

The Nesting Season

June 1–July 31, 1987

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

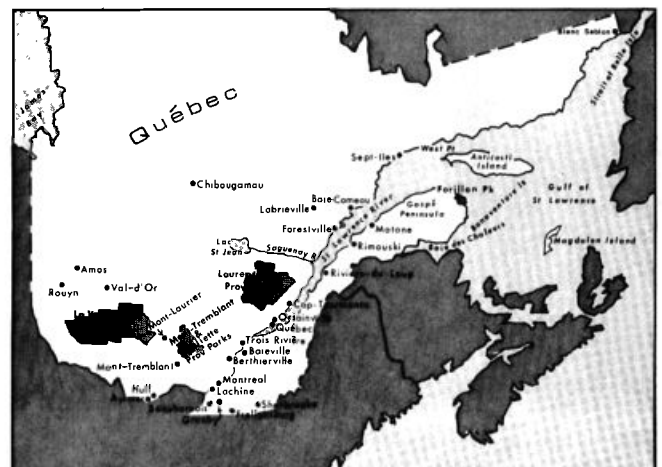
We regret that at press time, we had not received the Northeastern Maritime Regional Report.

QUEBEC REGION

Richard Yank, Yves Aubry, and Michel Gosselin

In southern Quebec, the summer of 1987 will be remembered as a series of hot spells punctuated by heavy and, on several occasions, violent rainfalls associated with thunderstorms. More than 100 mm of rain fell on Montreal during a two-hour period on July 14. As a result, the season averaged warmer and wetter than normal. Conditions were dryer and slightly cooler in the northern half of the province.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — An off-plumage Pacific Loon was reported from Les Escoumins June 8 (GG, RBé). There have been suggestions that the Pacific Loon does not exhibit a white thigh-patch while the Arctic Loon does (*fide* RF). It is worth noting that this bird exhibited no such patch. A stray **American White Pelican** reached Sept-Îles July 5+ (RR, BDu, LG). A Great Blue Heron nest contained three young July 5 on L. Matagami (TC; BL), at the n. limit of the

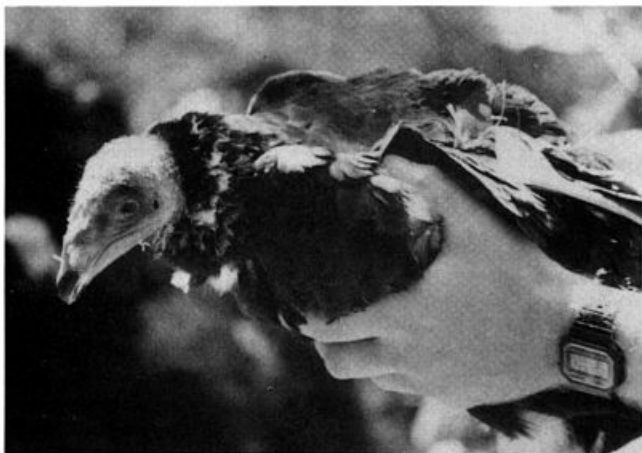




American White Pelican at Sept-Iles, Que., Aug. 29, 1987. Photo/D. Rousseau.

species' range. A white Great Blue Heron, showing only traces of dark coloration, was at Saint-Paul-du-Nord May 14–15 (GC); a previously unreported bird seen near Saint-Paul-de-l'île-aux-Noix in May 1982 was somewhat similar (YA). In July, four Great Egrets frequented the Berthier Is. (DJ), where it would not be surprising to find them nesting in the future. The species again bred on Dickerson I., where up to 10 were present in late June (SD), and one to two summered in the Cacouna marshes June 1–July 26 (CV, GP, DES). Vagrant s. waders included a Snowy Egret at Sept-Iles May 25 (BDu), one at Havre aux Basques June 7 (PF, FS, CP)—providing only the 2nd record from the Madeleine Is.—and an ad. Little Blue Heron at Rimouski June 3–10 (GG, m.ob.). On July 6, Black-crowned Night-Herons were found nesting on Baskatong Res., for the first time (JC).

The Gadwall appears to be establishing itself in the Madeleine Is., where first encountered in 1982, with a pair at Havre aux Basques June 6 and one bird still there June 14 (FS). Seldom observed in summer, single ♂ Eur. Wigeons were noted on I. aux Fermiers June 15 (GD), off Verdun until June 21 (m.ob.), and at Grosse-Ile, Madeleine Is., July 3–4 (DJ). A ♂ Am. Wigeon at Inukjuak July 12–17 (GB) likely furnished our most northerly record for the Region. A young brood of 12 Buffleheads 40 km e. of Témiscaming June 23 (YA) was well s. of breeding sites previously found in w. Quebec.



Nestling Turkey Vulture found at Saint-Valerien, Que., August 1987. Photo/J. Grenier.

VULTURES THROUGH TERNS — A subad Turkey Vulture at Rimouski June 2 (GG) was notable, but particularly newsworthy was the discovery of the Region's first and 2nd Turkey Vulture nests, each containing two chicks: on Lafontaine I., in the Ottawa R., July 3 (SBa) and at Saint-Valérien, near Granby, in August (fide ST). A notable find was the Cooper's Hawk nest with two young at Sainte-Rose-de-Watford this summer (JV). Six eyries were occupied by Peregrine Falcons in s. Quebec this summer; the scant information available indicates that young may have been successfully raised by as many as 3 pairs. It is not known how many captive-bred birds were among these breeding adults. To date, 2000 such birds have been released in North America (Ornith. Newsl. 59:2). For the 2nd consecutive year a Yellow Rail called at Cacouna, June 20–24 (KT et al.). An Am. Coot on Brion I., June 22 (JLr et al.), furnished one of very few sightings from the Madeleine Is., but less unexpected was one at Saint-Paul-du-Nord June 10 (AP). Never before encountered along the e. shore of Hudson Bay, two Sandhill Cranes were spotted in flight at Inukjuak June 20 (RBr).

S.A.

A survey of the Piping Plover population nesting on the Madeleine Is. was conducted by FS and CP. The early-summer portion of the census found 23 nests; this number compares well with the 20 pairs found during an early summer census in 1983 (AB 37:970). Counting replacement clutches, a total of 46 nests from 37 pairs were found this year. Nests were located predominantly on beaches showing a mixture of sand and pebbles. At least 8 nests were destroyed by high waters and 4 by off-road vehicles. In one case, a bird replaced its lost clutch with 2 pebbles, which were incubated for at least 33 days. It is interesting to note that 2 small man-made islets, created by dredging in 1980, had the highest density of breeders—eight pairs. This offers a promising lead in future efforts to safeguard this endangered species. A brief survey of suitable beaches along the N. Shore was also conducted, but failed to turn up any plovers (SP, KB).

A Lesser Golden-Plover in basic plumage at Dune-du-Sud July 1 (FS, CP) was certainly a non-breeder. Quebec's 4th **American Oystercatcher** was uncovered at Havre-Aubert, Madeleine Is., June 23 (JLr, PF); the possibility of Eur. Oystercatcher was carefully eliminated, as was done for only one of the earlier records. Two Willets were seen at Grande-Entrée June 4 (FS, CP) and one was on Brion I., June 22 (PF et al.); this species is an uncommon visitor to the Madeleine Is. An excellent count of 31 Upland Sandpipers was made at Sainte-Flavie in June (DR, GG), the Region's easternmost colony. Quebec's first **Long-billed Curlew** in 25 years flew by a fortunate observer on I. aux Fermiers July 16 (GD). Could the one that subsequently appeared on the Madeleine Is., at Etanges-Caps Aug. 2 (JPO, ML), have been the same individual? Two Com. Snipes at Inukjuak June 13 (GB) were n.w. of their normal range. Good numbers of Red Phalaropes were spotted from the Matane ferries this "spring": 60+ on May 31 (MGa et al.) and six June 2 (TA, DR). A male found dead at Inukjuak June 26 (GB), where it had been present for 5 days, was s. of its breeding range.

An unprecedented total of eight Laughing Gulls showed up this season. Particularly noteworthy were two adults and a 2nd-year immature at Portneuf June 3 (GB, CV), and an adult inland at Mistassini June 18 (RP, FG) representing the first L. Saint-Jean record. The persistent pair of Little Gulls attempted to nest at LaSalle for the 6th consecutive year, always without evident success (PBa). A pair of Bonaparte's Gulls with three downy young at Saint-Gédéon July 5 (CGi, MS) provided a

new nesting locale for L. Saint-Jean's small, disjunct breeding population. A colony of Black-legged Kittiwakes first established last year on one of the Pot-à-l'Eau-de-Vie Is., off Rivière-du-Loup, contained an estimated 12 pairs June 20 (KT *et al.*); this colony, and one on Bicquette I. occupied since 1984 (*vide* PBr—C.W.S.), are at least 300 km w. of the nearest N. Shore colony on Corossol I., which has witnessed a rapid population increase during the past decade. Single Caspian Terns were observed at L'Isle-Verte (JPO, ML), Neuville (MD), and I. aux Fermiers (GD) in July. Away from the St. Lawrence R., two paused at Hull June 26 (BMD) and one showed up inland near Montpellier July 17 (DP). The threatened Roseate Tern can still be found in the Madeleine Is., as a pair tended a nest at Grande-Entrée June 11–July 10 (FS, CP). An impressive tally of 1500± Arctic Terns was made from the Trois-Pistoles ferry June 6 (TA, DR). The Saint-Gédéon **White-winged Tern** was last seen June 6 (CGi); heavy rains in early June may have thwarted any early nesting attempt.

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — A rare straggler to the Madeleine Is., a Black-billed Cuckoo reached Havre-Aubert July 2 (DJ). Following the invasion of last winter, a number of Snowy Owls remained s. of their arctic breeding grounds. In the Madeleine Is., one summered on I. aux Cochons and three were present on Brion I., June 21 (PF *et al.*); elsewhere, two were seen at Pointe-au-Père June 28+ (*vide* JLR) and singles were noted at Sainte-Luce June 13 (PL, LP) and Mitis Pt., July 11 (BDr). A Boreal Owl was heard on Brion I., June 21 (PF *et al.*), and a family group was observed at Cap-aux-Meules July 10 (DJ). A Chimney Swift, seldom recorded in the Madeleine Is., was sighted at Pointe-aux-Loups June 5 (FS) and the first Black-backed Woodpecker nest for this archipelago was discovered on Brion I., June 21 (PF *et al.*).

The N expansion of the Willow Flycatcher's range appears to be proceeding apace; a nest was located at Cap-Tourmente July 17 (GL *et al.*) and a singing male occurred at Pointe-au-Père June 9 (TA, GG). Truly exceptional was a **Say's Phoebe** that paused at Westmount June 13 (AG); all 4 previous sightings were from the fall. A Carolina Wren appeared briefly in Verdun June 2 (PBa) and a House Wren at La Pocatière in July (CA) was at the n.e. edge of its range. Lone pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers again returned to nest at Hull (DSH, NG) and Brossard (*vide* PBa). Adding to recent sightings from the N. Shore, a ♂ E Bluebird was seen near Rivière-Portneuf May 30 (MGa, SG, PJ). The species also nested at the n. edge of its range at Langue-dod (JLP *et al.*). The summer distribution of Gray-cheeked Thrush in s. Quebec is still poorly known; of interest, therefore, were lone males singing repeatedly on Mt. Valin June 20 (GS, CC) and at Saint-David-de-Falardeau July 8 (NT). Along the N. Shore, extralimital mimids included a N. Mockingbird at Rivière-Saint-Paul June 24 (PSo). Adding to recent summer sightings in w. Quebec, a pair of Bohemian Waxwings was 70 km n. of Matagami July 6 (YA, TC). Loggerhead Shrike reports were typically scarce, being limited to one at Hudson June 24 (BM) and a family group at Philipsburg in July (EM).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ **White-eyed Vireo** sang at Rimouski June 22–23 (GG *et al.*), providing only our 5th provincial record. Two singing Yellow-throated Vireos were slightly n. of their usual range at Norbertville (FM). Quite unexpected so far n., a Chestnut-sided Warbler was reported 44 km e. of Sept-Îles July 3 (SBr). An extralimital Pine Warbler frequented a pinery above the cliffs at Cap-Tourmente June 10+ (JLc *et al.*). A ♀ Bay-breasted Warbler transporting food at Saint-Polycarpe July 6 (MM, AL) provided the first nesting evidence for the Montreal area, but four Blackpoll Warblers at L. Aumond, Pontiac Co., June 12 (CB, SBa) may have been late migrants. Two new sites were added to the range of Connecticut Warbler at L. Saint-Jean, with one at Sainte-Marguerite-Marie June 14 (GS, CC) and two at Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire June 19 (JI). In w. Quebec, single males were in song at Berry about June 28 (JLP *et al.*) and Matagami July 3 (YA).

Near Lachute June 27 (PBa), a Chipping Sparrow emitted the song of the Clay-colored Sparrow! The latter species was widely reported in June, having been seen at Saint-Colomban and Hemmingford (PBa), Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes (GO) in Mégantic County, Charlesbourg (RL), Saint-David-de-l'Auberivière (SM), and Chicoutimi (JI). Beyond its usual range was a Field Sparrow at Cap-Tourmente June 2 (GB), while a breeding-plumaged ♂ **Lark Bunting** at Dune-du-Sud June 21 (FS, CP) was only Quebec's 5th. Single Grasshopper Sparrows were detected at several new sites: Saint-Polycarpe June 6 (AL, MM), Caldwell and Shawville June 14 (JD), and Brownsburg July 11 (PBa). Exceptional were a Le Conte's Sparrow at Cap-Tourmente June 17 (RBa) and two at Métabetchouan June 23–July 8 (CGi, MS). Reports of one to three individuals from 5 Abitibi locations in early July (ND, JLP) would indicate that this inconspicuous species is perhaps more widely distributed than supposed. The nesting of Sharp-tailed Sparrows on I. du Moine, where the species has been regular since 1980, was finally confirmed (DJ). Well s. of its range was an ad. White-crowned Sparrow at Saint-David-de-Falardeau July 16 (NT). A Bobolink was observed near the Saint-Jean R., July 14 (JT), for one of very few N. Shore sightings, and a W. Meadowlark called at Saint-André, Kamouraska Co., June 6 (ML). Singing ♂ N. Orioles were rarities at Sainte-Hedwidge, L. Saint-Jean Co., July 1–15 (NB) and Matane July 10 (CGa, JLR). Pine Siskins remained to nest in extreme s. Quebec, with reports of recently-fledged young at 3 sites on Montreal I. in late May (*vide* PBa); as in 1984 and 1985, this occurrence followed a winter when siskins were particularly abundant in the area.

ADVENTIVES — The pair of Monk Parakeets at Laval (see Spring report) apparently raised four young (*vide* PBa); to our knowledge this constitutes a first breeding record for Canada. A bird was also seen at LaSalle July 5 (PSm). This series of recent sightings is reportedly owing to a release on w. Montreal I. this spring (*vide* DC). A Gray Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) was observed at Hull June 24 (RF).

CORRIGENDA — In AB 40:1181, the Garganey was Quebec's 3rd, not 2nd, as a previously unpublished sighting of a male near L'Isle-Verte June 28, 1972 (AR) was recently brought to our attention. In the same issue, the report of a nesting Bufflehead should be deleted, and the Warbling Vireo nested at Ville-Marie, not Sainte-Marie. A Com. Murre was seen off the Matane ferry May 29, 1987, not a Thick-billed Murre as stated in the spring report.

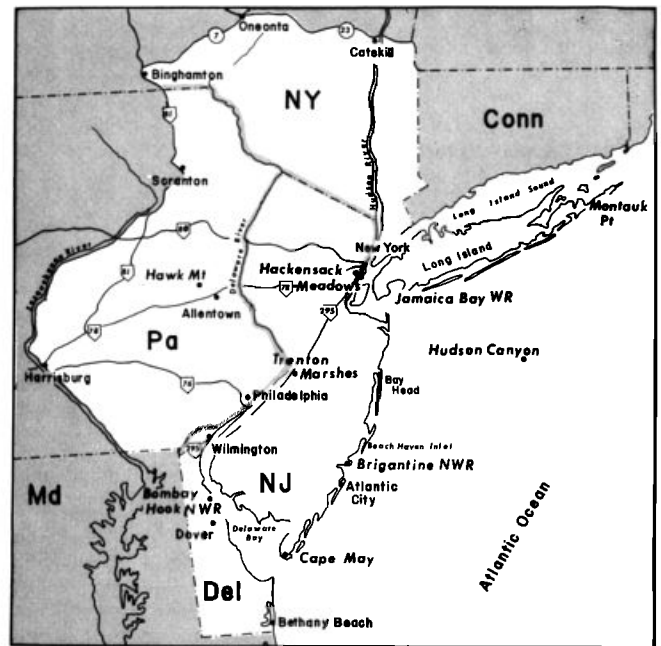
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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

This season's major excitement was concentrated in Delaware in July: nearly simultaneous Rufous-necked Stint and White-winged Tern. That reminds us that migration is also a major feature of what is sometimes thought of as the breeding season. Lingering northbound shorebirds and flycatchers were still around in mid-June, and the first apparently southbound shorebirds were observed at the end of June. An early cool front July 15 brought the first apparently migrant Broad-winged Hawk and Northern Waterthrush to Cape May (fide PS).

Nesting activity was, of course, the major focus of effort in preparing this column. Although no statewide aerial surveys of colonial nesting birds were conducted this season, public and private agencies studied herons, Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys, terns, Piping Plovers, Barred Owls, Cliff Swallows, and grasslands nesters. Intensive study continued of the Pequannock Watershed, in Passaic, Sussex, and Morris counties, New Jersey (DM, PBa). Atlasing proceeded in Pennsylvania, as did several Summer Bird Counts such as the well documented one in southern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (RMS). Individual observers, however, sent us fewer reports than usual. Extensive phoning did not fill the gap. This situation reminds us of the way Arthur Cleveland Bent used to begin each new volume of his *Life Histories of North American Birds*: "If the reader fails to find in these pages anything that he knows about the birds, he can only blame himself for not sending the information."



the lower Susquehanna R., Lancaster, Pa. (S.B.C., RMS). Despite this "explosion," however, breeding remains confined in this Region to New York State. Known colonies there increased to 4 in 1986 with the addition of Huckleberry I., off Pelham Bay Park, N.Y.C. Approximately 650 breeding pairs in 3 colonies in 1985 have thus now become approximately 900 pairs in 4 colonies (DMAcL, Seatuck Research Project).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Heron numbers seemed generally stable, although the only heronry on the n. shore of Long Island has been lost to housing development (DMAcL). In the absence of comprehensive aerial surveying, we have only some local figures. The possibilities of an urban setting are revealed in a survey of 4 heronries in New York Harbor conducted for New York Audubon by Manomet Observatory (fide DMAcL):

Great Egret	72 pairs
Snowy Egret	233
Little Blue Heron	2
Cattle Egret	66
Green-backed Heron	3
Black-crowned Night-Heron	416
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	3
Glossy Ibis	142

No wonder Great Egrets are now found feeding in Central Park (TL). Another notable colony surveyed this year was Pea Patch, Del., which contained the only lowland Great Blue Heronry in the Region and which had the best totals in 3 years (JTh, Del.DNREC):

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
Great Blue Heron	198	58	133
Great Egret	183	169	338
Snowy Egret	234	543	372
Little Blue Heron	414	549	597
Tricolored Heron	0	18	66
Cattle Egret	5535	3932	5181
Black-cr. Night-Heron	18	67	50
Yellow-cr. Night-Heron	0	40	6
TOTALS	<u>6600</u>	<u>5651</u>	<u>6893</u>

PETRELS TO CORMORANTS — The prize pelagic find of this season was a **Black-capped Petrel**, well-described 68 mi e. of Barnegat Light, N.J., in 74-degree water, July 25 (†AB, JBu, JKM, AH, K. Brethwaite, G. Dewaghe). This species has been looked for in warm water eddies off our Region since it became regularly seen off the mid-Atlantic coast a decade ago, but this is the first Regional sight record and the northernmost known to us except for another sight record off George's Bank Mar. 23, 1977 (AB 31:1056). The same trip found an all-white shearwater associating with Greater Shearwaters and assumed to be of that species (AB). For similar records, see the photo of a leucistic Greater Shearwater off Nantucket in June 1978 (AB 32:1138) and the note of an albino Cory's Shearwater off Cape Charles, Va., in July 1980 (AB 34:882).

Brown Pelicans, despite the continuing northward spread of their breeding range, staged a relatively minor invasion of this Region. As in the past 4 summers, pelicans arrived in May, but this time they reached only modest peaks of 24 off Higbee's Beach, Cape May, N.J., June 26 (fide PS), and 52 off Indian R. Inlet, Del., July 16 (FFW, T. White) before declining toward the end of the period. The northernmost were two at Breezy Point, the w. tip of Long Island, flying toward Sandy Hook, N.J., June 11 (B. Clark).

Double-crested Cormorants were "all over the place" in the H.M. (RK), and they turned up for the 3rd time since 1983 on

The season's only White Ibis was an immature over Bivalve, Cumberland, N.J., July 30, with Glossy Ibises (RDB)

In addition to the usual stragglers along the coast, a Snow Goose arrived at Tunkhannock, on the upper Susquehanna R., Wyoming, Pa., in late June and summered with resident Canada Geese (WR).

American Black Duck was missed for the first time in the 11 years of the s. Lancaster, Pa., S.B.C. (RMS). The species is doing well in the Delaware Bay marshes of s. New Jersey, however, where the N.J.D.F.G.W. estimated 493 breeding pairs in a first helicopter survey between Reed's Beach and Nantuxen Creek. Breeding density was one pair per 20–60 acres in healthy salt marsh, but fell to one pair/120 acres where the salt marsh had been denuded by Snow Geese (F. Ferrigno). The survey area also contained 40 pairs of Gadwalls and two pairs of Blue-winged Teal, but no Mallards. After invading from the west a generation ago, Gadwall is becoming the most numerous breeding duck in the H.M., surpassing Blue-winged Teal (RK).

We had fewer reports than usual of summering diving ducks. A few of all three scoters summered at Montauk Pt., L.I., as did both eiders (PAB, FGB). Farther south, an imm. ♂ King Eider was at Rehoboth Bay, Del., June 21 (B & SFi, WWF). Single Black Scoters, the most usual summerers, were at Longport, Atlantic, June 13 (REM) and at Cape May July 29 (RC). Among other scoters, there was only a single Surf Scoter at Cape May July 26 (JDo).

RAPTORS — Prospecting Black Vultures were far afield at Starlight, Wayne, Pa. (J. Christian), at the Blue Chip Farm, Ulster, N.Y., July 11 (S. Saphir), and over Iona I., Rockland, N.Y., June 14 (J. Yrizarry), but the n. limit of proven breeding remains the s. tier counties of s.e. Pennsylvania, and Hunterdon, N.J.

The number of active Osprey nests continued to climb, although productivity fell in some places this year. Long Island had 152 active nests, of which 89 were productive and fledged 164 (86 produced 186 last year). The less productive nests this year were on e. Long Island where the brown tide may have affected food supply (MS, N.Y.D.E.C.). A new nest in Hempstead extended the limit well west on Long Island, and a pair hung around the pole even farther west in J.B.W.R. (DR). New Jersey had 137 occupied nests (122 last year) which produced 162 young. Productivity was much lower on Delaware Bay than on the Atlantic coast, suggesting possible pollution problems (LN, N.J.D.F.G.W.). Eight young birds were hacked in the Newark watershed. In Delaware a "healthy and expanding population" included at least 68 active nests that produced 68 young to flying stage. Ten chicks were sent to the state of Kentucky for release (JTh, Del.DNREC). In Pennsylvania, last year's Pocono Mt. pair continued to breed; a pair was at Leaser L., Lehigh, in early June (LG) and another wanderer was in Carbon (*vide* BLM).

After a puny spring invasion of Mississippi Kites, up to five birds were still present at Cape May in the first days of June (JDo, *vide* PS). The latest one was reported June 14 (J. Stewart). There is still no evidence of nesting in this Region. Active Bald Eagle nests were back to the 5 nests of 2 years ago: one in Cumberland, N.J., and 4 in Delaware. Two of the Delaware nests were successful, fledging four young (JTh). The eggs of the New Jersey nest, 17% thin and subject to dehydration, were incubated and the chicks restored to the nest; one fledged. Twelve other young eagles were hacked in New Jersey (LN, N.J.D.F.G.W.). Scattered reports of summering birds included an adult and an immature in the Meshoppen area, Wyoming, Pa (D. Bird, *vide* WR).

Two Cooper's Hawk nests in Pennsylvania were good finds: one with three young in upper Bucks (S. Farbotnick) and another near New Ringgold, Schuylkill, that fledged three young without bothering a chicken coop 30 ft from the nest (*vide* LG).

Since Peregrine Falcons are no longer being hacked in this Region, interest now centers upon the efforts of this population to establish nesting pairs. Of the 46 confirmed pairs in the e. United States, 21 are in this Region. Fourteen of them attempted to breed, and 10 of them fledged 19 young. The pair established for several years on the Golden Nugget Casino in Atlantic City finally hit the jackpot and fledged one young. The 9 pairs on bridges were not as productive as had been hoped. "Bridges are tough places to fledge young" (M. Gilroy, Peregrine Fund). New York City's 2 productive pairs were interrupted by maintenance work; some fledglings were believed lost leaving a nest high above the water. New Jersey biologists also expressed concern about toxicity discovered in lab analysis of sterile eggs from 1985. Even though these Peregrines do not migrate, they may be picking up DDT, DDE and PCBs from prey (LN, N.J.D.F.G.W.).

SHOREBIRDS — Morris, whose close studies of age groups among the shorebirds using J.B.W.R. are the most thorough we have, reports that although somewhat more juveniles arrived than last year, sub-normal numbers suggested another poor breeding season in the arctic (AM). Southbound migrant shorebirds were evident as early as June 24 at Cape May (P Plage), and a first peak, representing returning adults, was reached in mid-July (APE).

A breeding plumaged Lesser Golden-Plover at Cape May June 10 (REM) was unusual, and one in non-breeding plumage at Bombay Hook July 2 (NH) was very early. Among the beach nesters of this Region, Piping Plovers are causing the most concern. While final figures were not in as this report was being prepared, the Long Island population was believed to be doing as well as last year's 100 or so pairs, or even slightly better. Locations where recreational beach use has extirpated them have been replaced by others with healthy populations (DMAcL, CSa). New Jersey's population slipped again, however, to a probable total in the low 90s (DJ). Delaware, whose limited beaches are now overwhelmed by beachbuggies and crowds, had only seven adults and three young on a June 17–18 census, as compared with 42 adults in 1980 (JTh). Black-necked Stilts, extirpated as breeders in this Region in the last century, have been nesting at Bombay Hook in the last 3 or 4 years when the ponds were dry. This year 16 nests were there (NH), and 9 at Little Creek (APE).

Upland Sandpipers are holding on best in this Region at major airports. In Delaware, where no modern breeding records are confirmed, what appears to have been two chicks were observed at the Wilmington airport July 1 (LLF). Peaks there of 22 June 26 (LLF), 46 July 14 (LLF), and 67 July 18 (E. Fingerhood) could have represented migrants, but the situation bears close watching next year. The substantial population at JFK airport, N.Y.C., could not be censused or the chicks banded this year because the grass was kept long to discourage feeding Laughing Gulls (SC), but 11 at Westhampton airport June 27 (ES) confirmed another Long Island stronghold. Away from airports, the situation looks much bleaker. At the one known s.e. Pennsylvania breeding site, the Chukkar Valley Golf Club, near Gilbertville, Montgomery, there were four June 7 (GLF). In addition, 16 in cut alfalfa fields in Amish farm country south of Ronks, Lancaster (RMS) and regular observations near Hawk Mt. (LG) probably signal other breeding sites. In New Jersey, a statewide grasslands survey studying 24 routes turned up only nine individual Upland Sandpipers, all in the Hopewell area of Mercer and Hunterdon (RK); Blicharz saw a pair and three young in the same area (RJB).

Up to 10 Hudsonian Godwits had assembled at the Line Is., Great South Bay, L.I., by late July (TL, S. Drennan *et al.*), but only single Marbled Godwits had turned up there and at Bom-

bay Hook (NH) by the end of the period. The first peak of returning adult shorebirds in mid-July brought with it, once more, a stunning rarity. Delaware's 3rd **Rufous-necked Stint** shifted between Bombay Hook and Little Creek, July 17–25 (J. Cupp, J. LaVia, J. Knowlton, W. Tannery, m.ob., ph. S. Lafrance, B. O'Brien). This was the 4th Regional record in as many years, and about the 8th for the n.e. coastal United States, all since 1975. Two or three Curlew Sandpipers were about par. At least one was at Brig regularly after July 2 (J. Connor, P. Plage, AM), and at least one was at Bombay Hook after mid-July (NH, LR, MO), with two July 18 (GKH, MVB et al.). Stilt Sandpipers arrived at Bombay Hook on the early date of June 29 and reached a good 125 by July 15 (NH).

Ruffs seemed commoner than usual in July in Delaware, perhaps partly because Holgersen kept such close watch at Bombay Hook. Although no more than two were seen at any one time, he estimated (based on variations in plumage) that eight passed through during July (NH). Nearby a male in breeding plumage was at Little Creek July 1 (NH), but we had no other reports. We continue to urge our readers to scrutinize June Wilson's Phalaropes for possible nesting, since the species has bred as near as Plum I., Mass. It is true that mid-June females may well be on the move after nesting, as Paul Lehman observed in last summer's Changing Seasons column (AB 40: 1178). But what of the male in the vast expanses of salt marsh at Tuckerton, Ocean, N.J., June 13 (B. Marx, fide PS)? Or even the female at J.B.W.R., June 7 (AM)? Keep checking!

SKUAS THROUGH SKIMMERS — A S. Polar Skua was reported, without details, from the Okeanos whale boat s. of Montauk Pt., L.I., June 9 (B. McGrath).

The 10-year old Laughing Gull colony awkwardly situated at the end of a runway at JFK airport remained stable at approximately 2800 pairs, as censused last year (SC). It is curious that despite abundant Laughing Gulls elsewhere on Long Island in mid-summer, no other colony has been established there. An imm. Little Gull was at E. Moriches, L.I., July 10 (J. Clinton) and an imm. Com. Black-headed Gull was there July 4 with 18 Bonaparte's Gulls (JR). Bonaparte's Gull was also reported from Montauk (PAB, FGB); this was more than the usual sum-



White-winged Tern at Port Mahon (Little Creek), Del., July 13, 1987. This adult is just beginning to molt out of breeding plumage, with white appearing around the face; it still shows the distinct black wing-linings (on the near wing) and a suggestion of the pale upper surface on the far wing. Photo/Alan Brady.

mer stragglers. A Lesser Black-backed Gull, still exceptional in mid-summer, was seen from the Cape May–Lewes ferry July 27 (RC). Several specialist Herring Gulls were taking up to fifty chicks a day in the Cedar Beach, L.I., Com. Tern colony (MG, JB). A Long Island Great Black-backed Gull went them one better, however, by becoming a specialist on adult Com. Terns. Their wings surrounded its nest on Little Gull I. (JDiC). We do not know how it caught them.

Two pairs of Gull-billed Terns were believed to have nested again in the Great South Bay, L.I. (DMacL, AJL), and a pair at Bombay Hook June 19–July 8 was unusual (NH). Caspian Terns probably bred again in coastal New Jersey for the 4th consecutive year, as begging young were at Brig in early July (RK). Two were unexpected at Mecox, L.I., June 21 and at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, Westchester, N.Y., July 1 (fide TWB).

The principal Roseate Tern colonies on Long Island are holding up well. The largest one by far, Great Gull Island, remains in the 800–1000 range (JDiC), and Cedar Beach still has 100–125 (CSa, MG, JB). There is some encouragement in the expansion of the small colony on Gardiner's I. to 100–125 (DMacL). At Cedar Beach, Safina has experimented with half-buried auto tires, a technique that has provided nest sites at other colonies, but the Roseates there prefer their traditional *Solidago sempervirens* plants. Although no Roseate Tern colonies have existed s. of Long Island in this Region in modern times, three individuals at S. Cape May Meadow June 6 (DWA) followed a long series of mid-summer records on the New Jersey coast. One at Roosevelt Inlet, Del., June 24 (WWF) was more unusual.

We do not have a complete Regional picture of Com. Terns this season, but the Long Island colonies thrive. Record numbers of pairs were marked at Cedar Beach (7000+, CSa), and at Great Gull Island (6000+, JDiC). The Cedar Beach ternery may be the "largest in the world" (MG, JB). The large Long Island marsh-nesting populations had a productive season because hatching took place away from the moon tides (DMacL). Excellent figures provided by the Del. DNREC show that Com. Terns were a little below the 10-year average there with 150 pairs (JTh, B & SFi, WWF). They moved into the Rehoboth Bay marshes in 1976, after recreational use had obliterated the Cape Henlopen colony.

Least Terns are responding well to the beginnings of posting and protection in all 3 coastal states. On Long Island, they are "doing well" if one takes a Regional perspective (DMacL). Although they have indeed disappeared from some beaches, about 6 new colonies began this year, and the largest ones are quite big. The 200+ pairs at Breezy Point had 20% mortality from what may have been an algal infection, and others had predation problems. In New Jersey, the total adult population was the "highest ever" with about 3000 adults, and they were moderately productive with 750–800 young fledged (DJ). In Delaware, 1005 adults were above recent years but about one-third below the peak years of 1981–1982 (JTh, Del. DNREC). This species is always volatile, losing some colonies and forming new ones as opportunity provides. At Lakewood, N.J., Least Terns nested in an old parachute jump (DJ).

A **White-winged Tern** was present at the Port Mahon impoundment of the Little Creek Wildlife Area, Del., from July 11 (B. Cooper) to at least July 19 (†MO, ph. AB, m.ob.). White-winged Terns visited the very same pool in 1974 (two birds), 1977, 1978, and 1980, always arriving in July; indeed the species has occurred elsewhere in this Region only once, in New Jersey in May 1983. Given the site fidelity of *Chlidonias* terns, it is tempting to wonder whether the same birds are returning.

Black Skimmer numbers seemed about unchanged, although high tides in New Jersey July 9 caused considerable chick mortality (DJ). As is often the case, renesting lasted well into August.

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS — A survey of the New Jersey pine barrens produced 44 Barred Owls (CS). Combining this census with previous work, Sutton estimates a total of 57 pairs

in the s one-half of the state Short-eared Owls were present again in June and early July at Philadelphia Airport (J Miller), where we now learn they bred last year. This appears to be their last stand in this Region, for even intensive field work in previous breeding areas turned up none (SC, M. England).

Chuck-will's-widows may now have a slight edge on Whip-poor-wills on e. Long Island, where they became established only a decade ago. A count between Amagansett and Acabonack June 20 turned up eight Chucks and six Whips (fide TWB). Although Whip-poor-wills are still common in the lowlands of this Region, their retreat from the uplands is ever more apparent. None was at Hawk Mt., Pa., this season (LG), and Reid found only one in a summer of atlasing in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). In the early morning of June 14, in Medford Township, Burlington, N.J., Elizabeth Woodford counted 2078 straight "whips" without a pause from a Whip-poor-will perched on her roof. An "endurance record," thought Meritt, who sent us the note, without saying whether he meant the bird or the observer.

Red-headed Woodpeckers are increasing in s.e. Pennsylvania, where Schutsky believes they are present in 90 of the 100 atlas blocks in Lancaster, and a small colony is at Breiningsville, Lehigh (P. Saenger). Recent c. Long Island reports also continued, with a June observation at Connetquot S.P., but they are still not known to breed on Long Island. Elsewhere they remain limited to a few traditional sites like Cape May Court House.

We had suggestive reports of an Olive-sided Flycatcher in a Clinton Road swamp, in the Pequannock watershed, June 7 & 14 (A. Keith), and two were turned up by atlasers in Wyoming and Luzerne, Pa., around June 17 (WR, M. Blauer). This species is a notoriously late migrant, however, and breeding has not been confirmed s. of the Catskills in this Region in many years.

LARKS TO WRENS — The nearly total disappearance of Horned Lark as a breeding species away from the beach in this Region is confirmed by the New Jersey grasslands survey, where only four were found in 24 10-to-20-stop routes (RK).

The return of the Cliff Swallow in New Jersey continues. This year the N.J.D.F.G.W. tallied 682 nests (456 last summer), mostly in new colonies on great bridges across the Delaware R. A new colony appeared on the Milford bridge, Hunterdon, and the Stockton bridge at Bull's I., Hunterdon, was way up to 230 pairs. Most residual barn colonies continue to decline. The new bridge colonies seem to arrive on site later than the traditional barn colonies, lending credence to the idea that the new colonies represent a distinct population (LN).

Common Raven populations continued to build slowly in the n.e. Pennsylvania mountains. They summered in the Mehoopany mountains, Wyoming (WR), and one was at L. Wallenpaupack, Wayne, July 5 (T. Vogel). Atlasers report Marsh Wrens missing from good habitat in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR), but this species is too much taken for granted on the coast to elicit any reports on population trends.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES — The much-discussed decline of Golden-winged Warblers seems to apply mainly e. of the Hudson R. They went unreported in Dutchess, N.Y. (R T W.B.C.), but gained by one pair in the Pequannock Watershed of n.e. New Jersey (73 Blue-winged Warblers, 43 Golden-winged Warblers) (DM). Several pairs of Nashville Warblers near L. Towamensing, n. Carbon, Pa. (BLM), were near their Regional s. limit. The recovery of N. Parula along the Delaware R. was documented by Kane, who found five singing males in 8-10 mi in Warren, N.J., where there was only one last year (RK). Four of them were using Norway Spruce plantations. Elsewhere, however, only one was found in the Pequannock Watershed (DM), and we had only scattered reports from Westchester, N.Y. (TWB), Valley Forge, Chester, Pa. (RG), and the Unami Valley, Montgomery, Pa. (GLF).

A surprising s outpost for Chestnut-sided Warbler was established by a pair that fledged young at Red Clay Cr. Watershed, near Walnut Ridge, Del. (E. Speck). This was the first confirmed nesting in Delaware, although there have been a few summer observations; indeed, this species does not normally breed anywhere on the Region's coastal plain. Magnolia Warblers continue to expand in n.e. New Jersey (DM), as do Yellow-rumped Warblers there and in n.e. Pennsylvania (DM, WR, BLM). A late ad. ♂ Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Red Mill Acres, Del., June 6 (B & SFi). Cerulean Warblers continue locally common in n. New Jersey. Elsewhere, a small population on e. Long Island remains stable (ES), as well as the traditional outpost on White Clay Cr., Del., but they do not breed elsewhere in Delaware (APE). We heard this season of others only in s.e. Pennsylvania, at Valley Forge (RG) and the Unami Valley (GLF).

Most grassland sparrows are doing better in the interior of this Region than nearer the coast. In Lancaster, Pa., Schutsky believes Vesper Sparrows are present in 90 of 100 atlas blocks. The New Jersey grasslands survey, however, found only 15 birds in 24 routes (RK). On Long Island, we know of only two individual sightings in Suffolk June 13 & 28 (fide JR, TWB). Savannah Sparrows were present in 4 of the 6 s. blocks of Lancaster, Pa., and even "more numerous" in the Amish farming area in the center of the county (RMS). As for Grasshopper Sparrow, "anyone who can't find [them] in Chester Co. [Pa.] either doesn't know their song or doesn't know where to look" (PH). The s. Lancaster, Pa., S.B.C. found 13, a record high for the 11 years of the count (RMS). In New Jersey, however, the grasslands survey found only 35 in 24 routes, and on Long Island they are reduced to several favorable pockets such as Westhampton airport (fide TWB). Only one pair of Henslow's Sparrow was found at the Galesville airport, Ulster, N.Y. (TWB). In n.e. Pennsylvania, while one new population was found in w. Bradford, the previously known areas were all empty this season (WR). After a small winter invasion, a few Pine Siskins seem to have remained to breed, according to reports from Mountaintop, Luzerne, Pa. (J. Jakoby), Stissing, Dutchess, N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.), and the Pequannock Watershed, N.J. (PBA).

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Henry T. Armistead

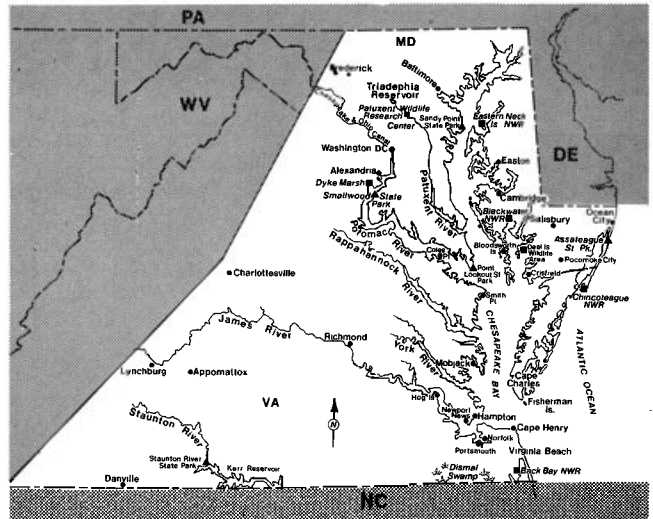
This summer was hotter than normal, especially in July. Rainfall was hit or miss with some sections inches above the norm, others inches below, but the drought had generally set in by the end of July in the coastal plain. Reporting drops off every summer, but this year there was an increasing awareness of the extremes of spring and fall migration, which overlap ever so subtly in late June and early July. More than the average number of passerines from spring spilled over into June with shorebirds passing north through the entire month. There were more than the usual number of summering waterfowl. Reporting of Maryland colonial waterbirds was meagre but studies were still in progress during August and highlights will appear in the fall season. Virginia reporting of colonials was good as usual. However, gauges of breeding success are scarce since most colonies as a rule are visited only once, which is good for the birds but not for knowing how they have done. As is often the case too few reports were received from Piedmont areas. The drought and other unknown factors made shorebirding poor at illustrious Chincoteague, which was outclassed, strange as it may seem, by the Hart and Miller Islands near Baltimore.

ABBREVIATIONS — Balt. = Baltimore; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; Blackwater = Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Md.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; Fish. I. = Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Hart = Hart & Miller Is., e. of Balt.; H.M.C.P. = Huntley Meadows County Park, Alexandria, Va. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Lingering Com. Loons included two at Kerr Res., Va., June 14 (AB), a flying bird at Hart the same day (RFR), and three at Loch Raven Res., n. of Balt., June 12 (SWS), with two spending the summer there. However, these are all dates when very late migrants are still possible. Pied-billed Grebes bred again at H.M.C.P., a freshwater marsh area s. of D.C., where Weigel saw two young July 13. Truitt found four Cory's Shearwaters and 100 Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Washington Canyon off Wachapreague, Va., where his party also caught a 372-lb. blue marlin July 12. Wilson's Storm-Petrels again penetrated far up the Bay almost to Maryland waters where Portlock saw three w. of Tangier I., July 11 and three near remote Watts I., July 13. A pelagic trip out from Ocean



Wilson's Storm-Petrel far up Chesapeake Bay near Watts I., Va., July 13, 1987. Photo/Bill Portlock.



City June 13 found 115 Wilson's Storm-Petrels plus three Manx, a Sooty, 14 Cory's, and 40 Greater shearwaters (HLW, *fide* RN). Most unexpected were reports of single N. Gannets at Fish. I., June 3 (BTt), Assateague I., Md., June 22 (JM), and Chinc., July 13 (CPW).

Pelicans stole the show this summer. Single Am. White Pelicans were in Maryland at Smith I., May 19 (JM), at Havre de Grace July 23 into August (WM, DK *et al.*), a first for Harford, Md., and at nearby Hart July 31 (EB) as well as in Virginia at Metomkin I., June 17 (BW; at this island each year since 1982) and close by at Wallops I., June 25 (CRV). Theoretically these may all have been the same bird, but it seems unlikely. **Brown Pelicans** nested in Maryland and Virginia for the first time, to the delight of atlas coordinators, although they have been expected in Virginia for several years. The first Regional nest was at Fish. I., May 14 with one egg (RC). On June 14 there was a nest with 2 eggs, plus another empty nest (BW *et al.*). By June 29 there were 4 nests in various states of disarray (DS, SS) and 150 birds present. As many as 300 birds were on Metomkin I., closely monitored by the Virginia Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries and others. There were no nests May 16, 30 nests without eggs June 17, 40 nests (one with 2 eggs) June 25, and 13 nests June 30, each with one to 2 eggs. On July 30 there were 63 nests, with 24 eggs and 12 chicks, the oldest 10-12 days old, plus some pipping eggs. Unfledged young were still present as late as mid-September (KT, BTt, MAB, BC, BW, *ph.*). More surprising than these Virginia nests was a small colony of 6 nests in Maryland s. of Ocean City, where the first nests were discovered June 23. By July 14 there were 6 nests with 13 eggs. The first chick hatched July 31 and on Aug. 12 there were six chicks in 4 nests. Unfledged young were also still present here in mid-September and were banded. A record state total of up to 135 birds was here during the summer. Non-breeders used this area in 1985 and 1986, and mating behavior was observed late in the summer of 1986 (DFB, JM, *ph.*). Away from these new breeding areas notable counts were of 101 at Chinc., July 20-21 (CPW), 131 at Myrtle I., Va., July 29 (BP), 81 at Ocean City July 28 (MO, PO), 50 at Assateague I., Md., July 4 (SHD), and 185 at Wallops I., Va., July 13 (CRV). The Maryland nests were in red cedars, the Fish. I. nests on grasses in a sandy area, and the Metomkin I. nests in *Baccharis* and *Iva* bushes.

An imm. Great Cormorant was at Sandy Point S.P., Md., July 1 (MO). For the 5th time since 1978, Double-crested Cormorants bred on the James R. near Hopewell, where several were seen on nests June 23 (BP). Best counts were far up the Bay with



American White Pelican in the harbor at Havre de Grace, Md., Aug. 11, 1987. Photo/Alan Brady.

250 at Rock Hall, Kent, Md., July 24 [JG] and 150 at Hart July 19 [RFR et al.], and as many as 56 were at Hunting Creek, Va., s. of D.C., July 1 [DFA]. Of interest were inland birds such as three at L. Gaston in s. Virginia June 14 [JML] and three at Lynchburg, Va., May 30 (fide MM).

Williams et al. surveyed Virginia barrier islands from Assawoman s. to Fish. I. for the 13th consecutive year, finding most heron species in low numbers. Large mixed heronries were found on Metomkin, Hog, Cobb, Wreck, and Fisherman islands. Numbers of adults seen were: 75 Little Blue Herons (2nd lowest year ever), 134 Cattle Egrets, 329 Great Egrets (lowest since 1980), 728 Snowy Egrets, 664 Tricolored Herons (most since 1982), 540 Black-crowned Night-Herons (new low), 39 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (new low), 463 Glossy Ibises (3rd lowest) and no White Ibises, which have been seen 7 of the 13 years. Great Blue Herons do not nest on the barrier islands. The survey was conducted in mid-June (BW, JV, DD, BA). At Chinc. the drought made for dreary impoundments, but Wilds had these notable highs, all July 27–28: Little Blue Heron 33 (well below normal high), Cattle Egret 95, Great Egret 275, Snowy Egret 470, Glossy Ibis 601. Of interest in the relatively marshless Piedmont were two Least Bitterns at L. Gaston, Va., June 14 & 28 (AB). At N. Beach, Calvert, Md., 58 Snowy Egrets July 1 made an excellent count for the Maryland w. shore [JLS]. There were 3 reports of imm. White Ibises including one at Hunting Creek, Va., July 1–3 (HE, EMW, DFA, RAA), two near Elkton, Md., July 11 (HF_n), and one at Deal I., Md., June 14 (HLW). There were 2 sightings of aberrant Glossy Ibis, possibly the same bird: a “beige” individual at Metomkin I. in mid-June (BW, JV) and a “dusky-white” bird at Wallops I., July 1 (CRV). Since similar birds have been seen in past years, caution is the order of the day with “white” ibises. Consider general shape, bill thickness, and size, in addition to coloration.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES — Mute Swans continue to maintain their numbers on the central Bay with a report of 97 at Eastern Neck N.W.R., Md., June 4 [JG]. The

♂ Cinnamon Teal at Chinc., unbanded but nevertheless of unknown provenance, first seen in late May remained until mid-June [CPW, JS et al.]. Notable were four Green-winged Teal June 27 at Blackwater (RFR) and one June 28 at Hart (RFR, HLW). Among the more unusual summering ducks were single Ring-neckeds at Georgetown Res., D.C. [O] and Hurlock Sewage Ponds, Dorchester, Md. (RFR), a ♀ Com. Eider at Fish. I., June 14 (BW, DD, BA, JV), an incredible 70 Oldsquaws near Sandy Point S.P., Md., June 2 (HF, JF; diminished to 30 by July 16), Buffleheads at 4 localities, and up to 61 Ruddy Ducks at Hart June 28 (RFR, HLW) and 11 at Hurlock July 26 (MO, GG).

Ospreys attempted to breed in D.C. (DC), and were successful for the first time in Fairfax, Va., with young fledging from a nest at the mouth of Accotink Cr. [JMA]. Starvation of young continues to be something of a problem with birds nesting on the Bay (MAB). The first confirmed record for **Mississippi Kite** in Virginia was of a near-adult near Leesburg, Loudoun, June 5–7 [EPW, PE, KH, JHM, ph.], a very tame bird seen to chase a Chimney Swift and feed on 17-year cicadas. Maryland reports of kites included immatures at Patuxent W.R.C., June 3 (MO) and Lanham June 27 (BM). Bald Eagles had their best breeding success in modern history, this after 3 previous successful years. Totals for Maryland and Virginia, respectively, included: active nests, 83, 74; nests hatching young, 67, 61; number of young, 120, 107. Combined totals for these 2 states 1985–1987 were: active nests, 125, 131, 157; nests hatching young, 92, 100, 128; number of young, 173, 187, 227 (fide JMA). Prime Dorchester, Md., had 19 active nests, 17 successful ones, and 34 eaglets, and Charles, Md., had 12 nests. Breeding took place in Balt. for the first time since 1936, at Gunpowder Falls S.P. A N. Harrier nest was found at Fish. I., June 5, with 3 eggs, and a young bird was banded June 30 (RC). The only Sharp-shinned Hawk report was of one near Danville in late June, unusual for the s.w. Virginia Piedmont (fide J & TD). There were 4 reports of Cooper’s Hawks, the most interesting involving a female on a nest in Howard, Md., June 12 (MW, fide JS).

Excellent Regional counts of Wild Turkeys were of 33 (including 26 young) in Gloucester, Va., through June and July

by Kain A Black Rail was seen at Fairmount W M A, Somerset, Md., July 17 (RFR, HLW) Marsh birds again produced at H.M.C.P., s. of D.C., where a King Rail with four young was seen May 23–June 15 and a Com. Moorhen with three young was present in late July (EPW *et al.*), while a Sora was seen June 5. One to two Am. Coots were seen near Berlin, Md., June 13–July 26 (RFR) and one was at Hunting Creek, Va., June 18 (DFA), but there was no sign of breeding. A first for the Virginia Piedmont was a Sandhill Crane near Middleburg, Loudoun, Va., June 3–5 (LFH, JFF, ph.), and what was probably the same bird 7 mi s. of Leesburg nearby June 6 (EPW, JHM), the latter seen simultaneously with the Mississippi Kite mentioned above!

SHOREBIRDS — A total of 72 Piping Plover nests was found on Assateague I., amazing even considering that some of them represented re-nesting attempts (*vide* CPW). Williams *et al.* found 114 adults on the Virginia barrier islands from Assawoman I. s. to Fish I., their 4th-highest ever, as well as 64 Wilson's Plovers, best ever. However, more than one-half the Pippings and one-third the Wilson's were concentrated on Metomkin I., even though each species was found on a total of 7 islands. Vaughn found 5 Piping Plover nests in between these 2 study areas at Wallops I., June 25. At Deal I., Wierenga found Maryland's first **Black-necked Stilt** nest May 26 after having seen a record state total of six birds there the previous day. He found two adults and four 6-inch young there June 21. They have been suspected of breeding at Deal for several summers. Two adults and one downy young were seen there June 28 (MO, PO, ph.).

At Chinc., Wilds conducted five 2-day shorebird surveys June 4–July 28, with Wilson doing an additional census June 15–16. Here there was little water in the impoundments, few birds on the tidal flats, and "Almost every species is either below average in numbers or late coming in or both" (CPW). Numbers of Least and Semipalmated sandpipers were described as "apalling." Among the peak counts under these conditions were: 1423 Ruddy Turnstones, 361 Red Knots, 1993 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 12 White-rumped Sandpipers June 4–5; 125 Willets and 32 Least Sandpipers July 13–14; 86 Whimbrels, 552 Short-billed Dowitchers, and 12 Stilt Sandpipers July 20–21; 111 Semipalmated Plovers, 103 Greater Yellowlegs, 157 Lesser Yellowlegs, 10 Pectoral Sandpipers, 109 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 95 W. Sandpipers, and 1498 Sanderlings July 27–28. Single Marbled Godwits were seen July 13–14 and 27–28 (CPW). At Hart, 6 shorebird counts were done June 6–July 31, with these highlights (RFR, EB, HK, BD *et al.*): 12 Ruddy Turnstones, a Red Knot, and 12 Sanderlings June 6; a Red Knot, 173 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and five White-rumped Sandpipers June 14; four Lesser Yellowlegs, six Least Sandpipers, and seven Short-billed Dowitchers June 28, early fall migrants; three White-rumped Sandpipers July 3 (extremely late spring migrants?); an Am. Avocet July 19; 65 Greater Yellowlegs, 185 Lesser Yellowlegs, a Willet, 28 Spotted Sandpipers, 40 W. Sandpipers, 450 Least Sandpipers, 60 Pectoral Sandpipers, two extremely unseasonal Dunlins, 45 Stilt Sandpipers, 80 Short-billed Dowitchers, three Wilson's and a Red-necked Phalarope plus 250 yellowlegs (sp.) and 1600 peep (sp.), not bad for a dredge spoil island in the upper Bay!

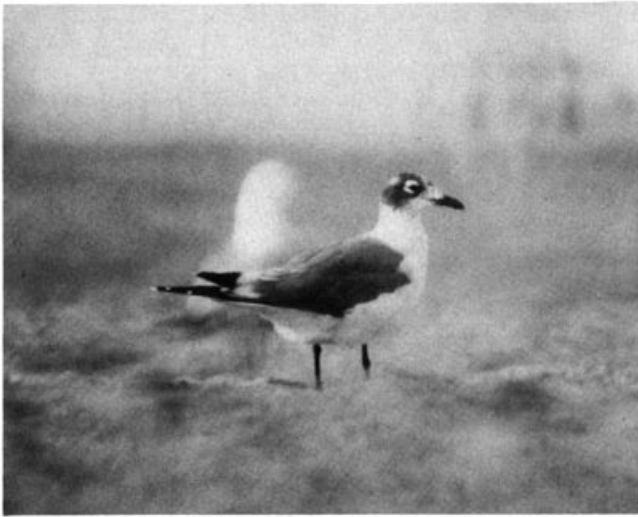
American Avocets occurred in several unexpected spots such as D.C., July 2 (DC), Hunting Creek, Va., July 1 (DFA, same bird probably), three at Wallops I., Va., June 25 and July 13 (CRV), and two at Loch Raven Res., n. of Balt., July 3 (JW). Early southbound waders included four Greater Yellowlegs in Dorchester and single Lesser Yellowlegs at Ocean City and Denton, these all in Maryland, June 27 (RFR). Unusual summer counts were of 18 Greater and six Lesser yellowlegs at Wallops I., June 22, with 15 and 10 respectively June 25 (CRV). The first fall report of Solitary Sandpiper was of one at Liberty Res., n. w. of Balt., July 12 (RFR). The first confirmed breeding of Upland Sandpiper in Piedmont Virginia was established June 10 when two adults with two chicks were seen at Lucketts,

Loudoun (RAA) Five migrants were at the Easton, Talbot, airport July 24 (HLW) On the upper Bay a Whimbrel at Swan Pt., Kent, Md., was unusual July 15 (JG). Notable away from impounded areas where they are usually seen in this Region were four Hudsonian Godwits at N. Channel w. of Hog I., Northampton, Va., July 14; 15 Marbled Godwits were at Cobb I., Va., June 11 (BTt) and small numbers of Marbleds were also seen on the Virginia barrier islands of Ship Shoal (BTt), Myrtle (JV, BW), and Wallops (CRV *et al.*), as well as at Thoms Creek (BP).

Lingering shorebirds included the following at Ocean City on this very late date: 27 Red Knots, 30 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and nine Short-billed Dowitchers June 27 (RFR). Notable on the Bay were six Red Knots at Cove Pt., Calvert, Md., July 25 (JLS). Symptomatic of the late spring shorebird passage were as many as 500 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Ocean City June 13 (RFR), and two at N. Beach, Calvert, Md., July 1 could conceivably have been extremely late migrants (JLS). Also late was a Least Sandpiper at Hurlock June 7 (RFR) and a W. Sandpiper June 24 (two June 25) at South Hill, Va. (AB). Counts of 400 Western and 125 Semipalmated sandpipers were notable for Hog I., Surry, Va., July 29 (TA). Extraordinary was a record-early fall migrant Pectoral Sandpiper June 27 at Hurlock (RFR), for a first Maryland June record. A late Stilt Sandpiper in breeding plumage was at Ocean City June 13 (RFR). Before it dried up almost completely in this summer's severe drought, the Headquarters Pond at Blackwater was good for waders with three Stilt, 50 Pectoral, and 105 Least sandpipers plus 105 Killdeers July 25 (LD, HLW), and an Upland Sandpiper was there July 30 (MO). Ringler found a Wilson's Phalarope at Ocean City June 21 and another at Hart July 19.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — The only jaeger sighting was of an unidentified individual off Ocean City June 13 (HLW *et al.*). First-summer Franklin's Gulls were at Sandy Point S.P., Md., June 19–July 1 (LD, MO, PO, ph.) and Hunting Creek, Va., June 17 (DFA). A Bonaparte's Gull at Hog I., Surry, Va., June 7 was of interest (BT), and one was at Hart June 28 and July 19 (HLW, HK, BD *et al.*). Best counts from Hart included 120 Least Terns June 14; 65 Com. Terns and a Black Tern July 3; 800 Great Black-backed Gulls July 19 (a record Maryland summer count); 800 Great Black-backed, 1800 Laughing, and 9000 Ring-billed gulls, and 410 Caspian and 1100 Forster's terns July 31 (EB, RFR, HK). In contrast to last year, no gulls nested there, and tern nest success was nil (RFR).

Weske banded a young Caspian Tern on Ship Shoal Island July 29. This species continues its tenuous hold as a Regional breeding species via the presence of a few pairs on the barrier islands of Virginia during most years. Royal Terns had an excellent year there with 5987 young banded (4113 at Fish I., mostly June 29; 1619 at Metomkin I., mostly June 30; 255 on a bar s. of Chinc., Aug. 8; JSW, JHB, CRV) and 46 Sandwich Tern chicks were also tagged (37 at Fish I. and nine on the Chinc. bar). The site of an occasional disjunct Royal Tern colony, near Shanks I. in the Virginia section of the Bay close to the Maryland line, had one Royal nest with one egg July 9 (JSW). Two Forster's Terns inland at Kerr Res., June 8 in the middle of the Virginia Piedmont were notable (AB). Roof-nesting Least Terns were again noted with 25+ birds at Sandy Springs Elementary School, Cambridge, Md., June 27 (DC) and two adults and two young on the top of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for the first D.C. breeding record June 21–July 11 (DC; 5th D.C. record of any kind for the species!) Reiger saw a Bridled Tern June 16 at 21 Mile Hill e. of Wachapreague, Va. A Sooty Tern was seen in Virginia waters off Ocean City June 13 (HLW). The season high of Black Tern was of only 10 at Chinc., July 20–21 (CPW), another victim of this year's drought there. Seldom reported from the w. shore of the Maryland part of the Bay, three Black Skimmers were seen June 24 at Patuxent Naval Air Station, St. Mary's, with eight there June 25 (MB, *vide* KR). Vaughn estimated 1000 on the Chinc. bar n. of Wallops June 23.



First-summer Franklin's Gull at Sandy Point S.P., Md., June 19, 1987. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

The Virginia barrier islands survey (which does not include Assateague and Wallops islands) recorded these numbers of adult gulls and terns: 3662 Herring Gulls (4th highest in the 13 years of the survey since 1975; on 7 islands); 18,440 Laughing Gulls (3rd highest; 2 islands; 18,080 on Wreck I.); 386 Great Black-backed Gulls (2nd highest; 6 islands); 267 Gull-billed Terns (lowest ever; compare with 2228 in 1975; 6 islands); 2240 Com. Terns (3rd lowest; 9 islands); 884 Least Terns (about average; 8 islands); 6886 Royal Terns (5th highest; 2 islands); 20 Sandwich Terns (5th lowest; 2 islands); eight Caspian Terns (tied last year's highest count; 2 islands); 3491 Black Skimmers (2nd lowest; 7 islands). As in previous years, this survey covered the barrier islands only and birds nesting in the vast marshes in back of the islands were not censused, including many Forster's Terns.

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES — The annual Lynchburg, Va., "Christmas Count in June" was held in May this year on the 30th, turning up 322 Mourning Doves and 367 Chimney Swifts (MM et al.), illustrating the amazing abundance of some common birds. Black-billed Cuckoos turned up in a number of surprising places, including a startling four in the upper Pocomoke R. drainage June 6-7 (RFR). Normally this species is rare on the coastal plain even during fall migration. Both cuckoo species can occur as late spring migrants well into June. At Nokesville, Va., Bass banded 26 young Com. Barn-Owls in 8 nests July 3, having best success with nest boxes placed in silos. Two Com. Nighthawks were at Myrtle I., July 29 (BP) and one on Smith I. in June (fide BW), indicating the apparently declining Virginia barrier island population is still persisting. At Brandywine, Prince Georges, Md., 22 Whip-poor-wills were heard June 3 (MO). Two E. Wood-Pewees at Ocean City and a Willow Flycatcher at nearby Whaleyville June 6 were considered late migrants (RFR), as were single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Allens' Fresh, Charles, Md., June 7 (GJ) and Great Falls, Md., June 8 (FM et al.). Willow Flycatchers continue to turn up in higher numbers or new places, the most unexpected a singing bird at Blackwater Headquarters Pond June 25 in willows (SD) and six singers e. of Culpeper, Culpeper, Va., June 14 (JBB).

The Purple Martin roost at Gum Springs, Mt. Vernon, Fairfax, Va., formed again this year with 5000 birds as early as July 15 (JMA). Tree Swallows seem to be increasingly adoptive of bluebird houses with a pair in a box establishing the first Fairfax, Va., breeding record with 6 eggs at Ft. Belvoir June 13 (JMA). Northern Rough-winged and Bank swallows at Easton, Md., June 27 were considered very early fall migrants (RFR), and 2000 Banks were at Easton July 28 (MO). Brown Creepers bred again at H.M.C.P. and were seen carrying nesting material

June 6 and food July 6 (EPW). The rare Sedge Wren was found at New Pt. Comfort, Mathews, Va., July 4, a singing bird (JBB), and a Marsh Wren was at L. Gaston in the s. Virginia Piedmont June 14 (JML, AB). Eastern Bluebird continued an upward trend with 200± fledged at Newport News City Park, Va. (D & MM), and 152 seen on the Lynchburg census May 30 (MM et al.). A very late Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Brandywine, Md., June 3 (MO) and an ad. ♀ Swainson's Thrush was banded at Balt., July 15 following a cold front (BR, ph.)! Cedar Waxwings continued to breed in places unheard of a few years ago such as s. Mecklenburg, Va., near the North Carolina border June 14 (JML, AB), and at Chinc. (town) in early July (J & TD), and they were seen in many places on the lower E. Shore of Maryland (RFR). A Loggerhead Shrike was at s. Mecklenburg, Va., June 14, the first Breeding Bird Survey appearance there since 1980 on a route that averaged three or four during the 1970s (AB, JML). A family group of four was s. of Leesburg, Va., July 21 (EPW).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — A Solitary Vireo was seen in the Danville, Va., area in late June (R & ST). They are rare breeders in the Virginia Piedmont. The Lynchburg census of May 30 recorded 21 Yellow-throated, 18 Warbling, and 122 Red-eyed vireos (MM et al.). A ♀ N. Parula at Ocean City June 13 was an extremely late migrant (RFR). A pair of Pine Warblers was feeding young in D.C., June 6, for the first recent breeding record there (DC). A Swainson's Warbler was seen through July 12 at Phoenix, Md., n. of Balt. (SWS), the same bird having been present since May 3. Late Mourning Warbler migrants included one in Calvert, Md., June 5 (JLS) and another at H.M.C.P., June 7 (DC). The summer's biggest warbler surprise was an errant Canada Warbler at Ellicott City, Howard, Md., July 3 (JS, JF). The Lynchburg, Va., extravaganza of May 30 counted a total of 242 Indigo Bunting and 44 Grasshopper Sparrows (MM et al.). The only reports of Dickcissels were of singles in Maryland n. of Brunswick, Frederick, June 23 (MO), at Melitota, Kent, June 15 (SD), and at Liberty Res., July 12 (RFR).

Allen Bryan found single Bachman's Sparrows in Brunswick, Va., June 28 and July 26 at their recently-discovered breeding grounds, but expressed concern about abuse of tapes by some birders there. Several observers commented on how well they thought Grasshopper Sparrows were doing, especially owing to fallow fields resulting from the Conservation Reserve Program. Bazuin found dozens nesting in fields of tall wheat in n.w. Caroline, Va., in early June. Ninety Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Elliott I., Dorchester, Md., June 28 probably represented a record count for that state (MO, PO). Swamp Sparrows continued to confound, especially with regard to the distribution



Juvenile Pine Siskin at Falls Church, Va., June 30, 1987. This bird represented the second Virginia breeding record. Photo/Sandra F. Holton.

of *nigrescens* vs *georgiana* races in the upper Bay Droege estimated 15–30 pairs breeding on Eastern Neck I., Kent, Md., but was unable to locate any at Kent Narrows, Vienna, or Jug Bay, where they have occurred previously in Maryland. However, others were located at Edgewater, Anne Arundel, at Fishing Creek, Calvert, and at Patapsco R. and Black Marsh, Balt., elsewhere in Maryland. Their Bay breeding range is curiously spotty. Anomalous was a White-throated Sparrow found by Reese at Greensboro, Caroline, Md., June 23, not seen by him before or afterwards in spite of much field work in that area.

A late Bobolink was at Hog I., Surry, Va., June 6 (BT) and inexplicable mid-summer sightings in Maryland, typical of this species, included three at Tuckahoe S.P., July 18 (WR), five at Aquasco July 20 (SL), and one at Federalburg July 29 (MO). House Finches continue to consolidate their breeding range in the s. part of the Region with reports of a pair at Brodnax June 14 (JML, AB), birds in 4 atlas blocks in the Danville area (J & TD), and 66 on the Lynchburg census of May 30 (MM et al.), these all in s. Virginia. The 2nd breeding record in Virginia for Pine Siskin took place in the unlikely locality of Falls Church, Fairfax, near D.C. A flightless young bird was brought in by a cat June 1 and nurtured in captivity until July 5 when it was released at Mason Neck S.P. (SFH, JMA, GW, ph.). Another Pine Siskin was seen in Charles, Md., July 23 (PN) and

an Evening Grosbeak was also seen there June 27–28 (PH, fide PN).

