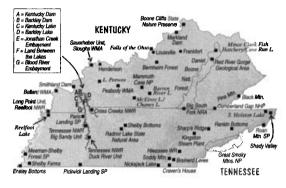
Columbia, *Boone* (Melvin West, †BG) extends its range farther inland in Missouri.

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Tennessee & Kentucky



Chris Sloan Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

eather conditions during June-July 2007 were somewhat variable across the Region and not extreme. In general, precipitation was lower than normal across much of central and northern Kentucky in June, with near-normal rainfall across southern Kentucky and Tennessee during the month. In July, the situation became reversed, with near-normal precipitation occurring across the northern half of Kentucky, while the onset of a severe period of drought occurred across most of the remainder of the Region. Temperatures were slightly warmer than normal in June. but slightly cooler than normal in July. The only real rarities of the season were a White Ibis and a Red-necked Phalarope in Kentucky and an unidentified Plegadis ibis in Tennessee. Nesting Least Terns seemed to experience good results, with low water conditions allowing for widespread nesting, although low water levels allowed access to some sites for predators and all-terrain vehicles.

Abbreviations: Barkley Dam (Livingston/Lyon, KY); Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. Shelby, 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).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Summer waterfowl reports of interest included an ad. dark-morph Snow Goose in *Warren*, KY 28 Jun+ (DR); 2 Gadwalls at Standifer Gap 6 Jun (DP); a male American Wigeon at Watauga L., *Carter*, TN 9 Jun (BSt et al.); an American Black Duck in *Union*, KY 20 Jun (BPa), with an-

other on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 22 Jun (HC, ME); a Northern Shoveler at Lake No. 9 on 20 Jul (HC, ME); a male Redhead in Pulaski, KY through 22 Jun (RD); single Ring-necked Ducks in Hawkins, TN 30 Jun (DMi) and at Ensley 7-8 Jul (JRW); 5 Lesser Scaup at Ensley 17 Jun (JRW); up to two dozen Lesser Scaup on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY into late Jun (m.ob.); a female Red-breasted Merganser at Ft. Loudoun L., Loudoun, TN 21 Jul (DSc, fide KDE); and a Ruddy Duck at Robco L., Memphis, TN 17 Jun (JRW). Two American Wigeons, including an injured female, lingered into early summer at Ballard W.M.A., Ballard, KY; the hen apparently raised young, for a first state breeding record (JSI, fide GB; HC, ME).

Two Common Loons in basic plumage were present above Kentucky Dam 25 Jul (BPa); single birds were at Austin Springs, *Washington*, TN 16 May–11 Jul (DH, RK) and John Sevier L., *Hawkins*, TN 4 Jun (SH). The only American White Pelicans reported during the season were up to ca. 100 at Lake No. 9 in late Jul (HC, ME, BPa). Single Least Bitterns in Kingsport, *Sullivan*, TN 22 Jul (DK) and at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, *Greene*, TN (DMi) were rare for ne. Tennessee; one was at Standifer Gap 7 Jul (DP et al.), but, in contrast to recent years, there was no evidence of successful nesting of either Least Bittern or Virginia Rail at Standifer Gap this season. A few to 15-20 nesting pairs of Great Egrets were reported at four new colony sites in Kentucky in Ballard, Fulton, Hickman, and Union (BPa, JB). The peak count of postbreeding Great Egrets was 850 at Lake No. 9 on 26 Jul (BPa). A juv. White Ibis was present at Lake No. 9 on 28 Jul (ph. HC, ME), and a White-faced/Glossy Ibis (reported as Glossy) was at Woods Res., Franklin, TN 16 Jun (Jl, D&JS).

The only extralimital Mississippi Kite in Kentucky this season was one in *Scott* 8 Jul (MJ). Seven of nine nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons along the Ohio R. corridor in Kentucky successfully fledged young (SV, BV, AS). In Tennessee, results were more tragic for the historic breeding pair below Chickamauga Dam, *Hamilton*, TN. The chick was not seen after 17 Jun and presumably died; worse, the ad. male was found with a broken wing 20 May and died 13 Jul. A single Peregrine was at Ensley 21-29 Jul (JRW).

MOORHEN THROUGH TERNS

The only report of Common Moorhen was of 5 ads., including a pair with 2 downy young, in Union, KY 26 Jul (BPa). As is true during most summers, a few American Coots summered, although there was no evidence of breeding this year. A Black-bellied Plover at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke, TN 3 Jun (MS) was a very late spring migrant. Two ad. American Avocets in White, TN 28 Jul (DD, ph. SJS) furnished first county records. The only Kentucky report of Black-necked Stilt was of a migrant family group (2 ads., 4 juvs.) at Lake No. 9 on 28 Jul (HC, ME). A Greater Yellowlegs on L. Cumberland, Pulaski, KY 30 Jun (RD) was rather early. A Spotted Sandpiper on Kentucky L., Calloway, KY 25 Jun (ME, HC) was either summering or an early fall migrant. A possibly injured Solitary Sandpiper was present on L. Cumberland, Pulaski, KY 23 Jun-7 Jul (RD). Two Willets were on the Mississippi R., Shelby, TN 30 Jun (JRW), and single birds were there 1 & 10 Jul (JRW)



