

## SPRING MIGRATION

March 1 - May 31, 1985

Introduction

A warm southerly airflow during the end of February and the first few days of March brought the first migrant blackbirds into the state. Weather patterns were topsy-turvy for the next several days, with alternating cold and warm fronts and a couple of heavy snowfalls. The next prevailing mild air brought Fox and Song Sparrows, early Meadowlarks and a few other migrants, but a cold high pressure system halted any further noticeable "push" of birds until month's end.

That push at the end of March was exemplified by the vanguard of what turned out to be a most impressive and exciting goose migration. The first flocks of Canada Geese, numbering in the hundreds, passed through the state on the nights of March 27-29. Others were noted in various locations on ensuing days. Perhaps THE event of the season, however, was the Snow Goose flight. An estimated 8000 were reported to us by observers, and this figure surely represents only the tip of the iceberg. No doubt many thousands more went through our region between the end of March and the apparent peak days of April 5 and 6.

This was one of the driest springs on record, with April being the driest since 1966, and the third driest in 50 years. Northerly winds prevailed for most of the latter part of March and first part of April, resulting in a deterrent to what usually seems to be a slow and steady hawk migration. The meteorological dam burst on the morning of April 21, releasing a veritable flood of "backed up" raptors. A count of 27 Ospreys at Peaked Hill, Bristol, for example, may give

some idea of the magnitude of the flight, which continued for three days. Total numbers of hawks at Peaked were 306, 207, and 288 for April 21 to 23.

Broad-winged Hawks comprised 61%, 75%, and 84% of those flights.

Following the passage of a series of rapidly moving low pressure systems through the region during the first few days of May, the warbler migration was in full swing by May 10, with May 11 probably being the day on which most real "waves" were noted. More rallids were noted, from many more locations, this spring than in the past; Common Moorhens in Concord and Holderness were good finds, as were a total of 16 Virginia Rails statewide. Shorebird migration peaked the last half of May, and several interesting species were at the coast on May 21.

Unusual finds this spring included several species of waterfowl, a couple of warblers, an escape, and our nominee for the "Bird of the Season Award," a Golden-crowned Sparrow. For details, please read on.

Susan A. Gonzalez

Wavell W. Fogleman

### LOONS THROUGH HERONS



A total of 30 Common Loons were reported throughout the state. A larger number of Pied-billed Grebe reports were received this year compared to 1984, including an early one in Pittsfield March 11 (AER, GCR). Ten Red-necked Grebes were on Moore Reservoir, Littleton, April 27, and 3 noted there on May 14 were in summer plumage (RB). Six Red-necked Grebes and one Horned Grebe were observed on Highland Lake, Andover, Apr. 5 (KCE). Two Red-necked Grebes were on Lake Umbagog May 21 (DE). An earlier Horned Grebe was noted on Turkey Pond, Concord, on Mar. 31 (TR).

Good numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were seen inland with 18 on the Connecticut River, Hanover, April 19, and 40 flew over the Bristol hawk watch site April 28 (SAG). They were also noted in Monroe (6), North Haverhill (2) and at Lake Umbagog (10). Again this year no tubenoses were reported from N.H. waters.

The ASNH whale watch and pelagic bird trip May 19 went southeast into Massachusetts waters, where several dozen Wilson's Storm-Petrels and a quite early Sooty Shearwater were seen (SAG,\*). American Bitterns were better reported than usual, with 20 birds, all at inland locations.

Over 100 Great Blue Herons were reported! Two Great Egret reports were received from inland locations: Hanover, April 6 (G. Barlow fide RAQ), very early, and Plymouth, a rather early April 18 (SAG, WWF, R. Frey). RAQ also saw one, possibly two, at Rye May 21. The first Snowy Egrets were observed March 28 at the North Hampton salt marsh (BJ,TR). A Snowy Egret well inland at Lisbon on May 27 was m unusual (RB). The same day WWF and SAG were surprised and amused as a Cattle Egret flew over Route 1A in Rye and landed on a picket fence. The only spring report, it was about 3

weeks earlier than the previous record. About 2 weeks early was a Green-backed Heron in Pittsfield, March 1 (AER, GCR). A Black-crowned Night Heron was inland April 19 in Pittsfield (AER, GCR). An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was observed in Hampton at Meadow Pond, May 25 (DBK, T. Arter). Two Glossy Ibis were in Rye April 10 (RWS).

#### WATERFOWL



Six Mute Swans were at Dover Point April 28 (MD,\*). No fewer than 35 reports of Snow Geese were received as these birds were very evident in migration in N.H. this year. Beginning with 1100 to 1200 seen in North Haverhill March 30 (RB,\*), flocks during the first week of April were typically around 200, with 600 estimated on Highland Lake in Andover April 5 (KCE). Scattered "Blue" morphs were also reported. Stragglers included 300 to 400 at Webster April 13 (BJ,HJ); 120 at Bath May 5 (all but 2 were juveniles) (RB); a single bird in the "Marsh 93", Holderness [an unofficially named marsh off I-93 in Holderness/Plymouth], May 7 to 10 (SAG,\*); and a single bird at Lake Umbagog on May 16 (DE).

