



Iowa (LS, MK); Blue-winged Teal with eight young at McElroy L., KY, July 17 (DR); two N. Pintail broods at Maynard Reece W.M.A., IA, July 26 (MK); Gadwall broods at 2 Iowa locations (SF, LS); and a Redhead nest at Spring Run W.M.A., IA, June 18 (SF). Notable reports among the non-breeding ducks were 20 N. Shovelers in Cass, IL, July 20 (KMc); an imm. male Black Scoter at H.B.S.P. June 1 (KMe); a female White-winged Scoter that summered on the Indiana lakefront (JMc, BEt, m.ob.); a female Bufflehead at the Port of Indiana June 7 (JMc, BEt); and a drake Com. Merganser at Bigelow Marsh, MO, July 20 (DE).

Black Vulture numbers remained high in their normal range, and one wandered N to Sangamon, IL, where it was seen June 20 (†DBo). A Turkey Vulture nest near the Iowa R., in Iowa, IA, contained two young in July (NB). Nesting or summering Ospreys were reported in every state except Indiana and Iowa. Mississippi Kites returned to traditional nesting areas, and an adult wandered N to Winnebago, IL, where it remained from July 26 through Aug. 8 (DW, m.ob.). Nesting efforts of Bald Eagle remained favorable with 75 nests reported in Iowa, 30 active nests in Illinois, and 20 fledglings in Indiana. Multiple N. Harrier nests were reported in Illinois and Iowa; a harrier nest was also reported in Seneca, OH (TB). The Region's only Sharp-shinned Hawk nest was observed at Cuyahoga Valley W.M.A. June 28 and July 4 (JBe). Swainson's Hawks returned to their n.e. Illinois nesting area with reports of one–two adults in McHenry June 27–Aug. 10 (AS, SDe, RBA) and two adults and an immature in Kane June 27 (VB).

At Illinois' Prairie Ridge W.M.A. nine Greater Prairie-Chicken nests yielded 19 broods during the breeding season (JWa, EK et al.). King Rails enjoyed a good season with 2 broods at Prairie Ridge W.M.A., IL, in June and July (JWa, EK); an adult and two fairly large chicks at Errington Marsh, IA, July 25 (BEt); and an estimated 10–12 breeding pairs at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., MO (DE). Both Virginia Rail and Sora numbers were also up. Nesting of the former was confirmed at Beverly Shores, IN, when an adult and two downy chicks were seen June 8 (SB), and at Killbuck Marsh, OH, where at least 3 successful nests were found (TB). For the 2nd time on record, nesting **Purple Gallinules** returned to the former Mermet L., IL, breeding site where four adults, one nest, and 2 broods were observed July 11–Aug. 9 (†FBe, m.ob.). Additionally, an injured adult, found in

Jersey, IL, June 28, later died and was given to the Illinois State Museum (FBe). Common Moorhens had a better season than in recent years, with nesting reported in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Ohio. Peak counts included 25 young at L. Cal. June 17–July 11 (WM) plus six adults and ten immatures at Bob Brown W.M.A., MO, July 27 (DE). Sandhill Cranes nested at Waukegon, IL, where two young were present May 11 (RBi); in Steuben, IN, where a pair and a small chick were noted June 1 (Haw, SS); and in the Des Plaines River W.M.A., IL, where two adults with young were seen July 25 (AS). In addition, a remarkable flock of 25 was seen in a freshly plowed field at Pigeon River W.M.A., IN, July 25 (Haw).

### SHOREBIRDS

Unusual Black-bellied Plover reports included a basic-plumaged bird at Miller Beach, IN, July 10 (JMc, BEt) and an early migrant at McElroy L., KY, July 23 (DR). Also surprising was a Semipalmated Plover at McElroy L. June 23 (DR). Iowa's breeding Piping Plovers had a great year with 4 pair and three young at the MidAmerica Energy Ponds in late June (JD, m.ob.) and 4 pairs at Port Neal that produced 12 fledglings (BH). The only other Piping Plover report consisted of an adult seen at Miller Beach, IN, July 17–23 (JMc, m.ob.). An estimated 1000 Killdeer were at McElroy L. July 23 (DR). Once again, Black-necked Stilts nested across s. reaches of the Region, with a nest containing 4 eggs in Massac, IL, June 1–5 (FB et al.) and 4 pairs in Fulton, KY, that produced at least two young (HC, m.ob.). Elsewhere, a Stilt was at Ten Mile Pond, Mississippi, MO, June 28 (JHo), and two were at that location July 10 (JR). Small numbers of Am. Avocets appeared in every state except Kentucky; the peak tally consisted of five at Michigan City Harbor, IN, July 20 (KB). The most unusual Willet report involved a flock of 20 birds at L. Rathbun that tied Iowa's earliest fall arrival record June 22 (TJ). Summer Whimbrels were restricted to the Great Lakes, where one was seen at Lorain, OH, July 4 (CH), and a total of three were seen on the Indiana lakefront July 13–17 (JMc et al.). A record-late Hudsonian Godwit was at Maynard Reece W.M.A., IA, June 10 (MK). No large shorebird accumulations were reported; indeed, the largest single count of any species was 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Lorain, OH, July 29 (CH, KMe). Noteworthy reports included an out-of-sync White-rumped Sandpiper at Spfld. June 20 (DBo), an early Baird's Sandpiper

