



James J. Dinsmore

Iowa in June was somewhat warmer than normal and recorded its ninth driest June ever. July continued the warm and dry pattern. Habitat conditions seemed fairly normal, although severe drought affected parts of northwestern and south-central Iowa. In Missouri, temperatures were slightly above average in June and July, and precipitation was slightly below normal statewide. However, many areas, especially in western Missouri, had very hot and dry conditions, especially in July, which probably adversely affected nesting.

Accidental species found in Iowa were Mottled Duck and Painted Bunting. Other rarities included a Red-throated Loon, Ruff, Laughing Gull, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Good finds in Missouri included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and White-winged Doves, a Long-eared Owl brood, and the state's second Sandhill Crane nesting attempt. Barn Owls, Bald Eagles, and Henslow's Sparrows did well in both states. Shorebird migration was unusually strong, with 33 species found.

Abbreviations: B.K.L.C.A. (B. K. Leach C.A., Lincoln, MO); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); L&D 25 (Lock and Dam 25, Lincoln, MO); Red Rock (Red Rock Res., Marion, IA); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); S.C.N.W.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); U.S.N.W.R. (Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth, IA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 26-30 Jun at E.B.C.A. (AF, m.ob.) and a Fulvous Whistling-Duck 3 Jun near Fort Crowder C.A., Newton (LH) add to the records for both in Missouri. A Greater White-fronted Goose

was found 29 Jun at R.M.B.S. (ph. JU, m.ob.). Iowa Trumpeter Swans had 28 nesting attempts, 21 of which were successful, their best year yet (Ron Andrews). In Missouri, a pair returned to *Livingston/Carroll*, but their nest was not successful this year. A male Mottled Duck 7-8 Jul at Saylorville (ph., †SD, †AB, m.ob.) furnished Iowa's first record. Unusual summer waterfowl in Missouri included a male and possible female Cinnamon Teal 4 Jun at E.B.C.A. (BG, EW), a pair of Common Goldeneyes summering at S.C.N.W.R. (refuge staff), and a Common Merganser 27 Jul near St. Joseph, *Buchanan* (LL).

Prairie grouse did poorly in both states. A brood of Greater Prairie-Chickens 22 Jun at Hi-Lonesome Prairie C.A., *Benton*, MO (Bill Jensen) indicated that some are still hanging on there. In Iowa, no broods and only a few Greater Prairie-Chickens were found in Kellerton B.C.A., *Ringgold* (Chad Paup, *fide* JD), and no Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported (Ed Weiner, *fide* JD). A Red-throated Loon 16-17 Jun near Sioux City (ph. PR, BH) made Iowa's 2nd summer record; the other was in 1999. Four Common Loons at Smithville L., *Clay*, MO (res. staff) and singles in *Dickinson* (LS) and *Polk*, IA (Bob Norris) probably were summering. An Eared Grebe 13 Jun in *Dickinson*, IA (LS) provided the only report. Between one and 5 Western Grebes were found each in *Clay*, *Kossuth*, *Polk*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Story*, IA (m.ob.); none appeared to be nesting. The usual small flocks of American White Pelicans remained in n. Iowa in Jun and early Jul. By late Jul, migrants arrived, with 730 at Saylorville and 2000 at Red Rock 23 Jul (SD). Small groups were also present in Jul in Missouri (m.ob.).

Young American Bitterns were seen in *Story* (Mike Meetz, *fide* HZ) and *Marion*, IA (Chuck Kakac, *fide* SD), s. of where the species normally nests. Mid-summer s. herons included one or 2 Snowy Egrets 30-31 Jul at Red Rock (JS, AB) and a Little Blue Heron 9 Jul at U.S.N.W.R. (MK). Little Blue Herons were seen at several locations in Missouri, with about 2000 at a heronry in *Scott* 16 Jun (JE). Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen in more locations in both states than in recent years (m.ob.). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nest in *Chickasaw* (Rachel Anderson) seems to be Iowa's first since 1961.

