

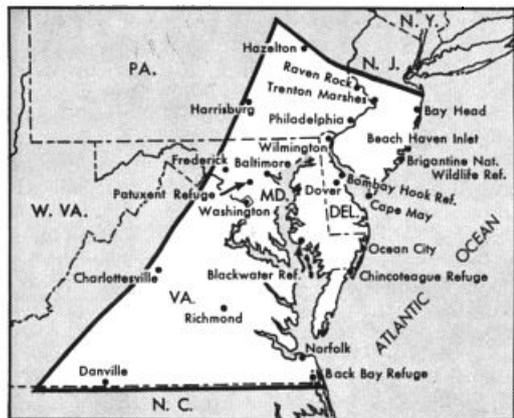
The Nesting Season June 1–July 31, 1974

The editor regrets that this issue is lacking in two important regional reports for the nesting season. Although manuscripts were due September 1 for a season that ended July 31, as of October 14 neither the Northeastern Maritime Region nor the Hudson - St. Lawrence Region reports had been received. Both editors place the blame largely on tardy contributors; Davis Finch promises a combined spring-nesting report for our December issue, and P.A. Buckley promises a nesting season report for that issue. When we are forced to omit regional reports, much is lost. The continuity of many years of continuous publication is broken, observers and readers alike are deprived of valuable information, and this issue is incomplete. Once again, we cannot stress too strongly the importance of promptness of reporting through all routes to Regional Editors—in all the Regions.

The following common abbreviations are used for the sake of saving space in Regional Reports: Co., County; Cos., Counties; Ft., Fort; I., Island, Isle; Is., Islands, Isles; Jct., Junction; L., Lake; Mt., Mountain, Mount; Mts., Mountains; Par., Parish; Pen., Peninsula; Pt., Point (not Port); N.W.R., National Wildlife Refuge; W.M.A., Wildlife Management Area; P.P., Provincial Park; N.P., National Park; S.P., State Park; Ref., Refuge; Res., Reservoir; (not Reservation) R., River; Twp., Township. ♂, male; ♀, female; ad., adult; imm., immature; juv., juvenile; Am., American; Com., Common; Eur., European; m.ob., many observers; *fide*, reported by; *et al.*, and others; *, specimen; †, documentation on file.

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

The summer weather was relatively cool this year, and precipitation was reasonably normal during June followed by near-drought conditions in many areas during July. Overall, this was probably helpful to most nesting birds, and even most fresh-water birds fared well since impoundments were generally well filled in late June and did not begin to dry up until most young were fledged.



A period of strong NE winds June 24-27 caused abnormally high tides along the coast and was followed by even higher velocity winds and locally heavy rains June 27-28. This resulted in complete washouts of salt-marsh nesting birds away from protected bays and severe destruction of beach colonies. Details, where known, are noted below.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS—Two Com. Loons summered at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va. (LKM, GSG *et al.*), and single birds were noted at Ocean City, Md., June 1 (JMA *et al.*), Unionville, Chester Co., Pa., June 22 (RS), and an unidentified loon at Hampton, Va., July 9 (BA, JWV *et al.*). A Pied-billed Grebe near Lynchburg, Va., June 8 was unusual (MBT), and at Deal I., Md. only one was found June 8 versus “dozens” in prior years during June (HTA). Varying numbers of shearwaters were reported by the many observers who engaged in pelagic birdwatching. Among the best reports were 400 Greater Shearwaters and an astonishing 100 Fulmars at Hudson Canyon, 90 miles east of Beach Haven, N. J., June 1 (RHR & GT), 200 Cory’s Shearwaters, 225 Sooty Shearwaters, and 5 Fulmars at the same place June 8 (WS *et al.*), and 43 Cory’s and 418 Greater Shearwaters off Brigantine, N.J., July 28 (JFA, JDD *et al.*). Of particular interest were *nine* or more small black-and-white shearwaters—thought to be Audubon’s—160 mi. east of Indian R. Inlet, Del., July 21 (CRV), and a **Manx Shearwater** was reported near Hudson Canyon June 1 (RHR & GT). Wilson’s Storm-Petrels were in their usual good numbers offshore with estimates ranging up to 2000, and Byrd and Hacker estimated 300-400 in Mobjack Bay, Va. on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay June 29 following a four-day northeaster. The only Leach’s Storm-Petrels reported were three at Hudson Canyon June 1 (RHR & GT). There were an unusual number of summering Double-crested Cormorants. “Large numbers” of apparent immatures were along the Virginia barrier islands July 5-7 (BA, JMV & BW), and Armistead noted 17 in the Bloodworth I. area of Chesapeake Bay, Md., July 13-15. Inland, an immature was present at Hog I., Surry Co., Va., June 25-July 28 (JWV), and one was seen at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., July 27 (JMA).

HERONS, IBISES—A heronry at Pomona, N.J. had approximately 55 active Great Blue Heron nests during the summer, making it probably the largest known Great Blue colony in the state (JFA). Armistead checked a few of the heronries in s. Dorchester and Somerset Cos., Md. during the summer and found a few apparent shifts between the colonies, some of which were due to island erosion and destruction of nest trees. A count from Adam I., Md., July 13 of herons going to roost resulted in some new high counts for Dorchester Co. These included 115 Little Blue Herons, 63 Louisiana Herons, 35 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, and 110 Glossy Ibis (HTA). At Washington Boro, Pa. a record 1934 Cattle Egrets were counted July 30, double the population of last year (HM *et al.*). Numbers were also up considerably in July in the Doe Run, Pa. area, where Grantham found small flocks feeding in eight to ten locations. An ad. Louisiana Heron at Dyke marsh, Va., July 27-28 was apparently the first Fairfax Co. record (JMA & LT). Two Yellow-crowned Night Heron nests were located near Millersville, Pa. during the summer, with three immatures seen July 21 (CRG, HM), and one bird was present at Worcester, Pa., June 15-30 (PA). Two adults with four young were seen at Loch Raven, Baltimore Co., Md., July 28 (DB). Among the Least Bitterns at Deal I., Md. was a Cory's color phase seen July 21 (MSB, PGD & MStn) and 27 (RAR). The only White Ibis report was of two immatures at Hog I., Va., July 30 (JWV).

WATERFOWL—Up to 17 Mute Swans were present at Chincoteague Ref., Va. during July, a record state count (GSG, CRV *et al.*), and one was present throughout July at Dyke marsh, Va. (JMA). Whistling Swans again summered or appeared for a day or more in several localities. Three were present in early June near Lewisetta, Va. (FRS), and singles were noted at Little Creek, Del., June 2 (PGD *et al.*), Fairmount Wildlife Area, Md., June 8 (HTA), and Chincoteague Ref., July 28 (RAR). Abbott noted seven Brant at Ocean City, Md., June 1, and at least two summered in the Chincoteague-Wallops I., Va. area (RAR, CRV). A few Snow Geese summered at Chincoteague Ref. (PP, RAR) and Brigantine N.W.R., N.J. (JFA), and a sub-adult appeared for one day at Devon, Pa., June 15 (AC). Following the influx of Fulvous Tree Ducks during the spring, there were only two reports during this period, single birds at Brigantine Ref., June 8-23 (JFA *et al.*) and Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del., July 7 (PGD & DS). Three Com. Shelducks were first seen at Bombay Hook Ref., July 19 (WJW *et al.*), the fifth year of their appearance here.

Successfully nesting ducks at Chincoteague Ref. during the late spring and early summer (based on brood counts) included 56 pairs of Mallards, 173 pairs of Black Ducks, 119 pairs of Gadwalls, and 25 pairs of Blue-winged Teal (NW). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was present at Brigantine Ref., June 9-July 1 (JKM, PWS, RK *et al.*). This was apparently a first state record. Two summering Com. Goldeneyes and 25 Ruddy Ducks were found near Bridgeport, N.J., June 12 (JTM), and summering sea ducks were widely reported. A ♀ Oldsquaw was seen at Hampton, Va., May 19-June 9 (BA), one was noted at Cape Henlopen, Del., June 30 (JWC *et al.*), and

one or possibly two imm. ♂♂ Com. Eiders were found in the Chincoteague-Wallops I. area during July (LKM, RAR, CRV). Up to three King Eiders, including one ad male, were seen at Hampton May 26-July 11 (BA *et al.*), and a single male was noted at Cape Henlopen June 30 (JWC & ETM). Scoter reports included a ♂ Surf Scoter at Chincoteague Ref., July 13 (RAR), a ♀ Black Scoter at Hog I., Va., July 7 (JWV *et al.*), and a pair of Blacks at Chincoteague Ref., July 31 (FRS).

HAWKS—A Turkey Vulture nest with two eggs was located at Bellevue, Md., May 10 and had one young June 16-July 7 (HTA), while two young Turkey Vultures about to leave the nest were seen in the Bull Run Mts. near the Prince William-Fauquier Co. line, Va., July 20 (CES). A Cooper's Hawk was observed at Elliott I., Md., June 8 (HTA *et al.*), one of the few recent breeding-season reports from the Delmarva Peninsula. Of 58 known active Bald Eagle nests in the Chesapeake Bay area (31 in Maryland, 26 in Virginia, and one in Delaware), 30 were abandoned and 28 produced 38 young (JMA *et al.*). Another seven nests were probably active. These were—relatively, of course—the most favorable results since the nest survey began in 1962 (JMA). At Hog I., Va. the only known pair of eagles left breeding on the James R. apparently abandoned their nest no later than late March (although egg-laying was never proved) but nevertheless remained in the vicinity all spring and summer (JWV). An ad. Bald Eagle seen over Norristown, Pa., June 21 was most unusual (RJM). The Osprey had a more successful breeding season in s. Chesapeake Bay than in any recent year, and along the lower Potomac R., Va. the preliminary production figures were 1.3 young per active nest (MAB). During the course of this study in the lower Bay 430 young were banded in the nest. In the Tuckerton, N.J. area eight young were successfully reared in five nests from 15 presumably more viable eggs transported from Chesapeake Bay nests (*vide* BCH).

GAMEBIRDS, RAILS—A Ruffed Grouse hen with seven young crossed a road near Smithville, N.J., June 9 (PWS), and an ad. Turkey with nine young was seen in the Bull Run Mts., Va., July 21 (CES). An apparently mated Clapper x King Rail pair repeatedly responded to tapes of either call during the summer at Sandy Hook S.P., Md. (HW, *vide* RAR). Nesting Clapper Rails were badly hurt by the late June storm tides, though considerable re-nesting took place in July on coastal Virginia (*vide* JSW). Erwin found many Clappers walking about on the sand beach at Fisherman I., Va., June 26 after the initial high water and estimated 100 dead Clappers along the beach following the storm June 27-28. Some 250 also washed ashore at Back Bay N.W.R., Va. after the storm (DFH). A late brood of three tiny young Virginia Rails with an adult at Little Creek, Del., July 28 was perhaps the result of a washed-out pair that had re-nested (JMA). Tape recorders and flashlights have proved excellent tools for locating good Black Rail areas. The latest such site found was Manahawkin W.M.A., N.J., where three Black Rails were heard and seen May 17 (JFA & JDD). Purple Gallinules were reported in five localities, including up to two near Delaware City, Del. throughout the season (WAB,

RAR, WJW *et al.*). Other reports included one at Brigantine Ref., June 6-22 (JS, THD, PL), one at Chincoteague Ref., July 13-14 (RJT *et al.*), one at Hughes Hollow, Md., July 17 (PP), and one at Lynchburg, Va. in mid-July (MFS, *vide* RSF). There were no Am. Coots and only nine Com. Gallinules counted at Deal I. and the Fairmount, Md. area June 8, although both had been quite common here in recent summers (HTA).

SHOREBIRDS—There were still an estimated 12,000 shorebirds at Little Creek, Del., June 2 (PGD, KK & RLS). Armistead found one Am. Oystercatcher on Bloodworth I. and two on Adam I., Md., July 13, further evidence of their probable breeding on Chesapeake Bay. For the second successive year nesting Piping Plovers were found on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay. A nest with four eggs was located at Hampton, Va., May 26, and four chicks were banded here June 9 (BA). Up to four pairs were suspected of nesting in this area. The peak count of Wilson's Plovers at Wallops I., Va. was 18 on July 7 (CRV), and single Am Golden Plovers at Brigantine Ref., June 23 (PWS) and Port Mahon, Del., July 13 (JGL & WJW) were remarkable, as was a flock of 500 Black-bellied Plovers at Brigantine Ref., June 25 (PWS).

Two Com. Snipe at Deal I., Md., July 27 were quite early (RAR), and the peak count of Whimbrel at Chincoteague Ref. was 350 on July 27 (RAR). An Upland Sandpiper nest with seven eggs—later abandoned—was located at Pomona, N.J., June 4 (JFA), and the first transients at Wallops Station, Va. were four on June 27, a remarkably early date (CRV). Among the late spring migrants were two Spotted Sandpipers near Lewisetta, Va., June 2 (FRS) and two White-rumped Sandpipers at Hog I., Va., June 11 (JWV). Rowlett observed a **Curlew Sandpiper** at Chincoteague Ref., July 28, and a Dunlin at Wallops I., July 12 was possibly a summering bird (CRV). Stilt Sandpipers again put on quite a show in the Region. Six at Hog I., June 22 (JWV) were perplexing; they were obviously migrants, but in which direction? Early transients included 42 at Little Creek July 7 (PGD) and one at Barren I., Md., July 15 (HTA), and 70 at Deal I., July 27 was an unusual number for Chesapeake Bay (RAR). Peak coastal counts included 1200 at Chincoteague Ref., July 27-28 (RAR) and 520 near Delaware City Aug. 4 (JGL). The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper report was one at Craney I., Va., July 20 (BA & BW). A Marbled Godwit at Wallops I., July 7 was early (CRV), and by the fourth week of the month both this species and the Hudsonian Godwit had appeared in several coastal localities, with the Hudsonian building up to 30 birds at Chincoteague Ref. by Aug. 1 (PP). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** remained at Brigantine Ref., May 30-July 24, possibly the same bird previously reported at nearby Longport earlier in May (JDD, JS, MSmh). A Ruff was seen at Brigantine Ref., July 6 (JFA & JDD), and up to four were reported in the Little Creek area during June and July by many observers. The only sizable number of Am. Avocets was a report of 17 at Bombay Hook Ref., July 28 (JMA). There seemed to be a sharp population increase in Black-necked Stilts at Little Creek this year, with a peak count of 45 adults June 30 (DAC), and four broods with a number of adults were seen here July 7 (PGD)

JAEGERS, GULLS—A Few Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen at Hudson Canyon in early June (WS *et al.*), and four Skuas were found here June 1 (RHR & GT). A second-year Glaucous Gull remained near Delaware City, Del., July 28-31 (JGL), and Armistead found two second-year Iceland Gulls at Barren I., Md., July 15 with many Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls. Two pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls acted as if they were breeding on Fisherman I., Va. during June and July, but nesting was not proved (RME, JSW). Some 300 pairs of Herring Gulls nested here, a decided increase over prior years (RME, JSW), and several other smaller colonies were noted elsewhere on coastal Virginia and Maryland (JSW). There were at least six Herring Gull nests at Tuckerton, N.J., some of the eggs of which had hatched by June 9 (BCH). At a large Laughing Gull colony on Little Beach I., N.J. containing about 3000 pairs, Monteveconi found some eggs hatching May 11, a somewhat early date. One or more Bonaparte's Gulls summered in the Little Creek area (PGD *et al.*), and single birds were reported at Hog I., Va., June 22 (JWV), Hampton, Va., July 1 (BA & BW), and Craney I., Va., July 3 (BA & BW). A Black-headed Gull apparently summered at Brigantine I., N.J. (JFA, JDD *et al.*), and some of the Little Gulls previously reported at Little Creek lingered over into the summer, the last report being four on July 13 (JFA & JDD). Two of these were adults changing into winter plumage, whereas two were apparently in immature plumage.

TERNs, SKIMMERS—Eight Gull-billed Terns were seen at Avalon, N.J., May 25, and a nest with three eggs was found here June 10 (BCH). This bird nested in several places along the Virginia coast, the best concentration being about 90 pairs in two colonies on Metomkin I. (RME & JSW); at least 25 pairs renested here after the late June washout (RME). Beach- and marsh-nesting terns and skimmers were badly hurt by the late June high tides and storm although the destruction of young was not complete. On Fisherman I. Erwin found the following dead chicks after the washout: 50-100 Com. Terns, 150-200 Royal Terns, and 75-150 Black Skimmers, and dead Com Terns and skimmer chicks were also found elsewhere. Renesting of Com. Terns and skimmers was heavy in July in some Virginia and Maryland areas but only spotty in others (JSW). Many observers believe the Least Tern is declining as a nester in Virginia, and Bill Akers feels that there are probably only about 1000 birds nesting in the state now. In any event relatively few young seem to have been fledged this year, although there was little coverage of some nesting areas prior to the late June high tides, and some early successful colonies may well have escaped notice. Four colonies were studied at Hampton and Craney I., and the three at Craney I. were repeatedly disrupted by landfill operations, fox predation, and heavy rains in late July (BA). On the coast significant breeding numbers were reported only from Metomkin I. (BA, RME, JSW) and Cape Henlopen (WJW *et al.*). A single Least Tern at Dyke marsh, Va., July 21 was only the second or third Fairfax Co. record (JMA).

According to Weske, Royal Terns probably fledged less than half as many young in Virginia and Maryland as in 1973. The principal reason was that fewer birds

nested, but the washout and abandonment after the washout was also a factor. In all, 2060 young Royals were banded (1870 in Virginia and 190 in Maryland—JSW & RAB). Ten pairs of Sandwich Terns were found nesting on Fisherman I. in early June and one was seen on Metomkin I., June 13, but these were not successful in fledging young and apparently did not re-nest after the washout (RME & JSW). However, three pairs were found nesting on an island in Sinepuxent Bay, Md., July 13, and three large young were banded here Aug. 2 (JSW), perhaps the first confirmed Maryland nesting of this species. One of the features of the season was the discovery of the first nest of the **Caspian Tern** in this Region in over 60 years. A pair and a nest with one large chick and one infertile egg were discovered on Metomkin I., Aug. 1 (JSW); the chick was banded. One Caspian Tern was noted at Bombay Hook Ref., July 7 (PGD & DS), and at Hog I., Va. two were seen June 30 and five on July 8 (JWV), all apparently summering birds. Migrants apparently arrived in mid July, as six were found at Chincoteague Ref., July 13-14 (RAR) and 37 at Hog I., July 15 (JWV).

Black Terns first appeared at Craney I., June 27 (BA) and at Chincoteague Ref., June 30 (CRV). Another high spot for the season was the appearance of **three White-winged Black Terns** in the Region. Malone found one in excellent plumage at Chincoteague Ref., July 7 which remained into August and was seen and photographed by many observers. One first seen at Port Mahon, Del., July 13 was joined by a second bird later in the month, and both remained well into August (CSM, RAR, WJW *et al.*). A Black Skimmer colony consisting of about 500 pairs at Avalon, N.J., July 21 was considered rather large for this area (JFA).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Both cuckoos were late in arriving from the south, some apparently not appearing on their nesting grounds in Maryland until *early July* (*vide* RAR). A Chuck-will's-widow at Wyncote, Pa., June 6 was the first record for Montgomery Co. and perhaps only the fourth for the state (DAC), and two individuals of this species were found in Campbell Co., Va. during June (RSF, PEM, DP). Several Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in areas where they have been rather rare. A pair at a nest hole at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., June 2 was the first nesting report for Dorchester Co. in many years (JMA), and three pairs were found at Pomona, N.J. during June and July (JFA). Other reports included a nesting pair at Pughtown, Pa., June 11 (IKK) and another pair at Rockledge, Pa. (adjoining Philadelphia) during June (HJF). Willow Flycatchers continue to be found in increasing numbers on the upper Piedmont of Virginia, and a maximum of seven singing birds were counted in Goose Creek Valley, Bedford Co., June 5 (CRC, RC & KF). Four were located in three different places in Frederick Co., Md., June 8 (PP & RLP). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at French Creek S.P., Pa., June 22 may have been a breeding bird though well out of range (CUA). The Bank Swallow colony at Presquille N.W.R., near Hopewell, Va., lost about 50 nests to a cave-in, but the birds apparently began a re-nesting attempt (HCO). Barn Swallows and Purple Martins were still below normal population levels in Fairfax Co., Va.

(JWE), but at Longwood and Aston Mills, Pa. the local martin colonies were the largest in a number of years (JG).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS—Ninety Blue Jays were noted at Westmoreland S.P., Va., June 8, apparently still in migration (JEJ & SJ), and a Com. Raven was seen in the Bull Run Mts., Va., July 20, an unusual record this far east of the Blue Ridge (CES). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared at a Moorestown, N.J. feeder in late May and brought a young bird there June 3 (EW). This seems to be the closest approach to a New Jersey breeding record for this species. Single individuals appeared at Wyncote, Pa., June 24 (DAC) and Mechanicsville, Bucks Co., Pa., June 27 (CG), the latter returning daily thereafter to a feeder. More records of the Brown Creeper were reported out of its normal range; near Dranesville, Va. one was found June 9 (JBB) and two on July 5 (RJW), and another appeared at Davidsonville, Md., June 29 (DB & PM). Stevens found a singing **Bewick's Wren** in the Bull Run Mts., July 21, very unusual this far east on the Piedmont, and two Long-billed Marsh Wrens were located in a wet field at West Chester, Pa., June 23, a rare breeding-season occurrence here (JG & RS). Two singing Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen at Middle Creek Ref., Pa., June 26 (CRG); this is a rare and erratic breeder in Pennsylvania. Elsewhere this species was locally common on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (RAR), and a singing bird was found at Saxis, Va., July 27 (RAR).

WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS—Cedar Waxwings were very common during the summer at Longwood, Pa. after an absence in 1973 (JG). A Breeding Bird Survey near Lynchburg, Va., June 8 revealed 10 Warbling Vireos and 16 Prothonotary Warblers, both excellent numbers for this Piedmont locality (PEM *et al.*), and a pair of Prothonotaries had fledglings at Manahawkin Wildlife Area, N.J., July 12 (TG & CR). A Cerulean Warbler along the James R. west of Lynchburg June 8 was at an unusually low altitude for this bird (JHD), and a pair of Yellow-throated Warblers was present at Center Bridge, Pa. during June and July, a new possible breeding station for this species (CG). A late Blackpoll Warbler was singing at Poplar I., Md., June 9 (DB & PM), and one was found at Brigantine Ref. headquarters on the unlikely date of June 22 (THD, PL *et al.*). Wiltraut noted a N. Waterthrush at Wild Creek Res., Pa., June 4, either a very late transient or a new breeding location for the species, and Stevens flushed a Kentucky Warbler from three eggs in the Bull Run Mts., Va., July 14. A Mourning Warbler at Villanova, Pa., July 27 was probably an early transient (EH).

BOBOLINKS THROUGH SPARROWS—A few Bobolinks apparently summered in e. Virginia. A singing male was observed at Hog I., June 16 (MAB) and five were seen here July 15 (JWV). Near Fox Creek, Gloucester Co., Va. another male was found June 24 and a different, singing male the next day (EDP). No female was located in spite of an all-day search. Two imm. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Brigan-

time Ref., July 2 (MP), and a late, lingering pair of Red Crossbills were still at Pomona, N.J., June 5 (JFA). A ♂ House Finch appeared at Vienna, Va., July 8 (HAW, *fide* JWE), and the species is now a common breeding bird in the Harrisburg, Pa. area and is expanding rapidly into the nearby mountains (CLJ). A Vesper Sparrow at Longwood Gardens, Pa. in early June was unusual and possibly related to the hundreds of acres of grass here left unmowed (JG). The Grasshopper Sparrow was common here for the first time in years. Henslow's Sparrows were present at Saxis, Va. in late July (RAR, FRS), and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was noted here July 31 (FRS). Rowlett counted an unusual concentration of 165 Seaside Sparrows in the Port Mahon, Del. area July 21, perhaps indicating early flocking prior to migration. The Mirabellas observed an imm. Dark-eyed Junco at Salford, Montgomery Co., Pa., June 30, a breeder unknown to s.e. Pennsylvania. Local residents claimed that adults brought three young to feeders here in late June. A single White-throated Sparrow was seen at Edgewater, Md., June 17 (PM), and at Chevy Chase, Md. one was found July 19 and two, one singing, July 21 (PP). Two singing ♂ Swamp Sparrows along the Rhode R., Anne Arundel Co., Md. in June (JWT, *fide* DB) and two others at nearby Shady Side July 21 (PB) indicate an extension of the known probable breeding range of this species.

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION / Robert P. Teulings

This year's nesting season seemed about normal throughout the Region. Colonial nesters did well in the coastal area under generally favorable conditions, except for Black Skimmers and some of the smaller terns



whose nest sites were most vulnerable to heavy rains and high tides from an intense storm which formed off the Georgia coast June 27. The following summary highlights reports of several rarities and includes summer records of a number of species not commonly found breeding in the Region. Of special interest was a new project aimed at censusing Loggerhead Shrikes.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD

—Cory's Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels were the most common pelagics seen by cruise parties off the North Carolina coast in late June and July, highlighted by tallies of 92 and 191 recorded for the two species, respectively, by Bill Williams in Gulf Stream waters 35 to 40 mi. s.e. of Oregon Inlet July 17. Greater and Audubon's Shearwaters were also seen, but in small numbers. Five Leach's Storm-Petrels were a good find off Morehead City June 22 (RHo). Along the Outer Banks a Gannet was seen at Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., on the late date of June 3 (PB). Brown Pelican breeding success was apparently high at the major nesting sites on the South Carolina coast. However, Ted Beckett, who banded 1100 chicks on Deveaux Bank near Charleston, noted a period in late June when food was short and at least 200 young died from starvation at that location. At Topsail I., N.C., a Magnificent Frigatebird was well seen June 9, a noteworthy local record (GW, DW).

LONG-LEGGED WADERS—The Alligator Bay heronry near Topsail I., N.C. had fewer birds present this year than expected (JP) and Glossy Ibis seemed to be down in numbers at Charleston (TB). Aside from these localized exceptions, reports indicated that the herons, egrets and other waders enjoyed a normal-to-excellent season in the North Carolina-South Carolina coastal section. A census report was received from Okefenokee N.W.R. where Wendell Metzen estimated 3500 nests of White Ibis, 500 nests of Little Blue Herons, and 10 nests of the Anhinga in the Mack's I. heronry; 100 nests of the Great Egret in the North Prong

heronry; and 200 Great Egret nests, 175 Little Blue Heron nests, and 30 Green Heron nests in the Chesser Prairie heronry. Only a few Snowy Egrets and Louisiana Herons were found nesting at the refuge. Summering Wood Storks were unusually conspicuous in the Charleston area where flocks of 20 or more were seen by several observers (*vide* PN). One was seen as far north as Morehead City, N.C., June 12 (DMcC) and nine were seen near Wilmington, N.C., June 2 (JP, RFS). A **Roseate Spoonbill** was found at N. River Marsh near Morehead City in mid-July (AP, *vide* JF), following an earlier appearance of an individual in May at Charleston (c.f. *Am. Birds* spring summary) which was still present at the end of July. Post-breeding dispersal accounted for inland appearances of single imm. White Ibises at Raleigh June 22 (CB, NC, CH), Chapel Hill June 24 (RC), and Winston-Salem July 11-14 (FB, *vide* RS). An imm. Louisiana Heron found at Reynolda L. near Winston-Salem July 23 (FB, *vide* CF, RS) was the first known local record for Forsyth County, N.C., and a Little Blue Heron was also a rare June visitor there (RP, BP *et al.*). Elsewhere, Little Blue Herons were recorded as locally uncommon inland visitors at Greensboro, Chapel Hill, Raleigh and Southern Pines; and a flock of 12 was present at the Rocky Mount, N.C., reservoir July 24-25 (LF, BD, LD). Post-breeding appearances by Great Egrets were also noted at the latter location and at four other inland locations as far west as Clemson in late June and July.

WATERFOWL—In addition to reports of a small assortment of geese lingering at Pea Island N.W.R. (all probably crippled or otherwise aberrant birds), two Fulvous Tree Ducks were found still lingering there June 26 after last winter's influx (JW). A Redhead was also a late straggler June 15 at Davis, N.C. (JF, TW). Two Ring-necked Ducks summered at L. Heath near Columbus (JM), and Red-breasted Mergansers were present in small numbers through the period at Charleston where a nesting pair successfully raised a brood of five young on Bohicket Creek (TB). Two families of Red-breasted Mergansers were also seen June 17 at Rockville, S.C. (TB).

BIRDS OF PREY—Following a series of spring sightings on the N.C. Outer Banks, a Swallow-tailed Kite was still present at Buxton June 3 (PB), well north of the species' established breeding range in the Region. Although there is suitable habitat to support a breeding pair at this location, no later observations were reported to confirm a nesting attempt. Up to seven Mississippi Kites, including an immature, were regularly seen in July along the Great Pee Dee R. in the Bennettsville - Society Hill, S.C., area (RMC). All nesting season sightings of accipiters are worth reporting in view of the scarcity of data on their summer resident status in the Region. Two Sharp-shinned Hawks (a pair?) were seen near Apex, Wake Co., N.C., July 23 (JW) and in n.e. Warren Co., N.C., June 4 (HL). Three Cooper's Hawks, very likely a family group, were seen soaring and diving together over Duke Forest, Orange Co., N.C., June 29 (RT, ET, JOP). Single Marsh Hawks were noted at Cedar Island N.W.R. June 10 (JP) and July 4 (JF), and another was seen near Manteo, N.C.,

June 13 (JP). Two pairs of Bald Eagles raised young in Charleston area this summer (TB). Although a small breeding population still exists in South Carolina, no active nests have been found in North Carolina since 1971. Seven Am. Kestrels (a pair and a second family of two adults and three juveniles) were seen June 15 in the vicinity of Pendleton, S.C. (HL, SG), and another nesting pair was seen this summer near N. Wilkesboro, N.C. (WS). A single bird was seen in the Winston-Salem vicinity July 4 (JW), but no summer kestrels were reported from e. areas of the Region.

SHOREBIRDS—White-rumped Sandpipers were present during June on the Outer Banks with counts of 11 recorded June 3 at Hatteras Point (PB) and 20+ on June 26 at Oregon Inlet (JW). June 24 was an early date for an Upland Sandpiper at Cape Hatteras (JH), and a Ruff was a noteworthy find in that locality July 14 (PD). Southward movement of shorebirds became conspicuous during the second half of July when flocks of Whimbrels began appearing along the Cape Hatteras Nat'l Seashore (JH); 39 were counted at Frisco, N.C., July 27 (JWe). At the same time, an assortment of migrants was being recorded at inland locations. A July 25 census of mudflats at the Winston-Salem city landfill yielded ten species of shorebirds including 10 Least Sandpipers, 5 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 3 Westerns, 30+ Pectorals, 2 Sanderlings, and a Semipalmated Plover (RS, CF, FB). Least Sandpiper arrivals were noted July 17 at Raleigh (CM) and July 27 at Thomasville, Ga. (RLC, NW). A good count of 21 Western Sandpipers was made at Raleigh July 21, and a Lesser Yellowlegs was seen there July 22 (CM). Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen at Raleigh July 19 (CM) and at University L. near Chapel Hill July 24 (SA, AC, RC)

GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS—Field reports covering the coast from Cape Hatteras Nat'l Seashore to Charleston indicated a generally good nesting season for gulls and terns. Royal Terns and Laughing Gulls were apparently very successful (JP, RFS, TB), and the Herring Gull colony at Oregon Inlet was productive (JP). Least Terns did well at all North Carolina sites including the vulnerable beach colonies on the Outer Banks between Salvo and Buxton (JP, JH), but at Charleston Least Terns and Gull-billed Terns raised almost no young because of nesting being upset by locally heavy rains, high tides, and predation at several of the sites by Laughing Gulls (TB). Black Skimmers also had some difficulty, but were still making late nesting attempts at the end of the period (JP, TB). Overall there were no catastrophic setbacks and reproduction for the season seemed about normal. An unusual record of special interest was the close sighting of a **Noddy Tern** at Cape Lookout by Joel and Jo Clark June 16. The only published North Carolina sight record for the species was recorded in 1949.

MONK PARAKEETS—In the Charleston area, a single bird was seen June 2 at Fort Johnson (JRH) and another at the U.S.D.A. Vegetable Breeding Lab. July 17 (PN). Their local resident status has not been determined.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

—Two reports brought encouraging word of increasing numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers in e. North Carolina. After an apparent decline in recent years, Red-headed were found to be "surprisingly common" in Bertie County this summer (ML) and several were recorded along two census routes in Pitt and Bladen Counties (JW), suggesting a substantial summer population in those areas. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers received special attention this season with a thesis study concerned with habitat management for these birds underway in the Southern Pines area (JHC), and field observations of nesting again being made in Francis Marion Nat'l Forest (TB). Good reproduction was noted at the latter location, highlighted by the interesting fact that several pairs raised three young in their broods instead of the usual two nestlings (TB). Two new colonies were found in Francis Marion (TB), and elsewhere previously unknown nesting populations of Red-cockaded were discovered in Bertie and Halifax Counties, N.C. (ML).

S.A.

Sadly, Wendell Smith reports that a long-established Willow Flycatcher nesting area at N. Wilkesboro, N.C., has been destroyed by urban development. Birds returned to the site on schedule this spring but did not remain when they found their habitat disrupted. At Raleigh, where a small colony of Willow Flycatchers has attempted nesting the past two years, no positive evidence of success was noted this season (RH, CM). With no other nesting locations for Willow Flycatchers known in North Carolina, the tenuous breeding status of this species in the Region has become even more uncertain.

A Gray Kingbird was an unusual visitor at Sullivan's I. near Charleston May 21 (KN), and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen June 15 at Oregon Inlet Bridge (JH). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was a surprising find at Pea Island N.W.R. June 3 (PB), the second recent sighting of this western vagrant in the Region (*Am. Birds* 27:759).

LARKS, SWALLOWS, CROWS—Horned Larks were found in July at two new locations in the Southern Pines vicinity (Derby and West End) and at Raemon, indicating a more widespread breeding population in the N.C. Sandhills and s. coastal plain than previously suspected (JHC). A late migrant Bank Swallow was seen at Rowland, N.C., June 16 (JHC). Barn Swallows are now well established summer residents in the Rocky Mount, N.C. area (LF) and are also presently nesting above and below the "fall line" at Columbus, Ga (LAW). Cliff Swallows are nesting in small numbers at L. Hartwell, S.C., where two new local nesting colonies were found this summer near Clemson (SG, CH). Other established breeding colonies of Cliff Swallows in the Carolinas are located at L. Gaston and High Rock L. First summer records for Fish Crows at L. Hartwell were reported by Harry LeGrand who observed five near Clemson June 23 and two on July 8.

S.A.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE—During June a series of special roadside censuses was conducted in North Carolina on a trial basis for the purpose of counting Loggerhead Shrikes, a "Blue List" Species. Eight routes, each of 75-mile length, were randomly selected within the coastal plain, e. Piedmont and w. Piedmont using a route selection scheme similar to that used for the Breeding Bird Survey. Each route was run once during the period June 10-13, and counts of Loggerhead Shrikes along roadsides were made from a moving auto during mid-morning or mid-afternoon. Mockingbirds were also counted, with the view of using this species as a "control". Total counts of 89 Loggerheads and 429 Mockingbirds were recorded along the 600 miles of census routes covered. The results seem to give a good picture of shrike density and distribution, highest numbers being found in the c. and s. Piedmont and the west-central coastal plain of the N. C. study area. The project is proposed as an annual census to detect year-to-year changes in the population of Loggerhead Shrikes and may be applicable also in censusing certain raptor species, e.g. vultures and Red-tailed Hawks. The project was conceived and the routes run by John S. Wright, a graduate zoology student at N.C.S.U.

WARBLERS—A few Black-and-white Warblers are believed to be nesting in scattered areas n. and e. of Columbus, Ga., with two seen at Lynn Haven June 23 (FL). A Swainson's Warbler was seen on Swift Creek near Raleigh in mid-July indicating, along with earlier sightings, that a breeding pair was present (CM), however no positive evidence was found to confirm a first local nesting record. A singing ♂ Worm-eating Warbler, on territory, was seen July 7&13 on the Eno R near Hillsborough, N.C., a rare summer record for the Piedmont (RT, ET, JOP). The first breeding season occurrence for the Blue-winged Warbler in South Carolina was recorded near Clemson where a territorial male was seen July 12, 13 and 15 (HL). A Black-throated Green Warbler, presumed to be an early migrant, was an unexpected find in a residential area near downtown Greensboro July 13 (JWe). Charles Blake of Hillsborough, N.C., has noted a marked decline in Hooded Warblers (based on his banding records) over the past several years accompanied by a rise of Kentucky Warblers. Perhaps this observation has more than local significance. A N. **Waterthrush** nest was found this summer at Dan's Hill in Caswell County, N.C. well south of the species' normal nesting range (PW).

ORIOLESTHROUGH SPARROWS—Two N. (Baltimore) Orioles were early migrants on the Outer Banks July 14 (PD). Dickcissels are believed to be nesting in Eufala N.W.R. where a male was seen on the Georgia side of the refuge July 12 (MF). Another colony of summering birds was found near Townville, S.C. where six males and a female were counted July 11 (HL). A

pair of House Finches was present into early July at Charlotte (EBC), and another pair was seen as late as June 19 at Winston-Salem (RS); no indications of nesting were reported. A late Pine Siskin remained at Winston-Salem until June 16 (RS). A sub-adult or molting ad. ♂ Lark Sparrow was seen at Wright Memorial, Kitty Hawk, N.C., July 14 by Paul DuMont. Bachman's Sparrows were reported from several North Carolina localities where they are uncommon or have not previously been found. In Carteret Co., N.C., 8 were seen in two separate areas s.e. of Newport July 3 (CM, JF). One was seen and a nest later found at Fort Bragg in early June (JHC), and two birds were seen at Camp McKall in Scotland Co., N.C., June 11 (JHC). In South Carolina's w. Piedmont, a pair was found near Clemson in June, the only occurrence of Bachman's Sparrows noted in that locality after extensive searching (HL). Two White-throated Sparrows were late June 9 at Chapel Hill (RC) and one reportedly spent the summer at Columbus (WMa).

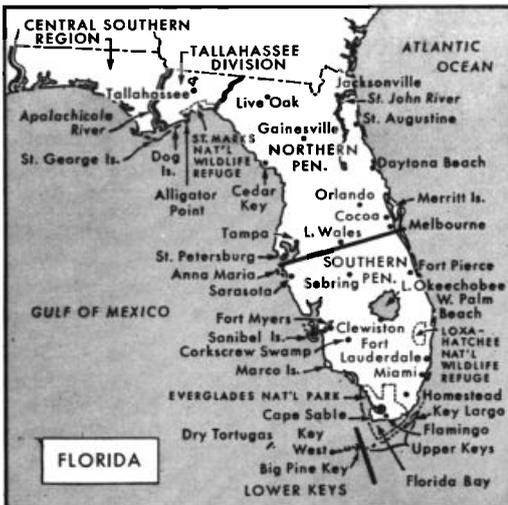
Acknowledgment—James Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings, at cost to their own time available for birding and botanizing, provided essential clerical and editorial assistance in preparing this summary.

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FLORIDA REGION

/ John C. Ogden

The major weather event of note was a rainy, tropical depression which crossed central Florida, from west to east, June 25-26, dumping between five and 12 inches of rain during 24 hours at many stations, and accompanied



by maximum 12 to 25 mph winds. The heavy rain flooded lowlands, and the combination of flood and high wind undoubtedly terminated many nesting attempts. John Edscorn commented on the disappearance or reduced activity by quail and many song birds in the Lakeland region after the storm. Nest destruction was also noted in several tern colonies on both coasts

and in the Wood Stork rookery at Moore's Creek, Merritt Island. At least one group of Cattle Egrets in eastern Hardee Co. benefited from the storm, however, where Maryanne Biggar and I investigated about 1000 egrets, each balanced on the top of a tall thistle plant where swarms of ants, spiders and crickets were trapped in a deeply flooded pasture. In southern Florida the normal summer rainy season had a slow start, allowing late nesting storks in Everglades National Park to successfully fledge young before feeding grounds were deeply flooded. Rains were heavy enough, however, so that by early July most of the everglades region was again covered by surface water.

LOONS THROUGH PETRELS—Common Loons were again reported in mid-summer, one in a mixed winter-summer plumage fresh dead on a road west of Gainesville July 1, (SAN, *Fla. Game Com.), and two at St. George I., June 29 (WWB). For the fourth consecutive summer a Horned Grebe in breeding plumage and capable of good flight was on L. Brooklyn, Clay Co. (through July, MJW). There were unusually high counts of pelagics approximately 20 mi. offshore from Cocoa (also see jaegers), including five Audubon's Shearwaters July 14 (JBE, PJF, CWT), 11 Greater Shearwaters July 1 (RDB, JJ, LH, DG), and 49 Cory's Shearwaters July 15 (RDB, JJ). Cory's Shearwater may eventually be determined to be the most common summer shearwater off the East Coast. Johnnie Johnson also had a good close look at one Black-capped Petrel off Cocoa July 16, and there was an unusual mid-summer observation of two Leach's Storm-Petrels well seen for several minutes with the usual Wilson's Storm-Petrels July 15 (RDB, JJ).

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS—Two new Brown Pelican nesting sites were reported, 80 nests with eggs in early June on George's I., New-

found Harbor, Brevard Co., (JJ, RDB), and five nests with eggs on Bush Key, Dry Tortugas June 14 (RWS, TB), these same five nests contained seven young July 31 (WBR). The nesting on the Tortugas is the first pelican nesting ever reported there. The significance of these two new pelican nesting sites, only three years after discovery of Brown Pelican nesting at Port St. Joe, Fla (Stewart, J. 1971. *Am. Birds* 25:866) is uncertain, since pelicans are known to freely shift nesting sites in some regions (for example: Florida Bay), but one implication is that the number of breeding birds in Florida is increasing. All three boobies were reported, one imm. Blue-faced north of the Marquesas Keys June 29 (WRB), a non-adult Brown Booby off Cocoa July 28 (RDB, JJ *et al.*), and another which roosted on a pier at Stock I., July 22-Aug. 6 (FTH), while the Red-footed Booby at the Tortugas June 17-22 (WBR, GEW *et al.*) presumably was the same bird seen there in May. The first nesting by Double-crested Cormorants in Alachua Co., was discovered on Payne's Prairie: seven pairs with nests July 5 (SAN, HMS). The storm which crossed Florida June 25-26 carried Magnificent Frigatebirds well inland in the S. Peninsula: 27 at Corkscrew Sanctuary (JLH), six at Archbold Biological Station (FL, AD) and two, 20 mi. west of Miami (JCO, JTT), all June 25.

