

# The Nesting Season

June 1 - July 31, 1982

## Abbreviations frequently used in Regional Reports

ad.: adult, Am.: American, c.: central, C: Celsius, CBC: Christmas Bird Count, Cr.: Creek, Com: Common, Co.: County, Cos.: Counties, *et al.*: and others, E.: Eastern (bird name), Eur.: European, Eurasian, F: Fahrenheit, *fide*: reported by, F. & W.S.: Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft.: Fort, imm.: immature, I.: Island, Is.: Islands, Isles, Jct.: Junction, juv.: juvenile, L.: Lake, m.ob.: many observers, Mt.: Mountain, Mts.: Mountains, N.F.: National Forest, N.M.: National Monument, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N.: Northern (bird name), Par.: Parish, Pen.: Peninsula, P.P.: Provincial Park, Pt.: Point, not Port, Ref.: Refuge, Res.:

Reservoir, not Reservation, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, sp. species, spp.: species plural, ssp: subspecies, Twp.: Township, W.: Western (bird name), W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,W,E,,: direction of motion, n., s., w., e.,,: direction of location, > : more than, < fewer than, ±: approximately, or estimated number, ♂ male, ♀: female, ♂: imm. or female, \*: specimen, ph.: photographed, †: documented, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km kilometers, date with a + (*e.g.*, Mar. 4+): recorded beyond that date. Editors may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

## NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Stuart I. Tingley

Weather patterns were relatively uniform across the Region this summer. June was cool and very wet throughout, and many observers reported hardships for susceptible species such as swallows and flycatchers and many nesting terns were reported washed out, particularly in the southern part of the Region. July weather was quite the reverse, with above-normal temperatures and virtually no precipitation anywhere in the Region during the first 20 days of the month. That undoubtedly allowed most failed breeders to re-nest which, however, is not usually as successful.

Many observers noted the earlier-than-normal appearance of southbound shorebirds owing perhaps, as Blair Nikula speculates, to a poor nesting season in the north; while looking south, weather-related nesting failures farther down the coast may have accounted for the modest influx of "southern" terns into the Region in late June. None of the four first state/provincial nesting records reported this season were really unexpected. Regional rarities were highlighted by a Brown Pelican, Sandhill Cranes in three provinces, White-winged Dove and remarkably, another Nova Scotia Cave Swallow.

Forest pests continue to play havoc throughout the Region. In the south, the gypsy moth again created extensive defoliation, although levels were reported reduced in New Hampshire. In the north, the spruce budworm continued to ravage through softwood forests, while the forest tent caterpillar caused extensive defoliation in parts of Maine and New Brunswick. Despite mounting public opposition the latter province continued with its 29th year of spraying several million acres of forest with pesticides, about which virtually nothing is known of their short or long-term effects on wildlife or indeed, humans!

Reporting coverage this season was generally good, although less than complete for Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and unfortunately no reports were received from Prince Edward Island.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Summering Red-throated Loons in New England included six at two Maine localities (*fide* MKL), and a maximum of six at Manomet, Mass. (PY). Northern Fulmars, while recorded in record numbers at Cox's Ledge with 37 on June 13 (*fide* DLE), were near normal elsewhere with small numbers in the Gulf of Maine and a maximum of 168 between N. Sydney, N.S. and Port-aux-Basques, Nfld., July 10 (RB). Cory's Shearwater numbered 55 off Block I., R.I., June 30 (*fide* DLE), while



the only Manx Shearwaters reported were three off Newfoundland (RB). Other tubenoses were lightly reported, but apparently in near normal numbers, although 775 Wilson's Storm-Petrels in the Gulf of Maine from the Bluenose ferry July 5 was a high count (*fide* MKL). An imm. **Brown Pelican** at Dartmouth P., Long I., N.S., June 30 provided perhaps a 9th or 10th provincial occurrence (RD, RBS *et al.*). Small numbers of Great Cormorants were reported summering as far s. as Rhode Island. In that state, where the first nesting record for Double-crested Cormorant was recorded last year, the colony at Sakonnet Pt. has increased from 18 nests to 73 nests this year. That species continues to increase throughout the Region, except perhaps in Newfoundland where it has long been uncommon and very local

**HERONS, IBISES** — Green Herons were noted feeding young out of the nest at Red Head Marsh, near Saint John, N.B., July 7 (*fide* DSC), where the species has been noted in summer for several years. Still unrecorded as a nesting bird in Nova Scotia, a Green Heron was observed at Little Harbour, Shelburne Co., June 11 (*fide* PRD). Southern herons reported in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia during the summer included three ad. Little Blue Herons, two Cattle Egrets,

one Great Egret, and at least eight Snowy Egrets (*vide* DSC, PRD). Northernmost Louisiana Herons were two in coastal New Hampshire (*vide* RAQ) and 2-3 at Scarborough Marsh, Me. (PDV) where the species has recently nested. Black-crowned Night Herons were reported from 2 locations in s.w. Nova Scotia. The center of this species' abundance in Atlantic Canada is in n.e. New Brunswick, where a 1981 census of a colony at Inkerman revealed 700+ nests (C.W.S.). A Least Bittern nest discovered at Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary (hereafter A.P.B.S.), N.S., June 8 (MF) provided a first provincial nesting record. This very secretive species probably breeds occasionally at several sites in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Up to 19 Glossy Ibises on Monomoy was considered exceptional for Cape Cod (*vide* BN).

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS** — Six reports of migrating flocks of Canada Geese ranging in size from 10-125 in New Hampshire in early-to-mid-June was unusual. That species is rapidly becoming established as a local nester in many parts of New Hampshire, Maine, and the Maritime Provinces, particularly in the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border region. Late Brant in Connecticut included 72 at Riverside June 4 and five off Greenwich June 20 (*vide* TB); one off Manomet, Mass., July 23 (PY) was probably summering. A drake Eur. Wigeon just starting to molt at Plum I., Mass., July 2 (RSH) was most unseasonal. The only other recent regional summer occurrences of this species were in Nova Scotia in July 1974 and 1975. A drake Greater Scaup at Plum I., July 7 was the only one reported s. of the Maritimes (RAF, RSH). The only summering King Eiders noted in the region were a female on Mt. Desert I., Me., in early June (NF) and an immature male and two females at Cape Freels, Nfld., July 29 (RB). An ad. male and two ♂ Black Scoters near New Hartford, Conn., June 10 were considered exceptional for that area (PJD). Ruddy Ducks continue to hold on as breeders at A.P.B.S., N.S., where 2-3 broods were observed this summer (MF).



Young fledgling Turkey Vultures near nest, mid-August, 1982, Camden, Maine. Photo/David Getchell, Sr.

A Turkey Vulture nest discovered near Camden, Me., provided the first undisputable state breeding record, although that species is now routine through much of the state. In Nova Scotia, a Turkey Vulture near Yarmouth June 6 (PY) was the only one reported away from Brier I., where small numbers have occurred annually in summer for several years. A Sharp-shinned Hawk nest with eggs discovered at Marshfield, Mass., June 24 (RSH, RRV) furnished apparently the first nesting record in that state for many years. In Rhode Island, Goshawks were found nesting at 2 new sites this summer, making it the states' commonest breeding *Accipiter*—Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks being suspected of nesting in just one location each in the state (*vide* DLE). Ospreys continued to fare well throughout the Region, although a poor gaspereaux run in Halifax County, N.S., resulted in evident failure for local breeding birds (*vide* IAM). Golden Eagles were reported from Stewartstown, N.H., June 22 (D. Killam, *vide* RAQ) and at Stratton, Me., in July (*vide* MKL). The Canadian Wildlife Service released a total of seven Peregrine Falcons this summer at 2 sites in the Maritimes—Nat'l and current plans for even larger releases at unspecified sites in each of the next 4 or 5 years. A white Gyrfalcon was reported to have summered in the Saunder's Cove, Nfld. area, being seen several times in June and July apparently feeding on gulls (*vide* RB).

**CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — Sandhill Cranes made the news in three provinces: two flying over Kent I., N.B., in late May (*vide* PDV) comprised a second provincial sight record; in Newfoundland a pair (the same birds?) remained and were photographed near St. John's, June 1-20 (m.ob., *vide* JW), a third provincial record; and in Nova Scotia, it was revealed that an apparently wild Sandhill Crane had been present at a wildlife park in Shubenacadie since September 1981, associating with a group of four captive cranes and "having eyes" for one in particular. The northernmost Clapper Rail reported was in Rye, N.H., June 29 (EWP, *vide* RAQ). In Labrador, Soras were reported calling at Goose Bay and Groswater Bay (IG *et al.*, *vide* JW). Vagrant Purple Gallinules seem to have a propensity for turning up under bizarre circumstances. An adult at Machias Seal I., N.B., May 28 was captured and photographed after it became lodged head-first in the entrance to a petrel burrow (SD)! In Nova Scotia, Am. Coots are well established at A.P.B.S., where 14 nests were located this summer (MF).

American Oystercatchers continue to increase, although successful nesting seems rare. Northernmost were one at Star I., N.H. (*vide* RAQ) and four at two Maine localities (*vide* MKL). Many observers noted that southbound shorebirds began to arrive unusually early, suggesting a poor breeding season farther n. A count of 200+ Black-bellied Plovers, 10 Red Knots, 12 White-rumped Sandpipers, 30 Semipalmated Sandpipers and one Hudsonian Godwit at Monomoy I., Mass., June 24 was indicative of this early movement (RSH, RRV). Piping Plover surveys conducted in the Maritime Provinces show the population to be stable, although at low levels. Two or three pairs were present and probably nesting in Lumsden-Deadman's Bay area in n.e. Newfoundland (RB, HD). In Rhode Island, 10 nesting pairs successfully fledged nine young (*vide* DLE), well below reported fledging rates in the Maritimes. Summer records of Killdeer were widespread in Newfoundland, including birds at Goose Bay, Labrador (*vide* JW). A Whimbrel resting briefly on Sand I., off Greenwich Pt., Conn., July 3 was surprising (*vide* TB). Willets continue to expand and increase in coastal Massachusetts (*vide* BN), while unusual occurrences of the species included one inland near Swanville, Me., June 4 (PDV), and one at Carmanville, in n.e. Nfld. July 11 (*vide* JW). A Baird's Sandpiper at Briggs Marsh, R.I., July 18 (*vide* DLE) was early. A Least Sandpiper nest discovered at Machias Seal I., N.B., June 15 furnished a first provincial nesting record (SD). Unusual in w. Massachusetts was a Short-billed Dowitcher at Hadley July 11 (Scott Sumner, *vide* SK). Eleven Hudsonian Godwits at Seabrook, N.H., July 14 was considered a high count for that state. Ruffs during the period numbered four, all males, and all in Massachusetts in July (RSH, BN *et al.*).

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — Regionally, reported jaegers totalled 13 Pomarine, 27+ Parasitic, and one Long-tailed, the latter being a well-described adult off Provincetown, Mass., June 20 (RRV, RSH). The only skua reported during the period was a well-described South Polar Skua at Cox's Ledge June 13 (*vide* DLE).

Three gulls suspected of being Glaucous x Herring hybrids were reported from Fischells (one) and Port-aux-Choix (two), Nfld., June 14 & 16, respectively. The description indicated that all three were first-summer birds, "the size of Glaucous Gull, with Glaucous-type bill shape and coloration, but with dark primaries and similar dark tail band" (BM, JW). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Stearing I., Gros Morne N.P., Nfld., June 14 (BMK) were the only ones reported. Interesting was the report of 29 Herring Gull nests on rooftops in Manchester, N.H., the states' largest city with a well-attended garbage dump. Laughing Gulls n. of the species' present breeding range were a first-summer bird at Summerville, N.S., July 4 (*vide* PRD), and second-summer birds at Eel River Bar, N.B. (SIT) and L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld. (BM, JW), both June 22. Two ad. Franklin's Gulls at Grande Anse in s.e. New Brunswick, July 3-11 (RM) were unique in the Region and provided one of few provincial records. In Rhode Island, an imm. Little Gull at Pt. Judith June 3-8 (*vide* DLE) was a good find, while in Massachusetts four were present throughout June at Newburyport including an adult and a first-summer bird which appeared paired and frequented the vicinity of a Com. Tern colony. The observers reported being "vocally harassed" while in the tern colony and an apparent aerial display was noted on one occasion. Close observations, however, showed no evidence of nesting (*vide* RSH).

*Portlandica* Arctic Terns on Monomoy peaked at 100+ in early July, well below the several hundreds present in recent summers (*vide*

BN) Roseate Terns were reported decreased at Napatree Pt., R.I. (fide DLE), while what was formerly Canada's largest colony, on Sable I., N.S., is now reduced to 2-3 pairs (IAM). Forster's Terns reported were singles at Barnstable June 20 (fide BN) and Monomoy I., Mass., June 24 and late July (RSH, BN, RRV), and Hampton, N.H., June 27 (EWP). Royal Terns were numerous in the s. and ranged as far n as Maine, where singles were reported at 2 locations in July (fide MKL). At least two Sandwich Terns roamed the outer Cape from late June to mid-July (RSH, RRV *et al.*), while an ad. Gull-billed Tern in breeding plumage on Monomoy June 24 (RRV, RSH) was unique. Several Black Terns noted away from their breeding areas in late June and early July were unusual; an adult at Grand Beach on Newfoundland's Burin Pen., July 3 provided perhaps the 10th provincial record (fide JW). Black Skimmers were reported "observed among the tern flocks more frequently than in past summers in Rhode Island" (fide DLE), while Connecticut got its first nesting record when a nest with 3 eggs was discovered at Bluff I., July 14 (John Bova, fide TB).

DOVES THROUGH WRENS — A White-winged Dove photographed at a Stellarton, N.S. feeder May 8-23 marked a fourth provincial occurrence (Leo MacKay, fide IAM). That species has occurred almost annually in the Region in recent years. A Snowy Owl at North Harbour, Cape Breton I., N.S., June 17 was watched being harassed by gulls as it crossed a body of water. Eventually forced into the water, the owl was rescued but died shortly thereafter from severe head injuries apparently inflicted by the gulls (BCJ, ADS)! Two Chuck-will's-widows were reported in Rhode Island in early June, where that species was unknown previous to 1980 (fide DLE). No word this summer from Martha's Vineyard. All comments received regarding Com. Nighthawks were negative and it seems that that species is genuinely on the decline in the Region. A Chimney Swift at Saunder's Cove, Nfld., June 29 was rare (RB). Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island in June. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Mary's Pt., N.B., June 29 was unique this season (MM). Acadian Flycatchers numbered at least 16 singing males with 3 nests discovered in w. Massachusetts (fide SK, PY), while elsewhere singles were reported at Pulaski P., R.I., June 17-23 (fide DLE), Manomet, Mass., June 16-17 (PY), Sandwich, Mass., June 17 (RP), and New Boston, N.H., May 31 and at the same spot July 10 (fide RAQ). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Chatham, Mass., June 25 (BN) was strangely between seasons.

Nova Scotia has done it again. A Cave Swallow was observed and impeccably described by competent observers near Louisbourg, Cape Breton I., July 9. That was a fourth provincial, and regional occurrence of that species, yet to be recorded elsewhere in the e., n. of Florida (Bret Whitney, David Wolf *et al.*, fide IAM). In Maine, Com. Ravens nested in the extreme s.w. at Mt. Agamenticus, and were reported present in "almost all the atlas blocks in Kennebec County" (fide MKL). Several reporters noted that Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce in the Region this summer. In w. Massachusetts, Winter Wrens were termed "down and scarce", while Carolina Wrens were reported as completely absent (SK). Only one Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported, a singing male in Blandford, Mass., May 30-June 3 (SK).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS — Eastern Bluebirds seem to be slowly increasing, the northernmost breeding this summer was a successful nesting at Sackville, N.B. (GP). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to increase in Maine: adults were observed feeding young at Richmond July 13 (PDV). An unseasonal Water Pipit was noted at Sable I., N.S., June 5 (IAM). No Loggerhead Shrikes were reported this summer.

Golden-winged Warblers were recorded in w. Massachusetts at Granville June 16, and Florence June 27 (fide SK). Northern Parulas, rare in Newfoundland, were recorded in the Codroy Valley (BM) and at Salmonier in early June (IG). Also rare in that province, a Cape May Warbler was singing near Robinson's June 13 (BM, JW). Exciting in Rhode Island were singing Yellow-throated Warblers at 2 sites near Arcadia June 23-July 1 (fide DLE). A large number of Breeding Bird Surveys in Newfoundland indicated that N. Waterthrush was the "commonest passerine in the Province by far, up to 138 per 50-stop route" (BM). Very rare in spring were singing ♂ Connecticut Warblers near Boston Brook, Victoria Co., N.B., May 31 (DK) and at Sieur de Monts Spring on Mount Desert I., Me., June 12-18 (WT, fide MKL). A Kentucky Warbler was a good find at Foster, R.I., June 9 (fide DLE). A singing Yellow-breasted Chat at Lenox, Mass., repre-

sented the first local record since 1968 (DS *et al.*), others were reported in Florence, Mass., June 27-July 4 (fide SK) and at Apple-dore I., N.H., May 24 (fide RAQ).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird at a Concord, N.H. feeder June 6 & 7 was perhaps without precedent regionally at this season. Four pairs of Orchard Orioles in June including a nest at Hampton, was exceptional for New Hampshire. In Nova Scotia, a pair of Orchard Orioles spent 2 days in an orchard near Wallace in June (Shirley & Tony Bidwell, fide PRD). A pair of Summer Tanagers near Ellsworth, Me., June 8 was apparently unique in the Region this season (IB, fide MKL). Evening Grosbeaks, not yet known to breed in Newfoundland were noted at 2 locations this summer (fide JW). A ♂ Pine Grosbeak at Mt. Greylock, Mass., June 13 furnished only the second summer record for w. Massachusetts (fide SK). The only comment received on "northern" finches this season were from New Brunswick, where Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills were reported frequently seen (DSC). Grasshopper Sparrow reports seemed more widespread than usual, and at least three pairs nested again at Kennebunk, Me., the site of last years' first state nesting record (fide MKL). A Grasshopper Sparrow singing at Bathurst, N.B., on an unspecified date in June (RJG) furnished only a 2nd or 3rd summer record for the Province. The northernmost Seaside Sparrow reported was at Hampton, N.H., June 22 & July 8 (EWP). A Vesper Sparrow reported near Deadman's Bay, Nfld., July 19 was one of few provincial sightings (RB). Unprecedented at this season were reports of Lark Sparrows at Bridgewater, N.H., June 15 (WWF, fide RAQ) and at Machias, Me., June 22-30 (fide MKL). A Tree Sparrow at Ellsworth, Me., June 10 (WT) provided undoubtedly the latest state record by several weeks. Unique were singing ♂ Clay-colored Sparrows at Freeport, Me., June 11 (fide RAQ) and at Happy Valley, Labrador (date unspecified—IG *et al.*). In w. Newfoundland Song Sparrows appear to be expanding with ten territorial males noted at various coastal sites in Gros Morne N.P. (fide BMk).

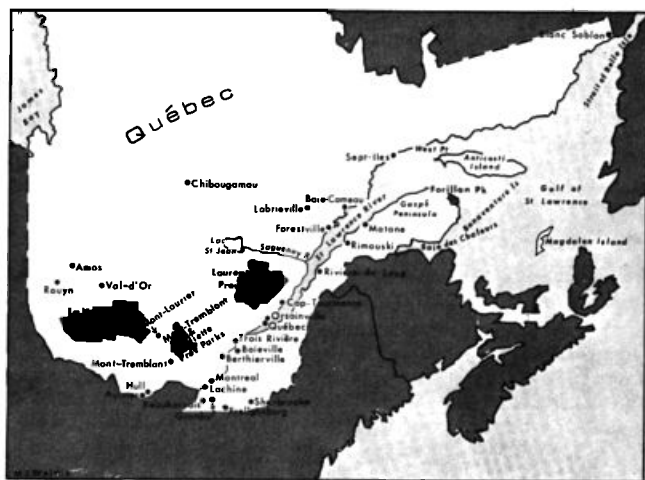
SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS (boldface, italic), Contributors (italic), observers and other abbreviations — Inez Boyd, **Tom Burke**, Roger Burrows, **David S. Christie**, Steven Daniel, **Hank Deichmann**, Robbie Denton, **Paul J. Desjardins**, **Phyllis R. Dobson**, **David L. Emerson**, W.W. Foleman, Mark Forbes, Richard A. Forster, Ian Goudie, **Robert J. Goodrich**, **Richard S. Heil**, Bruce C. Johnson, **Seth Kellogg**, Don Kimball, **Michael K. Lucey**, Bruce Mactavish, Mary Majka, Blake Maybank (BMk), Ian A. McLaren, Reid McManus, **Blair Nikula**, Gerry Parker, Robert Pease, Elisabeth W. Phinney, **Robert A. Quinn**, Allan D. Smith, **Richard B. Stern**, David St.-James, **William Townsend**, Richard R. Veit, **Peter D. Vickery**, **John Wells**, **Peter Yaukey**, C.W.S. Canadian Wildlife Service, m.ob., many observers—**STUART I. TINGLEY**, Box 1185, Sackville, N.B., Canada E0A 3C0.

## QUEBEC REGION

/Michel Gosselin and Normand David

The summer temperature of 1982 was slightly below normal in southern Quebec and above normal in northern Quebec. Precipitation was also above average in June in the northern half of the province, and below average in July in the southwest.

As a rule, detailed reports of the more outstanding sightings published in this column have been seen by the Regional Editors. In most instances, these details are to appear in one of the following regional publications: *Bulletin ornithologique* (Club des ornithologues du Québec), *Bulletin ornithologique estrien* (Société de loisir ornithologique de l'Estrie), *Guillemot* (Club des ornithologues de la Gaspésie), *Harfang* (Club des ornithologues amateurs du Saguenay—Lac Saint-Jean), *Kakawi* (Club des ornithologues du Bas Saint-Laurent), *Ornitaouais* (Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais), *Tchebec* and *Newsletter* (Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds).



**HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS**—Ten Great Blue Herons were found on Brion I., July 17 (YA), a suitable breeding site for this species. Noteworthy southern herons included an ad. Little Blue Heron near Lachute July 10 (MT), a Great Egret at Pointe-aux-Outardes June 1 (FL), and others at Barachois July 19 (RB), Chandler July 23 (DD), and Windsor June 12-13 (*vide* SM). A Glossy Ibis shot near Harrington-Harbour in May (*vide* KBF) provided a first record on the Lower North Shore of the St. Lawrence. Nesting of the Canada Goose was again noted near Dundee with the sighting of four goslings June 18 (YA); since the adult was banded, it is possible that it originated from feral stock found in parks or refuges of adjacent Regions. Both the Gadwall and the Am. Wigeon were nesting on L. Megantic (FV, DM), their only station in the E. Townships. A Redhead was found at Val-Brillant June 3 (JGP) and a Ruddy Duck at Fatima, Madeleine Is., July 20-21 (YA). Up to five Turkey Vultures were seen intermittently near Mt. Orford (*vide* PBo), an area where breeding can be expected; the first sighting of this vulture in the Madeleine Is., was made at Havre-aux-Maisons July 12-14 (JR). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Saint-Damase, Matapedia Co., June 21 (CG) and a Rough-legged Hawk at Bic July 5-21 (GG) were unusual.

S.A.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has been releasing Peregrine Falcons in Hull and Montreal annually since 1976 (see AB 34: 142); the total number now stands at 76 birds. The numbers for 1980, '81, '82 were: 8, 11, 6 in Hull, 6, 6, 3 in Montreal, and 0, 0, 3 at Cap-Tourmente. But efforts to restore the Peregrine's populations in the s. is only part of the answer while egg smuggling in n. Quebec and adjacent arctic regions continues. This summer, the operations of West German egg-smugglers, that have reportedly been going on for years, have been unveiled. Posing as photographers or naturalists, they hire local guides who bring them near eyries; they return alone later to take the eggs which are then transported in battery-powered mini-incubators. The birds are reared in Germany and sold to falconers abroad for as much as \$10,000 each. This season 4 smugglers were arrested in Frobisher Bay, N.W.T., and two in Kuujuaq (formerly Fort-Chimo); one of them was fined \$3000 and jailed for 2 months.

**CRANES THROUGH TERNS**—A Sandhill Crane summering at Barachois July 11-29 (DS *et al.*) was most unexpected. Yellow Rails are still present near Coin-du-Banc (*vide* RB), where L.M. Terrill had found a nest in 1939 (Auk 60: 171-180). It is obvious that Killdeers are colonizing the giant embankment sites n. of their range, with a nest found at Gagnon July 18 (ST), three birds at Caniapiscou June 18, and two at the LG3 dam airport July 7 (YA). An Upland Sandpiper's nest was finally found at Mont-Joli (GG, LH), where the local population totalled 30 birds in early August (YG); that the species is in good health at this limit of its range is also attested by the presence of two birds at Cap-d'Espoir June 28 (RB, PP *et al.*). Solitary Sandpipers were noted s. of their range; a displaying bird at L. Saint-Anne in Laurentides P.P., June 19 (CM), and for the second year in a row at Dozois Res., June 28 (DSH). Very early Stilt Sandpipers were at Rimouski July 3 (PDI) and Dollard-des-Ormeaux July 11-19 (PTF).

The increase of Ruff sightings is remarkable; there were seven from 1933 to 1977, twelve 1978 through 1981, and eight so far in 1982, including four this summer with single birds in Rimouski, Pointe-au-Père, LaSalle, and near Granby. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger in Quebec City June 11 (CV) added to the species' records on the upper St. Lawrence in spring, which outnumber those combined of Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers. Most unusual was the presence of an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull near Dummondville June 12 (PBI, FB). Near Magog, disturbance caused 300 Ring-billed Gulls to abandon their riparian nests (PBo); but the 150 birds found nesting safely on rock piles off Peribonka July 15 (ND) provided breeding evidence for the L. Saint-Jean area.

S.A.

The discovery of three species of hooded gulls (Black-headed, Little, Bonaparte's) nesting in Quebec was certainly the outstanding event of the season. At Havre-aux-Basques, a Madeleine Is. lagoon, P. Fradette discovered two Black-headed Gull's nests containing two and three chicks July 1; on July 14, 5 empty nests, two chicks, three just-fledged young, and 10+ adults were counted (YA, PLn). The observation of just-fledged juvenals on Newfoundland's w. coast in 1977 had provided the first breeding evidence in North America (AB 32: 312); it should be added that Black-headed Gulls have been breeding on the w. coast of Greenland since 1969 (*Med. om Grønland* 204(6):47). At the other end of the province, a pair of Little Gulls built a nest on a tiny islet of the Lachine Rapids; it contained 2 eggs June 12, a single chick was fed by the adult June 30 but disappeared July 2 (PBA, GD). Ontario, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Manitoba had previously claimed a combined total of about 10 breeding records. The Bonaparte's Gull, was long suspected of nesting in our James Bay lowlands (an egg-bearing female had been collected near the Ontario border in 1926); an incubating adult was seen and photographed on its nest June 27-July 7 about 100 km up Eastmain R. (VL). However, this is a second Regional nest since one had been found near Peribonka in 1977 (Que. Nest Rec. Card Prog.).



Adult Bonaparte's Gull on nest, June 27-July 7, 1982, approx. 100 km n. on the Eastmain R., Que. Photo/V. Letourneau.

Daily observations to follow the breeding of the Little Gulls in the Lachine Rapids area also produced sightings of at least two Black-headed Gulls, two Franklin's Gulls, two Forster's Terns, two Arctic Terns, and six Caspian Terns (m.ob., *vide* PS); two of the latter were seen copulating but no further breeding evidence could be found. The presence of an Arctic Tern in Saint-Joseph de Beauce June 13 (YM) also helps to outline the little-known inland migration of this bird. Roseate Terns continued to be found in the Madeleine Is., but this year they frequented Havre-aux-Basques (YA).

**DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS**—On her annual trip to the North Shore KBF was shown a captive Rock Dove found in a

weakened state at Wolf-Bay in August 1981, the bird was banded and, reportedly, had been a racing pigeon on its way from France to Scotland. A similar trans-Atlantic occurrence from Great Britain had been recorded on nearby Belle I., Nfld., in 1927 (*Can. Field-Nat.* 42: 178). A Mourning Dove nest was found at Beaudry this summer (*vide* EvW); the species had already been found nesting in the Abitibi, near Amos in 1977 (unpubl. PE). The Mourning Dove is perhaps in the process of colonizing interior Quebec, as attested by a bird at Gagnon June 22 (ST). Both species of cuckoos were noted in good numbers after mid-June. Although the Long-eared Owl ranges widely, the discovery of nesting in July at Rimouski (GG, GP) marks a new n. limit of its known breeding range. The Whip-poor-will was reported summering as far n. as Mistassini in n. L. Saint-Jean (*vide* YB). A Red-headed Woodpecker spent most of the season at Percé (DB, m.ob.), while successful nesting at Saint-Pierre de Montmagny extended by 200 km the breeding range of this species (*vide* PTt). At the s. end of the province a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker's nest was found at Terrebonne (PDy). The first **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** in Quebec was found by American visitors on Bonaventure I., June 30 (PJV, HRV). It was a first-year bird with a beige crown and black mask; the dusky wings, light back, long black forked tail and white underparts, all typical of the species, were also noted. This plumage is not illustrated anywhere although it is well described by Ridgway (1907) and Oberholser (1974). It is the fifth Canadian occurrence and one of the few summer reports anywhere in North America (see *AB* 34: 842-845). Another *Muscivora*, the **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, was discovered deep into the forests of c. Quebec at L. Delorme, s. of Caniapiscou July 16 (JV, CP). A **Western Kingbird** June 30- July 1 (GS) and a **Great Crested Flycatcher** July 2 (YG) were at La Baie.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH TANAGERS** — The Bank Swallow is now confirmed as breeding on Ungava Bay by the discovery of a colony at Kuujuaq (RS). The Rough-winged Swallow appeared in good number in the Montreal and Quebec City areas, after a rapid expansion in the 1960s, this species seemed relatively scarce during the last decade. Two nests of Barn Swallows were found near the Rupert R., on the James Bay road, where at least 15 adults were present (YA). Also on the James Bay road, single Brown Creepers were found at the Eastmain R., July 8, and 30 km s., June 5. Another Brown Thrasher has been reported from the Abitibi this summer, in Barraute June 22 (YA), and the Gray-cheeked Thrush was still present in late June on Mt. Sir-Wilfrid, Labelle Co. (RD). Eastern Bluebirds were doing well in many regions, especially Portneuf County (*vide* PLe), and the Abitibi, where the first nestings occurred at Duparquet and Noranda (*vide* EvW); a male was also noted at Mont-Joli June 5-13 (YA). Among the many out-of-range passerines seemingly on the move this summer was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Miguasha July 17 (PF, RB). Four Starlings were present at Caniapiscou July 11 (YA); although this bird reached Ungava many years ago, there are still very few records for n. Quebec. A Cerulean Warbler at Portage-du-Fort June 12 (RD) was outside its preferred habitat of mature deciduous forests and therefore probably not breeding. A ♀ Blackburnian Warbler found dead on Sainte-Marie Is., June 9 (YP) was certainly an overshot spring migrant. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were present at Kingsmere during the whole season (breeding?). The small population of Connecticut Warblers in Quebec seems subject to fluctuation from year to year, and much suitable habitat is left unoccupied; the only reports were from L. HaHa June 6 (GS) and Barraute June 22 (YA).

In contrast with the Starling, the House Sparrow seems to have

waited for the roadworks to colonize interior Quebec. One was 25 km s. of the Eastmain R., on the James Bay road June 6, and another at Radisson July 26 (YA). A W. Meadowlark was briefly present at Saint-Colomban June 12 (MM) and an E. Meadowlark, at the edge of its range in the Abitibi, was found on Nepawa I., June 22 (YA). It is more and more evident that the Scarlet Tanager is well established in Gaspésie, with birds seen this year at Sainte-Anne des Monts June 1 (NL), Percé June 25 (MF), and Routhierville July 12 (YG).

#### FRINGILLIDS —

##### S.A.

A ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** discovered at Laurentides June 17 was observed at length as it fed on box elder samaras. The large bill and brown wingbars were noted, as well as the song, all clearly different from the Indigo Bunting also present (ML). The following day, another male was observed on Mt. Saint-Bruno; again, the heavy bluish bill and brown-colored wingbars were clearly seen (CA, *vide* PS). Although reports by single observers, these are nonetheless the best evidence yet available for this species in the Province. The oft-quoted record, at L. Simon in 1961, of five birds "mottled with white" and with songs "closely resembling that of the Indigo Bunting" (*Bull. ornith.* 6(4): 13-14), is best referred to this bunting, because these characteristics are not found in the Blue Grosbeak. A report from Château-Richer in *AFN* 14: 438 is also an error for the Indigo Bunting.

At least two Clay-colored Sparrows returned to Saint-Colomban in June (MM *et al.*) and one was present at Saint-Clément July 16-19 (LMC). The Field Sparrows of the Quebec City area returned to Beauport (ADc) and several Sharp-tailed Sparrows again spent the summer at Ile du Moine (MM *et al.*). Many northern species have been overlooked in the past because of their restricted mountain range in the s. Such is the case of the Fox Sparrow, which has been found summering widely in Gaspésie recently. In addition, two singing ♂ Fox Sparrows were found in S. Laurentides P.P., at L. Sainte-Anne June 19, as well as one at L. Soixante June 5 and two at L. Nelson, Porteuf Co., July 5 (CM). Winter visitors such as the Snowy Owl have often been harbored all summer by the Madeleine Is.; this year however, it was a Lapland Longspur which was found there, at Grosse-Ile July 18 (YA).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — C. Adam, Y. Aubry, J. Audet, P. Bannon (PBa), R. Bisson, Y. Blackburn, P. Blain (PBI), P. Boily (PBo), D. Bolduc, F. Brabant, L.M. Caron (LMC), A. Desrochers (ADc), A. Desrosiers (ADs), B. DiLabio, D. Dorion, R. Dubois, P. Dupuy (PDy), P. Dupal, G. Duquette, P. Ethier, P. Fallu, M. Favreau, K.B. French, C. Gauthier, Y. Gauthier, G. Gendron, L. Hallé, P. Lambelin (PLn), P. Laporte (PLe), N. Latour, M. Ledoux, F. Leduc, V. Létourneau, Y. Maheu, C. Marcotte, D. Martel, M. McIntosh, S. Ménard, J.G. Paquet (JGP), C. Ponthieux, P. Poulin, Y. Pouliot, G. Proulx, J. Rocheleau, D. Saint-Hilaire (DSH), G. Savard, R. Simard, D. Smith, P. Smith, P. Talbot (PTt), P. Tarassoff (PTf), M. Tomalty, S. Tremblay, C. Vachon, H.R. Vanderhorst, P.J. Vanderhorst, E. van de Walle (EvW), J. Villemure, F. Voyer.—MICHEL GOSSELIN, 370 Metcalfe No. 707, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1S9, and NORMAND DAVID, Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montréal, 5858 Côte des Neiges No. 400, Montreal, Quebec, H3S 1Z1.

## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

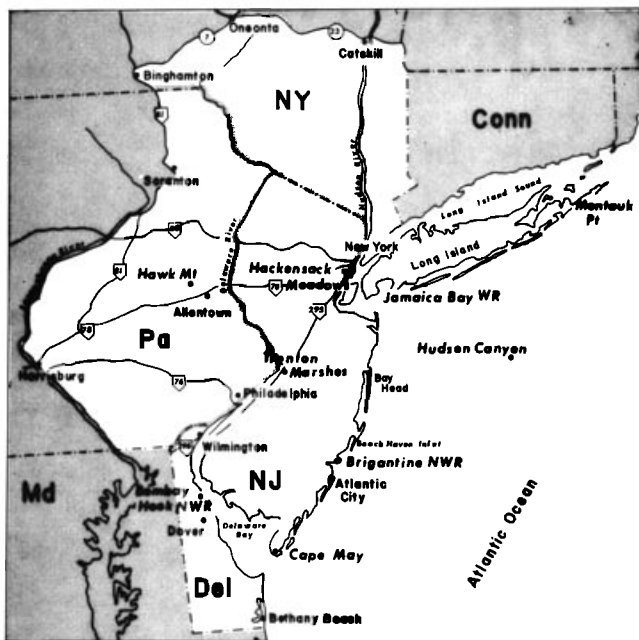
/Robert O. Paxton, William J. Boyle, Jr., and David A. Cutler

It was abnormally wet and cold in June. In fact, June 1982 was the wettest month (not just the wettest June) since records began at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Long Island, in 1947. The deluge reached its climax with a coastal storm June 7 that dumped 11 inches of rain on eastern Long Island. Coastal New Jersey and Delaware

missed the heaviest downpour, but high tides destroyed nests of some species there as well. A warm, dry July allowed renesting in many cases.

Highlights of the season included an unprecedented invasion of Brown Pelicans, a possible Little Stint, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Six Summer Bird Counts (hereafter, S.B.C.) provided helpful data Warren County, N.J., June 6; S. Lancaster County, Pa., June 6 (with a useful 6-year summary); Boonton, Morris Co., N.J., June 12, Central Suffolk County, L.I., June 12; Cumberland County, N.J.,



second week in June; and the Westchester County, N.Y., portions of the Greenwich-Stamford CBC, June 20.

Frequently mentioned locations are abbreviated as follows: B. Hook: Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig: Brigantine N.W.R., Atlantic Co., N.J.; H.M.: the Hackensack Meadows, between Kearny and North Arlington, Hudson and Bergen cos., N.J.; J.B.W.R.: Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City; and Tinicum: Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center, Philadelphia.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — In addition to normal late migrant Com. Loons, such as five at Harvey's L., Luzerne Co., Pa., June 5 (J. Hoyson, K. McGuire) and two at Leaser L., Lehigh Co., Pa., to June 6 (C. Elwell), the usual handful summered along the coast and even inland (e.g., Wild Creek Res., s. Carbon Co., Pa.—B. Silfies). Far more intriguing were "one to three immatures . . . with adults in courtship displays" June 12-26 at Ashokan Res., Ulster Co., N.Y. (F. Murphy). The "immatures" were probably merely non-breeding birds in winter plumage, but the situation bears close watching, for we have a belated report of a confirmed Com. Loon breeding in summer 1981 at another s. Catskill Mts. lake, Rondout Res., a few mi farther s. in Ulster County (fide S. Sutcliffe), the first confirmed Catskills breeding record. A Red-throated Loon in Rehoboth Bay, Del., June 13 (MVB, WWF, WFi) was highly unusual for midsummer.

Although they enjoyed their most productive summer ever in the H.M. at Kearny (120 in 24 family groups—RK), Pied-billed Grebes have become dangerously scarce and localized elsewhere in this Region. Only 3 other New Jersey breeding sites were known this summer: Shades of Death Marsh, Warren Co. (one pair), Trenton Marsh (one pair), and the Pedricktown impoundment, Salem Co. (two pairs—RK, JKM). In Delaware, Pied-billed Grebes are believed to be down to one pair at Delaware City and another at Little Creek N.W.A. (DAC). At the Bashakill, on the Orange-Sullivan Co. line, N.Y., they still breed "commonly" (JPT), but last year's pair at J.B.W.R. did not repeat (CP), nor was there a pair at the other occasional Long Island site, Poxabogue (GSR).

Nothing in the historical record prepared us for the massive invasion of Brown Pelicans. Its first stages were described in the last season's report. The Indian R. Inlet, Del., accumulation reached 28 on July 7 and 40 July 40 (E. Scharr). The northernmost observation was of two at Townsend's Inlet, N.J., July 2-3 (RRa).

Great Blue Herons have changed their breeding strategy. They are abandoning coastal heronries for upland forest. In New Jersey, where 6 active colonies are known, totalling 280 pairs this summer, including new colonies at Great Swamp (H. Laskowski) and at Scotland Run, Gloucester Co. (Stallenberger), no colonies remain on the coast or along Delaware Bay (RK). On the Delaware side of the bay, a few pairs remain at Pea Patch I. (CS, DAC), but the main Delaware colony is inland at Taylor's Bridge. The new colony reported last

summer at Wyalusing, Bradford Co., Pa., was not in the same spot although birds remained nearby (WR). In New York, there is a new colony at the Bashakill, thought to comprise 5-10 pairs and at least one traditional herony persists in Sullivan County (JPT); another nesting site is suspected in Dutchess County (R.T.W.B.C.), but Great Blue Herons have not nested on Long Island in living memory (GSR).

The Cattle Egret colony on the Susquehanna islands at Washington Boro, Pa., totalled 4500 Aug. 4, well short of last summer's 7500 and just short of 1980's 4700 (TA, Lancaster Co. Bird Club). Our general feeling is that the Cattle Egret population has stabilized, although we have no comprehensive herony counts to prove the point. A Louisiana Heron at Scranton, Pa., June 6 (R. Bongey) was remarkable since none are known to breed inland in this Region.

Black-crowned Night Herons, already known as a predator of Com. Terns (H. Hays), are now believed to have eliminated a Least Ternery at Eaton's Neck, L.I. (S. Rupert). The McCormick I. colony of Yellow-crowned Night Herons on the Susquehanna R., reported last summer was not checked again, but new Susquehanna drainage reports reinforce our impression that this is the largest inland breeding population in the n.e. United States. Five were fledged along the Conestoga R., near Lancaster, Pa., and breeding was suspected at Lancaster Co. Central Park (TA).

Least Bitterns were present in good numbers at appropriate places: the Bashakill (JPT), Calverton, L.I. (two pairs—GSR), the H.M. at Kearny (up to 15 pairs—RK), Tinicum (JCM), and s. Cape May (8-10 pairs—P. Sutton).

**WATERFOWL** — In addition to the usual scattered non-breeding Snow Geese, a much more unusual lingering ad. blue morph was near Hopbottom, Susquehanna Co., Pa., June 8 (WR). A ♀ Am. Wigeon with a brood at North Sea (J. Ruscica) was a first e. Long Island nesting for this species which has been edging S and E. Only remnants of a once-healthy Ruddy Duck population were in the H.M. (RK) and at J.B.W.R., where only one brood appeared in August (CP), but a brood at Patchogue provided the first breeding record elsewhere on Long Island (GSR). Most of the summering non-breeding diving ducks were singles, as usual, but an unusually large non-breeding scoter flock at Cape May included 40 Black, eight Surf, and a single White-winged scoter (DS), about in the order of their winter frequency there; another six Black Scoters were on the Cumberland County S.B.C. (D. Ward).

A Hooded Merganser with 7 young was at Gelatt, Susquehanna Co., Pa. (S. Santner), but breeding could not be proven at the Bashakill, where Tramontano suspected two females of parasitizing the abundant Wood Ducks, nor at Cape May (July 27—DS), nor on Octoraro and Conowingo creeks, Lancaster Co., Pa. (RMS) where birds were present. Common Mergansers, too, were along Conowingo Cr., for the second summer, without definite proof of breeding (RMS). This species does breed on the Susquehanna at Tunkhannock, Pa. (WR) and probably on the Neversink R., Sullivan Co., N.Y. (JPT). We learned of two Red-breasted Merganser breeding records: a female with eight large young at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., July 30 (GSR), where they have bred very occasionally in the past, and a female with four flightless young at Beach Haven, N.J., on Barnegat Bay, July 27, the same location as a 1950 brood (P. McClain, N.J.D.F.G.W.).



Swallow-tailed Kite in flight over Greenbrook Sanctuary, N.J., June 2, 1982. Photo/John Serrao.

**RAPTORS** — The spring's Swallow-tailed Kite sightings continued with one at S. Cape May Meadows June 2 & 18 (CS, RK), perhaps the same, and another at the even less expected inland

location of Media, Pa., June 11 (*vide* AH) We follow Mississippi Kite summer records with even closer attention, for breeding may be at hand. Following reports of up to five in the Cape May, N.J.—Lewes, Del., area through June 6, discussed last season, one was at Bethany Beach for Delaware's second record June 20 (P. Bezark). Most of these observations are of sub-adults, the age-group most likely to wander, but age should be carefully ascertained for each observation.

Cooper's Hawks did better than last year: five confirmed nests in New Jersey (two last year—RE, N.J.D.F.G.W.), plus one in Orange County, N.Y. (K. McDermott). As was formerly the case, fewer Sharp-shinned Hawk than Cooper's nests were reported: one in Passaic County, N.J. (R.Ra. T. Vogel), a young bird caught in a barn in Warren County, N.J. (G. Bleiweiss), and another possible pair in Warren County (WW). Only one Golden Eagle was observed, in Passaic County, N.J., July 3 (RJB, V. Blauvelt). The usual half-dozen wandering imm. Bald Eagles clustered in late July.

The Osprey revival continues. Nests increased to 40 in coastal Delaware, many of them on duck blinds (25 in 1980, 31 in 1981—PJ), and to 97 in New Jersey (87 last year). The New Jersey nests enjoyed "great production," the 87 that could be checked fledging 100 young (89 last year—J. Frier, N.J.D.F.G.W.). The N.J.D.F.G.W. now considers the state's population self-sustaining, and has ceased its 4-year egg transfer project. Eleven pairs are using the power poles around the Salem nuclear plant without apparent mortality. The only bleak spot was Long Island, where cold and rain reduced fledging to 60 (125 in 1981, 101 in 1980). Even there total nests grew from 93 to 95, a hopeful sign for the future (M. Scheibel, N.Y. State Dept. of Env. Cons.). Perhaps the next step will be the reestablishment of interior and Delaware Bay sites, if pollution levels permit.

All four pairs of hatched Peregrine Falcons in coastal New Jersey attempted to nest, three of them producing ten natural young to which two chicks were added (M. Welton, N.J.D.F.G.W.).

**BOBWHITE, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — Several observers (GSR, RFD) believe that Bobwhite are recovering from their 1978-81 low. F.E. Hartman, wildlife biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, writes us to express doubt about the common theory (AB 35:924) that Bobwhite have become more vulnerable to winter because of restocking with southern birds. Mr. Hartman explains that few southern Bobwhites were used for stocking in Pennsylvania, and that few stocked birds "live long enough to make an impact on populations or breeding genetics." He attributes Bobwhite decline to changing habitat conditions and some severe winters over the last 12 years.

The diminishing Sora still breeds in the Bashakill (JPT), and a calling bird along the Hackensack R., Rockland Co., N.Y., may have bred (RFD), but there was no repeat of 1980's exceptional salt marsh breeding on Long Island. A Purple Gallinule frequented the Cape May lighthouse pond for the second summer (DS, RK), and another was at Tinicum June 6-27 (JCM, ph., S. Lipschutz), but since the disappearance of the Dragon's Run, Del., pair of a decade ago there has been no evidence of breeding in this region.

American Oystercatchers have prospered by shifting from outer beach nesting to sand bars in the salt marsh, despite occasional losses to flooding there. Davis' intensive studies of shorebirds at J.B.W.R., show that oystercatchers have "increased dramatically" there in late summer (24 on July 31). Another good concentration typical of recent summers was 75 roosting with many other shorebirds at high tide on Stone Harbor Pt., Cape May Co., N.J., July 19 (CS).

We have no systematic study of Piping Plovers like that conducted by Ann Galli in New Jersey in 1980, but they seem to be holding their own there and on Long Island (AG, MG, ROP) despite seemingly overwhelming human pressures on the outer beaches. In Delaware, Jahn found 18 adults during the statewide Least Tern survey June 12.

A gratifying concentration of 500 Whimbrel gathered with 200 Willets and the aforementioned 75 Am. Oystercatchers on Stone Harbor Pt., N.J., during high tide July 19 (CS). The Upland Sandpiper situation becomes steadily more precarious. Wander found only 12 pairs at 5 sites in n.w. New Jersey during an intensive survey of grassland species for the N.J.D.F.G.W. His study showed that the best habitat is extensive fallow fields interspersed with cultivation that leaves some bare ground (*e.g.*, soybeans, corn, strawberries), not a habitat compatible with either intensive agriculture or suburbanization. Additional localities reported to us since our 1980 survey (AB 34:880) included three pairs near Hawk Mt., Pa. (SB) and five birds at Gilbertsville, Pa. (AH), but only two pairs were at the

traditional Sharptown, Salem Co., N.J. site July 2 (JKM) The only healthy population is the 20 pairs at J.F.K. Airport, Queens Co., N.Y.C., where Chevalier banded 36 young (57 last year, but banding was easier in shorter grass).

Unusual counts for so late a date were 50 White-rumped Sandpipers at Cape Henlopen, Del., with 5000 peep June 11 (MVB, WWF), and 90 White-rumped with 3000 peep across Delaware Bay at Thompson's Beach, N.J., June 12 (DS). They were probably late migrants, but a Long-billed Dowitcher and a W. Sandpiper, both at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., June 23 (PAB) were probably non-breeding, summering individuals.

Shorebird movement S was clearly underway, as usual, by the end of June. Two breeding-plumaged Short-billed Dowitchers were at Cape May June 27 (PD). By July 3, 100 Lesser Yellowlegs, five Stilt Sandpipers, and 500 Short-billed Dowitchers were at Moore's Beach, Cumberland Co., N.J. (DS); Sutton found 1000 Short-billed Dowitchers there July 4. Least Sandpipers had reached 1000 at Brig., July 17 (RK).

A moulting ad. *Calidris* tentatively identified as a Little Stint was found at Little Creek W.M.A., Del., July 24 (PDU, B. Swift *et al.*) and seen again July 28-30 (P., J., & M. O'Brien, DFA *et al.*). There is some possibility that the second sighting was not of the same bird. Rather distant photographs of it (J. O'Brien), which unfortunately do not show bill shape (Least Sandpiper bill shape is diagnostic), appear to rule out any American peep as well as Rufous-necked Sandpiper (THD). Previously confirmed e. North American records of Little Stint are of a specimen from James Bay, Ontario July 1979 (*Auk* 97:627-8) and photographic records from Bermuda June 1975 (AB 30:918), Little Creek, Del., May 1979 (AB 34:850-1), Monomoy I., Mass., June 1980 (AB 34:876), and Grand Manan I., N.B., June-July 1980 (*ibid.*). There are also a recent summer record from Nebraska and a number from the Bering Sea coast of Alaska.

Three Curlew Sandpipers were reported in July (Tinicum—BSt, Cape May—DS, PD; and J.B.W.R.). Five Ruff/Reeve records, one June 6 at S. Cape May Meadows (CS, DS), one June 30 at J.B.W.R. (B. Glass and again July 10—M. Sohmer, B. Baker), and two at B Hook in late July (PDU, DFA), were about normal. The presence of a breeding-plumaged Red Phalarope at S. Cape May Meadows June 5-19 (CS, DS, ph., AB) was explained by oiled plumage. Much more tantalizing was an ad. ♂ Wilson's Phalarope at Cape May June 19-23 (DS), now that this species has bred e. to the New England coast

**GULLS, TERNS** — White-winged gull reports were limited to the coast; a Glaucous Gull was at the Cape May ferry slip June 17 (RK), and an Iceland Gull at Cape Henlopen, Del., June 12 (PJ, WWF). An ad. Black-headed Gull at J.B.W.R., July 5-Aug. 28 was the only one reported. Flood tides damaged Laughing Gull success at 2 of 4 colonies in Ocean County, N.J. (JBr), but in Delaware, where breeding has not been verified in modern times, over 1000 nests with eggs were found on Rehoboth Bay June 13 (MVB, WWF, WFi). The new colony in New York flourishes, though its location at the end of a J.F.K. Airport runway poses problems. The only Little Gull reported was at J.B.W.R., July 23-Aug. 18.

A few Gull-billed and Forster's terns frequented w. Long Island in June, but there was no evidence of breeding n. of New Jersey this time (MG, PWP, JZ). Six "Portlandica" Com. Terns were at Holgate, N.J., July 3-5, four of them even retaining the black legs of first-winter plumage (WJB). Normally birds of this age winter in the tropics. Common Tern colonies were successful on upper beaches on Long Island and at Holgate, N.J., but where they have been forced into salt marsh, as in Ocean County, N.J., storm tides washed out all but one of 25-30 colonies (JBr). An Arctic Tern in near ad. breeding plumage (white forehead) was at Cape May June 6-7 (DS), and four were at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., June 23 (PAB). Roseate Terns, thought to be declining a few years ago, maintained their w. Long Island outpost at Cedar Beach and had a "marvelous year" at Great Gull I., off n.e. Long Island (700 pairs—JDiC). A single adult at Cape May July 24 adds to a number of summer observations in New Jersey, but there is no suggestion of resumed breeding s. of Long Island.

In the absence of any systematic census of colonial water birds like those of the middle 1970s, it has been difficult to assess tern and skimmer populations generally, and particularly the most fugitive and opportunistic nesters among them, Least Terns. The best-surveyed population was in Delaware, where 1317 adults were in 7 sites June 12, nearly up to last year's level (PJ). Major colonies at Holgate and Corson's Inlet, N.J., fenced in by wildlife officials, did well, but volunteer efforts could not prevent the great colony at Eaton's Neck,

L.I., from being decimated for the third year in a row, this time by Black-crowned Night Herons (*S. Rupert*). Others suffered from flooding, gull predation, and human beach use.

Royal and Sandwich terns continue to prospect in this Region, although there is no evidence of breeding n. of their present Maryland limit. Straggling Caspian Terns included not only the usual late July individuals, but midsummer birds on Raritan Bay June 22 (RK) and at Cape May June 19 (DS), particularly interesting since a few Caspians have recently been nesting in colonies of other species in Virginia.

We have no overall census of Black Skimmers, but beach colonies generally did well while salt marsh colonies were flooded out. Skimmers did much better than last year in Delaware, where the Tower Rd. colony in Indian R. Inlet reached 120 July 24 (PJ).

**OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS** — An intensive study of Barn Owls in s.w. New Jersey by B. Colvin revealed 39 nesting attempts in Salem, Cumberland, and Gloucester cos., of which 32 hatched young (111 banded). In n.w. New Jersey, however, Soucy found fewer than 20 sites occupied out of 76 traditional locations (65-70 young banded), an even poorer year than last. A juv. Saw-whet Owl picked up injured in urban Hollis, Queens, June 20 (*vide* H. Richard) and another on Great Gull I., July 1 (JDiC *et al.*), where the birds had almost certainly not bred, suggest that the juveniles may travel some distance from the nest.

The continued increase of Chuck-will's-widows was demonstrated by at least five calling birds on e. Long Island (GSR) plus a nest at the original Oak Beach location (K. Fuestel). Chuck-will's-widow is the only s. landbird species colonizing up the coast rather than up the river systems, for e. Long Island is slow to receive the other s. immigrants (except the *Ardeidae*), despite apparently favorable climate.

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near Vineland June 19-20 (J. Mahan, ph., AB, S. LaFrance) for the second midsummer record in a row for Salem County, N.J.; probably the same individual was at Kimble's Beach, Cape May Co., a few days later (J. Seibert, ph., K. Seager). Elsewhere, an immature was at J.F.K. Airport July 2 (SC). Acadian Flycatchers resumed expansion up the Hudson R. (BW, RFD), although they are "still scarce" on e. Long Island where a second nesting was confirmed (GSR). The real *Empidonax* success story was Willow Flycatcher, which seemed common everywhere. A pair nested exceptionally at Cape May Pt. (DS) and another at Gandy's Beach, Cumberland Co., N.J., the first there in 27 years (D. Kunkle). Delaware had 10 pairs where 3-4 were known a few years ago (WWF, DAC).

**SWALLOWS TO VIREOS** — Cliff Swallows, barely hanging on at traditional barn sites since the painting of barns became widespread, are staging a major expansion on bridges. A stunning 184 nests were under the Lambertville, N.J.-New Hope, Pa. bridge, whose repairs the N.J.D.F.G.W. managed to postpone; the more traditional Bull's L., N.J., bridge increased to 34+ (M. Welton, N.J.D.F.G.W.).

Red-breasted Nuthatches have been nesting in ornamental conifers in the n. part of this Region for some time, but a bird feeding young in Cumberland County, N.J., in June (D. Ward) signalled the second county nesting and the fourth on the coastal plain of New Jersey. Another nested this summer in the Institute Woods at Princeton (*vide* RK), associated, as usual, with Norway spruce. A ♂ Short-billed Marsh Wren built a dummy nest and displayed fruitlessly at Purchase, Westchester Co., N.Y., June 20-July 11 (TWB). This species has not nested beyond coastal Delaware in this Region for many years. Warbling Vireos are thriving in the n. part of the Region. Deed reports that they have replaced Red-eyed Vireo as the commonest vireo species in Rockland County, N.Y., while they were "in every hedgerow" in Hunterdon County, N.J. (WW) and were even pressing at the coastal plain of Long Island, where an advertising male was at Springfield Park, Queens, in June (THD).

**WARBLERS, ICTERIDS** — A few Golden-winged Warbler populations still hold out against Blue-winged Warblers where newly abandoned fields remain at just the right early stage of succession (*cf.* Gill, *Auk* 97:1-18, and Confer *et al.*, *Auk* 98: 108-114). Seven pairs were at Great Meadows, Warren Co., N.J. (Rk *et al.*) and four at Leaser L., n.e. Lehigh Co., Pa. (BLM), but a traditional Golden-winged Warbler spot at Waterloo, Sussex Co., N.J., has been overrun by Blue-winged Warblers (BLM). A ♂ Lawrence's hybrid was feeding young at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co., N.Y., July 11 (TWB). Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers bred for the first time in

Dutchess County, N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.) and one was at Wild Creek Res., Carbon Co., Pa., June 26 (BLM). This species has bred in e. Pennsylvania on occasion, and in 1979 in the New Jersey highlands. Still expanding, Kentucky Warblers bred at Miller Place for the third Long Island record (P. Laino), and two were "on location" near Berwick, Luzerne Co., Pa. (D. Gross, *vide* WR).

Bobolink appears to be one grassland species that is holding its own. Wander found 80-100 singing males in Hunterdon County, while they did well in n. Westchester County, N.Y. (BW) and n.e. Pennsylvania (59 on one B.B.S. route—WR). Whereas there have been six N. Orioles for each Orchard Oriole in the 6 years of the S. Lancaster County, Pa., S.B.C. (RMS), the ratio is more than reversed along the coast where Sibley found "every" shade trade" with its territorial ♂ Orchard Oriole in 40 mi covered by bicycle in n. Cape May County, N.J. Northern Oriole does not breed here. Orchard Orioles also did very well in n.w. New Jersey (WW), in Orange County, N.Y. (JPT), and in Queens County, where they bred for the first time in years (THD), but they remain relatively uncommon on e. Long Island. Boat-tailed Grackles bred again in New York; three of the four nests observed at Pearsall's Hammock, Nassau Co., L.I. fledged young (JZ, R. Miller). At the other end of the Region, they were present all season for the first time up Delaware Bay into Salem County, N.J. (JKM), having heretofore spread the other way from the first New Jersey settlement in adjacent Cumberland County.

**GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS** — New York's first confirmed Blue Grosbeak nest was at Latourette P., Staten I. (W. & N. Siebenheller), and the species was increasing in all but the n. edge of the Region and e. Long Island. A young ♂ Blue Grosbeak was at Marshlands Conservancy, Westchester Co., N.Y., June 1-2 (*vide* TWB). A singing ♂ Dickcissel June 22 near Greenwich, Cumberland Co., N.J. (RDB) could not be located again. Another was in Dutchess County, N.Y., July 20-21 (R.T.W.B.C.), but the 1974 nest in the H.M., remains the only proven breeding record in this century.

After breeding once again on Staten I., as reported last season, Pine Siskins ranged as far s. as Port Elizabeth, Cumberland Co., N.J. (RDB) to the end of June, although no nesting was proven. In addition to the Red Crossbills' nesting attempts described last season, Raynor found a male with four fledglings at Upton, L.I., June 15.

Grasshopper Sparrows thrive in the right habitat. An amazing 25 were in a single field near Wild Creek Res., Carbon Co., Pa., July 10 (*vide* AH), and 20 were at Longarm Res., York Co., Pa. (D. Heathcote), although Wander found only 11 pairs at 7 sites in Hunterdon Co., N.J., in his study of grasslands birds.

The elusive Henslow's Sparrow, no longer breeding in Delaware, is doing well only in n.e. Pennsylvania, where Reid follows 3-4 locations, and Galesville Airport, Ulster Co., N.Y., where 12-15 birds were present again. The only record in New Jersey was of a single singing male at Stony Brook—Millstone Watershed, Mercer Co., July 25-Aug. 1, the site of the last known state nesting in 1976 (RJB, RK, ph., P. Moylan, E. Breden).



*Henslow's Sparrow, Stony Brook, Mercer Co., N.J., July 25-Aug. 1, 1982. Photo/Phil Moylan.*

Only a few pairs of Sharp-tailed Sparrows could be found in Delaware this summer (DAC, WWF). Vesper Sparrows appear to be rather common in the proper habitat. In s. Lancaster County, Pa., "any large expanse of agricultural fields has Vesper Sparrow breeding" (RMS), and the S.B.C. tallied ten as compared with four in each of the previous 3 years. Around Allentown, Pa., Morris had 4-5





*Chestnut-collared Longspur, in breeding plumage, Bay County Park, E. Rockaway, L.I., June 6-8, 1982. Photo/Georges Dremeaux.*

locations, as did Reid in n.e. Pennsylvania. Wander found them common in n.w. New Jersey locations, e.g., Alpha, Warren Co., where extensive fallow fields were interspersed with cultivation that leaves some bare ground, the same habitat appreciated by Upland Sandpiper.

Dark-eyed Junco, which formerly bred only above 2000 ft in n.e. Pennsylvania, now breeds down to 1400 ft near Wyalusing, where Reid found 11 birds, one feeding young, July 5. A singing male was at Clinton Road, Passaic Co., N.J., July 3 (P. Bacinski). White-throated Sparrows, which have also been breeding sporadically in the New Jersey highlands, were singing at Wild Creek Res., Carbon Co., Pa., July 10 (*vide* AH) and at Berwick, Luzerne Co., Pa., June 24, at under 1000 ft (WR).

The passerine rarity of the season was a ♂ Chestnut-collared Longspur in breeding plumage at Bay County P., E. Rockaway, L.I., June 6-8 (M. Lindauer, THD, BS, ph., G. Dremeaux), for the fifth

state record, all from Long Island. This is the most likely "western" longspur to reach the e. coast; a number of coastal records include one in Virginia in June 1977 and one at Cape May in June 1980.

**EXOTICS** — Monk Parakeets persist in Rockland County, N.Y., despite New York State's efforts to prevent the establishment of this temperate zone, fruit-eater. One was at Piermont July 28-30 (P & E Derven), and 3-4 were reported in April (RFD).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The Short-eared Owl reported from Delaware in summer 1981 (*AB* 35:924) should be deleted.

**OBSERVERS** — (subregional compilers in bold face): D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Tom Amico, R.D. Barber, **Maurice V. Barnhill** (Del.), Seth Benz, **Irving H. Black** (n.e. N.J.), **Raymond J. Blicharz** (n.c. N.J.), Alan Brady, P.A. Buckley, Joanna Burger (JBr), Joe Burgiel, **Thomas W. Burke** (Westchester Co., N.Y.), Sam Chevalier, J.D. Danzenbaker, **Thomas H. Davis** (s.e. N.Y., L.I.), **Robert F. Deed** (Rockland Co., N.Y.), Joe DiCostanzo (JDc), Paul Dumont (PDU), **Peter Dunne** (coastal N.J.), R. Eriksen, W. Fintel (WFi), G.A. Franchois, G.L. Freed, W.W. Frech, Ann Galli, Michael Gochfeld, **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. N.J.), **Armas Hill** (s.e. Pa.), Peggy Jahn, Cliff Jones, Rich Kane, J.T. Linehan, R.L. Mauer, J.C. Miller, J.K. Meritt (s.e. N.J.), **Bernard L. Morris** (e. Pa.), Clive Pinnock, P.W. Post, Rick Radis (RRa), G.S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.), Robert Russell, R.M. Schutsky, David Sibley, Barbara Spencer, Bill Stocku (BS), Clay Sutton, **John P. Tramontano** (Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Cos., N.Y.), Wade Wander, Berna Weissman, John Zarudsky, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Dutchess Co., N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.), and New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife (N.J.D.F.G.W.). — **ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., 15 Indian Rock Road, Warren, N.J. 07060, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, Pa. 19095.**

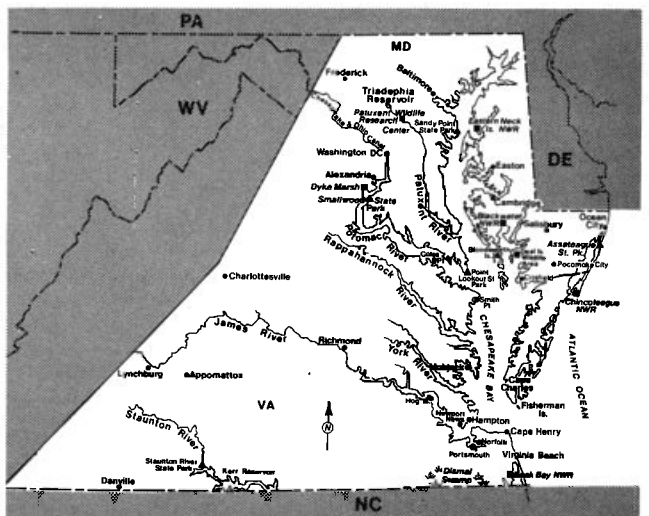
## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Henry T. Armistead

Deviation from normal of regional temperatures: June, -1.7°F, July +0.4°; precipitation: June +1.39", July +0.34". Cold, rainy, windy weather characterized much of June adversely affecting some insectivores, birds breeding next to streams and ground nesters, although there was not overwhelming evidence of this. Beach nesters were set back by flood tides. Shorebirds and some migrant passerines lingered later than normal. July's weather was unremarkable. Reporting on colonial waterbirds, shorebirds, Bald Eagles, and pelagic birds continues to yield valuable information. A few observers analyzed their Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter, B.B.S.) providing a tip-of-the-iceberg look at some pedestrian species but until more B.B.S. results are submitted prior to deadline the elitist coastal and scarcer species will continue to dominate this summer report and we can only have intimations of the major status changes of common birds. Several major phenomena deserve attention as suggested by Russell: the effects of the sudden popularity of no-till agriculture with its welcome increased in ground cover (*Newsweek*, Aug. 23, 1982, p. 24ff.) and the relative effects on our "summer" birds of massive tropical deforestation (*Conversion of tropical moist forests*, National Academy of Sciences, 1980) vs forest fractionalization or conversion to croplands in the United States (*Smithsonian Institution research reports*, Spring 1982, p. 3ff.). The latter report is especially germane, summarizing a study of breeding birds over much of Maryland's Coastal Plain by James F. Lynch. There certainly is cause for concern about forest species. Abbreviations: Assat. I., Assateague I., Md.; Chinc., Chincoteague N.W.R.; Craney, Craney I., Portsmouth, Va.; Va.E.S., Virginia Eastern Shore.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Common Loons lingered later than normal with seven at Bellevue, Talbot Co., Md., June 5 (HTA, EMW, JCW), most of these in breeding plumage, two there June 12 (HTA) and one flying over Assat. I., June 12 (SHD). Four summered

at Chinc., July 4-25 (WBo, RFR *et al.*). Wolfe found two Red-throated Loons at Back Bay, Va., June 26, these always much more unusual in summer than the former species. A Horned Grebe, probably a late migrant, was at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., w. of Seneca, Md., June 5 (LB) and a summering bird was at Deal I., Md., July 4 (DM). Scarce regional breeders, Pied-billed Grebe singles were at Green Springs in w.-c. Louisa Co., Va., July 26-29 (JBB), Chinc., July 9 (DFA) and five were in Deal Island W.M.A., June 26 (HTA), a very poor total for the latter locality. Northern Fulmar staged an unprecedented showing for the summer period with two seen 25 mi e. of Smith I., Va., June 12 (BT), 14 the same day off Ocean City, Md. (RN, m.ob.) and a dead one on Hog I., Va.E.S., June 21 (RB, *vide* BW). Other highlights of Naveen's Ocean City pelagic trips included



the likes of 224 Cory's, 905 Greater, 165 Sooty and one Manx shearwaters, 3200 Wilson's and 35 Leach's storm-petrels June 12, the last probably a record regional total. A June 26 trip produced 1042 Cory's, 1317 Greater, 327 Sooty and three Manx shearwaters, 627 Wilson's and one Leach's storm-petrels, the Cory's figure a regional record, and the Sooties extremely late as they are normally remarkable after the first week in June. By contrast a July 17 foray found only nine Greater and six Cory's shearwaters plus 1724 Wilson's Storm-Petrels.

