

**NEWS AND NOTES:** It appears that Spring has finally arrived after what seemed to be a longer and colder winter than usual. The snow that fell in the editor's yard on Dec. 18th finally melted on April 9th. That comes to 112 days or about 1/3 of the year with snow on the ground. And this was on the coast. Our members in northern Maine must have had it even longer.

The signs of approaching summer are starting to get obvious. Many of our summer birds started arriving in mid to late April, flowers have appeared, the Harbor Seals on Egg Rock are producing pups every day now, and tourists are wandering down the middle of the street in Bar Harbor.

I tried to get a jump on the production of this issue as I am back on the water for the summer. There were well over 1500 reports for this issue, mostly due to the reporting of spring arrival of birds. The ocean water is still quite cold but we have started detecting small schools of fish moving up into Frenchman Bay, probably Alewives.

There were no "missing" members from the last mailing although one copy was returned with only a partial front page with the address missing and return address intact. If you did not get your Jan.-Feb. issue let me know.

The digitizing of all the previous issues of the *Guillemot* has been completed with support funding provided by the Schoodic Institute's Dixon Schoodic Scholars Fund, an initiative of the institute's Bird Ecology Program. Volumes 1 through 43 are available in .pdf format for \$20 if you so desire.

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS:** If it is time to renew it will say so beside your name on the address label. Dues are for membership in the Sorrento Scientific Society of which the *Guillemot* is the official newsletter. Do not worry about membership obligations as we have not yet held a meeting, incorporated, elected officers, written any by-laws or formed any committees. The *Guillemot* is defined as "an amateur, bimonthly newsletter concerning natural history in Maine."

We have two memberships, **Regular** which is \$5 per year and **Sustaining** which is any amount over the regular. It is this latter that allows us to have the newsletter printed and mailed as first class mail. Each issue costs about \$500 to produce and mail. We do not advertise the newsletter except by word-of-mouth, or via gift subscriptions. There have been occasional news articles about us that have also helped. A sample copy will be sent to anyone if you send along their name and address. The mailing list is never given out or used for any other purposes.

**Auto stickers** with the Society logo are available for \$1.50. New subscribers get one with their first issue.

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**ASTRONOMY:** **Mercury** is swinging around the left side of the sun and rapidly catching up with us. This makes it visible in the evenings low in the west. It will be highest on May 25 but still just barely out of the twilight. It will pass us on June 15th.

**Venus** is ahead of us in orbit around the sun and getting farther away, albeit slowly, all summer. It is off to the right of the sun and is a morning "star" for those of you who get up at 4 a.m.

Here on **Earth** we will reach summer solstice on June 21. We are passing **Mars** which is the next planet outward from us. It is already halfway across the night sky at sunset and sets in the west about 1:30 a.m. on June 1 and about midnight on the 4th of July.

**Jupiter** is far behind us and although still very bright it is getting lower in the west in the early evening. It will set at about 10 p.m. June 1 and earlier each night setting about 8:30 p.m. on July 1.

We are passing **Saturn** which was directly outward from us on May 10th. As we pull ahead it will start to set earlier each night going down in the west at 4 in the morning on June 1 and about 1:30 a.m. on July 1. This means that is the brightest planet in the sky for the rest of the summer.

Both **Uranus** and **Neptune** are far ahead of us and we are slowly catching up. Neptune rises in the east about midnight this summer with Uranus coming up a hour and a half later.

**Meteors.** It was announced too late to get the information to you in a timely manner but on the night of May 23-24 there is the possibility of a major meteor "storm" as we pass through the tail of comet 209P/LINEAR which passed by two years ago. Some are predicting as many as 400 per hour and other astronomers are saying there will be none at all. We shall see. With the luck we seem to have in Maine it will probably be cloudy that night. The only other predicted meteors are the **June Booted** which should be in the sky all night of June 27-28 with no moon to interfere. These are very slow moving meteors and the numbers vary from year to year.

Some dates to look forward to are: **5/28** the new moon, **5/30** about 1.5 hours after sunset look for the new moon to the left of Mercury very low on the western horizon. **6/9** the moon is to the right of Saturn and on **6/10** will be on the left. **6/13** is the full moon, **6/21** summer begins at 10:51 a.m. with this being the longest day of the year. **6/24** 45 minutes before sunrise the old moon, Venus, and the Pleiades are close together on the eastern horizon. On **7/4** the earth is farthest from the sun, **7/8** will find the moon very close, only 0.24 degrees, away from Saturn. **7/24-25** just before dawn twilight look for the old crescent moon, Mercury, and Venus low in the northeast.

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**WEATHER:** We are finally, slowly but surely, coming out of a winter that seemed rather long and cold. NOAA figures show that March was the coldest on record for Bangor and Caribou. The winter temperatures below are for Dec. 21 to March 21. Figures for last year are in parenthesis.

|              | Augusta  | Bangor  | Bar Harbor | Caribou | Portland | Kittery | Frenchville |
|--------------|----------|---------|------------|---------|----------|---------|-------------|
| Mar temp     | 25 deg.  | 23      | 25         | 15      | 27       | 29      | 14          |
| April temp   | 43       | 42      | 41         | 37      | 44       | 45      | 35          |
| Mar precip   | 3.15 in. | 3.44    | 5.36       | 3.44    | 4.20     | 2.15    | 1.05        |
| April precip | 2.63     | 2.28    | 4.34       | 4.37    | 2.72     | 2.15    | 2.65        |
| Winter temp  | 21 (25)  | 19 (24) | 22 (27)    | 12 (18) | 23 (29)  | 26 (29) | 10 (16)     |

