

# western great lakes region

DARYL D. TESSEN

The summer was uncharacteristically hot, humid, and wet. Some of the highest temperatures in more than ten years—as high as 100–105°F—joined with the humidity to create heat indices of greater than 120°F! Most of the Region had profuse amounts of rainfall with only small, localized sections within a state missing out. After an abnormally mild winter, conditions were ideal for super-abundant insect populations. Deer flies, ticks, and especially mosquitoes were beyond belief. This was especially unfortunate for the last year of Wisconsin's atlas project; major awards should go to the workers who withstood the heat and mosquitoes.

It was an exceptionally quiet summer with few highlights Regionwide. Wisconsin had two White-tailed Kites, its first nesting Black-necked Stilts, good numbers of black-headed gulls (especially Little), a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and increased numbers of nesting Loggerhead Shrikes. Michigan's highlights included a Great White Heron, Tricolored Heron, White-faced Ibis, and a record number of Kirtland's Warblers. Minnesota had holdover Eurasian Collared-Doves and a Eurasian Tree Sparrow as well as Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

For the second consecutive year, the nesting season was exceptionally early, with song quickly and prematurely diminishing by late June. Therefore, it was not surprising that the fall warbler migration commenced early Regionwide. In Minnesota, for example, ten species were found in *Hennepin* on 10 Jul, with another large flight of warblers and Swainson's Thrushes in *Anoka* about the same time. The shorebird flight—where the excessive rain did not flood habitat—proved good; for example, again in Minnesota, 1000 shorebirds of 15 species were seen on 26 Jul in *Big Stone*. Especially impressive was the early and substantial Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight.

**Abbreviations:** L.P. (*Lower Peninsula, MI*); MCBS (*Minnesota County Biological Survey*); Muskegon (*Muskegon Wastewater System, MI*); Nayanquing (*Nayanquing Pt. State Game Area,*

*MI*); Pt. Mouillee (*Pt. Mouillee State Game Area, MI*); Shiawassee (*Shiawassee Nat. Wildlife Refuge, MI*); U.P. (*Upper Peninsula, MI*); WPBO (*Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, MI*).

## LOONS THROUGH RAILS

Twenty-six Red-throated Loons found 2 Jun at Duluth, MN (KB), were most impressive; two were also sighted at Grand Marais, MN, on 3 Jun (KB). Lingered Horned Grebes were at Duluth 2 Jun and at Grand Marais 3 Jun (KB), while in Wisconsin an individual lingered through 3 Jun in *Door* (R&CL). The two present 18 Jul at Roseau River W.M.A., MN (PS), were thought to be summering, while one at WPBO 31 Jul (AB, JR, KT) was an early fall migrant. A Red-necked Grebe 3 Jun at Copper Harbor was the 2nd latest date for the Keweenaw Pen. (LB); early fall migrants were present 18–19 Jul at WPBO (KT). Eared Grebes were scarce in the Region. Minnesota had reports from *Marshall, Pennington, Wilkin, Carver,* and *Rice*; Wisconsin had singles 30 May–2 Jun in *Washington* (BD) and 9 Jun at Rush L. (DT), and there were two in *Dunn* 24 Jun (JPO); and Michigan's lone sighting was 31 Jul at Muskegon (JP, RR). Svingen counted 130 W. Grebe young on Thielke L., MN, 19 Jul. Clarke's Grebes were also noted at Thielke L. 6–18 Jun (PS et al.) and at Long L., *Meeker*, 12 & 29 Jun (DF).

American White Pelicans nested at 2 sites in Wisconsin: the ever-increasing colony on Cat I. at Green Bay had 150+ nests, and a new nesting site at Horicon N.W.R. had about 15 nests; Michigan had its first breeding record when 4 nests were discovered near Escanaba (FC). Summering birds were found elsewhere in both states, especially Wisconsin. Michigan had its first **Great White Heron** record when one was discovered 17 Jul at Metrobeach Metropark, where it lingered into August (AR, AB, AC, SS). There were few Snowy Egret reports Regionwide, as evidenced by singles in *Ramsey* 8 Jun and Minneapolis 14 Jun (AH) and in Michigan 6 Jun at Pt. Mouillee (WP). Wisconsin had no nesting for the first time in years; two–three summered at Green Bay (m.ob) while another was at Milwaukee 6 Jul (MK). Little Blue Herons