Extremely late (?) was a subad. Gannet moving N June 12 (RN *et al.*). Exciting were views of Wilson's Storm-Petrels from land such as one from Back Bay June 26 (TRW) and numerous sightings in or near inlets and islands of the Va.E.S., June 21-July 8, such as five inside Ship Shoal Inlet June 22 (BW, BT *et al.*). Truitt saw 600 July 10 at sea off the Virginia capes. Bizarre was a White Pelican consorting and roosting with breeding herons on Metomkin I., Va., late May-late June complete with the knobby ridge on maxilla typical of breeding adults (BW *et al.*). But Brown Pelicans stole the show with their biggest invasion on record beginning in early June with 30 on Wreck I. (HG, *vide* RLA). Other Virginia records of interest were up to 13 at



Brown Pelicans atop pilings, York River, Va., July 2, 1982. Photo/William S. Portlock.

Cape Henry (*vide* TRW), 25 at Smith I.-Metomkin I., June 22-23 (BW, BA, RB *et al.*), 19 at Metomkin I., July 1 (BT), 15 on the York R., July 2 (BP *et al.*, ph.), and 24 at New Inlet July 16 (BT). The 30 on Wreck I., constitute a record Virginia count. The last Virginia influx of note was in 1977. Maryland birds appeared from mid-June on (DN, *vide* HLW) with these sightings from Assat. I.: nine July 1; ten July 6; 15 July 9; 11 July 11 (FZ, *vide* HLW). The 15 on July 9 was a new state high count. But the outstanding rarity of the period was a Brown Booby at Fisherman Island N.W.R., Va., seen June 26, for a fourth state record (CRV, AS, *vide* JSW). Double-crested Cormorant continues to manifest a strong summer presence although some early June birds are undoubtedly late migrants, such as 60 flying N over Mills I., Md., June 13 (SHD). Good summer totals are 71 at Hopewell, Va., June 24 (FRS *et al.*), up to 15 in the Alexandria-Wash., D.C. area (JMA, DFA, DC), and 100 on Holland I., Md., July 15 (DM). At Barren I., Md., 335 June 5 was a record total for Dorchester County (EMW, HTA, JCW).

Away from major breeding areas herons made a poor showing (RFR, DHW, DFA), low numbers were present in c. Chesapeake Bay heronries (HTA), but on the Va.E.S., better-than-average numbers were found (BW *et al.*). Williams and others completed the eighth straight year of surveys on the Va.E.S., from Assawoman-Fisherman I., June 20-24 with these numbers of adults seen: Green Heron 44, Little Blue Heron 326 (new high), Cattle Egret 89 (new low), Great Egret 551 (new high), Snowy Egret 776, Louisiana Heron 1004, Black-crowned Night Heron 1456, Yellow-crowned Night Heron 75, Glossy Ibis 964 and White Ibis two (one each on Wreck and Fisherman Is.). Big mixed heronries, all with at least eight species, were on Metomkin, Hog, Cobb, Wreck and Fisherman Is. Herons were in very poor supply in Chesapeake colonies. A survey from Poplar I., Md., s. to Watts I., Va., revealed circa 1644 pairs (vs 2164-1980, 1747-1978, 2502-1973). This year's survey included more sites than those of previous years (HTA, HLW, DM). Totals for all species were low: Great Blue Heron 323, Green Heron 53, Little Blue Heron 88, Cattle Egret 315, Great Egret 114, Snowy Egret 212, Louisiana Heron 92 (new low), Black-crowned Night Heron 275, Yellow-crowned Night Heron 72 (new low), Glossy Ibis 100 (new low). Heronries with all 10

species were on Cherry I., and Hog Neck (both on Smith I., Md.) and Watts I. For the second consecutive year Little Blue Heron bred on Poplar I., with three pairs July 10 (chicks in 2 nests), Talbot County's only breeding records (DM, HLW). In Charles Co., Md. 700 pairs of Great Blue Herons were estimated at the Nanjemoy heronry June 11 (JAG). High counts at Chinc. included 221 Little Blue Herons, 162 Great Egrets, 525 Snowy Egrets July 30-31 and 295 Cattle Egrets and 202 Glossy Ibises July 22-23 (CPW). At Deal I., seven Least Bitterns were found June 26 (HTA). An imm. White Ibis at Craney I., Va., July 13 was the only one reported away from the barrier islands (D & MM).

**WATERFOWL** — At the s. edge of their range were 24 adult and 11 imm. Mute Swans at Chinc., July 25 (WBo) and two adults at Hooper's I., Md., June 5 (HTA, EMW, JCW). Feral Canada Geese continue to thrive with counts such as 117 on Nolting Pond, Louisa Co., Va., July 31 in the Piedmont (JBB). At Alexandria a ♂ Black Duck and ♀ Mallard were seen with their six downy young July 31 (JMA). For an overview of the decline of the Black concurrent with captive Mallard release programs see *Field & Stream* October 1981 p. 40ff. and August 1982 p. 19ff., one more example of why birders should pay more attention to hunters/game managers (vice versa equally true). At Deal I., June 26 were 121 Black Ducks, 28 Gadwall (very low), one Green-winged Teal and 46 Blue-winged Teal (HTA), one Pintail June 4 (DM), and two Am. Wigeon June 14 (DM, HLW). Eight N. Shovelers at Chinc., July 16 were of interest, there being no Virginia breeding record (FRS, JWD). At Dulles Int'l Airport, Va., July 3, 100 Wood Ducks were seen (CT, BC). Stray divers included a Ring-necked Duck at Dulles July 3 (CT, BC), a Lesser Scaup at Craney June 22 (RC) and an abundance of Black Scoters such as 37 on Metomkin I., June 23 (BW), 17-20 at Chinc., July 1-23 (CPW, FRS) and four at Fisherman I., the entire period (RLA).

**KITES THROUGH RAILS** — Honors for fanciest hawk go to Talbot County, Md., where two ad. Mississippi Kites were seen July 9, only the second state record (JKE). Most unusual were three different Sharp-shinned Hawks at Irish Grove Sanctuary e. of Crisfield, Md., June 30, July 2 & 10 (JLS). This and Cooper's Hawk were more widely reported than usual, especially in the Piedmont (MPM, JBB, CT, JAG, JWE). Bald Eagle news continues to be good news. Consult future issues for a spectacular development which for reasons of discretion must go unmentioned for the moment. At undeveloped Caledon S.P., Va., on the Potomac R., 41 were counted in early July (BC, *vide* FRS) and three adults with 21 immatures were there July 21 (FRS, MAB). The Chesapeake Bay eagle survey had its "best year yet in numbers of active nests and eaglets." Statistics are: active nests 106 (46-Va., 56-Md., four-Del.); hatchlings 106 (44, 57, 5 respectively); fledglings 99 (40, 56, 3 respectively); banded 79 (35, 44, 0 respectively). "For the third year in succession we have a marked increase in nesting pairs (84 in 1980, 94 in 1981, 106 in 1982) and in the number of young hatched (74 in 1980, 97 in 1981 and 106 in 1982) . . . Six nests in Maryland [in 5 different counties] produced three eaglets each . . . at least 2 Virginia nests had three eggs but one failed to hatch in both nests . . . A very happy sign that there is improvement in the eagle's environment is that two Virginia and two Maryland pairs which have been unsuccessful in raising young despite [many] annual attempts, finally produced young . . . counting our non-active nest sites where adults were present (10) the Chesapeake Bay area Bald Eagle breeding population is now at least 116 pairs, up from 107 in 1981 and 100 in 1980." (JMA, BC, MAB, FRS *et al.*). The Peregrine Falcon hacking program continues to be implemented with strength. Minor (?) results seem to be a decrease in shorebirds at the Chinc. wash flats (CPW) where three young ♀ Peregrines fledged this year (first Virginia nesting record in 20 years) and avoidance by Marsh Hawks of some areas that the falcons haunt (*e.g.*, Fisherman I., RLA & *cf.* *American Birds*, Nov. 1981, p. 927).

Several B.B.s indicate Bobwhite to be in good numbers despite the hard winter (SHD, CZ, MCp, HTA, FRS *et al.*). King Rails were present all summer at Sterling, Va. (CT). They are almost unheard of as a breeder on the Virginia Piedmont. High tides destroyed up to 80% of Clapper Rail nests along the Virginia coast (JHB). A Sora was at Elliott I., Md., June 19 and 1-2 were at Deal I., June 6 & 20 (HLW). Breeding continues to be suspected in these areas. Wierenga's Black Rail high was eight at Elliott I., June 10 including two "singing right at our feet!" The top Com. Gallinule tally was of seven at Deal I., June 26 (HTA), very low for this prime spot.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Migration was protracted and late, extending even further into June than usual (CPW). Wilds conducted 9 weekly surveys at Chinc., the most interesting results of which follow. Many of these totals are considered low owing to high water levels. Highest counts included 2059 Ruddy Turnstones, 780 Red Knots, 61 White-rumped Sandpipers, 5664 Semipalmated Sandpipers, four N. Phalaropes—all June 3-4; one Black-necked Stilt June 9; 34 Piping Plovers June 10-11; one Am. Golden Plover June 17-18; 728 Short-billed Dowitchers July 8-9; 124 Whimbrel July 14-15; 1173 Least Sandpipers, one Curlew Sandpiper, 37 Stilt Sandpipers, one Marbled Godwit, 1310 Sanderlings, July 22-23; 116 Semipalmated Plovers, 61 Greater Yellowlegs, 156 Lesser Yellowlegs, 405 W. Sandpipers, 16 Hudsonian Godwits, July 30-31. Mid-summer shorebirds are always puzzling such as her June 24 totals of two Black-bellied Plovers, one Ruddy Turnstone, one Greater Yellowlegs, one White-rumped Sandpiper, four Dunlin, 102 Semipalmated Sandpipers and six Sanderlings, some of which may actually be very late migrants. By July 1 migration is clearly underway again with the arrival of three Whimbrel, two Spotted Sandpipers, two Lesser Yellowlegs, 19 Least Sandpipers, 109 Short-billed Dowitchers—all these species having been absent since early June. Of note are these late spring migrants: 93 Ruddy Turnstones, 270 Red Knots, 24 White-rumped Sandpipers, 47 Short-billed Dowitchers, 3260 Semipalmated Sandpipers, June 10-11; 36 Red Knot, 747 Semipalmated Sandpipers June 17-18. Special attention was paid to dowitchers with these results:

	<i>SBD:</i> <i>griseus</i>	<i>SBD:</i> <i>hendersoni</i>	<i>SBD:</i> <i>indeterminate</i>	<i>Long-billed</i> <i>Dowitcher</i>	<i>dowitcher</i> <i>sp. ?</i>
July 1	—	109	—	—	—
July 8-9	—	691	37	—	—
July 14-15	36	142	—	—	—
July 22-23	105	200	24	—	—
July 30-31	56	138	43	19	21

Other Chinc. sightings were 150 Whimbrel and one Buff-breasted Sandpiper July 24 (JKE), a Pectoral Sandpiper July 10, four Stilt Sandpipers, July 9, two Semipalmated Sandpipers, July 10 and a W. Sandpiper, July 10 (last 4 species all very early—all DFA). Craney I also had good shorebird records. Chandler found these lingerers June 22: two Black-bellied Plovers, two Lesser Yellowlegs, 17 Semipalmated Sandpipers, two W. Sandpipers, four White-rumped Sandpipers, and a Dunlin. All the peep were gone June 24 but June 30 Wolfe found 10 Greater Yellowlegs, 35 Lesser Yellowlegs, 10 White-rumped Sandpipers, 47 Short-billed Dowitchers and three Stilt Sandpipers! By July 20 populations had built up to 800 Lesser Yellowlegs, 50 Stilt Sandpipers, 500 Sanderlings, one Wilson's Phalarope and Am. Avocets peaked here July 15 with 76 (TRW). On June 2, a N Phalarope was seen (HCI). Elsewhere 15 Piping Plovers, including six juvenals, were on Grand View beach, Hampton, Va., July 4 (RC, MC). On the Va.E.S., 129 were counted on 9 islands and 61 Wilson's Plovers were on 9 islands, all-time highs in Williams' 8-year survey—while 1184 Am. Oystercatchers were on 16 islands. Six Marbled Godwits and 200 Whimbrel were on Ship Shoal I., July 19 (JSW). On Barren I., 35 Sanderlings June 5 (HTA, EMW, JCW) and on Smith I., Md., 350 Short-billed Dowitchers July 19 (DM) were good counts for Chesapeake Bay.

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — Out from Ocean City three Parasitic and a late Pomarine jaeger were seen June 12 as was a well-studied **South Polar Skua** June 26 (RN *et al.*). Unique were an imm. Iceland Gull at Ocean City July 2 (CPW) and a subad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Deal I., June 13 (EB, HLW, JO *et al.*). On Smith I., Md., contents of 1130 Herring Gull nests tallied this way May 30: empty nests 66, one egg 236, two eggs 246, three eggs 570, four eggs 1, two eggs-one young 6, one egg-two young 5 (HTA, DM, HLW). An estimated 3000 pairs bred here together with perhaps 50 pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls. Va.E.S. totals of adult birds included 3772 Herring Gulls (high; 5 islands), 18,188 Laughing Gulls (new high; 5 islands), 74 Great Black-backed Gulls (new high; 4 islands), 970 Gull-billed Terns (low; 6 islands), 3001 Com. Terns (new low; 10 islands), Forster's Tern 166 (3 islands), Least Tern 550 (low; 7 islands), Royal Tern 5200, Sandwich Tern four (low), Caspian Tern six (new high; 3 islands), Black Skimmer 6303 (low; 9 islands) (BW, RB, BA *et al.*; June 20-24). Since many islands were only visited once and high tides wiped out many sand nesters, especially the gale of June 16-17, these totals do not take into account later nesting and re-nesting attempts.

The same remarks apply to the heronries surveys, including my own on Chesapeake Bay, where each site is normally visited only once and may drastically change one way or another during the course of the summer. Williams *et al.*, found no Royal Terns on Ship Shoal I., in June but in July Weske banded 292 young there. On the Chesapeake Bay tern-skimmer pairs found were 154 Forster's Terns (low; 4 islands), 827 Com. Terns (high; 5 islands), 116 Least Terns (one island), 150 Royal Terns and 50 Black Skimmers (HLW, DM, HTA). The Royals-skimmers were in one colony in the Virginia portion of Smith I. (Chesapeake Bay) July 19 and represent the second and third known Bay breeding records for these species respectively as well as the largest colonies (MH, DM, WJLS, HLW) Of the Com. Terns a colony of 473 on Barren I., June 5 represents the biggest ever found in the Maryland part of the Bay and the Least Terns were also here breeding on dredge spoil designated for just such a purpose following the advice of birders consulted about this site (HTA, EMW, JCW). On the Va.E.S., 4484 Royal Terns and four Sandwich Terns were banded (JSW, JHB, CRV *et al.*). Up to 160 Royal Tern nests were found on Horsehead Tump, Chincoteague Bay, Md., but as with most other attempts by Royals to breed in that state this one was a failure. For the ninth straight year Caspian Terns bred here-on Metomkin, Ship Shoal and Smith Is. (BW, JSW) At Grandview Beach 250 Least Tern chicks were banded in mid-June indicating high fledging success (BW, RB, BA) but they were flooded out on Assat. I. (RFR *et al.*). About 10 pairs nested again on the roof of Cambridge, Md. H.S. (HTA). Notable counts at Chinc., were 13 Sandwich and 113 Black terns July 30-31 (CPW). At Barren I., records of 35 Black Skimmers June 5 (HTA, EMW, JCW) was a new high for this locality as were 100 on Holland I., July 15 (DM). Two Arctic and a Roseate tern were seen off Ocean City June 12 (RN *et al.*). Just received is the report of 10,000 Bonaparte's Gulls off Virginia Beach Apr. 4, 1982, considered a conservative count, and a new high for the state (RLA, NS).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Several commented on the lack of Yellow-billed Cuckoos this year. A B.B.S. near Cuckoo (!), Va., which has averaged over ten for the past 5 years only had two in 1982 (CZ). Unusual was a Black-billed Cuckoo at Back Bay June 26 (TRW). Saw-whet Owls were present at Sterling, Va., at least until June 9 and may have bred (CT) and an immature was at Springfield, Va., in mid-July (RG, BC, *vide* CT). Breeding has yet to be proven in Virginia's Piedmont and Coastal Plain. The Whip-poor-will is seen as declining in the Piedmont (CT, BS, JWE). Common Nighthawks are suspected breeders on 3 islands of the Va.E.S. (BW). An exceptional rarity was a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** July 22 near Nassawadox, Va (BT, GJH), Virginia's seventh, and only 2 summers after one was at nearby Cape Charles June 28, 1980. Heavy rains may have wiped out many broods of E. Phoebe in May and June (PW). At Irish Grove very early Traill's Flycatchers were detected July 16 & 26 (JLS) and an amazing 50 pairs of Willow Flycatchers were estimated at Dulles Airport July 3 (CT, BC). Horned Larks were found in June on 6 islands of the Va.E.S., including seven on Parramore I. (BW). Tree Swallow continues to thrive with 127 fledging at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. (PW) and nesting confirmed at Lynchburg, Va., for the first time on June 5 (MPM). New Hopewell 1800 Bank Swallows were seen July 25 (FRS *et al.*) and 26 occupied Cliff Swallow nests were found June 26 (FRS, HO, WKS). An errant Cliff was at Craney I., June 22, a most odd date (RC). Purple Martins had their third lowest year since 1972, a cold April and wet, cool June resulting in poor hatching. Dead adults were found in June (MKK). Along Nassawango Cr., a Nature Conservancy preserve in Pocomoke Swamp, Md., where several Brown Creepers were found last summer as many as 25 singing birds were heard this summer on a 12-mi stretch of the creek in tall cypress, a quantum leap in this species' summer abundance anywhere in the Region (JLS). A late report is of a **Varied Thrush** present at Great Falls, Va., Dec. 28, 1982-Feb. 26, 1982 (CT *et al.*) for apparently the fourth state record. At Locustville, Va., a Swainson's Thrush was found June 18 (GR\*). Eastern Bluebird had a successful breeding season (CT, BR, JWE, AJF, CZ) with 120 young banded in Newport News City P., (D & MM) and 148 counted on the Lynchburg "Christmas Bird Count in June" (June 5, MPM *et al.*) Golden-crowned Kinglets were again heard singing in Carroll County, Md., June 20, n. of Melrose (RFR, EB) as in last summer Two Cedar Waxwings at Irish Grove June 18 through July were suspected to have bred (JLS). Richmond's Loggerhead Shrike pair again nested successfully and were seen with their three young June 4 (DP, *vide* FRS).

**WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS**—A Swainson's Warbler was at Dismal Swamp N.W.R., July 11 (WBo), notable because it is one of those species, like Black Rail, which few bother looking for after June. A Blue-winged Warbler and a Brewster's Warbler were present and singing in the Nassawango Cr. preserve June 8-25, the Brewster's having been there since late April (JLS, SHD). Either form is almost unheard of anywhere in the Region's Coastal Plain in summer. Early post-breeding warblers included single N. Parulas (which breed nearby) at Virginia Beach July 4 (TRW) and Norfolk July 18 (RC), and a Chestnut-sided in Fairfax, Va., July 26-27 (PW). Very late spring migrants were a ♀ Magnolia June 6 and a singing Blackpoll June 18 (both Norfolk—RC, MC), a Bay-breasted at Jug Bay, Patuxent R., Md., June 9 (JAG) and an Am. Redstart in Talbot County, Md., June 7 (JGR). Louisiana Waterthrush is another stream species probably adversely affected by the rains and floods of May and June (BR). Common Yellowthroat seems to have sustained a significant decline, according to the fragmentary B.B.S. results available (SHD, HTA, FRS, CZ).

Summer stray Bobolinks included singles at Irish Grove June 24 (BD, ML, *fide* JLS) and Bellevue, Md., July 4 (HTA). Eastern Meadowlark nests with three eggs June 17 and four eggs July 3 (two eggs, two young July 7) at Green Springs, Louisa Co., extend the known nesting dates for the Virginia Piedmont (BM, *fide* JBB). Elsewhere this species is variously regarded throughout the Region to be significantly down (BR, AJF, PW, HTA, FRS), normal (DLK, JK) or doing well (CT, JM). Orchard Oriole continues its long-term increase as reflected by B.B.S. (HTA, FRS, SHD). A ♂ Boat-tailed Grackle, unusual this far up the Bay, was at Tilghman I., Talbot Co., Md., July 10 (DM, HLW, HTA). Extremely late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Talbot County June 7 (JGR). Blue Grosbeak is another species undergoing a steady regional increase according to B.B.S. results (SHD, CZ, HTA, FRS) and Indigo Bunting was in higher-than-usual numbers this summer (CT, FRS, HTA) with 167 being counted on the Lynchburg, Va., June 5 "CBC" (MPM *et al.*). Dickcissels were absent from their Frederick County, Md. haunts no doubt due to the lack of fallow fields (DHW), a problem for other species also (meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows). Two record-late Pine Siskins were at Bryan's Rd., Charles Co., Md., June 5 (PN). An adult with young Savannah Sparrows July 24 at Ottersdale, Md., furnished the first Carroll County breeding record (RFR). Record Virginia counts of Grasshopper Sparrow were 100+ at Dulles Airport July 3 (CT, BC) and 61 on the June 5 Lynchburg "CBC" (MPM *et al.*). Eight Henslow's Sparrows were at both Elliott I., June 10 (HLW) and Dulles. Thirteen Sharp-tailed Sparrows (low) were at Deal I., June 26 (HTA) and a nest at Irish Grove May 30 had five eggs, two of them cowbird's (JLS, CRV). Aseasonal White-throated Sparrow singles were at Hopewell June 6 (FRS, JWD, BRz) and the F.B.I. building in Washington, D.C., July 23 (PN). Two Swamp Sparrows were at Sandy Point S.P., Md., July 2 indicating probable breeding (HLW) and the first Carroll County, Md. breeding records were of several birds at Big Pipe Cr., June 20-July 3 and Winfield June 27-Aug. 1 (RFR, EB).

**OBSERVERS** — D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Bill Akers, R.L. Anderson, J.B. Bazuin, Ruth Beck, Warren Bielenberg, Eirik Blom, Herman Bohn, Larry Bonham, Dan Boone, William Bousman (WBo), J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Max Carpenter (MCp), Michelle Chandler, Ray Chandler, Bill Clark, Lester Coble, David Czaplak, J.W. Dillard, Barbara Dowell, S.H. Dyke, J.K. Effinger, J.W. Eike, Kathleen Finnegan, A.J. Fletcher, Hans Gabler, Roy Geiger, J.A. Gregoire, Michael Harrison, G.J. Hennessey, H.C. Irving, D.L. Kirkwood, Jean Kirkwood, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Paul Leifer, Manuel Lendau, Belle McQuail, Debbie Mignogno, Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, M.P. Moore, Jack Mazingo, Ron Naveen, Paul Nistico, Darryl Nottingham, Harold Olson, Jim Orgain, Darrell Peterson, Bill Portlock, J.G. Reese, George Reiger, R.F. Ringler, Betsy Roszell (BRz), Bob Russell, F.R. Scott, W.J.L. Sladen, W.K. Slate, Alistair Smith, J.L. Stasz, Nick Stavros, Byron Swift, R.J. Tripician, Barry Truitt, Craig Tufts, C.R. Vaughn, D.H. Wallace, J.S. Weske, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, E.M. Wilson, J.C. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, Paul Woodward, Frank Zelenka, Charles Ziegenfus.—**HENRY T. ARMISTEAD**, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.

## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

After two dry summers in succession, the Region enjoyed a fairly wet breeding season. Rainfall varied from slightly to greatly above normal, depending on the locality, and many lakes were uncharacteristically full even in late July. Temperatures were a few degrees below normal, with no periods of truly hot weather. A tropical storm moved onshore near Morehead City, North Carolina on the night of June 18-19 and across the Outer Banks back to the ocean on the 19th, bringing winds of 30-40 miles per hour.

Overall, avian breeding success was fairly typical for the Region, although there was little input from coastal birders on the fate of colonial nesting waterbirds (herons, egrets, gulls, terns). Fussell mentioned that the tropical storm had little negative effect on breeding birds in the Morehead City area. This season's highlights were a four-county survey of breeding birds between Albemarle and Pamlico sounds, North Carolina, by Lynch and Peacock, and several outstanding breeding records for South Carolina, including a first east of the Mississippi valley.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Notable Com. Loons inland in midsummer were at Jordan Res., e. Chatham Co., N.C., June 23-July 1 (BW, MW) and on the Chattahoochee R., n. of Atlanta, Ga., July 9 (PM *et al.*). Even rarer inland was a Horned Grebe noted on a farm pond near Four Oaks, N.C., June 7 (TH). Pied-billed Grebes are very rare and sporadic breeders in the Piedmont; thus, of interest was the discovery of 4 nests at a marsh-pond complex in the lakebed of the Falls of the Neuse Res., e. Durham Co., N.C., July 5-Aug. 1 (JMcC *et al.*). Although the first half of June is one of the best times to take a pelagic trip off our coastline, there were no reports of such trips during that span or the entire summer. Nonetheless, in coastal Carteret County, N.C., Fussell observed a migrating Greater Shearwater June 18 and three dead Greaters there June 19; and Sooty Shearwaters were often seen along the county's Bogue Banks June 10-19 with a peak of ten on June 16 (BH). The Brown Pelican nesting colony in the lower Cape Fear R., N.C., was down in number of adults by 20%, probably owing to winter losses (JFP). A few Double-crested Cormorants were reported inland, with an excellent 40-55 present most of the summer at Jordan Res. (BW *et al.*). Non-breeding Anhingas were rare in the Piedmont near Raleigh, N.C., June 5 (WI) and near Cartersville, Ga., June 20 (GS). A pair was again noted during the summer near Fayetteville, N.C. (PJC), where breeding might be taking place. The tropical storm of June 18-19 was obviously responsible for bringing a notable number of Magnificent Frigatebirds to the coast. An ad. ♂ frigatebird was seen at Sullivans I., S.C., June 20 (ZR, *fide* DF); in coastal Carteret County were a female at Radio I., June 20 (WI), and ad. males at Cape Lookout June 20 or 21 (SS), Bogue Sound June 21 (JF), and Beaufort Inlet June 28-29 (LC).



**WADERS** — Extremely rare inland was a white morph Great Blue Heron at Augusta, Ga., June 14-July 31+ (CB, AW), it had a yellow tag (#49) on its left wing. Unusually large numbers of Great Egrets dispersed to inland lakes and ponds this summer, especially in the Atlanta (*vide* TM) and Jordan Res. (BW *et al.*) areas, with 170 July 28 at the latter site. A large heronry at Midville, Ga., contained 4000 Cattle Egrets, 500 White Ibises, 25 Anhingas, and 8-10 Little Blue Herons May 29 (VW, AW *et al.*). Another heronry 20 mi to the s. of the above one had 800+ Cattle Egrets, 20+ Little Blue Herons, and one nest of Great Egrets May 29 (VW, AW *et al.*). Rare for the Augusta area (and most inland sites) was a nest of Yellow-crowned Night Herons Apr. 17-June 5, with three young fledged (AW, VW). Notable inland nowadays was the discovery of a Least Bittern nest at the Falls of the Neuse Res., near Durham, N.C., July 5 (JMcC, BW, MW); four plus young fledged later in the month. Presumably an early migrant was an Am. Bittern at Fayetteville, N.C., July 21 (PJC); whereas one heard and another seen May 13 at the Goose Cr. impoundments along the Pamlico-Beaufort co. line, N.C., were likely late migrants (ML, LP), although breeding cannot be ruled out. For the second consecutive year, **Wood Storks** have nested along the lower Edisto R., Colleton Co., S.C. (TMu, *vide* JEC). Murphy observed 12± nests in 1981 and 22 nests this summer. This is the first unequivocal breeding for the state, albeit storks have been believed to nest on several occasions in the lower Coastal Plain n. to Francis Marion N.F. Single Glossy Ibises were rare near Fayetteville July 15 (PJC) and at Beaverdam Res., n. of Raleigh July 23 (JM). Roseate Spoonbills have become regular, if very uncommon, summer visitors in the past few years in coastal Georgia; this summer two were noted on the Jekyll I. causeway June 19 (DB, PB) and one at St. Marys June 22-23 (SP *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL** — A ♂ Pintail was early in n.e. Pamlico County, N.C., July 30 (PJC). Apparently the first Regional nesting of **Blue-winged Teal** away from the tidewater zone was detected at Beaverdam Res., N.C.—a female with seven young June 12 (DiB, *vide* RJH). A non-breeding pair of Ring-necked Ducks remained on an Atlanta lake all summer (TM), and belatedly reported were two ♀ and one imm. ♂ Com. Eiders at Cape Hatteras, N.C., Apr. 10 (SO, BA). A few Black Scoters typically linger into the summer along the coastline. Among the numerous coastal sightings this season were excellent totals of 15 at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., June 6-10 (LC) and 17 at Cumberland I., Ga., June 22-23 (SP *et al.*). Female Hooded Mergansers along the North Carolina coast June 6 at Cedar Island N.W.R. (LC, JF) and July 16 in s. Brunswick County (MEW, TP) were probably non-breeders.

**KITES THROUGH COOTS** — Although Swallow-tailed Kites breed regularly in Francis Marion N.F., most recent monitored nestings have failed (*vide* JEC). This spring Cely found 2 nests, and both were successful, producing three young. He and other workers in the Southeast have evidence that Great Horned Owls prey on adults while perched (such as on nests), and he speculates that the owls might be a limiting factor in the small numbers of kites in most southern states. An imm. Golden Eagle was flushed from a large field on the unusually late date of May 27 near Mayesville, S.C. (ED). A Bald Eagle hacking project has (or will be) begun at L. Mattamuskeet, N.C., the last site in the state where eagles nested regularly. A handful of sightings was reported from that state, but again none involved nesting birds. As usual, Marsh Hawks were seen at Cedar Island Ref. in June (JF *et al.*); but several females or immatures were noted in June and July at 2 places in Washington County, N.C. (ML, LP), where breeding is unknown. A few Am. Kestrels were observed over the Region, as expected, with breeding at Ft. Bragg, N.C. (JHC), and five "Atlanta falcons" at the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium (*vide* TM)! The marsh at Falls of the Neuse Res. had probable breeding King Rails: two were seen and heard all summer (JMcC, DK *et al.*), a good find for the Piedmont. A calling Black Rail was noted at Pea I., July 30 (AB), perhaps a new (but certainly not unexpected) summer locale for the species. The best of the Am. Coot reports, all apparently representing non-breeders, was of three all summer at Peachtree City L., in Atlanta (PB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Fussell *et al.* had a number of notable shorebirds in a spoil pond at Ft. Macon S.P., N.C., following the tropical storm: four to seven Am. Avocets June 19-July 24, a Wilson's Phalarope June 19, a N. Phalarope June 19-21, and two White-rumped

Sandpipers June 19 & 24 Piping Plovers have been seen the past few summers at Sunset Beach, N.C., s. of the established breeding range, one there July 18 (PJC, JC) was perhaps a nesting bird. At Pea I., July 30 were an early Am. Golden Plover and four Wilson's Phalaropes (AB), and on July 31 were 250 Stilt Sandpipers and a **Eurasian Whimbrel** (JF, LC). This is the second report of the Eurasian race for North Carolina, the first (Aug. 20-21, 1976) being erroneously reported in this journal (AB 31:164) as a Slender-billed Curlew (*vide* JF). Inland shorebirding suffered from high water levels at reservoirs, although a few notable finds were made. Late at Pendergrass, Ga., were single Semipalmated and White-rumped sandpipers June 7 (JP). There was a fairly early inland influx of the uncommon Stilt Sandpiper; singles were near Duluth, Ga., July 11 (PB), nearby Forsyth County July 23 (JP), and near Durham July 18 (BW, MW). A **Ruff** near Dublin, Ga., July 30 (TKP, JS) was surprisingly the second record for that town, but the species is, nevertheless, of casual occurrence inland.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — The only jaegers sighted were three Parasitics at Atlantic Beach, N.C., June 13 (JF, WI). Gulls are seldom seen inland in June or July; thus, unusual were a Ring-billed Gull July 1-28 at Jordan Res. (AB, BW, MW) and a Laughing Gull at Sweetwater Creek S.P., near Atlanta June 8 (D & PM). I received no information concerning the outcome of gull and tern colonies along the coast. Several Least Terns were seen at a spoil area in Beaufort County, N.C., June 28 (ML, LP), a site where the species was reported breeding a few years ago and probably is still doing so. Inland tern sightings, as with gulls, are notable in summer—Commons were at Fayetteville June 29 (PJC) and near Hartwell, Ga., July 3 (DC), Caspians were at Fayetteville June 22 (PJC) and Jordan Res., July 17 (DK, BW), and three Blacks were near Raleigh July 31 (JM).

**GOATSUCKERS, WOODPECKERS** — Chuck-will's-widows are scarce in the n. Piedmont of North Carolina; of interest were two heard near Butner July 2 (JMcC *et al.*). A Whip-poor-will was again heard at Hollonville, Pike Co., Ga., June 6 (LG, HG), a Piedmont town near the s. end of the breeding range. However, Whips extend far into the Coastal Plain of North Carolina in summer. Seemingly at the limits of the range there were three in Dare County 8 mi s. of Manns Harbor June 10 (ML, LP), four in c. Pamlico County May 13 & June 28 (ML, LP), and one in Carteret County June 6, 2 mi n. of North R. community (JF). Lynch and Peacock found a few Red-headed Woodpeckers—a species doing poorly over most of the Region—in each of the 4 counties (Dare, Hyde, Pamlico, and Washington) in their study area this summer, but a major highlight of their work was the finding of several active nest cavities of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Perhaps because the highly-favored longleaf pine is rare in these counties, Red-cockaded are also; and nesting sites (2 in Pamlico and one each in Hyde and Dare) were surprisingly in pond pines, trees that commonly grow in dense pocosin habitats mostly unsuitable for the species.

**FLYCATCHERS, LARKS** — Four species of kingbirds were reported this summer—a record for the Region at any season. In addition to the widespread E. Kingbird, several Gray Kingbirds were observed at Jekyll I., Ga., June 22-23 (SP party), probably indicative of breeding there. An almost certain straggler was a Gray at Topsail I., N.C., June 7 (GW). An excellent find for the summer was a far-out-of-range **Western Kingbird** 10 mi s.e. of Sandersville, Ga., June 28 (FM, AWy). The rarest kingbird was observed at Bodie I., N.C., June 2 (WDE). It was identified as a Tropical, but the observer had no experience with yellow-bellied *Tyrannus* flycatchers and the detailed description is equivocal. Some of the details suggest a Cassin's, neither Cassin's nor Tropical has been previously reported from the Region.

—S.A.—

Absolutely unprecedented was the successful breeding of **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** in the Region, the first such event e of Mississippi. The adults were found at Young's Community in n. Laurens Co., S.C. (MR), and they nested in a grove of hardwoods surrounded by plenty of grassy fields and croplands. One young was fledged, and the three birds were seen by many observers into early August (JEC *et al.*); the empty nest was collected (RM, S.C.S.M.).

Two Willow Flycatchers were noted carrying food in June at Winston-Salem, N C (RS), a city where breeding has been taking place for several years. A major population of Horned Larks has been uncovered in the North Carolina Sandhills at Ft. Bragg, near the edge of the nesting range. P.J. Crutchfield *et al.* noted  $30 \pm$ , including adults feeding young, in Hoke County June 21, and approximately half that number (including juveniles) in adjacent Cumberland County on the same date.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS** — Early Tree Swallows were one at Jordan Res., July 1 (AB) and 1000+ in the L. Phelps area, N C, July 10 (ML, LP). Bank Swallows nest provably in the Region only along the Roaring R., N.C., but this season two possible sites were reported. At Cedar I., two were noted June 6 and one June 20 (JF, LC, RH); Barn and Rough-winged swallows nested in holes in old ships there and the Banks might have been breeding in the holes also. Lynch watched five Banks, apparently not migrating, at a bridge over the Hyco Res., n. Person Co., N.C., June 27; exposed banks are present along the shore of the lake. Cliff Swallows continue to expand their breeding range in North Carolina, with 2 sites discovered under bridges at Hyco Res., in June and July (KM, ML) and one site at a bridge at Jordan Res., July 1 (AB). No true range expansion by the Fish Crow farther into the Piedmont was reported, but small populations at the edge of the range in Durham (JMcC) and Clemson, S.C. (HL) seem to be increasing slowly. Breeding House Wrens in the Region are generally restricted to residential areas; thus, out of habitat and somewhat e. of the usual range were single singing birds in pond pine pocosins in n.w. Pamlico County May 14 (ML, LP) and 6 mi n of Stumpy Pt., Dare Co., June 10 (ML, LP). A singing House Wren was noted again in Fayetteville, this summer (HR, PJC), although no evidence of breeding was seen; and one was singing July 17 at Newberry, S.C. (HL), s. of the poorly defined limit of nesting in that state.

#### S.A.

The Loggerhead Shrike situation is bleaker than ever, with no good news to report, particularly in North Carolina. Several observers, including myself, believe the long-term decline is a result of a slow buildup of pesticides in the birds, possibly causing eggshell thinning. It should be pointed out that shrikes are most frequent about croplands and other fields where spraying presumably occurs. Another predatory species of similar habitat, the Am. Kestrel, declined drastically as a breeder in the Region earlier in the century—a probable result of pesticides—and is now quite rare, with pairs beginning to inhabit such unusual places as business districts, baseball stadiums, and prisons.

Singing Solitary Vireos in c. North Carolina were detected in n. Person County June 27 (ML) and w. Ft. Bragg, Hoke Co., June 16 (JHC).

**WARBLERS** — The Lynch-Peacock survey turned up Swainson's Warblers in all 4 counties—"widespread but uncommon"—but they found Worm-eating Warblers in good numbers. They had three singing Worm-eaters in Pamlico County May 14, and a remarkable 45 birds in Dare, Hyde, and Washington cos. during the summer. Nesting was also reported at the edge of the range in s.w. Harris County, Ga. (*fide* SP); and presumed early migrants were near Atlanta July 11 (three birds—TM *et al.*) and near Raleigh July 14 (JM). Blue-winged Warblers formerly bred in the Atlanta area, so one seen near Duluth June 26 (PB) gives hope that nesting might still be taking place there. Lynch and Peacock found Black-throated Green Warblers downright common in some areas on their survey, particularly in white cedar swamps in s. Dare and n. Hyde cos. They tallied 101 + singing males during the nesting season. Along the base of the Blue Ridge, at the w. edge of the Piedmont, two territorial ♂ Cerulean Warblers and several Swainson's Warblers were found in June and July at Bat Cave Preserve, w. Rutherford Co., N.C. (TK). Kentucky Warblers and Am. Redstarts breed in rich deciduous bottomlands, habitats that are fairly numerous in extreme e. North Carolina, but Lynch and Peacock noted Kentuckies only at 3 sites in Pamlico County and the redstart only in Gull Rock Gameland, s. Hyde Co., June 17. Surprising was a singing first-year ♂ Am. Redstart June 12 in the Moores' yard in Atlanta, a city where the species is a rare breeder.

**BOBOLINKS THROUGH SPARROWS** — The latest ever Bobolinks in spring for Atlanta were two females June 5 (PM, TM). Along the s.e. edge of the Scarlet Tanager's slowly expanding breeding range were males near Arapahoe, N.C., July 13 (ML, LP), Ft Jackson near Columbia, S.C., July 13 (JEC), and near Palmetto, Ga., July 1 (three birds—D & PM). A singing ad. ♂ Painted Bunting at Fayetteville most of July (PJC) was unusual away from the coast in North Carolina. The only summer report of Dickcissels came from Anderson County, S.C.: three territorial males and a female at one site near Townville June 5 and another singing male one mile away on two dates in June (HL *et al.*). House Finches are apparently breeding to (or just beyond) the Fall Line, as nesting or suspected nesting was reported from Fayetteville (HR), Columbia (JE), and Columbus, Ga (MS, JMi, *fide* SP). Irvin had a very late Pine Siskin at his Raleigh feeder June 5, and even more bizarre was one that lingered until June 20 at a feeder near Southern Pines, N.C. (LW). On June 19, the latter siskin appeared with "two apparent juveniles", but no corroboration of these "juveniles" was made by other birders. Siskins are not known to breed in the Region. An extremely rare visitor was a ♂ Lark Bunting found by Parks while jogging in Piedmont P., in Atlanta July 23! Three Grasshopper Sparrows, very rare breeders in the Sandhills, were noted Aug. 3 in the Hoke County portion of Ft. Bragg (PJC, MEW). Disappointingly, I received no word on whether Lark Sparrows returned to n. Richmond County, N.C., following the surprising breeding of several pairs in 1981. Although they are quite scarce in cities such as Durham and Chapel Hill in summer, Song Sparrows were considered "fairly common" in Roxboro, N.C., in June and July (KM), only 30 mi n. of Durham.

**OBSERVERS** — Barbara Amatrua, Clarence Belger, Dick Brame (DiB), Donna Brisse, Patrick Brisse, Allen Bryan, J.H. Carter III, J.E. Cely, Dan Cohan, Larry Crawford, James Crutchfield, P.J. Crutchfield, Evelyn Dabbs, Jere Eggleston, W.D. Ellis, Dennis Forsythe, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Liz Garrett, R.J. Hader, Tom Haggerty, Bruce Hallett, Robert Holmes, Wayne Irvin, Dan Kaplan, Travis Knowles, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, Rudy Mancke, Karen Masson, Frank McCamey, Dennis & Pam McClure, Jim McConnell (JMcC), James Miller (JMi), Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland, Tom Murphy (TMu), Suzanne Oppenheimer, John Paget, Dick Parks, J.F. Parnell, Sam Pate, T.K. Patterson, Lance Peacock, Tim Playforth, Zach Ralston, Dennis & Pam McClure, Georgann Schmalz, John Sharpe, Marguerite Sherrill, Ramona Snavelly, South Carolina State Museum, Steve Spickerman, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Libba Watson, Gail Whitehurst, M.E. Whitfield, Ann Wyand (AWy). — **HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27609.**

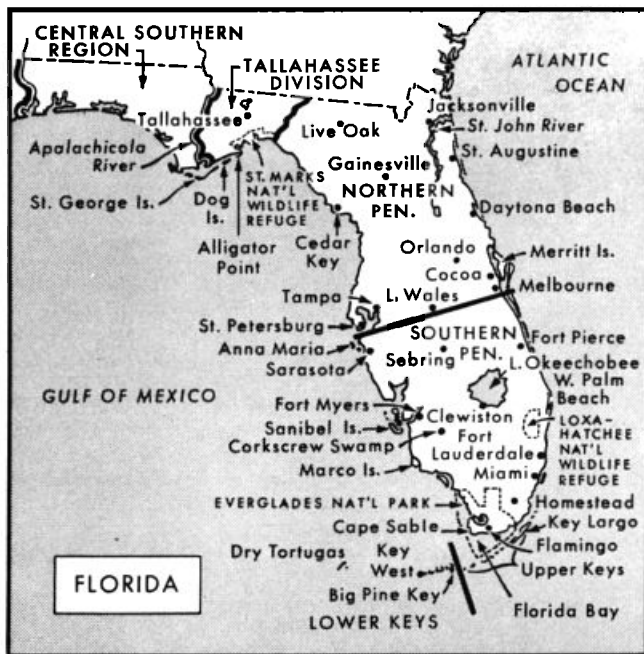
## FLORIDA REGION

/Richard T. Paul

Drought conditions dominated the Florida peninsula in summer 1981. This year heavy rains—up to 200% of normal in some areas—raised water levels throughout the Region. Levels in Lake Okeechobee rose to 14.84 feet above mean summer level by July 21, five feet higher than last year's all-time low and an increase of over four feet in just two months.

Owing to the high waters, inland observers noted a paucity of shorebirds. On the other hand, the National Audubon Society heronry survey in west-central and south Florida revealed a marked increase in July nesting. Detailed analysis awaits publication elsewhere, but half of 218 colony sites checked were active. Thirty-eight more colonies were active in 1982 than 1981, an increase of 55%. All were inland sites, reflecting the response of herons to wetter conditions in the freshwater wetlands of the state (BWP).

An unnamed storm packing hurricane force winds and heavy rains unexpectedly struck the Gulf Coast June 18, battering shorelines from Naples to Tarpon Springs and flooding lowlying areas with 5-foot tides. Damage to coastal bird colonies varied. At Passage Key, where 20,000 pairs of Laughing Gulls, 1000 pairs of Royal Terns and 250 pairs of Black Skimmers were nesting, just 1000 young gulls and



100 young terns survived the storm (BZ). By contrast 4000 pairs of Laughing Gulls and 125 pairs of Royal Terns nesting on higher ground at Alafia Bank suffered far lighter losses (RP). Brown Pelicans and herons nesting at the ABC Islands near Marco Island lost about 30% and 20%, respectively, of their nests (TB), while at Cortez Island in Sarasota Bay about half the remaining pelican nests were blown down (RP). But even at these sites most herons and pelicans had already completed nesting efforts and overall storm-related losses were not considered severe. In the Orlando area, Kale reported losses of Mockingbird, Blue Jay and Mourning Dove nests, as well as several woodpecker and Wood Duck trees.

Seabirds blown inland June 18 by the storm included Magnificent Frigatebirds at Archer (1), Dundee (6), Myakka River State Park (1) and four sites in Highlands County (30+) (m.ob.). A Brown Noddy at the Naples Pier a day later was weak and considered a storm waif (TB), while 15 Black Skimmers at Lake Annie, Highlands County on the 18th surely were (JL).

Frequently cited locations are abbreviated as follows: E.N.P. (Everglades National Park), S.G.I. (St. George Island), T.T. (Tall Timbers Research Station), Tally Div. (Tallahassee Division), \* (specimen).

**LOONS THROUGH BOOBIES** — Summering Com. Loons were again found in the Gulf of Mexico, with one each at Eastpoint June 2 (HS), Steinhatchee June 18 (JC) and S.G.I., June 22 & 25 (GM). Another, *Gavia* sp., was also at S.G.I., on the same dates (GM). Pelagics off the e. coast were less common than last year. Eight Cory's Shearwaters were seen off Boynton Inlet July 11 (HL, PS *et al.*), one was off Ft. Lauderdale June 11 (TH), and another was e. of Key Biscayne July 20 (WH). One Sooty Shearwater was seen from Ponte Vedra Beach June 7 (PP). On July 11, a *Harcourt's Storm-Petrel* believed to represent the fifth state record was studied at leisure at 15-50 ft some 15 mi e. of Boynton Inlet (PS, HL, TT *et al.*). Thirteen Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found in 8 weekly trips off Palm Beach County, fewer than normal (HL). Another was e. of Ft. Lauderdale June 11 (TH).

White Pelicans summer annually in Florida, especially in Florida Bay, Tampa Bay and the n. Indian R. In recent years sightings have increased in the Lakes District and in phosphate mining areas of Polk County, but 140 seen July 10 at Banana L., were considered unprecedented by PF. One at Caxambas Pass June 6 & July 19, and two June 20, were very unusual as well (TB, SM). At L. Harney DF reported none this year after finding up to 75 in 1981. The statewide Brown Pelican survey flown in January and April revealed 8500 breeding pairs (SN), good news that contrasted with local nesting problems noted in the Spring Report. Two immatures were inland at Lake Placid June 5 (AR), an area where they are thought uncommon but probably regular by FL.

Immature Masked Boobies were reported at Siesta Key June 27 (emaciated, died June 28—HK) and off Boynton Inlet July 28 (PS, HL, TT). Six Brown Boobies at the Tortugas June 29-July 8 was a high number (OB).

**HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS** — Two white form Great Blue Herons were reported near Tampa June 3 (RP), while another was found 11 mi s.w. of Lake Placid July 14 & 23 (GW, KM). Reddish Egrets nested again at Vero Beach (two pairs—HK), Tampa Bay (3 sites—RP) and probably Haulover, in Merritt Island N.W.R., where four birds were seen in the colony June 15 (HS, RS). Two young of the year standing in the shallows at Pelican I., June 9 & 23 (JAR), and two immatures plus seven adults at Ding Darling N.W.R., May 26 (HW) suggested breeding at those sites. Northernmost reports of Reddish Egrets this season were from St. Marks Lighthouse June 13 (one, RC) and Matanzas Inlet July 24 (three immature, SN). The rains came too late to help nesting Wood Storks. Thirty-seven hundred pairs nested in 23 colonies, producing about 2200 young. Only 700 ± pairs nested in the key s. Florida colonies (BWP). A conservative count of 1000 Glossy Ibises at Duda Farms near Belle Glade (hereafter, Duda) July 24 was very high (PS, HL *et al.*). Roseate Spoonbills nesting at the Alafia colony in Tampa Bay fledged at least 31 young (RP); this is still the state's only known nesting site n. of E.N.P. Six spoonbills inland at L. Hancock (PT, LC) were considered exceptional by CG. Three Am. Flamingos including two immatures at Duda July 10, and five a week later, were considered escapes (PS, HL, BH *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL** — Seventeen Fulvous Whistling Ducks were at Zellwood July 23 (DF, BP), where they are now considered annual visitors. Two ♀ Mallards, both in the company of Mottled Ducks, were reported. One was at Duda July 10 (PS, HL *et al.*) and the other was at Zellwood July 23 (DF, BP). A ♂ Mallard was also seen at Duda July 31 (PS). A high count of 690 Mottled Ducks at Duda was made July 24 (PS, HL *et al.*). A ♂ Green-winged Teal was considered late at L. Jackson, Tally Div., June 15 (GM), while five Blue-winged Teal were found at Duda July 10 (PS, BH, HL *et al.*). Lesser Scaup were reported from McKay Bay July 3 (16—PF) and the Leon County sewage plant July 28 (one, GM). Eight Ruddy Ducks were at Clear Springs Mine June 5 (PF), seven were at McKay Bay July 3 (PF), and one drake was in full breeding plumage at Duda July 31 (PS, BH, HL *et al.*). One Red-breasted Merganser was late at L. Jackson June 15 (GM) but a few summer annually along the coast s. to the Keys.

**RAPTORS** — Interesting reports of Swallow-tailed Kites came from both ends of the state: one was seen June 11 in s. Jacksonville where they are rare (PP), four seen June 20 constituted a Leon County high count (GM), and a nest near the Nat'l Audubon Soc. Research Dept. office on Plantation Key was thought to be the southernmost documented nest in the state (SS, KS). In 1979 this column reported the Mississippi Kite to be increasing in the Gainesville area. The trend continues, with increasing numbers seen in the last 3 years (SN).

#### S.A.

It is now possible to assess the damage of last year's drought on Everglade Kite numbers. The annual winter survey combined with subsequent observations suggests a population of about 225 birds (JAR). About 25 young were reared this season, all from nests in Lakes Kissimmee and Tohopekaliga. As one indicator of food supply, apple snail eggs were very scarce in the traditional s. Florida nesting areas but common in the lakes where nesting did occur (S. Beissinger). With the easing of the drought this summer, perhaps the next breeding season will bring better news.

Two Cooper's Hawks were reported, a male near Venus May 17 (GW, WH) and an immature at Archbold June 6 (JL). Despite these and previous Highlands County records, there is still no county nesting record (FL). Also of interest was the *Accipiter* sp. seen carrying prey at the Lykes Bros. campground on Fischeating Cr., June 4 (JR). A Broad-winged Hawk summered at Stock I., but may have been an escape (JVL, FH). The statewide Bald Eagle nesting survey found 340 active pairs, slightly below last year's 359. Two hundred

forty were successful, and produced 356 young (SN). While these numbers suggest a healthy population, populations in urbanizing areas should still be considered at risk. As one example, the population in the 4-county Tampa Bay area (Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee) has declined from 24 to 13 pairs in just 6 years (RP). Ospreys were reported doing well in Leon County, where three new nests doubled the known nesting population (GM), and L. Hancock, where 43 birds seen July 4 was a high count (PT, LC).

— S.A. —

An astounding 8 reports of Am. Kestrels provide the first information available for the resident subspecies *paulus* in some time. They are related here in full. Mark Hoffman of the Univ. of Florida considers kestrels "locally common" in suitable habitat in Alachua, Putnam, Clay, Marion and Levy cos. Highest densities of about 6 pairs/sq. mi occur at Gold Head Branch S.P. and the new Ordway Preserve in Putnam Co. Where favored pineland habitats have given way to farmlands, as at Chiefland, kestrels are greatly diminished. Longleaf pine/turkey oak sandhills of n. Florida are the preferred habitat, but pastures with some standing pine are also used—at least while the pines remain. Sand pine clearcuts in Ocala N.F. are also used if snags are left standing. Old Pileated Woodpecker holes are favored nest sites. Kestrels should be looked for where suitable habitat remains along the c. ridge s. to Highlands County (M. Hoffman). In Leon County, kestrels raised two young at a site last active in 1979 (GM, GH). At the Duval County Audubon kestrel trail in Clay County, 10 occupied nest boxes produced at least 11 young (RL). In s. Hillsborough County, 12 birds representing 2 or 3 pairs plus fledglings were found throughout June (RP). Between May 16 and June 20, repeated observations by DS e. of Ft. Myers verified a pair with one juvenile in a pasture with scattered live slash pines plus a few old stubs. Other kestrels were found at Oxford and Wildwood (one each June 17—HS), Lakeland (one May 30—PF & PT) and near Myakka River S.P. (two June 6—D & GM).

**CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Heavy rains in n. Florida during incubation caused widespread Sandhill Crane nesting failure, while cranes nesting in other parts of the state did quite well (SN). The Com. Gallinule—enjoy the name while you can—nested again on Stock I., where a juvenile was found June 28 (FH). With improved survey of Am. Oystercatchers in Hillsborough Bay, I found 100 + birds including about 35 nesting pairs. Most pairs still had unfledged young until the June 18 storm.

A Semipalmated Plover at L. Jackson July 13 provided Leon County's earliest fall record (GM). Twenty-four Wilson's Plovers at Casey Key July 6 were considered a sign of successful nesting (S & AS). An Am. Woodcock overhead at dusk at L. Sampson, Bradford Co., July 6 furnished one of the few summer records in Florida (HS). Long-billed Curlews were found at Caxambas Pass (one July 19—TB) and Wards Bank (two July 31, one present since 1977—JW). A summering Whimbrel seen 4 times June 6-July 19 was considered exceptional at Caxambas Pass (TB). An extremely late Spotted Sandpiper in full breeding plumage was found on the L-67A dike in the Everglades June 26 (PS, BH). At Duda July 24 a large movement of shorebirds was noted by PS, HL *et al.* Among the 46,000 birds counted were 2070 Greater Yellowlegs, 17,700 Lesser Yellowlegs, 3000 Semipalmated and 4500 W. sandpipers, 9400 Least, 50 Pectoral, and 208 Stilt sandpipers, four Wilson's Phalaropes, five Am. Avocets and 1070 Black-necked Stilts. In the Tally Div., inland shorebirds were rare this season except for Killdeer. Records of interest included a Greater Yellowlegs at the Leon County sewage plant June 22, for the first June record (GM), 20 late Semipalmated Sandpipers June 15 at L. Jackson, and earliest-ever fall arrivals Least Sandpiper (two July 6), W. Sandpiper (one July 6) and two Stilt Sandpipers July 13 (\*T.T.; GM, HS). Two Am. Avocets at L. Jackson June 15 and two Black-necked Stilts there July 7 were first summer records for Leon County. While a few Marbled Godwits may summer in Florida, 10-41 seen throughout the period at Caxambas Pass was a high number (TB).

**SKUAS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — The season's prize bird was a skua sp. found 15 mi e. of Port Everglades June 11 (TH, BR). Seen at

40 yards, the bird was large, chunky and blackish brown with some white flecks in the mantle. The head and neck were tawny. In flight the large white patches at the base of the primaries were conspicuous. While the description suggested a S. Polar Skua, the record awaits further review by the Florida Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee.

Three ad. Great Black-backed Gulls seen July 31 at Wards Bank were unusually early. Another, a subadult, was seen repeatedly in June at Riviera Beach (JP, ph., HL). Inland Laughing Gulls were noteworthy at 3 locations: L. Weir (two seen June 16 by HS; second Marion County record), Tallahassee (a high of 22 at the sewage plant July 12—GM), and Duda Farms where Sykes found 131 July 10 and 300 2 weeks later. Incidentally, a report surfaced of "Laughs" nesting on the Busch Brewery roof in Tampa in 1981, where young were said to have been seen. Attempts to verify this in 1982 failed when a July check revealed ongoing roof repairs instead (D. Coker).

Gull-billed Tern counts at Duda peaked at 36 on July 17 (PS). They also nested, but all 12 nests failed when the field was drained. Two Arctic Terns were found. One, a sick adult, was picked up June 10 in s.w. Miami but died June 13 (\*U. of Miami, MC). The other was seen June 11, 20 mi e. of Miami. A leisurely study at 15-20 ft revealed the following details: solid red bill, gray throat and body that contrasted with the white cheek (TT). Roseate Terns nested in 2 locations in the Lower Keys. At Missouri Key 2 pairs were found with a colony of 50 pairs of Least June 1 (C. & C. Roberts), while in Key West at least 80 adults [revised downward from Spring Season Report—Ed.] nested with Least Terns on top of the Truman Annex (KW). Weekly counts of young peaked at 31, which probably underestimates true production since just half the roof could be seen. With the reactivation of the Key West Navy base the future of roosting at the Truman Annex is in doubt. Sooty Terns were widespread, with a high count of 25 + seen e. of Port Canaveral June 11 (TH). Four July reports totalled 16 scattered Sooties from Ft. DeSoto, Flamingo, the Florida Straits and the East Coast n. to Boynton Inlet (m.ob.). Least Tern reports featured an interesting inland nesting record at L. Jackson, Tally Div., where 70 adults, several fledged young and 6 nests were found July 2 (one fledgling \*T.T., HS). However, reports of nesting numbers around the state were contradictory. The usual roof-top colonies in Vero Beach and Ft. Pierce did not appear this year (HK). The colony at the Occidental phosphate mine in Hamilton County, active the last few years, was not active (DM, RR). Numbers were considered down in Key West (FH) and Orlando (HK). On the other hand, numbers seemed normal in the Marco I. area, although nesting was disturbed by people and the June 18 storm (TB), Sarasota (S & AS) and the Tampa Bay area (RP). Fifty pairs nested at the Flamingo campground, E.N.P. (OB). About 75 juv. Least were at Wards Bank July 31 (JW), and a roof-nesting colony was found at the K-Mart in s. Jacksonville (PP), success unknown. Generalization from these reports is difficult (not to mention unwise), but they should serve to remind us to pay continued attention to the fortunes of this species.

Sandwich Terns nested at 2 colonies in Tampa Bay—Passage Key (one + pairs—SP & LH) and Alafia Bank (eight pairs—RP)—and Caspians were again reported at Alafia (13 pairs—RP). Two Brown (?) Noddies were seen in the Florida Straits s.e. of Islamorada, and about ten Bridled Terns were seen along the roof edge from Melbourne to Miami July 19-20 (WH). About 600 pairs of Black Skimmers nested in the Tampa Bay area, where most failed because of the June 18 storm. At Wards Bank, where 145 pairs of skimmers fared somewhat better, J. Wilson banded 47 young.

**PIGEONS THROUGH WARBLERS** — White-crowned Pigeons were reported feeding in good numbers on the E.N.P. mainland (OB). Ringed Turtle Doves and Black-headed Parakeets (now up to 6-12 birds) did well in the Redlands area of Homestead (OB). The only Mangrove Cuckoo reported this season was near the Key West airport June 12 (FH, JVL), while a Yellow-billed, apparently migrating, was eastbound June 2 at S.G.I. (HS). Up to seven Chimney Swifts were at Lake Worth throughout the period, somewhat s. of normal range (GSH), and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Casey Key June 7 was unusual (S & AS). A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen July 26. w. of W. Palm Beach, where they have become rare as suitable habitat has disappeared (GSH). Three previously unknown clans of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were discovered in Alachua, Melrose and Putnam cos. (RR & BC). Eastern Kingbirds apparently nested in downtown Ft. Myers, where repeated checks revealed two adults and, on July 14, a third bird believed to be an immature (L &



BA) This is near the s limit of their breeding range

Barn Swallows remain uncommon breeders in n. Florida, but 2 nests found along I-10 near Greensboro were the first for Gadsden County (WB). Another nest was found for the second straight year at Eastpoint June 2 (HS). Three other June records in n. Florida suggest additional breeding in the Tally Div. and Clay County (GM, MJW), while 3 exceptionally early sightings in south Florida (single birds at Long Key June 18, Duda July 10, and Lake Worth July 12—HL, PS, GSH) raise the possibility of early breeding failures farther n. Cliff Swallows were found again at Port Mayaca, where PS located one or two nests June 29. A Blue Jay, always uncommon in the Keys, was on Plantation Key July 6 (JO). Three Scrub Jays were found June 8 near Yeehaw Jct. (HS), one of 2 known Osceola County sites for this sedentary species. Florida's fourth **Bahama Mockingbird** was found on Long Key June 10 (SS). Gray Catbirds nested in s. Jacksonville for the third time, and at Greenville where at least five were seen July 19 (GM). Brown Thrashers may have nested on Stock I., where two adults were seen June 12 & July 31. No young were found, but one adult appeared to be carrying food on the 12th (FH, KW). A few years ago a thrasher was found singing on Sugarloaf Key in June, so birders in the Lower Keys might stay alert to the possibility. While a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Ft. Pierce July 25 was thought to be a summer straggler or early fall migrant (HD), a nest with two young in the Avon Park Bombing Range furnished possibly the first Polk County breeding record (CG, m.ob.). A Hill Mynah (*Gracula religiosa*) at Archbold June 3 represented probably the first Highlands County record (GW). Are they expanding their range N from Miami?

A Red-eyed Vireo at Ft. Pierce July 28 was unusually early (WD). Black-and-white Warblers, always among the first warblers to migrate S, were first detected at Bartow July 10 (B & DC). A singing Prothonotary at Highlands Hammock S.P., June 3 was about at the edge of normal breeding range (JR), but another farther s. at Palmdale July 25 may have been a migrant (BH *et al.*). Other early fall warblers were a N. Parula on Big Pine Key July 19 (PS) and a Yellow-throated at Archbold July 12 (FL). Breeding Prairie Warblers are considered "elusive" in Leon County, so four singing males n. of Tallahassee June 19-21 were noteworthy (GM & RC). Single Louisiana Waterthrushes were found dead at Ramrod Key July 4 and alive at Orlando July 22 (T & CR). One or two singing Yellow-breasted Chats near Green Cove Springs July 7 may have been breeding (HS). Three singing Hooded Warblers nearby at Black Cr., on the same date indicated a slight range extension S (HS). American Redstarts were among the early migrants, with one at W. Palm Beach July 13 (AA), one near Lakeland July 24 (PF & TP) and two at Cowpens Key, Florida Bay July 29 (SS).

**BOBOLINKS THROUGH SPARROWS** — A ♂ Bobolink at the Dry Tortugas July 1 appears to have been one of the latest spring migrants on record for Florida (OB). A few miles s. of previous breeding records for the species, a family group of four Orchard Orioles was seen near Wildwood June 17 (HS). Inland breeding of Boat-tailed Grackles occurred again at L. Miccosukee in the Tally Div., where a female was seen feeding a youngster June 21 (GM).

Brown-headed Cowbirds are increasing in the Region. Stevenson noted a "striking increase" in abundance and found a juvenile in a family of gnatcatchers at Alligator Pt., June 4, the third such area record. S.A. Grimes also commented on the increase, and found a fertile cowbird egg in an E. Bluebird box in n. Jacksonville June 13. Other records were of five birds at the Clear Springs Mine July 10 (BK & TP) and one bird along the Shark Valley Rd., E.N.P., June 15 (C. Miles). A **Bronzed Cowbird** made its first summer appearance in Florida, in company with Com. Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds at a Lower Keys feeder July 31 (FH, KW, MD). A Summer Tanager in full song at S.G.I., June 2 may have been breeding, although it was not found July 14 (HS).

Singing Blue Grosbeaks were noted in Lakeland May 1 & 15 (CG *et al.*), Wildwood June 17 (RS). Five more at Lakeland July 17 were considered to be nesting (PF, PT). A nesting pair at Mims May 23 (DS *et al.*) and two males in full song near Scottsmeer June 15 (HS) provided evidence of breeding in Brevard County. Three Indigo and nine Painted buntings were also singing at Scottsmeer on that date (HS & RS; one ♂ Indigo \*T.T.), where all three species have established themselves in neglected orange groves in the last decade. Two more Indigos at Saddle Cr. Sanctuary near Lakeland July 17 were thought to suggest nesting (PF, PT, TP), while a ♂ Painted at Ft. Jefferson, Dry Tortugas July 2 or 3 (WR) had perhaps just taken a

wrong turn. A Chipping Sparrow at Nine-Mile Pond in E.N.P., June 1 was late (HA), and a lingering White-throated Sparrow sang in Tallahassee as late as July 18 (HS).

**ADDENDUM** — A very late Pine Siskin lingered in Tallahassee until approximately May 7-11 (B. & F. Stoutamire, ph. to T.T.)

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** — As readers of the Summer Season reports for the last 2 years may have noticed, I have poached spring-time breeding records rather freely from Herb Kale and borrowed data from a number of studies that undoubtedly will be published in detail elsewhere. While this is done in part because the nesting season here is so long and begins so early—Mockingbirds in my Tampa backyard were rearing their third brood by late June—these practices permit a much more cohesive evaluation of nesting records than otherwise possible, and allow results of studies by a number of individuals and agencies to reach an audience that otherwise might not see them. I am indebted to Herb Kale for allowing me to pillage his Spring Season records, and to the various biologists cited in these pages for generously sharing their information.

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** (Area Editors in boldface) — **Lynn & Brooks Atherton**, Harold Axtell, Ann Ayers, Wilson Baker, **Oron Bass**, **Ted Below**, Lee Calvert, Bert Charest, Ron Christen, Buck & Dena Cooper, Mort Cooper, Jeff Cox, **Helen Dowling**, **William Dowling**, Mary Dennis, Becky Fellers, Paul Fellers, **Dot Freeman**, **Chuck Geanangel**, **Frances Hames**, Lise Hanners, Ted Hendrickson, Gary Hines, **Wayne Hoffman**, Brian Hope, Gloria S Hunter, **Herb Kale**, Bruce Kistler, Howard Langridge, Jack V Larcombe, Jim Layne, Karen Leathers, Robert Loftin, **Fred Lohrer**, Don & Grace Mace, Dave Maehr, S. McCandless, Kevin McGowan, Gail Menk, Steve Nesbitt, John Ogden, Tom Palmer, Steve Patton, Barbara W. Patty, Becky Payne, Jon Plotkin, **Peggy Powell**, Jack Reinoehl, **Robert Repenning**, Ann Reynolds, William Robertson, Bill Robinson, Ted & Chad Robinson, James A. Rodgers, David Smith, Sandy Sprunt, Stanley & Annette Stedman, **Henry Stevenson**, Rosa Belle Stevenson, Karen Sunderland, **Paul Sykes**, Pete Timmer, Taziu Trotsky, Helen Walker, M Joyce Williams, Joe Wilson, Kathy Wolf, Glen Woolfenden, Bob Ziobro.—**RICHARD T. PAUL**, **National Audubon Society**, 1020 S. 82nd Street, Tampa, FL 33619.

## ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

Throughout June, conditions colder and wetter than usual prevailed over most of Ontario. The three counties in the extreme southwest suffered record cold. Adverse effects on breeding birds seem not to have been serious. Colonial nesters throughout the Great Lakes were one to two weeks later in their nesting activities and Eastern Bluebird fledging in late June in eastern Ontario suffered increased mortality. However, sunny, hot and very dry weather lasted all through July.

