

Warbler at Pelee July 31 (JI,RP) furnished a record-early fall arrival there.

A Grasshopper Sparrow at Pelee June 15 (AW) was record-late. The only Henslow's Sparrow reported during the summer was a lone singing male in *Haldimand* July 14 (JM). The outlook for this species is bleak indeed. A Dark-eyed Junco at the tip of Long Pt. July 15 (MB) was exceptional at that location in mid-summer. A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Garson June 9 (RM) was unusual at that n.e. location. Also unusual in that region of the province were individual W. Meadowlarks at Algonquin June 3 (CJ) and Ten Mile Pt., *Manitoulin*, June 21 (CB).

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appalachian region

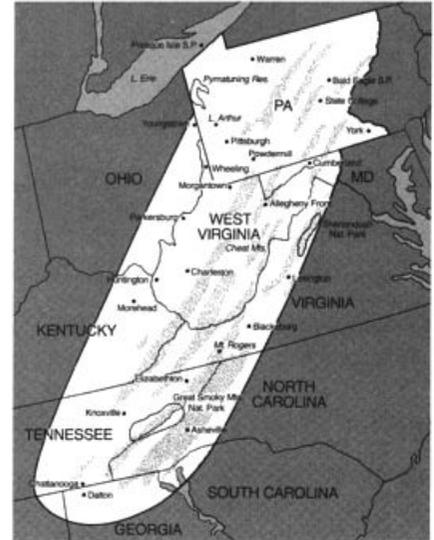
GEORGE A. HALL

Bird populations may or may not have been low this summer, but clearly the birder population was very low. The material received for this report used only 59% of the computer space used in the spring report. It was, however, a season with a number of interesting events. The weather was certainly benign. At the Pittsburgh weather station both months were slightly cooler than normal. June was much wetter than average with an excess rainfall of 3 inches, but July was drier than average with a deficiency of 1.7 inches.

The spring migration continued into the first week of June and even somewhat later, giving rise to many record-late dates. Despite the heavy rains of June most species appeared to have successful nesting seasons, and there were several first or second local breeding records. Only a few shorebirds, the usual advance guard of the fall migration, had arrived by July 31. More than the average number of long-legged waders arrived in the post-breeding period. An unusual number of waterfowl (ducks, grebes and coots) summered in the Region, although most of these were non-breeders. The highlight of the season was the extensive breeding, or presumed breeding, of several passerine species south of their normal range. It was almost as if some birds shifted from the migratory mode to the breeding mode before they completed the north-bound flight.

A number of species which breed in the higher elevations showed increased populations at the limits of their range. Several of these species have disjunct populations in the Hocking Hills in southeast Ohio, where a series of deep ravines offer a cool, more northerly habitat. This area has not been reported before, so the numbers were compared with what might be expected as judged by the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas.

Abbreviations: B.L. (*Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co., TN*); G.S.M.N.P. (*Great Smoky Mountains N.P.*); M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan Co., KY*); M.L.W.A. (*Mosquito L. Wildlife Area, Trumbull Co., OH*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle*



This adult Pacific Loon in alternate plumage at Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania, on June 14, 1998 was the first record for both the state and the Appalachian region. Features that support Pacific versus Arctic Loon include the pale, frosty appearance of the back of the head, slender proportions of the bill and neck, and lack of a prominent white patch along the flank. Photograph/Nick Pulcinella

S.P., Erie Co., PA; P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); S.H.L. (*South Holston L., Washington Co., VA/Sullivan Co., TN*); Y.C.S.P. (*Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana Co., PA*).

LOONS THROUGH IBIS

A **Pacific Loon** was reported from York, PA, June 14 († ph. NP). If accepted by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee this provides a Pennsylvania

and Regional first. An unusual number of Com. Loons remained in the Region until mid-June. Pied-billed Grebes were also more numerous than usual in June, but the only indication of breeding came from *Augusta*, VA, where a nest in a flooded field was apparently unsuccessful, but an immature was found (A&YL). The only reports of Double-crested Cormorants were of four seen at Kingsport June 21 and one—two at Austin Springs, TN July 25–30 (RK).

