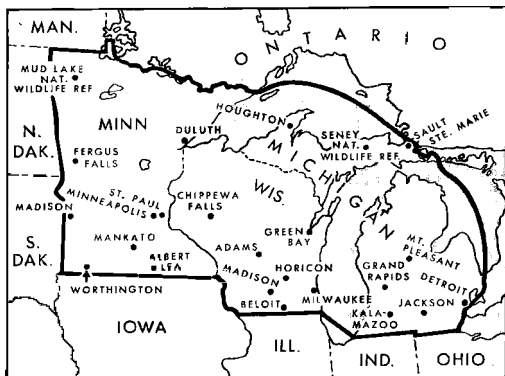


WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION / Thomas K. Soulen

The summer presented a pattern of sharp contrasts of weather in various parts of the Region. While the n.e. Lower Peninsula experienced abundant rainfall (total 1971 precipitation 5½ in. above normal by August), s. Michigan was subjected to



severe drought conditions throughout the period (e.g., total 1971 precipitation 6 in. below normal by August in the Detroit area). Several w. central Michigan counties, hay crops and corn fields dried up by the end of July, applied for federal aid. Had July not been cooler than the relatively hot June, effects on much Michigan plant life might have been much more severe. While much of Minnesota and Wisconsin also were very dry during the latter part of the summer, many areas in these states had ample rain early in the season, although Minnesotans anticipating a record soybean crop were disappointed when drought set in mid-season. The most pronounced effects of weather on nesting success were mentioned in s. Michigan, where extensive drying of marsh areas greatly reduced suitable habitat. Pinkowski, doing doctoral research on E. Bluebirds in Macomb Co., Mich., felt that both they and Tree Swallows had had nesting success adversely affected by the dry conditions. Lakes Huron and Michigan continued at very high levels.

Cool weather near the end of May had slowed the migration, and in addition to the late departure dates mentioned below, Valentine noted a substantial movement in Alpena Co., Mich. on June 6, when he observed 14 Black-billed Cuckoos and banded 13 Traill's Flycatchers, 8 Canada Warblers, and smaller numbers of several other late migrants. Although some observers thought that returning fall migrants also were late, there were the usual mid-July shorebird reports, with vanguard warblers no: long after. Unseasonably cold weather near the end of the month precipitated enough movement to leave no doubt that migration was under way.

GREBES, PELICAN, CORMORANT—A Red-necked Grebe was noted June 24 in Ozaukee Co., Wis. (TB), and Rush L., Winnebago Co., Wis., rela-

tively unnoticed by ornithologists prior to last year, supported no less than 125 nests of this species this summer (O.S.U.o.c., fide JLK); a pair of W. Grebes also was present there July 23 (DT). A White Pelican was noted Aug. 12 in Green Lake Co. (DT), in the same locale as one of Wisconsin's few known Double-crested Cormorant colonies, which contained about 60 birds Aug. 16 (DG).

HERONS, EGRETS—Herons and egrets were very much in evidence throughout the Region, with 3 new nesting records reported. Several observers commented on good numbers of herons and bitterns generally. Great Blue Herons were numerous in marshes in the Detroit area (fide AHK), along with 2 Little Blue Herons July 17-Aug. 14 (JPK, AJM, et al.), 200 Com. Egrets (WEF, AJR, et al.), and 2 Snowy Egrets from July 10 on (JPK, AJM, et al.). Wisconsin's first known nesting of the **Cattle Egret** occurred in Green Lake Co., where adults were seen feeding young in a colony of over 60 on Aug. 16 (DG). Also noted in this area were 3 Snowy Egrets Aug. 12 (DT). A **Cattle Egret** also was present July 14-25 in Brown Co., Wis. (EC, RPH). Two Little Blue Herons were seen in Horicon Marsh, Dodge Co., Wis., July 15-Aug. 12 (DG, DT). The L. Johanna heronry in Pope Co., Minn. produced the first state breeding record of the **Cattle Egret** (2 nests July 24, with over 30 adults and young present Aug. 14); the appearance of ad. Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets in June and July and subsequent observations of young birds suggests nesting of these species there also (BAH). The first Michigan breeding records of **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were provided by nests in two counties: Monroe (JAG, JPK) and Wayne (WEF); besides the total of 5 young fledged, 2 additional ad. birds were seen in the area. Four adults of this species also were seen in La Crosse Co., Wis. June 13 (DT).

WATERFOWL—In addition to the Mute Swans which now reside regularly in small numbers in Alpena Co., Mich. (AEV), one individual was noted July 23 in Oakland Co., Mich. (RFW); a Whistling Swan in this latter location June 8 was a first summer record for the Detroit area (fide AHK). Other waterfowl of interest were 6 Pintails at Erie Marsh, Monroe Co., Mich. July 17 (fide AHK), a pair of White-winged Scoters at Rush L., Winnebago Co., Wis. June 1 (fide JLK), and Hooded Mergansers in La Crosse Co., Wis. June 13 (DT).