The ocean buoys continue to vary from issue to issue due to some being inoperative, lost, or removed for maintenance. The Eastport station is currently inoperative. Figures in parenthesis are last year's temperatures where available.

|         | Buoy 44 007 (12 mi. out of Portland) | Buoy 44005 (78 mi out of Portland.) | 44034 (16 mi. south of Schoodic Pt.) | Buoy 44027 (20 mi. off Jonesport) | Tide station ATGM1 Bar Harbor |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3/31/14 | 37 (40)                              | 39                                  | 38 (39)                              | 39                                | 34 (38)                       |
| 4/30/14 | 42 (49)                              | 42                                  | 40 (43)                              | 41                                | 41 (44)                       |

Snow figures are rather sporadic. In Caribou it snowed on 20 days in March and on 3/31 there was still 4 ft. in the woods. Some maximum depths of snow was 24 in. in Bangor, 22 in Kittery, and 18 in Portland.

On 3/31 the ice was 20 inches thick on the St. John River. Ice went out on Togus Pond in Augusta on 4/14, the Androscoggin River at Topsham on 4/2 (3/11 last year), Weskeag Marsh on 3/30, and Florida Lake in Freeport on 4/15.

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**INVERTEBRATES:** **Earthworms** started being reported the first week of April as heavy rain started bringing them to the surface.

The first **Ticks** of the season were reported on 4/16.

A **Six-spotted Green Tiger Beetle** was seen in Old Town 5/3 (EG). **Lightning Bugs** were found at Lamoine on the same date (ZK). Earlier, on 3/22 **Winter Stoneflies** were at Stillwater Village.

**Mourning Cloak** butterflies started being reported on 4/10 and regularly thereafter. Since this species hibernates they tend to show up quite early.

As this is being written on 5/18 there are **Cabbage** and **Sulfur Butterflies** being seen.

A **Great Acleris moth** was caught and released at St. George on 4/19. On 5/8 at the same location three other species of moths, **Small Engrailed**, **Speckled Green Fruitworm**, and **Toothed Brown Carpet** were identified (all AB).

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**AMPHIBIANS:** **Spring Peepers** started calling at several locations on 4/11 and by 4/23 were being heard across the state. The first **Wood Frogs** were calling on 4/18 and within four days were also being heard almost everywhere. Late April rains brought

out **Spotted, Blue-spotted, and Red-backed Salamanders.**

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**REPTILES:** The only report so far was a **Garter Snake** on Swans Island 4/12 (RLH).

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**MAMMALS:** An early **Opossum** was seen at Topsham on 3/25 (CJ).

On 4/21 an unidentified **Bat** was seen flying around in Bangor. A **Little Brown Bat** was seen at Gardiner on 5/3.

A **Woodchuck** was sitting in the snow at the Witter Farm in Old Town on 3/21 (EG). Two were road killed along I-295 on 4/8 (RL) while one was eating bird seed on Lamoine on 4/17 (DR).

The earliest reported **Chipmunk** was one at Winter Harbor on 3/22 (HK). A **Meadow Vole** was caught by a Raven in Dedham (ME). **Porcupines** were seen at a number of locations starting in early April.

**Muskrats** and **Beaver** were being seen as soon as open water started appear at a number of ponds.

**Red, Gray, and Flying Squirrels** were noted through both March and April.

In the carnivore family **Coyotes** were seen at a number of places. Some were calling at Winter Harbor on 4/18 (JW). Also at Winter Harbor a **Black Bear** was seen sitting in the middle of the road on 4/29. **Skunks** started being seen on 3/10.

A road kill **Fisher** was at Thomaston on 4/1. On 4/20 one was photographed at Trenton with the Ruffed Grouse that it had caught.

A **Long-tailed Weasel** was at Trescott on 3/14 (FH). A **Mink** at Evergreen Cemetery in Portland seems to ignore nearby people. **River Otter** were seen at Trescott, Bar Harbor, and Somesville.

**Snowshoe Hares** were almost in full summer pelage the last week of April (HK).

**Deer** and **Moose** were generally reported.

**Northern Gray Seal** pups had been weaned and left the Seal Island colony by the end of March. On 4/19 almost 200 were on Gull Rock just north of Machias Seal Island. Several pups were seen off Popham Beach on 5/5.

There were 70+ **Harbor Seals** on Egg Rock in Frenchman Bay on 5/18 with new born pups being seen every day (WT).

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**BIRDS:** By the time you get this issue there will still be two birding festivals remaining; the Acadia Birding Festival on Mt. Desert I. [www.acadiabirdingfestival.com](http://www.acadiabirdingfestival.com) 207-233-3694 and

the Aroostook State Park Birding Festival [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com) 207-768-8341.

**DUCKS, GEESE:** A few **Snow Geese** were traveling with Canada Geese in early April. On 4/3 one was at Old Town (EG), on 4/4 birds were seen at Dresden and Freeport. Two were at Auburn on 4/5 and to at Durham on 4/6.

Eleven **Brant** were at Machias Seal Island on 4/19. Two **Cackling Geese** were at Cumberland and another two at Yarmouth during the period 4/3-7.

**Canada Geese** were well reported through March and April. On 4/7 the Bradbury hawk watch counted 1436 passing by.

**Wood Ducks** were first noted at Kennebunk on 3/10 and were east at Roque Bluffs by 3/19 (TIP). There were uncommonly high numbers this spring with 97 at Saco 4/5, and 273 at Durham 4/6-8.

