

SA Most encouraging was Robinson's discovery of breeding populations of several neotropical migrants during a census in the n. Illinois county of *Ogle*, especially Lowden-Miller State Forest. Robinson's survey revealed significant breeding populations of the following warblers: Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Mourning, and Canada. Good numbers of Cerulean Warblers, Am. Redstarts, and Ovenbirds were also noted. In all, 20 species of warblers were detected, providing the highest warbler diversity in the state (*vide* SR). Other noteworthy breeding species detected during the survey included: Least Flycatchers, Brown Creepers, Veeries, Wood Thrushes, and Pine Siskins.

The summer Swainson's Warbler news was also positive. A bird was heard June 18 at Cane Creek W.M.A., KY (JE), and four Swainson's were detected during a June 7-8 float trip down the Current R., MO (PMc).

Blue Grosbeaks continued their Regional incursion with nesting in *Will*, IL (JM), ten birds in *Hopkins*, KY June 6 (JH), and one-two birds in 6 other Kentucky counties (LMc, KC, HC). Within their normal haunts in s.w. Missouri's *Taney*, Painted Buntings were described as "not especially unusual" (BR); one pair also nested in Henning W.M.A., MO (AR). Dickcissels had a good season, with fine reports from every state except Missouri. Clay-colored Sparrows appeared in their normal n. Illinois breeding areas; a singleton at Lime Cr. Nature Center, IA June 2 (RG) was likely a migrant. Both Field and Vesper sparrow counts were down on e. Iowa breeding bird surveys (*vide* JD). The Region's only Bachman's Sparrow was found in *Ozark*, MO in early June (LRz). Lark Sparrows summered in Kentucky 5 mi w. of Harrodsburg (FL, WK), and ≤five were discovered at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH in late June (DO, RHa); the latter is a new Ohio location for Lark Sparrows. Three singing Grasshopper Sparrows, found 2 mi e. of Monticello, KY June 4 (HC, KC), were unexpected. Henslow's Sparrows had a banner year in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri; the peak count was 40 at Prairie S.P., MO June 10 (BR). Henslow's were also reported in Indiana and Ohio. Summer Dark-eyed Juncos were discovered at a new Ohio location in Hinkley June 19 (RHa).

Good Bobolink counts came from every state. In Illinois Yellow-headed Blackbirds nested at established sites and Brewer's Blackbirds at Illinois Beach S.P. produced fledglings by July (AS). Great-tailed Grackles continued their expansion into the Re-

gion in the w. states. A House Finch survey in Joplin, MO produced 19 House Finches in 14 blocks (LH), and a pair of Pine Siskins were discovered in *Christian*, MO July 11 (CW).

Addendum

An S.A. (AB 48:114) reported the absence of proof that Reddish Egrets photographed at L. Cal. and Kingsbury W.M.A., IN involved different birds. Subsequently, Sherman Suter reported seeing the Illinois bird on the evening of Aug. 21, at exactly the same time the Indiana bird was being viewed. It must be concluded, therefore, that two individuals were present.

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

ROBERT D. PURRINGTON

Generally speaking, the season was wetter and cooler than normal, usually a prescription for a good nesting season for birds and birders alike (no double *entendre* intended). Nevertheless—but not untypically, given the unsystematic character of the attention given to nesting species—it was not easy to discern any substantial effect of the weather on breeding success (I should add that some observers are indeed systematic in their study of the nesting season, if most of us are not).

Obviously the seasonal reports are enriched by the efforts made in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey coverage (B.B.S.), which involves dozens of observers over the six states in the Region. Unfortunately, the data submitted to the writer often consist only of unusual nesting records rather than information on abundance and population trends. One of the notable features of this breeding season was the inauguration of the Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas program, directed by David Wiedenfeld. Between 180-200 7 1/2' quadrangles, representing about one-third of the state, were covered by 160 volunteers; some of the Louisiana records reported below resulted from this coverage. Apparently Arkansas also initiated its breeding bird atlas program this season, although no data were received by this writer. As of the end of the period (and indeed through August), there had been no tropical weather of any kind, probably ensuring a successful season for the colonial breeding birds of Louisiana's (and other) barrier islands, whose nests are often less than a meter above mean high tide.