Four of six Osprey nests in Iowa were successful and produced 8 young, similar to 2005 production (PS). A nest in *Randolph*, MO produced 2 young (Anne Downing). Mississippi Kites continued to expand their Missouri range, with a few in *St. Louis* (BR, Mike Rowe, MT) and *Jasper* (LH), and nests in

Boone (Denny Donnell) and *Jackson* (LR). A few were found in *Polk*, IA in Jul (JG, m.ob.) All reports in both states were in urban areas Bald Eagle nests in Iowa totaled about 200, up from 190 in 2005. With six counties added this year, Bald Eagles have nested in 77 of Iowa's 99 counties (BEh). Northern Harrier nests were found in *Adams* (Ryan Marquardt, *fide* SD) and *Winneshiek*, IA (Larry Reis, *fide* DC). Several others were seen in both states (m.ob.). Numerous reports were received for three woodland hawks in Iowa: Cooper's Hawk (20 counties), Red-shouldered Hawk (eight counties), and Broad-winged Hawk (nine counties)(SP, KP, m.ob.). Most were probably nesting. Several Swainson's Hawks in sw. Missouri (m.ob.) and one near St. Joseph, *Buchanan* (LL) indicate that a small population persists. As last summer, none were reported in Iowa. Five of 10 Peregrine Falcon nesting attempts in Iowa were successful, but two attempts on natural cliffs were not (PS).

King Rails nested at S.C.N.W.R. (refuge staff) and B.K.L.C.A. (m.ob.). One at Red Rock (JS) furnished Iowa's only report of the season. Several Virginia Rails and Soras were heard 19 Jun near E.B.C.A. (BG, AF), suggesting that small breeding populations exist there. Soras were also found at two sites in *Stoddard*, MO (SS, JE). Common Moorhens were found a several locations in Missouri, with 9 near Otter Slough C.A., *Stoddard* (JE, JU, JM). Iowa's only reports, including a brood, were from *Winneshiek* (Ellen Bell, DC). A Sandhill Crane nest found in May at S.C.N.W.R., Missouri's 2nd nesting attempt, was found abandoned in Jun (Frank Durbin). Up to 4 cranes were also seen near B.K.L.C.A. (SS, m.ob.). In Iowa, a Sandhill Crane brood was in *Winneshiek* (DC, PH), but a pair in *Poweshiek* (SP, KP) was unexpected

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Late spring migrants included a Black-bellied Plover 18 Jun in *Greene* (JD), Hudsonian Godwit 10 Jun in *Clay* (LS), Dunlin 11 Jun at Saylorville (BE), and 5 Stilt Sandpipers 9 Jun at Saylorville (AB), all in Iowa, and a Sanderling 9 Jun at E.B.C.A. (EW). Black-necked Stilts continued to increase in Missouri. One was at E.B.C.A. 7 Jul (BG), and 40 were in *Stoddard* 8 Jul (JE, JU, JM). The only American Avocets were one 1 Jun in *Wright*, IA (AB) and 4 on 27 Jul at U.S.N.W.R. (SD, MK). Piping Plovers had at least two nests at Sioux City and one at Council Bluffs, IA, but nest success was poor (BH, PR, EB)

Upland Sandpipers were found statewide in both states (m.ob.), with increased numbers in e. Missouri (CM). Early southbound

