

The Nesting Season

June 1 — July 31, 1983

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, \pm : approximately, or estimated number, δ : male, ♀ : female, \emptyset : 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 Tingley

After a very wet May, June and July were among the hottest and driest in history in most of the Region, although temperatures moderated by mid-July in the Maritimes with the return of wet weather there and much of Newfoundland suffered a very wet summer season. Few range extensions or new breeding records of note were reported and certainly the highlight of the season was a first North American occurrence of Brown-chested Martin, a South American species, in Massachusetts.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Few observers commented on Com. Loons, although numbers of nonbreeding birds in Rhode Island this summer were reported as unusually high (*fide* DLE).

Northern Fulmars were widespread in above-normal numbers in June, although almost totally absent s. of Newfoundland by early July. Northernmost Cory's Shearwaters were "a few" off Grand Manan I., N.B., in July (NF). Impressive concentrations of Greater Shearwaters off Newfoundland included counts of 100,000+ flying E off Cape St. Mary's June 6 (PL), 64,100 seen from the Ambrose Shea in Placentia Bay July 2 (RK), and 12,600 in 3 hrs flying N off the Gannet Clusters, Labr., 54°N56°30'W (*fide* KC) June 29. An estimated 100,000+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels in the lower Bay of Fundy in July was staggering (NF).

Following the 2 regional occurrences this spring, **White Pelicans** again made news regionwide with single birds at Arnold Brook L., Aroostook Co., Me., June 8 (*fide* MKL), the following day at Mal Bay South, Miscou I., N.B., where one was present 2 summers ago (*fide* DSC) and at Raleigh at the tip of Newfoundland's n. pen. for several days in late June providing the first provincial record.

One must admire the true pioneering spirit of an ad. Gannet that spent much of the summer sitting on nesting material it carried to a *moored dory* off Eastport, Me. Speculation is that the bird was attracted to the dory by several large white buoys it contained, perhaps resembling other Gannets (NF). Four **Great Cormorants** reported nesting on Black Horse Ledges off Isle au Haute, Me., constituted the first modern breeding record in the United States (*fide* MKL). Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase and expand. Twelve nests with 19 young on Brush I., off Cohasset, Mass., this summer represented a new colony, and the first s. of Boston in Massachusetts waters, except for a traditional colony in Buzzards Bay (*fide* WRP).

Several Great Blue Herons were present in s.w. Newfoundland this summer (*fide* RB, BDM). This species has yet to nest in that province. Well out-of-range was a Green Heron on Outer Gannet I., Labr., July 4 (KC, RE). A pair of Louisiana Herons at Norwalk, Conn., all summer

was suspected of nesting on Shea I. The only previous nesting record for the state was on nearby Chimon I., in 1970 (*fide* DV). In w. Massachusetts, two Louisiana Herons in the Longmeadow-Agawam area July 13-20 were exceptional (CW, *fide* SK). Substantial decreases in nesting numbers of Cattle and Snowy egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons were reported at Hope I., R.I., for the second year in a row (*fide* DLE) while Snowy Egrets were reported thriving on Monomoy I. with 82 nests reported in the 2-year-old colony (*fide* BN). Herons well n. of their usual range included single Cattle Egrets in June in Quaco, N.B. (*fide* DSC), Lawrencetown, N.S. (*fide* PRD), Andover, N.H. (*fide* RAQ) and lingering into July at Bangor, Me. (*fide* WCT); a Great Egret at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., June 1 (*fide* BDM); several Snowy Egrets in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and one near Burgeo, Nfld., June 10 (BDM, JW); and a Glossy Ibis near Sackville, N.B., June 1 (AS). Newfoundland's Little Egret remained at Bay Roberts through June 6 (*fide* BDM).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — A δ Eur. Wigeon in the lower Grand Codroy R., Nfld., June 10 (BDM, WM, JW) was surprising, as was a δ Wood Duck in that province at Cape St. Mary's June 6 (PL). A δ Tufted Duck was reported on Monomoy I., July 27-31 (TV *et*



al.). In Connecticut 2-3 Greater Scaup present through June in Norwalk harbor were noteworthy (*vide DV*). Apparently summering Bufflehead included two males at Westport, Conn., June 15 (CH), one at Napatree Pt., R.I., on 2 dates in July (*vide DLE*), and a female in Exeter, N.H., July 15 (*vide RAQ*). An ad. ♂ Harlequin Duck at Norwalk Harbor, Conn., June 1-6 provided a most unusual summer record for that state (m.ob., *vide DV*). Summering King Eiders were reported as single males off Sakonnet Pt., R.I., in July (CS, *vide RH*) and Harwich, Mass., June 5 (BN).

Unusual in Nova Scotia was an ad. Red-shouldered Hawk at Wolfville June 21 (EPS). Summering Rough-legged Hawks included one at Allagash L., Me., June 18 (*vide MKL*) and up to three through July on



Golden Eaglet, 9+ weeks old, Somewhere in Maine. July 10, 1983. Photo/ Walter Spofford.

the Tantramar marshes in s.e. New Brunswick (GH). Last minute news that Golden Eagles successfully bred this summer at two w. Maine locations at least with one eaglet fledged in early August, was very exciting and furnished the first nesting record in the Region for many years (WS, *vide WCT*, MKL). Marsh Hawk seems to be faring well in most areas, including Newfoundland where it is reported as increasing substantially (RB, BDM). The New Hampshire Endangered Species Program reported 11 territories in the "north country" of that state this summer. Ospreys continue to do exceptionally well regionwide. Nineteen active nests were found on Martha's Vineyard and 32 in Westport, Mass., this summer (*vide BN*) while in Rhode Island 14 successful nests were located (*vide DLE*).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — The northernmost Clapper Rail report was of one at Plum I., June 30 (RH). Sora was "suspected of nesting" on Monomoy I., this summer; there have been no Cape Cod nesting records since the turn of the century (*vide BN*). American Oys-

tercatchers continue to increase in the s. part of the Region; in Connecticut four pairs with at least 3 nests were found in the w. part of the state while several nests were found in the e. (*vide CH*, DV); in Rhode Island some four pairs with at least 2 nests were located (*vide DLE*); 10+ pairs nested on Monomoy I., still the only place on Cape Cod where they are known to breed (*vide BN*); singles were noted in Maine at Georgetown June 12, near Martinsville June 17 & 23, and a pair apparently summered (?) again at the Brothers off Thomaston-Rockland where they were present last summer (*vide MKL*). Hot on the heels of this spring's Ipswich bird were 2-3 **Black-necked Stilts** on Martha's Vineyard, Mass., in early June (VL *et al.*, *vide BN*). A thorough Piping Plover survey along part of New Brunswick's e. coast revealed a substantially larger breeding population in that Province than was previously suspected (*vide BCJ*). A pair of Upland Sandpipers at Amherst Pt., N.S., July 13 was unusual (MF). This species has yet to be found breeding in the Province. A Solitary Sandpiper s. of Eddie's Cove, Nfld., July 18 was a good find where this species is surprisingly scarce (CDC *et al.*). Willets continue to expand on Monomoy I., where there were 12+ pairs this summer (*vide BN*); are apparently now common on Plum I., where 12 adults and two downy chicks were noted July 7 and a presumably migrant individual of the w. race *inornatus* was noted July 15 (RH). A Willet in Longmeadow, Mass., was very rare in the w. part of the state (CW, *vide SK*). Curlew Sandpipers in the Region numbered three during the period, breeding-plumaged adults at Plum I., Mass., June 29-30 (RH) and at Cherry Hill Beach, N.S., July 2 (J & SC, SJF) and at Three Fathom Harbour July 11 (IK). Unusual in New Brunswick were single ad. W. Sandpipers at Grande Anse, West Co., July 14 and at Mary's Pt., Albert Co., July 19 (*vide DSC*). Ruffs totalled five in the Region including two males and one female together at Scarborough Marsh, Me., at the end of June (PDV), a male at Amherst Pt., N.S., June 27 (CD), and a female on Monomoy I., July 17-23 (IN *et al.*, *vide BN*). A Marbled Godwit on Monomoy I., June 2 was unique in the Region this season but provided the 3rd June record there in the past 4 years (BN). Hudsonian Godwits arrived early on Monomoy I. (June 26) and at Amherst Pt., N.S. (July 1), and had built up to 110 at the former site by the end of July (BN). Wilson's Phalaropes reported during the period numbered five, one in New Hampshire and two each in Massachusetts and New Brunswick, with no mention of suspected breeding.

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS — Skua sightings continue at a curiously low level. Three Great Skuas in mid-June in Newfoundland (*vide RB*) and a S. Polar Skua at Cox's Ledge, R.I., June 10 & 12 (*vide DLE*) were the only reports received. Lingering Iceland Gulls included singles in Westerley, R.I., June 5 (*vide DLE*), in Massachusetts at Newburyport June 18 (RH) and Acoaxet July 11 (*vide DLE*), and at the Manchester, N.H. dump June 2 (*vide RAQ*). A probable first-year Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrid was reported from Quirpon, Nfld., June 14 (BDM, JW). First summer Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted in Massachusetts at Newburyport July 22 (RH) and at Scituate July 30 (WRP) where at least three different individuals were present last summer. Ring-billed Gulls have increased greatly in the Atlantic Provinces in recent years. This summer 2 new colonies were discovered in n. New Brunswick and the species has apparently recently begun breeding on Prince Edward Island. Apart from the eight-plus Little Gulls at traditional sites in e. Massachusetts, the only one reported was an adult at Bay Bulls, Nfld., June 11 (RB, MR). Black-headed Gulls totalled 12-15 at several w. Newfoundland localities, four (1 ad., 3 im.) at Dingwall, Cape Breton I., N.S. (ARL *et al.*) and a single adult in Hampton Harbour, N.H., July 12 (TB, *vide RAQ*). Out-of-range Laughing Gulls were at Cherry Hill, N.S., June 5 (*vide PRD*) and at Tracadie Beach, n.e. N.B., June 12 (*vide DSC*). Adult **Franklin's Gulls** were at Seal I., N.S. in mid-July (IAM *et al.*) and at Grande Anse, West Co., N.B., July 16 & 20 (DK, ST). In Nova Scotia, 2 newly discovered Black-legged Kittiwake colonies bring the total number of colonies in the province to 5, all on Cape Breton, with an estimated 555 nests this summer (ARL, *vide PRD*).

Common Terns nesting at Park Harbour I., Nfld., apparently laid new clutches in late July with 8 nests with 16 eggs July 31, an unusually late date (RB, DG). Up to three young Forster's Terns were present on Monomoy I., through June into early July (*vide BN*); other reports were of single birds in Dunbarton, N.H., June 5 (*vide RAQ*) and at Milford Pt., Conn., July 30 (*vide DV*). A **Royal Tern** well described and seen by several competent observers near Placentia, Nfld., July 10 furnished a

first record for that Province (JP, DW *et al.*), while one with Bonaparte's Gulls at Kennebunk Beach, Me., July 13 provided one of few state records (JF, *vide* WCT). Up to 12 Royal Terns at Trustom Pond N.W.R., R.I., July 3 was considered exceptional while few were reported in Massachusetts. An imm. Sandwich Tern was on Monomoy I., June 22-25 (BN *et al.*) and an adult was noted there June 26 (BD *et al.*, *vide* BN). Newsworthy Black Terns included singles at Quabbin Res., w. Mass., June 5 (*vide* SK), L. Winnepesaukee, N.H., June 13 (*vide* RAQ), Milford Pt., Conn., July 30 (*vide* DV) and one far off course at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., June 20 (DA). The only alcids of note were a murre sp. reported off Plum I., Mass., June 30 (RH) and a Dovekie well described 3.5 hrs out of N. Sydney, N.S., July 13 (CDC *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS — A **White-winged Dove** on the French island of St. Pierre June 25 furnished a first record (REt, *vide* BDM). Several reporters from various parts of the Region commented that Short-eared Owl numbers appeared to be up. On Monomoy I., at least four pairs nested this summer and as many as ten were flushed from one roost July 20 (*vide* BN). A Chimney Swift at Sandringham, Nfld., July 9 was unique in that Province this summer where it remains rare (RB). Extralimital and unseasonal Red-headed Woodpeckers were on Grand Manan I., N.B., June 20 (BD, *vide* DSC) and in Harrison, Me., July 21 (*vide* WCT). Breeding bird atlassers working in remote areas in n. Maine found at least nine N. Three-toed Woodpeckers this summer and termed Black-backed Three-toed "common" (*vide* MKL).

While E. Kingbirds were recorded in a number of locations on the island of Newfoundland, up to five present in late June on the Gannet Clusters, Labr., were surprising (KC, RE). Seven Acadian Flycatchers in Rhode Island during the period was a very high total for that state (*vide* DLE) and a reflection of their continued increase in the s. part of the Region. A **Willow Flycatcher** at Turtle Cr. Dam, N.B., June 8 furnished only the 2nd Provincial report (BD, *vide* DSC). In s.w. Connecticut, D. Varza reported that this species is now the most common *Empidonax* in that part of the state. A Purple Martin at Sandringham, Nfld., July 14 provided a 10th Provincial occurrence and the second this year (RB).



Brown-chested Martin (Phaeoprogne tapera fusca), Monomoy I., Mass. June 12, 1983. First North American record. Photo/Blair Nikula.

ASTOUNDING was the first North American occurrence of a **Brown-chested Martin**, *Phaeoprogne tapera*, photographed and later found dead on Monomoy I., Mass., June 12. The bird proved to be an immature of the migratory race *fusca* which breeds in s. South America and migrates N to n. South America and Panama. Complete details of the record will be published elsewhere (WRP, BN, DH). One wonders how many other similar South American long-distance migrants are potential vagrants to North America.

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES — A flock of 35 Blue Jays on Morris I., off Chatham, Mass., July 3 that flew in high from the n.w., circled, then headed off to the NE was difficult to explain (BN). Common Ravens are reported still increasing in s. New Hampshire and in w. Massachusetts (*vide* RAQ, SK). In New Hampshire, a pair of Fish Crows was reported seen almost daily all summer in the Manchester area (*vide* RAQ). Encouraging news concerning the recovery of Winter Wrens came from Maine and New Brunswick where numbers were said

to be getting back to previous levels (WCT, DSC). The only Short-billed Marsh Wrens reported during the period were one in Blandford, Mass., June 27 (*vide* SK) and one in Milford, Me., in July (NF, *vide* WCT). Mockingbirds continue to increase in the n. half of the Region. The species is now well established throughout the state of Maine and is becoming routine as a nesting bird in many parts of New Brunswick, where double nestings were reported this summer from Moncton, Fredericton and Harvey (*vide* DSC). In Nova Scotia a young Mockingbird was being fed out of the nest at Coldbrook, Kings Co., in mid-July for one of few provincial breeding records (RIS), and noteworthy was a pair at Cedar Dunes P. P., P.E.I., June 10 (BCJ) and a singing bird in St. John's, Nfld., July 8 (*vide* BDM). Observers in the Maritimes commented on the abundance of Cedar Waxwings, and the species was unusually widespread throughout the island of Newfoundland except for the n. pen. (BDM). An extralimital Veery was seen in the Gannet Clusters, Labr., June 11 (RE), and a Swainson's Thrush at Marblehead Neck, Mass., July 24 was an exceptionally early migrant (RH). Again, no Loggerhead Shrikes were reported in the Region.

VIREOS THROUGH SPARROWS — Unusual in Maine were single White-eyed Vireos on Monhegan I., June 5 (*vide* MKL) and at Steuben June 23 (*vide* WCT). A Worm-eating Warbler was reported "singing on territory" in Charlestown, R.I., July 8 (*vide* DLE). Rare in Newfoundland were N. Parulas singing at 4 locations in June (CB, RB, WE), a Cape May Warbler on the Gander River B.B.S., July 5 (RB) and Bay-breasted Warblers at 2 locations on the w. coast including one bird carrying food at Mummichog P. P., June 29 (WE). Louisiana Waterthrushes were noted feeding young at 2 locations in w. Maine where the species was first confirmed breeding in 1980 (*vide* MKL, WCT). Away from their traditional breeding areas were several Yellow-breasted Chats through June and July in Rhode Island (*vide* DLE) and in mid-June at Bridgeport, Conn. (*vide* DV). A report of a singing ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler by a visitor to Fundy N.P., N.B., July 10 prompted further investigation by local birders who were "shocked to find a reasonably close facsimile." It was described as similar to Black-throated Gray but with black back, more extensively black throat and upper breast, white eye-ring, white lores, and yellow sides to breast. We are agreed that it is a hybrid of Am. Redstart with some other species: Black-and-white?, Black-throated Gray? Yellow-rumped?" (DSC, CET, RW). A tape-recording of the song is for the most part indistinguishable from Am. Redstart.

A W. Meadowlark was reported singing near Augusta, Me., July 9 (*vide* WCT). A ♀ Cardinal at Caissie Cape, West Co., N.B., in the third week of June (*vide* DSC) was the only one reported in the Maritimes where this species seems to be losing its foothold of recent years. Following this spring's unprecedented N push of Indigo Buntings, three singing males were noted in Newfoundland during late June and July (*vide* BDM) and a nest with two young was discovered at Hampton, N.B., July 25 for one of few provincial nesting records (*vide* DSC). Following this spring's occurrence at Rockport, Mass., a **Eurasian Siskin** was apparently photographed on the French island of St. Pierre June 23 (REt, *vide* BDM). Very rare were single male Lark Buntings at Machias Seal I., N.B., June 6 (MV, MY) and on Monhegan I., Me., June 23 (CW, *vide* WCT). Numbers of Seaside and Sharp-tailed sparrows were reported down considerably in s.w. Connecticut this summer (DV). A Henslow's Sparrow singing in Newington, N.H., through June was the first occurrence in that state in several years (RS *et al.*, *vide* RAQ). Finally, a ♂ Lapland Longspur in the Cabot Strait 1¼ hrs out of Port-aux-Basques, Nfld., June 28 was remarkably unseasonal (WE, NM).

ADDENDUM — Several significant spring observations from Maine were received too late for inclusion in the spring summary. These included the state's first confirmed **Wilson's Plover** at Seawall Beach, Phippsburg May 21-22 (RM, PDV, *vide* MKL), an astonishing and unprecedented spring count of 200 Whimbrel in flight between Gouldsboro and Steuben May 5 (NF, *vide* MKL), ad. Black-headed Grosbeaks at 3 locations: Deer Isle in early May, Solon May 9, and Winter Harbor May 11 (*vide* MKL), and a **Henslow's Sparrow** on Monhegan I., May 20 for the 3rd satisfactory state record (PDV).

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QUEBEC REGION /Normand David

Temperatures were above average and precipitation was below average in the southern half of the province; in the northern half, temperatures were above average only in June, and precipitation was below average only in July.

GREBS THROUGH DUCKS — Four nests of the Red-necked Grebe at Pelletier L. (JL) indicated that this bird is now well established in the Abitibi. The most notable herons of the season were single Little Blue Herons at Mont-Louis June 12 (RM, YL) and in the Madeleine Is., June 14-Aug. 5 (YA, JH), a Louisiana Heron at Grosse-Ile June 8-10 (YA) plus another at Rimouski July 1+ (GG); reports of those two species in recent years now indicate that they wander into this Region annually. In addition, the Madeleine Is. had their first two Snowy Egrets June 12-16 (YA), and a **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** July 25-Aug. 11 (MJL, YA *et al.*). A Least Bittern was seen in a pond at Cap-Tourmente June 24 and at least three birds sang there until mid-July (FG *et al.*).

Broods of N. Shovelers were found near Amos (MP) and in the Madeleine Is. (YA), respectively the n. and the e. limits of its breeding range. Also near Amos, a Wood Duck family in early July (JR) represented a substantial range extension. A ♀ Bufflehead with five ducklings, 20 km s. of LG-2 Dam July 4 (YA), provided a second regional breeding record, the first being at the same site in 1982. With a female and four young Aug. 10 (LR), the Harlequin Duck was found breeding near Guillaume-Delisle L., a new site in the poorly-known range of this duck. The nesting of a pair of Ruddy Ducks at Rouyn (EvW, JL) was also quite remarkable.

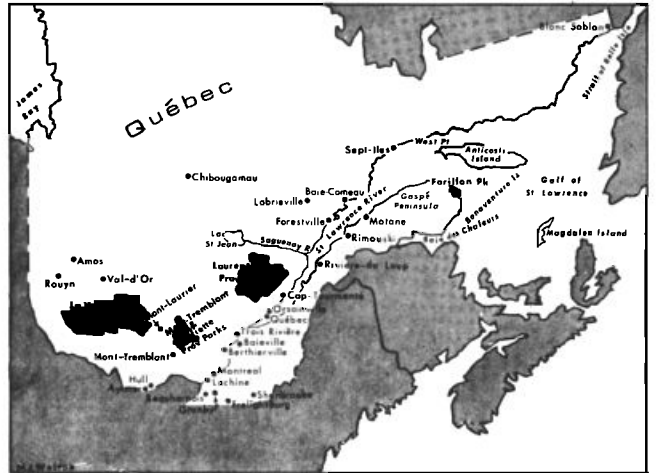
FALCONS THROUGH OWLS — For the first time in over 30 years, Peregrine Falcons nested in Montreal (DG); a pair, of which only the male was banded, hatched two young that captured their first Rock Doves before the end of July. The Yellow Rail was discovered at



Female Peregrine Falcon with two young. Montreal, Que. June, 1983. Photo/Normand David.

Wakeham, near Gaspé, June 23 (JMH), and a bird was banded in the Madeleine Is., July 27 (YA). A Sandhill Crane flew over Quebec City June 5 (GB), two were seen at Senneterre June 10 (DN), and many sightings were reported from the James Bay lowlands (*fide* YA).

A complete survey covering 160 km of shoreline in the Madeleine Is. yielded only 20 pairs of Piping Plovers (YA *et al.*), an alarming figure for this threatened species. After a first occurrence at Saint-Fulgence in May, the second regional **Black-tailed Godwit** was observed with a Hudsonian Godwit at Pointe-au-Père June 7-9 (YG *et al.*). A pair of



Wilson's Phalaropes reached Roquemaure June 1 (SG).

A few Black-headed Gulls nested again this year in the Madeleine Is. (YA), and a pair of Little Gulls, back again in the Lachine Rapids, exhibited breeding behavior before their sudden departure July 14 (PBA *et al.*). Another Bonaparte's Gull's nest was found at Rouyn June 17 (YR, JL, SG). The only Lesser Black-headed Gull of the season was at Baie-des-Sables June 3 (JH, MG). Two new colonies of Ring-billed Gulls were found: 1400 nests in the Quebec City harbor (PP), and about 40 nests at La Baie July 20 (*fide* NB). Unusual summering occurrences included a Dovekie at Étang-du-Nord July 23 (YA) and a Snowy Owl at Carleton July 9 (PF, LB).

WHIP-POOR-WILLS THROUGH WARBLERS — A Whip-poor-will was singing again this year at Mistassini (MS), and a Red-bellied Woodpecker turned up on Ile Perrot June 4 (RLo). Six Red-headed Woodpeckers and 25 Willow Flycatchers in the Dundee area (ADc) showed that these two birds breed in good numbers in s.w. Quebec; a Willow Flycatcher in Piedmont June 11 (PBA *et al.*) was presumably at the n. limit of its present range. A Com. Crow's nest, 10 km s. of the Eastmain R., near the James Bay road (YA), was at the n. edge of the species' range; on the other hand, a Com. Raven's nest found at Saint-Nicolas (JLD) appeared to be a first in the lowlands of the St. Lawrence R. Valley.

Mockingbirds bred at Saint-Ludger-de-Milot (*fide* NB), at the n. edge of their range, and 20 ± Cedar Waxwings near Guillaume-Delisle L., Aug. 10 were more than 500 km n. of their known range (LR). The only breeding report of Loggerhead Shrikes came from Vinton where two adults fed a young July 23 (RD). A stray Golden-winged Warbler was at Cap-Saint-Ignace June 11-12 (BG), and four males and one female spent the entire season near Huntingdon (PBA *et al.*).

ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS — The n. limit of the range of the N. Oriole was pushed N with the discovery of single nests at Rouyn July 2 (JC, JL) and Baie-Saint-Paul July 16 (GB). Two nests of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak found near Rouyn June 8 & 26 (JL) set another range extension in the Abitibi area. The first Indigo Bunting of the Madeleine Is., was at Cap-aux-Meules June 11 (JLT, RR). The 1983 summer season marked another step in the expansion of House Finches: there were 4 nests in Sherbrooke (*fide* PBY), at least 2 in Philipsburg

(*fide* PS), and the second nesting of the Point-Claire pair was successful (BB, MM). Two Rufous-sided Towhees returned to Saint-Cyrille where this bird was seen last year (JCG), possibly at the e. edge of its range.

Brossard had two singing Grasshopper Sparrows June 2-24 (PBa) while Rouyn had a juv. Le Conte's Sparrow found July 2 near Routhier L. (JC, JL), in each case a new site within the range of the respective species. The most intriguing find of the season was that of two singing Sharp-tailed Sparrows on Ile aux Fermiers near Montreal June 6 (GD); the colonization of fresh-water habitats by this salt marsh sparrow—it has also been present for several years on Ile du Moine where at least three birds were seen this summer (*fide* PS)—should be explained by further research on its ecological requirements. A Clay-colored Sparrow turned up at Saint-Camille, Wolfe Co., June 26-28 (YB *et al.*). Field Sparrows returned again to Beauport (GF); a bird was found at Saint-Raphael June 12 (RLp), and another strayed at Rimouski June 14-16 (GG).

ADVENTIVES — Plastic blue bands left no doubt of the captive origin of three Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*) and two Barnacle Geese seen near Quebec City June 19-21 (FL, CV). A Ruddy Shelduck was at Rouyn July 18-21 (SG, JL) and two Ringed Teal (*Anas leucophrys*) on Ile Perrot in August (*fide* LMS). Single Chukars were seen

in Montreal and Baie-d'Urfé in July (*fide* PS). A Black-hooded Parakeet (*Nandayus nenday*) fed on sunflower seeds in a Montreal garden during the first 2 weeks of July (ND). This editor was informed of 3 sightings of the Ringed Turtle Dove in the Montreal area, one of which involved two birds apparently mated in Boucherville; belated reports of this dove included single birds at Melocheville Dec. 11, 1982 (YA, ND, MG), and Chateaugay in late March, 1983 (PBa).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

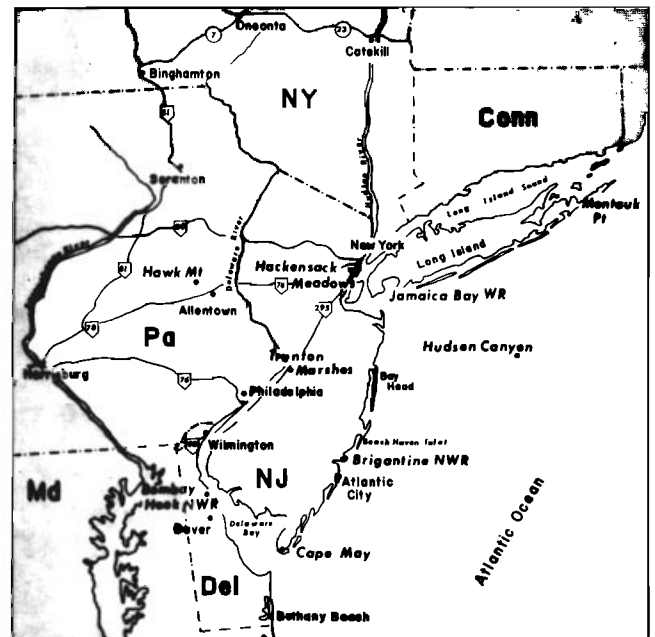
June and July were hot and a bit drier than normal, although water levels remained high from the wet spring. Natural conditions favored nesting. Bird movement, too, never really ceased. The tail end of spring migration was exceptionally late, merging almost without pause into the first returns of fall. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes were still migrating at Philadelphia in the second week of June (JCM), a Red-eyed Vireo came aboard ship 20 miles from nearest land off Montauk Point, Long Island, June 11, and a male Blackpoll Warbler was singing at South Jamaica, Queens, June 25 (both THD). Less than a week later, 40 Short-billed Dowitchers were back at Jamaica Bay July 1 (THD), and two the next day at Little Creek W.M.A., Del. (JMA). But was the White-rumped Sandpiper on Fire Island, Long Island, June 18 (*fide* GSR) coming or going?

We draw heavily in this column upon intensive surveys of water birds in New Jersey and on Long Island made possible by new state tax check-off provisions for conservation work. Also extremely useful were several long-running June counts within Christmas Bird Count circles (Summer Bird Counts, hereafter S.B.C.s): Southern Lancaster County, Pa., June 4-5 (with a seven-year summary, RMS); Cumberland County, N.J., June 4-5 (DW, DEK); Captree, L.I., June 11 (FF, AJL); Central Suffolk County, L.I., June 18 (GSR), and the Westchester County, N.Y., portion of the Greenwich-Stamford count June 19 (TWB).

Frequently-cited localities are abbreviated as follows: Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, Del.); Brig. (Brigantine N.W.R., Atlantic Co., N.J.); H.M. (Hackensack Marshes, between Kearny and N. Arlington, Hudson and Bergen Cos., N.J.); J.B.W.R. (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, N.Y.C.); Little Creek (Little Creek W.M.A., Del.); and Tinicum (Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center, Philadelphia).

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — There was no renewed suggestion of Com. Loon breeding, although an unusual nine summered at Ashokan Res., Ulster Co., N.Y. (FM), plus three in e. Pennsylvania (RW, TV), and one in breeding plumage in Rockland County, N.Y., for the first summer record there since 1933. (RFD).

We can supplement last summer's survey of the disquietingly few Pied-billed Grebe nesting sites in the Region (AB 36:959) with additional probable sites in e. Pennsylvania (Middle Creek W.M.A., Lebanon Co., *fide* AH; Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., RW; Leaser L., Lehigh Co., RW), and a third Delaware site, Bombay Hook (DAC). A pair raised young at Prospect P., Brooklyn (*fide* THD, GSR), raising known s.e. New York sites to 3 (2 of them in New York City), but the



other 2 were not active this year. Far and away the Region's best location, the H.M. at Kearny, had its best year ever: 150 birds in 30 family groups June 18 (RK), but one of the 4 New Jersey sites noted last year, Pedricktown, was unoccupied this year (JKM).

A second Brown Pelican incursion far surpassed last summer's, producing numbers never even imagined in this Region. They arrived off Delaware Bay June 18 and at first penetrated up into it, when 30 passed up the bay off East Pt. Lighthouse, near Fortescue, and about 100 came back down in late afternoon (DEK). After June 19, 30-50 gathered around Cape Henlopen, Del. (FFW). Prospecting N, 35 at Holgate, N.J., June 24 (Brig. personnel) constituted the largest count ever so far n., and four flying W past Robert Moses S.P., L.I., July 2 (J. Wallace) provided only the eleventh New York record since 1837. The latest were 2 at Holgate July 17 (JDo).

CORMORANTS THROUGH IBISES — Hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants summered in the bays and inlets of New Jersey and Long Island. Most were immatures, but the presence of numerous adults must surely mean breeding somewhere. As yet, however, we know of only one colony in this Region, recently established on Fisher's I.,

between Long Island and Connecticut

According to intensive ground surveys by the Seatuck Research Program of the barrier beach between Fire I. Inlet and Jones Inlet (DP), where an important fraction of Long Island heronries are located, the major heron and egret species have declined since the Buckleys' aerial censuses of 1974-78 (P.A. and F.G. Buckley, "Population and Colony-site Trends of Long Island Waterbirds for Five Years in the Mid-1970s," *Linnaean Society of New York, Transactions IX* (1980)). Snowy Egrets, *e.g.*, fell from 509 pairs in 1977 to 132 in 1983.

Helicopter censuses of colonial waterbird populations on the Atlantic coast of New Jersey designed to replicate censuses of the late 1970s (AB 31 1116; *Records of New Jersey Birds*, VII:3 Fall 1981) show declines also, although comparison is made uncertain by the late discovery of a major new colony in Cape May County (MW, N.J.D.F.G.W.).

A **White-faced Ibis** at Brig., July 24-Aug. 3 (WJB, JB, TH, ph. RRu) furnished the third New Jersey record. This species, which is spreading E along the Gulf coast, has also appeared at J.B.W.R., 1979-81, and along the middle Atlantic coast.

WATERFOWL — Great Swamp N.W.R., Morris Co., N.J., Wood Duck capital of the world, raised 1500 young to flying stage (refuge personnel).

Extralimital summering waterfowl included Brant, Snow Goose (both morphs), Oldsquaw, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and scoters—a scantier list than normal. Black Scoters predominated, as usual, with about 24 ± at Cape May and 3-4 across the mouth of Delaware Bay at Henlopen (WJB, WWF, B. Fintel). Only single Surf Scoters (J B W.R.) and White-winged Scoters (Cape May) were reported.

A pair of Ruddy Ducks summered at Brig., without proof of nesting; a few pairs each at J.B.W.R. (DR) and the H.M. at Kearny (less than usual—RK) remain the only breeding populations known to us in the Region. Female Hooded Mergansers with young were at Swartwood Lake S.P., Sussex Co., N.J. (R. & C. Decker), along the Susquehanna R., at Promised Land, Pike Co., Pa. (F. J. Hohenleitner), both in late June, and L. Wallenpaupack, Wayne and Pike Cos., Pa., July 31 (TV). Common Merganser success in the n. of this Region was attested by a flock of 30, mostly young of the year, at Ashokan Res., Ulster Co., N.Y., July 31 (FM). In e. Pennsylvania, breeding sites known since 1974 along the Susquehanna R., increased to 4, as far downstream as Berwick, Luzerne Co. (WR). Still farther downstream, there was still no evidence of breeding in s. Lancaster County despite summering in 5 of the last 7 years (RMS). In Delaware R. drainage, a female with 16 young was at Flatbrook, Sussex Co., N.J., in early June (WL) once again. Up to two males and five females frequented the unusually full L. DeForest, Rockland Co., N.Y., for a first summer record there (RFD).

RAPTORS — It was the first June since 1976 without a kite somewhere in the Region. We have reports of 9 confirmed Goshawk nests in New Jersey (*vide* RK), one in the Pocono Mts., Pa. (DCD), and one in Dutchess County, N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.), but no information on how the Goshawk spread since about 1970 might affect Cooper's Hawk recovery.

In addition to the Region's five natural Bald Eagle pairs, fledglings were reintroduced at 2 places. The New Jersey Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife (N.J.D.F.G.W.) hacked six from a tower in Cumberland County, four of which had been brought from Nova Scotia at the age of 7-8 weeks, and two from Manitoba (MW). The Pennsylvania Game Commission hacked eight young from Nova Scotia on an island in the Susquehanna R., near Duncannon, Perry Co. Bald Eagles reach breeding age at 4 or 5 years, and the hope is that they will return to the hacking site to breed.

Marsh Hawks are thriving in s. New Jersey, according to a census by Dunne of coastal marshes from Salem County, on Delaware Bay, around Cape May Pt., and up the Atlantic coast to Ocean County. He found 48 "certified nesting attempts" compared to 18 in 1979. Many of these nests were on *phragmites*-covered islands in open marsh, some in quasi-colonial proximity, and the birds ranged as far as 3 mi to feed on the mainland (PD).

Osprey recovery continues. Active nests rise annually on Long Island (91 in 1980, 96 in 1982, 111 this year), but while fledging was limited to 60 by a cold, wet season last year, 127 were fledged in 1983 (129 in 1981; M. Scheibel, N.Y. Dept. of Env. Cons.). L. Alexander, Director

of the Del Div F & W, reported 56 active nests, at about the same level since 1979, but the highest fledging success in recent times (76 in 1983, 75 in 1981). Most of the Delaware nests are on man-made structures: 79% on duck blinds, and only 5% on trees. New Jersey figures were not yet available at press time. We speculated last summer that the reestablishment of interior populations might be the next step. The Pennsylvania Game Commission, in the fourth year of a hacking project in the Pocono Mts., reared 28 young brought from the coast at 4 towers. Other Ospreys which may have come from the first ten hacked in 1980-81 hung around this summer, but they are still too young to breed (*Phil Inquirer*, July 31, 1983).

S.A.

Six of the eight pairs of Peregrine Falcons known to have raised young in e. North America this summer nested in this Region. Four pairs raised 14 young (11 natural, 3 introduced) in New Jersey near coastal hacking sites, as hoped. In a dramatic surprise, two other pairs set up housekeeping on great New York City bridges. On the Throgs Neck Bridge, a pair raised two young, one of which was apparently killed or removed by vandals despite a devoted guard detail set up by Pamela Manice. This was the first recorded nesting by progeny of released falcons in the East, since the female was a second-generation bird raised in 1981 at a natural eyrie in New Hampshire near a long-term hacking site; this was also only the second example known to project personnel at Cornell of successful breeding by a one-year old male.

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge pair, both hacked birds, the female from the New Jersey coast in 1980 and the male from the Shawangunk Mts., Ulster Co., N.Y., in 1979, fledged three young. Both nests were placed below the roadway platform on cinders that had filtered down from the pavement. The Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority suspended maintenance operations and facilitated observation and guard duty.

Yet another pair of Peregrines appeared around the Goethals Bridge in July. Jack Barclay, Reintroduction Coordinator for the Peregrine Fund, for whom we thank much of this information, urges that all major bridges be checked next spring (eggs were found this year in April).

RAILS TO PHALAROPEs — High water levels seem to have favored fresh-water rails (or perhaps exposed them to view). It was a good season for King Rails along the Delaware R. (*e.g.* 8 at Mad Horse Creek W.M.A., Salem Co., N.J., June 5—B. Stocku). A Virginia Rail was the first in 7 s. Lancaster County, Pa., S.B.C.s, and an unusual 6 pairs with young were at Beach Haven, Luzerne Co., Pa., (DG). Two pairs of Soras with young furnished a first local breeding record there (DG), and Tinicun with two pairs may be added to last summer's list of known sites (AB 36:960).

The Black Rail reported in spring at Oak Beach Marsh, L.I., the only known New York State locale, called until June 9 (GSR). Marmora, Cape May Co., N.J., the state's best current location, had five calling males June 4 (RM *et al.*), half of last year's count. In Delaware there are probably three pairs at Bombay Hook (DAC) and two at Port Mahon (*vide* AH), but the traditional Broadkill Beach marsh has been drained and only 1-2 could be found May 20 in an inaccessible extreme s e corner of the marsh (DAC).

Airports may be the salvation of Upland Sandpiper. Chevalier banded a record 71 young at J.F.K. Int'l Airport, New York City, from an estimated 20-25 pairs, and the Burlington Co., N.J., Airport can be added to our 1981 survey of sites (AB 35:924).

Jamaica Bay also remains the most reliable Curlew Sandpiper spot in the Region. One was at the E. Pond most days after July 17, and two July 23 (THD). A Dunlin in breeding plumage was there very early July 12 (TH, B. Lecington). Such birds would be useful to photograph, since they might be referable to one of the small, pale-backed races with small belly patches (*arctica* from Greenland or *schinzii* from Iceland).

Fall godwit passage peaked typically early with 12 Hudsonian and three Marbled godwits on the Line Is., s. Oyster Bay, L.I., July 31 (TWB). Two Ruffs (Little Creek July 27—JMA, and Brig., July 30—WJB, m.ob.) were a bit below par. Sixty Black-necked Stilts at Little Creek July 23 (JMA) seem to be the highest regional summer count ever

(DAC), one wandered to South Cape May Meadow June 4-5 (WJB, m ob). No Wilson's Phalaropes lingered this summer.

S.A.

The East Pond at J.B.W.R., drawn down again for shorebird management, scored once more with outstanding rarities. An ad. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** appeared briefly July 16 (THD *et al.*), recalling the first regional record there (the same bird?) July 18-24, 1981. On the next day a brightly-colored peep with dark legs set off a considerable debate during its July 17-22 stay. Although valiant efforts failed to produce the desired frame-filling photo (R Schwartz, B. Moscatello, J. Williams *et al.*), carefully written descriptions (THD, PAB, P. Baicich *et al.*) indicate that it was a **Little Stint** in high ad. plumage including a buffy-orange face and sides of neck and bright orange edgings to scapulars and tertials. The amount of white on the throat, lack of any brick-red color, absence of white over the bill, fine-pointed bill, and longish legs ruled out the Rufous-necked Sandpiper that the bright head first suggested. This constitutes the first New York State record and the third regional one (*cf.* AB 36:960).

JAEGERS TO TERNS — Two ad. dark-phase S. Polar Skuas were 35 mi s.e. of Montauk Pt., L.I., at Cox's Ledge, June 11, along with six Pomarine Jaegers (THD, BS *et al.*). Tramontano observes that Great Black-backed Gull continues to be the commonest summering (non-breeding) gull up the Hudson R. Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, the first mid-summer records we know of: a second-year bird at Old Field Pt., L.I., June 6 (PAB), another at J.B.W.R., July 30 (PWP, THD), and a sub-adult near West Point June 19 (E. Treacy), for one of very few lower Hudson Valley records at any season. A few Herring Gulls now summer on the upper Susquehanna R., a situation unheard-of 2-3 years ago (DG, WR).

The aforementioned helicopter survey suggests that the New Jersey breeding Herring Gull population is declining slightly (6619 adults in 1977, 5891 in 1979, 5240 in 1983), but that Great Black-backed Gulls are increasing rapidly (109 adults in 1977, 140 in 1979, 253 in 1983). (1977 and 1979 figures from *Records of New Jersey Birds*, VII:3, Fall 1981, p. 39; 1983 figures from MW, N.J.D.F.G.W.).

On Long Island the decline in breeding Herring Gulls noted by the Buckley's after 1975 (*op.cit.*) seems to have given way once more to expansion. The Seatuck Research Program found 3710 adults on the barrier beach between Fire I. Inlet and Jones Inlet (DP), compared to 2810 in 1977 (R.M. Erwin, *Coastal Waterbirds from Maine to Virginia* (F W S./OBS-79-08)). Great Black-backed Gulls were more variable, from 81 in 1977 to 104 last year down to 51 in 1983. New York's new Laughing Gull colony near J.F.K. Int'l Airport continues to swell (DR).

Gull-billed Terns were in good numbers at Brig. (30 on July 3 (JDo), while n. of this traditional frontier seven were near Barnegat, N.J., in June (PD) and two pairs had eggs in the great Cedar Beach, L.I., ternery July 17 (JBg, MG). Forster's Terns lingered at J.B.W.R., including two immatures begging from Com. Terns July 30 (TWB), but breeding could not be documented as in 1981. The New Jersey aerial census shows Forster's Terns increasing there: 661 in 1977, 1328 in 1979, 1614 in 1983 (*Records*, 1981; MW). As for Com. Terns, they are booming on Long Island. The Seatuck Research Program found 7205 pairs in 7 colonies on the barrier beach between Fire I. Inlet and Jones Inlet (DP), about twice the 1977 figures (Erwin, *op.cit.*). At the Great Gull I. colony off Orient Pt., L.I., over 6000 young were banded (HH). New Jersey figures showed a less clear trend: 5692 adults in 1977, 9628 in 1979, and 6566 in 1983), although aerial surveys can be tricky with birds as small and pale as Com. Terns (*Records*, 1981; MW). Roseate Terns, the subject of some concern, did "very well" at their e. North American stronghold, Great Gull I., where 800 nests were marked, as compared with 700 last year, and 1600 young banded (HH). As in recent summers, a few appeared on the New Jersey shore (2-3, Holgate July 10—JDo), but there is no sign of restoration of breeding.

Least Terns have increased on Long Island, according to a coordinated ground count by the Seatuck Research Program which found 3609 adults in 46 colonies (DP). The last census of all Long Island, the Buckley's aerial censuses of 1974-78, found a 5-year mean of 2252 pairs (= 2447) in 29 to 47 colonies (*op.cit.*). Burger believes that a combination of aerial and ground counting will show Least Terns about

holding their own in New Jersey, despite the total destruction of the great Holgate colony by foxes. A disquieting conclusion of the N.J.D.F.G.W.'s aerial survey of Least Terns is the shrinkage in colonies from 25 in 1979 to eight in 1983, although aerial censusing is particularly tricky for volatile Least Tern colonies (MW). Delaware figures are fairly stable, with 1028 adults in 6 colonies, compared to 1317 in 7 colonies in 1982 and 1346 in 7 colonies in 1981 (P. Jahn)

Post-breeding Sandwich Terns were not reported n. of Cape Henlopen, Del., where there were up to two July 29-30, one apparently disabled by a wing streamer (WWF, J. Russell, R. Kabis), and Holgate, N.J., July 28 (TH). A pair of ad. Caspian Terns visited the H.M. at Kearny June 18 (RK), but there was no intimation of breeding as has occurred on the Virginia coast in recent years.

Black Skimmers hold their own on Long Island in the face of overwhelming human use. The Cedar Beach-Jones Beach colonies totalled 300 pairs, up from 284 in 1977, and another 40 bred at Breezy Pt., in Gateway N.R.A. New Jersey figures have slipped from 2028 adults in 1977 to 2135 in 1979 to 1149 in 1983 (*Records*, 1981; MW). Some colonies are booming (*e.g.*, 600 pairs at Holgate), but sites have declined from 23 to 13 since 1979 (MW), and a majority of New Jersey skimmers are now vulnerably concentrated in 2 places. Delaware had 117 adults Aug. 10, compared to 120 last year (P. Jahn).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A **White-winged Dove** was observed from a helicopter over Eaton's Neck, Suffolk Co., L.I., June 6 (PAB), the first regional report since New Jersey's first record May 24, 1981. Fledged Barred Owl young on Fisher's I., between Long Island and Connecticut (*vide* GSR) were particularly interesting since the species does not breed on Long Island. Short-eared Owls may have bred at J.B.W.R. and the H.M. at Kearny (P. Bacinski), but Dunne found none in 188 hours censusing Marsh Hawks in s. New Jersey.

Eight years after Chuck-will's-widows first bred on Long Island, they colonized e. Long Island "in toto" this season (ES); Salzman found twelve calling birds in 6 locations all the way e. to Montauk, with Whip-poor-wills "almost disappeared." The Westchester S.B.C. also missed Whip-poor-will for the first time in 7 Junes. Atlassing turned up more Com. Nighthawks in New York City than expected, including young in the Bronx July 28 (O. Rusabo, *vide* H. Richard), three pairs around factory roofs in Long Island City, Queens (THD), and breeding confirmed in upper Manhattan (K. Ray).

Red-headed Woodpeckers remain highly localized, mostly along the s. coast, but a new spot is Beaver Dam Cr., near Lewes, Del., where one pair last year has grown to six (WWF). As in 1976, stragglers turned up in the New York City area where breeding has not been proven in this century: one in Alley Pond P., Queens, June 6 (*vide* THD), and a pair at Robert Moses S.P., L.I., the same day (L. Schore).

FLYCATCHERS TO KINGLETS — Yellow-bellied Flycatchers still breed in the Ulster County Catskills, where Murphy found three on Big Indian Mt., June 12, and one at Giant Ledge-Panther Mt., June 24 (*vide* JPT), this last beyond any possible migration date. Acadian Flycatchers are still doing well at their n. frontier. They bred in Great Swamp N.W.R., N.J., for the first time in many years. Nine were in Rockland County June 7-8 (RFD), and five pairs in Orange County, N.Y. (JPT). Alder Flycatchers were also widely distributed in n.w. New Jersey and at 2 sites in Rockland County. Four *Empidonax* (Acadian, Alder, Willow and Least flycatchers) bred at Great Swamp and at Black River W.M.A., Morris Co., N.J.

The only Short-billed Marsh Wren reported was a single bird June 24, at Honesdale, Wayne Co., Pa. (WR). Brown Thrashers have declined steadily in the 7 years of the s. Lancaster County, Pa., S.B.C. as Raynor found earlier on Long Island (*Kingbird* XXVI:4, 1976, pp. 190-94) and as observers elsewhere suspect. The outlying Hermit Thrush population of the New Jersey pine barrens is still there; six singing males were in the Wharton S.F., as in the past 3 summers (TP). Golden-crowned Kinglets, which have been colonizing Norway spruce plantations far s. of their former range, established themselves for the first time in s.e. Pennsylvania by nesting successfully at Wild Creek Res., Carbon Co (RW).

Last summer's Cliff Swallow population explosion on New Jersey bridges continued, with a little mothering from the N.J.D.F.G.W. After repairs to the Lambertville bridge across the Delaware R., postponed during the nesting season, had obliterated the old nests, the N.J.D.F.G.W. installed 38 concrete nests under the bridge. All 38 were occupied and 130 natural ones constructed, restoring the colony nearly to last year's 184. Moreover, 55% of the concrete nests housed 2 broods, in the cold spring, compared to only 2% of the natural nests. The traditional Bull's I. colony grew to 128 nests. Total New Jersey nests reached 408, most of them on 3 bridges and only 3 small colonies on unpainted barns (MW).

In Pennsylvania, too, Reid has been observing 2 bridge colonies at Wilkes-Barre; 102 birds were present July 2. At the Pocono Env. Ed. Center, near Dingman's Ferry, 24 Cliff Swallows arrived July 10, as if evicted somewhere, and nested under cabin eaves, in one case remodelling an old Barn Swallow nest (DCD). A real restoration of the regional Cliff Swallow population seems to be under way.

WARBLERS — A Prothonotary Warbler nest at Belmont S.P., was Long Island's fourth (FF *et al.*). Although no further N. Parula nests were found after the Bull's I., N.J., report of last spring, it is apparently reestablished as a nesting species in New Jersey along the Delaware R., in Hunterdon and Warren Cos., and probably in Cumberland County (WJB, GH, R. Bleiweiss, F. Frazier). Singing males appeared at 2 Pennsylvania locations where they have been absent in recent years, in the Pocono Mts. (DCD), and near Hamburg (KAG).

Yellow-rumped Warbler bred successfully in Norway spruce forest at Wild Creek Res., Carbon Co. (RW), for the first breeding record, as far as we know, for s.e. Pennsylvania, although this rapidly expanding warbler now nests in high altitude native spruce as far s. as West Virginia (AB 36:977). The abundance of Yellow-throated Warblers in the s. of this Region is suggested by a count of 58 on the Cumberland County, N.J., S.B.C., but the n. limit of territorial males known to us is Mines Rd., Worthington S.F., Warren Co., N.J. (WL). We received 2 reports of Connecticut Warbler, very rare in spring: Forest P., Queens, June 8 (†P. Bernarth), and Beach Haven, Pa., June 7 (DG), dates typical of late-migrating *Oporornis*.

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS — The n. known breeding limit of Summer Tanager is now at Helmetta, Middlesex Co., N.J., where young were in a nest June 2-7 (W. Wander, S. Brady, TP). Blue Grosbeaks probably nested a second time in New York State, judging from a male with three ø-plumaged birds in Orange County Aug. 14 (F. & W. Abbott). Farther s., burgeoning Blue Grosbeak counts have grown from 4 to 28 over 7 years of the s. Lancaster County, Pa., S.B.C.

The annual Dickcissel tantalizer was a singing male in a Delaware alfalfa field June 11-12 (WWF, JAu). The field was mowed June 13. This vanished former breeder has nested only once in this Region in this century, in 1974 (AB 28:783). House Finch, now near saturation in the e. and s. of this Region, is still "taking off" in s. Lancaster County, Pa. (from two to 27 over seven SBCs—RMS), and is invading the last offshore retreats. A pair attempted to nest on Great Gull I., off e. Long Island (HH).

The Region's best Henslow's Sparrow areas continue to be Galesville Airport, Ulster Co., N.Y. (9 on July 31—TV, Urner Club), and the vicinity of Dallas, Pa. Last year's Dallas site was abandoned after May, but three singing males were located on the other side of Dallas (WR). The species is no longer known along the coast.

EXOTICS — A pair of Red-crowned Amazons, *Amazona viridigenalis*, around S. Nyack, Rockland Co., N.Y. July 10-29 (P. & E. Derven) was one of many reports of released or escaped parrots found in urban and suburban parts of this Region.

Ringed Turtle Doves that have visited the feeder of E.P. Strickland near Wilmington, Del., over 5 years appear to be reproducing. Three immatures were there with seven adults this summer.

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Henry T. Armistead

The wet, cool spring spilled over slightly into June before a warming and drying trend became firmly entrenched for the rest of the summer. Heavy rains early hindered species breeding near water courses and insectivores, especially flycatchers and swallows. But as the dry, hot summer materialized the lack of storms and flood tides, in contrast to 1981 and 1982, resulted in a highly successful breeding season for most beach and marsh species such as rails, plovers, gulls (alas), terns and skimmers. However, several herons seem to be in gradual decline. Old field birds got a break in the P.I.K. program, yet owing to weed control regulations fallow areas are still disked, cut, etc. in late summer and how long will P.I.K. be with us? The decline of many forest birds continues owing probably to tropical deforestation not to mention forest fractionalization and conversion to farmlands here. (See also *Bio-Science*, January 1983, pp. 31-35, "Have cowbirds caused forest songbirds to decline?" But Brown Pelicans through the coast and several observers predict they will nest in 1984. Where?

Deviation from normal of temperature: June + 0.2°F., July + 1.9°, of precipitation, June + 0.5 inches, July - 3.2 inches. July was so sweltering and dry that prey insects were almost nonexistent in many areas.

Abbreviations: Balt., Baltimore; the Bay, Chesapeake Bay; Chinc., Chincoteague N.W.R., Va.; D.C., Washington, D.C.; Va.E.S., the Virginia Eastern Shore (peninsula); + (after initials), *et al.*

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — For the first time in several years no reports of late migrant Com. Loons were received. Instead summering birds were at Ocean City June 25 (RFR), Cobb I., Va., June 20 (BA, JV) and Alexandria, Va., July 18 & 30 (JMA). A late report is of a **Western Grebe** at Kerr Res., Va., Apr. 17-21 (GH, JRF, MM, J & TD+), for only the sixth state record. Pied-billed Grebe made an excellent showing with Maryland singles at such less usual spots as a Worcester County farm pond July 16 and Myrtle Grove W.M.A., July 24 (RFR), an adult with three juveniles at Lilypons July 24-Aug 7

(MW, DHW) and 49 at traditionally well-stocked Deal Island W.M.A., July 31 (HTA). An adult with two juveniles was in Alexandria July 27 (EMW), 14 were at Back Bay N.W.R., July 3 (NB) and 18 were at Chinc., July 6-7 (CPW). This grebe remains a rare breeder away from the coastal plain.

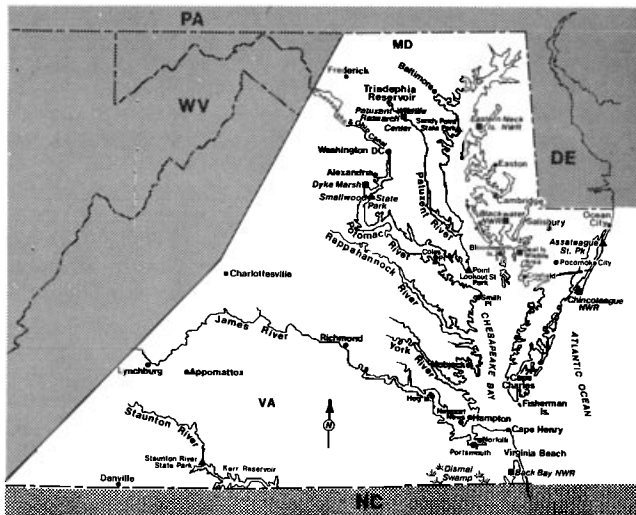
Pelagic reporting was nearly nil but off Ocean City June 5 a Greater, a Manx and 30 Sooty shearwaters were counted plus 125 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (RN+, *fide* KHW).

White Pelican was seen for the 20th consecutive reporting period: a single haunted the Metomkin I., Va., heronry all summer, probably the same bird that was there last year (JHB, BW+). Brown Pelican surpassed its record-breaking invasion of 1982 with new state high counts of **180** at Chinc., Va. (Fishing Pt.), June 27-July 7 (DFH, CPW, EN+); this flock declining to 83 by July 28-29 (CPW) and **50** off Ocean City, Md., in late June (DN, *fide* HLW). Previous state highs were 47 and 15 respectively. Other notable Virginia counts were 50 at Metomkin I., July 21 (JSW) and 60 at Cape Henry June 23 (GMW) with four up the Bay as far as Saxis I., July 3 (BMV, EM+, ph.). In Maryland two were reported on the Patuxent R., at Broome I., July 15 (NC, *fide* JAG) and 28 were at Ocean City June 11 (MO, *fide* HLW). The high ratio of adults to immatures among these birds may indicate a major disruption in their breeding grounds farther s. Double-crested Cormorant continues to summer commonly on the Bay with high tallies of 59 both at Bloodsworth I., June 26 (WGK, HTA) and at Hopewell, Va., June 22 (FRS, HO), where the only regional breeding ever occurred in 1978.

For the ninth consecutive year Williams *et al.* surveyed breeding birds on all Virginia E.S. seaside islands from Assawoman s. to Fisherman Island N.W.R., with these results (number of adults seen; *not* nests or pairs): Little Blue Heron 100 (2nd lowest), Cattle Egret 35 (lowest ever), Great Egret 606 (highest), Snowy Egret 376, Louisiana Heron 275 (lowest), Black-crowned Night Heron 639 (lowest), Yellow-crowned Night Heron 119 (highest), Glossy Ibis 578, White Ibis two (seen 5 out of 9 years but no nest found since 1977), Green Heron 75. Major mixed heronries were on Metomkin, Hog, Cobb, Wreck and Fisherman I. The two White Ibises were on Cobb I. The most notable item is the drastic decline of Cattle Egret as a breeder here and elsewhere in the Region. Another survey counted pairs of Great Blue Herons in Virginia finding 3255 in 28 colonies (*vs.* 2796 in 22 colonies in 1982), virtually all on the coastal plain except for a few just up from the Fall Line. Almost all colonies remained stable over the 2-year period but among major heronries 3 had major declines (25% or more) and 3 had major increases. Six of the 1983 colonies were not surveyed or did not exist in 1982 (MAB, *fide* FRS). The largest colony was 407 pairs in King and Queen Co. at Burnt Mill Cr. At Chinc., Wilds' more interesting heron high counts were 169 Little Blues, 492 Great and 1023 Snowy egrets July 21-22 with 335 Glossy Ibises June 29-30. Maryland heronries were incompletely surveyed but in Dorchester County most species were in very low numbers, the trend of recent years, with only Great Blue Herons stable (HTA, WGK).

On the lower Susquehanna R., below Conowingo Dam Schutsky counted 107 Great Blue Herons July 25 and 198 Black-crowned Night Herons June 21. Where such Maryland birds nest is something of a mystery. In Dismal Swamp N.W.R., 100 Green Herons was a fine count July 10 (RC), apparently a new record high for Virginia. At Smith I., Md., 62 Little Blue Herons were seen July 15 (JAG). Scott found 120 Cattle Egret nests at the well known Hopewell colony June 22 (*cf.* 45 there May 19). Interesting Maryland counts were 175 Snowy Egrets, 95 Louisiana Herons, 55 Black-crowned Night Herons, 220 Glossy Ibises, four Least Bitterns and one Am. Bittern at Deal Island W.M.A., July 31 (HTA); except for the bitterns, all birds visiting from colonies 7 or more mi away out in the Bay. The colony of wild Black-crowned Night Herons at the National Zoo in D.C., had 7 nests, seven adults, seven fledglings and 15+ other young June 20 (DSC). An Am. Bittern on the Chinc. causeway July 10 was odd (KHW). An additional White Ibis for the Virginia E.S. was at a heronry on Hog I., in early June (BTt, *fide* BW), an immature was at Back Bay July 3 (NB) and one was found dead at Kingsmill, James City Co., Va., *ca.* July 22 (DS, *fide* BW).