OBSERVERS — Margaret Abbott, J.M. Abbott, D.F. Abbott, Bill Akers, R.A. Anderson, Tom Armour, K.H. Bass, J.B. Bazuin, J.A. Bjerke, Eirik Blom, D.F. Brinker, Allen Bryan, Mike Bryan, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Rudy Cashwell, Bob Cross, David Czaplak, John & Thelma Dalmas, Lynn Davidson, Doug Davis, Bob Dixon, Sam Droege, S.H. Dyke, Howard Elitzak, Ethel Engle, Paul Engman, Jane Farrell, **A.J. Fletcher**, Harold Fogleman (HFN), Helen Ford, John Ford, J.J. Fulton, M.S. Garland, J.S. Gottschalk, Greg Gough, James Gruber, Polly Hancock, G.T. Harris, Dick Hegner, L.F. Herrmann, Lou Hinds, S.F. Holton, Ken Howard, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain, Dennis Kirkwood, Val Kitchens, H.E. LeGrand, J.M. Lynch, Sam Lyon, Joan McKearnan, Paul McQuarry, J.H. Meisenhelder, Wayne Meyer, Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, **Myriam Moore**, Dotty Mumford, Floyd Murdoch, Bill Murphy, Ron Naveen, Paul Nistico, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, E.D. Peacock, Bill Portlock, Kyle Rambo, J.G. Reese, George Reiger, Sue Ricciardi, **R.F. Ringler**, Wilbur Rittenhouse, Barbara Ross, R.R. Runkles, R.M. Schutsky, Don Schwab, Jay Silvio (JSi), S.W. Simon, **Jo Solem**, Sherman Stairs, J.L. Stasz, Brian Taber, Karen Terwilliger, Randy & Sue Thrasher, R.J. Tripician, Barry Truitt (BTt), C.R. Vaughn, Jerry Via, Mark Wallace, K.H. Weber, E.P. Weigel, J.S. Weske, George Wheaton, Joy Wheeler, H.L. Wierenga, **C.P. Wilds**, **Bill Williams**, **E.M. Wilson**, Charles Ziegenfuss. —**HENRY T. ARMISTEAD**, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

This was a hot and rather dry summer in the Southeast. For the second consecutive summer, drought conditions existed over much of the Region. Except for marsh birds, this was good news; breeding bird success is enhanced by a lack of rainfall and storms.

Although there were essentially no coastal storms, a rare situation for an entire season, colonial waterbirds faced a different threat. A number of tern colonies and heronries were destroyed by mammalian predators, from rats to raccoons to cats; this is a threat that will be difficult to control in upcoming years. Colonies that avoided predation seemed to do well, and I received no reports of weather-related calamities.

Birders in Georgia and North Carolina had trouble finding noteworthy breeding records, but in South Carolina the story was different. The Palmetto State had numerous notable finds, in part because of the extensive field work by Robin Carter and Will Post. North Carolina began its Breeding Bird Atlas with a limited "pilot program" to work out methodology of the project. Hopefully, Summer 1988 will see some meaningful Atlas data emanate from the Region. Pelagic birding, which often produces spectacular results, was limited this season, with a few highlights.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Common Loons were encountered this summer at 4 inland sites in Georgia. Pied-billed Grebes nest sporadically in North Carolina away from the tidewater zone; thus, notable was a half-grown young near Fayetteville Aug. 6 (PJC). Nearly all of the pelagic trips for the summer departed from Oregon Inlet, N.C. The best offshore finds out of this inlet included 116 Black-capped Petrels July 25 (BO party), four Leach's Storm-Petrels July 25–26



(BO), and—best of all—a subad. Masked Booby July 25 (RA, PD et al.; BO'B, ph.). Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were noted on several of these trips. I find count totals of this species open to question because of the usually wide disparity in numbers reported by observers on a given trip. Seldom seen from shore, a Leach's Storm-Petrel was at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., June 11 (SC, AB), and a possible Leach's was reported at Ft. Macon S.P., N.C., in July.

No word was received on the nesting success of Brown Pelicans, but since numbers have greatly increased in the last decade and there are now perhaps 10 nesting sites in the Carolinas, there is less urgency to monitor nesting populations now. The long-established pelican colony on Beacon I. in

Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., contained an Am White Pelican for most of the summer (SC, AB, JW) North Carolina's first summer record of Great Cormorant was furnished by an immature at New R. Inlet June 17 (GG); by July 29 the bird was molting into ad. plumage (GG). Post again did considerable field work on 2 large lakes in South Carolina—Marion and Moultrie—where he and Belser have had a number of noteworthy breeding range extensions. He observed a new Double-crested Cormorant colony, with 31 nests, at L. Moultrie, with a grand total of 115 nests in 3 colonies on these lakes, the only breeding sites in the state. Non-breeding inland cormorants were one at Parr Res., Newberry, S.C., June 10 (RC) and four at L. Townsend near Greensboro, N.C., June 2 (HH). As usual, dozens were present all summer at Falls L. and Jordan L. in the e. Piedmont of North Carolina, but it is not certain whether cormorants nested at Jordan, as they have in the past few years. A Magnificent Frigatebird was noted June 21 at Sullivans I., S C (T & JH), but it is doubtful that this bird could have "high-tailed it" up the coast to Swansboro, N.C., where one was reported the same day (RJ). A frigatebird the following day at Beaufort, N.C. (TLQ), was likely the bird seen at Swansboro.

WADERS — Tragic information came from Post on the once enormous nesting colony of waders, particularly White Ibises, at Drum I. in Charleston, S.C. Intense predation by raccoons, opossums, cats, Fish Crows, and perhaps other animals has completely wiped out the colony. Fortunately, the inland colonies in that state fared well (WP). Again this year, there was no systematic survey of heronries in North Carolina and Georgia. A new heronry was formed in Ocracoke village, N.C. (*vide* SC), featuring 10 species of waders (but no Great Blue Herons) and highlighted by 50 ad. White Ibises, which had not previously been known to nest between Beaufort and Pea I. The post-breeding roost at Augusta, Ga., July 31 contained over 2800 waders, including 2035 Cattle Egrets, 452 Little Blue Herons, and nine Tricolored Herons (AW, VW). Completely unexpected was one of North Carolina's few records of **white morph Great Blue Heron**, established by an individual at L. Townsend near Greensboro July 8–30 (HH, PF). At least 200 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at a pond near Midway, Liberty, Ga., June 18 (PB, TMi) was a staggering number for this species. The White Ibis continued its increase in numbers on the North Carolina Outer Banks, such as at Ocracoke and Bodie-Pea Is., probably at the expense of the Glossy Ibis, which seems to decrease each year. White Ibises are perhaps indirectly causing the demise of the Glossies by occupying more favored, arboreal nest sites in the colonies. Glossies are generally "low man on the totem pole" in heronries, getting the poorest nest sites; they often must nest on the ground, where predation can be very high. A very large ibis colony still occurs well inland near Boykin, S.C., where 968 pairs of White Ibises were counted June 4 (WP, MD); and two imm. Whites were rare in n. Georgia near Lithonia July 9 (PR). Post reported 40 pairs of Glossy Ibises nesting in a *Spartina* marsh on Raccoon Key, S.C., possibly one of just 2 remaining nest sites for Glossies in that state (*vide* WP). The 2 known Wood Stork colonies in South Carolina fared well, with 125 nests at one site and 55 pairs at the other (*vide* WP, TMu), both higher totals than in 1986. A good stork count away from those colonies was of 250 birds at Bear I. refuge, S.C., July 11 (PN, CW); and singles were stragglers at L. Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., mid-July to July 31+ (GH, *vide* PW) and at Bodie I., N.C., July 31+ (JWr *et al.*).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLINULES — Most unusual in early summer was a Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., June 1–5 (DS, TP). A ♀ Ring-necked Duck was seen with two half-grown young at Augusta July 31 (AW, VW), on the same pond where a female was noted with one young in August 1984. Two ad. Ring-neckeds near Sumter, S C., June 8 (EDa) were obviously out of season, as were two Lesser Scaups at Rum Cr. Wildlife Management Area, Ga., June 11 (TJ), a ♂ scaup (sp.) in n. Laurens, Ga., July 19 (TKP), a ♀ Bufflehead at Peachtree City L., Ga., May to June 6 (PB), and

two ♀ Ruddy Ducks at Goldsboro, N C., until June 13 (ED) An unusual straggler along the coast was a Surf Scoter June 11 at Cape Hatteras (JF).

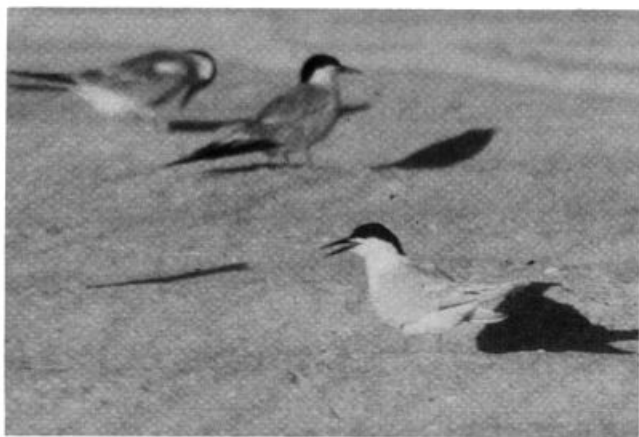
Inland nestings of Osprey were reported in North Carolina at L. Norman (DB), L. Townsend (HH), Jordan L. (BR *et al.*), and Falls L. (MW), and in Georgia at L. Juliette (TJ); all are sites of previous nesting. Several Am. Swallow-tailed Kites visited the Outer Banks in June, with two each at Pea I., June 16 (B & FG) and Buxton June 23 (MaL). Mississippi Kites still have not been proven to nest in North Carolina; a subad. kite along the South R. e. of Fayetteville June 1 (PJC, JS) might not have been a breeder, but swamps along this river perhaps deserve field work next summer. An active Bald Eagle nest in Georgia near Eufaula, Alabama, was reported to have fledged two young (*vide* SP); this is one of just several breeding pairs in that state. The high eagle counts (40+ birds) in previous summers at Jordan L. continued in 1987, but newspaper articles July 4 that pinpointed the location of the major roost site were damaging Human disturbance at the roost following the disclosure presumably caused the next eagle count (July) to drop over 50% A ♀ N. Harrier near Society Hill, S.C., July 3 (HW, HWh) was undoubtedly a non-breeder, whereas an ad. male June 23 near Stacy, Carteret, N.C. (JF) might have been a breeder. An ad male and a female at Ocracoke July 18 were suspected breeders (HL *et al.*). Accipiters were scarce, with the only Sharp-shinned Hawk report being of one in Fulton, Ga., July 7 (PM); whereas two fledged young Cooper's Hawks were seen on several days in July in nearby Woodstock (PM, TM), and "several nesting records" occurred in Forsyth, N.C. (*vide* RS). All of the nesting records of Am. Kestrels came from North Carolina, with several pairs present in w. Ft. Bragg, along the e. edge of the breeding range (JHC). Very late was a Merlin near Corolla, Currituck, N.C., June 5 (JF).

A pair of **American Coots** had 2 broods of five chicks each at the Goldsboro, N.C., waste treatment plant (ED), only the 2nd or 3rd nesting record for the state. Also at these sewage ponds, Dean found 5 pairs of Com. Moorhens with broods; this is a sporadic breeder away from tidewater ponds. Several Black Rails were heard calling in June at marshes at Ocracoke Flats, N.C. (*vide* BO), and four were heard at Wanchese, N.C., June 7 (JF). At the latter site, three Virginia Rails were also heard June 7 (JF), a new but expected site for the species in summer. A non-breeding Am. Coot was present all summer in Dublin, Ga. (TKP), and Purple Gallinules continued to nest at the mill pond at Boykin, S.C. (*vide* SG). However, no one could find Purples at Orton Plantation near Southport, N.C., the only place in that state where they nest regularly.

SHOREBIRDS — A Lesser Golden-Plover in breeding plumage June 15 at Cape Hatteras (AB) provided one of the few Regional records for that month. One of the more significant reports of the season was the tally of 5 pairs of Piping Plovers on a mainland beach on Currituck Banks, N.C., from Luark Hill to Currituck N.W.R. (JF). Young were found with 2 pairs in early July (JF); this location fills a gap in the breeding range between Oregon Inlet and Chesapeake Bay, Va. Two Am. Avocets were extremely rare inland at Jordan L., July 31 (RD), and notable for early summer were four Lesser Yellowlegs in Clayton, Ga., June 14 (PB) and a Greater Yellowlegs in n. Lee, S.C., June 27 (RC, CE, DF). Perhaps a 20th-Century record count for North Carolina was furnished by four Long-billed Curlews at Portsmouth I., July 18 (DC, MT, WI, HL, JWr), and another Long-billed was seen July 15 at Cape Romain N.W.R., S.C. (WP). Three Marbled Godwits were considered early July 18 at St Simons I., Ga. (PB, TMi), although 50+ were seen that day at Portsmouth I. (HL party). The only Baird's Sandpiper of the summer was at Cape Hatteras point July 21 (SC, AB), whereas an excellent count of Pectoral Sandpipers was of 400+ July 27 at this same site (SC). The Curlew Sandpiper expeditions to Portsmouth I. in late July were successful, with the best count being of a Regional record three birds, in breeding plumage, July 28 (AB, SC, JW). Another Curlew Sandpiper, also in breeding plumage, was at Pea I., July 24 (BO'B). Several records

of Am Woodcocks were made from Buxton to Hatteras village on the Outer Banks during the summer (ML, JF); their breeding status in this area is poorly known. Rather early were Wilson's Phalaropes July 12 at Davis, N.C. (JF, JN) and July 13 at Cape Hatteras point (AB, SC); whereas the latter site hosted a Red-necked Phalarope June 5 (SC). Nine or 10 Red-neckeds were rather late (presumably) off Oregon Inlet June 22 (BO).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS—Seldom seen ashore in South Carolina was a Parasitic Jaeger resting on a jetty at Huntington Beach S.P., June 3 (DS), while a Bonaparte's Gull lingered at Goldsboro, N.C., May 27–June 12 (ED). Although Great Black-backed Gulls summer abundantly on the North Carolina Outer Banks (with a few of them breeding), the species is rare in summer in other states in the Region. Thus, of interest were eight at Folly Beach, S.C., July 26 (PN et al.) and three at St. Simons I., Ga., July 18 (PB, TMi). Daily coverage of tern colonies in Cape Hatteras Nat'l Seashore by Cooper and Barron revealed the presence of two ad. Roseate Terns at Cape Hatteras point June 27. During the next month, two or three other Roseates, although no more than two at a time, were seen, including a banded individual June 29 (JF). Another ad. Roseate was seen 3 mi n. of Corolla, N.C., July 24 (JF), and two more were reported in flight at Bodie I., but no details were received. Unfortunately, none of the birds showed any inkling of breeding, despite a large tern colony at the cape. One wonders if the Roseate occurrences represented an annual phenomenon, as the cape seldom receives thorough coverage in summer. Two



Adult Roseate Tern (center foreground) with Common Terns at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., July 1987. Notice the slender dark bill and very pale upper back on the Roseate. Photo/Mike Tove.

adults of Com. Tern were found July 15 at Bulls Bay (WP); this is a rare breeder in South Carolina. That state also had its first breeding record of **Forster's Tern**. Three sites were located in Cape Romain N.W.R.—two in Bulls Bay and one on Raccoon Key—by Wilkinson, although all sites contained 5 or fewer pairs (fide WP). This is a major range extension from the previously known s. edge on the Atlantic Coast near Beaufort Inlet, N.C. Forster's Terns do, however, breed on the Gulf Coast in large numbers. A Least Tern at Augusta June 5–10 (AW) was a good find. Raccoon Key, S.C., made news again; the 2nd-ever South Carolina nest of **Sooty Tern** was discovered there (PW, WP, SG). None of the previous nests in the Carolinas has produced young, but the fate of this nesting attempt was not reported. One ad. Sooty spent the summer at Cape Hatteras point (AB, SC, m.ob.), and two adults were at Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., June 25 (JaP), but no nests were reported from that state this season.

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS—Two out-of-range Com. Ground-Doves were seen June 29 about 10 mi e. of Camden, S.C. (RC). A number of migrating Black-billed Cuckoos were found on the Outer Banks—three at Currituck Banks June 7 (SC), one at Bodie I., June 7 (JF), and one at Buxton

June 11 (SC) Paget located 3 nesting sites of Com Barn-Owls near Gainesville, Ga., and two hatching-year birds were found in a grain elevator near Oriental, N.C., and brought to Foy on June 14. I doubt that this owl is really as scarce as the records indicate, but few people bother to search for nests or roost sites. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher seen between Kinston and LaGrange, N.C., June 13 (JM, SL) was the season's only report. Horned Larks were encountered in June at 2 sites in Lenoir, N.C. (HL, RB), a slight range extension to the east. A pair of **Tree Swallows** at the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant, Ga., raised two young in June (PB); this is the 2nd known nesting locale for the Region. At the other site, an adult returned to Rum Cr. Wildlife Management Area, Ga., in June (TJ, AJ), but breeding was not ascertained. At Commerce L. in that state, several Trees were seen on 3 days in June, but no breeding activity was noted (JP). Sadly, Bank Swallow apparently no longer nests in the Region; the riverbank where they bred in Wilkes, N.C., has been badly eroded (fide HL). A new colony of Cliff Swallows, with 6 nests, was discovered at Roanoke Rapids L., N.C., in June (FE), at the s.e. edge of the range.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS—The unexplained sightings of territorial House Wrens in pocosin habitats continued this season, as two were singing in w. Carteret, N.C., July 16 (THa). Finally, North Carolina had an inland nest record of **Marsh Wren**. Hendrickson had a singing male July 3 at L. Brandt in Greensboro, and July 8 he found a nest, apparently a dummy one. No female was ever seen. Foy monitored 350 bluebird boxes in Pamlico, N.C., during the summer; 2010 bluebirds were fledged. The Wood Thrush is in trouble over much of the Region. Nesting populations seem to be down by one-third or more from those of 5+ years ago, and tropical deforestation seems to be the logical reason for most of the decline. Although breeding habitat is slowly being destroyed everywhere in the e. United States, this loss of habitat cannot explain the apparent major decline in this and other forest-interior species. At least 13 singing ♂ Gray Catbirds were noted near Folkston and St. George, Ga., this summer (ML, WB), an area where they were previously believed to be rare or absent. At Tanglewood Park near Winston-Salem, N.C., Cedar Waxwings again bred, with 2 active nests (BW, RS). Waxwings were regular all summer at Merchants Millpond S.P., N.C., but no nesting evidence was found (FW). The Loggerhead Shrike decline seems to have "bottomed out," although this is a tentative conclusion. Shrikes are still uncommon in most areas, at best, but numerous nests were reported. Nonetheless, I do not sense any increase in numbers over a large area, and it is still quite a threatened/endangered species here. A singing Solitary Vireo in n.e. Newberry, S.C., June 10 (RC) furnished one of the few breeding season records for that state's Piedmont.

A very early Blue-winged Warbler appeared in n. Fulton, Ga., July 19 (PM, TM). Cooper noted a pair of Yellow Warblers most of June at Buxton, and farther up the coast in mid-June he had one singing at Salvo and another singing at Bodie I. Amazingly, migrant Blackburnian Warblers were seen in both June and July, with late northbound birds at Nags Head, N.C., June 3 (SC) and Pea I., June 7 (JF), and a very early southbound bird July 31 at Augusta (AW, VW). The disjunct breeding population of Cerulean Warbler along the Roanoke R., N.C., appears to be doing well, at least at the w. end; 11 birds were tallied June 11 from Weldon to Halifax (FE, RY). For the past few summers, as many as 4 pairs of Swainson's Warblers have been present in bottomlands and swamps of Morgan Cr. near Chapel Hill, N.C. (HWi, SH). This is the only locale in the state's Piedmont, other than in the mountain foothills, where the species is regular. In s. Cumberland, N.C., a Worm-eating Warbler and an Am. Redstart were found June 6 (PJC, JV), both near the s. edge of the breeding range.

SPARROWS THROUGH CARDUELINES—Large numbers of Bachman's Sparrows were noted in savannas at Holly Shelter Swamp, Pender, N.C. (JF), obviously benefitting from

the great fire in Spring 1986 One was singing in a clear-cut near Jenkinsville, Fairfield, S.C., June 10 (RC). Robin Carter's exploratory field work in the latter state uncovered the first possibly breeding **Lark Sparrows** in South Carolina. He saw two birds (one singing) near Lucknow, Lee, June 25, and one was seen again July 3 (MJ). This discovery is not too surprising, since a few birds breed elsewhere in the Sandhills region in nearby North Carolina. The e. edge of the Grasshopper Sparrow's breeding range becomes better defined each summer, with Coastal Plain reports of six singing near Birdsville, Ga., in May (DSi), one singing near Fayetteville, N.C., May 11 (PJC), another singing near Oak City, N.C., May 25 (ML), and three singing near Kinston, N.C., June 14 (HL). Hardly any new "colonies" of Henslow's Sparrows were found this summer, something that Breeding Bird Atlas projects might correct. Nonetheless, Voice of America facilities in Pitt and Beaufort, N.C., each contained "dozens" of singing birds this season (JWr). Although hardly a glamorous find, Post had a breeding colony of **Boat-tailed Grackles** at L. Moultrie, S.C., a first far-inland nesting record for the Region. Eight females and nests, with three males, were found in giant cutgrass in June. The first breeding record of **Northern Oriole** in South Carolina in over a decade occurred when a nest was found near Boykin (BJ, WP). This oriole is a very sporadic breeder in the Region and occurs mainly in the n.w. Piedmont of North Carolina, where one was singing May 30–June 14 near Clemmons, a somewhat regular location (RS). A pair of House Finches copulating in Beaufort, N.C., in June (LC) provided the first evidence of breeding by the species in any coastal county in the Region.

ADDENDA — Thorough details were received of a **Greater Shearwater** seen flying SE along I-26 near Little Mountain, Newberry, S.C., July 10, 1986 (ST). The shearwater was definitely following the highway, as the observer overtook the bird in his car, pulled ahead of it, and got out of the car and watched it pass by. This is a first inland record for South Carolina and the second for the Region. Accidental for the coast in spring was a **Philadelphia Vireo** at Pea I., May 1, 1987 (JF).

OBSERVERS — Robert Ake, Wilson Baker, Alan Barron, Carroll Belser, Rich Boyd, Patrick Brisse, Dick Brown, Derb Carter, J.H. Carter III, Robin Carter, Sam Cooper, Larry Crawford, P.J. Crutchfield, Evelyn Dabbs (EDa), Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Mark Dodd, Paul DuMont, Caroline Eastman, Frank Enders, Peggy Ferebee, Dennis Forsythe, Dorothy Foy (DFoy), John Fussell, Sidney Gauthreaux, Gilbert Grant, Barbara & Frances Guzy, Tom Haggerty (THa), Steve Hall, G. Hammond, Herb Hendrickson, Tom & Jo Hutcheson, Wayne Irvin, Bruce Jackson, Angela Johnson, Ron Johnson, Terry Johnson, Matt Johnstone, Harry LeGrand, Steve Leonard, Merrill Lynch, Marcia Lyons (MaL), Terry Miller (TMi), Julie Moore, Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Tom Murphy (TMu), Jeremy Nance, Perry Nugent, Bob O'Brien (BO'B), Bob Odear, John Paget, James Parnell (JaP), Sam Pate, T.K. Patterson, Taylor Piephoff, Will Post, T.L. Quay, Paul Raney, Barbara Roth, Dick Schotler, Dave Sibley (DSi), Jim Sipiora, Ramona Snavelly, Simon Thompson, Mike Tove, Jewel Van Harlingen, Margaret Wagner, Heathy Walker, Charlie Walters, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, John Weske, Harriet Whitsett (HWH), Haven Wiley (HWi), Phil Wilkinson (PWi), Floyd Williams, Bob Witherington, Pete Worthington, John Wright (JWr), Randy Yelverton.—**HARRY E. LEGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.**

FLORIDA REGION

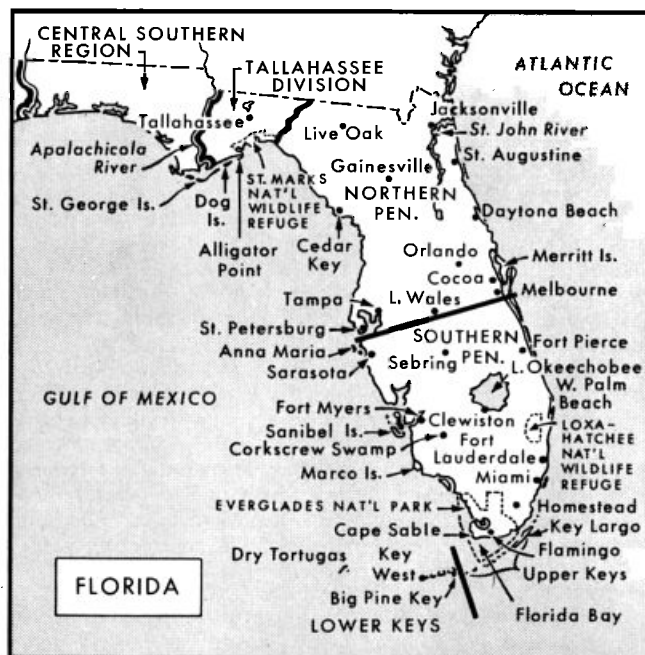
Richard T. Paul

Dry spring conditions continued into the summer period throughout the state. The rainy season did not really begin until late June, and even then rainfall was below normal. As a result, water levels in Lake Okeechobee and the Conservation Areas in south Florida continued to decline. While the drydown provided some locally excellent foraging conditions for wading birds, normal rainfall would have initiated the seasonal reflooding of wetlands—much the healthier pattern here. The lack of thunderstorms and other severe weather, however, probably benefitted ground-nesting birds, as the reports of Least and Royal terns suggest.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.F.B.C. = Cross Florida Barge Canal spoil islands; C.S.M. = Clear Springs phosphate mine; D.T. = Dry Tortugas; E.N.P. = Everglades National Park; F.S.M. = Florida State Museum; F.F.N. = Florida Field Naturalist; G.F.C. = Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Two Com. Loons high over Covington, Jefferson, in mid-June provided an unlikely addition to a Florida Breeding Bird Survey route (JC). Five pelagic trips off the Atlantic coast were moderately successful, tallying six Cory's, five Greater, and nine Audubon's shearwaters, and 29 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (HL, TT; JJ, FF, MH; H & BD). Another Greater Shearwater was found dead n. of St. Augustine (PP; * to F.S.M.). A single Sooty Shearwater was nearly landlocked in the Bahia Honda Channel n. of the bridge June 19 (ML).

Summering Am. White Pelicans were present at Hickory Mound Impoundment, Taylor, throughout the period and



peaked at 99 birds July 28 (DB, JEC). Brown Pelican populations continue to increase: the biennial G.F.C. aerial survey in May tallied 33 nesting colonies and just over 10,900 nesting pairs, a new all-time high (SN). Anhingas are normally fresh-water birds but occasionally turn up in the Keys; this year one was seen at n. Key Largo July 27 (MB). The Marquesas Keys colony

of Magnificent Frigatebirds was inactive this year and appeared to be abandoned, last year just 13 young had fledged (TW) Four frigatebird roosts in the Lower Keys totalled 1000-1300 birds, half at Little Crane Key alone (TW).

HERONS THROUGH STORKS — Two Least Bittern nests, one successful, were found on Florida Bay keys in July, possibly the first nesting records for this marine site (RB). "Great White" Herons, it is now recognized, disperse N following nesting in s Florida; this season two were detected near Sarasota July 15-16 (RH) and at Zellwood just n. of L. Apopka July 30 (DF, TR).

The normal late winter-spring nesting season in s. Florida was extremely quiet (see John Ogden's winter report). In past years some colonies have shifted to a summer schedule, but this year just one such colony was reported: about 1000 pairs of Cattle Egrets and White Ibises in Taylor Slough, E.N.P. (OB). Coastal colonies were busier. The 4 largest mixed-species colonies reported were Alafia Bank (9500+ pairs of 14 species; RTP), Seahorse Key (9600+ pairs of nine species; LAH), Haul-over (7000 of 13 species; RTP) and Terra Ceia Bird Key (3100 of 14; RTP). [All totals include pelicans and cormorants as well as herons. For newer readers of this column, colony locations are, respectively, Tampa Bay, Cedar Keys N.W.R., Terra Ceia Bay, and Merritt Island N.W.R.] Also in the good news column, Ted Below found seven heron species in normal numbers from Estero Bay to Cape Romano, with 310 pairs of Great Egrets, nearly twice the 5-year mean.

Reddish Egrets nested at 3 new sites (Estero, Rookery, and Roberts Bays, the latter near Sarasota; TB, RTP, BSP) but still totalled fewer than 15 pairs between Tampa Bay and their Florida Bay stronghold. Two imm. Reddish Egrets were present throughout the period at St. Marks Light, where they are now annual visitors (JEC, HMS), and two adults were seen there July 14 (HMS). Two large White Ibis colonies were reported, both from coastal sites noted above: 8500 pairs at Seahorse Key (LAH) and 6000 pairs at Alafia Bank (RTP). Both estimates were about 50% above those of a year ago, but below the numbers of 10-20 years past. A single Scarlet Ibis was seen southeast of L. Thonotosassa July 19 (Joan E. Macior), while a Scarlet x White "hybrid" was at Flamingo June 20 (PWS, SS, HMS). Glossy Ibises showed a satisfying increase at Alafia Bank, with 440 pairs, the highest estimate ever for that site (RTP). A single Glossy at Ft. Jefferson June 8 was unusual there (DL), and 12 near St. Marks Light July 28 furnished a high count for that area (RG).

A Roseate Spoonbill nest discovered Apr. 30 at Peacock's Pocket, Merritt Island N.W.R., provided the first confirmed Atlantic coast nesting of this species this century. Three young fledged (R.B. Smith, D.R. Breining, details to be published). On the Gulf coast, 50 pairs nested at Alafia, the most since their return to Tampa Bay in 1975. One spoonbill was seen July 30 at an inland site, Zellwood (DF, TR). Once again the news about Wood Storks was disturbing. The only nesting s. of L. Okeechobee was at Cuthbert, E.N.P., where a small colony got a very late start (April!) and fledged about 60 young in July. The wet winter may well have delayed the onset of nesting, while the dry spring and summer probably contributed to the colony's success (BR, SJ, JCO). In c. and n. Florida several small colonies were reported, including 3 new ones in *Columbia*, *Indian River*, and *Sarasota*, the latter a coastal site (JAR, RTP, BSP).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A Mute Swan present for nearly 2 years at the City of Tampa sewage lagoons was seen again June 6 (*vide* Hank Bowen). North of its usual Florida range, a Mottled Duck was seen at St. Marks Light July 7 (RG). On the other hand, a ♂ Blue-winged Teal, two Redheads, and two Ring-necked Ducks all were caught lingering s. of normal in a brackish pond near Horseshoe Beach, *Dixie*, June 9 (Reed Noss). Still farther s., a skittish pair of Blue-winged Teal with at least two downy young was seen on the Hillsborough R. in Tampa in mid-July, for a rare nesting record there (DP). A few

pairs of Blue-wingeds also summered at Homeland (*vide* DP) Scattered Lesser Scaup may summer along Florida coasts, but one at C.S.M., June 13 furnished the first *Polk* summer record (PF).

Hooded Mergansers are very rare breeders in Florida. This year, females on eggs in Wood Duck boxes were found at Swift Creek Pond, *Union*, Mar. 11, Ocean Pond, *Baker*, Mar. 12, and two in *Clay* Mar. 25 (DC). A flightless ♂ Hooded in apparent eclipse plumage in s. Jacksonville furnished P. Powell's first summer record in 17 years. A ♂ Red-breasted Merganser July 9 at L. Washington had perhaps strayed from the coast, where summering birds are more likely (FF, KB, MH). A pair of Ruddy Ducks at C.S.M. was photographed with a brood of six young June 13 (PF), for the 4th Florida breeding record.

Because of recent concerns about declining Osprey numbers in the Keys, several agencies have begun cooperative study. Among preliminary results are these: the Florida Bay population has stabilized since 1984 at about 100 pairs, half the number found in the early 1970s. Productivity of mainline Keys nests in 1987 was greater than that of nests in the bay, but the difference is not yet understood and work continues (JH, Marty Fleming). In less extensive surveys elsewhere, 26 nests were found at Cedar Keys and 23 at the Suwannee R mouth (LAH).

An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite nest found near Newport July 8 may have provided the first confirmed record for the Tallahassee Division (HMS), while a pair seen throughout the period near Sopchoppy (BS) may also have been nesting. Others seen near Gainesville again suggested nesting there (BPM) Snail Kites have rebounded well from the drought of 1980-1981; last winter 563 kites were counted in the annual G F C survey, while this spring over 500 "nest starts" were found including 450 in the Conservation Areas and 12-15 in L. Kissimmee (JAR). It was not clear just how many breeding pairs were represented in that total, because it included re-nesting attempts and probably also nests used in courtship that did not receive eggs (JAR). Mississippi Kites have for some time been known to nest s. to Gainesville; for the past 5 years they have been seen regularly 30 mi to the south at Ocala (JS) Perhaps nesting too?

Bald Eagles continued to do well, with 391 active territories found in the annual statewide G.F.C. survey. Of these 72% were successful, with productivity right at the 10-year average of 1.02 young/active nest (SN). A Sharp-shinned Hawk seen well at Hickory Mound Impoundment June 9 furnished one of very few summer records for this species in n. Florida (JEC) (Two July reports of Sharp-shinneds were omitted for lack of supporting details.) Southeast of previously known breeding range limits, a Cooper's Hawk nest with two downy young and an angry parent was an exciting find May 27 near Stuart (Ted Hendrickson, Ann Buckley). For the 5th consecutive year, a pair of Cooper's Hawks nested at Archbold Biol. Station (and the presence of an immature nearby July 23 suggested a 2nd, FL). Another nest was reported near Shady Hills May 7 (SP) Rarely seen anytime in the Tampa Bay area, a Cooper's was at Simmons Park, Ruskin, July 17 (RTP). Another Florida breeding record of Broad-winged Hawk was confirmed July 1 when two adults attending a newly-fledged young were found near a nest near Madison (PDS). The only Short-tailed Hawk reported was one June 10 over the Oklawaha R. in *Marion*, where one had been seen but not reported last year (JS). One Am. Kestrel nest was found and 2 more suspected just s. of Shady Hills in May, while farther south another was located along the Alafia R. in the "Arvida Tract" in an isolated dead pine (SP). Other kestrels were seen in longleaf pine-turkey oak sandhills near Kingsley Lake May 13 (one bird; ML) and near Interlachen July 7 (two birds; ML).

RAILS THROUGH SANDPIPERS — The elusive Black Rail was twice found at Hickory Mound Impoundment On June 9, one circled brazenly over JEC's car when a recording of a male's song was played. Ten days later a female called excitedly for 5 minutes in response to the tape but did not

appear (JEC) Less shy was a Purple Gallinule with brood of two in tow at the Key West golf course June 14, a rare Keys nesting record for this species (JO). Common Moorhen broods were also seen on Stock I., June 8 and July 2 (JO). Three Sandhill Cranes were seen from the air at Pinhook Swamp, n. Baker, June 4 (ML, WB). Crane populations in this area are poorly known, but probably widely—if sparsely—distributed in the prairie wetlands of n. Florida, from about Gainesville n. to the Okefenokee Swamp (fide SN).

Nesting Snowy Plovers were again reported from Longboat Key, where the Sokals found single pairs with two young each in June and on July 25. Four Semipalmated Plovers at Boca Chica July 15 (JO) were presumably summering. American Oystercatchers proved unexpectedly common on spoil islands off the Crystal River power plant and C.F.B.C., June 13; 135 were found, including at least 36 nesting pairs (RTP). Eleven broods of Black-necked Stilts totalled 25 young at St. Marks Light in late July, surprising abundance for this area (JR). An Am Avocet at St. Marks Light July 6 (Daan Sandee) and a Solitary Sandpiper at the Tallahassee sewage ponds July 8 (HMS) were the earliest fall migrant shorebirds reported, while late spring migrants included an estimated 8000–10,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers around Cedar Key June 1 (L. Alexander), 28 White-rumpeds at C.S.M., June 6 (PF) and possibly the Whimbrel at Hickory Mound Impoundment June 2 (JEC). On the other hand, a Long-billed Curlew summered at Ft. DeSoto (JD, L & BA), and so possibly did four Marbled Godwits seen at Tampa June 6 (fide HB).

LARIDS — The largest Laughing Gull colony in the state again formed on Island 3D in Hillsborough Bay, and as last year the only estimate was very general: “tens of thousands” (RTP). Elsewhere, 2600 nests were estimated at Passage Key June 20 (LAH) and 1500 at the Banana R. spoil islands May 18 (RTP). In the Keys, 6 Laughing Gull nests were found on Ohio Key May 28 (Harry Darrow), an unusual site. For the 3rd straight year a Great Black-backed Gull was reported, this time a probable 2nd-year bird from Fernandina Beach June 7 (John Hintermister).

Six Gull-billed Tern nests were rained out at Island 3D in June (RTP). Apparently they were more successful at C.S.M., where fledged young were seen (no date, no numbers; fide PF). Four pairs were also found at a Port Canaveral spoil bank June 15 (JJ, MH). Four to five Gull-billeds, an unusual number for the locality, were present through the period at St. Marks N W R. (JR, RG). Forty-seven pairs of Caspians and at least 450 pairs of Royals nested on Island 3D, the latter with outstanding results (423 young near fledging July 3; RTP). Other Royal colonies were at Passage Key (1025 nests June 20; LAH), Banana R. spoil islands (670 pairs May 18; RTP) and C.F.B.C. (50 pairs June 13; RTP). Extremely rare breeders in Florida, Sandwich Terns were confirmed at 3D (3 nests May 30; RTP) and C.F.B.C. (25 nests June 13; RTP). The latter exceeded the sum of all previous nesting attempts in the Region this century.

Rooftop nesting of Least Terns was reported from St. Petersburg, Venice, Ft. Myers, Hypoluxo, W. Palm Beach, Wellington, St. Augustine, Jacksonville, and the Keys (m.ob.). Most comprehensive was the Keys report: in a mid-June, Keys-wide survey, 692 pairs were found at 38 colonies; 71% of the birds and 38% of the colonies were on rooftops (JH)! Also of interest were 10 pairs with eggs inland at the Lakeland power plant May 15 (fide PF), and the 1000 pairs at Caxambas and Big Marco Passes that enjoyed outstanding nesting success (TB).

A total of 21 Bridled Terns were reported from 3 July pelagic trips off Cape Canaveral and Port Salerno (JJ, FF, MH, H & BD) The outstanding report of this species, however, was from the Lower Keys, where a nest of **Bridled Tern** with one young at Pelican Shoal (off Boca Chica) July 15 (AS, WH) furnished a first breeding record for North America. An ad. Sooty Tern on the beach at Anastasia State Rec. Area July 23 was found dead 2 days later (CD, LIH; * to F.S.M.). Seven healthier Sooties were seen June 14 off the *Palm Beach* coast (HL, TT). Three Black Terns near St. Marks Light June 22–29 were the earliest

reported (JR) Black Skimmer colonies reported included 200 pairs at Island 3D and 115 at Passage Key in Tampa Bay (RTP, LAH), 130 at Caxambas Pass (TB), 100 at Port Canaveral (JJ, MH), and 39 nests July 9 at the small spoil island managed for beach-nesting species near the Sanibel Causeway (Ron Hight)

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Eurasian Colared-Doves, confirmed nesting last fall (see fall report), were increasing at Ruskin, where PWS and SS found 15 pairs plus a few newly-fledged juveniles May 15–16. The **Key West Quail-Dove** discovered on Boot Key in March remained at least until June 19 (ML). Canary-winged Parakeets seen by ML in Coral Gables June 18 totalled 75. That same evening at a roost in Kendall were 50 Red-crowned Parrots, 20+ Yellow-headed, several *Aratinga* sp., and an unidentified medium-sized parrot (ML).

From the Keys came a report of a possible double-brooded pair of E. Screech-Owls. Broods of four and two fledged Mar 23 and July 23, respectively, from the same box (JCO, MB) Burrowing Owls were reported to be increasing on former sod farms near Wellington and in White Fences, an equestrian community near Loxahatchee (CHP). These “howdy birds” may be more common than previously realized near Brandon and Riverview, where development of open country has led to reports of nests in several localities (RTP, BAM). At Cape Coral, another residential area, 156 Burrowing Owl nests were found in a 12 square mi area. Sixty-two per cent of the nests were successful and 286 young were fledged, half the figure for western birds (BAM).

Antillean Nighthawks were common on Plantation Key this summer, with some “hybrid-sounding calls” heard (JCO) Twelve were seen and heard on Big Pine Key June 19 (ML), an indication of abundance there. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest, found Mar. 25 with incubating female aboard at Oscar Scherer S.P., provided a first Sarasota nesting record (Marie Manthe). An imm. ♂ Ruby-throated first seen June 6 spent the entire period at Street Nature Center, Winter Haven (BC), while another at W. Palm Beach July 27 was thought to be an early fall migrant (CP).

The E. Wood-Pewee present from June 20 to the end of the period in W. Palm Beach was s. of expected summer range (C & RP). Great Crested Flycatchers are regularly found in mangrove habitats and ought to nest there; a pair feeding recently-fledged young on Middle Butternut Key in Florida Bay in July furnished welcome confirmation (RB). Two E. Kingbird nests near Loxahatchee were near the s. limits for that species (CP) A pair of Gray Kingbirds feeding a youngster July 5 in E. Ft. Myers was 15 mi inland and one-half mi s. of the Caloosahatchee R., an unusual nesting locality (L & BA), although others were reported nesting throughout the Ft. Myers area and also downtown Sarasota, W. Palm Beach, and Lake Worth's Casino Park (L & BA, EM, CP). Another Gray Kingbird at SR 997 and the Miami Canal June 21 was also inland (HMS).

MARTINS THROUGH WARBLERS — At Ochlockonee Bay June 18 was a concentration of 1000 Purple Martins (BS), one more example of the huge early fall migration in n. Florida (fide HMS). Northern Rough-winged Swallows were confirmed nesting in Polk June 20 (BC, AA) and Orange July 11 (BLP, GS), and suspected nesting at Wellington June 11 (GH). Barn Swallows continued their gains of last year, with nests found at the US 98 Aucilla R. bridge, Steinhatchee, Cedar Key, and several new areas in Duval (m.ob.)—and, of all places, the Whale Harbor bridge in Islamorada (AS, WH)!

White-breasted Nuthatches have withdrawn from much of their former breeding range in n. Florida. A single bird recorded from Dixie in June without details (HS) was an excellent find, and needs to be followed up. Singing Am. Robins were found June 3 near Macclenny, Baker (ML, WB), and Alachua July 3–4 (RDR). Another robin was in Tampa June 6 (fide HB), where a pair nested a few years ago. Gray Catbirds have increased in n. Florida recently, and the trend continues. Active nests and/or singing males were reported from 7 different counties,

the southernmost being *Alachua* (m ob) A Bahama Mockingbird made a brief appearance on Plantation Key July 5 (Nancy Paul, Melvin Ray). Brown Thrashers nested for the 2nd year in a row in Key West (JO). Of four species of mynas now in s. Florida, reports were received of two. Two Com. Mynas at Homestead June 20 were thought probable breeders (PWS, SS, HMS). Hill Mynas were common near Matheson Hammock, s. Miami, June 18, where ML saw eight; another was seen June 20 in Homestead (PWS, SS, HMS).

A Red-eyed Vireo seen w. of Grant July 1 was somewhat s.e. of known nesting localities and thought possibly an early migrant (HMS), while a Yellow-throated Vireo at Ft. Jefferson, D.T., July 30 furnished the 3rd summer record there (DL). Although N. Parulas nest s. to *Collier*, one seen June 1 at Hypoluxo I was a late spring migrant (HL). Another Parula in song w. of Grant July 1 was 60 mi s.s.e. of the nearest known nesting localities in Brevard (HMS). Single Yellow-throated and Prairie warblers at Ft. Jefferson, D.T., July 30 provided the 3rd summer records there for both species (DL). A singing ♂ Prairie Warbler remained in the Plockelmans' W. Palm Beach yard until June 28, but no nest was found. More likely to be nesting were two singing males along Hwy 2 in n. Baker May 14, one near Boulogne, Nassau, May 15, and another near Callahan (also Nassau) on the same date (ML, WB). The latter records may indicate a s.e. extension of breeding range of the race *discolor*. Less encouraging was the report of a pair of Prairies feeding a nestling Brown-headed Cowbird at Tierra Verde June 5 (LA).

Black-and-white Warblers are among the earlier fall migrant warblers, and one on Sugarloaf Key July 21 was in the vanguard (KS, JO). An Am. Redstart 22 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral July 31 furnished the earliest Brevard offshore record (JJ, FF, MH). Swainson's Warblers were found at the edge of their breeding range at Shady Grove, Taylor, June 3 and along the Wacissa R., Jefferson, June 23 (JC). One or more (possibly three) Yellow-breasted Chats were found in song at Paynes Prairie through July 15 (SN), where they have been reported for the last 2 years, with nesting not yet verified (BPM). Another chat was found in soft song in n. Flagler near the coast June 30, unusually far south for this species along the e. coast (HMS).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH ORIOLES — Long suspected in the Green Swamp, nesting of Blue Grosbeaks was confirmed May 26 when BC and Mae Hartshaw found a pair of adults feeding young. Also near the s. limit of breeding range were three more Blue Grosbeaks and an Indigo Bunting s.w. of Oviedo July 1 (HMS). Male and ♀ Painted Buntings in "rural *Alachua*" June 14-15 (RDR) were s.e. of the known limit of breeding range, and earlier than previous summer transient records for the county (*fide* BPM); could they have been breeding? Field Sparrows were surprisingly common in June Breeding Bird Atlas surveys near Lake City (m.ob.). The easternmost record was of a singing male in a large recent clearcut near Hilliard June 26 (ML, WB).

The last "pure" Dusky Seaside Sparrow died June 16 at Disney World (*fide* HK). Five Dusky x Scott's crosses remain. The decline of this race from "common in restricted habitats" to "nearly extinct" in less than 15 years should remind us all of the extreme vulnerability of sedentary forms with narrow habitat tolerances.

For the 3rd consecutive year **Shiny Cowbirds** were reported from s. Florida. One was seen along an Islamorada roadside feeding with Red-winged Blackbirds, Boat-tailed Grackles, and Eur. Collared-Doves on cracked corn June 19 (ML). Six more of both sexes were with three Brown-headed Cowbirds at Flamingo June 20 (PWS, SS, HMS), where they had been seen in May as well (see spring report). Brown-headed Cowbirds have rapidly expanded down the Florida peninsula in the last few years; noteworthy records this period included a flock of 40 at Cedar Key June 28 (RDR), a male at Scottsmoor July 1 (HMS), and an unstated number along Pinellas coastlines (Larry Hopkins).

S.A.

Cowbird parasitism may already be affecting Florida passerines. Over the last few years Lyn Atherton has noted a sharp decline in numbers of singing Gray Kingbirds, Black-whiskered Vireos, and Prairie Warblers at Ft. DeSoto, and this season found a pair of Prairies feeding a fledgling cowbird. So far, most cowbird records s of Gainesville have been coastal, suggesting that declines may first be noticed among species of mangrove habitats—the three noted above, plus the "Cuban" Yellow Warbler in Florida Bay and the Keys. Inland forms, including the endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, also may be at risk. Two years ago I suggested that indices of abundance for potentially vulnerable species be established; these are now urgently needed! In addition, wherever possible nest contents should be recorded in order to determine rates of parasitism.

A ♂ Orchard Oriole was seen south of Belle Glade June 6, a very late spring date (GH, HL).

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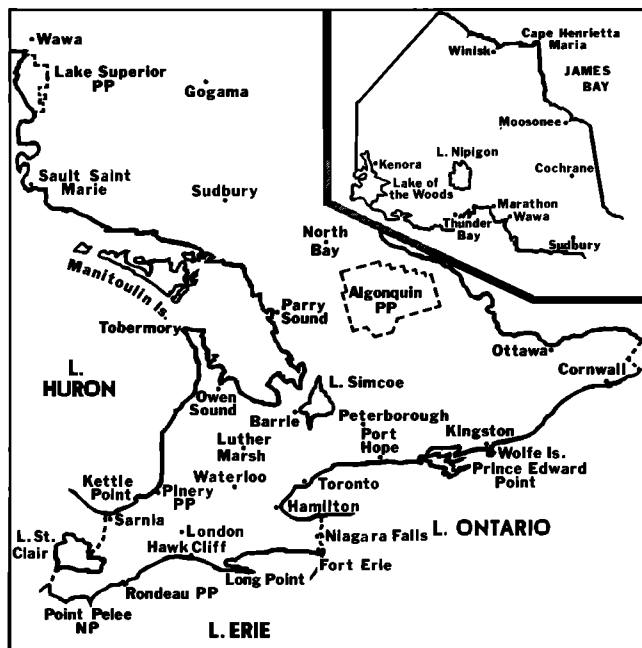
Ron D. Weir

Spring migration that often extends into early June was unusually light, suggesting that most movement took place during May, when ideal weather conditions prevailed. Hot and dry weather over much of Ontario promoted early nesting, early fledging, and early flocking. Fortunately, locations in the northwest experienced normal rainfall, sufficient to prevent abnormal numbers of forest fires. Southbound shorebirds arrived in the south one to two weeks earlier than usual. Numbers of nesting cormorants and Ring-billed Gulls have again increased along the Great Lakes; bluebirds appear to have had a successful nesting season, owing in large part to nest box programs. Among the rarities were a Western Kingbird nest (the first to be confirmed for Ontario), four Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Northern Wheatear, and Sage Thrasher.

ABBREVIATIONS — Pelee = Point Pelee Nat'l Park & vicinity. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — One late Red-throated Loon in breeding (alternate) plumage was at Bracebridge June 9 (ph. RLB) and another appeared at Kingston June 28 (CC, DG). A 3rd, but in basic plumage, was seen occasionally at Presqu'île P.P. during the period (L. Kivi). High water levels in Quetico P.P. washed out a number of Com. Loon nests (SFP), but in the Kenora area, many nests were successful (SRM). Four pairs summered along L. Ontario at Ajax, and one young was raised (GMB). Single Horned Grebes in alternate plumage were late at the Alfred sewage lagoon, Prescott, June 2 (CH) and Walpole I., June 9 (YRT). Other late grebes were Red-neckeds in Algonquin P.P., June 10 (RGT, MJR) and off the Cranberry Marsh, Whitby, July 5 (DVR, SR). Some 37, including several family groups with up to four young, were counted at Whitefish L., 60 km s.w. of Thunder Bay, July 29 (NGE). The only report of an Eared Grebe was of a single at Strathroy June 6 (GEM). Two Am. White Pelicans at the Hullett Wildlife Ref. near Clinton, Huron, July 17-18 (JBM) may have been the same individuals reported there during May.

Numbers of Double-crested Cormorants continue to climb. Results from the surveys by Canadian Wildlife Service staff showed 36 colonies containing 7981 nests within the Canadian



sector of the Great Lakes, a 48% rise over 1986. The 3396 nests in the 6 L. Ontario colonies led the totals, followed by 3264 nests in 22 colonies within L. Huron (DVW). A late nest of Least Bittern at Sandbanks P.P. held three young Aug. 8 (RTS). Post-breeding concentrations of Great Blue Herons numbered 191 in the Cranberry Marsh July 25 (GMB) and 57 in Mississauga's Rattray Marsh July 21 (TO). The five Great Egrets away from the s.w. were not a high number. These were at the Pickering Corner Marsh June 12 (JMS), Heckston, Grenville, June 19 (RAB), Dundas Marsh June 20 (WL), and Hullett Wildlife Area, Clinton, where two were present throughout (WT). Only two Snowy Egrets were reported, at Sarnia June 2-3 (KVO et al.) and in e. Hamilton Bay through June and July. The latter bird was in first-summer plumage and was likely one from last year's successful nesting there (KAM). Only one Cattle Egret was noted, at Pelee June 4 (GTH). Extremely rare in any season was the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in London July 6 (ph. RM). The fortunes of the Black-crowned Night-Heron may be improving in Ontario. The 215 nests in e. Hamilton Bay were up over last summer's 184 (LS), and 591 nests were counted along Toronto's e. Headland (TW). One immature was in Sudbury June 27 (CGB).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES — A ♀ N. Shoveler tended her brood of four near Maple July 3 in the same pond where a N. Pintail had nested in 1985 (GMB). In a census along the L. Ontario shoreline from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Ajax during July, Gadwall was 2nd to Mallard as the most common duck (GMB). Noteworthy nestings of Gadwall included four females with 21 chicks in the Cranberry Marsh June 21 (DVR) and a female with 10 young in Thunder Bay July 21 (NGE, BA). The only Eur. Wigeon reported, after their strong spring showing, was a male at Sudbury June 6-17 (CGB, GB et al.). Numbers of Am. Wigeon were unusually high, led by 70 at the Port Perry lagoons July 26 (MJB), 15 at Pelee July 28 (AW), four at Presqu'île P.P., June 15 (JD, TD), and a pair at Virginiatown June 28 (PWR). A lone Canvasback spent the entire period in the Mitchell lagoon (JBM, MPD). Up to six Redheads were in Presqu'île P.P., June 1-14 (SML), where the species had bred in 1986. One in Ottawa July 1 was rare for the season (TFMB). One pair of Lesser Scaup was in the Mitchell sewage



Red-throated Loon in breeding plumage at Muskoka River, Ont., June 9, 1987. Photo/R. L. Bowles.

lagoons throughout (JBM), but young were not reported. A male in Algonquin P.P., June 2 was late (MJR). Each spring, a few Oldsquaws choose not to return to the arctic, and instead over-summer on the Great Lakes. Two of these were at Blind R., June 24 (DVV, RD) and Toronto Islands July 15 (GMB). Non-breeding Com. Goldeneyes s. of range were singles in the Niagara area June 28 (fide RFA), Toronto Islands July 15 (GMB), and Presqu'ile P.P., July 25 & 26, where two were noted June 15 (fide SML). The 30 Red-breasted Mergansers at Pelee June 3 decreased to 12 by June 15, but three and two were still there July 8 and Aug. 1 respectively (AW). Ruddy Ducks included three in the Mitchell lagoons all season (JBM, MPD), a female in the Blenheim ponds (AW, KJB), seven males in the Alfred lagoons, Prescott, July 19 (BMD), and a male at Amherstview Aug. 3 (WB).

Turkey Vulture numbers are expanding in the Thunder Bay area, where a record high of 12 was tallied at Whitefish L., July 29 (NGE). Farther west, the species was common all summer in the Kenora area (SRM). The seven at Wheatley P.P., June 3 and nine at Pelee June 4 were probably late migrants (AW). Tragedy struck a pair of Ospreys at their nest atop a power pole near Peterborough, when heavy rains induced a short-circuit that set the nest on fire and electrocuted two young birds (AGC). Farther e. along the lower Rideau, the species continued to prosper. On Devil L. alone, some 20 active nests were tallied during June (VS). Accipiter nest reports involved a Sharp-shinned Hawk in Moosonee (AMM), a Cooper's within the City of Kingston from which four young fledged July 16 (WB, JHE, RDW), and a N. Goshawk near Vernonville, Peterborough (J. Sells). The only Golden Eagle report was of a single at Winisk June 4 & 8 (ME, JH).

A nesting N. Bobwhite on Walpole I. was found with six chicks (SAC et al.), and other reports were of singles June 1 near Stratford (MPD) and Perth (CT). The 11 King Rails on Walpole I., July 13 included two adults with seven young (KVO et al.), and the adult with three young at Shallow L., June 30 may have established Grey's first confirmed breeding (JBM et al.). The only other was one at Rondeau P.P., June 6 (PAW). The Am. Coot with seven chicks in the Bracebridge lagoon July 6 provided a new nesting record for Muskoka (RLB). Several Sandhill Cranes were in the Matachewan area throughout summer, but their suspected nesting was not confirmed (LT). A single was near Clinton July 28 (WT), perhaps a wanderer from those nesting areas along the Bruce peninsula. One flying NW over Madoc, Hastings, June 24 was well out of nesting range (WS).

SHOREBIRDS — Two Lesser Golden-Plovers in breeding plumage were at Erieau June 5, where one in basic plumage stayed to June 9 (AW, KJB). The last of the northbound Semipalmated Plovers were reported at Erieau June 12 (AW, KJB) and Mitchell June 14 (JBM). Counts of Piping Plovers were of 2 pairs plus a nest containing 4 eggs near Rainy R., June 7 (fide SFP) and seven adults plus 2 nests with eggs on Lake-of-the-Woods June 18 (DHE, TJN). Three of the seven adults at the latter site wore bands. The only Am. Avocet noted was at Rainy R., June 6–9 (fide SFP). A ♂ Hudsonian Godwit in breeding plumage at Port Perry June 7 was a late spring migrant (MJB), while a 2nd in the period was reported at Sault Ste. Marie, but without a date of occurrence (ph. TDM). Northbound Ruddy Turnstones numbered 123 and 99 at Pelee June 1 & 3 respectively (AW), and the last one of spring was at Presqu'ile P.P., June 18 (KK, JD). Last dates for other spring migrants were a Red Knot at Whitby's Cranberry Marsh June 10 (MJB), a Sanderling at Presqu'ile P.P., June 6 (KK), and a Pectoral Sandpiper at Kingsville June 15 (AW, AJR).

Post-breeding congregations included 196 Killdeer at Kingsville ponds July 12, and 29 ad. Spotted Sandpipers at Kingsville and Harrow June 24 (AW). The first waves of returning yellowlegs were early, as Greater appeared at Whitby and Kingston June 21 (MJB, JHE, PG) and Ottawa June 26 (BMD), and

Lessers at Presqu'ile P.P., June 19 (JD, KK), Whitby June 21 (MJB), Casselman June 23 (BMD), and Blenheim and Kingsville June 24 (KJB, AW). An early Solitary Sandpiper arrived at the Winchester lagoons June 24 (BMD) and between July 1–6, the species flew in to Peterborough, Vaughn, Whitby, Bracebridge, and Kingston. Two Willets in Quetico P.P., July 5 were a surprise (fide SFP) and were likely early migrants. The first of the southbound Whimbrels were near Bright's Grove July 6 (SAC) and in Ajax July 12–24, when two fed in an urbanized lakefront park (MJB). First reports of other returning littorals were four Ruddy Turnstones at Pelee's tip July 31 (AW), a Red Knot in the Dundas Marsh July 29 (WL), 10 ad. Sanderlings at Presqu'ile P.P., July 21 (RDM), an early juv. Least Sandpiper at Pelee July 31 (AW), a White-rumped at Guelph July 12 (RVT), and one Pectoral at Kingsville June 27, the same day an ad. Stilt Sandpiper was there (AW). The only report of W. Sandpiper was of a single in Vaughn's Donkey Pond July 9 & 16 (BF, GMB). Baird's Sandpipers reported were a single at the Bracebridge lagoons July 24 (fide RLB) and three in Thunder Bay July 26 (NGE, BA). The two Ruffs, the first in the summer period since 1984, were a female in Ottawa July 24 (BMD) and one in Pickering July 26 (DM, fide GMB).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — A light phase ad. Parasitic Jaeger in Ottawa June 18 spent most of the day along the Ottawa R., for the area's 3rd ever in spring (CG et al.), thereby further reinforcing the view that this waterway is an important thoroughfare to and from James Bay. Sightings of Laughing Gulls have totalled nine birds in the past 6 summers, and this season's was an adult in breeding plumage at Blenheim June 29 (KJB). Reports of Little Gulls are down sharply and it is unclear whether this phenomenon is real or reflects a lack of observer activity. The only sightings were of one in first-summer feather at Ottawa June 14 (GP), an adult at Rondeau P.P., July 15 (PAW), and several during late July in the Pickering area (GMB). Bonaparte's Gulls returned early at several locations. The three at Pelee July 11 set a record by 8 days for adults (AW), and immatures were at Whitby July 10 (MJB) and Amherst I., July 12 (JHE, RDW). High water levels forced Ring-billed Gulls to abandon their traditional colonies on Walpole



First-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull at Wheatley Harbour, Ont., June 1, 1987. In addition to the usual features of the species, this bird was readily picked out from similar-aged Herring Gulls by the retention of an all-black bill (extensively pale-based in almost all Herrings) and more sharply defined breast streakings (more diffuse in Herring). Photo/Alan Wormington.

I and Kettle Pt in favor of a Sarnia chemical site, where there was a high success rate among the 300 nests (SAC). Their 21,000 nests in e. Hamilton Bay this summer represented an increase over the 16,000 there in 1986 (RD). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported. One of Wheatley's spring birds in first-summer plumage remained to June 26 (ph. AW), and an adult believed to be *L.f. fuscus* near Pembroke June 2 was that area's first ever (CM). A late Glaucous Gull in 2nd-summer plumage was in Stittsville June 14 (BMD).

The 134 nests of Caspian Terns in e. Hamilton Bay were triple the number there in 1986 (RD), while in the Pelee area, a juvenile seen July 17 was record early by 8 days (AW). East Hamilton Bay hosted 553 nests of Com. Terns, also representing an increase over those in 1986 (RD). However, in Simcoe, human disturbance was thought to have been the cause of the species abandoning a traditional nest site in Sparrow Lake (RLB). Peak Com. Tern numbers returning to Pelee were 900 and 750 tallied July 25 & 27 respectively (AW et al.). Sightings of Forster's Terns were confined mainly to the extreme s.w., where a juvenile appeared record early by 12 days at Pelee June 27 (AW). The only birds away from Essex and Kent were two at Sky L., Bruce, June 27–July 4 (DF, JBM).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS — Moosonee's spring Mourning Dove was last seen June 4 (WAH), and roosts of this species during July in the south contained 1000+ at St. Catharines (RC) and 400+ at Niagara-on-the-Lake (MEF). Only in Muskoka were increased numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos found (RLB). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were scarce everywhere for the 3rd consecutive summer, and the only notable sightings were of one at Richmond June 13 and two at Murphy Drain, Grenville, June 14 (DFB). The injured captive pair of Com. Barn-Owls at the Owl Research & Rehabilitation Foundation, Vineland Station, which has produced so many young for release, failed to reproduce this year (KMCK). The male is known to be at least 29 years old, and it seems he has become worn out. Successful E. Screech-Owl nests were in Stratford and Winchester, Dundas, during early July, from which two and three young were fledged, respectively (MPD, BMD). A healthy Snowy Owl sweated out the entire period at North Gower, s. of Ottawa (BMD), and another was sighted near Mildmay, Bruce, June 2 (MPD). A nest of Long-eared Owls contained four young near Sudbury June 7 (JGL). Short-eared Owls fared well in the south, which is encouraging news following their poor breeding record there during the Atlas period 1981–1985. Seven pairs were at 4 Ottawa sites, where breeding was confirmed (BMD et al.). The seven juveniles admitted to the Owl Research & Rehabilitation Foundation made an unusually large number (KMCK).

The 12 Com. Nighthawks at Narrow's Lock June 7 were migrating N along the Rideau (KS). Less than 6 weeks later, the first post-breeding flocks were reported at Kenora July 15 (SRM), followed by early groups of 15 at Virginiatown and 200 at Atikokan July 21 (PWR, DHE). A Whip-poor-will in Quetico P.P., June 29 was one of the few for the park (TJN). A Black-backed Woodpecker nest near Glen Alda in June turned out to be the first known success for Peterborough (BCO). A nest at Heron Bay held two young July 6 (SS, JK). Acadian Flycatchers were reported at Pelee June 6 & 19 (TP, AW), 2 sites in Elgin June 10 & 26 (WJR, WP), and one site in Lambton June 9 (SAC). A **Western Kingbird** nest containing at least two young was found near Rainy R., June 9 (DHE, TJN). The species is rare at any season in Ontario, and this nest provided the first confirmed breeding for the province. In the south, a single adult was on South Limestone I., Georgian Bay, June 2 (BMD). The lone E. Kingbird at Moosonee June 4 was thought to be the same individual as found there May 25 (AMM, SM). Four Scissor-tailed Flycatchers constituted an invasion, and raised the year's total to six. Singles were at Bognor, Grey, May 31 (JM), Algonquin P.P., June 8 (ph. MJR et al.), Inverhuron Beach, Bruce, June 16 (BM), and Blenheim June 24 (KJB).



Young Short-eared Owl at Ottawa, Ont., June 1987. Photo/B. M. Di Labio.

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES — The 15 Blue Jays flying past Pelee's tip June 19 were the last migrants reported (AW). A single Com. Raven was in Perth July 5 (NM) and another in Kenora raided the nest of a grackle during June with disastrous consequences. Three angry grackles attacked the raven about its head, forced the large bird to the ground, and killed it (SRM). The 15 Carolina Wren sightings represented a further increase over last summer's strong showing. Pelee led in hosting 2 nesting pairs as well as an additional six birds (AW). A nest was found in London June 6 (RKH), and territorial males were at Fanshawe throughout June (DAM), Whitby July 18–19 (MJB), and Rodney July 25 (WP). Male House Wrens were on territory in North Bay June 1–July 31 (LR, RT) and Matachewan June 3–17, but alas, no female was attracted to the latter site (LT). Unusual for location was the Winter Wren nest containing three large young July 26–30 saddled on a beam inside a woodshed in Algonquin P.P. This nest appears to be the first known in Ontario to have occurred inside a building (RGT). Up to 30 pairs of Sedge Wrens were at Isaac L., Bruce, June 27–July 4 (JBM et al.) and additional pairs were found just n. at Dyer's Bay (DFu et al.). An early migrant was at Pelee's tip July 31 (AW). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers near the edge of their breeding range were one at Harriston in n.w. Wellington June 4 (VM) and a pair along the Huron–Bruce boundary June 6 (JBM).

One of the outstanding rarities of the season was the **Northern Wheatear** found at a goose camp near Winisk June 22 (ME, JH). Another sighting of this mainly Eurasian species that breeds sparsely on Canada's Baffin I. has just come to light, also near Winisk but in 1986, May 6–June 23 (JF). The species has been seen along Ontario's sparsely inhabited n. coast in 5 springs since 1981, suggesting it is an annual visitor there. Eastern Bluebirds were reportedly faring well at Guelph, Peterborough, Kingston, and Ft. Frances, as nest box programs pay off. In the Lucknow, Bruce, area, 203 eggs were counted July 10 in one nest box project (WH). At Matachewan, 29 young were fledged from 20 nests of first broods, although the hot sun caused some mortality (LT). From other first broods, 85

pairs fledged 320 young in the Brantford area (L. Smith), and 11 pairs raised 47 young at Port Stanley (J. Hurst). A territorial ♂ Swainson's Thrush was near Glamis, Bruce, June 24, s. of the usual range (JWJ). Southward migration was detected over Peterborough by night July 5 (AGC) and at banding stations in Wellington July 25 (ADB) and Huron July 26 (JBM). Most unusual for the season was the single Varied Thrush frequenting a feeder near Baltimore, Northumberland, June 25 (MM).

