frank Raines R.P. 26 May (HM.R) was a first for Stanislaus. An ad. male Black-chinned Hummingbird at Willits 7 May provided the overdue first documented record for Mendocino (TScott Harris). Likewise, single male Costa’s Hummingbirds at Red Bluff 9-18 (Robin Wolcott) & 19-22 Apr (Michelle Swarout, BED) were thought to represent the first two records for Tehama. A Lewis’s Woodpecker made a brief coastal appearance at Pt. Reyes, Marin 4 May (Oliver James). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Millerton L. 2 Mar (Leonard Williams) was the 3rd to be found in Madera, all in the past two years. The lone Red-naped Sapsucker was at Stevens Creek C.P., Santa Clara 5-12 Apr (PLD, ph. TGr, ph. Ron Wolf, m.ob.).

A Gray Flycatcher at San Joaquin Experimental Range, Madera 3 Apr (JCS) was one of the earliest ever reported in the Region but was overshadowed by an astonishing 62 Grays at the same location 25 Apr (Doug Drynan, JCS, Jlt.). Field work in recent years has proven that Grays migrate fairly commonly through the Sierra foothills during spring, but this is likely the highest count from a single locality in the Region by a wide margin (file JND). Single Gray Flycatchers reached the coast, where quite scarce, at Mt. Davidson, S.F. 14-15 May (Dva, m.ob.) and Pt. Reyes, Marin 15 May (RS). A Dusky Flycatcher returned to Big Basin Redwoods S.P., Santa Cruz 8 May for its 3rd summer (DLSu); its territory is at least 700 m lower than is expected in the Region. Six other Duskykes reached the coast 5-30 May. An imm. female Verminon Flycatcher near Antonelli Pond 1 Apr provided a rare coastal record for the Region and a first for Santa Cruz (ph. SG et al.). Migrant Cassin’s Kingbirds were at Coyote Pt., San Mateo 12 Apr (RSTh) and College L., Santa Cruz 16 Apr (DLSu). An Eastern Kingbird was at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 25 May (ph. DR). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher graced Año Nuevo S.R., San Mateo 10-12 May (Frank Bathis, Mtb, ph. Osj). The lone Northern Shrike report was from Morris Valley, Placer 19 Mar (WRI). Out-of-place Yellow-billed Magpies were at Gualala 11 Mar (3rd Mendocino record; Joost Ronie) and near Watsonville, Santa Cruz 30 Mar (Dan Jackson). Two Common Ravens sporadically at Southeast Farallon L., S.F. 11 Mar-13 May provided just the 3rd island record, and the first of a pair, since PRBO began monitoring in the late 1960s (PRBO). Twelve breeding pairs of Bank Swallows at Clam Beach 26 May+ are thought to have provided Humboldt’s first breeding confirmation (Clawson, SF). An ad. Oak Titmouse with 3 fledglings 14 May apparently represented the first confirmed nesting for the heavily birded Carmel R. mouth, Monterey (Bfl). Santa Cruz lacks a resident population of Rock Wrens, so one at Big Basin Redwoods S.P. 8 May was a nice find, particularly for spring (DLSu). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt 26 May (DFx) was notably late. A family group of 4 Western Bluebirds 25 May+ provided the 3rd record for H.R.S. (RJR). A Townsend’s Solitaire at U.C. Santa Cruz 17-29 Mar provided a rare spring report for Santa Cruz (MSc, Jeff Scott, ph. Cindy Cummings, m.ob.).

THRASHERS THROUGH TANAGERS
Sierra’s 2nd Gray Catbird, at knuthson Meado, n. of Calpine 24 May+ (Greg Budney, Jim Steele, JMC et al.), was likely the same individual as was present during 2007. A Sage Thrasher along Thornton Rd., San Joaquin 14 May (Dan Williams) was the only out-of-range report. A Brown Thrasher visited a backyard at Inglenook, Mendocino 1-3 May (Carolyn Kinet, DT, 1KHv, JHv, ph. R. Hubcek). Lingering later than usual, American Pipits were noted during late Apr in Humboldt and early May in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey, with the latest observation at Alviso, Santa Clara 10 May (WGb). A well-described flyover Bohemian Waxwing at Eureka 2 Apr (tBS) was the first for Humboldt since 1988.

Our warbler season was poor in terms of both variety and numbers. Single Northern Parulas at Pt. Reyes, Marin 16 May (RtY, Jill Gautreaux, RS) and South L. Tahoe, El Dorado 28-29 May (Dan Maxwell, WRI) comprised our lowest spring total in more than 10 years. Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Long Valley, Mono 31 May (Colin Woolley) and Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 31 May (DR). A Black-throated Green Warbler was at Pt. Reyes, Marin 26 May (Rigdon Currie, Mark Butler). Fourteen Palm Warblers were reported, representing a typical number. Blackpoll Warbler, one of our most common warblers during fall, is rare during spring, so one well described along Osgood Mine Rd., Siskiyou 29 May (TIlenta & Neal Clark) was an excellent find. Coastal American Redstarts included one continuing at Natural Bridges S.B., Santa Cruz 11 Apr (Paul Miller, WSS, SG, m.ob.) and singles at Golden Gate Park, S.F. 24 May (MWE, ASH, Dva) and Blue L., Humboldt 28 May (Kl). A Northern Waterthrush was at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt 3 Mar-11 Apr (Rfl, Dave Spangenberg, m.ob.), and singles were banded at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 16 & 28 May (B.S.O.L.). The latter location also hosted Monterey’s 5th Kentucky Warbler 17 May and a female Hooded Warbler 11 May (both B., B.S.O.L.). Other Hooded Warblers were at Pillar Pt. marsh, San Mateo 14 May (RSt), Pt. Reyes, Marin 15 May (RS), American River Parkway, Sacramento 16 May (JML, Dko, GMl, ph. Cco, m.ob.), and Mt. Davidson, S.F. 26 May (Pss). The warbler of the season was a Painted Redstart found at the Presidio 26 Apr (1Eric Osterhaus), S.F.’s first and only the 8th for the Region.

Eight Summer Tanagers included 4 in Santa Clara, 2 in Monterey, a male returning for its 2nd spring to El Dorado Hills, El Dorado 15-22 Mar (Karla Meadows, ph. Ken Mateik, m.ob.), and another male returning for its 3rd year near Colfax, Placer 6 May+ (Pam & Larry Risser, m.ob.).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES
A Green-tailed Towhee near Redinger L., Madera 6 Mar (PFa, LyH) was presumably wintering, while one found this past fall at Rancho Cordova, Sacramento continued until 9 May (TAE, Tm).
Carmichael, Sacramento, just across the American R. from Rancho Cordova 18 Apr (WHI). Wintering Clay-colored Sparrows continued along the San Lorenzo R., Santa Cruz until 19 Mar (SGe) and in Fremont, Alameda until 17 Apr (ph. Charles Woodward et al.), while another was banded at Big Sur mouth, Monterey 17 May (B.S.O.L.). A singing Brewer’s Sparrow along Pancho Rd. 6 Apr (SAG) was an excellent find for San Benito, and a Harris’s Sparrow was there 12 Apr (CLu, LLu). A male Lark Bunting was along Crabtree Rd., Stanislaus 24-26 Apr (ph. COo, Bill Zachmann). Of 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 5 were coastal and singles were along Pitman Hill Rd., Fresno 5-11 Mar (jde Michael Ruffino) and near Old Mammouth Lakes, Mono 19 May (Luke Schwatzkofch). An Indigo Bunting was at L. Success, Tulare 4 May (TKz); 6 others were in Mendocino, S.F., San Mateo, and Monterey.

Trinity became the last California county to succumb to the Great-tailed Grackle onslaught, with one at Big Flat 24-25 Apr (Don Ellis). A wintering Orchard Oriole continued at Ft. Mason, S.F. until 2 Apr (JSC). San Mateo’s first Scott’s Oriole visited Coyote Pt. 15 May (fRSTn). The invasion of Cassin’s Finches into low altitude locations, first noted in our winter report, continued and expanded during spring; observers noted numbers not seen since the 1997 incursion. Sizable flocks were visiting feeders at Oakhuster, Madera (a w. slope Sierra location at 700 m) all season (HBu, JND, JSJ, GoAV), and more were found at even lower elevations at San Joaquin Experimental Range, Madera 26 Mar–25 Apr (Doug Dryman, JCS, JTz). A small flock of Cassin’s was at Black Mt. (just over 1100 m), Fresno 10 May (JTY), while finches nearer the coast were at Ukiah, Mendocino 8 Apr (CEF), 5 at Chews Ridge, Monterey 8 Apr (WGB), and along Summit Rd., Santa Cruz 10 May (LLu, CLu). A Common Redpoll at Southeast Farallon I., S.F. 5 May (fZack Coffman) furnished the first for the island and if accepted by the C.B.R.C. will represent the 12th occurrence for the state, the only 2nd May report, and the most southerly report by more than 200 km. An ad. male Evening Grosbeak at Frank Rutines R.P. 21-26 May (ph. Juliette Bryan et al.) was the first in Stanislaus.


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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, now only a very rare to casual visitor to the Salton Sea, were at S.E.S.S. 24 May (JSF). A Tundra Swan at San Simeon, San Luis Obispo 25 Jan-9 Mar (EKB), another continuing in Bishop, Inyo until 28 Mar (J&DP), and another at the San Jacinto W.A., Lakeview, Riverside until 3 Mar (FO) were the latest of the few present this past winter. A Brant at Klondike L. near Big Pine, Inyo 6-7 Jun (T&JH) and 2 at Piute Ponds 5 May (MSmM) were the only Brant reported inland away from the Salton Sea. A Eurasian Wigeon near Inyokern 4 May (BS) was not only exceptionally late but only the 2nd during spring in Kern. A Harlequin Duck was at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 2 Apr+ (SLG, TME). Single Long-tailed Ducks were inland at S.E.S.S. 2-7 Mar (MBa), near Winterhaven, Imperial 19 Mar (PDelP), and near Westmorland, Imperial 9-17 Apr (SC, LG).

A Red-throated Loon, casual inland, was at L. Isabella, Kern 26 Apr (JS). A Pacific Loon at Owens L. 2 May (MJF) was only the 2nd during spring in Inyo. The Yellow-billed Loon continued at L. Havasu, San Bernardino through the season (PEL). Reports of Red-necked Grebes, rare in s. California, included singles at Morro Bay 7-8 May (JK) and Point Magu 5 Apr (DPe). A Black-footed Albatross at Nine Mile Bank off San Diego 10 May (1H) was unusually close to shore. A Flesh-footed Shearwater was recovered from the beach at Coronado, San Diego 2 May (LS); *SDNHM*. A Short-tailed Shearwater 13 km off San Diego 12 Apr (MSa) was late for s. California waters. A Manx Shearwater near Santa Cruz 1. 25 Apr (PEL) adds another to the increasing reports in s. California waters. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel salvaged at the San Mateo C. mouth, San Diego 23 Apr (CSw; *LACM*) was long dead. Two Brown Boobies at Sutliff 1. off Santa Barbara 1. 15 May (HC) were where up to 3 had been present during much of 2007.

Single Little Blue Herons at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Orange 26-31 May (AB), Hansen Dam, Los Angeles 10 May (KLG), and Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 17 May+ (KGL) were the only Little Blues found away from coastal San Diego. A Tricolored Heron continued at San Diego through 3 May (BLC) and another at Imperial Beach, San Diego until 18 Apr (PEL). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Wood S.B., Ventura 13 Apr (RMcM, AMcM), and the pair at Imperial Beach since 2003 was attending a nest with 3 young at the end of the season (GMcC). Single Glossy Ibis were reported from near Daggett, San Bernardino 26 Apr (JCS) and the Riverside portion of Prado Basin 17 Mar (JEP). A Roseate Spoonbill at Morton Bay, S.E.S.S. 6-10 Apr (RMW) was probably the same bird as had been present during this past winter.

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Unexpected was a Turkey Vulture at San Clemente 1. 14 Apr+ (JTS) that crossed 100 km of ocean to reach the site. A Common Black-Hawk at Galileo Hill Park 27 Apr (SLS) was only the 4th in s. California. About 5375 Swainson’s Hawks passed Borrego Springs, San Diego between early Feb and mid-Apr, with an impressive 1008 on 25 Mar (HC); other large flocks included 65 at Brawley, Imperial 29 Mar (BM), 33 at L. Perris, Riverside 17 Mar (BP), and 20 over Orange, Orange 2 Mar (NB). Reports of Zone-tailed Hawks included a wintering bird continuing at Ojai, Ventura until 19 Mar (DR) and presumed migrants inland in the Sidewinder Mt., San...
al spring migrants through s. California, were at San Pedro, Los Angeles 14 May (DE) and S.E.S.S. 6 Apr (RMW). Winterring Pacific Golden-Plovers continued near Oxnard, Ventura through 29 Mar (MSc), at San Elijo Lagoon until 10 Mar (RTF), Imperial Beach until 20 Apr (DHa), and San Clemente I. until 14 Apr (JTS). A Black-necked Stilt x American Avocet hybrid was photographed at Owens L. 23 May (JG). Reports of 13 Solitary Sandpipers along the coast 3 Apr–13 May were more than expected, but 8 inland was about normal. Three Black Turnstones, much rarer than Ruddies inland, were at S.E.S.S. 25 May (HBK). More than 450 Surfbirds at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve 30 Mar (BrF) furnished an impressive-sized flock. A Sanderling, rare but regular inland away from the Salton Sea, was at Puite Ponds 11 May (SL). Six Semi-palmated Sandpipers in the e. Region 30 Apr–6 May were fewer than expected. Single Baird’s Sandpipers, rare during spring, were inland at Owens L. 13 & 19 Apr (SL, BS) and on the coast at the Santa Maria R. estuary, Santa Barbara 14 Apr (WTF) and at Daggert, San Bernardino 20 Apr (TAB). A female Ruff photographed at S.E.S.S. 8–12 May (REW) appeared to be a different bird than the one present through this past winter.