shorebirds in Iowa included a Baird's Sandpiper 2 Jul at U.S.N.W.R. (MK), Dunlin 26 Jul in *Woodbury* (BH), Buff-breasted Sandpiper 22 Jul in *Cerro Gordo* (RG), and 2 Red-necked Phalaropes 27 Jul at U.S.N.W.R. (SD). In Missouri, 2 Semipalmated Plovers 8 Jul in *Mississippi* (JE, JU, JM), 2 Solitary Sandpipers 30 Jun at E.B.C.A. (JU, JM, CM), and a Wilson's Snipe 23 Jul in *Lincoln* (SS) were early. Other good southbound finds included a Marbled Godwit 2 & 28 Jul at Saylorville (BE, SD); a Willet 4 Jul at R.M.B.S. (JU), plus as many as 5 in four Iowa counties, all in Jul (m.ob.); a Sanderling 18 & 20 Jul at Saylorville (SD, RA, PA); a Western Sandpiper 23 Jul at Red Rock (SD, JG); and Iowa's 13th Ruff 31 Jul at Red Rock (†PA, ph RA, †AB, †AJ, ph. JG). In late Jul, water levels at U.S.N.W.R. were ideal for shorebirds, as evidenced by counts of 2032 Killdeer, 1148 Lesser Yellowlegs, 205 Solitary Sandpipers, 1446 Least Sandpipers, 6230 Pectoral Sandpipers, 273 Stilt Sandpipers, and 30 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, all 27 Jul (SD). Ruddy Turnstones were found in both states, with singles on 20 Jul at Saylorville (SD), 27 Jul at U.S.N.W.R. (MK, SD), and 23 Jul at L&D 25 (SS).

The only Laughing Gull was one 25 Jul at Red Rock (ph., †SD). Franklin's Gulls were found in several places in Iowa in Jun, with a high count of 24 on 19 Jun at U.S.N.W.R. (MK). Missouri's only report was one 21 Jul in *Buchanan* (LL). Migrant Ring-billed Gulls were evident by late Jul, with 224 at Saylorville and 645 at Red Rock, both 25 Jul (SD), and 27 on 31 Jul at L&D 25 (SS). Single Herring Gulls 18 & 23 Jul at Saylorville (SD) and 31 Jul at Red Rock (DA) were the only reports. A few Caspian Terns were in both states; 5 on 9 Jun at R.M.B.R. (CM) and 16 on 7 Jul at Saylorville (JG) were the top counts. Uncommon in summer, single Common Terns were at Saylorville 27 Jun–22 Jul (ph SD, JG) and Red Rock 25 Jul (SD), and 4 were at L&D 25 on 23 Jul (SS). The only Forster's Terns that may have been nesting were 16 in *Dickinson*, IA 28 Jun (ET). In Missouri, 6 in *Chariton* 10 Jul (SK, LL) and 6 in *Lincoln* 27 Jul (SS) were migrants. Least Terns were at their usual Iowa nesting sites near Sioux City and Council Bluffs, with four nests at Council Bluffs (BH, PR, EB). Most surprising was an unsuccessful nesting attempt at Saylorville (SD, AB). A pair courting at R.M.B.S. was thwarted by high water (CM). Fifteen 29 Jul in *Penisot*, MO (SS) were migrants. There were no reports of Black Terns nesting in Iowa. Migrants were present by late Jul, with 55 at L&D 25 on 26 Jul (SS) and 211 at U.S.N.W.R. 27 Jul (SD).

DOVES THROUGH MIMIDS

With reports from *Hardin* and *Madison* (SP, RA, PA), Eurasian Collared-Doves have been reported in 69 of Iowa's counties. Northeastern Iowa has the fewest reports. A pair of White-winged Doves was seen at the same *Mississippi*, MO site where found in 2005. A probable juv. was seen there 8 Jul (JE, JU, JM). A White-winged Dove in *Cerro Gordo* 10 Jun (RG) was Iowa's only report. Black-billed Cuckoos were found in 13 Iowa counties (m.ob.) and at E.B.C.A. and *Harrison* in Missouri (Robert Schnase, Doug Willis). Several Iowa observers commented on its scarcity. Greater Roadrunners were reported across Missouri's Ozarks, including singles 17 Jun in *Ozark* (SS), 19 Jun in *Greene* (John Fusselman), and 24 Jul in *Webster* (Andrew Kinslow).

