



Nunavut's first Piping Plover was a startling find at Akimiski Island in southern James Bay 3-10 (here 9) June 2007. Photograph by Carmen Lishman.

Robins, possibly one bird involved, were noted in Iqaluit, Nunavut 28 Jun and 2 Jul (DH). Swainson's Thrush and Tennessee Warbler were the most abundant non-shorebird species recorded on C.W.S. shorebird surveys in the Ft. Simpson area, NWT 1-19 Jun (PSm). Tennessee Warbler numbers have increased in the Yukon in recent years; this species was reported in relatively high numbers across s. Yukon; farther n. in cen. Yukon, 2 were singing at Mayo 5 Jun (MOD), 2 were on the Wareham L. B.B.S. 12 Jun (MOD), and one was at Tombstone Park 27 Jun (BMA et al.). A Magnolia Warbler, well w. of its Yukon range, was seen in Whitehorse 5 Jun (LC). A Cape May Warbler was observed near Ft. Simpson, NWT in early Jun (PSm). A Bay-breasted Warbler, rare but apparently increas-

ingly regular, was seen at Albert Cr., s. Yukon 2-4 Jun (TMK).

Western Tanagers seen w. of their normal Yukon range included singles in Haines Junction 5 Jun (ph. TH) and in Whitehorse 11 & 20 Jun (PSi). A male Harris's Sparrow singing on a wide-ranging treeless territory at Herschel I. 18-24 Jun provided the Yukon's 2nd photographically documented record (AK, CK, ph. CE, DR); this species was reported without out details from Herschel I. in 1987. Reports of lost Dark-eyed Juncos included one at Herschel I., n. Yukon 8 Jun (DR) and one in Iqaluit, Nunavut 3-8 Jul (ph. MC).

Ten Smith's Longspurs at Surfbird Mt., km 97 on the Dempster Hwy., cen. Yukon 4 Jun were enjoyed by a group of visiting birders on a tour (ph. SF et al.). The C.W.S. shorebird survey near Ft. Simpson, NWT found that Rusty Blackbirds showed up at the study plot 20 May and were seen regularly for the next several days but disappeared as Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles arrived 25 May, with the latter two species remaining through the season (PSm). A female Red-winged Blackbird on Herschel I., n. Yukon 18-21 Jun (AK, ph. CE) was just the 2nd of its kind to wander to that Arctic island.

Three Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were seen on Keno Hill, cen. Yukon 7 Jul (MOD). Two fuzzy juv. Common Redpolls in downtown Whitehorse, s. Yukon 26 Jun (PSi) indi-

cated lowland nesting this year for this species. A rich White Spruce cone crop yielded an explosion of breeding White-winged Crossbills across s. and cen. Yukon in Jul (m.ob.). A pair of House Sparrows, a species not previously known to breed in the Yukon, was found nesting in Whitehorse 19 Jul (ph. CE); by 22 Jul, all 4 young had fledged and were being fed by the ads. (ph. CE). A lone female House Sparrow was seen in Carcross, s. Yukon through Jul (DK).

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Prairie Provinces



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Spring and early summer rains, combined with cool temperatures, created lush conditions across the southern

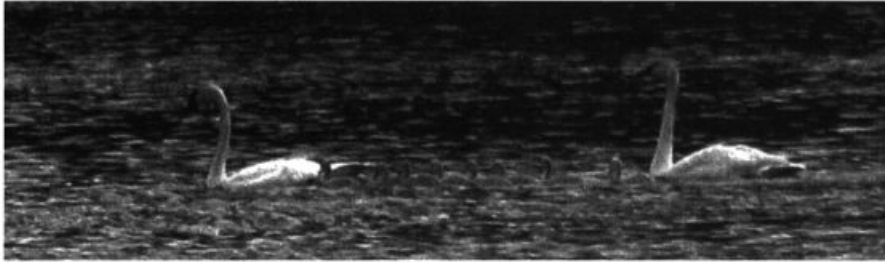
Prairie Provinces that lasted into July. Water levels remained high throughout the period. Extremely hot and generally dry but humid weather followed, spreading eastward from Alberta. Greg Krätzig described July in Saskatchewan as a "blast furnace." Needless to say, birding activity during that month was limited. Judging by the number of early fall migrants in southern Manitoba, it appears that passerines had a productive summer.

GEESE THROUGH CRANES

A Ross's Goose at Pelican L., MB 16 Jun was record late for spring (WC, RS, MW, m.ob.). Two Brant 6 Jun and 2 Dusky Canada Geese 11 Jun were good finds at Churchill, MB (RK, CNSC). Trumpeter Swans were finally found breeding in se. Manitoba, where a pair with 8

cygnets was seen 24 Jun near Bissett (ph. CA). Elsewhere in the province, 4 were at Oak Hammock Marsh 1 Jun (RK), and one, banded in Aug 2005 at Green Camp, OH, remained at St. Malo from 12 Jul into Aug (F&JM, LV, m.ob., ph.). Nesting Tundra Swans returned to Patience L., SK, far s. of their usual range; 4 juvs. were near fledging by mid-Aug (PH, m.ob., ph.). Other notable waterfowl included a northerly Wood Duck at Churchill 2 Jun (BC), a male Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler hybrid at Whitewater Lake W.M.A., MB 10 Jun (BDL) and 3 King Eiders at Churchill 10 Jun (BC, m.ob.).

