

**STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS
USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS**

**Abbreviations used in
place names:**

In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties.

Other abbreviations:

Cr	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile(s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

**Abbreviations used in the
names of birds:**

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	European or Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

**Other abbreviations and symbols
referring to birds:**

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenal or juvenile
sp.	species
†	means that written details were submitted for a sighting
*	means that a specimen was collected
♂	male
♀	female
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

THE SUMMER SEASON

June 1–July 31, 1992

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ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

Like most of northeastern North America, the Region experienced a cold and wet summer. June was the most unseasonable cold month and probably the most damaging to nesting songbirds. There was little noticeable effect on songbirds. This would be difficult to detect without detailed breeding population studies; something unlikely to be undertaken with the limited resources and finances available in the Region. The exception was a nearly unanimous feeling that swallow numbers were low. Poor young production was confirmed by a series of 30 Tree Swallow nest boxes in New Brunswick, where 75% of the young died before fledging.

It is well known that migration of passerines continues well into June. But a wave of birds on Sable Island, Nova Scotia, on June 18 that included six species of warblers, Gray-cheeked Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow, and an astounding 24 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, seemed too late for migrants intending to breed in 1992. Could they have been reverse migrants retreating maybe just temporarily, from wintry northern breeding grounds?

Possibly related to the cold weather and corresponding cooler ocean temperatures, capelin—the food fish of the northwest Atlantic Ocean—were very scarce around Newfoundland. Nesting seabirds were hard hit, with very little reproduction in some species—most notably Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Through the doom and gloom, the season had its usual speckling of surprising finds that brighten up any birdwatching day.

Abbreviations: G.M.I. (*Grand Manan Island*); G.M.N.P. (*Gros Morne National Park*); S.P.M. (*St. Pierre et Miquelon*).

LOONS TO HERONS

Two or three pairs of Red-throated Loons were in the usual nesting area of Miquelon, S.P.M. (DDe). Nonbreeding Red-throated Loons in s. Newfoundland were one July 12 at Cheeseman P.P. and two July 12 at Cape Ray (ST). A Red-necked Grebe near Mahone Bay, NS, June 14 was 6 weeks beyond normal spring departure (J & GT).

As usual, large numbers of Greater Shearwaters flocked to the inshore waters of the Avalon Pen., NE, to feed on spawning capelin. The only count made was 5,000 feeding within a half mi of the beach at Argentia July 17 (BMT). A new stronghold for Greater Shearwaters was discovered by Ian McLaren who was fortunate to be

aboard a ship chartered by Parks Canada to explore a submarine canyon e. of Sable I., NS, called "The Gully." McLaren had counts of up to 800 around the ship at one time and felt there were many thousands in the area July 24–28.

Colombier I., S.P.M., continues to attract good numbers of Manx Shearwaters during the breeding season, but with no actual breeding proved so far (RE, J & CH). The species is notably easier to see around the coast of the Avalon Peninsula then elsewhere in Newfoundland. The only known breeding site in the Region is Middle Lawn I., NF.

Leach's Storm-Petrels were present by "the thousands" at "The Gully," e. of Sable I., NS, July 24–28 (IM), and by "the hundreds" from the N. Sydney, NS, to Argentia, NE, ferry July 17 (BMT).

The much sought after Little Egret at Bon Portage I., NS, remained throughout the period for the 3rd consecutive year (v.ob). Reports of "southern herons" seemed low. New Brunswick had a pair of Snowy Egrets at Saint's Rest Marsh for the entire period (CJ *et al.*) Nova Scotia had a Snowy Egret through July at Conrad's Beach (AV *et al.*), a Little Blue Heron, July 14 at Port Mouton (HM), and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, July 17 at Three Fathom Harbour (RF). A Least Bittern spent the last 2 weeks of July at Musquash, NB (JW).

WATERFOWL

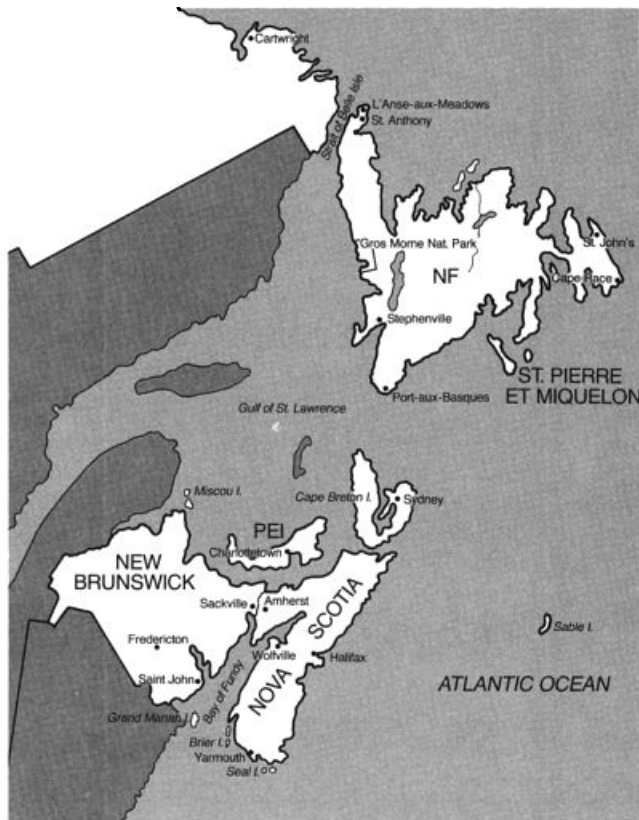
A Wood Duck July 11 at Deer L., NF, was probably a post-breeding wanderer (MP). Northern Shovelers are well established breeders at a few locations in the w. half of the Region. They are still newsworthy birds in

Newfoundland where they are making some headway toward becoming an established breeder. There were two pairs in June near the site of the provinces' only breeding record in the Lower Grand Codroy R. (*vide* BMT). Elsewhere in Newfoundland there was a female June 1 at Stephenville (KK), a male June 10 in G.M.N.P. (BD), and a pair June 18 at Eddies Cove E. (BB). Less numerous than the preceding species, but following a similar pattern of settling into the Region, a Gadwall late May-June 7 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., was a local rarity (RE *et al.*). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon paired with a ♀ wigeon of uncertain nationality in mid-June at the lower Grand Codroy R., NF, was intriguing (*vide* BMT). Six broods of Am. Wigeon with a total of 49 young, and an additional 11 adult males were present on the mysteriously rich little pond at Stephenville Crossing July 13 (ST). The same pond contained an impressive group of 123 ♂ Greater Scaups July 13 (ST) These were presumably post breeding birds, but from where? Insular Newfoundland? Labrador? Quebec?

Harlequin Ducks continue to maintain a weak presence on insular Newfoundland during the breeding season. Pairs were seen inland on traditional nesting waterways at Stag Brook, G.M.N.P., June 19 (TP) and the Upper Humber River June 16 (HH, BMT). A ♂ Harlequin Duck was present at extreme s. Nova Scotia at Seal I. on the inexplicable date of June 13 (IM). The largest summering, nonbreeding concentration noted for each species of scoter was: five Blacks June 28 at Conrad's Beach, NS (IM); 120 Surfs, June 30 at L'Anse-au-Diable, Labrador (BD), and 90 White-winged, July 12 at Cheeseman P.P., NF (ST). If only the ♀ Ruddy Duck that summered at Tracadie, NB (RD), had known about the three males that summered at Sackville, NB (JE *et al.*), we might be looking at an important new breeding record. Maybe it did know! Two other males were at Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary, NS, on June 6 (BMy *et al.*).

DIURNAL RAPTORS TO RAILS

The few Turkey Vulture reports from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia reflect the blase attitude adopted by resident birders after its recent increase in Region; though breeding is still to be confirmed. A Red-shouldered Hawk nest containing two young July 25 at Joliff Cr, NB, was exciting (RW). The species reaches the n. limit of its breeding range in s. New Brunswick. Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous than normal across the island of Newfoundland, especially in the n.. There was a general, though unsubstantiated, feeling that these were birds unable to find food in Labrador. A Rough-legged Hawk July 10 at Tracadie, NB, was notably far s. for summer (RD).



The Peregrine Falcon has never been known to nest on insular Newfoundland; however, a pair in courtship display in early June on Baccalieu I. (JR) and an adult July 18 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows (ST) suggest breeding could be happening. A "cream colored" Gyrfalcon June 11 at Middle Cove, NF, provided the 2nd consecutive summer record for the St. John's area (KK).

A Clapper Rail June 13 at Whale Cove Marsh, G.M.I., NB, provided one of the very few, if not the only summer record for the Region (GW). Most of the 20 plus records for the Regions are from late fall. A good count of eight Com. Moorhens June 28 at Musquash, NB, provided the only report (DG).

SHOREBIRDS

Several observers commented on the early abundance of S shorebirds. There was a widespread rumour that cold weather in the Arctic prevented many shorebirds from breeding and that this would cause early departure of adults. Some high counts of shorebirds early in the season lent some support to this theory: 20 Lesser Golden-Plover, July 31 at Miquelon, S.P.M. (BBo); 200 Whimbrels, July 15 followed by 320 (perhaps the highest count ever in the Region) July 21 on Miquelon, S.P.M. (RE, J & CH); and 560 Short-billed Dowitchers, July 11 at Three Fathom Hbr., NS (Bmt).

An American Oystercatcher at Marsh Pt., White Head I., NB, in mid-June added to the handful of sightings in the Region over the last 5 years (*vide* PP). The earliest of several July Stilt Sandpipers was one July 11 at Three Fathom Harbour, NS (Bmt). The largest concentration of Semipalmated Sandpipers reported was 40,000 July 30 at Dorchester Cape, NB (*vide* JE). A pair of Greater Yellowlegs successfully nested in a forest cut over near Stellarton, NS, providing a 2nd mainland Nova Scotia breeding record (KM, CB). Nova Scotia's first confirmed breeding record of Upland Sandpiper was established with an adult and one young July 4-12 at Merigomish I. (BMy *et al.*). Another Upland Sandpiper was near Middle Stewiacke, NS, on the intriguing date of July 3 (MR; Penn. Buck Co. Audubon Society). Very rare, but now annual in the Region, single Marbled Godwits were at Port Howe, NS, June 7 (PM *et al.*) and Kouchibouquac N.P., NB, July 23-30 (DD *et al.*). The one Eur. shorebird was a Ruff July 23 at Matthews Lake, NS (AC, BMC).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger July 19 at Pt. Riche, NF, was feeding on spawning caplin (ST). The largest of several mid-summer counts of jaegers in Newfoundland was two Pomarine, one Parasitic and nine unidentified jaegers in Placentia Bay July 19 (BMT). The only skua report was one unidentified in Placentia Bay, NF, July 7 (KE, DW).

For the first time in several summers Nova Scotia outnumbered Newfoundland in Laughing Gulls. Nova Scotia had two (one

adult, one 2nd-summer) July 19 at Merigomish I. (*vide* BMy) and a 2nd-summer July 27 at Powell Pt., P.P. (KM). Newfoundland's single Laughing Gull was an adult July 10 at Renew's (KE, DW). A survey of Ladle Cove I., NF, one of the Region's 2 proven Com. Black-headed Gull nesting sites, revealed no Black-headed Gulls on July 11 (PL). Ten ad. Com. Black-headed Gulls July 12 at Stephenville Crossing, NF, was the largest summertime count there in over 5 years (ST). A very odd and striking looking gull at Stephenville Crossing, NF, June 27 appeared to be an ad. hybrid Com. Black-headed × Ring-billed gull. It was intermediate in plumage and structure between the 2 species including a pale red bill with a black ring. Summer Mew Gulls are very rare in the Region. This summer there was an adult June 28 and July 3 at St. John's, (PL, KK) and another adult July 20 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF (BMy). Lesser Black-backed Gulls in contrast are found each summer in the Region. This summers reports were single 2nd-summer June 2 at St. John's, NF (BMT), and July 19 at Port Saunders, NF, and Shoal Cove, NF (ST); plus an unaged bird was at Robichaud, NB on July 30 (ST).

S.A.

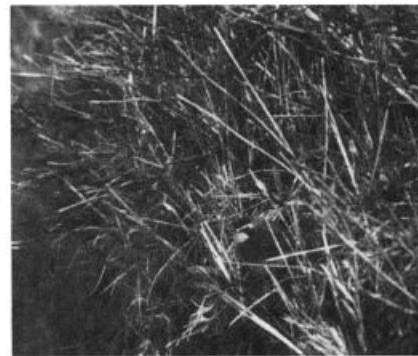
A moratorium on cod fishing along the entire e. coast of Newfoundland, and a capelin shortage had serious effects on breeding gulls and alcids in Newfoundland. Great Black-backed and Herring gulls produced very few young because of a food shortage caused by the lack of fish offal, and to a lesser extent the shortage of capelin. Newfoundland's two largest Ring-billed Gull breeding colonies, each over 1000 pairs, failed completely; apparently due to predation by a few pairs of Great Black-backed and Herring gulls.

Black-legged Kittiwake failed dismally in e. Newfoundland. Colonies of thousands of adult birds held mostly empty nests. A specific count from a colony in neighbouring St. Pierre et Miquelon found only 30 out of 1600 nest with young on July 19 (RE)! The lack of capelin was the blame for the disaster.

Common Murres and Atlantic Puffins did better. Being able to dive they could reach fish unavailable to the surface feeding gulls. However, the nesting season was delayed by weeks. The effects on survival of young fledged 2 or 3 weeks behind schedule is unknown.

Unfortunately this is the 2nd year there has been a capelin shortage and a poor breeding season for kittiwakes, murres and puffins. The capelin shortage is at present a mystery to the fisheries scientists. Below average ocean temperatures has been a frequent reason given.

Capelin is the top of the food chain in the northwest Atlantic Ocean, from cod fish to seabirds to whales. Whale specialist John Lien reported "whales in a very large groups moving about quickly as if they were searching for food." The problem is real.



Kentucky Warbler on Sable Island, Nova Scotia, on June 3, 1992. One of the few spring records ever for the Maritimes. Photograph/Ian McLaren.

Despite the bad news concerning the breeding success of Black-legged Kittiwakes in Newfoundland, the species made 2 significant breeding range extensions. Canadian Wildlife biologists discovered 7 to 10 nests on the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Fundy on South Wolf I. (*vide* BD), providing a first breeding record for New Brunswick and a considerable southward breeding range extension. The closest breeding site is 250 mi to the n.e. in Cape Breton I., NS. Another important new breeding site was discovered on Stearin I. off Gros Morne N.P., NF. The half a dozen nests constitute the first breeding record of kittiwake for the entire w. coast of Newfoundland (*vide* WAM). There is probably no direct connection between the mass kittiwake nesting failure experienced in e. Newfoundland and these 2 new breeding sites, as adults had been present for some years previous in both areas.

Three pairs of Roseate Terns instead the usual one pair were breeding on Machias Seal I., NB (*vide* BD). Good counts of Com./Arctic terns were 2400 (mostly Arctic) in early June on Sable I., NS (IM), and 900 in June on Miquelon, S.P.M. (RE).

One of the very few, as well as being the largest, breeding colony of Caspian Terns in the Region was doing just fine on Ladle Cove I., NF, with at least 37 nests containing young on July 11 (PL, PR). Termed unseasonable were two Caspian Terns July 13 at Saint John, NB (IS). Two Black Terns July 15 on Miquelon, S.P.M., were rarities (RE).

DOVES TO WARBLERS

Almost expected somewhere in the Region each summer the long distance straying White-winged Dove was found at Fundy N.P., NB, in late June (DC). Very unseasonable were two separate Snowy Owls that spent the entire reporting period in New Brunswick: one at Tracadie (RD) and the other at Kouchibouquac N.P. (DD). Short-eared Owls, like Rough-legged Hawks, were widespread and numerous across Newfoundland and probably for the same reason: a food shortage in Labrador. A Boreal Owl June 10 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., was a "rare sight for the season" (BL).

A pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds June 13 on Miquelon, S.P.M., was unusual (LD).

S.A.

Twenty-four Yellow-bellied flycatchers on June 18 at Sable I., NS, is mind boggling (ZL). The high number makes it difficult to put them down as just "late migrants." Could they have been reverse migrants, temporarily retreating from the cold, inhospitable weather that lingered through June in much of its n. breeding range?

Interestingly on the same day there were two other northern breeders, White-crowned Sparrow and Gray-checked Thrush, plus a host of warbler species which breed on adjacent mainland Nova Scotia as well as farther n.: single Tennessee, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped and Blackpoll warblers, and two Yellow Warblers and one Am. Redstart.

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are being reported more frequently each year in the Region. After two birds in the spring, there was one June 13 Whale Cove, G.M.I., NB (WG, GW), and another or the same bird again July 23 Swallowtail, G.M.I. (AS).

Tree Swallows had a terrible nesting season at G.M.I., NB, with 75–90% mortality of young in late June due to constant rain (BD). All observers who commented on swallows agreed that numbers were low for the 2nd summer in a row. The cumulative effect of 3 consecutive cold and wet springs and early summers seems to be showing. A wandering Cliff Swallow July 14 ended up on Miquelon S.P.M. (RE).

A major rarity in the Region just 10 years ago, the Carolina Wren is now threatening to become a breeder! New Brunswick had two resident males singing all summer at Saint John (DP) and one July 24 at Mare's Bay (RW). Nova Scotias 6th provincial record was a singing male July 2–21 at Bedford (BMy *et al.*).

A pair of House Wrens, with a nest and 6 eggs (later abandoned), at Currieburg, NB, was the first nesting in New Brunswick in about 20 years (R & CI). Another rare summer House Wren was at G.M. I., NB, in July (PP). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher June 12 & 13 on Seal I., NS (IM), was a late spring overshoot, but one July 8 at Pokiok, NB (DM), was a rare mid-summer occurrence for the Region. A ♀ **Northern Wheatear** at Sydney, NS, on July 10 provides the first July record s. of Newfoundland for this always exciting bird (DM, BC). Eastern Bluebirds continue to breed in increasing numbers and at new locations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. A **Wood Thrush** May 15–June 7 was photographed at Brig Bay, NF, for an overdue provincial first (JG). A Gray Catbird nesting at Cape Miquelon, S.P.M., furnished the first breeding record for the French islands, where otherwise it is a rare but regular vagrant (J & CH). A N. Mockingbird was far n. at Plum Pt., NF, on June 4 (KK).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

A pair of Philadelphia Vireos with a nest containing young in Kejimikujik N.P. in late July provided the first confirmed breeding record for Nova Scotia, though it has been suspected of doing so long before (*vide* IM). A Nashville Warbler carrying food July 18 at Blue Ponds P.P., NF, was rare evidence of nesting in the province (BD). A pair of breeding Pine Warblers at Newcastle, NB, extends the breeding range E in the province (DD). A singing ♂ Prairie Warbler June 23–27 on Kent I., NB, appears to be the first non-autumn migration occurrence for the Region (NW). A Kentucky Warbler June 3 at Sable I., NS, was one of the few spring sightings ever for the Region (IM).

A pair of Cardinals thought to be nesting at New Minas, NS, was north of traditional Nova Scotia breeding locations (*vide* JT). A ♂ Dickcissel June 14 at Kent I., NB, provided one of the few June records for the Region (NW). A Clay-coloured Sparrow sang at Pokiok, NB, July 17–25 (DK, TB). Vesper Sparrows, a local breeder in the Region, continue to increase as their favourite breeding habitat in this Region, commercial blueberry fields, expands. This is especially evident in Cumberland, Colchester, and Pictou counties (BMy).

The Yellow-headed Blackbird of this summer was July 16 at Lameque, NB (RC). Late Spring overshooting Orchard Orioles were one imm. male May 28 & 29 at Kent I., NB (NW), and a female June 11 at Seal I., NS (IM).

The lack of finch reports indicates a calm period for this volatile group. An influx of White-winged Crossbills appeared in July on the N. Peninsula, NF. Some large flocks, up to 150 individuals, of Pine Siskins and Com. Redpolls were encountered in e. Newfoundland in July.

Observers (subregional editors in **boldface**): Todd Beech, Bernard Borota, Bruce Bradbury, Calvin Brennan, Rose-Aline Chaisson, David Christie, Al Covert, Bill Crins, **Brian Dalzell**, David Detcheverry, Louisa Detcheverry, Robert Doiron, Denis Doucet, Kim Eckert, **Jim Edsall**, **Roger Etcheberry**, Roger Foxall, John Gibbons, Don Gibson, Walter Green, Jackie and Christine Hebert, Holly Hogan, Roger and Connie Ince, Cecil Johnson, Dan Keppie, Ken Knowles, Bruno Letournel, Paul Linegar, Zoe Lucas, Bruce Mactavish, **Blake Maybank**, Bill McCormick, Hugh McCormick, Dave McCorquodale, Ken McKenna, Peter McLeod, **Ian McLaren**, William A. Montevicchi, David Myles, Dorothy Patterson, Mike Parmenter, Peter Pearce, Ted Potter, Margie Rattbell, Janet Russell, Pierre Ryan, Andrew Sharkey, Ian Steed, **Stuart Tingley**, Judy and Gordon Tufts, Azor Viennau, Ron Weir, Nathaniel Wheelwright, Gene Wilhelm, Jim Wilson, Dave Wolf, various observers. Bruce Mactavish, 37 Waterford Bridge Road, St. John's, NF, A1E 1C5.

QUEBEC REGION

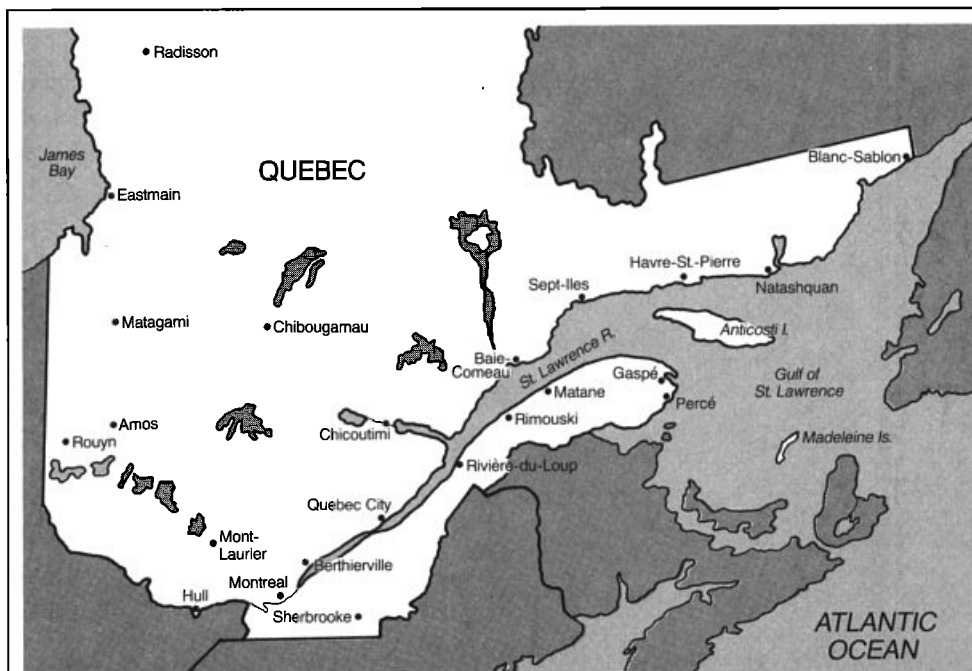
Richard Yank and Yves Aubry

This will be remembered as "the year with very little summer." Stationary weather patterns caused by El Niño, combined with the cooling effect of ash from the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, were blamed for the persistent cold temperatures and frequent precipitation. Numerous storms hit all parts of the province in June, and it was the worst summer in decades for areas of southern Quebec, where cool and wet conditions extended through July. The only bright note came from northern Quebec, which received a respite from the rain—if not the cold—during July. While conditions were severe enough to send many vacationers scurrying south, the impact on local bird populations was more difficult to assess. There were some reports of failed nesting attempts by Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds following periods of heavy rain. Concern was also expressed over waterfowl breeding success, although complete census data is not yet available, and Common Terns obviously had a dismal season.

Ongoing fieldwork under the sponsorship of Hydro-Québec continues to enrich our understanding of the importance of the James Bay lowlands for many breeding birds. We also thank the Canadian Wildlife Service for access to results of their seabird and endangered species surveys.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The breeding distribution of the Pacific Loon was extended S to James Bay with the discovery of a pair caring for two flightless young on a lake 2 km e. of Attikuan Pt., Aug. 4–9 (MR *et al.*). A little farther n., a pair was also found 10 km. e. of Pt. Louis XIV (RB, GM). The resident population of Horned Grebes found on the Magdalen Is. was evaluated at 34 birds compared to 41 found there in 1989 (FS *et al.*). An ad. Am. White Pelican appeared at La Baie June 13 (PPa, AG), and what was likely the same bird was relocated 100 km. farther w. at Saint-Méthode, *L. Saint-Jean*, July 22–31 (CS *et al.*), while the Region's 2nd **Brown Pelican** was an immature that flew passed observers at Havre-aux-Maisons, *Magdalen Is.*, July 26 (PFR, FS, SL). The 5-year cormorant culling program continued in the St. Lawrence estuary this year but in what may be a related development, colonies of Double-crested Cormorants were found for the first time on I. aux Oeufs and Petit Caouis I.—2 islands situated farther east in the n.w. corner of the gulf (JLD). Previously unknown Great Blue Heron colonies have also been established on these islands, as well as on Pancras Pt., near Baie-Comeau (JLD). An Am. Bittern at Kakassituk Pt., June 27 (RB, GM) was farther n. than usual along James Bay, and on Aug. 6 another was located n. of the Denys R., e. of Hudson Bay



(SBr *et al.*). Five or more Great Egrets frequented islands e. of Montreal, from Boucherville to Berthier, during the summer (*vide* PBa), and a Cattle Egret was noted among the Verchères Is., June 7–10 (LB, DDi *et al.*). A Great Egret also reached Plaisance, *Papineau*, June 22 (CAL), while a Snowy Egret wandered E to Isle-Verte, *Rivière-du-Loup*, June 7 (GCa *et al.*). The Region's 8th Yellow-crowned Night-Heron—the 3rd for the Magdalen Is.—was an adult at Etang-du-Nord June 6–9 (DGG, FS).

Unusual summer waterfowl sightings involved two Snow Geese near Beauharnois June 20 (BL), one at Contrecoeur, *Verchères*, June 12–27 (MBe, MR), a Brant at the latter site July 7 (MBe), and a Barnacle Goose of unknown origin identified by visiting birders at *Rivière-la-Madeleine*, *Gaspé*, July 7 (WWD *et al.*). Growing summer concentrations of Canada Geese are being observed in s. Quebec; more than 600 were found at Saint-Fulgence, *Chicoutimi*, throughout the season (CCr) and 230 were tallied at Contrecoeur June 5 (MBe). Among the unexpected summer ducks were one to three ♂ Eur. Wigeons at Cacouna June 7–28 (ACo *et al.*), one to two at Rimouski June 14–27 (JLr), and one at Longueuil July 10 (DDi); a ♀ Com. Eider at Contrecoeur June 12 (MBe); and a White-winged Scoter above the Beauharnois dam June 20 (BL). But the highlight was a ♂ Cinnamon Teal seen at Contrecoeur July 2 (MBe) providing only the 5th record for the province. Six broods and 22 more ad. Surf Scoters were present July 12 on L. Malbaie, *Montmorency* (PFr), where the species was first found nesting in 1988. We are still discovering the importance of the e. shore of James Bay for waterfowl. New evidence of breeding was obtained for the White-winged Scoter, with a few hundred pairs and dozens of broods found between Castor R. (53° 24'N) and Pt. Louis XIV (54° 38'N). Single broods of Buffle-



Albinistic male Northern Gannet on Bonaventure Island, Quebec, during the summer of 1990. This bird was present again during the 1992 breeding season and was paired with a normal female gannet. Photograph/I. L. Couture.

heads were found on small lakes near the Castor, Piagochioui, and Roggan rivers in late July, as well as near Attikuan Pt. where the species bred in 1991 (RB, GM). Two aerial searches for Harlequin Ducks were conducted June 3–21 inland from Hudson Bay, including Guillaume-Delisle L. and the watersheds of the Nastapoca, Petite-Baleine, and Grande-Baleine rivers (SBr, AD). These flights yielded a total of 362 birds, including 155 pairs, or roughly twice the number counted in the same area last year. These birds could represent non-breeders or late migrants. Hundreds of Hooded Mergansers seen in northern sections of James Bay during the season were believed to be moulting (RB, GM).

VULTURES THROUGH ALCIDS

Turkey Vultures were sighted with some regularity in the Quebec City area this summer, including several possible family groups: in Montmorency Forest June 23 (MD), at Cap-Tourmente June 28–July 25 (RG *et al.*), and at Saint-Raymond July 20 (DG). Wanderers included an adult seen by many during mid-July at *Rivière-au-Renard*, *Gaspé* (YA). An active Red-shouldered Hawk nest

found at La Pocatière, *Kamouraska*, June 9 (CAu) was a first for the Lower St. Lawrence, while single ad. Red-tailed Hawks were exceptionally far n. along James Bay at R. aux Phoques July 6 (GM), and along the La Grande R. at LG-1 dam July 27, and at Chisasibi Aug. 8 (MR *et al.*). Late concentrations of migrant Rough-legged Hawks included 23 at Métabetchouan, *L. Saint-Jean*, June 1 (LI, JV) and 18 at La Pocatière the next day (CAu). Unusual numbers summured in s. Quebec with approximately seven birds in s.w. Quebec, around Montreal, at least one dozen in the Saguenay/L. Saint-Jean region, three in the Quebec City area, and four to five along the Lower Saint-Lawrence.

Always difficult to find during the summer, two Gray Partridges were reported at Berthier-sur-Mer, *Montmagny*, June 14 (JLc). Though not reported there since 1984, Yellow Rails are obviously still present at Hopkins Pt., *Huntingdon*, where three birds were calling June 6 (RS, PFr). Two birds each were detected at Cap-du-Banc, *Gaspé*, July 5 and at Cacouna July 11–18 (MR, v.ob.). A displaced Sandhill Crane paused at Dégelis, *Témiscouata*, June 17–28 (DB *et al.*). The Magdalen Is. supported 44 pairs of Piping Plovers, a 16% increase over the 38 counted in 1991, and breeding success was better than average with 70 young fledged (FS). Noteworthy shorebirds involved single Willets at

Pointe-Lebel June 1 (GB) and Contrecoeur June 13 (MBe), a Marbled Godwit at Sept-Îles June 11 (BD, CCE), three Stilt Sandpipers at Etang de l'Est, *Magdalen Is.*, July 31 (PFr) where the species is not detected annually, and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Isle-Verte July 25 (DJu *et al.*). Two Upland Sandpipers at Saint-Antonin, *Rivière-du-Loup*, June 28 (MBu, AB) suggested an additional breeding locale in the Lower St. Lawrence where the species is rare.

Among the rarer gulls worthy of mention were single Laughing Gulls at Berthier-sur-Mer June 14 (JLc) and *Rivière-Ouelle* July 8 (CAu); lone Franklin's Gulls at Saint-Gédéon, *L. Saint-Jean*, June 1 (CCr, GS), *Rivière-Ouelle* July 3 (CAu), and Saint-Simon-sur-Mer, *Rimouski*, July 11 (MR, JLr); and single Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Gatineau June 2 (DDI), *Métis-sur-Mer*, *Matane*, June 14 (PFe), and *Sainte-Luce*, *Rimouski*, June 18 (PFe). A Ring-billed Gull nest containing 2 eggs was found 2 km. from the mouth of the La Grande R., June 24 (RB, GM), representing a N breeding range extension for this still expanding gull. A pair of Great Black-backed Gulls attended three flightless young along the Capsaous R. in

July (RB, GM). This species was first discovered nesting along the James Bay coast in 1990.

Caspian Terns were observed along the Upper St. Lawrence in unprecedented numbers, with more than 12 sightings of up to five individuals this season. Indications of possible local breeding involved a pair copulating at Notre-Dame-de-Pierreville, *Yamaska*, June 11 (DJa, PM, MR). The Roseate Tern maintained its very tenuous hold in the Region with a pair and a single chick found on I. aux Cochons, *Magdalen Is.*, July 25 (FS, PFr, SL). Poor nesting success was reported at many Com. Tern colonies along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, including the Lower N. Shore (*fide* JRe), the *Magdalen Is.* (*fide* FS), and the Gaspé Pen. (*fide* PBr). Some observers commented on an increase in large gull populations as probable cause, but the impact of severe weather or lack of prey species cannot be discounted. The small but long established Caspian Tern colony on Fog I. in the gulf also failed, with only one lone adult there July 4 (CN *et al.*). An ad. Forster's Tern on the Châteauguay R., July 5 (PBa), was the only one sighted this season. Rare for the *Magdalen Is.* were two ad. Black Terns at Havre-aux-Basques June 11–27 (FS). During a visit of the St. Lawrence estuary on June 2, eight Razorbills were observed on I. Laval (JRe, JRa) a new colony first occupied last year.

OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES

A Snowy Owl lingered s. of its breeding range at Pointe-aux-Loups, *Magdalen Is.*, June 6–July 12 (FS *et al.*), while an ad. N. Hawk Owl was feeding one young at Sainte-Béatrix, *Joliette*, in late July (LR). The species has on occasion been known to nest farther s. than usual following winter incursions. An ad. Mourning Dove with two young at Dubuisson July 11 (AL) apparently constituted a first breeding record for *Abitibi*, although the species is regularly seen there. Cuckoos were uncommon, but a Black-billed was at the n.e. limit of its range at Sainte-Rita, *Rivière-du-Loup*, June 23 (RC, JLR). The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo of the season was seen at Saint-Majorique, *Drummond*, July 3–4 (JLe). A Red-headed Woodpecker that was digging a nest cavity on I. Ronde, *Berthier*, June 11 was evicted by starlings a week later (DJa, MR). The only other report was of an adult at Drummondville July 15–22 (PM). Approximately 10 Bank Swallow nest cavities were found at the mouth of La Grande R., June 24 (GM), extending the species' breeding range N along James Bay. Also, a few Am. Crows were noted throughout the summer in the vicinity of LG-1 dam (RB, GM). A Tufted Titmouse viewed at Longueuil June 17 (AV) was worthy of note as few summer records exist for the Region. A House Wren at Val-Brillant July 26 (JLM *et al.*) was quite rare for the Gaspé Pen., while a singing Marsh Wren was exceptionally far n. at Cacouna July 19 (MR, JLR). The colonization of the Upper Saguenay and L. Saint-Jean lowlands by E. Blue-



Clay-colored Sparrow at Baie-Comeau, Quebec, May 16, 1992. Photograph/Gilbert Bouchard.

birds has been one of the success stories of the past decade; approximately 30 pairs were found there this summer (CG, MSa). However, a pair was unsuccessful in its nesting attempt at Bonaventure in early July (*fide* JMP). On Aug. 4 a Hermit Thrush was transporting food at LG-1 dam, n. of its published summer range (MR). A Gray Catbird nest was uncovered at Sacré-Coeur, *Saguenay*, July 6 (LBo, GD) where few breeding records exist for this species. Also of interest among the mimids was a pair of Brown Thrashers at Val-d'Or, *Abitibi*, June 7 (AL), where nesting has never been documented, and a single that strayed E to Grosse-Ile, *Magdalen Is.*, July 15 (FS). The status of Loggerhead Shrike was unchanged from 1991 with only two active pairs (*fide* PL).

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Single, apparently territorial, ♂ Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers were unexpected in a pinery at Saint-Lazare, *Vaudreuil*, June 27–29 (PBa) as these are typically residents of the boreal forest. The former is not known to have ever nested in the St. Lawrence lowlands, while only one record exists for the latter—an adult transporting food at Saint-Polycarpe, *Soulanges*, in 1987 (*fide* YA). A Pine Warbler seen in Mauricie N.P. May 24–June 19 (MSo) apparently furnished a first record for the park, while a Blackpoll Warbler at L. des Fées near Hull June 27 (YL, MF) was far s. of its breeding range.

At the e. edge of their range single ad. ♂ Indigo Buntings were considered rarities at La Pocatière July 10–22 and nearby Saint-Onésime July 12 (CAu). An out-of-range Clay-colored Sparrow visited Pointe-aux-Outardes, *Saguenay*, June 19 (GB). Coordinated searches of suitable habitats continue to expand our knowledge of Grasshopper Sparrow abundance in s.w. Quebec. This summer 3 new sites supported the species: Powerscourt, *Huntingdon*, Laprairie, and Mirabel (MR). Following the spring incursion, many Le Conte's Sparrows summered farther e. than usual: at least three were seen at Saint-Fulgence through July 31 (CCr, GS), two still remained at Cap-Tourmente July 11 (PFR, RS), up to two were found at La Pocatière until July 19 (CAu), three were detected at Lachute, *Papineau*, Aug. 1–2 (DDi

et al.), and one was noted at Baie-Saint-Paul in early August (BH). Both crossbills were termed "common" in boreal forests n. of Quebec City this summer (*fide* LM) and Auchu noted an influx of mainly White-winged Crossbills at Pocatière beginning in mid-June.

Addenda: Several noteworthy spring observations were received belatedly from the Outaouais region. Plaisance hosted Quebec's 6th Swainson's Hawk Apr. 18 (SBa), as well as the first Piping Plover for this site May 23 (ACI *et al.*), and its first Ruff May 7 (GCa *et al.*). Finally, a Louisiana Waterthrush was located in Gatineau N.P., May 10 (SBa) where this rare visitor was last seen 1984.

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NEW ENGLAND REGION

Wayne R. Petersen

New England's early summer weather was cool and wet. The average June temperature of 67.8 degrees Fahrenheit was slightly below normal, but the 4.61 inches of rainfall for the month made it the wettest June since 1986. Especially impressive was a storm June 27 that saw nearly two inches of rain fall in several hours in southeastern Massachusetts. July was exceptionally cloudy and cool. In fact, this July was the eighth coolest in 112 years in Massachusetts; however, rainfall for the month was close to normal. Despite cool temperatures and rainy weather, reports did not suggest that weather had a noticeable affect on breeding activity.

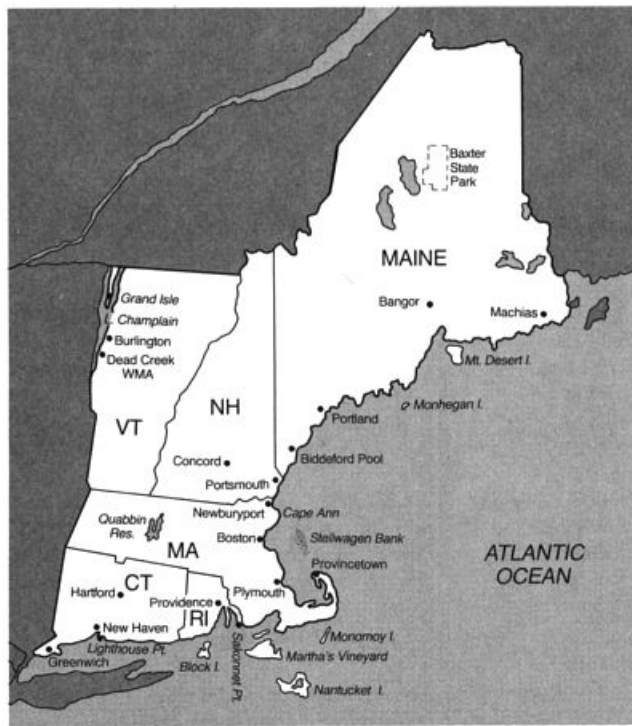
The most dramatic avian events of the season were the continued inshore scarcity of pelagic birds, a small incursion of Brown Pelicans, the starvation of approximately 40 percent of Osprey chicks born in Massachusetts, a steady increase in breeding Piping Plover populations, the early return of a number of arctic nesting shorebirds, and the first breeding of Prothonotary Warbler in Rhode Island—and one of the few documented occurrences in New England. The period was also not without unusual birds. Among the most notable were Little Egret, Reddish Egret, Wilson's Plover, Franklin's Gull, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, Northern Wheatear, and Boat-tailed Grackle. Much like the Region's notoriously fickle weather, the constant changes and surprises provided by New England's summer bird populations never cease to delight observers and editors Regionwide.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Of the season's regular scattering of Red-throated Loon reports, undoubtedly the most unusual was a bird that spent June and July on a small inland pond at Leicester, Worcester (B. Cormier *et al.*). Available Com. Loon census data indicates that 11 pairs nested in Massachusetts (*vide* BB) and that 16 pairs successfully raised 13 young in Vermont (CR). While Com. Loon numbers typically show small annual variations, New England populations overall appear relatively stable.

Reports of Pied-billed Grebes were scarce Regionwide, and exceptionally late reports of other grebes included a Horned Grebe at Wollaston, MA, July 1 (RA) and a Red-necked Grebe at E. Gloucester, July 17 (G. Soucy).

For yet another summer, pelagic birds were consistently hard to find at Stellwagen Bank, where a tally of 200 Wilson's Storm-Petrels June 22 (JJ) was hardly noteworthy. The continued depressed condition of inshore baitfish populations is undoubtedly responsible, just as it appears to be for the reduced numbers of Humpback Whales in the same waters. Farther off shore, concentra-



tions of procellariids at Cashes Ledge, approximately 70 mi n.e. of Gloucester, MA, appeared to be typical for Gulf of Maine waters in early summer. Representative counts made by Robert Abrams at Cashes Ledge include: 75 N. Fulmars, June 8; 1,250 Greater Shearwaters, June 29; 35 Sooty Shearwaters, June 8; 3000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels June 8-29; and 45 Leach's Storm-Petrels, June 8. Inshore, at Plum I., MA, 13 Manx Shearwaters were seen July 9 (RH).

With the continued increase of Middle Atlantic Coast Brown Pelican populations, it is perhaps not surprising that reports continue to increase in the Northeast during the summer months. Nonetheless, the occurrence of four **Brown Pelicans** from 3 s. New England states can hardly be described as expected. The clustering of dates suggests that something infused pelicans with a N wanderlust during the 4th week of July. The reports included three at Stonington, CT, July 20 (R. Dewire *et al.*) and one there July 22 (DP); one at Napatree Pt., RI, July 23 (CR); and one at Bird I., Marion, MA, July 20 (IN).

While the summer lingering of Great Cormorants is becoming increasingly frequent, a bird at Groton, CT, June 12 (L. Wahle) was nonetheless notable for Long Island Sound. While there have been compelling suggestions recently that increasing cormorant numbers may be affecting the breeding success of other colonial waterbirds which share cormorant nesting areas (*e.g.*, waders, terns), the evidence seems inconclusive. This season, cormorant prosperity was implicated with chick starvation in Massachusetts Osprey colonies. Whether true or not, cormorants deserve careful future monitoring, not only because they represent an interesting biological opportunity, but because a

fuller understanding of their specific ecological impact needs to be understood before the species is unjustly maligned.

HERONS TO WATER-FOWL

A Least Bittern at Bangor, ME, June 19 (OK) was uncommon that far north, while a maximum of six at Wayland, MA, in early June (SA *et al.*) seemingly represented one of the highest breeding densities in the Region. Almost as noteworthy was a count of three at Salem, MA, June 4 (I. Lynch). Although colony counts were unavailable for most New England heron rookeries this summer, census data in Rhode Is-

land suggested that numbers of Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Glossy Ibises were down about 50 percent from 1991 (*vide* DE). This drop in numbers did not appear to be echoed in Massachusetts, despite the lack of data for absolute confirmation. On the brighter side, an ad. **Little Egret** remained at Nantucket I. throughout the period following its initial discovery in May (*v.o.*). As indicated by Simon Perkins in the spring report, this individual represented the 2nd record for Massachusetts. In Vermont, a Little Blue Heron was unusual at Rockingham, *Windham*, July 26 (WN), and Tricolored Herons were of interest at Plum I., June 29–July 11 (*v.o.*) and Stonington, CT, June 12 (DP). Without question, the biggest crowd-pleasing wader of the season was an imm. **Reddish Egret** at Chappaquiddick I., Martha's Vineyard, July 5–29 (ph. VL, m. ob.). Only the 3rd state record, the bird obligingly moved to Chatham, MA, July 30–31 (*v.o.*) where it was enjoyed by many observers previously unable to travel to Martha's Vineyard to see it. Small numbers of Cattle Egrets were noted at traditional localities at Grand Isle, VT, and Ipswich, MA, however, one at Hadley, MA, June 6 (P. Yeskie) was described as providing a first June record for w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK). In New Hampshire, an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Durham, June 10 (R. Raymond) was hard to explain.

The continued spread of the Mute Swan was demonstrated by the inland occurrence of two at Orwell, VT, June 13–23 (J. Petal), while in Massachusetts, a count of five Brant at N. Monomoy I., June 13 (ML) was the highest of nine reported Regionwide. Four broods each of Gadwall and Am. Wigeon at Grand Isle, July 18–19 (DH) serve to remind

readers of the established presence of these species at L. Champlain, although a Bufflehead there at the same time, along with other singles at Portland, ME, July 21–30 (LB) and Squantum, MA, July 5 (SA) were considerably more unseasonable. In Massachusetts, the always infrequent breeding of the Com. Merganser was confirmed by the presence of a female and six young at Northampton, July 2 (*vide* SK).

RAPTORS

The tradition of recording nearly annual Black Vultures in New England was continued this summer when a bird was seen at Randolph, MA, July 7 (K. Hamilton). In similar fashion, Swallow-tailed Kites appeared in Massachusetts at Assonet, June 9 (K. Holmes) and Needham, where an astonished neophyte birder immaculately described two together over her home, July 14 (S. Wolfe).

In Vermont, at least six active Osprey nests were located (CR), while in New Hampshire, 27 nests were present in the North Country, from which 13 young fledged from 10 successful nests (DD). Southern New England presented a somewhat more disturbing picture. In Connecticut, 97 fledged young out of 66 active nests represented a 20% decline in productivity, while in Massachusetts, the picture was even more depressing. At 95 nests in the Westport area, 65 young were banded (G. Fernandez); however, approximately 40 chicks were found dead from starvation. Similarly, of 75 pairs at Martha's Vineyard, approximately 35–40% of the young succumbed to a similar fate (G. Ben David). Sharp reductions in the numbers of baitfish (*e.g.*, Alewife, White Perch) were among the causes suggested for the mortality. Of particular interest is the notion that Double-crested Cormorants may have been responsible for the depletion in numbers of baitfish. A more optimistic theory indicates that the increasing Osprey population may be at a level where in a year of depressed food abundance, greater chick mortality will inevitably occur due to feeding competition among the adults.

In contrast to the mortality-stricken coastal nesting Ospreys, Bald Eagles continued to flourish. In New Hampshire, a 3-year-old L. Umbagog nest witnessed the fledging of two young, one a foster chick, while in Connecticut, a pair at Barkhamsted fledged two young for the first breeding in the state since the 1950s (D. Hopkins *et al.*, *vide* B. Kleiner). Massachusetts Bald Eagles successfully fledged six young, plus one foster chick, from 5 active nests out of the state's total of 7 nests. A report of an ad. Golden Eagle at Barnstable, MA, June 26 (L. Sagar) was most unexpected, but not without precedent on Cape Cod in June.

Merlins in Maine during the summer are becoming increasingly frequent, so reports of single birds at Arcadia N. P., July 2 (*vide* JD) and Scarborough, July 5 (LB) are not all that surprising. Otherwise, no definitive Maine

breeding reports were received this season. Regionwide, Peregrine Falcon productivity remained optimistic: 2 Massachusetts nests fledged six young (TF), 3 New Hampshire nests fledged five young (DD), and 7 Vermont nests fledged 17 young (CR). In both New Hampshire and Vermont there were additional territorial pairs that offer promise for future breeding attempts.

WILD TURKEY TO SHOREBIRDS

Three broods of Wild Turkeys at Clinton, *Kennebec*, ME, in June (*vide* JD) suggest that this species is spreading from more traditional s.w. Maine areas. Single Massachusetts reports of the elusive King Rail were at Wayland, June 17 (SA) and Hopedale, July 13 (R. Burns). This season, the beleaguered Com. Moorhen was reported only from its more or less traditional station at S. Egremont, MA, where two pairs were present in mid-summer (*vide* SK), and at Grafton, MA, July 25 (ML). This species, like the Pied-billed Grebe, appears to be in real trouble Regionwide. In n. New England, two Sandhill Cranes were allegedly present throughout the period at



Immature Reddish Egret at Chappaquiddick Island, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in July 1992. Third state record. Photograph/Vernon Laux.

Messalonskee L., Belgrade, *Kennebec*, ME (*vide* JD) and at Panton, VT, a single crane was seen July 29–31 (B. Kruger *et al.*).

In the shorebird department, this summer's outstanding honors go to **Wilson's Plovers** at Wells, ME, June 3–8 (JW *et al.*) for a 2nd fully confirmed state record, and another at Scituate, MA, June 9 (SH). The consistently precise timing of Wilson's Plovers in late May and early June in New England through the years strongly suggests that such individuals probably represent "overshoots" from southern coastal breeding localities. Almost as interesting was a Black-necked Stilt at Tuckernuck I., MA, June 24 (M. Wilson, *vide* B.O.) and two Bar-tailed Godwits at N. Monomoy I. One godwit remained from June 3–July 31 and was joined by a 2nd individual July 8–31 (BN). Both birds were the light-rumped European race, *lapponica*.

At N. Monomoy I., a nonbreeding flock of 200 Black-bellied Plovers represented a typical summer aggregation, while single Lesser Golden-Plovers at Provincetown, MA, June 4 (KJ) and N. Monomoy I., June 8 (RS) were

considerably more unusual. Regional Piping Plover nesting totals indicate that this resilient little beach nester appears to be flourishing as a result of the many management strategies that are being employed on its behalf. It also appears that ecological conditions in Massachusetts were especially favorable for nesting this summer due to extensive beach washovers resulting from last fall's severe coastal storms. The colony of Willets at N. Monomoy I. reached a maximum of 200 birds during July (BN) and as early as June 10 a representative of the interior race *inornatus* had arrived at the island. Upland Sandpiper surveys in Vermont produced 110 birds at 37 sites in the Champlain Valley by July 4 (JP). In New Hampshire, at least 10 pairs were breeding at Pease International Tradeport throughout the period, with a maximum of 42 there, including migrants, July 29 (DD). Farther south, two Upland Sandpipers were at Boston's Logan International Airport, June 5 (WRP) and three birds were present at Newburyport, July 26 (JB); the same date that eight were counted in Connecticut at Stratford Airport (DP).

Several observers noted that the adult flight of arctic nesting shorebirds appeared earlier than usual, possibly indicating that severe arctic weather may have disrupted breeding and caused a premature migration S. Among the more outstanding of these early reports were three Solitary Sandpipers at Washington, MA, June 30 (*vide* SK); two Marbled Godwits at N. Monomoy I., July 8–31 (*v.o.*, *vide* B.O.); Western Sandpipers at Ninigrit Pond, RI, June 21 (PB) and N. Monomoy I., July 12 (BN); and an exceptionally early report of a Baird's Sandpiper at Milford Pt., CT, July 19 (*vide* FM). Noteworthy high shorebird tallies at N. Monomoy I. included: 595 Whimbrels at the traditional evening roost, July 29 (BN *et al.*); 400 Red Knots, July 25 (BN); 1200 Semipalmated Sandpipers, July 25 (BN); and 2500 Short-billed Dowitchers, July 18 (BN). Other unusual shorebird reports were: Curlew Sandpiper at N. Monomoy I., July 24–31 (BN *et al.*); single Ruffs at Charlestown, RI, July 3 (*vide* DE), Scarborough, ME, July 25 (LB *et al.*), and N. Monomoy I., July 11 (BN); a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes with three young at Plum I., July 10 (SA); and an injured Red Phalarope at Chatham, June 17 (M. Smith).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

The only jaeger report for the period was a single Parasitic Jaeger at Cashes Ledge, June 8 (RA). A South Polar Skua at Cox's Ledge south of Block I., RI, July 31 (D. Finizia, DE) was both geographically and seasonally appropriate. The Massachusetts Laughing Gull population numbered 943 pairs, which represented a 27 percent decrease from 1991 (*vide* SH) and the principal colony at New I. apparently sustained heavy Great Horned Owl predation for the 2nd season in a row. Both unseasonable and unusual was an imm. Franklin's Gull at Katama, Martha's Vineyard, July 23–24 (ph. VL). Other notable

Massachusetts larid reports included single Little Gulls at Provincetown, June 3-4 (KJ), New I., July 3 (DR), and Barnstable, July 22 (BN), and Com. Black-headed Gulls at Manchester, June 10 (D. Young) and N. Monomoy I., June 13 (ML).

Unseasonable was a Caspian Tern at Jerusalem, RI, June 26 (*fide* DE) and uncommon in n. New England were Royal Terns at Rye, NH, June 7 (WE) and Scarborough, ME, June 26 (TA). The Region's only Sandwich Tern was one at Chappaquiddick I., M.V., July 16 (VL). Regionwide, tern breeding results showed a slight decline for most species, although probably not outside the range of normal yearly variation. Roseate Tern pairs numbered 1412 in Massachusetts, while Least Terns registered a smashing 2614 pairs (*fide* SH). In Connecticut 645 Least Tern pairs showed a 16% drop in productivity (*fide* J. Victoria). Unseasonably early Forster's Terns showed up at New I., June 10 (DR) and S. Dartmouth, MA, July 12 (T. Raymond) and for the 2nd year in a row the species nested at Plum I., July 11 (ph. RH). Totally inexplicable was a **Bridled Tern** flying around the tern colony at Falkner's I., June 27 (ph. J. Zingo) providing a first documented Connecticut state record. Almost as bizarre was an ad. Sooty Tern at Scituate, MA, July 31 (ph. M. Aliberti). Vermont Black Tern breeding numbers increased substantially from 59 pairs in 1990 to 95 pairs this season (*fide* N. Shambaugh), while in Massachusetts, a total of six nesting pairs of Black Skimmers was the highest in many years at the northern fringe of the species' range (*fide* SH). Almost without precedent in Gulf of Maine (or Bay of Fundy) waters was a flock of five **Dovekies** observed from the "Bluenose" ferry, June 4 (H. Wilson). This tiny alcid is notoriously scarce anywhere in U.S. waters after late winter.

OWLS TO THRUSHES

At Martha's Vineyard, a population of 25-30 pairs of Barn owls (G. Ben David) is undoubtedly the result of an intensive nest box program and certainly represents the highest density in the Region, while a single Barn Owl at Barre, VT, July 2 (S. McBride) was notably far north. Not surprising, considering the large Snowy Owl incursion during the winter, was a lingering individual at Madison, *Somerset*, ME, June 18 (*fide* JD). Recent field work in the pine barrens of s.e. Massachusetts increasingly indicates that N. Saw-whet Owls are regular nesters in that habitat, as reflected this season by five calling birds at Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth, June 11 (G d'E). In the same area, d'Entremont's annual Whip-poor-will census produced a seasonal high total of 51, June 11 (*fide* B.O.) At Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Vernon Laux monitored no fewer than 10 calling Chuck-will's widows throughout June and July; however, no positive confirmation of breeding could be obtained. It is unknown whether the presence of these birds represents a recent phenomenon or a previ-



Male Blue Grosbeak at Hollis, New Hampshire, on July 7, 1992. Photograph/David Deifik.

ously undetected relocation of birds from nearby Chappaquiddick I. where they occurred during the 1970s. Most interesting among the Region's 5 scattered Red-headed Woodpecker reports were breeding pairs at Bridport, VT, July 31 (JP) and Sherburn, MA (E. Taylor).

The continued N expansion of Acadian Flycatchers was shown by single reports from Maine at Yarmouth, *Cumberland*, ME, June 9 (LB) and Vermont at Dead Creek W.M.A., *Addison*, VT, July 2-3 (B. Machover *et al.*) and Panton, July 12-30 (T. Fiore *et al.*). Most remarkable and practically without precedent in the Region was a **Western Kingbird** at Lincoln, MA, June 16 (SH). Somewhat more plausible was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Salisbury, MA, June 25 (J. Daniels). A most impressive total of 650 carefully identified Bank Swallows was made at Plum I., July 9 (RH), while a statewide survey of Cliff Swallows in Massachusetts suggests that the current state population is probably below 300 pairs (M. Silver, *fide* WRP).

The remarkable discovery of a Com. Raven in a tern colony at Plymouth, MA, July 30 (SH) hopefully does not presage another potential predatory threat to that already beleaguered tern colony. Somewhat unusual were Fish Crows at Eastham, MA, June 17 (KJ) and Manchester, NH, June 2-18 (S. Frye). Lost can only explain a Red-breasted Nuthatch at S. Monomoy I., June 11 (BN). In New Hampshire, Carolina Wrens nested for the 2nd year in a row, this year at Concord, July 2 (*fide* DD). Winter Wrens were reported from at least 7 e. Massachusetts localities in June (*fide* B.O.), suggesting that this species may be at an especially high population level at the moment. In Massachusetts, Sedge Wrens apparently nested at Brookfield, *Worcester*, June 20-July 5 (R. Jenkins, v.o.), while in Richmond, 20 singing ♂ Marsh Wrens were indicative of a new colony site in *Berkshire* (SK).

Although a ♂ Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Florida, MA, June 28 (R. Laubach) was not far from a previous Massachusetts nesting

site, no breeding evidence was obtained.

Most interesting was a perfectly described ad. ♂ **Northern Wheatear** near Nesourd-nahunk L., Baxter S.P., ME, June 13 (T. Persons). There are few, if any, June occurrences of this species anywhere in the Northeast. Several observers commented on slightly elevated Veery and Wood Thrush members this summer, and a count of 30 Veeries on a breeding bird census at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield, MA, June 20 (SA) is exemplary.

S.A.

Of particular interest this season are the results of a Regionwide (plus New York) survey of "Bicknell's" Gray-checked Thrush breeding sites that was coordinated by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science and the Manomet Bird Observatory. While overall survey results are unavailable, Chris Rimmer reported that in Vermont 220 "Bicknell's" Thrushes were encountered on 68 mountains surveyed. All but 6 of the peaks surveyed exceeded 3,000 feet, although thrushes were occasionally encountered as low as 2,600 feet. Of 25 peaks with historical thrush breeding records, only 4 failed to produce any birds on the survey. Extrapolating from this year's results, a crude estimate for the Vermont population would be 500 pairs. Readers are reminded that "Bicknell's" Thrush is a candidate for elevation to full species rank and that accurately determining the approximate size of its population may be of critical importance from a future conservation standpoint.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A meager 5 reports Regionwide were received of Golden-winged Warblers, only one of which specifically mentioned evidence of breeding. In addition, 5 reports of "Brewster's" Warblers and 2 of "Lawrence's" Warblers, mirror what is apparently happening to the formerly unadulterated Golden-winged Warbler population. Singing ♂ Yellow-rumped Warblers in e. Massachusetts at Westwood, June 29 (C. Quinlan) and Ipswich, July 12 (JB) undoubtedly represent isolated breeding localities, while Yellow-throated Warblers at 3 locations in New Hampshire during June and July were probably wandering individuals. Nonetheless, with the recent breeding of Yellow-throated Warblers in Connecticut, regional observers are advised to keep close track of all individuals found in summer. This season as many as five ♂ Cerulean Warblers were located at Quabbin Res. in c. Massachusetts, June 28 (E. Nielsen), and in New Hampshire, birds were found near the auto road leading to Mt. Washington in late June (J. Dunn, C. Duncan) and at Fitzwilliam, July 1-18 (A & B Delorey).

