

The Nesting Season June 1—July 31, 1973

HUDSON-ST. LAWRENCE REGION

/ P. A. Buckley and T. H. Davis

June and July are the months of peak breeding activity in our region (which seems to extend asymptotically off towards or beyond the North Pole) and climatic extremes at this time might have detrimental effects perceptible for several years. In New York City, temperatures averages $+2^{\circ}$ F and $+0.5^{\circ}$; precipitation, largely in the form of severe thunderstorms dumping record amounts of water per unit time, was 4.55 in. in June (normal 3.31 in.) and 5.89 in. in July (normal 3.70 in.). Consequently local freshwater levels were very high. No tropical storms, alas, came anywhere near us. Wind direction was generally normal for both months (SW), but the 6.6 mph velocities for both June and July were slightly lower than the normal 8.2 and 7.7 mph values. Sunlight is normally present *ca.* 65 per cent of daylight hours in both months, so June's 48 per cent was a serious drop; July's reading was normal. At least one observer (JG) called attention to the overcast skies' effects on reduced fishing success of breeding Common Terns at Jones Beach with concomitantly heavy losses of young from starvation. Seawater temperatures at Ambrose Light Tower in Lower New York Bay gradually increased in essentially linear fashion from 61° June 1 to 73° July 31, but we do not know how these compare to normal values. They did increase to record levels in late August and early September, which we will discuss in the next issue.

Elsewhere in our region, RPY described the Jenny Lake area of the Adirondacks as having been "warm . . . lacking in rainfall"; New Hampshire was generally very wet, although no temperature extremes were commented upon (VH); in Berkshire Co., Mass. "June and July were both very warm and July a lot drier than usual, but flash floods came in late June-early July" (RJG); Québec had "a fine dry summer . . . conducive to high breeding success" (MM); but in s.w. Vermont, WJN stressed a very wet May and June that "culminated in the disastrous flood periods of June 30-July 5, which battered this area very badly and caused great nesting mortality. [For example,] Bobolinks breeding in fields . . . here disappeared after the June 30 floods and were not seen again."

Aside from specific cases mentioned later in the main account, some conclusions of various regional coordinators are in order. VH reports for the entire state of New Hampshire: "Sad items were the still-continuing drastic decline of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, American Bittern, Warbling Vireo, Bank, Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows, Com. Nighthawk, Brown Creeper and Vesper Sparrow . . . Good items were the spread of Turkey Vulture, Goshawk and Com. Raven. Black-billed Cuckoos made a good recovery [after 1972] or more likely moved with the worm infestations. Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins raised young, at least in some instances, and moved north June 8-9 for parts

unknown . . . [Some species] south of customary habitations were Sharp-shinned Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Solitary Vireo, Nashville, N. Parula, Magnolia, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Wanderers to the north included Great Crested Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting" MM, reporting for our portion of the Province of Québec, notes "the following species as being particularly abundant: E. Kingbird, Purple Martin, House Wren, E. Bluebird, Bobolink, N. Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting." WJN found in s.w. Vermont, that "the breeding season was much prolonged and singing lasted longer than usual

Three northern breeding species which have been breeding here [Winhall/Bennington area] have shown declines and are either absent or greatly reduced this year: Swainson's Thrush (reduced), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (reduced) and Rusty Blackbird (absent) On the positive side, Chimney Swift, after several poor years, has come back very well, and Indigo Bunting is spreading into many new high elevation locations around here, another new development; formerly [the species] was pretty well confined to the valleys." From Jenny Lake in the Adirondacks, RPY noted that other than the winter finches, there appeared to be no "drastic changes" in bird populations there.

Coastally, particular attention was paid this summer to accurate censusing of almost all known major heronries, gulleries and terneries (see Tables 2, 3 and 4), revealing some very high but still quite conservative numbers of breeders. Extensive work by Urner Ornithological Club members continued on the breeding birds of extreme n.w. N.J., where such disparate associates as Acadian Flycatcher and White-throated Sparrow nest together; the New Hampshire Audubon Society's annual breeding bird censuses are quantifying some changes in that state.

Attention continues to be focused on offshore observations of pelagics from Long Island and New Jersey, revealing some quite unexpected (but regular ?) species. Table 1 compares trips, which continued throughout the summer and fall. Any observers making pelagic observations off the New Jersey shore are asked to send copies of their results, including detailed descriptions for all rare or difficult to identify species, to—in addition to the respective *Am. Birds* regional editors—Dr. Charles Leck, Dept. of Zoology, University Heights Campus, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J. 08903, who has undertaken a year-round study of seabirds in the New York Bight.

The second annual Captree "June Christmas Bird Count" (see *Am. Birds*, 27:556-570) on June 2 managed to field some 50 observers who recorded *ca.* 172 species in the regular 15-mile diameter Captree C B C circle, appreciably up from last year's 135 species by 14 observers. Late migrants (23 species of warblers), out-of-season lingerers (an unidentified *murre* and an Evening Grosbeak), as well as potential new area breeders (Acadian Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Prothonotary Warbler) and unexpectedly high counts (Brown

Creepers, Veery, Pine Warbler, Am. Oystercatcher, herons/ibises), were all dividends of the sort predicted by Tudor and Robben when they suggested the concept. Results will be published in the *Linnaean News Letter*, if not also in *Am. Birds*, later this year.

Rarities reported in June and July included Black-browed Albatrosses, Brown Boobies, Leach's Storm-petrels, Black Vulture, Purple Gallinule, numerous inland shorebirds, all three phalaropes, Little Gulls, Franklin's Gulls, Skua, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, breeding Blue Grosbeak, and numerous records of other "southern" landbirds undergoing presumptive range expansions: Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prothonotary and Kentucky Warblers and Summer Tanager.

A reminder of the two Regional telephone numbers giving tape-recorded information about local birds of note: New York City: 212/832-6523; Springfield, Mass.: 413/566-3590.

LOONS, TUBENOSES, BOOBIES—Loons of both species are occasional in summer south of their normal inland breeding range, but a report of a pair of adult and a "half-grown young" [capable of sustained flight?—Eds.] Commons on the lower Carman's R., on the south shore of Long Island from July 10 - 15 are suggestive of breeding (DP). If so, it would be unprecedented for Long Island. Pied-billed Grebes seem to be declining in many areas (Berkshires; N.H.; Onondaga Co., N.Y.), although they nested successfully on Long Island, where rare breeders, at Poxabogue Pond in Bridgehampton (CKMcK) and probably still at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, (hereafter J.B.W.R.). They do not seem to be nesting anywhere on the extensive Hackensack, N.J. meadows, which might be owing to that area's increasing salinity (RK).