There were a few wintering **Green-winged Teal** noted through Jan. and Feb. Incoming birds started being seen 3/21 and there were many 'first of year' reports over the next 7 days. Two **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** were at Weskeag Marsh in South Thomaston on 4/3.

**Black Ducks** and **Mallards** were reported all across the state. There were interesting pictures of a Mallard catching and eating a frog that were posted on the Maine Bird Group on the internet.

**Pintails** wintered over in Presque Isle and Camden. Reports increased the last week of March with 1-2 birds being seen from Old Town down to Dresden by early April. The first **Blue-winged Teal** were at Scarboro Marsh on 3/27 and east at Roque Bluffs and Machias Seal Island by 4/11.

Two **Northern Shovelers** were found at Scarboro Marsh 3/28 were seen through at least 4/29. Others were found at Weskeag, Falmouth, and Bernard all of them in April.

A **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen at Topsham 4/13 and remained until at least 4/20. **American Wigeon** were wide spread with birds from Eastport on 3/17, Calais 4/18, north at Caribou 4/18, on Vinalhaven I. 4/3 and south to Saco.

A pair of **Canvasback** were at Westbrook 3/19-28 and one was a fly-by at Saco 3/23. A single **Redhead** was at Sabattus 4/2-4.

**Ring-necked Ducks** started appearing in reports on 3/4 with one at East Machias (MAA), Scarboro Marsh 3/15 and flocks of 50-60 birds were at Bowdoinham and Bucksport (DS) by 4/4. A rare **Tufted Duck** was at Merrymeeting Bay 4/6. Eighty **Greater Scaup** were at Portland on 3/17 and they spread up the coast and were east at Roque Bluffs SP

by 4/4. **Lesser Scaup** were less common with birds seen only at Saco 3/21, Auburn 4/2, and East Machias 4/21 (CMD).

**Common Eider** numbers still seem to be low but are possibly higher than last summer. Many small flocks of adult and sub adult males are around as of early May. Few females are being seen but they are most likely on nests and out of sight.

**Harlequin Ducks** were seen in their usual wintering locales, West Quoddy, Machias Seal I., Schoodic Pt., Isle au Haut (where over 80 were counted on 3/29), Cape Elizabeth and the Cape Neddick-Ogunquit area.

**Long-tailed Ducks** were being seen regularly through the end of April. A couple in breeding plumage were reported from the Deer Isle area as late as 5/17.

**Black Scoters** were passing along the coast in small flocks right into early May. On 4/29 there were 300 counted at Biddeford, and 100+ in Frenchman Bay on 5/18 (WT). **White-winged Scoters** were all along the coast, but in smaller numbers through the last week of April. **Surf Scoters** were off Belfast in March, Wells and Freeport in April. Twenty-two were off Greenings I. in Southwest Harbor 5/6 and over 200 were off Machias Seal I. the same day.

**Common Goldeneyes** were still being seen along the coast and north in open waters of Aroostook County as of at least 5/7. Last dates for **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were at Orono 4/14 (AK), and the Caribou waste water ponds on 5/2.

**Bufflehead** numbers decreased steadily through April. A count of 130 was made in the Deer Isle area on 5/7 (BBo).

**Hooded Merganser** arrivals coincided with ice-out on most lakes and ponds and were well noted right through the last week of April. **Common Mergansers** were well reported from coastal river areas in March and early April. Some 250 were in the Kennebec River between Augusta and Hallowell 4/7. Numbers decreased as inland lakes started to open. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were noted as part of many trip lists along the coast right through the end of April.

**GROUSE:** **Spruce Grouse** were found at Prospect Harbor 3/25 (RB), Lubec 4/3, Cuxabaxis (township 5R12 WELS) on 4/25, and along the Telos Rd. in township 6R11 WELS on 5/4. **Ruffed Grouse** were well reported with drumming started being heard 4/11.

Too many **Wild Turkey** reports to be cited.

**LOONS:** Lingered **Red-throated Loons** were at Harrington 4/27, Pine Pt. Scarboro 4/30, and Sears I. 5/7 (CK). **Common Loons** arrived on inland lakes as soon as they were at least 50% ice-free. Many are still in coastal waters as of 5/15.

**GREBES:** Arriving **Pied-billed Grebes** first at Goodwin's Mills and Falmouth on 4/4, Bowdoinham on 4/8 and east at Moosehorn NWR in Baring by 4/18. **Horned Grebes** in breeding plumage were at Blue Hill Falls on 4/20 (TB). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were off Bar Harbor on 5/6 (WT).

**PELICANIFORMES:** The first spring **Gannets** were seen off Phippsburg on 5/2.

Four **White Pelicans** were seen flying over Falmouth on 5/8. This species has been making stops in Maine off and on the past couple of years but in all cases they seem to remain for a single day only.

**Great Cormorants** were in breeding plumage off Isle au Haut on 3/29 (PV), single birds were up the Androscoggin River at Lewiston on 3/31 and the Kennebec R. at Winslow 4/1. Scattered birds are still being seen east of Mt. Desert as of 5/15.

**Double-crested Cormorants** were appearing regularly in reports starting on the last week of March. From 5000 to 7000 were roosting on Gull Rock off Machias Seal I. 4/23. Two reached the Caribou waste water plant on 5/2 and as of 5/5 over 100 were chasing alewives up the Union R. in Ellsworth (DR).