This juvenile White Ibis (right) was present at Lake No. 9, Fulton County, Kentucky 28 July 2007 and again 10 August (here). *Photograph by Hap Chambers*.

and at Ensley 11 Jul (JRW). Two ad. Sanderlings on the Mississippi R., *Carlisle*, KY 26 Jul (BPa) and 2 on the Mississippi R., *Shelby*, TN 28 Jul (JRW) were the earliest fall birds to be reported. An early Baird's Sandpiper was at Ensley 22 Jul (JRW). An ad. Long-billed Dowutcher in se. *Muhlenberg*, KY 5 Jul (†DR) represented a new early fall arrival date for Kentucky. Two Stilt Sandpipers at Upper Douglas L., *Sevier*, TN 16 Jul (MS) were early. An injured male **Red-necked Phalarope** in *Union*, KY 20 Jun (ph. BPa) represented the first for the state in Jun.

Two ad. or second-summer Laughing Gulls were present at Kentucky Dam 1 Jun (DR). A Herring Gull was still at Kentucky Dam 1 Jun (DR). Nesting Least Terns seemed to be doing relatively well during mid-breeding season, with 12-120 nests documented at four Mississippi R. sites in Carlisle, Fulton, and Hickman, KY 24-27 Jun (RR, JB et al.) and 3-19 nests documented at four sites on the lower Ohio R. in Ballard and McCracken, KY (IB, GB, BPa). A few pairs were on nests at an industrial pond at Calvert City, Marshall, KY in Jun (DSw), and up to six pairs were present on a small island in the Ohio R. below Lewisport, Hancock, KY in Jun (DA). The only report of a bird away from nesting areas was a juv. in Muhlenberg, KY 25 Jul (DR). Two Caspian Terns were still at Barkley Dam 1 Jun (DR); the earliest report of probable returning fall Caspians was of 2 in Jefferson, KY 1 Jul (BW, JSt). Black Terns were on the Mississippi R., Shelby, TN 1 Jul (2) and 6 Jul (one; both JRW). A first-year Forster's Tern was still at Barkley Dam 1 Jun (DR); likely summering Forster's included one at Hatchie N.W.R., Haywood, TN 16 Jun (BPu), a first-year bird on the Ohio R., Livingston, KY 26 Jun (JB, BPa, GB), and a first-year bird and an ad. on the Mississippi R., Fulton, KY 27 Jun (JB, RR et al.).

OWLS THROUGH WRENS

There were several reports of Barn Owls in Kentucky: one in Pulaski 5 Jun (RD); one from a family group in Marshall was turned into a raptor rehabilitator in early Jun (DF, fide EW); a family group in s. Fleming in mid-Jun (TG, fide WM); nesting birds in a chimney in Nelson in mid-Jun (BH, fide EW); and one in Warren 30 Jul (DR). A singing Chuck-will's-widow in Elliott, KY 13 Jul (EM) was unusual for ne. Kentucky. At least four pairs of Western Kingbirds nested in Memphis, TN in Jun (JRW). A Scissortailed Flycatcher nest with 4

young was observed in s. Livingston, KY 24 Jun (ph. HC); it is unclear if an imm. bird below Barkley Dam, Lyon, KY 22 Jul (KL, BL) was from that nearby Livingston nest site or one below the dam, as there were no other reports during the season from the latter locale. In Tennessee, at least five pairs nested, all in regular nesting locations in Shelby, Bledsoe, Rutherford, and Marion. Twenty-seven Least Flycatchers at Roan Mt., Carter, TN 9 Jun was an unusually large number. A singing Bell's Vireo just nw. of Sonora, Hardin, KY 22 Jun

(BPa, AS) was away from known breeding areas. Bell's Vireos at Ensley on 2 Jun (one) and 17 Jun (2 birds) apparently nested (JRW).

A Bank Swallow colony involving about 40 burrows was found at Dayton, *Campbell*, KY in early Jul (FR) for a new county breeding record. A count of 834+ in *Greene*, TN 21 Jul (DMi) was exceptional. Several Cliff Swallows at a bridge at Tathum Springs, *Washington*, KY 16 Jun (BPa) represented a new county breeding record. The singing Bewick's Wren found nw. of Beech-

wood, Owen, KY in late May lingered on territory through at least 6 Jun (BPa, AS, SV); another singing bird was reported just se. of Buena Vista, Harrison, KY 9 & 22-23 Jun (SM). Late Jul reports of likely breeding Sedge Wrens in Kentucky came from Ballard (BPa), Fulton (BPa), Greenup (RS, SF), Jefferson (BPa), and Ohio (DR). Two Marsh Wrens were at Standifer Gap 8 Jul (DP et al.).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Up to 5 Hermit Thrushes, very rare breeders in the Region, were on Roan Mt., *Carter*, TN