Loons to Rails

Five basic-plumage Com. Loons in the gulf off Santa Rosa I., FL July 31 (DM) represented an unusually large number of summering individuals. A group of one ad. and five juv. Pied-billed Grebes, a species which nests only sparingly in Arkansas—usually in the lowlands, was seen in *Washington* July 24 (MMI). Also a sparse breeder in Arkansas is Anhinga; there was a single

sighting in *Hempstead*, in the s.w. corner of the state, June 26 (MB). One at Reelfoot L., TN June 13 (MAG) was also unusual. Six in *Oktibbeha* and *Noxubee*, MS July 9 (MC) were near the location of an active colony in 1993.

Two shearwaters seen from shore off Santa Rosa I., FL, one identified as a Greater Shearwater (DM), were remarkably close to land. A large shearwater (i.e., Cory's or Greater) was also seen from the land in the Chandeleur Islands, LA July 23 (DLD, SWC, LOM). Two unidentified imm. sulids were also noted there and Muth's 2 days on the beach at Santa Rosa I. were enriched by four imm. N. Gannets observed as a thunderstorm approached July 30. Double-crested Cormorants, which are rare in summer in n. Mississippi, were seen in *Noxubee* June 17–July 28 and in *Lowndes* July 19 (TS); one in Baton Rouge July 28 (MAS) was similarly rare. While an estimated 347 Magnificent Frigatebirds seen moving away from thunderstorms on the Chandeleur Islands July 23 (SWC, DLD, LOM) were not especially notable, one–two in *Cameron* June 18–19 (SWC, DLD) suggested increased numbers in s.w. Louisiana.

Two Am. Bitterns seen in separate locations in *Shelby*, TN June 4–July 11 (JRW, JF, GK, SG, m.ob., ph.) were unprecedented. Least Bitterns seen there during the same period included four–six adults and at least two young (JRW, m.ob., ph.); there were also single birds in *Putnam*, TN June 5 (BHS) and in *Hempstead*, AR June 26

(MB). All were unexpected. It was this writer's opinion that numbers of this species were low in s.e. Louisiana. Tricolored Herons were seen unusually far inland in *Lake*, TN, where an immature was seen in a roost of >5000 assorted herons July 24 (JRW), and in *Colbert*, AL July 31 (WR, JG). Seven active Cattle Egret nests found in *Colbert* in mid-July (NP; PDK) were in the same spot where breeding was noted in 1991; the species is a rare breeder in n.w. Alabama. Reports of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons included a large number (25 adults, two immatures) in *White*, AR July 2 (KN, LN) and one adult and one immature in *Putnam*, TN July 21 (SJS, TMS); the species nests rather locally in these areas.

Unexpectedly far from the coast were White Ibis July 12, and 20 in *Lake* (WGC, MAG) and in *Miller*, AR July 19 (CM), and \leq seven Glossy Ibis which were present in *Mobile*, AL June 14–July 16 (CK). More surprising still was a Roseate Spoonbill in *Lonoke*, AR July 31 (KN, LN). There were scattered reports of post-breeding Wood Storks, the earliest being one seen in Montgomery, AL June 23 (RLN); there were several reports from w. and c. Louisiana. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks found at Barksdale A.F.B. near Shreveport, in extreme n.w. Louisiana June 21 (RM), were far from their normal haunts, but one in nearby *Hempstead*, AR June 26 (MB) had wandered still farther, assuming Louisiana's coastal Rockefeller Refuge to be their source. A Snow Goose, which arrived around Nov. 1, 1993, in *Benton*, AR, and

socialized with resident domesticated ducks and geese, was still present as late as June 10 (MMI).