**HERONS:** **American Bitterns** first appeared at Weskeag Marsh in S. Thomaston on 4/4. On 4/12 one was at the Mt. Desert High School settling ponds on 4/12 (RM) and many other locations from 4/21 on. **Great Blue Herons** started reappearing on 3/18 with the bulk of "first-of-year" reports falling between 4/2 and 4/5. On 4/7 there were 57 counted as the flew over the Bradbury Mt. hawk watch site.

**Great Egrets** appeared at Saco 3/23 and Scarboro Marsh 3/28. **Snowy Egrets** were a little later and first started being seen at Scarboro 4/4. On 4/16 there were 27 seen at Cundy's Harbor.

A **Little Blue Heron** was at Evergreen Cemetery in Portland 4/13 and Scarboro Marsh 4/20. A **Cattle Egret** was at the Rockland Middle School grounds 4/13-14. Police were called when a photographer climbed a tree to try and get pictures and school officials thought the person was taking pictures of children (from a newspaper article).

**Black-crowned Night Herons** were at Mercy Pond in Portland 4/4, Biddeford Pool 4/29, and the Bar Harbor Airport 5/5 (MG).

The first **Glossy Ibis** was at Scarboro Marsh on 3/28. Up to 115 were there by 4/19. Two **White-faced Ibis** were at Scarboro starting on 4/19.

A possible Tricolored Heron x Snowy Egret **hybrid** is being seen at Scarboro Marsh.

**VULTURES:** Single **Turkey Vultures** were seen various places in Jan. and Feb. On 3/15 one was seen at Mt. Agamenticus and on 3/16 another was feeding on a road kill far Downeast on the St. Croix R. in Robbinston. On 3/19 there were 44 that passed over the Bradbury Mt. hawk watch. There arrivals all around the state noted almost every day through the end of April.

A **Black Vulture** was seen at Durham on 4/10 and another (same bird?) at Mt. Agamenticus on 4/11.

**HAWKS, EAGLES:** Three **Osprey** seen at the Bradbury Mt. watch site on 4/2 were the lead birds of a steady stream of returning migrants. On 4/3-4 there were 12 first-of-year reports and included several that were already on their nests. On 4/14 there were 229 counted as the passed over Bradbury.

Single **Swallow-tailed Kites** (probably the same bird) were at Bradbury and Brunswick on 5/7. A **Mississippi Kite** passed by Bradbury Mt. on 5/15.

**Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the past two months. Birds were on nests in mid-March. The nest that is under TV surveillance on Mt. Desert Island at: <http://briloon.org/oae/webcams/eaglecam1> has two well-developed eaglets as of 5/18. On 4/1 one took a Herring Gull at Phippsburg but could not lift its prey and abandoned it. There were 13 feeding on a dead deer at the Moosehorn NWR in Calais.

A **Harrier** was at Orono on 3/15 and was followed by birds at Wiscasset, Bradbury Mt., the Portland jetport, and Scarboro Marsh over the next 10 days.

**Sharp-shinned Hawks** started being seen near bird feeders the last week of Feb. but the bulk of new arrivals centered on the third week of March. On 4/14 there were 254 that passed Bradbury Mt. **Cooper's Hawks** were here-and-there all winter. Migratory birds started showing up the third week of March. Single **Goshawks** were seen at Stow, Agamenticus, and Bradbury Mt. in March, Waldoboro (RS), Southwest Harbor (SF) and Rockport in April.

After a couple of unusual mid-winter reports small numbers of migratory **Red-shouldered Hawks** began being sighted at various hawk watch sites starting on 3/15. The largest number on one day was 35 at Bradbury Mt. on 3/23.

The earliest **Broad-winged Hawk** was one at Phippsburg on 3/27. The first at Bradbury Mt. was seen on 4/8. On 4/14 a total of 508 were there and they were spread across the state by 4/20.

After a few scattered **Red-tailed Hawk** sightings all through the winter migratory movement started being noted in mid-March. On 3/23 a high of 75 was recorded at Bradbury Mt. and they had spread across the state by the end of April. After several mid-winter reports the number of **Rough-legged Hawks** being reported dropped off with birds noted only at Biddeford, Bradbury Mt. and up in Presque Isle.

The **Golden Eagle** at the Bath landfill that was first seen on 1/12 remained until 3/18.

Spring **Kestrels** started showing up the last week of March. Movement over Bradbury Mt. peaked on 4/14 when 185 were tallied for the day. A number of single **Merlin** were being reported from Scarboro Marsh north to Ft. Fairfield in March. There 17 counted at Bradbury on 5/3 and over 10 were out on Machias Seal I. on 5/5. Single **Peregrine Falcons** were spread across the state, mostly along the coast throughout March and April. A pair is nesting once again on the Precipice area of Champlain Mt. in Acadia NP. On 5/2 there was a very active pair seen at Valley Cove also in Acadia (MPH).

**RAILS, COOTS:** There were **Virginia Rails** calling at the Sanford Sewer ponds on 4/9, Capisic Pond in Portland 4/23-25, and one was found at Viles arboretum in Augusta on 5/7. On 5/9 a **Sora** seen at the MDI High School ponds was the only one noted. An **American Coot** wintered over at Camden Harbor and another was seen at Damariscotta on 4/6.

**CRANES:** Between 3/22 and 5/9 **Sandhill Cranes** were seen at 14 locations from Scarboro Marsh eastward to Bar Harbor and Lubec and inland to Fryeburg and Norridgewock. Highest number was 10 which flew over Bradbury Mt. on 4/6.

