

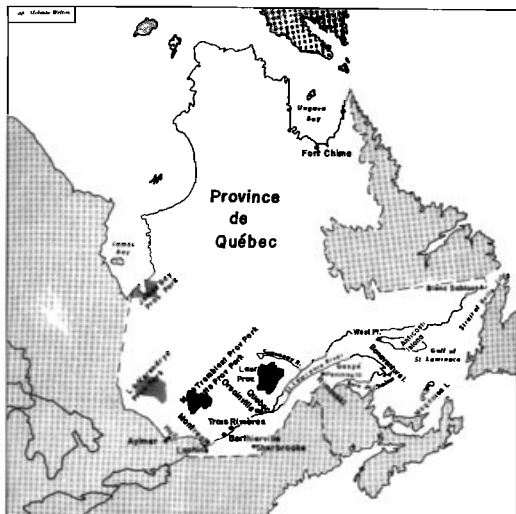
# The Nesting Season *June 1–July 31, 1975*

## QUÉBEC

/Normand David and Michel Gosselin

A record-breaking spell of hot dry weather prevailed over the southern half of the Province throughout June and July; water levels were very low everywhere. This year's breeding season was a successful one for most species with water birds nesting rather early. As usual, range expansions of many species are more noted than any population decreases. However, no dramatic losses were recorded.

In this first Québec Regional Report, an attempt will be made to emphasize the status of species which, in Québec, are at the limits of their breeding range.



**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Two Com. Loons in breeding plumage were at Ile-du-Moine July 6, this sighting suggests the possibility of birds nesting nearby in the St. Lawrence valley. This species is common on northern lakes; on L. Taureau, six pairs were seen each accompanied by two young, and two pairs with one (FH). Some 75 Red-throated Loons were observed from the Matane-Baie Comeau ferry June 1, obviously still migrating (RP). Only one Horned Grebe (July 2) was found in suitable breeding habitat in Magdalen Is. (ND). Pied-billed Grebes are still nesting on Montreal I. as four young from two broods were discovered on July 13 in a pond at the east end (MM). Pelagic birds were seen in good numbers off Blanc Sablon at the mouth of Belle-Isle Strait; on July 24, 200 N. Fulmars, 40 Greater Shearwaters and 60 Sooty Shearwaters were noted (MG). At the end of July, after several days of strong winds, five Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen flying over a lagoon of Magdalen Is. (ND).

**HERONS AND WATERFOWL** — Low water levels did not prevent Green Herons from being common in the Hudson area (GH, JW), but few southern herons wandered into the Province this summer. One Cattle Egret was found at Ile-du-Moine July 12 (JS, SH); two Great Egrets were reported, one at Berthierville July 13 (MM), the other in the Richelieu valley, also in July (*fide* GT). The rarely seen Least Bittern was recorded at Berthierville June 8 (MM), and at Ile-aux-Noix June 19 (GT). A flock of 17 migrating Brant was at Lachine June 17 (MM); this is the time of its peak abundance in the Lower St. Lawrence. Gadwall reached record numbers in the Ile-du-Moine area (MG); a nest containing 7 eggs was found July 19 (SH, JS). Six birds of this species were at Rimouski June 14. Also at Rimouski were two ♂ European Wigeons June 12-13 along with Am. Wigeons (JRP); 12 birds of the latter species were at Baie Ste-Catherine, Charlevoix Co. July 11 (DH). Two ♂ Redhead were at Berthierville June 7 (MM) and one at Ile-du-Moine June 21; these localities are within the breeding range of the species. Two Canvasback at Ile-du-Moine again June 21 (JS) are noteworthy lingering migrants as are the few Greater Scaup noted in the same area (SH), and the eight seen at Valleyfield July 11 (GH). Lesser Scaup were also at Ile-du-Moine, hopefully nesting (SH, JS). Late King Eiders were reported from Rimouski June 1 (JRP) and Port-au-Saumon, Charlevoix Co. June 8 (DH). Summering scoters are usual in the Gulf of St. Lawrence but this year a ♂ White-winged Scoter and a ♂ Black Scoter were seen at Valleyfield July 11 (GH). The only Ruddy Duck reported was at Berthierville June 1 (*fide* RC).

**RAPTORS** — Red-shouldered Hawks seem to be doing well in s. Québec; four nests in the Mt. St. Bruno area produced a total of 7 young (MT) while two others fledged from a nest at Orsainville (DL). Three lingering Rough-legged Hawks were reported from Forillon N.P. June 26 (*fide* RC). An imm. Golden Eagle (*fide* RB) and an imm. Bald Eagle were sighted at Bonaventure I. in June (FH). An adult of the latter species was seen at L. Taureau (FH); records in recent years suggest possible nesting in this locality. June reports of ad. Peregrine Falcons in the Montréal (JW) and Québec (*fide* RC) areas are encouraging; an imm. was in LaVerendrye P.P., July 2 (RP) and one of unspecified plumage in Joliette P.P., July 4-5 (CL).

**RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES** — Yellow Rails were calling at Ile-aux-Noix June 19 (GT), and at Ile-du-Moine June 21 (FB). Summer movements of shorebirds are summarized here mainly from observations made at the Magdalen Is. and Ile-du-Moine which are 700 miles apart. Reports from Québec City and Rimouski are also included. Killdeer are so common in s. Québec that it becomes difficult to get data on its year-to-year abundance, but reports from the Magdalen

Is (ND) show that its range is still expanding. A summering Black-bellied Plover was seen regularly at Ile-du-Moine in late June and early July (SH); another probable summering bird was at Maizerets, near Québec City June 19 (RL). Returning Ruddy Turnstones were recorded on July 17 in both the Montréal area (FB) and the Magdalen Is. (ND). Whimbrels were noted only in the Magdalen Is., from July 7 (ND). Upland Sandpipers are always rare away from the vicinity of Montréal but a small "colony" of at least three pairs seemed to be established near Jonquière (L. St. Jean) (NB). Migrating Greater Yellowlegs were in the Magdalen Is. July 5 (ND) and at Montréal July 17 (FB). Four non-breeding Lesser Yellowlegs summered at Ile du Moine until the arrival of a flock of 50 in the week of July 12 (SH); returning birds were also noted in the Magdalen Is., July 11 (ND) and at Québec City July 12 (*vide* RC). Red Knots were seen July 17 at the Magdalen Is. (ND) but not before August in other areas.

July 17 Pectoral Sandpipers arrived in the Magdalen Is (ND); July 19 at Ile du Moine (FB). Least Sandpipers are nesting in the Magdalen Is. (ND); their build-up at Ile du Moine follows: one (summering) June 28, three July 6, 40 July 12, 95 July 19 (SH). Figures for Semipalmated Sandpipers at the same location: two July 6, 80 July 8 (day of arrival in the Magdalen Is.) and 270 August 9 (SH). A good count of 150 Sanderlings was made at Maizerets July 12 (*vide* RC); 27 in breeding plumage, were at Lachine July 20 (SH). White-rumped Sandpipers were late migrants, seen only in the Magdalen Is. (ND).

A **Marbled Godwit** was at Rimouski June 12 (JRP); Hudsonian Godwit was noted only from the Magdalen Is where it is a regular migrant (ND). Three pairs of Wilson's Phalaropes were at Ile du Moine at the beginning of the breeding season; possibly due to the disappearance of most inland ponds caused by dry weather, these phalaropes were not seen after July 19, when two adults and four juveniles were observed (JS). At Nun's I., where they nested last year, they were last noted June 4 (SH). Six were also seen June 19 at St. Paul in the Richelieu valley (GT). These are the only areas where the species summered regularly in the last four or five years. Two N. Phalaropes were at Lachine June 2 (MM); 175 were seen off Blanc Sablon July 24 (MG).

**JAEGERS THROUGH PUFFINS** — Two Pomarine Jaegers were seen off Blanc Sablon July 24, and a light phase Parasitic Jaeger the following day; a Parasitic was also seen from the Matane-Baie Comeau ferry, July 28 (MG). The only Glaucous Gull of the season was at Blanc Sablon July 24 (MG). Immature Bonaparte's Gulls are summering here and there in s. Québec; a recently fledged brown-mantled bird was feeding with second-year and adult gulls at Bonaventure (Gaspé Peninsula) July 29 (MG), quite far from the species' known breeding grounds. The only Little Gulls of the season were at Ile-du-Moine: four on June 7 and one on July 5 (SH). A **Sabine's Gull** in almost adult plumage was feeding with Black-legged Kittiwakes off Blanc Sablon on the amazing date of July 3 (BL). Five **Forster's Terns** in breeding plumage were observed at close range and heard calling at Ile du Moine on June 28 (SH,JS); this species returns years after year in increasing

numbers: one in 1972, two in 1973, and four last year. Common Terns were found nesting at Maizerets, nests containing three eggs were found on June 3 & 16 (*vide* RC); David estimated that 2000 pairs of Common and Arctic (5 to 10 per cent) Terns are breeding in eight colonies on Magdalen Is. A migrant Caspian Tern was at Lachine July 18 (FB). From Blanc Sablon came the sad report of 75 (dead) Com. Puffins found by provincial policeman in a poacher's boat (MHA)

**CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard in July at Hudson (JW), while Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from many localities; they were especially numerous near L. Taureau (FH) and noted as far north as Roquemaure and Palmarolles (Abitibi Co.) June 29 (MM), and as far east as Port-au-Saumon July 23 (DH). A Snowy Owl in the Magdalen Is., June 3-5 (*vide* RC), is not unusual, the species has been summering in the islands for the past two years (ND). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were in higher-than-average numbers only at Mont Tremblant P.P. (MM). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were termed common at L. Taureau (FH), but unreported elsewhere. A flock of 1500 Bank Swallows was still migrating through Gaspé Bay June 8 (*vide* RC). Three E. Kingbirds in the Magdalen Is. July 2 were an uncommon sight (ND). **Willow Flycatchers** (*fitz-bew*) reappeared at Aylmer, near Hull, and Ville St. Laurent near Montréal (ND,MHE). In both places they favor wet inland fields with scattered willows and hawthorns, this habitat is not so common in the Province

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH STARLING** — Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported as especially common in mixed woods near Montréal and Québec City (MM,RC). House Wrens were also noted in good numbers; a pair was found nesting at Orsainville June 4 (RC). A new breeding species was recorded for the Province this summer: **Carolina Wrens** nested at Chambly and successfully raised seven young (GEH). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were holding territories at Mt. St. Bruno in June (MT) and at Ile du Moine in July (JS). Mockingbirds are spreading to new localities, this year, birds were found at Ste-Véronique near Mont-Laurier (RP), St-Maurice N.P. (*vide* RC) and Contrecoeur (MM). An out-of-range Gray Catbird was in the Magdalen Is. July 2 (ND) and a Brown Thrasher at Jonquière on June 1 (NB). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was seen and heard on June 28 at the edge of a jack pine forest near LaSarre airport, much out of the species known breeding range. Eastern Bluebirds were noted almost exclusively in the Hudson area where thirteen nesting boxes were occupied; in most cases two broods were raised by each pair (*vide* MM). Water Pipits were abundant within their habitat on top of Mt. Jacques-Cartier (Gaspé Peninsula) July 31 (MG). Cedar Waxwings occurred in fair numbers, at least in Mt. Tremblant P.P. and Gaspé Peninsula (MG). Starlings are still increasing; they were found nesting with seabirds on the cliffs of Bonaventure I. and possibly Percé Rock (RB). The scarcity of tree holes compels Starlings to favor cliffs of red sandstone in the Magdalen Is. (ND)

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — Yellow-throated Vireos were noted near Como, Oka and Mt. St-Bruno (*vide* MM). Golden-winged Warblers were summering at Mt Tremblant P.P. for the third consecutive year (MM) Tennessee Warblers were reported as especially abundant near Manic-3, Sagueynay Co. (*vide* FB); again this summer the species was seen in the Montréal area (St-Lazare), but there is nothing to indicate breeding. The sighting of a Cerulean Warbler in late May on Mt. St-Hilaire (FB) indicates that the species is still using that breeding locality. Blackpoll Warblers were migrating later than usual in the Montréal area, many being seen at the end of June (MM). R. Lepage sends in an interesting report on N. Waterthrushes feeding their young with spruce-bud worms at Ile aux Basques, off Trois-Pistoles. In n.w. Québec, Connecticut Warblers are restricted to jack pine forests; only two singing males were found at LaSarre airport June 30, where they were more numerous in past summers (RP). In s. Québec the Mourning Warbler was reported as especially common (MM).

**ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — Bobolinks are becoming more common every year in the Magdalen Is (ND). At Verchères, near Montréal, June 7, a W. Meadowlark was heard singing not far from where a pair bred in 1970 (MT); no reports were received from Quyon and St. Anicet where birds were seen last summer and last spring. Out-of-range ♂ Scarlet Tanagers included birds at Forillon N.P. June 16 (*vide* RC), Arvida and Falardeau (L. St-Jean area) June 7 and 24-26 (NB) Pairs of Cardinals spent the summer at Hudson and Rosemère, near Montréal, but no nesting evidence was found (*vide* MM). Everyone agreed on the abundance of Evening Grosbeaks, especially in the Laurentians and the Gaspé Peninsula; at the end of July, they were already moving through the Montréal area (MM). More Indigo Buntings than usual were found at L. Taureau with over 20 singing males seen in June (FH). Three Com. Redpolls seen on the barren grounds of Mt. Jacques-Cartier (July 31) may have been nesting. Although Pine Siskins seemed to be widespread, at least in e Québec (MG), only one report of Red Crossbills was sent from St-Pie-de-Bagotune 8 (*vide* RC) while White-winged Crossbills seemed restricted to the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Is. (*vide* *vide* RC).

Two Rufous-sided Towhees were at Berthierville June 18, the northern edge of their range (*vide* RC). Eight Grasshopper Sparrows were at Ste. Marthe, Vaudreuil Co., July 27 (FB), where a small colony has existed since at least 1968. On July 13, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Cap Tourmente (SL), the westernmost nesting locality of the species in the St. Lawrence valley and the only known one on the North Shore. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was heard singing and seen carrying food near LaSarre airport June 18; no further evidence of breeding could be found (MM); this is the northernmost record of this sparrow in the Province. Another bird at the limit of its range was a Field Sparrow at Cap Tourmente June 11 (RL). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported as common in the Chibougamau-L. Albanel area in July (RP).

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## NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

In order that this important Region be represented in the next (Autumn Migration) season's report, all sub-regional editors, contributors, and observers in this new expanded Region are asked to make every effort to submit their records promptly through their normal channels to the editor, Davis Finch. His address is 240 West 98th Street, Apt. 11-C, New York, New York 10025.

As all readers of *American Birds* know, Davis Finch is one of our most competent and dedicated editors. He has been gracing these pages for more than seven years with reports that are intelligent, articulate, and comprehensive. But he has been greatly handicapped recently by the receipt of material either too late for his deadline, or not at all. Please help return this valuable report to these pages. Deadline for reports from August 1 - November 30 is December 10.

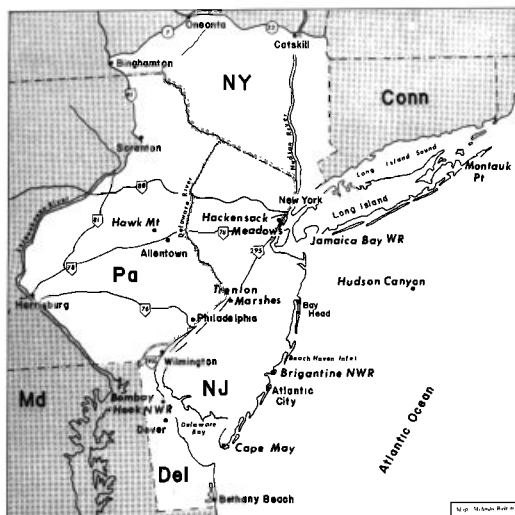
## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

**/P.A. Buckley, Robert O. Paxton and David A. Cutler**

With this column we welcome our readers to the new Hudson-Delaware Region, carved out of the old Hudson-St. Lawrence and the Middle Atlantic Coast Regions. Aside from achieving a more biologically homogeneous region, the major intent was to create a reporting entity that would encompass the "axis" consisting of, on the one end, the Delmarva Ornithological Society of Wilmington and the Philadelphia-based Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and on the other, the Linnaean Society of New York. In between, the Uner Ornithological Club takes in all of a formerly divided New Jersey. Many other groups and clubs operating in this area of high field activity were likewise disproportionately underrepresented. It is our hope that the new region is viable and that it will prosper. This can happen only if its member-readership supports it with data and by helping us establish an active reporting net with many local subregional editors and compilers. To this

end we will be contacting many groups in the near future. In any event, we certainly want to hear your positive and negative reactions to the new region and the column; we promise to act on them wherever we can.

Our policies are essentially unchanged from those recently summarized for the old Hudson-St. Lawrence Region (AB 29: 139). PAB should be sent material for the summer and winter seasons if not being passed directly to a sub-regional compiler; ROP would likewise be the recipient of spring and fall material. DAC will coordinate information for all four seasons for his old area.



The summer of 1975 had, with eleven inches of rain in New York City, the second wettest July on record. Near New York, many less hardy passerines' nesting attempts were cut short (especially of ground nesters) and they did not fare much better on second and third attempts. In Philadelphia, though, the equally heavy rains were not felt as having been so detrimental. Success data for colonial waterbirds were not available except for terns: they had, with one major exception, a first rate year on Long Island, fledging early and with little trouble. The exception concerned several Shinnecock and Moriches Bay terneries whose productivity was reduced almost to zero by Norway rat predation. This effect might have been more widespread this year, as very many Long Island and southern New Jersey terneries have been forced off beaches and islands onto rat-infested salt marshes by human interference.

Three June Christmas Bird Counts on Long Island came to our attention. The fourth Captree count, initiator of the concept, found 129 species on June 14 but little new this year. The startling differences in landbird populations inside and outside of Connetquot River State Park persist, raising important questions about the impact of people on woodland birds and their plant and animal habitat and food requirements. The astonishing numbers of Whip-poor-wills (75) and Veeries (114!) in 3000-acre C.R. S.P. are cases in point; none of the

former and only one of the latter were found outside the park. Central Suffolk took their first June count on the 21st, recording 133 species. They had many local surprises, among them a probable second Long Island coastal plain breeding location for Canada Warbler (C.R.S.P. is the other) and better-than-expected numbers of some marsh birds (both bitterns, Green-winged Teal possibly breeding in two locations, etc.) and of some field birds, notably Grasshopper Sparrow. Northern Nassau held their second June count this year (date unavailable), recording 130 species. Their surprises included eight probably breeding Bobolinks and a new Hermit Thrush location (both at Lloyd's Neck), breeding Brown Creepers at Muttontown Preserve, and a new site for Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows. A street-by-street count in the Village of Sea Cliff, L.I. the last week in May (L.L.A.S.) turned up, among other things, an Acadian Flycatcher (migrant?). There is probably not a 15-mile diameter circle in the H-D Region that would not make at least one surprising discovery on all-out breeding bird counts such as these.

#### S. A.

Colonial waterbird survey: the third annual helicopter survey of all of Long Island's coastline for colonially breeding waterbirds took place June 9-10-11, with PAB, FGB and MG censusing. Table 1 summarizes the results, comparing them with similar data taken in 1974. While detailed analysis of the results and actual colony locations will be presented separately, possibly also in *American Birds*, a few comments are pertinent. (1) Extensive ground-truthing reveals that while our gull figures are comparable from year to year (the same techniques and observers were used) and are based on territorial birds spaced throughout the colony, the figures thus obtained can be startlingly at variance with the actual number of nests present at the same time, sometimes by factors of two or three. Nonetheless, we believe the former data, rather than the actual number of nests counted at any one time, are probably the better indicators of true breeding population size. (2) Common and Roseate Tern figures probably should have a  $\pm 15\%$  attached to them, but Least Tern and Black Skimmer figures are probably within 5% of the actual number of pairs in each colony. (3) Heronries, owing to their inhabitants' proclivity to leave the colony entirely for long periods during the day if the young are large, could be underestimated by 25% or more. While these technique caveats should always be borne in mind, in many areas, especially along the Jones Beach strip and at Jamaica Bay, virtually exact counts have been obtained on the ground, and in most cases proved to be remarkably close to ours. Two other points deserve emphasis: (1) We merely took one sample of birds attending Long Island colonies at what was felt to be the optimal time of year for all these groups taken together; earlier and later breeders were untallied. (2) These data

do not give any indication of nesting success in a given year; they do, though, sample the same area in the same way at the same time year after year, and given a good run of years, should provide a means for monitoring quantitatively at least some long-term population changes.

The trend of southern species moving northward and northern species southward as breeders or attempted breeders continues, with generally the same species discussed in past years still active.

Rarities reported this season were legion, only the most extreme enumerated here: Northern Fulmar, White Ibis, Fulvous Tree Duck, Common Shelduck, Swallow-tailed Kite, *Purple Gallinule*, Wilson's Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Great Skua, Long-tailed Jaeger, *Gull-billed Tern*, Sooty Tern, Bridled Tern, *Chuck-will's-widow*, *Blue Grosbeak* and *European Goldfinch*. Italics indicate a significant breeding occurrence or suspected breeding.

**PELAGIC BIRDS** — As Table 2 indicates, there has been a recent upsurge of interest in offshore seabird observation, precipitated in large part by the discovery in the 1960s by the Trimble's that Cox's Ledge (ca. 71°30' W, 41°16' N) was not only a good cod fishing spot, but a magnet for pelagic birds. Only a few years ago, party boats also began making the run out to

Hudson Canyon (ca. 72°30' W, 39°45' N). While Montauk was the original port for Cox's observers, of late Rhode Island birders out of Galilee have been going almost weekly; they have provided the bulk of this summer's data for which we thank R. Ferren. New Jersey boats go more regularly to Hudson Canyon than any others, notably out of Atlantic Highlands, Brielle and Barnegat Inlet. We plan to tabulate as many of the data coming from these trips as we can, as this is virgin territory and each trip brings exciting reports.

This season, including a few late May dates, 19 offshore trips were made (Table 1). Some comments are called for. (1) No albatrosses were seen this year and almost everybody is specifically identifying their jaegers (*all adults?*). (2) The "early" arrival of Cory's Shearwater is probably not unprecedented, just undetected. If Cape Hatteras and Bermuda data are indicative (see *AB*, 27: 8-10, 1973), they are here in late May, but probably just much further offshore than the accompanying Sooties. (3) Peak Manx numbers closely parallel those of Sooties, confirming past on-shore data. (4) The recent spectacular expansion into this area of **Northern Fulmar** and **Great (?) Skua** is reflected in this summer's data. Three skuas on one day should be unprecedented, but in 1974 four were seen June 1 (*AB* 28:887)! Some specimens for racial/specific determination are badly needed. (5) Leach's Storm-Petrel remains normally a deep-water, far-offshore bird still authenti-

**Table 1. Estimated numbers of breeding pairs \* of colonial waterbirds on Long Island, N.Y. from surveys in June 1975 and June 1974. See text for additional discussion.**

|                            | 1975         | 1974         | Change from 1974 |             | Probably Reflects  |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------|
|                            |              |              | Numerical        | Per Cent    | Long-term Change ? |
| Great Egret                | 410          | 299          | 111              | +37%        | yes                |
| Snowy Egret                | 932          | 730          | 202              | +28%        | yes                |
| Cattle Egret               | 14           | 16           | - 2              | -13%        | no                 |
| Little Blue Heron          | 20           | 34           | - 14             | -41%        | yes ?              |
| Louisiana Heron            | 14           | 13           | 1                | + 8%        | no                 |
| Black-crowned Night Heron  | 516          | 455          | 61               | +13%        | ?                  |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron | (no data)    | (93)         | (n/a)            | (n/a)       | (n/a)              |
| Glossy Ibis                | 644          | 428          | 216              | +51%        | no ?               |
| (sub-total:                | 2550         | 1975         | 575              | +29%        | see text           |
| Herring Gull               | 21205        | 16764        | 4441             | +27%        | see text           |
| Great Black-backed Gull    | 1307         | 1838         | - 531            | -29%        | see text           |
| (sub-total:                | 22512        | 18602        | 3910             | +21%        | see text           |
| Common Tern                | 11758        | 10838        | 920              | + 9%        | no                 |
| Roseate Tern               | 2053         | 2342         | - 289            | -12%        | no                 |
| Least Tern                 | 2446         | 1677         | 769              | +46%        | yes ?              |
| Black Skimmer              | 458          | 356          | 102              | +29%        | no                 |
| (sub-total:                | 16715        | 15213        | 1502             | +10%        | see text           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>41777</b> | <b>35790</b> | <b>5987</b>      | <b>+17%</b> | <b>see text</b>    |

\* see text for discussion of inter-group variability in accuracy and precision of estimates

**Table 2. Pelagic trip data from the New York Bight, late May — late July 1975. For observers' names and other details please contact regional editor.**

|                               | 5/22 (BI)* | 5/25 (BI)* | CL } 5/31 | HC | 6/6 CL | 6/7 CL | 6/12 CL | CL } 6/14 | HC | 6/15 CL | 6/18 (MP)** | 6/21 CL | 6/22 CL | 6/27 CL | 7/5-7 (FI)*** | 7/8 CL | 7/15 CL | 7/28 CL | 7/30 CL |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|----|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----|---------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>N. Fulmar</b>              | 1          |            |           |    | 2      |        |         | 1         |    | 1       | 2           |         |         |         |               |        |         |         |         |
| Cory's Shearwater             |            | 1          | 1         | 15 | 5      |        | 12      | 1         | 32 |         | 80          | 83(5)   | 28      | 15      | 50-60         | 8      | 20      | 7       | 8       |
| Greater Shearwater            |            |            | 4         | 2  | 49     | 13     | 22      | 40        | 31 | 70      | 20          | 21(3)   | 54      | 70      | } 10,000+     | 40     | 12      |         |         |
| Sooty Shearwater              | 48         |            | 5         | 20 | 25     | 35     | 17      | 20        | 5  | 25      | 3           | 3(1)    | 2       | 4       |               | 8      | 3       | 1       | 1       |
| Manx Shearwater               |            |            |           | 1  | 1      | 4      |         | 2         |    |         |             |         | 1       |         |               | 1      |         |         |         |
| unid black & white shearwater |            |            |           |    |        |        |         |           |    |         |             |         |         |         | 15            |        |         |         |         |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel         | 31         | 500        | 43        | 15 | 92     | 150    | 150     | 500       |    | 25(10)  | 11          | 30      |         |         |               | 15     | 20      | 40      | 69      |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel          |            | 3          |           |    |        |        |         |           |    |         |             |         |         |         |               |        |         |         |         |
| Northern Gannet               | 13         |            |           | 4  | 6      |        |         |           |    |         |             |         | 1       |         |               |        |         |         |         |
| Northern Phalarope            | 1          | 16         |           |    | 1      |        |         |           |    |         |             |         |         |         |               |        |         |         |         |
| <b>Great (?) Skua</b>         |            |            | 1         |    | 1      |        | 1       |           |    | 3       | 1(0)        |         |         |         | 3             |        |         | 1       | 1       |
| Pomarine Jaeger               | 1          |            | 1         | 4  | 3      | 8      | 3       | 1         | 4  | 4       | 2(0)        |         | 6       |         |               | 2      |         |         |         |
| Parasitic Jaeger              | 1          |            | 1         | 2  | 1      |        | 2       |           | 10 | 5       |             |         | 1       |         |               |        |         | 1       |         |
| <b>Long-tailed Jaeger</b>     |            |            |           |    |        |        | 1       |           | 4  |         |             |         | 1       |         |               |        |         |         |         |
| unidentified jaeger           |            |            | 3-4       |    |        |        |         |           |    |         |             |         |         |         |               |        |         |         |         |
| Black-legged Kittiwake        |            |            |           |    | 1      |        |         |           |    |         |             |         |         |         |               |        |         |         |         |

\* 8 miles east of Block I.

\*\* 20 miles south of Montauk Point

\*\*\* 70 miles southeast of Fire Island Inlet

cally unrecorded from relatively shallow Cox's Ledge (ca 120 ft. depth). (6) Pomarine Jaeger continues generally more numerous at all seasons at Cox's, Parasitic being seen more frequently from shore. This is a trend mirrored on the Pacific Coast and elsewhere. (7) Peak jaeger numbers seem to occur in mid-June, confirming some 1950s data from the south shore of Long Island; usually all birds are adults, including the unprecedented four **Long-tailed Jaegers** seen June 15. These also probably are part of the Hatteras-Bermuda northward movement of seabirds mentioned above, and fit late-May/June dates for Long Island and Cape Cod Long-taileds going back almost 50 years but not always included in regional works. (8) Note same-day differences between Hudson Canyon and Cox's Ledge on May 31 and June 14, as well as day-to-day differences and similarities at Cox's Ledge. The two sets of June 21 data are for two different parties, both at Cox's Ledge! (9) Kittiwakes, fulmars and occasional alcids will probably prove to be at least as frequent as "ir-

regular" in summer offshore. (10) The vast flocks of shearwaters seen July 5-7 s.e. of Fire Island Inlet were in water at 74° F (=23.3° C). This is suspiciously close to Gulf Stream temperatures (24° C), and perusal of G.U.S.A. charts indicated that, indeed, the North Wall of the Stream made its closest approach to Long Island precisely around July 5, and that chart temperature for an area 70 miles s.e. of Fire Island Inlet was between 23-24° C, reflecting a pronounced northward eddy of Stream water. Thus one wonders if the 15 small black and white shearwaters were not Audubon's, although the predominance of Greaters and Sooties certainly does not rule out Manx. It should be also noted, though, that the Gulf Stream usually makes its closest Long Island approach in mid- to late July, (sometimes within 75 miles offshore) and it is precisely then that almost all local Audubon's Shearwaters have occurred (See report of nine shearwaters believed Audubon's and probably from warm water, 160 miles east of Delaware July 21, 1974 in *AB*, 28: 885).

**LOONS THROUGH WADERS** — More summering Com Loons than in recent years were complemented by several reports of the much scarcer Red-throats. One at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge June 13-20 was in breeding plumage (GK *et al.*). For details of the Long Island colonial waterbird survey, see Table 1; generally it was a good year and some possibly short-term reversals hinted at last year have been largely erased. Table 3 notes the contents of two other regional heronries, one containing the first Pennsylvania breeding record for Glossy Ibis and the other, on Pea Patch I., Del., must now be one of the largest in the northeast, although recent data from the Stone Harbor and Brigantine N.W.R. heronries are unavailable. Is no one censusing them? Eight pairs of Great Blue Herons successfully nested at Sandy Hook, N.J., and an additional 68 and 80 pairs, respectively, also bred at Lafayette (LM) and Hackettstown, N.J. (*fide* Jim Zames). No data on the Pomona site were received. What was described as an individual in the erythromelanic or "Cory's" color phase of Least Bittern was reported from Little Creek, Del in late July (JMA). See also Niagara-Champlain Region report. An imm. **White Ibis**, the second for n. N J , was at Paulinskill L., Sussex Co., July 23-26 (LM *et al.*).

**Table 3. 1975 population estimates (in pairs) from the largest known heronries in Pa.\* and Del.,\*\* respectively.**

|                            | Pea Patch I.,<br>Delaware River<br>(New Castle Co.) | Rookery I.,<br>Lake Clark,<br>Susquehanna R.,<br>(Lancaster Co.) |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Great Blue Heron           | 20  |  |
| Great Egret                | 175   |  |
| Snowy Egret                | 250   |  |
| Cattle Egret               | <b>4000</b>   |  |
| Little Blue Heron          | 180   | 350  |
| Louisiana Heron            | 20  |  |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron | 20  |  |
| Black-crowned Night Heron  | 300   | 58   |
| Glossy Ibis                | <b>2000</b>   | 6  |
| Total                      | 6965  | 414  |

\*P G Heisey, J.E. Dietz, & R.M. Schutsky

\*\*J H Wiese *et al.*

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS, GRUIFORMS** — The usual scattering of non-breeding waterfowl included Whistling Swan (L. Ontelaunee, Pa: MJS), Snow Goose (N.J., Del.), Brant (L.I.), Ring-necked Duck (N J ), both scaup (N.Y.S., L.I.), one Common and two King Eiders (Orient and Montauk Pts., resp.: PAB,FGB,MG), Oldsquaw (Conn., L.I.), all three scoters (L.I., N.J., Del), Bufflehead (L.I.), and Com. Goldeneye (N.Y.S., L.I.). Then there were the several **Com. Shelducks** that have been appearing for the last five years in summer at Bombay Hook N.W.R.: this

year it was one July 29 (Claudia Wilds) Is this a molt-migration? If so, where have they been coming from? Possibly breeding waterfowl included Pintail, (H.M.), Com. Merganser (n.e. Pa.), and Green-winged Teal (H.M. and several Long Island locations). Red-breasted Mergansers summered at all the usual past or suspected Long Island breeding locations, adding to the list this year Orient Pt. (DL) and mid Fire Island (PAB). Maxima were 14 on July 13 at Shinnecock Bay (GSR) and seven on August 9 & 22 at Moriches Bay (GSR,DL). Single **Fulvous Tree Ducks** appeared at H.M. June 25 through the period (DR *et al.*); July 18-30 at Brigantine N.W.R. (JKA *et al.*); and seven on July 11 at Bombay Hook N.W.R. (JMA,D.F. Abbott)

A Black Vulture pair raised two young near York Furnace, York Co., Pa., just about at their n.e. breeding range limit (Al Guarente). Several imm. Bald Eagles were wandering coastwise in mid-June (Conn , N.J., Del.), and apparently all three Delaware nest sites were active. We have no data on their success, though, and no indication the species still breeds in New Jersey. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk at J.B.W.R. June 21 (GK) paralleled a kettle of 14 adults at Race Pt., Cape Cod a few days later (PAB *et al.*). Their origins and destinations remain obscure, to say the least. Suspected Goshawk breeding occurred in New Jersey at Waywayanda S.P. and at Greenwood L. (both WL) but no nests could be located. New Jersey's second **Swallow-tailed Kite** in a year was seen June 24 over the Garden State Parkway near Avalon Stone Harbor (JKA; see comments in AB, 29: 133). Both Clapper (10+ pairs) and King (1 pair) Rails were present in the H.M. through the period (Ted Proctor,DS *et al.*) As yet there is no evidence of attempts at interbreeding. Ten pairs of Kings in Salem marshes are a good population for New Jersey, where its status is relatively unknown (JKM). A single Black Rail seen at J.B.W R June 11 (PAB) raises hopes of its breeding there, but night work a few days later failed to locate any calling males (THD,JA). Two territorial males continued calling through June at Oak Beach Marsh, L.I. (m ob ), but no other regional reports were received. Do they still populate the Delaware Bay marshes? **Purple Gallinules** wandered to Paulinskill Lake, N.J., early July through the period (LM *et al.*), and Mamaroneck, N Y July 16-23 (m.ob.). The pair at Dragon Run Marsh, Delaware City returned and raised four young (W J Wayne *et al.*) but a second Delaware breeding pair at Bombay Hook N.W.R. astonished observers by producing three young (Dorcas Ward *et al.*). Is Brigantine far behind?

**SHOREBIRDS** — American Oystercatchers continue to expand on Long Island. The colonial waterbird survey tallied some 46 pairs and may have missed at least two pairs. Breeders ranged from Breezy Pt. (Rockaway Pt.) and J.B.W.R. all along the south shore of Long Island to Shinnecock Bay and in the vicinity of Gardiner's I. The heaviest concentration was 16-20 pairs between the Captree and Wantagh Causeways, virtually all nesting in mid-bay on marsh islands (PAB,FGB,MG,AJL,BL). Post-breeding concentrations included 40 in one flock on N. Line I. in late July (m.ob.), and 41 at the same time in Tuckerton, N J

(B.C. Hiatt). Connecticut's sixth **Wilson's Plover**, a species now virtually unknown in this region at any time of the year, was a male that appeared very briefly at Greenwich Pt. June 2 (Doris Bova). A Solitary Sandpiper lingering at Jones Beach, L.I. to June 14 provided the latest N.Y.C. area spring record (MG). Willets continue to expand in the New York area, almost matching oystercatchers step for step. A pair fledged two young at Union Beach on Raritan Bay (WS) and an estimated 85-100 pairs bred on Long Island from Breezy Pt. and J.B.W.R. east to, but not yet beyond, Shinnecock Bay. Their center of distribution is clearly in the marshes between the Meadowbrook and Captree Causeways, where an estimated 45 pairs were breeding in mid-June (PAB, FGB, MG).

Southbound adult shorebirds appeared throughout the region, as usual, in great numbers beginning the first week of July, a phenomenon not yet appreciated by all local observers. As an example, the now-famous N. Line I. flats near Wantagh, L.I. (see below) saw some 28 shorebirds species by the end of July, including such reputedly "late" species as Am. Golden Plover (July 11), Dunlin (six on July 4) and W. Sandpiper (two on



Long-billed Curlew, Wantagh, L.I., N.Y., July 26, 1975. Photo/P.A. Buckley.

July 11). *The shorebird, if not the bird of the season, and what started all the activity on N. Line I., was the noisy and tame Long-billed Curlew discovered there on July 4 by A.J. and B. Lauro, and subsequently seen by hundreds until it departed about July 30. This is the first N.Y.S. record since 1938, when Helmuth saw one at Georgica Pond, L.I., Aug 11. The species has increased in the s.e. U.S. in recent years, occurring annually, in very limited numbers, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in the last 6 - 8 years. It has been found twice on Cape Charles, Va. Christmas Bird Counts and a few times in late summer/fall at Chincoteague N.W.R. in the last few years. The only recent, confirmed New England record since 1938, was one at Biddeford Pool, Me., May 7, 1968 (see *AFN*, 22: 587). If a trend, it is one happily anticipated by observers in these regions.*

Three southbound ad. Curlew Sandpipers were noted: Freeport, L.I. July 20 (E. Levine); July 28 - Aug. 2 Brigantine N.W.R. (JKM *et al.*); and July 27-28 Bombay Hook N.W.R. (D. Bystrak, C.S. Robbins), all

when expected. Adult Stilt Sandpipers peaked at 100+ July 30 at Brigantine N.W.R. (JKA). Nine different Ruffs were noted, including probably three different males on N. Line I. in July (m.ob.), and two pairs at Brigantine N.W.R. July 2 (JKA). Surely they are nesting somewhere in eastern Canada! On Long Island, the Upland Sandpiper maximum was 21 on July 8 at Suffolk Co. airport, Westhampton (HMcG). Some of these were undoubtedly migrants. Data on the J.F.K. Intl. Airport population were not available this year, nor were any reports received from New Jersey or Delaware. Southbound Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits were in evidence through July on Long Island and in s New Jersey, but one Marbled at Jones Beach June 11 (PAB, FGB, MG) was most likely a non-breeder. The first Am. Avocets of the season (nine) arrived at Bombay Hook N.W.R. July 11 (JMA); Little Creek's breeding Black-necked Stilts had a successful season, with one group of 15 July 19 (P.G. DuMont *et al.*).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — J.B.W.R.'s first Pomarine Jaeger flew over the West Pond parking lot June 17 (GK), and what was described in detail as a lame **Great Skua** spent the last two weeks of July resting with gulls on an island just inside Manesquan Inlet, N.J. (J.M. Coleman, *fide* WS). A count of 507 Great Black-backed Gulls on the Hudson R. at Piermont, Rockland Co. June 28 (A. Amos) is indicative of the species' rapid increase locally, especially inland. Two Black-headed and six Little Gulls summered in the Raritan Bay, N.J. area (m.ob.).

**Gull-billed Terns** finally nested on Long Island this year, the first known N.Y.S. occurrence. Two pairs raised at least two young near Jones Beach, following discovery of the nests by PAB, FGB and MG on June 11 during the colonial waterbird survey. Details will be published in *The Kingbird*. Disturbance by birders was serious enough that the second pair might not have fledged any young whatever. At least one of five original adults was still at J.B.W.R. July 13 (m.ob.) and yet another was at Moriches Inlet July 8 (HMcG). A group of 25+ at Brigantine N.W.R. in late July (PWS) suggests a good year in s. Jersey also. An ad. **Sooty Tern** spent most of May 20 in a Common — Roseate colony in Shinnecock Bay, but was not seen thereafter (LW). The only previous spring, non-storm occurrence, was, curiously, May 22, 1955 also in a Com. Tern colony, at Jones Inlet (PAB, P.W. Post). We surmise both came north with returning local Commons. What was described as a "probable" ad. **Bridled Tern** was seen well and closely, but in failing light, at Fire Island Inlet July 20 (AJL, BL). The description would seem to eliminate Sooty but the darkness of the back, seemingly exceeding that of any A.M.N.H. Bridled skin, mandated the observers' qualified identification (but see photo in *AB* 27:858, 1973). This would only be the third N.Y.C. area record, but with the recent discovery of Bridled Terns in numbers in the Gulf Stream all summer only a few miles off Cape Hatteras, N.C., the species should not be so unlikely at our latitudes as previously supposed.

**OWLS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS** — Breeding Short-eared Owls continue thinly scattered coastwise in



the north end of the region. No new locations came to light this year, but a family group of six flushed on a J.B.W.R. island June 21 was gratifying (THD,JA). The Long Island breeding pair of **Chuck-will's-widows** mentioned in the spring column fledged two young (THD *et mult. al.*); another male was calling at Shinnecock Hills from late June through at least July 16 (HMcG,LW).

The only Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Tunkhannock, Pa., through June (EC), presumably a local breeder. Still expanding northward, Acadian Flycatchers were new this year at Waywayanda S.P., N.J. (WL) and at Mianus R., George, Conn., June 7-17 (Jose de la Torre), although no nests were found in either locale. Clearly a migrant was one singing from *Phragmites* June 15-16 at J.B.W.R. (GK *et al.*); two at Mill Neck, L.I. June 7 (BJS,BHC) could be breeders or migrants.

Regional reports of presumed breeding Alder (*fee-bee-o*) Flycatchers are few and far between. This year single singing males were present through the period at Layton, Sussex Co., N.J. (GM *et al.*) and at N. Greenwich, Conn. (Tom Baptist *et al.*) in an area immediately surrounded by five pairs of Willow Flycatchers. Sympatry between these two sibling species is most uncommon this far south. Willows continue to spread along the coast, this year probably breeding at Brigantine N.W.R. (JKA). Cliff Swallow is down to less than 15 pairs in n.w. New Jersey, and is long gone from Long Island and as far as we know from adjacent New York State and Connecticut. A Purple Martin colony in Aston, Pa. reported about 200 hatches in their "best ever" year; however, banding indicated the per cent of returning first-year males was low (5-10%), compared to 40-50% last year (JG). Martins are still scarce on Long Island.

#### S. A.

Red-breasted Nuthatches continue their sudden southward breeding range expansion. This year they probably bred on Long Island, (following the first proven breeding in 1973; see AB, 27: 851) at Brookhaven Lab, Upton, (GSR,DL) and definitely did so at Old Westbury where the nest and adults were photographed (Gil Bergen *et al.*). In Pennsylvania, they also nested at Dallas, (EJ) and at Dingman's Falls (N.J.A.S.), and were suspected of nesting at Tunkhannock and at Red Rock (WR). In New York breeding was also thought to have occurred at Armonk (WH). As far as known, all proven or suspected nesting occurred in ornamental conifers, usually spruces.

Two Short-billed Marsh Wren reports were Hunlock's Creek, Pa. July 27 (WR) and Rockland L., Rockland Co., N.Y. May 29 (Philip Meisner). Evidence suggests that late July arrival on breeding locations (second nesting attempts?) might be the rule rather than the exception for this declining, but often overlooked bird. One hundred E. Bluebirds were banded in Longwood Gardens, Pa. following a nestbox program begun about 1970 (JG). A singing ♂ Ruby-crowned Kinglet in hemlocks June 14 near Equiunk, Wayne Co.,



Fledgling Chuck-will's-widows, Cedar Beach, L.I., N.Y., June 1975. First NYS breeding. Photo/T.H. Davis.

Pa. (F & W B. B. S.; detailed description of event but no name provided) raises the possibility of yet another Canadian Zone bird extending its range southward. This would be a seven-league jump if taken. Golden-crowned Kinglets were found nesting at Dingman's Falls, Pa. June 6-8 (RK,N.J.A.S.) and suspected in early July at Armonk, Westchester Co., N.Y. (WH) where apparent young of the year were seen with parents. Both instances occurred in Norway spruces, as usual. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher continues its spread, although rains in May and June hurt it badly. Twelve were found on the Captree June C B C, all at C.R.S.P. where the first nest was finally found (DE).

#### WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS —

Prothonotary Warblers were suspected of hole-nesting at Great Swamp N.W.R. in the same location as last year (H. Rickey). Breeding was assumed in Princeton (Ray Blicharz) and two pair were present on Bull's I. in the Delaware R. as in years past. A ♂ "Brewster's" plus another "Lawrence's" were together in the Greenwich, Conn. Audubon Center through the period (*vide* TB). Magnolia was the commonest warbler at Pocono L. Preserve in late July (R.F. Lewis) and a singing male was at Dingman's Falls June 7 (Ken Apps), where numbers of ♂ Yellow-rumpeds occurred. A male of the latter species was found at Layton, N.J. July 20, the second known July occurrence in New Jersey (Pete Backinski and Bruce Zatkow). Three territorial ♂ Black-throated Greens were found at Harrisonville, N.J. June 29 (JKA), part of the still-flourishing pine barrens population (subspecies?). Yellow-throated Warblers (presumably of the nominate race) still nest on Bull's I., the possible source of a singing male along the Big Flatbrook in Layton, N.J. June 7 (RK *et al.*). A pair on the same day at Newport, Cumberland Co., N.J. (DK) was in a breeding site occupied since 1973. Three singing ♂ Pine Warblers in Pitch Pines at Dingman's Falls June 6-8 (RK,N.J.A.S.) could be a breeding range extension into n.e. Pennsylvania. One writer neatly summarized the status of one "warbler" this summer when he wrote: "Where the hell are all the chats?" Where, indeed; possibly with the White-eyed Vireos?

Orchard Orioles continue their increase in the n. part of the region, with seven on the Central Suffolk and six on the n. Nassau June C B Cs. Six pairs of Boat-tailed Grackles are now breeding at Brigantine N.W.R.; when will they make the same jump to Long Island many of their marsh associates have? A pair of Summer Tanagers nested at Dividing Creek, Cumberland Co., N.J. in late June, but the eggs disappeared (DK,PWS). This is believed only the second 20th century New Jersey confirmed breeding, the other having been in 1955; nesting has been suspected almost annually in the last 6-7 years.

The pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** nested again in the H.M. (DR,GM), with another first year male nearby. Another pair nested unsuccessfully at the Atlantic City airport (JKA). Real news, though, was the discovery of a "colony" of 8-10 singing males at Assunpink Game Management Area, north of Allentown, N.J. in s.w. Monmouth and s.e. Mercer Cos. (WW *et al.*). Also here in July was a singing ♂ Dickcissel (WW), when one was also in Media, Pa (C.V. Atkinson). Both individuals might have been breeding. Two errant Evening Grosbeaks were found: one flying south at Brigantine N.W.R. June 14 (JKA) and one at a feeder in downtown Manhattan July 4 (Sheila Madden)!

— S. A. —

**European Goldfinch** possibly nested in Massapequa Park, L.I. this summer, where Robert Herman showed A.J. Lauro a purported deserted nest of this species in a hedge on June 28. Immediately nearby was one European Goldfinch. PAB has long thought the species might still be present, owing to the scattered reports in the last 20 years, in the northeast and on Long Island. It seems not insignificant that Massapequa Park was the last stronghold for the Long Island population in the mid-'50s when interest waned after observers were advised the population had been extirpated during the real estate boom in the late 40s and early 50s.

Several Red Crossbills again summered at C.R.S.P. but again, no nest could be located as the birds moved about a great deal (DE). Both Sharp-tailed (5 pairs) and now Seaside Sparrows (4 pairs) nest on the H.M. as *Spartina alterniflora* spreads (DS,RK). The only Henslow's Sparrows reported were two singing males in Lancaster, Pa. during June (Clyde Gamber). What has become of the Delaware Bay population active in the 50s? Mid-to late June, White-throated Sparrows were found in Pennsylvania at L. Como (EC), Dallas (EJ) and L. Ontelaunee (MJS); one showed up at Wenonah, N.J. July 31 (Wm. Middleton). White-throateds are known to breed sparingly in both n.e. Pennsylvania, and n.c. New Jersey.

**CORRIGENDUM** — *Contra* the statement in *AB* 28: 888, Red-breasted Nuthatches do breed, albeit in limited numbers, in ornamental spruce plantings in n.c. and n.w. New Jersey highlands.

**OBSERVERS** — (sub-regional compilers in boldface): Jackson M. Abbott, James K. Akers, James

Ash, Francine G. Buckley, Tom Burke, Barbara H Conolly, Earl Cowden, **David A. Cutler** (s. N.J., s e Pa. and Del.; see below), **Thomas H. Davis** (N.Y. S portion of N.Y.C. region; 94-46 85th Road, Woodhaven, Queens, N.Y. 11421), David Ewert, Michael Gochfeld, Jesse Grantham, William Howe, Edwin Johnson, **Richard Kane** (n. N.J.: New Jersey Audubon Society, Scherman Wildlife Sanctuary, P.O. Box 693, Bernardsville, N.J. 07924), Georges Kleinbaum, Don Kunkle, Anthony J. Lauro, Brook Lauro, David Larsen, Walter Lehnies, Glenn Mahler, Hugh McGuinness, James K. Merritt, Les Miller, Gilbert S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.: 73 West Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702), Dave Roche, William Sanford, Don Smith, P. William Smith, M.J. Spence, Barbara J. Spencer, Wayne Wander and Leroy Wilcox. Abbreviations used include C.R.S.P. (Connetquot River State Park), G.U.S.A. (Gulf Stream Analysis Charts), H.M. (Hackensack Meadows), J.B.W.R. (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge), L.L.A.S. (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society), N.J.A.S. (New Jersey Audubon Society), N.W.R. (National Wildlife Refuge) and m.ob. (many observers).— **P.A. BUCKLEY, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, Mass. 02114, ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt 12-K, New York, N.Y. 10027, and DAVID A CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa 19095.**

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F. R. Scott

The outstanding feature of the summer weather in this region was the excessive rainfall occurring in July, mostly in the first half of the month. Richmond, for example, recorded over 12 inches during the month versus a normal rainfall of 5.63 inches. Following more-or-less normal spring and June precipitation, this resulted in high water levels throughout the region but with little flooding. Temperatures were quite variable



in June but, with the heavy rains, averaged somewhat below normal in July. Tropical Storm *Amy* passed off the coast June 30 - July 1 with minimum damage to breeding birds except for some marsh- and beach-nesting birds along the immediate coast, many of which were washed out.

Featured among the reports for this season were the best regional surveys on record of nesting colonies of herons, gulls, and terns.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — As usual, summering Com. Loons were noted in several locations along the coast and in Chesapeake Bay, and on a boat trip in the Chincoteague, Va. area July 6 Malone had an unprecedented summer count of *ten*. One at Richmond, Va., June 22 was a first summer record for this area (FRS) Two Red-throated Loons were found on coastal Virginia, one at Burton's Bay, near Wachapreague, June 22 and the other at Assawoman I., July 5 (BW, BA & TFW). A Horned Grebe was present at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., May 26 - June 29 (JMA *et al.*), and single birds were seen on Sinepuxent Bay, Md., June 7 (RAR), in the Chincoteague area June 22 and July 19 (LKM), and at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., July 29 (BW, MAB & RAB). Pied-billed Grebes were fairly numerous at Chincoteague N.W.R., and broods were found here July 9 (2 very small young—CPW) and July 10 (4 half-grown young—LKM).

