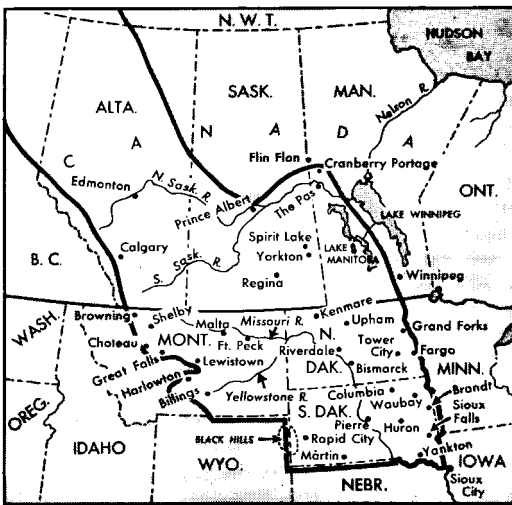


John P. O'Neill, Audrey Parker, Max Parker, Henry E. Parmer (Middle Tennessee), James V. Peavy, H. D. Pratt, R. D. Purrington, Elberta G. and Robert R. Reid, Chandler S. Robbins, A. N. Robinson, Heather and Joseph Riggins, Alice Smith, E. Ray Smith, Carol A. Speer, Ronald J. Stein, Helen and Percy L. Thigpen, C. Tim Traylor, Jacob M. Valentine, L. H. Walkinshaw, John Walther, J. S. Woodall.—**JAMES R. STEWART, JR.**, 2225 Meriwether Road, Shreveport, La. 71108.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION / C. Stuart Houston

Most of the region was wet and cool through June and most of July, though Montana was generally hot and dry throughout the season and Alberta was hot in July. Water levels in the sloughs were excellent across the Canadian prairies with less evaporation loss than usual as the season progressed.



LOONS, GREBES—Two nearly grown young Com. Loons at relatively new Blackstrap L. were the first breeding record for the Saskatoon area (JBG). The largest colonies of Eared Grebes were at Benton L. Refuge, Great Falls, Mont. (2500 nests—OV); n.w. of Marshall, N.D. (RES) and near Sterling, N.D. (55 nests with 158 eggs and 3 broods June 8—WAB).

PELICAN—The largest White Pelican colonies were at Bowdoin Refuge, Malta, Mont. (2500 nests—JRF) and Medicine L. Refuge, Mont. (1750 young—JLM). Old Wives L., Redberry L. and the long-deserted colony at Little Quill L. Sask. produced respectively 400, 140 and 60 young (FWL) and there were 40 nests on N. Drywood L., Roberts Co., S.D. (BKH). Disturbance has caused

desertion of the colony at L. Newell near Brooks, Alta. (HCES).

CORMORANT—Small new colonies of 10-30 nests of Double-crested Cormorants were reported this year on islands in three reservoirs near Maple Creek, Sask. (DSG), whereas the 13 nests at a new colony near Elphinstone, Man. were also on a small island but in dead balsam poplars (BS). The first nesting in over 20 years s. of Church's Ferry, N.D. was also in trees (BR). There were 273 nests at Bowdoin Refuge, 30 nests at Freeze-out L. and 95 nests near Columbus, Mont. (LMM, JRF) but the 16 nests at Tewaukon Refuge, Cayuga, N.D. had low success due to predation (EAA).

HERONS, IBIS—Com. Egrets were unusually wide-ranging with 6 June 18 at Indian Head (MS) and 3 all summer at Eyebrow, Sask. (HHH), 2 on June 7 and 1 June 26 at Devil's L., and 4 at Medina, N.D. Aug. 2 (RES). A subadult Little Blue Heron was seen at Oak L., Man. Aug. 1 (DRMH, LH, LTS). No less than 121 Black-crowned Night Herons were counted at four culvert outlets s. of Church's Ferry June 20 (BR), while colonies of 50 and 55 nests, respectively, were located at Erickson, Man. (HWRC) and Whitewater L. near Deloraine (EB). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was sighted at Clear L., S.D. June 17 (BKH). A Green Heron just w. of Regina June 12 was the second sight record for Saskatchewan (FHB) and another was noted June 28 at Devils L., N.D. (DHJ, RES). The second authentic Manitoba record of a **Cattle Egret** was obtained s. of Carberry June 20-21 (VHS, N.H.S.M.). A Least Bittern was observed July 16 at Arrowwood Refuge, Edmunds, N.D. (ADK). A White-faced Ibis was seen near Roscoe, S.D. July 14 (HAK) and another near Oakes, N.D. July 20 (PFS).

