

THE CHANGING SEASONS

by Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr.*



The nesting season, 1971. A season of range extensions, population declines and recoveries, and other important distributional records.

Red-shouldered Hawk by Sidney Bahrt

During the past few years this introduction to the nesting season has repeatedly stressed the detrimental role of insecticides (particularly the chlorinated hydrocarbons) in the population dynamics of certain species of birds. The seriousness of the problem cannot be overstated, but new findings have been published recently that direct our attention and concern to still another harmful agent in the environment that can badly affect the reproductive potential of many bird species.

In the September 10, 1971 issue of *Science*, G. S. Stoewsand, *et al.* present findings that mercuric chloride can cause eggshell thinning in birds. This compound is widely used in the preparation of many insecticides, preservatives, antiseptics, disinfectants, and of course batteries, but many readers may not know that it is one of the more abundant and dangerous industrial waste products. Because fish populations have suffered severely from mercury poisoning, and as a result certain fish populations in the United States are unfit for human consumption, one is forced to wonder how many cases of eggshell thinning in birds can be attributed to mercury compounds instead of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides. Hopefully, that information will be available in the near future.

Last summer birds of prey showed signs of being in trouble, and this year there is little doubt that certain raptor species are seriously down in numbers. Accipiters and Red-should-

ered Hawks appear to be the hardest hit, but Marsh Hawks are not far behind. No breeding accipiters were reported anywhere in the Hudson-St. Lawrence Region. Their numbers continued to be down in the Ontario and Appalachian Regions and in areas of the Western Great Lakes Region. More than half of the remaining regions did not mention accipiters at all, but this might be the result of observations not being reported. In light of the seriousness of the situation regional editors and all observers should make special efforts to clarify the situation.

In Ontario a possible reason for low numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks, there and elsewhere, was the discovery that eggs were breaking in the nest. No Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded in the Detroit area. Marsh Hawks are now scarce or absent as nesters in s. New England, and there were no reports of this species in Ottawa and several adjacent counties in w. central Michigan. Similarly, Marsh Hawks everywhere in the Northern Great Plains were down in numbers and absent at Sioux Falls. The small Sparrow Hawk resident in the Florida peninsula is decreasing; only one was found this summer. Pigeon Hawks were totally absent from one of their last remaining sites in s. Saskatchewan.

Reports of Osprey and Bald Eagle nesting success were mixed. Osprey production was down at Gardiner's I. in the Hudson-St. Lawrence Region; birds produced fewer young in fewer nests this year than in the past two. In e. Virginia nesting success was lower than in

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1970, but the species fared better in the Ontario Region this summer. In eight Bald Eagle nests in n. Ohio not one young was fledged, and the situation looked very bad for the entire state.

The status of pelicans, herons, and their allies was on the brighter side. Brown Pelican populations showed slight signs of recovery, particularly along the Gulf and Pacific coasts. Waders in general had outstanding success. Herons appeared to be expanding their breeding colonies in the mid-Chesapeake Bay area with excellent numbers of 10 species on Smith, Little Deal, and Bloodsworth Is., Md. Heron nesting was also good in the Southern Atlantic Coast, Central Southern, and South Texas Regions. Herons and egrets were very much in evidence throughout the Western Great Lakes Region with three new nesting colonies reported. Good breeding success was also reflected in the greater number of post-breeding northward dispersal records.

In this issue John C. Ogden gives an excellent review of conditions at wading bird colonies in Florida, with the intention of summarizing that information each year as a basis for measuring wader population changes in a rapidly developing area. Documentation of the adaptability of certain birds to man's world came this summer with the reports of a Yellow-crowned Night Heron that nested in a courtyard of an apartment complex at Ft. Worth, Tex. and fledged three young, and a pair of Fulvous Tree Ducks that nested successfully in a children's tree house at Elkhart, Kans. The paragraphs that follow give additional highlights of the nesting season of 1971.

LOONS, GREBES

Common Loons summered along the North Carolina coast, in w. New York, in Pueblo Co., Colo., and in Glacier Nat'l Park. This species was harassed by boating, and eggs failed to hatch in the Ontario region, where current studies reported pesticide residues and egg-shell thinning. The first breeding records of this species for the Saskatoon area occurred this summer at a relatively new lake. An adult Yellow-Billed Loon at College, Alaska, provided the first definite record of the species for the interior. Arctic Loons were still migrating northward off the Columbia River in mid-June, and a pair was seen at Duncan, B. C. in June and again in August. All three species of loons were reported throughout the summer in the Middle Pacific Coast Region.