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Successful nests of N. Mockingbirds were in Melbourne, Guelph, and Pembroke. Ontario's 7th Sage Thrasher since 1965 appeared at Atikokan June 4 (DFi, DHE, ME, TRM), only one week following another in Thunder Bay. A Brown Thrasher nest in Thunder Bay June 24 held 2 eggs and one young (GA). Available information from the survey of Loggerhead Shrikes revealed about 27 birds at 12 active territories in the Peterborough region (DCS, PN), 25 adults and seven young in the Ottawa region (CH), and 30 birds at 17 sites in the Kingston region (K.F.N.). Other reports included four young fledged from a nest on Manitoulin I., June 27 (DBF) and a family of five near Hepworth to July 4 (fide TRM). Summering White-eyed Vireos were a pair at Pelee (AW), a single at Rondeau P.P. to June 6 (PAW, KJB), and another on Walpole I., July 1 (SAC).

Late spring migrants were far fewer than usual. Noteworthy among these were a Philadelphia Vireo at Bronte June 7 (MWJ), a Tennessee Warbler at Presqu'île P.P., June 12 (KK), a Yellow-rumped Warbler at Pelee June 6 (TP), and a Bay-breasted Warbler at Pelee June 11 (AW). Territorial Blue-winged were near Kingston June 14 (JHE, RDW), at 2 sites in New Glasgow June 15 (WP), and in Dorchester during late June (DAM). Throughout June, at least 10 ♂ Prairie Warblers were singing on various islands within Georgian Bay Islands N.P. (RKP), one of the prime locations in Ontario for this uncommon species. Four Cerulean Warblers were found near Glamis, Bruce, June 25, where the species is normally scarce (JWJ). The two adult and three young Prothonotary Warblers in the Dundas marsh during early July established the first nesting in the Hamilton area in 30+ years (KMcN et al.). The only Kentucky Warbler report was of a male near Collingwood June 1 & 2 (DS). Connecticut Warbler numbers on the breeding bird surveys in Quetico P.P. were the highest in 19 years (DHE, SFP).

Early southbound warbler movement was light. However, some sightings were notable, including a Tennessee Warbler at Pelee July 15 (AW), two Yellows flying S off Pelee's tip June 19 (AW), a Magnolia Warbler at Bronte July 30 (MWJ), a ♂ Bay-breasted at Strong L., Peterborough, July 8 (JC), and a Louisiana Waterthrush at Pelee's tip July 31 (AW).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES — One Lark Sparrow appeared near Uxbridge in mid-July (RS et al.) and another was in Dunrobin July 16 (ph. RPH, CA) for Ottawa's 2nd ever. These were the first summer records for Ontario since 1984. A pair of Le Conte's Sparrows at Hallville, Dundas, June 7 raised young during July (MAV, RAB), for the Ottawa area's first confirmed nesting. Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were in the Richmond fen June 11 and either one of these or another was singing there June 13 (BMD, JRH et al.). The only previous spring occurrence of this sparrow was in 1960. Four Lincoln's Sparrows in a spruce bog near Sunderland, Durham, June 20 were well s. of range (DVR, LRac) and a White-throated in Pelee June 14 furnished only the 2nd summer record for the area (AW).

The 200 Bobolinks in the Mountsberg Conservation Area, Wellington, signalled an early start to the large numbers that usually move through during August (MLW). Seven W. Meadowlarks were in the south, their best showing since 1983. All records were of single birds June 6–July 4, at Stratford, Guelph, Arthur, Monkton, the upper Bruce peninsula, Oshawa, and Chaffey's Lock. Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the south were near Barrie June 30–July 1 (JBM et al.) and along the Bruce peninsula, July 1 (JBM). South of normal range was a Rusty Blackbird at Red Bay, Bruce, June 30–July 1 (JBM). Or-



Male and female House Finch with nestling. The nest was built in a hanging potted plant—demonstrating the adaptability that has allowed this species to expand its range so rapidly—near Port Stanley, Ont. Photo/M. S. Smout on July 1, 1987.

chard Orioles away from their normal areas were singles at Innis Pt., Ottawa, June 10–14, where a male was netted and banded (ph., fide BMD) and at Camden East June 13 (PG). Confirmed breeding was recorded at a new Whitby site June 18–28 (DB). A ♂ House Finch reached a site just s. of Tobermory, representing the species' furthest colonization to date along the Bruce peninsula (MP). A few Red Crossbills were noted during the period in Algonquin P.P. (RGT), the only area of occurrence. However, White-winged were abundant there after June 16 and were paired by late July (RGT). Some 150 were in Moose River June 14 (SM, AMM). The remaining reports were of two near Heron Bay June 28 (NGE), a few near Petroglyphs P.P., July 20 (MJR), and one near Chepstow July 29 (JWJ). Spring's incursion of nesting Pine Siskins spilled over into July at Waterloo, where young were raised (fide CAC). A single near Wigle July 14 furnished the Pelee area's 2nd ever summer record (AW).

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Douglas P. Kibbe

Assessing breeding success in bird populations is a tricky business (just ask any population biologist for a definition of reproductive success). This summer, however, the weather, at least, caused little mortality. The season was relatively dry throughout with no major weather-system-induced disturbances. Rarities were few and far between, although one Regional first appeared, albeit briefly, in Vermont. Despite diligent monitoring, several rare breeding species continued to decline, proving the truism that listing is only the first (and cheapest) step in saving declining species.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Normally Commons are the only loons found within the Region during the summer, but this year two laggardly Red-throated Loons were sighted, at Woodbury, Vt. (MF) and Candaice L., N.Y. (R.B.A.). The Region's burgeoning Double-crested Cormorant population received another boost as breeding commenced at Oneida L. (FS). Vermont's breeding colony, on Young Island, had 220 active nests (CR). Postbreeding and nonbreeding birds are appearing at many inland ponds, frequently to the astonishment of local observers. Further expansion of the breeding population appears inevitable, and all observers should be alert for the possible establishment of breeding colonies in their areas. An unconfirmed report of a frigatebird over Cobleskill, N.Y., was received, but (without details and supporting observers) may never be judged more than unlikely, particularly in the absence of tropical storms. Few southern herons materialized. Up to 14 Great Egrets summered in c. New York without evidence of breeding. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found near Buffalo, and three Snowy Egrets and a Little Blue Heron were seen, all in central or w. New York in June or early July. A pair of Snowy Egrets may have nested on Young Island in L. Champlain (CR). While it is tempting to speculate on the reasons for the absence of a postbreeding incursion, the possible reasons are far too diverse to list (much less prove).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GROUSE — Mute Swans continue to increase at Perch River W.M.A. (LC), where more than one dozen could be found. Monitoring of this isolated population's expansion would make someone an excellent research project. This species has remained rare in the Region for decades, despite the growth of coastal populations, and many observers are still inclined to consider any large white waterbird in the "wild" a Tundra Swan. Concern has been expressed about Mute Swan interfering with waterfowl reproductive success in other Regions, and evidence of aggressive interactions would be welcome. A continued decline of Am. Black Ducks and Blue-winged Teal, and the proliferation of Mallards in c. New York, drew mention.

Efforts to release Peregrine Falcons drew to a close in the East this year. Vermonters proudly patrolled 3 active aeries, visible evidence that reintroduction efforts are working. Ironically, the appearance of a 2nd female at a nest site where the first female was temporarily incapacitated by an accident led to the death of the fledglings. The 2nd female harassed the young and distracted the male during this critical period (CR), until the young apparently succumbed. A Peregrine at Buffalo June 24 (RA) was a long way from an active aerie, but it would hardly be surprising if a pair eventually established themselves along the Niagara R. gorge.

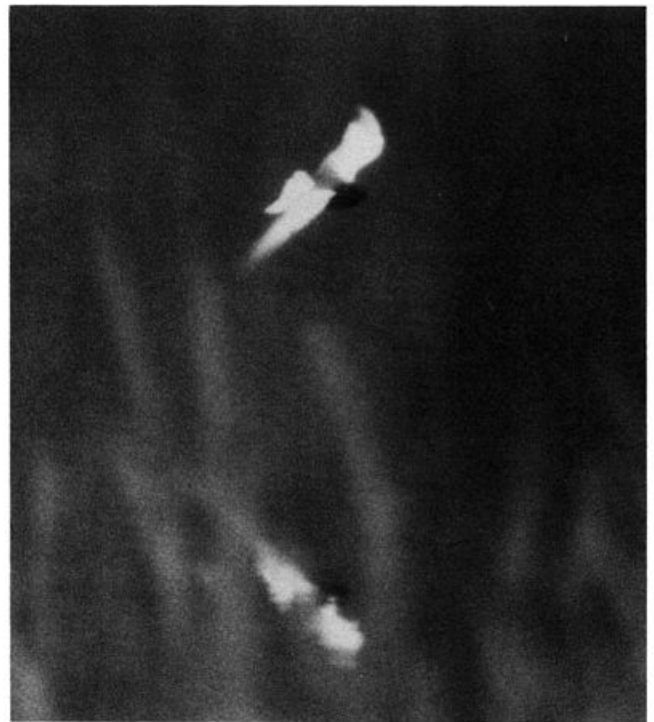
A belated report of a ♀ **Eurasian Kestrel** over the Coot Hill hawk watch Apr. 26 (EJ, MP, fide H.P.A.S.) was received. If accepted by the New York state records committee it would be the first Regional record, but this would not resolve whether the bird was of wild origin. Ospreys attempted to nest along



the S. Slang in Addison County, Vt. Although the nest was unsuccessful it did establish the species' status as a confirmed nester in the state following several years of suspected or rumored nesting attempts. One Osprey hacked from w. New York is now paired with a Tennessee bird over 500 mi to the south.

Despite concerted searches assisted with tape recordings through prime habitat, state researchers were able to find only five Spruce Grouse in Vermont's "Northeast Kingdom." Restricted to an area of less than 20 square mi, much of which has already been clearcut, the birds' plight has led to a recent proposal that it be elevated from special concern to endangered status. Incredibly, state officials are opposed to closing any of this area to Ruffed Grouse hunting (Spruce Grouse are classified as nongame) despite the critically low number of Spruce Grouse now surviving and the likelihood that hunting may contribute to accidental mortality. Given the effects of ever-expanding logging operations, however, it may be a moot point.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH CAPRIMULGIDS — Shorebird migration was termed "fair" and possibly early, with a



Adult White-winged Tern at White River Jct., Vt., June 12, 1987. First Vermont record. The contrast between the very pale upperwing and the dark body is evident here. Photo/Walter G. Ellison and Nancy Martin.

poor showing of young of the year. Reports varied on the status of Upland Sandpipers, and no Piping Plovers were found. Rare but regular visitors included a Willet and several Whimbrels in c. New York. Although two Wilson's Phalaropes were present at Iroquois N.W.R. in late June, no evidence of breeding was obtained.

The large Ring-billed Gull colony on the Four Brothers Is. has remained stable at 15,000± nests for the past one-half dozen years. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for another L. Champlain nester, Com. Tern. Vermont's colony has declined steadily, with virtually no nesting success, over the same period. Studies this summer point to nocturnal predation and disturbance as key elements in the decline (CR). This species has been proposed for endangered species status in Vermont. A Little Gull in c. New York was a good sighting for summer but could not compare with the Region's first **White-winged Tern** seen and photographed June 12 near White River Junction, Vt. (NM, WE). Present only a day, the bird is presumed to have been enroute S from an unsuccessful nesting effort in Canada.

Cuckoo numbers were down in most of the Region, but Black-billed were reportedly very numerous in the L. Champlain valley (J & MD). A Com. Barn-Owl nest, complete with five young, was successfully transplanted 35 feet from a silo (about to be cleaned) to a barn in Centerville, N.Y. (J & MF, m ob.). Several pairs of Short-eared Owls were documented nesting on the Ontario lake plains. Although some breeding by this species occurs annually in the Region, the local occurrence is dictated by the availability of prey.

The scarcity of Com. Nighthawks in c. New York was termed a disaster by one veteran observer. Clearly, more rooftops does not necessarily lead to more nighthawks, although most of the Region's breeding populations coincide with our urban centers. Unfortunately, monitoring of the breeding population of nocturnal species, even those as conspicuous as nighthawks, has lagged far behind that of diurnal passerines. Concerns about Vermont Whip-poor-will numbers has that state investigating methods to monitor that species' status. A decline has previously been documented in w. New York (SE).

SWALLOWS TO WARBLERS — A Bank Swallow colony site was graded for public safety at Hamlin Beach State Park, providing yet another example of how nature is the inevitable loser when human interests are at stake. An irruption of Black-capped Chickadees was noted in c. New York (FS). Whether Boreals will exhibit a similar influx remains to be seen. Acadian Flycatchers were reported from more sites than ever in central and w. New York. Common Ravens were reported from several localities in s.w. New York, but no reports were received for the Finger Lakes area, where a breeding population has long been suspected. In Allegany County, E. Bluebird nestings, which fledged 177 young, included 5 pairs nesting 3 times and 3 pairs nesting 4 times.

Although the weather was generally conducive to successful nesting, a veteran observer in c. New York felt young warblers were markedly reduced. Banding data from Vermont, however, gave the opposite impression. Prothonotary Warblers were found at Montezuma and Iroquois refuges, both long-established breeding sites, and the Yellow-throated Warbler returned again to Allegany S.P. (TM *et al.*). The latter is not known to have nested successfully there in the past 3 years (SE). Vermonters found a Cerulean Warbler at Malletts Bay S.P. (m.ob.) June 19, but have yet to find another breeding colony besides the one at Sandbar W.M.A. A Worm-eating Warbler remained near Brattleboro for 3 days in early June (JC *et al.*), but the state's first nesting record is still awaited. The species breeds regularly in both the Hudson and Connecticut River valleys, and should be looked for in both s e and s.w. Vermont.

SHRIKES THROUGH FINCHES — There were at least 3 Loggerhead Shrike nesting attempts near Ft. Covington in Franklin County, N.Y. Despite intensive efforts to locate all nests in the area, only 2 of these nesting efforts were under observation. One of those failed, whereupon another successful pair was discovered. Reasons given for this species' Regional scarcity, despite thousands of acres of apparently suitable habitat, remain pure speculation.

Reports of Vesper, Grasshopper, and Henslow's sparrows all were up, at least in w. New York. Breeding Clay-colored Sparrows are probably more widely distributed in New York than we realize. Males were reported from Hogansburg (HW) and Pompey (FS), and Ft. Drum apparently had a number of breeding sites. A W. Meadowlark at Villanove, Chautauqua Co. (TM, RS), furnished the season's only report, although most occurrences doubtless go unnoticed. Orchard Orioles were well-reported and may be increasing in other areas beside the Champlain valley. House Finches were at every feeding station, while Pine Siskins elected to bring their young to niger seed feeders in several w. New York localities. Whether the latter species formerly bred undetected in those locations is unknown, but suspicion is that supplemental feeding is altering the breeding range. Finally, accolades are again due Vivian Pitzrick, who documented over 500 nesting attempts near Amity L. for Cornell's nest record card program.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It was a hot summer, but much of the bird news was on the good side. While several species continue to decline, a number of those whose status had been of concern seemed on the way back, e.g., Yellow-breasted Chat and Grasshopper Sparrow. Breeding Bird Atlas work now in progress in five states continued to turn up new locations for many species.

Both months had above-normal temperatures, and July was unusually hot. Precipitation in June was about normal at most places but intense short-lived downpours inflated the figures at some places. On the other hand, all stations reported that late July was very dry with little rainfall. The shortage of rain did not occur until after most of the nesting season was over, so while some cavity nesters suffered brood losses because of the heat, the nesting season was generally successful.

The following account lists 13 species that were in notably better numbers in at least one place than in the past, and 10 species in lower numbers. Oddly, the Yellow Warbler makes both lists. Of the below-normal species some are probably in temporary declines, some are well known to be on the decline, but some are slipping off the edge very quietly and without much attention. Six species made their first local, or in some cases state, nesting records and 11 species showed range expansions. Of these last, most are "northern" species moving south or downslope.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.S. = Breeding Bird Survey; B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., Pa.; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., Pa.; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pa. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A few Com. Loons remained in the Region through the summer. Double-crested Cormorants were at Warren, Pa., in June (DP, BHi), Tellico L., Tenn., June 25–July 4 (A & RH), and B.E.S.P., July 26 (CH).

American Bitterns were reported from P.I.S.P., July 27 (JM) and McClintic Wildlife Area, W.Va., July 30 (TI). There were more than the usual numbers of reports of Least Bitterns: Scandia, Pa., June 2 (LA); Somerset L., Pa., June 4 (TM); Westmoreland, Pa., June 14 (KC); Hendersonville, N.C., July 15 (DM); and P.I.S.P., throughout the season (JM). The 4 colonies of Great Blue Herons in Mercer, Pa., produced an estimated 685 fledglings from 434 nests (EBr), and this species apparently nested in Murray, Ga. (HD). The normal number of Great Egrets showed up in late June and July, but no Snowy Egrets were reported. Little Blue Herons were at Botetourt, Va., July 14 (BK) and at the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Tenn., July 15 to end (CN). Adult Black-crowned Night-Herons with young were seen at Austin Springs, Tenn. (RK), and Sullivan, Tenn. (RL), and young Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen in the Elizabethton, Tenn., area (GE, GW).

There were unusual numbers of non-breeding waterfowl reported in the summer. The Snow Goose in Mason, W.Va., mentioned in the last report remained until June 2 (WA), while others were seen at S. Charleston, W.Va., July 3 (WA) and at Salladasburg, Pa., June 7 (PS). Gadwall and Am. Wigeon were at Pymatuning L., Pa., July 8 (RFL, RCL, ML), and an Am. Wigeon was also in Bath, Va., July 16 (LT). A Ring-necked Duck was at Cashiers Pond, N.C., June 5–7 (DM). A Lesser Scaup remained at Kyger Creek, O., until June 2 (WA), and another was in Centre, Pa., until June 15 (MW), while one spent the summer at Johnson City, Tenn. (RK). A Com. Merganser was seen at Confluence, Pa., June 24 (RM, RCL).

Canada Goose continues to increase in e. Tennessee (GE) and elsewhere in the Region. At Mosquito Lake, O., Wood Ducks had their best season in years, using 105 out of 160 nest boxes (CB). Green-winged Teal nested at Wattsburg, Pa., for the first breeding record for Erie (SS, BM). What was apparently a Mallard x Wood Duck hybrid was seen near Confluence, Pa., June 24 (RCL, RM). Hooded Mergansers nested at Mosquito L., O. (CB). Young Com. Mergansers were reported from Warren, Pa. (BHi), and Oil Creek S.P., Pa. (NK).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — A Black Vulture's nest was found near Arcadia, Va. (BHu), and a Turkey Vulture's nest was found near Sheffield, Pa. (ER). There were 18 Osprey nests at Watts Bar L., Tenn. (CN). Ospreys were also seen at Tellico L., Tenn., all summer (A & RH), at Allegheny Res., Pa., June 25 (KCo), and Warm Springs Mt., Va., June 28 (LT). There continue to be a large number of sightings of Bald Eagles. This season they included two at Siegel Marsh, Erie, Pa., June 11 (SS), one at P.I.S.P., July 29 (DF), one at Warren, Pa., July 5 (RLy), one at Allegheny Res., Pa., July 17 (KCo), one in Centre, Pa., June 5 (GD), one in B.E.S.P., July 10, and one at Snyder, Pa., July 15 (MW), two in Bath, Va., June 1 (LT), one at Norris L., Tenn., June 1 (JH), and two at Tellico L., Tenn., June 25 (A & RH). The pair that nested at Mosquito L., O., laid one egg



that did not hatch (CB). Northern Harriers were found on a strip mine in Lawrence, Pa., June 27 (TM), but were not found on similar habitat in Somerset, Pa., until July 27 (TM). Other records came from Mosquito L., O. (CB), and Greenville, Pa., June 6 (RFL). There were more reports of Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks than usual, including several nesting records. The N. Goshawk nested successfully at Black Mohannan S.P., Pa. (JP), and one was seen at 4200 ft in s. Pocahontas, W.Va., providing the southernmost summer record for the state (RB). Broad-winged Hawks had a good season at P.N.R. (RCL, RM), but at Huntington, W.Va., both Broad-winged and Red-shouldered hawks were felt to be in decreased numbers (WA). At Warren, Pa., 20 occupied boxes fledged 76 young Am. Kestrels and only 3 of the boxes failed (DW). An imm. Peregrine Falcon with a red band on the right leg (which indicated that it was not a Georgia release) was seen June 6 near Dillard, Ga. (MO). At Gavin Power Plant, O., a Peregrine was studied at close range July 29 (AW), and what was apparently another bird was seen at nearby Kyger Creek Ponds Aug. 9 (m.ob.).

Northern Bobwhite has been almost absent from the n. part of the Region, so reports from Stormstown, Pa., July 7 (JP), Franklin, Pa. (JW), Chambersburg, Pa. (KG), and Columbiana, Harrison, and Carroll, O. (LR), were encouraging.

There were several records of Virginia Rails at Mosquito L., O. (CB), and they apparently nested in Fairbrook Marsh, Centre, Pa. (JP). Soras were also at Fairbrook until mid-July (JP). Common Moorhens nested in Trumbull, O. (CB), and one was present all summer in Somerset, Pa., but no nesting was evident (TM).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS — Upland Sandpiper is thriving as a breeding bird in this Region. There were 4 stations, 2 of them new, and one with 10 birds in Westmoreland and Somerset, Pa. (RCL, RM). As many as seven birds were present near Gettysburg, Pa. (KG). Two new areas were discovered in Erie (JeS, JiS, DS), and four were seen in e. Crawford, Pa., July 7 (RFL et al.). One in Jefferson, O., June 15 provided a first county record (JPe). Spotted Sandpiper was little mentioned in the reports, and this may be another species that is quietly slipping away.

The southbound shorebird migration started early in July, with the usual yellowlegs of both species, and Semipalmated and Pectoral sandpipers. By the end of the period only a few unusual records had turned up, but the continued drought resulted in the drying up of many shorebird sites with resulting concentrations of birds at the few sites remaining. At this writing I know of a number of interesting August records for the



Upland Sandpiper in Jefferson County, extreme e. Ohio, June 15, 1987. First documented county record. Photo/John Petrella.

next report. Unusual species at P.I.S.P. were Whimbrel July 15 (DF), Marbled Godwit July 3 (11th county record) (J & LM), and Ruddy Turnstone July 3 (DF). A Stilt Sandpiper in Mason, W.Va. (WA, TI), and Short-billed Dowitchers at Pymatuning L., Pa., July 25 (ML, RFL) and Waynesboro, Va., July 18 (RS, MH) were also unusual.

The best record of the summer was provided by an ad. **Pomarine Jaeger** in Cambria, Pa., June 24 (KGe, RM). Ring-billed Gulls do not usually summer in this Region, but flocks remained all summer at B.E.S.P. (CH), Somerset L., Pa. (TM), and Gavin Power Dam, O. (WA), and there were 2 sightings at Watauga L., Tenn. (GE). A pair of Herring Gulls nested at the Mosquito L., O., wildlife area, for the first known nesting there (CB). Forster's Terns were at P.I.S.P., July 27 (JM) and at Watauga L., Tenn., July 31 (RK et al.). Black Terns nested at P.I.S.P. for the first time since 1955 (JM) and an immature was seen at nearby Siegel Marsh, July 22 (JM). One was at Hartstown, Pa., June 25 (RFL, RM).

DOVES TO SWALLOWS — Mourning Dove populations remained unusually high. Both cuckoo species were more common than usual at Warren, Pa. (WH), but at most other places they were scarce. There were 4 known nestings of Com. Barn-Owls near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), and a nesting also took place near Knoxville (CN). Atlas work has shown that Barred Owls were much more common than previously thought at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS). An imm. N. Saw-whet Owl was brought to a rehabilitation center at Johnstown, Pa., July 3 (TD).

Common Nighthawk populations apparently are only a small fraction of what they formerly were, and the Whip-poor-will continues to vanish. Chuck-will's-widows were also in reduced numbers at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE). After a poor spring migration at P.N.R., Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were in good numbers there during the summer (RCL). The only report of Red-headed Woodpecker came from Augusta, Va., July 18 (RS).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported only from Cranberry Glades, W.Va. (GB), and s. Pocahontas, W.Va., at 4200 ft (RB).

The first southbound Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at P.N.R., July 31 (RM). Atlas work located Alder Flycatchers near Renovo, Pa. (B & FH), 3 stations were located in Somerset, Pa. (RCL, RM), and atlas work in Ohio turned up several in Tuscarawas (LR). This species was found to be increasing on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina (RY). Willow Flycatcher continues to increase in the south with 2 new locations near Knoxville (JH, A & RH), some 20 singing males at 8 locations in Avery, N.C. (DM), 3 sites near Waynesboro, Va. (RS), and a singing male in n. Georgia July 18 (MO). The species was in lower than normal numbers in Buncombe, N.C. (RY). Least Flycatchers were more common than usual at State College, Pa. (JP), and low-elevation records for this species came from West Point, O. (LR), and Scott and Bledsoe, Tenn. (CN, RK). Eastern Kingbirds continued to be scarce at most places.

A pair of Horned Larks was seen at 4900 ft on Beech Mt., N.C., June 29 (DM), and a small flock including young birds was seen near Jonesboro, Tenn., in mid-July (RK). As reported in the spring season, many Purple Martin boxes stood empty this year, but they were doing well in Augusta, Va. (RS), and were above average at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE). The "hacking" project carried out at Ligonier, Pa., last year was a failure, as no birds returned (RCL, RM). There was a possible nesting at Sky Valley, Ga. (DM). Tree Swallows had an excellent nesting season at Warren, Pa. (WH), and there were 2 successful nestings at Waynesboro, Va. (RS). Bank Swallow has not been a common nesting bird in this Region, so 2 large colonies in Adams and Fulton, Pa. (KG), one near Coleville, Pa. (CS, DB), one near Warfordsburg, Pa. (JW), and one of 500-700 birds in Mason, W.Va. (WA), were of note. Cliff Swallows were also in good numbers, with atlas work discovering several previously-unknown colonies.

CORVIDS THROUGH VIREOS — A Fish Crow in Clearfield, Pa., was 20 mi n.w. of any previous record (JP). The high walls of strip mines of s.w. Pennsylvania have become favorite nesting places for Com. Ravens, and the one seen at Warren, Pa., June 26 was unusual there (CP). Four records of Red-breasted Nuthatches in Erie, Pa. (JM, DS) were noteworthy. The species was in average numbers on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE), but was in low numbers in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia (GAH). Brown Creepers were at Niles, O., all summer (CB). Carolina Wren is recovering nicely with a Greene, Pa., B.B.S. reporting the best year since 1976 (RBe). One was seen on Richland Balsam, N.C., at 6200 ft, July 29 (DM) and one was in Erie, Pa., in July (SS). Once again there were no reports of Bewick's Wren. A House Wren at 5000 ft on Roan Mt., Tenn., was unusual (GE). A Marsh Wren was seen in Mason, W.Va., July 30 (TI).

Golden-crowned Kinglet continues to increase in numbers at high elevations, and is beginning to move farther S at low elevations. They were present at Union City, Pa., all summer for a first summer record (JM) and one seen carrying food on Shenandoah Mt., Va., June 3 furnished the first Rockingham potential breeding record (R.B.C.). Except for the losses in the April snowstorm mentioned in the spring report, E. Bluebirds had a good nesting season. At some places, late broods perished in the hot weather. Despite the generally poor spring migration, Hermit and Swainson's thrushes were in somewhat above-normal numbers in the West Virginia spruce belt (GAH). Wood Thrushes were unusually scarce in Buncombe, N.C. (RY). A N. Mockingbird was in Erie, Pa., in early July (BW).

The Loggerhead Shrike situation may be better than we had thought. The spring report had mentioned 40 nests found in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and to that we can add 9 confirmed nestings in the same valley in West Virginia (RD). A pair was also seen in Greenbrier, W.Va., and an immature was seen in Canaan Valley, W.Va. (RB). There were 2 nestings near Roanoke, Va. (MD, NM). From e. Tennessee came reports of 2 nests in Washington and one in Sullivan (GE), and 3 locations in Blount (CN), Jefferson (MDa), and Knox (CN). White-eyed Vireos in an Atlas block near Renovo, Pa., were well n. of the usual range (PS). Solitary Vireos in Bledsoe, Tenn. (GP

et al) were unusual there, and records from Pulaski and McCreary, Ky, represented minor range expansions (AS)

WARBLERS — It is always difficult to generalize about warblers during migration seasons, and the reports from this nesting season also made a mixed bag. A few species seem to have been in lower than normal numbers: Yellow and Hooded warblers in North Carolina (RY), Blackburnian Warblers in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia (GAH), Canada Warblers and several other northern species in Highland, Va. (LT). On the other hand, several species seem to be increasing. On a Greene, Pa., BBS route, Yellow Warblers were in record numbers and Yellow-breasted Chats the highest since 1969 (RBe). Magnolia Warblers were common wherever there was hemlock, even at low elevations near P.N.R. (RM, RCL). Of particular interest was the apparent increase in Golden-winged Warbler populations. Yellow-throated Warbler continued to solidify its N expansion and one was seen in Warren, Pa., June 30 (RFL, RCL). Yellow-rumped Warbler was found to be very common on Spruce Knob, W.Va., in June, and the state's first confirmed breeding record was made there (GAH). The species was also found at a new location in s. Pocahontas, W.Va., at 4200 ft (RB). Other range expansions included 2 locations for Hooded Warbler near Lock Haven. One of these locations also had Mourning Warblers, somewhat s. of the usual range (PS). Mourning Warblers were also found on Shenandoah Mt., Va., a new location (R B C.). A Swainson's Warbler was found in Garrett, Md. (date not reported), an unusually high elevation record (fide EB).

There were 4 reports of "Brewster's" Warbler, of which 3 involved matings with Golden-wingeds. As usual the first fall migrant reported was a Tennessee Warbler (molting some primaries) banded at P.N.R., June 29 (RCL, RM).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — Blue Grosbeak continues to increase at the periphery of its range, at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), Rockingham, Va. (R.B.C.), McCreary, Ky. (BP), and Cabell, W.Va. (WA). Four to six singing ♂ Dickcissels in Washington, Tenn., established the first probable nesting in that area (RK). A Vesper Sparrow at 5000 ft on Beech Mt., N C., June 12 was noteworthy. Lark Sparrows were found at 2 locations in Mason, W.Va., July 4 (GH, NL) and July 3 & 10 (TI) Savannah Sparrows feeding young at Jonesboro, Tenn., July 10 furnished the 2nd breeding record for the area (RK). Most encouraging were the reports of Grasshopper Sparrows, which were apparently in good numbers throughout. There were several new locations for Henslow's Sparrows on recovered strip mines in s.w. Pennsylvania. White-throated Sparrows

feeding young in s. Pocahontas, W Va (RB), established the state's 2nd breeding record and a major S extension of range

Nesting Bobolinks were in increased numbers in the area of Mosquito L., O., as more fields were "rested" (CB). A count of 6300 Com. Grackles near Troutville, Va., was a somewhat early aggregation (BK). House Finches continued their explosive increase at most places. A Purple Finch was seen at Cooper's Rock S.F., June 6 (JB), somewhat out of range. Red Crossbills were found in the North Carolina Mts. (DM), Roan Mt. (FA, RP), and Newfound Gap (HO, BS), Tenn., and near Reddish Knob, Va. (R.B.C.). Pine Siskins were widespread in the North Carolina Mts. (DM), one was banded at P.N.R., June 28 (RCL, RM), and one was at Vienna, W.Va., July 13 (LRO).

EXOTICS — A Ringed Turtle-Dove was seen at Waynesboro, Pa., July 14 (JW). In addition to the Red-crested Cardinal reported earlier at Warren, Pa., another was seen in the Bradford, Pa., area also in early June (WH).

CORRIGENDUM — The Bridled Tern reported for Fishersville, Va. (AB 41:282) has not been accepted by the Records Committee of the Virginia Society for Ornithology, and should be deleted from the Regional List.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

This summer was characterized by extreme heat and humidity. June and July were almost one continuous stretch of hot weather. It was one of the warmest summers on record as the number of 90–100° days and unusual humidity (60–90%) seemed endless. There was one brief spell of pleasantly cool, less humid air around mid-July. This even produced frost at Isabella, Minnesota, when the temperature dropped to 29°. However, the heat and humidity returned with a vengeance and continued into August.

Rainfall was highly variable, with numerous severe storms lacing many areas. This was especially true as July progressed and weak cool fronts clashed with the warm, humid air. Hail was rather common and torrential downpours numerous. There were many three-to-five-inch



bursts, with the worst rainfall—10 inches—hitting the Twin Cities July 23. Despite these localized outbursts many areas were very dry, even bordering on drought conditions, at the period's conclusion.

For many birders one statement summed up this summer, "Too hot to bird!" Breeding and atlas counts were run but it took real dedication. As expected, with the heat, birds were unusually quiet. Contributing to this was the very early and warm spring. As a consequence, birds had nested early. This was evidenced by the early decrease in bird song—late June/early July. When birders did venture forth there was little of note to be found. It certainly was one of the quietest summers in recent memory, with a paucity of rarities. Certainly the outstanding find of the season was the Magnificent Hummingbird that appeared for an all-too-brief three days at a Minnesota feeder. How does one explain this bird, especially in regard to the weather? Second would be the Sandwich Tern, if accepted by Michigan's Record Committee, that barely made it into the season, July 31. There were a few other good finds, such as Mississippi Kite, a summer Ruff, Chuck-will's-widow, Rufous Hummingbird, and Lark Bunting, but from here the quality decreased dramatically.

Perhaps the most interesting occurrence of the season was the surprising movement of warblers southward during the last week of July. We have seen during the past few summers indications of some wandering/limited fall movement late in July. However, this was far more substantial. What made it even more noteworthy was that it reached some of the southern counties.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH RAILS — A Horned Grebe remained at Ashland, Wis., through June 29 (DV). Wisconsin's Red-necked Grebes expanded their nesting sites, with successful pairs at Fish Lake W.A. (JH) and at the DM pond in Columbia (m.ob.). The latter site is unique, as it is a large flooded field. The birds nested near the w. road bisecting the area, often affording absurdly close views (5–15 ft) of the adults and eventually the young. Two were at Michigan's Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory June 10 (JG). An Eared Grebe was found July 1 & 21 at Michigan's Muskegon Wastewater System (GW, ES). A W. Grebe resided at Rush L., Wis., June 14–28 (TZ). After the excellent spring movement of Am. White Pelican, sightings continued into June at Superior (June 11, RJ) and n.e. Minnesota (St. Louis and Koochiching), with one during June in Chippewa, Mich. (*vide* MP) and three at Beaver Dam Lake, Wis., during July (m.ob.). The Double-crested Cormorant expansion of its nesting sites continued unabated. The only negative aspects were the deformities found in some young, and the destruction of about 1800 eggs in 513 nests on Little Gull I., Mich. Humans are suspected and an investigation is currently underway, as cormorants are protected in the state. Both Minnesota and Michigan had an encouraging number of Snowy Egret sightings, with five and two respectively. In contrast, Wisconsin recorded its first summer in years without any confirmed sightings. All 3 states recorded single sightings of Little Blue Heron. In Minnesota it was found June 12 at Agassiz N.W.R., unusually far north. Michigan had an adult July 17 in Kalamazoo (DE, JG), while Wisconsin had an immature July 30 in Green (SR). Single **Tricolored Herons** were recorded in Michigan June 8 in Clinton (JG) and during the last week of July in Monroe (*vide* JG). Cattle Egrets were recorded in 2 sites each in Wisconsin and Michigan, with nesting either suspected or confirmed. A pleasant surprise was the reversal of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron sightings and suspected nesting in Wisconsin. It was found in several sites in the s. one-half of the state, as far n. as New London. An immature was seen July 11 in Lenawee, Mich. (JR).

Single Tundra Swans were recorded at Superior, Wis., June 7–8 (LS), and in Minnesota at the Weaver marshes July 7 (D & WM) and summering at Rice Lake N.W.R. (m.ob.). A pair of Cinnamon Teal in Murray, Minn., may have nested. Unfortunately results are inconclusive as the male was not seen after late June, at the same time a female with young was seen. If confirmed it would represent the first state nesting record Wisconsin had several duck species found out of range. A Canvasback summered in Dunn (JP). Redheads were at Manitowoc (CS) and Kewaunee (DT), Ring-necked Ducks at Madison (EH) and Kewaunee (DT), Lesser Scaups at Dunn (JP), Bayfield (AR), Columbia, and Dane (AS), Com. Goldeneyes at Superior and Ashland (LS), and Bufflehead at Superior (LS) and until July 14 at Manitowoc (CS). In Michigan, Lesser Scaups summered at Muskegon and Fremont (ES, GW).

A **Mississippi Kite** was observed by Donald June 7 in Sheboygan, Wis. Unusually far s. were N. Goshawk sightings in Wisconsin and Michigan. A pair was observed during June in Columbia, Wis. (MM), and a confirmed nesting in Hoffmaster S.P. was the southernmost for Michigan. A Swainson's Hawk was seen June 1 in Dunn, Wis. (JP). Of the two Peregrine Falcons hatched on a Minneapolis building, one fell to its death. In Milwaukee the young hatched on a building were more successful.

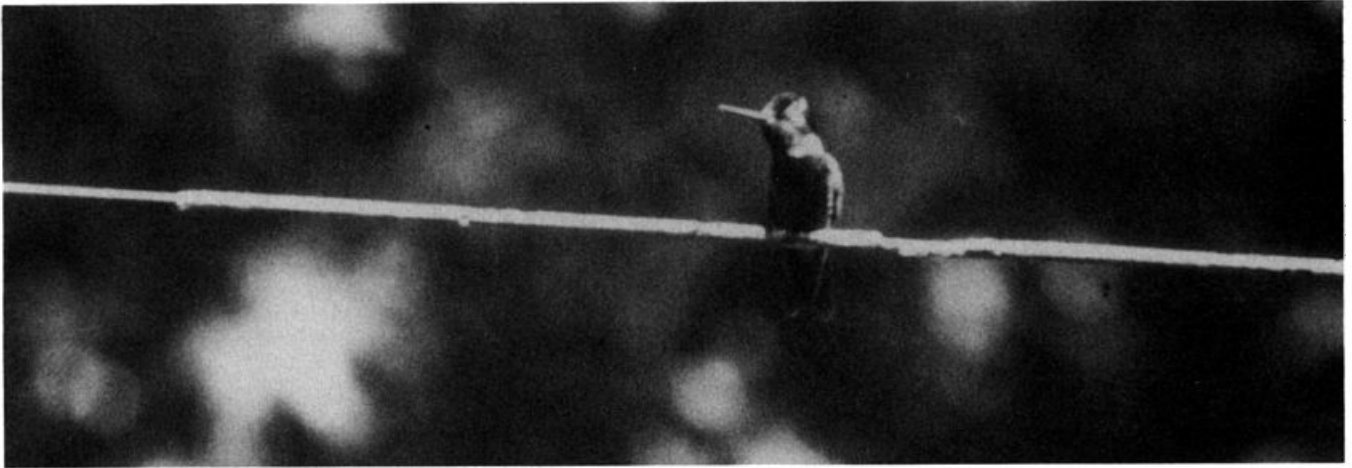
A Spruce Grouse June 1 in Otsego, Mich. (JE) was an unusual sighting in the Lower Peninsula. Sharp-tailed Grouse is now very uncommon in the Lower Peninsula, so 3 coveys seen July 25 in Kalkaska were noteworthy (v.o.). Michigan found N. Bobwhite numbers markedly increased after last winter's mild weather. Perhaps a similar situation exists in the remainder of the Region but data is inconclusive at this time. King Rails were found at 4 Wisconsin and one Michigan sites.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — In Wisconsin 23 species were still migrating N during the first one-half of June. Most interesting were Am. Avocet and Willet June 1 and Whimbrel through June 2 at Manitowoc (CS *et al.*), single Hudsonian and Marbled godwits that summered at Green Bay (*vide* TE) with a Hudsonian at Madison June 6 (ST), 1000 Ruddy Turnstones at Manitowoc in early June (CS) where a few summered, as many as 10+ Red Knots during early June at Manitowoc (CS), Semipalmated Sandpipers at Manitowoc through June 29 (CS) with White-rumped Sandpipers through June 17 (DT, SR) and Dunlins June 20 (CS), also Manitowoc. A W. Sandpiper was observed at Madison June 6 (ST) with a tardy Pectoral Sandpiper there June 15 (EH). Short-billed Dowitchers were in Manitowoc through June 13 (CS) and a lone Long-billed Dowitcher was in Columbia June 6 (DT).

Wandering/fall migrating birds in Wisconsin included a June 27 Black-bellied Plover at Superior (RJ), and two Lesser Golden-Plovers at Manitowoc July 4–7 (EH *et al.*), both early. Seven species appeared June 22–24 in several sites heralding the beginning of the fall flight. They included a Greater Yellowlegs in Vilas June 23 (ST), Lesser Yellowlegs June 22 at Manitowoc (CS) and Madison (EH), Solitary Sandpiper June 22 in Chippewa (JP) and June 23 at Madison (JS), and early Stilt Sandpipers June 20 at Manitowoc (CS) and June 24 at Madison (EH).

Other interesting Wisconsin sightings included a Piping Plover that summered at Green Bay (*vide* TE) and one at Manitowoc July 19–26 (m.ob.) with one in Milwaukee July 26 (m.ob.), two Am. Avocets at Shawano July 17 (MPE), Manitowoc Willets June 19 and July 23–25 (CS, DT), a Marbled Godwit also at Manitowoc July 24–26 (m.ob.), a W. Sandpiper also there July 25 (DT), and last and certainly not least a breeding-plumaged **Ruff** at Madison June 22–23 (EH *et al.*). Summer Ruffs are very rare, with this making the 4th in a 2-month span (mid-April–mid-June) for Wisconsin.

The shorebird flight was less eventful elsewhere. Minnesota had an Am. Avocet July 10 at Leech L., unusually far east, and a pair of Solitary Sandpipers with a recently-hatched chick in late June in Cook (KE). Michigan's lone contribution was an Am. Avocet at New Buffalo July 25 (WB, RS).



Male Magnificent Hummingbird in Lac Qui Parle County, Minn., July 1987. There were no previous records for the species in (or anywhere near) Minnesota. Photo/Chuck Buer.

An ad. Laughing Gull was at Manitowoc June 18–July 9 (CS *et al.*). In Wisconsin, Franklin's Gulls were found at 3 sites in June with a maximum of 16 at Manitowoc. During late July, individuals appeared at Milwaukee, Manitowoc, and in Pierce. One was at Quanicassee, Mich., June 15 (MW). The Little Gull picture at Manitowoc was different from previous years. A few were seen only intermittently during June. However, in July they were more consistently found with a maximum of six. Four appeared at Milwaukee in late July.

Peak numbers of Caspian Terns included 190 at Kewaunee and 140 at Manitowoc July 14 (DT). One of the outstanding finds this summer was a Sandwich Tern at St. Joseph July 31 (WB). If accepted by Michigan's Record Committee, this would be the first state record and only the 2nd for the Region. An Arctic Tern spent the first week of June at Manitowoc (BC, JL, CM, ph.). Another was present there July 14 (DT).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — Snowy Owls lingered in all 3 states, the latest being July 4 in Allegan, Mich. (DD), and an individual that summered in Bemidji, Minn. (m.ob.). A N. Hawk-Owl nest was found containing five young in Roseau, Minn. It was another good summer for Great Gray Owls in Minnesota with breeding in 3 counties and additional sightings in 3 others. A Boreal Owl nest containing two young was also found in Roseau. This was only Minnesota's 3rd nesting record. The **Chuck-will's-widow** singing s. of St. Croix Falls, Wis., continued until early July.

Hummingbirds made news in Minnesota. A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** came to the Sizemores' feeder in Beltrami July 20–23. Easily outdistancing this, and all other Regional sightings this summer, was a ♂ **Magnificent Hummingbird** that appeared in Boyd July 3 (FE). It was last seen July 5 with few birders being able to get there to see it, but 2 lucky individuals were able to photograph it. Obviously this was Minnesota's and the Region's first record. Michigan had 5 sightings while Wisconsin had only 2 (one confirmed nesting) of Black-backed Woodpecker. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were still migrating into June, as evidenced by the 30 tallied June 10–14 at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. The early fall migration was evidenced by a Yellow-bellied in Mower, Minn., July 25. Single W. Kingbirds were recorded in s. Wisconsin June 6 in Monroe (DT) and June 14 in Green (RH). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was in Kalamazoo June 6 (BF). Further demonstrating the S extension of the Com. Raven's range was a nest in Roscommon, Mich. (JK, BK).

Carolina Wrens were found at 4 Michigan sites with one at Madison, Wis., July 19 (PA). Perhaps this species is finally starting to rebound from the disastrous 1978–1979 winter. Eastern Bluebirds continue to increase in numbers Regionwide, an encouraging sign. A singing ♂ Sprague's Pipit was found

July 22 at the Felton prairie, Minn. (KC, PB). It remained into August, during which time it was observed by many. The Loggerhead Shrike picture continued as in previous summers. There was limited nesting in the Region with a few additional sightings. In Wisconsin there were 6 nests with a total of 17 young (Dane, Pepin, and St. Croix). There were 3 additional sightings. Michigan had 4 nests (Allegan, Benzie, Grand Traverse, and Huron) with one additional sighting. Minnesota made no comment this summer, although last year they had an encouraging number of nests and sightings.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — In contrast to last summer, there were surprising numbers of White-eyed Vireo reports in Wisconsin and Michigan. In the former at least seven territorial males were located (Green, Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette). In Michigan there were three territorial males (Ingham and Hillsdale). At least 24 territorial ♂ Bell's Vireos were located in Wisconsin, up considerably from previous years. They were concentrated in 2 areas, the s.w. sector (Iowa, Lafayette, Grant, Crawford, and Green) and the w. sector (Pierce and Trempealeau). One really wonders how many additional birds were missed. Again this summer Philadelphia Vireos were found in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The numbers were even more impressive, with 6 Houghton sites and one in Keweenaw (LB).

Unusual/out-of-range warbler sightings occurred in all 3 states. For Wisconsin they included a June 12 Tennessee Warbler at Madison (SR) and one July 2–4 at Superior (RJ). At least one pair of Yellow-throated Warblers could be located along the Sugar R., Rock, through the first one-half of June (DT *et al.*). The Prairie Warbler was back at its usual site in Ozaukee with another singing male in Waupaca (RH). Palm Warblers were found in 4 n. counties including one carrying food June 30 (Forest—RSp). Worm-eating Warblers were at their usual site in Sauk and another was found in Grant June 27 (NR). Kentucky Warblers were at several s. locales, as usual. Hooded Warblers were found in 4 counties. At least 12 territorial ♂ Yellow-breasted Chats were located this summer, up from previous years (Grant, Rock, Green, and Lafayette). For Michigan, two N. Parulas June 13 in Cass were s. of their usual range (DD). A Prairie Warbler was at Pinkney S.G.A., June 16 (JB). The spring Kentucky Warbler remained until June 16 at Lost Nation S.G.A. (JR).

S.A.

Of special note, and concern, was the June census of Kirtland's Warbler. It revealed 167 pairs, down about 20% from 1986. This decrease is attributed to an aging burn habitat. It is hoped that as new burn habitat moves into prime condition there will be a corresponding increase in the population (BH).

In Minnesota noteworthy sightings included more than the usual number of Black-throated Blue Warblers in Lake and Cook, e.g., 10–12 males in Tettegouche S.P. (SW/MS). Three Hooded Warbler nests were found in Murphy-Hanrehan Park (BFA *et al.*); this is a rare breeder for the state.

The other news from this group involved the unusually early and surprisingly substantial fall movement of various species. It elicited comment from quite a few observers in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. At least six species appeared in the central and even more s. counties of both states during the last week of July. One can only wonder, considering the unusual heat, what prompted them to start their S flight.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A Summer Tanager was present July 8–Aug. 5 in Hillsdale, Mich. (JR *et al.*). For the first time in years the Dickcissel picture was very positive. In Michigan and Minnesota, numbers present showed a modest increase. However, in Wisconsin there was an invasion, the best in 10+ years. They were found in at least 25 counties, including n. and w. central ones, always an indication of an excellent movement. Numbers were impressive with an estimated 500–1000+ from such counties as Lafayette, Grant, and Green (RH). A ♀ Lark Bunting was seen June 12 in Chippewa, Mich. (JPa, DE, JG). The several Sharp-tailed Sparrows that were present all May in Crex Meadows W.A., Wis., remained through June 16 (JP, BC). Intriguing was a pair of White-

crowned Sparrows (*gambelli*) that remained through June at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (TW). In Michigan there were more W. Meadowlark sightings this summer, where it had been declining in recent years. Also on the increase there were Yellow-headed Blackbirds. The House Finch continued its increase in Wisconsin, with 6 reporting counties. A few Red Crossbills were found in the n. parts of the Region. Unusual was the influx of White-winged Crossbills that commenced in late June and continued for most of July. Good numbers were found in the n. one-third of each state. Males were noted in full song and flight display in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Several observers commented on possible nesting, although there is no confirmed nesting in either state.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

It was another uneventful summer season. Temperatures were generally above normal while precipitation levels varied considerably across the Region. Thunderstorms during July produced local flooding and habitat destruction, to the detriment of local bird populations. However, most breeding species fared reasonably well. Observer activity levels were fairly high, primarily as a result of Breeding Bird Atlas projects in all states, but produced only a few unexpected nesting records. These atlases are providing substantial documentation of range expansions that have been underway for several years. Returning fall migrants yielded few surprises and postbreeding movements appeared to be negligible this year.

ABBREVIATIONS — O.W.R. = Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.; Spfld. = Springfield, Ill. *Italicized* place names are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Normal numbers of nonbreeding Com. Loons totalled seven from all states except Ohio. Pied-billed Grebes nested in expected numbers in Ohio, Iowa, and Illinois, mostly as scattered pairs although 35 young were counted at L. Calumet, Ill., June 13 (JL). A rare breeder in Missouri, one pair nested at Ted Shanks W.M.A. (KM). Casual summer visitors in Iowa, two W. Grebes were detected at Ingham L., June 27 (HW). Another W. Grebe appeared at Port of Indiana July 17–31+, providing the first July record from n.w. Indiana (CF, m.ob.). Few nonbreeding Am. White Pelicans lingered in the w. states, with a maximum of 13 at 4 Iowa lakes plus one pelican in Missouri. Summering Double-crested Cormorants accumulated at O.W.R. with a peak of 94 July 5. Additionally, 6 nests were discovered on the refuge in July, providing Ohio's first nesting record in this century (TBa, EP). Unfortunately, these nests were unsuccessful. Breeding cormorants at L. Renwick, Ill., increased to 16 pairs (JMi), but



colonies along the Mississippi R. were not surveyed this summer. Nonbreeding cormorants continued to be regularly encountered, appearing at 14 locations in all states with peaks of 23–33+ at 3 Illinois lakes.

The continued decline of nesting Am. Bitterns culminated in no reports this summer. This is truly an endangered breeder in this Region, and observers should make a concerted effort to locate any remaining pairs. In contrast, expected numbers of Least Bitterns were noted at scattered localities in all states except Kentucky. A total of 151 Great Blue Heron colonies in Missouri was indicative of an increasing population, a trend repeated in most states, while Great Egret numbers are remaining constant. A pair of Great Egrets at Axe L. established a new nesting location in Kentucky (BH, *fd*e BP), and 111 pairs at L. Renwick represented increased numbers at that n. Illinois heronry (JMi). The only noteworthy postbreeding Great Egret congregation totalled 500 at Clear L., Ill., in July (KR). Summering Snowy Egrets were confined to established sites along the Mississippi R. and at O.W.R. The largest postbreeding flock

was of eight at Ballard W M A , Ky , July 7 (CP), while extralimital Snowies appeared only in c. and n. Illinois with singles at 3 sites. Little Blue Herons remained plentiful in s.e. Missouri. In addition to the large heronry near Caruthersville, colonies were located in Mississippi with 200 nests plus another with 50 nests near Sikeston (JW, RSt). Few breeding Little Blues were reported at other traditional locations. Postbreeders were most evident in w. Kentucky, with 44 in Fulton July 25 (CP), and in c. Illinois, with 12–15 at 3 sites. Only scattered singles appeared elsewhere. The only Tricolored Heron returned to its traditional summering area at L. Calumet, Ill. (m.ob.). The s.e. Missouri heronries also support large numbers of Cattle Egrets with 400 nests in Mississippi and 900 at Sikeston (JW, RSt). Few breeding Cattle Egrets were reported elsewhere, with several pairs returning to the Louisville heronry and 14 pairs nesting at L. Renwick, Ill. One of the egrets at the latter heronry was probably melanistic, described as entirely gray with normal adult leg and bill color (†JL, JMil). Postbreeders were decidedly scarce, except in w. Kentucky where 150 were noted in Ballard and Carlisle July 31 (CP). Fewer Green-backed Herons were observed at scattered localities e. of the Mississippi R., indicating their population decline may be more widespread than previously thought. Black-crowned Night-Herons nested in normal numbers at traditional colonies; 4 established heronries in Illinois supported 28–526 nests this summer. The locally distributed Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was reported from 16+ sites, maintaining their expected numbers in most areas. The largest reported concentration was of six in Kentucky. A casual late-summer visitor to s. Illinois, an imm. White Ibis appeared in St. Clair July 24 and was widely observed through July 31+ (†CPa, m.ob., ph.).

WATERFOWL — Lingered waterfowl were fairly scarce although most species were represented by a few individuals. As usual, most noteworthy nesting records came from marshes in n. Iowa and along w. Lake Erie. Since breeding Am. Black Ducks have virtually disappeared from all states except Ohio, a brood at Atterbury W.M.A., Ind., for the 2nd consecutive year was unexpected (BG). Breeding N. Pintails were located at 2 n. Iowa marshes where they are regular residents. A pair remained near Havana, Ill., through June 9+, suggesting possible nesting, although there are few confirmed breeding records from Illinois (RB). The only N. Shoveler nest was reported from n. Iowa where they are rare but regular summer residents. A brood of Canvasbacks near Lake Park June 23 provided one of few recent nesting records for Iowa (DH). Summering Ring-necked Ducks appeared at 4 Illinois lakes s. to Crab Orchard N.W.R., but all appeared to be unmated. As many as four Lesser Scaup summered at L. Calumet, Ill., but gave no indication of nesting. A ♂ Bufflehead near Brandon June 27 established the 3rd summer record for Iowa (JF). Summering Hooded Mergansers continued their expansion, with 15 reports from all states except Kentucky. As many as 13 were tallied along w. Lake Erie while scattered nesting reports included broods at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo. (KM), and Spfld. (H). A Com. Merganser at L. Calumet June 28+ provided an unusual summer record for Illinois (WM, m.ob.). Lingered Red-breasted Mergansers are more frequently encountered than Commons; they appeared at scattered sites in Indiana and Illinois. Unusual numbers of Ruddy Ducks summered in Illinois, with five or fewer at 9 sites s. to Spfld. although no broods were noted. Elsewhere, scattered reports from Iowa and n. Ohio included a brood at Cleveland Aug. 1 (MG).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Within their traditional range, a Black Vulture nest at Hueston Woods S.P. was locally unusual for s.w. Ohio (RH), and the species was described as numerous in Taney, Barry, and Ozark in s.w. Missouri. Summer Osprey sightings were reduced, totalling only 5 this year. No comments were received concerning the status of the few breeding pairs in Kentucky. While the extralimital wanderings of Mississippi Kites during late spring and early summer have been well documented, an unexpected number

appeared in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio this year. The largest numbers were discovered in Illinois with as many as nine in Vermilion through June 23 (†MC, MEa et al.) and three at Lincoln Trail S.P., June 14 (†DSc). Elsewhere, two were noted at Salamonie River S.F., Ind., June 10 (†Haw, SS) plus singles at Richmond, Ind., May 31–June 4 (SE, EL, †m.ob.), Ft. Loramie, O., June 3 (†RH), and Delaware, O., June 23–24 (†BC et al.). As expected, virtually all of these kites were subadults. Many were observed feeding on cicadas, and the relationship between this movement of kites and emergence of the 17-year cicadas may not be strictly coincidental. Elsewhere, a Mississippi Kite nest was finally discovered at St. Louis, where they had summered during previous years (RK), and a maximum of 12 was counted in w. Kentucky at Fulton July 21 (CP). The status of nesting Bald Eagles continued to slowly improve. The Ohio population increased to 11 pairs while 3 pairs nested in Missouri, 2 in n.e. Iowa, and a new pair bred at Ballard W.M.A., Ky. (LA). Breeding success was generally good. The expected small numbers of nonbreeding eagles appeared in most states. Northern Harriers were more numerous than last year, undoubtedly a response to the abundance of their prey. Nests were located in Howard, Ia. (fide DR) and Johnson, Ia. (fide T). They also probably nested at Minnehaha W.M.A., Ind. (ABr et al.), and Ashtabula, O. (D & JH). Most noteworthy of 17 summering reports were two at Kentucky W.M.A., July 8, providing one of few recent summer records from Kentucky (ME, fide BP). The normal small numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks were encountered in most states although few nests were confirmed. Increased sightings of Cooper's Hawks included 6 Iowa nests plus many sightings from the other states as they continued to rebound from their pesticide-induced lows of previous decades. Most Buteos apparently remained stable. Both Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks have been discovered at a few new localities in recent years, particularly in the n. states, although these discoveries are probably the result of more intensive field work rather than population increases. Summer Swainson's Hawk sightings were limited to 2 pairs at the traditional Kane, Ill., nesting location (JMil) and one breeding pair at George Wyth S.P., Ia. (FM). Eleven young Peregrine Falcons were hacked in the Chicago area this summer. These Peregrines or young hacked previously were responsible for 3 Illinois sightings during July.



Adult Swainson's Hawk near the nest in northern Kane County, Ill., May 29, 1987. Photo/ Joe B. Milosevich.

Gallinaceous birds elicited few comments. Only N. Bobwhites experienced noticeable increases, especially in the n. states where they benefitted from last winter's mild weather. They are normally scarce in n.w. Iowa, where bobwhites were reported from Lyon, Sioux, and Woodbury. Rails also generated little interest this summer; apparently these species were present in expected numbers within their established ranges. Eleven King Rail sightings across the n. states were normal for recent years. Given their tenuous status in all states, broods at Jackson, Ia. (JF *et al.*), Wolf L., Ind. (BJ), Minnehaha W.M.A., Ind. (MB), Havana, Ill., and Banner Marsh, Ill. (KR) were encouraging. Common Moorhens received mixed reports but were locally numerous in the n. states with 10 broods at L. Calumet, Ill. (JL), and a maximum of 20 at Barberton, O. (LR). Fewer Am. Coots nested in Ohio but similar declines were not detected elsewhere. Breeding coots were recorded s. to Spfld. (H) and Havana, Ill. (KR), while scattered nonbreeders appeared at Lawrenceburg, Ind. (TLe), and Union County Conservation Area, Ill. (DRo). Three late Sandhill Cranes migrated past Dunes S.P., Ind., June 3 (FS). Within their n.e. Illinois breeding range, a pair nested at Streets L. (RHe) and two were observed at Moraine Hills S.P., July 14 (SH).

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration was generally lackluster with a scarcity of suitable habitats and sizable concentrations. Most departed and arrived during expected intervals and relatively few nonbreeders remained during June, such as Lesser Golden-Plovers in n.w. Indiana and c. Illinois. Nesting Piping Plovers were reduced in w. Iowa with only 3 pairs at the IPL ponds (BW). Fall migrants returned to Louisville July 20 (BP) and 2 Illinois sites July 11–18. An early Am. Avocet returned to Coralville Res., Ia., June 26 (RH, T), which presaged a fair fall movement. They appeared at 7 locations in all states except Missouri with a maximum of 12 at Cleveland July 21 (TL). Shorebird concentrations were restricted to Illinois with 225 Greater Yellowlegs at Clear L., July 29, an estimated 10,000 Lessers there July 22 (KR), and 105–125 Solitary Sandpipers at 2 sites. Willets staged a moderate flight through Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio beginning June 25–29. There were 14+ reports with peaks of 17 at Cleveland July 4 (m.ob.) and 13 at Clear L., Ill., July 13 (KR). A Spotted Sandpiper summered at Louisville, where they are rare summer residents. Upland Sandpipers remained stable across the n. states but the only fall concentration totalled 22 in n.w. Indiana. Whimbrels appeared in expected small numbers along the Great Lakes. The latest spring migrants departed from Chicago June 3, while fall singles were detected at 3 locations June 24–July 24.

A Marbled Godwit at Gary June 5+ provided an unexpected summer record for n.w. Indiana (KB, RG). Fall migrants were limited to three along L. Erie July 2, plus two at Havana, Ill., July 19 (MD *et al.*). Clear L., Ill., supported an estimated 1200 Semipalmated Sandpipers July 29 (KR). Two early W. Sandpipers returned to Polk City, Ia., July 1 (MP). Expected small numbers were scattered across most states with a maximum of 35 at Clear L., Ill., July 25. A few Baird's Sandpipers appeared during late July with singles as far e. as Cleveland. Pectoral Sandpipers peaked with 2500 at Clear L., Ill., July 25 (KR). An ad. Curlew Sandpiper returned to L. Calumet, Ill., July 18 for its 2nd consecutive fall appearance at that location (†KH *et al.*). Stilt Sandpipers were scarce except for 300 estimated at Clear L., Ill., July 29. The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper was an early arrival at Spfld., July 28–30 (H). Ruffs are becoming regular fall migrants in the Chicago area, where L. Calumet hosted three males July 3–14 (JL, m.ob., ph.). Dowitchers were generally scarce in most states. Wilson's Phalaropes were sprinkled across the n. states in groups of one to three, while the only Red-necked Phalaropes appeared at Monmouth, Ill., July 27 (MBa).

GULLS, TERNS — Laughing Gulls remained rare but regular summer visitors e. of the Mississippi R. The only Great Lakes sighting was from n.w. Indiana, while inland reports consisted of two at Spfld., June 6–16 (H), two at Louisville June 10–14 (LRa, BP), two at Clear L., Ill., June 27–July 15 (KR, MBa),

and one at Barkley L., Ky., July 1 (BP). Nonbreeding Franklin's Gulls were rather scarce with only a few scattered records from Illinois, Kentucky, and Iowa. The large Ring-billed Gull and Herring Gull colonies at L. Calumet, Ill., and Oregon, O., continued to thrive. Smaller numbers of nesting Herring Gulls were scattered along L. Erie but no breeding pairs were reported elsewhere. Numbers of nonbreeders at inland lakes continued to increase and produced concentrations of 400–1500 Ring-billeds in Illinois and s.e. Iowa. The only extralimital sighting was of an ad. California Gull at Spfld., June 6 (†H). This species is becoming a casual visitor to the Region although there are very few summer records.

The status of the resident terns generally remained bleak. The only reported Com. Tern colony was at Waukegan, Ill. (JL), while Forster's Terns nested in Iowa at Ventura Marsh (TLa) and Jemerson Slough (DH). Small numbers of nonbreeders were occasionally encountered in most areas but no sizable concentrations developed during July. The endangered Least Tern received mixed reports. The species had a "good year" along the Mississippi R. with colonies in Hickman and Carlisle, Ky., and a postbreeding flock of 21 at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., July 31 (CP). Their fortunes in w. Iowa were not as bright. The IPL ponds supported 11 June nests, but only 4 re-nesting attempts could be located in July (BW). Extralimital Least Terns were noted at Big River S.F., Ill., June 7 (†MBa), Spfld., June 16 (H), Cleveland July 11 (†RHn), Saylorville Res., Ia., July 25–31, and Big Creek, Ia., July 25 (SD). Late migrant Black Terns totalled 100 at DeSoto N.W.R., Ia., June 4 (TB). Small numbers of nesting Black Terns were reported from 5 scattered localities in Iowa, n.e. Illinois, and n.w. Indiana, but their status within this range remained precarious.

CUCKOOS THROUGH CREEPERS — Black-billed Cuckoos received mixed reports while Yellow-billeds appeared in improved numbers in most states. Both species benefitted from the abundance of cicadas during late spring and summer. While more Com. Barn-Owls were reported this year, these sightings probably reflected increased interest in this declining species rather than a reversal of its recent population trends. At least 7 pairs were scattered across Ohio, 6 breeding pairs were noted in Missouri, and 3 nests were located in Kentucky. They are quite rare in Iowa where pairs nested in Adair and Mills this summer (DR). More Long-eared Owls summered this year, probably a result of increased prey availability. Young were observed in Webster, Ia., June 3 (DR). Illinois had a nest at Lawrenceville (TF) plus a July sighting in the Chicago area, while Ohio Long-eareds apparently summered in Geauga, Portage, Wyandot, and Lucas, and included one unsuccessful nesting attempt. Rare summer residents in all states, Short-eared Owls possibly nested in Sullivan, Ind. (MB), and single Short-eareds appeared in Iowa at Pocahontas and Fayette. Most Chuck-will's-widows were noted at traditional locations. Three c. Illinois reports included a maximum of seven at Sand Ridge S.F. (KR), while a singing male in Cook June 24 was unusual for the Chicago area (JMi). Whip-poor-wills remained stable in c. Illinois with 161 males estimated at Sand Ridge S.F. (RB). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were thought to have declined at a number of localities this summer.

Woodpeckers elicited few comments as most species were observed in normal numbers. Reduced numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers were cited only from Ohio. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are regular summer residents in n.e. Iowa where 5–20 pairs were located in Allamakee, Clayton, and Winneshiek (DK). A small population may also exist in n.w. Iowa where singles were noted near Ocheyedan June 3 and Peterson June 5 (DH). Pileated Woodpeckers continued their slow expansion in Iowa with sightings from Marshall (MP) and Benton (T). As usual, the flycatcher migration extended into early June with Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers lingering in Iowa into the 2nd week of the month. The breeding flycatchers yielded few surprises. The status of Alder Flycatchers in the n. states is becoming better defined. Small numbers were scattered across n. Ohio, particularly the n.e. counties, with isolated

males s to *Madison* and *Tuscarawas*. Although there are no confirmed nests, summering Alders are reported almost annually from n. Indiana, where three spent the season at Pigeon River W.M.A. (Haw). They may also occasionally summer in Iowa where males at Yellow River S.F., June 11 (MP, BPr), Winneshiek June 12, Highlandville June 18 (DK), and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., June 21–28 (JS) provided no evidence of having nested. Expected small numbers of Least Flycatchers were found along the n. edge of the Region while single males s. to Highland, O. (MG), and Boone, Ia. (EM), were outside of their established range. A Say's Phoebe near Hawarden June 4 provided Iowa's first summer record since 1982 (†DH). Western Kingbirds were observed in normal numbers along the w. fringe of Iowa and Missouri while the breeding pair returned to the St. Louis area. Nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported e to Wayne, Mo. (Bja). One near Raymond, Ia., June 9–July 21 (†TS, m.ob.) established the only extralimital record this season.