The only pelagic trip report received was one off Ocean City, Md., June 1. This trip was quite uneventful until the 40-fathom line was reached 45-50 mi. east-southeast of Ocean City, where a huge flock of seabirds was found feeding over a large pod of marine mammals. Included in this flock were 40 Cory's, five Greater, and 100+ Sooty Shearwaters and one Leach's and 3000+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels (RAR, MVB *et al.*).

#### S. A.

An apparently heavy die-off of Greater Shearwaters began on June 28, when 17 were picked up on the beach at Chincoteague Ref. (*vide* LKM). About 29 were also picked up during this period at Back Bay N.W.R., Va. along with one Audubon's Shearwater (DFH, *vide* LKM). According to reports received by Du Mont, these birds had been hanging around fishing boats off Virginia in mid-to late June acting very hungry and diving for baited hooks. Other dead Greater Shearwaters reported on coastal Virginia were two on Assawoman I., July 5, four on Hog I., July 15, and one on Smith I., July 16 (BW, BA & TFW).

Unusual inshore records included a Sooty Shearwater flushed off the water at Metomkin Inlet, Va., July 3 (BW, BA & TFW), three Wilson's Storm-Petrels in Cobb Bay, Va., June 20 (BW, BA & TFW), and one Wilson's Storm-Petrel at Chincoteague Inlet June 21 (LKM). A flock of 45 of these petrels was also found feeding over a school of porpoises in Mobjack Bay, Va., July 3 on the w. side of Chesapeake Bay (MAB, RL & JS). Malone and others carefully observed an apparent imm. **Great Cormorant** with an ad.

Double-crested at Chincoteague Ref., June 7-8. Summering Double-crested Cormorants were noted in many places along the coast and in Chesapeake Bay, peak counts being nine at Bloodsworth I., Md., June 19 (HTA), 22 at Metomkin Inlet July 23 (FRS *et al.*), and 21 at Assateague I., Md., June 24 (HTA).

#### S. A.

**HERONS, IBIS** — A survey of heronries in the Chesapeake Bay area during the spring and summer revealed 31 in e. Virginia and 36 in e. Maryland, not including many small (two to eight pair) Green Heron colonies (MAB, BA, TFW *et al.*). Of these colonies, 50 were on the Delmarva Pen. or on islands in Chesapeake Bay and 17 were west or south of the Bay. Although certainly not complete, this was undoubtedly the most comprehensive survey of this type ever made in this region. Although the results have not as yet been analyzed, a preliminary look at the field notes points up two important observations: (1) several inland heronries (mostly of Great Blue Herons) well known in previous years have apparently disappeared and not been replaced nearby, and (2) there no longer appear to be any Little Blue Herons, Cattle Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Louisiana Herons, or Glossy Ibis nesting west or south of Chesapeake Bay. The largest mixed heronry found was on Parramore I., Va., with 2775 pairs nesting (1200 of which were Glossy Ibis), and the largest inland colony was one of 390 pairs of Great Blues near Heathsville, Va.

Two Louisiana Herons near Hopewell, Va., July 27 were unusual this far inland (FRS), and Byrd and others counted 905 Black-crowned Night Herons flushed out of the heronry on Fisherman I., Va., June 7, the largest number by far in any colony surveyed.

**WATERFOWL** — The Mute Swan previously reported at Dyke marsh, Va. remained through July 12 (JMA *et al.*), and Reese noted at least 12 pairs nesting in Talbot Co., Md. A Brant was seen at Wreck I., Va., July 16 (TFW), and the only report of **Fulvous Tree Ducks** was from Craney I., Va., where three were seen July 20 (RJT, RLake *et al.*). Gadwalls now outnumber all other breeding waterfowl combined at Chincoteague Ref., with some 400 pairs noted there during the summer (NW, *vide* LKM). Three ad. Green-winged Teal near Hopewell, Va., July 27 were quite unusual (FRS), as was a King Eider near Claiborne, Md., July 21 (JR). Both Surf and Black Scoters were found in an unusual number of places on the coast and in Chesapeake Bay, with a peak of 15 Blacks at Metomkin I., Va., June 18 (BW *et al.*), and up to seven White-winged Scoters were seen in Talbot Co., Md. during late June and July (JR). Summering Ruddy Ducks included ten at Craney I., June 11 (FRS) and two at Chincoteague Ref., June 20 (JWJ *et al.*), and six Red-breasted Mergansers at Assateague I., Md., June 24 (HTA) was the highest count of many reports of this species near the coast

**HAWKS THROUGH GALLINULES** — A Sharp-shinned Hawk nest with four eggs found in June at Aquia Harbor, Stafford Co., Va. was the first nest of this species reported in e. Virginia in many years (PBrd, JT & JMA). Two of the eggs hatched and the young fledged by mid-July. Final results of the 1975 Bald Eagle nest survey in the Chesapeake Bay region revealed that of the 75 nests found, 44 were abandoned (or destroyed) and 31 produced a total of 46 young (JMA *et al.*). Five ad. Marsh Hawks in the Saxis, Va. area June 13 (FRS) indicated that this species is still holding on as a summer resident on the s. edge of its breeding range. An Osprey nesting survey on the w. side of the Chesapeake — mostly in Virginia — found that 288 rechecked nests averaged 1.17 fledglings per active nest (MAB). Nests from the Delmarva Pen. were excluded from these figures because of incomplete data. The first postbreeding Am. Kestrel (migrant?) appeared at Bellevue, Md., July 27 (HTA) and in Talbot Co., Md., July 30 (JR). At Elliott I., Md. the maximum Black Rail count was 36 in one hour June 1 (RAR & AL), and a Purple Gallinule, first seen near Seneca, Md., June 19 (RP), remained at least to June 29 (RAR).

**SHOREBIRDS** — High water levels in coastal impoundments during July were not conducive to large shorebird concentrations during this period. American Oystercatchers in c. Chesapeake Bay were found in June from Hooper I., Md. to Tangier I., Va., with a peak count of eight on S. Marsh I., Md., June 19 (HTA). Plovers were in good numbers on the n. end of Assateague I., Md., June 24 with 9 Wilson's and 47 Piping Plovers, the latter including three broods of one, two, and three young (HTA). Also seen here on the same date were two Whimbrels flying southwardly, either summering birds or extraordinarily early migrants (HTA). Three Upland Sandpipers at Kiptopeke, Va., June 26 were probably the earliest apparent fall migrants for the state (BW, BA & TFW), and a Willet in Talbot Co., Md., June 5 (JR) was considerably farther north on the Chesapeake than normal for a summering bird. Red Knots went unrecorded on coastal Virginia for only three weeks this summer. On Metomkin I., 98 were noted last on June 22 while 550 were seen again July 14 (BW, BA & TFW), an exceptionally early fall migration date.

A Purple Sandpiper in breeding plumage at Chincoteague Ref., July 19 (CPW) was inexplicable, and the last "spring" White-rumped Sandpipers were five at Easton, Md., June 17 (HTA). Malone examined an early Baird's Sandpiper at Chincoteague Ref., July 8 and an early four Stilt Sandpipers here July 11; 22 Stilt Sandpipers were also reported from Craney I., July 29 (BW, MAB & RAB). Godwits were reported in exceptional numbers on coastal Virginia, perhaps owing to the excellent coverage of this area this year. The list of June Marbled Godwits was enriched by two on Ship Shoal I. and nine on Smith I., both records on June 26 (BW, BA & TFW), and the peak count for coastal Virginia was a spectacular 52 on Smith I., July 16 (BW). Up to seven Hudsonian Godwits were seen on several occasions at Chincoteague Ref. beginning July 9 (CPW, LKM *et al.*). Ruffs were reported twice at

Chincoteague Ref., one in breeding plumage July 1 (LKM) and a winter-plumaged bird July 9 (CPW). American Avocets returned to Chincoteague July 10, when nine were seen (LKM), and good numbers remained throughout the period at Craney I., 46 being seen there June 11 (FRS) and 140 on July 29 (BW, MAB & RAB). One was also observed in upper Chesapeake Bay at Sandy Point S.P., Md., July 28-30 (HLW *et al.*). The Black-necked Stilts previously reported nesting at Craney I. raised two young (RLake & DLH), and the only phalarope report received was a Wilson's at Craney I., July 29 (MAB, RAB & BW).

**JAEGERS, GULLS** — The remains of a **Long-tailed Jaeger**, a first record for Virginia, were picked up on Ship Shoal I., June 26 (BW, BA & TFW); the specimen is now at the National Museum of Natural History. Bill Williams carefully observed a **Skua** flying off Assawoman I., Va., July 5, and a second-year Glaucous Gull was found on Assateague I., Md., June 24 (HTA). Two Iceland Gulls were discovered on coastal Virginia, one on Smith I., June 26 (BA & BW) and one, apparently flightless, at Kiptopeke June 26 and July 8 (BW, BA & TFW); both were apparently second-year birds. The second Maryland nesting of the **Great Black-backed Gull** was found in Chesapeake Bay on Smith I., June 20, where Armistead found two nests with eggs plus six large flightless young; this site is not to be confused with Smith I., Va., one of the coastal barrier islands. Bill Williams estimated ten pairs of these birds at the site of the first Maryland nesting previously reported in Chincoteague Bay near South Pt. The Herring Gull colony on Smith I., Md. was estimated at 2800 pairs in two groups with both eggs and young June 20 (HTA), the largest such colony ever reported in this region. Other Herring Gull colonies included 600 pairs on Fisherman I., Va., 60 pairs on Metomkin I., and about 300 pairs in four colonies in Chincoteague Bay, Md. (BW *et al.*). The biggest concentration of nesting Laughing Gulls reported was 5000 pairs in Hog Island Bay, Va. (*vide* MAB).

**TERNS, SKIMMERS** — The largest colonies of Gull-billed Terns found were about 365 pairs on Metomkin I. and 275 pairs on Ship Shoal I. (BW *et al.*). Six Com. Tern colonies were located on Chesapeake Bay, including 125 pairs at Fort Wool, Hampton, Va., May 6 (MAB), 90 pairs on Piney I., Manokin R., Md. (MAB), 188 nests with eggs and a few young on Smith I., Md., June 21 (HTA), and 150 pairs in Talbot Co., Md. (JR). In 1974 C.S. Robbins reported no Least Tern colonies reported in Maryland for "the first year in modern times" (*Maryland Birdlife* 30: 113 and 144). This year at least 130 adults (and 112 nests with eggs) were counted on Barren I., June 10 (BA *et al.*), 48 pairs were found in four colonies on Assateague I., Md., June 24 (HTA), and Reese found 25 pairs nesting in Talbot Co. In Virginia some 20 colonies were located, seven on Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries, totaling at least 629 pairs (MAB, BA *et al.*).

About 3100 pairs of Royal Terns nested in four colonies along the coast, including about 600 pairs in Sinepuxent Bay, Md. (MAB *et al.*), and although a few Sandwich Terns were noted in several areas, nesting

this year was not proved. For the second year in succession a pair of **Caspian Terns** nested on Metomkin I., and the adults and one young were located here June 25 (BW, BA & TFW). Two Caspian Terns — undoubtedly late spring migrants — were seen at Lynchburg, Va., June 6 (WB & KMF), and apparently summering birds included six inland at Hopewell, Va., June 22 (FRS). Armistead reported single birds at S. Marsh I., Md., June 19, Tangier I., Va., June 22, and Assateague I., Md., June 24, and the first “fall” arrival at Chincoteague Ref. was seen July 19 (LKM). A **White-winged Black Tern** returned to Chincoteague July 10 (LKM) and was seen by many observers later in the month. In c. Chesapeake Bay, Armistead observed 76 Black Skimmers in the Smith I., Md. area each day June 19-23, and Reese found one in Talbot Co., July 16. These were undoubtedly non-breeding birds, as no nesting of this species has been reported from the Chesapeake.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A Black-billed Cuckoo, a rare summer resident in e. Virginia, was present at Dyke marsh May 7 - June 21 (JMA *et al.*), and another was seen at Chincoteague Ref., July 10 (LKM). In violation of both state and federal laws, Lynchburg, Va. police killed a family of five young Barn Owls because of neighbors' complaints. Others, resenting the illegal killings, called in the U.S. Game Management Agent. The case received considerable local newspaper and TV publicity (*fide* RSF). Reese reported finding nine Barn Owl nests in Talbot Co., Md. during the period. Common Nighthawks were present on all the Virginia barrier islands during June from Cobb I. southward (BW), and a nest with two eggs was found on Wreck I., June 20 (TFW) and one with a single egg on Ship Shoal I., June 26 (BW). Chimney Swifts remained in low numbers over much of the region, especially at Norfolk, Va. (RLand) and in Fairfax Co., Va. (JWE). A **Gray Kingbird**, a first record for this region, was discovered at Girtletree, Md., June 14 (DH *et al.*). In Fairfax Co. both Barn Swallows and Purple Martins seemed in somewhat higher numbers this year than in 1974 (JWE). A pair of Cliff Swallows nested at Upper Marlboro, Md., apparently a first Coastal Plain record (BP), and 16 nests of this species were noted under the Blue Ridge Parkway bridge over the James R. near Big Island, Va., July 1 (MB & RC). This last is one of the few known colonies on Virginia's Piedmont. The first migrant Tree and Bank Swallows appeared at Bellevue, Md., July 4 (HTA).

**RAVENS THROUGH BLUEBIRDS** — Six Com. Ravens were noted along the James R. east of Lynchburg near Mt. Athos June 6, well east of the Blue Ridge (GH); these were probably a family group. Sheppard found a Red-breasted Nuthatch, an apparent vagrant, at Laurel Md., June 19, well out of its normal summer range. It could not be located subsequently. There were several very late spring records of migrant thrushes. These included a Swainson's Thrush at Arlington, Va., June 8 (RJW), a Swainson's banded at Richmond, Va., June 9 (FRS), and a Veery in Talbot Co., Md., June 5 (JR). Reports on E. Bluebird populations were very favorable, with higher numbers on the

Eastern Shore of Maryland (SHD) and good nesting success both at Clifton, Va. (JWE) and in Gloucester Co., Va. (EDP).

**WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS** — There was an unusual influx of Yellow-throated Warblers into the Piedmont of Maryland, mostly in river bottom hardwoods (m.ob., *fide* DB), and a ♂ Bobolink was seen on the n. end of Assateague I., Md., June 24 (HTA). Although the Scarlet Tanager is a local summer resident in s.e. Virginia, nesting reports are very infrequent. Thus it was of interest that a female was found incubating on a nest at Williamsburg June 8 (MAB & PBkr), and two young that fell from a nest here July 26 were hand fed to fledging (MAB). The House Finch continued to appear in this region during the nesting season. Reportedly, it nested at Ocean City, Md. (PByk), and two families were seen in Bladensburg, Md. (BP). In Virginia, where breeding has yet to be proved, a male and a female appeared at a feeder in Arlington, usually separately, June 3-20, and up to four were seen ¼ mile away, possibly a family group (AHF). And finally, a female was present at Lynchburg May 28 - June 4 (TH). Up to three singing Vesper Sparrows were present at Locustville, Va. during June and July (JAB & FRS), the only “colony” of this species known from Virginia's Eastern Shore. Two White-throated Sparrows were present all summer in a Richmond, Va. city park (FM).

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## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Robert P. Teulings

All accounts indicated a successful, normally productive nesting season in the Region. Warm and dry conditions generally prevailed through late June, broken by 10 days of cool, wet weather during early July. The season's first tropical storm, “Amy”, developed off the coast during the latter period but posed no serious threat to the coastal heronries and tern colonies. Numbers of Brown Pelicans nesting at two major South Carolina breeding sites showed a substantial increase this year but the reproduction rate remains below par.

Special highlights of the season included the first summer sighting of a Skua off Cape Hatteras and an



unexpected nesting of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the North Carolina piedmont. The Region's first confirmed nesting of House Finches was recorded at Charlotte.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Com. Loons were observed at several North Carolina locations during the June-July period. One was at Belews Creek L. near Winston-Salem June 8 (JSh) and another at Oregon Inlet July 15 (MJ). Two were found at Roanoke Rapids L., Halifax Co., N.C. June 7 and another was later seen there June 23 (ML). A Horned Grebe was observed June 18 at Beaufort Inlet, N.C. (TQ *et al.*). In the Gulf Stream 24 mi. off Cape Hatteras, N.C., 15 Cory's Shearwaters were seen July 5 (RR), and two were sighted off Myrtle Beach, S.C. July 18 (CRH). Small numbers of Audubon's, Greater, and Sooty Shearwaters were recorded by several offshore parties during June and July with up to ten Sooties noted off the Charleston jetties July 3 (PC and party). An apparently exhausted bird of the latter species was also found on the beach at Cape Lookout, N.C. June 21 by Robert Hader. Wilson's Storm-Petrels seemed to be the most abundant of the pelagics present off the coast of the Carolinas during the period. Counts of 60 to 75 were recorded off Hatteras May 18 (DS) and July 5 (RR) and good numbers were seen outside Charleston Harbor July 6 (WE, *fide* PN). Two **Black-capped Petrels** were sighted in the Gulf Stream waters off Hatteras by David Sonneborn May 18, and a White-tailed Tropicbird was found 40 mi. off Charleston June 14 (DF and party). Two tropicbirds were reportedly seen by other observers off the North Carolina coast, but the dates and details of these sightings are not presently available. A Magnificent Frigatebird was seen off Pawleys I., S.C. July 4 (RAD) and another was sighted at Kill Devil Hills, N.C. July 14 (MJ). Single Double-crested Cormorants were out-of-season summer vagrants at Huntington Beach, S.C. June 29 (FP), and at Roanoke Rapids, N.C., July 27 (ML).

**BROWN PELICAN** — Nesting was monitored again this season by the U.S.F.&W.S. at Marsh I. in Cape Romain N.W.R. and Deveaux Bank, the two major nesting colonies in South Carolina. Biologist Larry Blus reports that approximately 1500 nests were

counted on Deveaux Bank and 900 on Marsh I. The number of nests at the latter site was about the same as in 1974, while the number on Deveaux Bank nearly doubled. Overall, this represented an encouraging 30% increase in the population from last year. However, reproductive success was not good with an average of only 0.59 young fledged per nest on Marsh I. and 0.87 young per nest on Deveaux Bank. Blus points out that the estimated rate of reproduction needed to maintain a stable population is 1.2 to 1.5 young per breeding female per year.

**WADERS AND WATERFOWL** — Reports from Savannah (JD), Charleston (TB), Morehead City (JF) and Pea I. (NFW) indicated that herons, egrets and ibis generally enjoyed a good nesting season along the coast. The only reported instance of high mortality was the loss of 300 to 500 nestlings at the Savannah Refuge heronry from a heavy July rainstorm (JD). Aerial surveys have pinpointed the location of several small Great Blue heronries in e. North Carolina (JFP,RFS). The species has long been known to breed in the state, but specific information on the number, size and location of nesting colonies has generally been lacking. It is anticipated that the results of this study will be published soon. An estimated 3000 pairs of Cattle Egrets and 300 pairs of White Ibis were found nesting this summer at Boykin Mill Pond in Kershaw County, S.C. (SG). This newly discovered colony may be the largest inland rookery in South Carolina. An unusual influx of Snowy Egrets and Louisiana Herons was noted in the Augusta area July 20 (GK), and normal post-breeding dispersal of herons and egrets away from their nesting localities was documented by observers elsewhere as far inland as Winston-Salem during the last half of July. A noteworthy record not reported earlier was the presence of a **Reddish Egret** at Oregon Inlet on the North Carolina Outer Banks May 17-28 (m.ob.; photos by AG). At Brunswick, Ga. a flock of 8 Roseate Spoonbills was seen July 16 (TM *et al.*).

Several unusual summer records for waterfowl were also reported. A Green-winged Teal was found at Raleigh July 7 (CS) and a Fulvous Tree Duck at Charleston July 11 (PN). A flock of 25 Black Ducks was a surprising find at Roanoke Rapids L. July 27 (ML). Most surprising, however, were **Black Scoters** found lingering through June and July along the coast. Four were seen at Carolina Beach June 11 (JFP,RFS); eight remained at Hilton Head I. until July 2 (LL); and a least five were still present in the Morehead City area as late as July 29 (*fide* JF).

**RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS** — At the Regional Editor's request observers were asked to comment on the status of Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures in their localities. The consensus seems to be that both species are steadily declining in numbers, although hard data are lacking. A Mississippi Kite was seen in Anson County, N.C. July 12 (RC,SA). This species is not presently known to be nesting in North Carolina, but there is a summer population in the Bennettsville, S.C. area which possibly extends northward along the Pee Dee R. across the state line. Kites also may be nesting along the Waccamaw and Lumber Rivers in s.e. North

Carolina. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen June 22 at L. Brandt near Greensboro, N.C. (RC) and near Nelson in Durham County, N.C. July 29 (RT); both sightings were of single individuals. A pair of Cooper's Hawks fledged two young at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston (TB), the only nesting record reported. A surprising number of Bald Eagles were seen during the period with five sightings of immatures reported from the coastal section and one from L. Hartwell near Clemson July 14 (GH). Two adults were seen elsewhere, one at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R. in Chesterfield Co., S.C. June 10 (PMcK) and another at Tuckertown L. in Davidson Co., N.C. July 3 (MM *fide* DB). At Pea I. a Marsh Hawk was seen July 30 (NFW). Observations of Am. Kestrels near Pendleton, S.C. in mid-June (HL) and in the North Carolina Sandhills at Pine Bluff and Fort Bragg in early July (JC) indicated the probability of nesting in those localities. Elsewhere, individuals were seen July 26 at Eufala N.W.R. in s.w. Georgia (WM) and July 27 in Halifax Co., N.C. (ML).

A Ruffed Grouse was seen the last week in July near Rock Castle in Rockingham County, N.C. (DCo *fide* EB). This is the second season this species has been reported from this piedmont locality which is well east of the known Appalachian breeding range. There appear to be no published records of Ruffed Grouse breeding in North Carolina e. of the mountains, but assertions have been made that its range once extended through much of the piedmont section of the state. In Georgia, King Rails were present this summer in good numbers at Eufala N.W.R. (WM,FL), and a small resident population was found near Marietta (JS). A Virginia Rail seen near Townville, S.C. July 6 was a first summer record for that locality and apparently for the state (HL). A Black Rail was observed there at the same time (HL). The latter species was also reported from Gainsville, Ga. (JP) and one was seen July 23 at Johns I. near Charleston (PN,CN).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Black-necked Stilts are continuing to increase in numbers as summer residents in the Charleston area (DF), and there were reports of nestings from Savannah and Brunswick, Ga. At Savannah, about a dozen young of the year were seen in a diked dredge spoil area in the Savannah R. July 1 and nests were also found (PY). The newly discovered stilt colony at Brunswick was said to consist of at least 10 breeding pairs (EBun,TM *et al.*, *fide* EY). The appearance of Sanderlings and small flocks of Whimbrels and Black-bellied Plovers at Pea I. in early July signaled the start of the fall shorebird migration (NFW). At Pawley's I., Piping Plovers, Whimbrels, and Spotted Sandpipers were all noted by July 28 (FP). An early Long-billed Curlew was found near Charleston July 21 (DF *et al.*) and one was seen near Morehead City August 9 (JF). Stilt Sandpipers were more common than usual in the Morehead City area in late July (JF), and one was very early July 26 at Brunswick, Ga. (TM,JS). Inland, observers found four White-rumped Sandpipers at the Winston-Salem sewage treatment plant June 16 and another July 7 (RS *et al.*). A Least Sandpiper was noted July 6 at Townville, S.C. (HL), and a Greater Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper were found at Thomasville, Ga. July 9 (RLC,NW).

**SKUA, GULLS AND TERNS** — During a pelagic cruise July 5 aboard the "Shady Lady", Richard Rowlett recorded a good observation of a *Skua* 24 mi. ESE of Cape Hatteras. The bird flew within 60 yards of the boat and was well seen. This occurrence provides a rare record for North Carolina waters and the first reported during the summer season. Single Bonaparte's Gulls were noted as out-of-season vagrants in the Morehead City area June 21 & 29 (JF). Inland, three Com. Terns were seen at L. Gaston in Warren Co., N.C. June 2 (HL), and a Gull-billed Tern was an unexpected visitor at Salem L. near Winston-Salem July 15-16 (FB,CF,RS). Observers reported good nesting success of summer resident gulls and terns at nearly all coastal locations. The only exceptions were the failure of several Least Tern colonies in the Charleston area due to weather factors and predation (TB,DC). The Sandwich Tern colony at Hatteras Inlet on the North Carolina Outer Banks contained a record 500 nests this year and was highly productive (RFS).

**BUDGERIGAR** — A pair attempted to nest, apparently without success, at Beaufort, N.C. this summer (EP). According to local reports there have been several birds visiting feeders in the area since winter (*fide* JF).

**KINGBIRDS THROUGH SHRIKES** — A Gray Kingbird was seen at Topsail Beach, N.C. June 13 (GW), and one was found at Sea I., Ga., July 27 (TM,JS). At least two pairs of Horned Larks summered and presumably nested at Oconeechee Neck in Northampton Co., N.C. (ML). Recent reports also indicate the species is breeding sparingly at Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and Southern Pines. A Bank Swallow was seen June 2 at L. Gaston in Warren County, N.C. during the running of a breeding bird survey route (HL). One was also noted at the same stop along that route in 1974 (*fide* HL), indicating the possible existence of a local nesting colony. Curiously, there has been no previous evidence of Bank Swallows nesting in the Region although their breeding range extends southward to s. Virginia, s.e. Tennessee and c. Alabama (Bent, 1942). Barn Swallows, meanwhile, are continuing to increase as breeding residents in e. North Carolina. They are nesting commonly in Nash County (LF), and field work this summer by Merrill Lynch has established nesting records for Bertie, Hertford, Gates, Perquimans, Washington, Tyrrell and Dare Counties. Common Ravens nested successfully again at Pilot Mountain S.P. where a family group of two ad. ravens and three juveniles was seen June 11 (DSC). Pilot Mountain, a piedmont landmark located 30 mi. n.w. of Winston-Salem, is the only raven nesting site known outside of the higher and remote mountains of the Appalachian Region. Noteworthy for similar reasons was the nesting of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** this summer at Eden, N.C., where a pair of "winter stragglers" lingered through May and then turned up with two downy fledglings in early June (EB). The parents and young were seen intermittently through July 1. Eden is more than 100 mi. e. of the mountain nesting localities in w. North Carolina. Gray Catbirds were found breeding at Thomasville, Ga., where a nest containing young was discovered July 2, documenting the southernmost

nesting record for the Region (RLC, WB, NW). A Water Pipit was a surprising find at Brunswick, Ga., July 28 (JW), and several summer sightings of Cedar Waxwings were equally unusual at Winston-Salem (KH *fide* RS). A locally rare breeding record for Loggerhead Shrike was noted at Morehead City where a pair was seen feeding young in late May (JF).

**WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES** — Two June reports of Black-and-white Warblers from the Columbus, Ga. area indicate the likelihood of nesting in that locality (JM, FL). On the Georgia coast an early migrant was seen at Brunswick July 27 (JS). An impressive population of Prothonotary Warblers was noted on a June 11 Breeding Bird Survey along U.S. 64 in Dare and Tyrrell Cos., N.C., where 52 individuals were recorded at 32 stops (ML). Elsewhere in the n.e. coastal plain section of the Region, Worm-eating Warblers were again noted this summer at White Oak Pocosin in Gates Co., N.C., and two were heard singing near East Lake in Dare Co. June 11 (ML). One was also found on territory June 19 in Carteret Co. near Merrimon (JF). As with Worm-eating Warblers, little is known about the breeding distribution of Ovenbirds in the coastal plain. Lynch found them quite common on B.B.S. routes in Gates, Hertford and Tyrrell Counties, N.C., during the second week of June, and one was heard June 4 at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R. in Chesterfield Co., S.C., making it a new nesting season record for that locality (PMcK). A Bobolink was an unexpected find (very late migrant?) June 29 at Seaforth in Chatham Co., N.C. (RC), and a Yellow-headed Blackbird was a rare summer visitor at Augusta July 9 (CB, GK). A ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole was also seen at the latter location June 18 (GK), and a pair nested at Winston-Salem (RS).

**FINCHES AND SPARROWS** — The first definite evidence of **House Finches** breeding in North Carolina has been reported from Charlotte where two pairs were present through the summer at Wing Haven Sanctuary. One pair brought newly fledged young to feeders there during the last week of May (EBC). A ♂ Purple Finch broke all records for late lingerers by showing up at a feeder in Winston-Salem June 21-27 (LA, FA *fide* RS). A Red Crossbill was observed July 8 in the Southern Pines, N.C., area where a rare nesting was recorded last year (JC). A nesting colony of 10 to 15 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows discovered last year at Halifax County Airport near Roanoke Rapids, N.C. was checked again this season and found to be doing well (ML). Bachman's Sparrows were said to be down in numbers at known nesting areas near Charleston (TB), but a good summer population was found in Carolina Sandhills N.W.R. (PMcK). In the Southern Pines area, the species appears to be an uncommon breeder restricted mainly to a few suitable habitat sites in Fort Bragg Military Reservation and Sandhills Game Land (JC). A White-crowned Sparrow was observed July 26 near Rocky Mount, N.C., presumably a non-breeding straggler from a local wintering colony (LF). Late-lingering White-throated Sparrows were still present at Winston-Salem (SM) and Gatesville, N.C. (CM) in early June.

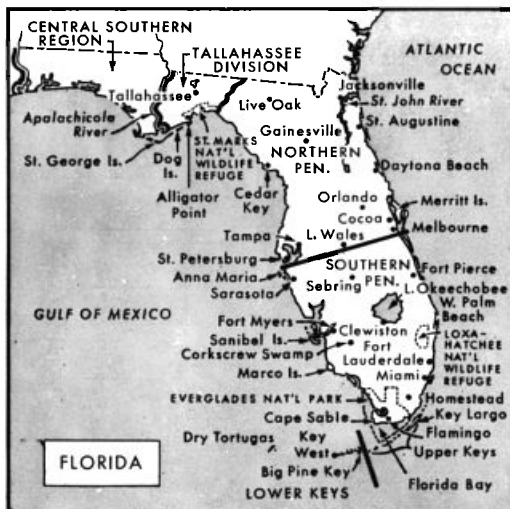
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## FLORIDA REGION

/John C. Ogden

Rainfall and temperature in Florida during the summer of 1975 were reasonably close to normal, except for unusually heavy rains in the Tallahassee Division. There was an annual excess of 23 inches at Tallahassee by the end of July, which included 9 inches from a tropical depression that passed west of town, July 28-30. That rain was enough to prompt one local theatre owner to post on the marquee "Pray for drought." So little field work occurred in Florida this summer that this report is the shortest I've written.





Large regions had no field work, including much of the West Coast and, with the exception of the Zellwood shorebird fields, most of the interior south of Gainesville as far as Lake Okeechobee. Yet the following report still contains some excitement, in large part because of a systematic pelagic survey off the east coast by Bob Barber and Johnny Johnson, a rapidly growing interest in the state-wide status of nesting wading birds by many observers, some thorough studies and surveys of terns and skimmers in the Jacksonville region by Steve Sutton, Bryan Obst *et al.*, and the valuable state-wide field work of Henry Stevenson.

**GREBS THROUGH PELICANS** — A Pied-billed Grebe in immature plumage was picked up dead at the WCTV tower, Leon Co., July 17, seemingly an unusual date if the bird was a transient (RLC). Regular surveys of pelagics off Cape Canaveral (RDB&JJ) produced the following high counts: one Sooty Shearwater July 1, three Audubon's Shearwaters July 20, 200 Greater Shearwaters and 52 Cory's Shearwaters July 1, and three Leach's Storm-Petrels July 3, the latter carefully compared with the common Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Approximately 100 dead or dying Greater Shearwaters were picked up on the beaches of S. Brevard Co. during early July (RDB,HWK). Most appeared to have starved, although Kale suggested that more underlying and presently unknown causes may have been responsible. Remarkably high counts of White Pelicans for mid-summer occurred on L. Hancock near Bartow: 400 on June 15 (BE *et al.*), and 270 on McKay Bay July 17 (GEW). Edscorn reports that White Pelicans range over much of w. Polk Co. phosphate ponds and west to McKay Bay during some summers. Most are subadults (GEW).

**WADING BIRDS** — It was in the summer seasonal report only one year ago that I suggested the need for a coordinated aerial survey of wading bird nesting colonies in Florida. Now there are two surveys going, and the quantity of information on nesting colonies has increased so greatly that much of it can't be told in this report. One survey flown by Steve Nesbitt and Jim Kushlan under contract with Patuxent Wildlife Research Center is designed to locate all wader nesting colonies on the East Coast. I initiated the second survey, originally geared to locate all Wood Stork rookeries in Florida, but this survey is now expanded into a cooperative effort to locate all wader colonies in the interior and on the West Coast. Since the information generated by these surveys is so massive and not yet coordinated, I'll report only highlights here.

The stork survey conducted in April and June produced the best estimate of the number of breeding pairs and their success that has been acquired since the late 1950s. The total was 5500 pairs of nesting storks, which produced about 9500 young (JCO,SAN). Stork nesting was particularly successful at Corkscrew (6000 young) and Lane River (2000 young) in s. Florida, and was also successful at six smaller sites, mostly in north and c. Florida: Sadie Cypress (50 young), Pelican Island N.W.R. (450 young), Moore Creek in Merritt Island N.W.R. (300), Dee Dot Ranch (150), L. Yale, Lake Co. (300), and Croom (100). Storks also nested

with unknown results at Cypress Creek, St. Lucie Co (new site), and west of Edgewater, Volusia Co., produced only a few young at River Styx, and had nesting failures at Barley Barber Cypress, Martin Co., and Black Hammock, Duval Co. The Florida stork population likely would maintain itself if most years were as productive as 1975, but apparently most years are not. A somewhat arbitrary list of important or interesting nesting or sightings of other waders follows. The mixed-species colony on the large island in Moore Creek, apparently not closely examined until this year, contained roughly 5500 nests in late April (JCO,MB). The number of pairs of each species was 1900 Snowy Egret, 1700 White Ibis, 650 Louisiana Heron, 625 Cattle Egret, 150 Little Blue Heron, 125 Glossy Ibis, 100 Great Egret, 300 Double-crested Cormorant, and smaller numbers of Great Blue Heron and Anhinga. White Ibis again successfully nested in the open everglades in Conservation Area 3A south of Alligator Alley, where an estimated 11,000 pairs had flying-sized young in May (JAK). The large wading bird nesting colony, primarily Cattle Egrets and White Ibis, active last fall in the Okaloacoochee Slough, Collier Co., formed again this year and contained roughly 10,000 pairs of incubating waders July 28 (JCO).

On the same date, a second colony of 5000 pairs of Cattle Egrets and 500 pairs of White Ibis, also mostly incubating, was further north in the same slough in s.w. Hendry Co. Somewhat overshadowed by the earlier news of Roseate Spoonbills nesting in Tampa Bay, three pairs also successfully nested at Lane River in April, one of the few mainland nestings reported in Florida this century (JCO&MB). Following another successful winter of nesting by spoonbills at several colonies in Florida Bay, record numbers (for recent years) of young and subadults dispersed far north through the peninsula. Herb Kale presented some details of this spoonbill movement in his spring report, other records include up to four at three Alachua Co. localities, June 1-12 (JHH,SAN), six at Seahorse Key June 25 (DJ), 17 at Flagler Beach July 26 (BW), five at Zellwood July 23 (GSM&RH), 12 west of Fernandina Beach June 19 (HWK) and sightings in Highlands, Glades, DeSoto and interior Charlotte Counties (ALR,JNL,FEL), including a high count of 50 south of L. Okeechobee July 28 (JCO). Most Reddish Egret nesting in Florida Bay occurs during winter and spring, so a nest with eggs at Cowpens Aug. 19 seems unusually late (SS). Post-breeding dispersal of Reddish Egrets included three dark immatures at Merritt Island, June 7 (PWS), two dark adults and one white immature, Ft. Pierce Inlet July 29 (HWK&RT), and another offshore sighting, this one flying east toward the n. Bahamas and out of sight of the Florida coast, off Cape Canaveral June 8 (RDB,JJ&PWS).

**DUCKS** — Two Black-bellied Tree Ducks of unknown origin were at Zellwood July 2 (BP). Another record of a Mottled Duck on St. George I., June 16 (WWB), seems to indicate that this species may now be regular there in summer. A high count of 11 Mottled Ducks on L. Jackson July 13 (NOW) were the first recorded in Leon Co. Adding to the evidence that scot-

ers may sometimes summer in Florida waters were 23 Surf Scoters at Alligator P., Franklin Co., July 20 (DJD). A freshly-dead Red-breasted Merganser July 6 at L. Munson was the first July record for Leon Co. (HMS).

**RAPTORS** — A late surfacing report of a White-tailed Kite seen n. of Homestead, April 19, is perhaps the southernmost record in the state, and adds further puzzlement over the status of this species (Rhonda Hampton, *vide* JMK). This bird was watched with binoculars as it hovered over a plowed field and captured a small rodent. The black wing patches were well seen. The curious aspect of the increased number of White-tailed Kite reports during recent years is that they have been widely scattered without much seasonal or geographic pattern, a fact that probably supports Kale's speculation (*Fla. Field Naturalist* 2:4-7) that the White-taileds in Florida are not a resident population, but stray from other parts of the species' range. Three Swallow-tailed Kites s.e. of Tallahassee July 17 (JMS), is the largest number recorded in Leon Co., and the first seen there in July. Edscorn has the feeling that Swallow-taileds have very slowly increased during recent years in c. Florida, specifically in the Green Swamp region and around Lakeland. The final count of young Everglade Kites from L. Okeechobee nests was an impressive 34 (RC). Cooper's Hawks, perhaps not as rare as thought, were seen at Camp Blanding, e. of Starke, June 13 (HMS), at Nassau Sound, Duval Co., June 12 (HMS), in e. Orange Co., July 7 (RDB&JJ), near Steinatchee July 7 (GEM), and at Medart, Wakulla Co., July 1 (JMS). A Bald Eagle was over the Ochlockonee R., Leon Co., July 7 (JMS), where it is rare in summer.

#### S. A.

The mysterious black hawks at Miami suddenly have ceased to be merely academic curiosities. This year a pair in the Greynolds Park area may have produced a young bird, at least an immature hawk photographed there in May was identified by Dean Amadon as a Common Black Hawk, *Buteogallus anthracinus* (MT). These hawks (and there is still not agreement that all are the same species), of unknown origin, have been seen at coastal mangrove regions of Dade Co., since at least early 1973 (m.ob.). Apparently two pairs are involved in the sightings; at least two birds have been seen together both at Virginia Key and 12-15 mi. north at Greynolds Park-Interama, including aerial courtship flights by two birds over Virginia Key in March 1973 (MT). Common Black Hawks are native in nearby Cuba, but the local Miami birds have much less white in their wings than is shown for the Cuban race in Bond (Birds of the West Indies 1971).

A pair of the rare local breeding kestrels was at Old Myakka, Sarasota Co., July 5 (EKT), two widely separate kestrels were in Sumter Co., July 26 (JBE), while

one at Cocoa July 6 was considered a possible early transient (RDB&PWS).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — At a seemingly unusual date, July 30, for Black Rail migration, one was picked up dead below the WCTV tower (RLC) Snowy Plovers nested at Sarasota, where four adults and four young were counted June 4 (EVM). In view of its threatened status in Florida, it's encouraging to learn that Snowies may occasionally benefit from creation of spoil islands; three were seen on a spoil island associated with the Cross-Florida Barge Canal below Inglis, June 2 and July 30 (BW). Late spring transient shorebirds included a high count of 25 Pectoral Sandpipers at L. Jackson, Leon Co., June 1 (NOW), and one very late Long-billed Dowitcher (seen and heard) June 8 (JMS) at Mashles Island. Early flights of southbound shorebirds produced records from Zellwood of an Am Golden Plover July 2 and a single Upland Sandpiper and Stilt Sandpiper July 7 (RDB&JJ), and an early Short-billed Dowitcher at L. Jackson, Leon Co., July 9 (HMS). Black-necked Stilts apparently nested fairly far north on the N. Peninsula. One stilt was seen sitting on a nest at Hickory Mound Impoundment, Taylor Co., June 22 (HMS&GEM), and two stilts were at Paynes Prairie June 1, 8 and 10, where their behavior suggested they were nesting (JHH,SAN).

**GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — The two large terneries on the East Coast, at Merritt Island N.W.R. and on Little Bird I., Nassau Sound, were again active. The Merritt I. ternery contained 1350 pairs of Laughing Gulls, 285 pairs of Gull-billed Terns, 2000 pairs of Royal Terns, a high count of 31 pairs of Caspian Terns and 300 Black Skimmer nests (AEE). Nesting was generally successful except that about 10 per cent of the Gull-billed nests and 15 per cent of skimmer nests were destroyed by high water during local storms. The nest count at Merritt I. represents an increase over 1974 of about 10 to 15 per cent, a similar increase occurred in 1974 over the 1973 count (ADE,JB). Counts from Little Bird I. were 139 Least Tern nests, 249 Gull-billed Tern nests, 533 Royal Tern nests, 5 Sandwich Tern nests, and 786 pairs of Black Skimmers (Steve Sutton). All nests of Least, Royal and Sandwich Terns were lost during high water and heavy rains, while skimmers and late-nesting Gull-billeds were successful. The number of pairs of Royals at Little Bird I. was much lower than in 1974, and they nested much later this year, for reasons not presently known. In other regions of the state, 10-12 pairs of Roseate Terns nested at Key Haven, near Key West (RLC,NOW), and Roseates were recorded at sea off Cape Canaveral June 27-28, where their status is unknown (RDB&JJ). Every area editor had something to say about Least Terns, undoubtedly in response to recent concern over the status of this species on our beaches. An estimated 1000 Least Terns, including newly fledged young, were at Key Haven June 21 (FTH). Another large colony of Least Terns was south of Marco I., where 800 nests were estimated June 28 (PWS,LW&PW). Least Terns nested inland at the old Tallahassee airport (GEM), and at two places on L. Okeechobee (RC,PWS). Roof-top nesting by Least Terns apparently is now common at East Coast localities including Boca Raton and Deerfield Beach (PWS), and in the Jacksonville area (B.S. Obst *et al*) The

tern survey led by Obst in n.e. Florida revealed better reproduction by Least Terns on roofs than on spoil islands or natural beaches, and included location of *one colony of over 100 birds on a six-story building 13 mi. from the coast.*

**SWIFTS, KINGFISHERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Two Chimney Swifts at Gulf Stream, Palm Beach Co., June 26 (PWS&HMS) were south of its known breeding range on the East Coast. Unusual mid-summer Belted Kingfisher observations were one at Newnan's L., Alachua Co., June 24 (JHH), and one at Lake Worth June 26 (HMS). Two species of western flycatchers normally known in Florida only in winter or as transients were recorded for the first time in the peninsula in July. A W. Kingbird was well seen and heard calling 7 mi. s. of Brooksville July 31 (WDC), and one Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near New Smyrna Beach July 7 (Jack Russell). I'm uncertain what meaning these two observations have, although the Scissor-tailed is known to be extending its breeding range eastward. A pair of Gray Kingbirds built a nest at an unusual site in Delray Beach, on the crossbeam of a 40 foot utility pole June 27 (PWS).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Brevard Co. had the first certain breeding record of Rough-winged Swallow since 1930, when four adults were feeding newly fledged young at a coquina mining site June 16 (RDB). Barn Swallows at the F.S.U. dairy in Tallahassee July 19 & 26 were the first recorded in Leon County in July (GEM). The first nesting in Florida of **Cliff Swallows** was recently discovered near L. Okeechobee (PWS). Additional details of the discovery are not yet available. An early transient Louisiana Waterthrush was on the Pithlachascontee R., Pasco Co., July 3 (EWS), while a ♀ Am. Redstart at sea off Cape Canaveral June 15 presumably was a late northbound bird (RDB *et al.*). Five Boat-tailed Grackles together on L. Miccosukee July 9 (HMS) may have been a family group that nested locally; if so they provided the second breeding record for Leon County. A rather high count of 12 singing Indigo Buntings near Bartow June 15 indicates that the recent (since 1968) spread of buntings into that region is now well beyond the "beach-head stage" (JBE). The same cannot be said for Blue Grosbeaks, which continue to be erratic breeders in the Lakeland-Bartow region. A very late Sharp-tailed Sparrow was on Merritt I. June 7 (PWS).

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## ONTARIO REGION /Clive E. Goodwin

Summer really started in the last third of May with an unseasonable heat wave, and the pattern of hot dry weather continued through June and July. Spring migration in recent years has dragged well into June, but apart from shorebirds the last significant movement this year was on June 1 when 227 birds were killed at the Lennox chimney, including 138 Red-eyed Vireos and Kingston's latest spring Philadelphia Vireos and Bay-breasted Warblers (*fide* RDW).



It was a good breeding season. Almost all observers commented on the many successful nestings, and some of these were encouragingly of declining species. It is a delightful change to have a positive report for once. Certainly if the superabundance of biting flies was any gauge, there was plentiful food. Unfortunately heat, humidity and clouds of biting insects together combined to discourage some field work and this review has gaps for that reason.

Probably the early warmth spelled an early breeding season, and fall migration was well underway in July. Shorebirds as usual defied everyone to interpret when their spring movement ended and fall began, but even warblers were moving by July 12 (CEG,JEG) and on July 21 a good variety of species at Bronte included early records for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Black-and-white, Yellow-rumped and Bay-breasted Warblers. Subsequent days yielded Nashville Warblers on the 26th, Cape May on the 28th and Blackburnian and Canada on the 30th, all record-early dates (AW)!

**LOONS, GREBES** — There were many successful Com. Loon nestings on northern lakes: for example most of the larger lakes in Algonquin P.P. had young birds (RP). In Quetico P.P. there were puzzling concentrations of adults: 22 birds in mid-June, with 35 by July 20 (SP). These were probably non-breeding birds, as were the pair that summered at Oakville (GC) and possibly the five at Rondeau June 7 (KJB). Summer

Red-throated Loons were at Pt. Pelee National Park (and vicinity, below, Pelee) June 7 (BM) and Hamilton July 13 (AE,KMcL). There were three pairs of Red-necked Grebes on Sheguiandah L. from May 11 (JN) and three birds at Luther Marsh July 12 (GB). Away from the breeding grounds four birds were at Ottawa June 4 (BD,THa) and seven at Burlington Aug. 6 (RC). Pied-billed Grebes tend to be difficult to locate in more northerly areas: this year a nest was located at Quetico June 8 (SP) and two adults with young at the mouth of the Nipissing R., July 26 (DB,WC). A White Pelican was at Michael's Bay, Manitoulin I., from June through to July 17 (JC, photographed).

**CORMORANTS THROUGH IBIS** — There were scattered Double-crested Cormorant sightings, and nesting reports were of six adults and a nest with three young off Spanish June 24 (WD) and a successful hatch from a small colony on Pelee I. (*fide* CAC). Great Blue Herons are not rare enough to encourage exhaustive searches for heronries, and the birds do seem to move around in Quetico Shirley Peruniak notes that some existing colonies were declining and new ones being discovered in live pines. Twenty nests on Chantry I., June 14 (MW) and 50 in the Hullett Conservation Area (CC,SC) were the largest heronries reported. There was no detailed information available on the large mixed colony on Pelee I., but apparently Great and Cattle Egrets were flourishing in both it and the East Sister I. heronry (CAC *et al.*). There were the usual wandering Great Egrets, and a Cattle Egret east to Ottawa June 7 (BG *et al.*). On May 17 some 20 Black-crowned Night Herons appeared to be attempting to nest at Hamilton, site of a former large heronry (RC,TH,AW). There were a remarkable number of northerly Green Herons: five Algonquin P.P. reports (*fide* RP), and single birds at Parry Sound in June (CAC), Killaloe June 7 (RCL), Rolfton Aug. 2 (DMcC,RP) and on Manitoulin I., June 22 (CB,WRL). Maybe the species ranges farther north than everyone thought! Long Pt. had a Glossy Ibis June 17 (DBa).

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — Most of the duck reports were of birds summering along the lower Great Lakes, and a mixed bag they were. Most of the commoner diving ducks were represented in ones and twos, including Ruddy Ducks at Amherstview (NM) and Toronto (JAK), and birds occurred in favoured areas from Kingston west to Pelee. Sewage lagoons such as Strathroy also attracted their quota of strays, with several Pintail, a Ruddy Duck and Hooded Merganser at Strathroy in July (KB,WRI). There were also scattered Whistling Swans, ranging from Toronto (JAK) to Quetico on June 29 (SP). The Brant at Whitson L., June 10 (SA *et al.*) and Presqu'ile P.P., June 11-23 (m ob) are probably in a different category as this species is often still moving in June. The stories of breeding geese all pose dilemmas to the purists: Giant Canada Geese, almost all originating from the fecund Toronto flock, continue to expand in the south. There were at least three nesting pairs at Long Pt. this year (L P B O.), apparently introductions. There seems some mystique associated with waterfowl for government agencies, who normally would not consider intro-

ducing other birds. All last winter we kept closing our eyes and ears to excited reports of three Snow Geese along the Toronto waterfront, all three escapees from somewhere or other. Now the wretched birds will be ignored no longer: it seems they bred (*fide* GBe), and maybe we're about to start the world's southernmost population of "wild" Snow Geese! Gerry Bennett made an interesting review of Black Duck nest records in the Ontario Nest Records Scheme: up to 1963 the ratio of Black Duck cards to Mallard was 2:1, by 1967 it was reversed, 1:2, and in 1974 it was 1:6! Certainly this seems to correspond to experience, as Mallards continue to have bonanza breeding seasons and Blacks get steadily fewer. Gadwall continue their success story: for example, there were 35 in one area of Amherst I. on July 9 (HQ) in a region where there were only four records prior to 1966! Numbers of Green-winged Teal at Hamilton (RC) and a male at Rondeau in June (CAC) also suggest this species is growing more common in the south. Other nesting reports are two Blue-winged Teal broods of seven each at Wawa, July 30 (OED) and a nest at Sudbury May 31 (BW,DF), a N Shoveler with young at Luther Marsh July 12 (GB), and eight pairs of Ring-necked Ducks on a lake in w Manitoulin I. (JN); a Canvasback at Little Current July 5-31 (JN *et al.*); 20 Redheads at Luther Marsh July 12 (GB), and an Oldsquaw on the Seguin R., near Parry Sound June 9 (CAC,JLC).

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — Turkey Vultures are well established north of Peterborough, with 30 at Burleigh Falls July 28 (DCS) and birds north even to Achray June 9-11 (WC,RT,DB) and two at Waubamik in June (CAC,JLC). Goshawk nests were located in Algonquin P.P. (NG *et al.*) and at Young's Pt. (DCS) and there were at least four pairs of Sharp-shinned Hawks on the Bruce Peninsula, where they were thought to be more common (JWJ). Red-tailed Hawks apparently had a good season and there were still young in a Meaford nest on July 23 (MG). What skimpy news was received on Red-shouldered Hawks was quite good, but the paucity of reports was not: maybe there were few to report! A bird at Marathon at the end of June (GB) was well northwest of its range, and a Broad-winged Hawk at Pelee, June 20 - July 13 (m.ob.) unusual in summer there. Last winter's last Rough-legged Hawk was at Downsview June 13 (GB). Bald Eagle breeding success seemed encouraging: four active nests in the southwest produced at least five young, the best in at least 15 years (SPo), and there were four Sudbury area sightings, and two active nests in Quetico (SP). Marsh Hawks seemed less successful although Algonquin P P had its first breeding with four young (DB,MO). Some six pairs known in the Sudbury area were a low total (JN), the species was considered to be declining in the Peterborough area (DCS), and there were none in the southwest! Ospreys were holding their own, with good success in the Kawarthas (DCS) and maybe ten active nests elsewhere reported. Merlins, always elusive, had three nests in Quetico (SP) and a bird was on Manitoulin I., July 5 (JN,DR). Finally, Am. Kestrel reports were conflicting, with about half the areas reporting feeling the species had declined this year, although it was well distributed along Highway 17 north in June

(GB) and along the Cochrane-Moosonee railway line in August (CEG,JEG).