**GULLS THROUGH MURRELETS**

A Laughing Gull at San Diego 11–22 Mar (GT1) was on the coast, where rare; another on the San Bernardino side of n. L. Havasu 17 May (PEL) was the only one reported inland from the Salton Sea. Large numbers of Franklin’s Gulls passed through the e. Region 27 Mar–early Apr, as indicated by 41 near Calipatria, Imperial 28 Mar (RF) and 52 at Indio, Riverside 4 Apr (SS); a flock of 27 at Puite Ponds 14 May (MSaM) and about 60 in Inyo 13 Apr–1 Jun (TB&JH) indicate that numbers continued northward through the interior and the e. side of the Sierra Nevada. However, 135 Franklin’s on the San Bernardino side of n. L. Havasu 17 May (PEL) suggests that even more moved up the Colorado R.; in addition, 15, including 5 together at Seal Beach, Orange 8 May (RSc), were along the coast 1 Apr–24 May. A Heermann’s Gull, normally found only along the immediate coast, was 36 km inland at El Monte, Los Angeles 10 May (AL); a pair that built a nest and laid two eggs at S.E.S.S. during mid-May (KCM) provided the first breeding report for this inland location, but unfortunately the attempt failed. The latest-staying Lesser Black-backed Gull at the Salton Sea was one at Ohsidian Butte 15 Nov–10 Apr (GMcC). Lingering Glaucous Gulls included singles at the Santa Maria R. estuary 9 Mar (MPB), the Santa Ynez R. estuary until 21 Mar (JL), Ventura 21 Mar (JMcM), Oceanside, San Diego 24 Mar (TH), and San Clemente I. 13 May (JCF). A Sabine’s Gull on the San Bernardino side of n. L. Havasu 17 May (PEL) was the only one reported inland.

Up to 7 Gull-billed Terns at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve 22 Apr–19 May (BED, PK), one flying past Pt. Dume Los Angeles 5 Apr (MSaM), and 3 at Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles 3 May (JLF) suggest a northward expansion of their range from San Diego. Two Elegant Terns, rare visitors to the Salton Sea, expected A Common Murre 27 km off San Diego 12 Apr (MSa) was late for this latitude. Two Marbled Murres near Morro Bay 8 Mar (RHZ) were at the southernmost limit of their normal range, but one in San Pedro 19 Mar (CW) was unusually far south. An Ancient Murrelet off Point Loma, San Diego 10 May (TH) was also late.

**DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS**

Single Band-tailed Pigeons at Crystal Spring, Inyo 25 May (DJH) and Galileo Hill Park 20 May (K&BK) were away from the mountains. The only White-winged Doves along the coast were singles at San Diego 25 Apr (TR), Malibu 27 Apr (CA), Playa del Rey 9 May (KGL), and San Clemente I. 19 May (MGH). Three Common Ground-Doves at Nipomo, San Luis Obispo 26 Mar–19 May were at the nw. limit of their breeding range. A somewhat early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was near Victorville, San Bernardino 30 May (BE). Four nesting Northern Saw-whet
Owls in a Wood Duck nest box in the Riverside portion of Prado Basin 22-23 Apr (JEP) were unexpected. Reports of migrant Black Swifts were few but included 2 near Ojai 13 May (BLo) and 80 near San Marcos Pass 22 May (NAL). Both a Calliope Hummingbird and a Rufous Hummingbird near El Centro, Imperial 15 May (KZK) established the latest migrant dates for each at the Salton Sink. Late-staying Lewis’s Woodpeckers included as many as 3 near Los Olivos, Santa Barbara 24–27 Apr (PEL) and singles at Orange until 19 Apr (NAG), near L. Cuyamaca, San Diego 13–26 Apr (GMcC), and in the Laguna Mts., San Diego 3 May (JMi). An Acorn Woodpecker, a rare wanderer to the desert, was at Galileo Hill Park 22-31 May (K&BK). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego 13 Apr (JT) was somewhat late.

Hammond’s Flycatcher typified many passerine migrants with a protracted migration this season; record-early dates were set in San Luis Obispo at Cerro Alto 1 Apr, and Montana de Oro S.P. 3 Apr (AFS), while one near El Centro 24 May (KZK) established the latest spring report for the Salton Sink. Vermilion Flycatchers at Palos Verdes, Los Angeles 5 Apr (CSe, PD) and Irvine, Orange 3 Apr (MAB) were out of range; up to 5 were at San Bernardino through the season, with one active nest (TAB), while a pair with one fledgling was at Prado R.P., San Bernardino 30 Apr (HBK). An apparently melanistic Brown-crested Flycatcher at China Ranch, Igo 25 May was building a nest with a normally plumaged bird (DHJ). A Western Kingbird at Hart Park near Bakersfield 8 Mar (K&BK) was the earliest spring arrival ever recorded in Kern. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher flew past Butterbird Spring 4 May (SH), and another was at Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo 5 May (JL); a returning female at Twentynine Palms 1 May+ (MH) was nest-building 6 May (AEK).

VIREOS THROUGH THRASHERS
White-eyed Vireos, averaging just over one per spring in the Region, were at Galileo Hill Park 18 May (BDy) and Banner, e. San Diego 20 May (KS). Bell’s Vireos bred in the Owens Valley, Inyo for the first time since the late 1800s, with a pair along the Owens R. near Big Pine 30 Apr–12 Jun (SGI). Yellow-throated Vireos, recently removed from the C.B.R.C. Review List, were at Isla Vista, Santa Barbara 13–15 May (HPR), Malibu, Los Angeles 24 May (KLG), Huntington Beach, Orange 28–29 May (IH), Pt. Loma, San Diego 3–5 Jun (JW), and e. Anaheim, Orange 4 Jun (BED). Plumbous Vireos are increasingly reported as spring migrants in the n. deserts, although confusion with dull spring Cassin’s Vireos remains an issue; 4 migrants were noted in e. Kern 13 Apr–10 May (JCW), and migrants farther s. were near El Centro 21 Apr (GMcC) and 15-29 May (PEL, KZK).

American Crows appeared in e. San Luis Obispo at California Valley on the Carrizo Plain (where casual) 31 Mar, and at Shafter (where previously unreported) 6 Apr (both AFS). Purple Martins have severely declined over most of the Region; in San Luis Obispo, as many as 7 were at a colony at Atascadero (where first arrivals were noted 24 Mar; MLS), and four or five pairs were at two other sites n. of Santa Margarita during the season (DGs, GW). At least two pairs of Tree Swallows bred in a recently burned willow forest at Hansen Dam, Los Angeles during the season (KLG). A Bank Swallow at S.E.S.S. 25 May (GMcC) established the latest spring report for the Salton Sink. California’s 4th Cave Swallow was a first-summer bird near Niland 2–11 May (GMcC); all accepted reports have come from Imperial. Mountain Chickadees are expanding their breeding range locally into the lowlands in planted conifers; a nest with young was in a bluebird box at Alhambra, Los Angeles 9 May (DPu), a pair was feeding fledged young at Debs Park near downtown Los Angeles 30 May (RB), and one at Oceanside until 31 May (SB) suggested possible breeding in coastal San Diego (chickadees have bred just inland from here near Vista). A male California Gnatcatcher at Hansen Dam, Los Angeles 29 Mar–19 Apr (KLG) was the first to be found at that well-worked site. Late transient Varied Thrushes were at Galileo Hill Park 19-22 May (SGr) and California City, Kern 26 May (SGI). Bendire’s Thrasher is a species of conservation concern in California; of note were singles at Kelso Valley, Kern 11 May (MLS) and nearby Butterbird Spring 25 May (SGI).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES
A dull female Golden-winged Warbler was at Butterbird Spring 31 May (KP); this species is less than annual in the Region during spring. An Orange-crowned Warbler at S.E.S.S. 25 May (GMcC) was the latest ever during spring for the Salton Sink. A Virginia’s Warbler at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 9 May–9 Apr (KGL) was probably the same bird that was seen there during Mar 2006 and Mar 2007 and undoubtedly wintered in the area. Lucy’s Warbler at Bishop, Inyo 4 May (C&RH) was n. of known breeding areas. Only 6 Northern Parulas were reported, singles at Bishop 4 May (R&NO), Ojai, Ventura 10–19 May (AMcC, RMcM, JMcM), Wilmington, Los Angeles 11 May (MsAM), Pt. Loma, San Diego 11 May (JMa), Torrance, Los Angeles 27 May (DLM), and Butterbird Spring 31 May (RT). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at San Diego Zoo 30 May (TRS). A Magnolia Warbler was at Shoshone, Inyo 24 May (MBR), Audubon’s Warblers straggled later than usual in the lowlands, including the Salton Sink’s latest ever at S.E.S.S. 25 May (GMcC). Late-departing Townsend’s Warblers were noted as well, including 3 at Vandenberg A.T.F., nw. Santa Barbara 28–30 May (MAH, DSM) and one in e. Orange 7 Jun (NAG). A male Black-throated Green Warbler near El Centro 19–20 Apr (PEL, GMcC) was the first for Imperial; the date, a month earlier than spring vagrants would be expected, suggests that the bird may have wintered somewhere in the general area. A Yellow-throated Warbler, annual during spring, was at Galileo Hill Park 25 May (JM). Migrant Palm Warblers were at Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles 27 Apr (RSh) and Galileo
Hill Park 15 May (AEK); one at Finney L., S.E.S.S. 23 Mar (SL) had probably wintered locally. The only Blackpoll Warbler was at Amargosa Canyon, Inyo 23-25 May (SF).

Five coastal Black-and-white Warblers 20 Apr–24 May were augmented by 8 in the deserts 22 Apr–30 May; one discovered at Long Beach 10 Mar (FK) had undoubtedly wintered locally. The only American Redstarts reported were 4 in e. Kern during May, one male at Pt. Loma 18-19 May (JR), and a female there 28 May (RG). Single Ovenbirds were at El Centro 6 May (TAB, DRW) and Galileo Hill Park 26 (TEW, LLA) & 31 May (AEK). The only Northern Waterthrushes were found at Harbor R.P. near San Pedro 11 May (MBR) and at Deep Springs College, Inyo 23 May (MBR).

Six Hooded Warblers, about average for spring, were in the deserts 5-31 May. Casual during spring, a Canada Warbler was at California City 25 May–1 Jun (AH). A Painted Redstart at Forest Falls, San Bernardino 30 Mar (DS) had surely wintered locally; one at Agua Dulce Cr. in the Laguna Mts., San Diego 18 May (JN) was at a known breeding locality.

Some 18 Summer Tanagers were found during the season along the coastal slope away from breeding sites. A singing Cassin’s Sparrow was well documented at Carrizo Plain 10-19 May (SDF); another was skylarking at Fremont Canyon sc. of Anaheim Hills, Orange 10 May (LF). A migrant Clay-colored Sparrow was near Seeley, Imperial 10 Apr (GMcC). A Vesper Sparrow at El Monte, Los Angeles 11 May (JLF) was late for the coastal slope. Single Lark Buntings were at Chemehuevi Wash, e. San Bernardino 9 Apr (SF) and San Jacinto W.A., Lakeview, Riverside 1 May (DG). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Chemehuevi Wash 9 May (SF) was in an area where previously unreported. A Swamp Sparrow near Westmorland, S.E.S.S. 24 Apr was a spring migrant (EE). A Harris’s Sparrow at Long Beach 27 Mar (JSB, KSG) had not been seen there during the winter. A Pink-sided Junco at Valyermo, Los Angeles 25 Apr (JSF) was late for that rare subspecies. A female Northern Cardinal at Chemehuevi Wash 26 Apr (CMcC) was one of the few to be found naturally in the state in recent years. Nine migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were on the coastal slope 6-28 May, with 3 more in the n. deserts 17 May–1 Jun. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Los Osos, San Luis Obispo 7 Mar (GPS) was very early for a transient; it may have wintered locally. Eleven Indigo Buntings found 23 Apr+ were mostly along the coastal slope. A Dickcissel, very rare during spring, was at Borrego Springs, e. San Diego 23-24 May (PJ).

Results of a statewide survey of Tricolored Blackbirds during late Apr will be reported elsewhere, but significant for our Region were a colony of 4000 along Davis Rd. s. of Hwy. 46 in ne. San Luis Obispo (APS) and 250 pairs in the desert at Newberry Springs, San Bernardino (BDe). North of its regular range, a Bronzed Cowbird was at Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino 17 May (EAC). Baltimore Orioles were at Oceanside 26 Apr (SB), in e. Orange 6 May (NAG), at Niland 25 May (GMcC), and at Galileo Hill Park 25 May (TEW, LLA). Bobolinks included a very early bird at Independence, Inyo 11 May (LK), 2 at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., Inyo 23 May (SGr), and one at Baker, San Bernardino 24 May (SGr). A Purple Finch at Inyo, Kern 2 May (BBA) was in an area where casual. Red Crossbills bred again in planted pines at Apollo Park, Lancaster, Los Angeles, with nest-building observed 8 Mar and 4 Apr (MSanM, JF). A singing Pine Siskin at Morro Bay S.P. 18 May (JSR) was in an area where breeding has not been documented but was suspected during the early 1990s. An Evening Grosbeak was at Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo 12 May (PP), in the e. San Bernardino Mts. were flocks of 6 at Erwin L. to 25 Apr (SR) and 15 at Arastre Cr. 13-19 Apr (ET).

Corrigendum: The Brant at Owens L. was there 21 May (Dave Shuford), not 18 Mar (SL) as previously published (North American Birds 61: 910).


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The season began strong, with the sighting of two Marbled Murrelets in the northwest, but was mostly quiet thereafter, especially among landbirds. Reports were well spaced geographically, with an emphasis on the Cape District and the northwest. Rainfall totals in the California District improved over this past year but remained below average.

Abbreviation: Estero San José (Estero San José, San José del Cabo).

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

Two male Wood Ducks were seen again at Mexicali Zoo 13 May (ph. RAE). Mallards made a good showing in the Cape District, with 2 males at Estero San José 14-16 Mar and a pair at El Centenario 19 Mar (both SGM). Mlodinow also obtained record-high counts of several waterfowl species in the Cape District: 1800 Northern Shovelers in the Chameleta area 19 Mar, 750 Green-winged Teal there 16 Jan, and 250 Lesser Scaup at El Centenario 19 Mar. Spring migration of Pacific Loons typically extends into Jun, so 35 near Is. Todos Santos 31 May (AM) fit the pattern. Northern Fulmars were reported all along the Pacific coast during May, with a maximum of 131 between I. Cedros and Pta. Baja 5 Mar (GG, WTH et al.). Three fulmars near the U.S. border at Nine Mile Bank 10 May (JSE) were the latest seen. Regional reports of Flesh-footed Shearwaters date back at least to 1970, but the species was considered hypothetical by S.N.G. Howell et al. (Monographs in Field Ornithology 3: 189-190) because of a lack of documented reports. K. Radamaker and G. McCaskie (Western Birds 37: 51-52) rectified that and discussed additional reports. Mlodinow documented one Flesh-footed at Pta. Arena 14 Jul 2006. The latest report involved one seen from a cruise ship 20 km w. of Cabo San Lucas 4 Apr (HLD). Up to 3 Short-tailed Shearwaters were in the far n., near Is. Los Coronados 15-25 Mar (MJB, WTH et al.). At the other end of the Region, 2 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels were off Cabo San Lucas 31 Mar (LDS). For the 2nd consecutive year, a Red-billed Tropicbird was reported off the far nw. coast during Mar, this time midway between Ensenada and Pta. Colonet 29 Mar (ph. BM).