Several Red-necked Grebes were seen at Victoria, B. C. in June and July, and this species showed up one month early at Bodega Bay in the Middle Pacific Coast Region. This grebe, relatively unnoticed in Wisconsin in summer prior to last year, produced no less than 125 nests this year in Ozaukee and Winnebago Counties. Horned Grebes summered as far south as Florida, and in Illinois. After failing to nest last year, this species produced young at Malheur N.W.R., Oregon. This summer 2500 nests of Eared Grebes were found at Benton Lake Refuge, Great Falls, Mont., and this species showed a substantial increase in nesting at Malheur, Ore. and in the San Bernardino Mts. of California. At Barr Lake, Colo. the Western Grebe population was 50 per cent lower than last year, but at Eagle Lake, Calif. they showed substantial increases. Pied-billed Grebe nested for the first time in 20 years on the New Jersey Palisades, and the nesting of this species near State College, Pa. and Louisville, Ky. was unusual.

TUBENOSES

A maximum of 130 Black-footed Albatrosses was reported from the coast s. of Carmel, Calif. on July 25. A Yellow-nosed Albatross landed on the beach at Gardiner's I., Long Island, N. Y. in early June; the only previous regional record of this species was also from Long Island.

"Pelagic" trips this summer must have reached an all time high. Davis Finch's detailed summary of shearwater, petrel, and jaeger records in the Northeastern Maritime Region is a must for readers. A very productive pelagic trip into the Atlantic Ocean 28 miles off Cocoa, Fla. in mid-August produced a Sooty, 3 Audubon's, 9 Greater Shearwaters, and 9 Wilson's Petrels. A Cory's Shearwater was in the same area about a month earlier. This would seem to substantiate assertions that pelagic trips are feasible and productive anywhere off the Atlantic coast. Offshore trips from Westport, Wash. and from the Columbia River in July yielded 12-50 Black-footed Albatrosses, 25-200 Fulmars, 15 Pale-footed Shearwaters, 50 Fork-tailed Petrels and 30 Leach's Petrels.

A Sooty Shearwater was in Delaware Bay off East Point, N. J. on July 21 and thousands were off the n. Pacific coast by the end of July. California's first interior record of this species was one at the north end of the Salton Sea in mid-August. Small black-and-white shearwaters identified as "Audubon's-Little" were reported

from Fire I., Long Island, N. Y. and from the *Bluenose* ferry in the Bay of Fundy. A total of 38 Wilson's Petrels were seen in lower Chesapeake Bay in June and July.

PELICANS AND ALLIES

A White Pelican at Luther Marsh, Ont. on July 17 and possibly the same bird at Hamilton July 24-August 10 was well beyond the species' normal range. The species had a good nesting season in the Northern Great Plains and the Great Basin-Central Rocky Mt. regions; it was the second best year in the last ten for the species at Greeley, Colo.

This summer was generally a better one for the Brown Pelican, a species that has suffered drastic reduction from pesticide poisoning in recent years. It nested successfully at three major sites in the Carolinas, although some thin-shelled and shell-less eggs were still found. A breeding colony with 15 nests containing good hard-shelled eggs was located at St. Joe Port in n.w. Florida. In south Texas the species still has problems, but three young fledged from three nests containing a total of 7 eggs. This summer large numbers of immature Brown Pelicans (up 50 per cent) were found along the coast of the Middle Pacific Coast Region, and there was an influx of this species in the s.e. portion of the Southern Pacific Coast Region in early August. A Brown Pelican at Phoenix, Ariz. on July 12 was quite unusual.

A Blue-faced Booby occurred on S. Padre I., Tex. on June 19, and an immature was the only pelagic species seen in seven trips 30-35 miles off Galveston, Tex. between June 26 and August 15. Blue-footed Boobies invaded the s.e. portion of the Southern Pacific Coast Region in early August; 75 occurred in California alone. Brown Boobies appeared at Ft. Pierce and Seashore Key, Fla. this summer. Twenty-one colonies of Great Cormorants were found in Nova Scotia, the southernmost on Blue Gull I. near Shelburne, N. S.

It is suspected that fishermen broke the eggs of nesting Double-crested Cormorants on Pigeon I. in the Ontario Region this summer, a problem similar to that which beset the species in the Kingston area in the 1950's. This species did quite well in the Great Basin-Central Rocky Mt. Region, but elsewhere there are indications that this cormorant is in a gradual decline. Olivaceous Cormorants enjoyed a good nesting season in the South Texas Region. One hundred Magnificent Frigatebirds were found apparently incubating at Marquesas

Keys on Aug. 9, but the birds may have abandoned the nests by the end of August.