Numbers of Purple Martins were thought to be reduced in most states, continuing a decline started several years ago. The other swallows were generally reported in normal numbers. New Cliff Swallow colonies continue to be established e. of the Mississippi R., a trend that has been prevalent for more than 5 years, although they remain locally distributed in all of these states. Migrant swallows began to accumulate during late July, forming concentrations of 1000 Trees in c. Illinois, 1500 Banks in Mason, Ill., July 21 (KR), 1000 Cliffs at Big Creek, Ia., July 25 (SD), and 120 Cliffs at Victoria, Ill., July 28 (MBA). Nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted only at Kent, O., this summer (LR), while there was one additional summer record from n.w. Ohio. Small numbers of Brown Creepers are probably resident in all n. states although they are easily overlooked. This year, a pair nested in Des Moines and there was one additional male in e. Iowa (P), 4 c. Illinois reports included 3 pairs in Mercer (P) plus a male s. to Charleston (BHu), while nest-building was noted at Tippecanoe S.P., Ind. (BJ, SJ).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — Carolina Wren experienced substantial increases in all states, undoubtedly a beneficiary of last winter's mild weather. Unfortunately, Bewick's Wrens remained exceptionally scarce in all states except Missouri. Kentucky's only sighting was at Madisonville July 27 (*fide* JHa). A pair nested at Marion, Ill. (DRo), while another returned to Pike, O., for the 2nd consecutive summer (DM). House Wrens were generally abundant as evidenced by 141 at Morton Arboretum, Ill., July 1 (EW). While Winter Wrens are possibly resident in n.e. Iowa, a nest at Wildcat Den S.P. (P) and young at Pine Hollow (DK) represented only the 2nd and 3rd confirmed breeding records for the state. Sedge Wrens were most numerous in s.w. Iowa and c. and n. Illinois. A maximum of 26 in DuPage represented a large total for the latter state (EW). Only small numbers were scattered across the other states except Kentucky. Eastern Bluebirds maintained their good numbers. Nesting success was good with 189–230 young produced on 2 Iowa bluebird trails and 500 young from boxes in Cass and Menard, Ill. (*fide* DB). Summering Veeries were unusually numerous in n. and c. Illinois with 11 reports and a maximum of nine at Palos (JMi). A male at Hueston Woods S.P. was outside the Veery's normal Ohio range (RH). Two early Swainson's Thrushes returned to Chicago July 26 (JL). Increased N. Mockingbird sightings probably also resulted from last winter's mild weather. One in Dickinson June 23 was noteworthy for n.w. Iowa (MP). Cedar Waxwings were numerous, even in the s. states, with nests s. to Winona, Mo. (JE). Given their declining populations in much of e. North America, the status of Loggerhead Shrikes in this Region deserves greater scrutiny. Although hard data is unavailable, reports indicated shrike populations remained fairly stable across Missouri, s. Illinois, and Kentucky. Elsewhere, Iowa observers found greater numbers of shrikes this summer, including 6 nests in *Madison* and 5 sightings in *Poweshiek*. In all, there were reports from 10 counties, mostly in the s. one-half of the state. Six sightings from c. and n. Illinois represented normal numbers for recent

years. Improved numbers from Indiana included seven in *Daviess* (JCa), six at *Minnehaha* W.M.A. (MB), and a n. nest in *Porter* (KB). Ohio reports consisted of 8 scattered sightings, mostly from the w. one-half of the state. Whether these locally improved numbers were the result of increased observer effort or actual population increases remains to be determined.

White-eyed Vireos experienced local declines this summer. Despite these declines, their expansion into n. portions of the Region continued unabated. Bell's Vireos appeared to be stable in most areas. Males in *Clinton* and *Delaware* were noteworthy for e. Iowa (P), while maxima of 13 in *Will*, Ill. (JMi), and 14 at *Minnehaha* W.M.A., Ind. (MB), were exceptional for those states. In Ohio, males were located at traditional sites in *Clark* and *Lucas*. For the 2nd consecutive year, Solitary Vireos bred in n.w. Ohio with one nest plus three males in *Lucas* (TK). One at Chicago July 22 was probably a nonbreeder (HR).

Having virtually disappeared as a summer resident from all states in the Region, the only territorial Golden-winged Warbler was discovered in *Lucas*, O., this year (m.ob.). Two early Tennessee Warblers returned to Chicago July 26 (JL). Northern Parulas appeared at several new sites in Iowa and s.w. Ohio, but similar increases were not evident elsewhere. The expected small numbers of Chestnut-sided Warblers were noted in n.e. Ohio and n. Illinois, while a territorial male in *Boone* was unusual for Iowa (MP). A Cape May Warbler at Chicago July 26 was early, while late spring migrants there included a Black-throated Blue Warbler through June 6 (JL) and Yellow-rumped Warbler June 11 (HR). Unusual summer warbler records for n.e. Indiana included a ♂ Black-throated Green at *Salamonie River* S.F., July 4 (Haw *et al.*) and ♀ Blackburnian at *Pigeon River* W.M.A., June 23 (Haw). Neither species is known to breed in the area. Yellow-throated Warblers continued their N range expansion in most states, having reached the n. edge of the Region in Illinois with a summering male in *Winnebago* (DW). A Pine Warbler nest in *Lucas* provided the first breeding record for n.w. Ohio (TK). The earliest Bay-breasted Warbler returned to Chicago July 16 (VB). Fifteen Cerulean Warblers in *Winnebago* made a good number for n. Illinois (DW). Rare summer residents in Illinois, single ♂ Black-and-white Warblers were reported from *Palos* June 2 (JMi), *Spfld.*, June 9 (H), and *Urbana* June 19 (BCh). One at *Shimek* S.F., June 7–10 was equally unusual for Iowa (RC, JC). A total of 75 Am. Redstarts along the *Des Moines* R. in *Boone* was indicative of their local abundance in c. Iowa (EM). A total of 11 Prothonotary Warblers at *Dunes* S.P., June 11 was noteworthy for n.w. Indiana (JM), as were 5 Worm-eating Warbler nests at *Shimek* S.F. in s.e. Iowa (RC, JC). A territorial Swainson's Warbler in *Jackson* May 18–25+ provided one of few recent summer records for Ohio (†RHa *et al.*). There are no confirmed nesting records from the state. Within their established range in s.e. Missouri, a total of 14 Swainson's was counted along the *Eleven Point*, *Current*, *Black* and *St. Francis* rivers this summer. A territorial male near *Branson* was unexpected in s.w. Missouri (Bja). Ovenbirds were fairly widespread in Illinois, where they are normally uncommon during summer. Male Mourning Warblers in *Williams*, O. (J), and *Winnebago*, Ill. (DC), were apparently on territory, they are probably casual summer residents at both locations. As many as three territorial Hooded Warblers at *Palos* (JMi) and *Jubilee College* S.P. (KR, MBa) were locally unusual for Illinois, as were similar numbers in Iowa at *Shimek* S.F. (m.ob.) and *Yellow River* S.F. (DK). A Canada Warbler at *Shimek* S.F., Ia., June 28 was well outside its expected breeding range (RC, JC). It was probably a nonbreeder. Another Canada summered in *Cook*, Ill., where they are casual residents (VB).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Summer Tanagers continued their slow expansion into the n. edge of the Region. Three returned to their n. Illinois breeding location in *Will*, while one or two in *Fayette* May 23 were exceptional for n.e. Iowa (DK). The S. expanding Rose-breasted Grosbeak increased in Ohio with s.w. reports from *Clinton* and *Butler*. In Missouri, they nested s. to *Farmington* (BR). The Blue Grosbeak expan-

sion into the n. states was reflected by 7+ reports from s. Ohio, a similar number of sightings from c. Illinois, and a s.e. Iowa nest at Shimek S.F. (JS *et al.*). At least 46 Blue Grosbeaks were recorded in Sullivan, Ind., this summer, an exceptional tally from the s.w. portion of the state (MB). A Painted Bunting in Ozark June 19 was outside its normal range in s.w. Missouri (BJa). Dickcissels remained numerous in most areas, especially c. and n. Illinois. Unusual numbers were found in n.e. Indiana, while one in Geauga was noteworthy for n.e. Ohio (*vide* DF).

Only a few Bachman's Sparrows could be located in s.w. Missouri this summer, their last stronghold in this Region. Surveys yielded six males and two young in Ozark plus another male in Oregon (BJa, EG). Summering Clay-colored Sparrows were located only in n. Illinois, with four to six in Winnebago (JP). They are rare summer residents in this area. Vesper Sparrows were reported from 5 sites in n. Missouri where they may prove to be rare but regular residents. Lark Sparrows are quite local e. of the Mississippi R., particularly in Ohio where very few remain. A nest in Hamilton provided the first breeding record from s.w. Ohio (NW, DS), while summering birds in Auglaize were at a new location (TBa). At least 42 Lark Sparrows were located in Sullivan this summer, an exceptional total for s.w. Indiana (MB). The S-expanding Savannah Sparrow summered in Oldham and Jefferson, Ky., where they are still rare residents (BP). Grasshopper Sparrows were locally numerous in most states. At least six Henslow's Sparrows in Van Buren June 9+ may have provided the first confirmed nesting record for Iowa (MP, m.ob.). Normal numbers elsewhere included two to four at 2 Kentucky, 2 Missouri, and 3 c. and n. Illinois sites plus a maximum of 40 in Stark, O. (LR). A summering Song Sparrow at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo. (MM, LM), and a nesting Swamp Sparrow in Vermilion, Ill. (MEa), were slightly s. of their normal ranges in their respective states. Summering White-throated Sparrows at Davenport, Ia., June 7–July 18 (AB), Urbana, Ill., July 5 (RCh), and Chicago July 8–Aug. 6 (EW) were undoubtedly nonbreeders. A White-crowned Sparrow at Chicago July 1–2 may have provided the first summer record from Illinois (HR). Within their n.e. Ohio breeding range, four Dark-eyed Juncos were located in Cuyahoga (TL). One junco at Des Moines July 19 provided the 2nd summer record for Iowa (AB).

Bobolinks were generally observed in normal numbers with one s. to Shelby, Ky., June 7 (WB). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were encountered in normal numbers within their established range e. to n.w. Indiana. A maximum of 38 at L. Calumet, Ill., June 13 indicated a healthy population at that site (JL). Extralimital summering records included 10+ in e. Iowa in Clinton (P), a nest at Havana, Ill., May 20–25 (KR), and a territorial male in the Kansas City area (RF). Great-tailed Grackles continued their expansion into the w. states, particularly Missouri, where 6 sightings included maxima of 60 in Cass (*vide* JG) and 28 in Newton (JW). Summering grackles were noted e. to Warrensburg. Reports from s.w. Iowa consisted of young at Riverton W.M.A. (RS), and three in Mills June 3 (PW). It was a good year for Orchard Orioles as they continued to increase throughout n. portions of the Region.

As usual, Purple Finches nested only in Ohio. Away from the n.e. counties, a pair nested at Toledo (ET) while one remained at Springfield, O., through July 22 (DO). The W. March of the House Finch continued unabated. They have become regular residents in c. and n. Illinois. In the w. states, the only reported Missouri nest was at St. Louis (NS), and Iowa observers found nests at Davenport (P), Linn (PW), and Mason City (JWa), plus four summering reports w. to Auburn (RE). The erratic Red Crossbill lingered into June at 2 sites with five at Wyandot, Ill. June 6 (P) and one near Butterfield, Mo., June 14–24 (FA, ph). Following last winter's flight, small numbers of Pine Siskins were encountered in all states except Kentucky. Definite breeding records consisted of 3+ nests at Morton Arboretum, Ill. (EW), fledglings at Champaign, Ill. (RCh), and Brecksville, O. (RHa), and an unsuccessful nest at Toledo, O. (ET). Nest building was also noted in n.e. Ohio and n.w. Indiana while June siskins were noted s. to n.w. Missouri and s.w. Ohio.

CONJECTURAL REPORTS — A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was observed and photographed in Boone, Ia., May 29. While this species is commonly kept in captivity, there was no indication the bird was an escapee. These whistling-ducks are also presently expanding their range, which could readily explain vagrant records in the Midwest. Given the possible uncertainty over its origins, however, the acceptability of this sighting is difficult to judge until a pattern of vagrancy is established for this species. The same argument does not apply to a Steller's Jay in Johnson, Ia., June 30, a bird that almost certainly escaped from captivity.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Jerome A. Jackson

Although some areas of the mid-South had a bit more moisture than usual and others were on the dry side, in general, the weather for summer 1987 was not too extreme in any parameter. As of the end of July, Birmingham was 7.5 inches below normal in precipitation, but coastal areas reported more rain than usual. There were no tropical storm systems, although a few weak cool fronts made it to the coast in June.

Late-departing and early-arriving shorebirds always seem to make up a sizable chunk of our summer records. They do this year too—many species seem to have set new records. This seems to have been a most unusual season. But many of our shore species, such as Black-bellied Plovers and Ring-billed Gulls, seem to have small non-breeding contingents that just do not expend the energy to go north each year. Maybe they are young and still enjoying spring break, or maybe they have retired. The records are interesting, but the litany year-after-year is beginning to lose some significance. What we need knowledge of now, and what observers should be looking for, are predictable locations of unusual concentrations and unusual habitats that the birds might be using.

The increasing numbers of catfish ponds in the Mississippi delta are having the predicted attractive value for water-associated birds—and confrontations at the fish-eating-bird/fish farmer interface have begun. Stay tuned!

Among the bad news this summer, Ted Simons (*vide* Judy Toups) reported that no seabirds nested on Anderson Island (the spoil island between Horn and Petit Bois islands off the Mississippi coast) where thousands of birds have nested in most recent years. No explanation. Nor did seabirds nest at the Pascagoula River Marsh, another favored area. There, preliminary work on a causeway by the Corps of Engineers was a disrupting factor.

Several species continued their range expansion as breeders in the Region: White Ibis, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Gray Catbird, House Finch. A new range expansion may be beginning: Scarlet Tanagers showed up in greater numbers and in some new areas. The "Bird of the Season," however, was Roseate Spoonbill. As if by magic they appeared in many areas of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Several August records will be reported in the next seasonal report. Most records were of single, immature birds—and the pattern suggested dispersal from a breeding concentration in n.e. Louisiana. Where?

The "Wildlife Bungler" of the season award goes to those at the Duck River Unit of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge who repaired a dike next to a Great Blue heronry at the peak of nesting, resulting in loss of many nestlings. Ospreys there also failed to raise young.

Finally, a frustrating few observers scratched their observations out in such a manner that critical data were not legible. Others included only an observer's first or last name. Charlie who?! Still others, with numerous cards, used nicknames on some cards, middle initials on some cards, formal names on others—oh the tangle! Please help. We'd love to have your records, but make them complete and use a consistent (formal?) name. A middle initial helps.

ABBREVIATIONS — E.J.B. = one mile e. of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass, Cameron Par., La.; F.A. = across the Mississippi River from Ft. Adams, Miss., in Concordia Par., La.; F.B. = Fourchon Beach, Lafourche Par., La.; M.S. = near Morganza spillway, Pointe



Coupee Par., La.; P.R.M. = Pascagoula River Marsh, Jackson Co., Miss. Place names in italics are parishes (in Louisiana) or counties.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Single Com. Loons in basic plumage (the same bird?) were at the n. end of the industrial canal June 8 (JS, PN), and at the w. end of L. Pontchartrain June 27 (GO). One in transitional plumage was at L. DeGray, Hot Spring, Ark., June 12 (H & MPk, WK).

In Chicot, Ark., a Pied-billed Grebe with a half-grown chick was n.w. of L. Chicot S.P., June 1 (DRS); at the Luna Landing borrow pit, 2 families of one adult and four chicks each were found June 12, and by June 21 there were 14 immatures and three adults there (DRS, CS, CT). Pied-billed Grebes also nested at Natt Pond, Colbert, Ala., where two adults and six immatures were seen July 6–31 (DS, CB, PK), and single Pied-billeds were at 2 borrow pits e. of Hollybrook, East Carroll, La., July 20 (HM, CD). Up to eight, including half-grown young, were at the proposed Bayou Sauvage Refuge, Orleans, La., June 7 and July 25 (GO).

M.S. was a loitering area for five Am. White Pelicans June 15, and for 97 July 16; 15 were at F.A., June 17, 27 were there July 6, and 21 remained July 23 (DWG). Sardis Waterfowl Ref., Lafayette, Miss., hosted two June 21 (VT, G & SKn, MD). A flooded field brought 17 pelicans down n. of Staple, Lincoln, Ark., July 25 (RHD, m.ob.); and Singing River I., Jackson, Miss., was host to 12 Am. White Pelicans July 28 (MFH, CFD, JAT). About 20 Brown Pelicans were initiating nesting at Last Island, Terrebonne, La., May 7, but May 23 they were reported to have abandoned the site owing to human disturbance; a visit May 26 revealed 12 (all) nests abandoned (TH, DR). Summer Brown Pelican reports from the Mississippi coast included scattered sightings of up to 12 birds, all in Jackson.

Two to three Double-crested Cormorants were at Sardis L., Lafayette, Miss., June 6, but with no evidence of nesting (MD). At the Duck River Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., a pair was building a nest June 3, but did not finish the job (EB); one or more were seen at Reelfoot L. in late June (RPF). At least one pair of Anhingas nested at the cooling ponds at Big Point, Jackson, Miss., their 3rd year at that locality (JAT, CFD). At n. Florida heronries 3 mi n. of Wewahatchka, Gulf, and 2 mi n. of Blountstown, Calhoun, HS found about 10 and 15 Anhinga nests. A few pairs nested again this year at the heronry at the n. end of Ross Barnett Res., along Miss. 43, Madison (JA, BJ).

One Anhinga was at the Parker farm, Pulaski, Ark., July 23 (FM, VF, ASm, DMe)

Immature Magnificent Frigatebirds soaring close enough to the Cameron, La., beach for recognition included nine June 19 (SC, DLD, DM) and two July 5 (SC, DLD). The n. islands of the Chandeleurs hosted numbers of frigatebirds, with hundreds there July 25–26 (L & TT).

HERONS THROUGH STORKS — Least Bitterns were seen through the summer at Beaver Marsh, Colbert, Ala. (DS *et al.*); they were also at a pond along Miss. 330, w. of Bruce, July 4 (MD); and two were at the Monsanto Ponds, Maury, Tenn., May 30–31 (OBL, WNJ). At the Duck River Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., Great Blue Herons got off to a good start with 230 active nests Apr. 20. By June 3, however, only 163 nests remained, and most of those contained dead young. Refuge personnel conducted maintenance on flood-damaged dikes right next to the heronry during the nestling stage, keeping adults away from chicks that were exposed to full sun (SJS). The only other Great Blue heronry in mid-Tennessee was at Sinking Creek, Arnold Engineering & Development Center, Coffee, where there were 187 active nests (BPP).

Great Egrets showed a progressive buildup at a pond along Miss. 330, 9 mi w. of Bruce: numbers on July 4, 13, 14, & 28 were two, five, 30, and 69 (MD, G & SKn). In Arkansas a Great Egret visited the Centerton Fish Hatchery, Benton, July 2–4 (RDG, LG, SJ, JCN), and a few mi n. of Van Buren, Crawford, 15+ were found nesting with Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons (PG, *vide* JCN).

Heron nesting at the n. Florida heronries reported by HS included: ca. 70 Great Egret, one Little Blue Heron, 200 Cattle Egret nests and possibly a nest or two of Great Blue Herons near Wewahatchka, and ca. 150 Great Egret and 100 Cattle Egret nests near Blountstown. Heronries near Hebert and Start, La., included 200+ Snowy Egrets (JBe). At Cross Creeks N.W.R., one to four Snowy Egrets were seen July 14–30 (JCR, DWB). Two Snowy Egrets were at Noxubee N.W.R., July 19 (MH, TS). On the down side, the heronry reported n. of Gulfport last year was not active this year (JAT). DWB counted 48 Little Blue Herons at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., July 20. In Arkansas about 200 Little Blue Herons were at a new heronry at Fayetteville, June 22 (JCN); 100+ were nesting with several thousand Cattle Egrets and a few Great Egrets in a thicket n. of Van Buren, Crawford, July 1, but very few adults or young remained July 18 (JCN *et al.*). Residents near the latter heronry consider the birds a nuisance and the cedars and elms where the birds nested will probably be removed. Tricolored Herons in inland Louisiana included one at F.A., June 6 and July 17 (DWG); one near Angola State Penitentiary, Pointe Coupee, June 18 (DWG); one at Baton Rouge July 6 (VR); two near Start, Richland, July 15 (MMH); eight at M.S., July 16, six there July 17, and two July 23 (DWG). A very rare Tennessee record was of an imm. Tricolored Heron at Cross Creeks N.W.R., July 26–Aug. 7 (JCR, *m.ob.*). In Arkansas a Tricolored Heron at the Centerton Fish Hatchery July 2–3 furnished the first record for the w. Ozarks (RDG, LG, SJ). L & TT found five to six Reddish Egrets feeding in tidepools in the Chandeleurs July 25–26. In Mississippi, Reddish Egrets made a good showing in Waveland, where two to seven could usually be found June 11–July 29 (JAT, *m.ob.*).

Cattle Egrets were common all summer at the catfish farm near Kiln, Miss., although no local heronry was found (JAT). Two Cattle Egrets in breeding plumage were near Walker Pond, Lauderdale, Ala., June 20 (DS, DC, JP). Imhof suggests this species has only recently occupied the Tennessee Valley in mid-summer, and is likely breeding in small numbers. The first Nashville area breeding record was of a nest with two young July 3–Aug. 19 at the Gallatin Steam Plant (SJS, BHS, JPC, DTC).

The only large nesting congregations of Black-crowned Night-Herons in middle Tennessee were at the Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner (100+ nests; SJS), and at Bordeaux, Davidson (150 nests; RMH). At L. Millwood, Ark., CMi found four adults and one immature July 11. The Spring report provided data

on 3 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nests in the Tallahatchie R. bottoms—these were in Panola, not Lafayette as given. On June 15, nine immatures were still at nests, on June 28, five immatures were in nests, two feeding in water below (G & SKn). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was making use of an old crawfish pond in West Carroll, La., July 20 (CD, HM) JAT, MFH, and CFD scored with Yellow-crowns in Jackson, Miss., July 28, when they found 12 immatures and 11 adults in marsh along the E. Pascagoula R., and 73 immatures and three adults in prairie marsh at Bayou Casotte. In middle Tennessee, two adults and two immatures were at Tullahoma, Coffee, through July 29 (MBH, CP, LW); and one adult and one immature were at Burgess Falls S.P. Natural Area June 9 (SJS, BHS).

White Ibises seem to have moved into the mid-South region in force in recent years, and are now nesting in many area heronries. About 40 were at the n. Florida heronry near Blountstown, but none was seen at a nest (HS). At the heronries near Hebert and Start, La., there were 300+ adults and many nests—their 2nd year there (JBe, MMH, ST, K & SO). Elsewhere in Louisiana, records included 20+ immatures in West Carroll July 10 (CD), and adults and immatures at several Natchitoches localities through June–July (CV). An immature at Walker Pond, Lauderdale, July 3 (DS, CB) and three at Wheeler N.W.R., July 18 (AM, P & RF) provided rare records for n.w. Alabama. At Blount Pond, one mi n. of Hickory, Newton, Miss., two to three immatures were present July 10 into early August (JMM). A flock of 30 immatures provided an unusual record for Noxubee N.W.R., July 19 (MH, TS). About 30 were at a pond 9 mi w. of Bruce, Miss., July 13–19 (G & SKn, MD); and four to six were at Sardis Ref., July 23 & 29 (VT). RHD and Three Rivers Audubon Society members found two immatures at a flooded field near Pendleton, Desha, Ark., July 25. Other Arkansas records included one to 14 at Arkadelphia sewage lagoons July 4–13 (DnH, DIH, WG, GG), and 40 over the levee in Chicot July 19 (DRS). In middle Tennessee, an immature turned up at Cross Creeks N.W.R., July 20 and remained through Aug. 8 (JCR, *m.ob.*).

Roseate Spoonbills seemed to be on the move this year, with reports setting new records for many quarters. In Louisiana six were at F.B., June 21 (RP); one was at Old River near Natchitoches, July 5–6 (CV *et al.*); and two apparent juveniles were near Marksville, Avoyelles, July 27 (SM, *vide* VR). In Mississippi, one was at the catfish farm at Kiln in late July (farm manager, *vide* JAT). Arkansas reports included an immature at Arkadelphia July 4 (DnH, DIH); an adult and an immature at Parker Farm, Pulaski, July 9–18 (E & HH, FM, DM, WM, CMi, LP); an immature at Andrew Hulseley State Fish Hatchery July 20–26 (JBH, JeH); one at flooded fields n. of Staple July 25 (RHD, *m.ob.*); and one near the Arkansas R. levee at Pendleton July 25 (RHD, *m.ob.*).

Wood Storks seem to have fared better this year, in that they showed up in larger numbers and at more localities than in the recent past: 17 at the old river control structure at F.A., June 23 (DWG), 16 at M.S., June 26 (DWG), 50 near M.S., July 2 (DWG), seven at the Mississippi R. levee at the Madison-Tensas line, La., July 3 (JB, HM), and 12 there July 25 (JB, HM, CD, JW). There have been few recent records of Wood Storks at Noxubee N.W.R., so 34 July 19 represented a welcome return—but these do not compare with the hundreds that used to arrive in late summer a little over a decade ago (JAJ).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TURKEY — A pair of Am Black Ducks spent June and July at the marsh end of Wartrace L., Robertson, Tenn. (DJS); one checked in at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., July 5 (JCR); another was seen in flight at close range July 20 in West Carroll, La. (CD, HM). Mottled Duck records included eight seen July 6 at F.A., and six seen July 23 at M.S. (DWG). Sewage lagoons at Starkville, Miss., were good for a ♀ Mallard with five young July 19–21, and a ♂ Gadwall July 20 & 22 (TS, MFH). Good numbers (30+) of Blue-winged Teal remained in coastal s.w. Louisiana, and at least some nested this summer (SC, DLD). A pair with seven young seen

June 20 through the period may have represented the first nesting of this species in n w Alabama (DS, DC, JP et al) A pair was at the Monsanto Ponds, Maury, Tenn., June 5 & 15 (BHS).

Summering ducks also included four imm. ♂ N. Shovelers near Cameron, La., June 6 (SC). A flock of three male and three ♀ Gadwalls was unusual for Cameron, La., June 7 (DLD, SC). An ad. ♂ Am. Wigeon was near Cameron, La., June 6 (SC, DLD). At Ross Barnett Res., Madison, Miss., 6 pairs of Ring-necked Ducks were present June 6; one pair was there June 28 (G & SKn). A lone ♂ Ring-necked was at the Monsanto Ponds, Maury, Tenn., through the summer (BHS, m.ob.).

Two imm. Hooded Mergansers were with a large group of Wood Ducks at Luna Landing borrow pit, Chicot, Ark., June 12, no ad. mergansers were present (DRS, CS). For the 4th year out of the last 5, Ruddy Ducks (six to eight this year) summered at Robco L., in Memphis, but there was no sign of nesting (BBC, LCC). At Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke, Ark., a pair of Ruddy Ducks had four ducklings June 26 (RC). A ♀ Ruddy was at Laurel, Miss., sewage lagoons July 26 (TS).

A Black Vulture nest with one nestling was observed June 10-30 at Land Between the Lakes Rec. Area, Stewart, Tenn. (DHS, MDI). Ospreys were at a nest at Black L. near Campiti, Natchitoches, La., in June (CV, CH), and one was seen 2 mi s. of Delta, La., June 6 (JB, m.ob.). Inland Mississippi Osprey records are rare in summer, but one was seen 5 mi n.e. of Vicksburg June 20 (JB, HM, CD, JBe). Two were at Sardis L., Lafayette, Miss., June 27 (MD, VT). On the Mississippi coast, eight Ospreys were at Bayou Cassotte and Greenwood I., July 28 (MFH, CFD, JAT). A persistent pair of Ospreys at the Duck River Unit of Tennessee N.W.R. built 4 nests this year, but raised no young, apparently as a result of the dike maintenance work by refuge personnel (EB, SJS, m.ob.). At least one of 2 nests on transmission towers at Old Hickory L. on the Sumner-Wilson border produced young, the first in the Nashville area (RMH, JPC). An Osprey also made a surprise June 6 appearance at L. Millwood, Ark. (CMi, E & BP).

An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was over the Alabama R., Mobile, June 4 (LT, DL), and 12 (including a family of two adults and three immatures) were seen along Whiskey Bay Rd., Iberville, and 5 mi e. of Krotz Springs, Pointe Coupe, La., July 11 (JAG, PES). Black-shouldered Kites were seen late in the season in Hancock, Miss., where they have nested in recent years (fide JAT). A pair of Mississippi Kites raised a nestling in Gautier, Miss., this summer (CFD, CG); up to eight were seen near Sardis Dam, Panola, Miss., July 24 (MD); and a wandering immature showed up s. of Milldale, Robertson, Tenn., June 14 (DJS, JCR). In Arkansas, single Mississippi Kites were reported from N. Little Rock June 28 (RC) and n. of Van Buren June 6 (KM).

An ad. Bald Eagle was seen on several June dates between Whiskey Bay and Butte La Rose exits on I-10 in Louisiana (DL, fide VR). In middle Tennessee, nine young were fledged from 5 Bald Eagle nests in Stewart, Jackson, and Benton; 5 other nests in Coffee, Lake, Hardin, Humphreys, and Henry were active, but unproductive (RMH).

A N. Harrier showed up at Valparaiso, Okaloosa, Fla., July 1, the earliest ever for the area (DN, B & JG). An imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk was found June 28 at Jeff Busby Park, Choctaw, Miss. (TS, MH), and a nest in n.w. Perry fledged young (SJS, JCR). A lone Cooper's Hawk was seen July 2, 15, & 20, 1.5 mi e. of Hickory, Newton, Miss. (JMM); another was found n. of Gulfport, Miss. June 4 (JAT); a female was seen s. of Port Sulphur, Plaquemine, La., June 5 (DPM); and a male was reported June 6 and July 2 at Reserve, La. (RJS, MW). In middle Tennessee, Cooper's Hawk records for June-July were of single birds in Clay, Stewart, and Jackson (RH, JCR, SJS, BHS).

A young Red-shouldered Hawk exercising its wings May 27 on a nest at Lakeshore, Miss., had fledged by June 2 (JAT). Broad-winged Hawks apparently nested again at Logtown, Hancock, Miss., where JAT & CFD found two immatures July 17. A rarity in Mississippi, a Swainson's Hawk was also very

early when seen at Kiln July 11 (N & PN). Red-tailed Hawk records from near the s. limit of their Louisiana breeding range included two adults and two immatures at Baton Rouge, July 6 (VR), three adults along the river road near Sunshine, Iberville, June 20 (VR), and one near Deer Park, Concordia, July 6 (DWG). Two pairs of Red-tailed Hawks nesting near the Egypt Community, Lawrence, Ark., had young in the nest in June (ELH). Two late Peregrine Falcons were at Gulf Breeze, Fla., June 5 (R & LD).

A real car-stopper was a parade of four adult and 21 imm. Wild Turkeys at Noxubee N.W.R., July 19 (TS, MH). Others were reported from Tennessee at Keith Springs Mt., Franklin, July 15 (PLM), and Ft. Campbell Military Reservation, Stewart, July 25 (JCR).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — CD and HM found three adult and two juv. King Rails at a crawfish pond 5 mi w. of Darnell, West Carroll, La., July 20; at the Duck R. Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., CR, MMu, and CDo found a nest that had 10 eggs June 3-25. An ad. Sora e. of Spring Valley, Madison, Ark., June 23-July 20 was out-of-bounds for the season (JGr, RDG, RGr). Common Moorhens nested again at Binion Brake near Start, La., where JBe found six adults and eight chicks June 20. American Coots summered at several mid-South localities. At the proposed Bayou Sauvage Refuge, Orleans, La., GO saw eight July 3 and 17 July 25; SC & DLD had about six n. of Cameron, La., June 6-7, but noted no sign of breeding. At least six Am. Coots were at the Laurel, Miss., sewage lagoons July 26 (TS). One was in s.w. Wayne, Tenn., June 21 (JCR, DJS).

As usual, small numbers of Black-bellied Plovers summered in coastal areas: three at F.B. (A & GS, JS); a few on Cameron, La., beaches (SC, DLD). A Lesser Golden-Plover made a rare June 14 appearance at Island 13, Lake, Tenn. (WGC). Up to 10 pairs of Wilson's Plovers nest at E.J.B., but on June 20 these were augmented by about 75 adults; by July 6 their numbers had grown to at least 210, mostly adults (SC, DLD). The only sign of Wilson's Plover nesting on the Mississippi coast this summer was a single immature at Greenwood I., July 21 (JAT, MP). Semipalmated Plovers were also present in numbers at E.J.B.—up to 30 in various plumages were seen June 20 and July 6 (SC, DLD). At Grand Isle, La., RP found at least six Semipalmateds June 21. In Mississippi, three were at the Miss. 330 pond w. of Bruce July 28 (G & SKn) and 19 were on the beach at Waveland July 29 (JAT, GM, MB, MP). An ad. Piping Plover July 24 provided a first "summer" record for the Sardis Dam, Panola, Miss., area (MD). In the Solgohachia community, Conway, Ark., a pair of Killdeer hatched 3 of 4 late eggs July 11 (LF, AJ, EF).

An Am. Oystercatcher was at the n. end of the Chandeleurs July 25 (L & TT). A Black-necked Stilt was at catfish ponds e. of Hollandale, Washington, Miss., July 3 (TS); four were at F.A., July 6, and five there July 17 (DWG); three at M.S., July 16, and 11 there July 23 (DWG). On the Mississippi coast, four stilts were at the Seaman Rd. Lagoon July 28, where workmen reported a nest destroyed earlier by a predator (MFH, CFD, JAT); 30 adults and a downy chick were at the Greenwood I. spoil area July 21 (JAT, MP). At least 3 pairs attempted to nest at the Ensley sewage pits near Memphis, but apparently only one chick fledged (JRW et al.). Two stilts put in an appearance at Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke, Ark., June 26 (RC).

Greater Yellowlegs moved S early this year, setting records in many areas. At the Centerton, Ark., fish hatchery, three early birds showed up July 2 (RDG, LG, SJ). About 30 made their debut at the pond w. of Bruce, Miss., July 13 (G & SKn), but only one was there July 14 (MD). Lesser Yellowlegs can probably be added to the list of species with individuals that regularly spend the summer with us. Records this year spanned the season in Louisiana: six at Cameron June 6 (SC, DLD); one s.w. of Ringgold, June 25 (PMD); one at F.B. and nine at Grand I., July 3 (A & GS, JS); two near Deer Park, Concordia, July 6 (DWG); 12 at F.A., July 17 (DWG); and two at M.S. July 23 (DWG). In Mississippi, records at the pond w. of Bruce for July

4, 13, & 14 included one (MD), 108, and 40 (G & SKn) birds. Two also showed up for July 4 festivities at the Centerton, Ark., fish hatchery (RDG, JCN).

Solitary Sandpipers set early fall arrival records too: singles were at the Centerton, Ark., fish hatchery July 2 (RDG, LG, SJ), and at the pond w. of Bruce, Miss., July 4 (MD). JB, HM, CD, and JW found a Willet 3 mi s. of Delta, La., on the Mississippi R. levee, a site with one previous record; one was at Sardis Dam, Miss., July 9 & 11 (MD, G & SKn). Six Upland Sandpipers were in Baldwin, Ala., July 30 (OF, SG, MM). A lone Whimbrel was at E.J.B., July 6 (DLD), and two to three probed the marsh at Bayou Cassotte, Jackson, Miss., July 28 (CFD, MFH, JAT). L & TT found two Long-billed Curlews in the Chandeleurs July 25; three were at E.J.B., July 5-6 (DLD, SC); and one was at Bayotte Cassotte July 28 (JAT). Ten Marbled Godwits at F.B., June 21 furnished a rare late spring record (RP).

Up to three Ruddy Turnstones summered at E.J.B. (DLD, SC). A Red Knot was at E.J.B., June 20 (DLD, SC, DM), but that unexpected summer lingerer pales beside the 110 seen June 21 at F.B. (RP); seven were seen at the latter site July 3 (AS, GS, JS). The earliest returning Sanderling on the Mississippi coast was one in alternate plumage July 25 at Gulfport (JAT, TS).

Migrants at Walker Pond, Lauderdale, Ala., June 4 included nine Semipalmated Sandpipers (DS, MB); two were at E.J.B., June 20, and one was collected there July 6 (DLD, SC). Summer records of W. Sandpipers included eight at E.J.B., June 20, and four there July 5-6 (DLD); 10 were at Waveland July 17 (JAT, CFD); one was at Sardis Dam July 18, three there July 20 (MD); and a group of 19 plied the muck at the Starkville, Miss., sewage lagoons July 21 (TS). Least Sandpipers found this summer included: one at Centerton, Ark., fish hatchery July 4 (RDG, JCN); three at E.J.B., July 5 (SC); six w. of Bruce, Miss., July 13 (G & SKn); and four at Waveland, Miss., July 17 (JAT, CFD). White-rumped Sandpipers included three at Walker Pond, Lauderdale, Ala., June 4 (DS, MB), one collected at Cameron, La., June 20 (DLD, SC, DM), and one seen at F.B., June 21 (RP). G & SKn noted the July 13th early arrival of 18 Pectoral Sandpipers w. of Bruce; six were at F.A., July 17 (DWG).

Two Dunlins were at F.B., June 21 (RP), one in breeding plumage. A solo Stilt Sandpiper was at P.R.M., July 26 (TS). Short-billed Dowitchers lingered in numbers in the mid-South this summer. In Louisiana about 250 were at F.B., June 21 (RP), and up to five to 10 in basic/partial alternate plumage were seen June 20 and July 5-6, apparently summering at E.J.B. (SC, DLD). In Mississippi three were w. of Bruce July 13 (G & SKn); five were at Sardis Dam July 24 (MD), for the first local July dates. A Com. Snipe at Springdale, Ark., June 16 furnished a rare summer record (RDG). A lone Wilson's Phalarope was at Centerton, Ark., July 4 (JCN, RDG). A male and two females stopped by the TVA pond at Ensley near Memphis, Tenn., July 25 (BBC, LCC), and a duo was on the P.R.M. flats July 26 (TS).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — On June 13 a Laughing Gull was a rare find at L. Zamora, Jefferson, Ala. (RRS). Another stray downy Laughing Gull chick picked up for rehabilitation on the Mississippi coast, this one from Bayou Caddy, suggested local nesting (DH, *fide* JAT). An adult and a subad. Franklin's Gull were at Rutherford Marsh, Cameron, La., June 7 (DLD, SC). Small numbers of Ring-billed Gulls spent June and July in Cameron, La. (DLD, SC); three were at Sardis Dam, Miss., June 5 through July (MD, G & SKn). Up to nine Herring Gulls in various plumages were loitering at E.J.B., June 6-July 6 (DLD, DM, SC). At F.B., a 3rd-year Lesser Black-backed Gull June 21 provided the first summer record for s.e. Louisiana, the 2nd for the state (RP).

A lone Caspian Tern was at Sardis Dam July 26 (G & SKn). A few Caspian Terns and as many as 25,000 Royal Terns and about 50,000 Sandwich Terns were attending eggs or chicks on Curlew I. in the Chandeleurs June 1 (CF). In Louisiana a subad. Com. Tern was w. of Holly Beach, Cameron, June 20 (SC, DLD, DM), seven were seen and heard at Grand Isle June 21 (RP), and about 50 subadults and immatures were at E.J.B.,

July 6, far fewer there than last summer (DLD, SC). A Forster's Tern was fishing at a small pond near the Yacona R., Lafayette, Miss., July 3 (GKn).

The Least Tern story was a mixed one this year. In coastal Mississippi numbers seemed to be down, perhaps because of steady and heavy rain June 12-15. Although most sites that have been used in recent years had a few birds, the limits of colonies were contracted, and none nested at P.R.M. Particularly along the Harrison beaches the birds seemed more harassed by human sun-worshippers than in previous years (JAJ). "Interior" Least Tern records were promising—or were they owing to more attention? In Arkansas, one was at Centerton July 2 (RDG, LG, SJ); July 25, two adults were over a flooded field near Staple, and two more were at a fish farm n. of Tillar (RHD, m.ob.). The only reported Arkansas nesting was at a dike field at Mississippi R. mile 509, where DRS & CS found 4 eggs, one dead chick, and 30+ adults July 19. In Mississippi a Least Tern was at Sardis Dam June 15 & 28 (G & SKn). On a Mississippi R. sandbar, TS and TD found about 12 adults and 4 nests with eggs July 3 near Great River Road S.P., Miss. In Louisiana, three were seen in the same levee borrow e of Hollybrook, East Carroll, July 13 & 20 (HM, CD), and one or two were seen along the Mississippi levee 3 mi s. of Delta, Madison, July 18 & 25 (HM, JB, CD, JW). In Tennessee, two were at Cross Creeks N.W.R., June 8-14 (JCR).

A few pairs of Sooty Terns were also on eggs on Curlew Island June 1 (CF). Early returning Black Terns included singles w. of Bruce, Miss., July 4 & 13 (MD, GKn), 25+ at Grenada Dam, Miss., July 13 (DWe), and three July 7 at Memphis (ViR, CHB). One along the levee 5 mi s. of Delta, La., July 23 furnished only the 2nd recent local record (HM, JW).

Black Skimmers fared well this summer in Harrison, Miss., where there were 60+ nests at both the Least Tern area and at the VA hospital—although these numbers did not add up to the numbers absent from usual nesting sites on Anderson I. and at P.R.M. (JAJ).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Ringed Turtle-Doves nested for a 2nd year at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. (DW, BG, DDo). Common Ground-Dove was once considered a common permanent resident at Reserve, La., but now seems scarce and declining—only one was found there June 6 (RJS). No nesting is known from coastal Mississippi, so Com. Ground-Doves in Hancock June 4 & 11 were a welcome surprise (JAT).

Although out of the spotlight in recent years, they are still with us—three Monk Parakeets were seen at Bissonet Plaza, Metairie, La., on 6 July dates (MAJ). Greater Roadrunners were doing their thing near Stonewall, DeSoto, La., July 26 (SK); and in Arkansas near L. Hamilton at Royal, June 4 (BL), at Sanatorium Hill, Booneville, July 18 (JCN), near Shady L. Recreation Area, Pike, July 30 (BL), and at Holla Bend N.W.R., Yell, July 31 (B & PL). Common Barn-Owls in coastal Mississippi included one in Pascagoula July 22 (CFD) and two at Ansley July 29 (JAT, GM, MB, MP). JAJ banded four nestlings from a natural cavity in an oak in downtown Starkville, Miss. Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills were again censused along a mid-South transect by BBC & LCC (Table 1).

Table 1. Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills heard on the nights of June 8-10 along the Natchez Trace between the junction with Miss. 43 (near Canton) and Tenn. 50 (at Shady Grove). Data from Ben B. Coffey, Jr. and Lula C. Coffey.

State	No. stops	Miles	No. Chucks/Stops	No. Whips/Stops
Miss.	351	194	448/241	48/44 ¹
Ala.	65	33	62/42	7/7
Tenn.	118	65	50/37	76/55

¹ First Whip-poor-will heard 1 mi s. of Kosciusko.

Hairy Woodpeckers are much less common in the southeast than farther north, thus an ad male and juv female together e of Cameron, La., June 6 were worthy of note (SC, DLD). Up to six Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found at 3 nest sites at Camp Livingston, Rapides, La., June 18 (JM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPER — A cutover area with scattered snags 8 mi s. of Oxford, Miss., brought in a late Olive-sided Flycatcher June 5 (MD, GK). Central Tennessee records of the Willow Flycatcher included one from Bear Creek W.M.A., June 5 (DWB), six-plus from Cross Creeks N.W.R., June 6–July 20 (JCR), one from the Monsanto Ponds, Maury, June 15 (BHS), and one from near Moodyville, Fentress, June 25 (RH). A Willow Flycatcher was also seen and heard at the Centerton Hatchery, Ark., June 1 (RDG). The first summer record of a W. Kingbird on the Mississippi coast was of one found June 15 at P.R.M. (JAT, CFD). For the 3rd consecutive year a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen 5 mi n. of Crowley, Franklin, La.—this year July 25 (DG). A pair and two fledged young were at Husser, Tangipahoa, La., July 25 (PL), and two shared the status of first local records at Maynard, Ark., June 19 (ELH).

In Louisiana two juv. Horned Larks, one being fed by an adult, were found July 3 s. of Old Floyd, West Carroll (CD); and six, including one immature, were seen one mi n. of Mound, Madison, July 3 (HM, JB). Tree Swallows continued their breeding range expansion S again this year. In Lauderdale, Ala., a male was seen apparently feeding young at a cavity at Walker Pond, June 4, but not on later dates (DS, MB); on July 5, a pair was at Beaver Marsh, near Oakland (DS, CB). In Limestone, Ala., 30+ Tree Swallows were seen July 18, including flightless young in a nest cavity (AM, P & RF). Arkansas records included L. Millwood records of one June 6 and four June 11 (CMi); two were at Mississippi R. mile 510, Chicot, with early migrant Purple Martins and N. Rough-winged Swallows July 19 (DRS). There were no nest records of Tree Swallows from middle Tennessee this year, although birds were seen in Stewart, Humphreys, Maury, and Sumner during June and July (fide SJS).

Cliff Swallows continued to strengthen their hold on the Region: in Louisiana about 20 pairs nested under bridges at Natchitoches (CV), and 25 were seen in June and July at the U.S. 90 bridge at Chef Mentuer Pass, Orleans (GO). In Mississippi, Cliff Swallows again nested under U.S. 90 bridges over the Pearl R. (JAT, MP); a new nest site was found under a bridge at Kiln, where 4 Cliff Swallow nests were found with several Barn Swallow nests July 11 (NLN, PN, JaB); and apparently new colonies including 20–30 birds each were found at a Coldwater R. bridge and at the Arkabutla Res., DeSoto, May 10 (BBC, LCC). In middle Tennessee, JCR reported a high 832 Cliff Swallows from a June 10 survey of Stewart, and SJS & BHS reported 100+ along the Cumberland R., Jackson, July 17. Hundreds of Barn Swallows were at Magnolia Beach (Amite R.), Livingston, La., July 24 (RB). They were apparently nesting (nobody looked!) under several bridges in the Baton Rouge area (VR; R & EB, TSS), where they have still not been documented as breeders.

A White-breasted Nuthatch was found at Owen's Creek on the Natchez Trace, Claiborne, Miss., June 28 (JB). Brown Creepers are very rare in summer in Arkansas, but have been nesting in Tennessee recently, thus a creeper at Oaklawn Park, Garland, Ark., June 16 was of note (PL).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — Bewick's Wren has been discussed in previous years as a bird that was in trouble, or at least suffering an unexplained decline. Observers in middle Tennessee made an effort to find the birds—and did. In Houston, JCR and DSe found seven-plus between May and July, including a nest with young at Tennessee Ridge. In Stewart, JCR found 21 from June 15 to July 26, and in Wayne JCR & DJS found three June 21—all associated with brush piles left behind in clearcut forest land. A pair was at the Berrys' home in Wilson

May 21 into July. A single Bewick's Wren was heard w of Williamson June 14 (SJS). In Arkansas, two Bewick's Wrens were at Rogers July 11 (EN), and JCN noted that although they are persisting in n.w. Arkansas, the records are very scattered. House Wrens have not moved s. of Nashville in middle Tennessee in conspicuous numbers—yet. Reports, mostly from urban areas, came from Houston, Rutherford, Robertson, Dickson, Montgomery, Sumner, and Davidson (fide SJS). Marshes along the E. Pascagoula R. produced 19 singing Marsh Wrens July 28 (JAT, CFD, MFH).

Eastern Bluebirds seemed to do well n. of I-10 in Hancock, Miss., where 50+ were seen June 2 (JAT, MP). A late "eastern" Swainson's Thrush was e. of Cameron, La., June 6 (DLD, SC). American Robins continued to gain momentum in the s. fringes of their nesting range: in Louisiana four to six were seen on the state capitol grounds in Baton Rouge June 8 (R & EB), and one was at Morganza, Pointe Coupee, July 6 (DWG).

A Gray Catbird at De Funiak Springs, Walton, Fla., June 12 suggested local breeding (TI), as did one singing at Grand Isle, La., June 21 (RP) and July 3 (A & GS, JS), where one was also seen last year. Another repeat locality was near Pearlinton, Miss., where JAT found one June 11.

Only single White-eyed Vireos were found June 7 at Johnson's Bayou and Garner Ridge; a pair was opposite Johnson's Bayou, Cameron, La. (SC, DLD). Solitary Vireos found singing at Zamora P., Jefferson, July 8 (R & MS), and s.e. of Anniston, Cleburne, June 20 (PF, HK) suggested local nesting. Yellow-throated Vireos in coastal Mississippi included one near Kiln June 2 (JAT, MP) and two singing near Saucier June 4 (JAT). Warbling Vireos seemed to be doing well along the Mississippi R., Bolivar, Miss., where six were singing July 3 (TS), and at Mulberry, Ark., along the Arkansas R. where five were found July 19 (JCN)—both observers reported the birds in willow thickets. A Red-eyed Vireo was collected June 7 at Garner Ridge, Cameron, La. (SC, DLD).

Northern Parulas were at Garner Ridge June 7, where a fledgling was found (DLD, SC); and in Rapides, La., their numbers seemed higher than usual this summer (JM). An early imm. Yellow Warbler was e. of Hickory July 15 (JMM). A Chestnut-sided Warbler June 8 at Gulf Breeze, Fla., was the latest ever for the area (L & SD). A Magnolia Warbler with a tumor on its neck was collected near Cameron, La., June 6 (SC, DLD).

An important spring record that came in late was of a Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler photographed at Zamora, La., May 26 (R & MS), for a late state record. A late w. Tennessee record was set by a Black-throated Green Warbler singing 3 mi n. e. of Camden June 4 (BBC, LCC). A singing Blackburnian Warbler June 2 was late for Shreveport, La. (HHJ). Prairie Warbler numbers seemed down in w. Tennessee (BBC, LCC). A late Blackpoll Warbler was found June 8 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (L & SD). Cerulean Warblers were more common than previously in w. Tennessee this summer (BBC, LCC).

Black-and-white Warblers have been notably absent from the Claiborne, Miss., area during summer, thus a female at the Rocky Springs area on the Natchez Trace June 28 was noteworthy (JB); one was at Chumuckla, Santa Rosa, Fla., July 18 (JPf, KW), and a pair was foraging together in the Honey Island Swamp, St. Tammany, La., July 22 (NLN, PN, DGe). In lower w. Tennessee, BBC reported them "now uncommon to rare." CP reported one from Tullahoma, Coffee, in middle Tennessee. A subad. ♂ Am. Redstart singing "half a song" was found along Whiskey Bay Rd., Iberville, La., July 11 (JAG, PES); a female was at Pass Christian, Miss., July 5 (JDu). NH had a Prothonotary Warbler with 4 eggs occupying an old E. Bluebird nest at Archer I., Chicot, Ark., June 14.

A singing Swainson's Warbler was a rare, but regular, find at Noxubee N.W.R., June 29 (TS); one at Reserve, La., June 13 furnished the first local record, but was expected (RJS); five were heard or seen near Whiskey Bay, Iberville, La., July 11 (JAG, PES); in w. Tennessee, BBC reported them "now uncommon." MPK found four singing Swainson's Warblers in the

Saline R bottom n e of Poyen, Ark., June 2 A very fat, early migrant Louisiana Waterthrush was collected July 5 at Cameron, La. (SC, DLD). A ♂ Hooded Warbler was at Jena, LaSalle, Ark., June 6 (JM); in middle Tennessee, singles were reported in June from central Williamson (SJS) and e. Putnam (RWS). Among the birds doing well this year was Yellow-breasted Chat, apparently taking advantage of cutover areas. JAT & MP found 40 n. of I-10 in Hancock, Miss., June 2, and JAT heard 35 on the Necaize BBS route in Hancock-Harrison June 7.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — JAT noted seven Summer Tanagers along the Necaize BBS route in s. Mississippi June 7. One of the surprises of the season was the discovery of singing Scarlet Tanagers at Noxubee N.W.R. in Noxubee, Oktibbeha, and Winston: four June 1 (TS). Farther north, GK & MD reported three singing Scarlet Tanagers through June in Lafayette and Panola, Miss., more than ever before in the area. A male 10 mi s. of Malvern July 23 was near the s. limit of the Scarlet Tanager breeding range in Arkansas (MPk). Another surprise was bird believed to be a hatching-year ♂ W. Tanager photographed near Clay, Jefferson, Ala., where it was found July 19 and remained 2–3 weeks (R & MS, P & RF).

A Blue Grosbeak was singing at the s. limit of its Louisiana breeding range near Sunshine, Iberville, June 20 (VR), and 15 were heard n. of I-10 in Hancock, Miss., June 2 (JAT, MP). Indigo Buntings also seemed on the increase in s. Mississippi, where 16 were tallied on the Necaize BBS route June 7 (JAT). As if the 4th of July needed color, MFH and TS found a singing ♂ Painted Bunting then where it had been seen earlier in the year near the Golden Triangle Regional Airport, Lowndes, Miss. Other singers were two at Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock, Miss., June 2 (JAT, MP), and one at Bellefontaine Beach, Jackson, Miss., July 26 (TS). In Shelby, Tenn., BBC found them at 6 sites (3 new), but missed them at other past sites, noting a gradual decline in numbers. A male was also singing at Bull Shoals L., Boone, Ark., June 14 (JAR).

A newly-discovered Dickcissel breeding locality was a former soybean field 2 mi e. of Reserve, La., where six adults and two dependent young were found June 7 through July (RJS, MW). Dickcissel reports also came from central and n.w. Robertson, Tenn., where JCR had 30 birds June 28. Two Rufous-sided Towhees in e. Arkansas bottomlands near Morgan Point June 4 were unusual for the area (RI).

Conecuh N.F., Ala., provides some good habitat for Bachman's Sparrows, where 26 were seen July 8–10 (TMH, DS); 12 mi away, on Blackwater River State Forest, Fla., TI counted 15 in June. Two Bachman's Sparrows were singing in typical open, mature pine forest with a grassy understory on Noxubee N.W.R., Winston, June 6 (TS), and one was singing along the Walthall BBS route, Calhoun, Miss., June 7 (MFH, TS). In Tennessee, BBC & LCC found Bachman's Sparrow only in n.w. Chester June 11, and in central Hardeman, June 19, noting their absence from other areas; DJS, EDC, & MAB found two in s.w. Lewis June 16; JCR, TF, *et al.*, found two in w. Stewart July 21–26; and DJS reported three during the period from s.e. of Fall River in Giles. A Bachman's Sparrow was found in a controlled burn area at Ft. Chaffee, Sebastian, Ark., June 6 (B1B)—the burn had been done by the state Game & Fish Commission for deer habitat management, but birders need to be aware that such burns are very important to our open pine forest birds too. A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was photographed and another heard July 31 at Mt. Nebo S.P., one of the 2 Arkansas localities for them (B & PL).

Singing Lark Sparrows were found along the Aberdeen BBS route, Monroe, Miss., June 3 (MFH, TS); n. of Epes and s. of Gainesville on the Epes BBS Route, Sumter, Ala. (RR, RH); and at Cross Creek N.W.R., Tenn., July 28 (JCR). A lone Grasshopper Sparrow was singing at the Golden Triangle Regional Airport, Lowndes, Miss., July 4 (MFH, TS); 12 were found June 7 on the Glenn BBS route in Grundy, Tenn. (DRJ & KJ); and five were discovered at the L. Chicot pumping plant, Chicot, Ark.,

June 1 (DRS) Coastal developments have reduced Seaside Sparrow numbers, and few people check up on them. Four were found in marshes of the E. Pascagoula R., July 25 (MFH, JAT, CFD), and a whopping 91 (most immatures) were tallied in prairie marsh near Bayou Cassotte July 28 (JAT, CFD, MFH). Wayne and Montgomery became the 28th and 29th middle Tennessee counties to have summer season records of Song Sparrows: 10 in Wayne June 20 (JCR, DJS), and three (including fledglings) in Montgomery June 28 (JCR). Song Sparrows are not yet known to nest in Arkansas, but one was singing near Bradford June 15–16 (WMS). A lingering White-throated Sparrow was singing near Ragland, Ala., June 6 (PF, RRS).

Great-tailed Grackles are still very local in n.w. Arkansas, but three females and a male were found n. of Van Buren off Cristy Lane July 19 (JCN). Single ♂ Bronzed Cowbirds at Baton Rouge June 5 (TSS) and at Metairie June 16–18 (RP) documented this species' continued presence in the Region. Northern (Baltimore) Orioles were found in n.w. Alabama at Wheeler L., June 23 (DS), and the Wilson Dam area, where three males and three females were seen June 20 through end of period (DS, m.ob.). At the latter site, adults were seen carrying food. In Louisiana males were seen June 3 at Reserve (RJS) and June 20 at St. Gabriel, Iberville (VR), where the species is a rare summer resident. Middle Tennessee reports for the season came from Robertson (JCR, DJS), Stewart (DWB), Dickson (ATT, EJW), Houston (JCR), and Coffee (SJS)—more than usual for the area.

House Finches nested for the 2nd year at Florence, Lauderdale, Ala. (DP, PK). In June, 2 pairs were feeding young at a feeder and PK found a nest with 5 eggs, although the nest was later lost to wind. In Memphis, BBC & LCC were inundated with nesting House Finches at "Coffey Grounds": they banded 70+ immatures! In middle Tennessee the species continued to spread as a breeder; it was reported at Tullahoma, Coffee, July 5 (SJS). In Mississippi, they were not seen in Starkville, where they nested last year (JA), but a lone female was again at S & MD's feeder in Oxford June 20–July 17. A Pine Siskin just had it too good at the Bella Vista, Ark., feeder; it was seen there June 4, 7, & 9 (C & VRi, *fide* JCN). Late Alabama spring records of note included four Pine Siskins at Zamora, Jefferson, May 22, and two Evening Grosbeaks there May 24 (R & MS).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Bernard Gollop

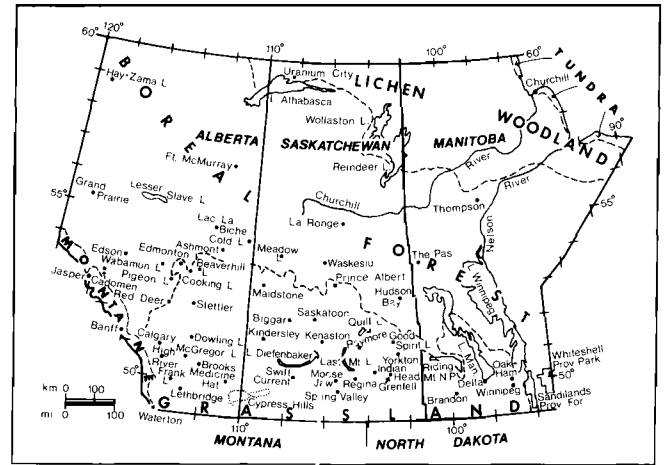
This was a year in which more species than usual were found to be breeding, or possibly breeding, beyond their normal summer ranges. There appeared to be no related weather phenomenon.

June 1987 temperatures were 2°C above normal in the southern Prairies and fell off to normal in the north. July temperatures varied from -1°C to +1°C of normal, with a record low of 3°C at Swift Current July 11. June precipitation was 75-100% of the average, while July was a wet month—150-200% of normal, with Prince Albert receiving a record 176 mm of rain in July. Hail and tornadoes occurred in both months; a tornado killed 27 people in Edmonton July 31.

Ponds in the Region totalled 1,200,000, down 25% from last July. The decreases were 7% in southern Alberta, 27% in southern Saskatchewan, and 40% in southern Manitoba (U S Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service).

LOONS THROUGH COOTS — A Yellow-billed Loon was a rarity at Churchill June 9 (DS). Seven Eared Grebes appeared to be still incubating July 23 on a slough near Saskatoon (MGi). The only Clark's Grebes were reported from Manitoba: a single on a sewage lagoon in Winnipeg and two on Pelican L., near Ninette, where a nest had been found in 1986 (RP, RF). The summer population of Double-crested Cormorants in the St. Paul, Alta., area was up significantly to an estimated 10,000± birds. They may have been the cause of a decrease in Great Blue Herons by moving into the latter's colonies (BR). A Great Blue at Churchill July 27 & 28 may have been a postbreeding migrant (BC). Single Great Egrets were seen at Glenmore Res., Calgary, June 15 (FW, DC, ASl) and n. of Oyen, Alta., June 21 (GSW). Another (?) Great Egret was seen farther n. at Beaverhill L. and then at Lesser Slave L., also in June (*vide* PM). Three swans, identified as Tundra, seemed out of place at Turtle L., Sask., June 14 (MC). Two pairs of Snow Geese remained in the Saskatoon area through June to at least July 8 (MGo, BG). Breeding Canada Geese numbers were up around St. Paul, Alta (BR), while in the Saskatoon area 253 goslings were found on 6 wetlands June 22 (MGo). A ♀ Mallard with a recently-hatched brood of eight turned and attacked one and two Am. White Pelicans as they approached the brood 3 times while it swam across the river in Saskatoon June 7 (BG). Premolting flocks of Mallards exceeded 3000, N. Shovelers 1500, and Gadwall 1200 on 14 sloughs in the Saskatoon area June 8 (WK, MGo). A Black Scoter on Sagemace Bay, L. Winnipegosis, Man., June 23 was unusual (RKn). A brood of 11 Hooded Mergansers on the Souris R. s. of Glen Ewen, Sask., was s.e. of the published breeding range June 26 (CA).

A Turkey Vulture at Churchill June 10 was an accidental for that area (JV). At Loon L., Sask., 7 of 24 active pairs of Ospreys nested on artificial platforms erected by Frank Scott (SH). Northern Harriers apparently increased in w. Saskatch-



ewan at Kindersley and Turtle L. (JKH, MC). Swainson's Hawks had their worst year on record around Kindersley with only 80 young banded in 60 nests (JKH, SH); production was also poor in the Last Mountain L.-Kutawagen area (WH). Farther s. in the province, success was much better, e.g., 604 young banded in 334 nests s. of Moose Jaw and Maple Creek and around Mantario (WH, DF). Concentrations of Swainson's Hawks, practically all one-year-old birds, were reported in s.w. Saskatchewan in mid-July as follows: 80 near Hodgeville, 160 Fox Valley, 180 Divide, 200 Bracken, 275 Senate, and 325 Fir Mountain (WH). The Ferruginous Hawk population in s.w. Manitoba continues to grow: 10 nests were found this year compared to 3 in 1986 (KD). Ferruginous Hawks nested on 5 platforms around Kindersley; the species had a good year there and throughout s.w. Saskatchewan with 342 young banded in 141 nests (JKH, SH, WH). Golden Eagle production was normal in Saskatchewan with 10 young fledged from 7 nests (SH, WH) Eight pairs of Am. Kestrels raised 32 young in boxes on a farm near White Bear, Sask. (S, SH). For the first time "in decades," a pair of Merlins nested in Winnipeg (Rko). South of the S Saskatchewan R., Prairie Falcons had an average year—43 young banded in 15 nests (WH, SH). Except for Ruffed Grouse, with populations similar to last year's, upland game birds increased in Saskatchewan: Gray Partridge and Sharp-tailed Grouse by 70%, and Ring-necked Pheasant by 175% (PH) American Coots totalled >1600 on 4 wetlands in the Saskatoon area July 8 (MGo, WK).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS — Postbreeding flocks of some of our summer resident shorebirds were: 50 Killdeer and 80 Willets July 23 near Spring Valley (FB), 95 Am. Avocets July 8 (where there had been 50 June 13) near Saskatoon (WK, MGo), and 250± Marbled Godwits July 8 near Maple Creek (CA).

The influx of ibises in 1986 was not repeated in 1987—allowing this to be designated The Year Of The Plover in Saskatchewan, based on the first known successful breeding of two species in the province, courtesy of Wayne Harris. **Snowy Plovers** tripled their population from one to 3 pairs—2 on Chaplin L., where a female appeared to be incubating July 16, and one on Big Quill L. with a nearly-flying young July 21. This was also the first successful breeding record in Canada. Then July 31, at the cost of a nick in his boot from a rattlesnake, Wayne found a pair of **Mountain Plovers** with three almost-flying young in a prairie dog colony near Val Marie. The bad news involved Piping Plovers: ad. populations were normal but production was poor on 3 major breeding areas—Big Quill L., Old Wives L., and Chaplin L.—with only 102 young being found (WH).

Saskatchewan had another new breeding species—**Black-necked Stilt**. The pair first reported near Saskatoon May 30 had 4 eggs June 8. A single bird was seen on the 9th. On June 10 the nest was found destroyed and no birds were seen (JW, PT, BL). Long-billed Curlews were reported much reduced in w Saskatchewan s. of Hwy 1—two seen in 2 weeks (WH)—but 20± pairs were found farther n. in the Great Sandhills June 14 (CB). A W. Sandpiper (no description) was reported from Hecla Is., Man., July 29 (RSh). On July 28 a bird thought to be an imm. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (description) was studied on Monica Slough, s.e. of Regina, for 5 minutes with binoculars and spotting scope at 12–15 m (RKr). There are fewer than 10 records for the Region, and this would be extraordinarily early for a young bird. A Long-tailed Jaeger was a rarity on L. Winnipegosis June 4 (RKn).

An estimated 30,000 Franklin's Gulls were staging on Reed L., Sask., July 26 (ASm). Rare gulls at Churchill included a Little Gull incubating 3 eggs June 30 and a Com. Black-headed Gull in mid-June (BC, PD). The status of California Gulls in s. Manitoba has been upgraded from rare with the discovery of 820 pairs on L. Winnipegosis and a colony on Pelican L. in late May and early June (RKn). At least 2 pairs of Ross' Gulls nested at Churchill this year, and 2 were known to have been unsuccessful (JL, BC). There was one Caspian Tern observation in each province: at least five at Dawson Bay, Man., June 10 (SS), three at the n. end of Last Mountain L., July 22 (DW), and one at Waterton Lakes N.P., July 2 (RP). Black-billed Cuckoos were reported up in 3 areas of s. Saskatchewan (MC, DB, BL) and 3 in s. Alberta (BR, TT, TD). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** June 6 near Pinawa furnished about the 10th record for Manitoba (BGR). Another E. Screech-Owl was reported far n.w. of its acknowledged breeding range at Turtle L., Sask., June 2, where one had been heard in May (RTa, DM). Great Horned Owls had average production in s. Saskatchewan with 2.3 young in 147 successful nests (SH). Thirty nest boxes for Burrowing Owls were occupied in the Moose Jaw area; there were at least another 15 pairs at natural burrows (*vide* LK). We seldom hear about Barred Owl nests in this Region, but one was found May 29 just w. of Winnipeg (JG).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS — A Red-headed Woodpecker, considered accidental for Alberta, was seen twice during June in Medicine Hat (*vide* MO). Young heard in a Pileated Woodpecker nest June 13 s. of Borden, Sask., extended the species' breeding range south by 100± km (JW, JS). There were reports of four flycatchers at the edge of or beyond their usual summer ranges. In Manitoba a W. Wood-Pewee at Mafeking, L. Winnipegosis, was at the e. edge June 27 (RKn), while another at Seven Sisters was beyond it (JD). On June 16, four Willow Flycatchers near Biggar, Sask., were far north (GSW) and a Great Crested Flycatcher this summer

near St Paul, Alta., was on the w boundary (BR). Finally, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher s. of Sydney, Man., July 19–27 was far north (B.N.H.S.). Tree Swallows in the Saskatoon area had 3.5 young per nest this year compared to 3.1 in 1986 (MHo). Red-breasted Nuthatches were noticeably scarce through a large part of c. Saskatchewan (SS, MC). A Rock Wren feeding young in a hole in the bank of a gravel pit near Bradwell, Sask., July 26 was n. of its regular breeding range (SS). Eastern Bluebirds in the Dauphin-St. Lazare area were particularly successful, averaging 4.2 young in 160 nestings (WW). Mountain Bluebirds in the Saskatoon area had lower production than last year, based on 229 young banded from 80 nestings (MHo). There was an interesting report of hundreds of Am. Robins on the lawn, fence, and trees of a yard in Saskatoon June 6—more than a month later than robins usually occur in flocks here (NA).

