

BY RICK WRIGHT, WITH THANKS TO JON DUNN AND PAUL LEHMAN

Mid-March to May

PHENOMENA: The dark ibis of the genus *Plegadis* continue their dramatic spread across the continent. Small numbers of **Glossy Ibis** were reported west to Montana, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Arizona, while **White-faced Ibis** appeared on the Atlantic Coast from Florida to New York. At the edge of their “normal” range in the Midwest, White-faced Ibis were found in unprecedented numbers, including a single-day count of 600+ in Nebraska and single-location tallies of 80 in Missouri. Another dark-plumaged member of the order Ciconiiformes, **Black Vulture**, was widely reported in the northeast north to Maine and New Hampshire.

Southeast

Notable waterfowl in Maryland included a “Common” Green-winged Teal in March and single Trumpeter Swans at 2 locations in May; both swans were banded and certainly originated in the introductions around the Great Lakes. A Pacific Loon in coastal Virginia lingered into late March. Photographed in late April, a Red-necked Grebe stayed into May in Kentucky. An adult **Yellow-nosed Albatross** was photographed on the beach at Cape Hatteras April 11. A brown-morph Red-footed Booby was found at Dry Tortugas NP in mid-April. Four American White Pelicans were in Virginia’s Huntley Meadows in early April, while an exceptional 47 were in North Carolina in mid-March. Northerly Anhingas included 4 reported in extreme northern Virginia and at least 6 in Maryland in April. A Greater Flamingo was discovered in Monroe Co., Florida, in late April. Kentucky’s first fully documented Swainson’s Hawk appeared, graciously enough, during a KOS event in early April. A Short-tailed Hawk seen over Florida’s Amelia Island in April was said to be headed for Georgia, a state where the species is unrecorded. Single Swallow-tailed Kites drifted north to Maryland and Virginia in late April.

Ruff reports came from Maryland and South Carolina in March and April. A **Glaucous-winged Gull** was found in mid-March at Lake Quidi Vidi, Newfoundland. A 3rd-winter **Slaty-backed Gull** appeared at the St. Johns dump in mid-March; an adult Slaty-backed was still present there in mid-May. This brings the province to 3 records for the species—all within 4 months. A Royal Tern was farther north than expected in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in April. Birders in the Florida Keys found least 3 Short-eared Owls of a dark Antillean race; such records have been increasing in Florida since the 1970s.



La Sagra’s Flycatcher, Florida. © Gary Rosenberg

A **La Sagra’s Flycatcher** discovered in late March at Bill Baggs Florida Cape State Park was still present a month later. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was on Virginia’s Eastern Shore in late April. A cooperative Black-whiskered Vireo lingered for 5 days on Dauphin Island, Alabama, in mid-April. Very rare in Georgia, a Bell’s Vireo was east of Atlanta in early May. Single Cave Swallows were reported from Florida’s St. Marks NWR and from Fort Morgan, Alabama, in early April; the latter bird was captured for banding. A Brown-headed Nuthatch in late April was a first for Anne Arundel Co., Maryland. Early May brought 1 or 2 Sedge Wrens to 3 locations in the Washington, D.C., area, and a Bewick’s Wren—now rare almost anywhere in its eastern range—to Virginia. Western passerines included a Townsend’s Warbler in Maryland in mid-March and a Western Tanager in North Carolina in early April. A male black-backed **Western Spindalis** was photographed in Everglades NP in late April, and a Shiny Cowbird was reported from Florida’s Fort DeSoto State Park.

Northeast

Two Greater White-fronted Geese were in Ipswich, Massachusetts, in early April. Single Barnacle Geese of unknown origin were in New York in April and in Ottawa in May. A Harlequin Duck continued in Vermont into early April. A Western Grebe was near Cape May in early May. Two Anhingas were reported from Pennsylvania in May. A White Ibis in Scituate, Massachusetts, in early April may have been the same individual sighted on Martha’s Vineyard two weeks earlier. Eastern Pennsylvania birders found two Swallow-tailed Kites in April.