This year is the second in the five year Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas programme. The available data at the time of writing this account show exciting results particularly in the discovery of northerly species breeding farther south than previously thought. The news about Double-crested Cormorant, Wilson's Phalarope and House Finch is good as all three increase their numbers in the dramatic range extension or reoccupation that began only 5 to 10 years ago. The Henslow's Sparrow does not provide grounds for optimism for its fortunes in Ontario, and the Herring Gull is in trouble on some islands in Lake Superior. The Loggerhead Shrike may be holding its numbers, but until all the Atlas data are in, guarded comment is warranted. Rarities in the period include Black Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite and California Gull.

It is of interest to examine the migration indices calculated for spring migrants over an eight year period at Long Point shown in



Table 1: Spring migration indices 1975-82 at Long Point Bird Observatory

	'75	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82
Com. Flicker	163	41	82	106	108	117	81	161
Winter Wren	191	125	92	54	37	66	72	28
Hermit Thrush	99	103	107	134	57	131	55	88
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	169	178	84	54	15	126	85	114
Yellow-rumped Warbler	98	102	71	109	120	148	209	213
White-throated Sparrow	191	83	84	78	64	96	81	135

Table 1 for six migrants (DJTH). Flicker numbers have returned to 1975 levels, although still below levels of the 1960s. Hermit Thrush appears to follow what is regarded as a normal fluctuation. Ruby-crowned Kinglet indices correlate nicely with their decline in the cold winters 1977-79 and subsequent recovery but the Winter Wren is now at its lowest level. These indices represent actual numbers present at Long Point based upon a daily census. A correction factor for weather has not been introduced.

In the text following, place names in italics denote counties.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — The Red-throated Loon in Humber Bay June 1 (JAK) and nearby at Burlington June 6 (RC *et al.*) was probably a late spring migrant, but more difficult to categorize were the three off Cranberry Marsh June 25-July 3 (J & NL). A similar situation is suggested by the single Red-necked Grebes at Quetico June 2 (JNil), Ottawa June 10 (BMD), Kitchener June 18 (CAC, AS) with 24 at Burlington July 1 (KMCL). An ad. Eared Grebe was at the Rainy R. sewage lagoon June 1 (RT). A White Pelican appeared at Big I., *Prince Edward* June 15-30 for the county's fourth ever (TS *et al.*) and four were at Kettle Pt., July 6-12 (ph., AR). The recovery of the Double-crested Cormorant on the Great Lakes continues steadily as existing colonies expand and new ones start up. In e. L. Ontario, the colony on Pigeon I. has grown to 175 nests from zero in 1977 (cf. 169 in 1981, 80 in 1980, 38 in 1979—CW, K.F.N.). In w. L. Erie, 158 nests were on Big Chicken I., and at Lighthouse Pt., Pelee I., the 48 nests represent a doubling over those of 1981 (PAW, GMCK). In the survey by Canadian Wildlife Service of the Canadian side of the Great Lakes, 1156 ± nests were tallied, up from the 961 in 1981 (CW). On Little Galoo I., offshore Kingston—technically in the United States of America and hence in the next reporting area—there were 595 nests (cf. 461 in 1981, 276 in 1980—CW *et al.*).

**HERONS, IBISES** — Atlas work at Atikokan revealed several heronries of Great Blue Heron, the largest comprising 150 nests (SP), and 6 heronies totaled about 250 nests in *Prince Edward* (TS). One

Little Blue was in Pinery P.P., June 12 (ph., GE). The only Cattle Egrets reported were singles in Jarvis June 22 (BD), Hamilton June 23 (RC) and Port Weller June 25 (MF, AB) and, as in 1981, the only nests were the 4 outside the Region on Little Galoo I., noted above, July 23 (CW). For the second successive year, Great Egrets nested in a small colony on Middle I., in L. Erie (CW) and 75 were seen on Walpole I., June 5 (AR). Individuals appeared in ones or twos at Cranberry Marsh, Kitchener-Waterloo, Stratford, Long Pt., and Ottawa. A Snowy Egret was at Long Pt., June 10 (PC, DP) and the same individual or another was there July 11 (RC *et al.*). The very rare Louisiana Heron was in Cranberry Marsh July 1 (MB, m.ob.). Black-crowned Night Herons continue to prosper. On Middle I., 400-500 pairs nested for the second successive year (CW). In the Kingston area, Snake I. has been colonized and on Pigeon I., the species is maintaining its own territory in the lilac trees into which the expanding cormorant population has now moved (CW).

Atlas work in pursuit of the secretive Least Bittern is beginning to pay off. A nest with three young was found in *Simcoe* (PV) and several nests in *Rondeau* (PAW), but so far scarce elsewhere in *Essex* and *Kent* (AHK). Birds were at 2 locations in *Grey-Bruce* (JJ, MP), Long Pt. (RS) and Luther Marsh but not yet elsewhere in the Kitchener area (CAC). In *Prince Edward* several individuals were reported and one was killed on the road at Big I. (TS). At Kingston, 9 marshes are known to be occupied with at least one pair each (RDW) and one accessible nest contained four young (FP). Patience and repeated visits to the same marsh are essential. The spring flight of Glossy Ibises spilled over into the summer period. Four were at Huff's I., *Prince Edward* June 10 (SH) and singles were found in Oshawa July 13 (MMcE, m.ob.) and at Isaac L., *Bruce* July 15-16 (TM, FD).

**SWAN, GEESE, DUCKS** — A Whistling Swan lingered at Sudbury June 5-13 (MH *et al.*). Late Brant numbered 300 near Kingston June 1 (AEH), 35 in the Thousand Is., June 4 (DRo) and 36 at Richmond June 12 (NA). Gadwall has become common in the Cornwall area and is now more noticeable than Mallard (BM). Green-winged Teal is now a probable breeder s. to Chantry I., in *Bruce* (JJ) and a brood was seen at Warton (MP). American Wigeon summered at 5 locations well away from the n. coast, but without evidence of breeding. Four were in Virginiatown (PR), a pair at Bracebridge and Amherst I. (RB, RDW), a single male at Warton (JJ) and 25 on Chantry I., July 6 (MP). Two Redhead were in Cranberry Marsh June 6 (MMcE), 20 at Cornwall June 11 where breeding is expected (BM), three in Ottawa July 4 (SG) and a male at Amherst I., July 24 (RDW). Kingston's first proven nesting of Ring-necked Duck occurred at the Lansdowne sewage lagoon July 8 with a brood of five (DAS). Other summering birds included a pair at Phillipsburg (JM) and a male in Ottawa June 30-July 2 (BMD). A lone ♂ Canvasback was at Burlington July 1 (KMCL) and at Long Pt., July 31 (AL, RS). One ♂ and two ♀ Lesser Scaup were seen at Berford L., June 26 (JJ) and singles were at Amherst I., July 24 (RDW) and Warton the next day (JJ). Eight Oldsquaw spent most of July at Thickson's Pt., Whitby (*vide* MB) and the only other report was of a single at Long Pt., June 27 (DA). The last of the spring migrating Black Scoters were two males at Douglas Pt., June 3 (KP) and a female at Ottawa June 6 (BMD). Three ♂ Ruddy Ducks spent the summer at Harrow (BE) and one female was in Whitby June 23 (DRu). A brood of five at Wiltse L., near Kingston provided the first substantiated breeding record for that area (DAS). A Red-breasted Merganser pair bred successfully at Red Bay and its brood of nine was seen July 21 (JJ).

**VULTURES AND HAWKS** — Unusual were the two Turkey Vultures summering at Newcastle (ERM). Near Kingston two young were seen in a nest July 5 (TV!, BG). Atlas activity revealed surprisingly large numbers as probable breeders. There were ten at Queensborough, *Hastings* June 12, 15 near Erinsville, *Lennox & Addington* June 13 (RDW) and 14 in Quetico P.P. (hereafter, Q.P.P.) July 31 (SP). A convincing **Black Vulture** report was received of a bird in e. *Lambton* July 29 (ALP). Previously acceptable records occurred in 1961, 1962, 1974, 1981 and all in July or August. Even rarer was the **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Buckhorn, *Peterborough* June 14-24 (ph., AGC *et al.*). The same individual was probably involved in the sighting at Long Pt., July 11 (RC *et al.*). There have been only two other accepted sightings in Ontario since 1912, *viz.* Newcastle 1953 and Pelee 1978. Six Goshawk nests were reported with one on the *Bruce* pen. (FB) and five in the Kingston-Brockville areas (RDW, DAS). Few Sharp-shinned reports were received, probably owing to its



Swallow-tailed Kite, Buckhorn, Ont., June 17, 1982. Photo/G. Carpenter.

secretive behaviour when nesting. A Cooper's Hawk was on territory at Mallorytown Landing, but its nest was not found (DRo *et al.*), and another was seen carrying food near Sudbury July 15 (CB). A Red-tailed (Krider's race) was at Lake of the Woods June 1 (RT). Five breeding sites were found for Red-shouldered in *Bruce* where it is probably increasing (JJ). In the Kingston area, 5 nests and several territories were located. This species continues to do very well in the shield areas of *Frontenac* and *Leeds & Grenville* (RDW). Late Rough-legged Hawks included two at Ottawa June 6 (BMD) and singles near Sudbury June 3 (JL), Wolfe I., June 8 (HQ, AEH) and Kitchener June 19 (MCA, LH). The bird at Sudbury was without its right leg, but appeared healthy.

The current Bald Eagle stronghold is in n.w. Ontario and its population remains vigorous. Within Q.P.P., 12 active nests produced 16 young and 4 other nests outside the Park held four young (SP). At Long Pt., two young were fledged from the nest on Canadian Wildlife Service property. It represents the first authenticated successful nest there since 1963. The proud parents were an 8-year old male and 4-year old female! (GMcK). Farther e., an immature was found at Jones Falls July 27 (M & TH). Two Peregrine Falcons were reported: Ottawa June 29, July 4 (EMD, SG) and Morton July 15 (M & TH), but in neither case was breeding suggested. The Am. Kestrel nest box programme at Sudbury resulted in 75 young fledged (JL).

**GROUSE THROUGH COOTS** — Bobwhite continued to be very scarce and from the three counties in extreme s.w. Ontario only one was reported, that from Kettle Pt. (AHK). The lone Sandhill Crane at Rondeau to July 25 was most unusual (PAW). Only one King Rail was found in *Essex* and *Kent* (AHK), where the species is known to occur. Farther n. at Wiarton, another was seen and heard in mid-June (RRe). Rare for both locations were the single Virginia Rail in Q.P.P., June 13 (DE, SP) and Sora in Algonquin P.P. (hereafter, A.P.P.) all summer (RT). A Yellow Rail was heard calling in Cranberry Marsh June 16 & July 3 (J & NL) and the Com. Gallinule at Gravenhurst June 16 (MCL, RB) was at the edge of its range.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Four Am. Golden Plovers remained at Blenheim until June 26 (PAW) while southbound Black-bellied appeared July 14 at Tiny Marsh (WZ, LI) and July 26 at Cranberry Marsh (MB). Late Whimbrel were two at Manitoulin I., June 2 (JCN) and Ottawa June 6 (BMD). Southbound were singles at Mallorytown Landing June 26, their second-ever (TH), Ottawa July 19 & 27 (RP *et al.*), Rondeau July 21, their second July record (EC) and two at Fort Erie July 29 (*vide* RFA). The pair of Upland Sandpipers with three young at Windermere provided the first nesting for *Muskoka* (RB) while farther s. at Port Hope, 10 nests were successful (ERM). Breeding by Solitary Sandpipers has been confirmed at last for the Sudbury area with the finding of an adult with a one-day old chick June 26 (CB). A possible breeder was seen in Q.P.P., June 24 (SP) and early migrants appeared in the s., July 4 in Hamilton, July 8 in *Bruce* and July 14 in *Simcoe* (RC, JJ, AD). The lone Solitary at Smithville June 12-13 fits the in-between dates (KMCL, RC). Unusual and very early were the three Willets at Kettle Pt., July 7 (AR) and the single at Long Pt., on the same day (OL). The last of the spring Red Knot were 25 at Oakville June 5 (KMCL).

Late White-rumped Sandpipers were seen June 13 at Smithville (RC) and on the e. Headland, Toronto (HE), but 11 spent all of June at Blenheim (PAW). Six Baird's were still at Whitby June 7 (MB, DB) and five fall migrants were noted at Wiarton July 21 (TM, FD) along with singles in Ottawa (BMD) and Pembroke (JB) July 25. At Hamilton 14 Short-billed Dowitchers appeared June 26 (KMCL) about a week prior to their arrival throughout s. Ontario. One Long-billed was found at the Rainy R. sewage lagoon June 1 (RT). Very rare away from the Hudson Bay coast in June was the Stilt Sandpiper at Smithville June 12 (KMCL) and fall migrants included an adult in

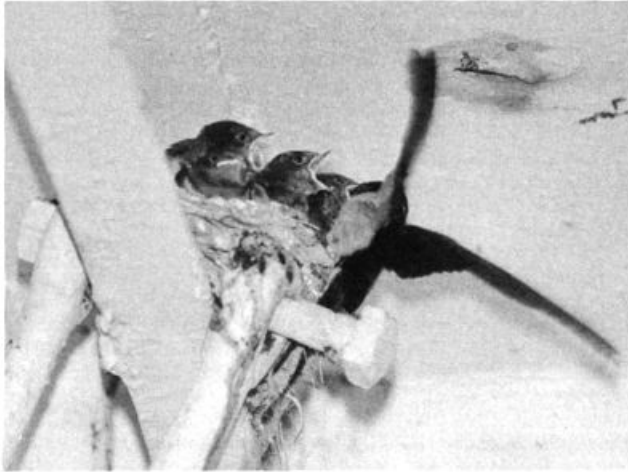
Ottawa July 12 (BMD) and three near Sudbury July 14 (JCN). Blenheim's first June record of Marbled Godwit occurred June 26 (*vide* PAW). The 50 Wilson's Phalaropes at Rainy R. sewage lagoon June 1 could not be found June 26 (RT), but the 25 pairs on Amherst I., remained, where 2 nests with young were discovered (FA *et al.*) and the other territories left undisturbed. Elsewhere, there were 4 sightings of single birds throughout the summer.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — The ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Cranberry Marsh July 6 was well seen and described (JF). A second-year Glaucous Gull was at Port Stanley July 10 (RK *et al.*) and an adult at Pickering July 21 (MB, MMcE). An Iceland joined the gulls at Port Stanley July 11 (JL), the same day 25 Great Black-backed of various ages were at Long Pt. (RC *et al.*). On Little Galoo I., noted above (CW), there were 6 Great Black-backed nests. Herring Gull nestings on Pigeon I., held steady at 52, but problems have been noted with their reproductive success on several islands in L. Superior where production is below 0.33 young/pair. Adults were seen eating their own and other young, but whether food shortage is a factor in these colonies is so far unknown (CW). At Toronto, the **California Gull** reappeared for the second successive summer. She laid eggs that never hatched and a male of the species was never seen (*vide* CEG). Single Laughing Gulls were at Whitby June 2 (MMcE), Rondeau June 20 (PAW) and Winona June 27 (KMCL). A Franklin's Gull in second-year plumage was near Hamilton June 26 (KMCL) and large numbers were at Lake of the Woods June 27-29 (PE). For the second successive year, no Little Gull nests were reported, but immatures were seen at Ottawa June 2 (MG), Burlington June 13 (KMCL), Rondeau June 29 (PAW) and Cranberry Marsh July 15 (MB). The largest flock was at Long Pt., July 11 consisting of nine adults, three immatures and no birds of the year (RC *et al.*).

The news of Forster's Tern is encouraging. At Rondeau, there were 58 nests (*cf.* 17 in 1981—PAW). However, high water and poor June weather caused the loss of many nests at Long Pt. (GMcK), but nevertheless 50 birds were seen there July 11 and many were juveniles (RC *et al.*). Other reports included three at Aldershot June 6 (RC) and singles at Ottawa June 13 (BMD) and Whitby July 15 (DRU). Common Terns have apparently reestablished a nesting colony in Hamilton Bay abandoned 10 years ago (RC). Black Terns were reported scarce in *Kent* and *Essex* (AHK), in very low numbers at Long Pt., and Hamilton, where only a few nesting pair are left in sharp contrast to their abundance 15 years ago (RC *et al.*). At the e. end of L. Ontario at Kingston, the species is doing very well (K.F.N.).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS** — In contrast to 1981, Yellow-billed Cuckoos were entirely absent or in very low numbers throughout s. Ontario with the exception of the St. Catherines area (RWK), Pt. Pelee, and Pelee I. (CAC *et al.*). Black-billed were reported widely and were very numerous in A.P.P. (RT). Eleven juvenile Screech Owls were brought to The Owl Rehabilitation and Research Foundation of which eight have been rehabilitated for release (KMcK). The only nest reported was at Kingston June 28 with three young (FA). An ad. ♀ Great Gray Owl was hit by a car at Kapuskasing and died June 7 (KMcK). The Long-eared Owl nest on Manitoulin I., containing two young June 5 was the area's first (JCN *et al.*). At least seven Church-will's-widows were at Rondeau all summer, but no nest was found (PAW). Singles were heard at Kitchener in June (DF) and Kingston June 9 (RDW). Common Nighthawks were very scarce at Barrie (CJM), Virginiatown (PR) and Hamilton (RC).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers was in Stratford up to June 27 (MD) and singles were at Long Pt., June 29, July 13 & 23 (*vide* RS). Red-headed nested at Cooper's Falls in *Muskoka* (RB) and four nesting pairs were noted in *Simcoe* where the species continues to reestablish itself (CJM). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Kettle Pt., July 6 was unusual (AR) as was the pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers on Manitoulin I., June 21 (WRL). One N. Three-toed was seen at L. Opinicon June 30 (FP), the site of the 1981 nesting, but a nest was not found this year. Eastern Phoebe were scarce in A.P.P., where they are usually common and only 2 nests were found along the Highway 60 corridor (RT). The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Whitby June 7 was a late migrant (MB). A pair of Acadians summered in Wheatley P.P., and no nest was found at Rondeau (PAW). One was banded at Long Pt., June 10 (DP). Nesting of Willow Flycatcher has



*Barn Swallow adult feeding young on the M.V. Upper Canada, Lake Erie, Ontario, July 13, 1982, Photo/Marvin S. Smout.*

been confirmed for *Simcoe* at Fesserton (PV). The species is well established n. to Port Elgin (JJ, MP) and e. to Cornwall, where 6 breeding locations are known. Atlas work in e. Ontario shows breeding territories confined to a narrow band along L. Ontario and the St. Lawrence R. (RDW). Numbers of Least Flycatchers were sharply up at Pimisi Bay (LKL). An ad. Olive-sided was feeding young near Prescott July 27 (TH). A pair of Barn Swallows with a flair for non-conformity raised young aboard the M.V. Upper Canada ferrying between Leamington and Pelee I. (A & MS). Following many years of absence as a nester in Toronto, the Cliff Swallow has returned to 3 bridge sites (AD).

**RAVENS THROUGH WRENS** — Atlassers in *Bruce* found 3 nesting locations for Com. Raven. In the Kingston region, pairs were found near Highways 7 at Madoc, Actinolite and 41 between Kaladar and Erinsville, farther s. than previously thought (RDW). A Tufted Titmouse family of six was seen in Kitchener in June (KWFN). In A.P.P., Red-breasted Nuthatch was in lower-than-usual numbers while Winter Wren is thought to have recovered its normal abundance (RT). A House Wren, rare in the park, was seen there July 2 (RRi). Work on a study plot at Matchedash Bay marsh indicated 450-700 pairs of Long-billed Marsh Wrens, a substantial recovery of a species which 3 years ago showed a decline in the marshes of *Simcoe* (PV, CJM). The species is still absent from Atikokan, where the Short-billed Marsh Wren failed to return to its 1981 breeding site (SP). Notorious for its unreliability, the Short-billed is giving Atlassers some difficulty. None was reported in *Kent*, *Essex*, or *Muskoka* but was located at Wiarton, Owen Sound, Manitoulin I. (JJ), Luther Marsh (AS), Kingston (KFN) and Matchedash Bay (PV).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES** — A Mockingbird nest at Long Pt., contained 2 eggs and two young July 1 (*vide* RS) and an Am. Robin nest at Wiarton held 3 of its own eggs and 2 eggs of Cedar Waxwing July 6. The foreign eggs later disappeared and the three robins hatched (JJ). Atlas work has yielded some surprises for the Hermit Thrush. Ten breeding sites were found in *Bruce* and another at Owen Sound (JJ). Six squares in the n.w. section of Kingston held 20+ pairs in the extensive pine stands s.w. of Kaladar (RDW). They have been overlooked as breeders this far s. It is not inconceivable that from such isolated pockets come the migrants that appear annually in August at Prince Edward Pt., well in advance of the main September-October flight. Two Swainson's were heard on territory July 13 along the n. shore of *Bruce* (JJ). Eastern Bluebirds appear to be faring well. Numbers were up in *Muskoka*, *Bruce* and *Frontenac* with only Kitchener-Waterloo showing lower numbers. Two pairs nested along Highway 60 in A.P.P., where it was unknown as a nester (RT). At one Kingston site where 50 pairs nested, fledgling success was lowered by mortality in June when cold, wet weather prevailed (JH).

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested at Fesserton June 22 for the second known nesting in *Simcoe* (PV), at Port Elgin June 24 when young fledged (MP) and Bowmanville July 5 with two young (DRu, PB). Information on Loggerhead Shrike nesting is incomplete, but there were nestings in

Pembroke, Ottawa, *Simcoe* and *Frontenac* and sightings of possible breeders in Sudbury, *Bruce* and *Muskoka*. None was reported from Kitchener-Waterloo, Port Hope-Cobourg or Brockville areas. White-eyed Vireo nested for the first time at Long Pt. (*vide* RS) and a male was on territory near St. Catherines June 17-28 (RWK). Yellow-throated numbers were up sharply on the *Bruce* pen. (JJ) and one in A.P.P., July 21-22 was only their second-ever (RWK). Solitary Vireos s. of their "normal" range included a successful nest at Howdenvale and adults scolding at Port Elgin July 7, both in *Bruce* (JJ), and territorial males in 2 Atlas blocks n.w. of Kingston (PMac, RDW). Two successful Philadelphia Vireo nests were reported, although that of July 13 Sydney Bay, *Bruce* involved cowbirds (JJ). The site at Madoc July 25 was far s. of the known breeding limits (RDW). Warbling Vireo was reported as unusually numerous in the Sudbury area (JCN).

**WARBLERS** — Eleven nests of Prothonotary Warblers were found at Long Pt. (GMcK). At Rondeau, the usual number of nests were present (PAW) and at Pinery P.P., a nest held five young (TC). Golden-winged were in notable numbers at Gravenhurst, areas of *Simcoe* and Sudbury (RB, CJM, JCN) and one was along Highway 600, n. of Rainy R., June 2 (RT). Blue-winged nested at St. Catherines (*vide* RWK) and one was seen at Wye Marsh June 14-16, the area's first (JT). A Brewster's hybrid was paired with a Golden-winged at Long Pt., in a successful nesting June 27 (*vide* RS) and at Havelock near Peterborough, a pair of Brewster's fledged young July 6 (AGC, CV). Migration of 75 Yellow Warblers was underway on Amherst I., July 24 (RDW). Black-throated Blue was in above-average numbers in Sudbury through the nesting period (JCN). Along the Harricanaw R., James Bay, a large population of Bay-breasted was discovered, which was one of the commonest species in that area (RDJ). North of their usual range were a Prairie at Gogama June 1 (AN) and a ♂ Kentucky near Rockport June 3 (TH). Connecticut Warblers on territory included three at Q.P.P., June 13 (DE, SP), four at Lake of the Woods P.P., June 27-29 and one at Sibley P.P., July 2 (PE) while the ardent male at Whitby July 23 was out of normal breeding range (DRu). At least 29 Mourning were on territory in Q.P.P., June 13 (DE, SP). A ♂ Yellow-breasted Chat was on territory near Erinsville June 12 (RDW), well n. of its range, and Hooded Warbler summered at 2 sites near London (*vide* WRJ).

**BLACKBIRDS** — One pair of Bobolinks summered at Long Pt., where the species has not been recorded as breeding (DP). Singing ♂ W. Meadowlarks were noted at Whitby June 26 (MB), at 3 sites in Toronto (AD), 4 locations in *Bruce* (JJ) and at Arthur (CAC) through the summer. One nest was found at Pickering (GB). Two pairs of Orchard Oriole were confirmed breeding at Long Pt. (*vide* RS) and another at Winona (RC, VE). Up to five summered at Bowmanville (PB) and the most easterly of numerous sightings was near La Rue Mills June 28 (DAS). Young Brewer's Blackbirds began fledging June 4 from nests in the 6 breeding locations holding 35 adults on the *Bruce* pen. (JJ). The Breeding Bird Surveys in the Kingston area showed a significant decline in numbers of Brown-headed Cowbird (KFN).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A pair of Evening Grosbeaks was feeding three young at Owen Sound in mid-June (PM). The dynamic House Finch continues to consolidate and expand its range. A pair summered e. to Cornwall (*vide* BM) and the first confirmed nesting for *Kent* occurred at Rondeau (PAW). Multiple nestings were confirmed in Kingston—five, Hamilton and London—three each, Toronto and St. Catherines—several each, *Simcoe*, Port Dover and Port Hope. Both species of crossbill appeared in early June. Two and ten White-winged were at Hill I., and Whitby June 4 & 6 respectively (BF, DB), and 12 Reds were in Ancaster June 12 (RC). Reds were present in small numbers throughout summer in A.P.P. (RT). Grasshopper Sparrows increased their numbers in the Kitchener-Waterloo area (KWFN) and were in good numbers from St. Catherines to Welland (RWK). In Kingston, Atlas activity has resulted in the finding of more nest sites suggesting a status of fairly common rather than uncommon (RDW). The story of Henslow's Sparrow is much different and quite discouraging. Only 5 reports were received, one of which noted its absence from Tiny Marsh (CJM). The male seen and heard near Chatsworth vanished in early June (PM) and one singing male was heard at the Luther Marsh (CAC), Amherst I. (RDW), and Cornwall July 2 (BM). Hopefully, the Atlas work not yet reported will show additional sites. Two sightings of Sharp-tailed Sparrows were very

interesting and serve to emphasize their late spring migration. A male was heard and seen at close range at Big I. marsh, *Prince Edward* (TS, LL, PT) and the second was at Long Pt., June 16 (PC, DP). A Dark-eyed Junco was out of place at Rondeau P.P., July 16 (PAW). It is difficult to assess whether the 8 territories reported containing one or more pairs of Clay-colored Sparrow represent continued range expansion. These included sites in Sudbury, Long Pt., *Muskoka*, *Simcoe*, *Bruce*, *Prince Edward* as well as s.e. of A.P.P. In A.P.P., Field Sparrow fledged young for the park's first confirmed nesting (GH *et al.*). On June 2 a late White-crowned Sparrow was in Kingston (RDW) and even more remarkable was the Snow Bunting, a summer-plumaged male, along Highway 60 in A.P.P., June 3 (GH).

**SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS** (boldface), **CONTRIBUTORS** (italics) and **CITED OBSERVERS** — N. Ahmed, R.F. Andrie, D. Argo, F. Avis, M. Bain, F. Banfield, A. Barnsley, D. Barry, C. Bell, G. Bellerby, R. Bowles, J. Bouvier, P. Bridges, M. Cadman (MCa), C.A. Campbell, E. Carhart, A.G. Carpentier, P. Christgau, M. Cleary (MCl), T. Crabe, R. Curry, M. Davis, A. Dawe, F. Deiter, E.M. Dickson, B.M. Dilabio, B. Duncan, P. Eagles, B. Eaton,

G. Eisenhammer, D. Elder, H. Elliott, V. Evans, J. Floegel, D. Fogle, M. Foley, B. Ford, M. Gawn, S. Gawn, C.E. Goodwin, B. Gray, G.M. Hamilton, S. Hamilton, M. Heatherston, M. & T. Hendrick, G. Henson, T. Hince, L. Hubble, A.E. Hughes, J. Hughes, D.J.T. Hussell, L. Irwin, R.D. James, W.R. Jarmain, J. Johnson, A.H. Kelley, J.A. Kelley, R. Kingwood, R.W. Knapton, Kingston Field Naturalists, Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists, A. Lambert, L. de K. Lawrence, J. Lemon, J. & N. LeVay, L. Loughheed, W.R. Lowe, O. Lund, C.J. MacFayden, P. Mackenzie (PMac), M.J. McCormick, E.R. McDonald, M. McEvoy, G. McKeating, K. McKeever, K. McLaughlin, P. Middleton (PM), J. Miles, B. Morin, multiple observers (m.ob.), T. Murray, A. Nash, J.C. Nicholson, J. Nilson, K. Parker, M. Parker, A.L. Patterson, S. Peruniak, F. Phelan, R. Pittaway, D. Plummer, H. Quilliam, R. Reid (RRe), P. Richter, R. Rideout (RRi), A. Rider, D. Ross (DRo), D. Ruch (DRu), A. Sandilands, R. Smith, A. & M. Smout, T. Sprague, D.A. Sutherland, J. Thompson, P. Thompson, R. Tozer, T. VanLuven, C. Vardy, P. Vom Stam, R.D. Weir, C. Weseloh, P.A. Woodliffe, W. Zufelt.—RON D. WEIR, 294 Elmwood St., Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7M 2Y8.

## NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

An unusually cool, wet June, which dampened spirits as well as some birding (and, more importantly, nesting) efforts, was followed by a "typical" hot, dry July. The season's exceptional finds were, as usual, of waterbirds, although some areas experienced severe enough drought to seriously limit shorebird habitat. Owing to the greatly expanded summer field effort inspired by the atlas projects, reports from "atlas years" may not be directly comparable with those of previous years and should be judged accordingly. Summer resident birds were, historically, often ignored by birders in favor of more exciting quarry. Now, with Vermont's breeding atlas in an early stage of publication and New York's third breeding bird atlas season drawing to a close, knowledge of the summer bird populations is increasing. As atlasers know, finding nests is not the primary objective of the project, since breeding can more easily be confirmed by other criteria. Nevertheless, Vivian Pitzrick and Elizabeth Brooks found over 950 nests of 66 species this summer, demonstrating what determination can do.

**GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL** — The regional decline in Pied-billed Grebes appears to be continuing unabated. The few reports received indicate reproductive success may be too low to maintain the already reduced regional population. Two **White Pelicans** appeared at Montezuma N.W.R., early in June, one lingering through mid-July (m.ob.). Double-crested Cormorants are thriving. Vermont had its first nesting pair in recent history and 100+ were present on the L. Champlain islands. Great Blue Herons also seem to be doing well with 50+ at Braddock Bay June 4 (MD). Montezuma N.W.R., hosted a Little Blue and Louisiana heron June 12 (ST & PR) and a Snowy Egret a day later (MD, WL). Great Egrets were scarcer than usual, singles at Dead Cr. and Oak Orchard and two at Montezuma N.W.R. (m.ob.) comprised the only sightings. Black-crowned Night Heron numbers appeared up, 40 at Montezuma N.W.R., being the best of many reports. The only reports of Least Bitterns received were of 3 sightings in Vermont.

Hamlin hosted the only summering Whistling Swan. Most unusual for place and date, a white-morph Snow Goose apparently healthy (flying) was near Paul Smiths, N. Y., June 26 (GMM, RA *et al.*). Forty plus Brant reappeared on the St Lawrence R., July 26 (sev.ob., *fide* LC), perhaps signaling nestling failures on the high Arctic? A possible decline in nesting Blue-winged Teal was noted in c. New York (G.O.S.). The ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Montezuma N.W.R., apparently summered (m.ob.).

**HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — The Braddock Bay hawk watch, steadfastly manned through June 30 (L & NM *et al.*), yielded 13 Sharp-shinneds, 1341 Buteos (including 1284 Broad-wingeds), five



Bald Eagles, 26 Marsh Hawks, five Ospreys, and 13 Am. Kestrels in June indicating again that a significant percentage of the raptors, presumably nonbreeding subadults, straggle through after most birders have declared migration officially "over". A tardy Rough-legged Hawk was seen June 12 (MD) w. of Rochester. The Jefferson County Bald Eagle pair produced two young (LC) and an adult over Indian L., in the Adirondacks (TS) was an encouraging sight. The eagle hacking program at Oak Orchard W.M.A., enjoyed another successful year with 21 eaglets fledged (*fide* VP). The Osprey hacking program on the Seneca Indian reservation had to be deferred this year, however, owing to storm-induced nesting failures on Long Island, the usual source of young. Marsh Hawks, termed "very numerous" in the counties bordering the St Lawrence River (LC), were virtually unreported elsewhere. Gray Partridge were down in numbers in New York and unreported from Vermont. Two Sandhill Cranes were observed in courtship displays in cornfields near Frewsburg June 15-18 (m.ob., *fide* VP).



Pair of Sandhill Cranes, Frewsburg, N.Y., June 15, 1982. Photo/James Yaich.

Upland Sandpiper, one of the few regionally breeding shorebirds to receive much attention from observers this summer, was generally well reported. Shorebird movements were, as usual, difficult to separate into n. and southbound components. For the sake of argument anything seen after mid-June was treated as a nonbreeder or early (southbound) migrant. Best Vermont sightings included 185 Lesser Yellowlegs at Dead Creek W.M.A., July 25 (LNM), surely a Vermont High count; a Willet there July 23 (JD) plus a Wilson's Phalarope July 30 (LNM); and a White-rumped at Herrick's Cove July 15 (WN). Notables in New York included 12 Whimbrels at Pt. Breeze July 14 plus singles at Braddock Bay June 13 and July 4 & 17 (R B A., G.O.S.), three early W. Sandpipers near Rochester July 9, and a misguided Willet (believed to be of the w. race) on a sandbar in the e branch of the Ausable R., July 7 & 8 (GC *et al.*). The latter species was also found in early July at Eldorado Shores (GS, *fide* O A S.) where its appearance was less startling. An Am. Avocet and ♂ Wilson's Phalarope were found at Carlton Station June 4 (WS *et al.*) and July 26 (MD, WS) respectively while a N. Phalarope was present on Pt. Breeze June 5 (MD *et al.*).

**GULLS THROUGH WRENS** — A laggard Iceland Gull was present in the Rochester area through at least June 23 (sev. ob.), and an ad and two imm. Franklin's Gulls were seen there intermittently through most of June (MD). Two ad. **Laughing Gulls** on Canadaway Cr., June 2 (B.O.S.) continue a recent pattern of annual regional appearances. Two Caspian Terns, relatively rare in Vermont, spent the fourth of July at Dead Creek W.M.A. (DC, LMC). A single Forster's Tern at Braddock Bay June 25 (MD) was the only sighting for the summer.

Thanks to widespread infestations of gypsy moths and forest tent caterpillars Black-billed Cuckoos were much in evidence. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were relatively scarce, however, perhaps having been shortstopped by caterpillar outbreaks farther s.

Judging from the number of reports received, owls have been virtually eliminated from the Region, or evening television viewing has improved dramatically. Barn Owls, extremely rare in Vermont, were discovered nesting at New Haven (JA). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were termed very, very common in n. New York (LC). Experience from breeding bird atlasing in Vermont and New York indicates that pairs can be located almost invariably in the vicinity of sapsucker feeding trees. Red-bellied Woodpeckers maintained their toehold on Jefferson County in n. New York but were unreported in Vermont. A Com. Flicker nest fledging Aug. 1 in Allegany County (VP) was extremely late. Eastern Phoebe, apparently hard hit by last April's blizzard, were down in numbers nearly everywhere. Acadian Flycatchers, on the other hand, were unusually well reported in New York with birds at Hamburg (RA *et al.*), Sawmill Run (RAS), Tinkers Falls (DWC), Oak Orchard and Bergen Swamp where 27 were reported breeding (*fide* G.O.S.). A July 1 sighting at Ward (EB) indicates that Com. Ravens are maintaining their presence in extreme w New York. Except for a small colony at Carlton, N.Y., Short-billed Marsh Wrens were unrecorded.

**THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS** — A dramatic increase in Hermit Thrushes noted, at least locally, in the Adirondacks (TS) may reflect recovery at last from depressed population levels of the past several years. The 29 E. Bluebirds found at Avon, N.Y. (CC *et al.*) and 27 nestings (with at least 77 fledglings) documented in Allegany County (VP) give some indication of how well this species has responded to nest box projects throughout the Region. Unfortunately little hope remains for the Region's diminutive Loggerhead Shrike population. The Pt. Breeze pair successfully fledged only one young (5-6 eggs constitute a normal clutch) and a single bird at Dead Creek W M A. (LNM) was Vermont's first in 2 years.

## APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a strange summer. Spring almost missed the Region this year and in many ways there was little summer. There was no hot weather to speak of, and at Pittsburgh, June was much cooler than normal. To

New York atlassers found a White-eyed Vireo in s.e. Hamilton County (H.R.A.S.) and two were discovered near Alleghany Res (RAS *et al.*). Worm-eating Warblers were unreported and Prothonotary Warblers were found at only 3 sites. The latter were, however, confirmed breeding at Delta R. (DC, RK, m.ob.), a new nesting site for New York.

— S.A. —

Extensive field work in Otsego County confirmed earlier convictions frequently stated in this summary in the past; Blue-winged Warblers (and hybrids) have virtually supplanted Golden-winged Warblers from this portion of their breeding range. Golden-winged Warblers are still frequently reported in the Region and Golden-winged type *songs* were frequently heard in Otsego County. In all instances but two, however, the latter birds proved to be "Brewster's" or "Lawrence's" (or intergrades). Consequently, observers are requested to denote, in future reports to the editors, whether or not "winged warblers" were identified to "species" by sight or sound.

Vermont's colony of Cerulean Warblers continues to hold its own at Sandbar W.M.A. Reports of Prairie Warblers continue to increase in New York, probably as a result of the better coverage of the atlas project. A Kentucky Warbler at Hamlin S.P., June 3 (WS) was the only southern warbler to be spotted within our borders.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — A decline in E. Meadowlarks in n. New York (LC) may be another consequence of last April's blizzard. The Pt. Breeze W. Meadowlark remained through the summer (m.ob.) and one was discovered on territory at the Chautauqua County airport (RAS, *fide* VP). Orchard Orioles seem to be increasing slightly in c. and w. New York. An "orange variant" Scarlet Tanager was noted June 4 in Ferrisburg, Vt. Observers should be aware that a wide variety of plumage aberrations including brightly colored wingbars and yellow-orange patches occur in this species leading to frequent misidentification as W. Tanagers.

Pine Siskins lingered (and breeding was suspected) at many localities into the summer. It would be interesting (though probably impossible) to document the influence of feeders on this species' breeding distribution. Given the dearth of adequately documented records, attempts should always be made to confirm suspected nesting. Only 3 localities reported Henslow's Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows were only slightly more numerous although 14+ at Avon (CC *et al.*) were encouraging. In July two Clay-colored Sparrows were found at a historic nesting site near Alfred (EB) and singles were singing near Redfield (FS) and at the Dunkirk-Fredonia airport (m.ob., *fide* VP).

Correction: The Monk Parakeet referred to in recent seasonal summaries was in Elmira Heights, not Ithaca.

**CONTRIBUTORS (boldface) AND OBSERVERS** — **Allegany County Bird Club, J. Allen, R. Andrie, R. Arbib, Buffalo Ornithological Society, L. & D. Burton, W. Benning, E. Brooks, Cayuga Bird Club, G. Carleton, L. Chamberlaine, D. Cargill, C. Cass, D W Crumb, M. Davids, P. DeBenedictis, J. Dye, Genesee Ornithological Society, High Peaks Audubon Society, R. Knight, W. Listman, L.N. Metcalf, M.F. Metcalf, D. McIlroy, G.M. Meade, L. & N. Moon, L. McColig (LMC), W. Norse, J. Nicholson, Onondaga Audubon Society, V. Pitzrick, Rochester Birding Association, P. Reister, F.G. Scheider, G. Smith, R.G. Spahn, T. Sterrett, R.A. Sundell, W. Symonds, S.E. Taylor, Vermont Institute of Natural Science—DOUGLAS P. KIBBE and CHERYL M. BOISE, Box 34, Maryland, N.Y. 12116.**

the south temperatures were more normal but no place had a very hot July. June was wetter than normal at some places but at Pittsburgh rainfall was about normal. July was a little on the dry side everywhere. Vegetation developed early and well, and some fruiting crops seemed a little on the early side, but many fruiting plants failed to produce after the late spring freezes.

In the north it was certainly a year of insect infestations. The major



brood of the periodical cicada held forth in southwest Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and most of West Virginia until late June. These did supply an abundance of nestling food for those species able to utilize them. East in Pennsylvania the gypsy moth outbreak continues to play havoc with the vegetation, although defoliation was perhaps not as complete as last year. On the other hand the tent caterpillar infestation present in part of the Region in recent years has abated, but in July Black Locust trees over much of northern West Virginia and southwest Pennsylvania were defoliated by the locust leaf miner. These did not seem to offer much attraction for the birds despite their numbers.

With the generally mild weather and, in most places, an abundance of food it would appear that most species had very successful nesting seasons. There had been some concern about winter mortality of the species wintering in the southern United States, as well as the permanent residents, but this was not much in evidence. Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds seemed to be in much the same numbers as last year or even better.

The trend of several northern species to extend their breeding ranges southward which has been the subject of comment in recent years continued without letup. In the following account there are numerous examples of this. In addition to these slow expansions such birds as Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches that had been so common during the winter remained, and nested at many places, well south of the normal range. The corresponding phenomenon of southern species moving north continues, but at present is much less spectacular than the reverse.

As in no other year it was very difficult to truly ascertain these range expansions, since an unprecedented number of northern species, particularly warblers, remained as presumed stragglers well into June. Some southbound migrants (passerines, as well as the expected shorebirds) began arriving from the north in the last half of July. Thus, for example, should a singing Northern Waterthrush well out of normal range in the second week of July be considered a possible nesting bird, or simply a very early migrant of this early-moving species? Based on one season's observation there is no way to tell.

I feel called upon to remind Appalachian Region contributors that there are sufficient interesting problems in breeding distribution to get the observers out in the field in summer. As is usual, many fewer reports came in this season than in winter and spring.

**LOONS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS** — Among the stragglers of early June were Com. Loons seen at Pymatuning L., Pa., June 4 (RFL & ML), Norris L., Tenn., June 5 (JH), Hampshire County, W. Va., June 10 (B.B.C.F.) and Sayers Dam, Pa., June 13 (DB). A Pied-billed Grebe was a late straggler at Patrick Henry L., Tenn., June 4 (MD) and at the other end of the period rather early fall migrants were seen in Westmoreland County, Pa., July 24 (DS), Waynesboro, Va., July 23 (MHe) and Blacksburg, Va., July 31 (CK). There was a remarkable number of records of Double-crested Cormo-

rants: State College, Pa., June 4 (MW); Erie County, Pa., June 9 (JB), Sayers Dam, Pa., June 13 (DB), Glades, Pa., June 19 (JHo & RH), and Hampshire County, W. Va., in early June (B.B.C.F.).

The Great Blue Heron continues to do well as a nesting species. A new heronry of 40 nests was found near Lander, Pa., (WH), nesting was observed near Leeper, Clarion Co., Pa. (LC) and a colony of 44 nests was found in Clinton County, Pa. (PS). There were too many late July reports of Great Egret to detail separately, but the record June 13 at Erie N.W.R., Pa., was noteworthy (RFL). Unusual heron records were Snowy Egret, Elizabethton, Tenn., June 1 (GW); Little Blue Heron, Salem, Va., July 7 (NM), Louisiana Heron, Roanoke, Va., June 25 (TK) and Cattle Egret, Wooster, O., June 14 (JBr). Yellow-crowned Night Herons nested near Salem, Va. (NM & MP), and near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE).

**WATERFOWL** — The Canada Goose had a good breeding season in Crawford County, Pa. (RFL) and introductions by state game agencies have now brought breeding populations of the species to many parts of the Region. This species should almost be considered as semi-domestic. Wood Ducks had a banner nesting season throughout the Region. Common Mergansers nested in Warren County, Pa. (WH), and Hooded Mergansers nested at Erie N.W.R., Pa. (RFL).

There were many reports of out-of-season waterfowl. Whistling Swans were reported from Potter County, Pa., July 20 (DB) and from near State College, Pa., July 25 (CS)—possibly the same individual. A Lesser Scaup was at Kingston, Tenn., July 2-31+ (MA) and a Bufflehead apparently spent the whole summer at Wilber L., Tenn. (RK). Common Mergansers were near Renovo, Pa., in late June (AF & DB), and at Cross Fork, Pa., June 9 (PS), while one or two Red-breasted Mergansers stayed at Presque Isle S.P., Pa. (hereafter, P.I.S.P.—JM).

**RAPTORS** — Turkey Vultures are increasing to the n., being present all summer at Leeper, Pa. (LC), but at Lewisburg, W. Va., they were in below-average numbers (CH). Summer records for the Sharp-shinned Hawk came from Leeper, Pa. (LC), Sheffield, Pa. (JD), Warren, Pa. (TG), Wytheville, Va. (TF), Alleghany County, Va. (RP) and Watauga County, N.C. (TH). Cooper's Hawk was increasing in the Ligonier Valley, Pa. (RCL), but there were no nesting reports of the Goshawk, which had been breeding in increasing numbers in this Region. There were very mixed reports of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks as well as Am. Kestrels. The Bald Eagle was reported more commonly than usual in the summer. As reported earlier the Pymatuning L. eagles raised four young (RFL) and the pair nesting in West Virginia's South Branch Valley for the second year had two well-grown in the nest in mid-June (B.B.C.F.). Other reports came from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., June 4 & 20 (two different marked immatures—MW), Kinzua Res., Pa., July 14 (CP), Butler County, Pa., June 14 (RBy), Stuart's Draft, Va., June 14 (THu), an injured immature in Botetourt County, Va. (BO), and 4 reports of immatures in various lakes near Knoxville (CN). There were no summer reports of Golden Eagles this year. Merlins were seen on June 12 at Edinboro, Pa., and Albion, Pa. (RFL & ML). The raptor records of the season were of a Mississippi Kite seen in Bath County, Va., June 9 (BK *et al.*) followed by one seen in Augusta County, Va., from the Blue Ridge Parkway June 13 (RA).

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — The Bobwhite was doing well in the e. part of the Region, but in n. West Virginia it was still very low. Introduced Turkeys were doing well near Wooster, O. (JBr).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A few shorebirds were still present in early June and the first southbound migrants appeared in mid-to-late July. There were few unusual species reported and by the end of the period the general migration had been rather on the light side. A Piping Plover was seen at P.I.S.P., July 20 (PH). Ruddy Turnstones were at P.I.S.P., June 3 (RW), and Sayers Dam, Pa., June 2 (MW) and then later at P.I.S.P., in late July (JM). Sanderling were at P.I.S.P., June 3 (50—MW), Saltville, Va., July 31 (first local record—TF) and Kingston, Tenn., July 31 (MA). Other notable shorebird records were: Short-billed Dowitchers at Erie N.W.R., Pa., July 28 (RFL), Saltville, Va., July 31 (TF) and Roanoke, Va., July 10-31 (BK *et al.*); W. Sandpiper, P.I.S.P., July 17 (JM) & July 20 (PH); White-rumped Sandpiper, P.I.S.P., June 3 (RW); Baird's Sandpiper, Roanoke July 31 (MP); Stilt Sandpiper, Saltville, Va., July 31 (2nd local record—TF), Roanoke July 30 (MP), and Kingston, Tenn., July 22 & 23 (MA); and Wilson's Phalarope, P.I.S.P., July 31 (JM).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — A Herring Gull at Princeton, W Va., June 29 was most unusual (JP), but an ad. Laughing Gull at P.I.S.P., June 20 & July 19 (JM, PH), was even more so. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in Huntingdon County, Pa. Ring-billed Gulls are now apparently resident at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (PS). Any summer tern report away from L. Erie is unusual. This summer there were 12 Com. Terns in Allegheny County, Pa., June 5 (DS), Caspian Terns at State College, Pa., June 9 (DB) and Kingston, Tenn., July 20 (MA), and Forster's Terns at Sayers Dam, Pa., in early June (DB), P.I.S.P., July 10 (JBA), and Saltville, Va., July 31 (TF).

**DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — The Mourning Dove continues to increase in population almost everywhere. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in good numbers in the n.e. where the gypsy moth outbreak was heavy, but elsewhere numbers were low and Black-billed Cuckoos were scarce everywhere. A Barn Owl nested near Rote, Pa. (CHA), and three successful and one unsuccessful nestings were reported from Rockingham County, Va. (R.B.C.). Barn Owls were thought to be increasing there and in the Elizabethton, Tenn. region (GE). There were two sightings from w. Pennsylvania, Armstrong County June 9 (RHi) and Allegheny County July 23 (DF). A Long-eared Owl in Butler County, Pa., July 25 (DF) was noteworthy. In a census of Saw-whet Owls along a North Carolina section of the Blue Ridge Parkway conducted Mar. 15 to mid-May up to six individuals were seen or heard (RY).

Of major interest in recent years has been the N expansion of the Chuck-will's-widow. It is now regular in Botetourt County, Va. (BK), several have been heard in the Lyndhurst-Stuart's Draft area of Augusta County, Va. (RS); one was heard in Berkeley County, W. Va., where it had occurred last year (BD); and several were heard in the South Branch of the Potomac Valley near Romney, W.Va. (B B C.F.).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — In w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia Com. Flickers were unusually scarce. Did they suffer heavy mortality when the freezing weather extended S in the wintering grounds? The expansion N of the Red-bellied Woodpecker seems to have leveled off, with no reports from Crawford County, Pa. (RFL) but it was present again in Allegheny County, Pa. (PH). Nesting numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Cherry Springs, Pa., were above those in recent years (PS). This species, which used to nest quite commonly s. through the mountains, has been scarce for many years, so a June 9 record at State College, Pa. (DB) and a July 1 record at Paddy's Knob, Bath Co., Va. (LT) were noteworthy.

Both E. Kingbirds and Great Crested Flycatchers were in short supply at most places. Acadian Flycatchers were seen as far n. as Forest County, Pa., in July (RCL). Alder Flycatchers were reported from Roan Mt., Tenn., where 5-6 singing males were found in early July (RK & RL). A Least Flycatcher at Clarksville, Pa., July 21 was unusual, but may have been a very early migrant (RB). Least Flycatchers are now regular nesters at Mohican Gorge, Ashland Co., O., an "island" of northern habitat (JBr). The only reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers came from Union City, Pa., June 9 (JM) and Crawford County, Pa., June 12 (RFL) (late stragglers)? The E. Wood Pewee was in excellent numbers at most places but the E. Phoebe was not even mentioned by most reporters.

The Tree Swallow continues its movement S. Some 375 were fledged from the 250 nest boxes of *Operation Bluebird* in Warren County, Pa. (WH). Nestings were reported from Hampshire County, W Va. (B.B.C.F.), Morgan County, W. Va. (BD) and from Douglas L., Tenn., and several other places in s. Tennessee (TKo & CN). Cliff Swallows are doing well in the neighborhood of Kinzua Dam, Pa. (WH), and a colony of 150 nests was found in Holmes County, O. (JBr) In the Lock Haven, Pa., area the numbers of Cliff Swallows on 3 Breeding Bird Survey Routes have tripled in the last 3 years (PS). A colony of 30 Bank Swallow nests at Boaz, W.Va. (CB) was one of the few reports from the state in recent years. At Clarksville, Pa., nesting Purple Martins had their best year since the great die-off in 1972 (RB).

**CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS** — The Com. Raven continues to do well to the n. and it was reported from Big Black Mt., Ky., July 3 (LR) Fish Crows which have been sparingly reported farther and farther up the Potomac R., in recent years, were found in the South Branch Valley this June (B.B.C.F.) and were seen at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., June 12 (CHA).

Many of the Red-breasted Nuthatches that had been so common in the winter lingered into early June but records at Leeper, Pa., July 4-5 (LC), State College, Pa. (HH), Mohican S.F., O., June 24 (JBr) and Big Black Mt., Ky., July 3 (LR) indicate possible out-of-range nesting. Brown Creepers are more prone to do this, and a nesting along the Potomac R., in Washington County, Md. (T & LD), while interesting, was not the first for that valley.

The Winter Wren did not return to the Mohican Gorge, O., this year (JBr), but one was heard singing at an elevation of 2300 ft, near Blacksburg, Va. (TF). Winter Wrens were quite common in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia but seemed well below normal on nearby Spruce Mt., at the same elevation (GAH). The reports of Carolina Wrens were mixed, with good comeback at places, but still uncommon at others.

**THRUSHES, KINGLETS AND SHRIKES** — Hermit Thrushes were in above-normal numbers in the West Virginia spruce belt (GAH), and on Laurel Summit Glade, Pa. (RCL). Out-of-normal range records came from Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa., at 1700 ft (RCL), Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., June 26 (RW), and Shenandoah Mt., Va., July 19 (LT). They did not return this year to the Mohican Gorge, O., where they summered last year (JBr). A Gray-cheeked Thrush singing in late June at State College, Pa., was another late straggler (HH). The several bluebird nesting box projects in this area all showed very fine nesting success for the E. Bluebird. One reporter (TD) commented on there being more bluebirds to be seen along roads now since most of the box projects are along roads. This reporter also noted that some persons were plugging up natural cavities so that the bluebirds would use their boxes, certainly an action to be deplored.

A Golden-crowned Kinglet nest on Roan Mt., Tenn., was apparently only the second for the Tennessee-North Carolina region (RK) Kinglets were also found at State College, Pa. (HH) and Washington County, Pa. (R & MH), both locations out of the normal range.

Loggerhead Shrikes nested at Athens, W.Va. (JP), but the only other reports came from the Great Valley, from Washington County, Md. (T & LD), Rockingham County, Va. (R.B.C.), Saltville, Va. (TF), Rockbridge County, Va. (nested—RP). There were 3-5 reports from the Elizabethton, Tenn. area (GE) and 3 from the Knoxville area (CN).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — The White-eyed Vireo expansion N continues and it was the "best year ever" at P.N.R. (RCL). Yellow-throated Vireo is in a serious decline in this Region, and there were few reports.

Do early June dates for warblers represent possible range expansions or are they simply late stragglers? Similarly do late July records represent summering birds or early migrants? The Yellow-throated Warbler continues its range expansion N and there are numerous records in w. Pennsylvania (PH). Prairie Warblers were found in more locations than usual in the Lock Haven, Pa. area (PS). A family group of Pine Warblers was found at Laurel Glade Summit, Pa. (RCL, RM), a new bird for the area. A Kentucky Warbler, unusual so far n., was seen in Crawford County, Pa., July 5 (RFL & ML).

There were more reports of northern species moving S. There is now a good population of Yellow-rumped Warblers on Spruce Knob, W. Va., where they were unknown until last year (GAH). Northern Waterthrushes were present in Morgan County, W. Va., in June (BD) and at Bluestone S.P., W. Va. (JP) both places well out of the normal breeding territory. However, it is likely that records from Allegheny County July 24 (DF), and Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa., July 23 (RCL) were migrants of this early migrating species and this may also have been true for Bath County, Va. records July 12 & 13, although the birds were reported to have been there last year at the same time (R.B.C.). The Northern Parula was a new addition to the summer birds in the Mohican Gorge, O. (JBr). Golden-winged Warblers nested on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE) and Canada Warblers were seen on Big Black Mt., Tenn., at fairly low elevations (LR). The Cape May Warbler in Allegheny County, Pa., July 25 (DF) was an extremely early migrant, but what can be made of the singing ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler present for several days in the spruce belt of West Virginia in mid-June?

It was a good year for hybrid warblers. There were 3 records for the "Lawrence's" Warbler in w. Pennsylvania; North Park, Allegheny County, June 2-July 10 (m.ob.), Moraine S.P., June 7 (JHo & RH), and Harrison Township, Allegheny Co. (JHo & RH). There was also



a "Brewster's" Warbler at North Park June 12 (DF) The "Sutton's" Warbler reported at Pine Grove Furnace S.P., Pa., in the spring report, turned out to be as mysterious as have been most recent reports of this form. The bird sang the songs of both the Yellow-throated Warbler and the N. Parula and combinations of both. The plumage seemed almost identical with a Yellow-throated but descriptions differed. The bird, which usually stayed too high in the pines to be seen well, was present through June and July (SS). There is much resemblance between this report and one from Raleigh County, W. Va. several years ago.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks nested at Pine Grove Mills, Pa. (KJ) and they were present all summer at Clarksville, Pa. (RB), both places out of the usual range. One was also seen at Knoxville June 22 (BL). A Blue Grosbeak was seen in Mason County, W. Va., July 17 (GB), and there were 8 locations for this species in the South Branch Valley near Romney, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.). Other records came from Washington County, Md. (T & LD), Waynesboro, Va. (RS) and Asheville, N.C., July 30 (RY). Two pairs of Dickcissels were reported from Holmes County, O., through June (DK).

Pine Siskins remained at scattered places all through the summer. Young birds were seen in Allegheny County, Pa. (DF) and adults feeding young were in Great Smoky Mountains N.P. (A & Rho). An Evening Grosbeak remained at State College, Pa., until June 8 (DB), but two at Lewisburg, W. Va., July 4 (CH) were noteworthy. Besides the nesting area on Shenandoah Mt., Va., Red Crossbills were reported from 2 locations near Blacksburg, Va., July 17 (TF & CK), and from Botetourt County, Va. (first summer record—BK). House Finches nested for the first time (known) at Dalton, Ga. (AH), and have now become quite common almost everywhere.

Most remarkable was the belated but convincing report of a **Lark Bunting** near Tallulah Falls, Ga., May 28 (HM). Henslow's Sparrow seems to have started an upswing after having been nearly absent from the Region for several years, and there were reports of some good sized colonies at several places. The Grasshopper Sparrow also is doing somewhat better. Dark-eyed Juncos were at Pithole, Pa.,

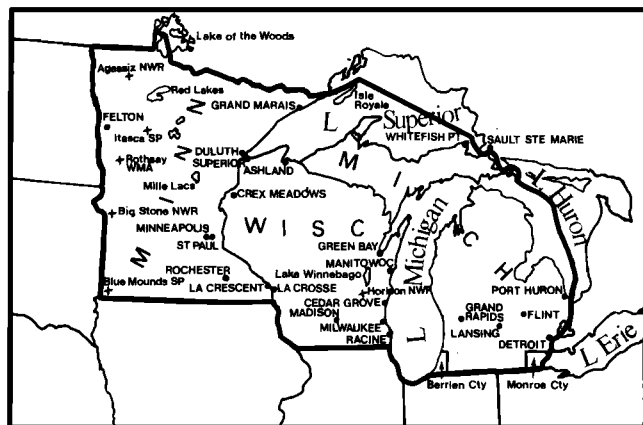
July 11 and represent a slight range extension (RFL) Bachman's Sparrow had not been reported from this Region for many years, so a record on a Breeding Bird Survey Route in Chattooga County, Ga., was most encouraging. Lark Sparrows have also been nearly absent as breeding birds, but the B.B.C.F. turned up 2 locations in Hampshire County, W. Va. Another puzzling species was the White-throated Sparrow seen at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., July 3 (HH) and near Elizabethton, Tenn., July 18 (GE). Finally, as one last example of a puzzling record, what are we to make of a Fox Sparrow in the Centre County, Pa. barrens Aug. 1 (KJ)?

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Robert Ake (RA), Richard Almy, Marc Armstrong, Jim Barker (JBa), Jim Baxter (JB), Ralph Bell (RB), Chuck Bernstein, Dorothy Bordner, George Breiding, Brooks Bird Club Foray, Jim Bruce (JBr), Richard Byers (RBy), Lois Callahan, Bob Dean, Martha Dillenbeck, John Dorio, Leontine Doyle, Truman Doyle, Glen Eller, Tad Fennell, David Freeland, Alice Fuller, Norris Gluck, Ted Grisez, Tom Haggerty (TH), Anne Hamilton (AH), Charles Handley (CH), Cecil Hazlett (CHa), Harry Henderson, Mozelle Henkel (MHe), Paul Hess, Margaret Higbee (MH), Roger Higbee (RH), William Highhouse, Audrey Hoff (AHO), Ron Hoff (RHO), Joyce Hoffman (JHO), Joe Howell (JH), Ted Hughes (Thu), Roger Hummel (RH), Katherine Jones, Mark Kalbach, Daniel Kearns, Clyde Kessler, Barry Kinzie, Rick Knight, D. Kline (DK), Tom Koella (TKo), Tom Krakauer (TK), Beth Lacy, Nevada Laitsch, Mary Leberman, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Richard Lewis, Hue MacKenzie, Jerry McWilliams (JM), Norwood Middleton, Robert Mulvihill, John Murray, Charles Nicholson, Bill Opengari, Robert Paxton, Jim Phillips, Mike Purdy, Chase Putnam, Lene Rauth, Rockingham Bird Club, Conrad Schmidt, Paul Schwalbe (PS), Paul Shoopman, Dennis Smeltzer, Ruth Snyder, Stanley Stahl, Anne Stamm, Leonard Teuber, Gary Wallace, Rick Wiltraut, Cora Williams, Merrill Wood, Ruth Young.—**GEORGE A. HALL, Division of Forestry (Mail Address: Department of Chemistry), West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506.**

## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

June was characterized by unusually cool and wet weather. Frost was still occurring in the northern areas during the early part of the month. July proved to be mainly hot, humid and wet. Frequent temperatures in the mid-90's - low 100's were recorded, often accompanied with 70%-90% humidity. Heavy rains laced the Region, but usually proved very localized. One day totals of 2-4 inches were frequent with several 6-10 inch rainfalls also recorded. Only extreme northwestern and to a lesser extent western Wisconsin and southeastern and west-central Minnesota had below-normal precipitation. Despite the late, cool spring and cooler-than-normal June, the nesting season, generally was considered to be very successful. After the



outstanding spring migration, this summer, as expected, paled in comparison. In fact many observers commented on the season's quietness. However as readers digest the following summary they may be surprised at the number of outstanding finds. Contesting for top honors were the Snowy Plover, Chuck-will's-widow, Great-tailed Grackle and McCown's Longspur in Minnesota, the Ruff, Black-headed Gull, Arctic Tern and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Michigan, and the Swallow-tailed Kite, Great Black-backed Gull, Arctic and Least terns and Baird's Sparrow in Wisconsin. [In the text below italicized names are counties.]

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Wandering Com. Loons included one June 26 at L. Geneva, Minn. (KL) and another July 25 at LaCrosse, Wis. (FL). A breeding-plumaged Arctic Loon that appeared at Upper Rice L., Minn., June 5 represented only the third summer and ninth state record (BF *et al.*). A family group of Red-necked Grebes on Oak Glen L., July 10 was farther s. than normal in Minnesota (RJ). Wisconsin's breeding Red-necked Grebes included the usual sites of Oakridge L., several pairs (JE), Rush L., where Ziebell's count tallied 48 birds and 40 eggs June 11, Grassy L. (one pair) and a new nesting site at Grand River Marsh, where two nesting pairs were discovered by Idzikowski. The Eared Grebe that appeared at Wisconsin's Goose Pond during May was joined by another, both remaining until mid-June (m.ob.). Possibly one of these was the individual seen at Rush L., by Ziebell June 17. Minnesota's L. Geneva had two June 26 & July 10 (KL, RJ). While W. Grebes were found farther e. in Minnesota than normal, *i.e.*, 12 at 4 s.e. locations, numbers were down at Agassiz N.W.R., a favorite nesting site. One was present June 11-17 at Rush L., Wis. (TZ). White Pelican numbers were up in s. and w. Minnesota, with many nonbreeding flocks noted. The phenomenal nesting expansion of the Double-crested Cormorant in Wisconsin continued unabated this summer. A Green Heron seen June 29 in Lake was the first found n.e. of Duluth (KL). The only Little Blue Herons in the Region were found in Minnesota. An adult

was at Moorhead June 7 (KE) and several pairs nested at Big Stone N.W.R. Cattle Egrets were also found at Big Stone N.W.R., with Wisconsin nesting again occurring at Green Bay and Horicon N.W.R. An unusual number of Great Egrets was found in n.w. Minnesota during the summer. Snowy Egret nestings in the Region included Green Bay and Big Stone N.W.R. Additional sightings included June 25 in *Nicollet* (JFr) and July 31 in *Hennepin* (RJ), Minn. Michigan had 1-3 birds at Pt. Mouillee intermittently during the period (PY, ECa, ECo, RA, TS). A Louisiana Heron was also found at Pt. Mouillee July 5 (RA, TS). Breeding Yellow-crowned Night Herons were located in Westland, Mich. (JF), New London, Wis., and Milwaukee (JI, MD). Additional sightings included 6 sites in Minnesota, 2 in Michigan and one in Wisconsin. American Bitterns were again found in below-average numbers in most of Michigan, in n.w. Minnesota and many Wisconsin sites. The one major exception was in the w. Upper Peninsula (hereafter, U.P.). A Glossy Ibis was observed June 17-18 by the Horicon N.W.R. staff. One was seen June 26 at Pt. Mouillee (ECo)

**WATERFOWL** — Mute Swans are expanding their nesting range with 4 locations in the Detroit area, in addition to 2 sites in *Muskegon*. A similar expansion is occurring in Wisconsin with nesting at Superior in addition to the Bayfield-Ashland area. Wisconsin had a most unusual movement of Canada Geese along L. Michigan during the first half of June. Flocks of up to 60 were seen once in Milwaukee (DG) but almost daily at Manitowoc. Even more surprising was the accompaniment of Whistling Swans (maximum four June 3) and Snow Geese (last June 9) twice with the Canadas (CS). Both Michigan and Minnesota also had unusual sightings. For the former it was Whistling Swans in *St. Clair* with four June 20 (*fide* AK) and *Delta* with one June 24 (CT). In the latter there were many nonbreeding Canadas on L. Superior. For example 120 summered at Duluth (KE). Why did these three species "migrate" at such an absurdly late date, where were they coming from, and did they summer in the Region? Additional Snows were found at Rush., Wis., where they summered (TZ), in Minnesota June 2 at Fergus Falls (S & DM), and a pair June 21 at Agassiz N.W.R. (JM). The White-fronted Goose that appeared at Wisconsin's Goose Pond during mid-May remained until mid-June (m ob)

There were the usual out-of-range duck sightings this summer. For Wisconsin they included a Ring-necked in *Shawano* (MP), Canvasbacks at Rush L. (TZ), and *St. Croix* (JE), Lesser Scaups in 8 counties, summering in several, a pair of summering Com. Goldeneyes at Manitowoc (m.ob.), and a Com. Merganser at LaCrosse (FL). For Minnesota it was a Black Duck in *Wright* (RJ), 3 broods of Green-winged Teal, with one in *Roseau* (RJ), and two in *Clearwater* (AB), and a Ruddy brood at Moose L. (KL). Among the Michigan wanderers were Canvasbacks at Metrobeach (AK) and the Muskegon Wastewater System (hereafter, M.W.S.) (GW), four Oldsquaws at Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory (hereafter, W.P.B.O.) (DE), a White-winged Scoter off High I. (TL), and a Com. Merganser at Pt. Mouillee (RA, TS).

**HAWKS** — The Swallow-tailed Kite discovered at May's conclusion in Oconomowoc, Wis., was seen intermittently during the first week of June when it then disappeared (RS *et al.*). Out-of-range Sharp-shinned Hawks in Michigan included single birds at Lexington June 19 (DM) and Lakeport S.P., July 18 (HD). Unusual was Blanch's observation of a Cooper's Hawk taking a bath in the lake in front of his house. Also in Minnesota was a sighting of a Red-shouldered Hawk far n., near Bagley June 21 (AB). Late migrants included eight Rough-legged Hawks at W.P.B.O., June 1 (DE) and one in *Jackson*, Wis., June 5 (DTi), with a Peregrine Falcon June 6 in *Dakota*, Minn. (JD). An early migrant was a July 31 Merlin at Knife River, Minn. (KE). Encouraging news about the Bald Eagle came from the w. U.P., with many nests and young reported by McDonnell Marsh Hawk numbers were up in n.w. Minnesota. A late-wandering Osprey was seen June 8 at Rush L. (TZ). Of special interest was a renewed attempt to re-establish the Peregrine Falcon along the Mississippi R. bluffs of Minnesota-Wisconsin. Five birds were released along the bluffs this summer. Hopefully better success will be attained this time than the six unsuccessfully released during the summers of 1976-77.