While some of the seabird counts and species recorded on the various offshore trips this summer might seem unusual, they are probably more a reflection of ignorance of pelagics' status in this area, with some exceptions noted below. For example, until the deep-water tilefish *Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps* was discovered accessible to party boats on the Hudson Canyon—the Continental Shelf intrusion that is about 100 mi. southeast of New York City—no one ever had an opportunity to get out that far. Now, several head-and-charter-boats make the 24-hour round trip from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn., N.Y. as well as from Atlantic Highlands and Brielle, N.J. It was from these boats that some of the more spectacular seabirds were seen this summer. It should also be noted that while the Gulf Stream is normally 50-100 miles beyond the Canyon, late this summer (last week in August, for example) it came in closer than the Canyon, and was probably responsible for the occurrence of some birds typically associated with the Stream. They will be discussed in the next issue.

Counts of Wilson's Storm-Petrels this summer were genuinely extraordinary, and are some of the highest ever from the Region. For the first time since the construction of the Verrazano Bridge across The Narrows between Brooklyn and Staten I., petrels were seen

from the Staten Island ferry in Upper New York Bay. Associated with the vast numbers of Wilson's was an odd storm-petrel with a white belly and white patches dorsally. It was similar to one seen by the Eds. at Cox's Ledge (off Montauk Pt.) Aug. 19, 1972, and to one reported by the Trimbles on the Grand Banks Sept. 6, 1966 (*Auk*, 85:130); each was carefully determined to be merely an aberrant Wilson's, not one of the more exotic black and white storm-petrels from Antarctic waters. Observers are cautioned that such plumage aberrancies are not unknown in several tubenoses.

Concerning rarities, two **Brown Boobies** were seen this summer in addition to that in Table 1: an adult was close to shore, flying and sitting in the water, at Gardiner's I., L.I. June 2 (DP), the day before Shields' New Jersey observation; and an adult was seen in the Hudson Canyon area June 27 (RR). There are only four previous New York City area records, and none were from New Jersey.' And in addition to the **Black-browed Albatrosses** listed in Table 4 (incidentally, the first for the Region, and following last year's first North American reports from the Northeastern Maritime Region), an unidentified albatross was clearly seen, well described, and carefully sketched by a veteran observer (ED) May 21 as it flew alongside the Belt Parkway at Gravesend Bay, Brooklyn, and then crossed the road, heading for downtown Brooklyn! The description and drawing suggest Black-browed more than any other species, which accords well with other (!) albatross records from the area this summer. The late May count of **Leach's Storm-Petrels** from the Canyon is the highest ever for the Region, and one of the few recent, non-hurricane reports. Are they regular there?

WADING BIRDS, WATERFOWL—Heronries on Long Island were at peak numbers and the figure of 500+ pairs of Glossy Ibis is considered conservative, perhaps under-estimated by a factor of two (PAB, MG). From fixed-wing and helicopter surveys, egret-dominated colonies were hard to miss, but the frequent Black-crowned Night Heron/Glossy Ibis colonies were often undetectable 100 feet directly underneath the aircraft (PAB). Thus egret colonies' figures are probably reasonably accurate, excepting any coloniés missed or not censused this year (such as the large one at Lawrence Marsh). No data whatever were available on the Sandy Hook, N.J., Plum I. and Fisher's I., N.Y. colonies, if active this year. Cattle Egrets were widely reported away from the coast, including Contrecoeur, P.Q. July 29 (JS), eleven through the period in Fairfield, Conn. (CFH), and one at Pittston, Pa. July 28 (WR). Long Island nests at Jones Beach were the first since isolated pairs on Gardiner's I. a few years ago. The 55+ that fed on runways at J.F.K. Int'l Airport from mid-May through the period are the highest regional count, and if they nested locally, it must have been at Lawrence Marsh or at some undetected colony at J.B.W.R. (SC). Five pairs of Least Bitterns bred at Great Meadows, Stratford, Conn., and Glossy Ibis were seen regularly in a known nesting area in the Westport-Norwalk I. area, Conn. (CFH).

Waterfowl had varied success, WJN reporting them "all down" in s.w. Vermont, and VH echoed that line in New Hampshire. RJG, on the other hand, noted

Table 1. Pelagic observations off the L.I. and N.J. shores during the summer 1973 season. Descriptions for unusual species or details of high counts are available from the observers.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------|--------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----|---------------------------|--------|----------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Black-browed Albatross | May 26, Cox's Ledge | THD, R. Smart <i>et al.</i> | 1 | May 27, Hudson Canyon | Robert Smith | 1 | May 27, Hudson Canyon | RK, P.W. Smith <i>et al.</i> | June 3, 30 m off NJ shore | WS <i>et al.</i> | June 6, off Asbury: WS | June 10, 25 m. off Jones B. | H. Wellander <i>et al.</i> | June 16, Hudson Canyon | W. Shields <i>et al.</i> | June 24, 20 m off NJ shore | WS | July 2, 8 m off NJ shore | WS | July 5, 5 m off NJ shore | WS | July 7, 5 m off NJ shore | WS, THD <i>et al.</i> | July 12, 2 m off NJ shore | WS | July 19, 2 m off NJ shore | WS, GM | July 20, Cox's Ledge | BT | July 25, 4 m off NJ shore | WS |
| Cory's Shearwater | | | 50 | | | | 175 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1010 | | 29 | | 3 | 3 | 8 | | | | | | | | 5 | | | |
| Greater Shearwater | | | 65 | | | | 50 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 150 | | | | |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| unidentified shearw. "black & white" sh. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel | | | 1 | | | | 17 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | 600 | | | | 2000+ | | | | | 100 | | 1596 | | 800 | | 2032 | | 709 | | 2500+ | | 924 | | 5524 | | 450 | | 1000 | |
| Brown Booby | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gannet | | | 5 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Red Phalarope | | | 7 | | | | 75 | | | | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Phalarope | | | | | | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pomarine Jaeger | | | 2 | | | | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parasitic Jaeger | | | 1 | | | | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| unidentified jaeger | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Skua | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 2. Results of censuses of most major wading bird colonies on L.I. in the 1973 breeding season

