

Atikokan through the period, bringing fledged young with them in late Jul, but no amount of determined watching and searching could locate nests (DHE).

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A cool, wet summer followed on the heels of a cool, wet spring across the entire Region. Record summer rainfall was recorded in several local areas, for example, 27 cm in Warren, Ohio in July. This went a long way toward reversing long-term drought conditions that have gripped much of the Region for more than a decade. Among several possible effects of these weather conditions on summer bird reports were more than the usual number of late spring migrants, including numbers of cuckoos heard calling during nocturnal migration well into mid-June (JMc); better-than-usual nesting success for marsh and other wetland birds due to sustained high water levels; increased nesting success of grassland sparrows and icterids thanks to rain-delayed harvesting of hay; and perhaps increased nesting densities and nesting success for many insectivores resulting from generally lush foliage and associated higher invertebrate abundance, especially in forested habitats (but see comment for Yellow-throated Warbler below). Notwithstanding the later onset of summer-like weather across the Region, the nesting season for many birds seemed more protracted than usual, and there actually may have been a higher incidence of multiple brooding in some species, based on dates of capture of recently fledged juveniles of several species at the Powdermill banding station in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Abbreviations: B.B.S. (Breeding Bird Survey); O.N.W.R. (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, *Ottawa/Lucas*, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Above-average numbers of late migrant and summering Common Loons were reported from across both Pennsylvania and Ohio, including 3 as far s. as Quemahoning Res, *Somerset*, PA though 14 Jun (JPa, LP) and at least one s. to Alum

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Creek Res., *Delaware*, OH (*vide* BW). Several families of nesting Pied-billed Grebes were seen at traditional nesting sites in the Pymatuning/Conneaut Marsh region of nw. Pennsylvania (RCL, RFL); in Ohio, high counts included four territories at Grand R. W.A., *Trumbull*, in early Jun (CB) and a high count of 21 birds at Big Island W.A., *Marion* 16 Jul (SS). A late migrant Horned Grebe fell out on Somerset L., *Somerset*, PA 1 Jun (JPa), and

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another was at Blue Marsh L., *Berks*, PA on the 2nd (C. Elwell). Following a heavy spring flight of Red-necked Grebes, a lingering bird was found at Imperial, *Allegheny*, PA 3 Jun (DW, MV). An American White Pelican, a holdover in that area since mid-spring, was still at Big Island, *Marion*, OH 1 Jun (R. Sempier), and in Pennsylvania one was a rare find at P.I.S.P. 8-13 Jul (T. Macaluso, ph. JMc, m. ob.).

A large Great Blue Heron rookery near Lordstown, *Trumbull*, OH contained 392 nests in 87 trees on 17 Jun (CB). A census at O.N.W.R. listed 142 Great Blues 1 Jun and 291 Great Egrets 6 Jul (EP). The only report of Tricolored Heron was of an ad. at Pipe Creek W.A., *Erie*, OH 8-9 Jul (SZ). A few Cattle Egrets, as expected, were found nesting at Turning Point Is., *Erie*, OH; in Pennsylvania, where they have been scarce in recent years, 2 were seen in Warwick Twp., *Lancaster* 23 Jun (EW). Four young Yellow-crowned Night-Herons fledged from a Columbus, OH nest, where they were last seen 11 Jul, and a single was in Dayton 28 Jun (*vide* RH). A Black Vulture at Natrona Heights, *Allegheny*, PA 18 Jul was well nw. of normal range in the state (PH, Deborah Hess).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Unmarked Trumpeter Swans are appearing in the Region with increased frequency, this season's records included one on a pond near Cooperstown, *Venango*, PA 27 Jul for a first county record (N. Baker). Among interesting waterfowl observed during O.N.W.R. censuses were 2 Gadwall, 2 American Wigeons, 5 American Black Ducks, and 22 Blue-winged Teal 1 Jun, plus 1170 Mallards 6 Jul (EP). A Northern Shoveler was at Somerset L. 1 Jun for a rare summer occurrence in the Pennsylvania mts. (JPa). A female Red-head with 5 young at Pickerel Creek W.A. 8 Jul provided a rare nesting confirmation for Ohio (SZ).