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<th>Table 1. Additions to the birds of Gulf Islands, Spring 2008.</th>
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<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Egret</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Night-Heron</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilded Flicker*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</td>
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<td>Canyon Wren</td>
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*Reported by Carmona et al. 2005 (Patterns of occurrence and abundance of land birds on Espíritu Santo Island, Gulf of California, México, Southwestern Naturalist 50: 440-447)

The incipient Brown Booby colony at Is. Los Coronados is already exhibiting the year-round breeding pattern shown at many tropical colonies (WTH, DWP, ph. MS et al.). Following a gap in observations after a female was seen on a nest on 3 Aug 2007, 27 birds 4 Dec included 2 downy young, one of these ad-sized. Downy chicks were seen again in Jan, and a juv was present 9 Feb. Four pairs engaged in courtship behavior, and one ad. was on a nest 25 Mar. By 10 May, 2 downy chicks were present, and these were well grown by 11 Jun. In Baja California Sur, Bald Eagles are rarely seen away from Bahía Magdalena, so an imm. at Bahía San Ignacio 22 Apr (RV, LM) was noteworthy. We receive few reports of breeding raptors, so single active nests of Harris’s Hawks and Zone-tailed Hawks at Valle Montevideo, near Bahía de Los Ángeles 23 Feb (GF, MF) were exceptional. The zone-tailed nest was of particular interest, as we are aware of no other published breeding reports of the Sierra San Pedro Mártir. Red-shouldered Hawk is the latest species to be reported the full length of the peninsula, thanks to an ad. at Estero San José 17 Mar (SGM); the species was first found as far s. as the Magdalena Plain during Oct 2006.

Baird’s Sandpiper was found for the 3rd consecutive spring: one was at E.S.J. 28 Mar (PM). Three Red-necked Phalaropes were off Cabo San Lucas as early as 3 Mar, and one was off sw. Baja California 5 Mar (GG, WTH et al.). In contrast, 64 Red Phalaropes were off Baja California Sur 3-4 Mar, and 48 were off sw. Baja California 5 Mar (GG, WTH et al.). Two Franklin’s Gulls were found in the far south: Lagunas de Chametla 4 Mar (ph. RHo) and E.S.J. 28 Mar (PM). A first-cycle Glaucous Gull at Lugarina El Ciprés 18 Mar (EDZ-H) was at a well-established gull looting area s. of Ensenada. Seven Sabine’s Gulls were viewed from a cruise ship off nw. Baja California Sur 30 Mar (LDS). The only notable terns were Gull-billed in nw. Baja California: 2 at Lugarina El Ciprés 4 May and one at Lugarina Figueroa 5 May (both RAE). Two Marbled Murrelets in the far nw., at Puerto Nuevo 1 Mar (RSM, YAA), were a real treat, as the only previous Mexican report involved 2 at Ensenada 9-11 Jan 1994 (Western Birds 26: 39-45). Two Xantus’s Murrelets s. of Pta. Eugenia 30 Mar (LDS) were the first ever reported to us (i.e., since autumn 2000) from the waters off Baja California Sur.

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Contrasting with the situation in much of s. California, Spotted Doves persist in nw. Baja California. At their two primary locations, one

dang regularly at Valle del Rubí. Tijuana this season (MJB), with another at Rosarito 4 May (RAE). The male Downy Woodpecker present near Tecate since Mar 2007 was joined by another bird 8 Apr, and at least one remained through the season (JS)—breeding has not

This Brown Booby pair with chick was nicely photographed at Isla Los Coronados, Baja California 10 May 2008. Photograph by Matt Sadowinski.
been confirmed in Mexico. Willow Flycatchers were seen only in the ne. portion of the region: s. of Laguna Salada 8 May (REW) and at Mexicali 13 May (ph. RAE). An ad. male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Estero San José 1 Apr (ph. AJ) was presumably the same bird seen there Jan–Mar 2007. There is only one confirmed breeding record of Northern Rough-winged Swallows in Baja California Sur (at Cabo San Lucas, Apr 2003), but observations of breeding behavior continue to accumulate. This season, 2 birds at Todos Santos 21 Mar appeared to be paired (SGM); a similar behavior was observed at the same spot during May 2006. A Hermit Thrush in the Colorado Desert a few km s. of


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Héctor Gómez de Silva

NORTHERN MEXICO

WATERFOWL THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Breeding of numerous Wood Ducks was suggested in n. Chihuahua, with 15 at Rio Casas Grandes 23 May and as many as 9 at Rio Piedras Verdes near Colonia Juárez 23-24 May (BH, SD). Lingering waterfowl at Laguna Fierro, Chihuahua were 2 Gadwalls and one American Wigeon 22 May (BH, SD). Two Mississippi Kites, including one that disappeared into a dense cottonwood as if attending a nest, were at Rio Casas Grandes 23 May (BH, SD). A female Northern Harrier was seen se. of Buenos Aires, Chihuahua 21 May (BH, SD); harriers occasionally breed in n. Chihuahua (Manzano, EP, R. List, and G. Ceballos. 1999. Grassland birds in prairie-dog towns in northwestern Chihuahua, Mexico. Studies in Avian Biology 19: 263-271). A female Northern Harrier lingered at Cañón de Fernández S.P. on the Nazas R., Durango, recently named a Ramsar wetland, until 9 Apr (WB, RLL, FVP). Two ad. Gray Hawks were seen and heard at La Isla, downstream from Canión de Fernández S.P. 4 May (RLL, FVP).

A Spotted Sandpiper at La Isla 4 May (RLL, FVP) was late. Sandpipers found along the beach at La Pesca, Tamaulipas were 25 Uplands, 25 Baird’s, 8 White-rumped, and one Buff-breasted 28 Apr (MR); 25 Red Knots and at least 5000 Wilson’s Phalaropes were there 29 Apr (MR). A Willet at Laguna Fierro 22 May (BH, SD) appears to furnish the first report for Chihuahua. One or 2 Ruddy Ground-Doves were at Rio Casas Grandes 23 May (BH, SD). There were 20 Eurasian Collared-Doves

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at La Pesca 28 Apr (MR), and another at Isla San Esteban, Sonora 15 Apr (LC). A Mottled Owl, a Whip-poor-will, and 2 Gray-crowned Woodpeckers were at km 273 along Hwy 16 on 26 May (KR).

**PASSERINES**

Two Alder Flycatchers were on the w. side of La Pesca 28 Apr, and a Willow Flycatcher was there the next day (MR). Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatchers were found in surprisingly high numbers in lowland riparian woodlands along Rio Casas Grandes and Rio Piedras Verdes in n. Chihuahua during late May, including one on the Rio Piedras Verdes 23 May that made the diagnostic call of Pacific-slope Flycatcher (BH, SD). Although Howell and Webb (1995. *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America*, Oxford University Press, Oxford) map this species as being only on the Pacific side of the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexico, substantial numbers migrate up the e. flank of that range (BH). A late eastern Phoebe was at La Pesca, Tamaulipas 28 Apr (MR). Two ad. Green Jays were at Cañón de Fernández S.P. 9 Apr (RL1, WB, FVP), the first spring report outside of their expected range; all six previous sightings in the area have occurred Aug-Dec. Four Philadelphia Vireos and one Black-whiskered Vireo were at the w. side of La Pesca 28-29 Apr (MR). A male Black-capped Vireo was at Cañón del Novillo near Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas 12 Apr (DM). A White-bellied Wren was on the w. side of La Pesca 28 Apr (MR).

Five Northern Rough-winged Swallows were at Rio Casas Grandes 23 May, with another at Rio Piedras Verdes 24 May (BH, SD). Found along Hwy 16 on 26 May were a female Aztec Thrush at km 275 and a Gray Silky-Flycatcher at km 172 near Yécora, Sonora (KR). A Magnolia Warbler and a Blackburnian Warbler were among migrants at La Pesca 29 Apr (MR). A female Black-and-white Warbler was at Rio Piedras Verdes near Col. Juarez 23 May (SD, BH). A Connecticut Warbler on the w. side of La Pesca 28 Apr (MR) was a surprise. Four Fan-tailed Warblers were seen at km 196 along Hwy 16 on 26 May (KR). A female Red-legged Honey-creeper was found at Alta Cima, Tamaulipas 1 Mar (vi. YH, JD, DM, DT). Tanagers found this season included a Scarlet Tanager at La Pesca 29 Apr (MR) and a male Western at La Isla 4 May (RL1, FVP). Chipping Sparrows and Clay-colored Sparrows were seen and heard singing at the campus of Instituto Tecnologico de La Laguna, Torreon, Coahuila on the late date of 27 Apr (RL1, FVP). Two Yellow-faced Grassquits were on the w. side of La Pesca 29 Apr (MR). An ad. male Indigo Bunting and an ad. male Red Crossbill were in lowlands at La Presa, Chihuahua 21 May (SD, BH).


**CENTRAL MEXICO**

Amy McAndrews reports that central Veracruz was abnormally dry, with temperatures well above normal (above 30°C on many days). A Brown Pelican was at Almoloya del Rio, Mexico 18 Apr (MC). Fifty-six American White Pelicans were near La Guadalupe, Veracruz 16 May (AM, JM). There were 47 Mississippi Kites just s. of Papantla, Veracruz 16 May (AM, JM). A Barred Forest-Falcon was seen in cloud forest in the Pinal de Amoles area of Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Quintana Roo 3 Feb (RP). A Eurasian Collared-pair of Giant Cowbirds near Papanlua 14 May (ph. AM, JM) was well n. of the species' known range.


**SOUTHERN MEXICO**

Dove was near Nautla, Veracruz 16 May (AM, JM). Three Short-crested Coquettes were at different locations above Paraíso 12 Apr (MC). A Wedge-tailed Sabrewing that fed on Inga flowers sw. of Papanlua 15 May was out of its known range. A female Green-breasted Mango at Parque El Haya near Xalapa, Veracruz 10 & 17 May was found at an atypically high elevation, whereas a Blue-throated Hummingbird at Parque El Haya 1 Mar was below its typical elevation.

As many as 5 Say's Phoebes at Miradores Lagoon, Veracruz 11-13 Mar were well out of their known range. A Slaty Vireo was above Filo de Caballo 15 Apr (MC). Flocks of 7 European Starlings were at Almoloya del Rio 19 Apr (MC) and Perote Peneman station, Veracruz 9 Mar. A Glauc's Warbler was seen at 20 de Noviembre 9 Mar. A Western Palm Warbler was discovered at Miradores Lagoon 11 Mar (ph. AM, JM). Two Lazuli Bunting were seen at 2520 m above Filo de Caballo 14 Apr (MC). Birds at Miradores Lagoon out of their known ranges were as many as 5 Vesper Sparrows and up to 10 Lark Sparrows 11-13 Mar, plus 4 House Finches 13 Mar. A

**WATERFOWL THROUGH WOODCREEPERS**

At least 2000 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and a Least Grebe were at Laguna de Tuspan near Iguala, Guerrero 17 Apr (MC). A Muscovy Duck was near Jaltenau, Chiapas 17 Mar (HGDs, BB). A Great Curassow was heard between Limonar and Paval, Chiapas 23 Mar (HGds, BB), and a female Highland Guan was along the entrance to El Ocot Biosphere Reserve off the new freeway between Tuxla Gutierrez, Chiapas and Mexico City 3 Mar (BS, MC). Shearwaters observed 27 km e. of...
Acapulco Harbor, Guerrero during mid-Apr included 20 Pink-footeds, 30 Wedge-taileds (including a dark morph), a Townsend's, 3 Black-vented, and 8 Audubon's, along with 20 Black and 15 Least Storm-Petrels (MC). An imm. Blue-footed Booby was s. of Huatulco, Oaxaca 29 Feb (MC).

Two King Vultures were above Paraíso at Sierra de Atoyac, Guerrero 11 Apr (MC), while 2 nds. were soaring over Palenque ruins 21 May (MAP). A White-tailed Kite was at Corozal marsh, Guerrero 14 Apr (MC). A Great Black-Hawk was in the basin at El Triunfo, Chiapas 6 Mar (MC). Single Peregrine Falcons at La Ventosa, Oaxaca 1 & 5 May, and at Santa María Xadani, Oaxaca 7 May were rather late migrants. A Limpkin was at Hotel Chan Kah, Palenque 22 May, while 2 were heard there 23 May (MAP, BSP, CLP). A Uniform Crane was heard near Palenque ruins 25 May (MAP, BSP, CLP). Single Collared Plovers were at Pesquería Parador, Chiapas 12 Mar and at Presa Tepecucuaculco near Igualá 16 Mar (both MC). A Hudsonian Godwit and a Dunlin were at Santa María Xadani 7 May (ph. AM, JM); the latter furnished the 3rd report for Oaxaca. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was along the coast at Atoyac, Guerrero 12 Apr (MC). Single Sandwich Terns were at Boca del Cielo, Chiapas 11 Mar, Pesquería Parador, Chiapas 12 Mar, and along the coast at Atoyac, Guerrero 12 Apr, with 2 at Corozal 14 Apr (all MC). A Least Tern was also found at Boca del Cielo, Chiapas 11 Mar (MC).

A Plain-breasted Ground-Dove nest was found at Boca del Cielo, Chiapas 11 Mar (MC). An Inca Dove was at the clearing at El Triunfo 17-21 Mar (HGdS, BB). Single Seaside Pigeons were heard at Palenque ruins 21 & 22 May (MAP). A Black-billed and 5 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Palenque 21 May (MAP, BSP, CLP). An Unspotted Saw-wet Owl was seen at Dos Lagunas 2-3 Mar (MC). Two Buff-collared Nightjars were singing at San Augustín Elna near Oaxaca, Oaxaca 25 Apr (MG), while 2 Spot-tailed Nightjars were heard along the road to Ojo de Agua, 1 km s. of La Libertad, Chiapas 23 May (MAP, BSP, CLP). Six Great Swallow-tailed Swifts were seen at Sumidero Canyon N.P. 1 Mar (K&JS, MC), and 4 others fed over La Laguna, below Filo de Caballo, Guerrero 15 Apr (MC). A Chestnut-collared Swift was foraging over Jaltenango 17 Mar (HGdS, BB).

Single Scaly-breasted Hummingbirds were seen in Chiapas outside their normal Yaxchilán range at nearby Bonampak ruins 28 Mar, Lacanjá cabins 30 Mar, and La Cascada waterfalls 30 Mar (AM, JM). A pair of Black-crested Coquettes was near the clearing at El Triunfo 17 Mar (CM, HGdS). A Blue-throated Goldentail was at Cañada Honda, Chiapas 22 Mar (HGdS, BB). A Long-billed Starthroat was at Palenque 25 May (MAP, BSP, CLP).