WATERFOWL — At Deal I., waterfowl nests suffered very heavy Fish Crow predation with 20+ nests of 4 species destroyed in one small section (SD). Here 200 Black Ducks, 12 Green-winged Teal, 35 Blue-winged Teal and eight Gadwall were counted July 31, the latter 2 counts



being extremely low (HTA). Twenty Mute Swans were at Hooper's I., Md., June 19, the most ever seen at their s. limit here on the Bay (WGK, HTA) and 19 were there July 30 (HTA). Impressive counts from Curles Neck in s.e. Henrico Co., Va., were 500 Mallards and 300 Black Ducks (and how many intergrades?) July 31 (FRS). Following a trend of increasing in recent years Gadwall were in poor numbers on the lower Bay (HTA). Blue-winged Teal also seem to be declining but a pair which fledged eight young at Nokesville June 10 furnished Bass with the first Virginia Piedmont breeding record. Chandler made an excellent count of 75 Wood Ducks in Dismal Swamp July 10. Odd summering divers were a Ring-necked Duck on Georgetown Res., D.C., June 26 (DSC), a Canvasback on the Susquehanna R., June 21 (RMS), two Oldsquaws near the Annapolis Bay bridge June 13 (JG) and two Ruddy Ducks at Nokesville, Va., June 3 (KHB) plus another near Balt., July 31 (RFR). Black Scoters again proved to be the most frequently seen scoter with reports from the Annapolis bridge of four June 14 (JG), one at Pope's Bay, Worcester Co., Md., June 11 (SHD), and several sightings on the Virginia E.S. such as four at Metomkin I., June 22 (BW). Four Red-breasted Mergansers were at Assateague I., Md., June 12 (FHs).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — The best total of Black Vultures was 47 on the lower Susquehanna R., July 25; a Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen carrying food there June 21 (RMS), this species still rare as a regional breeder. Broad-winged Hawk persists as a probable breeder on the c. Delmarva Pen., with singles in the Pocomoke S.F. area June 25 & July 8 (RFR) and Salisbury July 30 (SHD). The large Bald Eagle roost near Hopewell first mentioned in last fall's report was again impressive with 52 birds seen there June 4 (13 ad., 21 imm., 18 unk.—FRS, BR, JWD) and 30 adults plus 25 immatures in the area for a total of 55 June 22 (MAB, CWH, *fide* FRS) "dwindling" to six adults and 24 immatures July 30 (FRS+). Ten were on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., June 12 (EB, RFR). Spitzer captured 156 ad. Ospreys this summer in various parts of the Bay, noting that nesting success was very varied on an extremely local basis depending upon the abundance of the favored prey item of menhaden. Thirty-two pairs nested on Bloodsworth I., an optimum population for there (WGK, HTA). Two pairs bred on Kerr Res., Va., most unusual for the Piedmont (JRF, *fide* MM). Extraliminally, but of interest, it is noted that Osprey nests in the New York City through Boston area increased from c. 109 in 1975-1976 to 215 in 1983, still far from the estimated 1000 in 1940 (*fide* PS).

Cornell Peregrine Falcon breeding is still tenuous: the Balt. pair fledging two young, which both died later (RFR), a pair on remote S. Marsh I., Md., successfully fledged two young (SD) and the ones on the Annapolis bridge failed to raise any (HLW). In a study area near Davidsonville, Anne Arundel Co., Md., where previously no Am. Kestrels nested, 7 of 9 nesting boxes were occupied, yielding an average of four fledglings/pair, including four pairs in one 25-acre field (RMP). Wild Turkey broods were reported as follows: two adults with 13 young, McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Md., July 1 (PW), a hen with two young at Oakton, Va., July 9 (KHW) and two hens with 20+ young at Lilypons,

Frederick Co., Md., July 24-Aug. 7 (MW, DHW). King Rails were again found in spring and summer at Sterling, Va., at the Claude Moore Nature Center (CT) and one plus a Least Bittern were at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., July 12 (MO), for interesting Piedmont records. Meanley found Clapper Rails to have had a very good breeding year with 35 active nests along the Chinc. causeway June 5-8 and eight broods seen July 18-20. He also saw dead rail chicks in a nearby Laughing Gull colony. An ad. and five young Virginia Rails were at Chinc., July 10 (KHW) and three large, black young Clapper Rails were in the c. Bay at Bloodsworth I., June 26 (WGK, HTA). Rail-infested Deal Island W.M.A., Md., produced seven Clapper Rails, 18 Virginia Rails and 31 Com. Gallinules July 31 (HTA). The latter species was confirmed as a breeder in D.C., where a nest with 2 eggs was detected May 31 and a chick was seen July 12 at Blue Plains Sewage Plant (DSC+) following 2 years of suspected breeding.

SHOREBIRDS — The July drought produced some excellent wader habitat but by period's end the impoundments at Chinc. were almost completely dried up. On the Virginia E.S. barrier islands in late June shorebird breeders did well with 1223 Am. Oystercatchers, 125 Piping Plovers and 52 Wilson's Plovers counted, the second, second and third highest totals respectively for the past 9 years. Pippings were on 10 islands and Wilson's on 8 (BW, TW, BT, RB, BA, LJ+). Up the Bay at Grandview Beach, Hampton, Va., six Piping Plovers with three young plus a nest with 4 eggs were seen June 4 (BW, RB+). On July 9, 19 were on Assateague I., Md., in company with two Wilson's Plovers, two Wilson's Phalaropes and 25 early Whimbrel (MO). At Chinc., 25 young Piping Plovers were produced (DFH). Forty-nine Black-bellied Plovers were at Parramore I., Va., June 20, a very high mid-summer total (LJ, *fide* BW).

At Chinc., Wilds continued her shorebird surveys with 9 2-day counts completed this period for a frequency of > once a week. Of course the summer period is schizoid since the spring shorebird migration continues until mid-June, nearly overlapping the first southbound yellowlegs, dowitchers, Whimbrel and Least Sandpipers, which may appear as early as late June. Keep this in mind as you peruse her high "seasonal" totals: June 2-3: Ruddy Turnstone 5600, Dunlin 46, Red Knot 331, Semipalmated Sandpiper 15,485, Sanderling 3738; June 8-9: Solitary Sandpiper 1 (very late), White-rumped Sandpiper 3; June 22-23: Black-bellied Plover 18, N. Phalarope 2; July 6-7: Piping Plover 42; July 14-15: Willet 146; July 21-22: Short-billed Dowitcher 1090, Long-billed Dowitcher 14; July 28-29: Semipalmated Plover 200, Whimbrel 22, Spotted Sandpiper 17, Greater Yellowlegs 31, Lesser Yellowlegs 232, Pectoral Sandpiper 65, Least Sandpiper 301, Stilt Sandpiper 182, W. Sandpiper 454, Am. Avocet 7. Also of note are a W. Sandpiper June 8-9 and single Black-necked Stilts June 2-3 & 29-30. Twelve Hudsonian Godwits were at Chinc., July 31 (HTA). The above concentrations are considered "normal" although, because of the drought, the local spots where they were found were not (CPW).

Elsewhere shorebird conditions were good at Deal I., July 31 with 13 species present including 115 Lesser Yellowlegs, seven Solitary Sandpipers, 11 Spotted Sandpipers, 225 Least Sandpipers, six White-rumped Sandpipers, 25 Pectoral Sandpipers, five Stilt Sandpipers and 89 Short-billed Dowitchers (HTA). At Nokesville, Va., a pair of Upland Sandpipers was present until at least June 11 and may have bred (KHB), an unusual event anywhere in the Region. Ten were near Greenfield Rd., and Rt. 85, in Frederick Co., Md., in the third week of July (DHW)-early migrants. Spotted Sandpiper nests are rarely found in this Region and one which produced three flying young by June 25 in D.C., was of special interest (DSC). A late Solitary Sandpiper was in D.C., June 9 (DSC) and the first southbound one was at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., July 12 (PW). Late was a Purple Sandpiper at Ocean City June 5 (KHW) and early were a Pectoral Sandpiper at Chinc., July 9 (RFR) and 10 Least Sandpipers in D.C., June 29 (DSC). At Hooper's I., Md., two Semipalmated Sandpipers and a Dunlin were tardy June 19 (WGK, HTA). Highlights from Craney I. Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Va., included 126 early Short-billed Dowitchers July 8, 1000 Semipalmated Sandpipers June 3 and a peak Am. Avocet tally of only 31 on July 8 (TRW), but 11 avocets at Curles Neck, Va., was a genuine rarity there July 31, the first for the greater Richmond area (FRS, BR, JWD). At Hart and Miller Is., another disposal area e. of Balt., a bonanza of

waders was present July 31 (RFR, HLW, EB+). an Am. Avocet (3rd Balt. County record), a Marbled Godwit (2nd county record), three Willets, two Ruddy Turnstones and the season's only Baird's Sandpiper. The only other Marbled Godwits reported were three at Ship Shoal I., Va., June 21 (TW, *fide* BW). Two N. Phalaropes were seen at Cobb I., Va., June 20 (BW). Also in the late category were three Semipalmated Plovers, a Semipalmated Sandpiper and a Black-bellied Plover at Hampton June 19 (RC).

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMER — Gulls and terns had an excellent breeding season as did other beach nesting birds thanks to the lack of storms and flood tides, a welcome situation in that the previous 2 years saw a number of washouts (BW, MAB JSW). At Barren I., Dorchester Co., Md., the following pairs of breeding birds were seen June 19: Herring Gull 11, Great Black-backed Gull one, Forster's Tern, 35, Black Skimmer 20, Am. Oystercatcher three (these 5 species at their n limit as breeders on the Bay), Least Tern 95 (largest colonies of both in Maryland part of the Bay) and Com. Tern 361 (HTA, GLA, WGK) The skimmer nests (ph.) represent the first breeding record for the Bay in Maryland. Breeding was suspected here in 1982. Ninety-four Great



Black Skimmer nests. Barren I., Dorchester Co., MD. June 19, 1983
Photo/H. T. Armistead.

Black-backed Gulls were also seen here June 19. On the Virginia E S in late June the following numbers of adult birds were estimated as part of the ninth annual survey there: Great Black-backed Gull 128 (highest ever; 5 islands), Herring Gull 3489 (3rd highest; 5 is.), Laughing Gull 9466 (4th lowest; 3 is.; 9000 on Wreck I.) Gull-billed Tern 712 (lowest, 8 is.), Forster's Tern 292 (3rd highest; 3 is.), Com. Tern 5219 (11 is.), Least Tern 1381 (2nd highest; 7 is.), Royal Tern 8500 (2nd highest, 3 is.), Sandwich Tern 140 (highest; one is.), Caspian Tern 4 (2 is.), Black Skimmer 5809 (3rd lowest; 8 is.). Ship Shoal I., which also had no nesting gulls, had the most impressive tern numbers with 300 Gull-billeds, 2650 Commons, 54 Leasts, 3600 Royals, 140 Sandwichs, two Caspians plus 1320 skimmers. Of the 24 nesting waterbird species the Williams *et al.* census of Metomkin and Cobb is. had the greatest variety, each with 19 species and each with good representation of herons, gulls, terns, skimmers and plovers. At Hart and Miller is., Md., a Bonaparte's and a Little Gull were present July 31 (RFR, DM, HK+), the Little probably the same one seen in May. Exceptionally late was an ad. Black-legged Kittiwake off Ocean City June 5 (RN+, *fide* HLW) Two hundred sixty Forster's Terns were at Hart and Miller is., July 31 (RFR+), a fine count for the upper Bay. With perhaps 500 pairs breeding in the Region, about evenly divided between seaside and Bay colonies, and relatively small colonies in the Carolinas it would seem the thousands of Forster's present in late summer-early fall here must include mostly birds from w. and inland populations. At Grandview Beach, Hampton, Va., the Least Tern colony included 800 adults and 275 young were banded here June 4 & 11 (RB, *fide* BW). Three adults and two young in a nest at Currioman Bay, Westmoreland Co., Va., July 9 (JEJ) mark the first breeding in the Potomac R., w. of its mouth since perhaps 1955 (*fide* FRS). The largest seaside colony reported was of 499 adult birds on Cedar I., Va., in late June (BW). Three nests with

eggs, flying juveniles, downy young and adults were all present at Hart and Miller Is., July 31 (RFR +). Several pairs again nested on the roof of the Cambridge, Md. High School (HTA). It would seem Least Terns had an excellent breeding season here. Weske *et al.*, banded 5088 Royal Tern chicks and a record 147 Sandwich Terns on the Virginia E.S., the latter all on Ship Shoal I., an excellent total. He also found 14 Royal nests with eggs and three with small young s. of Shanks I., Va. June 30, for the third breeding record for the Bay, of which there was no trace July 27, the frequent fate of Royal Tern colonies at their extreme n. limit. At Hooper's I., July 30, 310 Royals were a new high for the Maryland part of the Bay (HTA). Two Sandwich Terns were at Ocean City June 4 (WK). A pair each of Caspian Terns attempted to nest, apparently unsuccessfully, on both Ship Shoal and Smith Is., Va. A nest with one egg was found on Ship Shoal I., July 11 (JSW), the tenth consecutive year Caspians have bred on the Virginia E.S.

OWLS THROUGH WAXWINGS — As in 1982 a Great Horned Owl was again found on treeless Wreck I., Va., in the midst of the heronry there June 21 (BW). Long-eared Owls were suspected breeders at Nokesville where Bass found much "sign" June 14: downy feathers, prey remains, etc. in an area where they had been "left alone" since April. Ringler believes Com. Nighthawk is undergoing a gradual decline and on the Virginia E.S. they were only found on Wreck I., whereas they used to occur on 6 or more islands (BW +). At McKee-Beshers W.M.A., six E. Phoebe nests were found flooded out May 16. Four of these pairs re-nested only to be wiped out again by a flood June 6 (PW), symptomatic of troubles other low nesting species may have had this rainy spring. Abbott noted a late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Alexandria June 8. A very far s. and e. Willow Flycatcher at Hopewell June 5 raised hopes of an extralimital nesting but was not seen again (FRS). Horned Lark is another species feared to be in decline (RFR, HTA) but probable breeders were on Assawoman, Metomkin, Hog and Cobb Is., on the Virginia E.S. (BW +).

Tree Swallows continue to be a "growth industry" with 104 young produced at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., third highest in 14 years (PW). The usual mid-summer staging of Bank Swallows at Hopewell was a good one with 3000 seen July 17 (JWD +, *fide* FRS). Of interest at the Lynchburg, Va. "Christmas Count in June" were 63 Rough-winged and two Cliff swallows June 4 (MM +). At Liberty Res., n.w. of Balt., 15 pairs of Cliff Swallows nested in June (RFR, CP). Purple Martins had a disastrous breeding season in many areas owing to excess rains as well as nest box predation by both Com. and Fish crows (MKK, RMP, CZ, EMW) not to mention blowflies, this after a poor year in 1982, but nevertheless the big roost at Salisbury held up to 20,000 by period's end (CRV, *fide* MKK). Czaplak established the first D.C. breeding of Brown Creeper when he found a fledgling with adults June 25 and a nest with two adults was at Battle Cr., Calvert Co., Md., June 5 in loose cypress bark (RA, KHB). Several Long-billed Marsh Wren nests at Liberty Res., represent the first Carroll County, Md., breeding record June 15 (JW, RFR). At Deal I., July 31 were two Short-billed Marsh Wrens (HTA) and up to six were in the Saxis, Va., marshes June 26 (DSp, *fide* CPW). Very late was a Swainson's Thrush at D.C., June 12 (DSC). By all accounts E. Bluebird had a very good nesting season (JAG, GMW, DK +) and the Lynchburg census counted 218 June 4 with all 13 parties reporting them (MM +). About 100 miles s.e. of the nearest other nesting-season bird ever reported in this Region was a singing Golden-crowned Kinglet at Nassawango Cr., Wicomico Co., Md., July 8 in a white cedar swamp (WK). The Lynchburg census reported 99 Cedar Waxwings June 4 seen by 9 parties (MM +).

VIREOS THROUGH SPARROWS — Even on the Piedmont Solitary Vireos are rare breeders so singles at Rocky Gorge Res., Montgomery Co., Md., on 2 days in June (date?; DW, *fide* DB) and at Lynchburg June 4 (*fide* MM) were notable. Also unusual were breeding Warbling Vireos at Alexandria (JMA) and Nokesville June 11-14 (RA, KHB)—a scarce Virginia Piedmont species. Late migrant honors go to a Blackpoll Warbler June 12 plus a Red-eyed Vireo June 14 smack in the middle of D C (DSC), a Canada Warbler banded at Newport News, Va., June 1 (D & MM) and an Am. Redstart on the rocks of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel June 8 (AG) where an early fall redstart was found Aug. 5 (FRS, JWD). Dixon saw a very early N. Waterthrush at Chinc., on Fishing Pt., July 29. Bobolinks were even more erratic than usual with

one at Tuckahoe S P, Caroline Co., Md., June 29 (WR), 20-30 at Sterling, Va., in mid-July (CT), three at Elliott I., Md., July 9 (MO, *fide* CPW), and July 31 these birds: 15 at Tanyard, Caroline Co., Md. (EE), one at Cuckold Pt., e. of Balt. (RFR +) and one at Chinc. (HTA). None of these are known breeding areas. Bobolinks are notoriously late spring birds as well. Witness one at Chinc., June 4 (KS, KHW). Unprecedented is the report of a ♀ **Brewer's Blackbird** in D.C., June 8 (DSC), well described. A summer first for s.e. Virginia was a ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Chippokes Plantation S.P., Surry Co., July 25 (CRB, WE, *fide* FRS). Blue Grosbeaks continue a long-term increase (KHW, CZ, SHD, HTA, FRS, RFR). One of this summer's highlights were small groups of Dickcissels in Maryland at Thawley Rd., Caroline Co. (RFR, MN, EE +), Cordova, Talbot Co. (RFR), Lilypons (RFR), Frederick County (DHW) and in Virginia at Curles Neck (FRS +), Nokesville (KHB, JO, ph.) and Loudoun County (KHW +). Several of these are "new" areas. Heartening as this is almost all of these areas were mowed, sometimes more than once. Next year negotiation with some of the farmers involved will be attempted to try to maintain these pathetically small colonies.

Ringler states that "House Finch probably breeds in every Maryland county, although very locally in some." Three parties had a total of 15 on the June 4 Lynchburg census (MM +). A nest with one egg July 11 set a record early egg date for Am. Goldfinch in Maryland at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. (PW). A notable count of 79 Grasshopper Sparrows was made at Lynchburg June 4 (MM +). These and other sparrows such as Vesper and Savannah not to mention Horned Lark, E. Meadowlark, Killdeer and other field birds should be major P.I.K. program beneficiaries. Watch them closely, especially on future CBCs and B.B.S.s. A Henslow's Sparrow in e. Amelia County, Va., June 15 in a P.I.K. field was the first for c. Virginia in many years (FRS). Seven were at Elliott I., in their usual haunts June 18 (HLW +), with five July 9 (MO, *fide* CPW) and one still singing July 30 (HTA). One of the many plums of the Maryland atlas project has been the discovery of Swamp Sparrows breeding in several places where they have previously been unknown (*cf. Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project (MAP) Newsletter #1, Summer 1984, p. 1*).

OBSERVERS — J.M. Abbott, Bill Akers, R.L. Anderson, Roger Anderson, G.L. Armistead, K.H. Bass, Ruth Beck, C.R. Blem, Erik Blom, Larry Bonham, Ned Brinkley, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Danny Bystrak, Ray Chandler, Nathan Copans, D.S. Czaplak, John & Thelma Dalmas, Steve Dawson, J.W. Dillard, Robert Dixon, P G DuMont, S.H. Dyke, Wendy Ealing, Ethel Engle, A.F. Fletcher, R B Fletcher, J.R. Fulton, J.A. Gregoire, James Gruber, Al Guarente, C.W. Hacker, Floyd Hayes (FHs), Francis Hayman, Greg Hennemuth, D F Holland, H.C. Irving, J.E. Johnson, Leigh Jones, Hank Kaestner, Dennis Kirkwood, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Wayne Kockner, W.G. Kucera, Elwood Martin, Brooke Meanley (BMy), Bob Melville (BMv), Debbie Mignogno, Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, Myriam Moore, Nancy Morgan, Bill Murphy, Ron Naveen, Paul Nistico, Erica Nol, Darryl Nottingham, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Harold Olson, Joe Ondrejko, R M Patterson, Carl Perry, Darrell Peterson, Bill Portlock, George Reiger, R.F. Ringler, Wilbur Rittenhouse, Betsy Roszell, R.P. Russell, Kurt Savoie, D. Schupp (DSp), R.M. Schutsky, F.R. Scott, Dot Silsby, Paul Spitzer, Byron Swift, Brian Taber, Barry Truitt (BTt), Craig Tufts, C.R. Vaughn, Jerry Via, D.H. Wallace, Pete Webb (Pwb), K.H. Weber, Michael Welch, J.S. Weske, Joy Wheeler, Tom Wieboldt, H L Wierenga, David Wilcove, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, G.M. Williamson, E.M. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, Paul Woodward, Jean Worthley, Ben Yokel, Charles Ziegenfus.—**HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.**



SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The Southeast enjoyed a somewhat normal June, with seasonal precipitation and temperatures. However, July was another matter. The Bermuda high that usually sits off our coast in July and August (pumping very warm, moist air with southwesterly winds) never developed. Instead, high pressure stationed over the mid-South brought hot and very dry westerly winds to the Region. July was extremely dry except along the immediate coast, but no major coastal storms occurred. Certainly it was one of the hottest months on record in many cities.

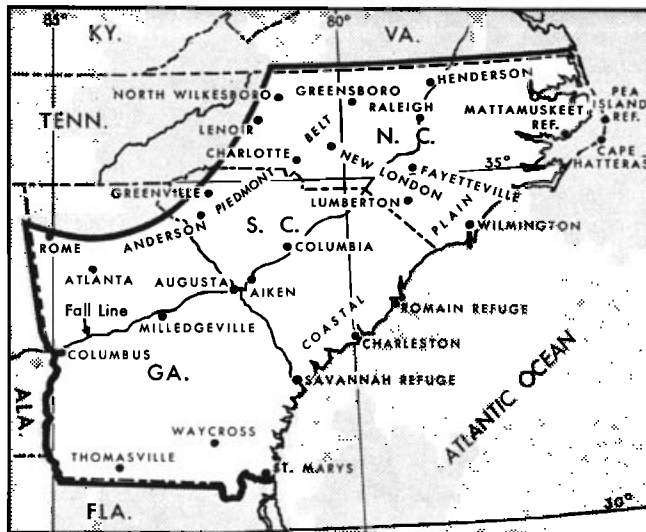
Breeding success for most species was good to excellent. Whether or not the colonially-nesting waterbirds of the coast and Coastal Plain bred successfully again remained a mystery. Did Wood Storks again nest in South Carolina? Do Caspian Terns still breed in North Carolina? Is Georgia still without a breeding record for Brown Pelican? Does anyone know?

One highlight of the season was a surprising number of pelagic rarities, especially off Georgia, where Haney added a handful of first state records this spring and summer. Another was the Payment-in-Kind (hereafter, P.I.K.) program of the U.S. Government, whereby thousands of acres of fields were allowed to remain unplanted. Grasshopper Sparrow was a major beneficiary of the P.I.K. program, and perhaps also the Dickcissel, which nests sporadically and in very small numbers in the Region. Several species again nested far from their normal mid-western range, and colonies of Henslow's Sparrows may have bred in the Region for the first time in decades.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — A number of pelagic trips this season produced excellent results, highlighted by Haney's 2 5-day stints off the Georgia coast. He spent June 16-20 from 70-80 mi offshore: tubenoses seen were 59 Greater, 114 Cory's, one Sooty, and 113 Audubon's shearwaters; 81 Black-capped Petrels; 15 Leach's Storm-Petrels (for the first Georgia record), and 138 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Also recorded on this trip were an imm. White-tailed Tropicbird and Georgia's second **Blue-faced Booby**. Haney's July 11-15 trip produced (in Georgia waters) 50 Greater, 530 Cory's, and 16 Audubon's shearwaters; six Black-capped Petrels; 51 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and a **Harcourt's Storm-Petrel**, seen for one hour with Wilson's Storm-Petrels for a first state record. He also had a **Blue-faced Booby** (ph.) in South Carolina waters, for a first confirmed record for that state. Forsythe ran 4 trips off Charleston, S.C., during July, but he had only small numbers of Greater, Cory's, and Audubon's shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Pelagic trips taken by W. Irvin off Morehead City, N.C., produced two Leach's Storm-Petrels June 18 and a "95% sure" Harcourt's Storm-Petrel. He mentioned a possible new "field mark"—despite the boat's travelling at 20 knots, the petrel outraced it! Irvin commented that Dave Lee has noticed this fast-flying, "boat-out-racing" behavior of Harcourt's, apparently not a feature of Leach's or Wilson's.

Two tropicbirds (sp.?) were seen onshore in Carteret County, N.C.: an adult perched on a post at Cape Lookout June 16 (GE) and one seen flying over the Morehead City to Atlantic Beach bridge July 27 (LC). Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase on inland waters, with excellent summer counts of 12 on Roanoke Rapids, L., N.C., June 1 (ML, HL, KM); 25+ in s.e. Bertie County, N.C., May 28 (ML, KM); and a peak of 22 during the season at Jordan L., near Chapel Hill, N.C., July 2 (C.H.B.C.). An Anhinga was again found June 21 near Fayetteville, N.C., where breeding is suspected (PJC, JH). Only one Magnificent Frigatebird was found, that on May 31 at Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (HWF *et al.*), undoubtedly owing to the absence of coastal storms.

WADERS, WATERFOWL — As usual, there was little input from birders on the fate of heronries in the Region, and thus most reports again relate to post-breeding waders inland. Notable inland counts included 45 Little Blue Herons at Sam's L., near Atlanta, Ga., July 31 (PB, HG); 63 Great Egrets July 23 at Falls L., near Durham, N.C. (RD); five Snowy Egrets at Jordan L., July 31 (RD); and three Louisiana Herons July 28 at Jordan L. (BW, MW). A Black-crowned Night Heron was rare at Clemson, S.C., July 29 (DM), particularly since it was seen eating cockroaches on a sidewalk at midnight! Yellow-crowned Night



Hérons were reported from 7 inland sites, but none involved obviously breeding individuals; the best count was of three near Atlanta July 4-9 (PB, DB). Four Am. Bitterns at L. Mattamuskeet, N.C., June 3 (AB) was an excellent number for the month and perhaps indicates a moderate nesting population. Knowledge of this species' breeding numbers and distribution in the Region is quite incomplete. The rare inland Glossy Ibis was found in late summer at Jordan L., with a peak of three (*vide* BW) and near Fayetteville, with 11 on July 1 (BM). At Charlotte, N.C., a group of 14+ ad. White Ibises July 14 (HW) was quite unusual, since most post-breeding inland sightings involve immatures. The best count of immatures was of nine in late July at Jordan L. (BW *et al.*). Now regular in coastal Georgia, a Roseate Spoonbill at Jekyll I., June 17-18 (HG, LG *et al.*) was, nonetheless, the season's rarest wader.

A ♀ Blue-winged Teal with three immatures near Augusta, Ga., July 1 (AW) suggested breeding, but this could not be confirmed. Ring-necked Ducks again summered in the Atlanta area, with as many as ten birds at 3 sites (*vide* TM). Notable near the North Carolina coast were single Lesser Scaup at L. Mattamuskeet June 4 (AB) and at Sunset Beach July 17 (PJC), and a Surf Scoter at Harkers I., July 18 (SP).

KITES THROUGH COOTS — The Swallow-tailed Kite is a rather rare breeder in Georgia, thus, a count of nine along the Satilla R., July 1 (D & DC, BR) was notable, as was another kite near New Bern, N.C., July 3 (BeW, *vide* BH). A North Carolina record 36 Mississippi Kites, all apparently adults, were present in a single flock at their usual breeding (?) spot e. of Scotland Neck June 3 (ML, HL, KM). In Georgia, two Mississippi were near the n. edge of their range at Hamburg S.P., June 17 (NI), whereas one n. of Clarksville Aug. 12 (EJR) was presumably a post-breeding wanderer. As usual, a few summer reports were received for Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, but none were suggestive of breeding. Both species *do* nest in the Region, but they are among our rarest and least known breeders. Along the edge of its range was a pair of Broad-winged Hawks at Sandhills S.F., Chesterfield Co., S.C., June 10 (JEC), as was an adult near Fayetteville July 6 (TC). Perhaps a Regional first was a **Bald Eagle** nest in the Piedmont; a pair bred this winter and spring in Newberry County, S.C., along the Broad R., fledging one young (*vide* JEC). An eagle hacking project was begun this year at L. Mattamuskeet, N.C., the state's last (but unfortunately former) regular nesting site. Non-breeding eagles were found well inland at Augusta (*vide* AW), and in North Carolina at Roanoke Rapids L. (ML *et al.*), Pee Dee R. (*vide* RDB), and at Jordan L. (RD, AT, TS). Although Marsh Hawks probably breed at 1 or 2 places in e. North Carolina, four or five in coastal Carteret County were considered likely by Fussell to have been non-breeders, as perhaps was another in n.e. Beaufort County, N.C., June 2 (ML, HL, KM). A very early migrant was a Marsh Hawk in w. Ft. Bragg, N.C., July 20 (JHC). A Peregrine Falcon was out of season at Morehead City, N.C., June 12 (WI, FI), and probably the same bird was noted again July 24 (WI). The falcon was likely a Cornell University descendent. American Kestrels were reported from numerous places in the North Carolina Piedmont, with breeding noted at the Oxford-Henderson airport (RD), downtown Charlotte (RDB), and Ire-

dell County (RDB), and probable breeding in w Ft Bragg (JHC). Two King Rails at Falls L., near Durham July 23 (RD) may have been breeders whereas Piedmont Am. Coots in the Atlanta area all summer (PB), Jordan L., June 25 (RD), and Toccoa, Ga., July 18 (DaC) were certainly not breeders.

SHOREBIRDS — A Black-necked Stilt nest at Ft. Macon S.P., N.C., June 13 (JF) was a new breeding site for the state, and nesting was again detected at impoundments in n.e. Pamlico County, N.C., July 30-31 (PJC, MWh, GL). Very rare inland were two Am. Avocets in Atlanta July 31 (PB, HG), and along the coast, also on that date, were 30 at the Savannah spoil area, S.C. (JC) and three at Davis, N.C. (JF). Among late spring migrants at Clayton County, Ga., were a Semipalmated Plover June 5 (HG, LG), five Semipalmated Sandpipers June 8 (PB), and eight White-rumped Sandpipers June 5 (PB, HG, LG, TM). A major range extension of the **Piping Plover** was noted this summer at Sunset Beach, N.C., over 100 mi s. of the previous range limit on Shackleford Banks. Several were displaying July 3 (MO), and seven +, including a pair with a chick, were seen July 17 (PJC). Fussell made an exhaustive survey of breeding plovers between Ocracoke Inlet and Cape Lookout, N.C.; totals were 19 pairs of Pippings and 37 pairs of Wilson's. Three Hudsonian Godwits were rather early at Pea I., N.C., July 24 (PC) Twenty Whimbrels circling overhead in c. Halifax County, N.C., June 3 (FE) and another in flight at Falls L., July 30 (RD) provided very rare inland records. Portsmouth I., N.C., is one of the "best kept secret" shorebird hotspots in the East. Fussell had a peak count of three Long-billed Curlews July 22, in addition to a Curlew Sandpiper July 22 and two others July 23. Good finds at Raleigh July 31 were a Ruddy Turnstone and a Wilson's Phalarope (RD) with a best count of four Wilson's recorded at Ft. Macon S.P., N.C., July 29 (JF, DeC). Quite early were Com. Snipes at Davis, N.C., July 17 (JF) and L. Mattamuskeet July 29 (AB). White-rumped Sandpipers are generally late-migrating birds in fall, thus four at Falls L. (RD) and 15+ in n.e. Pamlico County, July 30 (PJC *et al.*) were early. The rather elusive Baird's Sandpiper was reported only once—near Clemson, S.C., July 31 (Sg *et al.*) Good counts of Stilt Sandpipers, all in North Carolina, were 155 at Pea-Bodie I., July 28 (AB), 80 at Davis July 31 (JF, BP), and 20 in Pamlico County July 30-31 (PJC). Another Stilt at Atlanta July 31 (HG, PB) provided the third local record. Last, but certainly not least, a Ruff at Davis July 17 (JF) provided a "red-letter" find.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Haney turned up Georgia's first **South Polar Skua** (ph.) on his June 16-20 pelagic trip, in addition to a skua (sp.?) and six Pomarine Jaegers. Another skua (sp.?) was seen on his July 11-15 trip off Georgia, as was another off Beaufort Inlet, N.C., June 13 (WI, FI). Most unusual was a Pomarine Jaeger seen resting on the shore of Bogue Sound in Morehead City June 5 (JF). Fussell found two Herring Gull nests with eggs on Portsmouth I., in late June, the first such instance of nesting by the species on a barrier island in North Carolina. Notable inland in summer were two Ring-billed Gulls at Clayton County, Ga., July 22 (PB). Forster's Terns appeared there July 31 (HG, PB) and at Falls L., July 30 (RD). Common Terns were at L. Hartwell, S.C., July 21 (DaC, TSt) and Falls L., July 3 (RD), while two Caspians summered at Jordan L. (RD) and Falls L., July 4 (JM). A Roseate Tern at Cape Lookout, N.C., June 30, plus two on the following day (JF), gave rise to the hope that breeding might occur there as happened once in the 1970s, however, Fussell saw no indication of nesting behavior. Haney found a few Sooty and Bridled terns on both of his Georgia pelagic trips, plus 17 Bridleds off South Carolina in July. Forsythe also had a few Bridleds on 3 of his 4 trips off Charleston in July, while W. Irvin had four Sooties off Beaufort Inlet June 18. Encouraging was the report of a few Least Terns nesting on the roof of the recently-built Citadel Mall, just s. of Charleston (TR), where adults were seen bringing fish in their bills to the roof. This is apparently the second instance of roof nesting by Least Terns in the Region, with both sites located in the Charleston area.

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — As the Black-billed Cuckoo is only a casual breeder in the Region, single birds in n. Edgecombe County, N.C., June 3 (HL, ML) and Jordan L., July 4 (BW, MW) were presumed nonbreeders. Eastern Kingbird numbers were considered much below normal in several parts of the North Carolina Piedmont. Could this decline in any way be related to that of the

endangered Loggerhead Shrike? The Gray Kingbird again nested at Sea I., Ga.; an adult and three young were noted June 18 (HG, LG, DB, PB). Another Gray was at nearby Jekyll I., June 19 (DB, PB). Belatedly reported were two **Western Kingbirds** at Kings Mountain, S.P., S.C., Mar. 28 (BHi *et al.*); the very few "spring" reports for the Region have typically been in late May and June. Surprisingly, **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** again nested in n. Laurens County, S.C. (JEC *et al.*). This season's nest was built in a tree just several hundred feet from last year's site; an adult was on the nest May 17. Several Willow Flycatchers were again found on territory June 8+ at Winston-Salem (RS, ED), the only Regional locale consistently reporting the species in summer.

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — A Bank Swallow at Cape Lookout July 2 was a very early migrant (JF). Lynch counted 67 active Cliff Swallow nests under bridges at L. Gaston, N.C., June 1 with several other nests found at Jordan L., (*fide* BW) and at the N.C. 109 bridge on the Anson-Richmond county line (DM). These sites in North Carolina lie along the e. edge of the range. Fish Crows were reported at High Point, N.C. (PRF) and in South Carolina at Rock Hill (AEC), Catawba (AEC), and Newry (PBH) near the w. edge of their slowly expanding breeding range. Short-billed Marsh Wrens do not conclusively nest in the Region, but for the second consecutive summer large numbers were reported singing in marshes in n.e. Pamlico County, N.C. (PJC *et al.*). These late July reports, plus a report of the species being "common" in nearby marshes Aug. 10, 1965 (*Chat* 29:105-106) are baffling, as other birders have reported numbers of Long-billed Marsh Wrens, and no Short-billeds, in Pamlico marshes. Are Short-billeds actually present, and if so, are they nesting? Rare for the s. coast of South Carolina was a successful nesting by Am. Robins at Charleston July 5 (TR), but a situation that bears watching in future summers is the Wood Thrush population, since several observers mentioned declines at scattered points in the Region. The second nesting record for **Cedar Waxwing** in South Carolina was established when McNair found a nest near Newry, whereas a waxwing at Jordan L., was very early July 31 (RD). The Solitary Vireo continues to breed in good numbers in Umstead S.P., near Raleigh, where LeGrand had 2 instances of adults feeding juveniles.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS — Lynch *et al.* found Black-and-white Warblers in a number of counties in n.e. North Carolina Beaufort, Gates, Halifax, Martin, and Warren. Most were in bay swamps, but several (in Warren County) were in cut-over hardwoods with scattered dead trees. Worm-eating Warblers have been found to be common in certain bay swamps and pocosins in e. North Carolina, and at least seven were noted in Hall Swamp, Martin and Beaufort Cos., May 28 and June 2 (ML, HL, KM). The species was also found in that state's c. Piedmont, where very rare in summer, in Uwharrie N.F., in June (JG, LoG, SA), and in the w. Piedmont, where very uncommon, at Crowders Mountain S.P., in May and June (PH). A singing Blue-winged Warbler at 1750 ft elevation was noted June 17 at Mountain Rest., Oconee Co., S.C. (DM). This provided the third state record of an apparently territorial bird, but no conclusive breeding evidence has yet been found. Along the Region's w. border were three or four singing Cerulean Warblers at Chimney Rock Park, N.C., in June (RDB, JCo). Near the e. edge of the Scarlet Tanager's breeding range were individuals near Southern Pines, N.C., June 27 (JH) and near Palmetto, Ga., June 6 (DeM, PM).

FINCHES — This was the first growing season in which the U.S. Government's P.I.K. farm program was implemented. Thousands of acres that would have been cultivated were left fallow, and thus suitable for breeding grassland birds. The **Dickcissel** was previously unknown in summer in the North Carolina Coastal Plain, but Lynch had four singing males and a female at 3 sites in Halifax County May 19-July 10, in fallow fields that might otherwise have contained corn, soybeans, or peanuts. Another singing male near Plains, Ga., June 25 (MO) was extremely rare for the s. part of that state. Much remains to be learned about the Dickcissel distribution in the Region, but the status can only be enhanced upon continuation of the P.I.K. program. Clemson became the second known South Carolina breeding locality for the House Finch, as 2 nests were discovered on the Clemson University campus May 13 and July 14 (PBH, SW). At the e. limit of the breeding range in North

Carolina, conclusive nesting was reported from Roanoke Rapids (FE) and Rocky Mount (CS, *vide* LF), and presumed breeding again occurred at Fayetteville (PJC, HR). Another P.I.K. beneficiary was the Grasshopper Sparrow. Lynch noted impressive increases in numbers in the n. Coastal Plain of North Carolina, with approximately 36 singing birds this summer in Halifax, Edgecombe, and Nash cos. Three more Grasshoppers July 23 (PIC) were Fayetteville's first ever summer occurrences.

S.A.

The first territorial Henslow's Sparrows in the Region in at least 30 years provided the outstanding find of the season. Although nesting formerly occurred at a few Piedmont sites in North Carolina and at one in South Carolina, these Henslow's were in the North Carolina Coastal Plain in clearcut pocosins! Lynch found two singing birds May 28 in s.e. Martin County and three were found there into late June (ML, HL, KM). Three more were singing at 2 sites in adjacent Beaufort County June 2 (ML, HL). The habitats occupied by these birds are the first ever reported for the species during the breeding season, and they ranged from a weed-covered field of planted Loblolly Pine saplings (with Sweet Bay saplings and sundews) to a field of waist-high cane devoid of saplings. This represents a major range extension, the closest locations of present breeding being in n. Virginia near Dulles Airport and Saxis.

In 1981, Lark Sparrows were astonishingly found nesting near Derby, Richmond Co., N.C., but the nesting locale was apparently not checked last year. In 1983, non-singing birds were seen at the same 2 sites May 17-18 (DM), and a singing bird was found June 25 (RD). Thus, breeding may have occurred in both 1982 and 1983. A singing

Bachman's Sparrow in s. Halifax County, N.C., May 31 (ML, HL) to mid-June (AB) may have furnished the first breeding season record for the state's n. Coastal Plain. Song Sparrows continued to be reasonably common at Rock Hill, S.C., but they were not found in towns to the s (AEC). Although the inland race's range expansion into the Piedmont in the 1960s seems to have been dormant lately, Fussell continued to extend the s. limits of the Atlantic race, finding a few singing birds June 19 on the n. portions of Core Banks, N.C. Out of season, but notable nonetheless, were 30-33 Lapland Longspurs at the Laurinburg-Maxton airfield, N.C., Dec. 22 for a probable state record (DM). This total was all the more surprising because the 1982-83 winter was a mild one with a poor flight of Horned Larks into the Region.

OBSERVERS — Stanley Alford, Donna Brisse, Patrick Brisse, R.D Brown, Allen Bryan, Derb Carter (DeC), J.H. Carter III, J.E. Cely, Chapel Hill Bird Club, James Clark, Paul Clyne, Joey Cochran (JC), Dan Cohan (DaC), Don & Doris Cohrs, A.E. Conway, Larry Crawford, P.J. Crutchfield, Tom Crutchfield, Evelyn Dabbs, Ricky Davis, Ginger Eisenman, Frank Enders, Lou Fink, P.R. Ford, Dennis Forsythe, H.W Freeman, John Fussell, Jay Garner, Lois Garner (LoG), Hugh Garrett, Liz Garrett, Sid Gauthreaux, P.B. Hamel, Chris Haney, Paul Hart, Bill Hilton (BH*i*), Bob Holmes, Jarvis Hudson, Nancy Iha, Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin, Gary Lancaster, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, Karen Masson, Dennie McClure (DeM), Pam McClure, Jim McConnell, Bob McMillan, Douglas McNair, Terry Moore, Mark Oberle, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Skip Prange, Henry Rankin, Tom Reeves, E.J. Reimann, Bran Richey, Tony Shrimpton, Ramona Snavelly, Carr Speight, Tim Stewart (TSt), Andy Towle, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Steve Wagner, Ben Warren (BeW), Anne Waters, Morris Whitfield (MWh), Harriet Whitsett.—HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.

FLORIDA REGION

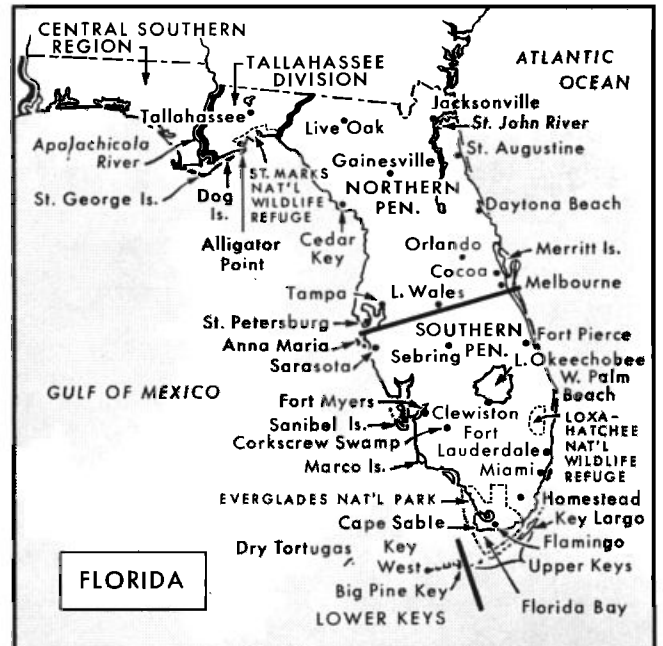
/Richard T. Paul

Last year I thanked the other Florida seasonal editors for allowing me to poach their nesting records. This time I'm stealing their introductions! For the dominant weather event in Florida affecting the breeding season was not a drought or hurricane, but the appearance of El Niño last winter (see brief review by Bock and Larson, AB 37:275). That periodic phenomenon not only caused well-publicized nesting failures in the Pacific, but was associated with unusual weather here. Instead of low water levels and dry weather in February and March, Florida had a monsoon. Total rainfall in the Tampa area for those two months was 14.9 inches, almost three times normal. Results included a thorough interruption of winter and early spring nesting efforts by herons and spoonbills in south Florida, and delayed nesting by many other species (see Herb Kale's Spring report).

Through the summer period, wetlands and lakes remained full as above-normal rains continued. At Tampa, about 40 inches of rain had fallen in the seven months ending in July, about 45 percent above normal.

ABBREVIATIONS: A.B.S.—Archbold Biological Station; C.S.P.M.—Clear Springs Phosphate Mine; D.T.—Dry Tortugas; E.N.P.—Everglades National Park; S.G.I.—St. George Island; T.T.—Tall Timbers Research Station; *—specimen.

LOONS THROUGH BOOBIES — A single Com. Loon in basic plumage was found at S.G.I., June 2 (HS), and presumably was summering. Pied-billed Grebes counted at Zellwood July 31 totalled about 150 (HK, KD), the highest count reported this season. Five Pied-billed nests were found at A.B.S., in March and April, in an area where there is normally no pond (CW). These were the first nests at the Station since at least 1967. An extraordinary Yellow-nosed Albatross was photographed at St. Marks N.W.R., July 3 by Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Valpey-Toussignant. The photographs revealed the gray head typical of the nominate race *chlororhynchos*, which breeds on Tristan de Cunha. This



represented the first documented albatross record from Florida (*vide* LA).

Reports of shearwaters were extremely sparse this year, with just four Cory's and one Audubon's seen off Ponce de Leon Inlet July 21 (TR CT). Were there no other pelagic trips, no reports, or no birds? A Greater Shearwater was picked up on the beach at Cape Sable July 27 (D. & L. King), but was unfortunately not kept. Up to three White-tailed Tropicbirds, first seen in March at D.T., were still present June 16-19 to the delight of many observers. White Pelicans summered again in c Florida, with 250 found at the C.S.P.M., July 3 (PF, PT). The annual statewide aerial survey of nesting Brown Pelicans turned up 6980 pairs,

fewer than in recent years, however most colonies were several weeks later than usual and the survey missed peak nesting efforts (SN). A single Masked Booby was found at D.T., June 19 (JD), with 1-4 Brown Boobies at the same location June 14-22 (JD). Single Gannets were reported June 6 at Alligator Pt. (HS), and June 18 at Dog. I. (CHW). These furnished the second and third summer records for the Tallahassee Division (HS). Solitary Double-crested Cormorants in Leon County June 5, 15 & 17 were considered rare (GM). Unusual also were two Magnificent Frigatebirds at Alligator Pt., June 3 (RC).

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS — Coverage of heronries was spotty this year, producing few reports. Archbold's first ever Green Heron nest was found in April (FL), a testament to the high water conditions. Nesting Reddish Egrets were quite successful at Alafia Bank in Tampa Bay (RP), but reports from other areas were lacking. High counts of Great and Snowy egrets at Duda Farms near Belle Glade July 24 were 500 and 360, respectively. Over 500 pairs of Snowies were estimated at Bird Key (Terra Ceia Bay) in May (RP). Least Bitterns were reported from 3 areas, with GM and HS reporting them common in ideal habitat at L. Jackson throughout the period.

Despite the abnormally wet winter, Wood Storks managed to nest fairly successfully. All told, at least 4275 pairs nested at 23 colonies, and produced at least 7500 young. Of the large s. Florida colonies, only Corkscrew Swamp was active with 2200 pairs nesting there in December and January. Six hundred pairs survived the winter rains, and 500 re-nested in April. It is believed that the other 1100 pairs also re-nested at colonies forming in spring in c. and n. Florida (BP).

Glossy Ibises nested at C.S.P.M., with a peak count of 193 birds May 30 (PF). They also nested at Alafia Bank, where 210 pairs were found (RP). White Ibises at Alafia numbered 10,000 pairs in May, double the population of 1981 and 1982. A full-plumaged ad. Scarlet Ibis was seen flying with a flock of White Ibises at Hypoluxo I., July 23 (PS). Roseate Spoonbills fared poorly in their Florida Bay nesting colonies owing to high winter water conditions, but 25 ± pairs nesting at Alafia Bank produced at least 40 young (RP).

WATERFOWL — The peak count of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Duda Farms, this year was 780 July 17, including broods of all ages (PS, BH, WS). One week earlier, the same observers found 765 Mottled Ducks at the same site. A ♀ Blue-winged Teal with 8-10 young was found June 7 on L. Jessup, Seminole Co. (C.L. Abercrombie & M. L. Jennings), providing an interesting report. A ♂ N. Shoveler, either a refugee from last year's hunting season or perhaps a summering bird, spent much of June and July near Alafia Bank (RP), as did three Lesser Scaup. Another scaup was seen at C.S.P.M., June 12 (PF). Twenty-one Ruddy Ducks were counted June 29 at the Occidental Chemical company's mine at White Springs, but no young were reported (VW). A pair of **Masked Ducks** was found in a flooded rice field 6 mi s. of S. Bay, Palm Beach Co., July 6 (F. Johnson & T. Regan). A day later the female was caught and banded, providing the first summer record for the state (PS). No nest or young were found.

HAWKS — Sixteen Swallow-tailed Kites perched in one tree near Prairie Lakes State Preserve July 17 (TP) must have been a spectacular sight. The mid-winter Everglade Kite survey turned up 302 birds, suggesting continued population recovery (JR). Most exciting were the 2 nests found in E.N.P., by S. Beissinger, the first since the park was established. However, little nesting occurred in L. Okeechobee, where few birds have returned since the drought of 1980-81. Also in E.N.P., three kites were found at Taylor Slough July 14 (CM). A Short-tailed Hawk was reported from the area of the Suwannee R. mouth July 10 by LW, who noted them there all summer. The statewide Bald Eagle survey revealed 326 active territories (not including E.N.P. data, so the total must exceed 350), which produced 1.0 young/pair (SN). A single eagle seen July 10 & 17 at L. Talquin (T. Savage) provided one of the few mid-summer records in the Tallahassee Div. (GM). Six reports of Am. Kestrels were received; seven young were produced from boxes in the Duval County Audubon kestrel trail (BL, MH). Seven kestrels, including a recently fledged brood of three, were seen near Gibsonton June 16 (RP), and a pair was found near El Jobean July 17 (BC). Single birds were near Ocala June 29 (PF), and crossing I-75 near Ruskin July 1 (RP) and Port Charlotte July 17 (L&BA).

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Two Sandhill Cranes were seen in Madison County July 4 (D. Bryan). Although known to breed in the area, they are rarely seen. "Many" Purple Gallinules with large young were at Zellwood July 31 (HK & KD). Counts of Com. Gallinules at Duda Farms peaked at 770 July 17th (PS *et al.*). In the last few years numbers of Am. Oystercatchers have apparently been increasing in Florida. The latest signs were a flock of 130 including eight flightless young, found July 11 on a sand bar at the mouth of the Suwannee R (LW), and SC's report that they were "very common" nesters on S.G. I One Piping Plover was reported, this from Honeymoon I., June 11 (TP). Two Snowy Plovers—but no certain evidence of nesting—were found on a spoil island in Tampa Bay June 26 (RP). Wilson's Plovers, abundant during the last 2 nesting seasons on Tampa Bay spoil islands, were inexplicably absent in June (RP). On the other hand, one was unusual at D.T., June 21 (JD). A late Whimbrel was at D.T., June 17-19 (JD *et al.*), while another was unusual inland at Duda July 10 (PS, WS, BH). Three Pectoral Sandpipers, rare in the Gainesville area, were found there July 27 (BM). Also unusual were two White-rumped Sandpipers at C.S.P.M., June 12. Stilt Sandpipers were detected in small numbers at Zellwood July 31 (HK, KD). Seven Semipalmated Sandpipers at the Tallahassee sewage plant June 1 were thought to be unusually late spring migrants. One was still present June 12 (GM), but was the Western in basic plumage, collected June 6 at Alligator Pt., bound anywhere in particular (HS, *T.T.)? Marbled Godwits may have summered in Hillsborough Bay, with six seen June 4 and three July 2 (RP). After seeing 100+ Am. Avocets on a Hillsborough Bay spoil island June 26, many in alternate plumage, there is now speculation that they breed in Florida. Several reports of Black-necked Stilts ranging from the D.T., to Jacksonville attested to their general abundance. Fifty-six at Blount I., Aug 6 were the most-ever for Duval Co. (PP). The highest count for stilts anywhere in the state was 1250, including young, at Duda Farms July 10 (PS, WS, BH).

LARIDS — A "large" jaeger sp. was spotted 7 mi w. of the Suwannee R. mouth June 18 (LW), too far off to identify. A few Ring-billed Gulls normally summer in interior Florida, and this year two immatures were considered unusual at L. Ella in Leon Co., where they remained through July. Laughing Gulls were reported inland in Leon County June 21 (100+ birds—GM), and at Zellwood (HK, KD) and Osteen (DF) July 31. In Tampa Bay there was a pronounced shift of nesting birds away from the big Bayway and Passage Key colonies, and to Hillsborough Bay spoil islands. This is probably owing partly to the closing of the Toytown Dump in St. Petersburg, but also to habitat losses at Passage Key and Bayway. The latter site is now being developed (SP, RP). A sub-adult Franklin's Gull was found at the Hillsborough Heights landfill near Tampa in June (SP), for the state's second summer record.

Gull-billed Terns were reported from 3 sites. Fourteen were at Duda Farms July 10 (PS *et al.*) where they have nested in previous years. At C.S.P.M., two were present June 12 and three July 3 (PF, PT), while three incubating birds were found in a skimmer colony in Hillsborough Bay June 26 (RP). A Forster Tern in "full breeding plumage" was at Duda July 10 (PS *et al.*), while the peak count at C.S.P.M. was of 234 July 16 (PF). Roseate and Least terns were courting at Truman Annex rooftops in Key West May 11, but no further reports of their progress were received (KW). At least 24 Roseates were seen at D.T., June 14-22, but no nests were found (JD, *et al.*). Four Bridled Terns were found off Ponce de Leon Inlet July 21 (TR, CT).

Least Terns nested inland at the White Springs mine (VW), C.S.P.M. (PF), with 80 birds at the latter site July 10, and in Leon County (GM). Rooftop colonies were again found in s. Jacksonville (PP), and also in Bradenton (L. Thompson) and, for the second time, in Tallahassee (GM). About 780 pairs of Royal Terns were counted at Passage Key May 26 (BZ, SP), where this year they were highly successful. Sandwich Terns were present at the same colony, although not seen at a nest. Caspian Terns nested again at Alafia Bank and at 2 new, nearby sites. In total, 30 pairs were found (RP), double the population of the last 2 years, and close to the previous high for the state. Black Terns were common migrants on the Gulf Coast during July, with the highest count 250 in Hillsborough Bay on the 30th. Inland at C.S.P.M., the high count was of 60 July 17 (PF). One Black Noddy was seen at D.T., July 2 (SB). Sykes *et al.* found Black Skimmers at Duda Farms throughout July, with 45 the high count. In Tampa Bay, at least 800 pairs nested at 5 colonies, providing the highest total in recent years (RP, BZ, SP).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A White-winged Dove was seen flying E at S.G.I., June 2, an unusual date at locality. Ringed Turtle Doves are now common in the Homestead area (SB), and apparently spreading. One was found in E.N.P., June 21 (SB) and another in Ft. Myers July 9-11 (Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Egbert). The latter may be the first report from that area. Still another was at Haines City June 13 (TP). Surprisingly, three Monk Parakeets lingered at Ft. Jefferson, D.T., throughout the period (*vide* SB). A Budgerigar was also found in E.N.P., date unknown (CM). Twenty-seven Burrowing Owls, including many immatures, were found July 10 in n. Jacksonville by S. Grimes. This was a heartening report, but also the only one; more attention to this species around the state in time for the 1984 Summer Season report would be welcomed. A hummingbird (sp.) that lacked caution, if not courage, was found one mi off the Suwanee R. mouth heading W July 11 (LW).

SWALLOWS THROUGH MYNAS — A Bank Swallow at D.T., June 19 was worth noting (JD *et al.*) Two Rough-winged Swallows at S.G.I., June 2 led HS to wonder about the possibility of nesting, but there were no further indications. On the other hand, there were numerous signs of nesting Barn Swallows. The most exciting was the nest at Flamingo in May. Although the adults remained until June 26, the pair was unsuccessful (SB). Details will be published elsewhere. About 20 pairs nested at the Carabelle colony in Franklin County (LA, HS) and the first Leon County nest was found June 10 under a bridge across the Ocklockonee R. (GM). Two more nests were found June 22 in e. Duval County (PP). Two Cliff Swallows were found apparently nesting at the Carabelle colony June 12, but on the 25th they were gone and Barns were using the nest (HS). Purple Martins nesting in Tampa normally depart S. in June, but other migrants provided local records for some time thereafter. Perhaps the same thing happened in Orlando, where DF reported some martins still present July 29.

A Carolina Chickadee was at Casey Key June 28, where it was somewhat s. of its usual range (S & AS). S. Christman, unable to find any Long-billed Marsh Wrens after May 9 on S.G.I., expressed concern about the status of the local race *marianae*. If observers will pay particular attention to this form over the next year, this Region's editors will summarize the findings. Gray Catbirds were "vociferous at their Leon County nesting site throughout the summer" (GM), and a singing male was also found in n.w. Baker County July 28 (DM). Nesting Brown Thrashers in e. Palm Beach County seemed to be on the increase, with

Sykes and Hope finding them common this year. One Am. Robin singing in s. Jacksonville June 9-13 raised the possibility of nesting there (PP), while another in Gainesville during the last 2 weeks of July was thought to be merely an early visitor (Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Watson). Hill Mynas continued to spread, evidenced by a pair building a nest near Jupiter Apr. 17 (JP, LS).

VIREOS THROUGH SPARROWS — A Yellow-throated Vireo in Orlando June 9 was near the s. range limit (HK). Three Red-eyes at S.G.I., June 2 might have been considered late migrants but one collected was a female with an egg in oviduct. (One,—*T.T—HS). Eleven Red-eyes seen at Saddle Cr. Preserve July 24 & 30 were among the early southbound migrants (PF, TP). Early southbound warblers included a Black-and-white at San Felasco State Preserve in Gainesville July 9 (BM), and a Yellow-throated at Casey Key July 5 (S & AS). A Prairie Warbler in s.e. Leon County June 13 was the first local record and may represent a slight range extension (GM). An Am. Redstart at D.T., June 17-18 was quite late (JD). At S.G.I., a site where Orchard Orioles have not yet nested, two singing males were found June 2 (HS). At Saddle Cr. Preserve, three singing Indigo Buntings were found at last year's site July 17 (PF). What was very likely a Savannah Sparrow flushed from a softball field in Leon County June 14 (J. Stevenson), nearly a month later than the previous late date.

Hope for the Dusky Seaside Sparrow continues to dwindle. This year the five remaining males were moved to Disney World to begin attempts to breed them to females of the Gulf Coast form *peninsulae*. No young were produced, and one male died during the summer (HK).

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ONTARIO REGION
/Ron D. Weir

Summer reports were dominated by the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas now in its third year of five. The findings of those working in the Hudson Bay Lowlands, where 15 groups were atlassing coastal James Bay (Moosonee, Shipsands, North Point—C.W.S. studies, Attawapiskat) and Hudson Bay (Winisk, Fawn Ridge, Sutton Ridge, Sutton Ridges, Fort Severn) are exciting. Not surprising are range extensions of some 'southern' species breeding well north. Two breeding species new for Ontario have been documented, one each in the extreme south and north.