at L. Cal. June 19 (JMd), a Dunlin at McElroy L. June 8 (DR), and two ad. Buff-breasted Sandpipers at McElroy L. July 24–26 (DR). Clearly, however, the shorebird of the season was an alternate-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** at Eagle Bluffs W.M.A. July 15 (TC, BG, †PMc, EPr, ph., m ob), which provided Missouri's first state record. Two broods of Wilson's Phalaropes at Maynard Reece W.M.A., IA, July 26 (MK), provided the Region's only breeding record. Iowa's first summer Red-necked Phalarope in 10 years appeared at Maynard Reece W.M.A. July 10 (MK).

### JAEGERS TO TERNS

A Parasitic Jaeger, believed to be in 2nd- or 3rd-summer plumage, was at L. Springfield, IL, June 22 & 23 (†DBo). Laughing Gulls were reported in every state except Iowa and Kentucky. The westernmost record consisted of an adult at R.E.D.A. June 6 (CM) The Region's largest Franklin's Gull accumulation consisted of 400 at Kettleton W.M.A., Dickinson, IA, July 26 (LS). For the 4th time in 5 years, a summer period Black-headed Gull was reported in n.c. Iowa. This year an adult was seen briefly at Kettleton W.M.A. June 23 (†RR). Kentucky's first **Little Gull** consisted of a first-year bird that lingered at McElroy L. from June 9 until June 17 (DR, BPB, ph.). An estimated 12,000 Ring-billed Gull nests and fewer than 200 Herring Gull nests were at L. Cal. this summer (JL).

Caspian Terns were widespread, with reports from all 6 states; nesting was not confirmed at last year's site in Indiana. Seven young Com. Terns fledged from the Waukegon, IL, colony July 13–27 (DDa, AHo), and 30 reportedly nested at Pipe Creek W.M.A., OH (CH). A Forster's Tern nest was found at Gladfelter Marsh, IA, June 27 (SF), and two adults were observed feeding a young bird at Dan Green Slough, IA, July 18 (LS). It was a superb nesting season for Least Terns. In Missouri, researcher Rochelle Renken reported 880 pairs nesting in 8 colonies along the Mississippi R. between Cairo, IL, and the Arkansas line. The largest colony, near Portageville, MO, contained 460 nests (*vide* JWi). Indiana's Gibson colony hosted a maximum adult population of 80 birds and 62 nests; 35–40 young fledged (*vide* JCs). At Port Neal, IA, four Least Tern pairs fledged seven young (BH); though nine adults were present at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds June 22, there was no evidence of nesting (JD) The only reports of nesting Black Terns came from Gladfelter Marsh and Spring Run W.M.A., both in Iowa (SF).

## DOVES TO VIREOS

By July 27 the Eurasian Collared-Dove, first seen at Chicago's Lincoln Park in April, had made 4 unsuccessful nesting attempts (JL). Greater success occurred in Nokomis, Montgomery, IL, where 10 young were seen June 22 (MRe). In addition, small collared-dove populations were confirmed in 4 s.e. Missouri locations and in the St. Louis area (*fide* JW) and one was still at the Grinnell, IA, site in June and July (JD, MPr). **White-winged Doves** continued their expansion into the Region. A first Illinois record was seen and heard in Homer, Vermilion, July 22 (†JS), and another was reported in Springfield, MO, July 18 (LB). Though Black-billed Cuckoos remained scarce, many correspondents noted increased numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. The peak count of the latter consisted of 12, detected on a Monroe, IL, Breeding Bird Survey, June 13 (KMc). The s.w. Missouri Greater Roadrunner population appears to be expanding. In addition to reports in Tany, MO, which is within the expected range, singletons n. of Doniphan July 17 (CS) and near Marquand July 16 (D. Roe) were well e. of previous locations.