S.A.

For the first time in history Prothonotary Warblers successfully nested in Rhode Island at the Great Swamp, S. Kingstown. With only old, unsuccessful, or indeterminate breeding evidence as a precedent in New England, the confirmation and thorough photographic documentation in early June of this nesting by Robert Wadman and Chris Raithel makes this yet another addition to the list of southern species apparently trying to incorporate New England into its range.

The presence of a Prothonotary Warbler at Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, MA, throughout June (v.o.) for the 2nd year in a row may have added significance in light of Rhode Island's breeding record this season. A similar occurrence of a ♂ Hooded Warbler at Yarmouth Port, MA, June 1–30 (M. Tuttle, v.o.) also showed no indication of breeding.

Inexplicable was a ♂ Summer Tanager at Medford, MA, June 21 (M. Rines) and a ♂ Blue Grosbeak at Hollis, NH, July 4–7 (J. McCarthy, ph. D. Deifk). A count of 12 Grasshopper Sparrows at Lancaster, MA, June 24 (R. Bradbury) was the highest in the Region and in Maine, the population at the Kennebunk Plains was said to be low this year (*vide* JD). A Seaside Sparrow at Bath, ME, July 2 (SA) was beyond the species' northernmost breeding location in s. New Hampshire. A very uncommon Massachusetts breeding confirmation for Rusty Blackbird was made by the discovery of a nest containing two young at Monroe, June 4–18 (R. Rancatti, R. Daub). In Connecticut, the appearance of a ♂ Boat-tailed Grackle at Stratford, July 4 (C. Barnard) was cause for speculation about future nesting. In conclusion, can someone cogently explain where Eur. Goldfinches like the one at Dedham, MA, June 24 (R. Orleans) come from?

Subregional Editors (boldface), Contributors (italics), and Observers: Robert Abrams, Steve Arena, *Tom Aversa, Jim Berry, Bird Observer, Brad Blodget, L. Brinker, Paul Buckley, Diane DeLuca, Glen d'Entremont, Jody Despres, Walter Ellison, David Emerson, Tom French, Scott Hecker, Rick Heil, David Hoag, Kyle Jones, Jeff Johnstone, Seth Kellogg, Betty Kleiner, Oliver Komar, Vernon Laux, Mark Lynch, Frank Mantlik, Blair Nikula, Ian Nisbet, William Norse, Judy Peterson, David Provencher, Chris Raithel, Don Reid, Chris Rimmer, Robert Stymeist, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Jeff Wells.*—WAYNE R. PETERSON, Conservation Department, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.

HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

Following several scorches, summer 1992 was the coldest and wettest on record in this Region. June was cool and rainy, and July even more so. July temperatures ran nearly 5° below normal; at Albany they were the lowest since records began in 1813. July rainfall was generally more than twice normal. Some suspected that the cold overcast was caused by the particulate matter thrown into the atmosphere by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in June 1991, but that should have made the winter colder than normal also. The weather is believed to have damaged some species' breeding success (see Black-necked Stilt, Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Eastern Bluebird), and may have been poor for ground nesters, since Ovenbird and Dark-eyed Junco crashed at Yunick's banding site at Jenny Lake, southern *Saratoga*, New York. Two new species—Merlin and White-winged Tern—were added to the Region's breeding avifauna, both in New York.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook Nat' Wildlife Ref., Smyrna, DE*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic, NJ*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery, PA*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City*); Little Creek (*Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Kent, DE*); NY DEC (*New York Dep't of Environmental Conservation*); Little Gal-

loo (*Little Galloo I., in e. Lake Ontario, off Henderson Harbor, Jefferson, NY*); Port Mahon (*marshes and bay shore east of Little Creek, Kent, DE*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation, Area, Monmouth, NJ*); SBC (*Summer Bird Count*); S.C.M.M. (*South Cape May Meadows, Cape May, NJ*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

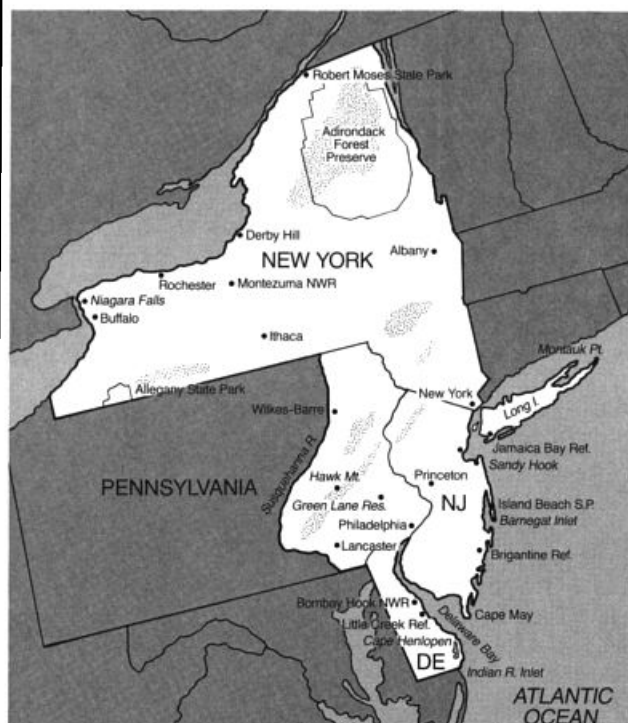
LOONS TO CORMORANTS

A lingering ad. Red-throated Loon on Hemlock L., near Rochester, June 13 (Genesee Orn. Soc.) and one the next day at Sandy Hook (where two summered last year) were about par. At Rochester, several Com. Loons remained, unusually, into July (JSk). At Fenwick I., *Sussex, DE*, about 10 were found sick on the beach in early June and taken to Tri-State Bird Rescue (APE).

Since Pied-billed Grebes seem to be absent from many previously-known breeding sites such as Jamaica Bay (DR) and around Rochester (RGS), several positive reports are worth recording. Sixteen in the Iroquois/Tonawanda refuges, *Genesee-Niagara-Orleans*, June 25 (R. McKinney) mark what must be their stronghold in n.w. New York (RGS); a "half dozen" were noteworthy at Webb Royce Swamp, *Essex, NY*, July 11 (JMCP). Two nesting pairs at Bombay Hook provided the first confirmed breeding record in Delaware for many years (APE).

Tubenoses were present in fair numbers only a few mi off Cape May, off and on in June and July. All 4 regular species were present June 29, including one Manx Shearwater (F. Tetlow). Two Sooty Shearwaters were among the sick birds found at Fenwick I., DE, in early June (APE). The best pelagic report from Long Island was 200 Greater and seven Sooty shearwaters 45 mi s. of Montauk Pt., June 19 (J. Passie). Wilson's Storm-Petrels fed closer inshore than usual, being frequently visible from land at Cape May; 24 at Port Mahon July 19 (BP, MG) & July 25 (CDC) were the largest non-hurricane-associated groups reported so far up Delaware Bay (DAC). Four were inside Shinnecock Bay July 5 (AJL). Cooler water temperatures may have maintained good food supplies near shore.

At least one Am. White Pelican continued to wander in upstate New York, being observed at Perch River W.M.A., near Watertown, *Jefferson, NY*, July 28 (I. Mazzocchi, NYS DEC) and at Verona Beach, on Oneida L., 2



days later (N. Bitz). A probable Am. White Pelican was at Bombay Hook July 6 (G. Witreich), although confusion with the escaped Pink-backed Pelican seen recently in Maryland cannot be ruled out.

Brown Pelicans took a giant step toward breeding in this Region. They constructed 18 practice nests in Barnegat Bay, *Ocean*, NJ (JB, MG), 10 years after their major summer northerly incursions began. They reached an unprecedented 600 or so along the New Jersey coast by mid-July, about half centered on Barnegat Bay and the other half concentrated around Hereford Inlet (JB, MG). In Delaware three were seen as far up Delaware Bay as Port Mahon July 17 (NP). In New York, a historic high of 87 were counted off the barrier beach between Jones Beach S.P. and Cedar Beach July 12 (D. Mizrahi). We learn belatedly of one that ventured mistakenly up the Hudson as far as the Rhinebeck-Kingston Bridge May 3 providing a first *Dutchess* record (S & D Moreau), and two were on the Hudson R. at Croton Pt., *Westchester*, July 30-31 (*vide* B. Lincoln).

Single imm. Great Cormorants were quite widespread, considering that until very recently they had never summered s. of Great Gull I., between the tip of Long Island and Connecticut. In New Jersey, singles were found at Cape May June 17 (F. Mears), Fortescue, *Cumberland*, June 6 (CS), and Merrill Creek Res., *Warren*, July 5 (G. Hanisek). One remained into mid-June in the Delaware R. at the mouth of the Schuylkill R. (Phila. Birdline). The Double-crested Cormorant explosion has become a major public relations problem on L. Ontario, as fishermen blame them for declining fish populations. The mega-colony on Little Galloo increased 2.3% to 5,443 nests (BMi). Thirty were shot on their nests, and 500 died in August of what was later diagnosed as a heavy infestation of tripanosome parasites. A potential 2nd L. Ontario colony newly formed in Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, NY, which contained 11 nests June 27, mysteriously disappeared (RGS). Some nests at Manasquan Res., *Monmouth*, constituted the 3rd colony in New Jersey, after breeding was first found in that state 2 years ago. Inland, small groups are summering more regularly near any sizable body of water, such as Peace Valley and Green Lane in s. e. Pennsylvania.

Something odd is going on with *Anhingas*. After an unprecedented 4 reports in the spring, 4 more sightings were reported in New Jersey: Princeton, June 7 (L. Beck), mouth of the Cooper R. on the Delaware R. at Camden June 11 (†K. Tischner), a male near Brielle, on the Manasquan R., *Monmouth*, June 30 (J. Thele), and a male over Kearny, *Hudson*, July 3 (Voice of NJ Audubon). Not all of these reports were conclusively documented.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

Among established Great Blue heronries in s.e. Pennsylvania, the Oley, *Berks*, colony increased again to produce 20 young (RKe);

about 20 were at Ft. Mifflin, near Philadelphia. A new colony may be forming at Pine Run, near Peace Valley, *Bucks*, where a single nest produced four young (RF, AM). Elsewhere, a new Great Blue heronry discovered last spring at Bear Swamp, near Vincentown, *Burlington*, is the 3rd known in s.w. New Jersey (WDa).

S.A.

In the absence of survey data on colonial waterbirds on Long Island or in New Jersey, our information about herons this season is fragmentary. We do have follow-up information on last summer's report on the long-term effects of the multiple oil spills of 1989 on the major heronries of New York Harbor, gathered by the continuing Habor Herons Project of Manomet Observatory. Snowy Egrets, which feed almost exclusively in tidal flats, suffered the most. Now that data are complete for 1990 and 1991, it appears that Snowy Egret productivity in New York Harbor dropped from 1.5 young fledged per nest in the 4 years before the oil spill to 0.7 in 1990, and 0.3 in 1991! In the latter year, about 90% of the hatched young failed to fledge. Although toxicological studies are not yet complete, the problem seems to have been food supply, since killy fish declined 75% in the oiled shallows in 1990. Fortunately, clutch size remains normal, and preliminary evidence is that Snowy Egret productivity improved in 1992. Glossy Ibis, the next hardest hit species, which were down nearly 50% in 1990, their first decline in the New York Harbor heronries since 1982, appear to be nearly back to normal. Since upland feeders like Black-crowned Night-Herons have increased, the total New York Harbor heronry population remains stable at about 1300 pairs (KP).

The Great Egret colony on Wade I., in the Susquehanna R. near Harrisburg, PA, apparently the only one in the state now active, increased significantly to 161 pairs (DB). Black-crowned Night-Herons on Little Galloo have declined from 100 nests in 1987 to two this summer, under pressure from Double-crested Cormorants which have killed the trees and brush on the island (BMi). Elsewhere they seem to be thriving, as in New York Harbor and the Wade I. heronry, at Harrisburg, in the Susquehanna R., which reached 252 nests (DB). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons bred as usual as far n. as Wade I. and Long Island, but one at Jamesville, *Onandaga*, NY, during the first week of June (B. Burt et al.) was far n. of any known nesting area. The White-faced Ibis reported in the spring column remained at Jamaica Bay until at least June 16 (*vide* AJL).

Single Tundra Swans summered at Bear Swamp and Bombay Hook, and another was in s. *Lancaster*, PA (RMS), in early June; they

are less than annual among lingering winter waterfowl. Mute Swans, unwelcome because their feeding behavior damages habitat for other waterfowl, continue to expand. Braddock Bay, near Rochester, NY, has a 2nd pair (RGS), and the Peace Valley, PA, population rose to five (AMi). Northern New York has 20-25, which concern wildlife officials (GS). A left-over Brant was unusual at the Robert Moses Power Dam in the Saint-Lawrence R. (BDL); summering stragglers are actually more likely further s. on the wintering ground than in the migratory staging areas. To deal with the resident population of about 9000 Canada Geese now established in the 3 westernmost counties of New York (not to be confused with the traditional migrants that arrive in fall) a special hunt was organized in August (*N.Y. Times*).

A N. Pintail with seven ducklings at Jamaica Bay July 1 (PAB) furnished the 2nd breeding record known to us for the environs of New York City. Families of N. Shovelers at Floyd Bennett Field, New York City, NY (PAB), and at Montezuma N.W.R. (NB), and an Am. Widgeon at Montezuma (NB) gave continued evidence of infrequent breeding in New York by these western species. Ten Canvasback ducklings were at Montezuma N.W.R., June 28 (BMa), where they rarely breed.

An Oldsquaw at Cape May June 23 (F. Mears) was among the less common summering winter waterfowl. More reports than usual of breeding Hooded Mergansers came from Tinicum N.R.A., Philadelphia; Ward Twp., *Allegheny*, NY (EBr); and Primehook N.W.R., DE (G. O'Shea). Common Mergansers are doing well on the upper Susquehanna; Reid could see up to 42 together at Tunkhannock, *Wyoming*, PA.

RAPTORS

Officials from NY DEC reported continued Osprey increases in New York. Long Island's nesting population grew again to 226 active nests, which produced 260 young (234 last year). The Adirondacks contained 44 active pairs, of which 30 nested successfully and produced 65 young. The St. Lawrence R. population held about steady at 14 pairs. Two new nesting sites in s.e. New York include a new productive nest in the Bashkill, *Sullivan* (P. Nye, BaL). Delaware numbers were down slightly, as storms and tides wiped out many nesting sites on old duck blinds, and because of unlimited development around Fenwick I. (LG-I).

About four Mississippi Kites hung around Cape May into early June, as usual. Stragglers reached Tinicum N.R.A. Philadelphia, June 1, Columbia, *Warren*, NJ, along the Delaware R., June 11 (Phila. Birdline), and near Ithaca, NY, June 25 (NB). Later in the summer, one or two reappeared around Cape May in the first 2 weeks of July, and one was at Mad Horse W.M.A., *Salem*, July 29 (WDa, JMK).

Bald Eagles continue to recover, expanding in New York from 15 to 18 pairs, 13 of

which fledged 24 young (a 50% increase over last year). The birds are doing particularly well in the reservoirs of s.e. New York, and a new nest site (still unproductive) has been established on the lower Hudson R. in *Ulster*. Pennsylvania Game Commission officials report 4 active nests in this Region, 2 of them new (in *Chester* and *Poke*). Together with the *Lancaster* and *Dauphin* pairs, they produced six young (DB). New Jersey's five pairs continue from last year, but only two of them brought off young (three). Four-day old chicks disappeared at dusk from one nest, and Great Horned Owls are suspected (CCI). Delaware had 6 active nests, 4 of which successfully fledged seven chicks. This included the first successful nest at Bombay Hook in 3 years, but one nest in *Sussex* was disrupted by spring plowing during a period of cold wet weather (LG-I). Immatures summered very widely, such as five different individuals along the e. section of the L. Ontario shore (GS).

Cooper's Hawks, traditionally common breeders in the s. part of this Region, seem to be doing well. Five breeding sites were found in *Berks* and *Schuylkill*, PA (RKe), and a possible one in *Bucks* (RF). A pair nested successfully in a front yard in Purchase, *Westchester*, NY (RJK, D. Panko). A successful nest in *Burlington* was the first in that county since the 1950s (WDa), following other recent s. New Jersey nests. A N. Goshawk nest was seen near the s. limit in the Mianus R. Gorge, *Westchester*, NY (RJK).

Following a big winter invasion, late Rough-legged Hawks were still moving along the L. Ontario shore in early June: six passed the hawkwatch at Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, NY, June 2-6 (J. Dodge), and singles were seen nearby in Mendon June 15 (D & B Traver) and Hamlin June 16 (WS). Much more remarkably, five immatures, declining to two, remained at Fort Drum, *Jefferson*, NY, all summer (L. Harper), constituting what may well be the 2nd New York August record.

New York's first known Merlin nests were found in *Franklin*, in the central Adirondacks: Spitfire L., in Brighton Twp., (W. Montgomery, JMCP, E. Johnson, S. Rosenberg), and Upper Saranac L. (D. Perry). Each nest fledged three young. Both were in tall evergreens near water. The Spitfire L. nest tree, a 65-70-foot Red Spruce, was only 4 feet from the main building of a fishing camp. There is every reason to expect regular breeding in the Adirondacks, for Merlins nest regularly about 150 mi due west in Ontario. Expansion into New York fits very well with the recent radical increases in the numbers of Merlins migrating inland along the ridges in fall.

Twenty-two pairs of Peregrine Falcons (18 last year) produced 30 young in New York (three more than last year). Productivity was particularly encouraging downstate, where 12 pairs had 7 successful nests which produced 21 young. All of these nests are on bridges or buildings, but these are not neces-



A molting male Ruff at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware, on July 19, 1992. Photograph/Mary Gustafson.

sarily an unproductive environment. The pair on the Throg's Neck Bridge has produced 28 young since 1983! (BaL). New Jersey's Peregrines remained stable at nine breeding pairs, four of them on bridges across the Delaware R. In e. Pennsylvania, there were 2 more nests on bridges and one in downtown Philadelphia. Young are being hacked in downtown Harrisburg (DB). Two pairs of Am. Kestrels used boxes in a nest box program at Burrow's Run, *New Castle*, DE (WJW).

Hen Spruce Grouses with chicks near Helldiver Pond, Moose River W.M.A., *Hamilton*, June 10 & June 27 (G. Lee *et al.*) were s. of breeding sites confirmed in the New York breeding bird atlas.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Elusive King Rails were observed at Primehook N.W.R., DE, June 27 (WWF) and Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, *Westchester*, NY, July 1 (TWB). The only Sandhill Crane reported this season was 2 mi off Cape May June 18 (*vide* PS).

The rain was a mixed blessing for shorebirding. It flooded the edges at inland lakes in Pennsylvania, but creating some of the best July shorebirding in years at rainpools near Rochester (RGS). The great shorebird concentration in Delaware Bay, which had arrived a week late, left on time in the first days of June. On June 2 there were still present on the beaches on both sides of the Bay, according to the regular aerial survey, 25,500 Red Knots, 41,000 Ruddy Turnstones, 42,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 5000 Sanderlings. The next flyover June 10 found only a few thousands shorebirds left (CCI). There were still 4000 Red Knot and about as many Semipalmated Sandpipers at Fortescue, *Cumberland*, NJ, June-7 (CS). Latish northbound shorebirds included a Semipalmated Plover and 250 Red Knots at Montezuma N.W.R., June 1 (CCa, A. Clarridge), and some genuinely late White-rumped Sandpipers: six at Cape May June 6 (*vide* PS), and one June 10 on the Pedricktown spoil banks, *Salem*, NJ (WDa, E. Manners).

Shorebird return was underway, as usual, in late June with a Wilson's Phalarope at Bombay Hook June 19 (F & L King), two Lesser Yellowlegs and a Short-billed Dow-

itcher at S.C.M.M., June 25 (L. Zemaitis, D. Githens), and a rather early Lesser Golden-Plover at Bombay Hook June 27 (B & NM).

Breeding Piping Plover populations increased slightly in New Jersey from 126 to about 134 pairs (DJ). Holgate, which has been closed for 3 years, and inaccessible Little Beach accounted for most of the increase. Productivity was diminished in *Cape May* and at Brig by predation, apparently mostly foxes. They slipped closer to extinction in Delaware; there were only two breeding pairs each at C. Henlopen and Delaware Shores S.P. (two fewer than last year). For the first time, no young were fledged at Delaware Shores S.P., and only two were fledged at C. Henlopen. Cold weather and high tides wiped out nests there (LG-I). An estimated 182 pairs on Long Island were nearly stable (MS). At the West End of Jones Beach S.P., L.I., experimental metal cages reduced the devastating predation of gulls and crows (both much more abundant now than formerly in Piping Plover breeding range). The caged nests raised 1.6 young per pair, compared with 1.2 fledglings per pair for the whole Jones Beach strip (D. Mizrahi).

An Am. Oystercatcher may have bred up into Delaware Bay at Moore's Beach, *Cape May* (CS). Continued exploration along inland salt water is to be looked for in this species that is coping with the disappearance of open beach by adapting to sand hummocks in the tidal marsh. Black-necked Stilts keep trying to establish breeding areas beyond their Bombay Hook stronghold. A pair was on eggs at Broadkill Beach, DE, June 17 (WWF), and one summered for the 3rd time at Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia, where they bred last year. Singles reached Brig in June (JMK, JDD); Jamaica Bay July 5 (RJK); and Doctor's Path, *Suffolk*, L.I., July 19 (M. Normandia). At Bombay Hook, they peaked at 75 July 26 (MG, BP), but heavy rains wiped out their nests. One or two Am. Avocets remained again at Bombay Hook all June; the first major arrival of post-breeding birds was 150 July 17 (F. Windfelder). Elsewhere, the sizeable group of 14 Am. Avocets at Brig since May 29 remained until at least June 22 (RKa, JDD *et al.*).

If Upland Sandpipers survive as a nesting species in the s. part of this Region, it will be thanks to airports. JFK airport remains this species' stronghold in s. New York, and a pair present at Floyd Bennett Field, in Gateway N.R.A., New York City (PAB), was encouraging. The biggest population in New Jersey inhabits McGuire Air Force Base, *Burlington*, where grasslands are being managed for conservation. Fifteen adults and one young were found June 24 (WDa, J. Miles, E. Manners, A. Driscoll). Only a handful hang on in farm country of n.w. New Jersey: four at Linvale, *Hunterdon*, and one at Alpha, *Warren*, July 4 (J. Miles, LL). A Whimbrel carefully described at the Allentown-Bethlehem Airport July 26 (†M. Wlasniewski) was only the 2nd *Lehigh*, PA, record. Hudsonian Godwits arrived in only single-digit numbers at even



Lesser Black-backed Gull in molt from first-summer to second-winter plumage at Port Mahon, Delaware, July 26, 1992. Summer records are becoming more frequent as observers learn to recognize such obscure plumages as this. Photograph/Mary Gustafson.

the most favorable spots, like Bombay Hook and the Line Islands, Great South Bay, L.I., and the only Marbled Godwit was at Pt. Breeze, Orleans, NY, July 27 (WS), where they occur only about one year in 5.

"Grasspipers" were not very widely reported, perhaps because water was high in many muddy inland pools. Single Baird's Sandpipers were at Brig July 18 (SRL), Pt. Breeze July 29 (MD), and Green Lane July 30 (GLF). Curlew Sandpipers were found only in Delaware this season: one was at Little Cr. in basic-plumage June 3 and 26 (BP), and one or two in the Bombay Hook-Little Creek-Port Mahon area after July 10 (PV, m.ob). A black Ruff was at Overlook Beach, Suffolk, L.I., June 9-10 (PL, T. Viso, JJR). There were numerous sightings at Bombay Hook after July 8 involving, at a minimum, a Reeve and two different Ruffs (PV, MG, BP, m.ob.). Singles were elsewhere at S.C.M.M., July 8 (*vide* PS), Broadkill Beach, DE, July 4 & 18 (WWF), and a Ruff and Reeve at Jamaica Bay July 16-18 (J. Quinlan *et al.*).

Wilson's Phalaropes approached last year's record numbers at Bombay Hook. The first arrived in basic-plumage June 19 (F & L King), and they peaked at 34 on July 20 (NP). Elsewhere, they were remarkably scarce. There were only singles at Cape May July 1 (DS), and at the Shark R. Inlet, NJ, July 14 (Voice of NJ Audubon), and the maximum at Jamaica Bay was only three July 3 (NYRBA). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were at Cape May June 6, Cedar Beach, L.I., June 11-14 (*vide* AJL), while at Brig two were reported June 26 (Voice of NJ Aud.) and another July 27 (DS). The season's only Red Phalarope was a bedraggled individual at the Cedar Beach rain pools June 9 (PL, T. Viso).

GULLS TO SKIMMER

One or two Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers remained off Cape May in June. Amazing both for number and for date were 10 Long-tailed Jaegers attracted to chumming activity around a party boat 45 mi s. of Montauk Pt., June 19 (J. Passic).

Our last summer's column badly under-reported the New York Port Authority's gull-control project at JFK airport, where Long Island's main Laughing Gull colony is located at the end of a major runway. In fact

14,191 Laughing (probably over 50% of the colony), 508 Herring, 128 Great Black-backed, and 59 Ring-billed gulls (total 14,886) were shot in summer 1991. The program continued this summer, killing an estimated 10,000 before the project was stopped by legal action (*vide* PAB). The Port Authority deemed the number of bird-aircraft collisions (375 in 1988 and 371 in 1989, about half of them with Laughing Gulls), unacceptably high at JFK airport, but their solution has alarmed conservationists.

The Franklin's Gull July 9 at Barcelona, near Buffalo (Sundells) was early for this regular fall vagrant. A first-summer bird at Port Mahon July 26 (ph. D. Czaplak) provided Delaware's first photographic record; Ednie warns that some moulting Laughing Gulls with white on the primaries are being misidentified as Franklin's Gulls. The only Little Gull was at Robert Moses Power Dam, in the St. Lawrence R., July 30 (BDL). Single Com. Black-headed Gulls were at Bombay Hook July 3, the 2nd summer record (MG, BP) and Jamaica Bay July 5 (RJK). A few Bonaparte's Gulls linger each summer; this



First-summer Franklin's Gull (with Laughing Gulls) at Port Mahon, Delaware, on July 26, 1992. Apparently the first one photographically confirmed in the state. Photograph/David Czaplak.

time a first-summer bird was at the Pedricktown spoil banks, Salem, NJ, June 10 (W.Da, E. Manners). The Ring-billed Gull colony at Little Galloo is estimated to contain 80,000 pairs (BMi). Lesser Black-backed Gulls seem to have become more common in mid-summer. Two or three were around Cape May in June (DS *et al.*), and three first-summer birds were at Fortescue, Cumberland, NJ, June 6-7 (JDo, B. Barber, V. Elias). Port Mahon had one immature June 26, and two July 26 (MG, BP).

The Region's only Caspian Tern colony, at Little Galloo, increased again to 810 individual adults and 200 young June 16 (GS). Exceptionally, only a handful of Royal Terns wandered to Long Island this summer. A few Sandwich Terns and Roseate Terns were along the s. New Jersey coast as usual, without any sign of breeding. At their 2 remaining breeding sites on Long Island, Roseate Terns were down a little to 950 on Great Gull I. (HH), and to 80 pairs at Cedar Beach, at the low edge of their normal fluctuation in recent years (JB, MG). Clutch size and productivity were good there, however: 1.06

young per pair reached the age of 20 days (JB). Common Terns did "pretty badly" on Long Island, where about 1000 pairs were missing from the great Cedar Beach colony. Since the cold season delayed nesting about 2 weeks, pairs that failed did not re-nest (JB, MG). They were "down a little" at the other mega-colony, Great Gull I. One age group seemed to be missing there: fewer 2-3-year-olds than normal returned for their first breeding (HH), suggesting some natural or human problem away from the breeding ground. In upstate New York, we have Com. Tern results only for the 641 nests along the Saint Lawrence. Navigation cell structures now hold 80.5% of those nests, owl predation being extremely heavy elsewhere. Ruddy Turnstones also took some eggs, as usual (BMi).

Forster's Terns established a colony of 60 nests in Joco Marsh, Jamaica Bay (DR). This is the first real colony in New York, though a few individuals have nested in the Great South Bay, L.I., off and on since 1981. Active Least Tern colonies were slightly up in New Jersey to 14, but the total nests were only about 867 (JB), down for the 2nd year in a row. While some large colonies did well (*e.g.* 310 pairs at Barnegat Light produced 500 young), at least 5 colonies were totally unproductive because of predation (JB). In Delaware, they were "definitely decreased" by high tides and the wet season (LG-I). A single Least Tern was exceptional inland at Pine Run, near Peace Valley, Bucks, PA, June 30 (RF) and at Holtwood Fly Ash Pond, near Muddy Run, Lancaster, PA, July 8-11 (RMS *et al.*). These may have been the same bird. Though Least Terns have nested occasionally in the Delaware Valley, there is no nesting record for the Susquehanna.

The discovery of a White-winged Tern nesting with a Black Tern at the Perch River W.M.A., near Watertown, Jefferson, NY (I. Mazzocchi, C. Muller, NY DEC), added another new species to the breeding bird list of New York. Several hundred people saw this bird between June 23 and July 21 without disturbing the nest, but the chicks disappeared at the age of 7 days. All known White-winged Tern breeding attempts in North America have involved pairing with Black Terns, including the first North American record in Wisconsin in 1873 (Bent II 299; see *Am. Birds* 39:889 and 40:1181 for a similar couple in Quebec in 1985-86). On July 24, 3 days after the Perch R. bird disappeared, an adult White-winged Tern just beginning to moult around the bill arrived at Little Cr. (†J. Book & T. Garner, CDC), where one has been present about half the late summers since 1977. It was still being picked out among the Black Terns into early August despite rapidly advancing moult into basic-plumage.

Black Terns, classified as a "species of special concern" in New York since 1983, have been studied by the NY DEC since 1989. The 20 colonies now active are estimated to contain 284 nesting pairs, but in a

close study of several colonies this summer, 68% of the nests failed for reasons still unknown (B.Mi). Three very late northbound Black Terns June 3 on a small lake near Wyalusing, Bradford, PA, provided a county record (WR). Southbound, the best Black Tern count was seven at Little Cr July 25 (CDC *et al.*).

We have no total Black Skimmer figures for Long Island this summer, but in New Jersey about 714 nests in 10 colonies (JB) was slightly below last year. Three colonies produced 1.13-1.15 young per pair, but several small colonies were entirely wiped out by rain. Black Skimmers were not known to have bred in Delaware this year. A flock of 150 that summered again at Little Cr. needs close watching; one or two were as far up Delaware Bay as Bombay Hook in early July (Howat, NP, A. Guarante).

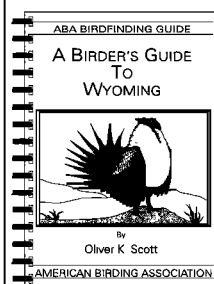
OWLS TO SHRIKES

A Snowy Owl was badly out of place at the Lakeshore Golf Course, Greece, Monroe, NY, June 16 (RGS); Spahn believed that this was one of last spring's rehabilitates. A N. Saw-Whet Owl was reported on territory in Peaslee W.M.A., Cumberland, NJ, in the Pine Barrens (CS).

Common Nighthawks should be considered for the endangered list in our Region. To last summer's list of cities like Philadelphia where they are totally gone (DAC), we must add Rochester (RGS). Almost all of our correspondents reported them declining or "difficult to find" (SSa). The only positive report was "plenty" at C. Henlopen, DE, *i.e.* 6 pairs (WWF). A pair feeding over downtown Wilmington June 5 were the first sighting there in 7 years (APE); they may have been late migrants (DAC). The northernmost Chuck-wills-widow almost reached L. Ontario at Irondequoit, Monroe, NY (L. & N. Moore). Whip-poor-wills—another species that should be watched closely—were barely reported except in the negative.

A ♀ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was carrying an insect June 27 in the Pequannock Watershed, Passaic, NJ (H. Thompson). A Black-backed Woodpecker and many other woodpeckers were taking advantage of a recent burn near Vermontville, Franklin, NY (L. Stephenson).

Flycatcher migration extended well into the first week of June; all the Rochester records of Olive-sided Flycatcher this spring occurred June 1-6 (RGS), and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Island Cottage, Monroe, NY, June 6 (RGS) was not abnormal. Much more surprising was a calling Least Flycatcher June 20 at Bombay Hook (R. Powell, F. Anderson) at the Dutch Neck Road location where it has been reliably recorded 3 times before (DAC). Following the two reported in May, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continued to explore N into this Region (bear in mind that they recently bred in South Carolina). One reached Griggstown, Somerset, NJ, June 4, and two were at Cape May June 9 (P & M Reina).



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Yunick found high mortality among Tree Swallows in 3 colonies under study in the Adirondacks after the weather turned wet and cold in mid-June (RPY).

Brown Creepers bred near the s. edge of their range on the Kittatinny Ridge, Schuylkill, PA (RKE, H & J Silagy) and along the Unami Cr. Valley, Bucks, PA (AMi). Winter Wrens seem to be spreading s. of the Kittatinny Ridge in Bucks (K.Lebo). Sedge Wrens were reported only in w. and c. New York: Oak Orchard W.M.A., Genesee (CCa, MD), Montezuma N.W.R. (*vide* RGS), and three in a new area at Sylvan and Vernoa beaches, Oneida L. (*vide* GHu).

A good many monitors of E. Bluebird trails reported young dead of cold and starvation (VP *et al.*), but predation remains a greater problem. The Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Albany, NY, has totally solved the raccoon problem by placing its boxes on greased metal poles, a solution road-tested with a pet raccoon (AM). Three pairs of Veeries at Atsion extended this species' breeding range 15 mi S into the Wharton Tract, in the Pine Barrens of Burlington, NJ (WDa), where they coexist with Hermit and Wood Thrushes. Veeries on territory along the Delaware R. at New Hope were also noteworthy (RF). Since the New England mountain population of the Gray-cheeked Thrush may be restored to full species status as Bicknell's Thrush, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science and Manomet Bird Observatory have cooperated on a systematic breeding census. In New York they were found on 17 peaks in the Adirondacks and 11 in the Catskills (JMCP, L. Nagy, JA). A singing Swainson's Thrush in the Delaware piedmont near Montchanin June 22 & 29 (H. Brokaw) was unprecedented. Hermit Thrushes are increasing at the s. limit of their upland range in this Region, on the Kittatinny Ridge in Bucks, PA (K.Grim, C. Viverette).

The only Loggerhead Shrikes from the entire Region were in c. New York: Farley's Point, L. Cayuga, July 19, (A. Farnworth) and about 35 mi away in Pompey, near Syracuse, NY, July 26 (D. Crumb, J. Throckmorton).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Our evidence about breeding warblers is once again too fragmentary to draw general conclusions about the fate of these tropical migrants. Golden-winged Warblers remained "the biggest negative" (RGS), following a poor spring (two on the Dutchess, NY, May Census, compared with 32 in 1974). Continued N. Parula recovery was suggested by a new summer location in Smith's Gap, Northampton, PA, June 21 (S. Boyce). Single N. Parulas near Rochester June 11 & 27 were very unusual (T. Clark, CCa). Still migrating in early June were two Tennessees at Island Cottage, Monroe, NY, June 6 (RGS), Black-poll and Blackburnian Warbler in early June on the S. Lancaster SBC, and two Mourning Warblers in Central Park, N.Y.C., June 5 (NYRBA). Following the increases reported in spring, Cerulean Warbler seemed to be doing well. Eleven Cerulean Warblers came just behind Hooded Warbler and tied with Blue-winged Warbler and Am. Redstart as the most common warbler species at Doodletown, Rockland, NY, June 13 (RJK). Three singing males in E. Hampton, Suffolk, L.I., in June (PL) and a breeding pair in n.w. Cape May, NJ, June 6 (*vide* CS) were outside known breeding areas.

A major warbler event was the discovery of a Prothonotary Warbler nest at Alma Pond, Allegany (†VP, †E & M Pitzrick, R. Pitrick, E & D King). Although providing a first breeding record in the Allegany Highlands of New York, Prothonotary Warblers have long bred in several other w. and c. New York locations. They were reported this season from the traditional sites of Oak Orchard W.M.A. and Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee-Orleans (Chilton, GRR, Galas, Watson), Montezuma, N.W.R. (J. Bub), and at a location unknown in the atlas at Erieville, Madison, July 28 (C. Hawken). In New Jersey, they bred along the Millstone near Kingston, Mercer (R. Blicharz).

A singing ♂ Dickcissel at Alpha, Warren, NJ, and a small colony of four males and one female in S. Lansing, near Ithaca, NY, after June 18 (B. Benner) constituted the only reports for this very occasional breeder from the west. No evidence of breeding could be found. Another western species implanting

itself more successfully is Clay-colored Sparrow. A territorial male in Andover Twp., *Allegheny*, NY (EBr), was not far from previously-known breeding areas; a singing male in Mendon Ponds Park, near Rochester, June 16-July 24 (CCa, D. Sherony, *et al.*) was even more unusual. Grasshopper Sparrows react quickly to favorable habitat. They were numerous along Route 9, e. of Odessa, DE (B & NM), where once-farmed land lay unplowed because it is awaiting development (APE). In New Jersey, 2 sites actively managed for grasslands species showed good results. At Featherbed L., near Sharptown, *Salem*, a survey June 18 revealed a Vesper Sparrow (perhaps the last in the county), 23 Savannah Sparrows, and 49 singing Grasshopper Sparrows. On June 24, 65 Grasshopper Sparrows were counted at McGuire Air Force, *Burlington* Base (WDa, J Miles, E. Manners, A. Driscoll, S. Forte). Six or eight singing ♂ Henslow's Sparrows at Perch River W.M.A., *Jeferson*, NY, was the best report we received. Elsewhere, they turned up in 5 other locations in upstate New York: Clarence, *Erie* (Watson), 2 localities in *Allegheny* (EBr), and Letchworth and Mendon Ponds Parks, *Monroe* (JSk); and one location in n.e. Pennsylvania: Lemon Twp., *Wyoming* (WR). Eastern Meadowlarks do very well locally where farming techniques allow for them, as in the Amish country west of Dover, DE, where there were 24 on June 23 (WJW). A W. Meadowlark was present from May 2 through June at Pt. Breeze, near Rochester, not far from the site of a previous record (W. Listman *et al.*), providing the 2nd summer record in w. New York. Brewer's Blackbirds were present for the 11th year in a row in Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY, and this time remained all summer (MD, CCa, BMa, JSk), leading some to wonder whether breeding might come next.

Red Crossbills turned up near the L. Ontario shore, with a maximum of eight at Golden Hill S.P., *Niagara*, July 19 (W. D'Anna *et al.*). Pine Siskins were present in June and may well have bred in *Erie*, *Allegheny* (EBr), and even *Dutchess*, NY (T. Haight), as well as in the Adirondacks.

EXOTICS

The Ruddy Shelducks still at Brig are considered escapees, as were one Ringed Teal at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, PA, and three in *York*, and a Chiloe Widgeon at the Allendale Celery Farm, *Bergen*, NJ. Ringed Turtle Doves were reported in *Salem*, NJ, across the Delaware R. from a previously known population, and at Peace Valley, *Bucks*, PA (AMi, RF).

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

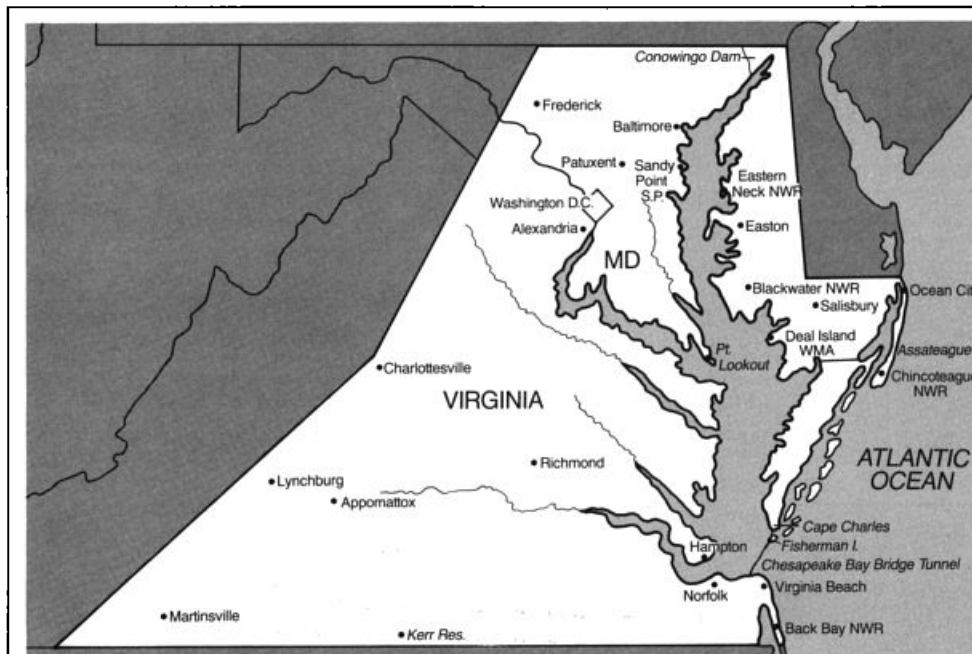
Henry T. Armistead

This was a cool, sometimes cold, and wet summer, resulting in late and/or poor reproductive success for many species, especially coastal and beach colonial birds. Sand nesters were also adversely affected by three strong storms, two last fall and one in early January, which reconfigured several barrier islands and flattened entire dune systems. Brown Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants increased and expanded as Regional breeders. Reporting was very low this summer. Even when reporting is good, however, generalizations about most landbird species' breeding success are difficult to make. There were a larger than usual number of late migrant landbirds in June.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague I.*, MD), Back Bay (*Back Bay Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*, VA), the Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*, VA); Craney (*Craney Island Disposal Area*, Portsmouth, VA); DC (*Washington*, DC); Deal (*Deal I. W.M.A.*, MD); Fish. I. (*Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*, VA); Hart (*Hart & Miller Islands*, Baltimore County, MD); H.M.C.P. (*Huntley Meadows County Park*, Fairfax, VA), place names in *italics* are counties. Dates in *italics* represent banded birds.

LOONS TO IBISES

Late Com. Loons included two at Ocean City June 14 (RFR, EB) and two at Hog I, *Northampton*, VA, June 23 (BW), as well as one in DC June 16 & 21 (OJ, DC). Two broods of Pied-billed Grebes were raised at H.M.C.P. where groups of three and two young were seen July 25 (EPW, KH, ER). A dead N. Fulmar was found on Hog I, *Northampton*, VA, in June (BW). Pelagic trips from Ocean City yielded 66 Sooty and 48 Greater shearwaters and 208 Wilson's Storm-Petrels June 6 (GS, DC, OJ *et al.*), Krueger found a Cory's Shearwater and 27 Wilson's Storm-Petrels there June 20. A Sooty was seen from shore at Chinc., June 7 (MOD). Wilson's Storm-Petrels are showing up close to shore more often with 65 per hour heading N at Metomkin I., VA, June 28 (SHD, JB) and 50 per hour June 30-July 2 at Ocean City (SHD), helped along by an onshore wind of 10-15 m.p.h. In Virginia four were seen from Parramore I., June 23 (BW), and 12 nearby in Hog I. Bay June 7 (JT, VBK). Hass saw these birds 70 mi off Virginia Beach June 29: six Cory's, an Audubon's, and 11 Greater shearwaters, 300 Wilson's, and two Leach's storm-petrels as well as four Audubon's June 30. In Maryland N. Gannets lingered later than ever with three June 2 (MO, OJ, PP), one June 5 (DC), and five July 3 (SHD) at Ocean City and two at Assat., June 21 (MLH).



S.A.

Two Am. White Pelicans loitered through June at Fish. I. where Brown Pelicans had 79 nests with 158 adults present June 21 (BW *et al.*). Browns made the strongest showing ever with breeding also at Metomkin I., where there were 23 nests and a state record count of 800 birds June 23 (BW *et al.*), as well as a new locality: Shanks and Cheeseman Is., a range extension up the Bay of 60 mi and only a mile or so below the Maryland line. Here Weske saw about 50 birds and found a nest July 10 and Aug. 1 along with 5 nest mounds and the promise of later nestings. Up to 300 were at Chinc. Inlet July 11 (JSW). In *Dorchester*, MD, the first county Browns (four immatures) were at Bloodsworth I., July 4 (HTA, GA). Also in Maryland, two were in the Pt. Lookout S.P. area June and July (MO, BM) where four Wilson's Storm-Petrels were 5 mi offshore there, 75 mi up the Bay July 6 (BM). Browns also nested in Maryland again with 23 nests and up to 800 grown birds (1.5 young per nest tagged with blue leg bands with white numbers) s. of Ocean City along with 40 Double-crested Cormorant nests (DaB). Up to 40 were seen in the Smith I., MD, area on the Bay (DaB). Double-crested Cormorants continued to increase with 260 pairs nesting (a fivefold gain) at Poplar I., MD, in the upper Bay (DaB).

A ♀ Anhinga was at Courthouse Pt., Cecil, MD, July 25 (JHK), one of the few state records, and two ♂ were in s.e. Greenville, VA, June 23 (VBK, EMW *et al.*). For the 18th straight summer, colonial waterbirds were counted (*i.e.* number of adults seen) on the Virginia coast from Assawoman s. to Fish. I. (BW *et al.*). For the first time Great Blue Herons were seen. Several pairs were seen with White Ibises at Fish.

I. Big mixed heronries were found at Chimney Pole near Hog I. and at Cobb, Wreck, and Fish. Is. Totals include 120 Little Blue and 545 Tricolored herons, 341 Black-crowned and three Yellow-crowned night-herons, and 49 Cattle, 554 Great (3rd highest) and 553 Snowy egrets, and 233 Glossy Ibises. Most of these numbers are disturbingly below the 18-year mean. An adult and juv. Am. Bittern were at H.M.C.P., June 28–July 5 (EPW, HE, RFR *et al.*). They are rare Regional breeders but have been confirmed at H.M.C.P. in 1989 and 1990. An imm. White Ibis was at Lilypons, MD, n. of DC June 20 (RG), and there were reports of up to 20+ at Back Bay in July (*vide* DSb). The high count of Glossy Ibises was 230 at Assat., July 25 (MLH). An ad. White-faced Ibis was seen briefly but well at Deal I., MD, July 18 (HTA) but unfortunately was not confirmed; this would have provided a first state record. At Bloodsworth I., MD, 125 nests of Great Blue Herons were counted July 4, almost half of these on artificial nest platforms (HTA, GA). In general the numbers of nesting herons are down in the Region and have been for several years. On the plus side, the Chinc. **Little Egret** remained well past period's end, being seen by hundreds (JMA, JMs, MG, HM, BP, m.ob., ph.). It was not always easy to find, however. The best location was in Swan Cove on the e. side of the bike trail connecting Snow Goose Pool and the road to the beach. During the period it lost its 2 nuptial head plumes but retained the pale blue-gray color at the base of the bill.

WATERFOWL TO RAILS

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Chinc. was unique June 29–July 4 (LL, JMA). Mute Swans increased to 80 at Chinc. along with period high counts of 588 Canada Geese and 41 Gadwalls, 279 Mallards, and 115 Am. Black Ducks (JDS). Rare Regional breeders in Maryland, two Green-winged Teals were at

Assat., July 3 (MLH), and one at Golden Hill, *Dorchester* June 5, where Red-cockaded Woodpeckers used to nest (JLS). An 8-mi walk at Deal I. produced 75 Gadwalls (2 broods), 31 Blue-winged Teals (one brood), and 35 Am. Black Ducks (one brood) July 18 (HTA). It was a poor summer for other waterfowl with only single reports of stray (wounded?) Snow and Blue geese, N. Pintails, N. Shovelers, Red-heads, Greater Scaups, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was at Catonsville, MD, June 10 (EB, JLS). Mississippi Kites continue to haunt s. Virginia in the Emporia-Greenville area with up to seven seen July 3 (RH), and five June 23 (VBK, EMW), with one unofficial report of up to 13 (*vide* VBK). They were seen at at least 3 sites in s.e. Greenville. In Maryland a total of 227 Bald Eagle nests were surveyed,

152 of these occupied, 146 active, 112 successful (92 in 1991) with 185 young produced (169 in 1991; GDT & MD Dept. of Natural Resources). These are the best figures since the survey started in 1977, although the young per successful nest (1.65) is lower than the highs of 1.88 in 1991 and 1985. The most fruitful counties, as was the case in 1991, were *Dorchester* (28 successful nests, 54 young), *Charles* (18/25), and *Talbot* (10/16). The state survey of Peregrine Falcon nest sites monitored nine pairs with 8 active nests, seven of these successful, producing 18 young—slightly lower productivity per nest than in any year since 1983, when this survey started (GDT *et al.*). Virginia data are not available, although one island nest there produced four females (RL); however, at Chinc. a nest failed to produce young for the first time since 1982 (JDS). A ♀ Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Nokesville, VA, June 24 (KHB), and near Williamsburg, VA, a Cooper's Hawk was seen catching a Barn Swallow June 27 (BW). Also in the Nokesville area 44 Am. Kestrel nests produced 159 young, which were banded (*vide* KHB). At Saxis, VA, a Black Rail was still calling July 20 (BW *et al.*), and Dyke found five at Elliott I., MD, June 6–7. A 2nd brood of King Rails at H.M.C.P. had four chicks July 24 (ER *et al.*). The most interesting rail news was at a small pond at an abandoned race track near inland Savage, *Howard*, MD, July 23–24, where three to four young Soras, an adult and juv. Virginia Rail, and three-four young Com. Gallinules were seen (EB, RFR, JS, NM *et al.*). Two adults and a juv. Sora were at the Easton, MD, sewage ponds July 18 (DC, MAT). Until recent investigations prove otherwise, Soras have been considered almost non-existent Regional breeders.

SHOREBIRDS

Assat.-Ocean City highlights included a Marbled and two Hudsonian godwits, and 290 Short-billed Dowitchers July 17; 150

Lesser Yellowlegs, 92 Willets, and 122 Whimbrels July 18 (MLH, MO). Farther down at Chinc. the Smiths had 244 Semipalmated Plovers, 252 Whimbrels, and 1444 Sanderlings May 19; 4321 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 26; 524 Ruddy Turnstones and 2299 Sanderlings June 2; 489 Whimbrel and two Wilson's Phalaropes July 21; 333 Whimbrels, 105 Red Knots, 4840 Sanderlings, and 1747 Short-billed Dowitchers July 28. Piping Plovers had poor production due to cold and rain. At Chinc. there were 56 nests but only 14 surviving broods out of 22



American Bittern at Huntley Meadows County Park, Virginia, June 29, 1992. The species nested here again this season. Photograph/Ken Howard.

hatched (JDS), and on Assat. 24 pairs brought off 24 young, actually the best production in several years (DaB). Black-necked Stilts established a new state high with nine at Chinc., July 18 (HTA), and one-two were at w. Ocean City through June 14 (MO, DC, RFR, JHK) while two were at their Deal I. stronghold June 1 (MO). Up to 13 Am. Avocets summered at Hart along with a Marbled Godwit and a Reeve (ph.) seen July 20 (MO, EB, JHK, GJ, BD). A very early Solitary Sandpiper was at N. Beach, Calvert, MD, July 9 (JLS). In Maryland an exceptional count was 30 Upland Sandpipers near Chestertown July 30 (MO, JM), and Czaplak had eight along New Design Rd., Frederick, June 28. Hoffman saw 122 Whimbrels at Assat., July 18. Always uncommon in Maryland, two Hudsonian Godwits were at Assat., July 31-Aug. 1 (BP, SU, JD, MG). Notorious late migrants, 25 White-rumped Sandpipers were at Ocean City June 7 (DC). A Ruff was at Hart July 31 with two Wilson's Phalaropes (JHK, GJ) and a Reeve at Chinc., July 7-8 (RH, EMW). The only Long-billed Dowitcher reports were singles at Assat., July 25 (MLH), Ocean City July 27 (JHK), and two at Back Bay July 21 (DSb). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were at Chinc., July 24 (BL), and two Red-necked off Ocean City June 6 (GS *et al.*). Williams *et al.* counted 735 Am. Oystercatchers on the Virginia barrier islands, the lowest since they began counting in 1979 with a mean of 883 since then. Their counts of 50 Piping and 48 Wilson's plovers are far below 1991's record highs of 147 and 85, but close to the 18-year mean.

JAEGERS TO SKIMMERS

A Pomarine Jaeger was seen off Ocean City June 6 (GS, OJ, DC *et al.*). The Virginia barrier island survey found these numbers of adult birds: Herring Gulls 4368 (7 islands; mean of 3133 over last 18 years), Laughing Gulls 8406 (Wreck I. and first time at Fish. I. since 1982; mean of 12,805), Great Black-backed Gulls 356 (5 islands; 4th consecutive year with an increase; mean of 160), Gull-billed Terns 488 (18-year mean of 793; 5 islands), Com. Terns 1104 (10 islands; mean of 3836), Least Terns 543 (7 islands; mean of 865), Royal Terns 3660 (2 islands; mean of 5515), Sandwich Terns 13 (2 islands; mean of 37), Caspian Terns two (one island; mean of four), Black Skimmers 2422 (mean of 5422; 8 islands). The situation for these beach birds seems to deteriorate each year of late. The storms of last fall/winter flattened most of the dunes and sandy areas on these islands. The wet, cold summer weather combined for a double whammy with much late, and consequently unsuccessful, nesting and re-nesting. Skimmers have not had a good nesting season in Virginia for 8 years. A first summer Thayer's Gull was at Hart July 31 (JHK, JLS, GJ, ph.). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Ocean City and Assat., July 17 (MLH, MO, CS), and one at Ocean City June 6 (JHK) while a record Regional count of 19, mostly first summer birds was noted at Hart July 31 (JHK, BD *et al.*). One hundred twenty Great Black-backed Gulls were at Sandy Pt. S.P., MD, June 19 (DC). Rare in the n. Bay, two Gull-billed Terns were at Hart July 20 (MO, JHK, EB, BD). Royal Terns had the best breeding in Mary-



Mississippi Kite (probably a one-year-old bird, to judge by the stage of wing molt) south of Emporia, Virginia, June 7, 1992. Photograph/David Abbott.

land since 1982 with 48 chicks banded July 27, 49 Aug. 21 at Ocean City (JSW *et al.*), 18 Aug. 1 in the Shanks/Cheeseman Is., VA, area (JSW *et al.*) near where the Brown Pelican nests were found, and an astounding 1560 banded far up the Bay July 11. They have only nested a few times before in the Bay and in much smaller numbers. Weske *et al.* also banded 1960 Royal and six Sandwich Tern chicks at Fish. I., July 9, and 48 Royals on Little Cobb I., Aug. 1. From one to possibly three Roseate Terns were at Ocean City June 7-8 where they were carefully scrutinized (CPW, MLH, EB, MO, JHK *et al.*,



American Avocet at the Hart & Miller Islands complex, Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, on July 20, 1992. Photograph/George M. Jett.

ph.). In Virginia waters an Arctic Tern was 20 mi offshore s. of Ocean City June 20 (JHK, OC, MLH) and another in the same area July 5 (MLH, JHK *et al.*, ph.), while still another was in Maryland waters off Ocean City Aug. 1 (GS *et al.*). At Ocean City 230 Black Skimmers were seen July 17 (MLH).

CUCKOOS TO SHRIKES

Most observers found Yellow-billed Cuckoos extremely scarce, although Dyke's 18 on the Fruitland B.B.S., June 13 was his highest in 27 years. O'Brien had migrant Black-billed Cuckoos at night over Anne Arundel, MD, June 2 (with five Yellow-billed) & 22. Near Nokesville Bass monitored 30 Barn Owl nests, banding 85 young and 11 adults. A Com. Nighthawk was at Ship Shoal I., VA, in June (BW); they still persist as breeding birds on some Regional barrier islands. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at H.M.C.P. this summer had a completely white tail (EPW). Extreme migrant flycatchers were a single Traill's at Eastern Neck N.W.R., MD, June 2 and July 28 (J & PG), a calling Alder at Hart June 4 (JLS, MI), and a Willow at Remington Farms, Kent, MD, July 26 (J & PG). Ringler found a singing Least Flycatcher at Little Bennett Regional Park on the Maryland Piedmont June 20—most unusual. Honors for fancy flycatcher go to a ♂ Vermilion at Cuckold Cr off the Patuxent R. near Hollywood, MD, July 12 (FJM *et al.*; well-described by several; 2nd state record). Also extraordinary was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Bull Run Regional Park, VA, July 17 (EH *vide* KK). At Bellevue, Talbot, MD, an E. Kingbird nest with two large young was found 22 feet from the shore on the branch of an Am. hackberry tree, the nest being just 44 inches from the base of a Bay cove (HTA). In Maryland at Seneca, n. of DC, 400 N. Rough-winged Swallows were an excellent postbreeding aggregation July 12 (MO), as were 5000 Bank Swallows at Crumpton July 29 (MO). Cliff Swallows are scarce Regional breeders, but this year nesting birds were found at 5 spots in Prince Georges, Howard, Montgomery, Baltimore, and Carroll (JLS, GJ, EB). Anomalous in Maryland were single Red-breasted Nuthatches at Denton July 14 & 23 (MN) and Patuxent W.R.S., June 10 (MP). The only Brown Creeper report



Roseate Tern (front—with Common Terns) at Ocean City, Maryland, on June 7, 1992. Photograph/Mark L. Hoffman.

was of a singing bird near Bozman, *Talbot*, MD, July 4 (RLK). A genuine seasonal rarity was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet seen at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. in MD, n. of DC, June 23 (RLH). Late migrant thrushes in Maryland included a Gray-cheeked and three Swainson's at George's I. Landing June 1 (MO, OJ, PP), and four Swainson's over *Anne Arundel* June 2 (MO), these all night flyovers. A presumably extremely early migrant was a Veery at Eastern Neck N.W.R., July 23 (J & PG). Several coastal-plain breeding records of Cedar Waxwings were received—this never used to happen—plus a flock of 43 at Schooley Mill Park in *Howard*, MD, June 1 (NM). The only Loggerhead Shrike reports were of one at Lucketts, *Loudoun*, VA, July 4 (JB), and a breeding pair seen both at their nest and with young birds near Lilypons, MD, through June–July 5 (JLS, JHK, TW, JG, MO *et al.*).