Equally impressive movements of Canada Geese were noted in central N.H. on the nights of March 27 to 29, as honking was heard all night (RB; BSR; R. Olmstead fide SAG). Another flock of 300 were observed in Concord April 5 (VHa). Stragglers were observed in central N.H. throughout April, with five still in the "Marsh 93," Holderness, until May 10 (SAG,\*). This was truly one of the most memorable goose migrations in years! Breeding Canada Geese were observed with young in Rye in late May (SAG,WWF); South Lyndeboro, May 4 (MS, RS); and New Boston, May 18 (C. & M.L. Gould fide ASNH). Betty Swift also heard of birds nesting in Milford and Amherst.

Another unusual sighting was the flock of 24 Brant in Littleton May 18 (RB, EAE, PP). Twenty reports of Wood Ducks were received, up somewhat from the last two years (60+ from 19 locations). Green-winged Teal reports were also up (95 at 18 locations!), with flocks of 14 being seen in Hopkinton and Hampton (TR), 16 in North Haverhill (RB), and the last four at East Kingston, April 24 (DBK). Large groups of American Black Ducks this year were: 55 in Concord, March 26 (RAQ); 56 in Monroe March 31; 67 in Lancaster Apr. 6; 176 in North Haverhill; and 160 more in Monroe, April 13 (RB). A somewhat early Northern Pintail was

at Eel Pond, Rye, March 15 (EGL, S. Thompson), and a flock which peaked at 12 was observed in the Merrimack River in Boscawen the last week of March (TR, KCE, BJ). Five males and a female were in Monroe on March 29 (EAE), and 18 Blue-winged Teal were reported from various inland sites, the earliest a hen March 26 on Lake Massabesic, Auburn (RAQ).

Three Northern Shovelers were found in Wilmot March 28 (KCE), and others were observed in Monroe April 6 (R. Bradley fide RAQ) and Columbia April 17 (DKi). A single GADWALL was reported from Horseshoe Pond, Concord, April 1-3 (TR, KCE, VHa, \*). American Wigeon were also well reported this year: 4 pair plus 4 males on the Connecticut River April 5-7 (RB), a pair in Concord April 5 (VHa), a pair on Webster Lake in Franklin April 10-17 (KCE), and a drake in the "Marsh 93," Holderness, April 26 (WWF, SAG, \*). A pair of REDHEADS were at North Haverhill March 28 (EAE). Many reports of Ring-necked Ducks were received, totalling about 500, the earliest March 9 in Kingston (KEF). Large groups included 43 in Durham March 23 (SM, D. Ekstrom); 70 on Massabesic Lake, Manchester, April 3 (DR, R. Lawrence), and 45 on Webster Lake, Franklin, April 13 (KCE).

A drake Greater Scaup (details noted) was on Webster Lake, Franklin, March 30 (KCE); others included 5 at Monroe April 6 (RB), and one lingering off Adams Point, Durham, May 27 (SM, B. Adams) (no details). Three drake Lesser Scaup (details noted) were on Horseshoe Pond, Concord, April 2 (KCE, TR, \*), and 6 birds were noted on Turtle Pond April 6 (KCE). Oldsquaws and all three species of scoter were sighted off Hampton Beach April 24 (MTM). Eighteen White-winged Scoters were in Littleton May 18 (RB), and 13 were at Lake Umbagog May 21 (D. Evans fide RAQ). A hen Common Goldeneye was found in Wilmot as late as May 2 (KCE), the only notable report. Buffleheads moved through central N.H. from mid-March to the first week of April, 15 being reported from Kingston March 23 (KEF).

Normal good numbers of Hooded and Common Mergansers were reported. In addition to Red-breasted Mergansers on the coast, one drake was in Andover April 5 (KCE), 2 birds were in Concord April 14 (BJ), and 10 were at Moore Reservoir, Littleton, April 27 (RB--"most at one time in over 25 years"). One pair was late on the coast at Little Harbor, May 26 (RWS).