Loggerhead Shrikes were "doing well" in s.w. Manitoba, where 40 nests were found (KD). A shrike survey in s. Saskatchewan, based on 30 randomly-selected routes, yielded 118 shrike-locations or 2.1 per 100 km (CA). Another study of shrikes in the Last Mountain L., Old Wives L., and Consul areas of Saskatchewan turned up >500 pairs and 160 nests, those with full data produced more than four young per nest (WH). A **Blue-winged Warbler**, whose nearest regular breeding is in s. Minnesota, sang through much of a 2-hour period June 15 in Regina, Sask. (TH, BL, TR, CA). On June 1 & 2 a N. Parula, usually breeding no closer than s.e. Manitoba, was also in Regina (BL). A ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** singing near Kanaskis July 1 was far from the closest part of its normal range in Wyoming (IH). Other extralimital records included two ♂ Com. Yellowthroats and a Clay-colored Sparrow, apparently on territory, s. of Thompson, Man., July 4; both species were >200 km n.e. of their known breeding range (RKO). A ♀ Wilson's Warbler remained in a Moose Jaw yard July 8–28 and appeared with two young July 22 (EKe, EKl). This is 300± km s. of its usual summer haunts.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A **Scarlet Tanager** was acting territorial in the Cypress Hills, Alta., June 19 (Rkl, GC). An apparent hybrid Lazuli x Indigo Bunting was studied June 17 on the Alberta side of the Cypress Hills, far w. of the Indigo's range (Rkl, GC). A ♂ Rufous-sided Towhee July 11 s. of Lumsden, Sask., was of the e. subspecies, usually found from Manitoba east (BL). On July 17 a Field Sparrow near Vivian, Man., gave food to an ad. Clay-colored Sparrow. The Field Sparrow was found June 27 and was still present July 31 (GG, MS, WN). Sharp-tailed Sparrows appeared both n. and s. of their normal breeding range: four at Churchill June 29 (JL) and a small invasion in June and July near Calgary (RSt, MHa, JP). A McCown's Longspur was again reported June 21 at Turtle L., Sask., far n. of its grassland breeding range (MC). Two Chestnut-collared Longspurs e. of Dauphin July 6 were >100 km n. of their summer range (RKO). Did anyone besides Bonnie Chartier (at Churchill) have one dozen Snow Buntings at their feeder June 22? At Seven Sisters in extreme s.e. Manitoba, a ♂ Pine Grosbeak was seen carrying food at the same place as a female had been seen May 23. This suggested breeding >500 km s. of the normal summer range (RKO, GG, RTk). An influx of White-winged Crossbills with flocks of up to 100± birds was noted through c. Manitoba in early July by many observers (RKO). Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches were apparently more common than last year through much of s. Saskatchewan and Manitoba (v.o.).

OBSERVERS (Provincial compilers in boldface; local compilers in italics) — C. Adam, N. Allen, C. Bjorklund, D. Black, F. Bogdan, Brandon Natural History Society (B.N.H.S.), M. Carlson, B. Chartier, G. Cheeseman, D. Collister, K. De Smet, T. Dolman, J. Dunn, P. Dyck, R. Foxall, D. Francis, J. Gerrard, M. Gilliland (MGs),

B. Gollop, M. Gollop (MGo), G. Greef, M. Hagel (MHa), I. Halladay, J. & K. Harris, W. Harris, P. Haughian, T. Herriot, M. Houston (MHo), S. Houston, S. Jordheim, E. Kern (EKe), E. King (EKi), R. Klauke (RKl), R. Knapton (RKn), L. Knight, R. Koes (RKO), W. Kost, R. Kreba (RKr), J. Langham, B. Luterbach, D. McAskill, P. Marklevitz, W. Neily, M. O'Shea, R. Parsons, J. Podlubny, B. & G. Ramsay, T.

Riffel, B. Ripplin, S. Shadick, R. Shettler (RSh), D. Sibley, M. Siepman, A. Slater (ASl), J. Slimmon, A. Smith (ASm), R. Storms (RSI), P. Taylor, R. Taylor (RTa), T. Thormin, R. Tkachuk (RTk), J. Van Os, F. Walker, W. Walley, G. & S. Wapple, J. Wedgwood, D. Weidl.— J. BERNARD GOLLOP, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon B. Berkey

The hot dry weather of spring continued over the Dakotas through June. July brought fluctuating temperatures with ample precipitation to the entire Region. High water levels in the Dakotas drowned emergent vegetation used by grebes in several sites, either wiping out colonies or decreasing numbers present. In northeastern South Dakota, island nesting species were displaced to peninsulas with greater likelihood of predation; on the other hand, dead trees created by rising water increased available nesting sites for herons and egrets. There was evidence that increased vegetative growth spawned by very early spring precipitation and the long growing season benefitted several grassland species in North Dakota.

A five-year breeding bird atlas of Ward County, North Dakota, ended with confirmation of 135 different species (GB, RM), 56 of which had no definite nestings in the county in Stewart's *Breeding Birds of North Dakota*, published in 1975.

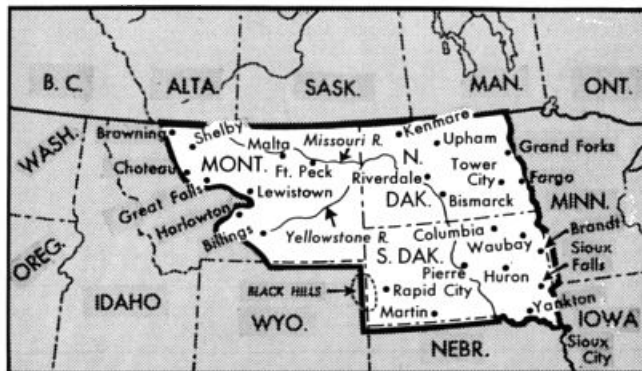
A flurry of very early "fall" migration dates of passerines in the Grand Forks, North Dakota, area could be explained either by increased observer effort or by birds having completed nesting activities early because of the warm spring.

Unusual records included Olivaceous Cormorant, Mississippi Kite, and Chuck-will's-widow in South Dakota, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in North Dakota, and Golden-crowned Sparrow in Montana. First state nestings included Clark's Grebe in South Dakota, House Finch in North Dakota, and Least Tern in Montana.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH CRANES — Western Grebes were generally down in n.e. South Dakota this summer, where high water destroyed much habitat, but nesting success was very good in Ward, N.D. The first South Dakota nesting of **Clark's Grebe** was confirmed by the finding of a nest with eggs in a colony of Westerns in Kingsbury June 17 (BKH). A Clark's at Ackley L., July 12 provided a first observation for Montana latilong L30. High water forced Am. White Pelicans in Day, S.D., to move from island to peninsula nesting sites where predation is much more likely. It was interesting that where they nested in association with Ring-billed Gulls, predation on all species was notably reduced (DS). The 2nd state record for **Olivaceous Cormorant** at Pierre, S.D., June 23 (BKH et al.) was at the same location as the first state observation in summer 1985.

Seven nests of Am. Bittern were found at Bitter L. in Day (MHG). A single Great Blue Heron nest in Harding June 29 (RP) was the first documented for n.w. South Dakota. The nesting population of waders in e. South Dakota continues to explode. New county nesting records for Great Egret were of 10 nests in Marshall and 4 nests in Dueul; the 65 nests at L. Preston in Kingsbury represented the largest colony yet found in the state. The water area of L. Preston has grown to 18,000



acres, and the colonies on the lake and on L. Preston Creek have thrived in dead trees created by flooding. Nests at the rookery on L. Preston Creek included 10 Snowy Egret, 2 Little Blue Heron, 40 Cattle Egret, and 75 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests (BKH). Photographs of young Snowy Egrets near flight stage at Minnewaukon, N.D. (DL), documented the success of the first state nesting reported this spring. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Fargo July 20 (GN) was at the same location where one had been seen in May. The first county nesting of White-faced Ibis in Day was confirmed June 15 with the finding of 9 nests with eggs (DRS).

Broods of Green-winged Teal, Am. Wigeon, and Lesser Scaup June 7, and Canvasback July 15 (DP), provided the first nesting confirmations for Montana's L10.

A Turkey Vulture at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., N.D., June 21 (AB) was out of the normal summer range. A vagrant imm. Bald Eagle was in Divide, N.D., June 12 (DG). Five N. Harrier nests were observed at LaCreek N.W.R., S.D. (RHB). A well-described **Mississippi Kite** June 28 near Prairie City, Perkins (RP), furnished one of few South Dakota records. A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Fargo June 23 (LF) was interesting considering that Cooper's is the Accipiter expected there in summer. Four N. Goshawk nests with young were found in Pennington and Custer, S.D. (RP). A Prairie Falcon nest near Ft. Peck, Mont., successfully fledged four young for the 9th time in 10 years; the only year they were unsuccessful was when a Great Horned Owl nested on the same cliff (CC).

An ad. Sandhill Crane seemed "almost" territorial in extreme n.w. L10, Mont., July 10 (DP). A flock of 15 was reported from Salyer N.W.R., July 15.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Black-bellied Plover June 18 in Roberts and Baird's Sandpiper June 11 in Kingsbury (PS) were presumably northbound migrants; both tied latest-ever dates for South Dakota. Two Piping Plover nests found on an island in Nelson Res., Mont., were found predated, but a 3rd hatched four young July 24. A Killdeer nested on a house roof in Fargo, and three young survived the fall to the ground June 8 (JW). A Greater Yellowlegs in Day June 29 (DS) was the earliest ever fall migrant for South Dakota. A Black-

necked Stilt nest on an island in Nice Res (DP) provided a new nesting confirmation for L8 in Montana, and many young were produced at Bowdoin N.W.R. New latilong nesting confirmations for L10 were Am. Avocet, Spotted Sandpiper, and Willet. A W. Sandpiper at Fargo June 14 (GN) was the latest ever in spring for North Dakota. Four Stilt Sandpipers in Day June 29 (MS) were very early fall migrants. Fall migrant Short-billed Dowitchers peaked at an unprecedented 75 in Fargo July 13 (MB); it is now believed that most July dowitchers in the Red R. Valley are of this species (DL). Two nests with eggs of Wilson's Phalarope were found in Fargo June 16 (MB).

Two Ring-billed Gull colonies at Bitter L., Day, contained approximately 250 nests; 5 nests of California Gull and 4 of Com. Tern were also present there. A gull colony discovered in Nice Res., June 12 provided new nesting confirmation for Ring-billed and California gulls in L8. A probable Black-legged Kittiwake was carefully observed in Hand, S.D., June 6 (JVD); the date is most unusual.

Nesting Caspian Terns on Gull Island in Ft. Peck L. increased to 30 pairs this season, with a high of 110 adults and young present July 29 (LM). The stocking of small forage fish may be responsible for the growth in numbers. Another new confirmation for L10 was a Com. Tern chick on an island in Itchpair Slough July 7. Montana's first nesting (and only the 3rd observation) of **Least Tern** was on an island in Ft. Peck Lake. The nest was apparently inundated by waves caused by high winds, but the pair may have attempted a 2nd nest (JS, JA, CC). A nest was also found in Meade, S.D. (PS).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Com. Barn-Owl nest with young was found in Huron, S.D., July 26 (KG). Three broods of Burrowing Owls, one containing seven young, were found in n.e. Ward July 19 (RM). Fledglings of both Long-eared and Short-eared owls were seen near Solen, N.D. (RT). Twenty Short-eared Owl nests were found at LaCreek N.W.R. (RB). The observation of three juvenile N. Saw-whet Owls in Huron, S.D., July 5 (BR), coupled with the observation of a juvenile last summer s. of Fargo, causes one to wonder whether this species may occasionally nest around evergreen plantings in the e. Dakotas.

Common Nighthawk numbers were up in North Dakota. Three of four ground nests found in Ward were at gravel pits, located on high sites a few feet from the pit (GB). Participants in a breeding bird atlas workshop at Pierre, S.D., were treated to the 2nd **Chuck-will's-widow** for the state; the bird was present at Oahe Res., June 13-23 (PS et al.).

New earliest dates for woodpecker activities were set by nests with young of Red-headed Woodpecker July 3 and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker June 19 in Ward, and fledgling Downy Woodpecker in Grand Forks June 17. Red-naped Sapsuckers were seen in Pennington and Lawrence, S.D., June 4-13, and Three-toed Woodpecker was seen in Lawrence June 10 (MM). An albino N. Flicker was noted around Hoople, N.D., in July (MR). An imm. Pileated Woodpecker was observed in Sodak Park in Roberts June 27 (BKH), suggesting they may have nested in the area.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Grand Forks July 19 (DL) set a new earliest fall date for North Dakota. Also early were two in Sioux, one banded July 24 and another observed July 30 (RT). A pair of Say's Phoebes successfully fledged 3 broods in Pennington May 19-July 31 (MG). Great Crested Flycatchers seemed to be using shelterbelt habitat on the Kempton, N.D., BBS route (DL). The appearance of the 3rd **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** for North Dakota interrupted 5 workers at Lostwood N.W.R. as they were examining the contents of a Virginia Rail nest found during dragging operations (MG).

Purple Martins were reported down over much of North Dakota. Tree Swallows produced 24 young from 4 bluebird houses along Nelson Res., a new confirmation for L8. This spe-

cies seems to appear out of nowhere whenever houses are erected. Some 352 nestlings were banded at Waubay N W R (DS). A Com. Raven was seen in Shannon June 14 (RP); there are no recent nesting records for South Dakota. A Rock Wren singing in a Grand Forks yard June 1-5 furnished the 2nd record for the county (EF).

Populations of E. Bluebirds continue to increase in the Dakotas, with bluebird trails at Waubay (68 fledged) and Salyer N.W.R. (20 nests) and in Grand Forks (31 nests) scoring major successes. Many were also using natural cavities in overgrazed coulees in Ward; in one coulee, 5 bluebird families were found in a mile of coulee where no bluebirds had been present in 1985 (GB). Three pairs of Mountain Bluebirds also nested in boxes at Salyer (AV). A Swainson's Thrush July 18 in Grand Forks (DL) set a new early fall migrant record for North Dakota. Sprague's Pipit was especially numerous in North Dakota, perhaps benefitting from the good growing conditions. Extensive field work in Sioux uncovered 23 Loggerhead Shrike nests (RT). A **Bell's Vireo** singing in a shelterbelt near Solen, N.D., July 5 could not be found the following day (CH).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Warblers provided much of the early migration at Grand Forks mentioned in the introduction (DL). Tennessee Warblers are normally the first southbound passerines observed, but the 30 seen there July 11 were astounding, given that normally only singles are seen so early. Also on July 11 there were 10 Nashville Warblers, setting an earliest fall date by 13 days, and a Bay-breasted, the 2nd-earliest for North Dakota. The Cape May Warbler at Grand Forks July 24 was the 2nd-earliest. In Montana an Orange-crowned Warbler near Ft. Peck July 29 was extremely early (LM). Conversely, a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Fargo June 3 tied the 2nd-latest spring date for North Dakota, and the "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler in Walworth June 16 was the latest for South Dakota.

A bunting pair consisting of a ♂ Indigo and ♀ Lazuli abandoned a newly-completed nest in Ward after a cowbird egg had been laid June 28. The pair remained in the area for at least another month after that. The territory had originally "belonged" to a Lazuli male for several days before the Indigo appeared. Dickcissels made their best showing in North Dakota in some years, as they were well-distributed in e. North Dakota as far n as Grand Forks, and also in the s.c. in Sioux. A Green-tailed Towhee was seen on the w. end of C.M. Russell N.W.R., June 26 (KS). A Clay-colored Sparrow nest discovered in Minnehaha June 11 (PS) was well s. of the normal range in South Dakota. Lark Buntings were still scarce on the e. fringe of the range, so one on the Kempton BBS route was a surprise. The species was up dramatically in e. Montana. The editor offers condolences to Malone, who must have had great difficulty hearing other species while racking up 886 Lark Buntings on the Jordan BBS! Baird's Sparrow, another grassland species apparently benefitting from the good conditions, was also up in North Dakota this season. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Grand Forks June 2 (GL) set a latest spring date for North Dakota. A Swamp Sparrow heard at Englevale Slough in Ransom June 28 (DL) was a new breeding-season registration for the county. Summer vagrant crowned sparrows included a singing White-throated June 10-21 in Ward (RM) and a singing White-crowned near Solen June 21 (RT) in North Dakota, as well as the 3rd Montana record for **Golden-crowned Sparrow** s. of Lewiston July 19 (LM).

Food carrying and the observation of three fledgling Brewer's Blackbirds at Hurricane L. in Roberts represented the first nesting confirmation in n.e. South Dakota since the 1950s (BKH). A singing ♂ Orchard Oriole in Malta June 15 (DP), a new registration for L9, indicated that the species is still expanding westward. A total of 100 N. Orioles was banded in Gregory, S.D., in July (GS). Red Crossbills may have nested in Ft. Peck this summer, as several pairs brought young to a bird bath (CC). A flock of at least eight White-winged Crossbills in New Town, N.D., July 28 (BCH) was rather early for this unpredictable species.

The W expansion of House Finch appears to have accelerated greatly as the species has reached the drier plains states. Perhaps the draw of habitat more similar to their historic range has drawn birds west at an ever-increasing rate. After first state nestings in Missouri in 1985 and Wisconsin and Iowa in 1986, there was solid evidence of the first North Dakota nesting in Fargo this summer. A male was first seen at the feeder of Mel Stone July 2, and a female had probably been coming earlier. In early August they brought a fledgling to the feeder repeatedly. House Finches were also observed in Malta and Ft. Peck in e. Montana this summer; it would be interesting to know whether they came from the east or the west.

CITED OBSERVERS (area editors boldfaced) — MONTANA—Jim Alfonso, **Chuck Carlson**, Larry Malone, Dwain Prellwitz, Jim Spence, Karen Stutzman. NORTH DAKOTA—Mary Bergan, **Gordon Berkey**, Andra Buchl, Carola Haas, Larry Falk, Eve Freeberg, Dave Gillund, Michael Green, Bernice C. Houser, **David Lambeth**, Greg Lambeth, Ron Martin, Gary Nielsen, Marcia Rinde, Russell Titus, Anna Vos, Jean White. SOUTH DAKOTA—Robert Brashears, Mike H. Getman, Marjorie A. Glass, Ken Graupman, Bruce K. Harris, Michael Melius, Richard Peterson, Bob Rogers, **Dennis Skadsen**, Mark Skadsen, Paul Springer, Galen Steffan, John Van Dyk.—**GORDON B. BERKEY**, Division of Science, Minot State University, Minot, ND 58701.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Frances Williams

June was very wet and July was dry. Floods in June destroyed ground nests but resulted in more habitat for nesting water birds. Many of these were fledging chicks in late July. Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Kansas, which had become nearly dry in recent years, had so much water that some had to be released.

ABBREVIATIONS — Buffalo L. = Buffalo Lake Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Randall Co., Texas; Hagerman = Hagerman Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Grayson Co., Texas; G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park, Texas; T.C.W.C. = Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A & M University. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Two Com. Loons in Keith, Neb., June 14 were late stragglers. Pied-billed Grebes nested successfully in w. Texas in Lubbock, Randall, Armstrong, and Midland. In Tarrant, Tex., observers speculated that high water hampered nesting by this species. Pied-billed Grebes summered at Tulsa, but no nesting was reported. Eared Grebes fledged young in Castro and Midland, Tex. An Am. White Pelican in Childress, Tex., June 12 was unusual for the season (DM). Double-crested Cormorants visited L. Tawakoni, Rains, Tex., in early July (RK). Olivaceous Cormorants summered at L. Tawakoni and visited Tarrant June 19 (CH) and Osage, Okla., July 26 (JH, DV). Anhingas thought to be from the breeding colony at the Fort Worth Nature Center spread into neighboring lakes after the nesting season. An Anhinga in Brazos, Tex., July 29 provided the first July record there since 1978 (PVD).

Least Bitterns were observed in the cattail marsh at L. Overholser near Oklahoma City June 12–22, but were not seen or heard after that date (JGN). In Wichita, Kans., 2 burgeoning heronries hosted 7500 individuals, 1400 nests. Some 53% were Little Blue Herons, 40% Cattle Egrets, the remainder being Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets, and Black-crowned Night-Herons (DSK). In McKinney, Tex., a heronry of Cattle and Snowy egrets and Little Blue Herons contained possibly 200 nesting pairs, but a violent windstorm in early July destroyed many nests and the birds dispersed (KSt). Great Egrets were observed in Kerr, Tex., July 23 & 30, and in Randall June 9 and July 25. A Snowy Egret was present in Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 1 (RCR), and one was at Buffalo L., July 25. Tricolored Herons were seen in Bell, Tex., June 11–July 31 (ML). A colony of nesting Cattle Egrets with young almost ready to fledge was discovered in Howard, Tex., July 18, providing the first confirmed nesting of



this species in w. Texas (SC et al.). A small flock of Cattle Egrets in breeding plumage was present at Buffalo L., June 10–11. In Nowata, Okla., July 30, 200 Cattle Egrets followed haycutters through a field much as Franklin's Gulls do (MD). A pair of Green-backed Herons with a fledgling in Randall July 30 represented the first reported nesting in the Texas Panhandle (N & EE). This species also nested successfully at Wichita (DSK). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were observed in Bell and McLennan, Tex., during June, but no nesting was evident. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons raised young at 2 locations in the residential area of Wichita.

White-faced Ibis nested at 2 locations in Midland, providing a first breeding record there (RMS, DK). White-faced Ibises were present in numbers at Buffalo L., June 10–July 25, and in Castro June 28 and July 7, but no nesting was observed. However, a year ago nesting took place in Castro in August

(KS) A single bird visited Ft Gibson, Okla., July 7 (JHa). Less than 10 years ago, White-faced Ibises first summered at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., and now they are the most common waders there (SS). When the Oklahoma City Zoo lake was drained for cleaning, a Roseate Spoonbill was attracted to the shallow water and extensive mud flats. It remained July 17–22 (JGN, JS). A pair of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was seen near Waco, Tex., July 17 (WMC). A ♀ Wood Duck with a brood of downy young was found in Garden June 13, providing a 2nd nesting record for the Nebraska panhandle (RCR, DJR). A brood of five Green-winged Teal ducklings was seen in Morrill, Neb., July 4, providing only the 3rd state nesting record (RCR, DJR). Many broods of Mallard ducklings were seen in Jeff Davis, Tex. (JMi, PE). In the Texas Panhandle, N. Pintails fledged young in Randall and Armstrong, and broods of Blue-winged Teal ducklings were common from Midland n. through the Panhandle. Cinnamon Teal nested in Randall and Midland. Two ♂ Cinnamon Teal remained in Morrill July 4. In Nebraska, non-breeding Hooded Mergansers were seen in Keith June 14 and Sheridan July 5, and a Com. Merganser remained in Lincoln Aug. 1 (RCR). Ruddy Ducks failed to nest in Midland or Castro, where there are previous breeding records.

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — An Osprey in Henderson, Tex., June 18 was noteworthy for the season (RK). Mississippi Kites were present throughout the season in Tarrant but nesting was not confirmed. At Tulsa, a golf course was constructed in an area where Mississippi Kites formerly nested, and their new site was not located. (But the kites will probably return to the golf course, as these are favorite nesting sites throughout the Plains.) In Oklahoma, N. Harriers fledged young at Ft. Sill (SO) and Washington (DV). At Midland, a pair of N. Harriers performed courtship displays and the birds were later seen carrying prey into an inaccessible area of a marsh, but no young were ever in evidence and the adults left the area in mid-June. An ad. ♂ N. Harrier remained in Bell July 11–July 25 (JK, DG). A Cooper's Hawk was frequently seen at the entrance to the Devil's Sinkhole in Edwards, Tex. Was it possibly feeding on Cave Swallows? (KBB). Cooper's Hawks are seldom reported in Oklahoma in summer, so one in the Wichita Mountains N.W.R., June 4 was noteworthy (JAG). A subad. Red-shouldered Hawk was also observed in the Wichita Mts., June 4 (JAG, PA). There were several observations of Broad-winged Hawks in n.c. Texas, including an adult and two immatures in Johnson July 7–11 (CE). In Comanche, Okla., Swainson's Hawks fledged young in late July (SO). Single adults were noted in Tulsa July 4, Washington, Okla., June 30, Bell, Tex., June 26, and Van Zandt, Tex., June 21. Zone-tailed Hawks were seen frequently in s. Edwards, Tex. (KBB), and one was found in Kimble, Tex., June 11 (BO, DR). Ferruginous Hawks were seen in 4 Texas Panhandle counties, but nesting was not reported. An Am. Kestrel in Ft. Worth July 6 was unusual for the season. Kestrels nested in 5 Texas Panhandle counties and probably nested in the Davis Mts. In 1986, Am. Kestrels nested in Huntsville S.P., Walker, Tex., but the only report of kestrels in the Park this year came after the breeding season (WMC). The Peregrine Falcons in G.M.N.P. fledged four young June 16 (OVO).

In Nebraska, N. Bobwhites pushed W along the N. Platte R. from Lincoln to the Wyoming line (RCR, WHH). In G.M.N.P., a N. Bobwhite calling near the New Mexico line provided a new Park record (OVO). King Rails were present in the marshes at Sanford Dam, L. Meredith, Hutchinson, Tex., May to mid-July, but observers were frustrated in their attempts to find nests or young (KS). Virginia Rails also called at Sanford Dam throughout the season. At Midland, an ad. Virginia Rail with a fuzzy black chick was found July 15 (RMS). Soras were seen at 2 sites in the Davis Mts. (PE). At Sanford Dam and at Midland, Soras were still calling in early June, but then they disappeared. In Brazos, Tex., a Com. Moorhen July 29 provided only the 2nd July record (PVD). This species nested again at Sanford Dam and Midland, although at Midland heavy rains in June

caused the flooding of some nests. In w. Texas, Am. Coots nested in the Davis Mts., Midland, Lubbock, Castro, and Randall.

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS — A very late Black-bellied Plover was observed in Keith, Neb., June 14 (RCR). Snowy Plovers nested at 2 sites in Midland, the first nesting there in 20 years (JMe, RMS). Snowies also nested in Howard, Tex. (BT, SC). Semipalmated Plovers at Kerrville July 16 were early (E & KM). A pair of Piping Plovers nested at Optima Res. in the Oklahoma Panhandle, near Guymon. They fledged four downy chicks (RLB). A single Piping Plover arrived at Ft. Worth Aug 8 (LH). At least one has been recorded there every year since 1984. Black-necked Stilts fledged 2 broods of four young each in Sheridan, Neb., in July (RCR). Three or 4 broods of Black-necked Stilts were also raised at Quivira N.W.R., Kans. (RLB). Seven pairs were present in Castro, Tex., but only one chick was seen. At Midland, early nests were unsuccessful owing to flooding, but as late as Aug. 22 very small chicks were numerous. An Am. Avocet with three chicks was seen July 4 in Morrill, Neb. (RCR, DJR). This species was unsuccessful at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., and Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., but a few clutches were hatched at Optima Res. (RLB). In Presidio, Tex., Am. Avocets were present on stock tanks during July (JMi).

An unprecedented fall movement of Lesser Yellowlegs took place June 28 in Dawes, Neb., when 40 individuals were counted (RCR). In Tarrant, three Lesser Yellowlegs were observed June 26 (CH). A Solitary Sandpiper in Burleson, Tex., July 1 provided the first July record since 1976 (KAA). Upland Sandpipers were sighted in Ochiltree, Tex., June 7 (KS) and Burleson June 23 (KAA, KB). Long-billed Curlews with young were discovered in Dallam, Tex., June 13 (KS). Many ad. curlews vigorously attacked the observer all along his B.B.S. route. The movement S began early, as 105 were counted near Buffalo L., July 7. A Hudsonian Godwit arrived at Hagerman July 9 (KH). Late Marbled Godwits were in Keith June 14 and early ones in Randall July 6. A Ruddy Turnstone was found in Tarrant Aug. 8. Buff-breasted Sandpipers arrived in Tarrant Aug 8 and Burleson July 31. An ad. Com. Snipe with two downy young fed in a small puddle in Sheridan, Neb., June 12 (RCR, DJR). An ad. ♂ Wilson's Phalarope accompanied two downy young in Morrill June 12 (RCR, DJR). Wilson's Phalaropes summered at 4 localities in the Texas Panhandle, but nesting was not observed.

An ad. Laughing Gull visited Quivira June 27 (SS). Single ad. California Gulls were in Keith June 13 and Lincoln Aug 1 (RCR). A Caspian Tern summered at L. Tawakoni (RK). At Tulsa, a Com. Tern was observed June 13 (FP). Three Forster's Terns graced Rose L., Canadian, Okla., July 4 (JAG). Least Terns had a very poor year at Quivira. At Great Salt Plains about 105 pairs of Least Terns nested, up from 60–70 pairs in recent years, but fledged fewer than .5 young per pair. Three colonies along the Cimarron R. also averaged under .5 young per pair. At Optima Res., 26–28 pairs fledged about 35 young (RLB). About 30 Least Tern chicks fledged in Tulsa along the Arkansas R. At Sequoyah N.W.R., Okla., 43 Least Tern nests were found (DP). On the Canadian R. in Hemphill, Tex., an ad. Least Tern appeared to be carrying food to young June 6 (KS). A Least Tern at L. Tawakoni July 16 furnished a first record there (RK).

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — A Com. Barn-Owl provided a first record in G.M.N.P., July 23 (OVO). In Tarrant, Tex., a Com. Poorwill was seen July 31 (JKa, MW). Magnificent Hummingbirds summered in the Davis Mts. and G.M.N.P. No nests were found, although one immature was observed in the Davis Mts. (PE). In Presidio, Tex., Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Calliope, Lucifer, and Rufous hummingbirds visited feeders July 1–31. Male, female, and young Lucifers were present (JMi). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds summered in the Davis Mts., but nesting was not confirmed. Two Red-headed Woodpeckers provided a first record in Bell, Tex., June 14 (C & JJ). A ♀ Red-

bellied Woodpecker was present in Keith, Neb., July 16 (WHH). A Downy Woodpecker in G.M.N.P., June 1 was late. Two Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were found in Blaine, Okla., July 14 (JAG). Three pairs of Pileated Woodpeckers were located in Van Zandt, Tex. (RK).

In Dallam, Tex., a W. Wood-Pewee was observed June 13, but it was evidently a late migrant. In Burtleson, Tex., an E. Wood-Pewee heard calling July 1 provided a first summer record (KAA, KB). In w. Nebraska, E. Wood-Pewees were heard in Scotts Bluff July 14 and Keith July 16. At the latter locality, the eastern bird was heard within 200 m of a pair of W. Wood-Pewees (WHH). Acadian Flycatchers provided a first county record in Bell, Tex., May 28 (ML). Dusky Flycatchers and Gray Flycatchers were heard in G.M.N.P., July 4 (SD). In the Davis Mts., a W. Flycatcher built on a ledge of a porch and fledged two young, providing a first breeding record there (PE). In Nebraska, W. Flycatchers were present in Sioux July 14 and Dawes July 2. An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Bell June 30 furnished a first record (ML). A Great Crested Flycatcher was discovered at Oshkosh, Neb., July 16 (WHH). An E. Kingbird nested at Midland, only the 2nd time the species has bred there in 40 years (JMe et al.).

MARTINS THROUGH SHRIKES — By July 6, the Purple Martin roost at Lawton, Okla., comprised 8000 birds, and about 5000 roosted at Tulsa in late July. **Violet-green Swallows** nested on a cliff bank in Wallace, Kans., 5 mi from the Colorado line (DRo, fide SS). About 8000 Cliff Swallows congregated at Ft. Sill, Okla., July 6, and 500 rested on fences in a Nowata, Okla., hayfield July 22. The population of Cave Swallows at Devil's Sinkhole, Edwards, Tex., was estimated at 1000 birds. In Bandera, Tex., Cave Swallows raised 3 broods under one culvert; 3 other culverts were also occupied but not monitored as closely (JM). In Uvalde, Tex., 200 Cave Swallows gathered July 2 (E & KM). The Clark's Nutcrackers that had been abundant in Sioux, Neb., since October 1986 apparently left when summer arrived. A reported nesting could not be confirmed (RCR). A Fish Crow was heard at Bartlesville, Okla., June 29 (DV). (This species has not yet been documented in Washington.) Unusual summer records of White-breasted Nuthatches were noted in the Wichita Mts., July 25 (SO) and Tarrant in July (HE, m.ob.).

A Cactus Wren in Oldham, Tex., June 2 was n. of its known nesting range (KS). A Carolina Wren visited Amarillo June 24-45, providing an unusual summer record there (KS). An ad. Carolina Wren accompanied a fledgling into a Midland yard July 6, leaving local observers wondering where the bird had nested, since no one had heard any singing (JMe, m.ob.). In Washington, Okla., a persistent Carolina Wren first built a nest in a straw wreath on a door. It abandoned 3 eggs, then built in a basket of ivy and fledged two young July 18. Then it built in a hanging begonia and laid 4 eggs. All this made watering the plants a real challenge (MD). House Wrens nested in Lawton and Duncan, Okla. (JMM). In Dewey, Okla., population 3000, seven House Wrens were heard in July (ED). Breeding of House Wrens in Roberts and Donley in the Texas Panhandle was confirmed (KS). Black-tailed Gnatcatchers that wintered in G.M.N.P. were not reported after June 1.

At Ft. Gibson, Okla., 6 pairs of E. Bluebirds fledged 38 young (JMCM). Adult E. Bluebirds with young were found in Oldham, Tex., June 26 and July 12 (KS). In Edwards, Tex., E. Bluebirds were common on the flat high plateau, but in habitat with any relief at all they were absent (KBB). In the Davis Mts., W. Bluebirds fledged young from a nesting box (PE). A Townsend's Solitaire in G.M.N.P., June 17 was late (LM). Wood Thrushes in Grayson and Van Zandt, Tex., in June were at the w. edge of their breeding range. The presence of an Am. Robin in Presidio June 25 was unusual for the season (JMi). Although four Long-billed Thrashers remained in Midland through the season, nesting could not be confirmed (* to T.C.W.C., JCH, m.ob.). Gray Catbirds are uncommon summer residents in w. Nebraska, so two in Garden and four in Lincoln July 16 were



One of the four Long-billed Thrashers that spent Summer 1987 in a dense salt-cedar stand in Midland County, Texas, representing a major range extension. Photo/Rose Marie Stortz.

noteworthy (WHH). Loggerhead Shrikes were very scarce in n.w. Nebraska. In s.w. Oklahoma, most shrike pairs made only one nesting attempt, and some nestlings drowned during heavy rains in late May.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Bell's Vireos were singing at 4 locations in Garden, Neb., July 15-17, and one was in Keith July 17 (WHH). Bell's Vireos were common in Washington, Rogers, Osage, and Nowata, Okla., but no report was given on their nesting success. In n.c. Texas, the only known population of Bell's Vireos consists of 2 or 3 pairs near Hagerman. In the Wichita Mts., 35 pairs of Black-capped Vireos produced about 35 young, about 3 times better than in years when no cowbirds were trapped (JAG). A pair of Gray Vireos at Devil's Sinkhole July 8 represented the easternmost probable breeding of the species (KBB). In the Bartlesville area, there were only 2 reports of Warbling Vireos, and no reports of Red-eyed Vireos. In Brazos, a Red-eyed Vireo heard June 24 represented only the 2nd June record (KAA, KB).

A Yellow-throated Warbler was observed at Tulsa July 14. The only Black-and-white Warbler reported in Tarrant was seen July 12, which does not indicate much possibility of nesting. Some Prothonotary Warbler nesting boxes along the N. Canadian R. near Oklahoma City were flooded by late May rains (JGN). At Hagerman, Prothonotary Warblers were in low numbers (KH). Swainson's Warblers were fairly common along creek bottoms in Burtleson, Tex., during June (MSc). Louisiana Waterthrushes visited the Ft. Worth Nature Center Aug. 1. In Cherokee, Okla., a **Connecticut Warbler** hit a window and was stunned June 6. When it recovered, it was photographed and released (AH). An Ovenbird was singing in Garden, Neb., July 16 (WHH). Several singing ♂ Com. Yellowthroats summered in the Sanford Dam marshes, and a fledgling was observed July 27. Yellowthroats were absent at Hagerman although they formerly nested there (KH). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were seen at Buffalo L., June 28 and Oldham July 12. Chats were abundant in riparian salt cedar growth at Midland, but nesting was not confirmed. A Scarlet Tanager brightened Osage, Okla., July 5 (KW).

In mid-July, N. Cardinals were encountered in w. Nebraska in Garden, Lincoln, and Keith (WHH). A Pyrrhuloxia visited Kerrville July 6 (E & KM). Blue Grosbeaks provided first summer records in Burtleson June 23 and July 1 (KAA, KB). Blue Grosbeaks have been so victimized by Brown-headed Cowbirds at Oklahoma City that none has nested there the past few years (JGN). In Midland, all early summer nests of Blue Grosbeaks are heavily parasitized by cowbirds and are usually abandoned, but late summer attempts usually succeed in fledgling at least two grosbeak young. In Potter, Tex., a singing ♂ Lazuli Bunting

record for the U.T.C. (Note Arctic Loon was not ruled out, however) Two Com Loons in breeding plumage June 7 in Galveston (JG) were also unexpected. Least Grebes nested successfully at several locations including Santa Ana, Harlingen, and Falfurrias (JI, OC, AO). The two Least Grebes at Aransas mentioned in the spring report were last seen June 7 (TS). American White Pelicans lingered in good numbers along the U.T.C. Even more unusual were flocks that summered in Waller (TE) and Bexar (WS, MH). The latter numbered as many as 150 in July. The Laguna Madre colony of 300 Am. White Pelicans raised some 260 young during the period (JG).

— S.A. —

The Brown Pelican population in Texas continued to recover. By the end of July, 675 young had been produced on Pelican I. in Corpus Christi Bay. These birds are not without their problems, however. Jesse Grantham, Director of Texas Audubon Sanctuaries, reports that the species continues to try to break away from this single colony and spread out, but disturbance keeps driving them back. On May 8, 325 showed up on Sundown I., in Matagorda Bay, and 2 pairs immediately began to nest. About this time Brown Pelicans were being reported all over the central coast. A report of 398 Browns in Mesquite Bay on Longreef I., May 30, almost matched the high of 400 on Sundown I., May 20. The number of pelicans on Sundown I. remained at about 175–200 birds during most of the summer, but on July 16, 3 nests near the beach were destroyed by vandals and most of the birds deserted the island. There is only speculation as to who destroyed the nests, but irate guide fishermen who have fished around Sundown for years were angry because they were now being told they had to keep away from the island.

HERONS THROUGH STORKS — New heronries were discovered near Kingsville and at San Antonio, and there were suspicions of a new heronry in e. Travis near Austin (N & PP, AO, MH, WS, CS). These sites were dominated by Cattle Egrets with varying numbers of Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons, and a few other hangers-on. All four of these species represented new nesting records for Bexar at the San Antonio site. However, the inland situation contrasted with the generally dismal results in the struggling major coastal heronries. The simple numbers in Table 1 tell little of the story. As Grantham related, most of the larger herons and egrets started nesting rather early, probably owing to the mild winter. The cold snap of late March (see spring season report) slowed many species down. An unusual period of low tides thereafter lulled many species into a false sense of security and many birds began nesting on low islands and close to the water line. The first major wipe-out came with high winds and tides May 25–31. Later, the aforementioned heavy rains and altered estuarine salinities in June diminished food supplies and caused fledgling starvation in some species (JG, KM, EP).

— S.A. —

While these natural disasters and other forces such as raccoon predation took their toll, Grantham and others report on another problem that has arisen in recent years: "Egging by Vietnamese refugees is the single most threatening event" occurring on these rookery islands on the central coast (JG). Reports keep filtering in from fisherman about seeing Vietnamese collecting eggs on the big colonies. Heron and egret nests with eggs one day turn up empty the next, with no sign of egg shells or predators. This is a grave and unfortunate problem that is being approached by concerned citizens and agencies with an urgency tempered by a realization of the sensitivity of dealing with contrasting cultural values regarding natural resources.

Table 1. Nesting pairs of pelicans, herons and egrets at selected colonies on the central Texas coast, Spring-Summer, 1987.

Species	Pelican Island (Corpus)	Shamrock Island	South Bird Island
Brown Pelican	350	—	—
Am. White Pelican	—	—	(295) ^{1,2}
Great Blue Heron	96	48	10
Great Egret	108	36	1
Snowy Egret	110	24	3
Little Blue Heron	15	1	—
Tricolored Heron	601	33	42
Reddish Egret	18	41	23
Cattle Egret	104	327	—
Black-crowned N.-H.	11	86	—
White Ibis	7	2	1
White-faced Ibis	100	89	396
Roseate Spoonbill	34	78	—

¹ Nested 13 mi. s. of South Bird I.

² Count of individual nesting adults.

Two "calico" Reddish Egrets were observed in W. Nueces Bay July 1 (GB). There are very few records of intermediate-phase birds. Inland records of Reddish Egrets seem to be more commonplace in this Region in recent years, but two birds entering the new San Antonio heronry at dusk July 26 (MH, WS) were especially noteworthy.

We received a belated report of an apparent **Glossy Ibis** that was thoroughly studied and described Apr. 21 near Port Bolivar in Galveston (JR, JSt, m.ob.). Details have been submitted to the Texas Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee. From one to four Roseate Spoonbills showed up at Mitchell L., July 11+ (WS, MH), and two visited an Austin sewage pond during July (*vide* TM). Wood Storks were first noted this season May 27 when one adult was seen at Aransas (TS). Wood Storks were reported from numerous coastal plain and L.R.G.V. areas in mid to late June (m.ob.).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — Both species of whistling-ducks expanded both in range and in numbers this summer on the U.T.C., continuing a 5-year trend (TE). Black-bellieds again nested successfully at Austin and San Antonio, with at least 40 young raised at the former location and 100+ at the latter (MH, WS, CB, EK, FD). Mottled Ducks again nested successfully at Falfurrias (AO), and were reported to be conspicuous at many coastal locations. A flock of over 300 Mottleds in a pond on Galveston I. (TE) was an unusual concentration. Several Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, and N. Shovelers summered at Mitchell L. Five Gadwalls that remained through the period also at Mitchell were noteworthy. One pair nested successfully and raised two young. This was probably the 3rd or 4th nesting record for Texas (MH, WS). A lone ♀ Red-breasted Merganser June 19 in E. Nueces Bay (SB *et al.*) was most unusual, and a late Ruddy Duck was noted in Harlingen June 1 (OC).

We received more than the usual number of summering Osprey reports in the Region, including one or two at Laguna Atascosa throughout June (SR, SL), one over W. Nueces Bay July 1 (GB), two in the Austin area July 18 & 20 (EK, W & BW), and reports from Armand's Bayou and L. Charlotte on the U.T.C. (*vide* TE). None of the reports, however, indicated nesting. A pair of Hook-billed Kites reportedly nested at Santa Ana (*vide* JI). Black-shouldered Kites again nested on Galveston I (TE). Eubanks notes that the summer population of this species on the U.T.C. is only a fraction of that which winters there (even considering that the species nests in relatively inaccessible habitats). He suggests further that recent increases of the species on the U.T.C. are primarily a phenomenon of wintering populations, and not an increase in breeding birds. Two Mis-

Mississippi Kites near El Campo July 1 (N & PP) were at an odd summer location. Two pairs of Cooper's Hawks nested successfully at Kickapoo (KB), and several Cooper's and Sharp-shinned were noted through the period at Falfurrias (AO) where nesting was suspected; the latter is an extremely rare nester in Texas.

Harris' Hawks were noted through June at Santa Ana, the first such occurrence in several years (JI). Gray Hawks successfully fledged two young at Santa Ana (fide JI). A Broad-winged Hawk July 28 in Harris provided an early fall date for the U.T.C. Swainson's Hawks were well distributed throughout the period on the U.T.C. (TE), and at least 4 successful nests were located near Falfurrias (AO). White-tailed Hawk nesting was confirmed in Harris with the observation of adults feeding young (BHo). Zone-tailed Hawks were seen through the period at Kickapoo (KB); the distribution of the small breeding population in that area is poorly known. Most unexpected was a Zone-tailed Hawk seen just n. of San Antonio July 13 (MH). Sightings of single Am. Kestrels in mid to late July in various L.R.G.V. and U.T.C. locations may have represented early migrants. However, a possible breeding pair of kestrels was observed June 28 and July 5 near Oilton in Webb (SB, PP). This would be unprecedented in the area, as the species normally nests no closer than the w. tip of this Region. The Peregrine Fund is now maintaining 2 Aplomado Falcon hack sites, one on and one near Laguna Atascosa. Four young Aplomados were released there during the period and seemed to be doing well by the end of the season (SR, SL).

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMER — A Sora in Alcoa July 25 (DW) was perhaps an early fall migrant; however, the species has been reported as summering on the Texas coast on very rare occasions. Five Purple Gallinules were at Mitchell L., June 20 but did not remain to nest (MH); however, 10 pairs of Com. Moorhens successfully raised young there. Three or 4 pairs of Am. Coots remained to nest at L. Long e. of Austin, remnants of the tens of thousands that had been attracted last winter by an infestation of hydrilla (CS).

Two Snowy Plovers at Austin July 12 (JS) and another at Mitchell L., July 17 (MH) were a little early. A pair of Snowy Plovers nested near Encino (AO), and 36 young Wilson's Plovers were counted with adults there during the period. Black-necked Stilts at both Austin and San Antonio were adversely affected by heavy rains in late May and June which flooded many of their nests, but they managed to successfully raise



Ruff (with Stilt Sandpipers) at Mitchell Lake, Bexar Co., Texas, July 26, 1987. Photo/Willie Sekula.

Table 2 Nesting pairs of larids at selected colonies on the central Texas coast, Spring-Summer, 1987.

Species	Pelican Island (Corpus)	Shamrock Island	South Bird Island
Laughing Gull	6,561	300	2,240
Gull-billed Tern	24	4	—
Caspian Tern	30	60	—
Royal Tern	—	4,800	—
Sandwich Tern	—	700	—
Forster's Tern	—	21	7
Least Tern	—	6	—
Sooty Tern	1	3	—
Black Skimmer	45	35	38

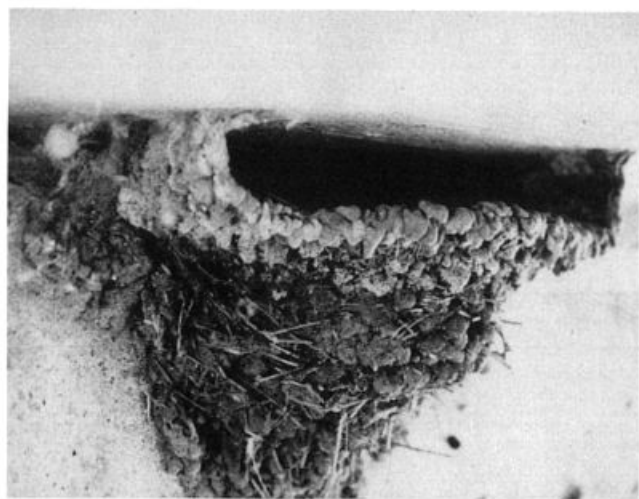
young at both locations late in the period (CB, MH, EK et al.). A Greater Yellowlegs lingered through June at Santa Ana (JI). This is a very rare summering species in the Region. A Spotted Sandpiper in Harris June 28 (BHo) conjured up an old record: J. J. Audubon found the species nesting at Houston in 1837; there was no evidence of nesting this time, however. Upland Sandpipers are common transients in our Region, but several summered and may have nested. Four Uplands remained in a Williamson field after the bulk of the birds moved north. Davidson observed a bird carrying nesting material in June, and Kutac observed as many as six individuals there July 13. A breeding-plumaged Ruff (presumably the same individual as last fall) showed up at Mitchell L., July 25 (WS, MH).

A late flock of 67 Franklin's Gulls was seen at San Antonio June 11 (MH). Nesting gulls, terns, and skimmers continued to be harassed in some areas; birds on the central coast (see Table 2) faced the same threats cited above for long-legged waders. On the U.T.C., Bolivar Flats was finally barricaded and closed to vehicular traffic. Within days, Least Terns had already colonized the area and had eggs in the nest (SM). A bird identified as a Com. Tern at Mitchell L., June 5 (MH) would represent an unusual record. Three Black Skimmers at Santa Ana June 13 (OC) were unexpected.

DOVES THROUGH LARKS — White-winged Doves declined in the L.R.G.V. (JI) but increased in Kingsville (SB), San Antonio (CB), and at the n. edge of their range in Austin. At the latter location there were reports of White-wingeds in at least 4 residential areas. News of a fledgling White-winged that was turned in to wildlife rehabilitators in May prompted a belated report of a similar occurrence in 1985, establishing the first 2 nesting records for the Austin area (fide CS, m.ob.). Common Ground-Doves, rare in the Austin area, were confirmed nesting near Utley July 18 (BF). A single Green Parakeet flying over McAllen June 2 (SWe) was the only one reported. A pair of Burrowing Owls again nested at Encino (AO). Lesser and Common nighthawks both bred commonly on downtown roof tops in San Antonio (MN). The news on Com. Nighthawks on the U.T.C. was mixed; Cureton remarked that he found the species more common in Houston than in recent years, yet Graber stated that "after about 8 or 10 years of gradual decline the Common Nighthawk has finally disappeared as a summer bird in Beaumont." Why is there such a disparity? Buff-bellied Hummingbirds nested in good numbers in the Harlingen area (OC), and were also reported as nesting in Falfurrias (AO). Ruby-throated and Black-chinned hummingbirds also nested at Falfurrias, the former being well s.w. of its normal range. Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to be quite spotty as nesters on the U.T.C., and N. Flickers have yet to expand out of their traditional few urban nesting areas near Houston (TE). Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were still common at Jones State Forest, but that location, the westernmost breeding populations of the species in the country, remains threatened by potential development. A Pileated Woodpecker July 12 near Elroy in Travis (fide EK) was out of place.

A N Beardless-Tyrannulet nest was discovered at Bentsen June 13 (JP, OC). Although this species is a rare permanent resident in the L.R.G.V., nests are not often found. A nesting pair of Great Kiskadees was discovered in Live Oak May 25 (SH, JH, CR), somewhat n. of the species' known range in that area. Western Kingbird colonies at electric power substations in s.w. Houston continued to expand; to this date, however, they have yet to pioneer beyond these locations. An E. Kingbird near Alice July 4 (RA) was out of place. A singing ♂ Horned Lark in Waller June 4 was unusual: Although the coastal subspecies is a common breeder in the littoral zone, inland distribution of the prairie subspecies in summer in this area is poorly known (fide TE).

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES — A roost of Purple Martins formed in Corpus Christi in early April and was used all during the breeding season. McCracken reports that "by June 21 the roost had grown to 7000+ birds and the homeowner in this fashionable neighborhood cried FOUL! He hung a trash can in the trees and beat on it for 4 nights until the martins left." Early spring and summer roosts of this species are not well documented or understood. Bank Swallows are extremely rare nesters in Texas, but several colonies were discovered this season. Archer discovered a colony of 60+ birds in a San Marcos gravel pit May 1. This colony eventually fledged many young (GL). Another colony was discovered in Uvalde (fide EK). Bank Swallows again continued to be seen through the period at Mitchell L., indicating an undiscovered nesting colony in that area (MH, WS).



Split-level swallow nest: the base (with grass fibers) appears to have been built by Barn Swallows, while the upper part of the structure was completed by Cave Swallows. Photographed June 19, 1987, in McMullen County, Texas. Photo/Paul Palmer.

S.A.

Cave Swallows continued to expand S and E with new colonies discovered in Bexar, Bee, and Starr (MH, KA, N & PP). Except for the L.R.G.V. proper (Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy), Cave Swallow is now nesting in virtually every Texas county s.w. of a line from New Mexico's s.e. corner to Corpus Christi. This season Palmer reiterated that "the evidence that Cave Swallows are in fact taking over nesting niches from Cliff and Barn Swallows is really overwhelming." For example, 42 of 44 nests under a set of culverts in McMullen appeared to have been started by Barn Swallows and completed by Cave Swallows. Only one nest was "purely Barn Swallow" and there was only one pair of Barn Swallows seen at the site with the 100+ Cave Swallows (N & PP).



Part of a Bank Swallow colony at San Marcos, Texas, May 18, 1987. Photo/Greg W. Lasley.

Two pairs of Carolina Chickadees were present through the period at Aransas, an irregular bird in that area in summer (TS). Carolina Wrens are clearly on the increase in Falfurrias (AO). Singing Bewick's Wrens were at Aransas through the period, another irregular species at that location (TS). Mike Austin found two singing Sedge Wrens in Houston June 21, an unprecedented occurrence. There are no nesting records of this species for the state. O'Neil discovered successful broods of both Blue-gray and Black-tailed gnatcatchers at the same location near Encino June 28. This is one of only a few areas in our Region where these species overlap. Cureton found only one Wood Thrush in the Houston area this summer; he believes the species has "much declined in the past 5 to 6 years." Cureton's bird was the only Wood Thrush reported to the Spoonbill for the period. A single singing Wood Thrush near Uteley through June was the closest reported to Austin in a few years (BF). The resident Clay-colored Robins at Bentsen were singing through the period, but no nesting was observed. A report of a singing Clay-colored Robin upriver at San Ygnacio June 5 was reminiscent of a similar report in April, 1986. American Robins continued to nest in Falfurrias (AO) and San Antonio (MH) in small numbers.

PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS — A Sprague's Pipit July 29 on Mustang I. (PI) was one of the earliest ever reported in the state. Loggerhead Shrikes nesting in and near Kingsville in June, 1986 and again this year established the southernmost confirmed breeding records for Texas (N & PP, HS, GC).

Bryan suggests the total population of Black-capped Vireos at Kickapoo might be as high as 60 pairs! Six pairs of Gray Vireos were also discovered on the park site (and more are likely), farther s.e. than the species has been known to nest before. Constant rain in May and June hampered field work to fully document these populations. Extensive territorial mapping and censuses will be conducted next year. At the Wild Basin/Davenport Ranch study site near Austin, 22 breeding territories of Black-capped Vireos were discovered, with 8 territories having successful nesting. These 8 successful pairs produced 18-21 young (JO). Cowbird control at this site continues in an effort to increase the nesting success of this species. Along with the continuing studies at that site, a major research effort was initiated on Black-capped elsewhere in w. Travis, especially the "Four Points" area. This latter research was funded by the Texas Highway Dept. in conjunction with impact assessments of proposed highway projects. Final survey results were unavailable at press time but substantial numbers of vireos were reportedly located in scattered areas of n.w. Travis.

S.A.

With Black-capped Vireos located on various private and public lands, under varying degrees of threat, there is a real need for a coordinated long-term strategy to conserve this species in the Austin area. As one step towards this end, the Wild Basin Wilderness Committee has offered to serve as a clearing house for guided tours for visiting birders wanting to see Black-capped Vireos in the Austin region. Regularly scheduled tours to known colonies will be set up in the Spring and Summer of 1988; individual tours may also be arranged through the Wild Basin office as volunteer leaders are available. (Black-capped Vireos are also present on several state parks; contact Texas Parks and Wildlife in Austin for further details.) These arrangements will aid in minimizing disturbance of known colonies and are necessary due to access constraints on several important vireo areas. We encourage everyone planning to visit central Texas to see this species to contact the Wild Basin Wilderness Committee, P.O. Box 13455, Austin, Texas 78711; 512-476-4113.

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES — A late N. Parula was at Bentsen June 4 (OC), and a Tropical Parula was singing at Santa Ana during the period (KE *et al.*). A singing Tropical Parula on a private ranch in Kenedy June 28 (AO) was the first reported in that area in several years. A singing Yellow Warbler near Austin June 21 (BF) disappeared later and was presumed to have been a late migrant. A very late Black-throated Green Warbler June 14 in Kingsville (N & PP) appeared to have a slightly drooping wing, but appeared robust and healthy otherwise. Prothonotary Warblers were much more difficult to find at Brazos Bend S.P. than in previous years (TE *et al.*). Before the park was opened to the public the species was quite common in the willow thickets there. Swainson's Warblers have been found at Aransas the last 2 summers and are probably nesting there. Stehn speculates they may have been present but "just overlooked by us until recent years." Kentucky and Hooded warblers were unusually common on Wilbarger Creek in Bastrop in mid-June, a bit w. of their known haunts in that county (BF). Common Yellowthroats nest regularly at Aransas and are common (TS). Several area checklists list them as uncommon or rare in summer.

Summer Tanagers did well in Brooks and Kenedy (AO), but were unexpectedly difficult to locate in suitable breeding habitat in bottomlands from Austin to Bastrop (BF, CS). Two Varied Buntings were singing at Encino during the period (AO). O'Neil reports that Olive Sparrows are on the increase in the Falfurrias area. Botteri's, Cassin's, and Grasshopper sparrows all experienced good nesting success at several locations near Encino, Falfurrias, and Kingsville (AO, SB, N & PP). A large population of 100-130 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows was located on the "Hemphill Prairie" near Utley June 3-15 (BF), an unusual concentration for the Austin area. A singing W. Meadowlark was heard near Utley June 19-22 (BF); the species is not known to nest in the Region. A small colony of nesting Com. Grackles was found in San Antonio during May (MH), representing the first Bexar nesting record in more than 30 years. Both cowbird species were again present in far s. Texas in very high numbers (AO *et al.*). Interestingly, Bryan reported both species present at Kickapoo, but in small numbers; by the end of the period he had not seen any young cowbirds being fed by any host species. Hooded Orioles continued successful nesting at locations in Kleberg, Kenedy, Brooks, and Bexar (N & PP, AO, HW, m.ob.). In contrast, Altamira Orioles were reportedly hard to find in the L.R.G.V. this season (N & PP *et al.*), although at least one pair successfully fledged four young at Santa Ana (JI).

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

W. G. Johnston and C. McEwen

Abbreviations — F.S.J. = Fort St. John; F.N. = Fort Nelson; Whse. = Whitehorse; N.W.T. = Northwest Territories.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS — A pair of Pacific Loons was noted on the Little Rancheria R. on July 29 (JMC) and an adult with two downy young at Long L. on July 31 (HG). Four Yellow-billed Loons were observed at Holman, Victoria I., N.W.T., on June 21 (LG). Nesting Eared Grebes totaling 400 pair were seen at the south end of Cecil L. (CS) and rare summer sightings of Western Grebes were noted: three seen at Charlie L. July 22, one on June 28, and one on July 10 (CS). Sightings of cormorants: one identified as a Double-crested on L. Laberge on July 11 (DM), two seen on the same lake on July 7 and one

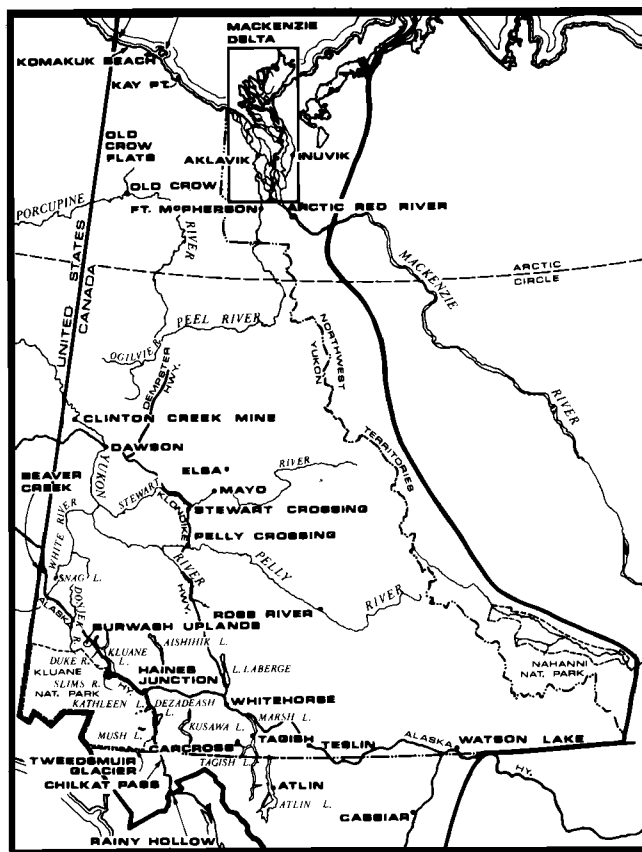
on Teslin L. on July 11 (JMC) are unusual within Yukon. Tundra Swans lingered in the F.S.J. area with one on June 14 and six swan sp. on June 1 at Cecil L. (CS). A flock of 80 non-breeding adults was noted near Reindeer Station, N.W.T., on July 8 (SC) and two nests were located near Whitefish Station in the MacKenzie Delta in June (DM). A Cinnamon Teal was once again noted at Swan L., June 20 (HG, SC). Both species of scaup were noted at Moose L., Km 105 Dempster Hwy during the summer season, including a brood of Greater Scaup (JM, SC, CM). Ruddy Duck was recorded for the first time in the Mackenzie Mts., N.W.T., this June (SM, BS). Harlequin Duck numbers were down in the Mackenzie Mt. area near Oldsquaw Lodge (SM); however, they were commonly seen along the Dempster Hwy (Km 65-95) during June and July (JM, CM). Although within its breeding range, the observation of a brood

of White-winged Scoter noted on Arctic Red R from the Dempster Hwy is one of the few breeding records for the area (JMC). A pair of breeding Canvasback was noted at Fish I., N.W.T., in June (LD). Two Sandhill Cranes flew over Swan L., near Whse. on July 31 (HG) and 100 were noted at Whitefish Station (DM). A nesting Red-tailed Hawk (*harlani*) noted at Whitefish Station, likely represents the farthest n. breeding record for the race (DM). A Golden Eagle pair at a nest was noted at Mason L. near Yellowknife on July 9 (KM); they are not common to the area. Peregrine Falcon numbers continue to increase in s. and c. Yukon with four new nests this year (DM, CM). Successfully breeding Gyrfalcons were down 20%, while a much higher proportion of Gyrfalcons are breeding in the northern Yukon (DM). A brood of Blue Grouse was noted 20 km south of the Dempster Hwy in the northern limit of its known range (JMC).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A total of 19 species of shorebird was noted in the area. Killdeer (3) were noted at Fish I., Mackenzie Delta, N.W.T., in June (LD), within its known range, but in the northern part of its overall range. Upland Sandpipers were recorded throughout the Region: in the MacKenzie Mts., N.W.T. (BS, SM); three on July 3 at McDougall Pass (SC); numerous nesting pairs along the Fifth R., Yukon (ML); four west of Haines Jct. (HG, MS) and six pair at Whitefish Station on June 28 (DM). Nesting Surfbirds were seen at White Mt. in the far n.e. Yukon, where one adult and two small chicks were noted on June 30 (SC) and on 2 occasions individuals were noted from the Dempster Hwy in the southern Ogilvie Mts. (CM). Both Long-billed and Short-billed dowitchers were noted in a flock of 50 July 31 at Swan L. (HG). Two Wilson's Phalaropes, one in juvenal plumage, were also noted at Swan L., July 31 (HG). A Long-tailed Jaeger pair was noted in Burwash Uplands, west of Haines Jct. in early June (LF). A first record of Thayer's Gull in the Peace R. area was photographed June 22 (CS). A N. Hawk-Owl was noted at Km 0 of the Dempster Hwy, July 23 (CM). Great Gray Owl was noted in June, at Km 95 Dempster Hwy (JM). Pileated Woodpeckers were noted on 3 occasions at Parker L., F.N., St. John Cr. at F S J., and Taylor (CS, JB). Western Wood-Pewee and Alder Flycatcher were common during breeding bird surveys in southern Yukon (HG, WN). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen at Parker L., F.N., in a similar location as the 1985 observations (DC, WW, JB, CS). Hammond's Flycatchers were present in small numbers at Moberley L. in n.e. B.C. on June 26 (DC fide CS). An unusual observation of a Tree Swallow, well above treeline, was made from Oldsquaw Lodge, Mackenzie Mts., N.W.T. (BS, SM).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WARBLERS — White-breasted Nuthatches were noted breeding in the Peace R. area (ML, JC fide CS), while Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted at a feeder in Haines Jct. in July (LF) and at Swan L. July 31 (HG). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was noted at Quiet L., c. Yukon on June 19 (WN). Hermit Thrushes were noted along the Alaska Highway Rancheria to Haines Jct. in June (HG, MS) and north to Inuvik where they were seen at the sewage lagoons (LG). One Yellow Wagtail noted at Inuvik was unusual for the area (LD) and two were seen at Komakuk Beach on Yukon's north coast on July 2-4 (WN). One Bohemian Waxwing at Inuvik was noted on July 8 (LG). Warbling Vireos were noted throughout the southern Yukon on breeding bird surveys from Rancheria to Whse. (HG, MS). MacGillivray's Warblers were heard singing at Rancheria on June 19 (SC) and June 15 (HG). A Bay-breasted Warbler was observed at Kledo Cr. (mi 335 of Alaska Hwy), B.C. (DC fide CS). A Common Yellowthroat was heard singing and sighted at Km 0, Dempster Hwy, north of its mapped range yet locally noted in the area occasionally through the years (JF, GB).

SPARROWS THROUGH CROSSBILLS — A pair of confirmed breeding Clay-colored Sparrows was noted at Jack Fish



I., Great Slave L., N.W.T., on June 19 (JS). White-throated Sparrow song heard at Fort Macpherson, N.W.T., on July 4 was an unusual note for the area (DM). An unusual sighting of a Harris' Sparrow on Herschel I. was made during this season (fide DM). A female Brewer's Blackbird in the Mackenzie Mts was a new species note for the area (SM, BS) and one observed at Swan L. on July 31 (HG) was also unusual for the region. Five Red-winged Blackbirds noted at Fish I., Mackenzie Delta, N.W.T., was also an unusual sighting (LD). A Northern Oriole noted near Teslin on four occasions in early June (MH, PD) provided a rare northern sighting. White-winged Crossbills appear to be increasing in the Whse. area (GJ).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

The summer period was marked by extremes of weather. June continued the hot, dry trend set in May. July, by contrast, was cool and very wet almost everywhere, but spells of hot weather between rains and the low snow pack in the mountains kept water levels low. The principal effect of this was to provide mudflats that attracted shorebirds in good numbers. A few reporters commented that the southward return of these birds was early. Otherwise the erratic weather appeared to have little effect upon bird life.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.O. = Lookout; C.G. = Campground.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., had a sighting of a single Com. Loon July 28 (JB). Two were at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., June 4 for a rare June sighting (CDL), and one or two lingered into June on the Columbia R. at Richland, Wash. (REW). At least 2 pairs of Red-necked Grebes again brought off young in s.e. Idaho, one pair on Henrys L. and the other on Silver L. in Harriman S.P. (WEH, CHT). Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., had a W. Grebe July 12; the species is not known to breed there (DH). Nineteen W. Grebes and three Clark's Grebes were on Ochoco Res., Prineville, Ore., July 26 (TC) and fifteen Clark's were with one Western on Wickiup Res., Deschutes Co., Ore., July 21 (DL). Several of the latter were seen at Malheur N.W.R. in July (CDL), and Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had three June 28 (WEH). The species was sighted on Sagehen Res., Gem Co., Ida., for the latilong's first (DJ).

