

**NUTHATCHES, CREEPER, WRENS**—One of the outstanding aspects of the nesting season was the number of Red-breasted Nuthatches—especially after their scarcity during the past winter and spring seasons; single birds were noted June 10 & 11 near Alfred, Allegany Co. and June 24 in the Town of Almond, Allegany Co. (CK) in areas where they have been noted in past nesting seasons but where no breeding evidence has been obtained; 2 were at Farmersville Township, Cattaraugus Co. July 4 in likely breeding habitat (RAn); 7 were found July 8 on the L. Ontario plain at Mendon Ponds Park, Monroe Co. (GP) where nesting is unknown; 2 adults and 3 young were studied July 18 in Allenberg Bog near New Albion, Cattaraugus Co. (HM, et al.), a new nesting locality in the Region. Brown Creepers were widely scattered, a trend that has been becoming more and more apparent during the nesting season each year for the past several years. The nesting distribution of Winter Wrens is spotty and largely unknown in the Region, therefore single birds June 19 at Orangeville, Wyoming Co. (RAn, et al.) and June 24 & 26, and July 10 at Gas Springs, Allegany Co. (CK) were noteworthy; the former area is a previously suspected breeding locality whereas the latter area is new.

**MOCKINGBIRD, THRUSHES, KINGLETS**—Mockingbirds were widely scattered; an adult with 3 young out of the nest were seen Aug. 3 near Brockton, Chautauqua Co. (DC) where they had been known to nest previously a number of years ago. Indicative of the very late spring migration were 6 Swainson's Thrushes at Avon, N.Y. June 13 (fide RO), and a single bird June 10 & 28 at Eggertsville, Erie Co. (AM & WM). During the 1969 nesting season the Golden-crowned Kinglet was well documented as a nester in many areas in the w. part of the Region; that they are still present in summer in some of the 1969 localities was shown by the following records; 2 were at Alfred June 6 (EBr); 2 were at the Iroquois Nat'l Wildlife Refuge June 6 (AM & WM); and at Farmersville Township 6 were noted June 19 & 25 and 7 July 4 (RAn, et al.).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—Single White-eyed Vireos were noted June 5 (RS, et al.) and June 6 (DC) at Cold Spring, where they were found a year ago; a pair was at the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation July 2 (HA & RA); there was no nesting evidence at either locality. At Foster L. near Alfred, 2 Myrtle Warbler nests were found in a Scotch Pine plantation (CK & EBr); the young in one nest and a ♂ were photographed by Lawrence Deverell; on June 16 another singing ♂ was observed in pines about a mile w. of the same locality (CK); while this species has been seen in the Alfred area in previous nesting seasons this was the first definite nesting evidence. Singing ♂ Prairie Warblers were found at eight locations in the Elmira area, the only area where they are thought to nest regularly (WH).

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK**—Single W. Meadowlarks were identified June 6 at Barker, Niagara Co. (HK & WK); 1 June 19 at Vernal Corners, Wyoming Co. (RAn, et al.) where it was the first reliable record for that county, and June 25 in Hamburg Township, Erie Co. (RAn).

**FRINGILLIDS**—In the Rochester area, the first House Finch reported was in April 1970; although there was no definite nesting established, many of the observers who studied two birds at a feeder in Rochester during early June this year thought they were nesting in the near-by area (fide RO); they continued to be frequently seen in the Elmira region (WH). In the same Scotch Pine plantation at Foster Lake near Alfred, where a pair was observed during the 1970 season, the nest of a pair of Clay-colored Sparrows was found June 15 (EBr); the nest, containing 3 young, was about two ft. above the ground close to the trunk of a 5-ft. high Scotch Pine; it was empty June 20 but the young were heard in the undergrowth; this is the first nesting record for the Region. Another singing male Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered June 22 about two miles e. of Honeoye, Ontario Co. (AMa). No fewer than 18 White-throated Sparrows were reported through July 4; all, except for 1 at Manitou, Monroe Co. June 21 (WL), were from areas in the southern tier counties where they have been previously occurring during the nesting season.