VULTURES, HAWKS, FALCONS

A Turkey Vulture near the Lee traffic circle on Route 4, March 2, was quite early (MJM). Most other first reports (total about 75 birds) were in the usual late March to early April period. At the Bristol hawk watch, 12 and 14 were seen migrating on April 16 and 20 respectively (SAG). Sixty-nine Ospreys were reported for the season, from April 4 to May 28. Best migration days at Bristol's Peaked Hill were 27 on April 21, 11 on the 22nd, and 10 on the 23rd (SAG,\*). Single immature Bald Eagles were reported March 4, Manchester (KD); April 20, Bristol (SAG, WWF, \*); May 5, Durham (SM, B. Adams); and May 16, Umbagog (DE). One to two adults were seen in the Monroe area through May (EAE). Twenty-three +/- Northern Harriers, well up from last year, were reported with no unusual dates.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk migration peaked April 21-23 at Bristol with 36, 10, and 17 on those days (SAG). Seven observers reported a total of 11 Cooper's Hawks, mostly in April. The Stettenheims had one in East Plainfield March 7, and B. Ridgely had one which remained around his home into June. Fourteen Goshawks were reported, with a total of nine migrants at the Peaked Hill hawkwatch (SAG,\*). Seventeen Red-shouldered Hawks were reported, mostly singles or pairs probably nesting. Two separate Broad-winged Hawks were seen on the somewhat early date of April 6 and 7 (MD, BJ), and the peak of migration occurred around April 21-23. At Peaked Hill, Bristol, there were 188, 165, and 241 on those three days (SAG,\*), and 182 were seen in Winchester on April 23 (RD, CD), with suspicion that others were passing over too high to see. One Rough-legged Hawk was observed in Durham March 10 (MD).

Only two Merlins were reported, somewhat early in Pittsfield, March 28 (AER), and at the Bristol hawk watch April 28 (SAG,\*). Three Peregrine Falcons were observed in migration the third week of April in central N.H. (SAG), and a possible (no details) was in Manchester April 15 (MTM). At least 3 natural cliff sites in the state were favored with Peregrine Falcon sightings, perhaps birds looking for nest sites, but no confirmed nesting has been reported (fide WWF). C. Smith and H. Nevers (fide SAG) saw a possible GYRFALCON in Errol March 20.

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

A. & D.B. Stavros saw a male Spruce Grouse May 26 near Mt. Jackson. Two pair were noted in the Dartmouth College Grant on March 3.

What phenomenon can explain the large number of Virginia Rails reported this season? Sixteen birds, all in May, were observed in central N.H. (MJM, KD, RWS, SAG, HWP, KCE, \*). A pair of Soras was noted in Concord May 3 (KD). A Common Moorhen was found in the South End Marsh, Concord, April 23 by the Concord Bird Club (KD), and was seen again May 5 courting another one. At least one was still there May 19 (JG). One was also observed May 12 at "Marsh 93" in Holderness, a first for this marsh, as was the Virginia Rail (SAG, WWF). A Coot was in South End Marsh, Concord, April 15 (H. Miller fide ASNH). [I suspect that several of these sightings were the result of Atlasing efforts--ed.]

A flock of 40+ Black-bellied Plovers was observed by RAQ in Rye May 21. Twenty-five Semipalmated Plovers were seen in the "metal shop marsh," Hampton, the same day (RAQ). Killdeer were somewhat later than average, with the first being observed March 15 in Derry (RAQ). Greater Yellowlegs were likewise late, with the first one being recorded the last week of April. The last seen were in Campton Pond May 25 (PAP, J. Stark). Except for a single Lesser Yellowlegs along the Connecticut River north of Hanover April 19 (SAG), the only other four reported (also inland) were in mid-May (RAQ, PAP, J. Stark, DR). No large groups of Solitary Sandpipers were reported either, and they were late, May 10-20.

A Willet was observed at Odiorne Point May 11 (RWS) and 3 were there May 21 (RAQ). Spotted Sandpipers arrived about average times--end of April. An Upland Sandpiper in Durham April 5 was early (MD); another was in New Hampton April 27 (VHH), and SAG and WWF found one at the traditional North Haverhill site May 18. Some other sandpipers, found along the coast May 21, included 2 Ruddy Turnstones, 20 Leasts, and 3 White-rumps (RAQ). Ten Least Sandpipers were noted inland at Pembroke May 10 (TR). A Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at Campton Pond May 19 (PAP, J. Stark). A flock of 110+ Purple Sandpipers on the Hampton River jetties May 21 was somewhat late (RAQ). Two Short-billed Dowitchers were seen in North Haverhill on May 18 (RB).

Common Snipe were also apparently several weeks late arriving. The first reported were April 21 in Keene (JHW) and Errol (DE). The Heberts reported one on May 12 as "the first migrating record ever for New Hampton." American Woodcock arrived March 11-13 near the coast (MD, RWS), and about 10-18 days later inland. A Glaucous Gull was observed in Monroe March 31 (RB). Six Bonaparte's Gulls were in Monroe on April 14, and one was in Littleton May 7 (RB). Common Terns were not reported at the coast until late May.

#### DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

One Black-billed Cuckoo was found in Goffstown May 20 (HWP). The Heberts heard an Eastern Screech Owl in New Hampton May 31. Six Great Horned Owls were reported, including one branched bird in Little Harbor May 26 (RWS). L. Winship (fide ASNH) saw a Snowy Owl in Hopkinton March 8. Only eight Barred Owl records were received, but for the first time in three years Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported--in fact, 11 of them!