WADERS—I'm continuing to place special emphasis on wading bird nesting colonies in the peninsula, by including as much information as becomes available on location, species composition and fate of each colony. It is certain however, that many wader nesting sites go unchecked each year, and there must be numerous nesting sites totally unknown. For example, I travelled through c. Florida in late June checking stork rookeries, and detected several mid-day flight lines of smaller waders, a fairly certain indication of nearby nesting, at locations where no rookeries are known. The problem is that relatively few birders are in the field in summer, and many who do spend time afield have other interests besides the difficult task of searching out rookeries often located in steamy swamps. *What is badly needed is a regional wading bird survey, probably best attempted using one or more airplanes, by cooperating state, federal and private conservation groups.*

Once again major attention is given in this report to Wood Storks, owing to their high frequency of nesting failures during the past 15 or more years. The attempted state-wide survey of stork rookeries initiated last year was repeated this summer, with improved results as more people watched for and reported stork activities (JB, RC, SAG, JJ, DM, SAN, JCO, PWS). The results were an improved (and higher) estimate of the total adult stork population, and location of three rookeries are not previously known. The action at 16 rookeries was as follows: Everglades National Park (3 rookeries) produced a maximum of 2000 young from 1100 nests, 3500 young fledged from 1900 nests at Corkscrew, an unknown number attempted nesting at Barley Barber Cypress but apparently deserted before completion, 50-75 pairs deserted the St. Johns Drainage District colony when the swamp was artificially dried in late spring, 200 pairs deserted the El Clair rookery when

that cypress also dried, an estimated 100 pairs nested at Reedy Creek with unknown results, 100 pairs at L. Yale (new site, Lake Co.) produced an unknown number of young, 50 pairs south of Edgewater (new site, Volusia Co.) had unknown results, 125 pairs in River Styx had unknown results, Dee Dot Ranch increased to 90 pairs and fledged an unknown number of young, Boney Rookery (new site, Duval Co.) contained 80 stork nests with unknown results, Moore's Creek, Merritt I., contained 300 nests (a real increase) but contained only about 30 large young after the late June storm knocked down many trees in the rookery, about 40 pairs at Grant produced an unknown number of young, and the thriving Pelican I. rookery contained 150-170 pairs that fledged 300 young. By educated guess the totals from these rookeries were approximately 8000-9000 adult storks, and 4000-5000 fledged young, the best nesting effort by storks in several years.

Following is a summary of other wader nesting sites used this spring and summer. Two heronries on Black Hammock I., Duval Co., each contained several hundred nests, with the larger colony at the south end of the island composed mostly of Snowy Egrets, plus many Cattle Egrets, and small numbers of Louisiana Herons, Little Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons and White Ibis (SAG). Cattle Egrets did not nest at San Felasco Hammock, Alachua Co., this year, apparently owing to low water, but there was nesting in Alachua by 3000 pairs of Cattle Egrets, 100 pairs of Snowy Egrets, and a few Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, Little Blue Herons, White Ibis and Anhinga in a heronry alongside U.S. 441, Payne's Prairie (SAN), at a small colony of 60 pairs of Little Blue Herons and 25 pairs of Snowy Egrets on the south side of Payne's Prairie (SAN), and by about 2500 pairs, mostly Cattle Egrets, on the Orange Lake Bird I. (JHH). On a small island in L. Smith, south of Umatilla, Lake Co., approximately 400 nesting waders were visible June 28, mostly Snowy and Cattle Egrets, with a small number of Great Egrets, Louisiana Herons and Anhinga (JCO, MB).

A large, mixed species heronry at Moore's Creek, Merritt I., contained several hundred nests (maybe more), including nesting Double-crested Cormorants, Anhinga, Cattle Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Louisiana Herons, White Ibis and Glossy Ibis (JB, JCO, MB). The El Clair stork rookery June 29 contained 500 Cattle Egret nests, mostly with eggs (JCO, MB). Relatively late nesting was detected July 18, both on Bumblebee I., L. Istokpoga, where there were 4000 White Ibis nests and 3000 Cattle Egret nests, mostly with eggs and on King's Bar, L. Okeechobee, where there were 10,000 pairs of White Ibis nest-building and 10,000 pairs of incubating Cattle Egrets (JCO, LR). At King's Bar there were also several hundred Snowy and Great Egret nests. The Riomar heronry near Vero Beach was again active with numbers of waders approximately similar to earlier years (Ogden, J. 1971. *Am. Birds* 25:848), but nesting this year began four to six weeks earlier, with fledged Cattle Egrets seen as early as March (HWK). In Everglades National Park (hereafter E.N.P.) approximately 1500 pairs of Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets and Louisiana Herons (Snowies most common) successfully nested in Rodgers River Bay heronry during April

and May (JCO), while the Frank Key heronry comprised 1500 nests of Louisiana Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets in April (Louisianas most common; also about five Reddish Egret nests), and a late nesting of 250 White Ibis nests in July (JAK, JCO). A colony on one of the Arsenicker Keys, Biscayne Bay, contained 1000 Cattle Egret nests, and a smaller, undetermined number of White Ibis nests during May and June (JTT).

A few observations of non-breeding waders are also of interest. A white morph Great Blue Heron was far north on the St. Johns R., Jacksonville July 5 (PCP). The late-June storm presumably was responsible for one Reddish Egret inland at L. Placid June 27 (FL), but it is anyone's guess what the Reddish Egret flying s.e. 10 miles offshore from Cocoa June 22 was doing (JJ, PWS). Another Reddish Egret was far north at St. Marks Light July 11 (RLD). Roseate Spoonbills dispersed far north and inland, six at Crescent Beach, St. Johns Co., July 1 (PCP), two different near Gainesville June 22 and 23 (LEW), two at Zellwood July 20 (CWT), and two near Corkscrew Aug. 1 (JLH).

DUCKS THROUGH RAILS—Fulvous Tree Ducks were reported at Loxahatchee N.W.R., June 2 (WPB, PWS), on Merritt I., June 14 (PWS) and at 20-mile Bend, Palm Beach Co., June 28 (PWS). The White-cheeked Pintail (Bahama Duck) near Flamingo since January was last seen July 16 (Bob Yutzy). A most unusual summer observation was eight Greater Scaup, well seen (including wing-stripe) at Hickory Mound Impoundment, Taylor Co., July 6 (HMS). Apparently the only successful Everglade Kite nesting was on L. Okeechobee (RC, PWS), while at the other end of the peninsula, seven Swallow-tailed Kites near Hastings, St. Johns Co., represented a local high count (FWW). A Cooper's Hawk, relatively rare in Florida, was seen perched on a dead rabbit at Camp Blanding, Clay Co., July 5 (HMS). There was a straggler Broad-winged Hawk, well south of its breeding range, at the Dry Tortugas June 16-22 (WBR, GEW *et al.*). The elusive Black Rail suddenly appeared (always been there?) at a new site, Taylor Slough E.N.P. Single Black Rails were flushed on four dates May 24-July 1, and possible three different birds were flushed June 22 (HHW). There have been enough June observations of Purple Gallinules in the Florida Keys to suggest that regular, early summer dispersal or even migration may occur. This year Purple Gallinules were on Key Largo June 5 (JCO), two on Sugarloaf Key June 5 (FTH), one on Long Key June 12 (SS, RTP), and on Garden Key, Dry Tortugas June 14-15, and 19-20 (WBR, GEW *et al.*). The gallinule's summer status was complicated, however, by the first Keys' breeding records, an adult with one young, at Big Pine Key July 21 (BB), and one adult with one downy chick at a marsh on the Key West Golf Course July 16 (FTH). Perhaps related, a Purple Gallinule was killed at the WCTV tower, Leon Co., July 10 (RLC).

SHOREBIRDS—Several observers reported an early southbound shorebird flight, characterized by larger-than-usual numbers of shorebirds during late June and July. The species included Semipalmated Plover, 17 at Port Canaveral June 29 (RDB), a very

early Upland Sandpiper, Stoney Bayou, St. Marks N.W.R., June 17 (CSG), ten Solitary Sandpipers, Zellwood July 21 (JBE, PJF), 35 Willets in coastal Franklin Co., July 6 (KO), and an early Greater Yellowlegs, Payne's Prairie July 5 (SAN, HMS), and one at McKay Bay June 29 (PJF), one Lesser Yellowlegs at Port Canaveral July 1 (RDB), and one on Payne's Prairie July 5 (SAN, HMS), then an early flock of 500 yellowlegs, Zellwood July 21 (JBE, PJF), 200 Pectoral Sandpipers at Zellwood by July 21 (JBE, PJG), 40 Short-billed Dowitchers and five Stilt Sandpipers at McKay Bay July 13 (PJF), then a high count of 75-100 Stilt Sandpipers at Zellwood by July 21 (JBE, PJF), 45 Sanderlings, St. George I., June 29 (HMS), and four Red Phalaropes and two N. Phalaropes 20 mi. offshore from Cocoa July 28 (RDB, JJ *et al.*).

It is unlikely that many Snowy Plovers have survived the development of Marco I., but one there June 4 (WPB, PWS) acted as if it were nesting. On St. George I., a Snowy Plover setting on eggs only three feet from a paved road was photographed June 23 (JBE, LH, DG). A late Common Snipe was on Payne's Prairie June 2 (SAN, KRN) and a late White-rumped Sandpiper at Key West June 19 (HMS). A Long-billed Curlew summered at St. Marks Light (HMS), while one on the Dry Tortugas June 25 (WBR, GEW *et al.*) was new for that location. Leon Co., had its second Willet record, one on L. Jackson July 10 (NOW) and two on July 14 (HMS).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS—Jaegers were offshore from Cocoa throughout the summer, single Parasitics seen June 22 (PWS, JJ), July 14 (JBE, PJF, CWT) and July 16 (JJ), and Pomarine Jaegers seen June 4 (JJ), and two each June 11 and July 16 (RDB, JJ). Laughing Gulls nested perhaps for the last time at the Bayway colony, St. Petersburg, an area soon to be developed. There were thousands of young gulls there July 24 (JJD). The only other large Laughing Gull colony, on Merritt I., tallied 1050 nests in June (JB)

Where have all the terns come from? Twelve years ago there were no known nesting Caspian, Royal or Sandwich Terns on the Florida peninsula, and presumably were not any during the 20th Century. The first nesting Caspians were noted in 1962 (Robertson, W B 1962. *Aud. Field Notes* 16:471), the first Royals in 1968 (Ogden, J. 1970. *Aud. Field Notes* 24:676), and this year the first Sandwich Terns were found on Little Bird I., Nassau Sound. Five Sandwich Tern nests each contained single eggs June 16, but apparently all were unsuccessful owing to the late June storm (SLS). Other species nesting in the Little Bird I., ternery included a high count 2100 Royal Tern nests June 22, 325 Gull-billed Tern nests June 16, 80 Least Tern nests June 22 and 335 Black Skimmer nests June 22 (SLS). Except for the Least Terns that were flooded out by high tides, these nests were largely successful. The other large Royal Tern colony first reported last year, is on Merritt I.; this June it harbored 2000 Royal Tern nests, two Caspian Tern nests, 89 Gull-billed Tern nests, ten Least Tern nests, and 279 Black Skimmer nests (JB). The largest number of Caspian Terns yet reported nesting in the Region was in Tampa Bay this year, where 16 pair produced 27 eggs in June, but only three chicks sur-

vived the late June storm (FMD). Roseate Terns nested at three locations in the Florida Keys, in a Least Tern colony near Marathon where 33 Roseates were counted, some on eggs, in mid-June (RTP), six pairs at Key Haven (FTH) and an undetermined number on a spoil island in Key West Harbor (FTH). An unusual inland sighting of Com. Terns was of two at L. Thonotosassa, Hillsborough Co., June 22 (HMS).

DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHERS—The introduced colony of White-winged Doves around Homestead is steadily expanding, and presumably was responsible for distant sightings of one White-winged at Loxahatchee N.W.R., July 25 (ARH, KAW), and one on Sugarloaf Key July 27 (JHH). Canary-winged Parakeets are also spreading from Miami, and may be established as far north as Delray Beach where 2-8 were regularly seen (PWS). Budgerigars collected nightly in a spectacularly large roost said to number 1000 birds, in the Seminole area of St. Petersburg (DG, LH *et al.*). A Barn Owl was heard calling on Garden Key, after dark, June 27 (WBR, BR), one of the few recorded on the Tortugas. Burrowing Owls appear to be gradually spreading in n. Florida; this year a high count of 16 was in Alachua Co., June 2 (AAS), and six, including three juveniles were seven mi. w.n.w. of Mayo, Lafayette Co., July 1 (HMS). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were south of their breeding range, in Mrs. Fisk's yard at Homestead; one female June 29 (EIS, PWS), and one imm. male July 3 (PWS). At the same location, the **Bahama Woodstar** continued to be seen until at least June 29 (EIS, PWS) by which time it had molted into full ad ♂ plumage.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—I received a couple of pages of notes on a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** on Sugarloaf Key, Fla. Keys July 15-16. The bird was first seen late on the 15th (LK) and actually observed going to roost in a certain clump of mangroves. By first light next morning a small army of binoculars summoned from all over Florida was waiting (JBE, PWS *et al.*). The Fork-tailed responded by flying low overhead as it left its roost, and displayed itself excellently in good light. It kept flying, however, and was not seen again. The bird was unquestionably identified; the only hooker being that the terminal one inch was broken from the left tail feather, leaving its origin somewhat suspect. (HMS points out, however, that it is not unusual to see individuals of this species with rectrices of different lengths). The **Bahama Swallows** first seen May 3, also on Sugarloaf, apparently remained into July, and may have nested! One was at the same location June 4 (FTH, *fide* JBE), then one on nearby Ramrod Key June 30 (EIS). On July 14, two adult and one flying imm. Bahama Swallow were perched in a dead *Casuarina* tree on Sugarloaf exactly where first seen in May (PWS, RDB, JJ). Barn Swallows again nested on Payne's Prairie (CHC), and at a new site, Cat Pt., on the mainland end of the St. George I. causeway (HMS). Several birds and one nest were visible July 9 (HMS). An early Tree Swallow was at Wakulla Beach July 10 (HMS), and one early Cliff Swallow at Port Mayaca, Martin Co., June 28 (PWS). A roost of Purple Martins in downtown Jacksonville June 15-July 30 contained 1000 birds (VMM, JRM), while a flock estimated at 1500 martins at

East Pt., Franklin Co., July 9, presumably were transients (HMS).

JAYS THROUGH STARLINGS—Blue Jays again summered at the Key West cemetery, one on June 1 (WPB, PWS), and July 14 (PWS, JJ, RDB). Bob Yutzky photographed two Black-billed Magpies at Goodland, Marco I., July 15. He reported both had worn-looking tails. A Brown Thrasher on Key Largo June 1, was one of the few seen in the Florida Keys in summer (JCO). At the s. breeding limit for Wood Thrush, a pair occurred throughout the period in Gainesville (DB), while one singing on the Oklawaha R., Ocala Nat. Forest June 30, may represent a southern range extension (CHC). Starlings may be finally establishing themselves on Key Largo where they were regularly seen during June (JCO, HMS).

WARBLERS, HOUSE SPARROWS—Five singing Prairie Warblers in Alachua Co., June 2, indicate probable breeding there, and a range extension (AAS). A Louisiana Waterthrush in n.w. Leon Co., June 16, may have been on a breeding station (GM), while a Yellow-breasted Chat at Hines, Dixie Co., July 1, was south of the known nesting range for that species (HMS). Late spring transients included a Black-and-white Warbler at High Springs June 2 (BMc), one very late N. Waterthrush at St. George I., June 1 (JMS, * F.S.U.), one Canada Warbler at Alligator Pt. June 2 (HMS), and one Am. Redstart at Gainesville June 2 (CHC). Early southbound transients included a Black-and-white Warbler in Leon Co., July 12 (JMS), one Louisiana Waterthrush on the Suwannee R., Lafayette Co., July 6 (HMS), and redstart at Gainesville July 27 (DB). The first nesting record for House Sparrows at the Dry Tortugas occurred when a pair was located nest-building on Garden Key June 17; the nest contained four eggs June 24 (WBR, GEW *et al.*). Apparently this initial nesting effort failed, as only two House Sparrows were briefly seen at the nest site July 31 (WBR).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES—A late flight of Bobolinks was detected at several widely separate locations, one on St. George I., June 1 (HMS), one at L. Okeechobee, Glades Co., June 3 (WPB, PWS), and an amazing six at L. Jackson, Leon Co., June 28 (JMS). Orchard Orioles appear to be extending their breeding range southward, evidenced this year by two singing males in Marion Co., one west of Fellowship and the other south of Orange L., both July 3 (HMS). Brown-headed Cowbirds were again reported at their eastern range limit at Jacksonville, two males last seen July 2, and one female last on June 9 (JPC).

OBSERVERS (area editors' name in boldface)—Dot Baer, Jim Baker, W. Wilson Baker, **Robert D. Barber**, Ted Below, Betty Bennett, Maryanne Biggar, William P. Blakeslee, Rod Chandler, Julie P. Cocke, Caroline H. Coleman, Robert L. Crawford, Anthony DeGange, Jim J. Dinsmore, Robert L. Duncan, Frank M. Dunstan, **John B. Edscorn**, Paul J. Fellers, Culver S. Gidden, Dave Goodwin, Sam A. Grimes, **Frances T. Hames**, James L. Hansen, A. Ronald Hight, **John H. Hintermister**, Larry Hopkins, Johnnie Johnson, **Herb W. Kale**, Lois Kitching, Jim A. Kushlan, Fred Lohrer, Doris Mager, John R. Markgraf, **Virginia M. Markgraf**,

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ONTARIO—WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin and Richard C. Rosche

The season was a quiet one for birds as well as observers. Spring migration extended well into June, following the pattern of recent years with their late cold springs. The summer was pleasantly warm and very dry



in the north of the Province, although late June provided a record-breaking spell of wet weather in the south. The region was spared the prolonged heat of last summer and this, together with the high lake levels, and the wet weather, probably combined to reduce shorebird habitat to a minimum—most observers in the south could not recall a season with so little available. Shorebirds usually provide the first clear evidence of southbound migration, and although late June and early July did yield some scattered sightings, it was not until the third week of July that any numbers were reported.

Just how the weather influenced breeding success is, as usual, ambiguous although the consensus seems to favour a very successful season. Reports of exceptional crops of berries and good conifer production may augur a quiet winter!

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS—Reports of poor breeding success for Com. Loons in more populous areas continue, but there is no evidence that the species is in difficulty further north. Red-necked Grebes bred successfully at Luther L. (DB), and a nest at Pike L., Manitoulin I., had 5 eggs June 1 (CB, JL). A Horned Grebe was at Port Credit, July 21 (CEG, JEG). Pied-billed Grebes were reported as scarce from areas south and west of Toronto (RC, CAC, CEG). The Lake-of-the-Woods colony of White Pelicans has 400 pairs this year (*vide* GB). There was no news of Double-crested Cormorants in their stations in the south, but there were 15 nests on Cone I., L. Superior, with 24 adults and 19 young on July 19 (KD, SP, TF), and 24 adults and 5 young at a colony near Spanish July 9 (KM).

HERONS—The Lucknow heronry had only two Great Blue Heron nests this year, as compared to 15 in 1973, but this was probably due to tree boughs blowing down (CM); this is a species that is difficult to obtain consistent information on, probably because it is regarded as too common to report although some observers feel it is declining in the south. A previously unreported heronry at Larkin L., Hornepayne, had 100 nests this year (MB, WP). Green Herons seem to be pushing north, or perhaps more coverage is detecting them better: there were birds on Manitoulin I., June 9 (CB, WRL) and at Parry Sound July 8 (CAC, JLC). Pelee I. may now be the main station in the Province for Cattle Egrets: there were "several pairs on nests" there from mid-May (CAC, GRD), and the heronry also had seven Great Egret nests July 28 (JL). Wandering Great Egrets turned up north and east to Tiny Marsh from July 20 (WZ *et al.*) and in the Cobourg area June 27 and July 1 (JWL, GBi). Kingston's fourth-ever Snowy Egret was seen there June 2-5 (K.F.N.).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—A pair of Mute Swans were on Hart L., Brampton throughout June (AD). Canada Goose nesting was in full swing Apr. 27 at Toronto (GB) and birds now nesting at Terra Cotta are apparently not part of the large Toronto winter flock (BJ). Kingston's first nesting was a pair at Bellrock with three young (FC), and there was also late movement there to June 7 (m.ob.). Other late migration of Canadas was June 9 at Sibley, with ten birds (*vide* KD), and on June 2 there were 12 Snow Geese at Lively (DF). Black Duck continue to decline in the Toronto area and the species was noticeably scarce in G. Bennett's spring trip along L. Ontario to Kingston. By contrast Mallard populations are strong, and the proportion of mixed plumages in the large Toronto flock is now quite low (GB, CEG). Gadwall is another expanding species in the Province: on Aug. 11 a female had seven young on the Toronto waterfront (CEG, JEG), a brood of six young were seen July 21 at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary at Ingleside (RH), and there was a pair at Warton June 19 (JWJ), whilst single birds were at Strathroy June 13-14 (WRJ) and Sarnia June 25 (AR). Possibly the high water levels favoured dabbling duck production: certainly there were many reports, including 16 Pintail at Warton July 25 (JWJ); 41 Green-winged Teal including many young birds, Tiny Marsh

July 6 (CJM); and 12 Am. Wigeon on Manitoulin I., where they were probably breeding, June 15-16 (EH). There were 36 young Wood Ducks at Wildwood July 27 (EE), and in the north 8 pairs at the Dorion Fish Hatchery in June (HA) and a bird at Mamainse at the end of the month (GB). Bradley's Marsh at the mouth of the Thames R. had both N. Shoveler and Redheads from June 12 (CAC, GRD), with one or possibly two of each. Noteworthy among other summering waterfowl were a Bufflehead, Rondeau July 6 (JPK, JAG) and Oldsquaw at Amherst I. and Prince Edward Point (P.E.Pt.) on June 9 (K.F.N.) and Toronto July 21 (RC).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES—Turkey Vultures continue in good numbers: noteworthy were 38 in a pasture at Lovering July 27 (JW). Simcoe Co. also had its first recorded Goshawk breeding in Matchedash Twp., Apr. 27, with a nest and three eggs (FW). The summer added only three sightings of Red-shouldered Hawks to the nine pairs noted in the last report. The Broad-winged Hawk in Kitchener July 24 (CAC, WHS) was probably a wandering bird, as was a Golden Eagle at Pottageville July 27 (WR) and a late Rough-legged Hawk on Wolfe I., June 19 (AEH, GW). There was no further information on the four Bald Eagle nests noted in the spring report, but another on Pelee I. raised two young (CAC *et al.*), and a northern nest was at L. Nagagami, near Hornepayne (JJ). Some successful Osprey nests were noted, and the situation on the whole seems encouraging for this species. Marsh Hawks were still scarce, with only four territories known in the Waterloo region (*vide* CAC) and few in the Ottawa and Hamilton areas (RAF, RC) but a nest in Lambton Co. in June (AR) was the first recent s.w. Ontario noting. Merlins were seen at Waubauskene July 21 (JH) and Tiny Marsh July 28 (CJM, SM), and a nest with two young June 13 on Manitoulin I. (EH) was possibly the first nesting there.

GROUSE, RAILS—Four Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen June 9 and eggshells were located on P.E.Pt. (K.F.N.). Bobwhites were in good numbers in the Sarnia area, with 86 on the June 1 Sombra-Moore B B S. (DR). A pair of Gray Partridge at Spottiswood in April provided the first area record in many years (CAC, GRD). Ottawa's second Purple Gallinule of the year (and the Province's third) was present Apr. 25-May 2 (JLa) when it was flown down to Miami courtesy Air Canada!

SHOREBIRDS—Reports were sparse because habitat was sparse, but there were some early records and noteworthy sightings. Ruddy Turnstones at Rondeau July 6 (JPK, JAG) and Melbourne June 23 (JWL) were early. Northerly Upland Sandpipers were at Atkocan in May (DHE) and Sault Ste. Marie in late July (EE). Willets were seen at Long Pt. June 1 (RC) and Amherst I., June 9 (JBF, JG), the latter only the third-ever for Kingston. A pair of Solitary Sandpipers were apparently on territory near Missinaibi P.P. at the end of June (GKP). A group of Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral and Least Sandpipers at Hurkett Cove July 17 (SP, TH) were noteworthy as fall records in the Thunder Bay area are few. The same species provided mid-

summer records further south; the yellowlegs June 9 at Claude (AD, GB), and Least at Tiny Marsh July 6 (CJM) and the same day at Rondeau, with Pectorals (JPK, JAG) which was a record-early date for both species in the southwest. Two White-rumped Sandpipers at Melbourne, June 23-24 (WRJ) were unprecedentedly early there, and a bird at Lakefield Sewage Lagoon June 1 was a first for the Peterborough area (DCS). Inland areas, away from the Great Lakes shorelines and marshes, have traditionally been poor for shorebirds, but sewage lagoons are increasingly answering this need and in high-water years may in fact provide the best available habitat in the Province. Other early records were three Dunlin at Rondeau July 6 (JPK, JAG) and four Sanderling on Amherst I., July 19 (AEH). Stilt Sandpipers were scarcer than in recent years, but 56 at Eriean July 23 (JL) were an exceptional number for any year, and four at Tiny Marsh July 28 (CJM, SM) were also noteworthy. The most remarkable report of the early fall was of a Curlew Sandpiper July 20 at the Amherstview Sewage Lagoon (KFE, RKE); the account of the bird has not been considered by the appropriate records committee, but seems plausible and if accepted would be the seventh for Ontario. The only godwit reports were a Marbled at Foxey, Manitoulin I., June 1-2 (JN) and a Hudsonian at Ingleside July 26 (RH). An Am. Avocet was well seen on Pelee I., Aug. 9 (CAC, GRD, TR). Wilson's Phalarope reports included two young at Warton June 19 (JWJ).

GULLS, TERNS—A Great Black-backed Gull was at Rondeau July 6 (JPK, JAG). There were up to 200 Herring Gulls at Kettle Pt. in June, and on July 7 the flocks included three newly fledged birds (AR); there are few nesting records from the southwest. A shoreline Ring-billed Gull colony at Collingwood had 261 eggs and young in 145 nests on June 17 (CJM, AM) but a colony at Pine Tree Harbour with 280 nests and 600-700 eggs June 3 had only 136 occupied nests by July 2 and only 7 young were located. This colony was on an island only a short distance from the mainland and separated from it by water a few inches deep (JWJ). There were good Ring-billed Gull concentrations reported, with some 3000 in Owen Sound harbour June 16 the largest (GB). Little Gulls were apparently breeding at Pickering again (m.ob.) and at Eriean a flock of 35 birds on July 6 contained several immatures (JPK). There was evidence of Forster's Tern nestings in the southwest details are not yet available of a reported attempt at Bradley's Marsh (CAC) and 12 flying young were with seven adults at Port Lambton July 27 (DR), whilst there were many newly fledged young among 30 birds at Kettle Pt., July 20 (AR). An immature was also at Toronto July 7 (RC). Kettle Pt. also had 13 Com. Tern nests with young birds, July 16 (AR) and the Collingwood colony had 74 nests with 172 eggs and young June 17 (CJM, AM).

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS—A Mourning Dove was seen near Long Lac at the end of June (GB). Cuckoos seemed in good numbers: a Yellow-billed was at Manitoulin I., June 15 (CB, WRL) and a Black-billed heard at Pimisi Bay for the first time in some years

(LdeKL). Black-billed appeared particularly numerous south and east of the North Bay area, although at Crozier, in the northwest, fewer than usual were seen (IP). A Screech Owl was heard at Thunder Bay May 11 (RI), and other owls there included a Hawk Owl June 25 (KC) and a Great Gray Owl Apr. 1 (PT). A Short-eared Owl was at Wawa at the end of June (GB) and the species nested in Mississauga, west of Claireville (*vide* DFi).

WHIP-POOR-WILL THROUGH WOODPECKERS—A Whip-poor-will nest at Kettle Pt., June 25 had two young; it was only the second nesting for the three southwesterly counties (*vide* AHK). A Com. Night-hawk was at Virginiatown July 9 (PWR), but in the south several reporters commented on the growing scarcity of the species. There were none at Pimisi Bay (LdeKL) and birds were very scarce at Stratford (EE) Hamilton (RC) and Toronto, where the huge swirling migratory flocks of early fall over the Humber R. have been almost absent for several years (CEG). A Chimney Swift was at Silver L., June 7 (SP, KD). A red-shafted Com. Flicker was seen at Lake-of-the-Woods at the end of June (GB). Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested again on Pelee I. (DS *et al.*). In the northwest Red-headed Woodpeckers were at Sibley Park June 15 (AMa) and had a nest at Fort Frances at the end of the month (GB), and the second mainland record for the Sudbury region was at Lively July 3 (JL).

FLYCATCHERS—Traditional Acadian Flycatcher breeding stations at Rondeau Park and Pt. Abino had four pairs and two to three pairs respectively (CAC, GRD, JL). Elsewhere a bird was singing in atypical habitat in Chingacousy Twp. (AD, GB), and the pair had two broods: two adults were feeding a fledged young bird July 20, but on July 23 the same birds were feeding three young in a nest (AD, m.ob.), yet the nest proved to be that of a Traill's Flycatcher (*vide* GKP).

S.A.

Reports on the Traill's Flycatcher complex show predominantly Willow Flycatchers in the southwest, although two Alder nestings were located in the Sarnia area and a male was at Kettle Pt. (*vide* AHK). London and Stratford birds are still mainly Willows (WRJ, EE) and birds were recorded north to Warton June 20 (JWJ), Tiny Marsh July 25-28 (CJM), and Ottawa, with five reported (*vide* RAF). North of these areas—which are themselves obviously far from being in an east-west line—only Alders appear to occur, and are probably the predominant bird north of about 43° 50' N. Willows may in fact be chiefly associated with L. Erie as they do not seem particularly frequent as one proceeds east, and Kingston had only some four records, with the bird "much rarer" than Alders. Observations from the areas north and west of Hamilton and Barrie are particularly sparse, and would be most useful.

A summer Kingston area Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Bedford Mills July 14 (HQ, NM).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS—Bank Swallow numbers have increased at Thunder Bay (KD), but in the south Cliff Swallows are the species recording steady expansion. Still the least common of the Swallows, it is slowly moving towards metropolitan Toronto with birds this year at a new station in Woodbridge (AD). A Purple Martin was seen at Thunder Bay June 22-23 (TD), and a migratory build-up was occurring at Pelee I., Aug. 6, when some 5000 were seen (CAC, GRD, TR). Common Ravens occurred south to Colpooy Bay June 16 (GB), and were seen fairly frequently on the Bruce Pen. (JWJ), while a brood of three at Parry Sound July 8 was Craig Campbell's first recorded nesting there. Tufted Titmice nested successfully for the third year in a row at Ancaster (RC). Three Brown Creepers were seen at Cornwall July 15 (RH). For the first time recently no adverse reports of House Wrens arrived and one or two observers noted good numbers. By contrast the Carolina Wren picture was mixed, but the species was numerous on Pelee I. (CAC *et al.*) and there were birds at Kitchener July 24-27 (WHS, CAC, GRD) and Ancaster in August (CW), prompting speculations from Bob Curry on a post-breeding dispersal. The Pelee I. colony of Short-billed Marsh Wrens was flooded out, and a bird was found singing at a nest in a long grass meadow (*vide* CAC).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES—A Mockingbird was at Thunder Bay from May 7 (DHE *et al.*), and a number of breeding records were recorded in the south: nests at Kemble (SM) and in S. Marysburg Twp. (GB), a juvenile at Barrie July 17 which was the first Simcoe Co. breeding (JW), and three fledged young at Melbourne June 23 was the second in Middlesex Co. (WRJ *et al.*). A Gray Catbird was at Virginiatown June 29 (PWR), and other northerly sightings came from Gerry Bennett's trip at the end of June: A Gray Catbird at Kenora, a Brown Thrasher 67 miles N. of Thessalon on Highway 129, and Wood Thrushes north of Rainy R and east of Wawa. In a generally good breeding season Am. Robins were outstanding: for example, at Pimisi Bay three young fledged from a first nesting for the first time in many years (LdeKL). Eastern Bluebirds seem to be coming back slowly and there are a number of successful nest box projects around the Province. In Oro Twp. 161 boxes along a 45 mi. route had 102 nests (GE, JH, TL), and the Harwood boxes had good success (*vide* ERM). However, the species continues to be scarce or wholly absent in more southwesterly areas. The Minesing Swamp had seven Blue-gray Gnatcatchers June 10, and two groups of young were seen there later in the month (JW); this southern pocket in Simcoe Co. must now represent one of the larger breeding areas for gnatcatchers in Ontario, and in fact no other nestings were reported, although the bird is a regular nester in small numbers along L. Erie. Kingston's first June record was one on June 2 (AEH, RDW). Golden-crowned Kinglets at the edges of their range were three males in the Harrowsmith Bog June 16 (RDW) and family parties at Otter L., south of Parry Sound in early July (CAC).

SHRIKES, VIREOS—The Loggerhead Shrike picture showed no improvement: there were isolated sight-

ings in the marginal farming areas—the three on the Kingston B.B.S. were the most reported from one area—but a survey of southwestern Ontario areas for the Canadian Wildlife Service in June revealed only two pairs (*vide* CAC), and no nesting successes. The Minesing Swamp yielded record numbers of Yellow-throated Vireos, with 45 on June 14 (JW). At Pimisi Bay Solitary Vireos nested for the first time in Mrs. Lawrence's coverage area. She also commented on good numbers of Red-eyed Vireos, and other areas to the north and east noted this species as particularly common. Philadelphia Vireo records from Lunenburg July 7 (RH) and Parry Sound July 5 (CAC, JLC) were both at the species' southerly limits. The reverse held for Warbling Vireos at Crozier July 29 (IP) and on Manitoulin I., June 1 (JL).

WARBLERS—The more southern warblers provided the bulk of the reports. Rondeau Park is the familiar Prothonotary Warbler station in Ontario, and three were seen there July 22 (JL), but the day before two were reported from Waubauskene (JH) which is a most unexpected location for them. Even more unexpected was the Worm-eating Warbler which frequented a nondescript woodlot at Ajax for a few days from July 1 (HK, m.ob.). Golden-winged Warblers are again showing in strong numbers. The Kingston B.B.S. routes had a striking increase, and birds were seen north to Fairbank Park, Sudbury area, June 16 and 30 (JL), Manitoulin I., June 19 (WRL) and a singing male at Nobel in the Parry Sound district (CAC, JLC). Brewster's Warbler sightings at Palgrave July 7 (JM) and Puslinch Twp., July 28 (DB)—both near Golden-winged stations—give evidence of Blue-winged Warblers as well, and there were singing males of this species at Speyside in July (JAS *et al.*), in the Ellice Swamp, Perth Co., June 9 (EE) and at Otter L., Kingston, June 2 and 9 (K.F.N.). The Harrowsmith Bog had 15 singing Nashville Warblers, and on June 16 a nest was located, only the second ever for the Kingston area (RDW). Killarney had three Cape May Warblers June 26 (JL) and Manitoulin I., at the s. limit for the species, six on June 17 (WRL). Singing Yellow-rumped Warblers near Cannington July 30 (RCL) and in Halton Co. in mid-June (AW) were also far south for this species. The Halton Co. station also had a Blackburnian Warbler, scarce at that latitude (RC). The Minesing Swamp count for Cerulean Warblers was 58 on June 14 (JW)! A Pine Warbler on Manitoulin June 18 (WRL) and a bird on territory at Pimisi Bay and singing to July 2 (LdeKL, JMS) were both in areas where the bird is normally absent. A noteworthy spring record was of a Yellow-throated Warbler (another one) Apr. 29 at Ottawa (THi) in the spectacular "push" of migrants noted in the spring report. Other southern warblers on territory included two Yellow-breasted Chats in the Ellice Swamp June 9 (EE) and one or more at Melbourne from May 19 (DM), Louisiana Waterthrushes in three or four new stations around Hamilton (AW), and Hooded Warblers at Newbury June 2 (WRJ) and at least three at Aylmer July 16 (JL).

BLACKBIRDS—Orioles seemed scarce in a number of areas. Apart from the Pt. Pelee population Orchard Orioles are only scattered breeders, but the Pelee birds

returned late and were in low numbers (RC *et al.*) Elsewhere there were three pairs on Pelee I. in June, a male on territory at Rondeau (CAC) and a couple of birds in the Hamilton area (RC). Several northerly N Orioles were at Thunder Bay from May 19 (JC). There were Brewer's Blackbirds in three Bruce Peninsula localities this year: a pair at Tobermorey May 28, six or more at last year's breeding site near Ferndale from June 24, and three at Monuments Corners, the site of the first Bruce nesting, on July 15 (JWJ). Another pair were on Manitoulin I., June 8-23 (JN). The growing pattern of Red-winged Blackbirds nesting in fields was particularly noticeable in breeding bird censuses in Bronte Creek P.P., where more Red-winged nests were found than any other species in the old fields there, and it will likely be the commonest bird on two of the field plots (PE). A Scarlet Tanager was at Hornepayne Aug 11 (JBM, CAM).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Two Cardinal nests were attempted at Parry Sound in May and June (CAC) Thunder Bay had several Indigo Buntings from May 26 (CCP *et al.*) and at the end of June, there was a bird on the Red Lake road 13 mi. n. of Highway 17 (GB), both areas near the limits of the bird's western range in the Province. Dickcissels are erratic summer residents at best, and this year the only report was one at Port Alma July 6 (JPK, JAG). Up to eight Evening Grosbeaks were at Virginiatown in late June (PWR) and at the other end of its range there was one at Barrie July 11 (JW). Hornepayne does not usually have Pine Grosbeaks during the summer, so small numbers there this year were noteworthy, but not as interesting as the three Am. Goldfinches which were at a town feeder in July (JBM, CAM, JJ). Red Crossbills were again in the south: there were birds near Uxbridge in July (JMS), six at Thistletown June 4 (RS) and six at Kettle Pt. to June 22 (AR). Whether Grasshopper Sparrows are increasing, or whether more people know what to look for, or whether they are just being reported more is hard to assess: anyway, they are obviously doing well. There were eight males in 80 acres at Bronte Creek Park (PE), 20 in one field at P.E.Pt. June 9 (K.F.N.), 20 on the June 2 Lambton Co. B.B.S. (DR), 14 in the Barrie colony July 23 (CJM) and a bird at Lively June 21-July 8 (JL). By contrast there were few Henslow's Sparrows, and six at Barrie July 23 (CJM) and several at London from June 2 (DC) were the only numbers reported. Two Le Conte's Sparrows at Ottawa from May 19 were probably nesting (RAF, RP), while in the northwest there were birds on territory on Highway 105 near Atikokan (GB, SPe) and at Crozier (IP). A Dark-eyed Junco was at Kingston June 27 (K.F.N.) and there was an adult with two young at Sidney Bay Bluff July 19 (JWJ) Clay-colored Sparrows were reported down in numbers in the Sudbury area (*vide* JN) but elsewhere all evidence points to continued expansion. In the northwest there were birds on Highway 105 near Atikokan (GB, SPe), and in the south birds were widespread in suitable habitat in the Toronto-Hamilton area (m.ob.), and there were six in Oro Twp., June 9 (CJM) and 20 pairs at Harwood (ERM). Further east there was a bird at Kingston June 2 (K.F.N.) and to the south Middlesex Co. had its first breeding with an unsuccessful nesting

and two to four birds at London (DC). A Field Sparrow was seen at Lively June 16-20 (JL).

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WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA—The summer season varied from being cool and wet at Rochester to cool and dry at Erie, Pa. Except for heavy rainfall at the end of June in some sectors, extreme weather conditions were non-existent. The season appeared to be a very favorable one for all species, with few periods cold or wet enough to make survival difficult for eggs or young.

LOONS, CORMORANTS—Up to four non-nesting Com. Loons occurred throughout the period on Chautauqua L. (RS *et al.*) and another was on Canandaigua L., July 7 (RO). Always rare in summer, single Double-crested Cormorants were in the Oak Orchard complex of refuges centering at Alabama, Genessee Co., June 6 and at Braddock Bay, Monroe Co., June 16 (G.O.S.).

HERONS—About 340 active Great Blue Heron nests, a notable increase at least in reports, were distributed as follows: on the Lake Plains 79 were at the Iroquois N.W.R. (JM) and 165 nests were in the usual Marengo Swamp heronry near Clyde, Wayne Co. (WB); southern tier localities held 28 nests near Olean (B.O.S.); about 30 nests were located at Caton, Steuben Co., and a four-year old heronry near Addison, Steuben Co. comprised 40 nests, up about ten over 1973 (RD); at Scio, Allegany Co., only one nest was active where five were successful a year ago (VP). Some 12 **Cattle Egrets** were regularly observed during June west of Rochester and some of these were known to have

nested in a Black-crowned Night Heron colony near Braddock Bay; it was not known whether young were successfully fledged in this first Regional nesting location (fide RO). Great Egrets were scarce. An ad **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** noted on several occasions July 6-28 and an immature noted July 27-30 west of Rochester led some observers to be suspicious of possible nesting but there was no proof (fide RO)

WATERFOWL—Maximum waterfowl counts during the period at Montezuma N.W.R. were as follows: 125 Canada Geese, 1300 Mallards, 300 Black Ducks, 225 Gadwall, 20 Pintails, 175 Green-winged Teal, 250 Blue-winged Teal, 20 Am. Wigeon, 35 N. Shovelers, 550 Wood Ducks, six Ruddy Ducks, and about 50 Hooded Mergansers (staff).

A ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** that was carefully observed and well documented July 21 at Montezuma N.W.R. (KK *et al.*) may have been the same individual reported there last spring. The usual sprinkling of summering but non-nesting diving ducks included a ♂ Redhead and a ♂ Canvasback July 17&20 at Presque I., Pa. (DS) Another Canvasback was on Edinboro L., Erie Co., Pa., July 7 (DS). A Ring-necked Duck was at Kendall, Orleans Co., July 21 (WLi). Chautauqua L. held a Lesser Scaup June 24 and a Red-breasted Merganser June 3&6 (RS *et al.*). A brood of seven young Hooded Mergansers were observed June 13 in the Town of Java, Wyoming Co. (MW) where this uncommon nester has been successful periodically for some 20 or more years. Two Com. Mergansers June 3 at Scio (VP) were near the area where a brood of young was noted in 1968

HAWKS—A Turkey Vulture nest located in a hollow log surrounded by water was found June 10 at the Iroquois N.W.R. (JM); few actual nests have been found even though this species increases yearly in the Region. At least five Goshawk nests were found, one of which apparently contained three infertile eggs (fide LB); the Honeoye L. area of Ontario County, where two young were successfully fledged (JCo), was a new nesting locality and the northernmost presently known in the Region. The Sharp-shinned Hawk was almost unreported and remained dangerously scarce. However, it was encouraging to note an increase in breeding season Cooper's Hawks; three nests were under observation, all of which successfully fledged young. Red-tailed Hawks had good nesting success, whereas Red-shouldered Hawks were almost unreported. The Broad-winged Hawk held its own in the Region. An ad Bald Eagle was at Rochester June 4 (JCL *et al.*) and an adult and an immature frequented Montezuma N W R throughout the period (WB). Marsh Hawks continued to be so uncommon that several observers reported single individuals! There were more reports of non-breeding Ospreys than in most years; singles frequented Braddock Bay June 16 (JCo) and July 26 (G.O.S.) and Frewsburg, Chautauqua Co., July 11&13 (RS *et al.*). Am. Kestrels were common and had good nesting success.

