

Longney's Crossing 19 Jun (BL). Five Brewer's Blackbirds were far n. at Churchill 15 Jun (BDL, KN). Irregular in Saskatchewan, a male Bullock's Oriole was near Grasslands N.P. 10 Jun (KB), and an apparent hybrid Bullock's Oriole x Baltimore Oriole was at nearby Val Marie 14-15 Jun (AH).

Observers (provincial compilers in bold-face): R. Austin, M. Bailey, R. Bazin, E. Bazlik, F. Bedard, L. Bennett, C. Bjorklund, T. Bodnar, L. Bogeart (LBo), C. Braden (CBr), J.

Bregar, G. Budyk, K. Burton, D. Campbell, B. Carey (BCa), A. Carnio, B. Chartier, W. Christianson, J. Christie, Churchill Northern Studies Centre (tour), R. Clarke, L. Cocks, L. Comrack (LCm), J. Coons (JCo), P. Cram, C. Cuthbert, K. De Smet, B. Di Labio, L. Dudragne, M.-A. Dudragne, R. Dudragne, B. & S. Ewart, J. Duncan, Field Guides (tour), B. Frenz, K. Gardner, E. & O. Greenfield, B. Goulet, T. Goulet, M. Harrison, A. Hartley, C. Harvard, T. Hince, T. Hindmarch (THm), A. Hoback (AHO), M. Houston (MHo), S.

Houston, Betty Irving, Burt Irving (Bul), S. Johnson, R. Koes, T. Korolyk, G. Krätzig, J. Kumery, M. & S. Lewis, B. Luterbach, J. Markert, C. Mashon, P. McIntyre, A. Mickey, M. Mulligan, D. Nadeau, K. Neill, G. Parent, R. Parsons, L. Pesata, J. Pilny, R. Porteous (RPo), D. Raitt, J. Rasmussen, G. Romanchuk, R. Rudland, S. Shadick, P. Sherrington, M. Spitzer, M. Stoffel (MSt), J. Swartz, P. Taylor, D. Thomas, V. Thomas, D. Torkelson (DTo), L. Veelma, M. Waldron, B. Wilson, R. Worona. ☺

June was one of the wettest on record in most areas of the Region. At the author's home near Minot, North Dakota, 19 cm of rain fell on 1 June, and the month total reached 40.6 cm. Other totals included 18 cm at Great Falls, Montana and 19 cm at Grand Forks, North Dakota. In contrast, July was hot in many areas, and precipitation was near record-low levels.

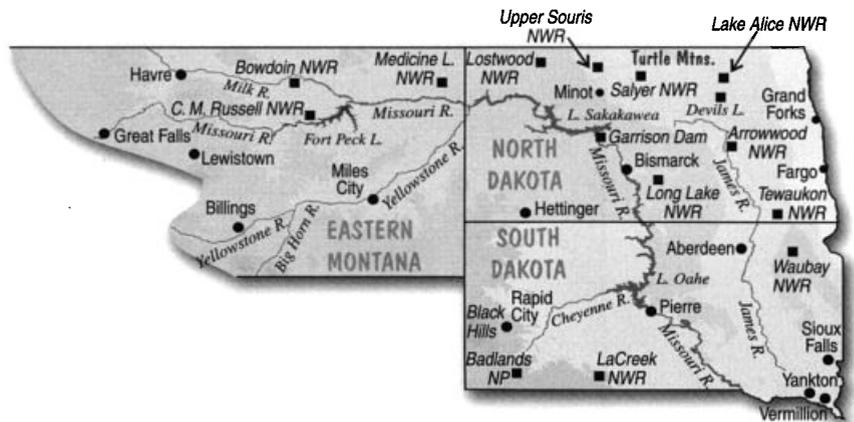
One of the results of the record precipitation was an incredibly verdant Region, even into usually dry eastern Montana. However, flooding was also a problem in many areas. Displaced birds were noted, and nesting was delayed or birds had to reneest. Colonial waterbirds were flooded in many places, but again, some reneested later in the season.