| | Canarsie Poi, J.B.W.R. PAB <i>et al.</i> | Pearsall's Hassock, w. Oceanside J. Zarudsky | Loop Causeway (Jones Beach) THD | near Field #1, Jones Beach S.P. MG, PAB | Zach's Bay, Jones Beach S.P. PAB, MG, THD <i>et al.</i> | Cedar Beach (Jones Beach strip) MG | Seganus Thatch (nr. Oak I.) PAB, WW | Gardiner's I. PAB <i>et al.</i> |
|------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Great Egret | - | - | - | 62 | 10-15 | - | 50 | - |
| Snowy Egret | 30-40 | 40 | 150+ | - | 150 | 50+ | 50 | 30-40 |
| Cattle Egret | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - |
| Louisiana Heron | - | - | 1 | - | 6-7 | - | 6 | - |
| Little Blue Heron | - | 2 | - | - | 5 | - | 20 | - |
| Green Heron | - | 2 | - | - | 5 | - | 3 | - |
| Black-cr. Night Heron | 20 | 40 | 30+ | 70 | 150+ | 140+ | 200 | 75-100 |
| Yellow-cr. Night Heron | - | - | - | - | 2-3 | - | - | - |
| Glossy Ibis | 30-40 | 31 | 100+ | 60 | 180 | 100+ | 100 | 75-100 |

excellent numbers and good breeding success of all species in the Berkshires, and RK had breeding Ruddy, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal (and to a lesser extent Green-winged Teal) in numbers on the Hackensack Meadows. Gadwall increased in the Québec area, and continue to proliferate on Long Island. It is not known if Ruddies nested at Sagaponack L., Bridgehampton, L I as have in the recent past (PAB, CKMcK) but they are still breeding at J.B.W.R., possibly in a new location on an island in mid-bay (PAB). Redheads continue breeding successfully at J.B.W.R. (DSK *et al.*) and up to six males summered at Ile du Moine. P.Q. (P.Q.S.P.B.). The usual variety of odd summering ducks, inland and coastal, ranged from virtually all the dabblers through both scaup, Ring-necked, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, all three scoters and at least two Com. Eiders at Fire I. Inlet through the period (AJL). Red-breasted Mergansers were "present" at several coastal sites where they have been known to breed in the past (Jones Inlet, Fire I. Inlet, Moriches Inlet, Shinnecock and Mecox Bays) but it is not known if any nested this year (PAB *et al.*).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS—A Black Vulture at Lloyd's Neck June 6-7 (GG, GO'S) was the first on Long Island in some years. On Long Island, Marsh Hawk continues to nest for certain only in the Jones Beach area. This year only five nests were located, down from last year's 13-14, although it seems a few others might have been missed (RC). The species likely breeds at J.B.W.R., and possibly on Lawrence Marsh, and the vast Hackensack Meadows. A late-migrating Goshawk was at Derby Hill hawk lookout on the New York side of Lake Ontario June 6 (GAS), a pair nested in Berkshire Co., Mass. (RJG), another nest fledged

several young in Sunapee, N.H. (JWB, *vide* JBG), and one seen June 18 near Fairfield, Conn. might have been breeding nearby. It was absent this year from its site of the past three years in the Pequannock Watershed in n.w. New Jersey (RK, IB *et al.*). Cooper's Hawk was unreported by all observers, most of whom commented on its absence. Virtually no Sharp-shinned were reported either. WJN reports that in s.w. Vermont "Broad-winged Hawk has followed Red-shouldered in a decline in breeding numbers," but eleven pairs of the latter "on territory" in the Pequannock Watershed were encouraging, as were seven pairs in s. Berkshire Co., Mass. (RJG). A few scattered Bald Eagles were probably not breeders. Ospreys on Gardiner's I. produced 18 young from 31 active nests, up from five and 17 in 1972 and 1971, respectively (DP), but no data on other breeding sites were received.

Ruffed Grouse seem to be reaching a numerical peak in both s.w. Vermont and s.w. New Hampshire Spruce Grouse were seen several times in Mont Tremblant Park, P.Q., through the period (P.Q.S.P.B.). Introduced Turkeys in Easton, Conn are slowly increasing (CFH), and are still doing well in n.w. New Jersey, spreading into and across the Hudson Valley of New York. On Long Island, the Gardiner's I. flock thrives, as does that at the Quogue Wildlife Sanctuary, but the Connetquot River S. P (formerly Southside Sportsmen's Club; hereafter C.R.S.P.) flock is down to four (RG). Yellow Rails recorded several times this summer at Ile du Moine, P.Q. (JS, SH *et al.*) were the only ones; Black Rail was unreported, absent at its recent stand in the Oak Beach, L.I. salt marshes after May's reports of calling males (migrants?). King Rails were unrecorded on Long Island, and are apparently not present in the vast, suitable

(?) acreage of the Hackensack Meadows. There are thus no present breeding locations known to us in the New York City area. One pair was reported breeding on the Great Meadows, Stratford, Conn. (CFH), but none elsewhere in the Region. Common Gallinules were a "common breeder" in Pittsfield, Mass. and south along the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic R. They are "abundant" in the Hackensack Meadows (RK *et al.*) where Am. Coots have declined drastically in the last 15 years. A pair of the latter species raised several young on Poxabogue Pond, L. I. (CKMcK), and might have also bred at nearby Mecox Bay (PAB); they continue in numbers at J.B.W.R. The very rare Purple Gallinule was seen at Montauk Pt., L.I., June 1 for the first area record at this season in some years (GSR).

SHOREBIRDS—American Oystercatchers continue to increase dramatically on Long Island, and can now be easily seen along the south shore at each inlet from Fire I. east to Montauk, although annual productivity figures are lacking. The center of abundance seems still to be Gardiner's I., the site of the species' re-[?] discovery as a New York State breeder in 1957. On June 10 this year some 14 were found in the Captree C B C circle (m. ob.) and a pair was seen at Stratford, Conn. June 19 (DV); they might be breeding regularly along the Connecticut side of L.I. Sound. A high count of inland Ruddy Turnstones was 100+ on Nun's I. June 3 (P.O.S.P.B.), and also unusual inland were a Semipalmated Plover at Littleton, N.H. July 22 (RJB) and two turnstones at S. Windsor, Conn. July 27 (PJD). Upland Sandpipers were reported doing well in Québec, but around the New York area continue to disappear even from old colony sites that do not seem particularly disturbed, especially in New Jersey. Certainly very disturbed, though, is Mitchel Field, the last

vestige of the Hempstead Plains and now the site of Nassau County's newest venture into mass culture. This year apparently only one pair nested there, although migrants still congregate in season. More encouraging is the growth of the safest of all colonies on the vast, unreachable plains of J.F.K. Int'l Airport. This year a maximum of 12 pairs nested successfully and the colony is growing each year (SC). The first n e Pennsylvania breeding in 20 years occurred at Wyalusing in June (WR).

