

idaho-western montana region



Red-headed Woodpeckers are prone to wander, especially to the north and west. This adult present near Soda Springs, Caribou County, from June 16-20, 1998 was the eighth for Idaho. Photograph/John F. Gatchet



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Cool, wet spring weather extended into early summer, and some locations in Montana reported record rainfall in June. Several observers mentioned that the wet weather contributed to some nest failures or delayed nesting. July was more variable, but for most locations was hot and dry by mid-month. July's drier weather and good habitat conditions seemed to allow birds to have productive breeding seasons.

The more-than-ample rains filled reservoirs and lakes, resulting in few areas with exposed mud for migrating shorebirds, so it was no surprise that fewer than normal were reported.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (*American Falls Res., Bingham Co., ID*); D.F.N.W.R. (*Deer Flat N.W.R., Canyon Co., ID*); Latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude, used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana); L.M.N.W.R. (*Lee Metcalf N.W.R., Ravalli Co., MT*).

GREBES TO OWLS

A Red-necked Grebe at Cascade Res., Valley, June 7 (CSy) was outside of its normal Idaho range. Nine Am. White Pelicans at L.M.N.W.R. July 10 (WT) were seasonally rare. A Double-crested Cormorant at Salmon, ID, June 4 (HR) was unusual, but reports of this species in the n. half of the Region are increasing. An out-of-place Great Egret was at Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh W.M.A., Camas, ID, June 18 (PWP). Two Cattle Egrets near Challis, ID, June 5 (D&EF) furnished a latilong first. A Green Heron was at D.F.N.W.R. July 3-19 (LT, m.ob.); they are less than annual in Idaho. A Snow Goose at Barton Res.,

Washington, ID, June 26 & 27 (DL, m.ob.) may have oversummered.

Rare and local in n.w. Montana, a Swainson's Hawk was at Somers, July 24 (DC).

Two uncommon Solitary Sandpipers were near American Falls, ID, July 18 (MCR), and another was at Mann L., Nez Perce, ID, July 12 & 21 (J&MH, WH, CV), where expected. Idaho's 4th **Hudsonian Godwit** was near American Falls July 19 (MCR, JP, CT). A Red Knot near American Falls July 21 (MCR) provided Idaho's 11th record. Always rare, one Short-billed Dowitcher was near American Falls July 21 (MCR). Single wayward Franklin's Gulls were n. of Ketchum, ID, June 8 (RG) and at Tolo L., Idaho, ID, June 29 (J&MH). A late Herring Gull was at D.F.N.W.R. June 7 (JG, DL). Twelve Caspian Terns at Somers, Flathead, MT June 11 (DC) provided a new high count for this locally rare species.

Band-tailed Pigeons are very irregular visitors to the Region. Single Idaho Band-taileds were n. of Ola, Gem, June 2-24 (FZ, MZ, m.ob.); near Horseshoe Bend, Boise, June 13 (RM, BR, RR); and near Moscow June 1 and July 14-18 (DH). Single Band-tailed Pigeons also visited feeders in Montana at Deerlodge June 15 (WHa) and West Glacier June 15 (MP). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was near the Tilden Bridge, Bing-

ham, June 2 (CT, PL), Idaho's most dependable location for this rare species.

The Barn Owl present near Corvallis, MT, since mid-April persisted until late June (GC). Barred Owls are relatively recent Idaho residents, and reports of this species are increasing. Single Barred Owls were about 40 mi n.e. of Orofino June 3 (CS); near Idaho City, Boise, June 22 (RR); and n. of Deary, *Latah*, July 21 (CS). A pair of Barreds was w. of Crouch, Boise, July 20 (DT). An ad. Barred Owl with two fledglings at Smith Cr., *Boundary*, June 20 (MCR) confirmed breeding for Latilong 1. A pair of Long-eared Owls near Polson, MT, that fledged seven young in April renested and fledged five young in early July (JM). According to Marks, this may represent the first record of double brooding in Long-eared Owls for North America. For at least the 4th consecutive year, a pair of Boreal Owls successfully nested in the same snag in Sawmill Canyon, 50 mi n. of Howe, *Lemhi*, ID (C&JO, m.ob.).

POORWILLS TO WARBLERS

Two Com. Poorwills calling 25 mi s. of Salmon, ID, July 7 (HR) provided circumstantial evidence of breeding for Latilong 13. Another poorwill in Missoula July 16 (LW) was unusual; they are rare and local in w. Montana. An Anna's Hummingbird in Columbia Falls, July 26 (PR) provided Montana's 11th record. Idaho's 8th **Red-headed Woodpecker** was n.e. of Soda Springs, *Caribou*, June 16–20 (SF, ph. JG, m.ob.).

Idaho's Least Flycatcher sightings were twice that of last year, though breeding still remains to be verified in the state. This summer's Least Flycatcher sightings included two birds at Camas N.W.R., *Jefferson*, June 1–July 31 (MCR, m.ob.); two at Penal Gulch near Challis June 1–July 31 (D&EF); one s. of Salmon June 10 (D&EF); one near Rose L., *Kootenai*, June 17 (KD); one near Clark Fork, *Bonner*, June 22 (MCR); and one near Clagstone, *Bonner*, June 22 (EC, TE, BF). Two Blue Jay nests were located in the Helena, MT, area (DS), where they were first documented as nesting last summer.

Idaho's single N. Mockingbirds were at Marsing, *Owyhee*, June 1 (RE); e. of Twin Falls June 1 (JTr); Oreana, *Owyhee*, June 14 (DM); and near Mayfield, *Elmore*, June 1–July 24 (DT, m.ob.). Out-of-place Sage Thrashers included one near Copeland, *Boundary*, ID, June 21 (EC, TE, BF) for a Latilong 1 first, and one near Florence, MT, July 1 (WT). Idaho's 8th **Brown Thrasher** was n.e. of Richfield, *Lincoln*, June 1 (PM).

