

# The Nesting Season

## June 1 - July 31, 1976

### NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Davis W. Finch

Most of New England experienced a hot, dry June — it was in fact the hottest and driest June in Massachusetts history. July was cooler and wetter, but these conditions seemed to have no detectable effect on breeding birds. Writing of New Hampshire, Vera Hebert characterized the period quite succinctly: "Never has a nesting season been more normal". Even the several first state breeding records in New England came only as gentle surprises.



Happily, for the first time in over a year records came from almost all parts of the Region, though in some cases they were hurriedly digested to meet this report's deadline. Records from Prince Edward Island, from Newfoundland apart from the west coast, and from certain areas of Maine and Connecticut would be needed to provide a complete picture.

Some contributors (readers?) seem to have missed the editor's address change. Mail directed to the old address is randomly forwarded, not forwarded, or returned by the most capricious postal service anywhere. Use the new address.

**ALBATROSSES** — Two unusual reports from Massachusetts this season were an ad. **Yellow-nosed Albatross** closely observed on Cultivator Shoals off Cape Cod June 14 (undescribed to this editor; JML, *vide* TLL-E) and a **Black-browed Albatross** on Jeffries Ledge, 18 mi. off Rockport July 11, the description stressing the bird's enormous size, yellow bill and broadly dark-margined underwing (RSH, party of four). What was assumed to be the same individual reappeared two weeks later pursued by Herring Gulls around Newburyport harbor July 24 (RSH).

S.A.

Seventeen North American reports totaling 23 individuals of Black-browed and Yellow-nosed Albatross prior to 1973 have been carefully summarized by McDaniel (*Am. Birds* 27:563-565), one other convincing Gulf of Maine report (1968) being known to this editor. Seven subsequent reports appearing in *Am. Birds* involved eight albatrosses sighted from Maryland to Nova Scotia: five Black-broweds, two probable Black-broweds and one positive Yellow-nosed, to which can be added this summer's Massachusetts birds. It might be noted that of this overall total of 34 e. North American albatrosses (18, or more than half of them, in the Northeastern Maritime Region), 19 were identified as, and in five instances proven to be, Yellow-nosed; that while Black-browed is *the* vagrant albatross of the e. North Atlantic, North America's only proven one is still the 1935 Greenland specimen; that aside from that bird all Black-broweds (11 plus two "probables") have been reported since 1972; that considering the subtleties of albatross discrimination curiously few, in fact only two have not been "identified" (see Warham, Bourne and Elliott, Albatross Identification in the North Atlantic—*Am. Birds* 28:585-603), and that consequently an unambiguous Black-browed photograph would do wonders for the persistent malaise many feel regarding reports of this species.

**OTHER TUBENOSES** — Following a pattern more or less apparent in recent years, the withdrawal of N Fulmars from New England waters occurred rather late in the season: the last at Cox's Ledge, R.I., were 15 on June 6 (N.H.B.C.) and the last reported from coastal Massachusetts were 11 on the same date (*vide* RPE); 960 were counted on Georges Bank June 10 but only three were found there July 12 (JML). In the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy, 31 occurred on three round trips of the "Bluenose" ferry between Bar Harbor, Me., and Yarmouth, N.S., July 7-25 but none thereafter (KPA, WCT), six individuals in waters around Machias Seal I., June 29 - July 11 were the first summer reports for New Brunswick (DSC *et al.*) and 18 off Brier Island, N.S., were considered unusual July 6 (RGG, ELM). Farther north, 28 were found in Cabot Strait July 27 and 119 in the Strait of Belle Isle July 30 (DWF). Early summer Cory's Shearwaters off the s. New England coast were more numerous than in some recent years: a total of 152 occurred on six trips to Cox's Ledge June 6 - July 23, the maximum 50 on July 17 (RAC, DLK, CW) and off the Massachusetts coast 105 were reported on four dates June 14 - July 15 the maximum 52 on Georges Bank on the latter date

(JML). Georges Bank maxima of the commoner shearwaters were 3200 Greaters and 900 Sooties on June 10; Sooty Shearwater counts of 100 off Block Island June 6-7 and 115-125 off Pt. Judith June 6-9 exceeded previous highs for Rhode Island (RLF). Manx Shearwaters reported this season numbered about 41: ten off the Rhode Island coast June 6-9, 21 off Massachusetts and ten in the Gulf of Maine or Bay of Fundy, all during July. Reports of Leach's Storm-Petrels came from a few breeding localities: in Nova Scotia the colony at Bon Portage I., was found to contain unusually high numbers June 26 (PS, *fide* PRD) and in Maine 2000 pairs were estimated at Little Egg Rock south of Mount Desert I., July 11 while 400 pairs were found breeding at Matinicus Rock (CWB, WCR). Off Massachusetts an estimated 7000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels east of Stellwagen Bank July 17 was a notable concentration (JML).



*Louisiana Heron, House Is., MA, July 24, 1976. Photo/William Ervin.*

**CORMORANTS, HERONS, IBISES** — In s.w. Connecticut an imm. Great Cormorant present June 20 through July was unprecedented in the Greenwich-Stamford area (DB *et al.*), the only other birds reported in New England this season being five immatures lingering around a colony of 323 pairs of Double-crested at Duck I. in the Isles of Shoals, Me. (ACB). Table 1, showing counts of herons breeding or present at four of New England's coastal heronries is incomplete, lacking data from Connecticut's Norwalk Is. heronry, said to be thriving, from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and from Wood I. at the mouth of the Saco R., Me. Dick Ferren termed the Gould I. heronry a disaster, its decline unexplained, but reported that a heronry at Block Island's "Grove" censused June 7 contained 89 nests of Black-crowned Night Heron, three Little Blue Herons and seven Snowies, these two species unconfirmed as breeders there (HL). The Region's first nesting Louisiana Herons were found this summer at Chimon I. in the Norwalk group where at least one nest was found July 6-7 (DBu, AS, *fide* JS) and at House I., (see table) where six young of two (probably three) pairs were found July 24 (RAF, WRP *et al.*). About eight other Louisianas were reported elsewhere in s. New England this summer, another occurring as far north as Saint John West, N.B., July 14-19 (CLJ *et al.*). In Nova Scotia a young Black-crowned Night Heron at Bon Portage I., June 26 seems to

represent a first provincial breeding record (PS, *fide* PRD), although the birds may breed in small numbers along the New Brunswick border. Scarce nesters in s. New England, Yellow-crowned Night Herons were again this year reported nesting in a discrete and successful colony on Ram I. in the Norwalk group (JS). Word of inland herons is sparse but in New Hampshire Vera Hebert reported two Great Blue heronries containing a total of 100 birds and noted that B.B.S. figures in that state indicated a "crash" in Am. Bittern numbers. Southern herons reaching Nova Scotia this season, including some previously unreported spring birds, were single Green and Little Blue Herons, two Cattle Egrets, three Snowies and a Glossy Ibis, another in New Brunswick. Much more startling were single **White Ibises** occurring at Cape Sable, N.S., an adult June 14 (BJS, BS, CS) and an immature in mid-July (NC, BJS), the only previous reports for Atlantic Canada being a Bon Portage I specimen (adult, July 13-15, 1959), a Brier I. sight record (DWL), and Newfoundland sight records of ten or more in the Cape Broyle area Apr. 2-6, 1967 and ten or more at Ramea May 14, 1971 (*fide* LMT), the latter three records not previously appearing in *Am. Birds*.

**Table 1. Coastal Heronries in New England, 1976**

	Appledore I., Isles of Shoals, Me. June (ACB)	House I., off Manchester, Mass., June ( <i>fide</i> RPE)	Clark's I., in Duxbury Bay, Mass., June ( <i>fide</i> TLL-E)	Gould I., in Sakonnet R., R.I., June 12 (RLF)
Little Blue Heron	1 ad., 2 imm.*	6	4 pairs	2 birds*
Cattle Egret	2 adults*	—	—	2 birds*
Great Egret	—	1	4 pairs	24 nests
Snowy Egret	60 pairs	451	245 pairs	2-3 birds*
Louisiana Heron	—	5	—	—
Black-cr. Night Heron	35 pairs	28	245 pairs	74 nests
Yellow-cr. Night Heron	1 adult*	—	—	—
Glossy Ibis	25 pairs	20	60 pairs	? a few non-breeders*

1. House Island count is of birds seen going to roost.

\* No proven nesting.

**WATERFOWL** — Indicative of the species' continued increase in s. New England were four nests or broods of Gadwalls found June 11 - July 12 in Rhode Island, where only four previous nests had been known (RLF, DLK). More surprising was the report of a female and brood of 12 during June at Appledore I. in the Isles of Shoals, constituting a first Maine nesting record and another case of northeastward range extension bypassing New Hampshire (ACB, OHH). A "first" Maine nesting of Am. Wigeon was also reported, details withheld for publication elsewhere (HES); several lingered at Howland through May and June (PV). A pair of N. Shovelers present to at least July 11 at Plum I., Mass., were not known to have nested (SRD). In Newfoundland "a number" of Harlequin Ducks were found from May to at least June 6 on fast water at Western Brook, Gros Morne N. P., where the island's first proven nesting occurred last summer (MMP *et al.*). Summering ducks of note included a young drake King Eider at Pt. Judith, R.I., June 2, apparently unique in the Region this summer (*vide* CW) and in New Brunswick three Lesser Scaup and at least one Ruddy Duck were found on the Lancaster lagoon in Saint John West July 25 (DWF).

**VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES** — The continued increase of Turkey Vultures in New Hampshire was noted by Vera Hebert; single northward wanderers occurred this summer at Port Elgin, N.B., in the third week of July (ADS, *vide* DSC) and at Cadillac Mt., Mount Desert I., Me., July 22-23 (WCT). In Connecticut a **Swallow-tailed Kite** found in weakened condition at Stafford or Stafford Springs June 3 furnished the first documented record for the state, there being perhaps half a dozen mostly old sight records (Stuart Mitchell, *vide* CFH, RLN; \*U. Conn.). The **Mississippi Kite** of the previous report remained on lower Cape Cod May 23 - June 11 when last seen at Provincetown (Cindy House; WB, CAG, BN, ICTN). In n.w. Connecticut energetic search for breeding raptors produced as many as seven Goshawk nests with four or five others suspected, and a Cooper's Hawk nest with three young, almost all young from these nests banded (Art Gingert, Mike Redmond, Mike Root *et al.*). Proven breeding by Cooper's Hawks in the Region has been rare indeed in recent years. An imm. Golden Eagle at Fitzwilliam, N.H., July 4 was unique this summer (*vide* VHH). There were a few Bald Eagles in Massachusetts, scattered reports from the Connecticut Valley coming mostly from the Quabbin area and single immatures occurring at Provincetown during June and at Pittsfield July 3 (RLF), another bird summering at Block Island, R.I., June 26 to at least Aug. 8 (SRD, CW *et al.*). Single Am. Kestrels along the Labrador coast near Blanc Sablon, P.Q., June 13 (MMP) and near Pinware, Lab., July 31 (DWF) were somewhat north of the species' known breeding range.

**GROUSE, RAILS, GALLINULES** — In New Hampshire Spruce Grouse were reported from Mt. Osceola, Mt Webster and Whitefield; along the Appalachian Trail in Maine the birds were said to be "very abundant" in late summer (MK, CR). A small population of Chukars was reportedly flourishing in N. Greenwich, Conn., where as many as 15 young were found June 20 (JCMcI *et al.*); Marc Breslav pointed out that all *Alectoris* partridges aren't necessarily Chukars and that

those inclined to study such introduced stocks might encounter Rock Partridges. Two King Rails at Sutton, N.H. were the northernmost reported in the Region in recent years (Vernon; KCE, HWP, *vide* VHH, date unspecified). A Purple Gallinule was found at Orono, Me., in late June (*vide* WCT) and another at Bolton, Mass., July 4-9 was the first in Worcester County since 1888 (DHC, FMcM *et al.*). In New Brunswick single Com. Gallinules were seen at Deer I. July 17 (KH, MT) and on July 19 at Red Head Marsh, where breeding has been suspected in some recent years (CLJ, *vide* DSC)

**SHOREBIRDS** — In Massachusetts breeding Am Oystercatchers were found at Nantucket (three pairs), Tuckernuck (three pairs), Muskeget (one pair), at Chappaquiddick I., M.V. (no data), and at Monomoy (no data; 15 birds present throughout the period). Rhode Island's first breeding oystercatchers were a pair nesting unsuccessfully at Great Salt Pond on Block Island, discovered June 6 (RLF), and two at Sandy Point I off Napatree Pt., June 4 were certainly potential nesters there (F. Perry, *vide* CW). A Killdeer at Blanc Sablon, P.Q. June 13 was north of the species' known limits as a breeder, presently St. Paul's Inlet, Nfld., where a pair found in early June may have nested (MMP) though only a single adult was present July 29 (DWF). A Solitary Sandpiper at Franconia, N.H., June 3 was late (MLF, *vide* VHH), another at Naushon I., Mass., June 13 being almost exactly between seasons (SRD). The first Massachusetts breeding of Willet in about a century was confirmed when a pair and one chick were discovered at Monomoy July 7 (RAF). Greatly increased on Long Island since first breeding there in 1966 and expanding along the Maine coast since 1970, Willet seems likely one day to become reestablished more or less uninterruptedly in suitable habitat north to Cape Breton and the n. shore of New Brunswick. Apparently the Region's only spring migrant Curlew Sandpiper was a bird seen on Cape Cod at Nauset in June, and a Ruff at Plum I., July 1 was unique this season (*vide* RPE). To the spring total of Wilson's Phalaropes should be added one at Nantucket May 10 (EFA); early summer individuals occurred at Charlestown, N.H., June 6 (GLK, WWK *et al.*) and at Quonochontaug, R.I., June 9 (RLF). As usual, fall migrant shorebirds, some appearing as early as late June, will be detailed later.

**JAEGERS, GULLS** — Coastal and offshore jaeger reports this summer totaled about 12 Pomarines and 54 Parasitics; of particular interest was a Pomarine at Squam L., N.H., June 24-27 (ph.; BSR, SS; DJA, SAG *et al.*), this being a third state, second inland record following the L. Winnepesaukee occurrence of June 12, 1974 (*Am. Birds* 29:748). The season's only Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at Cox's Ledge, R.I., June 6 (N.H.B.C.). Skuas, which must hereafter be reported as skua, sp. unless closely and very knowledgeably examined, were numerous: seven on Georges Bank or Nantucket Shoals on five dates June 7 - July 16, six of these in July (JML) and a total of ten on three "Bluenose" round trips July 23-29 (KPA, WCT). Single summering Iceland Gulls occurred in Massachusetts at Plymouth Beach June 29 (*vide* TLL-E), Nantucket July 4 (EFA), Newburyport July 24 (*vide* RPE) and in Nova Scotia off Baccaro Light, Shelburne Co., July 26 (CDG, JRG, NSP). Careful nest

counts at larger gull colonies came from Boot I., Kings Co., N.S. (Great Black-backed 1005, Herring 713—CC) and the Isles of Shoals, N.H.—Me. (Great Black-backed 1874, Herring 4006—ACB). A curious gull shot in April at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., was by description almost certainly a Lesser Black-backed but could not be competently examined (Lloyd Decker, *vide* BDMact). An ad Black-headed Gull at Newburyport, Mass., July 25 was seemingly unique in New England (*vide* RPE); in Newfoundland eight adult or second-summer birds were seen at Stephenville Crossing July 28 (DWF). Breeding Laughing Gulls numbered 50 pairs at Matinicus Rock, Me., (CWB) and 180 pairs at Monomoy, Mass. (*vide* RPE). Bonaparte's Gulls in Newburyport harbor numbered 83 in June, 350 in July; one at Agawam July 13 was an unusual summer record for the Connecticut Valley (MY, *vide* SK). Single Little Gulls were reported at three localities in coastal Massachusetts this summer. An Ivory Gull shot at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld. in early May was the only one known to occur there since those of the winter report (*vide* BDMact) and the season's only Sabine's Gull was a second-summer bird at Cox's Ledge, R. I., July 8 (DLK *et al.*).

TERNs, SKIMMERS, ALCIDS — Arctic Terns at Matinicus Rock, Me., were thought to number about 1300 pairs (CWB) and a rather high population at Monomoy was estimated at 550 individuals (*vide* RPE); a "portlandica" Arctic at Plum I., July 24 was a notable Essex County rarity (RAF, WRP). About 14 Royal Terns occurred in Rhode Island and Massachusetts during the period; farther north two studied at Biddeford Pool July 8 were the first reported in Maine in recent years (HMC). Single Sandwich Terns were seen at Katama, M.V., during June (*vide* RPE) and at Monomoy July 11 & 28 (RAF, ICTN), and eight Caspians in the s. three states June 4 - July 2 included four at Stonington, Conn., June 15 (WGB). In Newfoundland four adults at Stephenville Crossing July 28 were probable breeders but on the N. Peninsula one at Eddie's Cove July 1, two at L'Anse-aux-Meadows July 2 and one at St. Paul's Inlet July 29 were uncommon wanderers (DWF, BDMact). Only about twelve widely scattered Black Skimmers appeared in the s. three states, with no nesting reported.

Alcids breeding at the Region's southernmost colony at Matinicus Rock were 12 pairs of Razorbills, 150 pairs of Com Puffins and 250 pairs of Black Guillemots (CWB, HGC), three pairs of the latter also nesting at Smuttynose I., in the Isles of Shoals, Me., the species' s. limit as a breeder (ACB). Summer murrees were a common seen from the "Bluenose" ferry July 7 (KPA) and single Thick-billeds on Georges Bank June 10 (JML) and at Deer Island, N.B., July 25 (DWF).

CUCKOOS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS — In Nova Scotia Black-billed Cuckoos were termed increasingly scarce by Phyllis Dobson, who was able to report no more than three individuals, however in c. and e. Maine unusually large numbers were present (WCT, PV). Barn Owl nesting was reported only from Warren, R.I., where a pair raised two young (CW *et al.*), although two were present at Block Island July 23 (SRD) and doubtless others elsewhere in s. New England. A Long-eared Owl nest with four eggs fledged three young in May at Wolfville, N.S. (BF, *vide* PRD); breeding by this species is

very seldom *proven* anywhere in the Region. A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** at Contoocook, N.H., July 18-22 was a second Regional occurrence, the first to be photographically documented (Ivan L. Bohannan; DJA, EWP, TR *et mult. al.*; see *Am. Birds* 30:33).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Six Red-headed Woodpeckers appearing in the Region this summer included two in Nova Scotia. Though a slight statistical decline was detected in New Hampshire (VHH), Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in e. Maine were judged more abundant than usual (WCT) and a high sapsucker population in the Masardis area of Aroostook County was attributed to extensive thinning of dense forests by lumbering and pulping operations, favoring the species by creating new habitat (JSG). In n.w. Connecticut, the s. extreme of the species' range as a breeder in the Region, the birds were described as almost common, with at least seven nests found in the Sharon area, largely in elm stubs back from the edge of wooded swamps (Art Gingert, Robert Moeller, Mike Root *et al.*) Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported in Maine at Rangeley, Mahousic Notch and Masardis, the only N. Three-toed Woodpeckers were one on Mt Washington, N.H., June 19 (MHMcC) and up to three per day on a study plot at Wapske, e. of Plaster Rock, N.B. during late May and June (SIT, *vide* DSC).

Single E. Kingbirds at St. Paul's Inlet, Nfld., June 9 and near Blanc Sablon, P.Q., June 14 were quite far north (MMP). A **Tropical Kingbird** was carefully studied at 25 ft. at Wolfville, N.S., July 18 (RWT); this appears to be only the third Regional occurrence, a specimen determined as *chloronotus* having been collected at Scarborough, Me., Oct. 31, 1915 and an apparently convincing sight record coming from Marshfield, Mass. in the fall of 1954 (AFN 9:9). Migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were detected in e. Massachusetts through about June 13, a particularly late individual singing in Annisquam June 19 (*vide* RPE). Still increasing in s. New England, six Acadian Flycatchers were reported at five localities in e. Massachusetts through June 20, and in Connecticut early June individuals occurred at Old Lyme and Storrs, with two or more pairs at Devil's Hopyard S.P., in East Haddam, where the first modern New England breeding occurred in 1968. Rhode Island's first Acadian Flycatcher nest, found June 28 in the Parker Woodland near Vernon, contained three eggs by July 11, the young flying by July 27 (KBK, FP). The continued n.e. spread of Willow Flycatchers was apparent this summer in New Hampshire, where they were reported from seven inland localities north to Campton, Franconia Notch and even Milan (*vide* VHH), and one was believed heard at Bass Harbor Head, Mount Desert I., Me., June 5 (NF, *vide* WCT). An Alder Flycatcher at Wood River, R.I., June 4 was probably a late migrant (DW).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH SHRIKES — In Rhode Island two young Red-breasted Nuthatches being fed at a feeder at Greene June 25-28 would appear to provide first proof of breeding in the state (FP). In Nova Scotia singing and nest-building House Wrens at Wolfville June 15-23 and at Tusket after June 26 did not succeed in attracting mates (BF, CRKA). A Carolina Wren at Rye, N.H., June 6 was seemingly unique north of Massachusetts this summer (JEC), and Short-billed Marsh Wrens,

aside from a vagrant at Wolfville, N.S., May 30 (OWM), were reported only from Blandford, Mass., where two nesting pairs were found July 5, locally the first such record in 20 or 30 years (SK *et al.*). Several Mockingbirds occurred as far north as St. Paul's Inlet, Nfld., June 15-16 (MMP *et al.*) and in the Maritimes four nests were known in New Brunswick, one fledging two to four young at Saint John West July 20 (CLJ *et al.*, *fide* DSC) and in Nova Scotia a pair at Tusket fledged broods totaling six young in late June and late July (Oscar Nauss, *fide* PRD)

Scarce breeders in New Hampshire, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found nesting this summer at Weare and Hancock in the s. part of the state and a singing male was present as far north as Campton (SAG). In e. Maine six Bohemian Waxwings at Sullivan Harbor June 1 were surprisingly "late" (Schaller, *fide* WCT), another in Acadia N P July 7 was evidently a summerer and as such quite remarkable (WCT). The season's only Loggerhead Shrikes were individuals at Rangeley, Me., June 14 (Barbara Sparks, *fide* PAC) and at Plum I., Mass. during the same month (*fide* RPE).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — In Maine, a Yellow-throated Vireo remaining six to eight weeks after June 13 at Howland, and two at Lee on June 15 may indicate that the birds breed farther east in the state than commonly supposed (PV). A Worm-eating Warbler nest with four young at Tiverton, R.I., June 13 was the species' first formal breeding in the state (RCS) and two young birds were also found in the Parker Woodland July 1 (JG). A singing bird as far north as Holderness, N.H., June 25 was quite unusual (Elizabeth Tailby *et al.*, *fide* VHH). Three Golden-winged Warblers (and three Blue-wingeds) at Naushon I., Mass., June 12 seem noteworthy, the species being a rarity on the nearby Vineyard (SRD). Three singing ♂ Cerulean Warblers on Mt. Riga very near the New York line in Salisbury, Conn., June 13 could not be relocated by subsequent search (Dave Norris, Fred Purnell, *fide* JS), nor could a bird singing at the Parker Woodland, R.I., June 16 (RLF); the Region's only Cerulean nesting remains the 1972 record at Canton, Conn (*Am. Birds* 26:837).

A Louisiana Waterthrush appearing at Cape Sable, N S, July 28 and found dead the following day provides, if preserved, a first specimen for Atlantic Canada (NC, Sidney Smith). A Connecticut Warbler at Longmeadow, Mass, June 2 was a rarity (Jim Cavanaugh, *fide* SK), and in New Brunswick a Yellow-breasted Chat singing from late May to June 13 or later at Penobsquis, Kings Co., was a first summer report for the province (DSC). Finally, four strikingly late warblers were an Orange-crowned at Appledore I., Me., June 7-8 (ACB, EWP), a Magnolia at Brewster, Mass., June 18, a Blackpoll singing at Rye, N.H., June 24 (JEC), and a Wilson's at Northampton, Mass., June 28 (THG).

**ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS** — Several Bobolinks at St. Paul's Inlet, Nfld., June 9 probably indicate the continued northward spread of these birds, which have only recently colonized the island (MMP). An Orchard Oriole at Sable Island, N.S., June 2 was a tenth island record, the seventh in spring, and unique in Atlantic Canada this season (RDL). Cardinals nested again as last year in Nova Scotia, two young birds out of the nest in Yarmouth

July 2 (MAN, *fide* PRD). To the previous report should be added single Blue Grosbeaks occurring in e. Maine at Sorrento May 10 and Mount Desert I., May 25 (Wheatland, Fox, *fide* WCT). Also in Maine, a **Le Conte's Sparrow** easily studied at Lincoln Center June 26 was a third state record (PV) and a Clay-colored Sparrow was reported between Howland and Old Town June 17 (NF *et al.*, *fide* WCT). Finally, Fox Sparrows singing at Bon Portage I., N.S. in June would indicate, if shown to breed, a fairly sizeable southward range extension (PS, *fide* PRD).

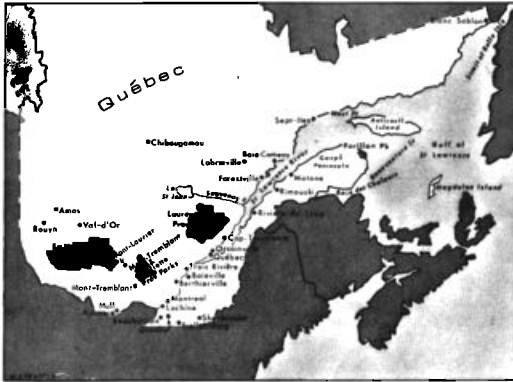
**CORRIGENDA** — It has subsequently been learned that the Fulvous Tree Duck shot at Bon Portage I., N S, Jan. 15, 1976 (*Am. Birds* 30:690) was one of a flock of 14, another specimen obtained that day has been forwarded to N.S.M. The Townsend's Solitaire at Wolfville, N S (*Am. Birds* 30:694) was collected Dec. 28, 1975 by Sherman Bleakney, \*N.M.C.

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## QUÉBEC

### Normand David and Michel Gosselin

It will always be difficult to assess correctly the breeding season in this Province of 1,500,000 square kilometers. Some of the major factors and events that influence bird life in the vast forested areas are unknown. What is allowed is only a glimpse of the conditions prevailing over the St. Lawrence Valley, which is six hundred miles long between Beauharnois and Percé. In that limited section it appears that the nesting season was an average one. June and July were generally sunny and warm, interrupted by rainy and colder periods.



**GREBES THROUGH IBISES** — A Red-necked Grebe was an unusual summer lingerer at Port-au-Saumon, Charlevoix Co., July 14 (DH). Strong E winds brought three N. Fulmars and five Greater Shearwaters near the Matane-Godbout ferry July 13 (MM) and a Greater Shearwater near Port-au-Saumon the same day (DH); one Sooty and 40 Greater Shearwaters were also visible from the shore at Percé June 12 (RB). Wilson's Storm-Petrel, considered a rarity here until the publication of the *Atlas of Eastern Canadian Seabirds* (Can. Wild. Serv., 1975), is now seen regularly off Gaspé peninsula; four were observed off Forillon July 25 (ND). A Green Heron at Lavernière June 9 was a first occurrence in the Magdalen I. (JPL). A single Cattle Egret was reported from Choisy, near Montréal, June 27 (*vide* JW). A Louisiana Heron (SP, JS) and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (DS, m.ob.-photographed), appeared at Ile du Moine June 5. A colony with 125 active Black-crowned Night Heron nests at Laterrière, L. St-Jean (NB), extends northward this species' breeding range. A lone Glossy Ibis was present at St-Paul, Ile-aux-Noix, the first week of June (P. Marcil).

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS** — Canada Geese lingered in the St. Lawrence valley with 45 at Harrington June 15 (FR), 24 at Matane June 29-30 (JPL) and 19 at St-Augustin June 30 (JH). A Mallard nest contained seven eggs at Chambord, L. St-Jean, May 22 (JM). At Ile du Moine where six Gadwalls was considered high only a few years ago (*A.F.N.* 24:666), nearly 100 gathered July 4 (MG); small numbers occurred at

Rimouski June 26 (JPL) and Baie-Ste-Catherine, Charlevoix Co., July 30 (DH). Twenty Harlequin Ducks at Bonaventure I., June 3 (R. Lemire), along with other recent observations suggest nesting. A Goshawk's nest with two fledglings added Rigaud to the breeding localities of this species; 11 Red-shouldered Hawk nests were also recorded from this area (JW), paralleling last summer's encouraging reports of this Blue-List species. Immature eagles summering in the south included a Golden in the Matane L. area June 2 (DB), and Balds at Gaspé (ND) in June. Ile du Moine and Mt. St-Bruno in July (*vide* MM). Bald Eagles nested successfully near Dépot Usborne (*vide* RMP), and adults were present at their usual haunts: L. Taureau (FH) and Baie-Ste-Catherine (DH). Five imm. Peregrine Falcons were released early in the season at Ste-Anne de Bellevue by the Raptor Research Center of MacDonald College; one left immediately but the others are still in the vicinity hunting Rock Doves (*vide* BB).

**KILLDEER THROUGH TERNS** — Killdeer is really expanding its range with a brood in St. Mary I., June 21 (JR, GC), and a pair at Gagnon July 10 (RL). Single Willets were at Ile du Moine June 6, and Isle-Verte June 25 (BB). Red Knots were noted at Québec City, June 14 (JH) and the Magdalen I., June 28 (PM). Three south-bound White-rumped Sandpipers and thirty Short-billed Dowitchers appeared at Québec City July 4 (BH). Two Sanderling and 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers were still there June 14 (JH), and 5000 Semipalmateds invaded Québec City harbor July 17 (JL). A Wilson's Phalarope nest containing eggs was found at Ile du Moine June 12, and four N. Phalaropes were sighted at Valleyfield May 29 & June 5 (CL *et al.*).

The only jaeger reports were of two Parasitics at St. Mary I., June 16 (JR, GC), and an ad. Pomarine at Lachine July 2 (MM, JW). Franklin's Gulls are becoming more commonplace, with an adult at Lachine July 1-18, and another at Beauharnois July 20 (SH). Little Gulls were at Ile du Moine June 6 (FB); Barchois June 25 (BB); Lachine July 17 (PP); and Québec City July 25 (JL). A Forster's Tern was reported for the fifth consecutive year, this time at Lachine July 2 (BB, JS). A pair of Caspian Terns, in a mixed ternery on Galibois I June 18 (JR, GC), was not far from the only previously known Québec breeding location—Fog I. (the latest census showed a single pair in 1972 — *Can. Field Nat.* 87:395-402).

**OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A calling Boreal Owl at Mt. St-Pierre July 11 was the only outstanding owl record this summer (MM). The presence of a Red-headed Woodpecker in the Gaspé Pen. in late June (PAB) may be related to the high number recorded in the Spring Report.

#### S.A.

Investigations in suitable habitat led to the discovery of a Willow Flycatcher near Valleyfield June 5 (ND, MG, FB); this same day two more were found near Melocheville where they have been undetected for a few years. They were heard

and seen in wastelands overgrown with sparse bushes—mostly willows—and at both sites several Alder Flycatchers were singing from nearby dense alder tangles. Another Willow returned to St-Laurent, Montréal June 4, but was not subsequently seen; no reports were received from Aylmer and Thurso, where the species has been present in past summers. A stray bird singing loudly at Barachois, at the tip of Gaspé Pen., June 18 (ND) may be indicative of this species' well documented range extension.

**WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS** — House Wrens appear to be more common around Montréal (*fide* MM). Short-billed Marsh Wrens cling to their few, scattered breeding sites; one of the northernmost, near L. Taureau (FH). Mockingbirds were everywhere numerous and had three successful nests near Montréal. This species' range extension pattern has been quite unlike others which usually slowly head northward from the s.w. corner of the Province (*AB* 26:854). The first two nests were discovered very far apart in 1960: Tadoussac at the mouth of the Saguenay R., and Como near Montréal; during the 1960s Mockingbirds were more often encountered in the lower St. Lawrence Valley (Québec City and eastward) than around Montréal.

A Gray Catbird was spotted by P. Lessard at Fort-Chimo June 14; is it the northernmost record on this continent? Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Mt. Eboulements June 18 (DH) tend to confirm the existence of a local population as postulated in *AFN* 24:667. Following a heavy spring migration, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were quite numerous and two nests were located in evergreens in suburban Montréal gardens (*fide* MM). Only five Loggerhead Shrikes were reported. Although no serious investigation has been made to document a presumed decline, the species still appears to be in trouble. The same, however, cannot be said of the Yellow-throated Vireo; always scarce, it was found at new sites in the Montréal area (*fide* MM) and was also noted at Hull (MB). At least five ♂ Golden-winged Warblers appeared in Gatineau P.P. in June (*fide* RMP), and a ♂ **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Rigaud June 8 (GH, m.ob.).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Cardinals nested: at Sherbrooke early June (AN); St.-Lambert early July (GD); and a female was reported at Charlesbourg, Québec City June 27 (BH). These reports show a species strengthening its hold in the Province. A very small resident population was established around Montréal in 1956; this population steadily grew and expanded as breeding increased in n.e. New York in the late 1960s (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*). A male even reached Chicoutimi last winter.

It is not improbable that the Indigo Bunting breeds farther E than is now assumed, taking advantage of the artificial clearings under electric power lines. The following records are of interest: a pair at Alma, L. St-Jean July 25 (M. Savard); two singing males in Forillon N.P., June 26 (PAB); and another at Percé mid-July (*fide* MM). There seems to be a slow increase of Evening Grosbeak summer reports; are they still increasing in the East? It was abundant in Gaspé Pen., and a pair was

busily gathering nesting material in Forillon June 26 (ND). A Le Conte's Sparrow was near LaFerme, Abitibi Co., June 26 (FB), in the same general area where W.E. Godfrey discovered several individuals in 1965 (*Notes on birds of the Amos Region, Qué.*, Nat. Hist. Pap. 44, Nat. Mus. Can., 1968). A Clay-colored Sparrow was turned up in St-Roch, Richelieu Co., June 7-8 (MM *et al.*).

**ADDENDUM** — Figures on probable escaped or released birds may be valuable in documenting possible feral occurrences. Among the most significant ones this year were two Bobwhites near St-Hyacinthe Mar 23 (D Cyr), plus another photographed at Summit Park, Montréal, Apr. 29 (*fide* MM). A Turkey (with chestnut-tipped retrices) was seen near Sutton June 3 (J. Giroux). At Pointe-Claire, a Ringed Turtle Dove was found at a feeder May 20 (MM).

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## **HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION** **/P.A. Buckley, Robert O. Paxton and** **David A. Cutler**

Many observers regarded it as a "lackluster" summer, and indeed the species-accounts section of this column is one of the shortest ever compiled for this region, reflecting the paucity of data received. It was such a "blah" summer that even the weather rated comment from not a single subeditor or contributor, although we are certain there was some weather this past June and July. It was, in fact, the coolest July on record in New York City.

The most important contributions made in this region this summer are reflected in the pelagic species summary and Tables 1-3. Despite exceptionally increased coverage of the ocean in the last few years, especially by Rhode Island observers going to Cox's Ledge, hardly a season goes by without a surprise of some sort. Now that we have at least a few years' data, patterns — sometimes still faint — are beginning to emerge, although we have a long way to go; the amount of boldface type makes that abundantly clear. We wish to thank all those who contributed, and for multiple contributions, Richard Ferren, Charles Wood, Thomas H. Davis and Richard A. Rowlett.

This season, including a few late May dates to give a complete picture of the spring migration, 19 trips were taken, the same as 1975. A few comments seem in order: (1) Northern Fulmar is even more regular and more numerous than last year; (2) Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Sooty and Greater Shearwaters are the most frequently encountered species (save local gulls not tallied); (3) Leach's Storm-Petrel continues to occur virtually exclusively near the continental shelf at Hudson Canyon, unlike Northern Fulmar and the skuas; (4) Pomarine is the commonest "pelagic" jaeger; (5) the spring occurrence of Long-tailed Jaeger and skua spp. is apparently not unusual; (6) observers are with increasing frequency claiming at-sea Arctic Terns, possibly merely a leaf from Pacific Coast pelagic trip books; specimens are clearly called for.

**COLONIAL WATERBIRD CENSUSES:** The fourth annual helicopter census of the coastline of Long Island was made June 7-8-9 by P.A. and F.G. Buckley, again accompanied by Michael Gochfeld: the overall results are in Table 1. While detailed analyses of the last several years' data are now in preparation for publication, some comments are in order. We call readers' attention to some of the caveats and assumptions we outlined in our discussion of last year's results (*AB*, 29:948-49): they still apply

Briefly, significant points that seem to have emerged from our 1976 data are: (1) Snowy Egret is continuing its spectacular increase on Long Island, possibly at the expense of Little Blue and Louisiana Herons; (2) Cattle Egret has only a marginal toehold on Long Island, in the Jamaica Bay colonies. The birds feed almost exclusively on the John F. Kennedy International Airport runways; (3) despite the annual ups and downs, we believe Yellow-crowned Night Heron to be in serious trouble on Long Island, (4) Black-crowneds appear to be still declining, but they are notoriously easy to overlook; (5) Glossy Ibis seems to have paused in its explosive growth on Long Island, (6) Herring Gull seems to be declining from a peak in (or before ?) 1974, while Black-backed seems more stable. It is possible that Long Island is actually saturated with breeding large gulls; (7) Common Tern has shown a slight increase each year, but we are uncertain if this is reflective of a genuine population trend. If so, it is most heartening but could be at the expense of New England breeders; (8) Roseate Tern, *of which Long Island may have the largest breeding concentration anywhere in the world*, has been declining for the last three years. While alarming, this could be a short-term phenomenon; possibly some of the birds from the n.e. corner of Long Island have moved onto Cape Cod and the Islands; (9) Least Tern and Black Skimmer seem also to be holding their own, although the latter is restricted to fewer and fewer colonies each year; (10) again, we must stress that these data do not indicate reproductive success in the year they were taken. For example, we believe none of the Gull-billed Terns were successful this year, for a variety of reasons, notably tidal washouts. However, averaged over many years, these kinds of data are indicative of the relative health of all species studied and will eventually show long-term population trends.

For the first time, a concerted effort was made to obtain these same kinds of data from New Jersey. A team from N.J.A.S.W.R.U., headed by Richard Kane, working

from the ground and boats, covered the entire New Jersey Atlantic Coast. Their results, while admittedly not as thorough as helicopter data (see below), are nonetheless a vital first step. Their data were taken as counts of numbers of individual adults (presumed breeding) present in each colony. These adult counts have been converted into estimated numbers of pairs of each species, shown in Table 2, by the use of the following conversion factors: herons and ibises: x1.0; Herring and Great Black-backed gulls: x0.5; Laughing Gulls: x1.0; Common and Least Terns: x0.8; Forster's Terns: x1.0; Black Skimmers: x0.5; others species' numbers were essentially actual counts of breeding pairs. Details of this census will be published in Nov. 1976 as a paper of the N.J.A.S. One additional set of New Jersey census data was obtained this summer. Joanna Burger and Frederick Lesser censused the Barnegat Bay-Manahawkin Bay area, between Lavalette and Holgate (Beach Haven) by helicopter during June. They obtained total coverage, and found 2500 pairs of Com. Terns, all nesting in/on salt marshes. In addition they found a pair of Roseate Terns defending a nest in Barnegat Bay, while P.A. and F.G. Buckley found another apparently breeding pair of Roseates June 14 at Sandy Hook. Roseate Tern has always been exceedingly rare as a breeder in New Jersey, and the nest found by Burger and Lesser may be the first documented in the state. South of Long Island the species is virtually unknown as a breeder until the Florida Keys. Plans are underway for helicopter coverage of the entire coast of New Jersey in 1977, and then data fully comparable to those from Long Island will be available. Other states in the region are urged to follow suit if we are to truly know our colonial waterbird populations; only then can we protect them.

Unusual species considered this season, aside from certain boldfaced pelagics include White Pelican, White Ibis, *Black Vulture*, Mississippi Kite, *Gull-billed Tern*, *Acadian Flycatcher*, Common Raven, *Winter Wren*, Yellow-headed Blackbird and *Pine Siskin*. Italics indicate a significant breeding occurrence or suspected breeding.

**PELAGICS** — In the period May 22 - July 27, 19 offshore trips in the New York Bight allowed observers to take random samplings of pelagic species. Fourteen of these were to Cox's Ledge, beyond R.I. waters e. of Block I., the rest to Hudson Canyon, about 90 mi. e. of Manasquan, N.J. A total of 3882 individuals of 19 species was listed; of these 81 individuals were assigned to family only. Numbers in some instances may be unreliable, pelagic birds habitually appear, linger, disappear, and reappear, to be counted repeatedly. On May 31, for example, two boats at Cox's Ledge had different totals, by 34%. **Northern Fulmar** was listed on nine of 11 trips May 22 - June 13, and totaled 58 birds, with an amazing high of 25 at H.C. May 26 (RR, GT). Other sightings were in the 2-6 range. Cory's Shearwater appeared May 26, and numbers grew to a high of 50 on July 17. A total of 223 was counted on 14 trips, with a marked increase July 2 and beyond. Greater Shearwater was found on 14 trips May 26 - July 17, with a high of 300 on the earliest date, another high of 125 on June 5, and numbers thinning thereafter. Sooty Shearwater appeared on 15 trips total 583, highest count 175 at C.L. June 13, (WP *et al*) and latest, one, July 23. A total of 12 Manx Shearwaters



**Table 1. Estimated numbers of breeding pairs of colonial waterbirds on Long Island, N.Y. from a helicopter census by P.A. and F.G. Buckley in June 1976. See text for discussion.**

Species	1976	1975	Change from 1975:		Probably Reflects Long-term Change?
			Numerical	Per cent	
Great Egret	298	410	-112	-27.3%	no
Snowy Egret	1398	932	+446	+50.0%	yes
Cattle Egret	21	14	+7	+50.0%	no
Little Blue Heron	10	20	-10	-50.0%	yes
Louisiana Heron	8	14	-6	-42.9%	?
Black-crowned Night Heron	434	516	-82	-15.9%	yes ?
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	17	6	+11	+183.3%	no
Glossy Ibis	741	644	+97	+15.1%	no
(subtotal:	2927	2556	+377	+14.8%	see text)
Herring Gull	15,939	21,205	-5266	-24.8%	yes ?
Great Black-backed Gull	1243	1307	-64	-4.9%	no
(subtotal:	17,182	22,512	-5330	-23.7%	see text)
Common Tern	12,666	11,758	+908	+7.7%	?
Roseate Tern	981	2053	-1072	-52.2%	yes ?
Gull-billed Tern	3	2	—	—	see text
Least Tern	2307	2446	-139	-5.7%	no
Black Skimmer	506	458	+48	+10.5%	no
(subtotal:	16,463	16,717	-255	-1.5%	see text)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,572</b>	<b>41,779</b>	<b>-5208</b>	<b>-12.5%</b>	see text

was identified, mostly singles (high three) May 29 - June 8. One "black-and-white" shearwater was seen, and there were 34 unsorted shearwaters.

Wilson's Storm-Petrels were common, as usual, with a high of 750 May 29. **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was reported three times, for a total of 10 birds, all but one at H.C. One **White-faced Storm-Petrel** was reported from H.C. May 26 (RR, GT). Small numbers of Gannets were reported (17 high, May 22) from ten trips. Northern and Red Phalaropes totaled 46, all but four Northern, with a high of 18 on May 31, the last date reported. All three jaegers were seen, the commonest Pomarine at 44 individuals (32 high, May 26). Parasitics totaled 13 (high five May 26) and **Long-tailed Jaeger** eight, with a surprising four May 26. At H.C. there were 22 undetermined jaegers. All but one jaeger was seen by June 13. Of the total of 87, 73 were counted on two late May trips.

Nine **skuas sp.** were found on six trips, May 26 - June 5, all singles except for four on May 26. (See commentary below). There was one kittiwake on May 22, one **Sabine's Gull** at C.L. June 17 (DLK), and one, (possibly four), Arctic terns listed. Two Royals on June 22 complete the list. Overall there was an average of 6+ species and 204 individuals per trip.

**PELICANS, CORMORANTS, WADING BIRDS** — A lone **White Pelican** appeared at Manahawkin W.M.A. (M.W.M.A.), N.J., May 27 (FHL), and was followed by unconfirmable reports of 2-3 through June nearby. Among the commonly summering Double-crested Cormorants along Long Island Sound is found an occasional Great; this year one at Stamford, Conn. harbor through the period was unexpected (DB, TB, PL), but another at Great Gull I., off Orient P. was less so.

A single Louisiana Heron at Parkerford, Pa. was exceptional inland (RWB) as were two Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Croton Pt., Westchester Co., June 10

(WH). An imm. **White Ibis** at New Ringgold, July 14-21, (MB) was possibly the first inland Pennsylvania record and one of few for the state.

**Table 2. Estimated numbers of breeding pairs of colonial waterbirds on the Atlantic Coast (i.e. excluding Delaware Bay) of New Jersey, from ground-only censusing in early June 1976. Data courtesy of N.J.A.S.W.R.U., Richard Kane and R. Michael Erwin. See text.**

Great Blue Heron	6
Great Egret	240
Snowy Egret	1091
Cattle Egret	137
Little Blue Heron	164
Louisiana Heron	88
Black-crowned Night Heron	611
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	43
Glossy Ibis	2515
(subtotal:	4895)
Herring Gull	2213
Great Black-backed Gull	43
Laughing Gull	15,375
(subtotal:	17,631)
Common Tern	1565
Roseate Tern	2
Forster's Tern	215
Gull-billed Tern	10
Least Tern	945
Black Skimmer	1045
(subtotal:	3782)
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>26,308</b>

**Table 3. Estimated numbers of 1976 breeding pairs (from ground-only censuses) in the largest known heronries in Delaware and Pennsylvania. The Delaware count is contrasted with 1964, when that colony was first censused; 1976 data courtesy Jochen Wiese; 1964 data from DAC. The Pennsylvania count is contrasted with a corrected 1975 count made from winter-examined nests which supersedes that published in *AB* 29:951; both data sets courtesy R.M. Schutsky and P.G. Helsey.**

	Pea Patch I., Delaware River (New Castle Co.)		Rookery I., Lake Clark (Lancaster Co.)	
	1976	1964	1976	1975
Great Blue Heron	4	—	1	—
Great Egret	175	400	2	—
Snowy Egret	900	15	4	2
Cattle Egret	4500	25	1000±	772
Little Blue Heron	400	100	1	—
Louisiana Heron	40	—	—	—
B-c Night Heron	400	100	120±	112
Y-c Night Heron	40	—	—	—
Glossy Ibis	600	25	5	6
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>7059</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>1133±</b>	<b>892</b>

**WATERFOWL** — The usual complement of summering, nonbreeding waterfowl obtained, including Snow Geese, Brant, Am. Wigeon, N. Pintail, Ring-necked Duck (two June 16-18, Drumore, Pa.: RMS), Redhead, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, both species of scaup, Com. Eider (breeding-plumaged male, Cape May Pt., June 1: RK), all three scoters, Com. Merganser, Hooded Merganser, and the usual scattering of Red-breasted Mergansers we feel are more indicative of breeders than loafers. One peculiar collection was 38 at Shinnecock Bay during June, including at least five "pairs" (PAB). A pair of N. Shovelers was suspected of nesting at Oak Beach Marsh, L.I. (HMcG, ROP), and Ruddies nested at Jamaica Bay and the Hackensack Meadows (H.M.). Eleven through the period at Drumore, could have been breeders (RMS), as could several pairs of Am. Wigeon at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref. (J.B.W.R.). A few pairs of Green-winged Teal nested at the H.M., and single pairs brought off broods at M.W.M.A. (FHL) and Brookhaven Nat'l Laboratory, L.I. (*vide* GSR).

**RAPTORS, RALLIDS** — A single **Black Vulture** at Sandy Hook, N.J. during the first half of June (WW), was one of an increasing number in recent years. If fall reports, especially from hawk ridges, are any indication, the species may already be nesting in New Jersey or New York. Thirty at Oxford, Pa. July 12 (JG) was the maximum during what was termed an "invasion" into s.e. Pennsylvania. While precise figures are lacking, the Long Island Sound Osprey population is credited with one of its best years in recent times. Errant imm. Bald Eagles were seen around extreme e. Long Island in June (PAB *et al.*), Garrison, N.Y., June 29 (ROP); and M.W.M.A. in late June (FHL). One nest was successful in s. New Jersey, a prospecting pair was seen at a second New Jersey location, and a single adult was at an historic nest site in e.

Pennsylvania (details suppressed). Goshawk broods were twice successful in n. New Jersey, at Warren County (FPW) and the Central Highlands (WL, HR); one at New Ringold, July 8 (MB) was far from known Pocono Mt breeders. A pair of Cooper's Hawks raised four young in Sussex County, N.J. (BSt), the only ones reported.

— S.A. —

Possibly the outstanding species for the period was **Mississippi Kite**: a meticulously described adult was seen June 3 at Cape May Pt., by Al Nicholson. This represented only the third New Jersey record; others are: May 30, 1924, Cape May (Witmer Stone *et al.*), and May 8, 1961, Sergeantsville, Hunterdon Co. (Vince Abraitys) All were adults. One was on Cape Cod this year from late May through mid-June, one was collected May 31, 1974 in s.e. Pennsylvania, and the species is, like the Swallow-tailed and White-tailed Kites, undergoing a continent-wide range expansion.

Black Rails were possibly absent from their only known Long Island breeding site at Oak Beach Marsh, and were missed by most seekers in several traditional Delaware Bay locales; we hope this is only a short-term phenomenon. A new Virginia Rail marsh was located in Quakertown, Pa. (RW) and the Delaware City and Bombay Hook breeding Purple Gallinules returned again this year. Am. Coots continue strong on the H.M. (RK).

**SHOREBIRDS** — During the New Jersey colonial waterbird census, significant Am. Oystercatcher aggregations (excluding flying birds) included 60 individuals on Little Beach I., and 25 on the Avalon Causeway, out of a total of 158 from Stone Harbor to Barnegat Inlet. Piping Plovers at the same time totaled 93 pairs from Sandy Hook to Cape May, maxima being 25 pairs each at Holgate and Brigantine Inlet (N.J.A.S.W.R.U., RK).

Southbound shorebirds arrived in July in good numbers in s. New Jersey and in Delaware, but, with some exceptions, the n. part of the region was bypassed. Six different Ruffs were reported from s. New Jersey and Delaware, and save a female at M.W.M.A. June 8-17 (MBlu) all arrived in the period July 5-6 (with some staying longer), and all were ad. males with ruffs. Surely this is a North American breeder by now! Exceptionally early southbound migrants (probably) were two Stilt Sandpipers at Oak Beach Marsh June 27, an Am. Golden Plover there July 20 (both ROP), a N. Phalarope at Moriches Inlet June 19 (TVH), and the N.Y.C. region's earliest Buff-breasted Sandpiper at H.M. July 25 (THD *et al.*). Early Lesser Yellowlegs maxima were 300 at Oak Beach Marsh July 20 (ROP) and an astonishing 1000 at H.M. July 26 (RK, PB). These are impressive figures even during the normal mid-late August maximum-time. At the same place and date, 8000 Semipalmated Sandpipers included one yellow-dyed bird from James Bay, Canada. The Brigantine N.W.R. maximum was 14,350 on July 31, the locale and date of this year's Stilt Sandpiper high of 166 (JDD). These counts and early dates inevitably are of adult-only flocks. The only Curlew Sandpiper was at Brigantine N.W.R. July 21 (JDD, JA).

More difficult to categorize are the Black-necked Stilt photographed at J.B.W.R. June 29 (J. Bode *et al.*) and some breeding-plumaged Wilson's Phalaropes: a female at J.B.W.R. June 17-20, and a male June 8, joined by a female June 16, at M.W.M.A. (MBlu). Imminent breeding of this species in the Region can be confidently expected.

S.A.

Worthy of a paragraph of its own is the skua situation. As has been reported earlier in this journal (*AB*, 30:826), a specimen of **South Polar Skua** (*Catharacta maccormicki*) has finally been obtained in the North Atlantic, at Cape Hatteras this past May, as determined by George E. Watson. This only exacerbated our frustration, as several of us had been suspecting the greater likelihood of Antarctic skuas spending their contranuptial seasons up here with the Wilson's Storm-Petrels and Greater Shearwaters than of arctic skuas "returning" northward (from where?). Thus, when Alan Brady was able to obtain an excellent series of photos of one of the skuas at Hudson Canyon May 29, 1976, they were sent to Watson for critical examination. His letter to P. William Smith, dated July 27, 1976 states, in part:

"Your Hudson Canyon skua appears to me to be a South Polar Skua, *Catharacta maccormicki*. The photograph [see Figure 1 below] shows a relatively small, slender bill, pale mantle, and crown that is about the same color as the rest of the head. The colors you describe, brown above, much greyer below, are consistent with that identification . . ."