**CRANES, RAILS** — Summering, possibly breeding, Sandhill Cranes were reported this year in the area between Seachmont and Wabos, with another two to three pairs at O'Connor (*fide* GB). Adults with young were also reported from St. Joseph's I. (HI,SI) but the Espanola birds were not seen after May 5 (*fide* JN). King Rails apparently bred this year at Pelee (*fide* AHK). A Virginia Rail seen at Wawa July 30 (OED) was at the edge of its range.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Heat or no heat, the late spring shorebirds lingered to their usual departure time, well into the second week in June, and indeed some of the best observing was in that period, with a good flight of White-rumped Sandpipers and an Am. Avocet at Presqu'île P.P. until at least June 8 (m.ob.). Both Whiterumped and Dunlin, at least, never left, as birds summered at Hamilton and Long Pt. (RC,AW *et al.*). The fall movement was early — some say record-early — and certainly there are several record-early arrivals for some species. Space permits only the most outstanding of these: a Black-bellied Plover at Ottawa June 27 (VH), a Ruddy Turnstone at Hamilton July 18 (AW), a Solitary Sandpiper and a Baird's Sandpiper at Kingston July 6 (RPr) and July 13 (HQ,AEH) respectively, a Greater Yellowlegs at Rondeau July 5 (JPK), a Stilt Sandpiper at Ottawa July 9 (BB), and eight Sanderling at Pelee July 9 (BM). The Piping Plover picture is as bad as it has ever been: only one young was produced from three nests at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.), and no other nestings were reported, although there were two birds at Hamilton July 20 (RC *et al.*). Woodcock news was mixed, as they seemed unusually plentiful at Thunder Bay (*fide* KD) and across the north of L. Superior, and birds were recorded at Sleeman, 7 mi. east of Rainy River (GB). In the southwest there were 30 at Kettle Pt. June 8 (AR) and a female with two young at Pelee May 14, but they were absent from many traditional areas in the south (GB). Excited Solitary Sandpipers at Obatanga P.P. on June 18 were almost certainly nesting (GB) and a pair at Kettle Lakes P.P. on Aug. 13 also appeared to be still on breeding territory (CEG,JEG). Other suggestive sightings were at Atikokan June 10 (SP) and Half-way L. June 4 (DT). Four Willet sightings started with a bird at Long Pt. June 11 (L.P.B.O.), another was at Rondeau July 14 (KJB), and on July 20 there were birds at Strathroy (RJMCC,WGW) and Hamilton (WC,DS,DB). Oddly enough, July 20 also yielded two Whimbrel at Ottawa (TH) and another at Hamilton (RC,KMcL). Both Short-billed Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers were in good early numbers: 25 dowitcher at Strathroy July 7 (WRJ) and 24 stilts at Mountsberg Aug. 3 (JLO) are among the more noteworthy counts. Marbled Godwits were at Richmond June 15 - July 2 (PH *et al.*). Port Rowan Aug. 4 (RF,AW,KMcL) and one at Lakefield July 7 (DMcR) was the Peterborough area's first. There were the usual early Wilson's Phalarope sightings and a new nesting record, Ottawa's first, with flightless young at Almonte (PH) as well as two pairs at Richmond (*fide* RAF). By contrast the Wiarton marsh was drained this year and the birds did not reappear there (JWJ). Hamilton had a N Phalarope Aug. 7 (RF,AW,SW,VB).

**GULLS, TERNS** — There were two Glaucous Gulls on Mohawk I., May 29 and a cripple was still remaining June 29. The visits also yielded respectively 35 and six Great Black-backed Gulls, but no sign of breeding (RFA *et al.*). There was no word on the status of the breeding gulls in this or the other lower Lakes colonies, elsewhere there were 4500 Ring-billed Gulls at the Cornwall dam colony May 3 (RH), 3000 adults and 2000 young on South Limestone I., Parry Sound July 6 (CH), but the mainland colony at Collingwood had no nests this year although there were 2200 adults present June 15 (CJM). Eggs of three species — including two pairs of Caspian Terns — were destroyed at Kettle in an egg fight among the Indian children there. Fourteen immature Ring-billed Gulls in Algonquin P.P. were systematically feeding on blueberries Aug. 9 (RP *et al.*). The usual scattering of small gulls was reported: a Black-headed at Hamilton June 28 - July 12 (m.ob.), a Laughing Gull at Pelee June 12 and a Franklin's Gull there June 8-9 (BM *et al.*). Five Franklin's at Long Pt., July 6 are suggestive of future breeding in this ideal habitat. The enormous numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls at Long Pt. in May gradually reduced to 1000 Aug. 4 (AW *et al.*). Elsewhere the 75 in London July 29 were the most ever there, and there was a bird at Quetico June 29 (SWa,DH). Little Gulls were absent at Pickering this year and the only concentrations were at Long Pt., with 9 adults, 9 immatures and 19 young of the year June 29 (AW), and Erieau, with a high of 17, July 5 (JPK). Two birds reached Ottawa June 4-11 (SG). Forster's Terns continue to defeat efforts to obtain material evidence of nesting in the Province, but again this year it seems clear that breeding occurred in several areas: a group at Long Pt. July 6 consisted of 8 adults, 4 immatures and 12 young of the year (AW), an adult at Pelee was feeding a young bird July 12-13 (GA,RC *et al.*) and there was a pair at Rondeau in June (CAC *et al.*). Common Terns were nesting off Thessalon (GB) but the Collingwood colony was reduced to 37 nests this year (CJM), while only one young was seen at Kettle Pt. after the fight (AR). On South Limestone I. the terns were Caspians, with 200 adults, 150 young and 57 nests July 6 (CH). Inland this species was seen at Barrie July 31 (TL) and London July 25 (WRJ), and one of Algonquin's rare Com. Tern sightings was on Canisbay L., July 16 (RM,RP). Early June is the time for Arctic Terns at Ottawa: there were three June 7 (BD,BG *et al.*). Fifty Black Terns were at Steep Rock June 8 when two nests were found (SP).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS** — It was a good cuckoo year: Black-billeds seemed everywhere (GB *et al.*) and Yellow-billeds north to Lion's Head July 8 (AR). Travellers to Moosonee recorded Hawk Owls en route (RCL,CEG,JEG). The only other owl report was of an excited pair of Saw-whet Owls near Scudder, Pelee I., June 27 (CAC *et al.*). The big news of the season was of **Chuck-will's-widows**, with two at Pelee through most of the period (m.ob.). They were thought to be a pair and certainly were behaving territorially, but there was no evidence of nesting. In addition a bird — presumably another — was calling on Pelee I., June 24 (CAC). There are only a couple of prior records for the Province. Northerly Whip-poor-wills

were 27 mi. n.w. of Wawa June 26 (GB) and e. of Hornepayne June 2 (JBM). Many reporters continue to find Com. Nighthawks scarce.

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Woodpecker reports were few: a Red-headed Woodpecker was n.w. of Quetico in June (SP), a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker summered in Lambton Co. (AR) and there were at least five Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers in the Ach-ray area, June 9-13 (RT *et al.*). Great Crested Flycatchers are rare in the northwest: a bird was in Paipoonge Twp., June 7 - July 2 (MC,KD *et al.*). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were common along the Petawawa and Barron Rivers in June (RT,DB *et al.*). An early bird was at Hamilton July 21 (AW) and an early Olive-sided Flycatcher there Aug. 8 (RC). There were possibly five pairs of Acadian Flycatchers at Rondeau (PDP) and other birds were at Aylmer July 12 (JL) and Abino Hills July 20 (RFA *et al.*), possibly representing the total Ontario breeding population. Alder Flycatchers were widespread and very common: they were in the Minesing Swamp, Holland Marsh and Palgrave, and throughout the Bruce, but none were reported from the southwest (*vide* AHK), and the Ellice Swamp birds were all Willows (EE). Single Willows were seen at Cape Chin July 3 (JWJ) and Kingston July 9 (FC,RPr).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS** — A pair of Barn Swallows at Terra Cotta brought their fledged brood back to the nest for the first three nights (BJ)! Cliff Swallows colonies continue to move on to large man-made structures: a colony of 225 nests was under two bridges at Wingham (NHM,RCM), 25 pairs were nesting under the Trent University bridges at Peterborough (DCS) and there were "numerous" pairs nesting under the roof of a supermarket in downtown Parry Sound (CAC,JLC). There were several large colonies of Purple Martins in Pembroke in July (RP) and a bird at Lake of Two Rivers July 1 (DB). A Black-billed Magpie was seen at Rainy River June 21 (GB). Common Ravens continue to expand on the Bruce: there were ten in three groups at Dyer's Bay in July (JWJ) and a bird south to Inverhuron P.P. (GC,SC). Noteworthy reports from Waterloo Co. were of a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches feeding young at Kitchener June 17, a Brown Creeper carrying nesting material or food May 16 (CAC,TR) and a successful Carolina Wren nesting, both at Cambridge (RHi). Another first county nesting of this species was in Simcoe Co. at Loretto with two broods of seven and five (LJD,CJM *et al.*). There were many other Carolinas reported in the south, including two north to Wasaga Beach July 11 (MG). Two Brown Creepers were singing at Rondeau in June and a Winter Wren was also there (CAC *et al.*). Five birds of this species were located in Lambton Co. in early July (*vide* AHK).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES** — Mockingbirds were recorded nesting as far north as Kapuskasing July 14 (FL), and there were nests at Whitney July 7 (RT,DS) and at Novar (MGo). Sightings included birds at Mattawa June 22 (CJM) and Dyer's Bay July 2 (JWJ), with many reports further south. A Brown Thrasher was at

Cochrane July 5-8 (RCL), and there were northerly E Bluebird sightings at Neys P.P. (FH) and S. Haileybury July 5 (WB). Bluebird nesting success seemed satisfactory from areas where nest box projects exist, but the birds were scarce elsewhere. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Ottawa July 1-3 (BD, m.ob.) and there was a nest May 17-29 at Glen Morris (CAC *et al.*). In the Dundas Marsh 11 birds were seen in three groups July 22 (AW). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were south to L Simcoe: birds were singing at Barrie June 1-10 (AM) and in Mara Twp., June 24 and July 5 (JAS).

**SHRIKES, VIREOS** — The Loggerhead Shrike picture offered little cheer, although what nests there were may have produced well this year. G. Bennett saw no shrike in 3000 mi. in the Province, and the Goodwins only one in a similar distance. In all about a dozen sightings were reported, and there were three pairs at Kingston (RDW), six nests at Ottawa with at least 14 young fledged and five more in the nest (*vide* RAF), and other pairs in Mono Twp., July 17 (LS) and Iroquois Apr. 30 (RH). Craig Campbell located six pairs between Napanee and the Severn R., and three or four of these had successful first broods, but there is some overlap likely with the reports from the area editors. A very early Solitary Vireo was seen in Toronto July 10 (RJ).

**WARBLERS** — In addition to the usual Rondeau breeders a Prothonotary Warbler was feeding young at Pelee July 12-13 (RC *et al.*). Golden-winged Warblers seem to be expanding again after a "pause" of a few years: the report of eight sites in the Bruce (JWJ) is reminiscent of the situation there in the late 60s, and there were several males around Parry Sound (CAC), six in Killarney June 17-22 (DT) and a pair at Worthington (JN). A pair of N. Parulas were at Belanger Bay June 24 (JN) and there was a late bird at Pelee June 7 (BM). The two Blackpolls at Kingston the following day (RDW) were the latest there. Other early fall arrivals in addition to those noted above include a Tennessee Warbler at Weston July 12 (HI,SI), a Magnolia at Bronte July 31 (RC), a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Pelee June 26 (RMP) and a Wilson's at Hamilton Aug 7 (RC). Two singing male Yellow-rumped Warblers were recorded in the Kingston area but no nests were located (RDW). Cerulean Warblers had a bad year none were recorded at Waterloo, Rondeau or on Pelee I. (CAC *et al.*) and the five at Minesing July 13 (AM,MF) were a low count. Another bird was at Port Carling June 28 (CJM). The northwest yielded four Connecticut Warblers singing north of Rainy River and two at Quetico, but still no nests were located (SP). A Yellow-breasted Chat was in Wainfleet Bog June 25 (RFA *et al.*) and there was a "loose colony" of two or three pairs on Pelee I. in June (CAC). Odd for summer was Ottawa's second Hooded Warbler record July 30 (BD,JH).

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES** — Bobolinks were recorded north to Hornepayne June 11 (JBM) and Chap-leau June 27 (GB), and a N. Oriole at Moosonee July 7 (RCL) was well north of its range. An E. Meadowlark was singing between Rainy River and Morson in June

(GB). The same trip yielded many Yellow-headed Blackbirds nesting in phragmites at Lake of the Woods, while at Steep Rock the birds nest in cattails, commencing later than the Red-wings (SP). The Bennett trip found Brewer's Blackbirds very common between Rainy River and Atikokan, but much scarcer than some years ago between Thessalon and Sudbury. The main Bruce colony was still thriving with ten birds, including 8 males, at Ferndale May 31 (JWJ). Manitoulin Island's first nesting was recorded on June 22 when adults were seen carrying food (CB,WRL).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A Cardinal was at Thunder Bay May 17 (MS) and a bird at Massena the same day (RH); apparently the birds bred there in 1973. Ottawa's second nesting was located on July 2, and at least one young fledged (FKN, *vide* WEG). Several observers noted that Indigo Buntings were scarce: west and north birds were seen at Atikokan June 8 (SP) and Matheson July 5 (RCL). The Bruce seems to attract Dickcissels, as this year a "small colony" was located in Eastnor Twp. (LR) and a bird was seen at Hope Ness June 7 (JWJ). Southerly Evening Grosbeak sightings were at Murvale July 20 (MB), Kingston's second in summer, two at Barrie July 29 (AM) and a young bird being fed at Lakefield in early August (DMCR). There was a pair of Purple Finches throughout the period at Kettle Pt. (AR) and an Am. Goldfinch was seen at Atikokan June 19 (SP); these species are uncommon for these areas. The only crossbill reports were 60 Reds at Magnetawan July 23 (AM) and a single bird at Hamilton July 27 (RC). Oddly enough, Joe Johnson had both a Lark Bunting July 3-5 at Cape Chin and a Lark Sparrow June 13 at Inverhuron P.P. (JWJ,MP,FD). The Barrie colony of Henslow's Sparrows was reduced to two birds this year (CH) but the Tiny Marsh colony was still vigorous with 17 birds July 23 (DS,CJM), and there was a single bird at Muncey June 15 (WRJ). The Le Conte's Sparrow at Worthington was last seen June 1 (JL), and there were birds at several locations along Highway 600 in June (GB). Some observers expressed concern about Vesper Sparrows: this reasonably common species is normally neglected in reports. A Clay-colored Sparrow was at London from July 4 (SI) and a Field Sparrow at Hanmer June 24 (CW), but the really remarkable sighting was a Snow Bunting at Tiny Marsh July 24-25 (DS,CJM), one of very few summer records for this species.

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## NIAGARA - CHAMPLAIN REGION /Douglas P. Kibbe

This editor sincerely hopes that the establishment of a new region encompassing all of Vermont and upstate New York as a single unit will induce many more observers to make their observations available for publication. They no longer need fear that their hard-earned sightings will be lost amid a mass of maritime reports.



This, the first report from the new region, suffers from a complete dearth of observations from the Adirondacks. The absence of these boreal reports is particularly unfortunate because our region, perhaps more than any other in eastern North America, encompasses the true meeting between northern and southern avifaunas and thus can, potentially at least, be the first to record range extensions or contractions related to population fluxes.

The season was, with few local exceptions, warm and dry, both factors contributing no doubt to the generally good nesting success observed. Rarities were

scarce although Vermont got more than its share, a fact probably related to ever improving coverage in this area. Recovery by those species decimated by hurricane *Agnes* in 1972 appears to be nearly complete now. Other positive trends are the marked spread and increase of several southern species (i.e., Turkey Vulture, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren and Mockingbird) into northern portions of the region. Most raptors, on the other hand, appear to be faring poorly.

Unless otherwise noted, all localities cited are in New York State.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Numerous non-breeding subadult Com. Loons were spotted on lakes throughout the region but no breeding pairs were reported. A breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe noted on Cayuga L. June 27 (JG) was undoubtedly a late migrant since the region still awaits its first confirmed breeding record. Numbers of Pied-billed Grebes remain low. The only Double-crested Cormorants recorded were four apparent non-breeders on Four Brothers Is. in L. Champlain (RY). Nesting Great Blue Herons enjoyed remarkable success at Iroquois N.W.R. if a report of an average of two young per each of 140 nests is valid (Morse & Beebe, *vide* B.O.S.). Forty Green Herons June 1 at Braddock's Bay (Skelly, *vide* RO) is an excellent summer total. The summer's only Little Blue Heron was an adult spotted at Iroquois N.W.R. June 11 (R B A.). Great Egrets made a fair showing with four at Montezuma N.W.R. (JG & TT) and up to five in the Iroquois N.W.R. (Skelly *et al.*). The region's only Snowy Egret appeared at Montezuma N.W.R. June 4 (*vide* JG). Virtually absent from their usual nesting areas in w. New York, Black-crowned Night Herons were termed "moderately common" nesters on the Four Brothers Is. (RY). Most exciting of a handful of bittern reports was one of a "Cory's" Least Bittern (a rare melanistic morph of the Least Bittern) seen July 4 in the West Rutland marshes (WN). I know of no other records of this form for Vermont.

**WATERFOWL** — Nesting success was probably high during the relatively dry summer but quantitative reports were lacking. Two (feral?) Mute Swans were reported from Burgeson Sanctuary in Frewsburg (RS *et al.*) One very late Whistling Swan was noted June 4 at Montezuma N.W.R. (JG) where there is one previous summer occurrence. A flock of 50 Canada Geese counted in Perinton June 20 (MT) is unusual. The recent establishment of the Gadwall at Iroquois N.W.R. (JM) and its general increase along the East Coast have resulted in a considerable increase in its frequency of occurrence in w. portions of the region but it remains rare in e. areas. An increase in the number of lingering northern waterfowl was noticeable throughout s. portions of the region with Redhead, Canvasback, both scaup, Com. Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck and Com. and Red-breasted Mergansers all being reported. The possibility that most were injured birds makes significance of their presence questionable unless breeding is verified. An oil spill from a nearby ski area was considered responsible for a decrease in Hooded Merganser nesting at Gale Meadows impoundment (WN).

**RAPTORS** — Turkey Vultures continue to do well in n. areas with up to 14 present at Dead Creek W.M.A. in mid-July (BG). Of the eleven remaining species of diurnal raptors known to still nest in the region, only two, the Red-tailed Hawk and the Am. Kestrel, appeared to be holding their own, although reports on most of the other species were too sparse to make very meaningful assessments. Sightings of the Adirondack breeding population of Golden Eagles (estimated at two pairs in 1972) are rarely reported so an individual over Upper Saranac L. June 22 (DF) is of interest. The occurrence of an imm. Bald Eagle at Braddock's Bay (WL) and an adult at Montezuma N.W.R. (JG) would be encouraging were they not offset by the failure of the Hemlock L. nest for the second consecutive year.

#### S. A.

The reasons behind the decline of the Marsh Hawk in the Niagara - Champlain Region may well be explained by the outcome of at least five of the six known nesting attempts in the region this year. As suitable marshland nesting habitat continues to decline Marsh Hawks in some areas (e.g., the Lake Ontario plains), have taken to nesting in fallow fields. Four nests located in fields this June were unsuccessful either because of mammalian predation (one nest with 5 eggs) or because they were plowed under in late June (the predated nest was also eventually plowed). Eggs were still being laid in one of the nests on June 10 but it is not known whether this nest represented a first nesting attempt by the female (or females) involved. All four nests were within three quarters of a mile of each other, the closest two being only 200 yards apart. A fifth female believed to be nesting in a field some 10 mi. to the east probably also had her nest destroyed when that area was plowed and planted to corn in late June. Sadly, all of the areas mentioned above also had colonies of Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows, both Blue Listed species, but the relatively late date at which these fields were plowed may have spared some of their nesting attempts. A sixth Marsh Hawk nest in a field in the township of Hume (Richard, *vide* LB) was also destroyed by predators. Although other factors may also be contributing to the decline of the Marsh Hawk, it seems likely that the dominant causal relationships in the Northeast are the decline of suitable marsh habitats which forces the birds into suboptimal nesting habitats where mammalian predation and human disturbance come into play.

Several Ospreys were recorded from the Rochester area (*vide* RO) but no records from the species former breeding grounds in the Adirondacks and Green Mountains were received.

**GALLIFORMS, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — Recent word on the success of Vermont's Wild Turkey stocking program would be appreciated. Two Bobwhite were seen in the w. half of the region, both of questionable



status. The sighting of a **Sandhill Crane**, apparently reliably identified (RS *et al.*, *fide* B.O.S.), near Clymer June 21 & 22 followed several unconfirmed reports from that general area this spring. There are about a dozen previous New York records.

The large number of non-breeding shorebirds which spend the summer on the East Coast makes any delineation of early fall "arrival" dates somewhat arbitrary but some of the more unusual occurrences are detailed below.

A Whimbrel appeared at Times Beach July 25 (Bourne & Foster, *fide* B.O.S.). Upland Sandpipers were widely noted including reports of four separate Vermont locations (BG & WN). Red knots were seen at both Times Beach and Braddock's Bay (*fide* B.O.S. & R.B.A.) in July while up to four White-rumped Sandpipers were noted at Times Beach in June (B.O.S.). A Baird's Sandpiper seen July 19 at Montezuma N.W.R. (M&DT, *fide* RO) exceeds the earliest inland New York record by 9 days. Up to 53 Short-billed Dowitchers were counted at Braddock's Bay in July while over 60 were tallied at Times Beach (WL & B.O.S.). As many as nine Stilt Sandpipers were found at Montezuma N.W.R. in July (D,M&TT, *fide* RO). A W Sandpiper reported there on June 1 (D,M&TT, *fide* RO) would exceed the previous New York state early date by more than a month if correct [sans details]. Firsts for the year included a Marbled Godwit July 11 at Times Beach (Schaffner, *fide* B.O.S.) and a **Ruff** there on July 27 and 28 (RA *et al.*). A Wilson's Phalarope was observed on the very late date of June 9 at Tonawanda W.M.A. (*fide* B.O.S.) but no evidence of breeding was seen nor was the sex of the bird noted.

**GULLS, TERNS** — Two ad. Great Black-backed Gulls were noted at Four Brothers Is. in late June (RY) but no nest was located so the region still awaits its first breeding record. Ten thousand ad. Ring-billed Gulls were estimated on the Four Brothers Is. (RY), a four-fold increase over a 1967 estimate. A report of 15,000 birds at Kendall in mid-June is unusually high for this season. Just received is a report of a Black-legged Kittiwake seen at Irondequoit Bay Apr. 6 (Spahn, *fide* RO), an incredibly unusual if not unprecedented inland spring occurrence. A winter-plumaged Black-headed Gull spotted at Kendall July 9-21 (C&BP, *fide* R.B.A.) is a very noteworthy summer record. A total of nine Little Gulls were reported, six at Times Beach, two at Braddock's Bay, and one at Kendall. Three Forster's Terns were reported. What is the status of Black Tern colonies in the region?

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Both cuckoos were very scarce in Vermont (WN). No Barn Owl nests were reported and the disappearance of the Orleans and Seneca County birds is inexplicable as is the appearance of three on Morgan Jones' garage roof at Romulus, July 23. If, as is probably the case, Screech Owl is the most abundant raptor in the w. half of the region, can a single report from Vermont be representative of the e. half? A lone Long-eared Owl was heard in East Amherst (DF) July 27. Great Horned Owls continue to thrive, one pair even nesting successfully on a railroad trestle (SL). Common Nighthawks were scarce in the Rochester area and only two Whip-

poor-wills were reported in the entire region. The occurrence of Red-headed Woodpeckers in four or five locations in Vermont (*fide* BG) suggests an encouraging increase.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CHICKADEES** — Eastern Phoebe enjoyed 64 per cent nesting success at Seneca Army Depot (MJ) despite the early spring storm. The Willow Flycatcher has undergone a "spectacular" increase in c. Vermont (e.g., from one to six pairs at Dead Creek M.W.A.) over the past three years (WN) which cannot be attributed to increased observer awareness of this species. Both Alder and Willow Flycatchers continue to coexist in the Ithaca area (JG) Acadian Flycatchers apparently nested in Bergen Swamp for the first local record in over thirty years (Lineham, *fide* RO). This species, which nests regularly on the north side of L. Erie, should be systematically sought in mature woodlots along L. Ontario Cliff and Barn Swallows showed a decline in c. Vermont (WN) but the latter had an excellent year in c. New York (JG & MJ). Recovery from the population crash following hurricane *Agnes* in 1972 appears nearly complete for the Purple Martin. An "albino" martin was observed at Iroquois N.W.R. (*fide* B.O.S.). Blue Jays continued to move in numbers along the L. Ontario shore throughout June. Could these be non-breeding second year birds? Are there really breeding Com Ravens in s.c. New York or is the rash of recent sightings just the vanguard of expanding populations in adjacent areas? One (or two) Fish Crows continued in Ithaca (JG). The frustrations so frequently a part of field observation were acutely felt by Jones when a just-completed clutch of six Black-capped Chickadee eggs disappeared July 11, only four days shy of a new New York state record late egg date.

**WRENS THROUGH STARLINGS** — House Wren appears to be spreading in Vermont. Carolina Wren populations continued to increase in c. New York by leaps and bounds. Two even appeared in Vermont where they are considered irregular visitors (WN & AP). The Carolina's success is undoubtedly a consequence of the recent series of mild, open winters but this editor also notes that he has received at least five recent records of this species nesting in garages and other outbuildings. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were noted at four locations on the Ontario plains during June (*fide* RO & DK). A Gray-cheeked Thrush which appeared at Winhall June 20 was considered a late migrant (WN). The E. Bluebird nest box project on the Seneca Army Depot enjoyed "enormous success" (production six times that of the previous two years combined) with 94 young fledged from 111 eggs (MJ). At least two new summer locations for Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported (R.B.A., *fide* RO), Honeoye L., Ontario Co., and Iroquois N.W.R. Genesee County. There is one previous record for each of these counties. No additional nesting Loggerhead Shrikes were reported (see Spring Season for the single record this year). Do other observers concur that the Starling seems to show an increasing willingness to nest in heavily wooded situations? If so, its spread into rural and mountainous areas seems almost certain to have adverse effects on cavity nesters in these areas.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Always uncommon and local, the Yellow-throated Vireo is apparently decreasing as a summer resident, with only two reports submitted. A Philadelphia Vireo seen June 11 in Winhall, Vt., may have been a late migrant (WN) or, in view of the recent apparent population increases, a new breeding location. Prothonotary Warblers were reported only from Iroquois N.W.R. but apparently no efforts were made to find them in the section of Montezuma N.W.R. south of Route 20 where they have occurred in recent years. The presence of a "Lawrence's" Warbler at Canadice (Feder *et al.*, *fide* RO) where both parental types occur is much easier to explain than the "Brewster's" Warbler which continued through mid-June near Sudbury (AP, *fide* BG) where Blue-winged Warblers are unknown. Observers in Vermont should document as fully as possible the spread of the Blue-winged Warbler into their areas. Banders in particular should examine all individuals of both "species" (including Golden-winged) for evidence of intergradation. Allegany County's first nesting of Nashville Warblers was unsuccessful (VP). Tennessee, Wilson's and Magnolia Warblers seen June 14, 15 and 15, respectively, at Braddock's Bay (WL) were late, the Wilson's surpassing the state's previous late date by 5 days. Unknown in Vermont as a breeder, a singing ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler present at Winhall July 13 (WN) was most unusual. The Prairie Warbler's breeding distribution in the region is poorly documented, so two late June observations (*fide* RO) at Canadice L. and Braddock's Bay are of interest. Top warbler of the summer was Vermont's third record of the **Kentucky Warbler**, (the first since 1905) a male seen and heard June 16 which defied later attempts to be relocated (WN).

**BLACKBIRDS, SPARROWS** — A pair of Orchard Orioles returned to Pt. Breeze for the fifth consecutive year. More notable was the presence of a male [first year?] of this species in Manchester, during June (CI, *fide* WN) since the five previous Vermont records are all prior to 1910. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were fairly common in small colonies on the Ontario plains and in the Finger Lakes region of New York, but scarce to absent in other areas. The Vesper Sparrow appears to have suffered an even more widespread decline than the preceding species. A singing Clay-colored Sparrow spotted July 2 in Chenango Co., N.Y., (DB, *fide* PB) was the year's only record of this midwestern species which continues to occur with increasing regularity in the Northeast.

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

Although the data are meager it would appear that most species had successful nesting seasons. There was, however, a large number of species whose nesting populations were felt to be in lower than normal numbers, and this was not compensated by other species in above normal numbers.



The summer's weather presented a very mixed up situation. June was slightly cooler than normal (deficiency of 19 day-degrees at Pittsburgh) and somewhat wetter than usual at most places. July was generally hotter than normal (temperature excess of 34 day-degrees at Pittsburgh) but the rainfall was highly variable. Pittsburgh had normal rainfall, Charleston and Morgantown were much drier than normal, but on the Blue Ridge in southern Virginia there were 12 inches of rain between July 3 and July 26. Some other eastern areas had similar wet weather. In the spring report I had forecast that there would be good crops of fruits and seeds by late summer, but in the dry areas such as Morgantown this prediction proved wrong.

Spring migration was still in progress in early June with such birds as Swainson's Thrushes and White-throated Sparrows being reported as well as the more usual Blackpoll Warblers. Perhaps related to this high incidence of late stragglers was the unusual number of waterfowl stragglers which summered in the Region. Fall migration began early, and some migrants were reported as early as July 4.

An interesting feature, which will be detailed farther on in this report is the several reports of species expanding their ranges in one area while disappearing in other areas. This has been apparent for Yellow-throated Warblers and Willow Flycatchers, but has not occurred in Carolina Wrens.

As usual many observers were inactive in summer, and the two major ornithological efforts of the season were the Breeding Bird Surveys and the annual Foray of the Brooks Bird Club. The latter was held this year in Raleigh County, W. Va., which is almost ornithologi-

cally unknown territory. A total of 110 species were found which included several whose ranges were not known to extend so far south.

I would like to close these introductory remarks with a listing of species which seem to be headed for trouble in at least some parts of this Region. In some cases this year's low populations may be temporary but in many others there have been long-term declines. By listing them I hope to draw the attention of observers to them for next year. Besides the raptors whose status is familiar to all the Spotted Sandpiper, Whip-poor-will, Hairy Woodpecker, E. Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-breasted Chat and Grasshopper Sparrow have shown population declines. The Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler and Ovenbird are possible additions to the list. Two other species deserve notice the Bewick's Wren has become very rare throughout the Region, and the Bachman's Sparrow has almost completely vanished.

**LOONS, GREBES AND HERONS** — Two Com. Loons spent the summer at Colyer L., Pa. (MW) two were present in Somerset County, Pa., June 30 and one of these remained until July 13 (GSa & Rsa, *fide* PH). A Horned Grebe at L. Arthur, Butler Co., Pa., June 1 (PH) was an example of late migration.

Only four Great Blue Heron nests were found in a heronry in n. Butler Co., Pa., which had been destroyed by a storm in 1974 (PH). The only report of Great Egrets was of three near Waynesboro, Va., July 21 (MH, *fide* RS). Two imm. Little Blue Herons were at Cove L., Tenn., July 13 (GM, *fide* JBO) and a Cattle Egret was seen at Blacksburg, Va. (third local record) July 3 (CK, *fide* JM). In the Pittsburgh area (PH), at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (below, P.N.R.) (RL) and at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE) observers felt that Green Herons were in below-normal numbers. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from Elizabethton all summer (GE), from State College, Pa. in late June (MW) and at Roanoke, Va., Aug. 2 (NM). Least Bittern nested at Mountain Lake Park, Md., probably the first record for w. Maryland (FP).

**WATERFOWL** — Canada Geese nested successfully at L. Arthur, Pa. (MG, *fide* PH), at Butler, Pa. (FPr), and in Clarke County, Va. (RSi), while the migratory flock which has been established in Canaan Valley, W. Va. hatched 20-25 goslings this year (WI). Blue-winged Teal nested near Middleton, Va. (RSi) and Wood Ducks nested for the first time in Dalton, Ga. (AH). At L. Arthur, Pa. only two family groups of Wood Duck were observed (PH). There was an unusual number of stray waterfowl or late migrants this year: Blue-winged Teal at Lewisburg, W. Va., June 2 (CH) and at Austin Springs, Tenn., June 8 (GE), a Ruddy Duck at Deep Creek L., Md., July 4 & Aug. 10 (FP), and Ring-necked Duck and Com. Merganser in Raleigh County, W. Va. in early June (Brooks Bird Club Foray, below, B.B.C.F.).

**RAPTORS** — The Broad-winged Hawk and the Am. Kestrel seem to be the only raptors whose populations are reasonably healthy in the Region. Red-shouldered Hawk populations seem about stationary while Red-

tailed Hawks show a slight increase at P.N.R. (RL) and seem to have increased near Akron, O. (PW). Neither of the Accipiter species was in very good numbers this summer although recent reports during the migration season had been encouraging. The only summer Osprey records came from Deep Creek L., Md. (FP). A Bald Eagle was seen at Norris L., Tenn., June 9 (JH, *fide* JBO) and an immature was at L. Arthur, Pa., July 6-13 (PH). A Bald Eagle was shot at Newcastle, Va., in late July and apparently the person involved is being prosecuted (JM).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS AND TERNS** — Virginia Rails nested at L. Arthur (PH). No Com. Gallinules could be found at L. Arthur (PH) but one was seen at Norris L., Tenn., June 9, one of the few local records. In the northern part of the Region, at least, the Spotted Sandpiper seems to be decreasing and may be headed for trouble. Upland Sandpipers were seen summering at Carmichaels, Pa. (RB), Latrobe, Pa. (RL) and in n w Virginia (RSi). A Com. Snipe at Jackson's Mill, W. Va., Aug. 6 was unusual both as to place and date (GB). The southbound shorebird migration was noted as early as July 4 at State College, Pa., the earliest date on record there, and among the more usual species White-rumped Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers were seen there in early July (MW). A Black Tern was at Mountain Lake Park, Md., July 22 (FP).

**CUCKOOS AND OWLS** — At Charleston, W. Va., Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in more than usual numbers (NG), but at Morgantown (GAH), Clarksville, Pa. (RB), Akron (PW) and Waynesboro, Va. (RS) they were scarce. Numbers along the Blue Ridge Parkway increased somewhat late in the season (RK) and this was also true at Morgantown, where there was a moderate outbreak of fall webworm (GAH). Black-billed Cuckoos were by no means very common, but they were more widely reported than is usual.

Successful Barn Owl nestings were reported from Clarksville, Pa. (RB) and Mountain Lake Park, Md. (FP), and they were in good numbers near P.N.R. (RL). Barred Owls were also in good numbers at P.N.R. (RL).

**GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND WOODPECKERS** — The Whip-poor-will continues its gradual decline as more and more stations report it as uncommon. Most observers felt that Ruby-throated Hummingbird populations were below normal this summer.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to increase in numbers in the north, and there were an unusual number of reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have become rather uncommon in much of their breeding range in the s. Appalachians so the report of 11 sapsuckers July 1 at 4500 ft in Macon County, N.C., almost the southern extremity of the range was noteworthy (HL). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers seem to be decreasing in the Carolina portion of the Appalachians (HL). The Hairy has become decidedly uncommon around Morgantown, but Downies are in normal numbers there (GAH).

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — Eastern Kingbirds continue to decline near P.N.R. (RL) and are in low numbers in much of the n. part of the Region. The Great Crested Flycatcher was in low numbers near Pittsburgh (PH), at Indiana, Pa. (CW) and at Charleston (NG), but most reporters failed to mention it one way or another. A rather early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at P.N.R., July 25 (RL). As was the case last year Acadian Flycatchers are in very good numbers in the northern part of the range, and more or less extralimital reports came from Tionesta, Pa., July 23 (TG, *fide* WH) and Allan Seeger S.F., Pa. (DP, *fide* MW). But Acadian Flycatchers were thought to be scarcer than normal at Dalton, Ga. (AH) in the s. part of the range. In some respects the Willow Flycatcher exhibits the same phenomenon in the opposite direction. Breeding numbers have increased in w. Tennessee (GE,TF) and they were recorded near Cullowee, N.C. (first county record) June 8 (HL). Two pairs were found at Waynesboro, Va. (RS). This species is turning up in more places throughout West Virginia, as for example Raleigh and Wyoming Counties in the s. part of the state (B.B.C.F.). But in Allegheny and Butler Counties, Pa. (PH) and at P.N.R. (RL) where they have been present for several years the populations are declining. Willow Flycatchers have penetrated the mountain valleys in West Virginia and have apparently driven the Alder Flycatchers out of the valleys and the latter are now limited to the high elevation bogs. An Alder Flycatcher was reported from Blacksburg, Va., July 5, the first local record (RC, *fide* JM). There were no reports of nesting Olive-sided Flycatchers.

Near Warren Pa. approximately 560 young Tree Swallows were raised in 140 boxes of the "Operation Bluebird" project (WH). Tree Swallows near Beckley, W Va. (B.B.C.F.) were rather far from the known range in the state, and a migrant Tree Swallow was seen on Roan Mt., Tenn. July 7 (LH & ES, *fide* GE). Bank Swallows nested for the first time in Centre County, Pa. (MW), but were thought to be 25% below normal numbers at Akron (PW). Rough-winged Swallows seem to be declining throughout the Region, with the decrease perhaps most noticeable in n. Georgia (AH). In e. Kentucky Rough-winged Swallows, Barn Swallows and E. Bluebirds were nesting in crannies in shalebanks on the high walls of old strip mines (PA). Purple Martins were in low numbers in e. Tennessee, but had a good nesting season (GE,JBO). At Waynesboro, Va. (RS) martins are beginning to make a recovery from the 1972 disaster, but departed earlier than usual this year, but in w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia recovery has been slower, and they are still scarce. A fall congregation was observed for the first time in Breathitt County when 1500 were observed on July 20 (PA). The only report of Cliff Swallow nestings was of a newly-located colony in Garrett County, Md., but elsewhere in that county (FP) as well as at other places they are in decline.

**RAVENS, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS** — Common Ravens now seem well established in the mountains of s.w. Pennsylvania, the latest report coming from Somerset County June 15 (PH). White-breasted Nuthatches continue to be very scarce at Mor-

gantown (GAH) and have declined at Dalton, Ga (AH). At Dalton, however, the Brown-headed Nuthatch continues to increase (AH). A Red-breasted Nuthatch spent the summer at a feeder at Warren, Pa. (HJ, *fide* WH), which is not far from the presumed breeding range in the state. A singing ♂ Brown Creeper was found in an all-hardwoods forest in Macon County, N.C., July 1 (HL). This is near the southern extremity of the range and it is more commonly found in the coniferous or mixed forest.

**WRENS, MIMIDS AND THRUSHES** — A singing ♂ Winter Wren was found during June in s.e. Butler County, Pa. (TB & CB, *fide* PH), and another was found at rather low elevation in the Ligonier Valley near P.N.R. (RL). The Carolina Wren population continues to boom to the north and once again there were reports (2) from Warren, Pa. (WH). Bewick's Wren apparently nested at Kingsport, Tenn., the first sighting there for several years (AS, *fide* TF), and a family group was seen on White Top Mt., Va., July 5 (GE, LH & ES). Elsewhere populations continue to decline, and none could be located in the mountains of w. North Carolina and n.w. South Carolina (HL). House Wrens were unusually high at P.N.R. (RL), one of the few higher-than-normal reports for the period. At P N R Gray Catbirds were in normal numbers but at Morgantown they were scarce (GB,GAH).

The northern thrushes made slight range expansions in c. Pennsylvania. Hermit Thrushes were found at several places in the Seven Mountains area (EB, *fide* MW), and Veeries were found at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa. (DP, *fide* MW) and Youngstown, O. (WB) Swainson's Thrushes singing in Raleigh County, W Va. in the first week of June (B.B.C.F.) were almost certainly late migrants.

In this, the 18th year of the project, "Operation Bluebird" at Warren, Pa. fledged its 10,000th young bluebird. Approximately 150 pairs of E. Bluebirds raised 600 young in the first nesting attempt, and 70 pairs fledged 200 young in the second attempt (WH)

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — The White-eyed Vireo continues to do well in the n. part of its range, and the range is expanding, but the Yellow-throated Vireo continues to decline. It is virtually missing at P.N.R. (RL), and near Morgantown only one was recorded on three Breeding Bird Survey (below, B B S ) routes (GAH). One thinks of the Red-eyed Vireo as one of the most common birds throughout the Region, but in places it may be declining. One one B.B.S route near Morgantown only 24 were recorded compared with an average of 41 for the four preceding years, but on another route in the same area the count was 15 compared with an average of 16 (GAH). Populations seemed normal at P.N.R. (RL).

The earliest report of migrating warblers was of some heard flying across Norris L., Tenn. on the night of July 4 (JH, *fide* JBO). Prothonotary Warblers nested at Kingsport, Tenn. (first county record) (FO & BO, *fide* TF), and in Hawkins County, Tenn. (TF), and a pair was seen near Elizabethton, Tenn., June 1 (GE) Most remarkable was a count of 19 Swainson's Warblers in n. Pickens County, S.C., on June 5. It was thought to

be the most common bird there (HL). Only two could be found in s.e. Macon County, N.C. (HL). Interestingly enough, all of these Carolina records come from the small part of the mountains that are in the Atlantic drainage, and the bird was not found in the Mississippi drainage (HL).

Golden-winged Warblers were in low numbers at P.N.R. (RL) and at Morgantown (GAH), but Blue-winged Warblers continue to increase and expand their range. They were in increased numbers at P.N.R. (RL) and were reported from Blacksburg, Va. (CA, *fide* JM) and from Scott County, Tenn. (JC, *fide* JBO), unusual records for both places. Brewster hybrids were reported from the Seven Mountains, Pa. (MM, *fide* WC). Both Golden-winged and Blue-winged are present in the North Carolina mountains but no signs of hybridization have been observed (HL).

The summer range of the Magnolia Warbler has been thought to extend as far south as s.e. West Virginia and n.w. Virginia although there seems to be no apparent reason why it should not occur farther south in the mountains. Last year a population was found on Mt. Rogers, Va., and this year at least three singing males were found on Roan Mt., Tenn. and while no nests were found adults carrying food were observed on July 14 (GE).

Northern Parulas are increasing at P.N.R. (RL), and in w. Pennsylvania where they are scarce, records came from s.e. Butler County (TB & CB, *fide* PH) and from Raccoon Creek S.P. (CF, *fide* PH). A Blackburnian Warbler at Rocky Bottom, S.C., June 5 was one of the few summer records for South Carolina, and was at a rather low elevation (1975 ft.) (HL, SG, PHa). A singing ♂ Wilson's Warbler in suburban Pittsburgh July 23 (CF) seems much too early for a migrant, too late for a belated spring migrant.

As related in the spring report the Yellow-throated Warbler is moving northward in the Region. There were two males at P.N.R. (RL), at least one at Morgantown (GAH), one in s.e. Butler County, Pa. (TB, *fide* PH) and one at Hooversville, Somerset Co., Pa. (GSA & RSA, *fide* PH). However in Dalton, Ga. at the s. end of the range they were decreasing (AH). In Raleigh County, W. Va. a bird (netted and banded) which appeared to be a Yellow-throated Warbler but which sang a "double Parula" song gave rise to speculation about Sutton's Warbler.

Yellow Warblers were in lower than normal numbers at P.N.R. (RL) and four B.B.S. routes in s. West Virginia together with one in e. Tennessee recorded only 49 Yellow Warblers compared with a five-year average of 80 (TF). On the other hand two n. West Virginia routes listed 35 compared with a four-year average of 33 (GAH). At P.N.R. Yellow-breasted Chats were thought to be in only about half of the previous breeding population (RL). Two n. West Virginia B.B.S. routes for the last five years have shown the number of chats to be 22, 25, 14, 9 and 8 in 1975 (GAH). The four s. West Virginia and one e. Tennessee route listed only 14 chats compared with a five-year average of 28 (TF). On the other hand near Pittsburgh chats were apparently back to normal after several low years (PH), and at Clarksville, Pa. they were in good or above-normal numbers (RB). The s. West Virginia and

e. Tennessee Routes also showed a deficiency of Ovenbirds, only 15 against a five-year average of 28 (TF).

**ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS** — A few Bobolinks were found in Raleigh County, W. Va. in early June and early July (B.B.C.F.). This is a considerable distance outside of what had been thought to be the summer range of this species in the state. Northern Orioles were thought to be in above-normal numbers in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia (CM) but were low at Charleston (NG). As had been reported in the spring Orchard Orioles were more numerous than usual in n. West Virginia and s.e. Ohio.

Summer Tanagers have been moving northward for several years and the n. edge of the range is at present just about at the range is at present just about at the Pennsylvania-West Virginia border, so two pairs at Waynesburg, Pa. and one at Clarksville (RB) indicate continued expansion.

**FRINGILLIDS** — In one small area in Garrett County, Md. 17 active nests of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak were found, indicating a very good year (*fide* FP). Near Blacksburg Rose-breasteds were found at elevations of 2000-2200 ft., much lower than normal there (JM). Is the Blue Grosbeak the next southern species to start increasing northward? Three pairs were nesting in the vicinity of Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE) and three pairs apparently nested at Blacksburg, Va. (CA, *fide* JM). One nest was found in Shenandoah County, Va. and another pair found in Clarke County (RSi). A female seen in Somerset County, Pa., June 13-14 was far out of range (GSA & RSA).

The House Finch explosion continues. The first definite nestings were established in Allegheny County, Pa. (MC), Greensburg, Pa. (DS, *fide* PH), Indiana, Pa. (CW) although it had been obviously breeding there for some time, Butler County, Pa. (PH), and Latrobe, Pa. (RL). At Indiana 56 were banded during June and July but of the birds coming to the feeder at that station perhaps only one in six is banded (CW). The nesting at Morgantown reported in the spring was apparently not successful (GAH). Other records of House Finches came from Waynesboro, Va. (IB, *fide* RS), Staunton, Va. (young birds with adults) (YL, *fide* RS), Roanoke, Va. (NM), and Warren, Pa. (TG, *fide* WH). At Indiana, Pa. Purple Finches were unusually scarce, after some years of being common nesting birds (CW).

Populations of Am. Goldfinches were generally lower than normal throughout, and the only summer report of Pine Siskins came from Roan Mt., Tenn., where a few were seen throughout the period (GE). On Roan Mt. flocks of Red Crossbills were seen on July 11 & 14, and three used nests that may have been of this species were found (GE). The only other summer report of Red Crossbills came from Great Smoky Mountains N.P., June 23 (KG).

The Grasshopper Sparrow continues to decline in most areas. The s. West Virginia B.B.S. routes referred to earlier listed only two compared with a five-year average of 11 (TF). In the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia they may be making a comeback (CM). The Vesper Sparrow may be following suit since a number of observers commented on the scarcity of this species

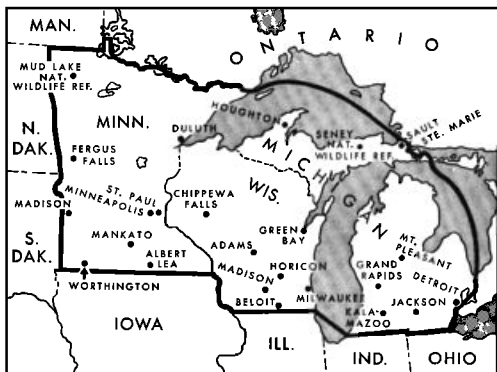
The Savannah Sparrow, however, seems to be doing well, and is extending its range southward. It moved in to the Clarksville, Pa., area where it had not been before (RB), and it was found in Raleigh County, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.) a new station in the state. The once high Henslow's Sparrow population at L. Arthur, Pa. has declined to only seven singing males (PH). In e. Ohio at Salt Fork S.P. approximately 50 singing ♂ Henslow's Sparrows were found in early June (GP). The very transitory nature of good Henslow's Sparrow habitat often leads to such large populations followed several years later by drastic declines.

Dark-eyed Juncos were seen at State College, Pa. in early July (*fide* WC). White-throated Sparrows were found in Columbus, Pa., June 28 (TG, *fide* WH). There are recent nesting records for that area. One seen at Beckley, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.) in early June was undoubtedly a belated migrant.

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION /Daryl D. Tessen

There was a contrast in the weather between June and July in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. June was characterized by cool and wet conditions. After the first week of July, during which heavy but local rain fell in the two states, the weather changed becoming exceptionally hot and dry. In Michigan warm temperatures



and increasingly drier conditions prevailed during the summer. The most devastating weather of the period occurred in northwestern Minnesota when, during late June, a rainstorm dumped record amounts of water on the Red River Valley; 12 to 18 inches in a 24 to 48 hour period. The hardest hit section was Clay County, which is near the heart of the remnant Prairie Chicken breeding grounds and the only known breeding territory of the Chestnut-collared Longspur and Sprague's Pipit in the state. As a result of the prevailing weather patterns this summer Minnesota reporters expressed concern about the success of the nesting season for various species. However both Wisconsin and Michigan reporters, with less harsh summer weather, showed considerably more optimism about the success of the nesting season for most species.

Certainly the most outstanding ornithological event of the region was the nesting of Little Gulls at two different locations in Wisconsin. One site contained three nests amid a Forster's Tern colony and the other contained a lone nest in a Black Tern colony. One site failed to produce any young but the other had one young. This constitutes the first nesting record for this species in the United States and represents the first success these gulls have had after unsuccessful attempts during the past three years in northeastern Wisconsin. The nesting record is documented with photographs including the adult birds, nest with eggs and the young (TE,JS).

Nesting made further news in Wisconsin with the first documented nesting of Cattle Egrets for the state, although nesting has been strongly suspected several times in the past seven years. At this same site, two pairs of Snowy Egrets were discovered to be nesting among the other herons, representing the first nesting record for the state. Both were documented by banding and photographing the young. (TE).

Another interesting occurrence this summer was the unprecedented lingering of shorebirds in all three states. Both excellent variety and numbers were present until mid-June with some individuals summering in Minnesota (yellowlegs, Pectoral, Baird's and Stilt) and Wisconsin (Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin and Semipalmated Sandpiper). The reasons for this occurrence are obscure but, for example, in Wisconsin, this late spring departure and summering of some species has been occurring at an increasing rate during the past several years. Should this "pattern" continue it will undoubtedly become impossible to distinguish between many of the spring and autumn migrants. By the end of June the fall shorebird migration was commencing in all three states with impressive numbers present, especially in Minnesota (hundreds) and Wisconsin (900-1500).

