Illinois & Indiana



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hile overall mean temperatures for the period were approximately normal, June was a few degrees warmer than normal, while July was a few degrees cooler than normal. Both June and July were drier than average, with precipitation levels close to 5 cm below the mean. Despite the dry conditions and lack of any significant weather events, several rarities visited the Region, including Neotropic Cormorant, White Ibis, Snowy Plover, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Brown-chested Martin. A variety of birds unusual for the summer season were also present, among them Common Merganser, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations: EP. (Forest Preserve); Goose Pond (Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area, *Greene*, IN); Horseshoe (Horseshoe L., *Madison*, IL); Lowd.-Mill. (Lowden-Miller S.F., *Ogle*, IL); Montrose (Montrose Pt., Lincoln Park, Chicago).

WATERFOWL

A summering Snow Goose was at Chautauqua N.W.R. 1 Jun-21 Jul (R&SB). The pair of Trumpeter Swans that nested in Savanna, IL last summer did so again this year, with 4 young present 9 Jun (UWG, SDB, VMK, m.ob.). A pair of Mute Swans with 6 cygnets at Salamonie Res., Huntington 5 Jun (SS, JAH) marked a significant southward expansion of the species' nesting range in ne. Indiana. While Blue-winged Teal nested throughout the Region, five different broods were at Goose Pond (LWS). A pair of Gadwall with 8 newly hatched young was observed 11-14 Jul at the L. Decatur dredge ponds (TAM). Infrequent summer dabblers that were at Goose Pond included a male Gadwall that remained through

30 Jun (LWS), a male Northern Pintail that was seen through 15 Jun (LWS), and a Greenwinged Teal (probably an early migrant) that was seen 22 Jul (JDH). Single Canvasbacks were noted 24 Jun at the L. Decatur dredge ponds (TAM) and 14 Jul at the Upper Mississippi River N.W.R. (DW, DLT). A Redhead was seen 13 Jun in Lake, IL (SDB, MPW), and 7 were at Hennepin-Hopper L. Restoration Area, Putnam, IL 16 Jun (GAW). Five Lesser Scaup were noted in Illinois during the season. A female Surf Scoter was observed 14 Jul at the Upper Mississippi River N.W.R. (DW, DLT). A female Bufflehead with young at Black-crown Marsh, McHenry (BS) represented Illinois's first breeding record. A Common Goldeneye lingered in Chicago through 7 Jun (SSp). Indiana's highest-ever summer total of 71 Hooded Mergansers included several successful broods. An ad. male Common Merganser was at the e. end of L. Monroe 16 Jun (RK), and perhaps the same bird was at the w. end of L. Monroe 15 Jul (ph. JG), providing only the 6th summer record for Indiana. Another Common Merganser was in Will, IL 2 Jul (JP).

GROUSE THROUGH IBIS

A brood of Ruffed Grouse was seen sw. of Bloomington 23 Jun (VW). Late Common Loons were seen on L. Monroe 12 & 22 Jun (DRW), at Goose Lake Prairie S.P. 10 Jun (UWG, REF, m.ob.), and in *Jasper*, IL 4 Jun (CLH). A Common Loon in alternate plumage was present 18 Jul–4 Aug at the Jake Wolf Fish



A one-day wonder, this adult White Ibis, Indiana's third adult ever, was photographed at Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area in Benton County on 1 July 2007. *Photograph by Edward M. Hopkins.*

Hatchery, Mason, IL (R&SB, SDB, m.ob.).

Large numbers of American White Pelicans remained along the major Illinois river systems, with 2587 at Chautauqua N.W.R. 21 Jul (R&SB). Six Double-crested Cormorant nests, one of which contained four eggs, were