**GROUSE THROUGH RAILS** — Spruce Grouse were seen in *Forest*, Wis. (DT). The Ruffed Grouse continues regionwide at a low

point in its 10-year cycle. In n. and n.e. Minnesota the Greater Prairie Chicken continues to spread into marginal habitat. While Sharp-tailed Grouse numbers were down in n.w. Minnesota it was doing well in n.w. Wisconsin. Michigan's Bobwhite population continues at a very low level as evidenced by the few summer sightings. The King Rail was found only in Wisconsin with birds at Mud Lake W.A., Horicon N.W.R., and Crex Meadows W.A. (JP). A conflicting picture exists within the Region for both Virginia Rail and Sora. In both Michigan and Wisconsin numerous observers commented on the scarcity of both species this summer. However in Minnesota both species were found up in numbers with the Virginia even spreading into n.e. areas. A similar situation exists for the Yellow Rail in this state with more than the usual reports from the n.c. and n.w. regions. In the latter region it is apparently very widespread, with it even being found on small isolated sedge marshes (*fide* KE). Several were found during June-July at Michigan's Seney N.W.R. (TS). Most unexpected was one in e.c. Wisconsin. While canoeing Horicon N.W.R., July 24 the Braastads had a leisure study of an individual along a dike. Common Gallinules were sighted unusually far n. in Minnesota, including June 28 at Rice Lake N.W.R. and July 26 at Agassiz N.W.R. (JM). The latter furnished the farthest n.w. state record. Michigan's Carribean Coot successfully nested with an Am. Coot at Metrobeach. After the extensive discussion in the s.e. states about this species, and its nesting with an American Coot, one must wonder about this sighting.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The shorebirds were a part of the major spring exodus that occurred just prior to the Memorial Day weekend. Consequently a more limited variety lingered into the summer period. For example Wisconsin tallied 17 migratory species, Michigan 7 and Minnesota 5 until mid-June. Again this summer there was continuing evidence of wandering and summering individuals.

Interesting Wisconsin records included a Semipalmated Plover at Green Bay June 17-20 (ECl, BCo) with an early fall migrant in *Taylor* July 9 (SR). Piping Plovers nested at Superior and Long Island—Ashland. At the latter four young were counted (DV). Almost setting a record was the Am. Golden Plover in Milwaukee June 11 (DG). Ruddy Turnstones were common at Manitowoc with 76 June 3 (CS), with the last June 16 (SR, DT). The Greater Yellowlegs June 12 in *Eau Claire* is a new departure record (JP). Lesser Yellowlegs wandered this summer as evidenced by one at Oshkosh June 21 & 24 (TSc), at Madison June 26 (ST) and *Chippewa* and *LaCrosse* June 29 (JP, FL). The latter might represent early fall migrants. Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderlings summered at Manitowoc—Two Rivers (CS). A W. Sandpiper was studied at leisure at Two Rivers June 12 (DT). An Am. Avocet was also at Manitowoc June 17 (CS). Two N. Phalaropes were in *Eau Claire* June 2 (JP). Noteworthy fall migrants included a Whimbrel at Milwaukee July 22 (BC), a Solitary Sandpiper in *Chippewa* June 29 (JP), and a total of 25 Willets from Madison, Superior, Milwaukee, Menominee, Eau Claire and Horicon N.W.R. (ST, RJ, BC, DG, JP, DT). Milwaukee had a Red Knot July 23-24 (BC) and a record arrival of White-rumped Sandpiper July 8 (JF). Record-tying arrivals were recorded for the Least Sandpiper June 29 in *LaCrosse* (FL) and *Chippewa* (JP) and Short-billed Dowitcher June 27 at Madison (ST) and *LaCrosse* (FL). A Marbled Godwit was at Manitowoc July 29 (CS), an Am. Avocet accompanying two Willets in *Dunn* July 18 (JP) and a N. Phalarope there July 23 (JP).

Michigan's Dept. of Nat. Resources (D.N.R.) survey of the Piping Plover found 14 pairs this summer, this in contrast to 17 last year and 31 in 1979. This species remains in serious trouble regionwide. A very early Am. Golden Plover was at W.P.B.O., June 27 (DP, BB, TS). Four Whimbrels were at Pt. Mouillee June 3 (PY) with a fall migrant on the Muskegon S.P. beach July 25 (SM). A total of 15 Willets was found in 3 locales, including Muskegon S.P. (SM), St. Joseph and New Buffalo (WB, RS). There were 10 Red Knots June 7 at W.P.B.O. (DE). Four late White-rumped Sandpipers were found at M.W.S., June 20 (JPo *et al.*) with two fall migrants July 13 at High I. (JS). A W. Sandpiper was studied at St. Joseph July 19 (RS). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was in *Delta* June 1 (CT). Always exciting was the sighting and photographing of a Ruff between June 5-7 at M.W.S. (ES, JPo *et al.*). An Am. Avocet was at Silver L., July 8 (E & SA).

Minnesota's contributions included the find within the group. Last summer it was the Wilson's Plover, this year it was a Snowy Plover. It was discovered by Wiens July 11 on Pine I., remaining through July 18, where it alternated between Pine L. and Morris Pt., *Lake of the Woods*. During this time it was photographed and seen by many



Ruff, Muskegon Wastewater Facility, Muskegon, Mich., June 6, 1982. Photo/Bill Bouton.

observers. A June 30 Semipalmated Plover at Lake of the Woods (TW) was probably an unusually early fall migrant. Wiens' D.N.R. study of the Piping Plover on Pine and Curry Is., tallied 40 birds and 24 nests with half successfully hatching. Failures were caused by storms, waves or avian predators—gulls and crows, not by humans. Wiens had a Black-bellied Plover at this locale June 30 and July 27. Encouraging is the report that Upland Sandpiper numbers were up in the state. A pair of Solitary Sandpipers with a chick in late June off the Lima Mountain Rd., near the Gunflint Trail represented only the second Minnesota nesting record (K & MH). Another Solitary and a Lesser Yellowlegs were found June 20 at Marshall, probably representing wanderers (HK). One Willet was in *Martin* June 20 (RJ). A Red Knot and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were seen July 24 in *Polk* (S & DL). Wiens had Sanderlings in Lake of the Woods June 25 and July 10. Marbled Godwit numbers were down in the n.w. region. A Hudsonian Godwit was seen June 5 at Duluth (KE). A family of Am. Avocets (one adult, two young) July 18 at E. Grand Forks (S & DL) represented one of the state's few nesting records.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — An ad. Parasitic Jaeger at Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment July 19 represented only the second summer record. Watched by Cowart, it was initially seen being harassed by three Caspian Terns. It later returned, slowly circling over the area, affording Cowart an excellent study. Glaucous Gulls summered at Manitowoc (CS), with one in Milwaukee July 30 (DG). Most unexpected were 1-2 immature Great Black-backed Gulls seen intermittently between June 18-July 10 at Manitowoc-Two Rivers (m.ob.). They were photographed June 19 by Steffen. Exceptional was the sighting of a Black-headed Gull at W.P.B.O., Mich., June 4 (DE). A Laughing Gull was found during mid-June at St. Joseph (WB) and July 24-31 at New Buffalo (RS, WB, LS). The Franklin's Gull has been absent/scarce during the past summers at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn., so the estimated 50,000 pairs nesting this summer was most encouraging (JM). In Wisconsin two were in *Monroe* June 12 (EE), at LaCrosse 1-3 June 8 & 29 (FL) and at Manitowoc it was present during June with a maximum of 20 on June 16 (DT, SR). Minnesota had many reports of nonbreeding Bonaparte's Gulls during the summer. Little Gulls were again at Two Rivers with a maximum of three. No nesting could be found. As usual during July birds commenced appearing at Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment, with a maximum of five. Carefully studied Arctic Terns were seen at Pt. Mouillee, Mich., July 5 (RA, TS) and in Wisconsin at Ashland July 21 (DV) and Manitowoc July 25 (CS). Only the fifth Wisconsin record for the Least Tern occurred with the discovery of one by Woodmansee at Milwaukee July 8. It was also located the following day until in the evening it flew N along the lakeshore (MB, JF, BC, MD). Minnesota had many sightings of nonbreeding Caspian Terns with the Black Tern encouragingly reported up in numbers.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH OWLS** — Again this summer numbers for both cuckoo species were unusually low throughout the Region. The Grantsburg, Wis., Great Gray Owl that was discovered in late May was seen until early July (JH, DF). Another was seen by Klugow in *Douglas*. There were additional unconfirmed Wisconsin reports. A Boreal Owl was heard July 1 in s. *Itasca*, Minn. (RJ, RG). This site is 150 mi s. of where it nested in *Cook*. When a tree was cut down near Pembine, Mich. four young Saw-whet Owls were discovered in the nest hole (FK).

**GOATSUCKERS THROUGH STARLINGS** — Minnesota had its first Chuck-will's widow with one calling in June at the Gunderson

residence in c. *Sherburne*. It was heard by many and also taped. Interestingly this species was heard by the Gundersons during June, 1981 but they did not know its identity. In Michigan it was found June 1 in *Kalamazoo* (RA, DP) as usual. Minnesota had two out-of-range woodpeckers. A Red-headed's nest was found near *Isabella* (SW & MS) and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were in *Mower* (RJ) and *Lyon* (EB). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers nested in all 3 states. At least 4 nests were found in *Cook* and *Lake*, Minn. Wisconsin had sightings in *Ashland*, *Vilas*, *Oneida* and *Forest*, with nesting confirmed in at least 2 of these. For Michigan a pair nested in *Luce*. A pair of N. Three-toed Woodpeckers was seen July 11-21 in *Cook* near last year's nesting site (K & MH). However no nest could be located this year. Minnesota also had one additional sighting July 3 in *Lake* (fide SM & MS). Wisconsin reportedly had one at Fuller's feeder July 5 in *Polk*.

Wisconsin had late migrating W. Kingbirds in *Ashland* June 4 (ECz) and *Richland* June 6 (BD). One was near Duluth June 12 (RJ). An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen flying near Ann Arbor by Kiel July 17. The Black-billed Magpie continues to increase in n.w. Minnesota. Red-breasted Nuthatches summered in Milwaukee (WW). No Carolina Wrens were reported in the Region! Michigan had 6 different observations of Mockingbirds including successful nesting in Traverse City (FKe). Minnesota commented on decreased numbers of Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers. A similar situation for the latter species was noted in the Detroit area. The Wood Thrush is spreading into n.e. Minnesota. A Swainson's Thrush in *Shawano* July 26 (MP) was early. Encouraging was the increased numbers of E. Bluebirds found for the second consecutive year in Minnesota. A tardy Water Pipit was at W.P.B.O., June 8 (DE). Most encouraging was the Loggerhead Shrike picture in the Region. Michigan had six fledged in Allegan S. Game Area (TS), with a single sighting in *Delta* (CT). There were three breeding pairs in Wisconsin, including Fish Lake W.A. (JH), *Eau Claire* (four fledged—JP), and Neikimi (two fledged, fide TZ). Additional sightings included *Oneida* (P & LE), *Douglas* (three—RJo), *Door* (R & CL), and Albion (MD). Numbers were markedly up in Minnesota with 13 (!) reports from the s. and w. areas.

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — In Michigan White-eyed Vireos nested at the Port Huron Game Area (AC) and Metrobeach (RL). Additional sightings included two until mid-July at Niles (RS, TWo) and singles at New Buffalo (WB) and Kalamazoo (RB) during early-mid-June. In Wisconsin it was found during June at Cadiz Springs S.P. (MP, RH) and at Madison's Arboretum (ST, DC). While Wisconsin observers commented on the difficulty in locating Bell's Vireos, sightings still came from 6 different locales. A Solitary Vireo summered in Kellogg Forest, Mich. (RA). Minnesota found both the Red-eyed and Warbling vireo numbers down while Wisconsin made similar comments for the latter species.

Prothonotary Warblers were found to be quite numerous along the Wisconsin side of the St. Croix R. on a June B.B.S. (JHu). This is at the n. edge of its range. In Michigan's Ottawa Marsh 67 singing males were counted (BM, DVa). Nesting Worm-eating Warblers were again found in Wisconsin's *Sauk*. Tardy Tennessee Warblers were found in Clio, Mich., June 6 (JBU) and Appleton, Wis., June 17 (SR). Fall migrants were found in Eau Claire July 22 (JP) and Appleton July 26 (DT). South of its normal range was a Nashville Warbler June 27-July 4 at Afton S.P., Minn. (DZ). A tardy N. Parula was found at Milwaukee's Schlitz Aud. Center June 13 (MB, WW) with an early fall migrant at Berrien Springs, Mich., July 18-20 (LC). Late Magnolia and Black-throated Green warblers were also seen at the Schlitz Center, the former June 10-14 and the latter June 13 (MB, WW). Magnolias nested for the first time at the Port Huron Game Area (AC). Two Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen in *Manitowoc* June 14 (CS). Exceptionally far n. was a Cerulean Warbler July 14 in *Vilas*, Wis. (J & SB). A Yellow-throated Warbler nest was found June 29 in the Port Huron Game Area (JBa, ECa, AC, PY). One was present until July 18 in *Berrien* (TWi). A late Bay-breasted Warbler was in *Lake*, Mich., June 8 (LC). A breeding-plumaged ♂ Blackpoll Warbler was also found in Michigan July 20 in *Otsego* (DMc). Michigan's D.N.R. survey of the Kirtland's Warbler censused 200 singing males this summer, down from the 232 in 1981.

Prairie Warblers were found in Michigan with single birds June 15 in *Oakland* (AC), June 19 and July 17 in *Kalamazoo* (CB). The Louisiana Waterthrush continues scarce in Minnesota with only 3 early June reports in *Washington* and *Chisago*, along the St. Croix R. The Kentucky Warbler was found in one Michigan and 4 Wisconsin



*Baird's Sparrow, Manitowoc Co., Wisc., June 17, 1982. Photo/John Idzikowski.*

counties. Out-of-range Connecticut Warblers were found in Wisconsin's *Door* (R & CL) and *Jackson* (JP), although nesting is suspected in the latter. Four singing Yellow-breasted Chats were present during June at Cadiz Springs S.P., Wis. (MP, RH). A total of five to six pairs were found in Michigan's *Ottawa* and *Kalamazoo* with additional sightings at South Haven and Warren Woods. After the surprising number of May Hooded Warbler sightings in Wisconsin it was only found in *Waukesha* and *Sauk* this summer. At the 1980 site of Minnesota's first nesting Wilson's Warbler, eight singing males were found June 13-25, that along Hog Cr., in *Lake* (SW & MS).

**ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS** — Orchard Oriole numbers were up in Minnesota, with individuals even in the n.w. part of the state. The first documented *Rusty Blackbird* nesting for Minnesota finally occurred this summer. Four young were fledged in an alder swamp off the Gunflint Trail, *Cook*. Rusties were also found in at least 3 other nearby locations (K&MH). In addition a pair was seen carrying food to at least three young along Hog Cr., *Lake* (SW & MS). One of the finds this summer was an ad. ♂ *Great-tailed Grackle* seen near Burnsville by Egeland June 19. This represented Minnesota's first record. Dickcissels proved very scarce throughout the Region. The House Finch continues its expansion in s.e. Michigan. In *Oakland*, *Wayne* and *Macomb* 27 were banded with an additional 28 unbanded. Adults feeding young were observed at 6 different stations, with single nests located in *Oakland* and Detroit. Unusual was a Pine Grosbeak June 21 in *Barry*, Mich. (HB). Pine Siskins nested at Green Bay and Manitowoc. White-winged Crossbills coming to Bontly's feeder in Milwaukee until June 9 were unusual. Two Lark Buntings were sighted June 7 in Minnesota—a male on the Felton Prairie (KE) and a female at Moorhead (L & CF). A male was seen July 4 in *Yellow Medicine* (KL). Wisconsin had its first documented *Baird's Sparrow* when one was discovered by Brouchoud June 16 in *Manitowoc*. A wave of Wisconsin birders saw the cooperative bird in the ensuing days during which time it was photographed and banded. It remained until late July. For the third consecutive summer, Henslow's Sparrows were found in n.w. Minnesota, 300 mi away from the traditional s.e. range. More Sharp-tailed Sparrow reports occurred in n.w. and n.c. Minnesota, with the species possibly being more



*McCown's Longspur, Grand Marais, Minn., June 11, 1982. Photo/ David B. Johnson.*

widespread than originally believed. One was at W.P.B.O., June 4 (DE). The tardy Tree Sparrow at Ashland was seen June 7 (LL). A White-crowned Sparrow in *Kent*, Mich., June 14-21 was banded (A & MH). Last and certainly not least was the discovery of a breeding-plumaged ♂ *McCown's Longspur* by Brown (BBr) and Ware at Grand Marais June 11. It was seen and photographed by 20 additional birders that day but could not be relocated the following day. This represents Minnesota's first 20th century record.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Ray Adams, Ellen & Steve Alkema, Joan Bartell (JBa), H. Batts, Jeff & Scott Baughman, Craig Bennett, Jo Blanich, Al Bolduc, Marilyn Bontly, Walter Booth, Bill Bouton, John & Susan Braastad, Ed Brekke-Kramer, Richard Brewer, B. Brown (BBr), Jeff Buecking (JBu), Elizabeth Campbell, E. Carhart (ECa), David Cedarstrom, A. Chartier, Ed Cleary (ECI), Brother Columban (BCo), Bill Cowart, Ellie Cox (ECox), Linda Cox, Ed Czapega (ECz), H. Davidson, Joanne Dempsey, Mary Donald, Barbara Duerksen, **Kim Eckert** (Minn.), P. Egeland, Paul & Louise Engberg, Eric Epstein, Jim Evrard, David Ewert, Lawrence & Carol Falk, B. Fall, Don Follen, Jim Frank, John Frenz (JFr), Pepper Fuller, R. Glassel, Mr. & Mrs. Gunderson, Dennis Gustafson, James Hoefler, Ken & Molly Hoffman, Randy Hoffman, Alex & Mabel Hook, Horicon N.W.R. staff, Joe Hudick (JHu), John Idzikowski, Robert Janssen, Robbye Johnson (RJo), Frank Kangas, Alice Kelley, Ford Kellum (FKe), M. Kielb, Bernie Klugow, Henry Kyllingstad, Ken LaFond, Sharon & David Lambeth, Tim Laney, Larry Leach, R. Leasure, Fred Leshner, Roy & Charlotte Lukes, Bill Martinus, Jim Mattsson, Joseph McDonnell (JMc), Doug McWhirter (DMc), Steve & Diane Millard, Dan Miller, Steve Minard, Mark Peterson, Janine Polk, James Ponshair (JPo), **Dave Powell** (Mich.), Sam Robbins, Tom Schultz (TSc), Jeri Schwerin, Dick Sharp, Ellen Slater, Lorraine Smith, Roy Smith, Tom Smythe, Charles Sontag, Jim Steffen, Keith & Shelley Steva, Charlotte Taylor, **Daryl Tessen** (Wis.), Steven Thiessen, Dar Tiede (DTi), Dave VanAppledoorn (DVa), Dick Verch, J. Ware, George Wickstrom, Steve Wilson & Mary Shield, Terry Wiens, Tom Will (TWi), Truman Wolford (TWo), Winnie Woodmansee, Paul Young, Tom Ziebell, Dave Zumeta—**DARYL D. TESSEN, 2 Pioneer Park Place, Elgin, Ill. 60120.**

## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

Climatic conditions and bird observations were unremarkable this season. June was noticeably cooler than normal while July was hot and sultry. Precipitation varied considerably across the Region with many locally severe storms. Rainfall was generally greatest in Iowa, Missouri and Illinois but deficient in Ohio.

These weather conditions had little effect on bird populations. Most species had a successful breeding season although some marsh nesters were detrimentally affected by high water levels. Established range expansions by Tree Swallow, Veery, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated and Kentucky warblers, Orchard Oriole, Rose-breasted and Blue grosbeaks continued. Most noteworthy events were the first House Finch sightings in Iowa and first Illinois breeding record while nesting Golden-crowned Kinglets at Indianapolis were without precedent for the Region.



A number of special studies provided valuable information for this summary. In Missouri, surveys of the state's heronries and its marsh-nesting birds provided many noteworthy observations. Similar information resulted from surveys of various Illinois conservation areas as well as from the fledging efforts of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. Only the highlights of these surveys could be included below.

As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†).

ABBREVIATIONS — O.W.R.: Ottawa N.W.R., O.; M.M.W.A.: Magee Marsh W.M.A., O.; Spfld.: Springfield, Ill.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Nonbreeding Com. Loons lingered through mid-June at several locations and summered at Killdeer Res., O. (JMc), Alum Creek Res., O. (J) and Summit L., Ind. (BJ). Eared Grebes did not successfully nest at Riverdale, Ill., this year (JL). In Iowa, as many as 18 summering grebes were reported from 4 s.w. lakes. Pied-billed Grebes were reasonably successful. Five Illinois breeding reports included immatures at Union County Conservation Area (PK) and Champaign County (RCh). In Missouri, nesting was attempted at Ted Shanks W.M.A. (JW, MN), Clarence Cannon N.W.R. (GW) and Springfield (MG) while at least 20 young were observed at Big Island W.M.A., O. (J). White Pelicans summered at 2 Iowa locations including 8-200 in Dickinson County (DH) and appeared in Ohio with one at Oregon June 21-July 31 + (m.ob., ph.) and three at Winous Pt., Ottawa Co., July 20 (JP, ph.). The Thomson, Ill., Double-crested Cormorant colony almost doubled with 194 young raised in 84 nests (SS). Summering birds were reported from 21 locations, mostly in Illinois, Iowa and along L. Erie where additional nesting colonies may soon be discovered.

HERONS — Missouri's heronry survey uncovered 103 Great Blue Heron colonies with 5-140 nests. Only 4 of these colonies are located n. of the Missouri R. (JW). Green Herons received mixed reports although some local populations appear to be stable. Little Blue Herons may be increasing slightly with 450 nests near Minor, Mo. (PH, JW) and 250 in Madison County, Ill. (K *et al.*). Nonbreeders were reported from 5 locations n. to the Great Lakes. Breeding Cattle Egrets included 1000+ nests near Minor, Mo. (PH, JW), 250 nests in Madison County, Ill. (K *et al.*), 6+ nests at O.W.R. (EP) and eight juveniles at L. Renwick, Ill. (JL, JM). Nonbreeders were found at 7 Iowa locations while 150 were observed near Lexington, Mo., in early June (NJ). The Missouri heronry survey also discovered 4 Great Egret colonies (JW) while 5 colonies with 2-61 nests were reported from Illinois. The only known Snowy Egret colonies contained 7 nests near Minor, Mo., and 3 nests at Madison County, Ill. Seventeen Snowy Egrets at M.M.W.A., July 17 (JP) may indicate a small colony exists in n. Ohio. Single egrets also appeared at Illinois Beach S.P., Ill., June 30 (JM, KK) and Atterbury W.M.A., Ind., July 8 (BG, GB). Louisiana Herons were noted at Horseshoe L., Ill., through June 1 (BR) and intermittently at M.M.W.A., through July 17 (JP). Black-crowned Night Herons remain stable with approximately 1300 nests at O.W.R. (EP), 500+ nests at Madison County, Ill., 400+ young in Sandusky Bay, O. (JP) and 1-4 smaller colonies in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Concentrations of 35-100+ night herons were also reported from Indiana and Kentucky. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were discovered at 17 locations. Seven at Union County Conservation Area, Ill. (PK) comprised the largest reported concentration while a nest with 4 young at Cleveland was locally unusual (M). Least Bitterns were present in all n. Missouri marshes and were widely reported from Iowa, Ohio and Illinois with nesting s. to L. Mermet Conservation Area, Ill. (MSW). A maximum of 20 was found at Marais Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo. (BR *et al.*). The Am. Bittern decline continued with nesting only at Lake County, Ill. (SH) and Marais Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo. (FR) plus singles at 3 other locations. Three Glossy Ibises were well described at Little Bean Marsh, Mo., June 10 (†JW, MN) while unidentified *Plegadis* ibises were reported from single sites in Iowa and Ohio. A White Ibis was briefly observed in n.e. Indiana July 27 (†JR).

WATERFOWL — Nonbreeding waterfowl provided the more unusual records. Noteworthy summering reports included two White-fronted Geese in Story County, Ia., July 31 (HZ), Black Ducks at Union County Conservation Area, Ill., June 15 (PK) and Springfield, Mo., July 28 (GD, MG), a ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Clarence Cannon

N.W.R., Mo., through June 15 (GW, m.ob.), Ring-necked Ducks at Louisville July 5-27 (S, FS) and Big Piney R., Mo., June 15 (JW), a Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup hybrid at New L., Woodbury Co., Ia., June 26 (†JS), two Greater Scaup at New L., Ia., June 6 (†JS) and one at Chicago Aug. 1 (JL), single Com. Goldeneyes at Davenport, Ia., June 16-July 17 (P *et al.*) and Roscoe, Ill., June 4 (DW) and a Surf Scoter at Oregon, O., June 29 (†JP).

It was a good season for breeding waterfowl. Only one Gadwall brood was located at Oregon, O. (LV) while Blue-winged Teal nested s. to Shelby County, Ill. (KF) and Hamilton, O. (FR). The only Redhead brood was reported from Erie County, O. (TL). Ruddy Ducks nested at Riverdale, Ill. (JL) and Erie County, O. (TL). Breeding Hooded Merganser reports included 3 broods at Louisa Preserve, Ia. (P *et al.*) and single broods at Mississippi R., Lock 9, Ia. (T *et al.*), Union County Conservation Area (PK) and Spfld. (H). A solitary two-thirds grown Red-breasted Merganser was discovered along the Rocky R., in Cleveland June 10; it was later observed approaching adult size (M). How this solitary young bird appeared in Cleveland remains a mystery.

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Black Vultures again nested at Mingo N.W.R., Mo. while one wandered to Marshall County Conservation Area, Ill., June 22 (†MSn). Mississippi Kites were reported from traditional sites in s. Illinois and s.e. Missouri including 27 at Union County Conservation Area (PK). Extralimital kites appeared in Pike County, Mo., June 6 (JW, JF) and six at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., Mo., June 21 (GW). Three Sharp-shinned Hawk nests were reported from n.e. Ohio (*fide* LR) while a few singles were observed elsewhere. Small numbers of Cooper's Hawks were reported although only 5 nests were discovered. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in normal numbers for recent years. The most stable populations appear to occur in s.e. Missouri. Small numbers of Broad-winged Hawks were scattered across all states and Swainson's Hawks summered at 2 sites in Iowa and one in Missouri. A Rough-legged Hawk in Pocahontas County, Ia., June 13 was late (†RC, WJ).

Bald Eagles had another successful year. Ohio's seven pairs raised nine young (six natural, three foster—LV). Elsewhere, two young fledged at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill. (MSw), one young fledged in n.e. Iowa (*fide* BH) and Missouri's two pairs produced one young although this eagle was orphaned and had to be raised in a hacking tower (*fide* JW). Marsh Hawks were reported in slightly improved numbers. Missouri nests were located in Clay County (CMi), Prairie S.P. (MS) and Whetstone W.M.A. (TH). Summering pairs and singles were found at 4 additional sites in Missouri, 4 Iowa counties, 2 sites in s. Indiana, n. Ohio and Illinois and in Muhlenberg County, Ky. (AB, BP). Summering Ospreys were noted at 10 locations in Ohio, Kentucky, Iowa and Illinois. An imm. ♂ Peregrine Falcon was found injured near Conway, Mo., July 22 and died the next day (DT, EN). This specimen provided the first summer record for Missouri. American Kestrels remain abundant, exhibiting a 120% increase over 1981 levels on Illinois game surveys (JEL).

GROUSE THROUGH COOTS — The Missouri Greater Prairie Chicken population was estimated at 7000-8000 birds this year. Bobwhite experienced a local recovery in s. areas as exemplified by 58 at Sycamore S.P., O., June 12 (B & CB). Numbers in n. areas were sharply reduced as a result of last winter's severe weather. Sandhill Cranes nested at Chain O'Lakes S.P., Ill., for the second year in a row (JN). King Rails were discovered at 9 sites in all states except Indiana. Nesting was reported from Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo. (JW, FR), L. Elsea, Mo. (MN), Chain O'Lakes S.P., Ill. (SH, JN) and 5 locations in Goose Lake Prairie S.P., Ill. (DB). Virginia Rails were widely reported in n. Illinois including 16 pairs at Chain O'Lakes S.P. (SH, JN). A young Virginia Rail at Spring Valley W.M.A., O., was locally unusual (BT). Sixteen pairs of Soras were estimated at Chain O'Lakes S.P. while an immature at Marais Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo., June 26 was unusually far s. (BR). Common Gallinules were widespread in n.e. Illinois but scarce in the w. Lake Erie marshes. Scattered reports from other states included a nest at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., Mo. (GW). Normal numbers of Am. Coots were found in n. marshes but a nest at Marais Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo., was unusually far s. (MN *et al.*). Summer reports from Hopkins County, Ky. (JH), Danville, Ky. (FL) and Wabash County, Ill. (LHa) were unexpected.

SHOREBIRDS — The usual assortment of late spring migrants or

nonbreeders lingered well into June. Small numbers of fall migrants were widely reported by late June and early July. The July movement was heaviest along L. Erie where numbers peaked in mid-July but declined considerably by month's end.

Two Piping Plovers in Monona County, Ia., June 4-19 "could have nested" (JS *et al.*). Fall migrants were limited to 2-3 in Pottawatomie County, Ia., July 10-18 (B & LP) and one at Lorain, O., July 12 (TL). Small numbers of Am. Golden Plovers were reported from 4 states after July 17. Ruddy Turnstones lingered through June 11 at Michigan City, Ind. (SJ) and Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O. (JMc). Breeding Com. Snipe were only found at Goose Lake Prairie S.P., Ill., during June (DB) Whimbrel were observed along L. Erie with a late spring migrant June 2 and singles at 2 locations July 23-26. Normal numbers of Upland Sandpipers were reported from Iowa, Ohio and Illinois while increases were indicated from w. and n.c. Missouri. Willets appeared at 19 locations beginning June 25 with six at Willow Slough, Ia (BW) and one at Michigan City, Ind. (SJ). Largest flocks consisted of 20 at Colo, Ia., July 5 (HZ) and 17 at Cleveland July 7 (M). A concentration of 1700 Lesser Yellowlegs at Winous Pt., Ottawa Co., O., July 20 was noteworthy (JP, LR). Single Red Knots were reported from 3 L. Erie sites during the period. Short-billed Dowitchers were particularly numerous along L. Erie with 6400 at Winous Pt., July 20 (JP, LR).

A Long-billed Dowitcher at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., June 11 (RS) was unexpected; small numbers were noted along L. Erie during July. Silt Sandpipers were widely reported during July with a maximum of 120 at Winous Pt., O., July 20 (JP, LR). Western Sandpipers lingered through June 12 at Illinois Beach S.P., Ill. (JL). July migrants were sprinkled across the Great Lakes including six at Hammond, Ind., July 18 (KB). Two summering Marbled Godwits at M.M.W.A., exhibited territorial behavior and could have nested (JP). Fall migrants included one at Michigan City, Ind., July 12 (†SJ) and five at M M W.A., July 19 (CH). The only Hudsonian Godwit appeared at Winous Pt., July 26 (J, JP). Following this spring's invasion, single ♂ Ruffs at Gibson County, Ind., June 26 (†CMI *et al.*, ph.) and Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., June 27 (†JMc) were anticlimactic. Up to eight Am Avocets were reported along L. Erie while inland sightings included three at Amana, Ia., July seven (CB), one at Ft. Wayne, Ind., July 7 (†The) and one at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., July 25 (J, CH). Nesting Wilson's Phalaropes were not discovered this year. Fall migrants included a maximum of 11 along L. Erie and scattered singles inland. Returning N. Phalaropes included one at Hammond, Ind., July 15 (†SJ) and 1-5 at two L. Erie sites.

**GULLS, TERNS** — A Glaucous Gull lingered through June 4 at Chicago. An imm. Great Black-backed Gull at Michigan City June 22-25 provided an unusual summer sighting for L. Michigan (†SJ). Iowa's second **Great Black-backed Gull** record was provided by a well-described adult at W. Okoboji L., July 14 (†LH, †DH, m.ob.). Herring Gulls had a successful nesting season at L. Calumet, Ill., and in Sandusky Bay, O. Ring-billed Gulls continued to thrive at L. Calumet where 380 young were counted July 15 (JL). Nonbreeding Ring-billeds were more numerous at inland lakes and rivers than they have been in the past. Summering Laughing Gulls returned to the Great Lakes with two at Michigan City through June 22 (†SJ), one at Lorain, O., July 13-31 (m.ob.) and one at Chicago June 26 (JL). The only inland sighting was of two at Big River S.F., Ill., June 10 (†LM). Juvenile Franklin's Gulls were noted in Dickinson County, Ia., July 17-19 (BH). Summering birds were reported from 2 Iowa locations and 6 sites throughout Illinois. Two or more imm. Little Gulls were observed at various L. Erie locations during the period.

At least 16 pairs of Forster's Terns nested at Chain O'Lakes S.P., providing Illinois' first breeding record in recent years (JN). Small numbers of summering birds were scattered across the n. states where additional nesting attempts may be expected. July migrants were widespread in small numbers. Common Terns nested at Waukegan, Ill., where 24 pairs fledged 16 young (MSw, K). The nesting colony at Oregon, O., was a complete failure this year and many of these birds were thought to have moved elsewhere to breed (LV). Few migrants were reported, even along the Great Lakes. Nesting Least Terns were not discovered although 1-2 were observed at 4 w. Iowa locations and singles appeared at Michigan City July 11 (†KB) and Louisville July 14 (LRa). Summering Caspian Terns were widely noted at inland sites and along the Great Lakes where the maximum count was 47. Black Terns nested at 4 n. Illinois locations but none were reported from marshes in n.w. Indiana and n.w. Ohio. A few summering birds were reported elsewhere while July migrants were

scarce except for 115 at Mississippi R., Lock 9, Ia., July 18 (DK, JS)

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were widespread although numbers were down at some localities. Few Black-billed Cuckoos were reported. A Barn Owl nest in Wayne County, O., produced five young (*vide* BS) while another at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., was unsuccessful. Additional reports included single owls at Rebel's Cove W.M.A., Mo., June 12 (MN, JF) and Lawrence County, Ind., July 12 plus a road-killed bird near Bloomington, Ind. (*vide* JC). In n.w. Ohio, Screech Owl breeding success was similar to last year with 50 young produced in 16 nests (LV). At least 13 Barred Owls fledged at Marshall County Conservation Area, Ill. (MSn). A Burrowing Owl was present in Monona County, Ia., June 3-July 20 (BH) while the only Short-eared Owl was reported from Green River Conservation Area, Ill., June 14 (MB). Saw-whet Owls nested in Illinois for the first time since 1966 with a juvenile in s. Cook County June 12 (PD) and another at Joliet July 1 (JM). A juv. Saw-whet Owl captured in Bay Village, O., June 26 indicated probable nesting there (SA). Summering Chuck-will's-widows were reported from traditional sites in all n. states although nesting was only confirmed at Eddyville, Ia., where one young was observed (TS, TD). Local declines in Com. Nighthawk populations continue to be reported. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds received mixed reports from "local increases" in Kentucky to "normal" in Iowa to "generally down" in Missouri. Red-headed Woodpeckers are doing well and do not deserve Blue-listed status in this Region. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are regular in n.e. Iowa where 17 were observed in Allamakee and Clayton Counties June 12-19 including one pair with young (DK, T *et al.*). One near Keosauqua June 4 was unusual in s.e. Iowa (JS).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPERS** — Western Kingbirds are expanding E in Missouri. They were "almost common" at Kansas City and appeared e. to Thomas Hill Res. (MR). They were also fairly numerous in extreme w. Iowa. An extralimital bird wandered to Union County Conservation Area June 10 (†PK). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are also expanding NE in Missouri with birds to Macon County (MR) and near Belgrade (BL *et al.*). A male wandered to Argenta, Ill., July 4 (†MBr *et al.*). A late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was noted at Chicago June 12 (JL). Acadian Flycatchers may be increasing in Iowa and n. Illinois. Willow Flycatchers were widely resident in n. areas but rather local in the s. A summering bird at Elk Creek, Ky., was unusual (JH). Summering Alder Flycatchers were discovered at 2 sites in n.w. Indiana and 3 in n. Ohio with maxima of 10 at Beverly Shores, Ind. (SJ *et al.*) and Streetsboro, O. (LR). As many as six pairs of Least Flycatchers were reported from 6 n. Illinois locations while smaller numbers were scattered across other n. states. Unusual summering records included singles in Gibson County, Ind. (CMI), near Oxford, O. (JI) and Davenport, Ia. (P).

Tree Swallows continued their S expansion through Kentucky with nests at Kentucky L. (JE), Campbell County P. (EG), Long Run S.P. (S, FS) and Muhlenberg County (AB, BP). Nesting success was good in n. areas with 118 young fledged from 35 nests in Cook County, Ill (PD). Reports of nesting Bank Swallows were normal; the Dallas City, Ill. colony still contained 2000 nests (K). July migrants included 3500 at Winous Pt., July 20 (JP, LR). Increased reports of breeding Cliff Swallows were encouraging. Largest colonies had 250 nests in Taney County, Mo. (JW) and 209 nests in Holmes County, O. (JFr). Smaller colonies were reported from other states including 5 breeding sites in Kentucky. Judging from the few reports, Purple Martins had a fairly successful year. The only roost supported 6000-7000 martins at Springfield, Mo. (*vide* CBo). None was found at Jefferson City, Mo., where there is normally a large roost. Carolina Chickadees are spreading N at Ft. Wayne, Ind., where they are replacing the Black-capped (JHa). In addition to the spring nesting reports, two young Red-breasted Nuthatches were observed at Kent, O., June 12 (LR). Brown Creepers were locally numerous in n. Illinois with 23 at Marshall County Conservation Area (MSn) and a "sizable population" at Sanganois Conservation Area (AR). Scattered June records in other n. states likely represent breeding birds. These summer sightings included creepers at Spfld. (H) and Union County Conservation Area (PK).

**WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES** — House Wrens continued their expansion in w. Kentucky but received mixed reports else-

where Four Winter Wrens were observed at their Geauga County, O., nesting location July 16 (LR). Bewick's Wrens were thought to be recovering at Springfield, Mo., but were only noted at 2 w. Kentucky sites. Farther n., two were found at Olney, Ill., June 4 (LHa), one at Marshalltown, Ia., July 4-23 (†FM *et al.*) and one was banded in Wapello County, Ia. (DJ). Improved numbers of Carolina Wrens were evident in s. areas although the species is still two-thirds below 1978 levels in Kentucky. They remain quite scarce in c. and n. areas. Nesting Long-billed Marsh Wrens could not be located in the Missouri marsh survey but numbers in n. Illinois were good with 50+ pairs at Chain O'Lakes S.P. (JN, SH). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were numerous in n. Illinois where the largest concentration was 16+ at Chain O'Lakes S.P. (JN, SH). Few were reported elsewhere with birds s. to Adair County, Mo., June 12 (MN) and Spfld. (H).

Mockingbird populations were similar to last year's although a few more birds were found in n. areas. An unusual double nest constructed by an Am. Robin was recovered from a railroad tank car in Louisville during April (*vide* DS). Veery reports increased dramatically with 2-16 birds at many sites in Iowa, n. Illinois and n.w. Indiana. Their range expansion S included a juvenile at Indianapolis June 14 (LP) and summering birds at Summit L., Ind. (BJ), Fairfield County, O (D & KP) and Coles County, Ill. (LHu). It was a successful year for E. Bluebirds and populations have completely recovered in most areas. Without precedent in the Region Golden-crowned Kinglets nested at Indianapolis where a fledgling was observed May 27 (LP). Cedar Waxwings were plentiful in n. areas while numbers in s. Ohio and Kentucky were low. Increased sightings of Loggerhead Shrikes in Iowa and w. Kentucky were encouraging. Elsewhere, 7 reports from c. and n. Illinois, 2 from s. Indiana and one from Ohio were normal for recent years.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — White-eyed Vireos continued to increase in n. states, especially Illinois. Bell's Vireos were not detected at any new locations but increased numbers in Illinois included 20 at Goose Lake Prairie S.P. (DB) and 14 at Des Plaines Conservation Area (JM, JO). As many as 12 Solitary Vireos were found at scattered sites in e. Ohio where they locally nest. Single vireos at Marshall County Conservation Area, Ill., June 6-24 (†MSn) and Michigan City July 23 (†KB) were probably nonbreeders.

Black-and-white Warblers increased in s. Missouri where 21 were counted in Barry County June 18-19 (MM). They were also reported from 3 sites in c. and n. Illinois and 2 in n.w. Iowa. Noteworthy Prothonotary Warbler observations included w. Iowa reports from Riverton W.M.A. (RS) and Monona County (JS) and 24+ males at Marshall County Conservation Area (MSn). Swainson's Warblers in s. Butler County, Mo., June 9 (DKu) and Union County Conservation Area June 4-10 (PK) were at new summer locations. Worm-eating Warblers increased in s.w. Ohio and Missouri while 2 c. Illinois reports included 17 at Siloam Springs S.P. (GS). A few more Golden-winged Warblers were observed with 1-5 males at 2 n. Ohio and 3 n. Illinois sites plus sightings at Dayton, O., June 4-6 (B & CB *et al.*) and Siloam Springs S.P., Ill., June 19 (AD). "Brewster's" Warblers were discovered at single locations in Iowa, Illinois and Ohio. Summer Tennessee Warbler reports were limited to a male at Monmouth, Ill., June 26 (LM) and two at Chicago July 16-30 (PC, HR). An unmated ♂ Nashville Warbler summered in Lorain County, O. (JP). Summering N. Parulas at Ledges S.P., Ia. (JD *et al.*), Wildcat Den S.P., Ia. (PW, FT) and Hopkins County, Ky. (JH) were locally noteworthy. A Magnolia Warbler lingered through June 19 at Chicago (PC, HR) while two were present at their Geauga County, O., nesting area (LR). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler briefly established a territory at Cleveland June 15-17 (M). Black-throated Green Warblers are not known to nest in Indiana. Hence, June sightings at Brown County S.P., Ind., are noteworthy (*vide* CK). Cerulean Warblers declined significantly in Ohio and Kentucky. The N expanding Yellow-throated Warbler was observed in Jones County, Ia., July 29 (CB), Winnebago County, Ill, July 5-25 (DW) and 4 c. Illinois sites. As many as eight Chestnut-sided Warblers were observed at 10 locations in n. states while a nest was discovered in Fairfield County, O. (D & KP). Early migrant warblers included a Blackpoll at M.M.W.A., July 31 (JP) and N. Waterthrush at Chicago July 30 (†PC). Kentucky Warblers continued their N expansion and appeared in w. Iowa at Plymouth County (JS). As many as five pairs of Mourning Warblers nested at Chain O'Lakes S.P. (SH, JN) and others summered in Lake County, Ill. (SH) and Beverly Shores, Ind. (SJ). Yellow-breasted Chats may be increasing in n. areas but have declined in Kentucky.

Hooded Warblers are increasing in most areas. In Iowa, summering birds at Amana Woods (CB, m.ob.) and Polk County (*vide* HZ) were suspected of nesting. Small numbers of Canada Warblers returned to their regular summering areas. American Redstarts received mixed reports although 31 were resident at one n.e. Iowa site (DK).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Bobolinks were regularly reported including 3-4 at 2 n. Kentucky locations and nesting birds in 5 n.w. Missouri counties. Away from established summering areas, W. Meadowlarks were noted in Champaign County, Ill. (RCh), Pickaway County, O. (JFr) and Union County, O. (J). Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to their regular summering marshes from n.w. Ohio to n.w. Missouri. Noteworthy concentrations included 46 young at L. Calumet, Ill. (JL) and 22 males at Little Bean Marsh, Mo. (JW, MN). Orchard Orioles continued their N expansion. As many as six Brewer's Blackbirds were noted at Illinois Beach S.P., Ill. where a nest with five young was discovered June 30 (JL, JM, KK). A Great-tailed Grackle was observed at Springfield, Mo., June 14 (GD). Fewer Summer Tanagers were found in n. areas although they nested at Iroquois County Conservation Area, Ill. (EH) and a pair was found at Marble Rock, Ia. (JMm).

The S-expanding Rose-breasted Grosbeak nested at Dayton, O. (*vide* CM) and s. Shelby County, Ill. (KF) while summering reports included one near Demunbrun, Ky. (WM). A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak was adequately described at Decorah, Ia., July 29 (†JMm). Increased numbers of Blue Grosbeaks were visible in portions of Kentucky and Indiana while one appeared at Goose Lake Prairie S.P., Ill., June 7 (DB). In s.w. Missouri, 1-3 Painted Buntings were located at Springfield (GD), Stone County (PB, TB) and 2 Barry County sites (PB, TB). Dickcissels received mixed reports from e. states although several new colonies were discovered in Ohio. They remain stable in w. states. Noteworthy summer Purple Finch observations included a pair at Springfield, O., June 8 (JG) and one at Michigan City July 30 (KB).

—S.A.—

The **House Finch** W-expansion continued unabated. Illinois' first nesting record was provided by a pair with 4 young at Robinson June 18-20 (†FW) and 1-2 birds were also reported from Urbana and Spfld. Nesting was confirmed at Louisville and in Indiana at Huntington, Ft. Wayne, Decatur and Franklin. Iowa's first **House Finches** were discovered this summer with a male banded and photographed at Ottumwa June 26 (†DJ) and one at Perry during mid-July (†EA, †T, m.ob., ph.)

Pine Siskins lingered well into June in all states. Additional breeding reports came from Joliet, Ill. (JM), Morrison, Ill. (P) and Cass County, Mo. where three fledglings observed June 6 provided a second nesting record for Missouri (JGa *et al.*). Two Red Crossbills remained at Urbana, Ill. through June 12 (RCh).

Summering Savannah Sparrows at Spfld. (H) and Butler County, O. (FRe, NW) were farther s. than normal. Grasshopper Sparrows received mixed reports but remain locally numerous. Henslow's Sparrows declined somewhat but were still fairly widespread. They were reported from 8 n. Illinois locations, 7 prairies in w. and s w Missouri plus scattered sites elsewhere including 2 in Muhlenberg County, Ky. (AB, BP). Largest colonies consisted of 32 males at East Fork S.P., O. (NW) and 15+ at Goose Lake Prairie S.P. (DB). Territorial Vesper Sparrows in Ray County, Mo. (SP) and Jasper County, Ill. (LHa) were near the S. edge of their range. The only Bachman's Sparrows were discovered in Trigg County, Ky. (CP) and five in Taney County, Mo., July 3 (PB, TB). Dark-eyed Juncos raised four young in Geauga County, O., July 16 (LR). As many as seven territorial Clay-colored Sparrows were observed at Rockton, Ill., during July (DW, JL). A White-throated Sparrow lingered at Chicago through June 19 (HR) while two at Springfield, Mo., July 10-16 may have summered (†GD *et al.*).

**CORRIGENDA** — The report of 10 Least Bitterns in St. Charles County, Mo., Aug. 30, 1981 (AB 36: 182) should be deleted. Indiana's Marbled Murrelet (AB 36: 300) has been identified to the Asiatic race *Brachyramphus marmoratus perdis*, providing the third North American record of this race (see AB 35: 911-912). This specimen was taken at Yellowwood L., Brown Co., not L. Monroe as previously reported. Satisfactory documentation has been provided for the Rose-breasted Grosbeak at an Evanston, Ill. feeder Dec. 13, 1981-

Jan. 6, 1982 (AB 36: 301). This winter record is now considered acceptable.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (Sub-regional editor's names in boldface type; contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors.) Major contributors: (H) Dave Bohlen, (J) **Bruce Peterjohn** (Ohio), (K) **Vernon Kleen** (Illinois), (M) William Klamm, (P) Peter Petersen, (S) **Anne Stamm** (Kentucky), (T) **Tom Kent** (Iowa). Other observers and reporters included: S. Adamson, E. Armstrong, T. Barksdale, A. Barron, P. Bauer, G. Bell, C. Bendorf (CB), B. & C. Berry, D. Birkenholz, C. Bonner (CBo), M. Bricker (MBr), K. Brock, M. Brown (MB), J. Castrale, R. Chapel (RCh), P. Clyne, R. Cummins (RC), A. Dierkes, J. Dinsmore, G. Dobbs, P. Dring, T. Dwyer, J. Ellis (JEI), J. Erwin (JE), J. Faaborg (JF), K. Forcum, J. Fry (JFr), J. Gallagher (JG), J. Garrett (JGa), B. Gill, M. Goodman, E. Groneman, J. Hancock (JH), D. Harr, L. Harrison (LHa), J. Haw (JHa), T. Heemstra (THE), P. Heye, S. Hickman, L. Hinshaw (LH), C. Hocevar, E. Hopkins, B. Howe, L. Hunt (LHu), T. Hutton (TH),

J. Ingold, B. Jackson, S. Jackson, W. Jardine, D. Johnson, N. Johnson, **Charles Keller** (Indiana), P. Kittle, K. Klick, D. Koenig (DK), D. Kurtz (DKu), J. Landing, T. LePage, B. Lewis, F. Loetscher, W. Mason, C. Mathena (CM), J. McCormac (JMc), M. McHugh, L. McKeown, J. McMahon (JMM), C. Mills (CM), J. Milosevich (JM), C. Milsaps (CMi), F. Moore, J. Neal, M. Nelson, E. Nichols, J. Olson, B. & L. Padelford, B. Palmer-Ball, S. Patti, L. Peavler, C. Peterson, D. & K. Petit, E. Pierce, J. Pogacnik, A. Raim, L. Rauth (LRa), F. Reid (FR), J. Reinsoehl, F. Renfrow (FR), M. Romine, L. Rosche (LR), B. Rudden, H. Rylaarsdam, J. Schaufenbuel, G. Schneider, R. Silcock, M. Solecki (MS), F. Stamm, T. Staudt, B. Stehling, S. Stenquist, D. Summerfield, M. Swan (MSn), M. Sweet (MSw), B. Taylor, F. Thompson, D. Tuttle, L. Van Camp, F. Walden, N. Walker, P. Wickham, D. Williams, B. Wilson, **Jim Wilson** (Missouri), G. Wolff, H. Zaletel. In addition, many persons who could not be individually acknowledged submitted useful notes to the various sub-regional reports.—**BRUCE G. PETERJOHN, 105-K E. Ticonderoga Dr., Westerville, Ohio 43081.**

## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Jerome A. Jackson

It was a comparatively cool summer across the Midsouth with a relatively dry June but a very wet July along the Gulf Coast. Greg Jackson commented that it seemed to be raining or threatening to rain all the time in Mobile, and Judy Toups noted that Gulfport had more than 12 inches of rain in July. Seabirds seemed to hold their own this year, although populations were drastically down on the spoil island west of Petit Bois Island, Mississippi. Catastrophe at the human-bird interface along the Mississippi coast was averted this year over the busy Fourth of July holiday by the hiring of off-duty policemen to patrol colony sites. Hats off to the Gulf Coast Audubon Society!

With the Dauphin Island bridge open once again, birders have easy access to one of the best birding areas in the nation. Unfortunately there are no stopping areas to allow views of Little Dauphin Island, although it continues to be quite a productive area. I do not recommend summer weekends for visiting Dauphin Island unless you are interested in experiencing why barrier islands should not be developed.

It has been three years since a spring flood destroyed the dam at Bluff Lake, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, and almost a year since the new dam was completed. Since the flood, no power boats and no fishing have been allowed on the lake and the birds have responded dramatically. This year the cypress swamp at the west end of the lake supported nesting Anhingas, Great Egrets, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, and Great Blue Herons where none has previously nested. Current plans are to reopen the lake to motorboats and fishermen in a year or two. After three years of no fishing, now would be a good time to establish a policy that favors wildlife—elimination of motors from the lake and closing of nesting areas might be a good compromise.

Best birds of the season have to be the nesting Swallow-tailed Kites near Vanleave, Mississippi, Peregrines at Oxford, Mississippi and Baton Rouge, a Masked Booby and a Black-legged Kittiwake off the Louisiana coast, a Pomarine Jaeger in Florida, and a Red Phalarope in Alabama. Birds showing further breeding range expansions this year included Anhinga, Black-necked Stilt, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Gray Catbird, and Great-tailed Grackle. Species in trouble seemed to include Bewick's Wren, American Kestrel, and Loggerhead Shrike. Tweet of the season goes to J. Neal for an observation of a Brown Thrasher feeding a fledgling Rufous-sided Towhee.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Common Loons were notably absent from n. Gulf Coast reports this summer, although one was seen at Wheeler N.W.R., in n. Alabama July 28 (RB). An adult and two downy young Pied-billed Grebes at the Pascagoula River marsh (hereafter, P.R.M.) June 19 provided possibly a first breeding record for the Mississippi Gulf Coast (JT, CR); two juveniles there July 17 suggested they were successful (JJ, BS, OD, JT). Up to six (including one adult) Brown Pelicans were along the Gulf Coast in Jackson



County, Miss., May 29-June 6 (JT, CR). Although there was only one report of White Pelicans this season, the 1500+ at Grand I., La., June 20 (JR, DM, MM, DP) perhaps compensated for their absence elsewhere! A sick first-year ♀ **Masked Booby** was picked up by oil rig workers ca 100 mi s. of Cameron, La., June 30 or July 1 and ultimately ended up as a specimen at L.S.U. Anhinga records from Mississippi suggested they had a good year: one was seen over I-10, Harrison Co., July 24 (JT), another at Hillside N.W.R., Holmes Co., Aug. 2 (JM, HM), and 6 nests at Bluff L., Noxubee N.W.R., were the first nest records for that area (JJ, MD).

A Great Blue Heron colony west of Tontitown, Benton Co., Ark., was successful this year after having been "shot-up" in 1981 (JN); one pair nested at Bluff L., Noxubee N.W.R. (JJ). The Green Heron colony on an island in the Tennessee R., at Decatur, Ala., was active again this year, with numbers approximating those of the past 2 years (DC, SH); there were at least 8 Green Heron nests at P.R.M., June 6 (JT). A Reddish Egret was on Horn I., Miss., June 1 (JT *et al.*), two were seen July 18 and one July 27 at Gulf Shores, Ala. (D & GJ). A Snowy Egret in the company of 11 Little Blue Herons was an uncommon sight at L. Sequoyah, Washington Co., Ark., June 2 (JN, BSa). An imm. Louisiana Heron appeared at Blount Pond near Hickory, Miss., July 29-Aug. 1 (JM). It seems that everywhere I travelled in Mississippi this summer I found Yellow-crowned Night Herons: feeding in a muddy plowed field along the Natchez Trace near Jackson, stealing bait at a dock in Gulfport, perched on a service station sign in West Point, and ever present at Bluff L., Noxubee N.W.R. A lone Least Bittern was found June 9 at Faulkner L.,



Faulkner Co., Ark. (RC *et al.*) After a few years with no Wood Stork records, scattered individuals appeared around Mississippi this summer: one near West Point July 23 (BR), two at Bluff L., Noxubee N.W.R., Aug. 3 (JJ); eight Wood Storks were found near the Ouachita R., Ark., July 31 (HM, JF, H & MP). A "Glossy" Ibis was a rare find at Gulf Breeze, Fla., July 25 (B, L & SD, P & BT), and an imm. White Ibis July 27 was reported as a first for Memphis (JS).

**WATERFOWL** — Years ago Canada Geese from the Midwest were established as a pinioned breeding flock at Noxubee N.W.R. The pinioned birds were eventually sent to another refuge and their descendants at Noxubee have prospered. So much so that they now regularly leave the refuge and have taken advantage of local crops to the extent that this year refuge personnel had to trap geese to ship elsewhere. A ♀ Mallard was at P.R.M., July 17 (GJ), and a ♂ Blue-winged Teal was in the same area at P.R.M., where teal have nested in recent years (JJ). A lone Blue-winged Teal was also found in Santa Rosa County, Fla., June 26 (BM). A Ring-necked Duck near Athens June 28 (DH) and a pair of Lesser Scaup at Guntersville L., June 11 (MB) may have been summering in Alabama. On July 20 there was a pair of Ruddy Ducks at Robco L., Memphis (L & BC), matching a similar July record last year. It would not surprise me to find this species nesting in the area, since a few years ago I visited an exotic bird farm near Amory, Miss., and was shown an uncaged "captive" Ruddy on a nest near a pond. One cannot help but wonder how many "range expansions" are really introductions by aviculturists. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at Centerton, Benton Co., Ark., June 4 (JN, BSA) was unusual for the Ozarks.

**RAPTORS** — Two Black Vultures at L. Leatherwood, Carroll Co., Ark., established an unusual record June 5 (BSA). A loose "flock" of six Mississippi Kites near Sardis Res., Panola Co., Miss., was quite unexpected May 22; none was seen in the area in June (MD); six were also seen at Richardson Landing, s.w. Tipton Co., Tenn., June 28, and others were present in June elsewhere in Shelby, Tipton, Lauderdale, and Lake cos., Tenn. (B & LC). A high of 56 Mississippi Kites was reported over the Ft. Pillow Prison Farm, Lauderdale Co., Tenn., June 30 (Do & GM). A Swallow-tailed Kite nest was found along Bluff Cr., near Vanleave, Miss., June 20; about June 26, two young fledged (JI). The only Cooper's Hawk reports for the period were of single sightings July 18 at Hickory, Miss., and Aug. 2 at Hillside N.W.R. (JM). It was apparently a good season for Red-tailed Hawks across the Region: one was in Jackson County, Miss., May 29 (JT, CR); one at Baton Rouge June 14 (VR); one adult and one immature in Washington County, Ark., July 8; two at the Bonnet Carre Spillway near New Orleans July 10 (MW); one at Hillside N.W.R., Aug. 2 (JM, HMO); and one in Scott County, Miss., Aug. 12 (JM). Some of the most observed Red-taileds were a pair that fledged two young from a backyard nest in Starkville, Miss., in late May (JJ, m.ob.). Red-shouldered Hawks were reported to be scarce in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama (TA), but holding their own in c. Alabama (TI). One Red-shouldered was seen in Jackson County, Miss., May 29 (JT, CR), and three were seen June 1 in Washington County, Ark.—one of which was attacked by a Broad-winged Hawk (BSA). Other Broad-wingeds were reported in Jackson (May 29, JT, CR) and Rankin (July 7, JM) cos., Miss., and at Wheeler N.W.R., July 21 (AM).

A ♂ Marsh Hawk s. of Trenton, Tenn., June 19 provided a first June record for the area (Do & GM); a tragic Marsh Hawk record is that of a nest with four nearly grown young destroyed by a combine June 24 near Alma, Crawford Co., Ark. (DwM, *vide* BB). Ospreys June 6 at Beaver L., Benton Co., Ark. (BSA), and June 18 at Chalmette, St. Bernard Par. (P & NN) were considered late for those areas. Two **Peregrine Falcons** graced our skies this summer: one near Oxford, Miss., May 1 (MD), and a male at Baton Rouge June 19 (JNe, *vide* JR)—both represented quite unusual records for the season and places. The status of Am. Kestrels seems to vary locally around the Midsouth: TI reports only 3 sightings all summer at Birmingham; and B & LC report the species as uncommon-rare in summer at Memphis and nearby counties. More positive records came from Wheeler N.W.R., where the summer population was reported "OK" (TA), and from both the Univ. of Arkansas (Fayetteville) (JN) and Mississippi St. Univ. (Starkville) (JJ), where nests were found on campus. A male and a female were seen June 19 in Jackson County, Miss., where the species is a rare breeder (JT, CR).

**RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Adult and imm. Purple

Gallinules and a lone Com. Gallinule were found June 8-15 at Faulkner L. (RC *et al.*), and both species were found with young at Pace, Fla. (BM, JS). Only nesting Com. Gallinules were found at P R M, June 6 (JT).

Snowy Plovers nested successfully on Horn and West Ship Is., and in the Least Tern colony at Gulfport (JJ, BS, OD, JT), and seven were counted on Santa Rosa I., Fla., June 26 (PT, CM). Wilson's Plovers had young at P.R.M., June 6-19 (JT, CR), and a high of ten was reported from Dauphin I., July 27 (G & DJ). The new School of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi St. Univ. has an enormous complex of gravelled roof tops (7+ acres) which has proven too attractive for Killdeer. More than a dozen nests of at least 4 pairs (color-banded) were found this summer and on hatching, their young were moved to the ground: all young were "found" by their parents (BS, JJ). Two Black-bellied Plovers at Grand I., June 20 were unusual for the season (JR, DM, MM, DP).

A late migrant Ruddy Turnstone in breeding plumage stopped by Centerton, Ark., June 4, a first for the area (JN, BSA); and an additional turnstone posed for viewers at Grand I., June 20 (JR, DM, MM, DP). Whimbrels are always an exciting find, but they seem to be regular summer visitors to Dauphin I., where one was seen July 27 (G & DJ). The Upland Sandpiper at New Orleans July 24 was a good find (JR). At least eight Spotted Sandpipers at P.R.M., July 17 showed signs of heavy molt from their breeding plumage (JJ, BS, OD, JT). The dikes at P.R.M. continue to be a good nesting area for Willets—at least eight adults and 10 young were there June 6 (JT). Greater Yellowlegs turned up throughout June and July: June 4 at Centerton Ark. (JN, BSA); 15 on June 20 at Grand I. (JR, DM, MM, DP); July 10 at Bonnet Carre spillway (MW); and 20-25 on July 10-24 at P R M (JT, m.ob.). But Lesser Yellowlegs turned up in greater numbers 120+ July 10 and 200+ July 21-14 at P.R.M. (JT, m.ob.) Early Lesser Yellowlegs included one at the Morganza, La. spillway June 18 (DG) and two at Grand I., La., June 20 (JR, DM, MM, DP). JT and m.ob. found three Red Knots on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I., Miss., June 1; and 15 Red Knots were at Grand I., June 20 (JR *et al.*)

The annual late summer convention of Pectoral Sandpipers in the Midsouth got off to an early start, or was it a straggler who didn't leave, that appeared at Centerton, Ark., June 16 (JN, RS). Elsewhere this species showed up more or less on schedule the third week of July: one early bird was at New Orleans July 17 (JR). As a result of low water below Sardis Dam, Panola Co., Miss., White-rumped Sandpipers lingered through May 20 (MD), but were the 12 at P R M, June 6 (JT) also late migrants? And how about the one at the Nat'l Fish Hatchery, Marion, Ala., June 19 (R & ER) or the five at Grand I., June 20 (JR, DM, MM, DP)? Perhaps we have a few nonbreeders who never leave the South. Least Sandpipers also hardly seem to have left the area (150 May 15, 29 on May 20 at Sardis Dam (MD)) before the southbound migrants arrived—20+ July 10, 1000+ July 21-24 at P.R.M. (JT, GM, CR, JD), one at New Orleans July 11 (JR) And Dunlins, too, made the June scene: 20 (two in breeding plumage) at P.R.M., June 6; four (nonbreeding plumage) at Lakeshore, Hancock Co., Miss., June 12 (JT); and one June 17 at the Morganza spillway (DG).

About 15 Short-billed Dowitchers in winter plumage were at P.R.M., June 6 (JT) and 300+ dowitcher spp. were at Grand I., June 20 (JR *et al.*). A Long-billed Dowitcher at Ft. Pickens, Escambia Co., Fla., July 11, was considered to furnish the first summer record for the area (PT); at least one of four dowitchers in Lonoke County, Ark., July 12 was a Long-billed, as judged by its breeding plumage (JN). A lone Long-billed Dowitcher was present in New Orleans July 25 (JR). Late and early records of Stilt Sandpipers were of single birds in Cameron Par., June 2 (MR, VR, SL) and at Pensacola July 16 (PT). Semipalmated Sandpiper records included singles at Santa Rosa I., June 26 (PT, CM) and Alabama Pt., Baldwin Co., Ala., July 8 (G & DJ); 20+ July 21, and 100+ July 24 at P.R.M. (JT, GM, JD). About 20 W. Sandpipers were at Grand I., June 20 (JR *et al.*) and 50+ arrived at P.R.M., July 21 (JT, GM). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at P R M, June 6 furnished a late spring record for the area (JT). Ten Marbled Godwits and one Sanderling at Grand I., June 20 (JR *et al.*) were the only ones reported of those species. An Am. Avocet was also at Grand I., June 20 (JR *et al.*) and at P.R.M., avocet numbers varied from seven in breeding plumage on June 6 to 21 on July 10, ten on July 17, 24 on July 21, and 35 on July 24 (JT, m.ob.). One avocet was at Pensacola July 31 (PT). Black-necked Stilts nested again at P R M, with numbers varying from 25+ on June 6 to 84 on July 21; as many as 20 immatures were seen (JT, JJ *et al.*). The third Tennessee record for stilts was of two adults at sewage ponds in s.w. Memphis July 20 (B &

LC, m ob ), on Aug 1, young stilts were found in the area (JW, m ob ). Two stilts were also seen at Pace, Fla., June 9 (BM). The first Wilson's Phalarope of the season was at P.R.M., July 21 (JT, GM). A **Red Phalarope** in heavy molt stayed at Alabama Pt., Baldwin Co., Ala., July 7-9 to become the first summer record for Alabama (OF, MLM, m.ob.).

The appearance of a **Pomarine Jaeger** at Cape San Blas, Gulf Co., Fla., June 19 can only be considered accidental and marked a first June record. At least seven Ring-billed Gulls summered at P.R.M. (JT, m.ob.) and four stayed at Sardis Dam through May 22 (MD). A single Ring-billed was at L. Pontchartrain, Jefferson Par., July 4 (NN). Perhaps the best bird of the season was a **Black-legged Kittiwake** near Holly Beach, Cameron Par., June 2 (VR, MR, SL); the sight record file for this Region contains no records from late May (Fla.) to late August (Fla.). There were at least 16 ad. Gull-billed Terns that summered at P.R.M., and at least some nested; up to 12 immatures were present July 21 (JT, m.ob.). Two ad. Forster's Terns at a pond near Clermont Harbor, Hancock Co., Miss., may have nested—an adult and two immature-plumaged birds were present June 12 (JT). Five Forster's at Centerton, Ark., July 23 were early for the Ozarks (JN, RS). Common Terns nested again at P.R.M., with up to seven dependent young seen July 10 (JT) and one fledged young still being fed July 17 (JJ, JT, BS, OD). Elsewhere, one Com. Tern apparently summered at Wheeler N.W.R. (DC); 15 were at Grand I., June 20 (JR *et al.*); eight at Dauphin I., July 27 (D & GJ); and one at Centerton, Ark., July 29: a rare record (JN). Least Terns nested again on the "usual" Gulfport beaches and on the roof of the Singing River Mall, Gautier, Miss. In general it was a routine season with moderate successes. A Least Tern at Centerton, Ark., July 29 was unusual (JN). JT visited the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I., in early June and found no evidence of nesting seabirds. On July 19 I flew over the island and observed what appeared to be 3 nesting congregations of Royal and Sandwich terns, probably not totaling over 100 nests—certainly a drastic change from the 6000+ pairs nesting there last year. An itinerant Caspian Tern visited Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke Co., Ark., July 25 (H & MP). Black Terns were common as usual along the Gulf Coast (JJ, JT, JR) and three put in an appearance at Centerton, Ark., June 16 (JN, RS). Black Skimmers had a good year at Gulfport with *ca.* 400 young produced on the beach in front of the V. A. hospital (JT, JJ, DGU). There were also 30-40 nests on a spoil island near the Pascagoula shipyards and 40-60 nests on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I., July 19 (JJ). Two pairs of skimmers attempted to nest near Ft. Massachusetts, West Ship I., Miss., but raccoons destroyed both nests (JJ).