A male Resplendent Quetzal was seen on the road to Cinco Lagos, Lagunas de Montebello N.P. 26 Mar (AM, ph. JM); the species had not been reliably reported there in perhaps 20 years. An ad. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Limonar, El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, Chiapas 10 Mar (MC). Dupes of Tawny-winged Woodcreepers were at Bonampak, Chiapas 24 May and Palenque 25 May (MAP, BSP, CLP).

PASSERINES

Flycatchers at Palenque included 4 Northern Royal-Flycatchers 21 May and a pair of Slate-headed Tody-Flycatchers and a singing Sepia-capped Flycatcher 22 May (all MAP, BSP, CLP). Single Ochrine-bellied Flycatchers were seen at Jaltenango 21 Feb and 5 Mar and at Paval 27 Feb (MC). A White-throated Flycatcher was at Bonampak 24 May (MAP, BSP, CLP). Single Flammmulated Flycatchers were in disturbed habitats near Huatulco 29 Feb and Boca del Cielo 12 Mar (MC). Piratic Flycatchers returned to Paval by 10 Mar (MC). Extralimital Fork-tailed Flycatchers were 3 birds 13 km sw. of Frontera Corozal, Chiapas 28 Mar and 4 at La Tigrilla jet. near Jaltenango, Chiapas 16 Mar (HGdS, BB). Early May was the Yellow-green Vireo at Paval 10 Mar (MC). Five Tawny-crowned Greenlets were at Bonampak 24 May (MAP, BSP, CLP). A singing Rufous-browed Peppershrike near La Ventosa 4 May was out of its known range (AM). Two Aztec Thrushes were seen at Arroyo Guacamaya, Oaxaca 26 Apr (MG, AM). A Northern Mockingbird at Santa María Xadani 23 Mar was out of its known range. A Brown Jay was at Tziscao, Chiapas 27 Mar.

More than 500 Bank Swallows were at Laguna Tres Palos, near Acapulco 9 Apr (MDC). More than 100 Cave Swallows migrated past Puerto Arista, Chiapas 28 Feb, and 10 were there 10 Mar (MC). A Wood Thrush was at Finca Prusia, Chiapas 5 Mar (MC, MC). A Nightingale Wren was heard 7 km e. of Tziscao, Chiapas 26 Mar (AM). An ad. male Myrtle Warbler was at Puerto Arista 28 Feb and 11 Mar (MC), while another Yellow-throated was at Puerto Arista 28 Feb (MC). A male Hooded Warbler was at Paval, Chiapas 27 Feb (MC). More than 10 Grasshopper Sparrows were in farm fields between Tuxtla Gutiérrez and Jaltenango, Chiapas 28 Feb and 4 Mar (MC). Two Red-breasted Chats were seen near Igualá 17 Apr (MC). A pair of Red-headed Tanagers was along Tejipac rd. above Taxco, Guerrero 18 Apr (MC). Six Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters...
were found together near Corozal 14 Apr (MC), while two pairs of Slate-blue Seedeaters were in bamboo patches near Iguala 17 Apr (MC). Two Dickcissels were in an overgrown pasture near Atoyac 13 Apr, and 200+ left the marsh at Corozal in flocks of 20-30 birds during early morning 14 Apr (MC).

At least 2 Cinnamon-tailed Sparrows were heard at different sites in the foothills between Tapantapé, Oaxaca and Tuxtlá Gutierrez, Chiapas 15 May (HGDs). A singing Botteri's Sparrow was along the road to Ojo de Agua 23 May (MAP, BSP, CLP). A Prevost's Ground-Sparrow was seen 7 km e. of Tziscao, Chiapas 26 Mar (AM). A singing Grayish Saltator was at San Augustin Morelos 25 Apr (MG). Three singles and a pair of Crimson-collared Tanagers were encountered 7 km e. of Tziscao 26-27 Mar. Well out of range were the pair of Blue-gray Tanagers at Manatépec, Oaxaca 24 Mar and one at La Ventosa 3 May (both AM). Two male Northern Cardinals in song near La Ventosa 5 May (AM) were slightly extralimitál. Two Bar-winged Orioles were found at Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chiapas 4 Mar (MC), and several were seen there 10-11 May (HGDs). A female Orchard Oriole was at the clearing at El Triunfo 17 Mar (HGDs).

Six female Ring-necked Ducks, uncommon winter residents, and 15 Lesser Scapulí were at Coba, Quintana Roo 13 Mar (DB). Three Red-breasted Mergansers, which have increased their presence in the Region in recent years, were at La Lagartos, Yucatán 4 Mar (DB). A Brown Booby, which breeds at Banco Chinchorro, was seen at Isla Bacalar, Quintana Roo 11 Mar (DB). At least 300 American White Pelicans were observed heading northward high over Celestún, Yucatán 6 Apr (AM). Two King Vultures were observed 20 km nw. of Felipe Carrillo Puerto near Señor 13 Mar (BM, WS). Several migrant Swallow-tailed Kites were reported in the Region, including 5 over Laguna Ocoyén, 8 km s. of Felipe Carrillo Puerto 12 Mar (BM, WS), 12 over Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yucatán 18 Mar (DB), and 7 over Viga Chico road near Felipe Carrillo Puerto 26 Mar (DB). A Crane Hawk was at Uxmal, Campeche 8 Mar (DB). A Collared Forest-Falcon was at the bat cave near the entrance to Calakmul, Campeche 9 Mar (DB). An active Barred Forest-Falcon nest built in one of the ruins at Becan, Campeche 16 Mar was abandoned when next visited 3 Apr (LT). Single Bat Falcons were seen at Chichén Itzá, Yucatán 7 Mar, at Uxmal 8 Mar, at Calakmul 9 Mar, and at Becan, Xpujil, and Chicamá 10 Mar (all DB). Two Peregrine Falcons were perched on the cathedral at Valladolid, Yucatán 3 Mar (DB). An elusive Clapper Rail was noted at Isla Contoy, Quintana Roo 16 Mar (DB). Four Whimbrels migrated past Tulum, Quintana Roo 27 Mar (DB).

Calling Pheasant Cuckoos were heard at Chumbech, Yucatán 5 Apr (one) and Kiuic, extreme s. Yucatán 10 May (several; BM). A Northern Potoo was seen on Cozumel Isl., Quintana Roo 28 Mar (DB). A Ringed Kingfisher at Coba 13 Mar was in an expected area


YUCATÁN PENINSULA

Abbreviations: Felipe Carrillo Puerto (Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo); Jardín Botánico (Jardín Botánico, Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo); San Antonio Chel (San Antonio Chel, Hunucmá, Yucatán).

Xolotlán, Yucatán, May 2005. Eight Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 2 females and 6 males, fed on gumbo limbo fruits at San Antonio Chel 13 Apr (BM, AM); this area may be used as a refueling stop for grosbeaks before they cross the Gulf of Mexico.
Ducks through herons

A male Cinnamon Teal, probably the same bird seen in late Feb, was at Lagunas Catfish Farm, Guanacaste 16 Mar (Kee, JH). This species is a casual winter visitor to Costa Rica. More impressive were female Green-winged Teal at Cenizas de Perez Zeledon, Valle del General, San José 1 Mar (JZ) and Lagunas Catfish Farm 16 Mar (JH), the 3rd and 4th reported in Costa Rica this year. Prior to this past winter, this species was last reported in Costa Rica in 2000. Single Marbled Wood-Quails reported along Pipeline Rd., Soberania N.P., Panama 19 Mar (JP) and 10 May (JS, ph. AB, CS) documented their continued presence in this area where they are rarely reported. In Honduras, 3 Singing Quails were heard simultaneously at 2010 m elevation at the confluence of the Rio Negro in Celaque N.P., Lempira 21 Apr, and another was heard nearby at 2450 m elevation. These appear to be the first reports for the park and the department. Single dead Leach's Storm-Petrels were found at Tortuguero beach, Limon 15 & 18 Mar (both DM), the first near the Caribbean Conservation Corporation and U.S. Forest Service Redwood Sciences Laboratory Tortuguero Banding Station, and the other near the Cinco Esquinas Park station. These carcasses provided the 3rd and 4th records from the Caribbean side of Costa Rica, all of emaciated or dead birds on the beach at Tortuguero; however, they were not identified to species.
8 Mar (LJ) provided another inland report for Belize. Although seldom reported from L. Petén Itza, Petén, Least Bittern has been reported there during summer and may breed at least occasionally. The latest report is of one bittern heard 3 Mar (MJ, CW). An Agami Heron was observed at Summit Ponds, Panama 11 Mar (ph. CB), with one ad. in Costa Rica during a mangrove boat tour of Rio Tarcoles. *Pantanal us* 20 Mar (PM, LC et al.). This species is rarely reported in Panama and is very rare on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica. The northernmost Pacific reports in the country are from Rio Tarcoles, where it had not been reported for several years.

**KITES THROUGH PLOVERS**

A pair of Gray-headed Kites observed in dry forest at Playa Icalal 13 May (vr. JF; ph. CF) provided the first El Salvador report in seven years and the first for La Unión. An impressive number of Swallow-tailed Kites was observed migrating past Sarteneja, *Corozal* 1 Mar: 30-60 around 0630 a.m. and 110 birds around 10:30 a.m. (NB et al.). These numbers may represent high counts for n. Belize, where the species does not breed. An isolated population of Pearled Kites has been present in w. Nicaragua around León for many years, established well prior to its spread from Colombia into Panama in the mid-1970s and Costa Rica in the mid-1990s. But single Pearled Kites near the coast at Cosiguina town and EL Rosario, both in Chinandega, 4 Apr (OK, ph. RB, ML, ZM) provided the first records n. and w. of León. These birds were at the end of the Cosiguina Pen. and within sight of both Honduras and El Salvador, where the species has yet to be reported.

Long overdue, Savanna Hawk was finally added to the Costa Rica list when an ad. was found 4 km s. of Zancudo in the Golfo Dulce lowlands, *Pantanal us* 15 Apr. Its imminent arrival in Costa Rica was predicted nearly two decades ago by Stiles and Skutch (1989). In s. Belize, a team of biologists searching for breeding evidence of Harpy Eagles in the Maya Mts. has several observations in the Bladen Branch Nature Reserve during 18 Apr–15 May, including a pair starting or rebuilding a nest 26-27 Apr (ph. WM). Seldom reported in n. Belize, an ad. Ornate Hawk-Eagle was observed at Balam Jungle, *Corozal* 2 Mar (NB et al.). Rare in Panama, a Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon seen along Pipeline Rd., Soberania N.P., *Panamá* 30 May (JS) was unexpected. On 25 Apr, a Crested Caracara nest with 2 young ready to fledge was found in a Culebra Palm (*Aitaca colute*) at Running W Farm, Cayo near the ferry crossing to Spanish Lookout (ph. RuB, PB), thus providing the first breeding record of this relatively recent arrival in Belize. The ad. and 2 jvs. were present through the season (m.o.b.). Orange-breasted Falcons are very rare in Panama, so one at Cerro Azul, *Panamá* 8 Apr (ph. AT, EC), the first reported from that locality since 1970, was noteworthy. Providing only the 2nd record for w. El Salvador and the first for *Abuachapán* was a Double-striped Thick-knee at Cantón La Hachadura 12 Apr (OK, RJ, ph. IV). Two Collared Plover nests, each with 2 eggs, were found in different parts of El Salvador, thus providing the first and 2nd nesting reports for the country: one along the shore of L. Guíja, *Santa Ana* 26 Apr (NH, LP, GG) and the other in the Bajón sector of Bahía de Jiquilisco, *Usulután* 17 May (ph. EM, RI).

**AVOCETS THROUGH JAEGERS**

An American Avocet at Punta Chame, *Panamá* 6-8 Mar (AR, GA, DSCN) provided the 4th Panama report. Rare as far s. as Costa Rica, a Dunlin in basic plumage at Chones, *Pantanal us* 15 Mar (ph. KEA, JH) likely was the same individual found there in Jan. A first-winter Bonaparte's Gull at Chones 27 Mar (SE) was the first reported from Costa Rica in many years, and a first-cycle Ring-billed Gull found there the same day (SE) was also unexpected. Despite just three previous reports for El Salvador, Brown Noddies were reported from four localities on three dates in

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Photograph by Walter Velezquez.

SA Rails were the big news at Panama's Tocumen Marsh this season. One ad. Spotted Rail and one chick were found 7 Mar (GA, CHB, ph. JP), and 4 ads., 3 jvs., and one chick were found 8 Mar (ph. RA, KK, B&CA) to furnish the first reports in Panama since 1984. The same group saw 2 Paint-billed Crakes 8 Mar (ph. RM), the first reported from Panama since 1988 and the first from this area since 1982, along with an impressive 15 Soras (ph. RM), a high number for Panama. On 9 Mar, 10 Spotted Rails, including several jvs, and a downy chick (ph. GA, RM, CB, JT) and 5 Paint-billed Crakes were found (ph. GA, RM, CB, ph. JT), plus several hundred Soras estimated. In addition, a Yellow-breasted Crane (D&CM) and 4 Grey-breasted Crakes (GA, CB) were found 9 Mar; both species are rarely reported in Panama. One of the Paint-billed Crakes was killed, then dropped, by a Great Egret to become Panama's 3rd specimen (GA). Twelve Spotted were found 28 Mar (DK, BA, B&CA, JR). A Yellow-breasted Crane was still present 6 Apr (GA, KX), the date the marsh was last visited. See the Photo Salon, page ??.
SA While exploring the edge of the Continental Shelf off Pacific Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Mactavish reported 6 ad. Swallow-tailed Gulls, singles 22 Mar and 5, 8, 14, & 15 Apr, and 2 on 26 Mar. Five were in alternate plumage and one apparent ad. was in basic plumage, all were lone individuals, the closest to the mainland being 75 km offshore. Four birds followed the boat at night for prolonged periods, chasing flying fish and dropping on the water to seize prey, while the other 3 were seen during daylight hours. At least 2 birds were in Nicaraguan waters 5 & 8 Apr, providing the first reports for that country. All gulls but one were photographed.

respected first reports for the country. Among many Parasitic and Pomarina Jaegers near the edge of the Pacific Continental Shelf off Costa Rica this season was an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger about 120 km s. of Cabo Blanco 28 Mar (BM). The only other recent report from Costa Rica was on a Cocos Is. trip in Apr 2003.