Barn Owls had a good year in both states, with scattered reports statewide in Missouri and a nest with 9 young in *Henry*. Iowa had eight nests, with at least six of those being successful (BEh, AB). At least 6 Long-eared Owls were seen 13 Jun near where a brood was found this spring in *Livingston* (SK). This seems to be Missouri's first nest since 1983. Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows were fairly common in Missouri, especially in the Ozarks (m.ob.). One in *Holt* 6 Jun was the northernmost (TR). Iowa's only Chuck-will's-widow was in *Lucas* 21–23 Jun (JL). Two Whip-poor-wills 23 Jul in *Lyon*, IA (SP) were n. of their usual range.

Three Yellow-bellied Flycatchers 11 Jun in *Kossuth*, IA (MK, PH) were late. Reported from 27 counties in all but parts of w. Iowa (m.ob.), Acadian Flycatchers were more widespread than generally thought. Least Flycatchers, whose Iowa breeding range is poorly known, were found in mid-Jun through Jul in *Allamakee*, *Wapello*, and *Dubuque* (AB, SP, DA). Both Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in good numbers in Missouri, with nesting reported from *Livingston* (SK) and at new locations in se. Missouri (m.ob.). Western Kingbirds continued to nest at their cen. Iowa outpost in *Des Moines* (RA, PA, m.ob.). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on 29 Jul in *Polk* (ph. Matt Bass) was Iowa's only report.

One or 2 Loggerhead Shrikes were found in 18 counties in cen. and s. Iowa (m.ob.); nowhere were they common. White-eyed Vireos were reported from 11 counties (m.ob.), mostly in se. Iowa. Two Black-billed Magpie nests in *Plymouth*, IA apparently were successful (Scott Moats, *vide* JJD). Fish Crows continue to expand their Missouri range. Eight were in *Jasper* 26 Jun (LH), and birds were seen throughout the season at E.B.C.A.

(BG, AF). The only Red-breasted Nuthatch was one 20 Jun in St. Louis (Sherry McCowan). A Bewick's Wren again was present in *Lee*, IA (m.ob.). Carolina Wrens were fairly common in both states (m.ob.). The series of mild winters probably has helped their populations.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Late warblers included a Tennessee Warbler 19 Jun in *Clay* (LS), a Magnolia Warbler 14 Jun in *Hancock* (RG, MK), a Black-and-white Warbler 3 Jun in *Boone* (WO), and a Wilson's Warbler 8 Jun in *Polk* (Jane Clark, m.ob.), all in Iowa, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler 7 Jun in *Greene*, MO (DR). Several Chestnut-sided Warblers in Jun were mostly in n. Iowa (DK, NM, JL, PH), where they may nest. Two Yellow-throated Warblers at St. Joseph, *Buchanan*, MO 8 Jun (DE, Jack Hilsabeck), where they were found in 2005, were nw. of their usual range. A Prairie Warbler found in *Benton*, IA in May remained at least through Jun (†DA, BS), and another was at Shimek S.E., *Lee* 7 & 15 Jun (†SP, MD). Cerulean Warblers were reported from 15 counties in e. Iowa (m.ob.). In Missouri, they were seen in *St. Charles* (MT), *Christian* (Greg Swick), and *Putnam* (Greg Gremaud). Most reports of Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers in Iowa were from the se. corner in *Lee*, with a few from nearby counties (m.ob.).