**SHOREBIRDS:** The earliest **Black-bellied Plover** was a bird down east at Harrington on 4/16 (MAA). **Semipalmated Plover** that appeared at Popham Beach on 5/4 were six days earlier than last year. **Piping Plovers** showed up at Goose Rocks on 3/27. The next were at Popham on 4/7 followed by a pair at Reid SP on 4/25.

A **Killdeer** was at Scarboro Marsh back on 2/23. Others were found south at York and east at Lamoine (ZK) on 3/22. Most arrival dates centered on 4/3. On 4/22 the first **Oystercatcher** was at Pine Pt. in Scarboro.

**Greater Yellowlegs** were at Scarboro Marsh and Brunswick on 4/4-8 and east at Trescott on 5/3 (FH). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Weskeag Marsh on 4/4 and a month later on 5/5 at the Witter farm in Old Town (EG).

**Solitary Sandpipers** and **Willetts** were at Scarboro on 5/3. A single **Whimbrel** was seen along the Stillwater River in Stillwater on 4/20 (*fide* EG).

A **Marbled Godwit** was seen at Trenton 5/8 but subsequent searches did not locate it again.

**Least Sandpipers** didn't start showing up until 5/8. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were earlier with one at Fryeburg on 4/14, another at Popham 4/17 and 3 at Pine Pt. 4/22. **Purple Sandpipers** were common in March and numbers started dropping the third week of April. Some were still being seen at Mt. Desert as of 5/15.

A rare **Ruff** was seen at Penjajawoc Marsh in Bangor on 5/14 but not found the next day. Another rarity, a **Northern Lapwing** was found and photographed at Cape Elizabeth on 4/4-5 and was gone on 4/6.

**Wilson's Snipe** were at Falmouth 3/23, Sanford Sewer and Scarboro Marsh 4/4 and inland at Dover-Foxcroft on 4/10 (EE). The first **Woodcock** was one Downeast at Jonesport on 2/23. The next was at North Bath on 3/17 and between 3/22 and 3/24 there were 21 "first sighting" reports.

**GULLS:** The past two months were an overlap period with wintering gulls lingering and summer gulls arriving. The first **Laughing Gulls** were noted on 4/20 at Bar Harbor and Pemaquid. By 5/1 they were widespread along the coast. The only **Bonaparte's Gull** found in any reports was a bird at the Caribou waste water ponds on 5/2.

**Ring-billed Gulls** were common along the coast at the first one to arrive at Caribou was on 3/22. **Herring Gulls** also arrived there on 3/29. For those of us on the coast it is hard to think of Herring Gulls leaving for the winter.

**Iceland Gulls** were all along the coast in March and early April. Reports ended on 4/17-18 but on 5/5 an immature bird was still at Portland. Glaucous Gulls were not as common but were regularly found from Portland up to Belfast. The last date was 4/17 at the Old Port in Portland.

**Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at Scarboro Marsh on 4/1, Belfast four days later, and Hulls Cove on MDI four days after that. On 4/18 there were six at Collins Pond in Caribou (BS). **Great**

**Black-backed Gulls** were regularly reported all along the coast and up to Caribou.

Three early **Caspian Terns** were at Biddeford Pool on 4/27 and the first **Black Terns** arrived at Belgrade on 5/8.

**ALCIDS:** April 10 was the arrival day at Machias Seal I. with **Common Murres**, **Puffins**, and **Razorbills** coming ashore. They had been gathering offshore for some days prior.

**Black Guillemots** were noted all along the coast and were in full breeding plumage by mid-April.

**DOVES:** **Mourning Doves** were cooing at Roque Bluffs on 3/20 (TIP).

**OWLS:** The winter invasion of **Snowy Owls** ended without fanfare as they slowly drifted away and vanished from reports. Some last noted dates were 3/11 on Monhegan I., 3/17 on Chebeague I. Some late dates 4/11 at Presque Isle, 4/21 at the Bar Harbor airport, 4/22 at Kennebunk, one at Boothbay 4/29, one a Brunswick on 5/7 and one at Biddeford Pool as late as 5/11. Some of these appear to be birds that were moving north and not the ones that had been at those sites during the winter.

**Great Horned Owls** were heard at Bar Harbor on 3/15 (MO). One was in a yard in Portland being harassed by crows on 3/30 and another was seen at Veazie 5/2 (JM).

**Barred Owls** were generally noted with birds at Pembroke, Falmouth, Unity, and Acadia NP. **Saw-whet Owls** were found at Dover-Foxcroft on 3/18 (EE,RE), Franklin 3/20, and Blackwoods campground in Acadia NP on 5/3 (RM).

**GOATSUCKERS:** An extremely early **Nighthawk** was reported from Monhegan I. on 3/29. Another was at Orono 4/7 (MB). On 5/3 a **Whip-poor-will** was heard during a woodcock survey along the Stud Mill Rd. out of Milford (*fide* EG) and another was at Bowdoinham on 5/13.

**SWIFTS:** Arriving just after the regular reporting period **Chimney Swifts** passed over Bradbury Mt. on 5/2 and some were found in Gardiner 5/3.

**HUMMINBIRDS:** The same comments can apply to **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**. Arrival dates were 5/3 at Rockport and Waterville, 5/4 at Bremen, Windham, Gorham, and Popham Beach. They were being seen daily at a number of spots from 5/6 on.

**KINGFISHERS:** After a couple of stragglers probably perished during the cold weather the first week of Feb. the next bird was one at Kennebunk on

3/29. Between 4/2 and 4/6 there were 17 "first of year" reports from Monhegan east to Calais.