The first week of June remained cool in the south after which record heat and dryness prevailed to the end of the period. Early haying in some localities caused havoc with nesting Bobolinks and meadowlarks. One report noted the rescue of three young Marsh Hawks by a haying farmer who formed another nest in hay already cut, moved the birds and watched as young and parent immediately adapted to the nest. In the far north, warm, dry conditions without major storms were noted. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

ABBREVIATIONS — M.I. (Manitoulin I.); Georgian Bay Islands, Pt. Pelee and Pukaskwa are National Parks. Neys, Quetico and Rondeau are Provincial Parks.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Ten Com Loons at Stoney Cr., June 5 were late (KMCL) and the 20 at Cape Croker, Bruce June 20 was an unusual number for that time of year (JWJ). Arctic were not reported from the n. coast in June. Only one Red-throated was seen at Winisk (DCS) and late singles were at Kingston June 4 (JHE) and Ottawa June 7 (BMD). A pair in breeding plumage was at Neys June 4 & 25 (*fide* TH). Red-necked Grebes numbered 14 and four at Burlington June 3 and July 1 (DG, LW, KMCL), 15 at Port Credit June 4 (KMCL) and one near Cranberry Marsh June 11 (JL). A pair of Horned Grebes with three young at Ft. Severn July 23-25 (R & TT) provided Ontario's first verified nesting in 45 years and the first for n. Ontario. Two in breeding plumage were along M.I., July 29 (BF) and late or summering singles were at Cape Croker June 2 (JWJ), Walpole I., June 11 (HGC *et al.*), Rondeau June 23 (PT, WV), Port Rowan June 24, 25, and July 4 (L.P.B.O.) and two at Burlington July 1 (KMCL). The two White Pelicans at Toronto's e. Headland June 18 (HGC *et al.*) may have been the same two seen near Long Point P.P., June 20 (L.P.B.O.). One at Pukaskwa July 31 was their first ever (TH).

— S.A. —

Double-crested Cormorant nestings continue to increase. Fourteen colonies in Lakes Erie, Ontario, Huron, Superior and Nipigon, which had about 1500 nests in 1982, held about 2100 nests in 1983. New colonies appeared at Mohawk I., near Dunnville in L. Erie and Snake I., at Kingston in L. Ontario. In Lake of The Woods, 7 colonies including Three Sisters' I., comprised about 6200 nests (DVW).

HERONS — The large colony of Great Blue Herons at Dunnville was unoccupied following deliberate human interference (*fide* RWK). Range extension of Green Heron is suggested by the 12 in North Bay July 30 (GFC) and four in Algonquin through the period (DJ). The only Little Blue reported was the immature at Strathroy June 5 (WRM) and one Cattle Egret was at Port Rowan June 18 (L.P.B.O.). Post-breeding dispersal of Great Egrets resulted in singles at the Sauble R., June 26 (JWJ), Cranberry Marsh July 31 (HK), two each at Cornwall July 12 (BM) and Mount Elgin-Salford July 30-Aug. 2 (DB). Spring's record flight of Snowies produced Algonquin's first ever May 28 (ph., RK, BH), three at Hamilton Beach June 1 (MJ, IR) and one at Cranberry Marsh June 8-9 (MMcE *et al.*). A molting imm. Black-crowned or yellow-crowned night heron furnished a rare n. occurrence at Ft. Severn June 24 (T & DN). Nests of Least Bittern were found at Mountsberg (MW) and the Long Pt. breakwater area (L.P.B.O.). Some 26 reports came from Walpole I., Stoney Pt., Rondeau, Kettle Pt., Guelph, Lennox & Addington, Frontenac, and Ottawa-Carleton.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Late was the Whistling Swan at Fishing I., Bruce June 16 (*fide* JWJ) as were the 30 & 300 Canada Geese migrating over Georgian Bay I., and along the Bruce June 7-8 respectively (GB, JC). The last spring Brant were 50 over Algonquin June 7 (DS) and 15 at Peterborough June 16 (AGC). A ♀ Gadwall in distraction display at Ft. Severn July 25 (R & TT) provided the first breeding evidence along the n. coast where a Blue-winged Teal was found at Winisk in June (DCS). The pair of **Cinnamon Teal** reported in May at Amherstburg became Ontario's first-ever breeders. Their nest with eggs was discovered in June (AW, *fide* PW). Six pairs of Am. Wigeon summered at Sudbury, one of which was with nine young July 23 (JCN, MAC). Eleven pairs of N. Shovelers also spent the period there (JCN) and a nest with eggs at Attawapiskat June 15 was the first confirmed nesting in the Hudson Bay Lowlands (R & MN).

Single Redheads were in Algonquin, Toronto, Sudbury and Ottawa June 2-16 and a small flock was at Walpole I. June 14 (BES). A ♀ Canvasback with six young was seen at Walpole I., June 12 (PAW *et al.*) and another was with her brood at the St. Clair N.W.A., in June (MW, D Gow). Also unusual in summer were the single ♂ Ring-neckeds at the Port Rowan sewage lagoon (KMCL) and at Walpole I. (HGC *et al.*). Five Greater Scaup and two ♂ Oldsquaw were near Amherst I., July 21 (RKE *et al.*). Four pairs of Lesser Scaup summered in Sudbury, but without evidence of breeding (JCN) and single females were in the Rondeau area (KB, PT) and Walpole I. (*fide* PAW). The seven ♂ Com. Goldeneyes at Cranberry Marsh June 12 became two by July 8 (*fide* MJB). A ♀ Bufflehead was seen entering a nest hole near Winisk July 9

(JM) providing one of the few nest records for the Province. Breeding King Eiders were found at Little Cape, 80 km w. of Cape Henrietta Maria July 8 where four females tended 13 young in a creche (DS). This species is not known to nest at any other place in Ontario. All 3 scoter species were reported at Winisk in June. A ♀ White-winged was in Oshawa June 24 (SMcG) and a male at Rockland July 6 (BMD). Single Ruddy Ducks, well n. of normal range, were along the Mishumattawa and Attawapiskat Rivers in June (DS).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Three pairs of Turkey Vultures spent June in Sudbury (CTB, JCN) and six individuals were at Sault Ste. Marie (TDM), areas where confirmed breeding is expected. An adult at Snow Lake M.I., July 29 was wearing a turquoise right wing tag (DBF). Three years ago, a similarly tagged vulture was found there, but the tag source remains a mystery. Pukaskwa's first was at White R. gorge June 29 (TH) and another wandered N to Winisk June 14 (DCS, BES). The **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Wakami Lake P.P., July 17 (G. & V. Hanna) was nicely described, only the fourth ever for the Province. The same bird was apparently seen the previous week by the park naturalist. At least two Sharp-shinned Hawks were along the Severn R., in June (MC) and a scolding Cooper's at Red Bay June 30 suggested near-by young (JWJ). Several nests of Red-shoulders were reported from Cobourg, Waterloo and Kingston. Summering birds were in Georgian Bay I (GB), Bruce (JWJ) and Algonquin, where they were thought to be rare or absent (RGT). An imm. Broad-winged was along the Severn R., in late June (MC), while late Rough-legged, the only one reported, was at Blenheim June 6 (PT).

Several Golden Eagles were seen in the Hudson Bay Lowlands. In addition to five sightings of Balds in the s., a pair at Rondeau raised two young and another in w. Elgin fledged one (*fide* PAW). At Quetico, 9 active nests held 13 young by mid-June (*fide* SFP). Several observers reported an improvement in the nesting fortunes of the Marsh Hawk, especially in the s.w. Osprey continue to prosper! Five pairs nested at the Luther Marsh providing more birds that radiate out to nest in the surrounding area aided by a nest platform programme (SRK). The several Peregrine reports were all from the n. coast. A Merlin appeared in Pembroke in mid-July and daily picked off a few swallows from the city's huge swallow roost (JB). The Am. Kestrel nest at Winisk June 25 was the first for the Hudson Bay coast in Ontario (DCS, BES).

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — One Sharp-tailed Grouse was at the Winisk airport in June (DCS, BES). Bobwhite reports increased with three pairs in Elgin, another in Middlesex (*fide* WRJ), good numbers on Walpole I., Lambton, singles at Rondeau and Thamesville, Kent (*fide* PAW) and a pair on Wolfe I., June 5 (RR). A Sandhill Crane's nest with eggs was found near Cochrane June 8 (ERA). In the s., the two at Kingston June 15 were the area's first ever in June (MB, RBS) and one was at Blenheim July 18 (KB). Algonquin's first breeding Soras were found with young July 2 (DAS). Yellow Rails were often heard, but as usual seldom seen, along the James and Hudson Bay coasts (*fide* DS). They were also found at Rainy R., in early July (*fide* SFP).

SHOREBIRDS — The last spring Semipalmated Plover was in the Cranberry Marsh June 12 (JL, MJB) and southbound migrants appeared at Hamilton July 3 along with an early Ruddy Turnstone (KMCL). Some 150 northbound Turnstones were on Amherst I., June 2 (PM). Nine Piping Plovers were found in the Rainy R. area in early July (*fide* SFP, DVW). Two Am. Woodcock, well n. of their range, were found on several occasions at Moosonee in early June (DS). The **Long-billed Curlew** at Kettle Pt., July 24 was well seen and described (AHR). The only previous occurrence was at Ajax Oct. 17, 1959 for which an unsatisfactory photographic record exists. Late Whimbrel were four at Port Elgin, Cranberry Marsh and Wolfe I., June 3-15. The first S migrants appeared at North Pt., July 1, 150 their peak count July 20 (CR), and at Kettle Pt., July 24 (AHR). An ad. Greater Yellowlegs exhibited aggressive territorial defence in a cutover spruce area at Cochrane July 20, but neither a brood nor nest was found (ERA). The 57 spring Red Knots at Kingston, Whiby and Ottawa June 1-9 were led by 40 on Amherst I., June 4 (RDW). The first migrants were 650 at North Pt., Aug. 1 (CR). A Pectoral Sandpiper was observed in distraction display at Goose Cr., near Ft. Severn (R & TT), thereby confirming breeding along the Hudson Bay coast away from Cape Henrietta Maria

The last of seven June White-rumped was at Long Pt., June 9 (L.P.B.O.) and one was in Russell July 1 & 9 (BMD, SG). The only Baird's reported were singles in Sudbury July 23-31 (JCN) and Strathroy July 24 (TNH, RKH). Several territorial pairs of Short-billed Dowitchers, a hypothetical Ontario breeder, were in the Sutton R. delta, one of which performed distraction display July 7 confirming nesting (DS). A heavy flight of Stilt Sandpipers was presaged by two early arrivals at Hamilton Bay July 1 where 24 appeared July 31 (KMCL). Seven, two and four were at Kingston, Blenheim and Ottawa July 21-24 respectively (K.F.N., PT, BMD) and seven were at Havelock July 31 (AGC *et al.*). Two late Marbled Godwits flew over Walpole I., June 11 (HGC *et al.*) and one went by Kettle Pt., July 1 (AHR). Others were seen occasionally in June-July on Shippans I. (*vide* DS) and one was at Winisk June 19 (DCS, BES). Flocks of up to 20 Hudsonians were often seen at Winisk in June and 40 S migrants appeared at North Pt., July 1 (CR). A nicely described ♂ Ruff at the Havelock lagoons July 28-Aug. 1 was Peterborough's first (AGC *et al.*). A ♂ N. Phalarope was at Richmond June 27, two were at Casselmann, *Prescott & Russell* June 29 and one was in winter plumage at Cornwall July 1 (BMD), all unusual dates.

GULLS, TERNS — Summering white-winged gulls in the s. included single Glaucous in first summer plumage at Hamilton June 11-26, Long Pt., June 25 (KMCL); in second summer near Kingston June 9 (RDW) and an Iceland in first summer at Whitby July 11-28 (JMS). The pair of Glaucous suspected of breeding in the Sutton R. estuary July 8 (DS) is of interest, since there is no provincial breeding record. An ad. Great Black-backed, rare on the n. coast, was seen there the same day (DS). An ad. Lesser Black-backed, thought to be one visiting since June 1981, was at Oliphant June 19 & 21 (DFR) and nearby Sauble R., June 26 (JWJ). *Rondeau* and *Middlesex* recorded their first ever Herring Gull nest (PAW, GM) and at a L. Superior colony cannibalism was again observed as adult ate young (DVW).



Ring-billed Gull nesting area. Nepean Dump, Ottawa, Ont. May 28, 1983. Photo/B. M. Dilabio.

S.A.

That Ring-billed Gull numbers are exploding in Ontario is well known. But this season, 5 new colonies were reported, none of which was island based. About 1000 nests each were occupied at Rondeau and Pelee, but their outcomes are unknown. At Long Pt., one colony with 642 nests May 30 was extinct July 5 due to continued predation by skunks and raccoons. Another there with 500-600 nests May 31 also suffered predation, probably by coyotes (L.P.B.O.). Most daring and reckless of all were those at the active Nepean dump. The birds built nests on the earth piles brought in for the sanitary land fill and on the areas ploughed in, apparently unperturbed by the commotion of the trucks. The 1500 gulls had nests with eggs May 13, which were ploughed under as dumping proceeded. Up to 100 new nests were in place by early June, which were also bulldozed, the same fate suffered by about 50 nests in a third attempt in late June. No young fledged from the colony (BMD, RP).

An ad. Black-headed Gull offshore Oshawa June 12 was well described (MJB). Single ad. Laughings were at Moosonee June 8 and nearby North Pt., June 16, thought to be the same bird (DS, CR), and at Pelee June 25 (NC, MR). An ad. Franklin's was in Ottawa June 9 (PJ) and a winter adult went past the Sutton R. mouth July 15 (DS). A Little Gull nest was again found on North Limestone I., near Parry Sound (AJS, JS, DVW) and a juvenile was at the Long Pt. breakwater July 3 (L.P.B.O.). Several adults were in Moosonee in early June (DS *et al.*) and in the Sutton R. delta in late June (G. Mucklow), but without evidence of nesting. A rare Forster's Tern was in Ottawa June 7 (BMD); only 5 nests of the species were noted at Rondeau (PAW, PT). The last of the migrant Arctics at Ottawa were six June 1 and one June 7 (MG, BMD). A pair of Caspians was thought to be nesting at Winisk June 14 & 16 (DCS, BES).

DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHERS — Several Mourning Doves summered at Ft. Severn (DS) and cuckoos n. of their normal range included a Yellow-billed near Rainy R., July 3 (JBM), another at Atikokan July 17 (DHE) and a Black-billed at Moosonee July 18 (R & TT). The only Snowy Owl report was from Ft. Severn July 21 (R & TT). A pair of unreleasable Boreals at the Owl Rehabilitation & Research Foundation fledged one young that will be set free in n. Ontario where the ad. female was found (KMCK). For the third successive June, a Chuck-will's-widow was calling in the Port Rowan area (FD *et al.*) and at least four were at Rondeau to July 31 (PAW, PT). Two Com. Nighthawks tempted fate by placing their nest within a step of a busy *Lambton* road, but two young were fledged (BE). At Winisk, a trilling ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird and a Belted Kingfisher June 26 & 27 respectively, were n. of their usual range (DCS, BES).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A ♀ Red-bellied Woodpecker was banded at Innis' Pt., Ottawa June 6 (ph., TD *et al.*). Upriver at Pembroke, young Red-heads were being fed in the nest July 25 (DD *et al.*) and in extreme s.e. Grey July 13, a ♀ Black-backed Three-toed behaved as though nesting (JWJ). Out of range reports dominate the flycatchers. At Winisk was a pair of E. Kingbirds (WKV) and a calling Olive-sided Flycatcher (DCS) in June and an E. Phoebe July 5 (JM). Three W. Kingbirds were in the Rainy R. area July 3-6 (DHE *et al.*). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Dyer Bay July 2 was found independently by 2 observers (TC, NM *et al.*) and was likely the same one seen near Wiarton shortly after (*vide* JWJ). At North Pt., a Great Crested lingered June 21-24 and an E. Wood Pewee was calling June 17 (CR). Ontario's fourth ever **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, the first ever in spring, was at Ft. Erie June 6 (HHA). A ♂ Acadian was on territory near Hamilton in June (PS) and three were in Rondeau June 13-July 7 (PAW). Another was in Wheatley in early June (PT). Atlassers reported Willow Flycatchers on territory in Ottawa, Deep R., along the s. edge of Algonquin and Huntsville. Farther n., one spent June 19-26 singing in Neys (SO).

The swallow roost in downtown Pembroke contained 25,000 birds July 20, mainly Bank and Barn, and numbers increased later in the month (JB, KR). Information on swallow roosts appears scarce so any data that readers can supply would help put the significance of this roost into perspective. Some 3000 Bank Swallows were at the Long Pt. breakwater July 7 (L.P.B.O.) and 400 Cliff Swallows were at Cornwall July 15 (BM).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES — Single Blue Jays were at North Pt., June 18 & July 4 for first area records (CR). Atypical as nesting sites of Com. Raven were the three on hydroelectric transmission towers and one under a highway bridge at Cochrane (*vide* ERA). Winter Wrens were outside their breeding range along the Fawn and Severn Rivers in the far n. (MC). Carolina Wrens continued scarce and the only one away from the s.w. was at Russell June 12 (SG). A significant range extension, 600 km n., has occurred with the Long-billed Marsh Wren nest containing young near North Pt., July 9 (MF). Breeding was confirmed for the Short-billed on Long Pt., July 2, where 8 males were on territory (L.P.B.O.). The Copper Cliff Mockingbird fledged three young July 6 (JGL) and a stray was at North Pt., July 3 (CR). Other mimids to wander there were Gray Catbird June 19, July 4-5 and Brown Thrasher June 16-20, both of which were caught and banded (CR). Also n. of normal range was a singing Hermit Thrush at Winisk June 22 (DCS, BES) and a

Wood Thrush in Pukaskwa July 10-25 (TH). The last of the spring Swainson's were reported at Bronte and Kingston June 9 (MJ, RDW) and the first autumn movement was noted at the banding station in Wingham and at Ancaster July 23 (JBM, RC).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — The three fledgling Blue-gray Gnatcatchers being fed in Ottawa July 23 constituted the area's first nesting (RAF). Golden-crowned Kinglets were common at the s. edge of their range at Ottawa and Peterborough (BMD, DCS). Two males were on territory at Burlington and Ancaster (JO, RC) and breeding confirmed near Port Rowan June 26 (L.P.B.O.). Late Water Pipits were in Algonquin June 1 and North Bay June 8 (RGT *et al.*, GFC). Inland from Ft. Severn along the Severn R., a N. Shrike was found in late June (MC). Nesting Loggerheads were reported at one site on M.I., four in *Grey-Bruce*, one in *Peterborough* and three in *Lennox & Addington*, which is encouraging. Four adults were seen in *Ottawa-Carleton*. The only White-eyed Vireo report was from Pelee I., July 22-25 (CAC). Yellow-throated Vireos were at 2 Ottawa sites June 15 & 18 (TH, BMD). Four singing ♂ Solitary Vireos at the St. William's Forestry Station, Port Rowan June 28 were far s. of their known breeding limits (L.P.B.O.).

— S.A. —

Warbling Vireo appears to be doing very well. Several observers commented on its increased numbers in its established range. In *Frontenac*, *Lennox & Addington*, w. *Leeds* and in the Toronto area, results of several breeding bird surveys show numbers double their previous highest counts (HRQ, CEG). Range expansion has occurred with birds found at Halfway P.P., *Sudbury* July 12 (JCN), and much farther n. along the Severn R., in late June (MC). Nesting was confirmed at Ft. Severn July 24 (R & TT), which is 750 km n. of the 'normal' range.

WARBLERS — Prothonotaries made a strong showing led by 20 males on territory in Rondeau, where only half the suitable habitat was surveyed (PAW)! Others included a successful nest at Long Pt., 2 nests at Pelee, a pair at Pinery P.P., two territorial males at Hamilton and one on Pelee I. Territorial Golden-winged Warblers were n. to Sudbury at 3 sites (*vide* JCN) and Virginiatown (PWR). A Blue-winged was paired with a hybrid Brewer's near Lynedoch and breeding confirmed (L.P.B.O.). Migrant Tennessee Warblers were reported from July 19 at Long Pt., and *Bruce* (L.P.B.O., JWJ). Winisk hosted 3 warbler species in June far n. of range—Nashville, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided (DCS, BES). For the Yellow Warbler, it is intriguing that only one of the 114 nests found at Pelee was parasitized by the cowbird and habitat changes are thought to play a role (RB). The Pine Warbler on the Long Pt. pen., July 6 was unusual, since the species is very rare there as a breeder (L.P.B.O.).

An Ovenbird well n. along the Severn R., was found in late June (MC). Louisiana Waterthrushes were confirmed nesting near Port Rowan June 28 (L.P.B.O.) and at Bright July 5 (*vide* WRJ). Two Connecticut Warblers were late at Whitby June 3 (MJB) and Stratford June 5 (MPD). Single pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats were at 2 e. *Niagara* sites, apparently nesting at one (RWK) and 3 nests were found at Pelee (RB). One was at Grand Valley June 21 (LGH) and another summered at Kingston (*vide* HRQ). Three were banded at Long Pt., June 7, 11, 13 and a ♀ Hooded Warbler was at the e. tip of the pen., June 6 (L.P.B.O.). A pair of Hoodeds nested at Newbury in July for Middlesex's second breeding record (SC). Rondeau tallied its first summering pair of Canadas (PAW *et al.*).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Single W. Meadowlarks strayed to Ft. Severn June 30 (T & DN) and Moosonee July 19 (DS). A male was known to have paired with an E. Meadowlark at Melbourne (*vide* WRJ). Two pairs of Red-winged Blackbirds were on the n. coast at Little Cape July 8-9 (DS), where they may be regular. Nesting Orchard Orioles were located at Ailsa Craig July 1 (*vide* WRJ), near Port Ryerse (JH *et al.*) and at Bright's Grove July 24 (DFR). Atlasers found them in 6 of 18 e. *Niagara* squares (*vide* RWK) and an imm. male at Ottawa July 5 was netted and photographed (TD, BMD *et al.*). Twelve Brewer's Blackbirds were near Holland Landing June 2 in the isolated colony known for some years (HGC, ALD). A ♂ Scarlet Tanager appeared at North Pt., June 29 (CR).



Immature ♂ Orchard Oriole, Innis' Pt., Ottawa, Ont. July 5, 1983. Photo/B. M. Dilabio.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — First confirmed nestings of House Finch for *Lambton* and *Renfrew* occurred this summer at *Sarnia* (DFR) and *Pembroke* (JB) as the species continues its expansion. Stunning is a suitable way to describe the finding of 63 nests in *St. Catharines* (DK)! The Grasshopper Sparrow at the Muskoka airport was new for the county (RLB, AJS). The fortunes of Henslow's Sparrow continue to cause concern. Four birds were reported near Grand Valley, *Aberfoyle* (*vide* SRK) and 2 new sites were found in the Kingston area (PM, ML). In late June, a male was singing at *Dyer Bay* (TC). Several *Le Conte's* Sparrows were detected along the n. coast and one was calling at *Winisk* June 14 (DCS). A waif Lark Sparrow turned up in *Moosonee* June 18 (DS *et al.*), while in the s. at *Rondeau*, a *Dark-eyed Junco* June 2 was unusual (PT). A pair of *Chipping Sparrows* was thought to be breeding at Ft. Severn (*vide* DS), a modest range extension. Clay-colored consolidated their expansion in the s. at new sites e. to *Kingston* (K.F.N.) but the sightings in the far n. suggested a most incomplete knowledge of their breeding range. One was at *Winisk* June 21 (DCS), another along the *Severn R.*, and three pairs at Ft. Severn in June (DS). The *Field Sparrows* bred for the second successive year at *Algonquin's Two Rivers* airfield (RGT) and another was on M.I., June 12 (*vide* JCN). Ontario's first ever nest of *Harris' Sparrow* was found with eggs at Ft. Severn July 4 and young fledged July 25. Several pairs were present in the area (ph., R & TT, DS). *Kingston's* first breeding of *Lincoln's Sparrow* was confirmed June 12 near *Bath* by a singing male carrying food (ML).

CORRIGENDUM — AB 37:298. The White-throated Sparrow reference to North Bay should be deleted.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

The cool weather so evident this spring continued into the second week of June with some areas experiencing a killing frost on the 9th. Birds delayed the initiation of their nesting cycles one to two weeks, and Atlas workers continued confirming nestlings and fledglings well into August as a consequence. The latter two thirds of the season was hot and dry with little impediment to successful nesting. The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas enlisted several hundred atlasers (the volunteer total is now 1200+) with increased coverage by paid block-busters supervised by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation. There are still many blocks, some difficult of access, to be covered, and the coming year (1984) will be crucial to the success of the project. Volunteers are urgently needed to explore blocks thus far uncovered, or to return to blocks where coverage has not been adequate. Limited funds to cover expenses of employed block-busters are available.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Forty Com. Loons seen at Hamlin Beach S.P., June 3 marked the end of a late migration for this species. In Vermont productivity was down 50%, and it is doubtful that the number of young produced annually will be sufficient to offset annual natural mortality of adults. Three **White Pelicans** over Lake Erie's Barcelona Harbor July 23 (RS) continued to provide a rash of recent regional sightings. A dearth of Pied-billed Grebe sightings was reported from C. New York, but tape recordings farther upstate in the St. Lawrence R. valley elicited many responses in May. Lake Champlain experienced a Double-crested Cormorant population explosion, with 47 nests found on Vermont's Young I. (*cf.* only one last year), and over 50 nonbreeders off New York's Four Brothers Is. where nesting is imminent. Reports of 200 Great Blue Herons at Iroquois N.W.R., and 700 fishing at Montezuma N.W.R. were heartening but not typical of the remainder of the Region. Apparently only one nest was actually located at Montezuma N.W.R., the remainder of the herons coming from Marengo Swamp in Wayne Co. Cattle Egrets were reported outside the vicinity of the L. Champlain nesting areas where up to 42 were noted. Iroquois N.W.R., and Montezuma N.W.R., hosted the largest concentrations of Great Egrets with top counts of three and six respectively. A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** made a surprise appearance at Shelby, N.Y., in early June (*ph.* DC *et al.*). Buck Pond in Greece yielded nine Least Bitterns July 16, providing one of the best Regional tallies in recent years (KG). A Glossy Ibis was spotted at Montezuma N.W.R., July 13 (WB), and an immature appeared at Kendall July 22 (R.B.A., G.O.S.).

Mute Swans appeared near Buffalo and Rochester, but there was little suggestion that a viable breeding population will become established in the Region. The inclement spring was doubtlessly responsible for a variety of tardy waterfowl including a Brant at Braddock Bay and Aurora, N.Y., a Snow Goose at Dead Cr., Oldsquaw, 18 White-winged Scoters, and 25 Red-breasted Mergansers at Hamlin S.P., all present into early June.

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Bald Eagles nested successfully in Jefferson County (LC) and reports were high throughout the Region owing to, presumably, the hacking program. The Osprey hacking project resumed on the Seneca Indian Reservation in Cattaraugus Co. Last year nesting failures on Long Island forced interruption of the project. Six young were released from the Long Island stock this year. The Montezuma N.W.R., pair nested successfully, but the second modern nesting attempt away from the Adirondacks at North Bay, Oneida Co., failed (LA, *fide* DWC). Marsh Hawk was the only raptor noted unusually high numbers during the N.Y. Atlas work.

Confirmation of Spruce Grouse nesting s. of Old Forge extended the species' known range in New York. A single Bobwhite report was received from W. New York (*fide* VP). Both Com. Gallinules and Am. Coots were reported down in numbers, with single broods only reported at Montezuma N.W.R. (WB). Balmy summer weather through late July allowed most shorebirds to overfly the Region. There were few noteworthy sightings; a black **Ruff** discovered June 5 at Perinton (RGS), Whimbrels July 27 at Hamlin Beach S.P. (WS), and Dead Cr., July 31 (KD), and a late/early W. Sandpiper June 2 at Bergen (WS) were



exceptions. Wilson's Phalarope showed no evidence of breeding in the Region this summer, as the earliest reported sighting was July 27.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — An unexpected second-year Iceland Gull at Dunkirk Harbor July 30 (TM), probably eluded observers on the Great Lakes all summer. Although 17,300+ Ring-billed Gulls now breed on New York's Four Brothers Is., L. Champlain (H.P.A.S.), important news was the successful breeding of a Great Black-backed Gull pair on Vermont's Young I. (RL *et al.*). This represented a Regional first record, and may signify a range extension as another pair tried unsuccessfully to nest on Long I., Oneida L. (PB, *fide* DWC). Terns were generally well reported, but the absence of adult/immature ratios makes such reports limited in value. The appearance of a **Royal Tern** photographed at Braddock Bay July 3 (MD, WL *et al.*) was inexplicable given the absence of significant weather disturbances, and was virtually unprecedented. This represented the first confirmed sighting from L. Ontario. Two locations reported Barn Owls. Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos were extremely common in the s. portion of the Region near gypsy moth and forest tent caterpillar infestations. Outbreaks, at least of the former, appear to have crashed by late summer, and where this year's bumper crop of cuckoos will nest next year raises an intriguing question. An unusual concentration of Screech Owls, possibly as many as 25-30 presumably representing an assemblage of 4 or more family groups, was heard in Rochester's Highland P. (G.O.S.). Screech Owl is the most abundant raptor over most of the lower elevations of the Region, and is known to have a high reproductive potential (clutches of five are common), but little is known about population dynamics and movements.

Three areas in w. and c. New York hosted Long-eared Owls. This species and Saw-whet Owls remained underreported considering available habitat and the fact that the entire Region has, or is, undergoing a Breeding Bird Atlas survey. Whip-poor-wills also remained inexplicably scarce, a situation which has existed throughout at least the past decade.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH THRUSHES — Record high totals of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were set on w. New York Breeding Bird Surveys, while in the more mountainous e. they continued to be excellent indicators of the presence of active Yellow-bellied Sapsucker territories. Western N.Y. Breeding Bird Survey tallies showed Downy and Red-bellied woodpeckers at record highs, while Red-headed exhibited record lows. In Vermont only 3 locations hosted Red-headed and the species may eventually be eliminated from the state as the removal of dead firewood continues. Exceptional was a report of a N. Three-toed Woodpecker at W. Cameron, Steuben Co., June 16 (JC, *fide* DM). A male feeding young at Albany, Vt. (EM, MP), furnished only that state's second nesting record. Eastern Kingbirds nested late, and were still feeding fledglings on territory at the season's end. The regional range of the Acadian Flycatcher generally parallels the Great Lakes plains e. to Rochester. At least four males noted in c. New York outside this band may be precursors of further range expansion, and the species should therefore be sought in moist woods along a number of S flowing river systems (*i.e.*, Susquehanna, Delaware and Allegheny). Typically late migrants, Olive-sided Flycatcher were noted in passage with considerable frequency the first week of June. Short-billed Marsh Wrens remained very scarce, and Carolina Wrens were hardly common except in the extreme s.w. tip of the Region. Nesting by a Mockingbird in Onondaga County would warrant no mention except that the unpaired

female "laid and incubated" her clutch, disproving in this case, at least, the atlas' axiom that a nest with eggs is confirmation of breeding. A record-late nest of young Brown Thrashers was discovered July 29 in Allegany County (VP). A strong nocturnal movement of Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrushes heard June 5 (RS) in w. New York escaped detection on the ground, further demonstrating how fragmentary our picture of bird movement is.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A pair of White-eyed Vireos at Irondequoit Bay evaded efforts to confirm breeding. A Philadelphia Vireo found on a w. New York Breeding Bird Census and two seen in n. Cayuga County were well w. of known breeding areas. A Prothonotary Warbler returned to last year's nesting area at Delta L., but nesting was not reconfirmed. Two of the Region's other nesting areas, Montezuma and Iroquois N.W.R.s, have not been adequately surveyed in the past decade although both are still occupied. A significant decrease in Golden-winged Warbler numbers was apparent, perhaps as a consequence of last year's request that only sight records be submitted. In any event all reported pairings were with Blue-winged Warblers. Atlas workers be forewarned! Tennessee Warblers apparently exhibited a large degree of mid-summer wanderlust, regularly appearing (and sometimes singing) well s. of their breeding grounds during mid-July. Attesting turned up new locations for Cerulean Warblers in Otsego and Essex counties, and more Hooded Warblers were discovered away from the Great Lakes plains, their primary stronghold. Prairie Warblers also proved more widespread than many observers once thought. A territorial pair in a juniper stand in Essex County, well n. of previous New York records, may have originated from the New England population. A Yellow-throated Warbler was carefully studied in Allegany S.P., in early June (RS *et al.*). Kentucky Warblers were found in Steuben County (DJ, *fide* DM) and Letchworth S.P. (R.B.A.), and Yellow-breasted Chats were

widely reported throughout the Great Lakes plains. Perhaps the most exciting news this summer, however, was the first record of breeding s. of the Canadian border by **Palm Warblers**, confirmed July 6 in Franklin County (TS *et al.*).

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Western Meadowlarks continued to be found at Pt. Breeze and Union Settlement. Orchard Orioles were confirmed breeding for the second time in Vermont at Chimney Pt., and sightings throughout the Region were well above normal. Although it only qualifies as probable nesting under New York Atlasing rules, a ♀ **Brewer's Blackbird** was seen carrying nesting material at Hamlin (*fide* RGS), heightening speculation that colonization of the Region has occurred. Another colonist, the House Finch, has long since passed the notable category. Five hundred were banded at Fredonia (MJ). The Clay-colored Sparrow at Dunkirk-Fredonia Airport continued to sing, although apparently unmated. Reports of Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows increased probably owing to the New York Atlas project since reports were lacking from Vermont. A laggard White-crowned Sparrow was singing merrily at Keuka L., June 12 (G.O.S.).

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

The early summer weather was a continuation of the damp spring, and in most places June was wetter than normal, with about normal or slightly below normal temperatures. Except for the region near the Lake Erie shore, which reported a 2.24 inch excess in rainfall for the month, July was very dry and very warm with 90° temperatures common, although this was merely a foretaste of what was to come later.

In 1982 there had been a large number of late migrants remaining after June 1 but this year there were even more of these. Waterfowl, particularly Common Loons, many shorebirds, and a plethora of warblers all occurred well into June at many places. It would appear that most species had successful nesting seasons. The number of young robins in my yard in late summer certainly attested to that fact. There was little sign of the impending Fall migration, even of the shorebirds.

Perhaps the outstanding development of the summer was the accelerated pace at which the so-called northern species have been extending their ranges southward, or equivalently to lower elevations. Followers of this Regional report know that this has been taking place for some years but this year the following account is packed with this kind of record. Even when one subtracts the obvious late migrants a great many species have moved south. It is ironic to think that the ranges to be given in the new A.O.U. Check-List, out this summer, are in many cases already obsolete.

A new feature that is sure to produce many new breeding records is the initiation of the Breeding Bird Atlas projects. Three of our states started this work this year, and three more will start next year. We can look forward to some wholesale revisions of our current ideas on distribution.

Of special interest this year is the discovery of a patch of "prairie" in an extensive recovered strip mine area in n. Pennsylvania which produced an amazing concentration of grassland species.

This year the Brooks Bird Club held its 8th Foray in the West Virginia spruce belt of the high Cheat Mountains. This coverage over a 35-year period is unique for the "boreal" forest in the Appalachians. The quantitative population data collected there will be a feature of the forthcoming Breeding Bird Census issue of this journal, but one can



mention now that the long term analysis of the populations of Neotropical migrants show them to be on the decline.

Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS, GREBES AND CORMORANTS — There were more than the usual reports of Com. Loons in the area in the summer: Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., May 30 (PN); Wilbur L., Tenn., June 14, 15 (RK, LF); near Seebert, W.Va., mid June (B.B.C.F.); L. Chatuge, Ga., July 2 (RLo); L. Eden, N.C., July 4 (RR); Pymatuning L., Pa., July 12 (RCL); Nickajack L., Tenn., July 24 (DJ *et al.*). Pied-billed Grebes nested in *Mason*, W.Va., for the first local record (TI). More unusual were the reports of Double-crested Cormorants from Presque Isle S.P., Pa. (hereafter, P.I.S.P.) June 4 (JM), and Pymatuning L., Pa., June 18 (RFL).

HERONS AND IBISES — The late summer brought an excellent flight of herons from the s. Great Egrets were reported in more than the usual numbers from Georgia n. to n.w. Virginia, but had not reached Pennsylvania by the end of the period. The Snowy Egret in *Augusta*, Va., July 2 provided a first county record (MM) and this species was also seen in the Hiawasee River Area, near Chattanooga, July 21-31 (DJ *et al.*). Cattle Egrets were at Montevideo, Va., June 23 (R.B.C.); Greenville, Tenn., June 30 (JP); Pittsburgh, July 5 (DF); Hiawasee River Area, July 30-31 (DJ *et al.*), and six pairs nested in the night heron colony at Cherokee L., Tenn. (BP). Little Blue Herons were widespread: *Botetourt*, Va., July 27-30 (NM); *Wise*, Va., July 2, 14 (RP); Blacksburg, Va., July 31, second record in 31 years (CK); *Clark*, Ky., July 25-30 (FB); Austin Springs, Tenn., July 24 (RK); Clinton, Tenn., July 21 (6 imm.—LF); Douglas L., Tenn., July 26 (12) and July 31 (15—JK); Hiawasee River Area, a maximum of 15 on July 31 (DJ *et al.*); and Dalton, Ga., July 11 (HD).

At Warren, Pa., several nesting colonies of Great Blue Herons had 72 nests compared with 77 last year (WH). In *Mahoning*, O., nests had increased from 257 last year to 356 this year and in *Ashtabula*, O., there were 145 compared with 67 (CB). In the Knoxville area one colony of Black-crowned Night Herons had increased from 306 nests to 518 this year, but another colony decreased from 206 to 126 nests (BP). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from Waynesboro, Va., July 11 (RS); *Wise*, Va., July 10, 17, first county record (RP); Chattanooga, up to a maximum of 13 (J & KB); and Hiawasee River Area, a maximum of 15 on July 31 (DJ *et al.*). At Elizabethton, Tenn., the nest site of last year was destroyed but young birds were seen in the area this summer (GE).

A Glossy Ibis was seen at Toftrees, Pa., July 27 (MW).

WATERFOWL — The now semi-domesticated Canada Geese are doing quite well. Wood Ducks apparently had a good nesting season, as for example 11 listed on one Breeding Bird Survey (B.B.S.) route in w. Pennsylvania (RB). Hooded Mergansers nested in 2 locations in *Erie*, Pa. (JM); immatures at Roanoke June 3 (MDo) suggest breeding there; and one was seen at Nickajack Dam, Tenn., July 24 (DJ *et al.*). There were 3 broods of Com. Mergansers at Tidououte, Pa. (JK) and at Tionesta, Pa., six ducklings were seen with five females (TG). Blue-winged Teal nested near Jennerstown, Pa. (RM), for the first local record. Unusual were the records of Green-winged Teal at P.I.S.P., July 23-30 (JM); Pintail there July 23 (JM); and Ring-necked Duck, L. Chatuge, Ga., July 24-31 (RLo).

RAPTORS — The Turkey Vulture continues to move N and there were 2 nestings found in the Warren, Pa. area (TG). The Goshawk nest near Warren, Pa., reported earlier produced at least one young (DO), and one was seen at Sinnemahoning, Pa., June 11 (CH). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Powdermill Nature Reserve (hereafter, P.N.R.), Pa., June 1 suggested nesting (RM). Cooper's Hawks were reported to be increasing in the Youngstown, O., area (CB), but in the Warren, Pa. region they were scarce or absent (WH). Red-shouldered Hawks were thought to be in unusually low numbers in the Pittsburgh region (PH), but are apparently in stable populations in *Mahoning*, O. (CB) and *Wise*, Va. (RP).

The Bald Eagles nesting in *Crawford*, Pa., raised 5-7 young, including a transplanted one (RFL). Bald Eagles were also reported from Union City, Pa., July 5 (JM); Kinzua Dam, Pa., July 3 & 9 (JS); Norris L., Tenn., June 27 (JH); and Mineral Bluff, Ga., June 11 (D & JKy).

An ad. Merlin was seen in *Crawford*, Pa., June 30 (RFL), and a Peregrine was at L. Arthur, Pa., July 8 (MT & JKe).

RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS — Virginia Rails were fairly common but Soras uncommon at Conneaut Marsh, Pa. (RFL). A Com. Gallinule was seen there June 27 & July 5 (RFL). A Sora apparently nested near State College, Pa. (MW).

There were still a few laggard shorebirds present in the Region as late as June 11 when Dunlin, Ruddy Turnstone, and Semipalmated Sandpiper were seen at P.I.S.P., Pa. (JM). The S migration started arriving by July 15 or July 20 at most places. The early arrivals were mostly the more common "peep" and yellowlegs and few unusual species had been reported by the end of the period. Five Stilt Sandpipers were at Glades, *Butler*, Pa., July 31 (PH), one was at P.I.S.P., July 29 (JM),

and one at the Hiawasee River Area, July 29 (VS). The Piping Plover at Chatuge L., Ga., July 29 represented the first local record (RLo). A Whimbrel was at P.I.S.P., July 30 (JM), a Short-billed Dowitcher at Kingston, Tenn., July 17 (KD & DJ), and a Willet was at Watts Bar L., Tenn., July 3 (JG). White-rumped Sandpipers were at P.I.S.P., June 3 (JM) and Kingston, Tenn., June 4 (MD), and a Baird's Sandpiper was at Watauga L., Tenn., July 25 (RK).

Nine Upland Sandpipers were present in July on the *Clarion*, Pa. reclaimed strip mine (*vide* PH). An Upland Sandpiper was seen in *Guernsey*, O., June 25 (GB), and nine were counted at the Roanoke airport July 28 (MP).

GULLS AND TERNS — About 200 non-breeding Ring-billed Gulls summered at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL) and a Laughing Gull was at P.I.S.P., June 11 (JM). Caspian Terns were at P.I.S.P., July 9 and July 23 (JM), and a Com. Tern was at the Hiawasee River Area, July 21 (VS). Three pairs of Black Terns were at the Conneaut Marsh, Pa., during the season and may have nested there (RFL); the species was also reported from Pymatuning L., Pa., July 23 (RFL) and Waterford, Pa., in mid-July (SS).

CUCKOOS AND OWLS — Both species of cuckoo were more scarce than usual, Barn Owls were reported common in *Washington*, Md., and a brood of five was located there (L & TD). Barn Owls also nested at Waynesboro, Va. (RS) and Chattanooga (DJ *et al.*). Screech Owls seem not to have recovered from winter mortality at any place.

GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND WOODPECKERS — Several localities had reported Chuck-will's-widows in the spring but summer reports came only from *Roanoke* and *Botetourt*, Va. (BK). Whip-poor-wills were essentially unmentioned in the reports as this species continues its slide to extirpation in this Region. Common Night-hawks were in below-normal numbers. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were exceptionally numerous in July and on into the late summer. From P.N.R., comes the report of 32 banded during the period (double the usual numbers) and of 40 coming to one nearby feeder (RCL).

The N expansion of the Red-bellied Woodpecker seems to have slowed down or stopped. None was noted in *Crawford*, Pa. (RFL) and at Pittsburgh numbers were lower than in recent years (PH). On the other hand there was brighter-than-usual news of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Three were seen on a *Greene*, B.B.S. Route and two (one immature) was seen at Clarksville, Pa., July 31 (RB). A nesting and two single observations were reported from the *Warren*, Pa. area (WH); there were 3 reports, including young birds, near State College, Pa. (KJ); a pair was reported near Staunton, Va. (10); one report from *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.); and one at Lock Haven, Pa., July 10 (CHa). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers once nested commonly in the n. of the Region and at high elevations s. but have been missing for many years. There were 2 reports from the Allegheny N.F. in n. Pennsylvania (JD) and they were found at 5 locations in the Cheat Mts. (B.B.C.F.).

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS AND SWALLOWS — Alder Flycatchers continue to increase S with several reports in the Shenandoah Valley in *Augusta* and *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C., RS); Dillard, Ga., (FM), *Rowan*, Ky. (FB); Alcoa Marsh, Tenn. and Chattanooga (DJ *et al.*), and for the first time on a B.B.S. route in *Scott*, Tenn. (CN). Alder Flycatchers were seen in *Allegheny* and *Butler*, Pa. (DF) in June and were fairly common in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia, and a stray was at Lewisburg, W.Va., June 19 (CH). Alder Flycatchers were present on Mt. Rogers, Va. (PS). Only one Yellow-bellied Flycatcher could be found there (PS), and the species was missing from the station in the West Virginia mountains (B.B.C.F.) where it had occurred for a few years. The prospects for these southernmost populations look dim. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in *Beaver*, Pa., June 7 (RC) was undoubtedly a late migrant. Least Flycatcher population were high and this species also was found at lower elevations. The only reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers came from 2 locations in the Cheat Mts. (B.B.C.F.).

Is the Horned Lark another species which is disappearing from the Region? Hess remarks that it has apparently disappeared as a breeding bird near Pittsburgh, and I have found this to be true at Morgantown Golf courses and airfields still provide the proper habitat but the bird is seldom seen.

Cliff Swallows nested at Clarksville, Pa., for the first time since 1969 (RB), and 2 nests in *Cabell*, W. Va., and 11 nests in *Wayne*, W. Va. (TI) are the first known nesting for that area and constitute a major extension of the breeding range in the state. In *Warren*, Pa., 87 nests were found on one bridge (CP) and there were several new colonies observed in e. Tennessee (CN). At Bald Eagle S.P., many nests were destroyed but young birds have still been seen in the area (KJ). Tree Swallows were found nesting in *Nicholas*, W. Va., a slight range extension (GB) and were very common at P.N.R., where 45 were banded and where they were almost unknown a decade ago (RCL). The bluebird boxes at Warren fledged some 375 Tree Swallows (WH). A small group of Bank Swallows was present in *Knox*, Tenn., during the period, but nesting was not established (PHa). There were 2 colonies along the Potomac R., near Shepherdstown, W. Va. (SC).

RAVENS THROUGH CREEPERS — A Com. Raven nest was found at State College, Pa. (MO) and the species may have nested on Laurel Hill near P.N.R. (RCL). One was seen in *Mercer*, W. Va., July 30 (LR). A ♀ Carolina Chickadee with a brood patch was netted at P.N.R. No male was known to be present and this bird may have been mated with a Black-capped, the species normally present at that station (RCL).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were not very common in the Cheat Mts., a normal nesting location (GAH), but were found at several places of much lower than normal elevations: Stone Valley Rec. Area, near State College (MW); *Columbiana*, O. (NL); and Poverty Hollow near Blacksburg, Va. (JGr). Brown Creepers also were present at Poverty Hollow (JGr), and Mosquito L., O. (CB). These locations are out of the normal range but the occurrence of creepers under these circumstances is not surprising. Creepers were also quite common on Laurel Hill in s.w. Pennsylvania (RCL).

WRENS, THRUSHES AND KINGLETS — Winter Wrens were relatively common in most of the mountain areas of West Virginia (GAH) and w. Maryland (CR), and a singing male was present in *Wise*, Va. at the low elevation of 1500 ft June 19 (RP). Bewick's Wren nested successfully in a house plant hanger on a porch in Dalton, Ga. (AH), and there was a report of a nest at Coopers Rock S.P., W. Va. (BM). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was found near Stoney Bottom, *Pocahontas*, W. Va., June 9 (NG).

On Mt. Rogers, Va., Hermit Thrushes are possibly increasing, and eight singing ♂ Swainson's Thrushes were counted there, both species recent immigrants to this area. Three singing ♂ Hermit Thrushes were on Roan Mt., Tenn., in early July (GE). Hermit Thrushes were in above-normal numbers in the Cheat Mts. (GAH) and 2 nests were found on Laurel Hill, Pa. (RCL). At P.N.R., a Swainson's Thrush was banded July 3 (RCL). The species is not known to nest anywhere near there.

The bluebird nesting projects in *Warren* probably fledged about 500 bluebirds this year.

At least three pairs of Golden-crowned Kinglets nested on Laurel Hill just e. of P.N.R., for the first known local nestings (RCL). Kinglets also nested near State College and at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa. (*vide* KJ), and a male was singing on territory near Sheloceta, *Indiana*, Pa., but no nest could be found (R & MH).

PIPITS, SHRIKES AND VIREOS — A Water Pipit was at P.I.S.P., at the unusual date of June 11 (JM), and there was a report from *Rockingham*, Va., June 2 (R.B.C.).

As last year I have listed all the records that came in for Loggerhead Shrikes: 4 reports from the Knoxville region (PHa, CN); 1-3 present through the period at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE); a pair in *Murray*, Ga., July 20 (HD); perhaps 3 records in *Augusta*, and one in *Rockbridge*, Va. (*vide* RS); *Pendleton*, W. Va., early June (B.B.C.F.); and *Butler*, Pa., July 5 (BR).

The White-eyed Vireo is another species whose N expansion seems to have slowed down or ceased as witness reports from w. Pennsylvania (RCL, PH). On the other hand the Yellow-throated Vireo which has been quite rare in recent years seems to be making a comeback, with record numbers on a s.w. Pennsylvania B.B.S. route (RB) and good numbers in *Erie*, Pa. (JM). Solitary Vireos were found in *Cabell*, W. Va., in mid-June, much lower than normal (TI); a singing male was in *Butler*, Pa., June 19 (PH); and a singing male near Blacksburg, Va., July 16 (JMu).

WARBLERS — There were numerous reports of n warblers remaining in the Region into June, even as late as the 10th. This complicates the determination of the obvious range expansions that are taking place. Perhaps the most unusual late straggler was a singing Connecticut Warbler near Coalmont, Tenn., June 12 (DJ *et al.*).

Of the s. species that are moving N the Yellow-throated Warbler movement seems to have slacked off although it continues to be seen in many places in w. Pennsylvania. Kentucky Warblers nested in *Erie*, Pa., the first for that area, and Yellow-breasted Chats on territory there were unusual (JM).

The most exciting warbler news comes from those species extending their ranges S. The Yellow-rumped Warbler has now become quite common in the West Virginia spruce belt (GAH) and was found this summer at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa. (MW). A Blackburnian Warbler was present on territory in s. *Butler*, Pa., all through June, well away from its expected range (MS). What is one to make of Tennessee Warblers at P.I.S.P., June 18 (JM) and in *Wood*, W. Va., June 22 (JC)? Very likely these are to be added to the straggler list. Magnolia Warblers nested near Edinboro, *Erie*, Pa., another local first (JHo).

Magnolia Warblers have nested as far s. as Mt. Rogers only in rather recent times but they are increasing there and have now been found as low as 4900 ft. At this elevation there seems to be competition with Blackburnians, and indeed this latter species has disappeared from the Mt. Rogers summit (PS).

S.A.

In early June of 1982 a singing ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler found in the West Virginia mountains, far from its usual nesting grounds, was put down as a straggler, but this year at the same place two singing males occurred and one of these was apparently mated to a Blackburnian Warbler, which had at least two young in an almost inaccessible nest (GH, GAH).

Blue-winged Warblers were reported in short supply at most places. Pine Warblers, rare nesters in this Region, summered in *Allegheny*, Pa. (DF) and on Laurel Hill, Pa. (RCL).

FRINGILLIDS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at lower-than-normal elevations near Blacksburg, Va. (JMu). Blue Grosbeaks nested near Lyndhurst, Va. (JHi), near Centerville, Va. (R.B.C.); one was seen at P.N.R., June 18, the second local record (RCL); and one was seen in *Greenup*, Ky., June 26 (FB). One pair and at least four singing ♂ Dickcissels were found in the Waynesboro, Va. area (*vide* RS). A successful nest was found in the strip mine area near Knox, Pa. (WF).

Purple Finches were quite common at lower-than-normal elevations, and House Finches continue to consolidate their ranges. Besides the usual reports from Shenandoah Mt., Va., Red Crossbills were reported this summer from Poverty Hollow near Blacksburg, Va. (JGr), and from the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga. (HD).

The extensive recovered strip mine area in *Clarion*, Pa. boasted very high populations of Vesper, Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows (WF). Grasshopper Sparrows have made a small increase in the Knoxville area, one of the first areas to report a decline some years ago (CN). Savannah Sparrows have been pushing S into Virginia for several years, and have now shown an increase near Blacksburg (CK). This year three singing males were found near Sparta, *Allegheny*, N.C., the first indication that they might breed in that state (HL).

Dark-eyed Juncos were slightly out of range at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., but White-throated Sparrows there were definitely in a new summer location.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

This summer was a time for one activity, staying cool. After a winter that was more spring-like, and a spring that was more winter-like, the summer exhibited all the negative qualities one normally associates with it.

June was cool, very wet and windy, a continuation of the spring pattern. However late in the month brief periods of hot, humid weather offered a foretaste of July. After one last, unusually cool spell around the fourth, the remainder of July turned unbelievably hot and humid with no relief. Temperatures in the 90's F were the norm, with frequent days breaking the century mark. The humidity matched the temperatures, with 70-90+ per cent most of the time. Naturally such heat spawned numerous severe thunderstorms, accompanied by localized downpours, high winds and occasional hail and tornadoes. Unfortunately, as a result of the excessive heat, the summer moisture was insufficient. Only the abundant spring rains prevented the development of serious drought.

For the birder, if the heat and humidity were not sufficient discouragement, the combination of mosquitoes, deer flies and wood ticks proved the clincher. All three were excessively abundant, making field work miserable. Understandably all three states reported a paucity of birding activity. Although it was readily apparent there was little to be found, the excellent spring migration did provide a few interesting rarities into June. In addition there was a substantial late migration of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos and warblers during the initial weeks of June. This was most significantly evident in the southern sections of the Region. However after the migration finally ended, the remainder of the period was a disaster. What follows is a testimonial to the 1983 summer. May it quickly pass from memory. In the following text place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — More than the usual number of Com. Loons were migrating along L. Michigan during early June. The only wanderer was one seen July 30 on White L., Shawano Co. (DT). In addition to the Red-necked Grebe colonies at 3 Wisconsin locales, a maximum of 73 occurring at Rush L. (TZ), wandering birds were seen at Wilson Pond, *Dunn*, June 1-4 (JP) and Kaukauna July 30 (DT, MP). Late migrating or wandering Horned Grebes were seen in Wisconsin June 4 at LaCrosse (PW), June 9 at Rush L. (TZ) and July 28 at Manitowoc (CS). A W. Grebe at Minneapolis June 17 was e. of its normal range. White Pelicans were found at several Wisconsin sites. The eight present during late May at Mead W.M.A. gradually decreased with the last seen July 13 (m.ob.). Four were found on Gull I., in the Apostle chain June 3 (SM, DV). One was flying over Oshkosh June 30 (JC) with another in *Dunn* July 19 (JP). In Michigan an individual was at Sleepy Hollow S.P., July 18-21 (m.ob.).

After 10+ years of excellent variety and numbers of s. heron sightings, the Region is experiencing a reversal of this pattern. For example, there were almost no Little Blue Heron or Snowy Egret reports, with Cattle Egret numbers beginning to exhibit a decline. The only Little Blues seen were single adults near Brodhead, Wis., June 5 (DT) and in Michigan's *Kalamazoo* during late June (BB). Wisconsin had the only Snowies with one wandering between the Theresa and Horicon marshes during the summer (m.ob.). The usual pair nested at Green Bay (TE *et al.*). Also at Green Bay between 15-20 pairs of Cattle Egrets nested (TE *et al.*). Additional sightings were recorded at Horicon N.W.R., although they were considerably more difficult to locate than usual, and three at Trempealeau N.W.R., during early June (CW). In Minnesota a



total of seven Cattles were found at 3 sites. Similarly there were few Yellow-crowned Night Heron reports. The species nested for the third consecutive year in Minnesota's *Aitkin* (WN), with one at Blue Mounds S.P., June 16 (OJ). For Wisconsin it was only found at Bong W.A., June 22 (MB, WW, JBr). On a more positive note a **Louisiana Heron** was studied at leisure at Wisconsin's Rush L., July 10 by Mossman and Ziebell. The Horicon staff census of the marsh recorded 400 Least and 200 Am. bitterns. Ziebell's observation of a **Wood Stork** flying over Oshkosh June 22 was exceptional.

S.A.

For almost the past 10 years the Double-crested Cormorant has shown a phenomenal increase in Wisconsin. Most significantly during this period, there has been an explosion of nesting colonies throughout the state, with some as large as hundreds to one thousand. However, this summer a disturbing note appeared. Badly deformed young were found in several colonies adjacent to *Door*, including Spider, Gravel and the Fish Is. The bills were crossed as much as 180° with a few also having deformed limbs. As many as 3% of the colonies' young were found to exhibit these traits. A similar situation was also discovered in the Herring Gull colonies on 6 islands in Green Bay. The cause is unknown but tests are currently being conducted, with results hopefully known by year's end (TE).

WATERFOWL — A Snow Goose was found in Manitowoc June 7 (CS). The Ross' Goose that resided at Hastings, Minn., since December exited during mid-June. It became progressively more tame during its stay with domestic waterfowl at the local pond! Out-of-range ducks were found in all 3 states. In Wisconsin they included a pair of Ring-necked at Supple Marsh (MM), a pair of Canvasbacks at Rush L. (s.ob.), plus additional birds in *St. Croix* (JE) and *Monroe* (EE) during mid-June. Summering or wandering Lesser Scaup were found in 10 counties. A ♂ Com. Goldeneye was seen at Manitowoc June 13 (RG) and at Kaukauna July 30 (DT, MP). Buffleheads lingered at Rush L., June 1 (MM), Milwaukee June 9 (BC) and until June 24 in *Dunn* (JP) with one at Kewaunee June 30-July 7 (EE). More unusual was the sighting of an Oldsquaw in Milwaukee June 5 (MB). White-winged Scoters lingered in n. Wisconsin with birds found in *Douglas* June 4 (RJ), and until June 15 in Ashland (FL, DV). A Black Scoter was seen intermittently during the period at Elk L., *Dunn* (JP). In Michigan a Canvasback was seen June 20 at L. Cadillac, *Wexford* (BA), while four Black Scoters were observed on L. Michigan off *Ottawa* June 25 (SMI)

Minnesota's contributions included 14 Gadwalls at Duluth July 28 (KE), a Bufflehead pair at Agassiz N.W.R., June 17 (JM) and a brood at Carver P. (M & KH), representing the third nesting record. White-winged Scoters were found at Grand Marais June 9 (KE, M & KH), and Erskine June 13 (JBI).

HAWKS — A Bald Eagle remained at Horicon N.W.R., until June 26, well s. of its normal range (Horicon staff). A late Osprey was found at Rush L., June 1 (MM). Also very late was a Peregrine Falcon June 4 in *Waukesha*, Wis. (DT). More difficult to explain was the one observed by Mossman at Wisconsin's L. Puckaway Marsh June 25.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — Spruce Grouse were seen by Spahn in Wisconsin's *Forest*, July 10 and in *Vilas*, July 17. Bobwhite were found n. of their normal range in Blue Mounds S.P., and *Wabasha*, Minn. Numbers increased in Michigan, but still were below the mid-1970s peak. Undoubtedly the past mild winter was a contributing factor. King Rails were found in 3 Wisconsin locations, including ten at Horicon N.W.R. (staff), and single birds at Grand River Marsh (MM), and in *Jefferson* (MM). Also in Wisconsin, Yellow Rails were heard at Fish Lake W.A., one June 7 (BC) and two at Peshtigo Pt., June 22 (MM).