The only report of Am. Bittern was from Pymatuning L., PA, June 20 (RFL). At least four Least Bitterns were present all season at B.L., where a nest with eggs found June 12 was destroyed by June 28 (KC). A Great Blue Heron colony at Lordstown, OH, had 314 nests in 72 trees June 13 (CB). Great Egrets were reported from throughout the Region. Most places had small numbers, but at B.L. 128 were present July 18 in a large concentration of waders (BM). A high count of eight Snowy Egrets was made at B.L. July 18 (LW), while single birds were seen at M.C.F.H. (RD) and *Jefferson*, TN, July 20–27 (DE). There were many more than the usual number of Little Blue Herons reported: *Woodcock L.*, *Crawford*, PA, June 21; Pymatuning L., PA, July 12 (RFL); *Pipestem S.P.*, WV, July 28 (JP); *Bristol*, TN, July 26 (WC); *Jefferson*, TN, July 27 (DE); and a high count of 35 at B.L. July 19 (KC). The only reports of Cattle Egrets came from e. Tennessee: four in *Cocke* July 18–26 (DE) and singles at B.L. June 5 (KC) and July 16 (BM). An imm. White Ibis was at B.L. July 7, and on July 19 a high count of six was at that location (KC). A White Ibis at Mt. Horeb, *Augusta*, VA, July 8–9, was a 4th county record (YL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

At Pymatuning L., 1657 Canada Geese were counted June 6 and 4500 July 12 (RFL). There were several unusual breeding records, all confirmed by parents escorting downy young: Green-winged Teal Pymatuning L. June 27 (RFL), Hooded Merganser Pymatuning L. June 20 (RFL) and L. Arthur, PA, late June (DD), and Com. Merganser Pymatuning L. July 26 (RFL). There were many more than the usual number of ducks, mostly singles or duos, remaining in the Region through June: Blue-winged Teal were at *Geneva Marsh*, *Crawford*, PA (RFL), and *Augusta*, VA (YL); Ring-necked Duck at L. Arthur, PA, Y.C.S.P. (*fide* PH) and P.I.S.P. (LM); Greater Scaup at P.I.S.P. (JM); Lesser Scaup at P.I.S.P. (JM), L. Arthur (*fide* PH), and M.L.W.A. (J&DH); Com. Goldeneye and Bufflehead

at P.I.S.P. (JM); Hooded Merganser at B.L. (KC); Com. Merganser at *Woodcock L.*, PA (RFL); and Red-breasted Merganser at P.I.S.P. (JM), Mt. Horeb, VA (YL), and *Bath*, VA (MGS). The heavy spring flight of Ruddy Ducks continued into June: Mt. Horeb, VA, to July 5 with a peak of 20 June 2 (YL); L. Arthur and Plain Grove, PA (*fide* PH); P.I.S.P., (JM, LM); Pymatuning L. (RFL); and M.L.W.A. (D&JH).

At L. Arthur, one Osprey nest had three fledglings (*fide* PH); at *Somerset L.*, PA, 2 successful nestings fledged two and three, while a 3rd nest site was inactive (AM), and in *Wood*, WV, a pair raised one (JE). Other Osprey sightings came from Mt. Horeb, VA, July 24 (YL); *Douglas L.*, TN (DE); and S.H.L. July 26 (WC). An ad. Bald Eagle was at S.H.L. June 25 (JoM), an adult and an immature were at *Douglas L.*, TN, July 18 & 26 (DE), and one was seen at *Bluestone L.*, WV, in late July (JP). There were more reports than usual of Cooper's Hawks; four nestlings were banded at Austin Springs, TN (RK), and a nesting in *Augusta*, VA, was the first for the county (YL). An imm. Golden Eagle was reported from *Whitley*, KY, June 17 (RD et al.). In *Warren*, PA, Am. Kestrels nesting in 38 of 51 nest boxes laid 176 eggs and fledged 109 young (DW). Peregrine Falcons at *Chickamauga Dam*, TN, fledged one young from 3 eggs laid (KC), while the pair in G.S.M.N.P. fledged three (RK). A possible nesting was reported from *Unicoi*, TN (FA et al.).

