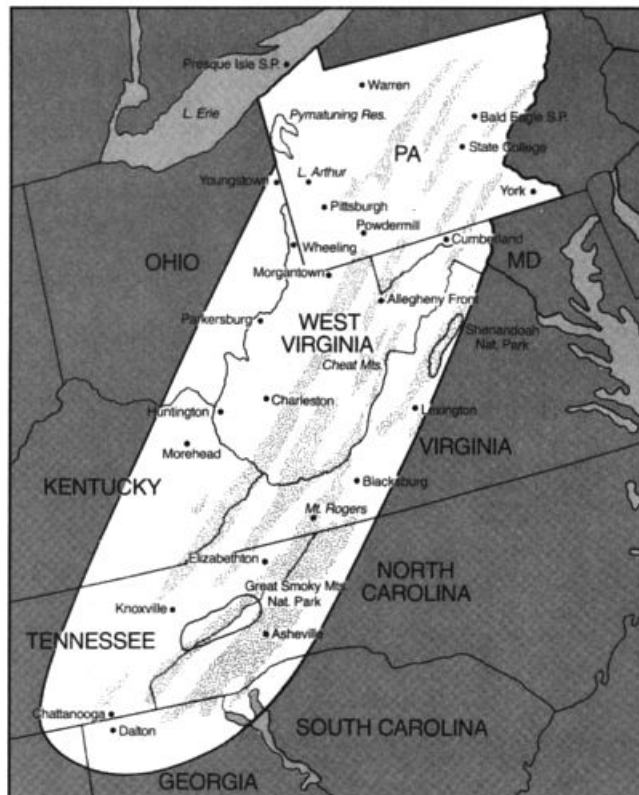


present 1–17 Jun (m.ob.) in the L.P.B.O. area. In Toronto 1 imm. bird was at Lambton Park 19 Jun (BY) and a singing ad. male was at High Park 21 Jun (BY). A pair successfully raised young at a residence near Presqu'île (FH, TH). There were 2 Orchard Orioles near Strathroy, *Middlesex*, one 17 Jun and another in late Jul (PR, DMa, RoS). Two family groups were at Woodstock, *Oxford*, 27 Jun (JMH). A pair of House Finches, still scarce in the n., visited a feeder in Thunder Bay 12 Jul (BM). Several Common Redpolls were late at Slate Falls, *Thunder Bay*, 7 Jun (DTr).

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The drought conditions that had prevailed over much of the Region during the past few seasons finally broke, providing the area with a cooler and wetter summer than normal. High water levels at most lakes and wetlands concentrated migrating shorebirds at a few managed impoundments where water levels had been drawn down. Among passerines, nesting productivity generally seemed high, although little quantitative data were available for most species. In some agricultural areas, frequent summer showers may have indirectly benefited the nesting success of grassland species due to the resulting delays in cutting the first hay crops. Following a trend observed over at least the past two decades, many species having more northerly distributions, including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, as well as

wood-warblers such as Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian, were again found nesting farther south and at lower elevations than usual within the Region.

Abbreviations: Big South Fork (Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, KY/TN); P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Westmoreland, PA); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

There were only two reports of summering, non-breeding Common Loons in the Region, one at Nickajack L., *Marion*, TN, 25 Jun (CM), and another at Kahle L., *Venango*, PA, 16 Jul (JSt). Pied-billed Grebes were unusually widespread within traditional nesting areas of ne. Ohio and nw. Pennsylvania (v.o.); singles were at two sites along the Watauga R., TN, 16 Jul (RK), and one was on the Ohio R. at Williamstown, WV, 5 Jul (MS, AP, GH). A Horned Grebe was a rare out-of-season find at Prince Gallitzin S.P., PA, 8 Jun (BH). A newly discovered colony of Double-



A Brown-headed Nuthatch at its nest hole at Kingston, Roane, Tennessee, 11 May 2000 was at the northern extreme of the species' breeding range in the Appalachian region. Photograph by Frank Renfrow.

crested Cormorants at Rankin Bottoms, Coke, TN, contained six nests with young 10 Jul (RK); at least 9 summered at Pymatuning L., PA (RFL), and 2 late migrants were at Somerset L., Somerset, PA, 6 Jun (J&RP).

