

One of this species was also seen at Middletown June 13 (JT) a rather unusual occurrence.

CHICKADEE, NUTHATCH, WREN, MOCKINGBIRD, THRUSHES—Both Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches began appearing in numbers quite early, perhaps indicating good flights this year. There was a decided influx of the former at N.J.P. in early August; e.g., 3+ per acre over residents on breeding bird plots (NB). Red-breasteds, virtually absent last year, were present daily at Topsham from Aug. 1 (A&EM) and the outer beaches of Long Island from Aug. 9 (AW) through end of period. At N.J.P. a few appeared in mid-August and on Aug. 31, 14 were seen in two hours, coming across the Hudson R. (NB). As usual, 1 or 2 Winter Wrens were present through the summer in Dutchess Co., though to date no nesting has ever been recorded there (fide OW). Good evidence of the amazing northward penetration of Mockingbirds were 3 nesting pairs at St. Simeon and 2 more directly across the St. Lawrence at Rivière du Loup (ND, fide MM). These locales are over 100+ miles n.e. of Quebec City. In addition, there was 1 pair at Melocheville, just s. of Montreal (MM). During June, 2 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were heard singing on Mt. Graylock, Mass., the only known breeding station in the state (RG). Results of the annual E. Bluebird nest-box survey in Dutchess Co. were: 18 successful pairs, 76 young; 7 unsuccessful and 2 undetermined (R.T.W.B.C.). Two pairs also nested on the N.J.P., the first in many years (NB).

GNATCATCHER, WAXWING, WARBLERS—Some evidence that Blue-gray Gnatcatchers may be solidifying their recent gains were 9 pairs in the area survey by Kane, et al., and a successful nesting at Mt. Sinai, L.I. (DP). A late, heavy, movement of Cedar Waxwings was noted in June at Derby Hill, 2100, June 2 (GS) and Alpine, 200-800 per four-hour morning watch, June 1 through 10 (NB). They were also more plentiful than usual at Topsham, averaging 1-5 a day through the summer (A&EM). A singing ♂ **Prothonotary Warbler** was present at Westport, Conn. June 1-23 (RD, DF, et al.). A "Brewster" type hybrid was seen at Turkey Hollow, Dutchess Co. June 19 (EP & MV) and another, together with a Blue-winged and a Golden-winged, at Basherkill, N.Y., June 4 (SD). A pair of Prairie Warblers was found nesting at Saxton's River in June (DK) and one was seen at Pratt's Fall, May 16 (MT, et al., fide MR), the first in the O.L.B. since 1968. On July 8, a singing Louisiana Waterthrush was noted at Cavendish, Windsor Co., Vt. (WN) a locale somewhat n. of the normal limit of its range. Two further Kentucky Warbler reports to add to those of the spring were 1 at Camillus, N.Y., May 19 (FS) and 1 at Lithgow, Dutchess Co., N.Y., May 31-June 6 (DF, et al.). A singing ♂ was also present at Stockholm, Sussex Co., N.J., July 14-15 (RK, et al.).

ICTERIDS, FINCHES—A **Western Meadowlark** was heard and seen at the same spot at Calixa

Lavallee, Que. where it was found last year. Unfortunately the observer was unable to return later in the season to check on nesting (MM). Following a heavy spring flight, nesting Orchard Orioles were notably more abundant than usual. There were "several" pairs in s.w. Connecticut (CH) and 3 in e. Bergen Co. (NB). But none were reported from Dutchess Co., where 1 or 2 pairs have nested in recent years. In mid-May, single ad. ♂♂ were reported in Madison and Oneida Cos., "the only modern (O.L.B.) records e. of Onondaga Co. except for a nesting at Sherrill in 1963" (MR). A belated addition to the spring report of southern invaders was a Blue Grosbeak at Hempstead L., May 22 (SD). In Windham Co., Vt., single Pine Siskins Aug. 3 & 12, and Aug. 9, and the first White-winged Crossbill since Spring, 1970 (WN) may have been the precursors of a good finch flight this fall. For a finishing flourish, consider: **Le Conte's Sparrow**: very carefully identified at Gardiner's I., June 7 (DP) the second New York State record, and, **Bachman's Sparrow**, seen and heard, July 25 at Middletown by Tramontano, an observer especially knowledgeable of the species and genus.