SHOREBIRDS — There were the usual late spring migrants, especially in Wisconsin and Minnesota, although more in evidence this year owing to the late spring. Minnesota's most interesting sightings included a Whimbrel at Beaver Bay until June 4 (KE) and one at *Lake of the Woods* June 11 (TW). Also in *Lake of the Woods* was a Red Knot June 7-9 (TW). Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at Duluth until June 25 with two injured Dunlins also summering there (KE). Wisconsin had no less than 18 species seen in June. Highlights included Whimbrels June 2 at Ashland (SM) with six at Manitowoc (CS); a Lesser Yellowlegs at Madison June 18 (ST); Red Knots at Ashland June 2 (SM) and Racine June 7 (FF); three White-rumped Sandpipers at Madison June 18 (ST); summering Dunlins at Manitowoc (CS); a W. Sandpiper near Beaver Dam June 4 (DT); and a N. Phalarope in *Dunn* June 8 (JP). Michigan's solitary contribution was also a N. Phalarope, this at the Muskegon Wastewater System June 4 (SMi). Piping Plovers nested in all 3 states with mixed success. For Michigan nesting occurred in *Alger* (LW) and *Emmet* (DP, BBo). Pippings again nested in Wisconsin on Ashland's Long I., with two out of three pairs successful (SM). In Minnesota good success again occurred in *Lake of the Woods* with 45 adults producing 20+ successful nests (TW). However, at Duluth the picture was reversed. One nest was destroyed by construction, another pair hatched no young and the third pair hatched four young, although only one could be found several days later. Minnesota's third Solitary Sandpiper nesting record occurred with the return of the pair to their *Cook* site. One young was hatched (M & KH).

Shorebird habitat varied for the fall migration. It was adequate to good in Minnesota and Michigan, but exceptionally poor in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's most interesting sightings included a Piping Plover and three Willets July 28 at Kewaunee (EE). Willets were also seen at Manitowoc with two July 4 and one July 14 (CS). Ruddy Turnstones, Lesser Yellowlegs and Semipalmated Sandpipers appeared at Manitowoc June 28 (BC, CS), with Short-billed Dowitchers first seen there the preceding day (CS). Western Sandpipers were found at Manitowoc July 21 and 28 (CS), four at Milwaukee July 23 (BC) and Kaukauna July 23 (DT). A Marbled Godwit was seen in *Burnett* July 16 (JH). The best find within the group proved to be a **Ruff** discovered by Thiessen at Madison's Sewage Ponds July 23-24.

For Minnesota the fall sightings included a Black-bellied Plover June 25-28 in *Lake of the Woods* (TW); Hudsonian Godwit at Duluth June 23-24 (m.ob.) and *Lake of the Woods* July 17 (TW); Ruddy Turnstone June 25 and White-rumped Sandpiper June 25-July 12, also at *Lake of the Woods* (TW); a Red Knot July 29 in *Hubbard* (AB); a Least Sandpiper June 21 (correction direction?) at Duluth (DB); and Buff-breasted Sandpipers July 23 at Grand Marais (RGI) and Salt L., Lac Qui Parle Co. (SC) Michigan's interesting shorebirds included a Willet July 15-16 in *Ottawa* (SMi) and two W. Sandpipers July 25 at Pt. Mouillee (EC).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — The two ad. Parasitic Jaegers that frequented the Duluth-Superior area in late May were last seen June 2 at Duluth (KE). The ad. **Great Black-backed Gull** that spent most of May at Oshkosh, remained until June 8 (TZ). The find for the summer was

the unexpected appearance of a **Black-headed Gull** at Manitowoc. It was discovered by Sontag during the evening of June 27 sitting on the marina landfill with other gulls (Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's). The bird, last reported July 18, proved most cooperative in the ensuing days as it was photographed and seen by many others. This represents only the second documented Wisconsin record. The Laughing Gull that appeared at Manitowoc in mid-May remained until July 7 (CS). Minnesota had two in mid-June at Frontena (m.ob.), representing only the sixth state record. At Minnesota's Agassiz N.W.R., there were an estimated 20,000 pairs of nesting Franklin's Gulls (JM). In Wisconsin Franklin's were found June 17 at Ashland (DV), June 28 at Milwaukee (BC), maximum of six until July 16 at Manitowoc (CS), and July 28 at LaCrosse (FL). Eight Little Gulls spent the summer at Manitowoc, but there was no nesting at nearby Two Rivers (CS *et al.*) because of high water level on the marsh. Very unusual for the summer was a **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Greenbush June 11 (D & GW), representing only the sixth Minnesota record. One of the four Arctic Terns found in Duluth during late May lingered until June 2 (KE). A Least Tern was found in *Dunn* June 14 (JP), the second consecutive summer it has been found in Wisconsin.

CUCKOOS THROUGH OWLS — The Burrowing Owls that nested last year in Minnesota's *Rock* returned to the same pasture, raising five young this summer. Also in Minnesota Great Gray Owls were reported from the 5 normal counties, plus an apparent nesting pair was also found in *Cook* June 3-5 (KE, M & KH).

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH STARLINGS — The Chuck-will's-widow returned for the third consecutive summer to its *Sherburne*, Minn. site (m.ob.). Casual at best in the fall, so totally unexpected during the summer, was a **Rufous Hummingbird** seen by Andberg July 30 at Anoka. This marks Minnesota's fifth record. The Red-bellied Woodpecker that was watched at a nest site during May in *Douglas* could not be relocated during the summer (RJ). This and another found at Three Lakes June 9 (KL) represent a continuing N. expansion of the species in Wisconsin. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Dewitt, Mich., June 20 (PM) was s. of its normal range. Typical of the past several years, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in the n. third of the Region, with nesting occurring in all 3 states. Late migrating W. Kingbirds were again seen in Wisconsin; Berner had one June 6 in *Barron*, and another was spotted by Polk in *Dunn*, June 9. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was observed June 10 at Troy, Mich. (PY). An Acadian Flycatcher, present at Manitowoc until June 25, was out-of-range in Wisconsin (CS). A Willow Flycatcher seen and heard at Duluth June 3 provided the first n.e. record for Minnesota (KL). Also out-of-range was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in n.w. Detroit July 17 (EC) Minnesota reported Purple Martin numbers down this summer. A Black-billed Magpie found at Grand Marais July 25 was considerably e. of its normal range (M & KH). The Com. Raven continued to extend its range s. in Michigan. It was observed several times in *Wexford* with a maximum of four (BA). Tufted Titmice were found in increased numbers in s.e. Minnesota. Red-breasted Nuthatches summered in Madison (RG, PL). Brown Creepers were found s. of their normal range in Wisconsin, where Mossman found them in the s.w. with nesting suspected. In Minnesota three nests were found, one at Whitewater S P (AR), and two in New Ulm (JS). A similar situation occurred with the Winter Wren, found in *Sauk*, Wis., and near Port Huron, Mich. during the period. A singing ♂ Bewick's Wren was watched by many observers until mid-June in Minnesota's Sherburne County. A Carolina Wren was at Port Huron July 22-31 (DM). Besides the usual locations in *Berrien*, three Mockingbirds were seen near Allegan, Mich., July 9 (JW, SMi). In Wisconsin single birds were found at Milwaukee June 1 (MB, WW) and Willow Creek S.P., July 13 (CF). Michigan noted fewer Brown Thrashers this summer. South of their normal range were Hermit Thrushes in Shawano (MP) and Monroe (EE) cos., Wis. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes were still migrating through Milwaukee and much of Minnesota during the first week in June, although not unexpected after this spring. Most encouraging was the E. Bluebird picture Regionwide. Nesting and especially sightings increased. This is the second consecutive year, hopefully indicating a developing pattern. Minnesota had its first summer **Mountain Bluebird** with a male at Agassiz N.W.R., June 1 (*fide* JM). South of its normal range was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet June 14 in *Waupaca*, Wis. (DT). The improved

picture exhibited by the Loggerhead Shrike last year continued. Wisconsin had a total of nine nests in 6 counties, with most apparently successful. In Minnesota there were three nests with 5 additional sightings. Michigan had two nests after a spring of increased sightings.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — White-eyed Vireos were found in all 3 states. Minnesota had its seventh and eighth records with birds at 2 different Ramsey sites until mid-June. In Michigan two were present at Metrobeach (DL) with two other birds also in the Detroit area (AK) during the period. In Wisconsin, one White-eyed was in Milwaukee June 9 (DH). Birds were also present for the summer at Madison (DC *et al.*) and at least two males sang at Cadiz S.P. (MP). Bell's Vireos were found in at least 7 Wisconsin sites. Minnesota had increased numbers reported from 4 s.e. counties while Michigan had one report. Ten species of warblers were found migrating through Wisconsin during early June, with the most surprising being the Orange-crowned, normally a late April-early May migrant. Six warbler species were tallied in Michigan. Again this summer Wisconsin hosted nesting Worm-eating Warblers. A total of five were found in 2 locations (Baxter's Hollow and Hemlock Draw) in Sauk. Michigan had one sighting in Ottawa, June 26 (SMi). A Golden-winged Warbler July 4 at Baptism River S.P., was unusually far n.e. for Minnesota (KE). Numbers of Tennessee Warblers increased both in Michigan and n.e. Minnesota. Michigan had its most s. Cape May Warbler nesting record with the discovery of one s. of Lovells (PY).

A Cape May in Eau Claire June 11 (JP) probably was a tardy migrant, but the one in Milwaukee June 25 (JBr) was hard to explain. Also s. of their normal Wisconsin range were two territorial ♂ Black-throated Blue Warblers in Shawano (MP). Yellow-throated Warblers were found as usual in Berrien, Mich., at 2 locations (DP). Unexpected was the **Yellow-throated Warbler** discovered at Wisconsin's Devil's Lake S.P., June 21 (SS). A ♂ Kirtland's Warbler at Gwinn June 9-17 (JPr, LW) represents one of the few records for Michigan outside of the n. Lower Peninsula. Prairie Warblers were found during late June in Newaygo (BBo), and in July in Wexford (BA), Mich. A pair of N. Waterthrushes in Troy, Mich., during June (PY) were s. of their normal range. Kentucky Warblers were found in at least 4 Wisconsin locations. Unusual was one in Minnesota's Rice, June 17 (DZ). The singing Connecticut Warbler in Taylor during June represents a new Wisconsin area (SR). A similar S. range extension occurred for the Mourning Warbler in Michigan, July 3 in Sanilac (KO), and in Minnesota, July 4 at New Ulm (JS). Five Yellow-breasted Chats were found in 4 Wisconsin and one Minnesota locales. Hooded Warblers were found in all 3 states with 7-10 in Michigan, 3-5 in Wisconsin and one in Minnesota. This species is very rare in the latter state so the sighting from a n. county—Crow Wing—is most interesting.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH LONGSPURS — A W. Meadowlark at Novi, Mich., June 3 was e. of its normal range (DF). In this state there is an increasing concern for this species as it continues to decline. Unusually far n.e. was a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Grand Marais June 23 (KE). Orchard Orioles were reported from 11 Wisconsin and 4 Michigan counties. Rusty Blackbirds nested for the second year in Minnesota, with a pair back at their Cook site (M & KH) plus another pair in Lake (SW). Minnesota had two rare tanager sightings. A Western Tanager was at Agassiz N.W.R., June 1 (S & KS) and a Summer Tanager was at Fergus Falls June 18 (S & DM).

The N expansion of the Cardinal continues, as evidenced by the sighting of one of Charlevoix, Mich., June 12 (DP). Minnesota had its eighth **Lazuli Bunting** with a male seen June 26 in Chisago (SH). There was a varied Dickcissel picture this summer. Michigan had only 2 sightings, and while Wisconsin had 15-20 reporting counties, it was locally common only in a very few. In Minnesota numbers were up in the E. and N. For example Steva found a total of 50+ singing males July 10 in Polk, Crow Wing and Pine. Evening Grosbeaks were reported from 10, and Purple Finches from 22, Wisconsin counties. The latter species was found as far s. as the e.-c. part of the state. The House Finch continued to expand its range in Michigan with reports from 6 new areas. Both the Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill continued to be scarce Regionwide, a continuation of the winter-spring pattern. A Lark Bunting was found June 14 in Clay, Minn. (*vide* KE). Late was a Le Conte's Sparrow in Milwaukee June 6 (RG). Wisconsin had three Sharp-tailed

Sparrows including June 4 on Raspberry I (RM), June 9-11 at Powell Marsh (J, J & SB), and June 16 at Crex Meadows W.A. (FL). The Dark-eyed Junco observed by Peterson July 18 in Shawano was s. of its range. North of its range was a pair of Field Sparrows in Vilas, Wis. (JiB). Late was a White-crowned Sparrow in the Ashland area June 1 (SM). The 29 Lincoln's Sparrows in the Minden City area July 3 (KO) provided an unusually high count for the Lower Peninsula. A breeding-plumaged ♂ **Lapland Longspur** at Rice Lake N.W.R., June 26 represented Minnesota's first summer record. Also in Minnesota Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found in Clay, Norman (KLa), and Big Stone (JSc).

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

The cool wet weather of spring was followed by near normal temperatures and precipitation during June. Excessive rainfall was only a local phenomenon in Iowa and Illinois. In contrast, July was considerably warmer than normal and quite dry with very little precipitation anywhere.

Spring's delayed migration carried over into the first two weeks of June and caused a number of birds to summer south of their normal ranges. After the migrants left, the resident species had a fairly successful year including the first breeding records of Little Blue Heron and Snowy Egret in Ohio, Black-throated Green Warbler in Indiana, Great-tailed Grackle in Iowa and Clay-colored Sparrow in Illinois. Otherwise, this breeding season was rather uneventful, characterized by a paucity of data resulting from observers' reluctance to venture into the hot weather.

ABBREVIATIONS — M.M.W.A.: Magee Marsh W.M.A., O., O.W.R.: Ottawa N.W.R., O.; S.C.R.: Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo., Spfld.: Springfield, Ill. In the text following, place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A total of 12 late migrant or nonbreeding Com. Loons were reported this summer. Eared Grebes did not nest in the Region although migrants lingered through June 16 at 5 locations in Iowa, Missouri and Illinois. Nesting Pied-billed Grebes were widely reported in the w. Lake Erie marshes and n.e. Illinois. The 6 inland breeding reports included s.w. Missouri's second nesting record at Springfield (*vide* CBo) while summering birds were scattered across all states except Kentucky. Nonbreeding White Pelicans have become more numerous with 200+ at S.C.R., through June 12 (m. ob.), one-39 at 3 Iowa locations, two summering at Oregon, O. (†TL, m. ob.), and Illinois singles at L. Renwick July 4-28 (JMi, †m. ob.), and Glencoe July 31 (*vide* AA). The Thompson, Ill., Double-crested Cormorant colony is approaching its carrying capacity with 243 young produced in 103 nests (PPa). Late migrants or nonbreeders appeared at 12 other locations.



HERONS — Despite the inclement spring weather, most herons experienced a fairly successful nesting season. However, a late April storm destroyed many nests and killed 150 adults at the *Madison*, Ill., heronry. Many herons successfully renested following the storm although most Cattle Egrets moved to a new nesting site (K, BR, MSw *et al.*).

Great Blue Herons remained stable with 103 colonies in Missouri, at least 30 colonies in Illinois and scattered colonies reported elsewhere. Little Blue Herons increased their numbers along the Mississippi R., where there were 300 nests at *Madison*, Ill., and 2 s.e. Missouri colonies including 800 nests near Miner (*vide JW*). Two nests at O.W.R., provided the first confirmed breeding record for Ohio (EP, MS). Non-breeders appeared at 12 locations, providing twice the normal number of summer sightings. Cattle Egrets are also expanding their range with s.e. Missouri colonies consisting of 1500 nests near Miner and 300 nests near Caruthersville (*vide JW*), and Illinois colonies with 267 nests in *Madison* and 63 at L. Renwick (JM_i). At least 2 nests were found at O.W.R. (EP). As many as 50 nonbreeders were observed at 10 widely scattered localities, providing a normal number of summer reports. Great Egrets remained stable along Lake Erie and in Illinois where 11 colonies with 2-63 nests were reported. Their slow decline continued in Missouri where only 7 colonies remain. Two Snowy Egret nests at O.W.R., provided a long overdue first breeding record for Ohio (EP, MS). Ten nests were found near Caruthersville, Mo. (JW), while two-six summered near the *Madison*, Ill., heronry, and singles appeared at 2 n. Illinois sites.

A Louisiana Heron was noted at M.M.W.A., June 1 (JP) and one-two were present at L. Calumet, Ill., June 17-July 24 (†JL, m. ob.). Nesting Black-crowned Night Herons have disappeared from Indiana, but remained stable in the other states. The largest concentrations were of 368 nests in *Madison*, Ill., and 175 birds at Louisville July 9 (BP). Summering Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from 24 locations; breeding was confirmed at only 3 sites, 5 nests at Lexington, Ky. (RM), 2 nests at Chicago (AA) and one in *Lake*, Ill. (JG). Least Bitterns were numerous in the marshes along w. Lake Erie and in n. Missouri. Summering birds were widely scattered S to Louisville during mid-June (*vide BP*) with four in *Williamson*, Ill., July 9 (JR). In contrast, numbers of Am. Bitterns remained low with a total of 9 reports including two nests at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo. (JW).

WATERFOWL — The usual assortment of summering waterfowl were scattered across the n. states. Most noteworthy were a Com. Goldeneye at L. Calumet, Ill., through July 2 (JL), and single Buffleheads at 2 Chicago area locations through July 14.

The delayed spring migration did not induce more waterfowl to nest in the Region. Gadwall nested in 2 w. Lake Erie marshes (JP) while a Green-winged Teal nest at Ventura Marsh provided a rare breeding record for Iowa (JH *et al.*). Blue-winged Teal nesting at 3 s. Indiana and 2 s. Illinois locations were s. of their normal range. Redheads also nested in 2 w. Lake Erie marshes. A brood of Lesser Scaup at Sioux Center June 6 provided the third Iowa nesting record (GB). Ruddy Ducks nested at 2 Great Lakes locations where they are fairly regular. However, three-six broods at Horseshoe L., Ill., during July provided a rare inland nesting record (BR, RG, CP). Hooded Mergansers nested at a total of 6 sites in Missouri, Ohio and Illinois S to *Butler*, O. (FR), and Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo. (JW).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Summering Black Vultures in *Lawrence*, Ind., were n. of their normal range (JC) as were Mississippi Kites summering at Ft. Kaskaskia S.P., Ill. (SR). Two extralimital kites appeared at St. Louis June 7 (RC, EL) and one at Chicago June 14-15 (DJo, †m. ob.). Few Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported, and the only nests were discovered in *McDonald*, Mo. (WP). Cooper's Hawks were present in similar numbers as last year; 5 nesting attempts were noted. Red-shouldered Hawks remained scarce in most areas except s.e. Missouri where there were 13 nests at Mingo N.W.R. (TH), and six in *Crawford* (JW). At least ten Swainson's Hawks and four nests were discovered in *Kane*, Ill., this year (JM_i, m. ob.). An imm. Swainson's Hawk was observed at M.M.W.A., July 1 and was irregularly reported in that area into August (†J *et al.*). Summering Swainson's Hawks were also noted at 2 w. Missouri sites. Bald Eagles were fairly successful with six young produced in Ohio's seven nests (LV) and two young fledged at



Swainson's Hawk adult carrying nesting materials to nearby nest, being harassed by a blackbird. Kane County, Ill., June 16, 1983. Photo/ Joe Milosevich.

Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill. (JR). The Missouri nest was unsuccessful; it was struck by lightning and one adult was killed (JW). Non-breeders were encountered at 5 locations. Marsh Hawks successfully nested at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O. (MS, m.ob.) and in *Jasper*, Ill. (RW). Summering birds were noted at 11 locations in all states except Kentucky including seven in *Warrick*, Ind. (JCm). Only one summering Osprey was reported this year.

GROUSE THROUGH COOTS — The Illinois Greater Prairie Chicken flock declined 24% to 155 males (RW). The Missouri population was estimated at 5000-6000 birds, down slightly from last year. Bobwhite populations are slowly increasing in s. areas; numbers in Indiana increased by 16% this summer (*vide JC*). Gray Partridge in s.w. Iowa in *Mills* were well s. of their normal range (*vide BW*). Reports of breeding King Rails consisted of three nests at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo. (JS), one nest in *Gibson*, Ind. (DJ), and young at L. Calumet, Ill. (JL). Summering rails were also reported from 7 w. Lake Erie marshes (JP), 2 Illinois and one Missouri locations. The other rails were poorly reported. Downy young Virginia Rails at Spring Valley W.M.A., O., Apr. 23 were from a very early nest (TH_i). Breeding Virginia Rails at Spfld. (H), and a Sora nest in *Warrick*, Ind. (JCm), were s. of their normal ranges. One or more Black Rails in *Fulton*, Ill., June 16-28 provided a rare summer record for the Region (DB, †m.ob.). An ad. Purple Gallinule was observed at Little Portage River W.M.A., O., July 14 (†JP) where reports of nesting were never adequately confirmed. Numbers and distribution of Com. Gallinules were similar to last year. Inland breeding Am. Coot reports included hundreds of young at Horseshoe L., Ill. (RG, m. ob.), and s.w. Missouri's first nest at Springfield (RMa, CBo *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — The spring shorebird migration was later than normal with many migrants passing through the Region during the second week of June. Fall migrants returned during late June and early July but numbers were rather low due to the scarcity of suitable habitat.

Piping Plovers bred in Iowa for the first time in more than 10 years. Two nests were discovered in *Pottawattamie* where 17 plovers July 7

included some migrants. The only other migrant Piping Plover appeared at Oregon, O., July 8 (JP). Ruddy Turnstones lingered along Lake Erie through June 16 including a concentration of 150 at Oregon July 2 (TL). Small numbers of fall migrants included one at Louisville July 24 (JE, BP). Summering Com. Snipe at Merom power plant, Ind., June 19 (DJ) and in *Fulton*, Ill., June 23 (DB) were locally unusual. Upland Sandpipers were reported from traditional locations in all states except Kentucky. The largest concentrations were of 31 at Joliet, Ill., May 10-11 (RHe) and nine adults with 12 young at South Bend, Ind. (V & MI). Willets returned to 7 Great Lakes and 5 inland locations beginning June 22 at Huron, O., with the largest flock of 24 at Cleveland July 4 (TL).

Exemplary shorebird concentrations for an "off year" consisted of 885 Lesser Yellowlegs, 690 Pectoral Sandpipers and 515 Least Sandpipers at L. Calumet, Ill., July 24 (JL), 1500 Short-billed Dowitchers at M.M.W.A., July 9 (JP) and 57 Stilt Sandpipers at L. Calumet July 24. An early Buff-breasted Sandpiper returned to Amana, Ia., July 29 (CB). For the second successive year, Marbled Godwits summered along w. Lake Erie. Migrants were only noted along Lake Erie including a remarkable 16 at Cleveland July 4 (D & JH). The only Hudsonian Godwit sighting was of one-two at Oregon, O., July 8-26 (m. ob.). Returning Am. Avocets were noted at 2 Lake Erie locations and inland with four at East Fork L., O., July 23 (*vide* DC), 11 at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., July 30 (JM) and two at Spfld., July 31 (H). Wilson's Phalaropes exhibited breeding behavior in *Holt*, Mo. (PS, TBk), while July observations indicated possible nesting at Riverton W.M.A., Ia. (RS). Fall migrants were generally scarce in the e. states where ten in *Gibson*, Ind., July 31 comprised the largest concentration (DJ). Spring migrant N. Phalaropes lingered at 2 Iowa sites through June 4.

GULLS, TERNS — Immature Glaucous Gulls were reported from M.M.W.A., June 22-29 (†JP) and in *Porter*, Ind., July 16 (†CK). As many as 50 Great Black-backed Gulls summered at several Lake Erie sites and an immature was present at Michigan City, Ind., June 19 (PL). While the Lake Erie colonies were not surveyed, gulls continued to thrive along Lake Michigan. An estimated 100 pairs of Herring and 2000 pairs of Ring-billed gulls were present at L. Calumet June 17 (JL). One wonders when Laughing Gulls will begin nesting on the Great Lakes. Three adults were noted at Huron, O., June 27 (TL), another was at Michigan City, Ind., June 19 (PL) and an immature was there July 19 (KB). The only inland report was of one at Spfld., July 7 (H). Migrant Franklin's Gulls were common in w. Iowa during the first week of June. Late June observations were restricted to singles in Indiana and Illinois while an early migrant returned to Chicago July 31 (JL, m. ob.).

Fall concentrations of terns had not materialized by the end of July. Forster's Terns did not breed in n.e. Illinois this year but nested at Jemerson Slough, Ia. (*vide* JD). Common Terns exhibited no evidence of nesting along w. Lake Erie (LV), but 21 young were fledged at Zion, Ill. (RHe). An encouraging sign was the return of nesting Least Terns along the Mississippi R. for the first time since 1976. Eight nests were discovered in *Pemiscot*, Mo. (JW), and 13 young fledged in *Alexander*, Ill. (MSw). At least six summered in *Pottawattamie*, Ia., but did not nest (m. ob.). Summering Caspian Terns along the Ohio R., near Louisville were unexpected (BP). Small numbers summered along the Great Lakes. The status of breeding Black Terns appeared bleak. They nested at 3 Iowa locations, but only summered at scattered Great Lakes marshes.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Small numbers of Roadrunners continued to reside in s.w. Missouri as indicated by singles in *Barry* June 28 (VJ) and *Greene* July 5 (*vide* MD). Yellow-billed Cuckoos received mixed reports while Black-billed were universally scarce. A pair of Black-billed at Ft. Wright, Ky., July 5 were near the s. limit of their range (EG). Increased Barn Owl reports reflected greater interest in this declining species. Largest numbers were found in s. Missouri where there were 18 nests, four of which were successful (*vide* JW). Single nests were also discovered at Kingston, O., May 8 (CH) and *Pulaski*, Ill., June 11 (JWh *et al.*). Summering birds were reported from 2 additional sites in both Ohio and Illinois plus one in *Boone*, Ia., July 8 (†BE). Screech Owls had a successful year in n.w. Ohio, producing 70 young in 21 nests (LV). Rare breeder in this Region, a Long-eared Owl nest in *Lagrange*, Ind., produced two young (NZ *et al.*), a fledgling was recovered in *St. Charles*, Mo., June 10 (*, *vide* JW) and a nesting attempt in *Vermilion*, Ill. was unsuccessful (SB). Short-eared

Owls nested at 2 sites in *Warrick*, Ind. (JCm), where they are regular and summered at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O. (m. ob.), Dewey's Pasture, Ia., and Anderson L., Ia. (*vide* JD). Chuck-will's-widows summered at all traditional n. locations with a nest discovered at Sand River S.F., Ill. (RB). They were increasing in s. Indiana as indicated by five males in *Lawrence* (JC). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds remained scarce in many areas although local increases were noted by a few observers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were only reported from n.e. Iowa where 12 males in *Allamakee* were probably regular residents (DK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPERS — Many flycatchers were conspicuous migrants through the first week of June. Western Kingbirds noticeably declined in Missouri where there were only 2 reports. Extralimital sightings consisted of one-two near Alton, Ill., through July 2 (†NC, m. ob.), and one at Chicago June 8 (JL). The only extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared in *Livingston*, Ky., June 20 (†BP). Acadian Flycatchers were doing well in n. areas as evidenced by 5 n. Illinois reports and 26 in Allamakee, Ia. (DK). Increased numbers of Willow Flycatchers included birds s. to Petersburg, Ky. (LM), *Williamson*, Ill. (JR), Mingo N.W.R., Mo. (BL, BRe), and Springfield, Mo. (*vide* CBo). Summering Alder Flycatchers were only reported from traditional n. Ohio locations. Small numbers of Least Flycatchers were scattered across the n. states s. to *Lawrence*, Ind. (JC) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ia. (DK). As expected, a few fall migrants were discovered during late July.

The S-expanding Tree Swallow returned to traditional Kentucky nesting areas and were noted in s. Illinois with seven at Kinkaid L., June 18 and ten at Union County W.M.A., July 16 (JR). Bank Swallows remained stable with 3 colonies containing 200-1200 nests reported from Illinois. Cliff Swallows were thought to be declining in Kentucky and Missouri while new colonies were discovered in the other states. A large colony was found on the Smithland Dam, Ill.-Ky. (K *et al.*), and 300 nests were present in Taney, Mo. (*vide* JW). Purple Martins were locally uncommon but experienced good nesting success. The only reported roost supported 2000 martins at Vincennes, Ind., in late July (DJ). Carolina Chickadees continued to expand in n.e. Indiana. Following a non-invasion winter, Red-breasted Nuthatches only nested at Indianapolis (AST, *vide* CK) although nonbreeders lingered into June in Missouri and Ohio. Brown Creepers were reported from 6 locations in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois including four at Rice Lake W.M.A., Ill., throughout June (DB), and a nest at Alum Creek Res., O. (RN).

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — The late spring migration enticed more Winter Wrens to summer in the Region. A nest was located at the traditional *Geauga*, O. location (LR, EP), a possible family group was found in *Dubuque*, Ia. (DK), and singing males were recorded at Starved Rock S.P., Ill., June 6-14 (RGU), Hunting Valley, O. (TD), Effigy Mounds, Ia., June 10 and Pikes Peak S.P., Ia., June 26 (DK). Bewick's Wrens were only reported from Illinois with a nest at Elshah (RG) and one-two at 4 other locations n. to Chicago July 8 (RD). Carolina Wrens noticeably increased in s. areas but are not "back to normal." Scattered individuals have returned to some n. locations. Numbers of Long-billed Marsh Wrens were generally reduced from last year. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were scarce in e. states with only single observations in Ohio and Kentucky, although normal numbers were noted in n. and c. Illinois. Mockingbirds continued to increase in most locations.

Migrant thrushes were widely observed through the first week of June. However, a pair of Hermit Thrushes possibly nested in *Lorain*, O. (JP), and a successful nesting attempt was reported in *Summit*, O. (LR, EP). Veeries continued to increase. They have become common residents of many n. areas, and scattered birds were noted s. to 2 c. Ohio sites and Charleston, Ill. (LH). Good numbers of E. Bluebirds were reported from all states and numbers have recovered from the weather-induced lows of the late 1970s. A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered at Spfld., June 4 (H). Small numbers of Cedar Waxwings were widely reported in n. areas. A total of 9 reports from c. and w. Kentucky was rather high for a species whose summer status is quite erratic in that state. The status of Loggerhead Shrikes has not improved. This summer's reports included three s.w. Ohio nests, one nest plus 4 sightings in s. and c. Indiana, observations in 7 Iowa counties, and 3 breeding records plus 6 additional sightings in c. Illinois.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — White-eyed Vireos have apparently stabilized in n. areas, appearing n. to *Buchanan*, Ia. Bell's Vireos were widely reported in Illinois but numbers were down; the largest concentration was only of six. They did not appear farther e. than Atterbury W.M.A., Ind. As many as three Solitary Vireos were detected at 6 n. Ohio locations where they are regular, while one present at Cumberland Falls S.P., Ky., May 30 was at a lower-than-normal breeding elevation (JE).

Black-and-white Warblers were found at 5 w. Ohio and 6 c. and n. Illinois sites where they are scarce. Worm-eating Warblers nested near Charleston, Ill. (LH), and summered in Iowa with one-three at 3 s.e. locations (RH) and Amana (CB). While Swainson's Warblers were not detected in s.e. Missouri this summer, singles appeared in w. Kentucky at Pennyrite S.P. (AS), and *Hopkins* (JHa) and three were noted at Pomona, Ill. (Haw). The only Golden-winged Warbler reports were provided by a nest at Mary Gray Sanctuary, Ind. (*fide* BG), and summering birds in *Lorain*, O. (JP). A singing ♂ Nashville Warbler near Bath, Ill., June 25 was s. of its normal range (RV). Summering N. Parulas at 6 s.w. Ohio and 5 e. and c. Iowa sites were locally uncommon, while one in s.w. Iowa at Preparation Canyon July 4 was quite unusual (B & LP). Magnolia Warblers summered in n. Ohio with five at Mohican S.F. (J), and one in *Lorain* (JP). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** nest near Beverly Shores provided the first breeding record for Indiana (SJ, KB *et al.*). One at Woodstock July 9-13 was unusual for n. Illinois (AC). Cerulean Warblers were locally scarce although small numbers were found at 6 n. Illinois locations, and 26 in *Allamakee*, Ia. (DK). A ♂ Blackburnian Warbler in *Oregon*, Mo., June 8 was probably a late migrant (JW, JS). Yellow-throated Warblers were noted at Ledges S.P., Ia. (JD *et al.*), as well as at traditional sites in n. Illinois and Iowa. Chestnut-sided Warblers continued to increase with 15 reports from n. states S to *Morrow*, O. (JM). A Prairie Warbler near Bonaparte, Ia., June 13 was n. of its normal range (†RH). Reports of 13 Louisiana Waterthrushes in *Dubuque*, Ia. (DK), and 22 pair at Starved Rock S.P., and Matthiessen S.P., Ill. (RGU), were remarkable for n. areas. Kentucky Warblers continued to expand including 22 found in n. Iowa at *Allamakee* (DK), 3 in w. Iowa at *Monona* (*fide* TB, GB) and scattered n. Illinois observations. Migrant Connecticut and Mourning warblers were observed through mid-June. A Mourning Warbler summered in *Ottawa* (JP) while others were present at Dunes S.P., Ind., June 26 (KB) and *Geauga*, O., July 8 (LR). Hooded Warblers at 6 c. and n. Illinois, and 3 Iowa locations were indicative of its N-expansion in recent years. Canada Warblers summered in greater-than-normal numbers with one-six observed at one Iowa and Indiana, 2 n. Illinois and 6 n. Ohio locations.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Normal numbers of Bobolinks were reported in n. states. They nested at 25 n. Missouri locations S to Warrensburg (*fide* JW), and summered in Kentucky at *Henry* (FS), *Taylor* (BP) and *Oldham* (*fide* S). Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to most traditional summering areas and were numerous in n.w. Missouri with 75 at S.C.R. (L). They nested for the first time at Horseshoe L., Ill. (m.ob.), and summered in s.e. Missouri at *Marais Temps Clair* W.M.A. (m.ob.). Nesting **Great-tailed Grackles** were discovered at Riverton W.M.A., July 1-15, providing the first breeding and second state record for Iowa (†RS, †FM, m.ob.). In n.w. Missouri, 20 were present in *Holt* June 11-12 (PS, TBk). Summer Tanagers were reported from 5 Iowa locations and in Illinois n. to *Braidwood* May 25-July 14 (JMi).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued to increase and expand S, nesting in *Clay*, Ill. (LHa), in addition to many other c. Illinois and c. and s.w. Ohio sightings. Blue Grosbeaks returned to traditional locations in n. states and were thought to be increasing in Kentucky. In s.w. Missouri, the only Painted Bunting was observed in *Barry* June 7 (VJ). Dickcissels received mixed reports without any consistent Regionwide trends. Largest numbers were 150 in c. Illinois July 21 (JL) and 100+ in *Butler*, O., July 3 (FR). Purple Finches were noted at only one n. Ohio location this summer. The House Finch population continued to increase in Indiana and Kentucky. In the w. states, a female with dependent young were documented at Jennings, Mo., Aug. 4 (†CP), providing the first evidence of breeding in Missouri. One also appeared at *Davenport*, Ia., June 17 (†B & AB). Pine Siskins nested at *Findley* S.P., O. (JP), providing the only breeding report following a non-invasion winter.

Savannah Sparrows were also expanding S with 14 in *Butler*, O. (FR),



Clay-colored Sparrow nest with four eggs, Blackhawk Tree Farm near Rockton, Ill., June 27, 1983. This is the second nest found at the tree farm this summer. Both nests constitute the first documented evidence of breeding for this species in Illinois.

and smaller numbers in *Knox*, Ind. (DJ), *Wabash*, Ill. (LHa), and *Adams*, O. (J). They remained at Louisville through June 4 (BM). Grasshopper Sparrows received mixed reports including noteworthy concentrations of 60+ in *Butler*, O., and 41 pairs at Matthiessen S.P., Ill. (RGU). Fewer Henslow's Sparrows were noted at several n. locations and none were reported from Missouri or Kentucky. The only large colony was of 65 at East Fork L., O. (NW, PP). Small numbers of Lark Sparrows were found at traditional locations in most states while the declining Bachman's Sparrow was only discovered in *Calloway*, Ky., with two found on June 21 (BP). Two broods of Dark-eyed Juncos were observed in *Cuyahoga*, O., while single summering juncos were also reported in n.e. Ohio in *Lake* and *Geauga* (TD). The delayed spring migration may have enticed these birds to linger s. of their normal range. Two nests of **Clay-colored Sparrows** at Rockton provided the first confirmed breeding record for Illinois (T & PP). An exceptionally late White-crowned Sparrow lingered at M.M.W.A., into July (JP).

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Jerome A. Jackson

This was one of the slimmer summer seasons in terms of the number of reports received—none at all from Tennessee and only one from Arkansas. The "records" drought is due to financial constraints at Louisiana State University which kept Bob Newnam from sending out his quarterly reminder to past contributors. This slim season lets us all know what an important and fine job Bob has been doing through the years. Thanks Bob! Now let's get ourselves organized and get those records in for the next report.

June was about as average weatherwise as we have had in recent years, although the Mississippi River was still above flood stage until about June 9. July in the midsouth, however, was a dry scorcher with temperatures soaring near 100°F early in the month.

Highlights of the season include nesting Brown Pelicans in Mobile Bay, first nesting of the White-tailed Kite in Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana, a good year for Least Terns marred by disease late in the season, a record nesting season for Gull-billed Terns in Mississippi, and a new Louisiana breeding location for Bell's Vireos.

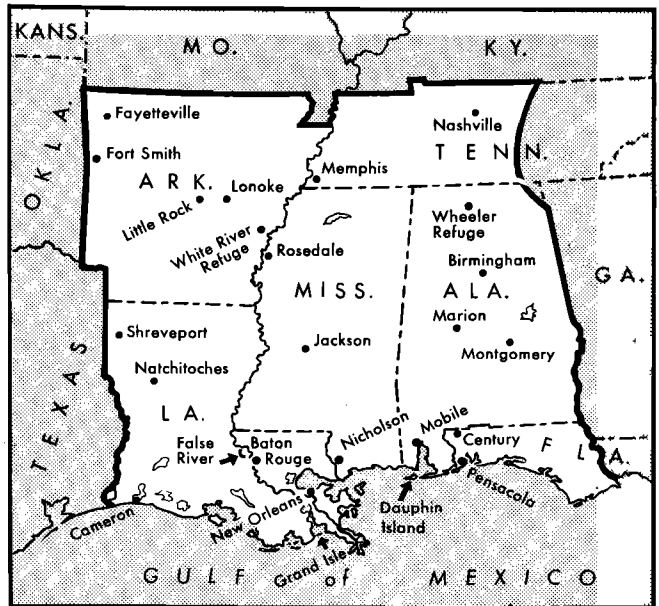
Locality abbreviations used: P.R.M. = Pascagoula River marsh south of I-10, Jackson Co., Miss.; P.R.W.M.A. = Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area, Jackson Co., Miss.; I.I.R.S. = Indian I. Research Station, Pigeon, La.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Com. Loon in breeding plumage was seen at Porter L., w. Jefferson Co., Ala., July 26 (TI, JI). A Pied-billed Grebe nest with one egg was found at Waveland, Miss., June 12 (JJ). This season's White Pelicans included 76 at Gulf Breeze June 26 (OF, HB, L&SD, H&SC) and one with an apparent injured foot at Ross Barnett Res., Madison Co., Miss., July 5 (JM). Brown Pelicans continued their comeback on the n. Gulf coast: 30+ were at Alabama Pt., June 2 (OF). One of the big surprises of the season were four Brown Pelican nests on a new spoil island (Theodore I.) in Mobile Bay (m.ob., *fide* DC). Unfortunately at least one clutch of eggs was collected by a Corps of Engineers biologist. Six imm. Masked Boobies at Bon Secour N.W.R., June 5 further indicates the rare but regular occurrence of this species in the Region (DC). A Gannet was found dead at Ft. Pickens July 25 (WV). The colony of 50+ pairs of Double-crested Cormorants at Toledo Bend Res., La., was active again this year (RY). An ad. Double-crested Cormorant was found oiled at P.R.M., June 11 (JT, KS, CE). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird graced the skies over Pensacola Beach as early as June 27 (PB, *fide* AZ), and 150+ were over Grand Isle, La., July 28 (NN). Anhingas continue to be reported from new areas and in higher numbers throughout the midsouth. At least 15 pairs nested at Noxubee N.W.R. (JJ); eight were at Ross Barnett Res., Madison Co., Miss., June 29 (JM); and six were at the P.R.W.M.A., July 29 (MH, JT, WW).

Postbreeding dispersal of Cattle Egrets was noted June 21 s. of Birmingham (HK). The presence of two adult and an imm. Reddish Egret on Dauphin I., June 22 suggests local breeding (GJ, MC). Least Bitterns were seen in all Mississippi coastal counties through the summer (JJ, BS, LN), and one was reported June 29 at Ross Barnett Res., Madison Co., Miss. (JM). A lone Wood Stork was seen July 24 in St. Landry Par. (NN, PN, BC), but at Pigeon, La., Wood Storks were seen June 3 (2)-July 10 (15), with a high of 58 seen June 24 (RM). A *Plegadis* ibis June 10 at Gulf Breeze provided a first June record for the area (LD); others were seen at the I.I.R.S., June 10 (one), 24 (5, 4 positive Glossy), and July 10 (3, 2 positive Glossy) (RM). A White Ibis colony including ca. 800 pairs was found June 10 on the ground in a pure stand of soft stem bulrush 7 km e. of Gheens, La. (RA, GP). A Roseate Spoonbill visited I.I.R.S., June 28-29 (RM).

WATERFOWL — A Mottled Duck on Dauphin I., June 13 & 22 (GJ, MC) suggested a local population. Although there was no evidence of Blue-winged Teal at P.R.M., where they have nested in recent years (JJ), a lone male was seen at Blakely I., June 13 (GJ). A ratty looking Lesser Scaup at Clermont Harbor, Miss., July 17 was likely a winter leftover (NN, PN).

RAPTORS — Lower coastal plain river forests are producing an increasing number of Swallow-tailed Kites, including: one at



P.R.W.M.A., June 1 (JT, MB, EJ); one June 17 at Wagarville, Ala. (G & DJ); three at Logtown, Hancock Co., Miss. (JT, EJ, PA); one July 29 at P.R.W.M.A. (MH, JT, WW); two July 30 at P.R.W.M.A. (MH, KS, CE).

Probably the biggest news of the season were the White-tailed Kites in s.e. Louisiana, and Mississippi. DP found one in St. Tammany Par., at the intersection of La. 36 and La. 434, June 5 and a bird on a nest was sighted nearby July 30 (JH, *fide* HP). JT and EJ originally found a pair of White-tailed Kites near Pearlington, Miss., last October, then two more birds were found nearby in January. The latter birds apparently had two nesting attempts, and JJ found 2 eggs April 17 during their second attempt; no young were ever seen and both attempts apparently failed. The first pair of birds disappeared by late spring, but at summer's end two juveniles were found near the site of the original pair (JT).

Mississippi Kites also seem to be doing well in the Region: 26 on June 1 hawking over a plowed field at P.R.W.M.A. (JT, EJ, MB); 10-12 there June 11 (JT, KS, CE); five July 29 (MH, JT, WW) and six July 30 (MH, CS, CE). P.R.W.M.A. also produced a Broad-winged Hawk July 29 (JT, WW, MH). An ad. Swainson's Hawk passed over Plaquemine, La., July 22 (NN). Three Ospreys were seen at Wolf Bay, Ala., June 23 (GJ, MC) and two frequented P.R.W.M.A., July 30 (MH, KS, CE).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Purple Gallinule was in n.e. Washington County, Ala., June 16 (GJ), and a pair paraded its two downy young for OF, CM, L&SD at the Perdido Bay Country Club June 25. American Coots are uncommon in the lower s. in summer, making two at Pigeon, La., July 5 noteworthy (MS, RM).

One June 13, GJ found 24 Semipalmated Plovers (16 alternate plumage, eight basic) on Blakely and Dauphin Is.; two were at Grand Isle June 19 (DP, JN, DM); and one was at the Pensacola Naval Air Station June 25 (OF, CM, PJ). Piping Plovers are a troubled species and worth keeping tabs on—one was at Blakely I. (Mobile Bay) July 30 (DC) and another at Alabama Pt., July 31 (OF).

S.A.

The Snowy Plover of our Gulf coast has recently been recommended for Federal listing as a threatened species and it will be important for us to document its present status and distribution. This season two were reported at Alabama Pt. (OF), and two pairs nested in a Gulfport Least Tern colony, although early nesting attempts (March) were thwarted by beach maintenance tractors (JJ). Many Snowy Plovers have been color-banded on the Mississippi coast (by JJ) and in Midwest breeding areas, and Piping Plovers have been similarly marked in Manitoba. Observers can contribute valuable information on the status and movements of these birds by carefully noting and reporting color-band combinations and details to the Bird Banding Lab, Laurel, Maryland.

Wilson's Plover's nested again at P R M (JJ) and two were seen on Blakely I., July 30 (DC). A late Ruddy Turnstone was seen at Pensacola June 14 (RD). Probable summering Black-bellied Plovers were seen across the coast: eight on Blakely and Dauphin Is., June 13 (GJ); GJ also found nine Ruddy Turnstones (three molting) on Dauphin I., June 13. A June 22 Whimbrel on Dauphin I., furnished a first June record for Alabama (GJ). An early Solitary Sandpiper visited Baton Rouge July 31 (MS). An "out-of-season" Lesser Yellowlegs was at Grand Isle, La., June 19 (JN,DP,DM); 14 were at Pigeon, La., July 5 (MS, RM); and there was an impressive staging of 2000+ on Blakely I., July 30 (DC, WW).

Red Knots at Sand I., June 18 (three—DC,SH,RR), Grand Isle, La., June 19 (one—DP,DM,JN), and at Alabama Pt., June 23 (one in breeding, one in winter plumage—OF) were unusual for the season. A molting Pectoral Sandpiper at Blakely I., June 13 (GJ) may have been a tardy spring migrant, while two at Alabama Pt., July 15 (OF) were probably an early vanguard of fall flocks. A White-rumped Sandpiper was at P R M., June 1 (JT, MB, EJ) and the next day several were seen there (JM, HM). A Baird's Sandpiper in breeding plumage on Sand I. (0.5 mi s of Dauphin I.) June 18 (DC, SH, RR) and one on Blakely I., July 30 (DC, WW) furnished first June and July records for Alabama (*vide* TI). A Dunlin at Blakely I., June 13 (GJ) also provided a late spring record for Alabama, and 10 Short-billed Dowitchers heard and seen at Grand Isle, La., June 19 were at least out of season (DP, DM, JN). Early Stilt Sandpipers were at Blakely I., July 30 (six in breeding plumage—DC, WW) and Alabama Pt. (three—OF). A flock of 119 W. Sandpipers (24 alternate plumage, 40 molting, 55 basic plumage) were at Blakely I., June 13 (GJ), six appeared at Grand Isle June 19 (DM,DP,JN), and one was present at Alabama Pt., July 9 (OF, MM, FW, m.ob.).

A Marbled Godwit was at Blakely I., June 13 (GJ), furnishing a first breeding season record for Alabama, and another was at Ft. Pickens June 25 (OF, RD), for the second June record for the area. GJ found 20 Am Avocets on Blakely and Pinto Is., June 13, 17 were at Blakely I., July 30 (DC, WW), for the first coastal Alabama record for July (although they are believed to occur there year round). Two avocets were at Grand Isle, La., June 19-20 (DM, DP, JN). None were found at P.R.M. during 4 June and July visits (JJ, BS), although seven appeared July 28 in Lafourche Par., where they have rarely been reported (NN). Blakely and Pinto Is. also harbored 155 Black-necked Stilts (four young) June 13 (GJ) and a high of 370 adults and immatures July 30 suggested good nesting success in the area (DC, WW)—although not at P.R.M., where high counts included 29 on June 11 (JT, KS, CE) and 14 on July 12 (MH, EG) and no positive evidence of breeding noted (JJ). Wilson's Phalarope's were noted June 13 (one breeding plumage female—GJ) and July 30 (12 winter plumage—DC, WW) at Blakely I., and July 31 (OF) at Alabama Pt.

LARIDS — A June 14 record of a Pomarine Jaeger at Pensacola Beach was submitted without details (J & DB). A late-breaking tragedy at summer's end is a report of 300 dead and dying Laughing Gulls at Raccoon Pt., La. (*vide* GA)—no details are known except that the birds were definitely not oiled. "Old One Foot," the 7+ year Lesser Black-backed Gull was still at the Pensacola waterfront June 27 (OF). JJ and BS regularly saw Forster's Terns in Mississippi coastal marshes through the summer. Gull-billed Terns had a slow start with early failures (JT), but then a banner year at P.R.M., where there were 31 nests on new spoil in a nesting congregation that also included Black Skimmers and Least Terns (JJ,BS,LN,OD).

Another of the season's thorny problems was a Corps of Engineers dredge that pumped spoil onto the spoil island between Horn and Petit Bois Is., for several days in early June when several thousand Royal and Sandwich terns, several hundred Least Terns, and scores of Black Skimmers were trying to nest. No spoil was actually pumped on nests, but workmen from the dredge were seen walking about the island (MH). Over 3000 Least Terns nested on Gulfport beaches, with good success early, but by early July large numbers of chicks and adults were found dead and dying. Autopsies at the Mississippi St. Univ. School of Veterinary Medicine revealed that the birds had necrotizing hepatitis and pox-like lesions. A *Paramyxovirus* was later isolated. No further information as to the nature of the problem is available at this time. Another nesting congregation including about 1000 Least Tern nests did not share the health problems of the Gulfport crowd. Approximately 200

pairs of Least Terns and one pair of Killdeers nested on the roof of the Singing River Mall in Gautier, Miss., where many were banded by JJ, BS, and LN. Another 40-50 pairs tried to nest at the w. tip of Horn I., but were unsuccessful because of predation and/or human disturbance (MH).

A Com. Tern at Grand Isle June 19 (DP, DM, JN) was unusual, but indicative of this species' increasing presence in the n. Gulf. The summer retinue of Black Terns included 83 at Sand I., June 18 (DC,SH,RR) and 4000+ birds at Alabama Pt., July 31 (OF). About 30% of 157 Caspian Terns at Blakely I., July 30 were immatures, many being fed by adults, suggesting to DC and WW that they were produced nearby. However, this species is known to migrate in family groups and to feed dependent young into the fall and winter. About 120 pairs of Black Skimmers nested on the beach in front of the V.A. hospital at Gulfport again this year (JJ, BS), another four pairs tried to nest in the large Gulfport Least Tern colony but were too close to the water's edge, sun worshippers, and beach patrol vehicles to make it. About 40 nests at P.R.M. were successful (JJ, BS), and numbers of adults there were often high: 200+ June 1 (JT, EJ, MB); 540+ July 12 (MH, EG); 362 July 17 (MH). At Pensacola Black Skimmers nested with Least Terns on rooftops at 2 locations (CK).

PARROTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — It was probably just an escapee Cockatiel seen June 12 at Pensacola (BM), but Florida is known for its established exotics. NN commented that Ruby-throated Hummingbirds seemed to be down in numbers this summer—no comments from other observers.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — The spring winds of West Feliciana Par., produced an exotic flycatcher at a freshwater marsh June 3 (MB, NN, BP, AM). For 45 min the visitor of kingbird size and shape toyed with observers, but no identification was possible. Detailed notes support the observers' identification narrowed to either Couch's or Tropical kingbird. Two Gray Kingbirds were at Ft. Morgan, Ala., June 23 (GJ, MC). Willow Flycatchers were found nesting at Monroe, La., July 23 (NN, PN, BC). A Least Flycatcher June 4 in West Feliciana Par was late for the area (NN). An E. Wood Pewee at Audubon P., New Orleans through June and July furnished possibly the first summer Louisiana record s. of L. Pontchartrain (JN, DP). A pair of Horned Larks seemed to have had a nest at the Ft. Smith, Ark. airport June 8 (BZ). A lone Cliff Swallow was near the Mobile causeway June 4, and three were seen June 13 (G & DJ). They apparently nested locally in 1982 (*vide* TI). Four Cliff Swallows and 3 nests were present at the Old River Lock near Innis, La., July 3 (DG).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS — American Robins at Grove Hill, Ala., June 11 suggest local breeding (DC). TI and HK banded 177 nestling E. Bluebirds this season from 133 nest boxes erected by JF s. of Birmingham. Four Bell's Vireos were found near Monroe, a new breeding location for Louisiana (TK, BB, NN, PN, BC). A "Yellow-green" form of the Red-eyed Vireo was carefully studied at Gulf Breeze June 13 (SD), only the fourth record for n.w. Florida. Single Black-and-white and Swainson's warblers were at Bigbee, Washington Co., Ala., June 16 (GJ). TI provided a series of summer records (1978-1983) of singing N. Parulas at Oakland Cemetery, Birmingham, including an immature Aug. 7 1983. He noted that the birds sang from tall sugarberries and water oaks with no moss of any kind in "decent" amounts and suggested that these June and July singers were young birds forced late into second-choice habitats. An early Yellow Warbler was found July 12 at P.R.M. (MH, EG), and a late Magnolia Warbler was singing in Gulfport June 2 (JT). An early fall migrant ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler appeared in E. Baton Rouge Par., July 29 (MS). A Louisiana Waterthrush was singing near Franklinton, La., July 3 (JN, DM, DP). Yellow-breasted Chats were out in force (44 birds!) for the June 4 Ncaise B.B.S., in n. Hancock and Harrison cos., Miss. (JT)

FINCHES — A July 22 record of an ad. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Baton Rouge defies explanation (NN). A Brazilian Cardinal seen at Pensacola July 26-29 (RS, CK, FW, AC) was likely an escapee, but the species has reportedly nested in Florida. A Dickcissel singing along a Baldwin County, Alabama road June 23 (GJ, MC) suggested local breeding. Several pairs were present through the summer at Hickory,

Miss (JM) Ten Bachman's Sparrows in e-c Baldwin County June 28 (GJ) suggested that the species is holding its own there.

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/J. Bernard Gollop

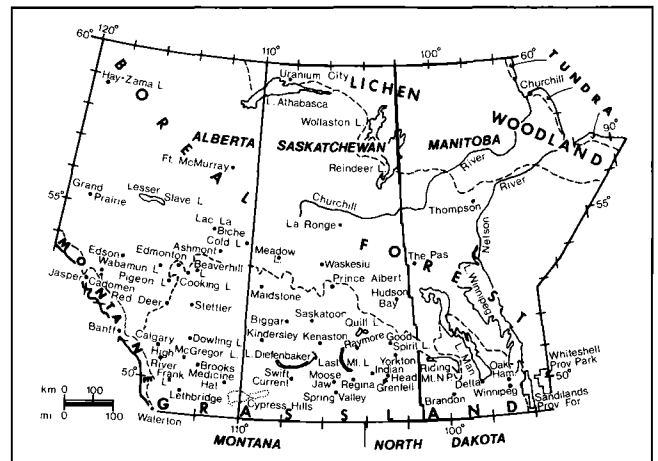
Temperatures in June were generally normal. Precipitation, however, was twice normal in central Alberta and Saskatoon had 75 mm of rain and hail in one hour on June 24, a rate to be expected once in 100 years. In southeastern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan precipitation was half normal. Most of the rest of the Region was about average. Six wind-and-rain storms crossed parts of the district. In July mean temperatures were generally 1 to 3°C above normal but southern Alberta was 1°C below average. Precipitation varied from 100% to 200% of normal. Seven storms tracked across the Prairies and at least seven tornadoes occurred in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (Climatic Perspectives, Environment Canada).

There were 2.2 million ponds in the Prairie Provinces south of 54° ± in July. This was one-third more than the total for 1982 and the mean for the previous 23 years. It also represented an above average 57% survival rate for May ponds. As usual there was much variation. Central Alberta ponds were full; southern Alberta's were still poor. In Saskatchewan water was abundant in the north and east-central areas but poor in the southeast and southwest. Many ponds in southern Manitoba have flooded beyond recent levels (Canadian Wildlife Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).

While the rest of the Region might be considered to be in the doldrums during June and July in terms of exciting bird events, Churchill is very much the opposite as will be evident in this account. This applies whether one is looking for large numbers or rarities. One third of the records below are from Churchill.

LOONS THROUGH MERGANSERS — The peak dates for loons at Churchill were June 16 with 600 Arctics and June 13-14 with 900 Red-throats (BC, AR, HJ). Pied-billed Grebes were high across s. Saskatchewan (PB). There was an apparently new colony (4 nests, 28 birds) of Double-crested Cormorants on Newton Res., near Val Marie, Sask. (ASM). A Great Blue Heron colony at Greenwater Lake P.P. (hereafter, G L.P.P.), 45 km n. of Kelvington, Sask., had dropped from 70 nests in 1970 to 2 this summer (CA, WH). The n. end of Last Mountain L. had a Snowy Egret in July and a Great Egret June 15 (WH, SL). A Snowy Egret also wandered to Riding Mountain N.P., where it was seen June 12+ (MCo, CP *et al.*). American Bitterns were found in larger numbers than last year at Churchill (at least six) and in the Saskatoon-Last Mountain L. area (BC, BG, WH). A pair of Trumpeter Swans spent June 6 near the Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada (hereafter, W R.W.C.), n. of Cochrane, Alta. (SJ).

Canada Geese are becoming so common and widespread in s. Saskatchewan that their grazing on green cereal crops is being reported more and more as a problem (PB). A White-fronted Goose, a rarity, was at Churchill June 14 as were two Ross' Geese June 10 (AR, HJ). Across the n. half of the Prairie Provinces duck production was up. In the s. half it was considered up in Alberta, down in Saskatchewan and the same as last year in Manitoba. Upland nesting cover, rather than water, has apparently become a limiting factor for ducks (Canadian Wildlife Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). A Cinnamon Teal was far n. of its summer range when sighted at Ft. McMurray June 1, 16 & 22 (JG). Waterfowl considered accidental at Churchill included a ♂ Eur. Wigeon June 14 and two ♂ and one ♀ Barrow's Goldeneyes into mid-



July (SSH, AR, BC). Ring-necked Ducks, a female June 7 and three males June 13, rarities, were at Churchill (JL, LA, SSH). Large concentrations there included scoters (White-winged 400 June 22-23, Surf 1800 June 22 and Black 2000 June 23) and mergansers (Com. 200 June 13 and Red-breasted 400 June 15) (*vide* BC, AR, HJ). On the other hand, two ♂ Surf Scoters near Lac du Bonnet, Man., June 4 were rarities (PT, Dfa, DH, HL) as was a ♂ Hooded Merganser at Fairy Hill, Sask., until the 2nd week in June (PB). Two Red-breasted Mergansers June 4 at Turtle L., Sask., may have been late migrants (SSH).

VULTURES THROUGH AVOCET — An unusual find was a Turkey Vulture's nest with two young n.e. of Biggar July 7; it was in the attic of an abandoned farmhouse (GW). A record 57 Swainson's Hawk nests were found in the Kindersley district by J. Harris (SH). On June 15, 10 non-breeding(?) Swainson's Hawks were following a tractor working a field near Riceton, Sask. (FB). A Rough-legged Hawk w of Moose Jaw June 10 was apparently a late migrant (PB). Ferruginous Hawks are accidental in s. Manitoba but this year one was identified at Birdhill P.P., near Winnipeg June 26 and there were at least 12 sightings in the Melita-Lyleton-Pipestone area through the summer (GH, BR). Prairie Falcons in Saskatchewan succeeded at only 5 of 10 active nests checked, producing 18 young (SH). A pair of Peregrine Falcons took up residence on a building in Calgary, did not hatch any of their 3 eggs but did successfully raise two foster young (AW). A pair of introduced Peregrines on an Edmonton building laid 3 eggs, hatched them and all three young fledged (RF). Two one-year-old and four young Peregrines were released on a Saskatoon hotel and remained in the vicinity (LO). Releases have also been made in Winnipeg but it is too early for nesting there (*vide* LO). Suncor Oil's erection of artificial perches for raptors in reforestation areas at Ft. McMurray for rodent control was instrumental in increasing the Am. Kestrel population by 50% (JG).