The success and expansion of the breeding population of Canada Geese in n. Mississippi was indicated by 200 in *Oktibbeha* and *Mississippi* July 1 (TS). While an unprecedented total of 3000–5000 Mottled Ducks, utilizing newly created islands from Corps of Engineers channel dredging projects, were counted in the lower Atchafalaya R. delta (GL), this total was exceeded in late July by an estimated 10,000 seen by Stutzenbaker in an aerial survey! Apparently several pairs of wild Mallards bred successfully in the same area (BJ, MC), and several broods of Blue-winged Teal were also noted. A pair of Mallards in *Pointe Coupee*, LA June 11 (MS) may also have been breeding.

Summering ducks included a Blue-winged Teal in *Hempstead*, AR June 26 (MB); a ♂ N. Shoveler in *Shelby*, TN June 2–July 31 (CB, MG, MGW); a ♀ Lesser Scaup in *Benton*, AR June 5–July 30 (MMI) and males at Cameron, LA June 19 (DLD–2) and in St. Charles, LA July 3 (MW); a ♂ Ring-necked Duck in *Shelby* July 3 (ph. JRW); and a ♀ Hooded Merganser in *Putnam*, TN June 1–July 21 (SJS, m.ob.). There was no evidence of nesting in any of these cases. A ♂ Lesser Scaup present on a Mississippi State University farm pond March 31–June 20 (TS) represented the latest departure date by over a month and the first summer record. Truly astonishing was the discovery of a ♀ King Eider on Curlew I., LA June 11 (ph. LOM); this was the 2nd record for Louisiana in 2 months and the 2nd ever. Not without interest, however, was a sub-ad. ♂ Surf Scoter in Cameron on the unusual date of June 18 (DLD, SWC).

An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite in *Greene*, MS June 13 (TS) was near the n. limit of its breeding range, and an ad. White-tailed Kite in *Cameron* June 18 (SWC, DLD), though in an area where they now winter regularly, was unexpected in summer. Counts of 32 and >45 feeding Mississippi Kites in *Shelby*, TN June 11 & 18, respectively (JRW), highlighted a good nesting season in w. Tennessee. Another Mississippi Kite June 30 in *Lowndes*, MS (TS) was also at the n. extremity of its breeding range. Two young Bald Eagles were fledged from a nest at L. Millwood, AR (CM); the only other reports were of single birds in *St. Landry*, LA June 10 (MeP, MJ) and in *Montgomery*, AL June 23 (RLN). There were 2 reports of nesting Sharp-shinned Hawks submitted from Arkansas: a nest with four young in *Pope* throughout the period (HP, MP), and one with three young June 29 and July in *Newton* (MMI, HP, MP, MB); apparently there was another nest in the state as well. These



provided the first confirmed nestings for Arkansas. Single adults seen in those counties June 12 (Pope, PR, JA) and July 25 (Newton, PR) may have been related to the breeding noted above. There was one other report from Arkansas June 26 in *Washington* (MMI), and two sightings from middle Tennessee: July 3 in *Jackson* and July 31 in *Overton* (BHS, STJS). Cooper's Hawks breed sparingly all the way to the gulf coast, but are notable anywhere during the nesting season. This year one was reported in *Allen*, LA June 18 (MSw); another in *Oktibbeha*, MS July 8 (TS) established the first July record for the state. There were single birds in *Jackson* and *Overton*, TN July 3–4 & 31 (BHS, SJS), and one was seen in *Washington*, AR June 26 (MMI). Finally, one was seen in Baton Rouge July 7 (VR). Up to two ad. Swainson's Hawks were seen at the Centerton Fish Hatchery in *Benton*, AR July 23, 26, & 27 (MML; PR, MiP); there are few summer records for the state. Also rare for Arkansas in summer was a Peregrine Falcon in *White* July 15 (KN, LN). An ad. Purple Gallinule with young, along with eight Com. Moorhens, was noted in *Hempstead*, AR June 26 (MB); one moorhen with young was there June 14. Both species nest locally and sparingly in lowland Arkansas. Wilson reported that many King Rails were found breeding in *Dyer* and *Lake*, TN, and noted that habitat was "perfect" this year.