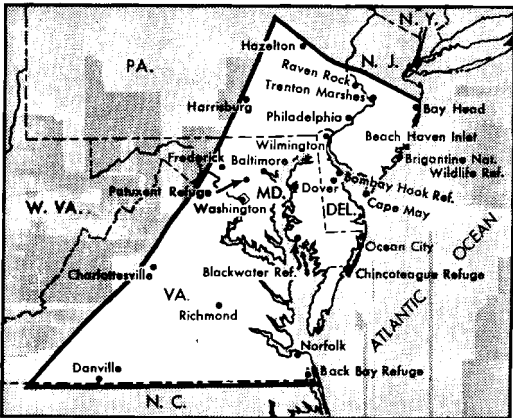
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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION / F. R. Scott and David A. Cutler

The weather was rather uneventful during the period, being somewhat cooler than normal with no really oppressive hot spells. Precipitation was deficient, particularly in June, but because of heavy May rains this deficiency did not have any pronounced effects. Fresh-water stream flow was generally higher than usual, a situation which undoubtedly contributed to the lower-than-normal salinity in the Chesapeake Bay estuary.

PELAGIC BIRDS—A few summer records of loons and Horned Grebes are made virtually every year. Of interest this year were a Com. Loon at Deal I., Md. (Chesapeake Bay) June 5 (HTA) and

2 Horned Grebes at Craney I., Hampton Roads, Va. June 11 (GSG). Single Horned Grebes were noted also at Hill Pt., Dorchester Co., Md. July 4 & Aug. 7 (HTA). Five occupied Pied-billed Grebe nests were found at Deal I. June 5, at least one with eggs (HTA). A Sooty Shearwater in Delaware Bay off East Pt., N.J. July 12 was unusual both for date and locality (DEK). Although there are usually a number of Wilson's Petrel reports from offshore each summer, reports from Chesapeake Bay have been mostly lacking since the Lower Bay ferries were discontinued some years ago. There were two Lower Bay observations this year, 14 seen off Kiptopeke Beach, Va. June 29 and 24 at the mouth of the Rappahannock R. July 7 (MAB & RSK). An ad. and 1 imm. Brown Pelican were seen at Virginia Beach, Va. July 24 (RLA).



HERONS, IBISES — According to Armistead, herons seem 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. Some postbreeding concentrations of herons included 1000 Snowy Egrets at Port Mahon. Del. July 17 (SRL) and 100 Black-crowned Night Herons at Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Del. Aug. 4 (NEH). Inland, a Louisiana Heron at Presquile Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Hopewell, Va. July 16 was unusual (PDD). Evidence of the continuing increase of Glossy Ibis in the Region is shown by the following peak counts: 450, Brigantine Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N.J., July 10 (PGD); 400, Little Creek, Del., July 31 (NEH); 632, Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Va., July 31 (fide JCA); and 234, Deal I., Md., June 5 (HTA), the latter location in mid-Chesapeake Bay. Single imm. White Ibis were reported at Little Creek July 17 (PGD), Norfolk, Va. Aug. 1 (RLA & DLH), and Craney I., Va. Aug. 7 (RLA & DLH).

Waterfowl—Mute Swans appear to be breeding in increased numbers in the mid-Delmarva Peninsula, with such counts as 8 at Little Creek, Del. June 7-15 (NEH), 14 adults at Assawoman

Wildlife Area, Del. June 19 (JH & RAR), and 10 flying birds at Bellevue, Md. June 21 (HTA). Whistling Swans were noted in at least six localities during the summer, and a flying Brant was seen at Deal I., Md. June 5 (HTA). Four Snow Geese were observed at Brigantine Refuge June 12 (PGD), and 1 remained to at least June 27 (JKM, et al.). Another was seen at Little Creek, Del. June 13 (SRL). Among the more interesting reports of breeding ducks were 2 Pintail broods at Chincoteague Refuge (fide JCA) and a Green-winged Teal nest with 5 eggs at Deal I. June 5, the first breeding record for Maryland (HTA). Relatively few summering diving ducks were reported, but notable among these were a Com. Eider at Tuckerton, N.J. Aug. 8 (AEC & CEG) and single King Eiders in four locations: Lewes, Del. June 12 (PGD, LE & RAR), Fisherman I., Va. June 19 (MAB), Virginia Beach, Va. June 22 (SAA), and Wreck I., Va. July 16 (MAB, BS & GS). Six Com. Scoters (3 pairs) at Cook Pt., Dorchester Co., Md. Aug. 7 (HTA) were almost certainly not injured birds.