While there is no question that collection of a series of specimens of skuas in the New York Bight is now a matter of paramount importance, there is very little doubt that many, *if not all*, of our skuas are Antarctic in origin. For details of identification, the reader is referred to Watson's *Birds of the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic*, 1975, Am. Geophysical Union, 1909 K. St., NW, Washington, DC 20006. Sometime in 1977, *The Auk* will publish a paper by Pierre Devillers updating the skua situation on the U.S. Pacific coast; readers should seek out that paper as well. Finally, exceptionally detailed descriptions should be taken of all skuas seen, and they should be photographed *in color* whenever possible. In passing, we note that the skua seen at Fire Island Inlet June 8, 1974 was small-billed and grey-bellied; we believe it also to have been *maccormicki*.

**GULLS, TERNS** — An odd Glaucous Gull was at Little Creek, Del., June 27 (JKM), and a (post-breeding ?) ad. Black-headed was at Great Kills, S.I., July 10-26 (RZ *et al.*). Single Forster's and Royal Terns at Moriches Inlet June 19 (LP) are two of very few Long Island records for those species before late July. A pair of Caspian Terns on the Schuylkill R. in Spring City, Pa., June 3 (RWB) were probably southbound, since post-breeding adults normally appear in s.e. Virginia shortly thereafter; one at J.B.W.R. July 20 certainly was (Jim Ash).



South Polar Skua, *Catharacta maccormicki*, Hudson Canyon, May 29, 1976. Photo/Alan Brady.

**OWLS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Barn Owl breeding locations reported this year include: in New Jersey, Sandy Hook (WW), and two locations in Sussex County and one in Bergen County (both ST); on Long Island one pair at Commack (RG) and undetermined numbers at Floyd Bennett Field (PAB), Brooklyn; else where in New York a pair in Poughkeepsie (Thelma Haight) and several on Ellis I. in New York Harbor (*vide* PAB). Short-eared Owls were seen during the Long Island colonial waterbird census only on Captree I.; this hopefully represents only sampling error. None was reported otherwise, although they presumably still breed on Philadelphia International Airport, at Bombay Hook N.W.R., and possibly on islands in Barnegat Bay. Whip-poor-will is drastically down in n.e. Pennsylvania, and not due to elimination of favorable habitat (WR). While still present on e. Long Island, it is nowhere in the numbers of only 20 years ago. On the favorable side, an estimated 35 pairs were on Sandy Hook (WW). Chuck-will's-widows were on territory again this year at Oak Beach (ROP) and, newly found, at Island Beach S.P., N.J. (RK). All observers reported Ruby-throated Hummingbirds down, unhappily continuing a recent trend. Is this merely the effect of increasing urbanization or a rural tendency as well? Future comments on this species are desired.

S.A.

Suggestions of a widespread Red-headed Woodpecker recovery might be the late migrants (?) at Jones Beach June 10 and Alley Pond June 11 (both LS), and the several pairs which summered and presumably bred in oak woods at Dyker Beach, Brooklyn (Nate Ferster), and in the lower Cape May pen. (JJD). Clearly a major increase occurred in Lancaster County, Pa. where in a survey of cow pastures dotted with large dead trees among living trees, Gamber and Foreman found an astonishing 58 woodpeckers, in 27 locations. They noted visiting only a small percentage of the possible habitat.

**Acadian Flycatcher** continued to consolidate its newly reconquered range in the New York part of the Region: two pairs in Dutchess County (*vide* EP), at least one pair in Bashakill, Orange Co. (BSe), one pair at White Plains (*vide* THD) and another at Pound Ridge (JDeLT). On the s shore of Long Island, the recently-arrived (since the mid-'50s) Willow Flycatcher seems almost restricted to a very narrow habitat: low bushes and shrubs in/near the edge of salt marsh. It occurs there all the way from J B W.R. e. at least to Moriches Bay and even on the Jones Beach strip (DP, AJL, ROP, PAB). The aspect of this habitat is superficially at least very close to that of preferred freshwater breeding sites. A singing Alder Flycatcher near Paulinskil L., N.J. May 28 (MRH) could have been a migrant, or just possibly a local breeder. One at Tarrytown Reservoir June 18 (WH) was not found later. The status of *fee-bee-o* "Traill's Flycatchers" in our region is far from clear.

Two new Pennsylvania breeding locations for Cliff Swallow were uncovered this year: an estimated 50 at L. Ontelaunee (Carl Williams) and about a dozen in West Chester (JG). A pair was also seen over N. Stamford Res., Conn., in June (Bob & Irene Boone), where there have been no breeders in many years. One would like to interpret the single **Common Raven** at Mohonk L., Ulster Co. June 20 (DS, JS) as the vanguard of a Catskills recolonization, but caution is indicated. The Sandy Hook Breeding Bird Census taken by WW in June estimated 25 pairs of Black-capped Chickadees, thus punctuating the notion that the Raritan R. is the dividing line between them and Carolinas. More fieldwork is clearly called for. Red-breasted Nuthatches did not nest in recent breeding sites in n.e. Pennsylvania this year, but n.c. New Jersey is still supporting a small population. A new site was Briarcliff, N.Y., where adults were seen feeding young in Norway spruces through June and July (WH).

**WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Short-billed Marsh Wrens are apparently completely extirpated as regional breeders, except for a few pairs in the Delaware Bay marshes in Delaware and possibly in s.e. Pennsylvania. **Winter Wrens**, on the other hand, are joining the southward pioneers. One presumably nested on a brushy hillside in Flanders, N.J. (FF), three pairs summered in two new locations in n.e. Pennsylvania (Tunkhannock and Camptown—WR), three pairs probably nested at Deep Hollow, Dutchess Co. (M&J Key) and most astonishing of all, a pair successfully raised two young on Long Island at fabled Connetquot River S.P., (C R S.P.) just upstream from Great South Bay — definitely very close to sea level (THD, ROP *et al.*).

Eastern Bluebirds continue their slow climb back to pre-1960 levels: at least four pairs nested at C.R.S.P. (DE), Dutchess County reported its best year ever, with 66 nesting attempts (35 successful; Florence Germond); and at Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania, Grantham had banded 100 young by late August. All workers attribute success to nest box programs with careful predator protection. Golden-crowned Kinglets nested again near Armonk, New York (WH) and Mianus R. Gorge, Connecticut (JDeLT). A new location in New Jersey, as ever in Norway spruces, was Harmony, Warren County, where a pair was feeding young in June (Gregg Hanisek). This is the first nesting outside of the Pequannock Watershed.

The only Loggerhead Shrike was one that "summered" at Mehoopany, Pennsylvania (Earle Cowden). Last year we wondered where all the White-eyed Vireos had gone, and this year have a partial answer: to Sandy Hook, where WW estimated an astonishing 110 pairs in his June census. As RK notes, only in the Great Swamp do densities approach this. New Jersey's northernmost known breeding Prothonotary Warblers nested for the third year at Great Swamp N.W.R. and while a singing male was seen June 5 at Riverhead, Long Island in eminently suitable habitat (GSR *et al.*), Long Island's first breeding record still eludes us. A pair of Parula Warblers, a rare and erratic breeder in s.e. Pennsylvania, raised several young in Marlborough Twp., Montgomery Co. (G.A. Franchois), and a possible nesting occurred on Long Island in the Eastport area (*vide* GSR). Up to ten pairs of Cerulean Warblers nested in a Boy Scout camp at Waterloo, N.J. (RB). A late migrating Blackpoll Warbler was in Wilmington, Delaware June 21 (AEC, CAC) but a Black-throated Green June 19 in Brookhaven, L.I. could have been nesting. A possibly breeding N. Waterthrush was singing in suitable habitat in Mt Kisco, N.Y., June 20 (WH, BW). Three different and possibly breeding "Myrtle" Warblers in n.e. Pennsylvania this summer were at new locations (WR) Kentucky Warbler probably bred at Cold Spring, Cape May, an unusual coastal location for this uncommon New Jersey nester (Keith Seager). Canada Warblers apparently did not return to nest at C.R.S.P. this year, nor to their other Long Island station along Carman's R at Brookhaven.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Orchard Orioles are expanding in the n. part of the region, with 20 pairs in the vicinity of Princeton (RB) and 13 on the c Suffolk "June Christmas Bird Count" (*vide* GSR) An exceedingly early ad. ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at a Barnegat Light, N.J., feeder for the first week in July (FHL). This is another potential regional breeder, as it is rapidly extending its range eastward to our north and west. "Several" pairs of Summer Tanagers were reported nesting in s.e. New Jersey, but details were not available (DK). Blue Grosbeaks also continue their range consolidation, with 5-6 pairs at Assunpink Game Management Area in c. New Jersey (WW) and the single pair on the H.M. still nests, this year having three other singing males, likely their progeny, for company (RK).

Indicative of House Finch breeding success in the Philadelphia area, Bill Pepper has banded 940 (440 young) in Chestnut Hill June 1 - Aug. 15, and in nearby Norristown, Ray Middleton had banded 220 by Aug. 1. In the Tunkhannock area of n.e. Pennsylvania, WR reports a smaller-scaled but still dramatic increase, with city-based flocks ranging out to the country to feed, returning to town at night to roost, like so many Starlings. Summer-(ing) Red Crossbills, likely but unproven breeders, were two found in the New Jersey Pine Barrens near Atsion June 1 (RAR) and up to six in the Long Island Pine Barrens at C.R.S.P. through June (DE, ROP). A late lingering **Pine Siskin** June 5 in Pleasantville, N.Y., could have been a local breeder, but a pair did nest at New Dorp, S.I., having been seen feeding two newly fledged young June 19 (W. & N. Siebenheller); cf. the recent nesting in nearby Orange, N.J.

Savannah Sparrow is an irregular, usually solitary breeder in s.e. Pennsylvania, so a colony of ten pairs at Doe Run, Chester County (JG) is exceptional. More actual or potential Grasshopper Sparrows nesting sites than usual were reported this year, including: one pair feeding young at Brigantine, N.J. (E.E. Hastings); one singing in June at N. Stamford, Connecticut (G. Knoecklein, Dave Havens); an estimated 15-20 pairs at NAFEC, Pomona, New Jersey (JDD); and "abundant" at Suffolk County Airport, Westhampton Beach, L.I., (Jeffrey Greenhouse) and within the New York City limits, 5-6 pairs at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn (PAB). Ten singing Vesper Sparrows at Belle Mead, New Jersey was a good count and two pairs bred at NAFEC (JDD); singing males were heard at two C.R.S.P. locations (DE) as well as at the Easthampton Long Island airport (PAB, MG); and at the Suffolk County airport (JGre), and 37 were found on the Central Suffolk June C B C (*vide* GSR). Alas, no Henslow's were even hinted at. The low but nonetheless almost unprecedented incidence of summering White-throated Sparrows continues, this year seeing one to July 8 in urban Woodhaven, Queens, N.Y.C. (THD) and to mid-June at J.B.W.R. We'll go out on a figurative limb and predict an extra-montane nesting attempt by this species in either New Jersey or Long Island in the next four years, as in downtown Buffalo.

**CORRIGENDA** — In the winter season discussion of Sandhill Crane records this past March (*AB*, 30:699) we forgot an earlier record from Bombay Hook N.W.R., so the March 1976 Wilmington report is Delaware's second. In the fall 1975 discussion of the Pennsylvania Rufous Hummingbird, we likewise omitted reference to an earlier probable sight report from the Philadelphia area, as well as a specimen taken recently at Ocean City, Md. And subsequent to writing the fall column, one appeared for a week in July 1976 near Concord, N.H., discussed in the present issue, on p. 929. In Table 3, *AB*, 29:951, the figure of 350 pairs should refer to Cattle Egrets, not Little Blue Herons. On the same page, the Com. Shelducks of mysterious origin at Bombay Hook N.W.R. for the last several years have, as expected, proved to be escapes from a large Delaware waterfowl collection. We are indebted to Richard Ryan for patiently tracking them down. And the Garganey looks better than ever!

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## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION /F. R. Scott

Deficient rainfall which began in January continued through June and July, and artificial coastal impoundments were almost dry during this period. Temperatures were close to normal, and there were no bad tropical storms. For most species the breeding season was successful, although there were the usual local problems caused by thunderstorms and occasional excessively high tides.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Although Com. Loons are reported annually in this region during the summer, reports of Red-throated Loons are considerably rarer. Thus it was of interest to receive three reports of the latter, one at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., June 6 (BWK), two at Metomkin Inlet, Va., June 19 (BW), and one at Poplar I., Md., June 25 (JR). A Horned Grebe was present at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va. during June and early July (RLA, DLM *et al.*), one appeared at Great Fox I., Va., June 4 (RH), and another was seen at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (S.P.S.P. below), June 16-18 (MLH). A June 10 offshore trip to Norfolk and Washington Canyons, 65-70 mi. e. of Cape Charles and Exmore, Va., respectively, yielded 22 Cory's, nine Greater, two Sooty, and one **Audubon's Shearwater**, along with 288 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (RAR). On the previous day five **Leach's Storm-Petrels** had appeared at sunset 30 mi. e. of Chincoteague (RAR). In Chesapeake Bay, a **Sooty Shearwater** was photographed near Great Fox I., June 8 (RH *et al.*), a first record this far inland, and one was picked up dead but in good condition on the beach of Wallops I., Va., June 13 (CRV). An imm. Brown Pelican was noted in Chesapeake Bay 2 mi. w. of Nassawadox Creek, Va., July 21 (RAB, JS & KS). Although a few summering Double-crested Cormorants were found at various places along and near the coast, the only

sizable concentrations were noted in Chesapeake Bay, Va. near the Maryland line, with 42 at Little Fox I., June 9 and 37 at Watts I., June 11 (RLA & FRS).

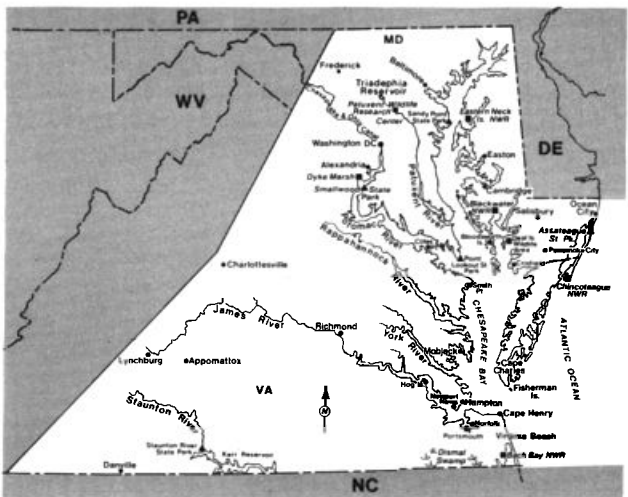
**HERONS THROUGH STORKS —**

According to Byrd, nesting success of herons in the region was variable but generally good. In many colonies, particularly at Fisherman I., Va., pre fledgling mortality was high, especially with Snowy Egret. Glossy Ibis was an exception to the generally favorable reports, with breeding populations in the various colonies down 40-80% and poor reproductive success (MAB). Since no reports of winter disasters are available, this may indicate that the missing adults moved into new areas to nest. Several new heronries were located in addition to those reported in 1975, but a complete report is not as yet available. The largest Great Blue heronries were 450 pairs near New Point Comfort, Va., 500 pairs near Heathsville, Va., and 470 pairs on Poplar I., Md. (MAB *et al.*). This last colony represents a significant increase over 1975, when only 275 pairs were counted. The Poplar I. colony also contained 20 pairs of Cattle Egrets on July 4, perhaps the most northerly nesting of the species on Chesapeake Bay. Other interesting nesting observations included 28 pairs of Green Herons in a colony on the York R. near Gloucester P., Va., June 12 (MAB), 900 pairs of Cattle Egrets nesting near South Pt., Md., May 27 (MAB & CHS), and a remarkable record count of 1175 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons in the Fisherman I. colony (MAB & PF).

Apparently nonbreeding Cattle Egrets moved up the James R. in June and concentrated in the Hopewell, Va., area with a peak count of 142 on July 31 (FRS). This was the first time any but stragglers had been found in this area after May. An ad. Little Blue Heron was with these birds June 26. Six Cattle Egrets were also reported on the Piedmont of n.w. Fairfax County, Va., June 13 (FN, *fide* JBB). Pyle located a Glossy Ibis on the Piedmont at Lilypons, Md., June 26, and up to two imm. White Ibis were seen at Craney I., Va., July 11 - Aug. 1 (RLA). A Wood Stork was seen and photographed at Craney I., June 1 (EM, DS, RLA *et al.*), its appearance apparently the result of the same southerly air flow that brought the previously reported White Pelican to this area.

**SWANS THROUGH COOTS —**

Two broods of Mute Swans totaling 11 young were produced at Chincoteague Ref. (*fide* LKM), and over 20 pairs nested in the Eastern Bay, Md., tributaries (JR). Waterfowl experts are looking at the increase of this species in the Delmarva Pen., with some trepidation, since its effect on native species is generally felt to be negative. Possible control methods may be in the offing — or may have already been tried without publicity. Two Whistling Swans summered at Chincoteague Ref. (BWK), three were present during June and July at Oxford, Md. (JR), and four spent June near Cambridge, Md. (JR). Canada Geese of uncertain



ancestry are increasing as breeding birds in the region, both along the coast and inland on the Piedmont, but precise figures are lacking since observers usually have no way of knowing the origin of the birds and often don't report them. Two healthy Brant were at Chincoteague Ref., June 8 (LKM), and two Snow Geese were seen here July 10 (PP). Another Snow Goose appeared at Locustville, Va., June 12 (GR).

Gadwall is continuing to increase in the fresh and brackish marshes of the Chesapeake. Armistead counted 119 plus one brood at Deal I., Md., June 27 and found a nest with ten eggs here June 12. Ruddy Duck summered as usual in several localities, but there was no evidence of breeding. About 29 summered at Chincoteague Ref (LKM *et al.*) and 24 at Craney I. (RLA). Among the other records were three at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., June 22 (OEF) and two at Deal I., June 12 (HTA & CRV). There were numerous summer reports along the coast or in the Chesapeake of all three scoters and Red-breasted Mergansers.

An ad. Bald Eagle was noted at Elm Hill W.M.A., Va., near Kerr Res., June 26 (RMC), and an apparently transient Broad-winged Hawk was seen at S.P.S.P., July 30 (HLW). Three ♀ Marsh Hawks in the Saxis, Va. area June 12 (RLA & FRS) indicated that this species was still holding its own near the s. edge of its breeding range, whereas one at Virginia Beach, Va., June 10 (GG, FB & VH) was well out of its normal range. Byrd, who had some 400 Osprey nests under observation during the period, reported excellent nesting success, with more pairs having four-egg clutches than in any recent year. An apparent migrant Am. Kestrel was observed crossing Chesapeake Bay at S.P.S.P., July 18, followed by two more July 30 (HLW & MLH). Two Black Rails were present during June at S.P.S.P., and on July 7 both adults and at least three tiny young were observed (HLW & BB). A pair of Purple Gallinules nested successfully near Upper Marlboro, Md., and the young were seen in July (RP *et al.*, *fide* DB). American Coots summered in several places on or near the coast, though no nesting was reported. Inland, one was seen at Dyke marsh June 12 (JMA) and another at Woolwine, Patrick Co., Va., June 16 and 20 (FRS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — As usual the spring migration of shorebirds extended into mid-June, and the latest migrants were obscured by summering, nonbreeding birds, particularly on the immediate coast. Nevertheless, single Black-bellied Plovers at Great Fox I., Va., June 17 (RH) and S.P.S.P., June 22 (HLW) were believed to be late transients. Semipalmated Sandpipers were a bit more difficult. Seventeen at Great Fox I., June 17 (RH) were probably transients, but at S.P.S.P. single birds were noted June 22 (HLW), June 23 (MLH), and July 1 (MLH). At Blackwater N.W.R., Md. Armistead recorded four Semipalmated Plovers, four Semipalmated Sandpipers, and a White-rumped Sandpiper June 20. A peculiar influx of W. Sandpipers occurred at S.P.S.P. in June with a peak of six June 2 and the last one June 22 (HLW), and Pyle carefully observed a **Long-billed Curlew** at Deal I., June 12. The last report of the Chincoteague Black-necked Stilt was on June 11 (RLA & FRS), and a N Phalarope remained at Craney I. to June 4 (DLM *et al.*).

All Am. Oystercatcher and Willet nests found in the Great Fox I. area failed because of high tides or raccoon predation (RH). Four fledged young Piping Plovers were first noted at Craney I., July 17 (RLA), and an adult and three downy young Spotted Sandpipers were found at Poplar I., Md., June 25 (JR). Two Spotted Sandpipers at S.P.S.P., June 27 (MLH) were the first seen since late May and were thought to be exceptionally early arrivals. Among the other apparent early "fall" arrivals were a Solitary Sandpiper at Lilypons, Md., July 2 (MLH & SJM), a Short-billed Dowitcher at S.P.S.P., June 26 (HLW), and a Lesser Yellowlegs at the same place June 29 (MLH). Hoffman and Mele had an excellent count of 77 Piping Plovers on n. Assateague I., Md., July 30, and the best Whimbrel count was 400 at Chincoteague Ref., July 24 (RAR). Williams noted six Red Knots at Metomkin Inlet, Va., June 19, and Hoffman and Mele recorded 29 on n. Assateague I., July 22, possibly a record arrival for Maryland. Early Baird's Sandpipers were reported at Chincoteague Ref., July 18 (LKM) and two at S.P.S.P., July 25 (DB & MLH), the latter also possibly a record date for Maryland, and a **Curlew Sandpiper** found at Craney I., July 29 (BW) remained at least to Aug. 1 (RLA). A Dunlin was observed inland at Dyke marsh June 2-6 (OEF), and at n. Assateague I. possibly summering birds were noted July 14, 22, & 30 (MLH & SJM). Stilt Sandpipers arrived quite early again, being first found July 9 at both S.P.S.P. (MLH & SJM) and Craney I. (RLA). They peaked at 250 at the latter location July 30 (RLA). The first Marbled Godwit arrived at Craney I., July 18 (RLA), whereas Hudsonian Godwits were first noted at Chincoteague Ref., July 9 (LKM), increasing to 16 on July 24 (RAR & SW). Single Ruffs appeared at S.P.S.P., July 6 (MLH) and Craney I., July 16 (RLA), and up to two were present at Chincoteague Ref., July 10-21 (BWK, LKM, PP *et al.*). The 50 or so Am. Avocets at Craney I. in early June had increased to 168 by July 30 (FRS *et al.*), and elsewhere two were found at Fairmount W.M.A., Md., June 27 (HTA) and 20 at Wallops I., July 25 (CRV). Ake found a ♂ Wilson's Phalarope at Chincoteague Ref., June 4, and another male was seen at S.P.S.P., June 16-17 (MLH, SJM & HLW). The first apparent fall arrivals were three at Craney I., July 11 (RLA).

**JAEGERS AND GULLS** — The only jaeger report received was of a Pomarine seen along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., June 4 (RLA). A second-year Glaucous Gull was present at Craney I., June 4 - July 4 (DLM, RLA *et al.*), and an Iceland Gull unable to fly was picked up alive on Wreck I., Va., June 26 (BW & TFW). Great Black-backed Gulls were found nesting for the first time at Little Fox I., Va., June 9 when ten pairs of adults and one large downy young were located here (RLA & FRS). Huppman later observed two nests here. There were about 20 pairs nesting in the Smith I., Md., Herring Gull colony June 10 (RLA & FRS). Several new or previously unobserved Herring Gull colonies were located in Virginia, including 25 pairs at Little Fox I., June 9 (RLA & FRS) and 650 pairs near Hog I., Northampton Co., June 18 (MAB & BW). The colony on s. Metomkin I., new two years ago, had 375 pairs June 19 (MAB *et al.*) versus only 60 pairs in 1975 and had completely displaced the Laughing Gull colony that was here last year. This clear increase in the Virginia breeding population has ominous implications. Ring-billed Gulls summered locally in good numbers, peak count including 150 at Craney I., June 25 (FRS) and 120 near Alexandria, Va., June 29 (OEF), and a Black-headed Gull was present at Craney I., in early July (RLA & DLH).

**TERNs AND SKIMMERS** — Nesting success of beach and marsh colonies was considered excellent by Byrd, and there was thus less re-nesting late in the summer than usual. Metomkin I. had the best concentration of Gull-billed Terns with an estimated 500 pairs nesting there June 19 in several colonies on the middle and s. parts of the island (MAB *et al.*). Forster's Terns were feeding fledged young inland at Alexandria as early as June 14 (OEF), indicating an exceptionally early hatch somewhere along the coast. Several Com. Tern colonies were located on Chesapeake Bay, including two totaling 425 pairs on the Manokin R., Md., June 26-27 (MAB *et al.*) and 25 pairs on Little Fox I., June 9 (RLA & FRS). The only sizable late nesting of this species reported was at Fisherman I., Va., where Byrd and others counted 115 nests with eggs plus many nonfledged young July 30. A Roseate Tern at Little Cobb I., Va., June 19 (AEC *et al.*) was the only report of this species. Least Terns had an exceptionally good nesting season, and a newly located colony on Tangier I., Va. had 45 pairs June 10 (RLA & FRS). The Barren I., Md. colony was estimated at 100 pairs July 4 (HTA), but a nesting attempt at S.P.S.P. by four pairs was destroyed apparently by holiday crowds on July 4 (MLH & HLW).

About 4500 pairs of Royal Terns nested in several colonies along the immediate coast. Some 1160 of these were in two colonies in Maryland, and the largest concentration was about 2800 pairs on Fisherman I. (MAB, JSW *et al.*). Fourteen pairs of Sandwich Terns nested on Metomkin I., and single pairs nested on Fisherman I. and Chincoteague Bay, Md. (MAB & JSW). The increase in this species as a nesting bird has resulted also in a significant increase on observations reported for Chincoteague Ref. and elsewhere away from the nesting areas. In recent years apparently northward migrating Caspian Terns have become increasingly regular up into mid-June, and there have been increasing reports of apparently summering birds, inland as well as along the

coast, although it has often been difficult to categorize specific observations. This year they outdid themselves. On the Potomac R. near Dyke marsh, Va. four were seen as late as June 30 (OEF, LT & AV), four were observed on the Roanoke R., Va. e. of Kerr Res., June 26 (RMC), Armistead recorded two at Barren I., July 4, and Scott noted an amazing 28 near Hopewell, Va., June 26. For the third year this species nested in Virginia, an adult and a large downy young being found (and photographed) on Fisherman I., July 30 (MAB, FRS & BW). The pair that nested on Metomkin I. in 1974 and 1975 failed this year; the female was found dead on the beach July 17 with an egg still in the decomposed body cavity (EWM & JSW).

A puzzling record was a report of two ad. and one imm. Caspian Terns at Craney I., July 4 (RLA). Thus it is possible that other Caspians nested along the coast, although it is not an easy bird to miss on its nesting grounds, since it is aggressive, noisy, and does not normally associate with the abundant Royal Terns. Excellent breeding numbers of Black Skimmers included 1188 pairs on Fisherman I. (several visits) and 1665 pairs on the s two sections of Metomkin I., June 19 (MAB *et al.*). The first nesting for Chesapeake Bay was confirmed at Little Fox I., Va., when Huppman found two nests with eggs June 25 and a third July 9, but all failed because of high water. Apparently postbreeding (or nonbreeding) adult and a few imm. skimmers increased in this area of the Bay after early June, and Huppman had a peak count of 146 at Clump I., Va., later in the month. Farther up the Bay seven were seen at Blackwater Ref., June 21 (HTA) and two at Holland I., Md., July 3 (HTA & JF), apparently the first records for Dorchester County.

**OWLS THROUGH BLUEBIRDS** — Of eight Barn Owl nests with eggs found by Byrd, only two were successful. Reese, however, located two nests with young on May 23, one at Kent I. and the other near Cambridge, Md. Two Chuck-will's-widows were singing on the w. Piedmont near Lynchburg, Va., June 5 (DP), and two Com Nighthawks over Annapolis, Md., June 9 (HLW) were probably late migrants since they were not seen here later. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest found at Dyke marsh May 21 had young June 20 (OEF). Teuber had a peak count of six singing Willow Flycatchers in the Alexandria-Dyke marsh area June 7, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Chincoteague Ref., June 1 was very unusual for coastal Virginia (BWK & LKM). Four colonies of Bank Swallows totaling about 800 pairs were located on or near the James R. between Hopewell and Richmond during May and June (CRB & FRS), a significant increase in this apparently isolated population, and it is quite probable that other colonies also exist here.

The Cliff Swallow colony near Big Island, Va. had a final total of 28 nests in June and produced about 116 young (MRB & RC), and a single Cliff Swallow was noted at Great Falls, Va., June 5 (CLE), where no nesting colonies are presently known. A few northbound Blue Jays continued to move past S.P.S.P. in June and early July, including 45 on June 26 and 14 on July 7 (HLW). Single Short-billed Marsh Wrens were singing at Saxis, Va., June 3 & 12 (RLA) and at Chincoteague Ref., July 15 (BWK & LKM), whereas at Elliott I., Md. the peak count was seven on July 9 (HLW). A Swainson's Thrush, probably a late transient, was singing near Charlottesville,

Va., June 15 (ABD), and at Newport News, Va., 103 pairs of E. Bluebirds had fledged 615 young by the end of July (*vide* DLM).

**WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Cedar Waxwings seemed unusually common in e. Maryland (*vide* DB), and pairs were noted nest building near Lanexa, Va., June 12 (CRB & FM) and Green Springs, Va., June 25 (JBB). A singing Solitary Vireo at Fairy Stone S.P., Va., July 24 (CES) was unusual for the Piedmont, and a singing Warbling Vireo was noted near West Point, Va., June 13 (BW), well out of its normal range. A nesting season bird count at Lynchburg June 5 totaled 15 Warbling Vireos, nine Prothonotary, and five Yellow-throated Warblers, all excellent counts for the upper Piedmont (*vide* MRB). The **Swainson's Warbler** previously reported at Great Falls Park, Va., remained at least to June 2 (MF & EB, *vide* OEF), and another singing bird was found near Bassett, Va., June 25 (CES), another Piedmont locality for this species. Wierenga had a late Blackpoll Warbler at S.P.S.P., June 10, and one was singing at Clifton, Va. on the strange date of July 3 (JWE). Early migrating N. Waterthrushes were heard overhead at Chincoteague Ref. in the early morning hours of July 25 (RAR & SW), and one was found at Fort Meade, Md., July 26 (DB).

**BOBOLINKS THROUGH SPARROWS** — A singing ♂ Bobolink was seen at Chincoteague Ref., June 4 (RLA), and possible early fall transients were two near Hopewell July 3 (CRB) and two at S.P.S.P., July 11 (HLW). Adult Boat-tailed Grackles with fledglings were found along the York R. w. of Yorktown, Va. in late May (BW), a good 10 mi. w. of Chesapeake Bay, and a late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was singing at Clifton June 1 (JWE). Late Red Crossbill reports included five at Richmond June 2 (FRS), four at Elliott I., Md., June 5 (MLH, SIM & HLW), and one near Warsaw, Va., June 28 (FRS). Three Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Craney I., June 1 (RLA) were probably late migrants. They were found in several localities in the mid-Chesapeake in June and July, including ten at Saxis June 12 (RLA & FRS), 11 at Elliott I., June 26 (HTA), and six on Clump I., Va., June 27 (RH). Huppman also found a nest with eggs on Clump I., May 12, but it was empty a few days later. The colony of Henslow's Sparrows was still active at Elliott I., with a peak of nine reported there July 9 (HLW). A singing Swamp Sparrow was observed at Kent I., Md., June 5 (HLW), and another singing bird was present at Dyke marsh from June 20 through July (OEF). Apparently summering White-throated Sparrows included one at Green Springs, Va., June 6 (JBB) and another singing at Lynchburg up to June 21 (FTH).

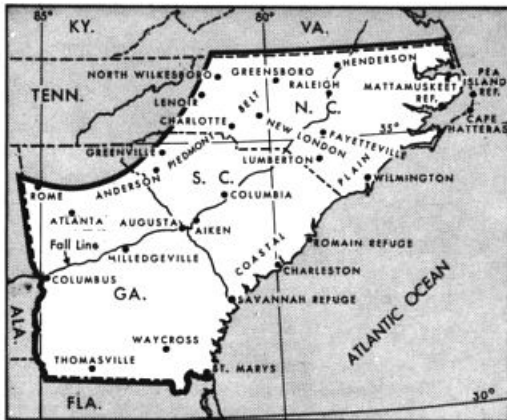
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## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION /Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

Weather conditions in June were rather dismal over most of the Region. It was unseasonably cloudy, wet, and cool over most of the area during the month, especially along the coast, where strong winds were common. July was an improvement in conditions for avian breeding,



even though it was quite hot and dry in many localities. In fact, central North Carolina was in an extended drought that began in April. Observers thought that the breeding season for passerines was fairly good, though rather sparse information was received concerning noteworthy sightings or range extensions of the group. Coastal bird colonies were hit hard by the June weather, with the majority of species faring poorly. Several very unusual non-breeding visitors appeared on the coast of the Region, but the highlight of the season was undoubtedly the northward expansion of the Wood Stork as a nesting species into our area.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — A Com. Loon was very late at L. Jocassee in extreme n.w. South Carolina June 17 (PH, HL). Unusual in mid-summer was a Pied-billed Grebe at Chapel Hill, N.C., July 1 (JOP). The peak counts of the four common shearwaters along and off the North Carolina coast predictably fit the pattern established in recent years. Sooties are seen in greatest numbers along the coast with strong E winds late May to early June (100+, Bodie I., June 5—RLA, PGD, HL *et al.*). Greaters peak offshore in June and early July (18 off Cape Lookout June 23, PHW; and 15-20 off Carolina Beach July 10, JFP), and Cory's and Audubon's peak offshore in July and August (94 Cory's and 21 Audubon's off Cape Hatteras Aug. 1—RAR). The **White Pelican** reported at Pea I., N.C., in the Spring Season summary lingered as late as June 23 (RF). This is

only the second record for the state in more than a decade. Brown Pelicans appeared to have had a successful nesting season at their few established colonies in the Region. Beckett estimated that 2000 pairs nested in the Charleston-Cape Romain, S.C. area, and Parnell noted a good season at the colony near Ocracoke, N.C. About 300 (80% adults) were counted at the latter site July 31 (RAR), an excellent count for the state. A White-tailed Tropicbird, very rare but perhaps regular offshore in summer, was sighted 33.5 miles s.e. of Beaufort Inlet, N.C., June 25 (DL, DM). Another rare summer visitor, although usually reported along the immediate shore, is the **Magnificent Frigatebird**: single birds were found at Morehead City, N.C., June 20 (BS, MS) and Cape I., S.C., July 25 (CSB, EB, JH). A Gannet was late at Myrtle Beach, S.C., where it was picked up alive on the beach June 24 (PP). Another late sighting was a **Double-crested Cormorant** inland at L. Pinehurst, N.C., June 13 (MJ).

**HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS** — The somewhat rough weather in June was perhaps the major cause for a rather poor nesting season by most of the colonially breeding species of waders along the North Carolina coast. Parnell and Soots reported that the **Glossy Ibis** fared especially poorly. Fussell, studying the well-known rookery at Morehead City, also mentioned that the **Glossy Ibis** did poorly in its first nesting attempt, but did much better in late June and July after improvement in the weather. The **White Ibis** is certainly not a Blue List species in this Region: an estimated 12,000 nests were observed at the Macks I. rookery at Okefenokee N.W.R., Ga., Apr. 28 (WM). Parnell, Soots, and Fussell mentioned that the species had an excellent season at the Battery I. site near Southport, N.C., and at Phillips I., near Morehead City, the northernmost breeding locality along the Atlantic Coast (50 pairs nested this summer). No word was received concerning the success or failure of the tremendous colonies along the South Carolina coast, where this ibis nests in quintuple figures.

An Emory University student discovered a large (and apparently previously unrecorded) heronry south of the Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., along the Chattahoochee R. Species reported as nesting were Anhinga, Little Blue and Louisiana [so far inland?—Ed.] Herons, Cattle Egret, White Ibis, and both species of gallinules (*vide* SP). A **Reddish Egret** was a casual visitor to the South Carolina coast at Huntington Beach S.P., July 14 (PP). A rookery of an estimated 350 pairs of Great Egrets was found on the N. Prong of the Suwannee R. in Okefenokee N.W.R., Apr. 28 (WM). Three Yellow-crowned Night Heron nests were discovered at the Phillips I. rookery at Morehead City; two of the nests produced a total of four young (JF). Noteworthy for the Piedmont, where the species is a rare and local breeder, was an immature at Winston-Salem, N.C., seen on several dates from July 3 to the end of the period (FB). Inland reports of possible breeding of Least Bitterns are becoming rare; thus, of interest were the reports of a good nesting season at Eufaula N.W.R. (SP), and the species was noted on several occasions this summer in the Clemson and Townville areas of n.w. South Carolina (HL).

**Wood Storks** made news throughout the Region. Wendell Metzen located active colonies at Okefenokee N.W.R., Apr. 28 at Craven's Hammock (150 pairs) and Mitchell I. (75 pairs), and eggs could be seen in some of

the nests on the aerial survey of the refuge. This is apparently the first positive breeding for Georgia, and the only other unquestionable nesting records for the Region were from the Charleston, S.C., area in 1885 and 1928, although there are many "possible" nesting records for these two states. Beckett found flocks containing juvenile birds in the Charleston area this spring, indicating breeding success at unknown locations, and a pair was seen copulating and another pair was nest-building at Fairlawn Plantation near Charleston Apr. 23 (PH). Unusual inland sightings were 13 birds ten miles south of Georgetown, Ga., June 18 (EJD, TD), two soaring over US 276 near Laurens, S.C., June 11 (MRL, RGH), and single immatures near Bolton, N.C., July 10-11 (TN) and Eden, N.C., June 2 (*vide* EB). **Three Am. Flamingos**, probably a record count for the Region, were seen on the Georgia coast near Little Egg I., July 9 (SS), and undoubtedly the same birds were reported by fishermen July 19 in Doboy Sound (*vide* EY). Since the birds were fully adult in good color, flew strongly, and were seen on that part of the Region's coast nearest to the breeding grounds at a time when post-breeding dispersal is most likely by waders, there is fairly convincing evidence that the birds were wild.

**WATERFOWL** — Most unusual in summer were five Fulvous Tree Ducks in a brackish pond in residential Brunswick, Ga., for several weeks in late July (EY *et al.*). A Ring-necked Duck was a very late straggler at Atlanta June 6 (JCa), and just as unusual was a sick ♂ Surf Scoter captured at Morehead City June 19 by John Fussell. The most likely scoter to linger along the coast in summer is the Black, one of which was seen on the Cape Fear R., near Southport, N.C., July 19 (JFP, RFS).

**RAPTORS** — The nesting population of Swallow-tailed Kite was studied in the Francis Marion N.F., S.C., this summer by John Cely, who reported that numbers were down from previous years and no nests were found. He estimated ten breeding pairs and a total population of 35 birds, but the species was outnumbered by Mississippi Kite 2:1. No Mississippi were sighted in North Carolina during the period, unlike previous summers, but 14 were seen nearby along the Pee Dee R., S.C., between Cheraw and Society Hill July 31 (RC, CE, AC *et al.*). The species appears to be increasing in numbers and range in South Carolina and it may be only a matter of several years before breeding is found in North Carolina.

The only Sharp-shinned Hawk reported during the season was one at Durham, N.C., July 3 (JOP). Summer sightings of Cooper's Hawks were limited to Atlanta (JS), Hillsborough, N.C. (MG), and Chapel Hill, N.C. (MG), where an ad. female was hit and stunned by a car on June 19. The bird recovered and was released. The first Bald Eagle nesting for North Carolina in several years was reported at Orton Plantation near Wilmington (EH, VH) Why this species is no longer nesting along the state's many thousands of miles of tidewater shoreline is a mystery. At least three pairs brought off young in the Charleston area this season (TB), and single immatures were seen in North Carolina at Morehead City (all summer, JF), Kerr Res. (June 19, MT), and the Chowan R. (June 10, CF). Both an adult and one or two immatures were seen during the summer at Lakes Keowee and Jocassee in n.w. South Carolina (WL *et al.*). A Marsh

Hawk was an unusual inland find for the season at N Wilkesboro, N.C., July 18 (WPS), as were single Ospreys at L. Gaston, N.C., (June 7, HL) and Clemson, S.C. (June 18-30, GH & HL). Breeding season sightings of Am Kestrels, as with most raptors in the Region, have been in short supply in recent years, thus reports of individuals at three spots in the Atlanta area (JS), near Ramseur (HL), Warrenton (HL), and Winston-Salem (KH) in North Carolina and Pendleton in South Carolina (HL) were of interest.

**RAILS, GALLINULES** — King Rails and Purple Gallinules had a good nesting season at Eufaula NWR (SP), which appears to have the largest populations of nesting marsh birds in the interior of the Region. Auditory records of King Rails near Pendleton May 30 and June 26 (HL) are the first indication of breeding by this species in the Clemson area. Virginia Rails are not known to nest in South Carolina, but LeGrand followed up his sighting of an adult near Townville in July 1975 with an adult on June 27 and a possible juvenile July 1, all at the same marsh. The species bred at Atlanta for two successive years in the early 1970s, and thus it might be nesting elsewhere in inland marshes. Just as unusual was an ad. Sora on June 29 at North R. marsh near Beaufort, N.C., perhaps the first breeding season report for the state (JF). The species has never been found nesting in the Region, and the brackish nature of the marsh seems to rule out such a possibility.

**SHOREBIRDS** — One-hundred Am. Oystercatchers on N. Rock I. near Portsmouth, N.C., and 38 Wilson's Plovers at nearby Ocracoke, both July 31, were high counts for the Outer Banks region (RAR). A Piping Plover nest with three eggs was discovered on Ocracoke I., July 8 (RFS, LJ, SE), a rare breeding record for North Carolina and near the s. limit of the nesting range. Rare but regular in late summer-fall along the coast were single Long-billed Curlews at Jekyll I., Ga., July 17 (D & DC) and Portsmouth I., N.C., July 31 (RAR, PGD, FS). One of the most remarkable migration highlights of late summer was an unusual movement of Spotted Sandpipers on July 31 along the Outer Banks, where the species is by no means common (RAR, PGD, FS). The observers counted approximately 100 beside and on the road on Ocracoke I. It was also the most common bird *on the beach* at Hatteras village, and many were heard in flight between 3:30 a.m. and daylight at the village. The same birders noted a Curlew Sandpiper in 90% breeding plumage on the n.e. tip of Portsmouth I., July 31, a very rare sighting for the Region.

Outstanding White-rumped Sandpiper counts for the Region were 27 inland at Eufaula N.W.R., May 16 (SP) and 70 at Pea I., June 6 (RAR *et al.*). A small flock was seen inland near Pendergrass, Ga., into early June (JP). Other noteworthy high counts were 5000 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 60 Black-necked Stilts at Pea I., June 6 (RAR). A pair of stilts set up a territory at North R near Beaufort, N.C., in late June, where the species is a rare breeder (JF). Stilts nest at just a handful of scattered coastal sites in the Region. Rare and early was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Jekyll I., July 17 (D & DC). Most unusual for June were a ♂ Wilson's Phalarope at Deveaux Bank near Charleston on the first (JHD) and two N. Phalaropes in the early part of the month near Pendergrass, Ga. (m.ob.).

GULLS, TERNS — The weather in June caused most of the smaller terns and Black Skimmers to have unsuccessful reproductive seasons along the North Carolina coast, according to Parnell and Soots, but nothing was received concerning the breeding success of Larids farther south. The larger species, such as the Herring Gull, Laughing Gull, and Royal Tern suffered little mortality. The very small breeding colonies of Great Black-backed Gulls and Caspian Terns at Oregon Inlet, N.C., were apparently successful (JFP, RFS). Both species were first found nesting there in 1972, and the gull breeds nowhere else in the Region. The Caspian Tern has also been found nesting in the past few years farther south at Hatteras Inlet and Cape Romain. Parnell and Soots also reported that the Herring Gull continued to nest in increasing numbers along the North Carolina coast. They also sighted a very late Glaucous Gull near Southport, N.C., May 11. Only two Bridled Terns were seen this summer, single birds off Beaufort Inlet, N.C., June 25 (DL, DM) and off Cape Hatteras Aug. 1 (RAR, PGD). Sooty Terns, much rarer than Bridleds in recent years in the Region, were noted onshore near Cape Lookout, N.C., July 3 (MC, SM, AM *et al.*) and Deveaux Bank near Charleston July 11 (SS *et al.*).

#### S.A.

Unlike most other terns, the Least has the unfortunate habit of nesting on mainland beaches and dunes in the Region, and these colonies usually produce few young. Thus, an encouraging report was the discovery of Least Terns breeding on rooftops in the Charleston area, in a habitat that should contain few predators. Forsythe found colonies of 16 and 40 birds on buildings at N. Charleston and another of 60 birds on the Naval Commissary at the Charleston Naval Base. These colonies averaged at least one young successfully reared per nest. It would be interesting to see if this trend continues not only in the Charleston area in future years but also at other coastal localities where human pressure continues to increase along beaches.

At least 75 Black Terns were seen at Jekyll I., July 17, a somewhat early date for such a number (D & DC).

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Barn Owls are the least numerous of the four owls breeding in the Region, and thus of interest were reports of its nesting in a duck blind in Pamlico Sound at Bodie I., N.C. (RF), and at unspecified sites at Atlanta (three young; JS) and Eden, N.C. (five young; FW, MW). Another Barn Owl was noted at Cedar I., N.C., June 10 (JF). Pat Probst photographed a **Burrowing Owl** at Huntington Beach S P, S C., June 24. The species is a casual visitor to the coast of the Region, and the surprising June date suggests that the bird might have been a post-breeder from Florida rather than a stray from the West. A small population of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers was discovered this spring by Barbara Lee in the s. Piedmont of North Carolina in the Uwharrie N.F., Montgomery Co. This is now the westernmost present site for this woodpecker in the state. The small resident population

in n. Wake County, near Raleigh continues to persist (BD), and approximately 27 colonies were located in a section of Ft. Bragg, Cumberland Co., N.C., this summer (JHC). The latter area is located in the Sandhills region long known to have a high population of this endangered species.

Four Gray Kingbirds were at Jekyll I., July 17 (D & DC), and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always unpredictable in its occurrence in the Region, was sighted at Ft. Benning, Ga., May 31 (MF). Even though most of the nesting habitat at the N. Wilkesboro, N.C., "colony" of Willow Flycatchers has been destroyed, one bird was present there June 16 (WPS). The breeding fate of the Region's only other presently known "colony" at Raleigh was not reported. The species must certainly be nesting at other Piedmont localities between these two sites, yet only one bird on territory at Chapel Hill several years back is all that we have to fill this gap in the breeding range.

CREEPERS THROUGH WARBLERS — A Brown Creeper at Columbus, Ga., June 30 was an astonishing summer visitor to the Region (ECo). Unusual numbers of Cedar Waxwings were present this summer in Piedmont North Carolina, where they nest on very rare occasions, but no positive evidence of breeding was detected. As many as five were seen on several dates in June near Zebulon (EP), two were found in Burlington June 13 (RC, CE, BR), and numerous individuals were seen all summer at Winston-Salem (m.ob.). Solitary Vireos were apparently absent during the spring and summer at Southern Pines, N.C., at the e. edge of the breeding range, but a vireo was singing there July 24-27 (JHC) Black-and-white Warblers were noted as breeding near Hillsborough, N.C., June 6 (JOP, ET), and others were seen late May in Durham, Orange, and Chatham Cos by the same observers. A Swainson's Warbler was on territory in May and June near Central, S.C., (HL) and an adult and a fully fledged immature were seen along Swift Creek near Raleigh June 26 (CO). Both of these Piedmont records strongly suggest breeding, which in the Southern Atlantic states is confined almost exclusively to the mountains and Coastal Plain. A Worm-eating Warbler was south of its breeding range at Columbus, Ga., June 17 (FL), and other rare sightings were made at Hillsborough (June 6; JOP, ET) and Winston-Salem (July 4; KH).

ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS — A pair of N. Orioles was found nesting again at Winston-Salem (*vide* RS), providing a very rare breeding record for the Region. A Scarlet Tanager was unusually far to the south at Brookgreen Gardens near Myrtle Beach, S.C., June 26 (PP). On July 31 a singing ad. ♂ Painted Bunting was observed at Jefferson, S.C. (MB). This location is in the Sandhills region in the n. part of the state and well inland and to the northwest of present breeding sites in the Region. Gauthreaux discovered a small Dickcissel colony near Pendleton, S.C., in mid-May, but the three males and a female departed by the end of the month when the field they were occupying was mowed.

Each succeeding summer sees a slight increase in House Finch reports, and three sightings were made in 1976, all in the Piedmont. At Charlotte, where the Region's first nesting was established last year, two pairs were seen, and one adult was feeding a full-grown young June 30 (EC). Another breeding site was recorded at Winston-Salem (two fledglings seen in July; *vide* RS), and breeding may have occurred near Rock Hill, S.C., where a male was observed singing constantly and a female was seen gathering food July 31 (MB).

A pair of Am. Goldfinches was noted near Rocky Mount, N.C., July 8, and a male was found two miles away July 25 (LCF). These sightings are along the e. edge of the breeding range. Also near the poorly-delimited e. edge of its range was a singing Bachman's Sparrow in n.e. Warren Co., N.C., June 7 (HL). The Song Sparrow had spread as a breeding species over most of the North Carolina Piedmont by the 1960s, but little or no increase in numbers or range extension has since been seen. Although common as far east as Burlington, it is apparently rare or absent in other towns in the n.e. section of the Piedmont, according to a survey by Robin Carter. In South Carolina and Georgia the species is still restricted as a breeder to the upper portions of the Piedmont and little or no recent expansion has been noticed in those states either during the 1970s.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The report of a flight of 134 Cooper's Hawks in the fall of 1975 at Ocracoke I., N.C.

(AB 30:52) is almost certainly incorrect, in view of the scarcity of the Cooper's on the Outer Banks, where the Sharp-shinned Hawk is a rather common fall migrant. The totals as depicted in Table 1 clearly indicate that all or nearly all the 134 birds were Sharp-shinned.

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**PLEASE NOTE** — Contributors should continue to send their seasonal reports to Robert P. Teulings, Route 2, Box 154, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

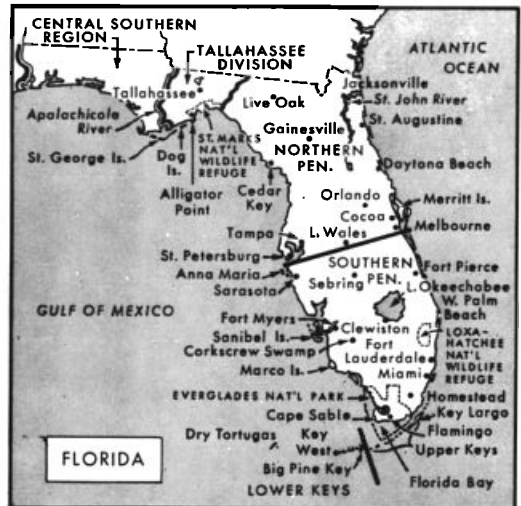
## FLORIDA REGION

/John C. Ogden

No unusual weather was noted during the summer period, and birds presumably were generally successful at nesting. The rainy season started early in south Florida, during mid-May, and rains throughout the peninsula were generally normal or above normal. Much of the field work in Florida this summer pertained to colonial water birds, particularly the studies of terns along the East Coast, and the state-wide wading bird survey.

**SHEARWATERS, BOOBIES, STORM-PETRELS, FRIGATEBIRDS** — On a round trip between the Florida Keys and Cay Sal Bank July 5-7, 14 Audubon's Shearwaters were seen enroute and 75 Brown Boobies were counted on cliffs on Water Key (CP). The same observer saw a large, all-dark shearwater in the Florida Straits off Key Largo Aug. 1. A small shearwater, identified as an Audubon's, was 8 mi. off Dog I., Franklin Co., July 10 (RLC & NOW), providing about the third record for the species in the Tallahassee Division. A Leach's Storm-Petrel picked up near Tallahassee July 4 and delivered to Tall Timbers Research Station, was the second reported in that division (HMS). The Magnificent

Frigatebird nesting colony on the Marquesas Keys was examined from a small plane July 10, and contained a record high count of 250 nests, most with young (PWS & AWW).



**WADING BIRDS** — Coordinated surveys of colonial wader colonies were again conducted on Florida's East Coast (SAN, HWK, DW, JAK), and throughout the interior and West Coast of the peninsula (JCO, SAN, HWK). These data are being analyzed at the National Audubon Society's research office as part of a program to measure colonial wader population dynamics on a regional basis. In 1976, data were gathered from about 175 colonies, so many that it is no longer possible to summarize the survey in this report. A few highlights, however, need to be presented.

#### S.A.

Cattle Egrets have become the most abundant colonial nesting wader in Florida, even outranking the numerous White Ibis. About 200,000 pairs nested in the peninsula this spring and summer, only 23 years after the first Cattle Egret nest was found in Florida. Polk County, long claiming the title of citrus capitol of the U.S.A. (more citrus than all of California) now seems to be the Cattle Egret capitol as well. During June, approximately 20,000 pairs of Cattle Egrets in ten colonies were nesting in Polk. Other counties with over 10,000 pairs of nesting Cattle Egrets include Collier, Hillsborough, and Lake.