Sharp-tailed Grouse are considered accidental at Churchill and so the finding of three June 17 was unexpected (DM). It was generally agreed that there was an increase in Am. Coots across Saskatchewan s. of 52° lat. (PB, EK, FB). In the afternoon of June 9, >2000 Ruddy Turnstones arrived *en masse* at Churchill (AR, HJ). A rare and late migrating

Whimbrel was observed near Steinbach, Man., June 9 (HL) and an equally rare Willet at Churchill June 22 (BS, BB). A "continually, vehemently" scolding Greater Yellowlegs near W.R.W.C., June 7 suggested breeding s. of its published range (SJ). A **Curlew Sandpiper** was a new species for Churchill and probably Manitoba June 10 (DM, †SSH) while two W. Sandpipers, an accidental species, were found there on the same date (†AR). Five observers reported Am. Avocets down in s. Saskatchewan (PB, MB, WN, LB, BG).

GULLS THROUGH SHRIKES — Churchill had 9 species of gulls through the period—Glaucous, Iceland, Herring, Thayer's, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's, Ross', Little and Sabine's—with the first known successful nesting of Ross' there (BC, DM, AR, BB). Six Sabine's were also seen on Turtle L., Sask., June 4, possibly late migrants (MCa, SSH, RJ). A Black Tern was unexpected at La Pérouse Bay near Churchill June 3 (AH). At Oak Hammock Marsh, Man., a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, considered an accidental in the province, was seen and heard July 19, 23 & 26 (KG, RP). Based on 101 nests, Great Horned Owls had an almost average 2.05 young/brood in Saskatchewan (SH). Burrowing Owls appeared in good numbers and there may have been more Short-eared Owls than in the last few years in Saskatchewan but they were down in the Calgary area (BG, AW). A Com. Nighthawk at Churchill June 12 was a rare find (BT, RKi). Again at Churchill, a ♂ Rufous Hummingbird, an accidental, was studied June 14+ (DH *et al.*) and a Red-headed Woodpecker, new for the area, was seen June 21 (DH, PP, m.ob.). A wandering Lewis' Woodpecker spent some time in Biggar June 9 (GW). Two accidental occurrences at Churchill were a Say's Phoebe June 7-17 (AR, HJ, BC) and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher June 16-17 (GD, DM). Least Flycatchers were reported at half last year's population in parts of Manitoba (RKO). A W. Wood Pewee was e. of its normal range at Stonewall, Man., "singing" June 25-July 9 (KG). Tree Swallows around Saskatoon did well, averaging 4.6 young in 114 successful nests (of 131 attempted) (SH). An unusually large brood of 10 Black-capped Chickadees was found in a nest near Sundre, Alta. (FH). Red-breasted Nuthatches were moving through Lethbridge, Calgary and Cochrane during the last week of July (AW). Two Mockingbirds, one singing, in the ghost town of Govenlock in s.w. Saskatchewan June 5 was a surprise (ASm). A single Brown Thrasher occurred at Ft. McMurray June 26 (JG), for their second record, and two at Churchill June 22 where they are rare (EC, JC). American Robins were up 30% over last year at Ft. McMurray (JG). Single Wood Thrushes were another Manitoba rarity, reported at Seven Sisters June 4 and at Oak Hammock Marsh 70 km away June 24 (RKO, GG, GH, BW). The sighting of a Gray-cheeked Thrush near Jasper July 4 added weight to a potential mountain breeding population far s. of its known range (DE). Mountain Bluebirds did worse this year than last in the Saskatoon area. Nesting was 10-14 days later than normal and only one-half of 43 nesting attempts were successful. In 1983, 100 young were banded *cf.* 132 last year and 355 in 1981 (SH). Three Mountain Bluebird boxes in the Assiniboia-Moose Jaw area each held seven young June 16-17 (DFy). Four Saskatchewan observers reported Loggerhead Shrikes up over last year (PB, GW, LB, BG).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Two ♂ Black-and-white Warblers at Willowbunch, 150 km s. of Moose Jaw, June 11 were particularly late, if they were migrants (ASm). A B.B.S. near Lac du Bonnet, Man., yielded 3 times the number of Tennessee Warblers as in 1982 and twice the highest count of any previous year (PT). Other warblers seemed to wander more than usual. Species considered accidental in s. Alberta in summer were a singing Nashville July 1, 25 ± km e. of Canmore, a Cape May June 18, 25 km s.w. of Calgary and a Canada June 5 near Canmore, possibly a late migrant (AW, ASI, DE). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was found singing near Estevan, Sask., June 13 (ASm) and another constituted a new species for Churchill June 23 (BB, v.o.). A migration of >50 Yellow-rumped Warblers was noted at Doré L., Sask. (SSH). A ♀ Boblink at La Pérouse Bay near Churchill July 1 & 3 was accidental (JR) as was a Brewer's Blackbird June 21-23 at Churchill (BC, DM). Orchard Orioles, including one nest with young, were reported from 7 areas in s. Manitoba. It is becoming a regular breeder there (HC, RKO). An ad. ♂ Orchard Oriole was singing at White City, near Regina July 8; this is w. of its regular breeding range (CA). There were sightings of six ♂ N. Orioles at Ft. McMurray, n. of

1981 (JG). A pair of Scarlet Tanagers was carrying food July 15 at G.L.P.P., the 2nd indication of breeding in Saskatchewan (WH). There are fewer than 10 records of **Summer Tanager** in Manitoba but one was banded June 14 at Delta (SSE).

Another Manitoba rarity was three singing ♂ Dickcissels near Pierson July 17 (JM, BR). Observers in 8 of 12 Saskatchewan areas reported Am. Goldfinches up this year over last. A pair of Indigo Buntings giving alarm notes in G.L.P.P., July 11 suggests Saskatchewan's most northerly breeding record (CA). A singing Indigo w. of Turner Valley, Alta., July 18-23 indicates reuse of what may be an isolated nesting site (AW). A banding project at the s. end of Beaverhill L., yielded the following ratio of sparrows: 150 Savannah:10 Le Conte's:one Sharp-tailed (RE). Le Conte's Sparrows were found to be more common across s. Saskatchewan and were reported for the first time at Spring Valley June 3 and for the first time in 4 years at Moose Jaw June 29 (PB, FB, PK). Churchill's final new species of the season was a Lark Sparrow June 10 & 12 (PS, AR, SSH). For the 3rd year in a row a Field Sparrow was found on territory e. of Beausejour, Man., July 9 (PT, DFa). A lonely Snow Bunting was seen near Dummer, Sask., June 29 (PB).

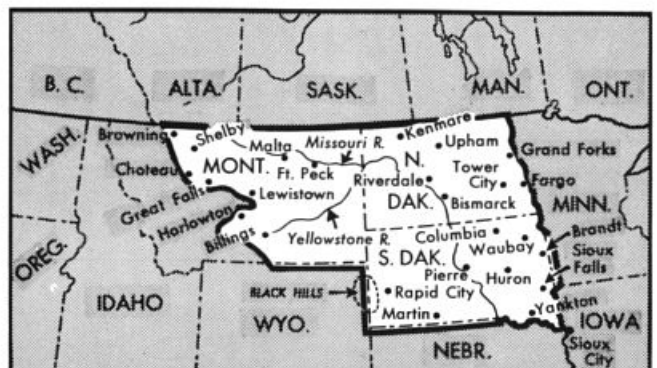
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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Craig A. Faanes

The nesting season could best be characterized with three words—hot and dry. Even with snowstorms late in May, most areas of eastern Montana experienced below normal precipitation totals by season's end. June temperatures at Fargo and Grand Forks were about 1°F above normal, but in July, Grand Forks temperatures were nearly 5° above normal. The hot July weather continued well into August. In fact, some comments suggested that July was one of the hottest months in many years in eastern North Dakota. Southeastern South Dakota experienced record-setting precipitation totals during June and July, and two counties were declared disaster areas because of flooding.

Most of the intriguing bird data came from South Dakota this season. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed in a state park for the third



consecutive year The six Little Blue Herons in a large egret/heron/ibis heronry provided strong evidence of nesting. Exploration of a previously unknown coniferous forest about 110 km northeast of the Black Hills provided interesting records of Merlin, Saw-whet Owl, Swainson's Thrush, Black-and-white Warbler, and several other species.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Single Com. Loons at Ft. Peck Res., June 3 & July 16 provided particularly late summer dates for Montana (CC). One at the Fargo sewage lagoons June 27 was at an unusual location in North Dakota for that time of year (PL). Three Com. Loons were on Enemy Swim L., Day Co., S.D., through the period, but no evidence of nesting was obtained (KH). Five young Horned Grebes hatched from the latilong L10 nest reported last period from Montana (CC).

Four White Pelican nests, each containing 2 eggs, were found June 19 at L. Laretta, Nelson Co. (DL, SL). This location is now the third known active pelican colony in North Dakota. The Grass L., Coddington Co., S.D., colony supported 317 young pelicans June 18 (DSK, MS, BH). About 666 nests were at the Waubay L., Day Co., S.D., colony June 6 (MR, S. Bates). A Double-crested Cormorant nesting colony was discovered July 24 in w. Ward County, N.D. (GB, RM). Four cormorant colonies in n.e. South Dakota visited May 18-June 6 supported 1807 active nests. Among these, the Piyas L., Marshall Co., colony had 602 nests, of which 30% had hatched by May 28 (DSK, MS, BH). Nest counts in all 4 colonies were higher than in 1982. (BH).

HERONS THROUGH DUCKS — Three Green Herons were reported from e. North Dakota during June, and one was far w. in Fall R. County, S.D., July 9 (RP). Evidence of suspected nesting by **Little Blue Herons** was obtained from the L. Preston heronry July 16. Several observers saw five adults and one second-year bird in the colony on that date. Nesting was not confirmed, in spite of suggestive evidence (BH *et al.*).

One Cattle Egret was e. of Minnewaukon, Benson Co., N.D., June 12 (RM, GB). An estimated 100 pairs and many nests were at L. Preston July 17. Two colonies totaling 65 pairs were reported from L. Andes N.W.R. Thirty-six birds nested unsuccessfully at Sand L. (WS), and 8 pairs were flushed from nests at Rush L., Day Co., June 7 (BH, KH). Two Snowy Egrets were near Blue L., McLean Co., N.D., June 26 (Bismarck-Mandan Bird Club). The Preston L., Kingsbury Co., S.D. heronry supported 25-30 ± active Snowy Egret nests July 17 (BH, D & LW, DC), an estimated 15 pairs were at Rush L., Day Co., S.D., June 7 (BH, KH), and a single was at Sand L., June 13-July 19 (WS). A Least Bittern nest with 2 eggs was at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D. (hereafter, Sand L.), June 14 (WS). Two White-faced Ibis pairs were at Sand L., June 7, and 2 nests were reported from there July 16 (AH).

About 520 young Canada Geese were produced from 150 pairs at Salyer N.W.R., N.D. One Cinnamon Teal was in s.w. Ward County, N.D., June 3 (GB). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was displaying to a presumed ♀ Blue-winged Teal (which was accompanied by a male of that species) June 16 in Lake County, S.D. (HW). Quite unusual for the species were 6 Canvasback nests found on artificial islands in small stock-watering ponds near Malta, Mont.; all 6 hatched successfully (DP). Details will be published elsewhere. The Com. Goldeneye below Oahe Dam, Stanley Co., S.D., June 16 was probably injured (RRi). The Bufflehead brood observed at Salyer N.W.R., June 11 was one of few ever observed away from the Turtle Mts., N.D. (TG). The four ♂ Com Mergansers below Oahe Dam July 14 were totally unexpected at that location on that date (BC).

ACCIPITERS THROUGH GROUSE — Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were in e. Montana, w. North Dakota, and Fall R. County, S.D. A nesting pair was observed in Meade County, S.D., June through July 28, three young were successfully fledged (EM). Two Cooper's Hawks were recorded in e. Montana, one from Minot, and this hawk was also seen at 2 locations on Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D. (hereafter, U.S.N.W.R.). Cooper's Hawks were present and presumed nesting along the White R., Jackson Co., S.D., June 4-July 4; attempts to locate a nest were unsuccessful (KG). A May nest was reported from Roberts County, S.D. (BH, DSK). Single Broad-winged Hawks were heard June 6 & 8 in Gasman Coulee near Minot where the species nested last year. An active Osprey nest was observed June 2-3 at Hell Cr., Ft. Peck Res. (SG). An ad. Peregrine Falcon over Turtle River S.P., N.D., June 14

was presumably a very late migrant (DNS) Merlins were reported from s. of White Owl, Meade Co., June 18 (DT), and in Fall R. County, June 4 (RP). These records provide further evidence that Merlins nest occasionally in South Dakota outside of Harding County.

Eighteen Greater Prairie Chicken eggs that had been placed in Sharp-tailed Grouse nests at Arrowwood N.W.R., N.D., had hatched by June 20 (JF, PV). Carlson reported good Sage Grouse brood survival in e. Montana despite the late May snowstorms. One of few confirmed nest records of this grouse in s.w. South Dakota was obtained in Fall River County July 3, when RP found a female with two young.

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Possible summering Sandhill Cranes included one at Arrowwood N.W.R., June 2, and another in Jackson County, S.D., June 6. What were probably early fall migrants included small flocks in Ward County, N.D., July 12-13 (RM GB) Encouraging were the six Yellow Rails heard July 26 in the large sedge meadow at Minnewaukon, N.D. However, none were heard July 27 at the traditional site in the Big Coulee, Benson Co. (CF).

S.A.

The Nature Conservancy and the North Dakota Natural Heritage Program cooperatively funded a survey of the distribution and populations of Piping Plovers in North Dakota this summer. Search activities extended through 10 counties from Jamestown on the e., n.w. to near Williston in the n.w. corner of the state. About 480 adults and 133 confirmed territorial pairs or nests were found. McLean County supported 174 birds which was the most for any county. A canoe survey of the Missouri R., from Garrison Dam to Bismarck yielded 90 ad. Piping Plovers. The investigators estimated that about 725 ad. Piping Plovers occupied suitable habitats in North Dakota in 1983. That population figure may be the largest for any of the 48 contiguous United States.

Three Mountain Plovers were at the w. unit of C.M. Russell N.W.R., Mont. (hereafter, C.M.R.), June 25, and a nest was located there June 26 (LM). A female with two young was observed near Ft. Peck (CC).

A Black-bellied Plover at L. Alice N.W.R., N.D., June 12 was decidedly late, as were three Am. Golden Plovers there the same day (RM, GB). A Piping Plover nest at Ft. Peck June 1 was lost to rising water June 19 (CC).

An Am. Woodcock June 11 in Gunlogson Arboretum, Pembina Co., N.D., was within the range of other recent summer records of this species in n.e. North Dakota. Four Am. Woodcock at Turtle River S.P., July 4 were all capable of flight (DNS). Although it could not be determined if any were young birds, the date and habitat are consistent with breeding. The breeding plumaged White-rumped Sandpiper at Fargo June 27 was judged to be a late spring migrant (PL). Breeding plumaged White-rumped are almost certainly northbound, regardless of date, because the species is virtually unknown here on fall migration (DL). The Short-billed Dowitchers June 24 in Ward County (RM), and one near Mound City, S.D., June 29 (PL) were early migrants. Two Stilt Sandpipers in Stutsman County, N.D., June 29 were probably early fall migrants (KE). Semipalmated Sandpipers were still in Ward County June 24. Hudsonian Godwits are unusual during fall migration on the Northern Great Plains. Thus, two with a group of Marbleds in Ward County July 24 were especially noteworthy (RM, GB). Sanderling remained until June 15 at Minot. Northern Phalaropes apparently summered in Ward County; a maximum of 210 was there June 8 (RM). This species was also seen at Fargo June 11 (25 birds), July 1 (five), July 12 (two), July 19 (three), and July 29 (five—MB, CS). Is it possible to guess which direction these birds were going on each of the above dates?

TERNs THROUGH OWLS — The annual Least Tern survey of the remaining portion of free-flowing Missouri R., N.D., during late June turned up 82 adults; a figure almost identical to last year (P. Some, U.S.F. & W.S.). Five ad. Caspian Terns, one nest, and two immatures were on Gull I., Ft. Peck Res., July 12. This was the second year of nesting for the site, and represented the second state nest record (LM). Five Caspians were on Stink L., Stutsman Co., June 11 (CF). The single bird observed June 8 on L. Kampeska, Coddington Co., by J. Gilman and BH provided the third summer record for South Dakota.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo found dead at Lewistown June 30 provided the 18th Montana record (L. Bell, *vide* LM). Four were observed in Yankton County (WH), and two were at Aberdeen July 9 (DT). A Barn Owl was seen along the Missouri R., Stanley Co., S.D., July 16 in an area where this species has been found in the recent past (GM, BC). There was a paucity of Short-eared Owl reports from the e. half of the Region this summer. However, conditions were different in the w. half. Gniadek observed 24 along the Powderville B.B.S. route in Montana June 20, and two adults with seven nestlings were near Ismay June 4. RCR described this as a "banner year" for Short-eared Owls in Fall R. County and attributed the numbers observed to the extensive wetland areas available in response to heavy precipitation in that region of South Dakota. Although many adults were present, RCR obtained no evidence of nesting. DT netted, banded, and photographed an imm. Saw-whet Owl in Meade County June 20. There are only 2 other records of immatures during the breeding season in South Dakota. The only other summer records are from the Black Hills and Harding County.

SWIFTS THROUGH WRENS — Carlson reported that about 30-40 Chimney Swifts occupied most of the suitable chimneys in Ft. Peck this summer. Two Chimney Swifts were in Hot Springs, Fall River Co., for the third consecutive year (RCR). Record low numbers of Com. Flicker were recorded on the Ardmore B.B.S. route, Fall River Co., June 3 (RCR). Possibly two pairs of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested in Brookings County, S.D. (NH). Say's Phoebes were near some buildings in n e Barnes County for the seventh consecutive year (DK). This is the easternmost location for breeding season Say's Phoebe in North Dakota. One Dusky Flycatcher nest was discovered in the w. unit of C.M.R., June 26, and a W. Flycatcher nest was there June 10 (LM). A singing ♂ W Wood Pewee was at U.S.N.W.R., June 16 (RM, GB).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were nesting in Fall R. County June 4 (RP), and also observed in e. Meade County in mid-June (DT). Four Pygmy Nuthatches were in each of 2 Fall R. County locations June 25 and July 17 (RP). A Brown Creeper was in Fall R. County July 17, and Canyon Wrens were nesting there July 3 (RP).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS — The only Mockingbird reported was an undated sighting from Yankton County, S.D. (WH). Sage Thrashers were reported only from Montana, including birds at Miles City June 9, Brusett June 23, and Jordan June 24 (SG). Swainson's Thrushes were heard singing twice in a previously unexplored coniferous forest 110 km e. Sturgis, S.D. (DT). Veeries were nesting in Sica Hollow and Knight's Coulee, Roberts Co., S.D. (BH). Two ad. and five nestling E. Bluebirds were in a bluebird nest box near Ismay, Mont., July 20. This furnished the 16th state record and the first breeding record for latilong L35 (SG). One ♂ Mountain Bluebird was located June 23 in the Sheyenne Nat'l Grasslands s. Leonard, Ransom Co., N.D. (DK). This area is about 220 km e. of the easternmost breeding season record indicated in Stewart's *Breeding Birds of North Dakota*. Habitat at the Sheyenne Grasslands site is similar in character to w. North Dakota breeding locations, and this area should be carefully checked in future years because this is potentially a very interesting range expansion. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher pair in Newton Hills S.P., represented the third consecutive year this species has been found in Lincoln Co., S.D. (GBI, RNe)

Few Sprague's Pipits were reported this season; this was probably related to reduced observer activity. DL observed that this species was not easy to find again this year on the Oakville Prairie, Grand Forks Co., until July 17. A pair of Bell's Vireo was in a shelterbelt on the Beaver Creek W.M.A., Mercer Co., N.D., June 13 (RNR). A nestling that still retained some down and possessed a short tail was being fed by two adults July 16 (GB, JB, RM). This provided the third confirmed nest record for North Dakota. A singing ♂ Bell's Vireo was in shelterbelt at the Pipestem Res., Stutsman Co., July 24 (CF). The successful nesting of **Yellow-throated Vireo** in Day County represented the first confirmed South Dakota breeding record since the early 1940s.

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS — The first Montana breeding record of **Black-and-white Warbler** was confirmed July 14 when SG found a singing male and one or more immatures in a McCone County hardwood draw (latilong L10). Three singing ♂ Black-and-whites were on Farm I., near Pierre June 30 (PL), the location of South

Dakota's first confirmed nest record last year. Several were also heard by DT, 110 km e. of Sturgis in mid-June, but no evidence of nesting was obtained. The latter location is one of only 5 or 6 areas in South Dakota where this species has been found during the breeding season. The single Orange-crowned Warbler at Bismarck July 12 (RQ) was at an unusual locale on an unexpected date. Orchard Orioles failed to appear at Ft. Peck this summer, after exceptionally good numbers there in 1982 (CC).

Three W. Tanagers were near Brusett, Garfield Co., Mont., June 23 (SG). Quite far w. was the singing Scarlet Tanager on the s. side of the Killdeer Mts., Dunn Co., N.D., June 22 (RM). Blue Grosbeaks returned for the fifth consecutive year to North Dakota's only known nesting area about 10 km n. of Bismarck (WB). A single male was heard at the n. city limits of Bismarck July 20 (CF). Blue Grosbeaks were reported in 6 different w. South Dakota locations during June, including one banded in a coniferous forest 110 km e. of Sturgis June 22 (DT).

Two singing ♂ Dickcissels n. of Minot July 13 furnished the first summer records for Ward County in 7 years (RN, GB). About ten Dickcissels were near Oelrichs, Fall River Co., June 26 (RP). The same observer found this species at that location in 1982. These are the only known s.w. South Dakota records for this species.

Cassin's Finches were found July 2 in Hot Brook Canyon near Hot Springs, Fall River Co. (RP). This is a scarce summer resident in the Black Hills. Two Red Crossbills were in the w. unit of C.M.R., June 9 (LM), and 15 ± were at Ft. Peck through the period where nesting was suspected (CC). One White-winged Crossbill was reported from Minot in late July (*vide* RM).

Green-tailed Towhee reports included one at the w. unit of C.M.R., June 10, and two there June 24 (LM). DT saw one in a coniferous forest 110 km e. of Sturgis in June. The unusually plumaged towhee in Billings last spring, originally considered a Collared Towhee by observers there, was confirmed as a Rufous-sided Towhee × Green-tailed Towhee hybrid (R.C. Banks, U.S. Nat'l Museum, *pers. comm.*).

About 64 Le Conte's Sparrows were observed in n.c. North Dakota, including 45 in the large sedge meadow at Minnewaukon July 26 (CF). Sharp-tailed Sparrow records included 10 from 4 n.c. North Dakota locations (RM, GB), 14 at Minnewaukon July 26 (CF), two at Hope July 1 (DK), and also birds present again at Kelly's Slough N.W.R., Grand Forks Co. (DL). Imagine the surprised looks on the faces of participants in a WINGS Birding Tour group when the singing "lifer" Clay-colored Sparrow they tracked down at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center June 29 turned out to be a Chipping Sparrow singing a perfect Clay-colored Sparrow song (PL, KE)!

Orchard Orioles failed to appear at Ft. Peck this summer after exceptionally good numbers there in 1982 (CC). **Cassin's Finches** were found July 2 in Hot Brook Canyon near Hot Springs, Fall River Co. (RP). This is a scarce summer resident in the Black Hills. Two Red Crossbills were in the w. unit of C.M.R., June 9 (LM), and 15 ± were at Ft. Peck through the period where nesting was suspected (CC). One White-winged Crossbill was reported from Minot in late July (*vide* RM).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances C. Williams

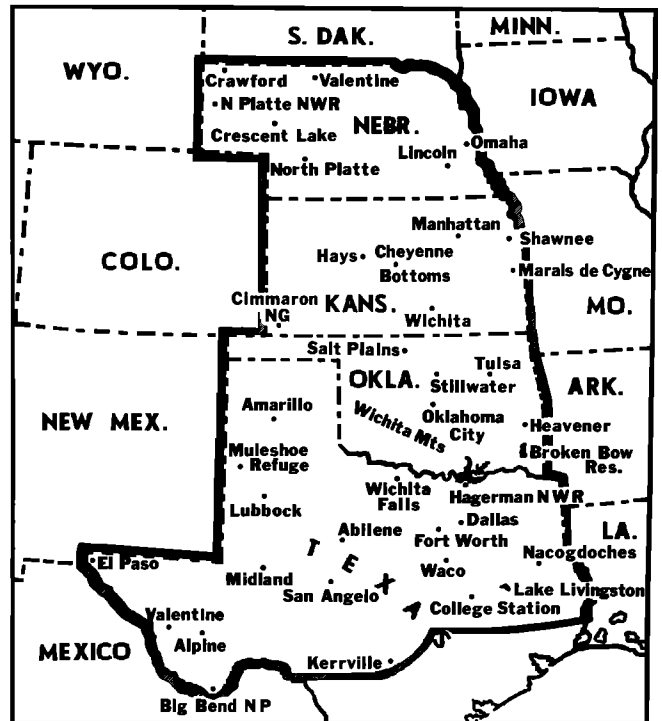
Temperatures in June were below normal and precipitation in the eastern two-thirds of the Region was above normal. In northeastern Nebraska, cold, wet weather caused many species to delay nesting. July was hot and dry elsewhere. Southwestern Texas was in the midst of a year-long drought. Much of that area has recorded less than five inches of rain in the past 12 months. Many southwestern species such as Cactus Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Pyrrhuloxia and Black-throated Sparrow were more common than usual at the northeastern limits of their range. Whether this increase was caused by the drought in their customary range is a matter for speculation. In the text following, place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Unusual summer sightings of Com. Loons were in *Wagoner*, Okla., July 13 (JA) and *Van Zandt*, Tex., June 25 (RK). An Eared Grebe in *Miami*, Kans., July 24 was also noteworthy for the season (CHO, EM). Eared Grebes failed to breed at Midland for the first time in several years. Three broods of Pied-billed Grebes were observed in *Comanche*, Okla. (JDT) and at least one pair bred in *Linn*, Kans. (CHO, EM). The species is a rare and local breeder in both areas. Three Pied-billed Grebes in *Kerr*, Tex., June 3 were late (E & KM). A few non-breeding White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants were found on several of the larger reservoirs throughout the Region. Olivaceous Cormorants were present in n.c. Texas and *Kerr*.

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A pair of Green Herons which fledged four young at Midland July 26 provided a first breeding record there (JM, m.ob.) and 2 nests found in *Ward*, Tex., also constituted a new breeding record (JH). Green Herons were present in Big Bend N.P., in June but no nesting was reported. A Little Blue Heron in Big Bend N.P., June 23 was a long way from the nearest heronry. Thousands of Cattle Egrets inhabited colonies in n.e. Oklahoma. A Louisiana Heron was observed at Oklahoma City July 14 (EW). The heronry in *Sedgwick*, Kans., is purported to be the largest in the State, and the only known nesting Great Egrets in Kansas are here (DV). There were at least two successful nestings of Least Bitterns at Oklahoma City (JGN). Least Bitterns were observed in *Linn*, Kans., July 24, *Sarpy*, Neb., June 26 and *McCurtain*, Okla., June 6. There were 100 nests of White-faced Ibises at Quivira N.W.R., Kans. (RB). Roseate Spoonbills visited Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., July 26-31 and Irving, Tex., July 25-27.

Five Snow Geese spent the summer in a flooded field in *Sarpy*, Neb. (BP). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks summered in *Brazos* and *Dallas*, Tex., but no evidence of nesting was found. The presence of a Fulvous Whistling-Duck in *Comanche*, Okla., July 16 was baffling (JDT). A probable Mottled Duck nested at Hagerman N.W.R. (KH). A ♂ Wood Duck was discovered at El Paso June 3 (JDo, BJ) and a pair nested in *Johnson*, Tex. (CE). What appeared to be a family group of seven Hooded Mergansers was seen at Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., May 29 (MC).

VULTURES THROUGH GALLINULES — A special effort was made to find hawk nests in and near Oklahoma City. The following nestlings were banded: four Turkey Vultures, two Mississippi Kites, 20 Red-tailed Hawks, four Red-shouldered Hawks and two Swainson's Hawks (WI *et al.*). Five pairs of Mississippi Kites nesting at a golf course at El Paso were so belligerent in their attacks on golfers that the nests were destroyed (under the direction of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) and the young were given to a bird rehabilitator to raise (BR). All but one of the young thrived. A Red-tailed Hawk nest with two well-developed young was found in *Reeves*, Tex., July 25 (SW). As is common in that treeless land, the nest was constructed on the crossarms of a telephone pole. A Swainson's Hawk frequently soared over the parking lots and high rise office buildings of c. Dallas June 26-July 29 (RDC). A Zone-tailed Hawk was observed in *Real*, Tex., June 9 (E & KM). A Gray Hawk visited Big Bend N.P., July 25-31 (RDP *et al.*). Black Hawks in the Davis Mts., Tex., fledged young a month later than usual (PE). A pair of Black Hawks summered near Lubbock but since



access to the area was forbidden, no nest was located (CS). Late Ospreys were noted at Omaha June 8 and *Sioux*, Neb., June 23. Prairie Falcons were found in *Beaver* and *Harper*, Okla. (RB). In *Gregg*, Tex., Am. Kestrels were feeding young in a nest cavity June 10.

An apparent Scaled x Gambel's Quail hybrid was discovered in El Paso June 5. It had the crest and scaled belly of a Scaled Quail but its face and throat were black bordered by white as in a Gambel's Quail (TLS). As many as ten Virginia Rails could be seen in 4 hours at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans. At Quivira N.W.R., June 3, eight calling Black Rails were heard and one strolled across Vannoy's feet as he held a recorder in one hand and a flashlight in the other. Five Com. Gallinule chicks at Dallas provided a second breeding record there (KN). In *Comanche*, Okla., a Com. Gallinule was seen July 4 (JDT). In *McCurtain*, Okla., J. Norman took time out from orchid hunting June 6 (24 species in Oklahoma!) to find two Purple Gallinules.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — In early June, a ♂ Piping Plover built "dummy" nests and actively displayed at a sand pit in *Logan*, Okla., but it could not be found July 16 (JGN, JSh). A Piping Plover nest was found in *Nance*, Neb. (WM). In *Cimarron*, Okla., July 17, 2 families of Mountain Plovers were seen, each with three chicks. Female Mountain Plovers with chicks were seen in the Davis Mts., June 8, but adults and young disappeared 2 days later and none were seen the remainder of the summer (PE). A group of 18 Mountain Plovers was relocated from the Pawnee Nat'l Grassland in Colorado to the Kansas shortgrass prairie in July. The newly fledged birds were banded (JS). In *Muskogee*, Okla., a pair of Am. Woodcocks gave every indication they were nesting Mar. 8-Apr. 27 (JN). A single bird of this species was seen in *Sarpy* July 27 (RG *et al.*). An Upland Sandpiper with two chicks was discovered in *Crosby*, Tex., providing a first breeding record there (ML). Many reports were received of Upland Sandpipers in appropriate habitat, but no other chicks or nests were found. An ad. and a juv. Spotted Sandpiper were discovered at Tulsa in June. The juvenal was two-thirds the size of the adult and seemed incapable of flight, thus providing the first evidence of nesting of the species at Tulsa (JCH, JA). Ten pairs of Black-necked Stilts were at Quivira N.W.R., in early July (RB).

A Laughing Gull visited Hagerman N.W.R., June 16-17 (KH). Late Franklin's Gulls were seen in Big Bend N.P., May 25, El Paso June 23 and *Bryan*, Okla., June 4. Ten Forster's Terns flew along the Platte R., in *Sarpy* July 28 (RG) and two were in *Tarrant*, Tex., July 22 (CH). A combination of high water on the Platte R., a flashflood on the Niobrara



Least Tern eggs in Piping Plover nest. June 16, 1983, Omaha, NE. Photo/ Jim Ducey.

R., and the untimely release of water into the upper Missouri R., reduced the success of nesting Least Terns to two percent in e. Nebraska (JD). On the Arkansas R., at Tulsa, many Least Tern nests were also destroyed by high water. At the sand pits in Logan, Okla., 3 early nests of Least Terns were destroyed by sand dredging operations, but two more nests with eggs were found July 16 (JSh). Not all Least Tern news was bad, however. In Stafford, Meade and Clark, Kans., and Beaver and Harper, Okla., fledging success was better than in the last 3 seasons (RB). Caspian Terns nested at Quivira N.W.R., with good success (RB).

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — At Oklahoma City owls as well as hawks were the object of a special search. Owls were found in hollow trees, old buildings, under bridges and in bird houses. Banded were 23 young and one ad. Barn Owls, 15 Great Horned Owls and three Barred Owls (WI *et al.*). Three imm. Barn Owls in an abandoned quarry provided a not-unexpected first nesting record for Sarpy July 7. In n.w. Nebraska it was a banner year for Short-eared Owls, with pairs inhabiting suitable habitat throughout (RCR). Chuck-will's-widows are not expected in n.w. Oklahoma, but at least six were calling in Harper in June (RB). This species was also present through July in Linn, Kans., where it is a rare nester.

In the s.w. portion of the Region, the wanderings of hummingbirds brightened an otherwise hot, dull summer. Lucifer Hummingbirds buzzed about feeders in Ft. Davis July 26-31 (PE), Presido June 20-July 31 (JMi), Alpine, Tex., June 28-July 31 (JSc). Black-chinned Hummingbirds were unusually common in n.c. Texas and s.c. Oklahoma. An Anna's Hummingbird visited Alpine in mid-July (GW). Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds were abundant in s.w. Texas as usual, and a Rufous wandered as far e. as Crowley, Tex., Aug. 3 (MR). Male Allen's Hummingbirds visited Alpine mid-July-Aug. 5 (GW, JSc). Calliope Hummingbirds had never been as common in trans-Pecos Texas as this summer. A Magnificent Hummingbird graced the Davis Mts., July 31 (PE).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH CORVIDS — A Pileated Woodpecker was discovered in Sarpy May 30 (J & SK). In Johnson, Tex., Starlings won the battle for nesting holes with Red-billed Woodpeckers. Golden-fronted Woodpeckers nested at Midland for the first time (JAd). Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were observed in Comanche, Okla., June 7 and July 4 (KM) and Custer, Okla., in July (PWW). In Midland, Eastern Kingbirds were feeding fledglings July 6 (JM), for a first breeding record there, almost 300 mi from the usual breeding range of the species. Cassin's Kingbirds were possibly breeding in Meade, Kans. (RB), and a pair feeding nestlings in Dallam, Tex., June 14 provided a first nesting record for the Texas Panhandle (KS). Four pairs of W. Kingbirds nested in Ottawa, Okla., (PWW), and five pairs nested in Muskogee, Okla. (JeM, JN). Both these localities are considerably e. of the customary range of the species. A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was present in Texas, Okla., June 17 (JDT, LD). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher was discovered in Bandera, Tex., June 23 (E & KM).

The majority of nesting colonies of swallows in w. Texas are beneath



Missouri Nat'l Recreation River. Summer, 1983. Photo/Jim Ducey.

bridges or in culverts. Because of the extended drouth, no mud was available this year and the colonies were abandoned. At least 20 pairs of Tree Swallows nested in Nance, Neb. (WM). Bank Swallows nested along the Arkansas R., at Tulsa for the first time. In the Ottawa chat piles there were 5 colonies of Bank Swallows comprising 1400 birds. Rough-winged Swallows nested in Kerr, Tex. At least 400 Cave Swallows inhabited Swallow Sinkhole in Brewster, Tex. (SW). Barn Swallows in Alpine, Tex., have learned that a noisy mower means good feeding. As soon as the gasoline motor starts, five birds wheel back and forth around the mower and its driver (JSc). In Williamson, Tex., a Com. Raven was carefully identified (RMC, CME). Five Com. Crows visited Crosby, Tex., where they are normally seen only in winter, July 5 (ML). In recent years, the Fish Crow has expanded its nesting range N along the Verdigris R., in n.e. Oklahoma. A total of 20 was found in Wagoner June 11 and eight in Nowata July 28. The latter is within 25 mi of the Kansas border (JCH).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH SHRIKES — A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches resided in College Station, Tex., and numerous pairs were found along the nearby Navasota R. Local observers wonder whether they have overlooked it these many years or whether the species is expanding E (KA). A White-breasted Nuthatch in Hemphill, Tex., May 29 was late (KS). A singing ♂ House Wren in Tulsa July 4 constituted a summer-time rarity. Three contributors noted that Carolina Wrens are increasing in numbers. Four Cactus Wrens in Young, Tex., June 5 were n.e. of their usual range (KN). Both Long-billed and Short-billed marsh wrens were seen and heard in Sarpy, Neb., in late July. A Canyon Wren in Caddo, Okla., June 28 was considerably e. of its normal range (JGN). A Curve-billed Thrasher in Palo Pinto, Tex., June 13 was another NE wanderer (WP). Wood Thrushes were unusually common in n.e. Oklahoma, while several in Caddo were far w. of their customary breeding areas. A Swainson's Thrush in Dallam, Tex., June 14 was very late (KS). A Veery was discovered in Sarpy June 12 (BP). On July 27 a Cedar Waxwing fledgling was brought to the Lincoln Wildlife Rescue Team from Columbus, Neb., indicating that waxwings had nested there. Small bands of Cedar Waxwings were present in Omaha all summer, but no nests were found. In Johnson, Tex., nesting Loggerhead Shrikes were common throughout. The species was present in Kerr, where there were no previous summer records, June 9 & July 28. A Loggerhead Shrike nest with six eggs was discovered in Sheridan, Neb., June 4 (RCR).

VIREOS THROUGH TANAGERS — Black-capped Vireos continue to lose their eggs and young to cowbirds. In Oklahoma, any nest of Black-capped Vireo found contains only cowbirds. Bell's Vireos are absent in many areas where formerly they were abundant, yet in others their numbers are diminished very little, if at all. Perhaps in those favored areas, cowbirds have another host they prefer to Bell's Vireos. A fledgling Louisiana Waterthrush was being fed by an adult July 2 in Sarpy (J & SK). Kentucky Warblers nested at Hagerman N.W.R. (KH) and one was seen in Osage, Kans., June 11 (SK). A ♀ Am. Redstart in Washington, Okla., June 24 provided a first summer record (DG), and one in Osage, Kans., June 11 was also unusual (SK). Bobolinks nested

in *Barton* and *Stafford*, Kans. A Yellow-headed Blackbird escorting three newly fledged young provided a first breeding record in *Sedgwick*, Kans., July 15 (SK). At Midland, Com. Grackles nested successfully for the first time. At least one pair of Great-tailed Grackles nested in *Lancaster*, Neb. Four of the species were present in *Johnson*, Kans., but no evidence of breeding was seen. Bronzed Cowbirds, first recorded in El Paso in 1982, increased in numbers this summer. One was discovered in Alpine June 25 (SW). Western Tanagers wandered haphazardly. Single birds were seen at Ft. Worth June 18 and July 8 (HE), Big Bend N.P., July 16 (AB) and El Paso July 12 (TBa).

FRINGILLIDS — Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were present in Tulsa July 2-5 (JCH, JA). Indigo Buntings were present in El Paso, Big Bend N.P., and the Kerrville area throughout June. There are no nesting records at any of these localities. Dickcissels were abundant in *Allen* and *Osage*, Kans., Tulsa, and the Texas Panhandle. House Finches are still increasing at Hays, Kans., were 250 were banded (CEy, *vide* RB). The species also continues to spread in n.w. Nebraska, where several were seen in *Butte* May 26 (RCR). Grasshopper Sparrows feeding nestlings in *Armstrong*, Tex., July 24 provided a first nesting record there (KS) and the species also nested in *Johnson*, Tex., for the first time (CE). Six Grasshopper Sparrow nests were discovered in *Douglas*, Neb., July 17 (BB). A pair of Rufous-crowned Sparrows summered at Midland for the first time, but no evidence of nesting was found (JM). Cassin's Sparrows deserted drought-stricken areas of w. Texas. On a 17-acre tract

near Midland where seven pairs of Cassin's Sparrows fledged young last summer, only one pair remained to nest this year. Cassin's Sparrows were present in numbers and singing everywhere at Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., July 31 (JDo), and were also singing at Alpine on that date (GW). A pair of Song Sparrows fledged young in *Boone*, Neb. (WM).

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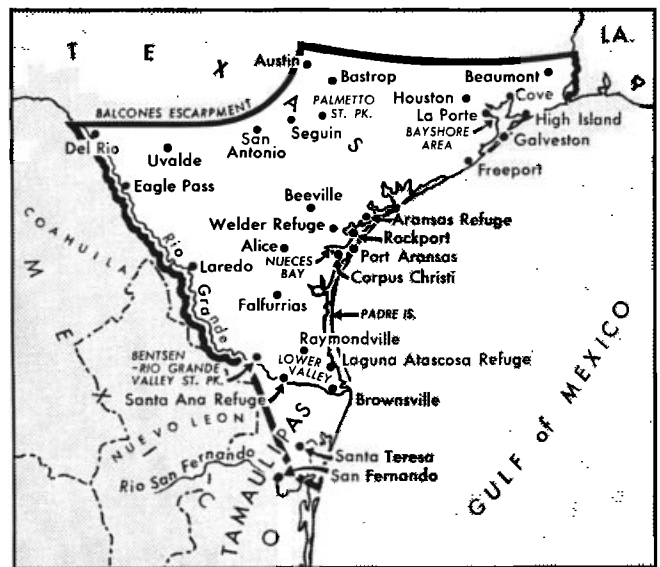
SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Temperatures were near normal or slightly below normal during June and July. Rainfall was adequate in June but parts of lower South Texas, including the Rio Grande Delta, had not recovered from spring drought. July precipitation totals were more than sufficient in most areas; however, much of this rainfall occurred in excessive amounts at mid-month as an upper level disturbance drifted northward from the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. No large-scale weather-related disasters were reported. It is assumed that breeding activity, on the whole, proceeded on schedule with at least average success. The brief period of flooding in July came too late to affect most waterbird colonies.

GREBES THROUGH BOOBIES — The Pied-billed Grebe has become a common breeding species at Austin, if this year's production is any indication, no doubt in response to an increase in favored habitat. A *Leach's Storm-Petrel* was captured for purposes of identification after it crashed into a plant window on the Laguna Madre, Corpus Christi area, June 9 and was later released (EP, *vide* KM). There are 2 other certified Texas records of this accidental species: One bird was taken from the surf on Padre Island N. S., May 31, 1970 (EH, *vide* KM, EP), photographed and released. This record was not previously reported in *Am. Birds*. Another bird was found July 9, 1976 (JH, *vide* KM) near the Laguna Madre; it subsequently died and the skin is preserved in the Corpus Christi Museum collection. This record was reported in *AB* 30; 976 as occurring on July 12 and credit was not given to Howse. White Pelicans no longer nest on South Bird I., in the Laguna Madre. This year the pelicans abandoned nests at a more recent site and moved to spoil bank No. 163 (formerly No. 81) where 250 pairs were present for the annual colonial waterbird count May 23. This colony subsequently fledged its crop of young, although late in the season (RW). Preliminary figures indicate another good Brown Pelican year with 177 fledged *cf.* 169 last year (*vide* TS). A Blue-faced Booby was found dead on the Mustang I. beach June 8 (TA).

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS — A mile n. of Falfurrias, Brooks Co., Cattle Egrets constructed 225 nests in 5 huisache and one retama tree surrounding a pond created by windmill overflow. Young were being fed in the nests July 10 (AO). The presence of an adult and a young Least Bittern at L. Walter E. Long near Austin June 25 (PH) may represent a new breeding record for Travis County. An Am. Bittern on a



slough at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, Cameron Co., July 6 (MH, EJ, JT) was seasonally out of place. White-faced Ibis numbers on South Bird I., declined from 230 pairs last year to 32 this year, a trend consistent with other species at this site (RW). On Pelican I., Galveston, 250 birds and many nests were observed June 25 (TE). A small colony of Roseate Spoonbills at Sunset L., Corpus Christi area, and 14+ young for the second year (BH).

DUCKS THROUGH COOTS — Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks apparently nested in n. Hays County, as young were noted July 31 (BB). A family group was seen in the same area last year but too late to be included in the summer report. This species appears with increasing frequency in the Austin area where it was unknown a few years ago. The presence of several family groups of Wood Ducks at L. Gonzales July 17 (GL) suggested breeding in the area. A Swainson's Hawk at Austin June 25 (PH) was unusual; this species rarely breeds in c. Texas. The Harris' Hawk population was definitely down at Falfurrias (AO) as trees and brush continue to fall to the bulldozer. A small breeding colony of Black Rails was suspected near San Luis Pass at the w. end of Galveston

I Birds were calling Apr. 23-24, for the third consecutive year (TE). With man-made ponds and lakes proliferating throughout the countryside, "first" breeding records for waterbirds are regularly being added to county lists, in part due to increased surveillance by more and more birders. Lake Gonzales, Gonzales Co., an impoundment of the Guadalupe R., is one of the more recent "discoveries". This lake of about 300 acres is "densely covered in places by water hyacinths, cattails, arrowhead, and water lilies" and lined by bottomland forest trees and dense undergrowth (PH). Thirty Purple Gallinules were seen here June 18 (JC, PH, EK); a nest was found later. Common Gallinules were abundant at Santa Ana N.W.R., as a result of well water use (SL). Young Am. Coots at an Austin sewage pond complex may represent a new breeding species for Travis County. Weed-covered islets for marshlets have developed in one large pond, providing a unique habitat.

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS — A large increase in numbers of Laughing Gulls was apparent on Padre Island N.S., although small gull colonies have deserted the n. spoil islands in the Laguna Madre (RW). The numbers of nesting birds have increased on the small islands in Nueces Bay and imm. birds were abundant (BH). Pelican I., Galveston, had 5000 pairs nesting June 25 (TE). The great colonies of terns have largely disappeared from the spoil banks of the upper Laguna Madre; change in vegetation is one factor responsible (RW). On Pelican I., Galveston, 250 pairs of Forster's Terns were nesting June 25 (TE). A fairly large area of the Rockport beach has been fenced to protect nesting Least Terns. In addition, spoil was used to enlarge island area in Little Bay, and signs were posted there to protect the birds. As a result of these measures, Least Terns and other species showed increases in production (CK). Least Terns nested twice at Sunset L., for the first time in 8 years; however, the second attempt failed, probably owing to unfavorable weather developments. Black Skimmers at 3 Sunset L. nesting sites had very little success, thanks to weather, predation and disturbance (BH). For the third year, the Nueces County Commissioner fenced off the traditional skimmer nesting area along the N. Padre I. causeway, with good results for the birds (KM).

DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHERS — White-winged and Mourning doves had good nesting success, but Ground Doves continue to lose ground as brushy rangeland, its favored habitat in Texas, is cleared. A colony of Monk Parakeets was discovered at Austin several years ago. First evidence of nesting success was a fledgling seen June 10 (JL). The Green Violet-ear at San Marcos, Hays Co., first noted on May 14, was last seen June 21 (DB). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds visited feeders at Corpus Christi until mid-June but no nests were found (KM). Drought conditions at Santa Ana N.W.R., necessitated the pumping of well water into Willow L.; the clear water attracted a pair each of Ringed and Green kingfishers and these were thought to have nested in the area. A young Ringed Kingfisher with two adults was seen in late July (SL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH JAYS — A small E. Kingbird population was found at L. Gonzales; if nesting, these would provide a new Gonzales County record (PH *et al.*). A breeding pair of this species habitually occupies a site 50 ± mi upcoast from Rockport (CK); in modern times this species rarely breeds on the c. coast. A Tropical Kingbird pair fledged four young at Falfurrias July 14 (AO). Western Kingbirds continue to occupy additional nesting sites in Austin (GL). Kiskadee Flycatchers have become established as nesting birds in Brooks County and have moved N into Jim Wells County where they nested this year at L. Alice (RA). An increase in the number of ranch ponds and reservoirs may explain this range extension. A pair of Wied's Crested Flycatchers nested in a "tiny, newly-planted oak tree" in the parking lot of a shopping center at Corpus Christi; two young were seen the third week of June (KM). Cave Swallows were found nesting in culverts and under bridges at several locations on I.H. 35 between San Antonio and Laredo (PL). Purple Martins nested late at Corpus Christi and some nests were still active in the latter part of July when residents have usually migrated (KM). Green Jays continue to nest successfully in the Falfurrias area (AO), at the n. extremity of the breeding range.

ROBINS THROUGH WARBLERS — Four pairs of Am. Robins nested successfully at Falfurrias; a pair fed four fledglings May 26 (AO). Although the species was present and singing last summer, this

provided a first breeding record for Brooks County and a southernmost record for Texas. Clay-colored Robins were unsuccessful in nesting attempts at Brownsville. A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher nest with three young was discovered in a mesquite tree in s. Brooks County June 22 (AO). This furnished a first county nesting record. An ad. Cedar Waxwing seen w. of Austin July 9 (BL, JN) was seasonally inexplicable. Black-capped Vireos did very well at Austin despite the ancient threat of cowbird predation and the modern threat of land developers. Two singing ♂ Prothonotary Warblers present in bottomland forest at L. Gonzales may have indicated a new nesting locality (JC, PH, EK). Tropical Parulas were reported again at the roadside park s. of Sarita, Kenedy Co. Golden-cheeked Warblers nest commonly on the w. edge of Austin despite loss of habitat to developers. Many fledglings were seen June 11, but, typically, few birds could be found a month later (GL).

ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS — Black-headed Orioles succeeded in hatching orioles in at least 2 localities in Brooks County (JB, AO) despite an increase in the Bronzed Cowbird population. Summer Tanagers seemed to be declining as a nesting species in many parts of the Region, a trend which started some years ago in the Rio Grande Delta and now is evident as far n. as Austin. Two ♂ Lesser Goldfinches seen 20 mi s. of Sarita June 9 (TS) may have represented a local breeding population, inasmuch as scattered live oak groves are present in this area; there is as yet no confirmed nesting record of this species for Kenedy County or other counties adjacent to the coastline. Cassin's Sparrows are declining in many localities as land is stripped of even scattered brushy habitat. On the other hand, Grasshopper Sparrows were thriving in grassy pastures. The latter species, formerly unknown as a breeding bird in Brooks County, nested on the w. edge of Falfurrias for the ninth consecutive year (AO).

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION **/Helmut Grünberg**

The overall weather pattern in the Region was close to normal although some areas experienced slightly higher-than-normal temperatures and precipitation.

This report includes observations in two areas from which we have never received a report before: the Toobally Lake area in the southeastern Yukon and Devon Island in the high Arctic of the Northwest Territories. Several high quality reports from a variety of areas in the Region added significantly to our understanding of the bird distribution in the Region. A total of 243 species was reported. This constitutes a new record high for one season.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES — A Yellow-billed Loon was seen on the Yukon R., near Dawson June 26 (RCm, TH) and another one at Toobally L., s.e. Yukon (hereafter, T.L.) July 6 (HG). A small colony of 20,000 N. Fulmars was reported from Cape Vera, Devon I. (CH *et al.*). An unspecified number of White Pelicans was recorded at Wood Buffalo N.P., June 5 (JT). A Great Blue Heron was still at Tagish, Yukon, in early June (DM; LO).

An aerial survey of Tumpeter Swans in the greater T.L. area yielded 19 pairs, 7 broods with 19 young and four singles, in early July (MD, JK), which was within the range of previous records from that area. Two pairs, one with three young were confirmed at T.L., from the ground (HG). Six Snow Geese were observed in Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse.)

June 6 (MW, *fide* DM). Black Scoters are rarely observed in the Yukon one female was noted at Herschel I., July 19 (RiC, RoC, SC) and one male was seen here July 26 (RiC, SC). Two Hooded Mergansers were observed near T.L., July 16 and one at Watson L., s.e. Yukon, July 30 (HG).

Three Swainson's Hawks were observed in the Fort St. John area (hereafter, F.S.J.) June 3 and the observations of this species were recorded in detail for the first time (CB *et al.*, *fide* CS). A nesting pair of Ospreys was observed in the Bell R. area, n. Yukon, July 14-27 (CK) and two were repeatedly seen at T.L. July 6-23 (HG). Near Old Crow, Yukon, one was noted July 1 (RoC, SC) and one July 22-23 (DM). One was also seen at Bell R., July 28 (SC). Gyr and Peregrine falcons were reported a few times in the n. Yukon (FJ, WN, CK, DM). One Peregrine was observed as it stooped at a Snow Bunting in late May or early June at Cape Vera, Devon I. (*fide* CH). Six "tundra" Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*, a sub-species that had become extinct in the n. Yukon a few years back) were reintroduced this summer (DM).

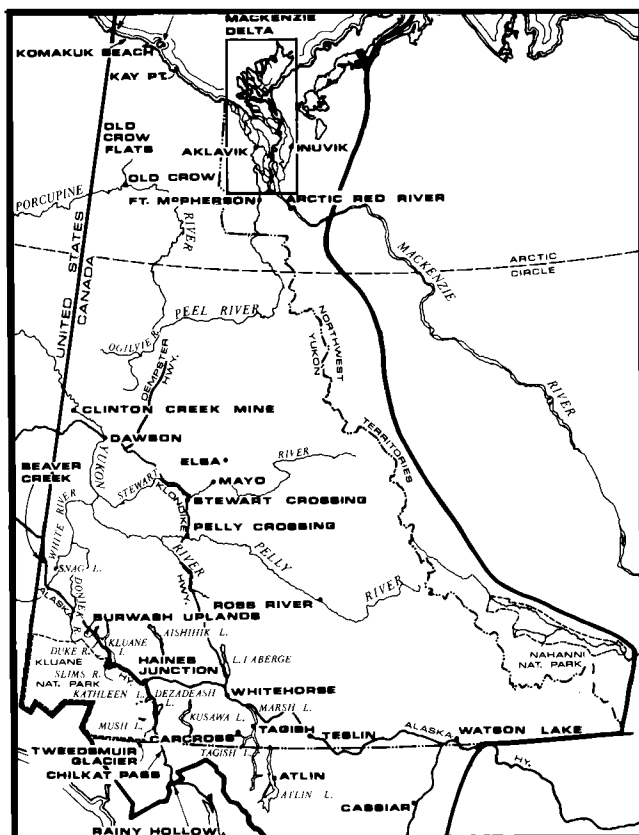
One or more Blue Grouse were observed at Rose L., s. Yukon in early June (RH). One was also noted in the McQuesten R. area, c. Yukon in late June (CO). An unspecified number of Whooping Cranes was reported from Wood Buffalo N.P., during the summer (JT).

SHOREBIRDS — Newly discovered Surfbird locations for the Yukon are the Ruby and Sifton Ranges, s.w. Yukon (RF). A pair of Greater Yellowlegs was on territory at Rose L., s. Yukon May 17 and was observed until the end of June (RH). One to three White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at Liard Hotsprings, n. B.C., July 29 (HG). Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., was the only area in which Short-billed Dowitchers were observed this season. About six were noted June 4 (HG) and 2-4 on June 11-12 (HG, MN). Three Stilt Sandpipers were recorded near King Pt., Yukon n. coast, June 18 (FJ, WN). Two W. Sandpipers were observed at Herschel I., July 25 (RiC, RoC, SC), and at least two were seen at Watson L., July 30 (HG). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was noted in the Buckland Hills, n. Yukon, at the end of June (FJ, WN) and two were associated with five Pectoral Sandpipers on the tundra of Herschel I., July 24 (RiC, RoC, SC). An Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Rose L., in early June (RH). Two Red Phalaropes were observed at Wood Buffalo N.P., June 5 (JT) and one was noted at Cape Vera, Devon I., June 18 (SA, TB, CH). Up to 13 ♀ and four ♂ Wilson's Phalaropes were observed at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., in early June (HG, MN).

JAEGERS THROUGH GULLS — A Pomarine Jaeger was observed at King Pt., June 14 (FJ, WN). The first observation in 4 years of a Long-tailed Jaeger at Cape Vera, Devon I., was made July 17 (AD, CH, GW). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull was seen at Charlie L., F.S.J. area, June 8 & 15 (CS). Thayer's Gull was an uncommon resident at Devon I.: one colony each was found on Devil I., and St. Helena I. (CH *et al.*) Single California Gulls, rare in the Yukon, were tentatively identified 3 times at T.L., in July (HG). One Ring-billed Gull was observed at T.L., July 13 (HG). This provided one of very few records for the Yukon. A **Little Gull** (1st summer immature) was associated with 80 imm. Bonaparte's Gulls at Charlie L., F.S.J. area, June 9-13. The gull was successfully photographed, which substantiated the first record for the Peace R. area, B.C. (MF, MSh, CS, DS). Four sightings of 1-5 Ivory Gulls were recorded at Devon I., June 17-July 17. This species was considered a rare transient or summer visitor in that area (CH *et al.*) Black-legged Kittiwake was a rare summer visitor at Devon I., where 12 were seen July 16 (CH *et al.*) and 30 on July 25 (CH *et al.*). Five ad. Sabine's Gulls were noted at Charlie L., June 3 (DK *et al.*, *fide* CS) for the second Peace R. record since 1938.

ALCIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — At Devon I., one Thick-billed Murre was seen July 5 (AD, *fide* CH) and 123 July 17 (CH *et al.*). A probable Thick-billed Murre was sighted at Herschel I., July 21 (RiC). Up to 112 Black Guillemots in breeding plumage were observed on Herschel I., July 19-27. Two nests were found and many more suspected (RiC, RoC, SC). A Snowy Owl was seen on Herschel I., July 20 & 24 (RiC). A Great Gray Owl was observed at km 229, Dempster Hwy., June 26 (DM) and one at T.L., July 16 (HG).

Rufous Hummingbirds were again observed at Graham Inlet, Tagish L., B.C., during this season (MB). A Rufous was also noted near the White Pass summit, B.C., July 16 (SM) and one was observed regularly



in Whse., in June (DC, *fide* RCa). Although reported officially for the first time this season, **Pileated Woodpeckers** seem to be regular although uncommon or rare year-round residents in the s.e. Yukon. One was seen at T.L., July 21 (L & MSn) and one reported as caught in a trap during one of the previous winters (LSn). It was also reported from Watson L., this season (*fide* HG). A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was observed feeding young in a nest as far n.w. as the Klondike R. campground near Dawson, Yukon (RM). A pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers was observed in burnt areas 2 km n. of the B C / Yukon border near Smith R., on July 4 & 25 and several km s. of the border July 4 (HG).