Southern species, which dominated much of the spring season, continued to make news this summer. Michigan had a Louisiana Heron, Minnesota a Hooded Warbler, and Wisconsin had seven Laughing Gulls, four pairs of Hooded Warblers, Bewick's and Carolina Wrens, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and at least one Summer Tanager. On the negative side two southern species appear to be decreasing their numbers and range in the region. Both the Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Bell's Vireo were observed infrequently during the summer, in several instances none where they have nested in previous years. This appears to be another

developing pattern, one that was initially noted approximately two years ago.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Red-necked Grebes were reported only from Wisconsin where a nesting colony continues on Rush L., Winnebago Co., and two nesting pairs were in St. Croix County (CF). Western Grebes were present in good numbers throughout the w.c. and n.w. parts of Minnesota. On July 12 there were 191 (156 adults and 35 immatures) counted at the Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. Lone White Pelicans were found in Wisconsin in Door County June 12 (JT,TE) and in Michigan in Wayne County June 5 (AM) and on L. Huron, Huron Co. (AW *et al.*). They bred again on Marsh L., Lac Qui Parle Co., Minn. with 200+ birds present. The Double-crested Cormorant bred in Minnesota (Pope, Meeker, Lac Qui Parle, Marshall and Lake of the Woods Cos.) and Wisconsin Green Lake, Marquette, Burnett and Brown Cos.) with numbers up slightly from last year. The only Little Blue Heron sighted this summer was in Oconto County, Wis., July 13 (DT). Cattle Egrets were observed sparingly in Minnesota with three June 21 in Pope County and five June 30 in Freeborn County, and in Michigan with one June 28 in Wayne County (H&EC). However in Wisconsin Cattle Egrets were discovered nesting in a heronry in Oconto County during early July. There were twelve pairs present with fourteen young birds banded at the time with an additional ten young also believed present (TE,JT,JS *et al.*). Single Snowy Egrets were noted in Allegan County, June 19 (JV) and Monroe County, Mich., July 26 (AM). The first Wisconsin nesting record of the **Snowy Egret** occurred this summer when two pairs were discovered nesting among the Cattle Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons in Oconto County. One nest contained five young, which were banded, and the other still contained eggs (TE,JS,JT *et al.*). On June 5 a **Louisiana Heron** was observed at Pt. Mouillee, Wayne Co. (JK). There were only four sightings of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron this summer with single birds June 16 in LaCrosse County (DT), July 6 in Waukesha County (T&CB), and July 20 in Oconto County (LE) in Wisconsin, and three adults July 9 in Goodhue County, Minn. However in the latter state none were found in the breeding locality of Houston County, where they have been seen for the past 20 years.

**WATERFOWL** — Mute Swans continue to be observed in Michigan's lower peninsula along the Great Lakes and now are appearing at various inland lakes. Wisconsin again had summering Whistling Swans. Two were present at Green Bay, Brown Co., at the beginning of the period where they remained for about two weeks. At this time both birds were shot by party or parties unknown. A reward has been offered for the apprehension of those responsible but the case still remains unsolved. A single bird appeared on July 22 in Manitowoc County (JS). While Wood Duck was present in good numbers throughout most of the region, in the s. and w. portions of Minnesota it "exploded", and was the most common breeding species. It even outnumbered the Mallard and Blue-winged Teal (RJ). Canvasbacks normally breed only in the n.w. area of Minnesota. However this year summering birds were found in Hennepin, Jackson, Rice and St. Louis Cos. and a brood of five young in Lyon County (RJ). In

Wisconsin, summering Canvasbacks were present in Brown, St. Croix, Dodge and Burnett Cos., with summering Greater Scaup in Milwaukee and Brown Cos., and Lesser Scaup in St. Croix, Oconto, Milwaukee, Taylor, Rusk, and Brown Cos. One Com. Goldeneye spent the summer in the Milwaukee harbor while a female with eight young was discovered in Door Co., Wis., July 6 (LE). A single ♀ Bufflehead appeared in St. Paul July 13 and in Muskegon County, Michigan, July 10 (HC). Most unusual was the appearance of a ♀ **Harlequin Duck** for the second straight summer in the Milwaukee harbor. This year it was first observed June 9, and it was still present at the beginning of August (EE,MD, LE,DT *et al.*).

**HAWKS** — Goshawks were nesting in several counties of Wisconsin and Minnesota which is normal, while in Michigan Postupalsky found 16 occupied nests containing 26 young in twelve counties in the n. half of the lower peninsula. The Red-shouldered Hawk continues to be much reduced in Michigan with a total of 25 occupied nests in the lower peninsula. In Minnesota the Swainson's Hawk was present in good numbers in the s.c. portion of the state with sightings occurring in seven counties. Certainly the most unusual observation within this group was the sighting of Rough-legged Hawks. In Minnesota, one and three birds were observed June 8 and 21, respectively, in Aitkin County, while in Wisconsin single birds were observed June 7 at Crex Meadows N.W.R., Burnett Co. (CF) and June 13 in Price County (MH). Michigan also had Rough-legged Hawks with four migrating northward at the beginning of June in Chippewa County (WG,AV) and nine passing along the L. Huron shoreline June 16 (Alpena County, B&MR). There is encouraging news relative to Bald Eagle and Osprey nestings in Michigan. Postupalsky reports the best production of Bald Eagle young in 15 years with 86 occupied nests in the state, and 46 producing 77 young. Similarly the Osprey had its best year in 11 years of study, with 81 occupied nests, 41 of which produced 97 young. A starving imm. Bald Eagle was found June 29 in a field in Walworth County, which is in extreme s. Wisconsin. The bird was nursed back to health during the next three weeks and subsequently released (T&CB). Merlins were found in Forest County, Wis., June 26 (CF) and July 22 (DT).

**GROUSE THROUGH RAILS** — Spruce Grouse with young were found during the summer on the Echo Trail, St. Louis Co., Minn., and a single individual was found at its usual place in Oneida County, Wis., June 17 (MD). Ruffed Grouse apparently are beginning to recover from their drastic decline of several years ago. For example, in suburban Minneapolis a brood was found June 10, the first breeding record in Hennepin County in 30 years. Better numbers were also being seen in various other areas of the region. The Gray Partridge is doing well in both Wisconsin and Minnesota but the Ring-necked Pheasant is down in numbers in Minnesota. This is owing primarily to last winter's storms and the exceptionally wet June.

The King Rail continues to become less common in the region. The only reports were from Wisconsin with birds in Burnett (June 25, SR,NS), Dodge (July 21, DF) and Brown (period, JT,DT) Cos. The birds seen in Brown County were in a marsh which unfortunately

will exist for only a few more years before going the way of far too many marshes — filled in for industry. The elusive Yellow Rail was recorded in Wisconsin in Vilas County, during June (SR,MD,CF) and in Winnebago County, July 15 (DT); in Minnesota good numbers were again found in Aitkin County and 5-6 were heard in June in the Boundary Waters Canoe area of St. Louis County (RJ).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Substantial numbers of shorebirds lingered well into June in the region. Unusually late spring observations for Minnesota included summering yellowlegs, Pectoral, Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers; for Michigan a Hudsonian Godwit June 5 (JK,AM), both yellowlegs, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers and Ruddy Turnstones June 12 (Wayne County, JK) and a White-rumped Sandpiper June 20 in Cheboygan County (MAV,WG). For Wisconsin there were the following spring departures: Semipalmated Plover, Columbia County, June 13 [late] (PA), 2-3 Black-bellied Plovers, Brown County, June 25 [late] (JT), Ruddy Turnstone, Brown County, July 10 (JT), Solitary Sandpiper, Milwaukee June 10 (state record departure, below s.r.d.) (EBs); Greater Yellowlegs, Brown County, June 7 (s.r.d.) (DT), White-rumped Sandpiper 45+ on June 7 (Brown County, DT) and June 18 [late], Columbia County (PA), Dunlin, July 1 (s.r.d.), Brown County (JT), and a W. Sandpiper at Green Bay June 7 (DT). Despite the difficulty of distinguishing between spring departures and the commencement of the fall movement reporters indicated significant numbers and new species present in Minnesota by the first week of July, in Michigan by June 28, and in Wisconsin by the third week of June. There were other interesting observations within this group. They included a Piping Plover in Manitowoc County, Wis., July 20 (JS) and in Muskegon County, Mich., July 19 (GW) and a **Long-billed Curlew** at Green Bay, Wis., July 6 (only the fourth recent record-TE). Willets were in Michigan June 28 (Wayne County, H&EC) and July 19 (Presque Isle County, BG) and in Wisconsin a total of eight were seen with the most interesting being the one at Green Bay June 24, 26 and July 19 (JT). Also interesting was a Red-Knot at Green Bay July 21 (JT), four White-rumped Sandpipers during late July in Wisconsin, Baird's Sandpipers from June 21 on at Green Bay (JT), dowitchers arriving at Green Bay by June 26 with both species being identified by their call notes by July 6, Stilt Sandpipers also at Green Bay from June 26 on (JT), three W. Sandpipers in Monroe County, Michigan, July 20 (JG) and single Marbled Godwits in Wisconsin July 19 (St. Croix County) and July 29 (Dodge County, CF). Northern Phalaropes were seen on July 10 (Muskegon County, Michigan, HC) and July 29 (Dodge County, Wis., DG) with 57 Wilson's Phalaropes also present in Dodge County, July 21 (DG).

**GULLS** — The **Laughing Gull** appeared in several places in Wisconsin this summer. Four in nearly-full to full plumage were present in Brown County between June 8-29 (JT,TE). An adult appeared in the Milwaukee harbor and completed its change to full plumage during the duration of the period (MD,EE *et al.*). It was also observed in Manitowoc County July 17 & 22 (different birds — TE,JS). In Michigan one ad. Laughing Gull was seen June 4 & 11 in Berrien County (WB). Franklin's Gulls appeared on L. Michigan again this

summer with approximately 18 birds being found on the Wisconsin side in Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Manitowoc Cos. (EE,LE,MD,JW *et al.*). In Michigan this species was found in Muskegon (June 6 & 8, GW), Monroe (July 13, JG) and Berrien (four on July 30, RS,WB) Cos. There were substantial numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls in c. Minnesota by mid-July and along the Wisconsin side of L. Michigan in Ozaukee and Milwaukee counties by late July. The **Little Gull** continued to be news in this region. Numbers increased at Pt. Mouillee, Wayne Co., during the summer until 17 were present by mid-July. In addition one adult was seen in the St. Clair R. on June 14. In Wisconsin two imm. Little Gulls were observed from June 20 intermittently through the remainder of the period in the Milwaukee harbor (EE *et al.*).

#### S. A.

History occurred in n.c. Wisconsin this summer with the first successful nesting of the **Little Gull** in the United States. Tom Erdman observed and recorded this nesting activity which included three nests on the west shore of lower Green Bay, Brown Co., and Erdman and Jim Steffen observed another nest on a small river about 2 mi. inland from L. Michigan near the city of Two Rivers in Manitowoc County. Erdman first found the Little Gulls in 1972 on the lower Green Bay when a pair attempted to nest in a large Forster's Tern colony. The extremely high water levels in 1972 compounded by the normal seiche and wind driven surges of the lower bay caused the failure of two nesting attempts that summer. Due to weather conditions the nesting site was ultimately destroyed before the 1973 nesting season. This caused the Little Gulls and Forster's Terns to move 3 mi. south to a large diked marsh at the lower end of the bay. Five birds were observed during that summer but theirs and the terns' nests were eventually washed out owing to high water during the summer. In 1974 the Little Gulls returned again to this site. Three birds were observed and by early June Erdman felt that a nest was obviously present. However in early July a tremendous hail storm smashed the marsh. The area was flattened with thousands of birds, including Canada Geese, being killed. After the storm Erdman could not find the gulls or the nest.

No Little Gulls were observed during this spring (1975) until Dr. H. Harris discovered one flying in a small marsh 12 mi. north of the 1973 and 1974 area. Tom Erdman checked on June 9 and found three nests, each with three eggs. This was the first confirmed nesting of the Little Gull for Wisconsin and the United States after three years of frustration. A total of thirteen Little Gulls were observed; six of which were in adult plumage. On June 17, Jim Steffen observed an adult Little Gull near the city of Two Rivers on Lake Michigan. Erdman and Steffen, after a short search on June 21, located and photographed a single nest with two eggs in a Black Tern colony.

Both colonies were observed by Erdman and



Steffen through the end of July. The Green Bay colony fared poorly with predation to eggs and at least one nesting adult occurring. High water on July 3-4 washed out another nest. There were no young observed but Tom Erdman felt that there possibly might be at least one young in the marsh. This was owing to the behavior of one pair of adults. The pair at Two Rivers did produce young, with hatching occurring on July 4. Once the young left the nest they were not observed again. However again Erdman and Steffen felt that the behavior of the adults indicated that young were still present in the marsh. At this second nesting site, eight more Little Gulls (two in adult plumage) had joined the nesting pair by the end of July (TE,JS).

**OWLS** — The Barn Owl continues to be seen less frequently, with it being classified as rare in an increasing portion of the region. Therefore Al Maley's work and results are most encouraging. During the past few years Maley has been erecting nesting boxes in suitable barns and silos in Monroe County, Mich. This year four pairs raised a total of 17 young. Also a bird was present in Manitowoc County during the summer (BB). A remarkably tardy Snowy Owl was observed on the L. Superior beach (Chippewa Co., Mich., WG,AV) June 2 [injured? —Ed.]. A pair of Great Gray Owls bred just north of Aitkin, Aitkin Co., Minn., which represents the most southerly breeding record for the state. The young were photographed in late July. In Oneida County, Wis., May 31 a Great Gray Owl was observed for an hour during the evening. During this time the bird was observed capturing mice and was approached to within seven feet (JAs).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to increase its range in Michigan's lower peninsula, with two new nesting sites this summer. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was observed in Vilas County, Wis., June 26 (CF) and the species nested in St. Louis County, Minn. and along I-75 north of St. Ignace, Mackinaw Co., Mich (WG). Western Kingbirds were noticeably fewer in numbers in Minnesota, being absent from many areas where they normally are found. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was observed for several hours each day between June 20-22 in Shawno County, Wis. (KH *et al* ) The Acadian Flycatcher continues to nest in only a limited number of counties in each of the three states. Olive-sided Flycatchers were observed through mid-June in non-nesting regions of the three states, undoubtedly completing their spring migration.

**JAYS THROUGH STARLINGS** — Again this year the Black-billed Magpie was only reported from the Agassiz N.W.R., Minn. The Winter Wren seems to be extending its range southward in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. In the former, four birds were present at Wyalusing S.P., Grant Co., (PA) where they were first recorded last summer. In the latter state they were recorded in Goodhue, Dakota, and Houston Cos. A **Bewick's Wren** was heard and subsequently seen at the

Trempealeau N.W.R., Trempealeau Co., Wis., July 31 (CF). The Carolina Wren was found in only three counties in Michigan (Wayne, Lapeer and Berrien); in Wisconsin the bird that spent the winter at the Dick Garber feeder remained through the summer (Racine County), while the pair that has been residing in n. Milwaukee County successfully raised four young from their second nest (MD). Mockingbirds were reported from Berrien County, Mich. and Milwaukee and Walworth Cos., Wis. There were no sightings of the Sprague's Pipit this summer in Clay County, Minn., its normal nesting site. Undoubtedly the wet June was a prime factor in its absence. The Loggerhead Shrike continues to be in serious trouble in this part of the country. Neither Minnesota nor Michigan had any sightings this summer while Wisconsin had sightings in only Iron (MB), Waukesha (T&CB) and Sauk (which had 2-3 pairs) Cos.

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The White-eyed Vireo was observed only in Berrien Co., Mich. The Bell's Vireo continues to be seen less frequently in the region with early June sightings in Goodhue and Olmstead Cos., Minn. but not thereafter. In Wisconsin it was observed in Milwaukee County, June 22 which is unusual, in Dane County, June 19 (BH) and in Grant and Trempealeau Counties. Michigan had its share of unusual warbler records this summer. They included the first record for Allegan County of the Worm-eating Warbler (June 16 - July 31, JV); the second summer record for Berrien County of the Magnolia Warbler, when a pair was observed feeding young July 8 (WB), new summer county records for the Blackburnian Warbler in Allegan (June 20, JV) and Ottawa (June 22 - July 24, HC); the second county record for the Kentucky Warbler for Berrien County (June 8 & 15, JG,WB,TW,RP). Other Michigan observations included a Brewster's Warbler paired with a Golden-winged in Washtenaw County, and another Brewster's in Oakland County, two Yellow-throated Warblers again observed in Berrien County this summer (RS,FM,JG *et al.*), nesting Prairie Warblers in Mason County (EG), and two singing males in Ottawa County June 22 (HC). There were several out-of-range observations of warblers in Wisconsin during the summer. They included a Tennessee Warbler in Outagamie County, July 21 (DT) and a Blackburnian and N. Parula in Milwaukee June 20 and July 15, respectively (EBs).

However the most unusual warbler observation in Wisconsin involved the Canada. In Manitowoc County a pair nested and in Milwaukee three (one female, one immature, one ?) were seen on July 24 (EE). This is far south of their normal nesting range in the state. In Wyalusing S.P., Wis. nine Kentucky Warblers were counted on June 28 (Grant Co., PA) where they normally nest. The Yellow-breasted Chat was observed in Michigan with two on June 1 (Monroe County, JG) and one on June 19 (Wayne County, BW) and in Wisconsin June 1 (Waukesha County, JB) June 18 (Monroe County, SR), two on June 30 (Sauk County, BH) and July 31 (Grant County, CF). A singing ♂ Hooded Warbler was seen at the Itasca Biol. Station, Clearwater Co., Minn. June 14-22, while in Wisconsin three singing males were present in Waukesha County (JB) and a pair nested in Manitowoc County (BB,MA,JW) In

Michigan the Hooded Warbler nested in Allegan County and a singing male was found in Muskegon County July 26 (JP).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — There were several sightings of Orchard Orioles in Wisconsin and Michigan. However in Minnesota this species had the best year on record with large numbers present across the s. and w. parts of the state (RJ). One Rusty Blackbird was sighted in St. Louis County, Minn. July 2 The **Summer Tanager** was recorded only in Wisconsin this summer with a well-documented sighting of a male in Milwaukee July 8 (EBs). This is the first summer record for this species in Wisconsin. A ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** was observed at Blue Mounds S P, Rock Co., Minn., June 10 (KE). The Blue Grosbeak was observed in Minnesota in Rock and Nobles Cos this summer. The Dickcissel was very scarce throughout the entire region this summer. All reports indicated only a few individuals present in any one locality and absent in many areas where it is normally expected. The Red Crossbill was found in scattered flocks through the more northern counties of the region. Far removed from this range was one heard in Waushara County, June 20 (SR) and one observed twice in Outagamie County, Wis., July 21 (DT). The White-winged Crossbill was found in small numbers during the summer in n. Wisconsin. Remarkable however was the sighting of a flock of seven in extreme s.w. Minnesota July 5 (Luverne Rock Co.). Most unusual was the lingering of a Le Conte's Sparrow until June 5 in s. Wisconsin (Waukesha Co., JB) with birds heard in Rusk County June 7 (SR) and at their normal breeding ground in Vilas County June 25 (CF). Henslow's Sparrows were found in three counties in Minnesota, fifteen in Wisconsin and three in Michigan. However in Michigan Booth counted 35 Henslow's in one field alone in Berrien County! The Sharp-tailed Sparrow was observed in Aitkin, Wadena and Clay Cos., Minn. A Lark Sparrow was heard and seen in Burnett Co., Wis., June 26 (SR,NS). Unusually far south was a Dark-eyed Junco observed feeding alongside the road in Juneau County, Wis., June 21 (SR,FL). After the devastating June rains in Clay County, Minn. it is encouraging that between 40-50 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found during early July. One was also seen in Yellow Medicine County, Minn., July 19.

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## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Vernon M. Kleen

All in all, this past breeding season was good to excellent for most species; some species, such as the robin, attempted three broods after having successfully fledged their first two. The mild weather made this possible.

June began on the cool side and ended up slightly warmer than normal; July temperatures averaged about normal throughout the Region. After mid-June, regular rains were scarce and in the Kansas City area it was the driest July on record (since 1888). Around Cleveland, the dryness was not so extreme — less than one inch below normal precipitation.

Of special interest this season was the establishment of the first nesting colony of Ring-billed Gulls in Illinois; breeding and summering ducks; increasing populations of species whose ranges have gradually been expanding the past few years (both northward and southward); good numbers of field-associated sparrows, and the early return of migrating shorebirds. There were few comments about population declines.

In order to better verify observations, observers are



now required to complete documentation forms for extraordinary sight records at the time of the observation; such documentations have been denoted by a dagger (†) before the observer's initials. Specimens have been denoted by an asterisk (\*).

**LOONS, GREBES AND PELICANS** — As in the past, Com. Loons lingered at isolated locations during the early part of the summer; one was present at Killdeer Plains Res., Ohio, June 10 (BS) and another summered in Vermilion Co., Ill. (MC). Unlike last year, Pied-billed Grebes were not common nesters or summer holdovers; this was especially evident in c. Illinois (H). Groups of White Pelicans appeared in Illinois in early June; the total of four at L. Baldwin, June 4, had increased to 16 by June 11 with all departing during the next couple of days; 22 arrived at the Marshall Co. Conservation Area, June 14 (MM) and only remained a couple of days.

**HERONS** — Two Great Blue Heron heronries (one, a new colony) were successful at the recently formed L. Rathbun in s. Iowa (GB); the species was noted as 'common' all summer in the Springfield, Mo. area (NF) and a count of 38 was reported from Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo. (hereafter, S.C.R.) July 27 (E *et al.*). Normally, many species of herons are reported good distances from nesting colonies during the late part of the breeding season; such post-breeding movements were not observed this year. The only Little Blue Heron reported was an adult at Louisville, Ky. July 18-24 (m.ob.). The only Cattle Egrets were three adults and one immature at Ottawa N.W.R., Ohio (hereafter, O.W.R.) June 24 — suggesting nearby breeding (LV). Two pairs of Snowy Egrets apparently nested again at an East St. Louis, Ill. heronry (access by permission only); singles were found at a few extreme s. Illinois locations during June and July (m.ob.). Black-crowned Night Herons apparently did well this season; 103 were counted at the Louisville, Ky. colony, June 19 (S); the species was still fairly common in the Chicago area (C) but no longer nested at L. Calumet (B); several individuals were reported around Ft. Wayne, Ind., where they have not been observed before. More Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported than usual; several immatures were present in s.w. Missouri the last week of July (NF) and one was present at S.C.R. July 27 (E *et al.*); a "colony" of unknown size was reported from Lexington, Ky. (DC); a few nested at scattered loca-

tions in the Chicago area including Skokie Lagoons (B), at least 14 were observed at one time at Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson Co., Ill. June 7 (H); single adults were noted at Springfield, Ill. July 10 & 23 (H) and Ft Wayne, Ind. June 19 (EP).

**WATERFOWL** — As usual, many species of ducks summered in the Region — some as isolated individuals that may have been crippled and others as nesting pairs; there seemed to be several interesting records from the Chicago area. A few pairs of wild Canada Geese took up residency in the Region and raised young; such were reported from Oldham Co., Ky. (BH), L. Baldwin (St. Clair Co.), Ill. (BB), and Charleston, Ill. (LH). One ♀ Pintail was present at L. Calumet, Ill. July 20 (C). At least two ♂ and one ♀ Green-winged Teal were present on an intermittent lake in Mason Co., Ill. July 12 (H). A few Blue-winged Teal summered in s.w. Missouri (KH,NF); others raised young in Mason and Fulton counties, Ill. (H). There were four Illinois reports of Am. Wigeon: a brood of six at L. Baldwin in mid-June (BB); one and two at L. Calumet, July 6 & 20, respectively; and a male in Mason Co. July 12 (H). The Wood Duck was mentioned by many contributors; all believed the season to be an excellent one for the species. The first definite nesting record of the Redhead for Illinois was reported from L. Calumet where at least eight young and two adults were observed July 6 (†C); two other family groups were found in Lake Co., Ill. (GRO); one female was still present at Charleston, Ill. June 10 (LH). A ♂ Ring-necked Duck summered at a Mason Co., Ill. pond (H); two were present near E. Cape Girardeau, Ill. June 4 and 11 (K) and may have summered; other singles were reported from Waukegan, Ill. June 29 (C) and Springfield, Ill. July 11 to the end of the period (H). The first Chicago area summer record of a Greater Scaup was established at Waukegan, June 29 when a male was observed there (C). Two ♂ Lesser Scaup at the same location the same day (C,B); other single males were found at a Mason Co., Ill. pond all summer (H) and at Cuba, Ill. July 19 (H). A pair of Com. Goldeneyes was also present at Waukegan, June 29 (C). Two Ruddy Ducks summered in s. Cook Co., Ill. where nesting occurred last year; however, nesting evidence was not observed this year; a male in breeding plumage spent the summer at a Springfield, Ill. sewage lagoon (H,K); another summered in Vermilion Co., Ill. (MC).

**RAPTORS** — A group of 12 Black Vultures was observed milling around with 60+ Turkey Vultures at Goshen, Ky. June 14 (S *et al.*). At least one adult (possibly two) Mississippi Kites were observed along Medicine Creek in Grundy Co., Mo. June 20 (E); another was documented at Indianapolis, Ind. July 4 & 5 († MJS,RR). Two Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported from Springfield, Mo. July 1 (NF). Two apparently successful Cooper's Hawks nests were watched in n.e. Indiana (MW,LC). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were able to successfully fledge one of the two young out of a Winnebago Co., Ill. nest this year (RK). The Broad-winged Hawk is a marginal breeding species in n.e. Ohio; therefore, the individual caught and

banded at Waite Hill (Cleveland) was rather unexpected July 27 (AF). At least one Swainson's Hawk was present at the known n. Illinois breeding locality during the period (H *et al.*).

#### S. A.

Mr. Laurel Van Camp reported the following: "The Bald Eagle nesting population was more successful this year in spite of the fact that only half of the pairs nested. The pair in the Ottawa Wildlife Refuge (Ohio) raised two young; the pair on the south side of Sandusky Bay near White's Landing raised one young. All three young were banded, those in the refuge by special permit. Another pair incubated for the usual time but was not successful. No nesting activity was observed for two other pairs. One additional pair was seen around the nest on two occasions. Sometimes Great Horned Owls and Raccoons use this nest at the time nesting activity begins and the eagles skip a year when an alternate nest is unavailable. It will be interesting to see what happens next year with this 50% drop of nesting pairs."

A very early Osprey was reported from Jackson Co., Ill. July 19 (BP).

**RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS** — The traditional breeding range for the Black Rail includes n.c. Illinois, therefore some observers have spent considerable time seeking them out; at least one was discovered (seen and heard) in Mason Co., June 20 & 25 (H *et al.*); owing to the small size of the habitat and extensive searching and trampling which might follow, the location is being withheld. Nesting Com. Gallinules were reported as successful and young were in all stages of development from c. to n. Illinois at the end of the period. Singles to small groups of Am. Coots summered throughout the Region; in most cases there was no evidence of breeding; however, young were reported from Vermilion Co., Ill. (MC) and Mason and Fulton counties, Ill. (H).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Piping Plovers apparently did not nest along the Illinois shores of L. Michigan again this year (B); however, early migrants appeared at L. Chautauqua, Ill. three July 19 (H); Charleston, Ill. July 19 (LH) and Cleveland, Ohio, July 20 (M). Migrant Ruddy Turnstones were still heading north (100+) at Waukegan, June 4 (RP) and were first noted southbound in Fulton Co., Ill. July 19 (H) and at Charleston, Ill. July 24 (LH). An early Whimbrel was documented at Cleveland, July 26 (TM). The nesting success of Upland Sandpipers in the Region is not known; however, at least four young were observed in Vermilion Co., Ill. June 8 (MC); a pair was found in the Springfield, Ill. area during July (H); singles were noted in Ohio: Springfield - June 6 (LL), Cleveland - June 21 (D), and Killdeer Plains Res. - June 29 (BS); Indiana Allen Co. Airport - June 19 (MW); Illinois:

Williamson Co. Airport - June 15 (K *et al.*), L. Calumet - July 6 to end of the period (C). The earliest Kentucky fall record for a Solitary Sandpiper was set at Louisville, July 6 (BPB); another individual had arrived at Springfield, Ill. July 10 (H). There were seven Willets in breeding plumage at L. Chautauqua, Ill. July 19 (H). Other earliest-ever arrival dates for Kentucky included July 9 for both the Greater (6) and Lesser (3) Yellowlegs at Louisville (S,FS); one of the latter species was present in Mason Co., Ill. June 25 and acted as if it were interested in nesting (H *et al.*) At least 37 Short-billed Dowitchers appeared in breeding plumage at O.W.R., July 5 (BS); other early reports included July 4 at Cleveland (D) and July 12 in Jackson Co., Ill. (BP). Stilt Sandpipers (5) were also reported in breeding plumage at O.W.R., July 5 (BS); other individuals were first detected at Springfield, Ill. July 11 (H) and Charleston, Ill. July 22 (LH). A group of four W. Sandpipers were found in Cleveland, July 19 (†RH) and singles were noted the same day at L. Chautauqua, Ill. (H) and in Jackson Co., Ill. (BP). Two Marbled Godwits were reported: one at O.W.R., July 5 (BS) and one at Charleston, Ill. July 19 (†LH). A Wilson's Phalarope was flying around a Mason Co., Ill. pond and was determined not to leave it — however, a nest or mate was not located on either June 21 or 25 (H *et al.*).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — The first breeding record for the **Ring-billed Gull** in Illinois was established at L. Calumet on July 6 when Clark "counted 71 young gulls in the colony ranging from downy young to fledged birds noticeably smaller than the adults;" the larger young were not counted; in all, over 800 gulls of this species were present (†C). Some 30± Bonaparte's Gulls and several Forster's Terns summered around the Great Lakes in the Chicago area (B) — perhaps these will form nesting colonies in the near future! There was suspected nesting for Com. Terns in the Chicago area, unfortunately, the observers could not gain access to the area (B). The following note concerning Caspian Terns is of interest: "two adults and two immatures (were) seen flying by at L. Calumet, July 6. Extremely interesting implication! Considering the massive Ring-billed (Gull) nesting, and the very close association of this species with the Ring-billed, —. Will have to watch this closely next year; there are no Illinois nesting records." (C). It was also pointed out that it is possible for L. Calumet to be completely destroyed by next year. By the end of July there were 20± Caspian Terns present at L. Calumet (B).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS AND GOATSUCKERS** — The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported very common throughout most of Illinois (except the immediate Chicago area); it was scarce in s. Iowa (GB) and Cleveland (D); there were few comments from other areas. Black-billed Cuckoos seemed to be in less-than-normal numbers; in s. Iowa, none were present (GB); one bird was seen as far south as Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill. (hereafter, C.O.R.) July 29 (BP). A pair of Barn Owls was found nesting near Lexington, Ky. (DC) and one injured bird was found at Crestwood, Ky. and turned

over to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (AR). Van Camp reported that he had 23 Screech Owl nests (all in Wood Duck boxes) in n.w. Ohio, a total of 61 young fledged (all were banded) from 19 successful nests. Nightly flights of from one to three Short-eared Owls were witnessed at the Cleveland Lakefront Airport between July 2 & 31 (M); access to the area was denied, so actual nesting could not be determined. A Chuck-will's-widow was heard regularly from the Mason Co. Forest, Ill. beginning in early May (H *et al.*); this is considerably north of its normal Illinois distribution. Chicago area observers reported that Com. Nighthawks were "common" in their area for a change; other reporters made few comments about this species.

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — Everyone watches the ups and downs of the Red-headed Woodpecker; this year everyone reported that the species had a good to excellent nesting season. Two pairs of W. Kingbirds nested on utility poles near Des Moines, Ia.; it was the second year in a row for one location — these nestings constitute the first nestings for the Des Moines area since the late 1950s (GB). There were six known families of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in the Kansas City, Mo. area (KH); in addition, 19 individuals were counted along back roads between Cass and Lawrence counties June 20-22 (KH). At Louisville, Ky. at least one Willow Flycatcher was a persistent singer through the month of June and by July there were three singing (LS,S); there were at least 15 on territory in Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson Co., Ill. (BP) and 20 were found at Pigeon River, Ind. between June 6 & July 25 (MW,LC). There were also nine Alder Flycatchers at Pigeon River, Ind. between June 6 & July 25 (MW,LC).

#### S. A.

Dr. James Haw has the following to say about these two species at the same location: "The most intriguing breeding story continues to be that of the Willow and Alder flycatchers. ... One vigorously singing Alder was found on a Breeding Bird Survey route in extreme n.e. Fulton County, June 13 by Haw and Williams. This Alder was wee-be-o-ing merrily away not 200 feet from an equally vociferous Willow in apparently identical habitat — a brushy field with a thick stand of young trees mostly under eight feet in height. Either the Alder is moving into n.e. Indiana or we are just beginning to notice them. At any rate, Ft. Wayne observers consistently find no difference in general habitat between the two. Some of us are beginning to get the sneaking suspicion that maybe the local populations of the Willow and Alder were somehow not notified they are separate species."

In addition to the above two species, there were nine singing Least Flycatchers also present at Pigeon River between June 6 & 19 (LC). Four fully-feathered young

Tree Swallows were found in Jefferson Co., Ky June 21 (S) — rather noteworthy for Kentucky observers. The first c. Indiana nesting record for Cliff Swallow was established in Hamilton Co. when a pair was found nesting under a bridge (RB, *fide* HW); another pair was found nesting under the eaves of a barn in Steuben Co., Ind. (LC); at least 40 pairs were nesting under one bridge at C.O.R. in s. Illinois (K). Observers in the Chicago area and in Vermilion Co., Ill. believed that the past season was a good one for the Purple Martin, unfortunately, other observers did not have that outlook. At Cleveland, even the established colonies were considerably down in numbers (D).

**CREEPERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Further observations of Brown Creepers in the summer include one at Akron, Ohio, June 7 (WD). For Bewick's Wrens these reports were received: from Missouri: one family in the s.w. part of the state, June 21 (KH); Kentucky: Madisonville, one on June 2 (JH); Providence, two on June 27 (JH); and Lexington, one feeding a cowbird in June (DC); Illinois: Mason Co. Forest, summered (H *et al.*); Randolph Co., one on June 3 (K). Carolina Wrens continued their expansion northward and have become increasingly more common in the Chicago area, they were present in at least four different areas of Indiana Dunes Park, Ind. (C). Short-billed Marsh Wrens returned to Powderhorn Marsh (Chicago) after eight years absence (B); they were fairly numerous in the Springfield, Ill. area, but did not begin singing until July 2 (H); the first for Springfield, Ohio, was found on June 24 and by mid-July there were 15 singing in one area there (KM); five were reported from Trenton, Mo June 20 (E). There were many summer records of Cedar Waxwings throughout Illinois, parts of Indiana and in the St. Louis, Mo. area; actual nesting was observed at Connersville, Ind. (three nests DB) and at Sangchris Lake, Ill. (H). A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes attempted nesting in Ottawa Co., Ohio (BS); a single was noted in Wood Co., Ohio, Aug. 6 (TB); there was a suggested increase in population of this species in w. Missouri when a total of 13 were counted along the road between Independence and Aurora (KH); there was one successful nest in the Springfield, Ill. area (H); many were observed in extreme s. Illinois, the maximum one day total was 35 birds (K); there were apparently none found in the Chicago area (C).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — There seemed to be a decrease from four last year to one White-eyed Vireo this year utilizing the Pigeon River, Ind. refuge (LC), at least one (possibly two) pair nested in Seneca Co., Ohio (TB). Goose Lake Prairie, Ill. was reported as the only dependable n. Illinois location to find Bell's Vireos (C); others were present in Vermilion Co., Ill (MC) and two were reported from Bloomington, Ind June 18 (SG). The singing ♂ Black-and-white Warbler in the Charleston, Ill. area June 21 was only the third summer record for that species there (LH); four territorial males were reported from an unknown extreme s Illinois location (BP). A Blue-winged Warbler nest was

found in Vermilion Co., Ill. (MC) and the species was reported in good numbers around Chicago (B). Most observers making comments about the Yellow Warbler indicated that the species was badly down (Chicago area and Indiana especially); however, it was thought to be "abundant" in Vermilion Co., Ill. (MC). In the near future, we may find Black-throated Green Warblers nesting in the s. part of the Region; an example this year was the presence of one at Madisonville, Ky. June 8 & 10 (JH). The Milan Wildlife Area of n. Ohio seems to be the only certain place to find Yellow-throated Warblers in that part of the state (D). With the great expanses of pines planted in past years, it is reasonable to believe that Pine Warblers would begin utilizing them, this has been the case in many of the s. Illinois plantations and now they have been verified in the w. Kentucky trees (JE). An imm. N. Waterthrush was caught and banded at Connersville, Ind. June 14 (HW) — rather far south for an immature of this species at that time of the year. At least six different singing Louisiana Waterthrushes were present in Indiana Dunes Park, Ind. — quite a large number for that far north; another was found in Lagrange Co., Ind. June 19 (LC). The Yellow-breasted Chat was more common than usual at Pigeon River, Ind. with six present June 19 (LC). A ♀ Hooded Warbler was observed carrying food at Pigeon River, Ind. June 19; this provided positive breeding evidence for the species there (LC).

**BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS, DICKCISSELS AND FINCHES** — The Bobolink continued to receive favorable comments from observers at the s. edge of its range four at Trenton, Mo. June 20 (E); several in Oldham Co., Ky. June 14 (m.ob.), ten males with young present at Lexington, Ky. June 8 (RM *et al.*), and a pair with three fledged young at Springfield, Ohio, July 31 (KM). For the second consecutive year Yellow-headed Blackbirds nested in Polk County, Ia. — these are the first records ever for nesting in that county (GB); the n.e. Illinois populations continued their decline with the population at one marsh completely gone. Separate pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds were detected at Waukegan and the Chicago Botanical Gardens during the summer (C,B). For some reason, Blue Grosbeaks have been difficult to locate in Kentucky; therefore, all such observations in the state are considered noteworthy; one bird was discovered along a Breeding Bird Survey route near Lexington, June 3 (DC); another was found in Calloway County in June (JE); two Indiana records were documented: Spencer June 21 (†CK) and Somerville (2), July 14 (†MSm); in w. Missouri the species was difficult to locate (KH), but termed a "common breeder" at Montgomery City (RW); one individual was found at S.C.R. July 27 (E *et al.*). In the northern and eastern part of the Region, the Dickcissel was reported in very good numbers, more common than usual, the other parts of the Region made no comments. At Peninsula, Ohio, a Purple Finch was found singing June 7 & July 14 (D); at Tiffin, Ohio, a female was found feeding young in late June and early July (TB).

**SPARROWS** — General comments about the Savannah Sparrow were that the population seemed to be in excellent condition this year; good reports came from

Goshen and Lexington, Ky. (DC), Steuben Co., Ind., where 34 were counted on one Breeding Bird Survey (LC), and from Tiffin, Ohio, (TB); one bird was noted in Cass Co., Ill. July 26 (RP). Henslow's Sparrows were also considered to have had a good year, especially in Ohio, Indiana and n. Kentucky. In contrast, Grasshopper Sparrows were up in some areas (Tiffin, Ohio, Vermilion Co., Ill. and extreme s. Illinois) and down in others (n.e. Indiana). Two singing Vesper Sparrows were located in Sangamon Co., Ill. July 13 (H) and a nest was found in Vermilion Co., Ill. (MC).

**NON-CORROBORATED REPORTS** — (Every editor is confronted with publishing or not publishing records from observers. Some records are not published because they do not add significantly to the report, others are not published because of improper or insufficient documentation. In case of rare species, editors seek assistance from other experts. Therefore, this part of the report will include those possible and probable records that were not properly or thoroughly documented.) Swainson's Hawk, Cleveland, Ohio, July 26 (GRI).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (Sectional Editors' names in boldface type; contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors). Major contributors are identified with a single initial as follows: (A) **Richard Anderson** (Missouri); (B) **Lawrence Balch** (n. Illinois); (C) Charles Clark; (D) Owen Davies; (E) David Easterla; (H) H. David Bohlen; (K) **Vernon Kleen** (s. Illinois); (L) Floyd Lawhorn; (M) William Klamme, (P) Peter Petersen; (R) Mark Robbins; (S) **Anne Stamm** (Kentucky); (W) Arthur Wiseman; other observers include: Delano Arvin; Denzil Barricklow; Tom Bartlett, Gladys Black; Catherine Bonner; Bill Boyd; Elaine Burstatte; Robert Buskirk; (MC) Marilyn Campbell, (LC) Lee Casebere; (MCh) Michael Chaneske; (LCp) Lew Cooper; Dennis Coskren; Joseph Croft; Betty Dyer; Mr. & Mrs. William Daniel; Ralph Eisman, (JEI) Jack and Diane Elmore; (JE) Joe Erwin; Nathan Fay; Annette Flanagan; Steven Glass; (JH) James Hancock; Ray Hannikman; (Haw) James Haw; Mrs. Baylor Hickman; Kelly Hobbs; L. Barrie Hunt; Don Jones, **Charles Keller** (Indiana); Roy Knisley; Jean Knoblauch; Bob Krol; Louis Laux; Mahlon Mahoney; Kevin McGowan; (RMA) Rebecca Matthews; (RMO) Robert Morris; Raymond Nall; **David Osborne** (s. Ohio), Richard Palmer; (BPB) Brainard Palmer-Ball; Ed & Jerome Parrot; Jim Pasikowski; Bruce Peterjohn; Andy Rankin; Robert Rice; (GRI) George Roland; (GRO) Gerald Rosenband; Robert Schifo; (MJS) M.J. Schuetz, Lawrence Smith; (MSm) Marietta Smith; Fred Stamm, Nancy Stearns; Bruce Stehling; Allen Stickley; **Laurel Van Camp** (n. Ohio); Dan Varland; Anne Weaver, Mark Weldon; Henry West; Jim Williams; Rea Windsor; — **VERNON M. KLEEN, Div. of Wildlife Resources, Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, Ill. 62706.**



## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/James R. Stewart

Insufficient weather data are at hand for any conclusions to be drawn for the season. As seems to be customary for this report most of the records cited represent the extremists, adventurers, malingers and just plain "odd-balls" of the bird world. Only in a few instances such as the survey of the Chandeleur Islands are we looking at the mass of normally behaving individuals.



**SURVEY OF THE CHANDELEURS** — For the last two years the reports from the trips to the Chandeleurs have not been too encouraging. The following discussion presents a happier picture. Without separating my minor paraphrasing and additions and without quotation marks, the remainder of this section is basically Newman's letter report with Jake Valentine's species counts inserted.

On May 13 an aerial survey by Allen Ensminger and me found the Breton Islands at the southern end of the chain further eroded, but an opposite process was noted as we progressed northward. Nowhere were the results more dramatic than at Curlew I., for a while little more than a shoal but now an expanse of virtually bare sand and shell, nearly a mile and a half long and high enough to remain dry during normal tides. Even Stake I., long completely submerged, now has its position marked by a protruding hump of shell. At the main mass of the Chandeleurs — what one might call Chandeleur I. proper — the length of the southern end is building up with newly emerged shell and sand. For several years following Hurricane Camille, the island was highly dissected by cuts through which water sloshed back and forth between Chandeleur Sound and the Gulf of Mexico. Now nearly all these cuts have filled in. During the past several years with mild winters, the stands of frost-sensitive black mangrove have thrived and now cover much of Chandeleur I. and its satellites such as North and New Harbor Islands.

On May 13 little or no evidence of nesting was seen. Moderate sized groups of terns were massed together at

several points along the chain and took wing as we droned overhead, but we strained our eyes in vain for Sooties. We spotted about a dozen Am. Oystercatchers and saw perhaps 200 Magnificent Frigatebirds, well below par.

Farther on at I. au Pitre and nearby islands, we estimated more than 20 oystercatchers, a record number for this locale.

On June 19-20 Newman, Horace Jeter, Jake Valentine and others visited the Chandeleurs by boat. Newman continues — In 1973, "Monkey Island" (apparently an unofficial name) seemed the center of activity for nesting Royal and Sandwich Terns. This year we saw none there other than an occasional passing individual. The dampness of the sand in most places suggested that this part of the Chandeleurs had recently been awash with sea water. A series of narrow transverse ridges elevated above the general level remained dry, and there the skimmer nests (610 Black Skimmers with 79 nests) were situated. The three Com. Terns noted here, close to the spot where the only known nest of the species in Louisiana was identified in 1971, exhibited great agitation, but search revealed nothing resembling a Com. Tern egg. Our tour by small boat of the satellite islands where substantial numbers of Royal and Sandwich Terns had nested in 1973 yielded sightings of 20 Royals and 40 Sandwiches but no indication that any of them were nesting there.

By the night of June 19, we began to fear that we had uncovered an event of catastrophic proportions — the abandonment of the Chandeleur terneries, the greatest in the Gulf of Mexico...

The frigatebird population on North I. had built up to four figures. The compromise estimate of 2100 in Jake's report strikes me as a bit conservative, but I must admit that even 2100 frigatebirds can make the air seem filled with wings. One certainty is that the North I. aggregation increases and increases from mid-May onward. Previous experience leads me to believe that the peak is not reached until well after June 20. Thus counts made in different years at different times of summer do not necessarily reflect long-term population trends.

Why frigatebirds after completing their breeding chores in colonies mainly far south of the United States should congregate on North Island is difficult to explain. I used to think they did so to take advantage of the opportunities for plunder offered by the large Brown Pelican colony there, for in the old days no North Island pelican could return with food for its young without the harassment of a couple of swooping frigatebirds in close pursuit, but now Brown Pelicans have been gone from the area for many years. And still the frigatebirds return to this favored summer resort. Of course, the "man-of-wars" pirate terns also. But now the terns have vacated the vicinity. (About 3000 Laughing Gull nests were on North and New Harbor Islands.

Jake is low on Reddish Egrets. During the two days we saw more than four but not too many more and this time no white ones. No real decline is necessarily involved. We lacked facilities to cover as much ground as on the state-sponsored inventories of former years, when as many as 40 were recorded. What is more, Reddish Egrets today are spread over a wider breeding

range in Louisiana, extending as far as Barataria Bay.

Anyway we were not yet completely discouraged about the terns. On the first day, on our way northward, we had noted a few Royals and quite a few Sandwiches winging purposefully eastward across the Sound as though headed toward a common destination. So homeward bound on June 20, we dropped anchor opposite Curlew Island, dim in the distance, and outboarded toward it across an expanse of choppy water. We landed at a point from which we could see neither end of the island. The stretch to the south was a low-lying narrow arc of shell. To the north prospects were more promising. We headed that way and walked into the greatest seabird spectacle I had ever seen. Just how Horace, with experiences in the Dry Tortugas relatively fresh in mind, rated the show I'm not entirely certain; but I think that, with some qualification, he said that he too had never seen such a concentration of seabirds before. The air above us vibrated with the din of incessant harsh cries and flashed white with a blizzard of wings, as the adult Royal and Sandwich Terns milled about us. But even more impressive were the masses of young that herded ahead of us, "creche" style — young from newly hatched chicks to juveniles nearly ready to fly. The minimal estimate of 40,000 youngsters signifies the presence in the area of 120,000+ individuals of the two species, for only very rarely does either the Royal or the Sandwich Tern lay more than one egg at our latitude. Jake's maximal estimate translates into 195,000 individuals! (10,000-15,000 Royal and 30,000-50,000 Sandwich Tern young).

The indications are that the nestings here were not second nestings following a washout at Monkey Island and that the birds had chosen Curlew Island from the outset of the 1975 breeding season. To find the clearest support for such a conclusion, one must go all the way back to the summer of 1910, when A. C. Bent visited "Grand Cochere," a half-mile-long triangle of sand, which he envisioned as lying 110 miles offshore, having reached it by way of Pass Christian, Miss. Oberholser's interpretation in his Louisiana bird book is that "Grand Cochere" is Grand Gosier, today the southernmost remnant of the Chandealeur Chain, if one excludes the two Breton Islands. But, insofar as I can determine, Grand Gosier never resembled in size or configuration the island that Bent described. Be that as it may, "Grand Cochere" was in the Breton Island Bird Refuge, and in 1910 — believe it or not — that refuge was actively patrolled by a warden, Capt. W. M. Sprinkle. Indeed it was the Captain and his patrol boat that brought Bent directly to the island. Having had the refuge under surveillance in the weeks preceding, Sprinkle knew the recent history of the colony on "Grand Cochere." The birds had previously attempted nesting on another island in the chain. High tides had washed away the nests. When Bent encountered the terns, they were engaged in a documented second attempt. And so he found not a single chick — only eggs as yet unhatched! Even though he stayed until the following day!

Our observations on Curlew Island were only two days later in June than Bent's on "Grand Cochere." Thus the advanced state of most of the adults, if not all, had begun their 1975 nesting cycle on Curlew. But only

because of records that have come down to us from a long time ago can we piece current events together with such certainty. Nowadays, the Fish and Wildlife Service guardians of part of the Chandealeurs (the main island and the Bretons) are lucky to get to the terneries once a year by boat.

A big question was whether any breeding Sooty Terns were left in the state. We had to wait until we were halfway through the colony for an answer; but, as you can see from Jake's report, it was a rather emphatic answer (16+ adults, 6 nests with eggs plus 2 young). Numbers were far inferior to results in 1971 but a great improvement on 1973, when the total production was a single chick, which, however, grew up to be a flying juvenile and did such a good imitation of a Fish Crow that Jake and Don Bradburn temporarily called it that.

Newman, Valentine and Jeter all participated in just about every record listed while Sam Henson gave great supportive work. Other observations of note on June 19-20 were: Ruddy Turnstone 4, Long-billed Curlew 1, Willet 40 (1 nest w eggs), dowitcher 8, W. Sandpiper 30, Marbled Godwit 3, Gull-billed Tern 5 (at least one w young), Black Tern 125 (few in breeding plumage), Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1, Com. Nighthawk 3 (1 nest w eggs) and Red-winged Blackbird 6.

**LOONS, GREBES, PETRELS** — A Com. Loon seen June 8 on Old Hickory L. (BJ *et al.*) provided the fifth June record for the Nashville area, while two on July 13 and one through July 31 on Percy Priest L. (MB,GJ,MM) provided the first July records for that area. A Horned Grebe was seen on the Jackson-Bienville Wildlife Management Area, Jackson, Par., June 9 (RR) and an Eared Grebe, the second summer record for Alabama, at Lake Purdy Aug. 12 (JP). The July loons and the grebes were reported being in winter plumage so were likely one year old birds. Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels, the expected storm-petrel in the Gulf, at the Zapata 17 drilling rig about 110 mi. s of Morgan City, La. (at approximately 28°15'N, 92°30'W — this location will be referred to below as Zapata 17) June 17 (GL) were headed E on a NE course in a 20-25 mph SE wind. Another was seen 50 mi. s of Dauphin I., Ala., July 18 (RHa). An unidentified storm-petrel, thought not to be a Wilson's was in Pensacola Bay July 31 (WFu). Petrel records in the Gulf are always notable since our knowledge is so limited for this area.

**PELICANS** — A White Pelican on Miller's L., Evangeline Par., June 24 (BO) was unusual so far inland on this date although a few are often present throughout the summer along the Louisiana coast. Other White Pelicans portended disaster. The first hint of trouble came on Feb. 11 when Ralph Latapie, Laboratory Supervisor at Grand Terre, La., turned over to Bob Newman carcasses that had been found dead in the vicinity a day or two before. Later, other carcasses, bringing the total to at least six, were found. Autopsy showed that the birds contained lethal levels of Endrin.

Newman reported: "Meanwhile the Brown Pelicans of Barataria Bay were nesting, having begun as early as November. I feel reasonably certain that the birds of our original, native population never commenced breed-

(continued on p. 993)



ing activities nearly that early. The introduced pelicans seem to be slave to the cycle that regulated the lives of their progenitors in s. Florida, a cycle that is out of phase with seasonal climate in Louisiana. And so in 1974-75, the breeding season of Brown Pelicans was a long series of frustrations, of nestings and renestings, as winter tides and cold spells impeded reproductive success. Though as many as 100 nests were in operation at one time, only 18 or 19 young were eventually produced."