In the Everglades and Big Cypress regions of south Florida, waders apparently are making a seasonal shift in nesting, from spring to summer. Historically, the larger heron-egret-ibis colonies in the southern interior formed during February and March, and largely finished by the time of heavy summer rains. Surveys this year revealed more inland colonies were initiated after the rains started during late May-June than during the spring, and included discovery of seven summer colonies previously unknown (JCO). I suggest that the former large spring colonies were supported by dry season concentrations of fish, and that this food supply no longer is available to waders during spring in wetland ecosystems now heavily managed or drained. Five of these inland summer colonies contained about 1000 pairs of Great Egrets, a species that has been considered a traditional winter-spring nester in south Florida.

The state-wide surveys also produced the best-yet estimate of Wood Stork numbers, including the discovery of two "lost" colonies in a section of central Florida where old nesting sites were abandoned, but until this year no new sites were known. Approximately 150 pairs of storks nested at Blue Lake in the Green Swamp, and 450 pairs at Mulberry, Polk Co., (JCO, JBE, LR). The latter site is an impounded phosphate settling pond of several hundred acres full of dead trees, and looks more like a moonscape than a wader colony. According to a local rancher, the "white birds" (storks and egrets) moved there when the impoundment was constructed about three years ago, and had previously nested in a nearby swamp. The fact that storks preferred this ugly spot for nesting argues strongly that most natural

swamps in central Florida are no longer wet enough during spring to support nesting; storks insist on nesting over standing water or on islands. With the discovery of the new colonies, the known breeding population of storks in the United States now stands at 6000 pairs, in about sixteen Florida colonies and one Georgia colony.

Great White Herons were reported well north of their nesting range: two at Palm Beach Gardens June 9 (HMS), one at Myakka S. P., June 6 (KCA), and one at Tampa for three weeks beginning July 12 (JBE) Immature, dark Reddish Egrets dispersed up both coasts to n. Florida; one to Ft. George I., Duval Co., July 4 (WCH & BSO), and one to St. George I., Franklin Co., July 10 (HMS). A Reddish Egret near Naples July 11 was in a rarely-seen mottled grey and white plumage (THB) One Am. Bittern was flushed in the St. John marsh s.w. of Rockledge July 12 (HWK). About 50 pairs of Glossy Ibis initiated nesting in a Cattle Egret colony at Taylor Slough, Everglades N.P., during June, but most deserted (egrets stayed) and only about five pairs remained in late July (JCO, DW, SB). Glossies have not been known to nest that far south in the peninsula since the 1930s Thirty Roseate Spoonbills were counted along the coast of St. Johns and Duval Counties during June and July (m ob.).

**DUCKS, HAWKS** — Mallards apparently nested in Leon County, where eight were near L. Jackson July 17 (HMS), and a brood of young with adults was seen during June (EHS). The origin of these Mallards is unknown, but they are wary. A ♂ Ring-necked Duck was on L. Lafayette, Leon Co., July 1, and (same bird?) near L. Jackson July 17 (HMS). Canvasbacks summered in two locations: one female at McKay Bay (DL & SL), and up to three on L. Wailes (JH). An unusually large number of summering (?) scoters was recorded at Alligator P., Wakulla Co., a Black June 1 (HMS & FHS), and twenty-five surf's June 19 (CHW). Twelve Ruddy Ducks, including males in full color, were on a fresh pond near McKay Bay June 13 - July 11, where nesting was looked for but not found (DL & SL). Florida has acquired another Masked Duck specimen, an injured female picked up 5 mi. e. of Naples July 17 (WP). The bird died, and was sent to Univ. of S. Florida. High counts of Swallow-tailed Kites were 37 over the marsh on the w. side of L. Okeechobee July 11 (PWS & AWW), and 24 e. of Hastings, St. Johns Co., July 10 (RWL & RS). Swallow-taileds may be increasing in the Tallahassee Div., where there were 4-5 records this summer (HMS). A Mississippi Kite was south of its known breeding range at Yeehaw Junction July 17 (DV & BV). Cooper's Hawks, apparently less rare during summer than I once thought, were reported from Jacksonville during June (SAG), and Sanibel I., July 27 (DBF). A Broad-winged Hawk near Black Creek, Clay Co., June 6, may have been near a breeding station (SAG), while one imm. Broad-winged remained at the Dry Tortugas through June 17 (HWK *et al.*). Short-tailed Hawks were seen near Lake Harbor, Palm Beach Co., June 8 and s.w. of Inglis, Citrus Co., July 5 (both HMS), and at two spots along Alligator Alley, Collier Co., July 25 (JMS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The main theme was an early, heavy southbound flight during July, which prompted John Edscoorn to suggest that something must have gone wrong on the nesting grounds for so many birds to be heading south so soon. Early arrivals included one Semipalmated Plover July 12, Tampa (JBE), a Com. Snipe Aug. 14 at Zellwood (PJF, CG & JBE), nine Upland Sandpipers July 29 at Jacksonville (BSO), one Spotted Sandpiper at Wakulla Springs July 9 (HMS), Red Knot, fifty at McKay Bay July 12 (m.ob.), one Dunlin at Tampa July 21 (CHC), Stilt Sandpiper, one at Key West July 10 (PWS & AWW) and six at Tampa July 17 (JBE), Buff-breasted Sandpiper, one at Zellwood July 31 (NOW, JBE *et al.*), and Wilson's Phalarope, one at Tampa July 17 (JBE). An indication that this flight was no trickle is shown by the following high numbers. Tampa had counts of 208 Dunlin and 3000 Short-billed Dowitchers by July 23 (600 of the latter at McKay Bay as early as July 12), and 40 Semipalmated Sandpipers and ten Western Sandpipers July 12 (JBE). At Zellwood there were high counts of 900 Pectoral Sandpipers July 27 (CHC, PJF & CG). Unusual inland was a single Ruddy Turnstone and a Sanderling Aug 14 (JBE *et al.*) at Zellwood. The prize in all this flood of birds was a **Curlew Sandpiper** found at McKay Bay July 11 (DL & SL) and eventually seen by many observers on seven dates through July 31. It was in breeding plumage when found, photographed (LH, BB, CG), and molted almost entirely into the gray plumage when last seen. The bird had a disconcerting (to bird-watchers) way of ranging between McKay Bay and Hooker's Pt., a few miles away, and often fed with Stilt Sandpipers (JBE). Other shorebird migration notes included two White-rumped Sandpipers near Jacksonville June 27 (BSO), that possibly were late northbound, and four Greater Yellowlegs June 13, in s. Hardee County (NIC) that defy logical guesses as to what they were up to (lost?). Snowy Plovers again summered at Sanibel (DBF), and two pairs nested on Johnson Shoals w. of Cayo Costa (OHH), but no Snowies were located at Dunedin Beach where they have nested in previous years (JBE)

**GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — Estimates of Laughing Gull colonies included about 1000 nests in Gasparilla Sound (OHH), and a surprisingly high count of 1400 pairs nesting in 15 scattered colonies in Florida Bay and the lower Florida Keys (DW & JAK). The Bird I. tern colonies in Nassau Sound were generally successful, although high water on June 7 destroyed about 100 Gull-billed Tern nests. The estimated production on Bird I., was 150 Gull-billed Tern chicks, 1500-1800 Royal Tern, 15 Sandwich Tern and 1500 Black Skimmer young (SS & RWL). An estimated 25-30 pairs of Roseate Terns nested in Key West Harbor June 14 (HWK). Many Least Tern colonies were reported, some of the larger being a successful nesting by 180 pairs on the Sears roof, Ft. Pierce (WED), 105 nests with eggs on Sanibel June 9 (GLW), 180 nests on a Sears warehouse in Jacksonville (BSO), and successful nesting in two colonies of about 100 pairs each on spoil islands near Wabasso and Grant (HWK). The large colony of Least at Key Haven, near Key West, was down to only c. 100 pairs this summer, apparently due to plant succession in the colony (FTH). Least Terns suffered from Fish Crow predation at the Jacksonville Sears site (BSO), and unexplainedly

declined from 83 nests with eggs on July 18 to no nests on Aug. 1 at the Nassau Sound Bird I. (RWL). Counts of terns on the Cay Sal banks, July 5-7 (CP) included 300-500 Sooty Tern and 100 Brown Noddy nests at Water Key, 6000 Sooty and 1000 Noddy Terns (nesting?) at Elbow Key, and eight Roseate Terns in courtship flight at Cay Sal. Additional Black Skimmer colonies included 50 pairs preparing nest scrapes on Sanibel June 9 (GLW), a count of 40 Skimmers (8 or more nests) on a Dadeland store roof, Miami, June 25 (MT), and 100 Skimmers (several scrapes, 8 with eggs) at Virginia Key, Miami, Aug. 6 (MT). The Dadeland colony failed to produce young owing to heavy rains and interference from maintenance people.

**PARAKEETS, CUCKOOS, OWLS, SWIFTS** — Canary-winged Parakeets may now be establishing in Tampa, where ten were counted in a roost June 5 (DL & GL). The large colony of Canary-wingeds in Miami apparently had similar modest beginnings. A fledgling Monk Parakeet was being fed at a nest, and five adults were seen in Tampa during early June (DL & GL). During late spring, a pair of Hispaniolan Parakeets (*Aratinga chloroptera*) were roosting with Canary-wingeds near Miami City Hall, the first report of this species in the great zoo without bars called Miami (JBE *et al.*). A high count of eight Mangrove Cuckoos was made along a one-mile stretch of back road on Saddle Bunch Key, July 10 (PWS & AWW). Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos were on St. George I., Franklin Co., June 4 & July 10 (JMS & HMS), where this species has not previously been known to summer. A high count for the Florida Keys of seven Burrowing Owls was obtained July 10 at the Marathon golf course (PWS & AWW). Chimney Swifts were fairly far south along the East Coast, with up to two at Delray Beach July 2 & 24 (PWS), and two at West Palm Beach throughout June and July (RHP).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, THRUSHES, VIREOS** — A late-surfacing report is of an Olive-sided Flycatcher well seen and described at the Dry Tortugas, May 28 (RRR). Summering or very early southbound Tree Swallows were reported from several localities, two at Newman's L., June 21, and one there July 5 (JEC, JJC), several in Hardee County July 4 (JBE), four at St. Mark's Refuge July 14 (WMC), and 4-5 at three locations in Everglades N.P., July 31 & Aug. 1 (DBF). Bahama Swallows remained in the lower Florida Keys into summer, including one on Sugarloaf Key June 23 (HWK) and one on Cudjoe Key June 28 (LH & DH). Who will be the first person to find a Bahama Swallow nest in the United States?

Barn Swallows continued to expand their breeding range, with four nesting under the old Crescent Beach ICW bridge, St. Johns Co., June 20 (CHC). Seven Barn Swallow nests and up to 35-40 birds were on the St. George I. causeway June 4 (HMS), and single Barn Swallows were near Tallahassee July 6 (GEM), and Hialeah Gardens June 22 (HMS). A Purple Martin flying directly ESE at Apalachicola June 1 was considered by Henry Stevenson to be a migrant. By late June, several thousand martins were roosting at Fort Myers beach (KC), and 3000-5000 were in a Gainesville roost July 9 (MC). A pair of robins, including singing male, were in Tampa June 13 - July 17 (DL & GL), far south of their

known nesting range. Very late was a Swainson's Thrush on the Dry Tortugas May 28 (RRR). A singing Red-eyed Vireo on Turner R., Collier Co., June 23, was at the far southern limit for this species' nesting range (HMS).

**WARBLERS, FINCHES** — An early flight of Black-and-white Warblers produced one at the WCTV tower July 16 (RLC), and one on the same date at Gainesville (PIL). In the Arlington area of Jacksonville, single Black-and-whites were seen June 8 & July 10 (JDH), both dates surprisingly out of season if the birds were migrants. The earliest Cerulean Warbler for the N. Pen. was one at Zellwood Aug. 7 (BA & LA), while a Bay-breasted Warbler June 4 on St. George I., may have been the latest spring transient recorded in Florida (HMS & JMS). Two Prairie Warblers were singing at Black Hammock I., Jacksonville, June 20, where there is no nesting record (VMM). Kentucky Warblers have long been known to summer in the Wakulla Tract, Wakulla Co., one of the few probable breeding sites in the Florida Region. This summer, two birds that appeared to be locally fledged were seen there July 8 (RLC). One or more Yellow-breasted Chats seen in Citrus County July 5 may represent a range extension (HMS). Finally, an ad. ♂ Painted Bunting on the e. boundary of Everglades N.P., June 17 (JAK), and an imm. male at the Dry Tortugas July 10 (PWS & AWW), were far south of their breeding range. The appearance of a bunting on the Tortugas suggests a southward movement much earlier than previously recognized for this species.

**ADDENDUM** — Omitted from the Florida Region's spring migration report was the record of a **Lesser Nighthawk** collected on St. George I., May 19 (JMS), the first specimen record for the state (\*Tall Timbers).

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## ONTARIO REGION

/Clive E. Goodwin

It was a very uneventful summer. The cold late spring provided fewer late migration records than the cold springs of recent years, but may have significantly delayed breeding. Certainly many late nestings were reported and most observers who follow nesting closely seemed to believe that nesting activities were late, or with forced second and third broods.

Lack of shorebird habitat perhaps reduced the early fall sightings of this group. Not much July passerine movement was observed, although July 14-27 yielded record-early warblers for the Hamilton region, principally of those species that normally move early (MJ *et al.*). This relative lack of movement was in spite of a cool July—and in contrast to a hot dry June across the north—and again supports the theory of a late season.

**LOONS, GREBES** — The limited news on Com. Loon breeding success was mixed: at Pimisi Bay, Louise Lawrence noted the absence of loons from the disturbed waters, a comment typical of those from observers on the more frequented lakes. On the other hand a study in the Kingston area reported 16 young fledged from 18 nests surveyed (K.F.N.), an encouraging success rate. Post-breeding flocks included 35-40 birds at Quetico by July 7 (SP *et al.*) and a high of 26 birds near Marathon July 27 (NGE). The highest count of non-breeders along the lower Great Lakes was at Burlington, with six on June 20 (AW, RF). The same area had up to seven Red-necked

Grebes throughout (m.ob.). A Red-throated Loon was at Amherst I., June 1 (GW, BH). Most noteworthy of scattered Horned Grebe reports were two at Quetico, July 24 (SP).

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — A White Pelican at Long Pt., July 7-9 (L.P.B.O.) and one at Erieau from mid-July (m.ob.) was likely the same bird. This is the second successive year that this species, normally very



rare east of its Lake-of-the-Woods breeding station, has shown up along the Lower Lakes in summer. There were few Double-crested Cormorant reports, and none of nesting: highest numbers were 16 at Black Bay May 26 (JR) and 12 records from the United Counties (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry) in the east (AJTB). It is encouraging to find that more and more observers are reporting on the status of active heronries. When this can be done without excessive disruption to the colonies themselves it enables a much better assessment to be made of the trends of heron populations in the Province. The Birdsall heronry, with some 170 active Great Blue Heron nests (DCS), was the largest reported this year and three more were in the 75-nest range. Most heronries reported seemed to range between 20 and 30 nests, with six or seven of this size located across the Province. Two Green Herons in Algonquin P.P., June 20 (RT) were unusual. No Cattle Egret nests were reported, but up to 16 birds were seen across the Lower Lakes, with one north to Southampton (CBm) and a high of five at Chippewa July 17-31 (RLS). Great Egrets were east to Peterborough where there were three reports June 18 - July 4 (BT, GC). Other wandering herons included a Snowy Egret in Toronto June 26 (KMCL), a Louisiana Heron at Long Pt., June 22 (SCF, DD), a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Rondeau July 23 (SF, LR), and—unusual for the area—a Least Bittern on Manitoulin I., June 16 (PG).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans were seen at Long Pt., June 10-19 (L.P.B.O.) and Isaac L., June 13 (GB). Small flocks of Canada Geese were widespread in localities where they do not normally occur in summer, from Thunder Bay south to Collingwood, and in both June and July. In the species' expanding southern range there were 101 at Mountsberg July 10 (EK, HK) and at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary (U.C.M.B.S.) near Morrisburg there were 97 nests, with 33% of the man-made nesting structures in use (AJTB). Early June yielded the usual late Brant reports, with 75 on Wolfe I., June 1 (WT) the largest flock, and there were three at Iroquois as late as July 2 (SF). There were also scattered Snow Geese: 15 at Gore Bay June 8 (RRu), and single birds at Wawa June 5 (CEG), Marathon June 16 (NGE) and Terrace Bay Aug. 6 (NJ). The most unusual waterfowl species over the period was a well-described **Fulvous Tree Duck** at Hamilton June 4-5 (KMCL, m.ob.). The species has only been recorded in three previous years, the first in 1960, and there have been none in a decade. Every season brings new stories of expanding Gadwalls: Long Pt. and Simcoe County had their first proven nestings, with other nests at Luther, Toronto and Burlington, and the birds were widespread in good numbers across the south, and east to the United Counties with 50 there July 19 (SF). The only recent Detroit Survey area nesting of Pintails listed two broods in Kent County (*vide* AHK), and other noteworthy nestings include a Green-winged Teal nest with eight eggs at Warton June 14 (JWJ) and a N. Shoveler with two young at U.C.M.B.S. (SF)

Seven drake Wood Ducks at the Powassen sewage lagoons June 1 (CEG, JEG) was a good number, and there was a pair at Rainy River May 20 (RDJ). Summering diving ducks were widespread across the south, both along the lower Great Lakes and on inland waters, particularly sewage lagoons. Whether the numbers of such

waterfowl really are increasing or whether the ever-increasing reports simply reflect the wider summer coverage of suitable areas is anyone's guess. Reports extended north to Chelmsford with an Oldsquaw June 13 (JL) and Marathon with a White-winged Scoter June 26 (NGE). Ruddy Ducks were again numerous with a bird at Ottawa and five at Amherstview throughout (m.ob.) and the Toronto area's first breeding was at Cranberry Marsh (*vide* JMS).

VULTURES, HAWKS — For the first time in many years some reporters suggested that Turkey Vulture numbers were smaller, the first possible pause in their steady expansion in the Province. All the Accipiters provided widespread nesting reports, but nests of these elusive species are too infrequently located to provide much of a picture of their status. The season provided little new information on hawk numbers generally: both Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks seemed to be holding their own with few reports received, and Broad-winged were widespread south to Long Pt., where five pairs were present (RC). Summer Rough-legged Hawks were at Ridgeway June 3 (HHA), two at Amherst I., June 8 (BH) and a bird at Sombra on the even more unlikely date of July 4 (DR). Apart from successful nestings at Quetico (SP) Bald Eagle reports were all of wandering birds—seven in all were reported, including an adult that spent some time at the old Long Pt. nest (L.P.B.O.). Osprey news, on the other hand, was good. The 18 active nests reported include some in locations where the birds have been absent: for example, Go Home Bay, where a nest (on a telephone pole) was the first in 30 years (CH). At Kingston there were eight young fledged from five nests whose fate was known (K.F.N.). Seven Merlin nests were located, south to Manitoulin I. The only Peregrine Falcon sighting was on June 23 at Peterborough (GC)

GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS — A Bobwhite was calling at Cannington Aug. 5 (JBM). Thunder Bay had two sightings of Sandhill Cranes (*vide* KD) and at least one of the two birds sighted at Ottawa in May was present throughout (*vide* RAF). Four birds displaying at Gogama May 15 (CW) could well be local breeders. A pair of King Rails bred successfully at Long Pt. (RC). Reports of Virginia Rails from areas where the species is rare included one of a bird calling in Algonquin P.P., June 9 and July 11 (RT, RP, DMcC *et al.*), and on the Atikokan R an adult was accompanied by four newly hatched young June 19 (DHE). It was a remarkable year for Yellow Rails: there have been no breeding reports from the south since their station in Holland Marsh dried up in the early '60s, and only scattered reports for migration. This year birds were calling persistently in a new section of Holland Marsh (JLa *et al.*), in an area identified several years ago as the only suitable habitat remaining, and the Richmond Marsh near Ottawa produced up to 17 on June 1 (*vide* RAF). Apparently the birds either cease to call early in the season, or moved out of both locations, since there were no reports after mid-June.

SHOREBIRDS — Only four Piping Plover were present on the Sable I., Lake of the Woods, in late May, and low water levels had made the area vulnerable (RDJ). At Long Pt. there were six nests, although probably only three pairs, and only three young were hatched (GWM *et*



al) American Woodcock were still in flight display on the late date of July 28 at Peterborough (DMcR). Kettle Pt. had up to eight pairs of Com. Snipe (AR), a rare breeder in the southwest. Upland Sandpiper continues to increase into the Peterborough area (*vide* DCS) and there was one at Burk's Falls June 25 (REW, JG). Wilson's Phalaropes were in exceptional numbers: they were common at Lake of the Woods in May (RDJ), there was a good population at Luther Marsh (CBr), up to four pairs at Manitoulin (JN), birds at Richmond (PH) and Amherstview sewage lagoons (K.F.N.) which were probably nesting, and a newly hatched young at Toronto (AW, RR, PW) was the first nesting there.

Shorebird movement was unexceptional, with an almost total absence of suitable habitat. As usual, there were both late spring and early fall reports, with fall passage underway by July 2, but there were relatively few reports from that ambiguous period at the end of June when the birds could be heading either way, or simply spending the summer in the south! The landfill spit extending three miles into L. Ontario at Toronto was one of the exceptions to the lack of habitat, and this relatively new area is proving one of the best locations for waterbird migrants in the Province. Noteworthy there were a Whimbrel from mid-July (JAK), a Marbled Godwit from June 20 (m.ob.) and 12 White-rumped Sandpipers June 20 (AW, RF). Elsewhere there were 16 White-rumped at Blenheim June 7 (PDP). A flock of 50 Semipalmated Sandpipers in Algonquin P.P., June 3 (RP *et al.*) was the biggest-ever in this shorebird "desert"; along the St. Lawrence Iroquois had 3000+ by July 30 (AJTB). The outstanding shorebird sighting was a **Spotted Redshank** at St. Davids July 25 (HHA *et al.*) which was carefully described and constitutes the first sighting for the Province

**GULLS, TERNS** — A Glaucous Gull at Spratt Pt., Simcoe Co., July 21 (DS, CJM) was one of very few summer records of this species. There were two or three noteworthy Great Black-backed: two at Erieau July 25 (SJ *et al.*) and birds at Pt. Pelee July 21 (CEG, JEG) and Oliphant in July (DR). Nesting colonies of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were doing well in all areas reporting. The largest Ring-billed colony was one of 10,000 birds at Cornwall (SF) and there were 3360 birds and 498 nests of Herring Gulls at Nottawasaga I., June 13 (DS, CH, CJM). Ring-billed range north to Black Bay, L. Superior, where the birds were unusually successful this year with some 80% success on first nestings (JR). A Black-headed Gull was at Bronte from July 3 (CEG, JEG, m.ob.), and Laughing Gulls at U.C.M.B.S. July 2 & 9 (SF) and Hamilton July 14-25 (AE) may well have been the same bird. Two Franklin's Gulls were also seen, at Long Pt. June 19 (AW) and Burlington July 3 (KMCL). There was no news of Little Gull nesting this year, but there were at least 40 at Long Pt. July 17 (BE, RC) and some 12 reports from other areas along the Lower Lakes and east to Ottawa. July 7 was an unusual date for a Black-legged Kittiwake at Morrisburg (SF). Finally Ontario has substantiated breeding of Forster's Terns, after years of rumors. A colony of some 50 pairs was located at Long Pt., May 29 - June 6, and 28 nests were checked (MHF, EHD, DJTH). There were about a dozen other reports of the species, some of several birds, from elsewhere in the south.

Several colonies of both Common and Caspian Terns were visited and appeared to be prospering: in the absence of much comparative data little more can be said. Caspians inland at L. Chemung July 4 (GC), Magnetawan July 30 (AM) and Earl Rowe P.P. in July (BP) may reflect southward movements of this species towards the late summer concentrations along L. Ontario.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Mourning Dove at Marathon June 16 (NGE) and a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Dunsford from June 29 (DH) were near range limits. A late Great Horned Owl nesting at Ottawa was in a barn, of all places. The young were banded June 13 (BB). There were scattered sightings of other owls: Long-eareds at Pimisi Bay June 8-9 (LdeKL) and Toronto July 26 (JD *et al.*), a Short-eared on Amherst I., July 1 (GB) and four Saw-whet Owls visiting a swimming pool in Owen Sound in July (LC). Seems it was a season for eccentric owls! There were two Chuck-will's-widows, one at Prince Edward Point (below P.E.Pt.) to June 2 (FC) and another at Rondeau June 16 (AWf) A Red-bellied Woodpecker was recorded at a new location in Lambton County June 13 (DR).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A Great Crested Flycatcher was in Paipoonge Twp. to July 4 (m.ob.) Acadian Flycatchers were recorded at Millgrove July 13 (AW, BW) and Mud L., Oxford Co., July 13 (DB), and a nest at Westover July 7-31 was the first Hamilton area nesting (AW *et al.*). Willow Flycatchers were well established in Bruce County (JWJ) and there were both Traill's species in Holland Marsh (M&OED). At Palgrave there were six Alders to one Willow (GB), but the Lambton County B.B.S. had six of each (DR). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at P.E.Pt., Aug. 1 (AW, MJ) was early Erratic breeding behaviour of Tree Swallows in the early season north and west of Toronto (GB) probably reflected the cold spring. By July 27 migrant flocks were building and there were 20,000 at Waubushene (CH, AM). There was a pair of Rough-winged Swallows at Lively in June (JL). In Thunder Bay two young Barn Swallows were still being fed Aug. 8, the second brood in the one nest (W&MH), and in the area north and west of Toronto there were reports of young returning to the nest to roost at night (GB). Cliff Swallows were by far the most regularly observed swallow in n. Ontario north to Kapuskasing and Hearst in early June (CEG, JEG). There were two Purple Martins at Achray June 10 (RT, DMcC)

**CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS** — A Boreal Chickadee was at Strabane July 9 (AW *et al.*). A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Ingersoll July 7 was Oxford County's first in summer (DB). House Wrens seemed to be doing well, and their numbers on the Kingston surveys were the highest ever (*vide* RDW). There was a bird in Algonquin P.P., June 13 (RT, DSt), and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were recorded singing there in four locations, with a dummy nest representing the first suggestion of breeding there since the 1940s.

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES** — Noteworthy Mockingbird nestings were in Evanturel Twp., where the birds re-nested after fledging four young (Mr. & Mrs J Howard, *vide* JW); and in Oro Twp., where two adults

were seen with young (JO, CJM). Northerly Gray Catbirds were seen at L. Mary Louise, Thunder Bay, (KD), Virginiatown and Swastika (PWR). Similarly, Brown Thrashers were at Marathon June 26 (NGE) and Devon Twp., June 7 (ND). A Hermit Thrush nest with four young at St. Williams July 2 (AW *et al.*) was the first Norfolk County nesting. The same observers had two early birds at Pt. Petre Aug. 1, and a Swainson's Thrush with grown young in Beverly Swamp July 28. At Belfountain, E Bluebirds occupied only one out of 30 boxes (FS) but at Owen Sound 28 of 75 boxes were used (LC). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest was located at Wasaga Beach June 3, a northerly nesting for this species (PVS, AM). Summer records of Golden-crowned Kinglets were at Warton June 10 (JWJ) and Elmira June 1 (GF), and at Kingston a nest in Harrowsmith Bog was the area's first (RDW). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet feeding a cowbird was the first breeding evidence for Simcoe County (LS *et al.*), and a bird was singing in King Twp., June 4-13 (M & OED).

**SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS** — For the first time in recent years there was some encouragement in the Loggerhead Shrike picture, and there were a number of areas reporting birds, with no less than nine in the Kingston area (*vide* RDW). Yellow-throated Vireos at their range limits were at Port Carling June 26 (CJM), and "common" from Mara south on the Bruce Pen. (JWJ). Warbling Vireos were general in the s.w. Rainy R. area in late May (RDJ) and three were singing on Silver Maple I., Petawawa R., in June (RT *et al.*).

Golden-winged Warblers were again in good numbers and appeared at the limits of their present range. There were several Bruce County locations (JWJ), 15-20 pairs at Millbrook May 30 (DMcR, HW), two colonies of six males at Grundy P.P. (RS), ten males and a nest located at Gibson R. Park June 11 (AM, CH), and five males at both Worthington and Killarney (JL). There were "several" singing ♂ Prothonotary Warblers at Long Pt. (RC). Most of the warbler records were of birds apparently summering north or south of their usual ranges. Northern Parulas were at Burlington June 22 (MJ), in Mara Twp., June 29 (JAS), and possibly an early migrant at P E Pt., Aug. 1 (AW). A Yellow-rumped Warbler was singing at St. Williams July 2 (AW, RR, BW). Cerulean Warblers were at Bereford L., June 16 (JWJ) and Port Carling June 26 (CJM) but there were none on either Pelee I. or in Waterloo County for the second successive year (CAC, WHS). A Blackpoll Warbler was on Flowerpot I., June 30 (JWJ), two Prairie Warblers at Apsley June 19 (GWh, ME), and a Louisiana Waterthrush at Peterborough July 7 (DMcR). Ontario still lacks material evidence of Connecticut Warbler nesting: a bird with three young at Crozier July 26-28 (GP) simply added to the continuing frustration! The centre of Yellow-breasted Chat abundance is Pelee I., with up to six localities this year (CAC *et al.*). There was also a nest at Bronte July 19 (MJ) and a bird at Ottawa June 25-29 (SC). Hamilton had a singing Hooded Warbler to mid-June (AE).

**HOUSE SPARROWS THROUGH TANAGERS** — House Sparrows have been extirpated in Algonquin P.P. since 1974, but a bird appeared July 16 (RT *et al.*). The Bobolinks there occur in sedge meadows and there was one along the Bonnechere R., June 13 (RT, DSt). Else-

where there were two at Marathon June 26 (NGE) and a bird at Savant L., June 2, where a W. Meadowlark was also recorded (ND). An estimate of the huge late July blackbird flocks came from Clinton, where 500,000 birds were estimated on July 31 (G&SC); and Matchedash Bay, with 60,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and 40,000 Com Grackles on July 27 (CH, AM). In the north everyone commented on the large numbers and rapid increase of Brown-headed Cowbirds; they were everywhere abundant. The Ferndale Brewer's Blackbird colony had 14 adults June 8 (JWJ). An ad. Orchard Oriole feeding two young at Waubaushe June 6 was the first Simcoe County record and nesting, and a second male was also seen (AM, m.ob.). A Scarlet Tanager was at Virginiatown July 28 (PWR) and there was a nest with three young and a cowbird at Gibson R. Park June 25 (CH).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Twelve reports of Indigo Buntings at Thunder Bay were the most ever there (*vide* KD) and there was a nest at Quetico June 29 (GKP). Evening Grosbeaks were carrying nesting material and later feeding young in Windham Twp. Norfolk Co. (SLS), probably Ontario's southernmost nesting record. There were many scattered Red Crossbill sightings, with 25 at Kettle Pt., June 17 (AR) and 15 at Quetico June 22 (SP) the largest groups. Algonquin P.P. had a Rufous-sided Towhee July 26 (GT). Grasshopper Sparrows were well reported, including three Sudbury area records in June (*vide* JN) and the first Rondeau nesting (*vide* AHK). The Henslow's Sparrow picture seemed no worse, and the 41 at Tiny Marsh July 21 were the most ever there. However, the Barrie colony's field—with 17 birds this year—was staked for housing construction (DS, CJM). Other reports were four from Beverly Swamp (AW) and three from Gallup I. (SF). A LeConte's Sparrow at Blezard Valley June 29 (JL) and Dark-eyed Junco at Cape Crocker July 2 (JWJ) were noteworthy. Lark Sparrows again nested unsuccessfully in South Walsingham Twp., June 16 - July 3 (DJTH, RC). A Clay-colored Sparrow carrying food at Gibson R. Park in company with a Chipping Sparrow feeding young suggested a possible hybrid breeding (CH). Elsewhere this species was noted from Marathon, Kingston, Algonquin and Manitoulin I., as well as its more established breeding stations.

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## NIAGARA - CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe

Major flooding occurred in some local areas this season as May's cool wet weather continued through the summer. Despite high water levels most marsh and ground nesters appear to have enjoyed success. Ironically, open land nesters may owe some of their success to the high water which kept farmers in western New York from tilling their fields until well into June, by which time some first broods had fledged. It is impossible to assess whether this benefit actually offset the drowning losses. Indirect confirmation of considerable late May, weather-related mortality which we suspected in last season's report, was observed in several northern breeding areas, where some nesting species (e.g., Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Indigo Bunting) populations were well below normal.

The northward expansion of southern species and southward expansion of northern species continued. Northbound migrants were noted well into June. Perhaps owing to the cool wet weather, singing ceased early and migration was noted at several locations by late July.

Two statewide breeding bird population studies were attempted in the region this summer. The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (hereafter F.N.Y.S.B.C.) conducted nine censuses modeled after the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (hereafter V.I.N.S.), initiated, on a pilot basis, an ambitious project, modeled after several European studies, designed to determine the breeding distribution of all species within the state. Only fragmentary returns are presently in and a thorough assessment of these two projects will appear in a future issue.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Common Loons lingered in numbers with up to ten on Seneca L., in mid-June (MJ), but no breeding pairs were noted. A **Greater Shearwater** was spotted heading N. along the Hudson R. near New Baltimore June 14 (RG, *vide* RY). The alarm was sounded and the same bird was spotted a few miles N. within the hour. Word spread to the L. Champlain basin where, astonishingly enough, the same bird or an identical one, was picked up alive near Burlington June 17 (BE). After being viewed by many it died, thereby becoming the second Vermont specimen in addition to the first inland New York record. Although the bird was undoubtedly partially assisted up the Hudson by strong



S. winds associated with a storm system off Long Island, it is interesting that it continued N. to L. Champlain in the absence of severe weather conditions. Four Double-crested Cormorants were sighted June 4 at Montezuma (NC, DK) and two June 7 at Braddock Bay where one remained until mid-month (WL, JS).

Cattle Egret continues to increase along L. Ontario and in the L. Champlain basin. Numerous sight records included one of nine feeding on voles beside a hay rig in Addison, Vt. (AP). Breeding was again confirmed on the Four Brothers I. in L. Champlain where eight to ten nests were found June 26 (RY). Surprisingly, all but one egret nest still had eggs although nearby Black-crowned Night Heron young had nearly fledged. As many as four Great Egrets were counted at Tonawanda W.M.A. (DF) while only two were sighted at Montezuma N.W.R. (JG) Essentially a coastal species, three ad. Snowy Egrets were observed on Four Brothers I. and breeding is a possibility (RY). This spring's influx of southern waders made the Rochester area look like a northern birder's economical alternative to a Florida vacation. Two imm. **Wood Storks** were sighted flying parallel to the L. Ontario State Parkway July 6 (J & TMN). There are a number of previous records from Long Island but only a handful from inland areas. The season's only Glossy Ibises were three found at Braddock Bay (JS).

**WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS** — Exceptionally late flocks of Canada Geese were noted migrating at four Vermont locations June 13, as well as a small flock of Brant heading W. over L. Ontario near Barker June 6 (DK). High water levels apparently haven't impaired waterfowl production in the region this summer. Turkey Vultures continue their northeastward expansion, particularly along the Connecticut R. valley where 12 were tallied at Hartland July 1 (TC, HR). Allegany County observers located more Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk nests (3 each) than in the rest of the region combined. This disparity is partially related to observer fer-

vor but also indicates the birding potential in this large relatively undisturbed forested area of the s.w. corner of the region. The Goshawk's recent increase in the region is further exemplified by a nesting pair in Bergan Swamp near Rochester (R.B.A.). Melanistic Red-tailed Hawks are very rare in the east, even on migration, so the sighting of one June 11 at Island Pond (WN) is noteworthy. A very late Rough-legged Hawk was spotted at Hamlin, N.Y., June 8 (WL). The summer's only **Golden Eagle** obligingly appeared over Madawaska Pond for participants on a F.N.Y.S.B.C. field trip. The six Bald Eagle sightings included two near Rochester and four in Vermont but there were no nesting reports, successful or otherwise. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "imported" two nestling eagles from Wisconsin to an artificial nest at Montezuma N.W.R. Faithfully guarded by a Cornell graduate student, both young fledged and survived the summer. One was seen at season's end above the marsh hotly pursued by a Marsh Hawk (DK). The only Ospreys reported away from known Adirondack nesting areas were singles at Island Pond, Vt., June 13 (G & WE) and Iroquois N.W.R. (DF), where up to three were sighted later in the month (JM *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.).

**GALLIFORMES THROUGH LARIDS** — Despite the Adirondack study which reports encouraging findings on New York populations, Spruce Grouse were sighted neither there nor in Vermont in concerted searches.

Although the direction in which they're headed is anyone's guess, migrant shorebirds may be expected in the region throughout June and July. Some of the more unusual sightings included two Greater Yellowlegs at Pt. Breeze, L. Ontario June 12 and another there July 1 (WL), and a Dunlin at Times Beach July 8 (DF). Wilson's Phalaropes lingered at a number of w. New York locations through mid-June including three at Tonawanda W.M.A. (B.O.S.) and four around Rochester (R.B.A.). Diligent field work in the future may add this species to the region's list of breeders. Up to 40 Bonaparte's Gulls were found at Braddock Bay during June (R.B.A.). A decline in the number of Caspian Tern reports has been recently noted, therefore a June 27 tally of seven at Braddock Bay (WL, *vide* R.B.A.) is especially interesting.

**OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Barn Owls were discovered at four c. New York locations, but only one nest was found. Vermont's sole Screech Owl was, again, at Burlington (FO, CP). Single Saw-whet Owls were located near Geneva (*vide* MJ) and Clarkson, N.Y. (RC, *vide* R.B.A.) in June but neither nesting was confirmed. A number of observers have expressed concern regarding an apparent decline in Whip-poor-wills. Nocturnal birding has all but become a lost art in this age of evening television, and a realistic assessment of population changes in either the owls or Caprimulgids is extremely difficult despite increased use of tape recorders by the few observers who continue to venture forth at night.

A total dearth of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in the Vishers Ferry area was blamed on snowfall last May 19 (RY). Both Northern and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were sighted on the F.N.Y.S.B.C. Adirondack outing but only the latter could be found by Vermont observers in the Northeast Kingdom. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers arrived late and in low numbers in most Vermont breeding areas. Acadian Flycatchers were

found again in Bergan Swamp (*vide* R.B.A.) as well as four w. New York lake plain areas. None were sighted in Vermont following last year's appearance of one at Marlboro (WN, *vide* V.I.N.S.). Alder Flycatchers were exceptionally common in w. New York by early June, frequently in the same habitats as Willow Flycatchers. Meanwhile Willows continue to be "discovered" in Vermont particularly in the L. Champlain and Connecticut R. valleys. Studies at Seneca Army Depot (MJ) indicated that Tree Swallows enjoyed 64% fledging success despite a cold, wet and sometimes snowy May while the later nesting Barn Swallows had a whopping 82% success rate. The only noteworthy post-brooding concentration of Bank Swallows was 1200 over Geneva L. near the Seneca Army Depot in mid-July (MJ).

**CORVIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — Common Ravens continue to fare well in Vermont but the Com Crow population in c. New York is reported as having declined drastically this year (WN). Ithaca's **Fish Crow** continued to announce its presence through the third week of July (JG). A Boreal Chickadee sighted June 4 in Burlington, Vt., (WS) was a far cry from its boreal breeding grounds. A pair of Tufted Titmice found breeding in Peru (LW, *vide* WN) was apparently the first confirmed nesting in Vermont although the species has been observed regularly in s. lowland areas for a number of years. The best Short-billed Marsh Wren tally was 11 at Sodus, N.Y. (D & M & TT). This species is most frequently encountered in hay fields or marshy areas containing rushes and sedges, but one was observed at Dead Creek W.M.A. building a nest in cattails in a colony of Long-billed Marsh Wrens.

A local decline in the Swainson's Thrush population in c. Vermont was noted (WN). Eastern Bluebird production was less than half last year's at the Seneca's Army Depot, presumably owing to cold wet weather (MJ). Golden-crowned Kinglet sightings in w. New York continue to increase as spruce plantations are colonized by this "boreal" species. Areas added this year to the ever-increasing list of possible breeding areas in New York are Dryden (JG), Elmira (WH), Honeoye and Hemlock (*vide* R.B.A.), June 15 and July 29 sightings of Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Eggertsville (AM, *vide* B.O.S.) and Amity Lake (VP), respectively, are extraordinary records. Two other birds on territories near Peru in Bennington Co., (WN) extend the s. boundary of this species' [poorly] known summer range in Vermont. For the second consecutive year, a Philadelphia Vireo was in Winhall (WN) well south of the species' presumed (but still unconfirmed) breeding range in Vermont.

**WARBLERS** — The first flock of migrant warblers appeared at Jenny Lake, N.Y., July 23 (RY) terminating what was considered by some observers an exceptionally abbreviated breeding season. All Prothonotary Warbler reports came from the Iroquois N.W.R. area. The summer's only Worm-eating Warbler sighting was in Allegany S.P. June 5 (DF). Discovery of a ♂ "Brewster's" Warbler feeding young in Sudbury July 9 might have presented something of a dilemma to Vermont record keepers since neither Golden-winged nor Blue-winged Warblers have ever been confirmed as nesters (although the former have regularly been found on territory). Fortunately, the same observer (AP) had earlier also found a Golden-winged feeding young (also in Sudbury) and the

"Brewster's" was paired with a "pure" Blue-winged thus confirming nesting by both "species." Very rare breeders in the Adirondacks, both Tennessee and Cape May Warblers were spotted on the F.N.Y.S.B.C. outing. A Tennessee as was at Webster, N.Y. July 5 (AK) was an exceptionally early migrant as was Cape May in Allegany S.P. June 6 (DF), an exceptionally late date. Vermonsters finally confirmed nesting by Cape Mays when two sets of young were found being fed in Craftsbury (FO, RAR). [An old nesting report from Killington Peak is of dubious credibility.]

Yellow-rumped Warblers also continue to colonize conifer plantations in s. portions of the region. A singing Cerulean Warbler on Mt. Zoar near Elmira (WH) establishes a new summer location. Still unconfirmed as a breeder in Vermont, a ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was observed singing and chasing Magnolia Warblers in Craftsbury (RAR). Three Pine Warblers were in Allegany S.P. June 6 (DF); a likely, but new, breeding area. Increased observer activity is turning up more Prairie Warbler colonies in Vermont, the largest thus far estimated at eight pairs (SL). Although common along watercourses in s. Vermont, a Louisiana Waterthrush sighting just n. of Wells River represents the first record for the Northeast Kingdom (RAR & FO). Tonawanda W.M.A. (DF), Dryden (JG), and Alfred (EB) are interesting areas for summer Hooded Warbler reports, since most recent breeding records are from a band along the L. Ontario shore.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Migrant Bobolinks were noted overhead at Winhall July 29 (WN). A ♂ Orchard Oriole singing June 16 at L. Bomoseen (EE) is Vermont's fifth record in the past two years. Cardinals continue range expansion with breeding now confirmed in Plainfield (MM) on the edge of the Northeast Kingdom. Southwestern New York recorded its first Evening Grosbeak breeding, as adults and young were observed at Belmont, Limestone and Olean (B.O.S.). House Finch populations continue to explode in w. New York, and Vermont's first confirmation of breeding comes from Bennington where nesting has been suspected for the past three years (MV). "Northern" finches put in only sporadic appearances as they continued to migrate well into June. No nesting Pine Siskins were noted although a flock of 20 arriving July 7 in Plainfield stayed two weeks (MM). Flocks of Red Crossbills migrated w. along L. Ontario the second week of June (DK), but the only other reports for the season were from the Allegany plateau (EB, DF) and c. Vermont (WN) in early June along with several heard at Jenny Lake, N.Y. in mid-July (RY). At least ten ♂ White-winged Crossbills located at Island Pond and Bloomfield in the Northeast Kingdom July 11 (WN) were the region's sole summer record. Opinions on Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were mixed but apparently both are doing well in the Ontario lake plains where colonies of up to 20 and 12, respectively, were found (*vide* R.B.A.). Early nesting of Dark-eyed Juncos, presumably brought on by mild April weather, was evidenced by the discovery of fledglings at Jenny Lake, June 20, well ahead of usual local dates (RY). A singing White-crowned Sparrow found at Pt. Breeze, N.Y., June 24 (WI, *vide* R.B.A.) rounds out this season's report. This incredibly late date has been exceeded only once and that record, June 30, also came from Monroe County.

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## APPALACHIAN REGION /George A. Hall

Normal was the word used by many reporters to describe the summer season, and by and large it was that. Most species had successful nesting seasons and there were very few rarities reported. At Pittsburgh the June weather almost exactly equaled the cumulative



averages for temperature and precipitation. July, however, was much cooler than average but was about average or a little more in precipitation. In western Virginia the season was cooler and dryer than usual, while the e. Tennessee stations reported about normal weather. The cool July retarded the development of garden fruits and vegetables, but it remains uncertain as to what this did to the natural food supplies. The increased cloudiness and decreased amount of sunlight now prevalent in much of northern West Virginia and southern Pennsylvania as a result of industrial pollution has had a definite effect on some plants, both domestic and wild, but the effect, if any, on the birds is unknown.

The Appalachian Region is a zone of ecological tension and we are accustomed to watching the shifting ranges of many species, but this year there were an unusual number of such shifts. An abnormal number of stray

waterfowl remained in the area and no less than seven northern species, including most notably the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and White-throated Sparrow, either nested or were observed during the nesting period well south (and downhill) of the normal range. Similarly eight southern species showed notable increases to the north, although some of these movements are of long standing.

**LOONS, GREBES AND HERONS** — A Com. Loon at Latrobe, Pa., June 19 (JMC) was much later than the usual straggler. Pied-billed Grebes nested at Akeley, Pa. (TG) and at Amnicola Marsh near Chattanooga (KD) and were seen during most of the summer near Linville, N C (MP).

Black-crowned Night Herons have undergone a great increase in e. Tennessee. Three heronries near Knoxville contained 100, 114, and 262 nests respectively (JBO), and several broods of young were reported near Austin Springs, Tenn. (LRH & GW). Two pairs of Cattle Egrets nested at the heronry at Cherokee L., Tenn. (JBO). This is the second year of nesting there and the first for the area, but last year's nestings were not reported. Immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found at Dalton, Ga., in late July (HD). Reports of Little Blue Herons came from Williamsport, Pa., July 19, the first record in nine years (PS), State College, Pa., July 11, and Dalton July 29 (HD). There were few reports of Great Egrets and none of Snowy Egrets. A previously unreported nesting colony of Great Blue Herons was found near Coudersport, Pa. (DJ)

**WATERFOWL** — An unusual number of presumably non-nesting waterfowl remained in the Region during the summer. The only evidence of nesting besides the usual Mallards and Wood Ducks were young Blue-winged Teal seen in Putnam County, W. Va. (NG), and Canada Geese whose introduced populations are now breeding in a number of places. Among the strays were Whistling Swan at State College, Pa. (MW), Gadwall near Elizabethton, Tenn., June 30 (MD, HDo & SG), Com. Goldeneye at State College, June and July (MW), Red-breasted Merganser at State College in late July (EB) and Hooded Merganser at Erie N.W.R., Pa., July 24 (RFL), although this last species might have nested there.

**RAPTORS** — The usual mixed opinions on the status of hawks were submitted. There may have been more Cooper's Hawk sightings this summer than in recent years but both *Accipiter* species are still in low numbers. At Charleston, each of three Red-shouldered Hawk nests under observation fledged one young, an improvement over 1975 (NG). At Clarksville, Pa. an Am. Kestrel nest fledged five young, where last year all had died (RB). There were more than the usual number of summer reports of Ospreys but no nestings were reported. A Bald Eagle was seen on four occasions at Norris Lake, Tenn. (JH), most remarkable was the Golden Eagle which flew over the Regional Editor's home at Morgantown on June 16 I have been firmly convinced that this species still nests in West Virginia but had not thought it to be so close to my home.

**GROUSE AND RAILS** — The Ruffed Grouse is currently at a low point in its population cycle in w. Pennsylvania, much of West Virginia, and parts of Virginia,

and several reporters commented that they had seen none during the year.

Another northwestern species that occurred in unusual numbers in this Region was the Am. Coot. Common Gallinules had a good nesting season at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL), and nested near Warren, Pa. (TG). A Purple Gallinule was seen at Daleville, Va., June 1 (NM).

**SHOREBIRDS** — By the end of July only the Lake Erie shore had had much of a shorebird flight. The wet weather in places had reduced the extent of "mudflats" and besides a few "Peep", Solitary Sandpipers and yellowlegs the only unusual bird was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at State College July 24 (MW). At Presque Isle on L. Erie the shorebird flight began as early as July 1 and about 22 species had been observed by the end of July (DS). The more unusual records included: Piping Plover July 1 (DSn) and July 29-30 (DS), Golden Plover July 20 (JS), Whimbrel July 5, 8, 21 & 26 (DS), Willet July 7 & 21 (DS), Marbled Godwit July 7 (DS), the first record in many years, and Am. Avocet July 18 (JS, DS, JAS).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — Little Gulls have now been reported at Presque Isle in all seasons and one was seen there July 26 (JS). Also seen there were Laughing Gull, the second local record, July 4 (DS, JAS), and Franklin's Gull June 27 - July 11 (m. ob.). Three Caspian Terns were at L. Arthur, Butler Co., Pa., in late July (PH). Three Forster's Terns were seen at Presque Isle July 25 (RFL), but remarkable was the report of three Forster's Terns on the Allegheny R. at Pittsburgh July 30, the first local record (KP).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS AND GOATSUCKERS** — Both cuckoos remained scarce throughout the Region in early summer. At places there is a moderate outbreak of fall webworm and it remains to be seen whether late summer numbers increase.

Several years ago I called attention in this space to our great ignorance about the current status of the Barn Owl. Since that time observers have been reporting on the species and this year reports of successful broods came from Collumsville, Pa. (PS), Pleasant Unity, Pa. (BZ), Powdermill Nature Reserve (P.N.R. below), Pa. (RCL), Waynesboro, Va. (RS), and Elizabethton, Tenn. (two broods—GE). The Whip-poor-will continues to decline, but for the second year they were found at L. Terra Alta, W. Va. (WW), where they had not been known before 1975

**WOODPECKERS** — The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to increase in Crawford County, Pa., at the n extremity of the range (RCL), but the Red-headed Woodpecker continues its slow decline. The breeding population of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in the S. Appalachians has been declining for many years, and in some seasons they are not reported. This year there was a report of a nesting at Linville, N.C. (MP), and of a June 19 sighting at Odin, Pa. (CHa). In w. Pennsylvania both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were thought to be in low numbers (PH), while elsewhere the Hairy remains at low numbers and the Downy is about normal.

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — Great Crested Flycatchers and E. Kingbirds were in low

numbers at most places, although along the n. tier of counties in Pennsylvania the kingbird was reported as numerous (RCL, DJ). Acadian Flycatcher was quite abundant in the normal range, and is one of the southern species that is moving north in numbers. A sighting at Karthus, Pa., June 12 was the first in that region in nine years (PS). Similarly the Willow Flycatcher continues to expand southward and eastward with successful nestings reported at Lewisburg, W. Va. (COH), Waynesboro, Va. (RS) and Elizabethton (GE), all places where it was unknown a few years ago. In the Lock Haven, Pa., area this species is also increasing but is declining at P.N.R. (RCL). The Alder Flycatcher is, on the other hand, dwindling in numbers and in West Virginia is now confined to a few high mountain bogs (GAH). Eastern Wood Pewees were down in numbers at Charleston (NG) but at Morgantown (GAH) and Clarksville, Pa. (RB) they were slightly up in numbers after last year's low. There were only two reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers, in Allegheny County, Pa., June 5 (undoubtedly a late migrant—CF) and at Mt. Rogers, Va., July 21 (RC).

The recovery of the Purple Martin continues at a very slow pace. It was absent at Blacksburg, Va. (JM) but most places reported small increases, although it is still below pre-1972 numbers. A fall migrating flock of 20,000 was reported from near Chattanooga in late July (KLD). Tree Swallows nested near Indiana, Pa. (CW) south of the usual range and there was a sighting at Fishersville, Va., July 26 (RS). Barn Swallows and Rough-winged Swallows were in slightly below normal numbers. In Preston County, W. Va., there was a slight increase in the Cliff Swallow population, which has been declining there steadily but slowly (WW).

**NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS** — The White-breasted Nuthatch remains at very low numbers at most places west of the mountains. The Red-breasted Nuthatch has been limited in recent years to the high elevation spruce forest in West Virginia and Tennessee-North Carolina, but this year June reports came from Laurel Summit, Pa. (RMH), Alan Seeger, S.F. (DP) and in w. Rockbridge County, Va. (CS), all out of the normal range. A singing ♂ Brown Creeper at the Todd Sanctuary, Butler Co., Pa., in June (CB & JMa) probably represented another low elevation nesting of this species, a trend that has been repeatedly mentioned in these columns.