RAILS—Maximum counts of members of this family at Montezuma N.W.R. included 40 Virginia Rails, 35 Soras, four Com. Gallinules, and 40 Am. Coots (staff)

The rail counts were unusually high for that season of the year. Young Com. Gallinules were more frequently reported than in the past four or five years.

SHOREBIRDS—Up to 25 Upland Sandpipers were at Horseheads, Chemung Co., July 20 (WH), where they have regularly nested in recent years. A ♂ Ruff studied carefully July 6 (WB) was joined by an additional male as well as two females July 7 at Waterloo, Seneca Co. (WLI *et al.*); these observations in addition to the May birds brought the total to *seven* for a two-month period this year. The southward movement of other shorebirds in July was very disappointing, mostly owing to lack of suitable habitat. Late spring migrants included one or two Wilson's Phalaropes at Parma, Monroe Co., June 3-5 (G.O.S.) and another was at Montezuma N.W.R., June 4 (WB).

CUCKOOS, OWLS—The local abundance of Black-billed Cuckoos of last May continued into the nesting season. But Yellow-billed Cuckoos were very scarce throughout, except for Presque I., Pa. where both species were unusually common in late July (RB). Two young Barn Owls were banded in a nest in Erie County, Pa. (RG). There was little comment about Screech Owls. It was interesting to note that regardless of how many eggs or freshly hatched young first found in a number of Great Horned Owl nests, there was no exception to the rule that only one young was brought to the fledgling stage. Nesting Long-eared Owls were found at Frewsburg Apr. 29 (FE *et al.*), and a nest in the Town of Java produced at least one young (HM *et al.*); four young were found June 16 at Brockport, Monroe Co (AM). Two Short-eared Owls occurred at Montezuma N.W.R. (staff).

GOATSUCKERS, WOODPECKERS—This was the fifth consecutive year that Whip-poor-wills were heard in the Town of Cold Spring, Cattaraugus Co. during June (RS); elsewhere in the Region they have only been reported sporadically. There was continued concern expressed about nesting Com. Nighthawk populations, although comments varied from "scarce" at Rochester (RO) to "abundant" at Elmira (WH). Although none were observed in the w. part of the Region, Red-bellied Woodpeckers were common in the e. sections where young were seen at some feeders (WB *et al.*)

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—Unusually early fall migrants were two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers that were banded July 28 at Penn Yan (ML) and one that was observed July 30 at Braddock Bay (MC *et al.*). The rare Acadian Flycatcher was noted June 3&7 at Greece, Monroe Co. (MC) but the singing male that regularly occurred at Erie, Pa. during the most recent few nesting seasons did not return (RB). Willow Flycatchers appeared to be in numbers above normal in the Erie, Pa. area while only one Alder Flycatcher had been heard (RB). Farther west in the Alfred area, an Alder Flycatcher nest containing three eggs was found (EB) but so far little other information has come to light regarding the relative abundance of these two "new species" in the Region. All swallows were more abun-

dant than a year ago. Tree Swallows that nested in man-made structures failed to fledge young in a surprisingly high percentage of cases due to predation and disease.

WRENS, MOCKINGBIRDS—Single Winter Wrens June 23 near Erie, Pa. (DS) and July 21 near Rochester (LM *et al.*) were well away from their usual nesting locales. Carolina Wrens continued to be fairly common in the Erie, Pa. area and in the southern tier counties of New York State where nests were found at Stow and Barcelona, Chautauqua Co. (RS *et al.*), and at Elmira (WH); elsewhere few were reported but a pair nested on the L. Ontario Plain at Irondequoit, Monroe Co. (LM *et al.*). Mockingbirds were scarce and perhaps decreasing at Elmira (WH) but a pair successfully fledged two young near Penn Yan (FO).

THRUSHES, KINGLETS — Three Hermit Thrushes inhabited the high Bristol Hills near Honeoye L. during July (JCo *et al.*), an area from where this northern nester, as well as some others to be outlined below, has not previously been reported. Golden-crowned Kinglets continued to show signs of increase in suitable habitat throughout the Region; up to nine were present in a plantation near Alfred and two adults were seen feeding four young out of a nest there July 8 (EB); three spent the month of July near Honeoye L. (JCo *et al.*) where they were first found in 1972, and another occurred June 9 at Avon, Livingston Co (G.O.S.), a new summering locality.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—There are extremely few summer reports of Solitary Vireos from as far north in the Region as Avon, where three were observed June 15 (G.O.S.). A Prothonotary Warbler June 16 in the Rochester area (AM) was far from its usual nesting range in the Oak Orchard region. Many observers commented on an unusual abundance and widespread distribution of Blue-winged Warblers. As to be expected, the hybrids, too, were evident. A ♂ "Brewster's Warbler" paired with a ♀ Golden-winged at Amity L. near Belmont, Allegany Co., successfully fledged young (VP). Other "Brewster's" were near Penn Yan where the hybrid occurred in 1973 (*vide* FG) and in the Town of Kiantone, Chautauqua Co., June 7 (RS). A singing ♂ "Lawrence's Warbler" was studied closely near Ithaca June 15&29 (KK *et al.*). The Honeoye L. area also held two Black-throated Blue Warblers during July (JCo *et al.*). Up to four pairs of Yellow-rumped Warblers occurred in their regular locality near Alfred; like 1972, one pair again raised a Brown-headed Cowbird (EB). A Scotch Pine plantation, also near Alfred, contained two pairs of Prairie Warblers, one of which was studied as it fed two young out of the nest July 17 (EB); this was a new Regional nesting locality far to the west of the regular areas near Elmira where several also occurred this year (WH). Ovenbirds were thought to be less common than usual in the Elmira area (WH) and Am. Redstarts were scarce around Rochester (RO).

BLACKBIRDS—The only W. Meadowlark of the year was one at Athol Springs, Erie Co., June 6 (TB)

The Orleans County pair of Orchard Orioles nested at Pt. Breeze for the fourth consecutive year (WLi).

FRINGILLIDS—House Finches had a successful nesting season in Elmira (WH) but they were unreported from elsewhere. A lone Pine Siskin spent the month of June at Fairport, Monroe Co. (BO). A few Red Crossbills lingered in the southern tier counties through mid-June as is often the case, but it was difficult to explain the presence of one at Barcelona July 14 (RS). It was the best year in several for singing ♂ Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows. Vesper Sparrows were thought to be less numerous than usual in the Rochester area (RO). Late by about a month was a June 3 Tree Sparrow at Scottsville, Monroe Co. (G.O.S.). The Clay-colored Sparrows, obvious components of the Alfred area avifauna during several summers up to and including 1972, did not return in 1973 or this year (EB). But the Alfred area has another claim to fame

sparrow-wise, for it is the only Regional locality where White-throated Sparrows regularly nest; this year of the tree or four pairs present, one pair successfully fledged four young (EB).

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APPALACHIAN REGION / George A. Hall

Summer, with its constantly changing patterns of breeding bird distribution and the yearly fluctuations in populations, is undoubtedly the most interesting season of the ornithological year. But paradoxically bird



watchers seldom take advantage of these interesting phenomena and many rarely go afield during this season. This year was no exception, and the reports submitted were rather meager. And yet there have apparently been some far-reaching population changes that are not being documented, and there have been some fascinating range expansions.

June was on the wet side with 3.44 in. of rainfall at Pittsburgh and 5.07 in. at Charleston. Some local flooding occurred. Temperatures were slightly on the cool side. July was warmer than average and quite dry. At Pittsburgh, precipitation was 0.54 in. deficient and at Charleston only 2.16 in. (lowest on record) fell.

While a few species suffered nesting losses during the wet season these apparently were not severe, and on the whole the nesting season seemed successful. However, many species were felt to be in below-normal numbers. For the most part this situation was not supported by numerical data, but from Allegheny County, Pa. came the report that 11 species were below 50 per cent of the four-year average of populations as opposed to only three species that were 50 per cent or more above that average. One eagerly waits to see the Breeding Bird Survey counts for the Region (hereafter B.B.S.) to see if these indications are indeed real.

One of the major unsolved questions of distribution in this Region is why certain boreal species go no farther south along the high Appalachians than they do. Several species drop out as breeding birds in northeastern Pennsylvania and do not occur in West Virginia where the mountains are higher. A large number of species reach their southern limits in southeastern West Virginia even though the mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina are still higher. This year some interesting range expansions were reported from the Mt. Rogers area in southwestern Virginia by the Virginia Society for Ornithology summer outing (hereafter V.S.O.). Since this area has received little attention this may not be an event of this year. Similarly some interesting new summer records were reported from extreme western North Carolina, and the small part of South Carolina in this Region, both areas having had little study.

The Brooks Bird Club Annual Foray (hereafter B.B.C.) was in Ritchie County, W.Va., and as outlined in the spring report, an effort was made to compare the avifauna of today with that of 100 years ago as reported by William Brewster.

HERONS AND WATERFOWL—In recent years the late summer flight of herons from the south has been negligible, but this year there were early signs of a good flight. Great Egrets were reported from Pymatuning L., Pa., June 20 (RCL), Lewisburg, W.Va., June 19 (COH), Towns, County, Ga., July 13 (RWL), and July 5-14 at L. Oneida, Butler Co., Pa. (MG & FL). Little

Blue Herons were seen at Pymatuning June 20 (early—RCL, ML, SF), and Inwood, W. Va. in late July (CM) Of the greatest interest, however, was the influx of the seldom-reported Yellow-crowned Night Heron which was seen at Dalton, Ga., June 28 (rescued from a dog—AH), near Hiawassee, Ga. July 13 (RWL), State College, Pa., July 1-26 (second local record—MW), and L. Oneida, Pa., July 20 (DW, *fide* DF). A new colony of Black-crowned Night Herons totalling about 200 adults was discovered near Knoxville (JBO) and there were two records at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., one of the very few recent records (MC & CH, *fide* PS). A Cattle Egret was seen near Bruceton Mills, W.Va. June 4 (DS).

Two Mute Swans were seen near Edinboro, Pa., July 27 (RFL, ML). About 15 young Canada Geese were raised at L. Arthur, Pa., (DF), 11 at a colony near Dalton, Ga. (AH), and several at McClintic Wildlife Station, W.Va. (NG). The Wood Duck nesting season was generally reported as being good. Blue-winged Teal nested successfully at L. Arthur (DF) and near Youngstown, O. (WB) and three adults were seen at Antes Fort, Pa., in mid-June (JV, *fide* PS).

RAPTORS—There were more reports of summering hawks than usual this year, and the reported successful nestings give cause for some slight optimism for this sorely beset group. A Sharp-shinned Hawk nest was found in Campbell County, Tenn. (2nd local record—JH, *fide* JBO) and one was seen in Pickens County, S C (very rare there in summer) June 16 (HL). Cooper's Hawk nested successfully near Clarksville, Pa (RB) and raised five young in a nest at Youngstown (WB) Also at Clarksville there was a successful nesting of a Red-shouldered Hawk, and an Am. Kestrel fledged three young from five eggs (RB). There were two sightings of Bald Eagles at Norris L., Tenn. (JH, *fide* JBO) but these were thought to be wanderers from the south. A pair of Golden Eagles was seen near the Blue Ridge Parkway in s. Haywood County, N.C. July 7 (HH, *fide* HL) giving rise to the suspicion that they may nest there. There were no reports of Golden Eagles from the West Virginia mountains this summer.

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS AND TERNS—A Com. Gallinule was seen near Danville, Pa. on several occasions (BM). The shorebird flight began about July 10 and was only moderate by the end of the period, although as usual only a few places reported any. Pectoral Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers and both yellow-legs made up the bulk of the flight by the end of July although dowitchers (sp?) and Sanderling had been seen at State College (MW), and W. Sandpipers at L. Arthur, July 12 (MG & FL) were both unusual and early.

The only reports of Upland Sandpipers came from Carmichaels, Pa. (RB). One wonders if the Spotted Sandpiper is in trouble in the Region. Few reporters even mention it. None were seen during the two weeks of the Ritchie County, W.Va. Foray (B.B.C.) and in Kanawha County, W.Va. it was mentioned that only one of this once-common bird was seen all year (AS).

Black Terns seen at Waynesboro, Va., June 2 (BS, *fide* RS) and near Knoxville, June 8 (JH, *fide* JBO) were unusual so far south at those dates, and those seen at L.

Arthur July 12 (MG & FL, *fide* DF) and Dalton, July 27 (AH) were very early fall migrants.

DOVES, CUCKOOS AND OWLS—Mourning Doves continue to increase in the Charleston area (AS) where they have been uncommon, and in Allegheny County, Pa. they were considered to be 60 per cent above the four year average of numbers (DF). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were thought to be common in the E Panhandle of West Virginia (CM) and near Charleston (AS) but were very scarce at Morgantown (GH) and Allegheny County, Pa. (DF), although at the latter location they became more common in July. But near Lock Haven, Pa. three B.B.S. counts showed 21 Yellow-billed Cuckoos as compared with a previous average of less than three (PS). Black-billed Cuckoos were scarce everywhere.

Barn Owls nested successfully near Jefferson, Pa (RB), but Screech Owls were in reduced numbers at most places. No other species were reported.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS AND WOODPECKERS —A Chuck-will's-widow was heard (and recorded) in Ritchie County, W. Va. in June and July (B.B.C.). This represents an unexpected location and is only the third record (none in 20 years) for the state. However, another was reported heard near Summersville, W.Va. (DSh, *fide* GK). Whip-poor-wills continue to decline, being way down at Newcomerstown, O. (ES), and now completely absent from the Ligonier Valley in Pennsylvania (RCL). Common Nighthawks were thought to be down to 70 per cent of normal in Allegheny County, Pa. (DF), and were considered scarce at State College (MW), Inwood, W.Va. (CM), Charleston (AS) and Morgantown (GH). Chimney Swifts had declined by 40 per cent in Allegheny County (DF) and were in low numbers at State College, (MW)

The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to do well in northern part of its range with increases in the Ligonier Valley, Pa. (RCL) and near Danville, Pa. (BM). Red-headed Woodpecker sightings at Rote, Pa. (CH, *fide* PS), Conneaut and Hartstown, Pa. (RFL) were noteworthy. Red-headed Woodpeckers were completely absent from Ritchie County, W.Va. (B.B.C.) where William Brewster had found them very common in 1874. A nesting of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Warren, Pa. (HJ, *fide* WH) was noteworthy.

FLYCATCHERS—The flycatchers presented a very mixed set of reports. Eastern Kingbirds were scarce at Powdermill Nature Reserve (hereafter P.N.R.) near Ligonier, Pa. (RCL) and Great Crested Flycatchers were in below normal numbers there and at Charleston (AS). Eastern Phoebes were normal at Clarksville, Pa. (RB) but were down by 50 per cent in Allegheny County (DF). On the other hand E. Wood Pewees were in good numbers at most places, but again low in Allegheny County, Pa. Acadian Flycatchers were in unusually high numbers throughout the normal range, being 80 per cent above average in Allegheny County (DF), and highest count on a B.B.S. route in Greene County, Pa. (RB). One was seen at Warren, Pa., well north of the usual range, on June 24 (HJ, *fide* WH). Least Flycatchers in Ritchie County, W.Va. in

early June were slightly out of range (B.B.C.). Willow Flycatchers have been expanding their range eastward and southward but they were felt to be down by 70 per cent in Allegheny County, Pa. (DF) and have declined at P.N.R. (RCL). However one heard on the county line between Kanawha and Lincoln Counties, W.Va. was at a new location (AS). More remarkable was an Alder Flycatcher heard at 5100 ft. in s.w. Virginia (V.S.O.). It had been the Willow Flycatcher that had been moving into this region. An Alder Flycatcher was present at L. Arthur all summer (PH, *vide* DF). An Olive-sided Flycatcher nest found on the lower slopes of Mt. LeConte in Great Smoky Mountains N.P. was the first actual nesting for that area, although the birds have summered there for many years (JBO).

SWALLOWS—Purple Martins continue to be in reduced numbers in most places. After the disaster during Hurricane *Agnes* in 1972 and the cold wet nesting season of 1973 breeding populations had been very low in many places. However nesting success this year was fairly good, and the species may be ready to start back up. It is estimated that some new colonies will have to be formed next year. In areas unaffected by *Agnes*, such as Knoxville, Tenn., populations were normal or slightly below. By July 31 the fall buildup of martins near Charleston had risen to about 6000, normal for that date (AS). Rough-winged Swallows were low throughout the area. There were about 25 nests of the Cliff Swallow in the new colony at Kinzua Dam in n. Pennsylvania (WH). Tree Swallows were in rather low numbers, but 300-500 young were fledged from the boxes in the Bluebird Nesting Project in Warren and Forest Counties, Pa. (WH). Summer records at Waynesboro, Va. (RS) were suggestive of nesting but nothing definite was learned.

RAVENS, TITMICE AND CREEPERS—Two Com. Ravens were seen at about 2800 ft. near Walhalla, S.C. June 9 (HL). They are not known to nest there, but do sparingly nest in w. North Carolina above 5000 ft. This species seems to be increasing in the north as records continue to come in from Somerset and Westmoreland Counties, Pa. (DF).

Both Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice were reported to be 50 per cent below average in Allegheny County, Pa. (DF) and at Charleston Carolina Chickadees and titmice were in lower-than-normal numbers. At Morgantown three B.B.S. counts showed titmice to be 50-60 per cent of normal numbers. On the other hand, banding results at P.N.R. indicated that chickadees were in good numbers.

The Brown Creeper has been breeding at lower elevations in this Region for several years (see, Hall, G.A. 1969. *Redstart* 36:98-103.), and this trend continues. Near Lock Haven, Pa. three B.B.S. routes showed 11 creepers in 1973 and 7 in 1974, where none had been found earlier. Summer records also came from Butler, Allegheny, and Westmoreland Counties, Pa. but definite breeding evidence was lacking (DF). Five creepers at Pymatuning L., (RFL) marked a return to an area where the species nested before the original swamp was flooded to form the present lake in the early 1930s.

WRENS, MIMIDS AND THRUSHES—Carolina Wrens were in extremely high numbers throughout the normal range, and this explosion continues at the n. extremity of the range. In Greene County, Pa., a B B S route listed 31 wrens compared with only one when the count was started in 1966 (RB). In the Ligonier Valley populations were at their highest level (RFL) and a report came from Hartstown, Pa., well north of the usual range (ML, *vide* RFL). Bewick's Wren nested near Blacksburg, Va., the first time in many years (JM), but they were completely missing from the high country in s.w. North Carolina (HL). Long-billed Marsh Wrens summered at Danville, Pa. (BM), L. Arthur (DF) and at Geneva, Pa. (ML, *vide* RFL). Gray Catbirds were reported in lower-than-normal numbers at Butler, Pa. (FP), and several reporters commented that they had seen fewer than the usual number of young catbirds.

Hermit Thrushes heard singing on Mt. Rogers, Va. (V.S.O.) represent a considerable southwestward extension of the summer range. About 1000 young bluebirds were fledged from the bluebird project in Warren and Forest Counties, Pa. (WH). Elsewhere it was felt that the bluebird had a good season and was well on its way to recovery from earlier losses.

GNATCATCHERS, WAXWINGS AND VIREOS—Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were well above normal in numbers in Allegheny (DF) and Greene (RB) Counties, Pa. and a report came from as far north as Warren (HJ, *vide* WH). However at P.N.R. (RCL) and Charleston (AS) they were thought to be below normal. The Cedar Waxwing seems to be the only species greatly affected by the outbreak of the periodical cicada in Kanawha County, W.Va. They had been in low numbers before the cicada emerged, large flocks were present while the cicadas were out, and once the insects died the waxwings again disappeared (AS). Elsewhere in the Region waxwings were extremely and unusually scarce.

White-eyed Vireos were above normal at P N R (RCL), part of a recent trend of this species in the north. Another rather long-term trend is the continued decline of the Yellow-throated Vireo. Warbling Vireos were thought to be 70 per cent below normal in Allegheny County, Pa. (DF). Red-eyed Vireos presented a rather mixed picture. They were above normal in Charleston B.B.S. counts (AS), in average numbers on Morgantown B.B.S. counts (GH) and at P.N.R. (RCL) but in below-average numbers in Allegheny County, Pa. (DF).

WARBLERS—Warbler populations were generally not very high but most species were in numbers comparable to those of recent years. Some exceptions were Com. Yellowthroats which were below average in Allegheny County (DF) and on Morgantown B B S Counts (GH), and Yellow-breasted Chats which appeared low throughout the n. part of the Region. At P.N.R. Yellow Warblers were felt to be at the lowest level observed since the station opened (RCL). Black-and-white Warblers continued to be in low numbers in w. Pennsylvania but may have made some recovery in n. West Virginia. Prairie Warblers are in good numbers at most places with the highest populations on record at P.N.R. (RCL) and nesting at two locations near Danville, Pa. (BM).

It was a good year for "Brewster's Warbler" hybrids with reports coming from Danville, Pa. (BM), Ritchie County, W.Va. (B.B.C.) and Ohio County, W.Va. (GB) At Charleston a Blue-winged x Golden-winged pair was seen feeding recently fledged young (NG). In the Kanawha County area the Blue-winged has now almost completely replaced the Golden-winged, and in Ritchie County Blue-wingeds were abundant and Golden-wingeds scarce, whereas 100 years ago only Golden-wingeds were found. Five singing ♂♂ Blue-winged Warblers were found in w. Cherokee County, N C the first evidence of this species breeding in North Carolina (HL).

Eight Swainson's Warblers were found in n. Pickens County, S.C. June 16, a new but not unexpected location (HL). Magnolia Warblers at Mt. Rogers, Va. (V S O.) were another species with a considerable southward expansion of range. In Cherokee County, N C a Chestnut-sided Warbler was found at an elevation of 1800 ft. while normally it does not occur below 3000 ft. in this area (HL).

A most unusual event was the influx of Yellow-throated Warblers into w. Pennsylvania, as mentioned originally in the spring report. A male was on territory at P.N.R. in early June and an immature was banded there July 25 (RCL). Another was seen in early June in Allegheny County (DF). These records do not appear to be correlated with increases elsewhere, but the species was common in Ritchie County, W. Va. (B.B.C.) and in above-normal numbers in Kanawha County (AS).

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS—The Orchard Oriole is expanding its range and increasing its population. There were four sightings reported for the Lock Haven, Pa. area (PS) where it is rare, and in Kanawha County it has increased at the expense of the Northern Oriole (AS). Northern Orioles were about 30 per cent below average at Allegheny County, Pa. (DF), but near Knoxville where the species was unknown only a few years ago, at least three nestings were under observation (JBO). Both species of oriole sustained nesting losses at Clarksville, Pa. during the wet weather in June (RB) Brown-headed Cowbirds have undergone a spectacular increase in the Charleston area (AS) but they too were far below normal (75 per cent below four-year average) in Allegheny County, Pa. (DF).

A Summer Tanager at Ohiopyle, Pa. June 30 may have been breeding and was well out of normal range (DF)

FRINGILLIDS—At Blacksburg, Va., Rose-breasted Grosbeaks may have nested under 2000 ft., which is well below the normal range in this area (JM). Blue Grosbeaks nested again this year near Knoxville (JBO) and were seen June 5 at Waynesboro, Va., but not thereafter (RS). Indigo Buntings were in high numbers throughout the Region, except possibly near Pittsburgh. A Dickcissel was seen at L. Arthur June 15, but not thereafter (DF), and they did not nest this year near Waynesboro and Staunton, Va. where they had in 1973 (RS).

Purple Finches continue to be found at lower elevations in the summer with two records from Westmoreland County, and one each from Allegheny and Butler

Counties in w. Pennsylvania (DF). The House Finch was found in summer at Blacksburg, Va. (JM), Staunton, Va. (RS), and Allegheny County, Pa. (DF) where they had been found only in winter before. They were seen for the first time in Danville, Pa. (BM), and the established populations at State College (MW) and Indiana, Pa. (CW) continue to increase. Red Crossbills were reported from Blacksburg, Va. June 2 and July 21 (JM) and at Pymatuning L. June 19 (RCL).

It now seems apparent that the Grasshopper Sparrow is in real trouble in this Region. This trend was first noticed in e. Tennessee several years ago and is now widespread in the area. At Morgantown (GH) they were essentially absent all season, and in Ritchie County, W.Va. very few were seen (B.B.C.). They are also quite scarce in Allegheny County, Pa. (DF), but in Washington County, Pa. seven males were listed on a B.B.S. count (SS, *vide* DF). Populations were considered normal in the E. Panhandle of West Virginia (CM) and at Clarksville, Pa. (RB). Possibly for the same reasons the Henslow's Sparrow is also in greatly reduced numbers at many places. The seldom-reported Bachman's Sparrow was present throughout June at Crab Orchard, Tenn. (JBO).

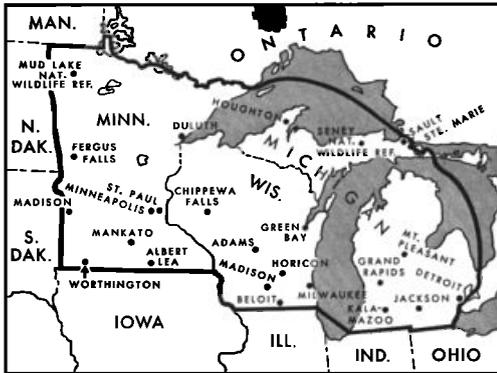
A Vesper Sparrow was apparently on territory in Jackson County, N.C. June 10, which would represent a considerable southwestward expansion of breeding range (HL). White-throated Sparrows nested again near Warren, Pa. (WH). Several observers at widely scattered points commented on an apparent scarcity of Song Sparrows.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION **/ Robert B. Janssen**

June and July were months of great contrast in weather conditions in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. June was mainly characterized by cool temperatures, especially in Wisconsin, heavy rainfall and severe storms. There was a heavy storm over the Twin Cities on June 20 with winds up to 65 miles per hour and over two inches of rain. In Wisconsin, areas received from two to five inches of rain in one rainfall. Also, in Wis-

consin, mid-June nightly lows were in the 30s in the northern region with many parts of the state setting record lows.



July was almost the exact opposite of June in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It was hot and dry with southwest Minnesota being the hardest hit by the drought. On July 8, the temperature hit 101°F. in Minneapolis-St. Paul, the warmest in 26 years. By mid-July 90° readings were normal over central and southern parts of both states and 100° days were common. Rainfall was deficient over the whole area during July; as an example, Minneapolis was more than 2.5 inches short for the month. Rains and cooler temperatures occurred in Wisconsin by the end of July, but it was early August before conditions changed in Minnesota.

Of special note was a severe hailstorm that hit the western Green Bay area of Wisconsin on July 2, slicing through the marsh at the southern end of the bay. It is in this area where for the second year the Little Gulls were nesting, plus many Forster's Terns, blackbirds, coots, ducks, etc. The next day Tom Erdman and Joel Trick went through the hardest hit area of the marsh and observed countless numbers of dead and injured birds. Forster's Terns were dead on their nests, pounded almost literally into them, a dead or injured Red-winged Blackbird was by almost every cattail, one of the trees where the cormorants were nesting was blown down, even one dead Canada Goose was found. The Little Gulls were not seen after this date. Fortunately most of the gulls and Common Terns nest on islands a short distance away and this area was spared the brunt of the storm, as was another main duck nesting area. Unfortunately, the filling of the marsh for an industrial site continues, with completion one or two years away. Thus man will shortly eliminate this excellent nesting area permanently.

Breeding success across the area was generally good: raptors, including Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrel and Red-shouldered Hawk showed good nesting success in Michigan. Encouraging was the fact that the Franklin's Gull returned in numbers to its breeding colony in Agassiz N.W.R. in northwestern Minnesota. Of special interest is the nesting success of the Ring-billed Gull in Minnesota as reported below.

Warblers and shorebirds were still migrating across southern parts of the region in early June. By the first of July shorebirds were already moving southward into Minnesota and Wisconsin.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Many observers in Michigan reported the scarcity of Great Blue Herons, but numbers seemed normal in other parts of the region. The Green Heron appears to be expanding its range in Minnesota, occurring more frequently in the s.w. and w. portions of the state. There was no nesting evidence for Cattle Egrets or Little Blue Herons at the L. Johanna heronry in Pope Co. Minn. Both species nested there in 1973. Neither species was present during June and only one Little Blue Heron was seen, that on July 27. Cattle Egrets occurred at Pelican L., Grant Co., Minn., but nesting was not determined. A small colony of Cattle Egrets was present at Rush L., Winnebago Co., Wisc., but, nesting has not been substantiated as yet. The only report of the Cattle Egret in Michigan was of two birds July 20 in Wayne County. On July 7, 22 Great Egrets were seen at Agassiz N.W.R. near the Canadian border in n.w. Minnesota. An adult and one imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron were seen near Collegeville, Stearns Co., Minn., June 11. This is far north of the species' normal summer range in the state. Least Bitterns were recorded in Redwood Co., Minn. July 27 and ten were at Metro Beach, Macomb Co., Mich., in mid-June.

WATERFOWL—Three Mute Swans and one Whistling Swan were on L. Superior near Duluth June 2. If these were wild Mute Swans they would represent a first state record for Minnesota. Whistling Swans occurred in Wisconsin June 13, when two were seen in Chippewa Co.; one remained on a pond north of Madison during June and another was seen near LaCrosse July 28. Two Fulvous Tree Ducks were reported from Oakland Co., Michigan. It could not be determined if the birds were escapes, only that they remained in the area about two weeks and then disappeared with no further reports. The overall duck breeding situation in Minnesota was probably about average. The July drought had some effect on late broods, but, water conditions were satisfactory during the height of the breeding season. Wood Duck numbers have increased substantially in Minnesota. Birds are being recorded in unprecedented numbers in new areas of the state, especially in western and northern areas. Six Greater Scaup summered in Milwaukee and a ♂ Bufflehead was seen at Oconto Marsh, Oconto Co., Wisc. July 15. Neither species is known to breed in this region.

HAWKS—The nesting success figures on the Bald Eagle in Minnesota were not available at the time of this writing, but, 27 of 43 territories were active on the Superior National Forest. Preliminary reports from the Chippewa Forest indicate an increase in nesting success. For the Osprey, 25 of 33 territories were active on the Superior Forest. The Merlin, a rare bird in summer in this region, was recorded June 18 in St. Louis Co., Minn., and in two areas in Wisconsin: June 18 in Waushara Co., and July 27 in Vilas Co.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS—The Spruce Grouse was reported only from Minnesota: three birds June 23 in Lake Co., and an adult with three young July 3 in Lake of the Woods County. Ruffed Grouse numbers are down all across the region as the low point in their

cycle is drawing near. The Greater Prairie Chicken continues to hang on in n.w. Minnesota, mainly owing to the efforts of the Nature Conservancy to preserve tracts of prairie habitat. The Bobwhite was reported from three localities in Minnesota: June 19 in Winona Co., June 20 in Fillmore Co., and June 27 in Olmsted Co. King Rails remain almost unreported in the region: only one was received, that from Price Co., Wisc. Yellow Rails continue to make news in Minnesota. At least 20 to 30 birds were heard calling in ten different marshes in Aitkin Co. during June and July. Many observers saw and heard the birds during this period. In Minnesota there appeared to be a crash decline in the number of breeding Am. Coots. About normal numbers were noted in spring migration, but birds were either much reduced or entirely absent from their breeding marshes. Few young were noted, where in past years hundreds have been seen.

SHOREBIRDS—An Am. Golden Plover was seen in LaCrosse, Wisc., July 28, which represents a new early fall arrival date by one week. The Am. Woodcock appears to be expanding its breeding range in Minnesota. Traditionally found only in the forested regions of the eastern part of the state, birds were reported from far western counties, for example June 20 in Lac Qui Parle Co., and July 4 in Chippewa Co. Spring migration of shorebirds continued into mid-June across the region and return fall movement was noted, especially in Minnesota and Michigan, the first week in July. Unusual records included a Ruddy Turnstone June 28 at L. Winnebago, Winnebago Co., Wisc.; White-rumped Sandpipers July 11 in Milwaukee Co., Wisc. and July 31 in Outagamie Co., Wisc.; Western Sandpipers were recorded in Chippewa, Brown, and Outagamie Cos., Wisc and Clay Co., Minn. Buff-breasted Sandpipers had returned to Duluth by late July.

GULLS THROUGH KINGFISHER—Immature Great Black-backed Gulls (possibly the same bird) were seen in Green Bay June 8 and Racine, Wisc., June 13. The Ring-billed Gull was first positively recorded as breeding in Minnesota in 1960. Since that time it has bred only sporadically on L. Mille Lacs, Leech L. and possibly in the Duluth area. On July 18, 790 young, plus 545 adults were censused on the Minnesota Power and Light Co. fill area along the St. Louis R. in Duluth. Another single nest with two eggs was found June 23 in the Com. Tern nesting colony at the Port Terminal in Duluth. A **Laughing Gull** was carefully identified by three observers June 30 and July 31 at Green Bay, Wisc. After a disastrous nesting season in 1973, the Franklin's Gull colony at Agassiz N.W.R. flourished this year with over 25,000 birds present. Four Little Gulls were seen in Duluth June 17 and as mentioned above: this species attempted to nest at Green Bay, Wisc., but was not seen in the area after a severe storm July 2. A single **Arctic Tern** was seen and carefully identified in Duluth June 17. Common Terns nested successfully in Duluth with 162 nests counted June 26. Great Gray Owls were recorded at three localities in Minnesota, one each at Island L., St. Louis Co. June 1, Murphy Creek, Lake Co. June 23 and Meadowlands, St. Louis Co. July 5. Short-eared Owls successfully bred near MacGregor,

Aitkin Co., Minn.; four young were raised, but on successive days in late July each of the young was picked up dead along a nearby highway, victims of the traffic!

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers nests were found in St. Louis (2) and Lake (2) Cos., Minn. during June. A W. Kingbird was sighted in Calumet Co., Wisc., June 1. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen in Edina, a suburb of Minneapolis, June 27. The Say's Phoebe, officially added to the Minnesota State list in 1973, was recorded on June 4, 10, and July 14, at Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co. The Acadian Flycatcher is expanding its range northward in Minnesota. A pair was seen building a nest on June 1 near Vasa, Goodhue Co. Numbers are increasing in other areas with seven singing males in Houston Co., Minn., June, 2, and eight in late June in Oakland Co., Mich.

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES—Black-billed Magpies nested at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn., and near Meadowlands, St. Louis Co., Minn. The latter record is the in e. part of the state where they have only been recorded as winter visitants. Carolina Wrens were recorded in Pierce Co., Wisc., June 23; an adult was observed feeding young June 22 in Muskegan Co., Mich., and they nested successfully in Wayne Co., Mich. Mockingbirds nested and reared young successfully in Milwaukee and Detroit. The famous Curve-billed Thrasher at Buffalo City, Wisc., remains healthy and is still laying infertile eggs in its nest! A pair of Rudy-crowned Kinglets successfully nested at Appleton, Outagamie Co., Wisc. Sprague's Pipits were more in evidence than in previous years on the Felton prairie, Clay Co., Minn., when seven males were heard singing on July 28.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—Bell's Vireos were seen in three counties in Wisconsin; Trempealeau, Vernon, and Jackson. In Minnesota the species was absent from most of its usual locations in the southeast, but was recorded in a new area near Rochester, Olmsted Co., June 7-30. On the Minnesota Ornithologists Union summer field trip to Lake Co., June 22-23, a total of 18 breeding species of warblers was recorded. A Black-and-white Warbler was seen June 22 in LeSueur Co., Minn., first in s. Minnesota for 50 years. Tennessee Warblers were still migrating across s. Minnesota the first week in June. Five singing Black-throated Blue Warblers were located in Cook Co., Minn., June 17. The Cerulean Warblers continues to move north and west in Minnesota: a singing male was seen in Todd Co., June 3. Three singing ♂♂ Prairie Warblers were seen in Mason Co., Mich., June 26 and a single bird seen June 12 in Waukesha Co., Wisc. Connecticut Warblers were reported only in Minnesota, from Lake Co., and 8-10 pairs were recorded in Aitkin County. The Yellow-breasted Chat is becoming a very scarce bird in this region, reported only from Oakland Co., Mich. None were reported in Wisconsin and in Minnesota where the species is casual, a single bird was trapped and banded just south of St. Paul in Dakota Co., June 17.

FRINGILLIDS—Four singing ♂♂ Blue Grosbeaks were present in Rock Co., and another was seen in Pipestone Co., Minn., during June and July. Two nests were collected from the Rock Co., area. Grasshopper Sparrows were common throughout the Region, with most observers reporting increased numbers. The Henslow's Sparrow appears to have a curious distribution in the area, with only one was reported from Minnesota, but in Wisconsin it was reported from 15 counties, and Michigan reported it from three counties. Encouraging was the presence of three to five singing Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Aitkin Co., Minn. This is a new summer location for the species in the State. Previously it has been restricted to the Red R. Valley. Chestnut-collared Longspurs continue to hang on at the Felton prairie area of Clay Co., Minn., with approximately 30 birds present. One nest with eggs was found during June. One bird was seen at Duluth June 28 far from its western breeding area.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION / Vernon M. Kleen

This season would be best characterized by its lack of significant observations; those which were mailed in were good, but many observers were either too busy to get out in the field or to submit reports, or they were on vacations.



As usual, fall migrating shorebirds must have met some of the northbound, late-departing, spring migrants as only a few days separated the two migratory periods in our Region. Again, there were reports of range extensions, both northward and southward, and of temporary nesting areas created by intermittent lakes.

There were encouraging reports of nesting population increases for some species and discouraging reports of declines in other species; the House Sparrow

was a discouraging report of an increasing species. Actual nests were located for some of the uncommon species, but searches for nests of other rare or uncommon species were not successful.

The weather was an important factor for this season; in the west, June was very wet and hot; in the east it was near normal, in Louisville, Kentucky, it was the coldest June on record averaging 4½° F. below normal. July was hot and very dry in the west, the driest since 1901 at Evansville, Indiana, and dry with near normal temperatures in the east. The many rains which did pass through in July were local in distribution and brief in duration. Some areas went as long as 30 days without rain. Still, the water level in Lake Erie remained at its record high throughout the season.

In order to better document observations, observers are now required to complete documentation forms for extraordinary sight records at the time of observation; such documentations have been denoted by a dagger (†) in front of the observer's initials. Collected specimens have been denoted by an asterisk (*). It may appear that Illinois records dominate the Regional Reports; this may be true for two reasons: 1) many more Illinois observers submit reports and records, and 2) over four times as many documentation forms have been completed by Illinois observers as by observers from the five states combined. This Report can only be prepared from significant and valid records received; all states and observers within the Middlewestern Prairie Region are treated exactly alike and it is intended that all records be valid as well as properly and correctly acknowledged.

INTRODUCED SPECIES—Ten years ago, a group of Red Junglefowl were released by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources near Dawson Springs; the population of these birds seems to be thriving with an estimated 30-40 individuals in the flock (CK, *vide* LN).

LOONS, CORMORANTS, PELICANS, HERONS—An unusual number of Com. Loons, all in winter plumage, lingered well into June; a pair at Olney, Ill. was still present at the end of June (MJ); two others at Tiffen, O. June 23 (JK); and singles at Mexico, Mo. June 10-11 (DS *et al.*, *vide* RW), L. Sangchris, Ill. June 8 (RP), and Effingham, Ill. June 3 (PC). The last remnant flock of nesting Double-crested Cormorants in Illinois continued its success in Pool 13 of the Mississippi R. near Savanna — 11 active nests were built in two dead trees, just how long this colony can continue to survive remains to be seen. A flock of ten White Pelicans had returned to Aldrich, Mo. by July 5 (NF). The Green Heron was the only heron species considered in normal numbers in the Kansas City area (KH). Little Blue Herons have continued to expand their range—nesting may follow soon; at least three adults were present around Louisville throughout the period (JPs, S, FS, LB), post-breeding movements were first detected July 20 (H) in c. Illinois and July 27 (LaS) at Louisville; a first-year bird appeared at Barrington, Ill. July 21 (C). Nesting colonies of Cattle Egrets may be reported more regularly in the near future; the summering birds in Mason Co., Ill. (H) and Jasper Co., Ind., (C) may be part of still-to-be located nesting colonies. The Blue-listed Black-crowned Night Heron maintained its good standing in the Region; small colonies, not previously reported, were located in Greene Co., Iowa, (RJ) and near Louisville (*vide* S); six individuals were reported from Tiffen, O. throughout July (*vide* JK). A report of 20+ Yellow-crowned Night Herons came from the St. Louis area (A); several, including recently-fledged young, were present near Dayton, O. (SH).

WATERFOWL—Mute Swans have been introduced on to a few large lakes in Illinois over the past few years; some of these have survived and reproduced; other individuals have been reported at locations away from the areas of introduction; on July 13, an adult bird took flight heading southward from a Waukegan marsh and did not return (C). An unusual number of dabblers and divers summered at Nigger L. (Mason Co.), Ill. (described in the Spring Report of *American Birds*); a few noteworthy breeding and potentially breeding records occurred there. Initially, a pair of Gadwalls remained at Nigger L., but only a female could be found there in July (H); another female was present at L. Calumet (Chicago) June 30 (C); five birds, including one ad. male were at the Willow Sough Game Preserve, Ind. (hereafter, W.S.G.P.) June 23 (EH). Pintails possibly bred at Nigger L. and fall migrants had returned there by July 20 (H). Blue-winged Teal nested quite commonly again this year as far south as Kansas City, St. Louis, c. Illinois and Terre Haute, Ind. Even Green-winged Teal nested as young were found at Nigger L. (H). Practically all observers commenting on Wood Ducks reported a successful breeding season. A pair of Red-

heads were at L. Calumet, June 9, the male was in eclipse plumage July 28 (C). Summering reports of Ring-necked Ducks included a pair at Hamlet, Ind. June 14, however, only the male on July 2 (DB), and single males at Powderhorn L. (Chicago) June 30 (C) and L. Pewee, Ky. June 9 & 24 (JH). An exceptionally late Bufflehead was still present at Goose Lake Prairie S.P. Ill. June 2 (C). A Red-breasted Merganser at Cleveland, July 27 (MSt) was quite unusual; four females were present at L. Sangchris, Ill. June 8 (RP) with two still there July 2 & 4 (H).