## GREBES THROUGH WRENS

Now a rare breeder in North Dakota, only one Horned Grebe was tallied. This species was a fairly common breeder as recently as two decades ago. In contrast, Red-necked Grebes continue expanding in the Region. A pair with young at Medicine Lake N.W.R., MT 13 Jul furnished the first nesting record for the refuge (EM, SL), and in ne. South Dakota, where the species is a local breeder, 11 pairs were confirmed nesting in three counties (ND). In a repeat of last year's event, most of the nesting American White Pelicans at Chase Lake N.W.R., ND abandoned nests and nestlings. The cause of these abandonments is still unknown. In South Dakota, 8000 nests were counted at Bitter L., Day (ND). Expansion of White-faced Ibis range continues, with 30 noted 25 Jun at a colony in *Burke*, ND (REM).

A Ross's Goose was unusual s. of Malta, MT 16 Jun (DP). Accidental in summer in South Dakota, a Tundra Swan was in *Minnehaha* 12 Jul (p.a., DC). An American Black Duck in *Burleigh*, ND 30 Jul was the first in 10+ years for the Bismarck area (CDE, HCT). Accidental in summer away from Grand Forks, a Greater Scaup was at Long Lake N.W.R. 18 Jul (HCT). The 3rd summer report for North Dakota, a Surf Scoter was photographed at Long Lake N.W.R. 3 Jul

# Northern Great Plains



(p.a., RC, *fide* MAG). Casual in summer, except in the Black Hills of South Dakota, a single Common Merganser was at Medicine Lake N.W.R., MT 15 Jun (TC). An ad. Bald Eagle in Malta, MT 10 Jun provided the first summer record for the area (DP). Rare in Cass, a Greater Prairie-Chicken was near Lake Bertha, ND 19 Jun (RHO).

Accidental in South Dakota, a Yellow Rail was in *Tripp* 17 Jun (p.a., DB); the species is also rare in se. North Dakota, where 2 were noted in *Ransom* 11 Jun (DLK). Common Moorhen is casual in South Dakota, where one was in *Lake* 3-7 Jun (p.a., ND, TJ, JSP, DC). Providing the first Jun report for the state, a Whimbrel was in *Meade*, SD 16 Jun (p.a., DC). A Stilt Sandpiper was early 25 Jun in *Kingsbury*, SD (JSP). Furnishing about the 9th report for North Dakota, a female Ruff was photographed in *Grand Forks*

## Ron Martin

16900 125th Street SE

Sawyer, North Dakota 58781-9284

(jrmartin@ndak.net)

25 Jul (p.a., EEF) Constituting the 5th record for South Dakota, a Laughing Gull was in *Yankton* 27 Jul (p.a., DS). Now rare e. of the Missouri R. in North Dakota, a Burrowing Owl was in *Foster* 3-4 Jun (PRS, DOL).

Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in the Black Hills of South Dakota included singles in *Lawrence* (DGP) and at three locations in *Custer* (TJ, JF, JB, RDO). A first for South Dakota and the Region, a female Magnificent



## GET DOWN AND DIRTY FOR AMERICA.

*And when you get your hands dirty in programs like National Public Lands Day, you help spruce up your beautiful lands. Last year, on this day, nearly 80,000 volunteers built trails, bridges, planted native trees and removed trash.*

*To find out how you can help, go to [www.npld.com](http://www.npld.com) or call 800-VOL-TEER (800-865-8337).*

HELPING HANDS  
FOR AMERICA'S LANDS



© 2004 Muench Photography, Inc.

Hummingbird was an astounding find in Sturgis 18 Jun (p.a., ph. RP). An Alder Flycatcher was on territory 18-27 Jun in Lawrence, SD (p.a., DC, DGP); there are no nesting records for the state. Just the 7th report for Montana, a Great Crested Flycatcher was photographed in Fallon 3 Jul (p.a., RM). A Yellow-throated Vireo along the Tongue R. on the ne. border of the North Cheyenne Reservation 9 Jun (p.a., CB) was only the 2nd ever reported in Montana. A Winter Wren was on territory in Lawrence, SD 16 Jun-14 Jul (DGP, RDO); nesting is suspected but not confirmed in the Black Hills.