KINGBIRDS THROUGH WARBLERS — An E. Kingbird was seen at Liard Hotsprings, n.B.C., July 27 (HG), and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was observed at Dease L., Cassiar Hwy., B.C., June 22 (SM). At least one Mountain Chickadee was seen regularly in Whse.-Porter Cr. (D & LSu). The first record of a **Winter Wren** in the Yukon was obtained when one was seen at Fox L., s. Yukon, June 23 (SM). Yellow Wagtails were seen regularly at Babbage R., n. Yukon, July 3 (DM). Several single Water Pipits were seen on Devon I., in June and were considered rare spring migrants (CH *et al.*). A Cedar Waxwing was observed at Liard Hotsprings July 27-29 (HG). A Solitary Vireo was reported at Boya L. campground, n.B.C., June 22 (SM). A Red-eyed Vireo was noted at Wolf Cr. campground near Whse., June 23, this furnished the first (although unverified) record of this species in the Yukon (SM). Warbling Vireos were reported in the Yukon from Wolf Cr. campground June 23 (SM), the T.L. area July 5-24 and Watson L., July 30-31 (HG). At Liard Hotsprings, Magnolia Warblers were observed July 17-18 (SM) and July 28 (HG). The first **Cape May Warbler** record for the Yukon was obtained when a pair with at least one young were observed for about one hour at T.L.; detailed notes were taken (HG). A single Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen far out of its normal range on Devon I., June 2 (SA, GW, *fide* CH). Two ♂ Bay-breasted Warblers were reported near F.S.J., June 3 (CS *et al.*), and a nesting pair of Connecticut Warblers was observed at F.S.J., June 17+ (CS). MacGillivray's Warblers were seen twice in the s.w. Yukon in June (RF).

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS — A single **Bobolink** was sighted far n. of its normal range, at Wood Buffalo N.P., June 15 (*fide*

JT). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in small numbers were reported from Liard Hotsprings July 17-18 (SM) and July 29 (HG) as well as from Wood Buffalo N.P. (*vide* JT). Up to seven Evening Grosbeaks were noted at Liard Hotsprings July 27-29 (HG). A Savannah Sparrow was observed as far n. as Devon I., June 15 (SA, CH). In the T.L. area, the first 2 records of **Le Conte's Sparrow** for the Yukon were obtained: one was observed 2 km n. of the B.C./Yukon border near Smith R., July 4; presumably the same bird or its mate was sighted at the same spot 3 weeks later July 25 and was successfully photographed. Another Le Conte's Sparrow was seen at T.L., July 7 (HG). In both cases the birds exhibited territorial behavior, but no nest or young were found. Two ♂ Sharp-tailed Sparrows were observed in the F.S.J. area June 10 (DK *et al.*, *vide* CS). A Tree Sparrow ventured as far N as Devon I., June 15 (SA, CH). A rare Clay-colored Sparrow was heard in the T.L. area July 4 (HG), and RF reported "lots" of Brewer's Sparrows in the s.w. Yukon. A White-crowned Sparrow was seen as far n. as Devon I, in June (SA, CH). White-throated Sparrows were observed regularly in the

T.L. area in July (HG). Although a **Swamp Sparrow** was only once before reported in the Yukon, it is now established that this species breeds commonly at T.L. Single birds or families with young were seen and heard daily in the proper habitat July 11-22 (HG).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

The period was, almost without exception, cool and wet, especially in July, and with high water levels. Nesting areas of some species were flooded, as was much shorebird habitat. Aerial insect eaters were affected severely in some areas.

LOONS, GREBES — Several Com. Loons summered on Potholes Res., Moses L., and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., and one was at Richland, Wash., June 15. Four Red-necked Grebes were on Henrys L., n. Fremont Co., Ida., June 14 for that area's first sighting (MRC, WEH, CHT) and five adults and one only a few days old were there July 6 (WEH, MR). A new location for the species was Rock L., n.w. of Coulee Dam, Wash., where a pair was seen (RF). One-time sightings of single Horned, Eared, W. and Pied-billed grebes were obtained at Bend, Ore., where any grebe is unusual in summer (TC). Some 500 pairs of Eared Grebes were nesting on Boca L., Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. Four pairs of Eared Grebes were nest-building the last week of July near Fortine, Mont., and one of each pair was on the nest Aug. 3 (WW). Western Grebe numbers were drastically down on Moses L. Over 2800 pairs of W. Grebes were using Malheur L., and 800 pairs were nesting near Harney L. there.

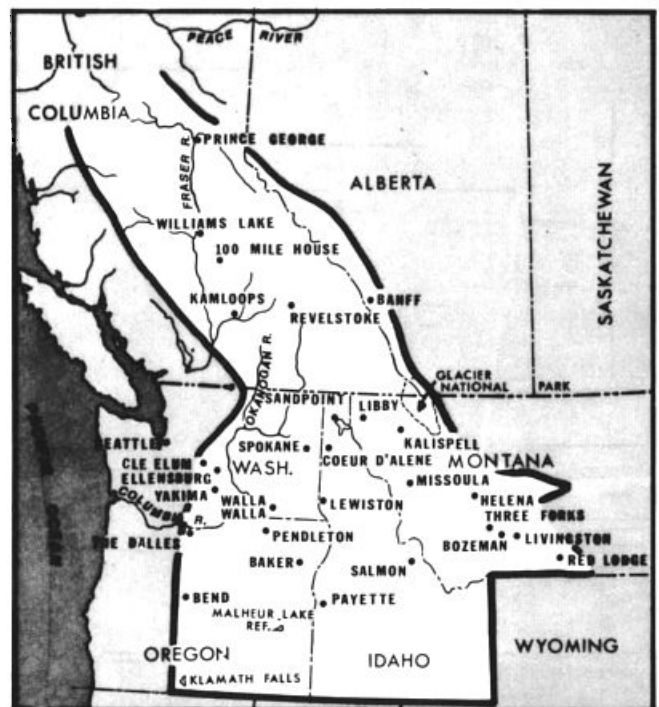
PELICANS, CORMORANTS — Highly unusual were 120+ White Pelicans on Lower Arrow L., at Burton, B.C., June 14-16 (GD). Nearby, Slocan's 60 June 18 may have been part of this same flock (J & NA). Most unusual also was the appearance of up to 95 White Pelicans at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., June 17-22. Creston Valley W.M.A., Creston, B.C., had smaller numbers and L. Pend Oreille in n.e. Washington reportedly had several during the Spring (LDN). Lower numbers of the species at L. Helena, Helena, Mont., seemed correlated with higher numbers downstream at Holter L., where 25-40 summered. An influx was also reported on the Missouri R., downstream from Holter Dam (GH). The species continued to move into the basin at Malheur, with 1200 there in early July. A White Pelican chick at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., July 29 apparently established the first breeding record there (TM). Up to eight were at the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wallula, Wash., during the summer (SM). Double-crested Cormorants continued to nest in trees at Malheur with about 330 pairs present. The nesting population at Potholes Res. continued to rise with at least 30 active nests and 50-70 nonbreeders.

HERONS THROUGH IBISES — Two Cattle Egrets suspected of breeding were at the American Falls, Ida., nesting colony for the only report. Their numbers are not building up there (CHT). Malheur had 754 pairs of Great Egrets, 100 of Snowy Egrets and 846 of Black-crowned Night Herons. Nesting pairs of Great Egrets remained at five at Potholes

Res., and their success appeared good. The Black-crowned population at Washington's Columbia Basin continued to increase with 1500 pairs at the Potholes, 100 pairs at Moses L., and 20 pairs at Banks L. Newly discovered colonies were along Frenchman Hills Wasteway near Royal City: 100-200 pairs; on Wahluke H.M.A., s.w. of Othello: 100 pairs, and along Winchester Wasteway w. of Moses L.: 25 pairs (RF). Their numbers at American Falls Res., and Pocatello, Ida., showed a buildup. American Bittern numbers appeared down at Malheur and the only report of a Least Bittern was of one near Lawen, Ore., June 12 (CDL). The Malheur Basin had 400 nesting pairs of White-faced Ibises and 464 were counted at American Falls Res., June 22.

WATERFOWL — Flooding caused a third of the Tumpeter Swan nests found at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. to fail. At least 49 cygnets were produced on the refuge and 24 in the Centennial Valley outside. Seven broods at Malheur still had 24 cygnets at July's end and one fledged at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. McArthur Lake W.M.A., n. of Sandpoint, Ida., showed a nearly 50% decrease from last year in Canada Goose nests for no apparent reason (MB).

Duck pairs at Malheur were down to 11,800 ± pairs because of high water levels. Canvasback there numbered 855 birds. Wood Ducks were



seen there twice, a July 28 sighting of 13 being particularly notable. That species appears to be increasing as a migrant there, supposedly because of nest boxes provided in the state by the Fish and Wildlife Department. The duck breeding population at Kootenai N.W.R., was down 30% but Wood Ducks showed an increase there. Duck nesting in the Fortine area was down, except for Com. Goldeneye. A brood of Barrow's Goldeneyes, rare there, hatched about June 15 (WW). Unusual sightings were of a ♂ Gadwall in the Ft. St. James, B.C. area June 28 (G); a Harlequin Duck at L. Helena June 18, the first ever for that area (GH, SMa), and a ♀ Hooded Merganser June 21 at Ennis, Mont., where the species is very rare and had never before been seen in summer (WEH).

HAWKS — Turkey Vultures continued their decline in the Malheur area. The most recorded at the traditional P Ranch roost site was 46 cf. 100 ± a decade ago. A concentration of 11 of the birds was near Vernon, B.C., June 30. The very few *Accipiter* reports included one of a Goshawk nest near Bend and one of a Cooper's Hawk nest s.e. of Salmon, Ida. A "Kridler's" Red-tailed Hawk was identified at close range at Prairie, Ida., June 4 (MRC, AL). At least 2 previous sightings of the race were made in that area in recent years (BB, *fide* MRC). Thirty townships in e. Adams County, Wash., were surveyed for Swainson's Hawks and 50 active nests found, all but one in trees. Nearly all the trees were man-planted and a third of them were dead or dying. The species' numbers appeared to be up in s.e. Idaho. Ferruginous Hawk numbers appeared healthy in the Malheur area.

A Golden Eagle nesting survey for n. Chelan, Okanogan and Douglas cos., Wash., checked 115 areas with previous evidence of nesting and found only one-third of them active. About 50% of these produced young, 1.2/successful nest or 0.6/nesting attempt. The Bald Eagle population at Stuart L., Ft. St. James was estimated at ten, down from about 25 in the 1960s-1970s period. Only one pair was reported at Holter L., where two pairs are normal (BT, *fide* GH). "High numbers" were reported nesting at Hebgen L., s. Gallatin Co., Mont. (JS). A pair of Bald Eagles at L. Pend Oreille in n. Idaho fledged one young.

— S.A. —

The University of Idaho and the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game are experimenting to see whether Ospreys will incubate Bald Eagle eggs. Dummy replicas of eagle eggs were accepted by the Ospreys, which later were given back their own eggs (PH).

The Osprey nesting attempt at Salmon was successful and a pair with two nestlings was found at Stanley L., w. of Stanley, Ida. (HR). One Peregrine Falcon sighting was reported.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — A ♀ White-tailed Ptarmigan with eight young were at Cathedral Pass, Pasayten Wilderness, Okanogan Co., Wash. (DP). Two broods of Sharp-tailed Grouse were sighted near Ovando, Mont.; the species is very rare w. of the Continental Divide in the state (RH).

CRANES, RAILS — Four ad. Whooping Cranes returned to Grays Lake N.W.R., this spring and 26 of 28 Whooping Crane eggs placed in Sandhill Crane nests there hatched (*fide* JR). Greater Sandhills at Malheur had a high nesting success of 63.3%. Radiotelemetry studies, however, showed heavy mortality of young, with only two of 20 chicks fitted with radios remaining at the period's end. Three Sandhills stayed until mid-June at Bestwick, B.C.; nesting was suspected (RH). Two were at Red L., n.w. of Kamloops, B.C., July 25 (JG). A pair was noted June 15 and July 3 in a small marsh 20 mi e. of Mountain Home, Ida. (KBP). A Virginia Rail, very rare in Deschutes County, was at Indian Ford C.G., Sisters, Ore., June 25 (TC, CM). A Sora July 8 at Fortine was the first seen there in recent years (WW).

SHOREBIRDS — Malheur N.W.R., had 17 Semipalmated Plovers July 26 (MA); Bend had one June 1 (CM) and four July 30 (TC) for the only other sightings. No Snowy Plovers were seen at Malheur, because high water eliminated all nesting habitat, and none was reported else-

where. Three Long-billed Curlews were seen at the new nesting area n. of Eureka, Mont. (WW). Deschutes County's first Whimbrel was there July 7 (CM) and Malheur had one July 14 (CDL). Bear Valley, Seneca, Ore., yielded three Upland Sandpipers June 18 (MA). A Solitary Sandpiper, always rare in c. Oregon, was at Bend July 30 (TC) and one visited Market L., Roberts, Ida., July 29 (JMS).

— S.A. —

Tom Crabtree wrote (letter received in early August) from Bend: "Two Short-billed Dowitchers arrived July 7. Nine were present July 12. By the 18th only three remained when a flight of Long-billeds occurred. There were 32 Long-billeds July 18; but by the end of the period only one Short-billed and seven Long-billeds remained. (Note: these were adults in breeding plumage and were often heard calling . . . in a recent Changing Seasons (AB:1982,982), section Don Roberson said there are not any Long-billeds in this country before mid-August. Phil Mattocks, a Northern Pacific Coast Editor for *American Birds* was with me here last week and verified the fact that almost all of our dowitchers were Long-billeds, and that's his experience in Washington . . . Roberson's comments might apply for central to southern California, but they certainly don't . . . here.)"

Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., had a surprising 110 Marbled Godwits July 15, apparently the first ever there (TM). Only three pairs of Black-necked Stilts were observed on Frenchman Hills Wasteway (RF) Hatfield L., Bend's sewage treatment plant, was an excellent spot for migrant shorebirds. Highlights were: up to 30 Least and 150 W Sandpipers, the peak July 3, and the county's first Am. Avocet July 22 (TC)

GULLS, TERNS — The gull colony near Burns consisted primarily of Californias with 425 pairs. Franklin's Gulls did not nest on Malheur N.W.R., but 150 pairs nested n. of there; the species was detrimentally affected by high water. The refuge had a Bonaparte's Gull June 14 and an imm. bird of the species was at Orofino, Ida., June 4-5 (C.B.) One was in the Ft. St. James area June 28 (G). Caspian Terns were on the increase. About 200 remained at Malheur and two pairs there furnished the refuge's first nesting record. The Potholes had 250-300 nesting pairs and the nesting colony on Banks L., 20-30 pairs (RF). Two birds were on American Falls Res., June 20 (CHT) and one was at Lewiston, Ida., July 3-4 (RN; DG, MK). Two appeared at Ennis, Mont., June 23 and Kootenai N.W.R., had two July 17. Creston Valley W.M.A., also had two (LDN). A Black Tern near Hill City, Ida., June 11 (KBP) and two at Twin Falls, Ida., July 15 (JR) were latilong firsts. The species had been a regular summer resident at Kootenai N.W.R., until 1981, when none appeared. Last year it numbered about 15 but this year only two were sighted. It was reported nesting at Creston Valley.

PIGEONS, OWLS — A Band-tailed Pigeon in Gallatin Gateway, Mont., June 20 furnished a latilong first (KG, JL) and two were at Three Valley, B.C., June 1 (MC). A pair of Barn Owls nested at the Boardman, Ore., coal-fired plant for the area's first breeding record (RK). A road-killed Barn Owl at Kamloops June 25 made the province's most n record (RH). A newly fledged Screech Owl unable to fly was found at Okanagan Landing July 31 for one of few breeding records in recent years for interior British Columbia (JG). An astonishing total of 12 calling Flammulated Owls was heard on night patrols in the Lac du Bois and Paul Cr. drainage areas near Kamloops June 5-16. A nest near Paul L., June 13 contained at least one large nestling July 21 (JB, RH). A Hawk Owl nest with at least two young was found near the headwaters of Cherry Cr., elev. ca. 6000 ft, e. of Vernon, B.C., July 3 (P & PM). Burrowing Owls were more evident than normally at Malheur. Three pairs with their broods were captured there for introduction near Medford, Ore. One bird was observed regularly near Boulder, Mont., for the first sighting in several years in the Helena area (NN) and 12 were found July 9-10 in the O'Sullivan Dam—Potholes area s. of Moses L. (S.A.S.). Two ad. and a fledged imm. Great Gray Owl were sighted at Red L., n.w. of Kamloops July 25 (WE). Four flying imm. Saw-whet Owls were at Paul L., June 14 (RH).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — White-throated Swifts were breeding at the new colony on the basalt cliffs n.w. of Spokane (JA). Black-

chinned Hummingbirds were present through the period along the Middle Fork of John Day R., near Galena, Ore. Apparently the species is more common in that area than originally thought (CDL). The species was reported nesting at Walla Walla, Wash. (*vide* SM). A male of the species visited a feeder at Red Lodge, Mont., June 20 for the latilong's first record (WEH). Anna's Hummingbird was reported as having become the most common nesting species of hummer in the Bend area (TC) A ♂ Broad-tailed at Red Lodge June 19 was the latilong's first (WEH). One at Helena during June was that area's first (CB).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Lewis' Woodpecker was nesting near Bend. The Grande Ronde R.—Field Springs S.P. area of s e Washington provided seven Williamson's Sapsuckers and four White-headed Woodpeckers June 25-26 (S.A.S.). A pair of Williamson's near Henrys L., June 23 was suspected of nesting (WEH). The Chewelah, Wash., area had nesting White-headed Woodpeckers (JN). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers, some engaged in nesting activity, were located in the Wenatchee, Wash. area; in extreme n.e. Washington and n.w. Montana. Sightings were also made in the Bozeman and Helena, Mont., areas and near Island P., Ida.

Eastern Kingbirds showed a drastic decline in the Malheur area and both this species and W. Kingbird were scarcer than usual in the N. Okanagan around Vernon. Clyde Holiday S.P., near John Day, Ore., had three Least Flycatchers June 18 (MA) and one was near Vernon June 30 (JG, CS) for the only reports. A pair of W. Flycatchers, rare in s.e. Idaho, was attending a nest at Scout Mountain C.G., near Pocatello July 15 for apparently that area's first breeding record (JMS). One of the species at Ennis June 23 was apparently the first in June for the latilong (WEH).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS — A Violet-green Swallow colony banded in 1980 in the Ft. St. James vicinity was unoccupied and the species less abundant than in previous years. [Banding disturbance a factor?—Ed.]. Tree Swallow numbers there were very low. Two pairs of early nesting Tree Swallows at Fortine brought off broods but several other nests never contained eggs and after cold, rainy days in early July no adults were seen again. Barn and Cliff swallow nesting was successful there, however. Several pairs of the latter were rearing second broods, which they rarely do there. In the Vernon area all 4 of the above swallow species suffered brood mortality in early July, presumably because of the cold, wet weather. Swallow numbers on breeding bird surveys there were drastically below the 10-year average. A Bank Swallow colony estimated at 800 birds is being protected by the cement company that owns the site near Trident, Mont. (WEH).

The Blue Jay that wintered at Rupert, Ida., was last seen June 1 (WHS), for the only report. Heyburn S.P., St. Maries, Ida., had nine Chestnut-backed Chickadees June 19 (S.A.S.). Three pairs of Bewick's Wrens were nesting in Walla Walla's bird sanctuary (SM). A Canyon Wren, very rare in the Bozeman latilong, was at Trident June 30 (SC, DS)

MIMIC THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — A Brown Thrasher was photographed s. of Burns, Ore., June 19 (DM, RDP) and a Sage Thrasher photographed near Kamloops was well n. of its normal range (RR) The Wenas Cr. nest box project n.w. of Yakima produced 88 Western and 62 Mountain bluebird nestlings. The bluebird trail in the Weston, Ore.-Waitsburg, Wash. area had two each of Western and Mountain bluebird nests and 11 of House Wrens. Mountain Bluebird numbers increased in the Fortine area as a result of newly installed boxes and the same was true near Bozeman. Hailstone N.W.R., near Columbia, Mont., had five Sprague's Pipits July 2 for a latilong first (WEH). Two Bohemian Waxwings at Kamloops in early July were most unusual (JuG) Preliminary investigation at Columbia N.W.R., indicate the nesting population of Loggerhead Shrikes has declined over the last 20-30 years (JRR). No Loggerheads were found on a 2000 mi tour by Mass. Aud. Soc., which included w. Montana and much suitable habitat (WEH).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A singing Red-eyed Vireo at Salmon July 1 was Roberts' first for that area. The find of the season was a ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** in full breeding plumage photographed at Malheur N.W.R., June 3-4 (OLS, RS, m.ob.) supposedly for Oregon's

first An Orange-crowned Warbler, rare in the Helena area, was heard singing in early July at Grizzly Gulch (LT). Yellow Warblers at Columbia N.W.R., are being monitored because of an apparent decline in recent years. June brought two Ovenbird sightings at Malheur and single Am. Redstart sightings there and at Fields, Ore. (CDL).

BLACKBIRDS — Only one Bobolink, a singing male, was found in the Chewelah vicinity (JN). One was seen near Salmon July 14 (HR) and six males were sighted at Prairie, Ida. (MRC, AL). The colony near Cusick, Wash., had 12-15 birds June 11 and two were observed between Springdale and Hunters, Wash., July 1 (JA). A few Com. Grackles were sighted at 4 localities in s.e. Idaho; an adult feeding an imm. bird at Soda Springs apparently represented the state's first breeding record (CHT)

FINCHES, SPARROWS — An ad. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared along Cottonwood Cr., s. of Fields June 11 (*vide* CDL). A mystery bird in the Salmon area July 21 was suspected of being an Indigo x Lazuli Bunting hybrid (HR). House Finches were notable for their complete absence at Malheur. Pine Siskin sightings were scarce Troy, Mont., reported good numbers and 100+ were seen July 31 in St Joe N.F., s. of St. Regis, Mont. Green-tailed Towhees were reported in the Blue Mts., near Asotin, Wash. (RM), and one was seen near Challis, Ida., July 12 (HR). Lark Buntings appeared at Three Forks and Boulder, Mont., in June after an apparent absence of many years (JS *et al*) Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. (WEH); in the Walla Walla area (SM, P & REW), and at Cold Springs N.W.R., Hermiston, Ore. (C & MC). A Baird's Sparrow at Big L., n. of Columbus, Mont., July 2 furnished a latilong first (WEH, MR). The Boardman area had a Black-throated Sparrow June 6 (RK). The Avery and Mivoden, Ida., and Keller and Reardan, Wash., B.S.s continued last year's trend of markedly lower Chipping Sparrow numbers and Ft. St. James sent a negative report for both this species and the Clay-colored Sparrow. Four of the latter were singing near Vernon June 30 (JG, CS). White-crowned Sparrows were reported only on the Avery B.B.S. except for a surprising one at Selah, Wash., June 30 (Y.A.S.). Fox Sparrows were reported in numbers in Glacier N.P., Mont., and on the Avery B.B.S. with the highest number ever on the latter. Lincoln's Sparrow numbers at Ft. St. James appeared to be about double last year's. One singing in the valley bottom e. of Vernon June 30 was most unusual (CS).

ADDENDUM — David Fix sent the following in response to my remarks about Pectoral Sandpiper migration (AB 37:203): “. . . I would reinterpret your evidence. Pecs are *long-distance migrants*, which could scarcely be envisioned as having a traditional route involving the fantastic sharp flight angles and very short flight legs you suggest they employ. Note that shorebirds of this group more likely fly over inhospitable habitat, without [the] problems of ‘having’ to land on ‘convenient’ wildlife refuges and related well-watched spots. Just because you have little data from elsewhere (other than cited locations) does *not* indicate that your Pecs must stop in largely at these places . . .”

OBSERVERS CITED — James Acton (JA), John & Nancy Anderson (J & NA), Merle Archie, Chris Bakula (CB), Bill Belknap, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Jack Bowling, Mel Branch Mark R. Collie, Mary Collins (MC), Craig & Marion Corder (C & MC), Sharon Cotterell, Tom Crabtree, Gary Davidson, Wayne Erickson, David Fix, Ron Friesz, Dorothy Garvey, Kieth Giezentanner, Graebel (G), James Grant (JG), Jude Grass (JuG), Paul Hanna, W. Edward Harper, Rob Hazelwood (RHa), George Holton, Rick Howie (RH), Ronald Klein, Merlene Koliner, Al Larson, Jerry Light, C. D. Littlefield, Dave Markley, Pat & Peter McAllister, Terry McEneaney, Sid Martin (SMa), Craig Miller, Robert Morse, Shirley Muse (SM), Larry D. Napier, Ron Neu, Jack Nisbet, Norma Nixon, Richard D. Palmer, Don Pridmore, Kerry B Provance, James R. Rees, M. Reinstein, Ralph Ritcey, Hadley Roberts, Jeff Ruprecht, Owen L. Schmidt, W. H. Shillington, John M. Shipley Jr., Chris Siddle, Don Skaar, Richard Smith, Jim Sparks, Spokane Audubon Society (S.A.S.), Larry Thompson, C. H. Trost, Bob Tubbs, Winton Weydemeyer, Pat & R. E. Woodley, and Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.).—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

Through the eastern and central part of the Region the wet spring and an equally wet summer caused some dramatic changes to the nesting phenology and species composition. For some species first attempts at nesting failed owing to rain and snow—both on the plains where this frequently occurs and in the mountains where it happens less often. In many areas, particularly in the mountains, nesting lagged two-four weeks behind normal. At the end of July, young hummingbirds had just begun to fledge and some birds still sat on nests. At Estes Park, Colorado, during the National Audubon Society convention at the end of August a Barn Swallow and a Dusky Flycatcher still had young in the nest.

The moisture on the eastern Colorado plains fostered unusually lush grass. This discouraged birds which prefer short grass like longspurs (especially Chestnut-collared) but benefited others like Lark Buntings and Dickcissels. The most conspicuous tall grass beneficiary (if an inconspicuous bird can be called conspicuous) was the Grasshopper Sparrow: Colorado observers reported it throughout the plains, from the edge of the foothills to the Kansas line, in new locations and in high numbers.

The heavy snowpack and spring rains also caused heavy runoff. High river waters flooded out nesting House Wrens and Bobwhites in eastern Colorado. Colorado plains reservoirs hit high levels (Chatfield Reservoir near Denver stayed 10-15 feet above normal May 15-July 5) and flooding occurred along the Colorado River, but Utah suffered the most. Salt Lake City used sandbags to turn several main streets into temporary rivers. The Great Salt Lake collected all this runoff and rose to its highest level in 80 years. Salt water flooded freshwater marshes at Farmington and Ogden refuges and reduced available nesting habitat. Birds used the dikes for nesting, but probably many fewer found sites and food. Bear River National Wildlife Refuge reported that 28% of its duck nests flooded, compared with 6% last year. On August 11 Gadwalls and Redheads were incubating or hatching broods from late re-nesting attempts.

TOURISTS — Please contact a local observer if you find some local rarity. Not only would the locals like to see the bird but they also can follow up on the record, *e.g.*, to see if a rarity is nesting. And speaking of birding tourists, Coloradans cheered Cynthia and Steven Gaulin who, while searching for Williamson's Sapsuckers west of Denver, found a more valuable prize: a 3-year old girl kidnapped two days earlier.

NEW RECORDS — Observers listed the following new state nesting records: Willet in the Colorado mountains (last year), Hepatic Tanager in southeastern Colorado, Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Wyoming. Luke turned up 21 latilong changes in Wyoming, including 7 new confirmed breeders. On a June 16-19 trip to Colorado Latilong 27, C.F.O. found 27 changes including 15 new breeders, and JSc turned in 15 changes (5 new breeders) to the Montrose, Colo., latilongs.



HISTORICAL CHANGES — Figs studied historic Boulder County records to determine bird population changes. Over the past 125 years the county has changed from prairie to agriculture/rural to urban. The resulting habitat changes have extirpated Loggerhead Shrikes, reduced Burrowing Owls to 2 locations, and dropped plains populations of Red-tailed, Swainson's, and Marsh hawks, Com. Nighthawks, and Say's Phoebes. Newcomers have become common: Chimney Swift, Blue Jay, Red-eyed Vireo, and Common Grackle (drawn by the new urban forest); Brown-headed Cowbird (better winter food sources); water-related nesters (reservoirs have provided new nest sites), Bush-tit (field work found them), and Grasshopper Sparrows (wet weather this year).

ABBREVIATIONS — †: description on file with Regional Editor; ††: descr. on file with state records committee; #: no written description; B.B.S.: Breeding Bird Survey; L/L/B/L: Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, Colo.; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park; 1st Lat: first latilong nesting record.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS — A typical summer turns up 4-5 Com. Loon records; this summer observers reported 10 observations of 34 birds including 12 at Wheatland, Wyo., one June morning (RBr) and one that summered at Julesburg, Colo. (BP). In addition, at Jackson, Wyo., where they nest, observers found twice the usual numbers (BR). Eared Grebes had successful nesting: 600 nests, 1200 young at Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nev., back up to the level achieved in 1979; 200 nests at Casper, Wyo. (JH), and 120 nests at Cody, Wyo., up from 50 last year (UK). Bear R., reported 1169 W. Grebe nests, 1112 young. At Timnath, Colo., a handful of both light and dark phases nested, with no cross-mated pairs noted (RAR, PP). The light form also nested at Saguache, Colo. (RB). At Ruby L., the Region's largest nesting population of Pied-billed Grebes, 400 pairs produced 800 young. This year 1206 pairs of 8 species nested at Riverside Res., near Weldona, Colo., Colorado's sole nesting colony of White Pelicans. The pelicans, with 600 nests, produced more than one young/pair. Non-breeding pelicans were unusually abundant throughout e. Wyoming and n.e. Colorado (959 at 11 reservoirs Aug. 12—JD), and 50-75 summered at Antero Res., in the c. Colorado mountains near Fairplay (RB). Double-crested Cormorants achieved success in several reservoirs, with 112 nests reported at Chatfield near Denver (66 last year—HEK), 80 pair at Riverside (50 last year—RAR), 75 nests at Casper (up by 10—JH), 20 nests at Sheridan in a new colony (HD), and 195 nests at Bear R. (183 in 1981—RLP). An Olivaceous Cormorant spent July at Julesburg, Colo. (D.F.O.).

HERONS, IBISES — Great Blues had mixed success at their heronries. Chatfield's increased from 110 nests to 124 (HEK), Timnath increased to 30 (RAR, PP), and Ruby L., saw nesting pairs increase from 35 for the past several years to 50 this year. At Bear R., the 94 young Great Blues represented a drop to one-third of the 5-year average, and at Fossil Cr., near Ft. Collins, nests dropped from 115 in 1981 to 60 this year (DV). A Green Heron visited Green R., Wyo., June 18 (†FL). Although observed at Fountain June 4-30 (RB) and Chatfield June 11-July 28 (F&JJ), Green Herons did not reveal nests at either place. Little Blue Herons wandered this summer. One at Mesquite, Nev. June 17, seen only in flight, provided Nevada's sixth record (†MK). Others were seen at Alamosa N.W.R., Colo., June 1-3 (†JK), Denver June 5 (#D.F.O.), and Antero Res., all of July (RB, LH, †CC). Cattle Egrets nested in Colorado in at least 3 sites: three pairs at Monte Vista (JK—1st Lat), 10 at Riverside, and 10 at Milton Res., near Platteville. They have become regular at Delta (five June 5—MJ) but are still rare at Holyoke (one July 21—CHg). The pair of Common Egrets nesting at Riverside, with three nearly fledged young July 19, provided the second Colorado nesting location (RAR—1st Lat). Snowy Egret nesting crashed at 2 refuges. At Bear R., Snowies dropped from 1600 nests in 1978 to 10 this year (they may have moved to an off-refuge nesting site) and Ruby L.'s dropped from 150 pairs in 1980 to 75 this year. Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., reported 48 nests, up from 9 last year, and Riverside had 50 nests, apparently a substantial increase (RAR). SF found 2 Snowy Egret nests and 3 Black-crowned Night Heron nests at Casper June 23 (1st Lat). A pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons nested at City Park in Denver, with Black-crowns; they produced one chick (D.F.O., CC, ph). This represents the first Colorado and first regional nesting record.

Ruby L. reported 200 pairs of nesting Am. Bitterns. White-faced Ibises established a small new colony near Battle Mt., Nev., with 20 pairs (MR), and observers confirmed nesting of 4 pairs at Saguache, Colo. (RB). Bear R. had 906 nests, about average, and Ruby L. had 75 pairs, also average.

WATERFOWL — Ruby L. reported only 2 broods, nine cygnets, of Trumpeter Swans. Ruby L.'s 3080 breeding pairs of ducks produced 10,565 young. Bear R. produced 4206 Redheads, 2730 Cinnamon Teal, 2380 Gadwalls, 2208 Mallards, and 900 Ruddy Ducks. Pintails produced one pair with 7 young at Las Vegas, an unusual breeding record (MK). Green-winged Teal nested on the Colorado plains at Pawnee Grassland—two females with 14 young July 1 (LH) and in the Rockies at Grand L., where a female brooded 8 eggs and a similarly colored rock; all hatched but the rock (DJ). Fifteen pairs of Blue-winged Teal at Ruby Lakes, produced 40 young. Wood Ducks nested at Carson City, Nev., Sheridan, Wyo., and Ft. Collins, Colo. (BPi, MC, RAR). Ring-necked Ducks nested at Cheyenne, Wyo. (1st Lat—AK), Ruby Lakes (30 pairs), Farson, Wyo. (FL), and R.M.N.P. (BTw). Both Com. and Barrow's goldeneyes lingered at Granby, Colo., June 6 (DJ). The flotilla of 180 Barrow's at Yellowstone N.P., June 21 (EH) may have indicated an unsuccessful nesting season: At Trail L., near Dubois, Wyo., Barrow's produced only one brood compared with 9 last year (PA). The Buffleheads at Grand L., June 6 and Radium, Colo., June 22 overstayed their usual visit (DJ). Harlequin Ducks nested in Grand Teton N. P., with five young found July 28 (MM). Unusual summer Red-breasted Merganser reports were of one at Eureka, Nev., June 21 (JE), one at Minersville, Utah July 13 (SH), two at Rock Spgs., Wyo., July 5, and one at Zion N.P., June 10-July 31+ (JG).

HAWKS TO RAILS — A pair of Cooper's Hawks nested in a downtown Salt Lake City park; they perched on picnic tables while people lunched—and fledged five young (SC). Five Bald Eagle pairs nested at 2 sites at opposite ends of Wyoming; Colorado had 3 nests in one location. Forty pairs of Marsh Hawks nested at Ruby L. Prairie Falcons have apparently declined on the Pawnee Grassland, according to falconers and Ryder; one possible cause could be over-exploitation by falconers (RAR). Juvenile Whooping Cranes summered at Jackson and possibly Fontanelle, Wyo., and Kremmling, Colo. (BR, SN, AC) and one stayed at Monte Vista to June 10 (JK). The Elko, Nev., area had 69 Sandhill Crane nests (MR), and Ruby L., had 20 pairs with 15 young. Ruby L. produced 1200 young Soras and 600 Virginia Rails, but e. Colorado floods inundated many normal nest sites. Two refuges recorded nesting Com. Gallinules for the first time: Ruby L.—a nest found June 8, young hatched June 27 (SB—1st Lat), and Bear R.—two adults with two young floated across an open channel July 21 (†LW ph.—1st Lat). These breeders, coupled with one at Boulder, Colo., June 10-15 (LH, D.F.O.) and last year's first Wyoming record at Seedskaadee N.W.R., may evidence an expansion N.



Common Gallinule with young. Bear River Refuge, Utah. June, 1983. Photo/Mark Vaniman.

SHOREBIRDS — June migrants were two Greater Yellowlegs at Bear R., June 20 (ES), two Stilt Sandpipers at Julesburg June 13 (BP), and N. Phalaropes at Red Desert, Wyo., Antero Res., and Cody, Wyo., June 4-16 (†CK, RB, UK). By July 5, 9 locations reported 7 species of migrant shorebirds—most of them those noted by Roberson in the Changing Seasons analysis last summer as typical early migrants (AB 36:952). Among later July arrivals, a Piping Plover provided good looks

at Julesburg, Colo., July 24 (†DS). Four pairs of Snowy Plovers raced the sandy flats at Antero Res., June 12; a nest confirmed breeding at 10,000 ft in a fourth Colorado latilong (RB, CC—1st Lat). One at Cedar City July 28 gave s. Utah its first fall record (SH). Flooding moved Killdeer around: in Boulder County, Colo., MF found 22 in 8 locations, compared with 60 in 6 locations last year, while LH found 8 pairs where 3 usually nest. The May 17 blizzard wiped out nesting Killdeer and Mountain Plover at Cheyenne, although second hatches succeeded for the Killdeer (AK). Mountain Plover suffered more, fledging fewer chicks (AK), but had an average year in Colorado (CC). Nevada's first Ruddy Turnstone in 2 years, in alternate plumage, stayed at Las Vegas July 30-Aug. 6+ (C&PG). In 1982 Colorado had its first confirmed Willet nest, at Antero; none nested there this year (CC). A Red Knot visited Casper, Wyo., July 29 (JH), and a Short-billed Dowitcher stopped at Washington, Utah July 13 (†SH). Two Stilt Sandpipers stopped at Sheridan July 23 (HD) and one at Casper, Wyo., July 29 (JH); by the end of July flocks of 44-50 at Julesburg and Crook made it the most common shorebird in n.e. Colorado (BP, MJ). By July 4, 250 Marbled Godwits had gathered at Bear R. (JN); one had drifted S to Las Vegas July 5 (MK) and 60 to Cedar City July 22 (SH). The Sanderling at Rock Spgs., July 5 provided a 1st Lat. record (†FL). FL found 400 Wilson's Phalaropes nesting at Rock Spgs., July 5 (1st Lat) and UK found 20 nesting at Cody June 5-July 16. They were courting at Antero Res., June 12 (RB).

JAEGERS TO TERNS — Two remarkable northerners were reported in Colorado this summer: a Parasitic Jaeger at Wellington July 29 (†RLN) and a Glaucous Gull June 12 at Antero (†RB, CC). At Lamar, Colo., June 19 a flock of 200 non-breeding gulls included 10 Herrings, 30 Ring-billeds, one Laughing, plus Californias and Franklin's (CC). At Antero a Herring Gull mated with a California for the second straight year (CC—details to be published elsewhere). California Gulls thrived: 2135 nests at Bear R. (almost twice last year's), 300 nests at Riverside, 700 pairs at Antero, and 150 at Alcova, Wyo. (JH). Summer Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from Elko, Nev., June 13 (EH) and Las Vegas July 15 (MK). Forster's Terns had successful nesting at Ruby L. (250 nests), Bear R. (118 nests, up from 14 last year), and Laramie, Wyo. (4 nests—DM). Caspian Terns appeared in a variety of non-nesting locations during the summer: one May 30 at Antero (CC), 13 at Mesquite, Nev., June 15 (MK), two at Davis Dam, Nev., June 23 (VM), one at Rock Spgs., June 14 (FL), and two at Sheridan June 22 (JS). Black Terns produced 450 young at Ruby L., and 800 at Bear R.

PIGEONS TO OWLS — A few Band-tailed Pigeons strayed to Dubois, Wyo., June 13 (†JMi), Logan, Utah June 18 (†KD), and Sheridan July 29 (†EM), Eagle, Grand Jct., and Ridgway, Colo.; 2-15 appeared occasionally at Delta, Colo. (MJ). Cessation of a corn feeding station eliminated them from a usual spot near Niwot, Colo. (LH). Evergreen, Colo., reported fewer; Westcreek and Eldora apparently had normal numbers (WWB, RW, LHa). Three widely separated locations reported substantially fewer Mourning Doves: Eureka, Nev., San Luis Valley, Colo., and Denver (JE, JK, D.F.O.). The Purgatoire R., near Higbee, Colo., produced two territorial Black-billed Cuckoos (RB). A Monk Parakeet stayed 5 min in a Denver yard June 23, then flew on noisily (HEK); the species has not become established anywhere in the region. Further to the discussion about E. and W. Screech Owls (AB 37:896), Ryder reports that all those which he has banded or seen as road kills in the Ft. Collins area had light-colored bills, making them the E. species. Colorado Field Ornithologists found both E. and W. Screech Owls nesting very close together s.w. of Pritchett. After the May 17 Colorado blizzard, SU received for rehabilitation three Flammulated Owls from the foothills w. of Sedalia, Boulder, and Evergreen. Jackson, with a bumper crop of gophers, had twice the usual reports of Great Gray Owls (BR). On a thesis search for Boreal Owls, Palmer found no nests, but did find nine territorial males w. of Ft. Collins. He reports the best time to locate them is Apr. 15-30 during good weather with a full moon (but also when 2-5 ft of snow covers the ground). All observers with comparative numbers reported far fewer Com. Nighthawks (e.g. 44 cf. 118 at L/L/B/L—JC).

SWIFTS TO WOODPECKERS — Two observations hint at a migratory route along the edge of the foothills for Black Swifts, a late one, too: four at Fountain, Colo., June 5 (last year two June 17) and one at

Lyons, Colo., June 10, the latter 20 mi e. of the nest sites on R.M.N.P. (RB, MF). VZ found a new nesting colony at Hanging L., e. of Glenwood Spgs., Colo., July 4. They may nest at 2 other sites: Maroon/Snowmass wilderness near Aspen and Mineral County, Colo. (PB, SW). Summer observations did not bear out the spring surveys showing a decline in White-throated Swifts. Rufous Hummingbirds arrived in June at Evergreen, Glenwood Spgs., Logan, Ridgway, and Durango, and by mid-July had assumed their roles of "little ayatollahs" (DJ) at regional feeders. Three Colorado locations reported Calliopes, all in July (Jefferson, Aspen, Glenwood Spgs.). A ♀ **Rivoli's Hummingbird** returned for the second year to Wilson, Wyo., June 26, a bird possibly mated with a Rufous (JF). Is it still Wyoming's first record or does it become the second? Another used a Ridgway feeder July 31 (JRG). Williamson's Sapsuckers, according to 3 of 4 Colorado observers, suffered a drop in nesting numbers (DJ, RW, LH).

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS — No one found Scissor-tailed Flycatchers on several May and June trips to Baca County, Colo., where they nested several years ago. Least Flycatchers sang but did not reveal nests at Loveland, Colo., June 28-July 19 (PP, RS, F.A.C.) and Encampment, Wyo., July 8 (EH). A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers acted territorial ½ mi s. of the Baca County line in Oklahoma June 18 (RB). The May 17 blizzard wiped out the first hatch of Horned Larks near Cheyenne (and probably the rest of the Great Plains) but the second batch was flying by July 25 (AK). A B.B.S., at Pawnee recorded 194 cf. 305 last year and one at Alcova counted 97 cf. 110 last year, the drops attributed to the wet year and lush vegetation (RAR, JH). Tree Swallows fledged two young at Fleming, Colo., for the third Colorado plains nesting site (BP—**1st Lat**). Bank Swallows thrived at Cheyenne and Julesburg, but earth-moving machines forced them out of a Casper nesting site. Cliff Swallows showed mixed results in Colorado: noticeable drops at Grand L., Radium, and Sheridan; abundance at Delta, Gilman, and Julesburg, and including 1000 July 18 at Longmont.

JAYS TO VIREOS — Gray Jays showed a drop on the w. side of R.M.N.P., and stable numbers on the e. side (DJ, MF). A Blue Jay that wintered at Salt Lake City stayed to late June (ES). Scrub Jays decreased at Cedar City (down 30%—SH) and Ridgway (absent until July 19) after daily appearances for the last several years (JRG). A pair of Com. Crows nested on a dike at Ruby L. (SH). Bushtits nested on Mt. Sanitas, ½ mi w. of Boulder (NL), and White-breasted Nuthatches nested on the plains at Chatfield, ½ mi e. of the foothills (HEK). Dippers had problems finding nest sites because of the high stream flows, not only in the Colorado high country but also at Zion. At some places like Crook and Niwot, House Wren numbers dropped while two B.B.S.s at Sheridan showed an upward trend. At Dubois and Logan delayed breeding meant no second clutches. A determined survey of Zion Canyon failed to locate any Winter Wrens where they may have nested last year (JG).

Gray Catbirds nested at Cody, appeared daily at Ridgway, and once at Baker, Nev., June 2 (MR). At Ft. Morgan, Colo., a Curve-billed Thrasher sang June 6, 90 mi n. of its known nesting range, but it did not stay (†JCR). Near Las Vegas Le Conte's Thrashers met with some breeding success despite increased people activity (VM). Wood Thrushes were reported from Sheridan June 3 (†HD) and Cheyenne June 1-2 (AK#). A dramatic example of the late migration came at Cheyenne, which still had flocks of Swainson's Thrushes June 1-14, topped by 101 seen June 11 (D&EH, K&PW). Mountain Bluebirds showed mixed results, down in Boulder County and up in Durango, Eagle, and Jefferson, Colo. Hampered by a shortage of nest sites, they accepted nest boxes at Grand L., and Radium, picked a newspaper delivery box at Westcreek and, for the 3rd or 4th year, the same broken highway guard rail at Sheridan. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers returned to the site near Lyons where they nested last year (MF). At Beaver Dam Wash w. of St. George, Utah, 2 pairs of Bell's Vireos fledged young, and 2 other pairs were active.

WARBLERS TO TANAGERS — Singing Black-and-white Warblers surprised observers at Aspen June 17-July 1 (†PB) and Ward, Colo., June 18 (MF, †PH). A Magnolia Warbler sang for one-half hour in good nesting habitat—a spruce/fir forest near Evergreen, Colo., June 20, but no local observers knew about it or saw it (†BCa). A Bay-breasted Warbler sang at Boulder June 7 but did not stay (BJ). Found at

8 a.m. on a front porch on Puppysmith St. in Aspen June 6, a Kentucky Warbler warmed up and flew off 3 hrs later (T&JC ph.). Wyoming observers reported stray Am. Redstarts at Laramie June 6, Jackson in early June, and Cody July 4.

New nesting sites of Bobolinks were found at Logan, Utah (MT) and at 6 locations near Elko, probably Nevada's only nesting site (MR). Sheridan had a record count of 90 on a B.B.S., June 23 (LHy), and strays visited Wheatland, Wyo. (RBr) and Cheyenne June 11 (K&PW), in the same place as one found 20 years ago by MH. CHg reports meadowlarks singing the e. song in her pasture at Holyoke, Colo., she did not hear the e. song in other places. Among the 21 Orchard Oriole nests found in Baca County June 18-19, a ♂ "Baltimore" attended one (RB). Grand Jct., Colo. observers have now found Scott's Orioles at at least 4 different nesting sites in Mesa County (VZ, MJ, BT). Photographs support a N. "Baltimore" Oriole at Jackson June 7 (Ppo, *vide* BR). For the third year Chase returned s. of Kim, Colo., where he had found territorial **Hepatic Tanagers**, and June 18 finally found Colorado's first nest. In Lat. 27, June 16-20, C.F.O. found all 4 tanager species.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — The Casper Cardinal stayed through the summer (R&RF). The Forristers also hosted the first Wyoming nest of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, which produced one young July 3. Among June Rose-breasted were birds at Las Vegas, Dubois, Sheridan, Cheyenne, and Eldora, all apparently late migrants. Add to the spring Painted Buntings one netted at Ft. Collins May 15 (††JAS ph.). Five locations, at least, on the e. Colorado plains hosted Dickcissels, with singing, apparently territorial, birds found June 19-July 30. On her annual Black Rosy Finch backpack into the Wind R. wilderness, Wyo., Back found a possible nest, but still has not absolutely confirmed nesting. Casper had a Lesser Goldfinch June 11 (LR), and tantalizingly, 1-2 seen sporadically in Cheyenne could have been the state's first nesting pair (D&EH). Red Crossbills began to reappear in the mountains, although they have not achieved the abundance of 2 years ago. Only two White-winged Crossbills were reported, at Aspen June 29 (T&JC). In Sheridan the B.B.S., found only 13 Lark Buntings, the lowest ever, and they could not be found elsewhere in the latilong (HD). However Casper and Pawnee B.B.S.s had high counts—177 and 389 respectively (JH, RAR). Sheridan had a dry year, Casper and Sheridan enjoyed wet weather and high grasses. Observers even found Lark Buntings fairly common at Rock Spgs., and Big Piney, Wyo. (FL, JR). The lush grasses received the credit for the summer's most striking population change: every observer on the Colorado plains reported at least twice the usual numbers of Grasshopper Sparrows. Top counts came of 23 singing males in 5+ colonies in Boulder County and 22 singing males in Baca County June 16-18. Sheridan reported a few June 23 and July 15, but to the s., e. Wyoming (with few observers) must have had good numbers as well. Conversely, Cassin's Sparrows declined, probably because of the high grass (CC); nevertheless RB counted 82 in Baca County, mostly singing, June 16-19. On June 18 two Black-throated Sparrows sang near Higbee, Colo. (RB). A pair of Brewer's Sparrows staked out a territory near Fountain, Colo., in the same area as a pair seen in 1982 (RB).

CORRIGENDA — In 1980 I reported that a researcher had found a remarkable concentration of Flammulated Owls near Woodland P, Colo. (AB 34:917). Further research has revealed that the reported 36 singing posts in 0.88 sq mi. represent far fewer owls—probably 6/sq mi (*vide* RAR). In AB 36:1001, referring to Caspian Terns, change "Mont." after Faust to Mona.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona

/Janet Witzeman

The heavy winter and spring rains, and subsequent flooding in some areas, caused some habitat changes, especially along the Lower Colorado River where many study areas were flooded after the water releases from Hoover Dam. In Prescott, flooded creeks and lakes that backed up into surrounding woods created a good food base of frogs and snakes for herons and a Black Hawk that took advantage of the situation. Taking advantage of the situation—the habitat and conditions that existed this summer in Arizona—can be said to apply to most of the species in the following report.

Besides the reports of species nesting in new areas, first nesting records for the state were established for two species: Cave Swallow and White-tailed Kite. It was, in fact, as Glinski put it, a very "kitey" summer. The White-tailed Kites were found nesting in not just one, but two areas, and a pair of Mississippi Kites was discovered nesting in a new area "next door" to one of the White-tailed Kite territories.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A loon (probably a Com. Loon) was at Lower L. Mary June 25 (TS); there are few summer records away from the Lower Colorado River (hereafter, L.C.R.). White Pelicans are irregular visitors in summer away from the L.C.R.; one was at Prescott June 6 for a first local record (CT) and one at Picacho Res., July 30-31 (JS). An early imm. Brown Pelican was at Painted Rock Dam June 14 (TC). Double-crested Cormorants nested again at Painted Rock Dam where they were first found nesting in 1979 and again in 1980; a nest with three young was observed there June 18 (RF). A pair of adults plus imm. birds at Watson L., Prescott all summer was an indication that the species probably nested there as well (CT); the species was also present all summer at Roosevelt L., e. of Phoenix (JP).

Great Blue Herons enjoyed a successful nesting season at 3 areas around Prescott where 43 adults and young were counted during the summer (CT). Once again Green Herons were found in the n., with singles e. of Tuba City June 11 (CLaR) and at Beaver Dam Wash June 24 (MK, BS); and there were more than usual at Prescott (CT). Wood

Storks on and near the L.C.R., where they are uncommon but regular, were five immatures at Cibola N.W.R., June 9 (CH, G. Gould) and one adult there July 9 (DK, LL), plus nine in Dome Valley June 24 (LL).

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks nested successfully at Nogales, where regular (KK *et al.*) and summered again at Hereford (JB, AM, DDa). One was at Phoenix July 29 (J. Everett) where the species is uncommon. Three pairs of Gadwalls that produced 28 young at Willow L., Prescott represented the first nesting record for that area (CT); the species breeds on high mountain lakes in n. Arizona. A pair of Redheads, an uncommon local breeder, raised a small brood at Patagonia L. (RS) for a first local record; the species has nested elsewhere in the Arizona lowlands.

RAPTORS —

S.A.

White-tailed Kites were found nesting for the first time in the state. In the pecan grove at Marana, n. of Tucson, where they were first discovered a year ago, a pair at a nest seen July 12 (RG) had produced three fledglings by July 25 (GM, BHa, RBA); at least two young were with the pair there Aug. 12 (RG, GM). A pair and two nests was also discovered at a new area s. of Casa Grande July 29, and Aug. 5 two pairs were observed copulating and carrying nesting material (MJ, TG). By Aug. 12 two adults were seen in incubating posture on their respective nests 0.25 mi apart in the tops of cottonwood trees there (RG, GM). Additionally, two adults were photographed e. of Lochiel in the San Rafael Valley July 2 (B. Wheeler).

Mississippi Kites were also found nesting in a new area where one was spotted last August. At a pecan grove 0.25 mi from the White-tailed Kites at Marana, a nest containing a week old young was discovered July 12 (RG). However, the young was found dead near the downed nest Aug. 12 after a severe wind storm earlier in the week (RG, GM). Marana is s.w. of Winkelman, the species' traditional nesting site in the state.

It is interesting that both species of kites, having invaded the state from opposite directions, should be nesting so close together and in the same habitat. There was no record of either kite species in the state before 1970. The Mississippi Kite was first found nesting that year, and the first sight record of White-tailed Kite was not until 1972.

Single Black Hawks summered again at Bill Williams Delta (hereafter, B.W. Delta) (m.ob.), and for the first time at Prescott where the species has not been known to nest (CT). Swainson's Hawk is mainly known as a migrant on the L.C.R., so of interest was an adult at Cibola N.W.R., June 30 (LL, JJ). A Harris' Hawk observed on a nest in the Sulphur Springs Valley July 6 represented one of the few breeding records for extreme s.e. Arizona (AM, DDa *et al.*).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Clapper Rail was seen July 21 and Aug. 6 at Picacho Res., where the species is found only intermittently (GM). An ad. Purple Gallinule, a casual summer visitor in s.e. Arizona, was photographed s. of Winkelman July 15 (ph. MO, KL), farther n. than previously recorded.

There is water again at the ponds in Willcox. Among the migrating shorebirds taking advantage of this were a Long-billed Curlew from at least June 24 through the end of the period (m.ob.) and a second one there June 29 (VM), a Marbled Godwit July 2 (JS) and up to 11 Stilt





Purple Gallinule, south of Winkelman, Cook's Lake, Ariz. July 15, 1983. Photo/Matthew O'Brien.

Sandpipers July 12-24 (GM, KR, RS *et al.*); one July 12 provided one of the early fall records for the state for Stilt Sandpiper, but not exceptional in the context of the species' overall migration. A Long-billed Curlew at Roosevelt L., July 4 to at least July 15 was in a new area (JP, DDe), as was one s.e. of Flagstaff in late June (TS). There are few records of Marbled Godwit in n. and n.e. Arizona—up to five were at St. Johns July 17-18 (BHe) and one at Prescott July 17 (CT). Fifty Marbled Godwits at Roosevelt L., July 16 (DDe *et al.*) was a larger-than-usual number.

Two pairs of Black-necked Stilts were at Cibola N.W.R., for most of the period, and June 19 one nest with 4 eggs was found there (JJ, CH), representing the first nesting record for Cibola N.W.R., and only the third for the L.C.R. Unfortunately, the nest was abandoned owing to the rising water levels (DK *et al.*). An avocet at McNeal, s.e. of Willcox June 6 (AM) was in a new location.

GULLS THROUGH SWIFTS — Franklin's Gull, an uncommon migrant, is sometimes seen in summer at Willcox; one was there July 12 (GM). Records of Forster's Tern are sparse in mid-to-late June in the Gila R.: one was at Gillespie Dam, n. of Gila Bend June 14 (TC).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was recently a rare to uncommon breeder in the L.C.R. valley. However, extensive flooding in 1979 and 1980 of the Bill Williams R., resulted in destruction of much of the remaining prime habitat for the species, and censusing has shown that very few cuckoos now occur in areas where they were most common. Present flooding of the L.C.R., is probably going to result in more destruction of native vegetation with little or no plant regeneration; continued dramatic declines may be expected for the near future (CH *et al.*). Reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoo continued from the Portal area where it is uncommon; one June 10 and another July 9 (RM *et al.*). Two Groove-billed Anis straggled N this season: one was seen in Sycamore Canyon June 26 (JS) and one s. of Winkelman July 17 (MO, KL).

The Ferruginous Owl pair in n.w. Tucson, where found last year, were the only ones reported during the season (PB *et al.*). A Buff-collared Nightjar was detected in Tanque Verde Wash, e. of Tucson July 17 for the third consecutive year (CdeW).

Up to ten Chimney Swifts were present during July in c. Tucson, the only area in the state where the species has been found repeatedly (TH *et al.*).

HUMMINGBIRDS — A **Plain-capped Starthroat** was observed "in the wild" (*i.e.*, not at feeders) in Sycamore Canyon June 26 (†JS). There have been at least a half-dozen records of this species in the state. There were two Berylline Hummingbirds visiting feeders again this summer: one at Ramsey Canyon July 18-19 (†E. Franzgrote, †NC, T & DC, RS *et al.*), and another in Madera Canyon July 18 into August (SG, NC, PB *et al.*) where the species has been recorded once before.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird is uncommon at Patagonia; one was observed "in the wild" there during July (SB, JBo, RS), and July 27 a nest with an incubating adult was found at the Roadside Rest area (RS *et al.*). Previously the species was known to nest only in Guadalupe Canyon and the Chiricahua and Huachuca Mts. Farther n. at Madera Can-

yon, where the species is also uncommon, one was at a feeder July 12 into August (NC, PB *et al.*).

Two Anna's Hummingbirds were observed at Miami Gardens, w of Globe, June 6 into July for the first summer record in that area (J Spencer, *vide* BJ). Two ♂ Rivoli's Hummingbirds were recorded again at feeders on Signal Peak, Pinal Mts., n. of their usual range, during the period (R. Heffernon, *vide* BJ).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A stray Thick-billed Kingbird was seen in Hereford July 9 (JB). A Say's Phoebe was nesting for the third time in a Phoenix yard July 8 (SD); the species is usually absent from s.c. and s.w. Arizona by July. Dusky Flycatchers are very local in the n. away from the White Mts.; several were seen and heard on Black Mesa near Kayenta June 2 (CH, CLaR), several were at Hart Prairie n.w. of Flagstaff June 28 and July 7 (RP, JC) and two in the Inner Basin, San Francisco Peaks July 15 (JC). An Olive-sided Flycatcher near Portal June 4 (RM) was a late migrant.

The lone **Cave Swallow** that has summered at Tucson for the past 4 years, was joined by a mate this year, and the pair (using an old Cliff Swallow nest) produced three fledglings by July 11 (TH *et al.*), to establish the first nesting record for that species in the state. A pair of Barn Swallows also nested on the U. of A. campus at Tucson—the first time since 1942 (TH). Another Barn Swallow nest, found in a new location in n. Arizona, was on a building in a meadow s. of Williams July 12; the species was known to be present in the area since the 1960s but the search for a nest went unrewarded until this summer (CT)

WRENS THROUGH VIREOS — A Canyon Wren was heard July 20 at 9500 ft in the San Francisco Peaks, an unusually high elevation (JC, HW). A single Veery was found June 11 s.w. of Springerville (RF), the species' only known locality in the state, where it has been found since 1975 but was not detected in 1981 or 1982. A Townsend's Solitaire, in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 9 provided probably only the third summer record for s. Arizona (JB).

The pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers in Chino Canyon was seen with five young from their first nest July 2, and was building a second nest nearby July 25 (RS, JD *et al.*). Phainopeplas were reported to have had their first good breeding season in 4 years on the L.C.R. (DK), had a successful breeding season and were widespread in the Upper Sonoran Zone around Prescott (CT) and were common around Portal in July (SS). A male at 7800 ft in Hart Prairie June 28 (RP) was at an unusually high elevation.

A ♂ **White-eyed Vireo**, photographed and tape-recorded in n.w. Tucson July 18-25 (T. Meyer, ph. GM *et al.*), was the first to be documented in the state and the first in summer. The 3 or 4 previous sight records had all been in the fall. Bell's Vireo is a rare breeder on the L.C.R., but fortunately this summer most of the known summering areas over the past 10 years were occupied by singing males (DK *et al.*) This summer's records of Red-eyed Vireo were one at Patagonia June 3 (*vide* SK) and two at Page Springs, s. of Sedona June 30 (*vide* CT).