WATERFOWL—Trumpeter Swans continued to nest successfully in the Cypress Hills of s.w. Sask. as they have done since 1953, with a pair each at Adams and Coulee Lakes (DSG). Aerial surveys revealed a record 2000 pairs of Canada Geese breeding in a larger area s. and w. of Swift Current (DSG). Medicine L. Refuge had an impressive number of breeding pairs as follows: Mallard, 625; Gadwall, 987; Pintail, 387; Green-winged Teal, 50; Blue-winged Teal, 1962; Am. Widgeon, 300; Shoveler, 575; Redhead and Canvasback, 50 each; Lesser Scaup, 437; Ruddy Duck, 212 (JLM). At Des Lacs Refuge, N.D. numbers of ducks generally were up 20 per cent (JEF). There were 37 Wood Duck nests in artificial structures at Arrowwood Refuge, Edmunds, and Hooded Mergansers occupied 27 of 40 tree structures at Clark Salyer Refuge, Upham, N.D. (RCF). Breeding range extensions were indicated by a brood of nine Ring-necked Ducks near Wilmot, S.D. July 5 (BKH) and 6 Ruddy Duck nests with eggs at Beaver L., Minnehaha Co., S.D. (HK), while 5 broods of Com. Goldeneye

were the first for Bowdoin Refuge (JRF). Also noteworthy were a ♀ Bufflehead with 12 young at L. Metigoshe, N.D. June 25 (PFS) and a ♂ Harlequin s.e. of Regina June 5-13 (FHB, FWL).

VULTURE, ACCIPITER, BUTEOS—A Turkey Vulture nest with 2 eggs June 20 near the U.S. boundary in Sask. (RDR) and 2 nests the same month in Riding Mt. Nat'l Park (DRMH) were good records of a species whose numbers are down greatly from the 1930s. Cooper's Hawk nests were reported from Sherwood Park and Sylvan L., Alta. and from Raymore and Sheho, Sask. Red-tailed Hawk nests were reported from Arrowwood Refuge, Sullys Hill, Sheyenne and Coleharbor, N.D. with 4 young in one nest at the latter location, but in Saskatchewan nesting success was well below average. Between Indian Head and Lemberg, 14 nests fledged only 20 young and 36 nests failed (RLS), while near Raymore, Sask. 6 nests produced only 7 young, and 10 nests failed (WCH). There were two nesting pairs of Broad-winged Hawks at Spirit L., Sask. and for the third year they were present at Sieche Hollow near Sisseton, S.D. though no nest was located (PFS, BKH). Swainson's Hawk had fair success with 38 banded in 19 nests between Kindersley and Raymore (WCH, CSH), while a nest near Moose Jaw fledged 4 young (PRK). In Manitoba, where they have nested as far e. as Stonewall since 1954, a record 20 nests were found (DRMH). Ferruginous Hawks held their own; the 10 nests on my study area w. of Kindersley produced 23 young, though one nest had only an addled egg, and in the badlands of s. Sask. 3 nests fledged 8 young (RDR); 6 nests fledged 8 young in South Dakota (HAK) and a nest 22 miles from Kenmare, N.D. was the first for some years (AMG).

EAGLES—Golden Eagles near Big Timber, Mont. raised 1 young in each of 2 nests and a nest in the Sask. badlands had 1 young; along the S. Sask. R. I banded 7 young in 4 nests; one nest slid down the clay cliff in a rainstorm and the nest nearest the new Gardiner Dam failed for the 6th time in 7 years. Eight Bald Eagle nests at Desnard L. in c. Sask. produced 15 young (DZAW) and over half of the 15 nests in Manitoba had 2 young (DRMH).

HARRIERS, OSPREY, FALCONS—Marsh Hawks everywhere were down from their 1969 peak numbers, and absent at Sioux Falls. Ospreys continued uncommon across most of n. Saskatchewan and Manitoba; one nest in the Duck Mts., Man. had only one young (DRMH). Prairie Falcons enjoyed average success; 3 nests along the S. Sask. R. had 5, 4 and 2 young while 5 nests in the Sask. badlands produced 16 young, although two other nests failed when eggs were chilled by a May snowstorm. One of the successful Prairie eyries was in an artificial nest hole dug in the cliff face by falconers the previous year. The only Pigeon Hawk nests reported were near Edmonton

(REG) and 2 nests each with 4 eggs at Sylvan L. Alta. (HSA); they were totally absent from one of their last remaining sites in s. Sask. for the second year—yet as recently as 1959 there were 7 nesting records (RDR).