VIREOS TO BLACKBIRDS

Considerably s.e. of their normal breeding ranges in Maryland were a singing Solitary Vireo at Patuxent W.R.C. near Laurel during June (SD, WHH *et al.*) and a Blue-winged Warbler near the coast near Nassawango Cr June 21 where breeding has been suspected in several recent previous years (SHD). The Grubbers detected some extremes of migration at Eastern Neck N.W.R. with a Swainson's Thrush and Magnolia and Canada warblers June 1, three Am. Redstarts June 2, two Yellow Warblers July 20, and a N. Waterthrush July 28. Late warblers at Patuxent W.R.C. included a Black-throated Blue June 1, and a Magnolia June 2 (FWF), and in DC a Magnolia, a Blackpoll, and an Am. Redstart June 7 (OJ). Still more late warblers were a Black-throated Green in Gaithersburg, MD, June 6 (RH), a Blackburnian in *Howard*, June 2 (NM), a Blackpoll in DC June 10 (OJ), and in McLean, VA, a Mourning, a Canada, and a Wilson's June 1–2 (DS). Also a probable late migrant was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Gillis Falls Park, *Carroll*, MD, June 7 (RFR). Dickcissels were reported only from *Frederick*, MD, with up to three there through the period (JHK, JLS, MI, RH, BP *et al.*). Bachman's Sparrows continued to maintain their tenuous foothold in s. Virginia with one in *Sussex* June 12 (DFA)

and up to four in *Brunswick*, plus two Henslow's Sparrows July 3 (RH). Small numbers of breeding Savannah Sparrows were in *Frederick*, MD, such as five singing birds along Oland Rd., June 10 (JHK). A few breeding Swamp Sparrows were again in Maryland Bay counties, with birds found in *Talbot*, *Charles*, and *Kent* this year (JGR, JLS). Early Bobolinks, always a part of late July, were at four Maryland localities this summer—including singles at Allen's Fresh, *Charles*, July 17 (JLS), and Easton Sewage Ponds July 19 (MO). Of interest was a Red-winged Blackbird seen 34 mi off Ocean City, MD, July 5 (JHK *et al.*).

Observers (subregional editors in boldface):

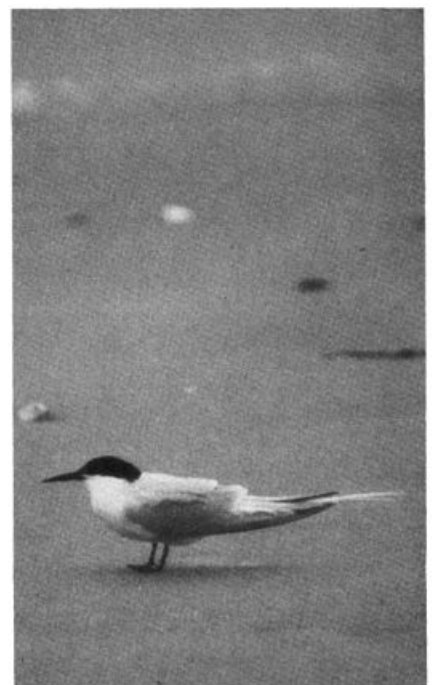
D.F. Abbott, Bill Akers, J.M. Anderson, R.A. Anderson, George Armistead, K.H. Bass, Ruth Beck, Jim Biggs (JBs), John Bjerke, Eirik Blom, Mike Boatwright, Connie Bockstie, Ed Boyd, Maggie Briggs, David Brinker (DaB), Ned Brinkley, Don Broderick, Ed Bruce (EBe), J.B. Churchill, Roger Clapp, Randy & Richard Crook, David Czaplak (DC area), L.M. Davidon, Bob Dixon, Sam Droege, Jon Dunn, S.H. Dyke, S.D. Eccles, Howard Elitzak, Ethel Engle, F.W. Fallon, Jane Farrell, R.B. Fletcher (*Caroline*, MD), T. Ford, Jesse Fulton, Inez Glime, J.S. Gottschalk, Robert Green, Jim & Patricia Gruber (*Kent*, MD), Mary Gustafson, Bob Hahn, Charles & Melva Hansrote, Todd Hass, Robert Hilton, Earl Hodnett, M.L. Hoffman (Assat. I.), R.L. Homan, Ken Howard, W.H. Howe, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Teta Kain, John Keys, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, V.B. Kitchens, R.L. Kleen, J.H. Krueger, Ellen Lawler, Bev Leeuwenburg, Reese Lukei, Barry Lynch, Willem Maane, Nancy Magnusson, Bill MacPhail, Jim McCann, Jerry McWilliams (JMs), S. Miller, Dorothy Mitchell, Harvey Mudd, F.J. Muth, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Matthew O'Donnell (MOd), Bruce Peterjohn, Paul Pisano, E.L. Pitney (lower E.S. of MD), William Portlock, J.G. Reese (*Talbot*, MD), Ed Regan, R.F. Ringler, Stephen Rottenborn, Gene Scarpulla (pelagic trips), J.D. Schroer (Chinc.), Don Schwab (DSb), Christine Simoes, S.W. Simon, Don Simonson (DSm), Ann & Paul Smith, Jo Solem (*Howard*, MD), J.L. Stasz, Don Stein, P.W. Sykes, Brian Taber, Karen Terwilliger, G.D. Therres, Mary Ann Todd, John Tonkin, Sue Utterback, C.R. Vaughn, Jerry Via, E.P. Weigel, J.S. Weske, Tony White, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams (Virginia barrier island survey), E.M. Wilson (greater DC area).—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.



Birds of the Soft-plumaged Petrel complex had been sighted several times off the Carolinas, and this season they were photographed. This one was off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, on May 24, 1992. Photograph/Alan Brady.



Bar-tailed Godwit in flight at Portsmouth Island, North Carolina, on May 9, 1992. First spring record for the Region. Photograph/Steve Dinsmore.



Roseate Tern at North Core Banks, North Carolina, May 29, 1992. Photograph/Steve Dinsmore.

ONTARIO REGION

Ron Ridout

The summer of 1992 in Ontario may well be referred to in years to come as the summer that never quite happened! Temperatures across the province consistently hit record lows, breaking marks which in some cases had stood for 100 years or more. June began slightly cooler and wetter than normal, but on June 17 a massive cold front, taking 2 days to sweep across the province, left widespread snowfalls in the north and frosts in the south in its wake. This killer cold snap lasted until June 22, striking at a time when many altricial young were newly hatched and most vulnerable.

Reporters across the province spoke of massive die-offs of young birds. The species mentioned most frequently were those easily monitored: Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds. Nestling mortality ranged from 18.1% in the south (at Long Point) to as high as 80% at Sault Ste. Marie in the north. While the effects of such dismal conditions on all species are open to speculation and many birds attempted to renege, the overall impact on populations will be better known once this autumn's migration data at the Long Point Bird Observatory have been compared to the long-term average.

If observers held their breath and hoped for a return to summer, they were destined to be disappointed. July's temperatures averaged 8° below normal, and record rainfalls

occurred in many locations. Early in the month at Long Point, seven inches of rain fell in less than one week!

Interesting trends during the period included impressive numbers of late spring migrants in the south and low numbers of the expected southbound passerines by the end of the Period, the latter situation probably a result of renege attempts taking them well past their normal departure dates.

Rough-legged Hawks summered in Ontario well south of their breeding grounds in unprecedented numbers, likely a result of wintry conditions in the eastern Arctic. Likewise, several shorebird species reappeared on their way south at very early dates. White Pelicans expanded their colonization of Lake Nipigon and appeared in the south in above-average numbers. Rarities included Tricolored Heron, Swainson's Hawk, Little Stint, and White-winged Tern.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Point Pelee N.P. and vicinity*); L.P.B.O. (*Long Point Bird Observatory*); T.C.B.O. (*Thunder Cape Bird Observatory*); Algonquin and Presqu'ile are Provincial Parks.

LOONS TO HERONS

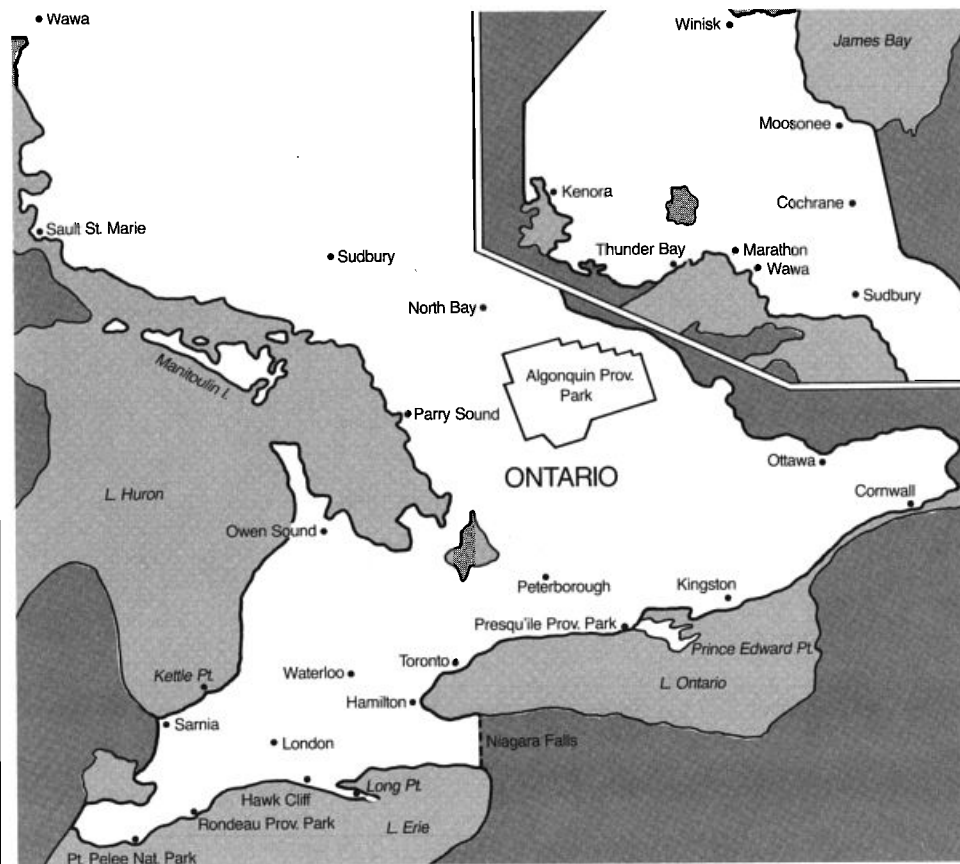
Banders at T.C.B.O. noted calling Red-throated Loons flying S on several days in June and speculated that nesting might be happening nearby (DS). There are historical breeding records for the species on L. Superior. More southerly sightings occurred at Darlington P.P., June 12 (EP) and Presqu'ile, July 15 (SH). Lingered Horned Grebes included

three along the New Toronto waterfront, June 1, 7 & 8 (RY, EJ) and one at Wheatley, June 17 (AW). Red-necked Grebes summered on w. Lake Ontario in good numbers with high counts of 26 at Burlington, July 22 (RD) and up to 24 off Rattray's Marsh, Pelee, July 19-31 (RSC, m.ob.). In the north the colony at Whitefish L., *Thunder Bay*, was active again with 45 nests June 20 (AH). The season's only Eared Grebe was found at the Rainy R. sewage lagoons, June 25 (DSa, AB). Individuals from the flock of six White Pelicans seen at Long Point through May were present until June 2 (JM *et al.*). Four birds observed at Crosby, Leeds, June 8 (JH, DB) were likely the same birds found at Ivy Lea in April. One of these birds later moved to Amherst I., July 5-15 (K.F.N.). In addition to stable numbers on L. of the Woods, the species continued its expansion in the n.w. with 2 new colonies censused on L. Nipigon. Biologists counted 45 adults and 14 nests with 23 eggs July 7 (DE, SB *et al.*). Four birds at Thunder Bay June 11-12 (NE *et al.*) may be the forerunners of a colony on L. Superior. An undocumented sighting of a Brown Pelican at Pinery P.P. July 7 would normally go unreported here; however an imm. bird seen by many 2 days later at Buffalo, NY, may lend credence to the Pinery sighting. Double-crested Cormorant nests at Hamilton harbour totalled 592 (DVW), a 50% increase over 1991. Expansion also continued at the Leslie St. Spit, Toronto, with 71 nests counted (GS). An immature seen at Tavistock June 6 (JMH), provided Oxford's first June record. In the north several summered

on s.e. James Bay, possibly reoccupying former breeding sites (DM). While Least Bitterns were noted from several southern locations to as far north as Cache Bay, *Nipissing* (RTa), there is still concern from Long Point where they formerly bred in large numbers but are now virtually absent (JM). The same is true of Am. Bitterns. A high count of 43 Great Egrets was tallied July 26 at Holiday Beach (RD, BC). Away from southern localities, individual stragglers were at Perth June 12 (CT, LT), Ottawa June 17 (SG), Mallorytown July 16 (RDW), and two at Baie du Dore, *Bruce*, July 12 (WP). A very rare Tricolored Heron appeared for 2 days June 4-5 at Long Point (RM). The only Cattle Egret of the season was at Burgoyne, *Bruce*, June 17 and again July 15 (WW). A total of 132 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests at Hamilton harbour was a 100% increase over 1991 (DVW). The species bred for the first time on Scotch Bonnet Is. *Prince Edward*, with nine adults and two young found July 15 (SL).

WATERFOWL TO CRANES

Single non-breeding Tundra Swans



were at Mississagi Light, *Manitoulin*, June 1–July 31 (JN), Dorset June 10 (RP, CL), and Long Point July 28 (JMH). Individual late migrant Snow Geese occurred at Pelee June 3 (RW), Embrun June 14 (VL), and two were at the Leslie St. Spit, Toronto, June 8, 13 & 14 (GS, m.ob.). Two Ross' Geese were seen among 2500 Snows 10 km e. of Winisk on Hudson's Bay June 8 (DM). Four late migrant Brant lingered at Hamilton June 7–8 (KM, RD), and a flock of 25 flew N over Westport June 8 (K.F.N.). One summering bird was at the Cornwall dam July 6 (BD). Several observers in c. Ontario mentioned northbound flocks of moult-migrant *B.c.-maxima*. Algonquin recorded its first breeding record (CC), the species moving into the east side of the park likely from the Pembroke bread-fed flock. Summering Canvasbacks were at Hamilton from early June to July 6 (RD, m.ob.), Arthur June 26 (RD), Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, June 27–July 11 (m.ob.), and at Tavistock (JMH) and Thunder Bay (AH, NE) throughout the Period. Redheads bred at Presqu'île with 2 family groups present through the summer (m.ob.). Ring-necked Ducks were south of range at Nonquon June 6 (MB) and Presqu'île June 3–15 (SH, DSh), as were the two Greater Scaup that summered at Hamilton (KM) and another at Tavistock June 1–10, providing *Oxford's* first summer record (JMH). A ♀ Com. Eider was discovered at Darlington P.P. July 13 and remained through the period providing s. Ontario's first summer record (m.ob.). Also rare in summer was a ♂ Harlequin Duck at Sault Ste. Marie June 24 (AWa *et al.*). Unusual away from a large body of water were 18 White-winged Scoters heading N near Kleinburg June 13 (GB). Very rare for the locality in summer was an ad. ♂ Bufflehead in the Pelee area June 15–22 & 30 (AW). By the latter date it had moulted to eclipse plumage. Another male was at Oakville June 20 (KM), and two immatures at Wildwood L., *Oxford*, July 30 (JMH) were record-early migrants for the county. Bald Eagles produced a "bumper crop" on the s. Great Lakes with 15 young fledged from 11 nests (PH). For the first time in several decades they returned to the Detroit R. ecosystem to breed, and Long Point had its first mainland nesting since the 1950s. In spite of the mass of visiting birders, Cooper's Hawk nest that fledged several young at Pelee was unusual for the park (AW, m.ob.). Four new breeding sites were discovered in *Oxford*, all in maturing pine plantations (JMH). A N. Goshawk nest in *Oxford* furnished only the 3rd county record (JMH). The presence of a dark-phase Swainson's Hawk at Rainy R., June 28 (KB, JB, SC, PAW), was intriguing given the late date and location. There is one unconfirmed breeding record for the province. Numbers of lingering Rough-legged Hawks were "amazing" this summer. A total of 33 birds was reported across the province, the majority of which were light-phase birds. However, the most southerly record was a dark-phase individual

in *Elgin* June 6 (SP). An ad. Golden Eagle at Cold L., *Peterborough*, July 14 (FH) was rare but not unprecedented. Merlins continue to do well across c. and n. Ontario, but individuals at Cranberry Marsh July 22 (PSS) and Long Point July 28 (JMH) were most unusual. Away from the usual breeding sites, two Yellow Rails were calling at Atikokan June 12 (TN, DE). Among widespread Sandhill Crane reports, three birds were present at Long Pt. for the 5th summer in a row (JM), two were at Pelee June 27 (AW, JF), and two adults and a half-grown immature were found in N. Dumfries Twp., *Waterloo*, July 14 (HW, MW) providing s.w. Ontario's first confirmed breeding record in several decades. *Thunder Bay* was provided its first breeding record by a pair and two young found at Nakina (JW).

SHOREBIRDS

It is apparent that Piping Plovers did not nest in the province this year. Surveys of Sable I., the last known breeding site, found no birds present due to high water levels on L. of the Woods (DE). Two birds nearby on the mainland, present for most of June, showed no sign of nesting (m.ob.). An unmated male at Long Pt. displayed until at least July 15 without success (JM *et al.*). An imm. Greater Yellowlegs lingered late at Hamilton June 14 (RD) while the first southbound adult appeared at Norwich July 5 (JMH). Early Lesser Yellowlegs were at Blenheim June 21 (KB, JB), with two at Hamilton (KM, RD) the same day, just 9 days after the last spring migrant was at Rainy R., June 12 (GC). A Willet at Thornbury, *Grey*, June 3–4 (JBa) was a tardy spring migrant, but one at Nanticoke July 1 (DA), and perhaps the same bird again at Rose Hill, *Niagara*, July 11 (DWA, WWa), plus another at Munster July 17 (MG) were rare summer visitors. Two Upland Sandpipers at Pelee June 6 (AW) would be exceptionally early fall migrants, raising the possibility of a locally breeding pair. A Whimbrel at Cranberry Marsh June 27 (MB) was very early as were two at Presqu'île July 4 (DSh) and one at Hamilton July 5 (KR, m.ob.). Very rare in summer were Marbled Godwits at Aylmer May 30–June 2 (DMA), Hamilton June 22 (RD), and Bronte July 15 (GE). Seven birds in the Rainy R. area June 14 (GC) were a good number, and an agitated pair there June 27–28 (SC, KB, JB, PAW) was evidence of probable nesting. An ad. W. Sandpiper at Norwich June 5 (JMH) provided only the 2nd spring record for *Oxford*. The first bird from the north arrived at Darlington P.P. July 16 (EP). On July 25, an ad. Little Stint was identified at Casselman lagoons, *Russell* (BD *et al.*). This is the 2nd record of the species for the province, details of which are published in *Birder's Journal Vol. One, No. 6*. Very late northbound White-rumped Sandpipers were at Presqu'île (DSh) and Sudbury (JN), both on June 22. Just 15 days later the first fall migrant was seen at Darlington P.P., July 7 (EP). The only Baird's Sandpiper reported was exceptionally early

at Holland Landing, *York*, July 1 (KS). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Thunder Bay July 22 (AH) was early for the area. Always exciting, especially in summer, was the discovery of a black Ruff at Eriean, *Kent*, July 4 (KB). A ♀ Wilson's Phalarope at Hamilton June 13 (RD) was likely a fall migrant. The first migrant juveniles were at Tavistock (JMH) and Darlington P.P. (m.ob.) July 18. Red-necked Phalaropes at Rainy R., June 14 (GC), and Hamilton June 17–23 (RD, m.ob.) were considered late spring migrants. Seven Red Phalaropes at Hannah Bay, *Cochrane*, June 21 (SO, KRo) were well south of their normal range, likely victims of several days of cold northern winds.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was at the mouth of the Sutton R., *Kenora*, July 22 (DM). The Laughing Gull, first seen at Turkey Pt., May 23, was reported from various locations around Long Pt. Bay until June 21 (m.ob.). A Franklin's Gull at Moosonee June 14 (DM) provided only the 3rd record for James Bay. At least 25 Little Gulls were reported from the south, most of them first summer birds. In the north at Moosonee, several adults summered, but breeding could not be confirmed (DM). A first summer Black-headed Gull at Pelee June 16 & 24 (AW) provided that locale's first record in summer. Other individuals appeared at Long Pt. June 8 (RM *et al.*) and Cranberry Marsh July 1–3 (RP *et al.*). An ad. Bonaparte's Gull was early at Hamilton July 12 (KM), and at Presqu'île 56 birds appeared July 13 (SH). The first juveniles reported were three birds at Pelee July 30 (AW). A new colony of Ring-billed Gulls at Long Pt. involving 6000 nests was completely wiped out by predators (JM). An Iceland Gull at Ogoki, *Thunder Bay*, June 5–7 (PE, MM) was that area's first during the summer period. Six Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, double the usual summer average, with the one at Eriean July 18 (KB) noteworthy as providing that area's first summer record. Lingering Glaucous Gulls were seen at Long Pt., June 1 (PP *et al.*), and at Pelee June 2 (AW). An ad. Sabine's Gull at East Pt. on James Bay June 21 (SO, KRo) was likely present due to foul weather farther north. Caspian Tern nests at Hamilton's Tollgate ponds totalled 337, a 50% increase over last year (DVW). Individuals away from the usual sites included one at Luther Marsh, *Wellington*, June 14 (RMi, BW), two at Ottawa Beach July 18 (JR)—and two at Black Bay, *Thunder Bay*, July 11–13 (NE, SB) were considered possible breeders.

Common Terns were reported in high numbers along the L. Ontario shoreline and at Windemere Basin; *Hamilton Wentworth* nests numbered 713 (DVW). An Arctic Tern was at the Deschenes rapids, *Ottawa Carleton*, June 6 (MG), and the next day 11 were counted there (BD). Fifty-eight Forster's Terns at Leamington harbour June 20 (AW) were probably displaced breeders from elsewhere in s.w. Ontario, a supposition rein-

forced by the almost total absence of the species at Long Pt., where a healthy population thrived just a couple of years ago (JM). A **White-winged Tern**, likely the same one as at Port Lambton in May, was observed at close range in a Com. Tern colony at Hamilton June 2 (DMO, *vide* PR). While 6 pairs of Black Terns nested at Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, for the first time in several years, the species is in serious decline at Long Pt. (JM) and Presqu'île (KL).

CUCKOOS TO SHRIKES

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were widely reported in c. Ontario with the northernmost birds at Richmond, *Ottawa Carleton*, June 10 (BD) and three near Finch, *Stormont*, July 11 (BD). A Snowy Owl at Sault Ste. Marie June 30 (JE) was a unusual sight. The species is a rare straggler anywhere in the province in summer. Also at Sault Ste. Marie a pair of N. Hawk Owls raised a family within city limits, though two of the young were removed from the nest by persons unknown before they fledged (JE). A Great Gray Owl, a straggler from last winter's invasion, summered on the Bruce Pen. near Tobermory (*vide* MP). A total of 46 raptors of various species was brought to The Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation in Vineland for a variety of reasons during the period (KMr). A Chuck-will's-widow returned to Long Pt. for the 2nd year in a row and sang on territory through the period (JW *et al.*). A Red-headed Woodpecker at Cobden June 17 (DBu) was beyond the normal range of the species. Red-bellied Woodpeckers bred for the first time in *York* at Happy Valley forest; an ad. male was feeding a juvenile there July 5 (TH). A pair at a nest at Beachville (JM) furnished *Oxford's* 2nd nesting record. Thirteen Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and 11 Least's along Pelee's west beach June 9 (AW) were good numbers for the date. An amazing influx of Acadian Flycatchers occurred this summer in Ontario. Thirty-eight birds were reported from various locations with a high of 15 singing males in Walsingham Twp., *Norfolk* (DAS), 10 birds at the tip of Long Pt., June 7, eight of which were banded (L.P.B.O.), and extralimital at Chaffey's Locks, *Leeds*, June 4 (K.F.N.), Bright's Grove, *Lambton*, June 5 (AR), and Guelph June 6 (RVT). A singing Alder Flycatcher at Pelee June 27 (AW, JF) provided the first record in summer for the park and a Willow at North Bay (RTa) was at the northern limit of the range in the province. A W. Kingbird in the Rainy R., June 12 (GC), was the only one reported. Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers together at Pelee June 8 (HB) were a rare sight. At Moosonee, a Purple Martin furnished that area's first record July 4 (DM,RS). All swallows were hard hit by the 5-day cold snap in mid-June. At Long Pt. 300 ad. Tree and Bank Swallows were killed by cars as they foraged low over the causeway June 20 (JM), and 10,000 swallows "clustered, cold and listless" were noted at the Tavistock lagoons June 21 (JM). *Oxford's* largest Cliff Swallow colony

was abandoned, dead young and adults could be seen in the nests (JM). Similar reports for all swallows came from Algonquin (RT), Sault Ste. Marie (WPa), and Guelph (BW). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were well n. of the known range at Swan L., e. of Winisk, *Kenora* (JWa), though probably of normal occurrence in this poorly known area. Unabated by cold winters, Carolina Wren numbers continued to increase in the province. Beyond the southwest, where they are still multiplying, nesting took place in *Durham* (MB) and Kingston (K.F.N.), and emigres were at Prescott July 30 (J & JT), and all period at Ottawa (WEG). Eastern Bluebirds suffered a similar fate as the swallows in mid-June. Loss of young was widespread though adults fared better. Fifteen birds at T.C.B.O. June 5 (DS) were thought to be failed breeders from elsewhere. A Swainson's Thrush at Pelee June 12 (AW) was a very late spring migrant. A singing Hermit Thrush at Presqu'île June 22 (SH) provided only the 2nd summer record there. Four N. Mockingbirds were reported well north of the usual range with one each at Moosonee June 2 (THu), Thunder Bay (RC) and T.C.B.O. (DS) both on June 3, and the northernmost bird at Kashechewan, *Kenora*, June 19 (DMy). Loggerhead Shrikes seemed to maintain their numbers at established sites, and for the first time double-brooding was reported. A male attended three fledged young while the female brooded 4 eggs in Carden Twp., *Victoria*, July 8 (RP).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

A territorial White-eyed Vireo at Sweaburg Station, *Oxford*, June 23 (JM) provided the first summer record there. A walk down Pelee's west beach on June 1 (AW) yielded some very impressive numbers for so late in the migration, including among others: 65 Red-eyed Vireos, 18 Magnolia Warblers, seven Blackburnians, six Blackpolls, 45 Am. Redstarts, nine Mourning, and 21 Wilson's. Record-late migrants at Pelee included a Blue-winged Warbler June 7 (JM, GP), N. Parula June 8 (AW), and Black-throated, Blue, and Hooded warblers June 9 (AW). A singing N. Parula there on June 14 (GTH) provided only the 2nd summer record for the park. One in the Glen Stewart ravine, *Toronto*, July 5 (FB) likely summered there. Amidst concern for the Prairie Warbler in Ontario, surveys conducted at Georgian Bay I. N.P. found a stable population with 15+ singing males (DF, RR). Cerulean Warblers at the northern limit of their range in the same park totalled 12+ males (DF,RR). Three pairs of Louisiana Waterthrush successfully fledged young in the Kingston area (JEL, RDW). For the 2nd year in a row, a Hooded Warbler returned to Presqu'île and sang until July 11 (SL, m.ob.). T.C.B.O. recorded its first N. Cardinal, a female, June 8 (DS *et al.*). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Pelee June 1 (AW) was record-late for the park. A large colony of Grasshopper Sparrows established itself near Walsingham with an esti-

mated 40 pairs in June (MEG) Also at Walsingham, a White-throated Sparrow June 24 (DAS) was considered a failed breeder from elsewhere. The species is now established to the north in *Oxford* with 15+ pairs at Chesney Bay (JM). After a long period of decline, W. Meadowlarks seemed to reestablish themselves in several areas, most notably in *Thunder Bay* where 12+ territorial males were found (DE, NE). In the south, sightings totalled eight and were widespread with the most notable being two birds in the Kanata area July 1 (JD). Orchard Orioles were also on the increase in several locations, most significantly at Pelee with 40 pairs estimated (AW), in the Toronto area, where 17 birds including 3 pairs were observed (EJ), and on Wolfe I., *Frontenac*, where a pair successfully raised young (GY). Numbers of White-winged Crossbills built rapidly in Algonquin in early July as a massive spruce cone crop matured (RT). An increase of smaller proportions was noted in *Thunder Bay* (NE).

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It certainly was an exceptional summer, but the birding was not particularly exciting, and the observer response was on the light side. June was much cooler than normal, and early morning temperatures in the 30s occurred. Rainfall was about normal in the north but above normal in the south. July was more summer-like, although temperatures were still somewhat below normal. The north experienced heavy rains (Pittsburgh had 8.75 inches of rain, the third wettest July on record), while the southern part of the Region had normal or slightly below-normal rainfall.

The cold weather in June had a marked effect on the nesting season. There were many reports of nestling mortality. Many birds whose first nesting failed did not attempt a second effort and disappeared from the area. Birds that did attempt second nestings were usually successful, despite the heavy July rains.

By the end of the period there was no sign of an early fall migration, although there was a lot of post-breeding wandering, particularly among high-elevation species moving downslope.

The long-term trend of northern species extending their ranges southward continued with some noteworthy summer records of Hermit Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, and Savannah Sparrow. The corresponding trend of such southern species as the Yellow-throated Warbler and Blue Grosbeak to move northward also continued.

These range expansions are taking place even though many species are apparently declining in total numbers. These seasonal reports are poorly designed to assess population declines, since there is a great lack of hard data. Most correspondents report *impressions*, which lead to reports such as the following, which state that Indigo Buntings: "...did not seem to be as many as usual," and "...generally at a high level." What conclusions can we draw? The reports that came in for many of the species showed similar discordances. Regional readers should interpret this as a plea for more census and monitoring effort.

There were three major summer programs carried out: the Brooks Bird Club held its usual Foray in southern West Virginia; the Virginia Society for Ornithology Foray visited the extreme southwestern corner of the state. Both of these areas present an interesting mixture of high- and low-elevation birds. The Lee R. Herndon Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society conducted a Summer Bird Count day.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County, PA*); Ch.N.F. (*Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, GA*); M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, KY*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland County, PA*); Sh.N.P. (*Shenandoah Nat'l Park, VA*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Common Loons summered at Terra Alta, WV (WW), and Asheville, NC (RY), and there were several other reports of stragglers in June. Pied-billed Grebes nested at Hartstown, PA (RCL). A **Brown Pelican** (ph) at P.I.S.P., July 12 & 13 (JeS, JiS, LM) was a repeat of last year's state first. The Double-crested Cormorant was reported from 8 locations, ranging from Warren, PA (BH), to *Augusta, VA* (MH), and M.C.F.H. (FB). Most of these records were in July, and as yet there is no evidence of nesting in the Region.

Least Bitterns were present in *Erie, PA*, but no nesting was confirmed, although they have nested there in the past (JM). One was calling at the Green Bottom W.M.A., WV, June 15 (MG), and one was an unusual mist-net capture at P.N.R., June 4 (RCL & RM). Until a few years ago the Great Blue Heron was unknown as a nesting bird in the Region, but each year now brings additional reports. For the 2nd year one or 2 pairs nested near P.N.R. (RM & RCL); the *Mercer, PA*, heronries had 404 nests (slightly up) and productivity was good (EB); and there were 2 small colonies near Jersey Shore, PA (P & GS). No reports came from the nestings in the newly formed Ohio River Islands N.W.R. There were fewer than normal summer season re-

ports of Great Egrets. The only reports of Cattle Egret were one at Roanoke, VA, June 4 (MD) and two in *Wood, WV*, June 5 (*vide* JE). Black-crowned Night-Herons nested at Luray, VA, and at a new colony in *Page, VA* (RSi). They were present at P.I.S.P. where they have nested in the past, but no nestings were observed (JM). There must be unlocated nestings elsewhere because the scattered reports from throughout the Region included a number of sightings of immatures. As usual the only nesting report (and only report) of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron came from the Elizabethton, TN, area (RK).

The Canada Goose continues to thrive as a nesting bird in this Region, although it did fail to nest again at Youngstown, OH (NB). At L. Somerset, PA, only one brood of Mallards and one of Wood Ducks were observed (AM). A young Hooded Merganser was seen at *Erie N.W.R., PA*, July 4 (RCL). Green-winged Teal were present in June at both Pymatuning L., PA (RFL), and P.I.S.P. (JM), but no nesting was confirmed. There were more than the usual number of reports of ducks "summering" in the Region. At P.I.S.P. there were reports of Gadwalls, Am. Wigeons, Lesser Scaups, Buffleheads, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks (m.ob.). A Tundra Swan was at Pymatuning L., PA, June 1-28 (RFL & RCL), and a Bufflehead was in *Putnam, TN*, June 20 and July 12 & 19 (SS).

RAPTORS

For the 5th year Ospreys nested in the Sleepy Creek Hunting Area, WV (RD). Other nestings were in *Somerset, PA* (AW), and near Kingspor, TN (FA). Ospreys were present all summer in *Erie, PA*, but no nesting was observed (JM). Most unusual for this Region was the **American Swallow-tailed Kite** in *Stephens, GA* (providing the first county record), July 23 (*vide* DBu).

The most spectacular news from the Falconiform front concerns the Bald Eagle, which until a few years ago was a rare summer bird. In n.w. Pennsylvania the Game Commission was monitoring 36 eagles and had under observation 18 nests (*vide* RFL). The 8 nesting pairs in *Crawford* fledged five young (RFL). In West Virginia there were 4 nests, each fledging two young (CS), and a nest at Mosquito L., OH, fledged two (CB). Other summer sightings were from: the Shenandoah R. in n. Virginia, all summer (RSi); *Centre, PA*, July 5 (FL); and *Ridgeway, PA*, June 26 (SB).

Northern Harriers and N. Goshawks are also much more widely reported than in the past. The harriers nested in *Crawford, PA* (JT), and were present all summer in *Somerset, PA* (AW). The N. Goshawk has become the most noticeable Accipiter in *Warren, PA*,



where 3 nests were located (WH). On the other hand, the Red-shouldered Hawk has declined by 90% in the last 35 years in *Warren* (WH). There was a belated report of a Golden Eagle in *Warren* May 2 (BS).

A line of 46 nesting boxes for Am. Kestrels fledged 92 young from the 23 occupied boxes. One box also fledged 11 young Wood Ducks (D & BW). A Merlin at P.I.S.P. July 22 provided the 3rd summer record there (Ji & JeS). The one West Virginia Peregrine nest fledged three young and DNR biologists had 3 other pairs under observation (CS). Other Peregrine sightings were at Watauga L., TN, June 13 (BC), and *Murray*, GA, July 23 (HD).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

In n. Georgia Ruffed Grouse seem to be declining, and no young were seen in the Ch.N.F. (HD). In the n. part of the Region the N. Bobwhite is almost a bird of the past. The only report came from *Augusta*, VA (RS). One hopes the absence of reports from elsewhere in the south are simply omissions.

There were an unusual number of reports of Virginia Rails: two at Akeley Swamp, *Warren*, PA, June 29 (TG), two at Greenbottom W.M.A., WV, July 1 (WA), three at Hartstown, PA, July 8 (RCL), and one at Conneaut Marsh, PA, July 18 (RFL). Two Soras were also seen in the Akeley Swamp June 29 (TG). Most unusual was the report of two Sandhill Cranes at Roanoke, VA, July 12 (JC).

There were 2 pairs of Upland Sandpipers (at least one nest) on the recovered surface mine areas in *Clarion*, PA (WF), and they were present in *Erie*, PA, where they have nested in the past (JM). The Upland Sandpiper in *Washington*, TN, July 28 was the first there since 1980 (BC).

The shorebird flight N continued with a few stragglers in early June: Semipalmated Plover at State College, PA (D & BB); Ruddy Turnstones at Cumberland, MD, June 1 (MT), and at P.I.S.P. June 7 (LM); and White-rumped Sandpipers at Berlin L., OH, June 1 (NB), M.C.F.H. June 3 & 4 (FB), and P.I.S.P. June 1-11 (DS, LM). The territorial Piping Plover reported in the spring from P.I.S.P. never attracted a mate and was last seen June 4 (JM). An Am. Golden Plover at P.I.S.P. June 11 furnished the first June record for that locality (JiS) (northbound or southbound?). The S flight began somewhat early at P.I.S.P. with Lesser Yellowlegs June 23 (JM) and Willets June 23 & 24 (JiS). At most places the fall flight began slowly in the first week of July. The only unusual species were: a total of five Whimbrels at P.I.S.P. July 14-25 (s.ob.), and one at B.E.S.P. (providing the 3rd local record), July 26 (RW); two Red Knots at P.I.S.P. July 29 (GR); White-rumped Sandpipers at P.I.S.P. July 4 & 5 (JM); Stilt Sandpipers at P.I.S.P. July 24 (RW) and July 27 & 28 (JiS, JM), State College, PA, July 26 (furnishing the 4th local record) (DB & BB), and Roanoke, VA, July 23 (MS).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Franklin's Gulls were at Edinboro L., *Erie*, PA, June 9 & 10 (DS) and at P.I.S.P. June 11 & 14 (LM, JeS, JiS). Caspian Terns were at P.I.S.P. all season with a summer record count of 35, July 27. A group of 12 frequented the Ring-billed Gull nesting colony, but no nesting has been discovered (JM). Common Terns were at Conneaut Marsh, PA, June 14 (RFL), and Pymatuning L., PA, June 22 (RCL). A Forster's Tern was reported from Cumberland, MD, July 16 (MT), and small numbers were at P.I.S.P. all summer (JM). To add to the spring report of the unusual inland records of the Arctic Tern, there was a belated report of a Roseate Tern†, May 16, in *Frederick*, VA (RSi). In this Region the Black Tern is known to nest only in *Erie* and *Crawford*, PA, so the following reports are most discouraging. Only one or two were seen at the Hartstown, *Crawford* breeding area, June 23-July 8 (RCL); only one was seen at Pymatuning L., *Crawford*, all season (RFL), and only one report came from *Erie*, (DS).

There were more reports than usual of Black-billed Cuckoos, including some low-elevation records in extreme s.w. Virginia (V.S.O.) but Yellow-billed Cuckoos remained fairly scarce. In addition to the usually reported 4-5 Barn Owl sites in e. Tennessee (RK) and the 2-3 sites in *Augusta*, VA (RS), nesting was reported near Jonesville, VA (V.S.O.), and Dalton, GA (HD). A Long-eared Owl was found dead at Pine Grove Mills, PA, July 9 (MHe). Two pairs of Short-eared Owls nested on the recovered surface mines in *Clarion*, PA (WF). A N. Saw-whet Owl nest with 5 eggs found in early July on Unaka Mt., TN, was not only a very late date, but also was the first actual nest found in Tennessee (RM). One or two Saw-whets were to be heard at Linn Run S.P., PA well into June (*vide* RM & RCL), and one was heard on Cheat Mt., WV, June 21 (MG & WA).

Almost without notice the Com. Nighthawk has disappeared from the summer skies over our small cities. Likewise the Whip-poor-will is gone from many forested areas where it formerly serenaded the evening sky. For the 12th year Chuck-will's-widows were present at Camp Frame in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle (RD), and the V.S.O. found them at Cumberland Gap N.H.P., June 18 (*vide* JD). Several reporters commented on the general scarcity of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. A bright spot in this gloomy report was the increased number of reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nest was found in *Warren*, PA, July 10 (BH). Once fairly common in the north, and at high elevations in the south, this species has been seldom reported in recent years.

FLYCATCHERS TO THRUSHES

In a quantitative census in Sh.N.P., E. Wood Pewee populations had declined by 20% of the 6-year average (MSm). At Morgantown peewees were scarce (GAH) but were in higher-than-normal populations at Huntington,

WV (MG). A late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen at P.I.S.P., June 7 (JeS & JiS). The 4 records of Willow Flycatchers in *Lee*, VA (V.S.O.), indicate further S expansion of the range. Alder Flycatchers continue to do well on Roan Mt., TN (RK). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in *Augusta*, VA, July 19 (LT, m.ob.), and what was probably the same bird was seen July 23 at another location in that county (SR).

The nesting success of Purple Martins varied widely as the cold June caused failure at some places. The total number of colonies continues to decrease. Three Tree Swallow nests in *Washington* and *Sullivan*, TN (RK), and several nests in *Lee*, VA (V.S.O.), were at the extremity of the range. In *Warren*, PA, 69 Tree Swallows fledged from the bluebird boxes, much lower than in the past (WH). The only reports of nesting Bank Swallows came from Bentonville, VA (RSi), and *Wood*, WV (JE). The 16 Cliff Swallow nests in the colony at Pymatuning L., PA, was down considerably from last year's record high (RFL).

Carolina Wren populations in the north apparently were little affected by the late winter-early spring cold weather. They were found again this year at elevations over 4000 feet in *Pocahontas*, WV (GB). Two Sedge Wrens were found at the Eric N.W.R., *Crawford*, PA, June 27 (RFL & RCL). The successful nesting of Golden-crowned Kinglets in *Columbiana*, OH (D & JH), is another example of this species moving into conifer plantations south of the previously known range.

Eastern Bluebirds suffered many nesting failures. At the long-standing "Operation Bluebird," in *Warren*, PA, the 84 birds fledged from 59 boxes represented only 50% of the production 30 years ago (WH). Swainson's Thrushes were reported from Sheffield, PA, July 6 (DW), and numbers on the West Virginia breeding grounds were good (GAH). A Swainson Thrush banded at P.N.R., July 29, was apparently the earliest fall migrant (RCL & RM). Hermit Thrushes singing on Roan Mt., TN, June 7-July 21 (RK), and one heard at Saegertown, *Crawford*, PA, was a new location (RFL). Census data from Sh.N.P. showed a 40% decline in Wood Thrush populations (MSm), and numbers were considered low at Huntington, WV (MG). But on the other hand the 22 banded at P.N.R. during the period was above average, and a BBS route in *Greene*, PA, counted 29 compared with a long-term average of 12 (RB).

SHRIKES THROUGH FINCHES

In *Berkeley* and *Jefferson*, WV, 11 occupied Loggerhead Shrike territories fledged at least 16 young (RD). The V.S.O. Foray found 13 shrikes in s.w. Virginia (*vide* JD), and at least 10 shrikes were at 6 sites in the Elizabethton, TN, area (RK). Red-eyed Vireo numbers were good at most places, and extremely high at a few. The Warbling Vireo continues to decline, but Solitary Vireos were in good numbers in the normal breeding range.

There was little hard data on warbler popu-

lations, however there is general agreement that Hooded and Kentucky warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chats were in reduced numbers. Golden-winged Warblers continued their decrease. Prothonotary Warblers were missing from some places where they have been breeding. Despite general declines, some species are still actively extending their ranges and thus increasing in numbers at range extremities. This is true of the Worm-eating Warbler at P.N.R. (RM & RCL). Nashville Warblers were present at P.N.R. during the summer (RCL & RM); Yellow-rumped Warblers continue to move S with apparent nesting populations in S.N.P. (RSi), and one was seen at Sheffield, PA, June 2–27 (DW). There were at least 10 singing ♂ Magnolia Warblers on Unaka Mt., TN (RM). Territorial ♂ Magnolia Warblers in *Columbiana*, OH, in June (D & JH) and a family group at Guys Mills, PA, June 24 (RCL), were at lower-than-expected elevations. Black-throated Green Warblers in *Putnam*, TN (SS), and Blackburnian Warblers at Kanawha S.F., WV (MG), were at low elevations. The Yellow-throated Warbler continues to move N, and three were seen at Irvine, Warren, PA, July 6 (DY), and it nested at Asheville, NC (RY). Swainson's Warblers were reported from L. Keokee, VA, June 20 (V.S.O.). Letcher, KY, June 14 (CSt), and Pickett S.P., TN, July 19 (S & BS).

A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was found at Blairsville, PA, June 11–July 5 (MHi) providing the first possible breeding record for that part of the state. The only Dickcissel report was of three singing males at 2 sites in Lee, VA, June 19–20 (V.S.O.). Savannah Sparrows in *Highland*, VA, June 21 (MSm) were not surprising, but singing birds in Augusta, VA (RS), were lower than expected, and five singing males in *Johnson*, TN, for the 2nd year (RK) do represent an apparent range extension. Henslow's Sparrow was unreported except for the apparently thriving population on the surface mines of *Clarion*, PA (WF).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird at P.I.S.P. July 14 (JiS) provided the first summer record for *Erie*. Orchard Orioles were more numerous than usual, but N. Orioles were lower than normal.

Purple Finches nested at St. Mary's, PA (LC), and were present at feeders in Girard, OH, all summer (J & DH). Red Crossbills were reported from w. *Augusta*, VA (LT), and 2 locations in *Pocahontas*, WV (MG & WA, GB). At one of the latter sites they were feeding on birdseed thrown at newly married couples, in lieu of rice. There were many records of Pine Siskins in the Region through the summer, even as far south as *Union*, GA (DF). A nest was found in w. North Carolina (MSi) and fledglings were found in *Bedford*, VA (PSP), and Asheville, NC (RY).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

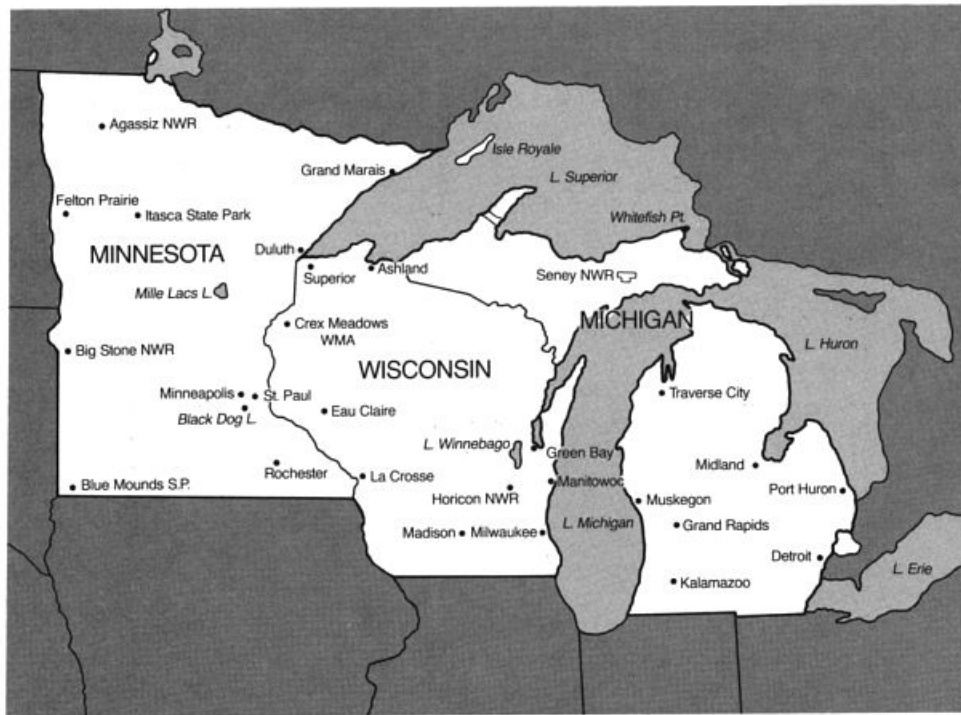
Summer 1992 will be remembered as the season that was not. Across the Region it was remarkably cool, averaging 2–6°F below normal for both months. Various cities, *i.e.*, Green Bay, Duluth, Madison, Twin Cities, and Milwaukee, experienced record or near-record cold. Especially memorable was June 20–21 when a hard freeze occurred in most northern areas as the temperature plummeted to 18–25°F by dawn! In *Alpena*, Michigan snow was intermixed with the rain. Frost extended to the central sections of all three states. Most observers felt this was the coolest summer in memory. Precipitation proved more variable. Generally June was dry, especially in Michigan. However, July commenced with a torrential downpour in various northern areas, and the remainder of July was characterized by above-normal rainfall, considerable in some locales. Minnesota proved to be the exception as it remained drier than normal.

The effects of such cool weather during the prime nesting period are difficult to ascertain on the birdlife. No detailed data are available, just comments from the many observers. Indications were that some groups were particularly hard hit, such as the flycatchers, and especially the swallows. For example, birders noted far fewer swallows gathering on wires during July with several Upper Peninsula observers, indicating 50–100% mortality among Purple Martins and Tree Swallows. Some birds attempted re-nesting, which extended the season well into August.

If this was not enough, northwestern Wisconsin fell victim to a man-made disaster. In late June a tanker carrying toxic benzene fell 60 feet from a trestle into the Nemaji River. A toxic cloud formed as about 20,000 gallons of toxic waste flowed down the river into Allouez Bay. The cloud drifted west, forcing the evacuation of parts of Superior and adjacent Duluth. One can only speculate as to the death toll on birds, fish, etc., caused by this toxic waste before it evaporated.

Despite the unusual weather, the season was not without its excitement. Outstanding finds included the Region's first Neotropical Cormorant, in addition to Brown Pelican, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Western Wood-Pewee, and Burrowing Owl. Also noteworthy were the Northern Hawk Owls in Minnesota and Michigan, with a surprising number of Rough-legged Hawks in all three states. Undoubtedly with the abnormally cool weather these latter species felt right at home!

Abbreviations: L.P. (*Lower Peninsula, MI*); PMSG (Pt. Moullee State Game Area, Monroe, MI); U.P. (*Upper Peninsula, MI*); WPBO (*Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI*). County names are in *italics*.



There were several out-of-range waterfowl sightings. Canvasbacks were present in 6 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin counties. Ring-necked Ducks were in *Dane* and at Horicon NWR, WI. Greater Scaup summered at PMSG (JG) while Wisconsin had single birds at 4 sites including July 11 at Milwaukee (MK). Lesser Scaup were found in 5 Wisconsin and Michigan counties. Seven White-winged Scoters were still migrating June 6 at WPBO (SR). Unusually far s. were single Com. Goldeneyes at Manitowoc June 12 (CS, DT) and at St. Joseph June 17–27 (RS) while three summered at PMSG (PC). Buffleheads were found at WPBO June 5 (SR), St. Joseph June 20 (RS, OM) and *Roscommon* July 18 (MP), all Michigan. All three merganser species were found s. of normal. A Hooded was at the Erie Gun Club June 27 (PC *et al.*), a Common in *Waupaca*, WI, July 2 (DN) and Red-breasted in Milwaukee June 2

LOONS TO IBISES

A late migrating Red-throated Loon was seen at WPBO June 6 (SR). Surprising were Horned Grebes in all 3 states. Wisconsin had singles June 23 in *Marathon* (DB) and July 11 in *Door* (LM). Singles were also in Michigan June 5–13 at PMSG (PC) and July 29–30 at Nayanquing Pt. *Bay* (KT *et al.*). Minnesota had four July 15 in *St. Louis* (KE). Red-necked Grebes migrated early with 11 seen July 29 at WPBO. Wisconsin recorded Eared Grebes with a pair summering in *Dunn* (JP) and one June 5–11 in *Dane* (KB *et al.*). Minnesota had its 8th Clarke's Grebe with one present June 25–29 in *Kandiyohi* (RJ *et al.*)

American White Pelicans were amazingly common in Wisconsin and e. Minnesota. This is especially unusual in Wisconsin with numbers ranging to 100+. This could be attributed in part to the appearance of Newcastle's Disease in the pelican colony at Marsh L. *Lac Qui Parle*, MN. Wisconsin recorded only its 5th confirmed **Brown Pelican** when one was observed by the Draske family July 4 on Pewaukee L., *Waukesha*. Originally sighted from shore the Draskes went out in their boat to videotape it before harassment by other boaters caused its departure (*fide* BB).

The bird of the summer was Minnesota's and the Region's first **Neotropic Cormorant**. Discovered by Bardon (KBa) July 16 on L. Vadnais it roosted with Double-crested Cormorants in adjacent trees, loafing on a sandbar during the afternoon where it was photographed. Last seen Aug. 2. Snowy Egrets were present in all 3 states. They again nested at Green Bay (s.ob.). In Minnesota they were seen July 12 in *Grant* (PB) while Michigan had 4 sightings: 2 June 13 at the Erie Gun Club (PC, TW), July 15–31 at Karn Plant *Bay* (KT, MW *et al.*), July 22–23 at Nayanquing Pt. (KT, RW) and July 24 at PMSG (JG, WW). Little Blue Herons were found in Michigan



Neotropic Cormorant at Lake Vadnais, Minnesota, July 23, 1992. First state record, and one of the northernmost ever. Photograph/Anthony Hertzell.

with one on June 13 *Monroe* (PC, TW) and two July 24 *Tuscola* (MW). Cattle Egrets nested in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Additional sightings included 4 other Minnesota locales (max. ten) with an impressive 46 at Michigan's PMSG July 24 (JG, WW). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were present in the Twin Cities (two) plus Wisconsin's *Columbia* June 7 (KB) and Horicon NWR June 11 (BD). Continuing the trend of the past several years Wisconsin recorded another **White-faced Ibis** when Domagalski found one in Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment June 1–2 (s.ob.).

SWANS TO RAILS

Tundra Swans lingered in Michigan. Single birds were at PMSG June 13 (PC, TW), in *Macomb* June 21 & 27 (DL *et al.*) with two injured individuals summering in *Tuscola* (*fide* MW). Surprising was a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at a sewage pond in *Roseau* July 4 for only the 2nd summer Minnesota record (DNe). Three Snow Goose were found in Wisconsin: Two Rivers June 4 (MPe), Horicon NWR June 28 (BD, KB), and *Winnebago* July 28 (DN).

(MK), and Manitowoc July 15 (CS).

The spring Broad-winged Hawk migration stretched into the summer as evidenced by 1063 on June 2 at WPBO. Unprecedented was the appearance of at least five Rough-legged Hawks in each state. The majority represented late spring migrants but several were found later such as July 3–11 in *Vilas* and *Forest*, WI (KB, RSp), and July 21 near Lake City, MI (JG, CG). Yellow Rails were present at Seney NWR, MI (m.ob). King Rails were nesting/summering in one Minnesota, one Michigan, and 4 Wisconsin counties. The latter was in *Hennepin* and represented the first county record in more than a decade (PN *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS

About 20 species continued their spring migration into June. The distinction between late spring and early fall migrants is becoming increasingly harder to define. This summer proved exceptionally challenging! Interesting late spring migrants included four Lesser Golden-Plovers at Horicon NWR June 11–14 (BD, KB), Semipalmated Plover June 12 at PMSG (PC, TW), two **Black-necked Stilts** sketched and photographed June 4 in *Hennepin* (SK), for Minnesota's 3rd record, an Am. Avocet June 17 in *Dakota*, MN (DM), with migrating Whimbrels at Manitowoc until June 21 (CS). Hudsonian Godwits were still at Crex Meadows, WA (KB), Horicon NWR (BD), and Wilson Pond, *Dunn* (JP) in early June, plus a June 14 bird in *St. Louis* (TWi) for the 2nd latest Minnesota spring date, with a Marbled Godwit at Crookston, MN, June 23 (F & NI). Red Knots lingered until June 15 (WB, RS, KL) for the latest spring *Berrien* record, with White-rumped Sandpipers until June 17 also in *Berrien* (RS) and *Dodge*, WI (s.ob.), and Dunlins until June 21 in both *Dodge* (KB, BD) and PMSG (s.ob.).

The Piping Plover is becoming a rarity in most of the Region. For the 2nd consecutive summer Minnesota recorded no nesting while this pattern continued for another year in Wisconsin. Only Michigan still records breeding. This year 16 pairs produced a total of 13 chicks (TWe). Two Solitary Sandpipers spent the summer at Michigan's Seney NWR (PD, RU). Hard to clarify if summering or fall migrants were Greater and Lesser yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers June 17 at Crex Meadows WA, WI (JH), and Least



Way out of season was this Rough-legged Hawk near Lake City, Michigan, on July 2, 1992. Photograph/Jim Granlund.

Sandpipers in Dodge, WI, June 14–28 (KB).

The fall migration produced a nice variety of sightings. Record-early was a Lesser Golden-Plover July 3 at Horicon NWR (KB). American Avocets appeared at 3 Wisconsin sites including July 4 in Dane (PA), four July 16 at Horicon NWR (SRo), and July 23–24 at Milwaukee (BD, KB, MK). Michigan had single birds July 13 at St. Joseph, July 20 at New Buffalo (KM), and July 25 at Beaver Grove (MB, LT). All 3 states noted Willets including July 6–8 at Kaukauna, WI (DN), two July 3 & 12 at St. Joseph (PC, WB) and eight July 25 in Wilkin, MN (MO). Migrating Whimbrels included one July 12 at St. Joseph (WB, CH), 10 on July 18 at Karn Plant (JS), and one July 31 at Tawas Pt. (BBe), all Michigan. An Hudsonian Godwit was at the Karn Plant July 5–7 (JS, MW) while single Marbled Godwits were at New Buffalo July 11 (RS, WB), and the Karn Plant July 19–22 (JS, MW, KT). One Marbled was at Horicon NWR July 3–9 (KB, BD); Single W. Sandpipers were at PMSGa July 24–26 (WW, JG, PC, KT) and Milwaukee July 26 (DT). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were in Wisconsin's Eau Claire July 31. A black-and-white breeding plumaged Ruff was present July 7 at Nayanquing Pt., MI (MW, GP, EP, MH, JHu). On July 30 at PMSGa Chu found 150 Short-billed and three Long-billed dowitchers.

GULLS TO FLYCATCHERS

In contrast to last summer, Laughing Gulls were seen infrequently as evidenced by single birds at Manitowoc June 12 (DT), in Pipestone June 28–30 (KH, PS)—unusual for s.w. Minnesota—and at New Buffalo and St. Joseph intermittently between June 17–July 2 (JG,

WB, CH, KT, TL, PSy). Likewise, few Franklin's Gulls were found with birds present in Milwaukee (MK *et al.*), New Buffalo and St. Joseph (JG, PC, KT, RS, TL *et al.*) intermittently during the summer. Little Gulls summered as usual at Manitowoc with a maximum of eight (CS *et al.*), with three at Milwaukee from June 20–July 31 (BB, MK *et al.*) while Michigan had intermittent sightings in Berrien June 5–17 and July 14 (m.ob). Michigan had several additional interesting laird records. A Thayer's Gull was found June 2 on Reeds L. Kent (JW, WWo). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at St. Joseph June 19–20 (WB) with one July 14 (KM). A third-summer Glaucous Gull was at St. Joseph July 14 (KM) for only the 4th Michigan summer sighting. Great Black-backed Gulls totaled 27 from 7 Michigan counties including four pairs nesting on Little Chaity I., Arenac (TB). This represents only the 2nd Michigan nesting record.