HAWKS — An ad. **Golden Eagle** at Port Mahon, Del. Aug. 15 was an unprecedented summer record (CWC). Out of 56 rechecked active Bald Eagle nests in the Chesapeake Bay area, 20 were successful and produced a total of 25 young (fide JMA). On the basis of 309 Osprey nests checked in e. Virginia, Kennedy calculated an average of 0.69 young fledged per nest. This compares with a comparable figure for 1970 of 0.96 based on 194 nests.

RAILS, LIMPKINS — A late group of 16 Clapper Rail nests, all with eggs, was found near Cobb I., Va. July 23 (MAB, BS & GS). A **Yellow Rail** was flushed and carefully observed at Brigantine Refuge on the unusual date of Aug. 6 (GHP, WL, BO, et al.), and at the same place an ad. Black Rail with 3 young was watched for 20 min. on July 11 (DEK & RM). Also at Brigantine Refuge, a **Purple Gallinule** was noted July 19-25 (RJB, MWC, HG). Of the 2 **Limpkins** reported during the spring, the 1 at Lilypons, Md. remained until June 8 (RAR), and the 1 at Lynchburg, Va. was last seen June 9 (PEM).

GODWITS — The **Black-tailed Godwit** previously reported at Brigantine Refuge, N.J. remained at least until Aug. 22 and was seen literally by hundreds of observers (JY, JD, KPA, CWC, et al.). The plumage of this bird varied from almost full breeding plumage in late May to winter plumage in mid-August. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** also appeared at Brigantine Refuge and was first found by Danzenbaker June 28. This bird, which remained at least until Aug. 23, was also seen by many observers (BSB, DWF, RAR, RWS, et al.). Since both the Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits were also present during the summer at Brigantine, some observers had the unusual experience of seeing all four godwit species in a single day. A single Marbled Godwit was seen at Brigantine June 14

(HD) and June 21 (JW) and by many observers after that until mid-August, when numbers increased to 3 on Aug. 16 (RAR) and 6 on Aug. 18 (PGD). A Hudsonian Godwit in full breeding plumage was found at Brigantine on the unusual date of June 26 (JY), and there were several late July and early August observations. Numbers increased to 7 on July 31 (NTG), 11 on Aug. 16 (RAR), and 16 on Aug. 18 (PGD). Although Brigantine took the godwit limelight during this period, the Marbled Godwit was reported elsewhere at Chincoteague Refuge, Va., with a peak of 8 on July 31 (fide JCA), and single Hudsonian Godwits were noted at Chincoteague Refuge on several dates (JCA, CRV), Bombay Hook Refuge, Del. on July 17 (CWC), and Tuckerton, N.J. on July 22-23 (BCH).

OTHER SHOREBIRDS — Carlson counted 35 Piping Plovers at Cape Henlopen, Del. July 17, a number that included many immatures, and Vaughn's peak count of Wilson's Plovers at Wallops I., Va. was 27 on Aug. 1. Single Am. Golden Plovers were seen at Little Creek Del. June 12 (NEH) and Brigantine Refuge June 22 (DWF); presumably both were very late spring transients. The first fall migrants were noted at Brigantine Refuge Aug. 7 (DEK) and near Sycamore Landing, Montgomery Co., Md. Aug. 8 (EH). Abbott found 600 Ruddy Turnstones at Little Creek June 3. A Com. Snipe at Bombay Hook Refuge, Del. Aug. 1 was early (LE & RAR), and there were two late June Whimbrel reports, 1 near Oyster, Va. June 26 (FRS) and 4 at Chincoteague, Va. June 27 (RAR). Peak Upland Plover reports included 37 near Chincoteague July 29 (CRV) and 44 at Columbus, N.J. Aug. 21 (EJR). At Brigantine Refuge DuMont estimated 190 White-rumped Sandpipers on June 5 and only 9 on June 12, although Finch noted 20 there on June 22, all apparently late spring transients. Curlew Sandpipers were reported three times, 1 at Brigantine Refuge July 24-25 (CWC, HG, RAR, et al.), 1 at Chincoteague Refuge Aug. 2 (PG, fide JCA), and another at Brigantine Aug. 16 (RAR). Short-billed Dowitchers reach an estimated peak of 120,000 at Brigantine Refuge July 18 (RAR), and on June 27 Armistead found 1 Long-billed Dowitcher with 9 Short-billeds here. A few Long-billed Dowitchers were reported along the coast all summer, and Rowlett estimated there was 1 Long-billed to every 1000 Short-billeds. Stilt Sandpipers were in exceptionally good numbers, with a maximum of 1000 at Brigantine Refuge July 31 (DWF & RWS). Other good counts included 250 at Port Mahon, Del. Aug. 1 (RAR, et al.) and 100 at Chincoteague Refuge Aug. 5 (CRV). Three reported at Brigantine Refuge July 5 were extraordinarily early (PGD). Rowlett reported a very early Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Brigantine on July 17. Ruffs almost competed with the godwits for attention this summer. At Brigantine Refuge alone there must have been about 3 different ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀, although apparently no more than 2 were ever seen together. First noted