GROUSE—A **Greater Prairie Chicken** at Volga, Moody Co., S.D. June 15 (NH) and a hybrid bird near Raymore, Sask. June 25 (WCH) were the first such records in many years in these areas. At the Des Lacs Refuge, N.D. there were 16 Sharp-tailed Grouse dancing grounds totalling 400 ♂♂ (JEF). The only Sage Grouse record was of 10 young s. of Marmath, N.D. June 27 (PFS). Many centers reported a decrease in Gray Partridge.

CRANE, RAILS, COOT—Spring nesting surveys in Wood Buffalo Nat'l Park in far northern Alberta revealed 11 Whooping Crane nests with 2 eggs and 2 nests with 1 egg each. Eleven eggs were taken for propagation with only 3 chicks alive at last report, while 10 young were produced from the remaining 13 eggs in the wild (*Grus americana* Newsletter). A Virginia Rail was seen in a marsh s.w. of Marshall, N.D. for the first time (RES) while a nest was located in Edmunds Co. (HAK) and young seen in Perkins and Deuel Cos., S.D. (BKH, AH). Yellow Rails were unusually common at Oak L., Glenboro, Stonewall, Gimli and Ashern, with 8 heard near Stonewall May 27 (KG, FT, DRMH). Am. Coots had a generally good year with 20,000 on the J. Clark Salyer Refuge, Upham, N.D. in early August (RCF).

WADERS—Am. Woodcock seem to have increased from Winnipeg e. to the Ontario border, with up to 7 observed per night (DRMH); a singing ♂ on territory was reported from Jamestown (RES) and another was seen July 14 at Sullys Hill Preserve, Fort Totten, N.D. (DEG). On July 5 there were 5 young Piping Plover at Audubon Refuge, Coleharbor, N.D. (GAE). Thirty-one Long-billed Curlew were seen in 3 groups July 31 s. of Laura, Sask. near the n. edge of their range (JBG) while a flock of 200 were noted July 23 at Rapid City (EMS). Upland Plover nests were scattered across the region, with no less than 55 nests at Woodworth, N.D. (LK) and 7 nests in Edmunds Co., S.D. (HAK). Lesser Yellowlegs were fairly common all summer, evidently non-breeding birds, with numbers increasing sharply again after early July. 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. The Hudsonians, unusually early in such remarkable numbers at an inland location, were likely non-breeding birds (JBG, Blue Jay 29: 132, Sept. 1971). A Black-necked Stilt was sighted July 13 near Roscoe, S.D. (HAK). Am. Avocets were unusually numerous in large sloughs on wet cultivated lands near Regina with 60 seen June 1 (FHB) and 50 young banded June 17-25 within

10 miles of Regina (RLS); there were 20 young at Whitewater L. near Deloraine, Man. July 17 (EB), yet the same high water levels seemed to decrease their numbers through much of Manitoba (DRMH). A flock of Wilson's Phalaropes July 18 was the largest ever for Saskatoon (JBG) while at Jamestown there were 200 July 7 and 800 by July 31 (PFS, RES). There were over 1000 N. Phalaropes at Miquelon L., Alta. July 15 (MC, DVW) with 50 July 17 and 2000 July 31 at Jamestown (RES).

GULLS AND TERN — There were 925 California Gull and 3525 Ring-billed Gull nests at Bowdoin Refuge, Mont. May 25 (JRF). Small colonies of about 8 pairs each of Forster's Terns were located near Hazelton, Emmons Co., N.D. (RES) and in Deuel Co., S.D. (BKH).

CUCKOO, OWLS — Black-billed Cuckoos were reappearing (or commoner) at Kenaston, Sheho, Spirit L., Moose Jaw and Regina, Sask., with a "bumper year" across Manitoba as far north as Hecla I., Ashern and Dauphin, with 20 to 24 in the B.B.S. at Tyndall, Lundall and Rorketon; the increase extended s. to Leeds, N.D. and Prairie City, S.D.