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — At Choctaw, Bolivar Co., Miss., a pair of Mourning Doves nested in the same old Am. Robin nest they used last year (NH). Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed down in Evangeline Par. (BO), but in good numbers in Jackson County, Miss. (JT, CR). Roadrunners at L. Charles (CT), DeQuincey (DG), and Ruston (WD, MvB) further document the establishment of this species in Louisiana. Sightings of Great Horned Owls are exciting, but common for this Midsouth resident; perhaps not so common was the sighting of one *in Malvern*, Ark., June 25 (RiC, EL). Several Com. Nighthawk records from Mississippi tell us that the species is still around, but numbers were certainly down from previous years at Starkville (JJ). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were exceptionally common in s.e. Louisiana this summer with 100-200 reported for several feeders. NN banded 78 Ruby-throateds May 1 at Reserve, La., and another 55 June 26 at Baton Rouge. TI also reported a good flight of Ruby-throateds at Birmingham beginning about Aug. 5. In Washington County, Ark., JN *et al.* reported three Ruby-throated nests, one under construction in an oak June 20, one with a female on the nest in a sycamore July 8, and one in an elm July 28. A female flew to the latter nest and sat briefly, but the nest seemed abandoned.

A Com. Flicker nest with young about to fledge was found June 7 on the Univ. of Arkansas campus in a dead ash stub (JN, KS). Red-bellied and Red-headed woodpeckers seemed to be down in numbers this year in Jackson County, Miss., with only eight and five heard on the D'Iberville B.B.S. (JT, CR). It was a fair year for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Noxubee N.W.R., perhaps highlighted by the discovery of active trees near 2 colonies previously considered abandoned. At least 6 and possibly 8 colonies produced young; a clutch of 3 eggs was lost to an unknown cause in another colony. Unfortunately 3 colonies with nests in previous years now have only single ad. birds present (two males, one female).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Near Ozark, Franklin Co., Ark., three bob-tailed Scissor-tailed Flycatcher young were out of the nest July 9 (JN). Only four Great Crested Flycatchers were heard along the D'Iberville B.B.S. route in Jackson County, Miss., May 29, a decline from previous years (JT, CR). In Washington County, Ark., Acadian Flycatchers were found with young in the nest July 4 (JN, NE) and elsewhere with dependent young out of the nest July 28 (JN, RS).

The Horned Lark seemed to be on the move this year. While there have been previous nesting records for the Midsouth, never have we had records from so many places. In Louisiana nesting was documented near Bossier City May 16-29 (CMA, SP, ph. to L.S.U.M.Z.) and an adult was seen June 18 at Morganza (DG). In Mississippi a pair was observed in a bean field near Rolling Fork, Sharkey Co., June 18 (CMc). In Arkansas a male was displaying near Foreman, Little River Co., June 6 & 20 (ChM, CMA). Tree Swallows are also edging S—this year to within a mile of the Mississippi border at North L., near Memphis, where there were 6 nests in cavities in willows May 18 (B & LC). Perhaps a sign of things to come, one Tree Swallow was at Pace, Santa Rosa Co., Fla., June 9-13 (BM). Bank Swallows seem obviously more limited in distribution because of the lack of suitable banks for nesting in the coastal plain, but four were still present at Pace, Fla., June 11 (BM). Nearer the limits of their known breeding range, 40+ were present June 24 at Wheeler N.W.R. (RR), and a known colony at the n. end of Mud I., near Memphis was not occupied this year, although a new colony was found 15 mi n. at the n. end of Shelby Forest S.P. (B & LC). Additional nesting sites of Barn Swallows were discovered as far as 40 mi inland from traditional nesting sites on the coastal islands of Escambia and Santa Rosa cos., Fla. (CK, FW). Are these birds from the s. population or from the rapidly expanding populations to the n.? Over 100 Cliff Swallows were at Wheeler N.W.R., June 24 (RR) and a group of 35+ birds nested under the old White R. bridge at L. Sequoyah, Washington Co., Ark. (JN, CW). Purple Martins seemed to have a good year in c. Mississippi; there were no extended cool wet or extremely hot dry spells and nesting success was much higher than in recent years (JJ). At Wheeler N.W.R., 500+ martins filled the air June 24 (RR).

**CROWS THROUGH WARBLERS** — As many as seven Fish Crows were at the Clear Cr. Landing, Sardis Res., Lafayette Co., Miss., June 5 (MD). House Wrens were reported as common throughout the Fayetteville, Ark. area this summer (JN), but there were no records of further range expansion by this species. In Alabama TI considers the Bewick's Wren a lost cause; it has also been several years since I have seen Bewick's Wren in Mississippi; this is certainly a species that deserves attention. While the Carolina Wren population in Evangeline Par. was considered down this summer (BO), along the D'Iberville B.B.S. route, Jackson Co., Miss., they were more numerous than ever (JT, CR). The Gray Catbird continues to expand its range in n.w. Florida: one was singing beside U.S. 231 just s. of State Route 20 in Bay Co., June 24 (record submitted anonymously!). American Robins summered in several areas at the s. part of the Region where they are uncommon-rare: a pair was feeding nestlings May 21 at Beulah, Escambia Co., Fla. (LW); two were seen at Longville, Beauregard Par., June 18 (DG); a pair with an active nest on the L.S.U. campus, Baton Rouge, was observed July 4-19 (VR); a lone robin was at Ft. Morgan on the Alabama coast June 20 (D & GJ).

A Water Pipit at Pace June 9 furnished a first summer record for n.w. Florida (BM). While Loggerhead Shrikes are considered hopelessly low in numbers in c. Alabama (TI), their populations in c. Mississippi seemed higher than usual this year; it was possible to find a shrike on almost any trip afield (JJ). A pair of shrikes with two dependent young were found on the D'Iberville B.B.S. route May 29 (JT, CR). On June 12, JT logged a total of 55 singing White-eyed Vireos in Hancock County, Miss.—42 in Logtown. A singing ad. Bell's Vireo was feeding a recent fledgling July 26 at L. Fayetteville, Washington Co., Ark. (JN). Singing Yellow-throated Vireos in Cameron Par., June 2 (VR) and at Gulfport June 17 (JT) were strangely out of place since this species is not known to breed near the immediate coast.

Black-and-white Warblers feeding young out of the nest were found in Arkansas along Leatherwood Cr., Newton Co., June 17 (JN); and in Washington Co., at L. Wilson June 20, and Walker's Bluff June 25 (JN, BSa). One Black-and-white was seen in New Orleans July 17 (JR). In Washington County, Ark., Prothonotary Warblers were feeding young in a gourd at Walker's Bluff the first

week in June (MF, *vide* JN), and in a small snag near Goshen July 8 (JN). Well-grown juv. Worm-eating Warblers were being fed by adults at White Rock Mt., Franklin Co., Ark., June 27 (JN, BSa, NE). Northern Parulas were also attending fledglings in Washington Co., Ark. at L. Wilson June 20 (JN, BSa) and near Goshen July 8 (JN). A late spring record for Louisiana was of a ♂ Yellow Warbler in Cameron Par., June 2 (VR); two at Bellefontaine Beach, Jackson Co., Miss., July 21 were early southbound migrants (JT, GM). In Alabama a Black-throated Green Warbler was singing at the Skyline W.M.A., Jackson Co., June 9, and TI reported at least three singing males in w. Jefferson Co., Near Ponca, Newton Co., Ark., a Yellow-throated Warbler was feeding a fledged juvenile June 17 (JN). Two Prairie Warblers were at Ft. Pickens, Escambia Co., Fla., July 10 (FW, T & AZ). While at least one Ovenbird was still on the coast in Cameron Par., June 2 (MR), in Arkansas one pair had a fledged juvenile and another had a nest with 3 eggs June 12 near Boxley, Newton Co. (BSa). A Kentucky Warbler nest with four feathered young was found June 9 in Washington County, Ark. (JN). In Evangeline Par., BO felt that Com. Yellowthroats were down this summer. On the Mississippi coast JT considered Yellow-breasted Chats up over recent years. A ♂ Canada Warbler passing through Oxford, Miss., May 25 was a bit late (M & SD).

**ORIOLES THROUGH FINCHES**— Orchard Orioles in Washington County, Ark. had young in the nest June 4 and another pair was feeding fledged young July 26; a nest near Ponca held young June 17 (JN). The first Great-tailed Grackles fledged in Little River County, Ark. were found June 20 near Ashdown (ChM, CMA). A ♀ Bronzed Cowbird with 2 large eggs in her oviduct was collected near Erath, Vermilion Par., July 15 (BoB); at Reserve, La., a young Bronzed Cowbird was being fed by Orchard Orioles June 12, and the species was regular at feeders April-July 25 (MW). Scarlet Tanagers had a nest on Cave Mt., near Baxley, Newton Co., Ark., June 12 (BSa). Two ♂ Painted Buntings were singing, apparently on territories June 4-July 13, at Pace, Fla., although neither females nor a nest could be located (BM, m.ob.). Mississippi records of Painted Buntings came from Magnolia, Pike Co., June 21, and Rolling Fork, Sharkey Co., June 18 (CMc, JRe). A fledgling Dickcissel was being fed by a female near Centerton, Ark., June 30, and a nest with four newly-hatched young was found at the Fayetteville airport July 25 (JN). Dickcissels were common in alfalfa fields around Oktibbeha County, Miss., but nesting success was probably low because of harvesting activities (JJ). A ♂ Am. Goldfinch was feeding one well-grown nestling at Fayetteville, Ark., July 25 (JN). At Fayetteville June 7, JN watched a fledgling ♀ Rufous-sided Towhee as it was fed by a Brown Thrasher and later by a ♂ towhee!

Grasshopper Sparrows commonly perched on the runway lights at

the Golden Triangle Airport, Lowndes Co., Miss., even as planes taxied by (JJ)! The only other Grasshopper Sparrow report was of a lone bird June 22 s.w. of Rossville, Fayette Co., Tenn. (LC) Lark Sparrows also were uncommon this season with reports of single birds coming only from Washington County, Ark., June 9 (JN), and Chester County, Tenn., June 24 (B & LC). Two singing Bachman's Sparrows were present all summer 1 mi s.e. of Mooresville, Limestone Co., Ala., where they were found in 1981 (DC, SG, MB, CB, FH). Bachman's Sparrow populations seemed consistently high in Jackson County, Miss., but rather local in Hancock and Harrison cos. (JT, CR). In Arkansas one Bachman's Sparrow was found in Garland County June 6 and another in Hot Springs County June 24, nine were found in Dallas County July 10 (H & MP). All-day searches for Bachman's Sparrows in Tennessee resulted in tallies of one each for Fayette and Hardeman cos., June 22, and Chester County June 24 (B & LC). Chipping Sparrows had fledged young June 17 in Newton County, Ark., and hatchlings at Fayetteville June 28 (JN) And finally, another summering White-throated Sparrow was seen at a Memphis feeder July 2, the third such for Shelby County and fourth for w. Tennessee (CFM, B & LC).

**CONTRIBUTORS**— Tom Atkeson, R.M. Bays, Bill Beall, Bonnis Broussard (BoB), Craig Brown, D. Mark Brown (MB), Ben Coffey (West Tennessee), Lula Coffey, Richard Coles, C. Dwight Cooley (DC), Roberta Crabtree, Opal Dakin, W. Marvin Davis (MD), Sandra Davis, Walter Dimmick, Jan Dubuisson, Bob, Lucy & Scot Duncan, N. Edelman, Owen Fang, Mayme Ferguson, Jenny Fort, Scott Gravette, Dan Guravich (DGU), Dale Gustin, Donald Hale, Sam Hamilton, Nona Herbert, Fred Hopf, Tom Imhof (Alabama), John Izral, Debra & Greg Jackson, Jerome Jackson (Mississippi), Curtis Kingsbery (n.w. Florida), Scott Lanyon, Eugenia Larson, Mr. & Mrs. C.F. Mann (CFM), Don and Gina Manning (Do & GM), Clyde Massey (CMA), Mary Lou Mattis (MLM), Charles McElwee (CMC), Hilda McEwan, Joe McGee (JM), Charles Merritt, Ann Miller, Charles Mills (ChM) (Arkansas), Bill Milmore, Mrs. Dwight Moore (DwM), Henry Moreau (HMO), Gerry Morgan, Dave Muth, Mac Myers, J. Neal, Paul & Nancy Newfield, Robert Newman (Louisiana), John Newsome (JNe), Brent Ortego, Helen & Max Parker, Steve Provenza, Dan Purrington, Judee Reeves (JRe), Robert & Elberta Reid, Jack Reinoehl, Van Remsen, Mark Robbins, Charlene Roemer, Bernard Rowe, Bob Sanger (BSa), Bette Schardien, Cheryl Sharp, K. Smith, P. Stauffacher, James Stegall (JaS), James M. Stevenson (JMS), John Stokes, Phil & Betsy Tetlow, Judy Toups, Charlotte Tucker, Marieke vandenBold (MvB), Melvin Weber, Larry White, Fred Wicke, Jeff Wilson, C. Wooten, Tony & Ann Zicardi (T & AZ).—**JEROME A. JACKSON**, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Mississippi State Univ., Mississippi State, Miss. 39762.

## PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

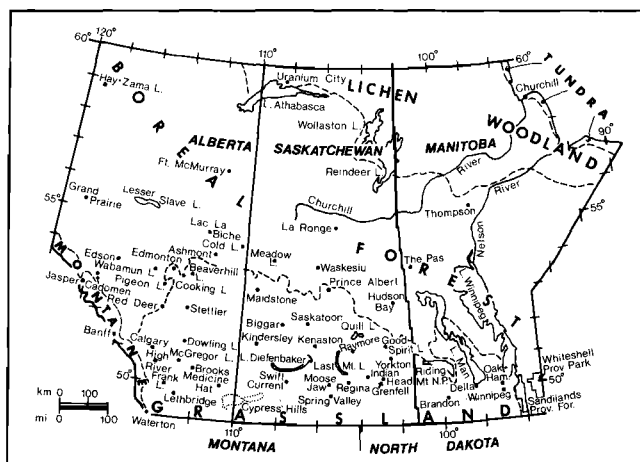
/J. Bernard Gollop

Mean temperatures in June ranged from 2.5°C above normal in central Alberta to 3°C below average at Churchill and Winnipeg. July temperatures were near normal across the Region. Precipitation was scanty everywhere in June. Edmonton reported its second-driest June on record and many locations in Saskatchewan were the driest in more than 20 years. Cochrane, Alta., had four inches of snow June 5-6. July precipitation was almost normal in Saskatchewan and up to twice normal west of Edmonton and north of Winnipeg. Lethbridge, Alta., had 63 mm of rain in less than one hour and Emerson, Man., had 81 mm in 75 minutes.

July ponds in southern Alberta totalled 503,000 (54% above last year), 964,000 in southern Saskatchewan (165% more than last July) and 195,000 in southern Manitoba (7% better than a year ago).

On May 29 from Saskatoon west and south in Saskatchewan (and into southern Alberta), there was a snowstorm that dumped 10 cm (4 inches) of snow around Saskatoon with average winds of 38km/hour and a temperature range of 0°-2.6°C. In the Cypress Hills area drifts reached 6 feet and thousands of livestock were lost. Near Saskatoon, many swallows rested on the snow while others were apparently

feeding over open water. Much of the snow disappeared within three days but the effect on birds, particularly insectivorous species, must have been devastating. However, no one reported numbers of dead



birds. Barn Swallows, Least Flycatchers, House Wrens and Clay-colored Sparrows decreased significantly after the storm around Swift Current (CH). See also Tree Swallow and Mountain Bluebird accounts below.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Thirty Com. Loons had congregated on Waskesiu L., Prince Albert N.P., by June 25 (S. Ross). A Red-necked Grebe June 5 was a first for Churchill (S. Shadick) while a Pied-billed Grebe June 30 was an accidental there (BC). There were good indications of a Great Blue Heron colony at Ft. McMurray, n. of the published breeding range (JG). An ad. Snowy Egret June 19 at Ninette was a Manitoba rarity (ph., DF, HL). A Least Bittern June 30 was another first for Churchill (BC). Five Brant June 7 and three June 12 were accidentals there (BC). A Garganey was photographed near Strathmore June 12 for Alberta's third record (ML). Two ♂ Eurasian Wigeons were studied at Echo L., Apr. 25 (M. Callin, J. Nelson); there are fewer than 10 Saskatchewan records. Another accidental at Churchill was a Harlequin Duck June 24 (BC), while the first Ruddy Duck for the area was a male June 3 (K. John).

**HAWKS THROUGH COOTS** — Sharp-shinned Hawks were noticeably down in Saskatchewan's boreal forest (WH) while one wandered to Churchill June 15 (V. Chartier, D. Paulson). In Saskatchewan, Swainson's Hawks had more failures than usual; 35 of 71 nests in 3 areas produced 68 young. The late May snowstorm apparently caused 6 Golden Eagle nests to slump down clay cliffs. Prairie Falcons had average success and Merlins continued to reoccupy sites in the Kindersley-KerRobert area, deserted during the heavy dieidrin period of the 1960s (SH). A flock of 20 ± Swainson's Hawks in a field at Lyleton, Man., was unusual for June 19 (DF, HL). Marsh Hawks increased in the Raymore and Calgary areas (WH, SL, AW). Four young Peregrine Falcons were released in Saskatoon; two are known to have died and two have disappeared (BG). An adult sighted near Delisle, Sask., was unusual for June 8 (BG). A pair of Sandhill Cranes was found regularly s. of Water Valley, Alta., from late May through June 5, 60 ± mi s. of their published breeding range (L. Gibb, JP, LO, SJ). A white Am. Coot was seen with normally plumaged birds at Moose Jaw July 15 (S. & G. Wait, C. Letkeman).

**SHOREBIRDS** — On July 14 Chris Adam (ph.) discovered two ad. Piping Plovers (plus Sempalmateds) with four downy young on the s. shore of Lake Athabasca—a N extension of its published Saskatchewan breeding range by more than 400 mi. He had seen an adult in the same location July 16, 1981. Two ad. Mountain Plovers were observed near Onefour, Alta., July 4 (CH). An estimated 6000 Ruddy Turnstones were found near Churchill June 5 (BC) while a Willet there June 28 (TS, DM) and three Purple Sandpipers June 12 were accidentals (BC). A Whimbrel turned up at Birds Hill P.P., near Winnipeg July 1, an unusual date (R. Koes). Rare shorebirds in the Calgary area included a Red Knot July 25, a White-rumped Sandpiper July 27, two W. Sandpipers July 24, 14 Hudsonian Godwits July 14 and one or two ♂ Ruffs July 24-31 (JS, MS, RBa, RBu, AS, B. Storm). Another Western was seen near Cochrane, Alta., June 3 (SJ, LO). On July 27 a flock of 111 Marbled Godwits was found on Ingebright L., Sask., just w. of the Great Sand Hills, as were > 1700 Wilson's Phalaropes (CH). What appeared to be a late non-breeding concentration of 31 Am. Avocets was noted June 5 near Calgary (RBu). Pakowki L., Alta., had one Black-necked Stilt May 15 (G. Thorn) and two Aug. 3 (ML). What is apparently the second spring record for a Red Phalarope in Alberta was a full-plumaged male, studied for 10 ± min, on a mudflat with other shorebirds June 3 near Ft. McMurray (JG).

**JAEGERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — The first documented Saskatchewan record of a Long-tailed Jaeger, diagnosed as being in its second-year nuptial plumage, stayed at Last Mountain L., July 8-17 and was caught (SL, WH, BK, ph., B. Luterbach); there are fewer than 10 records for the province. Alberta's third record for a Black-legged Kittiwake was an adult- or nearly adult-plumaged individual, n.e. of Calgary June 6 (ph., JS, MS, W. Wilson). Churchill's first California Gull was seen June 8 & 11 (F. Cooke) and its first Franklin's Gull July 17 (L & CW). Other accidentals there included a Black-headed Gull July 15 (DM, TS), a Laughing Gull July 9-25 (BC, DM), Little Gulls periodically through the period with a maximum of three June 5 (DM) and an ad. Black-legged Kittiwake July 18 (BC, m.ob.); Ross' Gulls peaked at 10 on June 20 (BC). Southern Manitoba had its second Great Black-backed Gull, an immature, at Oak Ham-



Long-tailed Jaeger, 2nd-year nuptial plumage, Last Mountain Lake, Sask., July 12, 1982. Photo/Bob Luterbach.

mock June 2-5 (T. Ffrench, m.ob.). Stragglers continued at Churchill with a Black Guillemot July 17 & 18 (BC, H. Currie). Saskatchewan's fifth Band-tailed Pigeon was seen June 25 & 28 near Raymore (WH, SL). Great Horned Owls in Saskatchewan showed the effects of the declining snowshoe hare population after peaking in 1981. About 30% of pairs did not attempt nesting and 78 nests produced 153 young, just under 2.0 young/successful nest (SH). Burrowing Owls appeared to be up in Manitoba and the Saskatoon area but down near Regina (H. Copland, BG, BK). More than 50 breeding pairs settled in s. Manitoba where 100+ young were banded (B. Ratcliff, *vide* W. Koonz). Although nests of Pygmy and Boreal owls are rarely found, one of the former held two young near Priddis, Alta., July 11 (AW, KJ, GS); one of the latter had two young July 25 in Calgary (AS) and there was another nest at Birds Hill P.P., Man. (G. Smith). Late Com. Nighthawks were migrating June 1 (30 birds) at Good Spirit L., and June 2 (45 ±) at Regina (J. & W. Anaka, T. Riffel, BK). A very dark swift with a slightly forked tail, apparently a Black Swift, not previously reported in Saskatchewan, was studied for 5 min, over Mortlach July 4 at heights from 30 to 80 ft (P. Browne). A hummingbird with a completely orange body, the description of a ♂ Rufous Hummingbird, was seen June 13 n.w. of Southend, Sask., more than 500 mi n.e. of its breeding range (K. Roney).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH BLUEBIRDS** — A Lewis' Woodpecker strayed to Calgary July 17 (RBa). With about 15 Manitoba reports to date, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a rarity at Oak Hammock June 5 (ph., DF). A Say's Phoebe June 18 provided the first record for Churchill (K. Kaufman). Four species, recently common at Ft. McMurray, increased significantly over 1981: Tree and Barn swallows more than doubled and Black-billed Magpies and Com. Crows increased fourfold (JG). Tree Swallow nesting around Saskatoon was delayed until after the May storm, and was thus more uniform than usual; occupancy and success were down modestly with 91 successful and 21 unsuccessful nesting attempts. Nevertheless, the usually evident surplus of swallows seemed not to be present; it may be that half the swallow population perished during the storm (MH). The first summer record of a Black-capped Chickadee for Churchill was established June 11 (BC). A breeding record for White-breasted Nuthatch was a rarity for Calgary (AS). The first recent breeding record for Sage Thrashers in Saskatchewan was of a flightless young caught July 8 n.w. of Govenlock (ph., WH). Two Hermit Thrushes singing July 17-23 near Dundurn, Sask., were s. of their published breeding range (BG). At Saskatoon the 240 boxes checked regularly in this portion of the Prairie Bluebird House Trail had much the poorest success in the 14 years of operation, excluding 1969, when the boxes were first put out. Overall occupancy rate, normally 90 to 99%, was only 76%. Only one brood of Mountain Bluebirds survived the May 29 storm; only 56 pairs of bluebirds attempted nesting, the lowest number since 1973. Thirty of 56 nesting pairs were successful; only 4 boxes raised two bluebird broods successfully, whereas some years 50% re-nest successfully. Fledged young totalled 132, just under half the 1981 total (MH).

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES** — A Magnolia Warbler singing in Calgary June 30 was apparently out of its breeding range (JP) as were a June 12 Chestnut-sided, also singing (RBa), and a Cape May in the foothills w. of Calgary July 18 (AW, C. & M. Wershler).

Connecticut Warblers apparently on territory were n. of their published breeding range at Ft. McMurray in June (one bird; JG) and s. of it near Priddis July 11 (two males; AW, KJ, GS) and near Bottrel, Alta., (at least five males; SJ). Brewer's Blackbird, another common bird at Ft. McMurray, quadrupled this summer (JG). A pair of Scarlet Tanagers nesting at Dauphin, Man., was n. of the previously known breeding range (B. Walley). In Calgary three singing Rose-breasted Grosbeaks June 20 hinted at breeding s. of their normal range (AS). An Indigo Bunting near Roche Percee, Sask., July 5 indicated a new breeding area (WH). Single ♂ Lazuli Buntings were well out of range at Maidstone June 20 (WH, SL) and near Beausejour, Man., June 3 (M. Siepman, G. Grief, N. Cleveland). There had been only one record of a Purple Finch at Churchill until one was seen July 18 (L & CW). Lone Sharp-tailed Sparrows singing June 12 near Irricana and Langdon, Alta. (JS, AW) and July 18 near Calgary (W. Hall) were beyond their normal breeding range. A Dark-eyed Junco was seen in

Moose Jaw June 21 (M. Ritchie). A Field Sparrow showed up again this year near Beausejour through June and July (P. Taylor). Clay-colored Sparrow numbers more than doubled at Ft. McMurray, possibly because of increasing habitat (JG). An undocumented Brewer's Sparrow was reported at Churchill June 20, far from its closest range in s.w. Saskatchewan (DM, J. Skykoff, TS).

INITIALED CONTRIBUTORS — (Provincial compilers in bold-face; local compilers in italics) R. Barkley, **R. Butot**, **B. Chartier**, H. Copland, D. Fast, B. Gollop, J. Gulley, C. Harris, W. Harris, M. Houston, S. Houston, S. Johnston, K. Jones, R. Koes, B. Kreba, S. Lamont, H. Lane, M. Lewis, D. McRae, L. Orman, J. Podlubny, G. Simpson, T. Sinclair, A. Slater, J. Steeves, M. Steeves, L. & C. Weseloh, A. Wiseley.—J. BERNARD GOLLOP, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, Sask., S7N 0X4.

## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Craig A. Faanes

The general weather pattern across the Northern Great Plains was of unseasonably cool temperatures and below-normal rainfall during June, while July was typified by near-normal temperatures and precipitation.

Because of timely snowstorms in late March and April, wetlands remained filled across much of the Missouri Coteau and Drift Plain physiographic regions during late spring and summer. Aerial surveys of eastern South Dakota showed that the number of basins holding water in 1982 was 148% greater than in 1981, and 11% greater than the 1959-81 average. Conditions were similar in eastern North Dakota, where basins holding water were 131% greater than in 1981, and 25% greater than the 1958-81 average.

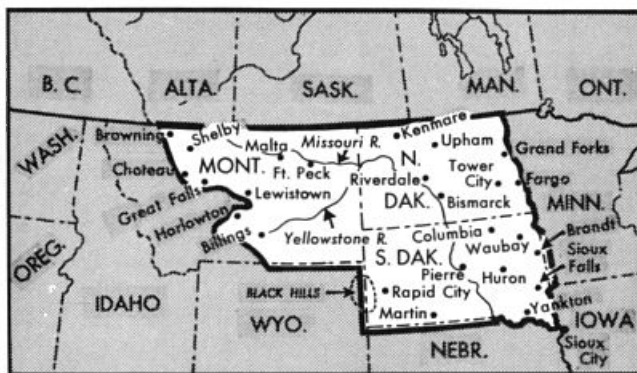
Corresponding to favorable water levels during spring, prairie grasslands and croplands were in excellent condition. The alfalfa crop in North Dakota was in the record-breaking category and much of the hay crop was first cut in early June; up to two weeks earlier than normal. These activities can pose problems for many early-nesting bird species.

Although the weather was generally agreeable throughout, it did not stimulate observers to explore much of the Region this summer (or report what they saw). Nonetheless, some important new data were gathered on a number of species, especially colonial waterbirds.

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — About 5500 White Pelican nests were at the Chase Lake N.W.R., N.D. colony (PA, JS), and 75 adults were observed at Willow Lake N.W.R., in the Turtle Mts., June 19 (RCR), where  $100 \pm$  active nests were found in 1980. Sloan (*Am. Birds* 36:250-254, 1982) incorrectly attributed nesting White Pelicans at Willow L., to J.C. Salyer N.W.R.—a location where the species is not known to have ever nested. White Pelicans were reported from 3 South Dakota colonies that have been active since 1962, but were unreported in Sloan's paper. These included 742 at Pyas L., Marshall Co., 545 nests at Drywood L., Roberts Co., and 152 nests at Grass L., Coddington Co. (BH, KH, LH).

One pair of Little Blue Herons was at Whitewood L., Kingsbury County, S.D., June 7. Little Blues were present there in 1981, and nesting was probable in 1982. Forty-three Cattle Egret nests were found at Whitewood L., June 7, and 18 nests were at Rush L., June 15. The first record of Cattle Egret for Grand Forks County, N.D., was obtained June 4 (JK). A colony of more than 200 Great Egrets (nests present but not counted) was found near Aberdeen, Brown Co., S.D. (PC, DT). The Whitewood L. heronry hosted 30 ad. Snowy Egrets June 7, and eight adults were at Rush L., Day Co., S.D., June 15. One Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at the Brown County, S.D. colony July 9 (PC) and July 10 (DT). Four White-faced Ibis and nests with eggs were at Whitewood L., June 7. A nest with five young was photographed there June 28.

**WATERFOWL** — At least seven Snow Geese were observed in e. North and South Dakota June 9-26; six of these were in apparently good health. Aerial breeding waterfowl surveys were conducted



again this year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Overall populations were markedly improved when compared to 1981, e.g. +42% in Montana, +97% in North Dakota, and +104% in South Dakota. These figures were, of course, related to improved water conditions in the prairie region which served to hold breeding ducks during N migration. Although populations appeared to have increased, some species still experienced sizable declines. Most obvious among these was the -23% decline in Mallards in South Dakota, and -9% in North Dakota, when compared to the 1973-82 average. Although water conditions looked good and populations of many duck species were greater than last year, good quality upland nesting habitat is lacking in the important regions of the eastern Dakotas, where cereal grain and sunflower farming constitute the dominant land uses.

Elsewhere in the Region, two ♂ Cinnamon Teals were at Minot July 23 (GB). Broods of eight and nine Com. Goldeneyes were in Rolette County, N.D., June 19 (RCR). A brood of  $20 \pm$  downy Buffleheads was in the same area June 20. One ♀ Bufflehead at Camp Crook, Harding Co., S.D., June 27 was quite far s. for that date (DLB).

**HAWKS THROUGH RAILS** — A ♀ Goshawk was found July 5 in the Missouri R. breaks n. of Jordon, Mont. (SG). Although no nest was found, the bird's behavior suggested nesting may have occurred. Four Cooper's Hawks were reported from w. North Dakota, three from e. Montana, and a Roberts County nest, active in early June, was found to be unsuccessful June 25 (DS). An active Broad-winged Hawk nest w. of Minot, N.D., July 1, and a nest at Sawyer, N.D., July 14, were the first and second for this species in the Souris R. valley (GB, RM). One Broad-winged Hawk at Newton Hills S.P., June 3, was quite far s. for the season in South Dakota (BH). An Osprey at Big Stone L., Roberts Co., June 26 furnished one of very few summer records for South Dakota (GS). Single Ospreys were seen 3 times during the period at Ft. Peck Dam (CC). Single Merlins were in Oliver and McKenzie cos., N.D., June 3 (GB, CF).

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reported statewide decreases in populations of Ruffed Grouse (-1.5% in Turtle Mts.; -17.5% in Pembina Hills), Sharp-tailed Grouse (-26%), Ring-necked Pheasant (-25%), and Gray Partridge (-8%). These de-

clines, except for Ruffed Grouse, were attributed to mortality during the severe winter of 1981-82. Production by Sage Grouse in e. Montana appeared to be high. Many broods of 4-6 young were found, and many road-kills were noted (CC).

A Virginia Rail near Loneman, Shannon Co., provided one of few records for s.w. South Dakota. At least six Yellow Rails were reported from e. North Dakota, including singles n.w. of Dawson, Kidder Co., June 1; Regan, Burleigh Co., June 18-19; Salyer N.W.R., July 17; and 3-4 in native prairie near the Grand Forks airport July 31.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Piping Plovers were reported as nesting regularly at 12-15 areas along the Missouri R., between Sioux City, Ia., and Gavin's Pt. Dam at Yankton, S.D. (*vide* Bh). Single broods of 10-12 day-old chicks, and 2-3 day-old chicks were found at Ft. Peck July 10 (CC). Ten or more Am. Golden Plovers were observed at Fargo on 7 days June 16-July 20 (MB), suggesting that this species can be observed throughout the summer in e. North Dakota. The same statement probably holds for several other Arctic-nesting shorebird species, especially now that sufficient time is being spent by observers at good shorebird locations during the summer months (cf. AB 35 953, 1981). Summer and fall observations of Hudsonian Godwit are at a premium, thus the two at Fargo June 12, and one at Minot July 21 were especially noteworthy. A **Red Phalarope** in winter plumage was at Grand Forks June 23 (GL, †DL). This individual, which represented the fifth state record, was compared with nearby Wilson's and N. phalaropes. American Woodcock were reported from 3 e. South Dakota locales: Robert County June 13; Grant County June 14; and Sica Hollow S.P., June 26 (*vide* BH). A Com. Snipe flushed from a nest July 9 provided the first breeding record for Grand Forks County. One W. Sandpiper was at Fargo July 9 (MB, CS). A well-described ♂ **Ruff** in breeding plumage was found July 7 at the Fargo sewage lagoons (†MB *et al.*). This was the third North Dakota record of a Ruff in breeding plumage. The date is especially interesting because it suggests a bird returning S from the breeding grounds—wherever they might be!

— S.A. —

Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a rare spring and fall migrant across North Dakota (Faanes and Stewart, *Prairie Nat.* 14:81-92, 1982), and most records are for the e. and c. portions of the state. Most observations of this species in recent years have been made in plowed fields, and the peak of the observations is usually during the last week of July and first 10 days of August. This summer, GL reported 32 Buff-breasted Sandpipers July 27, and DL found 130 July 31, on a fallow field near the Grand Forks sewage lagoons. After early August, when most of the grain harvest has been completed, farmers conduct their fall plowing activities—greatly increasing the amount of available plowed ground. DL questions whether the peak of migration is actually compacted during the above period, or if the apparent reduction in numbers of Buff-breasteds seen is related to the marked increase in available habitat after the fall plowing of grain fields begins, making the birds more difficult to find. Perhaps observers in the Canadian Prairie Provinces and the Southern Great Plains could contribute to efforts in the Northern Great Plains to answer these intriguing questions.

**GULLS THROUGH TERNS** — About 50 adult and several young California Gulls were found at L. Laretta, Nelson Co., N.D., June 19 (DL). Up to three California Gulls were at Fargo June 16-29. This species was apparently unknown from that locale in previous years.

One **Least Tern** along the Missouri R., at Culbertson, Mont., July 2 represented the second state record (†B. Whelton). Ninety-eight ad. Least Terns in 7 colonies were counted along the Missouri R., between Garrison Dam and upper L. Oahe, N.D., July 6-7 (U S F. W. S., *vide* M. Dryer). Separate pairs of Least Terns were also found along the upper reaches of L. Sakakawea, N.D., including one pair in Tobacco Garden Bay, McKenzie Co., June 3, and Key's Cove, Williams Co., July 7 (CF). These are apparently the most w. records of Least Tern in North Dakota. Single Caspian Terns were at Willow Lake N.W.R., June 19 (RCR), and at Minot July 20 (RM). More important was the observation of 5 **Caspian Tern** nests on Gull I., in Ft. Peck Res., during July (B. Haglon). One young was found July 5, and 2 nests were still active July 24 (CC). These represent the first confirmed Montana nesting record.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at the Spotted Eagle Recreation Area near Miles City June 18 and July 6 represented the 18th Montana record (SG). Six Poor-wills in the N. Unit of Roosevelt N.P., June 4 established a new locale for the state, and also extended the known range of this species about 100 km n. (CF). Five singing Poor-wills were heard in the S. Unit of Roosevelt N.P., June 24 (RCR). One Poor-will was in the Pine Hills s.e. of Miles City through the period. This bird was flushed from its nest which contained one egg. Two other Poor-wills were heard on the Missouri R. breaks n. of Jordon, Mont. (SG). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were found June 10 in Deuel County, and July 23 in Roberts County, S.D. There are still no known breeding records for that state (BH). One Red-headed Woodpecker was at Chester, Mont., June 13 (MK), and three pairs nested at Ft. Peck (CC). Possibly the most n. nesting location of Red-bellied Woodpecker in South Dakota was found June 26 at Hartford Beach S.P. (DS). A single Red-bellied Woodpecker was in the Grand Forks cemetery June 3. DL reported a nesting density of 4-5 pairs of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers/river mi along the upper Turtle R., in e. North Dakota.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS** — The most e. record of Say's Phoebe was of a pair feeding three fledged young July 27 near Northwood, Grand Forks Co. (JK). Important new data on Alder Flycatcher distribution in North Dakota included one in late June near Orr, Grand Forks Co., and one at LaMoure Co., in s.e. North Dakota June 26. Five W. Wood Pewee pairs at The Nature Conservancy's new Cross Ranch Preserve, Oliver Co., N.D., represented a NE extension of that species in the state (GB). Single W. Wood Pewees were also found near Parshall, Mountrail Co., June 13 and near Sawyer, N.D., June 11 and July 23 (RM). Short-billed Marsh Wrens moved into the prairie region in excellent numbers this year; there was a noticeable increase in numbers from 1981 in the Minot area (RM). However, this species was not recorded at Lostwood N.W.R., until June 25 (FB).

**MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — A singing ♂ Mockingbird was at Zap, Mercer Co., N.D., July 22 (CF). Three Mockingbirds were at n. Jordon, Mont., June 24 providing new records for Latilongs L 22 and possibly L 21 (SG). Berkey estimated 30-60 pairs of E. Bluebirds at Cross Ranch, Oliver Co., throughout the season. An ad. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found June 3 at Newton Hills S.P. This is the same location where found in 1981 (BH) and represents the second summer record for South Dakota. Thirty-eight Loggerhead Shrikes were observed in 185 road mi in s.w. North Dakota July 24 (RM). BH reported from e. South Dakota that there were "more [shrikes] than in many years for this area of the state." One Loggerhead Shrike pair fledged 4 or 5 young July 7 near Grand Forks and another pair fledged young in s.c. Grand Forks County in mid-July. These may be the first definite breeding records of this species in the Agassiz Lake Plain in many years (DL, JK). Three Bell's Vireos were in Davison County, S.D., July 3 (RGR, JM). One Solitary Vireo was in the Missouri R. breaks along the Musselshell R., July 13 (SG).

— S.A. —

Among the most intriguing breeding species of the prairie region is Sprague's Pipit. Although one of the true characteristic prairie species, probably less is known about Sprague's Pipit than any other grassland bird. Stewart (1975, *Breeding Birds of North Dakota*) suggested that breeding pipits go through 2 periods of active singing each year, primarily May to early June, and mid-July to late August. Again this year, this pattern was evident. DL reported that the limited population hanging on in Grand Forks County was not heard until early July. An e. bird tour group, directed to a consistent Sprague's Pipit spot in Kidder County in late June failed to observe this species. However, another group in the same area July 10 heard six males from one spot. More knowledge of these apparent activity periods is necessary in order to adequately study Sprague's Pipit breeding populations, and also to optimize observation opportunities for visiting birders.

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES** — One ♂ Golden-winged Warbler was heard July 15 in the same area of the Pembina Hills, Cavalier Co., N.D., where the first state nesting record was confirmed last year. One singing ♂ Tennessee Warbler was at Strawberry L., Bottineau Co., June 20 (RCR), and another male was in

Grand Forks June 22. Stewart listed this warbler as a suspected breeder, based on several early July records. The 1982 records reinforce the question—"Does the Tennessee Warbler nest in North Dakota?" A Myrtle Warbler in Grand Forks June 2 was undoubtedly a late migrant, but one male in the Int'l Peace Gardens July 10 might possibly have been nesting. Only Audubon's Warbler is known to nest in North Dakota. A very late Blackpoll Warbler was singing June 9 at the Spotted Eagle Recreation Area near Miles City (SG). A ♂ MacGillivray's Warbler in McKenzie County, N.D., June 3 was probably a late migrant.

Seven Scarlet Tanagers were reported from e. South Dakota, and one male was on territory in Oliver County June 17 (RM, GB). A singing ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak near Parshall, Mountrail Co., June 13, was among the most w. records for the state. Blue Grosbeaks were reported from 6 s.c. South Dakota counties. One pair n.w. of Bismarck, Burleigh Co., July 19 (CF) was in the same locale where the species nested in 1979 and 1980. BI found this year's nest July 30. Dickcissel numbers were much reduced from 1981; only five were reported from e. North Dakota. A visiting Georgia birder reported that during 9 days of intensive birding over 3200 mi extending from Atlanta to the U.P. of Michigan, w. to Jamestown, and return to Atlanta, he recorded no Dickcissels and only one Loggerhead Shrike (M. Oberle)! A pair of House Finches in Edgemont, Fall River Co., June 11, probably represented the only known site for this species in South Dakota. Over 100 White-winged Crossbills were in the Sylvan L. campground, Black Hills June 1 (NH, DH). Whitney *et al.*

(1975) reported the White-winged Crossbills are possible summer residents at that location.

**SPARROWS** — A single, agitated Le Conte's Sparrow was in the White Rock area, Roberts Co., June 13. Two birds (a pair?) were at that location June 26 (BH). Although no nests were found, the observers were confident that nesting was in progress. The last confirmed nesting in South Dakota was in 1955. Swamp Sparrows were in 3 McHenry County, N.D., locations, one was at Salyer N.W.R., July 18, and 3-5 pairs were at Verendrye, N.D., through the period. This species is uncommon and highly local, largely occurring only in the e. and s.-c. portions of North Dakota. Very late Dark-eyed Juncos were at Grand Forks June 3, and at Cross Ranch June 5 (DL, RM, GB).

**CITED OBSERVERS** — Area compilers in boldface. MONTANA—Charles Carlson, Steven Gniadek, Mark Krook. NORTH DAKOTA—Phil Arnold, Gordon Berkey, Mary Bergan, Fred Broerman, Brian Iverson, John Kelly, David Lambeth, Greg Lambeth, Ron Martin, Richard C. Rosche, John Sidle, Carol Spurbeck, and 18 other observers. SOUTH DAKOTA—Dan Bjerke, Pete Carrels, Bruce Harris, Lee Harris, David Holden, Nelda Holden, Ken Husmann, James McLaird, Robert G. Rogers, Richard C. Rosche, Dennis Skadsen, Greg Stava, Dan Tallman, and 12 other observers.—CRAIG A. FAANES, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, N.D. 58401.

## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Frances Williams

Abundant rains brought lush vegetative growth and hordes of insects, but the usual searing heat of a plains summer did not develop until late July. Conditions were right for bounteous production of fledgling birds and most species nested successfully and repeatedly. Much breeding activity continued into August. A plethora of migrants lingered well into June, many more than could be listed in the limited space available.

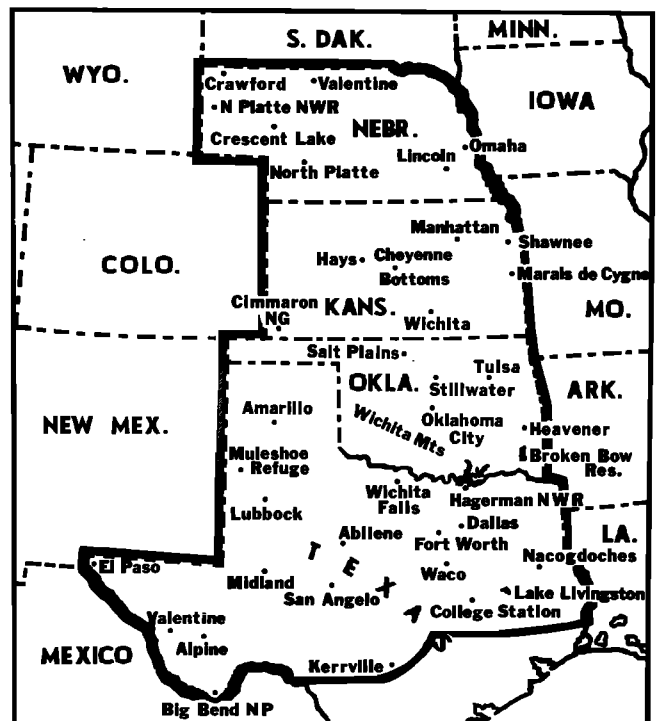
Highlighted among the reports received were two accounts of man's alteration of the habitat in a way which would seem to be counterproductive for breeding birds, but which resulted in providing nesting sites for several less common species. The first of these is a sand dredging operation on the Platte River in Nebraska which benefitted the Blue-listed Least Tern. This site is described below. The other is in the lead and zinc mining area of northeastern Oklahoma, where ground rock, waste material from the mines, has been piled in mounds from 20 to 350 feet high covering from one acre to 280 acres. Paul W. Wilson of Fairland, Oklahoma has discovered that the chat piles are inhabited by these hole or cliff nesting species: American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, Bank, Rough-winged and Cliff swallows, Starling and House Sparrow.

Italicized place names in the following report are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — An excellent description was submitted of an Arctic Loon on L. Ogalalla, Keith Co., Neb., on the late date of June 10 (DTW). At Quivira N.W.R., Kans., 106 Eared Grebe nests were destroyed by a storm July 13 (RB). On Merritt Res., Cherry Co., Neb., 150 W. Grebes were counted July 6 (JD). Pied-billed Grebes summered in McLennan, Tex. (LB). Unusual summer records were provided by White Pelicans in McLennan June 27 (JO) and Tulsa June 15-29 (AH, m.ob.). An Anhinga was discovered in Linn, Kans., July 24 (LM, RP). A Magnificent Frigatebird which remained at Meade County State L., Kans., from mid-June to mid-July, was the first seen in the state since 1880 (MG, m.ob.).

**HERONS THROUGH IBISES** — Little Blue Herons nested successfully in Johnson, Tex., for the first time (CE). Many thousand Cattle Egrets inhabited heronries in Muskogee (JH) and Pittsburg (CSg), Okla. The species summered in Douglas, Kans., but no nests were seen (TAB). At least 150 were counted during Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter, B.B.S.) in Limestone and Robertson, Tex. (LB).

Yellow-crowned Night Herons were present at El Paso for the first time in many years (KZ). Least Bitterns summered in Oklahoma and Canadian, Okla., but the water was too deep for wading and the cattails too dense to penetrate with a boat, so nesting could not be confirmed (JGN). Two Least Bitterns were found in Linn July 12 (MC, KHo) and one was seen at Tulsa June 1 (AH, AR). An Am. Bittern was sighted in Hutchinson, Tex., July 5 (KS). Five Wood Storks visited Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., July 20-21 (KHa) and on the next day six were seen on the Oklahoma side of L. Texoma (HM). All were young birds. At Quivira N.W.R., 22 nests of White-faced Ibises were found June 10 (RBr). More than 50 White-faced Ibises were present at El Paso July 21 (JDo, BJ).



**WATERFOWL** — In *Rush*, Kans., Mallards nested successfully, taking advantage of the wet spring and early summer (SS). A Mottled Duck was present in *Clark*, Kans., July 16 (J & ES). In *Crosby*, Tex., a Green-winged Teal nest with 8 eggs was destroyed by hail and flood June 18 (ML). The nest represented one of the very few breeding records of the species in the state. A ♀ Gadwall followed by ducklings was seen in *Hutchinson* July 5. Redhead was the most common summering duck in *Castro* and *Midland*, Tex., but no young were seen. A Ruddy Duck at Fredericksburg, Tex., July 29 may have been a very early fall migrant (E & KM). A Hooded Merganser was seen at *Omaha* July 1 (RC).

**VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS** — In *Crosby*, A Turkey Vulture roost used by 20-50 birds from 1973 to 1978 was used by only 6-12 birds this year (KH).

**S.A.**

July 4, 3 Oklahomans on a B.B.S., in the s.e. part of the state discovered the nest of a **White-tailed Kite** (BC, JT, JSk). On July 20, a second nest was discovered nearby (BVo). There were three young in the first nest and two in the second. All young were banded and one adult was photographed. August 3, an unbanded young bird was seen, apparently from a third nest. The only previous breeding record in the state was established pre-statehood, in 1860. To prevent harassment of the birds the location was not made public.



*White-tailed Kite, s.e. Oklahoma, July 20, 1982. Photo/John Shackford.*

In an experimental program in Kansas, 2 eggs of a Swallow-tailed Kite were flown from Florida and placed in a Mississippi Kite nest near Meade. Both eggs hatched and the foster parents began feeding the nestlings as their own. One chick died, cause unknown. The other fledged about July 25. It is hoped the young one will migrate with its "parents" and return next year, demonstrating that it might be possible to re-establish Swallow-tailed Kites in an area where they have not bred since 1914.

A Cooper's Hawk at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., July 11 represented a first midsummer record there, and one at El Paso July 21 was also noteworthy. Broad-winged Hawks were seen near Keene, Tex., June 9-July 3, Dallas June 19, July 3 and in *Washington*, Okla. (no date given). Although above-average numbers of Swainson's Hawks were seen in w. Texas, most were sub-ad., non-breeding birds. In *Rush* and *Pawnee*, Kans., 2 nests produced just one fledgling Swainson's Hawk each. During June, Ferruginous Hawks were located in *Hartley*, *Ochiltree* and *Dallam*, Tex., but no nests were seen (KS). The Black Hawks found near Lubbock in the spring remained through July 31 (KH, m.ob.). A young Golden Eagle seen July 2 at a cliffside nest in *Sheridan*, Neb., provided a first breeding record there (RCR). A Marsh Hawk family with three young was present in *Stafford* June 2-July 19 (J & ES). In *Pawnee*, Kans., a Marsh Hawk

nest which contained 4 eggs July 6 held 3 cold eggs July 26 and the adults were absent (SS). Marsh Hawks in *Oldham* and *Dallam*, Tex., in June represented rare summer records (KS). An Aplomado Falcon chick was hatched in captivity at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, Alpine, Tex. A Merlin in *Trego*, Kans., July 30 provided an unusual summer record. At Buffalo Lake N.W.R., a pair of Am. Kestrels raised young in one of the hollow cinder blocks of a comfort station. In downtown Bartlesville, Okla., an Am. Kestrel carried food into an unused (by people) building. Three pairs of kestrels nested in the *Ottawa*, Okla., chat piles, each in a different pile. The holes they occupied were probably dug originally by Bank or Rough-winged swallows (PWW).

**QUAIL THROUGH GALLINULES** — Those who have searched in vain for Montezuma Quail will envy the observers who saw a pair with nine young cross the highway between Balmorhea and Ft. Davis, Tex. (SW). Another pair was seen on the road shoulder of highway 1703 near Alpine (GW). Six young wild Turkeys were present in one of Tulsa's River Parks July 24 (FP). Two ad. Sandhill Cranes remained at Quivira N.W.R., July 6-26 (RBr *et al.*). Several Virginia Rails summered in the marsh below the dam at L. Meredith, Hutchinson Co., Tex. (KS). A Sora was discovered in *Meade* June 13 and four Black Rails were calling in *Stafford* June 3 (J & ES). Common Gallinules nested at Dallas and Quivira N.W.R., and were present at *Hutchinson*, *McLennan* and Ft. Worth, Tex. One was found dead on a street in Muskogee, Okla., June 8 (JN).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Owing to high water in the Platte R., Piping Plovers nested successfully at only one of 6 sites along the lower river (JD). Piping Plovers were observed at Hagerman N.W.R., July 17 & 22 (KHa, JHB). Snowy Plover numbers were about the same as last year at Quivira N.W.R., and Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., but success was low because of periodic heavy rains and hail (RB). In *Norton*, Kans., a 3-day-old Upland Sandpiper chick was photographed June 25. On July 30, four fledglings were in the same area (SS). Six Upland Sandpipers in *Hansford*, Tex., June 10 were unusual for the date (KS). A Ruff was found June 21 at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans. (RB, BS, \* to Ft. Hays State Univ.). American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts nested at El Paso, the first time breeding has been confirmed there (JSp). Black-necked Stilts also fledged young at Quivira N.W.R. An observer accustomed to shorebird congregations on the Texas coast marveled at the astounding assemblage of 200,000 shorebirds, including 2000 Black-necked Stilts, at Cheyenne Bottoms July 14 (CC). There were many Wilson's Phalaropes at Quivira N.W.R., but nesting success was low due to periodic high water (RB). A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes was on a playa in *Carson*, Tex., June 20, just e. of the spot the first Texas breeding record was established in 1980 (KS).

**TERNs** — A Com. Tern was sighted at Quivira N.W.R., June 4 (J & ES). A Caspian Tern was observed in *Linn*, Kans., July 18 and at least two were present at Cheyenne Bottoms June 1-July 21.

Three studies of Least Tern colonies were received. Jim Ducey wrote that an aerial survey of the lower Platte R., by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission revealed 6 Least Tern colonies in the 100 km stretch of the Platte from the Missouri upstream to the w. boundary of *Dodge* and *Saunders*. A ground count of these sites



*Sand dredging on the Platte R., Neb. This dredging provides nesting habitat for Least and other tern species. Photo/Jim Ducey.*



revealed a total of 78 ad birds and 31 nests July 1-2. The sites were visited again July 28-30, when 17 fledged young were seen. High water reduced the size of sandbars used as nesting sites, but in at least one case the high water also reduced recreational activity on the sandbars, thus permitting the terns to nest undisturbed. The most successful colony was at a private sand and gravel operation in *Saunders*, where the owner was interested in the success of the terns and limited human access during the breeding season. Sand dredging operations benefit the terns by continually providing new sand areas free of vegetation. Activities associated with hauling sand did not bother the terns, as one incubating bird did not leave its scrape within 5m of the road even when large trucks roared by. In Tulsa, Fred Pianalto reported that high water at the usual nesting area at 45th Street and the Arkansas R., caused the Least Terns to move to 41st Street and to nest about 2 weeks later than last year. The first nest was found June 10 and by July 1 there were 12 nests, one of which contained a chick. By July 8, there were 15 nestlings. A later nest with 3 eggs was located July 25. The Schulenburgs and Roger Boyd found 37 breeding pairs of Least Terns in Kansas, in *Meade*, *Stafford* and *Clark*. The success rate was low, but better than last year. Boyd also reported 30 pairs of Least Terns on the Cimarron R., in n.w. *Woods*, Okla.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — It was a banner year for Black-billed Cuckoos. In n.w. Nebraska, many were noted in cities and towns and in all riparian growth. In Kansas, individuals were seen in *Barber*, *Phillips* and *Pawnee*. In *Washington*, Okla., one was feeding a nestling July 30. It was a good year for Roadrunners at Hagerman N.W.R., where as many as eight could be found during one field trip.

Near Valentine, Tex., 4 Barn Owl eggs were discovered May 15 in the bottom of a 20 ft high unused water tank. The tank was located between ranch house, working pens and vegetable garden—right in the center of ranch activity. Two eggs hatched, then it rained, leaving 3 in of water in the tank. The owlets survived. After the water evaporated, the adult futilely incubated the 2 remaining eggs. By Aug. 4, one owlet had flown, but the other was still in the tank (JM). Barn Owls fledged young at Muleshoe N.W.R. Four young Elf Owls appeared at dusk on a ranch road in *Presidio*, Tex., July 17-18 (JM). At least 2 families of Burrowing Owls resided in *Canadian*, Okla. In *Meade*, Kans., a pair of Burrowing Owls with three young were observed July 31. Short-eared Owls were reported in *Pawnee*, Kans., during early June. Whip-poor-wills called all summer in *Sarpy*, Neb. (MW).

**HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird visited a Ft. Davis, Tex., feeder June 22-30 and a female came periodically July 18-31 + (PE). In *Presidio*, a ♂ Lucifer fed in a flower garden May 28 (JM). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in El Paso June 29-30 were noteworthy at that date (SWi, JDo). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird enjoyed a Lawton, Okla., feeder June 15-31 (JMM). A Rufous Hummingbird arrived at Kerrville July 22, an early date (E & KM). The only Calliope Hummingbird reported was at Alpine, Tex., July 31 (GW). Rivoli's Hummingbirds visit the Dog Canyon ranger station in Guadalupe Mts. N.P., each July (SW) and they are observed almost every summer in the Davis Mts. (*fide* GW). A Broad-billed Hummingbird visited a feeder in *Presidio* July 4-15 (JM). A Green Kingfisher in *Coryell*, Tex., June 9 provided a new county record (LB, JSw). A pair of Golden-fronted Woodpeckers nested in Big Bend N.P., constituting a first record there (ABI). In Lincoln's Chet Ager Nature Center, a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested, also a first record (MO). Two Ladder-backed Woodpecker nests were found in *Kingfisher*, Okla. (JSk), and a pair was sighted in Alabaster Caverns S.P., *Woodward*, Okla. (RB). In Texas, the species can now be found as far e. as *Johnson* (CE).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Two juv. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen in Alpine indicating a probable nesting (GW). The mesquite grassland area in *Kingfisher* was the habitat of a pair of nesting Ash-throated Flycatchers, the easternmost recorded in Oklahoma (JSk). Say's Phoebe fledged young in *Rush* (SS) and *Meade*, Kans. (JP). A Least Flycatcher was seen and heard in *Osage*, Kans., June 19 (SK). The pair of Vermilion Flycatchers in *Cimarron*, Okla., noted in the spring report, had fledged young and built a second nest by June 11 (JSk). Most of the nest burrows in a Rough-winged Swallow colony in *Lancaster*, Neb., were destroyed when the bank of the creek collapsed. Instead of 40 burrows, 10 ± remained and only

one appeared to be occupied (JD). A Barn Swallow nest with 3 eggs provided a first, but not unexpected, breeding record for *Lubbock*, Tex. (KH, DS). Cave Swallows were sighted in *Ward*, Tex., under an IS 20 bridge over a dry wash 400 yds e. of the Pecos R. (GWa). A pair of Cave Swallows again nested at Balmorhea S.P., Tex.

**MAGPIES THROUGH WRENS** — Two Black-billed Magpies were seen in *Stafford* June 1 (J & ES). In *Robertson*, Tex., Bushtits were seen June 2 (LB, JO). White-breasted Nuthatches were found in *Phillips* and *Norton*, Kans., during the B.B.S. (SS). A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** nested successfully in Wichita, apparently only the second Kansas nesting on record (F & EL, *fide* DV). A Red-breasted Nuthatch in *Lubbock* June 6 (RE) was a very late spring migrant, while early fall migrants were noted in *Chadron*, Neb., July 30 (RCR) and the *Guadalupe Mountains N.P.*, July 31 (CC). A Brown Creeper was present all summer at *Omaha*. Bewick's Wrens nested in *Baldwin*, Kans., the first time in many years (RB), and a family with five young was found in *Comanche*, Kans. (SS). A Cactus Wren in suburban *Midland* discovered that a martin house is a good place to raise a family, safe from Roadrunners and snakes. Three Long-billed Marsh Wrens were heard in appropriate habitat in *Linn*, Kans., July 11 (MC, KHo). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were believed to be nesting near *Lawrence*, Kans., in July (CCI).

**MIMICS THROUGH TANAGERS** — In Nebraska, Mockingbirds were seen in *Red Willow* July 15 (BJR) and at *Ash Hollow S.P.*, July 26 (PDS). Late Gray Catbirds were located at *Dallas* June 9 (BV) and *Midland* June 11-13 (JMe). A Hermit Thrush at *Midland* July 26 provided an unusual summer record (JMe). A ♀ **Aztec Thrush** in *Big Bend N.P.*, July 31 (CSE), Aug. 7 (ML) provided a second Park record. At *Hagerman N.W.R.*, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were feeding nestlings on the late date July 29 (KHa). A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher was found in *Guadalupe Mountains N.P.*, July 31 (CC). Black-capped Vireos continue to decline in c. Oklahoma, but the Texas population is apparently stable. An easily accessible spot to see this species is at the Greenhills Environmental Center near *Dallas*. All contributors continue to report a decline in numbers of Bell's Vireos. A Red-eyed Vireo at *Midland* was a late migrant (JMe). A Black-and-white Warbler was seen in *Omaha* on the unusual date of July 5. Two N. Waterthrushes were banded in *Fontenelle Forest*, *Sarpy*, Neb., July 16, 18 (RG). Two Bobolink nests with eggs and young were found near *Quivera N.W.R.*, June 10 (RB). A new colony of Bobolinks was located in *Sarpy* (PS, AS). Both Eastern and W. Meadowlarks were common near *Alpine* (GW). In *Allen*, Kans., a W. Meadowlark was heard June 18 (SK). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were feeding young in *Castro*, Tex., July 4 (KS, PA). A pair of Hooded Orioles was present at *Lost Maples S.P.*, Tex., June 10 (E & KM). A dozen Great-tailed Grackles were n.w. of *Wichita* June 5 (J & ES). The alarming spread of Bronzed Cowbirds in c. and w. Texas continued, as a marked increase was noted in the *Kerrville* area and first sightings were made at *Alpine* and *El Paso*. No Summer Tanagers were seen on heard during 3 B.B.S. on the s.w. edge of the *Edwards Plateau* in Texas.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at *Tulsa* June 1 were late. Blue Grosbeaks were numerous along the *Cimarron R.*, from *Freedom*, Okla., to *Liberal*, Kans., and were seen at 2 localities in *Sarpy*. Late Indigo Buntings were seen in *Texas* in *Big Bend N.P.*, June 21, *Kerr* June 10, *Oldham* June 6. A ♂ Painted Bunting brightened *Comanche*, Kans., June 12 and a nest was found in *Clark*, Kans., June 18. The Dickcissel population burgeoned in *Lubbock* and *Crosby*, Tex., and *Pawnee*, Kans. House Finches were present in *Chadron*, Neb., all summer and two juveniles were seen July 28 (DJR). On a *Sheridan*, Neb., B.B.S., only 20 singing ♂ Lark Buntings were heard, in contrast to a high in 1977 of 214 individuals (RCR). A ♂ Lark Bunting in *Sarpy* June 10 was far e. of the usual range of the species (PS). Lark Buntings summered in *Stafford*, *Clark* and *Meade*, Kans., *Bailey* and *Yoakum*, Tex., and nesting was likely in each area. There were large breeding populations of Grasshopper Sparrows in w.-c. Kansas and the *Texas Panhandle*. Cassin's Sparrows were abundant from the *Oklahoma Panhandle* s. to *Alpine*, *Texas*. Nesting began early and many pairs must have nested twice, as singing and skylarking increased in July although many fledglings were in evidence. Black-chinned Sparrow was the most common bird in *Dog Canyon*, *Guadalupe Mountains N.P.*, July 15 (SW) and at least five males were singing in the *Franklin Mts.*, near *El Paso* June 30 (JDo). A new nesting site of *Swamp Sparrows* was discovered in *Sheridan* June 4 (RCR).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — **Kansas:** Amelia Betts (ABt), Roger Boyd, Ralph Bryant (RBr), Cal Cink (CCi), Charles Clark, Mel Cooksey, Mark Goldsberg, Kelly Hobbs (KHo), Steve Kingswood, Fred & Edith Long, Lloyd Moore, Jim Parker, Richard Parker, Jean & Ed Schulenberg (J & ESi), Scott Seltman, Bill Sharp, Donald Vannoy. **Nebraska:** Tanya Bray, Rusty Cortelyou, Jim Ducey, Ruth Green, Mabel Ott, Dorothy J. Rosche, Richard C. Rosche, B.J. Rose, Andy Saunders, P.D. Skaar, Phil Swanson, Melba Wigg, Daniel T. Williams. **Oklahoma:** Roger Boyd, Bill Clark, Ella Delap, Alice Hensy, Jim Hoffman, Jo Lloyd, Howard McCarley, Janet M. McGee, John G. Newell, Jim Norman, Fred Pianalto, Aline

Romero, John Shackford (JSk), Charles Strong (CSg), John Tomer, Bill Voelker (BVo), Paul W. Wilson. **Texas:** Peggy Acord, James H. Beach, Anne Bellamy (ABi), Lillian Brown, Charles Clark, Robert D. Coggeshall, Jeff Donaldson (JDo), Charles Easley, Rosemary English, Pansy Espy, Karl Haller (KHa), Kelly Himmel, Bob Johnson, Mark Lockwood, Joan Merritt (JMe), Jody Miller, Ernest & Kay Mueller, June Osborne, Warren Pulich, Bettie Roberts, Jean Schwetman (JSw), Charles Sexton (CSe), Kenneth Seyffert, John Sproul (JSp), Darlene Stevens, Betty Vernon, Gene Warren (GWA), Steve West, Geth White, Scott Wilson (SWi), Kevin Zimmer.—**FRANCES WILLIAMS, Rt. 4, 2001 Broken Hills East, Midland, TX 79701.**

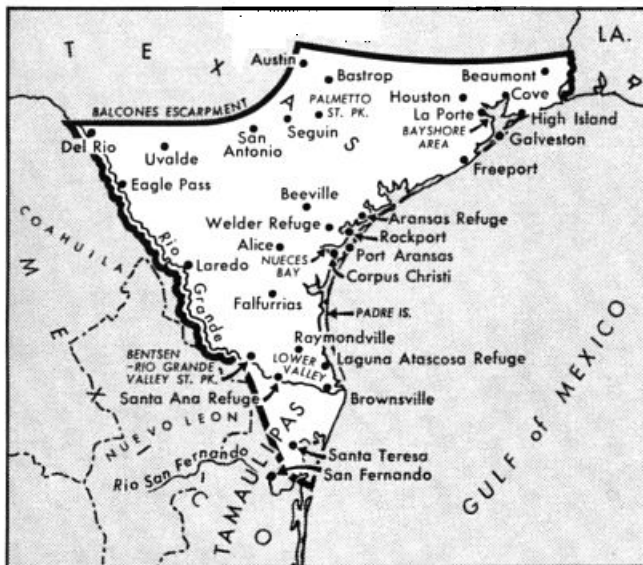
## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

In most areas of the Region, birds responded to favorable conditions with successful nesting efforts. The season was unmarred by major disasters and only a few of a local nature. Rainfall of late April and of May was to prove crucial in supplying fresh water and stimulating vegetation for June and July, months when very little precipitation occurred except on the upper coast. Sunny skies contributed to temperatures averaging slightly above normal. By the end of the season most of South Texas was on the verge of drought; the lily-covered rain ponds which dotted the coastal plain from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande Delta were drying up, grass was browning, and some trees were succumbing to drought stress. It should be noted that nesting activity for landbirds is well under way—in some cases completed—by June 1, so that dwindling water and food supplies should not be a limiting factor to production.

**GREBES, PELICANS** — Least Grebe production was good from the Rio Grande Delta n. to Welder Ref. where 6 pairs were noted—the first breeders there in several years (GWB). A large number of nests was reported in the Falfurrias area, Brooks Co., where young were in the nest into late July (AWO). Heavy infestation of lice in the pouches and on the bodies of young White Pelicans during the past 2 seasons, with subsequent die-offs, probably caused the colony to abandon South Bird I., in favor of spoil banks farther s. on the Laguna Madre. This year's young appeared healthy (RW). Brown Pelicans have made a dramatic comeback since the nearly total decline of the 1950s. Even now few are seen on the upper coast, but 2 breeding colonies have been established on the c. coast, and visitors from Mexico, thought to number at least 400 this season, were regular on the lower coast northward. This was the best comeback season to date. The Pelican I. (an old spoil island) in Corpus Christi Bay had about 80 nests and 147 young. The other site, Carroll I., on the s. shore of San Antonio Bay had 16 nests and 23 young. Aerial surveys showed 245 birds between Port Mansfield and Port Isabel (lower coast) July 1, and 557 birds between San Antonio Bay and Corpus Christi Bay, including the gulf beaches, July 7, 142 of which were unfledged young on Pelican I. Young pelicans are reported to be healthy, food sources were good, and parasites were much fewer than in the 2 previous wet years (DB, EP).