Two **Greater Golden-Plovers** landed on Newfoundland in early May. Cape May hosted a Wilson’s Plover starting in late April. Individual Black-necked Stilts visited Nova Scotia’s Martinique Beach and Boston’s Belle Isle Marsh in April; the latter bird shared the marsh with a Snowy Owl. Rare in spring, 8 Long-billed Dowitchers were reported in western New York in late April; equally unusual, a Western Sandpiper was photographed in early May in Rhode Island, along with a female Ruff. Two Curlew Sandpipers were at Heislerville, New Jersey, in May. A molting male Ruff was at Delaware’s Bombay Hook in mid-April. A Mew Gull was on Pennsylvania’s Susquehanna River in late March; a California Gull visited Bucks Co. at the same time. A Cape May yard hosted a White-winged Dove in mid-May.

A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** spent 3 early-May days in coastal Maine. Rare in Vermont, a Fish Crow visited Burlington in late April, while the numbers of Common Ravens observed in Rhode Island were described as “startling.” Single Townsend’s Solitaires in Nova Scotia, Ontario, and New Hampshire lingered into early April, as did a Carolina Wren in Nova Scotia. A Varied Thrush was observed in Pennsylvania’s Center Co. through April. Several Northern Wheatears were in Newfoundland in mid-May.

Single Swainson’s Warblers were north in eastern Massachu-

setts and Cape May in late April. An "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was reported from Erie Co., Pennsylvania, in late March. A very vocal Louisiana Waterthrush was in Gatineau Park, near Ottawa, in May, while an individual returning to northern New Jersey this spring had been banded 12 years ago as an adult. An immature male Painted Bunting visited a feeder in Berks Co., Pennsylvania, in late April. The Juniata Co., Pennsylvania, Harris's Sparrow persisted into late April. Nova Scotia had 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows in April, the second a bright adult in Wolfsville. A "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow visited Sandy Hook, New Jersey, in April, and a Seaside Sparrow was discovered mid-month in Yarmouth, Maine.

Midwest

April waterfowl included a drake **Garganey** photographed in Iowa, only the third record for that state, and 3 Cinnamon Teal at Missouri's Squaw Creek NWR. A Tufted Duck was discovered in Huron Co., Michigan, and a male Barrow's Goldeneye in St. Louis Co., Minnesota, mid-month; northeast Nebraska's Harlequin Duck was still present in early May. An **Anhinga** was reported soaring with a flock of Sandhill Cranes in North Dakota in early April. A Tricolored Heron visited Marquette Co., Michigan, in early April, while a pair of Great Egrets was apparently nesting in North Dakota. A Glossy Ibis joined a flock of some 80 White-faced Ibis at Squaw Creek in April; an adult White Ibis visited Kansas City at month's end. A **Wood Stork** joined a flock of Sandhill Cranes in South Dakota in early April.

A Mississippi Kite had made it as far north as Minnesota in late April, while a **White-tailed Kite** in northeast Iowa will be a first state record if accepted. Casual in Michigan, a Ferruginous Hawk was in Houghton Co. in early April. Later in the month, a Prairie Falcon soared over St. Louis, Missouri, and an adult Gyrfalcon was found in Hennepin Co., Minnesota. A **Crested Caracara** reported from Kankakee, Illinois, in mid-April was of uncertain origin.

An amazing female **Wilson's Plover** was photographed in Wisconsin in mid-May. North Dakota's first Mountain Plover in nearly 70 years was on a Sharp-tailed Grouse lek in April. Two Snowy Plovers reported in Iowa in mid-May will be the state's 11th and 12th records if accepted. A Ruff visited northwest Missouri the end of March, and a Curlew Sandpiper was found in Dakota Co., Minnesota, in early May. Bismarck, North Dakota, birders found at least 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in April; single Great Black-backed Gulls in Bismarck and Napoleon on the same date will be the second and third records for the state if accepted. An adult Little Gull was found in St. Louis, Missouri, in April. A Black-headed Gull in Iowa, if accepted, will be that state's second spring record for the species. A White-winged Dove in Fargo, North Dakota, in late April was north of that species' rapidly expanding range on the Great Plains. Five Snowy Owls were in Minnesota as late as mid-April.

Still casual in the state, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in southwestern Iowa in late April. Two Fish Crows reported in early April will be Iowa's fourth, if accepted. An exceptional Gray Jay spent the first days of April in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and a Black-billed Magpie was in Keweenaw Co., Michigan, in March. A Townsend's Solitaire was in Jefferson Co., Missouri, in mid-March.