HAWKS—The Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawk nests reported from n.e. Indiana last spring were abandoned; the suspected cause of desertion was too much human activity (this was also a problem at other nests of birds of prey; therefore, observers should accept this as a note of concern for visiting all nests). One successful Red-shouldered Hawk nest was reported s. of St. Louis along the Mississippi R.—this was the first known nest in the St. Louis area for years (A). Noteworthy sighting of this hawk elsewhere were singles at Wheeling and Barrington, Ill. June 23 and July 21, respectively (C). In 1974 there were only six nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in Ohio; two (neither of which had been successful since 1969) were successful.

RAILS, GALLINULES, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS AND TERNS—Three imm. Soras were observed at Nigger L. Aug. 3 (H); the notes of this species were heard at Hodgenville, Ky. June 22 (LaS); if observers would check more marshy habitats, this species may be found nesting more commonly than previously expected (other nesting rails may also be discovered). The famous Purple Gallinules of L. Mermet, Ill. answered pre-taped recordings this summer; this method of soliciting responses should be tried in other areas; the Mermet birds were readily observed but nests were not found (RS, H, PW). Three separate broods of Am Coots (the last was seen on July 27) were considered unusual in the Hamlet, Ind. area (DB). Both late-departing and early-returning shorebirds were reported during this season. Only a few days separated the two migratory periods. An adult-plumaged Am. Golden Plover was present at L. Calumet, Ill. July 7 (C). White-rumped Sandpipers were among the spring late-departees at Cleveland, June 10 (†RH) and Mason Co., Ill. June 15 (†H). There were few reports of Upland Sandpipers—none were encouraging; at Frederick-sburg, O. it was the first year in memory that no birds remained during the summer (DK); at St. Louis, only two pairs could be located; around Kansas City, a slight increase was suggested, but no numbers were reported (KH). An early-returning Sanderling in breeding plumage had arrived at L. Chautauqua, Ill. by July 20 (H). The Wilson's Phalaropes remained in Mason Co., Ill. all summer, but hours of searching did not produce the nest (H); another individual was found at Moline, Ill. June 23 (†EF). The most unexpected record of the season was probably the well-documented ♀ **Red Phalarope** (with totally red belly) in Missouri, near St. Louis, July 28 (MiS, †A, m.ob.). The photograph (by RF on June 9) of the nesting Herring Gull documented the first record of this species attempting to nest in the

Cleveland area (MSt, m.ob.); unfortunately, the nest was not successful. Another gull, well-documented, was an ad. Laughing Gull reported June 15 (†RH) and June 22 (†M) from Cleveland. A sad note is that of the Least Tern; the small colony regularly nesting on a small sandbar in the Mississippi R. at St. Louis had no chance to nest again this year. The Mississippi R. was too high and covered the sandbars; the scarce local rains caused no damage or flooding, it was the heavier rains in the upper areas of the three great rivers that converge at St. Louis which were responsible. Sightings of individuals or two to three birds were reported from St. Louis and extreme s. Illinois.

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, KINGFISHERS—The Barn Owl may now be in deep trouble in n.w. Ohio; where formerly large numbers nested, only one nest was found this summer (LV). Screech Owls, on the other hand, have benefited in the same area by using Wood Duck nest boxes; 21 of 26 nests in such boxes were successful and produced an average of 3.66 young per successful nest at banding age (LV). Short-eared Owl nests were not reported this year; however, they probably bred in the Region; one or more birds summered at Fredericksburg, O. (DK). Two Chuck-will's-widows were calling in Mahaska Co., Iowa, during June; one bird was later caught and banded (KL, RJ). Nesting success for Com. Nighthawks may have been much better this summer than in past years because of the drought and less standing water on rooftops. The Belted Kingfisher must be having difficulties around Kansas City because "we do not know of a summer resident in the area." (KH); is this a problem elsewhere?

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, CREEPERS—Observers in n.e. Indiana had the opportunity of listening to both the Alder and Willow flycatchers singing in similar habitats within a quarter mile of each other at the Pigeon River Refuge (hereafter, P.R.R.), Ind. (Haw, JW). Purple Martins suffered again this summer; the heat was the suggested problem at Oskaloosa, Ia. leaving many young dead in nests (RJ); only St. Louis reported an increase in this species from previous years—and that was only a slight increase (A). Each year more and better reports are received about Brown Creepers; three singing birds were found at the Kankakee Fish and Game Area, Ind. June 15 (C); other singing individuals were noted at Dayton, O. June 18 (SH) and Deerfield, Ill. June 8 (C); a non-singing bird was observed in Lake Co., Ill. June 1 (GR).

WRENS, MIMIDS, THRUSHES, SHRIKES—There were only encouraging reports for House Wrens: common or increasing in numbers; however, most reporters made no comments at all. Observers who spent time in the Indiana Dunes S.P., Ind. were rewarded with unusual sightings; one sighting included the first summer record of a **Winter Wren** which was found singing June 9 and July 7 (C). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found singing all summer around St. Louis (A) and c. Illinois (H). Two ♂♂ Long-billed Marsh Wrens were apparently holding territories near St. Louis (A) and another at Nigger L., Ill. (H). New nest-

ing locations for Mockingbirds came from Oskaloosa, Ia. (RJ), South Bend, Ind. (Rd., *vide* DB), and the Cleveland area (M). Nesting was verified for the Veery at the W.S.G.P. when young were found out of the nest June 23 (EH); nesting was suspected at Tiffin, O. (JK), the species continued to be "common" at the P.R.R. (LC). No nesting pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes could be located in Ottawa Co., O. this year (LV); however, five pairs (unusual) nested near Pleasantville, Ia. (GB)

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Evidence of expansion was noted for the White-eyed Vireo; four different singing birds were found at the P.R.R. during the first half of June; there also "seemed" to be more of these birds than usual around Kansas City (KH). July 3 was the date for the first summer record of a Black-and-white Warbler for c. Illinois; it was found in Springfield (H). A late nest (July 21) of the Worm-eating Warbler was found in Menefee Co., Ky. (LaS). The June 23 presence of a Cape May Warbler in Louisville was quite unusual (LB). A nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler at the W.S.G.P. contained eggs in mid-July, but was not successful; two males were present at this Newton Co location (EH); another pair was observed at the P R R throughout June (LC). A Hooded Warbler nest contained one egg at Ft. Wayne, Ind. June 12 (HAW, JPt, JW). Two singing ♂♂ Canada Warblers were found at P.R.R. June 13 (LC, MW); one bird was also documented at the Indiana Dunes State Park, July 17 (†CS).

WEAVER, BLACKBIRDS—Both Kansas City and St. Louis observers reported that the dry weather was a boon to the House Sparrow population; this may have been true Regionwide. About six Bobolinks were present in Oldham Co., Ky. June 14-15 (S, FS, MaS) and a single male in Owen Co., Ky. June 16 (†HJ)—the range of this species may be extending gradually southward, suitable habitat for Bobolinks and Dickcissels have decreased in Ottawa Co., Ohio, possibly owing to the discontinuation of the government land retirement program; this has caused a decrease in the numbers of these species in that county (LV). The gradually disappearing Yellow-headed Blackbirds of n. Illinois seemed more common than usual this year (C).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Kentucky observers believe that populations of Blue Grosbeaks may be increasing; in Mason Co., Ill. nine singing males were located and another was found in Tazewell County (H). Two Purple Finches were reported from the Rocky River Metropolitan Park (Cleveland), June 23 (MSt). A southern expansion of Savannah Sparrows was witnessed this year as singing males (possibly on territory) were found at Goshen, Ky. June 15 (m.ob.) and in c. Illinois (first summer record) as adults were seen carrying food to young in Cass Co. June 23 (H). Henslow's were still actively engaged in nesting at the end of this period in the Cleveland area (M). The same area was the location that a White-throated Sparrow elected to spend the summer (†DC).

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION / Robert S. Kennedy

Temperatures throughout most of the region averaged only slightly lower than the season norm, but rainfall was greatly below normal with all areas commenting on dry spells. In Northwest Florida, severe



drought conditions existed during June and July, while in Louisiana the dry spell was confined to June, when less than 30 per cent of the normal rainfall fell in Baton Rouge. The month of June in Arkansas was wet until the 18th, after which a dry spell followed that lasted

until July 25. As a whole, however, there was no indication that these weather conditions adversely affected nesting success.

Valentine, who visited the Chandeleurs twice this past spring and summer, had this to say about the condition of this island chain for nesting birds: "while the islands are rebuilding in a sense, the beach on the Chandeleurs is narrow and the dunes are still being eroded. There are few places on the islands that appear optimum for nesting terns and skimmers. The elevation at the highest beach crest is hardly above most storm tides." If the Chandeleurs are no longer suitable for nesting sea birds, this will not be the last nesting area in the state, since the Isle aux Pitre, Isles Dernieres (both of which already support sizable colonies) and other coastal islands should provide refuge for them.

Various species continue to expand their range in the Region, the most notable being the Barn Swallow, which is now breeding nearly pan-Regionally. Further indication of the scope of range expansions are the numerous "firsts" in categories such as state, state breeding, monthly occurrence, and seasonal occurrence records in the species account below.

The problem of defining a clear-cut season in the Central Southern Region is not new, but this year whatever delimitation there once was has practically vanished. The breeding season began with the nesting of Brown Pelicans along the Louisiana coast in November 1973, and was carried through to early August by some species. Also, the time interval between the end of the spring and the beginning of the fall migration, especially for shorebirds, was narrowed this summer to one week in some cases. The large number of latest and earliest migration records offer testimony of this.

In the report that follows, I have included unpublished records prior to the beginning of the official nesting season and have extended the period through August 15.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS—A Com. Loon in winter plumage in St. Martin Par., May 30 (RSK) was an unusual inland record for late spring. Brown Pelicans continue to show signs of improvement along the Gulf Coast. The wholly imported colony in Barataria Bay, La. was estimated to consist of 400-500 birds this summer. This colony nested on Queen Bess I. for the third straight year. Apparently breeding extended from Nov. 1973 through May of this year, and a total of 100 young was banded. The birds have expanded their foraging range west into Timbalier Bay and east over to Empire, La. (TJ). Another 100 juvenile birds were imported into Louisiana this past July from Daytona Beach, Fla. In the Chandeleurs, 12-13 mostly imm. birds were seen during the spring (TJ), but none were seen there in late May by Valentine *et al.* A flock of some 25-50 Brown Pelicans was seen this year at Pascagoula, Miss., (*vide* TJ). In n.w. Florida, high counts of Brown Pelicans were 55 at Port St. Joe May 25; 19 at Pensacola June 15; and 41 at Destin July 17 (*vide* CLK). Brown Boobies, considered casual along the Gulf Coast, showed up in n.w. Florida at two locations: one at Destin June 8 (T&AF) and one in Pensacola Bay July 28 (CK). An estimated total of 1370 pairs of Anhingas was nesting in five localities in the

Atchafalaya R. Basin, La. (RSK). In the Chandeleurs, less than 100 Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen in late May (JV, BR), but by mid-July the number had increased to 3000 (JV).

CICONIIFORMES—The combined composition of five heronries in the Atchafalaya R. Basin was 27,795 breeding pairs with the breakdown (in pairs) as follows: Great Blue Heron—10; Green Heron—1900; Little Blue Heron—16,400; Cattle Egret—925; Great Egret—4100; Snowy Egret—10; Louisiana Heron—3800; and Yellow-crowned Night Heron—650 (RSK, JL). Nesting was quite successful for these species this year. At the Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., a Great Blue Heron colony comprised approximately 95 nests with about 200 adults present (CD). This heronry was constantly bothered by fishermen again this year even though over 50 citations for trespassing were given. At Lonoke, Ark., Little Blue Herons with numbers of up to 66 birds were sighted on several occasions during the latter part of the summer; and along the Arkansas R. levee from Pendleton to Reydel, 220 Cattle Egrets were seen Aug. 2 in flocks of 25-60 individuals (HH, EMH). At Cape San Blas, Fla., five Reddish Egrets July 17 equaled the previous high number in the area (SS), while in the Chandeleurs 18 were seen in late May (JV *et al.*) but only three were found in mid-July (JV). The 87 Great Egrets near Rohwer, Ark. Aug. 3 were the greatest number seen in that area (JS *et al.*). Black-crowned Night Herons used the Bordeaux heronry in Nashville again this year, and nesting success, although not actually determined, was thought to have been good. Several Yellow-crowned Night Herons nested in a heronry during the spring at Caverns State Park, Fla., with no apparent success (MG). Seven Least Bitterns were seen near Hempstead Co., Ark., June 2 (CM, CG, JLo, JU). Two adult and two imm. Glossy Ibis were present in the Burdette heronry in Mississippi Co., Ark., July 22 (GG, BLT, DH).

The first Wood Storks recorded in Louisiana this summer were two on June 13 west of Ramah in the Atchafalaya R. Basin and a total of 125 was present there June 27 (RSK, JL). In the Morganza Floodway in Pointe Coupee Par., 600 were sighted July 4 (RH). Fair numbers of 400-500 and 200 were found in Cameron Par., July 4 (TJ) and July 10 (MW) respectively. In Florida unusually large groups of 75 on July 16 (MG) and 175 on July 20 (SS), were attracted to the sewage ponds at Cottondale.

WATERFOWL—The local population of the Canada Goose at the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency in the Nashville area continues to multiply and spread to surrounding farm ponds etc., and a total of 1300 birds (300 young) were captured this summer during the Old Hickory L. round-up (MB). Of several Canadas released at the Air Products and Chemicals Inc. Wildlife Sanctuary near Pace, Florida, only one reappeared June 6 after all had earlier disappeared (HMS). Two Gadwalls were seen at Anderson's Minnow Farm in Lonoke Co., Ark., July 4 (GG, BLT). A ♀ Bufflehead found on L. Millwood, Ark., June 11 furnished the latest local record of this species (CM, CMA, RM, MA). Ruddy Ducks, considered regular but

uncommon in summer, were present in numbers from one to nine throughout the season in Lonoke Co. Ark (GG, BLT, DH, AP).

RAPTORS—Swallow-tailed Kites are apparently increasing in s. Louisiana. A highest count ever was 19 (18 ad., 1 subad.) at the Eldorado Plantation in Pointe Coupee Par., below Lottie July 2 (RSK, RH). These birds as well as 30 Mississippi Kites were soaring over an open field at elevations of 50-300 feet. Later, on July 13, at the same plantation 12 Swallow-taileds were seen (B&RB). This summer, three 82-mi. hawk counts along the levee roads within and bordering the Atchafalaya were conducted. The following numbers of Mississippi Kites were observed in the counts: 99 (48 adults, 16 immatures, and 35 of unknown age) on June 1 (RSK, JL); 134 (94 adults, 23 immatures, and 17 of unknown age) on July 2 (RSK, RH) and 190 (85 adults, 10 immatures, 6 juveniles, and 89 of unknown age) on August 1 (RSK, JL). In Arkansas, good counts of Mississippi Kites were made along the Arkansas River levee Aug. 2, when 20 were seen mostly as singles or doubles from Gould to Pendleton (HH, EMH), and Aug. 13, when 68 were sighted (with the largest flock being 10 birds) along a 15-mi. stretch from Pendleton to the end of state Hwy 114 in Lincoln Co. (GG, DH, BLT, AP).

Two Sharp-shinned Hawks June 2 about 14 mi s w of Alexandria, La., were considered possibly a mated pair, since they exhibited a form of courtship flight (ES). Hamilton stated that in Livingston Par., La. this summer, that he would see at least one Cooper's Hawk for every eight hours in the field at widely scattered localities. An ad. Red-tailed Hawk sighted in St Landry Par., La., July 2, was considered rare in that area during summer (RSK, RH). An ad. Bald Eagle summered at the Duck River Unit, Tennessee N W R (CD), and an Osprey was seen there July 24 (MLM). In n.w. Florida, 10 Ospreys at Port St. Joe May 27 (SS) and six at Deer Point L., Panama City, June 26 (MO, HMS) were the highest counts in that area during the summer period. There were no observations of Ospreys west of Panama City for n.w. Florida. At Gum Cove, La., two adult and one subad. Caracaras seen July 13 (RJN, MN, RL) documented the continued presence of this species there.

CRANES TO COOTS—A trip to Jackson Co., Miss. Apr. 25-26 revealed four nests of the Mississippi Sandhill Crane (JV, RN, JLee *et al.*), and a fifth nest was found a week later (JLee). Nesting success was very poor, as the contents of two nests were destroyed by crows, one egg disappeared in the third, and the fourth was abandoned. Only in the fifth nest were there signs that both eggs had hatched successfully. Valentine estimates that 30-50 birds make up the entire population of this endangered subspecies of the Sandhill Crane. The Limpkin appears to be increasing at Econfina Creek, Bay County, Fla., the westernmost part of its range, since 15-20 were sighted there June 26 (MO, HMS). A King Rail at Faulkner L., Pulaski Co., Ark., July 9 (GG, BLT) was the first record for that area in the 1970s, and a Sora Rail at Buena Vista, Nashville, August 5 (MB, BJ) supplied the second earliest local fall date. A marked reduction in the number of summering Am. Coots was reported this season at Anderson's

Minnow Farm, Lonoke Co., Ark. with a maximum of 15 seen, whereas in the past 60 to 200 were present (GG, BLT, DH).

SHOREBIRDS—Fair nesting success of the Wilson's Plover was noted at Cape San Blas, Fla., July 17, with 30 sighted, many of which were in imm. plumage (SS). Killdeer, considered rare breeders in n.w. Florida, were sighted at three locations: four at the Fish Hatchery, Santa Rosa Co. June 22 (CLK); one in Holmes Co. June 29 (CLK); and one at Bagdad Aug. 7 (CK). A Ruddy Turnstone at Pace Pt., Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R. July 28 (MB, GJ) represented apparently the earliest fall Tennessee record. In n.w. Florida, a possibly crippled Com. Snipe was observed at Crestview July 20 (JMS) and the first summer observation of the Whimbrel at Destin was of two birds sighted June 25 and July 5 (SS). An Upland Sandpiper at the Nashville Metropolitan Airport June 29 (MLM *et al.*) was the first fall return for the Nashville area. The first summer records of Red Knots in n.w. Florida were obtained at three localities: one bird at Pensacola June 15 (B&LD, SS, SC); 30 at Tyndall Air Force Base Feb. 16-July 2 (SS); and two at Cape San Blas July 17 (SS). At the State Fish Hatchery at Lonoke, Ark., an unsexed Ruff was found by Graves, Hunter and Pounds Aug. 7. This was the first record for the species in Arkansas. Two Pectoral Sandpipers at Lonoke on June 26 (GG, BLT) were considered southbound migrants, the earliest ever for Arkansas. A White-rumped Sandpiper at Destin June 25 (SS) was the latest by two days for n.w. Florida, and one seen at Buena Vista June 22 (MB, GJ, CP) was one day shy of tying the latest spring record for the Nashville area. A Stilt Sandpiper at Destin July 14 (HB) was the earliest by one day for n.w. Florida, and three at Lonoke July 21 were the first southbound individuals noted in Arkansas this year (HH, EMH). A. W. Sandpiper at Lonoke July 4 (GG, BLT) was the earliest ever in that area by four days. A Sanderling at Pace Pt., Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R. July 28 (MB, GJ) maintained the continued regular occurrence at this site. Two Am. Avocets in Cameron Par., July 10 (MW) were unusual. The first breeding Black-necked Stilts for Alabama were found July 4-21 on Blakely I. in Mobile, with a total of four adults and five downy young seen (J&BW *et al.*). The first July records of Wilson's Phalarope for n.w. Florida were singles at Destin July 17 (B&LD) and at Cape San Blas July 28 (SS).

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—At L. Millwood, Hempstead Co., Ark., a Herring Gull seen June 14 (CM, CMA, RM, MA) was the first June record there. On July 15-17, Valentine visited various islands in the Chandeleurs and recorded the following: on North Breton I. there were two Black Skimmer colonies—one with 221 nests (46% with three eggs, 35% two eggs, and 16% one egg) and the second with 200 nests (68 with eggs, 132 with young); in the Monkey I. area were 8316 tern nests (70% Sandwich, 30% Royals) and 3750 young (50% Sandwich, 30% Royal, 20% Caspian); on North I. there were 3000 pairs of Laughing Gulls with 1000 young, 150 pairs of Royal Terns with 200 young, 100 pairs of Sandwich Terns and 50 young, and 150 pairs of

Black Skimmers with 50 young. On the Isles Dernieres and Raccoon I., Terrebonne Par., July 30, Valentine and Dr. Hoese tallied the following: Laughing Gull—22,000 adults and young; Royal Tern—6000 adults, 3000 young; Sandwich Tern—5000 adults, 2000 young; and Black Skimmer—1200 adults and young. On South Breton I., 3500 Least Terns were reported this summer, but high tides had washed away all nests (SH). At L. Millwood, Ark., 11 Black Terns were seen on June 13 (CM). On a sand spit at Pass Abel, Plaquemines Par., an estimated 300 pairs of Black Skimmers were nesting in late June (RSK, RL).

CUCKOOS, EXOTICS—At Marianna, a Black-billed Cuckoo June 4 (MG), was the latest by three days in n.w. Florida, and a Roadrunner in Craighead Co. in n.e. Arkansas July 16 (EH) was the second reported in summer in that area. In Bay Co., Fla., the members of the Bay County Audubon Society saw a free-flying Budgerigar and a Cockatiel June 8.

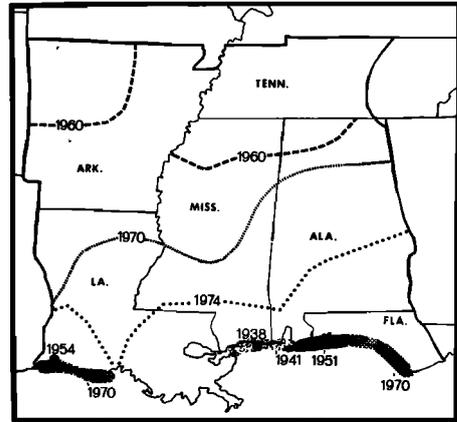
FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—On a seven-mile stretch of Econfinia Creek in Panama City during the summer, 21 Acadian Flycatchers were sighted (SS). The Willow Flycatcher bred in the Buena Vista, Nashville, area this summer (KG *et al.*) making this the fourth consecutive year of record there, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher was unusually far south at Savage Gulf, Tenn. July 30 (TK).

The large flocks of several thousand Purple Martins failed to materialize this summer in the Nashville area. The largest group recorded was 100 birds (MLM).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH VIREOS—The third known location of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in Tennessee was found this summer at Fall Creek, Falls Creek S.P. July 29 (TK), when five birds were seen. The House Wren continued its slow expansion this summer in the Nashville area and is now nesting locally in all sections of that city. Until 1970, Black-whiskered Vireos were considered accidental in n.w. Florida, but two reports—one May 8-June 25 (B&LD, SS) at one location and the second June 5-July 21 (CK) at another spot—provide the first indications that the species is breeding in the Gulf Breeze area. Bell's Vireo, recorded on two previous Clay Co. Ark. B.B.Ss. 1969 and 1972, was again found this summer (EH).

WARBLERS—Swainson's Warbler, which is considered by most birders to be a very rare bird, is uncommonly numerous in certain areas of Louisiana. Hamilton reports that in upland hardwood forests in s.e. Louisiana, (W. Feliciana and Livingston Pars.) the breeding density was one pair per 3-4 acres. Slightly lower densities of one pair per 4-6 acres were recorded in bottomland hardwood and cottonwood-willow-sycamore forests in the Atchafalaya R. Basin (RSK). The first nest of a Worm-eating Warbler for Louisiana was found this summer near St. Francisville, and the summer density of this species there was 10 pairs per 40 acres (RH, BO, RN), while near Oldfield in Livingston Par., the density was 8 pairs per 30 acres (RH). A Yellow Warbler at Apalachicola, Fla., July 9 (HMS)

The range expansion of the Barn Swallow in the Central Southern Region has been well documented in previous issues of *American Birds*. The dramatic spread of this species has involved two disjunct populations: a southern coastal light-breasted form, which was discovered by E. A. McIlhenny on an island off the Mississippi coast in 1933 and was later described (but not recognized by the A.O.U.) as a distinct subspecies *insularis* by T. D. Burleigh in 1942, and the dark-breasted form which ranged in the northern section of this Region. The light-breasted birds have expanded their coastal range eastward to Santa Rosa I., Fla. and westward to Cameron Par. Apparently, some dark-breasted birds have always been present along the coast, as Burleigh knew of them and they were eventually seen paired with *insularis* at Chef Menteur, La. The northern birds have gradually moved southward in amoeboid fashion having penetrated into Louisiana from the northwest, reaching down as far south as Natchitoches and Sabine Pars., into Mississippi from the north central portion of the state with records as far south as Kosciusko, Attala Co., and Greenville, Washington Co., and into Alabama apparently from the northeast through De Kalb Co., after which they spread and have been sighted in the past as far south as Marengo and Wilcox Cos. Birders throughout the region have speculated as to when the sandwiched central no-swallows land would be claimed. This year's reports, which follow, serve to indicate that the gap between the southern and northern breeders has become obliterated in Louisiana, Mississippi, and narrowed to 75 miles in Alabama. In Louisiana, new records of southward expansion include: four individuals sighted and a nest with two young found at L. Providence, E. Carroll Par., Aug. 10 (DL), a new parish record; one nest under US Hwy. 190 bridge west of Port Barre, St. Landry Par., apparently in June (DG); and nests and birds found at six different locations in Pointe Coupee Par. during the summer with three nests and several pairs of birds sighted at New Roads, these being the first nesting records for the "Baton Rouge Area" (DG). Two records from New Iberia, La. were received, the most important being that of 12



light-breasted birds with four nests under a US Hwy. 90 bridge July 9, documenting an inland range expansion of the light birds (MM). At Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Par., July 5, 16 birds of the *insularis* form and 5 nests with eggs or young represent the farthest west in Louisiana that this controversial subspecies has been recorded breeding (HG, JD). In Mississippi, Barn Swallows at Brooklyn, Forest Co., this summer recorded the farthest south birds are known to breed in the state (BT). In Jefferson Co., Miss., several birds and two nests were found July 5 (RN) and a number of individuals were recorded the Fayette B.B.S. this year (BT). The Brooklyn and Jefferson Co. records combined with sightings made along Hwy. 48 and 24 between Woodville, Wilkinson Co., and Liberty, Amite Co., (BT) disclose the breadth of the southward expansion of the Barn Swallow in Mississippi. In Alabama, two new colonies of this swallow were found in Butler Co., and a pair was sighted and suspected of breeding in Evergreen, Conecuh Co., approximately 80 miles from the Gulf (TI). The rapid expansion of the Barn Swallow throughout the south can be attributed partially if not wholly to man's building activities, since the birds have exclusively used bridges, culverts, and the eaves of cabins or other buildings as the foundations on which to construct their nests.

was the earliest recorded in that area by two days, and a Cape May Warbler with aberrant flight at Bay Co. June 9 (DS) was the first ever recorded in summer in n.w. Florida. Also in n.w. Florida, a Blackburnian Warbler seen at Alford July 19 (MG) was the earliest for south-bound migration by four days. In Alabama, two suspected but unconfirmed breeding records of Chestnut-sided Warblers were received: one male seen for the

second time at Fort Payne June 10-July 6 (HW *et al.*) and two birds found in the Bankhead Forest, Lawrence Co., June 12 (HK *et al.*) for the third year in a row at that locality. These are the fifth and sixth known June or July records for Alabama. In the Natchitoches area of Louisiana, a Prairie Warbler and a Louisiana Waterthrush were heard singing this summer on the B.B.S. (CV). Extremely dense populations of greater than one

pair per acre of the Am. Redstart were noted near Oldfield, La. (RH).

BLACKBIRDS—Northeastward expansion of the breeding range of the Great-tailed Grackle was evidenced this year by two records from Evangeline Par., July 11 (HG, DL); approximately 10 were seen and heard and seven nests were found in a live oak tree south of Mamou on La. Hwy. 13, but Guillory expressed the opinion that the birds have been in the area for many years; and four seen and heard with females carrying food at LeHaye's L. near Reddell July 11 were farther north than the species has ever been recorded previously in this state. Bronzed Cowbirds which have in the past been considered quite rare in the Central Southern Region are apparently extending their range eastward. Not recorded in earlier summer reports were one bird found in New Orleans in June 1972 and another single again June 15, 1973 at the same place (RR). This year, Raether has recorded 1-5 Bronzed Cowbirds in his New Orleans yard on 44 days during the period of February through July. The July birds provide the first Regional record for that month. The eighth record set of Bronzed Cowbirds are one male, and one female at Violet, St. Bernard Par., May 22 (MH). In this case but at a later date, the male was observed "puffing himself up and strutting around the female"—the most substantial evidence we have as yet of the breeding of this species in Louisiana. According to Raether, Helms observed a pair feeding an immature on his backyard fence in the middle of June. The fact that cowbirds are parasitic cast suspicion on the validity of this observation, though Bent mentions rumors of the apparent feeding of young by Brown-headed Cowbirds.

FRINGILLIDS—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in St. Martin Par., May 30 was the second latest spring record for Louisiana (JL). In Washington Co., Ark., a ♀ Indigo Bunting was seen carrying nesting material and a nest was found June 2 (PH), and three Painted Buntings were noted on the B.B.S. in Fulton Co. June 22 (PH, PM). Painted Buntings, recorded at two different locations in Jonesboro, Ark. July 4 & 28 (EH, AE, EP) were the first recorded in that city, and in n.w. Florida, singing ♂♂ Painted Buntings were reported at Pace June 6 and at Apalachicola July 9 (HMS). In the Natchitoches, La. area, Viers noted a significant increase in Painted Buntings over the 1972 and 1973 nesting season. The third Arkansas June record of the Red Crossbill was that of three seen and heard in Saline Co. June 18 (GG, BLT). At Fort Polk, La., Lark Sparrows are locally common during summer (CV). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Franklin Co. June 1 (WS, DJ) established a new locality record for Arkansas, where all previous sightings have been confined to Mt. Magazine in Logan Co. Three Bachman's Sparrows in Cumberland Co. June 10 (TK *et al.*) and one at Falls Creek S.P. July 29 (TK) were considered good records for Tennessee. At the Hendrix College Campus in Conway, Arkansas, a Dark-eyed Junco seen June 14 & July 3 (DJ, AJ, PC) provided the latest state record by 10 days and better. In the East Jetty Woods in Cameron Par., a Song Sparrow May 13 (MW) was the first Louisiana record for the species during that month.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS / C. Stuart Houston and Mary I. Houston

High water levels from the late and heavy spring runoff were augmented by continuing rains until mid-June on the prairies. Early nesting was consequently delayed, the first nestings of bluebirds were generally



unsuccessful, and waterfowl were dispersed over numerous water areas with flooded edge habitat. Fifty Canada Goose nests were inundated at Wascana Marsh in Regina. Spring seeding was the latest in history in many localities and the late farming operations de-

stroyed many ground nests, especially of Short-eared Owls, which were plentiful in many parts of Saskatchewan owing to a sudden upsurge in vole numbers.

In contrast, the last half of June and all of July were unusually dry throughout most of the area. A local exception was at Crosby, N.D., where a 4½-inch deluge in two hours in mid-July caused abandonment of late duck nests, and at Woodworth where a hailstorm July 13 caused mortality among ducklings and both young and adult coots. At Fort Peck, Montana, three consecutive days of winds of 60 to 80 mph, June 20-22, resulted in failure of some hawk nests, while winds of similar intensity south of Reindeer Lake, Saskatchewan, toppled eagle nest trees.

North of the settled area in central Saskatchewan, seven inches of rain July 10 added to already high water and brought the Churchill River system to record levels, five to seven feet above normal, flooding the portages on some of the finest canoe routes and destroying much adjacent habitat with many nests.

Two new species were added to the Saskatchewan bird list, but only as hypotheticals, since they were seen by only one observer, without specimen or photographic record. These were the Cattle Egret and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The Piping Plover was added to the Montana list of breeding species, the Field Sparrow to Manitoba's and the Orchard Oriole to Saskatchewan's.

GREBES, PELICANS—Pied-billed Grebe numbers were up at Stettler, Alta., Moose Jaw and Indian Head, Sask., and at Grand Forks. A newly-discovered White Pelican colony on two islands in Alkali L., n. of Valier, Mont., had several hundred young on each island (LMM), while high waters covered previous nesting sites at Devil's L. (RGR) and there were 4062 nests at Chase L., N.D. (Bob Johnson).

EGRETS, IBISES—Two **Cattle Egrets** at the Niska goose project near Eyebrow June 14-17 were a first sight record for Saskatchewan (Hugh H. Hedger), while another four were present July 1 - Aug. 8 at Salyer Ref., N.D. (RCF). There were also two Snowy Egrets at Salyer June 30 and one at Medicine L. Ref., Mont., July 14 (DNW). Black-crowned Night Herons were confirmed as breeding at Freezeout L., Mont., with 20 nests June 16 (LMM), while they increased at Birch Hills, L. Lenore and Yorkton, Sask. (MLM, D.J. Nieman). A night heron colony near Lignite, N.D. comprised over 250 pairs (WES). American Bitterns were scarce at Moose Jaw and Kenaston, Sask., and Audubon Ref., N.D. A White-faced Ibis was at Salyer Ref. June 2 (RCF).

WATERFOWL—On the Canadian prairies, Mallards and Pintails showed a stretched-out season with a second broad peak in late June and July, the result of delayed or re-nesting. Both species showed good increases with the added water areas available (WGL). At Woodworth, N.D., the commonest ducks were Blue-winged Teal and Gadwall with 223 and 70 nests respectively (LMK). Dabbling ducks at Audubon Ref., N.D., were up 130 per cent over 1973, with Gadwalls, Pintails and Blue-winged Teal showing the greatest in-

crease, while numbers of Redheads also doubled (DCM). Wood Ducks enjoyed excellent success at Winnipeg and a nest box near McCreary, Man., hatched 18 young from 24 eggs (DRMH). At Arrowwood Refuge, N.D., a nest box management program increased to 113 nesting attempts with 1021 eggs hatched from 84 successful Wood Duck nests, with no predation evident (GRM), while two nests fledged 7 and 5 young much farther west near Joliet, Mont. (KH) Ring-necked Ducks had an excellent season in the marshes near Cumberland House, Sask. (WGL), did well at Grand Forks and raised two broods at the extreme edge of their range at Cochrane, Alta. (SFJ) A Greater Scaup was identified at Regina June 1 (FHB) and an imm. male, flying well enough to have come some distance, was banded near Yorkton Aug 7 (Leonard Walker, Larry Owens). A topless nest box program at the University Biology station at Emma L. Sask., allowed banding of 16 ad. ♀♀ Com. Goldeneyes in addition to recapture of all six nesting females banded in 1973 (MR). Seven White-winged Scoter nests at Oak L., July 7 were encouraging for a species not common in s. Manitoba. Two Hooded Mergansers took advantage of nest boxes at Arrowwood Refuge and produced 17 young (GRM). A Com. Merganser n of Hays, Alta., nested in a cavity dug in the river bank for Prairie Falcons the year before. This hole was 30 ft from the top of a sheer cliff face of 80 ft., and was 170 ft above river level (HJA). A nest basket was used by another female of this species at Emma L., Sask. (MR)

BUTEOS — Broad-winged Hawks were nesting further south than expected, with three nests at Oak L., Man. (DRMH) and the first nest for the Saskatoon area with three young banded July 10 (WCH, CSH) Swainson's Hawks raised three young each in two nests at the e. extremity of their range at Winnipeg (DRMH), while 82 were banded in 34 nests in Saskatchewan (CSH). Ferruginous Hawks in a 30-sq. mi. pasture w of Kindersley, Sask., fledged 22 young from 6 of 8 successful nests (CSH). Of 15 artificial nests with wire frames placed in Alberta trees, four were used in their first year by Ferruginous and six by Swainson's Hawks (HJA). In McPherson Co., S.D., 3 of 15 Ferruginous pairs failed to nest, while some others moved from haystack and ground nesting sites to trees, coincident with a dramatic increase in the red fox population (JTL, HD). Ferruginous Hawks increased in numbers in North Dakota, with nests in Divide, Bowman, Foster, Stutsman and Kidder Cos., including a successful nest on a power line tower near Steele (WES, RES, SS, JTL). J.R. Flavin banded 100 young Ferruginous Hawks in n.c. South Dakota.

EAGLES—Eighteen successful Golden Eagle nests along s. Alberta rivers produced 30 young (HJA) The 22 active Bald Eagle nests at Besnard L., Sask., represented an average of one for every eight mi of shoreline and produced 26 young from the 18 successful nests (D.W.A. Whitfield, Ted Leighton). However, with a year-old road into the lake and a new 60-man pulp-cutting camp established this summer, we fear that production on this excellent study area may not be maintained in years to come. Further east, 42 incubat-

ing Bald Eagles were counted along the Reindeer and lower Churchill Rivers. Eight of these nests were blown down in 70-90 mph winds at the end of June, two were cut down and eleven failed for unknown reasons. The remaining 21 nests produced a total of 32 young (G.J. Brewster). In Alberta, Canadian Wildlife Service crews banded 290 young Prairie Falcons at 83 nests, including some using artificially placed holes in steep cliffs. Included were 16 young produced by captive birds and released to the wild. Fifteen previously banded Prairies were recaptured and 22 new adults banded (HJA, R.W. Fyfe)

GROUSE—Sharp-tailed Grouse numbers were low throughout most of Alberta and Saskatchewan with very few broods evident. The concomitant scarcity of Gary Partridge extended into northern North Dakota throughout the area that had deep snow the previous winter. One presumes both species are near the low point of their cycles.

RAILS, WADERS—A Yellow Rail was heard near Indian Head, Sask., June 12 (FWL, RLS) and a new breeding area was encountered in Mountrail Co., N.D. (RES). A Piping Plover nest with four eggs June 1, the first confirmed nesting record for Montana, was later destroyed by the rising waters near Fort Peck Dam (TPM), while another two pairs were just across the border in Divide Co., N.D. (RES). Piping Plovers had good production at Oak Hammock Marsh n. of Winnipeg, but their traditional breeding areas along the shorelines of L. Winnipeg failed due to high waters. Singing Am. Woodcocks were present along the entire e. border of South Dakota this year. Com. Snipe had a good year and were reported in increased numbers in numerous localities, with nests at Lethbridge, Alta., and at Indian Head. Lesser Yellowlegs were proved as breeders at Stettler, with two adults and four immatures June 18 (LML), and another territorial pair near Cochrane, Alta., was eventually accompanied by two flying birds perhaps representing locally-produced young (SF).

TERNS—Lake Winnipeg flooding completely inundated an island that had 2700 Common Tern nests in 1970, and waves this year periodically engulfed and washed away the Caspian Tern eggs on an island that had 700 Caspian nests in 1971 (DRMH).

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS—At Arrowwood Ref., N.D., 49 of 79 Mourning Dove nests were successful, producing 92 young (GRM). The first Saskatchewan **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Estevan June 8 was observed long enough to check the details against a field guide (TMB), and another was sighted at Forsyth, Mont., July 6 (PDS). A Barn Owl nested for the second year in a hole in a riverbank near Chamberlain, S.D. (Gary Marrone). Burrowing Owls maintained their numbers only in South Dakota and s.w. of Stettler, Alta., where two pairs nested for the first time with young flying July 15 (LML). Most other localities reported a total absence or at most one pair of Burrowing Owls, especially in North Dakota where their "reduction in numbers is continuing at an alarming rate"

(RES). Great Horned Owls had poor success for the second consecutive year in Saskatchewan, their late nesting coincident with persistent snow and low snowshoe hare populations. I banded only 65 young Great Horned Owls in 38 nests, and the four nests with young that did not fly until mid-July were the latest ever encountered.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—Western Kingbirds were unexpectedly absent at Rapid City (EMS). Few of us in Saskatchewan are competent to make the newly required differentiation between the Willow and Alder Flycatchers, but E. Manley Callin, with his uncanny ear for bird songs, heard two singing males giving the Willow song for the first time in his life near Lebreton June 19, and corroborated this with sound recordings. Lorne Scott banded about 1500 young and 200 ad Tree Swallows in his section of the Prairie Bluebird Trail. Seven pairs of Tree Swallows nested in one yard near the n. limits of their range at Eldorado, Sask (Edith Middleton). At Dilke, Sask., an all-time record of nine pairs of Barn Swallows nested in J.B. Belcher's farmyard, including four simultaneously active nests in a 24 ft. by 26 ft. barn loft. Barn Swallow nesting was delayed at Stettler, Alta., and Grenfell, Sask., and numbers were down throughout South Dakota with the exception of Yankton. Up to four Purple Martins were flying over Rapid City June 6-11, the first observations in over 65 years (EMS), though Grinnell had reported them as "very abundant" there in August, 1874, a full century ago.

CROWS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS—Common Crows were plentiful and helped combat a severe grasshopper outbreak at Kenaston, Sask. (PLM). A White-breasted Nuthatch pair attended a hole in a tree in Fort Qu'Appelle in late May (EMC). Similar Red-breasted Nuthatch nesting evidence at Regina, Saskatchewan and Indian Head also represented firsts for these localities (J.R. Jowsey, SJS, MS). Two singing ♂♂ Short-billed Marsh Wrens north of 56°N on the Reindeer River, Sask., July 17, represent a northward extension of range (D. Hjertaas).

SHRIKES, VIREOS, WARBLERS—Loggerhead Shrikes were absent in Deuel Co., S.D., and Stettler, Alta., and decreased at Birch Hills, Indian Head and Sheho, Sask. The Yellow-throated Vireo that appeared at Rapid City May 5 remained through mid-July (NRW, LMB), while a pair was regular at Montpelier, N.D. (Lois C. Haynes) and another was seen near Lyleton, Man. (RWK). A Bell's Vireo s. of Sioux Falls, S.D., June 11 provided a good record (KE), but the two singing males in dense willow thickets s. of Bismarck in late June were a repeat of the single male noted in 1971, well north of the expected range (RNR). An agitated ♀ Black-and-white Warbler July 6 near Forsyth, Mont., was the westernmost record suggestive of breeding for the state (PDS). A lone ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler was sighted in Calgary June 2, a first for the area (LB, MCB).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES—A Sage Thrasher was seen near Edgemont, S.D., July 13 (RCR). Wood Thrushes were present through the breeding season at Newton Hills, S.D. (KE, GWB, HK).

S.A.