Overall, the number of nesting Great Blue Herons continued to increase in the north, but a large colony at Lordstown, OH, dropped from 394 nests in 1999 to 321 this summer (CB). Among the season's highlights was a **Great White Heron** that frequented a golf course near Brevard, NC, 10 Jul+ (ph. TJ, NS, m.ob.). Many observers commented on the early arrival and good numbers of Great Egrets this summer, from a high of 15 at Rankin Bottoms, TN, 10 Jul (RK) to 5 in the north near Allegheny Res., Warren, PA, 14 Jul (NR, CP). An imm. Little Blue Heron was a good find near Hendersonville, NC, 25–26 Jul (WF), and 2 Tricolored Herons frequented P.I.S.P. through 10 Jun (BG). A new heron colony at Rankin Bottoms contained 5 Cattle Egret and over 25 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests (RK). Two ad.

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Chickamauga L., TN, 13 Jun (KC), the season's only report. White Ibises invaded the southern part of the Region early and in good numbers. In Tennessee an immature had appeared in *Hamilton* by 9 Jun (LW), and 9 immatures were in *Carter* 21–24 Jun (HPL, m.ob.); in the French Broad R. Valley, *Henderson*, NC, up to 30 were found 11 Jun–9 Jul (WF, MW). Black Vultures continued to expand their range to the northwest. One at Tarentum, *Allegheny*, PA, 25 Jun may have been the same bird found six miles away in Buffalo Township, *Butler*, 16 Jul (PH, DH), and one over Pleasant Valley, *Garrett*, MD, was a rare sighting (FP).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Out-of-season duck sightings included single Gadwalls at Swoope, *Augusta*, VA, 3 Jun (KG) and P.I.S.P. 3 Jul (JM), a male American Wigeon at Kingsport, TN, 16 Jul (*vide* RK), a Canvasback at Northeast, PA, 27–28 Jun (*vide* JM), and 2 Ring-necked Ducks 14 Jun at Colver, *Cambria*, PA (JSa).

A female Hooded Merganser summered on a pond in Shady Valley, TN (HPL), while breeding birds were widely reported across n. Pennsylvania (v.ob.). Ten Ruddy Ducks, including a female with 5 young, were at Pymatuning L., PA, 4 Jun (RFL), and 4 non-breeding birds were at Prince Gallitzin S.P., PA, 8 Jun (BH).

An imm. Swallow-tailed Kite spotted in *Sequatchie*, TN, 28 Jul was joined by an adult on the 29th and by one of unknown age on the 30th (BJ, v.ob.). A Mississippi Kite in *Bradley*, TN, 21 Jun was a rare find for that area (KC, BJ). Bald Eagle populations continued to increase. There were 44 active nest sites in w. Pennsylvania; the 18 successful sites produced 31 young (DB). Northern Harriers were widely reported and may be slowly recovering from population losses over recent decades. A nest with 5 chicks was found in an abandoned strip mine at Bullion, *Venango*, PA, 22 Jun (JST); a female in *Washington*, TN, on the 11th represented a first July record there (HPL), and one at Swoope, VA, 30 Jul was an exceptional find (YL). Contributors from

Pennsylvania to Virginia commented on a scarcity of Broad-winged Hawks.