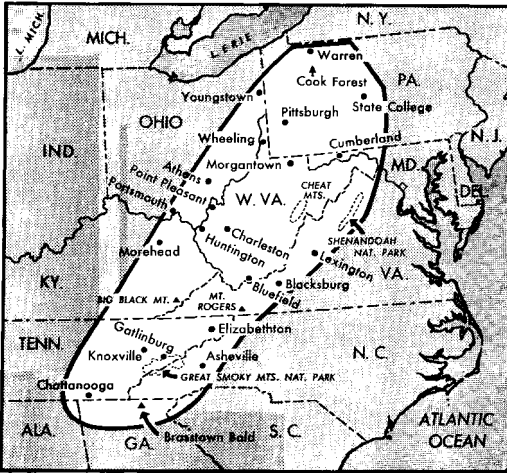
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## APPALACHIAN REGION / George A. Hall

The cold, late spring was followed by a mild but wet summer. At the Pittsburgh weather station June was quite a bit warmer than normal but was much drier than average (2.37 in. deficit in precipitation). July was cooler than usual and the early part of the month was much wetter than normal. At Pittsburgh there were 6.8 in. of rainfall and at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tenn. (called by someone in the Park Service the Great Soakies) July precipitation ranged from over 18 in. in Cades Cove to 14.7 in. at Gatlinburg and 6.1

inches at Cataloochee. Late July and early August were dry. No excessively hot weather occurred.

Despite the rainy mid-summer weather the nesting season for most species appeared to be successful. Some early nestings may have failed in the cold spring weather, but overall production of young was good.



During the first week of June such straggling spring migrants as Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Blackpoll Warblers, and some shorebirds were still present in the Region.

In the account that follows the reader will note the large number of interesting waterbird records being reported from L. Arthur in s. Butler Co., Pa. and from the Sayers Dam impoundment near Lock Haven, Pa. These two relatively new impoundments have been producing some very exciting birding during the migration seasons, and this year a number of waterbirds either nested or remained for the summer without nesting. This once again illustrates the response of waterbirds to newly flooded land, but past experience in this Region at such places as Pymatuning L., Pa. and the impoundments near Youngstown, O. has shown that as the new lakes mature the attractiveness to the birds declines. Observers should study these lakes with great interest for the next few years to see if history repeats.

As is usual we have reports of southern species spreading northward (i.e., Mockingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Wren, and Prairie Warbler) but this year we have a number of cases of northern birds breeding farther south than usual (Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo, and Blackburnian Warbler). In this connection one wonders about the usual series of "extremely early fall migrants" that come every year. It is tempting to speculate that in some cases these are really a part of an unknown local breeding population. In the case of the Brown Creeper it is now apparent that this may have always been the case, but for some other species questions remain. The reader should note

the reports of Tennessee Warbler and Swainson's Thrush in the following account.

**GREBES, HERONS, IBIS**—Pied-billed Grebes nested near State College, Pa. for the second year (MW). There are only a few scattered previous records for c. Pennsylvania. Com. Egrets were reported only from Blacksburg, Va. Aug. 15 (JWM) and from Campbell Co., Tenn. July 12 (PP) and Knox Co., Tenn. July 20 (EO, fide FJA). An ad. Black-crowned Night Heron was present at L. Arthur throughout the season (DBF) and 3 immatures were seen there June 6 (WOR & SR), but there was no actual evidence of nesting. Am. Bitterns were present at Boaz, W.Va. all summer (JS) and 1 was seen at L. Arthur Aug. 7 (JAG, fide DBF). Least Bitterns were reported from Boaz (JS), Sayers Reservoir (4 on Aug. 15—MC), and L. Arthur (8 all summer—DBF). A Glossy Ibis was seen at Conneaut L. Pa. during the first week in July, the fifth straight year at that locality (RB, fide RFL).