WARBLERS — Yellow Warbler was considered to be extirpated from the L.C.R. area since the 1960s. However, there has been some evidence of local nesting since 1977, and this summer a singing male that remained on territory throughout the summer was located e. of Tacna (DK *et al.*). A singing imm. Olive Warbler was observed near Stoneman L., s. of Flagstaff where a nest was found last year (C Staicer, J. Braun, JC). Fifteen MacGillivray's Warblers at Hart Prairie June 28 constituted an unusual number (RP).

This summer's Hooded Warblers were a singing male at Page Springs Hatchery from at least late June into early September (A. Greene, V Gilmore, RF *et al.*) and a female in Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., July 20 (JD). A ♀ Am. Redstart was seen July 17 at S. Fork, s.w. of Springerville where the species has nested in the past (RBr).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Bobolinks were found in a new area: at least two males and a female were observed in a marshy meadow at Payson, below the Mogollon Rim, n.e. of Phoenix from at least July 1 to mid-August when two ♂-plumaged birds were seen with a male (C. Belkowski, A. West, PB *et al.*). There are only a few scattered summering and breeding records for n. Arizona. A ♂ Brewer's Blackbird at Lost L., L.C.R., June 9 was unseasonal (CH). Yellow-headed

Blackbirds return very early to s Arizona lowlands, for example there were 100 ± at a pond in Kansas Settlement July 15 and 75 in Elfrida July 27 (AM, DDa).

Summer Tanager is suffering the same fate as the Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the L.C.R.: destruction of habitat—and worse, is even more restricted in its habitat requirements. There were only about ten birds present in known areas of use this summer at Cibola N.W.R., and B.W. Delta (CH *et al.*).

A singing ♂ Cardinal, uncommon on the L.C.R., was present all June n. of Ehrenberg (m.ob.). Indigo Bunting is a regular summer resident in riparian areas of s.e. Arizona; six males at the Muleshoe Ranch Preserve July 6 was a good count (AM, DDa *et al.*). A singing male was at Cibola N.W.R., June 10-12 (DK, KC, LL). The species is an uncommon and local summer resident on the L.C.R.

Red Crossbills, irregular residents in Arizona mountains, were present in several areas (RS, CT), including forests near Prescott where the “birds will probably nest” (CT). Two pairs of Black-chinned Sparrows with three young were found in July above Portal (RS, JD); the species is only a local breeder in the Chiricahua Mts., having been located at this spot as recently as 1979.

CORRIGENDUM — Singing ♂ Dusky Flycatchers in the Carrizo Mts., in June 1982 and July 1981 added another locality to the species' summer range in n. and n.e. Arizona (not n.w. Arizona). *AB* 36:1005.

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New Mexico

/John P. Hubbard

GREBES THROUGH IBISES — Two new breeding localities for Eared Grebe were found: Ft. Union Ranch, Mora Co., where 7 nests were found July 1-21 (RP, SP), and Tucumcari L., where a brood was seen June 7-10 (BC). Heronries were reported in several areas of the state, including near Belen (WH), Tucumcari L. (BC), and near Artesia and Loving (SW). Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons were the main nesting species, except that no actual nests of Snowies were found at Tucumcari L. (BC). In addition, 3 nests of Cattle Egrets were present in the Belen area colony in early June (WH), and there were 20 nestlings plus eggs near Artesia June 3 and 30 birds including at least one nestling near Loving June 29 (SW). Three Green Heron nests were present at Tucumcari L. (BC), while a possible nesting Louisiana Heron was present near Loving June 14 & 23 (SW). One or two Little Blues were also present in June near Loving (SW) and near Belen; two others were near Bosque, Valencia Co., June 3 (WH). Up to five Am. Bitterns were heard at Tucumcari L., in June (BC), and a Least was near Alameda June 16-19 (J. Phillips). New Mexico's second nest of White-faced Ibis was observed June 6-10 (BC) at Tucumcari L., which was also the site of the previous record, in 1973.

WATERFOWL — A straggling Snow Goose was at Holloman L., Otero Co., June 15 (RH), while a new breeding locality for the Canada Goose was near Ft. Union—where young were observed July 1-21 (RP, SP). Notable was a pair of Wood Ducks near Bosque June 2-3 (WH). Over 100 Redheads were present at Tucumcari L., in July, including young birds (BC). That established the area as a breeding site for the

species. Straggling Ring-neckeds included 1-3 males near Isleta June 4-17 (WH) and near Ft. Union July 1-21; also present at the latter place and dates were five Lesser Scaup (RP, SP). At least 21 Com. Mergansers were present along the Gila R., between Cliff and Redrock June 2-9, including a brood of six young (SM). Broods of Ruddy Ducks were near Isleta June 17 (WH) and at Tucumcari L., July 27-28 (BC).

RAPTORS — Unusual were single Mississippi Kites in June at Las Vegas (J. Egbert) and Clayton (WC). The species again bred at Clovis and Hobbs (G. Smith), but no other nesting areas were reported in the state. One bird was near Los Lunas June 4 & 6, plus two near Belen June 26 (WH). An ad. Swainson's Hawk was near Hopewell L., July 24 (JH), an area of montane forest interspersed with meadows. Also unusual was a melanistic ad. Red-tailed at nearby Los Ojos June 29 (JH), melanism is rare in summering birds of this species in New Mexico. Apparently non-breeding Osprey records were of single birds at Maxwell N.W.R., for 3 weeks in July (W. Mobley) and near Artesia June 3 (SW). The latter observer reported seeing only one Am. Kestrel in Eddy County in June-July.

GALLIFORMS THROUGH GULLS — Nine wild Turkeys at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque) June 1-2 (WH) indicated the persistence of this introduced population there. A Bobwhite June 6 near Logan (JH) was in an area where the species is local. Two ad Com. Gallinules and five downy young were at Isleta June 4 (WH), while this is the n. limits of usual occurrence for the species in the Rio Grande Valley, breeding is infrequently reported there. Mountain Plover reports included up to 16 birds near Ft. Union July 1-21 (RP, SP) and one-three e. of Las Vegas June 8 & 23 (JH). Long-billed Curlews were also present at these sites on these dates, with maxima of 11 and eight, respectively; also one was near Loving June 14 (SW). The five Spotted Sandpipers along the Gila R., between Cliff and Redrock June 2 & 8 (SM) were probably breeding, while a Willet near Las Vegas June 22 (JH) was a presumed straggler. American Avocets in areas where breeding is infrequently reported included Clayton—where 2 nests with eggs were reported (WC)—and Holloman Lakes—where seven young were seen June 15 (RH). Many birds were present at Tucumcari L., in June (BC), but no breeding was reported; also, single birds were in the Los Lunas-Bosque area June 3 & 28—plus a Black-necked Stilt there June 3 & 16 (WH). Twenty-five or more Wilson's Phalaropes at Holloman Lakes June 15 (RH) were presumably late migrants. Straggling gulls included a Ring-billed at Tucumcari L., July 27-28 (BC) and two Franklin's at Holloman Lakes June 15 (RH). A presumed late migrant Black Tern was near Artesia June 3 (SW).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS — A White-winged Dove at Albuquerque June 5-14 (WH) and two there July 13 (R. Teuber) were well n. of the regular range; at least 20 were at Truth or Consequences in July, including an albino July 22 (D. Miller). A vagrant Ground Dove was seen near Elk, Chaves Co., July 7 (SW). A pair of Flammulated Owls successfully fledged young from a nest-box in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts., in June-July (DS). New localities for Spotted Owls were Morphy Lake S.P., San Miguel Co., where a bird was heard July 1 (SW), and Skeleton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., where two were seen in June (T. Potter). Northerly records of Whip-poor-will were of singles calling in Waterfall Canyon, Sandia Mts., to June 21 (DS), and another in Red Canyon, Manzano Mts., July 6 (SW).

SWIFTS THROUGH KINGFISHERS — A single Chimney Swift at Tucumcari in late June and three there July 12-15 (BC) were from a new “summer” area; birds were again present in Clayton (WC), where the species regularly summers but is not yet known to nest. Easterly records of White-throated Swifts included 10 or more in Trujillo Canyon, San Miguel Co., June 8-9 & 23 (JH). A rare summer straggler was a ♂ Anna's Hummingbird reported at Mangas Spring, Grant Co., July 10-12 (RF). East of the usual range, and perhaps evidence of a breeding population, was a ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Trujillo Canyon June 8-9 & 23 (JH). Unusual was a report of a ♂ Blue-throated Hummingbird at Oak Spring, Carlsbad Caverns N.P., in early June (G. Ferguson, *vide* SW). Up to six Belted Kingfishers were recorded in the Gila Valley near Cliff June 6-9 (SM).

WOODPECKERS — An imm *Centurus* woodpecker likely a Golden-fronted/Red-bellied Woodpecker was glimpsed near Ft. Union July 19 (RP, SP); neither of these species has been verified in New Mexico, and this record even hints at local breeding. Lewis' apparently again bred in the Belen area, where a bird was seen carrying food June 10 (WH). An ad. ♂ Red-naped (Yellow-bellied) Sapsucker at Pleasanton, Catron Co., July 11 was unusual; summer occurrences of the species have been noted twice before at this lowland site (JH). A Hairy Woodpecker lingered in a nonbreeding area in Santa Fe to July 11, and an e. record was of one in Trujillo Canyon June 23 (JH); other notable records in the Rio Grande Valley included singles near Bosque June 8 & 15, near Bernardo June 30, and three-four at Bosque, July 2 (WH). Peripheral records of Downies included singles near Valmora July 11 (RP, SP), near Cliff June 8 (SM), and Gallinas Canyon, Black Range June 10 (RH, DJ); also nests were found in the Belen-Bosque area and young near Bernardo June 8-13 (WH).

FLYCATCHERS — Easterly Cassin's Kingbirds included 11 in the Canadian Basin from Trujillo to Gallegos June 8-9, plus six or more in Trujillo Canyon June 23 (JH). A vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Saddlerock Canyon, Burro Mts., July 12 (SM). Three Wied's Crested Flycatchers were at the Catwalk, Catron Co., July 12 (JH), which is at the n. limit of the species in New Mexico. A record of one, and possibly two, calling **Olivaceous Flycatchers** in Gallinas Canyon, in the Black Range June 10 (RH, DJ) was extraordinary; this record was 85 ± mi n. and 50 mi e. of the Animas Mts., the nearest area of regular occurrence of the species. Two nesting pairs of E. Phoebe were present on June 22 in the Pecos Valley between Ribera and Villanueva, compared to three probable nesting pairs of the Black Phoebe; two birds of the latter species were also seen on the Chama R., near Abiquiu June 29 (JH). In spite of habitat loss, summering Willow Flycatchers persisted rather widely in New Mexico. Reports this year included the Chama Valley (JH), Rio Grande between Albuquerque and Bernardo (WH), and the Gila Valley near Cliff (SM). Late birds of the Dusky Flycatchers type were singles near Bosque June 2 (WH) and near Cliff June 8 (SM).

SWALLOWS — Three to five Violet-green Swallows in Trujillo Canyon June 9 & 23 (JH) were easterly and probably breeding, while three between Cliff and Redrock June 2 & 5 were likely late migrants (SM) as probably were the two at Los Lunas June 24 (WH). Seventy or more Bank Swallows were present at the nesting colony at San Juan Pueblo June 30, but no young were seen (JH). Nesting Barn Swallows, local in Hidalgo County, were observed at Lordsburg and near San Simon Cienaga June 15-16; birds were also seen at Animas July 13 (JH). Some 2000 Cave Swallows were at Carlsbad Caverns July 12 and later, with 106 being banded. Unlike last year, no evidence of hybridization was observed (SW). On July 3 three Purple Martins were at Raton (R. Lehman), where apparently not previously reported.

CORVIDS — White-necked Ravens were again found breeding along Rt. 6, s.e. of Belen, with 5 nests with young in or near them there June 30 (WH). A Com. Crow nest fledged young near Belen, and a family was present there as well June 13 (WH); up to a dozen birds were counted near Cliff June 2-9 (SM). The first juv. Pinyon Jays of the season were heard at Santa Fe July 16 (JH); 18-20 of these jays were at Mangas Spring in June and July (RF). Clark's Nutcrackers in areas where seldom reported included two at Heron L., Rio Arriba Co., July 22-24 and three on S. Baldy, Magdalena Mts., June 2 (JH).

CHICKADEES THROUGH NUTHATCHES — Study of chickadees continued through the period in the Rio Grande Valley, where Black-capped and Mountains apparently continue to hybridize; up to 36% of all chickadees were classed as hybrids, yet apparently nesting viability is retained even in these birds (WH). Two Plain Titmice on "Burro Hill" near Solano, Harding Co., June 9 were easterly (JH). Northerly records of Verdin were of three birds between Bernardo and the Ladron Mts., July 2 (WH). A pair of Bush-tits fledged young in a riparian area near Bosque by June 9 (WH). An errant White-breasted Nuthatch lingered in an area of non-residency in Santa Fe until June 14 (JH). Five Red-breasted Nuthatches on S. Baldy June 2 (JH) may have represented the first summer record for the Magdalena Mts.

DIPPER THROUGH MIMIDS — A Dipper nest was found in upper Animas Canyon in June (R. Skaggs), for one of the few such reports from the Black Range. A submontane record was of a bird at the mouth of Arroyo Hondo, Taos Co., June 29 (JH). Easterly records of Bewick's Wren were of three in the Burro Hill-Mosquero area June 9, along with three or more Canyon Wrens (JH). Gray Catbirds were widespread in the Rio Grande Valley, s. at least to the Bosque area, where five were singing June 18 (WH); one near Socorro June 4 (P. Basham) was probably a late migrant. A Sage Thrasher near Ft. Union July 16 (RP, SP) was probably an early migrant.

THRUSHES THROUGH WAXWINGS — Two plus robins in Trujillo Canyon June 8-9 & 23 (JH) were easterly; also, one was at Carlsbad June 24 & 30 (SW). Extraordinary was a singing **Wood Thrush** near Bosque June 18 (WH), for the first summer record for New Mexico. Western Bluebirds were more common than usual in the Sandia Mts (HS), while a ♂ Mountain Bluebird in Trujillo Canyon June 23 (JH) was easterly. Two singing Townsend's Solitaires on S. Baldy June 2 (JH) may have provided the first summer record for the Magdalena Mts. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Trujillo Canyon June 8-9 & 23 and on Burro Hill June 9 (JH) were easterly. At least 10 Golden-crowned Kinglets were singing June 25 in the Sandia Mts. (HS), where usually local and rare in summer. Late were 19-20 Cedar Waxwings near Bosque June 3 (WH).

VIREOS — The state's second summer record of **White-eyed Vireo** was obtained near Redrock, Grant Co., where a bird was seen July 21 (SM). After years of seeing cowbird parasitism mar all nesting attempts of Bell's Vireo in the area a fledgling and two adult vireos were seen July 18 near Carlsbad (SW). Two *plumbeus* Solitary Vireos in Trujillo Canyon June 23 were easterly; apparent early migrants in Santa Fe were a singing bird July 11 and two July 17 (JH). A singing **Yellow-green Vireo** near Redrock July 20 (SM) provided a first record of this form for New Mexico and one of perhaps three or four for the Southwest. The Red-eyed again appeared in summer in the Isleta area, with one singing bird there June 4 and two birds June 17 (WH, NJ).

WARBLERS — Two-three Virginia Warblers in Trujillo Canyon June 8-9 & 23 (JH) were easterly. The first "autumn" migration by the species in the Rio Grande Valley was June 18 near Bosque (WH), the first such evidence elsewhere was July 31, at Santa Fe (JH) and Mangas Springs (RF). A new n. limit for breeding Lucy's Warblers was established in the Rio Grande Valley, where a nest and a family group were found June 16 & 18; a singing bird was also present near Bernardo through June 10 (WH). A singing N. Parula was near Belen June 13, as was a singing ♂ **Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler** at Isleta June 17 (WH, NJ); the latter furnished the first summer record of this subspecies for New Mexico. Other vagrants included an Am. Redstart near Bosque June 11 & 18, Ovenbird at Isleta June 4, Kentucky Warbler at Los Lunas June 17-18, and Hooded Warbler near Bernardo June 9 (WH). Two or more Olive Warblers at Emory Pass June 10 (RH, DJ) represented only the second or third record of the species in Black Range.

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Local in the area, three-plus W. Meadowlarks were present near Holloman Lakes June 15—along with two-plus Easterns (RH). Yellow-headed Blackbirds nested commonly at Tucumcari L. (BC), and small colonies were present as well in the Las Vegas area (JH). A pair of Scott's Orioles was seen June 23 in Trujillo Canyon (JH), in an area where infrequently recorded. Two Brewer's Blackbirds were seen July 7 between Ruidoso and Cloudcroft (SW), where perhaps regular in summer but seldom reported; nestlings were seen near Ft. Union July 1-21 (RP, SP). Great-tailed Grackles continue to summer in numbers at Tucumcari L. (BC); smaller numbers of this expanding species were also noted at places such as near Santa Fe, Las Vegas, and Glenwood (JH). More unusual records included one near Clayton June 4 and eight July 17 (WC), one near Los Ojos July 22-24, and two-plus at Pena Blanca, Sandoval Co., July 10 (JH). Also notable were four or more near Cliff June 2 & 6, including a female carrying nest material (SM). Common Grackles also continue to expand and consolidate their summer range in New Mexico, including 13-plus birds and a nest June 23 between San Jose and Ribera, on the upper Pecos R., of San Miguel Co. Small numbers were also seen in Taos,

Santa Fe, and near Sabinoso (JH) and at Tucumcari (BC), plus one at Carlsbad June 14 (SW). Three Hepatic Tanagers in Trujillo Canyon June 23 (JH) were n.e. of normal range while 10 along the Gila R., between Cliff and Redrock June 4-5 (SM) were somewhat unexpected for a riparian area.

FINCHES — A ♀ Cardinal near Belen June 26 (WH) was unusual, while e. were single Black-headed Grosbeaks at Trujillo Canyon June 8-9 & 23 and another at Burro Hill June 9 (JH). Indigo Buntings continue to be numerous in several areas of the state, including between Albuquerque and Bernardo in the Rio Grande Valley—contrasted to only one Lazuli, a male July 6 (WH)—and in the Gila Valley between Cliff and Redrock (SM). Evidence of breeding by Evening Grosbeaks was obtained in 2 areas, a fledgling at La Cueva, Jemez Mts., July 22 (M. Swain) and a female at a nest in Cienega Canyon in the Sandia Mts. (HS); two or more birds in Santa Fe July 30-31 (JH) were probably early migrants. The only notable reports of Cassin's Finches were three-plus at Heron L., July 23-24 (JH), plus singles near Canjilon, Rio Arriba Co., June 25 (D & SH) and in the Sandia Mts., June 25 (HS). Pine Siskins were widespread in the period in Albuquerque and may have bred (WH); small numbers also persisted at Santa Fe, but no evidence of breeding was obtained (JH). Red Crossbills became widespread and common in the Sandia Mts., beginning in mid-July, and a female was seen carrying apparent nesting material (HS). Interestingly, some of these birds were seen extracting the green seeds of pinyon pines (HS), which suggests that they were of one or more of the large, robust-billed races. Ten-plus Red Crossbills were present July 22-24 at Heron L., an area that seems suitable for breeding; small numbers at Santa Fe July 9+ (JH) and at Los Lunas July 6 (WH) were probably migrants.

Green-tailed Towhees along with Vesper Sparrows, were fairly com-

mon at high elevations on Mt. Taylor June 6-10 (WB). Easterly records of Rufous-sided Towhees included two at Burro Hill June 9, as were two Brown Towhees at Trujillo Canyon June 23 (JH). The only reports of likely breeding Lark Buntings were of three displaying males e. of Las Vegas June 8 and eight there June 23 (JH). Six-plus Grasshopper Sparrows near Albert, Harding Co., June 9 included one carrying food, and two other birds were at Sabinoso June 8 (JH); this species is very local in summer in New Mexico, and breeding has yet to be substantiated. Five or more Rufous-crowned Sparrows in Trujillo Canyon June 23 represented a high count for the area; also worth noting were three on Burro Hill June 9 (JH). A count of 37 singing Cassin's Sparrows June 23 e. of Las Vegas was high, considering that much of the area surveyed was shortgrass prairie with few shrubs (JH). A new area for the species was near Ft. Union, where two birds were singing July 17 (RP, SP). Early migrant Chipping Sparrows were at Santa Fe July 11 (JH) and near Los Lunas July 19 (WH). Quite unexpected was the discovery of a singing ♂ **Black-chinned Sparrow** in Trujillo Canyon June 8 and five there June 23 (JH); this area is 20 ± mi n. and 85 mi e. of the nearest known regular area of occurrence in the state, itself a northern outlier, on the w. side of the Sandia Mts. White-crowned Sparrows were fairly common June 6-10 on Mt. Taylor (WB), where only recently discovered to summer; other records included two near Black L., Colfax Co., July 1 (SW) and two near Canjilon June 26 (D & SH).

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ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

June and July 1983 were hot and dry in most of the Region. There was very little precipitation away from the coast ("When one has to water the garden [on the Kenai Peninsula], it is news" [MAM]), but weeks of unbroken sunshine and warm temperatures produced a high volume of meltwater from mountain sources, resulting in high water levels in the lowlands throughout the season.

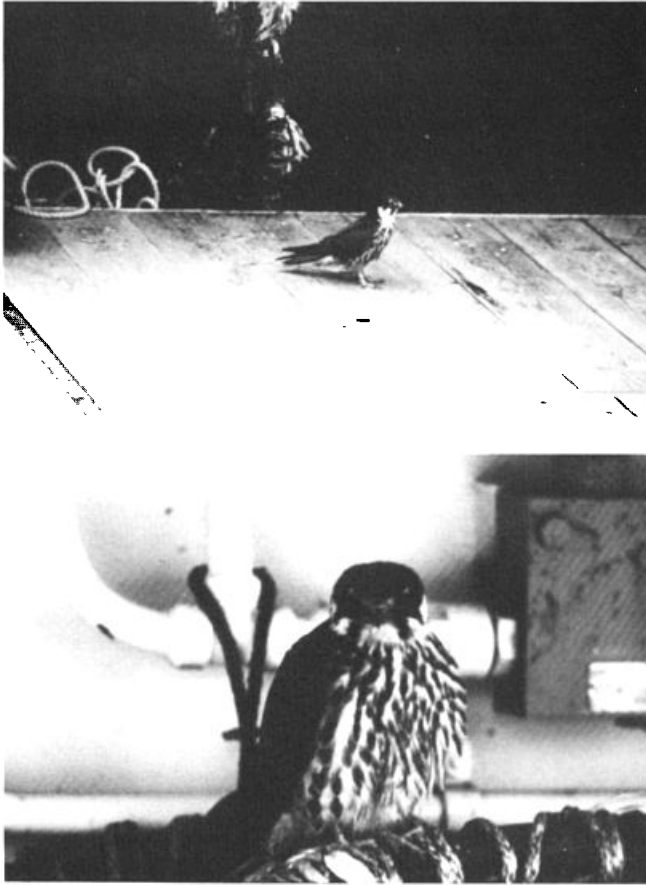
ALBATROSSES TO HERONS — There were 3 records of the endangered Short-tailed Albatross off the w. Aleutian Is., this season. An adult was seen June 14 s. of Buldir I. (at 51°22'N 175°46'E—DJF, *fide* †RHD), two immatures were seen together 115 mi s. of Agattu I., June 19 (at 50°25'N 173°36'E—†RAR), and an adult was seen 6 mi e. of Shemya I., July 6 (†RAR). One **Cook's Petrel** observed 150 mi s.-s.w. of Agattu July 24 (at 49°48'N 173°E, †RAR) provided only the second record within 200 mi of the Alaskan coast. Short-tailed Shearwaters are not uncommon on the open Chukchi Sea as far n. as ice permits, but this summer birds were seen feeding inshore, on zooplankton in the surf at Pt. Franklin (REG & PGC). The significance of this behavior is not known. A **Green Heron** at Sunny Point, Juneau May 29 (†LH ph., †MLK, & JGK) was new to Alaska. Four of the 8 heron species known in the State are represented by single records from Southeastern.

WATERFOWL TO FALCONS — An ad. Bean Goose observed amid Whistling Swans at *Ugashik Bay, Alaska Peninsula* June 11 & 14 (DDG & BK, PI) furnished the first mainland record s. of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and one of very few mainland records ever. A Ross' Goose banded amid Snows at the Sagavanirktok R. Delta July 19 (SRJ & DMT) was the fourth recent Alaska record, all summering birds with Snow Geese on the e. arctic slope.

Following the May record at Attu I. (*q.v.*), there were 2 summer records of **Hobby** at sea off the w. Aleutians. Two birds were seen aboard a salmon catcher-boat 98 mi s.-s.w. of Agattu June 19 (RCF, *fide* RAR), and one was studied aboard and alongside a similar vessel 95 mi

n. of Attu June 25 (†RAR ph.). These records, including the May bird, were the first substantiated ones in Alaska. Two previous, single-observer, Alaska sightings are of single birds at Cordova (September 1977, †PI) and 200 mi n.-n.e. of Attu (July 1982, †RAR). The salmon fleet off the w. Aleutians comprises many vessels, so there are many hunting and resting perches far from land in this area; this species in particular,





Adult Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) aboard Japanese salmon fleet catcherboat, 95 mi north of Attu I., Alas., 54° 34' N, 172° 25' E, June 25, 1983. Photo/R. A. Rowlett.

however, apparently forages over great distances on a daily basis, and it is not impossible that these birds were foraging at sea from Attu.

SHOREBIRDS — There were 2 extralimital records of Mongolian Plovers this summer. One bird June 16 at Pt. Barrow (PDV ph.) furnished the third local record; one observed July 9 at Valdez (†FB & CH) provided only the second record on the Alaska Pacific coast e. of the Aleutians. Single pairs of Killdeers bred at Anchorage (RLS) and at Fairbanks (BAA), and possibly at Valdez (GJT). There are few actual breeding records in the Region as a whole, and the species is scarce w. of Southeastern.

The first Wood Sandpiper noted on the Alaska mainland s. of the Seward Pen., was a bird that performed a brief courtship flight over the marshes at Ugashik Bay June 15 (DDG)—probably a lone male unable to keep from announcing himself on a fine June morning. A pair of **Common Sandpipers** with young in Abraham Valley, Attu, at the end of July (GFW, *vide* LGB) provided the first Alaska and North American breeding record of this species. No further details were available at this writing. A lone Bristle-thighed Curlew seen at St. Paul I., Pribilofs July 9 (†KDS) provided the first midsummer record in the Bering Sea. A Black-tailed Godwit at St. Paul June 6 (†TGT, KDS) numbers among few Pribilof records; two Black-taileds observed July 22 at the *Naknek R. mouth*, Alaska Peninsula (PI), provided Alaska's second mainland and second midsummer record. Marbled Godwits were observed daily June 10-17 at Ugashik Bay (DDG & BK, PI). Although circumstantial evidence leaves no doubt that these birds were breeding in that area, nests, eggs, or young remain to be discovered (see AB 36:1008). A Curlew Sandpiper in non-breeding plumage was studied closely at Womens and Kalsin bays, *Kodiak I.*, June 26-July 3 (†JBA). There is no prior midsummer record anywhere in the State except at Pt. Barrow, where the species has bred.

GULLS, TERNS — Intriguing was the discovery at Nizki I., w.

Aleutians, of a pair of Slaty-backed Gulls amid a Glaucous-winged Gull nesting colony in late May-early June. Whether or not these birds were breeding in this colony could not be determined in the brief time available to the observers (CFZ *et al.*). For the third year in succession, **Caspian Terns** were recorded in Alaska. Two birds were seen at L. Hood, Anchorage July 15 (JLT), and two were seen later, in August, at Cordova. Following numerous records this spring, Com. Terns (*longipennis*) were recorded at sea off the w. Aleutians June 16 (one, 120 mi s.w. of Agattu—RAR) and July 8 (one, 65 mi s. of Agattu—RAR); one carefully identified amid Arctic Terns at the *Nome R. mouth* June 12 & 14 (†PDV *et al.*) provided the first mainland Alaska record of the species.



Ivory Gulls, St. Lawrence I., Alas. June 1983. Photo/Bruce Maxwell.

Aleutian Terns were newsworthy on several fronts. One bird observed in *Glacier Bay* June 19, plus 1-2 birds seen there in summer 1981 (all PDV *et al.*), provide the easternmost records of its occurrence; up to two birds present at St. Paul May 30-June 3 (KDS ph.) furnished the first Pribilof Is. records, so far as I know; and at least 6-7 pairs of Aleutian Terns breeding (5 nests located) in a colony of 100 ± Arctic on a small island in Kasegaluk Lagoon, 5 mi n. of Pt. Lay July 17 (†DRH), provided the first record of occurrence and of breeding in *N. Alaska*—at almost 70°N latitude.

GOATSUCKERS TO WOODPECKERS — A Com. Nighthawk was seen at Barter I., June 25 (†TJD), for only the third N. Alaska record; the species breeds as close to us as the Yukon Territory. A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** (nominat *varius*) was observed at the end of May (PDM) near Northway Jct., e. c. Alaska, where there have been scattered sightings in recent years. On June 7 a nest was discovered there (DDG & BEL), and these birds were observed at intervals through mid-July as they reared their young (m.ob.), apparently successfully. Photos (on file) substantiated, for the first time, both this form's occurrence and its nesting in Alaska.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS TO WAXWINGS — An E. Kingbird seen at Pt. Lay July 23 (DRH) furnished *this* summer's record of the species in arctic Alaska (see AB 36:1008). A "courting" pair of Eur. Skylarks was present at Shemya June 8-9 (CFZ *et al.*), but time constraints did not allow the observers to try to prove whether or not breeding took place. A lone pair of Cliff Swallows that nested on a building at Pt. Lay village during July (DRH) represented the northwesternmost breeding record of the species. Single Barn Swallows at Shemya June 8 ("cinnamon breasted"—MSE, *vide* CFZ), at St. Paul June 11 (TGT), and at Pt. Lay July 13 ("buffy underparts"—DRH) were apparently examples of Nearctic *erythrogaster*. Most recent Bering Sea records of this species have been of white-bellied, Palearctic *gutturalis*. A **Common House-Martin** observed well but briefly at Thetis I., off the Colville R. mouth, June 11 (†SRJ) furnished the third Alaska record, the first since 1974.

Scarce at Kodiak I., since an apparent 'crash' in 1981, Golden-crowned Kinglet was moderately common there, at the w. edge of its range, in summer 1983, seemingly on the rebound (RAM). Wholly unexpected was a **Brown Thrasher** in Pt. Lay village July 21-23 (DRH ph.). This bird [yes, it was even seen in the same binocular field as the

kingbird, above, at one point] provided the third Alaska record, the second for the arctic coast. A **White Wagtail** (*M. a. lugens*) nest with young under a bridge on the lower Peaceful R., Attu, in late July (GFW, *vide* LGB) confirmed suspicions in May and provided the first Aleutian breeding record of a member of this genus; the only other Alaska breeding record of this form was of a male feeding young in a nest in an old building at Nome, within the breeding range of *M. a. ocularis*, in summer 1973 (GM ph.). Two Cedar Waxwings observed 30 mi inland from the Beaufort Sea coast and one mi w. of the Jago R., July 2 (†TJD) were quite out of place, for the first record of the species in *N. Alaska*.

WOOD WARBLERS TO SPARROWS — A singing ♂ Tennessee Warbler at Mile 119 Denali Hwy June 11 (JLD)-17 (RLS) was unusual. In Alaska this species is demonstrably annual only on the Southeastern mainland. A Magnolia Warbler observed in Anchorage June 11 (†NH) provided the first s.c. Alaska record and one of very few records w. of Southeastern. A small flock of Red Crossbills was observed at Dyea, near Skagway, July 4 (DDG *et al.*), but no crossbills were reported from various localities visited on the s.e. mainland from Haines to Hyder in June (JDW). Two Red Crossbills June 5 at Kodiak (RAM) provided the

only record there, at the w. limit of range in the Region. White-winged Crossbills were present here and there in the Interior all summer, but s. of the Alaska Range the species was not recorded at Kodiak (RAM) and was scarce at Anchorage (TGT) and on the Kenai Pen. (MAM). A Harris' Sparrow observed at Spy I., off the Colville R. mouth, June 4 & 6 (†SRJ) provided the third record for the Alaska arctic coast, all of them in June.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Phil Mattocks, Bill Harrington-Tweit, Eugene Hunn

This summer was wetter than usual. The Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., weather stations received about an inch more precipitation per month than the long term averages. Perhaps more crucially, the rain was concentrated in a few periods of several days each, with resultant brood mortality widely noted among some passerine species.

The alcid reports correlated well with a disruptive effect of "El Niño," but truly solid data regarding seabird breeding in the Region were lacking. Presumably the frigatebird, the Heermann's Gulls, and possibly the early Xantus' Murrelets, came farther north than usual with the warmer water.

Five vagrant eastern warblers were found during the last half of June and very early July. Each of the species involved ranges well into western Canada.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Common Loons were noted, as usual, on suitable lakes in the Campbell R., Vancouver I. (hereafter, V.I.) area (HT, RC). The first young of the year seen on salt water was with two adults off Witty Beach, Metchosin, V.I., July 10 (M & VG). A **Yellow-billed Loon** in nonbreeding plumage was seen June 21 on Boundary Bay, Delta (†MF *et al.*), for the first summer report for the Vancouver, B.C., area. The 40 W. Grebes at Bellingham, Wash., June 12 (TW) was the largest flock reported, and they were not seen after that date. These low numbers have become the norm in recent years. Two Eared Grebes at the Kent, Wash., sewage ponds June 3 and July 26 (RF) provided unusual summer records.

The 145 Black-footed Albatrosses off Westport July 28 was TW's highest July count in 12 years. There were 56 N. Fulmars seen off Westport July 28 (TW *et al.*), and another dozen off the mouth of the Columbia R., July 17 (DA *et al.*). The 28 Pink-footed Shearwaters off Westport July 28 was well below the long term July average there. Ten Pink-footeds were 30 mi off Astoria July 17, and six were seen from Long Beach, Pacific Rim N.P., July 27 (JI).

The unprecedentedly early arrival of Brown Pelicans in Washington May 30 was followed by up to a dozen around Kalaloch, Grays Harbor, and Ilwaco throughout June and July (MkM, m.ob.). The first large flocks were noted on the c. Oregon coast in mid-July (DF, HN *et al.*). A flock of 13 White Pelicans at Roberts Bank, Delta, B.C., July 11-13 (ph., M. Williams *et al.*) furnished only the tenth Vancouver area record. An imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** made an appearance in coastal Oregon for the 4th record for the state. The bird was seen at Newport at midday July 29 (ph., J. Hannum, A. Prigge) and 50 mi away at the s. jetty of the Siuslaw R., several hours later (†DF).

Several Great Egrets summered at Coos Bay (AMc) as is usual. North of there, two were around Vancouver L., Wash., June 18-25 (P. Muller,

DA). The four Snowy Egrets back to Pony Slough, Coos Bay, Ore., by June 7 were "surprisingly early" (AMc, JGi). Two Snowies were also seen at the nearby Bandon marsh, on the Coquille R., July 17 (AMc). A single ad. Black-crowned Night Heron was found at Pony Slough June 11 (AMc). An ad. **White-faced Ibis** was seen July 20 on Cordova Spit, C. Saanich (†KT, †C. Harper) for only the second record for Vancouver I.

DUCKS THROUGH RAILS — Gadwall broods were reported only from the Kent, Wash., sewage ponds and the Montlake fill in Seattle (EH). A count of 700+ Gadwalls obtained June 18 at Iona I. (RP), was the highest ever for the Vancouver, B.C., area. Several other individuals were seen July 17 on the Snohomish R. delta near Everett (TS), and five were at the S.J.C.R., June 18 (JGi, D. Irons). The recent increase of this species as a breeding bird in the Region has been described in *The Murrelet* 64:27, 1983. A pair of Blue-winged Teal with seven young were in C. Saanich, V.I., June 21 (BW) for the only nesting reported this season. A N. Shoveler brood was noted in Seattle June 16 (EH). A



pair of Redheads with seven young near Tatla L., e. of Kleena Keene, B.C., June 30, were at the w. edge of the species' breeding range (D. Webster, W. Bailey).

Nesting was documented for several other species that are rare breeders in the Region. A female and nine young Ring-necked Ducks were seen on Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash., July 2 (GW). Two other pairs were also in the same area. A brood of Barrow's Goldeneyes was on Blue L., 3 mi s.w. of Mt. St. Helens, Wash., July 9 (DA), and several adults with young were noted on Gold L., s.e. of Eugene, Oreg., July 10 (T & AMi). A downy young Bufflehead was found s. of Sayward, B.C. (HT). Ruddy Ducks nested again at the Lane Community College ponds in Eugene, Oreg. Seven broods were noted through the season (SH, DF).

A successful Turkey Vulture nest was watched at Agate L., near Medford, Oreg. (MjM, ph., MPa), and nesting near Bellingham, Wash., was suspected (TW). There were only a few reports of White-tailed Kites from the Region this summer. One was seen June 19 on the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash. (†JM, PK). Two sightings were from Medford July 9 & 24, and could have been the same bird (MjM). Two pairs of kites nested in Tillamook County, Oreg. (B. Henry, Oreg. Dept. Fish & Wildlife, *vide* HN). One nest successfully fledged two young; the other failed. The 4 Cooper's Hawk nests on s. V.I., mentioned in the Spring report each fledged several young (M. Nyhof, RW). The 2 Bald Eagle nests around L. Washington near Seattle both fledged young this season (B. Robbins). Several pairs of Marsh Hawks, some exhibiting courtship behavior, were noted at Boundary Bay airport, Delta, B.C. (DK). A pair was also found at the Kent, Wash., sewage ponds (RH), but no further evidence of nesting was obtained at either site. There were numerous successful Osprey nests reported from throughout the Region. Seven Peregrines were reported. All were single birds and were from Tatoosh I., Wash., C. Saanich, V.I., Iona I., and Delta, B.C. At least three pairs of Merlins spent the season in the Campbell R., V.I., area, but no evidence of nesting was obtained (HT, RC).

Female White-tailed Ptarmigan with young were found in late July at 2 sites in Garibaldi P.P., B.C. (M & BMc), and a male was seen on Glacier Peak, Wash., in late June (EH). Bobwhite were more widely reported than usual, with observations from along Hood Canal, on Ft. Lewis, and near McKenna, Wash., and near Estacada and Philomath, Oreg. There were numerous family groups of California Quail noted on s. V.I., which is near the n. limit of the species' range (*vide* VG). Two pairs of Virginia Rails were attracted to tapes on Quadra I., and another pair at Salmon Pt., both near Campbell R., V.I. (HT, RC). Two Soras were seen often at Woodhus slough near Campbell R., and a juvenile was seen there July 17 (HT, RC).

SHOREBIRDS — A Snowy Plover nest was found June 12 at Ocean Shores, Wash. (MkM), and two young birds from separate broods were seen there June 25 (G & WH). Single Am. Golden Plovers were found July 8 at Iona I. (F. Walker), July 11 at Esquimalt Lagoon, s. V.I. (†M & VG), and July 26 at Nehalem meadows, n. of Tillamook, Oreg. (JGi). All of these dates were earlier than the usual fall arrival. The first fall migrant Ruddy Turnstones and Wandering Tattlers made a widespread appearance July 15-20 at coastal sites throughout the Region. Single Long-billed Curlews were scattered along the coast, and three were on Blackie Spit, Crescent Beach, B.C., July 3 (MF, L. Koch).

Three ad. **Solitary Sandpipers** were found June 25 at the Gold Lake Bog in the c. Oregon Cascades e. of Eugene (JC, SH *et al.*). This is the locality where the species possibly bred in 1981 (*Am. Birds* 35:971). Returning Lesser Yellowlegs were first noted June 23 at Iona I. (BK) and June 29 in Seattle (EH). There was one Greater Yellowlegs at Oak Bay, V.I., June 14 & 17 (RS). Otherwise the first small flocks occurred June 24-27, at Blackie Spit, Ocean Shores, Wash., the S.J.C.R., and Coos Bay.

Seven Surfbirds on the Westport, Wash., jetty June 4 provided the latest spring record for that state (JSm). Eight Red Knots seen at Ocean Shores on several occasions during June must have summered in the area (MkM, G & WH). The first few migrant Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted at Iona I., June 23 (BK), at Oak Bay and Metchosin Lagoon, s. V.I., July 3 (KT), in Seattle July 7 (J. Gliven), and at Tillamook, Oreg., July 10 (JGi). Western and Least sandpipers arrived throughout the Region in late June. A breeding-plumaged stint reported as a Little Stint was closely observed July 21 at Iona I., B.C. (†MF, †JI, †BK). No photograph or specimen of a Little Stint has yet been obtained s. of

Alaska, and it is still not clear whether a molting or paler-than-usual Rufous-necked Stint might be mistaken for this species (*vide* DP). There were 2 reports of Long-toed Stints, but neither had supporting details.

Single Baird's Sandpipers were seen June 7 at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. (HN), and July 3 at Iona I. (BM). Widespread first arrivals of both Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers were reported July 13-16. An imm **Curlew Sandpiper** was seen July 17 on Bayocean Spit, Tillamook, Oreg. (†DF, A. Dyck *et al.*). This was about the 5th sighting for that state (*vide* HN). The only reports of Stilt Sandpipers were of one at Boundary Bay, B.C., July 14 (M. Daly), two at nearby Serpentine Fen July 16-17 (BM), and one at Tillamook July 17 (DF, E & EE *et al.*) A breeding-plumaged **Bar-tailed Godwit** was found June 10 near Bay Center, along Willapa Bay (†JM, PK), for the fifth spring record for Washington. A Hudsonian Godwit was studied at Blackie Spit, B.C., June 3 (†J. & D. Williams), and another was seen briefly at Iona I., July 15 (†BK, †GT). An Am. Avocet was seen June 11-12 on the beach near L. Ozette, Wash., for one of only a few records for w. Washington (D Norman).

Eleven Wilson's Phalaropes were reported June 1-7 from 4 localities, but there were no reports of nesting. The 500 N. Phalaropes on Yaquina Bay, Oreg., June 7 were late (HN). A few were seen at Manzanita, n. of Tillamook, Oreg., June 11 (T. Crabtree). The count of 300 Red Phalaropes July 27 off Long Beach, V.I. (JI), was the highest count recorded for Pacific Rim N.P.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Four Pomarine Jaegers were seen 30 mi offshore from the S.J.C.R., July 17 (DA *et al.*), and two were off Westport July 28 (TW *et al.*). More than 1000 California Gulls were at Roberts Bank, Delta, B.C. June 19 (MPr, BM). These must have been nonbreeding birds, as Californias returned as usual in large numbers in July to the remainder of the Region. At least two pairs of Mew Gulls were noted July 1 on a small island in Kains L., w. of Port Hardy, at the n. tip of Vancouver I. (HT). Two Franklin's Gulls off Iona I., June 2 (GT) may have been late spring migrants. Single adults were seen there June 24 (RP, BK) and at the S.J.C.R., June 24 (HN). The first immatures were seen July 28 at Iona I. (JI) and July 31 at Clover Pt., Victoria (RS).

An ad. Little Gull was seen at Clover Pt., Victoria July 19 (†RS) for the eighth record for s. V.I. An imm. Little Gull was sighted on the log booms at Iona I., June 23-July 3 (†BK *et al.*, ph., P. Yorke) for the eighth record for the Vancouver area. Interestingly, this bird wore a F & W.S. band on the left leg, but observers could not get close enough to read the numbers. The origin of the increase in Little Gull sightings in the Region over the last few years has been presumed to be the new breeding locations in Canada, but there is as yet no evidence. An early Heermann's Gull was on the Westport, Wash., jetty June 4 (JSm). Flocks of 8-9 were at Ocean Shores June 12 and at Dungeness, Wash., June 19 (MkM), and an immature was n. to Iona I., June 19-20 (RP) for the first Vancouver, B.C., area summer record. On June 24 about 50 Heermann's flew N past the S.J.C.R. (HN) and about that many were around Tatoosh I., Wash. (B. Paine). The first arrival on s. V.I., was an adult in C. Saanich June 27 (J & RS). Thereafter the species was widely reported in increasing numbers from s. V.I. southward.

Five Arctic Tern individuals and one nest with 2 eggs were found June 12 at their breeding outpost on Jetty I., Everett, Wash. (EH). Five Forster's Terns found June 24 at the S.J.C.R., were among few records for the Region (†HN). Common Terns, this Region's regular *Sterna* species, arrived at most coastal localities July 18-25. A single Com Tern apparently summered near Iona I. (BK). Caspian Terns continued their N advance. Five were at Port Hardy, V.I., June 15 (D. Turnbull), and four were at Sandspit, Queen Charlotte Is., July 6-8 (MS). A Black Tern was sighted at Iona I., June 1 (M. Coates) and three were there June 2 (GT). Another was seen in Rosario Strait, w. of Bellingham, Wash. during June (P. DeBruyn).

Common Murres apparently suffered a very poor nesting season. Many fewer young birds than usual were found on beach surveys in n. Oregon (HN, B. Loeffel), and TW's July 28 boat trip off Westport noted only about 10 chicks. Adult murres were unusually numerous in n. Puget Sound waters, perhaps due also to a failed breeding effort. Further information regarding the effects of the warmer offshore water ("El Niño") on breeding success was extremely sparse. An imm. Marbled Murrelet was found with two adults June 29 along the coast n. of

Florence, Ore (R & J Krabbe) A large concentration of 73 Marbleds was seen June 19 off Pt. Roberts, Wash. (RP), but there was no mention of the presence or absence of immatures. Three **Xantus' Murrelets** were noted July 28 off Westport (TW *et al.*) for the first record for Washington since 1979, and the earliest ever. The 21 Cassin's Auklets seen off Westport July 28 was a small fraction of the average numbers for that season (TW). Two were noted July 17 about 30 mi off the S J C R. (DA *et al.*). Fewer than usual Tufted Puffins were noted at their Cape Mearns nest rock (HN) for the only breeding information received on this species.

PARROTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Nine Monk Parakeets and a nest were observed during July at 26th and Jarrett St., in Portland (HN) This nest was reported to have been present for 3 years. Up to 12 were also noted during July near the Portland airport (DA), and one was sighted at Iona I., July 25-28 (MF, T. Plath, BK). At least one pair of Hawk Owls apparently bred at the burn in Manning P.P., again this year (*fide* J. Skriletz). The Barred Owls in Discovery P., Seattle, fledged two young in late May and the family group was seen through June (D. Beaudette *et al.*). Two ad. and an imm. Barred Owl were seen July 1-3 near Manson's Landing, Cortes I., B.C. (HT). A juv. ♀ Barred Owl was found dead July 30 near Chilliwack, B.C. (M. Holm, * to Cowan Vertebrate Mus., Univ. of B.C.). A single Barred Owl was also noted June 19 near Oyster R., s. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT). The Long-eared Owl in Scoggins Valley P., near Forest Grove, Ore., stayed through the season (HN). Two adult and four imm. Short-eared Owls were observed July 8-11 at the Boundary Bay airport, Delta, B.C. (DK *et al.*) for the only nesting reported this season. An adult and two imm. Saw-whet Owls were seen in late July in Seattle (D. Hutchinson).

Common Nighthawks were reported to be "quite common", "common", or "not as scarce as last year" from Campbell R., V.I. (HT), s. V I (VG *et al.*), Orcas and San Juan Is. (W. Harm), and Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash. (GW). They were, however, considered still scarce farther s. (DA, E & EE). About eight Black Swifts were seen each weekend during July at Salt Cr. Falls, e. Lane Co., Ore. (R. Robb, T & AM *et al.*), but no evidence of breeding was obtained. Eleven Black Swifts were seen July 27 over Talent, Ore. (†MjM *et al.*) for the first record for the Rogue R. valley. Farther n., the species was also more widely reported than usual. High counts were flocks of 60 at the Kent, Wash., sewage ponds June 3 (RH), of 250 at Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver, B.C., June 18 (MPr), and 45 over Mt. Tolmie, Saanich, V.I., June 24 (S Fowler). Nestling Vaux's Swifts were found in a chimney in Seattle July 23 (E. Ratoosh). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird was sighted with adults in Saanich June 14 (M. & R. Mackenzie-Grieve), and several immatures were seen at a feeder in W. Vancouver, B.C. (C. Butt) A ♂ Anna's was still farther n. at a feeder in Terrace, B.C., June 11 (D George). A ♂ **Costa's Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Roseburg, Ore., June 8-15 (R. Grenfell, *fide* AMc).

A Com. Flicker nest was found during June in a sandstone cliff cavity along the coast n. of Florence, Ore. (B. & K. Wilson). An Acorn Woodpecker was seen July 17 at the junction of Highways 6 & 26 n. of Forest Grove, Ore. (DA). This is the farthest n. regular locality for this species. A ♀ "Red-naped" Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found June 11 paired with a ♂ Red-breasted Sapsucker about 10 mi n. of Sooke, V I (RW). The pair and several nestlings were seen often at the nest site through July 1 (KT, M & VG, ph. of both birds, T. Zurowski). At least four pairs of Hairy Woodpeckers with nestlings or fledglings were noted on s. V.I. this season (VG *et al.*). Pairs of Hairy Woodpeckers fledged young at Kalama Springs Campground, 5 mi n. of Cougar, Wash. (DA), and at Washburne S.P., n. of Eugene, Ore. (SG). There were numerous reports of other individuals in the s. V.I. and Corvallis areas also. A pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers fledged young during June near Kalama Springs Campground in a stand of Noble Fir killed by the Mt. St. Helens mudflow (DA). Nests of the N. Three-toed Woodpecker were located on Mt. Baker, Wash. (J. Penhallurick) and at Gold L., e. Lane Co., Ore. (M. Robbins).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS — There were 4 sightings of individual E. Kingbirds June 20-July 13 at 3 locales in Saanich and C Saanich, V.I. (*fide* VG). Single E. Kingbirds were at Flaming Geyser S.P., and nearby Kent, Wash., sewage ponds June 18-24 (RT, RH), and near Everett, Wash., July 17 (TS). Others were seen at their

usual breeding areas near Vancouver, B C., and along the Skagit R., Wash. A pair of W. Kingbirds fledged young in Broadbent, Ore., for the first kingbird nesting record for Coos County (AMc). Six vagrant individuals were reported from well n. of the species' breeding range, including one photographed July 13-14 near Tofino, on the w. coast of V.I. (J & RS). Twelve Ash-throated Flycatchers fledged from nest boxes around Agate L., near Medford, Ore. (MPa). A Black Phoebe was nesting June 7 beneath the Euchre C. bridge n. of Gold Beach on Highway 101 (JGi). A **Least Flycatcher** was noted June 5 in Redmond, Wash., for only the third w. Washington record (†RT). Both previous records were also in June. Two Dusky Flycatchers were tape-recorded June 26 on Mt. Bolivar, s. Ore. (GK, *fide* AMc) for a first Coos County record.

A ♀ and two ♂ Purple Martins at the head of Cowichan Bay, Duncan, V.I., June 30-July 22 were the only ones reported from B.C. (VG *et al.*). Elsewhere, numbers appeared to be at normal levels (T. Bock, DF). Adult Gray Jays were feeding recently fledged young June 25 at Washburne S.P., n. of Eugene, Ore. (SG). A pair of Bushtits was seen carrying nest material, and later food, near Campbell R., V.I., but the nest was not found (HT, RC). This is the n. limit of the range of this species. Substantially more Plain Titmice were seen in the Rogue R valley this season than usual (MjM, OS), and 14 were fledged from nest boxes near Medford (MPa).

A Rock Wren was discovered May 30 above Hagg L., w. of Forest Grove, Ore., on the e. slope of the Coast Range (VT, JGa). On Aug 8 a pair of Rock Wrens was seen there feeding a fledgling (VT, JGa) Rock Wrens were also found in more expected locations on the w. slope of the Cascades. A pair was found during June at a nest site near Naches Pass, King Co., Wash. (C. & B. Pearson). Two were present June 6-9 in a clearcut at 3600 ft, 14 miles s.s.e. of McKenzie Bridge, Lane Co. (M Donahue, J. Buchanon), and one was found July 10 on Mt. Ray, near Gold L., Lane Co. (TMi, JC).

The Mockingbird in Medford, Ore., stayed from March until mid-August (MjM). Another appeared there June 29-30 but was driven off. Other single Mockingbirds were found June 14 in Vancouver, Wash (A. Moore, *fide* I. Allen), June 14 at La Push, Wash. (†S. Hiebert), June 23 at Forest Grove, Ore. (JGa), and June 29 at River Jordan, V.I. (†M & VG). A vagrant Sage Thrasher was video-taped June 6 at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Ore. (DF). A minimum count of 50 Veeries was reported June 5 along the road to Pemberton meadows, about 80 mi n. of Vancouver, B.C. (BK). Further outlining of the w. edge of this species' range was provided by the location of a single Veery along the Skagit R., w. of Newhalem, Wash., June 5 (TW), and of three birds much farther n. near Terrace, B.C., July 2 (MS).

Western Bluebirds had a very successful season, at least at 3 nest-box trails. There were 167 fledglings around Agate L., near Medford, Ore (MPa), and 140 fledglings by late June at Corvallis (E & EE). A trail on Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash., experienced 21 successful nestings (GW). There were several broods noted on s. V.I., including one from the same snag used last year 10 mi n. of Sooke (RW). Two ad. and an imm. **Townsend's Solitaire** were found July 1-2 about 9 mi n. of Sooke, V.I. (RW, ph.). This furnished the second breeding record for Vancouver I. To the s., the expansion of the breeding range of the Townsend's Solitaire into the Coast Range of Oregon was further documented. Twelve were found w. of Forest Grove June 19 and July 23 (JGa *et al.*), and seven were on Mt. Bolivar, Coos Co., June 25-26 (AMc, GK). Two nests of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted in June at their regular site on Roxy Ann Butte, Medford, Ore. (HN). Both nests were apparently successful (MjM). A **Bohemian Waxwing** seen June 16 on Haida Pt., Orcas I., Wash., was most unusual (†SA, FS).

VIREOS THROUGH SPARROWS — Several Red-eyed Vireos were noted at Duncan, Saanich, and Metchosin, V.I., but no evidence of breeding was obtained (KT, RW, B. Hay). The Lane County, Ore., Atlas program, headed by Steve Gordon, located Red-eyed Vireos at several new sites, including along the Long Tom R., near Elmira, on the w. side of the Willamette Valley (DF, SH).

A ♂ **Magnolia Warbler** was found June 26 about 10 mi n. of Sooke, V.I. (†KT, †R. Taylor *et al.*) for the fourth record for Vancouver I. A ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen June 13-14 in Carnation, e. of Seattle (†EG, D. Finch, K. Kaufmann, m.ob., ph, ME, T. Schooley) for the fourth record for Washington. All the previous records were during June 11-19. An **Ovenbird** was seen June 17 at Friday Harbor, San Juan I.,

(†SA, FS) for the second w. Washington record. The first was also in late June. Another Ovenbird appeared June 19-20 at Wolf Cr., Ore. (E. Pugh). A bird believed to be a ♂ Mourning Warbler was seen July 3 near Harrison Mills, e. of Vancouver, B.C. (†BK). This was the first reported sighting for s.w. British Columbia.

A pair of **Northern Waterthrushes** was photographed and tape-recorded July 8 along Salt Cr., above the Falls, in s.e. Lane Co. (L. McQueen). This location is just across the Cascade crest from the isolated breeding colony along Crescent Cr. (see *Am. Birds* 31:1182 & 34:924). Yellow-breasted Chats were more numerous than usual in the Rogue R. valley this summer (MjM, OS). Forty were located during a canoe trip there June 12 (OS). A chat was present again this year near Broadbent, along the Coquille R., Ore. (AMc), and one stayed at Scoggins Valley P., near Forest Grove, Ore. (JGa *et al.*). Single ♂ Am. Redstarts were seen June 4 & 14 at their regular site along the Skykomish R., at Sultan, Wash. (ME, EH).

A ♂ **Bobolink** found June 1 in Saanich, V.I. (J. MacGregor *et al.*) provided the first spring record for Vancouver I. A nesting colony of about 36 **Tricolored Blackbirds** discovered June 25 in Portland, Ore., was about 300 mi n. of any previously known colony (M. Houck, B. Lowrie *et al.*, m.ob.). The birds left the immediate nest site July 14, and were last seen in the area July 31 (*vide* HN). The nesting colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds on Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., had 12 adults and two nestlings June 24 (JJ). Two ad. N. Orioles and fledglings at Hammond, Ore. (JG *et al.*), furnished the first nesting record for the n. Oregon coast. Northern Orioles nested again this season on Vancouver I., with 2 broods noted in Saanich (M. Crowther, A. Gillan). Immature Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported from Saanich and Metchosin, V.I., parasitizing a Swainson's Thrush, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, a House Finch, and several Dark-eyed Juncos (VG *et al.*).

Three broods of Evening Grosbeaks were noted at Metchosin, V.I., for the only report of breeding this season (M & VG). Many more Purple Finches than usual were present near Campbell R., V.I. (HT, RC). Fledgling Red Crossbills begging for food were noted June 4-5 on Camano I., Wash. (D. Farner), July 9 in C. Saanich, V.I. (BW), and

July 17 s. of Tacoma, Wash. (GW). The species was in lower-than-usual numbers in s.w. Oregon (AMc) and around Mt. St. Helens (DA). However, Red Crossbills were well reported farther n. in Washington and they were the "most common finch of the season" at Campbell R., V.I. (GT, RC). A breeding-plumaged ♂ **Lark Bunting** was photographed July 17 just s. of Yachats, in coastal Lane County, Ore. (A. Martin). A Vesper Sparrow was on territory June 3 just w. of Cobble Hill, s. of Duncan, V.I. (RW, V. Peters). Five singing Vesper Sparrows were noted June 21-22 in coastal Curry County, Ore. (P. Springer). A **Black-throated Sparrow** was photographed June 29 at Clear L., just w. of Santiam Pass, Ore. (N. McDonald) for about the 12th record for the Region. All but 2 of the previous records have been in late May and early June. Six Golden-crowned Sparrows in Garibaldi P.P., July 23 were near the s. edge of the breeding range of the species (MMC).

INITIALED OBSERVERS AND ABBREVIATIONS, with sub-regional editors in boldface. David Anderson, Scott Atkinson, Jim Carlson, Robert Catchpole, Mark Egger, Elsie & Elzy Eltzroth, **David Fix**, Mike Force, John Gatchett (JGa), Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Margaret & **Vic Goodwill**, Steve Gordon, Rusty Hazard, Steve Heinl, Glen & Wanda Hoge, John Ireland, Brian Kautesk, Geoff Keller, Paulette Kotter, **Doug Kragh**, Bruce Macdonald, Alan McGie (AMc), Mike & Barb McGrenere (M & BMc), James Meislor, Tom & Allison Mickel (T & AMi), Mark Moon (MkM), **Marjorie Moore** (MjM), **Harry Nehls**, Mike Paczolt (MPa), **Dennis Paulson**, Roy Phillips, Michael Price (MPr), Joy & Ron Satterfield (J & RS), Fred Sharpe, Michael Shepard, Jan Smith (JSm), Terri Spencer, Otis Swisher, Keith Taylor, Verta Teale, Howard Telosky, Glen Thomson, Rob Thorne, **Terry Wahl**, George Walker, Bruce Whittington, Ray Williams, S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Ore., + = written description on file.—**PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR.**, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle 98195, **BILL HARRINGTON-TWEIT**, 900 N. Wilson, Olympia, Wash. 98506, and **EUGENE S. HUNN**, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103.

