later in S Wisconsin at Baraboo (43°27'N, 89°45'W, 272 m elev.). Assuming that spring migrants follow mainly a south-to-north route and applying only the latitudinal component of the law, expected deviations at the latter 3 sites relative to E Illinois would be 3.9, 1.3, and 15.8 days later. As shown in the included tables, a few species approximated these 2 sets of theoretical values but no species matched them.

On average our earliest migrants appeared in late February with the momentum of new arrivals increasing by mid-March (Table 1). As expected, most showed a south-to-north trend, recorded first in E Illinois followed by E Indiana or W Illinois and often weeks later in S Wisconsin. However, some species, especially waterbirds, exhibited a definite west-to-east (W) trend across Illinois and Indiana that exceeded a 4-day span before again reaching S Wisconsin much later. In Graber's (1968) radar surveys across central Illinois the dominant vector for migrating waves of mixed species was also east of north. We attribute this trend in part to early warm fronts with tailwinds arriving from the southwest and affecting the initial availability of open water. Unfortunately we lack documentation for annual spring thaw dates at the 4 sites. Only the Field Sparrow demonstrated a uniform(U) trend longitudinally, reaching the 3 Illinois-Indiana sites within a 4-day period. Comments about trendless (-) and sometimes anomalous deviations appear later. Actual median deviations at all 3 sites exceeded Bioclimatic Law expectations.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Washington Park, Sangamon Co. 30 April 1996. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

The bulk of migrant species first reached Illinois and Indiana in April with a rush of first arrivals during the last week (Table 2). For some the trend was again most directly south-to-north (S) with an increasing percent arriving almost uniformly (U) within a 4-day span at the 3 southerly sites. More surprising were the 10 species that displayed an east-to-west (E) gradient from Indiana across Illinois as they proceeded toward Wisconsin. This westward lag suggests a possible southeastern wintering ground. All occur in Florida (Sprunt 1954) and the West Indies (Bond 1985) and most were frequent casualties at Florida TV towers (Taylor and Anderson 1973, Crawford 1980). During April the latitudinal deviations in composite median arrivals diminished considerably as waves of new migrants sped northward.

Indigo Bunting, Sangamon Co. 12 May 1996. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Finally the last group of migrants appeared in E Illinois in early May (Table 3) and 12 of the 24 were recorded almost simultaneously (U) in both W Illinois and E Indiana. Half had also reached S Wisconsin within a week, a sharp contrast to the 4-to 6-week delays during early spring. Again several species apparently followed diagonal tracks (E or W) across the region. As for certain trendless (-) disparities here and in previous tables, we cite Stevenson's (1957) view that common species are more likely to have earlier recorded arrival dates than rarer ones. The Orange-crowned Warbler was infrequently detected in E Indiana where its median arrival date was later than in S Wisconsin. Because Common Loons, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Ovenbirds, and Least Flycatchers also appeared in S Wisconsin before they were encountered farther south in W Illinois, perhaps they are rare migrants at the latter site and therefore more easily overlooked. These confusing dates as well as the apparent late arrivals in E Illinois of the Brown-headed