Caspian Tern numbers were down in Bay and Huron, MI (RW). However, Minnesota had multiple sightings until late June from several southern counties, including 28 on June 25 in Washington (WL). Most unusual was an Arctic Tern July 10 at St. Joseph (RS, KM, RA, GM, PU) and an ad. Least Tern June 11 sitting alone on the beach at Michigan's Tawas Pt. (RZ).

No fewer than three Snowy Owls lingered into June. Minnesota had their first summer record in 100+ years when one was photographed June 13 at a gravel pit near Cottonwood (HK). Michigan had one in Newaygo June 10–17 (GC, LJ, JWe) and at Grand Rapids June 23 (DV, CV, FV, GW), both photographed. Unexpected, but perhaps the result of the winter invasion, a Northern Hawk Owl was found in Minnesota's St. Louis July 1 (AH) and Michigan's Sugar Island Chippewa July 10 (SRa). Wisconsin had about its 12th Burrowing Owl when Hoefer discovered one near an old badger hole in Crex Meadows WA, June 11. A few lucky birders (KB, BD, RJo) were able to leisurely observe it June 12 before it disappeared. Great Gray Owls were noted in Wisconsin and Michigan. One seen infrequently during the spring, north of Brule, was found killed by a car June 2 (*vide* BB), with another seen in w. Douglas July 14 (L5). Three were present during the period in Chippewa (BS), MI. The Chuck-will's-widow in Oconto, WI, was last heard July 11 (JSm *et al.*).

Black-backed Woodpecker sightings in Minnesota increased slightly this summer. A Western Wood-Pewee was discovered singing near the entrance to Hayes Lake S.P., June 22 by Bardon (KBa). It was heard by additional birders until the end of June but proved difficult to find. This was Minnesota's 6th record. Interestingly the only W. Wood-Pewee nesting record is also from Roseau. Acadian Flycatchers were very numerous in pine plantations—an atypical habitat—in Waukesha, WI (s.ob.). One singing in the Ulen city park July 12–25 was 200 mi beyond its normal Minnesota range (PB *et al.*). A W. Kingbird was present during mid-June in Portage, WI (KB

et al.). Michigan had one nesting June 4 in Isabella (KT), with non-nesting individuals June 6–7 in Van Buren (JHu *et al.*), and July 18 at Tawas Pt. (RW).

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

The June 20 freeze was very hard on house nesting swallows, with heavy mortality among their young. Two Com. Ravens summered around Hortonville—New London, WI, s. of their normal range (DT, JA). For the 4th consecutive year at least one Red-breasted Nuthatch was in Madison, WI (PA). Also in Wisconsin it was found to be numerous in Waukesha (BB *et al.*), unusual for this s.e. area. A Brown Creeper July 7 at Benton Heights (RS, WB) provided the first July record for Berrien. The Carolina Wren expansion continues in the eastern 2/3rds of the Region. Michigan had 37 birds reported from 10 counties n. to Benzie, including 19 along the rivers in Berrien. Wisconsin had 20+ birds from 8 counties that included young at Wyalusing S.P. (KB) with the northernmost sighting at Superior June 30 (RJo). Minnesota had one June 6 in Dakota (DN, TT). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher continues its NW expansion in Minnesota with nesting again in Otter Tail and for the first time in Clay (DZ).

The Swainson's Thrush seen July 13 in Hennepin was a record early fall migrant for Minnesota (SC). A N. Mockingbird was observed June 22 in Grant, WI (MK) while it nested in Michigan's Houghton (*vide* LB). The Loggerhead Shrike picture remains



Burrowing Owl at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, Wisconsin, on June 12, 1992. About the 12th state record. Photograph/Kimberly S. Fry.

brightest in Minnesota with 26+ birds from 10 counties. It is bleak in the other 2 states with confirmed nested in Oconto (JSm), possible nesting in St. Croix and single birds in Taylor and Green, all Wisconsin. For Michigan it was again in Allegan plus singles June 5 at Polsen, and June 24–July 13 in Huron.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireos were found in two Wisconsin and Michigan counties. Bell's Vireos were present in one Michigan and 5 Wisconsin counties. Unusually far south were Solitary Vireos in the same 2 states. Four were in Waukesha, WI (BB), during the period, while one was at Erande Mere S.P., June 28 (AS),

only the 2nd June record for *Berrien* Fall migrant Tennessee Warblers appeared in all 3 states. The individual July 10 in *Hennepin* (SC) was record-early for Minnesota; the one July 16 in *Ogemaw*, MI (PS *et al.*) was considered very early while the one July 21 in *Portage*, WI (MBe), was not abnormally early. Tardy were Magnolia Warblers June 17 in *Berrien* MI (RS), and June 21 in *Portage*, WI (MBe), while the individual July 18 in *Hennepin* (SC) was record-early (3 weeks) for fall. The Black-throated Blue Warbler pair attending young June 27 in Ottawa Nature Preserve, MI (SM), was the first nesting in *Ottawa* since 1878. A Blackburnian Warbler June 15 in *Berrien* (RS) was a tardy spring migrant. This summer Yellow-throated Warblers appeared in 3 Wisconsin locales, including two singing males at Wyalusing S.P., at Tower Hill S.P., plus its usual locale along the Sugar R. in *Rock* (m.ob.). Michigan had 14 birds along the Galien R. system in *Berrien* (RS *et al.*), with one in *Hillsdale* (JR).

For the 5th consecutive summer Wisconsin had at least one Kirtland's Warbler. O'Halloran discovered a male in *Washburn* June 8 where it remained until the 26th. It was banded by Jones making this the 4th he has banded in Wisconsin during the past 5 years. The picture was encouraging in Michigan with the 397 singing males being the most since 1961 (347 last year). They were found in 7 counties with 63% in the 1980 Mack Lake Burn Area, *Oscoda* (JW). Minnesota had only its 5th *Prairie Warbler* record when one was located by Zumeta June 6 at Blue Mounds S.P. It could not be relocated the following day. Wisconsin had a territorial male during June in *Sheboygan* (CR) while Michigan had two during June in *Benzie* (KW), two until July 5 in *Lake* (JW), and four June 24 in *Mason* (BA). Palm Warblers were present in n. Wisconsin July 3 in *Vilas* and July 6 in *Douglas* (KB). Late was a Bay-breasted Warbler in *Forest*, WI, June 13 (BM). Early fall migrants included July 15 in *Portage*, WI (MBe), and July 20 in *Chippewa*, MI (JG). A Blackpoll Warbler was in Michigan's *Huron* July 2 (ME). Worm-eating Warblers were found in two Wisconsin and Michigan sites. While the Kentucky Warbler is a locally common nester in the wooded ravines of s. Wisconsin, it made news in the other 2 states. Michigan had only its 2nd nesting record when a pair attending young were watched June 27 in Ottawa Nature Preserve (SM). Single birds were also seen in *Berrien* and *Washtenaw*. In Minnesota's Seven Mile Creek C.P., *Nicollet*, a pair was seen in mid-June with a juvenile there the 30th (MF, LF). There is no previous nesting record for the state. The Hooded Warbler found on Grand I., June 5 probably represents the first summer U.P. record (LT, SS).

For years it was felt only a limited number of Hoodeds were breeding in Wisconsin. However a program initiated this summer to locate certain southern breeding species (*i.e.* Acadian Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler) yielded a surprising 30-35 singing males, mainly in the Kettle Moraine S.P. sections (PA *et al.*).

Yellow-breasted Chats were found at 4 Wisconsin sites.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A 2nd-year Summer Tanager was banded July 2 in *Kalamazoo*, MI (RK, BK). This was a poor summer for Dickcissels despite being found in 28 Wisconsin counties. As in the other 2 states only a few individuals were present at each site. A Lark Bunting was found in *Clay*, MN, June 5-6 (KR *et al.*). Henslow's Sparrows are in trouble Regionwide. Michigan had observations in 8 counties, Wisconsin only in 3 counties while Minnesota had no sightings. The Sharp-tailed Sparrows present during May in Crex Meadows WA, WI, remained through June (TS, MPe). The two White-crowned Sparrows at WPBO June 5 (SR) were late spring migrants. A few Red and White-winged crossbills were present in *Douglas*, WI, during June with Reds also in *LaCrosse* June 27 (FL). In *Chippewa*, MI, up to 50 White-winged were found June 28-July 26 (BS *et al.*).

Corrigenda: Delete the May 25, 1990 L. Black-backed Gull sighting at Nayquauquing, WA.

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MIDDLE WESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Kenneth J. Brock

It was one of the coolest summers on record. Perhaps, as predicted by global climatologists, the cool summer resulted from emanations that accompanied Mt. Pinatubo's eruption last year. Regardless summer temperatures across the Region averaged some 3°F below normal. There were few hot days and many chilly nights. June was quite dry, with drought-like conditions toward the end of the month. Mild temperatures during the month mitigated the desiccation normally associated with a dry summer. The rains came in July, providing monthly precipitation totals two to four inches above normal. The mild summer climate provided a somewhat protracted breeding season. It should be noted, however, that heavy precipitation in May interfered with many ground nesting species; fortunately, conditions in June allowed re-nesting. Breeding herons and egrets generally enjoyed considerable success in Illinois and Missouri. Ducks, too, fared well, especially in the Great Lakes region of Iowa. Perhaps also in response to the cool summer, northern thrushes, vireos, and warblers were reported at many locations, and were especially numerous in Ohio. The cool weather also had a dark side. Purple Martin nest failures were widespread throughout the western states; most correspondents attributed this disaster to cool wet weather. Though the cool summer may not have suited all birds, it was great for humans. Without a doubt the dearth of hot-humid days enticed more observers than normal into the field.

Abbreviations: I.P.L. Ponds (*Iowa Power and Lights, Pottawattamie, County*), L. Cal. (*Lake Calumet, Chicago*); R.E.D.A. (*Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles, MO*), S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

LOONS TO IBISES

One to three nonbreeding Com. Loons were reported from every state except Indiana and Kentucky. With the exception of Ohio, where they were deemed scarce, Pied-billed Grebes had a reasonably successful season across the Region. Nests or broods were found in 11 Iowa counties, 6 Illinois locations, and 2 Missouri sites. An unprecedented 12 W. Grebes were reported from 6 Iowa sites. Notable among these was a nesting pair at Silver L., *Worth*, that produced two young (JWa, RG), rendering this site Iowa's 2nd documented breeding location. American White Pelicans were numerous only in Iowa, where they were reported from 17 different counties. Notable among the record number of pelican reports from Iowa was a count of 700 early migrants at Runnells W.M.A., June

28 (JS). Outside Iowa the largest accumulation was 33 at L. Chautauqua N.W.R., IL, July 11 (RCh). The largest of 5 Illinois Double-crested Cormorant colonies was at L. Renwick where 201 nests were counted Apr. 30 (JM). Summer cormorants were reported in every state except Indiana. A non-breeding **Olivaceous Cormorant**, discovered at Crabtree Nature Center, *Cook, IL*, June 28 (JO, CPh), remained locally until July 5 (†WC, †JL, m. ob.). On July 6 presumably the same bird appeared at Lake Renwick, in *Will* (†JM, ph.). This constitutes the 2nd occurrence at Lake Renwick.

The declining Am. Bittern was reported only in Iowa and Ohio. In contrast Least Bitterns were reported in every state, with a phenomenal count of 118, and 18 nests, at S.C.R., June 5 (JHi, RB, CH). Great Blue Herons are flourishing throughout the Region. Colonies were reported as follows: Iowa 2 (23 and 194 nests), Illinois 33 (from 3 to 950 nests), and Missouri 211 (average of 29 nests per site). Great Egrets were widespread throughout the Region, however nesting was confirmed only in Iowa, Illinois,



Neotropic Cormorant (left) at Lake Renwick, Illinois, July 6, 1992. Third or fourth state record. The relatively slim neck and long tail can be seen here. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.

and Missouri. Among the larger colonies were L. Renwick, IL, with 228 nests (JM) and Caruthersville, MO, with 201 birds (JW). In Missouri Snowy Egrets bred in 3 rookeries: 23 birds at Caruthersville (TL), 59 individuals at Charleston (RMc), and at a new location one mi e. of the Caruthersville site. Nesting probably also occurred at Alorton, IL (VK). Wandering Snowy Egrets included two adults at L. Cal. late May through July 18 (WM), four near Black L., KY, June 19 (CPe), and two at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, June 7 (EP). Inventories of Missouri's Little Blue Heron colonies revealed 200 birds at Caruthersville and 1420 at Charleston (JW). Little Blues at the Alorton, IL, colony numbered in the hundreds (VK). Nonbreeders were reported in every state except Indiana. The Alorton, IL, colony supported hundreds of Cattle Egret nests (VK), but the Region's largest Cattle Egret count consisted of 750 birds at the Charleston, MO, colony (JW). Local observers in central Kentucky (AS), n.e. Ohio (LR), and Ottawa N.W.R., OH, (EP) expressed concern that Green-backed Heron numbers have declined. The Region's nesting population of Black-crowned Night-Herons is centered in n.e. Illinois. Four active colonies were monitored in the Chicago area; the largest of these, at L. Cal, contained 930 nests (WM). Nesting was also recorded in Iowa, s. Illinois, and Missouri. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons successful-



ly nested at Dayton, OH (LG, CM). On the down side, a Yellow-crowned nest built at the traditional Powerhorn Marsh site near Chicago was found abandoned May 17 (WM) and the small colony near Lexington, KY, was deserted this year (AR). Strays appeared in *Allen*, IN, (BW) and *Seneca*, OH; the latter, seen June 25 (TB), constituted a first county record.

WATERFOWL TO CRANES

Tundra Swans were at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, July 5 (EP) and in *Trumbull*, OH, July 24 (RHR, JP). Six Snow Geese summered at the I.P.L. ponds, IA, (BP, LP) and (RL) observed a late migrant in *Cuyahoga*, OH, June 4. Unusual for Indiana was an Am. Black Duck at Pigeon River W.M.A., July 13 (Haw). Five Blue-winged Teal broods were reported at L. Cal. (JL) and 10 immatures were at Palatine Marsh, July 1 (DJ). A brood of eight Am. Widgeon was found at Russ W.M.A., IA, June 27 (SD), providing one of few recent breeding records for the state. Missouri's first July Canvasback record consisted of a drake at R.E.D.A., July 18-31 (DA, m. ob.). This species nested at Trumbull L., Clay, where a brood of 11, observed July 1 (TN), provided the first Iowa breeding record in 4 years. Numerous sightings of nonbreeding ducks came from across the Region. The most noteworthy included a Com. Goldeneye at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, June 7 (EP) and Missouri's first summer Bufflehead, a ♂ at R.E.D.A. July 16-31 (DA, m. ob.). Hooded Mergansers nested in all 6 states. Unusual for the summer season were single Com. Mergansers at 3 Iowa locations (TD) and five near Joliet, IL (JM, ph.).

The Region's highest Black Vulture count of 13 was made, along with 30 Turkey Vultures, at a traditional roost near Murphy's Pond, *Hickman*, KY, June 21 (CPe *et al.*). Reports from every state suggests the summer Osprey population is expanding. Nesting was reported at Brookville Res., IN (JSC), and Barkley L. in Kentucky (CPe). The N expansion of Mississippi Kites within the Region took a major step forward with extralimital summering birds in Iowa, Indiana, and Missouri and a summer report from extreme n.e. Ohio. In Iowa the pair returned to the 1991 site in the Des Moines suburb of Clive, and remained through June (†JF, RCe). Three pairs were present in Indiana; 2 pairs summered in *Pike* (†GB, m. ob.) and a 3d pair was in *Spencer* from mid-May until at least July 4 (AB, m. ob.). A fledgling was seen at the *Pike* site, Aug. 29 (ML, *vide* JC), furnishing this century's first breeding record for Indiana. Missouri sightings outside their normal range included four at Prairie Slough W.M.A., *Pike*, July 16 (TLa), one near Kansas City on the same day (BF), and a pair of immatures that built an unsuccessful nest at Swope Pk., within the city limits of Kansas City (BH). In Ohio where the Mississippi Kite is accidental, an immature was at the *Ashtabula* Airport, June 7 (†) & DH, ph.). Nesting Bald Eagles were reported in every



Mississippi Kite at the Ashtabula County Airport, Ohio, June 7, 1992. Photograph/Dick Hoffman.

state except Iowa. Productivity was as follows: in Illinois 7 nests produced 14 young (VK), 8 nests Indiana yielded four fledglings (JSC), one Kentucky nest contained two eaglets (CPe), in Missouri 10 nests fledged 21 young (JW), and Ohio's only nesting attempt proved unsuccessful (LR). The only breeding Sharp-shinned Hawks were at Indiana Trails S.F., MO; the effort produced 3 fledglings in late June (JW). Cooper's Hawks were reported in 5 states, with nesting in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana; this raptor appears to be thriving Region-wide. The consensus was that Red-shouldered Hawks are faring well, with nesting reports from every state except Iowa and Kentucky. Although Broad-winged Hawks were reported in every state, nesting was confirmed only in Iowa and Illinois. Swainson's Hawk reports were typical for the Region's w. states, with a nest near Mason City, IA (RG, m. ob.), 3 near Springfield, MO (DBI), and 2 at the established *Kane*, IL, site (*vide* RM). A Missouri Hwy Department nest-box project resulted in 13 successful Am. Kestrel nests in the Springfield, St. Louis, and Kansas City areas. Success of the Peregrine Falcon reintroduction program is continued with nesting reports from Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. The Iowa report, which involved unsuccessful nests at Davenport and Des Moines, constitutes that state's first breeding attempts in 25 years (*vide* JD).

Only 20 ♂ Greater Prairie-Chickens were reported from the Illinois breeding grounds: ten in *Jasper*, nine in *Marion* and one in *Clay* (SS). Based on evidence of renesting, the early N. Bobwhite nesting in Missouri was believed to have been impaired by wet conditions (JW). Summer King Rails were reported at Green Island W.M.A., IA, July 6 (JF), Monce, IL, July 20 (AD), and at Magee Marsh, OH, June 13 (EP). Nesting Com. Moorhens were recorded at 6 Iowa locations, 4 Illinois sites, and at 2 places in Missouri. Noteworthy among these were nine broods (21 young) at L. Cal (WM). American Coots nested in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. For perhaps the first time ever coots failed to nest at the L. Cal. site (*vide* WM). Otter Creek W.M.A. produced Iowa's firsts nesting Sandhill Cranes since 1894 (*vide* JD). Two broods (two pairs, three young, and three others)

were observed June 6 & 7 (DP, m. ob.). A family group was also found at the Pigeon R. W.M.A., in n.e. Indiana (*vide* JSC).

SHOREBIRDS

Heavy July precipitation eliminated shorebird habitat in many traditional locations across the Region. During June's low-water conditions, numerous sites were overgrown with vegetation; these remained unattractive to shorebirds when refilled in July. No doubt access to rainwater pools and runoff ponds allowed many birds to disperse throughout agricultural areas. Twelve Lesser Golden-Plovers in *Lyon* and 17 in *O'Brien*, both on July 27, provided unusually large July counts for Iowa (DH). Also in Iowa, 2 Piping Plover nests at the I.P.L. Ponds proved unsuccessful. Six migrant Piping Plovers were recorded in Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri all between July 14 & 31. Two Black-necked Stilts returned to the Stoddard, MO, site where nesting occurred the past 2 years (JW). Another was seen in nearby *Butler*, July 6 (SC). Single adult ♀ stilts were also recorded at 2 Illinois locations: Rend L., July 3 (TF, JDe) and Ullin, July 7-9 (JHe, TF). American Avocets were scarce Region-wide, with only 2 reports: eight at Saylorville Res., July 26 (BE) and two at Conneaut, OH, July 17 (JP). The first autumn wave of Lesser Yellowlegs was marked by counts of 287 at L. Cal, July 21 (EW) and 120 e. of W. Bend, IA, July 26



Arctic Tern at Michigan City Harbor, Indiana, July 17, 1992. The second fully confirmed state record. Photograph/John W. Tucker.

(MK). The first fall Solitary Sandpipers were recorded June 27 at 2 widely-spaced locations: Fawn R. Fish Hatchery, IN (Haw) and Big Wall L., IA (SD). The Regional Willet count was quite low. The season tally of five consisted of single reports from Illinois and Indiana. Breeding period Upland Sandpipers were recorded at 18 locations in Iowa, 5 in Illinois, 3 in Indiana, and 5 in Ohio. Notable among these was 90 birds at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plan, *Will*, IL, May 4-6 (BG *et al.*). The Region's only Whimbrel consisted of a single bird near Paulding sewage lagoons, OH, July 5-6 (†MD, Haw, m. ob.). In spring the Red Knot is casual in e. L. Erie, consequently, a singleton at Conneaut, OH, June 14 (RHn) was most unusu-

al. Late July W. Sandpipers were reported in 4 states. Early Baird's Sandpipers arrived at 2 Iowa locations June 28, establishing a new early fall arrival date for that state. Also in Iowa, a very early Buff Breasted Sandpiper arrived at Red Rock Res., July 8 (AJ). It is unclear whether the single Com. Snipes recorded at Joliet, June 26 and at Goose L. Prairie, S.P., June 29 (JM), were summering birds, or early migrants. A territorial ♂ Wilson's



Male Henslow's Sparrow attempting to sing at Goose Lake Prairie State Park, Illinois, June 29, 1992. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.

Phalarope was observed at Coralville Res., IA, on 3 dates during the interval June 7–July 11 (TK). A breeding-plumed Red Phalarope, seen July 17 at L. Cal. (†JMc *et al.*), provided the 2nd July record for the Region.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

A jaeger at Michigan City Harbor, IN, July 16 (†SB), was not seen sufficiently well to render a positive identification, however, the bird showed several Long-tailed characteristics. Thirteen Laughing Gulls were scattered across all 6 states. Notable among these were: an adult at Kentucky Lake, June 6 (JRW, GC), an adult at R.E.D.A., July 17–31 (DA, m.ob.), and a juvenile at Red Rock L., IA, July 21–26 (†TK, †m.ob.). Little Gulls appeared at 2 locations on the Great Lakes. An adult was at Michigan City Harbor, July 18 (LH, m.ob.) and an immature was seen at Headlands Beach S.P. in July (RHn).

Typical numbers of Caspian Terns and Com. Terns were reported throughout the Region. Perhaps the biggest surprise of the season was the appearance of two ad. Arctic Terns in the Region. Close-up photographs indicate that the 2 occurrences involved different individuals. The first bird was discovered June 28 at the L. Springfield cinder flats, IL (†DBo) and remained through July 1 (†VK, †JM *et al.* ph.). The bird was present long enough for photographers to effectively document it as Illinois' first confirmed record. The 2nd bird appeared at Michigan City Harbor, IN, July 15 (†SB). This individual providing Indiana's 2nd confirmed record, frustrated many birders by periodi-

cally vanishing only to reappear one or 2 days later; it was last seen July 20 (†LH, †Haw, †m.ob, ph.). Neither bird was observed associating with other terns. Nesting Forster's Terns were recorded in 3 Iowa counties; an impressive 440 Forster's were at Huron, OH, July 24 (RHr). Least Terns were reported in every state except Ohio; nesting was recorded at single traditional sites in Iowa and Indiana. A Missouri Department of Conservation study located 4 Least Tern colonies in Missouri. Unfortunately, a July 17 river rise inundated 2 of these colonies (*fide* JW). Black Terns nested in 4 Iowa counties, more than has been noted in recent years (JD). The Region's largest nonbreeding Black Tern concentration was 25 adults, seen July 11–31 at R.E.D.A. (m.ob.).

CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS

With one exception, Cuckoo reports followed the lean pattern established in recent years. The exception occurred in Adams, IL, where (DBi) found 50+ Yellow-billed pairs in June. The number of Greater Roadrunner reports in s.w. Missouri improved over recent years. Birds were reported from 3 sites near Gainesville (RCb) and 2 locations in Taney (PMa); breeding was confirmed near Hardenville (D & BL). Barn Owls nesting sites numbered: one in Iowa, one in Illinois, and 6 in Missouri. A Barn Owl was also reported in Seneca, OH, July 24 (TB). A pair of Short-eared Owls, observed hunting at mid-morning June 13 were likely breeders at Minnehaha W.M.A., IN (AB m.ob.). Another Short-eared was at Funk Bottoms, OH, June 25 (JK). A calling N. Saw-whet Owl was heard on 3 different occasions in Mohican S.E., OH, June 8–16 (LY *et al.*), where this species is casual in summer. Small numbers of Chuck-wills-widows were recorded at traditional sites in Iowa and Indiana. This species is prospering at certain Kentucky locations (AR) and 5 Missouri "Nightjar Counts," in Archison, Barton, Jasper, Newton, Dallas, and Taney, yielded an average of 10.5 birds per count (*fide* JW). These 5 counts also produced 21.5 Whip-poor-wills each. The Region's largest single Chimney Swift count of 200 birds, was made in Joliet, IL, June 7 (JM). The late-July appearance of 40 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at a feeding station in rural Calloway (WB), suggests that this species is doing well in w. Kentucky. In n.w. Iowa Red-headed Woodpeckers were reportedly abundant and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested in 2 n. Iowa counties. The latter species was also reported at Chicago's Jackson Park on the unlikely date of July 4 (MS *et al.*, *fide* HR).

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher appeared in Spfld. on the early date of July 30 (DBo). In Winnebago, IL, calling Alder Flycatchers were noted at Keiselberg Forest Preserve June 21 and at Harlem Hill Prairie June 24 (DW), suggesting possible breeding. Two singing Least Flycatchers were found in Iroquois, IL, where this species is rare in summer (RC). Even more surprising was the discovery of a

territorial pair in a *Montgomery*, MO, Atlas block June 27 (†PMC). The pair was present on subsequent visits (BJ, TBk), but following a storm the birds were absent. If a nest found on the ground proves to be a Least Flycatcher's nest, it will constitute Missouri's first confirmed breeding since 1891 (*fide* JW). Extralimital W. Kingbird nesting probably occurred in a Nevada, MO, shopping center, where seven, including likely fledglings, were seen June 18 (JW). According to PK, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nested abundantly around Springfield, MO; this species was recorded as far e. as *St. Louis*.

Purple Martins had a dismal nesting season throughout the w. half of the Region. In Iowa, DM deemed 1992 the worst year ever, with cold and rain causing a 30% decline from 1991. A "terrible die-off" in Palos, IL, was attributed to frost in late May (WS) and reduced numbers were also reported in Kentucky (AS). Unprecedented nestling mortality in w. Missouri was attributed to last November's cold snap that depleted the number of flying insects (JW). Notable Bank Swallow numbers included 350 nest holes in a s.w. Henderson, IL, sandpile June 5 (VK) and 652 birds accumulated at L. Cal., July 25 (JL). Cliff Swallows expansion included a first ever nesting pair at Chicago's Jackson Park (HR), and a first county nesting record when 30 birds built nests under 2 bridges in Marion, KY (FL). The first Fish Crow nesting in Illinois was confirmed June 17 at Ft. Massac S.P. (JSc, VK); none of the four young survived. Indiana's first physical evidence of the Fish Crow's occurrence within the state was obtained July 4 when two calling birds were recorded along the Ohio R. in Posey (BJ, tape). The birds were first discovered June 27 (†SJ).

NUTHATCHES TO WARBLERS

Two adult Red-breasted Nuthatches and a fledgling were discovered at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake, July 5 (GR *et al.*, *fide* DJ), providing the Region's only reported breeding. Three Brown Creeper fledglings were found on Long Island, Adams, IL, June 27; this species was present at 27 locations throughout the island during June (DBi). Territorial creepers were also reported at 2 Iowa and 6 Indiana locations. The situation with Bewick's Wrens remains grim; only two-four were reported from s.e. Iowa (MP), a nest in Grayson, KY, was destroyed by House Wrens (AW), and counts in s.e. Missouri declined 50% since last year (PMa). In contrast, the ebullient terms, "the best in memory," "exploding," or "the best in 10 years," were employed to describe Carolina Wren numbers in w. reaches of the Region. As expected, Winter Wrens summered a 5 locations in Geauga and Lake, OH (RHr *et al.*). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest in Lyon, June 5 (DH), was w. of this species' normal Iowa range. A Golden-crowned Kinglet, observed carrying food at Hinckley Park, June 3 (RHr), provided one of few summer records for Ohio.

The E. Bluebird expansion appears to be continuing; positive comments included "good year," in c. Illinois, and "flourishing," in Ohio. More specific information came from Elkhart, IA, where DM had an all-time high 90 nests and 275 fledglings. In summer the Swainson's Thrush is accidental in Ohio, consequently, the report of one at Pennline Bog, June 26 (LR, m.ob.) and another in *Ashtabula* July 24 (RHr, JP) is quite remarkable. Also in Ohio, Hermit Thrushes were reported: June 14, two at Mohican S.F. (SM), one to two at Oak Openings throughout the period (TKp), in River Bend Park, *Lake*, June 14 (JP), and Paine Falls Park *Lake*, July 14 (JP). Northern Mockingbirds nested in *Lagrange*, in extreme n.e. Indiana (Haw), which is well n. of their normal breeding range. Encouragingly, summer Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from every state except Kentucky. Noteworthy reports from e. portions of the Region include 5 Ohio records and family groups of four and seven in n.e. Indiana.

Bell's Vireos had an excellent summer across the Region with reports from every state. In the west this species was found at 4 Missouri, 12 Iowa, and 13 Illinois locations. Further e. Bell's Vireo appeared at 3 Indiana sites and a single location in Kentucky. Most interesting, however, was the appearance of Bell's Vireos at not only the tradition Ohio site of Buck Creek S.P., but also in *Adams* June 28 (EP). Quite unusual were mid-summer singing Solitary Vireos at Pigeon River W.M.A., IN, June 8 and July 4 (Haw), and *McCreary*, KY, June 21 (SJS). A tardy Philadelphia Vireo, seen at Mason City, June 5 (JWa), provided a late spring departure date for Iowa.

A remarkable number of warblers that normally summer n. of the Region, lingered through the season. A singing Chestnut-sided Warbler at Joliet, IL, June 8, established a first summer record for *Will* (JM). The pair of Magnolia Warblers, discovered at Beechwood Preserve, *Steuben*, IN, June 18-19 (BS, FW), is most intriguing as there are no Indiana breeding records of this species. A ♂ Cape May Warbler, at Hell Hollow, *Lake*, OH, June 25-July 2 (JSm, JP), constituted a first summer record for the state. Another first summer record was established when a ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler appeared at Big Oak Tree S.P., MO, June 24 (ID). Black-throated Green Warblers also contributed to the warbler mélange with singing mid-summer birds in *Randolph*, MO, June 13 (†PMc) and Ames, IA, June 16 (JD). Ohio was awash with Black-throated Greens: 19 were found in Mohican S.F., June 17 & 26, and an excellent count of 15 pairs was made in Hinkley during the season (RHr). Blackburnian Warblers were reported a 4 sites in Ohio. In Illinois *Sangamon's* first summer record of Prairie Warbler was established June 12 & 20 when a male was found (DBo). Ominously, LR reported that this warbler has disappeared from n.e. Ohio. A noteworthy Cerulean Warbler count was made in *Jack-*

son, IL, May 22, when (TF, JHe) counted an impressive 46 singing males. Swainson's Warblers were reported at 7 s.e. Missouri locations (BT) and one site in *Taney* (PMA). A singing ♂ Mourning Warbler was at Severson Dells Forest Preserve, Winnebago, IL, June 11-25 (DCe). This species enjoyed a fine summer in n. Ohio where 14 territories were reported (*vide* LR). Bad news came from Breeding Bird Survey results, which indicates that the Com. Yellowthroat population in *Cedarand Clinton*, IA, has diminished to a 3rd of its 1980 numbers. The good news: 120+ Yellowthroats were counted June 20 at the *Iroquois* Conservation Area, IL (RCh). Yellow-breasted Chats had a good summer in Kentucky with reports of 17 in *Cumberland*, June 2, and 19 in *Wayne*, June 17 & 21 (SJS).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Summer Tanagers pushed n. of their summer range in Indiana; one was at Fox Island Park June 2 establishing a first local record (Haw), and another was seen in the Indiana Dunes July 27 (DCi) for the first July record in 40 years. Painted Buntings were at 3 *Taney*, MO, locations and a ♂ wandered N to Springfield where it frequented a feeder May 4-July 4 (DN). Dickcissel reports were uniformly favorable across the Region. The largest single count of 50 was made at a strip mine area in *Ohio*, KY, June 20 (KC). Bachman Sparrow counts in *Ozark* and *Taney*, MO tallied nine males and four females at 4 different locations; 2 broods were confirmed at one site (RCb). A Lark Sparrow nest found at Braidwood, IL, June 19, contained 6 eggs: 3 Lark Sparrow and 3 Cowbird (JM). A pair of Savannah Sparrows was observed building a nest at Clarence Cannon NWR, May 15-20 (JV *vide* DA), providing one of few recent nesting evidences in Missouri. Major Grasshopper Sparrow colonies were reported in 3 states: 20+ pairs at Nachusa Grasslands, IL (AH), 30 birds at the Peabody Homestead surface mine, *Ohio*, KY (KC *et al.*), and 20+ in *Henry* and *Putnam*, OH (*vide* LR). Summering Henslow Sparrows were present in every state. Dark-eyed Juncos were very successful in traditional Ohio nesting areas (*vide* LR).

In Missouri, 2 Bobolink colonies in the Columbia area (RN) suggest that this species' breeding range is expanding. A vegetation die-off in L. Cal. may have contributed to a very poor season for the Yellow-headed Blackbird; the number of nesting pairs declined from 35 in 1991 to about nine pairs this season (JL). Great-tailed Grackles nested at S.C.R. and in a cattail marsh near Maryville, MO (DE). The latter site is Missouri's northernmost location for this species. Great-tailed Grackles are also established at numerous scattered locations in Iowa.

A female-plumed Purple Finch in *Ozark*, *Johnson*, IL, June 28 was most unusual (TF). Regional reports confirm that House Finches are well entrenched across all 6 states. Pine Siskins nested at 2 Ohio sites: Brecksville

(LR) and N. Perry (JP). Three House Sparrows were observed drinking antifreeze in Fairfield, IA (CA); this may well explain why they continue to flourish despite hard winters! Extralimital Eurasian Tree Sparrows were discovered near Clarksville, *Pike*, and Hannibal, *Ralls*, during Breeding Bird Atlas surveys (JW).

UNCORROBORATED REPORT

On July 18, a golfer at the Lorain County Club, OH, discovered an apparent Roseate Spoonbill near the 15th hole. Unfortunately, details of the sighting were not written down for 2 weeks and no experienced birder ever saw the bird. Interestingly, an independent observer in Euclid also reported a fly-by "Spoonbill" to the Cleveland Rare Bird Alert 2 days prior to the Lorain sighting. The Euclid bird was reportedly heading W toward Lorain. Based on the golfer's description this may well have been Ohio's 2nd Roseate Spoonbill.

Contributors (Subregional editors in bold-face): Numerous individuals contributed to this report, consequently, many persons not individually acknowledged submitted notes for various state reports.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

David P. Muth

The weather was uneventful. There was no tropical activity during June or July (but a big one came in August).

A great many observers continue to send in records in some format other than a 3x5 card. If your record didn't make this report, it may be because your harried editor lost it in the stack of paper that inundated his office. Another possibility is that you failed to note the significance of your record, and your ignorant editor ignored it. Or, perhaps, you failed to adequately document your record, and your skeptical editor ignored it.

Dan Purrington, who normally writes the Summer Season, is abroad during the 1992-93 academic year. He will resume writing this report next year.

Abbreviations: F.H. (*Fish Hatchery*); J.L.N.H.P.P. (*Jean Lafitte Nat'l Historical Park and Preserve*); L.B.R.C. (*La. Ornithological Soc. Louisiana Bird Records Com.*); p.a. (*pending acceptance*); W.R. (*Waterfowl Ref.*).

GREBES THROUGH DUCKS

Two breeding-plumage Pied-billed Grebes at L. Elmdale, AR, June 6 provided evidence of rare local nesting in the Ozarks (MMI). Five Wilson's Storm-petrels were reported July 5, 10 mi s. of Destin, FL (PT). There were the expected reports of wintering Am. White Pelicans along the Louisiana coast, but there were surprising inland records: five birds in Clark, AR, June 4 (H & MP), 60 in Chicot,

AR, July 5 (DRS), three in Lake, TN, July 8 (WGC), and one in Shelby, TN, June 27–July 18, which molted its primaries, then departed (JRW). Summering Double-crested Cormorants in Louisiana included single birds in Jefferson July 6 (GO), and St. Charles July 31 (RJS), and one inland in Rapides June 29 (RB,DP). Six were at Noxubee N.W.R., June 5, and a single immature was there June 20–e.o.p. (MC, TLS). Three Anhingas were unusual so far n. in Alabama in Tuscaloosa July 11 (TAI). Unusual inland Least Bitterns included one in Grenada, MS, June 27 (G & SK); two in the Ozarks at L. Elmdale, AR June 6, and one at Centerton F.H., June 20, were not thought to be breeding (MMI).

A number of Tricolored Herons were reported inland, with the most significant a group at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, that peaked at eight July 25 (G & SK, JRW). Five thousand Cattle Egrets were counted in a rookery at Barksdale A.F.B. in Bossier, LA, July 26 (BW). Two hundred White Ibises, with 74 nests counted, were also there (BW) the same day. Breeding is normally restricted to coastal marshes and near-coastal swamps—this colony is very far inland and very far n.w. Roseate Spoonbills used to be restricted in this Region to coastal s.w. Louisiana. In recent years small colonies have begun to spring up in s.e. Louisiana, and wanderers were noted in various s. Louisiana localities. More unusually inland were two birds seen in Rapides July 5 (RB) and four in St. Landry July 8 (BV). Four immatures were way inland in Mississippi, where casual, at Yazoo N.W.R., from July 21 to e.o.p. (m.ob.). Three Roseate Spoonbills were up in Chicot, AR, July 5 (DR), and one was in Chicot S.P., July 23 (KM, RMc, KS). This unusual movement of Roseate Spoonbills inland coincided with an excellent flight

of Wood Storks to inland regions beginning June 20. Wood Storks do not breed in the Region, but are regular in summer in s.w. Louisiana and at a few choice inland localities. The presumption, based upon distribution, is that most of these birds have dispersed from the s.w., but summer birds in the e. part of the Region may well be from Florida. The Region's breeding population of Fulvous Whistling Ducks is essentially confined to the rice country of s.c. and s.w. Louisiana—they are unexpected e. of the Atchafalaya Basin, especially during the breeding season. Five individuals were e. of the known breeding range in Iberville, LA, July 8 (BV). As usual, there were numerous reports of summering geese and ducks from around the Region.

KITES THROUGH PHALAROPES

Lone Swallow-tailed Kites were reported on suspicious dates from 2 areas where they are not known to breed: June 10 from Terrebonne (MR) and July 19 from Lafourche, LA (JPO). These could have been wandering individuals, or early and late migrants, respectively. Good summer counts of Mississippi Kites included 133 (in 3 flocks) in Lauderdale, TN, June 14 (JRW) & 29 and in St. Bernard, LA, June 28 (GO).

The "Southern" Bald Eagle of Florida and the n. gulf coast is a winter breeder; its young have long since fledged by the time the official breeding season has rolled around. Its population in this Region has slowly rebounded from its nadir in the late 1960s, and a modest recovery continues. (In Louisiana from fewer than 10 nests in 1972, to more than 50 nests in 1992.) Individuals of presumably the more northerly population are now breeding in interior areas of the Region. One assumes that they are taking advantage of the unprecedented habitat available around man-made lakes and impoundments on refuges. Young were fledged at Sardis N.W.R., MS (GK, VT), on L. Erling in Lafayette, AR (SL), and on Millwood L. (CMi). An ad. ♂ N. Harrier was, presumably, a very early migrant in Shelby, TN, July 26 (JRW). Individual Swainson's Hawks were sighted at different locations in Benton, AR, June 20 and July 4 (MMI). The report of two adult and two imm. Swainson's Hawks near L. Charles in s.w. Louisiana July 19–26 (RBa, m.ob.), is not only unprecedented for July, but implies first-ever breeding for the state. The species has bred on the upper Texas coast, about 150 mi w. A Sora at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R., June 28 (NN, RDP) provided one of the very few summer records for Louisiana.

Eight Semipalmated Plovers with 13 Piping Plovers represented a good count at the start of fall migration, July 26 in Lafourche, LA (NN, RDP, GG). Two S Piping Plovers were also recorded 200 mi w. of there in Cameron, LA, the same day (JPK *et al.*) Much more unusual were the two Piping Plovers photographed way up in Lake, TN, July 12 (coming or going?) (JRW); singles were also there July 20 (WGC) & 30 (MAG). Black-necked stilts are common nesters in coastal marshes and ponds with



emergent vegetation throughout the Region, but especially in the vast Louisiana marshes. Populations appear to be doing well, inasmuch as they are now found nesting (and as post-breeding wanderers) well inland and at more marginal coastal locations. New nesting locations included Pensacola Naval Air Station, *Escambia*, FL (MMc), and near Natchitoches, LA (CEL, BW, VN, VC). Post-breeding wanderers included 57 at Yazoo N.W.R., MS, July 25 (G & SK, JRW), 12 at the Mandeville, LA, Sewage Treatment Facility July 29–Aug. 1 (CGB), and in *Pointe Coupee*, LA, July 30 (DWG). The known nesting colonies in w. Tennessee continue, and new sites are being discovered (*vide* MGW). An early S Greater Yellowlegs, along with eight Lesser Yellowlegs, were at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, July 12 (TLS, MC). A Lesser Yellowlegs at L. Elmdale, AR, June 6 was a late N migrant (MMI). Five at Sardis W.R., MS, June 30 (GK), could have been coming, going, or just wandering around. A Solitary Sandpiper was quite early at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, July 11 (TLS, MC). *Thirteen* Willers were unprecedented at L. Millwood, AR, June 22 (CMi). Because they are permanent coastal residents, it's difficult to ascertain expected migration dates, but June 22 seems to fall completely outside expected patterns. Spotted Sandpipers were late at *Cameron* June 5 (PW, CS, G & AS), and in *Oktibbeha*, MS, June 8 (TLS). Very unusual was the report of a Spotted Sandpiper nest in *Lake*, TN, July 6 (MAG). A Whimbrel seen in *Cameron* June 7, 14 and July 3 (PW, CS; DLD, SWC; RJS, MW), was an unusual summerer, assuming that all 3 sightings pertain to the same bird. Ruddy Turnstones occasional summer on coastal beaches, as evidenced by two seen in *Cameron* June 13 (JPK, DR). Seventeen Sanderlings counted in *Cameron* June 13 were in the late spring/summering limbo, but 66 on July 26 represented a good early fall total (JPK, DR). Two early S Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen in *Choctaw*, MS, July 18 (TLS). Western Sandpipers were recorded in *Dyer* (7) and *Shelby*, (85) TN, July 22 (WGC, MLG), and in *Cameron* (24) July 26 (JPK, DR). A Dunlin was unusually late in *Cameron* June 13 (JPK, DR). An early Stilt Sandpiper was at Noxubee N.W.R., July 17 (TLS). Common Snipes in *Dyer* June 8 and Moss Island W.M.A., July 6 were unprecedented for w. Tennessee (WGC). A Wilson's Phalarope in *Shelby*, July 31 was early (JRW). A Red-necked Phalarope at L. Elmdale, AR, June 6 (MMI) provided perhaps the first summer record for the Region.

JAEGERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Pomarine Jaeger was reported (without details) from 10 mi s. of Destin, FL, July 5 (PT). Another was reported sitting on a beach in *Cameron* July 26 (JPK, DR ph., *et al.*, p.a. L.B.R.C.). Eleven Laughing Gulls were very unexpected inland in the mountain region of Alabama at Birmingham June 3 (GDJ). Nine first-summer Franklin's Gulls

were late in *Cameron* June 2; a 2nd-summer bird there June 13 was very late and possibly summering (DLD, SWC). Two late immature birds were also seen up in L. Elmdale, AR, June 6 (MMI). A late Ring-billed Gull was seen on the Mississippi R. in *Chicot*, AR, June 1 (DRS, DU). Up to eight summered at Sardis Dam, MS (MD), another example of how inland reservoirs alter bird distribution patterns and behavior. One June 29 and two July 20 in *Lake*, TN, were also unusual (WGC). Though rare inland, the species summers in small numbers along the coast. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull in alternate-plumage in *Cameron* June 13 was way out of place (JPK, DR, p.a. L.B.R.C.). For the past several summers, Black-backed, Yellow-legged gulls have been seen ranging up and down the inaccessible Chandeleur I. chain in extreme s.e. Louisiana. Many observers and reviewers are leaning toward Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*), but neither the mystery of the birds' identity, nor of their origin, has been ultimately resolved. These birds differed from "British" Lesser Black-backed Gull, *L. fuscus grællsii*, by being black-mantled, and from nominate Lesser Black-backed Gull, *L. f. fuscus*, by, among other features, bill size and shape, but were otherwise *fuscus* size. All of this has been perplexing enough, but on June 5 a black-mantled, yellow-legged gull, *substantially larger than a Herring Gull*, was found on a *Cameron* beach, at the other end of the state (JS, A & GS ph., CS, PW). Most of the observers have identified the bird as a **Yellow-footed Gull** (p.a. L.B.R.C.).

Gull-billed Terns continue to breed (with Least Terns and Skimmers) on roof-tops in and around New Orleans. It's a strange sight to be stuck in heavy traffic, in the midst of suburban sprawl, and watch Gull-billed Terns feeding in the drainage canals (CGB, *et al.*). Caspian Terns, presumably migrants, showed up on 2 Arkansas lakes, Millwood (CMi), and Elmdale (MMI), June 6. A late Forster's Tern was at L. Fayetteville, AR, June 7 (MMI). A Least Tern was a rare spring migrant in *Oktibbeha*, MS, June 3 (TLS). An immature there July 7 was surprising (TLS). Another rare spring migrant was at Center-ton F.H., AR, June 6 (MMI). Finally, Least Terns have extended their "roof-top nesting range" to Gulf Breeze, FL (RAD). A nice movement of Black Terns was detected in Arkansas in early June: 24 at L. Millwood June 5–6 (CMi) and 76 at L. Elmdale June 6 (MMI). A late bird was at L. Millwood June 16 (CMi). Southbound Black Terns were detected with eight in Starkville, MS, July 15 (TLS), and 50+ at Sardis W.R., July 18 (VT).

The presence of a White-winged Dove in *Vermillion*, LA, June 14 hinted at the possibility of local breeding (SWC, DLD). The species has definitely bred in Louisiana near the mouth of the river, and has been strongly suspected of breeding along the s.w. coast in recent years. An Inca Dove at the Gibbstown Bridge in *Cameron* July 3, suggests another breeding location for this species that has re-

cently colonized s.w. Louisiana. Common Ground-Doves breed sparingly in Louisiana in agricultural areas, especially in sugar-cane fields on alluvial soils in the s.e. (though years go by without definitive proof of breeding). One in ricefields in *Vermillion* June 14 (DLD, SWC) suggested the possibility of breeding in that habitat. Eurasian Collared-Doves were noted copulating in *Escambia*, FL, suggesting a slight range extension from the Destin colony. A small flock continues to persist at Fort Pike, where they were first detected in Louisiana.

A Black-billed Cuckoo in *Putnam*, TN, June 7 (BHS) may have been a late migrant, but was near the known breeding range of the species. At least one Groove-billed Ani, the last of a flock that wintered there, was still present on Grand Isle, LA, June 6 (RJS, MW), but no certain evidence of breeding was obtained. A Whip-poor-will nest, with one downy chick, in *Oktibbeha* (TLS), provided the first confirmation of breeding in Mississippi, though the species has been known during the breeding season there for some time. An ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was very early in Mountain Brook, AL, July 24 (BS); it remained through at least Aug. 25.

S. A.

Late migrants recorded on coastal cheniers in *Cameron* after thunderstorm activity in early June included: one Black-billed Cuckoo June 2; 20 Yellow-billed Cuckoos on both June 1 & 2; three ♀ Ruby-throated Hummingbirds June 2; an E. Wood-Pewee on June 1 & 2; an Acadian Flycatcher June 2; two Swainson's Thrushes June 2; one Gray Catbird June 1, and two on June 2; 10 Red-eyed Vireos June 1, three June 2, and two June 3; two ♂ Yellow Warblers June 1; a ♀ Magnolia Warbler June 1; a latest-ever ♀ Cape May Warbler June 2; and a ♀ Am. Redstart June 2 (SWC, DLD; CAM).

Similarly, up in the Ozarks of n.w. Arkansas, in *Washington*, the following late migrants were recorded: an Olive-sided Flycatcher June 4; a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher June 3; an Alder Flycatcher June 4 and another June 6; two Bank Swallows June 6; one Swainson's Thrush June 1, one June 2, one June 3, and two June 4 (all different locations); one ♀ Chestnut-sided Warbler June 1 and another June 2; a ♂ Magnolia Warbler June 4; ♀ Blackburnian Warblers June 2 & 4; a ♀ Bay-breasted Warbler June 2; and two ♀ Mourning Warblers June 1 (MMI).

These records were associated with a late cold front that penetrated n.w. Arkansas the last week of May. These migrant waves, detected in the s.w. and n.w. corners of the Region, demonstrate that migration is far from over in the first of June, but that it goes largely undetected because the weather rarely produces fall-out conditions, and most birders are defeated by the onset of the summer's heat and humidity.



Piping Plover at Island 13, Lake County, Tennessee, on July 12, 1992. Photograph/ J. R. Wilson.

The only reports of breeding Willow Flycatchers came from Tennessee, with two singing in *Maury* June 6 (SJS), and two calling in *Shelby* June 20 (JRW). A S Least Flycatcher at L. Fayetteville July 26 provided a first July record for Arkansas (MMI). The regular breeding range of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher just barely penetrates the Region at a few places along our w. edge. Breeding pairs occasionally pop up at unexpected places. This summer, extralimital birds were found at 3 Arkansas locations, though breeding was not confirmed: one adult June 19 at Jackson Port S.P. and another near Newport in *Jackson* June 21 (JCG, LGG); and two at Hogan F. H., July 12 (L & CY). An ad. Tree Swallow was a surprise in *Iberia*, LA, June 24 (MJM). It breeds in the n.e. of the Region, where one colony in *Maury*, TN, may be disappearing as the dead trees in an impoundment that provided nest sites rot away (SJS). An early S migrant was recorded in Mandeville, LA, July 29 (CGB). Late Bank Swallows were seen in *Oktibbeha*, MS, June 3 (TLS), and in *Desha*, AR, June 5 (H & MP).

New nesting locations for Cliff Swallows included *Nachitoches* and *Orleans*, LA (CL, BW; NN, RDP); and Tuscaloosa, AL (TAI). Only 2 reports of the scarce Bewick's Wren were received: three singing in *E. Williamson*, TN, June 6 (SJS) and one in *Newton*, AR, June 13 (LP)—both encounters were while running BBS routes. Three Cedar waxwings in *Calhoun*, MS, June 13 (TLS, MC) may have been late migrants, though the species occasionally breeds in n. Mississippi. Five July reports from Arkansas are more likely to represent breeding: one July 12, *Benton* (MMI); another in *Saline* July 15 (WMS), with two in *Washington* the same day, and another elsewhere in the same county July 31 (MMI). Three reports of Black-whiskered Vireos were received: June 2 in Gulf Breeze, FL (RAD), one in *Cameron* June 6, and one July 26 at Grand Isle, LA (NN, RDP, GG). Very early breeders like N. Parulas also start moving early—individuals were detected in non-breeding areas in *Iberville* June 13 (JVR), and New Orleans June 27–28 (DPM). A singing ♂ Black-throated Blue warbler in *Putnam*, TN, June 2, either represented an attempted 50-mi range extension, or a very late migrant (BHS). A Louisiana Waterthrush in the Barataria Preserve,

J.L.N.H.P.P., July 7, was the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana (DPM). They breed sparingly about 50 mi n. of there.

Scarlet Tanagers reach their s. breeding limit in the Region. The field guides show them in Arkansas and Tennessee, but not in n. Mississippi. However, they do sparingly breed in that state, as evidenced by the following records: a singing male in *Webster* June 13, and two singing males in *Oktibbeha* June 21 (TLS). A singing ♂ Dickcissel, a very sparse breeder in s.e. Louisiana, was in *St. Charles* June 6 (PY). Three Rufous-sided Towhees were w. of their normal breeding range in *Johnson*, AR, June 20 (WMS). A Bachman's Sparrow was found in unusual habitat in *Lowndes*, MS, June 7 (TLS): prairie with eastern red cedar and only scattered pine. Lark Sparrow is a rare breeder in n. Mississippi; an adult was found on a nest in *Lowndes* June 7 and seen feeding young June 12 (TLS, CC).

Grasshopper Sparrow is also a rare breeder in n. Mississippi; one was found June 6 in *Monroe* (TLS, MC). Breeding of Song Sparrow, also near its s. limits, was confirmed for *Shelby*, TN, June 27–July 21 (JRW). An injured White-throated Sparrow in Starkville, MS, June 2 & 4 (MC) was one thing, but an adult in Oxford July 9–10 was unprecedented (MD). One Red Crossbill was quite unexpected in Memphis, TN, July 20 (*vide* MGW). There was one report of Shiny Cowbird, from *Lafourche*, LA, June 6 (RJS, MW, p.a. L.B.R.C.).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor

After a few warm days in early June, cool and damp conditions prevailed across much of the Region for the balance of the period. In Winnipeg, the two-month period was the second coolest on record. June was the seventh wettest in Calgary, whereas July was the wetter month in southern Manitoba. Hudson Bay was still packed with ice at Churchill in early July. Conditions were less severe in central Alberta, where drier weather persisted.

Whether the conditions were caused by El Niño, Mount Pinatubo, or some other phenomenon, the birds clearly suffered. At Churchill, many Snow Geese lingered and bred while the usual nesting grounds at Rankin Inlet and points north remained snow-covered; overall, nesting in the Churchill area was two to three weeks behind schedule. Red Phalaropes and Long-tailed Jaegers loafed around much later than usual, and flocks of White-rumped Sandpipers were seen heading south in late June (JJ). Pectoral Sandpipers were "lekking" at Churchill, south of their usual breeding range, and Manitoba's third nest was found in July (BH, JJ).

Possibly weather-related were the scarcity of Rusty Blackbirds and the absence of White-throated Sparrows at Churchill (BCr, RKo).

In the south, vegetation development and insect emergence were similarly delayed. If the scarcity of butterflies extended to moths and other less conspicuous insects, food for many songbirds must have been hard to come by. Heavy mortality was noted among nestlings of easily monitored nest-box users, such as Tree Swallows and bluebirds. Hypothermia and starvation claimed a lot of young swallows in southern Alberta (RD*i*), while at Stonewall, Manitoba, at least 29 of 45 nestling Tree Swallows in 10 boxes perished (KG). Limited evidence indicated serious losses for other passerines.

Abbreviations: E.I.N.P. (*Elk Island N.P.*, AB), Oak Hammock (*Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A.*, MB), P.P. (Provincial Park).

LOONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

About 200 Com. Loons congregated in a traditional summer flock at Athapapuskow L., MB, July 8–22 (F & JH). Over 600 Am. White Pelicans flocked near Vauxhall, AB, June 14 (LIB). At Steep Rock Bay, MB, 5600 W. Grebes gathered May 26 (GH), perhaps waiting for conditions to improve before dispersing to nest. Clark's Grebes were seen at 2 new localities—one with a small flock of Westerns at Astotin L., E.I.N.P., June 5 (BCa, BR, PT), and a pair at Reed L., SK,



with others at the northern end of Last Mountain L. (AS) and Pike L., SK (SS). The first Virginia Rails in w. Alberta since 1984 were at Olds (ET, RDu) and Peter Loughheed P.P. (TK), both June 7. A Lesser Golden-Plover at the 7800-foot level on Whistler Mt., Jasper N.P., AB, July 10 was rather a mystery bird (RH). High counts of Long-billed Curlews included 53 at Taber, AB, June 27 (LB), 50 near White Bear, SK, June 26 (SJo), and 23 immatures near Webb, SK, July 20 (RKr). Three near Kronau, SK, June 27 were at the curlews' easternmost breeding outpost (RKr *et al.*), and Manitoba's 2nd of the year was far out of range at Ile-des-Chenes June 14 (AC). Other rarities were a Purple Sandpiper at Churchill June 23 (BH) and a ♀ Ruff at E.I.N.P., July 27 & 28 (BCa, TT). Exceptional Red Phalarope numbers at Churchill peaked at 604

from June 5 to mid-June (MP). Others returned to known breeding localities at Ninette, MB (RKO, m.ob.), and Valeport, SK (*vide* RKr).

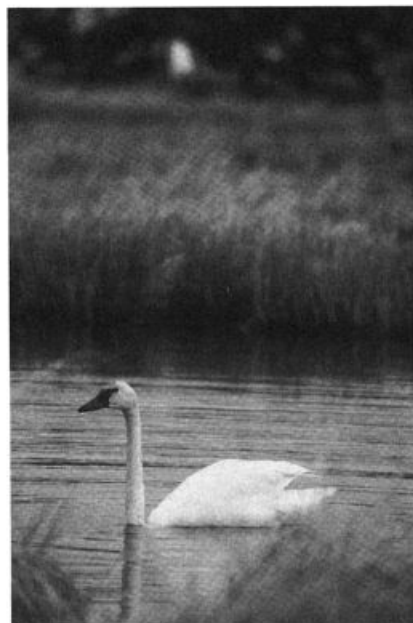
Seven Great Egrets at Vogar June 7 (GG, RKO) were near Manitoba's only known colony; rarer at the same location was a Snowy Egret June 5 (HC). Single Green-backed Herons were at Niverville, MB, June 2 (AC), and for the 4th consecutive year at Calgary, May 30–June 17 (RW *et al.*). Although White-faced Ibises reputedly nested in Alberta in 1978 and 1982, photos of young at 2 nests at Stirling L., June 21 & 28 are the first available (LiB). At least three ibises, most likely White-faced, were in the Morse, SK, area July 6–30 (MP, RJ).