**WATERFOWL**—Blue-winged Teal were present all summer at L. Arthur (DBF) and may have nested there (FWP). They were also present at the McClintic Wildlife Station, Mason Co., W.Va. during the summer (DM, fide NG). Green-winged Teal were seen at L. Arthur July 5 (PDH, fide DBF). A population of about 80 Mallards and 6 Black Ducks was present there during the summer (DBF). Mallards had a successful breeding season near Warren, Pa. (JCS) and in the e. Panhandle of West Virginia (CM). Most places reported more broods of young Wood Ducks than usual (including one nesting in downtown Meadville, Pa.—RFL), although for the first time in 20 years the species did not nest at the Preston Laboratories near Butler, Pa. (FWP).

**RAPTORS**—The Turkey Vulture showed a definite increase in the Newcomerstown, O. area (EHS) and a nest was found near Warren, the second nesting there in three years (WLH, fide JCS). This is close to the n. limit of breeding in the Region. The Sharp-shinned Hawk continues to decline as a breeding bird, but the three Buteo species seem to be holding their own. There were two successful nests of the Red-shouldered Hawk in Coonskin Park, near Charleston, W.Va. and one in the city itself (NG). On June 18 a **Goshawk** was seen on the Tennessee side of Great Smoky Mts. N. P. (RA, fide FJA). This was the first summer record for Tennessee. There had been two previous observations from the North Carolina side of the park, both in 1970. An ad. Golden Eagle, one of the few ever recorded in summer, was seen in Great Smoky Mts. N. P. June 1 (FJA).

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS**—Bobwhite was missing for the first time from a s.w. Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Survey (RKB) and was scarce at Blacksburg and at Morgantown, W.Va. but was plentiful at Newcomerstown (EHS) and in the e. Panhandle of West Virginia (CM). Twenty-two Turkeys were counted at Raccoon Creek State Park July 26 (NK,

fide DBF) and 12 were seen near Tidioute, Pa. June 20 (JK, fide JCS).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS**—Two to three pairs of Virginia Rails and 1-2 pairs of Soras nested at L. Arthur (DBF), and King Rails were found in a marsh at Parkersburg, W.Va. but not at the usual station at nearby Boaz (JS). Coots were present throughout the summer at L. Arthur (DBF) and McClintic Wildlife Station (DM, fide NG) and 7 downy young were found near State College July 27, the first local nesting (MW).

The fall shorebird migration got under way with a report of a Solitary Sandpiper at L. Arthur July 5 (DBF) and by mid-July most places with suitable habitat reported a sprinkling of arrivals. Upland Plover was reported this year from Somerset, Pa. June 23 (DBF); two locations near Indiana, Pa. (CDW); Khedive, Pa. (7 on July 18—RKB); Bunker Hill, W.Va. (CM) and again this year from Petersburg, W.Va. (WJC). A Com. Tern at L. Arthur Aug. 1 was somewhat unusual (DBF). The anticipated nesting of the Black Tern there did not materialize, since the birds disappeared in early June (DBF).

**DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS**—Mourning Doves are increasing in the Kanawha Valley of W.Va. (CK, NG). At Lock Haven (MC) and Clarksville, Pa. (RKB) both species of cuckoos were more common than usual, but they were scarce at State College (WSC). The Black-billed Cuckoo showed a definite increase at Dalton, Ga., near the s. extremity of its range (APH), and the Yellow-billed was increasingly common at Newcomerstown (EHS).

Although they are more common than is realized, Barn Owls are rather seldom reported and so three nesting reports are welcome. At Dalton, young birds were being fed in early June (APH); 5 or 6 young raised near Murraysville, Pa. (PDH, fide DBF); and at Clarksville 2 young raised in one nest and the 6 eggs laid in another failed to survive (RKB). The Long-eared Owl continues to be resident in the Pittsburgh suburb of Penn Hills (DBF).