at Brigantine June 26 (JY), they remained throughout the period (KPA, PGD, RAR, et al.). Elsewhere, 1 or 2 were present in the Little Creek, Del. area June 26-July 11 (CWC, PGD, NEH) and 1 a Bombay Hook Refuge July 8-Aug. 5 (NEH, et al.). An Am. Avocet first appeared at Brigantine Refuge June 22 (JD) and 2 to 3 were seen thereafter to the end of the period (RAR). At Bombay Hook Refuge 1 or 2 were noted several times in June and early July (NEH), but the first sizable count was 35 July 17 (CWC), and the flock had built up to 71 by Aug. 2 (NEH). Maximum counts elsewhere included 57 at Chincoteague Refuge Aug. 12 (CRV) and 41 at Craney I., Va. July 26 (GSG). The peak count of Black-necked Stilts at Little Creek, Del. was 38 on July 17, which included 23 young in 9 broods (NEH). Wilson's Phalaropes were observed at several places along the coast, most notable being 1 at Brigantine Refuge June 22-23 (DWF), a most unusual date. Inland, 2 were found at the turf farm near Sycamore Landing, Md. Aug. 10 (RAR). N. Phalaropes were reported twice, 1 at Brigantine Refuge Aug. 8 (DWF) and 1 at Craney I., Va. Aug. 13 (GSG).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — The only jaeger reports were a Pomarine Jaeger off Ocean City, Md. June 13 (PGD) and a Parasitic, also off Ocean City, Aug. 7 (CWC). This may be the first spring or summer record of the Pomarine Jaeger for Maryland, and the Parasitic was exceptionally early. An Iceland Gull at Absecon Bay, N.J. June 4 was outstanding (JCM), and an adult Great Black-backed Gull at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va. June 19 was the most inland summer record for the state (JMA). Carlson found 3 Black-headed Gulls apparently molting into winter plumage at Cape Henlopen, Del. July 17, and a count of 810 Laughing Gulls at Hill Pt., Md. July 4 was considered a good count for this date in mid-Chesapeake Bay (HTA). Two Little Gulls, apparently in imm. plumage, were observed at Little Creek, Del. May 29 (LE & RAR). Gull-billed Terns were found nesting along the causeway to Avalon, N.J. (WES). Thirteen nests were found June 10 and 8 more, apparently re-nesting attempts, Aug. 4. Armistead reported 65 Forster's Terns at Deal I., Md. June 5, an interesting date and number for the mid-Chesapeake Bay, and a count of 200 at Little Creek, Del. Aug. 7 was unprecedented (NEH). Apparently summering Caspian Terns were noted near Cheriton, Va. June 26 (FRS); James I., Dorchester Co., Md. July 4 (HTA); and Little Creek, Del. July 1-12 (NEH). An adult **Sooty Tern**, the second state record, was found at Fisherman I., Va. July 17 (RLA, WF & DLH). A few Black Terns again were present throughout June at Brigantine Refuge (DWF).

OWLS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A pair of Short-eared Owls was present during much of June at Brigantine Refuge, N.J. (HTA, DWF, etc.), and Carlson found 2 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Aug. 14. The

last spring migrant Tree Swallow was seen at Clifton, Va. June 1 (JWA), and 4 Cliff Swallows were seen at Dreherstown, Pa. July 3, where the bird is quite uncommon as a breeder (SRL).