BLUEBIRDS—The Saskatoon Junior Natural History Society proudly points to a continued geometric increase in occupancy by the most desired species: for over 200 houses the six year figures totalled respectively 3, 8, 12, 25, 35 and this year 54 houses occupied by Mountain Bluebirds. For the first time, one of their boxes was used by a ♀ Eastern Bluebird, but she was attended by a ♂ Mountain Bluebird. In Manitoba, Jack Lane had his second and third instances of ♂ Mountain x ♀ Eastern pairings, which he had found less common than ♂ Eastern x ♀ Mountain pairings. Throughout the Prairie Bluebird Trail, many early nests were deserted in the May 19-23 rains, and the percentage of infertile eggs was higher than ever before. Then in Manitoba about 500 young perished from swarming black-flies that appeared to suck their blood. In spite of all this, Dr. Lane banded a total of about 2300 bluebirds of both species in the eastern part of the trail, Lorne Scott banded 100 females and 800 young in the midportion, and at the northwest end we banded a modest 187 young Mountain Bluebirds plus five hybrid young.

S.A.

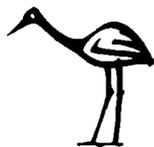
ORCHARD ORIOLES—Orchard Orioles showed a further range extension almost qualifying as an irruption. They were more widely distributed throughout Manitoba than ever before, from Winnipeg as far west as Oak Lake and Lyleton. Within and near Lyleton, there were at least 14 individuals, including three first year males, and at least four breeding pairs, of which at least three pairs successfully raised young (RWK). Well aware of this expanding range, the 350 members of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society attending the summer meet at Estevan confidently expected to locate the first provincial breeding record along the Souris Valley. Surprisingly, failure at Estevan was followed by success 100 miles further north in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Manly Callin first heard and recorded the Orchard Oriole song June 19 in the town of Fort Qu'Appelle. The pair repeatedly visited a spruce at the height of 20 ft. and at least one fledgling was seen being fed out of the nest July 16-17. In Montana, singing males were heard near Forsyth July 6 (PDS) and at Fort Peck in June (TPM), a further northwesterly extension beyond Stuart Johnston's 1972 nest at Glendive.

TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS—A singing ♂ W. Tanager at Steep Hill L. on the Reindeer R., Sask., June 18, was a northeasterly record (John Polson). Le Conte's Sparrows which appeared to be breeding near Stanley and Powers Lake, N.D., were the most northwesterly records for the state (RES), while others were singing near Findlater Sask., June 16 and July 29 (MB), and at Cochrane, Alta., singing birds July 3 were followed by adults carrying food July 22 (SFJ). Clay-

colored Sparrows s. of Sioux Falls, S.D., appeared to be breeding (HK, GWB). The first recorded successful nest of the **Field Sparrow** in Manitoba occurred in July near Winnipeg, where four singing males were present and one pair fledged two young (DRMH). There were at least five isolated breeding populations of **Swamp Sparrows** in Kidder Co. and another at Sargent Co., N D (RES).

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Finally, I regret to report the death of Loran L. Goulden of Edmonton, who perished August 1 in an airplane crash while carrying out an environmental survey in British Columbia. His youthful vigor, birding expertise, organizational ability and conservation leadership will be sorely missed.—C. **STUART HOUSTON**, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N OJ8.



SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS / Frances Williams

Although cool rainy weather persisted into June in the east half of the Region, the extremely hot, dry weather of the west half spread across all the Region in July. In Oklahoma June rains resulted in improvement in marsh habitat and several marsh birds began nesting, but mid-summer heat and drying winds reduced water levels and losses occurred among marsh dwellers. The drought also brought more birds into towns and villages where irrigated trees, shrubs and flowers probably offered a more favorable habitat than parched pastures and woodlands. In the far west at El Paso the "fall" rains came in early July and many species began nesting as though it were early spring.



LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS—Two Common Loons were present on L. Tenkiller, Cherokee Co., Okla during the first week of July. Twelve Eared Grebes remained in Dawson Co., Tex. until the late date of June 16. Pied-billed Grebe, a very local breeding species in the Region, was reported at Tulsa, Oklahoma City and five Texas localities from the piney woods in the east to the desert at El Paso. At Ft. Worth, 120 White Pelicans June 5 represented the latest spring report on record at that locality. The only Double-crested Cormorant observed was in Linn Co., Kans., July 6.

HERONS—A Green Heron's nest discovered in Lubbock Co., Tex., July 23 provided a new local breeding record. Nests and recently fledged young of this species were also observed in Comanche Co., Okla. Green Herons were abundant at Dallas and Marais des Cygnes Refuge, Kans. A heronry near Waco, Tex., contained several thousand Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets. The area was "improved" by a bulldozer and approximately 500 nests of each species were destroyed (NW). Heronries in Wagoner Co., Okla., Dallas and Ft. Worth were all occupied by more than 500 Cattle Egrets. At Hays, Kans., three Cattle Egrets July 13 comprised a second County record. **Louisiana Herons** nested at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Kans. (MSc, *vide* STP) and in Polk Co., Tex. (CDF). One was also sighted at Hulah Res., Osage Co., Okla., July 17 (EH). Black-crowned Night Herons were reported only at Dallas, McClain & Wagoner Cos., Okla. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were numerous in at least seven localities. At Lubbock a newly discovered heronry contained four nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Least Bitterns summered in Nacogdoches Co., Tex., Washington Co., Okla. and Oklahoma City. Two nests were discovered at the latter locality.

STORKS THROUGH SPOONBILLS—In Angelina Co., Tex., 27 Wood Storks were sighted June 23 (LD,

CM) and 33 were counted July 28 (DW). A **White Ibis** was found at Cheyenne Bottoms Refuge June 10 (STP). About a dozen pairs of White Ibis bred in Polk Co., Tex. A Roseate Spoonbill was located in Angelina Co., July 28 (JL).

DUCKS—More ducks nested near Hays, Kans. than in any previous year, and an unusual number of ducks summered at Lubbock. Two Mottled Ducks observed at Dallas July 20 provided a second locality record (HN, TSM). A brood of Gadwalls at Hays May 30-June 21 constituted a first nesting record there. Although Cinnamon Teal summered at El Paso and Lubbock, evidence of nesting was not obtained. There was an excellent population of Wood Ducks at Marais des Cygnes Refuge and this species nested again at Hays and in Washington Co., Okla. Ruddy Ducks summered across Texas, from El Paso to Marion & Harrison Cos. They were believed to have nested at the latter locality. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at Hulah Res., June 15 provided one of the few summer records of this species in Oklahoma (EH).

RAPTORS—Mississippi Kites were reported nesting widely through the Region, mostly in urban areas. At Oklahoma City four nests were located within the city. Kites summered in two areas in Ft. Worth. Young birds were sighted in nearly every town in the plains area of w. Texas, and even in the mountain-circled El Paso area. Mississippi Kites also summered in Polk Co. in e. Texas but no nests or young were sighted.

There were few reports of accipiters in the Region. Two unidentified accipiters actively defended a small wooded area north of Ellis, Kans. Cooper's Hawks were sighted in Nacogdoches and Kerr Cos., Tex. during June. Red-shouldered Hawks are still common in e and c. Texas. Broad-winged Hawks were reported at Tulsa and several e. Texas counties. Most contributors reported decreased numbers of Swainson's Hawks, but there were a few good reports. Swainson's Hawks were noted as far east and south as Hamilton & Kaufman Cos., Tex. in June (WP) and were slightly more common in Howard, Midland and Archer Cos., Tex. A Zone-tailed Hawk was sighted in Uvalde Co., Tex., June 2 (WP). Ferruginous Hawks were reported only in Clark Co., Kans. (STP) and Dodge City. Golden Eagle nests were found at five localities in w. Texas. Two Marsh Hawk nests were found near Hays. Caracaras have been present in Parker Co., Tex. since 1969 but no nests have been found the past two years. A Caracara was observed in Limestone Co., Tex. in June (MB). A Peregrine Falcon at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., July 15 was very unusual for that date. Kestrels nested at Lubbock, Angelina and Nacogdoches Cos., Tex. This species was recorded at only five other localities during the period.

RAILS, GALLINULES—On July 18 an ad. King Rail and four nearly grown young were observed in a marsh at L. Overholser, Oklahoma City. Single individuals of this species were found in Wichita Co., Tex., July 22 (LS) and Craig Co., Okla., June 15 (H&DG). Two pairs of Purple Gallinules with a total of eight young were in small swamp in Nacogdoches Co., July 3. Common Gallinules nested in Polk and El Paso Cos., and at L. Overholser.

SHOREBIRDS—A Piping Plover remained at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., July 14-21 (KWH) and four were counted there Aug. 2 (CRB). One was seen at L. Rayburn, Angelina & Nacogdoches Cos., July 18 and another was at Hulah Res., July 21. At Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., there were 18 pairs of Snowy Plovers in June (BB). Migrating Snowy Plovers were recorded in Wichita Co., July 31, Grayson Co., Tex., Aug. 2 and Midland Co., July 20. Mountain Plovers were found in Hartley Co., Tex., June 15 (KS). Although the Am. Woodcock has been listed as a breeding bird in n.e. Texas, Mr. Fisher has been unable to locate any in the area. Spotted Sandpipers occurred throughout the Region in June and July but no one obtained proof of nesting of the species. An experienced observer carefully studied a **Short-billed Dowitcher** for nearly an hour at Hagerman Ref., July 21 (KWH). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was present at Hagerman June 9 (KWH). Sanderlings were sighted in Wichita Co., July 31 and at Hagerman July 26-30 (KWH, CRB).

TERNS—Forster's Terns were noted at Marais des Cygnes Ref., July 14, Hulah Res., July 15-30, Lubbock Co., July 30, Hagerman Ref., July 30. Least Terns at Lubbock June 6 provided a new County record. One Least Tern was sighted at Hulah Res., July 28 and 20 were at Hagerman by the end of the period. Five Caspian Terns remained at Hulah Res., June 1-July 15.

DOVES THROUGH CUCKOOS—Inca Doves are now established as breeding birds in Erath Co., Tex. (EOM). This species has recently spread north to Lubbock Co. but no nests have been found. A Band-tailed Pigeon was photographed at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., June 3 (MSu). Monk Parakeets are still present in Dallas. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were unusually numerous in c. Texas, at Tulsa, and in Linn Co., Kans. Black-billed Cuckoos were recorded at Marais des Cygnes Ref., July 21 (ESM) and at Dallas July 20 (HN). This species nested at the Chet Ager Nature Center, Lincoln, Neb. (hereafter C.A.N.C.).

OWLS THROUGH SWIFTS—Burrowing Owls were abundant throughout the w. portion of the Region from Dodge City south to Ward Co., Tex. Several observers reported that Burrowing Owls moved into city parks. Poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows were heard at the same location in Hamilton Co., Tex., June 18 (WP) and Parker Co., Tex., through July (PA). Chuck-will's-widows were heard nightly at Camp Flowing Wells on L. Texoma mid-May through July (SW). Lesser Nighthawks were again present in Ward Co. (JCH). Chimney Swifts continued to expand their range in w. Texas, and were reported at Lubbock, Armstrong, Childress and Randall Counties.

HUMMINGBIRDS—A **Lucifer Hummingbird** was carefully identified at El Paso in late June (m.ob.). Black-chinned Hummingbirds were so abundant at Kerrville that they drank three gallons of sugar water a week at the Mueller's residence. A pair of Black-chinned Hummingbirds at Monahans, Tex. refurbished last year's nest and used it again this summer (*vide* JCH). Black-chinned Hummingbirds still had young in

the nest at the end of the period at several w. Texas localities. This species was noted in Grayson Co., Tex., July 3-17 (KWH) and July 25-26 (CRB). There are no previously published records of Black-chinned in Grayson Co. A single ♂ Black-chinned again summered at Oklahoma City (VV). In Wichita Co., both Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds were present all summer but observers have not been able to establish whether both species bred there. Broad-tailed, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds arrived at El Paso by the end of July, and a Blue-throated Hummingbird was sighted there June 14. At Midland a ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird had appeared by June 9 and ♂ Rufous and Calliope hummers were present by late July (GP). Possibly the severe drought and consequent lack of wildflowers was responsible for the invasion of city gardens by hummingbirds.

KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS—Either Green Kingfishers or bird watchers are becoming more common on the Edwards Plateau in c. Texas. Latest reports of the kingfisher came from Real Co.: Camp Wood, June 2, Rio Frio, June 20 and Sabinal R., July 13. Golden-fronted Woodpeckers nested in Lubbock Co. Most observers reported that Red-headed Woodpeckers had increased slightly, but in Johnson Co., Kans., Mrs. Myers found four dead adults, cause unknown. The Muellers located five Acorn Woodpeckers in four locations in Kerr Co. during the period. They believe the species is resident there. Lewis' Woodpeckers were sighted in mid-June in n.w. Cimarron Co., Okla. (STP)

FLYCATCHERS—Eastern Kingbirds have increased as a breeding species at Fort Worth the past six years. Western Kingbirds had an unusually successful nesting season throughout the w. half of the Region. Texas observers noted an increase in nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, but in Kansas low numbers were noted at Dodge City and in Linn Co. Great Crested Flycatchers, normally uncommon in the Region, were noted in Real Co., Ft. Worth, and Barber Co., Kans. Nesting E. Phoebes were more common at the edges of their range in Texas in Kerr, Nacogdoches and Howard Cos. and in Morton Co., Kans. Near Hays, nine E. Phoebe nests on the Saline R. were destroyed by flooding in one evening. All had been occupied by incubating birds and none were rebuilt. A Say's Phoebe in Real Co., June 20 was late for a migrant. On the same date an Acadian Flycatcher was also present in Real Co. This species was common in Linn County. A Least Flycatcher was heard near Hays June 5. A **Western Flycatcher** nest containing four young was found July 17 in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., Neb. This is the first nesting record for the State (R&DR, A&WM). Eastern Wood Pewees summered at Hagerman Refuge and nested at Dallas, where adults were seen feeding fledglings June 29 (HN, TSM) and Comfort, Tex., July 13 (E&KM). Olive-sided Flycatchers were observed in late June at Lubbock, Kerrville and Wichita Co. This species is one of the last migrants to leave the Southern Plains.

SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES—Two Tree Swallows were seen at Dallas June 29 (HN). Ten imm. Tree Swallows were observed at Marais des

Cygnets Ref., July 14 and were assumed to have been fledged there since adults had been present all summer. In Washington Co., Okla., Barn Swallows were discouraged by high water in culverts when they arrived in the spring and not many remained to nest. Barn Swallows were absent from the piney woods area of e. Texas but they were abundant nesters as far west as El Paso. On July 13 Cave Swallow nests containing eggs and young were discovered in Kerr Co. under a culvert of Hwy. 1340 west of Hunt.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS—A good description was given of a Purplish-backed Jay, *Cissilophus beecheyi*, seen in El Paso June 10, but as always along the Mexican border there is a possibility that this individual was an escaped cage bird. Scrub Jays are suspected of nesting in Palo Duro Canyon in the Texas Panhandle, since an immature was seen Aug. 6 (RR, ER). Carolina Chickadees nest in McBride Canyon, Potter Co., Tex. and stray frequently to nearby Randall Co. Verdins are reported more frequently each year on the n. edge of their range. Recent observations include Jackson Co., Okla., Palo Duro Canyon, Lubbock and Wichita Counties. Nests with young were found at the latter two localities. What seems to be a nesting record of Red-breasted Nuthatch came from Junction City, Geary Co., Kans. A pair with three fledged young was seen June 18. The birds were in a large cemetery which has many conifers (TS, RL). White-breasted Nuthatches are present all year near Gordonville, Grayson Co. (KWH). Bewick's Wrens were abundant on the Edwards Plateau and nested successfully at Ft. Worth and Lubbock. Apparently the species was absent in the Dallas area (HN). Canyon Wrens nested in Lubbock Co. for the first time (AB, MM).

MIMICS THROUGH STARLINGS—Gray Catbirds were seen throughout the summer in Comanche Co., Okla., but no evidence of nesting was observed. A Curve-billed Thrasher nest with eggs was found in Potter Co., Tex., June 30 (KS). Many Am. Robins nested in Lubbock Co. and some pairs raised two broods by early July. At Big Spring, Tex., Am. Robins were present throughout the period but no nests or young were observed. A Wood Thrush was present in Dallas from early May until July 19 (EF). Late Swainson's Thrushes were sighted in Cimarron Co., June 9 and Morton Co., June 8 (STP). Eastern Bluebirds had a moderately successful nesting season throughout the e. half of the Region, but in Johnson Co., Kans., a number of ad. bluebirds disappeared before the nestlings were fledged. Loggerhead Shrikes continue to be common throughout the Region. The Starling population increased greatly at both Lubbock and Ft. Worth.

VIREOS—Because of reduced habitat and cowbird predation, Black-capped Vireos are becoming scarce in Red Rock Canyon S. P., Okla., and in the Dallas area. However they are still abundant in Kerr Co., where five adults and about a dozen young were observed in one flock June 13. A Black-capped Vireo was seen at a roadside park on U.S. 285, 35 mi. s. of Ft. Stockton, Tex., June 9. This may be a first Pecos Co. record (FW). Bell's Vireos were absent from Linn Co., but were reported in Kerr Co. after several years absence,



Female Black-capped Vireo, Red Rock Canyon State Park, Caddo County, Okla., July 13, 1974. Photo / John Shackford.

and increased in numbers at Hagerman Refuge. Bell's Vireos are very rare in the piney woods area of e. Texas, probably because of lack of suitable open areas. Yellow-throated Vireos are rare breeders in Linn Co., but were seen in four areas during July (NJ, CH). A Red-eyed Vireo was singing in Morton Co., Kans., June 8 (STP) and another sang in late June, one day only, at Hays.

WARBLERS—Prothonotary Warblers are increasing in n.c. Texas. At Oklahoma City, Prothonotary Warblers nested successfully in three of four nest boxes, producing 16 young. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was carefully identified in Morton Co., Kans., June 10 (STP). Prairie Warblers were present ten mi. w. of Stillwater, Okla., June 15 (ZM). A Rufous-capped Warbler has been present in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N. P., since September, 1973 (DW). It was photographed June 29, 1974 by David A. Easterla. This is believed to be the second U.S. record. Am. Redstarts were reported at Hays July 24 and Midland July 28 (EB).

ICTERIDS—A Bobolink at C.A.N.C. June 25 provided a first record for the center. Eastern Meadowlarks continued to increase in Ellis Co., Kans. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Hulah Res., July 14 (EH), C.A.N.C. June 5, 9, 10, July 22 and at Midland June 30 (TSJ). Great-tailed Grackles nested in Lubbock Co., a new locality record. Bronzed Cowbirds were present in Kerrville July 16-19.

FRINGILLIDS—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were sighted in Osage Co., Okla., June 1 (SMY) and in Lubbock, June 3. A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak remained in Lubbock until June 9. Indigo Buntings were abundant in Linn Co. Young Dickcissels were seen in Lubbock Co., July 23. American Goldfinches summered as far south in e. Texas as the n.e. corner of Nacogdoches Co. A few pairs of Lesser Goldfinches again located in Red Rock Canyon State Park. At Hays, early nesting Pine Siskins were wiped out by strong winds but later nesting birds had fair success. Red Crossbills were seen at Hays throughout July. About a dozen singing ♂♂ Grasshopper Sparrows were discovered in an upland

lightly grazed pasture in Nacogdoches Co. on July 8, the first summer record for this species anywhere in the piney woods region. A few days later two juvenile birds were collected at this site, and on Aug. 2 a nest with three half-grown young birds was found.

S.A.

The most significant news of the summer was the marked northward movement of **Cassin's Sparrows**. A nest and eggs found in mid-June near Grant, Perkins Co., Neb. by Ken Sejkora was the first known nest of this species in the State. Cassin's Sparrows were also sighted in Nebraska in Cheyenne Co. (DG, *fide* RCR) and Sheridan Co. (MT, *fide* RCR). The only previous Nebraska sight record was in 1965 at Holstein. Cassin's Sparrows were also reported throughout w. Kansas with records from Ellis, Barton, Stafford, Ford, Barber and Morton Cos.

AREA CONTRIBUTORS—Unless otherwise indicated, records from the following localities were submitted by these contributors. Nebraska: panhandle area, **Richard C. and Dorothy Rosche**; Chet Ager Nature Center, Lincoln, **Don Mullison** and **Bryce Anderson**. Kansas: Shawnee, Johnson Co., **Mary**

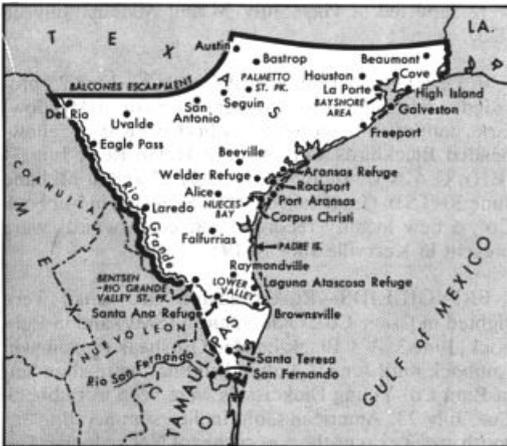
Louise Myers; Dodge City, **Joan Challans**; Linn Co., **Earl S. McHugh**; Hays, **Charles A. Ely**; southwestern localities, **Sebastian T. Patti**. Oklahoma: Oklahoma City, **John Newell**; southwestern counties, **Janet M. McGee**; Tulsa area, **Polly Keating**; Stillwater area, **Zella Moorman**; Osage Co., **Ella Delap**; Cleveland Co., **Grace E. Ray**. Texas: Amarillo and panhandle area, **Peggy Acord**; piney woods area, **Charles D. Fisher**; Hagerman N.W.R. and Grayson Co., **Karl W. Haller** and **Charles R. Brown**; McClellan Co., **Lillian M. Brown**; Lubbock Co., **Sharon Menaul**; Edwards Plateau, **Ernest and Kay Mueller**; Howard Co., **L. B. Paul**; Dallas, **Hazel Nichols**; n.-c. area, **Warren Pulich**; Ft. Worth, **Midge Randolph**; Wichita Co., **Lafayette Stankewitz**; El Paso, **Geth White**.

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/ **Fred S. Webster, Jr.**

The nesting season was unmarred by any large-scale calamity. Moisture deficiency was causing some concern in many areas by late June; this situation prevailed well into August except in some northwestern sections which received excessive rainfall on August 6-7. Even



portions of the upper coast were on the dry side. At Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge the nesting season began unusually wet with marshes in excellent condition for nesting birds. "Then the rain stopped coming and it turned out to be one of the drier seasons in several years" (RWC). Aransas National Wildlife Ref-

uge and adjacent areas of the central coast experienced dry conditions and low tides. Tidal and stock ponds on the refuge encouraged concentrations of such species as the Wood Stork (JBG). Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in the Lower Rio Grande Valley was hot and dry. Habitat conditions were very good for the first part of the season and marginal the latter. Willow Lake had adequate water but two other lakes were dry (WAS).

Much nesting data for this report was supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Bone of Falfurrias, who ran five different nest census routes, each once a week, in the counties of Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells and Zapata. Up to August 22 they had recorded 485 nests. They reported that nesting started late in this typical south Texas brush country, and ended very early. Many nests were robbed, most after the young had hatched, with evidence pointing to predation by snakes.

The discovery of a Crimson-collared Grosbeak in the Lower Valley gives rise to the usual question directed at exotic finds—was it an escaped bird? While the grosbeak appeared to be an authentic stray from a range not far removed, it may be well to consider a communication from Frank Oatman for possible application to future "firsts" from Mexico. Oatman wrote of his observations in the village of China, Nuevo Leon, about 60 miles south of Falcon Dam, on April 8, 1973. "In the middle of that dusty little town were two street vendors hawking a remarkable assortment of caged birds, including at least ten beautiful Orange-breasted Buntings" (See *American Birds*, 27 (3) 639.). These were largely Mexican west coast species. "Except for a few parrots and Emerald Toucanets the birds were in remarkably good plumage. I have the impression they might have just been trucked in. Home-made cages

were stacked in two considerable pyramids in the street. The birds were so loosely handled that I'm sure some escaped even before they were purchased."

GREBES, PELICANS, BOOBIES—Apparently this was a good year for Least Grebes. At least four pairs nested at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). Production was good in the Corpus Christi area (KM). An ad. Pied-billed Grebe with five downy young perhaps two weeks old were seen in the Flour Bluff section of Corpus Christi Feb. 5 (SB & OMR, *vide* KM). South Bird I. in upper Laguna Madre had 400 White Pelicans with 182 young (JMA, *vide* KM). Brown Pelicans made seven nesting attempts, resulting in 14 eggs, 11 of which proved fertile. Only two of three nestlings fledged, one having disappeared from the nest at an early age. Of the fledglings, one has been written off since the loss of an eye, an insurmountable handicap in capturing food. The fledglings were from Carroll I. in Second Chain of Islands Sanctuary in lower San Antonio Bay. Three nests in Lavaca Bay were unproductive. At least 100 birds, including about 50 young of the year, were observed on the Texas coast this season; it is thought that most of these originated in Mexico (DB, *vide* JCS). An imm. **Blue-faced Booby** was under observation near Freeport June 10-17 (RF), and another at Galveston's s. jetty June 21-24 (JAT & RHW, *et al.*). The former bird, which appeared sickly when found, was fed a fresh fish diet for a week and was released. An adult of this species was seen at Bolivar flats, Galveston, June 25 (VLE & TBF). A **Brown Booby** was picked up in a yard in Port Isabel, South Padre I., May 30, and transferred to Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville for temporary housing until it completes its molt and is able to fly (DT, *vide* WAS).

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS—Nesting Great Blue Herons utilized a spoil island at the Rockport ski basin; 41, including 12 juveniles of the year, were seen May 2, while some young were still in nests (DNW). The Cattle Egret population explosion continues with ninety per cent nesting success reported. The explanation is offered that this species is filling a niche, namely harvesting of the large insect crops—particularly grasshoppers—in pasturelands (JCS). Populations of all herons were down at the Green I. Sanctuary in lower Laguna Madre; at the same time a sharp increase was noted in numbers of Great-tailed Grackles, whose predatory inclinations are well known. Green I. is the Reddish Egret capital of North America. This year the population was down from 1500 to 450 pairs. South Bird I. had 120, lower San Antonio Bay had 80, and North Deer I. in West Bay had 100 pairs. North Deer I. had 500 pairs of Great Egrets (JMA, *vide* KM). Suitable habitat at Willow L. apparently encouraged record nesting numbers of Least Bitterns at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). Wood Storks—not known to nest in Texas in recent years—reached 1400 in number as they concentrated on Aransas Ref. the last week in July (*vide* JBG). An influx of 3000+ White-faced Ibis, a large percentage of them young of the year, was noted at Anahuac Ref. in mid-May (RWC). Roseate Spoonbills seem generally on the increase.

DUCKS—Two **Black-bellied Tree Ducks** were seen in a rice field area of n.w. Harris Co. on four occasions

between May 6-30 (MJ & PJ). Another pair was seen in e. Fort Bend Co. on three occasions between June 2-July 21 (MB, DHH & HH). There was no evidence of nesting. A ♀ Pintail, a pair of N. Shovelers, a ♂ Lesser Scaup, and four or more Ruddy Ducks sat out the summer on Austin sewage ponds. The first three named species kept company, while the Ruddies kept to themselves.

HAWKS THROUGH CARACARAS—The presence of Mississippi Kites in the Richmond area of Fort Bend Co., May 19-July 31 (HH), suggests possible nesting of this migratory species. Top count was eight birds July 31. Twelve were seen in an e. area of the county Aug. 1 (BK & ER). A Cooper's Hawk in Refugio Co., June 29 (WMC) was possibly a breeding bird. This species is an irregular and local nester in Texas and there is a specimen summer record for the county. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks with an immature were seen at Aransas Ref., July 1 (LBP); this is an uncommon breeding bird. The Bones encountered one nest of the White-tailed Hawk on their census routes; this was a failure as wind dislodged the eggs shortly before hatching time. An ad. **Gray Hawk** was reported at Santa Ana Ref. June 27 (WMC); this seems to be only the second June record for the refuge. All five Harris' Hawk nests under observation by the Bones were failures, two with eggs and three with young; however, nine fledglings were seen elsewhere along their routes during the season. An apparent family group of six was seen in Bee Co., Aug 13 (AHG). Eight Bald Eagle nests were located in South Texas, these in Brazoria, Calhoun, Goliad and Refugio Counties. Only two nests were successful, producing one bird each, according to spokesmen of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (JCS). A ♂ Marsh Hawk was seen on Bolivar Pen., Chambers Co., June 24 (RLC, DJD & NOW). This species is a rare summer resident on the upper coast. An Osprey was observed near the entrance to Aransas Ref., June 28 (WMC). There are no nesting records for this species on the central coast, and very few for the Region. A pair of Caracaras with three flying young were seen near Beeville June 25 (JJJ).

CHACHALACAS, QUAIL, TURKEYS—Slightly above average production of Chachalacas was reported for protected areas; young birds were especially numerous at Santa Ana Ref. and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S. P. Production of Bobwhite and Scaled Quail was thought to be a little above average, but Turkeys, affected by dry weather, were expected to be down, according to personnel of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (CW).

CRANES THROUGH STILTS—The lone summering Whooping Crane was still present at Aransas Ref on Aug. 20 and appeared to be in good health. "He (she) has completed molt and is flying again" (JBG). During June, Anahuac Ref. personnel observed an apparent family group consisting of one ad. King Rail, one ad Clapper Rail, and a young chick. Both adults remained within a few yards of the chick even when the latter was approached (RWC). Purple Gallinules were more common than usual at Santa Ana Ref.; at least seven pairs nested. An ad. **Jacana**, first of this species to visit the refuge in eight years, remained at Santa Ana from

July 14 until Aug. 15 (WAS): From two pairs in 1973—following a long absence of the species—the population of Black-necked Stilts at San Antonio's Mitchell L. rose to an estimated 50 adults; "many" young were noted (AH & GBH, *vide* JAM).

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—The **Great Black-backed Gull** discovered on Bolivar flats Mar. 24, and reported earlier, remained at least until July 23 (VLE & JLR). Large colonies of Laughing Gulls, Royal, Sandwich and Caspian Terns, and Black Skimmers occupied spoil islands near Green I. (JMA, *vide* KM). Skimmers tried again to nest at Kennedy Causeway near Corpus Christi, and were again largely wiped out by high tides (KM).

PIGEONS, DOVES—The Red-billed Pigeon situation was improved at Santa Ana Ref., where the species failed to nest last year. There were at least five nesting pairs. Of five known nests, two were destroyed or deserted (WAS). White-winged Dove production in native brush was good enough to offset poor results in citrus groves and make an above-average season. One 50-acre tract supported 100 pairs per acre. An estimated 60 per cent of the birds were feeding in Mexico, and hunting on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande was reported to be excellent. The Mourning Dove season was thought to be below average (CW). White-fronted Doves were "very common" at Santa Ana Ref. where 45 nests were located (WAS).

ANIS, KINGFISHERS—Groove-billed Anis were "abundant" in the Mission area of Hidalgo Co., an estimated 40 per mi. in suitable habitat. Habitat destruction has been considerable since the last nesting season (GD). From 250 to 300 pairs of anis were estimated for Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). The Bones found nests in Jim Hogg, Jim Wells and Zapata Cos. Ringed Kingfishers still work the Rio Grande below Falcon Dam; two pairs were observed July 21 (PWS *et al.*). This species has lost some of its novelty appeal and it is difficult to get reliable estimates on the population. A pair of **Green Kingfishers** summered on the Guadalupe R. above Victoria but solid evidence of nesting is lacking (GG).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—An E. Kingbird was seen at the ferry landing at Port Aransas June 30 (LBP); this individual was considerably south of any known breeding locality. Western Kingbirds continue to thrive in their expanded range. The Austin population, apparently well adjusted for survival in even the busiest parts of town, fledged most young in early July. Pairs in Beeville, Bee Co., and Mathis, San Patricio Co., had a slightly earlier schedule (AHG). Kingbirds returned to Refugio, Refugio Co., and fledged four young "from the same street lamp" as last year (LBP). A stray fledgling was in danger of being trampled underfoot on the ramps of the Astrodome in Houston when birders happened on the scene. After ten days of loving care the juvenile was released outside the Astrodome, and after some persuasion, joined a group of kingbirds (JBS & NMS). The Bones found 63 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nests and reported a good season. The summer status of this species on the Mexican portion of

the Rio Grande Delta needs clarifying. Several birds were encountered on Highway 101 near the southern limits of the delta June 2 (AMW & FSW), and even more along this route June 17 (RLC, DJD & NOW). This species is an uncommon breeder in the Texas portion of the delta, where utility pole nesting sites are much more abundant than in Mexico. Beardless Flycatchers were common at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). Either Barn Swallows are expanding their breeding range or birders are taking them more seriously. The Bones located 13 nests in Jim Hogg and Zapata Cos. Nesting was discovered in n. Jim Wells Co. (ROA). This species was reported widespread in Bexar Co. "and surrounding countries." South of Hondo, Medina Co., the count (birds or nests?—Ed.) was up from five the past two years to 19 (JAM). Birds were seen in Guadalupe Co. during the summer (FSW). The counties mentioned above had not been credited with Barn Swallow nesting records. Highway culverts appear to be the attraction for nesting Barn Swallows. The Bones had 26 Purple Martins in their two houses in Falfurrias. A good crop fledged, although 12 young of varying ages were found dead in the nests, and eggs disappeared. Young were being fed in Beeville Apr. 9, a very early date (AHG).

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES—Two **Brown Jays** (*Psilorhinus morio*) were discovered along the Rio Grande west of Roma, Starr Co., June 7 (RJ & GW). Five birds, two adults and three immatures, were seen and photographed the following day (WAS). (Note that immatures are distinguished by yellow, not dark, bills). On June 30 an active nest was found (JCA, VLE & MB); details will appear elsewhere in the literature.



Brown Jay, adult and fledgling, on nest, 2 mi. s.e. of Salineno, Starr Co., Tex., July 14, 1974. Photo / John Arvin.

Mockingbird and Curve-billed Thrasher production was low on the Bones' census routes. A few pairs of Am. Robins nested at Austin and San Antonio. A Clay-colored Robin summered at Santa Ana Ref. and was last seen Aug. 1 (WAS). A small nesting population of E. Bluebirds persists at Beeville but numbers are down from a decade ago (AHG). Fledglings were seen at Austin May 11 (AMW & FSW). A Loggerhead Shrike nest with young was found on w. Galveston I., May 12 (FC *et al.*).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Prime Black-capped Vireo habitat on Austin's Cat Mountain, for several seasons a birders' mecca, took a beating this summer from land developers and may no longer be attractive to either birds or birders. On the Bones' routes, Brown-headed Cowbirds busied themselves with controlling the Bell's Vireo population and were even more successful than usual. The larger Bronzed Cowbird apparently did not consider Bell's nests as worthy of holding cowbird eggs. **Yellow-green Vireos** nested at a residence in Brownsville. The birds were discovered June 1 (MW *et al.*) and were carrying nesting material. At least one vireo was thought to have fledged (NB) despite some interference from cowbirds. Northern Parulas summered on the Guadalupe R. near Nursery, Victoria Co., and it was assumed that they nested in the moss-draped cypresses (GG). Golden-cheeked Warblers apparently did well in the Austin area but their territories are being strangled methodically by subdividers.

ORIOLES, COWBIRDS—Thirty nests of the Lichtenstein's Oriole were found at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). The Bones noted poor hatches of the Bullock's form of N. Orioles. One nest had five Bronzed Cowbird eggs and four oriole eggs. Bronzed Cowbirds seem to be increasing in n. San Antonio; in one instance three young cowbirds accompanied a ♂ Cardinal to a feeder (JAL, *vide* JAM).

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

With few exceptions June in the Region was abnormally hot and dry with many days reaching 90°F. and above. The situation reversed itself over most of the Region in July, with the first half generally cool and wet, giving some localities precipitation totals well over normal, but by mid-month temperatures returned to normal and dry weather returned. The Helena and Bozeman areas were exceptions, the drought of June continuing through July. Generally speaking, moisture reserves from the heavy winter and spring precipitation carried the Region through the dry periods in very good shape, with water levels high. The rapid runoff of snowmelt in June caused some flooding in the Salmon, Ida., and Baker, Ore., areas and probably did some harm to nesting but waterfowl and other marsh nesters appeared to have benefitted greatly. Vegetation accomplished excellent growth, promising abundant food and cover. Land birds appeared to have had a good

FRINGILLIDS—A strange bird song at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P. on June 28 drew Bob and Sirpa Harms to discovery of a ♂ **Crimson-collared Grosbeak** (*Rhodothraupis celaeno*), the first seen north of Mexico. Recordings and drawings were made. This bird was observed and photographed June 30 (JCA, MB & VLE), but has not been reported since. This species ranges northward in brushy woodlands to within probably 100 mil. of the Rio Grande. Cardinals and Pyrrhuloxias were "extremely low" on the Bones' routes; five of the nests contained dead young. Painted Buntings showed unusually well in the Nursery area of Victoria Co.; at least five active nests were observed (GG). An area in s.e. Houston, where a breeding population of Henslow's Sparrows was found last year, was closely watched for a recurrence. Singing was noted as early as Mar. 11, with a top count of 16 singing birds Apr. 23 (NP). The birds were present into late July, at least, and a juvenile was seen on July 22 (VLE & JLR).

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nesting season in most localities. Army Corps of Engineers activities connected with dam building along the Snake River destroyed marsh habitat in Asotin Co., Wash.

LOONS AND GREBES—Much concern was expressed for the future of the Com. Loon on the small mountain lakes of s. British Columbia, where constant harassment by fishermen and boaters appears to have eliminated them from many of the lakes. An upcoming ban of motors on some of the lakes may improve the situation (JG). The Red-necked Grebe nesting population continued to increase at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. where about 12 pairs produced about 25 young. A pair with a nest with seven eggs was found on Benawah L. just west of St. Maries, Ida. June 16. One bird at Three Forks, Mont. June 23 was remarkable. Only a few records exist for that area, these only in spring and fall (RR, DRS, PDS). Many Western Grebes, some with young, were seen on Davis L. west of LaPine, Ore. July 18-19.

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS—Practically all the White Pelicans reported were at L. Helena where 250 were counted in June and in s.w. Idaho, with 153 counted July 15. No nesting was reported. Double-crested Cormorants were seen at the breeding colony near Trident, Mont. and were much commoner at nearby Ennis. High counts of the species at L. Helena were 48 and at Helena Valley Res., 80, both in July.

HERONS AND IBIS—A Cattle Egret, apparently the third for Idaho, was seen feeding with cattle on Minidoka N.W.R. near Minidoka June 20 (GM & CHT). Single Great Egrets were seen at Market L. Wildlife Management Area, Roberts, Ida. and in s.w. Idaho. The species showed a marked increase at Malheur N.W.R. with 350 present. The refuge had 1000 Black-crowned Night Herons, the highest number in recent years. Up to 11 immature birds were noted frequently July 26-Aug. 2 at the n. end of Osoyoos L. in s. British Columbia, where very few records exist for them (SRC). Malheur had 80 White-faced Ibis, the highest in recent years. Fifty-three young of this species were banded at Market L. in June (CHT).

WATERFOWL—A Mute Swan was seen July 3 at Three Forks, Mont. away from the point of introduction at Livingston. A brood of four Trumpeter Swans was observed at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. and a pair with one small cygnet was seen near Harrison, Mont. June 23. Cygnet production at Malheur was up to nine, compared to six last year. A single bird was noted in s.w. Idaho July 17. Canada Goose production at Turnbull N.W.R. was good, with 180 young. Kootenai N.W.R. and vicinity showed very good production at about 225 and the increase at Salmon, Ida., not noted for this species, was good. Duck production in general showed large increases over 1973. Malheur N.W.R. came up with a 60 per cent increase, this largely in the surface-feeders and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had nearly a 40 per cent increase owing to larger brood sizes. Kootenai N.W.R. did very well on Mallards but Com. Goldeneye were down, producing less than 100

young. By contrast, Minidoka N.W.R. had a 38 per cent drop in breeding pairs. A **European Wigeon**, reported too late for the spring writeup, was on Vaseux L. south of Penticton Apr. 6-24 (SRC). The Harlequin Duck was reported only at Trick Falls on Glacier N. P., Mont., June 13. Three White-winged Scoters seen from the Keller ferry, Ferry Co., June 30 provided the third summer record for e. Washington.

VULTURES AND HAWKS—A pair of Turkey Vultures apparently nested near Mara L. in the Vernon, B.C. area for the birds were seen frequently and in late July were accompanied by three young. A pair of Goshawks nested on Indian Creek between Prairie City and John Day, Ore., and had fledged two of three young by July 16. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were scantily reported and the latter was described as alarmingly scarce in the North Okanagan of British Columbia. However a pair was reported nesting on Browne Mt. five miles southeast of Spokane. One young Golden Eagle was fledged at Benham Falls in c. Oregon and a nest of the Bald Eagle was seen at Suttle L. northwest of Sisters, Ore. In the Baker, Ore. area five nests of the former species were observed to have fledged at least one bird each. Ospreys were noted nesting at many localities. A study of the birds on upper Holter Res. in the Helena area showed 11 pairs compared with ten last year but they had fewer eggs per nest and more infertile eggs, resulting in fewer young fledged (VY). Observations of single Prairie Falcons were made on three dates in s.w. Idaho and once in s. British Columbia.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—The Ring-necked and the recently introduced Japanese Green Pheasant were reported holding on but not thriving at Kootenai N.W.R. A pair of the recently introduced Chinese Bamboo Partridge, *Bambusicola thoracica*, was seen June 16 along S. Naches Road in the Yakima area (ERC). Good hatching success for Chukar was noted at Salmon, Ida. and the Turkey population was increasing rapidly there.

CRANES AND RAILS—A pair of Sandhill Cranes at Ladd Marsh near LaGrande, Ore., raised one chick and a pair with two small young was seen at Ennis, Mont. June 23. Several pairs nested in upper Lemhi R. valley near Leadore, Ida. Nesting success for the species at Malheur N.W.R., based on a sample of 50 nests, was 36 per cent, compared with a success of about 20 per cent last year, based on 45 nests. A Virginia Rail with two chicks was seen at Turnbull N.W.R. July 27.