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS
An Inca Dove closely studied at Mayflower–Bocawina N.P., Stann Creek 9 May (ET et al.) provided only the 2nd report for Belize, the first was at Punta Gorda nearly 12 years ago. In El Salvador, five pairs of Plumbeased Ground-Doves were found at Canton La Hachadura 12 Apr (OK, RJ, IV), providing the first report for Ahaucapan. Very rarely reported in Panama, a male and female Maroon-chested Ground-Dove were at Finca Lerida, above Boquete, Chiriqui 17 Mar (EC). Also noteworthy in Panama was a Gray-heading Dove at the Smithsonian Field Station, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro 25 May (RM, KK). Just days after Guatemala’s first report of Caribbean Dove (reported in the winter 2007-

2008 report), 2 were heard (one of which was seen) at El Tintal archaeological site, Petén, about 26 km s. of the Mexican border 2-3 Mar (CW, MJ, v.r. TS, v.r. EIE, v.r. GB). Rare anywhere in the Canal Area were 2 Brown-throated Parakeets at Summit Ponds 11 Mar (CB). Four Scarlet Macaws at Cosiguiña Volcano 5 Apr (ph. RB, OK, ML, ZM) represented remnants of the sole remaining population in Pacific Nicaragua. This species is in decline throughout much of the Region. A Blue-fronted Parrotlet was observed at Altos del Mabri 21 Mar (ph TS, ph. JR) provided the first photographic record in Panama from w. of the Canal Area. It was first reported in this area on 24 Apr 2007 by Schultenberg. The breeding and seasonal status of Mangrove Cuckoo remains poorly documented in the Region; one at Sherman, Colón 4 Mar (ph. JP) was a rare migrant in Panama. In Nicaragua, singles were at Bonanza, Región Autónoma Atlántico Norte 3 Mar (JMo), at Laguna de Apyo, Masaya 4-5 Apr (JM, PS, LL, EN, AC), and at Cosiguiña Volcano 5 Apr (OK, ph. RB, ML); one in El Salvador was discovered in dry coastal scrub at Icatal 10 May (JF). A Pheasant Cuckoo heard at 2300 m at Chelumhi Reserve, Ali Verapaz 7 Mar (KE) was at an unusually high elevation in n. Central America.

A Common Nighthawk heard calling in the evening at Cosiguiña Volcano 4 Apr (OK) was an early migrant. Two Whip-poor-wills, one of which was captured, at Laguna de Apyo 16 May (ph. JM, PS, SG) provided a late date for the migratory population in the Region. In the Cañarranas Valley at San Juan de Flores, Guatemala, 4 Striped Cuckoos 10 Mar (JF et al.) were a surprise locally. Five Black Swifts over dry forest patches at Playa Icatal 12 May, and 15 there 13 May (JF, ph. CF), provided two of the few documented records for El Salvador. During spring 2007, there were two reports of a swift roughly fitting the description of Chestnut-collared Swift observed exiting a small crevice adjacent to Tiger Fern Falls at Cockscam Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, Stann Creek (JG). This season, a Chestnut-collared Swift was seen circling over the ridge line above the falls 6 Mar (LJ, ECH). An unidentified swift quickly exited a crevice beside the falls 15 Apr, but the observation was brief (JB). In late Apr, LJ received a report confirming that Chestnut-collared Swifts had nested at the falls during spring 2007 (MM), but no dates were given. Prior to 2007, there were only two reports for Belize, both in Mar, one from Cockscam Basin.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WRENS
Two rare hummingbirds in Panama, a White-crested Coquette and a Brown Violetear, were at Cuesta de Piedra 17 km s. of Barú Volcano, Chiriqui 18 Mar and 1 Apr, respectively (both EC). Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, another long-awaited species in Costa Rica, was closely observed by a tour group at the Tisquita Lodge airstrip, Burica Pen. Pantarrenos 2 Apr (EB et al.). Exceptionally late was a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird at San Pedro La Laguna, Sololá 14 May (ph. CaN). Little is known of the seasonal occurrence of the rarely reported Glow-throated Hummingbird in Panama, so an ad. male, an imm. male, and 2 females near Cerro Santiago along the

Gray-headed Kite had not been reported in El Salvador in seven years, so this individual found in dry forest at Playa Icatal and photographed on 13 May 2008, accompanied by its presumed mate, provided a pleasant surprise. Photograph by Jesse Fagan.

Little is known of the history and distribution of Pearl Kite in Nicaragua. This individual was one of two birds found at separate sites on the Cosiguiña Peninsula 4 April 2008—within sight of Honduras and El Salvador, where the species has yet to be recorded. Photograph by Robin Bjork.

Orange-breasted Falcon is rare over most of its range, including in Panama. This juvenile, photographed 8 April 2008, was the first one reported from Cerro Azul since 1970. Photograph by Ariel Tenorio.
Continental Divide Rd. 12 km past Hato Chami, Veraguas 4 Apr (BA, DK) were of interest. A Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, rare in Panama, was seen along the Pipeline Rd., Soberanía N.P., Colon 29 May (CB).

Providing the 7th report for Panama and the first since 1963 was a Least Flycatcher at Metropolitan Park, Panama 5 Mar (ar. ChB, ph. GAr, JP). A Black Phoebe at Irish Creek near Hill Bank, Belize 12 Mar (LT, RQ) provided one of the few reports for Orange Walk. A Bright-rumped Attila at Cosiguina Volcano 5 Apr (OK) was at a new locality in Nicaragua. A Masked Tyrant 70 km at sea off sw. Nicaragua 4 Apr (ph. BM) was a surprise, as this species is not known to migrate. It appeared shortly after dawn on a day with offshore winds and remained onboard the vessel all day. The first White-eyed Vireo in El Salvador was furnished when one was mist-netted at El Imposible N.P., Ahuachapán 4 Mar (ph. LA, MW, LS, RV). A closely-studied male Sinaloa Martin, presumably a migrant, at El Tucón Uno, sw. Petén 8 May (KE) provided one of few reports away from its breeding grounds in Mexico. It is still not clear where this species winters; a specimen from Petén during Mar represents the only other report in Central America.

Although previously reported from Guatemala, 55 Cave Swallows near Antigua, Sacatepéquez 4 Mar (ph. MJL, CW), one at Finca Patrocínio, Quetzaltenango 6 Mar (AJ), and 20 at Escuintla, Escuintla 10 Mar (AJ) furnished the first spring reports. This species winters in adjacent coastal El Salvador by the thousands (single high count is 5000 birds at a roost) and has been seen wandering upslope in Feb/Mar. Cave Swallows collected in El Salvador have been confirmed as the subspecies that nests in the sw. United States. Honduras' first report of White-breasted Wren was of 2 vocalizing just downslope from the top of 1007-m Cerro Guanacare, Choluteca 13 Mar (RG) during a survey funded by the European Union and Honduras' forestry conservation department. Surveys using playback found additional wrens at 600, 800, and 900 m elevation within the same type of habitat 16 Mar (RG, IG). This subspecies of Carolina Wren has been reported not far from Choluteca on the Nicaraguan side and was predicted to occur in Honduras (Bonita and Anderson, 2003, Binding Honduras). A Plain Wren heard singing in patchy forest at Dolores Village in extreme sw. Belize 11 Mar (LJ) provided only the 2nd report for Belize away from the Mountain Pine Ridge and the first for Toledo.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH EUPHONIAS

In Panama, 2 rare Slate-throated Gnatcatchers were observed not far beyond Nusagandi on the road to Carri, Comarca de Kuna Yala 18 Mar (BA, B&CA, JJeCJ). In n. Belize, it is becoming more and more apparent that Black-Capped Gnatcatchers fluctuate seasonally on the mainland. At an established banding station near Saratenoja, Corozal, where 37 presumed residents were banded during Sep-Nov 2007, an impressive 21 unbanded individuals were captured during the last two weeks of Mar, with 20 more banded during Apr, and 7 during the first two weeks of May (NB, CG). One can only speculate as to where these birds came from. Were they local birds following seasonally shifting food supplies? Did they cross the Chetumal Bay from the Ambergris Pen., where the species is common? Or did they come from farther north in Mexico? And is this an annual phenomenon? Perhaps these and other regional banding efforts will, in time, provide some answers.

An Orange-crowned Warbler was well seen but not photographed at Zambrano 10 Mar, apparently first for Honduras (ESB). After a poor winter in the region, a Myrtle Warbler at Solmar—just c. of Palo Verde near the mouth of Rio Bebedero, Guanacaste—1 Mar (RC) was the only one reported from Costa Rica. A female Golden-checked Warbler at Biotopo del Quetzal, Baja Verapaz 9 Mar (ph. KE, CA) provided a rare spring report for Guatemala, and a male at Rincon Grande, about 10 km sw. of Salama, Baja Verapaz 27 Apr (RS, CM) was exceptionally late. A male Prairie Warbler observed in the Guatemalan highlands at Cerro Tecpián, Chimaltenango 8 Apr (FG, LAa) was an exceptional find, as this species is rarely anywhere on the mainland, especially away from the Caribbean coast. A female Blackpoll Warbler, a very rare winter visitor and migrant in Costa Rica, was observed at Chilamate de Sarapiqui, Heredia, about 16 km nw. of La Selva, on the late date of 3 May (JZ). A warbler inhabiting the mangrove forest at Punta Izopo Wildlife Refuge along the Rio Platano in Honduras 14 Mar looked superficially like a Prothonotary but showed faint rufous breast streaking and a partial rufous cap, very much like the local subspecies of Mangrove Yellow Warbler (JF, ESB et al., ph.); such a combination has never been reported and indeed would seem improbable. A Fan-tailed Warbler at San Juan de Flores, Honduras 10 Mar (JF et al.) added to the small but growing number of reports from that country. Rarely reported in Nicaragua, a White-throated Shrike-Tanager at Mikuwas, Región Autónoma Atlántico Norte 10 Apr (JoM) provided the first documented report for Bosawas.

Swallow-tailed Gull was added to the Nicaragua list when individuals were observed following a research vessel at the edge of the Pacific Continental Shelf on the evenings of 2-6 April and 8-9 April 2008. This individual was photographed on the evening of 8 April approximately 150 kilometers off the coast of southern Nicaragua. Photograph by Bruce Macintosh.

Biosphere Reserve. A male Scarlet Tanager at Olanchito 25 Mar (RG) provided the earliest spring report for Honduras. At least 30 male Slate-colored Seedeaters, an unusually high number, were found at Altos del Marla 21 Mar (ph. TS, ph. JR), providing the first report from n. Pánamá province. Rare in El Salvador, especially during spring, a second-year Blue Seedeater was mist-netted at El Imposible N.P. 2 Apr (ph. LA, LS, RV). Five Grassland Yellow-Finches found at Rincon Grande, about 9 km sw. of Salama 26 Apr (RS, CM) provided only the 2nd report for Guatemala and the first for Baja Verapaz. A Stripe-headed Brush-Finch, rare in Panama, was found at Cuesta
Robert L. Norton
Anthony White
Andrew Dobson

This season saw a mini-invasion of three Eurasion species to the Region, which causes one to wonder whether other

species are driven to the western North Atlantic by favorable atmospheric or oceanic conditions. The three locations reporting Eurasion species are Barbados, Bermuda, and Guadeloupe, all located east of the 80th meridian and occupied by active birders. The highlights from the Bahamas this season were the country's first Northern Cardinals and a newly discovered seabird colony in the Exumas.

WATERFOWL THROUGH LARIDS

A West Indian Whistling-Duck was at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 2 Mar (AL, JC). There were 20 May (ASA), and 4 were found at Tarpon Pond, Fresh Creek, Andros 1, Bahamas 9 May (CW, SS). A Canada Goose flew over Treasure Cay, Abaco 15 Mar (EB). Several Canada Geese were at Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 13 Feb (RC), and one remained at North Pond into May. The Brant continued at Tucker's Point G.C. until 4 Apr (AD) and provided the 9th report for Bermuda. A Eurasian Wigeon found at Harrington Sound, Bermuda during Dec was rediscovered 18 Apr+ (DBW). Reports of Red-breasted Mergansers were 2 at Jaws Beach, New Providence 7 Mar (TH), one near Owl Hole, Grand Bahama 10 Mar (BP), and one at Cat Cay, near Bimini 28 May (PD). A pair of Least Grebes in a fresh water pond at Vieques 18 Apr-1 May (DG) provided the 6th report there. A pair of Pied-billed Grebes at the new reserve at Somerset Long Bay, Bermuda produced 5 chicks 13 May (WF). A Greater Shearwater was s. of Grand Bahama 1. 14 Apr (BP). Phenomenal numbers of Manx Shearwaters and other procellarids were found off Guadeloupe this season (Table 1). A seabird colony discovered at Adderley Cay, just n. of Lee Stocking I. in the Exumas contained up to 200 pairs of Audubon's Shearwaters (WM, TB, PJ). Another shearwater colony was found near Pimlico Cay, n. Exumas 20 May (LR, fide WM).

Multiple reports of White-tailed Tropicbird
Table 1. Seawatch results at Guadeloupe, Mar–May 2008 (AL et al.). The first number in each column refers to Pointe des Châteaux, and the second number refers to Petite-Terre N.R. Hours at both sites are combined.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Mar (23.5 hrs)</th>
<th>Apr (24.25 hrs)</th>
<th>May (27 hrs)</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>0.01</td>
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<td>1/18</td>
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<tr>
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<td>170/6</td>
<td>120/49</td>
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<td>0/9</td>
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The third recorded at Guadeloupe, this Double-crested Cormorant at Desirade Island was discovered 12 April by Jules Chiffard and photographed the next day; it expired shortly thereafter. Photograph by Anthony Leveque.

Brown Pelicans may have abandoned Cayo Canejo, Vieques, which supported the largest Brown Pelican colony in Puerto Rico during the 1970s (Vileta DG). When the U.S. Navy owned most of Vieques, civilians had no access to this area. But with the transfer of the much land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the subsequent lifting of the bans on access, boat traffic in and around Cayo Canejo is now frequent. Because nesting pelicans are very susceptible to human disturbance, even to boat traffic within 200 m, this increase in human presence may the cause of abandonment of this critical colony in Puerto Rico.

at Conception I. and the Exumas, Bahamas suggested a successful breeding season (SBu, JG, BP, JTh). Five White-tailed Tropicbirds were off Glass Window, Eleuthera I. 16 May (CW, SS), where they have bred in the past, while 3 others were unusual at Rose I., off New Providence 25 May (CW). A Red-footed Booby off Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 21 May was the 3rd noted in 750 hours of sea-watching over the past seven years (AL). Another Red-footed was noted s. of Grand Bahama I. 15 Apr (BP). A Northern Gannet was seen flying off Caves Pt., New Providence 3 Mar (TW, JK, MV), and 9 others were off Grand Bahama I. 17 Apr (BP). A Brown Pelican was at Thompson’s Bay, Long I., Bahamas 8 Apr (DF), and 3 were over Montagu Foreshore, New Providence 17 Apr (TH); both locations are far from known nesting sites. Guadeloupe’s 3rd report of Double-crested Cormorant at Desirade I. 12 Apr (JC) died the next day (Al). A Great Cormorant roosted at Nonsuch I., Bermuda mid-Feb–4 May (JM).