Shorebirds to Terns

Black-necked Stilts, which have only recently been found nesting in the n. part of the Region, apparently bred very successfully this season. At least 50 adults and >40 nests were counted in the Ensley Bottoms of *Shelby*, TN, with hatching occurring from June to the first week in August (JRW). Five were seen in *Lonoke*, AR July 3, and 22 in *White* July 24, without evidence of nesting (KN, LN); five (two adults, three juveniles) were seen in *Lonoke* July 29 (LY, CY). The only other shorebird nesting report submitted was of Spotted Sandpiper in *Williamson*, TN June 13 (SJS; one adult, two juveniles), though an Am. Woodcock at Reserve, LA July 11 (RJS) raised the possibility of breeding.

Records of early shorebird migrants included two Black-bellied Plovers in full breeding plumage in *White*, AR July 25 (KN); two Am. Golden-Plovers at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, LA July 3–16 (MW, RJS); single Piping Plovers in *Benton* and *White*, AR July 13 (MMI) & 15 (KN, LN), respectively; and four Greater Yellowlegs in *Shelby*, TN July 10 (RLW, MGW). The golden-plovers were also notable because their fall migration route ordinarily avoids the Region. In contrast, a Solitary Sandpiper in *Shelby* June 4 (WGC) was a very late spring migrant.

There were 3 inland records of Willets: July 12 & 20 in *Lake*, AR (WGC, MAG), July 15 in *White*, AR (KN, LN), and July 23 in *Lake*, TN (JRW). Two Whimbrels in *Cameron* June 18 (DLD, SWC) were very late migrants, and one on the Chandeleurs July 23 (DLD, SWC, LOM) may have been an early southbound migrant, or all may have been "summering." Two Long-billed Curlews in *Mobile*, AL July 2 (CK), though in a location where they are regular, were early for the state. Strangely, the only place in s.e. Louisiana where this species can be found is on the barrier islands, as happened this year, with one in the Chandeleurs July 23 (DLD, SWC, LOM); one in *Cameron* June 19 (DLD, SWC) was unusual for the summer season. Southbound Ruddy Turnstones (2) and Sanderling (1) were noted in the Ensley Bottoms, *Shelby*, TN July 22 (JRW), but White-rumped Sandpipers there June 4 (8) & 11 (7), were spring migrants (JRW), as was, presumably, a late bird in *Cameron* June 19 (SWC, DLD). Whether shorebird migration began earlier or coverage was better in n. Mississippi, Schiefer had unprecedentedly early records for 4 species of shorebirds: Sanderling in *Noxubee* July 27, earliest by one week; and W. Sandpiper (tie), Stilt Sandpiper (earliest by six days), and Short-billed Dowitcher (tie), all in Starkville July 11. It was unusual to see at least one Stilt Sandpiper in *St. Charles*, LA from June 25 into the late July period (MW), when fall migrants normally begin to appear. A juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper in *Benton* July 27 (PR, MiP) was the earliest ever in fall for Arkansas. Three alternate-plumaged Short-billed Dowitchers in *Benton* July 6 (MMI) were early, especially for the w. part of Arkansas, and 53 in *Shelby*, TN July 9 (JRW) were also noteworthy. Wilson submitted records of migrating Wilson's Phalaropes in *Mississippi*, AR, and *Shelby* and *Lake*, TN from the last 2 weeks in July, as well as a sighting of a juv. Red-necked Phalarope from the same area, without specific location.

Franklin's Gull is strictly a migrant to coastal Louisiana, rarely if ever summering; one in first alt. plumage in *Cameron* June 18 (SWC, DLD) was thus surprising. Although Herring Gulls had never been known to breed in coastal Louisiana prior to 1990–1991, at least 7 pairs of adults were found on territory on the Chandeleurs, at least 2 pairs had large young (ph.), and at least two adults were paired with possible hybrid Herring x "Kelp" gulls, all July 23 (SWC, DLD, LOM); a total of 27 individuals were represented. The "Kelp" Gulls (a.k.a. "yellow-footed mystery gulls"), present since 1989 in coastal Louisiana, apparently continue to thrive, with \leq four adults seen this summer (LOM, SWC, DLD *et al.*), and Cardiff and Dittmann estimated \leq 15 apparent Herring x