Great Horned Owls had slightly below average success in Saskatchewan with 227 banded in 109 nests (DWAU, RLS, CSH). A Hawk Owl had 5 young May 23 and Great Gray Owls had 2 and 4 young in cent. Alberta June 6 (REG). Burrowing Owls were generally in diminished numbers. Saw-whet, Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were all down from their 1969 peaks, with only 1-4 nests per species reported from the entire region.

GOATSUCKERS — Whip-poor-wills were heard in Winnipeg for the first time in 30 years (DRMH). Com. Nighthawks seemed to have decreased at Sylvan L., Alta., Moose Jaw, Indian Head and Wolsley, Sask. and Leeds, N.D. but there were 6 nests found at Woodworth, N.D. and Jim Wedgwood carefully mapped 48 breeding territories within the city of Saskatoon; they ranged between 39 and 74 acres. This unique evening study by a careful amateur deserves repetition elsewhere.

WOODPECKER — Red-headed Woodpeckers had a good year in Manitoba with 5 breeding records in Winnipeg and one at Miami, Man. (HWRC, JP, NC).

FLYCATCHERS — There was an "explosion" of E. Kingbirds at Rolla, N.D. (PH) with many nests of both E. and W. Kingbirds at Sheyenne, N.D. (BAH). A pair of Great Crested Flycatchers at Two Hills, Alta. June 20 (GG) is further evidence of a breeding range further west than usually assumed. A Say's Phoebe nest June 13 at Eagle Cr. w. of Saskatoon was near the n.w. edge of its range (SJS). Three sightings of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers between Calgary and Carseland, Alta. July 15-Aug. 8 raise the possibility of a southward extension of this species' range near the foothills

(BL, DVW). Traill's Flycatcher bred in the Saskatoon area for the first recorded occasion July 31; the nest had 2 eggs and 2 young (WCH, JBG, JAW); there were two nests in Deuel Co., S.D. July 7 (BKH) and singing ♂♂ were heard for the first time in Minnehaha Co., S.D. (HK). Least Flycatchers were absent at Rolla, N.D. (PH) and decreased at Jamestown N.D. (RES) and Roberts Co., S.D. (BKH).

SWALLOWS — Tree Swallows showed a further increase along the Prairie Birdhouse Trail, with 1270 young and 185 adults banded near Indian Head (RLS) and 485 young and 75 adults banded near Saskatoon (S.J.N.H.S.); Scott's nest which fledged 11 young must have had more than the usual quota of 'helpers'. Rough-winged Swallows were absent from previous nesting sites of the past five years in Manitoba (DRMH).

CORVIDAE — The only Blue Jay nests were three e. of Sheyenne, N.D. (BAH) and a pair with 3 young at Montpelier, N.D. (LCH). Five Black-billed Magpie nests contained 34 eggs at Sylvan L., Alta. (HSA) and 35 were banded in 8 nests near Indian Head (RLS); a large flock of 210 was counted at Saskatoon July 20 (JBG).

NUTHATCH, WRENS — There were two breeding records of the White-breasted Nuthatch in the Yorkton area, with adults feeding young at Spirit L. and at Yorkton (WA, FAS). Fifty House Wren nests were located at Indian Head (MS) and 6 at Sheyenne, N.D. (BAH). A Winter Wren feeding young at Scantbury, Man. July 24 was at the extreme s. edge of its range (DRMH). Short-billed Marsh Wrens showed a great increase on Des Lacs and Lostwood Refuges, N.D. (AMG), and a singing ♂ provided the first summer record at Hebron, N.D. (DHJ, RES).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES — A Sage Thrasher was observed June 27 near Seavey's L., Meade Co., S.D. (HJ). A Hermit Thrush song was recorded in early July at Spirit L., Sask., unusually far south for this season (FAS). Veery nests found July 2 in Sieche Hollow, Roberts Co., S.D. were the first found in the state since 1947 although the Veery is locally quite common each year in the hollow. The first ad. E. Bluebird for the Kenaston area was seen June 28 (PLB); 14 boxes at Vivian and Birds Hill, Man. produced 72 young (HWRC, NL) while 446 were banded in the boxes radiating from Brandon (JL). Mountain Bluebirds also showed a further increase along the Prairie Birdhouse Trail with 2128 banded along the Brandon portion (JL), 634 young and 66 adults along the Indian Head segment (RLS) and 40 young and 9 adults along the Saskatoon section (S.J.N.H.S.). Lane also banded 8 young from various Mountain X Eastern hybrid combinations and Scott found an Eastern ♂ assisting a Mountain ♀ to feed her young (Blue Jay 29:126, Sept. 1971).