HAWKS—While Red-tailed Hawks were noted in normal numbers in the Detroit area, Mrs. Kelley reported low numbers of Cooper's, Red-shouldered (none observed), Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks there. Marsh Hawks again were not reported in Ottawa and several adjacent counties in w. central Michigan; Red-taileds did well in that area, however (fide JP). Although nesting success in the Osprey colony at Fletcher Pond, Alpena and Montmorency counties, Mich. was the best in the 10 years for which records have been kept (22

young still alive at the end of July, from 10 successful nests, most of those built on artificial platforms), only one of the 4 known recently active Bald Eagle nests in the two counties fledged young this year (AEV). Other hawk reports of interest were summering Broad-winged rather far s. in Michigan, in Mason (EG) and Muskegon (GW) counties, and 3 Swainson's in Fond du Lac Co., Wis. Aug. 12 (DT).

GALLIFORMS, GRUIFORMS—The only Spruce Grouse report came from Forest Co., Wis. July 15 (CHR); Bobwhites continue to be mentioned by few observers. There were several observations of King Rails: the first nesting record in the Detroit area in recent years, in St. Clair Co. (AJR); a nesting record in Ottawa Co., Mich. (ASO); Berrien Co., Mich. June 2 (WB); and Jackson Co., Wis. June 4 (SDR). While Com. Gallinules were present in greatly reduced numbers (fide AHK) at Metropolitan Beach, Macomb Co., Mich. (the area where the highest number of Detroit area birds normally are to be found), they were common across the state on the Grand Haven marsh, Ottawa Co. (JP).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS—Piping Plovers were noted again in Muskegon Co., Mich. Aug. 10 (ASO, GW), and at Superior, Wis. June 15 (SDR). Good numbers of Killdeer and Am. Golden Plover were reported from several sod farms in s. Michigan in early August. Com. Snipe present June 6 in two locations in the Detroit area constituted a new spring departure date (JAG, AJR). A Whimbrel was seen June 5 in Brown Co., Wis. (JB, EC, GD). There were more reports than usual of Knots, and Stilt Sandpipers also were observed in moderate numbers. Of considerable interest were 3 White-rumped, 1 Western, and 4 Semipalmated Sandpipers observed at close range in Marinette Co., Wis. June 22 (HL, SDR); 3 Westerns in spring plumage were noted in Monroe Co., Mich. July 18 (AJR), and another bird in Vernon Co., Wis. Aug. 9 (MMO). Also of interest were a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Ann Arbor, Mich. Aug. 13 (AJM), a Marbled Godwit at Green Bay Aug. 11 (DT), and an Am. Avocet at St. Joseph, Berrien Co., Mich. July 13 (HK); a count of 45 Least Sandpipers in this latter area July 16 was the highest ever recorded there (WB). Single Laughing Gulls were noted June 2-3 at Muskegon, Mich. (GW, et al.) and Aug. 3 in Green Bay (DT). Franklin's Gulls were reported as follows: 3 at Muskegon June 2-3 (GW, et al.); one in Marinette Co., Wis. June 22 (HL, SDR); one at Rush L., Wis. early in July (EP); and one in Monroe Co., Mich. July 31, the third Detroit area summer report (AJR).

CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS—A Yellow-billed Cuckoo seen and heard June 15 in Bayfield Co. is one of Wisconsin's northernmost records (SDR). Barn Owls nested at Benton Heights, Berrien Co., Mich. (RS, et al.), and one was reported also from Sauk Co., Wis. June 22 (DG, DH). A Saw-whet Owl at Benton

Heights July 16 appears to be a first summer record for s.w. Michigan (WB, RS). The use of tape-recorded calls revealed the presence of 19 Whip-poor-wills in late May and through June in Clyde Twp., St. Clair Co., Mich.; the Detroit area had only 3 previous summer records (AJR). The marked increase of Red-bellied Woodpeckers which has occurred in the Detroit area over the last 4 years continued, with reports of 2 new nesting locations in Oakland Co. and 2 additional sight records in new areas (AHK). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted in June in 2 Michigan counties where they normally are not found in summer: Midland (EK) and Kent (fide JP). There were 4 W. Kingbird reports from Wisconsin: it nested again next to a root beer stand in Hudson (PAT) and also was noted July 18 about 10 mi. farther e. in St. Croix Co. (SDR); one of a nesting pair under observation at Sarona, Washburn Co. by the Audubon Camp staff was still to be seen July 25 (SDR); a fourth record came from Sauk Co. June 3 (LD, MD, KP). Eastern Phoebe continued to be scarce or absent in the s. counties of the Detroit area (AHK), but 62 active nests were located in n. Oakland Co. and s. Lapeer and Genesee counties (DR). Olive-sided Flycatchers lingered until June 13 in 2 s. Michigan areas: near Detroit, a record departure date (EK_n), and in Berrien Co. (WB, RS).