Rare in the Bahamas, a Great White Heron was at Cat Cay 14 May (L&CK). A Great Blue Heron was found at Cul De Sac River marsh, St. Lucia 1 Apr (JHo, CC), while one ad. and 2 juvs. at Boca Chiquita, Vieques 28 Apr (DG) may have bred locally or may have arrived from the Virgin Is., where breeding has also been suspected. A single Roseate Spoonbill was seen at Blue Water Cay, New Providence 13 May (WP). The Eurasian Spoonbill continued at Cul de Sac River, St. Lucia until 20 Apr (ph. JHo, CC, EM). A Turkey Vulture was seen flying over Paradise I., New Providence 4 Mar represented the first report from the New Providence area in decades (JK, PD, MV, TW). The American Flamingo colony at Great Inagua I. was successful for the 3rd consecutive year, with 8064 nests and 435 rejected eggs (TR, NC). A flamingo was seen in flight off the mouth of Stafford Cr., Andros I. during late May (MV, JH). A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen at various Bermuda locations 10 Mar–2 Apr (R&KL). The 2 long-staying Red-tailed Hawks at Bermuda were seen displaying and nest-building during Apr (DBW).

A Purple Gallinule was at Cooper’s Island N.R., Bermuda 21 May (JAl, BM). A wintering American Golden-Plover continued at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe until 14 Apr (Al). There were 10 Piping Plovers at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco I. 6 Mar (EB, JK, TW, MV) and 11 Pippings and 7 Wilson’s Plovers at Discovery Bay Beach, Grand Bahama I. 22 Mar (EG). More than 150 Semipalmated Sandpipers were observed at Playa Grande 21 Apr and 182 at Laguna Puerto Diablo, both Vieques, 28 Apr (DG). An Upland Sandpiper was spotted at New Providence 14 Apr (PD, TH). Two Eurasian Whimbrels were seen at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 9 Mar, when accompanied by an American Whimbrel, and again 25–27 May (AL, JC). Four Red Knots were at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco I. 6 Mar (EB, JK, TW,
Another excellent record from Désirade Island, Guadeloupe, was this Fork-tailed Flycatcher, the country’s fifth, found on the 4th of May 2008. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

MV), with 4 others at Southwest Ridge near L. Killarney, New Providence 17-18 May (PD, LH, ph. TH). A Red Knot was at Bahia Sucia, Puerto Rico 16-25 May (ph. RR). A Bonaparte’s Gull was at Sandy Pt., Abaco 1. 5 Apr (EB), and 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at the cruise ship docks at Nassau 9 Mar (PB). Guadeloupe’s 4th report of Great Black-backed Gull continued at Basse-Terre until 23 Apr (FD). A Gull-billed Tern was at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 4-10 May (RG). The first Gull-billed Terns and Least Terns were seen at New Providence 21 Apr (TH), and a Common Tern was there 17 May (PD, LH). The first Sandwich Tern had returned to Brown’s Pt., New Providence 22 Mar (PD, LH, LL). Terns at Treasure Cay, Abaco I. were one Forster’s 17 May and one or more Leasts 16 Apr (both EB). Twelve Least Terns were observed at Playa Grande, Vieques, a known breeding site, 21 Apr (DG).

PIGEONS THROUGH ORIOLES

Three Scaly-naped Pigeons were found at Pic Paradis 8 Mar (AB); they are not known to breed on St. Martin. Three White-winged Dove nests were found at Etang Poisson 11 Mar (AB), the first ones for St. Martin, while on Guadeloupe, there were 9 at Désirade 1. 4 May and 12 at Pointe des Châteaux 22 May (both AL). An Eared Dove at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 19 May (AL) was the first for that locale. Mourning Dove numbers are said to be declining on Abaco I. as numbers of Eurasian Collared-Doves increase (EB). Although not known to breed on St. Martin, 2 Banded Quail-Doves at Pic Paradis 8 Mar (AB) have been present since 2006. A Key West Quail-Dove was seen near Rock Sound Club, Eleuthera I. 16 May (CW, SS). A Short-eared Owl at Bermuda Airport 16-18 May (JA, BM) established a new spring late date. At least 4 Common Nighthawks were seen at various Bermuda locations 13-17 May (JA, PJH, BM, KR). Antillean Nighthawks returned to New Providence at Blue Water Cay by 3 May (TH) and Lynden Pindling Airport by 5 May (JB), while a female Antillean at Pointe des Châteaux 16 May (AL, SB) was the first ever banded at Guadeloupe. A Chuck-wills-widow was first heard singing at Grand Bahama I. 3 Mar (BP), and others sang throughout the season at Coral Harbour, New Providence (CW). An unidentified hummingbird was in a garden at Southampton, Bermuda 30 Jan and 10 Mar (DBW).

The first Gray Kingbird returned to Coral Harbour, New Providence 18 Mar (CW). Guadeloupe’s 5th Fork-tailed Flycatcher was at Désirade I. 4 May (AL). White-eyed Vireos were at Grand Bahama I. at Owl Hole and Garden of the Groves 30 Mar (BP), while another was on San Salvador I. 6 Apr (ph. TH). Two Yellow-throated Vireos were at Pic Paradis, St. Martin 8 Mar (AB), with one in song at Nassau 23 Mar (PD). The first Black-whiskered Vireo was found at Nassau 8 Apr (CW). A wintering Barn Swallow continued at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe until 20 Apr (AL). Nine Cliff Swallows were a highlight at Etang Poisson, St. Martin 11 Mar (AB), and Bermuda’s 2nd Cave Swallow was discovered at Daniel's Head Farm 3 May (WT, DBW). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was at found Blue Water Cay, New Providence 28 Apr (TH). An American Robin was at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco I. 6 Mar (EB, JK, MV, TW). A Northern Mockingbird spent 18-20 Mar at East Shore Lane, Somerset, Bermuda (PH). A Pearly-eyed Thrasher was seen flying into the Retreat, Nassau, New Providence 12 Apr (WF).

Warblers banded at Pic Paradis, St. Martin 8 Mar included a Blue-winged (the 3rd for St. Martin), 19 Northern Parulas, 4 Black-throated Blues, 2 Prairie, 19 Black-and-whites, 67 American Redstarts, and 2 Hoodeds (AB). Ten Northern Waterthrushes were banded at Etang Poisson, St. Martin 11 Mar (AB). Elsewhere, a Cape May Warbler was banded at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 3 May (AL, JC), where a female Black-throated Green Warbler was found 20 May (AL). The first migrant Magnolia Warblers and Blackpoll Warblers stopped at New Providence 20 Apr (TH). Single female Blackpoll Warblers were at Désirade I., Guadeloupe 20 Apr and 4 May (AL). Adelaide’s Warblers are doing well at Vieques, Puerto Rico, with 24 seen or heard at Mt. Pirata 24 Apr (DG). Two American Redstarts (female and first-summer male) at Vieques 27 Apr (DG) established a new late date for the island. A male Hooded Warbler was at Beaufort, Guadeloupe 21 Mar (AL). A Connecticut Warbler flew into a window and died at Forfar, Andrus I. during the last week of May (JH). A Prairie Warbler sang at Coral Harbour, Bahamas 11-16 Mar (CW). The Kirkland’s Warbler Research and Training Program at St. Eluthera I. recaptured 22 previously banded Kirkland’s and color-banded 26 new birds during the winter and spring seasons (JdW). Two Kirklands were found at an undisclosed location at New Providence 12 Apr (PD, LH, ph. LL), while another tarried at Rock Sound, St. Eluthera I. 27 Apr (JdW, RB). Lingerings warblers in the Bahamas included an Ovenbird in the Retreat, Nassau 24 May (TH); American Redstarts at Cat Cay 27-29 May and North Bimini 30 May; and singles of Blackpoll, Northern Waterthrush, and Common Yellowthroat at Cat Cay 27-29 May (all PD). A Summer Tanager at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 26 Apr (AL) was rare, and 3 Scar-
Hawaiian Islands

Peter Donaldson

This was an unusually dry season, with record-low rainfall amounts set in many areas. However, there were no obvious negative effects on aquatic birds, partially because many remnant wetlands are managed for wildlife and their water levels can be artificially adjusted. Several rare migrants continued, but only a few rarities were discovered, mainly on pelagic trips.

Abbreviations: KcL (Kelaia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Kii Unit, James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I.); Ohiapi (Ohiapi Pond, Molokai I.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Reports of Greater White-fronted Geese were one at Kelaia 6-7 Mar (MN), 3 at Waiakea Pond, Hawaii I. 29 Mar (RD), and one at Honolulu Unit, Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I. 29 Mar (ph. MW). A Snow Goose, very rare in the Region, at Kelaia 6-7 Mar (MN, BS) was the same bird that has been present since 2006. Six Brant continued at Ohiapi until 23 Mar, then moved to Puuha, Molokai I. by 1 Apr (ADY). A Cackling Goose was observed at Kii 15 Mar–5 Apr (SM, MS et al.).

Respectable numbers of ducks were reported this season, including a Gadwall at Waiakea Pond, Hawaii I. 29 Mar (RD) and a male Cinnamon Teal at Kaumui, Molokai I. 5 Mar (ADY, RF, PP). Peak counts of puddle ducks included 317 Northern Shovelers at Kealaua 3 Apr (MN) and 121 Northern Pintails at Kealaua 6 Mar (MN). Seventy-three shovelers harried at Kealua until 1 May (MN). Few reports were received from pelagic birding trips, but several interesting observations off the w. coast of Hawaii I. were submitted by cetacean researchers with Cascadia Research Collective (hereafter, CRC). Three Motled Petrels were off Oahu I. 17 Mar (GA, PD, DLa et al.), with singles s. of Kaui I. 10 Apr (DK et al.) and w. of Hawaii I. 24 Apr (ph. CRC). Several Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered) were off w. Hawaii I. 24 Apr–13 May (ph. CRC). Good numbers of Hawaiian Petrels were observed flying inland in the evening at Wailua, Kaui I., with 20 on 30 Apr and 15 there 1 May (MG), while 40 others were found nearby 1 May (DK). A Stejneger’s Petrel was seen off w. Hawaii I. 13 May (ph. CRC); little is known of its status in the area. Reports of Bulwer’s Petrels included 4 spotted from a boat s. of Kauai 10 Apr (DK et al.), several w. of Hawaii I. 24 Apr–7 May (ph. CRC), and one seen from shore at Wailua, Kauai I. 1 May (MG). Populations of many burrow-nesting seabirds at Midway Atoll N.W.R. were decimated by rats, so it was welcome news that 4 Bulwer’s Petrels were regularly observed at a calling station there (JF). The only reports of Newell’s Shearwaters (Threatened) were 16 seen from shore at Wailua, Kauai I. 30 Apr and 3 there 1 May (MG). Red-tailed Tropicbirds appeared to be prospecting for nest sites around Kacna Pt.,
Gadfly petrels are notoriously difficult to photograph at sea, so it was great that both the dorsal and ventral sides of this Stejneger's Petrel were recorded off the Kona coast of the Big Island of Hawaii 14 May 2008. The dorsal view shows the dark "M" pattern and dark crown that contrast with the paler gray on the rest of the upperparts, while the ventral view shows the prominent dark half-collar extending well down onto the underside. Photographs by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.

Bulwer's Petrels breed around the Main Hawaiian Islands, but good photographs of the species are rare. The light winds and calm winds prevailing off the Kona coast of the Big Island of Hawaii make it a bit easier to get images like this one, taken 3 May 2008. Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.

Oahu I. (RF, PP, LY), where breeding is not known to occur. Single White-faced Ibis were at Kealia all season (MN) and Kii 24 Mar-5 Apr (MS, GS, SM); the species is becoming regular in the Region. Reports of rare raptors were a Northern Harrier at Ohiaipilo 14 Mar (ADY) and a Peregrine at Kii 15 May (MW).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH HONEYCREEPERS

Good numbers of Pacific Golden-Plovers were 230 at Kii 18 Apr (SM) and 53 at Kuala-puu Res., Molokai I. 22 Apr (ADY); few birds remained after 1 May. Nineteen Bristle-thighed Curlews at Kauku, Oahu I. 3 May had dwindled to one by 19 May (PD). Rarer shorebirds included a Red Knot at Ohiaipilo, Molokai I. until 15 Apr (ADY), a Curlew Sandpiper at Kauku, Oahu I. 21 Apr (MW), and a Whimbrel at Kaunakakai, Molokai I. until 4 May in (ADY). Five Laughing Gulls, an unusually high number for the Region, were at Kealia 6 Mar (MN), and one or 2 others were seen at each of several locations, with the latest report of one at Palauauai, Molokai I. 23 May (ADY). A Franklin’s and 2 Ring-billed Gulls were spotted at Kealia 6 Mar–1 May (MN), and another Ring-billed was at Sand I., Honolulu, Oahu I. 4 Apr (RJ). Single Arctic Terns were observed off w. Hawaii I. 20 & 27 Apr (ph. CRC). A Least/Little Tern was found at Moanalua Bay, Oahu I. 3 May (ph. DM) but specific identification could not be determined. Single Gray-backed Terns, rarely observed breeders in the Region, were s. of Oahu I. 17 Mar (GA, PD, DLx et al.) and onshore at e. Oahu 7 May (MW). White Terns are locally common around Oahu I. but are seldom reported around the other main islands, so one off w. Hawaii I. 26 Apr, and 2 there 13 May (ph. CRC), were notable. The only Pomarine Jaeger reported was at Waikua Bay, Kauai I. 1 May (MG).
breeding colony in s.-cen. Oahu. There were three reports on Oahu of Oahu Elepaio (Endangered): one at Kuliouou Trail 3 Mar (MW), 4 (2 ads. and 2 juvs.) at Aiea Trail 24 Apr (ph. MW), and one ad. and one subad. there 27 May (PD). Limited access to Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I. was reopened, allowing the observation of 2 Maui Parrotbills 7 & 27 Apr (DK). Tour groups were able to find Palila (Endangered) regularly in the heart of their range at Pu‘u La‘au Hawaii I. all season (HFT), but surveys have shown a decrease in the population over the past five years (PB). There were several reports of very small numbers of Akiapolaau (Endangered) in e. Hawaii I. all season (HFT, BR). Hawaii Creepers (Endangered) and Akepa (Endangered) were also reported regularly in e. Hawaii I., mostly at Hakalau N.W.R. (HFT, BR).