observed 14 Jun at L. Gibson (GB, JKC, KJB) where cormorants last nested in 1999. A Neotropic Cormorant was present 28 Jun-28 Jul at Horseshoe (ph., †FRH, ph. DMK, ph JU, m.ob.); Illinois has 12 prior accepted records. The high tally for American Bitterns consisted of 4 birds, at least 2 of which were juvs., at Goose Pond 21 Jul (LWS, m.ob.). At least 43 Least Bitterns were reported from 28 different locations in the Region, the high count consisting of 5 birds at Goose Pond 21 Jun (DRW, JE, MA). Heron numbers at the Alorton, IL colony were diminished this summer, with only 40 Snowy Egret nests and 75 Little Blue Heron nests (VMK, DMK, TM). A nice count of 2000 Great Egrets was made 18 Jul at Horseshoe (FRH). Good numbers of Little Blue Herons were still present in s. Illinois, however, with 225 at Horseshoe 20 Jul (KAM) the peak tally. Cattle Egrets, on the other hand, were very scarce. None were breeding at Alorton (VMK). A remarkable 47 Green Herons were found at Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery, Mason, IL 3 Aug (R&SB). Blackcrowned Night-Herons were found nesting in Chicago's Lincoln Park, with 13 nests counted 11 Jul (ph. GN). Good tallies of Yellowcrowned Night-Herons from Illinois included 8 at Mermet L. 10 Jun (DMK) and 7 at Horseshoe 28 Jul (DMK, TAM). Furthermore, high numbers were recorded in Indiana, headlined by 6 at Minnehaha Fish and Wildlife Area 28 Jun (MJ, JSu) and 10 at Goose Pond 19 Jul (J&SH, LWS et al.), the latter representing Indiana's 5th highest one-day tally. An ad. White Ibis, only the 3rd ad. ever found in Indiana, was photographed at Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area 1 Jul (EMH).

OSPREY THROUGH MOORHENS

Ospreys nested at six locations in Illinois, at least three of the nests producing young. In Indiana, eggs were laid in 17 different nests statewide, and 15 of those were successful, producing a total of 40 young (JSC). Mississippi Kites n. of their normal range included an ad. at Dunes S.P., Porter 16 Jun (RJP), an individual 30 Jun in Lake, IL (CEG), and a group of 3 in Peoria, IL 21-26 Jun (MG m.ob.). A single Mississippi Kite 5 Jul (DC) and then a pair at a nest 8 Jul (ShS) were discovered in Evansville, IN, marking the first occurrence of the species for Vanderburgh The McHenry/Kane, IL nesting population of Swainson's Hawks included four pairs this summer (ALM, RAM). An unusual summer sighting of a Merlin occurred 30 Jul in Downers Grove, IL (REF).

King Rails were once again seen consistently at Goose Pond, where the high count was of one ad. with 6 downy young 3 Jul



While sight records of Western Kingbirds are not exceedingly rare in the Illinois & Indiana region, nesting records are very much so. A pair was present at a nest in Pulaski County, Indiana from 9 (here) through 19 June 2007; the nest was not successful. *Photograph by Robert Huguenard*.

(D&HW). A Virginia Rail calling 14 Jun (JC, BF, RRu, LWS), and another seen 3 Jul (LWS), at Goose Pond represented fairly southerly breeders or non-breeding summering birds. Single Soras at Goose Pond 18 (LWS, SE) & 28 Jul (LWS) could have been non-breeders or early fall migrants. Common Moorhens were reported from seven different counties in Indiana, with successful reproduction occurring in at least three different locations. From Illinois, ad. Common Moorhens with young were observed at James Pate Phillip S.P. (PMx), at Rollins Savanna, Lake (MF), and at Horseshoe (DMK, KAM et al.), and moorhens were seen at eight additional Illinois locations, but with no young birds noted.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Four Piping Plovers, at least 2 of which were banded juvs., were at Michigan City Harbor 28 Jul (RT, KJB, JKC et al.), constituting only the 2nd record at this site in the past 15 years. High counts of Black-necked Stilts in Indiana mcluded 11 (4 downy young) at Cane Ridge W.M.A., *Gibson* 8 Jun (LP) and 8 (2 downy young) at Goose Pond 15 Jun (LWS); a bird on L. Lemon 31 Jul furnished the first record for *Monroe*, IN (J&SH). East Cape Girardeau, IL hosted 6 Black-necked Stilts 10 Jun (DMK). For the first time since 1992, no American Avocets were recorded in the Region during the summer period.