Common Moorhens were found at *Conneaut Marsh*, PA, June 28 and July 18 (RCL). Up to 21 Am. Coots were present at Mt. Horeb, VA, through the period, and 10 were at P.I.S.P. to early July (GR). Sandhill Cranes were present at the *Lawrence/Mercer* site, but nesting had not been confirmed by July 31 (BD), and a crane was at M.L.W.A., June 14 (D&JH).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The northbound shorebird migration continued through the first week of June and the first southbound birds arrived as early as July 2. Which way were the few strays at dates between these limits going? By the end of July the common species—Solitary Sandpipers, yellowlegs, and “peeps”—had arrived in modest numbers, but there were few records of the rarer species.

The shorebird of the season was an **American Avocet** at Y.C.S.P. July 17 (TF). A Semipalmated Plover at *Mill Run Res.*, *Fayette*, PA, June 24 was unusual in that mountainous area (EH). A concentration of

200+ Killdeer at Mt. Horeb, VA, July 9 was noteworthy (YL). Six Willets were at B L July 18 (JC). Five pairs of Upland Sandpipers nested in *Lawrence*, PA (BD), one was found at *Shelocta*, *Indiana*, PA, June 6 (MH); and at least one pair nested near *Kecksburg*, *Westmoreland*, PA (RCL, RM). White-rumped Sandpipers were reported from Pymatuning L. June 1 (W&DS), M.L.W.A. June 8 (J&DH), Y.C.S.P. June 5–7 (GC), Mt. Horeb, VA, June 6 (YL), and *Rockingham*, VA, June 6 (CT). Pectoral Sandpipers were at Pymatuning L. July 3 and 12 July 9 (RFL); *Lawrence*, PA, June 9 (BD); and 15 at Mt. Horeb, VA, July 24 (YL). Single Short-billed Dowitchers were seen at *Woodcock L.*, PA, July 7 (RCL), 2 sites in *Westmoreland*, PA, July 14 & 20 (DL); and Mt. Horeb, VA, July 9 & 24 (YL).

A very unusual midsummer record was a Bonaparte's Gull at Y.C.S.P. July 11 (GC). Single Caspian Terns were reported from L. Arthur July 11 (RMA), Y.C.S.P. July 11 (GC), and *Douglas L.*, TN, July 18 (DE). A Forster's Tern was at Y.C.S.P. July 22 (GC). Forty-two Black Terns at Mt. Horeb, VA, June 6, and 19 June 9, were high numbers for late migrants (CT). Four were seen at Pymatuning L. June 27 (RFL).

Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were found at *Pikeville*, *Bledsoe*, TN, July 27 (KC). Both cuckoo species were in low numbers at most places. Nesting was confirmed for the wild Barn Owls who took over the nest boxes of the reintroduction project in *Lawrence*, PA, as reported in the spring account (BD). The only other report was one seen July 18 in *Sullivan*, TN (WC). A Whip-poor-will at *Shelocta*, *Indiana*, PA, through the period (M&RH) was the only report from the 5-county area around *Pittsburgh* (PH), and the only other report was from *Rockingham*, VA, June 16–24 (MGS). There were a few more reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers than usual an adult with an immature July 3 at *Howland*, OH (CB); one in *Greene*, PA, July 1 (RB), a pair all season in *Wood*, WV (GS); two in *Clarke*, VA, June 20 (MGS); and one at *Carter Caves S.P.*, KY (FR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPER

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in *Butler*, PA, July 18 (JHo) was either a late spring or early fall migrant, but one on *Clingman's Dome*, G.S.M.N.P., July 26 was in a more expected location (RL). In the *Pittsburgh* area it was felt that the E. Wood-Pewee population was increasing, but in most areas they were considered to be quite low or nearly absent. A territorial Yellow-bellied Flycatcher found