SHOREBIRDS—The fall migration of far-north-breeding shorebirds was underway in July as usual but observations in the Spokane area were scanty because of high water levels. Five Long-billed Dowitchers in a flooded field near Cusick July 5 were 11 days earlier than any previous record in e. Washington (PM). Two Long-billed Curlews were seen near Merrit June 18 and one, at White L. west of Okanagan Falls June 20, in the s. Okanagan Valley of British Columbia where the species is scarce (WCW). The species was also scarce in the Walla Walla area with only one sighting, June 2. Small young of these birds were noted June 22 at Three

Forks, Mont. Largest numbers were reported in s.w. Idaho, with 83 June 4. Noteworthy among those species breeding within the Region were three Upland Sandpipers seen in June in the Spokane Valley near Newman L. and Hauser L. junctions. Three Am. Avocets, the first in seven years at Kootenai N.W.R., visited on June 20 only.

GULLS AND TERNS—A large colony of California and Ring-billed Gulls bred on an island in the Columbia R. at Richland, Wash. Large downy young were seen exercising their wings June 27. Malheur N.W.R. reported the Franklin's Gull population as 1000, the same as last year and twice the 1972 number. At least ten Bonaparte's Gulls July 1 at Nulki L. near Vanderhoof, B.C. were suspected of nesting. The first Montana record for the **Least Tern** was obtained July 20 near Will-sall when a bird in imm. plumage was carefully observed under good conditions (PDS). Forster's Tern bred on islands in the Columbia R. near Richland and young were awing by July 14. Up to 20 pairs of Black Terns at Kootenai N.W.R. suggested nesting there.

PIGEONS AND OWLS—A Band-tailed Pigeon was seen south of Ashcroft, B.C. (WCW), another was found in Cowiche Canyon west of Yakima June 18 (HD), and a third was seen at Middleport, Stevens Co., Wash. June 9 (EH). Two Flammulated Owls were heard in the Blue Mts. 15 mi. south of Pomeroy, Wash. June 10 (EH). The only Pygmy Owl observations were two at a low elevation—2124 ft.—along Coeur d' Alene L., Ida., one near Cougar Bay and one at Chatcolet Bay, both June 9. The Burrowing Owl was noted only near Baker and Brothers, Ore. and near Quincy, Yakima, Walla Walla and Sprague, Wash. At Yakima it was considered as becoming rare but more sightings were made this year at Walla Walla. The **Barred Owl**, still pushing into the Region, was found near Park Rapids, east of Colville, Stevens Co., Wash. June 23 (DP & TRW) and one or two were seen there up to July 11. This is the first summer record in the area. Two **Barred Owls** were found roosting west of Troy, Ore., June 18. One was photographed June 19 and one was again seen July 22 (BT) Karl Hulbert. A **Spotted Owl** nest with two downy young found and photographed in Chelan Co., Wash. in late May is apparently the first nest record for the state (JF & KF). A brood of half-grown young **Short-eared Owls** was uncovered by a mower near Bozeman. Two pairs were seen near Lowden, Wash. all summer, one pair producing a brood which apparently was destroyed by predators. Quincy, Wash. and s.w. Idaho were the only other localities reporting them.

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS—An unusual sighting was made of about 25 Vaux's Swifts July 28 when about half the group entered a church chimney in Walla Walla. A single White-throated Swift was again reported at Asotin, Wash. June 24 (JWW). Black Swifts were observed in Jasper N. P., Alta., near Smithers and at Nulki L. south of Vanderhoof, B.C., and at Ellensburg and between Cashmere and Wenatchee, Wash. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia; at several localities in e. and c. Washington; south of Prairie City,

Ore. and in both n. and s.w. Idaho. Anna's Hummingbird was believed to be breeding at Cle Elum, Wash (PMo).

WOODPECKERS—A few Lewis' Woodpeckers were observed in Idaho and e. Washington and in the Bitterroot Valley of w. Montana. Nesting was noted at Kootenai N.W.R., near Spokane and at Ft. Simcoe S.P. west of Toppenish, Wash. Williamson's Sapsucker nests were found in three localities: near Prairie City, Ore. (AW), on Huckleberry Mt. west of Springdale, Wash. (S.A.S.), and on Anarchist Mt. east of Osoyoos in extreme s. British Columbia, where three nests were found (SRC, WCW). A nest of the White-headed Woodpecker was observed at Black Butte Ranch near Sisters, Ore. during June and July (JJ). A nest of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found July 11 at L. Thomas in e. Stevens Co., Wash (DB & EB). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were found nesting at 8500 ft. elevation near Clayton, Ida (HBR); at Calispell Bog, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (PM, KB & JWn), and in two localities near Vernon, B.C (JG).

FLYCATCHERS—The song of what was believed to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was heard July 9 at Cottonwood Creek in Jasper National Park (WCW). A Least Flycatcher was studied at length and its song recorded June 18 along Umtanum Cr., Yakima Co., Wash. (TRW & JD). The species was noted at three stops on the breeding bird survey in the Brookmere-Aspen Grove area of s. British Columbia (WCW). A number of Gray Flycatchers were noted in mid-June near Wenas Creek northwest of Yakima (PM, TRW). Single W. Flycatchers were heard in two places well north of their known breeding range: one July 2 in Prince George and the other the same day at Pine Pass between Prince George and Dawson Creek (WCW).

SWALLOWS AND JAYS—Violet-green and Tree Swallows had a bad nesting season in interior British Columbia, presumably because of cold, wet weather in late May and early June. Three pairs of Violet-green Swallows nested in a colony-type nest box, along with a pair of House Sparrows at Spokane. Three pairs of Tree Swallows nesting at Phillips L., west of Baker, Ore. appeared to have some sort of community arrangement, for three or four adults in rapid succession fed young at the same nest hole! At Prairie City, Ore. well-fledged young Com. Ravens were seen June 24.

CHICKADEES AND WRENS—A pair of Chestnut-backed Chickadees with a nest was seen June 11 and several times later near Fish L. about 15 mi north of Leavenworth, Wash. One bird of this species was seen on Browne Mt., five miles southeast of Spokane May 25 (THR). On the same mountain a brood of recently fledged Winter Wrens was seen July 1 and three young Rock Wrens with their parents July 27 and another pair with three young was found July 26 at Steptoe Butte near Steptoe, Wash.

MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES—A Mockingbird was seen June 12 on the U. S. Atomic Energy Reservation, Benton Co., Wash. (REW & NW) and a

singing male was noted June 30 in French Canyon near Tieton, Yakima Co., Wash. (HD). A third bird was seen at Steptoe Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. June 10 (EH). A pair of Gray Catbirds at Lavington, B. C. raised two young plus a Brown-headed Cowbird. The parasitism of the Gray Catbird is highly unusual (JG). Populations of both Western and Mountain Bluebirds apparently continued low. Very few nests were reported and the latter species was described as alarmingly scarce in the Vernon, B. C. area. Of 100 nest boxes put up in the foothills west of North Powder, Ore., two were used by Mountain Bluebirds and 12 by Western (MB). A Townsend's Solitaire nest with five eggs was located July 5 along Aberdeen L. road 12 mi. southeast of Vernon and young in flight were seen south of Bozeman July 23.

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, WARBLERS—A pair of Water Pipits appeared to be nesting at about 7000 ft. elevation in the Colockum Pass area of n.e. Kittitas Co., Wash. and several birds were seen in the Lemhi Range south of Salmon, Ida. at an elevation of 10,000 ft. July 20. A Bohemian Waxwing was noted at Wabasso Campground July 8, and two at Cottonwood Creek July 9, both localities in Jasper N.P.

Four Tennessee Warblers were observed June 9 near L. Helena where the species has been recorded only a few times (SM & NM). A nest of the Nashville Warbler with five eggs was found on Browne Mt., five mi. southeast of Spokane, June 15 but the eggs later disappeared (THR). A Virginia Warbler was reported July 28, and a nesting Black-throated Gray Warbler July 12, both in Cassia Co., Ida. One or two Blackpoll Warblers were seen at Pine Pass, 130 mi. northeast of Prince George, and at two localities in Jasper N. P., all observations in early July. Seven singing N. Waterthrushes were heard at Calispell Bog, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. June 30 and nine were found on the Brookmere, B. C., breeding bird survey June 19. An Ovenbird was found dead in Helena June 13 and is apparently only the second ever recorded there (SM).

BLACKBIRDS—Bobolinks, rare in e. Oregon and Washington, were seen on Yakima Indian Reservation (single birds); at Prairie City, Ore. (three males June 25 and two males with two imm. birds July 27—AW), and near Cusick, Wash. (30—DP). A pair of Orchard Orioles was sighted near Walla Walla, Wash. June 12 (JW). A few Rusty Blackbirds were recorded in the Prince George area in early July. The Com. Grackle was observed and apparently breeding in Deer Lodge, Mont. This is the farthest west record for the species in that area (PDS). A young Brown-headed Cowbird was seen being fed by a Red-winged Blackbird, an unusual host, near Spokane and one south of Bozeman was fed by both an Audubon's Warbler and a junco! Birds do get confused.

FINCHES—Evening Grosbeaks were abundant in the forest around L. Wenatchee and Fish L. north of Leavenworth, Wash. Cassin's Finch was unusually scarce in the Bozeman area and was scarce around Fortine, Mont. where it normally is common. In the Spokane area numbers appeared good with several

nestings reported. At Missoula the species appears to have become less plentiful since House Finches have become established. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed at high elevations in the Salmon, Ida. area and in Crater Lake N. P. Pine Siskins were common to abundant in many coniferous forest areas of e. Washington and in Idaho. A young bird just out of the nest was being fed by an adult May 31 at Coeur d' Alene. By contrast Am. Goldfinch numbers were scanty in most areas, with only the Pullman, Spokane and Yakima, Wash. areas reporting good numbers. Red Crossbill numbers were good on breeding bird surveys at Brookmere and Canford and later in the Smithers area of British Columbia. They also made a good showing around Pullman, Spokane and Bozeman. However, in the Vernon area numbers were poor. Phenomenal numbers of White-winged Crossbills were reported apparently breeding in subalpine forest of s. British Columbia, apparently in response to a bumper spruce cone crop. Numbers were also high in Yoho and Jasper National Parks. A male in song was found in the mountains south of Hamilton, Mont. July 14 (RAH, ETH & PDS)

SPARROWS—The rare Grasshopper Sparrow was believed down in numbers in some e. Washington breeding areas. The species was noted in the valley east of Spokane, in the vicinity of Potholes Res., Grant Co., and near Asotin. No other reports were received for the species. Two **Black-throated Sparrows** were observed near Malheur N.W.R. June 14 (CHW). Sage Sparrows were noted as very common along the Columbia R. near the Vernita Bridge in Benton Co. July 24 but elsewhere were scarce in Washington, the only state reporting them. Clay-colored Sparrows were heard singing near Jasper, July 5-6 (RR & REW) and one was singing at Pyramid L. in Jasper N. P. July 8 (WCW). The species was noted in the Bozeman area and appeared to be increasing in the N. Okanagan of British Columbia. The nest of a Brewer's Sparrow was found July 4 at White L. near Oliver, B.C. (SRC) and the species was noted singing during June and July on Browne Mt. southeast of Spokane (DB, EB, DK & THR). Two White-crowned Sparrows were sighted near the top of Stevens Peak near Wallace, Ida. June 30 (SS). About ten stragglers moved through the Coeur d' Alene area at the end of May (RM) and one was seen at Madras, Ore. June 3 (JJ). The birds were seen at higher elevations in the Salmon area. A White-throated Sparrow was singing at L. Kathlyn near Smithers, B.C. July 1 (WCW)

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Lake N.P.; Mrs. Ray Holliday, **George D. Holton**, Helena area; Dallas & Charlotte Hooper, Alice Horschel, Virginia Humphreys, Dick Humphries, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, **Julie Johnson**, c. Oregon; Dan Knierim, Carolyn Lagergren, Earl Larrison, Greg McDonald, (RM) Ron McDow, Patricia McKinney, **Eldon L. McLaury**, Malheur N.W.R.; Phyllis Madden, Neil & (SM) Sid Martin, (PM) Phil Mattocks, Sally and **Niel F. Meadowcroft**, Walla Walla area; Dean Medino, Helene Mir, Bobby Moate, (PMo) Peggy Modie, Levi Mohler, Louis Moos, Robert Morgan, **Lowell Napier**, Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash.; Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Nelson, Ron Newville, Dennis L. Paulson, (DP) Dave Pearson, **Del Pierce**, Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida.; **Margaret J. Polumsky**, Nez Perce Co., Ida. - Asotin Co., Wash.; George Ray, Roy Richards, Hadley B. Roberts, Hazel Roe, Thomas H. Rogers, Larry Roumpf, (RR) Robert Rumely, Jack Schultz, **Belle Shaw**, s.w. Idaho; W. H. Shillington, Roland Shook, Donald R., Steve and **P.D. Skaar**, Bozeman, Mont. area; Mrs. **S. O. Stanley**, for Spokane Audubon Society, n.e. Washington; Edgar Stephenson, Esther Stewart, (SS) **Shirley Sturts**, Coeur d'Alene, Ida. area; (BT) Butch Taylor, Bill Thoren, **Charles H. Trost**, Pocatello, Ida. area; Mr. & Mrs. Ted Trueblood, Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Vandermeer, Terry R. Wahl, Ann Ward, n.e. Oregon; Clarice H. Watson, John W. Weber, Wayne C. Weber, Tom Weir, Winton Weydemeyer, (JW) Jack Winchell, (JWi) John Wingfield, Mr. & Mrs. **Robert E. Woodley**, Pasco - Richland-Kennewick, Wash. area; Norman Woodley, Jeff Woodruff, **Maurice B. Wright**, Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash.; Vince Yannone and Katherine Zahl. — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane Wa. 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST / Hugh E. Kingery

Regional reports suggest successful breeding by most species in the Region, including Blue List birds. Exceptions were waterfowl suffering from drought in the San



Luis Valley, Colorado, those adults and young which failed to survive a June snowstorm in the central Rockies, and water birds suffering from the dwindling water supply in the Lahontan Valley, Nevada. To

chronicle that calamity, see the chart on production at Stillwater Wildlife Management Area and Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Hot dry weather characterized the Region during June, with July cooler and damper in some places. Meanwhile a snowstorm moved across the Region June 5-9, dumping five inches of snow on Salt Lake City and eight inches in the Colorado Rockies. Colorado observers documented sitting birds and young perishing in the wet snow: White-breasted Nuthatch and Western Bluebird nestlings at Franktown, Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Sedalia (MOS); six young robins and a sitting Mountain Bluebird at Jefferson. In northern Utah the snow caused four Cooper's Hawk nests to fail.

Yellowstone Park reported a more unusual hazard: at a place called Poison Spring amounts of carbon dioxide lethal to small birds accumulate; this year several Ruby-crowned Kinglet fledglings and adult Chipping Sparrows and a Western Tanager perished there.

LOONS, GREBES—An errant Arctic Loon near Denver June 2 cooperated with observers, who obtained a detailed description (D.F.O.). Western Grebes successfully nested at several locations: at least 75 among 200 adults at sporadic Barr L. near Denver; ten nests at Pueblo Res. in its first summer of existence; a dozen young at the N. Platte refuges, Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah, and perhaps Sheridan, Wyo.; and the 400 at Stillwater W.M.A. (Table 1).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS—Riverside Res., Morgan Co., Colo., had a successful season, with 300 young banded, the greatest in 13 years. We lack a report from Great Salt L., the other major pelican breeding site in the Great Basin. Other observations included 400 non-breeding adults summering near Denver, 95 at Pathfinder N.W.R., Wyo., July 18, and 15 at Ocean L., Wyo., June 19. Double-crested Cormorant production dropped from a 3-year average of 685 to 360 this year at Anaho I. "Cormorant production was adversely affected by gull predation occurring when cormorants were frequently frightened off nests by boaters." Other areas reporting cormorants mentioned average production.

HERONS—Two reports of Little Blue Herons came from Colorado: May 26 at Monte Vista N.W.R. (JRWet ux.) † and June 11 at Riverside Res. (RAR). Great Egret and Snowy Egret production in the Lahontan Valley dropped 50 per cent with the reduced water. Snowy Egret nesting failed completely at Monte Vista and Adams L. in the San Luis Valley, Colo.; Russell L., in the n. part of the valley, had 300 birds present. Desert L., Utah, had 50 breeding pairs. Black-crowned Night Herons also failed in the San Luis Valley, but they did well at Stillwater, Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, Desert L., and the N. Platte refuges. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron strayed to Pueblo Res. June 11 (VT), and the secretive Least Bittern flushed near Fort Collins, Colo. (PG) †. White-faced Ibis production at Carson L. near Stillwater was practically nil—about 10 per cent of 1973's 3300 nests. This colony had been building in size over the past few years. Scattered ibis summered at Monte Vista, Fruita, Colo., and 10-15 attempted nesting at Latham Res., Weld Co., Colo., and Desert L.

WATERFOWL—Yellowstone Nat'l Park's Trumpeter Swans fared poorly, with only two cygnets fledging from seven swan pairs. Monte Vista had an extremely poor year, down 75 per cent from the ten-year average to about 6000 birds, with neighboring Alamosa N.W.R.'s production down 60 per cent; dry conditions in the San Luis Valley were the cause. Wyoming's Hutton L. and Pathfinder refuges had typical production; Arapaho N.W.R., Colo. produced a 30 per cent increase, to 3164 young (650 Mallards, 570 Lesser Scaups, 555 Pintails), and Desert L. increased to 590 breeding pairs. Stillwater's waterfowl did not suffer as badly as its other water birds, with duck production down a mere 17 per cent.

Interesting individual waterfowl records include the first nesting record of Ring-necked Duck for R.M.N.P., a female seen with week-old ducklings July 28 (F.A.C.); a ♀ Canvasback at Rocky Ford, Colo., July 14; and a pair of Surf Scoters near Denver June 26 (HLG; ph.—C.F.O.). The Com. Merganser apparently is expanding its breeding within the sparsely-used Mountain West Region, with reports of breeding at several locations around Dubois, Wyo., 50 young at the N. Platte refuges, a family with 11 young at McCoy, Colo., and at Zion N.P. for the third straight year, this time probably on two different branches of the Virgin R.

**Estimated Production
Stillwater Wildlife Management Area**

	1974	1973	1972	1971
Eared Grebe	50	80	50	unk.
Western Grebe	400	1000	700	700
Pied-billed Grebe	120	180	45	unk.
Great Blue Heron	120	100	150	425
Black-crowned Night Heron	220	220+	700	750
Snowy Plover	75	65	50	150
Killdeer	825	1175	1200	1200
Am. Avocet	675	1800	2100	2400
Black-necked Stilt	225	720	1000	1300
Wilson's Phalarope	2100	3150	3000	unk.
Forster's Tern	135	225	unk.	175

Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge

White Pelican	1725	3200	2500	2975
Double-crested Cormorant	360	640	675	750
Great Blue Heron	155	165	185	185
California Gull	3600	3050	2950	2895

HAWKS, EAGLES—The Mississippi Kite colony at La Junta, Colo., declined for the second year, with nine adults producing only one young; but along the Cimarron R. in extreme s.e. Colorado, a newly discovered site, two nests each with one egg were located (WCA). North of its known Colorado breeding range by 150 miles, at Fort Morgan, a single kite was seen June 24 (RCR).

At Zion N.P. an intensive search for Cooper's Hawk nests (the dominant accipiter in the park) produced five nests with 16 young. Red-tailed Hawk nesting showed

S.A.

In n. Utah Hennessy has studied Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawk nests. For the past two years, Sharp-shinned had a better ratio of success, 13 of 20 nests successful, fledging 43 young, compared with 23 of 43 Cooper's nests fledging 67 young. His observations detail some factors troubling Cooper's Hawks. They had a substantial loss to Horned Owl predation—22 per cent of the nests. The June snowstorm in 1974 destroyed four high altitude nests, and added two eggs in another. The Utah birds shown an unusually high proportion of imm (one-year old) Cooper's breeding: 28 per cent last year, 22 per cent this year. Apparently normal is about 3 per cent. This high ratio may result in part from the high nest predation, frequently fatal to the adult female.

normal success. Swainson's Hawks did well in the San Luis Valley and elsewhere. In s.e. Colorado, 196 young fledged from 142 nests, compared with 50 young coming out of 200 nests last year. Last year did have two unusual factors—fierce winds which destroyed many nests, and a cold spring which may have induced migrating immatures to stop to nest. An abortive nesting attempt by **Rough-legged Hawk** in Campbell Co., Wyo. occurred several hundred miles south of its normal Canadian breeding range. The pair was found May 13 to have taken over an unsuccessful Ferruginous Hawk nest; they defended the area, relined the nest, but failed to lay eggs. Production by Ferruginous Hawks in s.e. Colorado increased 30 per cent, with 41 nests producing 80 young. The Great Basin appeared to have reduced numbers, with only two of last year's four nests active at Eureka, Nev., and fewer nests found west of Salt Lake City. In s.e. Colorado Golden Eagles had only seven nests with three young (lack of rabbits blamed); Fruita, Colo., saw only one of three nests succeed—human disturbance caused one failure—and eagles were missing from excellent territory in e. Nevada. Yellowstone Park's Bald Eagle population matched that of 1962—30 compared with 32—but the future seems bleak if 1974 nesting success governs—the ten active pairs produced only a single fledgling! A Bald Eagle apparently summered along the Colorado R. near McCoy.

Marsh Hawks seemed normal. Yellowstone's Ospreys number about 100, but in five nests found, only four young fledged. Sheridan's pair had 2-3 in the nest July 27, but the L. Granby, Colo., Ospreys failed to bring off young this year. Prairie Falcons maintained equilibrium. Zion's Merlin observations tripled after the male discovered that the hummingbird feeders in Springdale offered a convenient source of prey

GROUSE, QUAIL—Blue Grouse thrived this year, judging by reports in Colorado and Wyoming, confirmed by the Colorado Div. of Wildlife. Bobwhites have entered an upturn in e. Colorado, according to increased observations there the past six months

SHOREBIRDS—Denver figured its last spring migrants as six White-rumped Sandpipers June 2, and the first fall migrant a Lesser Yellowlegs June 22. Mid-July

saw the beginning of the real fall migration, with Fish Springs listing 1000 Least Sandpipers July 15 and Pathfinder on July 18 having 11,600 shorebirds, including 4500 each W. Sandpipers and Wilsons' Phalaropes, and 1000 each Spotted Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers.

Snowy Plovers met success at all stations reporting them. Fish Springs' 125 birds produced 40 young (joined by 225 more on July 15), and Stillwater had 75 young. Apparently the unexplored large reservoirs in e. Colorado support varying numbers; Timber Res., Crowley Co., produced 15-20 young from 40 adults. With no hail this dry summer, Mountain Plover did well in e. Colorado, over 400 spent June 1-23 at Timber Res. The rarely-found Am. Woodcock flushed three times near Fort Collins, Colo., July 15 (PG)†. Long-billed Curlews, like Mountain Plovers, enjoyed nesting success in e. Colorado with the lack of hail—200 massed July 21 near Eads. In n.e. Colorado two summer observations of the Upland Sandpiper surprised, on June 22 and July 2 (NH, WWB). After last fall's observations of Short-billed Dowitchers (*Am. Birds* 28:84) in Colorado, another one (or perhaps 4) visited Timber Res. July 14†. The Black-necked Stilt, long a Great Basin breeder, has established a successful breeding colony at Cheraw, Colo., with three pairs producing nine young this year, up from one pair two years ago. Zion picked up its second record of the N. Phalarope June 4 (for the first, this spring, see *Am. Birds* 28:833).

GULLS, TERNS—California Gulls multiplied at Anaho I. and Antero Res., Colo. (300 young), as well as Stillwater, but had a poor hatch at Riverside Res. (100 young). Zion marked its second record of Forster's Tern June 4 (the first came this spring, *Am. Birds* 28:833). A Least Tern spent July at Tiber Res.; it has nested in e. Colorado.

OWLS—The Barn Owl declines in s.e. Colorado, where only a few had nested at best. **Spotted Owls** nested in Zion Canyon, providing the second record of the species there. They picked a narrow, vertical-walled canyon, where they met less competition with the more common Great Horned Owl. Zion also had its first nesting of the Pygmy Owl, from an immature able to fly only a few feet, picked up on May 31 (Ph.—Zion). Burrowing Owl populations continue steady, apparently, although the number of colonies reported increased substantially. They nest in scattered colonies far from birdwatcher centers; most colonies rarely receive careful monitoring unless close to cities like Pueblo or Denver. Colorado reported several Short-eared Owl colonies, the first in several years. Besides possibly successful Monte Vista and Lafayette nests, farmers destroyed three clutches of six eggs each plowing stubble fields at the Fort Collins airport.

Our primary source of publication delay is contributors and observers who do not meet reporting deadlines. Help us bring American Birds to you more promptly. Be prompt with your reports.

S.A.

HUMMINGBIRDS—At Springdale, (people population: 172) Gifford conducted a survey of the hummingbird population. The first week in June all persons known to be feeding hummingbirds were asked to record amount of syrup consumed and the formula. With formulas from 3:1 to 5:1, consumption totaled 24 15/16 gallons. Based on 2.4 grams of sugar per bird per day, the daily average number of hummers fed came to **1245**. The density over a five-mile stretch came to 0.97 birds per acre, but north Springdale, where feeders have thrived for over 12 years, boasted a concentration of 5.05 birds per acre.

The enthusiasm of the new observers in Pueblo has extended the known breeding range of the Black-chinned Hummingbird north to that Colorado plains city; this year they found five nests. Reno had unusually large numbers of Black-chinneds. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds descended upon feeders in unusual numbers throughout Colorado, with the dry conditions making the feeders more attractive than usual. One wonders what a Springdale survey would show in Estes Park, Evergreen, Glenwood Springs, or Reno. First Rufous Hummingbird in the Region was reported at Zion June 26; by July 31 many Black-chinneds had departed, and 40 per cent of the feeding hummers there were Rufous. Other early arrivals came to Grand Junction and Colorado Springs July 7, and to Sheridan and Reno July 8. Compared with 1973, Reno swarmed with Rufous by the end of July. Near Buford, Colo., a gaggle of 150 hummingbirds contained at least three ad. Calliopes; the observer opines that 30 others appeared to be juvenile Calliopes, judging by size and proportion, the rest were Broad-tailed and Rufous (BH). Evergreen's Rivoli's hybrid stayed until July 22 this year. A Rivoli's visited a Colorado Springs feeder June 2, and a large, shy ♀ hummingbird 3 times the size of a Broad-tailed visited a Hahns Peak feeder for almost two months, never positively identified.

FLICKERS—Com. Flickers seemed to maintain their current numbers, although they still suffer from competition with Starlings. Tate studied a 6700-acre section in s. Campbell Co., Wyo., largely sagebrush, but with 25 trees in 11 copses along a 4-mile zone of Little Thunder Creek—a habitat typical of much of the Mountain West. Flickers nested in each copse.

FLYCATCHERS—In the Campbell Co. cottonwoods, 12 kingbird pairs nested—half Eastern, half Western. Nesting in the same tree as one Western was an Am. Kestrel, with a Great Horned Owl nearby: all successfully fledged young. An Ash-throated Flycatcher strayed north to Dubois on the B.B.S. June 26. Pueblo's Black Phoebes remained until July 4, nesting success not reported. Western Flycatchers seemed scarce at Eldora, Colo., but more frequent at Evergreen (92 on 27 dates this year, 22 on 13 dates in 1973), as well as at Hahns Peak, Colorado Springs, and Zion (where they apparently nest in many of the narrow, cool side canyons). Because W. Wood Pewees have completely disappeared from the cottonwood grove near Littleton,

Colo., studied by the Regional Editor, he requested regional observers to report on its status. The extensive reports mystify. Eight locations, in c. Colorado and Zion, had normal populations. Four Colorado ponderosa pine locales had noticeable increases; and pewees were scarce in several Colorado plains towns, one ponderosa area, the aspen groves of Summit Co., Colo., and around Salt Lake City.

SWALLOWS—The Violet-green Swallow migration along the S. Platte R. stretched into June, with 150 moving upstream near Littleton June 1. They fledged young late at Jefferson July 21 and R.M.N.P. Aug. 7, and seemed common or increased at McCoy, Glenwood Springs, and Zion. Of many Tree Swallow nests, the highest count was 48 at Jefferson, about the same as last year. Observers found Cliff Swallows thriving, some new colonies; Truan mentioned three colonies of over 400, 12 of 200 plus, and 15 of 50-200 each, in the Pueblo area. At Jefferson one nest harbored "young which hang way out the nest opening and often snap at any insect nearby—that means up to 3 feet away; a little wishy-washy on depth perception." A stray Purple Martin visited Boulder June 26 (SL)†.

JAYS—Blue Jays thrive in the Piedmont cities, and one poked west to Grand Teton N.P. July 13 (MRC). Several Com. Raven nests included six in s.e. Colorado, where breeding increases. At the same time the White-necked Raven population in s.e. Colorado has dropped steadily. In the last 5 years the count on one highway near Cheraw with 15 nests had dropped one per year. Clark's Nutcrackers seemed scarce at R.M.N.P. and Yellowstone, but more common at Reno.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES—Zion recorded its first nest of Black-capped Chickadees, with four young being fed June 13. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued scarce, with only a dozen observations, including one on the plains at Bonny Res., Colo., July 29.

WRENS—House Wrens increased along the E. Slope of Colorado, but almost disappeared at Jefferson; a census at Logan, Utah, saw the population drop from 16 pairs in 1973 to 11 in 1974 (JY). Bewick's Wrens received more comment than usual. At Springdale, observations shot up from none last year to 42 this year, partly attributable to discovery of two nests. Zion had numerous observations also, and observers noted normal numbers at Fruita, Colo., and Pueblo.

THRUSHES, SHRIKES—Swainson's Thrushes sang from June 1 to July 17 in Cheyenne, and one June 6 at Denver was a late migrant. Western Bluebirds, never common in our Region, enjoyed a normal year, despite the June 8 snowstorm. The Mountain Bluebird seems to have had a banner year. Encouraging reports came from Yellowstone (good fledgling-to-adult ratio), Cheyenne, Dubois (July observations were all families), Zion (including 200 July 10), and several Colorado locations. Loggerhead Shrikes probably had a normal year, except at Fruita. A count of 23 came from Pawnee Nat'l Grassland July 27, and a nest in Campbell Co. had eight young.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—We reported on the Gray Vireo search at Zion in the Spring report (*Am. Birds* 28:834). At Fruita, the population remains steady. Ewing followed a singing male at McCoy for a half day, the first report of either the bird or possible nesting from c. Colorado. Warbling Vireos turned scarce at Eldora and Dubois, more common at Evergreen and Logan (breeding pairs up from 9 last year to 20 this year). A surprising number of warblers categorized as rare migrants cropped up. R.M.N.P. had a glut: Orange-crowned July 6 (rare in summer in e. Colorado), its first N. Parula June 20 (RMS— ph. R.M.N.P.), its first Chestnut-sided, seen by 14 observers July 21; and its second Palm, July 14. Other regional rarities were a Black-and-white near Reno June 20; three other June N. Parula observations; Bay-breasted at Evergreen June 15 (WWB); at Las Vegas an Ovenbird May 25-June 5 and an Am. Redstart June 9; and a Hooded at Jefferson June 1.†. Pueblo reported as many Virginia's Warblers as Yellows this summer—more than normal. Yellow Warblers maintained normal numbers in Cheyenne, Dubois, and Colorado Springs, while decreasing at Boulder, Glenwood Springs, and Salt Lake City (spraying of box elders may have had an effect).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—Bobolinks breed in scattered locations in the Region; Logan's contingent first arrived May 27, a week late; Longmont and Sheridan had them, and a male visited Las Vegas May 30. Orchard Orioles reached Denver in June and July, while Stotz counted 78 at Bonny Res. July 29-30. His 133 N. Orioles the same weekend included 11 of the Baltimore race. Com. Grackles nested in R.M.N.P., Dubois had 14 observations and Yellowstone noted three on July 7, the park's second record. Cowbirds increase, and at Jefferson laid eggs in nests of Lincoln's and Savannah Sparrows, Dusky Flycatcher, and probably Yellow Warblers. Western Tanagers wandered early, with one July 15 and six July 28 in Denver, and several at Fish Springs the week of July 23. Sheridan had two separate reports of Scarlet Tanagers, and Colorado Springs had a June 11 Summer Tanager (SG).

FINCHES—A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak feeding young at Bonny Res. July 30 represents Colorado's third such observation; no nest has been found. Black-headed Grosbeaks increased their nesting, including the first nest in Hering's study area on Boulder's Enchanted Mesa. A rare Nevada Indigo Bunting June 2 at Lida (DR, VR *et al.*) sang 30 mi. from four others across the California line June 1 & 3. Evening Grosbeaks nested at Denver, R.M.N.P., Evergreen and McCoy. Elsewhere they were scarce. Many observers commented on the increasing numbers of House Finches. Spring's abundant Pine Siskins moved to the mountains, where they were common to abundant. They also nested at plains city Cheyenne, as usual. Red Crossbills inhabited scattered locations, briefly, Boulder June 15-July 8, and Sheridan. Lark Buntings generally maintained their numbers; a Pawnee Grassland trip counted 1850 (D.F.O.).

SPARROWS—Grasshopper Sparrows displayed good populations in e. Colorado and around Sheridan.

Cassin's Sparrows may be expanding their range also, with three males singing in El Paso Co. June 11, a group near Denver in July (RA), as well as abundance in Baca and Prowers Cos., Colo. A Field Sparrow at Bonny Res. July 21 (DAG) could have been either a migrant or a summer resident. Around Cheyenne all summer, hundreds of McCown's Longspurs were in residence; late hatchings had successful fledgings. Finally, an out-of-season Lapland Longspur inexplicably turned up in s. Campbell Co. June 17.

CORRIGENDA—The Spotted Owl report from Conejos wilderness, Colo., (*Am. Birds* 28:85) was not accepted by C.F.O.

ABBREVIATIONS—C.F.O., Colorado Field Ornithologists; D.F.O. Denver Field Ornithologists; F.A.C., Foothills Audubon Club; R.M.N.P., Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park; †, Sight record report form on file with Regional Editor and C.F.O.: ph., photographs on file where indicated.

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SOUTHWEST REGION / Steve Alden and Scott Mills

Drought conditions continued in the Southwest throughout June and early July. Observers in all areas of the region reported record-breaking high temperatures. The urgently needed summer rains reached s. Arizona in the first week of July and by month's end



most regions of the state had reached the yearly accumulation average. Conditions in New Mexico, however, were considerably different. Reports indicated scattered, below-average precipitation and continued drought in the state.

Painted Rock Dam Reservoir, Maricopa Co., Ariz., normally dry, held a large accumulation of water from record winter and spring rains of recent years. This oasis in an otherwise arid region produced a number of firsts and unusual records. Reports of breeding success were mixed. Rufous-winged Sparrows were absent from traditional breeding areas in the vicinity of the Santa Rita Mountains, Ariz., and quail coveys were small with few reports of coveys of ten or more individuals. Most species seem to have bred successfully despite the drought or to have delayed breeding until the summer rains. Scattered reports of late or lingering species were received from many areas.

PELICANS TO CORMORANTS—An unprecedented number of sightings of **Brown Pelicans** was reported from s. Arizona. A flock of 14 immatures was observed s.w. of Phoenix July 8 (RW, JW). A second report of 14 in the same area on the same date (Jo Ann Pettiniccher, Leslie Henningsen) was undoubtedly of the same flock. Single birds were reported from near Sahuarita, Ariz., July 9 (Mrs. Terry Williams), Saguro L. near Phoenix July 14-20 (Zona Brighton) and Cook L. near Mammoth, Ariz., July 10 & 19 (DD, JB). White Pelicans were reported as follows: 350 adults at Painted Rock Dam Res. (below, P.R.D.) since June 20 constitute the first July record for Maricopa County (GB, RN *et al.*), one Patagonia L., Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., July 1-2 (R&PP) and at two Elephant Butte Marsh, N. Mex., June 5 (CH). The first Maricopa Co. record for **Magnificent Frigatebird** was an immature at P.R.D., July 13 (RB, GB, RN). Over 20 Double-crested Cormorants were at P.R.D., July 6-August (JW *et al.*). Double-

crested Cormorants apparently enjoyed good nesting success at Elephant Butte Marsh, N.Mex. with many young observed out of the nest June 5 & July 9 (CH). An ad Olivaceous Cormorant was found on a nest at Elephant Butte Marsh July 9 with two additional adults seen nearby (CH).

HERONS, WATERFOWL—Six Cattle Egrets were reported at P.R.D., July 17 (ST, DS) and three were observed near Camp Verde, Ariz., June 4 (L.D.Bailey). Fifty-four nests of Great Blue Heron from three rookeries in Grant Co., N. Mex. averaged three young per nest during early June (RF). An estimated 100 Snowy Egret nests at Elephant Butte Marsh June 5 contained eggs or downy young and on July 9 many fledgling birds, young in all stages of development and eggs were observed (CH). Three Least Bitterns were observed at Tucumcari L., N. Mex., June 16 (CH). Seven imm. Wood Storks were seen P.R.D., from July 10 on (SD, JW *et al.*).

Nesting success of Canada Geese at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex. was extremely low, with only one gosling produced from the 47-56 birds present all season (DB, GD). However, during the same period the 150-300 Mallards present produced about 250 young (DB, BS). Six Mallards were observed near Phoenix June 22 (RN *et al.*). A single Mexican Duck, north of its usual range in Arizona, was reported on the San Carlos Indian Reservation, near Globe July 26 (BJ). One pair of Blue-winged Teal was observed at San Simon Cienega, N. Mex. June 25 (E&SC). Black-bellied Tree Ducks were reported from St. David, Ariz. as follows: four June 30 (DD), one July 6 (DD) and one July 26 (SMi). Another was seen at the Guivabi Ranch, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., July 31 (SMi, SSp).

RAPTORS—Mississippi Kites reports were as follows: Six (3 immatures, 2 adults, one age unknown) near Albuquerque July 11-20 (RT *et al.*), one Cedar Crest, N. Mex., June 11 (BM *et al.*), one Bosque del Apache, N. Mex., July 27 (Marjorie Williams) and one immature s.w. of Phoenix June 16 for the first county record (RN). Black Hawks nesting near Patagonia, Ariz. were apparently unsuccessful this year. The last reported sighting came on July 6 (AN). An ad. Golden Eagle was observed near a nest containing one or two dead young 20 mi. s. of Fruitland N. Mex., during the first week in June (AN). Only five additional sightings of this species were received for the period. An Osprey was sighted at Elephant Butte Marsh July 9 (CH) and another was seen P.R.D., July 8 (JW *et al.*). No reports of Peregrine Falcons were received.

SHOREBIRDS—Mountain Plover appeared west of its normal nesting range when three adults and one nest were found 20 mi. s. of Fruitland, N. Mex., June 3 (AN). Two Black-bellied Plovers in breeding plumage were observed at P.R.D., July 28 (RW, JW, RB). **Snowy Plovers** with 10-15 young were seen at P.R.D., July 6 (GB, SD *et al.*). This is the first Maricopa County breeding record and one of the few records for the state. At Bitter Lake N.W.R. 250-300 Snowy Plovers were reported throughout the period with nesting activity observed June 28 (DB, GD). One to three Long-billed Curlews were seen at P.R.D., July 8-28 (JW *et al.*). Two

Whimbrels were at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 9 (DB, EB). Marbled Godwits were at P.R.D. from July 8 on, with a high of 75 on July 19 (JW *et al.*). Twenty Willets were at P.R.D., July 6 on (JW *et al.*). A single Sanderling appeared s. of Chandler, Ariz., July 27 and three were at P.R.D. on the same day (RW, JW, RB). A flock of 60 Wilson's Phalaropes, all females, was seen at Bitter Lake N.W.R. on the late (or early?) date of June 27 (DB, BS). A flock of 50, mixed sexes, appeared July 29 (DB, BS).

GULLS, TERNS—Painted Rock Dam produced a single imm. California Gull July 13 (RN *et al.*) and 70 Ring-billed Gulls July 4 (m.ob.) A single Ring-billed Gull was observed Tucumcari L., N. Mex., June 16 (CH). **Least Terns** appeared at P.R.D., July 8-10 when three adults were seen, for the first Maricopa Co. record (RW, JW). Bitter Lake N.W.R. yielded two ad. and one imm. Least Tern July 16 and 27 more (seven immatures) July 22 (DB, BS). Seven to ten Forster's Tern were seen P.R.D. July 6 and a single Caspian Tern appeared July 13 (RN, GB, RB).

CUCKOOS TO TROGONS—Yellow-billed Cuckoos, although relatively common in riparian woodland throughout the region, were reported in unusually high numbers by many observers. Three **Buff-collared Nighthawks** were heard calling in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Occidental, ca. 8 mi w. of Moctezuma, Sonora, Mexico at late dusk July 9 (SSp, SA and Terry Johnson). The northernmost records for Sonora for this species are Guaymas and Alamos. Hummingbirds were particularly abundant in the region during the report period with many lowland reports and the usual influx of Mexican species in s.e. Arizona. A single Lucifer's Hummingbird was seen at Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz., June 28 (RW). Several lingering Costa's Hummingbirds were reported, one ad. male, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson (below, A.S.D.M.), July 6 (GM, Robert Pyle) and another at the same locality July 27 (GM). Anna's Hummingbird, normally a winter resident in Arizona but usually absent in late spring, was reported summering in Phoenix (three, one ad. male, a young male and a female) for the first summer record since 1971 (JW). Other reports include a male in Ramsey Canyon, Ariz., June 28 (RWi), and one female or imm. male, A.S.D.M., June 30-July 4 and two males A.S.D.M. July 4-July 13, (GM). A very early ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was seen at Portal, Ariz., June 13-17 (W&SS). One ad. ♂ Rivoli's Hummingbird at the confluence of the Salt R. and the Gila R., Ariz., June 24 (AR) was north of its usual range as was a ♀ Blue-throated Hummingbird gathering fiber from a clothesline in Rose Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., Ariz., July 14 (SMi). One ♀ White-eared Hummingbird was observed at feeders from June 20, Portal, Ariz. (W & SS, Isabel Hicks). An ad. ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, carefully described, was seen at feeders in Los Alamos, N. Mex., June 20 (WL). Coppery-tailed Trogons nested as usual in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Ariz.. Courtship was observed June 28 (R & PP) and presumably the same pair was observed at the nest hole apparently feeding young July 27 (SMi).