It was a banner year for "eastern" warblers. A Tennessee Warbler was w. of Choteau, MT, June 6 (RP). Idaho's 11th Chestnut-sided Warbler was 25 mi s.e. of Salmon June 12 (HU). Another Chestnut-sided was near Plains, MT, June 18 (*vide* SH). A dead Magnolia Warbler found in the Helena Valley, MT, June 20 (B&JS) was regionally rare. Montana's 8th **Blackburnian Warbler**, a beautiful male, was near Florence, *Ravalli*, July 5–16 (TS, m.ob.). A male **Bay-breasted Warbler** that graced a Bozeman cemetery June 7 (JC, m.ob.) furnished Montana's 8th record. Single Black-and-white Warblers were near Boise June 7 (DL) and at McDevitt Cr., *Lemhi*, ID, June 11 (HU). A Black-and-white has been present at the latter location in June since 1994. Montana's 2nd **Prothonotary Warbler** was in Missoula June 13–July 19 (JY, † ph. EH, m.ob.), where it attracted much local attention. An Ovenbird at Camas N.W.R. June 10 (MCR) represented Idaho's 19th record. Two N. Waterthrushes at McCall, ID, June 6 (DM, DT) were rare, but annual, migrants.

GROSBEAKS TO GOLDFINCHES

Idaho's two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were singles 12 mi n. of Salmon June 6 & 7 (DSh) and at Ririe, *Jefferson*, June 29 & 30 (BC). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks w. of Pocatello June 12–July 12 (MCR, EH, CT, m.ob.) and a pair n.w. of Weston, *Franklin*, July 26 (DMe, CT) represented Idaho's 16th–19th records. An Indigo Bunting was 10 mi n. of Salmon, ID, June 3–10 (GA). Two **Clay-colored Sparrows** s. of Copeland June 20–July 31 (EC, †KD, m.ob.) represented Idaho's 7th & 8th records and provided circumstantial evidence of breeding for Latilong 1.

There were several scattered reports of Lark Buntings in Idaho. A single Lark Bunting was at Minidoka N.W.R., *Blaine*, June 1 (SB); one was 10 mi e. of Boise June 6 (KN); two were w. of Blackfoot Res., *Caribou*, June 8 (CT); three–four were near Camas N.W.R. June 10–13 (MCR, m.ob.); two were w. of Carey, *Blaine*, June 21 (CT); a single was s. of Hamer, *Jefferson*, July 3 (D&EF); and a pair was e. of Arco, *Butte*, July 3 (SB).

The Marsing, ID, Great-tailed Grackle flock remained active through the period with one female feeding four fledglings and another female attending one young June 28 (JG, DT). Another Great-tailed was near Middleton, *Canyon*, ID, June 27 (JG). Common Grackles continued their expansion into Idaho. Two were at Camas N.W.R. June 2 (PL, CT); two were near Dubois, *Clark*, June 2 (PL, CT); one was in Soda

Springs June 8 (CT); three were n. of Hailey June 8 (RG); and one was near Springfield, *Bingham*, June 12 (EH, CT). A female Com Grackle with fledglings w. of Blackfoot, *Bingham*, July 25 (JT) confirmed breeding for Latilong 21. A pair of grackles with three fledglings e. of Boise June 27–July 24 (MC, FK, RLR, DT) and another female grackle with a fledgling in Boise July 3–24 (MC, FK, DT) confirmed breeding in Latilong 17.

A Purple Finch was s. of Pocatello June 28–July 2 (MCR, WT); they are less than annual in Idaho. Lesser Goldfinches were almost common s. of Pocatello and e. of Boise (DT, CT, m.ob.). Breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species in the Boise area.

CORRIGENDA

The Com. Goldeneyes and Com. Mergansers reported in *FN* 49:953 were in Latilong 7, not Latilong 8. The N. Waterthrush reported in *FN* 51:1025 was in s.w. *Valley*, not s.e. *Valley*.

Observers cited (subregional editors in boldface): IDAHO: George Artemus, Steve Bouffard, Earl Chapin, Brian Christensen, Marty Collar (MCR), Mark Collie (MC), **Kas Dumroese**, Ron Elam, Ted Eliot, Dave and Elise Faike, Scott Feltis, Bill Foster, Robin Garwood, **John Gatchet**, Ed Harper, Winnie Hepburn (WH), John and Marty Hirth, Dave Holick, Florence Knoll, **Merlene Koliner**, Dave Lawrence, Paul Lehman, Russ Manwaring, Paul McClain, David Mead (DMe), Don Morgan (DM), Ken Norrie, Connie and Jack Oar, Jim Paruk (JP), Betty Renstrom, Richard Renstrom, **Hadley Roberts**, R.L. Rowland, Diane Schuldt (DSh), **Shirley Sturts**, Colleen Sweeney, Charles Swift, Joel Tinsley (JT), Dave Trochlell, **Chuck Trost**, Jack Trotter (JTr), Lois Troyer, Helen Ulmschneider, Carole Vande Voorde, **Poo Wright-Pulliam**, C. Fred Zeillemaker, Melly Zeillemaker. MONTANA: Gary Cargile, John Carlson, **Dan Casey**, Wayne Hadley (WHa), Susan Hitchcox, **Jeff Marks** (JM), Sheila McCartan, **John Parker** (JPa), Marion Peck, Robert Petty, Paul Rossi, Tom Schooley, Brent and Judy Silcox, **Don Skaar** (DS), Wayne Tree, Larry Weeks, Jock Young

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