"Kelp" hybrids ranging in age from juveniles to full adults. For the record, since publication of the original observation was withheld, the first pair was seen and photographed July 7–8, 1989 (LOM, RDP). Details of these occurrences will be published soon. Up to five Lesser Black-backed Gulls (all first alt plumage) in *Cameron* June 18–19 (DLD, SWC) constituted unprecedented numbers for summer. The first summer record of Great Black-backed Gull for the New Orleans area, the 2nd for s.e. Louisiana and one of few for the state prior to September, was of a first year bird from June 18 to at least Aug. 27 (DM, *et al.*). Gull-billed Terns continued to thrive in New Orleans, where they have been breeding on at least 2 rooftop locations for several years. They were common near the traditional shopping center location in Metairie (RDP) and along the New Orleans lakefront (DM). About 600 pairs were noted in the lower Atchafalaya R. delta (LDWF), 20–30 pairs nested on a spoil island near Venice, LA (BR), and 75 were counted in the Chandeleur Islands June 26 (NLN, LR, CS). A Caspian Tern colony on a spoil island at the mouth of Baptiste Collette Bayou, *St Bernard*, containing 450 pairs was probably the largest in Louisiana (BR). Prior to the sighting of a Forster's Tern in *Lauderdale* June 19 (PDK), there had been no previous summer records for n.w. Alabama, though two adults in *Oktibbeha*, MS July 1 (TS) were merely early. By 11 days the earliest ever in fall was a Least Tern at Noxubee N.W.R., June 26 (TS). The first southbound Black Terns were seen in w. Tennessee June 26 (JRW), and in n. Mississippi July 11 (TS). A count of 108 Sooty Terns in the Chandeleur Islands, LA July 23 (DLD, SWC, LOM) was the highest total ever for this colony; one seen flying over the Baptiste Collette spoil area in mid-July (BR) may have been nesting there.

Doves to Waxwings

A pair of Eur. Collared-Doves, which have been present in LaPlace, LA for 3 years, appeared this summer with a juvenile bird, assumed to be their offspring (GS, MGu, RJS) White-winged Doves, for which there was previously only a 1970 nesting record from Delta N.W.R., LA, apparently are now breeding in *Cameron*, as evidenced by two seen June 19 (DLD, SWC). A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird in Starkville July 27–28 (BF, m.ob.) was only the 3rd area record and probably the earliest fall record for Mississippi; it was banded by Bob and Martha Sargent. Three Willow Flycatchers in *Benton*, AR June 12 (MMI, DC), with one carrying what appeared to be nest material, were notable in view of the decline of this species as a breeder in Arkansas. There was an interesting report of a singing Least Flycatcher at Pelsor in *Pope*, AR June 12–16 (PR),

which was not found thereafter. Although 11 Horned Larks seen in Baton Rouge June 10 (MS) were very late, three in *Richland*, LA June 19 (JB) and earlier records in *W. Carroll*, LA (GLe) raised the possibility of nesting. A Tree Swallow nesting box in *Putnam*, TN, occupied in early July was assumed to represent a 2nd nesting by a pair which had produced 4 young in June. Although a Tree Swallow in *Oktibbeha*, MS July 27 (TS) was by 54 days the earliest ever for the 7-county area, the species is known to reach the gulf coast as early as late July or early August. A Cliff Swallow colony was found at a new location on a *Maury*, TN B.B.S., June 13 (SJS), and nest sites were noted in 3 w. Tennessee counties (*Lauderdale*, *Dyer*, and *Tipton*) July 2-4 (JRW). New Cliff swallow colonies were also found in Louisiana and Mississippi. Apparently the most northerly record ever of Brown-headed Nuthatch in Arkansas was of a single bird in *Newton* June 13 (PR). There were single records of Bewick's Wren from *Williamson*, TN June 11 (SJS), a singing male, and the next day from *Benton*, AR (MMI, DC), where at least attempted breeding was suspected. The species is a rare summer resident in Arkansas. There were Cedar Waxwings in Arkansas in *Washington* (MMI) and at *L. Fayetteville* as late as July 9.