Common Nighthawks slipped in about on time, with no large migration being noted. Eighteen Whip-poor-wills were reported on usual dates. Chimney Swifts, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (RAQ had eight at Odiorne on May 21), and Belted Kingfishers were also present on normal dates.

An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was in East Derry May 15 (M. Faro fide RAQ). A well-described RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER was in Bristol Feb. 2 (winter period, J. Westfall fide SAG). Another bird (no details) was reportedly in Keene from mid-April to May 21 (H. Livingston fide MC). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were early this year, earliest April 2, West Nottingham (RAQ), and 9 were observed in Lyman on April 21 (RB). A total of 8 Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported from: Errol, Dummer, Cambridge, Clarksville, and Bethlehem. Northern Flickers were about a week late. The 16 Pileated Woodpeckers reported this year were more representative of their true numbers than in past years.

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

Five-sided Flycatchers were slightly late; the first was in Hillsboro May 20 (RAS), but another was as far north as Second College Grant May 22 (E. Hentcy fide RAQ). Five others were reported. An Eastern Wood-Pewee

was reportedly heard in Manchester as early as May 1 (MTM), but no others were reported until May 20, when they were noted in New Hampton (VHH). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported from Manchester May 15 and 20 (MTM), and two were in Stoddard May 23 and 29 (RAQ). No fewer than 24 Alder Flycatchers were reported this season from 9 areas, but only one report of Willow Flycatchers was received, 2 birds in Keene May 25 (JHW). The earliest Least Flycatchers were 2 in Goffstown April 26 (HWP), while most others were reported about May 10. Great Crested Flycatchers arrived on time, and more than one observer noted that they appeared to be more abundant than usual. An Eastern Kingbird was reported from East Wolfeboro (DLR) on the exceptionally early date of April 6, but all others arrived in the more usual period of the first week of May.

About 30 Horned Larks arrived in Monroe on Mar. 7 (P. Powers fide RB), while 5 were at Peaked Hill March 27 (SAG), and at least 10 others were reported during the migration period. MTM found a pair and nest at the Manchester Airport May 22. The only Purple Martins reported were 6 at the Fun Spot colony in Laconia May 12 (VHH).

The first Tree Swallows arrived March 28 in Alton (SAG, WWF), Pittsfield (AER), and Hillsboro (RAS), with the migration peaking April 7-9 when observers in several locations noted flocks of "hundreds" over various marshes and ponds. Three Northern Rough-winged Swallows in Durham April 13 (SM) were the earliest recorded for this species in N.H. Others were reported by the end of the month, and by mid-May were in excellent numbers in many locations. Bank Swallow reports, on the other hand, were scarce this year, with 3 birds in Sutton May 19 (HWP), 8-10 in North Sandwich May 29, and some 30 fresh burrows noted in Holderness May 31 (BSR). Three Cliff Swallows were seen at Merrymeeting Marsh May 8 (RWS), and the Heberts observed a colony of 15-20 birds in Bridgewater May 11. Six plus birds in Hillsboro at the site of an historic colony May 20 (RAS) bear watching. Incredibly early were two Barn Swallows reported from Pittsfield March 28 (AER). All others were reported in the normal arrival period of April 20-24.

Nine Gray Jays were reported from five locations, all in the North Country or mountains. An adult on a nest containing two





young (!) was found near Ethan Pond April 28 (SM, D. Ekstrom). RAS was the only observer mentioning Blue Jay migration, with 34 flying high overhead in Hillsboro May 11. The species' migration usually peaks toward the end of May. Two to three hundred Common Crows were seen in Bath and Monroe on March 7 (Lois Cole, Ed LaLeme fide RB), while a moderate movement was noted all day on March 27 at Peaked Hill (SAG). At least two Fish Crows were at Kingston State Park March 24 (MJM). Once again, Common Ravens were reported in abundance in the southern half of the state, and none were reported in the north. Although this situation is undoubtedly reflective of range expansion, it surely does not indicate abandonment of the traditional northern strongholds. Possibly northern observers tend to take them for granted.

Some time between the latter part of the winter season and the beginning of the spring reporting period, Black-capped Chickadees began appearing in their usual numbers. Reports of Brown Creepers indicate that the species is widespread in the state. House Wrens arrived on time, with one in Hillsboro April 28 (RAS), and two in Goffstown April 30 (HWP). Winter Wrens also appeared on time. One was singing in Mont Vernon April 20 (BS, MS), and others were in Barnstead (AER, GCR) and Jefferson (GB) April 22. Nine others were reported, up from last year, but not enough to give confidence that the species' status in the state has improved.

#### KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS

Four Golden-crowned Kinglets in West Sandwich April 13, and 5 in Moultonboro April 14 (BSR) constitute the only reports for that species. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were on time this year, with the first reported from West Sandwich April 7 (BSR), and the largest number, 22, in Portsmouth April 19 (RWS). At least 58 others were reported from various locations throughout the southern part of the state. Five Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were back at their stronghold--the Plymouth/Holderness "Marsh 93," on April 26 (WWF, SAG). Only four others were reported.