Cited contributors: George L. Armistead, Robin Baird, Paul Banko, Tanya Barkauskas, Joan Carroll, Cascadia Research Collective (CRC), William Clark, Doug Cooper, Cathy Crandall, Robert Cressey, Bill Dalton, Reg David, Jim Dennis, Arleone Dibben-Young, Peter Donaldson, Wendy Dotson, Richard Ewing, Josh Fisher, Rowena Forest, Ana Gabela, Matthew Garvey, Hawaii Forest & Trail (HFT), Betty Joao, Raymond Joao, John Klavitter, David Kuhn, Dan Lane (Dla), Dan Lindsay, Sally Marston, Darlene Moore, Aaron Nadig, Connie Nelson, Michael Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Kurt Pohlman, Peter Pyle, Randy Rhodes, Jamie Ross, Brooks Rownd, Paul Scofield, Michael Silbermgle, Greg Smith, Forest & Kim Starr, Sonia Stephens, Brian Sullivan, Michael Walther, Megan Westervelt (MWe), Lindsay Young.

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Current status of European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) in the western Great Lakes region

JULIE A. CRAVES - ROUGE RIVER BIRD OBSERVATORY - UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN - DEARBORN, MICHIGAN 48128 - (EMAIL: JCRAVES@UMD.UMICH.EDU)

**Abstract**

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) is a songbird native to the western Palearctic that is popular as a cage bird. It has a long history of deliberate and accidental releases worldwide, including in the United States. Between the 1879 to around 1955, this species had small populations in New York state. Another population is apparently taking hold in the western Great Lakes, probably the result of intentional releases by a Chicago-area bird importer.

**Introduction**

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) is a colorful songbird with a natural distribution across much of the western Palearctic, including Europe, northern Africa, and western and central Asia (Cramp and Perrins 1994, Lever 1987). It has a long history as a cage bird, with mention of the species in captivity dating back to the late 1600s (Birkhead 2003). This species has been successfully introduced in many regions of the world and has persisted in a number of them (e.g., Australia, Bermuda, the Azores) for over a century (Long 1981, Lever 1987, Birds Australia 2005, Rodebrand and Carlsson 2005).

In the United States, one of the first intentional introductions of European Goldfinches apparently occurred in late 1852, when the trustees of the Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York released four dozen on the property (Murphy 1945, Lever 1987). The fate of that group is uncertain, but others were released in Hoboken, Hudson County, New Jersey in early 1878 (Chapman 1932, Cruickshank 1942, Austin 1963). These reached their maximum numbers around 1910, and the species was uncommon but probably nesting in Englewood, New Jersey, roughly 18 kilometers farther north, up through 1915 (Griscom 1923, Nichols 1936, Cruickshank 1942). The Hoboken birds were thought to be the source of a colony in Central Park in Manhattan. The first birds appeared in the Park in 1879, nesting fairly regularly there for several decades but diminishing and disappearing between 1907 and 1920 (Hix 1905, Griscom 1923, Chapman 1932, Nichols 1936, Cruickshank 1942, Elliot 1968). Capture of birds for the cage trade may have contributed to the reduction in their numbers (Elliot 1968).

It is presumed the Central Park birds were the founders for populations in Long Island, with an early report of several found at Long Island City in 1889 (Eaton 1914). In 1910, European Goldfinches were found on Long Island at Massapequa, Nassau County.
(Cruickshank 1942). At that location, numbers increased for about five years, then declined throughout the 1920s and 1930s (Cruickshank 1942). In 1931, two European Goldfinches were seen in Westbury, about 16 kilometers northwest of Massapequa, and for the next several years, birds were found nesting in nearby Garden City (Nichols 1936). By the late 1930s, as many as a dozen pairs and flocks of nearly two dozen birds were seen on Long Island in southern Nassau County and southwestern Suffolk County (Cruickshank 1942, Levine 1998). However, the housing boom following World War II resulted in habitat loss and a subsequent decline in the Long Island colony, which numbered just under 20 birds as late as 1946 but were apparently gone by about 1955 (Elliott 1968, Levine 1998). They may have nested again in 1975 at Massapequa, and several were seen there in 1976, having been released by a man who found them to be “nervous cage birds and difficult to breed” (Levine 1988, Paxton et al. 1975, 1976).

Continued numerous scattered reports of European Goldfinches across North America are probably attributed to similar releases by hobbyists, with more concentrated “outbreaks” in most areas likely due to private bird dealers, who keep birds in outdoor aviaries from which they can escape, or who release illegally obtained birds to avoid arrest. For example, nearly all species kept by a New Jersey dealer had been seen locally in the wild several years preceding his arrest, after which the reports dwindled (Ryan 1990).

A Chicago-area bird dealer may be the source of an unusual number of reports of European Goldfinches and other cage bird species in the western Great Lakes in recent years. This article summarizes reports of these sightings, as well as recent successful nesting of European Goldfinches in Illinois and Wisconsin.

**Methods**

Following the discovery of a European Goldfinch in Dearborn, Wayne County, Michigan in early 2003, I posted a page on the Rouge River Bird Observatory web page (RRBO 2006), requesting that people send in sighting reports of European Goldfinches and other European cage birds, retroactive through January 2002. I specified that I was only looking for reports from the Upper Midwest and northeastern states. To supplement these reports, I also periodically looked through the archives of Internet birding email lists for the western Great Lakes states, seasonal reports in state journals and North American Birds (through Volume 62, Issue 3), and various Internet bird forums.

**Results**

I received over 400 reports of European Goldfinches from twenty U.S. states and five Canadian provinces dating from January 2002 through June 2006. The rest of this article will focus primarily on the 28 reports from western Great Lakes states (Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan).

Seventy-one per cent of the reports from these four states came from Illinois and Wisconsin. There was a clear concentration of reports from northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin, with half of the 209 reports from these two states coming from the six counties in this area: Walworth (9), Racine (11), and Kenosha (5), Wisconsin; and McHenry (20), Lake (20), and Cook (43), Illinois. In Wisconsin, there are reports from nearly every county south of a line running approximately through Prairie du Chien, Baraboo, and Oshkosh to Green Bay. Over half the reports from Cook County, Illinois are from the intensively-birded Montrose Point in Chicago.

I received only 16 reports from Indiana, all but one from the northern third of the state, with ten from the northeastern corner. The 73 reports from Michigan were scattered over much of the state, from 44 of the state’s 83 counties, without a concentration—geographic or chronological—in the southwestern corner, which might have been expected given the pattern in the other states. Around a quarter of Michigan’s reports were from the heavily urbanized southeastern part of the state. About 20 per cent of the Wisconsin and Illinois reports were sightings of multiple birds, most often two individuals, but with up to ten being seen in an area at one time. Table 1 summarizes the reports I received of nesting activity.

**Discussion**

The reports I received are likely to be only a small fraction of the actual number of European Goldfinches present and breeding in the wild in the western Great Lakes. Most of the reports I received were from non-birders who discovered the birds at their backyard feeders, looked on the Internet for identification or more information, and discovered the link to my request.

In late 2002 or 2003, there were enough reports of European birds circulating in the birding community of the Upper Midwest that people began speculating about the source. It was rumored that an importer in the greater Chicago area had gone out of business and released his stock (Dinsmore and Sikes 2004). The importer’s web site listed for sale all of the species that had been reported in the wild. Although that web site did disappear around that time, the importer did not go out of business and continues to import birds at the present time, and a new web site appeared around October 2006. I was able to obtain import records for this business for the year 2004, which showed the company imported over 20,000 songbirds, about half of them wild caught and the other half captive-raised. Over 12,000 were European Goldfinches. All birds came from several exporters in Russia and arrived in the United States through the port of Los Angeles. Birds are still imported via Los Angeles, with a Los Angeles-area pet store acting as a sales office.

The principal contact for this business in the Chicago area lives in rural McHenry County, Illinois. I received a number of messages from people describing a man who was releasing birds from his property, and they gave his location. None of them knew that he was in the business of importing birds. Some had attempted to contact wildlife authorities to report him, but no action could be taken. As long as the birds are legally imported, there is no federal law prohibiting their release, even if they are not native. Nor are any Illinois state laws targeted at the release of non-native birds.

Considering the proximity of the reported sightings to the residence and quarantine site of this importer, this is probably the source of many, perhaps most, of the birds in that immediate area. However, European Goldfinches are reported regularly from nearly every state and province in North America. Some can certainly be attributed to birds that accidentally escaped or were released by disinterested pet owners. Two more sources are worthy of mention.

First, following heavy media coverage of avian influenza (H5N1) beginning in early 2004, reports surfaced of pet birds being abandoned at shelters or sanctuaries, or simply released (Butcher et al. 2005, Local London 2006). It may be that some cage bird owners or breeders released their birds out of fear of them contracting bird flu, especially if the birds were kept in outdoor aviaries where there was a perceived higher threat.

A release from a breeder might also explain a rash of European bird reports from the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan and adjacent areas in northern Ontario in spring 2004 which included not only European Goldfinches (5), but also Eurasian Siskin (Carduelis chloris), Linnet (C. cannabina), and Chaffinch (Fringilla coelebs). These species also occurred in the western Great Lakes focus area (Table 2). However, the pocket of birds from this region, on both sides of Lake Superior, is probably better explained by a separate source or re-
lease(s), as this cluster does not seem consistent with the pattern of distribution and dispersal exhibited in the Chicago area.

A second source of exotic bird reports is tied to various religious beliefs in which birds are released to seek blessing, to garner good karma, or in other symbolic acts. Over 20 per cent of the Ontario reports I received (without requesting reports from that region) were from the greater Toronto area. Toronto has a substantial population of Buddhists and other practitioners of eastern religions (Statistics Canada 2003), some of whom practice a ritual involving the setting free of live creatures, including birds, which is believed to accrue merit in the afterlife (Hubert 1999, Higbee and Glassner-Shwayder 2004).

Likewise, the concentration of reports in southeastern Michigan could be at least partially attributed to intentional releases. This area has a large Arab (mostly Muslim) population, with the city of Dearborn having the highest concentration of Arabs outside the Middle East (de la Cruz and Brittingham 2003). While Muslims also hold birds in high regard, I was unable to find specific reference to a religious or cultural dogma that involved releasing birds. However, an employee of a PetSmart store in Dearborn had specific knowledge that many Arabic customers purchased small birds just to release them. This, then, was very likely the source of the European Goldfinch that began this whole investigation.

Whatever their provenance, it appears that European Goldfinches are gaining a foothold in the western Great Lakes region. Considering the eventual extirpation of quite long-established populations in New York in the early 1900s, the persistence of the Illinois and Wisconsin birds hardly seems assured. The difference might be, however, the sheer numbers of goldfinches in the region, as well as the fact that they may be continually augmented by new releases, particularly by the local importer.

Habitat loss is credited with the extirpation of the Long Island colony in the 1950s (Elliot 1968, Levine 1998). The region surrounding McHenry County, Illinois is still largely rural and without significant barriers to dispersal. Further, European Goldfinches may find their preferred foods even more widespread today than they were 50 years ago. More than American Goldfinches (Carduelis tristis), European Goldfinches specialize on the seeds of composites (Compositae); preferring them half-ripe, the distribution of these plants governs the movements of the birds (Cramp and Perrins 1994, Hagenmeyer and Blair 1997, Snow and Perrins 1998). Of the 18 European herbaceous plant species listed in the diet of European Goldfinches by Glassner (1985), all with American Goldfinches for nest materials or nest sites. Whereas American Goldfinches nest late in the season (Middleton 1993), European Goldfinches begin nesting in April or May, with the average first egg date in England of 25 May (Joys and Crick 2004) and egg dates in New York ranging from of 26 April to 4 June (Cruickshank 1942). Historically in the United States, even small flocks (four to six birds) of European Goldfinches preferred to keep to themselves, without fraternizing with American Goldfinches during the non-breeding season, although individual European and American Goldfinches were reported to consort with one another (Austin 1963). Most of the reports I received of European Goldfinches noted that they were with American Goldfinches and other species at feeders.

Although European Goldfinches appear ecologically benign, it is impossible to predict the ecological impact of an established population of any non-native species. In 1999, President Clinton signed an executive order intended to coordinate and enhance federal response to invasive species; the order required the preparation of a management plan. While acknowledging that invasions are unpredictable, the National Invasive Species Management Plan, released in 2001, nonetheless focuses on non-native species that cause “substantial, negative impact to the environment, economics, and human

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<th>Table 1. Reports of nesting European Goldfinches in the western Great Lakes, 2003-2006.</th>
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<th>Table 2. Reports of other European cage bird species from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, 2002 to mid-2006. Species with fewer than two reports not included.</th>
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<td>Species</td>
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but two are established in the United States and only one is not found in Wisconsin or Illinois (USDA 2007). Non-native weeds such as knapweeds (Centaurea spp.), teasels (Dipsacus spp.), and burdocks (Arctium spp.) are widespread in the eastern United States and are important forage for European Goldfinches. This proliferation of introduced European weeds may aid in the spread and/or establishment of European Goldfinches in North America, just as it did in Australia, where 50 per cent of 33 plants used by the birds are introduced species (Middleton 1970).

European Goldfinches do not seem to compete directly with American Goldfinches for nest materials or nest sites. Whereas American Goldfinches nest late in the season (Middleton 1993), European Goldfinches begin nesting in April or May, with the average first egg date in England of 25 May (Joys and Crick 2004) and egg dates in New York ranging from of 26 April to 4 June (Cruickshank 1942). Historically in the United States, even small flocks (four to six birds) of European Goldfinches preferred to keep to themselves, without fraternizing with American Goldfinches during the non-breeding season, although individual European and American Goldfinches were reported to consort with one another (Austin 1963). Most of the reports I received of European Goldfinches noted that they were with American Goldfinches and other species at feeders.

Although European Goldfinches appear ecologically benign, it is impossible to predict the ecological impact of an established population of any non-native species. In 1999, President Clinton signed an executive order intended to coordinate and enhance federal response to invasive species; the order required the preparation of a management plan. While acknowledging that invasions are unpredictable, the National Invasive Species Management Plan, released in 2001, nonetheless focuses on non-native species that cause “substantial, negative impact to the environment, economics, and human
health" (NISC 2001). Citizens will have to apply considerable pressure to their state and federal legislators to encourage laws that prohibit the release of any non-native organisms if intentional introductions are to be prevented in the future.

Acknowledgments

I'd like to thank the many people who made the effort to report their bird sightings to me, with special thanks to Linda and Bob Burke, Rob Curts, Dawn Knaake, Dan Martin, Sandy Morrison, Joe Rosner, and Geoff Williamson. Marilynyoutu, Dianlene Fiske, Hilary Ford, and Ann Michels provided further background and details.