"Other adverse factors were at work in addition to the poor-fitting cycle. In the old North I. colony, the nests were built in mangroves and were relatively safe from high water. The imported birds have always wittlessly nested on the ground, although plenty of mangrove stands are available in the Barataria Bay area. [Some Florida birds do nest in mangroves.—Ed.] This year the birds went from bad to worse by moving from Queen Bess I. to a low shell pile nearby."

"Worse still, in April adults began dying. R. J. Stein, Jim Hebrard and I found a corpse May 28 on the beach near the mouth of Bayou Lafourche. Investigation revealed lethal residues of Endrin in the brains of the birds. The die-off was massive and brought the population down from an estimated 500 last summer to 200 or 300. On July 3 another 100 birds were brought in from Florida and released."

J. D. Newsom of the L.S.U. game management faculty supplied Newman with much of the above information.

Meanwhile, encouragement was noted in Florida and Alabama. Although only a maximum of 20 birds were seen in the Bay and Gulf Cos., Fla. area, there were about three immatures for every adult (SS). In the vicinity of Dauphin I. a maximum of 500, the largest number since the 1959-63 crash, were seen in mid-July (LT)

**HERONS, GEESE, DUCKS** — Several anomalous observations of Cattle Egrets were made in the Gulf of Mexico from the Zapata 17 (GL): one June 3, two plus a Green Heron headed SE in a 20 mph SE wind landed on the rig June 18, one flew to the rig from a boat anchored adjacent it June 24 and one flew from a nearby tug N in a 5 mph SE wind June 26. About 40 mi. s. of Grand I., La., three together were flying N June 12 (RJN). One can only guess at the status of these birds but see also Lester's records of warblers at the Zapata 17. Two Cattle Egrets at Gallatin June 7-10 (D&PCm,S&WF) provided only the second Nashville area June record for this now widespread species. Also in the Nashville area an established heronry of 40-50 nests of Black-crowned Night Herons seemed to have a successful nesting season (MB) while a second heronry of 16 nests of this species was located on Old Hickory L. (S&WF). The first Wood Storks reported for the Region were 14 at Slocum, Concordia Par., June 30 (RR). In Alabama, Imhof concluded this was a flight year for the species. The maximum count was 40 at Livingston July 26 (PT) where one bird had a red streamer on its wing.

The introduced Canada Geese in Middle Tennessee continued to thrive and the excess were being moved to other locations such as Cross Creeks N.W.R. (SB). A

check of traditional nesting and summering spots for the Ruddy Duck in Cameron Par. June 29 revealed no bird (RJN). Appearances are that the Louisiana breeding of this duck was a transitory fluke. A Red-breasted Merganser female with several immatures was noted at Navarre, Santa Rosa Co., Fla. the last week of May (BJo). A pair of Hooded Mergansers, present for several months, appeared to be nesting in a Wood Duck box on Bayou DeSiard near Monroe (JL, *fide* RS). Breeding records for either species are few in the areas where they were seen.

**HAWKS, CRANES, COOTS** — An unidentified *Accipiter* and a Red-tailed Hawk, both uncommon breeders in s. Louisiana, were seen 8 mi. n.e. of Ville Platte July 20 (BO). Cooper's Hawks were seen near Natchitoches June 7 (CV) and in Bay County, Fla., June 21 (MG). Another Red-tailed Hawk was seen n.e. of St. Joe, Tensas Par., June 30 (RS). An imm. Bald Eagle on the Cumberland R. 8-9 mi. upstream from Cumberland City June 8 (BJ *et al.*) was most unusual for June. Ospreys seem to be on the upswing in Northwest Florida with the following nests located: one at Tyndal Air Force Base with unknown success (SS), two in Santa Rosa Co., one fledging two young, the other unsuccessful (EL) and five in the Perdido R. valley with unknown success (MLM). Two young were raised at Magnolia Springs, Ala., the first there in more than 10 years (PCh). Two nests, one with a bird on the nest, were observed briefly Mar. 27 west of Pecan, Jackson Co., Miss. (JV). Four nests of the endangered Mississippi Sandhill Crane were located during the season and all four clutches apparently hatched successfully between May 1 and 17 (JV). The fourth Am. Coot nest for Louisiana was found June 6 at Miller's L., Evangeline Par. (RD,RL). A maximum count of 47 coots was made there July 7 (BO).

**SHOREBIRDS, TERNS** — A pair of Am. Oystercatchers was presumed to be preparing to nest on an oyster shell island off S. Rigolets I., Mobile Co., Ala., May 13-14 (JV). A Golden Plover, rare in summer, was in full breeding plumage July 5 along the Mississippi R., Lake Co., Tenn. (MBDJ). An Am. Woodcock seen in Bay Co., Fla., June 21 (SS) is very rare there in summer. A Red Knot at Destin June 20 (DN) was 5 days late and eight at Tyndal Air Force Base July 6 (SS) were an unusually large number for the fifth July record there. Several later-than-usual records were made at the Gallatin Steam Plant, Tenn.: one Semipalmated Plover June 11, only one previous June record, an undated 1927 specimen, three Baird's Sandpipers June 1-4, 18 days late and one Least Sandpiper June 12, 2 days late (D&PC,MDW). Two White-rumped Sandpipers at Corinth, Miss., June 3 (L&BC) were considered uncommon but 32 were at the Gallatin Steam Plant June 11 and 4-7 were present there as late as July 3-6 (D&PC). Six was the maximum previous number and the July birds were the latest by 13 days for the Nashville area. A single bird was present at Destin July 15-24 (EL,MLM) for the first July record in Northwest Florida. A Purple Sandpiper was reported at the Gallatin Steam Plant June 6 (D&PC). I am not fully convinced by the details reported, particularly the color of

the upperparts and breast. A spate of Spotted Sandpiper records for Tennessee makes one wonder about the appellation uncommon attached to each. Eight individuals were reported June 12 - Aug. 8, the latter falling within normal fall migration time. A Willet at La Branche, St. Charles Par., June 21 and July 6 (RJS) and a Black-necked Stilt at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., July 2 (RD,RL) were more inland than expected for either species in summer. Most of the fall shorebird migrants reported seemed to be arriving at typical early dates: one Upland Sandpiper at Ramah, Iberville Par., July 9 (RH,RR) and 19 on July 21 at Ville Platte (BO), two Solitary Sandpipers at the Bonnet Carré Spillway July 12 (RJS), one Greater Yellowlegs in Lauderdale Co., Tenn., July 4 (MB,DJ) and a Lesser at the Gallatin Steam Plant July 6, early by one day (D&PC). A Wilson's Phalarope at Gallatin July 11-22 was the first in July for the Nashville area (D&PC).

An unidentified jaeger was seen s. of Dauphin I., July 19, the first in summer for Alabama waters (DP). A Forster's Tern circled the Zapata 17, as it was being towed, about 120 mi. s.w. of Morgan City June 26 (GL) and then retraced its path eastward. One at Old Hickory L., July 3 (WF) was only the second in July for the Nashville area. Least Tern colonies were found at three locations on the Mississippi R. (MB): two small ones of 22 and 16 adults with one and three chicks respectively in Mississippi Co., Ark. at Mile 816 and a larger one with about 150 adults and 222 chicks, which were banded, at Mile 864, Lake Co., Tenn. Fifty Least Terns were seen on the Chandeleur survey June 19 (RJN *et al.*), but no nests were located.

DOVES, GOATSUCKERS — White-winged Doves have apparently abandoned their nesting site at Delta Ref headquarters in Plaquemines Par. as none were present in June (RJN,HJ) although they had been seen briefly earlier in the year by Cecil McMullen, Ref. Manager. Of particular interest on this species are two 1974 observations from an oil platform about 108 mi. s. of Morgan City (28°15'N, 91°20'W). On both Apr. 28 and May 16 a pair of White-winged Doves in apparent trans-Gulf migration circled and lit on the platform (AC). I have near heard any implication that this species reaches Louisiana by any other means than circum-Gulf movement. Single Ground Doves were noted at Morganza, Pointe Coupee Par., July 27 (PSR) and Gum Cove Road, Calcasieu Par., June 28 (RJN,JH). This dove is seldom seen in the first area and has never been previously recorded in the Gum Cove area. Whip-poor-wills were noted at a number of new Mississippi locations or in increased numbers by Ben and Lula Coffey: six in 8 mi. on Miss. Hwy. 39, Kemper Co., June 1: now more common than Chuck-will's-widows at Ashland, Benton Co., with a 20 to 16 count June 18; one for the first Tate Co. record on Miss. Hwy. 4 near Marshall Co., June 19; one north of Roosevelt S.P., Scott Co., June 19 and two 4 ½ mi. e. of Enterprise, Clarke Co., June 20, a 50 mi. extension south in the state. They also heard one at Bogg Springs and two s.e. of Wickes, Polk Co., Ark., June 25 for a slight extension in the s.w. portion of the summer range of the species. Nine near Hillville June 13-14 (JLe,MB) were the first in summer for Haywood Co., Tenn.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A W. Kingbird in s. Evangeline Par., May 8 (BO) was unusual. Two ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers with three moderately large fledged immatures Aug. 2-3 at Saddle were the first for Fulton Co. (H&HD,L&BC) and extend the species' range eastward in n. Arkansas. A singing Willow Flycatcher in the Ashland City Marsh June 22 (MB *et al.*) was a fourth summer location for the Nashville area. A Tree Swallow at the same location on June 1 (MB,DV) was locally the latest in spring by 8 days. Two ad. Tree Swallows were seen feeding 4 bob-tailed young at the Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., June 15 (MB,EH,BJ). Adults of this rare Tennessee breeder were reported at this same spot in 1974. Two Bank Swallows locally early by 3 days were at the Ashland City Marsh July 17 (RM,CE). Barn Swallows were noted at several new locations: 10 nests 8 mi. n. of Turkey Creek on US Hwy. 167 at the Rapides-Evangeline Parish line and 2 nests 1 mi. n. of this line July 13 (HG,DL,PSR), 1 nest near Bryceland and 8 nests near Arcadia, Bienville Par., July 12 (HG *et al.*) and 35 light-breasted birds at many areas around New Iberia, La., June 15 - July 17 (MJM). Established colonies in Alabama were increasing in size (PCh,TI *et al.*). Of special note there was a bird at Millry, Ala. that was banded last year as a light-breasted female, but returned this year dark-breasted. Are light-breasted birds yearlings? Coffey notes that in s. Mississippi nine were recorded on the Fayette B.B.S., June 10, 1972 and 10 and 11 on the Lake Mary B.B.S. in 1974 and 1975, respectively [see Kennedy, R. 1974. *Am. Birds* 28:914]. A Barn Swallow at the Zapata 17 on May 27 (GL) was not too late to be considered a migrant.

CATBIRDS, VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Gray Catbird in Pensacola June 14 (B&JM,LG) was a very rare summer bird for that area. In Northwest Florida for the fourth consecutive year a Black-whiskered Vireo appeared in May, then disappeared, only to show up for a day or two in July — one was at Gulf Breeze July 12 (B&LD). A singing Swainson's Warbler was observed through July 12 in the same Nashville area where it was first seen May 10 (PS). A singing Worm-eating Warbler in Shelby Forest S.P. June 16 (BC) was the first recorded in June in Shelby Co. and the Mississippi R. bluff areas of Tennessee. Long after most birders cease looking for passerine migrants apparently a few were still straggling across the Gulf of Mexico as evidenced by Lester's four records on the Zapata 17: one Bay-breasted Warbler June 18 and one each of Tennessee and Magnolia Warblers and Am. Redstart June 21. All were killed in a large fan on the rig with only the redstart being observed prior to death. A Yellow Warbler was still present at Ft. Pillow S.P., Lauderdale Co., Tenn. June 24 (LC) where a pair was nesting in May. A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler at Fall Creek Falls S.P. June 3 (MW) could not be relocated the next day. The species is not known to nest that far west in Tennessee. A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Fernvale June 11 (JE) was later by 11 days than any previous Nashville area record. A Louisiana Waterthrush on the Shoal R. of Mossy Head, Walton Co., June 20 (HMS) is a rare breeder in Northwest Florida.

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES** — A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Gulf Breeze June 12 (B&LD) was most unusual. Great-tailed Grackles were noted again 2 mi. s. of Mamou on La. Hwy. 13 where they nested in 1974 (HG) and breeding was confirmed at two locations on LaHaye's L., Evangeline Par. with 8 nests at one location June 17 (HG) and 32 nests at the other July 10 (BO). Ortego reported about 12 pairs of these birds 9 km n.e. of Ville Platte 1960 - 1966 as the first Evangeline Parish colony.

Three Rufous-sided Towhees were heard June 21 (KC,CM) during the previous six surveys. One each at Horseshoe L. and Midway June 18 (BC) are the first for Crittenden Co., Ark. An imm. ♂ Lark Bunting, the fourth in Alabama, was seen at Fort Morgan Aug. 23 (JP). A late White-throated Sparrow was seen June 1 (BJ) s. of Sykes, Smith Co., Tenn. and a much later one was at Woodbury, Cannon Co., Tenn., July 9-18 (FB). Also noted at Woodbury were one to two Song Sparrows from June 15 into July (HM), the first local record. This species is expanding westward in Tennessee and has finally reached the Mississippi R. at Echles Towhead, Lake Co. where one was observed singing from May 11 (L&BC) to July 5 (MB). A big increase of Song Sparrows has occurred in Alabama where 22 singing males (versus two previously known) were located in Cherokee, Marshall and Jackson Cos. (TI,JP,GJ,HK). The increase may not have been all in this year but certainly in the last five.

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## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Esther M. Serr

Birds had a successful nesting season even though they were two weeks late getting to their nesting territories. Moisture in June was above normal; then July became hot and dry except for days when very humid air came up from the South. The humidity kept the vegetation green in western South Dakota, and there was excellent ground cover for the birds and other creatures.



The Red River, which forms the boundary between North Dakota and Minnesota and flows north into L. Winnipeg, Manitoba, had severe flooding in late June. As a result there was a severe mosquito problem in its floodplain, and several cases of sleeping sickness have resulted. Three applications of malathion have been used thus far to control the situation. Ground nesting birds in the Red River valley must have been greatly disturbed by the flooding, and possibly by pesticide sprays.

### S. A.

Spelling of water from the Missouri River Reservoirs was started about mid-July, and it alarmed people living along the waterway. This is the first time since these huge dams have been built that it has been necessary to release excess water over them. Heavy snow melt from mountains in Montana plus above-normal rainfall in the western Dakotas was the cause. The result was that the swift flow eroded banks, destroyed habitat along the shores, covered sandbars used for nesting and flooded some of the low cropland. Some early mention of the situation has been noted in the report of species, but it is too soon to be able to assess the full effects on birdlife.

The Wascana Waterfowl Park within Regina, Sask., conducted a nest survey in a circle of 15-mile radius. Located were 632 nests of 60 species (TMB).

**LOONS, PELICANS** — A few non-breeding Com. Loons lingered in South Dakota, and a female with six young was observed at Flotten L., Sask. (WCH). There were five scattered Com. Loon observations in Alberta. Red-necked Grebes held over from spring at Waubay N W R., S. Dak., but no nests or young were found (KPH). Four nesting pairs and seven young were near Calgary, Alta. (RBu). Broods were evident on the lakes north of the settled area of Saskatchewan (WCH). Horned Grebes had a 200+ nest colony at Lake Zahl N W R., N. Dak. (RAS) and a 25-nest colony at Bowdoin N W R., Malta, Mont., represented a first nesting record for that refuge (JRF). Heavy rain and wind June 25 caused re-nesting by all grebes at Spring Valley, Sask (FB). At L. Zahl 2000+ nests of Eared Grebes were counted (RAS). A colony of 100 Eared Grebes, all occupied with nesting, was observed July 11 at Frank L., Alta. (RBu). Pied-billed Grebes were scarcely mentioned by reporters, but Moose Jaw had an increase of adults but no young (EWK). Western Grebes had good nesting success in n.e. South Dakota (BKH). They nested on all the large lakes in c. Saskatchewan. At Dore L., Sask., above 54° N, an unusual mortality occurred July 25, when an ad. W. Grebe and seven young were washed ashore during a sudden wind storm (WCH).

White Pelicans, probably non-breeders, gathered in numbers near s. Alberta reservoirs, which was unusual (EFB). Bowdoin and Medicine Lake Refuges in Montana together produced 2500 young (JRF,JMa). Two small lakes in n.e. South Dakota produced 430 young (BKH). Double-crested Cormorants had a difficult time at Freezeout L., Mont., when high water forced them to nest on hay bales on their favorite island (LMM). Figures from refuges in Montana, North and South Dakota have indicated this species is still below normal numbers. All reporters mentioned a few Great Blue Herons but none colonies. Green Herons seemed to have remained in South Dakota in good numbers but no nests or young were reported. Two Great Egrets were at Last Mountain L. through June (WCH,SML). Two pairs of Snowy Egrets were observed June 27 at Medicine L., but no proof of nesting was found (JMa). Black-crowned Night Herons were reported at the north edge of their territory, with Moose Jaw, Spring Valley and Indian Head (MS) totaling 25 adults and three young. Further north at Brightwater Marsh, Saskatoon, there were six adults and two young (JAW), and at widespread locations in Alberta a total of 43. In Lake Co., S. Dak. 150 adults were found July 26 (RBr) and 800 Black-crowned Night Heron nests were located near Lignite, N. Dak. June 2 (RAS). The Am. Bittern was a common nester in s.c. Saskatchewan sloughs and more than usual were found in the e. half of North Dakota (JTL).

The following sightings of the White-faced Ibis make this species seem rather common. Two were observed July 4 at Clear L., S. Dak. (BKH). Lake Benton N W R. at Black Eagle, Mont., had a maximum number of seven June 1 - July 10 (LAS). There were 12 seen at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., where nesting was suspected but not confirmed (JRF). One pair and two singles were found at Stirling L., Alta.

**GEESE, DUCKS** — Canada Geese, the greater form that is being managed generally, had very successful nesting. W. G. Leitch, Ducks Unlimited biologist, reported that there has been plenty of water on the prairies and parklands of the Northern Great Plains to last during the late nesting season. Regular reporters didn't have much to say about ducks. An intensive study in Manitoba during the season showed a strong re-nesting effort by Mallards. At the Woodworth Study area, N. Dak., only 35% of 439 upland duck nests hatched, owing to mammalian predators (JTL). A ♀ **Black Duck** was flushed from her nest with six eggs on Maidstone June 21. This was the first nesting record of this species for Saskatchewan (WCH,SML). Cinnamon Teal continue to be seen with singles in Saskatchewan, North and South Dakota. A brood of four was observed at Joliet, Mont. (KHi), and 16 were reported from Alberta. At Arrowwood N.W.R., Edmunds, N. Dak., 1032 Wood Ducks were hatched from 96 nest boxes (Mat). The Canvasback has had two good consecutive breeding seasons with very good nesting results in Saskatchewan (Lawson Sagden, CWS). A ♀ Harlequin Duck was observed at Livingstone Gap in June (HCS), and a pair each at Bragg Creek, June 14 (DS) and at Seebe, Alta. June 21 (LF) — all locations on swift streams near the mountains.

**HAWKS** — Turkey Vultures did well in w. South Dakota with 37 sightings. However three at Huxley, Alta., at almost 52° N, were unusual (JMi) as was the one at Spring Valley, Sask. (FB).

A Goshawk survey made in the Black Hills, S. Dak., by Paul Bartelt, produced five nests that fledged two young per nest. One Goshawk was noted June 10 at Prince Albert N.P., Sask. (WCH). Sharp-shinned Hawks nested at Flotten and Dore Lakes, Sask. (WCH). A Cooper's Hawk nest in Sodak Park, Roberts Co., S. Dak. was unsuccessful (BKH), and one at Biggar, Sask. produced three young (CSH). Saskatchewan had a total of nine sightings of Cooper's Hawks.

Red-tailed Hawks appeared to do well in Alberta, Saskatchewan and South Dakota. One ad. Broad-winged Hawk was sighted in Sieche Hollow, Marshall Co., S. Dak., (BKH,KE), and Saskatchewan had 31 sightings north of the populated area (WCH). Swainson's Hawks are still too few and nest failures too many in Saskatchewan (JMH) and across the region. C. Stuart Houston, in studying this species in six areas in c. Saskatchewan, found 32 nests producing about 50 young. Ferruginous Hawks were about as usual with a few in South Dakota and Saskatchewan. Marsh Hawks may have increased slightly, but numbers are still low.

Frank Scott and David Surkan located much the largest nesting concentration of Ospreys ever found in Saskatchewan with 15 active nests in 15 townships near Loon Lake. Some nests were 70 ft. high in both live and dead spruce (CSH). Single Ospreys were sighted at Calgary and Barberry, Alta. (BL,JMi). The Prairie Falcon did well in the Badlands of Saskatchewan with 24 young banded in five nests (CSH) and one pair nested in the Badlands of North Dakota (GDK). Merlins had virtually disappeared from Saskatchewan during the '60s but they made an increase this year with 19 known young produced (CSH,WA). The Am. Kestrel showed

an increase in w. South Dakota, with 41 sightings but no nests reported.

**GROUSE** — Sharp-tailed Grouse and pheasant numbers were low because of winter storm loss; hunting seasons have been shortened in South Dakota. This situation seemed to be about the same for other Gallinaceous species. Reports indicated that the Gray Partridge could be on the upgrade. One White-tailed Ptarmigan was at Lake Louise, Alta. about July 8 (MO).

**RAILS** — Virginia Rails were present all period but no nests or young found at Waubay N.W.R., S. Dak. (KFH). One was s. of St. Brieux, Sask., near 53° N (WCH), and an estimated five pairs at Wascana Marsh, Regina. A Sora was carrying nest materials until July 7, and only heard after that at Joliet, Mont. (KHi). A nest with six eggs was at Biggar, Sask., June 7 (WCH) and three nests with 24 eggs at Wascana Marsh. Soras were absent from Springfield, S. Dak., probably because of the high water of the Missouri R. (WH). A Yellow Rail was at Lac La Biche, Alta., almost 55° N, July 19 (DP), and 11 were heard calling from a *carex-typha* stand w. of Seamans, Sask. (WCH,SML). American Coots were barely mentioned except for the 15 nests and 149 eggs at Wascana Marsh.

**SHOREBIRDS** — A spectacular number of shorebirds, estimated to be at 6000, were seen at the n. end of Last Mountain L., Sask. June 8. Most were Sanderlings but not all were positively identified (WCH). Piping Plovers usually nest on Missouri R. sandbars at Bismarck, N. Dak., but the area was flooded this year (RNR). Common Snipe sightings in



Snowy Plover, Fort Peck Lake, Mont., Apr. 27, 1975. Photo/C.M. Carlson.

w. South Dakota totaled 11, and 14 were counted in Saskatchewan. Long-billed Curlew were very scarce in Alberta and Saskatchewan but there were 11 sightings in w. South Dakota. The Upland Sandpipers had good nesting in all parts of South Dakota with a total of 100 individuals plus nests and young reported. An unusual number of 47 was counted in Aurora County, S. Dak., June 23 (WH). Twelve Upland Sandpipers were seen in a 2 mi. stretch n.w. of Hanley, Sask. (RBo). Willets numbered 16 at Irricana, Alta., July 6 (RBu). Young Willets were at Regina (TMB), Moose Jaw (EWK) and Blackstrap L., Sask. (JAW). From June through July 31 as many as 500 Willets were counted on Tern I., Wascana Marsh (RD) and 25 were at Irricana, Alta. (RBu).

Marbled Godwit numbers were impressive, with 160 at Delacour, Alta., July 10, and in scattered areas around Calgary (RBu). American Avocets were down sharply in North Dakota (RAS,RLW) and in the other states and provinces. Wilson's Phalaropes were low also.

**GULLS, TERNS** — Flying young Herring Gulls were observed July 28 at Green L., Sask., above 54° N (WCH). Two adults and one first year California Gull were clearly observed with Ring-billeds at N. Drywood L., Roberts Co., S. Dak. (BKH). At Moose Jaw, Sask. there were 30+ adults and young (EWK). Medicine L. and Bowdoin Refuges in Montana together produced 1285 young California Gulls (JMa,JRF) but the colony at Freezeout L., Mont., was largely flooded out (LMM). An ad. Mew Gull was on Montreal L., June 9, and a flying immature was with Ring-billeds at Dore L., Sask., south of its known breeding range (WCH). A Ring-billed Gull nesting colony at Bitter L., Day Co., S. Dak., was very active (BKH). High water covered old nesting sites near Stettler, Alta. (LML). The Medicine L. and Bowdoin Refuges together produced about 6000 young Ring-billeds.

Forster's Terns at Meadow Lake P.P., Sask. were as common as the Com. Terns there, which was unusual (WCH). There were 1000 Com. Terns at Medicine L., Mont. (JMa). At Wascana Marsh, there were 73 nests and 179 young (RD), and some nesters were observed in n.e. South Dakota. Least Terns lost their nesting sandbars to flooding at Bismarck, too, and two adults were unusual at Hipple L., Pierre, S. Dak. (RLH). Caspian Terns were up to nine daily at Dore and Smoothstone lakes, Sask., July 18-28 (WCH). A rare find was a Caspian Tern at Laurel, Mont., June 21 (Helen Carlson, *vide* P.D. Skaar).

**CUCKOOS** — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was sighted at Sturgis, June 22 (KE) and one was heard calling July 4 at Highmore, S. Dak., (JH). Black-billed Cuckoos were very much in evidence except in North Dakota where reporters felt there were fewer than in 1974.

**OWLS** — A sighting of a Barn Owl June 21, was unusual in n. Cave Hills, Harding Co., S. Dak., (KE). A Screech Owl with four young was watched closely, July 1 at Highmore (JH); two were seen in Brookings County (ERE) and one heard in Lawrence County, S. Dak., (NRW). Great Horned Owls have returned to almost-normal production after two bad years in Saskatchewan, with 145 young banded in 69 nests (CSH). Six Burrowing Owls were seen at Lake Benton N.W.R., Black Eagle, Mont. (LAS). Saskatchewan reported 39 adults and young (JAW). Six were seen in the South Dakota Badlands (JLM). Reporters from North Dakota believe that the Burrowing Owl has rapidly declined since 1969 (JTL). Although no nest was found, a Barred Owl was present at Cavalier, N. Dak., June 14 (DLK). A Great Gray Owl came to Bear Canyon, Alta., above 56° N. (JWC). A Long-eared Owl nest with two young was found June 1 at Sieche Hollow, Marshall Co., S. Dak., (BKH). Two Saw-whet Owls were at Calgary, June 4 (BL), and one at Wind Cave N.P., S. Dak., June 17 (KE).

**GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — At least two Whip-poor-wills were heard calling June 1 - July 4 in Yankton County, S. Dak. (WH). Three Poor-wills were at Wind Cave N.P., June 17, and one, June 21, in Harding County, S. Dak. (KE). Common Nighthawk reports were frequent from all parts of the region. Chimney Swifts were present at Ft. Peck, Mont. (CMC). As many as seven were seen n. of Hudson Bay, Sask., June 21-24 at 53° N, where the species has been a summer resident since the 1920s (WCH). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were present at Stettler (LML), Cochrane (BDa), and Calgary, Alta. (DD). Saskatchewan sent many reports of nests, adults and young.

**WOODPECKERS** — Single Pileated Woodpeckers appeared June 8 at Priddis (AS) and July 17 at Bearberry, Alta. (JMi). Single Red-bellies were in Clay County, s.e. S. Dak., June 6 (KJH), and an adult and immature were at Lewis and Clark L., S. Dak., July 10 (WH). Red-headed fared well in South Dakota with at least 60 sightings reported. Lewis' Woodpeckers were active in Rapid City and the Black Hills, and six were counted June 27, Deadwood Burn, Lawrence Co., S. Dak. (KE). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seemed in good numbers in Alberta and Saskatchewan with a total of 30 adults and young reported. Hairy Woodpeckers thrived in South Dakota, but there was only one sighting in Trochu, Alta. (LF), and a family reported at Ft. Peck, Mont. (CMC). No Downies have been seen at Fargo, N. Dak., since the January 1975 blizzard (EGA). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen June 25 in Pennington County, and June 27, Deadwood, S. Dak. (KE).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Ft. Peck June 29 was a surprise and appears to be the first record with photo for Montana (CMC). Great-crested Flycatchers seemed to be expand-



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Fort Peck, Mont., June 29, 1975. First state record. Photo/C.M. Carlson.

ing n.w. in Saskatchewan, with five singing males found n. of Maidstone, about 53° N. (WCH). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was observed June 13 at Water Valley, Alta., (MO), and another was unusual when seen and heard calling "chu-wee" June 11 in Lawrence County, S. Dak. (KE). A high number of 43

Alder Flycatchers was counted on the Hudson Bay, Sask., B.B.S., June 18 (WCH, SML). Dusky Flycatchers were present in late June in the Harney Peak and Deadwood Burn area, Black Hills (KE). The Horned Larks did well over the region with this thought about the species from Kenaston, Sask. — "so unpretentious, but so dear to the prairies," (PLB). At least 15 pairs of Violet-green Swallows nested in small drain holes in the concrete walls below the power plants, at Ft. Peck, Mont. (CMC). There was a 500-nest Cliff Swallow colony noted, July 10, at Lewis and Clark L., S. Dak. (WH). At Yorkton, Sask., 32 nest boxes used by Tree Swallows produced 189 young (WA). Purple Martins fared well in South Dakota, with about 175 young reaching flight stage at Burke (GLS). There were four nesting pairs at Stettler July 11 (LML).

**JAYS** — In 18 road miles, 39 flying young Gray Jays were counted, July 28, near Smoothstone L., Sask., (WCH). Blue Jays have pushed north to Smoothstone L., with five flying young seen there (WCH): ten adults and young were at the n. end of Pike L., Sask. (LMH). There was a total of 21 adult Com. Raven sightings from locations in Alberta, that are north and west of its normal range. On July 28, 42 adults and young were noted in an 18-mile drive near Smoothstone L. (WCH). By June 10, Piñon Jays started returning to the lowlands with their young from nesting areas in the higher Black Hills. On June 22, a group of 200 were in the Canyon L. area of Rapid City (GRB).

**CHICKADEES, WRENS** — Black-capped Chickadees increased slightly in South Dakota. A nest with six young was found at Joliet, Mont. (KH). Red-breasted Nuthatch, maintained its numbers in the Black Hills, with 25 sightings reported. A Brown Creeper was found near Harney Peak at 7242 ft. in the Black Hills (KE). House Wrens seemed plentiful in all areas. Winter Wrens were heard June 27 - July 27 at Waterhen, Keeley, Dore and Green Lakes, Sask. with little being previously known about the range of this wren (WCH). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were at Naican, Maidstone, Rice L., and Regina, Sask., in mid-June and one was at Oahe Dam area, S. Dak. June 1 (JLM). Three Short-billeds were at Newbrook, Alta., July 18 (DP) and were widely distributed in July in e. c. North Dakota (DLK). Three Rock Wrens were seen June 6 at Nanton, Alta. (BDa) and 17 were sighted in w. South Dakota. A snake found a Rock Wren nest in a rock wall, taking two young at Rapid City (BLG).

**MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES** — A Mockingbird was heard and finally observed June 2 - July 31, Wascana Marsh (RD). Two Sage Thrashers were seen June 27 in Butte Co., S. Dak. (KE). Veeries were in fair numbers in Saskatchewan but more common in the damp woods around Sheho (WN). A pair of E. Bluebirds was seen bringing food to a nest hole at Ft. Peck (CMC). A ♂ Mountain Bluebird and a ♀ E. Bluebird raised five young at Pike L., near Saskatoon (Jr. N.H.S.). Tree Sparrows usurped 43 of a 54-box bluebird line near Yorkton, Sask. (WA). Ruby-crowned Kinglets settled into residential spruce plantings in Saskatoon during June and into July, and many singing

males could be heard (CSH). It was unusual to hear three Sprague's Pipits calling at Harding Co., S. Dak., June 21 (KE). A total of 74 Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from South Dakota and about 45 were listed in Saskatchewan.

**WARBLERS** — Saskatchewan reported the most warbler activity, with 19 species mentioned. Wayne C. Harris went into the north country in June and early July to find Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Connecticut, Mourning and Canada Warblers nesting. He also found Canada Warbler July 6 at Ft. Liard, N.W.T., above 60° N.

**BLACKBIRDS** — Bobolinks were at the n. edge of their range when seen at Brightwater Marsh, Saskatoon (JAW), and were also present at Stettler, Alta. (LML). The only mentions of Rusty Blackbird were at Raymore and Spring Valley, Sask. Orchard Orioles nested at Sheho (WN), Grenfell (EWK), Saskatoon (MEC), Regina, and at Stettler and Calgary, Alta. Four young Northern Orioles were fledged at Joliet, Mont. (KH) and about 50 were counted in South Dakota. A daily average of two Western Tanagers at Rapid City compared with almost none in 1974. One was at Sled L., Sask. July 26 and Ft. Liard July 6 (WCH,SML).

**FINCHES** — Cardinals were present in the s.e. tip of South Dakota. There were about 15 sightings of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks from the e. half of South Dakota, and 50 sightings of Black-headed Grosbeaks from the w. half of the state with the Missouri R. the dividing line. A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** near Laurel, Mont., June 25 - July 2 (Helen Carlson, m.ob.) provided a second record for the state. There were 13 Indigo Bunting sightings and 11 Lazuli Buntings observed in South Dakota during the period, with one Indigo X Lazuli hybrid at Rapid City (NRW). Seven Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at L. Louise and Nanton, Alta., (MO,CDB). On July 28, 411 White-winged Crossbills were counted near Smoothstone L. and flocks of 100 were common there during the latter part of July (WCH,SML).

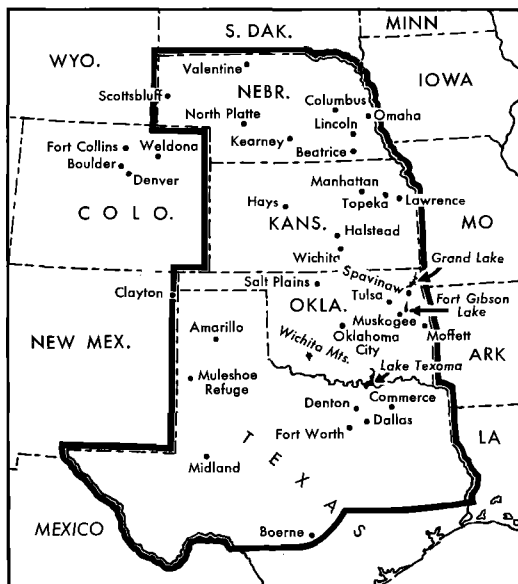
**SPARROWS** — There were 26 singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrows including a nest with five eggs on a 100-acre plot at Wind Cave N.P., S. Dak., June 26 (KE). There was a high density of Baird's Sparrows at the n. end of Last Mountain L., Sask. (WCH). Several pairs of Le Conte's Sparrows nested at Sheho and Raymore, Sask. Lark Bunting flocks were abundant at the end of July in w. South Dakota. A pair of McCown's Longspurs nested at Stettler, Alta., and there were less-than-usual numbers at Moose Jaw (EWK). On a trip from Armada to Milo, Alta., July 19, 100 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were counted (RBu).

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## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Frances Williams

It was an unusually wet summer, which may have been responsible for the unusual number of nesting water birds. The Breeding Bird Surveys promoted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have been very successful in getting birders out in the summer, which has



resulted in much improved knowledge of the breeding birds of the Region. In east Texas, professors and students from two colleges cooperated in making a multidiscipline study of the Big Thicket National Preserve. Results of the bird censuses were reported by Kelly B. Bryan. Fifty censuses were conducted: 32 land transects comprising 30.5 miles and 18 canoe censuses averaging about 13 miles each. These studies will add much to the knowledge of species densities in the area and a complete report will be published elsewhere.

**LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS** — Common Loons remained through the summer at L. Hefner, Oklahoma Co., and L. Tyler, Smith Co., Tex. Eared Grebes at



Olivaceous Cormorant Iowa Park, Clay Co., Tex.  
Photo/John Kibler.

Dallas June 1 & July 4 were unusual for the season (HN). Dozens of pairs of Pied-billed Grebes nested successfully in Canadian Co., Okla., and at least one pair fledged young in Tarrant Co., Tex. A Pied-billed Grebe on the Guadalupe R. near Ingram, Tex. provided a first summer record. Olivaceous Cormorants nested successfully in Clay Co., Tex. (NM *et al.*) and summered at L. Hefner. There were scattered sightings of Double-crested Cormorants but no breeding birds were reported. Anhingas appeared in the Dallas area in late July (PJ *et al.*).

**HERONS** — Three heronries were located in Jasper Co., Tex. and one in Walker Co., Tex. Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons were the most abundant species at these sites. Other species present at one or more heronries included Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron and Louisiana Heron. Members of the Fort Worth Audubon Society, led by Jim Krommes, made a study of a heronry located in an industrial area on the banks of the Trinity River. Before this site was discovered there had been no County nesting records of any of the five species in the heronry: Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron. Only three pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons were present. Other successful nestings of this species occurred at Dallas (WP) and Wagoner Co., Okla. (RL *et al.*). In Moore Co., Tex., a colony of Black-crowned Night Herons which comprised 90 pairs two years ago was reduced to ten pairs this year when the trees were cut. Frequent sightings of a large number of Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Grayson Co., Tex., led Charles Brown to suspect the presence of a heronry in the area. A Green Heron was sighted in Howard Co., Tex. July 5. There is suitable nesting habitat for this species in Howard Co., but no nest was found. A Cattle Egret was observed in Linn Co., Kans., June 14. A Louisiana Heron was noted in Wichita Co., Tex., June 11-13 (MB *et al.*). Least Bitterns were located at L. Meredith, Hutchinson Co., Tex., June 15 & July 13 and at Dallas, June 11 (JH,BC). In Canadian Co., Okla., a Least Bittern nest with three young was found July 19.

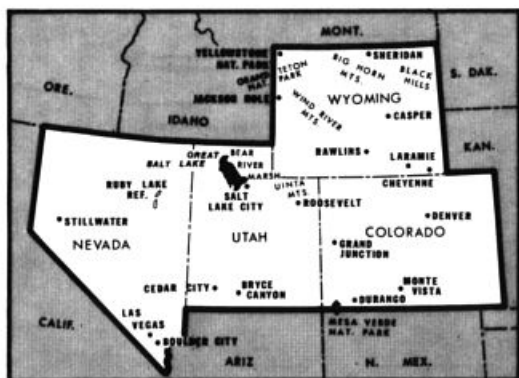
**STORKS, IBIS** — A Wood Stork remained in Linn Co., Kans. during the last two weeks of July (KB, m.ob.). Wood Storks were present in the Big Thicket area during the last two weeks of June and were sighted west of Corsicana, Tex., June 24 (JAT). White-faced Ibis in Wichita Co., June 3 (NM,LS) and Tarrant Co., July 1 (FC,RK) were noteworthy.

**WATERFOWL** — Two pairs of Canada Geese successfully raised four young at Hagerman N.W.R. Mexican Ducks were again found in the El Paso area, but nesting has not been confirmed. Blue-winged Teal nested for the first time at the Midland sewage evaporative ponds (TJ). A pair of Green-winged Teal with four young was observed at L. Meredith June 15. Cinnamon Teal were present throughout the summer at El Paso and were sighted at Waco, Tex., June 24 (IAG). Young Wood Ducks were observed as early as May 1 in Washington Co., Okla. and nested successfully at L. Overholser, Oklahoma Co., a first record at that locality.

**VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS** — Three Black Vultures were sighted in Carter Co., Okla., July 27 (PB). Mississippi Kites in Johnson Co., Tex., June 5 represented the first summer record in ten years. Mississippi Kites now nest regularly in the city of Newton, Kans. and observers in Tulsa discovered that this species has nested in Tulsa at least two years (VAH, m.ob.). No Mississippi Kites were seen during the Big Thicket survey. There were only four sightings of Cooper's Hawks in the Region. Only one nesting pair of Red-shouldered Hawks was reported. This species may be the rarest *Buteo* in the Region. Broad-winged Hawks at Huntsville, Tex., June 28 provided a first summer record. Swainson's Hawks continue to decrease. Four pairs of nesting Zone-tailed Hawks were discovered in the Davis Mts., Tex., and two single birds were also sighted. Other records of Zone-tailed Hawks were in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P. July 13 (RDP) and Bandera Co., Tex. in April (JA). Ferruginous Hawks were present in Dallas and Sherman Cos., Tex. during June. Two pairs of Black Hawks fledged young in the Davis Mts. Golden Eagles were present in the Franklin and Hueco Mts. of far w. Texas during the period. A Marsh Hawk reported in Cleveland Co., Okla., June 4 was probably a late migrant. An ad. Caracara was present on the Tarrant-Parker Co. line June 21 (JK). A Prairie Falcon usurped a nesting site formerly used by Peregrine Falcons in the Davis Mts. A Prairie Falcon was observed in the Cornudas Mts., Hudspeth Co., Tex., in June. Nesting Am. Kestrels were more common than usual in Linn Co., Kans., the Big Thicket and the Davis Mts.

**QUAIL THROUGH COOTS** — Cooperators in two Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter B.B.S.) in n. Texas reported a decrease in Bobwhites. Four Virginia Rails were present at L. Meredith June 15. A Purple Gallinule was seen in Canadian Co., Okla., June 29 & July 5 (JS *et al.*). Common Gallinules were reported in Wichita Co., Tex., June 12 (MB), Hutchinson Co., June 15 (KS) and Canadian Co., Okla., June 29 - Aug. 1 (m.ob.). There are few nesting records of Am. Coots





of breeding pairs from Cheyenne — and Back reported, "Range conditions are sumptuous; I never saw grass taller or seeds richer."

Lawson discovered five new nesting species in Nevada, and Wyoming added two species to its state list.

Young has studied a 10-acre aspen grove on Chicken Creek near Farmington, Utah, for 3 years; half has now been clear-cut. She reports declines of House Wrens, thrushes, and juncos, and increases of woodpeckers (from one to 5.5 breeding pairs, of 4 species), and of Mountain Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Lazuli Buntings, and sparrows. She theorizes that the increased edge attracted the new species; total breeding birds on the plot dropped, however, about 10 per cent.

**GREBES THROUGH IBIS** — There were good populations of Eared Grebes, included 100 young at Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo., 50 young at Arapaho N.W.R., Colo., 51 nests at Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nev., 100 birds at Pahrnatag N.W.R., Nev. June 4, and other scattered observations. Western Grebes had a very poor hatch at Bear River N.W.R., with many nests abandoned outside the main dike because of a dropping water level. Some may have nested at Ruby Lakes, and some did nest at Pueblo and Walsenburg, Colo. The erratic Barr L. colony near Denver failed to produce young, perhaps because of extremely high water. We have reports from none of the four White Pelican breeding grounds yet, but 375 feeding at Walker L., Nev., June 18, had probably flown 85 miles from their Pyramid L. breeding grounds and 35 miles from their normal feeding grounds at Stillwater W.M.A. Bear R. had a summer population of 7000, apparently not the Great Salt L. breeders, and 65 non-breeders summered at Barr L. Barr and Pahrnatag had their usual numbers of nesting Double-crested Cormorants, and Bear R. produced 110 young, an increase from last year. Great Egrets were at Loveland, Colo., June 7 (D.F.O.) and at a heronry near Boulder, Colo., where they have nested (AC). Bear R. had a Snowy Egret population of 1500, but slightly fewer young. Coloradans reported only one observation, and no other regional observers reported any. White-faced Ibis at Bear R. moved in 1000 strong, and produced 300 young — three times 1974's production. Unsuitable habitat outside the refuge boundary probably forced them into the refuge for nesting, so the numbers may not represent an increased net production.

**WATERFOWL** — In their natural range, Trumpeter Swans had poor success — five pairs observed at Yellowstone raised only two cygnets; two pairs at Ruby L. did have three young each. Ducks and geese found either high water or drought too much, and production declined all over the Region. At Bear R. "nesting was down by one-third and brood counts suggest that production may be down even more than that." Peak nesters were 15,000 Gadwalls, 15,000 Pintails, 9000 Blue-winged/Cinnamon Teals, and 8000 Green-winged Teals. Ruby Lakes' delayed waterfowl production dropped 47 per cent from last year, with drops in Canvasbacks and Redheads of 41 and 38 per cent; even coots dropped 31 per cent. Papike blames abundant water filling in lakes once dry, offering new non-refuge nest sites. Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., had improved water conditions, but a shortage of personnel prevented analysis of nest counts before the end of the report period. At Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., the legacy of last year's drought, compounded by this year's late, heavy snow melt left reduced cover and nests vulnerable to predation — success plummeted to a dismal 38 per cent. Bright spots were large broods of late Gadwalls, and a good prognosis for next year's water. Less than 500 pairs nested at each of Barr L., Arapaho N.W.R., L., Hutton L., Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo., Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah (hampered by fluctuating flooding conditions), and Pahrnatag N.W.R., Nev. broods showed up in August at Farmington Bay, Seedskaadee, Jackson, Yellowstone, and Cody.

Baffling flocks of ducks (200 Mallards, 267 Gadwalls, 80 Shovelers) appeared at Barr L. for brief, unexplained stopovers in June. Yellowstone had nesting Buffleheads, and saw Harlequin Ducks along the Yellowstone R. in June; naturalists speculate that the birds left to nest in the remote sections of the park. A ♂ Oldsquaw in eclipse plumage at Fort Mohave July 6 (JO, VM) very likely is the same bird which wintered there.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — At Zion Nat'l Park Cooper's Hawks occupied 3 of last year's 5 nest locations, and at least 10 young fledged from them and 1-2 other locations. At Rocky Mt. Arsenal near Denver, a pride of up to 80 Buteos, mostly Swainson's and mostly juveniles, concentrated in an 8-square mile area July 12-26. The area has high populations of prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and other small rodents. Golden Eagles bred successfully, judging by limited information available. Bald Eagles nested in one or two places in Colorado — a new development in the past two years. Ospreys in Yellowstone Canyon occupied 4 of 9 nest sites in mid-June; 2 produced 4 young. One nest was lost during a 5.8 - scale earthquake, and a second was abandoned due to broken eggs. Yellowstone L. was not monitored, but Naturalist Kelley reports that Ospreys have an ironic nest preference: lake nest sites, more desirable since they lie closer to the food source, have lower success owing to frequent human disturbance; canyon nesters, with better reproduction success, desert the canyon whenever a lake site opens up. The Park Service has tried to rectify this problem by protecting the lake nest sites from intrusion during the nesting season. Prairie Falcons seem to have had fairly good success, at

**WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Bewick's Wrens observed near Newton, Kans., July 4-5 were the first at that locality in several years. Contributors in the e third of the Region unanimously agree that Bewick's Wrens should be on the Blue List, but western contributors are just as unanimous that they should be removed. Gray Catbirds were sighted at Ft. Worth June 8 & 9 (MLH), Potter Co., June 1 (KS), Randall Co., June 4 (KS) and Sherman July 12 (CRB). Curve-billed Thrashers fledged young in Jackson Co., Okla. (JWA) and Randall Co., Tex. (NE). Both these localities represent recent range extensions. Crissal Thrashers were found nesting at Hueco Tanks State Park, Tex. (K & BZ). Eastern Bluebirds fledged young in Schleicher and Nolan Cos., Tex. Both localities are somewhat west of the usual nesting range of the species. Western Bluebirds were scarce in the Davis Mts. Wood Thrushes nested in Caddo Co., Okla., west of their normal range, and were heard singing at several places in Dallas Co. during July (SC,HN). Swainson's Thrushes remained in Potter Co. until the late date of June 3

**VIREOS,WARBLERS** — Black-capped Vireos were easy to find in the Dallas cedar brake and the Kerrville area. A ♂ Black-capped Vireo was sighted in Camp Ground Canyon in the Chisos Mts., July 13 (RDP). A pair was seen at a roadside park beside US 285 in Pecos Co., Tex., May 31 (FW). Bell's Vireos have almost disappeared from the e. portions of the Region but are still common in s.w. Texas. Red-eyed Vireos nested near Manhattan Kans., and were present at Hagerman Refuge most of the period. In the Big Thicket, 300 Prothonotary Warblers were counted on 17 canoe censuses. This species is increasing at Dallas and Hagerman N.W.R. Bryan estimates that Swainson's Warbler is the fifth most abundant of the 14 breeding warblers of s e Texas. A Lucy's Warbler in the Davis Mts. in June was unexpected. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Tulsa June 10 was also noteworthy. Yellow-breasted Chats were scarce at Hagerman N.W.R. and Baldwin, Kans., but one sighted at Tulsa June 17 provided the first summer record since 1971.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — A Bobolink was reported in Midland Co., July 22 (LT). Eastern Meadowlarks were heard on three B.B.S. in trans-Pecos Texas. Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Hagerman July 15 and Dallas July 24 were considered early, although this species regularly arrives in w. Texas by mid-July. Scott's Orioles are increasing on the Edwards Plateau of Texas. As Bronzed Cowbirds increase in the Kerrville area Orchard Orioles decrease. Great-tailed Grackles bred in Moore Co., Tex. and were seen in Wilbarger Co., June 8. This species has only recently invaded the Texas Panhandle. Common Grackles nested in Howard Co. for the first time. There was an unbelievable explosion of Com. Grackles in e.-c. Kansas. Excellent details were submitted on a sighting of a Scarlet Tanager in the Chisos Mts., July 14 (RDP).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks nested successfully in Washington Co., Okla. (ED *et al.*). Painted Buntings have become regular summer resi-

dents in the Manhattan, Kans. area. Indigo Buntings were present in Potter Co., Tex., throughout the period. Last summer 70 Dickcissel nests were found on Konza Prairie, Riley Co., Kans., but only two were found this year. An albino Dickcissel has defended a territory in e. Kansas four successive years. Grasshopper Sparrows were abundant in Texas in Tarrant & Wise Cos., and the Panhandle. In Ellis Co., Okla. two Grasshopper Sparrows were found every 100 feet of fence in two hours after sunrise (RGI). Henslow's Sparrows were common on Konza Prairie last summer but were scarce this year, and were absent from Washington Co., Okla. An unusual Lark Sparrow nest was reported in Dallas. The birds built in a small hanging basket on a patio of a home in a densely populated suburban area. They fledged five young (BK). Two Bachman's Sparrow nests were located in Pontotoc Co., Okla. (BCa,JS *fide* GMS).

#### S. A.

C.D. Fisher sent this comment on the status of Bachman's Sparrow in e. Texas: Breeds locally throughout and its numbers seem to have been much the same over the past five years. Because this sparrow inhabits open brushy clearings, which are temporary habitats in an ecological sense, it cannot always be found in the same sites from one year to the next. It is most easily located in spring when males sing consistently early in the morning. Later in the summer it becomes much harder to locate. Man's activities probably favor this species somewhat by continually creating cleared areas which will eventually grow up in small pines and woody shrubs. Bachman's Sparrows do not inhabit areas where there are no pines, or where there is very much of an understory. A good ground cover of grasses seems to be necessary, however.

A Field Sparrow nest found in Schleicher Co., Tex., May 5 provided a first breeding record for the county

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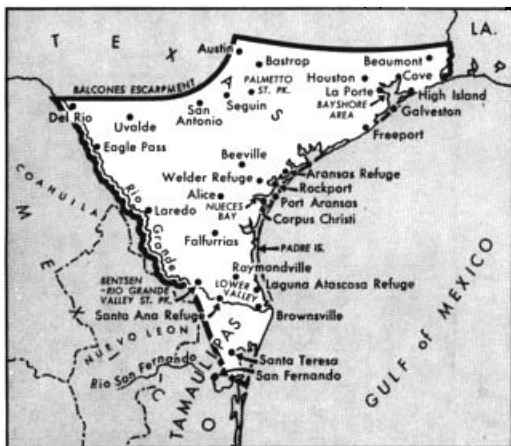
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## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Much-needed rains came to most sections in May and continued at intervals into August. Since most resident bird species were well into the nesting cycle by May, some were adversely affected by shortage of moisture. Thanks in large part to frequent rains and cloudy conditions, temperatures generally averaged below normal.