SWALLOWS TO THRUSHES—Swallows were numerous in the Detroit area (fide AHK). A Com. Raven in Chippewa Co., Wis. Aug. 5 was s. of its usual range (SDR). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches in Midland Co., Mich. constituted only the second summer record for that area (RGM). A Brown Creeper in Ozaukee Co., Wis. July 7 was s. of normal summer range (TB). A June 5 Winter Wren in Berrien Co., Mich. was very late (RS). Carolina Wrens were noted in 2 Michigan counties: Washtenaw (AJM) and Wayne (HH) and in Madison, Wis. (RL, et al.) There were Mockingbird reports from La Crosse Co., Wis. June 14 (DT) and from 3 Michigan counties: Berrien (5 birds; RS, et al.), Livingston (WLT), and Oakland (2 birds; WR). A Hermit Thrush in Eau Claire Co., Wis. June 11 was rather far south (SDR). While E. Bluebirds were locally common in 8 Michigan counties, nesting in pastures or burned-over land in preference to orchards (BP), those observers who commented generally found them fairly widespread but not common.

GNATCATCHER, KINGLET, VIREOS, WARBLERS—Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in several locations in Oconto Co. June 23 were north of the usual Wisconsin range (SDR), as was a Marinette Co. observation Aug. 3 (HL). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were noted in 5 n. Wisconsin counties (SDR, CR, TKS, JW). The only report of a White-eyed Vireo came from Milwaukee Co. June 4 (DG). There were 2 remarkable warbler observations in Madison, Wis.: a singing Tennessee June 25 (JH) and a singing Magnolia June 15 (JTE). A June 6 Parula Warbler in Oakland Co., Mich. established

a new late departure date for the Detroit area (JAG); 2 Black-throated Green Warblers June 5 also were very late for the area, in St. Clair Co. (DRu). Nashville Warblers were seen in Mason Co., Mich. June 24 (EG) and in Trempealeau Co., Wis. June 18 (carrying food; SDR). Robbins again found nearly a dozen Cape May Warblers near Solon Springs, Wis. in mid-June, plus single birds at a different Douglas Co. location and in Ashland Co.; one also was noted in Forest Co. June 26 (TKS). A Cerulean Warbler in Marinette Co. June 5 was north of the usual Wisconsin range of this species (HL). Prairie Warblers feeding 5 young were observed July 23 in Mason Co., Mich. (EG). A singing male Kentucky Warbler was noted through July 18 in s. Oakland Co., Mich. (RL, et al.). A Mourning Warbler was banded in Rock Co. in s. Wisconsin June 22 (MM). Yellow-breasted Chats were noted in Ottawa Co., Mich. June 27 (HC) and in 2 Wisconsin counties: Walworth (GMC, et al.) and Grant (SDR). A Hooded Warbler was present again in Berrien Co., Mich. (BM).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS — Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported nesting for the first time in Ottawa Co., Mich. (HC, AS); other reports, rather n. for the e. part of the state, came from 3 Wisconsin counties June 22-23: Marinette, Oconto, and Brown (HL, SDR). Orchard Orioles were noted in Trempealeau Co. June 18 (SDR) and in Midland Co., Mich. June 29-July 31 (4 birds; RGM). A singing ♂ Summer Tanager was present again in Berrien Co., Mich. at least through July 10 (WB, RS, BS). Dickcissels and a Cardinal in Langlade Co. were n. of their usual range in Wisconsin (CR, DT); Dickcissels also were noted in several other rather n. counties in the state from Marinette in the e. to Barron in the w. (HL, SDR, TKS, DT). Six ad. and young Evening Grosbeaks were present at a feeder in Alpena Co., Mich. for a week in mid-July (R & SS); apparent family groups also were noted in Wisconsin in Langlade (CR) and Price (AV) counties, as well as 2 birds in Douglas Co. June 15 (SDR) and some in Forest Co. July 14-16 (CHR). Purple Finches feeding young were observed in Milwaukee Co. Aug. 2-3 (MLH), and there were a few other Wisconsin reports somewhat s. of their usual summer range. The only Pine Siskin reports came from Wisconsin counties: Douglas June 15 (SDR), Price July 16 (AV), and Menominee July 20 (DT). Red Crossbills were noted in Wisconsin in June in Forest Co. (TKS) and in July in Langlade (CR) and Oneida (DT) counties. Robbins found Le Conte's Sparrows in 7 Wisconsin counties, including some new areas; one also was observed July 23 in Winnebago Co., for perhaps the southernmost Wisconsin summer report yet (DT). Only one Henslow's Sparrow was found in the Detroit area, in Oakland Co. (JAG). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow noted in Dodge Co., Wis. June 24 was remarkable (DG), as was a Slate-colored Junco banded in far s. Wisconsin, in Rock Co.,

June 26 (MM). Several White-throated Sparrows somewhat s. of their usual range were noted again this year: in Oakland (BC) and Monroe (AJM) counties in Michigan and in Eau Claire and Jackson (SDR) and Ozaukee (DG) counties in Wisconsin. Lincoln's Sparrows were noted in 4 Wisconsin counties: Douglas (SDR), Forest (TKS), Langlade (CR), and Oneida (SDR, DT); several of these were in newly reported locations.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION / Vernon M. Kleen and Lee Bush

Spring weather conditions were condensed into a brief period this year: arriving very late and departing very early. June, normally an extension of spring weather leading to a hot July, was by far the hottest month of the year; temperatures averaged up to 4° above normal. In most areas,