As reported in the winter season, an Eastern Bluebird appeared in Northwood on February 28. Other reports received for the spring season show that this was not an isolated incident, as 4 (!) were in Goffstown (HWP) and another

was in Hopkinton (W. Summer fide ASNH) that same date. In light of the fact that several Bluebirds wintered in Massachusetts and even in Vermont's Champlain Valley, perhaps these early arrivals aren't too surprising. At least 67 others were reported from 29 locations, more than twice the number reported in 1984.

A Veery in Keene on April 21 was early (JWH). Others were observed within the usual time-frame, and RWS had 9 in Alton on May 8. The only Gray-cheeked Thrush was a single bird in Stoddard on the rather late date of May 29 (RAQ). Swainson's Thrushes were generally on time, with the exception of 2 early individuals in Hampton April 21 (DBK), and 4 were already on their breeding range in Jackson May 18-19 (MS, BS). Fewer than usual reports were received for this species, causing the editors to wonder if these birds rushed through most of the state this year, or if they were indeed scarce. Hermit Thrushes were reported in good numbers from many locations. Incredible were 2 very early Wood Thrushes, one April 14 in Goffstown (HWP) and another in Portsmouth April 19 (it was singing) (RWS). The migration of American Robins was routine, peaking the last week of March and first of April. A VARIED THRUSH was reported to ASNH by an anonymous observer in East Washington from March 7 to 26 (fide RAQ). The bird, well-described, was thought to be a male.

Gray Catbirds arrived on the normal dates for that species, May 5-8, and RWS banded a total of 21 in Portsmouth on May 14, 15, and 18. Northern Mockingbirds were reported in their usual numbers from many locations, but of special interest was one as far north as Columbia April 23 (DKi). Most of the Brown Thrasher reports indicate that the species was on time, although a few reporters felt that they were late in some areas. Despite the fact that more reports were received this year, most were for single birds, and observers continue to feel that the species is declining.

Three Water Pipits were found at Whiteface Intervale April 27 (BSR), 2 to 3 were noted in Hillsboro May 9 (RAS), and up to 80 were seen in North Haverhill on May 19 (RB). The 50+ Cedar Waxwings in Plymouth March 1 (SAG, WW) had probably been part of the wintering population. Forty-five others were reported from three locations. BSR reported the season's only Northern Shrikes, one in North

Sandwich March 3, and another March 30 at Whiteface Intervale which sang as he watched. Thanks go out to all observers who refrained from cluttering our files with reports of European Starlings (only one slip was received!).

A very early Solitary Vireo was reported in Durham April 8 (WT). Most others were reported for the usual arrival dates, the third week of April. Yellow-throated Vireos were singing in Chesterfield at Pisgah State Park May 9 (MC), Roxbury May 11 (JHW), and Webster May 13 (BJ). Six others were reported. Warbling Vireos were a little over a week later than their norm, with 6 in Plymouth May 10 (SAG), and others in New Hampton May 11 (VHH), Manchester May 14 (MTM), and Pittsfield May 15 (AER, GCR). Three Philadelphia Vireos were reported, all by BSR, and all in the Sandwich area. One was observed singing near Col Pond on May 13, another was seen the same day at the Thompson Refuge, and the third was seen on Metcalf Point, Squam Lake, on May 14. Red-eyed Vireos arrived on schedule, with a peak of 17 in New Hampton on May 23 (VHH).

#### WARBLERS

Single Blue-winged Warblers were at Dame Farm, Durham May 3 (SM), near the Pisgah State Park parking lot in Chesterfield May 10 and 18 (MC), and 2 were at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye May 11 (RWS) and at Goffstown May 13 (HWP). An unconfirmed report of one in Windham was also received (T. Adams, telephoned to ASNH). Golden-winged Warblers were in Goffstown on May 13 (HWP), and in Hillsboro May 22 (RAS). No reports were received in regard to the Exeter/Kensington population. HWP found a Brewster's hybrid in Sutton May 18.

Tennessee Warblers arrived slightly early in some areas, and were present for several days, as in Pittsfield May 5-15 (AER, GCR). MTM found 9 along the Merrimack River in S.E. Manchester on May 15, and the species was still present May 19 in Goffstown where HWP found 2. Three Nashville Warblers were in Plymouth April 28 (SAG), and others were in Concord April 29 (RAQ, VHa). The first Northern Parulas noted in the state were pretty much on time in Tamworth April 30 (MND) and Londonderry May 2 (RAQ), but this spring's migration seemed rather "straggly" and spread out, as occasional birds were noted throughout most of the month. HWP had one in Goffstown

May 13, and RAQ had 2-3 at Odiorne May 21. Another was in breeding habitat in Second College Grant May 22 (E. Hentcy, fide RAQ).