A Sprague's Pipit in Iowa in April will be that state's third record if accepted. A Pine Warbler was foraging in a Grand Forks, North Dakota, cemetery in late April. The Chicago area hosted an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler and a Spotted Towhee in late April. A Henslow's Sparrow was singing in Barnes Co., North Dakota, in early May. A Brewer's Sparrow at Nebraska's Lake Ogalala in late April was the second for that somewhat easterly location. Casual in Michigan, a Smith's Longspur was in Keweenaw Co. in late April. A first-year male Painted Bunting was reported in northeast Nebraska in early May; a male in central Iowa, said to be "setting up a territory" in mid-May, will be that state's second record if accepted. A Eurasian Tree-Sparrow in Ontonogan Co., Michigan, in April is also potentially a second for the state.

Southwest

Single Least Grebes persist at two separate locations in urban Tucson. Single White Ibis were found in Logan Co., Colorado, and Chaves Co., New Mexico, in April. Casual in New Mexico, a Crested Caracara was near Socorro in mid-April. Single Short-tailed Hawks were sighted in Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains in April. New Mexico's Bosque del Apache produced a **Little Gull** in April, while a **Heermann's Gull** was photographed in Grant County in late March; a second-year Heermann's Gull was in Washington Co., Utah, in early April. Another Heermann's was in southeast Arizona, following the late-March arrival of a rare spring Sabine's Gull photographed at Lake Cochise. Two pairs of Inca Doves were in Otero Co., Colorado, in early April. After a strong winter showing, small numbers of Ruddy Ground-Doves continued into May at several Arizona locations.

Colorado's third Broad-billed Hummingbird was captured in Colorado Springs in mid-April; astonishingly, both this bird and its immediate predecessor had been banded in Louisiana. A female Berylline Hummingbird was banded in Arizona's Ramsey Canyon in April; a male reported there later in the month was thought by many observers to be a hybrid. A male White-eared Hummingbird in Ramsey Canyon in mid-April was followed later in the month by at least 2 in Miller Canyon; Lucifer Hummingbirds arrived in Arizona's Huachucas in April. A male Rose-throated Becard arrived at Patagonia, Arizona, in mid-April, earlier than expected, and was seen into May in the vicinity of last year's nest.

Very rare in Arizona in spring, a Red-eyed Vireo was on the Santa Cruz River in late April. The long-staying Carolina Wren continued in Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains into May. Black-capped Gnatcatchers continue their apparent spread in southeast Arizona, with birds reported from Patagonia and Peña Blanca Lakes, the Santa Catalina Mountains, and at least 2 sites in the Santa Rita Mountains. A Rufous-backed Robin was in Ramsey Canyon in mid-April. Both of Colorado's **Long-billed Thrashers** lingered into early April.

"Eastern" warblers in Arizona in April included a Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Parulas, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Tucson; a Palm Warbler in Yuma; and Magnolia and Tennessee Warblers in Ramsey Canyon. A Yellow-throated Warbler was found in El Paso Co., Colorado, in mid-April. Lowland sites in Arizona witnessed unusual numbers of migrant Painted Redstarts, while the **Rufous-capped Warbler** in Sycamore Canyon, near

Nogales, continued to delight birders into May. A male **Flame-colored Tanager** returned to Madera Canyon in April; no female was known to be present as of mid-May. A hybrid male Flame-colored x Western Tanager was found in Miller Canyon. A Clay-colored Sparrow was in northwest Arizona in late April. A Rusty Blackbird was singing in Quay Co., New Mexico, in late March, while the Albuquerque Yellow Grosbeak apparently departed at the beginning of May.

Texas

A Least Grebe was photographed in Big Bend in late April. A near-breeding-plumage **Pacific Golden-Plover**



Rufous-capped Warbler, Texas. © David Evans.

photographed in the coastal bend area in mid-April will be a first state record if accepted. A Surfbird was found at Bolivar Flats in mid-March. The banded Greater Flamingo continued through April in the Rockport area.