**HERONS, IBISES, SPOONBILLS** — The long Texas coastline with its barrier islands and backside sand flats, bays with natural and spoil islands, salt marshes, and mud flats, host myriad waterbird nesting colonies which in 1982 were relatively undisturbed by natural phenomena. High tides did inundate some Galveston Bay colonies but renesting was successful. Fire ants attacked nesting herons on Lone Oak Spoil I., in Galveston Bay, killing about 50% the young birds, but this was not a large colony. Preliminary reports indicate generally good production for all colonial waterbird species; unfortunately, final figures are never available until well after this report is due. About 700 pairs of Reddish Egrets nested successfully in the large colony on Green I., in lower Laguna Madre. This figure represents a slight drop in numbers from recent years. That there were many individuals not occupied with nesting is suggested by flights of up to 1500 Reddish Egrets approaching or leaving the island in the heat of the day. The assumption is that not so many birds would leave the nests at one time. Good production was noted for the much smaller populations in at least 2 c. coast colonies, Second Chain of



Islands in San Antonio Bay and Long Reef in Aransas Bay. Roseate Spoonbills had a good season at the important colonies of Vingt-et-un I., in Galveston Bay with 250 ± pairs nesting, and at Green I. Spoonbill nestlings were not molested by fire ants that attacked other species on Lone Oak Spoil I., thanks, perhaps, to some "built-in repellent" (JW). Perhaps the distinctive odor of the spoonbill? (ed.)

**WATERFOWL** — Good production was indicated for Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. Dr. O'Neil, longtime observer at Falfurrias, Brooks Co., reported the largest hatch he had ever seen. Two pairs of Masked Ducks were seen in a flooded field w. of Falfurrias June 20, but could not be located subsequently (AWO). Water hyacinths and other aquatic plants typically clog such shallow intermittent lakes which are favored by Masked Ducks and render sighting of them difficult.

**HAWKS** — Hawks are not readily seen from interstate highways in summer and not many birders search the back roads, hence an accurate assessment of hawk production from the vast, but ever dwindling, thorny brush forest of South Texas is unavailable. An exception has been the few birders at Falfurrias who through the years have contributed valuable observations concerning brush country raptors. This season in s. Brooks County, Red-tailed Hawks were fledged June 29 from a nest atop a 20-ft pole surmounted by flood lights; Swainson's Hawks fledged two young about May 1 (AWO); also, good numbers of Harris' Hawks and Caracaras were noted (JB, AWO). An imm. Zone-tailed Hawk at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., July 27, was unusual; this species is considered to be a rare winter visitor (SJ, AS). Also unexpected was an ad. Bald Eagle flying over the Oso at Corpus Christi July 23 (MS), and an ad. Peregrine Falcon at a farm-pond in n. Hays County June 23 (BH). Based on sightings of three Am. Kestrels along a 10-mi stretch of high power lines in n. Webb County June 9, Arvin suspected a small breeding population from Zapata County n. into Dimmit County. A single bird was seen 30 mi n. of San Antonio June 29 (BB). This common winter resident does not normally breed in South Texas.

**GALLINULES, SHOREBIRDS** — Purple Gallinules nested successfully at several sites on the c. coast, while the Com. Gallinule took advantage of well vegetated rain lakes throughout the coastal area to produce a good crop of young. The latter species nested on an overgrown island of sediment in a large sewage pond at Austin; ten healthy young were counted in this odorous environment July 31 (J & BR). Along with other beach, island and marsh nesters, shorebirds had a successful season.

**TERNs, SKIMMERS** — After many years of persecution by humans, the Least Terns on Rockport Beach have been fenced in; nesting results were good after a slow start (C & HK). A fence was installed again along the Padre I. causeway by the Nueces County Commissioner to protect nesting Black Skimmers (KM).

**DOVES** — Surveys by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists indicated 487,000 White-winged Doves nesting in the 4 counties comprising the Lower Rio Grande Valley (Rio Grande Delta). This is a very slight decrease from 1981. About 58% of the birds utilized native brush, the remainder nested in citrus groves. For a number of years these doves roosted in Texas but fed in Mexico in great numbers. Since waste grain is an important food item, doves were attracted to extensive new plantings in n.e. Mexico. To lure the birds back into Texas for hunting purposes, landowners started planting sunflowers. The plan worked, and for several years most doves have remained in Texas to feed. Beyond the Rio Grande Delta, the most stable and significant White-winged Dove colony is in the vicinity of L. Corpus Christi. About 51,800 birds nested here in 1982, an 8% increase over 1981 (*vide* RG). The Mourning Dove breeding population in South Texas increased an estimated 18% over last year and production appeared good (*vide* RG).

**ANIS THROUGH KINGFISHERS** — Groove-billed Anis disappeared from the Pearsall area of Frio County where they were widespread nesters a year ago (DS). This may have been a local shift as anis were found elsewhere in Frio County and in adjacent Zavala County (CS). They nested in good numbers in the Falfurrias area (AWO). At least 20 young Barn Owls were brought to Corpus Christi for rehabilitation, displaced from hunting blinds when the owners did their fall "housecleaning" (KM). A Chuck-will's-widow was singing vigorously amid the Pauraque chorus at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., July 11 (CS). This species has not been known to nest in deep South Texas and the date is extremely early for migration.

Buff-bellied Hummingbirds are increasingly common in summer at Falfurrias (AWO). Ringed Kingfishers summered at Santa Ana N.W.R., and at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P. If these were breeding birds, the known breeding range in Texas has been extended some 75 mi E (JA).

**FLYCATCHERS** — Two pairs of E. Kingbirds were at Port Lavaca, Calhoun Co., at least one of which nested (DW); this species once nested regularly to the c. coast. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers produced good hatches at Falfurrias (AWO), one of several areas where a decline has been evident in recent years. Kiskadees have nested at Falfurrias for the past 3 years and now are common (AWO). A pair was present at Corpus Christi oxidation ponds during the summer (GWB). Both locations are on the n. edge of the breeding range. Wied's Crested Flycatchers had a very good year in Wilson County (WS) near the n. limits of its range. Beardless Flycatchers produced young at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P. (JA).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH ROBINS** — Barn Swallows continued to occupy every, it seemed, highway culvert deep into the Region. At Beeville, this species nested under the porch eaves of a ranch house (VG) for a new locality record. Cave Swallows, once found at a very few traditional sites, are expanding dramatically. The recently discovered population near San Ygnacio, Zapata Co., has spread from one to three colonies. Arvin reported a "very high population with colonies under virtually every culvert along U.S. Hwy. 277-83 between Eagle Pass and Laredo June 9." Sexton reported them widespread in Zavala and Frio cos., in May and June. A pair of Blue Jays was seen regularly in residential Pearsall throughout the season (LA, *vide* CS). Breeding has not been recorded this far s.w. Green Jays are now common breeding birds at Falfurrias (AWO). Brown Jays seemed to be doing well along the Rio Grande from Falcon Dam to Rancho Santa Margarita, Starr Co. (CS). Two singing Am. Robins

were noted in Falfurrias May 25, nesting was suspected but no evidence found (AWO). Breeding is not known to occur this far s in Texas.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Black-capped Vireo habitat on the w. edge of Austin is being destroyed systematically by developers but the bird is easily found in remaining pockets (CS). Now that the species status of the **Yellow-green Vireo** is in terminal jeopardy the bird has made a comeback in the Rio Grande Delta! Conclusive evidence confirmed breeding for the first time since 1974. A pair near the manager's residence at Santa Ana N.W.R., fledged at least two young. August observations here and at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., suggested the possibility of more than one pair (JA). Typical Red-eyed Vireos were observed at s. extremities of the range, a pair on territory in riparian habitat below the dam at L. Corpus Christi and two pairs in the San Antonio R. valley in Goliad County (GWB). The Golden-cheeked Warbler population at Austin is suffering the fate of the Black-capped Vireo and the future appears grim with the allocation of water to huge subdivisions planned in w. Travis County. The warblers are still common and easy to find, although this year they seemed more scattered. Hard winter freezes apparently reduced the prospective caterpillar population, as evidenced by the lack of the usual defoliation of deciduous oaks and elms, and reduced thereby a normal food source (CS).

**ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS** — Hooded Orioles were scarce or absent from the Rio Grande Delta and upstream, but reportedly more regular along the s. edge (escarpment) of the c. Texas hill country. Parasitism by the Bronzed Cowbird is a suspected major cause of the oriole's departure from its former range to areas where this parasite is less common (CS). Parasitism by both cowbird species was noted at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., during July. Cardinals and Long-billed Thrashers appeared to be the most common hosts, and the Bronzed Cowbird was predominant in most cases (SJ). The Bronzed Cowbird reached Austin some years ago but is still rare and localized.

Painted Buntings had an excellent year at Falfurrias after a 4-year decline (AWO). Dickcissels found habitat to their liking and, predictably, remained to nest in many localities throughout the Region. Olive Sparrows fared well at Falfurrias (AWO). A nesting population of Grasshopper Sparrows w. of Falfurrias increased over last year (AWO). This species continued to invade coastal bermuda pastures in Wilson County, joining E. Meadowlarks in this restricted habitat. Cassin's Sparrows were unaccountably absent from Wilson County (WS).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND CITED OBSERVERS** — Mrs. L. Appelt, John Arvin, Bob Benson, Gene W. Blacklock, David Blankinship, Johnny Boerjan, Gary N. Burke, Charles Easley, Velma Geiselbrecht, Ron George, Bob Harms, Sam Jajola, Charles & Hilde Kaigler, Ed Kutac, Greg Lasley, Kay McCracken, A.W. O'Neil, Emilie Payne, John & Barbara Ribble, Daniel Schmidt, Alan Schriver, Willie Sekula, Chuck Sexton, Marilyn Shriver, Robert Whistler, Joe Whitehead, Doris Wyman.—**FRED S. WEBSTER, JR.**, 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, TX 78731.

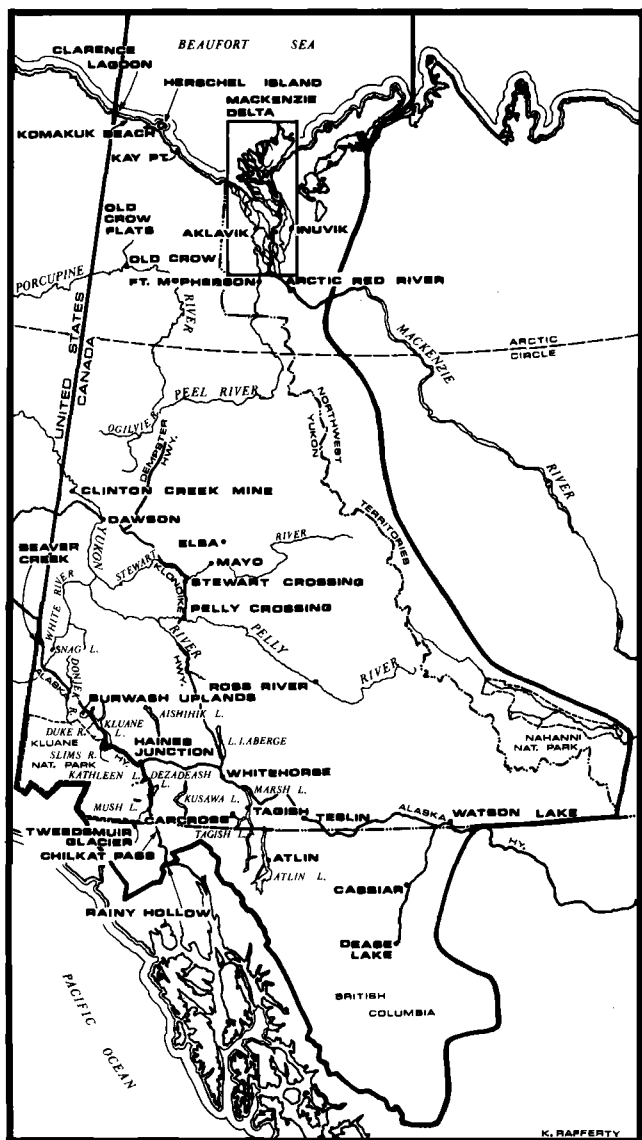
---

## NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/Helmut Grünberg

June was a very dry month in many parts of the Region while July was more favorable in that respect although precipitation did not nearly reach the long-term averages. Temperatures were close to normal. Low precipitation, combined with a late spring, should have had a negative effect on the breeding birds. This could indeed be observed in isolated instances, but even in these cases other reasons for unsuccessful breeding attempts could not be ruled out. The total number of observed species reported was 216, which is close to last summer's record high of 223.

**GEESE THROUGH RAILS** — Snow Geese were observed at Inuvik, N.W.T., May 18+ (MBen). The third or fourth record of a ♂



Gadwall was received from Inuvik, MacKenzie Delta June 9-13 (MBen). Interestingly, on June 13, this bird seemed to have been paired with a ♀ Mallard. A similar observation was made independently May 29, 1982 near Pelly Crossing, Yukon (see AB: 36, 873). A rare Cinnamon Teal, a male, was seen near Fort St. John, B.C. (hereafter, F.S.J.), June 18 (GS, CS). In early July, BMen observed Com. Eiders in the MacKenzie Delta. An Osprey was noted at Moose Cr., c. Yukon June 7 (DM). Gyrfalcons were reported by 3 observers in the Yukon. Peregrine Falcons apparently have made a noticeable recovery at known nesting sites in the mid-Yukon while the tundra race seems to have disappeared in the n. Yukon (DM). A pair of Soras was apparently established as far n. as km 1 Dempster Hwy. The birds were seen or heard on several occasions June 11-July 30 (RF).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two Black-bellied Plovers were seen at Inuvik June 5 (MBen), and two were noted near Pine L., Haines Jct., Yukon July 1 (KP). An estimated 8-10 pairs of Surfbirds were displaying in an area of about 50km<sup>2</sup> between Klaza and Apex Mts., Dawson Range, s.w. Yukon June 2-10 (RF). Three new Surfbird sites were also found in the Ogilvie Mts. (RF). The northernmost observation of two Surfbirds was made in the Richardson Mts., at 68°28' N, 137°27' W July 12. The behavior of the birds suggested that young were nearby (JG, DW). The above observations indicate that the Surfbird is a regular nesting bird in mountains throughout the Yukon. Four Ruddy Turnstones were observed at Wood Buffalo N.P., June 7 (MBo). A few positive identifications of Greater Yellowlegs in the Yukon and n. British Columbia are noteworthy: one near Whitehorse June 12 (JL, PW), at least one near the British Columbia/Yukon border along the Haines Rd., June 28-30 (KSt), two at Bighorn Cr., s.w. Yukon July 1-

5 (RCam), two at Log Cabin, B.C., km 46 Skagway Rd., July 13 (SC) and 1-4 near F.S.J., July 10-13 (CS). Twenty Short-billed Dowitchers were seen at Swan L., near Whitehorse June 6 (HG, WH). A high count of 90 Stilt Sandpipers was reported from sewage lagoons at F.S.J., July 14 (CS). Three W. Sandpipers were detected at Swan L., near Whitehorse July 30 (HG). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was noted near Inuvik June 9 (MBen). Eighteen Hudsonian Godwits were counted at sewage lagoons near F.S.J., July 14, and 1-12 were noted here July 15-27 (CS). Eleven Sanderlings were observed near Inuvik June 4 (MBen). Up to 13 Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Swan L., throughout the summer at their usual location (HG *et al.*).

**JAEGERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Parasitic Jaeger was observed at Yellowknife July 1 (KSo), and the first report of this species for the Peace R. area, B.C., was received as one was seen at Charlie L., July 22 (CS). A Glaucous Gull was observed in Whitehorse June 22 (SC). A single Sabine's Gull was noted at the Inuvik municipal dump June 4-5 (MBen). One vagrant Mourning Dove appeared near F.S.J., July 18 (JJ, GS, CS), and a Barred Owl called in the same area June 5 (CS). A Rufous Hummingbird was noted at Graham Inlet, n. B.C., July 14 and one July 30 (MBr). Four sightings in the s. Yukon by 3 observers were reported (*vide* RCar). A "probable" Rufous Hummingbird was seen near F.S.J., July 15 (CS).

**KINGBIRDS THROUGH STARLINGS** — An E. Kingbird was observed near Mayo, c. Yukon June 18 (RF) and one as far n. as the MacKenzie Delta in late June or early July (MBen). Hammond's Flycatchers were identified in several locations from n. British Columbia to c. Yukon June 16-July 9 (SC). Two Rough-winged Swallows were observed at a beaver pond on McIntyre Cr., Whitehorse June 3 (HG, WH). Mountain Chickadees continue to appear at a specific location in Whitehorse (DS). Two Wheatear nests with well-feathered young were found within 0.8 km of each other in rock crevices in the roadbed of the Dempster Hwy., at the Yukon/N.W.T. border June 5-6 (SC). Two singing ♂ Veeries were observed near F.S.J., for the first record of the area (CBu, JJ, CS). Two Cedar Waxwings were noted as far n. as Liard Hotsprings, n. B.C., in the same area as Bohemian Waxwings June 16-17 (SC). Starlings with at least two fledged young were seen near km 1 Dempster Hwy., July 9 (RF, SC).

**VIREOS THROUGH SPARROWS** — A rare Philadelphia Vireo was seen near F.S.J., June 13 (CS). A singing ♂ Tennessee Warbler was observed as far n. as km 447.5 Dempster Hwy., at "Cornwall Cr.," July 6 (SC). This is the first record of this species for the Dempster Hwy. Two or three singing ♂ Cape May Warblers were noted near F.S.J., June 5-12 for the first record since 1975 (JJ, GS). A Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, was chasing one of the "Myrtle" race near Whitehorse June 16 (JL, PW). To the R.E.'s knowledge this is the first observation of the usually more s. race in the Yukon. Bay-breasted, Connecticut, Mourning and Canada warblers appear to be rare but regular summer residents in the Peace R. area (CS *et al.*).

An unusually large number of W. Meadowlarks, a flock of at least seven birds including one of which sang once, was observed in the Peace R. area, B.C., July 24. Western Meadowlark is considered accidental in that area (CS). Three ad. singing Golden-crowned Sparrows and one immature were discovered at Pink Mt., near F.S.J., July 21, a rare observation in this area (CS). One to two Le Conte's and two ♂ Sharp-tailed sparrows, both considered rare in the Peace R. area, were identified there in July (JJ, CS). A Swamp Sparrow was observed as far n. as the Klondike R., near km 0 Dempster Hwy., July 9 (SC, RF). This seems to represent the first Yukon record of this species.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — M. & P. Beattie (M & P Bea), M. Bentley (MBe), M. Bernard (MBe), C. Bookless (CBo), M. Bossenmaier (MBo), M. Brook (MBr), C. Butt (CBu), R. Campeau (RCam), S. Cannings, R. Carlson (RCar), L. Downs, D. & P. Denison, R. Frisch, J. Ginns, W. Harms, J. Johnston, J. Lammers, M. Lammers, B. McDougall, D. Mossop, K. Postoloski, G. Saxon, D. Schuler, C. Siddle, K. Southworth (KSo), K. Strong (KSt), P. Wilson, D. Wood.—HELMUT GRÜNBERG, Yukon Conservation Society, 308 Steele Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, Y1A 2C5.

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN— INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

The western part of the Region in general experienced a hot, dry June until the last week when conditions became unseasonably wet and cool. Western Montana, however, had a cool, wet June except for Bozeman, where conditions were dry. July was in general wet and cool over the Region, except for Bozeman, during the first half, after which the weather became almost uniformly hot and dry. Generally speaking, a wet spring and deep snowpacks in the mountains supplied abundant moisture for plant growth. Nesting was somewhat delayed by the weather but this apparently had no serious effect upon birds. High water levels in some areas caused problems for water-related nesters. An extremely severe hailstorm at Helena June 28 killed or injured large numbers of adult birds of many species and destroyed nests.

**GREBES** — Eared Grebes built 7 nests on a fishless lake near Fortine, Mont., where there is usually only one. All but one nest were abandoned, apparently because ducks perching on them pushed them below the waterline (WW). At least 50 pairs of this species, with young, were at Reardan, Wash., June 28 (FB). Western Grebe pairs at Malheur N.W.R. (hereafter, Malheur), Burns, Ore., totaled 1775, down 39% from last year. Cascade Res., Cascade, Ida. had 700 of the birds June 12 (G.E.A.S., MRC).

**PELICANS AND CORMORANTS** — White Pelicans concentrated off the refuge at Malheur as water receded in ponds, trapping carp. A flock of 30-40 was on the Snake R., near Clarkston, Wash., May 21 (TS; RN *et al.*). Up to 13 were on Cascade Res., in June (m.ob.). Sightings of the species were almost nil in c. Washington but 27 were at Naramata, B.C., June 14 (TB) and Summerland, B.C. had 20, June 20 (JB). High water continued to create problems for Double-crested Cormorants at Malheur. Most of their overwater nests became waterlogged and sank and 200 nests in large willow trees there were reduced to 87 by disturbance and raccoon predation. An imm. Double-crested was at the mouth of Alpowa Cr., on the Snake R., Garfield Co., Wash., June 29 (RN, MK) and one was at Kamloops, B.C., June 7 (DL).

**HERONS THROUGH IBISES** — Total production of Great Blue Herons at Malheur and in the Malheur-Harney Lakes Basin was 1136. A Green Heron at Malheur June 16 provided s.e. Oregon's sixth record (SL, DD) and one was sighted at Mud L., w. of Hamer, Ida., June 24 (CHT).

A pair of **Cattle Egrets** produced five young at Malheur for the first breeding record for Oregon (CDL). Two Cattle Egrets at L. Walcott were presumed to have nested (CHT) and one stayed in a pasture at Osoyoos, B.C., June 14-26 (M & TC; SC; WCW). A Great Egret was photographed at Ennis, Mont., for the third latilong record (PDS). Snowy Egrets had a bleak outlook except for Malheur with 65 pairs and L. Walcott, Rupert, Ida., where Trost banded 200 young in 2 days. He found thin-shelled eggs in many places in s. Idaho.

Potholes Res., Moses Lake, Wash., had 1000-2000 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons and 50 pairs were nesting on Goat I., in Moses L. Twenty-eight nests on islands in Wells Pool on the Columbia R., n. of Wenatchee, Wash., all failed. At least five pairs were seen along Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. (RF). A colony at Sylvan L., near Odessa, Wash., had 20+ adults June 21 (JH, SZ). Black-crowneds appeared to be still in trouble in s. Idaho. Trost banded 395 but 187 were adults at the Pocatello hatchery. He banded only 39 young at Am. Falls Res., and only 70 at L. Walcott in 2 days of intensive banding. A single bird was at Revelstoke, B.C., May 3 (ECa). Three Least Bitterns were heard and seen at Malheur throughout the summer (CDL). White-faced Ibises seemed to be doing well.

**WATERFOWL** — A Whistling Swan was sighted at Malheur June 24. The July 30 aerial survey there recorded 6 Trumpeter Swan broods totaling 17 cygnets, with two more on private land. Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., had two pairs of Trumpeters, one of which had 6 eggs but succeeded in hatching only one. Canada Goose production at Malheur was the highest since 1971, with 2375 goslings; production at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., was up 25%.



Eight Snow Geese, including one blue-phase were on Malheur's Harney L., June 16.

Duck pairs in the Malheur-Harney Basin continued to decline with just under 15,000, attributable to high water and burgeoning carp numbers. Mallards there were at their lowest since 1959; years of high water there appear to correlate with low Mallard numbers (CDL). Dabbling duck production at Kootenai N.W.R., was down significantly as were nearly all species of ducks in the Fortine vicinity. Malheur had a ♂ Eur. Wigeon and three Wood Ducks June 24 and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had up to 15 of the latter. Three Greater Scaup were at Fairfield, Ida., June 4 (JBa). Common Goldeneye broods at Fortine contained 7-8 goslings; only one Barrow's Goldeneye brood was sighted there (WW). Single White-winged Scoters, rare in s. British Columbia in summer, were at Kamloops June 27 (RH) and in Kootenay N.P., June 2 (LH). Ten males were on Sullivan L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash., July 5 (FB). A pair of Hooded Mergansers apparently was nesting again at Cardwell, Mont.; a female was found in a Wood Duck box with a male nearby (RLE).

**HAWKS** — A **White-tailed Kite** was sighted in the Yakima Valley, Wash., in late June (JMH). Golden Eagles in n.c. Washington had 20 successful nests out of 60± potential nesting territories (RF). A pair of Bald Eagles reared two young at Otter L., near Armstrong, B.C., for the first breeding record for that locality (JG). An adult was hunting over a shallow lake s. of Silver Lake, Ore., July 8. Supposedly this bird was from nearby mountains where a few pairs are known to nest (CDL). A pair near Sycan Marsh s. of Silver L., produced two young (CDL) as did a pair at Pend Oreille L., in n. Idaho (SGS). At Holter L., near Helena, Mont., a Prairie Falcon dived on a yearling Bald Eagle, breaking its neck and killing it (GH). A Marsh Hawk trying to snatch an Am. Coot chick at Reardan was driven into the water by ad. coots. Male Ruddy Ducks and several Eared Grebes surrounded the hawk, which drowned after a 10-min struggle (FB). An Osprey pair was feeding young at a lake near Pilot Rock, Ore., for the second consecutive summer (SM) and a pair was nesting near Buena, Wash. (Y.A.S.). The Osprey nesting attempt at Salmon, Ida., was unsuccessful.

Raptors which feed on jackrabbits nested in larger numbers, compared to 1976 on the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab site, Arco, Ida. Successful Ferruginous Hawk nests increased from 2 to 16 there and more nests of Red-tailed Hawks, Golden Eagles and Com. Ravens were also found (TiC). The Region had 5 sightings of Peregrine Falcons and one of a Merlin.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — "Mountain" Grouse broods in n.e. Washington were averaging 5-7 young, an improvement over recent

years (SZ) Bobwhite were heard near Pendleton, Ore. In June (C & MC, REW). Wild Turkeys continued to increase at Kootenai N.W.R.

#### CRANES THROUGH COOTS —

S.A.

Twenty-seven Whooping Crane eggs were placed with Grays L., Ida., Sandhill Crane foster parents and 19 chicks hatched. There has been one known loss but parental behavior indicated they were doing well. The locations of 11 Whooping Cranes that hatched there in recent years have been determined in e. Idaho and w. Wyoming. These birds have not yet reached breeding age (ECB).

Greater Sandhill Cranes had 66% nesting success at Malheur, the highest since 1976. A single Sandhill was sighted at Nile, Wash., June 9 (Y.A.S.) and the species summered near Leadore, Ida. (HBR). Two **Yellow Rails** were tape-recorded in the Klamath Basin June 19-20 for apparently the second Oregon record (LRH). Malheur's breeding population of Am. Coot was about 30,000.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Three Semipalmated Plovers were at Stinking L., Malheur July 10 and two appeared at Blacks Creek Res., s.e. of Boise, Ida., June 6 (MRC). Stinking L. had 27 Snowy Plovers July 12; high water apparently displaced them from their usual nesting area at Harney L. Leadore had Long-billed Curlews June 19 (HBR). The traditional Upland Sandpiper site in the Spokane Valley revealed 3-4 of the birds June 21 and a **Whimbrel** there was the first for n.e. Washington (BH-T, THR, GW). Five Upland Sandpipers were sighted in Logan Valley near Seneca, Ore., July 22 (CDL) and several were seen in nearby Bear Valley (*vide* AC). A Baird's Sandpiper was at Chewelah, Wash., July 15 (JN). Up to 16 Sanderling were near Clarkston, Wash., July 6 & 23 (RN; LL). An Am. Avocet at Revelstoke June 1 was noteworthy (RB). Black-necked Stilt numbers were very low in c. Washington with only two pairs reported. An adult with three young was seen in July at Frenchman Hills Wasteway, s. Grant Co (JL). Thousands of Wilson's Phalaropes were on Abert L., Lake Co., Ore., July 25 and 25 N. Phalaropes summered at Malheur (CDL).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — Some 10,000 Ring-billed Gulls were on Abert L., July 25. Cabin I., Priest Rapids Res., Wash., had 25-30 nesting pairs of Forster's Terns and about 15 pairs were along Winchester Wasteway w. of Moses L. (RF). The Clarkston vicinity had two June sightings of single Forster's (LL; RN). Caspian Terns were prevalent at Malheur throughout the summer but no nests were found. At Potholes Res., 274 active Caspian nests were inventoried and 20 nests were found at Banks L. (RF). In s. Idaho a colony of 14 with many young was on Blackfoot Res., where previously there were only two birds. They were also noted at Market L., Roberts, Ida (CHT). One Caspian was photographed near Clarkston July 3 (RN) and Kamloops, Creston and Nakusp, B.C., each had two birds (JW, KV; GD). Ennis, Mont., had 5-7 from June 22 to about July 9 for the fifth area record (PDS, SCo, ETH). Several Black Tern colonies were located at Malheur and 600 birds were nesting on Sycan Marsh (CDL).

**PIGEONS AND CUCKOOS** — Single Band-tailed Pigeons showed up near Grandview, Ida. (TCO); at Kamiak Butte s.w. of Palouse, Wash. (JWW); e. of Pendleton, Ore. (C & MC, REW); at Malheur (AS, HCl), and near Belgrade, Mont., for the second record there (JS, CVD, LM; PDS, ETH). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was sighted over the S. Fork of the Payette R., w. of Lowman, Ida., June 19 (MRC). Black-billed Cuckoos were heard at Canyon Ferry Res., July 3 and one was heard at L. Helena July 10, both near Helena (GH). Two were found s. of Revelstoke July 10-12 (ECa) and one was near Kamloops June 27 (RH).

**OWLS** — Barn Owls appear to be becoming common in the Lewiston, Ida.—Asotin, Wash. vicinity. Included in the observations were two young, one dead, June 6 (*vide* MK). One spent daytimes in a barn near Armstrong, B.C., June 19-mid-July (FM). A pair was reported at Horn Rapids Park 13 mi n.w. of Richland July 21 & 25 (JEn; REW) and two were seen in April and May at Wenatchee, Wash. (HO). One was found in Bend, Ore., June 22 (TCr). The Pygmy Owl was found in the Pioneer Mts., n.w. of Dillon, Mont., and near Red Lodge, Mont., for the first summer records for the latilongs

(PDS, HC) Barred Owls heard in 4 localities in Okanogan County, Wash., in July suggested a substantial population there (RF, SMA, JD). One was found in Pend Oreille County for the only other report (JN). A pair of Spotted Owls in Okanogan County was believed to be the first verified for the county (DH). An adult and an imm. Great Gray Owl were seen near Kamloops (GB) and a pair nested near Cranbrook, B.C. (RH). A nest of the species in the Bridger Mts., n. of Bozeman had three young July 11 (JS). A nesting of Long-eared Owls at 5000 ft elevation in Malheur N.F., Ore., was reported (*vide* AA)

**POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Poor-wills were heard e. of Norris, Mont., at a different site from their detection in 1980 and 1981 (SCo, PDS). One was heard the night of June 15 at Calamity Lookout n.e. of Burns, Ore. (MA) and five were seen in Wolverine Canyon s.e. of Idaho Falls, Ida., June 17 (KS). None were noted in the n. Okanogan Valley where they normally breed. Common Nighthawk numbers were down and their distribution spotty in the Malheur-Bend area of c. Oregon. Cool, wet weather may have short-stopped the birds in Nevada (CDL; TCr). A single Anna's Hummingbird was noted at Tieton, Wash., June 5 (Y.A.S.) and a male was near Peshastin, Wash., in July (RO). A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird appeared in the Silvies R. canyon n. of Burns, Ore., July 7 (MA).

**WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS** — A Pileated Woodpecker, rarely seen in the Helena area, was sighted in Gates of the Mountains Wilderness (JSn; D & KS). Two "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers were spotted at Rimrock L., w. of Yakima June 19 (Y.A.S.) and this race [soon, species] was found on the West Fork of the San Poil R., s.w. of Republic, Wash., in late June (N.C.A.S., S.A.S.). A survey of 21 stands of aspen in Malheur N.F., found Williamson's Sapsuckers nesting in 19 of them. The species was much less difficult to find there than the Yellow-bellied (AA).

An amazing record was of a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** photographed near Grandview, Ida., June 24 (TCO, MB; KBP). An Ash-throated Flycatcher nested in a bird house in Merle Archie's yard in Burns, Ore., and one was sighted at Tampico, Wash., June 13 (Y.A.S.). At Malheur reduction in cattle grazing in riparian habitat starting in 1973 has resulted in an increase in Willow Flycatchers from zero to 30 (CDL). Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter, B.B.S.) routes Avery and Mivoden in n. Idaho and Keller and Reardan in n.e. Washington (hereafter, A-M-K-R) found this species' total falling from 17 in 1981 to only seven. An Alder Flycatcher was singing along with Willow Flycatchers at Brookmere, B.C., June 27 for the second record from the Nicola R. drainage basin (WCW). The previous record was of two May 31-June 22, 1980 about 12 mi w. of Merritt (WCW, DK). Two Least Flycatchers were singing just s. of Merritt June 27; they were found there in 1974 (WCW).

Least Flycatchers are apparently expanding their range into e. Oregon. Malheur had one May 29 and up to five were seen and/or heard on territory at Clyde Holiday S.P., near Mt. Vernon May 29-July 17 (TCr, JGi, HN, JE, AC, LT).

The combined Hammond's-Dusky Flycatcher total for the A-M-K-R B.B.S.s dropped from an average of 38 for 1979-80 to 25 in 1981 and 21 in 1982. Western Flycatcher and W. Wood Pewee numbers also dropped markedly on those surveys but Olive-sided numbers remained nearly constant (THR).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH PIPITS** — There were several reports of Tree Swallow nestling mortality during cold, rainy weather at Fortine and in the s. Okanogan. A Bank Swallow colony at Malheur increased from 500 pairs last year to 1000. Barn Swallows nested at an unusually high elevation on a microwave structure at 6200 ft on Chewels Mt., near Kamloops (RH). Second brood Barn Swallows at Fortine had left the nest by July 24 and some pairs apparently were preparing their nests for third broods (WW). A Scrub Jay appeared at Market Lake W.M.A., Roberts (LP) and three Clark's Nutcrackers at Malheur provided the eighth refuge record, the first for July. Of 90 nest boxes in the Ellensburg-Yakima area, 7 were used by Tree Swallows, one by Mountain Chickadees, 27 by House Wrens, 19 by W. Bluebirds, 15 by Mountain Bluebirds and two by chipmunks (Y.A.S.). Single Mockingbirds were at Oliver, B.C., June 4 (BM) and Osoyoos June 27 (DB) and one sang in Richland late June-July 26 (PW, REW). Malheur had one also (JSn). Gray Catbirds were unusu-

ally scarce around Vernon, two consecutive abnormally cold springs believed responsible (JG). One appeared at Malheur June 11-13 and three were along the Burnt R., near Unity (MA). A Water Pipit nest with 4 eggs was discovered at 6700 ft elevation on Griffin Mt., near Malakwa, B.C., July 18 (MCI).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — A Red-eyed Vireo was at Malheur June 13-15 (DI). Two Tennessee Warblers were reported at Helena in late June and late July (PM). Several observations were made of Magnolia and Blackpoll warblers in the lower Beaver Valley in Glacier N.P., B.C., in June and July (KV; RW). A N. Waterthrush nest was found in a bog about 7 mi s. of Sullivan L. (JN). Two singing Connecticut Warblers were identified by observers very familiar with the species, at Soda L., near 108 Mile House, B.C., June 12 (W & HH). A June record of the species in 1977 at Soda Cr., somewhat farther n. suggested that a few of the birds may breed in this largely unbirded area (WCW). A singing ♂ Hooded Warbler, Oregon's third, was observed s. of John Day July 11-17 (DR, AC, JGi *et al.*) and a female was sighted about 3 mi away July 25 (HN). Numbers for vireos and warblers as a group were down to about a fourth what they were in 1979-80 on the A-M-K-R B.B.S.s (THR).

**BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS** — Up to nine males and several ♀ Bobolinks were seen during the summer near Prairie for a new Idaho locality (MRC, A & HL; KBP). The species was also seen near Leadore where it reputedly has nested in the past (JC); near Tendoy, Ida. (HBR), and at Unity (AC). Common Grackles remained at Salmon during the summer (HBR) and at least two pairs remained at Rexburg, Ida., at least until July 6 (DHu). A Summer Tanager was at Fields June 13 for the fourth Oregon record (DI, JGi, HN).

**FINCHES** — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Helena June 3-6 (WHa) and a ♂ Blue Grosbeak appeared near Idaho City July 24 (MRC). Lazuli Bunting sightings in the Walla Walla, Wash., area were decidedly up and Calamity Lookout had four pairs where none were found last year. Conversely the species appeared scarce elsewhere. The A-M-K-R B.B.S.s had a total of only six after averaging over 16 the previous 3 years (THR). A Purple Finch was reported near Nile, Wash., June 9 (Y.A.S.). Pine Siskins appeared extremely scarce, with substantial numbers reported only at Yakima and in the mountains to the w. Red Crossbills continued scarce in the s. Okanagan and supposedly in most other localities.

**SPARROWS** — Several observations of Clay-colored Sparrows

came from the n. end of Okanagan L. (JG) and a very few were noted in the Kamloops and Nicola L. vicinities (RH; WCW). One singing male was found June 21 in the same locality in the Spokane Valley where 2-3 were singing in 1979 (BH-T, THR, GW). A White-crowned Sparrow at Rimrock L., w. of Yakima was apparently the first in summer in that area (Y.A.S.); the species was again found in the Avery B.B.S. area (THR). Golden-crowned Sparrows singing but not seen on the Avery B.B.S. would make Idaho's first summer record (THR, SGS). Total finch and sparrow numbers on the A-M-K-R B.B.S.s were about half that of the 3 previous years (THR).

**ADDENDUM** — At least 200 Whistling Swans died during spring migration in n. Idaho. All but one analyzed bird indicated death from lead washed down from the Coeur d' Alene mining area; that one had botulism (SGS).

**OBSERVERS CITED** — Anne & Merle Archie, (JBa) Jonathan Barnett, Eugene C. Barney, Florence Bennett, Marty Berg, Geoff Bodman, Ted Bomford, R. Bonner, Doug Brown, (JB) Jim Bryan, (ECa) Ernie Callin, (SC) Steve Cannings, (HC) Helen Carlson, (EC) Eddie Chew, (HCl) H. Clarke, Mark R. Collie, (M & TCl) Mary & Tom Collins, Jack Connelly, Alan Contreras, (TCo) Thom Cook, (C & MCr) Craig & Marion Corder, (SCo) Sharon Cotterell, (TCr) Tom Crabtree, (TiC) Tim Craig, J. Danielson, Gary Davidson, C. V. Davis, Deborah Davis, R.L. Eng, (JEn) Jim England, (JE) Joe Evanich, Ron Friesz, (JGi) Jeff Gilligan, (G.E.A.S.) Golden Eagle Audubon Society, (JG) James Grant, John M. Haas, (WHa) Willa Hall, Larry Halverson, Bill Harrington-Tweit, (DH) D. Hayes, E.T. Hayes, Loren R. Hays, (W & HH) Werner & Hilde Hesse, Jerry Hickman, George Holton, Rick Howie, (DHu) Don Hunter, David Irons, Merlene Koliner, Doug Kragh, Al & Hilda Larson, (LL) Louise La Voie, John Lester, C.D. Littlefield, Susan Lindstedt, Dave Low, (SMa) S. Madsen, Bob McDowell, Pat McKinney, Fred Mitchell, Louis Moos, (SM) Shirley Muse, Harry Nehls, Ron Neu, Jack Nisbet, (N.C.A.S.) N. Central Wash. Aud. Soc., Ruth Ortiz, Howard Oswood, Lona Pierce, Kerry B. Provance, Hadley B. Roberts, Dennis Rogers, T.H. Rogers, (S.A.S.) Seattle Aud. Soc., Tammy Selfridge, P.D. Skaar, A. Small, (JSn) John Snively, (JS) Jim Sparks, (KS) Kit Struthers, Shirley G. Sturts, (D & KS) Dan & Karen Sullivan, Larry Thornburgh, C.H. Trost, Karal Voous, George Walter, John W. Weber, Wayne C. Weber, R. Wershler, Winton Weydemeyer, Pat & R.E. Woodley, John Woods (Y.A.S.) Yakima Aud. Soc., Steve Zender.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

## MOUNTAIN WEST

/Hugh E. Kingery

Seven new state breeding species, 24 new latilong breeders, and five new state birds highlighted a summer of fruitful field work. A wet snowstorm which moved through the central part of the Mountain West in late May left cold weather in early June; many migrants stayed in the valleys and plains into June. At Jackson, Wyoming, weather grounded hundreds of birds in early June. Subsequently, hot weather ensued; Laramie, Wyoming, had its hottest temperature ever (96°F) and Las Vegas had only 30 days of 100° or more, compared with 50 and 42 the last two years. In both plains and mountains, nesting ran a consistent three weeks late (CC *et al.*).

Boulder County, Colorado, observers conducted a Summer Christmas Bird Count June 26—to count breeding birds in the Indian Peaks Christmas Bird Count area. The totals testify to the common birds in the high Rockies during the breeding season. High counts were: 387 Pine Siskins, 243 robins, 192 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, 174 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 170 Gray-headed Juncos, 166 Mountain Chickadees, 166 Brown-capped Rosy Finches, 148 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 134 Warbling Vireos, 123 White-crowned Sparrows, and 109 Water Pipits (MF).

A note to our many birding tourists: we welcome you and your observations. We do urge, though, if you observe rarities, that you share them with local birdwatchers. This year we have had a possible

first state record and a possible first regional nesting record, both notable range extensions, which visiting birders did not share with locals. No local follow-up, in both cases, resulted in no confirmation. If you come to our scenic Region, welcome. If you find something extremely rare, and do not know anyone locally, call me.



**ABBREVIATIONS** — We have previously described the Mountain West latilong recording system (*AB* 34:294); new breeding species comprise the most significant new records. This summer's report boldfaces new latilong breeders with the notation: "1st L". Other abbr.: L/L/B/L: Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, Colo.; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain N.P., Colo.

**SOUTHWEST WYOMING** — Last year we reported on 2 confirmed and 4 likely new state breeding species in the junipers of s.w. Wyoming. This year, data from 5 different observers has added 4 more confirmed. Nine s.w. species are widespread through the juniper habitat, which extends about 100 mi along the s. border E from Flaming Gorge Res., in latilongs 23, 24, and 25 (from w. to e., Green R., Baggs, and Rawlins). This year's data includes: **Ash-throated Flycatcher**: found again in the same Powder Rim location (s w. of Rawlins) as the first state nest last year (SF); several calling and probably nesting s.w. of Rock Springs June 21 (SFd). **Gray Flycatcher**: first state nests, in Lats. 24 and 25 (SF); seen regularly in Lat. 23 (FL); also 3-4 territorial males in Lat. 17 to the n. at Lander (SFd). **Scrub Jay**: seen at Rock Springs and Flaming Gorge in June (FL, SFd); no nesting confirmed. **Plain Titmouse**: first nest last year; nests or begging young this year in Lats. 23-25 (SF, SFd); also seen around Rock Springs (FL). **Bushtit**: 5 nests in several sites in Lat. 23 (SF, FL), first state record. **Bewick's Wren**: most common bird in the junipers; breeding in Lats. 24 and 25 (SF); now confirmed in 4 latilongs. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: fairly common in Lat. 24, with nesting confirmed June 29 (SF). Observations of 1-4 June 5-July 31, in Lat. 23, Wyoming's only other confirmed breeding latilong (FL). **Black-throated Gray Warbler**: first state nest, at Powder Rim hosted a cowbird (SF). Seen at Rock Springs; also thought to breed at LaBarge (Lat. 15) after this spring's first latilong record (JR): A pair gathering nesting material at Casper (Lat. 19) in May exhibited no further evidence of nesting (JH). **Scott's Oriole**: first state record and first nest; see main text. These species (except possibly the oriole) probably have nested in this area all along; bird watchers have not studied the habitat until last year. As we said last year, the Mountain West has a huge potential for new data on distribution.

**LOONS TO IBISES** — Joining the usual handful of summer Com. Loons was a flock of 150 June 6 at Grand Teton N.P. (DL). A flock of Eared Grebes assembled 10,000 strong at Great Salt L., June 6 (JB). They nested for the first time at Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, an adult with chick seen July 30 (JGo—1st L), and at the evaporation pond for the Jim Bridger power plant at Rock Springs, Wyo. (FL—1st L). Delta, Colo., had its first breeding of Pied-billed and W. grebes (MJ—1st L). Observers reported light-phase Westerns from e. Colorado and Evanston, Wyo. (D.F.O., CK). Wyoming has a second White Pelican nesting site, not mentioned in *AB* 36:250, at Ocean L., near Riverton; this year a late-season inspection showed three young (SF). The Riverside Res., Colo. colony had poorer success than last year, although several hundred young fledged (RAR). Non-breeding pelicans summered—100 in n.e. Colorado and 450 at Pathfinder Res., Wyo. We lack information on the big colonies at Yellowstone, Great Salt L., and Anaho I., Nev. Double-crested Cormorants increased at 5 Colorado sites, all over Wyoming, and at Vernal, Utah. The first Green Heron in s.w. Wyoming stayed at Big Piney June 14-17 (JR, ED). Cattle and Snowy egrets nested together—125 nests combined—at Provo (MW). Five pairs nested at Riverside (RAR, GM), and they nested again s. of Saguache, Colo., where up to 30 at a time were observed (CC). Two pairs of Great Egrets nested at Boulder (WDG). Snowy Egrets bred at Thermopolis, Wyo., a first for n.w. Wyoming (SF—1st L). They met mixed success in Colorado, had average numbers at Fish Springs, increased at Bear River N.W.R., over 50 apparently nested near Cokeville, Wyo., and decreased at Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev. Near Cokeville an aerial count found 50 Snowies probably nesting, and probably 100 Am. Bitterns also nest there (DL, SF). Nevada's first Least Bittern since 1976 appeared at Las Vegas July 18 (J & MC), one visited Wheat Ridge, Colo., June 16-17 (DMA, DN), and Boulder, Colo., had its usual reports. White-faced Ibises nested at Riverside, Saguache (RAR—1st L), and Cokeville, Wyo. (125 pair—SF). They had good nesting success at Bear R. (1000 adults June 1—RV), Fish Springs with 15 young (JGo), and Ruby L. (75-100 pairs fledged 2-3/nest—SB). Ibises were scattered throughout the Region during the summer, with post-breeding peak counts of 322 at Ogden Bay W.M.A., Utah July 14 (JN) and 300 at Lehi, Utah July 30 (MW).

**WATERFOWL** — A swan summering at Casper presumably was a Whistling, but no one could get close enough to verify it (JH). Ruby L. had fewer breeding pairs of Trumpeters (8 vs. 12) and observed only one brood of three young (SB). A Eur. Wigeon was reported at Jackson July 11 (†BS). Three broods of Wood Ducks at Ft. Collins, Colo., and one near Boulder confirmed breeding in the same latilong (RAR, MF—1st L). An actively diving Barrow's Goldeneye near Grand L., Colo., July 17-18 provided a first Colorado summer record (†DJ). A ♀ Bufflehead summered at Fish Springs (JGo).

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — Observers reported 13 Goshawk nests, no doubt a small percentage of those in the Region; of the 3 at Logan, Utah, one failed, falconers raided one, and one fledged one young (MT). At Baggs, Wyo., an imm. ♀ Sharp-shinned Hawk brought off two young in a nest from which, earlier in the year, had fledged three Great Horned Owls. Wyoming reported poor success for nesting Bald Eagles; 11 young fledged from 27 occupied nests; one active nest in Colorado fledged two young (BO). Another active nest in Colorado fledged two young (EF). Wyoming Ospreys also fared badly, with only 9 of 24 nests successful, and 15 young fledged (BO). Four of 9 known Merlin nests in Wyoming failed (BO).

**CRANES, SHOREBIRDS** — Four Whooping Cranes summered in a 125-mi stretch of w. Wyoming. During the first week of July various sandpipers (Solitary, Willet, both yellowlegs, and Long-billed Dowitcher) arrived in the Region. By the end of July, the Region had high counts for fall migrants, including 280 at Loveland, Colo., July 26 (AM, CCu) and 2495 in s.e. Colorado July 30, including 1500 Wilson's Phalaropes and 400 Stilt Sandpipers (JRE). Counts of Snowy Plovers at the s. end of Great Salt L., dropped from 100-150 last year to five on July 28 this year, as tire tracks replaced bird tracks on the site of a new amusement park (E & RS). At Cheyenne and adjacent Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Colo., Mountain Plovers had delayed but successful breeding (AK, RAR). The Mountain Plover nest found at Arminto, Wyo., June 10 filled in a range gap (JH—1st L). A Ruddy Turnstone found July 31 at Casper multiplied into two on Aug. 1 (†FB, JH). An Upland Sandpiper at Delta July 27 gave w. Colorado its first record (†JRG). One Red Knot stopped at Logan, Utah July 24 (†MT, KA) and 1-3 at Casper July 26-Aug. 3 (†JH). Seven White-rumped Sandpipers were found in e. Colorado June 13 (D.F.O.) and two stopped at Sheridan July 10 (†FB, †HD). Three Dunlins reached Las Vegas July 28 (VM) and two were at Natrona, Wyo., July 29 (†JH). Black-necked Stilts nested at Casper; 20 adults produced at least 10 young (JH). A remarkable number of N. Phalaropes appeared in Colorado and Wyoming during July, with 9 reports of 17, culminating in 200 in s.e. Colorado July 30 (JRE).

**GULLS TO NIGHTHAWKS** — The colony of California Gulls at Antero Res. (Hartsel), Colo., had 600 nests (D.F.O.). Observers found Bonaparte's Gulls at Denver, Antero, and Walden, Colo., and in Wyoming at Rock Springs and Casper. In Utah only Bear R. is known as a nesting site for Caspian Terns; yet they occurred at Faust, Mont., Salt L. City, Logan, Woodruff, and Whitney Res. (E & RS, MT, FL, CK). Wyoming added new latilong records at Cody and Evanston (UK, CK), and they apparently bred at Casper, one of the 3 known Wyoming breeding sites (JH). Mourning Dove's abundance met mixed appraisals: B.B.S. routes counted more at Ft. Collins, average in c. Utah, and less in Sheridan. Numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in w. Colorado seemed comparable to 1981, but down a little in e. Colorado, few reports from Wyoming, and none from Utah or Nevada. Fort Collins reported two Black-billed June 21 (RAR), and Delta, Colo., had the first w. Colorado record, on July 21 (†MJ). At Logan a **Flammulated Owl** nest, discovered June 15 with parents sitting on eggs, fledged young by July 31 (MT, TL). Apparently this represents the second state nesting record and, since 1965, the only report except the cluster discovered this spring (*AB* 36:878). Short-eared Owls produced six young in one brood at Savageton, Wyo (SF—1st L). Boreal Owls at Cameron Pass near Ft. Collins fledged three chicks from the same nest hole as last year's first regional and second-in-the-lower-48 nest (RAR). Nesting Saw-whet Owls showed off to many at Estes Park, Colo. (F.A.C.—1st L). Common Nighthawks appear to be rebounding, although reports from 3 observers in Boulder illustrate the problem of subjective assessments: they reported nighthawks variously as "definitely up, especially in daylight hours", "normal", and "scarce".



**SWIFTS TO WOODPECKERS** — Behind Ouzel Falls in R.M.N.P., a Black Swift was found brooding eggs, the third Boulder County nest (MF). Six flew over Fountain, Colo., on the plains, June 17 (†RB). Four Vaux's Swifts were reported from Logan July 31 (†MT). The Region's first Rufous Hummingbird came to Cody June 25 (KF) and Eldora, Colo., June 26 (LHa). Most Rufous arrived later than usual and most observers reported them, and all hummingbirds, in fewer numbers. The cold summer received blame. Wyoming tallied its first big hummingbird: a **Rivoli's Hummingbird** at Wilson which came to a feeder July 2-8 with Rufous and Broad-taileds (JF, †BR). Feeders have generated a number of rare hummingbird records in Colorado and Utah, particularly of this species. This record extends the records N 300 mi. The range of the Red-headed Woodpecker typically ends at the edge of the foothills of the Rockies (but see the n.e. Utah report last spring, AB 36:878). This summer, reports came of one at Salt Lake City June 20 (JS, EG), four at Rock Springs in June (FL), one at Jackson June 19 (BR), and birds 5 mi apart in R.M.N.P., June 16 & 25 (SW, JGn). At Sheridan a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker had to excavate a new nest hole after last year's was appropriated in turn by Red-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees, and Tree Swallows (JRM).

**FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS** — Delta reported an unsuccessful E. Kingbird nest (MJ—1st L), but at Denver a pair fledged three young from a nest high in dead cottonwoods poking out of 6 ft of water (HEK). One wonders if they survived the bass. An Ash-throated Flycatcher strayed to Sheridan July 16, for the first n.e. Wyoming record (†JRM, HD, ph). They nested at Delta (MJ—1st L). Ash-throateds June 29 and July 14 at Ft. Morgan provided a first Colorado latilong record (JCR) and another wandered to Pawnee Nat'l Grassland July 18 (DW). Two well-described **Olivaceous Flycatchers** were reported far out of range at Ridgway, Colo., June 6-11 (†JRG); Colorado has no accepted records. Nesting of both Ash-throated and Willow flycatchers was confirmed at Delta (MJ—1st L). The proximity of a highway to Wyoming's Fontanelle Res., combined with a cloudy June 6, resulted in over 200 swallow roadkills (JR). Tree Swallows added another plains nesting site with a successful nesting in downtown Colorado Springs (DA), joining 2 other montane species which nested in parks there this spring (Mountain Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch—AB 36:879). Starlings tore down 6 to 8 Cliff Swallow nests at a Eureka, Nev. ranch; although half rebuilt, they had less than 50% nesting success (JE).

**JAYS TO WRENS** — A Blue Jay stayed in the Golden foothills May 31-June 12, and one which summered at Laramie had a mate in July and was feeding young in August (DI—1st L). Steller's Jays nested in the town of Lander, Wyo. (SF—1st L).

The high numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches tapered off along the Colorado Front Range; they dispersed to their more regular subalpine haunts. Pygmy Nuthatches nested in 2 locations in the Casper latilong, their second and third confirmed Wyoming breeding sites (JH, SF—1st L). A **Short-billed Marsh Wren** chattered in a slough of willows and grass June 1 at Laramie, Wyoming's first record since one collected 93 years ago (†DF).

**THRASHERS TO VIREOS** — Casper had 2 nesting pairs of Brown Thrashers; strays visited Eldora and Lyons in July (JH, GS, HL). The 3 pairs of Sage Thrashers at Fountain and one at Pueblo West added a third E. Slope latilong to that species' Colorado nesting range (RB, VT—1st L). Swainson's Thrushes stayed at lower elevations at least until June 10 (MF, HD, D.F.O.) and their nesting lagged one month behind in c. Utah (JB). Water Pipits remained below tree line throughout the summer at Jackson—so did the snow line (BR). At Sheridan they nested at snow line under similar circumstances (CG). Although in Colorado pipits breed only above timberline, in Wyoming they nest in some mountain parks below tree line (BO). Cedar Waxwings nested at Loveland and Denver, the latter a first latilong (AB & BL—1st L). Loggerhead Shrikes had a good year in Wyoming, with nests reported from Rock Springs, Cody, and Sheridan. (FL, UK, HD). The **Gray Vireo** described from Green R., June 26-27 was the first reported in Wyoming (†SF, TF).

**WARBLERS** — Observers found territorial, singing males of 4 warblers which have never nested in the Region: N. Parula, Magnolia, Prairie, and Hooded. Casper had a Black-and-white Warbler June 1 and a Tennessee June 3 (†JH). Most remarkable nesting record this year came from Golden, Colo., where Schottler found a ♀

**Northern Parula** building a nest in scrub (Gambel's) oak June 11-16. On June 20, after 2 days of very heavy rain, the nest was abandoned and the bird gone. He never saw a male. This extends the possible nesting range of the species westerly 525 mi. (Last year singing males were observed 5 and 17 mi n of this nest site—AB 35:965). Another N Parula sang at Colorado Springs June 29, also in scrub oak (E & MC). Las Vegas had its first in 2 years, a female June 6 (VM). Half the reports noted increased numbers of Yellow Warblers; half reported decreases. A territorial ♂ Magnolia Warbler spent July 4-19 singing every 2-3 min and gleaning insects from lodgepole pines in a 15-acre area of Grand L., Colo. No female was present (†DJ). A Chestnut-sided Warbler sang from scrub oak at Colorado Springs June 27 in the same nature center where the N. Parula sang 2 days later (RB). Utah's first **Prairie Warbler** sang constantly near Mendon June 28-29, but did not cooperate to provide good views. One observer saw the bird well enough to describe it, and 2 heard it. A sonogram confirms the observation (†MT, MW). An Ovenbird sang from a thick willow bottom in June and on July 21-22 at Eldora (DB). Hooded Warblers sang June 18-19 from scrub oaks on Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas (GMa, †VM, J & MC) and June 21-July 12 at Boulder, unfortunately not seen by any other observers (†, ph., MK). Mt. Charleston also had Nevada's third Canada Warbler June 19. (†VM, J & MC). Three Am. Redstarts stopped in w. Wyoming in early June: one June 3 at Jackson (HW), a male June 7 and a female June 8 at Dubois (PA).

**BLACKBIRDS TO TANAGERS** — Western Meadowlarks maintained average numbers on B.B.S. routes near Ft. Collins (124 birds) and Sheridan (167), although Sheridan's count does represent a drop from the levels of 6-8 years ago. On June 19 one strayed above timberline in R.M.N.P. (JRe). A Hooded Oriole visited Zion July 23-24, the fourth record there (JG).

— S.A. —

Scott's Orioles apparently staged a major incursion. From s.w. Colorado came a report of three along the Mancos R., at Towaoc (JRG), and from w.c. Colorado, of a male June 6 at Fruita (MJ), plus the May observations of six in 3 different locations at Grand Jct. (AB 36:879). Wyoming had its first record of **Scott's Oriole**—a singing male June 10 in juniper/sagebrush/greasewood habitat near Flaming Gorge (†SFd). It also had its first nesting record; incubating June 29, young fledged July 26 (SF). In all Fitton and Findholt found one nest and 4 likely nesting sites in Lats. 23 and 24.

A N. Oriole strayed to 10,000 ft, near Crested Butte, Colo., July 13, (SW) and a Baltimore spent June 5 in the mountains near Jefferson, Colo. (CH, KH). Great-tailed Grackles nested near Fountain, the sixth Colorado nesting location. They picked a marshy area near a pig and poultry farm (RB, RW). Several pairs nested at Durango (EF). Common Grackles definitely nested in 2 more Wyoming latilongs, at Lander and Lyman (SF, CK—1st L). The Indian Peaks count had 75 Brown-headed Cowbirds, confirming Shickley's assessment of a dramatic increase at 8700 ft at Eldora in the last 10 years. At 10,000 ft Hartsel, Colo., cowbirds heavily parasitized Savannah Sparrows, perhaps an altitude record (CC). Other surrogate parents included Gray Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, and Gray-headed Junco. The delayed summer kept singing W. Tanagers on the plains at Denver and Boulder to June 25, and in Sheridan and Laramie throughout the summer. They nested at low mountain elevations at Radium and Salt L. City. Early June Scarlet Tanagers were at Boulder June 4 and Rawlins June 9 in an aspen/willow beaver pond habitat, the fifth Wyoming latilong (†KHe, ph—1st L). Zion had its fourth Summer Tanager July 3 (JG), and Las Vegas reported 2 singing males June 6 & 11. During Jackson's cold days in May and June, W. Tanagers sat on beehive boxes while bees crawled sluggishly into their mouths "like M & Ms" (BR). Among the bee-eaters, a Summer Tanager at Bedford May 9-11 gave Wyoming its sixth record, the first one verified (†SS, ph.).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Late migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occurred in June, at Evergreen, Wheat Ridge, and Colorado Springs, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Jackson (5 in one day), and Pinedale, Wyo., plus a July 3 bird at Eureka, Nev. (TN). Cheyenne reported three different pairs of Blue Grosbeaks in June (†PW, †E & DH), and two were at Casper June 26 (FL). They nested at Lander (SF—1st L)

Indigos are the "dominant buntings in the Delta, Colo. area, not the seldom-seen Lazuli. In July 1 saw singing males on nearly every trip, with a high of 12 in Escalante Canyon July 1" (MJ). While that dominance reverses the typical regional pattern, the Indigo no longer qualifies as a rare bird here. Colorado reported more than 25 this summer, Utah 4, and Wyoming and Nevada one each. The Nevada one was a male which sang May 7-June 27 without a female; Mowbray feels that they probably nested in past years though not this year. Lazulis were abundant from Zion north to Jackson (which on June 3 reported, at one site, 30 pairs). Erratic in summer in Utah, Evening Grosbeaks graced the Logan area all summer, with breeding suspected (KD, MT), and Provo had two pairs June 10 (MBr). The literature is ambiguous as to whether they have nested in Utah. Jackson claimed 1000s in early June, along with 1000s of Cassin's Finches (BR). Back's annual Black Rosy Finch backpack revealed a probable but unconfirmed nest site, thus perpetuating her elusive goal of finding a nest. An odd observation came from Jackson of a ♀ Black Rosy Finch with nesting material on July 2 at only 6600 ft (BR). In late May and early June an apparent hybrid Pine Siskin x Am. Goldfinch visited an Eldora feeder (†GS). Red Crossbills began to disperse after their abundance for several seasons. Small flocks ranged through the cities of Denver, Colorado Springs, Laramie, Evanston, and Provo; scattered reports came in throughout the typical Colorado and Wyoming habitats. A flock of 100 White-winged Crossbills cruised over Diamond L., near Eldora June 20; the calls revealed to observer Figs that he had heard them there in mid-winter. A White-winged sang July 31 at Logan, in the same place where breeding occurred 1977-78 (KS: AB 31:1170). Lark Buntings had a strange year on the Pawnee: early July saw very few, but flocks appeared in early August. The Pawnee B.B.S. recorded 160 (cf. a 275 average). Considerable loss of habitat has occurred from plowing the grassland, an action which has incensed local ranchers because of the consequent, immediate, soil erosion (RAR). Grasshopper Sparrow reports came from Sheridan and Hawk Spgs., Wyo. (FL, FB, JRM). Rugged field work established the Fox Sparrow as a probable and regular nester in Boulder Colorado willow bogs, using adjacent feeders, with observations of 12 in 5 sites (MF, EB, DH). Shickley has reported them for several

years. They were also found within the more typical range at Gothic, Colo., July 13 (SW) and Utah's Wasatch and Uinta Mts. (JB, E & RS). Five possible Lapland Longspurs fed on a road in Grand Teton N.P., May 29, after a heavy snowfall (†EP).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**—I thank Charley Chase for his help and support in preparing and reviewing this report and those of the past year.

**CONTRIBUTORS** (in boldface) and **CITED OBSERVERS**—**Peg Abbott**, D. Albright, K. Archibald, **Mary Back** (5), **Ethlyn Barneby** (EBa), E. Bolton, A. Bonnell, **Stephen Bouffard**, **W.W. Brockner** (16), **Fred Broerman**, **Mark Bromley** (MBr), D. Brown, **Rich Bunn** (4), **Joshua Burns**, **Charles Chase III**, **Jean Christensen** (28) J. & M. Cressman, C. Cummings, E. & M. Curry, Denver Field Ornithologists, E. Dickerson, **Keith Dixon** (4), **Helen Downing** (40), **Margaret Ewing**, **Janet Eyre** (3), **Mike Figgs**, D. Finch, **Scott Findholt** (SFd), **Sam Fitton**, T. Fitton, K. Flora, Foothills Audubon Club, **Elva Fox** (4), E. Geoghagen, C. Gibson, **Jerome Gifford** (4), J. Gnam (JGn), **James Good** (JGo), W.D. Graul, **J.R. Guadagno**, **Carol Hack**, **Freeman Hall**, D. Hallock, **May Hanesworth** (17), **Paula Hansley**, L. Harlow (LHa), **Kathy Hawkins**, K. Hepworth (KHe), **Louise Hering** (20), **James Herold** (7), E. & D. Hudson, **Bill Hunter**, D. Inkley, **Mark Janos**, **David Jasper** (7), **Frank & Jan Justice**, **Gleb Kashin**, **Jon Kauffeld**, **Ursula Kepler** (15), **Crag Kesselheim**, A. King, **Michael Kissick**, **Ken Lane**, H. Leichter, B. Livingston, D. Lockman, **Forrest Luke**, T. Lyons, G. Mahler (GMA), D. Martin (DMA), A. Means, G. Miller, J.R. Miller, **Vince Mowbray**, **David Mozurkewich** (5), D. Nelson, **John Nelson**, T. Nolan, **Bob Oakleaf** (5), E. Parsons, **Bill Pickslay** (3), **Bert Raynes** (18), J. Reddall (JRE), **J.C. Rigli**, **R.C. Rosche**, **John Row** (15), **R.A. Ryder**, **B. Sauppe**, **Dick Schottler**, **Gail Shickley** (7), K. Smith, **Virginia Simmons**, J. Soder, **Ella & Richard Sorenson** (11), **Susan Swan**, **Mike Tove** (5), **Van Truan**, **Ray Varney**, D. Ward, **Susan Ward**, **Rosie Watts**, **Merrill Webb**, P. White, H. Wittmer, B. Wood.—**HUGH E. KINGERY**, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver, Colo, 80206.

## SOUTHWEST REGION

*Arizona, Sonora*  
/Janet Witzeman

During the summer of 1982 there seemed to be more and later lingering migrants than usual, plus an interesting assortment of northward wanderers from Mexico. However, the most significant discoveries of the summer were probably those of the regular breeding species in new areas. In many cases this represented not necessarily a range extension, but an extension of our knowledge from having explored new or seldom-visited areas. Throughout the following report are records from this summer's visits to the newly explored areas of Beaver Dam Wash at Littlefield in extreme northwestern Arizona, Pastora Peak in the Carrizo Mountains in the extreme northeastern part of the state, San Carlos Reservoir, southeast of Globe and the new sewage ponds at Holbrook.

Another important visit was made to Sonora, Mexico to two areas between Moctezuma and Mazagahin. In one canyon, only 120 miles south of the border, Danforth and Moorhouse recorded two Rufous-capped Warblers, four Streak-backed Orioles, two Nutting's Flycatchers 10-12 Buff-collared Nightjars and two Military Macaws! "Such stuff as dreams are made on" while birding Arizona's southern border.

In relation to that I would like to express appreciation for the ever increasing numbers of detailed reports and photographs that are sent to me by birders visiting southern Arizona from other states. However, especially in summer, there are still many sketchy reports or rumors of significant finds that are never documented. Most reports made to the Southwest Research Station never reach the ears of Arizona birders (who would like to hear about them) or more importantly, never reach the pages of the state's records. The taped bird alert message of the Tucson Audubon Society (881-WING) should be called by everyone visiting Arizona. The birder will learn not only valuable information about "what" and "where" but also the current



numbers to call to report rare and unusual findings. Please do not assume "you must have heard this by now" because in some cases we have not. And a phone call at the time of the sighting is more valuable than a letter "after the fact."

**PELICANS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS**—White Pelicans were wandering through the state in mid-June as they do occasionally. A flock of 112 stopped at the Mammoth sewage ponds n.e. of Tucson June 10 (BHa) and 40± visited the Chandler sewage ponds s. of Phoenix June 14 (*vide PB*). Finding fish at the larger San Carlos Res., a flock remained there at least during July (B. Thomas). The only area in the state where Double-crested Cormorants consistently nest is on the Lower Colorado River (hereafter, L.C.R.). On June 9,

50+, including one on a nest, were observed at San Carlos Res (BHa) where the species was found nesting once previously—in 1968. An Olivaceous Cormorant, far w. of its normal range, was observed with a Double-crested in L. Havasu June 18 (†CH, RH, LL).