were found slightly more often: Minnesota had singles in *Hennepin* 2 Jun (AH), *Scott* 7 Jun (FR), and *Olmstead* 30–31 Jul (CW); Wisconsin's sightings included Horicon N.W.R. 6 Jun (DT) and La Crosse 2 Jul (CW); and Michigan had one 24 Jul and later in *Jackson* (DB et al.). A **Tricolored Heron** was at Nayanquing 1 Jun and 31 Jul (PC, GZ). Cattle Egrets were recorded at 4 sites in both Wisconsin (*Oconto, Green Bay, Horicon N.W.R.,* and *Oshkosh*—where they nested) and Minnesota (*Rice, Hennepin, Jackson,* and *Houston*). Probable nesting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported from Racine (KD) and Milwaukee (MK), with non-nesting sightings also in Milwaukee 24 Jul (TW) and in Minnesota's *Ramsey* 7 Jun (PS). A **White-faced Ibis** was sighted between Vermillion and WPBO 29–31 Jul (CB, NM) for the 7th Michigan and first U.P. record.

A Turkey Vulture nested on the ground in an alfalfa field (!) in *Lincoln*, MN, providing a first county record (*vide C. Henderson*). A Greater White-fronted Goose was in Minnesota's *Rock* 24 Jul (KE), and a Snow Goose summered in *Chippewa* (JPO) and *Menasha* (v.o.), both in Wisconsin. Canada Geese migrated through e. Wisconsin and n. Michigan during late May to early June. Two Tundra Swans lingered until 2 Jun in *Waupaca*, WI (JH), while an injured bird was in *Polk*, MN, 24 Jun (ABO). Breeding Am. Wigeon in *Houghton*, MI, were out-of-place (LB). Unusually located Canvasbacks were at Nayanquing 17 Jun (JD et al.) and during the period in *Manistee* (BA) and Pt. Mouillee (WP), all in Michigan; two were at Goose Pond, *Columbia*, WI, through 5 Jul (PA et al.). Greater Scaup were at Duluth 2 Jun (KB), and a few were intermittently at Pt. Mouillee (WP, TS, JF); in Wisconsin, one lingered at Manitowoc through 25 Jun (CS), and a few summered in *Door* (R &

CL). Lesser Scaup summered at 5 Wisconsin sites. Late-lingering in Minnesota's Cook were White-winged Scoter and Long-tailed Duck on 3 Jun (KB); at Michigan's WPBO these two species were recorded 30 Jul (CB) and 18 Jul (CB), respectively. Out-of-range were single Com. Goldeneyes in *Presque Isle* 14 & 30 Jul (WG) and at Nayanquing 31 Jul (GZ). Also in Michigan, Buffleheads were at Muskegon 20 Jun (SM), in *Baraga* 25 Jun (LB), and in *Mackinac* 30 Jul (AB et al.), while in Wisconsin one lingered through 2 Jul at Manitowoc (CS).

Harriman and Kuecherer watched two **White-tailed Kites** pass over their atlas block s. of Hortonville on 21 Jun. This was only the 3rd record for Wisconsin. A Rough-legged Hawk was in Minnesota's Sax-Zim Bog 6 Jun (BY, KS). A family of Merlins (*richardsonii*) was discovered by Siverhus and Svingen on 18 Jul in *Roseau*, MN. Yellow Rails were reported in 5 Wisconsin and 2 Michigan counties. Common Moorhens, up from previous years, were found in 5 Minnesota counties.

#### SHOREBIRDS

Only 13 shorebird species extended their spring migration into June, in sharp contrast to previous years, especially 1998; in fact, most birds had made a Regionwide exit by 7 Jun. Interesting tardy northbound migrant plovers were Black-bellied 12 Jun at Algoma, WI (JRe), and single Piping Plovers at Duluth 1 Jun (KD), WPBO 2 Jun (CB), and *Lake*, MN, 3 Jun (JM); four were in *Alpena*, MI, 3 Jun (WG). In Wisconsin at Oshkosh, Ruddy Turnstones lingered through 17 Jun with Sanderlings through 16 Jun (TZ), while Dunlins were at Manitowoc through 23 Jun (CS). Spring peaks included 100 Sanderlings at Duluth 1 Jun (PS), 173 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Nayanquing 1 Jun (PC), 30 White-rumped Sandpipers in *Meeker*, MN, 6 Jun (RJ), and 126 Dunlins at Nayanquing 1 Jun (PC).