Islands created by high water at Malheur benefitted Am. White Pelicans, which produced 810 young. Numbers of pelicans at American Falls Res., s.e. Idaho, remained low with flocks of 50–100 relatively rare. Moderate numbers appeared in s.c. Montana and a few appeared in the Frenchman Hills-N. Potholes area, Grant Co., Wash., in July (JA, FB, WH, PM). Double-crested Cormorant numbers remained relatively stable at Malheur N.W.R. at about 900 pairs, and Ninepipe N.W.R. counted 120 in late June (WEH). Noteworthy were some of the latter species at Crane Prairie Res. and Wickiup Res., s.w. of Bend, Ore. (G.C.B.C.).

An ad. Great Egret near Wilmer, B.C., June 8 was the first for that area (LH). Two at Frank Cr., w. of Dayville, Ore., in mid-June were latilong firsts (G.C.B.C.), and one at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Ida., June 20 and July 13 was unusual (MJ). A pair of Great Egrets provided the first nesting record for Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. (WRR). A pair or 2 of these birds probably bred on the Springfield Bottoms near American Falls Res. (Bja, CHT). A Snowy Egret along the Payette R. e. of New Plymouth, Ida., July 17 was notable (MJ). A few Cattle Egrets appeared at Malheur N.W.R. in June (CDL). Four Black-crowned Night-Herons stayed at Kamloops, B.C., at least July 17–31. They are very rare there (SR, RRH). Sunriver, Ore., hosted two juveniles of the species July 8 (CM). White-faced Ibis nested in good numbers at Malheur N.W.R., with 2500 present. About 30 pairs nested at Silver L., n.w. Lake Co., Ore., for apparently the first nesting record for that locality (CC), and 2 small active nesting colonies were found in the Warner Valley, Lake Co., Ore. (MS). Numerous sightings of this species were obtained at Red Rock Lakes.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TURKEY — A Tundra Swan spent the first 2 weeks of July on a Clarkston, Wash., pond (RH, PS), and two were sighted in Bear Valley s. of John Day, Ore., May 30 (G.C.B.C.). It was a near-record year for Trumpeter Swan production at Red Rock Lakes, with 127 cygnets on the refuge and 41 in the rest of the Centennial Valley. Forty-four Trumpeters remained at Malheur, where production appeared



very good. Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., still had five Trumpeters. A Black Swan at Columbia N.W.R., June 11 was undoubtedly an escapee (WRR). A molting ad. Snow Goose was observed there June 26, and 1764 pairs of Canada Geese there produced 2875 young. Predator control there contributed to this success. The number of fledged young ducks at Malheur N.W.R. was down somewhat from the 10-year average, but duck production at Columbia N.W.R. was excellent. Duck success was up at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., but continued downward in the Fortine, Mont., vicinity. Turnbull N.W.R. had 470 Gadwalls, a high number, in mid-June (JBe). Two Com. Goldeneyes at Malheur July 8 were unusual (GI). Buffleheads were presumed to have bred in the Coeur d'Alene R. drainage in n. Idaho as the birds were present all summer and breeding behavior was noted (BG).

Twenty-four ad. Ospreys were color-marked and 82 nestlings banded in n. Idaho (DJo), and other adult and nestling birds were banded at Cascade Res., Ida. (MB). At least 4 pairs of Ospreys frequented the Salmon, Ida., vicinity. One pair had three nearly-fledged young and another pair had at least one nestling (LH). Four pairs of Ospreys nested at Thompson Valley Res., Lake Co., Ore. (CC et al.). There were 8 known Bald Eagle nests in Idaho's panhandle, 7 of them raising young (LDN). Two pairs of Bald Eagles were known to have hatched young in Lake County, Ore., but the final outcome was unknown (CC et al.). Washington Dept. of Wildlife, assisted by volunteers from Blue Mt. and Spokane Audubon Societies and Canyon Birders, released three young Peregrine Falcons at the newly-established hack site in Asotin County during the summer (JH). Two ad. Wild Turkeys with young were noted in July along the Grande Ronde R., Asotin Co., Wash. (LD, PMi, CV).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS — Six to eight Yellow Rails were located near Ft. Klamath, Ore., July 3 (DL). Sandhill Cranes with young were sighted in Beaver Valley n. of Seneca, Ore. (G.C.B.C.). Two Sandhill Cranes in the Kimberley, B.C., area July 11 were unusual (MVW). Nineteen ad. Whooping Cranes were located, including nine at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., and three others in s.e. Idaho, six in w. Wyoming (in-

cluding two in Yellowstone NP], and one in s w Montana (RD, EB).

A survey of Oregon's Snowy Plovers counted 651 ad. birds in Lake County, more than 90% at Abert and Summer lakes. Smaller numbers were observed at Alkali L., Coleman L., and Bluejoint L. (CC et al.). A few Snowies were moving into the Malheur-Harney Lakes Basin as water levels continued to recede; 15 were present at Stinking L. and three near Harney L. through the period (GI). A remarkable find at Stinking L., Ore., was a pair of **Semipalmated Plovers** with a single chick which was captured and banded (GI). One Semipalmated Plover stopped at Clear L., s. of Mt. Hood, Wasco Co., Ore. for apparently a latilong first (DL). Four adult and 10 imm. Mountain Plovers were sighted July 14 s. of Judith Gap, Mont. (WEH, SMS, BH).

Black-necked Stilts and fledglings were seen in the Frenchman Hills-Dodson Road vicinity (PM). They raised young at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR). Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., had 355 Black-necked Stilts July 6 and 563 Aug. 3 (CC et al.). Nearly 16,000 Am. Avocets were counted there July 6 (CC et al., CM) and only slightly fewer Aug. 3 (CC et al.). Nearly 2000 avocets were at American Falls Res. by the end of July (CHT). The Am. Avocet nest near Kamloops was abandoned, but two successful broods were found in Kamloops in early June (fide RRH). This species was counted at 15,828 at Summer L., July 6 (CC et al.). A pair of Willets with one young near Leadore, Ida., provided the first breeding record for that area (HBR). The nesting area of Upland Sandpipers in the Spokane Valley yielded a total of only three birds. On the last sighting, July 16, the latest ever, the birds circled close by, acting as if young birds were present (LT). A surprising Long-billed Curlew appeared on a sagebrush-covered slope at 6400 ft elevation at Calamity Lookout n.e. of Burns, Ore., July 18 (MA). A breeding-plumaged ♂ **Hudsonian Godwit** appeared on the Yakima R. delta, Richland, June 8 for e. Washington's 5th record (REW). Summer L. had a **Marbled Godwit** July 6 (CC et al.). A Ruddy Turnstone near Rapelje, Mont., July 19 made a latilong first (WEH, SMS, BH). One was at American Falls Res. where the Snake R. enters July 23 for the year's 2nd observation (CHT, JTi). A Red Knot on the Springfield Bottoms July 11 was the 2nd this year (BJa). Noteworthy were a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Wickiup Res., July 30 (CM) and one to two at the Hood R. mouth, Hood River Co., Ore., July 12 (DAA, DL, BWo, NM). Hatfield L., Bend's sewage treatment ponds, had the highest number ever of "peeps," with 100+ Westerns, 150 Least, and a Semipalmated (TC). Kamloops reported 12 Semipalmated July 26 for a rare sighting (SR). A Baird's Sandpiper at the latter spot July 5 probably made the first county record (DAA, DL). A Stilt Sandpiper at Fortine July 13 was the 3rd recorded there in 66 years (WW). Another was at American Falls Res. at the Snake R. entrance July 20 (CHT).

Two Parasitic Jaegers were reported at Malheur July 19 (G.C.B.C.). Summer L. had 11 Franklin's and 10 Bonaparte's gulls July 19 (CM). Up to nine Bonaparte's Gulls were present at Columbia N.W.R., June 16 to at least July 2 (WRR). An ad. Herring Gull appeared near Harrison, Ida., July 15 (DJo). The ad. W. Gull stayed around the floating tires at American Falls dam through the summer period (CHT). Two Caspian Terns at Metcalf N.W.R., June 9 (PLW) apparently furnished a latilong first.

CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A territorial ♂ Black-billed Cuckoo was found 6 mi s.w. of Columbus, Mont., July 6 (WEH, SMS, BH). Burrowing Owls had a good year at and near Columbia N.W.R., where several pairs bred successfully (WRR). The species was back at its old locality n. of Three Forks, Mont., after an absence of several years (WEH). An adult and two imm. Spotted Owls were noted in the Swauk Pass area w. of Wenatchee, Wash., in June (BJ). A Barred Owl was observed at Blewett Pass w. of Wenatchee June 6 (SA). Four nights of owling in the Blue Mts. of s.e. Washington at 5300-6100 ft elevation June 7-14 found two Flammulated, nine Great Horned, five Barred, two Boreal, and two N. Saw-whet owls (BW).

Black Swifts numbered 23 over Metcalf NWR, June 17, suggesting that they nest in the nearby Bitterroot Mts. (DH). A Vaux's Swift, quite rare at any time at Richland, flew over for Woodley's first July record there. Two nests with young White-throated Swifts were found at Kamloops July 19 for that area's 2nd confirmed nesting (RRH). A male, a female, and four imm. Anna's Hummingbirds at a feeder at Sunnybrae, B.C., in mid-July suggested the first breeding record for the Shuswap area (FK). Indian Rock L.O., n.w. of Bates, Ore., had an imm. ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird July 11 (RHu), and the species was seen regularly at Dale, Ore., in June (G.C.B.C.). They were common at feeders near N. Fork Ranger Station n. of Ketchum, Ida. (EC), and were reported at Ketchum also (WHS). Rare in Montana, two territorial males were displaying at Quake L., s.e. Madison Co., July 8 (WEH, SMS). A ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a Bend feeder off and on, and a Costa's Hummingbird, the 5th this year for the Bend vicinity, appeared for 2 weeks (KC, TC). Over 400 hummingbirds, mostly Calliope and Rufous with a few Black-chinned, were banded near Troy, Mont. (KB).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported in good numbers at a few localities: over 100 were seen along the S. Fork of the John Day R. and Murderers Cr., Grant Co., Ore., July 23 (G.C.B.C.); 30-40 were flycatching along the Deschutes R., Wasco Co., Ore., at the end of July (T & AM); 17 were noted along Dufur Rd., Hood River-Wasco counties, Ore., July 12 (DAA); 15 were seen in Boise and Adams counties, Ida., July 18 (DJ, ST, JL); and nine were sighted at Kelowna, B.C., June 29 (SM). A **Red-headed Woodpecker**, Oregon's first, was reported at Malheur June 21 (CO). A well-described ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was sighted at Catherine Creek S.P. near Union, Ore., June 4 (DL, KK, JE). Both Red-naped and Red-breasted sapsuckers were nesting at Indian Ford C.G., Deschutes Co., Ore. (T & AM).

Least Flycatchers were reported at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JB). A singing territorial ♂ Willow Flycatcher along the Yakima R. in Richland at least June 9-16 made Woodley's first such record there. A Least Flycatcher was reported at Fields Spring S.P., Asotin Co., Wash., July 26 (PMi, CV). One was noted for a week in June in the Wenatchee, Wash., area (BJ, JT). Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Wasco Co., Ore., had four Gray Flycatchers including two juveniles (DL). Two adult and one imm. Ash-throated Flycatchers were sighted near Wenatchee in June (BJ). Most remarkable was an unsuccessful nesting attempt by a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Big Timber, Mont. The bird was photographed on its nest on a power pole—no mate was ever seen (RH, WEH). Wave action at Harney L., Malheur N.W.R., created several miles of vertical banks that attracted 2000 Bank Swallows.



Adult Gray Flycatcher at nest east of Oliver, B.C., summer 1987. This is the same area where the first breeding record for Canada was established one year earlier (see AB 41:376-378). Photo/Tim Zurowski (VIREO z03/6/006).

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS — Lyle, Wash., had six Scrub Jays July 3 (FB), and one in Bend throughout June was unusual (KC, KT). The species was also recorded in Hood River County (DL, DAA). A magpie that apparently was a Yellow-billed appeared at Boise, Ida., July 24 (CRu *et al.*). Remarkable concentrations of Com. Ravens included 200 over Indian Rock L.O., Aug. 1 (RHu), and 150 on the e. side of The Dalles watershed, Hood River Co., Ore., July 12 (DAA, DL). Several Bewick's Wrens were seen in Pendleton, Ore., July 18 (G.C.B.C.). A pair of Am. Dippers in the Snowy Mts. s. of Lewistown, Mont., established a nesting record for the latilong (LKM). Four imm. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Idaho Nat'l Engineering Laboratory, Arco, furnished the latilong's first record (TR). Bluebird nest box trails in n. Idaho were for the most part doing well. One near Coeur d'Alene shifted strongly from Mountain to W. Bluebirds. Mountain Bluebird numbers were increasing in the Fortine area owing to more nest box placing.

Fourteen Veeries were counted along the Imnaha R., Wal-lowa Co., Ore., June 6 (PS). A N. Mockingbird was seen regularly w. of Dayville May 28+ (G.C.B.C.), and one was noted singing at Prosser, Wash., July 3 (CR). One was heard at night at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake R. near Wawawai, Wash., June 2 (KM). The vicinity of Asotin, Wash., had 2 sightings of single Sage Thrashers in July (PS, MK, LL). A freak snowstorm that dumped a foot of snow on the Beartooth Plateau n.e. of Yellowstone N.P. in July was believed to have caused 100% mortality of eggs and nestlings of Water Pipits (PH). Most unusual was the sighting of four Bohemian Waxwings in Colorado Gulch, 17 mi s.w. of Helena, Mont. (G & NN). A subad. Cedar Waxwing with a brood patch, found dead on the road in Plush, Ore., had apparently nested, an occurrence seldom reported in that vicinity (WHP).

Unusual were Red-eyed Vireos in e. Oregon in June: at Viento S.P. near Hood River (DL, JE, DAA), at Bend (TC), and at Fields (JG *et al.*). Also notable were 2 observations of this species in s. Idaho: one in the Washington-Adams-Valley counties area July 18 (DJ, ST, JL) and one banded at Pocatello June 3 (JJ). Single Chestnut-sided Warblers appeared at Malheur N.W.R., June 6 (TC, JG, DI, m.ob.), and at Fields, Ore., June 9 (DI). Lone Black-and-white Warblers appeared in Oregon at Roaring Springs Ranch June 6 (TC, JG, m.ob.), at Fields June 7 (CDL), and at Hart Mt. Nat'l Antelope Refuge (banded) (KV, MF). In Washington one was found near Asotin June 2 (PS, MK, MLP, LL). An ad. ♀ Ovenbird was also banded at Hart Mt. (KV, MF), and one was observed along Trail Cr., a tributary of the Weiser R., Adams Co., Ida., in mid-June (KG). Two N. Waterthrushes were found along the N. Fork of the Clearwater R. in n. Idaho (CV, MLP, PP, LL, WHe), and one to two were singing along the Little Deschutes R., Klamath Co., Ore., in early July (DL, T & AM). The species was observed at 2 new localities in Pend Oreille Co., Wash.: one at Coffin L. and a pair at Trimble Cr., near Cusick (JR). Montana's Snowy Mts. yielded three MacGillivray's Warblers after 5 years of searching (LKM).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A first-year ♂ Summer Tanager appeared at Malheur N.W.R., June 9 (DI). A ♂ Indigo Bunting was sighted near Dale, Ore., in early July (PMu, LW). A Lark Sparrow was carrying food near Salmon, Ida., July 9, but no nest was located (LH). Several territorial ♂ **Black-throated Sparrows**, an ad. bird carrying food, and begging immatures were observed in the vicinity of Wanapum S.P., s. of Vantage, Wash., June 26–July 18 for the state's first breeding records (BB, BT, PM, G & WH *et al.*). The species has only recently moved into the state. Up to five Baird's Sparrows were on territory near Bynum, Mont., in July for a new site (WEH, BH, SMS). Singing Le Conte's Sparrows were found along the N. Fork road in Glacier N.P., Mont. (WEH, BH, SMS).

The small Bobolink population at Toppenish N.W.R., Wash., appeared to be increasing, for at least one dozen males were observed June 6 (C.B.A.S.). At least two Rusty Blackbirds were seen and singing was heard at Community L. in the Kamloops area. The species is believed to be a very rare summer resident

there (RRH). An ad. ♂ "Baltimore" N Oriole was observed e. of Cle Elum, Wash., June 20 (TS, NC), and another appeared at Malheur N.W.R., July 31 (GI, DP). At least four Lesser Goldfinches were observed at Lyle June 30 (BT) and the species was noted in Grant County, Ore. (DL, KK, JE). A pair of Lessers, the male displaying, was found at the mouth of Kinney Cr. e. of Pocatello June 18–22 (CHT) and several males were observed e. of Soda Springs, Ida., in early July (BO).

ADDENDA — Two Cattle Egrets made a rare appearance in the valley at Grays L. in late April (*vide* WH). A pair of Mountain Quail was observed in 1986 at Thompson L., Kootenai Co., Ida (BG). Summer L. counted 1000 Semipalmated Plovers, 799 Long-billed Dowitchers, and 514 Dunlin May 1 (CC *et al.*). A Marbled Godwit was seen at Anderson L. in the Warner Valley May 28 (MS). A Least Flycatcher was reported at Holliday S.P., Mt. Vernon, Ore., May 26 (G.C.B.C.). A White-throated Sparrow was sighted in Black Canyon near Yakima, Wash., May 23 (RW, PM).

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Hugh E. Kingery

Successful nesting for several species of special concern—White-faced Ibis, Peregrine Falcon, Snowy Plover—highlighted the Mountain West summer season. Nevada recorded its first Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and Colorado had a probable Lesser Nighthawk, its second. Observers reported no first state nesting species, but second records in each state: Evening Grosbeak in Utah, Orchard Oriole in Wyoming, Common Grackle in Nevada, and Black Phoebe in Colorado.

The Black Phoebe discovery came during field work on the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, as did many other nesting reports that follow. [The Atlas welcomes any *American Birds* readers to participate; contact the Regional Editor.] Observers turned up many new Latilong records throughout the Region and evidence of a banner nesting season for a variety of species, from pelicans in Nevada to House Finches and Black-headed Grosbeaks in Utah.

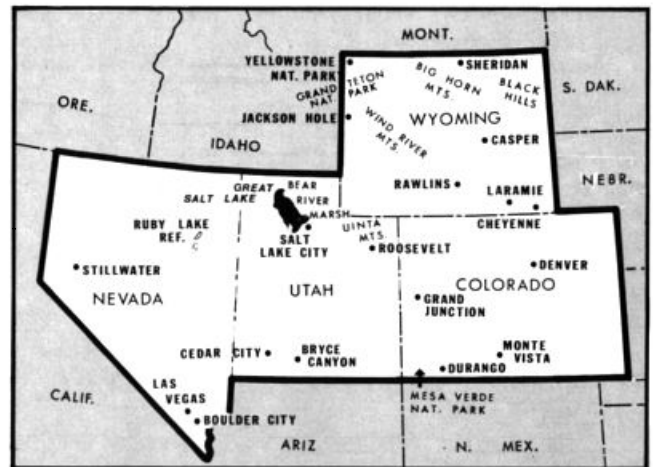
The weather varied across the Region—dry in Las Vegas with .13" of rain June 6 the only precipitation, and wetter than usual in eastern Nevada. Utah experienced an early spring that accelerated maturation of seed-producing and berry plants and increased the insect population—bringing seedeaters to feeders (MK). Seed eaters like crossbills and nutcrackers increased in the mountains west of Boulder, Colorado, responding to a good crop (DB, DH). Precipitation there was average, but farther west in Eagle County, Colorado, drier than ordinary weather prevailed. Jackson, Wyoming, had a wet July—390% of normal precipitation.

A tornado blasted through Grand Teton National Park and blew down 5000 acres of trees (BR). The blowdown affords opportunities for woodpeckers and for loggers who decay natural succession in favor of "harvesting" the timber.

ABBREVIATIONS — Since 1982 a group in Boulder Co., Colo., has conducted seasonal counts in the Indian Peaks Christmas Count circle which includes the mountain towns of Eldora, Nederland, and Ward. They conduct their counts using Christmas Count guidelines (reported by DB & DH). The report herein abbreviates references to their June 13 count as "Indian Pks B.B.C.". 1st Lat. = first record in a latilong (that piece of geography bounded by one degree of latitude and longitude; † = documentation submitted to Regional Editor; †† = documentation submitted to a state or local records committee; # = no documentation received.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Out-of-season Com. Loons stopped in Eureka, Nev., June 18 and Jiggs, Nev., July 6 (JE), Cheyenne had one June 24 (D & RP), and Colorado had 4 July reports. Eared Grebe nesting success dipped throughout the Region; Ruby Lake reported the most drastic drop, from 1200 young in 1983 and 1984 to only 100 this year (SB). Other sites reported drops as well: down 40% at Kirch, 25% at Cody, Wyo., and 50% at Casper, Wyo. At Delta, Colo., the only site reporting comparable annual data on W. Grebes, they dropped from 98 young last year to 19 this year (MJ). Observers continue to fill in the range of Clark's Grebe. Eyre found nine on a B.B.S. in c. Nevada June 18; a pair attempted, unsuccessfully, to nest at Delta (MJ); others tried nesting in Colorado at Pueblo and John Martin Res. (A.V.A.S.), and probably at Ft. Collins (RR).

American White Pelicans had a banner year at Anaho Island Ref., Nev.: 30,000 wintered (only the 2nd time in history that has occurred: they feasted on a massive die-off of Tui chubs). They began to nest in February, and produced the first fledgling in mid-May, a month and a half early; 25,000 summering birds (up from 18,000 last year) had 9000 nests (7000 last year), but achieved only fair production (ST, TB). At Yellowstone 300–



400 pairs nested (JZ), and 2 c. Wyoming nest sites showed increases of 25–75% (W.G.&F.). Colorado's one nest site, Riverside Res., had 700–1000 young July 10, comparable to last year (RR). Non-breeding birds summered on reservoirs all over s.e. Wyoming and n.e. Colorado. Double-crested Cormorants seem to have a stable population Regionally, with some colonies increasing and others decreasing.

Stillwater Ref., Nev., hosted 160 nesting pairs of Great Egrets, cf. 185 pairs in 1986 (ST, TB). They also wandered from their Nevada nest sites, with reports from Denio June 11 (JN), Eureka June 17 (JE), and Kirch July 20 (CS). Snowy Egret nesting increased in Nevada at Stillwater and Ruby L. (together, 420 nests cf. 265; ST, TB, SB), dropped at Fish Springs from 430 to 300 young, and increased 8% at Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo (EM). At Provo, June 27–July 30, 200–250 Snowies fed in temporary ponds (MW, VM); they may have nested nearby. Two n.e. Colorado locations had 60 nests (RR). Black-crowned Night-Herons also increased at Stillwater and Ruby L. with, respectively, 330 and 50 nests (ST, TB, SB). Wyoming had 224 nests (W.G.&F.). White-faced Ibises had a spectacular year at Stillwater: 4300 nesting pairs (1500 last year; ST, TB). They also thrived throughout the rest of the Region (except at Ruby L., which had 102 nests after 260 last year): 150 nests at Monte Vista and Alamosa Refuges, Colo. (cf. 115); up 30–40% at Kirch, 350 young at Fish Springs, cf. 300.

WATERFOWL — The refuges had varying results. Stillwater reported 72,500 breeding ducks: 17,500 Redheads, 14,000 pintails, 14,000 Cinnamon/Blue-winged Teal, and 12,000 Gadwalls (ST, TB). Both Ruby L. and Kirch reported poor results Ruby L. had 4254 young, although Canvasbacks brightened the picture by producing an average 660 young, up from 270 in 1986 (SB). The average brood size of 4.6, compared with a 5-year average of 5.5, contributed to a 50% drop in production at Kirch (CS). Fish Springs ducks raised 3550 young; 1400 Redheads, twice the 1986 total, helped as other duck species fledged numbers similar to those of 1986 (CRD). Monte Vista N.W.R. produced 38,000 ducks, up 19% from 1986, and neighboring Alamosa N.W.R. reported an increase of 26% to 6000 new ducks (EM).

At Ruby L., 6 pairs of Trumpeter Swans raised five cygnets, three more than last year, but Yellowstone's dropped to nine cygnets (JZ). Jackson, Wyo., reported a good breeding year, but no specific numbers (BR). Canada Geese had a poor year in the Nevada refuges and at Fish Springs, with production down 35–80%. The 2 Colorado refuges produced 475 young, and geese had a good year in n.e. Colorado, where the state Division of Wildlife deported 300 because of overpopulation. Nesting Wood Duck numbers dropped along the Carson R., but had more

success in nest boxes at Stillwater Ref (ST TB) Observations of a pair at Cheyenne and seven young at Whalen dam gave s.e. Wyoming 2 1st Lat records (H.P.A.S., WH). Pueblo, Colo., reported 20–30 pairs nesting, progeny of a captive breeding program (A.V.A.S.). They also nested at Grand Junction and Ft. Morgan, Colo.

A Lesser Scaup with eight young not only seemed out of place on a farm pond n. of Kanab June 23, but also represented the 3rd breeding record for Utah, the other 2 coming from sites near Ouray N.W.R. in n.e. Utah (†DEC). The observation May 12 of one **Harlequin Duck** on a rocky promontory at Pyramid L. provided a 2nd or 3rd record for Nevada (†ST). Yellowstone had only 3 observations of five Harlequins; whether they still breed in the Park is unknown. A new boardwalk built at LeHardy Rapids in 1985 brought high levels of human activity to a favorite feeding and resting area, where they seldom appear now (JZ). Barrow's Goldeneyes do continue to thrive at Yellowstone, with 51 observations of 449 birds (JZ). The summer brought several Hooded Merganser reports: one at Yellowstone (June 24, WEH), an imm. male that summered at Wellington, Colo. (RR), and June observations at Denver and Ft. Collins (D.F.O., PO, DL). The 15 flightless young Com. Mergansers with their mother on L. Powell, s. Utah, June 26 gave Utah another 1st Lat breeding duck (DEC).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Yellowstone boasted 60 nesting pairs of Ospreys—up dramatically from the 35–40 pairs of recent years. Sheridan and Dubois, Wyo., and Ft. Collins each reported one to 2 successful nests. Mississippi Kites have spread up the Arkansas R. to Pueblo; 10–12 pairs nested in 2 different sections of the city (A.V.A.S.); as part of their odyssey they left downriver one pair nesting in Rocky Ford, Colo. (1st Lat breeding), and 10–20 pairs at the reliable Lamar City Park. In Colorado, 9 pairs of Bald Eagles attempted to nest; at least 2 failed (JC). Yellowstone alone fledged 13 young eagles, the best there in recent years (JZ). Boschen conducted a study of Ferruginous Hawks in a 500-square mile section e. from Crescent Jct., Utah, to the Colorado border. He found 31 young raised to banding age in 15 nests. The hawks nested mostly on the ground in areas with greater food biomass, essentially where deeper soils attract prairie dogs, gophers, and cottontails. Golden Eagles continue to suffer from pesticide poisoning in Wyoming; e.g., a pair near Rock Springs that succumbed to Warbex, a poison used to kill grubs on cattle (U.S.F.&W.). Merlins visited McCoy, Colo., June 5 (ME) and Las Vegas and Boulder, Colo., July 29 (MCR, B.A.S.). Colorado's Peregrine Falcon program had a banner year: 74 young fledged (39 from wild breeding pairs unassisted by substitution or hacking), up from a previous peak of 56 young in 1984, and from zero in 1972. Since 1972, Peregrines have fledged 442 young in the state (JC). The falcons found nesting at 12,500 ft in the S. San Juan Wilderness in s.w. Colorado, however, were Prairies (ML).

Virginia Rails appeared on the increase in n.w. Wyoming, where they are not listed as breeders. Observers found several immatures June 26–Aug. 9 in Yellowstone (JZ), and one at Jackson June 24 (WEH—1st Lat). In contrast, Soras are numerous: the 144 at Yellowstone included 26 seen at one time at Pelican Creek (JZ). Stillwater's 20,000 nesting Am. Coots had poor breeding success (ST, TB), and Ruby Lake's 4000 pairs produced 4500 young (SB). At Ruby L., 15 pairs of Sandhill Cranes bred (SB), and 220 pairs used Yellowstone, with uncertain breeding success (JZ). One Whooping Crane summered in Jackson, two in Yellowstone (BR, JZ).

SHOREBIRDS — Approximately 650 Snowy Plovers nested at Stillwater and Carson Lake with unknown fledging results (ST, TB). Fish Springs reported 20, apparently including young, June 18–29 (CRD). Two Snowies summered and probably nested at Sugar City, Colo. (A.V.A.S.). Black-necked Stilts enjoyed good nesting success at Stillwater, where adults and young swelled the population to 6300 by July 28 (ST, TB). Wyoming recorded its 3rd breeding site when several pairs of stilts nested at Farson (M & AD). They nested again at Green



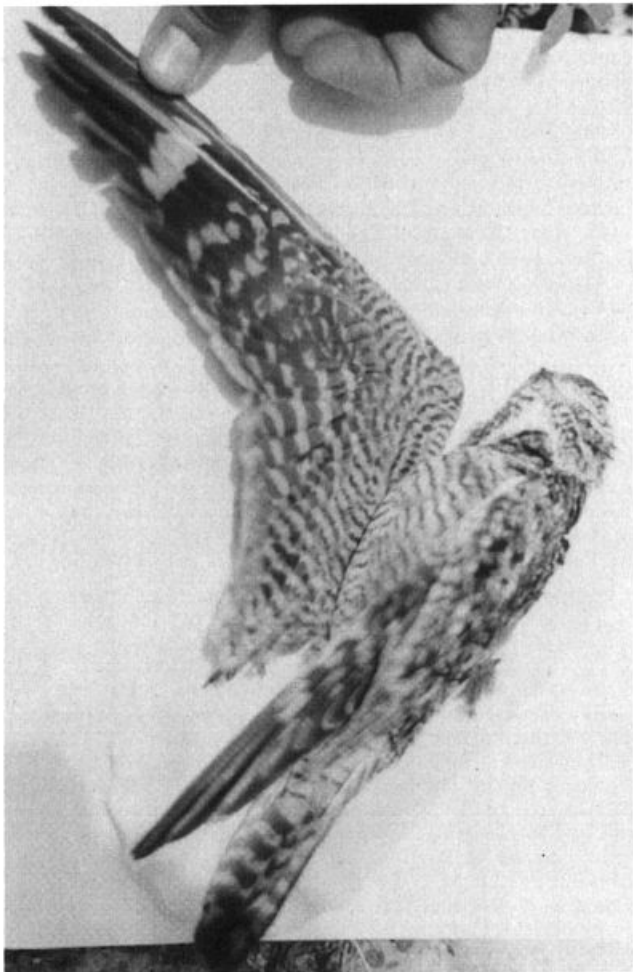
Red Phalarope at Moose, Wyo., June 23, 1987. Photo/Arthur R. Clark.

River, Wyo., Alamosa N.W.R., and Las Vegas. At Kirch, 40% fewer nesting stilts had poor success, a problem related to refuge water levels. American Avocets at Stillwater numbered 51,000 July 28, even though they had poor nesting success Kirch's small contingent of avocets (61 July 6) was up by 20% from 1986. Fish Springs had about twice that many. The two young avocets seen at Grand Junction, Colo., June 25 provided a 1st Lat breeding record (CD). At Eureka, Nev., Long-billed Curlews pulled off 2 clutches (JE), and Cody, Wyo., reported a nest with chicks for a 1st Lat breeding report (CN). Wilson's Phalaropes at Stillwater reached a peak of 67,000 July 2, an indication of successful nesting (ST, TB).

Several shorebirds made June appearances: Solitary Sandpiper June 17 (Cheraw, Colo.—RM), Greater Yellowlegs June 19 and Lesser Yellowlegs June 23 (both Yellowstone—JZ), six Marbled Godwits at L. Powell, Utah, June 26 (DEC), and dowitchers June 8 & 26 (50 and 30 respectively at Fish Springs—CRD). After these dates the Region hosted a handful of those species. July saw the arrival of the other usual early-arriving migrant shorebirds. Notable among them were 22 Ruddy Turnstones at Stillwater July 30 (ST, TB), two Red Knots at Provo, Utah, July 21 (MW), and a **Red Phalarope** at Grand Teton N.P., July 21–23, for Wyoming's 3rd record (†AC, †BR).

GULLS TO NIGHTHAWKS — California Gulls fledged over 500 young at Riverside Res., Colo. (RR). At Stillwater, 1400 pairs nested, and 900 pairs nested at Anaho I. (ST, TB) Herring Gulls reportedly nested near Laramie, Wyo., for the 2nd year; 3 pairs supposedly nested last year. This would be the first report of nesting in Wyoming, but with unverified details (#W.G.&F.). A Herring Gull did mate with a California Gull in Colorado several years ago. Sheridan reported three Herring Gulls July 15–21 (HD). At Grand Jct., Colo., three Com Terns stopped June 2 (A.S.W.C.) and one was at Jackson Res. Colo., June 4 (†WH). The Wyoming survey found 40 nesting pairs of Forster's Terns (W.G.&F.). They nested at Kirch and Fish Springs (160 summered there, CRD), and at Greeley and Walden, Colo. Near Rocky Ford, Colo., six Least Terns were at the lone Colorado breeding site July 10 (JR). A Least Tern strayed to Sterling, Colo., June 20 (BA).

The count of 115 Mourning Doves at Briggsdale, Colo., June 14 exceeded the 19-year mean on that B.B.S. by 50% (RR). Inca Doves continue to occur in backyards in Boulder City, Nev (CL). Both cuckoos seemed scarce, although Howe found 23 in n.e. Colorado June 2–July 17. Observers found nesting Com Barn-Owls at Grand Jct. (2 pairs, 10 young, CD) and Ft. Collins (one pair, five young, RR), and one spent July 20–27 in a suburban Denver backyard (JS). Several N. Pygmy-Owls called June 4 at Logan, Utah (KA, KD). The number of Burrowing Owls at Casper, Wyo., dropped. They seem scattered in small



Female Lesser Nighthawk road-killed near Montrose, Colo., June 20, 1987. The buff spots on the inner primaries are diagnostic for this species. Second Colorado record. Photo/Mark Janos.

colonies across e. Colorado and the Ute Reservation near Towaoc, Colo. A nighthawk struck by the car of an observer on his way to the dawn start of a B.B.S., June 20 near Montrose, probably was a **Lesser Nighthawk**; if so it will provide Colorado's 2nd definite record (††M), ph.; *D.M.N.H.).

SWIFTS TO WOODPECKERS — Black Swifts came out of the mountains 20–40 mi in order to forage regularly over Delta, Colo., June 17–July 8. They also traveled to nearby Olathe June 20 and Montrose July 5 (M). On a stormy July 12, five cruised over Barr L. near Denver (45 mi from the nearest known nest site—Mca). Breeding Bird Atlas work discovered an apparent nest site near Vail, Colo., perhaps an historic location (BRi). A *Chaetura* swift silently cruised close to Dexter at Grand Jct.; he felt it could have been either Chimney or Vaux's. Colorado observers do not know which of the two occurs on rare occasions on the W. Slope. A pair of Magnificent Hummingbirds frequented a feeder near Pagosa Springs, Colo., May 30–June 7; a female patronized the same feeder June 20–21, 1986 (†TMc ph., 1st Lat). Another was near Evergreen, Colo., July 25 (TM). Stormy July days attracted 600–700 Black-chinneds to Springdale feeders (JG). Two strayed to Chatfield S.P. near Denver July 4 (JR). Calliope Hummingbird occurred at Evergreen, Kenosha Pass, and Rye, Colo., in July. The Indian Pks B.B.C. counted 227 Broad-taileds, 2.4/hour; they show a steady increase from the 1.7/hr. in 1982. First Rufous Hummingbirds arrived late, July 2 at Zion (JrG) and July 5 at Evergreen (WWB) and La Plata County, Colo. (KH).

Utah is starting to log more records of Lewis' Woodpecker—this summer one at Fairview July 19 (MW, 1st Lat) and four at Cleveland July 25 (FL, 1st Lat). Red-headed Woodpeckers nested in 2 sites near Boulder, closer to the mountains than in recent years (B.A.S.). One traveled over the mountains to Eagle, Colo., July 9 (†JM). Red-naped Sapsuckers nested at Lamoille, Nev. (JE). Grand Teton N.P. remains the best Regional site to find Three-toed and Black-backed woodpeckers; the blowdowns and old burns attract good numbers of those, as well as three or four other woodpecker species. The Black-backed Woodpeckers feeding young June 9 in a cavity in a burn forest at Devils Tower N.M. gave n.e. Wyoming its first nesting record (SR). In n.e. Colorado the separation of the two flicker forms occurs at Weldona: Yellow-shafted to the east, Red-shafted to the west (WH) [and presumably lots of intergrades in both directions—K.K.].

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS — A pair of Least Flycatchers fed a recently fledged cowbird, and another called near Douglas, Wyo., July 8 (WH). Least called at Evergreen, Colo., June 30 (WWB) and Sterling, Colo., July 25 (RS). A W. Flycatcher nest near Sheridan, observed June 8–10, confirmed breeding there (HD, 1st Lat). Yaeger's canoe foray into a Breeding Bird Atlas block at Pueblo Res., June 7 netted the 2nd Colorado nesting site of **Black Phoebe**. He saw only one adult at the site, feeding young June 21 but gone June 28; inspection showed only 2 of the 4 eggs hatched, and both young died. An inconspicuous **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** allowed about an hour of observation near Las Vegas June 13, for Nevada's first record (†KW, †VM). Two pairs of Purple Martins nested on the Uncompahgre Plateau w. of Delta, Colo. (CD, RL, 1st Lat). They occurred at previously known sites near Redstone, Colo., Monte Cristo, and Spanish Fork, Utah, and two females were at Logan, Utah, June 17 (RJR). Tree Swallows made a rare nesting attempt on the Colorado plains near Masters; on June 10, high water shook the nest tree so violently that they abandoned the site found 2 days earlier (WH). Cliff Swallows had at least 500 nests near Cortez (LB). In Summit County, Colo., Cliff Swallows made newspaper headlines when condominium owners dealt directly with a common problem in that resort by killing birds, and destroying nests, with and from which the swallows festooned the buildings and sidewalks. A pair of Blue Jays nested at Salida, Colo. (RE). On the Colorado State Univ. campus, Ft. Collins, 13 pairs of Am. Crows nested; the 11 that fledged young averaged 3.9/nest (RK); the crow has become an urban species in e. Colorado. Along Highway 96 from Eads to Ordway, July 7–10, Reddall counted 41 Chihuahuan Raven nests, most in power poles. The Indian Pks B.B.C. recorded .87 Mountain Chickadees per hour, way below the 1.27 average. Breeding Bird Atlas work found nesting Rock Wrens common in the dirt arroyos in e. Colorado. Along the S. Platte R. in n.e. Colorado, the most abundant bird was the House Wren with 50–73/transect (WH). In contrast, on one B.B.S. near Sheridan, the House Wren counts which doubled 1980–1983 now have dropped back to their previous average (HD).

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS — Golden-crowned Kinglets increased on the Indian Pks B.B.C., to .11/hr., up from a .05/hr. average; they were the most abundant birds on an Atlas block near Monte Vista which has a superb old-growth forest rarely found in Colorado (MF). At McCoy, Colo., Mountain Bluebirds exhibited aggression they do not always show in defending nest sites: they took over a Say's Phoebe nest site and fledged 2 broods (ME). At Eagle they nested at a density of 3 pairs/mi (JM), but none used 20 nest boxes put out at Pueblo (A.V.A.S.). A pair nested in Las Animas County, Colo., for a 1st Lat report (DL). A few Swainson's Thrushes continued to migrate in e. Colorado through June 11. On that Sheridan B.B.S. from 1974 to 1983, Am. Robins averaged 54, but the 20 this year (June 10) matched the 1984–1986 average. Possible nesting N. Mockingbirds at Sheridan (HD) and one July 28 at Rock Springs (FL, 1st Lat) demonstrated the spread of that species. Brown Thrashers also strayed, to Kirch W.M.A., July 6–20 (†CS) and

Logan, Utah (KA *et al.*, 1st Lat) Loggerhead Shrikes nest regularly in isolated trees or groves in e Colorado, with one to 2 pairs per Atlas block. A survey at Kirch counted 31 shrikes, finding probably half the birds in a healthy population (CS).

A Bell's Vireo singing near Ft. Morgan June 3 extended the possible Colorado breeding range west by 2 Latilongs (WH). Solitary Vireos established 2 1st Lat breeding records in n. Utah, at Logan and Brigham City (KA, KD). The Am. Redstart with dependent young at Grand Teton N.P., July 11, produced a 1st Lat breeding record (KDu). A few late warblers provided interesting records: Blue-winged Warbler at Boulder June 4–6 (HL, †PG); a Tennessee singing near Ft. Morgan June 3 (†WH); a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Grand Teton N.P., May 31–June 9 (†RFB, †RAB, BR); two Blackburnians in the Denver area June 2 & 3 (†HK, D.F.O.); Black-and-white at Chatfield near Denver June 27–July 4 (LF); Worm-eating Warbler June 8, in Weld County, Colo. (†WH).

CARDINALS THROUGH FINCHES — A N. Cardinal June 8 added one to the spring influx of four (KL). Killpack banded 160 Black-headed Grosbeaks at Ogden during the season, including 121 young; usually he nets 30–70 during the summer. Blue Grosbeaks were widely reported, including 1st Lat records from Logan (two June 5, RJR, KA), Guernsey, Wyo. (four singing July 7, WH), and Ft. Morgan, Colo. (a female carrying nesting material June 3 for a 1st Lat breeding record, WH). At Grand Jct., observers reported 33 Blue Grosbeaks, *cf.* five last year. At Ogden 70 Lazuli Buntings flew into the banding nets, 31 of them young, and some recaptures from 1980 (MK). Indigo Buntings, common in many parts of the Region recently, may have started a detectable decline (MJ, DL). Dickcissels breezed into e. Colorado in good numbers, from Villegreen n. to Sedgwick. Three Field Sparrows were at Crook, Colo., July 15–25 (JR). Sheridan recorded a healthy count of 450 Vesper Sparrows July 15 (HD). Black-throated Sparrows bred at Delta, Colo. (MJ, 1st Lat). Hordes of newly independent young boosted a count of 640 Lark Buntings at Sheridan July 21 (HD, 1st Lat breeding). The Briggsdale, Colo., B.B.S. had an average count of 156 (RR). Grasshopper Sparrows spread widely over e. Colorado and Wyoming, and even Logan had one June 19 (RJR). Fox Sparrows increased on the Indian Pks B.B.C., to .21/hr, up from .10/hr; singing birds in Rocky Mountain N.P. and on Wolf Creek Pass June 17 gave 1st Lat records for possible breeders (DBA, DL).

At Sheridan, B.B.S. counts show W. Meadowlarks recovering from low levels. On one survey this year's tally reached 249 after 97 in 1984 and 1985. The 2nd tallied 240, up from a 9-year average of 137 (HD). Brewer's Blackbirds went up on the Indian Pks B.B.C. to .74/hr from a .25/hr average. At Eagle, Colo., Great-tailed Grackles fledged two young June 8 and stayed to July 3 (1st Lat breeding, JM). They nested in similar small ponds surrounded by cattails at Salida and Towaoc, Colo. (RE, HK). Eureka had its first Great-tailed June 18 (JE). Still-

water produced a 2nd Nevada breeding record for **Common Grackles**, with the discovery of two adults and three fledglings there Aug. 19 (ST, TB). For the first Nevada nest, see the Spring report. Howe found 3 **Orchard Oriole** nests in s.e. Wyoming, for the state's 2nd to 4th breeding records. A pair of "Baltimore" N. Orioles nested at Bonny Res., Colo., feeding young July 3, and a shelter belt near there held one Orchard, two "Baltimores", and two "Bullock's" also July 3 (HK). "Bullock's" N Orioles were abundant along the S. Platte from Ft. Morgan west, with 42 counted June 8 at Hardin, Colo. (WH). At Rock Springs were two male and one ♀ Scott's Oriole June 6+ (FL).

At Ogden, the ratio of banded House Finches—42 adults, 472 young—suggested a reproductive explosion (MK). Red Crossbills returned: observers found them at Guernsey, Wyo., and throughout the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming, the Indian Pks B.B.C. counted 63. Among them were a few White-wings: three at Grand Teton, 10 at Yellowstone (both JZ), and seven at Eldora, Colo. (DB, DH). A Lesser Goldfinch near Guernsey provided another Wyoming 1st Lat (WH). A pair of **Evening Grosbeaks** nested at Logan; the fledglings were independent by July 10 and a flock of 12 adults and fledglings appeared July 19+ (FAB); this gave Utah its 2nd breeding record, after the first last year.

CORRIGENDUM — The Kentucky Warbler at Las Vegas last spring occurred May 23, not May 2 (†KW).

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

Janet Witzeman and David Stejskal

After an unusually wet spring, July was unusually dry, with the monsoons arriving very late. "On the north side of the Santa Rita Mountains, Botteri's Sparrows were present and far more vocal than usual in May, and less vocal than usual in mid to late July. The precipitation levels seemed a likely reason." (KK).

"Passerine migration (as well as the better known passage of shorebirds and hummingbirds) is usually well underway by the latter part of July. It seemed especially pronounced

this year, with larger numbers of some of the 'typical' July migrants (e.g., Bank Swallow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Lark Sparrow) and some species showing up near record-early dates" (KK). Some early dates for fall migrants on the upper San Pedro River were Black-headed Grosbeak July 7, Western Tanager July 8, Yellow-headed Blackbird July 10, Solitary Vireo July 14, Lark Sparrow July 21, Western Flycatcher July 23, Warbling Vireo July 27, and Nashville Warbler July 30 (TC). Additional near record early dates were Gray Flycatcher August 1 at Happy Valley, east of Tucson, Hermit Warbler in the lowlands at Tucson by August 4, Nashville Warbler at Tucson by August 6

[KK], and Yellow-headed Blackbird at Tucson July 6 (GM) Migration seemed ahead of schedule in the Chiricahuas as well (RT); and in a Phoenix yard, six Northern Orioles were seen the last week in July (SD). More examples of early migrants are contained in the report.

Two on-going projects that are contributing greatly to our knowledge are the flora and fauna survey on the upper San Pedro River (having just completed its third summer) and the hummingbird banding program in southeastern Arizona (having completed its second summer). Results of these two works can be found in the report that follows.

Of course, no summer in Arizona can be complete without at least one visitor (and potential range extension) from Mexico. This summer was no exception.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.P.R. = San Pedro River.

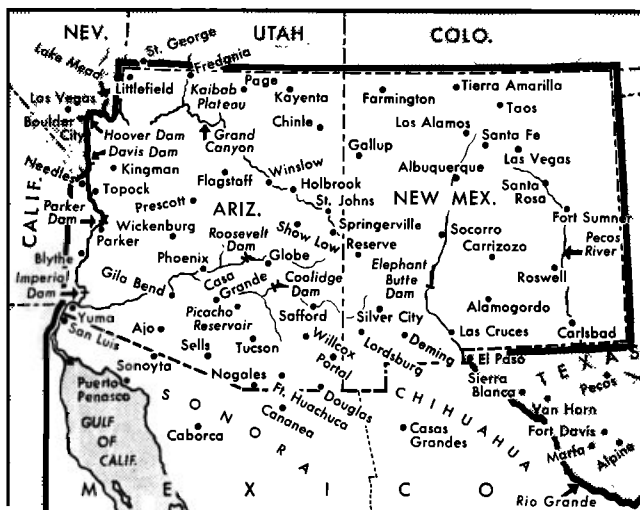
PELICANS THROUGH WATERFOWL — An Am. White Pelican at Prescott from June 19 through the period (CT, m.ob.) represented the first full summer record for Yavapai County. There were only two wandering imm. Brown Pelicans reported: one s. of Tucson July 16 (JS) and one at Picacho Res., July 18 (Bob Perrill).

Least Bittern is a sparse and erratic summer resident in s.e. and s.c. Arizona, so of interest were the ad. male on the upper S.P.R., July 27–28 (DK, ph. TC et al.), one at Roper L. State Park, s. of Safford, July 21 (RBr), two at Picacho Res., July 5 (SG), and one along the Hassayampa R., s. of Wickenburg, July 10–11 (JC). The Great Blue Heronries on the upper S.P.R. contained 6+ nests s. of Hwy 90 and 11+ nests n. of Fairbank (DK, TC). An imm. Wood Stork at Prescott June 23–July 5 (BT et al.) represented the 2nd record for Yavapai County; the species is rare away from the Lower Colorado and Lower Gila rivers, and uncommon and irregular even at those locales.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck continued to increase; 62 were counted at Guevavi Ranch June 6 (DK, TC), and 35 were counted in various other areas of s. Arizona (DS). A Wood Duck, uncommon in summer in s. Arizona, was seen at a pond in Tucson June 12 (Bill Davis). An ad. Cinnamon Teal with four ducklings was observed at Ina Rd. pond, Tucson, July 12 (DS, RN, RP); the species is a sparse breeder in s. Arizona. Many ad. Redheads (35+) were seen at lakes in s. Apache County July 19–23, and young were seen at Sunrise L. (2 broods), Basin L. (one brood) and Crescent L. (one brood), suggesting the species may be more common as a breeder in the White Mts. than currently realized (KK, LHK). A subad. ♂ Surf Scoter was observed at Gila Farms pond, s. of Phoenix, on the odd date of July 3 (†RN), providing the first summer record for the state.



Male Least Bittern on the upper San Pedro River, Ariz., July 27, 1987. Photo/Troy Corman.



RAPTORS — Black-shouldered Kites were reported from Sulphur Springs Valley, Huachuca City, Sonoita, Green Valley, Marana, and Buenos Aires N.W.R.; two immatures were observed at McNeal June 20, and one immature there July 6 (AM). Another immature was seen at sewage ponds in Tucson July 26 (GR). A Mississippi Kite at St. Johns, n. of the White Mts., June 16 (†BH, fide GM) provided the first record n. of the Mogollon Rim by many miles. A ♂ N. Harrier was observed June 18 at San Bernardino Ranch, e. of Douglas, where a pair made an unsuccessful attempt at nesting in 1985; the species has not nested successfully in the state in this century.

A bird believed to be an ad. Great Black Hawk was well observed on the upper S.P.R., July 27 (†DK, †TC). There have been no confirmed records for the United States, but it was not completely unexpected. The upper S.P.R. habitat is similar to that in which the species lives not far south in Sonora.

A subad. Broad-winged Hawk was observed on the upper S.P.R., July 27 (†DK, †TC et al.); the few records of this uncommon visitor have been mainly in winter and spring, with only one previous summer record. Individual Zone-tailed Hawks were seen in the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation: near South Mountain July 18 and w. of Papago Farms July 30 (SL); the species is rarely found this far southwest of its usual range. One (and possibly a 2nd) ad. Ferruginous Hawk was seen near Petrified Forest N.P., July 22 (JW); the species is an uncommon resident of n. Arizona. A Peregrine Falcon, uncommon away from its breeding areas in summer, was seen at McNeal July 6 (AM).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SWIFTS — An ad. Black-bellied Plover at a s.w. Phoenix sewage pond July 26 furnished one of the earliest fall records for the state (DS, RF). Two to three Snowy Plovers summered again at Willcox (m.ob.), but they apparently have not resumed nesting there. A Semipalmated Sandpiper at a Tucson sewage pond July 23–24 (Chip Francke, BZ), and an adult at a Phoenix sewage pond July 26 (†DS, RF) were among the earliest fall records for the state. More than 80 early (or late) Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Willcox June 14 (TC).

Two late Franklin's Gulls were observed at Willcox June 1 (TC, DK, SL). Three late Caspian Terns were seen at sewage ponds in Tucson June 6 (Russell Duerkson).

Densities of Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the upper S.P.R. were up considerably from the previous summer. (There was also a higher number of cicadas). In 1986 there were 4.58 birds/100 acres; in 1987 there were 13.24 birds/100 acres (TC). One or two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen along the Hassayampa R., July 11 (JC, SD), and two were seen at Picacho Res., July 5 (SG).

A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was heard in lower Arivaipa Canyon July 28 (GM); another individual was heard July 26

on the S P R at Dudleyville (JBo), where the species has been recorded during the previous 2 summers. A Spotted Owl was heard in Sycamore Canyon June 7 (TC) and two were heard there June 26 (RS); the species has nested in that canyon at least once, in late summer 1983.

A Chimney Swift, seen and heard at Prescott June 13, represented the first record for Yavapai County (CT).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A total of 1006 hummingbirds was banded during the last 2 weeks of July: 328 (of 11 different species) at Ramsey Canyon and 688 (of nine species) at Madera Canyon. Almost one-third of the birds banded at Madera were Broad-billed, compared to only one Broad-billed at Ramsey, a recapture of a male that had been banded the previous summer. About 30% of the 340 birds banded in 1986 were recaptured. The hope is to continue the study another 4 years and arrive at some meaningful conclusions regarding populations, site philopatry, and longevity records (D & LF, TCz).

A male and ♀ Berylline Hummingbird were observed at Ramsey Canyon feeders July 21 (†SSu) and the female was banded there July 22 (D & LF). *Mirabile dictu*, the banded bird turned up July 31 at Madera Canyon (DS, JcN, ph. RBo *et al.*)—where it remained for at least another 10 days.

The 2nd Violet-crowned Hummingbird to be banded in the United States was a juvenile bird, banded at Ramsey Canyon July 26 (D & LF). The first Violet-crowned had been banded the previous year (July 24, 1986) and it returned this year to the same area, where it was photographed May 27 (ph. RBo). Additional Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were present at the Patagonia Rest Stop, the Patagonia Sanctuary, and at Portal through the summer (m.ob.).

A male and ♀ Magnificent Hummingbird were present from late May to mid-June in W. Fork of Oak Cr. Canyon, where the species is not common (Gary Romig). A ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was present at Madera Canyon feeders June 13+ (m.ob.); by late July there was a 2nd male, and both were banded (D & LF). Madera Canyon is a relatively recent place of occurrence for this species. Lucifer Hummingbirds were also present in the Huachuca Mts. and at Portal during the period.

Although Costa's Hummingbird is generally believed to disappear from the Tucson area by early July, careful attention to hummers at Sabino Canyon this year showed that this species remained fairly common through July and into August. Costa's is easy to overlook in summer; no ad. males were seen in this area after late May (KK, LHK). A ♀ Costa's with young in the nest was observed in Sabino Canyon July 8. Throughout July there were two to four Costa's daily in lower Sabino and scattered singles farther up the canyon, mostly females and immatures and a couple of imm. males (†KK). A ♂ and an imm. ♂ Costa's were seen in Madera Canyon July 12 (DS, RN, RP) and a ♂ Costa's was seen in Buckeye, s.w. of Phoenix, July 18 (DS, GR, R & JW). At least 12 Allen's Hummingbirds were banded in Madera Canyon in late July (D & LF). Basically unidentifiable in the field, the species undoubtedly has been overlooked, and has been considered to be an uncommon migrant.

An adult with a juv. Belted Kingfisher, plus two or three others, at Page Springs, w. of Sedona, July 23 (JcN, DS) represented the 2nd successful Arizona nesting of the species in this century. A number of Belted Kingfishers were also present again in suitable nesting habitat in the White Mts.: two at S. Fork of the Little Colorado R., June 27 (SD), an imm. female at McNary L., July 3, and a male and female at Greer July 5 (DK, TC). Two ♀ Green Kingfishers were observed July 9–10 on the upper S.P.R.; breeding was suspected when one individual flew twice to the same spot and disappeared behind a willow along the bank of the river (TC, DK). Two imm. females and an imm. ♂ Green Kingfisher were observed on the upper S.P.R., July 27–31 (DK, TC *et al.*).

Unprecedented numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers nested in the lowlands around Springerville and Eagar, with 50+ birds

seen and adults feeding recently-fledged young at several sites July 20–21 (KK, LHK)

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLAS — Seven to eight calling N. Beardless-Tyrannulets were located between Charleston and St. David, upper S.P.R., during the period (TC, DK). The coastal form of W. Flycatcher (*E. d. difficilis*) is an abundant migrant through s. Arizona, but its status in n. Arizona is poorly known. At least three adults giving the typical calls of this form were present July 22 at S. Fork, near Eagar. The local form, *E. d. hellmayri*, was still actively nesting in the same area (KK). A pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers was present all period n. of Fairbank, upper S.P.R. (TC, DK); there have been no records of breeding by this species on the S.P.R. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was discovered in Sycamore Canyon June 6 (†TC, †DK); there have been only 3 previous state records. Two Thick-billed Kingbirds were found July 23 at Dudleyville (GR), n. of the species' usual range.

The first nesting of Barn Swallow in Maricopa County was established when two adults were observed nest-building July 11, and the nest found July 26, at the Gilbert sewage ponds, s. of Phoenix (DS, RN, RP, RF). The first nesting record for the Globe area was established June 19 when the nest was found, the young fledged July 17–18, and a 2nd nest was being constructed July 30 (Irving & Ruth McNeil, *vide* BJ). A wandering Clark's Nutcracker was seen in Prescott July 4 (BS).

It was reassuring to learn that the Veery was still returning to its summer home in the White Mts. at S. Fork, where it was heard singing during June and early July (RBr, SD, TC). The Wood Thrush at Patagonia remained at least to June 7 (Dave Pearson, RS, RN). A Gray Catbird at Paradise, Chiricahua Mts., June 13 (RT) represented about the 6th time the species has been recorded in the Portal area in late spring/early summer.

A late Cedar Waxwing was seen in Prescott July 4 (BS). High numbers of Phainopeplas nested in the evergreen woodlands around Prescott (CT), as well as in the vicinity of St. Johns, White Mts., where at least 80 to 100 individuals (not limited to the Little Colorado R.) were counted and many nests were seen (BH).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Densities of Bell's Vireo on the upper S.P.R. were up to 12.9 birds/100 acres as compared to 10.5 birds/100 acres in 1986 (TC, DK). A Gray Vireo was heard singing on Mount Lemmon June 6 (JBa, JSm); the species has seldom been recorded in the Santa Catalina Mts. A Yellow-throated Vireo was found at Patagonia June 3–7 (JBa, JSm *et al.*); there are now about 6 June records for the state and about 19 records overall.

An unseasonal ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler, seen near Woods Canyon L., n. of Payson, July 8 (Helen Francker, *vide* SD), provided one of only a few summer records of this species for the state. A late singing imm. ♂ Townsend's Warbler was observed in the Pinal Mts. near Globe June 4–6 (Rick Hefferon). A ♂ Blackburnian Warbler at Charco, Tohono O'odham Reservation, June 24 (SL) was indeed a surprise; all records but one of this uncommon migrant have been in fall. An Am Redstart was present through the period at Patagonia (m.ob.). A Worm-eating Warbler at S. Fork, White Mts., June 28 (RF) provided the 5th mid-summer record of this species for the state and the 27th overall. A Louisiana Waterthrush was banded in Ramsey Canyon July 28 (†D & LF) and became the 9th to be recorded in the state between mid-July and mid-August. Two Hooded Warblers were observed during the season: one at Patagonia June 9 (Dave Thayer) and one in e. Tucson June 19 (Tod Eskque). Olive Warblers were found to be in higher numbers than in previous summers in the Sierra Prieta and Bradshaw Mts., near Prescott (CT).

A singing **Fan-tailed Warbler** was discovered June 7 in Sycamore Canyon (†ph. DK, †ph. TC) where it remained at least until July 4 (m.ob.). The bird may have been present since at least May 24, as a description given of an unidentified singing bird in the same area matched this bird (*vide* JBa). There had been 3 previous records in Arizona and the United States.

Densities of Summer Tanagers on the upper S P R were up to 54 5 birds/100 acres, compared to 30 5 birds/100 acres in 1986 (TC, DK).

A **Yellow Grosbeak** was observed at Kino Springs July 17 (†William Pieper, †Richard Ruhme), the first to be recorded in the state since 1983. Varied Buntings are quite local in the Tucson area; a new location was upper Caliente Wash, e. of the Catalina Hwy, where at least three were present in late July (KK). Another Varied Bunting, a male, was seen in Catalina State Park July 13 (CT). There were three Painted Buntings reported during the period: a male at Guevavi Ranch July 26 (BZ), a female on the upper S.P.R., July 27–30 (†DK, †ph. TC et al.), and a male on the upper S.P.R., July 30 (†TC).

A late Lincoln's Sparrow was seen on the upper S.P.R., June 2 (TC). June 13 in Sawmill Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Red Crossbills (irregular breeders here) and Evening Grosbeaks (now regular breeders here) were both observed feeding young (RS). Two Evening Grosbeaks, perhaps wandering in from nearby mountains where they have been known to breed, were seen in Prescott July 29 (CT). A ♀ Evening Grosbeak frequented a feeder in a s.w. Phoenix yard from July 10 at least until Aug. 23 (ph. Leanna Shaberly, ph. RW). There are no previous low elevation summer records for the state.

CORRIGENDUM — Arizona did not get its 2nd Tropical Parula as stated in *The Changing Seasons*, AB 41:249. In the Winter report, AB 41:314, the Tropical Parula was listed only as possible. There is still only one confirmed Arizona record.

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NEW MEXICO

John P. Hubbard

Two important surveys of local breeding birds occurred during the period. One centered on Burford (Stinking) Lake and adjacent areas of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, and was carried out by Dale Stahlecker, Karen Copeland, Ellen Espinoza, Burton Lewis, and Patricia Snyder. This survey occurred June 8–13 and 21, and July 6 and 17–19, and it continued previous surveys done by Alexander Wetmore in 1918 and by William Huey, James Travis, and others in 1960. The other survey was of Tukumcari Lake in June and July by William Uihlein, whose study is part of a two-year master's study at Eastern New Mexico University.

ABBREVIATIONS — Bitter Lake = Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Bosque Refuge = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; C C N.P. = Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park; J.A.R. = Jicarilla Apache Reservation; La Joya = La Joya State Game Refuge; T or C = Truth or Consequences. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH QUAIL — Unusual were two Com. Loons at Clayton L., July 22 (WC, AK). Estimated maxima for Eared Grebes at J.A.R. were 5000–7000 birds and 2000–2600+ nests (DS et al.). Sixty-one nests were on the Zuni Reservation July 27 (DC), while a new breeding area was Dry L., Quay, where 2 broods were present in June (WU). An estimated 75 W. Grebes and 19 nests were at J.A.R. (DS et al.); this species was unknown as a breeder there in 1918 and 1960. One to two nonbreeders were at Tukumcari L. (WU), while three Clark's Grebes at El Vado L., July 24 provided a first summer record there (PS). Early Am. White Pelicans were singles at Bluewater L. (PS) and Bitter Lake (KW et al.) July 8–9. Nineteen nests of young Double-crested Cormorants were at Abiquiu L., June 19, some of which were inundated by rising waters (KR et al.) A few nonbreeders were at J.A.R., July 17–18 (DS et al.) and at Tukumcari L. in June (WU).

Least Bitterns were documented as nesting at Tukumcari L., but apparently only one Am. Bittern was present (WU). Four Great Blue Heron nests at Abiquiu L., June 19 (KR et al.) provided a first local report, while 17 nests were at Glenwood June 6 (RF). Reports of rarer herons included an imm. Little Blue Heron at La Joya July 29 (RT); a Cattle Egret at J.A.R., July 17–18 (DS et al.); single Tricoloreds at Bosque Ref., June 26 (SW) and Bitter Lake July 6 (KW et al.); and an imm. probable Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Bitter Lake July 31 (KW et al.) and two to three adults at Tukumcari L. in June–July (WU). Two nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons were at J.A.R. (DS et al.), while 25 apparent nonbreeders were at Tukumcari L. (WU). Up to 50 White-faced Ibises were at Tukumcari L. in June–July, but no nesting was observed (WU). Other early summer probable nonbreeders were six at J.A.R., June 12 (DS et al.), 14 near Ft. Sumner June 19 (SOW), and several at Bitter Lake June 12–18 (KW et al.).

A pair of Canada Geese nested at J.A.R., where the species was introduced in 1986 (DS et al.). Duck broods included Green-winged Teal at J.A.R. (DS et al.); Gadwalls at J.A.R. (DS et al.), Bitter Lake (KW et al.), and near Tierra Amarilla (E. Espinoza), and Redheads at J.A.R. (DS et al.), Dry and Tukumcari lakes (WU), and near Loving (MM, SW). Up to 30 Ruddy Ducks were courting at Dry L. in June, with lesser numbers at Tukumcari L., but no broods were seen (WU). Apparent nonbreeders of note included June Am. Wigeons at J.A.R. (DS et al.), Tukumcari L. (WU), and Bitter Lake (KW et al.); Buffleheads and Ring-neckeds at J.A.R. (DS et al.); and Lesser Scaup at J.A.R. (DS et al.) and Glenwood (RF). An Osprey was at Tukumcari L. in June (WU), and Mississippi Kites again bred in the Clovis, Portales, and Roswell areas (A.L. Gennaro). Single N. Harriers were near Ft. Sumner June 19 and Deming June 9 (SOW), but no breeding was confirmed. A Wild Turkey was near La Joya July 29 (RT) and another at Percha Dam June 18 (DM), where unusual. Northern Bobwhites continued to flourish in e. New Mexico, including 11 near Ft. Sumner June 19 (SOW) and several at Bitter Lake June 12–July 31 (KW et al.) and in Carlsbad (SW).

PLOVERS THROUGH CUCKOOS — Twenty Snowy Plovers were at Bottomless Lakes S.P., June 17, plus one at Tukumcari L., June 23 (SOW). Two Semipalmated Plovers and one Mountain Plover were at El Vado L., July 18 (PRS), plus one or more Mountain Plovers in the Bisti, San Juan, area June 19 (SW). A local first was an Am. Avocet nest at Clayton (WC, AK), while 2 nests were at J.A.R. (DS et al.). Probable breeding Spotted Sandpipers were in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15 (DC) and Bitter Lake June 12–18 (KW et al.). A brood of Long-billed Curlews was near Ft. Union June 23 (R & SP), with three adults near Ft. Sumner June 19 (SOW). Probable late spring migrants were two Marbled Godwits near Ft. Union June 14 (R & SP) and two each Western and White-rumped sandpipers at Laguna Grande, Eddy, June 10 (MM, SW). June Wilson's Phalaropes were four at J.A.R. (DS et al.), up to 40 at Tukumcari L. (WU), and 30 near Bitter Lake June 15 (SOW); however, no evidence of breeding was obtained.