Northern Bobwhites may be increasing locally—5 were heard near Martinsburg 7 Jun and one was at Elk Garden, WV, on the 9th (PL); another was near Swallow Falls, MD, 9 Jul (*fide* FP). Common Moorhens were common in the Pymatuning L. area, where 10 were seen at Hartstown 30 Jun (MB), and a pair with newly hatched young was at Shenango W.A., *Trumbull*, OH, 24 Jul (D&JH). On 18 Jun 2 American Coots were at Kingsport, TN, where they are not known to breed (RK). A locally nesting pair of Sandhill Cranes with this year's young was regularly seen in *Mercer/Lawrence*, PA, in Jul (v.ob., *fide* PH), and one was at Dunning Creek, *Bedford*, PA, 2 Jun (TD).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Small numbers of Semipalmated Plovers appeared at many localities in the Appalachians during the last week of July, including 5 at Hooper Lane, *Henderson*, NC, on the 24th (WF) and 4 at Mosquito L., OH, 30 Jul (D&JH). An American Avocet at Sandy Cr. Marsh, *Wood*, WV, 18 Jul (JBe, JE) represented one of few state records. Rare in the Region away from L. Erie, 4 Sanderlings were at Mosquito L. 30 Jul (D&JH), and one was near Polk, PA, 24–28 Jul (GE, m.ob.). A Western Sandpiper was at Polk, 15 Jul (JSt), while 5 Western and 35 Least Sandpipers were at Hooper Lane, 25 Jul (WF, BO). A spring White-rumped Sandpiper was somewhat late at P.I.S.P. 3 Jun (MF), while an early Stilt Sandpiper had arrived at Pymatuning L. by 22 Jul (NT). An out-of-season Common Snipe was at French Broad R. Valley, NC, 29 Jun (WF), with another in *Bledsoe*, TN, 30 Jul (BJ).

Few unusual gull species strayed into the area, although a Laughing Gull was at P.I.S.P. 29 Jun (JF, JH). Several Herring Gulls fledged in mid-Jul from nests at a recently established colony along the Allegheny R. at Pittsburgh (PB), and in Erie some 20 nests produced young—the first successful nestings ever recorded there (JM). The Erie colony's future (including hundreds of nesting Ring-billed Gulls), however, is in doubt, as the property owner has acquired permits to destroy the colony as a health hazard (*fide* JM). A scattering of tern records away from L. Erie included a Caspian at Pymatuning L. 12 Jun (DTr) and one at Bullion, PA, 24 Jun (JSt). A late Common Tern was at Somerset L. 6 Jun (J&RP); a Forster's Tern was at Prince Gallitzin S.P., 7 Jun (JS), and 2 were at

Yellow-creek S.P., PA, 27 Jun (MH, JSa). Although numbers were critically low, a few Black Terns were found nesting in the Pymatuning region, and one or 2 were at S. Holston L., TN, 29–30 Jul (HPL).

CUCKOOS THROUGH THRUSHES

In several areas of heavy Gypsy Moth outbreaks, Yellow-billed Cuckoos were common; 75 were recorded on three BBS routes in Rothrock S.F., *Huntingdon*, PA, where in the past 5 to 10 birds had been more usual (GG). Four young Barn Owls were seen at a nest site at Johnson City, TN, 17 Jun (LM), and nestlings were again found in a silo in nw. *Huntingdon*, PA, that had been unused for several years (GG). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was located at Big South Fork, TN, 7 Jun (SS). In w. Pennsylvania saw-whets were more widely reported than usual, in part due to an organized survey effort (Project Toot Route): 3 were at Marion Center, *Indiana*, 7 Jun (CG), and others were located at Mt. Davis and Allegheny Mt., *Somerset* (J&RP) and *Venango* and *Mercer* (*fide* DG). In the upper Cedar Cr. Valley, *Shenandoah*, VA, Whip-poor-wills were considered locally extirpated (DD), but they were in average numbers in ne. TN (RK) and doing well in *Somerset*, PA (J&RP); in addition, many were recorded in the mountains of Pennsylvania during Project Toot Route surveys (*fide* DG). Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to hold their own and were possibly increasing in ne. Ohio and w. Pennsylvania (v.ob.), and were found at eight sites s. of Oakland, MD (FP). Discovery of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nest at Slippery Rock, PA, represented the 2nd *Butler* breeding record (GW); a pair nested near Oakland, MD (FP); another pair was at Paddy's Knob on the Virginia/West Virginia border 8 Jun (PL, KH), and a juvenile was at Buck Run, *Henderson*, VA, 23 Jul (JBa).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Worthington, *Armstrong*, PA, 20 Jun was very late (JF), and 3 Acadian Flycatchers 17 Jul at Irvine, *Warren*, PA, were unusual so far north (*fide* TG). Toward the south, several Alder Flycatchers were again found at Roan Mt., TN (RK, AT), and 2 territorial birds at South R. Preserve 4 Jun–11 Jul were firsts for *Augusta*, VA (*fide* YL). A nest of Willow Flycatchers at French Broad R. Valley represented the first documented breeding for *Henderson*, NC (WF). Great Crested Flycatchers continued their decline across much of w. Pennsylvania (RCL, v.ob.), and in *Shenandoah*, VA (DD).