Increasingly frequent on the upper coast, a Great Kiskadee visited High Island in April; a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was at Sabine Woods mid-month. A **Piratic Flycatcher** was reported from Bentsen – Rio Grande State Park in late March; if documented and accepted, this would be only the 5th for the ABA area. Several Black-whiskered Vireos were reported in April along the Texas coast; a Yellow-green Vireo was photographed at Quintana mid-month. A **Red-faced Warbler** took advantage of a water drip in Rockport in late April; there is only one record of the species farther east, from Louisiana. A **Rufous-capped Warbler** discovered in Concan in mid-March continued into late April. The Gray-crowned Yellowthroat was still present at Sabal Palm in early May.

Far West

The Fulvous Whistling-Duck that wintered in Goleta, California, remained into April. Single wayward Ross's Geese were photographed in Seward, Alaska, and near Whitehorse, Yukon, the latter an overdue first record for the territory. A male Tufted Duck was near Tillamook, Oregon, in mid-April. An Emperor Goose was reported in Del Norte Co., California, in early April. A "Bewick's" Tundra Swan was found at Freezout Lake, Montana, in late March. A Clark's Grebe was found at Kelowna, British Columbia, in early May. An immature **Short-tailed Albatross** was found on Morro Bay in mid-April, and a Laysan Albatross was inland at Anza Borrego State Park, California, in the same month. Unusual numbers of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen in Monterey Bay, California, in April. Single Manx Shearwaters were in Monterey Bay and off San Mateo Co., California, and off Boiler Bay, Oregon in early May; one mid-April off Humboldt Co., California, was a first record for the county. A Manx-type shearwater was also off

Lincoln City, Oregon, in April. The Orange Co., California, Reddish Egret continued through April at Bolsa Chica. The pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Imperial Beach since last summer have built a nest; this will be a first breeding record for California. A Zone-tailed Hawk was in San Diego Co. in early April. A Common Black-Hawk returned to Sonoma Co., California, in May. Single Crested Caracaras were reported in April and May from Monterey, from Sonoma Co., and Carmel River State Beach in California; another was in Curry Co., Oregon, in late March.

An American Oystercatcher was at Goleta, California, in early April. Two Black-necked Stilts near Calgary in mid-April were at the site of the area's first breeding record, in the 1990s. Shorebirds seen in Coos Co., Oregon, in early May included a record-breaking 750 Semipalmated Plovers, 60,000 Western Sandpipers, 4,000 Dunlin, 500 Least Sandpipers, and 22 Red Knots. A Ruff, thought to be a female, was in Humboldt Co., California, in late March. An **American Woodcock** photographed in April near Medicine Hat, Alberta, will be a first provincial record if accepted. Large numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes migrated along the immediate coast of northern California in May. A Slaty-backed Gull was in Portland, Oregon, in March; discussion of a possible Slaty-backed seen in Calgary later that month continues. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was found inland in Grant Co., Washington, in late April. A Little Gull was at the south end of the Salton Sea in mid-April. Eleven Black Skimmers visited San Mateo Co., California, in early May. A **Horned Puffin** discovered at Monterey in March may have been the same bird found oiled in May and turned over to a rehabilitator.

Single Thick-billed Kingbirds remained in San Diego and in Los Angeles into April. A Say's Phoebe was at Sooke, British Columbia, in late March; a **Black Phoebe** in Langley in late April will be only a third British Columbia record if accepted. A Greater Pewee was in Los Angeles, California, in late April. A Red-throated Pipit at Half Moon Bay in late April was the first spring record for the species in California. A Prothonotary Warbler was in San Diego in May. A Tennessee Warbler was found near Portland, Oregon, in May, where a Baltimore Oriole paid a brief visit to a feeder. A Grace's Warbler in Santa Maria, California, in April had almost certainly wintered nearby. A Yellow-throated Warbler was found on San Clemente Island mid-May. A Northern Parula was in Portland, Oregon, in early April. In San Diego Co., California, a Painted Redstart found in mid-May was in an area where the species summered last year; another migrated through Kern Co. in April.

A female Painted Bunting was in Monterey, California in mid-April. A female of the same species at a Vancouver Island feeder in March will furnish the second record for British Columbia, if accepted; equally exceptional was a male said to have been photographed in May in Bashaw, Alberta. A Blue Grosbeak was photographed in Portland, Oregon, in April. A male Great-tailed Grackle returned to Spokane for the fourth year in a row. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Marin Co., California, in April, had probably wintered. A Eugene, Oregon, feeder sustained a female **Brambling** in mid-April.