HERONS AND ALLIES

Great Blue Heron nesting colonies appear to fluctuate sharply from year to year. This year predation was thought responsible for decreases in certain colonies. A Green Heron w. of Regina, Sask., in June was the second record for the province. The first breeding record of this species for Vancouver I. and perhaps for British Columbia came this summer when two young were fledged at Duncan. This species also appeared for the first time at Malheur N.W.R. in Oregon. The breeding of Little Blue Herons at Appledore I. this year was the first record for Maine.

The first breeding records of the Cattle Egret for Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Minnesota were established in 1971, as the species continued to expand its range in North America. It was added to the Idaho state list when one was found in Minidoka N.W.R. in July and was the most numerous heron in the Imperial Valley of California, with flocks of 200-300 individuals feeding in irrigated fields. Manitoba's second authentic record of the species was established in June.

A Reddish Egret at Okefenokee N.W.R. on June 25 was probably Georgia's third record, and 44+ individuals on the Chandeleur Is., La. in June provided an all time high count for the state. Louisiana Herons wandered widely this summer in the Southern Great Plains Region, being recorded in n. Texas, c. Oklahoma, c. Kansas, and e. Colorado. In Colorado, it constituted the third state record. Michigan had its first breeding record of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

Glossy Ibis continues to make news. It showed good increases in Maine, Massachusetts, and in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region, and bred in Connecticut for the first time, at Chimon I. off Norwalk. One was seen at E. St. Louis, Ill. in July. White Ibis nested farther north (to Morehead City) on the North Carolina coast. An individual at Cheyenne Bottoms, Kans., throughout the period may have provided the first state record, and one discovered at Bolinas Lagoon in the Middle Pacific Coast Region during the spring—a first regional record—remained until at least Aug. 10.

WATERFOWL

Mute Swans continued to increase in the mid-Delmarva Peninsula in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. Scattered Black Brant summered

throughout the Pacific Coast Regions. Black-bellied Tree Ducks nested successfully in numerous areas of Bee Co., Tex. and are steadily increasing in numbers. Fulvous Tree Ducks showed signs of trying to reestablish breeding along the upper Texas coast, but a severe drought late in the season caused heavy predation on young. A record of this species at Phoenix, Ariz. in June was very unusual.

The first breeding record of the Green-winged Teal for Maryland was established this summer when a nest with five eggs was found on Deal I. Blue-winged Teal had a good breeding season along the upper Texas coast, where it is an erratic breeder. For the first time in a number of years Cinnamon Teal and Ruddy Ducks nested at Phoenix, Ariz. European Widgeon continued to be seen this summer following the widespread records last spring. A pair on June 28 was the first record of this species on the Seward Peninsula of Alaska. The male Common Pochard observed last spring at Clam Lagoon, Adak, Alaska, was rejoined by the female on June 8 and remained through mid-June. There were exceptional numbers of summering diving ducks along the Niagara River and in Lake Erie this year, perhaps an aftermath of the late ice breakup.

Several Tufted Ducks were seen in the Aleutians during the summer season, but no nesting was reported. The third record of Harlequin Duck for the Bozeman area of Montana was documented with a photograph taken in late May, and a pair was reported on Hyalite Reservoir, Gallatin Co., Mont. in early July. A Common Eider at Cape Lookout, N. C. on June 26 established an unusually late record. Two female King Eiders on Pond Cove, Brier I. in July probably represent the first summer record of the species for Nova Scotia. A female Smew observed at Adak on June 5 and 6 was the second June record for Alaska.

VULTURES, HAWKS, AND FALCONS

Turkey Vulture continued to increase in the n.e. United States this summer. White-tailed Kite nested in Galveston Co., Tex. in April; this represents a significant breeding range extension. This species increased in numbers particularly in the Sacramento Valley of California. Swallow-tailed Kite appeared to be down in numbers this summer in Florida, while Mississippi Kite continued a gradual southward expansion there. The latter species was quite common along the Mississippi River in s. Missouri and in s. Illinois, but no nests were found.

It was abundant in w. Kansas and Oklahoma and nested (3 young) in Midland, Tex. where it recently extended its range. One was at Winkleman, Ariz. for the second summer. Everglade Kite apparently failed to nest during the spring or summer this year. Its chief food source, *Pomacea* snails, were adversely affected by the sustained drought that hit Florida earlier in the year.