Willetts continue occupying, it seems, almost every available island in the bays behind the barrier beaches of Long Island's south shore, now nesting at least as far east as Shinnecock Bay: all this has taken place since the first Jones Beach nests in 1966. Two White-rumped Sandpipers and two Sanderlings at Exeter, Pa. June 1 (WR) were noteworthy inland. A single Marbled Godwit seen at Ile du Moine twice in June was presumably a non-breeder (P.Q.S.P.B.), but Hudsonians there in late July were certainly migrants. A breeding plumaged Short-billed Dowitcher at the Pittsfield sewer beds July 15 was unusual inland, but during the peak of coastal migration of southbound adults (RJG). On time, southbound ad. Stilt Sandpipers showed up in mid-July over the entire Region from Québec to Long Island and rather high counts (up to 75) came from Tobay Pond (BC, BS). At least one of seven breeding-plumaged dowitchers at Great Kills Park, Staten I., July 22 was a Long-billed (PT). While the bulk of coastal records of this species are of Sept./Oct./Nov immatures, many observers are unaware that southbound adults regularly move from about July 15-Aug 15, frequenting the species' preferred fresh/brackish water pools. All three species of phalaropes were reported, oddest of all being a changing plumage? Red at Jones Beach June 30 (JM *et al.*). A bright? Northern was at the Pittsfield sewer beds June 27 (RJG), and

Table 3. Estimates of size of most major gull colonies on L.I. in 1973.

| | |
|--|--|
| 1) Canarsie Pol, J.B.W.R.: (PAB <i>et al.</i>) | Herring Gull 500+ pairs Great Black-backed Gull 10+ pairs |
| 2) Pearsall's Hassock, w. Oceanside: (J. Zarudsky) | Herring Gull 50 pairs |
| 3) Loop Causeway (Jones Beach): (THD, MG) | Herring Gull 400-450 pairs Great Black-backed Gull 1 pair |
| 4) near Field #1, Jones Beach S.P.: (THD, PAB <i>et al.</i>) | Herring Gull 200 pairs Great Black-backed Gull 1 pair |
| 5) Seganus Thatch (nr. Oak I.): (PAB, DBF) | Herring Gull 70 pairs Great Black-backed Gull 1 pair |
| 6) Captree State Park: (DBF) | Herring Gull 2100 pairs Great Black-backed Gull 70 pairs |
| 7) Gardiner's I.: (PAB <i>et al.</i>) | Herring Gull 500+ pairs Great Black-backed Gull 25 pairs |
| 8) Moriches Inlet: (L. Wilcox) | Herring Gull 75 pairs |
| 9) Shinnecock Inlet: (L. Wilcox) | Herring Gull 1600 pairs Great Black-backed Gull 50 pairs |
| 10) Hicks I., Napeague Bay: (L. Wilcox) | Herring Gull 300 pairs Great Black-backed Gull 50 pairs |

Wilson's occurred at J B W R June 10-22 (m ob) and three from July 29 through the period; a single was at Onondaga L., N.Y. July 6 (GAS).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS—A dead Parasitic Jaeger at Jones Beach July 4 (WH) and a dark-phase adult flying through the tern colony at Napeague Bay, L.I. in early June (CKMcK) were the only ones reported, excepting the adult *Skua* seen July 20 (BT) close to a fishing boat over Cox's Ledge 40 miles e. s. e. of Montauk Pt. This is the second recent *Skua* record from Cox's Ledge.

Gull colony counts are reported in Table 3. More Laughing Gulls were present on the south shore of Long Island this summer than has been usual in recent years: perhaps they will nest again in the Great South Bay marshes (last ca. 1890) ? No summering white-winged gulls were reported anywhere in the region. Little Gulls were seen at recent locations in N.J. (South Amboy flats, one July 7, DWF *et al.*), and Conn. (Milford Pt., two July 29, CFH; also New Haven). A large

flock present from June 24 through the period at Ile du Moine reached nine on occasion (JS, MM *et al.*) Three breeding plumaged Franklin's Gulls at Oswego Harbor, N.Y. June 30 (GAS, MH *et al.*) provided the 11th record for that area, and the eighth since 1969. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen from boats off the New Jersey shore on occasions (Table 4), they are probably offshore virtually every summer

The results of tern colony surveys on Long Island are in Table 4. An unfortunate omission from that Table had to be the Eaton's Neck, L.I. Least Tern Colony, numbering in excess of 600 pairs in 1972 (possibly the largest Least colony in eastern North America), but which failed to appear this year for reasons unknown For the first time, though, three pairs nested on the Hackensack Meadows (DS, *fide* RK), where flocks have been seen regularly since the mid-50s, some distance from the "coast." A single Gull-billed Tern was seen at Tobay Pond June 5 (WB, LS), hawking insects over salt-marsh. Now that it breeds as close as Beach Haven Inlet and Brigantine N.W.R., N.J., June occurrences are not surprising in New York. In the past

Table 4. Composition of all known tern colonies on Long Island in the summer of 1973.
These figures do not indicate productivity, which was often low or zero:
they are merely best estimates of the number of pairs present.

| | Common Tern | Roseate Tern | Least Tern | Black Skimmer |
|---|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Pearsall's Hassock, w. Oceanside (JZ) | — | — | 50 | — |
| Loop Causeway (THD) | 4-500 | — | 40-50 | 60 |
| e. side Jones Inlet (THD, MG <i>et al.</i>) | 1880 | — | 18 | 30 |
| Gilgo Beach (MG) | — | — | 5-7 | — |
| Cedar Beach (MG <i>et al.</i>) | 14-1500 | 25 | 25 | 120 |
| Robert Moses S.P. (MG) | — | — | 20 | — |
| Smith Pt. Co. Pk. (AJL) | — | — | 30-40 | — |
| J. Boyle I., Great South Bay (L. Wilcox) | 300 | — | — | 10 |
| Moriches Inlet (2 cols.) (L. Wilcox) | 800 | 25 | 52 | 100 |
| Shinnecock Bay (3 cols.) (L. Wilcox <i>et al.</i>) | 1750 | 80 | 50 | 100 |
| Mecox Bay (L. Wilcox) | — | — | 100 | — |
| Hick's I., Napeague Bay (L. Wilcox, CKMcK) | 150 | 50 | — | — |
| Great Gull I. (H. Hays) | 2500 | 1500 | — | — |
| Acabonack Harbor (CKMcK) | — | — | 20 | — |
| Sag Harbor (CKMcK) | — | — | 20 | — |
| Port Jeff. Harbor (rep.) | — | — | * | * |
| Stony Brook Harbor (PAB) | * | ? | * | * |
| Crab Meadow (K. Frenke) | — | — | 50 | — |
| East Neck, Huntington (K. Frenke) | — | — | 30 | — |
| Lloyd's Neck (K. Frenke) | — | — | 30 | — |

* reported or seen but no figures available

few years, singles or pairs have been seen in some Long Island tern colonies for brief periods in June, so attempted nesting is possible in the near future. Unusually, no Royals or Caspians were reported from the coasts, but one was seen near Les Cèdres, P.Q. June 14 (MM, JW). A pair of Arctic Terns were well seen by many observers at Ile du Moine June 2. An unidentified, probably ill or injured, breeding plumaged murre was seen on several days in early June near Bay Shore, L.I. (*vide* WW) but could not be located despite intensive boat searches on the Captree June C B C.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