Chestnut-sided Warblers were a week and more late, with the first reported from Goffstown May 10 (HWP), and on May 12 in Pittsfield (GCR), Lyman (RB), and Mont Vernon (MS, BS). Magnolia Warblers were slightly late as well, and RAQ had 10+ at Odiorne on May 21, a peak number further south than usual for that date.

May 11 was a good day for finding Cape May Warblers in Plymouth (SAG), where several were noted in a compact group feeding among poplar catkins near Marsh 93. Others were at the NEFFA land on Squam Lake May 10 (BSR), Pine Grove Cemetery Manchester (MTM), Monroe (RB) May 11, Goffstown (HWP), and Lyman (RB) May 12. Black-throated Blue Warblers arrived slightly later than the normal dates for the species, with two in Plymouth May 7 (SAG), and another in New Hampton May 9 (VHH).

Five Yellow-rumped Warblers were in Durham April 13 (WT), and 2 were in Auburn April 19 (RAQ). By month's end they were noted throughout most of the southern half of the state. On May 7 there must have been a hatch of some insect species in the central part of the state which Yellow-rumps found to their liking, as many dozens were observed foraging on the ground in wet areas around Marsh-93 in Plymouth/Holderness (SAG), and PAP observed similar behavior near Campton Pond. Later the same day RAQ observed many moving along the NE shoreline of Newfound Lake. Black-throated Green Warblers were in West Campton April 30 (PAP), New Hampton May 1 (VHH), Londonderry May 2 (RAQ), and Lyman (6) May 12 (RB). Probably the scarcest warbler species this spring was the Blackburnian Warbler. RAQ had 2 at Paradise Point May 7, RB had 4 in Lyman May 12, and BSR found only ONE in a 2 mile walk to Guinea Pond in Sandwich Notch May 30, an area that ordinarily abounds with this species. Indeed, this editor found none this spring in its usual haunts around the Plymouth area during May. Data is urgently needed regarding the deforestation practices in Central American and what effects they may be having on this and other species that winter in those areas.

Pine Warblers began arriving in early April, and were widespread by mid-month. May 2 was Prairie Warbler day in the southern part of

the state, with 4 in Goffstown (HWP), two in Londonderry, and one in Tuftonboro (RAQ). This is the earliest date recorded for this species, which usually arrives about May 10. Palm Warblers were on the early side, with single birds in Canterbury (KCE) and Durham (WT) April 8. RWS had 6 in Portsmouth April 19, and one bird was found as late as May 5 in Walpole (R. Bertin). Bay-breasted Warblers arrived in central areas May 10; several were observed at Marsh-93 near Plymouth (PAP, fide SAG), and 3 males were together at the NEFFA land on Squam lake (BSR). RAQ had 5 at Odiorne Point State Park May 21, and several in Stoddard May 23. They were also noted in Monroe (2), Lyman (7) and Franconia (2), May 11-14 (RB). Blackpoll Warblers arrived on time, and lingered through the end of May in Pittsfield and Plymouth.

Black-and-white Warblers were a week early in Goffstown, where there were 2 on April 15 (HWP). Others were observed within the usual arrival period, but no large numbers were reported, and BSR only had one on his May 30 Guinea Pond walk. An American Redstart, identified by voice only, was reported in Manchester as early as April 30 (MTM), but none was noted by other observers until May 10-11, a few days later than the normal arrival period. BSR and SAG feel that this is another species which may be declining in our region. Two PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS were reported to ASNH, one by Barbara Huneven in Newport May 6 with adequate details, and the other from Exeter May 17 by Dave Mandell (no details). A WORM-EATING WARBLER was found off Dame Road in Durham May 24 (SM). The bird was singing and foraging high in oak trees, and was seen well by 3 other observers. Good details accompanied the report, and it is said that one of the observers photographed it. The details, plus photographs (if available) would help establish this sighting as a first confirmed state record for the species.

Ovenbirds were on time, with two in Goffstown May 2 (HWP). On May 12 there were 14 in Lyman (RB), and on May 14 there were 19 in New Hampton (VHH). Two Northern Waterthrushes were more than 2 weeks earlier than the usual early dates for that species in Goffstown April 12 (HWP). Others were in Mont Vernon April 27 (MS, BS), Plymouth April 28 (SAG), and Lyman (8) May 12 (RB). VHH found them very scarce in the New Hampton area after May 10, and absent "from several usual sites." Likewise, 2 Louisiana Waterthrushes in Walpole April 5 (R. Bertin) were 5 days earlier than any previous

report. This species seems to be doing quite well, as no fewer than 20 were reported, from 17 locations; most if not all reports were of birds already on territory.