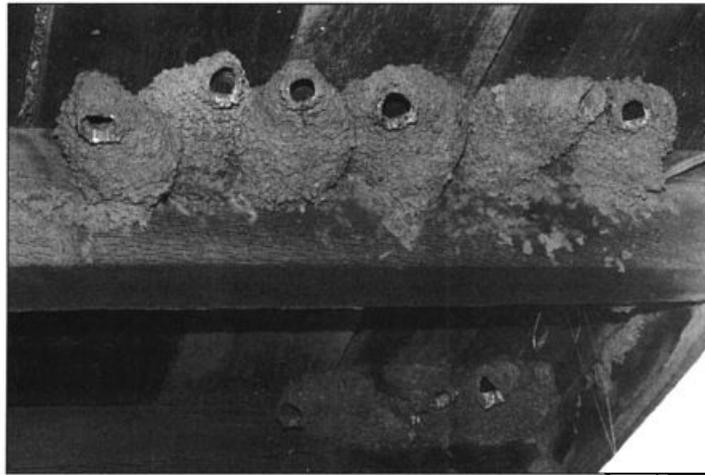
at Laurel Summit Bog, *Westmoreland*, PA, June 18 was joined by another bird, but no breeding was confirmed (RM, RCL). This location is not far from P.N.R., where what was thought to be a late migrant was banded June 6 (RCL, RM). Alder Flycatchers were at the usual sites on the recently acquired range on Roan Mt., TN (RK). The nesting population of Willow Flycatchers at P.N.R. has disappeared (RM, RCL), but numbers were normal in n.e. Tennessee, at the s. extremity of the range (RK). At least one Scissor-tailed Flycatcher returned to the site in *Bradley*, TN, where they nested last year (CC, JCh).

There were 2 confirmed nestings and two other apparently breeding pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes in Augusta, VA (YL); a pair with two young was seen in *Jefferson*, TN (DE), and two were seen in *Whitfield*, GA, July 17 (HD). Blue-headed Vireos were numerous in the Hocking Hills areas in Ohio, and the Red R. Gorge, KY (FR). A late Philadelphia Vireo was banded at P.N.R., June 7 (RCL, RM). In *Pocahontas*, Red-eyed Vireo numbers were about 10% lower than the 1993 value (BBCF).

Common Ravens nested at a site in *Forest*, PA, for the 27th year (TG). There continue to be more reports of ravens at the s. limit of the range in the Georgia highlands, with two encountered on the Appalachian Trail near Neel's Gap, *Union*, GA (MO). There were several reports of ravens at low elevations away from the mountains in *Greene*, PA, to mid-July (RB), and *Harrison*, WV, in early July (AW).

A flock of 106 Tree Swallows on a wire over a flooded field in *Augusta*, VA, June 30 (MGS) was unusual. Bank Swallows are the least common swallow in most of the Region, so a flock of 100+ on a wire over the

SA After the heavy winter flight, a number of Red-breasted Nuthatches remained behind and nested s. of the usual range. Fledglings were seen at Cortland, *Trumbull*, OH (first county nesting record; D&JH), and at Meander Res., *Mahoning*, OH, (CB). Nesting was observed at Conkle's Hollow and birds were seen at 2 other locations in the Hocking Hills, OH (FR). There were Breeding Bird Survey records from Walhalla, *Oconee*, SC, and *Rabun*, GA (MO). For the 3rd year they nested in the Red R. Gorge, KY (FR). Strangely, the species was in lower than normal numbers in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia (BBCF, GAH).



At the southeastern edge of a steady range expansion by the Cliff Swallow was this colony of 85 nests at Mt. Horeb, Augusta County, Virginia, documented in June 1998. Photograph/John Spahr

New R. at Hinton, WV, was noteworthy (JP). Concentrations of Cliff Swallows included 100+ June 6 and 200 June 20 at the Linesville Fish Hatchery, PA, where 75 nests were counted (RCL, RM). Cliff Swallows have only recently moved S through the Shenandoah Valley, so a colony of 85 nests at Mt. Horeb, VA (M&JPa), and 15 at Stuart's Draft, VA (YL, JB), were of interest. In n.e. Tennessee the relatively new populations of Tree and Cliff swallows continue to increase and expand (RK).