—After a very poor 1972 breeding season, both cuckoos were reported in good to excellent numbers by observers in all reporting regions. The Yellow-billed—typically a more southern species—seemed to be extending its range northward this year in some numbers in Vermont, New Hampshire and the Province of Québec. Short-eared Owls were present as usual, presumably breeding on Long Island at J.B.W.R. and near Jones Beach (PAB). A far-north Barn Owl was at Saxton's R., Vt. (DC *et al.*, no date). No Barred Owls were reported from Jenny L. in the Adirondacks this summer (RPY). They are still present in favored habitat, such as the Great Swamp N.W.R., N.J., but are generally on the decline as breeders and winterers, around New York City. Is this a widespread regional trend? Whip-poor-wills were down in w. Massachusetts, in New Hampshire, and probably on Long Island. For the first time in several recent years, no Chuck-will's-widows were heard on Long Island this summer, although several spring records included one banded in May at Fire Island Lighthouse (DBF *et al.*). Two Com. Nighthawks were seen migrating north past Derby Hill hawk lookout on the late date of June 20 (GAS). There seem to be no proven breeders left on Long Island, and it was reported rare this year in New Hampshire, but normal in the Berkshires. Red-bellied Woodpecker was practically unreported away from the New York City region where it continues to increase as a breeder/resident on Long Island and in New Jersey. Red-headed Woodpecker is still declining drastically in the same area and in Québec and around Syracuse. None was reported from the entire state of New Hampshire!

FLYCATCHERS—Since 1970, when extensive spring mist-netting began, all four species of Empidonax (Traill's here including both Willow and Alder) have been regular northbound migrants up to mid-June and beyond at Fire I. Lighthouse, including this year (DBF, PAB *et al.*). Record early southbound migrants on the heels of a cold front July 22 were a Yellow-bellied at Great Gull I. (RP) and an Olive-sided at Tobay Pond (MK). Hard to place was a singing ♂ Yellow-bellied in an Easton, Conn. hemlock grove July 2 but not thereafter (MB *et al.*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Manorville, L.I. June 16 (GSR *et al.*) fits the inexplicable pattern of late May-late June reports of this species from the mid-Atlantic states to New England/Maritimes. Willow Flycatcher as a breeder was increasing in the New York area, in s.w. Con-

necticut, the Berkshires and the Syracuse area. Acadian probably bred at 2-3 Long Island locations (a most recent occurrence), increased in "lowland" New Jersey (e.g. Great Swamp N.W.R.) and the incredible "highland" population (1500-1800 ft. elevation) near Bearfort Mt., Sussex Co. remained at two pairs for the third year in a row (IB, RK *et al.*). This population dichotomy is reminiscent of Swainson's Warbler in s.w. United States, and observers in other parts of the region would look and listen for Acadians in June in, of all places, hemlock groves.

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS

—Purple Martin continues to plummet as a Long Island n.e. Pennsylvania breeder, but was otherwise unmentioned on. Cliff Swallows apparently did not nest anywhere in New Jersey this year, seemed up in w. New Hampshire, and two late northbound migrants passed Derby Hill June 20 (GAS). The Black-billed Magpie found at Montauk, L.I. last fall was still present through the period (CKMcK); one can thus legitimately wonder about the origin of *this particular individual*. Common Ravens nested quite far south, at Springfield, Vt. (*vide* VH). Several extra-limital Red-breasted Nuthatch breeding reports received were no doubt related to last fall's incursion: four pairs in the Pequannock Watershed of extreme n.w. New Jersey, one pair at West Orange, N.J. (GT, RR); and the first certain Long Island breedings, at least two pairs in widely separated locations in Huntington (ZH). All were in ornamental spruces. Southbound migrants began appearing, as usual in most of our region, in late July. Brown Creeper is exploding as a breeder in n.w. New Jersey, and up to 15 pairs were at Long Island's only known breeding station, C.R.S.P. There are now no known breeding Short-billed Marsh Wrens anywhere in the New York City region, and it was mentioned as a breeder elsewhere in the Region only in w. Massachusetts. Is it declining everywhere? House Wrens were up in some areas, down in others. Winter Wrens still breed over widespread high areas of n.w. New Jersey, although perhaps down in numbers from recent years. Connecticut singing males at Redding (2) and Fairfield (1) might be breeding, and 3-4 pairs did raise young at Mianus R. Gorge (m. ob.).

E. Bluebirds over the entire region could best be described in RJG's words: "spotty, but successful here and there." Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is also increasing as a breeder or summerer over the southern half of the region, and one was even seen at Rigaud Mt., P.Q. from June 26 to at least July 7 (JW *et al.*); no proof of breeding was obtained there, however. Golden-crowned Kinglet might have nested in Litchfield, Conn. (WH), and ten pairs—the same number as last year—bred in spruce plantings in n.w. New Jersey (RK, IB *et al.*). Good breeding numbers were also reported from the Berkshires. The first summer record from the Hudson, P.Q. area was of three in June and July (P.Q.S.P.B.). No Loggerhead Shrikes were reported anywhere in the Region. Solitary Vireos presumably bred in n.w. New Jersey (3 pairs in one location), and were "on territory as far south as Easton, Conn.; [they are] a regular breeder in suitable habitat in n. Fairfield Co., Conn." (CFH).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS—Prothonotary Warblers may have nested in three n. New Jersey locations (Pompton Lakes, Ramapo and Wanaque Res.), as well as at Bull I. (Del. R.), Princeton, and Allaire S.P., the previous firm northern breeding limits. A singing male was also at Belmont Lake S. P. June 2 (RLP), and breeding there or at adjacent stream systems (especially at C.R.S.P.) is a future likelihood. Northern Parulas may have nested at C.R.S.P. (DE) and Bull I., N.J. (GM). Two singing ♂ Golden-wingeds at Mont Tremblant Park, P.Q. June 9 (P.O.S.P.B.) were 125 mi. north of their nearest known breeding site. A ♂ "Lawrence's" returned for the fifth consecutive year to Parsippany, N.J., but this year's was *not* color-banded. Cerulean Warblers are still breeding at shifting New Jersey sites, but not in great numbers. The Camillus Valley colony near Syracuse had 12 singing males in four mi. in June, a good count, and one male was present as far north at Rigaud Mt., P.Q. in June and July (JW, MM). Some 25 pairs of Blackburnians nested in those incredible spruce plantations of n.w. New Jersey. A singing ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler was at C.R.S.P. June 8 (JWu,GB); this would probably be the most likely site on Long Island for a first New York State breeding attempt. There were more records than ever this June for **Kentucky Warbler**, in n. New Jersey, s.e. New York, and Connecticut, culminating in Long Island's first certain, modern breeding record (and the first New York State breeding in perhaps 30 years); a pair raised three young in seemingly unsuitable habitat at Dix Hills (DE).