Unexpected in summer in the s. were single Red-throated Loons at Rafferty Dam, SK 25 Jun (JL, ph.) and Clear L., near Stavely, AB 8-22 Jul (BW, m.ob.). A Yellow-billed Loon



After several sightings in appropriate nesting habitat during the past few years, Trumpeter Swans were at last found breeding in southeastern Manitoba, where this pair with eight cygnets was noted near Bissett on 24 June 2007. Photograph by Christian Artuso.

was reported, without details, at Churchill 1 Jul (JS). A Great Egret summered at Hastings L., AB, where the species nested in recent years (*fide* THi), and another was at DeWinton, AB 27 Jul (DK). A Snowy Egret at Weed L. near Langdon, AB 7-8 Jul was about the



This Red-throated Loon at Rafferty Dam, Saskatchewan on 25 June 2007 was both very rare and out of season. Photograph by Jenn Leslie.

20th for the province (RB, m.ob.), while up to 5 were at Whitewater Lake W.M.A., MB (M.N.S., m.ob.). The larger of two Cattle Egret colonies at the latter location held 100+ ads. in early Jul (RBz). A Green Heron at Belle Plaine 4 Jun was about the 11th for Saskatchewan (JC). White-faced Ibis continues to thrive in s. Alberta, with colonies known or suspected at Langdon, Third L., Blackie, and Frank L. At Whitewater Lake W.M.A., up to 23 were seen 10 Jun (BDL), and six nests were found in early Jul (RB). A dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk nesting at Calgary was considered very rare (TK). Ferruginous Hawks were down to 36 nesting pairs in sw. Manitoba, the lowest number since the 1980s; a continuing shortage of Richardson's Ground Squirrels was thought responsible (KDS). An out-of-season Gyrfalcon visited McTaggart, SK 5 Jun (V&DT). Locally rare were a Virginia Rail at Water Valley, AB 9 Jun (MS, m.ob.) and an American Coot at Churchill 11 Jun (RK). Sandhill Crane is believed to breed annually now in the foothills w. of Calgary; a pair was near Bragg Creek in

early Jun (MW), and another pair was s. of Water Valley for the 3rd consecutive year (M&CC).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Snowy Plover was at Chaplin L., SK 26 Jun (*fide* Chaplin Lake Nature Centre); one had been noted here in 2006. Two Mountain Plover nests were found in extreme se. Alberta, the species' only known "stronghold" in Canada (RKn). Black-necked Stilt was described as breeding in "staggering numbers" in s. Alberta (TK), while 6, including 2 juvs., were near Morse, SK 22 Jun (LS, JC). The species did not return to Whitewater Lake W.M.A. this year. A Whimbrel near

Luck L., SK 15 Jun was rare and late (GT). Fall shorebird migration was generally lackluster; the largest numbers came from s. Alberta, e.g., 700 Lesser Yellowlegs at Clear L. 15 Jul, 325 Short-billed Dowitchers at Weed L. 29 Jul, and 600 Wilson's Phalaropes at Clear L. 14 Jul (all TK). Red Phalaropes peaked at 29 at Churchill 10 Jun (C.N.S.C., m.ob.).

A Little Gull at Hecla P.P., MB 9 Jun was rare (BC, LV), as was a Sabine's Gull near Granum, AB 1 Jun (B. Wilson). As expected, Churchill dominated the gull reports; best were a Mew 15 Jun (V.E.N.T., m.ob., ph.), a Great Black-backed 7 Jun (E.G.I.), a peak of 30 Sabine's 6 Jun (C.N.S.C., m.ob.), and at least 2, possibly 4 Ross's Gulls in mid-Jun (m.ob.). An Arctic Tern was photographed at Wakamao L., AB 3 Jun (GR). A Forster's Tern colony of about 20 pairs n. of Grand Rapids, MB 27 Jun was far north (PT). A probable Long-tailed Jaeger at Candle L., SK would be about the 9th for the

province, if accepted (RI, *fide* GT). A Black Guillemot was at Churchill 25 Jul (MMA).

Manitoba's 8th and 9th reported Band-tailed Pigeons visited Little George I. in L. Winnipeg 17 Jun (RM, GC, ph.) and the Holland area 1 Jul (W&SR).