Indiana's 3rd highest statewide and highestever summer total of Lesser Yellowlegs, 700, was tallied at Goose Pond 27 Jul (JC, LWS). Only 4 Willets were tallied on the Indiana lakefront, representing the worst flight there in 11 years and well down from the 20-year

average of 54.8 (fide KJB). A single inland Willet at L. Gibson 19 Jun (DA, CEM) was notable. A fine tally of 9 Upland Sandpipers was made at Universal Mine, Sullivan, IN 4 Jul (G&LB). Late-migrating Whimbrels were seen 2 Jun in Valparaiso, IN (KN) and 6 Jun in Waukegan, IL (CF), and the southbound movement started 24 Jul, with one seen at Montrose (KM) as well as singles at Miller Beach, Lake, IN 29 (MT) & 31 Jul (KJB). The only Ruddy Turnstones of the season were 4 at Montrose 27 Jul (CL) and 4 at Michigan City Harbor 28 Jul (RT, SRB, RJP et al.). Indiana's seasonal total of 52 Sanderlings represented the poorest flight in eight years. Two Semipalmated Sandpipers 26 Jun at Montrose (RDH) and a White-rumped and 3 Pectoral Sandpipers 23 Jun at Car-

lyle L. (DMK) were presumed to be late spring migrants. An ad. Dunlin, presumably a nonbreeding wanderer, was seen 3-5 Jul at Montrose (RDH, ph. GAW). The 13 Wilson's Snipe reported from Indiana, including 4 at Goose Pond 27 Jul (LWS), constituted the highestever summer total for the state. Intriguing with respect to the possibility of nesting was a snipe found at Lebanon Business Park, *Boone*, IN 20 & 27 Jun (RLH). Only 3 Wilson's Phalaropes were reported in the Region.

An ad. Laughing Gull sitting on a nest with one egg at L. Cal. (SB, fide MPW) represented Illinois's first breeding record. Another Laughing Gull in alternate plumage was at Wolf L., Lake, IN 13 Jun (WJM) and subsequently at the Hammond Marina 17 Jun (KJB, JKC). Observations of Bonaparte's Gulls were scattered over the Region. Sightings of the rarer large gulls were limited to second-year Lesser Blackbacked Gulls 10 Jun at Illinois Beach S.P. (AFS), 15 Jun at Montrose (GAW), and 27 Jul at Carlyle L. (DMK). The 50+ Common Terns at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center breeding colony fledged 6 young for the summer (DRD). There were 15 pairs of Forster's Terns that attempted nesting at Chain O' Lakes S.P., Lake, IL; however, no young were fledged due to nest predation (CJ, BS). Two Black Terns were at Goose Pond 10 Jun (LWS), and singles were on L. Monroe 20 Jun (DRW) and at L. Gibson 19 Jun (DA, CEM) and 15 Jul (G&LB). Breeding occurred at Redwing Slough, Lake, IL as usual (SDB, MPW).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A White-winged Dove in *Adams* 27-28 Jun (JR, *fide* JAH) furnished the first record for ne.

Indiana (p.a.). The largest concentration of Eurasian Collared-Doves was a group of 225 in Granite City, IL 21 Jul (DMK, KAM et al.). On 4 Jun, a Barn Owl nest box in s. Lawrence, IN contained an ad. and 3 downy chicks, and one in n. Orange, IN contained an ad. and 4 nearly fledged young (JSC). A barn in sw. Tippecanoe with one young and 2 ad. Barn Owls 7 Jul (DZ, fide JSC) was well n. of all recent nesting activity in Indiana. Illinois Barn Owl observations included a calling individual at New Athens 29 Jun (DMK) and 2 in Mt. Erie 1 Jun-31 Jul (RES). Twelve Chuck-will'swidows were tallied 23 Jun at Ferne Clyffe S.P., Johnson, IL (KAM), while singles were logged in Greene, Spencer, and Sullivan, IN. Numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were well above normal throughout the Region. In Indiana, a record 248 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were recorded, including 34 in the lakefront area. The highest daily counts were of 15 both in Miami, IN 30 Jun (C&SD) and in Marion, IL 8 Jun (SDB). A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers feeding 3 young was noted 14 Jun at Upper Mississippi River N.W.R. (SDB).