Summer Tanagers seen in our region well after normal late April/mid-May migrating dates might be potential or actual breeders. This year such extraseasonal individuals were seen at Montauk May 29 (GSR), Belmont Lake S.P. June 2 (m.ob.), Greenwich, Conn. June 10 (GD), Pequannock Watershed, N.J. (at 1400 ft.) June 17 (IB, RK) and Sea Cliff, L.I. July 26 (BS).

WINTER FINCHES—A late migrant (?) Evening Grosbeak was on Fire I. June 2 (JB); one at Winhall, Vt. June 4 was also thought to be a migrant (WJN). A pair nested in Littleton, N.H. (KM), but RPY reported that "once the migrant hordes of May had passed north, there were none left here [Jenny L., Adirondacks] to breed, for the first time in perhaps 10-15 years." They might well have gone to the Laurentians, where MM reports a very bad spruce budworm outbreak this year and a "population explosion" of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches. The latter species was reported from Jenny L. in record numbers, but even so, it was more adults and fewer young (banded) this year that accounted for the increase (RPY). Similarly, in n.w. New Jersey, "pairs were noted in virtually every spruce grove and tamarack planting, and in deciduous woods as well. The bird has definitely increased in the last three years" (RK). That is certainly encouraging, but on Long Island Purple Finch all but vanished as a breeding bird as House Finch increased, and is still practically absent. Pine Siskins were totally absent from Jenny L. for the entire period after successful April/May breeding; in New Hampshire they also raised young early and then left in

early June (north ?) A nest with eggs was found in late March at Oneonta, N.Y., but abandoned shortly thereafter (JRM, JDP), and siskins nested in s.w. Vermont, being still present in early July (WJN). Red Crossbills were present all summer in s.w. Vermont, probably breeding; they nested in New Hampshire; and a small flock lingered on Long Island at C.R.S.P. to at least June 26, when a pair was seen with a probable juvenile (DE). Oddly, RPY reported the species absent all summer at Jenny L., and no one reported any White-wingeds.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Last year's pair of ad **Blue Grosbeaks** returned to New Jersey's northernmost, and the Hudson-St. Lawrence's only, breeding site in the Hackensack Meadows and raised three young (RK, RS). The only Dickcissels reported were from Québec: 2+ were at Vaudeuil mid-June through the period (JWMM) and another singing male was at St. Hubert, late June to early July (EL).

No reports of Henslow's Sparrows were received. While the species has decreased drastically in the New York City area in the last 30 years, has it also been decreasing to the vanishing point in the rest of the Region? It certainly is a species to watch because its normally evanescent habitat—sometimes shared with Short-billed Marsh Wren, another vanishing species—is now even more rapidly disappearing thanks to builders and land developers. Grasshopper Sparrow seems either tougher or less fussy in its requirements this year two pairs nested for the first time in many, many years in the City of New York, on landfill at Baxter Creek Bronx County (FP). It can still be found at most of its old stands in n. New Jersey, and two new colonies were located in the Berkshires near Pittsfield. White-throated Sparrows were again present in several locations in the Pequannock Watershed, and several successful nestings were recorded.

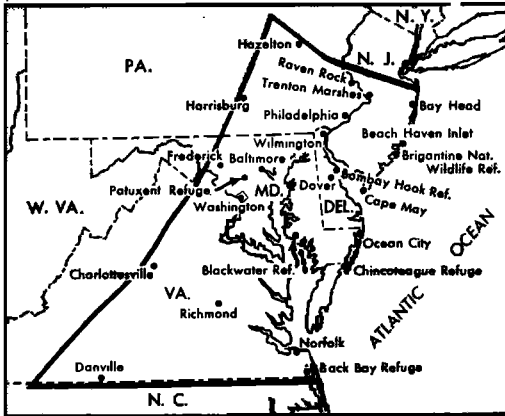
Please submit all fall season reports to Davis NO LATER THAN December 10.

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F. R. Scott and David A. Cutler

The June and July weather can best be described as uneventful, with no particular extremes in either temperature or precipitation, although June was somewhat warmer than normal at all reporting stations. As usual in summer when much of the rainfall occurs in local thunderstorms, there was wide variation in precipitation between the various reporting stations, but no overall trend was evident. The breeding season was considered excellent by most observers, perhaps partially making up for the generally destructive 1972 season.



LOONS, GREBES—There were several summer reports of Com. Loons and Horned Grebes along the coast, at least some of which were surely injured birds, and a Red-necked Grebe near Milton, Pa., May 28 was remarkably late (SCS). At Brigantine N.W.R., N.J. there appeared to be an increase in breeding Pied-billed Grebes, with three nests found and a peak count of 20 on Aug. 3 (JFA). A count of 27 plus two broods was made at Fairmount Wildlife Management Area, Somerset Co., Md., June 14 (HTA), and a brood was found at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., July 10 (LKM).

SHEARWATERS TO CORMORANTS—The interest in pelagic observations in the Region continued undiminished, and many boat trips were made offshore with varying results. Cory's and Sooty Shearwaters were reported only once each, three Cory's some 75 mi. east of Wallops I., Va., July 15 (RAR) and three Sooties 20 mi. east of Belmar, N.J., June 24 (CFL & WS). One thousand Greater Shearwaters were estimated at Hudson Canyon, 90 mi. east of Beach Haven, N.J., June 16 (CFL & WS), and there were several other reports, including 15 some 30 mi. off Ocean City, Md. and 50 off Indian R. Inlet, Del., both on June 13 (CRV). A possible Audubon's Shearwater was seen at Hudson Canyon June 16 (CFL & WS), and Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported three times, one off Atlantic City, N.J., June 2 (JDD), 2 at Hudson Canyon June 16 (CFL & WS), and one off Belmar June 24 (CFL & WS). Wilson's Storm-Petrels continued common offshore with virtually all pelagic trips reporting them. They were also found more commonly than

usual in Delaware Bay (DEK) and lower Chesapeake Bay, where Byrd, Hacker, and Seek found a peak of 42 on June 23 in Mobjack Bay, Va. A possibly injured Wilson's Storm-Petrel was seen in Tom's Cove, Chincoteague Ref., July 11 (JSM). A group of 14 Double-crested Cormorants spent most of the summer at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del. (NEH).