**GOATSUCKERS, KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS**—Com. Nighthawks nested again at Marietta, O. (JS) where they were unknown a few years ago, but nesting birds were scarce at State College (WSC) and Charleston (NG) and they were believed to be in low numbers in Allegheny Co., Pa. (DBF). There was no sign of the fall migration by the end of the period. Chimney Swifts also were reported to be in low numbers at State College (WSC) and in Allegheny Co. (DBF).

With very little notice by most birders the Belted Kingfisher has apparently declined over much of the Region. For the second summer in a row I have failed to find it in the Morgantown area. Only 3 reports were made by the Brooks Bird Club Annual Foray in Greenbrier Co., W.Va. and it was reported from only 8 localities near Pittsburgh (DBF). Most contributors failed even to comment on the species.

The unusually large numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers that wintered near Charleston, produced a good summering population (CK). There were four summer reports from widely scattered areas in s.w. Pennsylvania (DBF) and one from Clinton Co., Pa. where it is very rare (MC). Red-headed nested at the Powdermill Nature Reserve (P.N.R.) near Ligonier, Pa. for the first time (RCL). A **Red-cockaded Woodpecker** in Campbell County, Tenn. June 13 was the first record for the Cumberland Mts. in Tennessee (JCH & JC, fide FJA). Most interesting was the report from near Blacksburg of Pileated Woodpeckers feeding on Japanese beetles (CAS, fide JWM).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS**—E. Kingbirds were considered scarce in the Pittsburgh area (DBF), were down in numbers at P.N.R. (RCL), and were markedly down in Greenbrier Co., W.Va. as compared with 1966 (B.B.C.F.). At the Pittsburgh suburb of Fox Chapel a census of E. Wood Pewees showed only 14 singing ♂♂ compared with 40 in 1969 (SR), but populations were up 50 per cent at Newcomerstown (EHS). An increased population of Traill's Flycatcher was present at Sayers Dam Reservoir (MC) and at least 25 singing ♂♂ were present at L. Arthur (DBF). The major Purple Martin fall congregation near Charleston had built up to 25-30,000 birds by the second week in August (NG). At Marietta nesting populations of martins were believed to be only one-half to two-thirds of normal but nesting success was good (JS). A Tree Swallow Aug. 8 in Campbell Co., Tenn. (JCH & JC) was either an early migrant or an indication of a southerly breeding station. A total of 330 Tree Swallows fledged from bluebird boxes near Warren (WLH, fide JCS). There are now 12-15 active nests of Cliff Swallows at the Kinzua Dam on the Allegheny R. in n. Pennsylvania (JCS).

**CREEPERS, WRENS**—Previous reports have called attention to many recent nestings of the Brown Creeper at low elevations. This summer it nested for the second time at P.N.R. (RCL); it was present throughout June in Fox Chapel (WOR & SR) and 1 was seen at Washington, Pa. July 8 (SH, fide DBF). Carolina Wrens at Warren (JCS) were n. of the usual range. Both species of marsh wrens were present at L. Arthur (DBF).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES, GNATCATCHERS**—The Mockingbird continues its northward movement and is now well established in the Lock Haven area (MC). It was not as common near Morgantown as it was last year (GAH). Several pairs of Hermit Thrushes nested at Laurel Summit Bog near Ligonier, a new nesting station in w. Pennsylvania (RCL). Swainson's Thrushes banded at P.N.R., Aug. 8 & 10 (RCL) were either extremely early migrants, or this is another species with an unknown local breeding population. E. Bluebird numbers were low near Ligonier (RCL) and at Warren, "Operation Bluebird" fledged 750 young bluebirds, about equal to last year's total but lower than in previous years (WLH, fide JCS). A

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Irvona, Pa. July 21 (NJI) was somewhat n. of the previously known range, but since there have been no previous reports from this area, earlier status is unknown.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—There were at least six known stations for White-eyed Vireos in the Pittsburgh area (DBF) another indication of northward movement. A Solitary Vireo in Campbell Co., Tenn. June 13 was the first summer record for the Tennessee Cumberland Mts. (JCH & JC, fide FJA). A year ago it was reported that on three Breeding Bird Survey routes in n. West Virginia the numbers of Red-eyed Vireos had drastically declined. This June one of these routes had a higher number than in 1969 and the other two had nearly equalled 1969 figures, indicating that the drop in 1970 was only temporary and not a part of the decline in this species noted farther east (GAH).