Hard to classify as to which direction they were heading were Am. Avocets at Pt. Mouillee 15 Jun (WP) and Shiawassee 17–25 Jun (BG et al.). Not hard to classify, however, was the small *nesting* group of six ad. and eight juv. Am. Avocets in Minnesota's *Big Stone* (MCBS). Probable nesting Piping Plovers were found in all 3 states, including Minnesota reports from *Lake of the Woods* (N. Winters, PS, AH); there were no successful fledglings in Wisconsin. The big news in nesting shorebirds was a first Wisconsin breeding record for **Black-necked Stilt**. Three adults were located at Horicon N.W.R. during late May. As they



The vigilant adult Loggerhead Shrike was one of the parents that shared in the building of this formidably protected nest in *Fond du Lac*; the shrike nestlings fledged successfully and joined fledglings from five other Wisconsin counties to make this the most successful shrike season in the state in ten years. Both nest and adult shrike were photographed in June.

Adult photograph/Jack Bartholmai. Nest photograph/Christopher Wood

lingered through the summer, nesting was suspected, and it was finally confirmed when five young were seen and photographed with the parents beginning in mid-July.

The fall shorebird migration seems to start earlier each year, and this one proved no exception. Examples included a Semipalmated Plover and Least Sandpiper on 18 Jun and a record early Stilt Sandpiper 28 Jun in *Big Stone*, MN. In Michigan, 24 Am. Golden-Plovers were at WPBO 19 Jul (KT). Piping Plovers were seen in *Becker* 19–20 Jul (PS, MW) and *Lac Qui Parle*, MN, 21 Jul (KB). A peak concentration of 203 Killdeer was in *Stearns*, MN, 28 Jul (PC). Early southbound dates in Wisconsin were Black-bellied Plover near Green Bay 23–29 Jun (JRe), Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper in *Columbia* 20 Jun (PA), a Least Sandpiper 25 Jun in *Dane* (PA), two White-rumped 24 Jun in *Ozaukee* (JF), a Short-billed Dowitcher 26 Jun in Milwaukee (MK), and a Long-billed Dowitcher 10 Jul in *Dodge* (DT). Migrant Am. Avocets were in Michigan 22 Jul in *Berrien* and 25 Jul in *Ottawa* (CF). Greater Yellowlegs peaked at 60 on 26 Jul in *Big Stone*, MN (KB), while Lesser Yellowlegs peaked there at 348 by 26 Jul (KB). Willets were found in all 3 states: Wisconsin had singles 23 Jun at Ashland (DV) and 17 Jul in *Dodge* (TW); in Minnesota, two were in *Big Stone* 9 Jul (KB), with

singles in *Sibley* 11 Jul (RS) and *Big Stone* 18 Jul (KB); Michigan had 14 Willets recorded between 3–27 Jul from 6 sites. The only godwits were two Marbled 20 Jul at New Buffalo, MI (JHa). A W. Sandpiper was at Metrobeach Metropark, MI, 15 Jul (AR), and a White-rumped Sandpiper was at Pt. Mouillee 7 Jul (WP). Peak peep concentrations included 263 Semipalmateds 26 Jul in *Big Stone* (KB) and 293 Least 16 Jul in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN (BO). Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared early and in impressive numbers at scattered sites. Minnesota had the best flight with 5 reporting counties, including an impressive 87 on 30 Jul in *Dakota* (TB et al.). Two Michigan counties reported Buff-breasteds, included 15 on 29 Jul in *Houghton* (LB). Wisconsin had one sighting of three birds in *Bayfield* 31 Jul (JS, GS). Red-necked Phalaropes were present at Minnesota's *Big Stone* 9 Jul (KB) and *Winona* 18 Jul (CW), while two were at Pt. Mouillee 29–30 Jul (WP).