HERONS, IBIS—The weather was quite favorable for coastal heronries in Virginia, and the breeding season was in general very successful with considerably less re-nesting than normal. Armistead made an extensive survey of the many heronries on the islands in Chesapeake Bay in s. Dorchester Co. and Somerset Co., Md. during June and July and estimated more than 2500 active nests of 10 species in 12 separate colonies. Interesting totals of nesting pairs, which are considered quite conservative, include 489 Cattle Egret, 400 Glossy Ibis, 368 Great Blue Herons, and 92 Yellow-crowned Night Heron pairs. The increase inland of the Cattle Egret is graphically shown by the count of 875 individuals counted flying into an island heronry at Washington Boro, Pa. during June (HM). The Pea Patch I., Del. heronry contained about 1500 nests in early June, essentially unchanged from recent years (JTL). Most common species were Cattle Egrets (600 pairs) and Glossy Ibis (400 pairs). The peak count of Snowy Egrets at Little Creek, Del. was 250 on June 17 (NEH), and there were two inland reports of Louisiana Herons in s.e. Pennsylvania, one at Dauberville, Berks Co., July 31 (GES) and one at Washington Boro Aug. 8 (CG).

Few nests of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron could be located this year at Norfolk, Va. (WWF), but elsewhere there were more than the normal reports. Some 25 nests, mostly with young, were found in a heronry at Fisherman I., Va., June 15 (FRS), and among the many found by Armistead on Chesapeake Bay was a nest with three eggs on Adam I., Md., July 5, a rather late date. J. F. Akers found six nests at Absecon, N.J. during June, and a pair was also nesting on Reedy I., Del. during June (JTL). In s.e. Pennsylvania a pair was present at Center Pt., Montgomery Co., June 22-July 7 and presumed breeding (PA) and a pair produced four young at Millersville during June (HM). Good counts of Least Bitterns included eight at Deal I., Md., June 13 (HTA) and 12 seen at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., July 10 (WWF), and two Am. Bitterns reported at Deal I., June 14 (HTA) was the only report of this species received. Some observers feel that this bird has decreased considerably as a breeding bird in the s. part of the Region in the last few years. A count of 254 Glossy Ibis at Deal I., June 13 was excellent for this Chesapeake Bay locality (HTA), and three at Devon, Pa., July 25 were quite unusual so far inland (AC).

WATERFOWL—At least 16 different waterfowl species were reported as summering nonbreeding stragglers, and only a few of the records can be mentioned here. Two Whistling Swans remained at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va. throughout the period (JMA), and one was seen flying strongly at Barren I., Md., June 19 (HTA). Four Brant were noted at Assateague I., Md., June 3 (RAR & HW), and two were seen near Fisherman I., Va., July 29 (RBC & JSW). Common

Shelducks returned to Bombay Hook Ref., Del. for the fourth year, and four were seen first on July 14 (NEH *et al.*). **Fulvous Tree Ducks** were reported twice, one near Manahawkin, N.J., June 19 (found dead in duck trap—FHL) and six at Bombay Hook Ref., July 22 (NP), and a late Mallard nest with eight eggs was located on Sinepuxent Bay, Md., July 11 (JSW). The Gadwall appears to be continuing its long-term increase as a breeder in the Region, probably due to the proliferation of artificial impoundments, although it also occurs freely in the salt and brackish marshes. A count of 144 at Deal I., Md., July 6 was excellent (HTA). Other observations of interest at Deal I. included four ♂ and one ♀ Pintail June 13, two Green-winged Teal July 6, and a ♂ Am. Wigeon July 7 (HTA). A count of 150 Wood Ducks at Bombay Hook Ref., July 22 was excellent (JWJ). A Com. Goldeneye was present at Washingtonville, Montour Co., Pa., May 18-July 15 (SCS), and single Buffleheads were noted at Sinepuxent Bay July 11 (JSW) and Washingtonville July 15 (SCS). All three scoters were noted in various places along the coast, and both Ruddy Ducks and Red-breasted Mergansers were recorded during the period in several localities.

HAWKS—Black Vultures were found twice in s.e. Pennsylvania, four at Codorus Creek, York Co., June 8 (TRH) and one at Guthriesville June 22 (JF & SAF). Of the 65 rechecked active Bald Eagle nests found in the Chesapeake Bay area, only 23 were successful, producing 39 young (JMA *et al.*). Away from tidal water, single Bald Eagles were reported at Beltzville L., near Lehigh, Pa., June 8 (RW) and Bally, Berks Co., Pa., July 8 (FM). Several groups appear to be working on breeding Ospreys in the Region. Preliminary results are available, however, only for one, and in this study 387 active nests of known outcome in Virginia produced 323 young, for a fledgling rate of 0.83 per nest (MAB & GS). Results varied widely from one area to another, however, the lower Delmarva Pen. doing very poorly and the James R. producing no young at all. There was an ominous lack of nesting reports for South Jersey, the only report indicating at least one nesting failure out of three nests observed at Little Egg Harbor (BCH). There were numerous reports of Marsh Hawks in the Chesapeake Bay marshes of s. Dorchester Co. and Somerset Co., Md. and Accomack Co., Va., the best count being two at Fairmount and five at Deal I., Md., June 14 (HTA).

GROUSE, MARSH BIRDS—Ad ad. Ruffed Grouse with six chicks was seen at Glassboro, N.J., May 28 (JDD), and two (one dead) were found at Manahawkin, N.J., June 30 (DAC). Armistead counted 46 Clapper Rails on Smith I., Md. (Chesapeake Bay) June 4, where the bird is clearly quite abundant. A Virginia Rail nest with eight eggs was found at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., June 18 (HTA), and there were three Sora reports, two at Deal I., Md., June 3 (RAR & HW), two at Bombay Hook Ref., July 28 (RAR), and one picked up dead on a Richmond, Va. street July 28 (DKR). The peak count of Black Rails at Elliott I., Md. was 45 on June 2 (RAR), and there were two reports of **Purple Gallinules**, one at Manahawkin June 3 (FHL)

and an adult at Chincoteague Ref., Va., July 28 (RAR). Common Gallinules were common at Deal I., Md. and surrounding areas, with a maximum count of 40 adults here June 3 (RAR & HW). Armistead also found four broods here during June. A few Am. Coots were also present in this area, and two young found at Fairmount June 14 were the second breeding record for Maryland (HTA).