The **Bewick's Swan** reported at One Four, AB, Apr. 18 was surprisingly still there June 11 (PS). The farthest flung of several scattered Trumpeter Swans was photographed at Churchill July 6 & 7 (RKO *et al.*); a pair guarded five young s. of Greenwater P.P., SK, June 19 (RB). Up to 75 Ross' Geese paused at Churchill in mid-June (BAK, SP), and 145 Brants were reported there June 25 (AR). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was a local rarity at Oak Hammock July 25 (RP, MH). Notable duck counts were 3988 Gadwalls at Luck L., SK, June 15 (BG, MG), and 410 White-winged Scoters at Lac La Biche, AB June 28 (RT, PR), the latter perhaps providing a provincial record high. A Barrow's Goldeneye visited Churchill June 13 (V.E.N.T., *vide* BCr).

Ospreys may have bred formerly in the Qu'Appelle Valley, SK, so sightings of one at Echo L., June 20 (RKr), and two at Crooked L., June 21 (TH), are interesting. The season's rarest raptor was a well-described ad. **Mississippi Kite**—the Region's 2nd—soaring over the Regina, SK legislature grounds June 28 (AB), exactly where an imm. lingered in 1985. Swainson's Hawks suffered a 5th poor year in Saskatchewan, with 140

young banded at 87 nests (SH). A crash in Richardson's Ground-squirrel numbers was partly to blame. No doubt related was the observed predation on Am. Coots by both Swainson's and Red-tailed hawks near Kenaston, SK, (LaB). Ferruginous Hawks fared better with 2.8 young per nest, just slightly below the long-term average (SH). Nine lingering Rough-legged Hawks were recorded across the south, four of them in July (m.ob.), and others were still migrating at Churchill in mid-June (SP). Better news items on the Saskatchewan banding scene were 15 young in 9 Golden Eagle nests and 38 in 10 Prairie Falcon nests.

Up to six Yellow Rails were n.e. of Craven, SK, throughout the period (FR, RKr, TH),



Far afield was this Trumpeter Swan at Churchill, Manitoba, on July 7, 1992. Photograph/Rudolf Koes.

June 15 (BAK), and 20 were still there July 1 (RKO *et al.*).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

After the Niagara R., the Churchill area is probably the best area in N. America to see a variety of gulls. This year's highlights were one to two Little Gulls June 13–July 4 (BAK, SP, RKO), a Lesser Black-backed Gull July 31 (AR), an ad. Great Black-backed Gull June 5, 6 & 23 and an immature June 6 (JP, RR, BH *et al.*), and at least 4 Ross' Gulls, apparently with 2 nests (BH *et al.*). A single ad. Sabine's Gull near Irricana, AB, June 4 (MBr) was a rare migrant; more difficult to categorize was one on the east side of the north basin of L. Winnipeg July 27 (GH). Caspian Terns are rare but apparently increasing in s. Alberta; one was near Calgary July 10 (TK), and nesting was confirmed at Lost L. and suspected at Scope L. July 18 (LB). A world-class Caspian Tern colony near Little George I., L. Winnipeg, had 3700 nests July 23 (GH). Three Arctic Terns were unexpected at Playgreen L., MB, July 23 (GH). Early-morning birder Victor Reimer found Manitoba's first **Least Tern** near Steinbach just after daybreak June 1. Staying only long enough for confirmation (JR, DF) and a photo session, it had disappeared by 8 a.m.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Coulter, MB, June 13–20 was the first in a decade to linger for confirmation (RKO, DF, GG, PT, RP). In his last year of intensive Great Horned Owl work in Saskatchewan, Stuart Houston banded 426 owlets, his 2nd highest total ever. There were no reports of N. Hawk-Owls lingering after last winter's invasion, and no Great Gray Owl nests could be found in s.e. Manitoba, indicating a spring crash of prey populations (BNe, JiD). A Long-eared Owl was unusual at Churchill June 15 (SP *et al.*).

S.A.

The threatened Burrowing Owl had a near-disastrous year in Saskatchewan, its Canadian stronghold. Operation Burrowing Owl, a stewardship program working with private landowners to preserve nesting habitats, reported 550 pairs under its program this year, a loss of 100 pairs from 1991. This program is thought to account for 75%–80% of the province's owl population; reports from managers of large federal and provincial pastures also indicate steady decline of this species. Earlier population estimates were 1280 pairs in 1978 and 1092 pairs in 1988. An odd and disturbing development is the common use of roadside ditches, rather than traditional pastures, for nesting. Especially distressing was the poaching of at least 40 young owls from underground nest boxes (CB, RKr).

Up to eight Black Swifts frequented Mt. Allan in the Kananaskis Valley, AB, perhaps a 3rd nesting area in the province (PS). A Rufous Hummingbird visited a feeder intermittently at Turtle L., SK, June 24–July 23 (D & MC, KW). Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted in Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan Landing P.P., June 1 (FR, JSh), Condie June 7 (MH), and near Hodgeville June 14 (MP). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were feeding young near Ravenscrag, SK, June 10 (BL), as were Red-naped Sapsuckers July 4 (TH). Alberta's first confirmed **Williamson's Sapsucker** was a window-killed ad. female in treeless n.e. Calgary June 23 (BLa).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

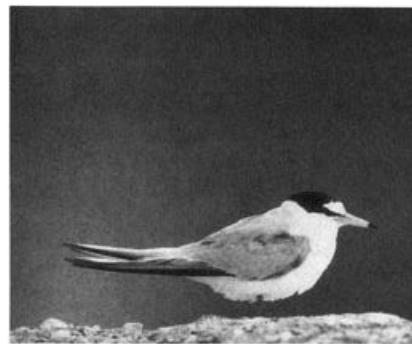
Four E. Wood-Pewees were found in s.e. Saskatchewan, n. to the Pasquia Hills (DH, RHo, *fide* RKr), while five Dusky Flycatchers at Chimney Coulee near Eastend, SK, June 20 (BLu), were near the fringe of their range. Violet-Green Swallows extended their s.w. Saskatchewan range N to the S. Saskatchewan R. near Eston, with 2 to 4 pairs in the vicinity of each Prairie Falcon nest (SH). This species association presumably reflects the observer's passion, not the swallows' choice of neighbours. A hybrid imm. Cliff × Barn Swallow was observed closely at Lac La Peche, SK, July 25 (FR, SSh *et al.*).

White-breasted Nuthatches carrying food near Ravenscrag June 20 provided a rare breeding record for s.w. Saskatchewan (BL). A **Canyon Wren**, compared directly with a Rock Wren at Dinosaur P.P., July 6 (CP, MP), was apparently the 2nd Alberta sighting. A N. Wheatear was seen briefly but well at Churchill July 4 (BNi). Both ♂ and ♀ W. Bluebirds were near Seebe, AB, in June, but nesting was not reported (IE, RDU, m.ob.). In s.e. Saskatchewan, both E. and Mountain Bluebirds suffered predation at nest boxes by a burgeoning Raccoon population (BA, B & SE). At least one pair of Sage Thrashers re-

turned to an isolated sage patch s. of Medicine Hat, AB for the 5th successive year (RDU), and one was near Eastend, SK, July 21 (RKr).

A Solitary Vireo was singing June 29 in Edmonton, where no recent summer records were known (SJu). Yellow-throated Vireos appear to be increasing at the n.w. edge of their range: seven were singing at Assessippi P.P., MB, June 10 (GH), and four individuals were reported in s.e. Saskatchewan, n. to the Pasquia Hills (TH, DoW, BL, DH, RHo). A Philadelphia Vireo at Churchill June 19 (BH) was well beyond its normal range.

Rarest warbler of the season was a Townsend's in Regina June 5 (TH). Noteworthy warblers in Alberta were a Chestnut-sided at Water Valley June 15–23 (CHu *et al.*), a Magnolia at Medicine Hat July 22 (BCm), a Bay-breasted at Bragg Creek P.P. June 12–19 (MBa, JoD), and a Black-and-white near Johnston Canyon July 10 (JSt). Connecticut Warbler numbers were higher than of late near Water Valley and Cold L., AB (RT). Manitoba's only out-of-place warbler was a Canada Warbler at Churchill June 13



This Least Tern near Steinbach, Manitoba, on June 1, 1992, provided a first record for the province. Photograph/Victor Reimer.

(BAk). At least 21 Yellow-breasted Chats were found across s. Saskatchewan, an excellent count (BL, FR, RKr, TH). Three Western Tanager were found in Manitoba, at Grass River P.P. June 12 (SP), Riding Mountain N.P. June 15 (DaW), and Delta June 28 (SSe).

A "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee visited Churchill June 25 (JB). Field Sparrows returned to the Roche Percee, SK, area, with one heard June 9 (DoW) and three June 11–12 (BL); another sang about 100 mi farther east, at Lauder, MB, June 25–July 7 (RP, R & TW). Lark Buntings thronged suitable pastures and prairies in extraordinary numbers, from s.e. Alberta to extreme s.w. Manitoba. A Golden-crowned Sparrow visited Calgary June 8–10 (CHo), while one ♀ and three ♂ Bobolinks were local rarities just e. of that city July 7–25 (m.ob.). A ♂ "Bullock's" Oriole fed 2 fledglings s. of Govenlock, SK, July 21 (RKr). Two fledgling House Finches visited a Winnipeg feeder with an ad. male July 10 (EL). A pair of House Finches feeding young in Regina Aug. 4 furnished Saskatchewan's first breeding record (KS). For the 3rd consecutive summer, Pine Siskins remained to breed in Regina (RKr).

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Addenda: Late reports were received on 2 exceptional 1991 warbler records in Alberta. A singing ♂ **Hooded Warbler** was photographed recognizably at Cypress Hills P.P. May 24 (E & SW, *fide* RD). A singing ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was seen and tape-recorded at Sir Winston Churchill P.P. near Lac La Biche, 115 mi n.e. of Edmonton June 7 (RT).

Observers (Subregional compilers in bold-face): Bob Ake (BAk), Joan & Terry Altenhof, Bill Anaka (BA), Mairi Babey (MBa), Dennis Baresco (DBa), Rhys Beaulieu, Lawrence Beckie (LaB), Andy Belyk, Lloyd Bennett (LiB), Carol Bjorlund, Flossie Bogdan, David Braddell (DBr), Michael Breiteneder (MBr), Jim Briskie, Don & Muriel Carlson, Bob Carroll (BCa), Bonnie Chartier (BCr), Barb Chisholm (BCm), Herb Copland, Andy Courcelles, **Ross Dickson** (RDi), Jim Duncan (JiD), Joel Duncan (JoD), Rodger Dunn (RDU), Ingrid Ektvedt, Sandra & Robert Ewart, Dennis Fast, Ken Gardner, Bernie Gollop, Mike Gollop, Gordon Grief, Robert Hader (RH), Florence & John Hartle, Malcolm Hayes, Brian Henshaw, Trevor Herriot, George Holland, Catherine Hooker (CHo), Don Hooper, Ron Hooper (RHo), Stuart Houston, Mark Huebert, Clay Hunt (Chu), Joseph Jehl, Jr., Ron Jensen, Sig Jordheim (Sjo), Stefan Jungkind (SJu), Rudolf Koes (Rko), Terry Korolyk, **Robert Kreba** (RKr), Bev Lane (BLa), Elizabeth Lavender, Bob Luterbach (BLu), Bob Nero (BNe), Blair Nikula (BNi), Robert Parsons, Simon Perkins, Jim Peterson, Curtis Pollock, Marilyn Pollock, Nick Postey, Myrna Priebe, Ross Rassmussen, Jim Reimer, Vic Reimer, Alf Rider, Brian Ritchie, Peter Roxburgh, Frank Roy, Karyn Scalise, Spencer Sealy (Sse), Stan Shadick (SSH), Jason Sharp (JSh), Peter Sherrington, Al Smith, John Steeves (JSt), Peter Taylor, Richard Thomas, Terry Thormin, Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours (V.E.N.T.), Eric Tull, Dan Weedon (DaW), Don Weidl (DoW), Ray Wershler, Karen Wiebe, Renee & Tom Will.—**RUDOLF F. KOES, 135 Rossmere Cres., Winnipeg, MB R2K 0C1, and PETER TAYLOR, Box 597, Pinawa, MB ROE ILO.**

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon Berkey

Temperatures averaged 10–15° below normal over the entire Region. Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, South Dakota, did not reach 85°F during May, June, or July. Rain-fall was much above normal across southeastern Montana, all of South Dakota, and souther and eastern North Dakota. Low reservoirs filled and vegetation was lush and green. In contrast, northeastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota received only average to below-normal precipitation. Reservoirs in these areas remained extremely low and many former wetlands were still dry from the moisture deficit of the past several years. Perhaps more than low wetlands a long-lasting effect of the drought will be the many trees which have died. The cold contributed to an impressive fallout of late migrants and vagrants at Grand Forks in early June.

Several unusual July records of south-bound migrating passerines may be due to the cold to the north of our Region. Cold was also blamed for several late South Dakota nesting records and may have been responsible for Mountain Bluebirds and Sharp-tailed Sparrows breeding south of normal limits. There was some indication of cold-related breeding failures in the Grand Forks area. The first North Dakota records of Ross' Gull (a Regional first) and Tufted Titmouse were obtained. Other outstanding rarities were Little and Great Black-backed Gulls.

Abbreviation: T.R.N.P. (*Theodore Roosevelt National Park*) Record-late spring and record late fall dates are in italics, as are record peak numbers. The symbol † denotes observations documented and subject to review by the appropriate state records committee.

GREBES TO COOTS

Breeding populations of Horned, Eared and W. Grebes remained very low. There was only one summer report of a single Horned Grebe from North Dakota while the 50 to 60 at L. Mason, MT, July 16 were likely non-breeders. A Pied-billed was on a late nest in *Spink*, SD July 27. Eared and Western failed to nest at Medicine L., N.W.R., MT, because of low water levels.

Three pairs of Red-neckeds produced downy young at Freezeout L., MT. A nest occupied by a Clark's Grebe June 13 apparently mated with a Western in *Kidder*, ND (REM), provided the 2nd breeding record for the state; an adult and young were seen at the same location July 11 (MO). Fourteen Am. White Pelicans flew into a hailstorm near Choteau, MT, in July and came tumbling out of the sky, their bones shattered by the blows; one survived with a sprained wing and was later released.

Newcastle Disease was blamed for the death of most pelican, cormorant, and gull young at the Chase L., ND, colony, where nearly 6000 pelican nests produced only about 300 fledged young, about 10% of normal production.

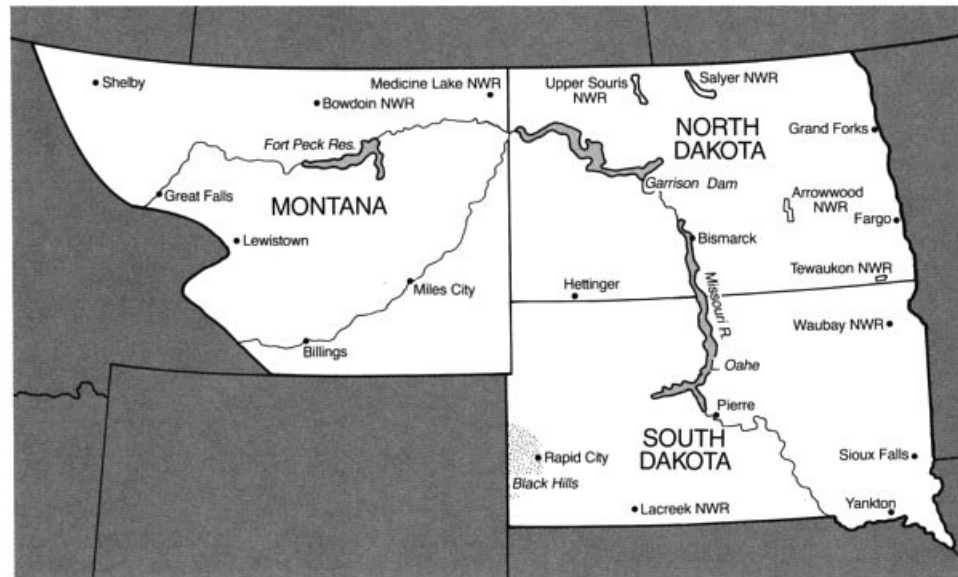
A pelican colony established at Arod Lakes near Choteau, MT, only 3 years ago produced 1300 to 1500 young (MTS), and Montana colonies were apparently unaffected by disease. An adult Am. Bittern on a nest in *Spink*, SD, July 27 (JS) was late. Fewer than normal Snowy and Cattle Egret reports were received. Five White-faced Ibises in *Fall R.*, SD, July 12 and two at Tewaukon N.W.R., ND, June 13 were in areas where the species is rarely reported; Benton L. N.W.R., MT, counted a total of 114 during a wader survey July 17 (SM). Wood Ducks continue to increase in e. Montana; a flock of 60 were at Bowdoin June 18 and they were described as common in the Miles City area (DH). The unexpected Oldsquaw in *Kidder* June 17 (PB†) and a late Com. Merganser in *Emmons*, ND, June 13 may have been influenced to stay south by cold weather.



Two adult Little Gulls (above) at Grand Forks, North Dakota, on June 5, 1992. Although they established a third state record, they were overshadowed by the Ross' Gull present at the same time. Photograph/David O. Lambeth.

Two Com. Goldeneyes in Grand Forks July 11 were record early if fall migrants. A Hooded Merganser brood in *Grand Forks*, ND, June 12 provided the first county nesting confirmation.

An imm. Bald Eagle on the Webster, ND, B.B.S. June 8 was record late. In n.e. Montana N. Harriers were thought to have increased. Cooper's Hawks bred in shelterbelts in *Bottineau* and near Minot. Use of this new habitat and recent expansion into city parks are evidence of a continuing increase in numbers. A N.Goshawk in *Pennington* July 2 was a rare sighting (NW). A group six Swainson's Hawks going up and out of sight in *McLean*, ND, June 20 must have been exceptionally late migrants. A successful Golden Eagle nest at Medicine L. was the first documented on the refuge. There were 4 sightings of Peregrine Falcons this season: an imm. at the Grand Forks lagoons June 5–7 was a late migrant and one was in *McPherson*, SD, June 19; singles were seen on several occasions at both Bowdoin (LO) and Benton L., MT. Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, and Sharp-tailed Grouse were all up in N. Dakota and e. Montana. Almost no coots nested at Medicine L. this summer.



SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

Low water levels at Medicine L. contributed to 34 breeding pairs of threatened Piping Plovers at Medicine L. and 49 pairs elsewhere in *Sheridan* (MR). They also bred successfully in the Cut Bank latilong and at Nelson Res. Two Black-necked Stilts were in Day, SD, June 13 (EM). Good Montana totals of stilts included 166 at Benton L., July 17, 55 (2/3rds immatures) at Grass L., July 29, 40 at Halfbreed N.W.R., July 23, and 101 on a 2-acre nesting island at Medicine L. Over 200 Marbled Godwits were at Bitter L., *Day*, SD, June 13 (DS). North Dakotans always have the Region's smallest gap in migrant shorebird "spring" and "fall" dates.

The cool weather this summer no doubt contributed to the number of hard to classify dates. Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Red-necked Phalaropes were all present throughout. Late N birds were Semipalmated Plovers and Sanderlings, *June 20*, Baird's Sandpipers *June 22*, Pectoral Sandpipers *June 19*, and both dowitchers *June 12*. Early S may have been Semipalmated Plovers *June 29* and Solitary Sandpipers *June 22*. Two late Whimbrels at Grand Forks *June 6* (EF) add to the unusually high spring total previously reported, as does one at Benton L., MT, *May 25* (KA). In S. Dakota two Semipalmated Sandpipers in *McPherson*, SD, *June 21* were late spring while two Long-billed Dowitchers the same date and two Pectoral Sandpipers in *Brown* *July 8* were early fall migrants. Red-necked Phalaropes may have been present in S. Dakota throughout. White-rumped Sandpipers peaked at *5600* in *Sheridan*, ND, *June 7*. A Red Phalarope at Spidel W.P.A., n. of Billings *July 17* (MW†) was the 7th for Montana.

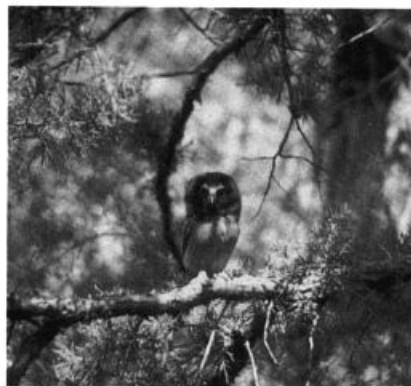
The prize of the season was the adult Ross' Gull, the first for the Region, at the Grand Forks lagoons *June 5 & 6* (EF†, m.ob.). Not far behind were the pair of Little Gulls found with the Ross' Gull (DL†, m.ob.) and a Great Black-backed Gull at Great Falls, MT, *May 26* (KA†); both providing 3rd state records. Any of these gulls would be more expected in late fall or winter than late spring.

Caspian Terns are on the increase in e. Montana, and the 11 nests found at Bowdoin *June 1* were the first for that refuge (DP). Breeding also occurred at Freezout L. and Medicine L. Least Terns at Ft. Peck, MT, *July 29 & 30* furnished the first record for latilong 10 (CC).

CUCKOOS TO WRENS

A singing Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the S. Unit of T.R.N.P., *July 4* was a first for *Billings* (GB). A Barn Owl in the N. Unit of T.R.N.P., *June 27* (CH) is particularly interesting given the probable May sighting in similar badlands habitat in Slope, ND.

Perhaps there are previously unknown badlands breeders! The declining Burrowing Owl was judged to be down 50% in the Hettinger, ND, area. The only Long-eared Owl reports were of a fledgling on Charles Russell N.W.R., *June 22* and a roadkill in Custer, SD, *July 2* (MM). The only report of Short-eared Owl from the Dakotas was of one in *Grant*, SD, *June 6*, but the species was reported from several Montana areas and was up at Medicine L. N.W.R. The brood of juvenile Northern Saw-whet Owls found in the S. Unit of T.R.N.P., ND, *June 7* (DR) provided the first definite breeding confirmation for the state. They have been heard on territory there and at several other locations and a brood was found along the Red R. on the e. border several years ago. Nighthawks arrived late at Minot *June 16* and at Ft. Peck *June 20* and were thought to be reduced by several observers. A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Marmath, ND, *June 6*



This juvenile Northern Saw-whet Owl was part of a brood found June 7, 1992, at the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota, for apparently a first confirmed breeding in the state. Photograph/Bruce M. Kaye.

(DG) was far w. A Williamson's Sapsucker in the Pryor Mts., *July 3* (WR) provided a first latilong record.

A spring Olive-sided Flycatcher in *Minnehaha*, SD, *July 10* (JL) was very late, while a fall bird in Cass, ND, *July 22* was early (L & CF). A migrating flock of 60 W. Kingbirds in a bare field in *Grand Forks* were very late *June 6* and would have been an unusual number at any time. Eastern Kingbirds did not arrive on territory at one Sawyer, ND, location until the incredibly late date of *June 9*. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Wells*, ND, *July 29* (BK†) was the 5th for the state. Young Purple Martins and Barn Swallows died in the nest at Grand Forks during a cool, wet period in early *July*. A flock of 10,000 swallows, mostly Bank and Cliff, was at the Grand Forks lagoons on the late date of *June 6*. The Tufted Titmouse which came out to a screech-owl tape in *Bottineau*, ND, *June 26* (TB†) was far out of range. The nearest breeding population of this sedentary species is approximately 500 mi away in s.e. Minnesota; this was of course the first for the state. In *Grand Forks* early fledgling Sedge Wrens were found *June 29* and a total of 87 singing birds were recorded *July 11*.

GNATCATCHERS TO GOLDFINCHES

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers successfully nested at Newton Hills S.P. (MSS) and at Sioux Falls, SD. Breeding E. Bluebirds did not arrive at Ft. Peck until *June 4* (CC). Mt. Bluebirds are using new areas to the s. and e. of their former range in N. Dakota. A pair fledged young in n.w. *Bottineau* out of the Turtle Mts. (JN) and another pair provided the first Stark nesting record (JH); five pairs were on territory at Lostwood N.W.R. (RKM); first breeding season records were obtained for *Renville* and *McIntosh*. A Swainson's Thrush banded in *Jackson*, SD, *July 14* (KG) was early.

Loggerhead Shrike is doing well in the Region; a tour group recorded 25 from Marmath to Jamestown, ND, *June 22* (RA). A Philadelphia Vireo at Hope, ND, *June 20* (DK) was record-late by 16 days. A Blackburnian Warbler in Cass, ND, *June 7* (RO)

was late. Cerulean and Hooded warblers were both found in Grand Forks *June 1* (EF). A Kentucky Warbler remained in *Minnehaha* *June 1-14* (AH).

An out-of-range Scarlet Tanager in the S. Cave Hills of *Harding*, SD, was chasing a W. Tanager (RP). A late migrating Scarlet was in Grand Forks *June 12*. A W. Tanager was present s. of Bismarck for 3 days in *July* (*vide* RR). Two Indigo Buntings in *Bottineau*, ND, in mid-*June* were first county nesting season observations.

Twenty percent of young Clay-colored Sparrows were found dead in their nests in *Grand Forks*, a casualty of the cold (RC). Field Sparrows have expanded their range in Montana and are now common in the Ft. Peck area; two singing near Belt *May 24* were much further w. First county breeding season observations of Lark Sparrow in *Sheridan*, *Kidder* and *McIntosh*, ND, were obtained on B.B.S. routes. Four June Sharp-tailed Sparrow observations in n.e. S. Dakota, a state with no confirmed breeding, may indicate a S expansion (PS†, JDW†).

A White-throated Sparrow in *Codington*, SD, *July 31* (BH), the first in summer for the state, was likely a very early fall migrant, as was one in a *Renville*, ND, shelterbelt *July 29*. Low water levels have reduced Red-winged and Yellow-headed blackbirds to less than half of normal in parts of w. N. Dakota and e. Montana. Eastern Meadowlarks were recorded on 2 N. Dakota B.B.S.: on Webster *June 8*, and far w. on Parshall *June 27*; there are now 10 records for the state. One was also at Union Co. S.P., SD, *July 3-18* (JL†). Common Grackles have recently begun breeding in Chester, MT. A total of 48 adult and young Orchard Orioles were found in Grand Forks *July 16*, a normal time for birds to begin leaving the area. Two female or imm. White-winged Crossbills arrived in Hettinger *July 14* and a female and one young were in Pick City, ND, *July 19*. A Lesser Goldfinch in *Fall River*, SD (JP†), would be the 5th for the state.

Contributors (State editors in boldface): MONTANA: Kathleen Anderson, Charles Carlson, Dale Hanson, Harriet Marble, Dwain Prellwitz, Michael Rabenberg, William Roney, Michael T. Schwitters, Michael Weber; N. DAKOTA: Robert Ake, Parker Backstrom, Tim Barksdale, Gordon Berkey, Richard Crawford, Larry & Carol Falk, Eve Freeberg, David Griffiths, Chris Hobbes, Justin Hoff, Brian Kietzman, Donald Kubischta, David Lambeth, Ron E. Martin, Jean Nelson, Robert O'Connor, Mark Otnes, Robert Randall, Donna Rieckman; S. DAKOTA: Ken Graupman, Bruce Harris, Augie Hoeger, Jon Little, Michael Melius, Everett Montgomery, Jeffrey Palmer, Richard Peterson, Dennis Skadsen, Mark Skadsen, Paul Springer, Jerry Stanford, J. David Williams, Nathaniel Whitney.—GORDON B. BERKEY, Division of Science, Minot State University, Minot, ND 58707.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

This season was definitely wetter and cooler than average across the Region. The cool, wet weather began in late May and resulted in a widespread reduction of nesting successes and heavy mortality in some species, particularly aerial insectivores. Especially hard hit were Purple Martins, abandoning nests with fledglings and dispersing widely, some succumbing. Also suffering were species such as Barn Swallows, Chimney Swifts, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and Mississippi Kites. Nest failures caused many species to nest later. As John Newell remarked, his resident American Robins lost three successive nests to weather before successfully bringing off a brood in late July. The fall period should have an array of late nesting passerines.

The rains also caused flooding of Least Tern and Piping Plover nesting areas, though a few groupings still managed to bring off a good number of young. And marsh and water birds probably had a good season, as noted by the Rosches in northwestern Nebraska, and by the numbers of nesting Pied-billed Grebes reported from several locations in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Migratory shorebirds generated little excitement this July. Few arrived early, and few impressive numbers were reported, though no one commented about a poor showing.

Populations of many resident species have clearly benefited from the mild winters and rainy summers of the past several years. Numbers of resident wrens for several species are very high. Bewick's Wrens produced a record number of young from a high population of adults on the Konza Prairie in northeastern Kansas. Carolina Wrens are back to the numbers of the pre-killer winters of the late 1970's. Numbers of Rock Wren in *Blaine* and *Comanche* counties, Oklahoma, were also high. However, as good as it was for the resident passerines, so it was for their predators. Like profit-takers in the stock market, they may have skimmed the rewards of good times.

Abbreviations: Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County, NE*); McConaughy (*Lake McConaughy, Keith County, NE*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford County, KS*); Wichita Mts. (*Wichita Mountains N.W.R., Comanche County, OK*) Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Com. Loon spent June in Tulsa (m.ob.), and another summered in *Wyandotte*, KS (LM). Eared Grebe populations in w. Nebraska have still not recovered from the low



water conditions of preceding years. Only 3 nests were located in *Sheridan* (RCR, DJR). A Clark's Grebe, still a rare bird of not yet fully determined status in the Region, was noted June 4 (RCR, DJR) & 30 (SD) at McConaughy. About 290 Westerns were estimated there June 30 (SD).

Brown Pelicans seemed to be making more of a showing in the Region recently. One adult was photographed in *Pottawatomie*, KS, July 26 (TC, DR). Single Neotropical Cormorants were noted July 25 in *Barton*, KS (SS, DB), and July 27 in *Linn* (LM). At least eight nesting pairs of Anhingas were present in *McCurtain*, OK (BH), where at least 10 pairs were present in 1991.

Great Egrets are clearly increasing in Kansas. A Tricolored Heron appeared in *Bryan*, OK, July 24 (JWe). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron made it to Fontenelle Forest June 17 (JA). Only a fraction of some previous years' counts, one Wood Stork July 28 in *Johnston*, OK (JWe), was still a good find.

A lingering Greater White-fronted Goose

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

An Osprey in *Knox*, NE, June 9 was tardy, or summered (TB, MB, BP). Mississippi Kites, rare in n.e. Oklahoma, were spotted in *Cherokee* (EG). A pair set up shop in *Johnson*, n.e. KS (JMu), where they are quite rare. Two imm. Red-shouldered Hawks were observed in Fontenelle Forest June 6 (RG).

Ferruginous Hawks appear to be holding their own in w. Nebraska. All 4 tree nests observed by the Rosches were successful. Always worthy of note during summer, an ad. Merlin was spotted July 16 in *Sioux*, NE (RCR, DJR). Surprising was an apparent imm. ♀ Peregrine Falcon July 31 at Quivira (MC, AH). A Sandhill Crane in *Clay*, NE, June 14 (TB, RS) was clearly missing its breeding opportunity for the summer.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Four pairs of Snowy Plovers were recolonizing portions of the Canadian R. near Norman, Oklahoma (VB). Black-necked Stilts produced at least one young in *Sheridan*, NE (BP,

was noted May 25-27 in *Muskogee*, OK (JM). Cinnamon Teals were observed June 7 in *Rock*, NE (BHu), and June 13 (a pair) in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR).

Among summering vagrant waterfowl were three Ring-necked Ducks and a Ruddy Duck in *McCurtain*, OK, June 14 (BH), two pairs of Ring-necked Ducks, a Lesser Scaup and two pairs of Ruddy Ducks in *Linn*, KS (LM), a Lesser Scaup June 13 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR), a ♂ Com. Merganser June 3 & 4 in *Keith*, NE (RCR, DJR), and a Hooded Merganser June 6 in *Phelps*, NE (RH). Ten Bufflehead, also a summer surprise, were found July 13 at *Garden*, NE (BR, PV). The number of these vagrant waterfowl is higher than in previous years, and likely correlates with better water conditions.



Brown Pelican in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, during July 1992. Photograph/David Rintoul.

LP). Late were a Lesser Yellowlegs, and very late was a Long-billed Dowitcher June 13 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR). Upland Sandpipers populations migrating through the Region may be on the upswing. Both Rosche and I felt that we heard more moving over at night than in the past few years. John Key discovered a field in *Blaine*, OK, with over 370 birds July 29.

A very rare find was a Whimbrel July 12 at Quivira (GP). Two Hudsonian Godwits, rare in fall, were discovered July 15 in *Douglas*, KS (LM). Marbled Godwits were noted July 10 in *Chevenne*, NE (RCR, DJR), and July 12 at Quivira (GP). Early migrant Sanderlings were observed July 25 in *Tulsa* (PS, JL), and July 27 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB). Vagrant Laughing Gulls are becoming more regular. One observed June 30 pushed its way N to McConaughy (JD, SD). Two imm. birds were reported from *Gearv*, KS, July 17 (CO), and Quivira July 31 (AH, MC). At least 35 California Gulls were present on McConaughy June 30 (JD, SD) along with six Caspian Terns, rare in the w. portion of the Region (SD). Two Com. Terns June 9 in *Cedar*, NE (TB, MB, BP), were unusual both geographically and seasonally.

With a wetter than normal season, Least Terns struggled with high water in many areas. *Tulsa* (PS, JL) and *Cleveland*, OK (VB) groups flirted the high water marks to produce 32 and 55 fledglings, respectively.

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS

Several observers commented that Black-billed Cuckoos seemed a little more common this year. A Com. Poorwill nest in the Wichita Mts. with 2 eggs June 2 was only the 2nd discovered in *Comanche*, OK (MH). Chuck-will's-widows were located at *Saunders*, NE (TH), a n. outpost for the species. Two summering Whip-poor-wills discovered in *Blaine*, OK, in late May (JL, JC) represent the first recorded for this western county.

Surprisingly, the only Rufous Hummingbird to report was a male in *Stephens*, OK, July 26–30 (SH, MHI, SE). More surprising for its rarity was an ad. Broad-tailed Hummingbird in *Scott*, KS, June 26 (L & BR). An undocumented report of a Red-naped Sapsucker was received for *Sioux*, NE (*vide* BP), an area outside the delimited range of both Red-naped and Yellow-bellied sapsucker species.

An E. Wood-Pewee at Lake McConaughy June 4 was w. of most occurrences. A likely migrant was noted June 4 in *Comanche*, OK (JAG, MS, MH). An apparently isolated Cordilleran Flycatcher in *Sioux*, NE, has been so persistently recorded over the years that it (or they) are more likely representatives of a larger breeding group. An Ash-throated Flycatcher observed July 1 had wandered out to *Morton*, KS (TC).

JAYS THROUGH VIREOS

Blue Jays underwent a major eruption in w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). A pair of Rock Wrens fledged five young in *Antelope*, NE (EB,

MB), beyond the e. edge of the normal range for the species. Perhaps the easternmost occurrence for the Region was a Canyon Wren in *Knox*, NE (TB, MB, BP). A Carolina Wren worked its way N and W to *Knox*, NE (TB, BP). Sedge Wrens unreported in recent years after an apparent upsurge in the late 1980s, returned to the Flint Hills prairies in Kansas (DR).

A patch of simulated boreal forest in *Dawes*, NE, attracted a Ruby-crowned Kinglet June 1–18 (RCR, DJR). It was nice to hear of a Veery June 18 in Fontenelle Forest (BP).

Observations of a White-eyed Vireo July 3 8 19 in *Blaine*, OK, provided a first county record (JAG). Along 12 mi of the Canadian R. near Norman, OK, Byre located 25 Bell's Vireo territories, an encouraging sign for a species which appears to be declining substantially. The numbers of ad. Black-capped Vireos in *Blaine*, OK, were up to at least 28 this year. However, cowbirds, weather, and predators all took their toll on nesting success, reducing production to less than one young per female. Successful removal of cowbirds in the Wichita Mts. helped vireos here do slightly better (JAG).

Very spottily distributed as breeders in the Region, Warbling Vireos were located in *Cleveland*, OK (VB), and *Alfalfa*, OK (JAG). A Red-eyed Vireo was noted west to *Phelps*, NE, June 6 (RH).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Among the lingering, lost, or vagrant warblers were a Chestnut-sided June 16 in Fontenelle Forest (BP), Blackburnians June 4 in *Douglas*, KS (PW) and June 6 in *Tulsa*



A Common Poorwill nest in the Wichita Mountains, Oklahoma, on June 2, 1992. Only the second nest found in southwestern Oklahoma. Photograph/Mike Stake.

(DI), a Mourning Warbler in *Sarpy*, NE, June 6 (BP, LP), and a Canada Warbler in *Douglas*, KS, June 4 (PW). A Prairie Warbler (migrant?), out of range, was seen on the prairies of *Riley*, KS, June 1 (TC).

Certainly a species of concern, Cerulean Warblers were noted in 3 localities in e. Nebraska, 2 in e. Kansas, and at least one in e. Oklahoma. Pairs of Prothonotary Warblers in *Pottawatomie*, KS, June 13 (OR), and in *Alfalfa*, OK, July 20 (JAG) fringed the normal limits of the range for this species. A Swainson's Warbler June 15–27 in *Montgomery*, KS, (EM) provided only the 6th

Kansas record. Hooded Warblers again summered in *Tulsa* (PS, JL).

Blue Grosbeaks were common in w. Nebraska and appeared to have a good nesting season, though most young were not observed until July (RCR, DJR). A number of extralimital Painted Buntfngs were noted in Kansas (*vide* LM).

The sand-sage country in *Box Butte*, NE, attracted at least five Cassin's Sparrows, with additional birds in *Chase*, and *Perkins* (RCR, DJR). Substantially more unusual were a colony with at least four ♂ Bachman's Spar-



This Canyon Wren in Knox County, Nebraska, on June 9, 1992, was perhaps the easternmost ever recorded in the Region. Photograph/Mark A. Brogie.

rows discovered in *Creek*, OK (JCH). Young were noted in July. A ♂ Field Sparrow singing in *Sioux*, NE (RCR, DJR), was w. of most occurrences. Four ♂ Vesper Sparrows in *Doniphan*, KS (GP), were the first recorded in n.e. Kansas during summer. Even more surprising, however, was a singing ♂ Harris' Sparrow in *Riley*, KS, July 11 (DR). Is some graduate student doing experiments again in Manhattan?

Bobolinks appeared to have a good nesting season in w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). Finally, there is little to say about cardueline finches this season.

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TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and
Chuck Sexton

It seems ironic that what was widely regarded as a "mild and moist" summer should entice relatively few birders afield. The Panhandle seemed to get active coverage by a familiar handful of people, perhaps urged onward by the general abundance of water in the playas, but Seyffert still suggested that more discoveries await us in future summer seasons. Barry Zimmer was dismayed at the lack of coverage (or at least the lack of reporting) in the Trans-Pecos, so little that it precluded any definitive statements about trends. Kelly Bryan, Pansy Espy, and a small crew nonetheless had many important finds in and around the Davis Mountains. The upper Texas coast was described as having had a "quiet summer."

The above-average rains of the spring gradually dwindled by early June in most areas, although North-Central Texas and East Texas still had good rains into mid-July. Unfortunately, the Davis Mountains had a couple of severe storms mid-July that had a devastating effect on late-nesting breeding birds. High water levels in East Texas seemed to deter or displace many post-nesting waders that normally make an appearance, although the Nacogdoches sewage ponds were an exception. In general, the coastal waders made a good showing well inland as the season progressed. As well, the fall movement of a wide diversity of bird species seemed to get an unusually early start in many quarters.

Tony Gallucci had no sooner settled in as our sub-regional editor for East Texas than we invited him to accept the analogous assignment in Central Texas. Now canvassing East Texas for us is the equally multitalented Gail Diane Luckner. Luckner joins a team of sub-regional editors of whom we are very proud and on whom we rely to be our eyes and ears statewide.

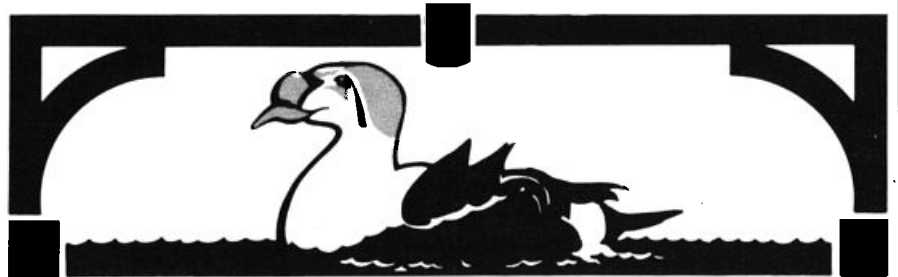
Abbreviations: G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mts. N. P.*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A&M University*); T.P.W.D. (*Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anzalduas, Bentsen, Big Bend, Buffalo Lake, Dinosaur Valley, Enchanted Rock, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, and Santa Ana. Note our distinctions in the text between the Davis Mts. and the S.P. by the same name.

GREBES TO STORK

A pair of Eared Grebes with two chicks were in *Armstrong* July 26 (KS) and other adults were seen elsewhere in the Panhandle. The mixed *Aechmophorus* pair continued at Balmorhea L., while two W. Grebes were at Toyah L., *Reeves*, July 24 (KB, GW). The identity of a storm-petrel picked up at Port Aransas Aug. 20, 1991 (AB 46:118), was recently confirmed as a Leach's (*fide* David Lee). A Brown Pelican soaring downriver in *Kerr* July 10 was described as a "bizarre" record (TG), but we can top that one: An exhausted imm. Brown Pelican was found June 13 on a ranch s.w. of the Davis Mts. and was rehabilitated on fish and Vienna sausage. As it gained strength, the pelican began to reject the *fish* completely. It flew off June 19 (ph. PE). Another, or conceivably the same, Brown Pelican arrived at Feather L. in *El Paso*

June 25 (JSp) and remained there through the period. We can't get the picture out of our minds of a young pelican now circling somewhere over the lakes, rivers, or coasts of the s.w. U.S. searching in vain for more Vienna sausage. Perhaps the *Kerr* observers (above) should have been better prepared.

Double-crested Cormorants summered widely in c. and n. Texas. Of greater interest were at least 3 active nests observed in a rookery at Toyah L., in early June (GW *et al.*). By late July about 40 ad. and juv. cormorants were at the colony (*fide* KB). This is the first nesting of the species in the Trans-Pecos and a rare event for Texas. This colony of cormorants and waders was first noted by Willis in 1991; Toyah L. had been dry for several years previous to that date. Two Double-crested were seen in *Wood* June 1 at a site where they had nested last year (MW, m.ob.). An Am. Bittern in Austin June 27 (AM) provided a rare mid-summer record. Least Bitterns, all suspected of nesting, were noted widely in the L.R.G.V., c., n. and far w. Texas. There were two Panhandle sightings of Great Egrets in *Hansford* and *Lubbock* where they are rare in summer. A Tricolored Heron at Feather L. July 25 & 31 was a rare vagrant that far w. (JSp). Cattle Egrets were confirmed breeding for the first time in both the Midland and Lubbock areas in late July, events of no small significance. Cattle Egrets nested and were the most numerous of the eight subspecies of long-legged waders at



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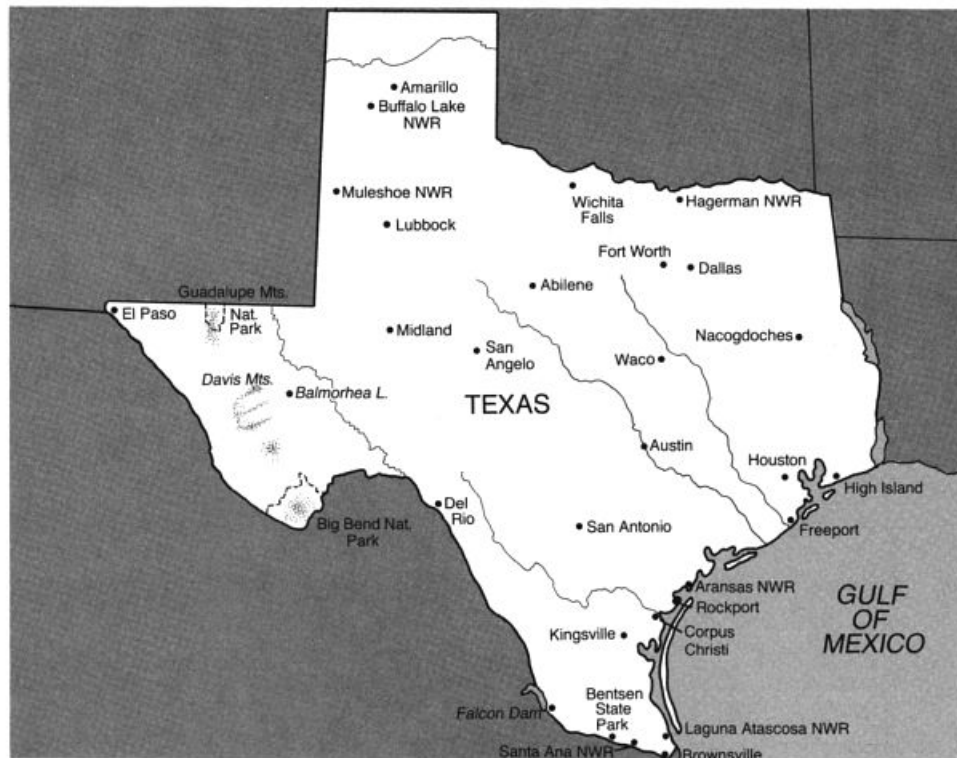
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the Falfurrias area. Gallucci periodically noted Zone-tailed Hawks in *Kerr* from June into July, probably the easternmost in the species' range. Golden Eagles also brightened the skies of *Kerr* in June and July, very unusual for mid-summer (TG). There were more sightings of Am. Kestrels in *Webb* and *Hidalgo* suggesting a sparse nesting population in s. Texas (SB, TB). Stunning corroboration of the probable wild origin of last winter's **Aplomado Falcon** near Marfa came from researchers who found several Aplomados each day in late July in the poorly explored yucca grasslands of the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Due to ongoing research and the sensitivity of the situation, we must elect to hold back further details at this time. The banded Aplomado Falcon near Falfurrias was observed as late as June 18 (AO). Nine young were fledged from 11 Peregrine nests in Big Bend, down somewhat from the 1991 season. Migrant Peregrines showed up unexpectedly early in

Toyah L., in late July; our correspondent did not indicate if all eight spp. were nesting at that rookery. In what is quickly becoming routine on the U.T.C., two Glossy Ibises were reported from Galveston I., June 21 (ph., T & VE). Roseate Spoonbills graced lakes and ponds as far inland as *Travis*, *Tarrant*, *Dallas*, *Nacogdoches*, *Rusk*, and *Gregg*. Two early Wood Storks soared above Rockport June 6 (N & PP).

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

There was evidence of good nesting success of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in their regular range; the species pushed well into n. Texas as well. Boerjan and his wife spotted a Black-bellied standing atop a utility pole while toting a single duckling on its back near Falfurrias. Not far away another adult on the roof of a barn had *eight* ducklings crowded on its back (*fide* AO)! After repeated bits of circumstantial evidence along the Rio Grande, Wood Ducks were finally confirmed nesting in s. *Hidalgo* near Weslaco (HB), a first for the lower valley. Mottled Ducks were particularly numerous in n.e. Texas in *Harrison* and *Titus* in late July (D & LB, GLu). A pair of Mottleds provided a first *Tarrant* record July 16 (JWS, ph. MP, m.ob.). Canvasbacks in *Crosby* in June (L.E.A.S.) and in *Floyd* in July (JC) provided rare summer records. Summering Redheads were noted on the c. coast and in the Panhandle; nesting activity was suspected but unconfirmed in both areas (m.ob.). An apparently healthy Ring-necked Duck summered in Keene, *Johnson* (CE). Two Com. Mergansers showed up on L. Tanglewood, *Randall*, in early July and remained through the period. About 20–25 pairs of Ruddy Ducks were at lagoons at Presidio from May onward; by late



Immature Brown Pelican awaiting more handouts of Vienna sausages on a ranch southwest of the Davis Mountains, Texas, on June 15, 1992. Photograph/Pansy Espy.

June, 10–15 females were accompanied by young (KB). The species is an uncommon and irregular nester in Texas.

Bald Eagles had good nesting with thirty-eight eaglets were fledged from 26 successful nests; all of these provided record or near-record numbers for Texas (T.P.W.D. data, *fide* JE). A N. Harrier was seen at Buffalo L., June 18 (KS) while another was seen the following day near Wichita Falls (T & BS), both providing rare summer records. There were 2 confirmed nests of Com. Black-Hawk in the Davis Mts. (KB). Gray Hawks nested at Bentsen (R & LG); single birds were seen at Santa Ana in June and July (*fide* JI) and at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend in late July (SW). A Broad-winged Hawk in n.w. *Bexar* was somewhat s.w. of the species' breeding range and may have been an early migrant (SWi). O'Neil followed numbers of successful nests of Swainson's, White-tailed, and Red-tailed hawks, among other raptors, in

Austin; an adult and an immature arrived mid-July and seemed to dally in the area into August.

RAILS TO SKIMMER

A calling Black Rail was located on Matagorda I., June 23 (BO, DM); the species may be breeding there, but no solid evidence was found. An ad. Virginia Rail with chicks in *Midland* June 28 provided a 2nd confirmed nesting for the county (*fide* FW). Common Moorhens and Am. Coots both had several successful nests at Presidio (KB) where they are very rare breeders. Snowy Plovers had a successful nesting season at Midland, Toyah L., and Balmorhea L. (m.ob.). Observers in



Double-crested Cormorant on a nest at Toyah Lake, Reeves County, on July 24, 1992. The species established its first nesting for Trans-Pecos Texas here this season. Photograph/Kelly B. Bryan.

n.c. Texas were excited about three Piping Plovers detected in July; however, the species showed up on the lower Texas coast as early as July 13 (TB), suggesting that at least some individuals got an early southward start this year. Seven Mountain Plover nests near Ft. Davis fledged 12 young of which only five survived (PE). For the 6th summer, Spotted Sandpipers were found along the Guadalupe R. in Kerr through June although no nesting evidence has ever been garnered (TG); the species is always common early in the fall migration in c. Texas. Upland Sandpipers gave their strongest indication of nesting in n.c. Texas ever. Territorial song, nuptial flights, and distraction displays were noted by birds at various *Clay*, *Young*, and *Throckmorton* locations through June. A Whimbrel at Bolivar Flats June 25 was an unexpectedly late (or early?) migrant (GDL).

Observers should not be surprised at the occasional S Long-billed Curlew in the earliest days of July; however, 100 at Laguna Atascosa July 13 was a notable early concentration. Upwards of 500 Long-billeds at Toyah L., July 24 could only be considered stunning (KB, GW)! Four Marbled Godwits at Ft. Bliss July 6 were a rare summer find (BZ). There were early Ruddy Turnstones, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitchers at various n. and e. Texas locations. A Ruff discovered July 25 at Austin (MQ, JK) was quite early for this Texas rarity; this individual lingered until Aug. 2 (ph. GL; m.ob.). A most exciting find was two ad. Wilson's Phalaropes attending four young s.e. of Amarillo July 26 (KS); this represents only the 3rd confirmed nesting in Texas. The Parasitic Jaeger reported in May at Bolivar Flats remained through June 18 (WB, *fide* GDL). An ad. light-phase Parasitic at the Freeport jetty July 19 provided a first July record for the U.T.C. (GDL). A few Franklin's and Ring-billed gulls lingered inland into mid-June and smaller numbers of summering birds were noted in a few areas in July. An early Herring Gull was at Bayside July 19 (GS). From 16–30 Least Terns were in Dallas all summer, and there was tentative evidence of at least one nesting attempt despite disturbance from construction activity (m.ob.). Two Least Tern colonies were found at Amistad Res. in July (JWi). Most encouraging was the banner breeding season the species had at Bolivar Flats on the U.T.C. (*fide* GDL). Due to the efforts of Gretchen Mueller and the Houston Audubon Society, Least Tern nesting areas were successfully cordoned off. At least 200 pairs descended into an area that had previously harbored perhaps 20 pairs. By late July the flats were home to over 600 ad. and juv. Least Terns. Two Black Skimmers were at Mitchell L., July 12 (WS).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Two pairs of White-winged Doves successfully nested in Lubbock in May and June (JRM), providing a first area record. Inca Doves were finally confirmed nesting in the n. Panhandle with 3 successful nests in

Amarillo (m.ob.). Incas were also sighted in Oldham (RS), but nesting was not confirmed. A White-tipped Dove heard near Refugio June 18 was n.e. of its known range (ME); another White-tipped was glimpsed at Rio Grande Village July 19–20 (SW). Green Parakeets were found nesting near Weslaco and Red-crowned Parrots nested nearby (HB); confirmation of nesting by these psittacids is not frequently forthcoming. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were regarded as more numerous this year in s., c., and e. Texas. A Mangrove Cuckoo continued to be reported at Laguna Atascosa very occasionally into late July (m.ob., *fide* TU, TP). Single Burrowing Owls were located in *Throckmorton* June 14 (BG, PB) & 20 (KN). There were 3 confirmed sightings of Spotted Owls in the Guadalupe Mts. this season (G.M.N.P. files). "Pathetically few" hummingbirds were noted in s. Texas (PP), but reports in the Trans-Pecos were encouraging. Magnificent and Lucifer's hummingbirds were more numerous than normal in Big Bend (BZ *et al.*), and both of these species showed up in the Davis Mts. in July where they are rare (KB). Two Calliope's were at an El Paso feeder July 21–23 (EM, BZ), and an unusually early Anna's was at the same location July 24 (EM). Rufous Hummingbirds showed up in the Trans-Pecos mountains early in large numbers (KB). There were 2 or 3 sightings of Ringed Kingfishers at scattered Austin locations in July suggesting a wide-ranging bird (JA, VE, DS). The species was also noted later in August in Kerr (TG). The El Paso Red-headed Woodpecker from the Spring was noted at least to July 21 (BZ). Golden-fronted Woodpeckers were common along Alamito Cr., *Presidio*, probably representing the westernmost population in Texas (KB). Northern Flickers were a curious find at many low-elevation locations in *Presidio* in June (KB).

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets, always a rare summer find, were reported at Santa Ana in June and at Bentsen and near Granjeno in July (*fide* JI, R & LG). A nesting pair of Vermilion Flycatchers were found in *Garza* July 10 (JC), far n. of their normal nesting range. Also a bit n. of its normal range was a Brown-crested Flycatcher at Enchanted Rock June 5 (SWi). The Brownsville Tropical Kingbirds were noted in June and those near La Feria into July (MM, *fide* TP). A non-vocalizing Couch's/Tropical was out-of-range in Hobson, *Karnes*, July 25 (WS). A pair of Tree Swallows were attending a nest hole in late May and early June at Big Creek L., *Delta*, near where they nested last year (MW). A few Tree Swallows in Kerr July 23 seemed very early (TG). American Crows were found w. of their normal haunts in the w. and s. Panhandle (JC, CSt). A Rock Wren in Kingsville in July provided the 4th sight record in 9 years for *Kleberg* (BH, *fide* PP). Confirmed nesting of Carolina Wrens in Amarillo, *Potter*, was made Aug. 12 with an adult attended

by a begging young (KS). The Carolina Wren at Rio Grande Village was still present as of July 19 (SW). Notable were fledgling E. Bluebirds in *Crosby* June 13–14 (DS, L.E.A.S.). American Robins nested at McDonald Observatory (KB) and were also seen in Ft. Davis in early June (KB) and in Alpine July 18 (SW). A pair of Clay-colored Robins nested successfully at Anzalduas (MM, TB, R & LG, TP). Long-billed Thrashers inched into the s. edge of the Hill Country and nested at Kickapoo in July (OC). Cedar Waxwings occasionally linger late, such as the single bird at Packery Channel June 3 (GBI), but 10 in *Kinney* June 10 (ML, OC) and three in *Real* June 19 (BA) were absurdly so. Despite the decline of the Loggerhead Shrike in more northerly regions, the species is doing well and expanding as a nester in deep s. Texas (*fide* PP, SB, AO, DWi). Despite considerable searching by Easley and others, only one Black-capped Vireo was located in n.c. Texas, that one being a single male at Dinosaur Valley, *Somervell*, July 18 (CH). Three Black-capped Vireos at 2 locations in *Kimble* June 13 were notable finds (SWi). Barrera found 14 territorial Black-



Ruff at Austin, Texas, July 30, 1992.
Photograph/Greg W. Lasley.

capped at the remote Hill Country S.N.A., *Bandera/Medina*, in June and had a very rare migrant in her own yard in Austin July 16.

Fledging success of Black-capped was generally reported as good, but there were significant information gaps due to private property restrictions in key areas in *Travis* and elsewhere (CS). A Yellow-throated Vireo provided a first *Wichita* record June 2 (D & JMc). Red-eyed Vireos reported at 3 L.R.G.V. locations in early June (MM) probably represented late migrants. A very early southbound Red-eyed was in *Midland* July 30 (D & JMe). There were finally 2 reports of Yellow-green Vireos at Laguna Atascosa July 5 & 10 (*fide* TP, R & LG). The Webberville Yellow-green lingered to July 5 (*fide* GL, RA). Along with the localities mentioned in spring, Tropical Parulas were also noted s. of Granjeno, *Hidalgo*, July 21 (JI). A singing ♂ Yellow Warbler was an unexpected find near *Texline*, *Dallam*, June 13 (KS). Two "Mangrove" Warblers were reported from Port Isabel July 13 (JKi *fide* TP). A well-described ♀ or imm. Golden-cheeked War-

bler made a rare appearance at Laguna Atascosa outside its normal nesting or migration range July 2-3 (A & MC, GS, JG *et al.*). It was distressing that no Golden-cheeked were found at traditional sites in the n. part of their nesting range despite concerted efforts to find them (m.ob.). Yellow-throated Warblers were w. of their normal range in *Real* June 19 (BA) and at Kickapoo June 23 (OC). A late migrant Worm-eating Warbler made a very rare c. Texas appearance in *Bexar* June 2 (JJE). Another late rarity was a Canada Warbler in Amarillo June 13 (NE). Yellow-breasted Chats were discovered nesting again in *Johnson* after a 5-year absence (CE).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

An inexplicably early W. Tanager was found in *Midland* July 15 (LB); migrants are found in the w. Texas mountains at that date but aren't expected elsewhere for months. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak hung around Davis Mountains S.P., July 25-Aug. 3 (KB), a most unusual season for the species there. The most noteworthy Indigo Bunting was a territorial male along the Window Trail in Big Bend seen repeatedly from June 8 onward (DB, m.ob.). Two Dickcissels near Red Bluff L., *Reeves*, June 30 (FW) were well w. of their normal range; the species was abundant in its regular haunts. About 25 pairs of Olive Sparrows invaded Kickapoo (ML); a single Olive Sparrow in *Goliad* June 20 provided probably a first-county record (BHg *vide* ME). A late Green-tailed Towhee was in Amarillo June 1, while a mid-summer Green-tailed was at an unexpectedly low elevation at Davis Mountains S.P., July 3. A Canyon Towhee July 25 furnished a first record for *Hood* (CE). Chipping Sparrows were confirmed nesting in *Van Zandt* June 28, providing apparently a first Regional nest record (RK, GHa, JN). Also a Regional first were 3 confirmed breeding populations of Black-chinned Sparrows in the Davis Mts. (KB, JTr). Field Sparrows were singing in *Brooks*, but no confirmation of nesting was found (AO). Aside from being abundant and productive in their normal range, Grasshopper Sparrows were numerous around Ft. Davis where they are absent most years (PE, KB). There were two very unusual sparrow records: A singing White-crowned was videotaped near Cleburne, *Johnson*, July 3 (CE), and a Vesper was flushed in suitable grassland habitat in *Brown* July 9 (SH). Both are believed to be the first mid-summer records for the spp. in Texas.