through the season (RK et al.); 2 were at Unaka Mt., Unicoi, TN 14 Jun (RK, VF). Magnolia Warblers are very rare breeders in the Region, so 2 each at Roan Mt., Carter, TN and Unaka Mt., Unicoi, TN in mid-Jun (RK et al.) were noteworthy. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers, similarly rare breeders, were near Mt. Kephart, Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Sevier, TN 6 Jun (THw). A singing Blackburnian Warbler near the crest of Pine Mt. just s. of Shell Gap, Harlan, KY 14 Jun (BPa) was away from known breeding areas of the higher mts. just to the southeast. At least one and possibly two Prothonotary Warbler nests at Lewis County W.M.A., KY in early Jun (SF) represented a first breeding record for that county in ne. Kentucky; a nest in Smith, TN 3 Jun (KH) was also a first county record.

Territorial Savannah Sparrows were reported from Fayette, KY 1 Jun (BPa, SV) and ne. Shelby, KY 10 Jun (BSm). Four pairs were at three sites in Washington, TN through the season (RK); a Savannah Sparrow in Greene, TN 29 Jun–5 Jul (DMi) also suggested breeding. A new colony of at least 10 singing Henslow's Sparrows was reported just e. of Touristville, Wayne, KY in early Jul (ph. CO); 3 territorial birds were in Marshall, TN 3 Jun+ (DMo). The White-throated Sparrow that lingered at Richmond, Madison, KY into late May was last seen 1 Jun (THg). One in Putnam, TN 8-20



This male Red-necked Phalarope in Union County, Kentucky 20 June 2007 had an injured leg. It represents a first June record for the state. *Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball. Jr.*

Jul (SJS, BHS) represents the 2nd summer record for the county. Following the unprecedented spring showing of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders across the Region, a female was present in a yard in n. *Woodford*, KY 3-5 Jun (JL); and a pair was present in a yard at Covington, *Kenton*, KY at least into mid-Jun (MAB, fide LM).

There were several reports of breeding Bobolinks in Kentucky: birds nw. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer* continued into Jun (GD et al.); one to 2 singing males in ne. *Shelby* 10 Jun (BSm); a small colony of at least 6 males and 4 females in Woodford 18 Jun (ph. JL); 5 territorial birds just n. of Winchester, Clark 26 Jun (JSm); and several territorial birds in ne. Bourbon 16 Jul (SM, RB). Two pairs were in Washington, TN through the season (DH, RK); 3 juvs. seen there 23 Jul (RK) furnished the state's 2nd breeding record.

Corrigenda: The Mottled Duck at Dutch Bottoms, Douglas L., TN Sep 2006 was seen in *Jefferson* and *Cocke*, not *Sevier* as reported. It represents the 2nd accepted record for the state.

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Alabama & Mississippi



GULF OF MEXICO

Steven W. McConnell

he number of observer reports from across our Region this season seemed to be fewer than in recent years. Two reasons for this downturn were likely the completion of the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas field work during 2006 and the continuing very warm and dry weather pattern. Many locations did receive some temporary relief during July, when rainfall exceeded normal totals and the mercury averaged slightly below typical. No tropical cyclones threatened the Region this season. Highlights from this breeding season included the discovery of the Region's first Cedar Waxwing nest and a Bell's Vireo captured in Mississippi. A pair of inland Gull-billed Terns in Alabama was more difficult to explain.

Abbreviations: Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., Oktibbeha/Winston, MS); Swan Creek (Swan Creek W.M.A., Limestone, AL)

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

Four Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found 15 Jul near Inverness in *Sunflower*, MS (SJD). Two calling Pied-billed Grebes made a nice surprise 7 Jul at Swan Creek, where the species is an uncommon breeder (SWM). The (J&MP). Summering American White Pelicans are rarely found inland in Alabama, making the 24 in Hale, AL 15 Jul quite noteworthy (GJH). The long-staying individual at the mouth of Town Cr., Colbert/Lawrence, AL continued for a 3rd year (m.ob.). Three Neotropic Cormorants (2 ads., one imm.) at Dutch Brake, Sunflower 15 Jul were rare for Mississippi (SJD). Repeated observations of Anhinga throughout the season in e.-cen



Up to 14 Wood Storks visited a small pond in Muscle Shoals, Colbert County, Alabama in late June 2007 (here with small fish on 29 June). The species is only an occasional visitor to the Tennessee Valley region of northern Alabama. *Photograph by Jerry D. Green.*

alternate-plumaged Horned Grebe in Bayou Heron n. of Dauphin l., Mobile, AL 16 Jun-7 Jul provided a very unusual summer record Mississippi, including a nest with 3 young 13 Jul at Noxubee, provided evidence of rarely detected breeding (TLS).