Well away from the usual Pennsylvania nesting areas, Common Mergansers were believed to be breeding along the Youghiogheny R. near Confluence, *Somerset/Fayette* (A. Marich), and one was at P.I.S.P. through 5 Jul (J. Flynn). Seventeen late Red-breasted Mergansers could still be found off Lakeshore M.P., *Lake*, OH 6 Jun (JPo); one remained at P.I.S.P. through early Jul (m. ob., *vide* JMc), and singles were at Quemahoning Res., *Somerset*, PA 3 Jun (JPa) and at L. Ontelaunee, *Berks* 19 & 22 Jun and 20 Jul (*vide* RK). Nonbreeding Ruddy Ducks have been summering in the Region with increased frequency in recent years: in Ohio, a total of 27 was

listed from eight sites (*vide* RH), including 15 at Upper Sandusky Res. 16 Jun (R. Counts); in Pennsylvania, one was on Somerset L. 20 Jul+ (JPa) and another at Trumbauersville, *Bucks* 13 Jul (*vide* AM).

An increasingly regular stray to se. Pennsylvania, an imm. Mississippi Kite was at Marietta, *Lancaster* 13 Jul (K. Leidich). Bald Eagles continue to increase throughout the Region, especially in Pennsylvania, where game commission biologists listed 68 nests—15 in *Crawford* alone. A high summer count in Ohio included 13 eagles in view at once at Pickerel Creek W.A. 7 Jun (J. Lehman). There were more than the usual number of reports of Northern Harriers in w. Pennsylvania, including 2 newly-fledged young at Blandburg, *Cambria* 2 Jul (JS); in Ohio, an ad. was feeding 4 young at Mosquito W.A., *Trumbull* 6 Jul (*vide* CB).

A highlight of the season was the Black Rail captured in *Holmes*, OH 14 Jun (D. Kline, ph. B. Miller) for one of the few state summer records. Both Virginia Rail and Sora appeared to be in good numbers in their traditional nw. Pennsylvania breeding marshes, and in sw. Pennsylvania, single Virginias were good finds at Prince Gallitzin S.P., *Cambria* 5 Jun & 25 Jul (JS) and just n. of Jennerstown, *Somerset* 22 Jun (RM). A total of 22 Common Moorhens (11 ad., 11 imm.) was listed at Big Island W.A., OH 6 Jul (G. Stauffer), and in Pennsylvania, breeding success was high in the Conneaut Marsh and Pymatuning Res. area (RFL, RCL). More unusual was an ad. moorhen seen with 9 young at New Beaver wetlands, *Lawrence*, PA 9 Aug (MV). At O.N.W.R., 105 (including 10 young) American Coots were censused 1 Jun (EP), and 32 were counted at Big Island W.A. 25 Jul (DS); in Pennsylvania, where they are now rare and irregular breeding birds, up to 5 coots summered at P.I.S.P. (BC), and one was noted at a Hartstown marsh, *Crawford* 23 Jun (RFL). A Sandhill Crane lingered near Halifax, *Dauphin*, PA 2 May-Jul+ (DH), far from any known breeding site.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

There were some interesting shorebird reports this season, despite high water conditions at many traditional stopover sites. A (late?) Semipalmated Plover in *Williams*, OH 15 Jun was exceptional for the date (J. Grabmeier), while one at Sandy Cr., *Wood*, WV 27 Jul (27) was early there (JE). Rare in Pennsylvania, single American Avocets were at P.I.S.P. 15-16 Jul (JMc) and in *Montour* 29 Jul (J. Lipar, M. Brown), while 2 were at Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 27 Jul (EW, T. Gar-