Brown-headed Nuthatches nested at Dalton, GA (HD). Singing male Brown Creepers were found at 2 locations in the Hocking Hills, OH (FR).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

Carolina Wren populations showed further recovery, with successful nestings in *Trumbull*, OH (CB), and *Warren*, PA (DW), at the n. extreme of the range, and they were found at high elevations in *Somerset*, PA (AM). House Wrens were in below-normal numbers and were totally absent from a location in *Shenandoah*, VA (DDa). Winter Wrens nested successfully at P.N.R., and territorial males were at several other places in the Laurel Highlands, PA (RCL, RM); four singing males were in the West Virginia University Forest near Morgantown (GB), and for the 2nd year in the Bluestone W.M.A., *Summers*, WV (JP). All of these locations are south of or lower than the normal range. As with the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren populations in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia were much below normal (BBCF). Sedge Wrens were reported from Conneaut Marsh, PA, June 28 (RFL); Erie N.W.R., PA, July 9 (RFL,

RCL); and Delmont, PA, July 1 (DL). Ten Marsh Wrens were in one section of the Conneaut Marsh July 12 (RFL, RCL).

Golden-crowned Kinglets at Wahalla, SC, in June were noteworthy but not unprecedented (MO). Eastern Bluebirds had a very good breeding season at P.N.R., as evidenced by the record-high 84 banded from May to July (RCL, RM). The disjunct breeding population of Swainson's Thrushes in the Cheat Mts., WV, was at normal level. A Swainson's Thrush seen on Chestnut Ridge, *Indiana*, PA, June 18 (MH, GC) was very late for a migrant, but there are no known breeding populations nearby. Hermit Thrushes were in above-average numbers in the Cheat Mts. (BBCF, GAH). The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas shows a small population of Hermit Thrushes in Hocking Hills, but the estimate of 30 singing males in the several areas of suitable habitat is more than expected (FR). At the s. range limit, two Hermit Thrushes on Roan Mt., TN/NC, were normal (RK), but six singing males on Mt. LeConte, G.S.M.N.P. (BS), would appear to be more than average. The small summer population of N. Mockingbirds in n. *Mahoning*, OH (J&DH), represents a minor range extension. Populations of Gray Catbirds were thought to be quite high in the Pittsburgh area, but Brown Thrashers were very low there (PH). An Am. Pipit in *Lawrence*, PA, June 22 was unusually late (BH).

Except for the Yellow-breasted Chat, most lowland/southern warblers were in good numbers. Pine and Worm-eating warblers were reported more widely than normal. Recently fledged young Cerulean Warblers on the Blue Ridge Parkway June

16 made the 2nd confirmed nesting for *Augusta*, and another pair was located on the Parkway July 16 (YL). An intensive study of Louisiana Waterthrushes in the Laurel Highlands, PA, found about 50 nests, most of which were successful with only 2 being parasitized by cowbirds (RM). Several of the northern warblers were more numerous than expected at the southern and lower limits of their range. Thus the Magnolia and Canada warblers were common in the boreal ravines of the Hocking Hills of Ohio (FR) and the WVU forest, WV (GB), and the Black-throated Green Warbler was in good numbers in the Red R. Gorge of Kentucky (FR). Possible new breeding sites were Magnolias at Unaka and Roan mountains, TN (RK), and Mourning Warbler at Laurel Summit Bog, *Westmoreland*, PA (RM, RCL). Southern species were also moving N and upslope. A Kentucky Warbler in *Warren*, PA, through June was well n. of the expected range. Yellow-throated Warblers were nesting as far north as *Warren*, PA (DW), and they were the most abundant warbler in the riparian zone along the Cheat R. in *Preston*, WV, somewhat higher than expected (LS).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A pair of **Clay-colored Sparrows** was found in *Clarion*, PA, July 17–20, and apparent juveniles were seen and photographed (JF et al.). If accepted by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee, this would be a first breeding record for the state. A singing Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at *Imperial*, *Allegheny*, PA, July 27 (CT). Field Sparrows remained in low numbers. Singing male Savannah Sparrows at 2 sites in *Johnson* and 4 sites in *Washington*, TN, indicate a gradual increase in this relatively new population (RK). A Henslow's Sparrow was found in *Hancock*, WV, July 9 (AW). Unusually late White-throated Sparrows were reported June 1 in *Pulaski*, KY (RD); June 18 at Trinity Pt., VA; and June 21 at Rockfish Gap, providing 2nd and 3rd June records for *Augusta*, VA (YL).