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Ron LeValley and Jules Evens

The much talked about "El Niño" conditions began to weaken during the summer with ocean water temperatures continuing their seasonal warming but at a slower-than-normal rate. Water temperatures off the San Francisco Bay area even approached the 20-year mean, marking the first time since last October that any of the coastal waters have been less than 1°C above normal. The coastal summer fogs were less common while the interior portions of the Region experienced fairly normal summer weather. The weakening "El Niño" continued to dominate the waterbird picture as seabird nesting success was at lowest levels ever while freshwater ducks and grebes had quite successful nesting seasons.

All sightings from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon Islands (hereafter, F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.). Reports from these locations were provided by Dave DeSante (Palomarin) and Bob Boekelheide (F.I.). A dagger (†) indicates that documentation is on file with the regional editors or with the California Rarities Committee.

GREBES THROUGH TUBENOSES — A Red-necked Grebe at Pt. Reyes June 18-July 9 (HG, SFB) and another in Bodega Harbor June 20 (KFC) were unusual for summer. One of the positive effects of the wet winter was the extensive breeding habitat created for species that prefer shallow freshwater habitats. Prime among the birds able to take advantage of this situation were Eared Grebes. Successful nesting was reported from L. Pleasanton, Alameda Co. (AE, HLC) and Moffett Field, Santa Clara Co. (WB, AR, LT, KW) for the first S.F. Bay area nesting records, and from Hacienda Wastewater Area, Kings Co.; S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co. (RH, KH, GG); Merced N.W.R. (RJB) and the Stockton sewage ponds (DY), areas where nesting is sporadic.

A Black-footed Albatross near F.I., June 11 (JR) and 90 near the

Cordelle Banks June 22 (BL) were the only ones reported. A few of last spring's late N. Fulmars lingered through the summer with one near the Cordelle Banks June 22 (BL) and 3-4 in Monterey Bay July 17 (AB). Three well-described Flesh-footed Shearwaters feeding behind a fishing boat near Double Pt., Marin Co., July 31 (†CC) were surprising as this



species is very rare during the summer. The normal large flocks of Sooty Shearwaters failed to appear in Monterey Bay (AB) and near San Francisco, presumably due to lack of suitable food in the warm El Niño waters.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — At least 59 White Pelicans summered in the S. Wilbur Flood Area (RH, GG) probably because of the abundant water present. This species nested in suitable habitat throughout California, including the s. San Joaquin Valley, in the early part of the century but no nesting was found this year. Brown Pelicans continued to be found in larger-than-normal numbers due to El Niño; 700 on Año Nuevo July 4 (PJM) was a notable concentration. One of the most obvious results of the El Niño was the almost complete lack of breeding in coastal nesting seabirds. Brandt's Cormorants failed to raise any young at most of their traditional sites; consider that only 10 chicks were fledged from the entire F.I.; in a usual year 7500-10,000 are produced. Pelagic Cormorants did even worse, as there was no evidence of breeding at any colony in the Region and no eggs were laid on F.I. Surprisingly, only one Magnificent Frigatebird report was received, that of an immature at Palomar, Marin Co., July 31 (P.R.B.O., P. Super). With the El Niño conditions we expected more records of such warm water species.

American Bittern again nested in the Smith R. Bottoms, Del Norte Co., where a ½ grown young was flushed from a hay field July 29 (*vide* RAE). This was the only known nesting locality along the n. coast. Least Bitterns were well reported with two at Lava Lakes Nature Center, Siskiyou Co., July 2 (RE, MR, RAE, JS); a juvenile seen at Gray Lodge W. A. (BED); and up to five seen at the S. Wilbur Flood Area (GG, RH). In less usual localities were single birds at Santa Rosa July 23 (*vide* JE) for a first Sonoma County record and at the Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co., July 23 (RH). An ad. Little Blue Heron was mated with a Snowy Egret at the S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co., July 1 (RH), providing the first confirmed nesting for the Region. An adult in Charleston Slough, Santa Clara Co., July 18 (EB) was likely one of the three seen in the spring in the Alviso heronry where nesting has almost certainly occurred but is still unconfirmed. Two breeding-plumaged adults and one juv. Cattle Egret near Nicolaus, Sutter Co., July 25 (BED) suggested local breeding. Other Sacramento Valley reports were of three near Red Bluff, Tehama Co., July 16 (T&AM) and seven near Galt, Sacramento Co., July 26 (*vide* TM). In addition to the reports from spring, 40 White-faced Ibises with 5 nests were found in the S. Wilbur Flood Area during July (RH, MC).

WATERFOWL — The last Snow and Ross' geese at Gray Lodge W. A. were two cripples of each species seen June 24 (BED). A Snow Goose at the Pajaro R. Mouth, Monterey Co., July 9 (J&RW) was out of season and out of place. Many species of waterfowl, especially dabblers, stayed to nest in unprecedented numbers this season, undoubtedly due to the presence of abundant water. The following is a synopsis of notable duck breeding localities for this year, birds italicized are of special interest for their local significance: Gray Lodge W. A., Pintail; Stockton sewage ponds/Manteca, Mallard, *Canvasback* (DY); Merced N. W.R., Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, N. Shoveler, Gadwall; s. Kings County, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, N. Shoveler, *imm. Am Wigeon*. found on botulism surveys July 26 (GG), *Canvasback* (RH, KH, MC), *Redhead* (GG); Cader Lane/Petaluma sewage ponds, N. Shoveler, female with four immatures July 6 (KFC), Gadwall; Jepson Prairie Preserve, Solano Co., *Pintail*, N. Shoveler; Moffett Field/Palo Alto Baylands, *Green-winged Teal*, female with six juveniles, July 8-15 (WB), N. Shoveler, Gadwall; Coyote Hills Reg. P., *Pintail*, two females with broods July 21 (HLC); Salinas R. Mouth/Elkhorn Slough, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall. Other noteworthy duck sightings included a hybrid Cinnamon Teal x N. Shoveler at the Arcata Marsh June 22 (RAE, JS); a late Oldsquaw at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co., last seen June 16 (J&RW); a ♀ Bufflehead with two juveniles at Childs Meadow Stock Pond July 20 (DAA) that may have provided Tehema County's first breeding record; and a ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Cader Lane Ponds, Petaluma July 9-14 (KFC).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — Although Turkey Vultures are common summer visitors throughout the Region, actual nesting reports are scarce, therefore a juvenile at a cave entrance in s. Alameda County

July 16 (AE) is noteworthy. Ospreys continued their population recovery with good reports from the coastal areas and the n. Sierras. More unusual were records from Corcoran, Kings Co., in late July and at the Creighton Ranch, Tulare Co., June 24-July 7 (†RH). White-tailed Kites were again poorly reported from Marin County and the Central Valley, the only positive reports were from the Livermore Valley where eight of several nesting pairs were seen July 30 (AE). Since this species populations can fluctuate greatly for natural reasons, it is difficult to detect long-term declines. Nonetheless, many have been expressing concern for populations in our Region, so observers are encouraged to keep close tabs on White-tailed Kite sightings. The Region's fourth **Mississippi Kite** record was of a well-described adult at the Creighton Ranch June 10 (†RH). The only evidence of nesting Sharp-shinned Hawks was an adult carrying food to an apparent nest on Pt. Lobos, Monterey Co., May 27 (JE); one + territorial birds at Sonoma Mt., Sonoma Co., June 26+ (KFC); and a nest with four young near Ammon Cr., Humboldt Co., July 20 (RAE). As usual, Cooper's Hawks were slightly more common than Sharp-shinned as nesters with 9 possible nesting areas reported, all but one, an adult with two nestlings at the Kaweah Gravel Ponds, Tulare Co., June 15 (†RH), from the coastal mountains. A Peregrine Falcon at Sacramento N.W.R., July 17 (T&AM) furnished the first summer sighting in the Central Valley in many years. Although we still maintain a policy of not publishing the localities of Peregrine nesting sites, observers are encouraged to report all summer sightings.

Two Blue Grouse at Emerson L., in the Warner Mts., Modoc Co., June 4 (PU) were in an area where they are known to be resident but from which there are few reports. A Mountain Quail report near Austin Cr. Rd., Sonoma Co., June 3 (DB, PC) was from near the s. limit of their n. coastal range. Virginia Rails were widely reported, most notable was one e. of Eagleville June 8 (PU) for one of the few Modoc County records. A Com. Gallinule at Lower Stoney Res., Hunter Liggett, Monterey Co., June 20 (DR) was in an area where nesting is not known. Two juveniles at the Bolinas sewage ponds July 12 (JE) were the result of a rare breeding effort at that locality. A late Sandhill Crane was at Gray Lodge W.A., June 3 (*vide* BED). In the Surprise Valley, Modoc Co., nesting pairs were found along the w. fringes of the Alkali Lakes (PU) where they were in "probably as high density as possible" (SJ).

SHOREBIRDS — An Am. Golden Plover at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 5 (RE, MR) established one of the few inland spring records. Nesting Snowy Plovers were reported as follows: three pairs at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., June 23 (PS); 3 nests on the S. Spit Humboldt Bay Apr. 23 (PS); four adults and one immature at the Eel R. Mouth, Humboldt Co., July 5 (JS); two pairs near Belmont, San Mateo Co., June 15 (PJM); a pair at Año Nuevo Pt., July 4 (PJM); 10-15 pairs at the Salinas R. mouth June 2 (PJM); and 14 at Middle Alkali L., Modoc Co., July 13 (SJ). Other significant sightings included a bird seen June 14 at Hacienda Wastewater Area wearing a band that it received in Morro Bay (†RH) and an adult-sized hatching year bird in the same place July 22 (RH, GG). Unlike most other birds depending on the sea for their existence, Black Oystercatchers had apparently normal nesting success at Pt. Lobos (HLC) and at Año Nuevo (KW), but at F.I., less than one-half of the sites were occupied. Both Black-necked Stilts and Am Avocets had excellent breeding success this summer. Among the many reports of these species were the observations of DY who reported that both species had finished their nesting activities and mostly left the Stockton sewage ponds by July 8 yet newly hatched young were still at the Lodi sewage ponds July 31! These 2 localities are only about 13 mi apart.

A Solitary Sandpiper was at a pond near Manteca, San Joaquin Co., July 23 (DY). This species is much more often reported from the coast than from inland areas. Long-billed Curlew numbers had built to 1000 ± at the Creighton Ranch by July 10 (RH). At least 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, the first being a worn adult at Bodega Harbor July 4 (KFC). The first juvenile was at the same place July 18 (†KFC, NC). Reports away from the coast included a juvenile at the Lodi sewage ponds July 22-30 (†DY, †KHb) and another at Middle Alkali L., Modoc Co., July 21 (†SJ). A late spring migrant Baird's Sandpiper was at the Salinas R. Mouth June 2 (PJM). First fall arrivals included single birds at Cader Lane Ponds, Sonoma Co., July 9 (KFC) and Hayward Regional Shoreline, Alameda Co., July 10 (CS). Early arriving Pectoral Sandpipers were three, including two adults, at the Bolinas

sewage ponds July 19 (JE) and two at the Arcata Marsh on the same day (JS).

A Dunlin in basic plumage at the Arcata Marsh July 16 (JS) was probably a summering individual rather than a fall migrant. A Stilt Sandpiper at the Arcata Marsh (*vide* LD) and another at Vigo St. Marsh, Eureka (JS) were both discovered July 16. A Ruff was picked up dead on botulism surveys in s. Kings County July 20 (GG) and another possibly of this species was found badly decomposed in the same area July 28. These represent only the third July record for the Region, both others being ad. males from the coast. Two Short-billed Dowitchers at the Hacienda Wastewater Area July 22 (†RH) probably provided the first Kings County record. A ♂ Wilson's Phalarope attending two flightless young at Merced N.W.R., June 13 (RJB) probably had taken advantage of the abundant water and suitable habitat to provide us with one of the few recent nesting records for the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.). Early migrant Red Phalaropes were three near the Ascension Canyon, offshore Santa Cruz Co., July 30 (AB, DLS).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger seen from shore at Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., July 29 (AB) was remarkably early. Franklin's Gulls made a good showing this summer with single adults at the Pajaro R. Mouth, Monterey Co., June 11 (J&RW); in Bodega Harbor June 20 (†KFC); Smith R. Estuary, Del Norte Co., July 4 (RAE); Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., June 18 (AE) and July 15 (*vide* PJM) with two present there July 1 (*vide* PJM). Six Heermann's Gulls arrived June 23 in Bodega Harbor within a day of last year's return date (NC). By July 26 > 100 were present (KFC). This species was present in good numbers this summer, probably due to El Niño warm waters. Juvenile Ring-billed Gulls arrived in the Region as follows: one at L. Earl, Del Norte Co., July 16 (RAE); one in Bodega Harbor July 18 (KFC); and one at the Stockton sewage ponds July 25 (DY). Comparably, juv. California Gull arrivals away from their breeding localities were; Coastal Del Norte County July 23 (RAE); one at Cader Lane Ponds, Sonoma Co., July 20 (KFC); two at Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., July 27 (DR); and one at Bodega Harbor July 30 (KFC). The California Gull colony at the Knapp Property Salt Ponds, Santa Clara Co., continues to grow as 700 nests were estimated there yielding 964 color-banded chicks (RWL). A second San Francisco Bay colony was established on Leslie Salt Property near Newark, Alameda Co., when 9 nests were found June 21 (RWL) and at least some young fledged. Western Gulls had relatively good nesting success compared to other seabirds but still fledged less than 0.5 chicks/nest on F.I., illustrating a situation typical throughout the Region. An ad. Sabine's Gull off Pt. Reyes June 21 and eight near the Cordelle Banks June 22 (BL) were likely non-breeding birds, but an immature near the Ascension Canyon, offshore Santa Cruz Co., July 30 (AB, DLS) was probably an early migrant.

A Caspian Tern at L. Annie, Surprise Valley, Modoc Co., June 9 (PU) was in an area from which we have few records. Fewer-than-normal numbers of Caspian Terns nested in known colonies in S. San Francisco Bay (RWL) and in the Tulare L. Basin (RH). Fifty of them at the Salinas R. Mouth June 2 were in a newly established colony whose success was considered doubtful (PJM). Elegant Terns arrived early and in large numbers, the first arrivals were at the Pajaro Dunes, Monterey Co., May 24 (J&RW). By July 17, 500+ were noted in a substantial N movement at Bolinas Lagoon (*vide* JE) and 1000 were counted at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co., in late July (DR). In the n. part of the Region, 30 were at the Elk R. Mouth, Humboldt Co., July 31 (JS) and four had reached Crescent City Harbor by July 30 (*vide* RAE). A Black Skimmer was at the Pajaro R. Mouth July 16 (J&RW).

Of all the seabirds affected by El Niño, the alcids paint the picture most vividly. On F.I., Com. Murres laid eggs at less than 50% of last year's nest sites and only 50% of those incubated until hatching, resulting in less than 0.1 chick/nest (P.R.B.O.). No wonder AB found *no* murre chicks at sea in a 60 mi transect offshore from Santa Cruz County July 30. Pigeon Guillemots never occupied more than 10% of their normal nest sites on F.I., and *no* eggs were laid (P.R.B.O.). They also had no nesting activity on Año Nuevo I. (KW). Farther n. in Trinidad Harbor, Humboldt Co., their numbers were greatly reduced, but chicks were being fed as late as Aug. 22, indicating some success (RLV). Cassin's Auklets on F.I., occupied less than 50% of last year's nest sites with only 50% of those hatching eggs for nesting success of 0.1 chick/nest (P.R.B.O.). For the second year Rhinoceros Auklets frequented the

waters around Año Nuevo throughout the summer, suggesting local breeding (KW). A Xantus' Murrelet came aboard a research vessel 2 mi off Cypress Pt., Monterey Co., June 11 (BL) for one of the very few regional June records.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Band-tailed Pigeons were found at lower elevations than usual in the s. Sierra foothills in June and on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley all summer (RH *et al*) A White-winged Dove reported from Pt. Reyes June 5 (*vide* SFB) was unseasonal and would provide an unprecedented spring/summer record if substantiated by a description. Barn Owls continue to nest in high numbers at Lawrence Livermore Lab. (AE, KHb) and suffer the usual high highway mortality in the Gray Lodge area (BED). If observers reported numbers of dead Barn Owls they would certainly surpass live reports. A Flammulated Owl at Chowchilla Mt., Mariposa Co., July 31 (RG) was within the species known Sierran range, but provided a new site. The distribution of Pygmy Owl on the c. coast is very localized, breeding has yet to be confirmed in Marin County so one calling territorially on Inverness Ridge June 18 (JE *et al*) was of interest. A pair of Barred Owls heard at Orleans, Humboldt Co., June 13-25 (D. Solis, *vide* KVR) provided the Region's fourth location since the first record in March 1982 (AB 36:890). Two reports of single Long-eared Owls were from areas of prior occurrence: Kilgore Hills near Yreka July 6 (RE) and Akerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co., July 18 (JW). The report of tent nests of Short-eared Owls in alfalfa fields near Wasco, Kings Co. (*vide* RH) was encouraging; the ability to adapt peripherally to agricultural practices in the s. San Joaquin may be the saving grace of Short-eared and Burrowing owls in the Region, provided levels of toxic chemicals are held at bay.

Records of *Chordeiles* nighthawks beyond the limits of published geographical and temporal ranges (see Grinnell and Miller, 1944) *must* be accompanied by solid details to qualify for publication.

SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Two Black Swifts flying high along the coast at Palomar June 2 were away from areas of known breeding; this species is accidental in spring and previously unrecorded in summer in Marin County. Black-chinned Hummingbird was more widespread and common than usual in Siskiyou County (RE, MR) and around Stockton (DY). A displaying male in San Jose for the third year (V. Stives-Young, *vide* WB) was at the n. edge of the near coastal breeding distribution. One at Bridgeville, Humboldt Co., July 8 (†RAE, BED, JS) was extralimital. A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at Austin Cr., Sonoma Co., June 8-10 (DB, PC) must have been a late N-bound or very early S-bound transient. The post-breeding exodus of Allen's Hummingbird was noted June 20-22 in the Willow Cr area (KVR, RAE) and after July 18 farther s. at Palomar. A hatching-year ♂ Costa's Hummingbird on Glacier Point Rd., Yosemite June 16 (†RS) furnished the only record for the Yosemite and one of few for the montane district. One ad. male at a Yreka feeder June 7-26 (†RE, MR) was extralimital. A pair of Calliope Hummingbirds in courtship and copulation one mile n. of Hyampom, Trinity Co., June 16 (RAE) was at the exceptionally low breeding altitude (for this latitude) of 2000 ft Calliopes were considered much more common than usual in the Sierra at Ackerson Meadow this season (JW).

WOODPECKERS — A Com. "Yellow-shafted" Flicker at the confluence of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers July 24 (DY) was unprecedented in summer; the purity of such individuals should be assessed (see *Continental Birdlife* 1:4-15). An Acorn Woodpecker at El Rico Ranch, Kings Co., June 25 was 10+ mi from the nearest oak woodland (KH, D. Taylor). The only Lewis' Woodpecker report received was of 2-3 in San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co., through the period (AE). Single "Red-naped" Sapsuckers (*S.V. nuchalis*) were in the Warner Mts., near Emerson L. (*PU) and at Fredricksburg, Alpine Co., July 31 (RAE). An apparent backcross between F, hybrid *nuchalis* and *ruber* was 3 mi n. of Lee Vining June 6 (HLC). An influx of juv. Hairy Woodpeckers was noticed at Palomar during mid-late July, such information concerning the movement of our commonest species is woefully lacking. A Nuttall's Woodpecker at Pt. Reyes Station June 30 (JE) was an early coastward post-breeding dispersant.

FLYCATCHERS — Eastern Kingbird reports from outer Pt. Reyes June 14, 16 & 18 (JR, NC, *vide* SFB) may have involved one individual

or as many as three. One wandered to Camp Comptche, Mendocino Co., July 7 (*vide* SFB). Two pairs of E. Kingbirds were 2 mi s. of Gazelle, Siskiyou Co., June 15 until at least July 4 (D. Guthrie, RE, MR); this species has nested in Lassen and Siskiyou Cos. in the past (see *West. Birds* 4:33-44 and *AB* 31:1186). Cassin's Kingbird was reported at 3 locations within its normal breeding range. Unfortunately we know little or nothing about the nesting success or size of the breeding population of this species within the Region; from all indications very few individuals are involved. Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (both short-tailed individuals) were at Moss Beach May 28 (B. Sauppe, *vide* PJM) and Woodside June 7 (J.&F. Allen, *vide* PJM), both San Mateo Co. A **Least Flycatcher** was well-documented (tapes & ph.) as it sang persistently on territory near the Little Shasta Cemetery, Shasta Valley June 12-July 9 (†RE, †MR *et al.*); this exciting development follows last summer's incursion into e. Oregon (*AB* 36:999) and may mirror a larger pattern. Single vagrants reached F.I., May 29-June 1 & 5.

Extensive field work in the greater Willow Cr. area of Humboldt and adjacent counties provided quite specific information on the preferred habitats of Dusky and Hammond's flycatchers. Hammond's was described as "locally, fairly common breeder on ridges with mature Douglas Fir forest . . . prefers north-facing or wetter sites with at least a few very large firs" while Dusky's were "a common breeder in clearcuts throughout Douglas Fir forest zone . . . logging practices have undoubtedly increased the total population of [Dusky] tremendously in n.w. California while greatly reducing that of Hammond's" (*KVR et al.*). Two reports of Gray Flycatchers June 18 came from areas at the w. edge of its Great Basin breeding range: one mi n. of Hobart Mills, Nevada Co. (two, *vide* DAA) and Kennedy P., s.e. Tulare Co. (one—RH). One W Flycatcher at Carmichael June 7 may have nested locally (TM), although migrants do linger into June; C.V. nesting records are few.

SWALLOWS — Fall movement of Tree Swallows was well underway by July 22 with 700 concentrated at S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co. (RH). At Palomarin, a pair still nesting at the end of July was very late. The discovery of a colony of Bank Swallows at the Smith R. estuary June 6 (four—*KVR*) had increased to an estimated 15+ pairs by July 4 (RAE) and provided one of very few nesting records for n.w. California; previous records are of solitary pairs, none involves a colony (*Condor* 49:38). A concentration of 55 Rough-winged Swallows at the Petaluma sewage ponds July 6 (KFC) was an unusually high number.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WAXWINGS — A Mountain Chickadee at Salyer, Trinity Co., July 29 was at a very low elevation (RAE). The spotty non-coastal breeding distribution of Chestnut-backed Chickadee was further elucidated with nesting evidence at Mill Cr., near Mineral, Tehema Co. (DAA) and Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co. (JW). The exceptional Sierran snowpack caused creeks to crest up to 6 weeks later than usual this spring; HG asks the pertinent question "how did Dippers fare this year?" Whether Winter Wren is expanding its range in the Sierra-Cascade or whether observer coverage is more thorough is moot; regardless, summer records of interest included: Warner Mts., near Emerson L., Modoc Co. (one male in breeding condition—*PU); Gurnsey Cr., Tehema Co., 4500 ft (one adult, three juveniles—DAA); Middle Fork of Antelope Cr., s.s.w. Mineral, Tehema Co., 5900 ft (two juveniles—DAA). Canyon Wrens were out of habitat in Trinity County Douglas Fir forests on Waterman Ridge July 25 and Hennessy Ridge July 28 (*vide* *KVR*) indicating post-breeding dispersal.

A Mockingbird in Little Shasta Valley June 12 (RE) was out of place; this species does seem to move in June, at least coastally. A singing ♂ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in Lee Vining June 7; the first and only nesting record in the Mono Basin was in 1980 (*AB* 34:928). Small numbers of Cedar Waxwings were present in the Willow Cr. area all summer (*KVR*) and a pair was in Tomales Bay S.P., July 7 (KHi); breeding status at each location is unknown.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — Five "Plumbeous" Solitary Vireos at Chimney Cr., s.e. Tulare Co., June 18 were considered "regular" there (RH, RJB). One Red-eyed Vireo was at F.I. June 8.

S.A.

The discovery of a singing ♂ **Bell's Vireo** in the Salinas Valley June 18-19 (C. Tenney, DR *ph.*) inspired a survey of 6 mi of riparian habitat near Bradley, s. Monterey Co., June 25. Three singing males were found, one of which was joined by a female in nest building. This pair was still present July 10, however no eggs or young were seen (DR, C. Tenney *et al.*). Although this site is within the species' historic range (Grinnell & Miller 1944, *Pacific Coast Avifauna* 27), breeding activity has not been witnessed within the Region for well over 25 years and any summer records are extremely rare (see McCaskie *et al.* 1979, "Birds of Northern California" and *AB* 36:891). Also found along this route were 11 Yellow Warblers and eight Yellow-breasted Chats (DR *et al.*). All 3 species are victims of riparian degradation within the Region; these populations indicate a relatively healthy community, although only a shadow of former abundance. Six Brown-headed Cowbirds (recognized by Grinnell & Miller as early as 1944 as the culprit responsible for the vireo's decline) were also present, while Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Blue Grosbeak were absent (DR).

A Tennessee Warbler singing at Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co., July 3-5 (D. Harper, †JW) furnished an interior rarity. Singing N Parulas in the vicinity of Bear Valley, P.R.N.S., June 15-19 (CC, BDP, *vide* SFB) and July 9 (JE) may well have represented the same individual. Another was near Five Brooks, P.R.N.S., late May-June 2 (*vide* SFB). Of four + Magnolia Warblers June 4-11, three were at F.I., June 8, one at Pt. Reyes June 4 (KHb). A singing "Audubon's" Warbler on the coast at Gazos Cr., San Mateo Co., July 15 probably wandered down from the nearby breeding population in the Santa Cruz Mts (PJM). A ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler in Lincoln P., S.F., June 6 (*vide* SFB, JR) was of sufficient rarity to warrant documentation. An Ovenbird at Pt. Reyes June 5 (DDeS) and a N. Waterthrush at Tilden P., Berkeley June 19 (*vide* SFB) were final spring migrants. Common Yellowthroat did not nest at Espa Lagoon, Humboldt Co., as it has in the past (GJS) nor was it found in extensive marsh searches in Sonoma County (KFC). A singing yellowthroat near Tioga Pass July 6-25 was above 10,000 ft and was thought not to be of any of the California breeding races (DDeS). Yellow-breasted Chat was relatively well reported from breeding locations, as follows: six + Shasta County (TM), 10 + Monterey County (DR), 12 + Sonoma County (DB), three at Gray Lodge (BED), three in Tulare and two in Fresno County (RH *et al.*) Single wanderers were near Auburn in early June (MA) and Lee Vining June 5 (HLC, CS). Four Hooded Warblers were on the immediate coast Inverness P., June 1-6 (RS *et al.*), Pacific Grove June 3 (DR), F.I., June 8, Pt. Reyes June 14 (JS). One Canada Warbler was at F.I., June 9 and a singing male at Pt. Saint George June 10 (JR) provided a second Del Norte County record (*vide* RAE). The latter was an exceptional summer rarity for the Region away from F.I. Single Am. Redstarts at Pt. Reyes June 4 (KHb) and F.I., June 8 were expected. Interior records were: near Lee Vining June 5-11 (CS, HG), El Rico Ranch, Kings Co., June 14 (RH *et al.*), Eagleville, Modoc Co., June 27 (†SJ).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Up to three Bobolinks (two males, one female) were observed singing, displaying and copulating (*vide* JM) near the R.C.A. facility on Pt. Reyes June 5-19 (M. Miller, †HG, JR, m.ob.). The field being frequented was subsequently mowed and the birds apparently abandoned any nesting attempt. Up to seven Bobolinks were found (with males in flight display) on 3 visits to Eagleville June 16-July 22 (†SJ). The only Regional breeding records are from near Eagleville in the early part of the century. Tricolored Blackbirds were found nesting only in s. Kings County (RG) and possibly near Manteca (DY). The Great-tailed Grackles in S.F., continued nesting attempts unsuccessfully; this year 2 nests produced no eggs (HP). Western Tanagers were thought to have bred at L. Anya, Berkeley; there are few breeding records for Alameda County (CS). In the C.V., early fall migrants included a single male in Sacramento in "early July" (*vide* TM) and three males at Creighton Ranch July 21 (RH). A Summer Tanager was in S.F., June 11 (*vide* SFB).

FRINGILLIDS — On the coast were 13 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks June 5-19 (*vide* SFB); inland was a male at L. Almanor June 2-6 (DAA)

A ♀ Indigo Bunting was at F.I., June 8-9 and single males were at Bolinas June 20 (DDeS) and Rio Dell July 3 (PS). Pine Grosbeak was more common than ever in Ackerson Meadow (JW); adults were feeding young at White Wolf Campground July 11 (JW), however a nest has yet to be observed in the Yosemite. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were along Tioga Rd. (9300-9700 ft) July 7-8 (E&AM) and one was apparently on a nest near Ellery L., Tioga Pass July 9-10 (JR). A ♂ Lawrence's Goldfinch at Big Meadow, Yosemite June 18 (JW) was rare there. Elsewhere were two at Sonoma Mt., July 27, "small numbers" near the San Antonio Jct., Santa Clara Co., July 30-31 (AE) and Stanislaus County (*vide* DY). Red Crossbill was unusually common at Ackerson Meadow (JW). A Grasshopper Sparrow near Springville, Tulare Co., June 16 provided a valley floor rarity (RH, RJB *et al.*). Vesper Sparrows at Troy Meadows June 18 (one pair—RH) and Big Whitney Meadow July 20 (one—HG), both Tulare Co., were at probable breeding locations at the edge of the species' breeding distribution.

CORRIGENDA — In AB 36:1012 the juv. California Gull at Crescent City was July 20 not July 2. In AB 37:219 the amazingly early Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen at Foster City Sept. 26. In AB 37:333 the White-faced Ibis flock in W. Pittsburgh was seen Dec. 25. In AB 37:333 the 3500 Aleutian Canada Geese was a combined figure from

near Crescent City, Colusa and Modesto in late November, not from Gray Lodge W.A.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

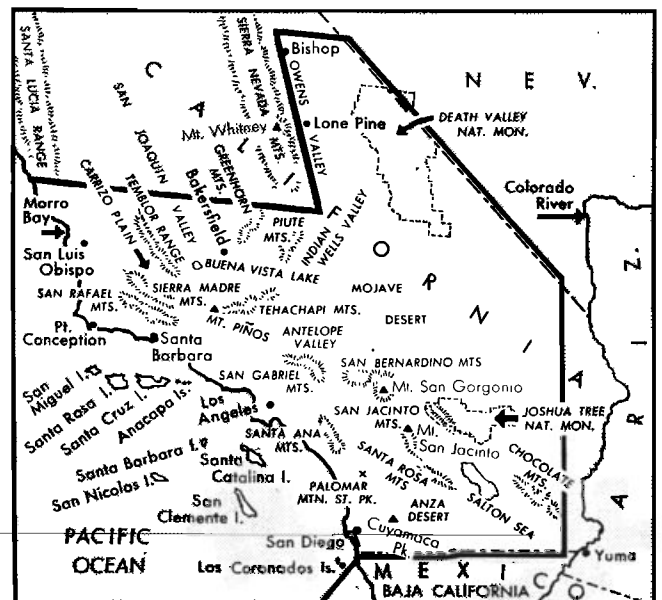
The summer was hotter than normal with moist tropical air bringing unseasonable rainfalls during July. Among the water birds were some unseasonable reports of ducks and an interesting array of early fall migrant shorebirds. Landbirds were somewhat uneventful.

ABBREVIATIONS — N.E.S.S.—north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.E.S.S.—south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.; S.D.N.H.M.—San Diego Natural History Museum; S.C.R.M.—Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura 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, small numbers of Com., Arctic and Red-throated loons spent the summer along the coast with Arctic Loons being the commonest and Red-throated Loons the scarcest. A Com. Loon on L. Isabella, Kern Co., June 2 (JH) and another on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego Co. all summer (RH*i*) were at unusual localities. A bedraggled Red-throated Loon on L. Henshaw Aug. 8 (RH*i*) had undoubtedly summered, and was one of very few found inland at this time of the year. Western Grebes again nested on Laguna L., near San Luis Obispo (JMCD) and two pairs raised young on the Kern N.W.R., near Delano, Kern Co., during June (GI).

SHEARWATERS — Manx (Black-vented) Shearwaters appeared off the coast much earlier than normal with "hundreds" visible from shore in La Jolla, San Diego Co., by the end of July (GMcC) and individuals found n. to San Luis Obispo Co. (two off Shell Beach July 27 (BS) and one off Cayucos July 23 (TME)).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, FRIGATEBIRDS — An influx of Brown Pelicans to the Salton Sea occurred in late June, with 30 counted at N.E.S.S., June 23 (RMcK) and 40 present on that inland body of water throughout July (GMcC). An Olivaceous Cormorant at N.E.S.S., July 30 (SS) may well have been the individual frequenting this locality a year ago. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird at Ocean Beach, San Diego Co., July 18 (CH), two over Rincon Pt., Ventura Co., July 31 (TO'N), one at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., July 25 (MW) and one at Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., July 27 (KS) were the



only ones seen along the coast; at the Salton Sea 1-2 were at N.E.S.S. June 20-25 (JLD), another was there July 3 (DRW), and another was there July 23-25 (RMcK).

HERONS, STORKS — Again Little Blue Herons nested near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., with a pair seen feeding three young June 26 (GMcC); an adult at N.E.S.S., July 23 (RMcK) was the only one seen away from the San Diego area. Some 50 ± pairs of Cattle Egrets nesting at Guajome L., near Oceanside, San Diego Co. (LaS) gave us another breeding locality for this species, and four in flight over the summit of Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co., July 30 (RH*i*) were at an unusual locality. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron seen off-and-on around San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., since October 1981 was present July 6+ (SW). A pair of Least Bitterns successfully nested near El Monte, Los Angeles Co. (NA) and two were found in Goleta July 2 (DB); this species is rare along the coast n. of San Diego County. A Wood Stork now accidental along the coast, was at Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co., June 5-Aug. 1 (JC).

GEESE, DUCKS — Up to five Brant attempting to summer at



Female King Eider found summering in the Ventura Marina, Ventura, Calif. Photo/Kevin J. Zimmer.

N.E.S.S., evidently succumbed to the heat in late June (GMcC), but two at S.E.S.S., Aug. 13 (GMcC) were evidently more successful. Up to four Fulvous Whistling-Ducks on the Kern N.W.R., during the period (GI) were the only ones found away from S.E.S.S.; this species has become alarmingly scarce in s. California in recent years. A pair of Blue-winged Teal at Upper Newport Bay, Orange Co., June 22-26 (DRW) could have been nesting; a male at Kern N.W.R., June 14 (RH_a) was at an unusual locality. A ♀ Pintail accompanied by six young at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., June 19 (LB) documented nesting for that locality. Two Ring-necked Ducks, casual after mid-June, near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., July 23 (BB) and another near Elk Hills, Kern Co., Aug. 9 (JH) had evidently summered locally. Four Canvasback on Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., June 10-11 (DRW) may have been summering, but one at Pt. Mugu from May to July 17 (LB) and two at S.E.S.S., Aug. 13 (REW) were clearly summering; this species is considered rare to casual at this time of year. A pair of Canvasbacks accompanied by eight young on Kern N.W.R., Apr. 23 (MOC) documented the first record of nesting in s. California. Two Greater Scaup, virtually unknown in summer, were at Pt. Mugu July 17 (PEL) and another was at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., July 16 (DRW). Two Bufflehead, casual in summer, were on L. Isabella July 3 (REW), another was at Pt. Mugu July 17 (LB) and a fourth was on Finney L., near S.E.S.S., July 2 (DRW). A ♀ King Eider present on the open ocean off Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., Apr. 17-18 (PGS) was most likely a spring migrant, but a female seen in the Long Beach Harbor July 8 (DM) and another (flightless) in the Ventura Marina July 23+ (BMcl, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) were clearly summering; there are no previous summer records for s. California, and only one recorded occurrence for the Region prior to the 1982-83 winter. A White-winged Scoter, rare on the Salton Sea in summer, was at N.E.S.S., June 5+ (REW). Two Surf Scoters were at N.E.S.S., June 5-25 (GMcC) and another was at nearby Salton City June 5-July 9 (REW); one or two are found each summer on this inland body of water. A Com. Merganser on Otay L., near San Diego June 15 (REW) was one of a very few to be found away from the Colorado R., in summer.

HAWKS — A one-year old Mississippi Kite remained along Dulzura Cr., e. of Otay L., San Diego Co., June 12-July 30 (DPo); this was the first to remain in California through the summer, but I believe the species will eventually nest. The only Swainson's Hawks reported were one near Plaster City, Imperial Co., June 11 (CGE) and another near Bakersfield, Kern Co., July 19 (RH_a). A Marsh Hawk nest was destroyed by a hay cutter near Lakeview, Riverside Co., June 20 (AMC); this species is now a very scarce and local breeder in s. California. At least two Ospreys were present at N.E.S.S., throughout the period (GMcC) and may have nested. A Peregrine Falcon at S.C.R.M., July 4 (LB) and another near San Diego June 14 (BF) were believed to be wild, but one or two around downtown Los Angeles during the period were certainly from captive stock; as more Peregrines are released into the wild it is going to become next to impossible to separate true wild birds from those released from captivity.

SHOREBIRDS — An ad. **Mongolian Plover** at S.C.R.M., July 26-Aug. 2 (AS_t) was most likely the same bird present here a year ago (*Am. Birds* 37:224, 1983). An exceptionally early Mountain Plover was near Lancaster July 30 (EAC). A breeding plumaged Am. Golden Plover near Lancaster June 12 (BWK) was evidently an exceptionally late spring migrant, and another at S.C.R.M., July 9 (TW) was judged to be an early fall migrant. A juv. Greater Yellowlegs near Lancaster July 29 (JLD) was about 3 weeks earlier than expected for a young bird of the year. A Solitary Sandpiper near Del Mar, San Diego Co., July 23 (DK) and another near Lancaster July 24 (FH) were the earliest of the fall migrants reported this year. Three pairs of Spotted Sandpipers nested at San Elijo Lagoon this summer (DK), this location being at the s. extreme of the species' breeding range. A Wandering Tattler at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 16 (LB) and another at Pt. Mugu July 17 (PEL) were both judged to be early fall migrants. A Ruddy Turnstone near Lancaster July 31 (KLG) was the only one found inland. Common Snipe do not normally arrive in s. California before early August, with the first reaching the coast in late August; hence, single birds near Lancaster July 9 (BB) & 24 (JLD), and another near Imperial Beach Aug. 20 (GMcC) were early. A Surfbird, casual in June, near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., June 7 (GPS), three at Carpinteria June 10 (RAH) and four more near Imperial Beach June 26-July 16 (REW) were all believed to be summering locally. Nine Red Knots at S.E.S.S., July 3 (MH) were early fall migrants, and two near Lancaster July 24 (REW) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. An ad. Sanderling near Lancaster July 24 (JLD) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. Single Semipalmated Sandpipers at S.C.R.M., July 21 & 23-31 (PEL), and a third near Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., July 26-29 (TME) were the first of the juveniles to reach s. California this fall.

Three ad. W. Sandpipers near Lancaster June 19 (KLG) were early migrants, this species being relatively common by the end of the month, but juveniles not appearing until the last week of July. An ad. Rufous-necked Stint near Lancaster July 23-29 (BB) was the fifth to be found in s. California. A juv. Baird's Sandpiper at S.C.R.M., July 21 (PEL) was the first for the fall. Two ad. Pectoral Sandpipers, exceptional before September, were in Goleta July 17 (AB). Six Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S., July 25 (BGP) were the first of the fall migrants to be found this year, and one at Batiquitos Lagoon, San Diego Co., July 31 (GMcC) was along the coast where considered casual. A ♂ Ruff near Imperial Beach June 26 (GMcC) was the first to be found in California during June, and was followed by another male at the same location July 23-Aug. 7 (DD). Two Red Phalaropes near Lancaster July 9 (BB) were far inland. Some 400 Wilson's Phalaropes, virtually all being ad. females, near Lancaster June 19 (KLG) were clearly fall migrants, and illustrate just how early these birds move S.

JAEGERS, GULLS — A S. Polar Skua, rare but regular off s. California during the late spring, was seen off San Diego June 4 (REW). The Glaucous Gull found at N.E.S.S., May 14 was still present Aug. 13 (GMcC) and was only the second ever known to summer in s. California. The major influx of W. (Yellow-footed) Gulls from the Gulf of California to the Salton Sea occurred in early July with 75, including 20 juveniles, present on the Salton Sea July 9 (GMcC). At least two Herring Gulls, an exceptionally rare bird in s. California during the summer, remained around N.E.S.S., throughout the period (GMcC) and another was in Ventura June 16 (REW). An imm. Thayer's Gull at N.E.S.S., June 11 (GMcC) was the first to be found in s. California in summer. An ad. Laughing Gull at Venice, Los Angeles Co., June 22 (CTC) was one of very few found along the coast. Up to five Franklin's Gulls were near Lancaster June 1-July 9 (KLG), up to six were around N.E.S.S., throughout June (GMcC), one was there July 30-31 (SS) and another was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara Co., June 29 (LB). Bonaparte's Gulls were more numerous than usual through the summer with up to 28 inland near Lancaster (KLG) and about 100 around N.E.S.S. (GMcC) during June and July, and similar concentrations along the coast during the same period. An ad. Heermann's Gull, a rare and irregular post-breeding visitor to the Salton Sea, was at N.E.S.S., July 31 (BGP). An ad. Sabine's Gull in Del Mar June 2 (DD) and another at Pt. Mugu June 26 (LB) were both onshore.

PIGEONS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon near Blythe, Riverside Co., July 10-11 (SC), another in Whitewater Canyon,

Riverside Co., July 1 (DCM) and a third in Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego Co., June 20 (LuS) were all away from areas of normal occurrence. A Pygmy Owl, a poorly known species in s. California, was near Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., July 3 (KLG), two more were at Chantry Flats in the same mountains throughout June (KLG), and another was on Mt. Palomar June 4 (CGE). Six Elf Owls on the Soto Ranch n. of Needles, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 16+ (WCH) and one near Blythe Apr. 21+ (WCH) is believed to be the total breeding population now remaining in California. A Whip-poor-will near Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., June 19 (KLG), two at Angeles Oaks in the San Bernardino Mts., during May and June (DRW) and two more at L. Fulmor during the same period (EAC) were all believed to be on nesting territories; small numbers occur in the mountains of s. California each summer, but an actual nest and/or recently fledged young have yet to be found.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — Up to nine Chimney Swifts were about Exposition P., Los Angeles June 23-Aug. 1 (KLG), two were over W. Hollywood, Los Angeles Co., July 9 (JA) and up to six were present in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., during much of June and July (MSanM), but none were believed to be nesting. At least one pair of Allen's Hummingbirds nested near the Santa Ana R. mouth, Orange Co. (DRW); this is a recently colonized area, and marks the s. limit of the species' breeding range on the coast. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird on Mt. Palomar throughout July (RHl) was s. of the species' breeding range. Five active Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker nests on Mt. Palomar (RHl) was a good number for that area, and a nest found on Cuyamaca Peak, San Diego Co., July 6 (CGE) extended the breeding range S a few more miles.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A Cassin's Kingbird near Blythe July 16-17 (SC) was one of very few ever to be found in this area of California. Say's Rheobes are now exceptionally rare along the coast in summer; hence, two or three (including juveniles) near Irvine, Orange Co., May 11+ (DRW), a pair nesting near Escondido in June (KW), and one in Santee near San Diego July 27 (CGE) were of note. Purple Martins are now found nesting at only a limited number of locations in s. California; hence, the monitoring of numbers at these locations is of importance — 17 were at Nojoqui Falls P., Santa Barbara Co., during July (PEL), up to 45 (including young of the year) were near Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., throughout the summer (FH), 45 pairs nested on Mt. Palomar (RHl), and 20 were around Cuyamaca Peak July 6 (CGE).

RAVENS THROUGH VIREOS — Two Com. Ravens over Carpinteria July 9 (TW) were in an area where considered casual to accidental. Four Red-breasted Nuthatches on Big Pine Mt., Santa Barbara Co., June 19-20 (JEL) were in an area where believed to be rare, and a pair on Cuyamaca Peak July 6 (CGE) was outside the species' known breeding range. Two Rock Wrens in Goleta June 8 (TW) were the first to be found in that area in summer. Encouraging is a report of 67 pairs of Bell's Vireos nesting along the Santa Margarita R., in San Diego Co.; only 10% of the nests were parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds, with extensive trapping conducted (244 cowbirds trapped), compared to 50% of the nests being parasitized a year ago prior to the instigation of a trapping program (LaS). A ♂ Red-eyed Vireo, a casual spring vagrant, was near Weldon, Kern Co., June 16-19 (RHl).

WOOD WARBLERS — The nesting of Nashville Warblers in the San Gabriel Mts., was finally documented when a pair was seen feeding two recently fledged juveniles near Big Pines July 17 (KLG). A ♂ N. Parula at Montana de Oro S.P., near Morro Bay June 15 (DS) was a late spring vagrant. A pair of Yellow Warblers nesting near Needles (WCH) was one of very few to be found breeding along the Colorado R., in recent years. An Ovenbird at Butterbread Springs, Kern Co., July 17 (GAK) was the first to be found in s. California in mid-summer. A ♂ Hooded Warbler on San Nicholas I., May 22 (BSS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was the first to have been found on the Channel Is. At least two pairs of MacGillivray's Warblers were at Cero Alto, San Luis Obispo Co., during June (TME), and if nesting, would establish the s. limit for breeding along the coast. An Am. Redstart on Pt. Loma in San Diego June 19 (M&DH) was a late spring vagrant.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Some 40-60 pairs of

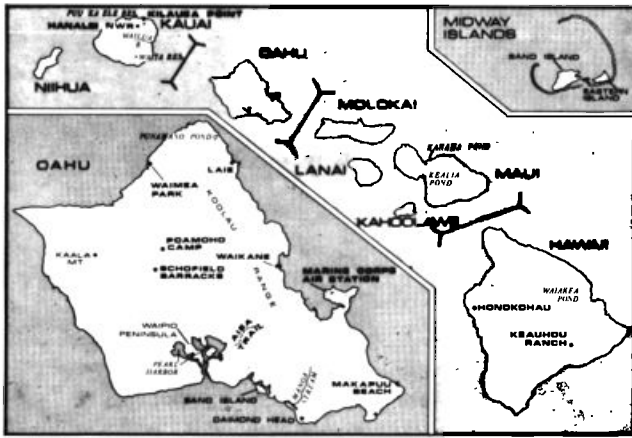
Tricolored Blackbirds nesting in California City, Kern Co. (MOC) were a little to the e. of the species' known breeding range. A Brewer's Blackbird at Lost L., on the Colorado R., June 9 (WCH) was in an area where unrecorded in summer. At least three pairs of Great-tailed Grackles were found nesting in the Prado Basin near Riverside Apr. 22 (KK), this location being within the coastal lowlands. A pair of Hepatic Tanagers along Arrastre Cr., in the San Bernardino Mts., during June (RMcK) was at the very location where California's first nest was found in 1972 (*Am. Birds* 26:907, 1972). The only Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported were a male at Montana de Oro S.P., near Morro Bay July 17 (KK) and another in Santa Barbara July 5 (CL). A ♂ Blue Grosbeak at the summit of Mt. Palomar (elev. 5000 ft.) June 11-July 21 (RHl) was at an unusually high elevation. A ♂ Indigo Bunting near Weldon July 2 (REW) and another near Blythe July 12 (KC) were both believed to be on nesting territories. Two Pine Siskins at Morro Bay June 7 (GPS) were in an area where nesting could occur. A Red Crossbill, rare and erratic in s. California, was on Figueroa Mt., near Santa Barbara July 6 (DW) and four more were seen on Mt. Pinos July 27 (BGP). A Sage Sparrow, which appeared to be of the pale interior race *canescens*, seen on the coastal side of the San Gabriel Mts., July 17 (KLG) was probably a post-breeding wanderer. An apparent family group of five Brewer's Sparrows in low montane chaparral near Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., July 24 (KLG) was well away from known nesting areas, and best considered post-breeding wanderers. A pair of White-crowned Sparrows accompanied by three juveniles on Mt. Palomar July 18 (RHl) would certainly suggest local nesting, but, apart from a small breeding population on Mt. San Geronio in the San Bernardino Mts., this species is unrecorded as a breeding bird in s. California.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle

Dry weather continued throughout the state with rainfall at Honolulu for the first eight months of this year only 15% of normal, the lowest for that period on record. Water conditions at Waipio and J.C.N.W.R., Oahu, are artificially maintained and appear to be in good condition for the coming season's influx of migrant waterbirds. However, Kealia Pond, Maui, has been reduced to "just a few puddles, and lots of dust" (CK).



ALBATROSSES THROUGH BOOBIES — All six Laysan Albatross chicks in the colony at Barking Sands, K., were gone by July 27, having apparently fledged successfully (TT). This was by far the best year's production of young since Laysans were discovered breeding on Kauai in 1977, and probably is as many as have been raised there successfully in the 6 prior years combined. Primary nesting area for the 'U'au (Hawaiian or Dark-rumped Petrel, Endangered) is in Haleakala N.P., on Maui I. Near the Visitors Center at 10,000 ft elevation on the crater rim, in one hour's late evening observation during the lunar eclipse of June 24, nine 'U'au were seen and the yapping calls of at least six more were heard (PS). 'U'au also were seen and heard June 12 on Lanai I., near the fog-drip station at 2000 ft elevation (JK, MS, *fide* PC), where nest burrowing has been confirmed in recent years. Extensive searching for Bulwer Petrels on Manana I., off Oahu during June and July yielded 4 nests, each with an adult on one egg (JS). All were on the s. shore. A Manx (Newell's) Shearwater (Threatened) was found downed but unharmed on a road near Peahi on the n. shore of e. Maui I. It was banded and released July 13 (CK), constituting one of the very few records of a live Newell's Shearwater on any island other than Kauai.

A well-developed juv. Red-tailed Tropicbird was discovered in June at a nest site on the s.e. side of Manana I., off Oahu (JS) where the species has nested occasionally in the past 20 years. Highest count of adults soaring over the island was eight July 16 (JS). Another was seen June 4 flying down the coast near Kalapana, H. (PS). The pair of free-flying Masked Boobies nested again this year in late June at Sea Life P., O., but their 2 eggs disappeared a day after laying (IK).

On a return visit to *Christmas Island* (2°N 157°W) June 26-July 4, RSch found populations of most nesting seabirds were still relatively low. Only Lesser Frigatebirds, Crested Terns and Black Noddies were breeding in numbers approaching usual populations prior to last fall. He estimated only 70,000 Sooty Terns present on the atoll, less than 1% of the usual June nesting numbers. Eleven other nesting species of seabirds and terns were present, but in numbers substantially lower than in past years.

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS — The Canada Goose at Kii Pond, J.C.N.W.R., Oahu, and adjacent Lowe Aquafarm in late May remained through July (DW, PD), an unusual overwintering record for Hawaii. Ten of the Blue-winged Teal chicks hatched this spring at Aimakapa Pond, H., were still present July 5, healthy and nearly full grown (AT). An Hawaiian (Com.) Gallinule (Endangered) found at Kaelepulu Pond, O., July 27 (MM) provided the first reported there since the late 1950s when the pond was drastically reduced and most of its edges were developed for residences. Nesting of Hawaiian (Am.) Coots (Endangered) was very successful this year, with unusually large numbers appearing at nearly all of their favored wetland haunts this summer. Record numbers were tallied on the statewide waterfowl count July 27. Several even dispersed to the n.w. Hawaiian Is., including Tern I., F.F.S. (one, banded—SJ), Laysan I. (three—DA), Pearl & Hermes Reef, and Kure Atoll (one, ph., EB, *fide* MN), all in June and July. Dried remains of three more Parakeet Auklets were found on Kure in April (see last winter's season report), and were later deposited at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu (EB, *fide* RSa).

SANDGROUSE, OWLS, PARAKEETS — Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse were reported again in July flying across Highway 190 s. of Waimea, H. Largest count was 32 July 25 at the one-mi marker near Kamuela Airport (AT). A pair of Barn Owls was seen regularly roosting during the morning hours on Manana I., off Oahu through June and July (JS). Rose-ringed Parakeets are still being reported around Kalaheo, Koloa and Hanapepe Valley in s. Kauai. They are probably established, but no information is available on their nesting this year (TT).

PASSERINES — The ♀ Great-tailed Grackle was seen again July 11 at Waipio, O. (PD), where it has been spotted several times in the past 3 years. Most intriguing report of the season was the sighting of a *Nukupu'u* in the Koolau Forest Reserve, Maui July 4 (SM, *fide* PS). Found now only on Kauai and Maui, this extremely rare Endangered species has been observed barely a half-dozen times in the past 2 decades, despite extensive searching during the Hawaii Forest Bird Surveys of 1976-81. Twelve Warbling Silverbills watched feeding in a weed patch near Kaunakakai June 13 (RC, DW) were further evidence that this species is now establishing itself on Molokai I. A Java Sparrow at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard June 24 (BJ) indicated continuing W expansion of its range on Oahu.

S.A.

From mid-May through July U.S.F.&W.S. biologists (JE, leader; PA, PP, DJ) conducted surveys of forest birds on Ponape and Kosrae Is., using variable circular plot methods developed during the recent 5-year Forest Bird Survey of the Hawaiian Is. Ponape and Kosrae, in the Caroline Is. group, are part of the Trust Territory islands administered by the U.S. since World War II. The purpose of the surveys was to gather baseline data on the current status of native birdlife on these islands, preparatory to possible revision of the current Endangered Species listings for those U.S.-administered territories. Similar surveys were conducted in Guam and the N. Marianas in 1981-82, and more are planned for other Trust Territory islands (Truk, Yap) next year.

On Ponape, this year, they failed to find any Ponape Mountain Starlings, an endemic Endangered species not recorded in several decades and now feared to be extinct. Two other Endangered species, Ponape Greater White-eye and Nightingale Reed Warbler, were found in good numbers, however. On a visit June 25-26 to low-lying Ant Atoll, 8 mi from Ponape, they found nesting Great Frigatebirds, Brown Boobies and Sooty Terns, all new nesting records for the Ponape locale. Also new were two Sanderlings and two Mongolian Plovers on Ant, and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper found on Ponape May 12-13 (JE). Black Noddies were nesting on Ant in exceptionally high numbers, as this species did elsewhere in the Pacific this year.

Kosrae, very seldom visited by ornithologists, had reasonably good populations of all of its native landbirds. Waterbird observations of note included two Lesser Frigatebirds (PA), a new species record for Kosrae. One Black-tailed Godwit, three Bart-tailed Godwits and 11 Whimbrels (Asiatic race) were present throughout July. A breeding-plumaged Sanderling was noted July 5, and a Christmas Shearwater (PP) was seen 5 mi off Kosrae July 26. An Audubon's Shearwater over Kosrae one night was good evidence that it may have been nesting, although the species is not known to be a breeder there. Long-tailed Cuckoos, observed on Kosrae 3 times during July, are scarce but regular Northward migrants from New Zealand to equatorial Pacific islands during the Southern Hemisphere winter.

Detailed survey results are to be published elsewhere.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S.: French Frigate Shoals, H.: Hawaii I., K.: Kauai I., M.: Maui I., O.: Oahu I., J.C.N.W.R.: James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge.

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WEST INDIES REGION
/Robert L. Norton

Precipitation was 30% below average for June and 35% above average for July, but yielded a +5% for the period based on a 60-year period of record in the northern Virgin Islands. Tropical depressions began through the West Indies in late July.

Shorebird migration was evident on St. Croix (hereafter, St. C.) by the third week in July although Western Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers were present at Anegada, British Virgin Islands (hereafter, A) during the third week of June. Nesting larids, new colonizers, vexing visitors marked an intriguing summer on the eastern Puerto Rico Bank and St. C. A mid-June survey of A., provided additional information on uncommon and rare breeders in this area.

Very few reports were received from regional contributors; therefore, the Puerto Rico Bank and St. C. are not to be considered representative of avian dynamics in the Region. A special acknowledgement to those observers listed is offered.

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH SANDPIPERS — White-tailed Tropicbirds numbered 15 and 20 on June 4 particularly in the vicinity of Congo Cay, St. John (hereafter, St. J.) where both species breed. At Cockroach Cay, St. Thomas (hereafter, St. T.), eight Blue-faced Boobies were noted June 4 and 50 ± Red-footed Boobies were seen at nearby Dutchcap Cay. Great Blue Herons, one at A., June 19 and one at St. C., June 23, provided curious summer sightings. Cattle Egret nests on St. C., numbered 884 (FS) in June. A single Osprey remained at St. C., all summer, FS reports. An Am. Coot remained at Hart Bay, St. J., at least until June 6. Table 1 offers the occurrences of migrant and nesting Charadriids and Scolopacids in the area of the Bank.

Table 1. Migrant and resident* shorebirds in the Virgin Islands

Species	June 7 (St. T.)	June 18-19 (A.)	July 15-30 (St. C.)
Semipalmated Plover	—	6	27
Black-bellied Plover	—	5	7
Snowy Plover*	—	16	—
Ruddy Turnstone	—	7	3
Wilson's Plover*	4	39	13
Killdeer*	9	1	4
Spotted Sandpiper			6
Stilt Sandpiper			6
Greater Yellowlegs		2	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	1	23
Willet*		53	4
Red Knot			2
Semipalmated Sandpiper		20	9
Western Sandpiper		10	35
Short-billed Dowitcher		36	26
peep sp.			20

Snowy Plovers, which are locally common at A., were on territory and presumed brooding young as nesting was confirmed there last year in mid-June (RN). Two Killdeer chicks were banded at St. T., June 7 and Willets were confirmed nesters at Ruth Cay, St. C., June 5 (FS).

GULLS THROUGH VIREOS — Laughing Gulls were found nesting at A., June 18 and frequenting the tern colonies where 3 species were confirmed as breeders again this year. Table 2 outlines the breeding distribution and occurrence of Larids on the Bank.

FS reported that **Common Terns** were present at St. C., in mid-June continuously until July 7. The maximum number of ad.-plumaged birds was eight June 22. Two second-year Com. Terns ('Portlandica' types) were also noted during mid-June suggesting overwintering n. of their first-year overwintering distribution. However, the maximum number of Com. Terns increased to 13 on July 7 including three juveniles (FS). Migrant *hirundo* usually do not arrive at this latitude until September and October. The temptation to say that Com. Terns are breeding at St. C., nonetheless is unfounded at this time. Two Com. Terns at A., in mid-June were an adult and a second-year bird in the company of Sandwich and Least terns. More field work is needed on remote islands.

Table 2. Larids nesting and/or visiting* colonies on the P.R. Bank

Species	Culebra (SF et al.)	St. C. (FS)	St. T. (RN)	A. (RN/GW)
Gull-billed Tern	—	9*	—	21
Common Tern*		13		2
Roseate Tern	550	—	2842	—
Bridled Tern	850		2000	
Sooty Tern	30,000		30,000	
Least Tern	—	376		33
Sandwich Tern	356	—	680	80

For example, at Sombrero an unconfirmed report of 8-10,000 terns June 15 (DB) included what was described as 40% Noddy Terns, 30% Least Terns and 30% Sandwich Terns. An egg count in the accessible areas was not conducted because no eggs were seen! Residents of the light-house could not be exporting eggs to local markets.

A thorough census of the island may reveal much more than a simple ratio. **Cayenne Terns** were noted again this year at St. T. (RN) and A (RN,GW) as nesting residents. More details are expected elsewhere Common Nighthawks, breeding residents, numbered 24 at A., June 17-19 (RN,GW) where a few were performing their characteristic booming flight. Black-whiskered Vireos numbered eight at A., during the same period although previous workers have found only one in early spring (LaBastille and Richards, 1976). It appears either that the species is increasing there or the resident population is migratory.

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