Nesting Barn Owls were reported in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. Illinois' first known Short-eared Owl nesting since 1994 was logged this summer when 3 nests were found at Prairie Ridge W.M.A., IL (JWa, EK et al.). In addition, Short-eared Owls likely nested in Seneca, OH (TB), and two were observed together at Taberville W.M.A., MO, in early June (NM). Several correspondents expressed concern about depressed Com. Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will numbers; these species warrant watching. Five or six Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nests were discovered in *Ashtabula*, OH (D&JH et al.), and 2 nests were found in *Winneshiek*, IA (WN).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in Sangamon, IL, on the extraordinary date of July 25 (DBo), to provide that county's earliest ever fall arrival. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher barely vacated the Region; a late spring migrant was heard in n. Porter, IN, June 20 (JcD) and a returning bird was detected in Sangamon, IL, July 23 (DBo). Nesting Willow Flycatchers were found at Wolf L., Chicago, Aug. 5 (DS) and at Prairie Ridge W.M.A., IL (JWa, EK). According to Larry Herbet, W. Kingbirds are erupting in s.w. Missouri, where they associate with electric power sub-stations. This may account for the increased number of nesting reports farther east. This summer W. Kingbirds apparently nested in Spfld.

(DBo); Granite City, IL, where 3 family groups were noted (KMc); and at the traditional *LaPorte*, IN, site (CF, m.ob.), which was also associated with a sub-station. One W. Kingbird wandered E to Killdeer Plain W.M.A., where it was seen June 30 (†TB). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were confined to the w. states, where singletons were reported at Lexington, MO, in late July (WP) and in Madrid, IA, June 12 (MME).

The largest Purple Martin accumulation consisted of 515+ birds in *Jersey*, IL, July 20 (KMc). Sizable swallow colonies included 157 N. Rough-winged Swallows, including many young, at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, IL, July 9 (DS), and 200+ Bank Swallows in *Fulton*, KY, June 28 (MMi, CPe). Breeding period Brown Creepers were recorded in Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa. Bewick's Wrens nested at Siloam Spring S.P., IL, where two adults plus young were seen July 24 & 26 (KMc, DJ). Sedge Wrens were widespread and unusually abundant, with reports from every state except Kentucky. The peak count was 250 at Prairie Ridge W.M.A. July 20 (JWa, EK). Eastern Bluebird boxes near Jefferson City, MO, fledged 245 young (*fide* JW). An extremely early Hermit Thrush arrived at Jackson Park, Chicago, July 31 (PC), to provide Illinois's earliest fall record. A June 16 singing Blue-headed Vireo at Pigeon River W.M.A. in n.e. Indiana was apparently a late migrant (Haw).

## WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A number of northbound warblers lingered well into June. Notable among these were: a Tennessee in *Lake*, IN, June 13 (BET, CF); a Magnolia in Mason City, IA, June 10 (RG); a Blackburnian at Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, June 6 (BW); a Bay-breasted also at Tower Grove Park June 19 (JZ); a singing male Black-throated Green e. of Madison, MO, June 6 (†Pmc); a Connecticut at Grammer Grove, IA, June 10 (MPr); and a Canada Warbler in Columbia June 1 (WB). Interesting nesting reports included 58 Yellow Warblers at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, June 7 (EP); one-two territorial male Magnolias in Shades S.P., IN, through June 15 (AB); 114 Ceruleans on a late May census of the Current R., MO (MRo); 17 Prothonotaries on the 10-mi drive at Kankakee W.M.A., IN, June 6 (SB, JcD); and one-two Swainson's Warblers in *Carter*, MO, June 2, 15 & 18 (JWi, CPr, SH), plus two more in *Shannon*, MO, May 21 (MRo). Summer wanderers or early fall migrants included a Chestnut-sided at Lima, OH, July 21 (MS); a male Blackburnian in Spfld. July 22 (DBo); a Black-and-white in Spfld. July

27-31 (DBo); an Ovenbird in Jackson Park, Chicago, July 31 (PC); and a N. Water-thrush at L. Cal. July 29 (JL).

An impressive 69 Indigo Buntings were counted in *Monroe*, IL, July 27 (KMc). In addition to several Painted Bunting reports from within their expected range, a nesting pair was reported from W. Plains, MO (DBi), and a male was sighted in the St. Louis area June 29 (HB). Dickcissels were widespread and abundant, with reports from every state except Missouri. The maximum count was at Prairie Ridge W.M.A., IL, where 130 nests were counted during the summer (JWa, EK). A bumper Chipping Sparrow count of 100+ birds was logged at Sand Ridge S.F., IL, June 28 (RCh). This summer's only Clay-colored Sparrows were in *Dickinson*, IA, where four males were found in late June (LH). Both Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows fared well; peak counts included 117 Grasshoppers reported at Savannah Army Depot, IL, June 3-4 (AHa) and 40 territories (10 fledglings) at Prairie Ridge W.M.A., IL (JWa, EK et al.). A remarkably tardy Fox Sparrow lingered at Whiting Park on the Indiana lakefront until June 13 (JMc, BEt), and a very late Lincoln's Sparrow was still in Pokagon S.P. June 7 (AB). White-throated Sparrows also tarried in the Region, with singletons reported June 28 at Michigan City Harbor, IN (JO), and at Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, June 13 (JZ).