Literature cited


One of the often under-appreciated benefits of ecotourism, or at least birding tours, is the wealth of information gathered during research and preparation for such ventures, during the scouting for the tours, and during the tours themselves. The rails depicted here were documented by naturalists visiting Tocumen Marsh in Panama in March 2008. As is true at many sites in Central America, the diversity and abundance of rallids at Tocumen changes during the course of the year and over the years, as wet and dry regimes alternate over vast areas of the American tropics. The spring season of 2008 produced an abundance of interesting rail records there, and word quickly spread among visiting and resident birders, resulting in documentation of several rare species, confirmation of nesting by Spotted Rail, and in one specimen of Paint-billed Crake.

Panama’s Tocumen Marsh was truly a rail bonanza this spring. Among several rarely reported species observed were several Spotted Rails (here 28 March 2008). Prior to this spring, Spotted Rail had not been reported in Panama in 24 years. Photograph by John L. Rowlett.

Rarely reported in Panama, Yellow-breasted Crakes were seen in Tocumen Marsh on several occasions between 9 March (here 15 March) and 6 April 2008. Photograph by Karl Kaufman.

This Paint-billed Crake, along with at least four others reported from Tocumen Marsh on 9 March 2008, provided the first records for Panama in two decades and the first from Tocumen Marsh since 1982. One observed being killed, then dropped, by a Great Egret was retrieved and preserved as a specimen. Photograph by Jeremiah Trimble.

In addition to several adult Spotted Rails observed in Tocumen Marsh this spring were several juveniles and chicks. This chick was photographed on 15 March 2008. The young of this species are rarely observed. Photograph by Karl Kaufman.
1 • This apparent Lesser Black-backed Gull × Herring Gull hybrid was photographed 24 May 2008 at Goose Bay, Labrador, where it accompanied a typical Lesser Black-backed (probably a fourth-cycle bird, background). Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

2 • Recently achieving the status of annual visitor in late fall and early winter in St. John's, Newfoundland, this Redwing was photographed there 9 March 2008, the first recorded in the month of March. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

3 • A second for Arizona, this Tufted Flycatcher at Cave Creek Canyon was present 5–17 (here 8) May 2008. Photograph by Oliver Niehuis.

4 • Of the two sibling booby species, Masked and Nazca, one might predict that the latter would be the one nesting on rocky ledges (Nazca's preferred nesting substrate) on Cocos Island which, at 5 degrees North, is well within the range of Nazca. In fact, the small booby colony nesting on Cocos Island's Dos Amigos Grande rock turns out to be Masked, not Nazca. This adult Nazca Booby, found in the Masked colony on 2 April 2008, provided photographic documentation of its presence in Costa Rica. Photograph by Felipe López.

5 • Costa Rica finally added the long-overdue Savannah Hawk to its list on 15 April 2008, when this adult was photographed in a field near Zancudo in the Grifo Dulce lowlands. Photograph by Jeannie Berger.
Remarkable for a species that is not known to migrate was this immature male Masked Tityra that came aboard a research vessel 70 kilometers off the Pacific coast of Nicaragua early on the morning of 4 April 2008 during a period of moderately strong offshore winds. Whether this bird's appearance well offshore was the result of intended dispersal or a fluke is debatable, but it is not entirely without precedent. In Belize, a Masked Tityra appeared last fall on Caye Caulker 9 kilometers from the nearest point on the mainland. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

Among this year's parade of spring highlights from the Chico Basin Ranch, Colorado was this handsome Canada Warbler 28 May 2008, a first for well-birded Pueblo County. Photograph by Glenn Walbek.

Totally unexpected, and representing just the second record for Pennsylvania, this Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid spent two weeks at Canonsburg Lake 31 March through 14 (here) April 2008. It aggressively defended a female Blue-winged Teal against one or two male Blue-winged Teal, which accompanied the pair. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

This Audubon's Warbler was present in Lake County, Ohio 13 (here) through 16 April 2008. Photograph by Jerry Talkington.

This second-year Townsend's Solitaire was at Genius Drive Nature Preserve, Winter Park, Orange County 9 (here) and 13 March 2008; part of a larger invasion east of typical range, it furnished the first Florida record. Photograph by Lyn Atherton.

Zone-tailed Hawk sightings have been increasing in southern Nevada and southwestern Utah over the past five years. This hawk, photographed 24 April 2008 along the Santa Clara River near Shirwits, Washington County, Utah, was one of three reported in the Great Basin in spring 2008. Photograph by Rick Fridell.
1 - Just the third for the Eastern Seaboard, this Wood Sandpiper was a popular visitor to Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware 5–15 May 2008. Photograph by Sharon Lynn.

2 - Local birders Steve Butterworth and Cliff Weisse spotted an exquisitely plumaged male Canada Warbler at Camas National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho 31 May 2008. The bird was foraging among a group of Wilson’s Warblers. If accepted by the Idaho Bird Records Committee, this bird will represent a first record for the Gem State. Photograph by Jake Briggs.

3 - An influx of phalaropes into the Illinois & Indiana region included this Wilson’s Phalarope, photographed 9 May 2008 in Ogle County, Illinois. Photograph by Eric W. Walters.

4 - This beautifully photographed Bullock’s Oriole, either an immature male or an adult female, visited a feeder in Canaan, Connecticut 25 (here 29) March through 4 April 2008. The species is clearly increasing as a visitor to the East, mostly in autumn and winter. Photograph Mark Szantyr.

5 - This beautiful male resplendent Quetzal photographed in Lagunas de Montebello National Park, Chiapas, Mexico 26 March 2008 provides the first recent documentation from this site, where it was assumed extirpated by the mid-1980s. Photograph by Jorge Montejo.
1 - This Lawrence's Warbler, a second-generation backcross involving at least one hybrid of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler (Brewster's Warbler), was beautifully photographed in Fairhaven, Massachusetts 22 May 2008. Photograph by Robert Stymeist.

2 - The discovery of this Painted Bunting at a feeder in the northern interior of New Hampshire at Jefferson 3 May 2008 underscores the fact that vagrants can appear anywhere—and that most surely go unnoticed. Photograph by T. Kennison.

3 - What’s going on with tropicbirds in New England? This Red-billed Tropicbird was in Little Compton, Rhode Island 30 May 2008; another returned in May to Matinicus Rock in the Gulf of Maine for the third consecutive year. Photograph by Dick Ferren.

4 & 5 - This apparent Black-chinned Hummingbird × Rufous Hummingbird hybrid regularly visited a feeder in Hines, Harney County, Oregon 3-5 (here 4) May 2008, possibly the first evidence of hybridization between these species. Photographs by Patty Bowers.
1 • The appearance in spring 2008 of large flocks of Sabine's Gulls across the Columbia Basin in eastern Washington was nearly unprecedented. This image depicts about half of the 120 Sabines that dropped in at Banks Lake, Adams County on 22 May. Photograph by Max Bockes.

2 • This cooperative Cave Swallow, associating with Barn Swallows 5 kilometers southwest of Niland, Imperial County, California 2-11 (here) May 2008, is only the fourth to be found in California. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

3 • These flamingos continue to travel the Gulf coast and draw attention from birders and tourists alike. The American Flamingo, banded as a nestling at Ria Lagartos, Mexico, has been seen at a number of locations since being found in Texas in 2005. It was joined in 2006 by the escaped Greater Flamingo from the Wichita Zoo. In spring 2008, they were seen on the Lower Texas Coast near Baffin Bay in March before making a one-day appearance at Bolivar Flats, Galveston County on 12 April 2008 (here). Photograph by Bill Duke.

4 • This Common Black-Hawk, retaining juvenile plumage, stopped at Galileo Hill Park in eastern Kern County only long enough to stock up on fish on 27 April 2008; it is only the fourth to be found in Southern California. Photograph by Bob Steele.

5 • It was a good season for godwits, with multiple reports of both species in the Tennessee & Kentucky region; these two Hudsonian Godwits were present at McKeroy Lake, Warren County, Kentucky 18 May 2008. Photograph by David Roemer.
1. As might be expected, this Piratic Flycatcher drew considerable attention as it fed on mulberries at Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas from 3-6 (here 4) May 2008. Although this is the fifth state record, this individual was by far the most cooperative. Photograph by Dan Roberts.

2. The highlight of the season in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas was this White-throated Robin in Pharr, Hidalgo County from 18 (here 29) March through 12 April 2008. This bird represented the twelfth state record, although seven of these are from the invasion in early 2005. Photograph by Matthew Matthiessen.

3. This Violet-green Swallow at Marquette, Michigan 27-29 (here 28) May 2008 furnished a first state record, pending acceptance. Photograph by Adam M. Byrne.

4. A small population of Key West Quail-Dove persists on Vieques Island in the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, Puerto Rico, where this bird was photographed 30 April 2008. Photograph by Daphne Gemmill.

5. This Prothonotary Warbler, Montana’s third, was found 21 May 2008 (here) at Fort Peck and refound 24 May less than a mile away. Photograph by Chuck Carlson.

Jan 6-17, 2009 – *Trinidad & Tobago* — Enjoy 12 days in T&T with its unique blend of Amazonian and West Indian birdlife totaling 457 species. Tamarin, potto, oilbirds, antbirds, bellbirds, and hummingbirds will enchant in this country acclaimed to be the best place in the New World to first experience the splendor of tropical birds. Contact Bill Murphy, www.trinidadbirding.com, billmurry8@sbcglobal.net, (317) 407-4067.

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Mar 23-Apr 3, 2009 – *Cuba Bird Survey with the Caribbean Conservation Trust, Inc.* — Visit Cuba's many habitats to view Cuban endemics and resident species, while northern migration is in full swing. Space is limited to 14 participants on this U.S. government licensed program with a 14-year history. Contact Gary Markowski, Executive Director of the Caribbean Conservation Trust, Inc., at cubirds@aol.com or (305) 350-6752.

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Apr 19-27, 2009 – *Lower Rio Grande Valley with Gavin Bieber (convention pre-trip)* — South Texas is blessed with the most diverse avifauna of the contiguous United States. At least 30 species are range-restricted to the LRGV while mid-April brings a wide array of migrants. Contact Kathi McVor at WINGS, http://wingsbirds.org, wings@wingsbirds.com, (888) 293-6443.

Apr 21-27, 2009 – *Gómez Farias & El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, Mexico (convention pre-trip)* — The world's northernmost tropical cloud forest and adjacent Tamaulipan thornscrub lowlands provides amazing avian diversity including several Mexican endemics and others that reach the northernmost portions of their range in NE Mexico. Contact Kris LeFleur at WINGS, http://wingsbirds.org, wings@wingsbirds.com, (888) 293-6443.

Apr 22-27, 2009 – *Texas Hill Country (convention pre-trip)* — The Edwards Plateau is known to birders primarily for Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo, but spring in central Texas offers more as well. Woodland-lined streams yield eastern birds, while the drier southwestern edge yields Chihuahuan and Tamaulipan species. Contact Karen Turner at Field Guides, www.fieldguides.com, fieldguides@fieldguides.com, (800) 728-4953.

May 4-9, 2009 – *Lower Rio Grande Valley & South Coast (convention post-trip)* — After exploring stops in Corpus, it is off to the Valley with a stop at Baffin Bay. RVG specialties like Plain Chachalaca, Ringed Kingfisher, Altamira Oriole, Hook-billed Kite, and Brown Jay will be the perfect compliment to our Coastal Bend start. Contact Steve Shunk at Paradise Birding, www.paradisebirding.com, steve@paradisebirding.com, (541) 408-1753.

May 4-10, 2009 – *Upper Texas Coast (convention post-trip)* — Take in the coastal beaches and marshes for huge numbers of waterfowl, terns, and shorebirds, to the famed migrant traps of High Island, then inland to the Pineywoods. The Upper Texas Coast offers huge single day species counts. Birding America, www.birdingamerica.com, info@birdingamerica.com, (800) 744-6130.

May 8-17, 2009 – *Beidaihe, China: Far Eastern Migration* — Incredible migration birding (fallout?) at Beidaihe and Happy Island, with Siberian Blue Robin and Mugimaki Flycatcher, is coupled with a visit to the Great Wall, for the endemic Pere David's Laughing Thrush. Targets also include Japanese Grosbeak and Large Hawk-Cuckoo. Tropical Birding, www.tropicalbirding.com, (305) 348-5941.

May 22-25, 2009 – *Pribilofs - St. Paul Island* — St. Paul Island is home to millions of seabirds nesting in easily observed colonies along the steep shores of the island. Thousands of migrating gulls, shorebirds, seabirds, ducks, and passerines are drawn to this remote island in the Bering Sea. Wilderness Birding Adventures, www.wildernessbirding.com, info@wildernessbirding.com, (907) 694-7442.

May 27-Jun 4, 2009 – *Gambell and/or Nome Tour* — Visit one or both of these famed migration hotspots. Great opportunities exist for Asian migrants and unusual breeders in these very special places. Gambell, on Saint Lawrence Island, from 27 May-1 June, and Nome, on the mainland, from 1-4 June, are truly arctic wonderslands. Wilderness Birding Adventures, www.wildernessbirding.com, info@wildernessbirding.com, (907) 694-7442.

May 31-Jun 7, 2009 – *Macaws, Parrots & Quetzals of the Mountains of Chihuahua, Mexico* — Opportunities for the endangered Thick-billed Parrot, Eared Quetzal and Military Macaw highlight this Sierra Madre trip with 200 species possible. We will also view two of the most spectacular sights in North America: Basasacnic Falls and the Copper Canyon. Contact Bill West at WingWest Birding Tours, www.home.earthlink.net/~wingswestm, wingswestm@earthlink.net, (805) 583-6928.

Jun 1-15, 2009 – *Uganda: Birding and Primates* — Uganda, with 1000 avian species, has been called the “Pearl of Africa.” From Lake Victoria to the Albertine Rift Valley, this trip seeks out Shoebill, as well as hornbills, turacooos, rollers, bee-eaters, and weavers. An optional trip for Mountain Gorilla is planned. Contact Herbert Byaruhanga at Bird Uganda Safari, www.birduganda.com, director@birduganda.com, +256 312280948.

Jun 7-19, 2009 – *Birding in Peru with Renzo Zeppilli* — This tour includes lodges in Lima (sea level), Cusco (11,600 feet), Machu Picchu and, of course, the Manu Wildlife Center, known for its high biodiversity and abundant bird life. Due to elevation and rugged terrain, participants must be in sufficient good health. Area endemics, high Andean waterfowl and mixed flocks are waiting! Siemer & Hand Travel, www.siemerhand.com, (800) 451-4321.

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