**WRENS, MIMIDS AND THRUSHES** — The House Wren has undergone a sharp decline at Morgantown (GAH) and Clarksville, Pa. (RB) but at Waynesboro, Va. (near the s.e. limits of the range) it was more common than usual (RS). Bewick's Wren is often not reported during a summer season, so the report of an unsuccessful nesting attempt near Haneyville, Lycoming Co., Pa. (CS) and a nesting at Sutton, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.) are of interest. The former record approaches the northernmost limits known for the species. As had been expected the cold snowy winter in the northern part of the Region was hard on the Carolina Wren population. In Erie County, Pa., populations were only 10 per cent of those of last year (RBo). In s.w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia populations are below those of last year but are still fairly high. Add the Winter Wren to the list of northern species moving south. Reports came from Lycoming County, Pa.

(PS), Ligonier Valley, Pa. (increasing—RCL), Fish Springs, Tenn. (TF), all out of the "normal" range. In the West Virginia spruce belt it was unusually common (WW). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from Presque Isle, June 19 (TG), and a possible late season nesting was reported at Charleston, July 30 (AS).

Mockingbirds were found as far north as Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL) and Leeper, Pa. (LC). Wood Thrushes were generally in good supply and in its normal breeding range the Veery was unusually numerous. Hermit Thrushes near Ligonier in June were at elevations lower than we expect them (RCL). A Swainson's Thrush was netted in the Centre County, Pa., pine barrens in late July. This is out of the normal range but there have been previous summer reports from the area (MW).

**KINGLETS AND VIREOS** — Golden-crowned Kinglet populations have been extremely high in the West Virginia spruce belt for at least two years and this year reports came from lower elevations in the hemlock forest areas of w. Pennsylvania. Even more interesting was the report of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, which are not known to nest anywhere in the Region, at Heart's Content, Warren Co., Pa., June 27 (RFL).

The northward expansion of the White-eyed Vireo continues with good populations in all of w. Pennsylvania, with records this year from Warren and Irvine in the northernmost part of the Region (TG); one remained all summer at Bays Mt., Tenn. (TF). Solitary Vireos nested at the Todd Sanctuary, Butler Co., Pa. (CB & JMa) where they had not been known previously. The Yellow-throated Vireo is making a slight comeback in places where it has been in low numbers.

**WARBLERS** — The Black-and-white Warbler continues to decline. Four Breeding Bird Survey counts in s. West Virginia gave only a total of three birds. In 1970 these routes had 23 birds and decline has been steady (TF). Prothonotary Warblers nested in Botetourt County, Va., the second nesting west of the Blue Ridge for the state (BK). For many years Charleston, W. Va., has been the place to go to see the Appalachian population of Swainson's Warbler, but numbers have declined markedly there in the last few years. Much of this decline, but not all of it, can be attributed to the increased development of the nesting "hollows" as residential areas. There had been reports of Swainson's Warblers well out of the normal range during the spring and in last summer, but none came this year. A bird in Braxton County, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.) produced a new locality record in the West Virginia range. The expansion of the Yellow-throated Warbler continues. At Charleston, where not many years ago it was uncommon, it is now thought to be the most common summer warbler (NG). There were several reports from w. Pennsylvania, Ligonier Valley (RCL) and Butler County (PH). But at Dalton, Ga. the Yellow-throated continues to be somewhat scarce (AH).

The Nashville Warbler nested at P.N.R. (RCL), the first local record for many years. The Golden-winged Warbler was unusually scarce at Morgantown (GAH) but at P.N.R. the numbers were the best in years (RCL). Blue-winged Warblers continue to increase in the P.N.R. area, and several birds caught there this year showed traces of mixed ancestry (RCL). In w. Cherokee County, N.C., a total of 18 singing male Blue-wingeds were

located on May 31 (HL). Cerulean Warblers may be about to undergo a range expansion. They were unusually numerous in w. Kentucky (PA) and the Ligonier Valley, Pa., (RCL), and there were nine records in Warren County, Pa., (TG). The Yellow-breasted Chat has made a partial comeback at Morgantown after last year's low but it is still scarce (GAH). A Magnolia Warbler was seen on White Top Mountain, Va., July 21 (RC) which may have been a part of the expansion of this species southward, but may also have been an early migrant. As usual P.N.R. reports a very early migrating Tennessee Warbler on July 27 (RCL). Two imm. Mourning Warblers near Galax, Va., July 22 (RC) were probably early migrants, but further investigation of the area is in order since this species also may be on the move southward.

**ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS** — Eastern Meadowlarks were found to be 75 per cent below any previous year's total on the Breeding Bird Survey Counts at Lock Haven Pa., (PS), but no other area reported any such decline for the species. In n. West Virginia N. Orioles were unusually scarce (GAH). One remained at the headquarters of Shenandoah N.P., Va., all summer (DC). Orchard Orioles nesting at P.N.R. were noteworthy (RCL). The Summer Tanager is now being reported from many places in s.w. Pennsylvania.

**FRINGILLIDS** — The real surprise of the season was the marked invasion of the Blue Grosbeak north of its usual range. A Breeding Bird Survey Route in Putnam County, W. Va., which had never recorded the species before produced eight singing males and a nest (AS). Several singing males were seen in nearby Mason County in late July (GB). There were several records from the Waynesboro, Va., area (RS) and from the Blacksburg, Va., area (CA). They occurred on the reclaimed strip mine areas being studied in e. Kentucky (PA) and there were two-four pairs in the Elizabethton area (GE). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak remained at Clarksville, Pa., during June (RB).

House Finches were reported from numerous places in w. Pennsylvania and some idea of the numbers now occurring locally is given by the following data: 84 banded at Indiana, Pa., in June and July (CW), and 128 banded at State College May 25 - July 31 (MW). On the other hand the Purple Finch nesting population at Indiana seems to be declining (CW). A Purple Finch nest near Wellsburg, W. Va. (WJ) was the first nesting in the state away from the high mountains but the species has nested just across the Ohio River in s. Ohio. There were sporadic records of Red Crossbills; present all season near Blacksburg (RCo), Clarksville, Pa., June 5 (RB), Highland County, Va., June 5 and Wythe-Grayson County, Va., June 12 (CS), and Elizabethton July 27 (GE).

Grasshopper Sparrows remain at low numbers throughout, but the nesting of this species in good numbers on the reclaimed strip mine areas in e. Kentucky is encouraging (PA). The Savannah Sparrow continues its southward movement with several records near Blacksburg, Va. (CA). There were two reports of the Lark Sparrow from Warren County, Pa., (same bird?), near the New York line June 22 (FE), and at Scotia June 22 (TG).

Dark-eyed Juncos were found at lower elevations than usual in e. Tennessee (TF). The White-throated Sparrow nested far out of its usual range, which does not include our Region. Immature birds were seen with adults at Hydetown, Crawford Co., Pa., July 24 (RFL) and near Hooversville, Somerset Co., Pa., June 9 (RSa), while a summer sighting was made at Coudersport, Pa. (DJ).

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**WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION**  
/Daryl D. Tessen

Record drought and heat plagued major portions of the region this summer. This included most of Wisconsin and Minnesota plus Michigan's Upper Peninsula (hereafter U.P.). The Lower Peninsula (hereafter L.P.) had less extreme weather.



While the drought failed to cover either Wisconsin or Minnesota entirely, it remained the worst in over 75 years in the former and 100 years in the latter. The lack of precipitation commenced during April - May in northern



Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. As June progressed the dryness enveloped southern Minnesota and Wisconsin until by July these areas were suffering to a comparable degree. Accompanying this dryness were unseasonably warm temperatures ( $\pm 90^{\circ}\text{F.}$ ) that peaked during the first three weeks of July with consistently upper  $90^{\circ}$  to lower  $100^{\circ}$  readings. Relief from the drought began in the more northern sections during June and generally spread southward during the third and fourth weeks of July. However soil moistures were still inadequate for most of the affected areas at the period's end.

The effect of this season's weather upon the bird community can at best be described as mixed. For example, in those sections with little precipitation, water levels of the marshes and ponds ranged from below normal to dry. The effect upon the waterfowl and water-related birds was distinctly detrimental. Additionally, many observers noted a general lack of insects, and as a result saw fewer songbirds and their young. In contrast, isolated sections of these states received normal precipitation. Here reporters expressed considerably less pessimism about the success of the nesting season. Thus the checkerboard pattern of the drought and the varying relief produced the mixed feelings about the nesting season.

The news for this summer was most clearly the continued appearance of southern species in the region. Primarily this included representatives from the heron, gull and warbler families. Perhaps as a result, the negative picture perceived last summer for the Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Bell's Vireo gave evidence for guarded optimism this year. One additional comment frequently mentioned by reporters in all three states was the apparent southward "movement" of traditionally more northerly species (i.e., Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, various warblers). However one wonders if this truly is a southward expansion or merely the result of continually improving coverage of the region.

**LOONS THROUGH IBIS** — Most unusual was the appearance of an imm. **Arctic Loon** on L. Harriet, Minneapolis, June 20. The bird was carefully identified by many observers and remained until Aug. 1. Red-necked Grebes were present in the usual two locations in Wisconsin, with good numbers present on Rush L., Winnebago Co., and four breeding pairs (nine young) in St. Croix County, with several summering birds present elsewhere (CF). Single Horned Grebes were present in Dunn County, Wis., June 6 (SR) and Muskegon County, Mich., July 12 (LW, GW). Eared Grebes, too, were present in those states with two June 6-8 in Dunn County (SR), and one June 26 - July 31 in Muskegon County (HC, JP). A single W. Grebe was observed on the Crex Meadows N.W.R., Burnett Co., Wis., June 8 (LL, *vide* JE). This species was also observed in Minnesota with 150+ counted on Pelican L., Grant Co., June 17 (JF), 25 nesting pairs on L. Osakis, Douglas Co., June 17 (NH), 35 in Kandiyohti County July 17 and two that remained on French L. near Minneapolis during the period.

The Double-crested Cormorant showed a modest increase in nesting activity in Wisconsin. Nesting occurred in Brown, Marquette, Green Lake and Burnett Cos., with additional birds in Marathon County. A new nesting site was discovered in Trempealeau County, with

89 birds and 10 nests (FL, WS). Two new nesting colonies were also discovered on the Grand Traverse I., with one on the Door County, Wis., side and the other on the Delta County, Mich., side (TE). A single bird observed twice during late June represented only the second Alpena County record (OE).

The Green Heron continued to spread into the n. and w. sections of Minnesota, where it was absent only a few years ago. The Little Blue Heron appeared at three different locations in Wisconsin. Two breeding-plumaged birds were found on Grand River Marsh, Green Lake Co., June 4 (RS, MD); two breeding-plumaged adults were also present at the lower end of Green Bay from early June until July 16 (TE, JT) and a calico-plumaged individual was observed in Oconto County July 31 (DT, HL, EP, GB *et al.*). Of special interest was the successful nesting of two pairs of Great Egrets at Proud L., Oakland County. This represents the first inland nesting for s.e. Michigan. Snowy Egrets appeared in Michigan, with one at Erie Marsh July 1 (W & CR) and three at Pt. Mouillee, Monroe Co., during late July (SJ *et al.*) In Wisconsin's Oconto County, both the Cattle ( $\pm 10$  pairs) and Snowy Egrets (2 pairs) nested for the second consecutive summer, with as many as ten ad. Snowies being noted during early July. The **Louisiana Heron** continued to make news in Wisconsin. Prior to this year there had been only one previous state sighting (Sept., 1955). Therefore the sightings of one to two birds in three separate areas of the state during April - May were significant. Observations continued through the summer with one in Sauk County June 3 (MD, RS) and four present from mid-June into August at the Oconto County heronry (DG, HL, DT *et al.*). The Louisiana was also observed at Pt. Mouillee, Mich., with three July 10 and two July 25 (SJ, JK, DB, CR).

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron continued the upsurge in southern herons with a surprising number of sightings in all three states. Michigan had up to three birds during July at Pt. Mouillee (AC, TC, TW) and one adult in Berrien County June 8 (WB); Minnesota had a single bird in Olmsted County July 15 & 24 (JFo) with birds returning to their nesting site in Houston County after a one-year absence. Wisconsin's contributions included single adults in Wood County June 2 (K & JL) and Jefferson County June 21 (RS) plus three adults in LaCrosse County July 11 (LL), two adults and subsequently one immature from early June until late July at the Oconto County heronry (m.ob.) and two adults from July 24 until the conclusion of the period in Outagamie County (JA *et al.*). The latter sighting represents the first county record and possibly could be of individuals that had resided in Oconto County during the summer. A **Glossy Ibis** appeared at the Oconto County heronry June 26 (BF, MD) and remained until July 20 (m.ob.).

**WATERFOWL** — The Mute Swan again bred near Ludington, Mich., with young noted June 1 (EG). Surprising were sightings of Mutes in e. Wisconsin, including single birds in Ozaukee County June (EE *et al.*), Dodge County July 21 (EE) and two during mid-July in Marinette County (LLi, HL), plus the usual birds in the Ashland area. Whistling Swans were found in Minnesota, with three June 15 at the Rice Lake N.W.R., Aitkin Co.; in Wisconsin June 15 in Oconto County (SR) and in Brown County, one until June 17 when it was

found dead (JT) plus an additional imm. bird intermittently between June 24 - July 22 (T & IB); and Michigan, two July 4 at Presque Isle (MA, WG). Point Mouillee sighted several waterfowl species this summer that are uncommon in this s.e. corner of Michigan. They included the Gadwall, two nesting pairs of Pintails, and the Am. Wigeon. In addition a Ring-necked Duck was noted in Monroe County July 18 (TC, AC). Other unusual state observations included a Canvasback in Muskegon County June 27 and a pair of Greater Scaup in Alpena County June 27 (first n.e. L.P. record). Wisconsin had several interesting observations including three Ring-necked Ducks in Dunn County June 19-20 (DT); Canvasbacks in Dunn (two), Oconto (one) and Brown (two) Cos. plus a nesting pair in St. Croix County (CF); several Greater Scaup were in Milwaukee during the period; Lesser Scaup in seven counties with nesting occurring in Polk County (CF); two broods of Com. Goldeneyes in Door County (JT) and solitary Buffleheads in Milwaukee June 12 (DT), Crex Meadows N.W.R., June 17 (SR) and Brown County July 16 (JT).

**HAWKS** — A Krider's Red-tailed Hawk was found in Burnett County, Wis., June 3 (JE). The L.P. continued to comment on the scarcity of the Red-shouldered Hawk, with one notable exception. The n.e. area found this species to be the most common nesting raptor with 38 young from 14 nests, an additional nest failing due to interference and two additional nests not checked (OE, WG, LS). Good numbers of Swainson's Hawks were again noted this summer in s.w. and s.e. Minnesota, with nesting occurring in Lac Qui Parle, Pipestone, Olmstead and Dakota Cos. Unusual sightings of the Rough-legged Hawk occurred in St. Croix County, Wis., June 10 (CF) and June 21 at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn., (SV). Certainly the find within this bird group had to be the observation of a **Ferruginous Hawk** near Chandler, Murray Co., Minn., June 15 (JF).

**GROUSE THROUGH RAILS** — No Spruce Grouse were observed in the region this summer. In Minnesota, the Ruffed Grouse continued very scarce in the n.e. section. While the Bobwhite is becoming increasingly scarce in Minnesota, there were a surprising number of sightings in Wisconsin, generally scattered through the s. two-thirds of the state. Some of these included areas where they had not been noted for some years. A pleasant surprise this summer was the number of King Rail reports. Michigan had four birds in Monroe County (VJ *et al.*), and a nest with five eggs in early June in Alpena County, later destroyed by an unknown predator (LS). Minnesota had two adults and two young at La Crescent, Houston Co., July (RJ). Wisconsin's contributions included St. Croix County, June 16 (CF), Oconto County, June 28 (DG), Horicon N.W.R., Dodge Co., July (adults and young—SR, DG, DT) and Brown County, period (adults and young—JT). Yellow Rails were found in the usual locations in Aitkin and Mahnomen Cos., Minn. (TS). Most unusual was one carefully identified in a small marsh near St. Paul June 10 (JF).

**SHOREBIRDS** — As evidenced by the following, numbers of shorebirds lingered or summered in the three states again this year. For Wisconsin the more interesting sightings included a Black-bellied Plover until June 15 in

Oconto County (SR); Willet June 18 in Brown County (JT); Lesser Yellowlegs June 20 in Columbia County (SR), and from June 26 in Oconto County (BF *et al.*); White-rumped Sandpiper June 11 in St. Croix County (CF), Least Sandpiper June 20 in Brown County (JT) a record date; Dunlin, several until June 29 with one remaining until July 14 in Brown County (JT); Short-billed Dowitcher apparently summered in Brown County (JT), Semipalmated Sandpiper, three, June 18 in Oconto County (DT) and one June 20 Manitowoc County (JW), Marbled Godwit June 7 in Brown County (TE); Hudsonian Godwit, until June 18 in Brown County (JT); and N Phalaropes in St. Croix (June 2—CF) and Dunn (June 6—SR) Cos. Michigan had a Piping Plover June 19 at Presque Isle (BG); Black-bellied Plover June 20 at Presque Isle (WG); Whimbrel June 11 in Alpena County (BG), a record date; White-rumped Sandpiper, two June 15 in Muskegon County (BM); Dunlins and Semipalmated Sandpipers in Marquette County June 11 (NI) The southward migration commenced in all three states around July 1 with a total of 28 different species being recorded regionwide. The more interesting species included the Piping Plover in Berrien County, Mich., July 22 (WB) and in Douglas County, Wis., July 18 (RJo) and two July 30-31 in Milwaukee (DG, EE *et al.*); a Willet in Berrien County July 14 (WB); solitary W. Sandpipers in Calumet County, Wis., July 26 (DT) and Monroe County, Mich., July 25 (JK) and two July 28-29 in Oakland County, (Eca, RH); and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Fond du Lac, Wis., July 25 (RK).

**GULLS** — An imm. Glaucous Gull was carefully identified on L. Superior in Lake Co., Minn., June 5 (GO) A Great Black-backed Gull was observed at Pt. Mouillee in July (SJ) with three Franklin's Gulls, June 4 (RS). Again this summer the Laughing Gull made a surprising showing in Wisconsin, surpassing even last year's numbers. Three were present in Milwaukee until June 15 (EE), one at Green Bay in June (TE), one in Oconto County June 28 (DG), while the number at Manitowoc harbor varied between several to ten during July (DT, GB, TE *et al.*), with one in Kewaunee County July 31 (DT). All the preceding sightings represented birds in full or almost full breeding plumage. In addition there were "many" immature birds scattered along Lake Michigan from Milwaukee north that resembled the Laughing/Franklin's complex, making identification in many instances hazardous. Franklin's sightings in the state included Brown (July 6—JT), Milwaukee (July 7—DG), Manitowoc (July 19—DT) and Kewaunee (July 31—DT) Cos., all single birds plus six in LaCrosse County July 24 (FL). Michigan's first nesting of the **Little Gull** occurred this summer; young were banded and photographed in two nests in the U.P. June 23 (TE). Wisconsin's Little Gulls (two pairs) attempted nesting in Manitowoc County but success is doubtful. They did not nest at their Brown County site of last year. One to three sub-adults were intermittently seen between Manitowoc and Two Rivers during the summer (m.ob.). Three immatures spent the summer at the Oconto County heronry site (m.ob.).

**PARAKEETS** — A **Monk Parakeet** was found at Grand Mere, Mich., June 17 (WB).

**OWLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — The Barn Owl nested in Michigan's Monroe (three young—AM) and St. Clair Cos. This represents a decline of successful nests in the former county, and is partly owing to vandalism. Unprecedented was the "summering" of two, possibly three Snowy Owls in Wisconsin. Birds were seen in Brown (JJ, VB, EC, TE) Manitowoc (TE) and Marquette (LLi) Cos. [cripples?—Ed.]. R. Nero found two successful Great Gray Owl nests in Minnesota with an additional nest with two young in Roseau County July 3 (W & KE) and an adult in Aitkin County July 5 (JBI). Only the third summer sighting of the Long-eared Owl for the n.e. L.P. occurred when one was found in Alpena County July 22 (LS). Four Short-eared Owls were watched hunting in St. Clair County (JBA). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was first heard during early July at Kalamazoo (RA). By mid-July the bird who was being observed (LR) with two seen and heard July 25 (DM, GBe, RC, CK, TM).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLINGS** — The Pileated Woodpecker was found in Berrien County this summer (SM, GS). The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was present in Marquette County, Mich., with a male and a young bird July 1 (NI) and a pair observed later in July (LB). A N. Three-toed Woodpecker nest with young at Beaver Bay, Minn. (Lake Co., July 4) represented one of the few state breeding records (ME). A W. Kingbird was studied at leisure in Wisconsin June 13 (Vernon County—VW). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was observed by the park staff at Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co., Minn., June 28 (*vide* KE). Wisconsin had two out-of-range flycatcher sightings. Unusually far north was an Acadian in Manitowoc County June 30 (JW) and far south was an Olive-sided in Waukesha County July 2 (JB). The Brown Creeper continues to be found further south in Michigan and Wisconsin while a similar situation prevails for the Winter Wren in all three states. Carolina Wrens were found in five Wisconsin counties and four Michigan counties. The Mockingbird was present in six Michigan counties including the first nesting record for Presque Isle (BG, JS).

Unusual was the appearance of a Swainson's Thrush in Milwaukee July 23 & 31 (EE). There were two southern sightings for the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, one from Michigan — a pair with one carrying food June 12 in Berrien County (DM), and one from Wisconsin — one June 6 & July 20 in Outagamie County (DT). While the Loggerhead Shrike continues scarce throughout the region there was room for some cautious optimism. Minnesota had four sightings this summer (RJ), Michigan had one to three birds between July 28-30 with one bird believed to be an immature (Ingham County—VJ *et al.*), while Wisconsin had its usual nesting pairs in Sauk County, plus a successful new nesting site in Ozaukee County, and single birds noted in Marinette, St. Croix and Waupaca Cos.

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — White-eyed Vireos were recorded in scattered areas of Michigan including Lenawee (AM), Monroe (SJ), Washtenaw, Cass (RSm) and Berrien (WB) Cos. One was heard and seen in Manitowoc County June 21 (BBR, JSt, JW). Bell's Vireos were recorded in Wisconsin in Grant (one singing male, hereafter s.m.), Green Lake (two s.m.), Rock (one s.m.), Green (one s.m.) and Trempealeau (seven s.m.) Cos. In

Minnesota this species was found in several areas in the s.e. part of the state with five birds in Wabasha County July 31 (RJ). In Michigan a Solitary Vireo was singing through the period in Ottawa County (BM) while the first Alpena County nesting record occurred this summer. Unfortunately the pair raised three Brown-headed Cowbirds. A Philadelphia Vireo nest with three eggs was found in Cass County (HH) with one individual in Cook County, Minn., June 26.

There was a number of unusual warbler sightings during the summer in all three states. For Wisconsin these included a **Worm-eating Warbler** that was first heard and subsequently seen in Sauk County July 10 (SR, NB), representing only the second state summer record; a N. Parula far south of its normal range in Sauk County July 9 (SR) plus southerly Magnolias and Blackburnians in Manitowoc County until late June (JW); two singing ♂ **Prairie Warblers** with the Waukesha County bird that originally appeared in mid-May remaining until June 22 (JB) and another individual seen and heard June 11 & July 2 in Jackson County (SR); Kentucky Warblers in Dane (one), Grant (eight+), Juneau (one) and Vernon (3-4) Cos.; Yellow-breasted Chats in Waukesha County June 18 and Milwaukee July 10 (DG) and a pair of Hooded Warblers in Manitowoc; singing males in Sauk (one) and Waukesha (two) Cos. Michigan had an equally impressive number of sightings, highlighted by the Yellow-throated Warbler again present in Berrien County (WB) plus a nesting Prothonotary with five young in Wayne County (AM *et al.*); Magnolia, Blackburnian and Pine Warblers in Berrien County (WB); June 6 observations of Yellow-breasted Chats in Monroe County (SJ) and a female with four young in the nest in Clinton County (RR, LR *et al.*), and Hooded Warblers in Berrien (two) and Muskegon (three) Cos. Minnesota's lone contribution was the appearance of a Yellow-breasted Chat in LeSeur County June 20, and a nest with three eggs discovered in Whitewater S.P., Winona Co., during June

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH LONGSPURS** — Orchard Orioles were noted in three Michigan and eight Wisconsin counties and were found to be more abundant than usual in s. and s.w. Minnesota. A lone Rusty Blackbird appeared July 3 at Grand Marais, Cook Co. (WP). The Blue Grosbeak nested in Rock County (KE) with another pair found in Pipestone Co., Minn. (KE). In direct contrast to last summer the Dickcissel was widespread and numerous in Minnesota, being found north to the Canadian border in the w. part of the state, and also Wisconsin, being noted in 30 counties. A pair of Pine Siskins lingered in Outagamie County, Wis., into June (MB) with a single bird at a feeder in LaCrosse June 12 (FL). Scattered Red Crossbills were found in unusual portions of the region, although somewhat unusual were three separate flocks (14-26) found in the western L.P. — Ottawa, Mason and Kent Cos. — all June 14. A single White-winged Crossbill was in Douglas County, Wis., June 17 (SR). Wisconsin had four reports of LeConte's Sparrows. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow was present in three Minnesota counties. A pair of Lark Sparrows resided in Marquette County, Mich., this summer (NI) while Wisconsin had birds in three counties. The Chestnut-collared Longspur again bred in Clay County, with three birds observed in Rock County, Minn. June 20 (DT).

**CORRIGENDA** — In the introduction to the nesting season, *Am. Birds* 29:944, the first United States nesting of Little Gulls occurred in Brown and Manitowoc counties, Wisconsin, not Michigan.

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**MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION**  
/Vernon M. Kleen

As usual, the “breeding” season also presented a mixture of late spring and early fall migrants. Although temperatures were normal, the season was very dry and the rains that did occur were more of the cloudburst

P.R.A.) and Yellow River Forest in northeastern Iowa (hereafter, Y.R.F.). If others are conducting similar investigations, it would be most helpful if such information were submitted for this report; all assistance is welcome.

Illinois birders undertook a new annual project entitled: “The Mid-June Birding Challenge.” The purpose is to further study the abundance and distribution of breeding species. Challenge areas were established according to latitude and longitude; 7½ U.S.G.S. maps were used to determine the exact boundaries of each Challenge area. The Challenge is to find nests or nesting evidence for each species within the area and accumulate points for all observations, according to a special scoring system, during the nine-day Challenge Period. This project has numerous advantages over a Summer Bird Count or similar counts and can be both a highly competitive as well as cooperative effort by birders attempting to achieve high birding scores and further document Illinois’ avifauna. Fourteen Challenge Areas were established and reported this year.

First state records included the White-tailed Kite in Missouri, Curlew Sandpiper in Illinois and the Great Black-backed Gull in Kentucky. Nests or nesting evidence was established in new areas for many species, with range expansions documented. Breeding species are the most important species in any area because they are the ones most dependent on local habitat; therefore the breeding season should provide the most significant material of all the seasonal reports.

Since all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation, the ability of our observers and the data quality of these reports continues to improve. A total of 19 documentations was received this season: Illinois, 12; Indiana, 2; Iowa, 0; Missouri, 3; Kentucky, 1; and Ohio, 1. All documented records are denoted by a dagger (†). Specimens are denoted by an asterisk (\*). Records which were not satisfactorily documented appear in the UNCORROBORATED REPORTS section.



variety, causing temporary local flooding while missing nearby areas. The Region was approaching drought conditions by the end of the period. With the drying of lakes and ponds, herons and shorebirds took over and were the centers of attraction for most birders. In many locations early-arriving shorebirds were unprecedented in species and numbers.

In early June, cuckoos, flycatchers, vireos and warblers were still obvious migrants; in fact, most cuckoos did not arrive until June. In the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Breeding Bird Surveys some species, especially the grassland sparrows, were noted to be more common this year than in recent years. Several dedicated young persons provided population information for selected marginal species; of greatest value were studies at the Pigeon River Conservation Area in northern Indiana (hereafter,

**LOONS, PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS** — A scattering of Com. Loons remained late into or throughout the breeding season; latest departures included June 22 (two) at Lima, Ohio (BS); June 14 at Rochelle, Ill. (DJ); June 7 at Terre Haute, Ind. (AB); June 5 at Long Run S.P., Ky. (S); June 2 (two) at Columbus, Ohio (*vide* TT); summering birds included *four* at Springfield, Mo. (CB) and one in Allen Co., Ind. (Haw). The White Pelican near Cordova, Ill., remained all summer (EF); others lingered at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo. (hereafter, S.C.R.) through the second week of June and fall arrivals appeared at Red Rock Refuge, Ia. (hereafter, R R R) by July 20 (GB). The only Double-crested Cormorants reported were those few lingering at S.C.R., one as late as July 4 (L) and the nesting colony at Thomson, Ill., with a population as high as past years, possibly better, judging from the number of nests (RG).

Great Blue Heron colonies were reported from four states; the draw-down management technique at Magee Marsh, Ohio, was conducive to feeding herons where 595 were counted there June 28 (LV). ". . . in a group of willows (about three feet high) . . . there were nine pairs of Green Herons nesting as a colony. The nests were very close together and were about a foot above the water." (JN) — this is quite atypical. The E. St. Louis colony of Cattle Egrets was highly productive this year. The 25 Snowy Egrets near Horseshoe L., (Alexander Co.), Ill., July 22 must be a new record number for the Region, as it is for Illinois (MMo); one bird was identified at Trimble, (Clinton Co.), Mo., June 26 (*vide* NJ). The only Louisiana Heron reported was found at Waukegan, Ill. June 27 - July 4 (†EC, †WG).

The L. Calumet, Ill., Black-crowned Night Heron colony was almost nonexistent this year (B); 86 young were produced in 26 nests at Waukegan (JN) and 93 birds were present at Louisville, Ky., July 19 (S). Small numbers of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from various parts of the Region; up to 14 could be found at S.C.R. all summer (L,R); a nest was found within the city limits of Springfield, Mo. (CB), while nests were found at Rosendale, Mo., for the second consecutive year (JH); at Louisville the maximum one-day count was 11 and a nest there fledged three young. "A dozen or more Least Bitterns could be flushed at S.C.R. in short time during June" (L); scattered individuals were reported from Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. One Glossy Ibis appeared at Magee Marsh, Ohio, June 10 (*vide* LV).

**WATERFOWL** — Pairs of Canada Geese raised four young at Tiffin, Ohio (JK) and two young at Springfield, Ill (H). A cohesive group of ten Pintail Aug. 8 suggested breeding at L. Calumet, Ill. (B). Blue-winged Teal were casual nesters in the Region and Wood Ducks had an excellent season. Isolated (except as noted) non-breeding summer ducks and geese included the following: Snow Goose, white form at the Chicago Botanic Gardens July 14 - 30 (B, RE); blue form at Deerfield, Ill., July 30 (RE); White-fronted Goose (two) at Ottawa N.W.R., Ohio (hereafter, O.W.R.) June 7 (ET); Gadwall at L. Calumet June 5, 8 & 12 (C), July 22 (a pair—B) and Springfield (always Ill., except as noted) June 6, July 5 & 11 (H); Pintail (two pairs) at Wheatfield, Ill. (C); N. Shoveler at Springfield July 3 & 11 (H); Redhead at Springfield June 6 (three), & June 19 (H), and L. Calumet July 18 (B); Ring-necked Duck at Terre Haute June 19 (AB) and

Springfield June 6 (H); Greater Scaup in Holt County, Mo., June 7 (\*E, †R); Lesser Scaup — at five locations including two males in Holt County June 7 (E, R); Com Goldeneye at L. Calumet July 22 (B); Ruddy Duck at Springfield June 6 & 19 (H); Hooded Merganser (three immatures) at L. Sangchris, Ill., June 11 (H) and Springfield July 3 (H); Com. Merganser at L. Calumet July 11 (C); Red-breasted Merganser, (two females) at Findlay, Ohio, June 28 (BS).

**RAPTORS** — A single Black Vulture was observed at Long Run S.P., Ky., July 10 (S, m.ob.). A **White-tailed Kite** was thoroughly documented in s. Nodaway County, Mo., June 14 (†E, LBi).

#### S.A.

Four groups of Mississippi Kites totaling 15 birds were found in Fulton County, Ky., July 31 (DC); one bird was documented at St. Joseph, Mo., June 3 (†L); the Illinois population is now threatened because of action of the U.S. Forest Service. Ignoring warnings and expert advice, Shawnee Forest personnel negotiated a contract to cut the trees adjacent to the state's largest nesting concentration of kites; the trees to be removed adjoin(ed) the Union County Conservation Area and were regularly used by the kites, the birds were often observed flying over those trees.

There was apparently "some recovery" of the Red-shouldered Hawk population in the Cincinnati area (WR) and in n.e. Iowa (DKo); one pair nested successfully in Montgomery County, Ind. (AB) and one was observed at Noel, Mo., June 26-27 (MMc). A Swainson's Hawk nest with young was located near Springfield, Mo (CB); no one reported on the small Illinois concentration. Five pairs of Bald Eagles attempted to nest in n.w. Ohio, only one pair was successful and it produced two young, one pair attempted to nest on the ground (photos available), however, the nest was abandoned (LV). Summering records of Ospreys included one all season at Rend L., Ill. (MMo); one at Cardinal Marsh (n.e. Iowa), June 16 (DKo); one at Charleston, Ill., July 7 (LBH); one at O.W.R. Aug. 1 (BS); and one at Findlay, Ohio, June 10 (BS). There were two successful nests of Marsh Hawks at Goose Lake Prairie, Ill. (DBi) and one e. of Cincinnati (W); singles were noted at P.R.A., July 16 (LCs), Nashville, Ill., June 1 (MMo) and Randolph Co., Ill., June 24 (JEa). When Am. Kestrels were found, they were reported in good numbers; they readily utilized nest boxes in n.w. Ohio (LV).

**RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOT** — Two young Virginia Rails were noted with adults at Lebanon, Ohio, July 19 (*vide* W); two adults were found at Rosendale, Mo., Aug. 2-3 (JH) and one at Coralville Res. (Iowa City), Ia., Aug. 1 (MN, m.ob.). Two young Soras were found near Cincinnati July 4 (WR); two adults in Holt County, Mo., June 7 (E,R). Three Yellow Rails were attracted to tape recordings at Mishawaka, Ind. June 3 (*vide* HWb). Two Black Rails were flushed while birders were dragging a field for Bobolink nests at Willow Slough, Ind. (no date, RMu). A single Purple Gallinule was observed at Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co.), Ill

June 2 (BPj) and four suspected birds of this species responded to recordings at Horseshoe L., Alexander Co., Ill. Aug. 5 (BPj). A scattering of Am. Coots lingered late or for the entire season in Illinois; two remained as late as June 5 at Long Run S.P., Ky. (S).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The drought was most beneficial to migrating shorebirds; many species arrived earlier than previously recorded and in greater numbers than expected for the early season. Only the most outstanding records can be presented. One Whimbrel was at Barrington, Ill., July 7 (JFr). Upland Sandpipers were in all states except Ohio and Kentucky; a maximum of 20 (young and adults) were found at Seymour, Ia., July 4 (CS); 13 at South Bend June 3 (VR); and 1-5 at eight other scattered locations. Fourteen Willets stopped at Illinois Beach S.P., Ill., Aug. 5 (MMo). At least 500 Lesser Yellowlegs were at Argo, Ill., July 8 (B). Two Short-billed Dowitchers were noted in breeding plumage at Lima, Ohio, June 30 (BS). The first Illinois record of a **Curlew Sandpiper**, was of a bird in breeding plumage, at Rend L., July 23 (†BPj, †MMo). Two Hudsonian Godwits were e. of Cincinnati June 1-3 (†WR *et al.*). A Ruff "with a complete snow-white ruff" was at L. Calumet June 29 (C). Am. Avocets: four flying past Waukegan, Ill., over L. Michigan, July 14 (C) and one July 15 (C); one in breeding plumage at OWR, July 25 (JW, CH); and one at Iowa City July 29 (NHa). Two pairs of Wilson's Phalaropes were at Maryville, Mo., June 20 (R, E).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — The first Kentucky record for a **Great Black-backed Gull** was established when one bird was documented at Louisville July 18-20 (†S, FS, m ob). There was one Herring Gull nest in with the Ring-billed Gull colony at L. Calumet (B); the Ring-billed colony consisted of about 500 birds on an island in the lake; 62 birds were observed incubating; the maximum total of young over half-grown was only 52, with the torrential rains of June thought to be responsible for the destruction of nests and drowning of young (C); 12 individuals summered at R.R.R. (GB) and several imm. Ring-billed and Herring summered at Rend L., Ill. (BPj). Two Franklin's Gulls were still at Maryville June 20 (R) and one at Jacomo, Mo., June 19 (NJ); an adult was found at Chicago July 21 (JN).

An ad. **Black-headed Gull** (providing the second Illinois record) was found at Waukegan July 14 and photographed farther down the lake shore July 15 (†B *et al.*). Common Terns attempted nesting two times at a power plant in Waukegan, Ill.; unfortunately the nests were destroyed or abandoned both times (JN). Small numbers of Least Terns were reported; the maximum number was five — near Golconda, Ill., in late July (RG); four were found at Horseshoe L., Alexander Co., Ill., throughout July and early August (BPj); three occurred in Fulton County, Ky., July 31 (DC) and two at Louisville July 24 (S, FS), singles were noted at three c. Illinois locations June 18 - Aug. 4; at Iowa City July 10 (NHa) and Trimble, Mo., during the period (m.ob.). The early return of Caspian Terns was noted at Waukegan with three present June 26 (JN); others appeared at Illinois and Iowa locations in early July (m.ob.). Two Black Terns were noted along the Ohio R., in Boone County, Ky. June 24 (JC).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS, CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW** — The Yellow-billed Cuckoo population was variable

throughout the Region; there was no logical pattern to their abundance; at some locations they were "scarce" while in others they were very common. The Black-billed Cuckoo was apparently rather scarce Regionwide; one bird was noted at Springfield July 24 (H); another was observed carrying food at Rend L., July 16 (BPj, MMo). A nest of Barn Owls with four young was under observation at Shreve, Ohio; none were located this year in n.w. Ohio; the only other report of the species was of one bird at Springfield, Mo. (no date, NF). It was a good season for nesting Screech Owls in n.w. Ohio; all nests were located in Wood Duck boxes and 73 young were banded (LV). A Long-eared Owl flew out over the harbor at Chicago July 18 (B) — who knows from what habitat it came; another bird was noted at Terre Haute July 24 (AB). One Short-eared Owl was present at Goose Lake Prairie, Ill. in June, but nesting evidence could not be documented; three birds were found at L. Calumet June 12 (C) with two still there through July 15 (B). A Chuck-will's-widow washed up on the beach at Chicago June 2 (WBe); this is apparently the second Chicago-area record for the species; another individual was heard calling all summer at the Sand Ridge State Forest, Ill.; no others could be located there (DBi).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — At least two pairs of Pileated Woodpeckers (possibly three) now occur in Seneca County, Ohio (TB), four birds were recorded in the Rocky River Metropolitan Park (Cleveland) July 3 (D *et al.*); and one pair at Decorah, Ia. (MN) suggest a slight increase and expansion of the species. It was suggested that in Iowa there were plenty of ad. Red-headed Woodpeckers but few immatures (NHa) while in Indiana there were many immatures (HWe); it is too early to draw any conclusions. Among the nine Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reported from n.e. Iowa, one pair was noted feeding young in June (DKo). One pair of W. Kingbirds again nested in w. Des Moines (WBr). The eastward expansion of nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers has been obvious the past few years; one pair nested as far east as Salem, Mo. (DP), however, the pair nesting in s.w. Indiana may have returned this year; although there were several attempts to find birds around Clay City, Ind., the only report was of two birds July 28 (TA). The total count of Willow Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher territories at P.R.A. this year during June was 30 and 6, respectively (LCs). Least Flycatchers may also have nested at P.R.A.; another bird was found at New Market, Ind., June 26 (AB). Two nests of Tree Swallows were found at Long Run S.P., Ky. June 5 (S, FS); suspected nesting in new s. Illinois locations included one pair at Crab Orchard N.W.R. (hereafter, C.O.R.), one pair near Grand Tower (Jackson Co.) and five pairs at Rend L. (BPj, MMo). At least 51 Cliff Swallow nests were found at Independence, Mo. (KH), 20 nests in Steuben County, Ind., under the eaves of a barn July 2 (LCs); 87 nests counted at C.O.R.; and no nests at the Indianapolis location reported last year; at Magee Marsh, Ohio, 17 nests were constructed then abandoned — this has happened there in previous years — can any one suggest why? (LV).

**CHICKADEES, CREEPERS, WRENS AND THRUSHES** — The Boreal Chickadee at Fox I., Ind., was last seen June 8 (*fide* Haw). The Brown Creeper

population found in the cypress swamp at C.O.R. in 1970 was still in evidence this summer (BPj, MMo). One ♂ Winter Wren was singing June 30 & July 1 in the Y.R.F. (DKo). Bewick's Wrens were reported from Missouri: Roscoe, five June 6 (NJ *et al.*) and Filley, three June 6 (SP); Kentucky: Madisonville, several June records (JHa); Illinois: Johnson County, one June 13 (K) & 28 (MH), Randolph County, one June 10 (K), and a successful nest at Geneva, near Chicago (C). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were fairly numerous this summer and successful nesters; although some birds were present all summer, especially in the n. part of the Region, they only became noticeable in the central and s. areas around mid-July. A pair of Veeries nested at Toledo (ET) and were rather common at P.R.A. (LCs); another was singing in n.e. Tippecanoe County, Ind., June 27 - July 18 (DA).

**WAXWINGS, SHRIKES AND VIREOS** — Cedar Waxwings were casual nesters — more common around Kansas City, Mo., than any place else; one nest in Morgan County, Ill., was not constructed until the last week of July (PWa). There were three e. c. Iowa records of Loggerhead Shrikes (NHa *et al.*) and several in s.w. Iowa; three others were recorded near Monmouth, Ill. (LM). White-eyed Vireos were "still fairly common" in McLean County, Ill. (DBi); a slight population increase was noted at P.R.A. (LCs).

**WARBLERS** — Many late migrants were reported, some as late as June 12. As expected, Swainson's Warbler continued to be found at new s. Illinois locations (MH). A nest of Blue-winged Warbler was reported from the Y.R.F. June 21 (DKo) and Shades S.P., Ind., July 4 (AB); one female possibly was mated to a ♂ Brewster's Warbler at P.R.A. (LCs). Twelve Cerulean Warblers were counted in Allamakee County, Ia. during the period; another was conspicuous in Palisades-Kepler S.P., Ia., well into June (TK *et al.*) and a pair nested at Toledo (ET). A Prairie Warbler excited Cleveland birders June 6-20 (JHo, NHe). The June 25 presence of a N. Waterthrush at P.R.A. was significant (LCs). Yellow-breasted Chats continued to be uncommon and local in the north; a nest was found at Toledo (ET). Hooded Warblers were also restricted in their northern distribution; there were seven pairs at the Fox I. Nature Preserve, Ind. (JM). At least two pairs of Canada Warblers and two additional males were found at P.R.A. (LCs).

**BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS, FINCHES AND SPARROWS** — Small numbers of Bobolinks nested again in Oldham County, Ky. (S *et al.*), near Trimble, Mo. (NJ *et al.*) and in s.w. Iowa (RSi). Only one of the two newly established Yellow-headed Blackbird colonies in e c Iowa was successful this year; the other was lost to farming (NHa); three males summered at an E. Moline, Ill., marsh (EF) and one was present at Magee Marsh, Ohio, June 10 (LV). There was a reported increase of Orchard Orioles in n.w. Ohio (m.ob.) and at least 15 individuals were observed June 5 in s.w. Fremont County, Ia (RSi). One pair of Brewer's Blackbirds and two additional males were present at Waukegan this summer (JN). The June 10 presence of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was considered noteworthy at Louisville (BPP). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks probably nested near Cincinnati in early June (WR); one nest was observed in Pike County, Ind.,

in June (CM *et al.*); seven individuals were found in Mason County, Ill., June 26 (H); one bird was observed at Iowa City, Ia., June 5 (HNa) and an immature was present at L. Calumet, June 20 - July 17 (C *et al.*). There was a noted increase in Dickcissels in the Sandusky, Ohio area (AS) and they were considered abundant this year in Fremont County, Ia. (RSi). Although the nest was not located, a pair of Purple Finches summered at Tiffin, Ohio, and a second male was also present (TB); another pair utilized a Findlay, Ohio feeder June 23 - July 8 (BS). The last Pine Siskins left July 4 from a St. Joseph, Mo feeder (L) and July 5 at an Iowa City, Ia. feeder (JFu), it is possible that nesting occurred at Cherokee, Ia., as two adult and three immature birds were observed there June 10-30 (DBn).

Savannah Sparrows were among the noteworthy nesters this summer; they were termed "abundant" at Iowa City (MN); ten singing males in the Terre Haute area July 7 (AB); six during the period at South Bend (*vide* HWb); two singing at Bloomington, Ind., June 4 (SG); and one at Maryville, Mo., June 24 (R, E). Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were successful this year; only Iowa and Kentucky birders failed to mention Grasshopper Sparrow; Henslow's Sparrow was most successful in the north and east, especially in Indiana and Ohio. It was interesting at Moraine View S.P., Ill., that one grassland, consisting mostly of forbs, redtop, and bluegrass had the Henslow's, Grasshopper and Savannah sparrows, but no Bobolinks while another nearby location of tall orchard grass, etc., contained Bobolinks, but no sparrows (DBi)! Except for the eleven observations of Vesper Sparrows at South Bend (m.ob.) during the period, and two birds in Hancock County, Ill June 5 (K), all others were of single birds in two n. Missouri and three Iowa locations during the first week of June or the second week of July. The directors of a park s.w. of Toledo, Ohio, have managed for Lark Sparrows by clearing three to four acres of woody growth, exposing the sandy soil, thereby providing habitat for the only known colony of this species in n. Ohio (LV); there were several good reports of this species from Iowa birders; one or two were still in song in Jennings County, Ind., June 26 (SG *et al.*) and one was found at Bedford, Ky., June 27 (BM). One Bachman's Sparrow was discovered at Columbus, Ohio, June 4 (*vide* TT).

**CORRIGENDUM** — Thorough details concerning the observation of the **Little Gull** at Maryville, Mo., Nov 30, 1975, have now been received; therefore the record as printed in the Non-corroborated Report should be made a part of the regular report and constitutes the first record of this species for Missouri (E).

**UNCORROBORATED REPORTS** — One Laughing Gull was reported, but undocumented, from Cleveland July 7 (JHo).

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## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION /James R. Stewart, Jr.

Range extensions continued to be a major feature in the Region as six species, an ibis (possibly), a kite, two flycatchers, a swallow and a grackle, made substantial advances. The kite is new as a breeder to the Region and the grackle, which has for many years been expanding eastward in southwestern coastal Louisiana, is now expanding eastward into the Region almost 300 miles north of the coastal group.



Two efforts to compile data bases to measure normal population fluctuation as well as any future adverse trends on population recoveries in colonial nesting birds were notable — one for its thoroughness and the other for its lack of the same, mostly because it depends on volunteers like this author who have not performed.

The Louisiana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit (below L.C.W.R.U.), as part of the nationwide effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recently completed a survey of seabird and wading bird colonies in the area inland to the Intracoastal Waterway and from the Sabine

River east to Mobile Bay. Research methods ranged from aerial (both fixed and rotary wing craft) surveys to ground sampling and total census. Only preliminary results are presently available on the 167 colonies located.

John Portnoy reported for the L.C.W.R.U. that within the coastal wader colonies by far the most abundant species was the Louisiana Heron followed by the Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron (Blue-listed) and White Ibis (Blue-listed). A typical, moderately large colony at Lonesome I., Black Bay, La., had the following active nest count on May 19: Louisiana Heron, 4582, Snowy Egret, 3376, Great Egret, 1174, Black-crowned Night Heron, 640, White Ibis, 2139 and Little Blue Heron, 94 for a total of 12,005. White-faced Ibis (Blue-listed) were found nesting in open marsh throughout the study area with Glossy Ibis identified in breeding colonies at Barataria Bay and Black Bay, La., and Cat I., Ala. (see species account for implications of the latter). The Reddish Egret (Blue-listed) occurred in small numbers in many mangrove heronries from the Isles Dernieres to North I., and was not uncommon in the saline marsh east of the Mississippi River. Roseate Spoonbills nested in three heronries in the s.w. Louisiana marshes and were found loafing at colonies as far east as Atchafalaya Bay. Olivaceous Cormorants were also common in these southwestern marshes.

Seabird nesting, ranging from Forster's Tern colonies on marsh debris to Sandwich Tern colonies on barrier island beaches, produced both species composition and number surprises: over 30 Black Skimmer colonies with nest counts from 20 to nearly 1000, eight *Thalasseus* colonies, the one on Curlew I., including over 20,000 nests, mostly Sandwich Tern, at least 20 major Forster's Tern colonies and six large Laughing Gull colonies with 1000 to 17,000 nests. The major seabird colonies were on North, Curlew and East Timbalier Is., Isles Dernieres and the Shell Keys N.W.R. We can only wait with intense interest for detailed reports from this and succeeding surveys.

Comments on other species of waders and seabirds as well as noncolonial birds will be in the species accounts.



In addition to Portnoy, Ortego, Musgrove, R. Kennedy, Ruhe and Fuller participated in this survey.

A less accurate and far less intensive though older survey, The Wading Bird Rookery Survey, is compiled from various sources by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Data for Louisiana are available from 1975 when only 47 heronries and two Brown Pelican colonies were listed; heronries reported earlier — and still extant — are not listed. The major difference noted between the L C W.R.U. coastal survey results and the inland heronries is the emergence of the Cattle Egret as the dominant component at most inland sites.

**LOONS, PELICANS, BOOBIES** — As usual, Com. Loons were reported from several localities: one in breeding plumage, June 7 at Old Hickory L., Tenn. (MLM), one on June 13 at Chandeleur I. (RJN, B.R.O.S.) and two in winter plumage, July 2-7 on Horn I., Miss. (WCW). Nine White Pelicans, infrequent in summer, were at Sweetbay L. on the lower Atchafalaya June 7 (JBO, BR, DF, JWP) and 112 were seen on an L.C.W.R.U. aerial survey from Marsh I. to Grand I., June 9 (JWP, MM, JBO). Brown Pelicans were present in large numbers in Alabama. Maximum estimates of up to 500, mostly immatures (LRT, G & JS), agree closely with the June 10 counts of 348 on Dauphin I., and 100 on Cat I., by the L.C.W.R.U. Stragglers entered Mississippi waters: three at Horn I., early June (RMc), 16 on a spoil bank at Petit Bois I., June 10 (L.C.W.R.U.), seven on Ship I., June 10 (JWP) and one on Horn I., July 1 (WCW). A Brown Booby July 15 (RHav) represented only the sixth Alabama record, but the third in July. A large crippled bird was tentatively identified as an imm. Gannet on Dauphin I., June 14 (SM, EP, *vide* JBO). Magnificent Frigatebirds were regular along the Mississippi and Alabama coasts in small numbers (maximum counts of 21 (WCW) and 24 (LRT), respectively).

**HERONS, DUCKS** — Little Blue Herons (84), joined later by a few Cattle Egrets (12 nests), established a new heronry in Sweet Home, Pulaski Co., Ark. (EPF). Snowy Egrets and Louisiana Herons on Cat I., Ala., had about 80 per cent nesting mortality in May and June owing to storms, but Cattle Egrets, nesting later, were successful (GG). The Black-crowned Night Herons at the Burdette heronry, Mississippi Co., Ark., did well (ELH) as they did in the Bordeaux heronry, Nashville, Tenn. (RJM, MLB), but they abandoned the one established only last year at Old Hickory L., Tenn. (S & WF). Two Am. Bitterns were seen on Sullivan I., west of Little Rock, July 11 (B & VS), but a nest was not located. A Glossy Ibis was at the Burdette heronry on each of two July visits, but no nest was located (ELH), and one was seen in Haywood County, Tenn., June 30 (GB). The Glossy Ibis on Cat I., were reported doing well by an Alabama observer (GG), but the L.C.W.R.U. reported at least 12 Glossy and 50 **White-faced Ibis** breeding at this site June 10 (JBO, JWP, RK). If true, this is a significant eastward range extension by the latter as well as a third location for *Plegadis* sympatry and needs confirmation (Imhof could not). Wood Storks first appeared at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., June 19 and 72 were present by July 18 (WCW). The only report for Louisiana was of 24 at Oberlin Aug. 9 (ERS).

A ♀ Gadwall north of Hackberry July 4 (RH, MW), provides the first July record for Louisiana. Four were

seen at Blakely I., Ala., July 10 (WCW). A ♂ Green-winged Teal, rare in summer in Louisiana, was seen in Cameron Par., July 18 (RJN, MHN, DBC). A pair of Blue-winged Teal was seen at the Yazoo N.W.R., Miss., June 22 (WCW). A ♂ Canvasback at Gallatin July 23-25 (D & PC) provides the first summer date not involving an obviously injured bird for the Nashville area. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at Old Hickory L., June 3 (MLM) was the latest recorded for that area by three days.