Blue Grosbeaks were seen in *Rockingham*, VA, June 2 and July 13 (MGS), and they were reported as being in good numbers in n.e. Tennessee (RK). A Dickcissel was found in *Wirt*, WV, June 1 (GH et al.); four were at a *Washington*, TN, site which has been occupied for 4 years; and one was in *Jefferson*, TN (DE), through June.

A pair of Bobolinks fledged young near Swoope, *Augusta*, VA (first county nesting record), and several other birds were present (YL). A pair apparently nested in

Washington, TN, which would be the 2nd nesting for the state. A W. Meadowlark was seen and heard in *Crawford*, PA, June 21–July 12 (m.ob., *fide* RFL).

Two Red Crossbills were on Roan Mt., TN, June 12 (RK); one was listed on the Breeding Bird Survey route near Walhalla, SC, June 18 (MO); and an ad. male and an immature were found at Highlands, NC, July 9 (JG). One was also seen at Y.C.S.P. July 7 (GC). The last record may be a straggler from the winter invasion, but the other records may be of the little known s. Appalachian population, since the winter flight did not go that far south. Pine Siskins were feeding young at Pipestem S.P., WV, in early June (JP), and small numbers were present all summer at Harmon, WV (AW), and Roan Mt., TN (RK). Other sightings came from *Indiana*, PA (GL); *Waterford*, *Erie*, PA (CG); and *Elkton*, VA (MGS).

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western

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June commenced cool with localized frost in the northern areas. This was in sharp contrast to the very warm, humid conditions that prevailed for the remainder of the season. In addition most of the Region had exceptionally dry conditions, some areas received no rain during June and/or July while many others were 2–3 inches below normal per month. In contrast, a few places experienced localized heavy rain. For example, in Wisconsin up to 12 in. fell in Sheboygan and Milwaukee during a 24 hour period in late July.

Most birders felt the summer was lackluster. Certainly the poor May passerine flight caused numerous birders to retire their binoculars until the fall migration. This was unfortunate, as there was an excellent burst of warblers, vireos and flycatchers during early June. Joining the June passerines was an **OUTSTANDING** shorebird flight. The initial weeks in June had numbers and variety that were truly impressive, surpassing the preceding months'. Twenty-six migrants were tallied in the Region during this time!

Rarities, as expected, were scarce. In fact had it not been for lingering spring notables there would have been almost none. Minnesota had its Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Bewick's Wren to which were added Mississippi Kites and a Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Wisconsin had lingering Tricolored Heron, Eurasian Collared-Dove and Kirtland's Warbler. Supplementing these were another Eurasian Collared-Dove, Neotropic Cormorant (first record), Purple Sandpiper and Reeve. Michigan's contributions were a Curlew Sandpiper, Reeve and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Everyone had been concerned about the absence of May migrants. Due to the lack of major weather fronts did they go directly on territory or did something dire happen before they arrived in the Region? Preliminary data from BBS and BBA has suggested that numbers of most species were normal.

Abbreviations: LP (*Lower Peninsula, MI*), MWS (*Muskegon Wastewater System, MI*); PMSGa (*Pt. Mouillee State Game Area, MI*); UP (*Upper Peninsula, MI*); WPBO (*Whitefish Pt Bird Observatory, MI*).