The only Mourning Warbler reports were from New Hampton May 16 and May 26 (VHH). Common Yellowthroats were on the late side of normal--the first in New Hampton May 9 (VHH), and in Pittsfield and Plymouth May 10, but by the 20th they had become more widely distributed. Wilson's Warblers were abundantly noted. Three or more were in Plymouth May 10 (SAG), 7 were at Odiorne May 11, and 1 was as far north as Monroe that same day (EAE,\*). Canada Warblers were late, and generally scarce, although BSR found an astounding total of 15 near Guinea Pond May 30.

#### TANAGERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES



Scarlet Tanagers were on time, and MTM observed a female in Manchester gathering nest material May 15. Northern Cardinals were widely reported, the northernmost being a pair in Lincoln March 13 (E. Case, fide ASNH). The only noteworthy account of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was of 6 males at a feeder in Franconia on May 14 (M. Phillips fide RB). For the third consecutive year we received a report of a BLUE GROSBEAK: one male was at the New London feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Marden in May (fide KCE). Indigo Buntings were reported in far lower numbers than in recent years. Reports of 12 birds from 6 locations were received. RED-CRESTED (BRAZILIAN) CARDINALS were reported visiting feeders at four locations (fide ASNH). One each were in Hopkinton March 7, Dunbarton April 23 (and late May), Weare April 29, and Goffstown April 30. More information is needed regarding this recent escape, which was first noted in the state in August 1984.

Rufous-sided Towhees were generally on time, and 6+ were found in Londonderry May 2 (RAQ). The great numbers of American Tree Sparrows that wintered in the state began to move out on warm fronts toward the end of March, but several lingered well into April; the last ones were observed in Pittsfield April 20 (AER), and in Plymouth (SAG) and East Wolfeboro (DLR) April 23. The first Chipping Sparrow noted was in Pittsfield April 6 (AER, GCR), and most others were reported from April 14 on, with a peak noted in Holderness/Plymouth April 23, when many were seen (SAG).



An early Field Sparrow began visiting a Plymouth feeder March 23 (SAG, WWF), and by mid-April others were present in several areas as far north as Columbia (DKi). RAQ was pleasantly surprised to find 20+/- in Londonderry May 2. Vesper Sparrows were again at the Plymouth airport, this year on March 31 (SAG, WWF), as well as in Whitefield April 20 (RB), Keene April 21 (JHW), Andover May 2 (KCE), and Henniker May 15 (BJ). Savannah Sparrows were more widely reported this year, giving a better picture of their distribution during the spring season. JHW found 14 along Krif Road in Keene April 21. Unusual inland in N.H., a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found at the Thompson Refuge in North Sandwich on the very early (for the species) date of May 12 (D. Osgood, ESt) (details on file). Two others were in Rye in a salt marsh at the north end of Odiorne Point State Park May 21 (RAQ).

Fox Sparrows were almost a week earlier than the previous early dates for that species, with 1 in Mont Vernon March 6-8 (BS), 3 in Pittsfield March 7-11 (AER, GCR), and another in Durham March 8 (WT). At least 19 others were reported, down from previous years.

Wintering Song Sparrows began to be joined by migrants around the middle of March in southern sections, and by the end of the month there was a general influx in the central part of the state, with several noted in Plymouth (SAG) and Center Harbor (BSR). As is usually the case, Lincoln's Sparrows managed to escape the notice of most observers during their spring passage; however, 7 or more were around the edges of Marsh-93 near Plymouth early on May 11 (SAG), and another was spotted in Columbia May 20 (DKi).

Swamp Sparrows were not noted until quite late, with "many" in Concord April 20 (VHa), 6 in Lyman and 16 in Jefferson April 21 (RB), and another in Barnstead April 22 (AER, GCR). White-throated Sparrows began moving a little after mid-April, and were quite numerous by the first of May when 30+ were tallied in Hampton (DBK). Twenty-five or more were in Londonderry May 2 (RAQ). Another state record was achieved this spring, in Tamworth, when an adult GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW was present at a feeder April 27-29 (MND). The bird was photographed, and was seen by several observers (photo on file). White-crowned Sparrows were on time, and lingered until May 11 in several locations.

After what must have been record-breaking numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos in the state

during the winter, many remained until the last part of March, when a general departure occurred. However, several remained at scattered locations through April, one was reported as late as May 2 in Manchester (MTM), and one was seen through the end of May and into June in Derry (RAQ). Eight Snow Buntings in Monroe March 9 (RB), 3 in Dummer April 17 (RAQ), and 2 in Goshen May 7 (BJ) comprise the total reports for that species. The only Lapland Longspur seen was with the flock of Snow Buntings in Monroe on Mar. 9 (RB, EAE, \*). It was beginning to change into breeding plumage, and entertained the observers for several hours.