**KITES, HAWKS, TURKEYS** — Kites, feeding extensively directly on insects, seem least affected by pesticides among the birds of prey. **White-tailed Kite**, a species expanding its range throughout the hemisphere, was not successful at the Loggy Bayou Game Management Area nest, Bossier Par. Apparent feeding of young was noted May 17, about 27 days after incubation began, but by May 31 the nest was unattended and empty (NRM). By the end of July, only one adult was definitely in the area. Swallow-tailed Kites were noted at many localities in three states — **Louisiana**: in the Atchafalaya Basin, one on Bayou Sorrel June 5 (RL, RM), 22 (most were in sight at one time) near Butte La Rose July 5 (RH, RJS, MW), 32 (20 in one flock) along 82 mi. of protection levees July 7 (RK, JBO), four at Catahoula, St. Martin Par., July 15 (KT), two at Butte La Rose July 24 (RBH), five (with eight Mississippi Kites) near U.S. 190 - U.S. 171 junction Aug. 5 (ERS); and one at I 10 on L Pontchartrain July 3 (RBH), one on Pearl R., May - June (RDP); **Mississippi**: one on the Chickasawhay R near Lucedale July 23 (LC, BBC); and **Alabama**: three (with 20+ Mississippi), on the Mobile R., near Hurricane July 15 (WCW). Mississippi Kites were widely reported too. Notable observations were the 136 (68 ad., 8 imm., 60 unknown age) July 7 (RK, JBO) along the Atchafalaya protection levees, one on July 27 north of Toone, Tenn., where not seen before (AL, RJ) and two on July 29 at Little Rock (EMH) where it has nested the last few years.

A **Swainson's Hawk** at City Park, New Orleans Aug 11 (DPM) was the third recorded in August for the state. Unprecedentedly early were Marsh Hawks at Holla Bend N.W.R., Ark., July 28 (PDD) and Cooks Springs S.P., Ala., Aug. 8 (JVP). A **Merlin** flying north July 4 at New Orleans (JK) is inexplicable. The Osprey (13-14 pairs) reportedly had a successful season on Horn I. with three pairs nesting within a half mile span (WCW). One bird was at Dauphin I., July 15 (GBE, TL).

The introduced **Black Francolin** continued to do well north of the Intracoastal Canal (m.ob., A.B.A. Convention) and occupied new territory near Sulphur (CW, *vide* RJS). A Turkey hen and four chicks were seen July 11 near Butte La Rose (DBC) and four were seen July 2 Village Creek S.P., Cross Co., Ark. (DMJ, LL). The species is uncommon both in the Atchafalaya Basin and in Arkansas.

**CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — A Sandhill Crane, one of the limited Mississippi population, was heard June 13 near Gautier (WCW). Purple Gallinules nested at Pine Bluff, Ark. (*vide* JSt). Common Gallinules were seen and heard regularly in at least two localities on Horn I., where the species has not been known to breed previously; a juvenile seen in early August confirmed breeding (WCW). Two fledged young of the Am. Coot at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., June 5 indicated continued success at this site for a rare nester in Louisiana.

A rare breeder in Louisiana, the Am. Oystercatcher, was reported at three previously uncited locations in St. Bernard Par., June 10 (L.C.W.R.U.): one on the w. side of Three Mile Pass, one on La Petit Pass I. and five on the Holmes Is. Portnoy indicated that this species (usually one pair) was observed on most outer islands of the "inactive delta" from Isle au Pitre to Black Bay. In addition at least two pairs were on North I., a normal haunt (JWP), and two pairs and a flightless young bird were (photographed) on Curlew I. (RDP, NE, LO). Five, one a young bird, were on Herb I., Ala., July 7 (DH) and two were constantly around Dauphin I., (LRT) for a total of seven in that area. Snowy Plovers were seen regularly on Horn I., four on July 2, and may have bred in the sand dunes there (WCW); Wilson's Plovers were also present. An uncommon summer resident, the Am. Woodcock, was seen at Village Creek S.P., Cross Co., Ark., June 14-27 (DMJ) and two adults were present all summer plus a young bird at Spring Hill, Ala. (WG). The first summer record of Am. Avocets for Alabama was made by 12 on June 25 at Blakely I. (HHK). Black-necked Stilt counts of 40 (JTW) and 42 on June 25 (HHK), on Blakely are the largest ever for the state. Up to ten stilts at LaHaye's L., Evangeline Par., were nesting, unusual inland in Louisiana. The four nests with eggs found on May 29 were all apparently unsuccessful as only three adults were present July 10 (HDG, JHD).

The parade of returning shorebird migrants usually begins in early June. This year what Imhof believes were harbingers of an early fall migration appeared at Wheeler N.W.R. June 30 (CDC): Willet, seven (previous earliest June 27, 1951) and Greater Yellowlegs one, Lesser Yellowlegs five, and Least Sandpiper four, (all earliest local fall). A Pectoral Sandpiper appeared there July 3 (CDC) for the earliest ever in Alabama, another was at the Marion Fish Hatchery July 21 (*vide* TAI) for the earliest ever coastal plains arrival. Two were also at Noxubee N.W.R. by July 18 (WCW). Other notable early migrants were: Ruddy Turnstone, one of Birmingham Aug 7, the earliest inland for the state (HHK) and two at Gallatin July 30, only the fourth Nashville area record (D & PC), Spotted Sandpiper, one at Dauphin I., July 9, the earliest for Alabama (LRT), but note a presumed summering bird near New Iberia, La., June 30 (MJM), Baird's Sandpiper, one at Bonnet Carre Spillway July 24-26, early locally (MW) and Long-billed Dowitcher, 3, Dauphin I., July 9, earliest for state (GG). Notable because of local rarity or season were: Piping Plover, one on Aug. 8 on Island 13, Lake Co., Tenn. (GJ), Short-billed Dowitcher, five, at Baratavia Bay July 13 (JBO), Sempalmated Sandpiper, two, on Horn I., June 6 (WCW) and 18 at Sweetbay L., Atchafalaya R., June 17 (JBO), Buff-breasted Sandpiper, one, at Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Aug. 1 (GJ) and single Sanderlings at Bonnet Caare Spillway July 26 (RJN *et al.*), in Lake County, Tenn., August 8 (GJ) and Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Aug. 1 (GJ).

**TERNs** — The L.C.W.R.U. found Gull-billed Terns nesting, always amid Black Skimmers, on Curlew I., I. au Pitre, two spoil islands (one with 64 nests) in Atchafalaya Bay and on a large spoil island west of Petit Bois I. There were 33 on Dauphin I., June 15 (L.C.W.R.U.), but breeding was not definite although the birds acted disturbed and three nests, possibly of Com. Tern, were

located. Forty immature and 12 ad. Com. Terns, the latter displaying, were also noted. A single Com. Tern adult was seen at Timbalier I., July 27 (JBO, JWP) Inland, one at Wheeler N.W.R., June 30 (CDC) was the earliest fall migrant for that location. Thirty Forster's Terns, most still in breeding plumage, were seen at L. Millwood, Ark., July 25 (CM). The L.C.W.R.U. found 20 Sooty Terns with eight active and one abandoned nest on Curlew I., July 1 and also a single bird on the Petit Bois I., spoil banks June 10.

#### S.A.

On June 25-27, 40 **Sooty Terns**, at least four wearing bands, plus nine active nests were scattered among the Black Skimmers (RDP, NE, LO). The presence of the banded birds strongly implies a recent Dry Tortugas origin for the Chandeleur birds although the excess of birds to nests could mean that they were simply visitors from the Tortugas. These excess birds could also be 3-5 year old birds returning for pre-breeding familiarization.

Least Terns were doing well along the coast with many small colonies along the Louisiana barrier beaches and three large colonies at Gulfport (2100 pairs), Pass Christian (1500 pairs) and Dauphin I. (L.C.W.R.U., WCW) Four rooftop colonies, one large and fledging many young, were active in New Orleans (JK). Inland, disaster reigned. Only four sites, containing 2, 2, 10 and 20 birds, were found in Arkansas or Tennessee in an aerial survey along the Mississippi R. between the Tennessee borders (MLB, CDC).

**CUCKOOS, GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — Five Yellow-billed Cuckoos on Horn I., June 9 were evidently late migrants although one was present until July 7 (WCW). It is not known to breed on this island covered mostly with open pine forest. The Coffeys found Whip-poor-wills slightly south of previous locations along Ark. 53 s. of Hollywood, Clark Co., in e. Pike Co on Ark. 8 and Ark. 27 and at Gilliam Dam near DeQueen June 8-9. On June 6, at Natchez Trace S P, Tenn., they found the Whip-poor-will count was up, the Chuck-will's-widow count down (59 to 2 along 17 miles in park, 4 to 9 in 3.3 miles of heavy woods out of park), indicating extensive displacement of the Chuck by the Whip. A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird**, present at a feeder in Shreveport July 31 - Aug. 10, was the first recorded in n.w. Louisiana and the earliest by 26 days for the state (AAW, *vide* JRS).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS** — Two flycatchers continued to expand their range in the Region in opposite directions. A pair of Gray Kingbirds fledged three young on Horn I. for the first confirmed Mississippi nesting. Park Service employees found the nest in early June and the fledglings were photographed with the parents June 28 (JAJ). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher has apparently extended its range southeast in the Red River Valley to near L.S.U. - Alexandria. One bird was identified July 9 (LB) and a local farmer confirmed the continuous presence of two there up to that date. One Olive-sided Flycatcher, an uncommon fall migrant, was

seen at Island 13, Lake Co., Tenn., Aug. 8 (GJ). Inexplicably, an ad. ♂ **Vermilion Flycatcher** in the Bonnet Carre Spillway July 17 (MW) provides the first Louisiana (and perhaps Regional) summer record.

Two Tree Swallows seen near New Iberia June 15 (MJM) are rare, but not unprecedented, at this season. Cliff Swallows are rapidly taking advantage of new sites in Arkansas. The Coffeys found 350 nests at a new bridge (2 years?) on Ark. 341 near Norfolk June 22; older sites elsewhere were unchanged. Near Sylamore they found a large increase, with 125 nests on a new bridge on Ark. 9 and 319 nests on a bridge and cliff on Ark. 5. A colony of 15 to 20 nests on the relatively new I 65 bridge over Garth Slough closed over a 100-mile gap in the range of this species in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama (CDC).

Three Blue Jays (one dead in the water) were found on Chandeleur I., June 13 (RJN, B.R.O.S.). Jays have never before been reported from any of the Chandeleurs and what these were doing on this remote and inhospitable island, being severely harassed by E. Kingbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds, is unfathomable. Multiple displacements of jays in autumn are, of course, well known.

**CREEPERS, WRENS, WAXWINGS** — A pair of Brown Creepers fledged at least five young at Radnor L., Nashville May 16 (FR, KR, MLB) for the first meeting in that area and apparently the first for the species outside the e. mountains in Tennessee. Bewick's Wrens, which Coffey characterizes as almost rare now, were noted at Ashland, Miss., May 28 (LC, BBC) and in n.e. Panola Co., Miss., June 6 (ER, RJ). A Cedar Waxwing at Cheaha S.P., July 1 (HME, EJM) is of interest although the species summers and breeds irregularly in Alabama.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — In n.w. Louisiana, the Bell's Vireo, certainly now uncommon and possibly rare, occupies a transient, second-growth habitat. Typifying its marginal local status, the only known territory occupied during the last few years was abandoned this year but examination of a number of apparently suitable sites finally produced a singing male (JRS). The Red-eyed Vireo is not known to nest on Horn I., but a singing male, ranging widely and possibly unmated, was present throughout the period (WCW).

Swainson's Warblers were heard singing at three localities on Noxubee N.W.R., June - July (WCW). Worm-eating Warblers were located at three sites near Doloroso, Miss., June 14 (LC, BBC), the first evidence of its presence in this area since 1939, and at the Hatchie N.W.R. near Tenn. 76 on June 30 (GB). A Blue-winged Warbler north of Hickory Flat, Miss., June 18 (BBC) was the first in June for Benton County. Only one Yellow Warbler was found at five localities checked near Sylamore June 22 (BBC). Ben noted it might be late for breeding activity for this uncommon resident. Two very early warbler migrants were noted in Alabama: a Nashville Aug. 4 and a Black-throated Blue Aug. 5 at Spring Hill (MAG). The earliest previous dates for the state were Sept. 7 and Sept. 12, respectively, over a month later.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS, FINCHES** — A W. Meadowlark heard at the Ben Hur Farm, L.S.U. - Baton Rouge June 13 (JBO, RBH) provided the first June and second summer record for Louisiana. Two ♂ and four ♀

**Great-tailed Grackles** nesting near Ashdown June 3 (CM, CG's) provide first occurrence and first breeding records for Arkansas. Although the species breeds extensively and is expanding its range in s.w. Louisiana the only previous occurrence of the species in the Region outside that area was a female collected at Shreveport Apr 6, 1957 (HHJ). Possibly, this open country species will now rapidly penetrate the Region through the suitable habitat in the Red River valley as the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher apparently did. The Bronzed Cowbird seems to be holding its position in s. Louisiana although Joe Kennedy reports only 8-10 during the period, about one-half the number last year. He did discover the first acceptable evidence of breeding, a young bird being fed by an Orchard Oriole July 25. Other observations were one, New Orleans April 17 - June 4 (RRR) and two males (displaying) and a female at Reserve June 11 - July 19 (RJS, m.ob.). Single Scarlet Tanagers were noted at three locations along its poorly defined southern range boundary n. of Hickory Flat, Benton Co., Miss., June 18 (BBC, LC), J.P. Coleman S.P., Miss., June 10 (BFM) and 5 mi n of Hollywood, Ark., July 3 (H & MP).

In March a single Cardinal was seen on Horn I (WCW, WDB), apparently the first ever there. The species had been previously noted on Cat I., but not on any other island in Mississippi Sound. Field work during the summer showed a small, but widespread, population on Horn I. A singing Blue Grosbeak, an uncommon nester in s. Louisiana, was near Pine Prairie, Evangeline Par., June 5 (JBO). Single Painted Buntings were sighted three times up to Aug. 2 near Jonesboro, Ark. (NC) and through July at Little Rock (B & VS) where the species is a rare nester. Three males and two females were on Blakely I., Ala., June 12 - Aug. 3 (B & JTW, HHK), but no nest could be found. Twice before observers have reported young being fed in the Mobile area (*vide* TAI) Bachman's Sparrow, another Blue-listed species, was common in the long-leaf pine forests north of Ocean Springs, Miss., in June (WCW). Two singing ♂ Song Sparrows at Buena Vista (MLB) provide the second known breeding site for Nashville. The other was active only in 1970-1971. Two adults and a juvenile June 20 at the s.w. Lake County site of 1975 confirms the only known breeding in w. Tennessee (MLB).

Late or summering finches of note were: Evening Grosbeak, one near Mena, Ark., May 17 (IL), Pine Siskin, one at Malvern, Ark., June 6 (H & MP), Sharp-tailed Sparrow, one at North I., June 10 (JBO), the latest for Louisiana, and White-throated Sparrows at Birmingham June 17 (EGR), at least the ninth local occurrence, and at Nashville July 11 (JA, *vide* MLB) the first in July for that area.

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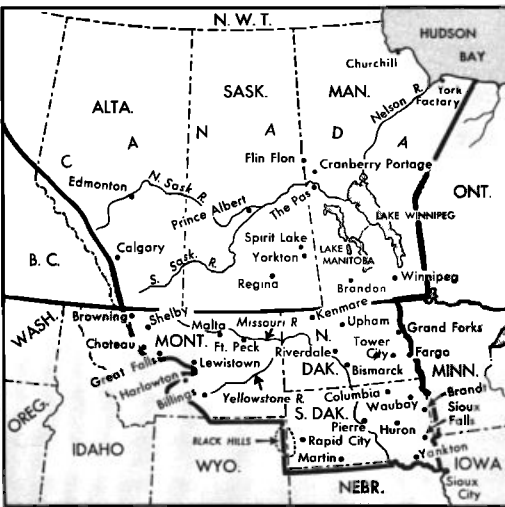
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## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Esther M. Serr

The region seemed to get its share of moisture during the season, except for eastern and central South Dakota and the southern portion of North Dakota. Drought conditions in South Dakota became so desperate that cattle were sold or moved to greener pastures.

Central Saskatchewan was hit by a violent wind of about 100 m.p.h. accompanied by rain and hail on June 4, which resulted in the death of one person. The effects on birds will be noted under species accounts.



**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Three pairs of Com. Loons produced six young in Rollette County, N.D. (RGR). Saskatchewan hatch totals reported were 35 Red-necked Grebes, with 25 of those near Prince Albert (WCH). An estimate of 100 young was made at Bowdoin N.W.R., Malta, Mont. (JRF). White Pelican numbers fared well at Bowdoin N.W.R., with 1650 young fledged from 1352 nests; the 750 counted June 8 was an increase at Quill L., Sask. (WCH). Production for the species was generally good, with smaller numbers at other places.

A heavy spring run-off in the last two years has inundated a large area in n.w. North Dakota. A new Double-crested Cormorant colony of 64 nests was established in

this area this season (RAS). Good hatches were noted at Eastend, Sask. (MAG), Bowdoin N.W.R. (JRF), and in Marshall County, S.D. (KFH).

**HERONS THROUGH IBIS** — In a Great Blue Heron colony in e. Custer County, S.D., there was almost complete loss of about 60 half-grown young noted on July 22. No report on the cause has been received as yet (BMN). The only Green Herons noted was one in Brule County S.D., June 29 (JH) and two adults and one young in Codington County, S.D., July 31 (CMC). For the second consecutive year the Little Blue Heron appeared in Saskatchewan. One was at the n. end of Last Mountain L., June 19-20 and one at Regina July 1 (RD). Four nests of the Little Blue Heron were found and photographed at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., N.D., June 17. These represented the first breeding record for the state (JMM, LAJ, RC).

Salyer, N.W.R., N.D., produced another first record June 19 when 20 Cattle Egret nests were found (JMM). Six Great Egrets were also at Salyer N.W.R., July 19 (JMM, LAJ) and singles were at Quill Lakes, Sask., June 18 and near Hudson Bay, Sask., July 28 (WCH). Five Snowy Egrets were sighted at Salyer N.W.R., July 19 (JMM). Black-crowned Night Heron numbers were low with the exception of 150 nesting at Bowdoin N.W.R. One Yellow-crowned Night Heron was observed June 17 at Salyer, N.W.R., Bottineau Co., N.D. (JMM). A Least Bittern was sighted at Ft. Peck, Mont., June 3 (CMC) and one was seen at close range July 27 at Oak Lake, Man (R.J. Wang, *vide* RWK). There were three White-faced Ibis at Salyer N.W.R., July 19. Seven were regular during the period at a slough near Broadview, Mont. (KH) and a single bird was unusual at Quill Lakes June 1 (WCH).

**SWANS, GEESE** — A small dam in Jackson County S.D. was home during the season for seven adults and four imm. Trumpeter Swans. They colonized from nearby Lacreek, N.W.R. (JLM). Greater Canada Goose production in South Dakota and Montana continued to build under management. A flock of 130 White-fronted Geese near Saskatoon, Sask., was late flying N. June 10 (JBG, BWJ).

**DUCKS** — The surface-feeding ducks were extremely common in s.w. Manitoba (RWK) and Bowdoin N.W.R. in n.e. Montana. An island of 11.5 acres located in an alkaline lake in n.w. North Dakota contained an incredible 582 duck nests, mainly Mallard and Pintail (RAS JTL). Wood Ducks produced 956 young in nest boxes Arrowwood N.W.R., Foster Co., N.D. (JWM). Canvas

back numbers were nearly 3000 on water areas near Saskatoon (JBG). Two broods of ten and 12 Com. Goldeneyes were observed at Bowdoin N.W.R., during the period. This is an unusual site, owing to an almost total lack of trees (JRF).

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — A dead Goshawk nestling was found in its nest June 24 in w. Pennington County, S.D., with the report that an adult had been shot nearby (PB). Another Goshawk was seen July 17 at Obed, Alta. (RWT). Sharp-shinned were very scarce with one June 5 at Mann Lakes, Alta. (RWT); two near Rapid City June 23 (NRW) and two in c. Brookings County, S.D. (ERE). Six eggs were blown out of a Cooper's Hawk nest during the heavy wind of June 4 at Simpson, Sask. (CSH). Single Cooper's were observed June 11, Eastend, Quill Lakes, and Prince Albert, Sask. (MAG, WCH, SML).

South Dakota required the most Red-tailed Hawks. Numbers were especially high in the c. Black Hills (PB). Waubay N.W.R., S.D., had a poor waterfowl hatch because of drought, but counted three Red-tailed nests with nine young, in addition to other active nests not checked, on June 2 (KFH). An albino hawk, believed to be a Red-tailed, was closely viewed July 23 in Deuel County, S.D. It was as white as the whitest of Snowy Owls with legs and bill a light bluish-gray (BKH). A Broad-winged Hawk was seen June 12 at Eastend, Sask. (MAG).

Swainson's Hawks had the poorest nesting success in eight years in the wind-damaged area of c. Saskatchewan. One pair tried unsuccessfully to nest on the ground. A female stayed with her nest as it was blown from one tree to a lower nearby willow thicket and it remained horizontal in its new position (CSH). There was a loose flock of Swainson's June 15 between West Poplar and Killdeer, s.w. Sask., which appeared to be 95 per cent first-year birds, since they lacked the chestnut bib and were streaked on the breast (WCH, SML). Moose Jaw, Sask., had 15 sightings, which marked a decrease (EWK). South Dakota noted had an increase with 13 observations well-spaced over the state, but Swainson's were very scarce in s.w. Manitoba (RWK). In the Eastend area, s.w. Sask., 15 young Ferruginous Hawks were reported; otherwise, only two were sighted in w. South Dakota in Jackson County June 27 (JLM) and Stanley County July 31 (K. Smith, *vide* RLH). A pair of Golden Eagles fledged two young in e. Custer County, S.D., about July 4 (BMN). Two flightless young **Bald Eagles** were found at Barrington L., Man., 56°55' N, 100°00' W, July 31 (HWRC). Three pairs of Marsh Hawks raised 11 young on a 20-acre plot at Pierson, Man. (RWK); Moose Jaw, Sask., had 41 sightings during the period (M.J.N.H.S.).

Twenty pairs of Ospreys were under observation by Frank Scott at Loon L., Sask. (*vide* OSH). One nest was found at Mann L., Alta. June 5 (EBC). One was seen on a six day 107-mile float trip down the Missouri R., in Montana (MWA) and at least two young were fledged on the Big Arm of Ft. Peck L., Mont. (RDS). Five Prairie Falcons were seen in s.w. Saskatchewan (MAG, FB, MB). One Peregrine Falcon was sitting on a post in Haakon County, S. Dak., June 16 (K. Smith, L. Lockhard, *vide* RLH). The Merlin is making an impressive comeback, with five nests located in the city of Saskatoon (CSH). Two nests were found at Kindersley after an absence there of ten years (JM, H, CSH) and five young were

reported from Eastend (MAG). One was seen June 13 at Edmonton and a nest was found at Cooking L., Alta., July 10 (RWT). Four young Am. Kestrels were fledged from a chimney of an old house in Reliance, S.D., July 31 (WCT).

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — There was good brood survival of 33 young Sage Grouse in Philips and Valley Cos., Mont. (MWA). Six adults and seven young Bobwhite were sighted in Yankton County, S.D., June 13 - July 18 (YBC). Gray Partridge broods were more common than usual in s.e. North Dakota (John Akin, *vide* JTL). A pair with 15 young was seen in Perkins County, S.D. (AH).

**RAILS, COOTS** — Seven young Virginia Rails were observed in Day County, S.D., July 16 (KFH) and three young were at Broadview, Mont. July 30 (KH). Soras were scarcer in both states. The best production for Am Coot was the 1000 at Bowdoin N.W.R. (JRF) and the 250 young on one slough in Roberts County, S.D. (KFH)

**SHOREBIRDS** — There were few reported both because of drought or water areas being too full in the region. Long-billed Curlews seemed to have had improved nesting this year with 25 sightings from four areas in s. Saskatchewan. Two adults and four downy young were noted in w. Jackson County, S.D., June 27 (NRW). Upland Sandpipers were common in s.w. Manitoba (RWK). South Dakota had about 200 Upland sightings; almost half of those were in the very driest part of the state (JH). It would be interesting to know the cause and origin of the influx of 700 Marbled Godwits and 850 Hudsonian Godwits into the Saskatoon area July 25 (JBG).

**JAEGERS, LARIDS** — On June 25, a **Pomarine Jaeger** was studied and sketched in detail while it stayed at a small lake near Sunburst, Mont., for several hours. This first record for e. Montana was by Peter Sherrington, Calgary, Alta.

There were 872 California Gull nests at Bowdoin N.W.R., and 900 young banded at Freezeout L., Mont., in mid-June (LMM). Bowdoin N.W.R. had 2128 Ring-billed Gull nests and 300 were banded at Freezeout Franklin's Gulls continued to be scarce. Three Least Terns were seen near Gavin's Pt., S.D., June 16 (KFH). Common Terns were believed to have been flooded out by rising water at Bowdoin N.W.R. (JRF). Fifty Black Terns were seen July 31 in Codington County, S.D. (CMC).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS** — South Dakota had eight sightings of Yellow-billed June 6 - July 4, which is an increase. On a count near Saskatoon July 6 there were 29 Black-billed (JBG, BWJ).

Screech Owls with two young were found at Lyleton, Man., June 5 (RJK, RWK) and six young were found in a duck box at Winnipeg June 10 (HWRC). Two bathed and drank near a lighted patio in the presence of 12 people June 20 at Burke, S.D. (GLS). Great Horneds were below average in c. Saskatchewan, where only 107 young were banded in 54 nests (CSH). Burrowing Owl numbers showed a decrease, with 125 sightings in Saskatchewan, including 18 young near Saskatoon. South Dakota had

56 with a sighting in Day County, the first in many years (RRJ). Two nests were found July 11-13 very close to Winnipeg (HWRC, WMK). Great Gray Owls had two successful nests last spring (late report) e. of Winnipeg (CMC, RWN). Long-eareds had two young at Bowdoin N.W.R.; a nest was at Winnipeg July 16 (CC), and two adults with five young were at Badlands, S. Dak., July 23 (RAW). Short-eared Owls were scarce, with two young at Bowdoin N.W.R., and 12 in 80 miles, Chester to Great Falls, Mont., (HMM). Singles were seen at Good Spirit L. (WA), and Moose Jaw in early July (EWK). Two Saw-whet Owls were noted at Prince Albert, Sask., June 10 (WCH, SML).

**GOATSUCKERS, WOODPECKERS** — Common Nighthawks were common in the region after young fledged in July. Only from South Dakota were swifts reported, where Chimney and White-throateds were in usual numbers.

A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** in the Saskatoon area was rare, making a fourth record for the province July 30 (KMM). Red-headed and Hairies did well in the region. Three Lewis' Woodpeckers were sighted June 8 - July 12 in Rapid City, S.D. (BLG, CY) and one Pileated was regular in Grand Forks County, N. Dak.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A Great Crested Flycatcher provided an unusual sighting at Mann Lakes, Alta, June 5 (EBC) and a pair in the Badlands, June 3 was unusually far west in the state (RAW). Say's Phoebe were on the increase in this period. Four were fledged at Lyleton, Man., June 20 where they are seldom found (RWK). A pair was seen carrying insects in Barnes County, N.D., July 3-4 (DLK) and a nest of four young was found in Perkins County, S.D., July 27 (AH). A total of 11 Willow Flycatchers was reported from four e. South Dakota counties June 5 - July 18 (YBC, NJH, JH, KE). Ten Dusky Flycatchers were found at Eastend June 12 where they claim a very small area for territory (MAG).

Violet-Green, Barn and Cliff Swallows swarmed Rapid City intersections only on cloudy, damp days (B.H.A.S.). A news clip from Billings, Mont., told how the swallow surplus acted in the same manner there; it was amazing that they missed the cars. An estimated 200 Purple Martins were fledged by July 31 in Burke, S.D. (GLS).

**MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — Mockingbirds seemed settled in the region. Singles were at Biggar (GJW) and Kindersley, Sask., June 13 (JM). One was at Fargo, N.D., June 22 - July 11 (VJS), and another in Tripp County, S.D. (GLS). A robin had two young in a nest July 30 at Lynn Lake, Man., 56°55' N, 101° W (HWRC). A Wood Thrush nest was found in a woodland adjacent to Riding Mt. N.P., Man., June 27 — only to be destroyed later by a predator (WJW, AAM). One was singing at Fargo, N.D., June 1 (EGA). A Varied Thrush was seen at Lethbridge, Alta., June 3 (HCS). Swainson's Thrush seemed much too scarce throughout the region. Mountain Bluebirds were scarce at Lethbridge, having been forced out of nesting sites by House Sparrows and Starlings (HCS). They were very scarce, too, in s.w. Manitoba, but 400 were banded by Mary Houston in Junior Natural History Society boxes in Saskatchewan. A Veery was singing June 4 near Lethbridge and another was seen July 6 at Cypress Hills P.P., Alta.

Eleven Cedar Waxwings were seen in Yankton County, S.D., June 1-30 (YBC). Three nests and young were found at Joliet, Bowdoin N.W.R., and Ft. Peck, Mont., July 13-18 where there was abundant ripe, wild fruit for them. Loggerhead Shrike numbers were high in s.w. Manitoba (RWK). Figures from Montana, South Dakota and Saskatchewan were also good. A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Lyleton June 5-7 (RWK, RJK). Warbling Vireos disappeared from Kenaston, Sask., after the June 4 windstorm (PLB).

**WARBLERS** — Black-and-white Warblers were found with young July 31 in the Saskatoon area (BCG, KMM). One Magnolia Warbler was observed at Saskatoon June 3 and another was seen along the Athabaska R., w. Alta (RWT). A Connecticut Warbler was at Mann Lakes June 6 (EBC). Mourning Warblers were at Lyleton (RJK) and Mann Lakes June 5 (EBC). A Canada Warbler was a rare find June 1 at Fargo (EGA).

**ORIOLE THROUGH FINCHES** — As many as 12 pairs and three nests of Orchard Orioles documented a range extension near Lyleton (RWK). One provided a third provincial record at Indian Head, Sask. (Lorne Scott). South Dakota's total of 104 sightings confirmed the influx into the region. A pair of Scarlet Tanagers was carrying food Nipawin, Sask., June 7 - July 5 (BCG). A late report of a **Summer Tanager** May 7 at Frontier, s.w. Sask., was received from Janet and Jack Wilkinson. It was a first sighting for the province and confirmed by W. Earl Godfrey after studying 24 slides of the bird.

A ♀ Cardinal sighted June 21 & 27 at Rolla, N.D., probably indicated a range extension (PCH). Cardinals were common in the s.e. corner of South Dakota (YBC, KJH). At Plevna, Mont., 12 Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen in a 13-mile survey (MDK). Reporters were especially excited about Indigo Buntings. One was a rare find w. of Billings, Mont., July 11 (Carlson and Fitzgerald, *vide* KH). Another was at Lyleton June 2. Four were sighted in the Qu'Appelle Valley, Sask. (FWL) and South Dakota added 14 sightings well-spread over the state. Lazuli Buntings were seen in much fewer in number. Dickcissels were especially common in e. North Dakota (DLK) and across the border into Manitoba (RWK).

**SPARROWS** — A count of Grasshopper Sparrows in the Lyleton-Pierson area showed 37 males in 15 mi in mid-June; this was the only report that indicated any hope for the species. Five Swamp Sparrows were seen in Lake and Miner Cos., S.D., in June (NJH). On June 14, fifty McCown's Longspurs were observed near Eastend (MAG) and 185 Lapland Longspurs were late at Saskatoon June 10 (JBG). In the very driest parts of South Dakota there was a total of 430 Chestnut-collared Longspurs in scattered counts (EEM, NJH, JH).

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## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Frances Williams

There were no weather conditions which affected nesting success either deleteriously or beneficially. If contributors made any comment on nesting success, it was usually favorable.

The trend of recent years of Mexican species spreading northward continued—or perhaps this is again the result of more birders covering the territory more thoroughly.



**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Non-breeding Com. Loons were seen at Lincoln, Neb., June 19 & July 4 (DG) and in Osage County, Okla., June 22 (BG, ED). An Eared Grebe nest with eggs was found in Lubbock County, Tex., July 21, providing a first breeding record there (DS, m.ob.). An estimated 200 Eared Grebes were at El Paso July 8-11, an unusual concentration for the summer months (KZ). Four half-grown Pied-billed Grebes in Howard County, Tex., in mid-August provided a first county breeding record (TJ *et al.*). A White Pelican in Crosby County, Tex., June 20 represented a first county record (KH) and there were noteworthy summer sightings at Tulsa July 5 (F & SC) and Canadian County, Okla., July 13, 18 & 22 (JG). Double-crested Cormorants lingered in Comal County, Tex., until June 22 (E & KM) and in Linn County, Kans. until June 27 (NJ, JGa). Ten

Olivaceous Cormorants were observed in a Great Blue Heron colony in Archer County, Tex., June 27 (J & EK). Olivaceous Cormorants also summered at Oklahoma City (JGN).

**HERONS** — Cattle Egrets comprise 50-90 per cent of the population of nearly all heronries reported in the Region, with the second most common species being Little Blue Heron. Three heronries limited to Great Blue Herons were reported; these contained 30-50 nests each. In Linn County, Kans., 26 ad. Little Blue Herons were seen July 3. Normally only young birds are seen at this locality and those appear later in the season (ESM). Six Louisiana Heron nests were discovered in Polk County, Tex. (DM). A Louisiana Heron was again reported at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Kans., June 20 (KE, BR) and wandering birds of this species were sighted at Waxahachie, Tex., June 28 & July 23 (GG). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported widely in the Region, but Black-crowned Night Herons continue to be scarce. A surprising number of Least Bitterns was sighted, but these may reflect increased proficiency by birders rather than an actual increase in population of this normally secretive bird. Reports came from El Paso and the following Oklahoma locations: Cushing, Tulsa, Roger Mills County, Oklahoma City.

**STORKS THROUGH SPOONBILLS** — An estimated 120 Wood Storks were seen in Montgomery County, Tex., June 23 (RM). A flock of 26 White-faced Ibis in Howard County, Tex., July 25 was unusual for the date (LBP). An amazing 672 nests of White Ibis were counted at a heronry in Polk County, Tex. As many as 2000 birds of this species were present, representing a tremendous increase in the past three years in the piney woods area (DM). An imm. White Ibis was sighted in Delaware County, Okla., July 7 (AM & FMB). Two reports of a Roseate Spoonbill near Ft. Worth July 17 (TG, JWa) were assumed to refer to the same bird.

**WATERFOWL** — Geese are rare in summer on the plains but there were four reports this year: White-fronted Goose at Lincoln July 25 (DG) and Presidio County, Tex., June 11 (JM), Snow Goose at Lincoln July 11 and a very large Canadian Goose with a white forehead at Dallas June 26 (HN). Unusual numbers of non-breeding ducks remained through the summer in many areas, but in Crosby County, Tex., first nesting records were established for Mallard, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal (KH, REN). A Howard County nesting record was provided by a Blue-winged Teal followed by four very small ducklings Aug. 21 (TJ *et al.*). A ♀ Mexican Duck with eight ducklings was sighted on a playa in Culberson County, Tex., June 18 (JM). The

most exciting record of the summer was the appearance of two ad. ♂ **Masked Ducks** at El Paso July 8-17 (KZ, BZ, m ob.)

**VULTURES THROUGH KESTRELS** — An albino Turkey Vulture was seen near Huntsville, Tex., July 17 (KBB). Just where Cooper's Hawks breed in Texas is still a matter of speculation so any summer records are important. They were seen in Sam Houston Nat'l Forest June 20, July 10 & July 15 (KBB) and at Sherman July 9 (SW). Two Mississippi Kite nests were located in Tulsa County. Observers in Wichita County, Tex. reported kites were present everywhere in proper habitat and several nests were located. Mississippi Kites nesting in urban areas are now so commonplace that contributors rarely mention them, but a Swainson's Hawk nest found in suburban Tulsa was newsworthy. The nest was successful when two young were fledged June 20 (WW).

Newcomers to the Southwest always have trouble distinguishing Black Hawks and Zone-tailed Hawks, and of four sightings of "Black Hawks" in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., this summer, probably only one was correctly identified. The Zone-tailed Hawk commonly flies with Turkey Vultures in the Chisos whereas the few records of Black Hawks in the park have been mostly along the Rio Grande. Two Black Hawk nests were found in the Davis Mts., Tex. (PE *et al.*). In Dallam County, Tex., June 12, Ken Seyffert discovered a pair of Ferruginous Hawks with one young in the nest and another adult with one recently fledged young. Although there have been few recent records of Ferruginous Hawk nests in Texas, Seyffert believes this is owing more to the lack of birders in the vast open spaces of w. Texas rather than a lack of hawks. Ospreys in Washington County, Tex., July 17 and Oklahoma City July 4 were unusual summer sightings. A Prairie Falcon was seen in Hartley County, Tex., June 27 (KS). In Crosby County pairs of Am. Kestrels were present in all areas with mature cottonwood trees and a pair with two juvenals was observed July 5 (KH). Another hawk which nested in an urban area was an Am. Kestrel at Marfa, Tex. (PE, JM).

**RAILS, GALLINULES** — Very few King Rails are reported on the plains in summer. The only records this season were in Nacogdoches County, Tex. (CDF) and Oklahoma City (JGN). Virginia Rail records are almost as scarce, even though this species supposedly breeds in suitable habitat throughout the Region. The only sightings reported were three pairs with downy young at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., and single bird in Hutchinson County, Tex. Purple Gallinules were sighted in Parker County, Tex., June 16 (PA), Big Bend N.P., July 8 (RL) and Oklahoma City June 5 (JGN, VV). At El Paso, Com. Gallinules with young were observed July 8 (KZ) while at Oklahoma City young Com. Gallinules were found as early as June 16. Other sightings of Com. Gallinules were at Lubbock July 7 and Crosby County June 20, but no young were seen at either site.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Snowy Plovers bred successfully in Howard County, Tex. (LBP) and a nest with eggs was found in Hemphill County, Tex., June 23 (JWi). A Piping Plover was sighted in Marshall County, Okla., July 28 (ScW). A woodcock was observed at Lincoln July 18. Highlight of any plains birder's summer is hearing the

bubbling calls of Upland Sandpipers overhead at night, signaling the approaching end of a long, hot season. This year the calls were first heard in late June rather than late July and contributors wondered if the early migration meant that nesting had been unsuccessful. Observers in the plains Region are urged to search for positive evidence of nesting Spotted Sandpipers. This species is present all summer in many areas but nests or young are never found. Baird's Sandpiper was sighted in Burleson County, Tex., July 24 (KAA). A Marbled Godwit was noted in Tarrant County, Tex., July 16 (TG). Flights of shorebirds began throughout the Region in late July, as usual. Birders who normally shun field work during the hot summer are always amazed when they see for the first time the hundreds of shorebirds arriving so much earlier than passerines.

**GULLS, TERNS** — An imm. Herring Gull in Burleson County, Tex., July 17 provided a first summer record (KAA, m.ob.). A Laughing Gull was collected in Marshall County, Okla., July 21 (GS). In Linn County, Kans., 24 Forster's Terns were present July 31. A single bird of this species was at Huntsville S.P., Tex., June 7 and there were scattered records in w. Texas throughout the period. Three Least Tern nests, each with three eggs, were discovered on the Canadian R., Hemphill County, Tex., June 23 (JWi) and ten nests were found in Grayson County, Tex., early July (ScW). Least Terns were also sighted in Roger Mills County, Okla., (RR) and Payne County, Okla. (DI). Caspian Terns were observed at Lincoln all during July with a peak of 11 on July 18. Since migrating Black Terns do not leave Texas in the "spring" until mid-June and the first "fall" migrants arrive by mid-July, it is hard to convince some observers that the species does not breed.

**DOVES THROUGH OWLS** — The population of White-winged Doves continued to increase in trans-Pecos Texas, but the number of Mourning Doves was the lowest in eight years along some Breeding Bird Survey routes. A small resident population of Ground Doves in Nacogdoches County, Tex., is probably breeding, although no positive evidence has been found. If correctly identified, a White-fronted Dove reported in Pecos County, June 13 was the farthest north record of the species in Texas (CWE). A Black-billed Cuckoo was present in Lincoln July 13 and one was sighted in Big Bend N.P., June 16 (RW). There were only three reports of Barn Owls during the period. Short-eared Owls were found in Dodge City, Kans., June 19 (MLM).

**GOATSUCKERS** — Lula and Ben B. Coffey, Jr. made roadside counts of Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills in s.e.Oklahoma the nights of June 9-10 and 10-11. The first night they drove 65 miles and counted 161 Chuck-will's-widows and two Whip-poor-wills. The second night, over a different route, they drove 108 miles, counted 436 Chuck-will's-widows and three Whip-poor-wills. In contrast, in n.e. Oklahoma Whip-poor-wills were more numerous than Chuck-will's-widows (AM & FMB). In Johnson County, Kans., Whip-poor-wills were so scarce that Mrs. Myers wondered if they had been killed by a May freeze of several days' duration. Chuck-will's-widows arrived three weeks later than the Whip-poor-wills and were common throughout the period



Poor-wills were heard in Parker & Tarrant Counties, Tex., June 1 (J & MRL).

**HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Black-chinned, Broad-tailed and Rivoli's Hummingbirds were present "all summer" at a feeder in the Davis Mts. at an elevation of 6000 ft (HB, JS). As far as is known, only Black-chinned hummers nest in the area. Black-chinned Hummingbirds still had young in the nest at Midland Aug. 9. A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird arrived at a feeder in Tarrant County, July 30 (BEV). A Rivoli's Hummingbird was observed in Big Bend N.P., June 10 (JE) Calliope Hummingbirds were visiting feeders in Ector County, Tex., Aug. 3 (BEJ, MC) and Midland Aug 7 (GP, m.ob.). The population of Red-headed Woodpeckers remained high in Linn and Johnson Cos., Kans. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was sighted at Waco, Tex., June 10. Five ad. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were counted in Pushmataha County, Okla., June 10 but only one nest was located (JG).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — More W. Kingbird nests than normal were found in Washington and Rogers Cos., Okla. Cassin's Kingbirds have declined by a third in the past three years of the Presidio County, Tex., Breeding Bird Survey. Summering E. Phoebes were present in w. Texas in Briscoe County, Crosby County and Caprock Canyon S.P. *Empidonax* flycatchers of various species lingered through June in many parts of the Region. Two Olive-sided Flycatchers were carefully identified in Grayson County June 27 (RR, CRB). It hardly seems possible that the two were breeding, but they were vigorously chasing a ♀ cowbird. Vermilion Flycatchers nested in Midland and Glasscock Cos., Tex. where they are at the n. limits of their breeding range and do not rest every year. An ad. Horned Lark feeding a juvenal at Huntsville June 1 provided the first evidence of breeding there. Tree Swallows are uncommon nesters in Kansas, but they again nested successfully in Linn County. Cliff Swallows bred in Midland County for the first time (BEJ). Cave Swallow nests were again found under an IS-10 bridge e. of Ft. Stockton, Tex. (CWE). In Linn County, a pair of Purple Martins nested in a Wood Duck box built over water about 100 years from shore. Brown and Wolfe reported that the martin roost at Tishomingo N.W.R., Okla., which comprised 3000 birds in 1974 increased to 15,000 this year. The roost was visited July 27. Many contributors noted good increases of Purple Martins in their areas.

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS** — A Blue Jay at Fredericksburg, Tex., July 27 provided an unusual summer record (RF & JHM). Verdins have been extending their range northward in recent years but do not seem to be firmly established. Another Verdin's nest was discovered in Wichita County, Tex., (NM, LS). Brown-headed Nuthatches were present in Pushmataha County June 10 (JG) At the s. limit of their range, House Wrens nested at Tulsa (F & SC) and were present at Nowata, Okla., (KS) and Randall County, Tex., (KS) in July. No Bewick's Wrens have been counted in Presidio County, Tex., during the last two Breeding Bird Surveys. Mr. Easley provided another entertaining list of nest sites of Bewick's Wrens in Johnson County, Tex.: flower basket, tractor

wheel, wagon tongue, sack almost full of nails, tin can, an old sock made in a tunnel-like nest and a mail box. Perhaps if we could line the Breeding Bird Survey routes with such attractive nest sites we would see a great increase in Bewick's Wrens. A Carolina Wren at Lincoln July 31 was noteworthy and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were unusually abundant at that locality.

**MIMICS THROUGH STARLINGS** — Gray Catbirds nested again in Comanche County, Okla. (CM & VR) A single catbird was present in Grayson County, Tex., June 27 (CRB, RR). A Curve-billed Thrasher in Caprock Canyon S.P., marked an extension of the known range of the species. In the w. half of Texas robins are normally winter residents only, so successful nests in Kerr County (E & KM) and Howard County (LBP) were newsworthy. Wood Thrushes were common in the e. third of the Region from Lincoln south to Huntsville S.P. One at Dallas June 17 represented one of the few summer records at that locality (HN *et al.*). In Delaware County, nesting of E. Bluebirds was very successful. A loose flock of approximately 50 birds was present July 5 - early August, a very large concentration for summer (AM & FMB). Cedar Waxwings were still present June 20 in Rogers County, Okla. As recently as 1974 the editor of Oberholser's *Bird Life of Texas* stated that in Texas "even one Phainopepla is an event", but now, in both the Chisos Mts. and Davis Mts., the species is easy to find. Phainopeplas also wander northward with more frequency and one was sighted in Howard County, June 1 (SC). In 1972 six Loggerhead Shrikes were counted on the Presidio County Breeding Bird Survey; the next four surveys found single birds in two years and none in two years (JM). In Parker and Tarrant Cos., the population of shrikes may be cyclical, since the 1974 and 1976 surveys produced less than ten, but 49 were counted in 1975 (J & MRL). Starlings nested in Crosby County, Tex., a "first record" that birders at that locality could have done without (KH).

**VIREOS** — The range of White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos extends much farther west along the flood plain of the Red River than it does in the mesquite-covered plains south of the river. Similarly, on the mostly treeless western plains, Bell's Vireos can nearly always be found in thickets of small trees along the dry watercourses called "draws". This habitat preference of vireos is shared by many other species and illustrates the importance of preserving "riparian" habitats in the west. (Can the growth in a dry ravine be called "riparian"?) An ad Yellow-throated Vireo was observed feeding a cowbird in Linn County, Kans. (NJ). Breeding vireos of this species are rare in Kansas. Two Red-eyed Vireos were present in Andrews County, Tex., June 12 (GP). Although Warbling Vireos nest in the highlands of trans-Pecos Texas, they are virtually absent in the rest of the state in summer. But nests of this species were found along the Trinity R., Polk Co., in 1973 and the birds were present again this summer (DM).

**WARBLERS** — Few areas in the plains can equal the number of warblers which summer in Huntsville S.P., where approximately 134 singing males of 14 species were present in 2000 acres (KBB). Black-and-white Warblers were sighted in Big Bend N.P., on the unusual

dates May 29 (JE) & July 1 (REA). This species was numerous in the wooded hills of e. Grayson County. (RR, *vide* CRB). Two pairs of Prothonotary Warblers summered in Payne County, Okla. (DI). A Swainson's Warbler was present in McCurtain County, Okla., June 17 (JG). A Worm-eating Warbler was sighted in McLellan County, Tex., July 5 (M & JB). A Golden-cheeked Warbler was observed feeding a juvenal Brown-headed Cowbird at Meridian S.P., Tex., June 19 (CWE). A Yellow-throated Warbler in Linn County, Kans., July 3 provided a first summer record (ESM). In Delaware County, Okla., two nests of the Pine Warbler were discovered in March and April, and in mid-July a family group of four was seen. This represents a new County nesting record (AM & FMB). Kentucky Warblers were considered newsworthy by several contributors: Kerr County June 20 (RF & JHM), Payne County, all summer (SR, DI), Grayson County, June 27 (RR, CRB). The **Rufous-capped Warbler** was seen Aug. 3 & 4 in Big Bend N.P., but this time it appeared in one of the Rio Grande canyons instead of the Chisos Mts. (TT, JWa). The observers did not know of the recent sightings and assumed they had added a new species to the U.S. list.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — A Bobolink was present at Lincoln during July. The nest of a Hooded Oriole was found in w. Kerr County (E & KM) and a second pair came to a hummingbird feeder in Kerrville all summer. Scott's Orioles were seen in five areas of Kerr County and one nest was found. A N. (Baltimore) Oriole was present in Howard County on the late date of June 19 (M.N.). A Great-tailed Grackle nest was located at Tulsa and the species was present in Rogers County, Okla., in abundance. In Kerr County, Orchard Orioles and Carolina Wrens were observed feeding fledgling Bronzed Cowbirds. A Scarlet Tanager in Comal County, Tex., June 22 was unusual at that locality and date (E & KM), as was one in Lincoln July 31 (DG).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were present in Washington County, Okla. and Linn County, but no nest was found at either site. A singing ♂ Indigo Bunting was sighted in Randall County, July 18 (KS). Adult ♂ Painted Buntings were still present in Rogers County, July 30, (KS). Dickcissels were unusually common in Linn County, Tulsa and Payne County and showed an increase at Dallas. A Dickcissel nest was discovered in Wichita County, Tex. (LS). A ♂ Lesser Goldfinch of the green-backed form was sighted in Oldham County, Tex., June 6. A Lesser Goldfinch of any form would be noteworthy at that location (KS). Eight or more Grasshopper Sparrows were present in Tulsa County, June 27 - July 18. With two exceptions all previous records were in April and early May and no more than three had been reported at one time (K & EH). A colony of Grasshopper Sparrows was also found in Payne County (DI). After a year's absence Cassin's Sparrows were again abundant in Hudspeth County, Tex. (KZ). In Presidio County, no Cassin's Sparrows were recorded the first four years of the Breeding Bird Survey but three to 12 have been heard the past four years. The presence of Cassin's Sparrows in the trans-Pecos may depend upon rainfall, but on the plains east of the Pecos the species is abundant late March through September

every year. Nor do they disappear from this area after breeding. A Black-throated Sparrow in Hartley County Tex., June 6 was unexpected.

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## SOUTH TEXAS REGION /Fred S. Webster, Jr.

It was a good nesting season, largely in response to generally good habitat conditions and absence of any widespread disasters. Some usually early nesting species may have been delayed by very dry conditions through March, but April and May rains refurbished the landscape. At Welder Wildlife Refuge it was observed that resident passerines and non-passerines were late in start



ing to nest but as of late June most seemed to be fledging more than the usual number of young (GWB). While June was a relatively dry month in most areas, July was unusually wet. At Aransas N.W.R., where food and water conditions had favored earlier nesting, extremely heavy rains in early July took a heavy toll of later nesting ground species as large portions of the refuge were inundated for several weeks (BH). At Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., on the lower coast, conditions were good and nesting was the best in several years (GAU). Temperatures were slightly below normal in June, but several degrees below normal in July as a result of cloud cover and rain. Rains tapered off during the latter part of July, and by August temperatures were in a more normal pattern. Hot, dry weather characterized August — which is the tag end of the nesting season — with the most significant rains concentrated in the Rio Grande Delta during the second half of the month.

**LOONS, GREBES** — While loons are not breeding birds in this Region, their appearance during the season is noteworthy. Three individuals were seen in Rockport on June 17, and by June 23 seven could be found in the area One Com. Loon in breeding plumage was seen briefly but disappeared, leaving only those in imm. plumage; most of the latter were small and dark, leading to much study and speculation — none conclusive — as to their identity. On July 18 a dead Com. Loon was picked up; it was acquiring new flight feathers but would not have been able to fly. On July 28 a small, dark loon was measured while resting ashore. This individual was thought to be too small for even the Lesser Com. Loon, and the suspicion lingered that some of the birds were Arctic Loons (DNW & PY). Least Grebe numbers were up at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., where about ten pairs produced an average of three young (GAU). An adult and three half-grown young were seen in late August at Aransas N.W.R.; this was the first recorded nesting for the refuge (BH).

**SHEARWATERS THROUGH STORKS** — The decomposing carcass of a **Sooty Shearwater**, apparently in juvenile plumage, was found in the tidal wrack line 1.5 mi down the beach from Gilchrist, Galveston Co., July 23 (DW); the remains are located in the Stephen F. Austin U. collection. A **Leach's Petrel** was found on July 12 at the s.e. corner of Corpus Christi, off Laguna Madre, and is preserved at the museum there (*vide* KM). Ten young Brown Pelicans were banded at the colony on Pelican I., Corpus Christi Bay, in late July, and were seen as late as Aug. 15. Some individuals of the six parent pairs were birds banded three years earlier. Four of the nine young banded last year were observed playing at courtship and nesting. Pelican watchers are indebted to Mrs. Payne for baby-sitting on weekends when disturbance by humans is most likely (*vide* KM). Six young pelicans were banded on Second Chain of Islands in San Antonio Bay, off Aransas N.W.R., two each from three nests, four nests failed or were deserted (*vide* EP). The number of juveniles feeding in the marshes around Rockport indicated a good season for herons and egrets. Great Blue Herons started nesting in the Rockport ski basin in January. Young began to appear in late March; eventually 25 fledged (DNW). Wood Storks were appearing early in July. Three were seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande

Valley S.P., July 3, and up to seven in s.e. Wilson County July 10-11 (WS). A flight of 60 was observed just e of Eagle Lake, Colorado Co., July 12 (JAM).