Two Alder Flycatchers were observed 21 Jul at Volo Bog, Lake, IL (JSS), and a Least Flycatcher was seen feeding a young Brownheaded Cowbird 7 Jul at Song Bird Slough Forest Preserve, DuPage, IL (ABA, CVW). A pair of Western Kingbirds (EMH), and later a nest (LSH, SRB, JKC, KJB), was discovered in Pulaski, IN 9 Jun. The nest was photographed (RH), and the birds were seen through 19 Jun (BR). Westerns were also reported from s. Illinois, with a maximum of 4 at Granite City 21 Jul (KAM). On 3 Jun, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in Parke, IN by Patsy Steffen, at the same site where she found one 17 May 2006. Another Scissor-tailed was found in Cass, IN 29 Jul (RR). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher, seen by a single observer 7 Jun at Illinois Beach S.P. (†PWS), would be just the Region's 2nd if accepted.

A pair of Bell's Vireos found at a nest in e. Elkhart, IN 11 Jun (DS, LS, DSt et al.) provided a first county record, and a pair near Indiana Beach 24 Jun (RRd) provided a 2nd record for White, IN. Incredible were the 43 Bell's Vireos tallied at Hawthorn Mine, Sullivan, IN 21 Jun (DRW, JE, MA), representing the 2nd highest statewide count. Along the Eel R. in Miami, 77 Warbling Vireos were counted 30 Jun (C&SD), the 3rd highest count ever in Indiana. A late Blue-headed Vireo was seen at Salamonie River S.F., Wabash, IN 5 Jun (JAH, SS). Nine Loggerhead Shrikes were observed among four locations in Jasper, IL 2 Jul (RES); the only Indiana record was of a family group of 5 birds in Daviess 21 Jun (JD, RD, JM, LWS). A Brown-

chested Martin was studied for 30 minutes at close range 30 Jun in Grundy, IL by a single observer, experienced with South American swallows, who noted details indicating the bird was of the migratory subspecies fulva (p.a., †DFS). Unfortunately, this bird was not relocated after the initial sighting. There are only three or four previous North American records. Two ad. and 4 juv. Red-breasted Nuthatches were observed 2 Aug in Woodstock, IL (DF), and a pair was at a nest site in Lyons Woods F.P., Lake, IL through 1 Jul (EWW). A calling Red-breasted Nuthatch in Boone 6 Jul (RLH, MH) furnished Indiana's 4th and southernmost Jul record. Six Brown Creepers were reported from a total of five different Indiana locations. A pair of Bewick's Wrens once again nested at Siloam Springs S.P., Adams/Brown, IL (BA, JMy, DMK, KAM). A small breeding colony of Marsh Wrens was found at Two Rivers N.W.R., Calhoun, IL 17 & 21 Jul (DMK, KAM, m.ob.), a rare occurrence for this southerly location. Sedge Wrens were widespread and common throughout the Region. A singing Golden-crowned Kinglet in Beverly Shores, Porter 23 Jun (RJP, KJB, SRB, JKC) that was also present 24 Jun (RJP, B&MB) provided Indiana's first summer record. On 21 Jun, a Veery was heard singing in Shades S.P. (RLH, TS, D&LH) in w.-cen. Indiana, well s. of its normal breeding grounds. Two ad. Hermit Thrushes in Chicago 26 Jul (†DFS) were quite unusual.