The first summer record of the Goshawk for Tennessee was of one observed in Great Smoky Mts. Nat'l Park. A Zone-tailed Hawk at Falcon Dam on the Rio Grande on July 2 was most unusual. Further support for the notion that Short-tailed Hawks breed in the northern and central parts of Florida came this summer. The only known breeding locality of the Black Hawk in the Great Basin-Central Rocky Mt. Region continued to be at Springdale, Utah where the species was recorded in 1962. An adult Golden Eagle at Port Mahon, Del. in mid-August was unprecedented. The seldom reported Aplomado Falcon was seen n. of Sonoita, Ariz. in July.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Blue Grouse did well in n. Colorado, but deficient winter snowfall and moisture this spring affected the species adversely in s. Colorado. White-tailed Ptarmigan had its best year in the last five in alpine Colorado. A Greater Prairie Chicken at Volga, S. D. in mid-June and a hybrid bird near Raymore, Sask., in late June were the first such records in many years for these areas. This species did well in the coastal prairies of the South Texas Region. California Quail fared well but Ring-necked Pheasants suffered serious losses this summer in the Northern Rocky Mt.-Intermountain Region. Gambel's Quail did very poorly near Las Vegas, Nev. and Globe, Ariz. Many reports from the n. Great Plains suggest that the Gray Partridge is decreasing. Turkey production was low in s. Texas.

CRANES AND RAILS

Nesting surveys in Wood Buffalo Nat'l Park in far northern Alberta revealed 11 Whooping Crane nests with 2 eggs and 2 nests with one egg each. Eleven eggs were taken for propagation with only three chicks surviving at last report, while ten young were produced from the remaining 13 eggs in the wild. Five nests of the Sandhill Crane were located in coastal Mississippi on April 25-26. This species had good numbers at Grays N.W.R., Idaho,

and an individual flying over the n. end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 12 was unusual, since the species is normally expected in October. Limpkins apparently suffered widespread breeding failure in Florida as a result of the spring's drought, the drying up of watercourses resulting in scarcity of the *Pomacea* snails on which the species primarily feeds. Some northward dispersal apparently occurred, with records from Virginia, Maryland, as well as to areas of Florida where the species is not normally found.

A Yellow Rail was flushed at Brigantine N.W.R., N. J., on August 6, a very early date for that area. A calling Black Rail at Monomoy, Mass. on June 9 was only the second reliable record of the species in the Northeastern Maritime Region in the last four years. One was seen at San Bernard Refuge in south Texas on June 14. On Aug. 27 in a burned over area on Brazoria Refuge, a burned nest of this species was found containing a shell fragment.

SHOREBIRDS

A pair of Jacanas nested in the Angleton area of Brazoria Co., Tex. and produced three young. There are no previous nesting records of this species for the upper Texas coast. The fourth modern breeding record of Semipalmated Plover in New Brunswick came from Waterside, Albert Co. in June. Breeding Mountain Plovers s. of Elkhorn, Mont. this summer were probably the westernmost known at that latitude, and this species showed up at a new location 15 miles w. of Pueblo, Colo. Long-billed Curlews had a poor summer in the Great Basin-Central Rocky Mt. Region, and numbers of this species continue to decrease. A Far Eastern Curlew at Clam Lagoon, Adak July 4-5 was at least the fourth Alaskan record. Upland Plovers were proven to breed at Salisbury, N. B. this summer. Wood Sandpipers were last seen in the Alaskan Region in early June, but they had reappeared by early August. A Wandering Tattler was seen at the n. end of the Salton Sea on Aug. 12. It constituted the fourth record for this inland locality. The first nesting of Willets in New England in about a century took place in York Co., Me.

A Great Knot at Clam Lagoon, Adak, Alaska on June 4 constituted the second North American record. Without doubt the rarest bird of the season for the Northeastern Maritime Region was the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

in Massachusetts. There is only one other record for the East Coast—from Florida in 1967. The first White-rumped Sandpiper for mountainous Colorado was one seen at Antero Reservoir, and the first Rufous-necked Sandpiper for the Aleutian Islands came from Adak in June. The fourth record of Curlew Sandpiper for Connecticut was a bird at Milford-New Haven in July. The first record of this species for the s. Atlantic coast was established this June at Morehead City, N.C., and one at Waverly Beach in July was the rarest bird reported in Ontario.