Providing only the third summer season report for North Dakota, this Surf Scoter was at Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Burleigh County 3 July 2005. Photograph by Riley Case.

### THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Accidental in North Dakota in summer, a Townsend's Solitaire was in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P. 25 Jul (p.a., JAH). Two Swainson's Thrushes were singing 11 Jul at Lake Metigoshe S.P., Bottineau, ND (PB). There are no nesting records for the state and only one other record of a singing bird in the summer period. The year of the Northern Mockingbird continued, with four sightings in North Dakota following the five in spring. Casual in Montana, 2 Northern Mockingbirds were in Fallon 4 Jul (p.a., RM). In this Region, most early migrant warblers are recorded in e. North Dakota, so single Nashville and Wilson's Warblers in Morton 18 Jul were unusual (HCT). Vagrant Magnolia Warblers were noted 15 Jun in the Pryor Mts. of Montana (WEH) and 16 Jun in Meade, SD (AB, PB). Casual in Montana, a late migrant Blackburnian Warbler was at Westby 9 Jun (p.a., TN, RRW). About the 9th report for Montana, a Black-throated Gray Warbler was found 15 Jun in Bear Canyon in the Pryor Mts. (p.a., WEH), the same area where the species nested in 2001. Another late, rare migrant in Montana, a Bay-breasted Warbler was at Ft. Peck 9 Jun (CC).

Well n. of the species' known range in North Dakota, a Brewer's Sparrow was singing in Williams 30 Jun (DB). A few Lark Buntings made their way to n.-cen. North Dakota, the first in the area in some years. Henslow's Sparrows continued their presence in recent years in the Dakotas. Three reports for North Dakota included one in Foster 3-7 Jun, found by a group at the Prairies & Potholes Birding Festival (p.a., DOL, REM), one in Ransom 11 Jun (p.a., DLK), and 2 in Eddy (p.a., LDI, TR). In South Dakota, 2 Henslow's were in Miner 4-5 Jun (p.a., KM, TJ), a single was in Lincoln 14

Jun-9 Jul (p.a., DC), and another was in Clay 30 Jun (p.a., DC). Very rare in summer in North Dakota, a pair of Blue Grosbeaks was in Morton 1 Jul (MAG), and a single male was at another location in Morton 9 Jul (HCT, CDE). Dickcissels made a good showing in n.-cen. North Dakota, an area where they are absent most years. About the 8th report for Montana, a Lesser Goldfinch was singing in Billings 7 Jul (p.a., KO).

Contributors (state editors in boldface): MONTANA: Chris Brown, Charles Carlson, Tim Connolly, Sean Cross, W. Ed Harper, Elizabeth Madden, Robert Martinka, Ted Nordhagen, Kayhan Ostovar, Duane Prellwitz, Robin and Richard Wolcott. NORTH DAKOTA: Patrick Beauzay, Riley Case, Corey D. Ellingson, Eve E. Freeberg, Mark A. Gonzalez, John A. Heiser, Larry D. Igl, Don L. Kubischta, David O. Lambeth, Ron E. Martin, Robert H. O'Connor, Travis Ruzia, Paulette R. Scherr, H. Clark Talkington.



This Great Crested Flycatcher was in Fallon County 3 July 2005, furnishing the seventh report for Montana. Photograph by Bob Martinka.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Doug Backlund, Jocelyn Baker, Addison Ball, Patricia Ball, Doug Chapman, Nancy Drilling, Jennifer Fowler, Todd Jensen, Kenny Miller, Ricky D. Olson, Jeffrey S. Palmer, Randy Podoll, D. George Prisbe, Dave Swanson. ☺