Burrowing Owl is maintaining its toehold in Manitoba, with three of four pairs successful this summer (KDS). A Chimney Swift at Wasagaming, MB 4 Jun was near the range limit (BFz). A Black-chinned Hummingbird was photographed at Brule, AB 21 Jun (*fide* JR). The Twin Lakes Burn near Churchill held one Hairy, 5 American Three-toed, and 2 Black-backed Woodpeckers in mid-Jun (BDL). Single Eastern Kingbirds were at Churchill 11 & 12 Jun (C.N.S.C., m.ob.), while a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Pakowki L. 8-9 Jun was about the 9th for Alberta (JJ m.ob.). Some 50 pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes were found in sw. Manitoba, plus a few near Winnipeg (KDS). Common Ravens continue to flourish outside the boreal forest: 3 young fledged from the 2nd nest in Saskatoon, SK (GK), and 300 frequented a Calgary landfill 3 Jul (TK). East of the normal range, a Violet-green Swallow pair fledged one young at Swift Current, SK (ph. MD).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH REDPOLLS

Mid-Jul saw the start of a good Red-breasted Nuthatch flight in s. Manitoba. For the 2nd year in a row, a Northern Wheatear was noted near Churchill, 7 Jun (EN). A nesting pair of Eastern Bluebirds at Ponton, MB 27 Jun was far north (PT). Out of range were a Wood Thrush at Deep L., SK 16 Jun (TH), a Varied Thrush at Churchill 11 Jun (C.N.S.C.), and lone Northern Mockingbirds at Regina, SK 5 Jun (SW, m.ob.) and Arrowwood, AB 19 Jun (*fide* TK). East of their re-



This Red-tailed Hawk near its nest in Calgary on 14 July 2007 may have provided the first known case of a dark-morph bird breeding in the south of Alberta. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.



East of its normal breeding range, this Violet-green Swallow, seen here 27 June 2007, fledged one young at Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Photograph by Ryan Dudragne.



This immature male American Redstart near Churchill, Manitoba on 14 and (here) 15 June 2007 provided the fourth record for the area. Photograph by Bruce Di Labio.

cent Manitoba range were single Sprague's Pipits at Cloverdale 20 Jun (RK) and Oak Hammock Marsh 24 Jun (SG).

A host of warblers turned up at unusual locales, many apparently on territory: 2 Nashvilles at Calgary 23 Jun (A&HB), a Northern Parula w. of Easterville, MB 28 Jun (PT), a Chestnut-sided at Calgary 13 Jun (PC), 5 Cape Mays near Millarville, AB in late May, with one still there 10 Jul (BW), a Black-throated Blue near Riding Mountain N.P., MB 9 Jun and 1 Jul (KB), a Blackburnian at Bragg Creek in early Jun (MWO), Black-and-whites

at Sibbald Creek, Kananaskis Country, AB 9 Jun (HG, BW) and at Churchill about 11 Jun, an American Redstart at Churchill 14-15 Jun (MHk, BDL, m.ob., ph.), a Northern Waterthrush at Taber, AB 4 Jul (LB), and single Connecticut Warblers at Sheep River Valley, Kananaskis Country 2-4 Jun (KH, MM), and Carrot Creek, Banff N.P., AB 7 Jun (JR).

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Churchill 10 Jun was rare (BFz), as was a Lark Bunting at St. Lazare, MB 1 Jun (R&QA). Baird's Sparrow numbers have plummeted in sw. Manitoba in recent years, with fewer than 10 active sites

now known (KDS). Le Conte's Sparrow, on the other hand, was abundant in s. Alberta, no doubt due to the lush conditions (TK). One was at Churchill 15 Jun (BDL). Another stray at Little George I. was a female Chestnut-collared Longspur after a violent windstorm 19 Jun (RM, GC, ph.). An obliging Black-headed Grosbeak returned to last year's territory near Coulter, MB 7-28 Jun (GB, JW, m.ob., ph.). A Lazuli Bunting at Outlook, SK 4 Jun was the 2nd for the area (*vide* SS). Single Indigo Buntings strayed n. to near Flin Flon, MB 29 Jun (DR) and w. to Medicine Hat, AB 3 Jun (BF) and Lumsden, SK 10-20 Jun (BL, m.ob.). A hybrid Lazuli Bunting × Indigo Bunting was at the latter location 10 Jun (SW).

A faint echo of last summer's invasion, Dickcissel reports came from Cartwright, Elm Creek, Gretna, and Morden, MB, while one was in sw. Saskatchewan 20 Jun (*vide* GK). Bobolinks drew attention in Alberta, with two pairs at Millarville 3 Jun (AS), one remaining a few weeks later (TK), and another a few kilometers to the w. on 8 Jul (AS), plus a pair at Looking Back L. se. of Edmonton 1 Jul (RK, RKn, E.E.T.). It was a great year for the species in Saskatchewan (GK). After a few years of near absence, there were several Red Crossbill sightings from the Winnipeg area e. to the Ontario border (RK, RP, PT).

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