ner). Following heavy rains, a flock of 25 Solitary Sandpipers was found in a flooded field near Custards, *Crawford*, PA 30 Jul (RCL, RFL). A Willet was reported in *Williams*, OH 15 Jul (J. Yochum), and 2 were at P.I.S.P. 26-27 Jul (BC). There were 10 Whimbrel reports from Presque Isle 12-23 Jul (J. Hoffmann, BC). High counts of Ruddy Turnstone included 15 at O.N.W.R. 1 Jun (EP) and 18 on the same date at Shawnee S.P., near Bedford, in the mts. of sw. Pennsylvania (JPa, LP). The high count of Dunlin was of 308 at O.N.W.R. 1 Jun (EP), and there were 86 Short-billed Dowitchers there 16 Jul (DS). Apparently a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes nested at Big Island W.A., OH, where distraction displays were witnessed 16 Jul and 2 juvs., possibly locally produced, were seen 6 & 9 Jul (BW). The only report of Red-necked Phalarope was of a late migrant at Middlecreek W.M.A., *Lancaster*, PA 2-4 Jun (m. ob., *vide* DH).

There was the now-expected scattering of inland Laughing Gulls: one or 2 at P.I.S.P. 26 Jun-16 Jul (BC, JMc) and singles at Caesar Creek Res., *Warren*, OH 13 Jun and 22-24 Jul (LG) and Mosquito L. 26 Jul (D. Hochadel). The only report of Franklin's Gull was of an imm. at Caesar Cr. 29-30 Jun (LG). Away from L. Erie, a dozen young Herring Gulls fledged from eight nests at Highland P. Bridge on the Allegheny R., Pittsburgh, 4 were at a nest along the Allegheny at Kittanning, *Armstrong*, and 2 young were at a new site at Dashields Dam on the Ohio R. at Pittsburgh (SK). The 3 Gull-billed Terns spotted in a flooded field near Troxelville, *Snyder*, PA 7 Jun (D. & P. Williams) represent one of very few state records. Four Common Terns were rather late migrants inland at Quemahoning Res., *Somerset*, PA 3 Jun (JPa); a high of 63 birds was listed at the O.N.W.R. nesting colony 6 Jul (EP). A few Black Terns were presumed to be nesting at O.N.W.R. (EP); in Pennsylvania, a pair at P.I.S.P. may have attempted breeding (JMc), and summer sightings in the understudied Pymatuning Res./Hartstown marsh area suggested a few breeding birds persist there (RFL, M. Byler).

PARROTS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Monk Parakeet that appeared in Wilkes-Barre, PA in mid-spring remained and constructed a large nest this summer but failed to attract a mate (R. Roval). As usual, few Barn Owls were reported, but six active nests were known in the *Holmes/Tuscarawas* area in Ohio (BG), and 4 young fledged from a box at Rehrersburg, *Berks*, PA 31 Jul (R. Bonnett). Certainly the find of the season was

the Green Violet-ear that frequented a feeder at Terra Alta, Preston, WV from 26 Jun into mid-Aug (GF, N. Pulcinella, M. Gustafson, B. Peterjohn, m. ob.), establishing a first Regional record. To her credit, the homeowner graciously permitted documentation of the bird as well as visitation by listers for a time, until the volume of visitors became overwhelming.

A rare breeding bird in Ohio, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested at Mosquito W.A., OH, where the nest was located 6 Jun (S. Dehaven, ph.). An Alder Flycatcher was at the s. edge of Ohio range at Cedar Bog, Champaign 23 Jun+ (T. Shiveley). Seventy-three Willow Flycatchers were listed at O.N.W.R. 1 Jun (EP), an excellent count. Eastern Phoebes were recorded in record-low numbers on three B.B.S. centered at Rothrock S.E., Huntingdon, PA (GG), with just 6 listed (12 is average); they were considered to be doing well throughout ne. Ohio (LR). White-eyed Vireos continued to expand their range northward in Pennsylvania, with a bird heard at Roderick Wildlife Reserve, Erie 15 Jun (BC) and one near Irwin, Warren 13 Jul (P. Yeorg). Two territorial male Bell's Vireos were at their traditional nesting site at Bucks Cr. S.P., Clark, OH 22 Jun (D. Overacker); unfortunately, at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands, two nesting attempts by a pair of Bell's failed due to cowbird parasitism (fide RH). A late Philadelphia Vireo was at Magee Marsh W.A., OH 6 Jun (fide RH). Up to 10 Sedge Wrens were at The Voice of America grasslands, Butler, OH (N. Cade, MB); in Pennsylvania, 2 were near Teepleville, Crawford 10 Jun (C. Lundberg), and a single was found near Pymatuning Res. 30 Jul (RCL). Marsh Wrens were in particularly good numbers in their w. Crawford, PA nesting sites (RFL, RCL), and in Ohio, 25 were listed at O.N.W.R. 6 Jun (EP). A late Gray-cheeked Thrush was still at Erie, PA 12 Jun (BC), and at P.I.S.P., 3 late Swainson's Thrushes were