**WOODPECKERS:** The **Red-headed Woodpecker** seen at Bath on 1/12 remained until 3/12. There weren't as many **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** noted this spring but birds were seen at Topsham, Rockport, Deer Isle, and Yarmouth.

A few **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** filtered in starting on 3/21 but an incoming migratory wave arrived on 4/11 with arrivals noted at 9 locations.

**Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers** were resident at feeders right through the period.

**Three-toed Woodpeckers** were seen at the Telos checkpoint on 4/25 and 3 miles north on the Telos Rd. on 5/4. **Black-backed Woodpeckers** were at Saddleback Mt. 3/26 (LH), and along the Cuxabexis Rd. on 4/25. **Flickers** attempted to winter over at several places but all reports stopped at 1/18 at the onset of frigid weather. "New" birds started arriving on 3/2 by 3/19 had reached as far north as Caribou. In early May they seemed to be the favorite food of various hawks out on Machias Seal I.

**Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen in a number of locations right through March and April.

**FLYCATCHERS:** The first member of this family to arrive was the **Eastern Phoebe**. On 4/2 there were birds at Durham and West Kennebunk. On 4/3 others arrived at Ogunquit, York, and Sidney and on 4/4 there were arrivals noted at eight other locations. The **Eastern Wood-Pewee** wasn't far behind with birds at Roque Bluffs (TIP) and Buxton. Then only other April arrival was a **Least Flycatcher** at Sullivan on 4/28 (SH). An 5/2 there was an **Eastern Kingbird** at Bradbury Mt., 5/5 was the date of the first **Great Crested Flycatcher** at Portland, and the first **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was a bird caught and banded at West Falmouth on 5/15.

**SHRIKES:** **Northern Shrikes** hung around through most of April. Final sightings were birds at Bremen on 4/11 and a late bird along the Cuxabexis Rd. on 4/25.

**VIREOS:** Arriving with many of the spring warblers were **Blue-headed Vireos** that were first reported from Augusta on 4/11 (NF). Others spread northward across the state of the next week.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was at Biddeford on 5/4 while the first **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at the Brownfield Bog on 5/8. A **Warbling Vireo** was heard at West Falmouth on 5/8 and at **Red-eyed Vireo** was at Bowdoinham a bit earlier on 5/3.

**CORVIDS:** The only **Gray Jays** to be reported were from the trips to the Telos Rd. area in the North Woods on 4/25 and 5/4. **Blue Jays** were commonly found all across the state all spring. **Crows** were scattered everywhere while the only **Fish Crows** were at Brunswick on 4/2-4.

**Ravens** were south at Mt. Agamenticus and Bradbury Mt. on 3/23. They were regularly reported from Bangor north and eastward.

**LARKS:** Almost all **Horned Larks** were in southern parts of the state with birds at Scarboro Marsh 3/28, Bradbury Mt., Cumberland, and near the Shawmut Dam. On 4/14 some at the Witter Farm in Old Town were the farthest north (EG).

**SWALLOWS:** Looking back at reports from 35-40 years ago we find that swallows were arriving during the third week of April with an occasional single bird as early as late March. This year Tree Swallows arrived at Scarboro Marsh on 4/1 on 4/3 there were eight "first seen" reports up as far as Augusta and they were north to Dover-Foxcroft by 4/7 and east to Passamaquoddy Bay by 4/17.

**Purple Martins** were at Bradbury Mt. on 4/8, Lake Messalonskee 5/2 and Denmark 5/8.

**Rough-winged Swallows** showed up at North Bath on 4/10, and at the Taylor bait farm in Orono on 4/25. **Barn Swallows** came in across the state on 4/10. A **Bank Swallow** and a **Cliff Swallow** were at Scarboro Marsh on 5/4.

**TITS:** **Black-capped Chickadees** were everywhere while the only **Boreal Chickadees** were reported from trips to the North Woods area. **Tufted Titmice** were at Durham (RLP), Brunswick, and Bar Harbor all winter.

**NUHATCHES:** Both **Red-breasted** and **White-breasted** were reported through March and April with little comment.

**CREEPERS:** The same comments will apply to **Brown Creepers**.

**WRENS:** A few **Carolina Wrens** were coming to feeders during the past two months. Sightings were made at Rockport, Topsham, Sabattus, and Yarmouth.

The first **House Wren** was a bird at Biddeford Pool on 4/29 followed by others at Augusta and Orono on 5/3 and 5/4. **Winter Wrens** were earlier as is usual and were at Schoodic Pt. on 4/9 (SB), Augusta and Oquossoc on 4/11 and north in Aroostook County by 4/18.

**KINGLETS:** Our resident **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were well reported. The migratory **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** appeared at several locations.

Portland, Augusta, Newcastle were a few, on 4/11 and was well reported after that.

**GNATCATCHERS:** There was a noticeable increase in **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** this spring. In April from 1 to 3 birds were found at Falmouth, Biddeford Pool, Cape Elizabeth while in May birds were seen at Hulls Cove (LH), Brunswick, and at the Brownfield Bog. You should familiarize yourself with their calls in order to find these rather skulky birds.

**THRUSHES:** The rarest of this family was a **Northern Wheatear** that was found at Scarboro Marsh on 5/4. Seen by many and well photographed it remained until 5/10.

**Eastern Bluebirds** have been around all winter and some were carrying nesting material into nest boxes as early as 3/19 at Cape Elizabeth. They were well established in a number of places by the end of April.