WAXWING, SHRIKE, STARLING, VIREO — Cedar Waxwings were absent from Crosby and Montpelier, N.D. and decreased at several other points. Loggerhead Shrike nesting success was good at

Raymore (16 nests, 76 young—WCH) and at Saskatoon (6 nests, 33 young—ARS). Starlings continued to increase, with 311 counted on the Spirit Lake—Theodore B B S; 12 nests with 74 eggs at Sylvan L. Alta. hatched 70 young (HSA). A **Bell's Vireo** sang on territory 5 miles s. of Bismarck, N.D. July 10 (RNR).

WARBLERS—A **Golden-winged Warbler** nest with 3 eggs and a cowbird egg was found July 5 on Little George I. (52° 51' N) L. Winnipeg; another ♂ with 2 young was seen n. of Menisino; to my knowledge these are the first breeding records for Manitoba (DRMH, VHS). A third pair were seen in Riding Mt. Nat'l Park July 1 (WJW, fide KG), suggesting that there may have been a Golden-winged irruption this year. A ♂ **Parula Warbler** at Calgary May 25—June 15 provided the second record for Alberta (RP).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Bobolinks were scarce at Sheho, Sask. and Coleharbor, N.D. (WN, GAE). First records of Orchard Orioles were of 3 June 2 at Medicine L. Refuge, Mont. (JLM) and both parents and an imm. July 25 at Leeds, N.D. (ACF). Five singing ♂ **Scarlet Tanagers** were reported from Roberts Co. and one from Deuel Co., S.D. (BKH).

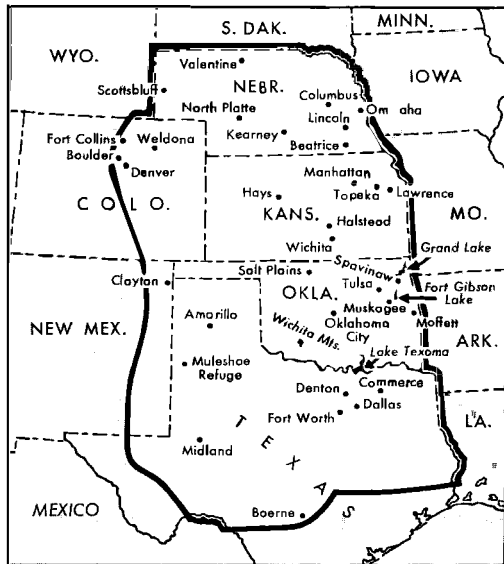
FRINGILLIDS—Indigo Buntings showed an increase in Manitoba as far w. as Glenboro (DRMH, HWRC). Rufous-sided Towhees showed an increase in Manitoba, and a nest with 3 young at Carrington, N.D. marks the furthest w. for the spotted race; 4 other ♂♂ were nearby (PFS). Lark Buntings were "truly abundant" in the extreme s.w. corner of Manitoba with 16 singing ♂♂ in one mile s. of Pierson, while B B Surveys recorded no less than 544 at Bowman and 449 at Steele, N.D. (PFS). Some of the inconspicuous grassland sparrows seemed commoner than usual. There were small colonies of Grasshopper Sparrows near Jamieson and Imperial Beach, Sask. (MB, FWL), a nest e. of Sheyenne, N.D. (BAH) and 3 young at the Audubon Refuge, Coleharbor (GAE). Le Conte's Sparrows seemed more numerous at Saskatoon, were almost abundant at Des Lacs Refuge, N.D. and one at Rapid City July 25 (CJ) was a first for the Black Hills. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were increased at Spirit L. and widespread e. and n. of Devil's L., N.D. (RES).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION / Frances Williams

Oklahoma and Texas suffered extreme drought conditions during June and July. However, there were only two instances of this having an effect on nesting birds: the lack of successful nesting of quail and the dispersion of Cassin's Sparrows.



Dry conditions may also have been responsible for the low population of Grasshopper Sparrows in the Texas Panhandle. Unexplained is the low population of Lark Buntings in e. Colorado where most other grassland species were at relatively high levels.