FLYCATCHERS TO KINGLETS—One E. Kingbird was reported at Springerville, Ariz., June 23 (ST,BH) and another was seen along the San Pedro R. 17 mi. n. of Benson, Ariz., July 6 (BHe). A single Least Flycatcher was seen and heard at Sunrise, Ariz., June 22 (ST,SM,BH). A Willow Flycatcher was observed calling at the Southwestern Research Station, Chiricahua Mts., June 6 (SR) and a second was seen and recorded in s.w. Phoenix, June 22-29 for the first Maricopa County summer record (RB, RN *et al.*). A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted on Baboquivari Peak, Ariz., June 7 (GM). An unusual lowland record for Brown Creeper was one near Patagonia, Ariz., July 5 (DD,JB). Reports of Brown Thrashers included one at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 13 (JC,BS), one at Pipe Spring Nat. Mon., July 9-15 (RW) and one at Sunrise, Ariz., June 22 (SM). A lowland report of Am. Robin was a single bird at San Xavier Mission near Tucson, June 18 (DD) and a single Rufous-backed Robin was sighted near Patagonia, Ariz., July 4-5 (Fred Gehlbach). A late Hermit Thrush was reported from A S.D.M., June 2 (GM). A Swainson's Thrush at A S.D.M., June 8 (GM) was late. The single Golden-crowned Kinglet at the Southwestern Research Station, June 29 (R&PP) was an unusually low count.

SILKY FLYCATCHERS, VIREOS, WARBLERS—Several unusual congregations of Phainopeplas were reported. Sixty-two were counted in Russell Gulch, Pinal Mts., Ariz., July 30 (BJ *et al.*) and June 22 over 500 were counted along a quarter-mile stretch of Sonoita Creek, 4 mi. w. of Patagonia, Ariz. (SMi, SA). One ad. Yellow-throated Vireo was observed near Seven Springs, Ariz., June 15 (GB). An ad. Red-eyed Vireo seen July 13 and again July 17 in s.w. Phoenix was the first county record (ST *et al.*). A Black-and-white Warbler was observed in Phoenix June 18 (RB *et al.*). A lingering Townsend's Warbler was noted at A.S.D.M., June 2 (GM). A late N. Waterthrush was observed at Ft. Bowie Nat. Hist. Site, June 11 (SR). A single Red-faced Warbler appeared west of its normal range on Baboquivari Park, June 7 (GM). American Redstarts were noted as follows: one (sex?) at Patagonia, June 22 (E&SC), three (one male, 2 females) at the confluence of Gila and Salt Rs., July 27 (J.M. Simpson). A ♂ **Blackpoll Warbler** in breeding plumage was observed in n w Phoenix July 18-20 for the first Maricopa County record and the fifth state record (DS *et al.*).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS, FINCHES—A ♂ Orchard Oriole was observed at Bitter Lake N.W.R. from early May through June 28 (DB, JC, BS). A partial albino **Northern Oriole** was observed being fed by the parent birds in Albuquerque, July 4 (RT). The head and tail plumage were bright orange while the rest of the body and wings were white. The bill, legs and iris were pink. Throughout the period unusually large numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported attending feeders around Los Alamos, N. Mex. (WL). A first-year ♂ Summer Tanager was seen and heard at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., July 27 (BM). The second Arizona and U S record for **Yellow Grosbeak** was a female or first-year male at the Southwestern Research Station, June 7 (SR) and a female (possibly the same bird) reported in

South Fork, Cave Creek Canyon on the same date (David Wilcove, Mass. Audubon Soc.). A ♂ Painted Bunting was seen in Tombstone, Ariz., July 29-31 (DD,CM). Two Pine Siskins were observed in the Mazatzal Mts., Ariz., July 20 (ST). A pair of Am. Goldfinches was sighted in Kirtland, N. Mex., June 19 (Carol Shryock). The first summer record of Lawrence's Goldfinch in Maricopa County was a single male near Seven Springs, July 10 (Patrick Stejskal, DS *et al.*). Another first record for Maricopa County was of 10-12 singing Cassin's Sparrows near P.R.D., July 14 (RN, DS *et al.*). A Five-striped Sparrow nest containing three young was located July 31 along Sonoita Creek 4 mi. w. of Patagonia (SMi, SSP). A late Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at Ft. Bowie Nat. Hist. Site, Ariz., June 11 (SR).

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ALASKA REGION

/ Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

In most of the Region the summer of 1974 was warm and dry throughout the period. Observers at a number of scattered Bering Sea points continued to produce spectacular Asiatics through the end of the spring migration in June. It was a most exciting migration that produced many waterfowl and shorebirds from the West, but relatively few palearctic passerines. At the opposite end of the state, observers conducting a U S Forest Service bird species/habitat inventory added several species to the list of those known to breed in the Region and shed light on the poorly-known status of some others.

GREBES, HERONS—Summer records of Red-necked Grebes in the c. and w. Aleutians are rare, so the fresh remains of a bird at Buldir I. on June 25 (MHD) and an individual observed at Agattu I., June 27 (JLT & CSC), are of interest. Two calling territorial ♂ **Am. Bitterns** found at Barnes L., Stikine R., just west of the Alaska-British Columbia boundary, July 13 (DDG & SOM; * to U.A.), provided the first evidence that the species breeds as far west as s.e. Alaska.

WATERFOWL—Following the collection of the first N. Am. specimen of the **Garganey** (see spring migration), a male and two females remained at Buldir



I., extreme w. Aleutians, through June 3, and a lone male remained there through June 16 (GVB, CPD, & MHD). One pair of **Com. Pochards** was present on Clam Lagoon, Adak I., June 2-7 (DDG *et al.*). Ring-necked Ducks may have bred in the Cohoe-Kasilof area, where several pairs were observed in mid-June (MAM, GP & RP).

PLOVERS—Two probable Ringed Plovers were seen at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., May 31 and June 3 (EAC, SC, & DLJ). A ♂ **Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*) collected at Buldir I., June 16 (GVB; * to U.A.), is the first substantiated record for North America (cf. *A.O.U. Checklist, 1957: 646*). Following the May records of **Mongolian Plovers** in the w. Aleutians, one male was closely observed and photographed at St. Paul I., Pribilofs, June 5 (DDG *et al.*), and one bird remained at Buldir through June 6 (GVB, CPD, & MHD). Three **Dotterels** were found on Sevuokuk Mt., St. Lawrence I., June 1 (EAC, SC, & DLJ), and a female was obtained (* to S.B.C.M.). A pair was observed in the mountains north of Nome June 10 (IJA & DDG).

SANDPIPERS—It was a very good season for Rufous-necked Sandpipers in w. Alaska. The species was recorded at both Agattu and Buldir islands in May, and one remained at Buldir through June 4 (GVB, CPD, & MHD), one was observed at St. Paul, June 5-6 (DDG *et al.*), at least six individuals were seen at Gambell, June 1-3 (EAC, SC, & DLJ), several were seen in the Nome-Safety Lagoon area during the first half of June (GEH *et al.*, HKS), and a nest was located on Cape Mt., Wales, in late June (BK). A **Least Sandpiper** carefully observed at Barrow, June 5 (RM), was a straggler there. A lone **Temminck's Stint** (see spring migration) was closely observed and carefully described near Gambell, June 2 (SC). A **Curlew Sandpiper** observed closely at Barrow, June 1 (RM), was not seen subsequently, although the observer was in that area until June 5. This

is the third year in succession that the species has been recorded at Barrow, but, to the writers' knowledge, there has been no evidence of breeding since 1972. A ♀ **Ruff** was collected at Gambell, June 1 (EAC, SC, & DLJ; * to S.B.C.M.), and a white-ruffed male was observed displaying to a female near Gambell the following day. A very skittish black-ruffed male was observed at Kotzebue, June 8 (DDG *et al.*). **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** have been recorded very few times in w. Alaska, so one bird at Kotzebue, June 8 (DDG *et al.*), and several in the Nome area at about the same time (GEH *et al.*) were of particular interest. There was no flight of **Buff-breasted** through interior Alaska this spring. Two **Wood Sandpipers** were seen at Buldir through June 5, and one was seen occasionally, July 17-Aug. 1 (GVB, CPD, & MHD). One bird was seen at St. Paul, June 6 (DDG *et al.*). The courting **Wood Sandpipers** at Adak (see spring migration) could not be followed up in June, since they proved to be in a Navy restricted area (GWE). A **Polynesian Tattler** remained at Buldir through June 5 (GVB, CPD, & MHD), and one was collected near Gambell, June 3 (EAC, SC, & DLJ; * to S.B.C.M.). A **Com. Sandpiper** was still present at Buldir, June 1-5, and another was seen there June 16 (GVB, CPD, & MHD). One pale-rumped **Whimbrel**, an example of *N. p. variegatus*, the Siberian form, was seen at Buldir, June 5 (MHD), the only one reported this spring. This subspecies is a rare transient on islands in the e. Bering Sea. There is no certain record of *N. p. hudsonicus* west of mainland Alaska, and we have no record of *variegatus* on the mainland. One **Com. Snipe** was observed at Agattu, July 19 (JLT & CSC), certainly another example of nominate *gallinago* from Asia. It would be most interesting to discover if this form, the nesting bird of the not-too-distant Commander Islands, breeds in the westernmost Aleutians, in which area there have been a number of sightings this year.

GULLS, TERNS—An ad. Slaty-backed Gull was observed at Buldir I. at the very end of May (GVB, CPD, & MHD), and small numbers were observed in early June in the Nome-Safety Lagoon area (m.ob.) and at Kotzebue (DDC *et al.*). A flock of 60-75 **California Gulls** (mostly subadults, a few adults) observed at length at Wrangell, July 21-24 (DDG & SOM; * to U.A.), provided the first recent record of this species in Alaska. Based on this observation, it seems more likely that this species regularly uses the Stikine River as a corridor from interior British Columbia breeding stations and that it has been overlooked in the s. half of s.e. Alaska for years, rather than that the species is a casual, the status designated this bird in the past. One ad. **Ring-billed Gull** was observed on the Stikine R. flats, July 21 (DDG & SOM). The status of this species in this part of the Region may parallel that just described for the California Gull. A subad. Black-headed Gull was found dead at Buldir, July 9 (GVB, CPD, & MHD; * to U.A.). Two subad. **Ross' Gulls** were found at the Nome waterfront, June 6 (GEH *et al.*), and were observed there over the next few days (m. ob.), the first record for that location. A courting pair of "**Nordmann's**" **Terns** (*S. hirundo longipennis*) was observed at Weather Station L., St. Paul I., June 6 (DDG *et al.*). This form, the n.e. Siberian race of the **Com. Tern**, is a

casual in the e. Bering Sea, previous records existing for both the Pribilofs and the Aleutians (e.g., see *AB* 25: 894, 1971).

PIGEONS, GOATSUCKERS, AND SWIFTS

—Small numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons were found at several s.e. Alaska locations during the summer (DDG & SOM). Pairs of apparently breeding birds were seen at Hyder (* to U.A.) in early July, and small flocks were observed on a clearcut at Wrangell and at the mouth of the Stikine River. A Com. Nighthawk observed on the Taku R., e. of Juneau, July 29 (DDG & SOM), was perhaps an unsuccessful breeder that had moved downstream early from a Canadian breeding location. A most surprising record, and another first for North America this spring, was a **White-throated Needle-tailed Swift** (*Hirundo-apus caudacutus*) collected at Shemya I., w. Aleutians, in late May (CMW; * to N.M.N.H.). This species is not known to occur closer to us than the Kurile Islands. Details will be published elsewhere.

SWALLOWS—The first Alaska breeding record of Rough-winged Swallow was established this summer when a nest with five young was found in a driveway cutbank at Wrangell, July 12 (DDG & SOM). The same observers found two apparently unoccupied burrows of this species (though birds were in the area) in a road cut above Hyder, the southeasternmost community in the Region. Another of the highlights of the season was the discovery of a **House Martin** (*Delichon urbica*) at the Nome airport, June 6 (GEH *et al.*). The bird was collected the following day (* to U.A.), providing the first specimen for the continent. Later the same week a second individual was observed at Webster L., St. Paul I., by the same observers! There are no previous records for Alaska. A Barn Swallow, an example of *H. r. gutturalis*, collected at Agattu I., June 12 (JLT & CSC; * to U.A.), was of particular interest, as there are relatively few Alaska records of this palearctic form. And a Cliff Swallow collected at *Buldir I.*, June 4 (GVB; * to U.A.), was just about as amazing a distribution record as the Nome and Pribilof House Martins!

WAGTAILS, PIPITS, AND VIREOS—One White Wagtail observed at Barrow, June 4-5 (RM), was the second record for the North Slope. Following the first Aleutian records of the species in May, one or two Red-throated Pipits were seen at Agattu, June 1-2 (JLT & CSC). Three-four **Indian Tree Pipits** (*Anthus hodgsoni*) were observed at Gambell, June 3-4 (EAC, SC, & DLJ), and one was obtained (* to S.B.C.M.). In the course of the bird species/habitat inventory in s.e. Alaska this summer, observers (DDG & SOM) found four singing ♂♂ **Red-eyed Vireos** (* to U.A.) on the Stikine R., just inside Alaska. This species' status in the Region is not yet clear, but it appears to be a rare and local breeder on both the Stikine and Chickamin river systems. It is known as a vagrant on Middleton I., Gulf of Alaska, the only other location in the state at which it has been recorded. That it is breeding in Alaska at all, however, is a significant range extension. Warbling Vireo, mentioned in recent years in these columns as a possible regular breeder in the Region, was found to be a fairly common breeder in all of the river systems draining British Columbia into s.e. Alaska (e.g.,

Salmon, Unuk, Stikine, and Taku rivers). The species was also recorded on the Taiya and Chilkat rivers, but too late in the season to establish the size of the breeding populations in those areas.



House Martin, Nome, Alaska, June 7, 1974. Photo / William G., and Alice F. Roe.

WOOD WARBLERS—The first substantiated records of **Tennessee Warbler** in Alaska were obtained this summer in s.e. Alaska (DDG & SOM). A breeding pair was observed at Hyder in early July, and several breeding pairs were found on the Stikine R. in mid-July (** to U.A.). A ♂ “Myrtle” Warbler observed at Barrow, June 3-5 (DS & RM), was of interest at that location. The distribution of Yellow-rumped Warblers in s.e. Alaska was of particular interest to the U.S.F.S. bird inventory conducted there this summer, working from south to north. At Hyder, the southeasternmost area, “clean” “Audubon’s” Warblers were fairly common breeders (* to U.A.), and no “Myrtles” were seen at all. The “Audubon’s” taken on the Chickamin R., where both subspecies were seen, in 1972 (see *AB* 26: 892, 1972) has proved, on close examination, to be an intergrade, and both “Myrtle” and “Audubon’s” warblers were observed on the Unuk R., just north of the Chickamin. On the Stikine R., “Myrtle” Warblers were fairly common breeders, and from there on north no “Audubon’s” Warblers were seen at all. American Redstarts were found to be uncommon breeders on these same trans-Coast Range river systems, from Skagway to Hyder.

ICTERIDS—An ad. ♀ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** observed at Fairbanks International Airport, June 13-14 (DDG *et al.*, RSH, & BK), was the fourth record for Alaska; it was collected (* to U.A.) to provide the first specimen for the Region.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The breeding season of 1974 brought with it a cool, rather damp June and July with disappointing numbers of cloudy days, resulting in below-normal temperatures. The excessive snow pack in the mountains of the



Region thus was still notably present even at the end of the period; too few observations are made at high elevations to permit any judgments about impact on montane birds, however. The abnormal numbers of shorebirds which were present at coastal points even during much of June is cause for speculation as to breeding success or lack of it for many of these species this year in their northern nesting grounds. An impressive number of rarities was produced by the Region's continually growing and enthusiastic cadre of observers.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Common Loons in small numbers were found at coastal points and on favored inland lakes in s. British Columbia throughout June and July. A **Yellow-billed Loon** in winter plumage was carefully studied by two observers at Neah Bay, Wash., July 14 in good light for about twenty minutes; a detailed account of the observation was supplied to the editors (JW, SW). A few Arctic Loons summered on salt water in the Straits of Juan de Fuca; an unusual concentration of 500 individuals of this species was

discovered on the ocean near Florence, Oreg., June 11 (FR). Observers on the British Columbia mainland s. of Vancouver found a few **Red-throated Loons** through June (*vide* WW). On July 28 there were 20 **Red-necked Grebes** at Victoria (WW). A **Horned Grebe** was at Saanich, B.C., throughout July (VG *et al.*). Western Grebes summering on salt water were almost nonexistent this year, with reports of up to four coming only from Victoria (VG) and of "much less than usual" from the Vancouver area (WW).

Sixty **Black-footed Albatrosses**, 100 N. Fulmars, one **Flesh-footed Shearwater**, and two **Short-tailed Shearwaters** were counted 25 mi. at sea from Newport, Oreg., July 21; sixty per cent of the Fulmars were dark-phase birds (WE, DM, FR, MS). Six **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels** and sixteen **Leach's Storm-Petrels** were mist-netted on Tatoosh I., Wash., June 12 (DP, *vide* PM), three of the former species were seen in Queen Charlotte Strait, B.C., June 29 (WW), and "many" of the former were seen July 21 at sea 25 mi. from Newport, Oreg.; a few **Leach's Storm-Petrels** were seen further at sea in the succeeding two days (FR, MS *et al.*). Individual **Leach's Storm-Petrels** were found dead on the beach at Ocean City, Wash., June 2 & 6 (JM). The vanguard of late summer visitant **Brown Pelicans** was reported in the Region as far north as Grays Harbor, Wash., by the last week in July. A survey on June 25 at Mandarte I. five miles e. of Sidney, B.C., turned up 482 nests containing 1456 eggs and 30 young of the **Double-crested Cormorant** and 443 nests with 1167 eggs and one young of the **Pelagic Cormorant** (B. C. Prov. Museum, *vide* VG); **Double-crested Cormorants** apparently failed to nest at all on Colville and Castle Is., Wash., this summer, although **Pelagic Cormorant** nesting there seems to be on the increase (TW). Nesting by **Double-crested Cormorants** at both Fern Ridge Res. near Eugene, Oreg., and at Gold Ray Dam near Medford, Oreg., this season was suspected from the continual presence of individuals in both places. A survey of the Chain Islets and Great Chain I. near Victoria on June 11-12 resulted in a tally of 221 nests containing 126 eggs and no young of the **Pelagic Cormorant** (B. C. Prov. Museum, *vide* VG), suggesting that egg-laying was still in progress.

High counts of **Great Blue Herons** were attained at Tsawwassen, B.C. June 18 with 104 (BH, *vide* VG) and at Crescent Beach, B.C., June 28 with 60 birds present; on Aug. 5 there were 275 individuals at the latter place (BM, *vide* WW). **Green Herons** were present at a number of localities in w. Washington from Olympia n. to Bellingham during the season; one was seen at Oregon City, Oreg., June 6 (JBC), a pair was found n. of Corvallis, Oreg., July 27 (*vide* FR), and up to five were seen at Gold Ray Dam the latter half of July (OS). **Great Egrets** invaded Oregon's Willamette Valley in the last days of July; two had been noted at Coquille near the coast in Coos County, June 18 (JO). A **Snowy Egret**, little recorded in w. Oregon, was found at Salem July 25 (FS, HH). Two ad. **Black-crowned Night Herons** were noted repeatedly on Westham I., s. of Vancouver, during July (BD, ND, *vide* WW); an adult and an immature of this species were seen at Newport July 31 (CW, *vide* HN). **American Bitterns** were recorded singly at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver July 6, near Olympia July 31, and at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis June 15.

WATERFOWL—On June 8, 47 Black Brant still lingered at Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (HN, CS); seven were at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 23 (G & WH), single individuals were seen at four locations in s. British Columbia during June, and one was at Samish I., Wash., July 22 (NL, *fide* TW). An ad. White-fronted Goose was found at Saanich, June 1, in company with some domestic geese (VG). There were small numbers of Pintail and Am. Green-winged Teal in the Vancouver area throughout the report period (WW *et al.*). A brood of twelve Blue-winged Teal was seen at Duncan, B.C., July 10 (JCo); seven were at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Aug. 4 (FR). Cinnamon Teal, Am. Wigeon, and N. Shovelers nested successfully at Duncan also (JCo). Two ♂ Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, June 27 (WW), where six Canvasback also were observed July 20 (BK, *fide* WW); a Canvasback was present at Fern Ridge Res. June 15 (LN). Several hundred Greater Scaup summered in the vicinity of the British Columbia-Washington border, while a few individuals were seen at other localities in Washington and on Vancouver I. A few Lesser Scaup were observed through the period at various spots in s. British Columbia, but a flock of 50 at Tillamook, Oreg., July 20 (RF *et al.*) is surprising. A ♀ and one juv. Com. Goldeneye at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., July 4 (JCo), and 2 females at Crescent Beach, B.C., June 27 (WW), are of interest. Adult Barrow's Goldeneye with young were observed repeatedly during the breeding season on Lightning L., in Manning P.P. (V & MG, RS). Two ♀ Buffleheads were seen at Sooke Harbour, Vancouver I., June 10 & July 11; a male was seen in the Shawnigan District n. of Victoria, July 15 (VG). Oldsquaw were seen in unprecedented summertime numbers in the Vancouver area this year, the one-day maximum count being 25 on July 29 at Pt. Roberts (WW); up to four individuals were noted at Victoria all summer (VG) and others were seen in the waters and islands between Vancouver and Victoria. A high count of 158 Harlequin at Mitlenatch I., B.C., July 17 (MSh) is impressive; ten days later, 23 individuals of this species were counted at Victoria (BK, WW). White-winged Scoters were found regularly at Ocean Shores, around s. Vancouver I., and on the mainland in the vicinity of Vancouver during the report period. Surf Scoters were more prevalent in the same areas, and were also still present along the Oregon coast in June. A ♀ Black Scoter was seen at Cannon Beach, Oreg., June 10 (JB, HN) and four representatives of this species were at Ocean Shores, June 26 (WH). A Ruddy Duck was at Reifel Ref. s. of Vancouver, June 15-27 (WW) and another was at Olympia, June 22-26 (G & WH). A ♀ Hooded Merganser with eight young was seen at Saanich, June 20 and a female was seen alone in the Renfrew District, Vancouver I., July 11 (VG); single individuals were also seen at Manning P. P. June 24, at Vancouver July 1, and at Iona I. July 25. On July 23 a ♀ Com. Merganser with five young were seen at Sooke Harbour, B.C., where up to eight individual adults had been seen earlier in the month (VG); another female with five young were seen at Pitt L., B.C., June 17, where a ♂ Red-breasted Merganser was observed the same day (WW). A ♂ Red-breasted Merganser was seen at Pt. Roberts, July 29 (WW).

HAWKS, EAGLES, CRANES—A White-tailed

Kite was seen at Finley N.W.R., June 4-5 (CM *et al.*, *fide* FZ) and again July 13 & 20 (FZ). Five Goshawk nests were found on the Rogue River National Forest this summer (OS). Cooper's Hawks reports were few and Sharp-shinned Hawks seem to have been virtually unobserved. A Swainson's Hawk was recorded at Manning P.P., July 13 (RS, *fide* VG). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Bare I., near Sidney, B.C., July 31 (ARD, *fide* VG), a very unusual date. No Golden Eagle nesting activity occurred this year in Vancouver Island's Malahat District at last year's nest, but an adult was observed in the area June 22 & 27 (RS, VG). A young Golden Eagle fledged from a nest on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford (OS). Bald Eagles were to be found regularly in the Gulf Islands between Victoria and Vancouver throughout the report period, being particularly noticeable at Active Pass; a dozen were seen at Prince Rupert June 20, while five had been counted on the preceding day in Queen Charlotte Strait (WW). A Bald Eagle was seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., June 18 (MS, OS). The only report of successful Marsh Hawk nesting was from Finley N.W.R. (FZ) where four young were out of the nest the last week of July (FZ). Five active Osprey nests were known on s. Vancouver I. this season (VG *et al.*); three pairs—one of which did not appear to be nesting—frequented Fern Ridge Res throughout the report period (LN); a successful nest was observed at Elma, Wash. (G & WH). A few individual Ospreys were otherwise observed in the s. half of the Region. An Ad. Peregrine was seen on s. Vancouver I. in mid-July (VG) and an immature was seen near Vancouver July 9 (ND, *fide* WW). Several Merlins were observed near Saanich in early June and in early July; another was seen at Cadboro Bay, Victoria, July 27 (RM-G, *fide* VG).

An adult and a half-grown young Sandhill Crane were observed at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver July 23 (WW). Juvenile Virginia Rails were seen at Saanich July 1 & 20 where four Soras had also been seen on June 8 (VG *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS—A nest containing four Semipalmated Plover eggs was discovered on the w. jetty of Iona I., s. of Vancouver, June 15; the eggs had not hatched June 27, so nothing is known about the success of the nesting attempt (BK, WW). No nesting of the species occurred this season at Ocean Shores where successful nesting took place last year (GH, JM). Semipalmated Plovers were present at three other places in the Region in June, and southward migration was evident by the first week in July. Snowy Plovers were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. June 18 (MS, OS), at Leadbetter Pt., June 8 (HN, CS), and at Ocean Shores June 23, where two pairs appeared to be defending territory (GH). A lone **Am. Golden Plover** was at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., June 22 (HN), a very surprising date. The 90 Black-bellied Plovers at Leadbetter Pt., June 8 (HN, CS) and the 1000 at Mud Bay near White Rock, B.C., on June 22 (MSc *et al.*) are surprisingly large counts for June; as many as 2000 were present at Mud Bay in July, while on Aug. 11, 5000 were counted there (MSc). Surfbirds were back in the Region by early July, evidenced by up to 38 at Victoria from July 6-27 (VG *et al.*). On July 11 there were 67 Surfbirds



Bar-tailed Godwit, Leadbetter Point, Willapa Bay, Wash., June 8, 1974. Photo / Harry F. Nehls.

at Mitlenatch I. (MSh). A count of 25 Ruddy Turnstones at Ocean Shores July 27 (G & WH) was a large concentration for this Region. Two Black Turnstones were seen there on the unusual date of June 29 (DP, DPa, *fide* PM).

Two young Com. Snipe at Saanich June 29 gave evidence of the first successful breeding of that species in the Victoria region (VG). The number of June records of Whimbrel, which is not known to nest in the Region, is puzzling; on June 8 there were 38 at Leadbetter Pt. (HN, CS); June 15 there were two at Sea I., s. of Vancouver (BK, *fide* WW); June 22 two were at the s. jetty of the Columbia (HN); June 23 there were 16 at Ocean Shores (G & WH), where 8 were found June 29 (DPa, DP, *fide* PM); on that date two birds were at Saanich (VG, RS) and six were at Crescent Beach, B.C. (BK, *fide* WW). By July Whimbrels were widely present at Oregon coastal points. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Vancouver July 31 (BK, *fide* WW). The latest Wandering Tattler was one at Cannon Beach, June 10 (JB, HN); a few had returned to the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca by mid-July. For the third consecutive year, a Willet was at Crescent Beach; this bird was seen first June 22 and was still present at the end of the period (MSc *et al.*). A Willet was also recorded at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co., Oreg., July 31 (CW, *fide* HN). Greater Yellowlegs, like Whimbrels, were uncommonly present in the s. half of the Region during June, with five at Leadbetter Pt., June 8 (HN, CS), 22 at Crescent Beach, B.C., June 22 (MSc), two at Ocean Shores June 23 (G & WH), one at Victoria (RS *fide* VG) and three at Westham I., s. of Vancouver, June 27 (BK, *fide* WW), and single birds at Ocean Shores (DPa, DP, *fide* PM) and at Duncan, B.C. (JCo) on June 29; by July, Greater Yellowlegs were at many of these same locations and were also on the Oregon coast and in the Willamette Valley. An early Lesser Yellowlegs was at Iona I., June 29 (BK, *fide* WW), but it was not until the last week in July that this species was seen in a few other localities. On June 8 there were 18 Red Knots and one Pectoral Sandpiper at Leadbetter Pt. (HN, CS); a Red Knot was at Ocean Shores July 27 (G & WH), and a few Pectoral Sandpipers appeared the last week of July at locations just s. of Vancouver and at Victoria. On

July 30 at Iona I., Bruce MacDonald had a careful look from 75-100 feet with binoculars and scope for about two minutes at a subsequently well-described **White-rumped Sandpiper** (*fide* WW); the record is, we believe, the first of this species for the Region. On July 29, five Baird's Sandpipers were found at Iona I., where two days later ten individuals were counted (BM, *fide* WW).

Two Least Sandpipers were at the Samish Flats near Bellingham June 20 (NL, *fide* TW) and two were at Ocean Shores June 23 (G & WH); the last few days of June brought a trickle of returning migrants and by the latter half of July, Least Sandpipers were well represented at favored localities through much of the s. portion of the Region. Dunlin were present during June and July at five different places in the Region, eight being the maximum except for a flock of 50 at Leadbetter Pt. June 8 (HN, CS) which probably were north-bound still. Short-billed Dowitchers were represented in June by 70 birds at Leadbetter Pt. June 8 (HN, CS), by one at Iona I., June 15 (BK, *fide* WW) and by 200 birds at Ocean Shores June 29 (DPa, DP, *fide* PM); July records for this species were seven at Victoria July 1 (where the species was consistently found thereafter, 18 on July 19 being the maximum), twelve at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., July 20 (HN) and 30 at Iona I., July 25 (WW). Records of Long-billed Dowitchers before mid-July consisted of one at Saanich June 1-2, six at Reifel Refuge June 15, one at Victoria June 29, two at Saanich the next day, and 13 there July 7; thereafter, small groups appeared at five favored localities, all in the Vancouver-Victoria area except for Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Salem, where two birds were present July 29. Semipalmated Sandpipers were recorded four times at Iona I., single birds being present there June 22 & 30 (BK, *fide* WW), and two birds being found there July 19 & 30 (BM, *fide* WW); elsewhere, individual Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted at Victoria, July 2 (ARD, *fide* VG), at Mitlenatch I., July 18 (MSh, *fide* WW), and at Seattle July 23 (KB, *fide* PM). Western Sandpipers were widely present and in increasingly large numbers after the third week in June.

An unprecedentedly early Buff-breasted Sandpiper was noted at Saanich July 22 (RF, *fide* VG). Single Marbled Godwits were at Crescent Beach, B.C., June 28 (W & HHe, *fide* MSc), again July 8 (MSc), and at Ocean Shores July 19 (JM); a number were at Leadbetter Pt., June 8 (HN, CS) in company with six **Bar-tailed Godwits** which were carefully studied and photographed; photographs to Photoduplicate File at Laurel, Md. On July 2, a single Bar-tailed Godwit was seen and photographed at Neah Bay, Wash., by Douglas E. Wood who was accompanied by two other persons; photos to Zoology Dept. at the Univ. of Washington. These records of the Bar-tailed Godwit are the second and third for the State of Washington and are the fourth and fifth for the Region. A rare Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Crescent Beach June 22 (MSc *et al.*) and again June 28 (HA, *fide* TW) and June 29 (BK, *fide* WW). A ♀ Ruff was present at Reifel Ref. June 26-28 (ND, BK, GAP, WW) and was photographed; it is the fourth Regional record of this species in the past three years. An Am. Avocet appeared at Kent, Wash., June 7 (GM, *fide* PM). A Red Phalarope was also seen and photographed at Reifel Ref. June 23 (ND, *fide* WW);

thousands of Red Phalaropes were found at sea off Newport July 21 (MS *et al.*) in company with large numbers of N. Phalaropes. Six individual Wilson's Phalaropes were found June 12-15 at Reifel Ref., Iona I., and Westham I. (V & MG, WW); four of these birds were at Iona I., July 31 (BM, *fide* WW). A N. Phalarope was observed at Finley N.W.R., June 7 (FZ); on July 24 there were 600 of this species at San Juan I., in Puget Sound (LB, *fide* TW).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS—All three species of jaegers were seen at sea 25 mi. from Newport July 21—four or five Pomarines, "lots" of Parasitics, and three Long-taileds—along with three Skuas (WE, DM, FR, MS).

A second year Glaucous Gull was seen and closely approached at Newport on the unusual date of July 21 (WE, FR). The breeding bird surveys of Chain and Mandarte Is. turned up 1794 Glaucous-winged Gull nests containing 4360 eggs and no young at the former locality June 11-12, and 978 nests with 2033 eggs and 476 young on June 25 at the latter place; a nearby islet held 71 more nests with 115 eggs and 40 young (B.C. Prov. Museum, *fide* VG). The Swinomish, Wash., colony was down by half this year, but the Protection I. colony produced normally (TW). A Herring Gull was seen at Lightning L., Manning P.P. June 25 (V & MG). Flocks of imm. California Gulls began to appear in the Region from the east by mid-June, with numbers increasing still at coastal points and in the Puget Sound-Willamette Valley trough by the end of the report period. Ring-billed Gulls seem to follow the same post-breeding route, but in much fewer numbers. Considerable numbers of Mew Gulls are said to have been present at Vancouver and environs in June, with numbers decreasing in July, which is when they became commonly seen at Victoria. First year Franklin's Gulls were seen at Iona I. and at the Ladner, B.C. sewage pond July 27 (TW); possibly the same bird had been seen at Iona I. three days earlier (BM, *fide* WW). A few Bonaparte's Gulls were noted at Fern Ridge Res. in June (LN); 45 were at Boundary Bay June 12 and 35 were at Iona I. the next day (V & MG); a lone imm. was seen at Victoria June 1 (RS, *fide* VG). Migrant Bonaparte's Gulls were arriving at Bellingham by mid-July (TW) and 100, mostly adults, were seen at Yaquina Bay July 31 (CW, *fide* HN). As many as 200 Heermann's Gulls had drifted n. to Ocean Shores by June 23, where there were 2000 on July 17 (JM); on July 20 at Saanich, 50 individuals were counted (RS, *fide* VG). Up to ten Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at the Columbia R. mouth, at Ocean Shores, and at Victoria, mostly in June, except for two sightings in July at the first two places named. A Sabine's Gull was recorded at Mitlenatch I., June 11 (MSh, *fide* WW); "many" were found at sea from Newport, July 21 (FR, MS *et al.*).

Common Terns were seen at Ocean Shores June 26 (G & WH), but it was not until the last week of July that up to 30 of these birds were seen there and at Blaine, Saanich, Victoria and Newport. Caspian Terns seem to have occurred more widely in the Region than ever before; they were repeatedly seen in n. Puget Sound, and in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca, as well as at coastal points in the s. portion of the Region

throughout June and July. Approximately 400 nests of the Pigeon Guillemot were counted on Mandarte I., June 25 (B.C. Prov. Museum, *fide* VG); another interesting nesting observation involving this species was the three nests discovered in cliffs at Stanley Park in downtown Vancouver (WW). On July 13, 58 Marbled Murrelets were observed at Mitlenatch I. (MSh, *fide* WW). An Ancient Murrelet was identified in the ocean just off-shore from Strawberry Pt., n. of Florence, Oreg., July 24 (DG, *fide* LM). Five Cassin's Auklets were mist-netted June 12 at Tatoosh I., Wash. (DPA, DP, *fide* PM); five others were seen at Neah Bay, July 14 (JW, *fide* PM). Rhinoceros Auklets were commonly seen throughout the report period at Ocean Shores where 300 on June 2 (JM) was the maximum; the species was also common around s. Vancouver I. during the period (VG). Between 40 and 50 Tufted Puffins were observed at Pt. Grenville, Wash., June 26 (G & WH).

OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOOD-PECKERS—On Aug. 10 the presence of a pair of **Barred Owls**, reported as early as April 24 by Tim Reickert, was confirmed at Bacus Hill, Skagit Co., Wash., when several observers succeeded in calling the birds by use of a tape-recording into view for positive identification (JD, NL, TW); we have published two records for British Columbia in the last five years for this species, and have not published three other reports for the Province because they lacked detail. The present record is, we believe, the first for the State of Washington. A pair of Spotted Owls was confirmed to be along the Nestucca R., Tillamook Co., Oreg., when observed July 28 by a number of capable observers (WE, FR, WT). Five Long-eared Owls were found n.e. of Medford July 4 (PT, *fide* AC). A Short-eared Owl was seen at Sea I., s. of Vancouver June 13 (VG), and two were seen there July 30 (JT, *fide* WW). Single Saw-whet Owls were found June 2 at Finley N.W.R. (WE, FR, *fide* FZ) and June 30 at Saanich (RWC, *fide* VG). A breeding bird survey at Squamish, B.C., turned up 229 Black Swifts (GAP, *fide* WW); up to 100 of these birds were present throughout the breeding season at Duncan (JCo); 50 were at Seattle June 5 (KB *et al.*, *fide* PM), and lesser numbers were seen in June at several locations s. of Vancouver (WW). Twenty Black Swifts were at Camano I., Wash., June 12 in heavy overcast (PM, JW). Vaux's Swifts were well reported through most of the s. portion of the Region.

A Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at Strike L., Manning P.P., July 10 (RS, *fide* VG). A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird spent the report period at Eugene (LM) and a male spent the entire period at Saanich (V & MG). Two other sightings were made, June 5 & July 18, at other locations in Saanich of male birds (RM-G, ARD, *fide* VG). A male was seen repeatedly and a female occasionally at Vancouver (PW, *fide* WW), suggesting the possibility of a mated pair. A ♂ Allen's Hummingbird was regularly seen during June and July at Phoenix, Jackson Co., Oreg. (PT, *fide* AC). Belted Kingfishers are generally regarded as of regular occurrence in Oregon, but in favorable habitat they can be actually abundant, as a survey along Oregon's lower Luckiamute R., a tributary of the Willamette, made

July 27 demonstrates; 38 pairs were found (JJ, *fide* FR). A report of a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers nesting in a Wood Duck box at Sutton L., near Florence, Oreg., this season is of interest (*fide* AC). A ♀ Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found at Lightning L., Manning P.P., July 11 (RS, *fide* VG), where on June 14 a ♀ N. Three-toed Woodpecker had been seen (V & MG); females of the latter species were seen in Manning P.P. July 7 & 12 also (RS, *fide* VG). A nest of the N. Three-toed Woodpecker was discovered 25 feet above ground in a snag 4 mi. w. of Rainy Pass on the N. Cascades Highway July 1 (WW).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, PARIDAE, WRENS—Individual E. Kingbirds were seen at Wedderburn, Curry Co., Oreg., June 23 (JO), at Reed I. in the Columbia R. near Troutdale, Oreg., June 15 (MS, OS) and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., June 14 (TL); one was in Manning P.P. June 13 and three were seen there June 16 (V & MG). Up to six E. Kingbirds summered at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver and on June 15 one was seen at Iona I. (WW, BK). Single W. Kingbirds were seen at Finley N.W.R. (FZ) and at Manning P.P. (V & MG) both June 13, at Alberni, B.C. June 20 (RM-G, *fide* VG), and at Saanich on July 10 (V & MG); one was at Mitlenatch I., B.C., May 27-30 (MSh, *fide* WW). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen at Eugene in early June (WE, LM, FR). A Black Phoebe was found at Wedderburn, June 23 (JO); a nest of this species was discovered near Rogue River City in the Medford area (*fide* OS). Hammond's Flycatchers—rare on Vancouver I.—were recorded there June 23 with four at Thetis I. and two at Goldstream Park (WW) near Victoria.

Violet-green Swallows were present at Duncan in only 15 per cent of their 1973 breeding season numbers—down to 42 from 628 (JCo). A pair of Barn Swallows was found nesting at the Mt. Baker, Wash., ski area at over 5000 ft. elevation July 28, with ten feet of snow still on the ground. At Fern Ridge Res., 33 pairs of Purple Martins utilized nest boxes placed there for the purpose while about 20 pairs used natural cavities to fledge 154 young (TL); up to three pairs were induced to use nest boxes at two other locations in w. Oregon (TL). Martins were recorded along the lower Columbia near Goble, Oreg., and at Clatsop Spit, at Corvallis, and at Saanich during the period.

A Boreal Chickadee was found at Poland L. Ridge, Manning P.P., July 13 (RS, *fide* VG). Bushtits were noted as having become extremely plentiful at Duncan by the end of July (JCo). Four Wrentits mist-netted at Eugene during the season all had brood patches (DPy, *fide* LM). Out-of-the-ordinary records of House Wrens this season were one near Campbell Big Tree Grove in n. e. Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 9-10 (JM), one at Portland July 4 (JO), and one at Mitlenatch I. July 17 (MSh, *fide* WW).

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS—A Mockingbird was discovered along Rt. I-53 mi. n. of Woodburn, Oreg., June 8 (JW, *fide* PM); one was seen in Victoria July 5 & 8 (ARD, V & MG). A Gray Catbird was heard singing near Jericho Beach in Vancouver June 16 (WW). A Hermit Thrush was seen at Tillamook July 20

(RFi *et al.*). Swainson's Thrushes proved to be the most common bird along the Columbia R. bottoms on the Oregon side in a June survey conducted from 30 mi. e. of Portland to Astoria (OS, MS). A Veery was heard singing along the Skeena R. 40 miles w. of Terrace, B.C., June 30; the locality is 140 miles n.w. of the known breeding range (WW). A singing Townsend's Solitaire at the 3000-ft. level of Mary's Peak in the Coast Range w. of Corvallis June 1 was a very unusual find; another on c. Oregon's Mt. Washington at the 7000-ft. level July 28 (Jo) was also noteworthy.

A nest containing five eggs of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found June 3 at Roxy Ann Butte near Medford, the northernmost western outpost regularly inhabited by this species (HN). Three pairs of Red-eyed Vireos frequented Eugene's Jasper Park in June and July (LM *et al.*). A count of 28 Warbling Vireos on the Squamish, B.C., B.B.S. June 8 (GAP, *fide* WW) was a high one-day count for anywhere in the Region.

A good description of two Tennessee Warblers seen in Manning P.P. July 9 was furnished (RS, *fide* VG). Nashville Warblers were found at Newhalem, Wash., June 12 (TW), at Corvallis June 15 (FZ), and at Roxy Ann Butte near Medford at 3200-ft. June 28 (OS). A count of 33 Yellow Warblers on the June 8 B.B.S. at Squamish, B.C., (GAP, *fide* WW) is also interestingly high. Townsend's Warblers were found to be widespread in Douglas fir stands in the lake country on the e. side of Oregon's c. Cascade Mts.; individuals were also found seven mi. n. of Waldo L. on the w. side of the crest (LM, RFi *et al.*). On June 13 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Tom Lund discovered a ♀ **Black-throated Green Warbler** in a clump of willows; the next day he observed the same and another differently-patterned female of the same species at the same locality. There can be little doubt about the validity of the sighting since close and prolonged study at distance as little as five feet was possible; the sighting is, we believe, a first of this species for our Region. A Hermit Warbler was observed at Tacoma, June 1 (JW, PM); single individuals were found at Rainier N.P. June 21 & July 12 (RT, *fide* PM); and on Hurricane Ridge in Olympic N.P. July 13 (JW, *fide* PM). A **Palm Warbler** singing at Jasper Park in Eugene, July 25 & 26 (DG, CJ, LM) is the first Regional record in the breeding season report period. A N. Waterthrush was heard singing in a small swamp at Lakelse L. near Terrace, B.C., June 30 (WW). A count of 34 MacGillivray's Warblers on the June 8 Squamish B.B.S. was a large count (GAP, *fide* WW), as were the 40 Com. Yellowthroats noted at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver June 25 (WW). Yellow-breasted Chats were recorded at L. Sammamish S.P., Whatcom Co., Wash., June 3 & 10 and at Bellevue, Wash., June 25 (JBe, *fide* PM). A ♂ **Hooded Warbler** was discovered July 20 at Washburn S.P. between Junction City and Monroe, Oreg. (AS), and was still present at the end of the report period; this too, is a first for the Region of which we have knowledge. This year two pairs of Am. Redstarts and an additional male were found at Davis L. in Oregon's c. Cascades; a nest with young was found in late June, and another empty but with juveniles nearby was found on July 20 (DG, CJ, LM). An Am. Redstart was also seen at Lakelse L., near Terrace, B.C., June 30 (WW).