CREEPERS — Brown Creepers appear to be continuing their slow expansion s. as breeding birds. At Revere, Bucks Co., Pa. Hendricks found a nest with 4 eggs during June, and at Great Falls, Fairfax Co., Va. a pair was noted going in and out of a crack beneath loose bark May 22 (BWld, et al.). Of most extraordinary interest, however, was a Brown Creeper June 20 and a pair July 4 at the Newport News, Va. city park (DLM, et al.). This is about 135 miles s. of the closest known breeding site of this species.

WAXWINGS, WARBLERS — On the lower Delmarva Peninsula, where the Cedar Waxwing is rare at best in summer, there were two reports: 5 were seen near Galestown, Dorchester Co., Md. June 6 (HTA), and several were found at Kiptopeke Beach July 18 (MAB, GS & BWms). Late spring migrants included a Canada Warbler at Bombay Hook Refuge, Del. June 4 (NEH) and a singing ♂ Mourning Warbler at Philadelphia, Pa. June 2 (SRL). A Prothonotary Warbler appeared at Clifton, Fairfax Co., Va. June 19, where it is not known to breed (JWE), and a pair of Blue-winged Warblers was found feeding young in the nest at Brandywine Creek State Park, Del. in mid-June (fide WJW). Richards found Parula Warblers nesting at Tyler Arboretum, Philadelphia and Swarthmore Woods, Pa. in mid-June, where breeding had previously been almost unknown.

FRINGILLIDS — A pair of Purple Finches spent the summer at Bryn Athyn, Pa., well away from their closest known breeding grounds (JTM). House Finches were noted in many parts of the Philadelphia area during the summer, and McIntosh found several young in nearby Oaklyn, N.J. Two singing ♂ Vesper Sparrows were seen near Warsaw, Va. June 29 (FRS), and an imm. ♂ **Harris' Sparrow** was found at Port Mahon July 31, a Delaware state record (AEC, SS, RT & WJW). A completely inexplicable record was a singing **Lincoln's Sparrow** which was carefully observed at Newport News, Va. July 9 (DLM).

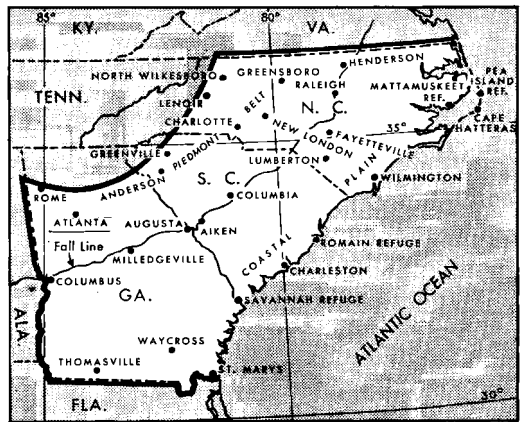
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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Robert P. Teulings

It was wetter in the Region this summer than last year with moderate to heavy rainfall in all sections. Because of a late spring, cool and damp weather prevailed at the start of the breeding season. The effect of this on the nesting cycle



may have been adverse in some localities. Charles Blake, a bander in Hillsborough, N.C., reported that he trapped 40 per cent fewer juveniles than last summer among 7 species of resident songbirds he regularly bands. There were no other quantitative indications of nesting success available, so it is not known how severe the drop in breeding productivity may have been in other areas owing to weather factors.

Observers contributed much information of interest from the coast, featuring data on the breeding success of the Brown Pelican, a record documenting further nesting range expansion of the White Ibis, evidence of nesting of Forster's Tern, and a first record for the Region for Curlew Sandpiper.

LOONS, GREBES — A Com. Loon was present in North Carolina waters off Pea I. July 9 (GG). Other stragglers summered in the Morehead City area, where 1 Common and 5 Red-throated Loons were seen together off Bogue Bank July 15 (EJR) and 3 Com. Loons were found off Elijah Lump July 21 (JF). One or 2 individuals of both species were also at Cedar I. in mid-July (RS). Horned Grebes remained as late as June 4 at Cedar I. (RS) and June 14 at Smith I. (JFP).