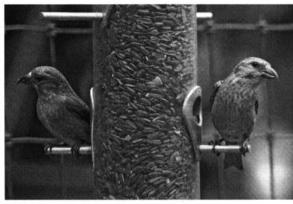
WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Yellowwood S.F. Brown, IN 16 Jun (J&SH) was notable. Five Black-throated Green Warblers were recorded this season, all in Indiana. Sightings occurred at Ft. Harrison S.P., Indianapolis 15 Jun (JC), at Dunes S.P., Porter 16 Jun (RJP), in nw. Brown 16 Jun (J&SH), in Hamilton 22 Jun (GO), and in Furnessville, Porter, with 2 present 3 Jul (SRB). A singing Yellow-throated Warbler was discovered 22 Jun in Kokomo, IN (PK), in the heart of the "great corn desert" (also known as the Tipton Tillplain), furnishing Howard's first record. A Cape May Warbler was seen in Rockford, IL on the very late date of 17 Jun (DTW). A notably late Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen 11 Jun in Chicago (DFS). Blackburnian Warblers were present at Lowd.-Mill. for the 5th consecutive year, with 2 singing males there 16 Jun-15 Jul (DFS); breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species in Illinois. In cen. Indiana, Wormeating Warblers were reported from Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis 6 Jun (IC) and in Pine Hills Nature Preserve, Montgomerv 21 Jun (RLH, TS). A late migrant Blackpoll Warbler was noted 14 Jun in Chicago (DFS),

while a Mourning Warbler lingered at Lowd.-Mill. 16 Jun (DFS). The peak count of 8 Hooded Warblers was recorded in Furnessville, *Porter*, IN 10 Jun and 3 Jul (SRB).

Once again, Summer Tanagers were well represented along the Indiana lakefront, as 4 birds were noted, including a pair in Beverly Shores, Porter 2 Jun (KJB, SRB, JKC, LSH). Four male Clay-colored Sparrows were observed 10 Jun at Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, DuPage, IL (JS). Strong numbers of Henslow's Sparrows were reported in Illinois, including 121 counted at Prairie Ridge S.N.A. in mid-Jun (JWW et al.). The 3rd record of Lark Sparrow for Vigo, IN was furnished by 5 birds near Prairie Creek 18 Jun (PES). There were 7 different White-throated Sparrows reported in ne. Illinois, but a singing male in Galesburg, IL 20 Jun-2 Jul (JMy) was more southerly. A White-crowned Sparrow summered at Montrose (RDH, LGM, GAW). A late migrant Dark-eyed Junco was observed 9 Jun at Jackson Park in Chicago (KMC, fide PRC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported



A pleasant Fourth of July sight was provided by these two juvenile Red Crossbills, present at a feeder in Linton, Indiana 2-4 July 2007. These were the first summer birds seen in the southern third of Indiana since 1885. *Photograph by Ivy Kardokus*.

from numerous southerly locales throughout the Region. Extralimital Blue Grosbeaks were surprisingly numerous this season. Records included a singing male at Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis 6 Jun (JC et al.), a pair s. of Lagrange, IN 6 Jun (PM, LS et al., fide DSt), a singing male 17 Jun at Moraine Hills S.P., IL (SDB), a singing male nw. of Shipshewana, IN 29 Jun (DSt, HY, LC), a first-year male in Madison, IN 10 Jun (BKJ), a male in Shelby, IN 30 Jun (BKJ), a pair with a juv. 2-11 Jul in St. Charles, IL (SAC, PMx, AFS), and a pair at Illinois Beach S.P. 7 Jul (EWW). An excellent count of 32 Blue Grosbeaks was made along the Mississippi R. levee road in Alexander/Union, IL 10 Jun (DMK). A pair of Painted Buntings was back on territory in East St. Louis 6 May-28 Jul (DMK, KAM, m.ob.), and another male was at the same location 12 May-9 Jun (DMK). A record daily count of 213 Dickcissels was made in sw. Indiana 21 Jun (JD, RD, JM, LWS).

Forty male Bobolinks were noted near Salem, IN 10 Jun (JSs), representing the first summer record for *Washington* since 1954. Unfortunately, most of these Bobolinks were not present 13 Jun, following mowing. A nice count of 129 Bobolinks was made at Paul Douglas Forest Preserve, *Cook*, IL in Jun (SSt). At sod farms in *McHenry*, IL, 55 Brewer's Blackbirds were noted 4 Jul (DJS).

An amazing find were 2 juv. male Red Crossbills at a feeder in Linton, *Greene*, IN 2-4 Jul (ph. IK), furnishing Indiana's 7th Jul record and the first summer record in the s. third of the state since 1885. Quite unusual was the assemblage of three reports of Purple Finches in late Jul, all of single birds and all in Illinois: one 28 Jul in *DuPage* (REF), one at Montrose 29 Jul (KH), and one in Mundelein 30 Jul (EL). The recent expansion of Eurasian Tree Sparrows reached *McLean*, IL, with one seen there 25 Jul (VMK).