About 50 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in *Motley* July 18 (JC), and 30 more were at Balmorhea L., the same day (SW); the species had already arrived in small numbers in *Tarrant* by July 11 (JWS, m.ob.). Texas' 2nd **Shiny Cowbird** was trapped June 12, once again, in a cowbird trap at Ft. Hood, on this occasion in the *Coryell* portion of the vast military reserve (GE, *vide* C & JJ, ph. GL, * T.C.W.C.). Undoubtedly the species is being overlooked in the s.e. portions of the state. At least 2 active Altamira



Female-plumaged Lucifer Hummingbird at McDonald Observatory, Davis Mountains, Texas, on July 19, 1992. Photograph/Kelly B. Bryan.

Oriole nests were found in *Jim Wells*, almost 100 mi n. of their regular breeding range (*vide* AO). The first summer occurrences of "Baltimore" Orioles were noted in *Delta* June 13 and *Red River* June 14 (MW), although the species was absent from White Rock L., *Dallas*, where they had nested in past years (CP). House Finches nested in Houston and elsewhere in *Harris*, having gained a remarkably fast foothold in an area where they first appeared in the winter of 1989. Other House Finches were seen on 2 occasions in s. *Jim Wells* (JBo, *vide* AO) where they are rare. A ♀ Red Crossbill brought two juveniles to the McDonald Observatory about July 18; the female left the next day, but the young birds stayed through the month (ph. KB). A pair was photographed near this location last year. These records almost certainly establish the species as breeding in the Davis Mts. Pine Siskins were already being seen and heard in the Davis Mts. as early as mid-July (KB). Lesser Goldfinches pushed slightly n. and e. of their regular Texas range, to be found in *Randall* and *Goliad* among other locations.

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh Kingery

A major incursion of Lark Buntings excited observers in three states. The Region's first Rufous-necked Stint excited Nevadans, Wyoming picked up two first state records, and Atlas work filled in gaps in breeding ranges in Colorado. Water and shorebirds, easy to study because they breed in a few identifiable places, were well monitored. Many passerines—neotropical migrants, harder to monitor because they disperse over wide spaces to nest, received less focused attention. Weather last fall, not this summer, had the greatest impact on Regional nesters: thousands of trees died in eastern Colorado because of a rapid, hard, early freeze, the impact of which did not become apparent until this summer. Mixed breeding success was due to the summer drought in the north and west and wet in the south.

The devastating effect of the October freeze, especially noticeable in towns, parks, and shelter belts, did not appear until this summer. It killed thousands of introduced and ornamental trees, especially Siberian elms, globe willows and poplars. Natural vegetation and riparian corridors were much less affected. In some towns (with the only trees Siberian Elms) up to 50% died—100% at some farms. Probably more will die in a delayed fashion. (MJ, DL) "It probably affected [birds like] Yellow Warblers and Bullock's Orioles; my impression is that not many nested this year." (MJ)

Drought continued to pervade Nevada, northern Wyoming, and northern Utah. Trees leafed out in April instead of May, accelerating breeding activity of some species

by two to three weeks. Colorado had cool and wet weather. In the Arkansas Valley Las Animas had 8.8 inches of rain in July; the normal annual rainfall is 10 inches. Grassland birds thrived after wet weather.

The Indian Peaks Breeding Bird Count, west of Boulder, Colorado, recorded the most species and the most individuals in its 10 years. The count averaged 53 birds/count hour *cf.* a 10-year average of 39/hour and a previous high of 50/hour. Big jumps from 10-year averages included 4.29 Pine Siskins/hour *cf.* 2.75 average; 2.68 Mountain Chickadees (1.36); 1.31 House Wrens (.55). Observers found 105 species (average 96). Most common were 438 Pine Siskins, 369 robins, 298 juncos, 285 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and 283 Yellow-rumped Warblers. Water birds had mixed nesting success in the Lahontan Valley, due to the drought. Even at that, success was expected from 50 Great Blue Heron nests, 25 Cattle, 90 Great, and 225 Snowy Egrets, 70 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 40 White-faced Ibises, but no Western or Clark's Grebes (52LN). In the San Luis Valley, Colorado, Snowy, and Cattle Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons had a poor nesting year. In contrast, White-faced Ibis had a better-than-average breeding season, with 125–150 nests at four valley sites. White-faced Ibises, driven away from Great Salt Lake a decade ago by its high water levels, nested at Logan and Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge.

Abbreviations: G.S.L. (*Great Salt L., UT*); LLBL (*Longmont/Lyons/ Berthoud/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); 1st Lat (*First latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, and measures about 50 by 70 mi]*); ph* (*photograph on file with R.E.*); ph (*photographed but not submitted to R.E.*); IPBBC (*Indian Peaks, CO, Breeding Bird*

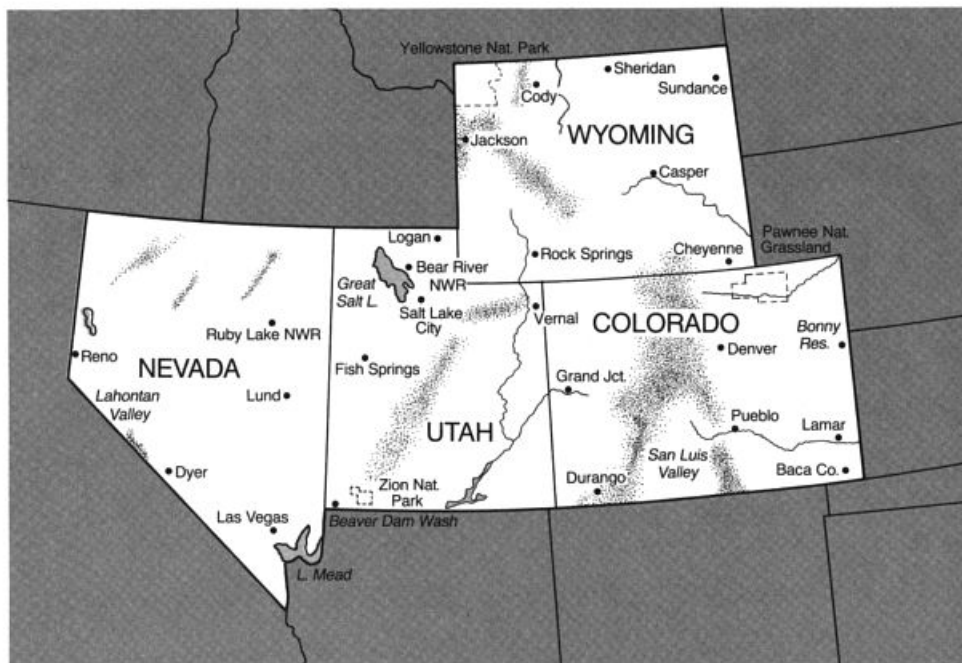
Count, June 13). **LOONS TO IBIS** On June 30 w. Nevada boasted 1000 adult and chick Eared Grebes, from 250–300 breeding pairs (LN). A small colony at Loveland, CO, had 20+ young with 13 adults still incubating July 23, and on July 31, 16 new nests—a 2nd nesting. Anaho N.W.R., n. of Reno, fledged an estimated 1850 Am. White Pelicans, the best in years (LN). Drawdowns at nearby reservoirs may have enhanced availability of fish populations to the pelicans (LN). Colorado's 3 pelican colonies also had good success, with 1200 immatures at Riverside, 200 at Antero, and 20 at Walden (RAR). Five Brown Pelicans arrived at L. Mead—two June 14 and three more June 25; all, which arrived in poor shape, stayed through July (RS, JK). Double-crested Cormorants at Anaho had good production from 1025 nests (LN). In July Riverside had 200 immatures, Walden had 120, and Antero 100; Casper's cormorants peaked at 500 July 2, and Denver's Chatfield had 132 nests (up 20) along with 95 Great Blue Heron nests (down 13). An intensive search of w. Nevada in July turned up only one Least Bittern, at Harmon Res. (LN), and Las Vegas had one July 27 (MC). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron summered s. of Colorado Spgs. (TB).

WATERFOWL

Ring-necked Ducks have increased in the s. Rockies. Colorado had only 3 nesting records in 1965. A July backpack in the Flatops Wilderness, CO, found several (MCu) and broods were found in at least 6 mountain Atlas blocks in Colorado. Utah, with no breeding records, reported one June 5–12 at Huntington and another July 9 at Beaver. They breed so late that sometimes fledglings are lucky to learn to fly before the high country lakes freeze (BS). Two Atlas blocks near Rabbit Ears Pass had Buffleheads; one fledged four young from a nest in an Aspen with 4 other active nests (sapsucker, flicker, swallow, and wren—NBa). Three ♀ Red-breasted Mergansers stayed at Lahontan Valley May 16+ (LN).

DIURNAL RAPTORS

Ospreys fledged young from 2 of 4 nesting attempts at L. Tahoe, (U.S.F.S.), one at Lahontan Valley, three at Glenrock, WY, three at Dillon, CO, and one at Pueblo. Eleven pairs of Bald Eagles nested in Colorado, two in Utah. Indian Peaks reports declining accipiters, especially goshawks. A 9-year trend analysis shows N. Goshawks dropped from frequency of 1.8/count to 1/count and detection from every count to every other count (DH). An early flock of 95 Swainson's Hawks swarmed over a grassland s. of Cheyenne Wells, CO, June 23 (HK), and a surprising 26 Ferruginous Hawks were counted around Jayem, WY, July 7 (J & VH).



MOORHENS TO PHALAROPES

Observers saw Com. Moorhen broods at Lahontan Valley and Las Vegas. One walked and picked along a cattail marsh at Cortez, CO, July 1 (AV-1st Lat). Shorebirds drifted through at their usual perplexing times: At G.S.L. Paton observed n. nesters weekly in June—Greater Yellowlegs, W. Sandpipers, and Sanderling. The return migration surely had started by June 22 when Cressman observed 80 sandpipers of 4 species at Las Vegas. Migration started in earnest in July. By July 16 Carson L., NV, had 7200 Least/Western Sandpipers; on July 30 it had only 3700 Least/Westerns, but 9000 Long-billed Dowitchers and 7600 Am. Avocets. Phalaropes totaled no more than 2000, down from 70,000–100,000 in the mid-1980's (LN). Great Salt Lake had 110,000 Wilson's Phalaropes July 7 (PP). Otherwise G.S.L. lacked high shorebird counts; tops were 3000 Westerns July 15, 800 Marbled Godwits July 10.

coyotes (LN). They enjoyed roaring success, however, at Anaho (4200 nests June 8—BH) and Casper (6000 birds on July 1, lots of young—J & VH, J & GL). The Region claimed two Arctic Terns: Wyoming's first July 11 at Casper (++J & VH, JG), Colorado's 4th June 9 at Nee Noshe, seen at 40 feet with Com. Terns (++DN). Nevada's 5th Least Tern sat at the end of a row of nine Black Terns at the Las Vegas sewage ponds July 8 (+MC). A substantial 40 Yellow-billed Cuckoos included three in Nevada ("the ghost is back"—LN), eight in Utah including a nest at Ouray N.W.R. (ES), and 30 in e. Colorado including one at Ft. Morgan which called daily (JCR).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS

A W. Screech-Owl was at Hanna Ranch, s. of Colorado Springs June 8–12 (TB, BP). Spotted Owls occupied at least 20 sites in s. Utah (DW); an intensive hunt in Colorado found one to two pairs in Mesa Verde and four to

July (ViH). The first Boreal found in the Colorado Flattops called at Ripple Creek Pass June 7 (DB 1st Lat), and Mountain Chickadees mobbed a juvenile in the Weminuche Wilderness near Pagosa Springs, CO, July 23 (UKi 1st Lat). The Dixons reported on declining hummingbird observations in Logan June 1–July 15. In 1986 and 1987, they saw Black-chinneds 95% and Calliopes 92% of those days. In 1992 they recorded Black-chinneds 85% and Calliopes only 65% of the days. A Magnificent Hummingbird attended a feeder at Great Sand Dunes N.M., CO, July 17 (+AV). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird, providing Colorado's 6th record, came to a feeder at Ft. Collins July 9+; in August it began to molt into brighter plumage (DSt, +DL ph*). The first Rufous arrived at Casper June 27, an Atlas block near Salida, CO, June 30, and Evergreen, CO, July 2. Atlasers confirmed woodpecker breeding: Red-headed near the foothills at Lyons (BK) and Three-toed in 2 more Colorado latilongs (near Craig and Cortez—HK, AV). Near Monticello a Three-toed nest with young provided a first breeding record for s.e. Utah (CL).

S.A.

Colorado's Arkansas Valley has become a haven for threatened and endangered "shore" birds. Low water levels at High Plains Reservoirs near Lamar attracted 34 nesting pairs of Snowy Plovers. Four pairs of Piping Plovers nested in 4 locations: 2 High Plains reservoirs and 2 new ones 50 mi away—John Martin Res. and Blue L., n. of Las Animas—now their most w. U.S. nest site. Two pairs re-nested (unusual), one of which fledged one young. In all, Colorado Piping Plovers fledged six young (DN). Speculation about the origin of the Colorado colony now centers on Optima Res. in the Oklahoma panhandle. Piping Plovers nested there 1986–87; then high water flooded the nest sites; the plovers arrived in Colorado in 1988 (DN). Blue L., with 2 islands, also hosted one pair of Snowy Plovers, 15 Am. Avocets, 15 or so Spotted Sandpipers, 21 Least Terns, and, on May 28, 90 California Gull nests. When Nelson checked on June 9, he found that someone had stomped on *all* the gull eggs. He and Slater devised 3 theories as to the motivation for this extraordinary effort: the person resents the endangered Piping Plovers and Least Terns for closing the island to recreation, and thought gulls were plovers; wanted to protect the plovers and terns from the gulls; or likes to stomp on eggs. Regardless, the human predation on the gulls did protect the shorebirds from gull predation: the gulls abandoned the site and plovers, terns, avocets, and sandpipers all had great nesting success. At G.S.L. Paton found 1501 Snowy Plovers and 220 nests; 50% hatched. Foxes and skunks were the principal predators. At Layton, probably the only large Black-necked Stilt colony active this year in the Great Basin, 5,000–10,000 nesting birds produced 1000's of young. Franklin's Gulls and Ibises did not nest at last year's colony near Ogden. The Region reported a surprising 11 Whimbrels: at G.S.L. 2–4 June 3–12, and 1–2 July 7–24 (PP); one at Las Vegas June 22–July 8 (MC), and 3 at Carson L., July 16 (+LN). Perhaps poor nesting stimulated early flock formation of Long-billed Curlews in Nevada: 25 at Las Vegas June 21 and 93 at Carson L., July 16. At G.S.L. more young curlews were present in June than in 1990 or 1991, but young hatched from only 2 nests of 10 found; predators got the rest (PP). The rarest summer shorebird visited the Las Vegas sewage settlement ponds July 27–28: a remarkable Rufous-necked Stint provided the first Regional and first Nevada record. It fed with a small flock of Least and W. Sandpipers (+MC, ph* not suitable for reproduction, +VM). On July 19, 250 Stilt Sandpipers had gathered at Nee Noshe near Lamar (MJ). The Region had at least 14 Short-billed Dowitchers July 11+, with eight at Delta, CO (+RL) and four *hendersoni* in the Arkansas Valley (MJ). A Red Phalarope in basic-plumage stopped June 22 at Nee Noshe (++DN), the 2nd in that Latilong in a month. Thousand-bird flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes used G.S.L. in July (PP).

GULLS TO CUCKOOS

Franklin's Gulls failed to breed at their 1991 site at Ogden (PP). A Bonaparte's Gull appeared July 14 for the first record at Sheldon N.W.R., NV (B & DS). California Gulls had a bad year at Lahontan Valley because a reservoir drawdown exposed the nest island to

eight pairs around Florence, including one nest (DR). Barred Owls apparently have made it to Wyoming. A convincing description supports sight and sound observations at Jackson March 8–14 (+KD, RW); another reportedly was heard June 3. Wyoming's 3rd Boreal nest was found at Encampment in

FLYCATCHERS TO GNATCATCHERS

An E. Wood-Pewee called at Colorado City July 26–31 (+DS 1st Lat). Western Wood-Pewees nested on the plains at Ft. Morgan (JCR) and in the Pine Canyon Atlas block near Branson, CO (HK, 1st Lat). At Monticello a Dusky Flycatcher nest had young July 9 (NB, 1st Lat). Black Phoeebes nested at Beulah, CO, and one young fledged by June 21; the 3rd known Colorado nest, it's the first successful one (+BP, AW). Black Phoeebes "suddenly showed up at every wet spot around Las Vegas and stayed," June 15+ (MC); in n. Nevada Mason Valley Wildlife Area had one July 24 (LN). Eastern Phoeebes nested near the Beulah Black Phoebe nest (BP, AW, 1st Lat) and near a Say's Phoebe nest in Pine Canyon. Sheldon Ref., NV, had its first breeding record of Ash-throated Flycatchers July 6—a pair feeding a fledgling (B & DS). A stray visited Gurney, WY, July 16 (+MP, 1st Lat). Utah's 9th Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Logan July 1–2 fed in a field in view of 50 observers (LR ph), and in Colorado birds appeared at Loveland, Kit Carson, Estes Park, and Pueblo. Chihuahuan Ravens nested at Aguilar, CO (C & PS, 1st Lat). At Ogden, Killpack banded 33 Black-capped (nine last year), IPBBC tallied .21/hr cf. 0.07 average, and LLBL tallied 82 (57 last year). A Cedar City BBS counted 28 Mountains July 6 (average 14—SH), and IPBBC's count doubled the average. Red-breasted Nuthatches summered on the Front Range cities from Denver to Cheyenne, WY, where a pair fledged 2 young (B & SA). The Cedar City BBS counted 23 (average 12), and one strayed to Carrizo Canyon, Baca July 15 (DL). A Bewick's Wren nest with young in the La Sal Mts. UT, June 24 confirmed breeding for the first time, surprisingly, in the Moab latilong (+NB). Three pairs

of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Lyons, CO (DWK), and one pair at Guernsey, WY, July 16 (+MP).

BLUEBIRDS TO WARBLERS

Eastern Bluebirds nested in June at Colorado City in a nest box (DS, 1st Lat breeding), but none of last year's pioneer locations reported nesting. A Gray Catbird popped up at the Tonopah, NV, highway rest stop June 9 (JBr). At Cedar City a pair, watched since June 12, fed a fledgling July 15 for Utah's most s. breeding record (SH, 1st Lat). A Bell's Vireo, unusually persistent for s. Nevada, sang June 1–July 16 at Blue Diamond (SG). On June 5 a frantic pair of Virginia's Warblers in Moab, UT, gave a broken wing display and hopped within a foot of a garter snake holding onto the wing of a downy

S.A.

Each year vagrant vireos and warblers set up territories in Colorado for a couple of days to a couple of months. Some return for 2nd and 3rd (unsuccessful) tries at finding mates. This year, for 2 days to 3 weeks in June, observers found these temporarily territorial singing males: Yellow-throated Vireo for the 3rd year at Chatfield St. Park near Denver (D.F.O.); another was 15 mi away at Fairmont Cemetery for a day (TJ); a Blue-winged Warbler at Castlewood St. Park for the 2nd year; a Golden-winged at Roxborough S.P.; a Tennessee s.w. of Salida; two Chestnut-sideds on Grand Mesa (++)CSc); Yellow-throated at Pueblo for 3 weeks (DS, D.F.O., +MJ). In other years, N. Parulas, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, Swainson's, Kentucky, and Hooded warblers have done the same thing. These records are fun for birders, bad for birds. Do these neotropical migrants have aberrant compasses with their destiny an endless search for mates and homes in the wrong places? Do they signal major habitat problems or pesticide contamination of a large population, or do they merely represent orientation problems of individual birds? The season also brought a number of vagrant July warblers. A ♀ Townsend's was at Ward, CO, July 3 (BK) and a male was at Reno July 21–28 (EK). An imm. Palm visited Colo. Spgs. July 16 (TB). Colorado's 5th Swainson's Warbler lurked in heavy undergrowth at Colo. Spgs. July 16–23 (TB, +MJ). A Kentucky Warbler, providing the 8th Nevada report, sang June 16 at Corn Cr (+MC). Three Hooded Warblers stopped in June in the Las Vegas area; one spent June 24–July 7 at Corn Cr (MC—Nevada had about 15 records). A probable Hooded detected near Monticello June 5 would be a first Utah record except that it's by a single observer and the description is regrettably brief (++)CL). A ♂ Hooded was banded at Colorado Springs July 10 (TB, SB).



Rufous-necked Stint (standing, center) at Henderson, Nevada, on July 28, 1992. First record for the state and the Region. Photograph/Marian Cressman.

nestling with flight feathers barely emerging—an unfortunate 1st Lat breeding record (+NB).

TANAGERS TO SISKINS

A juv. Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Sand Creek, WY, June 17 implied breeding (ph J & VH); Wyoming apparently has one breeding record. A Lazuli Bunting banded at Ogden July 21, 1986 returned in July 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1992, each time with a brood patch (MK). Dickcissels seemed numerous in e. Colorado, with singing birds found in 6 Atlas blocks (in places which bird-watchers rarely frequent); a colony at Sundance, WY, disappeared after June 17 when the field was cut (JA). Lark Buntings stayed to breed after the spring eruption in w. Colorado, Wyoming, and e. Utah. They nested in 4 new latilongs—Cody and Rock Springs, WY (FL), Rangely, CO (DH), and Morgan, UT (AS)—and probably nested in 10–15 more (few observers tried to confirm breeding). The origin of these legions is unknown; in the normal nesting range in e. Colorado and Wyoming, observers found abundance not a downturn. Bird-watching is neither organized nor oriented toward detecting such detective work, except for BBS. Their results

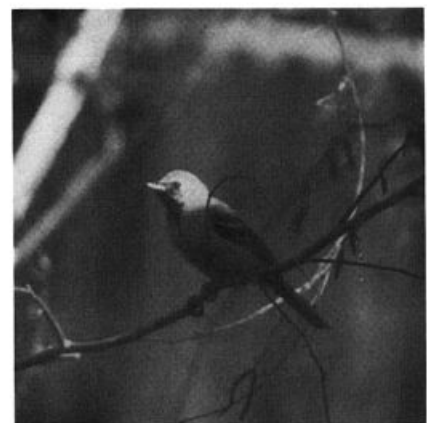
are unavailable at this deadline. At Holly, where Field Sparrows and Dickcissels nest, an Eastern Meadowlark sang and called persistently June 24–Aug. 5 (DN, +MJ); a flighted fledgling was seen in July (++)JoR); this may confirm Colorado breeding (long supported by circumstantial evidence) for the first time. BBS counts in e. Colorado provide a good gauge of grassland species' populations. The 942 W. Meadowlarks on the new Haswell route almost tripled the highest Colorado count of 1991. Two Cedar City, UT, routes counted 133 W. Meadowlarks, up 30% from the average (SH).

Table 1. Most common species—Four Colorado BBS Routes

Species	Two routes Number of birds	Two routes No. of stops (of 100)
Horned Lark	1968	35
Cassin's Sparrow	424	35
Grasshopper Sparrow	154	45
Lark Bunting	490	?
W. Meadowlark	1398	?



This Anna's Hummingbird, the sixth for Colorado, was an immature male molting into brighter plumage at a feeder at Fort Collins through much of July. Photograph/Dave Leatherman.



Notably far north was this Hooded Oriole at Fernley, Nevada, on July 16, 1992. Photograph/Carol Trousdale.

The Great-tailed Grackle nest found July 20 in the Carlin city park (DT), provided the most n. nesting record for Nevada. At Walsh, CO, a gang of 63 gathered in late July. Pine Siskins inundated the Wyoming and Colorado mountains from Indian Peaks and Eagle to Jackson.

EXOTICS

Gunnison's Red-backed Buzzard, a continuing puzzle, returned in March. No nest was found, but she perched with a Swainson's Hawk Aug. 5 near the nest tree of the past 2-3 years, and nearby was an imm. hawk with the conformation of a Swainson's but with atypical markings; it could have been the 2nd hybrid produced by this pair (RM).

Corrigendum: The Glaucous Gull seen last fall (AB 46(2): 293) was not Wyoming's first in 22 years; one was documented at Casper Mar. 11-13, 1991 (J & VH; W.R.C.).

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SOUTHWEST REGION Arizona

David Stejskal and Gary H. Rosenberg

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.T.A. (*Boyce Thompson Arboretum*); L.C.R. (*Lower Colorado R.*); P.R.D. (*Painted Rock Dam*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro R.*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*); V.O.C. (*Village of Oak Creek*).

GREBES THROUGH HERONS

The Eared Grebes found nesting at Willcox this past May produced at least 24 young by June 24 (GM), and were attempting a 2nd nesting by the end of July (m.ob.). About 20 individual W. Grebes were present throughout the period at P.R.D. (RB,SGa), with at least one young present there July 6 (SGa). This species has only recently been found nesting at this locality, and may be a direct result of the elimination of public access (boating) to this reservoir. A single bird was at Roper L., June 26 (GM), and may well have been the same individual that was present there in February. More unusual in s. Arizona was a single Clark's Grebe at P.R.D., July 2 (TC). Arizona's 5th Red-billed Tropicbird was found in a weakened condition in Green Valley on or about May 22 (*fide* GM); this immature's arrival in the state was apparently unrelated to any unusual weather phenomenon. American White Pelicans provided summer records that included one at Tucson June 29 (B. Hunt), one at P.R.D., July 2 through the end of the period (TC *et al.*), one at Picacho Res., July 16 through the end of the period (JBo *et al.*), and 10 at Many Farms L., July 25 (CL). No fewer than 22 individual Brown Pelicans were found throughout Arizona between June 9 and the end of July, most of

which were found in the c. or s.c. portion of the state. The largest concentration was a group of at least 10 at P.R.D., July 2 through the period (RBr, SGa). As there were few previous records of this species from n. Arizona, single individuals along the Black R. near Alpine June 14 (J. Hinkle), near Flagstaff June 11-16 (CVC), one at Cottonwood June 12 (CVC) and another at Page Springs July 19 (CVC) were noteworthy.

At least 40 Double-crested Cormorants with nests were present at P.R.D., July 6 through the end of the period (RBr, SGa, TC). This locality was a nesting site for this species during the summers of 1979 and 1980, but there have not been nesting reports since. As many as 18 (along with 9 nests) were present from mid-May on at Scholz L. near Sedona (E. Cheis), providing a new nesting locality for the species in the state. A Neotropic Cormorant at P.R.D., July 3-8 (RN *et al.*) provided only the 3rd record for *Maricopa*. Individual Magnificent Frigatebirds were found at Picacho Res., July 4 (JBo), another at P.R.D., July 6 (SGa), and three immatures near Arivaca July 21 (R. Maller). Surprising was an Am. Bittern at Willow Tank (near Rodeo, NM) July 11 (†E. Boyer, †P. McLain *et al.*); there are virtually no previous mid-summer records of this bird from s.e. Arizona. Numbers of Least Bitterns were again present at Picacho Res. throughout the period. It seems apparent that the species is present at this locality when water levels are high and habitat is suitable. One at Roper L., June 26 (GM) provided only the 2nd *Graham* record. Both Great and Snowy egrets nested for the 2nd summer in a row at P.R.D. (RBr *et al.*). Like the W. Grebes and Double-crested Cormorants mentioned above, these 2 species probably nested at this locality because of lack of human disturbance on the lake. An imm. Tricolored Heron was at Picacho Res., July 24 (DJ).

DUCKS THROUGH TERNS

A pair of Wood Ducks was found along an irrigation canal in c. Phoenix in early June, and



the female was seen with two immatures mid-July (J. Burns), providing the first nesting record for *Maricopa*. A late female was at Gila Farms Pond June 23 (*fide* JW), and an early male was at Picacho Res., July 11 (TC *et al.*) At least 20 Cinnamon Teal, along with fledged broods, were at Willcox July 18 (JD); this species is a scarce nester in s.e. Arizona. A ♀ Com. Merganser with six young was along the Verde R., e. of Cottonwood June 18 through mid-July (CT); amazingly, this record provides the first evidence of nesting from *Yavapai*.

Two Black-shouldered Kites were present throughout the summer near *Maricopa*, extreme northern *Pinal* (R. Jones), and may have nested locally. A Mississippi Kite at Patagonia June 4 (LD) was away from its normal nesting area in the state, and another was along the Hassayampa R. near Wickenburg June 21–July 8 (V. Little *et al.*); this latter record provided one of only a handful of records for this species in *Maricopa*. An imm. Gray Hawk along the Verde R., e. of Cottonwood June 16, and an adult at Dead Horse Ranch S.P. near Cottonwood, June 21–July 3 were well n. of their normal nesting range in Arizona; there are only 2 previous *Yavapai* records, both from Page Springs. A pair of Soras with young was found at B.T.A. in June, providing a first local breeding record (CT).

Black-necked Stilts were found nesting at the Warren S.T.P., *Bisbee*, with two adults and four juveniles present there July 17 (JWh); the only previous nesting record for the s.e. portion of the state (outside of Tucson) was along the San Pedro R. in 1901. A very early ad. Greater Yellowlegs was at Willcox June 21 (PS). Unprecedented for Arizona in the summer was a basic-plumage Dunlin at Picacho Res., July 4 (JBo); this not only represents the first summer record for the state, but eclipses the earliest fall transient record in Arizona by nearly 2½ months. Also unusually early was an ad. Long-billed Dowitcher at Willcox June 21 (PS); there are very few credible published June records for this species in the state. A Com. Snipe at Kachina Village S.T.P., s. of Flagstaff, June 26 (VG), was extremely early as a migrant, and perhaps suggests local breeding in one of the many wet meadows in the vicinity. One at Picacho Res., July 12 (D. Pearson) was also very early for the state. A single Red-necked Phalarope at Sierra Vista S.T.P., June 10–11 was certainly out of place, and it's difficult to determine if the bird was heading N, S, or was just plain lost. One at Willcox June 26 (KK) and 11 there July 2 (M. Janos) were about a month earlier than normal dates of passage for this species in the state. An ad., probably a ♂, Red Phalarope at the Sierra Vista S.T.P., June 10 (†JWh, DK) probably provided only the 2nd June record for the state (the other being late June). Two more basic-plumage Red Phalaropes were found at Arivaca L., July 1–2 (ph. J & S Levy), while another basic-plumage individual was at Willcox July 2–21 (†M. Janos *et al.*); while the occurrence of this species in Arizona in mid-



Red Phalarope at Arivaca Lake, Arizona, on July 1, 1992. Photograph/John J. Levy.

summer is not unprecedented, four individuals in one summer almost certainly is. It is interesting to note that these summer records follow what was certainly the best fall ever for Red Phalaropes in the interior Southwest with records extending well into December.

Mid-summer Franklin's Gull records in the state are relatively few, so of interest were single individuals at Nogales July 3 (D. Pearson), at P.R.D., July 11 (MS), and another at Gilbert July 14 (found dead July 19) (SGa). California Gulls are likewise infrequently reported in mid-summer in s. Arizona, so a single bird at Chandler June 23 (DP), and two different 2nd-summer birds, one at Willcox June 24–26 (GM) and another at Mammoth S.T.P., July 9 (GM) were of note. Extremely interesting and out of place, was a California Gull in juv. plumage at Kino Springs at the end of July (RS). Unlike shorebirds that migrate S while still in juv. plumage, gulls normally molt into first-winter plumage before they migrate far from the nesting grounds. Records of Caspian Terns away from the L.C.R. during the summer months are few; therefore, one at Picacho Res., July 11–12 (TC *et al.*) was somewhat unexpected. In addition to the three Least Terns reported during the spring season, another (or the same?) was at Picacho Res. July 4 (*fide* SGa), and yet another was at Willcox June 26 (†KK); five in one year (if all these records represent different individuals) is a remarkable number for Arizona!

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An injured Com. Ground-Dove was found e. of its normal Arizona breeding range in Paradise in early June (C. Rau). Seemingly at an unusually high elevation and out of range in s. Arizona was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Portal throughout the period (DJ). A Long-eared Owl at Aubrey Valley near Seligman (w. of Flagstaff) July 20 (K. Kime, M. Kreighbaum), provided one of the few recent summer records for this portion of the state.

Other than the usual couple of White-eared Hummingbirds regularly visiting the feeders in Ramsey Canyon, several were seen out "in the wild" away from feeders with two males at Comfort Spring in Carr Canyon July 15 (JD), with at least one remaining to the end of the period (J. Zimmer, m.ob.),

and another at South Fork, Cave Creek Canyon July 16–18 (JD *et al.*). Additionally, one was coming to a feeder at Summerhaven, Santa Catalina Mts., July 22 (G. Porter *et al.*); there are very few records of this species from this mountain range.

S.A.

If you happened to be birding in s.e. Arizona in late July, you may have heard rumors of a reported Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*) from the Patton's feeders in Patagonia. Since details at the time were scant, and the impression passed along was that the observers had some doubts themselves, the report was not taken terribly seriously. Well, were we ever wrong! Nearly 6 weeks after the sighting on July 24, Kenn Kaufman received in the mail unmistakable photographs documenting Arizona's, and North America's, first Cinnamon Hummingbird († and ph. E. Wilson). This species occurs in s. Mexico, n., at least casually, to extreme s.e. Sonora. Although on the surface this species may not appear to be a good candidate for vagrancy to the United States, there is precedence for vagrancy within the genus *Amazilia* (e.g. Violet-crowned Hummingbird in California, Berylline Hummingbird in Prescott, Arizona, and Buff-bellied Hummingbird throughout the s.e. U.S.). This record still awaits consideration by the Arizona Bird Committee.

The ♀ Berylline Hummingbird found during the spring season at Portal was still present until June 11 (SSp). Another Berylline was found at Madera Canyon irregularly June 25–July 17 (LD). A ♀ Magnificent Hummingbird at Big Springs Field Station (near Jacob Lake) June 13–23 (D. Laing *et al.*) provided the northernmost record of this species within the state. There are a few records of this species from s.w. Utah. A Plain-capped Starthroat was found at Portal July 23 through the end of the period (N. McDonald, LH, ph. M. Taylor); this one-time super-vagrant has become almost annual in the state during the summer. Although rare, but regular as a migrant in the e. and s.e. portions of the state, a Calliope Hummingbird visiting a feeder in n.e. Phoenix July 24 (CB) represented only a 4th *Maricopa* record.

The pair of Eared Trogons that wintered in upper Ramsey Canyon and was seen sporadically throughout the spring season, were seen more regularly there throughout the summer. On the heels of last year's major invasion into the state came 2 amazing reports of Eared Trogons from c. and n. Arizona; an ad. male was reported from the Black R., *Apache*, s. of Show Low, June 13 (†D. Fischer), and one was well described from Parker Cr, Sierra Ancha Mts., n.w. of Globe, June 17 (†T. Hildebrandt). Both these sightings

occurred well n. of any previous *Elegant Trogon* records in the state. A single Belted Kingfisher was seen and heard calling along East Clear Cr. on the Mogollon Rim July 8 (JW), and may have been nesting locally. Although there are very few nesting records for the state, suitable localities like this one are remote and never checked. Of local interest was a pair of Acorn Woodpeckers on Mt. Ord in the Mazatzal Mts., *Maricopa*, June 24, and 6 there July 22 (BD, LH, JW, SGa).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

As many as 4 pairs of Willow Flycatchers were found in Cottonwood-Willow riparian habitat along the Verde R. near Clarkdale from late May through July 15, when they were observed carrying food (CT); according to *The Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Arizona* (Monson and Phillips, 1981), this species was formerly a widespread nesting species in riparian habitat in Sonoran Zone throughout the state, but almost no nests have been found since before 1970. The birds were apparently gone by Aug. 3. Out of place for mid-summer in Arizona was a Dusky Flycatcher in the Big Lue Mts., *Greenlee*, June 26 (GM); this bird was not in proper breeding habitat and the late June date suggests that it was a wandering, unpaired individual. A Gray Flycatcher at Reddington Pass, Santa Catalina Mts., July 26 (PS) provided one of the earliest fall records for s. Arizona. A pair of Buff-breasted Flycatchers attending a nest in Rucker Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., June 26 (JBo) provided the first confirmed nesting record for that area. A pair of Thick-billed Kingbirds was found nesting at Cook's L. along the lower S.P.R., s. of Winkelman June 4-30 (Dummer, D. Laush); this represents the first confirmed local nesting record since 1980. One along the upper S.P.R. near the Hwy 90 bridge July (DK) provided the first local record in 7 years. A pair of Barn Swallows at Black Mesa throughout the period (CL) represented a first local nesting record, and one of only a handful from the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations.

An ad. ♀ Black-tailed Gnatcatcher near Dead Horse S.P., Verde Valley, June 20 (CT) was n. of its normal breeding range in Arizona. A ♂ E. Bluebird possibly paired with a ♀ Western, was present in Granite Basin, Prescott, July 8-18 (CT), providing a first local record; this species is not generally known to wander N of s.e. Arizona. An ad. Aztec Thrush was seen briefly in Madera Canyon July 23 (D. Flowers, JK); this locality has had more than its share of Aztec Thrush records. A singing ♂ Yellow-throated Vireo, providing about the 23rd record for the state, was found along the upper S.P.R., n. of the Hwy 90 bridge, July 7-21 (†JWh, †DK).

WARBLERS THROUGH SISKINS

A singing ♂ Tennessee Warbler near Clarkdale, Verde Valley, July 3 (CT) provided a first summer record for the state. Single singing ♂

N. Parulas were at Madera Canyon June 4 (BD *et al.*), at Portal June 4 (J. Tedford), and at Carr Canyon June 7 (R. Jones), bringing the "spring" total to at least 11. With such a high number of N. Parulas around the state this spring, it was not so surprising to learn that a singing male along with two juveniles, was found along the Verde R., s. of Cottonwood, July 10-11 (CT), providing the first evidence of nesting for this species within Arizona. A singing ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler at South Fork, along the Little Colorado R., June 8 (PS) provided only the 2nd or 3rd June record for the state. The only report this summer of Black-and-white Warbler was one at South Fork, Cave Creek Canyon, July 21-22 (G. Menk, R. Christen). Exciting for the state was an apparent pair of Am. Redstarts along the Little Colorado R. at South Fork June 21 (J. Burns). This species has nested at least twice (1976, 1979) at this locality, but pairs have not been detected consistently there since 1980. The only other report this summer was of an imm. male at Portal June 22 (L. Gates). A Worm-eating Warbler along the Colorado R., upstream from Lee's Ferry (†M. Sogge), provided one of the few reports from n. Arizona; there are now nearly 40 records for the state. A singing ♂ Kentucky Warbler was tape-recorded at Young's Tank, s.e. of Flagstaff, June 17 (†PS); given the number of Kentuckys that appeared in s. California during the late spring, it is surprising that Arizona birders could produce only one. An ad. ♀ MacGillivray's Warbler near Safford July 31 (PS) was about a week early for the normal fall arrival date in s. Arizona. A singing ♂ Hooded Warbler was found at Granite Basin, Prescott, July 8 through mid-August (CT), and one, possibly two, were near Williams July 23 (CT). At least three singing ♂ Olive Warblers, along with several young, were found on Mt. Ord, Mazatzal Mts., June 24 (BD, JW *et al.*); there were no previous nesting records for *Maricopa*, probably a result of the scarcity of visits by birders to these mountains during the breeding season.

The pair of **Flame-colored Tanagers** that was found in Ramsey Canyon this spring remained there throughout the period, but no nest was ever found, and immatures were not reported. The pair at Madera Canyon also remained through the period and attempted to nest, but the nest was abandoned, and no young were fledged. Both pairs involved first summer males (and female?) which may not have been sexually mature. No fewer than six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported during the summer season between early June and mid-July (m.ob.). Outstanding was an ad. ♂ **Yellow Grosbeak** seen for a brief period July 27 near Fairbank along the upper S.P.R. (†DK); we received 2 other reports of this species in s. Arizona, but neither was accompanied by details. There are still fewer than 10 N. American records of this species. Indigo Buntings nested this year at B.T.A. for the first time (CT), and another male was paired with a ♀ Lazuli on Black Mesa throughout the period; this pair fledged at least one

young (CL). A ♂ Varied Bunting was found in Gold Gulch, Bisbee, June 28 (C. Gotlund); this is a new, although not totally unexpected, locality for this species in the state. A female-plumage Painted Bunting was along the upper S.P.R. near Fairbank July 10 (DK), where this species appears annually.

Lark Buntings were suspected of nesting in the n.e. portion of the state this summer with four displaying males present in Tselani Valley on the w. side of the Chuska Mts., June 16 (P. Ryan *vide* CL); there is only one previous nesting record for the state, at Chino Valley in 1973. A late White-crowned Sparrow (dark-lored) was at Lee's Ferry June 20 (TC, DTr). Three Pine Grosbeaks were found s.w. of Flagstaff July 18 (B. Johnson), and another was at the Snowbowl, w. of Flagstaff, July 30 (BD *et al.*); this species is not known to breed in the San Francisco Peaks region.

Addendum: During the summer of 1991, a ♂ N. "Baltimore" Oriole was found paired with a "Bullock's" Oriole in a residential area in Chino Valley May 3-July 7 (ph. L. Muehlbach). The nesting attempt was unsuccessful as the nest was overrun by House Sparrows and destroyed.

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New Mexico

Sartor O. Williams III

In contrast to much of the rest of the West, continued plentiful moisture was the rule this summer for New Mexico, providing favorable conditions for many birds and particularly for insectivorous and grassland/shrubland species. In addition to two first state breeding records, the season saw northward advances by several southern species, an influx of some typically "Mexican" species,

and the early return of many southbound migrants.

Abbreviations: Bitter Lake (*Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); Bosque Refuge (*Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); P. O. Canyon (*Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*). Guadalupe Canyon refers only to that portion in New Mexico. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Single Com. Loons lingered into June at Zuni (JT, DC), L.V.N.W.R. (*vide* CR), Sumner L. (CB), Bitter Lake (SOW), and Bill Evans L. (RF, BZ). Eared Grebes were successful at Zuni, with a high of 216 nests June 21 (DC). Stone L., *Rio Arriba*, provided a new W. Grebe breeding locale, with 14 active nests June 14 (DS); up to 10 Clark's, including one juvenile June 28–29, summered at L. Avalon, *Eddy* (TH, SW). Notable were eight Am. White Pelicans at Zuni June 23 (ph. DC) and 50 at Maxwell N.W.R., July 25 (JP); increasing numbers in the R.G.V. after mid-June, including 250 at Bosque Refuge July 18 (PI, LH), suggested many returned early. Two imm. **Brown Pelicans** strayed to the state, one to La Cueva, Jemez Mts., June 15 that later died (*vide* P. Elliston) and one found dead near Hatch June 23 (DL). Northerly were two Double-crested Cormorants at Stone L. July 14–15 (BW); westerly were three at Bear Canyon L., *Grant*, July 14 (EL). A Tricolored Heron, rare in the R.G.V., was at Bosque Refuge June 25 (ph. DC). Eleven Black-crowned Night-Heron nests at Stinking L., June 13 (DS), was a local high; 100–125 pairs of Black-crowneds, along with 200 pairs of Snowy Egrets, nested at a new site near Loving in June (SW). Rare in New Mexico, an ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Bosque Refuge June 24–July 25 (DC, JP *et al.*). White-faced Ibises had their best year yet at Stinking L., with a high of 29 active nests June 13 (DS) while 15 nests at Zuni's Nutria L. in June (*vide* JT) furnished the state's 3rd breeding locale; small to moderate numbers of nonbreeders were widely reported elsewhere in most of the w. part of the state (v.o.). Lingering geese included a Greater White-fronted at Bosque Refuge June 25 (DC) and July 3 (JP), where there were also two Snows June 3–July 12 (BZ *et al.*). Peripheral Wood Ducks were single males at Zuni June 10 & 23 (ph. DC) and the Gray Ranch June 17 (Y. Babb, *vide* AC, NMC). A ♀ Ruddy Duck with five downies at Jal L., June 16 (PES) provided both a breeding first for *Lea* and the southeastern-most breeding for the state.

RAPTORS TO QUAILS

A pair of Ospreys in the vicinity of a nest at Heron L., June–July (v.o.) apparently were subadults that did not breed (*vide* DS); a pair was also at Mundo L., July 14–15 (BW). A Black-shouldered Kite near Rodeo July

29–30 (J. Fitch *et al.*) provided the 2nd *Hidalgo* report this year. Six Mississippi Kites were at Los Lunas July 31 (DL, *vide* PRS), where scarce in recent years. New Mexico's 2 known Bald Eagle nests were successful this year, the *Colfax* nest producing two young (SOW) and the *Sierra* nest one (*vide* J. Burton). A probable **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Sevilleta N.W.R., July 27 (RT, PB). Zone-tailed Hawks had a good season in *Hidalgo*, with at least 3 of 4 nests successful in the Peloncillo Mts. (M. Zornes) and another successful in the Animas Mts. (JT, AC, NMC). Of 5 Ferruginous Hawk nests near Clayton, however, only 2 survived shotgun blasting (*vide* WC). Montezuma Quail were more widely reported than usual in the s.w. (v.o.); unusual was a pair in creosotebush desert beside I-25 w. of Lordsburg July 30 (ph. BZ). Northern Bobwhites continued to thrive in the e., where reported on 7 Breeding Bird Surveys including highs of 23 at Floyd June 27 (WU), 24 at Caprock June 18 (SOW), and 43 at San Simon, *Lea*, June 10 (GS).

PLOVERS TO TERNS

Several juveniles were among 32 Snowy Plovers at Holloman L., July 27 (CS); 13 Snowies were at 2 Laguna Grande sites June 10 (SW). Noteworthy was a Mt. Plover at Stinking L., June 13 (DS), as were two in grasslands e. of Bernardo June 6, 7, & 13 (DM); early were 50 at Moriarty July 4 (*vide* PRS) and 20 at Los Lunas June 27 (PRS). American Avocets were successful in the s., including w. to Lordsburg where there were eight adults and five chicks June 23 (EL). Early Greater Yellowlegs were at 5 sites June 19–29 (v.o.); the earliest Lesser was at Bosque Refuge July 3 (JP). The only Willets were two at Zuni June 25 (JT), one at Bosque Refuge July 3 (JP), and three at Holloman L., July 6 (CS). Long-billed Curlews were widely reported in the n.e., with highs of 22 including four juveniles near Golondrinas June 14 (CR), and 14 near Pep June 11 (BH); two at Datil June 10 (LE) were w. of the usual breeding range. Unusual for mid-June were one Marbled Godwit at Stinking L., June 13 (T. & C. Jervis *vide* DS) and two at Bitter Lake June 16 (SOW); there were several early July reports including 17 at Holloman L., July 7 (TF, *vide* CS). Very rare in New Mexico, a **Red Knot** was a Bosque Refuge July 24 (TB). Unseasonal were four probable White-rumped Sandpipers at Holloman L., June 1 (CB); there are few June reports for the state. Eight Com. Snipe winnowing n. of Angel Fire June 24 (CR) strongly implied local breeding; no nests have been found in New Mexico. Southerly were 146 Wilson's Phalaropes at Holloman L., June 28 (CR, CS), but no breeding was detected. Unusual were single Red-necked Phalaropes at Bosque Refuge June 6 (JP, LG) and Holloman L., June 20–July 6 (CS, CR). A Caspian Tern was at Holloman L., June 20–July 7 (*vide* CS). Bitter Lake became the site of New Mexico's first **Forster's Tern** nest when a pair adopted a straw-filled waterfowl nest basket

and hatched three chicks, two of which fledged in mid-July (MP, SOW, ph. LM). Least Terns had a relatively good year at Bitter Lake, where five pairs fledged a total of four to five young (MP, LM); out of range was an adult at Nutria L., *Cibola*, July 8 (ph. DC). Notably early were two Black Terns at Bosque Refuge July 3 (JP) plus others at Holloman L. on the same date (*vide* CS).

DOVES TO TROGONS

Band-tailed pigeons were unusually conspicuous during the period, including in the northern, Mogollon, and Sacramento highlands (v.o.) plus in such peripheral ranges as the Zunis (DC), Gallinas (HS), and Animas (AC, NMC); one at Bosque Refuge July 2 (CB) was well away from typical habitat. White-winged Doves continued to press N, including one at Pleasanton June 14–17 (JH), the first successful nesting at Silver City (*vide* D & MZ), and continued successful nesting at Albuquerque (BO, AS); unprecedented were 78 in the Hillsboro area June 17 (PFB). A Com. Ground-Dove was reportedly heard in Skeleton Canyon July 27 (SW); two were in the Animas Mts., June 23 (AC, NMC) and a male was banded at Dripping Springs, Organ Mts., June 5 (ph. CS). Yellow-billed Cuckoos, apparently responding to favorable environmental conditions, were widespread in most of the southern part of the state (v.o.). Presumably the same prolific pair of Las Cruces Greater Roadrunners that produced 2 broods this spring successfully fledged four young from yet a 3rd(!) brood July 27 (GE). Surveys for Whiskered Screech-Owls found numbers stable in the Peloncillo Mts., with one pair in Skeleton Canyon June 14 (SOW), two pairs in Clanton Canyon June 8 (SOW), and a single in Cottonwood Canyon June 8 (SOW). Two-three Long-eared Owls in Basin Canyon, San Mateo Mts., July 15–16 (CB) and a pair in Clanton Canyon June 8 (SOW) were in areas where not previously reported in summer. A singing **Boreal Owl** in the upper Rito de Abiquiu June 9 & 23 (DS) was the first for the Jemez Mts. A Whip-poor-will in the Zuni Mts., June 11 (DC) was n. of the normal range. An estimated 100 Black Swifts at Horse L., *Rio Arriba*, June 15 (DS) were probably N migrants; a high of 20–25 were at Jemez Falls June 5 (BZ), where there were 2 active nests July 12 (CB). Up to four Chimney Swifts were at Las Vegas June 22–23 and July 13–15 (CR), although summering more-or-less regularly in areas such as Clayton (*vide* WC), proof of nesting is lacking for the state. It was a good year for s.w. hummers, highlighted by a ♂ **White-eared Hummingbird** at a P. O. Canyon feeder July 6 (RS), providing the first Peloncillo Mts. report in over a decade. Other notable hummers, all single males, were **Blue-throated Hummingbirds** at Mangas Springs June 3–4 (RF) and Skeleton Canyon June 28 (CR, CS), **Magnificents** at Signal Peak July 24 (CB) and Clanton Canyon July 1 (DC) plus two unsexed at Skeleton Canyon July 7 (JT), and **Anna's** at Silver City intermittently in June–July (D & MZ) and P. O. Canyon from June

28 (RS) Broad-billeds are scarce away from Guadalupe Canyon, so noteworthy were one to two in Skeleton Canyon July 2–3 (DC) and July 26–27 (SW, TH). Lucifers in the Peloncillo Mts. away from their P. O. Canyon stronghold were singles in Pony Canyon June 14 (SOW), Skeleton Canyon June 14 (SOW) and July 7 (JT), and Clanton Canyon July 1 (DC). For the 2nd consecutive year, an **Elegant Trogon** pair was in Skeleton Canyon by early June (SOW, ph. LG, DC), where a stub-tailed juvenile at a nest July 7 (JT) provided the first documented New Mexico breeding.

WOODPECKERS TO FLYCATCHERS

Noteworthy was an Acorn Woodpecker in the Manzano Mts., July 17 (HS), where rare. The only Gila Woodpeckers away from Guadalupe Canyon were three in the Lower Gila Box June 24 (SOW). A Williamson's Sapsucker nest in the San Francisco Mts., June 26 (R. Nelson, *vide* JH) may be a first for that range. Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets were at 5 locations in Guadalupe Canyon June 10–12 (SOW) and an active nest was found there June 13 (CS); in Skeleton Canyon, where not previously reported, one was seen July 7 (JT) and two were heard July 27 (SW). The state-listed Willow Flycatcher, currently under consideration for federal listing in the Southwest, was not known to breed in *Mora* or *San Miguel*, so encouraging were reports of two at Coyote Cr S.P. July 15 (CR), one singing near Gallinas June 6 (CR), and an active nest at Pecos Monastery L., June 29 (PI, LH). What one observer called "the year of the Gray Flycatcher" found that species conspicuous e. of the Rio Grande, including 13 near Rowe June 8 (CR), a first nest for the Sandia Mts. that fledged three July 5 (HS, ph. AS), and singing birds at 2 sites in the Manzano Mts; at the s.w. edge of the range were one to two in the San Francisco Mts., June 25 (JH, RD), Pinos Altos Mts., June 13 (RF), and Burro Mts., June 23 (EL). A northerly pair of Black Phoeebes with two juveniles near Pecos July 18 (CR) provided the first breeding evidence for *San Miguel*. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers at Gallegos, *Harding*, June 5 (SOW) was n.e. of the usual range. After going unreported from New Mexico for over a decade, the **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was found in 3 mountain ranges, with singles at Cherry Cr, Pinos Altos Mts., June 19 (C. Cabe, L. Hamilton) and Deer Creek, Animas Mts., June 6 (JT) plus at least one in Guadalupe Canyon June 10–11 (SOW, ph. LG) and two together there June 27 (CR, CB). Eastern Kingbirds were unusually conspicuous in the n.e. in June-July (v.o.); westerly were singles at Peña Blanca, *Sandoval*, July 31 (DL, *vide* PRS) and Bosque Refuge June 7 (CS, TF). Single Scissor-taileds straggled N to Wagon Mound July 3 (JH) and W to Mangas Springs June 22 (RF).

SWALLOWS TO NUTHATCHES

Purple Martins were reported nesting at numerous sites in the n. and w., including in the San Juan (v.o.), Datil (PB), San Francisco (RF), and Pinos Altos (D & MZ, RF) mts.;

noteworthy were three in the San Mateo Mts., June 7 (CB) and others at Quemado L., July 12 (JH) while unusual were 10 at Albuquerque June 8 (RT). Up to 50 fresh Bank Swallow burrows at San Juan Pueblo July 10 (JH, JV) signaled reoccupancy of that previously disturbed site and, despite last year's "control" efforts in Silver City, Cliff Swallows returned to several buildings there where they nested undisturbed this year (*vide* RF). Pinyon Jays continued widespread in the w. and n. (v.o.); easterly were five at Sabinoso June 20 (CR) and southerly were four at Piñon, *Otero*, June 3 (B. Cully). Unusual were 80 Clark's Nutcrackers that "flew over in waves" at San Cristobal, *Taos*, June 20 (PI *et al.*). Easterly were two Black-billed Magpies near Grenville June 14 (KS). American Crows were rarely reported included two at Gallegos, *Harding*, June 5 (SOW) plus several near Apache Cr, *Catron*, June 12 (RD, JH) and three at Moon Ranch, *Grant*, July 15 (RD). Black-capped Chickadees were at 5 sites along the e. slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mts. and included juveniles at Coyote Cr S.P., July 15 (CR) and w. of Gallinas July 10 (CR). Easterly were five Bridled Titmice in the San Mateo Mts., June 21 (GS); southerly were one to three Plain Titmice in the Animas Mts., June 13 & 20 (AC, NMC). Far from suitable habitat was a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Belen June 9 (DL); easterly was a White-breasted near Grenville June 14 (KS).