In n. West Virginia breeding warblers showed normal populations, and in the spruce belt populations were about as in the past few years (GAH), but in the State College region several species (Blue-wing, Chestnut-sided, Pine, and Prairie) were not reported, although all normally nest near there (WSC). Several species, however, showed interesting range extensions. Chestnut-sided Warblers were found below 2000 ft. elevation near Blacksburg (JWM), 2 Prairie Warblers near Marienville, Pa. June 13 (CP, fide JCS) were well n. of the known breeding range in the state. A Blackburnian Warbler in Campbell Co. June 19 (JCH & JC, fide FJA) was another first breeding season record for the area. Myrtle Warblers were seen in June in Clinton Co., Pa. (PWS); this may represent another range extension, since the available literature does not report the species from that area. There were two new summer stations for Yellow-throated Warbler in West Virginia: North Bend State Park July 27 (GHB), and Bethany in early June (GP), the latter location being the northernmost record for the state. This species was also seen in Amherst Co., Va. June 3 (DLC), and at Fancy Gap, Va. June 17 (RK, fide DLC). An imm. was banded at Clarksville Aug. 12 (RKB).

The most intriguing report of the season was of **Tennessee Warblers** seen in Lycoming Co. in mid-June (PWS, fide MC). A singing ♂ had been seen at the same place in 1968 (AFN, 22:606, 1968). At P.N.R. a Tennessee Warbler in wing molt was banded Aug. 8 (RCL). It is worth noting that in 1968 also there was an unusually early banding at P.N.R. (Ibid:608). Is there a hitherto unknown breeding population of this species in the Pennsylvania highlands?

**BLACKBIRDS**—A small population of Bobolinks has become established at the Sayers Dam Reservoir (MC); an individual at Charleston June 29 (AS) was well out of range. In the past the rather low blackbird populations in most of West Virginia, coupled with the similar lack of extensive agriculture have resulted in very few reports

of extensive blackbird damage to crops. This year, however, the public press has reported damage by grackles to the corn crop in places along the Ohio R. and near Lewisburg, W.Va. An aggregation of 10,000 grackles and several thousand Starlings was reported to be feeding extensively on the oats crop in July (COH).

**FRINGILLIDS**—Still another first for the Tennessee Cumberland Mts. was the sighting of 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks June 13 (JCH & JC, fide FJA). A Blue Grosbeak was seen near Charleston June 29 (AS). Most remarkable, but not altogether unanticipated, was a ♀ Evening Grosbeak seen July 23 at 5200 ft. elevation in the mountains of w. North Carolina near Cataloochee (JWS). The House Finch seems to be increasing near Lock Haven (MC). Purple Finches were common all summer at Warren (HJ, fide JCS) and at Indiana, Pa. (CDW). They nested at P.N.R. (RCL), were reported from Fox Chapel in June (SR) and at Irvona, Pa. July 21 (NJI). Red Crossbills were present near Blacksburg all summer but the numbers were lower than last year (JWM) and they were seen on two occasions in Greenbrier Co., W.Va. in June (B.B.C.F.). Savannah Sparrows nested near Indiana, Pa. (CDW) and in s. Butler Co., Pa. there were two sizeable colonies. Both localities are slightly out of the usual range. At L. Arthur there were large numbers of Henslow's Sparrows. It was estimated that there might be 100 or more pairs in one 2-3 sq. mile area there.

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