Bobolink numbers were up across the Region with good counts from every state. Most surprising was a count of 132 W. Meadowlarks at Savannah Army Depot June 3-4 (JHe). Much farther east, a W. Meadowlark was found in *Greene*, OH, June 14 (DO). The peak Yellow-headed Blackbird count consisted of 25 adults and young at Moraine Hills S.P., *McHenry*, IL, June 27 (JMd). Four Brewer's Blackbird pairs, with at least 2 nests, were at Illinois Beach S.P. June 18 (AS). In Iowa and Missouri, Great-tailed Grackles were found at locations occupied in previous years.

An ad. male Purple Finch at Porter, IN, July 21 (CF) was an early migrant, and numbers of this species were up in n.e. Ohio (*fide* LRo). The season's only Pine Siskin appeared at a Johnson, IA, feeder June 14 (DTh). A Eur. Tree Sparrow nest, containing 6 eggs, was found near Burlington, IA, June 28; four young were observed July 12 (PL).

## CORRIGENDA

Iowa's 2nd **Roseate Spoonbill**, reported in the fall 1997 *Field Notes* (FN 52:67), should have read as follows "an immature that lin-

gered at Waubonsie W.M.A. from Aug. 4 through Aug. 13 (†SDi, †MPr, †TK, †Fu, ph. m.ob.)”

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# central southern region



## ROBERT D. PURRINGTON

The breeding season was dry and hot, almost unprecedentedly so. At New Orleans, virtually no rain fell in May and June, and much of July was dry as well, although normal July precipitation was reached in some areas with rains late in the month. The effect of this drought, coupled with record high temperatures throughout the period, was to cause shallow ponds and marsh habitat to go dry in many areas. In the absence of real comparative population data or studies of breeding success, one can only guess at the weather's full impact. There was no tropical weather to affect colonial nesting on the barrier islands along the gulf coast, a fact which contributed to the dry weather of June and July.

At least three trips were made to Louisiana's Chandeleur Islands, data from which will be presented below.

As usual, a little more than one-third of the records submitted for the period actually pertained to breeding species. The others are a mix of late spring or early fall migrants (mostly shorebirds), postbreeding dispersal (largely herons and allies), and the results of pelagic trips. This year there were two pelagic excursions, one out of Venice, Louisiana, June 13, and another off the Alabama coast July 11 (see below).

**Abbreviations:** Louisiana Ornithological Society (L.O.S.); Louisiana Bird Records Committee (L.B.R.C.); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey (BBS).

## BREEDING RECORDS, OR RECORDS SUGGESTIVE OF BREEDING

### ANHINGAS TO WATERFOWL

Anhingas nested in *White*, AR, for at least the 2nd consecutive year, with an adult with two nestlings June 22 (KN). Other records June 6–July 25 in *Dyer*, *Shelby*, and *Lake*, TN (JRW), as well as in *Noxubee* (TS) and *Lowndes* (DP, JP), MS, June 7 and July 5, respectively, were of interest. As indicated last year, Brown Pelican numbers have exploded in Louisiana, with new nesting sites being exploited as the populations grow. Some of these include Grassy, Martin, Brush, and Mitchell islands., all in *St. Bernard*, censused June 17 (BV, MC). A careful count of 26,726 Cattle Egrets coming to roost on Bluff L., *Noxubee*, MS, July 25 (MC, m.ob.) was impressive, and up to 118 Wood Ducks were at the Arkadelphia Oxidation Ponds, *Clark*, MS, during June and July (DIH). A female N. Shoveler with at least five young in *Lake* June 27 (JRW, BMN) was unprecedented for w. Tennessee; there was one in *Lonoke*, AR, on the same date (LY, RD), and three summered at Tallahatchie N.W.R., MS (FB). One in *Clark*, AR, July 15–25 (DIH, DnH) was probably an early migrant.

### DIURNAL RAPTORS

There were at least 3 active Osprey nests on Sardis L., MS, between March and late June (WMD), and single birds were in *Prairie*, AR, July 11 (KN, LDN) and at *Noxubee* N.W.R., MS, July 19 (PW). Around Blackwater Bay, FL, Morris Clark counted 15 active nests, and nests were found in *St. Martin*, LA, June 9 & 17 (BV, MC). Jennifer Coulson had 19 Swallow-tailed Kite nests under study during the nesting season, which produced 31 young, of which 23 fledged. Mortality was thought due to avian predation. Coulson had high counts of 93 in the Pearl R. Basin July 30, and 43 in the Pascagoula R. Basin, MS, Aug. 3. At least 20 were noted in *St. Martin*, LA, June 25 (LeR, LyR, RN), and post-breeding dispersal brought at least 14 to *Hale*, AL, July 18 (DPG, PJ et al). Although White-tailed