This summer's Magnificent Frigatebirds were two seen soaring in a strong wind on a stormy afternoon over the Interstate in Tucson July 29 by 2 sets of observers (GM, DL, S. Larson, B. Knapp). There has been only one previous record from Tucson; most have come from farther w. along the L.C.R., or Gila R.

**HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — A Green Heron was seen at Vail L., near Flagstaff in early June (TM, JC) and four were at Beaver Dam Wash July 25-26 (JC, TS). There are few records of this species in n. Arizona. A small "invasion" of Little Blue Herons reached s. Arizona. In addition to the one in mid-May, there were three adults in Tucson June 7, another there July 10 (GM *et al.*) and possibly up to four at Hereford July 15 (T & CK). Another Louisiana Heron (the second this year) wandered N on the early date of June 22 and remained at least through July at Tucson (DS *et al.*). Several adult and at least one young Black-crowned Night Heron were observed during the summer at St. Johns, e. Arizona (BHe) where the species was first found nesting a year ago. Two were at Many Farms L., June 6 (BHa) and there were more mid-summer records than usual at Prescott where it is usually only transient (CT).

Least Bittern was suspected of nesting in a new area—at Chino Valley, n. of Prescott when one was found there in June 1977, but evidence was lacking until this summer when a pair and at least one downy young were observed (P. Schneider, *vide* CT). Six Least Bitterns were found in 2 new areas w. of Phoenix along the Gila R., near Arlington in late May-early June (DT *et al.*), and one was recorded July 22 at Picacho Res., where its occurrence in summer is erratic (GM). An Am. Bittern at Beaver Dam Wash July 25-26 (JC, TS) added to only a handful of summer records for the state.

Eighteen Wood Storks counted at Martinez L., L.C.R., June 20 was a high number for this uncommon summer visitor; nine were still there July 22 (W. Brehends). Another was at Cibola N.W.R., June 30 (DK *et al.*).

A Whistling Swan seen flying around San Carlos Res., June 9 was probably a hold-over from the winter invasion and provided the first summer record for the state (BHa).

An ad. Black-bellied Whistling Duck at Willow L., in Prescott July 23 (H & AG, CT) was n. w. of the species' normal range. A ♀ Green-winged Teal with two young at Tucson June 5 (GG) provided the first evidence of nesting away from the species' traditional nesting area on the Mogollon Rim. Blue-winged Teal observed on 3 of the seasonal lakes near Flagstaff through the summer (JC) and a pair at Pintail L., June 2 (SD, KK, HL, JW) suggested that the species may have been breeding at one or all of these localities. There is only one record of successful nesting in the state. Bufflehead were also present the entire season near Flagstaff (JC) and a female was seen spring Springerville June 8 (BHa), but so far there has been no nesting record for Arizona. The ♀ Wood Duck near Nogales was still present July 17 (RBr) and one was at Tucson July 31 (RN, VJ).

**RAPTORS** — Multiple **White-tailed Kites** were discovered at Marana, n. of Tucson—three June 5 (DS) and five July 15 (KK *et al.*)—and remained at least into August. The dozen or so previous records were of individuals, all in spring or fall. An extralimital ad. Mississippi Kite observed at Bill Williams Delta (hereafter, B.W. Delta) July 24 (†CH, DK) was the first for the L.C.R.

A pair of **Zone-tailed Hawks** was reported nesting for at least the second consecutive year at Pine L., in the Hualapi Mts., near the n.w. limit of the species' range (R. Gerhart, *vide* DT). An ad. and imm. Black Hawk were found July 22 in a new area—the Sierra Ancha Mts., n. of Globe (D. Theobald, L. Kepner). The Ferruginous Hawk is an uncommon resident of n. Arizona, so of interest was one near Petrified Forest N.P., June 4 (KK, SD, HL, JW). A pair of Marsh Hawks near Holbrook June 4 raised suspicions that the species might have been breeding there (KK *et al.*). Except for a pair found nearby in June 1977, there has been no evidence of breeding in e. Arizona since 1890.

Records of Osprey in n. and e. Arizona are scarce in summer. A pair was found nesting in late May-early June in a pine tree at 6500 ft in a canyon near Upper L. Mary (T. Britt); and the known nest site on the Black R., in the White Mts., was active again this summer (J. O'Neil, *vide* DT). An Osprey at Prescott July 7-9 was unusual for this time of year (CT).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — Sora has not been found breeding on the L.C.R., so of interest was one calling in the B.W. Delta June 8 (JJ). Common Gallinule is uncommon in n. Arizona; two were seen often on Vail L., in early June (JC, TM).

A late **Snowy Plover** at Lees Ferry June 10 (B. Brown *et al.*) was one of only a few records from the n. part of the state. Anomalous June records of Willets included two at Sierra Vista June 19 (DDa *et al.*), 45 at Cibola N.W.R., June 23 (DK, CR) and 25 at L. Havasu June 24 (DK, RH, JJ). The first **Whimbrel** appeared on the L.C.R., at Cibola on the early date of June 30 (DK). An early **Long-billed Curlew** arrived on the L.C.R., June 23 (JJ) and three were at McNeal, s. e. Arizona July 10 (AM).

**Avocets** are expanding their breeding range in n. Arizona At Petrified Forest sewage pond, where nesting was suspected last year, there were six pairs and one young June 2, and at Chinle sewage ponds were two pairs and one young June 4 (JW, KK *et al.*). The old Holbrook sewage ponds (now abandoned) hosted one of the first state nesting records—in the late 1960s (*vide* SD). A least eight pairs were nesting in June at Pintail L., near Show Low for the second year (LP), numbers were present at Chevelon Wildlife Area, s.e. of Winslow where nesting occurred for the first time a year ago (*vide* DT) and up to 20 were at Long L., near Flagstaff in early June where the species has nested in recent summers (JC). In s. Arizona about 10 pairs were breeding as usual at Willcox (SG), at the Phoenix sewage pond there was only one pair June 14 (PB, JW) and a pair acting territorial at the Arlington marsh w. of Phoenix in late May (DT, G. Burton).

**Wilson's Phalarope** (one pair) nested at Pintail L., where the species was first found breeding in the state a year ago (LP). A pair was at the Holbrook sewage ponds June 4 (HL, SD, KK, JW).

**GULLS, PIGEONS** — An ad. **Sabine's Gull** at a golf course pond in Green Valley June 4-7 (D. Shafter, GP *et al.*) was out of place and time to say the least. There are no previous summer records. A late Franklin's Gull and 40 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at San Carlos Res., June 9 (BHa).

Twelve **Band-tailed Pigeons** were observed on Pastora Peaks June 6 (BHa) and two were recorded in the nearby Chuska Mts., July 4, 1980 (K. & G. Rosenberg). There are only a few previous records in this infrequently visited part of the state.

**OWLS, NIGHTJARS** — A pair of **Ferruginous Owls** (first discovered in March) were feeding young July 3, and remained until at least July 25 (B. Bristow, GP, m.ob.). **Long-eared Owls** were found nesting in a new locality: an adult with three young were observed in Chino Valley May 23-June 26 (L. McClelland, ph., M. Durkos)

**Buff-collared Nightjars** continued to be found in new canyons. A pair was seen during the day in California Gulch in the Atascosa Mts., w. of Nogales June 20 (DDa, RBA) and at least four (including a courting pair) were seen and/or heard July 4 (RN, VJ, J. Kennedy). At least one was heard calling in Chino Canyon June 21 to at least late July (GM *et al.*), and one was heard in Sycamore Canyon July 3 (CDeW, JS *et al.*). At least two were in Arivaipa Canyon for the third year (m.ob.) and one returned to Tanque Verde Wash in Tucson where it was heard July 1 (CDeW, GM *et al.*). A **Whip-poor-will** heard in French Joe Canyon in the Whetstone Mts., June 3 was in a new locality (GM).

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — This summer was probably the best ever for the variety of "Mexican" hummingbirds that travelled into the canyons of s.e. Arizona, and the rarest of them came in twos. Two **Plain-capped Starthroats**, found frequenting a feeder in Madera Canyon July 17 (DS, RBo, JD *et al.*), remained at least to mid-August (R. Newcomer). The four or five previous records have all been of individuals. There were also two **Berylline Hummingbirds**: singles at Ramsey Canyon feeders June 22-27 (†JE, D & TC *et al.*) and at the Southwest Research Station (hereafter, S.W.R.S.), June 26-28 (S. Pimm *et al.*).

A ♂ **Lucifer Hummingbird** was at a feeder in Portal for 2 weeks in mid-June and again from July 28 into August (RM, JS, S & WS), and at least one female was there June 23-27 (†D. Williams, JB, DDe). A ♂ **White-eared Hummingbird** was at a Portal feeder from May 29 into early June (S & WS) and another was in Cave Cr. Canyon July 13 (RS).

More **Calliope Hummingbirds** than usual were reported: two males and at least one female were at Portal July 24 (SS), a male was in Madera Canyon July 26 (C. Babbitt) and a male and female were in

Ramsey Canyon July 28 into August (RS *et al.*) In the out-of-normal-place category were a ♂ Rivoli's Hummingbird in the Sierra Ancha Mts., July 25-27 (CT), an Anna's Hummingbird on Signal Peak, Pinal Mts., June 15-16 (D. Bailey) and a ♂ Anna's at Portal feeders July 17 (SS, RM).

Spring and summer records of Broad-billed Hummingbirds at Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Superior have been accumulating for years and it has been assumed that they nest there. The first proof occurred May 31 when a nest with two young was photographed there. A ♂ Broad-billed was seen nearby (BJ).

**KINGFISHERS THROUGH CORVIDS** — A pair of Belted Kingfishers was seen near the 1980 nest site at Spring Cr., near Sedona in late May (JC); and a pair was at S. Fork, near Springerville June 20 (JW *et al.*), but still no evidence of nesting has been found there in this century. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker seen June 2 at Barfoot P. (JB) furnished about the third summer record for the Chiricahua Mts., where the species has not been found breeding.

A family group of Rose-throated Becards and an abandoned nest were seen during July in Guadalupe Canyon (RS, KK *et al.*). There is only one previous definite record from that area. A least one Oliveaceous Flycatcher in the Sierra Ancha Mts., June 8 (MA) was n. of its usual range. Twelve singing ♂ Dusky Flycatchers were counted in the Carrizo Mts., June 6, and four there July 5, 1981 (BHa) added another locality to the species' summer range in n. and n.w. Arizona. During a study of the breeding and life history of Buff-breasted Flycatchers, 39 individuals were tallied, most in the usual places in the Huachuca Mts., but also several in canyons on the w. side of the Chiricahuas and three in Rose Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mts., for the second time in recent years (RBo).

Two nests of Barn Swallows found June 22 in Tucson were in a new area (GM). Unusual was one seen in the Pinal Mts., June 7 (J. Loew). The Cave Swallow at Tucson was observed gathering mud June 10 (DS) Three Purple Martins were seen June 3 at Ganado L., where the species is uncommon (KK *et al.*) and one on the late date of June 19 at Sierra Vista (DDa *et al.*).

Clark's Nutcrackers, recorded in May, continued to be seen in the Chiricahua Mts. Up to five were there June 17-27 (KG *et al.*).

**TITMICE THROUGH PHAINOPEPLAS** — A Bridled Titmouse was at a low elevation in Tucson July 8 (DS). Red-breasted Nuthatches were unusually numerous in the s.e. mountains and one was near Marana July 10 for an unprecedented lowland summer record (KK, EC). A Le Conte's Thrasher near Poston July 18 (†CH) was away from its regular areas and habitat.

Two **Aztec Thrushes** were discovered: a female in Garden Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 23 (†M. & T. Root) and a male in Madera Canyon July 28 (†D. Ekdahl, †C. Vigno). Curiously, the only previous records were of two individuals occurring in these same two areas and within a few days of each other (May 1978). How many more wandered into canyons not frequented by birders?

The Veery was not detected at its usual place at S. Fork, White Mts., in either June or July (RBr, DS *et al.*) however, a pair of Swainson's Thrushes was back at that location June 20 (and acting territorial) for the fifth consecutive year (JW *et al.*).

A pair of **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** with one young was observed throughout the period in Chino Canyon for the second year of successful breeding there (m.ob.). Two late Ruby-crowned Kinglets were still in Sierra Vista June 19 (DDa).

Phainopepla is usually absent from the L.C.R., in summer, so notable were at least three individuals around Ehrenberg and a pair at Cibola N.W.R., in July (JJ *et al.*). Several seen at Silver Cr., near Snowflake, n.e. Arizona June 8 (BHa) lends support to the theory that the species breeds in that area.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A singing ♂ Red-eyed Vireo in the Santa Maria Mts., n.w. of Prescott July 10 (CT) adds to several summer records for the state and was the first for that locale.

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahuas from late June at least to July 7 (ph., EAC) was in the same area where one was found July 1981. Of the 9 state records 5 have been in summer. As usual there were numbers of Hooded Warblers, Ovenbirds and Am. Redstarts—three of each this summer. A ♀ Hooded was at the S.W.R.S., June 26-July 18 & 30 (KG, PL, RS *et al.*), a male was at Patagonia July 18 (KK *et al.*) and another male was in Cave Cr. Canyon July 30 (RS *et al.*). Individual Ovenbirds were at Portal June 12 (RM), one banded at Tucson June 24 (P. Walters) and at Cibola

N.W.R., July 9 (†DK) Individual Am. Redstarts were a female near Snowflake June 8 (BHa), one at the S.W.R.S., June 27 (KG) and a female at Patagonia July 18 (KK). A singing ♂ N. Parula was found s. of Mt. Union June 6 (CT).

Lingering late migrants were a Nashville at Patagonia June 13 (DS) and a Townsend's and three Yellow-rumped warblers at Ramsey Canyon June 19 (DDa). In a class by itself was the extremely low-elevation Red-faced Warbler in a Phoenix yard July 27 (Z. Brighton).

Orange-crowned Warbler was found nesting in a new area, the Bradshaw Mts., s. of Prescott—the first time in 1981 and again this summer (CT). Olive Warbler has occurred the past two summers near Stoneman L., s. of Flagstaff, and this year in mid-June one was found feeding young in a nest for the first breeding record in that area (C. Staicer, J. Brown). Individual ♂ MacGillivray's Warblers found in the Carrizo and nearby Chuska Mts., July 5-6, 1981 and males singing in the Carrizos June 6 this year (BHa) suggest the species may be breeding at these new locales.

**BLACKBIRDS** — Eastern Meadowlarks were found in three areas where they had not been recorded previously: one was singing at Anderson Mesa, s.e. of Flagstaff June 2 (JC), one was singing at Blue, e. Arizona June 18 (RBr) and at least three were singing near Globe June 24 (BJ). A colony of 100 Yellow-headed Blackbirds with at least 20 fledglings observed in July at a marsh n. of Elfrida (DDa) was farther s.e. than the species previously nested. Bronzed Cowbirds were noted to be more established than ever in the Prescott area (CT) One was recorded June 30 at Cibola N.W.R., where the species is scarce (JJ).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Single ♂ Cardinals were on the L.C.R., at Poston July 25 and Ehrenberg all season (RH, LL). A probable Painted Bunting was heard singing at Cibola N.W.R., July 19 (†CH, JJ). A Varied Bunting at Ft. Huachuca June 3 (JD, RBo) was the first for the Huachuca Mts. Notable records of Indigo Buntings were of one at Beaver Dam Wash July 25, 26, two males at Fredonia July 24 (JC, TS) and one (a white-bellied bird) singing in the White Mts., s.w. of McNary June 9 (BHa).

Evening Grosbeak has been recorded in the Huachuca Mts. only in recent years; this summer four were found in Carr Canyon and one in Ramsey Canyon June 19 (JS), and again in Sawmill Canyon (KE) Two were seen July 27 at Young in the Sierra Anchas where the species is erratic (CT). A singing ♂ Lawrence's Goldfinch near Superior July 8 (SW) was farther e. than the species has been recorded in summer.

The Yellow-eyed Junco was still present on Mt. Union near Prescott in mid-June (D. Moll). Brewer's Sparrow was found breeding in early June at Williams Valley n.w. of Prescott for the second year. Although breeding was suspected in summer 1980 when the species was first discovered there, documentation occurred only in 1981 when young were found (CT). An imm. White-crowned Sparrow seen near the base of Green's Peak July 10 (SW) lends credence to the supposition that the species breeds in the White Mts.

**CONTRIBUTORS** (Area compilers in boldface) — M. Axelrod, B. Bailowitz (RBA), B. Barrett, P. Beall, J. Bock, R. Bowers (RBo), R. Bradley (RBr), S. Burge, E.A. Cardiff, D. & T. Collazo, E. Cook, J. Coons (Flagstaff), D. Danforth (DDa, Sierra Vista), W. Davis, D. Deifik (DDe), S. Demaree, C. DeWaard, J. Dunning, J. Epler, R. Ferguson, H & A. Gaither, K. Garrett, T. Gatz, S. Goldwasser (Tucson), G. Gregg, B. Harrison (BHa, Nogales), R. Haywood, B. Heap (BHe), C. Hunter, B. Jackson (Globe), J. Jackson (L.C.R.), V. Jeavons, K. Kaufman (Advisor), T. & C. Koundakjian, D. Kreuper, L. LaClaire, D. Lee, P. Lehman, H. Longstreth, G. Monson, A. Moorhouse, R. Morse, T. Myers, R. Norton, L. Piest, G. Porter, C. Romano, J. Saba, W. Spofford, S. Spofford (Portal), R. Stallcup, D. Stejskal, T. Stierhoff, D. Tood, C. Tomoff (Prescott), S. West, D. Williams, R. Witzeman.—JANET WITZEMAN, 4619 E. Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85018.



## New Mexico

/John P. Hubbard

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — An Arctic Loon at Zuni July 24-27 (JT) was unusual. Eared Grebes were nesting in the Chuska Mts., July 23 (AN) and at Zuni July 11-21 (TR); birds summering without proof of breeding were at Black L., Colfax Co. (RB), Isleta (WH *et al.*), and Holloman Lakes, Otero Co. (RH). Up to three Double-crested Cormorants summered at Madrone Ponds, Valencia Co. (WH *et al.*), but no evidence of breeding was obtained; stragglers included two at L. Roberts, Grant Co., July 24 (RF). Olivaceous Cormorants continued to expand in the state, with one at Holloman L., July 6-29 (RH) and one-two at Madrone Ponds June 9-July 27 (WH *et al.*). Breeding colonies of Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons were again active near Belen (WH *et al.*) and Loving (SW). A likely "new" breeding area for the Am. Bittern is Black L., where several were "pumping" June 7 and four were present July 2 (RB). White-faced Ibises were widespread beginning in late June (v.ob.), except for six early ones at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque) June 6 (D & SH); no breeding was evident.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLIFORMS** — The Mute Swan at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (hereafter, Bitter Lake) persisted through the period there; it was free-flying and unbanded, although tame (K. Wood). Young Mallards, Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal and Redheads were at Black L. (RB); other broods included Mallards, Pintail, Ruddy Ducks, and probable Blue-winged Teal at Holloman Lakes (RH), N. Shovelar at Lake Valley, San Juan Co. (AN), Ruddy Ducks at Isleta (WH *et al.*) and L. Roberts (RF). Notable summer vagrants included three Wood Ducks in the Middle Rio Grande Valley (hereafter, M.R.G.V.) June 10 & July 9, and a Bufflehead at Zuni June 21 & July 24 (JT). Up to nine Mississippi Kites were present in the M.R.G.V., from Isleta to Belen (WH *et al.*). Buteos have found the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project area in San Juan Co., a boon in summer as well as winter; there were 70 hawks there June 8, including 55 Swainson's and 12 Ferruginous (DR). An apparent ad. Bald Eagle near Cochiti L., June 27 (JD) was unusual. A White-tailed Ptarmigan was seen on Stateline Peak, Taos Co., June 26 (RP). Nine Bobwhites near Bell L., Lea Co., June 11 (GS) were in an area where sporadic; a nest at Los Alamos in early June (M. Lewis) was the first report of breeding by that introduced population. Surveys in poorly known s. Otero County revealed that Gambel's Quail ranges E locally to the Crow Flats area, just w. of the Guadalupe Mts. (RH).

**PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS** — A local first were Mountain Plovers at mountain-ringed Black L., June 12 & 24 (RB). Extraordinary was a probable Am. Woodcock at Isleta July 9 (V. Hink, J. Sterling); there are only 2 other records for the state, both in cold months. A Com. Snipe near Canjilon, Rio Arriba Co., June 20 (D & SH) was in an area where the species is sporadic in summer. The emerging picture on autumn shorebird migration in the state shows that middle to late July is the typical arrival period, even for the locally breeding Spotted Sandpiper. Notable among apparently earlier arrivals were a Greater Yellowlegs and Marbled Godwit at Bosque June 26 (D & SH). A well-described Semipalmated Sandpiper at Zuni July 24-27 (JT) was w. of the usual range, while a rarity at anytime was a Whimbrel at Morgan L., San Juan Co., June 6 (DR). American Avocets may have been breeding at Juans L., July 10 (AN), while Black-necked Stilts too young to fly were at Hobbs July 23 (SW).

Single ad. ♂ Wilson's Phalaropes, behaving as though breeding, were at Juans L., July 10 (AN) and near Bluewater L., July 25 (AM); apparent migrants were rather widespread by early July, while rather anomalous were three at Holloman Lakes June 7 (RH) and two at Cochiti L., June 26 (WH *et al.*). One or two California Gulls at Juans L., July 10 (AN) were in a new locale for summer. Apparent summer straggler Black Terns were one at Black L., June 7 (RB) and up to 20 at Isleta June 6-July 12 (WH *et al.*). Two Least Terns at Holloman L., June 6 (ph., RH) were the first verified in the state w. of the Pecos Valley.

**DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — North of the usual range was a White-winged Dove at Roswell June 7 (P. White), while only one was seen in surveys in s. Otero County—that in the

Cornudas Mts., July 21 (RH). An Inca Dove at Socorro July 29 (JS) was a northerly straggler. Another summer record of Whip-poor-will in the Zuni Mts., was of a calling *arizonae* June 19 (JT). Common Nighthawks were numerous in s. Otero County while Lessers were fairly common n. to Three Rivers (RH). Notable was a Black Swift over the Rio Grande Gorge, Taos Co., July 30 (RB), while Chimneys summered for the fifth straight year at Clayton (A. Krehbiel). A Black-chinned Hummingbird banded at Cottonwood Gulch (hereafter, C.G.) July 18 was the observer's first observation there in 9 years (AM). Calliopes were present in the Cornudas Mts., in late July (*vide* RH), for the first s. Otero County records. Quite unexpected, and the first record outside the s.w. corner of the state, was a ♂ **Copper-tailed Trogon** on Otero Mesa June 23-24 (T. Stevenson *et al.*; ph., B. Weber). Apparently calling nestling Belted Kingfishers were at Isleta June 30, with newly fledged young there July 12 (WH *et al.*).

No Red-heads were seen in the M.R.G.V., in the period, and Lewis' were present mainly in the n., with a pair s. to the Isleta area in mid-June (WH *et al.*). Hairies continued to be rare in the M.R.G.V., while Downies were widespread—including seven at Bernardo July 1 (WH *et al.*); a bird of the later species at Bosque June 6 (D & SH) was unusual. An E. Kingbird at Bernardo June 29 (WH *et al.*) was quite southerly, while a Cassin's nest near Bernalillo in mid-July was the only evidence of breeding in the M.R.G.V. (WH *et al.*). An E. Phoebe near Zuni June 21 (JT) was well w. of the usual range—especially for summer. Singing Willow Flycatchers were present in small numbers at Zuni June 21-22 and July 27 (JT) and in the M.R.G.V., from Bernalillo to La Joya (WH *et al.*), while single birds were near Canjilon June 20 and at Bosque June 6 & 26 (D & SH). Hammond's Flycatcher was in the Zuni Mts., for the second summer, with eight there June 20 (JT). Southerly Duskiess included singles in the Gallina Mts., Lincoln Co., June 23, and near Cloudcroft June 19 (GS). This species again summered in the Zuni Mts. (AM *et al.*), and two singing birds thought to be Duskiess were on Santa Fe Baldy July 10 (WH, H. Wood). One to two Gray Flycatchers in the Silver City area June 22 & July 6 (DZ) were the first summer reports from there in several summers. A pair of Olive-sided Flycatchers summered in the Sandia Mts. (HS), while a bird near L. Roberts July 11 behaved as if nesting (RF). One to two Beardless Flycatchers in Guadalupe Canyon July 18 & 20 (D & SH) were the first reported there since 1979.

**SWALLOWS, CORVIDS** — A small breeding colony of Bank Swallows near Bernalillo June 21 (WH) was the first reported in the state in several years. Several nests of Barn Swallows were at Pleasanton (M. Summer) and near San Simon Cienaga (RF); this is a very local breeder in extreme s.w. New Mexico. A Purple Martin at Willow Cr., near Pecos July 23 (R. Teuber) was the second summer record there; three at Red L., San Juan Co., July 10 were not in suitable breeding habitat (AN). A vagrant Steller's Jay was at Bosque, Valencia Co., June 4 & 18 (JD, KM); also in this category



*Elegant Trogon male, Otero Mesa, N.M., June 24, 1982. Photo/ Bruce Weber.*

was another (a "jay with the crest") in the Cornudas Mts., in late June (*vide* RH). Four Black-billed Magpies in Santa Fe July 4 (JH) suggested that a population is now resident there and possibly breeding. A bird at Alamogordo June 28 (RF) was most likely an escapee.

**CHICKADEES THROUGH MIMIDS** — Black-capped Chickadees were again fairly common in the M.R.G.V., s. to Bernardo, while Mountains were rare and local—mainly between Belen and Bernardo; six apparent hybrids were seen in the latter area, plus one at Cochiti June 26 (WH *et al.*). The only Verdin report in the M.R.G.V., was of one at La Joya June 25 (WH, KM). Bushtits were

unusually common at C G (AM), irregular in the Los Lunas-Bernalillo area, and exceptionally high on Santa Fe Baldy—at ca. 11,000 ft July 10 (WH *et al.*). A “black-eared” bird was seen at Zuni June 19 (JT). Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Pinos Altos Mts., July 8 (DZ) and Gallinas Mts., June 23 (GS) may have been breeding, whereas eight in the Isleta-Bosque area June 23-July 27 (WH *et al.*) were probably early migrants. Cottonwood Gulch’s first summer Brown Creepers were an adult feeding a juvenile July 23 (AM). House Wrens nested successfully for the second consecutive year at C.G., where sporadic (AM). Gray Catbirds were common in the M.R.G.V., from Corrales to Belen, with scattered birds elsewhere, including four at La Joya June 25 (WH *et al.*); a vagrant was at Silver City June 29 (DZ). Southerly Sage Thrashers were three in the North Plains, Cibola Co., June 8, and birds nested near C.G. (AM).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — Single singing Veeries were near Canjilon June 19 (D & SH) and at Cochiti June 29 & July 1 (WH *et al.*), this species is very rare in New Mexico at any season, and breeding is unconfirmed. A singing ♂ E. Bluebird at C.G., July 4 (AM) was a notable w. straggler. Southerly records of Townsend’s Solitaires included one in the Pinos Altos Mts., June 26 (RF), eight in the Gallinas Mts., June 23, and two near Cloudcroft June 19, C.G.; a juvenile was at C.G., July 24 (AM). Surveys in s. Otero County revealed several pairs of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers in the Cornudas Mts., and another near Orogande (RH). Golden-crowned Kinglets again summered in the Sandia Mts. (HS), and in the Zuni Mts., a dependent juvenile June 20 (JT) furnished the first breeding record there. Sixty Ruby-crowneds were counted in the Zunis June 20 (JT). A ♂ Phainopepla at a nest near Alma in early June provided the first breeding reported from Catron County; northerly was a female near Resaca later in June or early in July (R. Skaggs) and a male at San Acacia June 25 (KM). Easterly birds included one in Dog Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., July 15 (SW) and several s.w. of Pinyon and in the Cornudas Mts. (RH). The Bell’s Vireo in the Eddy County area seemed barely holding its own (SW). A pair of Gray Vireos, another declining species in the state, was near Pinyon July 15 (RH), and a singing bird was at Zuni July 26 (JT). Notable vagrants were single **Yellow-throated Vireos** at Cochiti June 26-29 (JD *et al.*) and at Aguirre Springs, Organ Mts., June 3 (K. Zimmer). Straggling Red-eyed Vireos were four in the Corrales-Bosque area June 10-July 11 (WH *et al.*), and one at Zuni July 27 (JT). Warbling Vireos wandered through the M.R.G.V., until mid-June, but there is no evidence of breeding by these birds or those in summer at C.G. (AM)

**WARBLERS** — Notable summer stragglers included a **Tennessee Warbler** at C.G., July 25 (AM *et al.*), a Lucy’s at Silver City July 20 (DZ), four N. Parulas in the Albuquerque-Bosque area June 7-16, a singing **Blackpoll Warbler** at Bosque June 23 (WH *et al.*), and a Painted Redstart near Taos July 13 (RB). Virginia’s Warblers persisted in the M.R.G.V., into early June, then returned after a brief absence in late June and July (WH *et al.*). Yellow Warblers continued to be very local and uncommon in the M.R.G.V., with most records at San Ildefonso and Isleta (WH *et al.*); for the second straight year, the species summered at C.G. (AM). The *Parulid* event of the season was the discovery of a **Red-faced Warbler** nest with young in the Sandia Mts., June 6, and birds were seen there through July 10 (HS *et al.*); this breeding record is some 100 mi n.n.e. of the nearest station to the s (Magdalena Mts.), and the expansion parallels a trend already seen in Arizona.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — Only one E. Meadowlark was heard this summer at Zuni (TR, JT), while the species was common and the only *Sturnella* reported in summer in s. Otero County (RH). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were confirmed breeding at Black L. (RB), but early summer reports near Valencia (J. Durrie *et al.*) and Bosque (D & SH) lacked such indication. Peripheral summer records of Great-tailed Grackles included Zuni (TR, JT), near Bluewater L. (AM), Tucumcari (JH), and Cliff (J. Egbert, RF); however, no breeding was reported in these areas. Small numbers of Com. Grackles were recorded near El Rito, Rio Arriba Co., June 20 (D & SH), San Ildefonso (WH *et al.*), Zuni June 21 (JT), Bosque June 6 (D & SH), and Otis, Eddy Co. July 28 (SW). Still very local in Grant County, three Bronzed Cowbirds at Silver City July 23 (DZ) were notable. Hepatic Tanagers were more numerous than usual in the C G area (AM), while Summers were uncommon in the M.R.G.V., n to Cochiti (WH *et al.*); a ♂ Summer at Zuni June 21 (JT) was well n w of the usual range.

**FINCHES** — A Pyrrhuloxia nest near Dell City, s. Otero Co., Tex., July 7 (M. Hakkila) was a local first. Indigo Bunting records in the M.R.G.V., numbered 87 in the period, vs only 13 for Lazulus Four possible hybrids were seen at Albuquerque June 10 and near Isleta June 22-July 27 (WH *et al.*), plus another at Zuni July 27 (JT). Neither species was found in summer in the Sandia Mts. (HS), and Indigos and Varieds were undetected in the Carlsbad area (SW). Only one Evening Grosbeak was seen in the Sandia Mts., this summer (HS); southeasterly records were three in the Gallinas Mts., June 23 (GS) and one near Ruidoso June 5 (JS). Cassin’s Finches summered in the Sandia Mts., with females carrying nesting material there June 12 (HS). A female and two fledglings were at Los Alamos June 6 (B. Lewis); seven birds were near Canjilon June 19 (D & SH), and another at Zuni June 19 (JT). Brown-capped Rosy Finches were present on Stateline Peak June 26 (RP). Pine Siskins were present in Albuquerque until July 1 and may have raised a second brood (WH *et al.*). Vagrant Am. Goldfinches were singles at Corrales July 2, Belen June 9 & 23 (WH, KM), and Silver City June 16 (DZ). Lessers were more common than usual at C.G. (AM). Lowland stragglers were seven Red Crossbills at Corrales June 4 and one at Albuquerque June 21 (WH, M. Laurin). A Green-tailed Towhee at Bosque June 6 (D & SH) was out-of-range; 20 were in the Cloudcroft area June 19 (GS). Rufous-sided Towhee numbers were up at C.G. (AM). Savannah Sparrows again summered at Black L., with adults carrying food there July 2 (RB); numbers were up near Bluewater L., with a nest found July 4 (AM). Lark Sparrows in s. Otero County were confined as breeders to wooded habitats (RH). Cassin’s Sparrow numbers were up in parts of the s.w., with highs of 63 near Nutt June 11 and 25 near Las Cruces June 10 (W. Baltosser); in s. Otero County birds were first detected in the Crow Flats area June 30—after the first good rain—and became widespread and territorial thereafter (RH). Two family groups of White-crowned Sparrows and ad. Lincoln’s Sparrows carrying food were on Mt. Taylor July 12 (AM *et al.*); these records provided the first evidence of breeding by the species at that locality; both were also present near Canjilon June 19-20 (D & SH). Straggler Song Sparrows were singles at C.G., July 18 (AM) and Isleta and near Belen June 13 (WH *et al.*).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — R. Bright, J. Duff, R. Fisher, R. Hill, W. Howe, J. Hubbard, D. & S Huntington, A. McCallum, K. McClymonds, A. Nelson, R. Peterson, D. Renwald, T. Rhoades, G. Schmitt, H. Schwarz, J. Shipman, J. Trochet, S. West, and D. Zimmerman.—**JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501.**

---

## ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

The cold late spring apparently resulted in poor productivity for many coastal waterbirds, as a number of species were unable to begin egg laying until two-three weeks later than normal. Away from the coast, however, summer 1982 was normally warm and dry, not nearly so wet as was 1981.

**SHEARWATERS AND CORMORANTS** — On midsummer transects in the n. North Pacific and Gulf of Alaska in June and July, Mottled Petrel was observed widely and sometimes commonly (*e.g.*, 95 birds at 54°59'N 143°35'W, July 21), but only in very small numbers within 320 km of the Alaska coast. Maxima were seven birds at 49°17'N 179°57'W (south of Amchitka Pass, c. Aleutian Islands) June 21 and six birds at 55°00'N 140°09'W (e. Gulf of Alaska) July 23 (RHD). A nesting colony of 23 pairs of **Brandt’s Cormorants** was discovered on the Hazy Is., off Coronation I., Southeastern Alaska June 25 (WAL & JWN). Nest-building was still going on at the time, as it was for Pelagic and Double-crested cormorants nesting there as well. This discovery provides the first breeding evidence between the small colony in Hinchinbrook Entrance, Prince William Sound, and the British Columbia coast.

**WATERFOWL** — “Aleutian” Canada Geese (*B. c. leucopareia*) were found in the Islands of Four Mountains, c. Aleutians, for the first time: 15 birds at Amukta I., June 12-13 and 65 birds (including a flock



of 62) at Chagulak I., June 16. On July 10 a nest with 4 eggs was discovered at Chagulak (JLT *et al.*, *vide* CFZ), confirming breeding in this section of the Aleutians. None of these birds had been banded or collared. A Canada Goose at St. Paul I., Pribilofs, June 16-17 was estimated to be *leucopareia*, and another individual there on 17th was believed to be a *minima* (JLD). Elsewhere, "Cackling" Canada Geese (*B. c. minima*) on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta suffered as a result of the late, cold spring. Not over 25% of their nests were successful this year. Brant and Emperor geese fared better than Canadas there, but were less successful than usual (GVB).

In an echo of distribution seen during recent prairie drought years, 25 Canvasbacks and two ♂ Redheads were seen at Safety Sound, Seward Pen., June 26, but not earlier (JLD *et al.*). Elsewhere, Redheads at unusual localities included one male at Anchorage June 18-23 (TGT & JLD) and two males together at Homer June 23 (JLD).

**FALCONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Four Am. Kestrels making short flights in the vicinity of a half-fallen tree trunk on a ridge above Valdez Aug. 3 (GJT) may represent local breeding. This species has been known in Southcoastal Alaska only as a fall migrant. Following last summer's discovery of a Sandhill Crane nest and young on Prince of Wales I., Southeastern (AB 35:970), two nesting pairs were located there in summer 1982. A pair with a 3-day-old chick were seen n.w. of Klawock June 9 (PJC & JRR, *vide* TEK), and a pair with one chick was seen near Thorne Bay June 25 (SS).

A Far Eastern Curlew was studied at Clam Lagoon, Adak I., c. Aleutians June 12-15 (†CFZ *et al.*). Most Regional records of this bird are from that island, probably a result of the combination of summer-long observer coverage and the existence of one of the few lagoons in the c. and w. Aleutians. Marbled Godwits, which have been watched with interest in recent years on their spring migration route along Alaska's Pacific coast, have been discovered in the Region in summer, in numbers, in precisely the area where C.L. McKay collected two birds (of four Alaska specimens known) in 1881 (see Osgood 1904, *A biological reconnaissance at the base of the Alaska Peninsula*, N. Am. Fauna No. 24). In early July, 600-1000 Marbled Godwits were observed on tidal flats in Ugashik Bay, Alaska Pen. (MEI, SMM, KH). The observers were busy with other tasks and so were unable to study these birds at length, but if these godwits nest somewhere in that area, they do so some 3500 km from the nearest part of their understood breeding range (the c. Alberta plains), and in rather different habitat.

Two late spring (or early fall?) ad. Rufous-necked Sandpipers were seen at St. Paul I., in mid-June (JLD). An ad. Red Knot and an ad.

Rufous-necked Sandpiper at Anchorage July 18 (†RLS) were both interesting records of rare birds at that locality. Southbound Semipalmated Sandpipers (adults) were first seen at Anchorage June 25 (80 birds); they peaked July 5 (at 120 birds), and they were present afterwards as singles through the rest of the month (RLS). Two Semipalmateds were seen at Chiniak Bay, Kodiak (where rare), July 10 (RAM & RHD). Western Sandpiper was first seen southbound at Anchorage June 26 (RLS), and maximum count there was 150+ July 22, with numbers still building (TGT). First W. Sandpipers of the "fall" at Kodiak were 350 birds at Womens Bay July 3; numbers peaked there July 10, when 6000 were present at Chiniak Bay (RAM & RHD). Subsequently, numbers dropped to 300 by July 16, to 70 by July 29 (RAM & JBA).

A defensive Short-billed Dowitcher studied at Mile 103.5 Denali Highway June 22 (JLD *et al.*) provided the first inland record of the species in the Region. Perhaps this bird was an example of inland-breeding *L. g. hendersoni*, from w. Canada, rather than *L. g. caurinus*, which breeds on the s. Alaska coast? A ♂ Ruff observed near the Kuparuk R., July 5 (DMT) provided the fourth Prudhoe Bay-area record and numbers among few for the whole arctic coast of Alaska.

**GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS** — A subad. Black-headed Gull that briefly visited the Anchorage waterfront July 5 (†TGT, DFD) provided a first record for upper Cook Inlet and only the third for the whole Alaska Pacific coast e. of the Aleutians. An ad. Slaty-backed Gull was observed at Homer June 20 (†TGT & LJO). Most records of this bird that far e. have been in fall or winter. An adult and an imm. Red-legged Kittiwake were seen in the North Pacific at 54°58'N 157°38'W, and another immature at 55°18'N 156°23'W, in the vicinity of the Shumagin Is., July 8 (RHD). No one has found any evidence that this species breeds e. of the Pribilofs, so such summer records are presumed to be of nonbreeders. We are in the midst of quite a flurry of **Caspian Terns** in Alaska. Most recently, two birds were observed at Homer Spit July 19 (†RLS). They provided the fifth and westernmost Alaska record (see AB 35:853,970, and AB 36:885). Six Parakeet Auklets were observed at *Petrel Island* July 21 (WAL & JWN). This locality, adjacent to Forrester I., on Dixon Entrance, is as far s. in Southeastern Alaska as the species can go. Whether or not the small numbers recorded in recent summers along the outer coast of Southeastern (see also AB 35:970) are breeding there remains to be determined.

**WOODPECKERS, TYRANT FLYCATCHERS** — A Red-breasted Sapsucker near Monashka Bay, Kodiak I., June 13 (SW) furnished the first *summer* record for the island (see AB 36:322). A **Least Flycatcher** that held a territory on a mixed spruce-birch hillside in Anchorage June 14-23 (†RLS & †TGT *et al.*) provided the first substantiated record of the species in Alaska. Least breeds quite close to us, in s. Yukon Territory, and closely-related Hammond's is locally common in the Tanana R. valley of e.-c. Alaska, but there is no evidence of sympatry, nor information on their ecological separation in this area (for, published habitat preferences of Hammond's notwithstanding, in Alaska it breeds not in mountains or in conifers, but in deciduous and in mixed forests that would probably be regarded elsewhere as Least habitats). It would appear, moreover, that the e. Alaska Hammond's constitute a population disjunct from the birds of w. Canada (and s.e. Alaska), separated geographically by the Yukon Least Flycatchers, which are, in turn, the northwesternmost birds in a continuous range across Canada. If this sounds complicated, I believe it is (and Dusky Flycatcher, occurring to n. British Columbia, undoubtedly further complicates the issue). An E. Kingbird studied at close range near Barrow June 30 (JLD *et al.*) was most unusual, but there are a number of records of this bird as a mid-summer visitor along the arctic coast.

**THRUSHES THROUGH BLACKBIRDS** — A ♀ Mountain Bluebird was observed June 21 at a homestead at Mile 6 Edgerton Hwy (RBW & JSW), where the bird may have been a breeder. There are very few actual breeding records for Alaska, all of them within about 250 km of the Yukon boundary. In addition to the Indian Tree Pipits recorded at Attu, Agattu, Shemya, and St. Lawrence islands this spring (*q.v.*), two birds were seen June 7 at St. Paul I. (†CH), providing a first Pribilof record. This species was also reported at St. Matthew I., in June (MLW), but there were no specifics at this writing. A singing **Philadelphia Vireo** observed and tape-recorded at Eagle June 27 (†RRM) provided a first record for Alaska. This species

breeds as far n. and w. as the Peace R. country of n.e. British Columbia. There is no prior record of any vireo in c. Alaska. Two, possibly three, singing Tennessee Warblers June 17 at *Eagle* (RRM) were only the second summer record in c. Alaska. A ♂ Red-winged Blackbird observed at Barter I., June 8 (AR & DR) and a Brown-headed Cowbird seen there July 16 (RFB) were both unusual, but not unprecedented, records for the arctic coast.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (Sub-regional editor in

boldface) — J.B. Allen, R.F. Bartels, G.V. Byrd, P.J. Coffey, R.H. Day, D.F. DeLap, J.L. Dunn, K. Hafinger, C. Hohenberger, M.E. Isleib, T.E. Kogut, W.A. Lehnhausen, R.A. MacIntosh, R.R. Moldenhauer, S.M. Murphy, J.W. Nelson, L.J. Oakley, A. Ronse, D. Ronse, J.R. Riggers, S. Scheldt, R.L. Scher, G.J. Tans, T.G. Tobish, J.L. Trapp, D.M. Troy, M.L. Ward, R.B. Weeden, J.S. Weeden, S. Wilson, C.F. Zeilemaker; † details on file U.A.M. — D.D. GIBSON, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Bill Harrington-Tweit, Phil Mattocks, and Eugene Hunn

The dry weather of late spring continued into June. Rainfall was about two-thirds of the normal levels for the Vancouver, British Columbia and Seattle, Washington weather stations, and 90% of that fell in the last five days of the month. Temperatures throughout the Region averaged about 3° F over the longterm norms. During July both temperature and precipitation were near normal. The only reported effects of the warm, dry June were not on bird populations or nesting success, but on local gardens. The several vagrant species found were scattered through the season.

**LOONS THROUGH DUCKS** — The only nesting report of Com. Loons came, as usual, from Vancouver I., (hereafter, V.I.), on Pye L., near Campbell R. (HT). Numbers of summering W. Grebes continued to be very low compared with a decade ago. The largest reported flock was 35 off s. V.I. (VG). Northern Fulmars were found by the hundreds off Washington and Oregon in July (TW; M. Graybill, *vide* AM). Summering numbers of this species vary greatly from year to year. Following an exceptionally large number of spring records of Brown Pelicans, good numbers were found along the Oregon coast at the end of July (HN). To the n., a Brown Pelican was found long dead in a cormorant colony on Mandarte I., B.C., for the eleventh documented provincial record (\*Cowan Vertebrate Museum, Univ. of B.C., P. Arcese). Increases in cormorant breeding populations have been reported for the past 3 summers. This season was no exception. A new colony of Pelagic Cormorants was formed at Stanley P., Vancouver, B.C. (W. & H. Hesse), and the colony of Double-crests on Grays Harbor, Wash., increased by 100 nests (EC, W.D.G.). Green Herons were noted n. to Port Alberni, V.I. (J. Morgan), and most observers commented that the species was widespread and in good numbers.

A pair of Pintails nested at Kent, Wash. (EH), for one of only a few w. Washington breeding records. Nesting Green-winged Teal at Willapa N.W.R. (RW) and Ocean Shores (G & WH) provided the first breeding records for the outer coast of Washington. There were 3 broods of Am. Wigeon at Delta, B.C. (WW). The first documented breeding records for the Vancouver, B.C., area were obtained only last summer. The large numbers of juv. Mallards reported by widely scattered observers seemed to indicate a very successful nesting season. Larger-than-usual numbers of Greater Scaup summered in the Region. Hundreds were noted along the Oregon coast (HN), 100+ at Grays Harbor, Wash. (DP, G & WH), and 180 near Vancouver, B.C. (WW). Such summer reports usually do not total more than 50 birds. A ♀ Oldsquaw was present on Yaquina Bay through the season (JK, m.ob.). Scoters were reported in higher-than-normal numbers on the Oregon coast (HN), but were sparsely reported from Washington waters. However, scoters appeared to be present in normal numbers in the southern V.I. area (VG), a relatively short distance away.

**RAPTORS TO COOTS** — Following several sightings of single adults last winter and spring, a family group of two adult and two rusty-breasted juv. White-tailed Kites were found on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Sept. 18 & 23 (†RW *et al.*). This suggested possibly the first breeding of this species for Washington. Despite the discovery of paired birds at several Oregon locations this spring, and 5 reports of White-tailed Kites during the summer season in s.w. Oregon (MM, K. Rodecap, *vide* EzE), there was no other evidence of breeding noted.



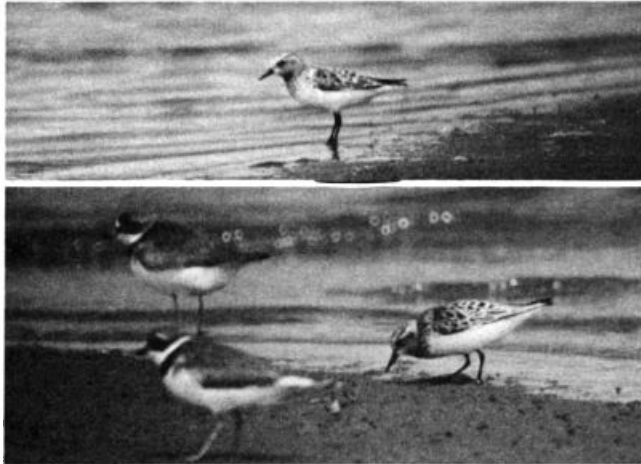
Another southern raptor, the Red-shouldered Hawk, was reported 3 times from Douglas County, Oreg. (MS; KK, *vide* HN). Breeding of this species is being watched for in the area. Every Osprey nest checked for productivity was successful. Two new Osprey nests were reported, one at Saanich, V.I. (VG), and the other in Thurston County, Wash. (BHT). Marsh Hawk breeding was reported only from Leadbetter Pt., Wash., where a successful re-nesting was noted in late June (RW). There were no reports on Peregrine nesting. The only indication of Merlin breeding was at Elk Falls P.P., V.I. (HT). Few observers mentioned Am. Kestrels, but one report from Olympia, Wash., noted that 4 traditional sites in that area were vacant this summer (JD).

California Quail had numerous, large broods in the Victoria area (VG), but there were no sightings in nearby Duncan (JC) where numbers have been low for the last 3 years. The Sandhill Cranes at Pitt Meadows, B.C., produced at least one young (M. Shamlock). Aside from the Queen Charlotte I., this is the only regularly used breeding locale in the Region, and some of the banded birds released there during 1981 stayed in the vicinity all this summer. Along the lower Columbia R., Wash., a pair of apparently territorial Sandhill Cranes stayed until the mowing of their patch of suitable habitat in early June (A. Richards, A. Musche). Breeding Am. Coots were observed at 8 localities in Washington. The highest number of nests found was 45 on Nisqually L., Pierce Co. (BHT). There were summering birds, but no reported breeding activity, near Vancouver, B.C. (DK).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The Snowy Plover habitat at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., posted against intrusion again this year, supported 10 pairs and at least 10 chicks for another successful season (RW). There was a high count of seven ad. Snowies at Ocean Shores, Wash. (DP), and



several were noted at Coos Bay, Oreg. Flocks of 100-200 Surf-birds and both Black and Ruddy turnstones appeared abruptly on our shorelines July 17-21 (AC, DP, TW, D. Smith). The numbers are somewhat unusual but the arrival pattern is not. For most other migrant shorebird species a few individuals make their first appearance well before the major flocks arrive. Peak counts of some shorebirds were: 204 Whimbrel at Ocean Shores, Wash., July 21 (DP), 20 Greater Yellowlegs at Victoria, V.I., July 16 (R. Satterfield), 245 Semipalmated Plovers and 3000 Short-billed Dowitchers around Grays Harbor, Wash., July 21 (DP), eight Baird's Sandpipers at Iona I., Vancouver, B.C., July 16 (DK), 150 Least Sandpipers at Tillamook, Oreg., July 3 (JG), and 26,500 W. Sandpipers at Grays Harbor July 21 (DP). A record high count for the Region was the 70+ Semipalmated Sandpipers at Iona I., July 16-17 (†BK).



Two shots of the same Rufous-necked Stint, Tillamook Bay, Oreg., June 20, 1982. Photos/Jeff Gilligan.

The first Oregon records of the **Rufous-necked Stint** were of two different birds in breeding plumage found on the Bayocean flats, Tillamook Bay, June 20 & July 3 (ph.-JG, ph.-O. Schmidt, D. Irons; photos examined-ed.). A Long-billed Curlew June 9 & 15 at Blackie Spit (RP, V. Newson, WW *et al.*) and several Red Knots along Boundary Bay during June and July (BK, MP *et al.*) provided only the second summer records of these species for the Vancouver, B.C., area. A Willet on Boundary Bay, B.C., June 6-9 (†MP *et al.*) represented about the ninth Vancouver area record. A Ruff found at Iona I., B.C., July 21-23 was a very early fall migrant (†BK, K. Bell, D. Aldcroft).

The large colony of Glaucous-winged and W. gulls on Willapa Bay, Wash., was surveyed this summer for the first time since 1977 (BHT, SS). There were 3000+ nesting pairs, presenting an array of vivid iris colors and plumage patterns. In 1977, there were 1000-1500 nesting pairs. Willapa Bay's other nesting gull, the Ring-billed, is also increasing. About 60+ nests were counted this June (BHT, SS). Summering Bonaparte's Gulls remained at low levels for the fourth consecutive summer. However, after 3 low years, the numbers of non-breeding Black-legged Kittiwakes were up along the Washington coast (DP, G & WH, BHT). HN noted that Heermann's Gulls were abundant along the Oregon coast, with unusually high numbers of immatures present.

A record count of almost 4000 pairs of Caspian Terns was made at the colonies along the Washington coast this summer (EC, W.D.G, BHT, SS). Several hundred more adults were noted throughout coastal Washington and British Columbia. At the end of July, HN reported that very large numbers of Com. Murres were present along the Oregon coast, both dead on the beaches and alive just offshore. The explanation for this concentration may be the warm anchovy-rich water onshore at this time, attracting birds and thereby enhancing the visibility of normal mortality. There were some large concentrations of Marbled Murrelets reported: 29 at Port Susan, Wash., June 2 (BHT), and 50 at Pt. Roberts, Wash., June 30 (RP). There were also two rare summer sightings of the Ancient Murrelet: one with five Marbleds s. of Yachats, Oreg., July 21 (AC), and two apparent juveniles well offshore from Westport, Wash. (DP, TW).

**OWLS TO SKYLARKS** — A pair of **Barred Owls** bred in Discovery P., Seattle (ph., DH, m.ob.). Three young were seen out of the

nest June 20 (D. Beaudette). Despite widespread reports of **Barred Owls** for many years, this was only the second confirmed nesting in the Region. The first was in 1975 (AB 29:900). **Barred Owls** were also sighted at 2 new locales in w. Washington; at Silver L., n. of Maple Falls, Whatcom Co. (D. McNeely) and in Fort Dent P., Tukwila, King Co. (B. Brynteson). Two just s. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT) in late July are the northernmost yet reported for the Region. One was also heard July 24 at Victoria (M. & T. Shepard). An ad. **Great Gray Owl** and two fledged young were found June 25-27 in the mountains just e. of Ashland, Oreg. (MM, m.ob.). This is the first reported nesting of this species in the Cascades of w. Oregon, although such has been suspected for many years. A pair of **Saw-whet Owls** bred successfully at Burnaby, B.C. (I. Robertson). There are few nesting records of this species from the lowlands.

The continued scarcity of Com. Nighthawks was stressed by observers in the Rogue and Willamette valleys of Oregon (MM, EzE, HN), through to the Puget Trough of Washington and s. British Columbia (BHT, W. Harm, DK). The second nesting record of the **Anna's Hummingbird** for Oregon was evidenced by a fledgling, barely able to fly, found in Corvallis June 1 (E & EzE). Two nests of **Anna's Hummingbirds** at Discovery P., Seattle (DH), were the fifth and sixth recorded for Washington. The summer distribution of **Anna's** is by no means continuous. The species is common in parts of Seattle (DH), yet scarce or absent to the s. in Tacoma and Olympia. To the n., at least 11 **Anna's** summered at Victoria (VG), and at least three were present all summer at a feeder in W. Vancouver, B.C. (C. Butt). There were several reports of local declines or scarcities of woodpeckers, which is rather unsettling in this big timber country. **Common Flickers** were in low numbers at Duncan, V.I. (JC). **Hairy Woodpeckers** are now only rarely reported from the Corvallis area (E & EzE), and are scarce at Victoria (VG). A **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker** nest found s.w. of Mt. St. Helens, Wash. (D. Anderson) was noteworthy, not so much for the locale, but for the scarcity of actual nest observations in our Region. Only four **E. Kingbirds** and five **W. Kingbirds** were reported away from the known breeding locales for each species. This is a somewhat lower number than normal. A pair of **W. Kingbirds** nested at Ft. Lewis, Wash. (BHT, GW) for the first nesting record of this species in the Puget Trough. **Skylarks** were found singing over a field near Cowichan Station, V.I., July 8 (PRW). This is the farthest n.w. location yet known to be occupied.

**MARTINS TO BLUEBIRDS** — The **Purple Martin** news was generally good, with the exception of that from V.I. The two pairs at Duncan, V.I., was the lowest count there in 14 years (JC) and Victoria hosted only a few more than that (VG). In Washington there were 20-25 broods produced in s. Puget Sound (JD). In Oregon MS reported increasing sightings in Douglas County, and a locale near Toledo was used after several year's absence (JK, *vide* HN). **Scrub Jays** are slowly increasing their range to the N and W in the Region. AM noted that the species is becoming more prevalent in the drier, inland portions of Coos County, Oregon. As in past summers, **Rock Wrens** were found on the w. slope of the Cascades in Washington, this year in King and Whatcom cos. (EH, J. Duemmel). As with the previous summer records from the w. slope, no evidence of breeding was obtained. Another **Rock Wren** was at a quarry near Tualatin, s. of Portland June 22 (E. Lev, *vide* HN). There were 3 reports of **Mockingbirds**; one June 3-5 in Campbell River, V.I. (HT), one July 6 at Coos Head, Oreg. (AM), and one June 18 in Medford, Oreg. (*vide* MM). **Gray Catbirds** are intermittent breeders at Pitt Meadows in the Fraser R. valley e. of Vancouver, B.C. Two to three **Gray Catbirds** were present throughout the summer at Pitt Meadows (H. Brownlow) for the first sightings there since 1979. One was also seen nearby at DeBouville Slough July 24 (RP *et al.*). There are no other known breeding sites in the Region.

The Pemberton Valley n. of Vancouver, B.C., is also the only part of our Region with breeding **Veeries**. Twelve were found near Pemberton, B.C., June 13 (K. Hobson *et al.*). A lone bird was singing at Pitt Meadows July 8 (†MP) for the third Vancouver area record. Mike Paczolt's nest boxes at Agate L., Jackson Co., Oreg., successfully fledged 120 young **W. Bluebirds**. Nearby in Douglas County, however, MS noted that bluebirds seemed to be having more trouble than usual. Reproductive success also appeared low on Ft. Lewis, Wash. (BHT, GW). A nestbox at Metchosin, V.I., produced four young (VG) and the success of a snag-nesting pair in the Sooke Hills, Malahat Land District, V.I., was undetermined (PRW).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — HN noted that Warbling Vireos in Oregon were quite conspicuous, with good reproduction. However, Warbling Vireos were noted as scarce at Olympia, Wash. (JD), and Duncan, V.I. (JC). EH detected a general decline in vireo numbers on the Issaquah, Wash., Breeding Bird Survey. Solitary Vireos were extremely scarce at Duncan, V.I. (JC). Red-eyed Vireo numbers were below normal at Olympia, Wash. (JD, BHT). In contrast, reports of Yellow Warbler breeding success were uniformly good, from Ashland, Oreg. (MM), Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (RW), and Duncan, V.I. (JC). MacGillivray's Warblers were also believed to have had an excellent nesting season in Oregon (HN). Indications of possible breeding range expansions included a singing ♂ Nashville Warbler near Issaquah, Wash., June 20 (EH), and several singing Yellow-breasted Chats present June 18-July 11 at Broadbent, on the Coquille R., Oreg., for the first Coos County records (*vide* AM).

Reports of Am. Redstarts were widespread. One to two pairs were near Newhalem, Wash., June 6-13 (TW) in the same alder swamp as last year. There were four records of Am. Redstarts which appeared to be vagrants: one male at Sproat L., V.I., June 11 (MP), a first-year male in W. Vancouver, B.C., June 30-July 1 (†DK, †D. Cunnings, m.ob.), an ad. male at Sea I., Vancouver, B.C., July 2 (†MP), and an ad. male at Foster Res., e. of Corvallis, Oreg., July 11-18 (F. Graves, *vide* EzE). The pair of Am. Redstarts seen near Glide, e. of Roseburg, Oreg., July 6, but not found when searched for later (KK), was difficult to categorize. More unusual vagrants were a ♂ **Black-throated Green Warbler** June 19 at Reifel I., B.C. (†WW), for the first Vancouver area and coastal British Columbia record, another ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler, also seen June 19, at Cape Blanco, Curry Co., Oreg. (R. Smith, *vide* HN), and a ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** June 6 on Bayocean Pen., Tillamook Co., Oreg. (†JG).

**ORIOLES TO SPARROWS** — Northern Orioles continue to slowly increase their breeding populations around Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. A nest at Victoria fledged four young, and there were sightings of eight + other adults there (VG). Of a total of 16 sightings in the Vancouver, B.C., area (*vide* DK), the only nesting report was of two adults feeding two fledglings at DeBouville Slough (RP *et al.*). An ad. ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen June 30 near Green L., in Seattle, Wash., for only the second w. Washington record (†M. Kepplinger). Black-headed Grosbeaks were noted to be unusually abundant by 2 Washington observers (JD, RW). The only other mention of the species was that they were fairly common at Campbell River, V.I. (HT). A few Evening Grosbeaks remained in the lowlands into June.

Evidence of breeding came from Victoria (B. McCabe, *vide* VG) and Everett, Wash. (specimen of fledgling, *vide* M. Jordan). Lazuli Buntings were noted more frequently than usual within their regular breeding range in Oregon (HN). In Washington, where Lazulis breed very sparingly w. of the Cascades, singing males were noted at 2 new locations in King County (EH) and one in Lewis County (BHT). A ♂ **Indigo Bunting** stayed July 28-Aug. 4 along a powerline right-of-way near Eugene, Oreg. (B. Combs, m.ob.).

Red Crossbills were present throughout the period in the lowlands of British Columbia. To the s., however, they were virtually unreported during June. Small groups appeared in early July in the lowlands of Washington (EH, BHT) and Oregon (E & EzE). The species began nesting activities at the end of July in Olympia, Wash. (BHT), and on Vashon L., near Seattle, Wash. (PM). The Douglas fir cone crop was abundant at both locations. Green-tailed and Brown towhees were reported in good numbers from Jackson and Douglas cos., in s. Oregon (MS, MM, S. Gordon). These 2 counties comprise the extent of their breeding range in our Region. A Vesper Sparrow was at Pitt Meadows, B.C., June 26 (†MD), somewhat n. of its usual range. A Fox Sparrow was at the South Jetty of the Columbia R., June 28 (JG), well s. of its usual range, and two were at N. Vancouver, B.C., June 28 with one still there June 30 (†MD). A pair of *pugetensis* White-crowned Sparrows was closely observed feeding two fledglings July 30 at White Pass, Wash. (†PM). White-crowned Sparrows have been observed at that location in previous summers, but the subspecies had not been determined. The 4300 ft elevation is higher than other known breeding locations of *pugetensis* and lower, and much farther s. or n., than those of *gambelii* or *oriantha*.

**INITIALED OBSERVERS and ABBREVIATIONS**, with Sub-Regional Editors in boldface. John Comer, Alan Contreras, Eric Cummins, Mark Daly, Jack Davis, Elsie & Elzy Eltzroth (EzE), Jeff Gilligan, **Vic Goodwill**, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Dave Hutchinson, Brian Kautesk, Ken Knittle, Jan Krabbe, **Doug Kragh**, Alan McGie, **Margorie Moore**, **Harry Nehls**, **Dennis Paulson**, Roy Phillips, Michael Price, Martha Sawyer, Steve Speich, Howard Telosky, **Terry Wahl**, George Walter, Wayne Weber, Ralph Widrig (RW), P. Ray Williams (PRW). W.D.G. = Washington Dept. of Game, and (†) = written description on file.—**BILL HARRINGTON-TWEIT**, 900 N. Wilson, Olympia, Wash. 98506, **PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR.**, Dept of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195, and **EUGENE S. HUNN**, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103.

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Ron LeValley and Jules Evens

Mostly typical summer weather greeted us this year. June was a bit cooler than normal but July brought typically hot weather to the interior. A small front passed through the northern portion of the Region at the end of June dropping a bit of rain but otherwise the coastal weather was an almost monotonous "fog and low clouds morning and evening with partial clearing in the afternoon". Strong northwest winds along the coast associated with the hot interior cooled ocean surface temperatures in mid-July. By the end of the period sea surface temperatures were 12-13.5°C, approximately equal to the 20-year average.

All observations from Southeast Farallon Island (hereafter, F.I.) and Palomarin, Bolinas should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.).

**LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS** — All three of our loon species were reported summering in the Region in small numbers but 1000+ Arctics in Drakes Bay, Marin Co., June 24 (KVV, KC) was a notable non-breeding concentration. A Red-necked Grebe, always rare in summer, was at Sea Ranch, Sonoma Co., June 5 (DE, BDP).

Eighty Black-footed Albatrosses off Crescent City June 6 (RLeV, RAE) were actually fewer than expected. A few N. Fulmars from last winter's incursion lingered through the summer with 30 off Crescent City June 6 (RAE, RLeV) being the maximum. Sooty Shearwaters were considered less common than normal in Monterey Bay this



spring, possibly related to the low numbers of market squid present (AB). Good concentrations were found farther n. off Crescent City June 6 with 5000+ present (RAE, RLeV). A Leach's Storm-Petrel spotted off Crescent City June 6 (*fide* RLeV) was close to shore for the daytime but petrels were still being heard on dark nights at Pt. St. George until mid-July (GL).

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — White Pelicans arrived in numbers during July with the first notable concentration being 500 along Sears Point Rd., Solano Co., July 19 (KVV). Poor nesting success was reported for both Brandt's and Pelagic cormorants at Pt. Lobos, Monterey Co. (AB) and on F.I. (P.R.B.O.). In both cases the reason was thought to be low food supplies near the breeding islands.

Green Herons continue their apparent increase with ten along the Gualala R., Sonoma Co., June 5 the largest number there in recent years (BDP). A pair of Little Blue Herons frequented S. San Francisco Bay locations including the large heronry at Alviso, Santa Clara Co., but breeding was not confirmed. Cattle Egrets again nested at Corcoran Irrigation District Res. with 14+ nests active June 3 (KFC). Elsewhere the only report was from Alameda County where 13 were found July 7 (RL). Great Egrets, rare local breeders inland, were reported from the following localities: near Galt, Sacramento Co., 35 nests (HLC); at San Luis (2 nests) and Kesterton (5 nests) N.W.R., Merced Co.; and 4 nests at Corcoran Irrigation District Res., Kings Co. (KFC). A concentration of 530 Snowy Egrets along Sears Point Rd., July 19, Solano Co., was the largest reported in recent years (KVV). Elsewhere there was an adult and four immatures near Hwy 99 and Arno Rd., Sacramento Co., July 18 (H & BK), an area where there has been no nesting activity since 1910. The first **Wood Stork** record for the Region in 6 years was of a single near the Weed Airport, Siskiyou Co., July 1-6 (MR). Up to nine White-faced Ibises were found in the Honey L. Valley, Lassen Co., June 27-July 3 (SAL, DAA) in an area where breeding has not been confirmed in recent years.

**WATERFOWL** — A few Brant summered along the coast as usual with 42 at Drakes Bay, Marin Co., June 11 (SFB) being the largest concentration. A bit less usual were seven White-fronted Geese at Sacramento N.W.R., through the period (MH) and another in the Sacramento R., s. of Red Bluff, Tehama Co., June 25-July 3 (SAL).

Nesting waterfowl had a relatively successful season owing to the water left in our Region by last winter's storms. Last year's 400 Gadwall chicks at the mouth of the Salinas R., was considered the largest nesting in the Region but 618 ducklings at the Moffet Field Marsh, Santa Clara Co., June 11 (WB) take the honors this spring. Small numbers of Greater Scaup were reported from many coastal localities throughout the summer as is normal. Lesser Scaup repeated their successful nesting at Adobe Cr., Santa Clara Co.; two young were found July 30 (TC). An extensive Bufflehead survey in n.e. California found 15+ broods with 100+ young and 25+ single adults in the mountain lakes of that area (DAA). A female with seven young at Lower Summit L., 5 mi w. of L. Davis, Plumas Co., extends their breeding range another 20 mi s. (*fide* DAA). No goldeneyes or Harlequin Ducks were reported from any interior localities this season. As before, White-winged Scoters outnumbered Surf Scoters at Moss Landing (DR) and Humboldt Bay localities (RLeV) this summer.

**RAPTORS THROUGH QUAILS** — Low occupancy rates for Goshawk nests were reported from Lassen (DAA) and Klamath (SJ) Nat'l Forests, probably related to heavy snow conditions in the nesting areas this spring. On the other hand, Cooper's Hawk nests were well reported with at least five found in Marin County during intensive surveys (DS), an unprecedented number. Swainson's Hawks nests were reported from scattered Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) locations (m.ob.) but no nests were found in Lassen County (BS). An imm. Bald Eagle near the mouth of the S. Fork of the Trinity R., Humboldt Co., Aug. 17 (JB) was evidence of local nesting. The nesting success of Ospreys at L. Almanor dropped slightly from last year's totals but were still well above levels from the 1970s (DAA). In Marin County there were 16 active nests found, maintaining that healthy population (DS). A Prairie Falcon at Estero Americano, Marin Co., July 1 was an unusual summer sighting along the coast (DS).

California Quail had lowered reproduction than last year in Lafayette, Contra Costa Co., because of predation from cats, snakes, raccoons and even from a Brown Towhee (LF)!

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Black Oystercatcher at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Alameda Co., June 26 was remarkably far from its normal haunts along the outer coast (AE, SFB). At least eight Am. Avocets summered at the Arcata Marsh (RLeV, RAE). Nesting at this locality should be watched for. An Am. Golden Plover along the Estero Trail, Pt. Reyes July 11 (*fide* SFB) was probably a very early fall migrant.