#### GULLS THROUGH PIPITS

Wisconsin had its best summer in years for black-headed gulls: several Laughing Gulls were noted at Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and *Door* (m.ob); up to ten Franklin's were reported from 5 sites (*Door*, Milwaukee, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Wausau); and it was a banner year for Little Gulls, with

10–15 birds at Manitowoc/Two Rivers and Sheboygan and an additional individual at Ashland 23–26 Jun (DV). A juv. Little was at S. Haven, MI, 31 Jul (JG). Also in Wisconsin, a Thayer's Gull at Manitowoc lingered for a record late date of 19 Jun (DT), and a Lesser Black-backed Gull was in Racine 1 Jun (KD). Great Black-backed Gulls were found at Manitowoc/Two Rivers, Kewau-nee, and at Sheboygan intermittently during the summer.

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued to make news in Minnesota. The two originally reported during the spring in Mower were observed until 25 Jul (m.ob.); then the three originally found last winter in Jasper were relocated 25 Jul (KE). Good numbers of both cuckoos were reported from Wisconsin. Great Gray Owls were seen intermittently in n. Bayfield, WI, where unfortunately a 2nd road kill was discovered in late June. There were few sightings of Long-eared or Short-eared owls in the Region. Three-toed Woodpecker nested in Minnesota's Cook (KE et al.).

An early fall migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was in Green Bay 27 Jul (JRe), and a Willow Flycatcher found in Menominee (JSc) was rare for the U.P. The Fishers had a leisurely view of a W. Kingbird south of Three Lakes, WI, 23 Jun. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was photographed in Duluth 2 Jun (*vide* KE); another was in Portage, WI, 24–25 Jul (JW et al.). Loggerhead Shrikes in Wisconsin appear to be doing much better: nesting—with successfully fledged young—was confirmed in Dunn, Fond du Lac, Oconto, Ozaukee, and St. Croix, and there was an unconfirmed nesting in Door; several single birds were sighted elsewhere, making this the most successful season in about 10 years! Reports from over 10 counties were about average for Minnesota, but a Loggerhead 11 Jul near Ewen (JSc) was the first sighting in 3 years for Michigan. White-eyed and Bell's vireos were confirmed nesting at several Wisconsin sites; Minnesota had reports of Bell's Vireos from only 3 counties. A completely albino Bank Swallow was observed in Gratiot, MI, 30 Jul (AB et al.).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch in Cottonwood, MN, 2 Jul was unusual. Carolina Wrens were found at 4 Wisconsin sites, with nesting occurring at Madison, and the Rochester bird present last winter was still being seen into July. A House Wren in Ahmeek on 6 Jun was unusual for that part of Michigan. In Minnesota, Winter Wrens were suspected of breeding in several s.e. counties. Out-of-range Blue-gray Gnat-

catchers in Minnesota were in *Clearwater*, *Wadena*, and *Aitkin*, while for Michigan a single in *Baraga* 26 Jun represented a first county record (LB). Late migrant (early June) Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrushes were reported in Michigan and Wisconsin, respectively. Unusual so far to the northwest, a Wood Thrush was in *Roseau*, MN, 21 Jun (PS). Northern Mockingbirds were found in good numbers in all 3 states. Michigan had several Am. Pipit sightings, including an 8 Jun late spring migrant at WPBO (CB); lone birds were seen 12 Jul at Tawas Point S.P. (JS, HS) and 25 Jul at Muskegon (SM).

#### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Golden-winged Warbler 30–31 Jul at WPBO was rare at this locale (CB et al.); a Lawrence's Warbler was seen during July at Flandrau S.P., MN (JSp). Out-of-place Tennessee Warblers included birds 30 Jun at Superior (RJo) and 1 Jul in *Otter Tail*, MN (S&DM); very early fall migrant Tennessees were found at WPBO 7–8 & 12 Jul (CB) and in *Hennepin*, MN, 10 Jul (SC). In Wisconsin the first fall migrants were noted 22–23 Jul at Green Bay (JRe), *Washington* (BD), and *Portage* (MBe). Other early fall migrants included Nashville 8 Jul and N. Parula and Blackburnian 10 Jul, all in *Hennepin* (SC). A maximum of four singing Yellow-throated Warblers were at Wyalusing S.P., WI, during the summer; in Minnesota, one was at Sibley S.P. The Kirtland's Warbler census yielded 902 singing males, topping last year's record 804. Of these, 884 were in the L.P. with the remaining 18 in the U.P. Wisconsin had no fewer than four Prairie Warblers: a male was back at Willow River S.P. for the 2nd consecutive year, and others were seen 14–15 Jun at Manitowoc (CS), 10–17 Jun in *Oconto* (J&KS), and 28 Jun–5 Jul in *Florence* (NC, KBu). Michigan had its summer Prairie 12 Jun at WPBO (CB). An early migrant Blackpoll Warbler was in *Oneida*, WI, 29 Jul (B&KF). Far to the northwest was a Prothonotary Warbler 9 Jul in *Stearns*, MN (SW). Several Wisconsin Worm-eating Warblers bred in *Sauk* (MP, TW), and one was in Tiffany Bottoms, *Pepin*, until 14 Jun (CW). Wisconsin also had numerous breeding Hooded Warblers in the s. half of the state, while in Minnesota there were at least five birds in Murphy-Hanrahan Park (*Dakota/Scott*), *Anoka*, and *Carver*. A breeding pair in *Monroe*, MI, established a first county record. A Wilson's Warbler was in Johnson's yard in Superior, WI, during early July (RJo); singles in *Oneida*, WI, 29 Jul (B&KF) and 28 Jul in

**SA** It has recently surfaced that Wisconsin had not one, but two Mexican strays during 1998. The first to be reported, though actually the second to occur, was the **Green Violet-ear** present in La Crosse from mid-September until early November when it died. It was not correctly identified until late October. The account of this bird appeared in the autumn 1998 issue of *North American Birds* (53: 117).

Perhaps even more remarkable, however, was the first stray. During early January 1998, Mike Stevens noticed an unusual bird visiting his feeders in Mercer. He notified a local birder, whose two attempts to observe it were not successful. When on 15 Jan after a severe cold snap it failed to appear at his feeders, Stevens searched his yard and discovered the bird had not survived. During the spring, the frozen specimen was examined by Larry Gregg and eventually by Tom Schultz, who took measurements and photographs. During October, Schultz and Jon Dunn compared the photographs and measurements to specimens at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago and confirmed the bird's identity—an immature **Streak-backed Oriole!** Obviously this was a first record for Wisconsin, and a first for the Region as well.

*Presque Isle*, MI (WG), were early migrants. June Yellow-beasted Chats were reported from two Minnesota (*Kandiyohi* and *Dakota*) and two Wisconsin (*Dane* and *Kenosha*) counties.

A Summer Tanager was heard in *Hennepin*, MN, 24 Jun (SC). A Spotted Towhee in St. Paul 10 Jul (VC) provided a rare summer record. An Am. Tree Sparrow in Duluth 1 Jun (JHe) was only a 2nd June record. Unusual was a Clay-colored Sparrow on 1 Jul in Michigan's *Keweenaw* (LB). Good numbers of Henslow's Sparrows were again found in Wisconsin, while Minnesota had 6 reporting counties. Breeding Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were present at Wisconsin's Crex Meadows W.M.A 15 Jul (CW). White-crowned Sparrows again summered at WPBO (CB). A Dark-eyed Junco in *Hennepin* 2 Jun (TB) was late. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found on their breeding site in *Clay*, MN. An imm. male Blue Grosbeak 9 Jul in *Dakota*, MN (RJ), represented a first county record. Both Wisconsin and

Michigan noted excellent Dickcissel numbers, while Minnesota's were under par. A Rusty Blackbird 19 Jun in *Lake* represented Minnesota's first summer record in 5 years. Good numbers of Orchard Orioles were found in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where Boevers counted 20+ on 18 Jul in *Traverse*. Red Crossbills were found in several Wisconsin and Minnesota counties. The **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** present last summer at a feeder in *Clay*, MN, lingered from the spring season into early June.

#### CORRIGENDA

In *North American Birds* 53(1): 18, the 30,000–40,000 Long-tailed Ducks that concentrated just prior to the "Great November Storm" were seen at Point Beach S.F., just n. of Two Rivers, *Wisconsin*, not Iowa.