Clay-colored Sparrows were found in four n. Iowa counties (m.ob.), including ads. feeding young at U.S.N.W.R. (SD), one of Iowa's few recent verified nesting records. Grassland species such as Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Boblink seemed to be common throughout Iowa (m.ob.). Henslow's Sparrow continued its amazing increase, with reports from 24 Iowa counties. Up to 10 were found in Mingo N.W.R., *Stoddard* in se. Missouri (m.ob.), where it is not found regularly. White-throated Sparrows appeared in both states: singles 5 Jul in *Marshall*, IA (MP) and 6 Jul in *Atchison*, MO (TR). Blue Grosbeaks wandered from their usual range, with more reports than normal in n. Missouri (m.ob.) and reports from *Dubuque*, *Lee*, and *Linn* (DA, JG, RG), far from its usual w. Iowa range. The Painted Bunting found in May in *Story*, IA, remained through the end of Jul (SP, WO); it furnished the state's 2nd record. A male and female Painted Bunting in *Cole* (Jim Rathert), several in *St. Charles* 30 Jul (MT), plus several reports from sw. Missouri (m.ob.), attest to the continued presence of this species in Missouri. Reports of Eurasian Tree Sparrows from *Donnellson*, *Lee* (MP) and from *Washington* (MD, BS) add to the slow expansion of its Iowa range.

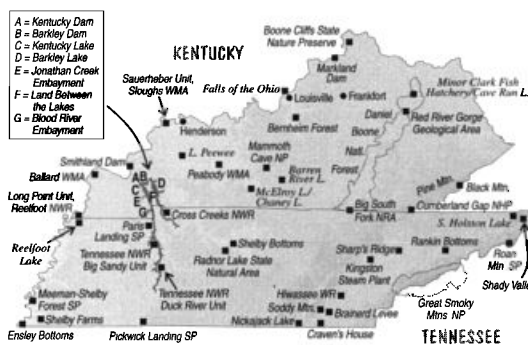
Cited observers (subregional coordinators in boldface): Danny Akers, Pam Allen, Reid Allen, Elliott Bedow, John Bissell, Aaron Brees, Dennis Carter, **James Dinsmore**, Stephen Dinsmore, Michael Dooley, Joe Eades, David Easterla, Bruce Ehresman, Bery Engebretsen, Andrew Forbes, Jay Gilliam, Bill Goodge, Rita Goranson, Larry Herbert,

Paul Hertz, Jack Hilsabeck, Bill Huser, Ann Johnson, Matthew Kenne, Steve Kinder, Darwin Koenig, Larry Lade, Jeff Livingston, Charlene Malone, Jim Malone, Nathan Miller, Wolf Oesterreich, Katy Patterson, Shane Patterson, Mark Proescholdt, Dean Rising, Larry Rizzo, Tommy Rogers, Paul Rosien, Bill Rowe, Bill Scheible, Pat Schlar-

baum, Lee Schoenewe, Scott Schuette, Jim Sinclair, Ed Thelen, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Edge Wade, Hank Zaletel. An additional 23 uncited individuals contributed to the report; all have our thanks. ☺

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Tennessee & Kentucky



WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

As has become expected in recent summers, a few ducks—at least some likely injured during the previous winter's hunting season—lingered at White L.; this year's reports included a Gadwall 11 Jun (WGC, KL), a Blue-winged Teal and a Green-winged Teal 14 & 25 Jun (WGC, KL, BL), 3 Northern Shovelers 14 Jun–26 Jul (WGC, KL, BL), and 2-3 Northern Pintails 6-26 Jul

(WGC, KL, BL). Single male Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals summered in *Washington*, TN (*fide* RK); a female Hooded Merganser was there 23 Jun (RK). The Region's only breeding record for Blue-winged Teal during this season was represented by a family group of 5 in *Union*, KY 5 Jul (BPa, JB). A male Blue-winged Teal and a male Ruddy Duck at Cane Creek Park, *Putnam*, TN 28 Jun (SJS) furnished first summer records for that county. Single Ruddies were present at *Lexington*, KY during the first half of Jul (SM) and in *Ballard*, KY 29 Jul (ME).