A Bar-tailed Godwit appeared at Brigantine Refuge on June 28 and remained until at least Aug. 23. The Black-tailed Godwit previously reported at Brigantine remained at least until Aug. 22 and was seen by hundreds of observers. Since both Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits were also present, some observers had the unusual experience of seeing all four godwit species in a single day. An alkali flat 11 miles e. of Saskatoon had an unprecedented 336 Hudsonian Godwits July 10 increasing to 847 by July 21 and associated with about half as many Marbled Godwits. Ruffs were reported from the New England coast, Brigantine Refuge, Bombay Hook Refuge, and Little Creek, Del. One in breeding plumage was discovered at Powderhorn Marsh, Chicago on July 18. Red Phalaropes were recorded frequently off the Florida coast in August. Wilson's Phalaropes summered for the second year in a row at Ile du Moine in the Montreal area and provided excellent circumstantial evidence that nesting occurred.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, AND ALCIDS

The first New Hampshire record of the Pomarine Jaeger was of an adult closely observed from a fishing boat just outside Hampton Harbor in June, and the first summer record for Maryland was of one seen off Ocean City. New Brunswick's first record of Skua was of a bird seen between Grand Manan and Machias Seal I. on July 31. California Gulls continued to increase in the Great Basin-Central Rocky Mt. Region. At least five Laughing Gulls were found near the Mississippi River at Nauvoo, Ill. on June 13. An adult Franklin's Gull observed and photographed at Chisik I. in Cook Inlet May 14-17 was the first positive record for Alaska. The first fully authenticated successful nestings of the Little Gull in Ontario were at Rondeau (3 nests) and Pickering (2 nests). The second

and third records of this species for New Brunswick were birds at Eel River Bar on June 17. Nova Scotia's first recorded breeding of the Black-legged Kittiwake was at a colony of 77 nests on Green I. off Cape Breton, the southernmost nesting colony for the species. An adult Gull-billed Tern on Cape Cod was the second to be reported in the Northeastern Maritime Region in the last four years. The first Louisiana breeding of the Common Tern occurred when a pair nested on Monkey I. in the Chandeleur chain off s.e. Louisiana in June. One young and three adult Common Terns were noted near Potholes Reservoir in Grant Co., Wash. in mid-July. The eastern Siberian race of this species was identified at Adak in July, and the identification was later verified by taking a specimen. An ad. Sooty Tern at Fisherman I. on July 17 was the second one recorded for Virginia. Thirty-four ad. Sooty Terns and 19 nests, each with one egg, were found on Monkey I. off the s.e. Louisiana coast, the most ever for that colony. The species nested again in the Corpus Christi area of Texas. As many as eight adults were seen, but only two nests were found. Four Sooty Terns and 12 Bridled Terns were counted in an area 15-25 miles out from Cocoa, Fla. on Aug. 14. A Royal Tern, the first for the Middle Pacific Coast Region in many years, was seen near San Gregorio Beach, San Mateo Co. on July 22. The White-winged Black Tern mentioned in last spring's report from the Northeastern Maritime Region was rediscovered July 6 at nearby Portobello Stream and collected July 10, providing the first Canadian specimen. An adult Black Skimmer at Bodega Bay on July 24 was the first record for the Middle Pacific Coast Region, and one lone adult along the s. shore of the Salton Sea on July 3 and two more at the n. end of the sea July 31-Aug. 15 were noteworthy since only four previous records exist for California.

Craveri's Murrelets are now being recorded regularly off s. California, after a long period without records; this is probably a reflection of better coverage in recent years. Two pairs of Common Puffins (nest found) and a pair of Razorbills (nest not found) on Pearl I. in Mahone Bay, N. S. are substantial southward range extensions.

PIGEONS AND DOVES

The sixth record of the Band-tailed Pigeon for n.w. Montana was obtained on July 18, and the species showed good increases in the

Bay Area and San Lorenzo River Valley of California. **This summer** a significant increase in the number of **Red-billed** Pigeons was indicated in the **Lower Rio** Grande Valley. The **White-winged Dove** was added to the list of species which **have bred** in Louisiana, with nestlings photographed **and** banded in June at the headquarters of **Delta** Refuge near the mouth of Mississippi River. The Ground Dove has now established itself as a permanent resident in the coastal lowlands s. of Los Angeles.

PARAKEETS, CUCKOOS AND ALLIES

Monk Parakeets bred for **the first** time in Connecticut this summer. **They have** been increasing in the New York area, apparently surviving the harsh winters.