WRENS TO TANAGERS

Cactus Wrens continued to appear n. of the normal range, including two in *Harding* June 5 (SOW), two near Pastura June 19 (CB), and one near Ft. Sumner June 4 (SOW). Marsh Wrens recently colonized Stinking L., where there were many singing males and 4 nests with eggs June 13–14 (GS, DS) plus additional active nests July 11 (DS); breeding is known at only one other New Mexico locale. Townsend's Solitaires in areas where rarely reported summering were one in the San Mateo Mts., June 21 (GS), several plus grown juveniles in the San Francisco Mts., July 16 (JH), and one in the Pinos Altos Mts., July 1 (D & MZ). One to two Vireos were singing near Vadito June 13 (ph. LG), 24 (JRT) & June 28 (JP). Unusual was a well-detailed **Wood Thrush** at White Sands N.M., June 13–14 (J. Mangimeli). Gray Catbirds s. of the normal summer range were singles in the Manzano Mts., July 16 (HS) and at Socorro June 17–19 (PB) plus two singing near Bernardo June 26 (DL). The only Brown Thrasher was one at Ft. Sumner June 21 (LG, CD). An Am. Pipit at Bosque Refuge July 26 (PES) was early. Northerly was a pair of Phainopeplas at La Joya W.M.A., July 23 (RT, PB). Also northerly were single Bell's Vireos at Hatch July 21 (DL *vide* PRS) and near Roswell June 17 (SOW) while 14 at Rattlesnake Springs June 13 (SW) was high for there; unusual was an undetailed one near Hillsboro June 17 (PFB), where not previously reported. Surveys for Gray Vireos in *San Juan* found three

to five in Reese Canyon May 31 and four in Thomas Canyon July 2 (B. Falvey). For the 2nd consecutive year a **Yellow-green Vireo** was at Rattlesnake Springs, first found June 27–28 (K. Overman, *vide* PRS) and controversially collected July 8 (JT). A singing **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Comales Canyon July 4 & 11 (R. Meyer, CB) was a first for *Taos* and provided only the 3rd summer record for the state. Other vagrant warblers were a ♂ N Parula near San Ildefonso Pueblo June 28 (H. Hopkins, *vide* PRS), an Ovenbird heard near Gallinas, *San Miguel* June 6 (CR), and a ♂ Hooded at Corrales May 24–July 26 (TB). Red-faced Warblers are local in the Sacramento Mts., so noteworthy were one in Peñasco Canyon June 29 (CR, CS) and six, including a nesting pair, in Karr Canyon June 20 (CS *et al.*). Several Summer Tanagers strayed N, including two at Zuni June 25 (JT) and singles at La Cienega, *Santa Fe*, June 28 (JRT) and Sabinoso June 20 (CR)

CARDINALS TO CARDUELINES

Far n. of the normal range was a ♂ N. Cardinal at Zuni June 25–July 5 (JT, DC), while southerly were a ♂ Lazuli Bunting at San Simon Cienega June 28 (CR, CS) and two at Aquirre Springs June 28 (R. Ketchum, *vide* CS). Indigo Buntings were widespread in s.w. and s.c. areas (v.o.). Unexpected was a Varied Bunting singing in the parking lot at Carlsbad Caverns N.P., July 8 (PRS). Dickcissels made an impressive showing in the e., with over 10 singing at Maxwell N.W.R., July 25 (JP, CB), three at Ft. Sumner June 4 (SOW), two near Roswell June 17 (SOW), and singles near Clovis July 20 (CB) and Carlsbad June 12–14 (TH, *vide* SW). A **Botteri's Sparrow** was again found singing in the Hachita Valley, *Hidalgo*, June 8 (SOW). Cassin's Sparrows were abundant in the e. plains in June (v.o.) and unusually common in the s.w. in June–July (v.o.); northwesterly were two at Crownpoint June 24 (GS), three at Zuni July 8 (DC), 14 at Datil June 10 (LE), and two near Water Canyon July 12 (BV). Northeasterly Rufous-crowned Sparrows were one near Grenville June 14 (KS) and 13 near Sabinoso June 20 (CR). Late were two Chipping Sparrows at San Marcial June 11 (DL); early migrants were in evidence from Maxwell N.W.R. and Santa Fe, s. to Jornada after July 22 (v.o.). Easterly were five Brewer's Sparrows near Farley June 16 (G. Farley); a northerly Black-chinned was in *Harding* June 5 (SOW). Savannah Sparrows, not definitely known to nest in *Colfax*, included 25 in the Angel Fire and Black L areas June 24 (CR) and 10 singing at Maxwell N.W.R., July 25 (JP, CB). Grasshopper Sparrows made an excellent showing in the e. in June, from Grenville (KS), Clayton (WC, DS), and Sabinoso (CR) s. to Pep (BH), Roswell (SOW), and Caprock (SOW) plus 15 at Maxwell N.W.R., July 25 (JP, CB); in the s.w., eight were near Nutt June 18 (GS) while record numbers were on the Gray Ranch, including 109 in the Animas Valley June 9 (SOW) and 41 in the Playas Valley



Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers reappeared in New Mexico this season after an absence of more than a decade. This one was in upper Guadalupe Canyon on June 10, 1992. Photograph/Larry Gorbet.

June 10 (SOW). Up to 10 male plus several ♀ Bobolinks at Los Ojos July 4–14 (L. Schulte) provided further circumstantial evidence of local breeding. Westerly was a Com. Grackle at Zuni June 10 (DC). Bronzed Cowbirds increased their presence in the s.w., including with June records n. to Redrock (EL), Glenwood (JH), Gage (SOW), and Socorro (PB). Several orioles n. of their typical ranges included single Orchards at Oasis S.P., *Roosevelt*, June 14 (PES) and Bear Canyon, *Otero*, June 6 (R. Jenness), a Hooded at Zuni June 6–9 (DC), and single Scott's at Nageezi June 27 (GS), La Cienega June 28 (JRT), and near Sabinoso June 20 (CR). Several Cassin's Finches were at unusually low elevations in the Sandia Mts., July 5 (AS) and Manzano Mts., July 22 (HS). Small numbers of Red Crossbills were in all major mountain ranges plus in many smaller ones during the period (v.o.). A late Pine Siskin was at Ft. Sumner June 14 (PES) while early migrants were in the R.G.V., July 21 (DL, *vide* PRS). Lingering Am. Goldfinches were one near Guadalupe June 24 (CR), two at Zuni June 12 (DC), and nine at San Luis Pass June 9 (SOW). Except for a few in the Gallinas Mts., June–July (HS, SOW), Evening Grosbeaks were restricted to the San Juan, Jemez, and Sangre de Cristo Ranges (v.o.).

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ALASKA REGION

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

Summer 1992 was one of the Region's most exciting in many years, with numerous significant reports. The only real difference between 1992 and the previous summer was this season's unseasonably cool, windy conditions which persisted into the third week of June for all of the Region except for Southeast. Although the unusual spring storm pattern, which tracked low pressure systems north and east into the Bering Sea and the western Interior broke in late May, a protracted migration and late nesting pushed the season back three weeks between Norton Sound and the Beaufort Sea. In the Interior, at Fairbanks, snow cover disappeared a bit later than that area's previous latest spring of 1964, while leaf-out was only slightly earlier. Although there was no statistical information available, most observers felt that early nesting passerines throughout the mainland were affected by the late season. Waterfowl nesting success statewide was considered below average, no doubt affected by poor conditions during early pair bonding and brooding periods. Poor shorebird nesting success was also noted between the northern Seward Peninsula and Prudhoe Bay. Subsequent adult shorebird southbound passage was uneventful, early, and void of notable concentrations.

Once again the Hyder area in the extreme east Southeast produced many of the season's highlights. It is clear from the past two year's mid-June coverage that the Salmon and Bear River valleys, located at sea level west of the Nass Basin and the Western Skeena Plateau in British Columbia, attract and concentrate late spring overshoot and wandering passerines. We have only begun to understand the avifauna of this area. As usual, it continues to be a challenge for us to separate the spring and summer seasons. Spring migration continues well into mid-June for most bird families, especially in the northern half of the Region. Contributors must understand that our neglect for reporting their observations from the spring season is usually a result of receiving notes late. We need spring season notes by June 30. Readers must understand that June records noted in the Summer season report usually represent northbound migrants. We will also not include or accept rarity reports, *i.e.* those species listed as casual or accidental on the Alaska Checklist, without written details or other documentation.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Although it is not unusual to find summering Yellow-billed Loons in saltwater bays south in the Region into Southeast, an alternate-plumage bird that stayed on Kenai L. June 30–August (RF, NF, m.obs.) was most unusual for the Kenai Pen. mainland. This season's Short-tailed Albatross report came

from at-sea, east of Shemya I., where an adult and a mottled subadult were seen June 12 (AB, DB, EB, JH). A Great Egret appeared in the Juneau-Auke Bay area June 4–18 (MS, m.obs.) and another was noted at Sitka June 13 (MH). There are now 6 Alaska records. Problematic as to which race was involved, was an ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron over Kodiak's boat basin July 3 (BJR). There is still no Alaska specimen, although prior site records from the Berling Sea zone and from Juneau certainly represent 2 subspecies. A waif Bean Goose flew by St. Paul's Southwest Pt. June 8 and was briefly seen again on the 9th (Field Guides). Summering Brant were noteworthy well s. of where we expect to find nonbreeders. A group of 20 Brant were in upper Sumner Strait June 29 (PJH), and small flocks peaked at 80 on Homer Spit June 20 (GCW).

Habitat conditions for waterfowl nesting throughout Alaska were adversely affected this season by widespread late break-up, local flooding, and cool, wet conditions in early season. The U.S.F.W.S. (BC, DJG) waterfowl breeding population surveys conducted this June revealed smaller numbers of dabblers and divers than last year. Dabblers were 6% above the 10-year average and 33% above the long-term mean, and divers were down 3% from the 10-year average and unchanged from the long-term mean. Observers commented on an abundance of N. Shovelers in the Interior and on the N. Slope, and the U.S.F.H.S. surveys found the species up 31% from the 10-year average. Oldsquaws, down 39%, and eiders, down 24% from their respective 10-year averages, continue to decline in the Region. Unusual for Homer and well e. of traditional sites for summering non-breeders, was the flock of at least six King Eiders in Kachemak Bay near Homer June 4–July 14 (GCW). The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Spectacled Eider population declined again, this season 38% down from 1991's depressed numbers (BJM). Ruddy Ducks were again present in the e. Interior at Northway, where two males were courting a female June 6 (TGT, LJO) and 16 were tallied near Tetlin July 15 (TJD).

RAPTORS TO LARIDS

The Taku River Steller's Sea-Eagle was again easily found near Taku Inlet all season for the 4th consecutive summer (m.obs.). Following the spring's possible N. Hobby sighting from Prudhoe Bay (q.v.), we received another report of what likely was the same bird there July 3 (†NH). Both reports are equivocal. Soras were present in the e. Interior in early summer. Two were calling at Northway June 6 (TGT, LJO) and another two were at Yarger L. to the east June 14 (TGT, DDG); one remained to at least the 25th (TJD). Another calling Sora was noted up the Stikine R. July 14 (PJW) where the species has bred. Casual for Southcoastal was an Am. Coot at Anchorage's Potter Marsh June 15–25+ (JLD, RLS), a 2nd local summer record.

Following the spring report (q.v.) of a pair



July 18 (SCH) were in an area where this form is casual, away from the few mainland Southeast river system nesting areas. A singing Willow Flycatcher was located along Juneau's Mendenhall R. July 5-8 (MS,†RJG), for the Region's 7th report, of which all but two are from Southeast. This season's Least Flycatcher reports included a single migrant at Hyder June 9 (TGT, LJ0), and two different birds on Mitkof I., June 13 & 20-27 (KB, PJW). The Hyder tide flats seem to produce at least one kingbird annually and this season it was an E. Kingbird June 15 (MEI, EDB). At least two N. Rough-winged Swallows were noted at Hyder June 8-12+ (TGT, LJ0 *et al.*), where the species likely breeds. More unusual was a pair carrying nesting material also located n. of Juneau June 12 (MEI,

of Eur. Dotterels at Gambell in early June, we received additional information that a 2nd pair was located near the village June 9 (V.E.N.T.). As usual for the summer season, most of the shorebird highlights comprised early migrant adults and wandering non-breeders from the Region's periphery. These include Black-tailed Godwits at Kodiak June 25 (†RAM), a first local record and the farthest east in the Region, one ad. Bar-tailed Godwit in Anchorage June 26 (R0) and two at Kodiak June 24 (RAM), and Ruffs at Barrow, where a lek with five males and a single female was discovered June 13 (†FIELD GUIDES). At least four ♂ Ruffs were still in this area June 21-22 (FIELD GUIDES). A Reeve at Safety Lagoon near Nome June 10 (VENT) may be a first local record and one of very few for the Seward Pen. Along with regular sightings of W. Sandpipers in coastal lagoons in the Prudhoe Bay area this summer, a W. Sandpiper nest was located near Prudhoe Bay June 21 (NW). Although the nest was predated this would constitute the first N. Slope breeding record for the species e. of Barrow.

In the midst of a 5-year microtene population high on the Y-K Delta, Long-tailed Jaegers were in numbers double their normal densities (BJM). Jaegers were generally more scarce on the Seward Pen. and in the Barrow area all season. A 2nd-summer Franklin's Gull appeared in the Ketchikan harbor June 24 (†SCH) for one of few mid-summer reports. Alaska's 5th Black-tailed Gull was an immaculate adult found at Buldir I., June 12 (†ILJ, FH). All but one of the Region's records come from the W. Aleutians. Noteworthy among the usual scattered mid-summer Slaty-backed Gull sightings was an adult 25 mi inland from Prudhoe Bay June 21 (ph.RF, NF). Expected in a year when pack ice lingered well into June were two first-summer Ivory Gulls put on a show at the Nome breakwater June 9 (†FIELD GUIDES). The Copper R. Delta Caspian

Tern population reached only 21 this season, including three young-of-the-year by late July (MEI). Reports of Caspian Terns away from this breeding area included singles off Nuka I., s. Kenai Pen. June 16, and near Seward June 30 (WS), and two near Hyder June 15 (MEI, EDB).



This White-tailed Eagle in Ternnac Valley, Attu Island, Alaska, on June 5, 1992, was evidently a bird that has been resident here for several years. Photograph/R. L. Scher.

COLUMBIDS TO MOTACILLIDS

Two Band-tailed Pigeons e. of Cordova July 31 (MEI) were the first in summer for South-coastal and only about the 4th record away from Southeast where this form is a rare mainland breeder. Of the five N. Pygmy Owl reports from around Mitkof I. most noteworthy was a calling bird on Kupreanof I. to the west on July 23 (PJW). Black Swifts arrived in concentrated, above-average numbers at Hyder June 12, when 36+ were counted over the mudflats (LJ0, DDG, TGT). Two Black Swifts near Ketchikan's Deer Mt.

EDB). Extralimital swallows were noteworthy on the N. Slope at Barrow in June, where two Tree Swallows, two Bank Swallows, and a single N. Am. Barn Swallow were found June 20 (FIELD GUIDES). The Hyder area's Am. Crow population peaked at 52 birds in early June (m. obs.).

Casual in late spring in the W. Aleutians, a single Arctic Warbler was sighted on the beach at Buldir I. June 22 (ILJ, FH). At least three territorial Arctic Warblers were noted well s. of known breeding sites in the c. Alaska Range June 27 (RLS). These birds were singing in riparian willows along the n.e. Kahiltna R. drainage at the base of the Peters Hills. An Am. Robin near Cold Bay June 21 (CFZ) provided approximately the 6th local record. Unprecedented was the Northern Mockingbird that briefly set up territory in Anchorage's Municipal cemetery June 30-July 2 (JH, RLS, DHS)—Alaska's 6th report and 3rd in summer. After a several-year hiatus, and the Region's latest in spring, a ♂ Gray Wagtail was found at Buldir I. June 17-19 (ILJ, JCH *et al.*). Casual for the N. Slope, and providing a first local report, a Red-throated Pipit was at Prudhoe Bay June 15 (JL). Follow-up to last summer's (q.v.) Anvil Mt. report of a territorial pair of Red-throated Pipits in Nome, a pair was found at a nest July 22 (JM, LM) feeding young on the ridge's eastern flank. This constitutes the Nome area's 2nd confirmed nesting.

VIRES TO FRINGILLIDS

Highlighting a year when Warbling Vireos were common in the Hyder area, was the location of 2 nests, one active and one from last season, June 11 (LJO, TGT, JC). Although this form is fairly common among mainland Southeast river systems summer residents, there had been no confirmed nest record. At least six different singing Magnolia Warblers were located in the Hyder area June 8-17 (TGT, DDG, MEI), still the only locale where this warbler is annual in the Region.

More unusual was a singing Magnolia on Mitkof I. June 14 (PJW), a first island record and one of few for the Alexander Archipelago. Most surprising at Hyder was a singing **Black-and-white Warbler** found June 11 (†TGT tape, LJO, DDG, JM, LM, RD) in the willow thicket migrant trap at the edge of town. The only prior Alaska record was an immature found dead on the N. Slope in October 1977. This "eastern" species is not uncommon in n.e. British Columbia to the Peace R. parklands, and there are several spring records from the s.w. parts of the Province near Vancouver. Southcoastal's 2nd spring Com. Yellowthroat was a male caught and banded in the woods above Anchorage's Potter Marsh June 25 (SMM, ph.). Anchorage produced the only previous record, also in mid-June. A ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** near Hyder June 15 (EDB, MEI) was Alaska's 3rd sighting (all unsubstantiated). This individual was likely an overshoot from breeding areas in s. c. British Columbia. Seen briefly in the dawn migrant fall-out at Hyder, and also an overshoot, was a brilliant **Lazuli Bunting** June 10 (†TGT, LJO). There are two previous single-observer sight records for the Region from Southeast. This bunting is a common dry-land nester in British Columbia but only to the n. end of the Okanagon Valley.

We received excellent notes of Alaska's first **Brewer's Sparrow** from the e. Wrangell Mts. where a singing male was found at nearly 4500 feet in the Bonanza Cr. drainage June 22 (†JB). The e. Wrangell Mt. foothills represent the only area in Alaska where suitable habitat is found for the timberline race which breeds as close as Kluanne N.P. in s.w. Yukon. An *Emberiza* bunting that was netted and measured at Buldir I. June 3 and hung around to the 6th, has been identified by the observers as a ♀ Pallas' Reed-Bunting (ILJ, JCW *et al.*). Although the brief details we received indicated that the wing coverts were gray, at press time we had not received sufficient documentation. The identification is unsubstantiated until we can review photos and additional notes. Separation of female and imm. ♂ Com. Reed and Pallas' Reed-Buntings is n.e. Asia is problematic. Two meadowlarks at Peters L. June 7 (TJC) and a singing **Western Meadowlark** near the Canada Border at Scotty Cr. June 11-12 (TJD, ph.) provided the first Interior Alaska reports since the only previous record from the Brooks Range.

Way west of the nearest breeding sites was a pair of Pine Grosbeaks acting territorial around Frosty Mt. near Cold Bay June 21-July 15 (CFZ). A very late ♀ Com. Rosefinch appeared at Buldir I. June 17-19 (ILJ, JCW *et al.*). We have several late June reports from the w. Aleutians. Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills moved into various sections of the Region, notably Upper Cook Inlet, and the e. Interior where they had been absent for nearly 2 years.

White-winged were abundant, however, in Northwest, along the lower Nowitna and Koyukuk Rivers (MS). Red Crossbills were found sporadically in Southeast all season. Perhaps left over from overwintering in the area, were at least five **Evening Grosbeaks** at Hyder June 8-9 (TGT, LJO, DDG *et al.*). Another was heard near Ketchikan July 18 (SCH). These records are significant since this finch is casual in summer for the Region.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON REGION

Chris Siddle

Early summer was hot throughout the province with the Okanagan sweltering in the high 30°s Celsius (over 100° Fahrenheit) for several days in mid-June. Prince George reported sunny, dry and warm conditions for the "best summer" in years. Vancouver and Victoria, traditionally much cooler coastal locations, experienced much higher than usual temperatures in June. July temperatures were more normal.

Drought continued to be extreme in northeastern British Columbia, especially east of Fort St. John, where the levels of all ponds and lakes were much lower than usual. At Cecil Lake, which usually has an average depth of one to two meters, water levels fell below a metre. The Eared Grebes, which nest colonially on Cecil reacted in an unexpected way: their breeding numbers tripled!

El Niño's effects were most obvious around southern Vancouver Island where Brown Pelicans and Heermann's Gulls appeared early. A number of alcids normally restricted to offshore waters were found inshore. This also may be because of El Niño. Elegant Terns were rumoured to have invaded southern

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Vancouver Island, but most were reported without substantiating details.

LOONS TO DUCKS

Summer Yellow-billed Loons are ultra-rare in B.C.; therefore a near "breeding-plumage" adult at Eaglet L., Prince George, July 27 (CA, JB ph., m.ob.) was very unusual. The bird was relocated on Eaglet in early Aug. Six thousand pairs of Eared Grebes, instead of the usual 1000–2000 pairs, were nesting at Cecil L., near Fort St. John, June 20 (CS ph., MG). Possibly the drought and lower lake levels concentrated the birds. Two Clark's Grebes were found: Revelstoke's first June 7 (JB, ph., m.ob.) and the Okanacan's 2nd at Okanagan Landing, Vernon, June 29 (†CS). Rumours of more Clark's Grebes at Salmon Arm remain unsubstantiated. American White Pelicans are rare in s. British Columbia during the summer, so three on Okanagan L. at Summerland July 24 were noteworthy (SC), as were three over Vaseux L., July 25 (HM). At least 22 Am. White Pelicans were on Nulki L., near Tachick L., July 28, where the Tachick L. lodge owner states that pelicans are regular in the area, probably from the Stum L. colony (CA, HA, SK, LL). Brown Pelicans were reported twice from s. Vancouver I.: one at Botanical Beach July 19 (DFE, LRR) and another at Clover Pt., Victoria, July 24 (*vide* JA). This is earlier than usual; there have been only 2 prior July records in British Columbia (Campbell *et al. The Birds of British Columbia*, Vol. 1, p. 215) and may possibly be attributed to El Niño effects. Great Egrets continue increasingly appearances, with two at Somenos Flats, Duncan, July 2 (DVM). Green-backed Herons are being reported more often than usual on s. Vancouver I. with sightings from Swan L., Saanich, Witty's Lagoon, Blenkinsop L., Colquitz Cr, Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo, and 2 nests reported from the Courtenay-Comox area. In Vancouver Green-backed Heron sightings were double the usual number (WCW, DJ).

Double-crested Cormorants are increasing as visitors to the Okanagan valley. One was noted at Vaseux L., June 10 (MH, AP). Two adults and two immatures were present June 14 (†CS, FWa, BWa, JW, BW). Kamloops had one at Tranquille June 14 (SR). An adult and two juv. Great Blue Herons at Eaglet L., Prince George, July 25 was an interesting sighting since both the date and the age of the young suggest that these were locally-bred Great Blues (CA, HA). If true, it will become the first nesting known for n. interior British Columbia. A small colony of 4 Great Blue Heron nests was discovered at Coteay Meadows in the hills e. of Oliver,



May 23 (CS, m. ob.), and a 2nd small colony of about 5 nests was reported May 25 at the Arlington L. chain near the Kettle R., e. of Naramata (JBe). These 2 colonies are at a much higher elevation than the Okanagan Valley colony at Vernon.

Trumpeter Swans seem to be slowly increasing across n.e. British Columbia. Two adults with five small young were seen at Boundary L., July 20 (GD, CS), providing a first local breeding record, while MP reports seeing adults around Dawson Cr that probably nest at one of smaller lakes s. of Dawson. Wood Ducks continue to increase their numbers in both the Prince George area and the Robson Valley (ES.). Three females were seen with broods at Cottonwood I. Park, Prince George, from late-June to mid-July (DE). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was seen at L. Laberge June 23 for one of very few Yukon sightings (TG).

VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS

A Bald Eagle at Fulford Harbour, Saltspring I., June 17 was seen to seize a mink that was carrying a small tide-pool fish. The mink dropped the fish, the eagle dropped the mink, and ate the fish (RS). Broad-winged Hawks have been reported from the Prince George area since July 1989, well w. of their known range in the eastern half of the Peace R. area of British Columbia. Although some good written descriptions have been filed, almost all sightings have been by single observers, unsupported by photographs. Finally a Prince George Broad-winged Hawk has been photographed at Pineview, June 21 (LL ph.) A slightly higher-than-usual number of Peregrine Falcons was reported from s. Vancouver I. One or two were at Cowichan Bay

June 23 and July 5 (DVM), one was at Durrance L. Rd., Saanich, July 19 (KS), and one was on Galiano I. July 19 (BB). Finally one was in downtown Victoria July 20 (BRG), and another was at Saanichton July 30 (BB). Two adults and three juv. Prairie Falcons were present near their eyrie July 3, at the only nest site in the Okanagan Valley. As usual a Prairie Falcon was seen at Cathedral Lakes P. P. this season on July 24–25 (RJC, SGC). Fifteen reports of Peregrine Falcons were received from the Vancouver area, most birds appearing at Iona I. or Roberts Bank. Clearly Peregrines now occur around Vancouver regularly in the summer (WCW, DJ). Both Spruce and Blue grouse were found with broods in the Cariboo Mtns. during Prince George Naturalists' excursions in July, confirming that these species are mundane around Prince George (JB). Two broods of Wild Turkeys were found at Christina L. this summer (no date) (RP), indicating that turkeys continue to

spread W from Creston.

Two wild Sandhill Cranes appeared at Reifel Island Ref., Ladner April 27. One of them remained throughout the period with the Refuge's two tame Sandhills (JI). A Virginia Rail at Revelstoke June 7 (JB, WCW, m.ob.) was the area's first. A pair of Am. Avocets nested at Robert L., Kelowna. The nest contained 4 eggs when it was discovered May 24 (CS ph.) The outcome of the nesting was not determined. An ad. Am. Avocet was noted at Guichon Flats, s. of Kamloops June 19 (RJC) and July 3 (WCW).

A Long-billed Curlew, rare on Vancouver I., was on Chatham I., June 20 (MO'S, ML, AC). Another vagrant Long-billed was s. of Revelstoke June 6 (GD). One remained at Blackie Spit throughout July. A Bar-tailed Godwit, vagrant to s.w. British Columbia, appeared at Boundary Bay July 12 (†PL, m.ob.). Two Rufous-necked Stints were spotted at Boundary Bay July 13 (†RJC, m.ob.) when birders were looking for the godwit. These two stints provided the 6th record for the Vancouver area. A Little Stint in full breeding plumage at Iona I., June 2–4 was seen by many and provided the 3rd record for British Columbia (†RV, †WCW, †MDP). Buff-breasted Sandpipers are rare in the Yukon, though they breed on the N. Slope. A road-killed Buff-breasted at km 185 of the Dempster Hwy June 7 (JH), and a live adult at km 340 June 7 (CDE, PS) are noteworthy.

GULLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

New to the Prince George checklist were two imm. Franklin's Gulls at Eaglet L., Aug. 1 (HA, †MP). Heermann's Gulls arrived in numbers very early this summer to Vanco-

ver I. They usually are concentrated at the s. end of Vancouver I. and gradually work their way N over the latter half of the summer, so an adult at Deep Day, n. of Qualicum Beach, is noteworthy (VBC). RS documented the numbers of Heermann's Gulls at the Victoria/Oak Bay waterfront over the reporting period: the earliest sighting was of two June 6, with numbers peaking at 225 July 17. Very few immatures were noted (RS, MGS). This, plus the early arrival date, suggest early nesting failure of Heermann's Gulls on their breeding ground. The highest numbers (48) of Ring-billed Gulls on Vancouver I. were at Royston July 22 (BMS). A Ring-billed Gull at Whitehorse June 23 was noteworthy for its rarity in the Yukon (TG). A gull identified as an ad. W. Gull, the Yukon's first, was at Whitehorse May 12 (†CDE). Also from Whitehorse were several sightings of Glaucous-winged Gulls: an adult May 31 and July 1 (†CDE, PS) and an immature May 12, 13, & 31, July 1 & 2 (†CDE, PS). These may have provided the first records for the s. Yukon.

An assembly of 160 Caspian Terns included eight juveniles at Roberts Bank, s. of Vancouver, July 21 (RJC). As in the El Niño year of 1983, **Elegant Terns** were rumoured to have invaded s. Vancouver I. Unfortunately only one was actually described for Vancouver I., an adult at Clover Pt., July 25 (RS). One to two birds were reported from Boundary Bay July 18–25 with field notes describing one at 112th St., Delta July 18 (JD) and one at Roberts Bank July 21 (JL).

An Ancient Murrelet, rare off s. Vancouver I. in summer, was at Clover Pt., July 25–26 (RS). Cassin's Auklets were reported close to shore in above-average numbers for the reporting period. The high count was five at Clover Pt., July 5 (KT). A few were also off Tofino July 24 (DA). Slightly higher-than-average numbers of Rhinoceros Auklets were counted at Clover Pt. in July with 635 July 15, 775 July 17, and 525 July 30 (RS).

A vagrant Mourning Dove was at Hodder L., km 250 Cassier Hwy June 12 (†TT, LJO), one of few n.w. sightings. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was described in exquisite detail at Kelowna July 8 (†DBr, ED). This sighting provides the 2nd record for British Columbia since the 1920s. The first observation was July 5, 1989, at exactly the same time of summer.

A Flammulated Owl nest in a box near Pentiction contained 4 eggs June 3 (SGC). Two ad. N. Hawk-Owls were photographed feeding two young on Mt. Revelstoke July 19 (OG). Two breeding records for the N. Pygmy Owl were provided in these reports: two adults with four fledglings were on Anarchist Mt., e. of Osoyoos June 15 (BD), and an adult and an immature were at Fort George Canyon, P.G., July 15 (SK, LL). Also rarely seen in summer was a Great Gray Owl at about km 13.5 of the Venner Meadows Rd., e. of Okanagan Falls June 14 (LR), June 16 (BD) and June 23 (DB). One adult and three downy Barred Owls were at Pacific Spirit Pk.,

Vancouver June 28 and July 4 (RJC). Although the Barred Owl has become a regular resident in s.w. British Columbia, breeding records are still scarce. For the 2nd year in a row CS found Long-eared Owl young begging in a Douglas Fir-Red Cedar forest at the foot of Silver Star Mt., Vernon. For many birders the highlight of the spring was the sight of a ♀ Boreal Owl at her nest box high along the Venner Meadows Rd., e. of Okanagan Falls. This female had two young at the box June 2 (RJC). A Boreal Owl was heard calling on the Yukon side of the border along the Haines Rd., June 25 (TG). GD, on a raft trip down the Thompson River w. of Ashcroft, spotted two to three pairs of White-throated Swifts at Black Canyon June 24.

WOODPECKERS TO THRASHERS

Tony Greenfield reported that a "superb stand of old-growth White Spruce" along the Liard Hwy just n. of the Fort Liard junction in the extreme s. Northwest Territories produced, in 3 hours June 17, all the NWT's woodpecker species except the Downy. Seen were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy, Three-toed, Black-backed, N. Flicker, and Pileated Woodpeckers. MW reported that two pairs of Lewis' woodpeckers continue to nest at traditional sites on Skookumchuck prairie, n. of Cranbrook. Three pairs were also reported from Wycliffe, n.w. of Cranbrook (AG).

S.A.

This summer **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** invaded the Prince George area, appearing at 6 sites, beginning at Vama Vama Cr, 50 km e. of Prince George June 19 (JB, LL). Normally one of the rarest birds in British Columbia, the Yellow-bellied appeared suddenly and at least some remained to breed. Two juveniles were at the Vama site July 17 (RWC, JB ph.). This species was new for the Prince George checklist and provided a first breeding record w. of the Rocky Mtns. for British Columbia and Canada. Elsewhere in the Region a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Parker L., Fort Nelson (a traditional site) July 14 (GD) and another on the s. bank of the Peace R. near Farrell Cr, w. of Hudson Hope July 21 (†CS, GD), were within the species' usual mapped range.

Western Flycatchers were found in a number of new locations in n. British Columbia this summer. One was calling along the Tetsa R. between Fort Nelson and Stone Mt. P. P. July 15 (GD, †CS), in an area of the province where Westerns have never been reported before. Three were heard near the confluence of the Pine and Murray Rivers July 3 & 5 (CS). Nine singing Westerns were heard (and some seen) for a 10-km stretch along the s. bank of the Peace R. opposite Farrell Cr, July 21 (GD, CS). This disjunct population was first discovered in this location in 1985. Two W. Flycatchers were at Viking Ridge, 85 km e. of

Prince George July 22 (SK, LL), another new location. Single out-of-range Alder Flycatchers were reported from Olalla (near Keremeos) June 27 (LR), and Monashee Summit (Hwy 6) June 14 (GD). Three were heard at Revelstoke June 7 (GD). A pair of Say's Phoebes was feeding four almost-fledged young at the nest at Chopaka Customs station, e. of Keremeos, July 24 (RJC). Five other Say's Phoebes were nearby, possibly the adults' first brood? Two other Say's Phoebes with two fledglings were at White L. July 14 (PL).

SK and MP counted 701 complete Cliff Swallow nests on both sides of the Kiskatinaw Bridge between Dawson Cr and Fort St. John, June 8. This may well be the largest colony in British Columbia. One adult and one juv. Gray Jay seen at Sakinaw L., Sechelt area, June 28 were noteworthy since this species is virtually unknown at sea level in s. British Columbia (SD). Two Blue Jays were reported attending an Invermere feeder all summer (LH), which is not surprising considering last year's breeding record there. Common Crows, not Northwestern Crows, are common and apparently nesting at Stewart, where a maximum daily count was 30–40 birds. Several were carrying nesting materials June 8–12 (TT, LJO). Northwestern Crows do not apparently occur this far up Portland Canal as all specimens and tape-recorded calls are of *Corvus brachyrhynchos* (TT).

A Winter Wren was observed singing on the Yukon side of the Yukon/British Columbia border along the Haines Rd. June 23 (TG). This species' range in the Yukon is poorly known. For the 2nd summer in a row Veerys were heard and seen at Stewart with a total of three on June 9–10. (†TT, LJO). Sage Thrashers may have had their best summer since 1969 when 5 nests were found. This June and July Sage Thrashers were found at White L., where an adult with two fledglings were seen July 14 (PL, m.ob.), at Camp McKinney Rd., e. of Oliver where three birds were seen June 20 (PS, BS), and Chopaka near the Nighthawk, Canada-U.S. border crossing E where seven, including some young, were seen July 24 (RJC). Yellow Wagtails, restricted to extreme n. Yukon, are seldom reported; therefore a report of two adults at a nest in a willow thicket at Shingle Pt. North Warning Station, N. Slope, Yukon June 26, is of interest (CDE, CB, PS). On June 29 two other pairs were also seen near the station, with one adult of each pair carrying food (CDE, CB, PS). A Cedar Waxwing in the company of four unidentified waxwings, e. of Rancheria, Yukon, June 14 provided a first Yukon record (HG.).

Warbling Vireos are now known to be regular summer residents in the extreme southern Yukon. TG observed three along the Alaska Hwy June 18–20 from Fols Cr to Whitehorse. A Red-eyed Vireo, seen and described from the lower Running R., N. Slope (Lat. 68° 53' 13" N; Long. 137° 18' 06" W), June 28, provided one of very few records for the Yukon (†CDE, CB, PS).

WAXWINGS TO FINCHES

A Cape May Warbler was seen in a stand of old growth White Spruce along the Liard Hwy just n. of the Fort Liard junction June 17 (TG). This location is a couple of hundred kilometres s.w. of the Cape May's known North West Territories range. A 2nd out-of-range Cape May, a female carrying food, was near Toobally L., Yukon, July 14-15 (CDE, PS). This observation becomes the 2nd record for this species in the Yukon.

TG also reported small numbers of Cape May, Canada, Black-and-white, and Mourning Warblers from a previously ornithologically unexplored area s.e. of Fort Nelson, near the confluence of Gutah Cr and Sikanni Chief R. in June. These sightings are significant since most of the higher elevation land between Fort St. John and Fort Nelson is devoid of "eastern" warblers. Tennessee Warblers were "unbelievably common" around Fort Nelson where warbler surveyers found them at virtually every stop in early July (CS). Farther s. around Fort St. John Tennessees were almost absent. A singing ♂ Black-and-white Warbler, well w. of its usual range, was initially discovered at Hyder, Alaska, and moved into British Columbia along Portland Canal June 11 (†TT, LJO), providing a first summer coastal record. A 2nd out-of-range Black-and-white Warbler was at Nakusp June 15 (GD). An Ovenbird at Brisco, in the e. Kootenays, June 20 was s. of its known British Columbia range (RH). American Redstarts were recorded s.w. of their usual range with an adult and a first-year male at Pitt Marsh during June (GPA, SPA, TH), and one audio-taped at Jerico Pk., Vancouver, June 14 (RJC).

S.A.

CS, GD, MG, and KG spent June-July investigating the B.C. distribution and habitat preferences of several "eastern" warblers like the Bay-breasted, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Mourning, Black-and-white, Black-poll, Canada, Connecticut, Palm Warbler, and Ovenbird, in n.e. British Columbia. Two hundred and forty six sightings of these species were made. The most frequently recorded species was the Ovenbird (34%), followed by the Black-throated Green (16%), Mourning (12%) and Black-and-white (12%). All the other species were seen less than 10% of the total sightings with the Cape May (2.8%) and the Bay-breasted (1.6%) being the rarest. Although recorded 16% for the total, Black-throated Green Warblers appear to have the smallest range within British Columbia, occurring only around the Peace R. valley near Fort St. John and Dawson Cr. All of the other species are there and also 250 mi farther n. around Fort Nelson. Virtually no habitat has been explored for any of these species.



Adult Yellow-billed Loon at Eaglet Lake, British Columbia, on July 27, 1992. Photograph/Jack Bowling.

Birds of Canada, 1986 edition, shows the Mourning Warbler as absent from the North West Territories, occurring far to the s.e. in Alberta, but recent field work in British Columbia has found this species 60 km s. of the NWT border at the Tsinia Cr crossing of the Liard Hwy (GD, CS). TG's report of Mourning Warblers being common near the Fort Liard junction of the Liard Hwy June 17 may be a first record for the Northwest Territories.

An ad. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Liard Hotsprings Prov. P. July 9 was a few hundred km w. of its usual range (GD, †CS). Lazuli Buntings, normally very local and uncommon near the coast, were usually common at Maple Ridge and Port Coquitlam, with a high count of six males at 224th St., Maple Ridge June 14 (DAe). Brewer's Sparrows of the timberline (*taverneri*) race are frequent breeders in the mountains s. and w. of Whitehorse, but are very seldom seen in migration. A migrant Brewer's Sparrow at Marsh L., 60 km s. of Whitehorse, May 31 (CDE), was therefore noteworthy. Vesper Sparrows were more common and widespread than usual around Prince George, expanding into short grass fields and new clear cuts (JB). Le Conte's Sparrows are proving to be very uncommon, but fairly widespread through c. and e. British Columbia. Several singing birds were seen at Tete Jeune Cache June 24 or 25 (ML) while two were at their usual Edgewood hay fields June 14 (GD). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were present at their usual site of Boundary L. where three males were counted July 20 (GD, CS). A pair was found at McQueen slough, Dawson Cr, and a male was seen at Alcock L., s. of Dawson Cr (SK, MP). The Sharp-tailed Sparrow remains one of the rarest songbirds in the province. This year, for the first time, there were records of singing Fox Sparrows on Grouse Mt. and on Mt. Seymour, as well as in Cypress P.P., where there have been males on territory since 1987. The Fox Sparrow now seems established as a summer resident on the N. Shore Mtns., a major extension of

breeding range (WCW, DT, GB, CAI).

A pair of Rusty Blackbirds at Coquihalla Lakes June was probably at the s.w. limit of the species' breeding range in British Columbia (WCW). A Com. Grackle at km 58 of the Northwest Territories' section of the Liard Hwy June 17 was in the extreme n.w. portion of its known range (TG). A Brown-headed Cowbird at Beaver Cr, Yukon, June 26, provided one of very few records for the Yukon (TG). Brown-headed Cowbirds were also found w. of their usual range with a female at Hodder L., km 250.2 Cassier Hwy June 7, and up to three males at Stewart June 8-10 (†TT, LJO).

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Broad-winged Hawk near Prince George, British Columbia, on June 21, 1992. First photographically confirmed record for the central part of the province. Photograph/Laird Law.

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OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

Bill Tweit and Jim Johnson

The El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) episode, the strongest since 1983, continued to dominate our climate and ocean through the summer, even though it was "in decay" on a global scale. Sea surface temperatures remained elevated, and inland the drought continued. In Washington, June was hotter than normal and July was cooler. Both months were a bit wetter than normal, but the rains came as concentrated downpours and did not relieve the drought conditions. In eastern Oregon, June was also hot and wet, but July precipitation levels returned to drought levels.

There were some striking parallels with the 1983 episode. On the coast, Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls, and Elegant Terns all came north early and in very large numbers. Cassin's Auklets suffered an elevated rate of mortality, and some dispersed to inside waters, possibly searching for food.

Malheur Lake was low due to drought conditions, and perhaps correlated with this was the breeding failure of most colonial nesting waterbirds in the Harney Basin: American White Pelicans, cormorants, herons, ibises, and Franklin's Gulls. Eared Grebe breeding success was reported to be poor throughout eastern Oregon.

Abbreviations: Fields (*Fields, Harney, OR*); Malheur (*Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia, OR*); S.J.C.R. (*south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop, OR*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

One of the few nesting pairs of Com. Loon in Washington raised one young this summer at Hozomeen L., *Whatcom* (BK). About 150 pairs of Eared Grebes nested in the s. Blitzen valley at Malheur this summer (RV), but in general their nesting attempts in e. Oregon were unsuccessful (HN). A mixed colony of 440 Clark's and W. grebes was on Harney L. at Malheur this summer (RV); neither species had nested in the 2 previous summers. A mixed pair of Clark's/W. grebes was found with two downy young on Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*, July 17 (MH) providing a first w. Oregon breeding record.

A pelagic trip off Westport on July 18 (TW) found an unusually high count of 850 Pink-footed Shearwaters; 60 were counted in a June trip. Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found on both trips. Good numbers of both Fork-

tailed Storm-Petrels (100) and Leach's Storm-Petrels (13) were recorded in July, which is often the only month when Leach's can be found over the shelf.

American White Pelicans did not breed at Malheur this summer (RV) for the 2nd consecutive summer, no doubt because water levels were low. Of the hundreds of Brown Pelicans appearing along the coast throughout June and July, less than 10% were immatures (HN, BT). Their movement into the Region was strikingly similar to 1983, the last strong ENSO year. The post-breeders appeared early, in very large numbers, and with few young of the year. The main difference is that they came even earlier, in larger numbers, and with fewer immatures in 1992.

The only report of successful nesting by colonial waterbirds at Malheur were the Black-crowned Night-Herons at Double "O" (RV). Most of the Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and White-faced Ibises in the large Diamond Swamp colony at Malheur departed, as did the Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Double-crested Cormorants at the Double "O" unit (RV). A Green-backed Heron near Wapato, WA, July 29 (AS), which provided a 2nd *Yakima* record, and one at Malheur July 1 (RV) were both east-side rarities. The flock of six White-faced Ibis near Lyman, *Skagit*, WA, June 7 (†T.Ma, *fide* BK) was the last of the 80+ individuals appearing on the west-side this spring.

A brood of N. Pintails was found at O.S. July 29 (G & WH); there are few breeding records for the Region. Broods of Com. Goldeneyes at Winthrop during June-Aug. 4 (EH) and on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area (AS), both in *Okanogan*, were surprising, as documented breeding records for Washington are almost nonexistent.

KITES THROUGH PHALAROPE

Two ad. and four juv. Black-shouldered Kites at Frances, *Pacific*, July 3 (VH) indicate a 2nd breeding locale in Washington about 15 mi from the first site. A Black-shouldered Kite at Nisqually N.W.R. July 22 (BR) was the only Washington report away from the *Pacific* breeding locations. In Oregon a pair nesting near Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*, produced four young (*fide* MH). Quite a few years have passed since the last documented breeding in *Lane*.

Sandhill Crane reproduction this summer was good in the Oregon Cascades (DL). It included a pair with a juvenile at Little Crater Meadows, *Clackamas*, July 25 (DL), providing the first breeding record of cranes on the west side of the Oregon Cascades north of *Jackson*. There were 2 unusual lowland records of Sandhill Crane in w. Oregon: two at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, June 23 (DSn), and one in Salem, *Marion*, July 17 (AC, MP). Apparently there were no Upland Sandpiper reports this summer from their only breeding location in Washington (W.D.W.); the state seems to have lost a breeding species. An ad. **White-rumped Sandpiper** at the Dungeness R. mouth, *Clallam*, July 7 (†PL) furnished the 2nd Washington record. Migrant Phalaropes were unusually conspicuous along the outer coast during the first half of June, when large numbers of Red-necked and some Reds were along the Oregon coast (HN). The phalarope numbers in May were also high. Coastal migrants were not noted in Washington, but unusual numbers of Red Phalarope were found on pelagic trips off Westport: 13 on June 27 and 58 on July 18 (TW). However, very small numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were found on those trips: nine and 35 (TW). An ad. Red on Sauvie July 24 (JJ, DB) was unusual inland.



GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS

An ad. Franklin's Gull was at Crockett L., *Island*, July 31 (EH); virtually all of the fall Washington records are of first-year birds. The main nesting colony of Franklin's Gulls at Malheur was abandoned (RV), but a smaller colony there was successful. The N movement of Heermann's Gull was early and large (HN), as exemplified by the count of 800 at Grays Harbor June 27 (TW). In contrast with the influxes of Brown Pelicans and Elegant Terns, quite a high proportion of the Heermann's Gulls were first-year birds (HN, BT) indicating they reproduced successfully before moving N. Summering Ring-billed Gull numbers continue to increase in N. Puget Sound (TW). While no breeding colonies have been discovered, the species is showing a pattern similar to that of the Caspian Tern as they established a breeding population in Puget Sound. Now, finally, we have discovered the *real* reason for the fall movement of Cal-

ifornia Gulls from the interior to the coast. They come for the combination of great fruit and great seafood: a dozen were noted in The Dalles, OR, landing in the cherry trees and eating the ripe fruit (MLaF).

The count of 600 Caspian Terns at the newly established Puget Sound colony in Everett, WA, July 16 (PL) included 10 flying juveniles and 10 chicks. The Elegant Tern flight was phenomenal, both in scope and timing. It began with the first June records ever for Oregon; 60 at the Rogue R. mouth in late June (CD) and 12 at Waldport, *Lincoln*, June 28 (KM). In July they were everywhere along the Oregon coast: 12 at S.J.C.R., July 19 (JG); 50–100 at Alsea Bay, *Lincoln*, July 13 (DFa), and 200 at Coos Bay, *Coos*, July 25 (BG). This is the 4th or 5th consecutive year that this formerly rare species has appeared in Oregon, but only the 1983 flight was this extensive. In Washington, two Elegant Terns at O.S. July 4 (RW) provided the first report, and also the earliest record ever. The coastal numbers increased to 300 at O.S. July 23 (DP). They appeared in Puget Sound as well, which they have not done since the 1983 flight. Two were at Everett July 19–24 (JF), two at the Oak Bay County Park, *Jefferson*, July 20 (JB), and six at the Dungeness R. mouth, *Clallam*, July 24 (D & SS).

The Arctic Tern colony at Everett, WA, had 2 pairs, which fledged young, and three unattached adults (*fide* EH); this colony has never had more than a few pairs nesting in any year but has somehow maintained itself even though it is far removed from the nearest colony. There were 2 unusual June records of Arctic Tern: an alternate-plumage adult at Mt. Vernon, *Grant*, in the Oregon interior June 14 (TWi), and two were off Westport June 27 (TW). A basic-plumage Forster's Tern at the south end of Discovery Bay July 7 (PL) and two Forster's at Sauvie June 7 (JG) were both quite unusual on the west side. Two small colonies of Black Terns were located on Fern Ridge Res., *Lane* (TM), providing the first confirmed breeding records in w. Oregon.

As concern for the status of Marbled Murrelet in our Region mounts, we are beginning to obtain a clearer idea of their apparent breeding distribution. This summer they were numerous in the upper Wynoochee valley, *Grays Harbor*, WA, July 2 (FS), and a few were in the upper Skokomish valley, *Mason*, WA, July 5 (FS); up to six including a chick in a nest tree were found in the N. Fork Siletz R. valley, *Lincoln*, OR, July 2–9 (GG), three were in God's Valley, *Tillamook*, OR, July 9 (GG), and five were on Saddle Mt., *Clatsop*, OR, July 24 (GG). An Ancient Murrelet in breeding plumage in Cascade Head, *Tillamook*, June 30 (Roy Lowe) provided a highly unusual mid-summer record for Oregon. The final part of the ENSO pattern resulted in the high mortality of Cassin's Auklets. Numbers began washing up on Oregon beaches July 9 through the end of the period (HN), and 500–1000 were dead on a stretch of beach at Long Beach Pen., July 27 (DW). Live Cassin's were very scarce off Westport: one June 27 and 23 on July 18

(TW). One on Penn Cove, *Island*, July 7 (PL) was well inside Puget Sound, probably signifying some movement into the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound in response to food shortages on the ocean.

PIGEONS TO FLYCATCHERS

Band-tailed Pigeon sightings increased this summer over the last few years in the Bellingham area (TW); we hope this trend is widespread. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Fields June 1 & 4–5 (HN *et al.*) was the only summer report, but only the last few summers have had regular reports. Barred Owls were found in 6 locations in Washington's N. Cascades (SJ), and there were more reports than ever in the nearby Bellingham area, including several family groups (TW). According to U.S. Forest Service staff, 2 pairs of Great Gray Owls nested in *Okanogan* and one in *Ferry* (*fide* AS). Photos were taken of the nests and young; we hope they will be published as there are no documented breeding records for Washington. A Boreal Owl pair with four young were found in a nest box in *Okanogan* June 11 (AS, ph.); this is the first confirmed breeding record for the state. An earlier report of a breeding attempt at Pullman, WA, in 1979 (*Murrelet* 61:80) lacks any documentation and seems an unlikely event for a low-elevation location in the wheat country of e. Washington. The other Boreal Owl record for the summer was provided by one calling at Horseshoe Basin, in the Pasayten Wilderness Area, *Okanogan*, WA, July 12–13 (AS).

A ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird was described from the eastern slope of the Cascades in *Kittitas* at 4000 feet (†DP) June 28; this would provide a first Washington record. The Cascade Crest provides a fairly firm dividing line between the eastern Red-naped and western Red-breasted sapsucker. This summer, pairs of Red-naped Sapsuckers were found well w. of the Crest in Washington at the Big Four Picnic Ground, *Snobomish*, June 6 (MMo), and 10 mi. e. of Mt. Vernon, *Skagit* July 4 (SA). Additionally, a mixed Red-naped and Red-breasted pair at Diablo L., *Whatcom*, WA, June 15 (SJ), also w. of the Crest, were both seen feeding young at the nest.

The only Washington report of Least Flycatchers, probably a scarce breeder, was at the north end of Palmer L., *Okanogan* (AS). In Oregon, up to 2 pairs were at Clyde Holliday S.P., *Grant* (TWi, m.ob.), throughout the summer; territorial pairs have been found here in past years. A Gray Flycatcher at the Hanford Reservation, *Benton*, July 23 (TG) was a local first and probably an indicator that the species is continuing to expand its breeding range in e. Washington. Consternation is still the dominant theme in this Region about the distribution of the "Western" Flycatchers. There is universal agreement that the west side birds are Pacific-Slope. Beyond that, there is little certainty. For example, all of the breeders in e. Oregon are thought to be Cordilleran, based on electrophoretic evidence. However, SR noted in

the Tollgate area of the Blue Mts., *Umatilla*, of n.e. Oregon, that 80% of the call and song types he heard were Pacific-Slope type to his ear and only 20% resembled Cordilleran. An apparent Pacific-Slope was in the Ochoco Mts., *Wheeler*, June 12 (PS, BTi), another e. Oregon locale. Oregon became the last mainland state to add Eastern Phoebe to its list this summer, with one male, at Falls City, *Polk*, June 5–23 (BTi, †BB, m.ob.). An ad Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, June 26 (DH) follows 2 Oregon records this spring; there are still fewer than 10 for the state.

PARIDS THROUGH WARBLERS

The discovery of Bushtits in the western foothills of the Cascades on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie R., *King*, WA (EH), provides a semblance of a link between their stronghold in the Puget lowlands and the isolated population in the upper Yakima R. drainage just e. of the Cascade Crest from this location (see the spring report). A Rock Wren pair feeding two fledglings in the Mt. St. Helens N.M., *Skamania*, WA, July 15 (MW), is an unusual breeding record for the west side. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found breeding in 2 new locations in the Olympic Mts., Dose Meadows, and Seven Lakes Basin (FS), presumably as a result of investigation and not range expansion. A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers that raised four young at the Crooked River Nat'l Grassland, *Jefferson* (HN *et al.*), represents the northernmost breeding in Oregon, or anywhere in the west. A Veery pair in proper breeding habitat was found near Nehalem, WA, June 20 (TW), providing the 3rd *Whatcom* record. Eastern Oregon observers noted large numbers of Veery in breeding areas this summer (TC). A Varied Thrush at Malheur June 4–6 (BT) was the latest for the refuge by a month.

The breeding status of Gray Catbird in the Oregon Cascades is still unknown. One was found along Beaver Cr on the Warm Springs Res., *Wasco*, July 5 (DL), where they were noted last summer. The only N. Mockingbird record was furnished by one near Hampton, *Deschutes*, OR, June 3 (HN). An ad. Yellow Wagtail at O.S. July 29 (†BS, †GA, ph.) that had disappeared by the next morning provided a first record for Washington. The dusky smudge on the breast of this bird probably indicates *M. f. tschutschensis*. A flock of 16 Bohemian Waxwings, including four juveniles, was at Pierce Camp in the N. Cascades, *Whatcom*, WA, July 30 (SJ). While there are no confirmed Washington breeding records, there have been enough sightings of family groups along the border to indicate potential breeding. A singing ♂ Northern Parula at L. Quinault, *Grays Harbor*, WA, July 4 (†FS), provided the 6th state record; this has been an exceptional year for Parula with 4 spring records. A ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler at Richland, *Benton*, WA, June 26 (†RW) provided about the 7th state record, and another was in Jordan Valley, *Malheur*, OR, June 20 (JGa); they are regular vagrants in Oregon.

S.A.

There were some surprising discoveries about Townsend's and Hermit warblers breeding in the Puget lowlands and on the east side of the Olympic Peninsula. Townsend's Warblers were found breeding at sea level at Deception Pass, *Island*, and at Larrabee S.P., *Whatcom* (CCh); these locations are well north of the zone of hybridization with Hermit. In the zone of sympatry in the e. and s. Olympics, Townsend's types predominated from sea level to 1500 feet (FS). Above that elevation, up to the lower edge of the Silver Fir zone (usually 3500 feet), Hermit Warbler types were the most conspicuous, and above 3500 feet Townsend's again predominated. It would be interesting to speculate on what role the sympatric overlap has in the disjunct distribution of Townsend's types. FS found Hermit Warblers breeding in a few near areas: on Capitol Peak, *Thurston*, for the 2nd known breeding locale in the county, in the upper Wynoochee, *Grays Harbor*, and near South Bend, *Pacific*, furnishing a first county breeding record.

A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler at Davenport, *Lincoln*, June 4 (†JA) provided the first Washington record in several years. Ovenbirds seemed to be everywhere (if 4 records in one summer can be so construed). Singing males were on the west side of Ross Lake, *Whatcom*, WA, June 8 (†SJ), near McKenzie Bridge, *Lane*, OR, June 11 (MH), near Blue River, *Lane*, OR, through June (SR), and 30 mi e. of Glide, *Douglas*, OR, June 9–30 (RM *et al.*). A singing ♂ Kentucky Warbler along the Sauk R., s. of Darrington, *Skagit* (†RRV), provided Washington's first report; it could not be relocated the next day (m.ob.).

BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES

Green-tailed Towhees have a very limited breeding distribution in Washington, with only 2 known locations in the s.e. corner. A 3rd site was discovered this summer, on Biscuit Ridge, near Dixie, *Walla Walla* (*fide* EH). Two singing ♂ Clay-colored Sparrows found e. of Palmer L. in June (DC, AS) add to the *Okanogan* locations where apparently territorial males have been observed. They appear to be annual in this area; surely some of them are successfully breeding. At least five adults and two young Brewer's Sparrows found above timberline in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, *Jefferson*, June 27 (AC, MP) were apparently breeding there. Six were found at each of 2 high-elevation locations in the Ochoco Mts., *Wheeler*, July 11 (TC). Little is known about high-elevation breeding populations in the Region, in comparison with the familiar breeders in the shrub steppe.

A ♂ Lark Bunting near Clarkston Heights, *Asotin*, June 12 (†MK) furnished Washington's 9th record. Two Grasshopper Sparrows found at 5000 feet in the Wallowa Mts. were a first for *Wallowa* (PS) and quite a distance

from previously known, lower-elevation nesting areas. A singing ♂ Fox Sparrow on Little Sucia I., *San Juan*, WA, July 7 (CCh), accompanied by three others, may have been the coastal race *Pi. fuliginosa*, which breeds only in northwesternmost Washington. Fox Sparrows of any race do not breed in the Puget lowlands, although W.L. Dawson reported them breeding in the San Juan Is. at the turn of the century. Have we overlooked them since then? A pair of Golden-crowned Sparrows was found at 5000 feet at Hart L. in Seven Lakes Basin of the Olympic Mts. (FS); breeding in this area has never even been suspected.

A new Bobolink colony was found in Oregon, where they are very patchily distributed: six males and at least one female near Ukiah, *Umatilla*, June 5 (CC). Thirty ♂ Tricolored Blackbirds at Clarno Pond, *Wheeler*, June 14 (DA) indicated yet another colony may be forming in e. Oregon. This would be the 4th colony on the east side, where they were unknown prior to 1989. One at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, July 2 (GG) probably indicates a continuing expansion in the Willamette Valley as well. Red Crossbills were common in the n. Puget Trough through July (CCh) and abundant in the Oregon Cascades (HN); small numbers were found in the Olympia area (G & WH) and in the N. Cascades through the summer (SJ). The last White-winged Crossbills from the spring incursion disappeared after June. Six were at Mt. Rainier N.P., WA, June 20 (CCh), 50 were in the s. Washington Cascades June 7 (BBo), and they were noted at Snoqualmie Pass, WA, June 7 (EH). A pair of L. Goldfinches was in Bend June 8 (TC), and a nesting pair was e. of Ukiah, *Umatilla*, June 20 (CC); they are very rare on the eastern slope of the c. Oregon Cascades and further east. Evening Grosbeaks were abundant in the Oregon Cascades all summer (HN, DL).

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

Stephen F. Bailey, David G. Yee, Bruce E. Deuel

Signs of the El Niño continued, with more storm-petrels seen from shore, single Masked and Brown boobies visiting, and Crowley's Murrelets arriving almost 2 months early.

Our drought condition severely affected waterbird habitats on the managed refuges in the northeast. Several were virtually dry, while water deliveries for agriculture continued almost unabated.

Among landbirds, the "East goes West" show that started during mid-spring continued well into summer. It has been hypothesized that unique weather patterns over the Gulf of Mexico played a major role in many vagrant landbirds streaming into the west, including thrashers, vireos, warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings, and possibly thrushes.

County Breeding Bird Atlas projects continued to roll along and are now the last word on local bird populations, while statewide censuses of Burrowing Owl and Tricolored Blackbird are now being conducted. We encourage all to participate.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); All records from F.I. and Palomarin should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH BOOBIES

An apparent Arctic Loon in basic plumage was at the mouth of Bolinas Lagoon May 28 (†SNGH, †KH). Three alternate plumaged Horned Grebes at Bridgeport L., *Mono*, June 5 (RS) included a *courting pair* there July 5 (†RS), but nesting was not established. Three alternate-plumage Horned Grebes at Ano Nuevo July 1–30 (GJS, *fide* RSTh), one at Hayward Shoreline June 6 (RJR), and two very worn basic-plumage stragglers at Mono L., June 15 (RJI) were all far from nesting habitat but summed to a record summer total. A count of 808 Eared Grebe nests at Crowley L., *Mono*, July 22–23 (PJM) was up from 121 in 1991. These may have been concentrated by the loss of other lakes to the 6-year drought, but no similar increase of *Aechmophorus* grebes was seen there. Western and Clark's grebes were courting on L. San Antonio, *Monterey*, but the lake was drained for irrigation water so any nesting was aborted (BJW).

A Flesh-footed Shearwater was offshore Monterey June 27 (DLSh). Rare far inside S.E. Bay, a Sooty Shearwater flew S past Hay-

ward Shoreline, then W along the San Mateo Bridge July 25 (RJR). A Short-tailed Shearwater closely seen beyond F.I., July 12 (†DGY, †WRH) was almost unprecedented in mid-summer.