> **Corrigendum**: The observation of five nesting pairs of Swainson's Hawks (*North American Birds* 60.4) is properly credited to Robert A. Morgan.

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Western Great Lakes



Peder H. Svingen

D ry conditions prevailed in northern Michigan and over most of Minnesota. Good shorebird habitat emerged at Pointe Mouillee in Michigan and in western Minnesota, especially at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge.

Abbreviations: Big Stone N.W.R. (Lac Qui Parle, MN); Murphy-Hanrehan (Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Dakota/Scott, MN); Pelican I. (Leech L., Cass, MN); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee S.G.A., Monroe, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan); Whitefish Pt. (Whitefish Point B.O., Chippewa, MI).

WATERFOWL THROUGH MOORHENS

Unusual for summer was a Greater Whitefronted Goose in Alger, MI late Jun-22 Jul (JH); singles were also found in five w. Minnesota locations. A male Cinnamon Teal at Pte. Mouillee 9 Jun (WW, AMB) showed no signs of hybridization. Wisconsin's 5th Common Eider in Sheboygan 1-5 Jun (ph. DM) was determined to be subspecies v-nigra. Unexpected in midsummer in Michigan were a female Common Eider in Alger 29 Jun-1 Jul (p.a., JC, m.ob.) and a male Surf Scoter in Houghton 8 Jul (JY). The 4th summer occurrence of Harlequin Duck in Wisconsin was found in Sheboygan 1-2 Jun (DT). Michigan reported a basicplumaged Pacific Loon in Baraga 4 Jun (p.a., RR, ph. SH). Unseasonable for Minnesota were single Horned Grebes at Duluth 4 Jul (PHS) and in Big Stone 29-30 Jul (KRE et al.). Rednecked Grebes were found in four Wisconsin counties and nested in Delta, MI (SH, RR) for the 3rd consecutive year.

In Wisconsin, a calico Little Blue Heron lingered in Fond du Lac 4 Jul+ (DT). Tricolored Heron showed up in Lyon, MN 5-8 Jun (RBJ, m.ob.) and Shiawassee, MI 22 Jul (p.a., MK, KKr). Small numbers of Cattle Egrets were in two Michigan, five Wisconsin, and six from spring through 14 Jun in Fond du Lac (KK). Glossy lbis was found at Pte. Mouillee for the 2nd consecutive summer, including a high count of 10 birds 9 Jun (p.a., AMB, BMu); a White-faced lbis crashed the party 9-17 Jun (p.a., JJ, AMB).

Michigan reported Yellow Rail in Keweenaw in addition to the usual location at Seney N.W.R. Wisconsin had King Rails in Fond du Lac 6 Jul (DG) and Dodge 17 Jul (DT). In Michigan, King Rail was found at two locations about a mile apart at Pte. Mouillee 10 (SB) & 17 Jun (p.a., AMB, BMu, ST). Common Moorhens in six Minnesota



This Western Wood-Pewee was observed building a nest along the DesMoines River near Jackson, Jackson County, Minnesota in late June 2007 and attending at least one small chick 21 July (here). Its mate was presumed to be an Eastern Wood-Pewee, as one was calling near the nest on several occasions. A breeding record from Roseau County, Minnesota in 1977 may also have involved a mixed pairing between these two species (Loon 49: 169-170). Photograph by Karl J. Bardon.

Minnesota counties. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron appeared at Pte. Mouillee 9 Jun (p.a., AMB, BMu). Wisconsin reported an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in *Walworth* 8 Jun (OB) and a juv. in *Sheboygan* 23 Jul+ (CS). Wisconsin's 4th summer record of Glossy Ibis was established by birds lingering counties was fewer than last summer by half but still above average; one at Duluth through 1 Jun was the first one there since 1965.

SHOREBIRDS

A total of 125 Piping Plover chicks fledged from 63 breeding pairs in the Great Lakes