Two Oriental Cuckoos were recorded at Amchitka, Alaska, one in May and the other in July. There was a noticeable increase in Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the Hudson-St. Lawrence, Ontario, Appalachian, Southern Great Plains, and South Texas regions. This species was reported from two localities in the Middle Pacific Coast Region: one along the Sacramento River near Chico and the other near the San Joaquin River in Merced Co. These represent the first reports of this vanishing species from the Central Valley in seven years. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, now extremely rare in the Southern Pacific Coast Region, was seen in Santa Barbara on June 14. The first record of this species on the Dry Tortugas in July was established this year. Black-billed Cuckoos seem to have enjoyed breeding success, with increases in Quebec, Vermont, Ontario, many areas in the Appalachian Region, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and North and South Dakota. An unusual August record of the species was one at Chapel Hill, N. C., and several unusual sightings occurred in the Southern Great Plains Region. Roadrunners were scarce at Silver City, N. M. and conspicuous in their absence from Zion, Utah. Groove-billed Anis apparently bred for the first time in Louisiana. Two juveniles were in a flock of seven birds at Triumph, La. in July. One was seen at Midland, Tex. on July 21, and the species' population was estimated at 150-200 pairs at Santa Ana Refuge.

OWL AND GOATSUCKERS

Barn Owls are said to be increasing in e. Washington. A Flammulated Owl was reported

at Heppner, Ore. on June 30, and three nests of this species were found north of Woodland Park, Colo. This owl continued to increase at Big Oak Flat near Foresthill, Calif.—at least 10 were heard or seen on June 30. Burrowing, Saw-whet, Long-eared, and Short-eared Owls were down in numbers in the Northern Great Plains Region. At least one calling Whip-poor-will, a recent arrival in California, was present at Lake Fulmer in the San Jacinto Mts. well into July. One was heard in Strawberry Canyon in the same mountains on June 25, and another was near Julian in the Laguna Mts. of San Diego Co. on July 8. A Lesser Night-hawk was found north of its usual range at Vernon, Utah in June.

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS

The four Chimney Swifts reported at Encino, Calif., in late May were last seen on June 10. The Lucifer Hummingbird may be spreading into the Southwest Region. In addition to the spring reports, two more were reported this summer. A female Rivoli's Hummingbird came daily to a feeder in Springdale, Utah July 7-Aug. 9. If the photographs that were taken confirm the identification, this was Utah's first. For the second time a Berylline Hummingbird was observed north of the Mexican border, when a female was seen and photographed in Cave Creek Canyon June 30-Aug. 1. The cool, wet summer in the Northern Rocky Mt.—Intermountain Region may have affected hummingbirds adversely; observers reported numbers down at Chelan, Clarkston and Spokane, Wash.

KINGFISHERS AND WOODPECKERS

The Green Kingfisher nested in the northern corner of Hays Co. w. of Austin, Tex., and a pair was observed in a gravel pit near San Antonio in June. Ringed Kingfishers were again reported in the Falcon Dam area but no nesting occurred.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued to increase in many northern areas, particularly around Detroit. The Red-headed Woodpecker also had a good nesting season. At Avon, N. Y. the highest nesting season count for many years was achieved, and the species showed good increases in West Virginia, s.w. Pennsylvania, and Manitoba. The species was first noted at the s. end of the Salton Sea on July 17 and remained until Aug. 22, constituting a first state record for Calif. By far the most

exciting discovery of the season was a pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers seen and photographed in Louisiana on May 22. The photographs leave no doubt as to the birds' identity.

FLYCATCHERS

The second California nesting of the Eastern Kingbird occurred this summer at Honey Lake. Western Kingbirds bred successfully in Brazos Co., Tex., further documenting the eastward range extension of this species. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at St. Marks Refuge in Fla. on June 4 and 23 was most unusual and probably a "delayed" spring straggler, and one—the second record in 2 years—appeared in n.w. Colorado at Hahns Peak in July. The species was reported to be reduced in numbers in the South Texas Region. Wied's Crested Flycatchers were again seen catching and eating hummingbirds at Cave Creek Canyon, Ariz. An Ash-throated Flycatcher found at Molalla this summer was the first record for n.w. Oregon.

The Acadian Flycatcher may be making a comeback in the Hudson-St. Lawrence Region, for four pairs were found in n. central New Jersey, and several others were reported from the southern part of the region. This species was also reported to be increasing in w. New York n.w. Pennsylvania. Traill's Flycatchers (the "fitzbeu" song type) made unprecedented attempts to nest this summer at two locations in the e. Piedmont section of North Carolina near Chapel Hill and Raleigh. Traill's Flycatchers of the "fee-bee-o" song type nested in the Mark Twain Nat'l Forest in s. Missouri and established the first record of this form nesting in the state. A pair nested at Nashville and constituted the first Middle Tennessee nesting record. Two Least Flycatchers in early June on S. Farallon I. were the second and third "spring" records for the Middle Pacific Coast Region.