**GREBES, PELICANS, HERONS** — Grebes failed to nest in the Rockport area (DNW) and the Least Grebe was hard to find at Santa Ana N.W.R. (WAS), owing to low water levels in lakes and ponds. Brown Pelicans returned to Aransas N.W.R. in late March and on Apr. 1, ten birds were in the process of nest building (EFJ). This attempt was flooded out. In the Corpus Christi area, 13 nests produced nine young which were expected to fledge early in September (JCS). A protected Great Blue Heron colony in Little Bay, Rockport area, produced 16 juveniles (DNW). Reddish Egrets had only an average year and have not regained former numbers. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., July 10 (GC&WC), which date seems a little too early for post-breeding dispersion. The species is new for the park list, but has been collected in Hidalgo County in summer. Except for observed breeding in adjacent Cameron County, the nearest known breeding area is about 200 mi. north. A Least Bittern, found in a cattail marsh below the spillway at Falcon Dam, July 21, provided a new summer record for Starr County (EBK&SW). Low water levels curtailed nesting of this species at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS).

**STORKS, IBISES** — About 80 Wood Storks were observed in the Falcon Dam area as they flew N at sunset (CTC). This is a new species for Starr County.

S. A.

The status of the White-faced Ibis was summarized by King, as follows: "Numbers of White-faced Ibis nesting in Texas declined by about 65 per cent from 1969 to 1973. Since 1973 ibis populations have remained almost stable. Ibis frequently feed in rice fields where, until 1975, seed rice was routinely coated with the insecticide aldrin. Aldrin treatment of seed rice was almost completely eliminated following an October 1974 suspension of aldrin by the Environmental Protection Agency. Standard parameters of nesting success such as average clutch size and average brood size were higher this year than in any season since 1970. Eggshell thinning has varied from 9 to 15 per cent annually since 1970. Even though there has been no DDT used on Texas crops in recent years, average shell thinning of eggs collected in 1975 remained at the high level of 14 per cent."



White-faced Ibis, near nest. Lavaca Bay, Tex. Photo/ K.A. King, from U.S. F.&W. S.

**WATERFOWL** — Two or three Black-bellied Tree Ducks were seen at a pond near Pawelekeville in May and June (WS), a first occurrence for Wilson County. A pair of Fulvous Tree Ducks had a brood of eight at Santa Ana Ref.; there had been no nesting attempts on the refuge during the past six years (WAS). This species enjoyed a good season on the upper coast and into Louisiana. The Mottled Duck responded to very good water conditions on the upper coast with a bumper crop of young (HI). A pair of **Masked Ducks** was found on a large roadside pond about 7 mi. s. of Norias, Kenedy Co., June 6. The male was in good plumage and the white wing patch was exhibited (WM&SP). Apparently no followup was made, and the ducks could easily have escaped notice.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — Four pairs of White-tailed Kites nested at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). Two or three pairs were at Welder Wildlife Refuge and breeding was

suspected (EGB). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen in the L. Jackson area, Brazoria Co., on several occasions in May and June (TIC). Mississippi Kites are said to have nested in the L. Jackson area for several years (*vide* DHH); Hardy saw four individuals on a residential street June 22. Neither this nor the preceding species is officially listed for Brazoria County. Apparently at least three pairs of Red-tailed Hawks nested in Travis County. An adult and a begging young were seen on a power line just e. of Austin June 27. At two locations w. of Austin, on the Edwards Plateau, single adults were seen at two locations and crying young heard July 10 (MAM). A Red-shouldered Hawk nest with two young was found in the Freeport area Apr. 23 (CWE). An individual was seen in Kenedy Co., July 11 (GC&WC); there are no summer records for this county, although the species has bred in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties to the south. A good population of White-tailed Hawks was noted in central portions of the coastal plains — "prairie chicken country" (JCS). Incubation was in process at a nest near Tivoli, Refugio Co., Mar. 11 (*vide* DNW). An ad. **Gray Hawk** was observed at Santa Ana Ref. in mid-June (CEH). This is a first June record for the refuge, previous earliest summer records being in late July (WAS). On the Mexico side of Falcon Dam, a Harris' Hawk occupied a nest on a hydroelectric pole near the power plant May 17 (EBK). Five known nests of the Bald Eagle fledged seven young; these nests were located from Orange to Refugio Counties along the coastal plain (JCS).

**GROUSE, GALLINULES, JACANAS** — The Greater Prairie Chicken population is estimated at 2200 birds. After four bad years, the current year's production was pronounced "fairly good" (JCS). In years past, birders visiting Rockport journeyed up coast on Texas 35 to near Tivoli where, at the proper season, prairie chickens could be watched from the highway. According to Mrs. Winship, "the chickens abandoned the area about five years ago when a fertilizer plant was built on the ancient booming grounds." Now, she reports, the chickens have returned to boom about a mile n. of the old site. A pair of Purple Gallinules, occupying a nest with eggs, was found at a roadside pond near Kosciusko, June 29 (WS); this species has not been recorded for Wilson County. Presumably the Jacana population remains at Manor L., Brazoria Co., although we received only one report, that of seven birds on Apr. 23 (CWE).

**STILTS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — At Mitchell L., just s. of San Antonio, and at the n. limits of the species' breeding range in Texas, Black-necked Stilts nested successfully. Although some nests were destroyed by high water, at least five immature birds were present on July 5 (AH&GBH). Least Terns failed to receive protection on the Rockport beach and nesting attempts were "not too successful" (DNW). Even in more remote localities, the terns were subject to the usual frustrations of infertility, depredation, etc., despite which factors some fledglings survived. On June 22, a Noddy-type tern was found standing on a metal drum on the beach at Padre I. Nat'l Seashore, 2 mi. s. of Yarbrough Pass. It was presumed to be ill, as it



Noddy or Black Noddy? Padre Island, Tex., June 22, 1975. Photo/Phyllis Yochem.

permitted very close approach. It was photographed at 11 A.M., and was not to be found at 6 P.M. when looked for again (RC,JYo&PY). The identity of this bird has not been determined but the choice seems to be between the Noddy Tern, a Texas hypothetical, and the Black Noddy. On the basis of length alone, 12 inches, the argument is strongly in favor of the Black — for which there is no Texas record of any sort. Black Skimmers bred successfully in the protected area of Little Bay at Rockport; 40+ juveniles were on Rockport beach July 22 (CK&HK).

**PIGEONS, DOVES** — The number of Red-billed Pigeons in the vicinity of Falcon S.P. in late July prompted Kincaid to remark that the population was the highest since 1950. No known nesting occurred on Santa Ana Ref., although at least two pairs were seen infrequently (WAS). The breeding population of White-winged Doves in the Lower Rio Grande Valley was estimated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. biologists at 690,000, highest since 1966. Early production was very good, but later production was insignificant. Because the late hatch generally failed to materialize, production was estimated at only 2 young per pair, compared with a 2.7 average for the last three years. A similar trend was noted in n.e. Mexico. Outside of the Lower Valley, the Texas population was estimated at 135,000, but no production estimates were made (HI).

**ANIS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS** — Groove-billed Anis appeared to be having an excellent season in Starr County (EBK). The Ferruginous Owl should be looked for in roadside live oak mottes in Kenedy County. [For the benefit of non-Texan readers, a motte is a clump of trees or brush in a meadow or field—Ed.] Adequate roadside parks are available along U.S. 77 as a base for observation, and birders are cautioned against crossing fences onto the King Ranch. An owl was reported several mi. n. of Norias June 4 (CTC). A Pauraque brooding a downy nestling was observed at Beeville June 13 (AHG); this is the first evidence of nesting in Bee County, although it has been assumed. This species was notably common at Falfurrias by Mar. 1 (AWO). A rare

nesting of the Lesser Nighthawk occurred at Mitchell L. Eggs were found on June 7 & 15, and two chicks on June 25 (AH&GH).

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Chimney Swifts have withdrawn from McAllen, Hidalgo Co., the s extremity of their breeding range (JCA). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was observed by several parties at the first roadside park s. of Sarita on U.S. 77 in Kenedy County during the season (EW<sup>T</sup> *et al.*). It is noteworthy that on July 11 a pair, apparently in the act of mating, was observed there (GC&WC). Five or six pairs of Ringed Kingfishers, and only two pairs of Green Kingfishers, were observed on the Rio Grande between Falcon Dam and Frontón, Starr Co., in late July (EBK&SW). Red-bellied, Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers appeared to have a successful nesting season in w. Houston (JGM).

**COTINGAS, FLYCATCHERS** — Nest construction by a pair of **Rose-throated Becards** was discovered at Santa Ana Ref., May 22 (RZ). In early August a pair was seen with three young. This was the first successful nesting on the refuge in over 15 years (WAS). We have no details on a reported nesting in the Anzalduas area of Hidalgo Co. Three pairs of W. Kingbirds fledged young at Beeville in late June (AHG). A pair was observed at the nest near Campbellton, s.e. Atascosa Co., June 7 (AHG&DR); there is no previous breeding record for the county. This species was assumed to be nesting at Falcon S.P. (EBK). Three active nests were spotted in the vicinity of Robstown, Nueces Co. (KM). A juvenile Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, apparently two or three days out of the nest, was observed 27.1 mi. s. of Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo Leon, July 3. It is highly probable that the bird was quite near the nest site, which would establish this as the southwesternmost breeding locality for the species (EBK). This spot is about 55 mi. w.s.w. of Falcon Dam. The breeding population in the Rockport area continued the decline of several years (DNW). A second instance of nesting of the Kiskadee Flycatcher was recorded in the Alice area (ROA). An active nest in tall willow trees below Falcon Dam spillway was an estimated 60 ft. off the ground, about five times the usual height (EBK&SW). Nesting of a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers at Alice was a "first" for Jim Wells County (ROA). This species seemed to be more plentiful than in 1974 in a w. Houston locality (JGM). Wied's Crested Flycatchers were feeding fledglings in a Beeville residential section, May 23 (AHG). A pair nested in a tree hole in Bandera, n.w. of San Antonio; young were being fed on May 25 (DNW). This species had not been reported from Bandera County. A pair was feeding young on the Mexico side of Falcon Dam May 17 (EBK *et al.*).

**SWALLOWS** — Barn Swallows continued to expand southward, building in highway culverts. New county breeding records were established for Zapata (southernmost at Zapata town—JCA), Jim Hogg (southernmost near Randado—EBK&SW), Duval (confirming suspected nesting—EBK&SW), McMullen (common—EBK&SW), Frio (near Pearsall—DNW), Comal (near Selma—CRB), and Williamson (near

Round Rock—MAM) Counties. It is interesting to note that three culvert locations s. of Hebbronville, Jim Hogg Co., had apparently not been occupied until later summer. When checked on Aug. 25, site one, at 13 6 mi. from Hebbronville, had three nests with one dead fledgling and no birds; site three, at 6.6 mi., had three nests in three stages of development, the completed nest with three or four nestlings barely alive and apparently abandoned, although four adults and one juvenile were flying in the vicinity (EBK&SW). Perhaps the urge to migrate had overtaken the adult birds before nesting chores were completed.

Cliff Swallows were found nesting under the U S 59 bridge at Oyster Creek, Fort Bend Co. (HHH), this is the first confirmed nesting for those counties comprising the upper coastal area (east of Matagorda County). Mrs. Winship, at Rockport, contributed the following "They were re-surfacing Highway 35 when the Cliff Swallow arrived. For a time, it looked as if the colony was ruined. But the birds persisted and on June 18, we counted 171 nests in the old colony and 58 in a new colony under a culvert. We counted seven juveniles. While we were there, one nest fell into the water and four juveniles with it. Two *swam* to safety on opposite banks, the other two just clung to the concrete wall." Purple Martins nested in the Rio Grande Delta, apparently for the first time in this century. Arvin estimated about 200, well distributed in major towns in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties.

**JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES** — There was no evidence that Brown Jays nested at last year's historical site in Starr County, although a few birds could be found in the vicinity throughout the season. Tufted Titmice young were reported in good numbers in w. Houston (JGM). One Cactus Wren nest was found in the Rockport area (DNW). The Long-billed Thrasher is disappearing from the Falfurrias area as native brushland is cleared (AWO). Feeding of young Loggerhead Shrikes was observed at two localities at San Antonio, June 25 (CRB) and Aug. 6 (RDu), thus confirming that this species breeds in Bexar County.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A Black-capped Vireo nest was discovered on Cat Mountain, Austin, Apr. 19, at which time the female was still lining (IC). On Apr. 26, the male was sitting on two Brown-headed Cowbird eggs and one vireo egg. On Apr. 27, another vireo egg had been added; the two cowbird eggs were removed by an observer. On May 11, two vireo eggs in the morning had become two nestlings by 2:30 p.m., one of which was smaller and weaker. The female sat very close on the nest on succeeding days, but on May 14 only one young was observed in the nest. It was last seen on May 20, at which time it was not thought sufficiently developed to leave the nest. The nest was in a low oak, *Quercus breviloba*, only two feet off the ground and exposed to passersby on a dirt road. (IC,EBK,JP,SW) Two singing ♂ **Swainson's Warblers** were found in c Bastrop County, June 12 (RAR). A pair was feeding two fledglings on June 14; the other male seemed to be without a mate (JP,RAR,SW *et al.*). This is a western extension of the breeding range which, however, is poorly delineated for this uncommon species. The first

roadside park s. of Sarita on U.S. 77 was the goal of birders seeking the **Olive-backed Warbler**; two singing males were noted in the oak motte June 15 (AG,RS&EWT). In n.w. Tyler County, in the first week of June, a pair of **Prairie Warblers** was photographed as it fed a young Brown-headed Cowbird. The setting was open pine savannah (RDe*fide* JYa). This warbler had not been recorded for Tyler County although it has nested in adjacent Jasper County.

**ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS** — At least three pairs of Black-headed Orioles were thought to be resident at Santa Ana Ref. during the season. One adult was pursued by three young Bronzed Cowbirds (WAS). At Beeville, a "Bullock's" Oriole had two fledgling cowbirds in tow, Aug. 4 (AHG). In Brooks County, a Bronzed Cowbird nestling was removed from a Blue Grosbeak nest for the benefit of four grosbeak nestlings (KM&AWO). Painted Bunting numbers continued to decline in the Rockport area (DNW). A Lark Sparrow nest in Nueces County held three sparrow eggs and three cowbird eggs; the cowbird eggs were removed and the sparrows fledged (KM).

**ADDENDUM** — Skeletal remains of a **Manx Shearwater** were picked up on the N. Padre I. beach, just s. of Bob Hall Pier, in February 1975, when Kim Nichols, a Corpus Christi girl scout, was attracted to a shiny object in the sand. The object, a ring attached to one (bird) leg, instructed the finder to inform the British Museum in London. Response from London revealed that the bird had been "ringed" at Hallival, Isle of Rhum (Inverness), Scotland, on Aug. 8, 1973. It was estimated that the bird had died no more than a few weeks before discovery. The remains are deposited at the Corpus Christi Museum (*fide* KM).

**NOTE:** — Occurrence of a species in a particular county, in most instances, is checked with *The Bird Life of Texas*, 1974, in determining status in that county.

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## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTER-MOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Weather during the summer was characterized by extremes. June was generally cold, retarding the runoff from the winter's heavy snows. Most of the Region had frequent rains, with the exception of the rain shadow area just east of the Cascades. July started with a brief



rainy period, then turned unseasonably hot for a week, climbing into the 90 - 100° F. range and even above. This was broken at mid-month by unexpected heavy rains and dipping mercury. The remainder of the month was about normal until another rainy period dropped temperatures at the end. The rain shadow strip again missed most of the moisture. In summary, the summer was cool and wet in most localities, producing excellent vegetative growth and very favorable conditions for water birds. Although nesting was delayed for some species, the summer appeared generally good for bird life. Nests were observed in probably the greatest numbers ever for the Region, but this may be owing to more extensive coverage by an army of observers.

For a summer season a surprising number of species displacements into the Region, about 35, were detected. Mountain areas from Glacier Nat'l Park in the United States north to Yoho Nat'l Park in Canada had most of their displaced species from the north or northeast, which might be explained by the cold weather. The other United States localities had them about equally divided from east, south and west. Most areas had a few delayed migrants or summering non-breeders of higher elevations or more northerly areas. Most of the displacements appear to have been found in areas quite well covered by observers in the past.

**LOONS AND GREBES** — In addition to the usual small numbers of Com. Loon on Rocky Mt. lakes one or two lingered into June in s.w. Idaho, on Liberty L.

and at Richland, Wash. A nest was found at Swan L., Vernon, B.C. June 1. Red-necked Grebes were nesting from n.e. Washington, n. Idaho and n.w. Montana north into British Columbia and were seen as far north as Yoho Nat'l Park. Swan L. at Vernon had 20 nests, down somewhat. Horned Grebes appeared only in Flathead Co., Mont. and in Yoho N.P. Eared Grebes numbered 1000-1500 on Lower L., Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. and Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. counted over 290 nests on Boca L. A June estimate gave the latter refuge 765 W. Grebes in nesting concentrations and the estimate for Pied-billed was 380. At Red Rock Lakes the latter species numbered 1000-1500.

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — The Bozeman, Mont. area, s. Idaho and Malheur N.W.R. had White Pelicans, the latter noting over 1000. Nesting of Double-crested Cormorants was down slightly at Malheur N.W.R., with 60 nests counted. The birds were noted at the colony at Ennis, Mont. and were nesting for the second year at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. and bred for the first time in the Helena, Mont. area, with 15, including several young, July 27 at the head of L. Helena. Here they displaced part of a colony of Great Blue Herons (SM). A new heronry of the Great Blue has formed at the s. end of Swan L. in n. Lake Co., Mont. A newly-found colony at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida. had at least 20 nesting pairs. A single bird in Yoho N.P. June 5 was unusual. An ad. Green Heron on Crab Creek, Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. July 5, was the second ever seen there (SAS). The nest count for the Great Egret at Malheur N.W.R. was 100 compared with 350 last year. Two stayed near Pocatello into June and one was at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. in early July. Snowy Egret nest numbers at Malheur were also down — 55 compared with 140 in 1974. The species was seen at Rupert, Ida. and one was at Ennis L., Ennis, Mont. (U.S.F.&W.S.). Black-crowned Night Heron nests at Malheur tallied 360 (1000 last year) and the nesting colony at Richland, Wash. was practically deserted in early June, too many fishermen the suspected cause. McNary N.W.R. had about 140. Ten of the birds were at the heronry near St. Andrews, Grant Co., Wash. July 19. American Bittern numbers at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. seemed down. Elsewhere the species was reported only from Flathead County, Mont.

**IBIS AND SWANS** — Malheur N.W.R. had 40 nests of White-faced Ibis compared to 80 last year. At Market L. near Pocatello, Ida. 33 nestlings were banded, down from last year's 51 (CHT). Four Mute Swans appeared at Ennis, Mont. on several dates. This is their first appearance there (PDS). The pair of Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. had six of its seven cygnets yet at the end of July. The peak of the hatch at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. was on the July 4 weekend, about three weeks later than normal. A Whistling Swan remained on the St. Joe R. near St. Morris, Ida. all through July (JL) and one was at Mimdoka N.W.R. in s. Idaho June 6 (WS).

**GEESE AND DUCKS** — Canada Geese found excellent nesting conditions in extreme n. Idaho, with production estimated at 400-500 for Boundary Co. Over 800 were produced at Malheur N.W.R., down from 1974. Avian and mammalian predation was believed an important factor. A small number of Snow Geese was at Malheur near the end of July and one was seen in Powell Co., Mont. June 6 (ETH & RAH).

Duck nesting success in e. Washington was excellent (JS). Duck pairs, slightly down from last year at Malheur, were counted at 10,000, mainly Mallard, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal and Redhead. Total individuals at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. numbered 8000-10,000, somewhat below normal. A ♂ Harlequin Duck appeared twice in the first half of June at Hyalite Res., Gallatin Co., Mont. (GR,CMC). Ring-necked Ducks were noted as gradually increasing in the Fortine, Mont. area, with seven broods seen, and a brood of Lesser Scaup there was Weydemeyer's second in 50 years, the first having been seen last year. Three White-winged Scoters were found on the North Fork of the Flathead R. on the w. border of Glacier N.P. June 16 (MH).

**VULTURES AND HAWKS** — A gathering of 19 Turkey Vultures was at Otter L. near Armstrong, B.C. July 22. Accipiters were scarce as usual. The Goshawk was sighted at two localities around Baker, Ore. and in Glacier N.P. and a nest near Missoula produced three young. Another nest was found in the Gravelly Range s.w. of Bozeman U.S.F.&W.S. and an active nest was located along the Wenaha R., Wallowa Co., Ore. (AT). A Cooper's Hawk nest near Missoula contained five young. Three active Swainson's Hawk nests were found in the general area of Baker. Ferruginous Hawk nesting success was very poor in the Pocatello area, where only one successful nest was found in a 950 sq. mi. area (CHT). A few of the birds were seen Aug. 2 near Sumpter, Ore. (NFM) and one was sighted near Bowman Creek in n.w. Glacier N.P. (MH). Three sightings of single birds were made in s.w. Idaho. Single Golden Eagle nests were located in the vicinity of Salmon and Pocatello, Ida.; near Bozeman, and Baker. Three young fledged from a Bald Eagle nest about 90 mi. from Helena (VY). Successful Osprey nests on the Coeur d'Alene and Pend Oreille river drainages in n. Idaho totalled 99 and produced 206 young. Ten active nests were observed on Holter L. in the vicinity of Helena. At Crane Creek Res., Washington Co., Ida. the species was doing poorly, with only one nest containing one nestling (VH). Seven sightings of Prairie Falcons, including one nest, were obtained in the Region.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — A White-tailed Ptarmigan nest in Yoho N.P. had produced two young by July 18. Sage Grouse were reported only from Wilsall, Mont. and Salmon, Ida., where several broods were seen. An ad. Mountain Quail with four young was found 10 mi. e. of Lyle, Klickitat Co., Wash. (EH). One or two were seen in s.w. Idaho. Chukar populations were up 30% over 1974 in e. Washington but Gray Partridge numbers were down (JS).

**CRANES AND RAILS** — Six or seven Whooping Cranes hatched from eggs placed in Sandhill Crane nests at Grays Lake N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho and were reported doing well. One seen following its foster parent July 25 was about two-thirds grown (RD). Nesting of the Sandhill Crane in the Helena Valley has finally been confirmed by the sighting of two adult and two young birds the second week of June (SM). Three of this species were seen in Canada's Glacier N.P. on several dates during late July and July and one was at Mara Meadows Ecological Reserve 25 mi. north of Vernon, B.C. June 21. A single **Yellow Rail** was reported in a marsh on Blake Lane near Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. June 7 (PMCK).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The Semipalmated Plover was noted at Ennis L. June 18 (ETH,RAH & MB) and two were at Fortine, Mont. July 31 (WW). Two Snowy Plovers were seen at Malheur N.W.R. July 9 and one July 23 (AT). Remarkable was the finding of a **Whimbrel** along Dodson Road west of Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash. July 5 (JA). A single Upland Sandpiper was found in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane June 19 (EH) and the species produced young near Ovando, Powell Co., Mont. (AB). Solitary Sandpipers were found regularly in Yoho N.P. (RRH). Shorebirds from the North were moving in during July. Fifty Least Sandpipers were seen at Ochoco L. e. of Prineville, Ore. July 11. Stinking L. at Malheur N.W.R. had 8000 Western Sandpipers and 1200 Am. Avocets July 9.

**PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNS** — Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had concentrations of Wilson's Phalarope up to 2500 June 24 - July 8 and Malheur had 2000 July 9. A Ring-billed Gull showed up in Yoho N.P. June 22 (RRH). At least 30 Forster's Terns were observed at Wallula, Wash. July 9 (WH). The Com. Tern was noted at Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. June 6 and in the Bozeman area. A single Caspian was seen in s.w. Idaho June 1. The species began to return to the Richland, Wash. area July 17. Some 16 adults and young were found at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., July 25 (JA).

**DOVES THROUGH OWLS** — A **Band-tailed Pigeon** was identified June 21 along Asotin Creek about 20 mi. upstream from Asotin, Wash. (JWW). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** appeared in Ann Ward's backyard in Baker, July 1-8 and was joined by a second one on the 7th. The Barn Owl was reported from s.w. Idaho, one June 18, and at Columbia N.W.R. June 21 - July 25, the greatest number, *nine*, on the latter date (BB,JA). Two ♂ Flammulated Owls were calling and one seen 6.5 mi. west of Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash. July 8 (EH). An active nest of the species was located in Starkey Experimental Forest near Malheur N.W.R. July 1 (AT). A rarely seen **Hawk Owl** was sighted July 20 in Mt. Revelstoke N.P. (JGW & MW). A Pygmy Owl was heard calling the morning of June 12 in the juniper "forest" north of Hampton, Ore. (MK & HN). Reports on Burrowing Owls were encouraging. A surprising 140-150 were estimated for McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. (OV). The Barred Owl was found to be the most common owl in Yoho N.P., at



Great Gray Owl, nest in Bozeman area, June 28, 1975. Photo/Louis Moos.

least eight having been observed throughout the summer. A pair frequented the Trinity Valley Ecological Reserve near Vernon at least until June 20 (JG). A pair of **Barred Owls** was seen and photographed along the Wenaha R., Wallowa Co., Ore. in mid-June, for the state's first record (AT). Single birds were found in July at Bowman and Quartz L. in Glacier N.P. (MH). A pair of Great Gray Owls produced the first record of a successful nest in Kootenay N.P. They were feeding young in the nest July 3 (IJ). The nest of a pair located June 28 along Hodgeman Creek a few miles s. of Bozeman was only the fourth found in the state (Mr. & Mrs. ID,CVD & LM). A family group of four Saw-whet Owls was seen near Lion Rock n. of Ellensburg, Wash. July 27 (JW).

**SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS** — Small numbers of Black Swifts appeared in Glacier N.P.; over the Wenatchee R., Chelan Co., Wash., in Yoho N.P. and at Revelstoke, B.C. A nest in a small canyon near Armstrong, B.C. June 28 held one egg. The nestling was well-grown Aug. 2 (JG). Two birds were at a nest in Banff N.P. Aug. 2 (RRH). A White-throated Swift was found at Metaline Falls, Wash. June 16 (EH). Black-chinned Hummingbird was the commonest species at Fortine, Mont. A few were seen regularly in Walla Walla, Wash. and at Penticton, B.C. and the species produced many young in the Spokane area. The Broad-tailed was noted in s.w. Idaho and at Salmon, Ida.

**WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS** — At least three pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers were nesting in the



Walla Walla area, a welcome increase. A pair nested at Liberty L., Wash. and several nests were found near Salmon, Ida. The species was described as very common along Asotin Creek, Wash. (JWW). Williamson's Sapsucker was found nesting in the Bridger Mts. n.e. of Bozeman and in the Tobacco Root-Gravelly Range s.w. of that city. A pair was making frequent trips to a nest hole in the mountains w. of Yakima June 26 & July 10. A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers nested at Naramata, B.C., where two adults and three young birds were seen June 29 (SRC). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were observed at ten localities scattered through the mountains of the Region.

Ash-throated Flycatchers were reported at Lyle, Ft. Simcoe S.P., Ahtanum and Columbia N.W.R., all in Washington. One at Richland, Wash. June 7-8 was presumably a migrant. One appeared in Rattlesnake Creek valley at Missoula June 1 (PLW). Both Willow and Alder Flycatchers were noted in Yoho N.P. in about equal numbers (RRH). At least two Least Flycatchers were heard and seen in Yoho N.P. in late June and at least ten were found at Golden, B.C. through the summer. The birds were becoming more common in the Vernon area. One was seen and heard in Oak Creek Canyon w. of Naches (DH) and a pair was found nesting throughout July near the Wenas Creek campground w. of Yakima but no young were known to have fledged (EH & BM). This is believed to be the first nesting record for the Least Flycatcher for the state. The only Gray Flycatcher report was of a singing male July 8 in Klickitat Co., Wash. (EH).

**SWALLOWS AND NUTCRACKERS** — There was some evidence of nesting failure among Violet-green and Tree Swallows owing to cold weather, but in general swallows seemed to fare well. A pair of Violet-green Swallows at Fortine nested on an old Barn Swallow nest on a porch light. After the young left, Barn Swallows used the nest for a second brood. A concentration of hundreds of Rough-winged Swallows at Lowden, Wash. July 18 suggested a premigration gathering. Young Clark's Nutcrackers out of the nest were observed in the Bozeman area June 15. Otherwise the species was reported only from Glacier N.P.

**CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS** — Chickadees, Black-capped and Mountain, seemed scarce in the Baker area, causing Ann Ward to speculate on a possible connection with the tussock moth spraying. The Boreal Chickadee was recorded regularly in Yoho N.P. and a family group was seen July 22 at King Edward L. south of Vernon. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee nest was found in Glacier N.P. (RMCC). A few Plain Titmice were found near Dairy, Ore. June 21 (WS). Bewick's Wren was seen regularly in the Yakima area. Young Cañon Wrens were out of the nest at Vaseux L. in extreme s. British Columbia June 27 and adults with four young were seen July 5 at Columbia N.W.R.

**MIMIDS AND THRUSHES** — A single Mockingbird appeared, this in s.w. Idaho June 21. Sage Thrashers arrived June 5 at White L. near Penticton, B.C. and nested there. The only other reports were for s.w. Idaho and the Bozeman area. Western Bluebirds occupied 25

nest boxes in the Baker area and on a farm near Spokane 15 boxes produced 78 fledglings. Two boxes at the latter locality produced three fledgling Mountain Bluebirds. Small numbers of the latter were reported nesting in a number of localities. Bluebirds and several species of woodpeckers were reported nesting in snags and logs in clearcuts in tussock moth infested forest in Umatilla Nat'l Forest in n.c. Oregon, where DDT spraying was done. Two Townsend's Solitaire nests were found in the Bozeman area and one near Vernon

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were observed June 20-22 a few miles n. of Dairy, Klamath Co., Ore. (GC, KK & WS) and a pair was spotted June 5 at Malheur N.W.R., the first for the refuge. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were definitely scarce in the Baker and Spokane areas and were generally unreported elsewhere except for Glacier N.P., where they seemed to be abundant. A single Water Pipit was on the shore of the Dry River Stock Ponds e. of Redmond, Ore. July 10 (TL & HN). The Keller B.B.S. in s. Ferry Co., Wash. counted seven singing Solitary Vireos. Elsewhere few were noted. A Philadelphia Vireo was carefully identified in Yoho N.P. June 10 (CW&LW).

**WARBLERS** — A Tennessee Warbler appeared July 2 at Golden, B.C. where it is rare (FK) and the species was reported on South Meadow Creek in Tobacco Root Range southwest of Bozeman (U.S.F.&W.S.), no details supplied. Up to seven singing Nashville Warblers were found at Browne Mt. near Spokane. Elsewhere the species was found only in Spokane's Indian Canyon, at Priest L. in n. Idaho, at Walla Walla, in the Yakima area and at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. Two male and one ♀ Black-throated Gray Warblers were sighted June 8 at Stimson Flats campground and a male at Brooks Memorial S.P. the next day (GH&WH). Both localities are in Klickitat Co., Wash. The species was also reported near Metolius, Ore. July 17 (HN). Harry Nehls noted that Townsend's Warbler should be considered a regular summer resident in the Cascade Mts. of Oregon. A singing ♂ **Black-throated Green Warbler**, first for Washington, was closely observed at Browne Mt. near Spokane July 2 (DK&THR). The Hermit Warbler was observed in the Metolius area and reportedly was found again on the Ochoco breeding bird survey n.e. of Prineville, Ore. (HN). A singing ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at L. Wenatchee Chelan Co., Wash. June 19 was the second ever for the state (JK). A singing ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was seen in Yoho N.P. July 9-21 and another bird occasionally glimpsed with it may have been a female (RRH, CW&LW). This provides the first record for the park. The first summer records for Blackpoll Warblers were obtained June 21 for Yoho N.P. when three males were heard singing and one was later seen (RRH). At about the same time a male was found at nearby Golden (FK). A singing N. Waterthrush was found near Keller, Ferry Co., Wash. June 25 (WH&THR). This is about 60 mi. farther west than the previous most western seasonal record for the state. One of the species was picked up dead July 14 at 8000 ft. elevation on Peyto Glacier, Banff N.P. (RRH). A singing male was found in Idaho County, Ida. June

17 (DB). The species was also reported at Calispell Creek and bog, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. and in Glacier N.P. The Com. Yellowthroat was noted at six places in e Washington and w. Montana.

**BLACKBIRDS** — A ♂ Bobolink was seen near Golden, B.C. July 15 (FK). About 25 pairs were observed in the Aeneas valley e. of Tonasket, Wash. July 7 (PC&WD). The species was found along the Hunters-Springdale road, Stevens Co. June 15 (SAS) and one was on Yakima Indian Reservation, Wash. June 28. They were found as usual in the Cusick, Wash. area and at St. Maries, Ida. The breeding colony at Fortine, Mont was reported as slowly increasing. Singing males were observed near Bigfork, Mont. Yoho N.P. had a ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird near Field June 30 (RRH).

**FINCHES** — A belatedly reported ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Chetwynd, B.C. May 24 (FK) and a singing male was seen in Yoho N.P. June 1 for the park's first record (LW). A ♂ **Indigo Bunting** was seen and heard at Elko, B.C. July 19 (CW&LW). A Lazuli Bunting in Yoho N.P. June 1 (LW) and a male July 1 (RRH&CW) were the first ever for the park. Up to eight Pine Grosbeaks, some singing, were observed June 6 - July 20 at Indian Rock Scenic Area, Bates, Ore (BH). The Black Rosy Finch was found Aug. 1 on Hard Scrabble Peak in the Bridger Range n.e. of Bozeman (DRS). Two or three pairs of **Lesser Goldfinch** were found n. of Lyle, Wash. June 16 (MP) and an adult male was feeding a juvenile bird there July 7. This is apparently the first breeding record for the state (EH). Two adults and two immature birds were seen along the s. fork of the Blitzen R., Harney Co., Ore. July 22 (AT). A very few White-winged Crossbills appeared in Yoho N.P. and at Golden, B.C.

**SPARROWS** — Single Lark Buntings were sighted on two dates in July in s.w. Idaho, the only area reporting them. The Grasshopper Sparrow was found at Goose L. near Vernon June 4 (WWe) and three were near Keystone, n. Adams Co., Wash. June 8 (GH&WH). An upward trend appeared for them w. of Spokane, with six in one area, four in another, and singles in three places at Columbia N.W.R., all June 28 (JA). Sage Sparrows apparently are no longer in the Soap L. and Odessa areas of c. Washington but were found along Dodson Road west of Potholes Res., five pairs with young in July (JA). A group of four immatures was found w. of Redmond, Ore., July 10 some distance from their usual range (HN&TL). In a large desert area near Arco, Ida. the species was found to have a density of one or two per hectare, making it one of the most abundant nesters there (CHT). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** near Indian Canyon, Spokane, June 11-20 was photographed and its song recorded (JA *et al*). Single birds were noted at Golden, B.C. July 2 and in Yoho N.P. June 5 & 10 (RRH) and Vernon had one at Goose L. June 4 (WWe). The species was observed in the Bozeman area. A Lincoln's Sparrow lingered and sang in Jim Grant's garden at Vernon May 15 June 20.

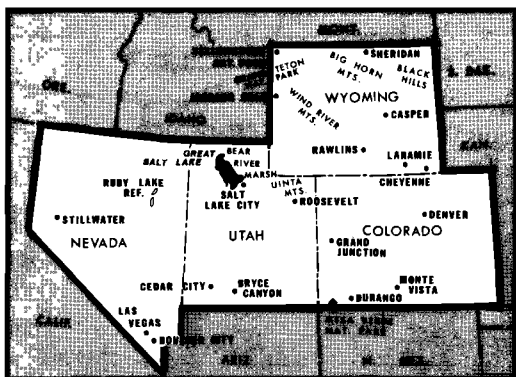
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## MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

Last year's nesting season introduction fits this year successful breeding by most species, including Blue List birds, except for waterfowl suffering from drought (and heavy snow melt) and except for adults and young which failed to survive a severe June storm which dumped up to a foot and a half of snow on the Region.

Many species remained on the plains and valleys into June, apparently delayed by the snowpack from moving into their mountain breeding grounds; Denver had 19 late-migrating species on its June report; Sheridan, Wyo., had six. Nesting began 2-3 weeks late even in the low country. The June 8-10 snows brought 17 inches to Jefferson, Colo.; Hack and Hawkins noted mortality to snipe and robin nestlings, and to a few adult birds. Sylvia Brockner hung a feeder next to a brooding Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Evergreen when the snows came — it worked, as two young fledged in early July. Nevada's deserts had good plant growth, and the prairies thrived with the moisture — note the numbers



of breeding pairs from Cheyenne — and Back reported, “Range conditions are sumptuous; I never saw grass taller or seeds richer.”

Lawson discovered five new nesting species in Nevada, and Wyoming added two species to its state list

Young has studied a 10-acre aspen grove on Chicken Creek near Farmington, Utah, for 3 years; half has now been clear-cut. She reports declines of House Wrens, thrushes, and juncos, and increases of woodpeckers (from one to 5.5 breeding pairs, of 4 species), and of Mountain Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Lazuli Buntings, and sparrows. She theorizes that the increased edge attracted the new species; total breeding birds on the plot dropped, however, about 10 per cent.

**GREBES THROUGH IBIS** — There were good populations of Eared Grebes, included 100 young at Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo., 50 young at Arapaho N.W.R., Colo., 51 nests at Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nev., 100 birds at Pahrnatag N.W.R., Nev. June 4, and other scattered observations. Western Grebes had a very poor hatch at Bear River N.W.R., with many nests abandoned outside the main dike because of a dropping water level. Some may have nested at Ruby Lakes, and some did nest at Pueblo and Walsenburg, Colo. The erratic Barr L. colony near Denver failed to produce young, perhaps because of extremely high water. We have reports from none of the four White Pelican breeding grounds yet, but 375 feeding at Walker L., Nev., June 18, had probably flown 85 miles from their Pyramid L. breeding grounds and 35 miles from their normal feeding grounds at Stillwater W.M.A. Bear R. had a summer population of 7000, apparently not the Great Salt L. breeders, and 65 non-breeders summered at Barr L. Barr and Pahrnatag had their usual numbers of nesting Double-crested Cormorants, and Bear R. produced 110 young, an increase from last year. Great Egrets were at Loveland, Colo., June 7 (D.F.O.) and at a heronry near Boulder, Colo., where they have nested (AC) Bear R. had a Snowy Egret population of 1500, but slightly fewer young. Coloradans reported only one observation, and no other regional observers reported any White-faced Ibis at Bear R. moved in 1000 strong, and produced 300 young — three times 1974's production. Unsuitable habitat outside the refuge boundary probably forced them into the refuge for nesting, so the numbers may not represent an increased net production.

**WATERFOWL** — In their natural range, Trumpeter Swans had poor success — five pairs observed at Yellowstone raised only two cygnets; two pairs at Ruby L. did have three young each. Ducks and geese found either high water or drought too much, and production declined all over the Region. At Bear R. “nesting was down by one-third and brood counts suggest that production may be down even more than that.” Peak nesters were 15,000 Gadwalls, 15,000 Pintails, 9000 Blue-winged/Cinnamon Teals, and 8000 Green-winged Teals. Ruby Lakes' delayed waterfowl production dropped 47 per cent from last year, with drops in Canvasbacks and Redheads of 41 and 38 per cent, even coots dropped 31 per cent. Papike blames abundant water filling in lakes once dry, offering new non-refuge nest sites. Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., had improved water conditions, but a shortage of personnel prevented analysis of nest counts before the end of the report period. At Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., the legacy of last year's drought, compounded by this year's late, heavy snow melt left reduced cover and nests vulnerable to predation — success plummeted to a dismal 38 per cent. Bright spots were large broods of late Gadwalls, and a good prognosis for next year's water. Less than 500 pairs nested at each of Barr L., Arapaho N.W.R., L., Hutton L., Seedskadee N.W.R., Wyo., Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah (hampered by fluctuating flooding conditions), and Pahrnatag N.W.R., Nev. broods showed up in August at Farmington Bay, Seedskadee, Jackson, Yellowstone, and Cody.

Baffling flocks of ducks (200 Mallards, 267 Gadwalls, 80 Shovelers) appeared at Barr L. for brief, unexplained stopovers in June. Yellowstone had nesting Buffleheads, and saw Harlequin Ducks along the Yellowstone R. in June; naturalists speculate that the birds left to nest in the remote sections of the park. A ♂ Oldsquaw in eclipse plumage at Fort Mohave July 6 (JO,VM) very likely is the same bird which wintered there.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — At Zion Nat'l Park Cooper's Hawks occupied 3 of last year's 5 nest locations, and at least 10 young fledged from them and 1-2 other locations. At Rocky Mt. Arsenal near Denver, a pride of up to 80 Buteos, mostly Swainson's and mostly juveniles, concentrated in an 8-square mile area July 12-26. The area has high populations of prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and other small rodents. Golden Eagles bred successfully, judging by limited information available. Bald Eagles nested in one or two places in Colorado — a new development in the past two years. Ospreys in Yellowstone Canyon occupied 4 of 9 nest sites in mid-June; 2 produced 4 young. One nest was lost during a 5.8 -scale earthquake, and a second was abandoned due to broken eggs. Yellowstone L. was not monitored, but Naturalist Kelley reports that Ospreys have an ironic nest preference: lake nest sites, more desirable since they lie closer to the food source, have lower success owing to frequent human disturbance; canyon nesters, with better reproduction success, desert the canyon whenever a lake site opens up. The Park Service has tried to rectify this problem by protecting the lake nest sites from intrusion during the nesting season. Prairie Falcons seem to have had fairly good success, at

Cheyenne, Seedskadee, and R.M.N.P. specifically, although the Seedskadee sites have suffered from depletions by falconers. We have reports of two successful Peregrine Falcon nests, although the female of one pair disappeared halfway through nesting. Am. Kestrel nesting began a month later than last year around Logan, and in one area under study active nests dropped from 20 to 8; 8 other locations report modest declines.

**GROUSE, RAILS** — Nevada's first **Ruffed Grouse** breeding record came with a female and 5 young seen July 23 in the Ruby Mts. (CL). White-tailed Ptarmigan were present in R.M.N.P. and Loveland Pass, Colo., in usual numbers, but about 10 days behind schedule. Central Nevada and Seedskadee Sage Grouse had poor years. At Seedskadee the young came off the nests during wet weather; with half the hens barren, the rest had small broods and production dived. A Chukar at Eureka, Nev., giving the broken wing act July 21 implied late nesting; perhaps Sage Grouse there likewise nested late, although Seedskadee observations suggest not. Near Fort Lyon, Colo., Griese played taped Black Rail calls; in response he heard, on three different days in June, the Black Rail "advertising" call, "Kweek kikee-doo", at 2.5 -second intervals. He saw only ripples in the water (†JD). The species is on the Colorado list on the basis of a circa-1890 specimen no longer extant and a 1964 observation. Bear R. had good Am. Coot production, contrary to the Ruby L. record. Bear R. also had an inexplicable 20,000 coots arrive July 1 and depart July 15.

**SHOREBIRDS** — At Bear R. 30,000 shorebirds had arrived by the third week in July: 10,000 Baird's, 15,000 Western, 7000 Marbled Godwits, and 8000 Long-billed Dowitchers. Killdeer suffered poor nesting at Eureka and Bear R.; hail wiped out several nests at Cheyenne; s. Nevada reports normal numbers (but these are not large). In contrast, Mountain Plover at Cheyenne, Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, and Pueblo had good nesting success. More reporters mentioned breeding Com. Snipe than in any previous season, although the only specific comparison showed a minor drop. Bear River's Long-billed Curlews dropped from 250 to 50, and no young curlews have been seen. But curlews in Baca Co. — one of 4 remnant Colorado breeding locations — seemed numerous enough. Two Upland Sandpipers were at Sheridan, Wyo., June 22. Many early-nesting Willets and Long-billed Curlews at Logan were flooded out; they gathered in small flocks in early June, suggesting that most did not attempt re-nesting. At Davis Dam, Nev., 26 Willets July 6 were a large, out of season number, and 34 at Sheridan July 30 are the largest count on record there. The Am. Avocet nesting center of Bear R. had 16,000 birds which produced 2000 young, and its 7000 Black-necked Stilts raised 800 young, an increase.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Two Parasitic Jaegers cruised Jackson L., Wyo., June 22, one coming within 12 feet of the observer to feed on fish entrails left by shore fisherman (M,BR). California Gulls continue abundant despite poor hatching at Bear R. and Jackson; up to 150 non-breeders summered at Denver, a

new summer site. Bear R. hatched 2000 young Franklin's Gulls, an average number, 500 Forster's Terns, and 75 Caspian Terns. Boyd identified Colorado's second **Caspian Tern** on July 5 near Fort Collins. The 300 Black Terns at Bear R. represented a noticeable drop in numbers (no nest success reported), Arapaho and Hutton L. each produced 13 young while three adults showed up at Cody June 10 500 pairs of Mourning Doves were counted, including 47 nests, and all Nevadans mentioned enormous numbers of Mourning Doves. Four Black-billed Cuckoos in Denver and Washington Co. surprised Coloradans, while the species arrived at Casper June 25 — three weeks later than normal, and Sheridan had 5 observations.

**OWLS** — Glenwood Springs and Gunnison, Colo., each reported nests of Flammulated Owls, thus expanding the Colorado range of that seldom-found species. Denver birdwatchers flocked to observe a Spotted Owl outside an office window at Rocky Mt. Arsenal, a most unlikely prairie location. Although birdwatchers also flocked to Zion to see Spotted Owls, the only observation there came July 20 in Hidden Canyon. Rare summer Pygmy Owls came from Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas June 8, and two (parent and young?) in Summit Co., Colo., July 19. Nevada's first **Elf Owls** apparently were nesting at Fort Mohave July 5-12. The probable nest hole, in a small limb of a dead tree, was not inspected since the observers did not want to chance injury to eggs or young. Jackson had one report of the Great Gray Owl, Yellowstone had none. Yellowstone did mark a new summer record, of a Boreal Owl killed by a car June 24.

**WHIP-POOR-WILLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — Mt. Charleston had Whip-poor-wills June 25 calling in the same place as on May 29 (*Am. Birds*, 29.886), suggesting a breeding colony. Chimney Swifts have spread to Wyoming, with one in downtown Sheridan June 9 and 35-40 in downtown Cheyenne June 17. Wyoming's first **Black-chinned Hummingbird** came to Mrs. Richard Moore's feeder in Jackson in very cold weather June 24 (*fide* OKS — "long overdue"). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds nested late — 3 weeks at Franktown, Colo. (MOS) — but decreased at many feeders, probably lured away by lush wildflower fields. Rufous Hummingbirds visited n. Wyoming in June (Yellowstone and Sheridan) and males arrived at Jefferson, Colo., July 6, Boulder July 10, and Reno July 11. Rare Calliope Hummingbirds visited Jefferson June 27-28, where one fed on nertensia but not at the feeder, Yellowstone, for Follett's first observation (although they are regular at Grand Teton N.P.); Mt. Rose near Reno July 11; and Eureka July 16-17. Large hummingbirds, probably Rivoli's, appeared at Gunnison, R.M.N.P., and Zion.

**WOODPECKERS** — Five **Gila Woodpecker** nests June 12 at Fort Mohave were Nevada's first nest records. Two Red-headed Woodpeckers strayed northwesterly to Dubois, with a road kill June 12 (MB) and one near there at Torrey L., June 23 (RAR). Sheridan had two in early June and one July 4-11, and R.M.N.P. had one or two. Although Colorado and Ruby L. report

normal numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers, Sheridan's arrived late and in low numbers. Observations of Williamson's Sapsuckers increased in all four states. Reno observers found White-headed Woodpeckers at Mt. Rose and L. Tahoe in July.

**FLYCATCHERS** — Stray E. Kingbirds were at Kanab, Utah, July 6, Jackson June 8 (MB), and Crowheart, Wyo., June 9 (OKS). Fort Mohave had Wied's Crested Flycatchers June 5 and 12; no nesting found Ash-throated Flycatchers roamed, with one at Denver June 20 (HEK) and one at Yellowstone July 22 (RK). Several Black Phoebe's at high elevations on Mt. Charleston — up to 9600 feet — have Lawson wondering if they are seeking a higher-altitude niche to avoid human pressures on the desert. In Cottonwood Canyon, Baca Co., Colo., Webster contrasted flycatcher niches: W Kingbirds occupied the wide parts of the valley and areas around the cultivated fields; Ash-throated Flycatchers utilized drier creek sites, usually isolated from the kingbirds; E. Phoebe's used the wetter gorges with boulders; and Say's Phoebe's used the drier non-stream locations.

**LARKS, SWALLOWS** — Horned Larks continue abundant throughout the Region; the King ranch near Cheyenne had 900-1000 although a below-normal hatch resulted when hail killed most of the first and early second broods. Late migrant swallows included 500+ at Zion June 20, mostly Trees, with many Violet-greens and Cliffs, feeding on midges and gnats; 42 Cliffs at Denver June 11; and one Rough-winged at Dubois June 21-25. Insects failed to hatch on time in breeding areas: at Seedskaadee, "large numbers of swallows left or died off because of lack of food." In Baca Co., they were scarce and abandoned early nesting areas; after rains in late May several colonies began successful careers.

**CORVIDS** — Our Region marks both the center of abundance and several fringes of the range of the Black-billed Magpie. Along the fringes, Hedges found eight at Alton, Utah July 3, and Webster found 4-5 pairs in Cottonwood Canyon. (Sutton reported them formerly rare in nearby Oklahoma, with the first Oklahoma record not until 1919.) In the normal range, magpies became scarce in n. Nevada this year, according to observers at four different locations. Webster's studies suggest that other large corvids also have found Baca Co. to their liking: Common Ravens successfully nested in the rugged cliffs, White-necked Ravens built on abandoned windmills on the prairies, and Com. Crows, apparently new to the Baca canyons, had two different nest areas on local ranches. In contrast to the Baca birds, many Com. Ravens nested in trees in Jackson and Grand Teton.

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH THRUSHES** — White-breasted Nuthatches in boxes at Franktown and R M N P. each fledged young despite the June 8 snows. Observers reported Bewick's Wrens common-to-abundant in their normal areas of Baca Co. (early nesting, with young by May 29), Kanab, Zion, and Fort Mohave (nest found June 12). Man's watering of the desert has attracted Mockingbirds — they now are

widespread in Las Vegas and vicinity, from Pahrnagat to Fort Mohave. Swainson's Thrushes must have arrived at their breeding grounds tardily: D.F.O. counted 88 on the Pawnee June 1, on June 15 single birds there and at Fort Morgan, and at Denver June 17-18; Dubois had them late June 4, 6, and 19. At Cheyenne, two sang all summer.

**KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS** — Ruby-crowned Kinglets lingered into July in Colorado Springs, Boulder (possibly nesting), and Salt Lake City; they seemed less common in the Colorado mountains. The June snows didn't bother the sturdy Water Pipits, which were feeding young on schedule in June in R.M.N.P. A strange flock of about 40 Phainopepla's spent June and July at Pahrnagat, not in typical mesquites but in cottonwoods. Although the June birds numbered five males for each female, they apparently stayed to nest. Sheridan, Salt Lake City, and Kanab reported Loggerhead Shrikes as fairly common, and Lawson counted have since 1968) and Baca Co. (dozens of nesting pairs); males in mid-July began singing in Zion, Casper, and Denver. Miller had a Painted Bunting in her Cheyenne yard June 4, with no escape known in the vicinity. Evening Grosbeaks were abundant in the Colorado Front Range: a few visited Durango and Jackson for the only other regional reports. House Finches, widespread in dichotomous habitats of western deserts and Mountain West plains cities, summered in the slick rock country at Zion. A late Black Rosy Finch on Squaw Mt. near Evergreen June 13, and nesting birds at Jackson, Yellowstone and the Uintah Mts. in Utah are eclipsed by Back's remarkable observation on her annual quest into the Wind River Mts. for the nest of the **Black Rosy Finch**. She reports: "[In a blizzard June 17, more than 2000 passed] flying very low, some only inches off the ground, none higher than 20 feet from the very steep slopes above timberline... We guessed that very late spring and heavy mountain snows had held them to lower levels long past normal nesting dates, and now the whole bunch for the Wind River Range was coming up, weather or not. It was a very excited crowd, chattering and chattering, playing acrobatic tricks, a dozen or so at a time, whirling off in a bunch, then returning, many lighting briefly at our feet and looking us over before flying on, many flying so close we were almost brushing them off. The weather was a real blizzard, but the birds headed into it, carrying on like a whole high school full of teenagers at a carnival."

Pine Siskins nested abundantly in the Colorado mountains, and scattered birds appeared in Wyoming and Utah. Grand Teton had unusual numbers of Am. Goldfinches all season. Red Crossbills continued to inhabit the Colorado and Wyoming mountains in modest numbers. Green-tailed Towhees presented a cipher. low or absent at Pueblo and Sheridan; common throughout Nevada, at Kanab, and occupying every available habitat in R.M.N.P., and overlapping with the Rufous-sided Towhees at Zion. Wyoming had good numbers of Lark Buntings, hatching late but prolifically at Cheyenne, plus observations at Cody June 5 and in Fremont County four times in June, including 14 at Midvale June 30.

**SPARROWS** — Grasshopper Sparrows appeared at Sheridan June 1, singing from a weed stem in a 10-acre tract which was mowed before any nesting could have been completed, at Casper where nesting was uncertain, and Ely, Nev., July 24 (CL). Most common sparrow in Baca Co. was the Lark, in the canyons and the plateaus. Cassin's Sparrows may have retracted their range this year; they declined in numbers on the Pawnee and in Baca Co., where Webster heard none after the June rains on the prairies (could this reverse their typical appearance on the Arizona grasslands after July rains?). Gray-headed Juncos suffered from the June snows in Evergreen and Summit Co. and on the Chicken Creek study plot, the latter possibly caused by the clear-cutting. Many young flitted around Mt. Charleston in July. Nevadans all commented on the abundance of Chipping Sparrows. McCown's Longspurs had a "terrific hatch" at Cheyenne, but Chestnut-collared Longspur numbers were badly decimated by hailstorms.

**CORRIGENDA** — Bear R. reports an error in last fall's report, when W. Grebes peaked at 1300, not 13,000 (*Am. Birds* 29:93). Colorado Field Ornithologists Records Committee rejected the Anna's Hummingbird at Beulah (*Am. Birds* 29:95).

**ABBREVIATIONS** — D.F.O. — Denver Field Ornithologists; R.M.N.P. — Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park; † — sight report on file.

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman

Of course every season is affected by the events of the preceding one. Last spring was characterized by exceptionally cold weather — which may explain why local breeding species of hummingbirds were thought to be scarce around Flagstaff this summer, and why

Painted Redstarts continued to be uncommon in many of their traditional nesting areas. Last spring the migration of many species averaged later than usual — so it was not surprising that some observers described major movements of warblers, vireos and flycatchers extending into June.

Owing to the high precipitation levels of last winter and spring, the summer began with good growths of vegetation present in most areas of New Mexico. This was particularly noticeable in the prairie sections, and observers expected that grassland species might stay to nest in above average numbers — but a less-than-consistent pattern emerged. Lark Buntings, for example, were virtually absent from the eastern plains of the state, where they are sporadically known as common breeders. On the other hand, it appears that meadowlarks may have responded to the increased cover, as Westerns summered well southward among Easterns in several areas.

**CHANGES IN BIRD DISTRIBUTION, OR IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF IT** — Man's propensity for building dams gives us a different picture of waterbird distribution than the early ornithologists could have had. For example: the Painted Rock country west of Gila Bend, Arizona, is a dry and desolate place, but this summer it produced among other birds 12 Brown



Pelicans and 26 Wood Storks — at the waters behind Painted Rock Dam. The significance of the birds' presence should not be overestimated, however. Immatures of both species wander north from the Gulf of California regularly, probably every summer. This year's pelicans and storks would have passed through the airspace above Painted Rock anyway; the presence of the reservoir acts merely as a sampling technique, concentrating the birds, giving us a chance to extrapolate how many must disperse across the whole of southwest Arizona.

But when birds stay to nest at these man-made lakes, that may constitute a genuine range extension. For example, New Mexico's Elephant Butte 'Lake' (actually an artificial reservoir) hosts a major colony of cormorants and herons, thus completely altering the distribution of these two families in the Southwest; two new species of herons posted New Mexico breeding records there this summer. Another remarkable case involves Clapper Rails finding potential breeding sites at reservoirs in Arizona's interior.

Of course, changes in distribution are normal events in the birdlife of any region, regardless of man's influence. Allan R. Phillips has suggested that *nearly 10%* of all the land bird species in the Southwest may undergo major distributional changes in *any given century*. He further points out that most recent range extensions here have been northward ones. The latter fact works to the birders' advantage, since we have more species to gain from Mexico than from the states to the north of us.

The species accounts below include southward records of Tree Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, and Fox Sparrow, but these are all scarce or local birds that might have been overlooked before. On the other hand, we report on continued progress by species certainly or probably involved in northward range extensions, such as White-winged Dove, Tropical Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Red-faced Warbler, Great-tailed Grackle, Bronzed Cowbird, Varied Bunting, and Five-striped Sparrow; and there are other recent invaders, such as Thick-billed Kingbird and Black Vulture, that are doing well. Will the trend continue? What will be the next invader from Mexico? The answers will only come from continued fieldwork, and that is what these regional reports are all about.

**LOONS, GREBES** — The Arctic Loon is a rare visitor to Arizona, generally occurring in fall or early winter, so one that appeared at Willcox May 30 was definitely out-of-season. Not surprisingly, it was found dead June 4 (MH *et al.*; spec. to U. of Ariz.). A Com. Loon in breeding plumage at Snow L., Catron Co., N. Mex. June 4 (WB) was also unusual. Four Eared Grebes at Elephant Butte L., N. Mex., June 7 (CAH) were undoubtedly late migrants, but four more at Eagle Nest L., Colfax Co., June 28 (WP) may have indicated a new breeding area; the species is known to nest at several lakes in the northern third of New Mexico. For several years W. Grebes have summered in small numbers in New Mexico, and this season produced reports from Heron and El Vado Lakes in Rio Arriba Co. (MCC, JPH), Elephant Butte (CAH), and in the Chuska Mts. (APN). Breeding probably occurs at some of these

sites, especially the northern ones; but the first definite proof of nesting in the state was the observation of a small young riding on the back of an adult at Burford L., Rio Arriba Co., July 5 (CAH).

**CORMORANTS THROUGH HERONS** — Non-breeding Double-crested Cormorants summered at many points in Arizona, including 25+ at Painted Rock Dam near Gila Bend, while in Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., scattered birds were present for the first local summer records at Burford and El Vado Lakes. In the nesting colony at Elephant Butte L. hundreds of Double-crested fledged, and Olivaceous Cormorants brought off at least three young from five nests during the period. An additional report of Olivaceous Cormorant involved six at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., June 5 (DAZ, MAZ, J. Minot).

The only frigatebird reported this summer was one flying too high to be identified as to species (odds favor Magnificent Frigatebird) w. of Tacna, s.w. Ariz., June 15 (RRJ, Janet Johnson). The Magnificent Frigatebird, a summer wanderer from the Gulf of California, would probably be recorded in Arizona every year if there were more observers in the s.w. corner of the state.

The real news from Elephant Butte was that two species of herons established first nesting records for New Mexico. **Little Blue Herons** produced young from two nests during July (CAH): the species had been known only as an irregular summer visitor to the state, first recorded in 1952. The **Cattle Egret**, a very recent arrival in New Mexico (first sight record 1963, first confirmed record 1972), also nested for the first time at Elephant Butte L., with two nests producing young in July (CAH). As yet there are no nesting records for Arizona, but the presence of several Cattle Egrets at Painted Rock Dam in July (JW *et al.*) suggests that the event may not be long in coming.

**WATERFOWL** — The Black-bellied Tree Duck occurs sporadically in s. Arizona, and although it has nested near Phoenix, Tucson, and Nogales, most records are for late summer and early fall. Of interest, therefore, were three near Picacho Res., June 7 (SRD). The Fulvous Tree Duck, once a fairly common winter resident in s.w. Arizona, has recently been known only as a rare summer visitor; the only report this season was of one at Phoenix July 21 — end of period (RBr). A Mexican Duck with a brood of four at Centerfire Bog, Catron Co., N. Mex., June 10 (JPH) was one of the few breeding records for this form on the Mogollon Plateau. Fifteen Redheads seen July 15 in the Chuska Mts. of n.w. New Mexico showed no signs of nesting locally, but an ad. Ruddy Duck with two young there (APN) marked the first breeding record for San Juan Co.

**KITES** — A **White-tailed Kite** that remained at Bitter Lake N.W.R., July 11-18 (JCC *et al.*) was photographed, providing the first documentation of the species in New Mexico. There are at least four previous hypothetical records going back as far as 1944. A Mississippi Kite n.e. of Phoenix June 25 (KK *et al.*) was the second local record, and one of extremely few sightings away from Arizona's only known breeding colony at Winkelman.

**CLAPPER RAIL** — The Colorado R. race of the Clapper Rail (*R. l. yumanensis*: a form recalling the King Rail in its reddish coloration, several of its calls, and its preference for freshwater marshes) currently summers northward along the river to the vicinity of Topock, 300 river-miles from salt water. There is some debate as to how far upriver the bird occurred in the past: it has been found only recently in the northern areas (but rails are easily overlooked); and much of the habitat on the Lower Colorado has been altered by man (but not necessarily improved). Likewise we know nothing of the bird's historic presence (if any) on the Gila River, which flows into the Colorado River at Yuma. The first evidence of *yumanensis* on the Gila was a road-killed bird found in 1969 near Tacna, 40 mi. upriver, but 5-7 individuals have been present in marshes near Tacna every summer since (RLT). In 1970, three *yumanensis* were found far up the Gila River valley in the vicinity of Phoenix, but there were no more records in that area until this summer, when at least three individuals were present at Granite Reef Dam (RBr,RLT). A further surprise was the discovery of four this June (RLT, Dave Brown) at Picacho Reservoir, which is located in the desert halfway between Phoenix and Tucson!

**SHOREBIRDS** — Four Com. Snipe, including two giving flight displays, were found at Los Ojos (Park View) July 14 (MCC,JPH). This was the first evidence that the snipe may breed in New Mexico; it has nested in the Springerville region of Arizona, as well as numerous localities in Colorado. At Phoenix a lone Long-billed Curlew summered in the same area where one spent last winter; each record was a local first, and possibly both involved the same bird. A Marbled Godwit at Willcox, Ariz., June 22 (KK *et al.*) was notably early for a 'fall' migrant, and may have been a summering individual instead.

**GULLS, TERNS** — Non-breeding, sub-adult Ring-billed Gulls are frequent enough in summer in New Mexico — e.g. at Morgan L., El Vado L., and Eagle Nest L. in this period; but at Heron L. July 15, three Ring-billeds were certainly outclassed by the 31 California Gulls present (MCC,JPH), which apparently constituted only the fourth state record! A Laughing Gull reported June 5 at Phoenix (SB) was likely the same individual which, appearing there in May, established the fifth Arizona record. At Bitter Lake N.W.R., traditional site of the only known breeding colony of Least Tern in the U.S. part of the Region, only five adults were present through the summer and no nests were located (JCC *et al.*).

**PIGEONS THROUGH NIGHTJARS** — The Band-tailed Pigeon is known to be quite irregular in its movements in the Southwest. This summer the species was unusually abundant during late June and early July

in the Santa Rita Mts. and at Patagonia, Ariz.; about a dozen appeared at Flagstaff in mid-July, when the species is not normally present there (RPB); and one found June 6 in the hot lowlands of Elephant Butte L. (CAH) was certainly out of place. The White-winged Dove continued to be reported during June and July at Socorro, N. Mex., north of the species' current "normal" range (P. Basham). A Groove-billed Ani was found July 3 at Deer Creek Falls in the Grand Canyon, providing Arizona's northernmost record of this rare straggler from Mexico (G. Palsgrove, H. Messamer *et al.*). The observers, though temporary visitors, had the presence of mind to photograph the bird and forward the information to the regional editors — an example that should be noted by others. A brood of Screech Owls fledged at Farmington (APN) confirmed the breeding of this species in the far n.w. part of New Mexico; the Screech Owl is actually quite scarce in the general region of n.w. New Mexico - n.e. Arizona. Whip-poor-wills were heard at three locations in Arizona's White Mountains region: near Alpine in early June (*fide* RCC), near Blue June 11 (RBr), and near Haganan Meadows July 5 (KK,RW). Rather surprisingly, there seem to be no previous records for the White Mts., though the species has been recorded as a migrant just to the southwest and is known to summer in adjacent ranges to the east in New Mexico.

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — A ♀ or imm. Lucifer Hummingbird was seen w. of Tucson July 5 (GM). Arizona specimens are few, but sight records of this species seem to be increasing; as with several other hummers, the bird's true status is clouded by problems in identification. A few Broad-tailed Hummingbirds may occur in the lowlands at any time in summer, but a male at Maljamar, Lea Co., June 24 (JPH) was east of the normal range in New Mexico. In most areas of New Mexico, Rufous Hummingbirds were reported as being scarce and appearing later than usual during July, when the species be arriving on its 'fall' migration. (For an authoritative account of the migrations of this and other western hummers, the reader is referred to a very recent paper by Allan R. Phillips [*Condor* 77:196-205; Summer 1975]). No less than five Rivoli's Hummingbirds reached n.c. Arizona: two females during July at Flagstaff (C. Lockett, *fide* SC), and two males and a female June 9 - July 1 on upper Oak Creek (JHi). Previously there have been very few records so far north in Arizona, but note that a few Rivoli's now turn up virtually every summer in Colorado, where feeders and observers are much more numerous.

Blue-throated Hummingbirds were reported from points well beyond their normal northern limit: one male on upper Oak Creek June 9 - July 1 (JHi) and another at Bandelier Nat'l Mon., N. Mex., July 5 (F. Stimson). No more out-of-range — but of considerably more interest to U.S. birders, due to the coincidence of political boundaries — was a **Berylline Hummingbird** that appeared June 27 at feeders in Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz. (C. & J. Peabody, R. LeValley, m.ob.). By early July, conflicting descriptions suggested that two individuals might be involved, and this was confirmed July 16 when two were seen together (SH); at least one of the birds was present



through the end of the period. The only previous confirmed records in the U.S. of this common Mexican species were in Ramsey Canyon in 1967 and in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., in 1971.

**KINGFISHERS THROUGH JAYS** — A ♀-plumaged Green Kingfisher was reported from the Sonoita Creek Sanctuary s.w. of Patagonia July 21 (W. Risser); the species is a rare straggler from Mexico, generally occurring in fall or winter.

Excellent photos were submitted to confirm a June 23 report of an Eastern Kingbird near Nutrioso, in the White Mts. region of e.c. Arizona (RCC). There are scattered summer records for the northeast section going back at least to 1894, but so far the species has not been found nesting in the state. The Tropical Kingbird was considered accidental in Arizona until 1938, when the indefatigable Allan R. Phillips discovered four pairs nesting near Tucson. Perhaps the bird was merely overlooked before then; but the continual discovery of new colonies in the time since seems to indicate that the species is a recent invader from Mexico. A new locality this summer was Cook's L., between Mammoth and Hayden in Pinal Co., where a nesting pair was found June 17 (RRJ). Also, a single individual was reported May 30 e. of Phoenix (ST); there are only two previous records for the Phoenix area, one involving an isolated nesting pair in 1956. The original distribution of Black Phoebe in New Mexico is uncertain, owing to unreliable early records, but evidently the species has been spreading northward in the state during this century; Colorado had its first record in 1972. New northern records in New Mexico this summer were singles at Bloomfield for several days in the period (A. Schmidt, *vide* APN) and at Soda Dam, n. of Jemez Springs, June 20 (JND,PF). Willow Flycatchers, widespread but local breeders in New Mexico, fledged young at Elephant Butte Lake in July (CAH). The nesting of a pair of Coues' Flycatchers on upper Oak Creek, north of Sedona, Ariz. (JHi) marked a northward extension of the species' known breeding range.

Three nests of Tree Swallows were found at Elephant Butte (CAH), at the southern breeding limits of the species; while farther north scores shared mountain habitats with Violet-greens in the n. San Juan Mts. (JPH) and n. Sangre de Cristo Mts. (K. Giezentanner, WP).

A Blue Jay that appeared slightly west of its normal range at Roswell, N. Mex., July 30 (MW) was unusual in that most stragglers occur during winter or migration periods.

**THRUSHES, STARLINGS** — A singing ♂ Veery was found July 5 s.w. of Springerville, Arizona. It was in suitable breeding habitat, and the bird's active response to tape recordings indicated it was on territory (KK,RW,JW). The only previous Arizona record involves birds collected in 1936, at almost exactly the same locality and date; thorough fieldwork in the future may prove that the species summers there regularly in small numbers. Although the species nests locally in the Colorado Rockies and the northern Great Basin states, Springerville is by far the southwesternmost

summering locality known, and the Veery is unknown as a migrant in our Region aside from a few records in extreme e. New Mexico. A Swainson's Thrush near Alpine June 9 (RCC) and another near Sheep's Crossing July 6 (KK,JW) were the first summer records for Arizona's White Mts. region, while a pair with young e. of Cuba June 21 (JND,PF) provided the first breeding record for New Mexico's Jemez Mts. The summer status of the bird in both states is rather poorly known probably it would be found to share the mountain forests with the abundant Hermit Thrushes in many areas, were observers more aware of the differences in song.

A disturbing new aspect of the Starling problem is the possibility that it may invade the mountain forests which are home for many cavity-nesting species. Already in New Mexico the Starling nests very locally in or near pine forest areas, and to these few may be added La Cueva in the Jemez Mts. (MBS) and Centerfire Bog, Catron Co. (JPH), both at elevations exceeding 7000 ft.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — At the roadside rest stop on Sonoita Creek s.w. of Patagonia, Ariz., a **Yellow-green Vireo** was observed briefly on June 19 (Kathleen S. Zinn) and for many hours June 25-27 (BH, m ob). During the latter period of observation the bird sang almost constantly, and showed mild interest in tape recordings, but subsequent to the 27th it could not be found again despite exhaustive searching. Interestingly, there was an unconfirmed report of another Yellow-green Vireo in Guadalupe Canyon, extreme s.e. Arizona, on May 11 (R. Buttery *et al.*). Since the species nests commonly north into Sonora it seems reasonable to expect a few 'overshooting' migrants to appear in Arizona in late spring and early summer, but we advise *extreme* caution in identification — there is only one previous record (a bird tape-recorded on Sonoita Creek in June 1969), and that could be open to question. Statistically the Red-eyed Vireo is still more likely to occur than the Yellow-green, and in fact a Red-eyed was found on Sonoita Creek July 17 (R Dean).

A Black-and-white Warbler at Patagonia July 17 (SH) and another at Tucson July 20 (D&M King, GM) were the first July records for Arizona; the bird is generally known here as a sparse migrant and winter resident. The northern limits of Lucy's Warbler in the Rio Grande Valley are only vaguely known, but a nest found June 19 near San Marcial, Socorro Co. (CAH), is probably near the point in question. Olive Warblers were found to be very common in mid-June at Horse Camp Seep in the Mazatzal Mts., n. of Phoenix (KK,ST *et al.*), a new western limit at the n.w. edge of the species' range. This represents a genuine range extension: during intensive fieldwork at this locality in 1970-71, the species was not recorded at all (RRJ). A Red-faced Warbler seen June 24 on the Widforss Trail, North Rim, Grand Canyon N.P. (P. Post, S. Friedberg) was the first Arizona record north of the Canyon itself. The species has been gradually expanding its range during this century; the first California and Nevada records have occurred within the last five years.

At Boone's Draw, extreme e. New Mexico, the last of the spring migrants included a Hooded Warbler June

1 (JPH *et al.*). Another Hooded Warbler, a singing male, was carefully described from upper Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., July 2 (F. Schrock). An eastern warbler in the Arizona mountains in mid-summer may seem unbelievable — but consider the history of this species: there are only five previous acceptable records of the Hooded in the state, but three of these have been in the period from late June through mid-July, and all have been at middle to high elevations.

A pair of Am. Redstarts, seemingly on territory, was found June 16 near Springerville, Ariz. (DS). The species may be a sparse summer resident in that area, but no nest has yet been found in the state. A ♀ Am. Redstart east of Phoenix June 12 - July 30 (ST) provided one of only a few summer records for s. Arizona.

**ICTERIDS** — As noted in the introduction, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks were found summering together in the more lush grasslands of New Mexico. Some localities and ratios recorded over 25-mile census routes in June: near Fence L., 37 Easterns and nine Westerns; near Tucumcari, one Eastern and 80 Westerns; near Floyd, 123 Easterns and 21 Westerns; and near Lovington, 94 Easterns and 97 Westerns. Great-tailed Grackles were reported breeding for the first time at Elephant Butte (CAH) and apparently near Silver City (RAF), while a lone male near Apache Creek, Catron Co., N. Mex., June 12 (CLH,JPH) was obviously a solitary straggler. A ♀ Bronzed Cowbird at Pleasanton June 10 (GM) represented the first record of the species in the San Francisco Valley of New Mexico, a new northward extension. This species is another recent invader from Mexico; it first appeared in Arizona in 1909, and was not recorded in New Mexico until 1947.

**FRINGILLIDS** — A singing territorial ♂ Indigo Bunting was found May 25 s. of Sasabe, n.w. Sonora, Mexico. The species was previously unrecorded in the state (SMR). Varied Buntings, traditionally scarce or local in s. Arizona, were noted this summer as unusually common and widespread in the Nogales-Patagonia region (m.ob.) and in n.w. Sonora (SMR). In addition, the species was found for the first time in the foothills of the Empire Mts., Pima Co. (SM), and there was a report of a male from the confluence of the San Francisco and Gila Rivers in Greenlee Co., June 10 (RBr). The latter sighting is north of any previous summer record for the species. Cassin's Finch is quite scarce as a summer resident in New Mexico, so of interest were reports of four in the s. San Juan Mts., July 1 (MBS) and up to four per day, June 25 - July 2, near Red River (WP).

Paradoxically, in a season when Lark Buntings were virtually absent from their 'normal' breeding grounds on the e. plains of New Mexico, a nest was found June 6 near Estrella, McKinley Co., N. Mex. (JPH); this locality is in the n.w. part of the state, where the species has not been known to breed before. Savannah Sparrows are quite local and at best uncommon in summer in New Mexico, so of note were five at Burford L., July 15 (MCC,JPH). The Five-striped Sparrows are doing well: near Patagonia, in the only known U.S.

colony of the species, four pairs plus two unmated males were present this summer; at least 12 young were fledged (SM). Singing Cassin's Sparrows were present through the period at Rodeo, N. Mex. (R. Scholes), establishing a new western 'summer-long' area of occupancy for the species in New Mexico.

Chipping Sparrows nest mainly in the mountains in the Southwest, but on June 19 an adult was feeding two young at San Marcial, on the Rio Grande in Socorro Co., N. Mex. (CAH). Several also summered at Farmington (APN). Actual summering birds should not be confused with records obtained in July, when the first migrant Chippings begin to swarm into the lowlands. The report of numerous White-crowned Sparrows on June 22 between Chama and Cumbres Pass (JND,PF) strongly suggests that the species breeds in the n. San Juan Mts., extreme n.c. New Mexico; the bird is known to summer regularly in the adjacent Sangre de Cristo and Jemez Mts., but not else where in the Region. Finally, an observer familiar with the species watched a gray Fox Sparrow as it sang in riparian brush near Red River, Taos Co., N. Mex., July 3 (WP). This is the first summer record for the state, though the species nests sparingly in the mountains of c. Colorado.

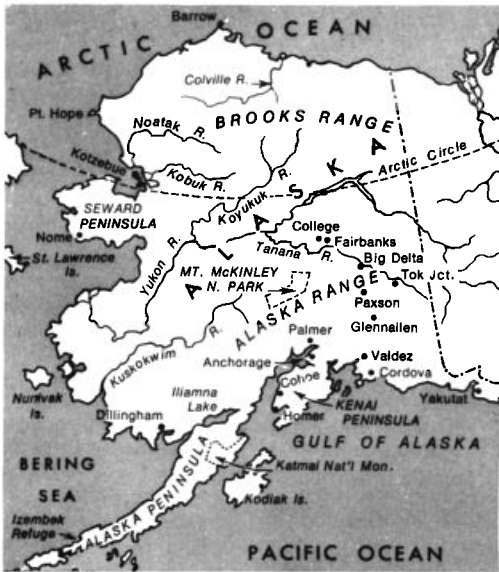
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## ALASKA REGION

/Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

A late cold spring and a relatively cloudy and damp summer produced early nest failures with resultant attempts by many birds to re-nest, most noticeable among passerine species (*e.g.*, swallows, wood warblers). Many observers at a number of Bering Sea locations provided exciting records of Palearctic migrants in late spring and early summer, and observers on the North Slope provided exciting records from both directions — some Palearctic species and several Nearctic passerines far north and west of their breeding ranges. Seed-eating birds were common and widespread in south-central Alaska, primarily Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills, and Red Crossbills were common and ubiquitous throughout southeast Alaska.

A constantly increasing number of resident and transient observers is producing new information on the distribution of Alaska's birds at a pace with which we are only just able to keep abreast. *It cannot be stated*



too often that the need for documentation of birds with which the observer is thoroughly familiar as well as of those with which he or she may not be familiar – birds seen beyond the recognized range or in areas in which the birds are rare or poorly known – is of paramount importance to the use of these records in ongoing studies of bird distribution in Alaska. In the long run, it is important to future Alaska bird students that they too be able to review the firsthand written and photographic evidence for the occurrence of birds in an area.

**SHEARWATERS** — Small numbers of *N. Fulmars* found breeding at Forrester I., extreme s.e. Alaska, in late July (DDG & TGT), provide a significant range extension — so far as known, the breadth of the Gulf of Alaska from the Semidi Islands, w. of Kodiak.

**WATERFOWL** — The only **Bean Goose** reported this spring was a single bird observed at Buldir I., w. Aleutians, June 1-20 (GVB *et al.*). Two *Com. Pochards* were present at Adak I. through June 2 (AWW), and one male was at Buldir June 7-11 (GVB *et al.*). Following impressive numbers of Tufted Ducks in the Aleutians in May (see Spring Migration), the species was seen for the first time at the north end of Bering Sea (it breeds on Kamchatka and has been recorded once on Wrangel I., Chukchi Sea): at least two birds on Troutman Lake, *St. Lawrence I.*, June 7 through at least the 14th (PGD, GEH & RAM *et al.*, WR & RF *et al.*), and a pair on a small pond at the Nome airport, June 17 (WR & MS). A ♀-plumaged *Smew* at Clam Lagoon, Adak, July 3-31 (AWW), is an unparalleled midsummer record of a bird that is primarily a migrant and winter visitor.

**SHOREBIRDS** — A *Dotterel* was observed by many in mid-June at Gambell (GEH & RAM *et al.*), where the species is annual. Small numbers of Rufous-necked Sandpipers were recorded at Nome, Gambell, and Wales (GEH & RAM *et al.*, WR & RF *et al.*, PGD)

during the first and second weeks of June. A pair at nest with four eggs at Barrow, July 2 (CC, PC, RG, JPM, LU), is the first breeding record of this species in arctic Alaska, bearing out the prediction of Pitelka [*Arctic and Alpine Research* Vol. 6 (2)], published only last year. A full-plumaged ad. Rufous-necked observed at Buldir July 21 (GVB *et al.*) was probably an unsuccessful breeder that had moved south of the breeding range early. Probably the fifth and sixth records of Least Sandpiper for the Barrow area were birds on June 1 (RG) and 28 (FAP & JPM). Up to three **Long-toed Stints** were observed at Buldir from late May through June 1 (GVB *et al.*), and the end of the migration brought at least one bird to Gambell during the second week of June, where it was seen by many (GEH *et al.*). A full-plumaged *Stilt Sandpiper* observed at Nome in mid-June (GEH & RAM *et al.*) is the third record for w. Alaska. The species is not common anywhere in the Region and breeds regularly only in n.e. Alaska. A **Greenshank** found dead on Buldir, June 5 (GVB *et al.*), was preserved and provides only the third N. Am. specimen of the species, all since 1961. A calling Greater Yellowlegs observed well at Gambell, June 17 (WR *et al.*), is a first record for St. Lawrence Island. At least 10 *Wood Sandpipers* were recorded at Buldir in the latter half of May, and a few were seen there through June 10 (GVB *et al.*). The species was also observed in June at Agattu and Attu islands (JLT *et al.*), and at the latter location, a known breeding area, defensive birds were found during the second week of July (JLT). Astonishing was a well-described **Wood Sandpiper** at Barrow, July 20 (PC, RG, FAP & JPM), observed on the eighteenth anniversary of the only other Barrow record. There is but one additional record for the continent proper, although the species is of regular occurrence in the Aleutian Islands. Single *Com. Sandpipers* were observed for a week at both Buldir (GVB *et al.*) and Agattu (JLT *et al.*) at the end of May. Up to six **Polynesian Tattlers** were identified at St. Paul I. in early June (GEH & RAM *et al.*), and one was seen at Gambell by the same observers. A **Marbled Godwit** (see Spring Migration) was well observed at Anchorage May 21 (RFC & RM), the first definite record for upper Cook Inlet. Single *variegatus* *Whimbrels* were recorded at Buldir June 11 (GVB *et al.*) and at Alaid I., w. Aleutians July 1-3 (JLT). Red Phalaropes are rare away from the seacoast in Alaska, so a high-plumaged bird with N. Phalaropes along the Denali Highway, s.c. Alaska, in mid-June (DA, TTW) is of interest.

**GULLS, TERNS** — Following the mid-May records at Shemya I. (see Spring Migration), Black-headed Gulls were widely reported in the s. Bering Sea through mid-June: up to three seen at Buldir at the end of May (GVB *et al.*); one watched at Adak June 7 (AWW); one observed at sea off Semisopochnoi I., w. Aleutians, June 13 (TRW); three seen at St. Paul in early June (MCT); and one photographed at sea off the Pribilofs in mid-June (GJD). **Common Terns** (*S. h. longipennis* from Asia), casual in the e. Bering Sea and never before recorded in any but small numbers, were seen in early June at Attu, where an astonishing 21 birds were counted (EPH). Singles were observed at Shemya June 13 (GVB) and at Adak July 20 (AWW).

**ALCIDS** — Dovekies are rare and local amid the dense auklet colonies of the Bering Strait, and there are very few data on them although the birds are well known to the natives. Thus one observed in the Chibukak Point colony, St. Lawrence I., June 14 (KE & WR *et al.*), and at least one bird observed at Little Diomed I. the same day (SWS) are of interest. Three July sightings of single Rhinoceros Auklets in the vicinity of the Buldir talus slopes (GVB *et al.*) are the first recent records of the species in the Aleutians. No breeding evidence was found.

**FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS** — An **E. Kingbird** was observed on the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, July 21 (ESD). A casual visitor in the Region, this flycatcher is reported almost annually from s.e. Alaska, but there is no evidence that it has bred. A singing ♂ **Skylark** was observed at Shemya May 22 (DDG, GEH & RSH), and one was seen at Attu July 7 (JLT). These birds are *A. a. pekinensis*, from Asia, and should not be confused with the introduced birds in British Columbia. At least two Rough-winged Swallows were seen at the Mendenhall Wetlands, June 4 (DDG, RJG & TGT), in a large flock of other swallows. We are only now getting to know this bird in Alaska. A Barn Swallow seen at Agattu July 3 (GWE & KW) was estimated to be an example of *H. r. gutturalis*. An ad ♂ **Purple Martin** seen well at Wainwright, on the Arctic Ocean coast, June 12 (PC & RG), is an astounding record. The species is a vagrant anywhere in the Region.

**THRUSHES, WAGTAILS, PIPITS** — One of very few records of the species on the North Slope, a ♀ Mountain Bluebird was present at Barrow, June 23-30, during which time it was seen carrying nesting material into a pipe (RG *et al.*). A White Wagtail seen at Adak June 15-16 (AWW) was another ♂ *M. a. lugens* (see Spring Migration) and one of very few Adak records of the species. Up to two White Wagtails were seen at Buldir in late May and early June (GVB *et al.*). Yellow Wagtails are rare migrants in the Aleutians, so the flight in that area this spring is of particular interest (and especially since the birds involved were estimated to be the Kamchatka-, rather than the Alaska-, breeding form). Birds at Adak, Amchitka, and Shemya islands were mentioned in the spring account (*q.v.*), and the species was subsequently recorded at Buldir (GVB *et al.*) and at Agattu (GWE & KW) in late May and early June. Maximum count was 15, at both Amchitka and Buldir. At least one Red-throated Pipit was observed on St. Paul, in early June (MCT), where it provides a first for the Pribilofs, and several territorial birds were observed in early and mid-June at Gambell (GEH *et al.*), where the species undoubtedly breeds. A well-described **Petchora Pipit** (*Anthus gustavi*) at Gambell, June 16, was observed by many (GEH, WR *et al.*). This distinctive species breeds close at hand in n.e. Asia, but it has been 38 years since the only previous record, also at Gambell.

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES** — There were two records of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** this spring and summer. A male was watched at Eagle Beach, Juneau

area, June 1 (FG & BL), and a female was observed at Barrow, July 3 (PC, RG & CC). Very exciting were the third and fourth Alaskan and N. Am. records of **Com. Rose Finch** (*Carpodacus erythrurus*). A female was observed at Buldir June 3 (GVB & DHSW), and a female was studied by many at Gambell, June 14-16 (WR & RF *et al.*, GEH *et al.*). The Gambell bird was documented by color photograph (JGK; photo on file U.A.). A well-described Pine Siskin at Barrow, July 16 (RG), is a first record for this species on the Arctic coast. Extralimital records of Golden-crowned Sparrow were one seen at close range near Webster L., St. Paul, June 10 (WR), where it provides a second record for the Pribilofs, and a singing male at Barrow, July 4 (RG & JPM), an irregular straggler there. A first record for N. America is an ad. ♂ **Com. Reed-Bunting** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) studied at Buldir, May 29 (GVB *et al.*). Details on this visitor from Kamchatka will be published elsewhere. Closely related Pallas' Reed-Bunting (*E. pallasi*), which breeds farther north and east — to the Chukotski Peninsula — and with which *schoeniclus* might easily be confused, has been recorded twice in Alaska.

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

The 1975 breeding season was much like that of the preceding year, characterized by cooler and wetter weather than normal. Late migration movements, continuing into June, doubtless account for most of the extra-limital records which have turned up increasingly during early June in recent years.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — A pair and three young Com. Loons were to be seen at Esquimalt Lagoon at Victoria through the breeding season (LR, *vide* VG). A pair at Deception Pass State Park in n. Washington observed June 29 were thought possibly to be nesting there (WW). A few Com., Arctic, and Red-throated Loons were noted at various coastal points in June and July, with a slight increase in sightings by the end of July. On June 28 two very young Red-necked Grebes were found on a secluded pond near Ocean Shores, Wash. (G&WH). A few non-breeding Red-necked and Horned Grebes were present about s e



Vancouver I. during the months of June and July (JCo, VG *et al.*). A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was observed at Nisqually N.W.R. at the s. end of Puget Sound on July 15 (BT). Twenty-one W. Grebes were noted at Duncan, B.C., through July (JCo), but there were no reports for the season away from s. Vancouver I. until the last week in July when a few had reached salt water, presumably from inland breeding localities.

On July 28-29 an estimated 250 N. Fulmars were seen off Yaquina Head, near Newport, Ore. (FR *et al.*). On July 20 an estimated 20,000 Sooty Shearwaters were over the ocean at Rockaway, Tillamook Co., Ore. (SA, RW, *fide* JG); on June 17 up to 300 were at Tofino, Vancouver I. (RWC, MS, *fide* VG). One dead Short-tailed Shearwater June 15 and three July 13 were found on the beach at Ocean Shores (BT *et al.*). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was seen at Rockaway, July 20 (SA, RW, *fide* VG). A report has been received of five ad. White Pelicans at Towdystan L., s.e. of Tweedsmuir P.P., B.C., June 5 (A. & L. Karup, *fide* RWC, *fide* VG). Brown Pelicans were late coming n. into the Region this year: the only report was of 200 — half immatures — in 10 mi. of Oregon coast just n. of California July 27 (SS). A Great Egret was noted near Grants Pass, Ore., July 21 (SS); 17 had reached Coos Bay Aug. 1 (HR). An ad. Black-crowned Night Heron was found near Florence, Ore., July 5 (AC, MPa). An Am. Bittern was seen near Ilwaco, Wash., June 17 (MK, HN), three were found at Oyhut, n. of Ocean Shores June 28 (EH) and one was at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, June 30 (WW). A Least Bittern was discovered in a small marsh at Buena Vista on the Willamette R., s. of Salem, Ore., July 19 (JJ, *fide* FR).

**WATERFOWL** — At Iona I. s. of Vancouver on July 12, Brian Kautesk observed for about an hour at fairly close range a lone bird which appeared to be a Brant; the bird, however, had, a curious addition to the normal

white throat marks which made them appear joined as though by a pendant necklace. A flock of ten Black Brant was at the mouth of the Columbia R., June 17 and another flock of 15 was at Leadbetter Pt. the same day (MK, HN); single birds were seen June 18 at Sidney, B.C. (JW, *fide* VG), and at Ocean Shores June 28 (G&WH). On June 29 there were 650 Gadwall at Iona I. (BK); up to ten of these birds were at Seattle throughout the report period (EH), and one was seen at Eugene, Ore., early in July (DG, *fide* LM). At Iona I., also on June 29, were 50 Pintail (BK); an adult of this species was noted at Grants Pass, July 7 (SS). A ♂ Am. Green-winged Teal was found near Davis L. in the Oregon Cascades June 28 (AW, *fide* LM); a female was at Cowichan Bay, near Duncan, B. C., July 16 (VG, RS), where two broods of Blue-winged Teal were reportedly reared (JCo). On July 22 a ♀ Blue-winged Teal with eight young was found at Swan L., s. Vancouver I. (MS, *fide* VG); two males of this species were at Salem, July 16 (RL); pairs were also noted at Dungeness, Wash., June 8 (EH) and at Iona I., June 23 where three males and one ♀ Cinnamon Teal were also found (JW, DW, *fide* VG). Three young Cinnamon Teal were successfully reared at Somenos L., s. Vancouver I. (JCo). Two Am. Wigeon were at Cowichan Bay, B.C., to June 28 (JCo) and one was seen at Seattle, July 1 (EG, *fide* PM). A dozen ♂ Ring-necked Ducks were found on Oregon's Davis L., June 22 (LM); a male was seen at Iona I. June 7 - July 20 where up to eight Canvasback also were recorded (BK). A pair of Lesser Scaup was observed at Grants Pass July 11 (SS). Two ♂ Tufted Ducks remained at Iona I., until mid-June, one bird was seen there June 29 & July 12 (BK). Several Com. Goldeneye during June and July in the vicinity of Vancouver (BK, WW); five summered at Cowichan Bay (JCo). Eleven ♀ Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen at Crane Prairie Res. on the e. side of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon, June 28; on July 12 one was seen there with downy young (AW, *fide* LM). One or two Barrow's Goldeneyes frequented spots in Vancouver through June, and another was at Cordova Spit in the vicinity of Victoria, July 26 (VG). Numbers of Buffleheads were at Oregon's Davis L. in the Cascades throughout the report period (LM); a few were at Iona I. after the first week in July (BK), while lone females summered at Cowichan Bay (JCo) and Victoria (RS *et al.*, *fide* VG). There were up to 30 Harlequin Ducks in the vicinity of Victoria during the report period (VG) sixteen of these birds were in the harbor at Vancouver, June 8 (BK). A ♂ Black Scoter was at Victoria June 30 (RS, *fide* VG). Young Hooded Mergansers were observed around Victoria, and at Ocean Shores, at the end of May and in June. Common Mergansers evidently had a good breeding season on Vancouver I. and on the s. British Columbia mainland, with 182, mostly immatures, at Cowichan Bay in July (JCo) and several broods seen in the vicinity of Vancouver.

**HAWKS, EAGLES, GAMEBIRDS** — A **White-tailed Kite** was watched under good conditions at the Nisqually N.W.R. July 10 (BT, SM, ER, PS); the sighting is believed to be the first for the State of Washington. A Goshawk nest containing one young bird was discovered 20 mi. w. of Grants Pass (SS),

several other nest sites in s. Oregon were also active (OS). An imm. Goshawk appeared at Iona I., July 27 (DB, *fide* BK). Sharp-shinned Hawks were recorded in the vicinity of Grants Pass several times (SS), at Olympia July 5 (BT), and three times on s. Vancouver I. after June 28 (VG,RS), but were not otherwise reported. The only reports of Cooper's Hawks were one e. of Butte Falls, near Medford July 10 (OS), a pair at Saanich seen repeatedly until June 21 (RMG, *fide* VG), and one at N. Saanich, July 26 (JW, *fide* VG). Golden Eagles nested in the Rogue R. valley this year (OS); one was seen near Keno, ten miles w. of Klamath Falls July 19 (FR,OS). Two adult and one imm. Bald Eagle frequented Nisqually N.W.R. and vicinity during the period (G&WH,EH,BT); two young Bald Eagles were raised in Vancouver's Stanley Park (BK). On July 5 there were 14 Bald Eagles at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., n.e. of Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). A nest at Esquimalt June 22 contained one young (JW, *fide* VG). An imm. Bald Eagle was observed at Neah Bay on Washington's Olympic Pen., June 7 (EH). Ospreys frequented Nisqually N.W.R., where there were at least four active nests, and Siltcoos L., near Florence, Ore., where three pairs were present; there were a few one-time observations of Ospreys from other points in the s. half of the Region. A dark-phase Gyrfalcon was observed to fly in from the Gulf of Georgia, over Iona I., and head inland June 15 (BK). An ad. Prairie Falcon was observed 3 mi s. of Merritt, B.C., July 10 (RS, *fide* VG). Three Peregrines were sighted in British Columbia and in Washington after June 28. A Merlin was noted at Saanich July 31 (VG).

Two California Quail were observed at Pt. Roberts, on the U.S.-Canadian border, June 26 (WW) allaying fears that the species no longer ranged quite that far north. Five adults and one imm. Sandhill Crane were at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, June 21 (J & DW, *fide* VG). A nest of the Sandhill Crane containing two eggs was found at Davis L. on the e. side of Oregon's Cascades May 25; a month later an egg and a dead chick were found there (AW, *fide* LM). A full grown imm. Am. Coot was found at Cadboro Bay, Victoria, July 18 (VG).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Thirty Semipalmated Plovers were at Leadbetter Pt., June 17 (MK,HN); on June 28 a pair was defending territory at Ocean Shores (G&WH), at Iona I., July 12 two chicks were discovered (BK). Three Semipalmated Plovers had reached Sauvie I., w. of Portland, in migration by July 20 (JG,TL); up to 11 birds frequented spots at Victoria July 22-31 (RS, VG *et al.*). On June 17 there were seven Snowy Plovers at Leadbetter Pt. (MK,HN); on June 28 at Ocean Shores four adults and one young were observed; a month later three adults were present (G&WH). In the vicinity of Victoria Killdeer were reported to be more abundant than at any time since 1969 (ARD *et al.*, *fide* VG). An early fall Am. Golden Plover was at Iona I., July 20 (BK). There were still 90 Black-bellied Plover at Leadbetter Pt., June 17 (MK,HN) and five at Ocean Shores June 28 (G&WH); by mid-July the vanguard of the fall movement was apparently in the vicinity of Victoria (VG). High counts of 220 and 670 Surfbirds were made in Barkley Sound, in n. British Columbia July 12 & 17 respectively (MS, *fide* VG); by July 11 eight were at

Victoria where 24 were present three days later (VG *et al.*). On July 28, 50 Surfbirds were counted at Ocean Shores (G&WH). As many as nine Ruddy Turnstones were in the Victoria area the last week of July (RS, *fide* VG); on July 26 30 were seen at Ocean Shores (G&WH). Except for two at Sidney, B.C., July 5 (JW, *fide* VG), the first Black Turnstones were not back in the s. half of the Region until the last few days of July when ten were at Ocean Shores and 28 were at Victoria. A Com. Snipe was seen at Saanich, July 5 (M&TS, *fide* VG). Long-billed Curlews appeared in the s. Willamette Valley at the end of May; one was still at Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene June 2 (LM). Single Long-billed Curlews were seen at Tokeland, Wash., July 13 (BT *et al.*) and at Ocean Shores July 26 (G&WH). A Solitary Sandpiper was observed on July 31 in Goldstream P.P., B.C. (VG). Wandering Tattlers were at several points in the Region the last week in July, the farthest south being at Boardman S.P., n. of Brookings (SS). Lesser Yellowlegs were recorded in June only at Iona I. on the 7th and the 29th (BK) and at Seattle on the 28th (EG, *fide* PM); several were seen the last few days of July in the vicinity of Victoria (VG *et al.*). A crippled Pectoral Sandpiper was at Iona I., June 23 (JI, *fide* BK); another was seen at Cleland I., B.C., June 18 (RWC,MS, *fide* VG). On July 10 a single Pectoral was found 18 mi. s. of Merritt, B.C. (RS, *fide* VG) and on July 20 an early fall arrival was at Iona I. (BK). Two Baird's Sandpipers were at Iona I., June 29 and one was there on July 28 (BK). A single Baird's Sandpiper was discovered at Ocean Shores, July 26 (G&WH). On June 17 a group of 25 Dunlin, including two crippled birds, were still at Leadbetter Pt. (MK,HN); three Dunlin remained at Iona I. all through June and one was still there on July 12 (BK). Aside from two at Iona I., June 23 (J&DW, *fide* VG), Long-billed Dowitchers first appeared in southward migration on s. Vancouver I. July 15; there were 31 birds at Cowichan Bay the next day (VG,RS), with up to six there until the month's end. Semipalmated Sandpipers were recorded repeatedly at Iona I.; from one on June 7 to 13 on July 13 (BK,BM). On July 1 a lone Semipalmated Sandpiper was at the Montlake Fill in Seattle (PM) where two were present the next day (EH). A few crippled W. Sandpipers were at Iona I. for the summer (BK). On June 28 there were 185 W. Sandpipers at Ocean Shores (G&WH). By early July southward migrants were also noted at Victoria (VG) and in the vicinity of Vancouver: a heavy wave occurred in mid-July (WW). A single Marbled Godwit was at Leadbetter Pt., June 17 (MK,HN) while on June 28 ten occurred at Ocean Shores (G&WH). A Reeve was identified at Reifel Refuge June 29 (RP, *fide* BK); on July 24 a Ruff was seen on the Victoria Golf Course (V&MG,RS) and a week later another Ruff, a distinctly different bird was discovered at c. Saanich and photographed (VG,JW *et al.*). The first Sanderlings returned to Iona I. and Victoria from the breeding grounds in the latter half of July. From July 9-14 at Nisqually N.W.R. two recently fledged young Wilson's Phalaropes were being protected by a male (HU,BT). A ♀ Wilson's Phalarope was at Vancouver June 4 (BK) and another at Seattle June 10 (PM). A N. Phalarope was seen at Leadbetter Pt., June 17 (MK,HN); two were at Long Beach, B.C., July 11 (MS, *fide* VG). On July 20, there were 50 N

Phalaropes off Rockaway, Ore., (SA,RW, *fide* VG) and on July 28-29 approximately 100 were observed outside Yaquina Bay (FR *et al.*).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS** — On July 28-29 an estimated 80-100 Pomarine Jaegers — adults and immatures — were seen 20 mi. off Newport, Ore.; on the same dates 10 Parasitic Jaegers and a group of 20 Long-tailed Jaegers were observed (FR *et al.*). Parasitic Jaegers were further recorded at Iona I., June 15 (BK), at Cleland I., June 19, at Long Beach June 20 and at Ucluelet, B.C. where two were seen July 11 (MS, *fide* VG) A Skua was seen July 29 20 mi. off Newport (FR *et al.*) California Gulls did not begin to appear from inland until after mid-July; a concentration of 100 was at Pt Roberts July 20 (WW). A sub-adult Ring-billed Gull was at Victoria June 6 (RS, *fide* VG). Bonaparte's Gulls were in evidence along the c. Oregon coast as early as July 12 when 60 were seen at Winchester Bay (AC *et al.*). Northward-moving Heermann's Gulls had reached Victoria as early as June 18, but they were not reported from further south until the second week of July. On July 18 there were 163 Heermann's Gulls at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG) and on July 28-29 there were 60 at the entrance to Yaquina Bay (FR *et al.*). A Black-legged Kittiwake was at Vancouver June 5 & 14 (BK); one was seen at Pt. Roberts, June 7 (TR,JI, *fide* BK), and an imm. summered at Victoria, sometimes in company with a few others (VG). On June 20 there were 970 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Long Beach, Vancouver I., (MS, *fide* VG), on June 27 there were 160 at Campbell R. (AD, *fide* VG), and on June 28 and July 26 there were up to 50 kittiwakes at Ocean Shores (G&WH). Two Sabine's Gulls were in the harbor at Vancouver, June 4 (BK); on July 28-29 off Newport between 30 and 40 were recorded (FR *et al.*).

A colony of Forster's Terns at Davis L. was destroyed by storms on June 22 (AW, *fide* LM); from one to three Forster's Terns were seen at Fern Ridge Res. on May 31, June 15 and July 7 (TLu,LM). An Arctic Tern was identified at Oak Bay, Victoria, July 30 (MS, *fide* VG). Up to nine Caspian Terns were seen at nine localities, the three at Nisqually N.W.R. from July 11 on (BT) were farthest from the ocean. A Com. Murre was in Vancouver harbor, June 22 where this species is unusual in summer (BK); occasional single birds were recorded in June and July at Victoria (VG) except that a group of 11 was noted at Oak Bay, June 3 (RS, *fide* VG) A score or two of Pigeon Guillemots were recorded at Victoria all summer (VG) and at Ocean Shores on June 28 and July 26 (G&WH). Up to 50 Marbled Murrelets were recorded frequently around Vancouver and Victoria during the season (WW, VG); on June 20 630 were counted at Long Beach (MS, *fide* VG) A Marbled Murrelet at sea off Newport, July 28-29 (FR *et al.*), and one in winter plumage was at Ocean Shores July 26 (G&WH). Cassin's Auklets were numerous off Yaquina Bay July 28-29; four Rhinoceros Auklets also were seen (FR *et al.*). On July 12, 100 Rhinoceros Auklets were in waters around the San Juan Is., near two nesting colonies (WW). On June 21 almost 300 Rhinoceros Auklets were counted at Cordova Spit, near Victoria; a week later 100 were there (RS, *fide* VG), while on June 24-25 at, respectively, Esquimalt and Cowichan Head, 150 and 200 birds were

seen. On July 26 at Pt. Grenville, Gray's Harbor Co., Wash., 20 Tufted Puffins were noted (G&WH); on July 28-29 off Yaquina Bay ten were observed. On June 20 a Horned Puffin was observed at Wickaninnish Bay, Long Beach Pacific Rim N.P. on Vancouver I. (MS, *fide* VG); on June 27 three were at Solander I., off Cape Cook, B.C. (RWC,HC, *fide* VG), and on July 27 two in summer plumage were at Boardman S.P., n. of Brookings, Ore. (SS,PR).

**OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — An adult and two imm. Barred Owls were discovered on Cortes I., B.C., July 7 (AD, *fide* VG). Up to seven Short-eared Owls were present throughout the report period at Nisqually N.W.R. (BT); another of these birds was seen at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, June 7 (BK). Single Saw-whet Owls were recorded June 7 at Neah Bay, Wash., (EH), and at Campbell R. Park, B.C., June 15 (JI, *fide* BK). On July 19 two Poor-wills were seen and others were heard on the e. side of Roy Ann Butte, e. of Medford (FR,OS); one was there July 21 (CR, *fide* OS). On June 21 an estimated 200 Black Swifts were noted at Pitt L., e. of Vancouver (D&JW, *fide* VG), on that day six were seen at Malahat summit on Vancouver I. (S&SW, *fide* VG). On June 23 eight were recorded at Iona I. (D&JW, *fide* VG). On June 25, some 500 were over Vancouver (BK), and four were at Saanich (RMG, *fide* VG). Two or three were at Manning P.P. July 2 & 11 (RS, VG). Vaux's Swifts were noted at Metchosin, B.C., at Manning P.P., at L. Oswego and Elkton, Ore., during July.

Two **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** repeatedly visited feeders at North Bend, Ore., July 30 - Aug. 2; they represented the second record for both Coos Co., and w. Oregon other than Jackson Co., where they have occurred a number of times. Single ♂ Anna's Hummingbirds attended a feeder in Salem all through July (RL), and were noted in Saanich July 18 near one feeder (M&VG) and on July 27 at another feeder (RMG, *fide* VG). A Lewis' Woodpecker was seen in s.w. Portland June 23 (JB, *fide* HN) and one was seen n. of Hope, B.C., July 1 (OS). The 'Red-naped' Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was the most common woodpecker in Manning P.P. this summer (VG,RS). Adult ♂ Williamson's Sapsuckers were recorded on the s.w. side of Mt. Hood, e. of Portland, June 22 (DF), and in White Pass in Washington's Cascade Mts., July 12, the latter bird was accompanied by two immatures (G&WH). On June 30 a pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers and one large juvenile were observed at Spirit L. near Mt. St. Helens, Wash. (EH)

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Eastern Kingbirds were seen singly at Lyons, Ore., June 9 (LM) and 20 mi. e. of Ashland, Ore., June 20 (OS), two were at Randle, Wash., June 21 (G&WH), up to five were at Pitt Meadows, throughout the period (WW *et al.*). Two W. Kingbirds were at Jericho Beach, Vancouver, June 23 (BK); a pair nested on a telephone pole in downtown Packwood, Wash., observed June 20-21 (G&WH,BT *et al.*). Lone W. Kingbirds were also seen in the Umpqua R. valley w. of Roseburg, Ore., July 31 (OS), and on Cortes I. June 8 (AD, *fide* VG); this last sighting is on the n.w. fringe of known casual occurrence. A **Least Flycatcher**, identified by sight and by

sound, was reported to have been at Saanich, June 11 (ARD, *fide* VG); this marks the first time we have published a Regional record for this species. However, both the 1970 and 1971 *Annual Bird Report for Southern Vancouver Island*, published by the Victoria Natural History Society, contain details of June records in those years which leave little cause to doubt that the species is of at least casual occurrence on s. Vancouver I. On July 14, Otis Swisher banded four Dusky Flycatchers in the Rogue Nat'l Forest 12 mi. from Butte Falls, Ore. Two nests of the W. Flycatcher were constructed on buildings of a Boy Scout camp at Siltcoos L., Ore., this year (AC). Twelve Skylarks were found on Washington's San Juan I., July 12 (WW). On the same day and in the same locality, two Purple Martins were noted; three of these birds were seen at Ilwaco, Wash., July 28 (EH). The small and scattered martin colonies along the Oregon coast had almost complete failure in fledging young this year (TLu). At Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, 68 pairs of martins nested; 75 per cent of the young from the first nesting failed to fledge, so that approximately 40 per cent of the pairs re-nested. By August, the success count was 90 young birds on the wing with another 70 still in the nest boxes (TLu).

A total of four Boreal Chickadees was observed in Manning P.P. July 6 & 12 (VG,RS). Pygmy Nuthatches were seen repeatedly in pines in the vicinity of Butte Falls, Ore., this summer (OS).

**WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Six House Wrens were counted on San Juan I., July 12 and three more were found on Orcas I., the next day (WW). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was found on Saltspring I., B C July 18 (ARD, *fide* VG). Individual Mockingbirds were recorded at two different points in Vancouver June 3 (DB, *fide* BK) and June 7 (TR,JI, *fide* BK); one was also at the Campbell R., estuary, July 5 (HT, *fide*, RWC, *fide* VG). Lone Catbirds were recorded at Squamish, B.C., 30 mi. n. of Vancouver June 22 (JI, *fide* BK) and at Burnaby L. near Vancouver June 22 (WW); and, as usual, a pair at Pitt Meadows July 20 (WW). A pair of Varied Thrushes was still at Eugene June 7 and was suspected of nesting (LM). A Veery was heard and was finally seen at the base of Mt. Seymour near Vancouver; it is the first record for the Vancouver area (WW). A W. Bluebird nest was found near White Pass, June 21 (G&WH); four W. Bluebirds were seen on Parrot Mt., s. of Portland, June 24 (JG), and two females were in s. Vancouver I., June 29 (RS, *fide* VG). Two Townsend's Solitaires were observed at Olallie L., Skamania Co., Wash., July 5 (EH). Two nest of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were found near Eagle Pt., Ore., this summer (OS); a male was seen at Ashland, Aug. 13 (BKe, *fide*, OS). The female of a pair of Hutton's Vireos observed at Saanich on July 4 was collecting lichens (RMG). Solitary Vireos were found repeatedly on s. Vancouver I., the count of 11 on June 1 at Victoria and of six on July 1 at Thetis L. (MS, *fide* VG) being of particular interest. Up to nine Red-eyed Vireos were recorded in the area near Jasper, Ore., e. of Eugene this summer (TLu, *fide* LM); a bird

of this species attended a yard in Olympia from June 22 to the end of the report period, while another was found at Saanich, June 21 (RS, *fide* VG). The only reports of Nashville Warblers were from the Medford and Grants Pass areas where a few birds were noted after mid-July (FR,SS,OS). On June 1 there were 16 Townsend's Warblers in Victoria's Goldstream Park; six were seen at Thetis L., July 1 (T&MS, *fide* VG). A single Townsend's Warbler and ten male Hermit Warblers were present at Olallie L., Wash., July 5-7 (EH). Up to four Hermit Warblers were recorded at Mt. Rainier June 9, from Packwood, Wash., June 20 (BT), from Long Beach Pen. n. of Ilwaco, Wash., June 17 (MK,HN) and from Spirit L., near Mt. St. Helens, June 30 (EH). A N. Waterthrush was discovered at Carrington Lagoon, Cortes I., B.C., June 7 (AD,GS, *fide* VG). On July 20 at Pitt Meadows there were about 40 Com Yellowthroats (WW); several pairs were present near L. Oswego, Ore., through June and July in a rank hayfield, uncut for several years, and where no surface water was nearby (JBC). There were two singing ♂ Am. Redstarts at Odell Creek, near Davis L., Ore., June 18; on July 12-13 three males and two females were found at the same place (CS, *fide* LM).

**BLACKBIRDS, SPARROWS** — On June 8 in Vancouver's Jericho Park, a **Bobolink** was discovered, careful study resulted in a detailed description which corresponds to that of the summer female except that a whitish patch showed on the shoulders and except that the bill was shiny black (BK); these marks suggest that the bird was an imm. male whose moult had not progressed normally. A pair of N. Orioles was seen at Saanich, June 13 (RMG, *fide* VG); orioles were noted in fewer numbers at Roxy Ann Butte, than has recently been normal (OS). A ♂ Rusty Blackbird was found at Manning P.P. July 7 for the first park record (RS, *fide* VG). Two instances of begging juvenile cowbirds following ad. White-crowned Sparrows, which are not thought to be often victimized by cowbirds, were observed; one at Vancouver July 30 (BK) and the other at Deception Pass S.P. in Washington, June 29 (WW). An ad. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Saanich, July 14 (RHC, *fide* RWC, *fide* VG). A ♂ **Indigo Bunting** was photographed at Eugene June 7 (LM,FR,CWA *et al.*); for the Region's second record (For the other, *Am. Birds* 26:801, 1972). A Lazuli Bunting at Cortes I., June 5 (AD, *fide* VG) provides a n.w. extralimital record of interest. A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was seen atop Mt. Hood June 12 (JB) and another was seen on Mt. Rainier June 20 (G&WH). Six to eight Lesser Goldfinches were on the campus of Lewis & Clark College in Portland much of the summer (TC,JG,HN). Also there July 1-2 were three Lawrence's Goldfinches; two were males and one singing (TC,JG,JWa); on July 16 a male was seen there again (TC). Red Crossbills appeared in lowland areas only at Victoria (*fide* VG) and at Olympia (BT), during June and July; in the Cascades, Red Crossbills appeared at a few scattered places, from e. of Vancouver s. to Mackenzie Pass e. of Eugene. Up to three White-winged Crossbills were recorded at Manning P P mid-



June to mid-July. Single Vesper Sparrows were again seen at Ocean Shores June 28 and July 25 (G&WH); two were seen on San Juan I., July 12 (WW), and six were discovered at Victoria July 7, where two were noted on July 16 & 23 (VG *et al.*). A singing Golden-crowned Sparrow had staked out a territory at Nehalem, Wash., where it was observed May 24, June 9 and June 29, but no nest was found (NL). There were five Fox Sparrows in full song at midday June 17 at Pt. No Point on s. Vancouver I. (S&CW, *fide* VG); two days later a single bird of this species was found nearby (M&VG). Two Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded at Iona I., July 5 (BK). A ♂ Chestnut-collared Longspur was present at Pt. Grenville, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 24-26 where it was photographed (WHO, *fide* PM); it would be the second record for w. Washington. When we described the first sighting (*Am. Birds* 28:943, 1974) we characterized it as the first for the Region; Wayne Weber subsequently pointed out that a Chestnut-collared Longspur had been photographed at Barkley Sound, Vancouver I., June 18, 1972 and that the record had been published (*Canadian Field Naturalist*, 87:66, 1973). A Lapland Longspur was observed at Seattle's Montlake Fill July 1 (PM); there are no previous Regional records of this species in June, July or August.

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Rich Stallcup and Jon Winter ✓

Summer in Northern California, with the exception of a single four day heat wave in July, was cool. June was mild and rather showery like an April and July weather was erratic. Several snowstorms in the Sierras and rains in the lowlands were unseasonal but had no noticeable effect on breeding Passerines. At Calaveras State Park, June had a colder minimum average than in



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several years at 44° F. with an extreme of 30° and the average maximum 76.6°. For July, the average minimum was 49.7° and the maximum, 82.1° (MK).

In the Central Valleys (below C.V.) reduced rice plantings were responsible for lower production of ducks and Black Terns there.

The unparalleled late May, early June wave of "east-ern" land birds on the Farallon Islands continued heavier than is normal through June and more than average individuals were recorded in July.

Two species, the Chimney Swift and the Water Pipit, both new to California's breeding avifauna were discovered this season.

A dagger following initials means that the observer has submitted a written description to the Regional Editors.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — All species of loons were relatively scarce this summer at Pajaro Dunes (J&RW) but 20 was a large number of Commons at Limantour July 16 (P.R.B.O.) and 75 were at Crescent City June 21 (SS), mostly in winter plumage. Three were noted inland at odd localities. At Limantour 84 Arctic Loons, July 16 (P.R.B.O.), eight at Half Moon Bay July 19 (PM) and ten at Pajaro July 28 (J&RW) were probably oversummering although a few were in high plumage. Only ten Red-throated Loons were found. A Red-necked Grebe at Limantour July 10, 16 (P.R.B.O.) was most likely summering as were two Horned Grebes each at Belmont June 10 - July 8 (PM) and Crescent City June 21 (SS). Eared Grebes had more young than ever at Woodland and at least seven broods were fledged (RS). A single Eared was at 11,000 ft. at Summit L., Mono Co. July 24 (TH)! Usual numbers of

W Grebes summered on the coast and nesting success was good in the Basin (TH, P.R.B.O.). About 60 Black-footed Albatrosses summered in Monterey Bay (BGE) and Pink-footed Shearwaters were very numerous there. Thirty Pink-footeds were counted from Pigeon Pt. July 22 (PM,BS). Two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were off Moss Landing July 12 when numbers of Ashy Storm-Petrels were beginning to build (BGE) and one was found dead at Pajaro June 15 (J&RW). Unlike last year no Black Storm-Petrels were seen (BGE), probably owing to cooler water.

White Pelicans were first noted in S.F. Bay July 22 at Alameda (WMP,JR) and various numbers were at several "east side" lakes through July (m.ob.). Brown Pelicans were in very good numbers with high percentages of brown-headed birds. Of 486 seen on the San Mateo coast during June, 330 were immature and on July 25 at Pajaro of 938, 50 per cent were immature (J&RW). On July 29, 15 Green Herons ("young hatched") were seen on the American R. at Sacramento (*fide* BK). Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons suffered heavy nest casualties at Audubon Canyon Ranch when several Raccoons learned to scale the Redwood trees. After the marauders were trapped and relocated some birds nested again (*fide* P.R.B.O.). A single Cattle Egret was near Gray Lodge July 15 (*fide* BK). Two Least Bitterns were found in the n. C.V. in June, one at Gray Lodge (SL) and one west of Chico June 25 (JS). The species is undoubtedly more common here than records suggest. A single Am. Bittern was at s. L. Tahoe June 26 (WS).

**WATERFOWL** — A partially crippled ad. Whistling Swan successfully summered at Chico (SL,RS). At Bridgeport L. 50 pairs of Canada Geese nested in tubs put out for them by C.F. & G. (TH). The usual few Black Brant summered along the coast (total: 17). Gadwall nested w. of Benton, 30 young on July 29 and at Crowley L., 24 young on July 31 (TH). Four ♂ Blue-winged Teal, the latest June 21, were reported (m.ob.). Two American Wigeon, one of the rarest ducks in summer, were at Chico July 21 (RS,GM) and one was at Limantour July 10 (P.R.B.O.). The only Wood Duck success indicated was of three immatures in the San Antonio Valley July 5 (GB) and three at Snake L., Plumas Co. July 20 (RS,DAG,GM). Red-heads had low production at Woodland with only two broods (RS), but 15 pairs and 27 young at Baum L., Shasta Co. (SL) were impressive numbers for a small lake. Three Ring-necked Ducks summered at Chico (SL,RS) but did not breed. A pair at Manzanita L., Shasta Co., (SL) and two males and a female at L. Earl June 21 (SS) were at likely nesting localities. A total of 14 Canvasbacks was found summering in the C.V. (m.ob.) and at Belmont (PM). Sixty Greater and 19 Lesser Scaup were reported from the s. portions of the region. One ♂ Com. Goldeneye and three ♂ Buffleheads were on Eagle L. July 5 (PM). Only two ♀ Harlequin Ducks summered at Ano Nuevo (m.ob.) which is fewer than usual. Very few Surf and White-winged Scoters summered and for the first time in several years there were no Black Scoters. Common Mergansers bred successfully on the Kings R. near Kirch Flat at Rapids (RH,CA) and in the C.V. near Red Bluff (SL).

**HAWKS THROUGH RAILS** — Five Goshawks were reported (m.ob.), which was more than Cooper's and Sharp-shinned combined. Of course this is not the actual case. Swainson's Hawks were more evident in the C.V. than in several years and were noted nesting at five localities there (m.ob.). Dark phase birds here are about one in four but usually pair together. Few Golden Eagles were reported (six) but Bald Eagles in the Northeast were quite evident with nine, and at least two nests were successful. Marsh Hawks nested at Benicia S.P. and at the San Pablo Bay Marsh (FKB). Ospreys had good nesting success along rivers of the n. coast (m.ob.) and at least eight pairs nested at Eagle L. on platforms (PM). Two pairs frequented Bolinas Lagoon all summer and probably nested nearby. Singles were reported from s. L. Tahoe (JR) and Topaz L. (TH). Three Prairie Falcons, one near Vallejo July 1 (JR), and two in Mono Co. in July (TH) were the only large falcons seen. Virginia Rails were found at every locality surveyed in Mono Co. "if more than two tules present" and Sora was a "common breeder" there (TH). Contrarily, no Yellow Rails could be found there because "every damn meadow with grass has cows" (TH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Semipalmated Plovers returned in July as usual, the earliest being Bridgeport L. July 4 (TH) and Emeryville July 5 (RD). Snowy Plovers bred at Belmont and Pescadero (PM) and after a late start owing to spring storms had good success at the Pajaro Dunes where ten nests were found (only seven last year) (J&RW). An Am. Golden Plover in partial breeding plumage June 21 at L. Talawa (SS†) provided the first regional summer record. The first Surfbirds were at Ano Nuevo July 21 (BS). Twelve Ruddy Turnstones were at Ano Nuevo July 13 (AE,GB) and different singles were at Woodland July 21 (*fide* BK) and July 29 (RS,GM). The latter two are the only inland records for July. Rice fields attracted at least 24 Whimbrels July 30 near Woodland (RS,VE). This is more than usually seen all fall in that area. On July 28, 41 Spotted Sandpipers were counted between Red Bluff and Woodson Bridge (S&PL) which is very high density. Four Wandering Tattlers at Humboldt July 29 (SS,SL) and two at Ano Nuevo July 21 (BS) were early.

Two Willets at Black L., Mono Co. July 2 (TH) were interesting, since this is a possible nesting locale. Red Knots were first reported from four different places July 26-28 (WMP,AE,JR,J&RW) indicating a fairly accurate arrival date. A Baird's Sandpiper at Emeryville July 5 (RD) was quite early and a Dunlin in breeding plumage at Limantour July 10 & 16 (P.R.B.O.) must have been summering. A Short-billed Dowitcher at Chico July 21 (RS,GM) was the only dowitcher present and called constantly. The first Long-billeds were at Woodland July 6 (*fide* BK) and one at Fresno July 16 was "the earliest returnee yet" (RH). American Avocets nested for the first time at Pajaro Dunes and of four eggs only one immature survived (J&RW). Because of low water and exposed, baked mud, Black-necked Stilts nested for the first time at Chico sewage ponds (SL,RS,GM). At Woodland a count of 750 Wilson's Phalaropes July 12 was high and most or all were females in breeding plumage. Only 60 N. Phalaropes were present (RS *et al.*).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — The first Pomarine Jaegers seen were three adults from Pigeon Pt July 22 (PM,BS). A Skua "almost certainly *macrorhynchos*" was in Monterey Bay July 26 (BGE). A very worn imm. Thayer's Gull was photographed at Emeryville July 5 (RD) and had no doubt summered locally. An ad. **Laughing Gull** at Pt. Pinos June 27 (P R B O.) may have been the same bird seen at Pajaro Dunes Apr. 24 (J&RW). There are only five regional records Of 40 Bonaparte's Gulls at L. Talawa June 21 only three were in breeding plumage (SS). Only nine Least Terns were reported. They are definitely endangered in this region. Except for one at Alameda June 14 (JR), Elegant Terns were late and few (m.ob.). Caspian Terns were felt to be more common than ever on the e. shore of S.F. Bay (DE).

On July 16, 19 Pigeon Guillemots were seen at Limantour (P.R.B.O.). Fifty Marbled Murrelets reported were considerably more than usual. Most were from Half Moon Bay and Pescadero (PM). Two Xantus' Murrelets were 6 mi. e. of the Farallon Is. (below F.I.) June 25 (P.R.B.O.). A single Rhinoceros Auklet seen from Pescadero (PM,BS) was either very early or was foraging from the F.I. *Three Horned Puffins* 3 to 10 mi. e. of the F.I. June 15 (P.R.B.O.), one dead at Pajaro Dunes July 27 (J&RW) and one beached alive at San Francisco July 29 (*fide* LCB) were but a shadow of this late spring's invasion to Southern California waters. A Tufted Puffin in breeding plumage flew north past Pigeon Pt July 16 (BS,PM); it is increasing as a breeder on the F.I. (P.R.B.O.).

#### S. A.

Two to five Chimney Swifts were seen and heard at Davis in June and early July (DW,TL *et al*) and on July 4 two birds were observed entering a brick chimney. One was carrying a twig (RS,GM). During July and into August the birds were observed often about the chimney by many competent birders. We did not collect anything or even harass these birds, so it is not absolute that a nest was involved. The chimney and the birds are still being watched, however, and the outcome will be discussed in the next issue of *American Birds*.

Another pair of Chimney Swifts nested and successfully raised young from a chimney in Ft. Bragg (LH†,KT†). They were watched throughout the period and their taped calls are on file with the editors.

These are the first nesting attempts of Chimney Swifts detected in California and, taken with the other records this summer may suggest an abnormal westward push or even a lost flock, individuals of which chose to homestead.

**PIGEONS THROUGH SWIFTS** — Spotted Doves, first noted in the winter of 1973 in Fresno, are apparently increasing in number there (RH). A total of four reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoo were received which is about average for the season. Single birds were found at Big Chico Creek June 17, Chico Landing July 30 n. of Glenn July 5 (SFB), and on the F.I. the second week of

June (P.R.B.O.). Flammulated Owls were reported from three known locations; three at Big Oak Flat n e of Foresthill July 6-7 (JW,TH), three at Forest Ranch July 4-5 (SFB) and one at Henness Ridge July 17 (SFB). Single Spotted Owls were found at Carpenter Ridge, Butte Co., June 20 (JS), Big Oak Flat July 6 (TH) and two were seen at Montgomery Woods S P June 28 (OJK). This species is far more common than is generally suspected. An encouraging number of Burrowing Owl reports from the Sacramento area indicated that several nests successfully produced young this summer (*fide* BK).

On June 25 the temperature dipped to 27°F at Duncan Park (7182 ft), Placer Co., as a result of a freak snowstorm. That evening a Poor-will was heard calling actively in spite of the unseasonable temperatures (JW). Such observations make one wonder about the mechanisms of torpidity! Common Nighthawks, not known to nest in the Sacramento Valley, were observed during June and July along the Sacramento River, at Red Bluff (SL). Although formerly fairly common in Fresno Co., Lesser Nighthawks are now quite rare. A single bird seen at Clovis July 10 is noteworthy (*fide* RH). A total of 27 Black Swifts was reported from the Sierra Nevada June 1 - July 27 which is normal for the period. The nesting distribution of this species throughout the state needs clarification. In addition to the Chimney Swifts found in Davis and Ft. Bragg (see S.A.) six birds were seen on the F.I. June 11-15 (P.R.B.O.) and a single bird was noted and described at Bolinas Lagoon July 19 (JM†). Prior to this summer there were only two documented regional records! Since the breeding distribution of the Vaux's Swift is rather sketchy throughout the region, observations of single birds at Lassen and Bucks Creek, Warner Mts June 21 and June 18 (DW) and one at Mineral, Tehama Co. July 6 (SS) are of interest. The bird is not known to breed in the Warner Mts.

**HUMMINGBIRD THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird, uncommon along the coast, summered at a feeder in Concord (JR). Costa's Hummingbirds now appear to be regular breeders at Del Puerto Canyon (AE). Migrant Rufous Hummingbirds were first noted in the C.V. at Courtland July 1 (*fide* BK). Calliope Hummingbirds were found to be common at Yuba Pass June 25 (*fide* BK). Populations of this species in the Sierra appear to fluctuate rather noticeably from year to year. Two observations of **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** for the period indicate that our knowledge of this species in the region is limited. A male found on June 30 west of Lee Vining represents the first Sierra record and may have been breeding (TH,RS). Another male found on July 9 at Skunk Cabbage Creek in the Warner Mts. is the first found in that range (DW†). These sightings are the second and third records for the region. Three Pileated Woodpeckers at each of three locations were reported Placer Co., Big Trees July 7 (TH), Inverness Ridge July 6 (NS), and 11 mi. n. of Gualala July 24 (OJK). **Lewis' Woodpecker**, a rather rare nester in the Sierra, appears to have bred at s. L. Tahoe. A pair was seen feeding a young bird July 17 (WS). A mixed pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of the races (*S.v.nuchalis*

and *S.v. ruber*) was found nesting in the Warner Mts. at Buck Creek June 18 (DW). Three observations of nesting Williamson's Sapsuckers from the Sierra seem to reinforce the opinion that (outside of Yosemite) this species is more common on the e. side of the Snowy Range (TH). A pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers was reported to be nesting again at Yuba Pass June 12 (WMP *et al.*) and a female was at Summit L., Shasta Co. July 6. An E. Kingbird was seen June 17 just s. of New Pine Creek, Modoc Co. (DW). Breeding of the species is definitely a possibility here. Upslope drift accounted for a W. Kingbird at Duncan Peak, July 9 (JW). Willow Flycatchers were noted from three new locations. Two were found at Big Bend Campground e. of Lee Vining July 3, another was seen at Devil's Postpile N.M. July 31 (TH) and a singing bird was at Mineral, Tehama Co., July 6 (SS).

A Tree Swallow was seen at 9000 ft. on Ralston Peak near L. Tahoe June 14 (WS). Unusual was the observation of 16 Bank Swallows at the Chico Sewage Ponds July 21 (RS). An observation of two Barn Swallows July 24 at 9840 ft. over Horseshoe Meadows near Lone Pine may be the highest elevation record of this species for the state (TH). Because of the record spring runoff of water from the mountains, Cliff Swallows along the California Aqueduct between Oilfields and Huron, Fresno Co. had most of their nests washed away, causing a noticeable nesting failure in the area (*fide* RH). Purple Martins appear to be holding their own in the C.V. where several colonies produced young (*fide* BK) while a total of 13 birds were reported along the coast from San Mateo Co. to the Eel R. n. of Ukiah June 15 - July 13 (PM,OJK).

#### S. A.

Water Pipits have occasionally been seen in the summer at high elevations in the Sierras and Cascades and nesting of that species has been suspected but heretofore unrecorded.

On Aug. 1, a nest with four young was found at about 10,500 ft. in the Harvey Hall Natural Area near Saddlebag L., Mono Co. (BE). The nest was well concealed beneath a dense clump of mountain heather. The young had fledged by Aug. 17 but two adults were feeding two fledglings and three additional birds (probably two adults and one fledgling) were seen there Aug. 21 (DDeS,DAG,BE). At least one and possibly two nests were successful in the area. This is the first documented nesting of Water Pipit in California.

**CORVIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — Always scarce in the n. Sierra, a Com. Raven was seen at 9000 ft. on Ralston Peak near L. Tahoe, July 19 (WS) and a pair nested in Battle Creek Canyon, Tehama Co. (SL). The southernmost record for Black-capped Chickadee was made at King Salmon July 25 (*fide* DE). A nesting White-breasted Nuthatch was reported from Lassen Volcano N.P. at the unusual elevation of 7000 ft. July 1 (SL). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported as being down from last year's numbers at the Sequoia Big Trees S P (MK). After having successfully nested for nine

seasons at Duncan Peak, Placer Co., Rock Wrens failed to return this summer (JW). The late, heavy snows may have discouraged breeding. The second regional **Bendire's Thrasher** was seen on the F.I., July 14 (P.R.B.O.). A Sage Thrasher was seen well west of its normal range at the Arcata Oxidation Ponds July 19 (SL,SS).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** found on the F.I. June 11 became the seventh regional record for this species (P.R.B.O.). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher found at 9000 ft on the w. side of Echo L. July 19 is noteworthy (WS), however a post-breeding, upslope drift of a number of foothill species is a common phenomenon in the Sierra. **Phainopepla** appear to be continuing a known historical northern expansion of their range in California and a nest was found in Redding June 5 (SL). Records of Red-eyed Vireos continue to mount from the F.I. as a single bird was found June 15 and two more on June 20 (P.R.B.O.). The region's sixth **Philadelphia Vireo** turned up on the F.I. June 12 (P.R.B.O.). This is the first spring occurrence of this species for the region.

**WOOD WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS** — A spillover of a number of eastern warblers occurring on the F.I. was recorded well into July as a result of this spring's awesome Parulid migration there. Black-and-white Warblers were recorded on the F.I. in both June and July and eight Tennessee Warblers were counted June 8-24 (P.R.B.O.). A total of 12 Magnolia Warblers was found on the F.I. June 8-24 and a single bird was noted there July 4 (P.R.B.O.). Four more Cape May Warblers found on the F.I. June 8-24 bring the region's total number of spring occurrences for this species to nine (P.R.B.O.). One Black-throated Green Warbler, always a prize in spring, was seen June 12 on the F.I. and rare in spring, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen there June 15 (P.R.B.O.). A single Bay-breasted Warbler was on the island June 20 and most unusual was the presence of a Palm Warbler there July 3-5 (P.R.B.O.). There were no July records for this species in the region and few for June. Ovenbirds staged a minor invasion on the F.I. where 11 were recorded June 11-July 1 and the region's fifth **Kentucky Warbler** landed on the F.I. June 16 (P.R.B.O.). Encouraging was the discovery that Yellow-breasted Chats were "fairly common" along the Eel R. in Mendicino and Lake Cos. (PM). A ♂ **Hooded Warbler** (a different individual from the one listed in the spring report) was seen on the F.I. June 8 (P.R.B.O.). An observation of a ♂ **Wilson's Warbler** feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird at Muir Beach, Marin Co. June 22 is noteworthy (AE). The region's second spring occurrence of a **Canada Warbler** was noted on the F.I. June 12-16 (P.R.B.O.). American Redstarts were seen on the F.I. June 9-16 where eight birds were tallied (P.R.B.O.). There are records for this species in the region for every month of the year. Unusual on the coast in summer, 40-50 Tricolored Blackbirds were seen at Pt Reyes June 22 (AE). Three Hooded Orioles at Novato July 30 (RS) and two at Woodson Bridge S.P., Tehama Co. (SS) were north of their usual range the latter, probably a first county record.

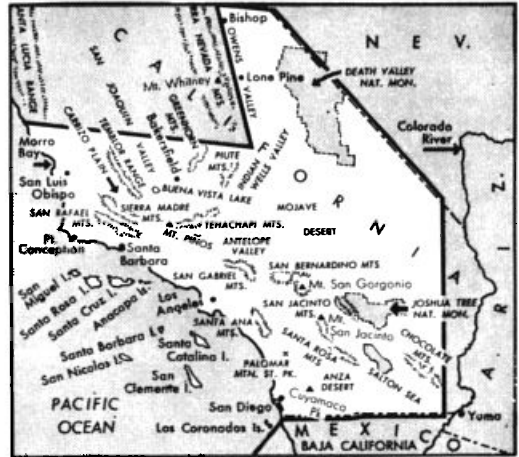
**FRINGILLIDS** — A startling 18 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occurred on the F.I. June 1-21 (P.R.B.O.). There are records for every month of the year for this species in the region. Blue Grosbeaks were reported in excellent numbers from the C.V. A singing ad. ♂ Indigo Bunting was seen in Patterson Meadow in the Warner Mts. June 23 (DW). This is not the first record there. Singing males were reported at three locations on the e. slope of the Sierra (TH), another at Foothill Park, Palo Alto (fide DDeS) and one in Kings Canyon N.P. (RH) all in June and July. Breeding of this bunting is to be expected and should be looked for, but it is likely that most pair with Lazulis if at all. Evening Grosbeaks were found to be common at Robinson Flat, Placer Co. (JW) and at the Sequoia Big Trees S.P. (MK) all summer. Pine Grosbeak numbers appeared to be up in the n. Sierra. They were found to be common at s. L. Tahoe (WS) and several were at Robinson Flat (JW) all summer. Twelve Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were found at Golden Trout L. near Bishop (fide TH). Red Crossbills were found to be common at Snag L., Lassen Volcano N.P. with many in juvenile plumage July 31 (SL). Seldom found in Marin Co., Grasshopper Sparrows were on territory on Inverness Ridge near Olema in mid-June (NS). The region's first summer record of a "Slate-colored" Junco was banded on the F.I. and remained there between June 11-23 (P.R.B.O.). The fourth regional record of a Cassin's Sparrow was of one on the F.I. June 12 (P.R.B.O.). Very rare in spring and summer a Clay-colored Sparrow was on the F.I. June 9-13 (P.R.B.O.). Most remarkable was the banding of an ad. ♂ Harris' Sparrow in Benicia by Emerson Stoner July 8. This is the region's first summer record for this species.

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**Christmas Bird Count dates  
Dec. 20, 1975 - Jan. 4, 1976**

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

June and July were cooler than normal and there was little thunder shower activity in the mountains or on the desert. The Salton Sea had very little out of the ordinary other than the now expected post-breeding waterbirds that fly north from nesting grounds in western Mexico.



The mountain ranges attracted the most attention from active resident birders. In recent years a few species, derived from avifaunas of the Great Basin or the southwestern United States, have extended their breeding ranges into the mountains of southern California (see *Western Birds* 5:45-56, 1974). This summer's observations indicated Gray Flycatchers and Solitary Vireos (*V.s. plumbeus*) are still on the increase in the San Bernardino Mountains. Whip-poor-wills (first found in California in 1968) were present in three mountain ranges, and Hepatic Tanagers (first recorded in summer in 1967) were believed nesting in two of these ranges. Painted Redstarts, first found breeding last summer, may have nested again this year, and both Grace's and Red-faced Warblers, the most recent possible colonizers, were found in suitable nesting habitat in June.

**GREBES** — Eared Grebes were unable to nest on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. this year because it was dry by early June; this species is not known to nest elsewhere in s. California.

**PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS** — Brown Pelicans appeared to have a successful nesting season on Los Coronados Is., and many young of the year were seen moving north along the coast in July. Very few Brown Pelicans found their way inland, with no more than six seen on the Salton Sea June 25 - July 31 (DVT, SC), but one captured in Seeley, Imperial Co. July 8 (DVT) and another found dead at nearby Ocotillo Aug. 2 (BP) were interesting for locality. As usual, a few Magnificent Frigatebirds were reported from along the coast with an

immature over Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co. Aug. 3 (FRT), an immature around Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo Co. July 14-15 (FRT), another at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. July 13-14 (GH), one over Marina del Rey, Los Angeles Co. July 13 (*vide* GSS), an ad. male near La Jolla, San Diego Co. July 28 (JRJ) and an immature off Ocean Beach, San Diego Co. July 10 (BP) An imm. and an ad. ♀ Frigatebird at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) July 19 (GMCC,KG) were the only ones found away from the coast

**HERONS, STORKS, IBIS** — Cattle and Snowy Egrets both appeared to nest later than usual at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.), for egg laying appeared to have just started when the colony was visited July 12 (DVT). Numerous Least Bitterns were to be seen along the lower Colorado R. and around the Salton Sea as usual; at least two pairs were believed nesting at a marsh in the Saline Valley, Inyo Co. July 25 (TH), and one was well seen near Goleta June 1 (GH). At least 35 Wood Storks were at S.E.S.S. on June 25, numbers built up to 300 within a week, then remained constant to the end of the period. An imm. Wood Stork at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., July 31 - Aug. 3 (AF) was the only one reported away from the Salton Sea, and is one of the very few found on the coast in recent years. A single White-faced Ibis in the Saline Valley June 8 (TH), and about 12 around S.E.S.S. all summer (GMCC), were the only ones reported; this species is continuing to decline in numbers in s. California.

**GEESE, DUCKS** — One Black Brant remained all summer at S.E.S.S. (DVT), and was the only one reported. Fulvous Tree Ducks were scarce at S.E.S.S. and there was no evidence of nesting this summer (DVT). Gadwall definitely nested in Inyo and San Diego Cos., for up to ten juveniles, accompanied by as many as ten adults, were present in Bishop during July (TH), and ten juveniles were counted at Carlsbad June 20 (AF); specific nesting records have been few in recent years. A few Blue-winged Teal were still to be found in early June, for a single male was seen in Bishop June 1 (TH), two males were at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) June 10-11 (BS) and two more males were on San Elijo Lagoon June 4 (GMCC). The ♂ Harlequin Duck was still present at Marina del Rey at the end of the period; it has been here continuously since 1972. A Surf Scoter at N.E.S.S. Aug. 2 (GMCC) had most likely arrived in the spring and been present all summer; this species is rare inland in California. Interesting was the presence of five Com. Mergansers on the Colorado R. below Parker Dam July 27 (FH); from the description of the plumage condition it was clear they were going to summer locally, for their flight feathers were missing.

**KITES, HAWKS, OSPREY** — The presence of a juvenile White-tailed Kite with an adult near Brawley, Imperial Co., May 3 (JD) strongly suggested nesting locally; unfortunately the juvenile was found dead May

23 (S&PK); this locality is outside the species known range. A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks was feeding young at a nest in Icehouse Canyon of the San Bernardino Mts. Aug. 10 (HK); there are very few documented breeding records for California, but one of these was from the San Bernardino Mts. Only three of 15 Red-tailed Hawk nests found on Camp Pendleton, San Diego Co. failed (AF), indicating a successful breeding season for this species; the presence of two downy chicks in a nest at Rancho California, Riverside Co. June 10, indicated a very late start at nesting. Over half of the Red-shouldered Hawk nests found by Alice Fries in San Diego County failed; a most disturbing fact. Encouraging were five successful nests of Golden Eagle on Camp Pendleton (AF). As usual a few Ospreys were present along the coast and the lower Colorado R. throughout the period; a pair on Tinemaha Res., Inyo Co. (TH) and another pair on San Antonio L., Santa Barbara Co. (GH), were both thought to have attempted nesting.

**RAILS, PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS** — As usual Black Rails were easy to hear around Imperial Dam on the Colorado R. throughout the summer, but went unreported from elsewhere in the Region. A Com. Gallinule at F.C.R. June 10-11 was at an interesting locality for that time of the year.

Some shorebirds remained along the coast and around the Salton Sea throughout the summer, as usual. By mid-June the first of the fall migrant Wilson's Phalaropes were on the move, and by the first of July fair numbers of migrant Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Curlews, Willets, N. Phalaropes, Short-billed Dowitchers, Western and Least Sandpipers were present.

A Semipalmated Plover at Owen's L., Inyo Co. July 23 (TH) was interesting since inland records away from the Salton Sea are scarce. Snowy Plovers were found inland away from the Salton Sea on Owen's L., with up to 130 adults accompanied by downy young in July (TH), and near Tecopa, Inyo Co., with about 12 adults present throughout the period (JT). A pair of Willets near Big Pine, Inyo Co. in May and June (TH) was possibly nesting; this locality is a little south of the species known breeding range. A Spotted Sandpiper at Devils Gate Dam above Pasadena, Los Angeles Co., June 9 (GSS) may have been nesting locally; very few breeding records are known for s. California. A Ruddy Turnstone at N.E.S.S. Aug. 2 (BP) was the only one found away from the coast. A Red Phalarope at N.E.S.S. Aug. 2 (GMCC) was unusually early and at an inland locality. A Red Knot at N.E.S.S. Aug. 2 (BP) was interesting since inland records of all migrants are scarce. A Sanderling at Salton City on the Salton Sea Aug. 2 (BP) was the first found inland this fall. Two Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S. Aug. 2 (BP) were the first noted this fall.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — As appears normal the only jaeger reported was the Pomarine, with two in the Catalina Channel June 22 (GSS) and two more there July 31 (FH).

Western Gulls (yellow-legged) were first noted on the Salton Sea June 29, and rapidly built up in numbers with 30 or more seen in a day at the end of the period,

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these birds, probably a distinct species from those W Gulls breeding on the coast, regularly appear on the Salton Sea as post-breeding visitors from the Gulf of California. Juvenile California and Ring-billed Gulls were not noted in s. California until Aug. 2, when individuals of both species were present on the Salton Sea. Laughing Gulls, regular post-breeding visitors to the Salton Sea, arrived on the Sea in late June, and reached a peak of about 200 a month later; about 50 per cent of the birds present this year were young of the year. A late spring migrant Franklin's Gull was seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. May 30 (KG), this species is scarce in California and few records are from the open ocean. An imm. Heermann's Gull was at N.E.S.S. July 27 (FH); this species is a casual wanderer to the Salton Sea and accidental elsewhere inland. A Black-legged Kittiwake was noted off and on throughout the summer at Newport Bay, Orange Co (HK *et al.*). Four Sabine's Gulls, without black heads, off San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., July 10 (JB) were probably non-breeding birds summering locally.

Most unusual was an **Arctic Tern** well studied on Tinemaha Res. Inyo Co. June 13 (TH); the only other inland record of this species for California was one found dead at Bridgeport, Mono Co. May 22, 1973 (*Am. Birds* 27: 815, 1973). Least Terns still have problems finding undisturbed nesting sites; nesting at Oceano, San Luis Obispo Co. was halted by the constant use of the area by dune buggy enthusiasts, however, nesting was at least partially successful on Terminal I., Los Angeles Co., Huntington Beach, Orange Co., and at Camp Pendleton and Mission Bay, San Diego Co.

About 40 Black Skimmers were present on the Salton Sea at the end of the period; one pair successfully raised one young from a nest at the south end of the sea (DVT), and eight nests, all with eggs, were found at the north end of the sea Aug. 16 (GMCC).

**ALCIDS — Two Horned Puffins** seen 5 mi. s.w. of Pt. Piedros Blancos, San Luis Obispo Co., July 13 (JB) were the only ones found during the summer; a situation somewhat amazing considering the numbers seen in May.

**DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS —** A White-winged Dove in Claremont, Los Angeles Co., June 26 (LAS) was the only one found away from its normal desert range. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were still nesting in the thickets above Laguna Dam on the Colorado R but nowhere else in the Region.

Two juvenile Spotted Owls were found at Nojoqui Falls Park, Santa Barbara Co., May 26 (J. Parkinson, *vide* GH), and a pair at L. Fulmor in the San Jacinto Mts. June 8 (GSS) was accompanied by two young, this owl remains relatively common in suitable habitat in the mountains of s. California. An active Long-eared Owl nest was under observation in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. in April and May (GSS) and another nest at Yaqui Wells, San Diego Co. fledged two young in early May (JD); few nests have been found in recent years. A pair of Saw-whet Owls on Mt Palomar, San Diego Co. May 19 (JD) appeared to be on territory; this locality is close to the species' southern



limit for nesting. Whip-poor-wills continue to draw attention after being discovered in the San Jacinto Mts. in 1968 (*Calif. Birds* 2:33-36, 1971); two calling birds were present on Clark Mt., San Bernardino Co. June 2 (WS), another was found at the upper end of Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts. June 17 (GSS), and one was at L. Fulmor throughout June (HK,DE). Common Nighthawks appeared scarcer than usual around Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. this summer; this is the only locality in s. California where this species occurs.

Black Swifts undoubtedly nested at Fallsvale in the San Bernardino Mts., for two were seen there throughout June (GSS,PU), and three pairs were present at Sturdevant Falls in the San Gabriel Mts. July 25 (GSS); few documented nesting records exist for s. California. Most interesting was the presence of two Chimney Swifts in Monrovia, Los Angeles Co. July 11-30 (MSM); this species appears to have spread westward in recent years.

**HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS** — A juvenile Allen's Hummingbird, barely able to fly, on the Palos Verdes Pen. July 11 (SW) indicates that nesting continues into the summer months, much later than indicated in the literature. An active nest of the Belted Kingfisher was found at L. Silverwood, San Bernardino Co. in June (BAC), and a pair at South Fork Campground in the San Bernardino Mts. in late June (JD) was also probably nesting locally; there appears to

be no previous record for nesting in San Bernardino County. Many Lewis' Woodpeckers were nesting in Big Pine, Inyo Co. this summer (TH); breeding in the Owen's Valley is sporadic at best.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — An E. Kingbird in the Saline Valley, Inyo Co. June 8 (TH) and another at F.C.R. two days later (BS) were stragglers from the late spring movement of vagrants. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in El Monte, Los Angeles Co., July 23 (D Marqua, *fide* GSS) was certainly lost. A pair of Wied's Crested Flycatchers nesting in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. were the only ones found away from the Colorado R. Valley. A singing Willow Flycatcher near Santee, San Diego Co., Aug. 6 (PU), and another at nearby Otay L., July 13 (BP) are of interest since the species appears to be gone from the area as breeders. Gray Flycatchers are now relatively common breeding birds in the eastern parts of the San Bernardino Mts after being detected there first during the summer of 1966. Olive-sided Flycatchers were present at sea level in Santa Barbara all summer, and a juvenile was caught there July 2 (W. Abbott, *fide* GH).

Interesting was the report of Cliff Swallows nesting on Yellow Pines at Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. (SW); nests located on anything other than man made structures are rare, and the trunks of trees provide a most unusual substitution.



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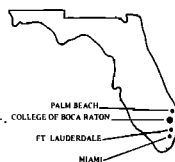
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**FLORIDA**

**VERDIN, NUTHATCHES, THRASHERS, VIREOS** — The presence of a pair of Verdins with young 10 mi. n.w. of Rosamond, Kern Co. May 12-29 (SW) extends the breeding range some 65 mi. to the west. One of two pairs of Red-breasted Nuthatches on Clark Mt. in e. San Bernardino County during May and June (KG,WS) and a pair on Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co. May 19 (JD) all appeared to be on territory; nesting is unknown in either area. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches again nested on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. where the species is now a rare resident after having become established as a breeding bird about ten years ago. Interesting were up to six Bendire's Thrashers present at the base of the San Bernardino Mts. near Yucca Valley in June and July (FH) for few records exist for that area.

Bell's Vireos are still holding on near Duarte, Los Angeles Co., where at least three singing males were present (MSM), and around San Diego, where 14 singing males were located (DR,PU); unfortunately many nesting attempts by this species end up with the proud pair feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird. Gray Vireos were located on Clark Mt., in the New York Mts., and on the e. side of the San Bernardino Mts. this summer; the status of this species requires monitoring since numbers are declining in California. Again "Plumbeous Vireos" were nesting in the e. parts of the San Bernardino Mts. this summer (H & PB *et al.*) with a pair at the upper end of Arrastre Creek within 5 - 10 mi. of nesting cassinii (KG); it will be most interesting to see if breeding will occur between these two distinct-looking forms of Solitary Vireo when they finally get

together. A Red-eyed Vireo at F.C.R. June 10 (BS) must be considered a part of the late May - early June movement of vagrants.

**WARBLERS** — A Black-and-white Warbler in the Saline Valley June 8 (TH) and another near Tecopa June 20 (JT) were stragglers from the spring movement, but a male near Otay L. San Diego Co. July 13 - Aug. 21 (BP) appeared to have summered in the area. A Tennessee Warbler at Oasis, Mono Co. June 1 (TH), and another there June 10 (TH) must be treated with the other stragglers occurring in late May and early June. A singing ♂ Nashville Warbler near Green Valley June 11 (SW), another at the upper end of Arrastre Creek June 2 & July 5 (SW,KG), and three more near Fallsview in June (SW) were all in suitable breeding habitat of the San Bernardino Mts.; nesting has yet to be documented for the s. California mountains. Virginia's Warblers, obviously on territory, were seen in Wyman Creek Canyon of the White Mts. and on Clark Mt. during May; both localities are known to support small breeding populations. Nesting Lucy's Warblers at F.C.R., around Tecopa, near Baker and in Morongo Valley were all at the fringe of the species' range in California. A ♂ Magnolia Warbler at F.C.R. June 11 (BS) was a late spring vagrant. At least three territorial ♂ Hermit Warblers were present around Green Valley in the San Bernardino Mts. during June and July (H&PB,SW), and a juvenile just out of a nest there on July 4 (KG) is the first positive evidence of nesting in s. California. Most interesting was a ♂ Grace's Warbler at the upper

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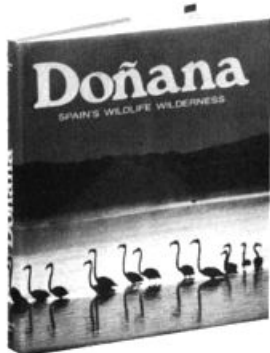
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end of Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts. June 15 to at least July 3 (KG,BB,JK *et al.*); this is only the fourth record of the species in California. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler on San Clemente I. July 9 (KG) must have been a very late spring vagrant. Singing ♂ MacGillivray's Warblers were found at five different localities in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mts. in June and July (H&PB,SW), but no nests were located even though an adult carrying food was observed in Green Valley July 4 (KG); an actual nest has yet to be found in s. California. A ♂ **Red-faced Warbler** on Clark Mt. June 22 (NKJ) may have been the same bird seen there May 17; this species is as rare as the Grace's Warbler in California. A ♀ Am. Redstart at F.C.R. June 10 (BS) and a male on the Palos Verdes Pen. June 12 (J Morton, *fide* GSS) were both part of the late spring movement of vagrants; a male near San Diego July 17 (DR) must have been a lost summer wanderer, but what of a singing male near Seven Oaks in the San Bernardino Mts. June 2-10 (SW) and an imm. male at nearby Arrastre Creek July 3 (HK)? A pair of Painted Redstarts was at South Fork Campground in the San Bernardino Mts. May 30 to at least July 12 (SW,DE *et al.*), but no nest could be found, and a single bird was seen at the upper end of Arrastre Creek June 16 (KG,JD); the status of this species in California was recently summarized (*Western Birds* 5:94-96, 1974).

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — Three Bobolinks at F.C.R. June 10 (BS) were the latest reported for last spring. A pair of Scott's Orioles in Wyman Creek Canyon of the White Mts. May 23 (DDeS) and four territorial males at Joshua Flats, s.e. of Big Pine, May 10 (TH) were at the extreme n. limit of the species' range in California. Two or three pairs of Great-tailed Grackles are believed to have nested at Ramer L. near S.E.S.S.; these were the only birds found west of the Colorado R. this summer. Two unusual hosts for the Brown-headed Cowbird were documented by the presence of a pair of Bushtits feeding a young cowbird on the Palos Verdes Pen. in early June (SW), and an ad. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher seen feeding another cowbird at Laguna Dam June 30 (GSS). The presence of a ♀ Bronzed Cowbird at Jacumba, San Diego Co. June 29 (GMcC) would suggest that this species was present at that locality for the third consecutive summer. An ad. ♂ Scarlet Tanager at Morongo Valley June 5 is one of the very few recorded

in California for spring. A pair of Hepatic Tanagers undoubtedly nested on Clark Mt. (WS), and another pair was present at the upper end of Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts. in June (H&PB). Away from the Colorado R. valley the only breeding Summer Tanagers were a pair in Morongo Valley, and another pair at the Brock Experimental Ranch; this species appears to be on the decline in California. A ♂ Summer Tanager at F.C.R. June 11 (BS) was a vagrant out of its normal range.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Oasis, Mono Co. June 10 (TH), a female nearby Deep Springs June 19 (JD), and another female at F.C.R. June 11 (BS) were all spring vagrants, there is no simple explanation for occurrences like the male appearing on the Palos Verdes Pen. July 31 (SW). A ♂ Indigo Bunting seen on the Palos Verdes Pen. July 31 (SW) was at the same locality as one seen May 14, and is believed to have been present there all summer. Savannah Sparrows nested around Big Bear L. this summer with two nests found on June 1 (SW), documented breeding records are few, but a number are always present in the San Bernardino Mts. each summer. The late White-crowned Sparrow in San Diego was still present June 11 (PU). A pair of Fox Sparrows at 10,000 ft. in the White Mts., Inyo Co., May 12 (TH) was at a high altitude for nesting. Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at three localities in the San Bernardino Mts. this summer and undoubtedly nested; this species is known to nest only in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mts. in s. California.

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