Early were Franklin's Gulls at Bitter Lake June 20–26 (KW *et al.*) and single Forster's Terns there June 12–26 (KW *et al.*) and at Holloman L., Otero, June 9 (JM). Three pairs of Least Terns fledged six of seven chicks at L. Shomo near Bitter Lake, for the best productivity there in recent years. Several non-breeding Black Terns were at Tucumcari L. (WU) and Bitter Lake (KW *et al.*) through the period, plus eight at Holloman L., June 9 (JM). Early was a Band-tailed Pigeon nest in the s. Peloncillo Mts., June 30 (VP). White-winged and Inca dove highs at Socorro (JS), T or C (DM), Alamogordo (RJ *et al.*), and Carlsbad (SW) were apparently similar to recent counts. Other White-wingeds included 16 near Tularosa June 23 (J & NH), plus a few at Holloman Air Force Base in July (JM) and C.C.N.P., June 15 (*fide* MF). One to two Incas were at Bosque Ref., July 13 (P. Johnson, JS) and near Loving June 10 (MM, SW). Peripheral Yellow-billed Cuckoos included singles at J.A.R., June 8 (DS *et al.*) and Maljamar July 1–2 (SD), plus four at Tucumcari L. in July (WU).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Common Barn-owls were at J.A.R. (PRS) and Tucumcari L. (WU) in July. Two Elf Owls calling along lower Animas Creek, Sierra, July 1–2 (R Skaggs) furnished a local first. A **Boreal Owl** sang near Cumbres Pass, Rio Arriba, June 6–7 (J. Rawinski, DS), for the first summer record for New Mexico. Common Nighthawks in areas where local in summer were 16 near Deming, five s. of Animas, and several in Guadalupe Canyon June 9–12 (SOW). Chimney Swifts summered at Clayton (WC *et al.*), and one was at Tucumcari L. in July (WU). A ♂ Blue-throated Hummingbird was on Signal Peak, Pinos Altos Mts., in early July (B. Hayward, D Hunt), where the species is very rare and local. One to two Magnificent Hummingbirds were at T or C June 23 (DM), near Robert's L., Grant, June 13 (RF), and near Cloudcroft in July (N. Dobbins). Up to 12 Lucifer Hummingbirds were in Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., in the period, as were several Anna's Hummingbirds (unusual there) June 26–July 31 (RS). Black-chinneds were numerous at Tucumcari L. (WU), while very unusual was a ♀ **Broad-billed Hummingbird** at Las Cruces July 3–24 (E. Wootten *et al.*, ph.). A Belted Kingfisher nest was at Clayton L. (WC, AK), while summer birds included singles at Zuni July 7 (DC), Bitter Lake June 12–July 31 (KW *et al.*), and Rattlesnake Springs July 23 (*fide* MF). About one dozen each Acorn and Lewis' woodpeckers were in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15 and July 11 (DC). East of the usual range were one or more Gila Woodpeckers near Cloverdale, *Hidalgo*, in June (VP). South of the usual summer range was a Downy Woodpecker at La Joya July 29 (RT), while easterly was Hairy Woodpecker in Trujillo Canyon June 8 (JH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH DIPPER — The only Willow Flycatcher report was of one singing at Bosque Ref., July 12 (PRS). Several Dusky Flycatchers and a nest were present in the Sandia Mts. (HS), where the species is local. Small numbers were singing in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15 (DC) and at J.A.R. in June (DS *et al.*). Singing Gray Flycatchers in new areas for summer were one to two in Apache Canyon, Santa Fe, June 23 (CR), near Huerfano L., San Miguel, and Trujillo Canyon June 8 (JH), Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., July 21 (SW), plus a probable one in the Gallinas Mts., Lincoln, June 27 (SOW). Small numbers were also on Rowe Mesa, San Miguel, June 7 (JH), near White Oaks, Lincoln, June 26 (SOW), and in the Little Walnut area near Silver City June 9 (MO *et al.*). Only one to two Black Phoeebes and no E. Phoeebes were found in the upper Pecos Valley between Ribera and Villanueva June 8 (JH). Unusual was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Tularosa June 6 (J. Hutto), while numbers continued to be low in Eddy (SW). Probable late migrants were a Tree Swallow in the Bisti area June 24 (SW) and three near Fence L., Catron, June 8; several were nesting in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15, and probably near Farmington June 14 (DC). The Bank Swallow nesting colony near San Juan Pueblo was again occupied, with 100+ birds there June 11 (JH, J. Vaught). Cliff Swallows were nesting above 9000 ft near Hopewell L., Rio Arriba, July 31

(PRS), and the species again nested on buildings in the Silver City area (RF). An estimated 4000–4500 Cave Swallows were at Carlsbad Cavern, the same as in 1986 (SW *et al.*). Barn Swallows nested near Cloverdale (VP), where very local in summer.

Blue Jays again summered at Roswell (KW *et al.*) and Carlsbad (SW). Southerly Pinyon Jays included 60–65 near Silver City July 27 (RF) and in the Gallinas Mts., June 27 (SOW); juveniles were at Santa Fe from mid-June to late July (JH). A pair of Clark's Nutcrackers was feeding fledglings at La Cueva June 1–11 (MS); birds were also at J.A.R. (DS *et al.*), in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15 (DC), and on Sandia Crest June 20 (SW). Peripheral Am. Crows included small numbers in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15 (DC), near Farley, Union, June 1 (KM), near Logan June 24 (SOW), near Laguna Huerfana June 8 (JH), plus 27 on Rowe Mesa June 8 (JH) and 31 near Valencia, Valencia, June 5 (JD). Up to nine Red-breasted Nuthatches were in the Gallinas Mts., June 26–27 (SOW), while easterly were two to three Bewick's Wrens at Tucumcari L. in July (WU). A singing **Winter Wren** in Pajarito Canyon, Jemez Mts., June 2 & 11 and July 28 furnished a first reliable summer record for New Mexico; the bird was carrying nest material but appeared unmated (D. Crowe *et al.*). A Marsh Wren at Hayden L., J.A.R., July 17 (DS *et al.*) may have been an early migrant, as was an Am Dipper at Cochiti Dam July 30 (PS).

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — Golden-crowned Kinglets were again present on Sandia Crest (HS), while peripheral Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at J.A.R. (DS *et al.*) and near Sabinoso June 27 (CR). Easterly were four Mountain Bluebirds near Farley June 1, plus an unusual Townsend's Solitaire (KM). Other notable reports of solitaires were of one in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15 (DC) and a probable one in the Gallinas Mts., June 27 (SOW). Two **Veeries** were singing along the Rio Peñasco, Taos, June 26 (JT); this species is not known to summer in the state. A singing Am. Robin in Post Office Canyon June 21 was unusual (RS); several summered in the Clayton area (WC *et al.*), and a juvenile was at T or C June 23 (DM). New Mexico's 2nd **Rufous-backed Robin** was detailed at Percha Dam July 3 (SW).

A Gray Catbird near Rodeo in the period (V. Emanuel, *fide* RS) was an odd straggler. Unusual was a singing Sage Thrasher near Ft. Union June 23 (R & SP), while easterly were one to two Curve-billeds near Sabinoso June 27 (CR), Logan June 24, and s. of Ft. Sumner June 19 (SOW). Peripheral Phainopeplas were singles near La Joya July 19 (SW), Bosque Ref., July 11–12 (PI, CR), and C.C.N.P., June 3 (*fide* MF). No Bell's Vireos were detected in the Carlsbad area in the period (SW), while unusual was a pair of Gray Vireos near Jemez Springs June 11 (T. Johnson); another Gray Vireo was singing in Guadalupe Canyon June 11–12 (SOW). Easterly was a *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo in Trujillo Canyon June 8 (JH), while unusual was a Red-eyed Vireo at Santa Fe June 5 (CR).

WARBLERS THROUGH EMBERIZINE FINCHES — Easterly were Virginia's Warblers in Trujillo Canyon June 8 (JH) and the Gallinas Mts., June 27 (SOW). Highs were 50+ pairs of Yellow Warblers and several hundred Com. Yellowthroats in the Tucumcari L. area in June–July (WU). Local in summer in the s.e. highlands, five Com. Yellowthroats were near Cloudcroft June 25 (SOW) and a Black-throated Gray Warbler was near High Rolls July 31 (G. Smith, J. Talley). Five Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warblers were in the Gallinas Mts., June 27 and in the Jicarilla Mts., Lincoln, June 26 (SOW). Somewhat early was a Townsend's Warbler at Heron L., Rio Arriba, July 24 (PS). Northeasterly were a W. Tanager at Trujillo Canyon June 8 (JH) and a probable Summer Tanager near Logan June 24 (SOW). Two imm. Pyrrhuloxias were at T or C July 10 (DM), and a male was near Deming June 9 (SOW). A pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks was nesting in Trujillo Canyon June 8 (JH), while peripheral Blue Grosbeaks were near Lindrith July 18 (PRS) and on the Rio Peñasco June 26 (JT). A local first was a pair of Lazuli Buntings nesting at Tucumcari L. in late July (WU); a few migrants had reached Mangas Springs

(RF) and Rattlesnake Springs (MF) by July 23–27—plus a very early one at Percha Dam July 12 (SW). Infrequent in early summer, one to two singing **Dickcissels** were near Grenville June 14 (KS), Ft. Union June 19 (R & SP), and s. of Ft. Sumner June 19 (SOW). Unusual were two Green-tailed Towhees at Sevilleta N.W.R., July 22 (RT), while southerly were four near Horse Springs, *Catron*, June 7 (AM). Peripheral were three Rufous-sided Towhees in Trujillo Canyon June 8 (JH), plus small numbers of Brown Towhees near Nageesi June 27 (GS), Grenville June 14 (KS), Horse Springs June 7 (AM), and near Maljamar July 2 (SD).

Westerly Cassin's Sparrows included mainly small numbers s.e. of Santa Fe June 13 (JT), near Sevilleta N.W.R., July 16 (RT), n. of Carrizozo June 26 (SOW), s. of Animas June 10 (SOW), near Deming June 9 (SOW), and n.e. of Las Cruces June 14 (CR). Rare in the Jemez Mts., a Rufous-crowned Sparrow was in lower Mortendad Canyon July 15 (B. Lewis). Southerly were three Brewer's Sparrows e. of Fence L., June 8 (DC), while Black-chinneds were again in Trujillo Canyon with three there June 8 (JH). Peripheral Vesper Sparrows included a few e. of Las Vegas June 8 (JH) and near Horse Springs June 7 (AM), plus moderate numbers on Rowe Mesa June 7 (JH), near Fence L., June 8 (DC), and in the Gallinas and Jicarilla mountains areas June 26–27 (SOW). Northerly Black-throated Sparrows included small numbers near Torreon June 21 (CR), s.e. of Santa Fe June 13 (JT), near Sabinoso June 27 (CR), and e. of Fence L., June 8 (DC). Early summer Lark Bunting reports were of 28 near Farley June 1 (KM) and 61 near Grenville June 14 (KS). The state's 2nd **Savannah Sparrow** nest was found at J.A.R., with a pair feeding a nestling at Burford L., June 12 (DS *et al.*). This was the year of the **Grasshopper Sparrow**, including 45 in a 10-mi transect on the Gray Ranch, *Hidalgo*, June 17 (SOW); specimens collected there July 17 proved to be of the Arizona race (*A. s. ammolegus*), which is new for New Mexico. New localities for the species were provided by three to four s.w. of Roswell June 17 and near Caprock June 18 (SOW), while five e. of Sabinoso June 27 (CR) furnished a new high for that area.

ICTERIDS THROUGH CARDUELINE FINCHES — Local firsts were breeding colonies of Yellow-headed Blackbirds between Watrous and Buena Vista (R & SP) and at Dry Lake (WU); a bird was also at Mescalero June 13 (RJ). Peripheral Brewer's Blackbirds were in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15 (DC), Bluewater L., July 9 (PS), Bitter Lake June 12–18 and July 1–10 (KW *et al.*), and near Tularosa June 23 (J & NH). Up to 40 pairs of Great-tailed Grackles nested at Tucumcari L. (WU), and birds were again at such peripheral localities as Las Vegas

(JH), Zuni (DC), and Glenwood (RF). New areas of occurrence included a pair at Tohatchi, *San Juan*, in mid-June (DC), and a bird near Ft. Union June 13–25 (R & SP). Common Grackle numbers increased at Clayton (WC *et al.*), and the species also apparently bred at such localities as Maxwell (L. Herrmann), Ribera (JH), and Carlsbad (SW). Two near Bosque Ref., July 29 (RT) may have been early autumn migrants. Up to five Bronzed Cowbirds were at T or C June 11–July 14 (DM), further indication of this species' establishment there. A vagrant ad ♂ Hooded Oriole was at Santa Fe June 17–July 24, with another bird heard July 25 and probably June 27 (JH). Peripheral Scott's Orioles included one to two near Torreon June 21, e. of Sabinoso June 27, and n. of Santa Rosa July 5 (CR).

Pine Grosbeaks were near Cumbres Pass July 30 (PRS). Small numbers of Cassin's Finches were in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15 (DC) and the Sandia Mts., June 20 and July 26 (HS), where infrequent in summer. A pair was feeding fledglings at La Cueva June 3–8 (MS). Red Crossbill reports included young being fed near Silver City June 9 (MO, *vide* RF), plus birds in the Chuska Mts., June 11–15 (DC), J.A.R., June 12 (DS *et al.*), and Jemez Mts., June 3 and later (PRS). Reports in areas where they are less expected included small numbers s.e. of Questa June 14 (PI *et al.*), Santa Fe June 6–7 (JH), Rowe Mesa June 7 (JH), near Laguna Huerfana and in Trujillo Canyon June 7 (JH), and Gallinas Mts., June 27 (SOW). Early was a Pine Siskin at Bitter Lake July 19 (KW *et al.*), while out-of-the-ordinary were Am. Goldfinches at Cochiti L., June 5 (PS), Bluff Springs, Sacramento Mts., July 25 (RJ), and Rattlesnake Springs June 8 and July 23 (*vide* MF). Evening Grosbeaks were feeding fledglings at La Cueva July 6–9 & 22–31 (MS); other montane occurrences were in the Sangre de Cristo, Sandia, and Sacramento mountains (v.o.). Birds were in Santa Fe June 1–2 and July 15–19 (JH), with intervening records in nearby Santa Fe Canyon (CR).

ADDENDUM — Four ♂ Bobolinks were present May 28, 1987 at Parkview (L. Schulte), where the species may breed in some years.

OBSERVERS — David Cleary, Wes Cook, Sam Droege, John Durrie, Ralph Fisher, Mark Flippo, John Hubbard, Joe & Nancy Hutto, Patricia Insley, Robert Jenness, Adolf Krehbiel, Arch McCallum, John McNelly, Mike Medrano, Doris Miller, Keith Mitchell, May O'Byrne, Robert & Sarah Paxton, Vincent Pinto, Chris Rustay, Robert Scholes, Gregory Schmitt, Hart Schwarz, Kenneth Seyffert, John Shipman, Patricia R. Snyder, Dale Stahlecker, Paul Steel, Marjory Swain, Ross Teuber, James Travis, William Uihlein, Steve West, Sartor Williams III (SOW), Kathy Wood.—**JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

ALASKA REGION

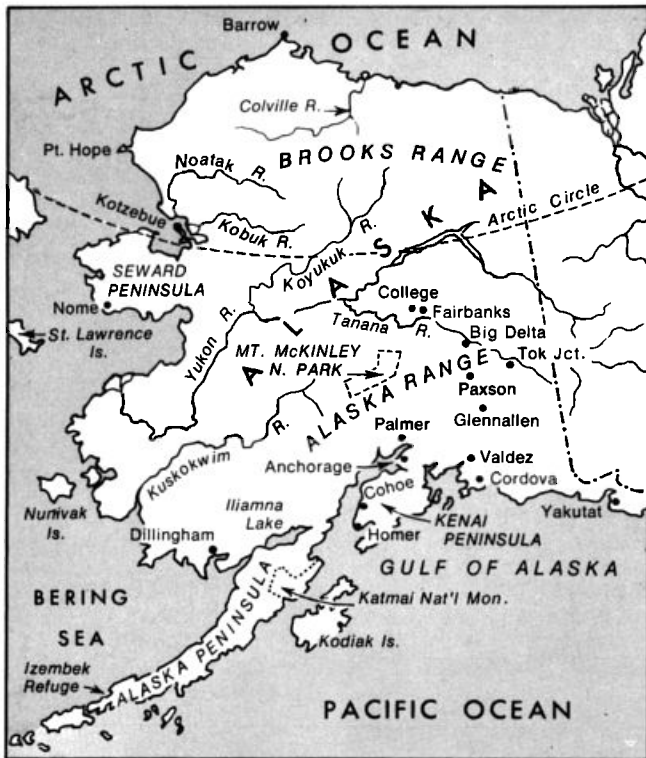
D.D. Gibson, T.G. Tobish Jr., and M.E. Isleib

Weather in summer 1987 was cool and wet on the Pacific coast, in Southeastern, Southcoastal, and Southwestern Alaska, and it was cold and wet on the Arctic Ocean coast, in Northern Alaska. In the Interior, on the other hand, it was a beautiful hot and dry summer to remember.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — Western Grebes were recorded on Sumner Strait in July (returnees from interior British Columbia?)—nine July 19 and 29 birds at the close of the reporting period (PW). There was only one prior midsummer record of this species, the SE Alaska-wintering population

of which usually begins to return in September. An ad. Double-crested Cormorant on Knik L., s. of Wasilla, June 16 (RLS) provided only the 4th record for the Upper Cook Inlet area. An ad. Brandt's Cormorant at Gull I., Kachemak Bay, June 21 (MEI) furnished the first *Cook Inlet* record of this rare and local species. The bird was not found there subsequently.

The timing of arrival/departure involved in 3 records of extralimital herons was remarkably synchronous. Alaska's 3rd and 4th **Great Egrets**, which were first seen May 19 at Glacier Bay (BBP) and at Kodiak (see Spring), were present through July 3 (BBP) and through early July (RAM), respectively. Juneau's **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, which were discovered May 17 (see Spring), were last noted July 4. These records followed a winter in which locally-high numbers of these species



were recorded as far north as Washington and British Columbia, respectively (see AB 41:318-319).

Six "Aleutian" Canada Geese (*B. c. leucopareia*) were seen at Kiska I., w. Aleutians, July 15 (fide EVK); and 14 adults, a nest of 7 eggs, and 3 broods (of seven, five, and four young) were found July 17-18 at Agattu I. (fide EVK), where birds were introduced over a decade ago. A ♀ Gadwall with 12 young at Potter Marsh June 17 (RLS) provided a first Anchorage breeding record. A pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes at Upper Ward L., a subalpine pond near Ketchikan, on Revillagigedo I., June 1 (MEI), suggested the possibility of local breeding, activity unknown in the Alexander Archipelago. The pair of Ruddy Ducks found at Northway in late May (see Spring) remained to nest; the pair was seen regularly through at least June 20 (REG, CMH, LJO, RLS, TGT), and, after a period when no birds were found, the female with two young downies was seen there July 25 (JCH, DMT). This evidence provided the first breeding record in Alaska since 1963 (see Kessel and Springer 1966, *Condor* 68:186-187).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — The 2nd record for SC Alaska of a Sora was furnished by a calling bird discovered at Portage June 26 (SIT) and heard there through at least July 26 (m.ob.). A Killdeer observed at Barrow June 19 (KJZ, BJR), while distinctly out of place, was nonetheless at least the 5th recorded there. An alternate-plumaged Gray-tailed Tattler observed at Barrow June 20 (KJZ ph., BJR), and another or the same June 25-26 (KK), provided the 4th record at that location, where either species of tattler is out of place. Another, in a flock of Wanderings at Seward June 28 (DWS, †RLS, JMA), provided the 2nd SC Alaska record of the species. An ad. Terek Sandpiper at Anchorage's Fish Cr. estuary July 6 to at least July 13 (†RLS et al.) represented Anchorage's and SC Alaska's 5th record, all from June-July. There are now 6 Mainland Alaska records of this Palearctic sandpiper, which is rare and annual only in the w. Aleutians.

A flock of 51 Bristle-thighed Curlews observed just n. of Tungalak Slough, near the Aphrewn R., Yukon-Kuskokwim R. Delta, July 17 (RLS, JMA) may have provided a record high count for Alaska. Small flocks of southbound migrant Hud-

sonian and Bar-tailed godwits (nonbreeders and unsuccessful breeders?) appeared at several Alaska Peninsula estuaries during the last week of June, some 2 weeks earlier than any prior records there (MEI). At Homer, a major staging area for many southbound ad. shorebirds in midsummer, a conservative estimate of 1500 Surfbirds was made July 3 (TGT, RLS). At Anchorage a typical pattern of southbound Calidrids was noted: Semipalmated Sandpipers peaking in early July with daily counts of 200+, followed by W. Sandpipers peaking in similar numbers in the 3rd week of July (DWS, RLS, TGT). A combined estimate of 2500 Semipalmateds and Westerns at Homer July 3 was quite high for that early in the season (TGT, RLS). A flock of about 70 at Cape Chiniak, Kodiak I., June 20, were the earliest returning southbound Westerns there (MEI).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — Common Black-headed Gulls furnished a highlight of the summer in Cook Inlet. At least two 2nd-summer birds were present off and on at the Anchorage mudflats between June 8 (DRH) and July 6 (TGT). Probably another individual was reported at Homer July 22 (MR). An oiled [!] Com. Black-headed Gull was observed at the Nome R. mouth, Seward Peninsula, July 21 (WER, RS, RRV, LDS). An ad. Slaty-backed Gull on the Cordova waterfront Aug. 11-12 furnished a 2nd local record (MEI). There are no Alaska reports of this species farther e. than Cordova, and to the writers' knowledge there is no specimen-substantiated record of this bird on the Pacific coast e. of the Alaska Peninsula.

In their 7th consecutive year of range expansion into this Region, Caspian Terns were seen regularly in the Copper R. Delta/Orca Inlet/Cordova area this summer, and others were reported from Petersburg, Glacier Bay, Yakutat, Prince William Sound, and Homer (m.ob.). The earliest report this year was of a pair on the Copper R. Delta May 12, and the highest single-day count was of 34 (one bird, plus a flock of 33—all adults) in Orca Inlet, near Cordova, Aug. 6 (MEI). One of two birds (*) collected from that flock, the first Alaska specimens of the species, was found to have been banded—when too young to fly, on June 2, 1979, near Westport, Wash. (FH). Nesting has not been discovered in Alaska, but is suspected at this juncture.

At least three breeding-plumaged Com. Terns (*S. h. longipennis*) reported at Clam Lagoon, Adak I., C Aleutians, June 20 (DKN, TRE, CGE, WP) and one at St. Paul I., Pribilofs, July 24-25 (WER, RRV, BB) were the summer's only reports of this Asiatic bird. Arctic Terns appeared to have had a poor breeding year in at least portions of SC Alaska. Observers along the s. Kenai Peninsula coast reported zero productivity in Pederson Lagoon and in Aialik Bay; the species was not seen in the latter area after July 7 (SMF), and loose flocks of loafing and feeding adults were numerous around the larger coastal waterbodies beginning in mid-July (TGT, RLS). The same situation was true, at least locally, in C Alaska, where nesting failed at Eielson Air Force Base (JFK) and did not seem to go at all well at Fairbanks (DDG).

A hepatic ♀ *Cuculus*, identified by the observers as a Com. Cuckoo, was well-described from Cape Sarichef, Unimak I., June 24 (†CWC, JES), providing a first for the E Aleutians. By a few minutes of longitude it became Alaska's easternmost record of this genus. (Compare Gill and Handel 1980 [*Condor* 82:472] and Hanna 1947 [*Condor* 49:42] for Alaska's 2 Mainland records of cuckoos, on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and at Cape Prince of Wales, respectively.) A N. Pygmy-Owl was heard calling regularly through the summer at Bartlett Cove, Glacier Bay N.P. (BBP). Another (described as a probable juvenile) was observed being mobbed by chickadees on Mitkof I., near Petersburg, July 12 (PW). This owl has yet to be recorded breeding in Alaska, although circumstantial evidence of such activity is accumulating.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS TO MUSCICAPIDAE — In a repeat of part of last summer's phenomenon (see AB 40:1243), singing ♂ Least Flycatchers were found at Hyder June 7-9 (MEI)



Male Bluethroat near nest site just north of Nome, Alaska, June 11, 1987. Photo/Kevin J. Zimmer.

and at Ester, just w. of Fairbanks, June 20 (BAC) to about July 1. Hammond's Flycatchers were feeding fledged young by June 30 at Fairbanks (DDG). An observation of a family group of six Steller's Jays in Anchorage July 11 provided evidence of the 4th consecutive year of local breeding (TGT). The species is at the n.w. limit of habitat in this area, where coastal Sitka spruce-western hemlock forest meets the white spruce-paper birch community. Approximately 50 Am. Crows were present at Hyder and in the adjacent Salmon R. valley in June. Discovered in this area only last year (see AB 40:1243-1244), the species was confirmed as a breeder when a young bird just out of the nest and unable to fly was found in Hyder June 9 (MEI).

At least one singing Arctic Warbler in treeline willows at Mile 122 Glenn Hwy, on the slopes of Gunsight Mt., June 21 (TGT) extended the range of this species S and E of records in the Susitna R. highlands. A family group of five birds was found on an adjacent willow-covered plateau, at Mile 120, Aug. 1 (RLS, TGT). The species occurs as far e. as Paxson in this intermountain area, but its further eastward progress would seem to be blocked by the Chugach, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Kutzotin-Mentasta mountains and by the Alaska Range. There is to date no record e. of these mountains—anywhere in North America—of the widespread and numerous Alaska-breeding subspecies of Arctic Warbler.

Following unusual localities and high numbers of Bluethroats this spring (q.v.), a pair was found on the Grand Central R., n. of Nome, June 11, and a nest site was discovered (KJZ et al., ph.)—the first time the species has been found, in any context, on the Seward Peninsula s. of the Kigluaik Mts. Birds were seen thereafter in this area by many, at least as late as July 19, when at least three were seen (PCP, NP, RH, LH).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — An itinerant singing ♂ Red-eyed Vireo observed July 11 at Ester (*DDG) provided the first C Alaska and northwesternmost record of the species. Perhaps annual in small numbers on the SE mainland, Magnolia Warblers were recorded this summer in the Hyder area (singing male June 8, MEI) and at Montana Cr., Juneau area

(at least four birds July 4, DRL) The species was found in both of these areas last summer (q.v.). Although locally numerous on the SE mainland, Com. Yellowthroats (at least two males and a female) apparently nesting at L. Florence, Admiralty I., July 5 (MWS) were of interest because there is little appropriate habitat for these birds in the Alexander Archipelago.

A ♂ White-throated Sparrow held a song territory near Fairbanks from June 18 (RBW, JSW et al.) until the end of the month (JMA, JCH, AES), and another singing male was found at Shaw Cr., between Fairbanks and Delta Junction, July 13 (MRo) and was present there at least through July 18 (DRL, DDG, JJ). Despite breeding as close to us as s.e. Yukon and n.-c. British Columbia, the species is still no more than a casual visitant in N, E-C, SC, and SE Alaska.

As mentioned last season, White-winged Crossbills returned to C and SC Alaska at the end of May. They remained to become numerous and ubiquitous throughout the season in the white spruce forests of C Alaska, where a bumper crop of cones was the best in 10 years. Singing males were conspicuous all summer, and breeding was confirmed in the Fairbanks area by late July, when adults were seen feeding begging, fully-fledged young. The species was widespread but less numerous in SC Alaska all summer. In SE Alaska, both Red and White-winged crossbills, and siskins, were either local or were present in small numbers early in the summer and became scarce and largely absent by the close of the period (m.ob.). Red Crossbills were reported only briefly in the Anchorage area, in late June-early July (GJT, DWS). A ♀ Hawfinch that visited an Adak I. feeder June 19-21 (DKN † ph., †DAD et al.) provided the 2nd Adak and C Aleutian record of the species (and see Spring 1987).

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Bill Tweit and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

It was our second dry summer in a row, following a dry spring. By the end of the summer, Washington rivers and reservoirs were lower than any year since 1977. Temperatures were above average also. The maritime influence on our climate was negligible this summer, apparently due to a strong, persistent continental high dominating our weather. As a result, passerine breeding success was very good. It seems migration patterns were affected also. Above-average numbers of adult Solitary, Pectoral, Baird's, Stilt, and Semipalmated sandpipers were reported, as well as adult Franklin's Gulls and Forster's Terns. There was a veritable invasion of Black-crowned Night-Herons. These are all "interior" birds.

New avifaunal communities are being documented in the clearcuts at higher elevations on the west slope of the southern Oregon Cascades. They have a strong east slope component, including Dusky Flycatchers, Rock Wrens, and Cassin's Finches. These communities may be developing in response to habitat changes from changes in forest practices or climatic changes, as since 1984, July precipitation has been either normal or below normal. Or, they may have been there all along; little field work has been carried out in the area.

A Terek Sandpiper on southern Vancouver Island and a Brown Thrasher in Portland, Oregon, were the most exciting birds of the period.

ABBREVIATIONS — Q.C.I. = Queen Charlotte Is., B.C.; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg.; V.I. = Vancouver I., B.C. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES — Northbound Pacific Loons were observed off both the s. and n. Oregon coast June 19 & 20 (HN, SH). June migrations were also noted in 1978, 1982, and 1984. A Yellow-billed Loon spent June on Yaquina Bay, Ore. (fide DFa), and it was reported in a weakened condition in early July (BL). Two were noted in June in the Q.C.I. (RC), where they summer regularly. One immature was seen throughout July in Chatham Sound, near Prince Rupert, B.C. (MF), where it is reasonable to expect them in summer, as it is at the same latitude as the Q.C.I. There were 2 reports of Horned Grebes, both from the first week of June, in Vancouver (RC) and Seattle (BT). However, there were no actual summering records. About 35 W. Grebes summered off Delta, B.C. (JI) and 40 in nearby Bellingham Bay, Wash. (TW). Pelagic bird surveys were taken off Yaquina Head, Ore., July 22 (JA), off the southern coast of Washington July 15 (RM), out of Westport, Wash., June 14 and July 25 (TW), and on the nearshore waters of the Q.C.I., June 11-12 (RC). Black-footed Albatrosses were recorded in all areas: from singles in the Q.C.I. to 217 off Westport July 25. Northern Fulmars were also reported from all areas: singles in the Q.C.I., 20 off Oregon, and a high of 192 off Westport in July. Pink-footed Shearwaters were reported only off Oregon and Washington. The high count was of 53 in July off Westport. The two Flesh-footed Shearwaters seen on that same trip were the only ones reported. A Buller's Shearwater reported off the s. coast of Washington July 15 (RM) was much earlier than the usual mid-August arrival. Sooty Shearwaters were reported from all surveys, with 6000 off Washington July 15 the high count. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were found off Washington and the Q.C.I., where there was the high count of over 600. Off the Washington and Oregon coasts, Leach's Storm-Petrels are usually found farther offshore than Fork-tailed, often in very deep waters. Thus, the sighting of over 150 during daylight hours within one mi of land off the Q.C.I. was quite surprising. A single Leach's about 60 mi inland along



the Columbia R. at Portland, Ore., June 30 (†HN *et al.*) was probably a shipboard stowaway.

The Brown Pelican flight apparently increased markedly during the last one-third of July (HN, G & WH). Only one immature was noted in Washington during the period (AR), although most reports did not specify ages. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird that soared over Portland, Ore., June 4 (†JG) was very much out of place. The five Great Egrets reported this spring at the heron rookery on Samish I., Skagit, remained through the summer (Lisa Nielson), but no breeding evidence was observed. The only breeding records for the Region are from the s. Oregon coast. Singles were reported from Seattle (m.ob.), Fern Ridge Res., Ore. (SH), and near Beaverton, Ore. (BTo). The number of Black-crowned Night-Heron reports from Seattle n. to Vancouver was extraordinary; at least 13 individuals were found. None are reported most summers.

An Emperor Goose summered in Olympia, Wash. (G & WH, BT); it was with Canada Geese and was as tame as they, and had no bands or toe clips. Green-winged Teal broods were noted near Tillamook, Ore. (JG) and on Lopez I., Wash. (RW, fide ML). They are very uncommon breeders in the s. one-half of the Region. Likewise, a Gadwall breeding record for the mouth of the Columbia R., July 8 (HN), was quite unusual. Four broods were reported from the Puget Sound basin, where they are more regular breeders. A Ring-necked Duck brood was found at Gold L., in the c. Oregon Cascades, July 5 (TM). This is well s. of the only known regular w. Oregon breeding locale near Mt. Hood, where 2 broods were seen this summer (P. Gaddis, fide HN). A subad. ♂ King Eider near Florence on the Oregon coast July 1 (†Harry LeGrand) provided the first summer record for the Region.

The Osprey nest reports were uniformly favorable, with no nest failures noted. Black-shouldered Kites were virtually unreported. An adult at Fern Ridge Res., Ore., July 18+ (SH) could have been the first post-breeding dispersant. There were 6 sightings of Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3 of Cooper's including one successful nest near Dungeness, Wash. (D & SS), and 5 of N.

Goshawk. A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen at Roseburg, Ore., July 29 (DI), in their regular range, and another flew N over Fern Ridge Res., July 30 (†SH), n. and inland of their regular range. One Merlin was reported, and six Peregrines, including mention, often second-hand, of 4 nesting pairs. A ♂ Willow Ptarmigan was found June 17 at 2000 m, well below treeline, in Tweedsmuir P.P., B.C. (BW), very near the s. boundary of its range. A small population of Sandhill Cranes bred, as usual, near Langley, B.C., in the lower Fraser R. valley (Mary Pastrick), and a pair bred near Lilly Glen, in s. Oregon (MM) where they are rare breeders.

SHOREBIRDS — As the following summary of the first one-half of the fall shorebird migration shows, a lot has been learned about shorebird migration through the Region. Further understanding will depend on collection of more age class specific data, as significant annual variations owing to reproductive success and migration conditions occur that are detectable only through analysis of age class abundance. Data on non-breeders summering in the Region are also lacking, and therefore of interest.

June records of Black-bellied Plover, all from Oregon, included one at Tillamook June 6 (BS), several at Newport Bay June 12 (RO), one at S.J.C.R., June 19 (HN), and one at Bandon, Coos, June 28 (LT). The last was in basic plumage, all were probably summering non-breeders. The first migrants were 25 at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 29 (G & WH), as none had been noted there earlier. The first migrant Semipalmated Plovers were noted July 8 at Vancouver, B.C. (m.ob.) and July 10 on the s. Oregon coast (LT). The high count was of 250 at Ocean Shores July 26 (TS). Single Greater Yellowlegs were noted during June at Fern Ridge Res. (SH), near Vancouver, B.C. (JI), and Tillamook, Ore. (BS). Twelve were found near Kleena Kleene, B.C., June 18 (BW), at the s. edge of their known breeding range. First migrants appeared in late June, with the high count being 35 at Delta, B.C. (JI), July 9. The first migrant Lesser Yellowlegs were found June 30 at Delta, B.C. (JI). There were no obvious high counts and most locales reported no more than 10. Territorial Solitary Sandpipers were noted at Tweedsmuir P.P. along Hwy 20 (BW), somewhat s. of the normal breeding range, and at Gold Lake Bog in the c. Oregon Cascades (HN, TM), an outpost where territorial birds have been noted since 1981. There were 3 records of migrant Solitaries, more than usual in July, all from s. British Columbia and the earliest July 18 (Madelon Schouten). The first reported fall arrival Wandering Tattler was seen July 16 near Bandon on the s. Oregon coast (LT). Often the first reports of rock shorebirds come from this part of the Region. A **Terek Sandpiper** found July 21 at Sooke Basin, w. of Victoria, V.I. (V & MG, ph. Tim Zurowski, m.ob.) stayed until Aug. 6. This was the first Pacific Coast record s. of Alaska.

An **Upland Sandpiper** found July 23 at Newport, Ore. (†RO) and reported through Aug. 3 furnished one of very few records for w. Oregon. Seven reports of Whimbrel in early June were of either summering birds or late migrants. The first unambiguous reports of migrant Whimbrels came during the first week of July from both the Oregon and Washington coasts, and the high count was of 480 at Ocean Shores July 26 (TS). The first Ruddy Turnstone was at the Bandon marsh on the s. Oregon coast July 10 (LT) and the Regional high count was of 179 birds there 13 days later. Black Turnstones were first noted July 9–10 in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. The high count was of 28 at Victoria, V.I., July 27 (RS). Surfbirds were first noted July 9 in n. British Columbia (MF) and July 13 in Washington and Oregon (Kathy Liska *vide* DFa, ML).

Sanderlings arrived en masse, as is usual for this species. The first reports were July 16 at Bandon (LT). Two days later, 2000 were at Clatsop Beach, Ore. (JG). The first ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper report was of one at Auburn, near Seattle, Wash., July 4 (EH), and the high count of adults was of 125 at Iona I., B.C., July 18 (MP). The first juveniles were noted July 17 in the Vancouver area (BK) and July 22 in Oregon (HN). Adult W. Sandpipers arrived on time, in the last few days of

June the 29th at Ocean Shores (G & WH) and the 30th at Delta, B.C. (JI). The only large concentrations reported were on the Oregon coast: 2500 July 3 (JG), 6000+ July 18 (JG), and 2000 July 29 (HN). The first juveniles were noted July 22 at S.J.C.R. (HN). Four Least Sandpipers were at Delta (JI) and three at Oak Bay, V.I. (DFr), June 30; elsewhere first arrival reports were July 3. The high count was of 500 at Tillamook July 29 (HN) and there were 6 other counts of over 100. A Least in juv. plumage was reported from S.J.C.R., July 8 (HN), which was very early. Baird's Sandpipers were early, with the first reports of an adult at Delta July 12 (BK) and 18 at Iona I., July 18 (MP). Adult Pectoral Sandpipers appeared in unusually high numbers, creating several early records for different locales. The first was at Delta on the very early date of June 26 (Linda Koch), five were at the Nehalem Sewage Ponds, Ore., July 10 (DL), and 17 adults and five juveniles were at Iona I., July 18 (MP). Baird's and Pectoral sandpiper records were higher than normal this spring, also. Adult Stilt Sandpipers, very rare in the Region, also appeared in unusual numbers. Three were found in s. British Columbia July 10–20 (JL, Hue & Jo Ann MacKenzie), two in Washington July 19–21 (EH), and one at Bandon, Ore., July 24 (LT). The usual sightings of large numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers were lacking; the largest flock reported was of 97 at Bandon July 10 (LT). Two Long-billed Dowitchers apparently summered at Delta (JI), which is highly unusual in this Region. The first southbound migrants were 21 at Delta June 30 (JI), six at Nehalem, Ore., July 7 (JG), and six at Kent, Wash., July 11 (PM). The high count was of 160 at Delta July 29 (JI). The 30+ Wilson's Phalaropes reported from the Vancouver area (*vide* DK) made a high number.

LARIDS, ALCIDS — A Pomarine Jaeger off the Q.C.I., June 11 (RC) was not unexpected, but two on Boundary Bay, near Vancouver, June 12 (MF) were quite irregular. There was also an equally scarce June record of Parasitic Jaeger: two were seen June 17 off the Oregon coast near Yaquina Bay (JA). A jaeger (sp.) was on Bellingham Bay, Wash., June 28 (Geri Walker, *vide* TW). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger inland on Fern Ridge Res., Lane, Ore., July 21 (†SH) was highly unusual there, but was at the time when the first adults begin to appear offshore. A S. Polar Skua off Westport, Wash., June 14 (TW, BT) furnished one of the earliest records for our Region. They are rare prior to August. Two ad. Franklin's Gulls, a very rare age class in the Region, appeared July 11, one at Iona I. (RP) and one at Nehalem, Ore. (†PMu, LW). The first of the usual number of 11+ immatures appeared July 17 in Washington (BK), July 18 in British Columbia (MP), and July 21 in Oregon (TM). Up to 50 Bonaparte's Gulls summered at Delta, B.C. (JI), 20+ at Victoria (RS), and another 60 at Nehalem, Ore. (HN). No other summering birds were reported. Heermann's Gulls came N in the usual numbers, and on schedule, with first reports in late June. An adult on the Monmouth Sedimentation Ponds, Polk, in the Willamette valley July 22 (†RG) provided the first inland record for Oregon away from the Columbia River. At the end of July, small numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted at Lucy I., B.C. (MF), at Grays Harbor (G & WH, TW), and at S.J.C.R. (HN). Prior to that, singles were seen at Dungeness, Wash. (D & SS) and at Vancouver, B.C. (†MP), and small numbers were found in the Q.C.I. (RC). There were no summering flocks reported.

The 100 Caspian Terns on the s. arm of the Fraser R., June 28 (B. & P. Spitman, *vide* DK) made the highest count ever reported from British Columbia, and should indicate that the surplus non-breeding population is high enough that formation of a new colony is imminent. There were no reports of summering Com. Terns. Two ad. Arctic Terns were at the breeding locale at Everett, Wash., during June and July (PM, GG). Nesting success there was unknown. Elsewhere, two adults were off Westport June 14 (TW) and single adults were seen July 11–13 at Tillamook (JG, DL) and July 17–18 in the Boundary Bay region (†BK, MP). An ad. Forster's Tern July 19 at Iona I. (†BK) furnished the 9th documented record for the Vancouver area. Another adult was at Fern Ridge Res., Ore., June 4 (TM). Two

Black Terns were seen during June in the Seattle area (m ob) Neither of these two tern species breeds in the Region. A die-off of about 80+ juv. Com. Murres per mile was noted at the end of July on the n. Oregon beaches (JA, HN). This probably correlated with an abrupt increase in sea surface temperature, from 9° to 14°C within a week. There were 6 reports of Ancient Murrelet off Oregon and Washington in the last one-half of July, for an unheard-of number of reports. A Horned Puffin was seen June 30 at the Cape Lookout, Ore., puffin colony (Duncan Evered, *fide* TW). In recent years, virtually all reports of Horned Puffins in the s. one-half of the Region have been of individuals at Tufted colonies. In the n. one-half of the Region, small numbers of Horneds breed in the northern Q.C.I., and two were noted there June 12 (RC).

PIGEONS THROUGH WRENS — Five Band-tailed Pigeons e. of Kleena Kleene, B.C., June 16 (BW) were e. of the known breeding range. A N. Hawk-Owl at Garibaldi P.P., B.C., July 18 (P. Michael, *fide* DK) was s. of its regular breeding range. There were no reports from Manning P.P., the breeding outpost on the international boundary. There was one report of Spotted Owl from British Columbia (*fide* DK), where the species is almost extirpated. The nesting birds found in British Columbia last year were not relocated, and a new clearcut nearby is suspected. Black Swifts were seen regularly in the Breitenbush, Marion, area (BB) and at Salt Creek falls, Lane (TM, Al McGie), both in the c. Oregon Cascades. No nests have been found in the state. Breeding at Salt Creek falls has been suspected since 1985. The ♂ **Costa's Hummingbird** near Vancouver, B.C., was last seen June 1 (DK, MF), and another ad. male appeared at a feeder in Medford, Ore., July 4+ (ph. Penny Stewart). Why are there so many records for this species in Oregon? They are very rare in both adjacent Washington and n. California.

BW found seven territorial Alder Flycatchers at Clearwater L., e. of Tweedsmuir P.P., along Hwy 20, well s.w. of the known breeding range. There were 20+ Willow Flycatchers in the vicinity also. A territorial ♂ Least Flycatcher near Monroe, Snohomish, Wash., June 6–July 3 (Bill Boyce, m.ob.) apparently did not find a mate. Most of the handful of Regional records are of summering birds. DF found breeding Dusky Flycatchers in practically every clearcut with chaparral-type shrub communities in the Diamond Lake Ranger District of the s. Oregon Cascades, and noted that he encountered them more often than in the previous 3 years. Dusks are not common breeders anywhere else in the Region; this could signify a range expansion. Alternatively, it could be a localized response to available habitat; the shrub community in clearcuts to the north is either controlled with herbicides or dominated by alder and other non-chaparral species. There were 2 reports of W. Kingbird away from known breeding locations, one a breeding record in the Puyallup, Wash., valley July 25 (John Gatchet) and the other a single at Sidney I., V.I., June 2 (RS). Wandering E. Kingbirds were almost as scarce away from the lower Fraser valley where they have become established as breeders. One was in Tacoma, Wash., June 27 (Jon Jensen), one at Beaverton, Ore., June 14 (BT), and two were on southern V.I. (RS, Jerry & Gladys Anderson).

The Puget Sound prairie population of Horned Larks is probably composed of a handful of birds, mostly residing on Ft. Lewis, Pierce. At least 2 pairs and one young were noted there this summer (GW). After years of decline, Purple Martin numbers seem to have stabilized, and are on the increase in areas where nest boxes are provided. Colonies are located in the Oregon Cascades (BB) and Willamette valley (SH), and there were 2 reports from the coast range (TM) and Bandon (LT). In Washington, they were reported from Washougal along the Columbia R. (WC), Ft. Lewis (GW), Seattle (EH), Bainbridge I. (GG), L. Sammamish (Pam Stanton Wyman), and San Juan I. (Frank Pitelka, ML). In British Columbia, a remnant population breeds at Cowichan Bay, V.I. Four pairs were noted there May 27 (WW) and six birds July 25 (RC). Single Bank Swallows were observed in the Vancouver, B.C., area June 13 (MP) and July 19 (BK). They are very rare in summer in our Region.

Comments on swallow breeding success were uniformly positive (DF, HN, WC) House Wren range increases were described from Sauvie I., Ore. (HN), near McCleary, Mason, Wash. (PM, BT), and the Vancouver, B.C., area (†RC), all generally w. of their irregular breeding range in our Region. Rock Wrens are definitely increasing their range in the Cascades, spilling over onto the w. slopes. Three were noted June 20–21 in Manning P.P. (WW), where they are very unusual, one was at Olallie Lake, Marion, Ore., June 25 (DI), and they were found in several rockless clearcuts containing heavy logging debris at middle elevations in the s. Oregon Cascades (DF).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES — The W. Bluebird population of Ft. Lewis, Wash., had very good breeding success, as there were no prolonged cold, rainy periods (GW). At least 650 fledglings were produced from the northernmost large population in the Region. There were 3 sightings of bluebirds in the Victoria area (J & RS), including one immature, indicating this vestigial population is still reproducing. A **Brown Thrasher** June 6 in Portland, Ore. (Sylvia Gallagher) was found dead the next day (*Portland State Univ., *fide* HN) for the 2nd summer record for the Region. Breeding records of Red-eyed Vireo are scarce in w. Oregon. A singing male was at Scoggins Valley Park during June (JE, DL) and the nest of a pair was located at Fern Ridge Res. (SH). A singing ♂ **Tennessee Warbler** was tape-recorded June 3–4 in Jericho Park, Vancouver (†WW, †RC *et al.*), for the 9th Vancouver area record. Another Tennessee was at Portland, Ore., June 17 (†JG). Three Black-throated Gray Warblers at Sooke, V.I., July 25 (RC) were possibly post-breeding wanderers from the mainland, as the breeding population on the island is very small. Black-headed Grosbeaks were noted in well above normal numbers in the s. Oregon Cascades (DF). Two pairs of Lazuli Bunting were located in the Vancouver area this summer (†Andy Stewart, Linda Murray, Mrs. Moore) and one bred successfully. Another Lazuli spent June at North Bend, Coos, Ore. (LT). They are very rare breeders in coastal areas.

A small colony of Grasshopper Sparrows, almost unknown as breeders in this Region, was found e. of White City, Jackson, s. Oregon in June (Howard Sands), and two singing males were at Fern Ridge Res., June 16–17 (†SH, TM). A new colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was found on Ft. Lewis, Wash., in June (GW). There are fewer than 5 known colonies in w. Washington. The ♀ **Common Grackle** (see spring report) at Veneta, Ore., stayed until at least June 17 (TM). Cassin's Finches appear to be common breeders in clear- or partial cuts well w. of the crest in the s. Oregon Cascades (DF). They are unknown as breeders elsewhere in the Region. Red Crossbill numbers throughout the Region, in both the lowlands and the mountains, began to increase dramatically in mid-July (DF, BT, DK). Two White-winged Crossbills were at Alliford Bay, Q.C.I., June 6 (RC). They are scarce breeders in the archipelago. In the Washington and Oregon Cascades, White-winged staged a minor incursion. They were first noted flying overhead, with many Reds, July 18–19 along the Washington Cascade crest (BT, Mike Donahue, EH). Three seen July 31 in the n. Oregon Cascades furnished the southernmost reports (Bill Meyer) Evening Grosbeak numbers were well below levels of the past couple of years (DF, BT, TW).

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Seabird breeding success on Southeast Farallon Island and most other coastal areas, such as Humboldt and Del Norte counties, was excellent to good for nearly all species reported. This was despite locally warm water around the Farallons during the primary hatching period; apparently strong upwellings nearby provided excellent foraging for most species. Suddjian continued his systematic surveys of the Santa Cruz County coast, including counts covering its entire length July 10–13. Selected results are noted below. Results of exploratory work, and baseline information (nest data, elevational records, timing of dispersal etc.) constitute some of the most important data we receive. Shuford, Gross, Suddjian, and many others were especially helpful in this regard this season. Although most such data are not published, they remain in our files (now beginning to be computerized), becoming more valuable with time.

There was considerable anecdotal evidence of the impact of last winter's dryness on the birds, but almost no specific comment from contributors.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; Cyn. = Canyon; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized* place names refer to counties. Use of "Period" and "Region" (capitalized) refers to these terms as defined for *American Birds*. All records from Palomar, Marin, and S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter "F.I."), S.F., should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.). References to the GULL are to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observation column is written by Helen Green. Most such records were originally reported to Joseph Morlan for the N. California Rare Bird Alert.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — A 2-hour seaway at El Jarro Pt., Santa Cruz, June 8 found one Common, 11 Red-throated, and 290 Pacific loons still migrating N (DLSu). Surprisingly, recent summer sightings of Pacific Loon have outnumbered those for Com. Loon in Siskiyou. One of each in basic plumage was found on L. Siskiyou June 25, with the Common remaining though July (MFRb). The Com. Loon on 6400 ft Loon L., *El Dorado*, June 6 (WEH, SMS) probably was a late migrant, as this site is well s. of former breeding lakes. However, hope remains that this loon might still or again breed in California. The July 10–13 survey the length of the Santa Cruz coast tallied only one Red-throated and two Pacific loons compared with 20 Commons (DLSu).

Tremendous numbers of Western and Clark's grebes summered near shore in n.e. Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz (DLSu). After early June, high counts for both species in Soquel Cove were July 2: 919 Westerns and 526 Clark's. By July 10, most had moved S to Manresa and Sunset State Beaches, where the July 20 counts were of 1009 Westerns and 656 Clark's. Elsewhere in Santa Cruz, 82 Westerns and 27 Clark's were noted at Davenport Pier June 15 (DLSu), and at nearby Ano Nuevo Pt., *San Mateo*, there were 50 Westerns with six Clark's July 5 (PJM).

Throughout the Period foraging flocks of 50,000–400,000 Sooty Shearwaters continued to gather inshore along n.e. Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz, from 2 p.m. to sunset (DLSu, DLSH).

The usual wide scattering of migrating Am. White Pelicans brought four over Brisbane, *San Mateo*, June 4 (JS) and five over Wilder Ranch S.P., Santa Cruz, July 26 (DLSu), both areas where this bird is rare. Brown Pelicans remained abundant in Santa Cruz, with a high of 2263 (87% imm.) counted along the n.e. shore of Monterey Bay July 27 (DLSu). One imm. Brown Pelican was 7 mi inland over Salinas sewage ponds July 14



(DEG). The Double-crested Cormorant colony discovered in the Bay Bridge, Alameda, in 1984 was surveyed by scope from the Port of Oakland July 4 (SFB). The totals of 400+ cormorants and 190+ nests represent minima, as many sites were screened by the heavy steel beams. Five sightings of imm. Magnificent Frigatebird from Monterey to Ano Nuevo Pt. over a 2-week span could have represented one or more individuals. Chronologically they were: Salinas R. mouth, Monterey, June 30 (GWP), Ano Nuevo Pt., July 4 (M. Putman, fide GJS), Pacific Grove July 11 (AB), Monterey July 11 (fide DLSH), and Davenport, Santa Cruz, July 13 (†DLSu).

HERONS AND WATERFOWL — American Bittern sightings at Zmudowski State Beach June 24 and July 31 (DEG) were in Monterey, where the species has not been known to nest since 1961 (fide DR). In Santa Clara, a calico Little Blue Heron at Charleston Slough July 6 (SEF) was followed by a white immature at Mt. View Forebay July 10 (PLN). An ad. Little Blue Heron flying S past Rio Del Mar State Beach July 10 furnished the 2nd record ever for Santa Cruz (†DLSu). Only seven Cattle Egrets were reported from the C.V., where the species has begun nesting in recent years. Eight were at Santa Cruz July 26 (DLSu).

In the Stockton/Lodi area, Green-backed Herons have begun to use residential areas near water for nesting (fide DGY). One at F.I. June 14 was only the island's 8th (fide HG). A pair of Black-crowned Night-Herons fledged two young at Scott's Valley in July (A. Myren et al.). Nesting occurred there in 1985, but otherwise the species had not been known to nest in Santa Cruz for nearly 40 years (fide DLSu). At Lower Klamath N.W.R., 100+ White-faced Ibises nested in tules this year (RE, MFRo). Elsewhere in the Great Basin, an adult was at Mono L., July 28 (PJM), and 15 in Sierra Valley Marsh, *Plumas*, June 17 showed no sign of nesting, but were in an area where they had been present since late May (DSH). In the C.V., "almost 400" ibises were present at Colusa N.W.R. during the Period (GMe), seven were at Gilsizer Slough Marsh, *Sutter*, June 20 (BED), 50–60 were in the Yolo Bypass, *Yolo*, July 26+ (GEW), and three were at the Modesto sewage ponds July 29 (ERC). Species such as the ibis and Cattle Egret, which are undergoing significant range expansions, should be receiving considerable

attention in future reports, so observers are encouraged to submit their observations accordingly

The Ross' Goose lingering to June 16 at Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz, was healthy and capable of flight (DLSu *et al.*). Another remained at L. Solano County Park, Solano, to June 6 (MBG *et al.*). No Greater White-fronted or Snow geese were reported during the Period.

Single ♂ Wood Ducks at Sierra Valley Marsh May 24 (DSh) and Benton Hot Springs, Mono, June 3 (PJM) were e. of the Sierra/Cascade crest where rare. Four or five Green-winged Teal in Santa Clara June 6–July 19 (WGB, PEL, DLSu) were the only ones reported away from the Great Basin. Following the species' strong showing there in spring, a pair of Blue-winged Teal seen copulating at Arcata Marsh June 2 (FJB) was not surprising. Another ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was found, this one at the Westwood sewage ponds, Lassen, June 18 (fHG). A ♀ Gadwall with five young near the mouth of Baldwin Cr., w. of Santa Cruz, July 12 (DLSu) was away from traditional nesting sites on S.F. and Monterey Bays. At Crittenden Marsh, Santa Clara, 595 Gadwalls were counted June 6 (DLSu). Single summering Am. Wigeons were at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin June 6–18 (DLSu, PEL), the Tulare L. basin, Kings, June 24 (RAE, JCS), and the Modesto sewage ponds July 1–10 (HMR).

Ten Canvasbacks were reported from the C.V. but only four from the coast, all on south S.F. Bay. The three non-mountain Ring-necked Ducks found this summer were a female at Pescadero Marsh June 14 (PJM, SEF), a male at Modesto sewage ponds June 24–July 10 (HMR, ERC *et al.*), and a male at the Tulare L. basin June 24 (JCS, RAE). Black L., Mono, is well s. of the Lesser Scaup's known breeding range in n.e. California, but a pair of scaup there June 3 were considered to be potential breeders (PJM). A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin, was last seen June 10 (CLF). A male at Pt. Saint George July 25 (GSL) were the only others reported.

It was apparently a poor year for oversummering scoters (PEL, DLSu), although many observers do not report on regular species such as these. Two Black Scoters at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Alameda, July 23 (GC) and three single White-winged Scoters furnished the only reports of those species. In contrast, 375 Surf Scoters were at Pt. Reyes June 14 (C. Buechert) and 275 were found on the survey of the entire Santa Cruz coastline July 10–13 (DLSu). Summering Com. Goldeneyes were found at Alameda July 4 (4 ♂♂—SFB) and Chico June 13 (imm. ♂—BED). On the coast, single ♂ Buffleheads were at Redwood City all Period (RSTh, SEF), Crittenden Marsh, Santa Clara, June 6 (DLSu), and the Carmel R. mouth June 12 (DEG). Four Com. Mergansers on the San Lorenzo R. north of Santa Cruz June 16 (BMMo) preceded the sighting of a female with six one-week-old chicks there June 30 (DLSu). The species had not even been recorded during the breeding season in Santa Cruz previously (*vide* DLSu).

RAPTORS — A successful nesting by N. Harrier near Wilder Cr. provided the first confirmed breeding for Santa Cruz since 1931 (DLSu, DEG, CKf). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks with a fledgling in upper Scott Cr. Canyon June 30 constituted the first Santa Cruz breeding record (DLSu) and the first confirmed for the Santa Cruz Mts. since the egg collections of George Brem near Gilroy, Santa Clara, in 1944 (*vide* WGB). Adult male and ♀ Sharp-shinned Hawks at Wilder Ranch July 9, with the female seen carrying prey to the west, were enigmatic because "this site is almost 16 mi s.e. of the Scott Cr. Canyon site and does not have good nesting habitat" (DLSu). An ad. ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk on Loma Prieta, Santa Clara, June 22 (DLSu, BMMo) suggested another Santa Cruz Mts. breeding. A pair of immature-plumaged Cooper's Hawks nested on the Stanford University campus for the first Santa Clara Valley floor breeding, but the eggs were believed infertile (H. Wilkins). Other Cooper's Hawks in the nearby wooded suburbs of San Mateo included one in Menlo Park June 6 (DLSu) and a pair suspected

of breeding in Atherton June 22 (PJM). An imm Red-shouldered Hawk at Bridgeport, Mono, July 29 was a trans-Sierran stray (PJM). Swainson's Hawks were reported much more easily seen than in recent summers in Stanislaus, with 10 at one field near the San Joaquin R. at Jennings Rd., July 29 (ERC). Similarly, 11 were in a flooded alfalfa field s. of Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo, July 3 (B. Davis). The explanation for July concentrations remains unclear.

TURKEY THROUGH RAILS — Introduced Wild Turkeys seem to be flourishing in several areas, although birders can give only a partial picture of their true status. East of Sacramento, birds were reported this spring and summer from the Folsom L. area, El Dorado, Goethe Park, Sacramento, and Michigan Bar on the Consumes R., Sacramento, where 29 poults accompanied four adults July 2 (GEw). Additional sightings in spring and summer came from the Sierra foothills e. of Camanche Res., Calaveras, 4 sites in Santa Clara where the species is generally considered rare (*vide* WGB), Mines Road, Alameda (including an unsuccessful nest with 14 eggs Apr 25–26—ALE *et al.*), and Vicente Flat, Monterey, where a female with nine or more young was seen June 27 (F. Toldi).

An estimated 13+ pairs of nesting Virginia Rails were found during a survey of 16+ sites in Santa Cruz this year (DLSu *et al.*). The species is currently unknown to nest in adjacent Monterey (Roberson 1985, Monterey Birds. Monterey Peninsula Aud. Soc.). No Soras were found on the Santa Cruz survey. The Com. Moorhen at Arcata Marsh was last seen June 1 (GSL)

SHOREBIRDS — Most June sightings of the Region's non-breeding shorebirds continue to be of interest and many are summarized below. Our ongoing efforts to understand how many of these birds are actually oversummering and how many are stretching the normal limits of "spring" and "fall" migration, or possibly wandering, depend on these data. Especially useful is information gathered at specific sites over a period of time so that "residency" vs. movement can be determined. To date we have very little proof of oversummering in most species, as individuals involved in single-day sightings can usually be assigned potential northbound or southbound movement. It is likely that genuine northbound birds occasionally overlap southbound birds of the same species. In our Region and in most species, it seems that most individuals seen in the first 20 days or so of June are probable tardy "spring migrants" while those in the last week of June are the vanguard of "fall" migration. The period June 20–23 is more difficult to speculate on. The obvious exceptions to this timetable are those species breeding closest to or within California (Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope) which begin to appear back in cismontane California by the 3rd, or even 2nd, week of June. It is assumed that most or all of these June individuals, at least of the Arctic-nesting species, fail to reproduce, often owing to immaturity.

Single ad. Lesser Golden-Plovers were at McKericker State Beach, Mendocino, July 23 (DT), Sunset State Beach July 27 (DLSu), and Ano Nuevo Pt., July 28+ (GJS). Downy young Black Oystercatchers near Pelican Rock July 7–13 and at Table Rock July 12 provided overdue confirmation of nesting in Santa Cruz (DLSu). An ad. Am. Avocet at Pajaro Dunes July 27 (RAM) was the only one seen in Santa Cruz all Period (*vide* DLSu), yet only a few miles south, 100+ young not yet fledged were at the Salinas R. estuary June 5 (DEG).

Yellowlegs sightings at the Salinas sewage ponds (DEG) included a Lesser June 9 and Greater June 5 (three), 9 (one), & 24 (one). Additional June Greater Yellowlegs were 12 at the Salinas R. mouth June 24 (DEG), one in the Tulare L. basin, Kings, June 24 (RAE, JCS), and one at Mt. View forebay June 29 (PLN). Single Solitary Sandpipers were at Wilder Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz, July 19 (fDLSu) and Mono L., July 28 (PJM).

In the Palo Alto area, 65–75% of 300+ Willets studied June 17–18 were in alternate plumage, as were 80% of 375 at Foster City June 20 (PEL, SEF). Two Ruddy Turnstones at Ano Nuevo Pt., June 13 (GJS) were the only ones reported in June. Inland,

one was at Tule Lake NWR, July 26 (RE), three were at the Davis sewage ponds July 26 (fGEW), and one was at the Modesto sewage ponds July 29+ (ERC).

Three basic-plumaged Red Knots were at Moss Landing July 7 along with one alternate-plumaged bird (DEG). The guess of the local recorder (DR) was that the former three had summered there. Two Sanderlings were at the Modesto sewage ponds July 29 with one remaining to July 31 (ERC). Have just two individuals generated all the reports there over the past 2 years?

An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper was at the Woodland Sugar Ponds July 26 (fGEW). Five juveniles were found along the coast July 25+ and three were in the C.V., July 27+. As in recent years, Semipalmateds outnumbered W. Sandpipers in the first wave of juvenile peeps to reach the Region (e.g., three juv. Semipalmateds vs. one juv. Western at Moss Landing July 25—SFB). Regular coverage of the Lodi sewage ponds established that one W. Sandpiper spent the entire month of June there, before returning migrants blurred the issue in early July (DGY). This may be the first conclusive evidence of oversummering of this species in our Region (especially inland), although it has been assumed on several occasions. Another W. Sandpiper at the Lodi ponds June 15 (DGY) and one at Laguna Cr. Marsh, Santa Cruz, June 14 (DEG) were not long-staying. The first "obvious" southbound migrants were four Westerns at the Salinas R. mouth June 24 (DEG) and a Least at Scott Cr. Marsh, Santa Cruz, June 25 (RAM).

A Baird's Sandpiper at Laguna Cr. Marsh June 9–14 (BSch, fDEG, DLSu) furnished one of very few Regional June records. An ad. Baird's at San Joaquin City July 16 (DGY) was the first of the southbound birds. Nine juvenile or unaged birds followed July 25+. Alternate-plumaged Dunlins were at the Tulare L. basin June 24 (JCS, RAE) and the Davis sewage ponds July 30 (GEW), and a basic-plumaged bird was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 26 (RE). The first bird was assumed to be summering but was at a location not regularly birded. The 2nd was at a regularly birded location and is assumed to have been migrating (south). The 3rd was assumed to be a southbound migrant also but the degree of prior checking at this location is unknown. Dunlins normally migrate S so much later than most other shorebirds that the generalizations discussed above do not apply. An alternate-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** at the Salinas sewage ponds July 10 (fDEG) was the Region's 8th, all in fall. An ad. Stilt Sandpiper at the Woodland Sugar Ponds July 29+ (fGEW) followed closely after an ad. ♀ Ruff there July 25 (EDG).

In the Palo Alto/Charleston Slough area, a "worn" Short-billed Dowitcher seen June 6 (DLSu) was suspected of summering, but seven (flocks of three in basic plumage and four in alternate/partial alternate plumage) seen June 17–18 (PEL, SEF) may have included the season's first southbound migrants. Birds believed to be southbound have been recorded from about June 19 on in previous years, but also note that 101 Short-billed Dowitchers were in this general area June 7, 1986 (Palo Alto Breeding Bird Census, *fide* WGB), many in alternate plumage and many remaining through the summer (DLSu). Elsewhere on the coast this species was recorded June 25+, and eight-plus in the interior were found June 24+. Thirty-plus Long-billed Dowitchers in the Tulare L. basin June 24 made a high count so early; many were in alternate plumage (RAE, JCS).

Scattered nesting records of Com. Snipe continue to accumulate in the C.V. This year *San Joaquin* acquired its first nesting evidence when a pair was observed in courtship flight over a flooded field in the Sierra foothills June 12 (S. Walter, *fide* DGY). A snipe at the Salinas sewage ponds July 31 (DEG, PEL) was early for this normally-late migrant. Ten Wilson's Phalaropes at Eureka June 20–21 (FJB) was a high number for that n. coastal location; 1000 were already at the Hacienda Unit June 24 (RAE, JCS). Two Red Phalaropes were at the Salinas R. mouth June 24 (DEG) and one was there June 28 (PJM); both (all?) were in alternate/partial alternate plumage.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Three Pomarines around the shore of Monterey Bay (PJM, DLSu) were the only jaegers reported before the mid-July return of migrants. The year's first S. Polar Skua was seen on a F.I. pelagic trip June 21 (P. J. Watkins, PtW). A Bonaparte's Gull at the Los Banos sewage ponds June 24 (ERC) was a rare summer bird for Merced. The full-length survey of the Santa Cruz coast July 10–13 produced the following gull totals (DLSu): 25 Bonaparte's, 4659 Heermann's, one Mew, 19 Ring-billeds, 712 Californians, 4822 Westerns, and 12 Glaucous-wingeds (with three others discovered later). The first five species in this list all concentrated around Monterey Bay, whereas the two larger species were more widely distributed, with W. Gulls most numerous n.w. of Monterey Bay (64% n.w. of Younger Lagoon). The Mew Gull was a worn first-summer bird at Manresa State Beach July 10–20. By July 27, DLSu's survey along n.e. Monterey Bay tallied 7442 Heermann's Gulls. As the counts rose the proportion of immatures fell to 4.8%. Western Gulls again nested in *Solano*, with 3 pairs at Benicia and one at Mare I. (RbL *et al.*). The season's only Black-legged Kittiwake was a yearling at Crescent City Harbor July 25 (GSL). Three Sabine's Gulls s.w. of F I, June 28 included one in full breeding colors (DLSh).

S.A.