What was once California's largest colony of Leach's Storm-Petrels (10,000 in the 1960s) is being destroyed by the expanding Double-crested Cormorant colony on Little River Rock, *Humboldt* (GeM). Several Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen at F.I., and another with a brood patch was caught there about June 25. It is unusual to see storm-petrels from land. One Ashy and three Black storm-petrels were seen at Pigeon Pt., July 11 (RN) and a Black was at Cypress Pt. July 29 (SHa).

An ad. Masked Booby of the yellow-billed form *californica* roosted at Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey*, June 18, 20, & 22 (†JB, †RDo, †DR, †ph.SFB, †JM), but most birders waited on odd-numbered days. A white ad. booby at Capitola Pier, *Santa Cruz*, June 8 (S. Griffin) was likely the same bird. Both prior accepted California records were made from boats, but two other Masked Boobies were seen from shore in the Southern Pacific Coast Region this June. An imm. Brown Booby that frequented F.I., May 25-Aug. (P. Martin, †PP, ph.†F. Gardner) was the island's 3rd but only the Region's 4th acceptable record.

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS

A Great Egret nest found on Huichica Cr., June 13 (DTak) and 5 Snowy Egret nests at the Napa State Hospital June 14 (J. Maillard) provided first *Napa* breeding records, results of an atlas project. An ad. Little Blue Heron was in the Alviso heronry, *Santa Clara*, June 5-12 (MiF, SAG), while an immature in the area July 18 & 23 (JAC) was suspected to be a backcross between a Snowy Egret and a Little Blue × Snowy hybrid, a combination that was predicted last year (WGB). A Cattle Egret at 2000 feet in the Diablo Range, *Santa Clara*, June 30 (JY) was surprising, as was one near Crowley L., July 14 (†M. Coughlin, N. Gerhart), the Region's first summer *Mono* record. White-faced Ibis nesting was suspected but not confirmed at the s. end of S.F. Bay (m.ob.).

A pair of Canada Geese with a brood on Soap L., *San Benito*, June 25 (WGB) documented continued expansion of the introduced c. coast population. Two ♂ Wood Ducks, rare e. of the Sierra-Cascades, were at Bridgeport Res., *Mono*, June 23 (RSTh), with two more at Modoc N.W.R., July 10 (RLR). Most of our ducks can oversummer anywhere in the Region, occasionally breeding. Several of this season's more unusual records were from the n. coast in *Del Norte*: a pair of Green-winged Teals near Ft. Dick



June 11, the county's first in June; a brood of Blue-winged Teals on L. Earl W.A., June 12, one of few actually seen in the Region; and a companion brood of N. Shovelers, even less expected at that location (all ADB). A concentration of 1200 Cinnamon Teals at Bridgeport Res., July 5 (RS) must have been a response to the drought, as these birds should have been nesting at that time. Gad-wall raised 3 broods at Arcata Marsh (m.ob.), where *Humboldt's* first breeding record was established only 2 years earlier.

There were 9 Lesser Scaup broods at Sunnysvale sewer Ponds, *Santa Clara* (PJM), our only regular nesting location away from the n. Great Basin. A ♂ Harlequin Duck summered at Monterey (m.ob.), the only one reported, in contrast to recent years. The first to summer in *Mono*, up to three ♀ Com. Goldeneyes were at Crowley L., May 30-July 23 (PJM). An imm. Barrow's Goldeneye was at Tule Lake N.W.R., July 19 (RE), where one also appeared last summer. Since they no longer breed in the Region, summer records are very rare. Expanding the known breeding range in the Region, a Com. Merganser brood was found at Crystal Springs Dam, *San Mateo*, July 14 (PJM). A ♀ Hooded Merganser at Topaz L., *Mono*, June 23 (RSTh) was quite out of range for summer. A Ruddy Duck brood at Sonora Junction, *Mono*, July 5 (RS) was from a previously unreported locale.

RAPTORS

A Bald Eagle at Arcata July 17 (BED, FJB) was rare on the n.w. coastal plain in mid-summer because it was an adult. A calling Swainson's Hawk on Mt. Davidson, S.F.,

July 12 (†WRH, †DGY) strayed coastward on a strange date. Only 150 feet of fence line supported 59 Am. Kestrels in Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, July 30 (LJ, KL).

SHOREBIRDS

Snowy Plovers were found nesting in *Alameda*, *Napa*, and *Mono*. While still nesting around Monterey Bay, serious concern exists for all outer coast breeders, which is why this population is proposed for Federal listing. Five Semipalmated Plovers at Huichica Cr., June 27 were probably early fall migrants (DASH). Black-necked Stilts reached the n. coast again, with three on L. Earl W.A., June 9 (D. Scott). Seven downy Am. Avocets at the Hollister sewer ponds July 21 (RMrr) established the first *San Benito* breeding record. Eight alternate-plumage ad. Greater Yellowlegs flying SW from the Lodi sewer ponds, *San Joaquin*, June 15 (DGY) could have been migrating in either direction. A Lesser Yellowlegs at the Hayward Shoreline June 6 (RJR) was a late spring migrant, there

being very few June records. Territorial behavior by a Willet at Bridgeport L., June 23 (RSTh) suggested nesting, which would extend the known breeding range 60 mi s.

A flock of 133 Whimbrels on Rd. 104, *Yolo*, July 19 (GEw) was unprecedented for the C.V. in fall. Two ad. Ruddy Turnstones and an ad. Red Knot at the Davis sewer ponds July 11 (GEw) were inland, where always noteworthy, as was a Ruddy Turnstone at Mono L., June 14 (DGY). Sanderlings provided an illustration of the complexities of shorebird migration when four basic-plumage birds at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey*, June 18, presumed oversummering, were supplemented by 15 alternate-plumage birds June 19, presumed early fall migrants (both DR). An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper at the Salinas R. mouth June 23 (DGY, RJR) provided one of very few June records, while 8 coastal reports July 26-31 were about normal. A very late northbound ad. Baird's Sandpiper was at L. Earl June 6 (ADB), the Region's only June record. Wilson's Phalaropes at the Alviso salt ponds, *Santa Clara*, June 5-12 (MFi et al.) and in s. *Sacramento* all period (TDM, PDE) were thought to be nesting, a rare event away from the Great Basin.

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

A rare summer S. Polar Skua was offshore *Monterey* June 27 (DLSh, L. Cole). Of eight Franklin's Gulls, the adult and immature at Lower Klamath N.W.R. July 19 (RE) stand out because the species has nested there (AB 43:1363). A first summer Mew Gull at Sunnysvale July 28 (PJM) was one of few credible summer reports. Ten Sabine's Gulls from

Cordell Bank to F.I. June 20 (SFB, JM, DR) were stragglers in the area of most previous June records.

An early high count of Elegant Terns was 830 on June 7 at Bolinas Lagoon (KH). By late July, a n.w. coast record 3000 Elegants were estimated in Humboldt Bay, evenly divided between n. and s. portions of the bay (FJB et al.). Ten Arctic Terns from Cordell Bank to F.I., June 20 (SFB, JM, DR) were early, late, or both. Up to five Least Terns at Salinas R. mouth through June (m.ob.) included a dive-bombing pair, strongly suggesting the first nesting attempt in Monterey since 1955. Four Black Terns were in Alameda June 6-7 (RJR, LJP) and another stopped at Salinas R. mouth June 7 (JHb). Three or four Black Terns in Monterey Bay July 8 (DLm *vide* AB) were farther from their inland haunts.

A Black Skimmer was at Hayward Shoreline June 7 (RJR) and two were at Alameda June 7-8 (LJP, LLu, AD, JM, ES). These were presumably the same birds seen in spring and during most recent migration seasons around Monterey Bay, but they spend most of each summer hidden in the S.F. Bay's extensive salt ponds.

Xantus' Murrelets remained widespread, with a pair north to 4.5 mi off Trinidad, Humboldt, June 25 (SWH). Four Craver's Murrelets offshore Monterey June 27 (DLSh, L. Cole) produced our first summer record; Aug. 8 had been the record-early arrival.

DOVES TO SWALLOWS

A White-winged Dove at Pt. Reyes June 26 (BiL, MLR, DDeS) was only the Region's 2nd in spring. Though we received no word on the Sacramento Valley's Yellow-billed Cuckoo population, one was banded at Lamphere Dunes, Humboldt, June 4 (CJR), one was at last year's site in Sierra Valley June 18-July 30 (E. Meyers) and one at Modoc N.W.R. July 3 was the first there in 5 years (RLR). Intense surveys for Burrowing Owls in Monterey by a local Audubon group produced only 14 pairs with none in the Elkhorn Slough/Castroville area where there had been 5-10 pairs only 5 years ago (DR, m.ob.). A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Truckee, Nevada, July 27-28 (†M. Meyers) was yet another Sierran record away from their traditional Mono strongholds where sightings have increased in recent years. Extralimital records of Costa's Hummingbird are regular throughout most of the Region, however, up to five in the Owens R. Gorge, Mono, June 23 (PJM) constituted a first for our Great Basin away from the Fall R. Valley.

A very well described ♀ Three-toed Woodpecker at Dixie Mt., Plumas, June 26 (†LJ) would be only the state's 2nd pending acceptance by the C.B.R.C. The first was in the remote Warner Mts. Nov. 2, 1985 over 100 mi to the north. Flycatchers were apparently not involved in the major displacement of eastern passerines as one Least Flycatcher at Pt. Reyes June 7 (M. Bergstrom et al.), six vagrant E. Kingbirds June 1-23, and a Scis-

sor-tailed Flycatcher in Olema, Marin, June 28-30 (P. Snyder, S. Johnson, †ph. LLu et al.) were a meager showing.

About 20 Violet-green Swallows e. of Rancho Seco June 14 (TDM et al.) included recently fledged young for one of few Sacramento breeding records; their nesting habits in the low Sierran foothills are very poorly known. The state Threatened Bank Swallow has seen dramatic population reductions in recent years despite new colonies found in Mono and along the n. coast. The largest colony has been in Fall R. Valley, Shasta. Despite the relocation of this colony due to predators (snakes, ground squirrels, and skunks—DPM), this year 5000 birds were counted June 1 in McArthur (KvG)! This is almost 10 times the recent concentrations for the Region, but we have no idea whether or not these birds are from colony failures along the Sacramento R.

CHICKADEES TO PHAINOPEPLA

With Mountain Chickadees again nesting on Cone Peak and a family group rediscovered on Junipero Serra Peak July 5 (CT, KiK), they are again present in Sugar Pines over 5000 ft. in the s. Santa Lucia Mts., Monterey (DR). A Cactus Wren at White Mt. Ranch s. of Benton, Mono, June 26 (RSTh) was only the Region's 2nd. This species is a local resident just to the south in Inyo. Nesting Rock Wrens in Fair Oaks, Sacramento, June 30 (GEw) may have been at a record-low elevation in the C.V. The family of Winter Wrens in Redwood Regional Park June 24 (†SAG) established a nesting first for Contra Costa. Three Am. Dippers at Arroyo Hondo, Santa Clara, July 19 (MMR, AL, JY) represented one of few resident populations in the Diablo Range (WGB).

The Region scored big time with rare thrushes this spring as Veery at Pt. Reyes June 4 (†SNGH), Gray-cheeked Thrush at the Smith R. mouth, Del Norte, June 6 (†ADB), and Wood Thrush at Dechambeau Cr., Mono, June 2-7 (†D. Parker, †DS et al.) were the Region's 3rd, first, and 2nd during spring, respectively. Nesting Varied Thrushes were again documented at Butano State Park, San Mateo, all Period (†DLSu et al.) as at least three singing males and a female carrying nesting material were observed. Gray Catbirds near Merced June 6 (†AD), Red Lake, Alpine, June 23 (†L. Comrack), and Pt. Reyes June 25 (ph.RS) came to an unprecedented spring total. The Region's 2nd summering Brown Thrasher completed its pre-basic molt in Daly City, San Mateo, early-July to mid-August (†RFz, m.ob.). The Bendire's Thrasher at F. I. June 26 may very well have been a bird of the fall since they breed so early. Two Phainopeplas on S. Fork Rd. along the Trinity R. July 24 (D. Fix) were Trinity's first.

VIREOS AND WOOD WARBLERS

Extensive surveys by 3 teams along 6-8 mi of the Salinas R. near Bradley, Monterey, June 6 (DR et al.) produced no Bell's Vireos where

three were found in 1983. Additionally, Yellow and Wilson's warblers along with Yellow-breasted Chat were in much lower numbers than 1983; Brown-headed Cowbirds, of course, were more numerous than ever (DR). A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Centerville, Humbolt, June 26 (†ph.BBA, LPL, †GSL).

S.A.

As mentioned in the spring report, one of the most noteworthy events to occur in the Region was the unprecedented number of s.e. passerine vagrants. This event was not confined to n. California, as these species broke records for arrival dates and total numbers in states and Regions throughout the west. Because these species comprise a distinct subset of s.e. migrants (*i.e.* relatively early trans-Gulf-of-Mexico migrants) and because the phenomenon was widespread, we feel that spring weather patterns are an appropriate starting point for possible explanation. In fact there were some highly unusual weather phenomena associated with the spring of 1992. Rather than the typical S or SE winds that flow across the Gulf from Yucatan to the n. Gulf coast in spring, 1992 was characterized by a series of weak high-pressure systems that tended to sit over the s.e. states generating E winds across the Gulf. From mid-to-late April there were several sustained conditions that produced E and even NE winds across the Gulf that dominated the weather for days. Extraordinary for the time of the year, this condition set up a pattern of persistent E and SE flow of air across the s.w. all the way to California and the effect should have been to shift the trans-Gulf flight westward. The early first arrival dates of these vagrants support the hypothesis that these unusual weather patterns were at least partially responsible for this unique situation.—Scott B. Terrill and Kenneth P. Able.

The vagrant warblers that seemingly were affected by the anomalous weather patterns over the Gulf of Mexico are listed in Table 1. Some species had impressive early movements during May, but had more "normal" spring totals during June-July. Not coincidentally, the unaffected species consisted of the more n. breeding group that tends to migrate later in the season: nine Tennessees June 3-July 6, five Chestnut-sideds May 31-June 12, five Magnolias June 3-27, no Black-throated Greens, one Blackburnian June 2, two Blackpolls June 6-17, one N. Waterthrush June 19, and two Canadas June 1-3.

The Region's 5th spring Golden-winged Warbler in Alpers Canyon above Mammoth L., Mono, July 15 (†DS) was the state's first in July (summering?). Among four Virginia's Warblers at Benton Hot Springs, June 26 (DS), one feeding young established yet another breeding locale in Mono. Intense surveys for Yellow Warblers in the Glass Mt.

Table 1—Eastern U.S. passerine migrants that moved through N. California in unprecedented numbers this spring.

Species	1992 Spring Total (May-July)	Recent 10-year avg. (May-July)
Gray Catbird	3	.4
Yellow-throated Vireo	3	.3
Red-eyed Vireo	14	3.0
N. Parula	88	6.5
Yellow-throated Warbler	3	1.0
Prairie Warbler	2	.1
Black-and-white Warbler	21	8.8
Am. Redstart	57	12.5
Prothonotary Warbler	1	.1
Worm-eating Warbler	8	.2
Ovenbird	17	9.2
Kentucky Warbler	10	1.5
Hooded Warbler	29	3.0
Summer Tanager	12	1.1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	53	17.4
Indigo Bunting	33	13.3

range, *Mono*, revealed the species to be a very local and uncommon breeder. The densest population was an estimated 10 pairs in the Owens R. Gorge, which was still several miles from known concentrations of the presumed exterminator, Brown-headed Cowbird (PJM). Three additional Yellow-throated Warblers graced the Region this spring: two at Pt. Reyes June 2 with one still there June 3 (E. Holst, T. Easterla, †JM, †RS, m.ob.) and one in Arcata July 3 (†FJB, †GSL, †ph.BBA *et al.*). Our 2nd Prairie Warbler of the spring was in Fairhaven June 23–July 7 (JCS). The Region's first summering Bay-breasted Warbler was also in Fairhaven June 15–July 3 (GSL, LPL). Among six Worm-eating Warblers May 31–June 24, most interesting was the Region's 2nd summering record at C.C.R.S. June 17–August (SSBT *et al.*). The Kentucky Warbler at Tahoe Donner Ski Area remained until June 27 (Region's first summering record) while additional Kentuckys were at E.I. June 1 & 7, and Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, June 14–21 (†SFB, †DR, m.ob.). A ♀ Com. Yellowthroat feeding young at Black L. in the Adobe Valley June 27 (DS) was the species' first confirmed breeding for the Mono Basin, though this has long been suspected there.

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

As noted in Table 1 Summer Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks also appeared to be caught up in the big W push. All sightings were coastal except for the birds mentioned in the spring report and the following: a Summer Tanager along Putah Cr., *Yolo*, June 13 (RS) and single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Davis, *Yolo*, June 5 (K. Kemmerling) and Alamo, *Contra Costa*, June 7 (RJR). Amid this flurry, it is not surprising that the latter species established its first Regional nesting record when a ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen sharing nest-sitting duties and even-

ually feeding two young with a ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak in Tilden Regional Park, *Contra Costa*, June 1–July 8 (B. Gillis, †KGGH, JM, m.ob.). However, first blood on nesting Rose-breasted Grosbeak may have been drawn in *Monterey* when an apparent one-year-old ♂ Rose-breasted × Black-headed appeared in Del Rey Oaks July 29–early August. The bird was in a yard that has held a summering ♂ Rose-breasted for 3 consecutive years, and was very possibly its hybrid young from a year ago (N. & M. Citron, †ph.DR).

A Blue Grosbeak at White Mt. Ranch, *Mono*, June 26 (RSTh) was only the Region's 2nd for the Great Basin District. However, this species is known to breed just outside our Region at nearby *Oasis, Mono, and Owens Valley*. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Brisbane, *San Mateo*, June 6 (ASH) and two at L. Earl, *Del Norte*, June 6–17 (ADB *et al.*) were very rare mainland sightings; most spring records are from E.I. A Brewer's Sparrow was in McArthur, *Shasta*, June 1 (KvG) where they are suspected of breeding. *Shasta* claimed its first Grasshopper Sparrows with two singing males at McArthur June 1 (KvG). Single Bobolinks at E.I., June 1–2 and Bodega Harbor June 1 (C. Demartini) met the recent spring average.

S.A.

Unprecedented numbers of Tricolored Blackbirds were reported this year, including a colony of more than 60,000 breeding adults in *Kings*. Colonies were discovered in previously unoccupied counties such as *Humboldt, Mendocino, and Napa*, and breeding was reported in *Yolo* for the first time in 2 decades. The current breeding population probably stands at about 250,000 adults, a major increase from estimates compiled in the late 1980's which averaged about 50,000 adults (range 35,000–100,000). This recent increase suggests a favorable breeding response to the unusually wet early springs in the s. *San Joaquin Valley* the past few years. Monitoring of current occupied sites and the search for new ones in California and Oregon during the next few years will be important to assess the variables that will lead to proper management for this highly unpredictable species. Send observations on size, success, nesting substrate, and dates to AB regional editor DGY.—Edward C. Beedy.

A Great-tailed Grackle at Dechambeau Ponds, *Mono L.*, June 14 (AD) was only the Region's 2nd for the Great Basin. Two ♂ Scott's Orioles near Benton Hot Springs, *Mono*, June 26 (DS) were the Region's first for its Great Basin District, though the species regularly breeds in arid woodlands just out of the Region to the s. and e. of this area.



Masked Booby at the Salinas River mouth, California, June 22, 1992. Photograph/Stephen F. Bailey.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

The warm waters associated with El Niño adversely affected nesting success of such birds as Brandt's Cormorants and Western Gulls on the Channel Islands (Gerry McChesney), and are believed to have adversely affected seabirds breeding in western Mexico, dispersing them northward into southern California waters earlier than normal. Shearwaters and storm-petrels were concentrated in colder waters along the immediate coast, delighting sea-watchers from Orange County northward. The unprecedented spring influx of Northern Parulas, Kentucky, and Hooded warblers resulted in some remaining through the summer, including the first records for nesting Northern

Parula in southern California and Hooded Warbler in the state.

Abbreviations: C.L.N.W.A.S. (*China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.M., Inyo*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino County*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside County*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino County Museum*); S.B.M.N.H. (*Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County*); S.F.K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern County*). As virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by

many observers, only the observer initially finding and identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515) for all rarities listed in this report. Records submitted without documentation are not published.

GREBES TO STORM-PETRELS

The breeding status of the two *Aechmophorus* grebes in s. California is still poorly known; hence any information is important. This summer 60+ pairs of W. Grebes successfully nested on L. Cachuma, *Santa Barbara*, along with 80+ pairs of Clark's Grebes and 2 mixed pairs (PEL); a downy young W. Grebe picked up at L. Casitas July 25 (KL, * S.B.M.N.H.) establishes the first record for nesting in *Ventura*; at least 3 pairs of W. Grebes raised young on L. Palmdale for what appears to be the first nesting record in *Los Angeles*, and four young Clark's Grebes were seen on the nearby Piute Ponds July 25–Aug. 16 (KLG); both species successfully nested on L. Isabella, *Kern*, with Westerns easily outnumbering Clark's (MTH), and the presence of four downy Clark's on Klondike L. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, July 4 (T & JH) documenting nesting at that locality.

A worn N. Fulmar near Santa Cruz I., July 9 (MAH) and another near the w. end of Santa Rosa I., July 25 (MH) were undoubtedly summering in these waters. About 300 Cook's Petrels were seen at about 200 mi off the coast and beyond during a CAL COFI scientific survey cruise July 2–16 (PP). A Stejneger's Petrel was at 31° 06'N 121° 04'W (153 naut. mi s.w. of San Nicolas I.) July 3 (PP), another was at 32° 13'N 123° 33'W (189 naut. mi w.s.w. of San Miguel I.) July 10

(PP), and a 3rd was just outside the Region at 32° 01'N 123° 56'W (212 naut. mi w.s.w. of San Miguel I.) the same day (PP).

Buller's Shearwater 32 naut. mi s. of San Clemente I., July 3 (PP) is one of a very few to be found in s. California waters in July, and was also s. of the areas of most frequent occurrence. Small numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters were present in s. California waters throughout the summer, with numbers increasing in July as indicated by 500 off La Jolla, *San Diego*, July 7–9 (PAG), 30,000 off Newport Beach, Orange, July 31 (MTH), up to 500 a day from Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, throughout June (3000 present June 28–DD), 75 in the Santa Barbara Channel July 9 (SEF), and hundreds off the Santa Maria R. mouth, *Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo*, July 26 (JSR), suggesting many failed to nest this year. One off San Diego July 2 (PP) had the white of the underparts extending up on the flanks, and nto the rump, much as on a Townsend's Shearwater, indicating that this mark alone cannot be relied on to identify Townsend's Shearwaters.

The sighting of up to 10 Ashy Storm-Petrels a day from the pier in Newport Beach, *Orange*, after June 20 (BED) was unexpected since this species is considered rare off extreme s. California. Least Storm-Petrels arrived in s. California waters earlier than normal, with the earliest being one off the Palos Verdes Pen., *Los Angeles*, June 14 (MH), and with high counts including 80 from the pier in Newport Beach July 21 (MTH) and 200 in the Santa Barbara Channel July 12 (PP).

TROPICBIRDS TO STORKS

A Red-billed Tropicbird 84 naut. mi s.w. of San Clemente I., July 3 (PP), another 128 naut. mi w. of San Miguel I., July 13 (PP), a 3rd 5 mi s. of Catalina I., July 16 (*vide* PP), and a 4th 5 mi off the s.e. end of San Miguel I., July 25 (MH), were in waters where small numbers probably occur each year; one seen along the coast of the Palos Verdes Pen. on 3 days between July 5 & 19 (MH, L.C., LT) is the first Redbilled Tropicbird to be reported seen from shore in s. California.

An ad. Masked Booby that flew S past Pt. Mugu June 20 (DD, BH) and a first-year bird seen from the pier in Newport Beach June 30 (BED, DRW) are the 2nd and 3rd to be seen in s. California, and, including the adult present in *Monterey* this summer, constitute the 4th and 5th to be recorded in the state. An ad. Brown Booby, a casual straggler to California waters, was seen plunge-diving off the e. side of Santa Barbara I., June 2 (DW).

Brown Pelican numbers built up to over 600 on the Salton Sea in June (GMcC) and were more numerous than usual along the coast, but in-



cluding very few young of the year.

An unusually early imm. Magnificent Frigatebird at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, June 10 (LF), was followed by single immatures along the coast over Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, July 1 (PJ), near Ventura, *Ventura*, July 8 (*vide* DD), near the Santa Maria R. mouth July 9 (JMC), and over Newport Beach July 9 (JB); two immatures were also seen inland at S.E.S.S. June 24-25 (WRR) and another there Aug. 6 (DP).

An Am. Bittern at S.E.S.S. June 13 (MAP) is one of a very few to be found here in summer. An impressive heronry at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. consisted of 12 pairs of Great Blue Herons, 140 pairs of Great Egrets, 150 pairs of Snowy Egrets, 25,000+ pairs of Cattle Egrets, 1300 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 370 pairs of White-faced Ibises, all successfully fledging young by early July and the Cattle Egrets sitting on 2nd clutches at the end of the period (WRR). The presence of a Great Egret on a nest at L. Cachuma July 29 (PEL) established the first record for breeding in *Santa Barbara*.

Away from s. San Diego Bay, where a small population of Little Blue Herons is resident, a "calico" bird was at Hansen Dam in Sunland, *Los Angeles*, July 4-15 (DA), an adult was present in the Prado Basin near Corona, *Riverside*, throughout June and July (JEP), and up to two adults were at S.E.S.S., June 6-July 18 (MAP, GMcC). An ad. Tricolored Heron, casual to accidental way from coastal *San Diego*, was at S.E.S.S., July 4-11 (HK). The first-summer Reddish Egret present around s. San Diego Bay after Apr. 17 was still present June 19 (GMcC), and is one of a very few to linger this late into the summer in California. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that attempted nesting with a Black-crowned Night-Heron in La Jolla in April was still present July 25 (RR). Wood Storks arrived at S.E.S.S. later than normal, with 23 on July 23 (WRR) being the high count this year—a far cry from the hundreds found here as recently as 12 years ago.

DUCKS TO RAILS

An ad. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was at S.E.S.S., July 6 (WRR), and what was probably the same bird was at the mouth of the Whitewater R. at N.E.S.S. July 10 (NH) providing the 11th record of this species in California. A Brant photographed on Klondike L. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, June 5-6 (T & JH) would appear to be a lost spring migrant; 130 were counted on the Salton Sea, where small numbers attempt to summer each year, during an aerial survey on July 2 (WRR). Seven Ring-necked Ducks, rare in summer, on Diaz L. near Lone Pine, *Inyo*, June 9 (T & JH), and another on Klondike L. near Big Pine June 13 (T & JH) may have been late stragglers, but up to 12 on L. Cachuma during July (PEL) clearly summered. The ♀ Harlequin Duck present at Pt. Mugu since November 1990 was last seen in April, the male at the same place was still present Aug. 2

(BL)r and the male in Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo*, after May 24 was still present July 5 (TME). Summering Oldsquaws included two remaining in Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, through June (MH), two more at Pt. Mugu through July 3 with one still present Aug. 2 (BL), and the male found on Morro Bay Apr. 25 remaining through the period (TME). The Black Scoter found on Morro Bay May 17 was still present June 18 (TME), and an ad. male was at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, June 12-18 (JC).

A first-summer Mississippi Kite well-studied over Norwalk July 1 (NJS) is the 2nd to be recorded in *Los Angeles*. Up to three Bald Eagles were present on L. Cachuma throughout the period, and nesting was suspected (MAH). An ad. N. Goshawk, a very rare breeding bird in the mountains of s. California, was seen over Metcalf Meadow near Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts. June 16 (*vide* GH). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks nesting in Lone Pine in June (T & JH) is the first confirmation of breeding in *Inyo*. A pair of Swainson's Hawks that fledged three young e. of Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, at the end of July (KLG) may have been the only pair nesting in the Region this summer. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks on Hot Springs Mt., *San Diego*, June 20-21 (PU) was undoubtedly the same pair seen here May 16, and probably bred at this known nesting locality.

The presence of a juv. Sora in Goleta June 13-30 (RGJ) strongly suggested local nesting, and if so, is the first in *Santa Barbara* in modern times.

SHOREBIRDS TO PUFFINS

A Black Oystercatcher seen flying past the Newport Beach pier July 8 (LRH) is one of a very few ever to be found in *Orange*. An ad. *Solitary Sandpiper at Hansen Dam in Sunland July 10 (DA) and another on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine July 18 (T & JH) were the earliest to be reported this fall. A Ruddy Turnstone at H.D.L., July 26 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.), another at S.E.S.S. July 18 (GMcC), and two at N.E.S.S., July 25 (MAP) were the only ones found away from the immediate coast. Twelve Red Knots at S.E.S.S., July 25 (KFC) were the only ones found inland. An ad. Little Stint well photographed in Irvine, Orange, July 25-28 (DRW) is the 4th to be found in s. California, and the 6th for the state.

The earliest Baird's Sandpiper this fall was an adult near Lancaster July 19 (KLG). An ad. Pectoral Sandpiper at C.L.N.A.W.S. July 29 (DVB) was the only one reported by period's end. A Dunlin in alternate-plumage near Santa Maria July 31-Aug. 3 (JMC) was unusually early. A basic-plumage Stilt Sandpiper at S.E.S.S., June 13 (GMcC, MAP) was believed to be summering locally; previous records include spring migrants to as late as May 21, and fall migrants returning as early as June 29. An adult in Irvine July 25 (DRW) was the only one reported away from the Salton Sea.

A ♀ Ruff was photographed along the

coast at Pt. Mugu July 18-Aug. 5 (NBB), and a male was at C.L.N.A.W.S., July 20 through the end of the period (RH). More than the expected number of Red Phalaropes were found along the coast in June and July, and one was inland on L. Cachuma July 14 (MAH).

Three S. Polar Skuas between 15-30 mi w. of San Clemente I. July 7 (PP) were well off shore where expected, but single birds 2 mi off Huntington Beach, *Orange*, July 5 (SM), on the coast at Pt. Mugu June 7 (DD), and one mi off Santa Barbara July 25 (MH) were unusually close to land.

A first-summer Franklin's Gull at N.E.S.S., June 13 (MAP) was probably a late spring straggler, but two there July 18 (GMcC) were exceptionally early returning juveniles. A Laughing Gull, rare along the coast, was at Pelican Pt., *Orange*, July 3 (BED, MTH). A first-summer Little Gull at N.E.S.S., July 4 (GMcC, MAP) is best considered the same bird seen here May 10. An ad. Herring Gull on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine June 12 (T & JH) was most unusual, this species being very rare in this part of California at any time of the year, and anywhere in the state in summer. Yellow-footed Gulls dispersed N to the Salton Sea earlier than normal, with more than 150 present May 31 (GMcC), but with no juveniles noted, as is normal in July, strongly suggesting nesting failures in the Gulf of California. Four first-summer Sabine's Gulls off Newport Beach July 7 (MTH) and another off nearby Pelican Pt., July 19 (BED) were believed to be summering locally, but an adult at Pt. Mugu July 23 (DD) was probably an early S. migrant.

In the w. U.S. Gull-billed Terns are confined to s. California and warrant monitoring. One nesting attempt at S.E.S.S. this year largely failed when a large flock of Brown Pelicans landed on the breeding island and broke a majority of the eggs; by summer's end only 3 pairs fledged young at the 2 S.E.S.S. colonies, and an additional 25-30 pairs had fledged young at N.E.S.S. (KCM), and along the coast, where a recent colonizer, 30 pairs fledged young on s. *San Diego Bay* (EC).

The first breeding record for Caspian Terns on the Salton Sea in more than 30 years was obtained when 30 nests were found on Mullet I. at S.E.S.S., June 25 (KM). An Arctic Tern at Goleta Pt., June 15 (PEL) was on the immediate coast where its presence is most unusual, and was late for a spring migrant. Two Least Terns, very rare to casual stragglers to the Salton Sea, were at S.E.S.S., June 6 (MAP), another was there July 4 (MAP), two more were at N.E.S.S., June 11 (MAP), and a 6th was there July 4-11 (MAP).

Pigeon Guillemots appeared s. of their normal range on the coast, with one at Leo Carrillo State Beach, *Los Angeles*, June 29 (SM), another flying past Pt. Vicente on the Palos Verdes Pen., July 18 (B. Schlinger, *vide* MH), single birds off Newport Beach on July 7 (MTH) & 9 (LRH), and two in La Jolla June 12-14 (TC).

A Xantus' Murrelet that landed on the

CAL COFI cruise ship during the night of July 3–4 (PP) far off San Diego, and three more seen off San Miguel I., July 11 (PP) were of the s. form *hypoleuca* that regularly moves N into s. California waters after nesting. Two Craveri's Murrelets, regular post-breeding visitors to s. California waters, were off Pelican Pt., July 19 (MTH), another was off Newport Beach July 21 (MTH), one was at Pt. Mugu July 21 (DD), another was at Goleta Pt., July 25 (PEL), and two more were about 15 mi s.w. of Santa Rosa I. the same day (GMcC).

The presence of two alternate-plumage Rhinoceros Auklets at the sea-cliffs in Avila Beach, *San Luis Obispo*, July 31 (TME) strongly suggests nesting at that locality. Since Tufted Puffins are rarely encountered in s. California, the presence of one in alternate-plumage on Prince Islet off San Miguel I., May 5 (Lynne Stenzel, *vide* DJL) is of interest.

DOVES TO VIREOS

A White-winged Dove in San Simeon, *San Luis Obispo*, July 3 (RS) was well to the n.w. of the species' normal range. Two Inca Doves were still present at F.C.R., July 21 (GH), and another was near Tecopa July 1–13 (JT), these localities being n. of the species' normal California range. At least one Ruddy Ground-Dove was still present at F.C.R., July 21 (GH) providing the first record for summer in the state.

Away from the Colorado R. valley Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found at 8 localities, with at least three around Big Pine June 7–July 15 (T & JH), one at China Ranch near Tecopa, *Inyo*, July 13 (JT), but at S.F.K.R.P. throughout the summer (SL—23 nests found, 50 birds banded), up to two along the Mojave R. near Victorville, San Bernardino, June 16–Aug. 29 (SJM), one on the Santa Clara R., e. of Piru, Yentura, July 19 (MAH), one in Guajome Regional Pk. near Oceanside, San Diego, June 11–12 (FRT), up to three at the e. end of L. Hodges, *San Diego*, July 14–22 (JS, DWA), and a late migrant at Oasis, *Mono*, June 25 (RST).

A Short-eared Owl flushed from a nest with 8 eggs on Santa Barbara I., Apr. 15 (Trudy Ingram, *vide* DLJ) establishes breeding at that locality, and one seen doing breeding display flights at H.D.L., May 18 (EAC) suggests nesting at that locality; numbers of this species in s. California have declined drastically in recent years.

A Com. Nighthawk well-studied on Santa Barbara I., June 21 (DLJ) is the first to be found on the Channel Is., and another calling over Bakersfield June 13 (SF) provides the first record of this species in the s. San Joaquin Valley. Seven Black Swifts at Ragged Pt., *San Luis Obispo*, July 3 (GPS) were at a locality where nesting has been suspected for a number of years, but not yet confirmed. As usual, a small number of Chimney Swifts spent the summer in and around downtown Los Angeles (KLG, DA, MH). A *Chaetura* at N.E.S.S., June 11 (MAP) was suspected to be a Chimney Swift, the more likely species in s.



Ruff [center—with dowitchers] at Pt. Mugu, California, on July 18, 1992. Photograph/Don Desjardin.

California at this time of the year. A pair of Belted Kingfishers nesting along the Mojave R. near Victorville in May–June (MAP) provides the first breeding record in this area of California.

A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher near Chino, *San Bernardino*, July 16 (KFC) was away from areas of regular occurrence; a pair nesting in Ridgecrest this summer (RH) and another pair nesting in Santa Barbara Canyon near the Cuyama Valley in May/June (S & BS, * S.B.M.N.H.) establish the first breeding records for *Kern* and *Santa Barbara* respectively. Up to four Brown-crested Flycatchers near Tecopa during June and July (JT) were at the extreme n. limit of this species' range in California, and another pair near Victorville all summer (SJM) was at the w. extreme of this species' range. An E. Kingbird at the N.E.S.S., June 18 (PEN) and another in Independence, *Inyo*, July 2 (AK) were summer stragglers.

A Cactus Wren at Schulman Grove in the White Mts., *Inyo*, July 17 (T & JH) was a little n. of the species' range, and at an unusually high elevation (10,000 feet) Two pairs of W. Bluebirds at nest holes around Upper Covington Flat in Joshua Tree N.M., *San Bernardino*, May 13–20 (BP) were in an area where breeding is previously unknown. Additional records of White-eyed Vireos, all singing males, were provided by one along the upper stretch of Arrastrite Cr, e. of Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts., June 23–24 (GH), one near San Juan Capistrano, *Orange*, June 26–28 (BED), another near Tecopa July 9–11 (JT), and a 4rth along the Santa Margareta R. at Camp Pendleton, *San Diego*, July 12–19 (PAG). to bring this year's total for s. California to nine. Two races of Bell's Vireos breed in s. California, with *pusillus* along the coast and *arizonae* along the Colorado River; a singing male on S.F.K.R.P., May 19–29 (JS) and pairs near Victorville during May–June (SJM) are assumed to be *pusillus*, and two singing males near Palo Verde, *Imperial*, May 30 (MAP)

were in the known range of *arizonae*. However, one can only speculate as to which race two singing males at F.C.R., May 17–July 3 (T & JH) and another singing male near Tecopa July 1–2 (JT) were—this stimulating investigation by Michael A. Patten. The Yellow-throated Vireo found in Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge, *Los Angeles*, June 9 was still present July 9 (GB), and another was near Mono Cr Campground, *Santa Barbara*, June 26–July 1 (HPR). A Red-eyed Vireo in Goleta June 17–22 (NS) and another at Hansen Dam in Sunland July 2 (DA) are two of a very few found in s. California in mid-summer.

WOOD WARBLERS

At least 2 pairs of Lucy's Warblers near Borego Springs, San Diego, in April and May (DWA), two in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino, July 19 (MAP), and, one near Victorville June 2 (MAP) were at the w. extreme of this species' breeding range. A few N. Parulas probably birds reaching s. California during the spring influx, were noted well into the summer, with single singing males near Nipomo, *San Luis Obispo*, June 21 (BKS), near Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara*, June 8–28 (MAH), in Santa Barbara June 23 (HPR), at Chilao in the San Gabriel Mts., *Los Angeles*, June 15 (DS), in La Canada Flintridge June 11 (KLG), and near Carlsbad, *San Diego*, July 2 (DRW); A pair on Agua Dulce Cr in the Laguna Mts. of *San Diego* June 11–July 4 (TC) and another pair that fledged young from a nest at Mountain Home Village in the San Bernardino Mts. in June (IDG) were also noted. Single Black-and-white Warblers, unexpected in mid-summer, were in La Canada Flintridge July 8 (GB), Santa Barbara July 5–13 (HPR), and at San Marcos Pass above Santa Barbara July 31–Aug. 3 (JH). A young ♂ Am. Redstart in Huntington Beach June 3–20, with two present on June 20 (BED), and another on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* June 23 (REW) were probably very late spring vagrants. A Worm-eating

Warbler in Montana de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo*, June 28 (BKS) was probably a lost spring straggler. A Magnolia Warbler in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, June 24 (MB) was probably a very late spring vagrant.

A N. Waterthrush in Goleta June 17 (SEF) is one of a very few to be found in California at this time. Kentucky Warblers remained through the summer along the Santa Ynez R. watershed in *Santa Barbara*, with the number at Juncal Campground increasing from two to as many as four June 10–July 27 (JH), at least two at P-Bar June 15–Aug. 3 (JMG), and another male was near Mono Cr Campground June 22 (JMG), bringing the total found in this area since May 24 to at least 11 (possibly 13), with seven of these caught and banded. The presence of a pair of MacGillivray's Warblers with a juvenile at San Marcos Pass June 4–19 (MAH) established the first breeding record for *Santa Barbara*.

Hooded Warblers also remained through the summer after the unprecedented influx this spring: a singing male found in Montana de Oro S.P., June 1 was still present Aug. 4 (TME), and was joined by another male June 28 (TME) and a female July 27 (JSR); a singing male was found in Santa Barbara May 16 present through at least July 22 (SEF); a male found at Juncal Campground on the upper stretch of the Santa Ynez R., June 16 was still present July 27 (RWH); at least 2 pairs remained on S.F.K.R.P. all summer (JS) with 3 attempts at nesting, and at least one pair remaining in Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge successfully fledging young from a nest Aug. 9 (GB, KLG). In addition a male was present on the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve near Murrieta, *Riverside*, June 27–July 10 (WJM), accompanied by a female on July 1 (MAP); a male was near Victorville June 17 (RAE); a male was at Hansen Dam in Sunland July 2 (DA), and another male was in La Jolla June 24–25 (CGE).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Four Hepatic Tanagers on Clark Mt. in e. *San Bernardino* May 23–24 (RJR) were at a known breeding locality. Four pairs of Summer Tanagers near Victorville through the summer (SJM) and a male near Tecopa July 1 (JT) were on the fringe of this species' breeding range in California; single males in Independence June 15 (T & JH) and Big Pine June 16 (T & JH) were n. of this species' range; a male at L. Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mts., May 31 (CAL) was at an unusually high elevation, and single birds in Goleta June 13 (RGJ), La Canada Flintridge July 30 (GB), Sunland July 6 (DA), and near Carlsbad July 22–24 (DRW) were w. of this species' range. A pair of W. Tanagers seen carrying nesting material in Cerro Alto Campground June 6–8 (K & JH) gives us the best evidence of breeding in *San Luis Obispo* to date. The presence of a pair of N. Cardinals with a recently fledged young at the *San Bernardino/Riverside* line on the Colorado R. May 31 (AME) shows this species is still

holding on as a breeding bird in this area. Reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks include single birds near Santa Ynez July 4 (JH), near Victorville June 11 (SJM), in Malibu, *Los Angeles*, June 12 (BE), La Jolla June 27 (JM), and near Del Mar, *San Diego*, June 25 (BZ). At least 12 ♂ Indigo Buntings, a species expanding its range into s. California, were found scattered throughout the Region, with some of these remaining on territories for extended periods of time, which now appears normal; in addition a ♂ Indigo Bunting paired with a Lazuli Bunting in Cajon Pass, *San Bernardino*, and successfully fledged two young, and a ♂ Indigo × Lazuli Bunting hybrid paired with a Lazuli Bunting at the same locality and attending a nest June 2–24 (KFC) that appeared destroyed by predators.

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, July 25 (T & JH) was exceptionally early for a fall migrant if it didn't summer locally. A Brewer's Sparrow nest with 4 eggs near Winchester, *Riverside*, May 13 (RMCK) was far from the nearest known breeding locality. A Black-throated Sparrow in Costa Mesa, *Orange*, July 18 (RAH) was on the immediate coast where its presence is very rare. A Large-billed Savannah Sparrow at Bolsa Chica June 14 (RAE) was very early, but no more of these post-breeding visitors from Baja California were reported by season's end. A pair of Dark-eyed (Oregon) Juncos fledged young in Huntington Beach in June (DRW), this being the first successful nesting in coastal *Orange*, and the only locality away from La Jolla where this species has nested on the immediate coast s. of *Ventura*.

Most interesting was the presence of six ♂ Bobolinks displaying to two females in a fallow pasture in Independence June 2–14 (AK): unfortunately this apparent attempt at nesting was aborted when 200 cattle were released into the pasture. A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird near Tecopa July 1–13, with a female accompanying it July 1 (JT), establishes the 2nd record for *Inyo*, the first being a male photographed in Tecopa on May 10, 1985 (JT); this species appears to be expanding its range in s. California, with four to five in Brawley, *Imperial*, May 10 through the summer (GMcC), and five together near N.E.S.S., July 4 (GMcC) being w. of the Colorado R. valley.

Up to 20 Red Crossbills seen feeding recently fledged young around Bluff L. in the San Bernardino Mts. during June and July (GH) showed this species to have nested locally.

EXOTICS

The hybrid offspring of a Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*) mated with a Red-and-green Macaw (*Ara chloroptera*) that nested on Pt. Loma in San Diego this summer (REW) boggles the mind, and illustrates what may occur where numbers of a variety of *Psittacids* are flying free. The presence of two Red-whiskered Bulbuls at Charlton Flat at 5000 feet in the San Gabriel Mts. in June (KLG) indicates that not all escapees remain around population centers, and the presence

of two displaying Golden Weavers (*Ploceus subaureus*) building nests along the Los Angeles R. throughout the summer (KLG) shows escapees will breed if the opportunity arises.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

June remained dry, but the rains returned in July to bring June–July totals above seasonal normals at most stations. Remnant dry weather effects of El Niño are expected to persist for a while in Hawai'i even though the event is disappearing in the equatorial Pacific. Poor nesting success for some Hawaiian honeycreepers this year was probably related to the very dry winter and spring of this El Niño year.

Abbreviations: H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*). [NOTE: † = good written details submitted]

ALBATROSSES TO STORM-PETRELS

The Laysan Albatross chick at Kaena Pt., O., referenced in last season's report was last seen July 8 (PD) and is presumed to have fledged successfully (DS). It would be the first chick on O'ahu in modern times to be raised completely in the wild and to fledge successfully. In recent years other O'ahu chicks have been taken from the wild to Sea Life Pk., raised there, and released successfully. A loose colony of at least 15 active nests of Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrel (*Endangered subspecies*) was found and monitored June 22–24 in a remote high altitude portion of the Mauna Loa Strip in Hawai'i Volcanoes N. P., H. (LK, CH, *et al.*). It has long been suspected that a relic population of this Hawaiian endemic subspecies still nests on Hawai'i I., but positive evidence *in situ* has been lacking.

Unexpectedly large numbers of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were reported near the

main islands this summer, possibly associated with the remnant El Niño conditions. Twelve were sighted in Ma'alaea Bay, M., July 18 (JeO) where they are rarely seen; "huge numbers" were observed from a small boat up to 19 mi off of Kewalo Basin, O., Aug. 1 (DPr), and large numbers were watched from shore at Kaena Pt., O., Aug. 13 (DPa). Newell Shearwaters (*Threatened*) breed primarily on Kaua'i, but have long been suspected to breed also on Moloka'i, Hawai'i, and perhaps others of the main islands. An interesting report this summer was of a stream of Newells, perhaps 75–100 over an extended period, flying in from the sea toward the mountains in the Kalapana district of Hawai'i I. (LK).

In the upper Mauna Loa Strip region of Hawai'i Volcanoes N. P., while monitoring the Hawaiian Petrel nesting area June 22–24, observers also heard "several dozen" Band-rumped Storm-Petrels flying overhead among the Dark-rumped after dark. While none could be associated with any of the nest sites under rocks on the hard surface, presumptive evidence seems strong that they also nested in this area (LK, CH). If so, it would establish the first confirmed nesting site for this species in the Hawaiian Islands. Previous speculation on nesting sites in Hawai'i has centered around Hanapepe Valley on Kaua'i, where several Band-rumped have been reported during the past century.

TROPICBIRDS TO OSPREY

Three Red-tailed Tropicbirds at Kaena Pt., O., July 8 (PD) provide an interesting report. A few pairs breed on Manana I., off the diametrically opposite point of O'ahu, but the species is rarely reported elsewhere s. of Kaua'i. An overwintering Canada Goose was reported during July at Kakahaia N.W.R., Moloka'i,

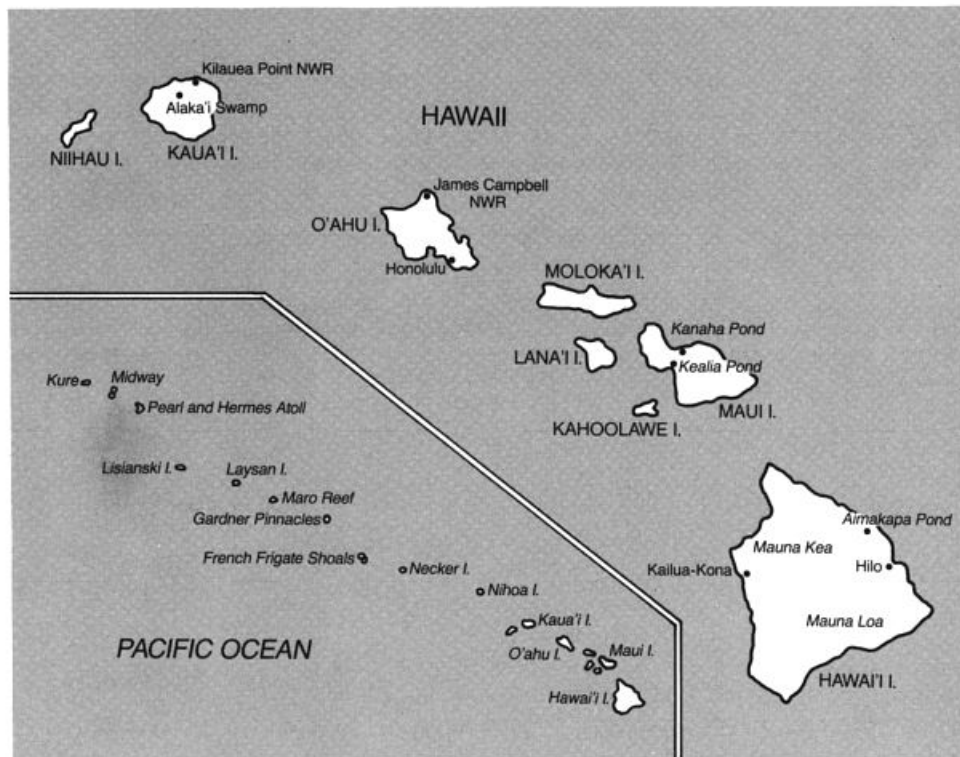
(GF *vide* BE), an unusual locality. A Brant was seen repeatedly through the summer at Kealia Pond, M. (JeO), and a ♂ N. Pintail seen July 20 at Pouhala Marsh, O. couldn't fly well (PD) and probably overwintered. A N. Shoveler at Hanalei N.W.R., K., was last seen June 18 (KV), extremely late for any migrant duck not overwintering. An Osprey was observed at Kanaha Pond, M., several times this spring, the latest report there being June 17 (FD). Perhaps the same bird was seen and photographed at nearby Kealia Pond Aug. 1 (JeO).

SHOREBIRDS

A migrant Black-bellied Plover, with lots of black on its belly, was first seen at Amorient Aquafarm July 28 (PD). The Semipalmated Plover remaining at Kealia Pond was seen repeatedly through the summer (JeO). Some good counts of permanent resident Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (*Endangered subspecies*) were reported this season. Kealia Pond on Maui, nearly dry for months, had 30–60 stilts through June and July. Then, when the pond had refilled after storm rains, 166 were counted July 31 (JeO). Six stilt chicks were there June 25 and July 4 (JeO). On O'ahu, high counts included 60–120 at Pouhala Marsh during the first 2 weeks of June (DS); 60 at Waipi'o Pen. July 20 (PD), and 67 at Waialua Settling Ponds July 29 (PD).

Four species of shorebirds are common visitors to Hawai'i in fall, winter, and spring, but nearly all disappear in summer. Some good counts of these species in June and early July this year provide a good assessment of the extent of overwintering in these species, at least for this year. Counts of overwintering Lesser Golden-Plovers included 25 at Maui Sod Farm, M., June 20 & July 7, falling to 15 on July 15 (JeO). Six or fewer were found at Kealia

Pond, M., through the summer, and six were at Kanaha Pond, M., July 7 (JeO). On O'ahu, late July counts of 3–18 (PD) may well have included returning migrants. From one to seven Wandering Tattlers were reported on O'ahu at 6 different wetlands during July (PD). No tattlers were seen at Kealia Pond during repeated visits through the summer until three were found there July 15 (JeO). Ruddy Turnstones at Kealia Pond started at four June 11 and built steadily to 47 by July 21. At Maui Sod Farm (3 mi toward Lahaina from Kahului), 35 Ruddies were counted June 20, falling off to 20 on July 7, and to 15 on July 15 (JeO). On O'ahu, counts were fewer than 10 through July 25. The earliest large counts, probably representing fall arrivals, were an estimated 100 at Amorient Aquafarm and 35 at nearby Kahuku Pt. Pond July 28, and 51 at Waialua Settling Ponds July 29 (PD). Sanderlings are reported in summer much less frequently than the other 3 species. This year the only summer reports



were of two at Kealia Pond, M., throughout June to July 7, then one thereafter (JeO).

One Rufous-necked Stint was studied well at Kealia Pond, M., July 31 (†JeO), and another was found Aug. 1 at Aimakapa Pond, H. (JOB). One was seen at Aimakapa again Aug. 8 (DPr), and two were found there Aug. 9 (probably) & 10 (†JOB). Rufous-neckeds are rare stragglers to Hawai'i, but are recorded more often than any of the other palearctic stints. A **South Polar Skua** was reported Aug. 1, 19 mi off Kewalo Basin, O., with many shearwaters and other seabirds (DPr), and another (possibly two) was confidently identified from Kaena Pt., O., Aug. 13 (DPa). A probable S. Polar Skua was reported off Keahole Pt., H., July 25 (JOB). This species is a very rare straggler to Hawaiian waters, and these sightings this summer may have been related to the remnant El Niño conditions. Three Franklin Gulls in breeding plumage at Kealia Pond, M., May 9 all remained until June 18. Two were still there June 20 & 28 (JeO), very late dates. Two others were at Poughala Marsh, O., June 5 & 8, and one was seen there again June 10 (DS).

BULBULS TO GRACKLES

A group of 42 Red-vented Bulbuls at Kaena Pt. Natural Area Reserve, O., June 1 was the largest number yet seen at this far n.w. corner of the island, farthest point from where this species first got started on O'ahu several decades ago. A flock of 20 was seen there July 8 (PD). Counts in mountain forests included 17 Red-vented on Aiea Trail June 7 and 40 on Wa'ahila Ridge Trail June 20 (PD). Six Red-whiskered Bulbuls were also on Aiea

Trail June 7, and 15 on Wa'ahila Ridge Trail June 20, along with 35 other unidentified bulbuls of one or both these species (PD).

One or two (O'ahu) 'Elepaio were reported on 5 trails this summer (LT, PD, JOBa), an encouraging trend for this race, which has become very, very scarce on O'ahu. Two of the sightings were reported as immature birds. Observations of Red-billed Leiothrix (another species that crashed on O'ahu and is coming back) were reported in June and early July on Aiea Ridge Trail (PD, JOBa), and six were seen on Wa'ahila Ridge Trail June 20 (PD). On Maui, for comparison, about 70 were counted above 4000-foot elevation along the road to Polipoli Springs State Recreation Area July 11 (JeO). The ♀ Great-tailed Grackle at Waipi'o Pen., O., first reported there a dozen years ago, was seen there again July 20 (PD).

HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS TO ESTRILDIDS

In the Puu La'au region on the w. slope of Mauna Kea, H. Palila (*Endangered*) suffered their worst breeding season in 5 years. Only one active nest was found by U.S. Fish & Wildlife researchers from April through July, a period when 50–80 nests could be expected at this study site. The low number of nesting attempts may be explained by the very small crop of mamane seeds coupled with the severe drought from winter through early summer, brought on by the El Niño event (TP). On the e. side of Mauna Kea at Hakalau N.W.R., nesting of Hawai'i Creeper and (Hawai'i) 'Akepa (both *Endangered*) also fared poorly. Fledgling production was down

only a bit, but many apparently failed to survive after fledging (JL). During a 10-day survey in the Hanawi area on Haleakala Mt., M., at the end of July, Maui Parrotbills (*Endangered*) were seen or heard daily, including one juvenile seen with its parents. Two Maui Creeper nests with nestlings were observed, and 'Akohekohe (*Endangered*) were "common," but none of the super-rare Po'ouli (*critically Endangered*) were found (JL).

In early August several Red-cheeked Cordon-bleus were found at their regular spot below Pu'uanahulu, H., and several Black-rumped Waxbills were seen on the nearby Pu'uanahulu hillside (DP). These are the only localities in the state where these 2 species may still be found. On O'ahu July 8, a flock of eight Red Avadavats in the grass along the road to Kaena Pt. and a flock of 20 Common Waxbills at the Point (PD) provided interesting locality records at the far n.w. corner of the island. Java Sparrows are just beginning to colonize Maui, mostly in the Kihei area; but 10–15 were found across the isthmus at Maui Community College in Kahului July 27 & 29 (JeO).

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CHANGING SEASONS *contd. from page 1111*

Gulls and Elegant Terns showed very early dispersal from the breeding grounds, pushed very far north (and inland in the case of Brown Pelicans) and were present in record or near-record numbers. In California, an amazing 3000 Elegant Terns were in Humboldt Bay in late July, 30,000 Black-vented Shearwaters were recorded off Newport Beach in July, and four Craver's Murrelets recorded off Monterey in June beat the previous early northern California date by approximately 6 weeks.

Many of these birds may have dispersed northward early, and in record numbers, due to decreased food availability as a result of El Niño. In fact, birds such as Black-vented Shearwaters that breed off western Mexico and disperse north in variable numbers after breeding may not have bred at all this year, as evidenced by the large numbers that occurred north of the breeding grounds very early in the season. The total lack of juvenile Yellow-footed Gulls at the Salton Sea suggested nesting failure in the Gulf of California. North of Mexico, many species such as cormorants, Western Gulls and alcids failed to reproduce this year, and species like Cassin's Auklets suffered increased mortality of adults.

The effects of El Niño may not be confined to seabirds. In 1984, Schreiber and Schreiber suggested that ENSO conditions "may extend to non-marine species far from the Pacific" (*Science* Vol. 225:713-716). George Hall and his coauthors have found that data on Neotropical migrants show a correlation between ENSO events and low numbers of breeding birds in the east, and suggest that these events result in lower populations of Neotropical migrants (see Hall et al., 1988, Effects of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) on terrestrial birds, in *Acta XIX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologici*, Vol II pp. 1747-1759). However, a great deal more research would be required to actually determine relationships between ENSO and landbirds. Some support for this concept comes from the Hawaiian Islands, where poor nesting success for some Hawaiian honeycreepers this year was probably related to the dry winter and spring associated with El Niño. The endangered Palila experienced the worst breeding season in years.

Food for Thought

The relatively profound influences of climatic perturbations on bird populations are interesting in their own right. However, the

magnitude of influence that a single year's abnormal climatic events can have on avian populations may be an indication of potential long-term catastrophic events that could accompany global warming. We don't know the ramifications of global warming for avian populations, but it certainly bears thinking about, and watching.

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