Single Common Loons turned up in *Letcher*, KY in early Jun (*fide* BPa) and in *Pulaski*, KY in mid-Jul (*fide* SB). Several family groups of Pied-billed Grebes were again present in *Union*, KY this summer (BPa et al.). Four American White Pelicans were rather unusual in *Muhlenberg*, KY 21 Jul+ (DR et al.). A **Brown Pelican** observed flying up the Ohio R. at the Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson* 3 Jun (†TB, MT) will provide Kentucky with its 3rd record if accepted by the Kentucky B.R.C. The discovery of 33 Double-crested Cormorant nests at *Cherokee L.*, *Grainger*, TN 3 Jun (MS) added yet another breeding location for this expanding species; four Great Egret nests in the same colony furnished a first breeding record for that species there as well. Two ad. Anhingas were at White L. 11 Jun, with a juv. there 26 Jul (WGC, KL).

Two Least Bitterns at *Kyker Bottoms*,

Blount, TN 15 Jun (CM) were likely breeding, at *Standifer Gap*, 25 nests were located 2-4 Jul (DP), with at least 18 young fledging. Additional reports of Least Bittern included one at *Ensley* 29 Jul (JRW) and one to 2 at single sites in *Muhlenberg* and *Union*, KY (BPa). An American Bittern at *Shady Valley*, *Johnson*, TN 8-12 Jun (RK, WC et al.) was a local first for summer; one in a hayfield in *Jefferson*, KY 17 Jul (BPa) must have been a post-breeding wanderer or early migrant. The species has been reported nesting in the Region only once (1976) since the mid-1940s. Snowy Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Cattle Egrets, and White Ibis were all reported in above-average numbers from e. Tennessee. Fledgling Little Blue Herons were observed at *Woods Res.*, *Franklin*, TN 12 Jul (†JI, D&JS), furnishing an extremely rare breeding record in recent years away from the w. portion of the Region. White L. hosted an exceptional 3 Tricolored Herons 23 Jul (WGC, KL, BL). Small numbers of Snowy Egrets were again present this year at the heronry on n. L. *Barkley*, *Lyon*, KY (ME). The only reports of nesting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Kentucky, where it is a less common breeder than in Tennessee, came from *Lexington* (PD, *fide* JW) and along *Grays Branch*, *Hopkins/Christian* line (BPa). A **Wood Stork** at *Rankin Bottoms*, *Cocke*, TN 30 Jul (RK, MS) furnished one of only a handful of records for e. Tennessee.

A Northern Harrier nest with 5 young in *Hopkins*, KY in early Jun (ph. BPa) represented a first confirmed breeding record for that county. The only extralimital Mississippi Kite in the Region was one at *Lexington*, KY 11 Jun (JB). An ad. female Peregrine Falcon at *Roan Mt.* 11 Jun (FA) was unexpected; at least 2 fledglings were still present at the regular nest site on the railroad bridge below *Chickamauga Dam*, *Hamilton*, TN 13 Jun (HS). In Kentucky, four new nesting sites were discovered, doubling the state's known tally of breeding pairs, all of which occur along the Ohio R. corridor (BV, SV, AS).

Chris Sloan | Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Weather conditions during the summer season 2006 were relatively normal, although there was some variation across the Region. In general, precipitation was higher (slightly above normal) in the northern portion, but lower (slightly below to below normal) in the southern and eastern portions. Temperatures were relatively consistent across the Region, with slightly cooler-than-normal readings in the northern portion in June but warmer-than-normal readings Regionwide during July. Rarity highlights in the Region included a Brown Pelican, several White Ibis, and a Ruff. Nesting Least Terns experienced mixed results, with low water conditions on the Mississippi River resulting in relatively good success, while small rises on the lower Ohio River (where nesting sites are not as high above normal water level) caused much failure in early nestings there.

Abbreviations: Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. *Shelby*, TN); Heritage Marsh (*White*, TN); Kentucky Dam (at the n. end of Kentucky L., *Livingston/Marshall*, KY); Lake No. 9 (*Fulton*, KY); Roan Mt. (*Carter*, TN); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN); White L. (White L. W.M.A., *Dyer*, TN).