LARKS AND SWALLOWS

A Horned Lark near Ida, Caddo Parish, La. in June and July provided the first Louisiana records for these months. The first record of the Tree Swallow for the Aleutian Islands was of a bird observed this summer at Adak. Tree Swallows suffered reduced nesting success in the Middle Pacific Coast Region (and elsewhere) because Starlings are using their nesting boxes. Purple Martins may be showing slight increases in New York State, in the Southwest,

and the Middle Pacific Coast regions. This summer they appeared at new breeding colonies. In contrast, their numbers were down in Ohio, Kentucky and Missouri. A female or immature male of this species was carefully observed on St. Paul I. Pribilofs, on July 20; a very unusual observation, because the species is a vagrant anywhere in the Alaskan Region.

MAGPIES, RAVENS, AND CROWS

What is probably the first nesting of the Black-billed Magpie in s.e. Alaska occurred this summer when a nest and one young was located in n.w. Glacier Bay Nat'l Monument. Three pairs of White-necked Ravens summered in the "triangle" of salt flats, low brushy ridges, and salt grass prairies located between Port Brownsville, Port Isabel, and Boca Chica, Tex., and nesting was presumed.

CREEPERS THROUGH THRUSHES

Brown Creepers continued to expand southward as breeding birds this year. A pair was seen on July 4 at the Newport News, Va. city park, about 135 miles south of the nearest known breeding area. This species continued to be distributed sporadically in the w. New York-n.w. Pennsylvania area, but persisted in nesting at "low" elevations in the Appalachian Region. Maine's first Bewick's Wren was discovered on July 2 in the Ship Harbor area of Acadia Nat'l Park, Mt. Desert I. Short-billed Marsh Wrens showed a great increase on Des Lacs and Lostwood Refuges, N. D. Mockingbirds continued to push northward and westward, appearing in good numbers in Quebec, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Colorado. During late July a small flight of Catbirds apparently entered and deeply penetrated the Fla. peninsula. Two of the most interesting thrush reports for this nesting season came from the western regions. An Eye-browed Thrush, *Turdus obscurus*, collected at Barrow on June 16 established the first record of this Asiatic on the North Slope of Alaska. A second year male Wheatear in breeding plumage was collected on S. Farallon I. on June 11 (Point Reyes Bird Observatory) for the first California record.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

A nesting pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers, *Poliophtila nigriceps*, discovered on Sonoita Creek, Ariz. on June 15 constituted a new United States record. Three young were fledged

on June 17. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers solidified their recent gains in the Hudson-St. Lawrence Region, and they were observed north of their usual range in Wisconsin.

The only breeding Loggerhead Shrike to be recorded in the Northeastern Maritime Region in recent years was noted this summer at Newburyport, Mass. Two pairs of Starlings nested in woodpecker holes in telephone poles at Laguna Vista, in the Port Isabel area and may be the first nesting record for the Lower Rio Grande Delta of s. Texas. White-eyed Vireos were particularly noteworthy in the east this season. The nesting of this species near Rondeau in Ontario was the first verified nesting record for Canada. Singles were noted on June 5 and 6 at Cold Spring, N. Y. where they are very rare, and at least six were reported from the Pittsburgh area. The species continued its northward push into n. Ohio, but nesting success was not determined. A Bell's Vireo just e. of Weiner, Ark. was only the third for the n.e. portion of the state, and this species sang on territory just s. of Bismarck, N. D. on July 10. The first Louisiana records of Black-whiskered Vireos for June and July came from the Mississippi River Delta. Breeding was strongly suspected, but careful searches for nests were fruitless. Red-eyed Vireos appeared to be extending their range southward in Oregon this summer.