In the same issue, a Brambling ascribed to Michigan in the text on p. 57 was indeed seen at Hoyt Lakes, *Minnesota*, as was stated in the regional report introduction.

**Contributors (subregional compilers in boldface):** Brian Allen, Philip Ashman, Karl Bardon, Murray Berner (MBe), Lawrence Binford, Tom Boevers, Al Bolduc (ABo), Marilyn Bontly, Ryan Brady, Calvin Brennan, Don Brooks, Kay Burcar (KBu), **Adam Byrne** (Michigan), Steve Carlson, Allen Chartier, Val Cunningham, Francesca Cuthbert, Noel Cutright, Darl David, Jim Dawe, Bob Domagalski, Kim Eckert, Bob & Karen Fisher, Dan Floren, Chip Francke, Jim Frank, Jim Granlund, Bob Grete, William Grigg, Bettie Harriman, Jim Haw (JHa), John Heid (JHe), Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertz, Jan Hewitt, Robert Janssen, Robby Johnson (RJo), Mark Korducki, David Kuecherer, Roy & Charlotte Lukes, Joan McKearnan, Nathan McNett, Steve & Diane Millard, Steve Minard, Bridget Olson, Walter Pawloski, Mark Peterson, Janine Polk (JPo), Jim Ponshair, Rosemary Radius, John Regan (JRe), Flip Rogers, John Rosenberg II, Alan Ryff, Steve Santner, Jim Schei (JSc), Robert Schroeder, Beth Siverhus, Tim Smart, Drew & Becky Smith, Jerry & Karen Smith, Grant Soehnel, Joe Soehnel, Charles Sontag, Jack Springer (JSp), Karen Sussman, Peder Svingen, **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Kevin Thomas, Dick Verch, **Terry Wiens** (TWi—Minnesota), Julie Wilking, Sylvia Winkelman, Chris Wood, Tom Wood, Mary Wyatt, Ben Yokel, Gerald Ziarno, Tom Ziebell.

**Daryl D. Tessen**, 3118 N. Oneida St., Appleton, WI 54911



With the exception of a single immature present at Indiana Dunes in October 1998, these three immature Wood Storks at the Universal Reclaimed Mine Area in Vermillion County 24 July were the first reported in Indiana for more than half a century. Photograph/Alan Bruner

#### KENNETH J. BROCK

June weather was fairly normal for a Midwestern summer, but July was unusually hot and dry, bringing local drought conditions. One significant impact of July's heat was decreased observer effort, resulting in less coverage than normal. As Jim Wilson wryly noted, temperatures exceeding 100°F reduce birder enthusiasm. The impact of these weather conditions on birds is more difficult to assess. One obvious effect was the altering of wetland habitat. Many areas experienced lowered water levels, which often rendered them more "user friendly" to migrant shorebirds. The Lake Michigan water level was also quite low, producing a much wider than normal expanse of beach. Perhaps this provides a partial explanation for the increase in the number of large shorebirds observed at the southern end of the lake.

This summer two endangered species experienced an above-average breeding season: Piping Plover and Least Tern. It was also a banner breeding season for the prairie species, especially those located in the Mississippi River states. Sedge Wrens, Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, and Boblinks all fared quite well. The season's rarities included Brown Pelican, Wood Stork, Band-tailed Pigeon, and a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird.

The Kentucky summary failed to arrive in time for inclusion in this report; howev-



er, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. e-mailed a few summer highlights for that state.

**Abbreviations:** H.B.S.P. (*Headlands Beach S.P., OH*); L.Cal. (*L. 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 THROUGH STORKS

Despite a general scarcity of loons this summer, a Red-throated Loon at Spirit L. 28 Jun (†LSc) provided Iowa's first summer record. Ample Pied-billed Grebe reports from Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri suggest that this species enjoyed another productive nesting season. Rarely reported in summer, the Red-necked Grebe at Colo Ponds, IA, 3 Jun (PA, RA) was noteworthy. Two W. Grebes were reported in Iowa, where this species is uncommon in summer, but a bird at R.E.D.A. 4 Jun and 5 Jul (PW, CM) provid-