Bobolinks arrived May 10 in many areas, and by May 12 there were "many" males in the Plymouth area (SAG,\*). Five were flying over Odiorne Point May 21 (RAQ), and hundreds of females were in fields near Plymouth May 25 (SAG). The major part of the Red-winged Blackbird flight was over by March 1, but a few migrant flocks were noted at scattered locations during the first week of the month. Eastern Meadowlarks were generally late, with the exception of a single bird in Concord March 8 (VHa). Three were near Smith Bridge in Plymouth March 24 (SAG, WWF), and 5 were along Clinton Street in Concord April 2 (D. Stavros fide RAQ). Reports of 2 Rusty Blackbirds were received from each of 5 locations, the first March 24 at Great Meadows, Kensington (MD, MJM). Others were in Dunbarton April 7 (CFS, fide RAQ), Candia April 12 (RAQ), Concord April 25 (VH), and Plymouth May 2 (SAG,\*).

The Common Grackle migration began in late February, and pretty much peaked in most areas the second week of March, although Bill and May Harris reported seeing "thousands" near their Nashua home April 4, and 800-900 on April 5. The observers said, "Not even the fall migration surpassed what we saw today." Three Orchard Orioles were back at Odiorne May 11 (RWS), and one was photographed there May 21 (RAQ). Another was reported in Manchester May 23-31 (MTM). Northern Orioles began arriving in southern sections on May 5, and by May 10 were well into central sections, with several being reported in Plymouth, New Hampton, and Littleton.

Numbers of Purple Finches began to increase at feeders in the southern half of the state in mid-March, and peaked about the first week of April. The northward expansion of House Finches was evident in the reporting of a pair at a Columbia feeder April 21 (DKi). As

discussed in the winter report, the heavy cone crop attracted large numbers of crossbills to the southern part of the state, and Red Crossbills were found nesting in February in Hancock. A pair was observed there feeding two young March 26 (N. Clark fide MC). At Pisgah State Park May 9, a flock of 8 birds included adult males and streaked juveniles (MC). Other pairs were in Mont Vernon April 27 (MS, BS), the NEFFA land in Center Harbor April 8 and 26 (BSR), and Moultonboro May 5 (BSR). The NEFFA birds were joined by another female or two during the middle of May, and none were seen after May 17. RAQ had 4 fly over Paradise Point, Hebron, May 7. A White-winged Crossbill in Plainfield March 18 (PS); 11 in Lyman Apr. 21; 12 in Jefferson Apr. 22 (both RB); and 50+ in Tamworth April 29 (MND) were the only reports of that species out of the mountains, where 380+ more were reported by various hiking observers. The only Common Redpoll report was of a "flock" on Mt. Sunapee March 20 (TR).

Record numbers of Pine Siskins during the winter season stayed on well into May, even though many were observed migrating daily April 15-21 at Peaked Hill (SAG). Thirty or more were in Hillsboro (RAS), 50+/- in

Sanbornton May 22 (VHH), 150+ in North Weare May 25 (JG), and MC had 34 feeding in dandelions May 27 in Hancock. Many others lingered in Keene (JHW), East Wolfeboro (DLK), and Plymouth at month's end. Perhaps most interesting was the discovery in Deering of a dead nestling April 3. The specimen was brought to ASNH by Bonnie Corey, and RAQ reports that the wing feathers were still sheathed, and the tail feathers had not yet begun to grow. In addition, a female in Hancock May 1 was observed with a brood patch (MC).

Abundant as well were American Goldfinches, which could be found in the coniferous forests as well as in birch catkins and at feeders throughout the season. One European Goldfinch (undescribed) was reported at a Hollis feeder April 12 (J. Graney, fide ASNH). Despite the abundance of other "winter finches," few Evening Grosbeaks were observed, except during the first few weeks of March in the Littleton area, when several observers saw several flocks of from 100 to 500 birds. The species was also noted migrating at Peaked Hill during early April (SAG), and a few were still being seen in East Wolfeboro at the end of May (DLR).

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

Robert Bradley, R. Bertin, Meade Cadot, C. Daugherty, R. Daugherty, Myra Davis, Kay Dymont, Edith Ann Emery, Diane Evans, Wavell W. Fogleman, Kenneth, E. Folsom, Susan A. Gonzalez, Jane Grant, Vincent Hayden, Vera H. Hebert, Betsy Janeway, Harold Janeway, Deborah B. Kirwan, David Killam, Elizabeth G. Locke, Marie T. Martin, Steve Mirick, Mary Jo Murray, Harold Nevers, Helen W. Parker, Priscilla A. Phipps, Robert A. Quinn, Dorothea L. Raddin, David Rheault, Tudor Richards, Beverly S. Ridgely, Andrea E. Robbins, George C. Robbins, Raymond A. Sprague, Arthur Stavros, Dawn B. Stavros, Becky Suomala, Mark Suomala, Elizabeth Steele, Peter Stettenheim, Roger W. Stephenson, Elizabeth F. Swift, William Tremblay, Jesse H. Ward.

Abbreviations: ASNH - Audubon Society of N.H.

\* means "and others"