**WATERFOWL** — At Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., **Black-bellied Tree Ducks** brought off the most offspring since 1973. About 45 pairs produced an average of eight young (GAU). Two broods of six young each (8 or 9 weeks old) were seen on a pond at Aransas N.W.R. in late August (BH). A pair hatched a brood of 15-20 at a lake near Kenedy, Karnes Co. They were last seen on Aug. 15, when the young were about half grown, apparently forced to move when the lake went dry (RR). Two broods with a total of six young Fulvous Tree Ducks represented the first nesting on Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. in a number of years (GAU). Mottled Ducks had a good year on the upper coast. Eight broods, comprising from three to eight young, were sighted on Aransas N.W.R.; the latest hatching occurred during the week of Aug. 23 (BH). A few Ruddy Ducks may summer in any favorable body of water in this Region, but it seemed most unusual to find a concentration of 150+ at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., June 15 (WMC). Two ♂ **Masked Ducks** were reported at Santa Ana N.W.R. July 4 (WS). This species was observed at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., during the season, no young were seen. (GAU).

**HAWKS** — As reported earlier, five **Hook-billed Kites** (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) were found at Santa Ana N.W.R. in December, and were frequently observed for many weeks thereafter. [See front cover.] One pair remained, and a nest was found on the refuge during the first week of May. The two eggs hatched, but one nestling disappeared about two weeks later. The other young was of fledgling size when last seen; its fate is not known. No kites have been sighted since July 11 (WAS). About six pairs of **White-tailed Kites** produced an average of three young at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., an increase over the past two years (GAU). A number of Swainson's Hawk sightings on the upper coast and w. to Travis County in June and July raised the possibility of nesting, although no evidence was found. It was encouraging to hear of several successful nestings of the **White-tailed Hawk** from the c. coast to the Rio Grande. Two nests were found at Aransas N.W.R.; two young fledged from the one under observation (BH). At Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., three pairs fledged one each (GAU).

A pair of **Com. Black Hawks** was watched along the Rio Grande below Rancho Santa Margarita, Starr Co. (Brown Jay nest locality) since April. A nest was found on May 8, and remained active until at least May 21. On May 29 a Great Horned Owl was perched above the nest, and hawk activity had ceased (JCA). Bald Eagle production increased this year. Nine nests were spotted and all but one — in Orange County — were active. Six nests produced eight young and two eggs (at last sighting). The zone of productivity stretched between Houston and Corpus Christi. Three new nest sites were found in the Refugio-Calhoun-Victoria County area; here the San Antonio R. bottoms support good tracts of woodland (JCS). Apparently **Snow Geese** provided food for a pair of eagles nesting near Tivoli, Refugio Co. One young was seen in the nest from roadside in mid-February (DNW). It was observed out of the nest on Mar. 25 (VLE *et al.*).

GROUSE, QUAILS, GALLINULES — The population of Greater Prairie Chickens was up in Goliad and Refugio Counties but down in Victoria County — probably owing to wet weather in the latter (BB). A good season was suspected on Aransas N.W.R., where 25 males engaged in the “booming” ritual. One brood of seven nearly grown young was seen in late August (BH). At Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., four or five pairs of Purple Gallinules produced from five to eight young per pair, and eight pairs of Com. Gallinules averaged six per pair (GAU).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS — Wilson’s Plover were uncommon at Rockport, where only one chick was seen on the beach (DNW). Killdeer nested for the third consecutive year at a residence in Corpus Christi. The nest site was a patch of gravel by the driveway. This year two eggs were seen on Mar. 18 and single eggs were laid at sundown on the following two days. The eggs hatched on Apr. 14, and three chicks were seen subsequently. On May 7 a Killdeer was seen “cleaning up” the nest site. An egg was laid on May 9, then two more at two-day intervals. Hatching took place on June 7 (MP, *fide* KM). Black-necked Stilts apparently did well at San Antonio’s Mitchell L. Up to 50 adults were seen, but by the time young were off the nest the weeds had grown to the extent that counting was impossible. Several young were seen in late July (AH & GBH, JAM).

The mystery gull seen at the Port Aransas jetty in February and collected in mid-March (see winter report), and thought by many to be an Iceland Gull, was identified as a first-year **Thayer’s Gull**. Least Terns fledged 31 young on Rockport Beach despite vulnerability to human activity; they reached flight stage before July 4 (DNW).

DOVES, ANIS, OWLS — An above-average breeding population of White-winged Doves, over 530,000 birds, returned to nest in the four-county area of the Rio Grande Delta. Production averaged about three young per pair. Heavy rains plus water released from reservoirs flooded grain fields and caused birds to move from the area after nesting. Good nesting results were reported also in upper S. Texas, especially around L. Corpus Christi (HI). The White-fronted Dove population at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. was reported increasing (GAU). A nest of the Groove-billed Ani, containing one egg, was discovered in the Kenedy area in late July. Apparently only two eggs were laid, which hatched on or shortly before Aug. 10. Despite regular feeding, both young were found dead in the nest on Aug. 13. Contamination of food by much aerial spraying in the area over a period of time was suspected as the cause of death (RR). A Ferruginous Owl was “singing” downstream from Rancho Santa Margarita, Feb. 28; thereafter, up to four singing individuals could be found on any day. On May 1, four males were at one spot. Arvin expressed fear that this seeming explosion of owls, as well as other primarily Mexican species, reflected habitat destruction in Mexico rather than a voluntary extension of range. A census of three miles of dirt road near La Grulla, Starr Co., June 4, turned up nine pairs of Elf Owls (JCA).

GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHERS — Pauraques called in large numbers in the Falfur-

rias area from Mar. 31 on (AWO). A nest with one egg was found at Beeville on July 12, the same date as last year (ECW, *fide* AHG). A pair of Lesser Nighthawks nested at Mitchell L. (AH & GH). A ♀ Ruby-throated Hummingbird, an uncommon summer resident, was feeding a fledgling at Houston June 24 (WMC) At Kenedy, a female brought two very young birds to feed from red honeysuckle in late July (RR).

— S.A. —

At Corpus Christi, two nestlings hummers were fed during a five-day period of rain totalling 16 inches, which required the female’s absence from the nest, at times, during heavy rainfall. Later, the nest was found to have a “neat drain hole, match-stick size, bored through the felt bottom” (TL, *fide* KM).

Buff-bellied Hummingbirds could be seen regularly at the first roadside rest area s. of Sarita, Kenedy Co., on U.S. Hwy. 77 — the Tropical Parula stake-out. A nest was found on May 29 (VWM). A pair of Ringed Kingfishers were excavating a nest site in an arroyo at Rancho Santa Margarita May 8. The female was incubating in late May (JCA). Two Green Kingfishers were seen at a city park in Refugio, Refugio Co., July 25; birds were reported at this location in February and March (MK, *fide* WMC).

COTINGAS, FLYCATCHERS — A nest of the Rose-throated Becard, containing two eggs, was blown down by a violent thunderstorm at Santa Ana N.W.R., June 4. The female was building again at the same location on June 8, although the male had not been seen for some time (JCA). Nothing was fledged from the second nest. Yet another nest, with only a female present, was reported; nothing is known of the outcome of this attempt (WAS). A pair of W. Kingbirds was feeding two immatures on the w. edge of Houston July 19 (GS & LS). This species again nested at three sites in Robstown, Nueces Co. Of a total of four nests, only one was successful, but the adults disappeared when the four healthy nestlings were only a week old (KM). Along the Rio Grande below Rancho Santa Margarita, May 29, a pair of **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers** battled a Golden-fronted Woodpecker for a hole in a dead willow stub. On June 3 a violent storm felled the willow (JCA). This species was present as late as July 11 (GC, DTD & JD).

SWALLOWS, JAYS — Cliff Swallows were on the increase in the Rockport area, using three bridge culverts on State Hwy. 35. Of 351 nests counted, 190 were at a new location (DNW). An estimated 50 Cave Swallows were nesting under a bridge between Uvalde and Del Rio May 3 (VLE, JLR *et al.*). Over 100 birds were found nesting with Barn Swallows under a culvert just s of Laredo. It was a good year for Purple Martins at Corpus Christi (KM). The colonies in n. McAllen, Hidalgo Co., — which established the species as a breeder in the Rio Grande Delta — were active (JCA). The Starr County population of Brown Jays remained stable at about 40-50 birds, scattered along the Rio Grande from below Falcon Dam to Fronton. A pair was carrying food to a nest on May 29. Two flocks totalling 14 birds were seen at Rancho Santa Margarita June 5 (JCA).

**WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Once common in the Rio Grande Delta, the Carolina Wren is now sporadic and rare. An upswing in the cycle may be heralded by the presence of several pairs at Santa Ana N.W.R. this spring. One was noted at Rancho Santa Margarita May 15 and thereafter, which is a first Starr County record in modern times (JCA). This species was singing on the Santa Maria tract, s.w. Cameron County June 17 (WMC). A pair of Am. Robins in Brownsville in late May was suspected of nesting (SB); there is no breeding record s. of Corpus Christi. In Austin, where a few breeding robins can usually be found, a pair nested in Eastwoods Park, recalling days of old (EBK). Another pair nested in a hanging basket under the roof of a commercial nursery shed, despite frequent foot traffic underneath. Two singing Wood Thrushes at Bastrop S.P., June 5, strongly suggest territorial activity (EAK & JWW). Fledgling E. Bluebirds were being fed in the Beeville area on June 16 (JJJ *vide* AHG). The Loggerhead Shrike breeding population continued to increase in Travis County, where this species was once unknown as a nesting bird. Two families were noted in the San Antonio area (CRB), and a pair nested at Kenedy (RR). Starlings become more common at Austin each year. Competition for nesting holes, with Starlings winning out, apparently led to a late nesting of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Eastwoods Park (EBK).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A survey of a new city park in San Antonio revealed nesting Black-capped Vireos and Golden-cheeked Warblers, as many as four and three territories, respectively. Fortunately for birders there is easy access, and for the birds, protection (JAM *et al.*). The roadside park s. of Sarita on U.S. Hwy. 77 is a regular stop for birders traveling to and from the Rio Grande Delta, thanks mainly to a small population of Tropical Parulas in spring and summer. A perusal of many reports revealed the following highlights: A ♂ warbler feeding a cowbird fledgling July 5 (AB & WS); a nest suspended in Spanish moss about 20 feet above ground in a live oak motte with adults feeding one young — apparently a cowbird — in the nest Aug. 4 (KK *et al.*); and a female feeding a Bronzed Cowbird Aug. 6 (WAS).

**FRINGILLIDS** — A singing ♂ **Crimson-collared Grosbeak** (*Rhodothraupis celaeno*) was seen in s.w. Hidalgo County July 21 (GSD). This Mexican species was reported twice in Hidalgo County in 1974. At Corpus Christi, a Cardinal nest contained three eggs on the very late date of Aug. 20. An earlier nesting attempt was abandoned when two Bronzed Cowbird nestlings disappeared, one by way of a cat (KM). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was building a nest in a brushy pasture at Rancho Santa Margarita, May 29. This species was once a common nester in lower S. Texas but has become increasingly rare in recent years (JCA). A population of Indigo Buntings was noted in w. Comal County June 26 (MH). This probably represents a breeding population although there is no previous record for the county. In years when spring rains stimulate rank growth of herbaceous vegetation, Dickcissels stop their northward flight to nest in the Rio Grande Delta; this was such a year (JCA). At Kenedy, a Lark Sparrow nest was discovered under a bean stalk in early April. It contained two spar-

row eggs and one cowbird egg; all eggs subsequently disappeared (RR). The Botteri's Sparrow population was below normal at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., but Cassin's Sparrows increased (GAU).

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**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**  
/Thomas H. Rogers

The general weather picture for summer in the Region was cool and wet. Spells of sunny weather were quickly terminated by clouds and often rain. June was reported dry only in the Kalispell, Mont., and Spokane, Wash.,



areas. Most areas in July were abnormally wet and cool. Vegetative growth was excellent and water levels high. The snow pack remained long in the mountains in the northern part of the Region. Nesting in southern Idaho was generally ahead of schedule and arrivals in Crater

Lake National Park were early due to a smaller snow pack

The catastrophic bursting of the Teton Dam on the Snake River in southern Idaho swept great quantities of dangerous chemicals into American Falls Reservoir. These included herbicides, PCBs and a variety of insecticides including DDT and less persistent substances. Many drums of toxic materials have not been recovered. High levels of pesticides have been found in game fish and may have caused the death of some birds.

**LOONS, GREBES** — A **Red-throated Loon** was identified on L. McDonald, Glacier N.P., Mont. (JCB). Nesting success of Red-necked Grebes was very low on Liberty L., Wash., with predation by gulls apparently the reason. Dead W. Grebes were found on the pesticide-laden mud flats of Am. Falls Res., near Pocatello, Ida. About 15 were on L. Entiat, n. of Wenatchee June 2 and two were on Rock L., n.w. Whitman Co., Wash. June 6.

**PELICANS, CORMORANTS** — Following the Teton Dam disaster 68 White Pelicans were found dead in the Rupert-Minidoka area. DDT was found in one (JH). About 56 became victims of the pesticide spill at Am. Falls Res. About 650 were seen there June 6, having flown all the way up from the nearest nesting colony, on Great Salt L., raising grave questions about the well-being of their young, being fed on fish loaded with toxic substances. Young Double-crested Cormorants occupied eight nests in the L. Helena nesting colony near Helena, Mont. (LT).

**HERONS THROUGH IBIS** — At least 47 Great Blue Heron nests were active at the L. Helena heronry (LT) and the one at Mica Bay on L. Coeur d'Alene in n. Idaho had 17 active nests. A **Green Heron** seen well as it flew over the Swan R., five mi. n.e. of Bigfork July 4 was apparently the third ever for Montana (JS & MS). A single **Cattle Egret** appeared on meadowland adjacent to Malheur N.W.R. Burns, Ore. July 12 and McNary N.W.R. had a **Snowy Egret** June 23 (WH). Black-crowned Night Herons were reported only from Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. and at the mouth of the Yakima R. near Richland, Wash. where the harassed colony there apparently was able to bring off a few young. The White-faced Ibis colony at Market L., Roberts, Ida., where 32 birds were banded June 9, seemed healthy (CHT) as was that at Malheur N.W.R., where many were fledging and dispersing in late July (DF)

**WATERFOWL** — Trumpeter Swan nesting success at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. was poor with only 47 per cent hatching success and about 20 per cent cygnet survival (19 young). Malheur N.W.R. produced 12 cygnets, survival yet undetermined, and a pair near Harrison, Mont., brought off two young. Three Trumpeters at Red Rock Lakes had yellow legs and varying amounts of yellow on bill and lores and by sight could easily be mistaken for Whistling Swans. The Trumpeter population at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., stood at 45 at the end of July.

Canada Goose reproduction doubled at Malheur with 1600 goslings raised, a mild spring and lower predation contributing to the success. Turnbull had 400 Canadas at

the end of the report period. Seventeen adults and 80 goslings were the most ever for L. Helena for Sid Martin. Duck pairs at Malheur were up about 30 per cent over last year. Less common ducks thriving at Turnbull were Gadwall at 300, Wood Duck at 60, and Canvasback at 200. Waterfowl production at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. appeared good despite cold, damp weather

Among the unusual occurrences were a ♂ and a ♀ Redhead July 2 on Crater L. in Oregon, apparently the first for the park. The first nesting record for the Ring-necked Duck in the Canadian Rockies was supplied by a female with three young in Yoho N.P. July 13 (RRH & LW). A pair in the Salmon, Ida., area June 3 was unusual. A female and seven young, believed to be Com Goldeneye, were found on the Pend Oreille R., in Idaho just north of Newport, Wash. This is apparently the first breeding record for Idaho (SH, PM & DRP). A pair was noted nesting at L. Wenatchee in n.c. Washington (Y.A.S.) and a brood was reported in Powell County, Mont. June 5 (ETH & RAH). Four of the scarce Harlequin Duck were on the American R., n.w. of Yakima July 21 (EC). The Com. Merganser was described as being a nester on most of the large and wild rivers of s Idaho. It was found on the Owyhee and the Middle Fork of the Salmon R., with a nest found on the latter (CHT)

**VULTURES, HAWKS** — A Turkey Vulture nest, apparently the first ever found in the Region, was discovered near the s. end of Coeur d'Alene L. (DC). One bird in the Salmon area was Roberts' first ever during the nesting season. The species was recorded for the first time in the Livingston, Mont. area (UC). Otter L., near Vernon, B.C., had an amazing 24 of the big birds July 28 (HB). The only Goshawk reports came from Trinity Valley Ecological Reserve, s.e. British Columbia June 10 (JG), and near Field, B.C., July 16 (LW), both singles. Swainson's Hawk numbers were good in the Pocatello area and at least four were seen in the Sprague-Ritzville, Wash. area June 27. In Oregon a flock of 20 in heavy molt were in a field near Worden June 12 and three were seen June 7 in Lower Klamath N.W.R. (HN). An incubating pair was found in both Franklin and Garfield Cos., Wash. The outlook for the Ferruginous Hawk still appeared dismal in the Pocatello area, but the Birds of Prey Natural Area at Boise had six or seven successful nests (CHT). A pair was attempting to nest near Canyon Ferry Res. near Helena but there was no sign of eggs or young. At least four were sighted in the Washtucna, Wash. area June 27 and young in the nest were observed in June at Wilsall, Mont. Single Bald Eagles appeared in Washington at Rimrock L., near Yakima June 30 and along the Yakima R., near Sunnyside Dam July 1 (HD & AH). Crater Lake N.P. had single adults July 3 & 28. Sixty-five young Ospreys were banded at Coeur d'Alene L. (DC). Two Peregrine Falcons were reported for the Region. Prairie Falcon numbers appeared to be fairly good in one area of e. Oregon and one area of Montana but the birds were scarcely reported in e. Washington and Idaho and unreported from British Columbia. The only Merlins were two in n.w. Montana.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Sharp-tailed Grouse were recorded in the Nampa, Ida., area and in the Flathead Valley of n.w. Montana. Up to 65 Sage Grouse

were noted in July on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore., the only record for the period. Lyle, Wash. had a pair of **Mountain Quail** with 5-6 young July 6 (DRP).

#### CRANES THROUGH COOTS —

##### S.A.

Only three of the Whooping Cranes hatched last year by Sandhill Cranes at Gray's Lake N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho have been located this year and are doing well. One spent the summer south of the refuge (EWL) and another, near Green River, Utah (EWL; CHT). The third summered near Big Timber, Mont. (Bozeman Chronicle; EWL). The substitution of 15 eggs this year resulted in only five young whoopers surviving at report time (RCD & EWL).

Sandhill Crane nesting success at Malheur was 67 per cent better than in 1975. About 236 pairs went into the nesting season there. A Sandhill Crane at Fortine about July 20 was the second in 56 years' observing there (WW). The seldom-seen Virginia Rail was found at Fish L., 15 mi. n. of Leavenworth, Wash.; at Rock L., Whitman Co., Wash., and at Coeur d'Alene L. An Am. Coot appeared on Crater L. July 16 for the first record there.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Three Semipalmated Sandpipers at a lake near Fortine July 29 furnished Weydemeyer's tenth record in 56 years. An adult and two very young Snowy Plovers were seen July 21 at Lower Borax L. Res., in s.e. Harney Co., Ore. (DF) and at Hot L. in the same general area nine adults were courting (HN). An Am. Golden Plover was photographed at Gloyd Seeps just north of Moses L., Wash. June 10 (PC & HO). The Nampa area reported an astounding 454 Long-billed Curlews July 17. A few nested near Pocatello, where there once were thousands. The tiny Upland Sandpiper colony, still hanging on in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane, revealed three adults and one nest June 12. This is the only known colony in the Region and part of its area is reputedly slated for a housing development. A Spotted Sandpiper was in the Chinook Pass area of Mt. Rainier N.P. at over 5000 ft. elevation July 21 (EC). A Millet at Salmon June 10 was Roberts' first ever. Remarkable were 500 W. Sandpipers at Malheur L., and 3000 at Stinking L. At Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., "peep" numbered in the hundreds or possibly thousands July 24 (SS) Malheur L. had a maximum of 26 Marbled Godwits and a flock of 30+ was at Bear L. N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho June 25 (CHT). American Avocets were estimated at over 10,000 at Summer L. July 24 (SS) and 1370 were counted at Stinking L. Five were at Cougar Bay on Coeur d'Alene L. July 21 for apparently the first n. Idaho record since 1903 (DC). Malheur L. had up to 44 Black-necked Stilts.

**PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNS** — Malheur N.W.R. counted 8100 Wilson's Phalaropes on Stinking L., and "thousands" were at Summer L., July 24. California and Ring-billed Gulls bred by the hundreds on several Columbia R. islands at the mouth of the Yakima R. These colonies appear to be expanding yearly, probably in response to garbage proliferation. The colony of these two species on Am. Falls Res. near Pocatello also appears

to be increasing. Some young were ready to fly while eggs were still being incubated in other nests. Notable was a flock of 21 of the Ring-billed in Yoho N.P., B.C. July 26 and a California was at Golden, B.C. July 31 (RRH) Yoho N.P. had two ad. Mew Gulls July 14 and a few were at Golden, B.C., around July 1 for the first records for both areas (RRH). Upper Klamath L., Ore., had 42 sub-adult Bonaparte's Gulls in a flock June 6 (HN & OS) and the species still lingered at Wilsall, Mont. June 26 (ETH, RAH, DRS & PDS). Three were sighted in Yoho N.P. July 29 (RRH). Two Forster's Terns at Liberty L., Wash. June 1-2 were the first for that locality (GV) and three at Reardan, Wash. June 22 were noteworthy (EH). Six Caspians were along the Columbia R. at Blalock July 6 (DRP). A Black Tern straggled into Yoho N.P. July 14 for the first record there (RRH).

**OWLS** — The Barn Owl was reported from Nampa, Ida.; the Yakima area; Columbia N.W.R., and Clarkston, Wash. Scottie Creek Campground 15 mi. w of Wenatchee, Wash., had a Flammulated Owl June 28 (SH, PM & DRP). Burrowing Owls were retreating in the face of development in the Richland, Wash., area but seemed to be doing well in the Yakima area and at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. One or two Barred Owls were found June 13 - July 26 at the bog on Calispell Peak n.w. of Cusick, Wash. Single Great Gray Owls appeared at two localities in the mountains w. of Calgary, Alta. (MO & TO; RJB). An adult near Ft. Klamath, Ore., had two newly fledged young with it June 11 (HN) and a pair s. of Bozeman, Mont., brought two young off the nest in late June (PDS). The only Boreal Owl report was of one in Yoho N.P. June 17 (CW). A family group of four imm. Saw-whet Owls was seen near Ennis, Mont. June 29 (CH, EHa & PDS).

**POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Two Poor-wills were calling at Satus Pass 15 mi. n.e. of Goldendale, Wash., June 3 and another was heard at Wenatchee Guard Station in the Blue Mts. of extreme s.e. Washington July 7 (DRP). The only other record was of five north of Eagle Rock, near Prineville, Ore. (HN) A Black Swift nest near Enderby, B.C. held a half-grown nestling July 23 and a flock of 20 was feeding close to the ground at Cherryville, B.C. July 31 (JG). The species was identified at Holter Res. near Helena, for the first record in that area (SM & LS). Several reports of the Black-chinned Hummingbird came from the Yakima area and one was found on Badger Mt., n.e. of Wenatchee. One was recorded near Clearwater Forest Service Station in the Blue Mts., Garfield Co., Wash.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Rupert, Ida. had a Red-headed Woodpecker June 15-25 (WHS). Lewis' Woodpeckers had at least five successful nests at Golden, B.C. A mixed pair of "red-naped" and "red-breasted" Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers had young in the nest over the July 4 weekend at Cold Springs Campground near Sisters, Ore. (HN). More reports of Williamson's Sapsuckers, than ever before, including two nests, suggested a welcome increase. Most were in Washington but they were also seen near Fortine and two records came from Idaho. White-headed Woodpeckers were found at six localities in Oregon and Washington. The Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was reported at five widely scattered localities.

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, the first for w. Montana and the second for the state, was identified on lower McDonald Creek, Glacier N.P., June 18 (CM, DS & RS). The Ash-throated Flycatcher colony in Columbia N.W.R. appeared to be on the decline, with only two birds seen. The species seemed to be doing better at a colony above Buena Vista Station on the w. side of Malheur N.W.R., where many pairs were recorded in July (DF). British Columbia had several E. Phoebe records. One was at Nicholson June 20 (FK) and a pair was nesting at Brisco July 12 (FK & RRH). A bird in Yoho N.P. July 31 provided the first park record (RRH & CW). A Least Flycatcher calling on territory was watched at length in Oak Creek Canyon west of Naches, Wash. (BH). The Gray Flycatcher colony was observed again this year in the Satus Pass - Box Canyon area of Klickitat Co., Wash. and the latest date so far, July 30, recorded (EH, PM & DRP). A Western Flycatcher heard along the S Fork of Little Granite Creek at 6000 ft. in the Seven Devils Mts., Idaho July 4 provided the first state record for summer south of Latah County (THR). Horned Larks appeared on top of Llaoy Rock, Crater L., N.P. June 21, three weeks earlier than any previous record, and five were seen on Skookumchuk Prairie at Kimberley, B.C., where they previously had been seen only on migration (MW). Two Tree Swallows at Bernard L. in the Seven Devils around 6000 ft. July 16 were far higher up than any previously reported for northern Idaho (SGS).

**JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Scrub Jays were noted rather routinely above 7000 ft. on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore. July 12-16 (DF *et al.*). A flock of 81 Com. Ravens was at Malheur L. July 24. About six Boreal Chickadees were reported June 26-27 three mi. e. of Bigfork, Mont. (NR). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee appeared in a front yard at Swan L., Mont. June 21. The species occurs there in winter (Mrs. EJ). Common Bush-tits were common June 4 at Lyle, Wash., the only place reporting them (DRP). At a nest project on a farm near Spokane, Pygmy Nuthatches brought off ten first broods and were rearing four second broods.

**WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Bewick's Wren was found e. of Lyle and at Rock Creek e. of Goldendale, Wash. July 6 (DRP). Rock Wrens were heard at three locations in the Seven Devils Mts. of Idaho at elevations of about 5500 to over 6000 ft. Single Mockingbirds appeared at the lower end of Priest L., in n. Idaho June 23 (MC) and near Centerville, Wash. July 10. The latter was reputed to have been there since Memorial Day (EH). The Spokane nest box project produced 34 first and 19 second broods of W. Bluebirds with 166 young fledged and 43 still in the nest. Mountain Bluebirds there occupied only one box and fledged three birds. A pair of W. Bluebirds, rare at Kimberley, B.C., looked over a nest box but did not stay (MW). "Many" Mountains were reported at the edges of Umatilla Nat'l Forest in the Blue Mts in July.

**PIPITS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Water Pipits were observed on the summit of Steens Mt., in Harney Co., Ore. (P.A.S.) and were suspected of breeding on the summit of Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore. (DF). Alpine meadows at the head of the e. fork of the Pahsimeroi R. near Challis, Ida., yielded several nesting pairs with young

July 25 (CHT). Warbling Vireos were found in aspens around 6000 ft. in the Seven Devils over the July 4 weekend. A Solitary Vireo July 15 was Roberts' first sighting for the Salmon area. A ♂ **Tennessee Warbler** in breeding plumage, carefully identified July 28 at Indian Ford Campground near Sisters, Ore., furnished probably the fifth or sixth record for the state (TL & HN). A singing male near Nicholson, B.C., June 26 was worthy of note (RRH & FK). A ♂ **Magnolia Warbler** at Brisco, B.C., July 11 was considerably south of its breeding range (FK). A ♂ **Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler** appeared in a city yard at Spokane June 10 (VK). This species was the most common singing bird at the 5000-6000 ft. level in the Seven Devils during the July 4 weekend. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was singing at Brooks Memorial S.P., n. of Goldendale, Wash. June 4 (DRP) and at least two singing males were there July 11 (EH). One was singing at White Salmon, Wash., July 9 (EH). Two ♂ **Hermit Warblers** were associated with Townsend's Warblers foraging at Leech L., White Pass, Yakima Co., Wash., June 13 (BH). A Townsend's Warbler was observed at the Ochoco Ranger Station near Prineville, June 9 (HN). **Blackpoll Warblers** occurred regularly in small numbers in Yoho N.P. during June but no nests were found (RRH).

**BLACKBIRDS** — Four Bobolinks in Yoho N.P. May 31 - June 4 furnished the first park record (CW *et al.*), and five were seen at Wapato, Wash., June 8. At least three males and one or more females were found near Toppenish in late June and early July. The birds were reported at Bigfork where a nest was destroyed by plowing (JS & MS). Stevensville, Mont. had two males June 1 (RS) and two males and a female were observed n. of Ross Pt., w. of Coeur d'Alene June 29 - July 14 (DC; NS). Upper Klamath L. in Oregon had a very few Tricolored Blackbirds June 6 (HN). Two pairs of N. Orioles, one of Baltimore and the other Bullock's, were feeding young in the nest near Golden, B.C. June 26.

**FINCHES** — A pair of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** appeared at Cold Spring Campground west of Sisters June 21, was photographed and noted again July 3 (JD, HN; AS & KZ). The female made a nest but apparently did not lay eggs. A male and a female were found at Stinking L., Harney Co., Ore. July 4 (JB, *et al.*). An ad male was sighted June 29 along the W. Gallatin R. w. of Bozeman (CH, EH, PDS) and a molting or hybrid male was seen July 31 on Dupuyer's Creek, Teton Co., Mont (ETH, PDS). A ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** was at Marble Canyon, Kootenay N.P., B.C. June 20, considerably north of its known breeding range (CW & LW). A ♂ **Indigo Bunting** was studied for hours as it sang and defended territory at the mouth of Little Alvord Creek Canyon, Steens Mt., Ore. July 20. Several pairs of **Lazuli Buntings** were in the immediate area (DF *et al.*). Possibly the same Indigo was observed on territory near Pike Creek, n. of Alvord Desert (JPM). Evening Grosbeaks were "incredibly" abundant in the Wenatchee Mts., w. of Wenatchee, apparently attracted by the spruce budworm outbreak in the grand fir forests. Several **Purple Finches** were identified at Ronald, Wash. July 1, and a few females were found on the Box Canyon road, Klickitat Co., Wash., June 30 (EH). A territorial male was found in Chelan, Wash. July 4 (REW). A male and a female were identified at Lakeside, Mont. June 4 (JCB).



Two adults and one immature bird of the seldom-observed Black Rosy Finch were located at 9730 ft. on Steens Mt. in s.e. Oregon (DF). The species was also found s. of Bozeman atop Sphinx Mt., July 17 and on Hilgard Peak in August (DRS & SMS). About 30 were seen with the pipits at the head of the Pahsimeroi R. (CHT). Pine Siskins were especially abundant in the Wenatchee Mts., supposedly because of the spruce budworms. Lesser Goldfinches were again breeding a mile n. of Lyle, Wash., where adults with young begging food were found July 9-10 (EH).

**SPARROWS** — The Salmon area had a Green-tailed Towhee June 19 (HBR). Four Lark Buntings were at Rupert during the summer (WHS) and a male was found near Three Forks, Mont., about July 30 (SC). Grasshopper Sparrows declined in the Spokane area, four being found, in only one area w. of the city (JA). A male was found at Pomeroy, Wash. (EH) and the species was reported at Bigfork (RL & DS). Up to five singing Le Conte's Sparrows were in the Radium, B.C., area in early July. Sage Sparrows apparently were declining on Columbia N.W.R. (JA) but were holding their own at Rattlesnake Slopes Wildlife Area north of Benton City, Wash. (REW). The birds were found at Gloyd Seeps n. of Moses L., Wash. (PC) and along Highway 205 in n.c. Harney Co., Ore. along with four pairs of Black-throated Sparrows (DF). Three spots in the Alford Sink area of s.

Harney Co., hosted the latter species during the summer (GG). White-crowned Sparrows were found at five localities around 6000 ft. in the Seven Devils Mts., Ida., and on Steens Mt., Ore., at 7880 ft. A ♂ White-throated Sparrow was found n. of Parson, B.C. July 9 (FK).

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**MOUNTAIN WEST**  
/Hugh E. Kingery

In the Mountain West, experience contradicts the *American Birds* calendar. The editor tells us that June and July are the breeding season, but the birds don't understand. This year in Nevada most birds which nested successfully had completed nesting by June 1, while in Rocky Mountain National Park many still fed nestlings

Greater Sandhill Cranes in northwestern Colorado and some small birds, like robins at Jefferson, Colorado. Nevertheless, Mountain West breeding birds enjoyed good nesting success, with double broods for many species. Generally dry weather helped, although it approaches drought status in Nevada, auguring poor autumn food supplies.



on August 1. Migration continued in the mountains, especially in north Wyoming, into June, where Raynes noted a major movement of mountain finches on June 6. Then, in mid-June, freezing temperatures shriveled the aspen leaves and heavy snowfalls blanketed the high country. The severe weather caused nesting failures of

**LOONS TO HERONS** — Common Loons, infrequent in the Region in the hot months, summered at Hyrum Res., near Logan, Utah (AS) and one was seen at Lake City, Colo., July 12 (NS). At Cody, Wyo., 20 pairs of Eared Grebes nested (UK) and 500 nested in North Park Jackson Co., Colo.; a few there still had eggs Aug. 10-13 (RAR). Few W. Grebes fledged; less than 20 pairs produced young at Stillwater N.W.R. (down drastically; see *Am. Birds* 28:930), Pahrangat Ref., Nev., and Cody. At Denver's Barr L., they attempted nesting as usual, but the dropping water level defeated them all. Several non-breeding flocks summered, particularly along the Colorado E. Slope. One of the bright spots of nesting in n Nevada and in the Region came with White Pelicans Anaho I., Pyramid Lake N.W.R., Nev., produced 2500 young (LHo); at Yellowstone L., Wyo., 100 young fledged (*vide* RAR); and at Riverside Res., Orchard, Colo., 327 young fledged — production averaged 1.21 young/nest (GM). We lack a report from the big breeding colony in the Great Salt Lake. Anaho I. also produced 1500 young Double-crested Cormorants, its best in at least 6 years (LHo) and Riverside Res. fledged 30 (GM), but Barr L. production dropped in half because the colony lost a number of large nest trees (BA).

Snowy Egrets had a good year in the San Luis Valley in s. Colorado, with two big colonies thriving there, although none nested at Monte Vista N.W.R. (RAR, CWB). At Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nev., 75 pairs nested (RP) but all other nesting reports were of small groups. The San Luis Valley produced an above-normal number of Black-crowned Night Herons — over 275 banded (RAR), but other Colorado locations, plagued by low water, had below-average results: North Park, Riverside Res., and Latham Res. (near Greeley). Wyoming's first **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, an immature, lingered around Tongue R., near Sheridan July 27 - Aug. 22. Three observers carefully described it and compared it with the more likely Black-crowned (HD, PH, MC). Another Yellow-crowned visited Barr L., June 24-25 (BA).

**IBIS** — Colorado populations of White-faced Ibis fared well, with 949 young banded at four San Luis Valley lakes, an average of three young/nest (WG). A few nested at Latham Res., producing five young (RAR) and 14 summered at Durango, a new location (RS). In the rest of the Region — disaster. Thin egg shells caused poor hatching in Utah. Low water caused high mortality in w. Nevada. After averaging 3995 young over the past four years, Carson L. started with 500 active nests May 17, which produced only 300 live young, about one-quarter of the potential. The nesting area dried up entirely by June 29, and predators moved in freely on the young not dead from exposure, dehydration, or lack of food.

**WATERFOWL** — Monte Vista N.W.R. noted nesting up 50 per cent from last year, one half Mallards, the rest mainly Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, and Pintail (CRB). Ruby Lakes also had a good year, assisted by a new 3000-acre sump added to by a good spring runoff, refuge production increased by 136 per cent, including 2135 Redheads (up 166 per cent) and 2100 Canvasbacks (up 75 per cent) (RP). Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., though, continues to suffer a water shortage; Canada Goose production dropped 29 per cent, ducks dropped more (LHo). Records of individual duck species included 50 Green-winged Teal at Jackpot, Nev., July 8 (CL); the first breeding Wood Ducks at Barr L., seen with ten young June 27 (BA); and Oldsquaw, apparently a pair, which summered at Fallon, Nev. (PT).

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — Goshawks had a highly productive year in n. Nevada (BO, SS). Nevada had a good statewide population of Cooper's Hawks (BO), Zion had 4-6 active nests (KK), and Evergreen, Colo., had one nest (WWB). Nevada also had good populations of Red-tailed Hawks (BO), as did Colorado. Sheridan noted a Broad-winged Hawk July 3, the first Regional summer record (MC). Rocky Mt. Arsenal near Denver saw a gathering of 80 imm. Swainson's Hawks, feasting on grasshoppers, for the second straight year, July 9 (RF). A Rough-legged Hawk was at Durango July 28 (RS). Ferruginous Hawks showed increased nesting activity and success in Nevada (BO) but none were seen at Reno (JA), and Pawnee Nat'l. Grassland, Colo., showed a serious decline in productivity (ARH).

In Colorado, 84 young Golden Eagles from 140 nests represented a slight increase (GC), as did the 20 per cent

success ratio at Pawnee N.G. (TPB). Golden Eagles even had a successful nest within 2 mi. of the Utah State Capitol (GK). Bald Eagles fledged four young from two aeries in Colorado — up from no nests three years ago. They also nested at Flaming Gorge Res., Utah, Cody and Jackson, Wyo. (GK, UK, BR). Ospreys increased in the Region; in Colorado eight aeries produced at least two young (GC), a few nested at Flaming Gorge (GK), and a pair set up territory, but apparently built no nest, on the Nevada side of L. Tahoe (BO). The Sheridan birds failed to bring off young this year. We lack a report from Yellowstone. At Pawnee N.G., fewer Prairie Falcons bred, but they fledged more young (ARH). Colorado had six Peregrine Falcon aeries which fledged three young naturally, plus four young hatched in captivity, transplanted to nests and raised by wild birds (GC).

**QUAIL, CRANES, GALLINULES** — Lack of water and poor range conditions caused poor breeding of Gambel's Quail in s. Nevada (except in irrigated Pahrnatag Valley) and California Quail in n. Nevada. Chukars contrarily had two broods, at least in c. Nevada e. of Unionville (AW). A **Whooping Crane**, one of the immatures hatched last year at Grays L., Idaho, summered at Ouray N.W.R., Utah, near Vernal; this constitutes Utah's first record (MP). In Routt County, Colo., unusually heavy snowfall in mid-June caused many Greater Sandhill Cranes to abandon their nests and flock early (WG). Griffiths discovered a **King Rall** visiting a Pueblo marsh June 12-19; photographs and observations by several Colorado observers confirm the state's first record (BA, NS, JS). Three Com. Gallinules were at St George, Utah, July 17 (SH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Pawnee N.G. had extremely good production of Mountain Plover, apparently hatching and fledging early (WG) and ten pairs nested at Pueblo Res., Colo. (VT). Sheridan had eight Black-bellied Plovers July 14, very early. Migrant shorebirds began arriving in Nevada and Colorado in early July, three weeks before normal. The first came to Barr L. July 3 — a Solitary Sandpiper and three Lesser Yellowlegs, followed by seven Baird's and a W. Sandpiper July 9 and four Leasts on July 11. The Baird's built up to a July 25 population of 364 (BA). At Montello, Nev., July 8, a Greater Yellowlegs, four Lesser Yellowlegs, 30 Leasts, and 50 Westerns had arrived; by July 12 Las Vegas had a Greater and four Lesser Yellowlegs, 11 Leasts, and 17 Westerns (CL). A White-rumped Sandpiper at Riverside Res. June 24 (GM) probably was a late spring migrant.

American Avocets increased their nesting at Farmington Bay, Utah (TP), and Ruby Lakes had 200 nests in the new sump, which also attracted 400 Black-necked Stilts and 2000 Wilson's Phalaropes (RP). At Casper, Wyo., a pair of stilts nested and raised young, the first local nesting record (OKS). An early N. Phalarope arrived at Ft. Mohave July 23 (CL).

**GULLS, TERNS** — Sheridan attracted two imm. Herring Gulls July 18 (HD). California Gulls produced 1200 young at Anaho I. (LHo), 21 at Cody (UK), and 200 at Antero Res., Park Co., Colo. (RAR), but 50 pairs produced only two young at Riverside Res., where aggressive White Pelicans and a hailstorm accounted for the failures (GM). Franklin's Gulls do not nest in Colorado yet,

but several groups were there during June, with flocks increasing to 600 at Riverside (GM) and 1450 at Barr in mid- and late July (BA). Early Com. Terns appeared at Utah L., near Provo, June 30 (WWB) and Ft. Mohave July 23 (CL).

**DOVES TO OWLS** — Discovered last year nesting commonly at Ft. Mohave, White-winged Doves repeated, with many young among the 150 seen July 23 (CL). Observers throughout the Region report Mourning Doves unusually abundant this year. Each state had Yellow-billed Cuckoos, with the most noteworthy the July 13 bird at Sheridan (HD), June 6 & 9 observations at Logan (KS), and two June 2 at Beatty, Nev. (CL). Sheridan had 14 Black-billed Cuckoos July 13, and one appeared June 13 at Red Rocks near Denver. Webster estimates a population of 200 Screech Owls, in June, along 6 mi. of cottonwood-covered creek bottoms in Carizzo Canyon, Baca County, Colo. — the best concentration we have heard of in the Mountain West. A Flammulated Owl nest found near Florissant, Colo. (RW), failed because of excessive attention (i.e., tree-rapping) from bird watchers (MM). The nest location was near the colony found by Pillmore several years ago (*Am. Birds* 25 885). Zion found its fifth probable breeding location for Spotted Owls; all are narrow canyons with lush vegetation, where daytime temperatures stay cool (KK). Summer Pygmy Owls included one at Tropic, Utah July 10 (SH) and a partially downy young July 23 at Zion (LWi). The Moultons located four Long-eared Owl nests within one 50-acre section of stream bottom; they expect to find many such parliaments in e. Colorado. Signaling a possible resident cluster of Boreal Owls in the Yellowstone region was a dead male picked up at Togwotee Pass., Moran, Wyo. (DGu;\* Los Ang. County Mus.), when coupled with recent records from Yellowstone Nat'l Park (*Am. Birds* 29:1012; *W. Birds* 6:21).

**SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — Two Black Swifts at Logan June 12 occurred during a four day period of abnormal cold and snow in the mountains. Common in s. and c. Colorado in piñon pine habitat, and throughout Utah and Nevada, Black-chinned Hummingbirds are practically unknown in n.e. Colorado, but Collister banded her second male in two summers July 21 near Loveland. She speculates that a nearby nest with two young hummingbirds might have involved a Black-chinned; they may hybridize with the abundant Broad-tailed. A Costa's Hummingbird nested in an apple tree at Lida, Nev. (VM); this is as far north in Nevada as they have nested. First regional Rufous Hummingbirds reached Jackson June 14 (BR), Logan June 23 (CW, RNU), and Salt Lake City (EG) and Sheridan (HD) June 28. They reached Cedar Breaks Nat'l Mon., Utah June 30 and Durango, Colo, July 1. By mid-July they had spread throughout the Colorado mountains. Calliope Hummingbirds nested at Story, Wyo. (TA), and occurred in several places in the Colorado mountains, as well as at Wheeler Peak in e. Nevada July 9 (CL). No one has reported large-sized hummingbirds in the Region so far this year.

**WOODPECKERS** — Common Flickers showed early and successful hatching and regional abundance. Fort Mohave, after reporting Nevada's first Gila Wood-

peckers last year, had only four on July 23, and they did not nest successfully. Red-headed Woodpeckers, at the w. fringe of their range, did not have a good year in e. Colorado and Wyoming. One did wander as far n.w. as Dubois, Wyo., June 15 (MB). Lewis' Woodpeckers had success in their strongholds, s. Colorado and n. Nevada, the 30 cavorting among dead cottonwoods at Howard, Colo., Aug. 4 give evidence of that (T & RVZ).

**FLYCATCHERS** — Mountain West observers think E. Kingbirds unusual w. of the Rocky Mt. massif, but evidencing their regularity are nests at McCoy, Colo., and Logan, with strays at Dubois June 1 (MB) and Las Vegas June 28 (CHI, GS), and July 1 (CL *et al.*). Western Kingbirds had excellent nesting success, particularly in Nevada. Cassin's Kingbirds outnumbered Westerns at Kanab, contrary to their relative status in most of Utah (SH). At Sheridan, the n.e. edge of their range, Cassin's carried food to undiscovered young June 30 (HD) and they were present regularly during July at Douglas, Wyo., although greatly outnumbered by Westerns (LN). As they do more each summer, Ash-throated Flycatchers wandered during July to Pawnee N.G. July 14 (AC), Longmont July 17 (AC), and Eldora, Colo. July 17 (D.F.O.)

**LARKS, SWALLOWS, JAYS** — Horned Larks had good success, both on the Colorado plains where they are abundant, and on the Colorado tundra, where they breed in spotty colonies. Migrant swallows begin arriving in April each year, but flocks apparently continue to drift through into June; during low cloudy weather, flocks collect over lakes, i.e. 77 Trees at Sheridan June 17 and 500 Cliffs June 18 at Barr L. Blue Jays nested for the first time at Sheridan, and wanderers arrived at Evergreen June 11 (RO) and Jefferson, Colo. June 19, the first record there (CH). Nevada reports Piñon Jays very scarce, although a few of the usual flocks occurred with good proportions of young birds (CL, JA). Mountain Chickadees, aptly named, nested at the edge of the mountains in Boulder, on the U. of C. campus (EM). Reports of a few Red-breasted Nuthatches dotted the Region, excepting Nevada; they reflected a few more than normal scattering.

**WRENS, THRASHERS** — Dubois recorded its fourth Bewick's Wren July 6; the others have occurred in spring and fall (MB). A Long-billed Marsh Wren, thought to be a bachelor male, sang at Jefferson during June and built two dummy nests (CH). Mockingbirds continued to expand, with Nevada reporting a statewide increase and Pueblo and Durango, Colo., echoing the spread. The Gray Catbird, an eastern species, moved west with nests at Sheridan (PH) and Dubois (MB), as well as birds seen at Jackson June 6 (BR) and Logan June 26 and during July (AS). Sage Thrashers displayed great nesting success in Nevada; the Alves counted over 1000 July 1-4 between Reno and Ely, and Lawson found over 500 between Las Vegas and Wells July 7-9. They apparently nested at Rocky Mt. Arsenal near Denver (RF), and an aberrantly-plumaged bird summered at Barr June 18 - Aug. 8 (BA)

**THRUSHES TO VIREOS** — American Robins had very good success in most parts of the Region. Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes seemed normal, except for a decline e. of Salt Lake City, but Veeries provided some inexplicable records: Dubois, one July 1 (MB); Sher-

idan's usual summer visitors not arriving until July 11 (HD), Longmont, one banded July 17 (AC); McCoy, one July 26-27 (ME). Western Bluebirds increased at Kanab, and a notable one appeared at Jackson June 13 (BR), but Nevada reporters found none even in the regular habitats though on the alert. Mountain Bluebirds had very successful nesting throughout the Region, i.e. 125 daily at Duck Creek Basin n. of Ely (AW) and 200 near Zion July 9 (PS). Nest boxes have aided Mountain Bluebird nesting in a few places, but their receptivity to artificial sites showed up in an unexpected fashion in the Mosquito Range, Park Co., Colo. Two pairs nested in abandoned buildings of the Dolly Varden Mine on Mt. Bross at 13,500 ft. — 2000 ft. above timberline (LR)! Two Black-tailed Gnatcatchers at Canyonlands N.P., Utah, June 2 (AS, LE) gave Utah its second sight record. Red-eyed Vireos, at the w. fringe of their range, have become scarce along the Colorado piedmont.

**WARBLERS TO TANAGERS** — Late migrants included a Blue-winged Warbler at Barr L. June 6 (BA), two N Parulas June 2 at Fontanelle Res., near Casper (OKS), one at Boulder June 6 (LH, KN) and two June 8 (TW) in the same place, and three Bay-breasted Warblers Estes Park June 4, one flying into a library window (RD), Barr L. June 5-6 (BA), and Evergreen June 7 (ECT) Scattered pairs of Chestnut-sided Warblers apparently breed along the edge of the Colorado foothills, males sang from tangles at Red Rocks P., Denver, June 22 (NSH) and Boulder June 20 - July 3 (LH, BK). One also reached Estes Park (no date, HL). Bobolinks nested in two colonies near Longmont and Logan; Sheridan counted 67 on July 28, indicating a successful season there. Near Sheridan, the Clarkelen B.B.S. showed a dramatic drop in W. Meadowlarks, from a two-year average of 676 to 198 (HD). Scott's Orioles nested near Unionville, Nev., 200 mi. n. of any other Nevada breeding record, and 300 mi. w. of the recent Utah nesting records (AW). Great-tailed Grackles nested at Las Vegas and Pahrnagat Valley (CL, RN, RV). Along the Colorado Front Range, observers reported fewer W. Tanagers; however a male summered at Barr L., June 13 - July 29 (BA).

**FINCHES** — Evening Grosbeaks blanketed Colorado, nesting on the plains (Ft. Collins) and in the mountains (Denver, Esters P., and Evergreen); a few occurred in Utah, from Tropic and Bryce Canyon n. to Logan, but no reports came from Wyoming or Nevada. A few small flocks of Red Crossbills roamed the conifer forests, and two non-breeding flocks of White-winged Crossbills occurred in Colorado: 60 at Guanella Pass July 4 (SL) and 30 in Rocky Mt. N.P. July 18 (BK). Lark Buntings cycled down this year in Colorado and Wyoming (Clarkelen B.B.S. had 340 compared with an average of 675) — although large flocks of up to 1000 had begun to form by the end of July at Ft. Morgan, Colo (JCR) and Douglas (LN). Grasshopper Sparrows nested at Rocky Mt Arsenal (RF), Casper, and possibly at Sheridan and Douglas; one was banded at Longmont July 8 (AC). Ordinarily associated with Western Slope sagebrush, Brewer's Sparrows nested on Colorado's Eastern Slope at Rocky Mt. Arsenal, Ft. Morgan, and Jefferson.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — B.B.S. = Breeding Bird Survey, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; D.F.O. = Denver Field Ornithologists.

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and  
Kenn Kaufman

Isolated mountains, like islands, must be explored individually: one can never predict exactly what birds will be found there, particularly in the nesting season Sierra Grande (maximum elevation 8732 feet), a solitary eminence on the prairies of northeastern New Mexico, supports small stands of aspen, ponderosa pine and Engelmann spruce — apparently the easternmost stand of the latter. It was first visited by the Biological Survey in August 1903, but had remained virtually unexplored by ornithologists in subsequent years until this summer, when the area was the subject of a week-long visit by personnel of the New Mexico Department of Game and

Fish. Among the summering species found were such montane birds as Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatches, while strangely absent were sapsuckers, Steller's Jays, and juncos; other notes from Sierra Grande will be found among the species accounts that follow.



The comparison of mountains to islands has been often made in reference to the disjunct ranges of southeastern Arizona. There mountains rise abruptly from the aridlands, each range with its own distinctive combination of bird species, each range isolated and protected by the surrounding sea of desert. Hastings and Turner (1965, *The Changing Mile*; U. of Ariz. Press, Tucson) point out that, in Arizona, the changes in vegetation brought about by man's influence have occurred mainly at elevations below about 5500 feet, leaving the higher slopes relatively unaltered. The isolation of the high mountain habitats also provides for the stability of their avifaunas. To invade a new range, a bird must (besides competing with species already entrenched there) first cross the intervening deserts. It is perhaps significant that the bird life of these disjunct ranges seems substantially unchanged since the time when ornithologists first visited them — while within the present century, invading from Mexico, close to a dozen species have spread northward through the lowlands around them.

This season's most newsworthy invaders, the Berylline Hummingbirds in the Chiricahuas, were exceptions to this pattern; one wonders just how important the numerous hummingbird-feeders were in the establishing of this beachhead.

An island in another sense is the Springerville region in east-central Arizona. Situated at the northern base of the White Mountains, where conifers give way to high-elevation grassland, this area — with its deciduous trees and moist riparian habitats — has a strangely "Eastern" appearance unique in the Southwest. In this setting are found (as detailed below) Eastern Kingbirds, Gray Catbirds, Veeries and Am. Redstarts; one is not too surprised to learn that Arizona's only nesting Bobolinks were recorded near here in 1937. This "Eastern" element actually represents a duplication of conditions found locally to the north of us, in the northern Great Basin, where all of these birds are regular. As evidenced by old records, these birds have probably been around Springerville for some time; the invasion of a new southern ele-

ment was suggested by this summer's records of Great tailed Grackle and Summer Tanager.