As is often the case, a few flocks of Long-billed Curlews were detected in the C.V., including 135 at Delevan N.W.R., Colusa Co., June 3-11, and 50-70 at Sacramento N.W.R., Glenn Co., June 11-21 with smaller numbers at both locations through July (MH). One hundred were also found s. of Orland, Glenn Co., June 13 (SAL). The first Solitary Sandpiper of the fall was at Bliss Ranch, Del Norte Co., July 29 (RAE, GL). The first large flocks of Wilson's Phalaropes arrived in S. San Francisco Bay on time when 5000+ were present June 21 (RL). A Com. Snipe at L. Earl, Del Norte Co., July 18 was extremely early (GL). The only Semipalmated Sandpiper reported was an adult at the Bliss Ranch, Del Norte Co., July 29 (RAE, GL). Adult Baird's Sandpipers are very rare in our Region so one at Abbot's Lagoon July 28 was noteworthy (DS). A very early juvenile was near the mouth of the Mad R., Humboldt Co., July 18-19 (RLeV).

**GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS** — The newly established California Gull colony at Alviso, Alameda Co., had 80+ active nests May 12 (HLC). Elsewhere the first juvenals were reported from Crescent City July 2 (RAE) and Stockton Sewage Ponds July 13 (DY). The first juv. Ring-billed Gulls were at Crescent City July 21 (RAE) and at Stockton Sewage Ponds Aug. 3 (DY). An ad. Laughing Gull was reported at L. Merritt, Alameda Co. (*fide* SFB). Nearly all of our Regional records are from the summer. Single Black-legged Kittiwakes, always rare in the summer, were reported from Marina State Beach, Monterey Co., June 4 (AB) and the Mad R. Mouth July 18-31 with two present at the latter locality July 27 (RLeV, LD). A single Sabine's Gull off Crescent City June 6 (RLeV) was far fewer than expected. The Least Tern colony at the Alameda Naval Air Station failed due to predation from cats and kestrels (SFB) but many of these birds seemed to have re-nested at the Bair I., San Mateo Co. colony where 48 pairs were present in July (*fide* RL). An Elegant Tern June 9 near Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., was quite early (TG). A Black Skimmer continued roosting with Caspian Terns at the Leslie Salt Ponds, Alameda Co., with sightings June 28 and July 1 (*fide* RL).

A notable concentration of Marbled Murrelets was around Año Nuevo I., June 22 when 70+ were present (KW). Single Ancient Murrelets were at Crescent City June 22 (RAE) and Pt. Reyes June 28 (KVV, KC). Rhinoceros Auklets were seen carrying fish near Año Nuevo I., during June and July indicating possible nesting there (KW). Six Tufted Puffins at Fish Rock, Mendocino Co., June 5 (DE, BDP) were from a little-known area.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports from the C.V. were of five at Blackberry I., Tehama Co. (SAL) and one at Caswell S.P., on the Stanislaus R., July 25 (DY). Observers are urged to report the *absence* as well as the presence of this species from areas of former occurrence; a list of known breeding localities is available from JE (address below) upon request. Vagrants were on the coast at Pt. Reyes June 20 (JM *et al.*) and F.I., June 21.

Barn Owl numbers seem stable around Stockton (DY) and 11 active nests were found at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Alameda Co. (KHa, AE). Toward the coast the species proved scarce; despite intensive searching in Marin County only 4 active nests were located (DS *et al.*). Because the distribution of Flammulated Owl in California is incompletely known (see *West. Birds* 5:25-44 and 11:141-149) the following locations for single observations are of interest: 3 mi e. of Old Station, Shasta Co., 5 mi s.e. of Old Station, Shasta Co., 2 mi n.w. of Lake Britton, Shasta Co., 5 mi s. of Westwood, Lassen Co. (all L. Benjamin & G. Carpenter, *fide* DAA) and Gasquet, Del Norte Co. (GL). The only Pygmy Owl reports were from 3 locations in Santa Clara County (WB, TG). Although this species is "routine" in certain areas, distribution is spotty near the c. coast with some movement during the non-breeding season. New Spotted Owl territories continue to be found in Plumas, Tehama and Shasta cos., but five in Lassen County were unprecedented and significantly extend the known range to the NE in the Sierra/Cascade (*fide* DA). The **Barred Owl** near Crescent City was last heard June 6 (GL, SS, DY). Burrowing Owls were found in fair numbers on the valley floor (MH, KFC, DY), but a pair "clinging to the last remaining dirt in the middle of

Stockton's new Hilton Complex" (DY) illustrates the sad fate and bold tenacity of the species. A single Long-eared Owl at Sacramento N W R., June 11 (MH) was the only report received. Only two Short-eared Owls were reported, both in the C.V.; San Luis N.W.R., Merced Co., June 5 (KFC) and Sacramento N.W.R., July 20 & 29 (MH) Saw-whets were calling in July in the Sierra/Cascade at Chester, Plumas Co., and near Old Station, Shasta Co. (L. Benjamin & G. Carpenter, *vide* DAA); four in Annapolis, Sonoma Co., June 4 (DE) were in a seldom owled area. Lesser Nighthawks were confirmed breeding in Merced County (KFC) and in aerial display along the Sacramento R., in Tehama Co. (SAL). Five+ vagrants reached the coast May 26-June 30 with three at F.I., and two at Pt. Reyes (KC, KVV, †BY, S. Wilson *et al.*).

**SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Single Black Swifts at Orleans Humboldt Co., June 7 (KR), s. coastal Del Norte County June 18 (GS) and Berkeley June 23 (KVV, KC) were probably migrants; other reports were from known breeding areas. A pair of White-throated Swifts at Castle Rock, Corral Hollow Rd., San Joaquin Co., July 10 (DY) and five at Williams Butte, Tehama Co., July 10 were in counties where nesting has yet to be documented.

A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird gathering nesting material at Susan R. Canyon June 1 (BS) indicated breeding in Lassen Co. Two juvenals at Gasquet July 27 (RAE, GL, MM) lend credence to the first evidence of breeding (obtained this spring) in Del Norte County. The species is reported to be declining in the Stockton area of the C.V. (DY) in response to the question posed in AB 36:327.

**WOODPECKERS** — A Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker pair with young was discovered in Susan R. Canyon (BS). A sapsucker at Bolinas June 5 (†MLR, †PA) may have been either *nuchalis* or *varius*, the former being more likely. Downy Woodpecker numbers may be recovering in the C.V. (BED, DY). The concerns voiced in these pages in the past (see AB 35:333) may have mirrored only a natural cyclical decline rather than any long-term trend. Only careful observation by resident birders will help clarify this situation.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Eight E. Kingbirds occurred on the coast June 15-24 with four at F.I., one at Patrick's Pt., Humboldt Co. (†SJ, RLeV, RAE), two in Del Norte County (RAE, J. Rooney *et al.*) and one at Pt. Reyes (KVV, KC). One at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse July 19 (BY) provided the only coastal July record this season. Inland records come from e. of Salyer, Trinity Co., June 24 & 30 (KR *et al.*) and just n. of the state line on Hwy. 395, July 22 (DAN). Migration of W. Kingbirds lasted later than usual (at least on the c. coast) with records at F.I., June 9-23 and at Palo Alto June 6 (*vide* CB). Cassin's Kingbird was at usual haunts in Monterey County (DR), and along Corral Hollow Rd. (DY). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes June 1+ (JRi *et al.*) may have been the same individual reported from Tomales Bay S P., Marin Co., June 6 (*vide* SFB, BY). A pair of Say's Phoebe seen entering a cliff face crevice at William's Butte, Tehama Co., June 3 & 6 (PNE, IT) adds evidence to breeding there (see Spring report), a significant N extension of range in the C.V. Seven Willow Flycatchers were singing at 3 locations in the Yosemite Sierra (HLC, BDP). One at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcano N.P. (hereafter, L.V.N.P.), June 27 and July 16 was unusual (DM); another at Hat L. (also L.V.N.P.) July 17 was in more appropriate habitat (DM). The only coastal reports were from Gold Bluffs Beach May 31 (GS) and Eel R. Bottoms July 5 (JH), both Humboldt Co. Eight Dusky Flycatchers at Hull Mt., Lake Co., were near the edge of the species' range (PU, D. Dittman). A W. Flycatcher at Galt, San Joaquin Co., July 17 (DY) was unseasonal in the C.V.

The estimated 500 pairs of Bank Swallows at the Fall R. Mills colony in Shasta Co., remains strong, however doom seems sadly inevitable since it is flanked by a real estate office and a bulldozer (DM) In the C.V., the erosion from the heavy winter rains has created much favorable nesting habitat for Bank Swallows, however this too is threatened by the upcoming Sacramento River bank stabilization project (SAL). A small colony at Thomes Cr., near Richfield, Tehama Co. (PNE, IT) is apparently new. A Barn Swallow at Manzanita L., L.V.N.P., July 16 was considered rare there (DM). The Cliff Swallow population in the San Joaquin Valley in Merced Co., had excellent reproductive success and multiple breeding was obvious (KFC). The high water level this summer must be in some way responsible, but the water level can also be detrimental to

breeding success (see AB 29 1028) Conversely, the colony at Lawrence Livermore Lab was considered down by 50% (KHa). Purple Martins were reported in about average numbers at many of the usual locations. The most notable concentration was of 45 birds (mostly female) at Dry Lagoon, Humboldt Co., June 6 (JS). Post-breeding dispersal began in mid-July in Marin (DS) and late July brought a minor influx along the n. coast (RAE).

**CORVIDS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — Continued observations of small numbers of Black-capped Chickadees along the Shasta R., near Grenada, Siskiyou Co., indicates that this is another locality where the species is a rare but regular resident (RE). Chestnut-backed Chickadee was considered "very common" at 3000-5000 ft in the c. Sierra in Placer and El Dorado cos., this summer (SAL) as the increase in the Sierran population continues (see AB 30:673-675 and for cautionary notes AB 34:927). In contrast to last summer, Plain Titmouse was "conspicuously absent" at Palomarin. Red-breasted Nuthatch was confirmed nesting at Annadel S.P., June 19 (DE) providing (surprisingly) a first breeding record for Sonoma County. The high water level from spring runoff may have benefited some species (see Bank and Cliff swallows above) but Dippers may have been adversely affected. Old nesting sites along the s. fork of the American R., and the s. fork of the Merced R., were found submerged in both water and flood debris (HLC). A House Wren breeding at Skyline Open Space Preserve was considered rare for the Santa Cruz Mts. (*vide* WB) and one at Palomarin July 15-22 must have been a post-breeding dispersant. Cañon Wren distribution is discontinuous and ill-defined; 2 records are from areas where the species must be quite rare: Bark Shanty Cr., Siskiyou Co., June 16 (KR) and along the n. fork of Smith R., above Stony Cr., Del Norte Co., July 17 (GL) Rock Wren was confirmed breeding on the Del Norte County coast s of Crescent City June 21 (GL, LB).

**MIMIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — The Region's ninth Gray Catbird at Pt. Reyes July 3 (H. & P. Green, *vide* SFB) was extratropical as well as extralimital; few precedents fall between Sept. 19-Feb. 20. Coastal migrant Mockingbirds were at Pt. Reyes June 12, 24 and July 6 (P.R.B.O., KVV, KC) and at Pt. Saint George June 14-15 (RAE, GL). One at Lava Beds N.M., July 18 (RE, MR) was at a most unusual location. A Varied Thrush at Bolinas June 5 (†MLR, PA) was a very late lingerer. Hermit Thrush was confirmed breeding in Marin County (DS, SC) and found to be a "fairly common to locally common breeder in the coniferous forests" there (DS). A Veery at Pt. Reyes June 20-24 (JML, †JM *et al.*) provided the Region's third record and only the fifth for California. An absence of records is always more difficult to interpret than a presence; judging from the few reports of nesting W. Bluebirds in the C.V., that species has suffered a drastic decline there during the last 10+ years. Encouraging was the report of successful breeding at Hatfield S.R.A., and of a pair at San Luis N.W.R., both Merced Co. (KFC). Other C.V. observers are encouraged to determine the extent of extirpation of this species. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found to be a fairly common breeder along the n. ridge of Lucas Valley, Marin Co. (BL). Cedar Waxwings departed the lowlands in synchrony June 5 (BBa, KFC, DS).

**SILKY FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — A Phainopepla at Foothills P., Palo Alto June 9-11 (J. Stech, CB, WB) was beyond the w. limit of the species distribution, the Diablo Range. Hutton's Vireo continued to be scarce on the coast (P.R.B.O., JE). Unusual was a breeder at Lafayette (LF) and one bird at Woodson Bridge, Tehama Co., July 11 (SAL). A Red-eyed Vireo singing in Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co., June 24 (RAE, GL, LB) was the only one reported and a first county record. A singing Warbling Vireo near Richfield, Tehama Co., June 10 (IT, PNE) may have been a late migrant.

**WARBLERS** — Eight Black-and-white Warblers were clustered on the c. coast June 12-21 (m.ob.) with five at Pt. Reyes and three at F.I. A singing male at Napa July 22-Aug. 1 (KVV, KC, BDP) was one of few county records. The May influx of Tennessee Warblers at F.I., continued into June with a total of 15 there June 1-24 (normal timing, high number): the only other reports were from Pt. Reyes with 2-3 there June 21-22 (BB, SFB, RAE, BDP). The possibility that these were from F.I., is high since the dates correspond with the exodus from F.I. Eight Orange-crowned Warblers were in the C.V., June 2-25 (KFC, DMa, DY); whether these are post-breeding dispersants

(see AB 33 895), late spring or even early fall migrants is a moot point. A Nashville Warbler at L. Lagunitas, Marin Co., June 6 (D. Beall, *vide* DS) was out of place. A N. Parula visited F.I., June 30-July 1 and another "summered" at Salinas July 18-28 + (B. Gerow, *vide* DR). Two Yellow Warblers (one singing male) were at L. Merced, S.F., July 12 & 19 (PU); whether these were breeders or early migrants is an open question. Continuing the pattern of other vagrants, Magnolia Warblers were reported from F.I. (9) and Pt. Reyes (3-4) June 10-25 (m.ob.). The only other sighting was a singing male at Cape Mendocino, Humboldt Co., June 20 (B. Clow, JE). Three Cape May Warblers were found: one at Pt. Reyes June 18-19 (KVV, KC, KFC, JM, BY) and two at F.I., June 20-22. Unprecedented as a spring migrant in the Region was a Black-throated Blue Warbler (female) at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse June 21-22 (SFB, BB, BDP, JM).

A "Myrtle" Warbler at Crescent City June 15 (GL) was several weeks late. Evidence of nesting of "Audubon's" Warbler in coastal Del Norte County just n. of Crescent City and at Mt. Hamilton, Santa Clara Co. (AE) adds information to the species distribution in discontinuous areas of its range. Remarkable were three reports of Black-throated Green Warbler (in addition to the May 22 bird in S.F.), a truly rare bird in spring. One female at F.I., June 15-16 was where most other spring records originate. A singing male at Elkhorn Slough, Yolo Co., June 18 (A. Englis, JML *et al.*) provided the Region's second interior record. A male reported at Hobo Camp above Susanville, Lassen Co., June 24 (†R.N. Johnson) was accompanied by inconclusive details and suggests the possibility of a hybrid, however the white underparts apparently exclude a Hermit x Townsend's hybrid (*pers. comm.* M. Morrison, JM) at least in the F<sub>1</sub> generation. The problem of identification of the Hermit-Townsend's-Black-throated Green complex (see AB 35:223-224) is complicated by a heretofore unconsidered (?) hybrid cross implicated by the following observation. At Cape Mendocino, Humboldt Co., a Black-throated Green was singing on territory in June in 1979, 1980 and apparently in 1982 (B. Clow, *vide* JE). Hermit Warbler is a common breeder on the Douglas Fir hilltops of the area and the phenotypic possibility of this hybrid type is intriguing, if remote.

Amazing was the discovery of two Yellow-throated Warblers (*albilora*) at Eureka June 12-July 1 + (M. Meyer, †RAE, Kr, ph., *et al.*). Although the original rumor was that they were two males, later scrutiny indicated that they were a pair (*vide* RAE) and attempted to nest! Another Yellow-throated Warbler at Hawkins Bar, Trinity Co., June 14 (M. Rafael, *vide* RLeV, KR) was tape-recorded singing and provided our second interior record. Two-four Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Pt. Reyes June 18-22 (KVV, KC, JM, BY *et al.*). Four Bay-breasted Warblers were found June 16-23; three at F.I., one at Pt. Reyes June 16 (*vide* SFB). Two ♂ Blackpoll Warblers were at Pt. Reyes; one June 19-20 (JM) and one June 24 (KVV, KC). A Blackpoll at F.I., June 20 was routine, but three were there in July (1-4; 22-23; 24-25) was unprecedented timing for the Region (and California). Spring Palm Warblers are scarce; one was at Pt. Reyes June 18-19 (KC, KVV, JM, BY) and F.I., June 23-25. Eight Ovenbirds occurred June 9-23 with six at F.I., one at Pt. Reyes June 18 (KVV, KC) and one at Lincoln P., S.F., June 22 (N. Blank, *vide* SFB). The only N. Waterthrush was at F.I., June 15-16. A Kentucky Warbler at F.I., June 23 constitutes the Region's ninth record, seven of which were at F.I., May 16-July 3. A Mourning Warbler at Pt. Reyes June 20-22 (†JM, JML *et al.*) was a rarity; of about 14 Regional records (most in the last 3 years) this provides the first mainland spring record. Yellow-breasted Chats remained in 2 areas of Marin County for several weeks which offer potential breeding habitat (DS), but no evidence was obtained. A single Canada Warbler, exceedingly rare in spring, was at F.I., June 15. Migrant Am. Redstarts were encountered on the coast June 14-22 from Pt. Saint George to Pt. Reyes; males were singing in breeding habitat at the mouth of the Klamath R., June 7-July 16 (GL, JR, RAE, LB, DY) however no females were reported. Intriguing were two July records of redstarts in Marin County: a hatching year male was banded at Palomarin July 6 (†R.J. Ryder, P.R.B.O.) and a individual was seen in Pt. Reyes Sta. July 15 (JE). The possibility of a local breeding population in the Pt. Reyes area seems a logical explanation.

**ICTERIDS** — Two singing ♂ Bobolinks frequented a field near Klamath June 5-19 (RAE, JR, m.ob.) and a male was at F.I., June 19-20. The only nesting colony of Tri-colored Blackbirds consisted of 200-300 birds near Sacramento (H & BK); a colony near Lawson's Landing, Marin Co. (50-100 birds) was active in late April, but not by June 3 (DS). Two males at Pt. Pinos June 6 (DR) were vagrants there.

Hooded Orioles could not be found in nesting in previous sites in the Hayward and s. Castro Valley this spring (HLC) but were confirmed nesting in almost all residential areas of e. Marin County (BL). The only "Baltimore" Oriole report was of a single male at Muir Woods, Marin Co., June 6 (†B & CY). San Francisco's Great-tailed Grackle may have again attempted to nest, but the only reports were of a single male (TC, KHa, PU). Although numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds were considered high at Palomarin this summer, no instances of parasitism were recorded in over 200 nests investigated! A ♂ **Scarlet Tanager** at Pt. Reyes June 20 (†JM *et al.*) was only the tenth for the Region with records evenly split between spring and fall.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Of approximately 17 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks June 1-28, eight were at Pt. Reyes (m.ob.), five at F.I., two at S F (*vide* SFB) and one at McKinleyville, Humboldt Co. (RLeV). In addition, a male was at Tomales Bay S.P., July 16 (BD, ML). It was considered a "good year" for Blue Grosbeaks at Gray Lodge W A (BED), but only five birds were reported from 4 other C.V. locations. Vagrants reached the coast at Pt. Reyes June 1 (JRI) and Gold Bluff Beach, Humboldt Co., June 27 (GS). An impressive 19 Indigo Buntings (10 at F.I.) occurred, 16 in June at scattered locations (most coastal) and three in July. Of most interest are the following, one female Los Banos, Merced Co., June 6 (KFC), one ad. male Sacramento June 13 (EKL), one ad. male Jameson Canyon, s. Napa Co., July 21 (MFR). Lazuli Bunting received mixed reviews as to abundance: unusually scarce in the C.V. (DY), typical numbers in San Mateo County (WB), numbers slightly up at Palomarin (P.R.B.O.) and unusually abundant in s. Napa County (MFR). Of special interest was news May 22-23 at Sky Park Campground, Eldorado Co., three male and one female Cassin's Finches were banded in breeding condition "despite the low altitude and habitat typical of Purple Finch in the Sierra" (HLC). The only report of Lawrence's Goldfinch was of 40+ at Frank-Raines P., Stanislaus Co., July 11 (DY). During June and July Red Crossbill was "quite conspicuous" along the n. coast (RAE) and numbers moved into old growth forests in Trinity County after being nearly absent in winter and spring (KR). A Green-tailed Towhee at Mt. Loma Prieta Santa Cruz Co., June 12 (SG) was unusual in the n. coast ranges.

— S.A. —

Seven Grasshopper Sparrows were at Kesterton N.W.R., Merced Co., June 6 (KFC); the species' status and abundance is poorly known in the C.V. How little we know about this species is illustrated by the statements of DS who spent over 500 hrs afield this breeding season trying to "fill in the gaps" for the Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas: "Contrary to what the literature says this (Grasshopper Sparrow) is not a rare breeding bird, at least in the grasslands of n.-c. California. I saw/heard a minimum of 150 (in Marin County) and consider this a characteristic and fairly common breeder in moderately grazed, healthy coastal grasslands. Although this may have been a banner year for this species, I think the above statement holds, even though the species is supposed to fluctuate in numbers from year to year. In my experience, this species can be found in all the traditional spots in Marin every year."

A singing Vesper Sparrow was in an agricultural field near the town of Smith River, Del Norte Co., June 10 (RAE, GL). Migrants reached F.I., June 8 and July 29-31; the later date is an extra-temporal vagrant, but not unprecedented. Coastal Rufous-crowned Sparrows were two pair s. of Ft. Ross, Sonoma Co., June 4 (DE), hatching year birds at Palomarin June 29-July 1 (first possible nesting in several years there) and two at Big Cr. Reserve, Big Sur June 19 (AB). An ad. **Cassin's Sparrow** at F.I., June 17-July 6 (†CS, P.R.B.O.) was well-described, all 5 of the other Regional records emanate from the same location and the date fits well with post-breeding dispersal in the s.w. which may involve a rain-related SE to NW migration (see *Auk* 61:409-412 and *AB* 31:93). The status of Sage Sparrow (*A.b. canescens*) is poorly defined in the San Joaquin Valley. KFC found one adult at Volta W.M.A., June 2 & 13 (including at least three juveniles) 9 mi s.e. of Los Banos July 6. All were associated with *Atriplex spinifera*, an endangered habitat in the San Joaquin Valley, and preliminary field work indicates that the distribution of this species of saltbush may determine the distribution of the Sage Sparrow (KFC). A singing Slate-colored Junco at Pt. Reyes June 19 (JM, KFC) furnished the latest record away from F.I. One-two late migrant Chipping Sparrows

were at Pt. St. George June 1 (RAE). A ♂ Golden-crowned Sparrow summered at Five Brooks, Marin Co., frequenting a poultry feeder (JE, BY). A single singing White-throated Sparrow was at Pt. St. George June 17-18 (RAE, GL). After high winter mortality, Song Sparrows produced the highest number of young birds ever at Palomarin with numbers in July more than twice 1981 totals.

**OBSERVERS** — Dan A. Airola, Peter Allen, David Anderson (DAn), Maurine Armour, S.F. Bailey, Alan Baldrige, Bernice Bannes (BBa), Bruce Barrett, Lynn Berner, Clark Blake, William Bousman, John Brack, Kurt F. Campbell, Scott Carey, Karen Cartier, Ted Chandik, H.L. Cogswell, Brennan Davis, B.E. Deuel, Linda Doerflinger, Art Edwards, P.N. Ehrlich, Ray Ekstrom, Doug Ellis, R.A. Erickson, Jules Evens, Lynn Farrar, Tim Gates, Steve Getty,

Geoff Geupul, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Kem Hainebach (KHa), Keith Hansen, Roger Harris, Marguerite Hills, Joel Hornstein, Sandy Jacobsen, Harold and Betty Kimball, Jeri M. Langham, S.A. Laymon, E.K. LeGrand, Bill Lenarz, G.S. Lester, Ron LeValley, Mike Lippmeyer, Roy Lowe, Marie Mans, Dave Mauser (DMa), Joe Morlan, Dan Murphy, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Noel Pettingill, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Jean Richmond, R. John Rider, M.F. Rippey, Mike Robbins, Don Roberson, Jim Rooney, Mary Louise Rosegay, Ken Rosenberg, Dave Shuford, John Sterling, Gary J. Strachan, Chris Stromsness, Brad Stovall, Steve Summers, Chris Swarth (CS), Irene Timossi, Phil Unitt, Kent Van Vuren, Ken Warheit, David Yee, Bob and Carol Yutzky. — **RON LE VALLEY (Loons through Alcids), 1876 Ocean Drive, McKinleyville, Calif. 95521. JULES EVENS (Pigeons through Sparrows) P.O. Box 839, Pt. Reyes Station, Calif. 94956.**

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

The summer season was about normal with average temperatures and rainfall confined to thunder showers in the mountains during July. Most observers concentrated their efforts on waterbirds, and only a limited amount of time was spent with landbirds in the mountains and deserts, although the riparian habitat along the south fork of the Kern River was well surveyed, giving us some interesting data from that area.

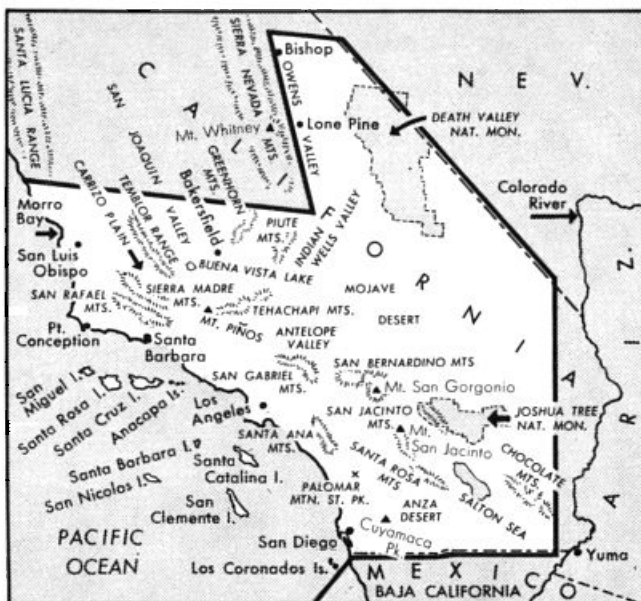
**ABBREVIATIONS** — K.R.P.: Nature Conservancy's Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.; N.E.S.S.: north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.C.R.M.: Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co.; S.D.N.H.M.: San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S.: south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. *Birds of Southern California* by Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn (1981) is the standard reference for the status and distribution of the birds in this Region. As virtually all rarities found in s. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file for *all* rarities listed in the report.

**LOONS, GREBES** — As usual all three of the regularly occurring loons were found summering along the coast with Arctic Loons the most numerous (120+ reported) and Red-throated Loons the scarcest (10 reported). A Com. Loon at Salton City along the w. shore of the Salton Sea June 5-6 (RHl) was a late spring migrant, but four on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., throughout the period (PEL) and another on L. Ming near Bakersfield, Kern Co., July 5 (MaH) were evidently summering inland. An Arctic Loon on L. Cachuma July 2-20 (LBev) provided the second record of the species summering inland. The presence of a juv. W. Grebe riding on the back of an adult on Laguna L., near San Luis Obispo June 13 (DR) confirmed breeding at that locality.

**SHEARWATERS** — Three N. Fulmars off San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., July 29 (MB) had evidently summered locally; small numbers regularly summer off s. California following winters during which the species is numerous offshore.

**PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS** — A count of 45 Brown Pelicans, now regular post-breeding visitors to the Salton Sea, was made at that inland body of water July 31 (GMcC) after the first appeared in May; one on the California side of L. Havasu, San Bernardino Co., July 9 (DKr) and another on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., July 10 (KW) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. Magnificent Frigatebirds were exceptionally scarce with 4 sightings at the Salton Sea during July and one along the coast at Aliso Beach, Orange Co., July 29 (V & WG).

**HERONS** — Known nesting localities for Great Blue Herons are few; hence, it was of interest to learn of 6 active nests at Anaheim L., near Anaheim, Orange Co. (SJR) and 3 more active nests at nearby Vila Park Dam (IL). An ad. Little Blue Heron at N.E.S.S., June 6 (GMcC) was evidently a late spring vagrant. A pair of Little Blue



Hérons nested for the third year in a row near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., fledging three young July 18 (EC), the birds being joined by a one-year old in the "calico" dress that same day (GMcC). A pair of Great Egrets fledged three young in a Great Blue Heron nesting colony at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co. (TE); there were no previous nesting records for the coast of s. California. Some 20 pairs of Snowy Egrets again nested near Imperial Beach (GMcC) and breeding-plumaged birds around L. Hodges all summer (KW) were believed to be nesting locally. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron found at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., May 30 was still present July 19 (TM). Two Least Bitterns in Santa Barbara throughout the summer (PEL) were the only ones reported from along the coast outside San Diego County, and one at K.R.P., all summer (JSR) was at an unusual locality being at 3000 ft in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mts. One or two Am. Bitterns at Vee-H Res., in Lake Forest, Orange Co., July 21-25 (EBP) and another at San Elijo Lagoon June 16 (TAM) were in areas suitable for nesting.

**WATERFOWL** — Up to six Brant at N.E.S.S., through July 24 (GMcC) were stragglers from spring. Two pairs of Blue-winged Teal accompanied by young at S.C.R.M., in June (MaH) were at the exact location of the first nesting record for the Region in 1980. A ♀ Wood Duck at L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., June 8-14 (RHl) was far s. for the time of the year. Six Ring-necked Ducks on Big Bear L., in the San Bernardino Mts., June 19 (JO) were very late if not summering. A Canvasback, rare in summer, was in Carlsbad, San Diego Co., June 14 (TAM), up to four were at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., June 13-26 (LRB) and five were on Big Bear/Baldwin Lakes June 19 (REW). A Greater Scaup, casual in summer, was near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., June 25-July 10 (LBev) and three more were at the Santa

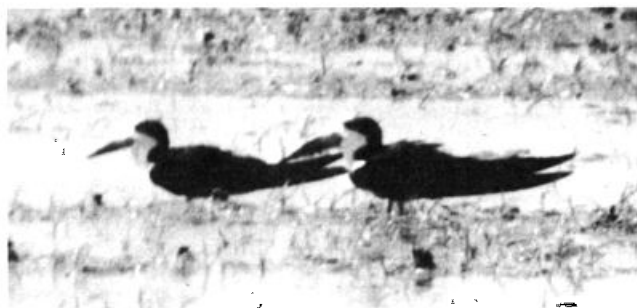
Ynez R. mouth July 29 (LBev). A Bufflehead, not quite as rare as the preceding species in summer, was at Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo Co., July 26 (JSR), another was at Pt. Mugu June 6-13 (LBev) and a third was found near Imperial Beach Aug. 21-22 (GMcC). The ♂ Harlequin Duck originally found in Carlsbad in December 1977 was still present June 27 (JO). A White-winged Scoter, very rare inland, was at N.E.S.S., June 26-Aug. 7 (GMcC) and was accompanied by a Surf Scoter June 26-July 10 (SMD). A Hooded Merganser near Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., June 2-July 18 (TE) was the first known to have occurred in s. California in summer.

**HAWKS, GROUSE** — A Mississippi Kite in Long Beach, Los Angeles Co., June 21 (BD) and another near Imperial Beach July 18 (GMcC) were both one-year old birds with banded tails, and were only the third and fourth to be found along the coast. A Sharp-shinned Hawk, rare in the mountains of s. California in summer, was at the summit of Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co., July 14 (RH). The presence of a juv. Swainson's Hawk near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Aug. 14 (KLG) suggested that the species again nested in the Antelope Valley; two immatures near Santa Maria July 24+ (TW) were the first to have been found in that area at this time of the year in modern times. One ad. Zone-tailed Hawk was present on Santa Rosa Mt., Riverside Co., June 19-July 17 (JO), but there was no evidence of nesting; this is the location where a pair attempted nesting during the past 4 years. Non-breeding Peregrine Falcons were seen at S.E.S.S., June 6 (JO) and Aug. 7 (REW), near Santa Maria July 10 (LBev), and in the San Diego area June 30-July 1 (EC) and July 3 (MBS). An ad. Sage Grouse accompanying a partially grown young at Reed Flat in the White Mts., Inyo Co., July 7 (G. Frederick, *vide* JLD) was at the extreme s. limit of the species' current range.

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Black Oystercatcher near Imperial Beach June 13 (DPa) was at a most unusual locality. Semipalmated Plovers appeared more numerous and widespread than usual during July with 15 on Baldwin L., July 24 (EAC) and five near Tecopa, Inyo Co., July 24 (JT) being the most unusual. The presence of some juveniles among 15 Snowy Plovers near Tecopa July 22-31 (JT) strongly suggested nesting at that locality. An Am. Golden Plover near Pt. Mugu July 18 (TW) was the only one found. Two Whimbrels near Lancaster July 4 (KLG), another there July 24 (KLG), one near Palo Verde, Imperial Co., July 3 (JJ) and three near Blythe, Riverside Co., July 12 (JJ) were all in areas where very rare at this time of the year. A Solitary Sandpiper along the Santa Ana R., in Anaheim July 16 (DRW) and another near Lancaster July 24 (JLD) were the first of the fall migrants to be found this year. A pair of Spotted Sandpipers at L. Hodges throughout the summer were accompanied by a juvenile July 25 (EC) and three pairs were at San Eljijo Lagoon throughout the period with two young seen June 6 (DPa) verifying nesting at that locality; prior to last year this species was not known to nest any farther s. than the San Bernardino Mts., and coastal Ventura County. A Wandering Tattler at Salton City June 6 (REW) was inland where considered casual. A Ruddy Turnstone near Lancaster July 24 (JLD) was one of very few found inland away from the Salton Sea. Unexpected was the discovery of a Com. Snipe nest at K.R.P., July 26 (TG); this species was believed to be all but extirpated as a breeding bird in this Region. A Red Knot near Lancaster July 21 (BD) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper at S.E.S.S., July 31 (GMcC) was the only one reported. An ad. **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** at the S.C.R.M., July 11-17 (MiH) was the fifth to be found in s. California, but is likely the same bird present at this spot July 12-17, 1981 (*Am. Birds* 35:979, 1981). An ad. Baird's Sandpiper at Bataquitos Lagoon, San Diego Co., July 11-14 (GMcC), two along the Santa Ana R., in Anaheim July 16 (SG), one at S.C.R.M., July 23 (TW) and another near Lancaster July 24 (JLD) were the earliest of the fall migrants this year. A Dunlin, exceptionally rare in summer, was at S.C.R.M., July 11-14 (MiH), another was seen around San Diego Bay June 6-18 (REW) and a third was at the San Diego R. mouth July 9 (REW). A Red Phalarope along San Diego Creek in Irvine, Orange Co., July 21-26 (DRW) was inland.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Eight Pomarine Jaegers off San Diego June 17 (DPo) was a large number for this time of the year. A Parasitic Jaeger, quite rare in summer, was in Goleta June 19 (PEL). A first-summer-plumaged **Glaucous Gull** photographed at Jalama Beach, Santa Barbara Co., July 3-24 (AA ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was the first ever found summering in s. California. As usual a few Glaucous-winged Gulls summered along the coast (15 reported) and one was

inland at N.E.S.S., June 6 (GMcC). A Herring Gull, much rarer than the previous species in summer, was at S.C.R.M., May 8-June 11 (LBev), two were at N.E.S.S., June 6-July 24 (GMcC) and another was at S.E.S.S., July 31 (REW). A second-summer-plumaged Mew Gull near Lancaster July 4+ (JLD) was the first to be recorded e. of the mountains away from the Salton Sea, and was one of very few to be found summering in s. California. A first-summer-plumaged Little Gull at N.E.S.S., June 6 (REW) was found dead a week later (\*S.D.N.H.M.), and was the latest of this species found in California. A Heermann's Gull, casual inland, was at S.E.S.S., July 20 (DH). A first-summer-plumaged Sabine's Gull, rare in summer, was along the beach at Pt. Mugu July 12 (LBev). At least one pair of Royal Terns successfully raised two young among nesting Elegant Terns on San Diego Bay in June (REW); there were only two previous nesting records (both unsuccessful) for California. The elusive **Sandwich Tern** found around San Diego May 15 was last seen June 13 (GMcC).



Pair of Black Skimmers, 3 mi. n. of Paloverde, Calif., in flooded fields, July 30, 1982. Photo/Dave Kreuper.

Two Black Skimmers at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., June 21 (SG), one there July 11 (SG), up to four at Pt. Mugu July 3-12 (LBev) and up to five at S.C.R.M., June 24-July 17 (MiH) were along the coast and n. of San Diego County (this species is a permanent resident on San Diego Bay with 35+ pairs nesting this summer); two just n. of Palo Verde July 30 (JJ, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) were along the Colorado R., where recorded only twice.

**ALCIDS** — Common Murres were more numerous and widespread than usual, being found s. to the Mexican border, and in concentrations such as 1000+ off Cayucos July 29 (TE), 275 off Pt. Mugu July 3 (LBev) and 80 off Newport Beach July 29 (DRW). A Pigeon Guillemot at Pt. Mugu July 3 (LBev) and two there July 11 (TW) were at an unusual locality. A Rhinoceros Auklet off San Diego July 28 (DPo) was unusually far s. for this time of the year.

**PIGEONS, CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS** — Single Band-tailed Pigeons on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., June 5 (DPa) and July 3 (CGE) and two on Santa Barbara I., June 30 (GMF) were away from areas of regular occurrence. The occurrence of 15± Yellow-billed Cuckoos at K.R.P., throughout the summer (BE) was most encouraging and must make this locality the last stronghold for the species in California; one near Tecopa July 26-28 (JT) was the only other found in suitable breeding habitat away from the Colorado R.; one at Barca Slough, Santa Barbara Co., June 19 (PMcC) and another in Goleta June 25-26 (KB) were both along the coast where now considered an accidental straggler. Two Flammulated Owls, a bird we know little about, were heard calling at Buckhorn Flat in the San Gabriel Mts., July 8-13 (BWK). A pair of Elf Owls successfully fledged young from a nest near Needles, San Bernardino Co., June 26 (DPa); this appears to be the last locality in California where this species can be found. The presence of a downy young Long-eared Owl near Imperial Beach June 13 (EC) documents nesting at that locality. Up to two Whip-poor-wills were calling near Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., June 18-26 (KLG) and two more were calling around L. Fulmar in the San Jacinto Mts., June 12-July 3 (EAC); this species no doubt breeds each summer in the mountains of s. California but a nest has yet to be found. A Poor-will nest at Purisima Pt., Santa Barbara Co., July 9 (LBev) was unusually close to the ocean.

**SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS** — Two Black Swifts at Montana de Oro S.P., July 12 (MWe) were far from any known nesting locality. A Chimney Swift, rare and local in the coastal lowlands of s. California in summer, was over W. Los Angeles July 12

(JT), another remained around Burbank, Los Angeles Co., throughout the summer (KLG) and 6-8 were over downtown San Diego July 11 (EC). An unidentified *Chaetura* over L. Hodges June 19 (KW) and 2-4 at Santiago Oaks Regional P., near Orange June 15-July 15 (SJR) were probably Chimney Swifts, but another over the summit of Mt. Palomar July 7 (RHi) could have been a Vaux's Swift as 2 recent summer records of that species exist for the San Bernardino Mts., and Chimney Swifts are unknown in the mountains. An Allen's Hummingbird nest at the mouth of the Santa Ana R., Apr. 24 (LRH) and two juveniles just out of the nest in nearby Los Alamitos June 1 (SJR) were in coastal Orange County where breeding was first noted in 1980. The presence of a ♀ Calliope Hummingbird on Big Pine Mt., Santa Barbara Co., July 19 (LBev) indicated the species may nest there. A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a rare to casual straggler to California, in Short Canyon near Inyokern, Kern Co., Apr. 18 (RHa) was exceptionally far n. An Acorn Woodpecker on the beach in Encinitas, San Diego Co., June 3 (RHi) was unexpected. A ♀ Ladder-backed Woodpecker in Vista, San Diego Co., July 22 (CW) appeared to be only the second ever found along the coast.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — An E. Kingbird, extremely rare in summer, was along the upper Santa Ynez R., June 18 (NSt). A W Kingbird nest near Santa Maria in June (LBev) and another in Goleta during May and June (KB) were both along the coast where the species is considered rare in summer. The presence of an ad. Wied's Crested Flycatcher near Tecopa accompanying two presumed young July 25-28 (JT) suggested nesting in that area; this species breeds along the length of the Colorado R., with one or two pairs nesting annually at Morongo Valley well to the w. of the Colorado R., and has only been found on 3 previous occasions in Inyo County. A Say's Phoebe on Pt. Loma June 5 (REW) was unexpected; wintering birds depart coastal San Diego County by early April. A survey of K.R.P., located 22 singing ♂ Willow Flycatchers (MOC) for what must be the largest concentration of nesting birds in s. California, 8-9 singing males along the Santa Margarita R., San Diego Co., throughout the period (LS) and two more near Imperial Beach June 13 (EC) were the only others believed nesting in the Region. A pair of Olive-sided Flycatchers raised two young in tall eucalyptus at San Elijo Lagoon May 2-July 5 (TM), establishing the first nesting record for the immediate coast of s. California s. of San Luis Obispo County; a territorial bird in Santa Barbara throughout the period (CG) indicated that nesting should be watched for in that area. Purple Martins continue to breed in limited numbers along the coast and in the mountains with nesting reported from 9 localities (120 ± birds).

**THRASHERS THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS** — A Brown Thrasher at K.R.P., June 22 (BE) was most likely a late spring vagrant, there being no midsummer records for the Region. A nesting pair of Bendire's Thrashers in Superior Valley n. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co., May 12 (ASE) and a singing male in Kelso Valley in e Kern Co., June 18 (BE) were somewhat w. of the species' known breeding range in California. A pair of Am. Robins that raised young in Irvine this summer (SJR) appeared to establish the first nesting record for Orange County. The presence of two juv. Mountain Bluebirds on Big Pine Mt., July 21 (LBev) gave us the first evidence of nesting in Santa Barbara County. The ♂ White-eyed Vireo found in Goleta May 18 was still present at the end of the period (PEL) giving us the first summer record for California. A Hutton's Vireo on Pt. Loma June 3 (REW) was some distance from the nearest locality of normal occurrence. A Black-and-white Warbler at 6000 ft., in the Laguna Mts., June 5 (CGE) and another at Big Bear L. (6738 ft.) in the San Bernardino Mts., June 19 (REW) were both at unusual locations, very few having ever been found in the mountains; one at K.R.P., June 29-July 6 (BE) was in more typical habitat for a summering bird. A Tennessee Warbler on Pt. Loma June 21 (REW) was the latest of a number passing through this spring. A pair of Nashville Warblers accompanying two juveniles on Big Pine Mt., July 21-22 (JEL) gave us concrete evidence of nesting at that location. A pair of Virginia's Warblers near Weldon, Kern Co., June 27 (BE) strongly suggested nesting at that location; this is w. of any known breeding locality in California and on the w. side of the Sierra Nevada. A Lucy's Warbler near Imperial Beach July 19 (REW) may have summered locally as the earliest dates for fall vagrants along the coast are July 28 and Aug. 18.

A N. Parula was along Mono Cr., in the upper Santa Ynez R. area June 13-14 (JMG) and another was near there along the Santa Ynez R., July 1 (JMG); there is only one previous summer record for the

Region (*Am Birds* 35 980, 1981) A ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler on the lower slopes of Mt. Pinos June 19 (HC) was at a most unusual locality and should be considered a late spring vagrant. A ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler in downtown Los Angeles June 17 (KLG) was also a late spring vagrant. The presence of nine singing ♂ MacGillivray's Warblers at Cero Alto, San Luis Obispo Co., throughout the summer (TE) and two more along the Santa Clara R., near Santa Paula June 9 (LJ) strongly suggested nesting at these lowland localities; documented nesting records for s. California are confined to mountain localities, but nesting occurs along the coast of n. California s. into Monterey County. A ♂ Hooded Warbler, unrecorded in midsummer, was present along Mono Cr., in the upper Santa Ynez R. area June 23-July 9 (JMG). Up to three Painted Redstarts, a species for which there is but one breeding record, near the lower end of Big Bear L., June 14-July 3 (J & ER), up to two in Deep Cr. Canyon near L. Arrowhead June 20-July 25 (JDB), one in the nearby town of Lake Arrowhead Aug. 1 (JDB), and another along the Angeles Crest Highway in the San Gabriel Mts., June 18 (KLG) were all in suitable habitat for nesting.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — A ♂ Bobolink at Piedras Blancas June 9 (NSw) was a spring vagrant on the coast. A ♂ N. (Baltimore) Oriole on Pt. Loma June 13-15 (REW) was one of very few to be found in s. California in summer. A ♀ Great-tailed Grackle feeding two recently fledged young at a small marsh in Anaheim at the end of July (SG) documents the first nesting along the coast of s. California for this species whose range is continuing to expand. A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird was well observed in Morongo Valley June 4 (SP), this species is a rare but regular summer visitor to the Colorado R. valley, with but a handful of occurrences known to the West. Unprecedented was a ♂ Scarlet Tanager in Hollywood July 17 (TP), the species being a casual vagrant to s. California with no previous occurrences between June 24 and Aug. 23. A pair of Hepatic Tanagers again nested along Arrastre Cr., e. of Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., with one or two juveniles accompanying the adults July 11 (BWK). As usual, a few Summer Tanagers wandered to the coast with one in Goleta July 19+ (TW), one near Saugus June 6 (KLG), another in Hollywood July 18 (KLG) and a fourth near San Diego July 21 (CGE); one at Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., June 5 (DRW) was at an unusual locality, and the presence of 10+ pairs at K.R.P., throughout the period (BE) extended the species' breeding range NW some 110 mi from Morongo Valley.

Two Pyrrhuloxias seen in Corona, Riverside Co., July 23 (MM) were far to the w. of the species' normal range and may have been escapees. Of the six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported, the male at the top of Mt. Palomar July 25 (RHi) was at the most unusual locality. A pair of Indigo Buntings again nested at Morongo Valley (EAC), and the presence of 4-5 males at K.R.P., along with another male near Blythe throughout the period (BE, SC) suggested nesting at those 2 locations. A ♂ Painted Bunting, a casual straggler to California, near Blythe July 2+ (SC) was the first apparent non-escapee to be found in summer. Two Red Crossbills, a poorly understood species, were seen on Big Pine Mt., July 21 (LBev) and four more were found on Mt. Pinos Aug. 6 (PS). A pair of Sage Sparrows accompanied by a juvenile at Harper Dry L., July 24 (EAC) were outside the species' known breeding range. A Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco in Tecopa July 30-31 (JT) was certainly out of place at this desert location far from any known breeding locality for the species.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Ione Arnold, Larry R. Ballard, Robert Barnes, Bruce Barrett, Linda Belluomini (Bel), Jonathan D. Berman, Louis Bevier (LBev), Mike Bondello, Karen Bridgers, Sarah J. Brooks, Eugene A. Cardiff (co-ordinator for San Bernardino County), Mark O. Chichester (co-ordinator for Kern County), Herbert and Olga Clark (H & OC), Sue Clark, Charles T. Collins, Elizabeth Copper (co-ordinator for San Diego County), Brian Daniels, Dave DeSante, Jon L. Dunn, Tom Edell (co-ordinator for San Luis Obispo County), Claude G. Edwards, A. Sidney England, Brett Engstrom, Gary M. Fellers, Carol Friedman, Gary N. Fugle, Steve Ganley, Kimball L. Garrett (co-ordinator for Los Angeles County), Greg Gillson, Virginia and Wayne Gochenour (V & WG), Carol Goodell, Jesse Grantham, James M. Greaves, Tom Griggs, Mike Guest, Rob Hansen (RHa), Connie K. Harms, Loren R. Hays, Ron Haywood (RHay), Fred Heath, Matt Heindel (MaH), Mitch Heindel (MiH), Rick Hewitt (RHe), Roger Higson (RHi), Don Hoechlin, Carol C. Honer, Janet Jackson (co-ordinator for Colorado River valley), Lee Jones, Paul Jorgensen, Brian W. Keelan, Dave King (DKi), Jack



Kinsey, Dave Kreuper (DKr), Paul E. Lehman (co-ordinator for Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties), Joan E. Lentz, Isabel Ludlum, Nancy Mann, Curtis Marantz, Paul McConnel, John McDonald, Bev McIntosh, Thomas A. Meixner, Fay Miller, Maggie Miller, Jim Morris, Terry Myer, Jerry Oldenettel, Dennis Parker (DPa), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Eleanor B. Parsons, Arleta F. Patterson, Sally Pearce, Tim Pickering, Dave Povey (DPo), Sylvia J. Ranney (co-ordinator for Orange County), Hugh Ranson, Dortha Rible (DR),

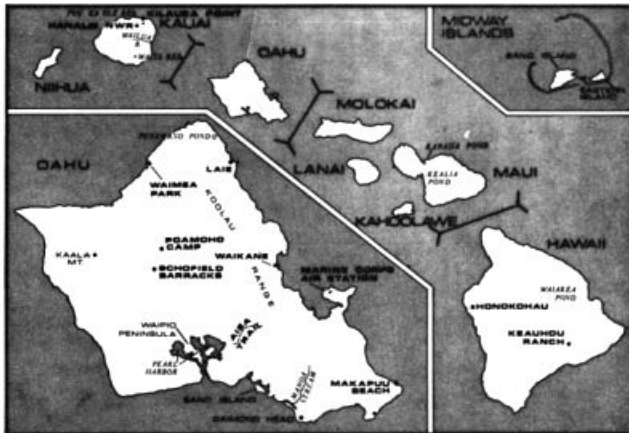
Jim and Elaine Riley (J & ER), Jim S. Royer, Larry Salata, Fred Schaeffner, Brad Schram, Trudy Siptroth, Nancy States (NSt), Mary Beth Stow, Phil Swan, Nate Sweet (NSw), Jan Tarble, Ken Weaver, Richard E. Webster, Michael Weinstein (MWe), Mike Wihler (MWi), Douglas R. Willick, Cora Wilson, Lee Wilson, Russell and Marion Wilson (R & MW), Tom Wurster.—GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112.

## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle

Unstable trade winds brought more frequent light rains and cloudier skies this summer throughout the main islands. Several heavy rains during July, affecting particularly the Big Island, resulted from numerous tropical storms leaving the eastern Pacific and passing by to the south of the island chain. This anomalous atmospheric pattern, which last happened in 1978, could conceivably have an effect on the waterbird migration to Hawaii this fall.

ISLAND ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S.: French Frigate Shoals, H.: Hawaii I., K.: Kauai I., L.: Lanai I., M.: Maui I., O.: Oahu I.



**PETRELS THROUGH BOOBIES** — Observers (PC *et al.*) at Lanaihale atop the tiny mountain range on Lanai I., June 24 reported 'Ua'u (Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel, *Endangered*) had returned to their presumed nesting area there. Five pairs (vocalizing) and six singles (not vocalizing) were seen before dark, and vocalizing continued for over an hour after dark. An ad. Bulwer's Petrel was picked up alive from the ocean off Lanikai Beach, O., June 7 (ML), not far from several offshore islets where these birds nest in very small numbers. A White-tailed Tropicbird July 4-7 at Tern I., F.F.S. (*vide SF*) was unusual at a small, low-lying atoll. On the other hand, up to three Red-tailed Tropicbirds (which are more the bird of the low-lying atolls) were seen several times this summer cruising the slopes of Koko Crater and nearby Manana I., off s.e. Oahu (PB, DS *et al.*). One was found June 12 on an egg on Manana (RS), where several nestings have been confirmed in recent years.

Two Masked Boobies brought to Oahu several years ago as chicks and raised as free-flying birds at Sea Life Park, nested this year in the Park near a well-traveled visitor walkway. The single egg (normally 2 are laid) was incubated faithfully for nearly 3 months but proved infertile (IK). This species is found in the main Hawaiian Is., only at Moku Manu Islet, 18 km from the Park, where 3-5 pairs nest regularly each year.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH FRANCOLIN** — Two Fulvous Whistling Ducks appeared at Kii Pond, James Campbell N.W.R., O., June 18 (RS), and were reported there occasionally until at least early August. They probably are from the flock of six seen twice at nearby Punamano Pond in early January. The species had not been recorded

previously in Hawaii. A ♂ Am. Wigeon also at Kii Pond June 18 (RS), was definitely out of season. Two Gray Francolins with four young were found at Hapuna Beach, H., July 19 (PPa).

### S.A.

From a group of six (three male, three female) Blue-winged Teal present at Aimakapa Pond, H., in late winter and spring, one pair remained through May. Then on June 13 came the startling discovery (PPa) of the handsome adults with seven ducklings! Research thus far indicates that this may well constitute the first record of a normally migrant or straggler duck species breeding in Hawaii. A photo obtained June 18 (PPa) shows all nine birds accompanied by a few Hawaiian (Am.) Coots with the very high frontal shield distinctive of the Hawaiian race. This teal in fact is one of the least frequently reported migrant duck species in Hawaii.

**GALLINULES THROUGH TERNS** — During the statewide waterbird count Aug. 5, 692 Hawaiian (Am.) Coot and 109 Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts were counted on Niihau I., compared to only 13 and 43, respectively, on nearby Kauai I. (TT). Niihau, about 30 km w. of Kauai and only one-seventh its size, has only a few ethnic Hawaiian inhabitants, is privately owned, inaccessible to visitors including ornithologists, and must be surveyed from a plane. Such low counts on Kauai are very unusual in summer (TT). This year, the wet early summer may have provided extra good habitat on Niihau to attract wetland breeders from Kauai. Seasonal movements of some endemic wetland species between Kauai and Niihau for nesting has long been suspected, but not adequately documented. The waterbird survey also found 45 Hawaiian (Com.) Gallinules and 41 Koloa (Hawaiian Duck) on Kauai, but none of either species on Niihau. All of these wetland breeders are Endangered. At Aimakapa Pond, H., 70 coots were present in June. Five nesting territories had been established, including 2 with eggs and one with two chicks on June 22 (PPa).

Regular surveys through the season at Bellows Field, O., indicated more oversummering Am. Golden Plovers there than usual. Some showed partial or full breeding plumage, which is rarely observed here in summer (PB). One in excellent breeding plumage was observed at Kaneohe Air Station, O., June 7 (DS). But on Hawaii I., no plovers were seen in their usual haunts through June and July (PPa), except one at Mountain View July 23 (PPy) which may have been an early returnee. Counts of 6-13 Ruddy Turnstones were reported June 13-July 14 from Hawaii I. (PPa), Oahu (PPy) and Kure (MM). Some were in partial breeding plumage. The Black Tern at Aimakapa Pond and the two Com. Terns at Kii Pond, all accidental stragglers to the state last winter, liked it here well enough to stay through at least most of July.

**PASSERINES** — A family of two adult and two imm. Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrushes was watched foraging through a yard in Kapaa, K., July 21 (WS). The almost extinct 'O'o'a was recorded one more time in May in the Alakai Swamp, K. (John Sincoc, *vide TT*). A survey trip by state biologists to the n. slope of Haleakala, M., July 19-23 reported three Po'oull sightings of at least two different individuals (MM, TB, PPy). They may have been the same birds found there in April (see last season's report). Maui Parrotbills were seen frequently, including groups of mixed adults and immatures (PPy). Both these species are highly Endangered. Crested Honeycreepers, also Endangered, were observed in good numbers. But 'Apapane and 'Iwi, the commoner Drepanidids elsewhere in the state, were unexpectedly scarce. The observers reported these actu-

ally were less numerous and less frequently recorded than the Parrot-bills (1), Crested Honeycreepers and Maui Creepers.

A report (JP) of at least eight Warbling Silverbills coming regularly to a feeder in Kihei, M., during most of July was interesting as a range extension and also because silverbills have not previously been reported coming regularly to feeders. A fine ♂ Pin-tailed Whydah observed at leisure July 15 in the Magic I. portion of Ala Moana P., Honolulu (GC), represented the first report of this species in nearly 2 years. It is not now considered to be established. The incipient Java Sparrow colony first reported last winter in Kailua-Kona, H., is

flourishing. Thirty were counted June 18 (PPa) at the feeder where they were originally discovered. The owner estimates "hundreds" are now in the area.

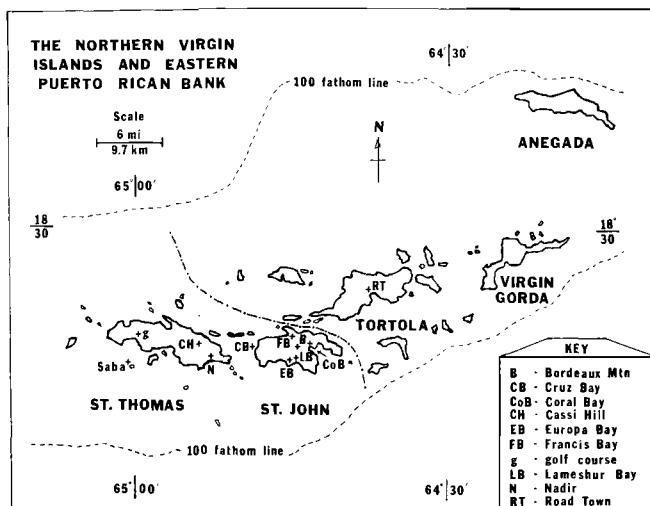
CONTRIBUTORS — Phil Bruner, Tim Burr, George Campbell, Peter Connally, Peter Donaldson, Stewart Fefer, Ingrid Kang, Joseph Kleiman, Marlene Lyons, Marie Morin, Peter Paton, JoAnn Pruszynski, Peter Pyle, Winona Sears, Rob Shallenberger, Dominic Sheron, Tom Telfer.—ROBERT L. PYLE, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734.

## WEST INDIES REGION

/Robert L. Norton

Weather conditions in the Region, particularly the eastern sections of the Caribbean, were generally hotter and drier than last summer. Precipitation was down 20% in June and 16% below average for July. There was a mild tropical wave in late July heralding the hurricane season.

ABBREVIATIONS — Anegada is hereafter A.; Bermuda = B.; Culebra = C.; St. Croix = St.C.; St. John = St.J.; St. Thomas = St.T.; Puerto Rico = P.R.; the Virgin Islands = either U.S. for United States or B. for British.



SHEARWATERS THROUGH OSPREY — Audubon's Shearwaters fledged successfully from 5 study burrows on Saba Cay, St.T., indicating a higher per cent fledge rate than in previous years. A hatch-year Masked Booby banded at Cockroach Cay, St.T., in 1981 was picked up injured in B., June 6 (DW) providing the third occurrence of *dactylatra* there. Masked Boobies were found nesting again at Alcaraza Cay, C., P.R., June 9 (SF). Kepler and Kepler (1979) did not find Masked or Red-footed boobies breeding on cays off C., in 1970-1971. Red-footeds continue to nest at C., where a late season chick was seen June 9 (SF). A ♂ Magnificent Frigatebird wandered to B, July 12 (DW) providing another annual visitation. A Great Blue Heron was noted at Cruz Bay, St.J., June 26 increasing speculation that a small group is breeding in the vicinity. FS has located a possible colony on St.C. DW reports that the Yellow-crowned Night Heron re-introduction is doing well in B., with 21 fledged young this year. Bahama Ducks numbered 122 at A., June 12 and 60 ± were counted in the U.S.V.I., in June and July. An Osprey seen June 25 and July 14 at Great Pond, St.C., was a summer visitor as no nesting has been discovered in the area although Ospreys have been noted in the last few summers. This individual was clearly attributable to *carolinensis*.

COOTS THROUGH TERNS — Caribbean Coots continue to breed at Francis Bay Pond, St.J., where three adults and one imma-

ture were observed on July 9. Nesting and over-summering shorebirds were surveyed on the e. P.R. Bank (Table 1). Anegada and St.C., represent the most significant areas for stop-over during migration in the V.I., but also provide important habitat for nesting species and summer visitants. In a rough way the beginning of the shorebird migration can be seen occurring in the second or third week of June. Perhaps this is an accumulation of other over-summering shorebirds from other areas in the n. Caribbean. Snowy Plover was confirmed as nesting at A. (RLN) June 12 and Killdeer was found nesting at St.T., June 11. Two Dunlin were carefully noted at St.C. (FS) June 15.

Table 1. Numbers of shorebirds in the Virgin Islands in June and July, 1982.<sup>1</sup>

SPECIES	St. T. June 11	A. June 12-13	St. C. June 25	St. T. July 13	St. C. July 14
Semipalmated					
Plover	1	1	12	7	11
Snowy Plover*	0	10*	0	0	0
Wilson's Plover*	4	50	35	9	44
Killdeer*	3	0	2	7	2
Black-bellied					
Plover	0	12	4	1	11
Ruddy Turnstone	0	5	16	3	2
Whimbrel	0	3	2	0	4
Spotted Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	2
Greater Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	5
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	2	5	3
Willet	0	50*	4(*?)	0	10
Red Knot	0	0	2	0	5
Least Sandpiper	0	0	10	0	5
Semipalmated					
Sandpiper	0	45	51	1	18
Western Sandpiper	0	0	52	0	24
Short-billed					
Dowitcher	0	0	7	0	10
Stilt Sandpiper	0	55	0	0	4
Black-necked Stilt*	20	70	72	16	49

\* = nesting

<sup>1</sup>Supported in part by Accelerated Research Program Contract 14-16-0009-82-007.

Table 2. Nesting Larids on the eastern Puerto Rican Bank, 1982.<sup>1</sup>

SPECIES	Culebra (SF,AM)	St. T.	A.	Total
Laughing Gull	810	1000	20	1830
Gull-billed Tern	—	—	10	10
Roseate Tern	484	2064	—	2548
Sooty Tern	30,680	48,000	—	78,680
Bridled Tern	900	1200	—	2100
Least Tern	—	—	36	36
Royal Tern	252	12	4	268
Sandwich Tern	500	880	130	1510
Cayenne Tern	—	1	1	2
Noddy Tern	1420	1600	—	3020

<sup>1</sup>Supported in part by Pittman-Robertson V.I. Wildlife Aid, FW-3.

A summary of breeding Larids is offered in Table 2. Of particular note is the first occurrence of Cayenne Tern observed nesting and paired with a Sandwich Tern at Pelican Cay, St.T., on the P.R. Bank

A Cayenne Tern was seen again this season at A., June 12 although not observed incubating. A Common Tern was noted at St.C., July 13 (FS) and an Arctic Tern carefully described (FS) there as having short legs and a grayish breast July 20 provides perhaps only the second record for the Region. Least Terns nested at St.C., again this summer with 305 including 10% immatures June 25 (JY, RLN).

**PIGEONS THROUGH STARLINGS** — White-crowned Pigeons were noted as being more common in the vicinity of industrialized Krause Lagoon, St.C., than in previous years with 10+ seen in 40 min during the brooding period in June. A West Indian Nighthawk was seen (not heard) June 19 at Trunk Bay, St.J. If breeding, this would represent the first occurrence of *gundlachii* on St.J., although most unlikely owing to heavy predation pressure from mongoose, feral cats and dogs. Nichols (1943) found a nest of this form on St.T., May 1, 1936. This observation follows one week after a survey of A., where 12 West Indian Nighthawks were observed at Winlass Bay and are known to breed.

An Antillean Mango, a large hummingbird, was seen feeding at

ornamental flowers at the Anegada Reef Hotel June 12. It was in  $\emptyset$  plumage and compared with other hummingbirds. Nichols (1943) states that the mango is unknown in the B. V.I., with the exception of A. The mango has been extirpated from much of its former range in the V.I., and is now only common in e. P.R. The record must be considered hypothetical. A Belted Kingfisher seen at Cinnamon Bay, St.J., July 8 represented a surprising summer record. A Starling was seen again at Frederiksted, St.C., June 16 (FS).

**ADDENDA** — FS reports a carefully studied Long-billed Curlew seen September 20, 1981, at Great Pond, St.C., and compared with Whimbrels. This may represent the first record in this century in the West Indies (Bond, 1979). An Am. Avocet was reportedly present at West End Pond, St.C., May 29, 1982 (*vide* K & SE).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Sub-regional editors in boldface; Alex Molinares, Karen & Scott Eckert, Sean Furniss, Fred Sladen, David Wingate, John Yntema.—**ROBERT L. NORTON**, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 101 Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00802.

## Going Places

### **Trips and Tours, 1983**

*Prepared by Elisabeth Lawatsch*

**H**ERE ONCE AGAIN is our annual listing of birding and natural history tours for March-December, 1983, with an occasional polar bear or iceberg spotting trip thrown in. We have returned to our former practice of publishing only the trips and tours of our advertisers as a bonus to them for their ongoing support of *American Birds*. Please note that we have compiled this listing from information provided by the tour sponsors and are not responsible for cancellations and alterations.

Fees quoted are in American dollars and may be considered approximate because of possible changes in airfares, etc. Whether airfare has been included or not (A.N.I.—Airfare Not Included) is noted after the cost. Where there is no indication, the sponsor has not supplied airfare information.

In addition to the tours listed here, most sponsors offer more (some many more) trips, omitted here because of space limitations. With few exceptions, we do not list trips of less than 8 days, many of which, however, may be of great interest.

The tour sponsor's key initials appear at the end of each entry; full addresses are listed alphabetically after the December tours section. Interested readers who wish catalogs, brochures, etc. should address the sponsors directly and not *American Birds*. T.B.A.—To Be Announced.

#### **MARCH, 1983**

- 19 — Everglades and Florida Keys, 7 days. Birds, natural history. Leader, Burr Hene-man. From Miami \$590. A.N.I. NE.
- 19 — Oaxaca, Mexico, 16 days (with Chiapas extension, 13 days). Birds, natural history. Leader, David Simon. From Oaxaca \$1595 (For extension, \$2395). BB.

22 — Taiwan, Hong Kong and Okinawa, 21 days. Birds. Leaders, Peter Chen, Douglas McWhirter and Michael Webster. From Los Angeles \$2695. A.N.I. BB.

23 — Trinidad and Tobago, 10 days. Birds, natural history. Leaders, Nina Steffee and Don Baldwin. From Miami \$1685. NHT.

24 — Tropical Texas, 4 days. Birds. Leaders, Ben Feltner and Bob Behrstock. From Corpus Christi \$350. PER.

26 — West Mexico, 9 days. Birds, natural history. Leader, Jeff Froke. From Mazatlan \$850. A.N.I. NE.

#### **APRIL, 1983**

1 — Texas Coast and Rio Grande Valley, 15 days. Birds, natural history. Leader, Luther Goldman. From Houston \$875. WNT.

2 — Sonora, Mexico, 8 days. Repeated April 23 and November 12. Desert, tropical, Sierra and shore birds, natural history. Leader, Rick Taylor. From Tucson \$450. BP.

NORTHERN U.S. AND THE ARCTIC

Ben Feltner's  
Peregrine

Natural History and Birding Tours  
P.O. Box 3062  
Houston, Texas 77001

Phone  
(713) 520-7747

Every birder who travels is drawn to the Northern US and the Arctic. This region hosts many species found nowhere else on the continent, and serves as the breeding ground for many shorebirds, waterfowl, and other species most birders see only as migrants. Peregrine leaders have acquired a special affection for the northern regions which translates into a fulfilling experience for our participants.

CHURCHILL/SOUTHERN MANITOBA	4-12 June
PRIBILOF ISLANDS	Approx. 1-12 June
ALASKA	Approx. 6-26 June
MAINE/NOVA SCOTIA	2-10 July
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	16-29 July
POINT PEELE & KIRTLAND'S WARBLER	16-20 May