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continued their recent invasion of e. Tennessee: an early June nesting attempt in *Polk* apparently failed (JW, m.ob.), but another pair in *Bledsoe* successfully nested, fledging at least one young (*fide* KC). In Pennsylvania, Common Ravens continued to extend their range well w. of the mountains; a family group of 5 was near Clarksville, *Greene*, 22 Jun (RB), and 1–2 were at Van, *Venango*, 4 Jun–8 Jul (JSt).

Tree Swallow populations continued to increase in ne. Tennessee (RK), while in North Carolina a nest with young was found in the French Broad R. Valley (WF) On 19 Jul a flock of 1500 Tree Swallows was staging for migration at Conneaut Marsh, *Crawford*, PA (RCL). About 150 pairs of Bank Swallows nested in a gravel pit at Conneaut L., PA, in June (RFL); a total of 600 nests were under observation at three sites in *Venango*, PA (JSt.), as were several nests in *Wood*, WV (JE). Following the breeding season, a large flock of Bank Swallows gathered at Pymatuning L. near Linesville, peaking at 3000 birds 19 Jul (RCL). Breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in unprecedented numbers in the southern part of the Region, including 8 in nw. *Henderson*, VA, 23 Jul (JBa); a few at Daniel Boone N.E., *Wolfe*, KY, 5 Jun (FR), and several pairs in mid-Jun at both Sumter N.E., *Oconee*, SC, and the Chatooga Wild and Scenic River Area, GA/SC (FR) Eight Brown-headed Nuthatches were listed at the Kingston Power Plant, *Roane*, TN, 10 Jun, where this northerly population may be at risk due to extensive cutting of pines at the site (FR). At the w. edge of their breeding range, Brown Creepers were found at Hocking Hills, OH, 3 Jul (FR), and 2 were heard singing in the south at Sumter N.E., SC, 13 Jun (FR). The only Sedge Wren report came from Erie N.W.R., *Crawford*, PA, 8 Jul (RFL). In e. TN up to 6 Hermit Thrushes were on Roan Mt. (AT, RK), and one was on Unaka Mt. in mid-Jun (AT); up to 10 were reported, near their southern breeding limit, from two mountain peaks in Great Smoky Mountains N.P. (AW, DT). Wood Thrush numbers were believed to be up over the past few years at P.N.R. and surrounding areas (RM, RCL) and also at Sayre, *Bradford*, PA (RES).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

In the north, Blue-winged Warbler populations seemed high (v.ob.); elsewhere one was reported from ne. Tennessee, where they are rare in summer (RK). Up to 14 Golden-winged Warblers were seen in the