still present 10 Jun (BC).

Although Golden-winged Warblers went unreported by many birders, they persist in the Laurel Highlands of sw. Pennsylvania, where they were considered to be in "encouraging numbers" in Somerset (JPa) and still widespread in the Ligonier Valley, Westmoreland (RM, RCL). Three Black-throated Blue Warblers, one of Ohio's rarest breeding species, were apparently on territory at Stebbins Gulch, Geauga 7 Jun (H. Petruschke). A record 50 Black-throated Green Warblers (26 is the 12-year average) were listed on three Huntingdon, PA B.B.S. routes at Rothrock S.E., but the 19 American Redstarts were well below the average of 25 (GG). At Confluence, PA, Yellow-throated Warblers apparently deserted their nesting haunts after an outbreak of anthracosis defoliated the sycamore trees in that area in late May (JPa). A singing Pine Warbler was an unexpected find 23 Jun at P.I.S.P., where it has not been known to breed (BC). A few Blackpoll Warblers were again found nesting this year at Coal-Bed Swamp, Wyoming, PA, the state's only known nesting site (D. Gross). A total of 31 Prothonotary Warbler nest sites, many as part of a nest box trail, were located at Hoover Nature Reserve, Delaware, OH through 21 Jun (C. Bombaci). Rare in Ohio, a territorial male Mourning Warbler was in Munson Twp., Geauga 28 Jun (LR). A late migrating Wilson's Warbler was still in Cincinnati 7 Jun (A. Oliver), while an early migrant Blackburnian Warbler was there 29 Jul (S. Corbo).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Summer Tanagers are apparently increasing in Ohio, where 6 were found in the Oak Openings region w. of Toledo 7 Jul (R. Nirschl). Scarlet Tanagers were present in especially good numbers at Powdermill Nature Res., Westmoreland, PA (RM, ML), where 20 territories were located on a 25-hectare breeding bird census plot, and a record 91 birds (70 is the

12-year average) were listed on B.B.S. routes in Rothrock S.E., PA (GG). A Clay-colored Sparrow, first seen at Imperial, Allegheny, PA in May, remained there through at least 1 Jun (MF). An ad. Lark Sparrow in Lake, OH 17 Jul was an odd find for the ne. part of the state (JPo). Henslow's Sparrows continued to do well in reclaimed stripmines in w. Pennsylvania, while one at Newton Twp., Lackawanna 3 Jun was the first reported from ne. Pennsylvania in about three years (fide BR); 100 were estimated in reclaimed stripmines at Woodbury, Coshocton, OH 16 Jul (MB). It was a good year for Dickcissels in Ohio, with records from at least 27 counties ranging as far e. as Portage and s. to Gallia (fide BW).

It was also a banner season for Western Meadowlarks in Ohio, with singing males at six sites in five nw. counties, 4 birds remaining into Jul (RH). A male Brewer's Blackbird was a totally unexpected and unseasonal find in downtown Cleveland 15 Jun (RH). Other than a few widely scattered breeding Purple Finches across n. Pennsylvania, "northern finches" were essentially absent, the exception being a single Red Crossbill found in an extensive hemlock forest in Eaton Twp., Wyoming, PA 5 Jun (BR).

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