WARBLERS

There is now evidence that the Black-and-white Warbler's breeding range extends over much of North Carolina's coastal plain. Worm-eating Warblers are also apparently breeding sparingly over much of the same range. The Golden-winged Warbler continued to expand its range in the Kingston area of Ontario. A nest with 3 eggs and a cowbird egg was found on July 5 on Little George I., Lake Winnipeg and another male with two young was seen n. of Menisino, constituting the first breeding records for Manitoba. A male Parula Warbler at Calgary May 25-June 15 provided the second record for Alberta. The first spring (?) record of the Cape Warbler for California was of a female on S. Farallon June 30-July 2. Myrtle Warblers bred for the first time in a Scotch Pine plantation near Alfred, (w.) N. Y. In the Kingston, Ont. area Cerulean Warblers continued to expand their range this summer. A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Sedalia, Colo. on July 1 was possibly the first summer record for the state. An unusual summer

record of the Blackpoll Warbler was one singing on Garden Key, Fla. on July 9; another was reported from Santa Ana Refuge in s. Texas on June 11. A female was seen in San Pedro, Calif. on June 28, an extreme rarity in spring for the Southern Pacific Coast Region. The third state record of the Ovenbird for Montana was a bird heard repeatedly south of Bozeman on July 5. The beginning of fall migration is much earlier than many observers realize. This is supported by the report of a Kentucky Warbler that struck the WCTV tower near Tallahassee Fla. on the night of July 25-26. The first actual nesting record of the Yellowthroat in Alaska was of one located on an island in Adams Inlet, Glacier Bay Monument, on June 25.

WEAVER FINCHES AND BLACKBIRDS

The crash of House Sparrow populations at Toronto over the past few years may have been caused by *salmonella*, and this year at Pine Grove, broods with sticky white droppings, thought to be typical of this disease, were dying after leaving the nests. This species was also down in numbers in Kingston, Ont. Several Bobolinks spent the summer near Goshen, Oldham Co., Ky. and the third breeding record for this species in Missouri was documented when a nest was found near St. Joseph. For the first time Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported nesting in Ottawa Co., Mich. The first breeding records of the Red-winged Blackbird for s.e. Alaska came from an island in Adams Inlet, Glacier Bay Monument on June 17. A singing male Tricolored Blackbird found at Yellowstone Nat'l Park on July 27 was new to the Wyoming state list.

Orchard Orioles were noticeably more abundant than usual in the Hudson-St. Lawrence Region following a good spring flight. The male Bronzed Cowbird mentioned in the spring report for the Central Southern Region was still present June 5 at the Metairie, La. feeding station.

TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS, FINCHES AND SPARROWS

A pair of Hepatic Tanagers along Arrastre Creek near Round Valley in the San Bernardino Mts. July 10-27 was interesting because the species is only a casual straggler to California. Cardinals and Dickcissels were reported north of their usual ranges in Wisconsin this summer. From June 8 to June 12 a Yellow

Grosbeak, *Pheucticus chrysopheplus*, was seen on Sonoita Creek. The bird reappeared June 28 and 30. It was photographed and its song taped; it was thought not to be an escape. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, apparently new in Idaho with a record at Pocatello last May, appeared at Rupert on June 12; last spring's invasion of this species into the Southwest Region lasted into June; a few were seen in s. Arizona in June and July. Just as with Indigo Buntings recently, the Blue Grosbeak appears to be expanding its breeding range southward in Florida. A female Dickcissel on June 3 at S. Farallon I. was the second spring record for the Middle Pacific Coast Region. Probably the same male Brambling observed at Adak in the Aleutians this spring was last seen on June 1. The lingering female Hawfinch at Adak was regularly observed through June 28. A female Evening Grosbeak seen on 23 July at 5,000 feet in the mountains of w. North Carolina near Cataloochee was most interesting.

The first summer record of Lawrence's Goldfinch for Arizona was a bird seen at Winkleman in June. Two female Ipswich Sparrows mated with Savannah Sparrows this summer on the mainland of Nova Scotia. The second New York State record of Le Conte's Sparrow was established this summer. Five striped Sparrows returned to Sonoita Creek, Ariz. on June 5 with perhaps two pairs seen until Aug. 8. In a Scotch Pine plantation at Forster Lake, near Alfred, N. Y. a nest of Clay-colored Sparrows with 3 young was found on June 15 and was the first nesting record for the region. Another individual was singing on June 22 near Honeoye, Ontario Co. N. Y. A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen and heard on June 14 in the Alvorol desert, for the first Oregon record, and two found in June on S. Farallon were the fourth and fifth spring records for the Middle Pacific Coast Region. An immature Harris' Sparrow was found at Port Mahon on July 31 for a Delaware state record. The first positive breeding record of the Fox Sparrow for Nova Scotia was listed where a nest was found on Guilford I. off Sheet Harbour this summer. A singing male Lincoln's Sparrow, carefully identified at Newport News, Va. on July 9, was most unusual.

This seasonal summary has picked out but a few of the highlights of the summer season; the pages that follow will repay the reader with a wealth of information of interest from every region.