An early **Veery** was out on Machias Seal I. on 4/26. On 5/8 others were found at Freeport and the Brownfield Bog. The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reported so far was one on Machias Seal on 5/5.

**Swainson's Thrush** were located at Bangor on 5/2, Sieur de Mont Spring on Acadia NP on 5/5 and Machias Seal 5/8. **Hermit Thrush** wintered over in southern parts of the state. Spring migrants started being seen in the Portland to Brunswick area the first week of April.

Two **Wood Thrush** were out on Machias Seal on 5/5. *(Keep in mind that offshore islands tend to attract migrants as do many coastal headlands. Machias Seal has a resident birder so many of the reports come from that location. Monhegan I. is also one of the regular sources of early sightings of various species.)*

**Robins** were abundant in early to mid-April with some flocks of 100+ birds being reported.

**MIMICS:** The first **Gray Catbird** to be reported was one at Augusta on 4/12 (NF) followed by one Lubec (*fide* FH). There were nine arrival reports on 5/5 that ranged from York to Mt. Desert to Orono.

**Mockingbirds** were seen at the U of M in Orono on 4/13 (EG), Viles arboretum in Augusta 4/21, and Popham Beach 5/4. A **Brown Thrasher** was at New Harbor on 4/21, another at Capisic Park in Portland on 4/23 and five (one of them dead) on Machias Seal I. 4/26. There were many arrival reports the first week of May.

**PIPITS:** Four **American Pipits** at Kennebunkport on 4/11 were the only ones reported.

**WAXWINGS:** Some final sightings of **Bohemian Waxwings** were 4/3 at Whiting and 4/29 at the U of M campus in Orono (*fide* EG). As of 4/18 they were still being seen in several Aroostook County towns (BS). **Cedar Waxwings** were noted here-and-there all through March and April along the coast and also in the western mountains at Saddleback (LH).

**WARBLERS:** There were far too many individual warbler sighting reports to cite all of them. We will limit most of this section to the early arrival dates. Many arrived in April but quite a few fall in early May and just beyond the March-April dates covered by this issue. The most cited date was Sunday May 4, the first bright sunny day after a stretch of dreary days. It is possible that the birds moved in on a migratory wave taking advantage of the weather and/or the good day brought out more birders as usual which would skew that arrival date somewhat.

**Nashville Warblers** were at Viles arboretum in Augusta on 5/4 and Orono the next day. **Parula Warblers** were first reported also on 5/4 at both Viles, Monmouth, and Brunswick.

A **Yellow Warbler** was out on Peaks I. in Casco Bay on 5/2 and at Capisic Pond in Portland on 5/5. Also on the 5/4 date was the first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Monmouth followed by one at Reid SP on 5/5.

**Magnolia Warblers** were at Portland on 4/25 but the second sighting wasn't until 5/8 at Freeport. Capisic Pond at Portland was also the site of the earliest **Black-throated Blue** which was found there on 4/23.

**Yellow-rumped Warblers** wintered over in a number of locations. Spring migrants appeared at Biddeford on 3/21. There were some impressive concentrations with 74 counted at the Sanford sewer ponds on 4/22, over 100 at Florida Lake in Freeport on 5/2 and on the same date "100's" were reported from the Belfast area.

A **Black-throated Green** was at Swans I. on 4/11 (RLH), one at Portland 4/23, followed by many arrivals on 5/3. The first **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Monmouth and York on 5/4.

Two of our earliest arrivals, the **Pine Warbler** and the **Palm Warbler** kept their reputation this spring with the former arriving at Portland on 4/11 and Augusta 4/12 with some seen eating suet at bird feeders while the latter were seen at York on 4/8 and West Kennebunk on 4/9. The strongest waves of arriving migrants for both these species centered 5/5.

The first **Prairie Warbler** mentioned in reports was a single bird at Camden on 5/8.

**Black-and-white Warblers** started showing up in reports on 4/11 and on 5/3 there were eight arrivals noted from Brunswick to Winter Harbor.

A **Redstart** was at Falmouth on 4/18, the next date noted was Scarborough on 5/5.

**Ovenbirds** arrived at Freeport on 5/4. A **Northern Waterthrush** was at Lake Umbagog on 4/21 but was beaten by a **Louisiana Waterthrush** seen at Gray on 4/19. Just making it into this issue was a **Mourning Warbler** caught and banded at West Falmouth on 5/15.

A **Common Yellowthroat** was at Sullivan on 4/26 (SH), the next at Camden on 5/2. There were 10 arrival reports on 5/4. On 5/4 (there is that date again!) a **Wilson's Warbler** was seen at Gardiner.

**TANAGERS:** No members of this family were here during the March-April reporting period but several arrived in early May. **Summer Tanagers** were at Waldoboro 5/3, Georgetown and Isleford (on Little Cranberry I. off Mt. Desert) on 5/5, and two on Monhegan I. 5/14. A **Scarlet Tanager** showed up at Cornish on 5/12 and Cape Neddick on 5/14.

**SPARROWS:** **Eastern Towhees** were at Monhegan on 4/13, Rockport and Waldoboro (RS) on 4/15 followed by a number of single bird sightings after that date.

Some final dates for **Tree Sparrows** were Portland on 4/13, Caribou 4/18 and Augusta on 4/26. A **Chipping Sparrow** wintered over at Newcastle. Most arrivals were in early April with birds at Cobscook SP 4/4 (MAA), Freeport and Orono 4/9 and many more noted after 4/11.