Vireos to Orioles

Kittle had 2 records of territorial Warbling Vireos in separate *Lauderdale*, AL locations June 18 and July 19; the species is known to breed only occasionally in Alabama. A Red-eyed Vireo in New Orleans, where the species does not breed, July 24 (DM) was evidently an early southbound migrant. With 3 exceptions noted below, all of the records of breeding or "summering" warblers were submitted by Rodewald from *Newton*, *Pope*, and *Franklin*, AR. These included the first state breeding records of **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, based on a pair feeding two fledglings in *Pope* June 29 and a total of at least 10 territorial males in *Pope* and *Newton* in June and July. Ten Black-throated Green Warblers were seen in *Pope* June 16-July 12 and four very recently fledged young were being fed by 1-2 adults there July 6. In the same area June 16 was a ♀ Blackburnian Warbler. Finally, Rodewald submitted 4 reports of Cerulean Warblers from June 5-July 3, including a female and two fledglings July 5, a pair with young the next day, and a female with two young June 14, all in *Pope* near Pelsor, plus six in *Franklin* July 3, consisting of 2 pairs each feeding one-two young. This species, of course, breeds as far south as n. Louisiana. The remaining records consisted of a singing ♂ Yellow Warbler near Alexandria, LA July 4 (CB, FG), a singing ♂ Yellow-rumped Warbler on a B.B.S. route June

1 in *Coffee*, TN (SJS), one of the few summer records for middle Tennessee, and an Ovenbird near Winfield, LA June 19 (DW). Of the 3 records, the Ovenbird is perhaps the most likely to have been breeding, the Yellow-rumped the least.

A singing ♂ Yellow Warbler in *Rapides* July 4 (CB, FG), and ♂ Prothonotary Warbler found dead in downtown New Orleans July 19 (DM) were presumably early southbound migrants. On the other hand, a singing ♂ N. Parula in New Orleans June 1 (DM) was probably a very late spring migrant. A Louisiana Waterthrush in *Lafayette* July 1 (PC), evidently away from its breeding grounds, was an extremely early migrant.

While the seven singing ♂ Dickcissels counted June 1 in *Bedford*, TN (SJS) represented a good number for an irregular breeder in the area, Grasshopper Sparrows in Noxubee June 5 & 26 (TS) represented the first breeding in that n. Mississippi county. Lark Sparrows, seen in Noxubee June 5 and in Lowndes June 26 (TS), the latter with a nest with eggs, nest rarely and locally in Mississippi. At least three Henslow's Sparrows reported at Cheatham L. dam, TN during June and July (TJW, m.ob.) raised the possibility of nesting, which would be unprecedented.

A *Pheucticus* grosbeak, heard but not seen in Iberville, LA July 4 (DLD) and apparently Rose-breasted, was far out of season. A Black-headed Grosbeak in *Yell*, AR would have been unusual on any date (there are about 2 dozen records for the state), but a female videotaped July 30-31 (GH) was extraordinary. Up to 15 displaying ♂ Bronzed Cowbirds were present through the period along the Metairie, LA lakefront, with some young seen being fed by N. Cardinals (RDP); Muth thought the species "more numerous than in any breeding season in memory," and Russell found them common in New Orleans' City Park all summer. Fortunately, there have been no new records of Shiny Cowbird for the state. Five N. (Baltimore) Orioles counted on a *Coffee*, TN B.B.S., June 1 (SJS) represented a good one-day total for middle Tennessee. A singing ♂ House Finch seen near Slidell, LA June 28 (RDP) was undoubtedly a sign of things to come.

Addendum

A well-described Pacific Loon, in basic but beginning to molt to alternate plumage, was seen at Ft. Pickens, FL April 12 (RAD) and 21 (LG, AH).

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