Roan Mt., TN, area (AT). A Brewster's Warbler was at Roan Mt. (*vide* RK), and one was banded at P.N.R. 9 Jun (RCL). The first Tennessee breeding record for Magnolia Warbler was established 27 Jun when an adult and 2 fledglings were observed on Unaka Mt (AT); a single bird was at Roan Mt. 28 Jun (AT). Single Yellow-rumped Warblers were rare finds at Mt. LeConte (AW) and Roan Mt. (AT) in mid-Jun. Yellow-throated Warblers continued to expand their breeding range northward, and one was seen near Irvine, PA, 17 Jul (*vide* TG). Late migrant Blackpoll Warblers were listed at Waynesboro, VA, 1-4 Jun (*vide* YL) and Steyer, Garrett, MD, 3 Jun (FP). In the Laurel Highlands of w. Pennsylvania, Cerulean Warbler populations were high (RM). An eight-year census at Frozen Head S.P., TN, however, indicated half the number of Ceruleans compared to 1994 (53 vs. 106), and declines were apparent on BBS routes in Whitley and McCreary, KY (SS). In June a Swainson's Warbler was reported from Whitley, KY, and 6 birds were reported from four sites in Big South Fork, TN (SS); other Swainson's were 2 at Red R. Gorge, KY, 5 Jun (FR), one 15 Jun in Oconee, SC (FR), and one at Cove L. S.P., TN, 17 Jun (FR). A record-early fall Northern Waterthrush was at Signal Mt., Hamilton, TN, 28 Jul (JSL). In the Laurel Highlands, nesting success for Louisiana Waterthrush was generally high, with about 60% of 45 monitored nests and >80% of pairs on ten streams successful at fledging young; this summer, the first waterthrush nest out of some 150 monitored in the last five years produced a cowbird fledgling (RM). Mourning Warblers were common in their n. Pennsylvania range (RFL, RCL), and a male was at Table Rock, Garrett, MD, 25 Jun (JC). In Greene, PA, both Kentucky and Hooded Warblers were in their best numbers ever on BBS routes (RB). A late spring Wilson's Warbler was found in Pittsburgh 7 Jun (BH).

Although breeding was not confirmed, a Clay-colored Sparrow was in nw. Butler, PA, 2 Jun (GW), and on 20 Jun one was at Imperial, Allegheny, PA (CT), with another 2 at Florence, Washington, PA (CT). Field Sparrows could not be found in the upper Cedar Cr. Valley, Shenandoah, VA (DD), this summer, and were in low numbers in Greene, PA (RB), and at P.N.R. (RM, RCL). Vesper Sparrows have been increasingly difficult to find in most of the Region, and none could be located in Venango, PA, during the breeding season (JSt). A **Lark Sparrow** was seen 3 Jul in a recently tilled

field in the French Broad R. Valley, NC, two miles from where one was seen in late Apr (WF). At least 15 Savannah Sparrows were found in two counties of ne. Tennessee, near the southern limit of their Appalachian breeding range (RK). Henslow's Sparrows were doing well in nw. Pennsylvania: with "lots" of birds in Clarion (DB), 35 singing males from three locations in Venango (JSt), and reports of smaller numbers from Mercer (NT) and Fayette (MM). Blue Grosbeaks were reported in good numbers throughout the period in Henderson, NC (WF). Dickcissels appeared in their best numbers since the summer of 1988; there were 18 reports from Augusta, VA, including 10 at Swoope (YL), 17 from w. Pennsylvania (PH, JSt, v.ob.), 2 in Henderson, NC (MW), and one in Washington, TN (RK). Scattered flocks of Red Crossbills appeared in the south: 5 at Gaudineer Knob, Pocahontas, WV, 8 Jun (PL); 25-30 at Balsam Gap, Buncombe, NC, 4 Jun (WE, BO, RS); in Tennessee 80+ were on Roan Mt. 16 Jun (RK) and 9 were on Unaka Mt. (RK). A few Pine Siskins, in breeding condition, were banded at P.N.R. in Jun (RCL, RM), and one or 2 frequented Allegheny Mt., Somerset, PA, all season

(J&RP); up to 16 were seen on Roan Mt during the period (RK).

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Marsh Wren
by Terry O'Nele

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