Birders (DLSu, RAM, BSch) have organized their observations begun years ago (RAM) of Caspian Terns commuting N–S across the Santa Cruz Mts. Evidence suggests that small numbers regularly, perhaps daily, fly from their south S.F. Bay colonies S through passes to forage Santa Cruz waters, returning N later in the day. This would be a one-way commute of 34 mi from the s.w. Alameda nesting colonies. Between Apr. 26 and Aug. 3, 64 individuals were seen apparently involved in such a crossing. A few Caspian Terns also appear to commute SE along Coyote Cr., Santa Clara, at least as far as Coyote (WGB). Observations also suggest that some Caspians use the trans-Santa Cruz Mts. route for their spring and fall migrations into and out of S.F. Bay (RAM *et al.*). Circumstantial and negative evidence has suggested that the small S.F. Bay population of Least Terns may use this trans-mountain migration route almost exclusively (SFB, LDC). No Least Tern has yet been detected making this crossing, but the chances of doing so for such a rare and tiny bird would be very remote without great effort or luck. Despite years of seawatching along the coast n. of Santa Cruz, this inshore-flying tern has very seldom been seen, and never in numbers. The breeders arrive in S.F. Bay unheralded. After breeding, adults take their fledglings S from the Alameda area colonies to stage at the Baumberg Tract in Hayward, Alameda, and at the Charleston Slough/Moffett Field area, Santa Clara, before disappearing without a trace (LDC, m.ob.). Nor have they been found moving toward the Golden Gate, but small numbers are seen along the shore of Monterey Bay during the migration periods. Perhaps the most likely way to confirm this hypothesis would be to systematically watch pass-commuting Caspian Terns during May and August to see if they are sometimes accompanied by Least Terns (!).

Numbers of Elegant Terns along n.e. Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz, swelled to 1924 by July 27 (DLSu). One Elegant Tern at Mountain View Forebay July 18 (R. Jeffers, M. Mammoser) was only the 5th for Santa Clara, and the earliest by 24 days. Twenty Forster's Tern nests at White Slough, Vallejo, may have established the first successful *Solano* breeding (RbL, MBG *et al.*). The principal Least Tern colony, on Alameda Naval Air Station, had very good reproductive success: 57–59 pairs (61

nesting attempts) produced 77–88+ fledglings (LDC) “Encouraging” numbers of the declining Black Tern appeared in Yolo, with July counts of up to 53 and 42 at 2 sites near Woodland (all GEW). A Black Tern at Palo Alto and Mountain View June 17–July 18 (PEL et al.) was the 9th for Santa Clara, and the earliest by 35 days.

Crescent City firemen intentionally destroyed the B St. Dock by fire July 7, thus burning 10–20 active Pigeon Guillemot nests (GSL). At least 5 different kinds of human disturbance seem to be causing a decrease in nesting Pigeon Guillemots along W. Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz (DLSu). Nevertheless, the July 10–13 survey tallied 1542 guillemots along the Santa Cruz coast, 94% n.w. of the problem area (DLSu). The comparable Marbled Murrelet count was of 271, 90% n.w. of Yellowbank Cr. and none s.e. of Soquel Pt. (DLSu). At adjacent Ano Nuevo Pt., San Mateo, 110 Marbleds were counted July 5 (PJM). Xantus' Murrelets were offshore Monterey June 20 (one—DLSH) and July 12 (five—DLSH), offshore Humboldt Bay July 24 (three—SWH, GSL), and offshore Crescent City July 26 (two—GSL). An Ancient Murrelet off Point St. George July 25 was in breeding plumage (GSL). The more southerly mainland Santa Cruz nesting site of Rhinoceros Auklet mentioned last season had an estimated 2–4 pairs of adults feeding chicks over a period of at least 45 days, which is close to the published nestling period (DLSu et al.). No further activity was noted at the more northerly site (DLSu).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS —

S.A.

California's troubled Yellow-billed Cuckoo population is receiving continuing study from SAL and others, on contract with California Fish & Game. Along the Sacramento R. from Red Bluff to Colusa, only 18 pairs (plus an equal number of unmated, territorial males) were censused. A few were along the Feather R. as well, but a 65% decline is indicated for the Region since 1977. Somewhat more pairs are in s. California (along the Kern and Colorado river valleys), but numbers are declining even faster there. Overall, the state's population is believed to have declined by a dismal 73% in just 10 years. Ultimate causes clearly include massive loss of riparian gallery forest, but proximal causes are more mysterious. Why are half of all territorial males unmated? A 20% thinning of eggshells might indicate the involvement of pesticides picked up in tropical winter diets. Consider that the United States is still the world's largest producer of DDT, virtually all of it exported.

Reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos by other contributors totaled five individuals, including single vagrants at Mono L., June 4 (PJM; see AB 40:1251) and Stinson Beach S.P., Marin, July 3 (*fide* GULL). A Com. Barn-Owl at Mono L., July 28 (PJM) had little precedent (see AB 38:1058). An impressive morning feeding concentration of 225 Com. Nighthawks was carefully counted near Bodie, Mono, July 4 (PEL, SEF). Although well-birded coastally, Humboldt holds many secrets from birders in its interior. Two or three Com. Poorwills were noted on Whitey's Peak June 3 (GSL, LPL), with one still there 6–7 days later (GSL, RAE); they have been considered 'casual' in the county, but were also noted at this locale in 1983. The species was also noted, apparently for the first time, in Del Puerto Cyn., Stanislaus, July 14 & 18 (JG, HMR). In a 3-day census of the entire Santa Cruz coastline, DLSu found Black Swifts at 6 sites and estimated a total breeding population for the county of 11–20 pairs. A Chimney Swift at El Granada June 25 (BS) was “well described” and furnished a first definite record for San Mateo (*fide* PJM). Three individuals were also noted at F I, June 3–4. Although not currently reviewed by the C.B.R.C.,

this species requires great care in identification and should generally be documented for acceptance

Single Black-chinned Hummingbirds were noted east (two) or west (one) of the species' expected range: Lundy Cyn., Mono, June 6 (†HG), Red Rock Rd. e. of Hwy 395, Lassen, June 12 & 15 (DS), and Los Altos, Santa Clara, July 26 (LBI). Similarly, a Costa's Hummingbird wandering W to s. San Jose was studied June 26–31 (†K. Ferguson). Three Allen's Hummingbirds were identified away from the coastal district. All were ad. males Pocket Rd., Sacramento, June 9 (GEW), Lodi L., June 24 (DGY), and Del Puerto Cyn., July 14 (JG). Identification to species of Rufous/Allen's hummingbirds other than well-seen ad. males should be considered normally beyond the ken of field identification (nesting females in the Region can be assumed Allen's). Only with this caution, and banding studies, will we unravel their comparative status. Nuttall's Woodpecker breeding was confirmed for Santa Cruz on Webb Rd., June 15 (DLSu). Pileated Woodpecker was also confirmed to breed in Santa Cruz: Big Basin Redwoods S.P., June 30 (DLSu). The latter species has long been presumed to breed there.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — June 28 seems a very odd date for a Gray Flycatcher at Kennedy Meadow, Tulare (6000 ft elevation; RAB). A Black Phoebe at Mono L., July 28 (PJM) was nearly unprecedented, the few extant records for the Mono Basin being March to May and one July 4, 1985. Three Say's Phoebes modestly w. of their usual seasonal range may have been responding to dry conditions: one in Jameson Cyn., Napa, June 5 (MFRi), and two in Pine Cyn., Mt. Diablo S.P., June 15 (KGH). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers in Fairhaven June 5 (GSL) were late migrants on the n. coast. Four W. Kingbirds on the immediate coast May 30–June 10 were also migrants, but July birds there are harder to explain: singles in “potentially good habitat” were at Wilder Cr. Marsh July 9 and Sturve Slough July 14 (both Santa Cruz and DLSu). Two E. Kingbirds appeared away from known nest sites: Marin Headlands June 13–14 (B. Cunningham, KFC et al.) and July 5 (†CoB). A Purple Martin nest was observed on China Grade n. of Big Basin Redwoods S.P., June 20 (RAM, S. & S. Singer) where, DLSu says, “they have nested for years.” This corrects my erroneous statement in AB 38:955. A concentration of 2250+ Violet-green Swallows along Mt. Bache Rd. and the Loma Prieta/Summit Ridge area (most birds in Santa Cruz) July 9 (DLSu) was early. Reports from Bank Swallow colonies were generally of good numbers, and adult and imm. birds for most of this period at Lodi sewage ponds clearly indicated local breeding, a first for San Joaquin (DGY). First dispersants/migrants were at Moss Landing July 25 (one; SFB) and Modesto sewage ponds July 29 (two; ERC). Seventy-five Pinyon Jays at Kennedy Meadow, Sequoia N.F., June 28 (RAB) apparently were extraordinary for the s. portion of the Sierran w. slope. Similarly out-of-pattern was a Clark's Nutcracker on Mt. Tamalpais, Marin, July 15 (ScC). Two begging Am. Crow fledglings near College L., June 15 gave Santa Cruz its first breeding confirmation since 1940 (DLSu); 2 more records proved breeding there in Capitola as well this season (also DLSu). A Black-capped Chickadee in the Killgore Hills near Yreka July 7 was “well out of habitat” (MFRb). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee nest in Livermore June 5 (ALE) was far east for the central Coast Ranges—this despite the relatively dry season.

A Pygmy Nuthatch on the Sequoia L. turnout from Hwy 180 June 24 (5400 ft elev.; KH, DS) provided a rare sighting for Fresno. Two House Wrens bringing food to an active nest at Soda L., June 19 were “first breeding confirmation for Santa Cruz” (DLSu), while two at Sunset State Beach marsh July 27 (RAM) were considered “earliest ever” migrants. A Swainson's Thrush on F.I., July 12 was small and had a “very olive back,” indicating it was from one of the races breeding n. or e. of the Cascade/Sierran crest. A June 26 record of this species at Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite N.P. (DLSu), was one of few reports for the w. slope of the Sierras in recent years. Their dis-

appearance from the w slope in the last 50 years remains mysterious (see Gaines, 1977 *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*) Five-plus singing Hermit Thrushes along Rock Cr. Road w. of Hwy 395, near Tom's Place June 22 (DS) were "very gray and may be *H. g. polionata*, the White Mts. race."

A Brown Thrasher rested at F.I., June 10–13, and another record (same bird?) was of one on outer Pt. Reyes June 15 (*fide GULL*). Was the latter bird checked carefully for a band—as all vagrants should be? A California Thrasher at Bobelaine Sanctuary, Sutter, June 4 (GEW) was noteworthy in the C.V., where rare and local. As noted by TDM, the species "occurred at this site in the late 1960s–early 1970s, but [was] unrecorded in recent years." Cedar Waxwings often linger into early June away from their regular breeding range, but four truly late records this year implied widely scattered wandering or over-summering there. Two adults were feeding a begging young along Old Stagecoach Rd. east of Salinas June 11 (JB, RD), considered Monterey's first breeding record (DR). One was noted along Gazos Cr. Road, San Mateo, June 21 (AME). Individuals lingered in the town of Fall River, Shasta, with two to at least July 19 (SB). Finally, one was noted in Capitola July 21 (DLSu). Twenty-five Phainopeplas at Paicines, San Benito, July 28 (KVV) probably established a Regional high count for a single small area. Postbreeding/nonbreeding dispersal probably explains two Solitary Vireo records in the C.V.: Caswell S.P., June 25 (DGY, SAL) and Bobelaine Sanctuary July 4–12 (DJo *et al.*). Three of four Red-eyed Vireos (June 4–14) were on F.I., the other at Fairhaven, Humboldt, June 8 (GSL, JCS).

WARBLERS — Single Tennessee Warblers were on F.I., June 3–5 and in Fairhaven June 8 (JCS). A Nashville Warbler wandered up to 9360 ft in Tioga Pass, Mono, on the early date of June 27 (DLSu). Northern Parulas showed strongly through the Region, with six coastally June 6–25 (all one-day records); another there July 12, a singing male at Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore Headquarters (DGY), was where the species has bred. More newsworthy were apparent 5th-ever records for both the C.V. and our portion of the Great Basin: a singing male at Bobelaine Sanctuary, Sutter, June 20 (†BED, MJL, JH) and another at Mono L. County Park June 24 (†DLSu). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at F.I., June 2. Four Magnolia Warblers were there June 7–15, another was on outer Pt. Reyes June 2 (DDeS) and, finally, another was at Palomarin June 26–27—a very good showing for the season. A "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler at F.I., June 29 was far out of season. Hermit Warblers appeared in the C.V. very early, with two at Lodi L., July 27 (DGY) and another two on the American R. Parkway, Sacramento, July 29 (B. Mohr). Blackpoll Warblers are much more rare in spring than in fall in California, thus a 2nd F.I. record for this "spring," a male June 13, was of note. A Palm Warbler on F.I., June 13 furnished our only record. Reports on Black-and-white Warblers represented five individuals, all coastally in the first one-half of June. American Redstarts showed well, with 11 coastally June 1–28.

A Worm-eating Warbler banded on F.I., June 13 (†PP, †SFB—P R B.O.) furnished about our 4th "spring" record; observers should be aware that this is a C.B.R.C.-reviewed species and requires documentation. An impressive five Ovenbirds consisted of four on F.I., June 2–30 and another singing at Castle Rock S.P., June 16 (†DLSu) for Santa Cruz's 3rd record. A singing N Waterthrush near Silver L., Mono, June 25–30 (BHG, SG) was apparently only the 3rd-ever for our portion of the Great Basin, the two previous being from Modoc N.W.R. Another was more expected at F.I., June 9. A Kentucky Warbler on F.I., July 14–18 was determined to be a first-year female (†PP—P R B.O.). Mourning Warblers were also banded there, with males June 7 (†SFB, †PP—P.R.B.O.) and June 15 (†PP—P.R.B.O.). A Com. Yellowthroat was singing along Adobe Cr., Mono, June 3 (PJM), in a narrow riparian corridor; the species is not known to nest in the Mono Basin. On the opposite slope of the Sierra an individual was spotted in Hodgdon Meadow, singing at 4725 ft elevation June 25–26 (DLSu, BLA, PLN *et al.*). This was one

of few records for Yosemite N.P. Canada Warblers were on outer Pt. Reyes June 2 (*fide GULL*) and F.I., June 8–9, bringing our Regional total to nine for "spring." A Yellow-breasted Chat in Pescadero June 7 (PJM) was out of place at the immediate coast.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Summer Tanagers were conspicuous by their absence from this season's list of vagrants. A singing ♂ **Scarlet Tanager** at Fairhaven June 7 (†GSL, †LPL, JCS *et al.*) was a special treat—about our 11th for the Region, and the first in 5 years. Eleven reports totalling 19+ W. Tanagers July 2–31, all away from breeding areas, were all referable to a strong but not unusually-timed push of post/nonbreeding wandering. Only in the last one-half of June is this species unexpected well away from breeding areas. Eleven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (June 1–July 11) made a fair showing, after a dismal spring. Most interesting were a male along Gazos Cr. Road, San Mateo, June 13–July 11 (SEF, RF, AME, MLR, m.ob.), which sang and chased a ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak, and one well inland at Burris P., Kings, July 3 (JCS). The latter site has provided several records of vagrants. Several optimistic reports on Blue Grosbeaks were received, including a first confirmed nesting for San Benito July 28 on Union Rd. near Hollister (KVV, BHG). Five coastal district vagrants in the Period, through July 3, made an excellent total. To correct the statement in last summer's report, Crane Flat in Yosemite N.P. is a regular location for Lazuli Buntings in recent years; one was singing there again this June 26 (DLSu, BH). Ward Cyn., Placer, at the high elevation of 7500 ft, proved dependable for Lazulis this summer, with one to 10 on each of several visits June 28–Aug. 1 (MBG). An immature was present on the last date, but upslope drift still cannot be ruled out. Three Indigo Buntings (June 5–22) represented a weak showing; one was inland at Bobelaine Sanctuary June 6 (†BHB, MDH, CLZ *et al.*).

A singing Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Woodside July 8 (BS) furnished one of few records for San Mateo. An Am. Tree Sparrow on F.I., June 1 contributed another record to an anomalous pattern: it was the 14th May–July record for the island. There are only 3 other records for the state between late March and early October, and the species is exceptional anywhere s. of the Canadian border after early April. Black-chinned Sparrows were only lightly reported (14 individuals), considering the dry year (compare with spring and summer 1984). Six Sage Sparrows at Castle Rock S.P., June 16 included one carrying food for young, giving the first formal proof of breeding for Santa Cruz (DLSu). We continue to find Grasshopper Sparrows to be more common in many areas than realized a few years ago (e.g., AB 36:1014). Impressive counts in Santa Cruz included 121 at H-H Ranch, n. of Scott Cr., June 15, and 64 n.e. of Soda L., June 19 (both DLSu). Breeding was said to have been confirmed for Solano along Cantelow Rd. in June (JCL, *fide* RbL), and out-of-place individuals were at Fairhaven June 10 (GSL, RAE, JCS) and F.I., June 13.

Three Bobolinks were uncovered: Palomarin June 1, along Old Samoa Rd., Humboldt, June 7 (GSL), and Harkin's Slough June 15 (DLSu), the latter furnishing a 2nd spring record for Santa Cruz. A few more Tricolored Blackbird colonies were uncovered this Period, adding to last Period's "new" sites. Again, however, most had few birds—the exception being a 10,000-strong colony at Gilsizer Slough Marsh, Sutter (BED). Site fidelity is not strong in this species, and observers are encouraged to keep an eye on "established" colony sites. There are only 5 Yellow-headed Blackbird records in the AB files for the coastal district in this Period, and they are all for June. Thus three records for the coast this July were precedent-setting: two near the Watsonville airport July 19 (DLSu), and another at the Salinas sewage ponds July 21–24 (†DEG, CKf, KVV, BHG). Intriguing were 2 Purple Finch reports: four-plus in the vicinity of Peter Lassen's Grave, near Johnstonville, Lassen, May 26–June 12, and a male one to 2 mi w. of Frenchman L., Plumas, June 17 (both †DS). Although breeding was apparently not proven, DS was probably correct in stating that this "con-

firmly suspicions in Grinnell and Miller [1944, *The Distribution of the Birds of California*] that Purples occur on the e. side of the Sierra/Cascade axis." A persistently singing male at Westfall Meadow, Yosemite N.P., June 28 (BH, PLN, DLSu) was at the high elevation of 7120 ft. The 3 reports of Red Crossbills (unusually few, and all Sierran) were of small numbers in locales where not usually seen. Lawrence's Goldfinches were well-reported for the first summer since 1984. The most noteworthy records were of fledged young being fed along Summit Ridge July 4 (DLSu—"Not sure which county they nested in [Santa Cruz or Santa Clara]."), and four rare wanderers to the immediate coast: single males at Santa Cruz June 20 (CKf) and Fairhaven July 4 (GSL), and a male and female at Capitola, Santa Cruz, July 30 (DLSu). Evening Grosbeaks went nearly unreported, although two fledglings being fed at the mouth of Blackwood Creek, Placer, July 27 (MBG) were significant for breeding in that area.

CORRIGENDA — The observer for the Phainopepla at Foothills P., Palo Alto, June 9–11, 1982 (AB 36:1013) was J. Steck, not "Stech." Elegant Terns at Pajaro Dunes May 24, 1983 (AB 37:1024) were cited for Monterey; the locale is actually Santa Cruz.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

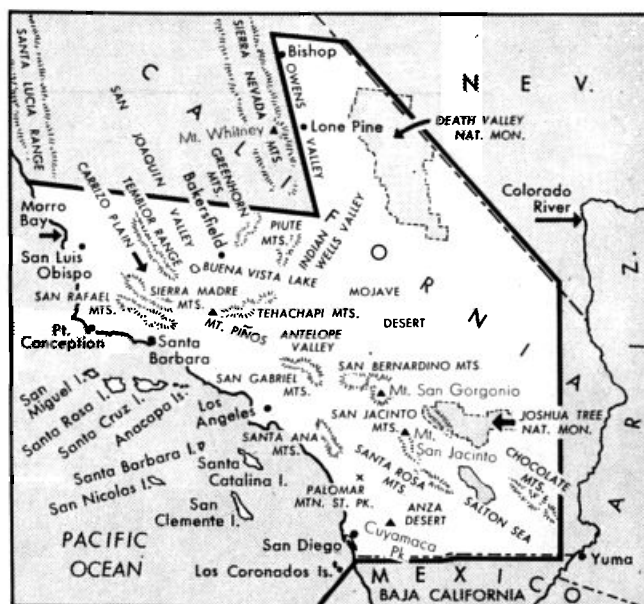
Guy McCaskie

The summer season was uneventful, with stable weather conditions and average temperatures for this time of the year.

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.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary, Ventura Co.; S.F.K.R.P. = South Fork Kern River Preserve, Kern County. 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 with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS — A Pacific Loon at N.E.S.S., June 7 (REW) was far inland where very rare. A Com. Loon at Borrego Springs, San Diego Co., June 6 (REW) was at an unusual locality, especially so at this time of year. A Horned Grebe on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., June 26 (PEL) was one of a very few to be found summering in s. California. Eared Grebes are sporadic breeders in s. California, hence 14 pairs nesting around Wasco, Kern Co. (MOC, JW), and 2 pairs nesting in Ventura (JSR) this summer were of interest.

Brown Pelicans were more numerous than expected on the Salton Sea with 500± present July 4 (GMcC). An ad. **Olivaceous Cormorant** at N.E.S.S., June 20 (MAP) was probably the same bird as seen here off and on since 1982. Magnificent Frigatebirds were somewhat scarce with single immatures over Santa Monica and Santa Barbara June 24 (RS, CL), followed by one over San Diego July 17 (MN) and another working N along the coast between Ventura and Santa Barbara July 18 (TEW, CF,



BH), one at N.E.S.S., July 12 (MAP), and a 6th at S.E.S.S., July 30 (RH).

Since Am. Bitterns are very rare in s. California in summer, the presence of 2 pairs in the Prado Basin near Corona during June and July (LRH), one or two near Lakeview throughout the summer (AMC), and one near Imperial Beach July 16 (GMcC) were of interest. Great Egrets are still on the increase around Morro Bay, with up to 95 present in July along with

15 pairs nesting (TME), two on Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts., June 14 (LRH) were at a most unusual locality. Up to six ad Little Blue Herons were present around s. San Diego throughout the period with one pair raising two young near Imperial Beach (CGE); an adult at S.E.S.S., July 18 (GMcC) was the only one found away from San Diego. A Wood Stork in the Prado Basin July 7+ (JP) was the only one found away from S.E.S.S., where up to 200 were present during June and July (RH).

WATERFOWL — Up to 15 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, now somewhat rare in s. California, were at S.E.S.S. throughout the period, and were joined by an ad. **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** Aug. 1-4 (GMcC) to furnish the 7th record for this species in California. A Greater White-fronted Goose that took up residence with domestic geese in Ventura last winter remained through the summer (JSR) and a Snow Goose that did the same thing in San Luis Obispo also remained through the summer (TME), suggesting any goose has the potential of summering in s. California. Up to five Brant were present inland at N.E.S.S. during June and July (GMcC), two were at Salton City along the w. shore of the Salton Sea July 4 (JO'B), and two more were at S.E.S.S. at the end of the period (BED), along with the expected scattered summering birds along the coast between Morro Bay and San Diego Bay.

Since Wood Ducks are considered casual in s. California in summer away from a few known nesting localities, a female accompanying six young in the Prado Basin May 7 (LRH) was of interest, and one in Santa Barbara July 11-31 (PEL) was unexpected. Up to 15 Green-winged Teal at N.E.S.S. along with up to 10 at S.E.S.S. throughout the summer (REW, GMcC) made a large number for this time of year, but of even greater interest was the fact that one of the males at N.E.S.S. was clearly of the Eurasian form, this bird being found June 3 (GMcC) and still present June 27 when well into eclipse plumage and barely separable from the associating Am. Green-winged Teal. Northern Pintails are considered uncommon and local nesters in s. California, hence a pair with three young near Lakeview Aug 6 (AMC) and another pair with four young in Imperial, Imperial Co., during June (RH) were of interest. As usual a few Blue-winged Teal were present, with 20± along the coast and an additional 10± inland. A ♀ N. Shoveler accompanying seven young in Imperial in June (RH) established the first record for nesting in this area of California. A flock of up to 35 Am. Wigeon at N.E.S.S. throughout the summer (REW, GMcC) was an exceptional concentration for this time of year.

Up to three Canvasbacks were at N.E.S.S. through July 4 (GMcC), four were in the Prado Basin June 8 (LRH), one was in Orange June 13 (DRW), and two more were on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts., June 20 (REW), this being more than normally reported in summer. Since Ring-necked Ducks are considered casual in s. California after early June, three on L. Cuyamaca in the mountains of San Diego County July 19 (REW), one near Riverside July 19 (MAP), another in Saticoy July 7 (JSR), and a 6th at Deep Springs Aug. 7 (JLD) were of note. Three Greater Scaup, very rare in summer, were on Morro Bay June 6 (PEL), another spent the entire summer at Bolsa Chica (LRH) and another was inland on L. Perris, Riverside Co., June 18 (RMcK). A Com. Goldeneye, most unusual in summer, was on L. Isabella, Kern Co., June 27 (RSh). A Bufflehead, casual in summer, was on Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo Co., through June 30 (GPS), another was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth through June 12 (PEL), two were in Chula Vista throughout the summer (EC), and another was at S.E.S.S., June 7 (REW). A Com. Merganser on L. Cachuma June 26 (PEL) was the first to be found in Santa Barbara County in summer.

RAPTORS — An ad. N. Goshawk near Lawler Lodge in the San Jacinto Mts. of Riverside County May 30 (CMcG) was in an area where nesting has long been suspected but has yet to be proven. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks again nested on Hot Springs Mt., San Diego Co., having young in the nest in July (JO'B); this species nests in the mountains of Baja California

north to at least the Sierra San Pedro Martir, and those found nesting in extreme s. California are undoubtedly from the Baja California population rather than from mainland Mexico and s.e. Arizona. Two or three Peregrine Falcons, believed to be from the population nesting in the Gulf of California, were present around the Salton Sea during June and July as usual, single birds found at 5 different localities along the coast between Santa Maria and San Diego could have been from the hacking program to reestablish this species as a breeding bird in s. California, but the birds seen around Morro Bay are known to nest locally.

SHOREBIRDS — Ninety Black-bellied Plovers at S.E.S.S., June 7 (REW) and 200± at the s. end of San Diego Bay June 1 (REW) indicated the numbers of this species that summer in s. California. Forty Snowy Plovers on Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., June 6 (EAC) were undoubtedly breeding at that location. Forty-five Semipalmated Plovers together on s. San Diego Bay June 1 (REW) made a larger-than-normal concentration for summer. Fifteen Black-necked Stilts on Big Bear L., June 14 (LRH) were at an unusual locality. Groups of 10 Greater Yellowlegs at N.E.S.S., June 13 (GMcC), five at S.E.S.S., June 7 (REW), 10 at Bolsa Chica June 28 (LRH), and up to 40 on s. San Diego Bay throughout June (REW) showed how common and widespread this species can be in summer. A Lesser Yellowlegs, considered casual in summer, was near Imperial Beach June 17 (REW). Two Solitary Sandpipers at Baker July 26 (CMcG) were the earliest reported this fall, and were followed by three more at 3 widely separated locations July 31 (PEL, AMC, GMcC). Ten Whimbrels on s. San Diego Bay throughout June (REW) and 15 at S.E.S.S., June 7 (REW) were summering, but two near Lancaster July 12 (JLD) were undoubtedly fall migrants. About 100 Ruddy Turnstones spent the summer on s. San Diego Bay (REW); one at S.E.S.S., July 18 (GMcC) and two more there July 25 (GMcC) were fall migrants at an inland locality.

More than 100 Red Knots spent the summer on s. San Diego Bay as usual (GMcC) and a bird in non-breeding plumage at S.E.S.S., June 7 (REW) was also probably summering locally, four to five at N.E.S.S., July 23-25 (RMcK) and two near Lancaster July 30 (NBB) were fall migrants. The first Semipalmated Sandpiper of the fall was a juvenile in Goleta July 23 (PEL), followed by an adult at S.E.S.S., July 25 (REW) and another juvenile at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 31 (PEL). A flock of 46 W. Sandpipers on s. San Diego Bay June 17 (REW) was an exceptional number for summer. An ad. **Rufous-necked Stint** at the S.C.R.E., July 4 (JSR) was only the 4th to be found in s. California. A Least Sandpiper, exceptionally rare in summer, was near Imperial Beach June 8 (REW). A Baird's Sandpiper on the Kern N.W.R., July 5 (HG) was an early adult fall migrant, followed by six juveniles at 4 different localities July 24-31 (CM, PEL, NBB, GMcC). A Dunlin, another exceptionally rare shorebird in summer, was near Wasco July 17-25 (MOC). About 250 Short-billed Dowitchers on s. San Diego Bay throughout June made an average number for summering at this location. A Stilt Sandpiper at S.E.S.S., July 25 (REW) was the first found this fall. Remarkable was a territorial Com. Snipe "winnowing" in flight and giving excited "yak-yak" calls from fence posts in the Garner Valley of the San Jacinto Mts., Riverside Co., May 30 (RMcK), as were one to four near Lakeview July 1+ (AMC), since nesting is unknown south of the extreme n. border of the Region; but two in the Prado Basin July 27+ (LRH) and one at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 31 (CM) were considered exceptionally early fall migrants.

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS — A S. Polar Skua, rare but regular off the coast of s. California, was off Morro Bay June 7 (BED). Five Laughing Gulls on the Salton Sea June 3 (GMcC) were the first of the post-breeding influx, which brought hundreds to that area in late June and throughout July; an adult at Morro Bay July 20 (JMcd) was along the coast where considered casual. Three Franklin's Gulls at N.E.S.S., June 6 (REW) and two more there July 4 (MJL) were the only ones

found on the Salton Sea this summer, but one on s San Diego Bay June 14 (GMcC) was on the coast where most unusual at this time of year. A juv. Heermann's Gull, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S., July 18-25 (GMcC). A Sabine's Gull at S.C.R.E., July 4 (RJM) appeared to be in first-summer plumage, hence was probably summering locally. Gull-billed Terns, first seen on s. San Diego Bay Apr. 6, remained through the summer with at least 3 pairs present; single recently-fledged young were being fed by two different adults at widely spaced localities July 11+ (EC), giving us the first evidence of nesting along the coast of California. The nesting colony of Caspian Terns at Bolsa Chica increased to 120 pairs this summer (BS), and the Caspians were joined by 25 pairs of Elegant Terns (BS), to establish the first California nesting record for this species away from s. San Diego Bay. An ad. Elegant Tern at N.E.S.S., July 4 (BED) was only the 2nd ever to be found on the Salton Sea. Fifteen pairs of Forster's Terns were found at Bolsa Chica (BS) to establish yet another nesting locality for this species. Two Least Terns at N.E.S.S., June 6-7 (REW) and up to three at S.E.S.S. through much of June (RH) were at an inland location where one or two are found each summer, but two over downtown Los Angeles June 12 were totally unexpected. Black Skimmers were commoner than usual on the Salton Sea with 500+ pairs nesting at S.E.S.S. (RMcK); 50 pairs nesting at Bolsa Chica and 6 more pairs nesting at nearby Seal Beach (BS) indicated the species is attempting to expand its breeding range on the coast, and one to four at the Santa Ynez R. mouth June 12-July 11 (PEL) were quite far north.

Single Pigeon Guillemots in Santa Barbara July 20 (GT) and at Pt. Mugu July 26 (JSR) were both at localities where unexpected. A breeding-plumaged Rhinoceros Auklet at Pt. Arguello, Santa Barbara Co., May 15 (PEL) and four there July 10 (PEL) suggested nesting at this locality.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Only 2 pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were believed to have nested at S.F.K.R.P. this summer, even though an additional five to eight males and two females were also present (SL), and five to six territorial males were also at the Prado Basin June 3+ (LRH, MAP). These were all that were reported in s. California away from the Colorado R. valley. Territorial Flammulated Owls were found at Woody's Peak near Tehachapi, Kern Co., May 9-14 (MOC), at Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel Mts. in June (KLG), at Black Mt. Campground in the San Jacinto Mts. in June (RMcK), and on Hot Springs Mt. in June (JO'B), giving an indication as to how widespread this species is in s. California. A calling N. Pygmy-Owl at Grandview Campground in the White Mts., Inyo Co., May 23 (MAP) was in an area where few have been recorded. A pair of Long-eared Owls with three young along Mono Cr. in the Upper Santa Ynez R. valley in May (JMG) gave us one of a very few documented nesting records in Santa Barbara County in recent times. A pair of Long-eareds raised three young at Boulder Cr. Camp at 8000 ft in the San Bernardino Mts. in June (RMcK), and 5 active nests near Lakeview during the summer (AMC) illustrated just how common this species can be in some areas. A N Saw-whet Owl was calling on Woody's Peak Apr. 10 (RSa), at least two were at Boulder Cr. Camp in the San Bernardino Mts. in June (RMcK), another was calling near Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., June 16 (KLG), up to five were found on Hot Springs Mt. during June (REW), and three juveniles were seen on Middle Peak of the Cuyamaca Mts., San Diego Co., July 19 (REW). A Lesser Nighthawk in Santa Barbara June 24 (JLD) was in an area where the species is considered rare. Up to three calling Whip-poor-wills were in the area of Heart Bar in the San Bernardino Mts. in May and June (MAP) and three more were at L. Fulmar in the San Jacinto Mts. during the same period (GH), both localities being known summering localities for this species, even though there is still no concrete evidence of nesting anywhere in California.

Eight Black Swifts over Lawler Lodge in the San Jacinto Mts., May 30 (EAC) were at a known nesting locality, four at Ragged Pt at the extreme n.w. corner of San Luis Obispo County June

21 (TME) could well have been nesting locally, but one over S F K R P , July 22 (SL) and three over the Prado Basin June 30 (LRH) were probably wanderers foraging for food far from nesting sites. Up to nine Chimney Swifts were over downtown Los Angeles throughout the period (KLG), one to two were at Meiners Oaks, Ventura Co., June 4-20 (RJM), two were near Corona July 22 (RMcK), and a *Chaetura* that appeared to be a Chimney Swift was over the Prado Basin all summer (LRH). An Anna's Hummingbird fledged young in Imperial in June (RH) to give us the first breeding record for s.e. California. Single ♂ Allen's Hummingbirds in the Greenhorn Mts. of Kern County July 3 & 18 (JW) were in an area where few have been positively identified. Three pairs of Downy Woodpeckers were found nesting in Victorville, San Bernardino Co. (SJM), a location somewhat outside the species' known breeding range. A Hairy Woodpecker along the Santa Ana R. near Norco, Riverside Co., June 22 (LRH) was in the lowlands where unexpected, especially in mid-summer.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Willow Flycatchers continue to have problems in s. California, with all but 3 of 18 nests found in S.F.K.R.P. being parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds (JH); four territorial males near Buellton, Santa Barbara Co., June 12 (PEL), four more in the Prado Basin all summer (LRH), and 2 pairs on Middle Peak of the Cuyamaca Mts., July 19 (REW) were the only others reported. Single Hammond's Flycatchers in the Piute Mts., June 28 (MOC) and in the Greenhorn Mts., July 3 (JW) were in suitable nesting habitat, but s. of the species' presently known breeding range. A Say's Phoebe nest found in Irvine June 1 (DRW) was unusually close to the coast. Two pairs of Brown-crested Flycatchers at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino Co., May 16 (BB) and another at China Ranch near Tecopa May 26 (JML) were at the n.w. extreme of the species' breeding range. An E. Kingbird in Corona del Mar June 11-13 (JB) was a late spring straggler. At least 3 pairs of Mountain Chickadees nested in Victorville, a desert oasis, with young being fed by adults June 5 (SJM).

Twenty Red-breasted Nuthatches were found on Middle Peak of the Cuyamaca Mts., July 19 (REW) indicating how common this species now is in an area where unknown as a breeding bird as recently as 20 years ago. Two pairs of White-breasted Nuthatches in Victorville all summer (SJM) were unexpected. An ad. Pygmy Nuthatch seen feeding a young bird in the Greenhorn Mts., June 27 (MOC) were the first to be found in this mountain range. A singing Winter Wren in Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co., June 3-7 (CM) was in an area where nesting has been suspected but has yet to be proven. A Golden-crowned Kinglet near Buckhorn Campground June 16 (KLG) was the first ever to be found in the San Gabriel Mts. in mid-summer; up to five on Hot Springs Mt. during June (REW) and 25 on Middle Peak of the Cuyamaca Mts., July 19 (REW) were in areas where nesting is yet to be proven. Twelve to 15 pairs of W. Bluebirds nested in Victorville, with many fledged juveniles in evidence in late May (SJM), this location being a little to the e. of the species' previously-known nesting range as well as being out on the Mojave Desert. A Townsend's Solitaire on Middle Peak of the Cuyamaca Mts., July 19 (REW) was s. of the species' known breeding range. A singing Hermit Thrush in Santa Barbara June 1-July 8 (JEL) was along the coast where totally unexpected in summer. A pair of Bendire's Thrashers with recently hatched nestlings near Twenty-nine Palms May 11 (AMC), and another pair that fledged two young in the Kelso Valley, Kern Co., in mid-June and then laid 4 eggs in a 2nd nest in early July (RSh) were both on the extreme fringes of the species' breeding range. Eleven Cedar Waxwings spent the entire summer in Brawley (RH), in what would appear to be most unsuitable temperatures.

WOOD WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Two Nashville Warblers in the San Bernardino Mts., June 20 (REW) and two more at Mill Cr., San Jacinto Mts., throughout June (RMcK) were in areas where nesting has long been suspected,

but is yet to be proven. Two Virginia's Warblers at the upper end of Arrastre Cr., San Bernardino Mts., June 20 (REW) were in an area that may be just in the process of being colonized. Four N. Parulas were found, with a male in Villa Park, Orange Co., June 13 (DRW), another male in Mission Viejo June 17 (GF), a 3rd male in Goleta July 14–Aug. 16 (TEW), and a female there July 18–23 (PEL). Four Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers on Middle Peak of the Cuyamaca Mts., July 19 (REW) were outside the species' known breeding range. A singing Hermit Warbler along Arrastre Cr., San Bernardino Mts., June 20 (REW), and single birds at Dawson Saddle and Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel Mts., July 16 (KLG) & 28 (GB) were all three in areas where small numbers undoubtedly nest every summer; however, an immature on Middle Peak of the Cuyamaca Mts., July 19 (REW) was probably a very early fall migrant. A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler near Imperial Beach July 15–16 (REW) was the first to be found in s. California in July. Single Black-and-white Warblers, rare in summer, were in Villa Park June 13 (LRH) and Goleta July 14–Aug. 27 (TEW). An Am. Redstart, also rare at this time of year, was in Carlsbad June 27 (HK). Two to three MacGillivray's Warblers on Black Mt. in the San Jacinto Mts. throughout June (RMcK) were undoubtedly nesting. Three Hepatic Tanagers on Clark Mt., May 28 (HG) and three to four along Arrastre Cr., San Bernardino Mts., during June (MAP) were at known nesting localities. An amazing 30–40 pairs of Summer Tanagers summered at S.F.K.R.P. (SL) and 3–4 pairs summered in Victorville (SJM), but a female in Santa Barbara July 29–Aug. 30 (VC) and a male in Julian, San Diego Co., June 22–24 (GJ) were both far from known breeding localities. Two N. Cardinals at Laguna Dam June 21–July 2 (RH) gave us only the 2nd record for this area of California. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak in San Diego June 16 (AZ) was the only one reported this summer. Five ♂ Indigo Buntings at the S.F.K.R.P. throughout the period (SL) and another in the Prado Basin June 19 (MAP) appeared to be on breeding territories, but one in Ojai June 17 (RJM) and another in Mill Creek June 10 (HC) were probably late spring vagrants. Three ♂ Rufous-crowned Sparrows in Cedar Canyon, e. San

Bernardino Co., May 10 (SFB) and an adult seen feeding young in nearby Mid Hills May 23 (EAC) were undoubtedly of the race *scottii*, only recently found in this area. A White-crowned Sparrow present in the Prado Basin from the winter remained until the remarkable date of July 2 (LRH); another at Bluff L. in the San Bernardino Mts., June 21 (REW) was in an area where nesting is possible. A ♀ Bobolink at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., June 6 (EAC) was a late spring vagrant. Again small numbers of Bronzed Cowbirds were found summering in Brawley with young being fed by orioles in June (CGE). A ♂ N. (Baltimore) Oriole present in Bakersfield June 9+ (RC) was one of very few found summering in California. Four Red Crossbills, a highly erratic species, were seen in the San Bernardino Mts., June 20 (REW). The presence of five Pine Siskins, including one juvenile, on Middle Peak of the Cuyamaca Mts., July 19 (REW) gave us our first indication of nesting in San Diego County.

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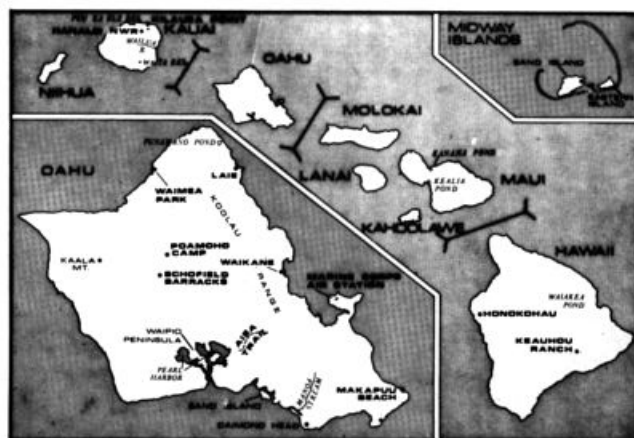
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

The summer season was generally hot with high temperatures in the low 90s, exceeding previous records by a degree or two on many dates in June and July. Trade wind flow was weak or absent, leading to spotty rainfall patterns. Windward Hawai'i Island was much wetter than normal during June and July, while all stations on Kaua'i were dry. Other islands were patchy, but cumulative rainfall in 1987 is still well below normal everywhere except on Maui and windward Hawai'i.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S. = French Frigate Shoals; H. = Hawai'i I.; K. = Kaua'i I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = O'ahu I.; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on O'ahu; BPBM = prefix for specimen numbers of B.P. Bishop Museum; H.R.B.F. = Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph File.

ALBATROSSES THROUGH DUCKS — Three Laysan Albatross chicks fledged successfully in late July (KB) from the colony on Kilauea N.W.R., K., where the nesting and resting areas are well-protected from dog attacks. Three had also fledged from there last year. An ad. (Hawaiian) Dark-rumped Petrel (Endangered) with a broken wing was picked up in Kapa'a, K., July 14 (TT), providing more evidence that a small



population of this species is probably nesting somewhere on Kaua'i. The Kapa'a bird died 3 days after pick-up.

Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened) are rarely recorded anywhere other than on or near Kaua'i, the only island where they are currently known to nest. Thus it is significant that Newells were found on 2 other islands this summer: one dead

on the beach near La'ie Pt., O., June 8 (LR, *BPBM 175873), and another alive near Hilo, H., June 21 that died 25 weeks later (PM, *BPBM 175874). Also on O'ahu a single Newell's was observed well at 8 p.m., June 29, flying around lights at Ala Moana Shopping Center in Honolulu (BE).

One Red-tailed Tropicbird, scarce in the main Hawaiian Islands of Kaua'i, was seen at J.C.N.W.R. about June 1 (BE), and another was at Makapu'u Beach at the opposite end of the island June 21 (PD). On July 4, five Red-taileds were observed together at Makapu'u Beach, which is opposite the offshore islet of Manana where the species has been known to nest. Some courtship behavior was noted (BE). A White-tailed Tropicbird was reported July 5 at Ala Moana Beach Park, O. (BE), an unusual location.

An ad. Little Blue Heron turned up again at Waipi'o, O., July 22 (PD, RD) and Aug. 3 (AE *et al.*) in the exact same locality where an adult has made brief, mysterious appearances during summer in quite a few of the past 20 years (AB 34:204 *et seq.*).

Two juv. Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen with adults at Amoriant Aquafarm, O., Aug. 3 (AE *et al.*), indicating continued breeding of this species in this area. An *Aythya* duck—probably a ♀ Ring-necked—seen at Waipi'o June 19 (PD) was way out of season, perhaps trying to oversummer in seclusion.

SHOREBIRDS AND TERNS —

S.A.

Summer season reports are usually devoid of shorebird observations, but this year a very early migrant provided an exciting first state record for Hawaii. A **Hudsonian Godwit** still in nearly full breeding plumage was discovered at Waipi'o, O., July 21 (PD), and was seen during the ensuing week by numerous experienced observers (RD, AE, KG, MO, RLP *et al.*). It was found again during the summer statewide waterbird survey on the morning of July 29, but was not seen that same afternoon nor on subsequent visits to the locality.

This was the first positive record of the species in Hawaii. One previous sighting of a godwit in winter plumage near Kahuku, O., Nov. 16, 1975 ('*Elepaio* 37:8) was identified as either Hudsonian or Black-tailed. Hudsonian Godwits are long-distance migrants from their breeding areas in arctic America. While most of them migrate SE over e. Canada and the w. Atlantic, apparently a very few move SW over the w. Pacific to winter casually in New Zealand. Bar-tailed Godwits migrate casually to Hawaii in fall and winter, and a vagrant Marbled Godwit has been recorded a time or two. Black-tailed Godwit has yet to be recorded positively in Hawaii.

A **Ruff** on Tern I., F.F.S., was still in mostly breeding plumage when first sighted June 17 (an unprecedented summer occurrence of this species in Hawaii), but gradually changed to winter plumage by late August (RV, KN, *fide* KM). A White Tern was reported June 1 well inland on Wai'ala'e-iki Ridge back of Honolulu, O. (BE). These terns are appearing frequently now in Makiki Valley, Honolulu, as far up as the pumping station (BE).

PARAKEETS THROUGH PASSERINES — A Rose-ringed Parakeet seen flying over Aimakapa Pond, H., July 9 (AK) furnished the first report of that species on Hawai'i I. since a pair nested and produced one young near Hilo in 1981. Six (Hawaiian) Short-eared Owls, or Pueo, were observed along a 1.5 mi stretch of road s.w. of Mauna Kea, Moloka'i, June 6, and two more were seen the same day several miles w. near Kaula Gulch (CS). On Kaua'i, the "owl disease" continued to take its toll as eight more Com. Barn-Owls and six Pueo were

found dead during June and July from some cause not yet determined (TT, see last season's report)

The Caprimulgid resident at Tern I., F.F.S., for a month last summer (AB 40:1258) has now been identified from excellent photographs as a **Common Nighthawk** (AE, RV *et al.*, H.R.B.F. 575 *et seq.*). This is the first record of a Caprimulgiform in Hawaii.

A White-rumped Shama nest with 4 eggs was reported July 27 in a backyard in Ewa Beach (KT), an unexpected locality in the s.w. lowlands of O'ahu rather distant from normally expected shama nesting habitat. Still another sighting of the very rare Kama'o (*Endangered*) was reported in the area between Koke'e and the Alaka'i on Kaua'i, this one on the Koai'e Cabin Trail at Kohua Ridge June 27 (DB *et al.*). Two young 'Akepa of the Hawai'i I. race (*Endangered*) fledged successfully June 24 from a nest first found May 24 in Hakalau N.W.R. (JL) Both young and both parents were banded, bringing to 42 the number of 'Akepa banded for continuing study in this Hakalau population. A Crested Honeycreeper (*Endangered*) was seen well July 4 in Waikamoi Preserve, M., at about 5500' elevation (AK), where two had been heard earlier in the day (PC, *fide* AK). Several Orange-cheeked Waxbills were seen in Ho'omaluhia Park in Kaneohe June 6 (BE), and three were found on the Hawaii Audubon trip to Sacred Falls near Punala'u (BE), both new localities for the species on the windward coast of O'ahu.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND — El Niño-type conditions have prevailed this year at Christmas Island, Kiribati (2°N 157°W, 2000 km s. of Honolulu). Rainfall in 1987, normally 10–12 inches per year, had reached 100 inches by early July and ocean water temperatures were several degrees warmer than normal. Vegetation was lush and abundant with thick grass covering nesting areas that normally are bare ground on this dry lowlying atoll. All 18 species of breeding seabirds were present in mid-July (RLP, RD, RS), but nesting was curtailed. This was especially true of Sooty Terns, whose numbers in July (a few tens of thousands) were a pittance of the several million that nested there regularly in June/July before the Great El Niño of 1982. In contrast, the atoll's only native landbird, the Bokikokiko (*Acrocephalus*), was doing much better. Adults were seen and heard singing in various parts of the atoll and juveniles were seen being fed. The small flock of about one dozen Rock Doves persists in the main village of London. Among non-breeding species present, flocks of 19 Wandering Tattlers and 40 Lesser Golden-Plovers seen July 9 were interesting at this time of year. A few Bristle-thighed Curlews also were seen. Completely unexpected was an **Osprey** watched perched and flying near Motu Upua July 11–12 (RS, RLP, RD).

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WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Rainfall as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, was 51% below average for June and 59% below average for July, following net above-average rainfall for the spring. Heavy rainfall in May and June caused some serious problems for ground-nesters at Anegada and St. Croix. Summer surveys of nesting seabirds at the inland ponds of Anegada and the mudflats of St. Croix (FS) revealed that the isolated sandbars (where hundreds of Sandwich Terns were seen in previous years) and the flats (where large numbers of Least Terns had been known to nest) were inundated. Sladen estimated that only 4% of hatched chicks actually fledged in June. Inland ponds and salinas of the Turks and Caicos Islands were notably dry during July.

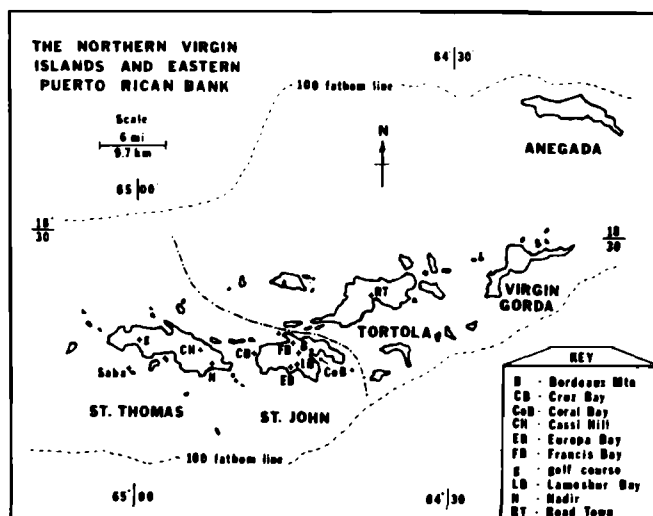
A reduction of hurricane activity, in particular, has been attributed to the lingering effects of the 1982–1983 El Niño. However, the two-to-four-year periodicity of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation has produced a minor recurrence responsible for the 1986–1987 anomalies, displacement or extremes, of rainfall observed in the Region. Gil Clark of the National Hurricane Center in Miami has stated that "This year's El Niño is weak," which would suggest a reduction in average rainfall in the Antilles.

ABBREVIATIONS — P.R. = Puerto Rico; T.C.I. = Turks and Caicos Islands.

GREBES THROUGH TERNS — Observations of Least Grebe included two at Cottage Pond, N. Caicos, T.C.I., July 22 (RLN, NC) and one near Georgetown, Grand Cayman, July 11 (CF) for perhaps the 2nd record there. Chicks seen with ad. Least Grebes at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R., July 23–30 (PM, BC) provided one of the few breeding records for s.w. Puerto Rico. Among eight Pied-billed Grebes found at Sawgrass Pond, N. Caicos, T.C.I., July 27 (RLN, NC) were two chicks, confirming that the species breeds there. An imm. Great Blue Heron seen at Coral Bay, St. John, July 19 added to the speculation that Great Blues may be occasionally nesting in the Virgin Islands.

Eleven West Indian Whistling-Ducks were seen at Sawgrass Pond, N. Caicos, July 27 (RLN, NC); the group included juveniles and molting adults. White-cheeked Pintails on St. John, July 15–17, numbered 40 adults and 12 juveniles (GEW). Two nests of White-cheekeds were found on Green Cay N.W.R., St. Croix, July 29 (BC, AM). This species was found to be less common in July in the T.C.I. (RLN). At N. Caicos, T.C.I., a group of seven Ruddy Ducks included displaying males in breeding plumage, indicative of a West Indian population. Ruddies were also noted at Grenada, with 31 seen July 3–30 (DB). An Osprey of the race *ridgwayi* was noted at Grand Turk, T.C.I., July 28 (NC, RLN), and one of the race *carolinensis* overwintered at St. Croix (FS, RW, m.ob.). In July, Grenada's population of Hook-billed Kites was estimated at 38, while the resident Broad-winged Hawks were reported to number 88 (DB). Broad-wingeds were considered fairly common on Dominica July 3–6 (RW).

Two ad. Caribbean Coots with one juvenile were found at Sawgrass Pond, N. Caicos, T.C.I., July 27 (RLN, NC) for the first breeding record for the archipelago. On Grenada, DB counted 210 Caribbean Coots July 3–30. Two Greater Yellowlegs were seen July 14 near Krause Lagoon, St. Croix (FS), indicating an early arrival there. Two dozen Lesser Yellowlegs seen June 29 at Sandy Pt., St. Croix, were for the most part still in breeding plumage (FS). Two Willet nests were found in early June at St. Croix (FS) and 25 Willets in a single flock were noted at Grenada. Three Upland Sandpipers were seen at Middle Caicos July 23, for the first report from the T.C.I. (RLN). Sightings of Whimbrels included five at Grenada during



July (DB), one at Grand Turk July 19 (PB, NC, RLN), one at N. Caicos (NC, RLN), and one at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R., June 22 (PM). Five Sanderlings at Anegada June 20 furnished an unusual summer record in the Virgin Is. (RLN, NC). On July 4 a Pectoral Sandpiper was seen on St. Croix near Krause Lagoon (FS). One Stilt Sandpiper and three Short-billed Dowitchers were noted July 14 at St. Croix (FS). Six Short-billed at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., July 1 (PM), suggested a very early arrival at this latitude.

A 3rd-year Herring Gull at East End, St. John, July 19 (GEW) represented the first summer record for the West Indies. Gull-billed Terns were found to be fairly common July 20–23 at East, Middle, and North Caicos, T.C.I., where they nest on dried salt flats. Gull-billed Terns were not seen at Anegada, where a few pairs have nested in recent years (RLN). At Grand Turk July 19, four Roseate Terns, two Com. Terns, and 19 Sandwich Terns were seen (RLN, PB, NC). Roseates were found nesting in small numbers on a small cay off the n. coast of Middle Caicos July 24 (RLN). About 50 Roseates were counted off Pague Bay, on the n.w. coast of Dominica, July 4 (RW). During July, 31 terns (Common or Roseate) were seen at Green I. and St. George I., Grenada (DB). Least Terns were fairly common in the T.C.I. during late July (RLN, NC), but the species did not fare well on St. Croix this season (*vide* FS). A pair of ad. Bridled Terns and a juvenile seen July 5–14 at Desecheo N.W.R., P.R., may have indicated the first breeding record there, being the only Bridleds seen among many Sooty Terns (*vide* BC).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES — White-crowned Pigeons were numerous on Middle and East Caicos, T.C.I., in late July (RLN). White-winged Doves, however, were abundant in the T.C.I., moving among the major islands in search of fruit-bearing palms and other vegetation. This was easily the most common columbid in the archipelago in late July (RLN). Zenaida and Mourning doves are also resident in the T.C.I., but are less common. White-winged Doves were also very common in s.w. Puerto Rico near Cabo Rojo (200+) and Punta Molina (600+) during the first week of July (PM). On Grenada, Eared Doves and Zenaida Doves are equally common in July (DB). The Grenada Dove, now lumped with Gray-fronted Dove, was found to have a limited distribution and to be very uncommon, or perhaps one-seventh as numerous as either Zenaida or Eared doves on Grenada (DB). Key West Quail-Dove was not seen or heard around Kew, N. Caicos, in late July (RLN), where it is purported to be fairly common (Sanderson 1982).

Five Red-necked Parrots were noted at Dominica July 5-6 (RW). However, Dominica's national bird, the Imperial Parrot, yielded only a brief sighting of one individual during a search of appropriate habitat July 3 (RW). Habitat loss and destructive hurricanes since 1979 have brought the endemic parrot close to extinction. Evidence of cave-dwelling Com. Barn-Owls was noted at Middle Caicos July 23 (NC, RLN). One barn-owl was noted at Grenada during July (DB). Antillean Nighthawks are thought to be breeding on St. Croix, but this has not yet been confirmed (FS, RW et al.). Antillean Nighthawks were numerous at Middle Caicos and fairly common at Anegada, but may have suffered some nest mortality as a result of high water. A nightjar (sp.) noted at Dominica July 3 (RW) was very unusual for that location.

A Black Swift seen in coastal s.w. Puerto Rico near Punta Molina July 31 (PM) furnished one of the few records away from the central mountains. Black Swifts were fairly common at Dominica during the first week of July (RW). A swift described as large (8-9"), mostly white below with an ill-defined dusky breast-band and a white throat, was seen for nearly 2 hours and photographed at Desecheo N.W.R., P.R., July 9 (BC, AM). The description fits that of Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*), which was first recorded in the West Indies in 1955 after a hurricane. Further examination of the photograph is warranted.

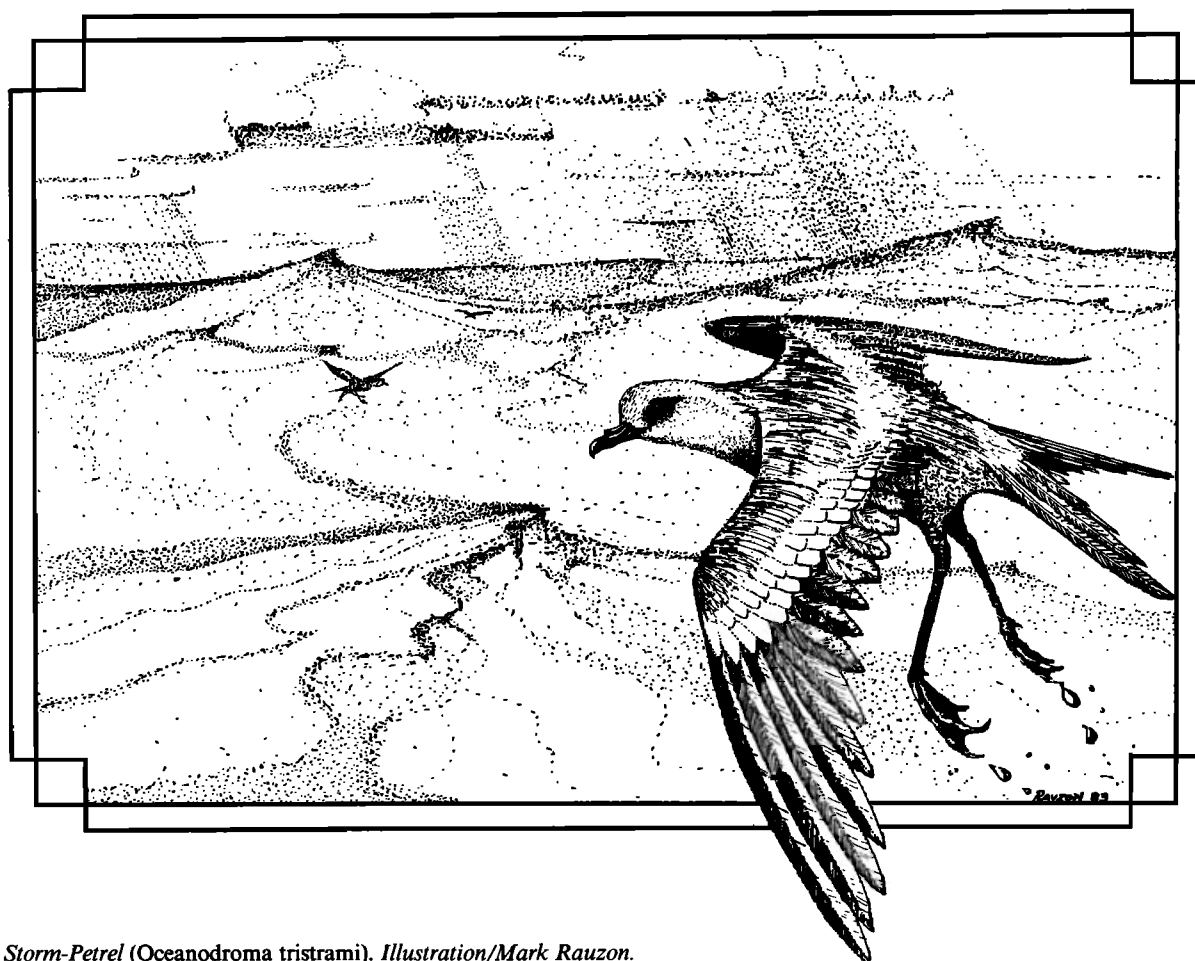
Four Rufous-breasted Hermits were observed during July at Grenada (DB), the only location in the Caribbean where this hummingbird is found. At Dominica July 4, RW noted a single Blue-headed Hummingbird; the species is endemic to that island and Martinique. A Barn Swallow was seen at E. Caicos, T.C.I., July 24 (NC, RLN), for one of the few July records from the Region. Cuban Crows apparently range occasionally to E.

Caicos, where an individual was seen and heard July 24 (RLN, NC). This extends the published range of the crow in the T.C.I., where it is hunted because it is considered a menace to agriculture. House Wrens were common at Grenada during July (DB) and fairly common at Dominica July 4-6 (RW). Bare-eyed Thrush was also common at Grenada (DB), and RW noted a Forest Thrush at Dominica July 5. The ever-elusive Rufous-throated Solitaire was seen at Dominica July 6 (RW).

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher seen at Grand Cayman July 12 (CF) furnished the first summer record for the Caymans. Five to six Eur. Starlings were noted at a dairy farm at Boqueron, P.R., June 9 through July (PM). It is feared that a resident starling population could potentially threaten local populations of the seriously endangered Yellow-shouldered Blackbird, also a hole-nester. A Louisiana Waterthrush seen July 26 at a fresh-water pool near Kew, N. Caicos, furnished the first record for the T.C.I. (RLN, NC). A House Sparrow seen attending a nest in Boqueron through July 23 (BC, AM) furnished the first P.R. record w. of Ponce.

ADDENDUM — The Bar-tailed Godwit at St. Croix mentioned in the spring report left May 28 (FS). Two Greater Flamingos at Vieques, the 2nd and 3rd there in recent years, appeared Jan. 3-6, 1987, after strong S winds (DG). Sightings at Eleuthera, Bahamas, this spring included a Piping Plover Mar. 15 and an Am. Robin and a Summer Tanager Mar. 16 (PS).

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Sooty Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tristrami*). Illustration/Mark Rauzon.

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American Birds **BIRDATHON/88**

**AMERICAN BIRDS sponsors only one fund-raising event a year—
and this is it!**

What is a Birdathon?

April 6 our valiant superbirding team takes to the field in southwest Florida. They'll scour the countryside to find as many bird species as possible in 24 hours.

Pledge as much as you can *per species* in support of AMERICAN BIRDS. You could win a prize *and* your name will appear in AMERICAN BIRDS magazine (Summer issue).

What you can win

Pledgers have a chance to win one of **THREE** fabulous birding trips or one of three dozen birding books autographed by the authors.

Your team

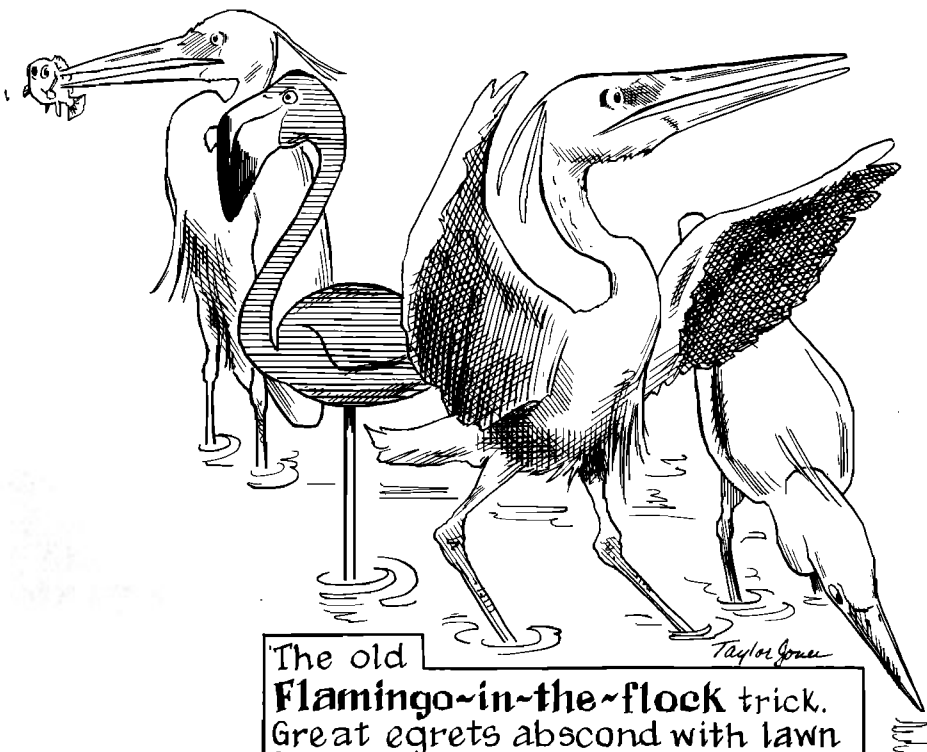
This year's fantastic foursome includes: Susan Roney Drennan (editor of AMERICAN BIRDS), National Audubon Society board members Joe Siphron and Jim Kessler, and Alexander Sprunt IV (NAS Vice President and Director of Field Research).

Bonus prize

Last year our team found 153 species; two years ago they found 113 species. How many will they find this year? Guess the correct number of species and win an AMERICAN BIRDS 3-way utility flashlight!

Your pledge will be multiplied times the number of species seen to determine your donation.

All pledges must be postmarked no later than April 15, 1988



The old
Flamingo~in~the~flock trick.
Great egrets abscond with lawn
flamingos, garden gnomes and duck
windmills to decorate wetlands
and confound ornithologists.

**Pledge
today!**

**See page 1505
for Official Rules**

Our special thanks to our prize donors:
Falkland Islands Tourism; Elk Lake
Lodge; and Peter Harrison, Robin
Woods, and David Rains Wallace
for copies of their books.

Sponsor **AMERICAN BIRDS** magazine and win one of these prizes

★ **FIRST PRIZE** ★

- Sixteen days in the Falkland Islands, a South Atlantic birding paradise, November 16–29, 1988, (see page 1381)* **(two First Prize winners)**

★ **SECOND PRIZE** ★

- A place at the Elk Lake Ornithology Workshop in the Adirondack Mountains June 18–24, 1988 (see page 1493)* **(one Second Prize winner)**

★ **THIRD PRIZE** ★

- One of these free autographed books: “Life in the Balance” by David Rains Wallace, “Birds of the Falklands” by Robin Woods, or “Seabirds of the World: A Photographic Guide” by Peter Harrison **(36 Third Prize winners)**

- Winners will be drawn at random

*Complete the attached pledge form and mail it **today!** Send no money, we'll let you know how many birds our team spots and the total amount of your pledge*

Winners will be notified immediately.

American Birds **BIRDATHON/88**

Yes! I want to help support **AMERICAN BIRDS**. Here's my pledge per species:

- \$3.00 \$2.00 \$1.00
 75¢ 50¢ 25¢ 20¢
or more _____

Name _____ Phone # (_____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My guess is that the AMERICAN BIRDS team will find _____ species.
If I'm right, you'll send me a **FREE** 3-way utility flashlight

Send no money, invoices will be sent out immediately after the Birdathon