**LOONS, GREBES** — An odd midsummer sighting was that of a Com: Loon (in winter plumage, as southward summer loons tend to be) in the Gulf of California off Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, July 2-5 (DStj) Two pairs of Eared Grebes raised young at Prescott, establishing the first Arizona breeding records outside the White and San Francisco Mts. regions (CST); the presence of two adults June 23 at Black L. (JPH) could indicate a new breeding area in n.c. New Mexico.

Western Grebes appeared to have had good breeding success (exact statistics not yet available) on L. Havasu, where Arizona's first nesting was documented just three years ago. In n.c. New Mexico, a notable summer concentration was 25 on July 5 (JND, PF) at El Vado L., near the site (Burford L.) where the state's first verified breeding record was obtained last year. The status of the W. Grebe in this Region provides an interesting comparison to states north of us, where the species is thought to be declining.

**CORMORANTS, HERONS, ANATIDS** — Three Olivaceous Cormorants remained through the period (DStz, GM *et al.*) at Patagonia L.; there are few previous summer records for Arizona. Two or three individuals summered (GZ) at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., N. Mex (hereafter: Bosque), perhaps signalling a further range extension up the Rio Grande Valley.

An ad. Little Blue Heron at Bosque June 18 (JND) was the only one reported; unfortunately, we received no nesting data from Elephant Butte L., which produced the first New Mexico nesting records last summer. An Am Bittern was present June 23 at Black L. (JPH). The species is known to summer only locally in the state, with few proven breeding areas.

A lone Snow Goose summered at Bosque (GZ); individuals do so occasionally elsewhere, possibly when not completely healthy. Black-bellied Tree Ducks moved into Arizona earlier in the summer than usual, with numbers reported north to Phoenix and east to St. David beginning early in June. A new area for the species was the San Pedro Valley s. of Winkelman, where two were seen July 27 (Lee Jones).

**RAPTORS** — Seven Black Vultures appeared e. of Douglas July 25, far east of the species' normal range in Arizona (Bjo, MH). This flock was only about 15 mi. from New Mexico, in which state the species remains unrecorded (except for a few unlikely sight reports).

The Mississippi Kite, a recent arrival in Arizona, continues to establish itself. In the Phoenix area, where individual vagrants have appeared in each of the last two summers, the first known nesting pair brought off one young on the Verde R., n.e. of town (RG *et al.*); there were also at least seven pairs nesting along the San Pedro R. Optimism about the species' future in the state may be premature, however: all of these nesting areas stand to be adversely affected by the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed Central Arizona Project.

A ♀ Marsh Hawk at El Rito, n.c. N. Mex., July 29-30 (CGS), may have been an early migrant; there were no

reports elsewhere. An Osprey present June 27 - July 14 at Patagonia L., Ariz. (JL, DStz), was evidently the first summer record there.

**GULLS, TERNS** — After last summer's concentration of California Gulls at Heron L., the June 23 discovery of 34 adults and three immatures at another n.c. New Mexico locality, Eagle Nest L. (JPH), signalled a sort of repeat. Are these strictly non-breeders, or should they alert us to a possible extension of nesting range? At Willcox, a second-year California Gull present July 4 (PL,GMcC,JD) represented one of few summer records for Arizona. Unusual midsummer records of Franklin's Gulls included six at Heron L., June 23 (JPH), one at Regina, N. Mex., July 4 (JND, PF), and one to eight intermittently at Willcox in late June - early July. The Least Tern is casual in Arizona's interior; an immature was at Willcox June 6 (DStz,RS,SA).

**ANIS THROUGH SWIFTS** — A Groove-billed Ani was photographed near Patagonia, Ariz., June 20 (CH,HB). Belatedly, we have received confirmation that three to four individuals were present in the same area from late June to mid-September, 1975 (RK,GJ,BH). A few anis have strayed almost annually to Arizona over the last decade, marking occurrences in every month of the year, the concentration of summer records at Patagonia suggests that nesting would be an eventual possibility there.

An injured Spotted Owl (specimen preserved) found June 6 at Mountainair, N. Mex. (Joan Bass), represents an unusual record in pinyon-juniper woodland. Fresh feathers of a Saw-whet Owl, found in July under a raptor's feeding perch (JPH), provided the first evidence of the species' presence in the Animas Mts. Whip-poorills were found in two areas where not reported previously: Bill Williams Mt., n.c. Ariz. (CST), and along Carrizo Creek, e.c. Ariz. (ST).

The most exciting news of the season involved the reappearance of Guadalupe Canyon's phantom population of **Buff-collared Nighthjars**. Rumors of the birds' continued presence had persisted over the last 15 years, but there had been no documented records since 1958-1960, when the few U.S. specimens were taken. This season an individual was tape-recorded in the lower (Arizona) half of the Canyon on July 1-2 (WB); identity of recordings confirmed by Dale Zimmerman).

Chimney Swifts summered in Tucson (DStz, m.ob.), with two to three still present at the end of June and one seen as late as Aug. 11; so far as known, the birds did not nest

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — The only northern peripheral report of Blue-throated Hummingbird was of a male at Molmo Basin, Santa Catalina Mts., July 30 (AA). There were several northward records of Rivoli's Hummingbird, including in New Mexico singles in the Jemez Mts. June 1 (MS) and in the Sandia Mts. June 23 (DDeL); in Arizona four were at various feeders in the Flagstaff region (*vide* JHi), and one appeared in the Mazatzals n. of Phoenix Aug. 2 (ST). All of these except one near Flagstaff were  $\emptyset$ -plumaged; the early June occurrences, at least, would seem too early for immatures.

In several Southwestern hummers the ad males, free of any responsibility in the raising of young, may tend to occur at different times and places than the mass of females and immatures. This June, ST noted a clear altitudinal division in Black-chinned Hummingbirds along Carrizo Creek, with all the ad. males at higher elevations than the  $\emptyset$ -plumaged birds. In Costa's Hummingbird, the ad. males begin to depart from the low Arizona deserts by the first of May. It has been thought that these birds moved westward to coastal areas at that time; the possibility that some take a startling alternative was suggested when one was mist-netted at 8000 ft. in the Santa Catalina Mts., July 9 (D. Lamm, J. Luepke). To our knowledge this is by far the highest elevation at which the species has been found in Arizona.

The big news came from the border ranges. **White-eared Hummingbirds** have in recent decades been sporadic and elusive in Arizona; birders who have searched unsuccessfully there will be interested to note that the birds were in *New Mexico* this summer. A female and three males were found (\* to Smithsonian) July 13 and another heard July 14 in the Animas Mts. (JPH). This represents the largest number found together within the U.S. in recent years; it also establishes the first verified record for New Mexico! (There is one previous sight record in the Animas, June 1973.) The only White-eared in Arizona this summer was one in the Chiricahuas June 28 - July 2 (SP).

The **Berylline Hummingbird**, unknown within our borders prior to 1967, made its fourth summer appearance in Arizona — this time at the Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahuas, where first noted June 20 (EAC,SC,WvB). By early July a pair was clearly present, and premature excitement arose when the female was seen examining a completed nest (apparently not its own?). The actual nest was discovered July 13 (ST, SRD, HL), at which time the female was incubating, as of Aug. 2 the nest contained two young (SP) which may never have fledged. Details will probably be published elsewhere. Continued appearances in the border ranges seem probable, and further expansion northward is not unlikely; the Berylline (of the large and successful genus *Amazilia*) is abundant in parts of w. Mexico, occurring there over a notably wide range of elevations.

**WOODPECKERS** — Possibly foreshadowing an extension of breeding range, a ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker was seen at Rustler Park, Chiricahuas, June 25 (EAC,SC) & July 13 (ST,SRD,HL). Although Williamson's are common in the Chiricahuas in winter, there are few summer records and no breeding records for s. Arizona. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Arizona nests only locally outside the White Mts. region; a new locality is the Bradshaw Mts. s. of Prescott, where young were fledged dur-

ing the 1975 and 1976 nesting seasons (CST). A ♀ N. Three-toed Woodpecker was found June 23 in the Sacramento Mts., N. Mex. (MW), a rare sighting at the southernmost point in the species' range.

**FLYCATCHERS** — Westward reports of E. Kingbirds included one on June 1 (apparently a late migrant) at Socorro (PB) and a pair at San Ysidro, n.c. N. Mex., July 3 (JND,PF). The two individuals found near Springerville in July (BH *et al.*) were at separate locations; Arizona still lacks a breeding record. The Thick-billed Kingbird, a very recent invader (first U.S. records 1958), continues to expand its range. A pair was at a new location, Harshaw Creek, s.e. of Patagonia (ST,RG); lone pioneers in what would seem to be suitable breeding habitat were at Dog Spring, s.w. N. Mex., July 15 (JPH) and near Nogales in July (ST,RG).

Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers — which, as we have noted, may occur in Arizona at any time during the warmer months — were found June 14 near Mammoth (GM) and July 26 w. of Elgin (DStz). North and east of its normal range was a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** on the Gila R. near Cliff, N. Mex., July 7 (ST).

In New Mexico the Black Phoebe ranges northward only in small numbers; this summer the species nested at Alameda (CAH,DL) and two individuals were noted farther north at Canyon July 3 (JND,PF). Dusky Flycatchers are local as breeders in the mountains of the Region, so notable was the presence of at least 15 on Sierra Grande June 28-July 3 (JPH). A singing Willow Flycatcher near Phoenix July 1 (KK,JW) was one of the few recent summer records for c. Arizona.

An *Empidonax* answering the description of a worn-plumaged Buff-breasted Flycatcher was seen July 10 in the Animas Mts. (CGS); another tentative report, not previously noted here, came from the Mogollon Mts. in August 1975 (WB). These represent the first likely reports in New Mexico since 1926. Observers should be on the alert for the species (but identify it with caution!) in the s.w. section of the state; it could reoccupy parts of its former range in New Mexico, as it has recently in Arizona.

Single W. Flycatchers at Phoenix June 9 (ST) and at Patagonia June 29 (KK) were calling, thus revealing themselves to be of the Pacific coastal form (*E. d. difficilis*), not of the race (*E. d. hellmayri*) that nests in the Arizona mountains. (Birders familiar with both forms may easily distinguish them by call: that of the coastal birds is a single ascending note, while that of the Rocky Mt. and Southwestern breeders is distinctly two-syllabled.)

**SWALLOWS, CORVIDS** — Barn Swallows are rather local as breeders in s.w. New Mexico, so a nest found in early June (JPH) at Cloverdale — the southernmost for the state — was noteworthy. Two nests of Cliff Swallows were found at Bosque June 9 (GZ), the first breeding record for the refuge.

A Blue Jay at Bosque June 22-23 (GZ) was unusual; away from the colony at Portales, there have been few summer records in New Mexico. The nesting of a pair of Black-billed Magpies at Tesuque, north of Santa Fe, was a local first (WI).

**WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES** — New Mexico's first verified breeding record for **Long-billed Marsh Wren** came from Kirtland, in the extreme northwest, where a nest with five eggs was photographed June 12 (CGS). An individual of this species at Lake Roberts, s.w. N. Mex., June 3 (O. Van Buskirk) was exceptional.

Two Brown Thrashers were at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., June 10-24 (D.L. Boggs). Generally this species is scarce as a migrant in e. New Mexico; there are only a couple of previous summer records for the state. Gray Catbirds were locally common near Springerville again.

A summer Rufous-backed Robin sighting by a reliable observer (DStz) came from Sonoita Creek, near Patagonia, Ariz., June 27. While it is not unreasonable that individuals from the winter influx might occasionally remain into summer, there are some doubts about the two or three previous midsummer reports.

At least five Hermit Thrushes were present on Sierra Grande June 28-July 3 (JPH); while not unexpected, this is a new summering area for New Mexico. Swainson's Thrushes, uncommon and local as breeders in the Region, were again present in the Jemez Mts. e. of Cuba, N. Mex., with two seen July 4 (JND,PF). Arizona's **Veery** population — rediscovered last summer, after a 39-year hiatus — returned to the White Mountains-Springerville region, with *two pairs* present at least June 12-Aug. 2 (DStz,SA,m.ob). A significant extension of the E. Bluebird's Arizona range was established by the discovery of two nesting pairs in the Santa Catalina Mts in June and a pair with three fledglings e. of the Rincon Mts., July 8 (DD,GM).

**SYLVIDS, PHAINOPEPLAS** — A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested on Sonoita Creek near Patagonia (BH, RS), a surprisingly low elevation, for the first local record. The news was somewhat disconcerting: it had been theorized previously that gnatcatchers there in summer would most likely be Black-capped. Meanwhile a few sight reports of Black-capped Gnatcatchers have continued to trickle in from Sonoita Creek over the last three years. Some of these are probably correct; but unlike the other Sonoita Creek specialties, this species has managed to avoid being staked out, and numerous intensive searches for it have failed.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets are rather local as summer residents in the mountains of New Mexico. A new area for the species was Sierra Grande, where at least four were seen June 28 - July 3 (JPH); several were also seen in the Jemez Mts., July 4 (JND, PF). Phainopeplas, notably erratic in their seasonal movements, moved into the pinyon-juniper woodlands around Flagstaff in much higher than usual numbers this year (RPB).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — Perhaps the oddest find on Sierra Grande was an apparent *hybrid warbler*, with a Yellow-rumped for one parent, collected (\* to Smithsonian) June 29 (JPH). Superficially the bird resembled a Cape May at a distance (and what would it have looked like in fall plumage?! Misidentifications, anyone?).

A **Kentucky Warbler** at Yuma June 20 (KS) was about the ninth for Arizona, and first ever for the w. section of the state. All but one of the previous occurrences involved May records in the southeast; this would seem a

plausible extension of the same pattern. Similarly an imm. ♂ **Hooded Warbler** present July 27-28 (JPH) at Pleasanton, s.w. N. Mex., correlated well with the pattern for this species in Arizona, which we described last year (*Am Birds* 29:1018). Totally unexpected, however, were a singing ♂ **Bay-breasted Warbler** near Flagstaff, Ariz., in June (*vide* RPB) and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Tesuque, N. Mex., June 5 (WD).

Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler and N. Parula — all regular spring and fall vagrants in Arizona — are seldom recorded in summer. One of each was in Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahuas the first week in July (DStz, VR, PN *et al.*). Another Red-eyed Vireo was on the Colorado River s. of Blythe, Cal., June 23 (Doug Wells, KVR); other individual Black-and-whites were at Nutrioso in the White Mts., June 29 - July 6 (BJo) and near Prescott July 3 (CST); and another Parula was on the San Pedro R., s.e. Ariz., June 14 (ST, RG).

Data was received concerning northward expansion of the Arizona breeding range of two species: Hutton's Vireos were found nesting in three areas near Prescott (L. Morris, CST), and Olive Warblers nested (one pair) on Hutch Mt., s.e. of Flagstaff, both this summer and in 1975 (SF). It was learned that Orange-crowned, MacGillivray's and Red-faced Warblers have been breeding in the new localities of Hutch Mt. (SF) and Bill Williams Mt. (CST) since at least 1975.

Although Wilson's Warbler was found nesting in the Sangre de Cristo range of n.c. New Mexico as long ago as 1903, in recent years its status in the state has been uncertain; the observation of ten near Red R., June 22-23 (JPH) implies a healthy breeding population in the area. In Arizona the species has never been known to nest, or even suspected of doing so, but this summer three singing males were found June 12 (DStz, SA) and another June 16 (GM) in the White Mts., a locality already famous as an isolated outpost for nesting birds. It is possible, of course, that these birds were simply very late migrants; one such straggler was found at Patagonia on the exceptional date of June 27 (SA).

The Region's first breeding pair of **American Redstarts** was found feeding young in a nest July 14 (BJo, MH, GG) on the Little Colorado R. near Springerville, reaffirming the unique qualities of that area — and bearing out the presence of Phillips, Marshall, and Monson, who (in *Birds of Arizona*, 1964) linked the redstart to this area on the strength of what seemed, at the time, to be thin evidence. The Region is not lacking in summer records of nonbreeding Am. Redstarts elsewhere, and in fact this summer produced more than usual, including an ad. male at Socorro June 9 (PB), another near Prescott June 12-13 (CST), a female in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahuas, June 25 - July 4 (EAC, SC *et al.*), a female and imm. male near Patagonia June 29 (KK, JW), and an ad. male at Pleasanton, N. Mex., July 27 (JPH).

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — Bronzed Cowbirds continue to spread northward in Arizona. About six were found along the San Francisco R. near Clifton, and several were observed near Carrizo (ST); two appeared in the Prescott area in June (V. Miller, CST). This cowbird's prime host, the Hooded Oriole, is well established in all these areas, though it seems to have invaded the latter

two within this century. An ad. male Orchard Oriole west of its normal range at San Simon Cienega, extreme s w N. Mex., June 18 (Brian Locke) was perhaps the second summer record there.

The presence of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in summer does not necessarily indicate local breeding; there were many such reports this season. One definite new locality was the Chino Valley n. of Prescott, where nestlings were being fed in June and July (CST). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles seen June 17 (GM) marked the first record for the Springerville region and a new n.e. limit for Arizona.

Out-of-range and unseasonal, a ♂ Scarlet Tanager was at Roswell June 19 (MW). The discovery of at least six Hepatic Tanagers at Sierra Grande, a new n.e. limit (JPH), extended the species' summer range practically to the Colorado state line. A pair of Summer Tanagers was reported July 14 s.w. of Springerville (BJo, MH, GG). This is not only somewhat north of the normal range but also about 3000 ft. higher than known Arizona breeding sites; the species can hardly be more than casual there.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Observation of four Cardinals s of Animas, N. Mex., June 7-9 (JPH) suggests a population now being there, apparently established only recently in that area. Ten Pyrrhuloxias were seen in mid-July at Dog Spring, extreme s.w. N. Mex., an area the species did not inhabit historically; a nest with eggs found there July 15 (JPH) may well represent the first breeding record in the state w. of the Rio Grande Valley.

#### S.A.

No fewer than 38 Indigo Buntings were reported in Arizona between late May and early August (ST, BJo, m.ob.). Perhaps most notable among these were at least five singing males along the Colorado R. north of Parker, Ariz., in June and July (KVR *et al.*); there appear to be no previous summer records for the Lower Colorado Valley. The Indigo has been gradually invading c Arizona for the last 40 years, its progress no doubt eased by the scarcity in that region of the Lazuli Bunting, which could offer it competition. One area where both species nested this summer was Granite Creek, near Prescott (CST). Despite dire predictions in the past, Indigos apparently are not being absorbed by hybridization into the Lazuli population there; isolating mechanisms seem to be holding up, maintaining the two forms as separate species. Birders interested in the vagaries of "splitting" and "lumping" should consult a recent paper (Emlen, Rising, and Thompson, 1975. *Wilson Bull.* 87:145-179) for assurance that these two buntings will likely remain "split."

A ♂ Painted Bunting at Sycamore Well, extreme s w N. Mex., July 7 (BJH), was an interesting straggler west of its limited breeding range in the state. Evening Grosbeak reports were scattered. Two appeared briefly on Bill Williams Mt., June 16 (CST); two were seen on Sierra Grande July 2 (JPH); several were along Carrizo Creek June 2 (ST), and the species was locally abundant on the North Rim, Grand Canyon N.P., in late July (VC, RB).



At least six pairs of Cassin's Finches nested on the N.A.U. campus in Flagstaff (RPB), establishing the first definite breeding records in Arizona s. of the North Rim. Two pairs of Brown-capped Rosy Finches observed on Truchas Peak, N. Mex., July 3 (K. Giezentanner) were notable. Summer records in the state are few, and there are no past breeding records (but see next seasonal issue!). Several pairs of Pine Siskins nested near Prescott (CST), a new locality. Two Am. Goldfinches were noted July 5 (JND, PF) at Los Ojos, n.c. N. Mex., an area where the species has been found in summer before; so far there are no nesting records for the state.

Up to nine Red Crossbills were seen on Sierra Grande June 30 - July 1, while three in the lowlands at Pleasanton, N. Mex., July 27 (JPH) were unusual. With increased coverage, Green-tailed Towhees are proving to be widespread as breeders in the mountains of n. Arizona. Nesting was reported this summer in the new localities of Hutch Mt. (SF) and Bill Williams Mt. (CST). A very late migrant of this species was on Sonoita Creek June 12 (DD).

The Savannah Sparrow is another Fringillid which occurs sparsely in summer in New Mexico but still has not been proven to breed there; three were noted at Eagle Nest June 23 (JPH), indicating that would be a likely area in which to search for nests. Cassin's Sparrows were found in two peripheral areas where last reported in 1973: e. of Globe (20 in late July, BJA) and n. of Prescott (two flight-singing July 11, CST).

Finally — in a class by itself, and defying easy explanation, was a singing ad. Harris' Sparrow at Correo, N Mex., June 14 (JND, PF).

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## ALASKA REGION

/Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

Comments on summer 1976 were top-heavy with Asiatics, a dazzling array of which either arrived in late spring (June), remained the summer, showed up in mid-summer (early July), or returned as early fall migrants (late July). Boldface type is used herein only to emphasize those species first recorded in Alaska this year, since we have space to mention virtually nothing but outstanding records of distributional interest.

**WATERFOWL** — An ad. Snow Goose at Alaid I., w. Aleutian I., July 11 (DGK & MS) was far from its normal range and a first for the Chain. Following impressive numbers this spring (*q.v.*), Garganeys remained at Buldir and Amchitka islands, w. Aleutians, well into the summer; a pair at Buldir last seen July 11 (GVB *et al.*) and a male at Amchitka through July 2 (RS & SS). An eclipse ♂ Wood Duck observed on the Stikine R., s.e. Alaska, July 10 (GEH) provided one of very few substantiated records of the species in Alaska. A single ♂ Canvasback was seen at Juneau, well beyond the breeding range, July 13 (GEH) and July 16 (FG), and a male at Amchitka June 14 through the end of the reporting period (RS, SS, ER, & JLT) represented an unprecedented Aleutian summer record.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Mongolian Plover was recorded at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., during the first week of June

(GEH *et al.*), following a number of Aleutian records in May. None was reported anywhere in the Region during the summer, but two early fall birds arrived at Buldir July 27 (GVB *et al.*). At least one Killdeer was responsible for repeated sightings in the Barrow area June 3 - July 5 (m.ob.); the first record for Kodiak I. was one at Frazier L. in mid-June (NT *et al.*, *vide* RAM). Dotterels are rare



north of the mountains in the Bering Strait area, so a pair at Barrow June 12 (RG, JPM, & PC) and one full-plumaged bird at Pt. Lay July 5 (DDG, BK & SOM) were of interest. Rufous-necked Sandpipers were again recorded at Pt. Barrow through most of June (m.ob.), but there was no evidence that breeding took place there this year. A bird tentatively identified as a Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) was observed at Pt. Barrow June 28 (JPM; photos to M.V.Z., N.P.F., U.A.M.). If confirmed it would be a first for Alaska. Other (very early fall?) shorebirds included up to three Long-toed Stints at Buldir July 20 - Aug. 5 (GVB *et al.*), but a Temminck's Stint and a Greenshank there from July 14 on (GVB *et al.*) are harder to explain except as nonbreeding remnants from this spring. One Curlew Sandpiper was observed at Pt. Barrow June 19 (RG & JPM), but there were no further sightings this summer. Wood Sandpipers (see spring) reached well beyond the Aleutians this year. At least three birds were seen at St. Paul I., Pribilof I., June 19-22 (GEH *et al.*) and one was still (?) there July 2 (EAC *et al.*), at least one bird was seen at Gambell June 3-8 (GEH *et al.*), and three or four were seen at Wales June 13-14 (DDG *et al.*). Up to ten Wood Sandpipers were present at Buldir through July 1, after which date a single was seen occasionally through July 28 (GVB *et al.*). A pair was observed at Amchitka through mid-July (RS & SS). There was apparently no breeding evidence obtained this year. A single **Terek Sandpiper** was seen at Gambell in early June (GEH *et al.*), and one at St. Paul as late as July 2 (EAC *et al.*) provided the first summering record of this species. There are now eight Alaska records, all since 1973. One Black-tailed Godwit at St. Paul June 21 (GEH *et al.*) was a remnant of the small May flight into the w. Aleutians and was, like the Terek Sandpiper, a first Pribilof record. A **Far Eastern Curlew** photographed at Amchitka July 1 (JTC, *fide* JLT) was the first Alaska report since 1974.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — There were several sightings of skuas in Alaska waters this summer. Two were seen together at 56°25'N 153°34'W, southeast of Kodiak (CH), and another was seen in the vicinity of Marmot Bay, Kodiak (KM, *fide* CH), both July 31. There was at least one other report, as yet unconfirmed, of a skua in the Kodiak area in July. There is still no photograph- or specimen-substantiated record of a bird of this genus in Alaska. At least 35 California Gulls with Mew, Herring, and Glaucous-wingeds at Wrangell July 8-11 (GEH) seemed to bear out the estimation made in 1974 (AB 28:936), but the species is only barely known at other Southeastern localities (*e.g.*, see AB 30:111). A **Black-headed Gull** was found dead at Gambell in early June (GEH *et al.*), a first record for the n. Bering, but it was eclipsed by one observed near Pt. Lay June 25 (DDG & SOM), the first record of the species in arctic Alaska. An ad. **Franklin's Gull** observed at length at St. Paul I. June 20 and 22 (GEH *et al.*) was only the second Alaska record; it has been looked for in Southeastern, where it might be expected, but its occurrence on the Pribilofs was extraordinary! On the same order of magnitude, but from a different direction, an **Ivory Gull** well described at Gustavus, *s.e.* Alaska, July 13 (DP & CLE *et al.*) was inexplicable! Spring migrant Com. Terns (*S.h. longipennis*) occurred in small numbers in the w. Aleutians into early June (m.ob.); one studied at Gambell in the first

week of June (GEH *et al.*) was another first for the n. Bering Sea. A **White-winged Black Tern** at Nizki I., w. Aleutians, July 12 (JLT *et al.*) was a totally unexpected first record for Alaska!

**PIGEONS, SWIFTS, WOODPECKERS** — A flock of 15 Band-tailed Pigeons was observed at Wrangell, in which area the species seems to be regular in summer (see AB 28:937), July 9, and four were seen there July 11 (GEH). A **White-rumped Swift** observed at Agattu I., w. Aleutians, June 24 (DGK) was the first record of this Asiatic bird in Alaska since summer 1949! An active nest of **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers** was found in a two-year-old burn at Anchorage at the end of May (RHD & ER, GEH), only the second nest of this rare woodpecker ever found in the state.

**THRUSHES, OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS, WAGTAILS** — In the wake of a large spring movement (*q.v.*), Eye-browed Thrushes remained at Nizki and Alaid islands through June 3 and 5, respectively (JLT *et al.*), and up to four birds remained at Buldir through June 12 (GVB *et al.*). Casual late spring visitants, Siberian Rubythroats appeared at several w. Aleutian locations in early June: one at Nizki June 3 (JLT & MAS), at least three at Buldir June 7-14 (GVB *et al.*), and one at Amchitka June 16 (RS). Two Gray-spotted Flycatchers were recorded at Buldir June 8-9 (GVB *et al.*), and single Gray Wagtails were seen at Buldir June 8 and 11 (GVB *et al.*) and at Agattu June 11 (JLT). Like the rubythroats, these last two species are casual spring visitors in the w. Aleutians.

**VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS** — A singing Red-eyed Vireo was found in Ketchikan July 5, a first record in the Alexander Archipelago, and one singing bird was heard near Barnes L., Stikine R., in which area the species was recorded in summer 1974 (see AB 28:937), July 10 (GEH). A ♂ Cape May Warbler observed at Pt. Barrow June 6 (JPM, RG, DW, & GJD) was the third Alaska record, the first in spring.

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES** — A ♀ **Bobolink** recorded at Pt. Barrow June 22 (RG & JPM) was a first Alaska record of this long-distance migrant. Following the May records of Old World finches in the Aleutians (see spring), two ♀ Com. Rose Finches were observed June 21, at least three Rustic Buntings were present through June 17, and one **Oriental Greenfinch** was observed June 8, a flock of five on June 14 — all at Buldir (GVB *et al.*)!

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The month of June was cool without excessive rainfall but with a great deal of cloudy weather. July brought somewhat more than usual rainfall and continued the pattern of excessively cloudy weather over all but the southernmost portion of the Region.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Normal numbers of non-breeding Com. Loons were at coastal localities in June and July. Both Arctic and Red-throated Loons, however, were present in greater than usual numbers for those months; approximately 200 Arctic Loons at Cape Arago, Coos Co., Ore., (RL) was an unprecedented concentration. Two Red-necked Grebes at Howard Prairie L., e. of Ashland, Ore., July 4 (P & SS) constitute the first July occurrence of this species in w. Oregon of which we are aware; a few individuals of this species were noted in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca during June and July. On June 17, seven Eared Grebes were observed at Everett, Wash., (B & PE, *vide* PM). Low numbers of W. Grebes summered at Bellingham, Birch and Boundary Bays, but on July 24 an unusual 3-4000 were estimated to be present at Seaside, Clatsop Co., Ore. (TC, JG).

A boat trip out of Westport, Wash., July 18 encountered 123 Black-footed Albatrosses, 185 N. Fulmars, 85 Pink-footed Shearwaters, three Flesh-footed Shearwaters, 185 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, and one Leach's Storm-Petrel. Boat trips out of Coos Bay, Ore., July 6, 8 & 13 found 10-100 Black-footed Albatrosses, 1-5 N. Fulmars, up to ten Pink-footed Shearwaters, up to several thousand Sooty Shearwaters, and one Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. An estimated 500 Sooty Shearwaters were off the s. jetty of the Columbia R., June 12 (JBC, JG) where an estimated 20,000 were present on June 17 (DF, HN). Large numbers were noted also from the Long Beach peninsula n. of the Columbia R. several times thereafter (IB). Over 11,000 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and 16,000 Leach's Storm-Petrels were counted in a breeding census of the Storm Is., in Queen Charlotte Sound, B.C., June 13 (B.C.P.M., *vide* RWC to VG). On June 11, a similar census of the Tree Islets in Queen Charlotte Sound resulted in an estimated breeding population of 15-25,000 for Leach's Storm-Petrel.

Very few Brown Pelicans had come into the Region by the end of July. Both Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorant colonies on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. were productive this season (*vide* VG). Green Herons were noted at favored localities from Duncan, B.C., southward; they were seen repeatedly in the vicinities of Olympia, Wash., (G & WH, BH-T), and Wolf Creek, Ore., (EP *et al.*).

At Coos Bay Great Egrets increased from ten to 30 as the season progressed (RL). One or two Black-crowned Night Herons were observed at Grants Pass (P & SS), at Charleston, Coos Co., Ore., (RL), at Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, (SJ), and at Reifel Refuge (CT, BD, *vide* VG) during June and July. During the season Am. Bitterns were recorded at Hosmer and Davis Lakes, in the high Cascades s.w. of Bend, Ore. (LM); one summered at Ocean Park, Pacific Co., Wash., (IB), and one was discovered near Olympia July 24 (G & WH).



**WATERFOWL** — An ad. Trumpeter Swan appeared in Stanley Park, Vancouver, July 27 and was still present at the end of the period (BK). Six Black Brant were seen at Leadbetter Pt., Willapa Bay, Wash., June 12 (JBC, JG), one was at Victoria June 11 (MG, WS) and two were observed two days later at Saltspring I., B.C. (VG). An imm. White-fronted Goose was at Saanich, B.C., through June 26 (V & MG, RS). On the same date there were 250 Gadwall at Iona I., s. of Vancouver (BK); a female with young of this species was at Seattle July 31 (EH). Single ♂ Pintails were at Tillamook June 25 (DF, HN) & July 24 (TC, JG), and at Seattle, June 24 (LF). Two ♂ Pintails were at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., June 5-12 where a pair was noted on July 2; on the same day a ♂ Pintail x Cinnamon Teal hybrid was seen there; it had the body of the former, the head of the latter and was closely followed by two ♀ Cinnamon Teal (JCo). On June 5, 65 Blue-winged Teal were at Iona I. (BK); several others were seen on s. Vancouver I., in the first half of June (*vide* VG), but surprisingly two males were at Tillamook, July 31 (HN) and one male was at the Montlake fill in Seattle to July 13 (MD, *vide* PM). A pair of N. Shovelers was at the Campbell R. estuary July 31 (KC, *vide* HT). A Canvasback was at Iona I., June 5 and two were there July 11 (BK); one was at Olympia June 28 & July 17 (G & WH). Two ♂ Greater Scaup were at Victoria June 27, where single birds were seen June 20, 21 & July 4 (RS, V & MG). Up to 15 Lesser Scaup were at Iona I., while six more were at Vancouver through the period (BK); a pair was at Sidney, B.C., July 2 (LR, *vide* VG). One or two Com. Goldeneye were at W. Vancouver during the first three weeks of June (BK).

Five Barrow's Goldeneye were at Lost L., on the Santiam Pass in Oregon's c. Cascade Mts., July 3 (RK, MK, HN). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was identified on Tillamook Bay July 31, where a ♀ Bufflehead was found that day (HN). Single Buffleheads also were noted at Ocean Shores July 12 (G & WH) and at Saanich June 3 & July 4 (LR, *vide* VG). A ♀ Oldsquaw was seen at Saanich, June 28 (RM-G, *vide* VG). There were up to 130 Harlequin Ducks on the rocky shore s. of Campbell R. (HT)

and up to 110 in the vicinity of Victoria (VG *et al.*) during the period; as many as six frequented the mouth of Tillamook Bay during the same months (HN *et al.*). Large flocks of White-winged Scoters were flying past Ocean Shores as early as July 11 (G & WH); elsewhere on the coast numbers of non-breeding scoters were evident, as is normal. On June 20 five Black Scoters were at Ocean Shores; two were there July 11 (G & WH). A ♂ Ruddy Duck was observed at Victoria July 9 (V & MG). Hooded Mergansers were seen repeatedly at a number of localities on s. Vancouver I.; two females were at Iona I., July 13 (BK), and a group of 15 was seen at Scoggins Valley Park, Washington Co., Ore., July 2 (HN). Com. Mergansers, too, were frequently noted on s. Vancouver I., the count of 180 at Cowichan Bay, July 31 (JCo) matching that of the preceding July. There were a few June observations of Red-breasted Mergansers, but the only reported July sighting came from Iona I. on the 11th (BK).

**HAWKS, EAGLES, GAMEBIRDS** — Turkey Vultures were seen repeatedly at Campbell R. during the season (HT) and on Vancouver I. as far n. as Chemainus (VG *et al.*). A pair of White-tailed Kites spent the summer at a point n. of Medford, but no nest or young was ever observed (SS, OS). A pair of Goshawks nested at an old site in the Rogue R. Nat'l Forest, but two other sites were unoccupied (OS); a bird was seen at Lyons, Marion Co., Ore., July 3 (RK, MK, HN). There were fewer than ten reported sightings each for Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks during the period. Golden Eagles nested successfully near Medford (OS); an adult was noted in the Sooke Land District of Vancouver I., July 30 (V & MG), and two were seen at Orcas I., Wash., June 25 (SH, DP). At 8 p.m., June 12, just w. of the Astoria-Megler Bridge over the Columbia R., on the Washington side 11 immature and subadult Bald Eagles were seen together (JBC, JG). Bald Eagles were seen commonly on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. during the nesting season; five adults and five immatures were at Campbell R. July 19 (HT). A pair and three imm. Bald Eagles were to be found at the mouth of Tenmile Creek, n. of North Bend, Ore., during June and July (RLe). A ♂ Marsh Hawk was at Centralia, Wash., June 12 (BH-T), one was at Saanich June 20 (LR, *fide* VG), and a female was at Oyster R., Vancouver I., the last week of July (HT).

There were ten reported Osprey nests, mostly from s. Vancouver I., and a few additional sightings away from nest sites, all in the s. half of the Region. Three Peregrine sightings were recorded, all on s. Vancouver I., this season. A Merlin was seen at Campbell R. repeatedly during July (HT); another was observed July 15 at Pacific Rim N.P., Vancouver I. (V & MG). An ad. White-tailed Ptarmigan with three young was found at 6000 ft. on Mt. Albert Edward in Strathcona P.P., Vancouver I., July 24 (M & TS, *fide* VG); another was found at 6800 ft. Bobwhite were recorded at McKenna, Wash., June 13 (EH) & June 20 (SH, DP). American Coots raised young at Saanich, but the first migrants were observed at Scoggins Valley Park, Ore., July 23 and at Olympia July 24 (G & WH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Black Oystercatcher was discovered at Dungeness Bay, Wash., where the species is unusual; July 8 (D & LS). Two pairs of Semipalmated Plover nested on the Iona I. jetty, one successfully

hatching three young (BK); migrants were back in numbers by the last week of July with 300 at Tillamook July 24 (TC, JG), and 130+ in a quarter mile on Long Beach, Wash., July 31 (IB). A single **Snowy Plover** was found at Iona I., June 14 (JF, BM *et al.*, *fide* VG, BK) for what is reputed to be only the third record of this species for British Columbia. On July 31 on the Tillamook Bay sandspit there were eight adult and nine immature Snowy Plovers (HN). On June 17 an Am. Golden Plover in full breeding plumage was found at Leadbetter Pt. (DF, HN); two birds of this species were seen at Ocean Shores on the very early date of July 11 (G & WH). More than 100 Black-bellied Plovers frequented Leadbetter Pt., until at least the third week of June (JBC, HN *et al.*), by the second week of July individuals began to show up increasingly at various places.

Surfbirds were back by the third week of July. On June 29 there were 22 Ruddy Turnstones on the n.w. side of Stephens Islet, n. of Vancouver I., on the British Columbia coast (KT, *fide* VG); by the last week of July up to four individual Ruddy Turnstones had been recorded at four localities in the s. portion of the Region. Two Com Snipe were 'winnowing' near Campbell R., July 1 (HT). There were 25 Whimbrel still at Leadbetter Pt., June 12 (JBC, JG), where on June 17 only six could be found (DF, HN); five were still at Ocean Shores June 20, where by July 11, 50 were present (G & WH). Fifty Whimbrel were counted on Long Beach, Wash., July 19 (SH, DP). A Willet was noted at Leadbetter Pt., June 12 (JBC, JG). At Victoria up to 18 Greater Yellowlegs were found after June 25 (VG *et al.*), but it was not until after July 10 that this species was again being found elsewhere. A single Lesser Yellowlegs remained at Iona I. all of June (BK), after July 9 up to four were in the vicinity of Victoria or at Campbell R. On June 12 there were 26 Red Knot at Leadbetter Pt. (JBC, JG) where four were found June 17 (DF, HN). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was found at Iona I., July 23 (DM, *fide* BK) and July 27 (RP, *fide* BK), the dates are by far the earliest in fall for this species. The vanguard of expected Pectoral Sandpipers appeared in the form of single birds at three s. British Columbia localities July 20-31. Two Baird's Sandpipers were found at Iona I., July 27 (RP, *fide* BK), and another was at Saanich July 30 (RM-G, *fide* VG). Dowitchers of both species reappeared in numbers during the second week of July. A Stilt Sandpiper was identified at Iona I., July 2 (DB, *fide* BK) & July 27 (RP, *fide* BK). Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from Iona I., June 26 (BK) and from Tillamook July 31 (HN); two were said to be at Seattle July 31 (EH). On July 11 two Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared at Iona I. (BK).

Four Marbled Godwits were at Ocean Shores June 20 & July 11 (G & WH), 17 were on Washington's Long Beach July 19 (SH, DP), and five were at Tokeland, Wash., July 19 (EH). An Am. Avocet was at Ridgefield N.W.R. w. of Vancouver, Wash., July 2-11 (FC, *fide* PM). On July 18 off Westport 23 Red Phalaropes were counted (TW). In June Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at McKenna, at Seattle, in Washington's Skagit Valley, at Vancouver and at Iona I., where the maximum of 13 was found June 5. In July Wilson's Phalaropes were noted at Cowichan Bay, at Seattle and at Eugene, Ore., with the two at the latter place being the maximum. A N Phalarope was at Saanich June 26; on July 29 there were 30 at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — A Pomarine Jaeger off Westport July 18 (TW) was the only one reported. A lone Parasitic Jaeger was seen, too, but that species was also recorded at Victoria June 1 (VG), at the n jetty of the Columbia R., June 12 (3—JBC, JG), at Bellingham June 15, 16 & 29 when two were noted, as well as on July 2 (TW); two were seen also off Coos Bay July 13 (RLe). Six Long-tailed Jaegers were found off Westport July 18, when 8 skuas were also recorded (TW).

On June 30, 1825 nests of Glaucous-winged Gulls were censused on the Chain Is. e. of Victoria (MS *et al.*, *fide* VG), on July 21, 4000 nests of this species were counted on nearby Mandarte I. (MS, *fide* VG). Also of interest is the report of ten nests of this species at the harbor in Olympia at the extreme s. end of Puget Sound (BH-T). A nest tended by a Western and a Glaucous-winged Gull at Tillamook June 25 contained two small young and an unhatched egg (DF, HN). Two ad. Herring Gulls were at Victoria June 2 & 4, where two subadults were present July 26 (RS, VG); an ad. Herring Gull was at Campbell R July 28 (HT). By the latter half of June there were several thousand subadult California Gulls at the mouth of the Columbia R. (DF, HN). Bellingham Bay hosted large numbers of non-breeding imm. California, Ring-billed, Mew, and Bonaparte's Gulls this season; after June 30 juvenile and ad. Californias and Ring-billeds began to appear. At Victoria, numbers of California Gulls were small until the end of July (VG). As many as fifty Ring-billed Gulls were seen at Tillamook Bay June 25 and again on July 31 (HN). A few Mew Gulls also spent the summer at Vancouver; 50 were counted at Capilano R., June 20 (BK).

#### S.A.

On the evening of July 28 at Oak Bay, Victoria, in excellent light conditions, Ron Satterfield had five minutes in which to study a gull at 20-40 feet through 8 x 40 binoculars and in direct comparison to imm. Bonaparte's Gulls; afterward he wrote a detailed description which has been passed to us by Vic Goodwill whose library helped to confirm that the bird was the Region's fifth and British Columbia's fourth (but the first immature) **Black-headed Gull**. Uncertainty as to the bird's identity was caused by either lack or inadequacy of descriptions and depictions of this plumage in the most widely used North American field guides: a helpful depiction appears at Plate 24 in Pough's *Audubon Water Bird Guide*, except that the leg color of the present bird was pink rather than yellow.

A Franklin's Gull was at Iona I. for most of June (VG, BK *et al.*); single birds also turned up the last week of July at Vancouver (BK), at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG), and at Tillamook (TC, JG). Hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls — many more than usual — spent the season in Bellingham Bay and in the n. Straits of Georgia; even at Tillamook there were up to 50 most of the season. By the end of July there were large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls around Vancouver, Victoria and at Washington coastal points. Northward drifting Heermann's Gulls began to appear n. to the Columbia R. in late June; by early July there were hundreds on the s.w. Washington coast and numbers

had reached Victoria. Black-legged Kittiwakes were numerous at the mouth of the Columbia R., as well as along the Washington coast and were seen regularly along the entire Oregon coast through June; a few individuals were seen in the Strait of Georgia, with numbers at coastal localities after the first week of July. An ad. Sabine's Gull was at Victoria June 1 (RS, *fide* VG) and one was seen out of Westport July 18 (TW).

An ad. Forster's Tern appeared at Bellingham July 4 (TW) up to 25 Com. Terns were at the mouth of the Columbia R., June 12 & 17; one or two were at Dungeness Bay June 30 & July 5 (D & LS); after July 10 up to six were at Bellingham and at Victoria. An Arctic Tern was noted at Victoria, July 29 (RS, *fide* VG). Unusual occurrences for Caspian Terns took place when several reached Seattle July 22 (KB, *fide* PM), two were n.e. of Campbell R., June 10 (RWC, *fide* VG), and one or two birds were seen June 14 - July 13 at Tofino, Vancouver I. (AD, V & MG); one at Scoggins Valley Park, Ore., July 2 (HN) was also unexpected. Lone Black Terns were at Reifel Refuge June 3 (CR, *fide* VG) and at Iona I., June 5 (BK).

Fifty Pigeon Guillemots at Mandarte I. July 21 (MS, *fide* VG) was an unusual concentration; six of these birds on Dungeness Bay July 5 (DS & L) were also of interest. There were 200 Marbled Murrelets at Mitletatch I, B.C., June 17 (RB, *fide* HT) and 50 at Oyster Bay four days later (HT). Two pairs of Ancient Murrelets were near Campbell R., June 12 (HT). A **Parakeet Auklet**, long dead, in breeding plumage, was found July 18 on the beach at Westport (BH-T); the first summer specimen of which we are aware. Virtually all Regional records have been of dead birds found at the tide line. Up to 340 Rhinoceros Auklets in a day were reported at various points around s.e. Vancouver I., during June and July, five were at Cape Meares, Ore., July 24 (TC, JG). Tufted Puffins were recorded at a few favored localities from s e Vancouver I., s. to the Oregon-California border during June and July, the maximum being 64 at P. Grenville, Wash., July 11 (G & WH). Single ad. Horned Puffins were seen in Hecate Strait, approx. 53°31'N, 130°W on June 27 & 28 (RWC, KT, HC, *fide* VG).

**OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — On June 19 two Barred Owls were found on Cortes I., e. of Campbell R., and on July 18 three were seen at the s. end of the island (AD, *fide* VG). One or two pairs of Spotted Owls were around Wolf Creek, Ore., during June and July (EP), a pair was repeatedly observed at a nest in the Rogue River N.F. (OS); the pair near Lyons, Ore., could not be located after mid-July. A Spotted Owl was seen at Mt. Rainer N.P., July 22 (JA *et al.*, *fide* PM). A Poor-will was found in June on Roxy Ann Butte, near Medford (OS). Common Nighthawks were seen regularly at Campbell R through the season (HT). A Black Swift was near Elma, Wash., June 15, and on June 20 near Packwood, Wash., ten birds were hawking over a clear-cut (BH-T). Up to nine Black Swifts were seen at Saanich June 3 - July 10 (VG *et al.*); at Duncan, B.C., 150-200 of these birds were seen regularly through the period (JCo).

A ♂ **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was recorded at Bohemia Mt., s.e. of Cottage Grove, Ore., July 18 (MP, *fide* AC) for an addition to the few Oregon records away from Jackson County. Two pairs of Anna's Humming-

birds summered at Saanich and one pair in Portland but no nests were found. A Calliope Hummingbird was found at 5300 ft. on King Mt., near Wolf Creek, Ore., July 25 (EP). Two ♂ Williamson's Sapsuckers were found on the w. side of Washington's White Pass, July 17 (G & WH) A ♂ N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at Manning P.P., June 17 (RS, *fide* VG); one was also seen in Strathcona P.P., on Vancouver I., (unspecified date—*fide* HT). E. Kingbirds were to be found as usual in n. Washington's Skagit Valley during the nesting season (TW), two were at Oak Bay, Victoria, June 15 (RS, *fide* VG), and one of these birds appeared at Dungeness June 9 (AB, *fide* DS). Two E. Kingbirds also were found on Camano I., in Puget Sound June 17 (B & PE, *fide* PM) and near Estacada, Ore., June 12-13 (SJ); one was seen at Grants Pass June 19 (SS *et al.*). A pair of W. Kingbirds arrived at Packwood, Wash., June 13, and a week later built a nest on the same pole used last year (BH-T)! A W. Kingbird was seen in Saanich June 11 (RM-G, *fide* VG) and one was at Randle, Wash., July 17 (G & WH). A nest and three young of the W. Kingbird were found w. of Roseburg, Ore., July 11 (OS); the species bred sparingly this year but more commonly than usual at Wolf Creek (EP) and in usual numbers in the Rogue R. valley of s. Oregon (OS). Eight Ash-throated Flycatchers at Agate L., in the Medford area June 21 formed a surprising concentration (OS). A Least Flycatcher was calling on Cortes I., B.C., June 19 (AD, *fide* VG), and another was found near Maple Falls, Wash., June 20 where its vocalizations were later recorded (NL, TW). Western Flycatchers were readily found in mid-June in n.w. Oregon's Coast Range (JBC), and around Campbell R. two weeks later (HT). A W. Wood Pewee was observed there June 16, where it is very rare (HT).

Nesting of Violet-green Swallows at Campbell R., was delayed by wet weather through June, but seems subsequently to have been successful (HT). Tree Swallows, however, were late in arriving there and were much reduced in numbers (HT). At Duncan, John Comer reports 85 per cent mortality of young Tree Swallows in 50 nest boxes, and attributes this second successive poor nesting to cold weather and food scarcity. On June 5, three Bank Swallows were recorded at Iona I., and on July 9 one was seen at Vancouver (BK). Rough-winged Swallows so increased at Victoria this season as to be commoner than Tree Swallows (VG). There were possibly four pairs of Purple Martins in the Saanich district n. of Victoria this season (VG *et al.*); only one pair was at Olympia where last year there were seven pairs (G & WH) Two ♀ Purple Martins were seen at the mouth of the Pistol R., Ore., June 26 (P & SS), and one was noted at Davis L. in the Oregon Cascades, June 20 (LM).

**CHICKADEES THROUGH VIREOS** — A Boreal Chickadee was seen at Manning P.P., June 17 (RS, *fide* VG) Wrentits were to be found in three different areas near Medford (OS); a pair was noted at Wolf Creek July 30 (EP). Several pairs of House Wrens nested successfully on s. Vancouver I., (VG *et al.*). Bewick's Wrens were recorded with about the same frequency as House Wrens on s. Vancouver I. during June and July. A Mockingbird was found July 10-11 at Victoria three mi. from where one lingered last winter (VG, RS). A Gray Catbird was seen with regularity after June 18 at Butter Flats, Skagit Co., Wash., (K & JW, *fide* TW). Young Am. Robins did

not appear in n.w. Oregon until July, which would indicate almost total failure of early nestings. Reports of W. Bluebirds were few; two near Campbell R., July 31 represented the first July record in that region for many years (KC, *fide* HT); single females were seen at Yelm, Wash., June 19 and at McKenna, Wash., June 26 (G & WH). A number of pairs of W. Bluebird nested in the vicinity of Wolf Creek (EP); we have no report of their nesting success in the foothills of the n.w. Willamette Valley, where the nest box program of Hubert Prescott has enjoyed mild success. The first July reports for Bohemian Waxwings in this Region were of single birds at W. Dungeness July 6 (LS), and at Bohemia Mt., s.e. of Cottage Grove, Ore., July 18 (MP, *fide* AC). Single Red-eyed Vireos were seen at W. Vancouver, B.C., at three Puget Sound lowland localities, and at two n.w. Oregon localities in June. One or two were recorded on four occasions in June and July n. of Victoria (*fide* VG). At least ten Red-eyed Vireos were in a colony near Dodge Bridge, n. of Medford (OS), and a pair raised young in an Olympia neighborhood (G & WH).

**WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Two Black-and-white Warblers were discovered June 5 at Ridgefield N.W.R., w. of Vancouver, Wash., (A & DSt) A Tennessee Warbler was found at Manning P.P., June 16 (RS, *fide* VG). Nashville and Hermit Warblers bred successfully at Wolf Creek (EP); the former species particularly is of very localized occurrence in w. Oregon. A Nashville Warbler was noted at W. Dungeness, July 16 (LS). A Townsend's X Hermit Warbler hybrid was studied at Davis L., Ore., June 20; the song reflected elements of both parents (LM). A group of 12 Townsend's Warblers, including one begging juvenile, was observed in the Sooke Land District, n. of Victoria, July 23 (V & MG) Hermit Warblers were found at Howard Prairie L., along the Applegate R., and at Tubbs Springs, e. of Ashland through the season (OS). A group of eight Hermit Warblers was seen at Olallie L., near Mt. Adams, July 29 (SH, DP). On June 22 a singing ♂ **Bay-breasted Warbler** was found at the s. end of Howard Prairie L., Jackson Co., Ore., by Douglas Stotz of Tucson, Ariz., who subsequently observed it for 15 minutes; he has furnished a detailed account of the sighting, the first for this Region and the second for Oregon of which we have knowledge. A Yellow-breasted Chat was near Bacon Creek, Skagit Co., Wash., June 13 and 16 (NL, TW). A ♂ Am. Redstart was found June 20 at Davis L., Ore., the third consecutive year for the species in that vicinity (LM).

A pair of W. Meadowlarks was at Duncan, B.C. throughout the season; the first summering pair since 1971 (JCo). Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were on the Samish Flats, s. of Bellingham, June 16 (NL, *fide* TW), three appeared at McKenna, Wash., June 13 (EH) Northern Orioles, which are generally uncommon in the Region, seem to have been recorded more frequently in the Puget Sound and Willamette Valley trough, in the interior valleys of s.w. Oregon, and on s. Vancouver I., than has been usual in recent years; the male at Courtenay, B.C., June 6 (HT), and the imm. male at Stanley Park in Vancouver June 1 (BK) are of particular interest. Lazuli Buntings were reported to be present in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Wash., in above-average numbers (TW); they were very common at Wolf Creek

(EP). On June 3 a ♂ Dickcissel in breeding dress was found on a small island near Tofino, B.C.; a written description of the observation was supplied (AD, *fide* VG) of this first acceptable record for the Region known to the editors. In the past ten years there have been two other inadequately reported Dickcissel sightings.