*In the last issue the question was asked about whether or not Chipping Sparrows were regular winter residents years ago when transportation was via horse. SdO did some research and found that Chipping Sparrows did not winter over in the old days. Departure and arrival dates were regularly noted in bird notes of a century ago.*

A **Field Sparrow** was seen at Ft. Foster in Kittery on 4/11 and one was at the Schoodic section of Acadia NP on 4/21.

A **Vesper Sparrow** was at Capisic Pond in Portland on 4/13 and one in Harrington on 4/16 had been at a feeder for four days (MAA). The only **Lark Sparrow** was one seen and photographed at Monhegan 5/14.

**Savannah Sparrows** were at Augusta on 4/4 and were at many locations from 4/11 on.

**Fox Sparrows** were quite common through all of March. Some last dates were at Augusta on 4/20, Deer Isle 4/22, and Presque Isle 4/26.

**Song Sparrows** were regular winter residents at several locations and incoming spring migrants started being noted the first week of April. **Swamp Sparrows** also started showing up during the same week. **White-throated Sparrows** were also here and there all winter. Incoming migrants started being noted the last week of March. There were also a number of **White-crowned**

**Sparrows** through all spring. A distinct wave of migrants was noted between 5/4 and 5/8.

Large numbers of **Slate-colored Juncos** were being seen between 4/2 and 4/11 with counts of over 100 at many locations.

**Snow Buntings** were fairly common in March. Final dates were 4/3 in Dover-Foxcroft (EE), Old Town 4/6 (EG), and Popham Beach 4/7.

**CARDINALIDAE:** **Cardinals** were found the length of the coast and inland to Dover-Foxcroft and Presque Isle.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** didn't arrive until 5/2 with birds east at Machias Seal I. and south at Kennebunk the same day.

A rare **Black-headed Grosbeak** was seen and photographed on Monhegan I. 5/14. Another uncommon species was a **Blue Grosbeak** that was at a feeder in Deer Isle for several days 4/23-29 (BBo).

**Indigo Buntings** didn't start showing up until 5/4 with birds at Gardiner and North Haven I.

A third rarity was a **Painted Bunting** seen and photographed on Monhegan 5/14.

**BLACKBIRDS:** **Grackles** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** started arriving the first week of March. A few **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported with all of them in groups of less than 20 birds and right from late March to early May.

Small flocks of less than 20 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were also being seen from 3/19 right into early May.

The first **Bobolink** to be reported was one at Sidney on 5/7.

The first **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at Brunswick on 4/2. Other early arrivals were noted at Stoneham and Fryeburg on 4/4. Kennebunkport 4/11, North Yarmouth 4/17 and Hollis on 5/7.

**Orchard Orioles** were at Bangor on 5/5 and Machias Seal I. 5/6. **Baltimore Orioles** were also May birds with several on Machias Seal 5/2, Monhegan 5/3, and West Kennebunk and Cumberland 5/4.

**FINCHES:** Reports of members of this family were pretty sparse these past two months.

**Purple Finches** started showing up at feeders on 3/11 at Trescott (FH). Over the next two weeks there were 14 other arrivals noted across most of the state. **House Finches** were mentioned most just as ticks on a various trip lists.

A flock of **Pine Siskins** was reported from Rangeley on 3/15. Others were seen at Augusta on 4/21 (NF).

**Evening Grosbeaks** were at several locations in Aroostook County including Ashland, Portage Lake, and Washburn on 3/25 (BS). One was at Umbagog on 5/2 (NF).

**REPORTERS:** Anyone may send in reports for the newsletter. Please understand that not all reports are cited individually but all of them are necessary for interpreting and understanding the natural history covered in each issue. Everyone is busy and the editor appreciates the time spent writing and sending the reports. Initials of reporters are not used all of the time due to space limitations and some have asked that their initials not be used. The following people made this issue possible: MAA Merle & Anne Archie, AB Ann Boover, BBo Bonnie Bochan, BDB Bruce Denny-Brown, MB May Bird, RB Roger Bowen, SB Seth Benz, TB Tom Bjorkman, CMD Charles & Mary Dorchester, EE Ellen Elliott, RE Bob Elliott, ME Marcia Ellis, NF Norm Famous, SF Sonia Field, EG Ed Grew, MG Mile Good, FH Fred Hartman, LH Lois Hatch, LyH Lynn Havsall, MPH Margot & Paul Haertel, RLH Ralph & Liedeke Hagopian, SH Susie Highland, CJ Carol Jack, AK Alice Kelley, CK Craig Kesselheim, HK Hilary Kammerer, ZK Zack Klyver, RL Rick Lawrence, CMu Carol Muth, JM John Manter, RM Rich MacDonald, SN Susan Nergaard, WN William Nichols, MO Mary Opdyke, SdO Stan deOrsey, TIP Tyrone & Ida Preston, DR Dartha Reid, BS Bill Sheehan, DS Doug Stewart, RS Rick Skoglund, SS Shirley Smith, WT Bill Townsend, CW Chuck Whitney, NW Ned Wharton. MAS Maine Audubon Society, NP National Park, SP State Park, NWR National Wildlife Refuge, twp township, *fide* means on the word of, second-hand, unconfirmed.

\* \* \* \* \*

The next reporting period is May – June 2014. **Reports are due by July 10th.** MAIL reports to 12 Spring St., Bar Harbor, ME 04609, **PHONE** them to 207-288-5654, or **eMAIL** them to wtownsend@roadrunner.com.

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