BLACKBIRDS AND SPARROWS—An adult ♂ **Bobolink** was observed at close range on the ocean beach three mi. s. of Cape Alava, Wash., June 8 (EP, *vide* PM); the species is rare in our Region and this record is possibly the first for w. Washington. Two pairs of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were reported nesting on the Nisqually delta, near Olympia, presumably in June (*vide* PM); a single male was at Sea I., June 13 (V & MG). Northern Orioles were recorded in good numbers on B. B. S.'s in the Medford area this year, with a total of 53 individuals on one route (OS); individuals were seen at a good number of places in the s. Willamette Valley, and a few were recorded in the environs of both Victoria and Vancouver during the report period. At Lakelse L. 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** including fledglings were counted on June 30 (WW). On June 2 there were 45 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at Miltenatch I. (MSh, *vide* WW). Several **Lazuli Buntings** nested along n. Washington's Skagit R. during the period, with a bird at Minkler L., e. of Sedro Woolley being farther west than any individual previously seen in that part of the state (TW). Lazuli Buntings were to be found perhaps more widely than usual in the s. Willamette Valley this season (LN). A pair of **Evening Grosbeaks** at a feeder in Olympia July 27 (G & WH) was unusual. Up to six **Pine Grosbeaks** were seen at Manning P.P. July 7-13 (RS, *vide* VG); two were at Prudhomme L., near Prince Rupert, June 30 (WW). **Pine Siskins** were relatively little reported during the period, though sightings in the vicinity of Victoria and of Olympia were made repeatedly of up to 60 birds at a time. Am. Goldfinches were said to be "especially numerous" at Eugene during the season; a count of 50 at Tillamook July 20 (RFi *et al.*) is high for that place any time. Five **Lesser Goldfinches** were seen at Vancouver, Wash., June 15 (EH). **Red Crossbills** seem to have occurred only in a belt from s.e. Vancouver I. eastward through Bellingham to Mt. Baker during the season; one individual was seen at Eugene, July 23 (LM). Two **White-winged Crossbills** were discovered in Vancouver's Stanley Park June 9 (BK, *vide* WW); 50 were seen in Manning P.P. in early August (WW). Three **Green-tailed Towhees** were recorded at Fish L. on the upper Umpqua R., on two occasions during the season (OS). **Brewer's Sparrows** were found on six dates June 25-July 15 at five different spots west of there in a small burn dating back 40 or more years; the locality is west of the Cascade crest, and although no sagebrush is present, the grass and shrubs are comparable to the bird's more usual habitat (OS). Impressively detailed notes of an observation made of a ♂ **Chestnut-collared Longspur** in full breeding dress at Tokeland, Wash., in the early evening of July 7 have been forwarded to the editors; William Tweit recorded the notes shortly after he and Dave Hayward had completed a 15-minute observation at close hand before consulting any text; there can be no reasonable doubt of the authenticity of the record, which is a first for this Region and possibly also for the State of Washington.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION / Rich Stallcup and Russell Greenberg

Rather usual summer weather, with the exception of unseasonably heavy rains on July eighth and ninth produced normal, expected reports, with few if any abnormal highs or lows, unusual abundances or rarities.



In the Central Valleys (below C. V.) the rains plus extra water from increased rice plantings and that left over from the wet winter provided waterfowl habitat not normally present and thus higher than usual productivity (California Fish and Game, below C.F.G.). At Eagle Lake a late spring and cooler-than-usual weather delayed maturation of emergent vegetation, greatly affecting nesting of grebes, **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** and other rush-nesting species. Only one quarter the normal number of **Western Grebes** was nesting on the lake, however this decline may also be owing to increasing

human usage there (PM). A dagger following a report means that a written description is on file with the Regional Editors.

LOONS THROUGH PETRELS—As is usual, a few of each of Common, Red-throated and Arctic Loons overwintered at coastal lagoons and harbors, Commons being most frequently encountered and Red-throated being least. Arctic Loons were still migrating north into mid-June also as is normal and one in breeding plumage at Carmel Bay June 27 (P.R.B.O.) was late. Two breeding-plumaged Com. Loons were at Twin Lakes, Mono Co., June 21 (P.R.B.O.). Commons may still breed sparsely at several such east side lakes. Fewer-than-usual W. Grebes nested at Eagle L. (see above) but good success was noted at Bridgeport L. June 21 (P.R.B.O.).

Black-footed Albatrosses were present throughout the period in Monterey Bay with a maximum of eight July 24 (BGE) and off Eureka where a maximum of 500+ was found at a working drag boat 20 mi. out July 16 (GF, RLeV). A single Laysan Albatross† was reported off Trinidad June 25 (GR, RLeV). Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters were more widely reported than usual (many obs.) especially in Monterey Bay, owing to forage fish dieoffs near local harbors (BGE). The only storm-petrels seen away from offshore breeding rocks were two Ashys July 24 off Monterey (BGE), two Leach's with one Fork-tailed June 25 off Trinidad, one Leach's July 13, and two Fork-tailed July 16 off Eureka (GR, RLeV).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS—Contrary to what local bird lists say, White Pelicans return to the S. F. Bay Area in late June and 95 were at Palo Alto July 13 (JM) Brown Pelicans returned in the first week of June (many obs.) and numbers thereafter rapidly increased, which is normal. Adults were most prevalent on rocky headlands and islands and immatures at calm bays and lagoons. This has been the noticeable trend for at least the last four falls. Double-crested Cormorants nested at Eagle L. with 12 pairs (PM) and at Bridgeport L. with at least six pairs (P.R.B.O.). The exact breeding status of this species in our region is unknown. Green Herons had good nesting success on rivers in the C.V. (BK). A Great Egret at L. Almanor July 26 (PM) was away from its usual lowland range and the two Cattle Egrets found last spring at Novato were still present until at least June second (LCB). There is still no nesting record for the region. A Least Bittern was photographed at Gray Lodge July 6 (SL) and possibly the same individual was seen there July 9 & 16 (BD).

WATERFOWL—Habitat conditions in n.e. California were good and much improved over the dry conditions of last year. The winter and spring rain and snow runoff filled most of the permanent impoundments and marshes and created some temporary habitat with enough water to produce and raise birds. Canada Geese and duck nesting was on schedule in this area.

Precipitation was above average in the Central Valley for the second consecutive year. Since this area is mostly composed of artificial and regulated water impoundments such as rice fields, grasslands and pastures, the effects of weather and rain influences water-

fowl production indirectly as it affects farming operations. Field preparations were late because of the wet fall, winter and spring with some agricultural lands located in the river bypasses still holding runoff water at the end of April. Rice seeding was as late as has been observed in the past decade. By mid-May many fields were still being worked up and planted to rice. With acreage allotments no longer in effect the rice crop has now expanded to 440,000 acres. Most of the birds left these wintering grounds during March except for those that remained to nest.

Most of the waterfowl production occurring in California is found in n.e. California and on the rice lands of the Sacramento Valley. (CFG).

A full report of numbers of nesting species and approximate population sizes is on file with the Regional Editors.

An effort to determine what species of ducks actually nest in this Region fell far short of expectations, but the following interesting observations were made: Red-heads had the best year on record in the C.V. at Mendota (RH, KH, JS), at Woodland (RS, DW) and at Gray Lodge where over 100 immatures were banded (BD). A pair of Ring-necked Ducks at Reflection L., Lassen Co July 12 (SL) probably nested and Buffleheads nested at several places in Lassen Co. (PM). Hooded Mergansers nested at L. Earle (*vide* DE) and a female at Palo Alto July 3 (LCB) was exceptional. A few of each of the non-breeding diving ducks always remain to summer. It appears that the Greater Scaup is predominant over Lesser and 25 of the former were at Skaggs I., July 12 (JM). Harlequin Ducks again summered at Pt. Año Nuevo as did Com. Scoters. A few Com. Scoters and more of the other scoters were reported from bays and harbors as were four different Oldsquaws.

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS—Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagles and Ospreys were reported breeding in more places by more individuals than is usual. Specific records, not published here, may be examined by responsible persons upon request. A Sandhill Crane was seen June 15 through the end of the period at Ferndale and is the first Humboldt County record (DA); cranes were breeding in two basin localities where they were not found last year (JM) A Com. Gallinule was at Bridgeport L. June 21 (P.R.B.O.); they are very rare east of the Sierras.

SHOREBIRDS—Migration never really stops on the California coast and individuals of most of our wintering species may be seen all summer. The following are unusual and noteworthy. On July 21, 15 Surfbirds were at the S.F. Bay Bridge toll plaza (RD). Fifty Long-billed Curlews at Pleasanton (GB) July 28 were probably early fall migrants as was a Pectoral Sandpiper at Ferndale July 29 (DA, BB). A Rufous-necked Sandpiper† in breeding plumage at Crescent City on June 18 was photographed (P. Springer, RLeV) and is the first documented record for California. Details will be published elsewhere. Two Dunlins in breeding plumage at Año Nuevo June second (PM) are at present, unexplainable. A Bar-tailed Godwit † from July 17 through the end of the period at Arcata (BR, RLeV) was seen by many and photographed for the third California record

JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS—A few Pomarine Jaegers summered with Shearwaters in Monterey Bay (BGE) and offshore Humboldt Bay but there were outnumbered by Parasitics (GF, RLeV). An ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger**† was seen July 16 offshore of Humboldt, an early date for this truly rare bird (GF, RLeV).

S.A.

A breeding colony of 20-30,000 California Gulls is located on 160-acre Negit Island, a critical stopover spot for hundreds of thousands of Eared Grebes, a large fraction of the entire world's population. Mono Lake is dying!!

Because the City of Los Angeles now diverts nearly every stream that once fed this beautiful, alkali basin lake, the water level is decreasing at an alarming rate and it is estimated by the Bureau of Land Management that by 1976 a land bridge will have emerged between the shore and Negit Island allowing predators to commute and insuring ultimate if not immediate total destruction of the population. Shortly thereafter the lake will become but a puddle and the fate of the grebes is fragile.

We have mentioned this coming disaster before in this column but as far as we know, nothing has been done to reverse the situation and save millions of birds.

Won't someone out there with some spare energy, money or position and a sense of fairness for the animals with which we share the planet please investigate, organize, scream or do whatever else may be necessary, *now*, to give this fine lake and its dependent bird life a chance to live on?

A second-year Laughing Gull was still at Capitola and was photographed June 8 (BGE) for one of the few regional records. Two ad. Franklins Gulls in breeding plumage flying S together one mi. e. of Coyote (LCB) were unexpected both for locality and for age. Black-legged Kittiwakes were in fair numbers at coastal harbors and offshore (many obs.) and were even seen inside S.F. Bay (EM). The only reports for Sabine's Gulls were four or five offshore of Humboldt Bay July 13 & 16 (GF, RLeV). Few Least Terns were seen around Alameda (BGE, BJM) where small colonies have survived for the last few years on sandy bay fills but they returned to Bair I. where at least seven nests were counted July 25 (BE) and 25 individuals were seen (DDeS, JF). The San Francisco Bay population of this highly endangered species continues to balance on a thread. Open sand in San Francisco Bay with no people or dogs?!

ALCIDS—Marbled Murrelets were seen in usual numbers in Monterey Bay, from Pigeon Point and off Humboldt throughout the period. Two Xantus Murrelets were collected off the Pajaro R. mouth July third, two more were seen there July 24 and about 12 were seen with Rhinoceros Auklets in deeper water throughout the period (BGE). One hundred Cassin's Auklets and three Rhinos seen off Santa Cruz June 10 (BE, PM) may have been foraging from the Farallon Is.

S.A.

On Aug. 7, 1974 in Big Basin S. P., Santa Cruz Co., California a tree-trimmer accidentally shook a well-developed downy chick **Marbled Murrelet** from a nest 140 ft. up a douglas fir. The nest was at the crotch of a branch 15½ inches thick and 36 ft. long. Portions of the nest cup recovered revealed that it was mostly of guano. The chick was picked up alive, was photographed, expired and was prepared as a skin. It had much whitish fluffy down but was well feathered below that and the flight feathers were near fully developed, indicating that, contrary to most theories, the young may fly directly from the nest to the sea. It would have developed nearly full winter plumage and is considered probably the youngest Marbled Murrelet chick yet discovered. Enough of the egg-shell fragments were obtained to reconstruct the base and pattern colors of the original egg which agrees with Cantwell's egg from the oviduct of an adult. A detailed article with photographs is being prepared for publication elsewhere. Although Marbled Murrelets are not uncommon along the Pacific Coast north of Monterey in summer as well as in winter and adults have been heard flying inland at dusk for years, the nest, nest site and nesting behavior of this species have never been found or described and have heretofore been a mystery.

The *American Birds* Discovery Award of \$100 for the first article, with photographs, describing the nest, eggs and young of this species still stands.

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS—Scattered reports of Mourning Doves from up to 10,000 ft. elevation in the Sierras are indicative of a small but regular up-mountain drift during the summer. A Flammulated Owl nest was located in an incense cedar on Henness Ridge, Mariposa Co., June 29 (DDeS, JF). A large concentration of 19 Burrowing Owls was seen near Mendota June 14 and five adults were found occupying holes near the Palo Alto Dump July 3 where they are thought to be decreasing (LCB, SS). Great Gray Owls successfully raised young at Crane Flat, Yosemite N. P. (YNP, *fide* DDeS); they did not use the nest site near Bridalveil Campground where they were seen in May (DDeS). A dead Long-eared Owl was found at Piedra, Fresno Co., June 10 (RH, KH, JS) and a pair found in nearby Auberry (*fide* RH, KH). A Poor-will was seen on the C.V. floor 3 mi. w. of Colusa June 27 (DW, TL). Three reports of Lesser Nighthawks in the San Joaquin Valley is a typically low number.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Black Swifts were commonly reported from the c. and s. Sierras. Up to six were at Año Nuevo Pt., San Mateo Co., in July and up to 12 in August (SB, JM). Five Vaux's Swift reports for the Sierra-Cascades are more than usual. A pair was found nesting at Log Meadow, Sequoia N. P. (SNP, DDeS, JF) July 6 is perhaps the first breeding record for the s. Sierras. A ♀ hummingbird believed to be a Black-chinned was at 8000 ft. at

Olmstead Pt., Yosemite N.P., July 1 (DDeS, DAG) and another at a feeder near Mineral King, Tulare Co. (el. 6935 ft.) July 7 (DDeS, JF). Three Rufous Hummingbirds were found east of the Sierra crest at the Honey Lake W.M.A. June 13 (PM). An Acorn Woodpecker in W. Oakland July 27 was in an unusually urban setting (DE). A pair of "Red-naped" Sapsuckers was nesting 6 mi. s. of Bridgeport, Mono Co., June 21 (P.R.B.O.) and "Red-breasted" Sapsucker nests were found e. of the Sierra crest at Twin Lakes and Lee Vining, Mono Co., June 21 (P.R.B.O.). Williamson's Sapsuckers were found at a number of regular localities in Yosemite N.P. and were common at 7000-9000 ft. in the Sugarloaf region of King's Canyon N.P. (RG). A Hairy woodpecker nest found June 21 near Mono L. was out of the expected boreal forest habitat (P.R.B.O.). Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported from only three regular localities in Yosemite N.P.; a pair was found in Sugarloaf Valley, King's Canyon N.P. near the s. edge of its range (RG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—An Eastern Kingbird was reported from Whitmore, Shasta Co., June 14 (BKl). Willow Flycatchers are quite local in the region during the breeding season. Two pairs at Zumwalt Meadows, King's Canyon N.P. and another at Mineral King (DDeS, JF) were the only Sierran reports; a pair with four young near the Carmel R. mouth Aug. 11 (SB) was the only breeding report from the coast, and individuals at Angel I., July 7 (AE) and Elk's Head, Humboldt Co., June 1 (*vide* DE) are noteworthy. Western Flycatchers were widely reported from the mid-elevation Sierras including concentrations in dense conifer stands at Grant Grove and Whittaker's Forest, King's Canyon N.P. (DDeS, RG); pairs were found as high as 8500 ft. at Rowell Meadow Sequoia Nat'l Forest. A small colony of at least six active Bank Swallow nests was discovered at Año Nuevo Pt. (JM, SB). Large numbers, up to 100 in one flock, were in the Eagle L. area, Lassen Co., (PM) in July. Purple Martins were reported from three Sierran localities, where they are scarce.

CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES—A rather large flock of 31 ravens were seen spiraling over Academy, Fresno Co. (RH, KH, JS). There were two flocks of Bushtits reported from high elevations in King's Canyon: six were at Converse Loop Rd., (el. 6000 ft.) July 4 (DDeS, JF) and 15-20 in Sugarloaf Valley (el. 7500 ft.) July 10 (RG). One montane species that has successfully colonized Monterey pine stands in the Berkeley hills is the Red-breasted Nuthatch; it was found in six different stands, some with only a few trees, in residential Oakland (DE). Winter Wrens were found to be widespread in sequoia groves in King's Canyon and Sequoia parks (RG). Western Bluebirds were found to be common breeders in the closed-crown mixed conifer forests of King's Canyon-Sequoia parks (DDeS, RG). Mountain Bluebirds were found at the rather low elevation of 6000 ft. at Converse Loop Rd. King's Canyon July 6 (DDeS, JF). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers found breeding at Eagle L., July 3 (PM) is a new local record for a well-birded area. A n.w. record was obtained for the Phainopepla at Garberville, Humboldt Co., June 2 (DE, PS, TS).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—Two Red-eyed Vireos were found in the Berkley Hills in June: one in Orinda June 26 (VR)† and another in Tilden Park June 2 (RD)†. This is exceptional, for these migrants are rarely at localities away from the outer coast. Many foothill birds drift to higher elevations during the summer months. This movement seems to be dominated by *Vermivora* warblers. Orange-crowned Warblers were reported commonly up to 9000 ft. from early June and were locally abundant in the Sierras. Nashville Warblers were very scarce in the s. Sierras until mid-July when both Orange-crowned and Nashvilles moved in en masse. At higher and more easterly regions Nashvilles outnumbered Orange-crowns as much as 5:1 (DDeS, RG). Yellow Warblers were reported to be conspicuously absent from several riparian areas of the C.V. (BD, RH, KH, JS). It was found to be the most common warbler on the roadside census from Forest Hill to Robinson Flat, El Dorado Co., with a concentration of singing males in replanted patch cuts; a rather xeric habitat for this species in the region. Hermit Warblers were scarce in the fir forests of Sequoia-King's Canyon (DDeS, RG). However, MacGillivray's Warblers were found locally common there in early July (DDeS). A ♀ Tennessee Warbler was at Esplanada Park, Pacific Grove June 9 (DDeS) and a ♂ N. Parula was at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., June 3 (TS *et al.*), a first county record.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS—A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Arcata June 4 (DE, GF), a vagrant to the coast in the summer. A high altitude station for Brewer's Blackbird was three at 12,500 ft. on Mt. Whitney Aug. 15 (*vide* DDeS). Western Tanagers were found at lowland localities in the midsummer with one at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area July 16 (BD) and a pair at Del Puerto Canyon July 14 (AE)

FINCHES—Male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at Wildcat Canyon, Alameda Co., June 20 (NS, VR, SB) and June 19 in Fresno (*vide* RH, KH). A ♂ Indigo Bunting was at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., June 5 (TS *et al.*). Singing ♂♂ Lazuli Buntings were seen commonly up to 7800 ft. in King's Canyon and Sequoia (DDeS, JF) and individuals were common in finch flocks over 8000 ft. in July and August. A House Finch was at an unusually high elevation at Henness Ridge June 30 (DDeS, JF). An abundance of Lesser Goldfinches was reported from the Sierras with many singing males present at high elevations during June and July (DDeS, RG). A Lawrence's Goldfinch was far above its normal foothill home at Converse Loop Rd. July 4 (DDeS, JF). The breeding of Red Crossbills in San Francisco has been established with the observation of an adult feeding fledglings in Lincoln Park June 9 (BJM) where a male was found singing on territory in March (LCB). A ♂ Lark Bunting was singing near Merced Hot Springs, Fresno Co., June 16 (PM)† A high elevation observation of Savannah Sparrow was at Ellis Meadow, King's Canyon (el. 9000 ft.) July 21 (RG). There is an established colony of Grasshopper Sparrows near Coyote, Santa Clara Co. where once again singing males (3) were found in June (LCB, SS). A vagrant Vesper Sparrow was on Pt. Pinos June 9 (DDeS, JF). Coastal Lark Sparrows were at Arcata

Marina June 4 (DE) and near Bolinas, where they bred for the second year (P.R.B.O.). A singing Sage Sparrow at San Carlos, San Mateo Co., June 6 provided one of the few recent records for the SF peninsula. A Gray-headed Junco feeding fledglings near Mineral King (9500 ft.) June 22 was well described and constitutes a first breeding record for the Sierras (RH, KH, JS). Vagrant Brewer's Sparrows were reported from Fresno July 26 (RH, KH, JS) and Elk's Head, Humboldt Co., June 1 (*vide* DE). Most surprising was the location of three singing males in two replanted clear-cuts 10 mi. e. of Foresthill June 24. A singing ♂ Black-chinned Sparrow was also at one of the localities (DDeS, JF) the same day. Another of this species returned for the third straight year to P.R.B.O., Marin Co. (P.R.B.O.), but as last spring only for one day, May 15. A vagrant singing male White-crowned Sparrow (with white lores) was at the brush field east of Foresthill June 24 (DDeS, JF).

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CORRIGENDA—Under the section dealing with accipiter ratios (*Am. Birds* 28:687) the observers' initials should read (RBH, KH, JS) not (RBH, LH, JS). In the same paragraph, dealing with Red-shouldered Hawks the observers were (RBH, KH, JS) not (RBH, LH, HK, JS). One, not two Bonaparte's Gulls at L. Shastina (*Am. Birds* 28:688). Red-naped Sapsucker is *S.V. nuchalis* not *varius* (*Am. Birds* 28:689) also in that paragraph the entire statement beginning "A Hairy Woodpecker" should be withdrawn. The Rough-winged Swallows (*Am. Birds* 28:689) were not the first regional winter records but were possibly the fifth and sixth. In *Am. Birds* 28:690 dealing with the Chipping Sparrows the passage should read . . . but a flock of up to 79 at Avacado L., Fresno Co. (RBH, KH, JS) December-February is quite surprising. In the list of contributors (*Am. Birds* 28:691) John Silva should read John Silvas.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Guy McCaskie

A relatively rainless winter and spring left the Region quite dry, and this no doubt had an adverse effect on breeding birds. Lazuli Buntings for instance were completely absent from an area near San Diego this sum-



mer, an area where some 15 pairs nested last summer. However, without statistical data from large areas of the Region, it is impossible to tell if such obvious declines in a very local area apply equally to the entire Region. It is possible that the population of Lazuli Buntings using the area in question near San Diego merely shifted to another area for nesting this summer.

Southern California did record its first nesting Painted Redstarts this summer, and it may not be too long before the *Pyrrhuloxia* is added to the list of birds breeding in the State.

LOONS, GREBES—A Com. Loon in Santa Barbara during June and July was clearly summering, but one at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. June 2, and another at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) June 20 were most likely tardy spring migrants. Two Arctic Loons in full summer dress at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) June 22 (GMcC) were most unusual since the species is extremely rare away from the ocean in California. Eared Grebes again failed to nest in the Big Bear/Baldwin L. area even though a number of birds were present. Juvenile W. Grebes were seen accompanying adults on L. Havasu on the Colorado R. July 31, and the species breed successfully on Sweetwater Res. in San Diego; these appear to be the only localities in this Region where W. Grebes still nest. An ad. Pied-billed Grebe was accompanied by three young on the early date of Mar. 16 at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co.

SHEARWATERS—Sooty Shearwaters were in the "hundreds of thousands" along the coast of San Luis Obispo Co. June 25-July 10, and all appeared heading north. No other concentrations of pelagic birds were reported during the season.

TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS

—An imm. Red-billed Tropicbird was seen on the water just off Avalon, Catalina I. July 9 (LJ). Brown Pelicans successfully nested on the Los Coronados Is. in the spring; they appeared rather scarce on the coast south of Los Angeles, but flocks of up to 150 were regular in San Luis Obispo Co. An imm. Brown Pelican at N.E.S.S. May 25 was early for this inland locality, but no more than ten appeared to be on the Sea by the end of July; less than we have been accustomed to in recent years. A number of Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen along the coast with two (ad. ♀ and immature) at Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co. July 7-8 (FT), single immatures at Pt. Dume, L.A. Co. July 14 (LJ), King Harbor, L.A. Co. July 15 (SW), on the Palos Verdes Pen., June 20 & 26 (SW), Terminal I., July 4 (SW), Laguna Beach, Orange Co. June 29 (JAJ), Pacific Beach, San Diego Co. July 5 (*vide* Joe Jehl), and at Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. July 16 & 20 (GMcC). In addition an immature was seen over Imperial Dam on the Colorado R., July 5 (SEL); two immatures were at N.E.S.S. June 17 (VR) and what were probably the same two were at S.E.S.S. July 20-21 (MP), and single immatures were at S.E.S.S. July 22 (MP) and at N.E.S.S. July 27 (BB, GSS).

HERONS, STORKS, IBIS—Fifteen active Great Blue Heron nests successfully produced young in a residential area of San Diego, indicating that seclusion is not required for breeding. Some 850 Cattle Egret nests were under study at S.E.S.S. among which were scattered about 100 Snowy Egret nests. Black-crowned Night Herons still nest in residential areas of San Pedro (20 pairs at Harbor Lake Park) and San Diego (25 pairs on Pt. Loma and 10 pairs in Imperial Beach). Least Bitterns were relatively numerous along the lower Colorado R. and around the Salton Sea; a few were noted in coastal San Diego Co. where they are expected, but one dead on the highway near San Luis Obispo in early July was somewhat unexpected. A Wood Stork at Finney L. in the Imperial Valley May 24 was the first noted this summer; numbers built up to about 75 at S.E.S.S. in late July, one was at N.E.S.S. July 8-31, and some 60 were near Palo Verde on the Colorado R., July 26. White-faced Ibis continue to decline with four near Palo Verde June 20, less than ten around S.E.S.S. throughout the summer, and five at Newport Bay in July being the only ones reported.

GEESE, DUCKS—Between one and six Black Brant were present at N.E.S.S. through July 31; stragglers from spring. A pair (one crippled) of White-fronted Geese spent the summer at N.E.S.S. illustrating the strength of the pair bond in these birds. Fulvous Tree Ducks were exceptionally scarce at S.E.S.S. this summer, and reported nowhere else. At least 12 broods of Mallards were seen on Camp Pendleton in coastal San Diego Co., one of the few areas where ducks can breed undisturbed on the coast south of Los Angeles. A pair of Gadwall with ten ducklings was seen in Carlsbad, San Diego Co. June 8 (AF) and over 20 adults were at Baldwin L. in June and July (SW). A pair of Pintail with ten ducklings was seen on Camp Pendleton June 28 (AF), and two broods each of Cinnamon Teal and Redhead were noted there during the summer.

A ♂ Oldsquaw seen on San Diego Bay June 16 was probably summering locally. A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Playa del Rey, L.A. Co. well into July was clearly summering. A few White-winged Scoters were reported with the summering Surf Scoters along the coast, and as many as four Surf Scoters were found at Salton City on the Salton Sea during July (BB, GSS *et al.*). As usual a few Red-breasted Mergansers remained through the summer on the Salton Sea; all very bedraggled-looking by late July.

HAWKS—A pair of White-tailed Kites nesting near Lancaster, L.A. Co., in April (AS) was east of the species' normal range. Of 12 Red-tailed Hawk nests found in San Diego Co. ten were successful, one being robbed by man and the other abandoned (AF). However, only four Red-shouldered Hawk nests out of eleven found in the same area were successful, most failures resulting from land-clearing and tree cutting operations; a nest near Victorville, San Bernardino Co. May 10 (RS) was at an interesting locality. One or two Swainson's Hawks near Big Pine in the Owens Valley during July were the only ones reported. A few Ospreys were evidently present on the coast of Orange and San Diego Cos. throughout the summer as well as one at N.E.S.S. and another around Imperial Dam on the Colorado R. Most encouraging were the reports of a pair nesting on L. Casitas in Santa Barbara Co. (S.B.A.S.), and another pair nesting on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine (TH).

RAILS—Black Rails are evidently more widespread in s.e. California than previously suspected, for besides being relatively common around Imperial Dam on the lower Colorado R. one was heard calling from the marshes at the mouth of the Whitewater R. at N.E.S.S. Apr. 27 (GLB), another was heard near Calipatria May 31 (DVT), and about six were calling from a small marsh in Anza Borego Desert S.P. June 8 (JB).

SHOREBIRDS—Two Black Oystercatchers at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. June 24 (S.B.A.S.) were at an unusual locality. Three juv. Snowy Plovers at L. Elsinor, Riverside Co. Apr. 23 (AF) are proof that the species breeds at this inland lake. A Ruddy Turnstone at Furnace Creek Ranch May 30 (RW) was the first found in Death Valley. A Red Knot at S.E.S.S. July 13 was the only one found away from the coast. A Dunlin spent the entire summer at the N.E.S.S., most unusual in June and July. Seven Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S. July 27 (GSS *et al.*) were the first reported for the fall. Three N. Phalaropes had returned to the Salton Sea by June 17; it is amazing how early fall migrant phalaropes appear in s. California with both Northern and Wilson's present in the "hundreds" by July 1.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—The only jaegers reported were a single Pomarine near Pt. Fermin July 9 and another near San Clemente I. two days later. Western Gulls (yellow-legged) arrived on the Salton Sea in late June, with 20 counted on June 22, and built up to around 50 by the end of the period; these are regular post-breeding wanderers from the Gulf of California. Juvenile California and Ring-billed Gulls

arrived in s. California in late July, with both species noted on the Salton Sea July 27. Laughing Gulls were first noted on the Salton Sea June 22 and increased to about 50 by the end of the period. Four Franklin's Gulls at N.E.S.S. June 22 (GMCC) and another there July 8 (HK) were the only ones found this summer. On June 17 an ad. Heermann's Gull was seen at N.E.S.S. (VR), then three were found at Salton City June 20 (GSS), and another at S.E.S.S. June 22 (GMCC); this species is a casual straggler to the Salton Sea, and five individuals in this short a period are unexpected. Three or four summering Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Santa Barbara and Malibu throughout June and July. Most unusual was a Sabine's Gull at Imperial Dam on the Colorado R. June 22-23 (GMCC).

Gull-billed Terns evidently nested at both ends of the Salton Sea with 25-30 pairs at S.E.S.S. and 5-10 pairs at N.E.S.S. a number of juveniles being noted in both areas during July. Fall migrant Com. Terns were first seen on the Salton Sea July 13, and the species was common on the coast by the end of the month. Least Terns continue to nest in San Diego Co., with 145 nests on Camp Pendleton, 12 at San Elijo Lagoon, 40 on Mission Bay, and 80 at the s. end of San Diego Bay. Some 200 pairs of Elegant Terns successfully nested on San Diego Bay, the only such nesting colony in the U.S.

Up to 20 Black Skimmers were present on the Salton Sea throughout the period; three active nests were found at the mouth of the New R. at the S.E.S.S. July 27 (GMCC), the same day two flying young were seen begging food from adults at the mouth of the Whitewater R. at the N.E.S.S.

CUCKOOS, DOVES, OWLS GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS—Yellow-billed Cuckoos, now quite rare and very local in California, were found in small numbers (5-6) around Laguna Dam on the Colorado R. in June and July, the only locality in this Region where the species is regularly found; one at Finney L. in the Imperial Valley July 5 (LCB) was the first seen in that area in over 15 years. A Band-tailed Pigeon in Morongo Valley July 8 (HK) was somewhat out of range. A Ground Dove nest with two young in Valley Center, San Diego Co. Aug. 17 (AF) proved the first breeding record for that area.

Remarkable was the report of 100+ Barn Owl nests found on Camp Pendleton (AF). Many Pygmy Owls were sighted in the Santa Barbara area during the summer (S.B.A.S.) suggesting nesting locally. Spotted Owls were found nesting in the Los Padres National Forest near San Luis Obispo (FT), an adult was seen with two juveniles in the San Jacinto Mts., June 15 (VR), two young were photographed in the Santa Ana Mts., June 10-11 (CS), and two young were seen with an adult in the Laguna Mts., July 13 (GMCC). Single Long-eared Owls were seen near China L., Inyo Co., May 18 (R&KH), at Wildrose in the Panamint Mts., May 25 (RS), and on Santa Barbara I., July 5 (LJ); a nest was found at Oasis, Mono Co., in late May (VR), two nests were seen in Morongo Valley during May (EAC), and another nest was located at Yaqui Wells in Anza Borego Desert S.P. in early June (JB). A nesting Saw-whet Owl was found in Cerro Alto Campground near San Luis Obispo (FT), and the species is believed to have nested on Santa Cruz I. (LJ).

A calling Whip-poor-will was heard off and on throughout the period at L. Fulmor in the San Jacinto Mts. (LCB, VR, LJ) where nesting is suspected; two more were heard on Clark Mt. in e. San Bernardino Co. June 22-23 (KG, BP). Two Lesser Nighthawks were seen at Goleta in June (S.B.A.S.); this species is unusual on the coast this far north. Two Black Swifts over Big Pine in the Owens Valley June 22 were probably on a feeding forage from a nesting site in the nearby Sierra Nevada, but ten there on July 30 were more likely to have been migrants; two pairs were found nesting at Santa Anita Falls above Pasadena in July (GSS). Unexpected was a Chimney Swift flying with Cliff Swallows at Laguna Dam on the Colorado R. June 23 (GMcC).

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS—Black-chinned Hummingbirds were found nesting by mid-April, with a pair seen nest-building on the Palos Verdes Pen. Apr. 12 (J & DM); one female was seen building a third nest after having fledged two broods. Interesting was the sighting of two females battling for the possession of a newly-built nest Apr. 15 & 16, with both birds seen on the nest on the 15th. Costa's Hummingbirds were nest-building in Los Angeles Co., as early as Jan. 5, with young flying by Feb. 18. Anna's Hummingbirds were nesting in late November and young were still to be found in a nest on May 15; a nest at Agua Caliente Springs in e. San Diego Co. May 6 (AF) was at an unusual locality. The Allen's Hummingbird population on the Palos Verdes Pen. was seen gathering nesting material as early as Nov. 10, and 46 nests by some 15 females produced 25-30 young prior to July 19; two females were known to have nested three times (SW, J&DM).

Far out of normal range was an Acorn Woodpecker on Clark Mt., May 5 (A. Driscoll, *vide* SC), however, others appeared to wander into e. California this spring.

CHICKADEES THROUGH KINGLETS—Chestnut-backed Chickadees are now nesting as far south as Dumes L. on the coast, where a pair with four young was observed (S.B.A.S.). A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches nested at Running Springs in the San Bernardino Mts., and the species may also have nested on Clark Mt., in the e. part of the county. A Gray Catbird was studied at Furnace Creek Ranch May 30 (RW); the species is extremely rare in California, but another was seen in the same general area this spring. Two pairs of Bendire's Thrashers were found nesting around Yucca Valley in April (AS, GSS), two pairs were seen near Twenty-nine Palms Apr. 25 (GLB), and in Joshua Tree National Monument a male was seen singing on territory at Salton View Apr. 13 (JM), a pair with three young was observed in Hidden Valley Camp Ground May 28 (RR), and another pair with four young was found on Ryan Mt., June 1 (RR); this is more than the average number of reports away from e. San Bernardino County. American Robins appeared to be common around much of Los Angeles all summer, and the species is no doubt increasing as a breeding bird in the coastal lowlands of s. California, thanks to the suitability of well-watered suburban communities. Unexpected was the discovery of two or three singing ♂♂ Hermit Thrushes in Trabuco Canyon of the Santa Ana

Mts., June 10 (CS). A singing ♂ Ruby-crowned Kinglet in the Laguna Mts., May 30 (GMcC) was a little south of the species' known breeding range.

FLYCATCHERS—Two or three Cassin's Kingbirds were seen on the lower portions of Clark Mt., June 22-23 (KG, BP); previously unreported in this area of California, but known to nest in areas both north and south of the locality. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was collected near Blythe, Riverside Co., June 13 (Bertin Anderson, *vide* JHS); this is a rare straggler to California. Wied's Crested Flycatchers were relatively common along the Colorado R., where large trees still remain, but two pairs at Morongo Valley were the only ones found to the west of the river. A Dusky Flycatcher nest in the Laguna Mts. of San Diego Co., July 13 (GMcC) establishes a new southernmost breeding locality, the species not previously known to nest south of the Santa Rosa Mts. Away from the Colorado R., the only breeding Vermilion Flycatchers were birds of a pair in Morongo Valley; since the land at Morongo Valley has been allowed to go from irrigated alfalfa back to desert scrub, Vermilion Flycatchers have steadily declined at that locality.

Again Barn Swallows nested at S.E.S.S. with young from a second nesting still in the nest Aug. 13. Purple Martins are steadily declining in this Region, the total number of birds reported being 2-3 in the Santa Ynez Valley after Mar. 15 (early) and 10-15 at Nojoqui Falls, Santa Barbara Co., in April and May (S.B.A.S.), six in the Santa Ana Mts. in early June (CS), two at L. Fulmor in the San Jacinto Mts. in May and June (GSS), and two pairs nesting in Pine Valley, San Diego Co. in June (GMcC); this species was formerly common throughout the mountains of s. California, even nesting down into some of the residential areas of the coastal lowlands.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Bell's Vireos continue to decline, but were found in small numbers at Morongo Valley (one pair), around Azusa, L.A. Co. (three pairs), at Imperial Dam on the Colorado R. (one pair), and around San Diego (three pairs); predation by Brown-headed Cowbirds is suspected of being a major factor affecting the vireo's numbers. Gray Vireos appeared to be holding their own in the e. portions of the San Bernardino Mts., with up to three adults seen in a day during May and June, and two juveniles in July; a pair on Clark Mt., June 22 were the only birds reported away from the San Bernardinos. A Red-eyed Vireo at Deep Springs May 30 (RW) should have been included in the spring report.

A singing Black-and-white Warbler in Tepusquet Canyon near Santa Barbara July 7 (AH) must have been a straggler left over from spring. The Nashville Warbler has not yet been found nesting south of the Sierra Nevada in California, however, each summer individuals are reported in the higher mountains of this Region, the summer at least six singing females were located in the San Bernardino Mts. during early June (SW). Two or three Virginia's Warblers were seen on Clark Mt. in e. San Bernardino Co. June 23-30 (KG, BP, GMcC) where they are known to nest. A ♂ Magnolia Warbler hit a window on the Palos Verdes Pen., June 20 (SW)—Cal. State Univ., Long Beach). Three (2 singing ♂♂

and a ♀) Hermit Warblers, a species not yet known to nest south of the Sierras, were at Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel Mts. June 15 (VR). A ♂ **Blackpoll Warbler** at Oasis, Mono Co. June 8 (TH) was clearly a spring vagrant, being one of the impressive number of stragglers reported in late May and early June of this year. Another spring record of the Ovenbird was that of one at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 30 (RW). MacGillivray's Warblers have been found regularly defending territories in the s. California mountains, but a nest is still to be found; this summer singing males were found at Buckhorn in the San Gabriel Mts., June 11 & 14 (GSS, AH), and at Hanna Flats and along the upper portions of Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts. throughout June (GSS, SW, KG). A ♀ Am. Redstart was seen in San Pedro July 9 (J & DM); most unusual at this time of the year. The two **Painted Redstarts** in the Laguna Mts. were present through June, and a nest with four young was discovered July 6 (PU); it had been deserted a week later, but the adults were still present in the area July 29 (DDeS); this is the first nesting record for this species in California. The ♂ Painted Redstart at the South Fork Campground in the San Bernardino Mts. was still present July 15 (EAC).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—Up to four Great-tailed Grackles at Ramer L. in the Imperial Valley after Apr. 27 were the only ones reported west of the Colorado R. Valley. As usual a few **Bronzed Cowbirds** were found along the Colorado R. Valley, however, a pair in Jacumba, San Diego Co. June 23-July 17 (GMcC *et al.*) was unusual, and a **juvenile in company of Brewer's Blackbirds** there July 13 indicated successful breeding. Hepatic Tanagers could not be found around Arrastre Creek, but at least one pair was on Clark Mt., in late June (KG *et al.*). A few Summer Tanagers were still to be found along the Colorado R. Valley, one pair nested at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., and two pairs nested in Morongo Valley.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—A ♂ **Pyrrhuloxia** was caught near Palo Verde, Imperial Co. July 14 (Gary Stacey, *vide* JHS), and a singing male was discovered near Westmorland, Imperial Co. July 18 (DR); this species was unrecorded in California until just recently. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Running Springs in the San Bernardino Mts. May 24 (Doug Williams, *vide* SC) and another near Santa Barbara June 19 (S.B.A.S.) were probably spring migrants. The only Indigo Bunting reported was a female at Deep Springs June 22 (KG, BP). A ♂ Red Crossbill on Mt. Pinos July 6 (BB) is interesting since very few summer records exist for the area, however, a male and two immatures in Monterey Park, L.A. Co., July 15 (*vide* GSS) were most unusual since local nesting is suggested.

A Green-tailed Towhee in Santa Barbara July 29 (S.B.A.S.) was most unusual for that date, the species being restricted to the higher mountains as a breeding bird in this Region. Grasshopper Sparrows were found on nesting territories near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., in May and June (FRT), juveniles along with adults were present at 3700 ft. elev. in the Santa Ynez Mts. near Santa Barbara during June and July

(RW), a few were seen in Puente Hills, Orange Co. in June (GSS), and 10-15 pairs nested near San Diego in May (GMcC). A pair of Dark-eyed Juncos was feeding young at Nojoqui Falls, Santa Barbara Co. May 24 (AH), and an active nest was discovered in the Santa Ana Mts., June 10 (CS); both areas recently colonized for breeding. **Gray-headed Junco** was the only junco seen on Clark Mt. in late June (KG *et al.*), and clearly nested, since juvenile birds were noted. Some 20 pairs of Black-chinned Sparrows were on territory at Cuesta Summit near San Luis Obispo in May and seen feeding young in June.

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