Evening Grosbeaks could be found in both the Coast Range and the Cascades of n. Oregon during the season; they were more common than usual during June in the Whatcom County lowlands (TW), and a few were recorded on June dates around the s. end of Puget Sound; one was at Olympia, July 25 (G & WH). Three ♂ Cassin's Finches were noted at 5000 ft. behind Packwood, Wash., June 20 (BH-T). Two ♀ House Finches were observed at Namu in n. British Columbia, June 19 (RWC, HC, *fide* VG). House Finches were second to robins as the most common dooryard bird in Campbell R., this season (HT). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was seen in the Olympic Mts. of w. Washington, June 24 and one was seen there July 17 (RPr, AB, *fide* DS). A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was noted at Paradise, Mt. Rainier N.P., June 19 (BH-T), and two were seen July 24 in Strathcona P.P. (M & TS, *fide* VG). Red Crossbills were to be found regularly on the s.w. Oregon coast (RLe). Vesper Sparrows spent the season at Sequim, Wash., on the Olympic Peninsula (DS). An ad. (Slate-colored) Dark-eyed Junco was observed at Manning P.P., June 17 (RS, *fide* VG). Brewer's Sparrows were found in a burn w. of Fish L. in the Cascades, Jackson Co., Ore., several times; the species was also noted near Emigrant L., June 20 (OS). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow was found on one of the Tree Islets in Queen Charlotte Sound in n. British Columbia, June 11 (RWC *et al.*, *fide* VG). A Lincoln's Sparrow was singing June 27 at Thunder L., e. of Newhalem, Whatcom Co., Wash. (DP, SH).

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## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Jon Winter and Dick Erickson

During the past year northern California has experienced the worst drought in over 125 years. In many areas of the region the annual rainfall was as much as 75 per cent below normal. Water rationing was widespread



in late summer. A normal flow in the upper Sacramento River was maintained in order to provide sufficient water for irrigation and in an effort to keep salt water out of the delta. Increased salinity, however, and associated bait fish in Southampton Bay were apparently responsible for the presence of five Brown Pelicans and four Heermann's Gulls there July 31. This is the first record for the area and probably for Solano County as well (FKB). At Clear Lake a reduced water level left tules high and dry, preventing Western and Pied-billed Grebes and Great Blue and Green Herons from nesting (CP). Lake Tahoe's low water level resulted in a good showing of migrant shorebirds (WS) but left little shelter for other birds in the dry tules (JR). Higher concentrations of nesting birds (Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck) were at available ponds in the Livermore Valley because many temporary ponds had dried up (AE). A similar situation was reported in the San Joaquin Valley, where Kern National Wildlife Refuge was allowed to dry up and no water birds were able to nest. Probably as a result Black-necked Stilts nested for the first time at nearby Lake Success, Tulare County, and 200-300 competed for nesting space at the Visalia sewer ponds (RAB, JLi). The drought had a strange reverse effect at the San Lorenzo and Pajaro River mouths where reduced flow prevented these rivers from breaking through to the ocean. As a result waters backed up, covering mud flats and destroying Snowy Plover (only one successful nest) and American Avocet (no successful nests) nests at Pajaro Dunes (J & RW, TB).

The effects of the drought on landbirds were hard to pinpoint, although observers noted some consistent trends. Several observers noted that more xeric-adapted

species such as Grasshopper Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting and Lawrence's Goldfinch, normally more common in the interior, were found along the coast. Blackbirds seem to have suffered because of their breeding habitat drying up. Tricolored Blackbirds were noted in rather unusual numbers near the coast and Yellow-headed Blackbirds failed to breed in normal numbers at Clear Lake. In the greater San Francisco Bay (below S.F. Bay) area Cliff Swallows were noted as being down in numbers perhaps because of the lack of water to build their nests. Species dependent on seeds and insects such as flycatchers, bluebirds, orioles and some sparrows seemed to leave their breeding areas early. Hummingbirds seemed to be much more common around feeders all summer. Chaparral-loving species such as Black-chinned Sparrows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Lazuli Buntings were noted by two observers as being way down in numbers on Mt. Diablo, where conditions were so dry in June that the park was closed to the public.

All Farallon Island (below, F.I.) records should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

**LOONS THROUGH STORKS** — A great number of loons summered along our coast this year with 145 Commons, 162 Arctics and 14 Red-throats reported. The largest concentrations were 45 Commons in Crescent City harbor July 18 (TS) and 53 Arctics in Drake's Bay July 15 (WMP). The imm. **Yellow-billed Loon** that wintered at Berkeley was rediscovered at the Emeryville marina July 17 (Albert & Wilma Ghiorso) and remained to July 29 (m.ob.). This represents the second summer record for the Region. Inland, two Com. Loons were at Copco L., Siskiyou Co., June 6 (*vide* MT), a Com. or Arctic Loon was at L. Success June 14-25 (RAB) and a Red-throated Loon was on Mono L. June 11 (*vide* DW). All previous inland summer loon records have been Commons.

Single breeding-plumaged Horned Grebes at Emeryville June 3 (DE) and Eagle L., June 6 (SL) were possibly late migrants but three separate winter-plumaged birds on Mono L., June 24 - July 21 (RS, DW *et al.*) and one dull breeding-plumaged bird at Año Nuevo July 26-31 (PM, TB) were not. There are no previous inland summer records. Five Eared Grebes were reported from three coastal locations in June. They apparently experienced little nesting success this year in the Sacramento area where no young were reported (*vide* BK).

Three hundred Black-footed Albatrosses in Monterey Bay June 19 (TC, C.F.O.) are indicative of the large numbers present there this summer. Northern Fulmars were also present in large numbers following the winter invasion. At least 30 were still in Monterey Bay on July 25 (TC) Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters on Monterey Bay July 5 (M.R. Boatwright\*) and July 25 (TC) are our first July records. The only storm-petrels reported were two Fork-taileds on Monterey Bay June 6 (JL).

Low water at Pyramid L., Nev., was apparently responsible for White Pelicans breeding at Honey L. for the first time (*vide* H. Kingery *et al.*). From a population of nearly 2000 birds an estimated 950 young fledged (F.L. Knopf). Fewer Brown Pelicans reached our area this year with 456 at Pajaro Dunes July 22 the highest count (J & RW). Double-crested Cormorants were found nesting in sagebrush at Hartson Res., Lassen Co., with over 300 birds there June 5 (S & PL) and at least six nestlings seen

July 16 (RS *et al.*). An ad. ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird was well seen at Santa Cruz July 21 (Steve Getty). This species has now been recorded in five of the last six years.

Fourteen Cattle Egrets were found near Oxalis in w Fresno Co., June 17 (*vide* RH) and a single bird was at Gray Lodge July 19 (BED). Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons failed to nest altogether at Gray Lodge despite normal water levels there (BED). An impressive 161 fledgling night herons were counted at Hartson Res., July 16 (RS *et al.*). Least Bitterns were again found in the Sacramento Valley at Gray Lodge and Sacramento N.W.R. (SL *et al.*). The first **Wood Storks** reported in the region since 1964 were single immatures s. of Big Sur July 18 (Paul Hettich, *vide* VLY) to the end of the period (m.ob.) and at Mendota Wildlife Area July 28 (BED *et al.*). The former bird frequented small farm ponds in the area and was seen to roost in redwood snags nearby.

**WATERFOWL** — The California Fish & Game Dept annual censuses indicate the number of Canada Goose breeding pairs was down 26 per cent while the predicted fall flight of these breeders might be down 23 per cent. For ducks the figures are 30 and 27 per cent respectively (*vide* BED). Numerous reports were received of non-breeding summering geese this year. A single Canada at the Chico oxidation ponds (SL *et al.*) and six more at Sacramento N.W.R. (SL, OK) were present throughout the period, while 16 Black Brant were reported from seven locations on the coast. More impressive were six White-fronted Geese at Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 (SL), an amazing 23 more flying south over Red bluff July 9 (PD), a single Snow Goose at Sacramento N.W.R. (SL, OK) and three more at the Chico oxidation ponds throughout the period (SL *et al.*). A Ross' Goose with an injured wing was also present at the Chico ponds from at least June 14 to the end of the period (SL *et al.*). The previous latest regional record of this species was June 9.

Single Pintail broods were seen at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (DE, NK, DR, WS) and the Woodland Sugar Ponds July 5 (BK). Three Green-winged Teal were reported from the coast: Palo Alto June 15 (NK *et al.*), Zmudowski S.P., July 10 (TB, PM) and Arcata July 11 (TS). Sixteen Blue-winged Teal were reported from five locations on the coast with 21 more at six spots in the Central Valley (below, C.V.), with 26 found in the Great Basin. The largest concentrations were eight males at Arcata June 21 (TS), six males at Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 (SL) and 4-5 pairs at Tule L., June 19-21 (BED). Another Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal hybrid was seen at the Visalia sewer ponds June 24 (JLi). A ♀ Am. Wigeon was at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (DE *et al.*) and 21 more were reported from four C.V. and Great Basin locations. A N. Shoveler brood at the Arcata oxidation pond July 12 (TS) represents only the fourth Humboldt County breeding record. Single ♀ Redheads were at Arcata June 12 (NK, DE, DRu) and Fish L., Humboldt Co., June 24 (DS *et al.*), the latter a most unusual location. Numbers were much reduced at Gray Lodge this year (BED) Ring-necked Ducks were reported from Arcata, where a female was present June 12 - July 15 (NK, TS *et al.*) and Chico, where four were seen June 14 (SL). At least three birds were present at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcanic N.P. but no young could be found (GZ, S & PL). Two separate ♀ Canvasbacks were found on the coast in June



and eight were reported from the C.V. At Hartson Res., 21 flightless young were seen in three broods July 16 (RS *et al.*). This is one of our rarest breeding ducks.

Only 19 Greater and seven Lesser Scaup were reported on the coast. A ♂ Greater Scaup at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 13 (*vide* MT) and a female at Mono L., July 2 (DW) are our first inland summer records. Inland Lessers were singles at L. Mendocino June 19 (OK) and Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 (SL) and five at the Chico ponds June 14 (SL). A pair of Com. Goldeneyes were at Red Bluff throughout the period (S&PL) and singles were at Eagle L., June 6 (SL), Alameda July 12 (DR), Crescent City July 18 (TS) and Pajaro Dunes throughout the period (J&RW, TB). Buffleheads were reported as follows: two females at Arcata June 12 with one remaining to the end of the period (DE, TS *et al.*), one female at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 13 (*vide* MT) and one female at Red Bluff July 12-16 (PD). An Oldsquaw remained at Arcata to at least June 24 (TS, DE *et al.*) and another was seen at Bodega Bay in late July (*vide* DR). Apparently only two Harlequin Ducks summered at Año Nuevo this year (m.ob.). The only Black Scoters reported were eight at Drakes Bay in June (SFB *et al.*) with one bird still there Aug. 8 (VR). Although flightless young Com. Mergansers have been seen many times in the n. Sacramento Valley recently the first actual nest was not found until June 20 of this year. The nest was about 50 feet up in a Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) at Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area (J. Knott, *vide* SL). A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Mono L., June 11 (RS *et al.*) is our first inland summer record.

**HAWKS THROUGH RAILS** — At least two California Condors were seen from mid-June to the end of the period at the Blue Ridge Fire Lookout, Tulare Co. (RAB). Eight Goshawk reports included four nests, a very good showing. Bald Eagles nested in the n.e. part of the Region with at least five nests found (*vide* BED). An impressive six pairs of Ospreys were believed to be nesting in the Sacramento Valley north of Tehama (*vide* SL). Elsewhere nesting was normal, including 14 successful nests in the Klamath Nat'l. Forest, Siskiyou Co. (*vide* MT). Two successful Prairie Falcon nests were reported from the Northeast (SL, *vide* MT).

Numbers of Mountain Quail were far down from a few years ago at Calaveras S.P. (MK). On the Modoc Plateau Sandhill Cranes were found in all the usual places but more pairs were seen without young this year (*vide* BED). Single Black Rails were found at the Southampton Bay marsh, Solano Co., in June (FKB) and near Dutton's Landing, Napa Co., July 14 (*vide* BED). Four individual Com. Gallinules were seen along the c. coast but more unusual was one seen n. of Mono L. July 1 (*vide* DW).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Much remains to be learned of the exact status of our migrant shorebirds in summer. June is the only month when birds may be suspected of summering and even then many are undoubtedly late spring or early fall migrants. All but the commonest of summering shorebirds are detailed below. Twenty-three Semipalmated Plovers were reported from the coast in June. In addition to Pajaro Dunes, Snowy Plovers were found nesting at Wilder Beach, Santa Cruz Co. (TB), Belmont (PM) and Mono L., where at least 12 pairs raised young (DW). This species is very rare in the Great Basin. Nine

Ruddy Turnstones seen at four locations along the coast in June may have been summering. Inland, where they are always rare, one was seen at Mono L., July 30 (*vide* DW). The only possibly summering Black Turnstones seen were three at Arcata June 12 (DE, NK, DRu). Again this year Com. Snipe were found "winnowing and calling" at three sites in flooded fields n. of Red Bluff (S & PL). No nests or young could be found, however. A few Long-billed Curlews and Whimbrels were seen along the coast in June as is normal.

Unusual Spotted Sandpiper reports were a pair suspected of breeding in Fresno in June (RH) and a single winter-plumaged bird present in Livermore June 19 - July 31 (AE). A Solitary Sandpiper seen south of Big Sur July 24 (JM) was somewhat early as was a Wandering Tattler at Pescadero Beach July 4 (PM). Willets were found at Tahoe Keys with three on June 12, five on July 10 and 12 on July 26 (WS). The status of this, and other shorebirds, in the Sierra Nevada is still largely unknown. Single Lesser Yellowlegs at Honey L., June 5 (S& PL), Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 (SL) and Palo Alto June 15 (NK, DE, DR, WS) are the first June records for the Region. Two Red Knots on Indian I., Humboldt Bay June 24 (TS) were probably summering. The first Regional records in the Great Basin came from Mono L. this year, where one was first seen July 21 and a maximum of four were present by July 29 (*vide* DW). The earliest-ever Regional record of the Pectoral Sandpiper was one at Pescadero Marsh July 23 (PM). Three were there the following day (FIB, JR) and elsewhere singles at the Ferndale Bottoms (DE, DRu) and Chico ponds (E. Richmond, *vide* JR) both July 31 were also early. The only Baird's Sandpipers reported were three on Jelly's Ferry Rd., July 21, only the third Tehama County record (SL).

The smallest shorebirds are among the rarest in summer. This year no Least Sandpipers were seen in June, but an exceptional nine Dunlins were found on the coast in June and July. Five were at Arcata June 12-21 (DE, NK, DRu, TS), one was at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (NK *et al.*), one was at Pajaro Dunes June 29 (J & RW) and two were at Zmudowski S.P., July 10-11 (TB, PM *et al.*). Fall migrants don't normally return until late September. From three coastal locations a total of 20 possibly summering W. Sandpipers were reported in June while the only Sanderlings were 40 at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (NK *et al.*) and two at Abbott's Lagoon June 20 (AE). Adding to the number of Semipalmated Sandpipers reported in recent years was one seen and heard at Pescadero Marsh July 27 (BJM). A few Short-billed Dowitchers were found along the coast in June as is probably normal but three Long-billeds at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (DE *et al.*) apparently represent the first Regional June coastal record. Inland Short-billeds were one at Red Bluff July 17 (SL) and 3-13 at Mono L., July 21-23 (DW). A Marbled Godwit at L. Success July 15 was considered the first Tulare County record (RAB, JLi). Among the Am. Avocet reports, two at Tahoe Keys July 26 (WS) were probably the most significant. Apparently the first Lake County Black-necked Stilts were three at Clear Lake S.P., June 19 (CP). Following this spring's flight of Red Phalaropes, they were present to at least June 19 along the coast. The most seen were 125 at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (DE *et al.*). One seen off Monterey July 25 (TC) and two at Belmont July 22 (PM) were probably early fall migrants. Returning

Wilson's Phalaropes were already common along Monterey and S.F. Bays on June 15 when hundreds were seen (DR *et al.*). At Mono L. no nests or young were found although eight males were present on territory. A count of 15,586 on the entire lake July 8 had climbed to 93,000 on only the s.e. corner of the lake July 26 (DW). Northern Phalaropes were seen throughout June with two at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 2 (S & PL), one in the Arcata Bottoms June 12-13 (DRu, DE), ten at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (WS *et al.*) and one at Dumbarton Pt., on s. S.F. Bay June 15 - July 3 (AE).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — The only jaegers seen were an ad. Pomarine flying s. past Pigeon Pt., July 28 (PM), an ad. Parasitic at Pajaro Dunes June 2 (J & RW) and a Skua off Monterey July 25 (TC). An imm. Thayer's Gull at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (below, B B T P.) June 3 (DE) is only our third summer record of this newly recognized species. A study of the endangered California Gull colony on Mono L. by the Mono Basin Research Group revealed approximately 23,000 young raised on Negit I., and another 9000 on a number of smaller islands. By the end of July an estimated 82,000 birds were present there (DW *et al.*). The survival of this population depends on the maintenance of a sufficient water level in the lake, water that is much desired by Southern California interests. The only Franklin's Gull seen was an adult in breeding plumage at Abbott's Lagoon June 23 (P.R.B.O.). There are very few June records. As always a few Bonaparte's Gulls were present throughout the summer but 87 seen along the coast were more than usual. Less expected were single immatures at the Chico ponds July 4 (S&PL) and Sacramento N.W.R., July 19 (OK) and two immatures at Mono L., June 14 - July 5 (DW *et al.*). Following the incredible flight of Black-legged Kittiwakes in our area last winter, more reports than ever before were recorded of late or summering birds. No less than 300 were seen along the coast during the period.

Two Forster's Terns at Fresno July 27 were apparently the first recorded there in fall (RH). A "thriving colony" was found at Big Sage Res., Modoc Co. in June (BED). Although Com. Terns have been found almost regularly in June in Southern California, our first records came this year. At Pajaro Dunes 20 were present to June 5 (TB, RM) and two as late as July 1 (J & RW). At least 20 were present through May up to June 12 on n. Humboldt Bay (DRu, DE *et al.*). On S.F. Bay two at the B.B.T.P., June 17 (DE) and one at Alameda June 29 (JRe) were considered early returnees. Five Arctic Terns seen in Monterey Bay June 6 (JL *et al.*) also represented a first Regional June record. At least 35 Least Tern nests were found at three localities on S.F. Bay (DR *et al.*). Elegant Terns arrived early this year, with one at Pajaro Dunes June 2 (J & RW), one at the Salinas R. mouth June 15 (NK *et al.*), six at the B.B.T.P., June 17 (DE) and one at Monterey harbor June 19 (JRe). The most seen were 180 at the B.B.T.P., July 3 (AE, FIB) and 211 at Pajaro Dunes July 22 (J & RW). In the Sierra Nevada, where they are rarely reported, a Caspian Tern was at Tahoe Keys June 12 (WS) and four were at Buck's L., Plumas Co., July 13 (RS *et al.*). A Black Tern at Pajaro Dunes June 5 was a late migrant (TB, RM).

Interesting Marbled Murrelet reports were of 50 seen flying through the trees at Big Basin S.P., at dusk July 10

(TB, RM) and one inside S.F. Bay at Berkeley July 22 (JR). The only Xantus' Murrelet seen was one on Monterey Bay June 19 (JL) and the Region's second June record of the Ancient Murrelet was of one seen there June 6 (JL). An impressive number of Cassin's Auklets was 4000 estimated on Monterey Bay June 19 (JL). Following the trend of recent years, apparently seven Horned Puffins were seen from two boats off Monterey June 19 (TC\*, SLu, JL *et al.*). A pair of Tufted Puffins at Pedro Pt., San Mateo Co., July 22 was suspected of nesting on an offshore rock (PM).

**PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — Six Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported, five of which were singing and apparently breeding in the C.V.; the other was found out of range on Pt. Reyes June 19 (JH\*, KY). A single Screech Owl was seen on Canada Hill, Placer Co., July 29 at an elevation of 6761 ft., which is well above its normal vertical range in the Sierra (JW). Flamulated Owls were found in two new locations in the region although both were within the species expected range. Two were heard calling at Big Butte in s.e. Trinity Co., June 27 (PD) and three more were heard eight mi. w. of Mineral June 17 (SL *et al.*). The latter record is the first Tehama County occurrence for this species. Spotted Owls were reported from Alpine, Tehama and Trinity Cos. (JH, SL, PD) and a pair successfully fledged at least one young in Calaveras S.P., July 24 (MK). Burrowing Owls are in trouble in Tulare County. Currently they are known from 17 locations comprising at least 36 birds, however, at least nine of these areas are located in agriculturally desirable "hogwallows" which appear to be destined to grow something other than Burrowing Owls. An estimated 70 percent reduction of Burrowing Owl habitat has taken place there in the last ten years (RAB). Hopefully a frontal assault can be mounted to have some of these "hogwallows" for the owls, but the "bad guys" are already mounted and shooting so action must be taken soon. A pair of Long-eared Owls in a red fir forest at 5800 ft. on Blake Mt., Humboldt Co., July 31 were above their known altitudinal range (DE, DRu, TS). We have very few summer records of this species. Three fledgling Short-eared Owls were observed three miles n. e. of Davis June 3 (DAG). There are no recent nesting records for this species in the C.V. Poor-wills were found to be common eight mi. w. of Mineral where at least 19 were heard June 17 (SL). Lesser Nighthawks appear to be increasing their numbers in the n. part of the C.V. Eleven were seen eight mi. n. of Red Bluff July 3-17, seven of which were immatures (SL).

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Black Swift's nest found at Lighthouse Pt., Santa Cruz Co., contained one young bird on July 25 (PM, JM); eight more nests were found behind Mossbrae Falls on the Sacramento R. n. of Dunsmuir June 20 (MT). The latter location was not previously known. The Chimney Swifts reported from Ft. Bragg last year apparently returned again this summer (*fide* DR). This species is definitely undergoing a radical shift in range in the West. Observers should look more carefully at *Chaetura* swifts in the future. Problems in the field identification of this genus still need to be worked out. The nest found in Ft. Bragg last summer was the first ever reported in California.

An out-of-range ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was banded at Palomarin June 3 (P.R.B.O.). A ♂ Broad-tailed Hum-

mingbird was seen at Blue L., Mono Co., June 25 and was probably breeding (P.R.B.O., RS). This species appears to be expanding its range to include the Sierra.

Pileated Woodpeckers were reported in encouraging numbers in Marin and Sonoma Cos., where several active nests were found. Nests were also reported from two Sierra locations. Acorn Woodpeckers in Sycamore Grove Park, Livermore were found to be storing almonds and dried olives (AE)! Maybe it is going to be a hard winter. Several observers reported that Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were unusually common in Yosemite this summer.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Several E. Kingbirds were reported along the coast and in the interior. Single birds were seen at Año Nuevo July 1 (PM, TB), Palomar June 24 (Meryl Stewart) and on the F.I., June 19. In the interior single birds were found at Honey L. N.W.R., June 5 (SL) and three mi. n. of Edge-wood, Siskiyou Co., June 6 (MT *et al.*). A Black Phoebe was seen at the unusually high elevation of 8500 ft. at Crest L., Yosemite July 28 (CM). A single Bank Swallow was seen over the Merced R. in Yosemite June 4 and several old burrows were located just w. of Muir Tree Campground (DF). There are apparently no previous Yosemite records for this species. In addition, a single bird was seen at Tahoe Keys June 12 (WS), for the first summer record in the Tahoe region. Unusual was a concentration of 22 Purple Martins just s. of Big Sur July 25 (TS, DRu, DE).

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — A Yellow-billed Magpie was seen just n. of Yreka June 1 (DF). This appears to be the northernmost California record; the species may be expanding N. through the Shasta Valley. There are no Oregon records for this species but this observation is only about 20 mi. s. of the Oregon border. Oregon birders take heed! A single raven at Bay Farm I., June 29 was interesting, since they are rather rare in the East Bay (JRe). Two more birds seen at Sacramento N.W.R., June 12 may have been a nesting pair (SL). Ravens are scarce in the C.V. A single Clark's Nutcracker was seen near Litchfield, Lassen Co., July 7 peacefully lurching on crickets in a millet field (RS *et al.*) A Black-capped Chickadee was seen along the Shasta R., Siskiyou Co., July 8 (MT). There are no recent records for this species in Siskiyou County and its status in the Cascades needs clarification. Red-breasted Nuthatches seem to have had a banner year in the n. Cascades where they were noted in "unbelievable concentrations" (SL, AC).

A single Wrentit found at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcanic N.P., July 25 is noteworthy as this species had apparently not been recorded in the park (SL *et al.*). A single House Wren experiencing a new high was recorded at 10,600 ft., atop Mono Pass July 28 (DAG). A Winter Wren sang continuously through June and July at Robinson Flat, Placer Co. (elev. 6767 ft.) but apparently did not attract a mate (JW). This is well above this species' normal vertical range in the Sierra.

Six California Thrashers were found near the confluence of Honcut Creek and the Feather R., near Yuba City July 1 (SL *et al.*). This is one of the few riparian areas in the C.V. where this species is known to nest. Most unusual was the presence of a Varied Thrush on the F.I., June 5.

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Cedar Waxwings remained well s. of their normal breeding range this summer. At least 92 were seen on Dog I., Tehama Co., June 4 (SL), however no nesting was reported s. of their normal range. In keeping with a known historical range expansion in California, a ♀ Phainopepla was seen at Montague, Siskiyou Co., June 4-5 (*vide* MT). This appears to be the northernmost California record. A Bell's Vireo of what appeared to be the eastern race (*V.b. bellii*) was seen on Pt. Reyes June 20 (SFB\* *et al.*). The grayer California race (*V.b. pusillus*), critically endangered in California, would be far less likely on Pt. Reyes in late spring. Single Red-eyed Vireos were found at Fairhaven June 9 (DRu), F.I., June 17 and on Pt. Reyes June 18-19 (JM, NK *et al.*).

**WOOD WARBLERS** — "Hunting" for vagrant warblers in spring is always more productive in the deserts of California than along the coast. Consequently in recent years most active observers in California spend their spring birding the deserts and have virtually ignored the coast. It has been known for years that a number of spring vagrants pass along the coastal regions of the state. One only has to examine the records from the Farallons to verify this fact. Until recently, however, there weren't enough observers in the Region with the desire to spend some of their spring birding time along the coast. This situation appears to be changing and as expected a number of impressive observations were received this spring.

With fairly good coverage of the coast in June (the most likely time for vagrants) two impressive waves were noted: the first June 6-9 and the second surprisingly late June 17-20. Three Black-and-white Warblers were seen along the coast May 27 - June 18 and a singing male was in Tilden Park from July 1 to the end of the period (KY *et al.*). Three Tennessee Warblers were found on the F.I., June 18 and a single bird found at Fairhaven June 7 was Humboldt County's second spring record (DRu) Two Virginia's Warblers, one seen carrying a fecal sac, were on the e. side of Monitor Pass, Mono Co., and undoubtedly constituted a mated pair (DAG). This is the first documented breeding record for this species in the Sierra. The editors have heard that this species bred in Lee Vining Canyon last spring but no firm documentation was submitted. Single N. Parulas were reported three mi. e. of Cape Mendocino June 9 (BC *et al.*), Pt. Reyes June 19 (JM, m.ob.), Chabot Regional Park, Alameda Co., July 6 (DE) and just s. of San Andreas Res., San Mateo Co., July 19 (PM). A single Magnolia Warbler was seen on Pt. Reyes June 6 (JM) and two were on the F.I., June 18.

Most of the spring records for Cape May Warblers are from the F.I., however, three were reported from the mainland: single birds were found June 6-8 at Drake's Beach (SFB *et al.*), Pt. Reyes June 17-18 (JM, JL *et al.*) and on Woodley I., Humboldt Bay June 14 (*vide* TS) The breeding status of "Audubon's" Warblers in the coast range of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and Monterey Cos has never been adequately clarified. The impression is that they are very local. On a 6¼ mi. transect along Castle Rock Ridge between Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Cos., 25 pairs of "Audubon's" Warblers were found June 2 - July 2 (EM). They may be much more common than is believed. A very early Townsend's Warbler was seen in Springville, Tulare Co., July 31 (Mabel Mires) and

appears to represent the earliest fall record for the Region. A Blackburnian Warbler was seen singing on Pt. Reyes June 12 (LCB *et al.*). There are few spring records for this species. Most unusual was a Chestnut-sided Warbler found at Convict L., Mono Co., June 25 (*vide* DW) and another singing male along Silver King Creek, Alpine Co., July 7 (Bill Greenfelt\* *et al.*). None were seen along the coast. It was a great spring for Bay-breasted Warblers: at least seven (two on the F.I.) were seen from Fairhaven to Drake's Beach June 6-20 (m.ob.). Much rarer in spring than fall, single Blackpoll Warblers were seen at Drake's Beach June 6-7 (JM *et al.*) and at Fairhaven June 10 (DRu). Ovenbirds made a good showing with four birds along the coast June 6 - July 16 (JM, SFB, P.R.B.O. *et al.*). Two were found inland, one on DeChambeau Creek near Mono Co. Park June 6 (DW, BEN) and another was found 11 mi. e. of Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon N.P., June 24 at an elev. of 8400 ft. (Don Schmoltdt\*). Very rare in spring, a singing N. Waterthrush was seen on Pt. Reyes June 18 (JM *et al.*). A beautiful sight in the form of a **Kentucky Warbler** was found on the F.I., June 18. This is the sixth Regional record, of which all but one are for spring. The region's fifth spring Connecticut Warbler was banded and photographed on the F.I., June 19. Nine Am. Redstarts were seen this summer, all in the greater S.F. Bay area except for one found in Mono County. Dates of occurrence of the coastal birds were June 15 - July 21 (m.ob.). Most unusual were three reports of apparently summering birds in the East Bay: a singing imm. male in Chabot Park July 6-9 (DE, TS), a female in Tilden Park July 18 to the end of the period (KY *et al.*), and a male there July 21 to the end of the period (JM *et al.*).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found much reduced in breeding numbers at Clear L., all summer (CP). Most of their marshes were dried up because of drought conditions or had been burned. A single "Baltimore" Oriole remained on the F.I., June 18-20. Observers should continue to report both so called "races" of the Northern Oriole. It seems apparent on the basis of recent evidence that the lumping of these two forms was premature, and it is possible that they may be split again.

At least 13 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported; all but two reports were on the coast from Humboldt Bay to San Mateo County, June 8 - July 3 (m.ob.). This species may be breeding in California but no nests have yet been found. Blue Grosbeak habitat in Tulare County is disappearing rapidly; they were found in only three locations this summer (RAB). Two singing ♂ Indigo Buntings were found in the Bay Area this summer. One found June 6 remained on territory until July 15 just s. of Olema Marsh, Marin Co. (KY, NS, m.ob.) and another was found in Tilden Park July 23-24 (*vide* DR). A single **Dickcissel** was seen on the F.I., June 11. This is only the third spring record for this species in the Region. Three Lawrence's Goldfinches seen at Ruth L., Trinity Co., July 16 are of interest because this species is quite rare here (TS). Red Crossbills appeared to be very common this summer in the n. Cascades, perhaps because of a good cone crop (SL, AC). At least 8-9 singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrows found at Korbell, Humboldt Co., June 12 were undoubtedly breeding and constituted the first record for the county (S. Harris *et al.*). Black-chinned Sparrows were also found n. of their normal range this summer.

Two singing males were found at Big Butte, Trinity Co., June 27 (PD) and 5-8 birds were at Ant Pt., Trinity Co., July 9 (TS *et al.*). These records are the northernmost for California and, as for the Grasshopper Sparrows, were almost certainly a result of this year's drought.

**CORRIGENDA** — The Barn Swallows reported in *A.B.* 26:652 and the Gray Vireo in *A.B.* 27:117 should be deleted. The latter bird was almost certainly a Bell's Vireo but is best disregarded. In *A.B.* 28:101 the Laughing Gull at Arcata was a winter adult, not an immature. On page 103 in the same issue the sentence beginning "The eastern 'plumbeous' race of the Solitary Vireo . . ." should be deleted. There was an error in the Addenda of *A.B.* 28:690. The Ground Dove at Pacific Grove was the first Regional record in many years.

**ADDENDA** — The following records should be added *A.B.* 28 (1): One - two Laysan Albatrosses were seen off Eureka Nov. 3 (TS, DE, RLeV *et al.*); A **Hudsonian Godwit** at Arcata Aug. 9-10 was photographed and represents the first record for California (R. Webster). Another Bobolink was one at Arcata Oct. 7 (*vide* DE, TS). The following records should be added to *A.B.* 28 (3): An Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Bayside, Humboldt Co., Dec. 18-28 (S. Harris, *vide* DE, TS); A ♀ Black-and-white Warbler was at Arcata Nov. 26 - late March (R. Behrstock, DE, TS *et al.*). The following record should be added to *A.B.* 28 (4): The first Del Norte Co. record of the Black-and-white Warbler was one seen at Requa Apr. 21 (G. Alton, GZ). The following records should be added to *A.B.* 28 (5): Two Cattle Egrets spent the entire summer in the Arcata Bottoms (*vide* DE, TS); Following the massive winter invasion, a Rough-legged Hawk was present June 1-17 in the Arcata Bottoms (TS, DE *et al.*) to establish the latest California record; an Am. Redstart apparently nested at Prairie Creek S.P.; a female there July 5 was carrying a worm and scolding the observer (G. Strachen).

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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

The weather was relatively mild with no prolonged hot spells. Southern California has not experienced the extreme drought conditions prevailing to the north, and summer rains in some areas put the average rainfall above the yearly average.



The coastal area was on the whole unexciting, except for an influx of frigatebirds, the appearance of nesting Black Skimmers, and California's first Violet-crowned Hummingbird. However, the offshore islands produced a number of interesting records, including some very late spring migrants. The mountains continue to yield interesting data on breeding birds that appear to be extending their ranges southward or westward, but much is yet to be learned and the presence of more observers in this area during June and July could produce much significant data. The Salton Sea was well covered and many significant records produced in that area during the period included California's second White Ibis and its first inland Black Scoter.

**LOONS, GREBES** — A Com. Loon on Encino Res., Los Angeles Co., June 9-10 (JD) was probably a late spring migrant, but one off Oxnard, Ventura County June 14 (JA) and two at nearby Pt. Mugu July 28 (JD) were summering locally. Arctic Loons were seen passing north off Goleta Pt., Santa Barbara County, through June 22 (PL), but one in Santa Barbara July 2 (PL) was believed to be summering locally; small numbers of loons are seen in s. California every summer. About 75 W. Grebes were present at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) throughout the period, with young noted in July (JD, IM); this species is known to nest at very few localities in s. California, and there is only one previous record of nesting on the Salton Sea (AFN 10:409, 1956). A Horned Grebe at N.E.S.S. Aug. 11 (JD) and 21 (R&EC), had undoubtedly summered locally; this species is unusual inland and not to be expected during the summer months.

**ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS** — A Black-footed Albatross in the San Pedro Channel July 19 (RLP)

was the only one reported. A New Zealand Shearwater was well seen 12 mi. s. of Anacapa I., June 26 (RLP); this is an exceptionally early date for this species to be found in California waters.

**PELICANS, BOOBIES, FRIGATEBIRDS** — Brown Pelicans became fairly numerous along the coast in early July, as post-breeding wanderers moved north from colonies in Mexico. The first Brown Pelicans reached the Salton Sea in early July, with nine found July 10 (GMcC) and reached a peak late in the month with 40 counted July 24 (JD); this species is of annual occurrence on this inland body of water. Totally unexpected was an imm Blue-footed Booby on Gull I., off Santa Cruz I., June 22 (RLP); previous records from along the coast have all followed influxes of the birds into s.e. California, which have presumably reached the coast from the Gulf of California by way of the Salton Sea and the Los Angeles Basin. Magnificent Frigatebirds appeared along the coast from late June through the end of the period, with fourteen sightings, involving 18 individuals, reported between San Diego and Morro Bay, and another over Anacapa I., June 26 (RLP); as usual all were immatures. In addition one was seen at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) on July 14 (GSG), two were at N.E.S.S. July 11 (BB, PU) and another was soaring over Grand Terrace near San Bernardino July 15 (B. Hazard *vide* EAC); this species now occurs annually at the Salton Sea, but inland records away from that locality are few indeed.

**HERONS, STORKS, IBISES, SPOONBILLS** — One or two ad. Little Blue Herons were regularly seen at S.E.S.S. between July 3 and the end of the period (GSG PU), and a sub-adult in the "calico" plumage was found there July 24 (RS, JL) and Aug. 5 (KVV); this species appears to be increasing as a visitor to California, and nesting should be anticipated for the near future. Cattle and Snowy Egrets nested at three localities on the Salton Sea and both species appeared more numerous than in recent years. An ad. Louisiana Heron was found at N.E.S.S. June 25 (JL) and another was seen on Morro Bay July 14 (FRT); there is a previous summer record from the Salton Sea, but no other summer record for the coast. A Least Bittern at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) June 12 (VR, AS) and another at nearby Tecopa July 28 (JT) were both at interesting localities. An Am. Bittern at N.E.S.S. July 17 (JD) was unexpected since few summer records exist for s.e. California.

Wood Storks reached a peak of c. 500 at S.E.S.S. in mid-July but were unreported elsewhere in the Region. Most exciting was an ad. **White Ibis** at N.E.S.S. July 10 24 (GMcC) and what was probably the same individual at S.E.S.S. Aug. 5 (KVV); an imm. collected on Pt. Loma in San Diego Nov. 20, 1935 (*Condor* 38:121, 1936) appears to be the only other valid record for California. An imm. Roseate Spoonbill was present at S.E.S.S. between June 13 and the end of the period (PU, GSS JD), and may well have been the same individual seen at N.E.S.S. in May of this year.

**GEESE, DUCKS** — Two Black Brant at N.E.S.S. and another at S.E.S.S. (PU, JD) during June were the only ones found on the Salton Sea this summer. A few Gad

wall nested in coastal San Diego County, as indicated by the presence of eight pairs, all with young, at three separate localities in June (AF). Three Blue-winged Teal were present in Goleta all summer (PL, LB) and one or two were noted at N.E.S.S. June 14 - July 20 (PU, BB, KG), this species normally leaves s. California during the summer months. A ♂ Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal was found at S.E.S.S. June 12 (JD); this hybrid is seen annually in California and should not be considered rare. A Canvasback, rare in summer, was at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., July 22-28 (JD) and another was on Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., July 31 (PU). Unexpected was an Oldsquaw found on San Diego Bay July 11 (GMcC) and still present at the end of the period; the bird was incapable of flight and had no doubt been present all summer.

Two White-winged Scoters, rare along the coast in summer, were on Morro Bay Aug. 9 (VR) and another was at N.E.S.S. Aug. 8-11 (R&EC, JD); this latter individual had probably arrived on the Sea in the spring and summered locally. At least four Surf Scoters were present all summer on the Salton Sea (PU, JD) and small numbers were regularly seen along the coast. A ♂ **Black Scoter** was found at S.E.S.S. Aug. 14 (GMcC, PU, WS,—p.S.D.N.H.M.). The bird appeared healthy and looked strong in flight even though it had undoubtedly been present locally all summer; this represents the first documented record for the interior of California. A flock of 25 Red-breasted Mergansers was at N.E.S.S. July 17 (R&EC); a rather large number for summer time though smaller numbers are seen regularly.

**HAWKS, OSPREY, FALCONS** — An ad. Goshawk was seen on Mt. Pinos, Ventura Co., June 18 (HME); this species is not known to nest south of the Sierra Nevada in California, but a number of individuals have been reported from the s. California mountains in the past 15 years. A Swainson's Hawk seen in the Lanfair Valley, south of the New York Mts. of e. San Bernardino Co., July 19 (AS) & 29 (VR) suggests the possibility of nesting in that area. A pair of Harris' Hawks found nesting at S E S S. proved to be two birds confiscated by California Fish & Game personnel from "falconers" in Los Angeles, and released locally (one bird still retained jesses!). A pair of Osprey successfully nested on Tinnemaha Res., in the Owen's Valley (TH). A Peregrine Falcon near Grapevine, Kern Co., Aug. 4 (PU) was at an unusual locality.

**RAILS** — Four calling Black Rails were heard in the Carrizo Marsh of extreme e. San Diego Co., June 27 (VR, JD) and three or four were heard near Seeley, Imperial Co., during June (CGE, PU); both localities are west of the Colorado River Valley where the species occurs regularly in summer.

**PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS** — A Snowy Plover in Baker, San Bernardino Co., July 18 (VR) was at an unusual locality. It would be difficult to state with certainty whether the Am. Golden Plover on San Nicholas I., June 17 (LJ) was a late spring migrant or an early fall migrant; it often appears that the last of the spring migrant shorebirds are still moving north through s. California when the first of the fall birds appear in June. Two Lesser Yellowlegs that arrived in Goleta June 17 were judged to be early fall migrants (PL), whereas a

breeding-plumaged Black Turnstone at the same spot June 10 was most likely a late spring migrant (PL). An early Solitary Sandpiper was found near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., July 25 (PU). Few documented records of nesting Spotted Sandpipers exist for s. California, therefore the presence of four on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., and "small numbers" at Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., all summer (GH, KG) are of interest. A pair with young in Azusa, Los Angeles Co., during June and July (MSM) clearly nested successfully. A Wandering Tattler in La Jolla, San Diego Co., June 2 (JD) was a little late. A flock of 15 Wilson's Phalaropes at S.E.S.S., June 13 (PU) and three in Goleta June 14 (PL) were fall migrants; the first fall migrant phalaropes appear in s. California in mid-June every year. A late Red Phalarope was at Goleta June 11 (PL). A non-breeding plumaged Red Knot at S.E.S.S. June 16 (PL, JD) was probably summering locally, but a breeding-plumaged bird at Goleta June 12 (PL) is best treated as a late spring migrant. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at S.E.S.S., June 16 (RW, JD, PL—p.S.D.N.H.M.) was the second ever found in California; the first was collected at N.E.S.S. June 7, 1969. Two Baird's Sandpipers, judged to be adults, were early at S.E.S.S. July 17 (PU, R&EC). A breeding-plumaged Dunlin was in Goleta June 6 (PL) and another was on San Diego Bay June 15 (GMcC), there are very few June records of this species for California. Three Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S., July 24 (RS, JL, JD) were the first noted this fall.

**SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — Four South Polar Skuas were seen between San Pedro and Santa Barbara I., June 5 (KG), one was seen near Santa Barbara I., June 27 (RLP) and another was found near San Miguel I., July 14 (RLP); we still have much to learn about the status of these birds off s. California, and we must investigate the possibility of other forms of skuas. The first yellow-legged Western Gull was found at the Salton Sea June 26 (VR) but numbers built-up rapidly with 90 found there July 10 (GMcC); this species regularly wanders north from the Gulf of California after the nesting season. Most unusual was a Mew Gull on Hansen Dam in the San Fernando Valley July 7-31 (JD), it was evidently summering at that inland locality. Laughing Gulls were present as usual on the Salton Sea during July, but numbers appeared to stay below one hundred; a second-year bird at McGrath S.P., July 22 (JD, GSS) was on the coast, where they are extremely rare. A Franklin's Gull was in Santa Barbara June 14-15 (RW, LB), two were at S.E.S.S., June 13 (PU), three were present at N.E.S.S., June 16 (JD, PL) and one or two were there July 17-24 (JD, RS, JL); this species is quite rare in summer. Up to five Bonaparte's Gulls were present at N.E.S.S., during June and July and another was seen in Imperial Beach July 11 (GMcC); one or two of these birds remain in s. California every summer. Black-legged Kittiwakes were present along the entire coast throughout the summer with up to 40 in Santa Barbara during July (RW), over 300 in King Harbor, Los Angeles Co., in June and July (SW) and smaller numbers reported in Ventura and San Diego Cos.; it is not unusual for numbers of these birds to over summer following heavy winter flights. A second-year Sabine's Gull was seen in Santa Barbara harbor June 14 (RW); small numbers probably summer offshore but are most unusual close to land.

Fair numbers of Gull-billed Terns were present on the Salton Sea this summer with 17 nests found July 4 (GSG). Forster's Terns were first found nesting at the Salton Sea in 1970 (AFN 24:717, 1970) so the discovery of 32 nests at S.E.S.S., July 4 (GSG) is of significance; a colony on San Diego Bay (*Condor* 65:246, 1963) that is still thriving is the only other spot in s. California where this tern is known to nest. An Arctic Tern off Oxnard June 3 (JD, VR) and three off the Palos Verdes Pen., June 5 (KG) were to be expected since small numbers appear to move north fairly close to the coast in the late spring. However, three **Arctic Terns** at S.E.S.S., June 13 (GMcC, PU) were most unusual since only two other individuals have ever been found inland in California. Three Least Terns were at N.E.S.S., June 19 (PU) and another was at S.E.S.S., July 4 (GSG); this species is a casual wanderer to the Salton Sea and virtually unknown elsewhere in the interior of California. Over 100 Black Skimmers were present on the Salton Sea with some 25 nests located (GSG, PU) indicating this species is now well established as a summer visitor to this area of California. A pair of Black Skimmers nested on San Diego Bay in July (R&EC) for the first coastal record, two were seen in Santa Barbara June 30 (RW) and another was at McGrath S.P., on July 18 (LB); the species is still very rare on the coast.

**ALCIDS** — A Com. Murre was at Santa Cruz I., June 14 (JA) and three were there July 23 (JA), two (in breeding plumage) were on Prince Islet off San Miguel I., July 14 (RLP), and two more were found off Oxnard July 25 (KG); this species is not to be expected in s. California waters during the summer. A scattered group of 39 Horned Puffins was s. of San Miguel I., June 8 (RLP); late spring appears to be the time of year to look for this species in s. California waters.

**DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS** — A Band-tailed Pigeon on San Nicholas I., June 27 (LJ) and another in New York Mts. of e. San Bernardino Co., July 30 (VR) were both outside their normal range, but the species is prone to wander. A White-winged Dove in Santa Barbara June 12-13 (*vide* GH) was west of its normal range. Three Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found in the e. part of the Region with one at F.C.R., June 13 (VR, AS), one more near Tecopa June 15 (JT) and the other in Kelso July 1 (PL); this species is rare away from the Colorado River Valley. A Barn Owl in the New York Mts., July 20 (VR) was most unusual since there are virtually no other records from this area of California. Whip-poor-wills were found on Clark Mt., in e. San Bernardino Co., June 12 (AS, VR) and July 25 (WS) indicating they were present all summer; one heard in Ojai, Ventura Co., June 2 (DS) represents the northernmost record for California. A Lesser Nighthawk on Anacapa I., July 24 (KG) was at an unusual locality.

**SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — A group of 25 Black Swifts was in Santa Anita Canyon of the San Bernardino Mts., June 27 (IM) indicating that the species nested locally; one over Anacapa I., July 24 (KG) appears to be the first recorded from the Channel Is. Two Chimney Swifts continued to use a chimney in Ventura as a roosting site into mid-July (LB, H&PB). Three birds over Big Pine, Inyo Co., June 10 (TH) and two over San Pedro

July 15 (SW) were suspected of being Chimney Swifts but are best treated as *Chaetura* sp. A Vaux's Swift was carefully identified near Green Valley L., in the San Bernardino Mts., July 27 (KG) indicating that the species can occur in s. California during the summer. Three Anna's Hummingbirds were found in extreme e. San Bernardino County in late July (VR); there are few records for this area in California. Totally unexpected was a **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** frequenting a feeder at the home of William Haggard near Santa Paula, Ventura Co., from July 6 to the end of the period (HC—p S.D.N.H.M.); there are no previous records for California.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — An E. Kingbird, a scarce but regular visitor to California, was found in the Saline Valley, Inyo Co., June 6 (TH), another was seen on San Nicholas I., June 25 (LJ) and a third was on Santa Cruz I., July 2 (JA). Two Dusky Flycatchers were found in the Laguna Mts., July 24 (PU) but there was no evidence of nesting. Apparently several pairs of Violet-green Swallows nested near Encino, as adults were seen feeding young at Encino Res., July 13 (JD); this is a lowland locality outside the species' known breeding range. Agam Barn Swallows nested in the Imperial Valley, being found at three localities (GSG, JD) and also nested along the coast in San Diego (JD); these localities are recent additions to the species' known breeding range. Purple Martins are now scarce in s. California with less than a dozen individuals being reported all summer.

**CROWS, VERDINS, BLUEBIRDS** — A Com. Crow in the New York Mts., July 30 (VR) was far from an area of normal occurrence. A pair of Verdins found near Rosamond, Kern Co., in May (SW) were at the n.w. extremity of the species' range. The presence of eight adults and two juvenile Mountain Bluebirds in the New York Mts., July 21 & 30 (VR) was most interesting since the species is previously unknown as a breeding bird in this area of California.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Territorial ♂ Solitary Vireos (*V. s. plumbeus*) were found at three localities on the n.e. slope of the San Bernardino Mts., during the period (KG); this is the w. limit of this form's recently expanding breeding range. A Red-eyed Vireo on San Nicholas I., June 26-27 (LJ) was a late spring straggler as was also the Black-and-white Warbler there June 27 (LJ). A ♂ Tennessee Warbler at Oasis June 11 (TH) was the latest of a rash of these birds occurring in that area of California during May. Four Orange-crowned Warblers were on Clark Mt., in e. San Bernardino Co., June 12 (VR); this species is unrecorded as nesting in this area. A ♂ Nashville Warbler was near Blue Ridge in the San Gabriel Mts., June 13 (KG); positive proof of nesting south of the Sierra Nevada is still lacking but circumstantial evidence strongly suggests that small numbers do nest in the s. California mountains every summer. An ad. Virginia's Warbler was seen feeding a juvenile at Green Spot Picnic Ground in the San Bernardino Mts., July 27 (KG); this species was first found nesting in this mountain range in 1974 (*Western Birds* 5:45-56, 1974). Three Hermit Warblers were found in the San Bernardino Mts., July 27-29 (KG); this is another

species long suspected of nesting in these mountains, but still requiring proof. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, a rare straggler to California, was on San Nicholas I., June 26-28 (LJ). MacGillivray's Warblers were found at five localities in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mts., during the summer and a female was watched feeding a juvenile near Big Bear L., July 27 (KG); this species is certainly a part of the breeding avifauna of these mountains, and can be found in most areas of extensive willow thickets within well-developed coniferous forests during June and July.

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — A ♂ Bobolink near Imperial Beach July 25-26 (PU, R&EC) was totally unexpected since very few reach the coast in spring, and fall migrants are not present until September. A ♀ Scott's Oriole on Anacapa I., July 24 (KG) was certainly out of range. Away from the Colorado River Valley Great-tailed Grackles were scarce with up to six at Ramer L., in July (GMcC) and four or five around the nearby S.E.S.S., throughout the summer (PU, JL, IM). A ♂ **Scarlet Tanager**, only the third to be found in s. California in spring, was present in San Pedro June 20-24 (SW JD). Two or three Hepatic Tanagers were present along Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts., June 5 - July 1 (H&PB, JD), a pair was on Clark Mt., June 12 (VR) and, most interestingly, three were found in the New York Mts., July 29 (VR); this species is a recent addition to the breeding avifauna of California, and is previously unrecorded from the New York Mts. A ♂ Summer Tanager at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., June 16 (JD) may have been nesting locally, but an imm. male in Santa Barbara July 3-5 (LB) was a lost wanderer.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Two Cardinals were seen near Earp on the Colorado R., July 24 (WS); this is the only area in California where this species occurs naturally. Four ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported with one on Santa Cruz I., June 18 (JA), one in Santa Barbara June 15 (LB), another on the Palos Verdes Pen., June 13-21 (SW) and the other near Vista, San Diego Co., July 24 (CGE). Single ♂ Indigo Buntings were in Big Pine June 7 (TH) and at Oasis June 11 (TH); a pair was found in Bishop July 12 (SC), and two males were at Morongo

Valley July 23 (WS). A Lawrence's Goldfinch in the New York Mts., July 30 (VR) was at an unusual locality. An Evening Grosbeak along Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts., July 27 (KG) was unexpected since it is not known to nest in s. California. A few Red Crossbills were present along Blue Ridge in the San Gabriel Mts., from late May through June (MSM, KG) and six appeared on Santa Cruz I., July 2 (JA); this is a totally unpredictable bird. Grasshopper Sparrows were found near O'Neil Park, Orange Co., June 21 (JD), near Vista, San Diego Co., June 20 (CGE) and near San Diego in April and May (GMcC); this species appears to be restricted to areas of native grasses and is consequently on the decline in s. California. A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found in the New York Mts., May 18, July 28-29 (VR); this is far from the species' known range in California, but it is interesting to note that a pair was reported seen in the neighboring Providence Mts., Mar. 25, 1975 (Steve Forsell). Two pairs of Dark-eyed Juncos nested in coastal Goleta (PL); this species was not known to nest on the coast south of Morro Bay 30 years ago. A Gray-headed Junco on San Nicholas I., June 26 (LJ) was certainly lost, as was the Lincoln's Sparrow accompanying it, both species are normally gone from the coast by early May.

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