SHOREBIRDS—On Chesapeake Bay, Md. one Am. Oystercatcher was found on Adam I., July 5, the second Dorchester Co. record, and up to three per day were seen on Smith I., June 1-5 (HTA). Four young banded near Chincoteague, Va. July 28 seemed very late (RBC & JSW). Rowlett and Wierenga estimated five pairs of Wilson's Plovers on the n. end of Assateague I., Md. and found a nest with three eggs June 9. At Wallops I., Va., however, Vaughn estimated that this species had declined to three pairs from seven last year. Four downy young Killdeer were removed from a flat roof at Gloucester Pt., Va., July 12 and placed in a nearby field (MLW). There seemed no way for the birds to get over the 16-in. high roof parapet without outside aid. Single Am. Golden Plovers at Bombay Hook Ref., July 14 (JMA) and Brigantine Ref., July 22 (PGD *et al.*) were extraordinarily early, and early Com. Snipe were noted at Little Creek, Del., July 21 (NEH) and July 28 (RAR & HW). Somewhat belated is a report of a **European Whimbrel** carefully observed over a period of time Apr. 18-May 9 at Linwood, N.J. (JDD). The white rump was clearly defined and the bird showed no signs of albinism. The first fall flock of Whimbrel reported consisted of 79 birds at Chincoteague Ref., July 13 (LKM). Six Upland Sandpipers, apparently breeding, responded to taped calls at Blawenburg, N.J., May 16 (RJB), and two pairs with fledglings were found during June at the Atlantic City, N.J. airport (JFA).

A Pectoral Sandpiper at Little Creek, Del., June 30 (NEH) may have been an early transient, as Abbott also reported early arrivals at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., one on July 2 and six on July 14. A White-rumped Sandpiper was recorded inland at Dyke June 2 (JMA), and a Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage was seen at Little Creek July 28 (NEH). The first transient Short-billed Dowitchers were noted at both Little Creek and Brigantine Ref., June 30 (JDD, NEH), and there were several reports of Long-billed Dowitchers, including at least 250 at Little Creek July 14 (JMA). Thirty Short-billed Dowitchers at Fisherman I., Va., June 15 were assumed to be summering (FRS). Stilt Sandpipers seemed in excellent numbers with a peak count of 475 at Little Creek July 28 (RAR & HW), and Russell found two Marbled Godwits at Tuckerton, N.J. and one Hudsonian Godwit at Holgate, N.J., both on June 2. Fifteen Hudsonian Godwits at Brigantine Ref., July 27 were the high count of the season (JFA). There were several reports of single Ruffs at Little Creek beginning July 7 (NEH *et al.*), and small numbers of Am. Avocets appeared in the usual coastal localities in late June and July, although 49 at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., July 3 were unusual (WWF). Holgersen estimated 15 breeding pairs of Black-necked Stilts at Little Creek in June, with 14

nests found. A Wilson's Phalarope was reported at Little Creek June 17, and there were three from July 8 to the end of the period (NEH *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS—Single Parasitic Jaegers were noted east of Manasquan, N.J., June 3 (CFL & WS), in Delaware Bay near Fortescue, N.J., June 8 (DEK), and at Hudson Canyon June 16 (CFL & WS) Armistead found 543 Herring Gull nests, mostly with eggs, on Smith I., Chesapeake Bay, Md., June 2, and 50 pairs were estimated nesting on Fisherman I., Va., June 15 (FRS). An imm. **Little Gull** at Little Creek, Del., June 24 was an excellent summer record (NEH). A Forster's Tern colony was found near Deal I., Md., June 13 with 83 nests, 23 with eggs (plus 20 large young present), an unusual report for Chesapeake Bay (HTA), and in the same area Armistead located four colonies of Com. Terns totaling at least 270 pairs. One of these, containing 16 nests, was over the Virginia line on Herring I., June 2, the first nesting record for this species for the Virginia part of Chesapeake Bay. Least Terns were up in numbers at Cape Henlopen, Del., with 155 nests found June 30 (WJW *et al.*). At Grandview, Hampton, Va. 125 pairs nested, and 70 young on the wing were counted by early July (BA). Two colonies at Craney I., Va. totaled about 100 pairs, but the success rate seemed low (MAB). Royal Terns nested in three colonies in Virginia totaling over 4500 pairs, and Clapp and Weske banded over 4200 young in July and early August. Two small colonies were also found in coastal Maryland, one of six nests on Sinepuxent Bay July 11 and one with 100 pairs (71 young banded) on Cedar I. in Chincoteague Bay July 28 (RBC & JSW). An estimated 30 pairs of Sandwich Terns nested with the Royals at Fisherman I. (ME, *vide* DFH), 25 pairs nested at Ship Shoal I., Va. (RBC & JSW), and an unknown number nested on Metomkin I., Va. (RBC & JSW). This last colony, visited too late in the season to determine the number of nesting pairs, extended the known breeding range of this bird on the East Coast northward by some 35 miles. Clapp and Weske banded a total of 39 young from these three colonies. Adult Sandwich Terns were also seen feeding several fledged young at Back Bay Ref., Va., July 22 (WWF). A Caspian Tern at Adam I., Chesapeake Bay, Md., July 5 was probably summering (HTA). At least two Black Terns were present throughout June and July at Little Creek, Del. (NEH), one was found at Fisherman I., June 15 (FRS), and another was seen at Brigantine Ref., June 26 (JDD).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—Many observers commented on the apparent increase in the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in various parts of the Region, with some of the best daily counts in years. Single Chuck-will's-widows were recorded at Pine Beach, N.J., June 10 and Barnegat, N.J., June 12, both somewhat farther north than previous records (FHL). A Com. Nighthawk nest with two downy young plus three or four adults was found on Ship Shoal I., Va., July 10 (RBC). Although long suspected of nesting on the barrier sand dunes in Virginia, this appears to be the first proof of such use of this habitat. Grantham found six pairs of Acadian Flycatchers in a small woodlot at

Longwood, Pa., June 3, an unusual concentration for this area. Willow Flycatchers were found nesting in two places in Howard Co., Md. near ElkrIDGE, and two singing males were located in Anne Arundel Co., Md., indicating a probable increase of this species in the Maryland Coastal Plain (DB). One was also noted at Little Creek, Del., June 7 and July 8 (NEH). About five pairs of the closely related Alder Flycatcher were observed near Trenton, N.J. during the period (RJB), and one was seen at Bombay Hook Ref., Del. June 1 and July 23 (NEH). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Delaware City, Del., June 9 was evidently a late transient (PEB)

SWALLOWS—A Tree Swallow was feeding young in a nest box at Chincoteague Ref., Va., June 16 (FRS) This is close to the southern edge of this bird's nesting range along the coast. A Bank Swallow colony at Summit, Del. contained only 75 nests in June versus 300-400 several years ago (JTL), and Armistead reported only three occupied burrows June 15 in a Cambridge, Md colony which was formerly much larger. The first apparent Bank Swallow transient was seen at Bellevue, Md., July 4 (HTA). Barn Swallows and Purple Martins, which suffered so much during the 1972 nesting season, were universally reported in poor numbers, although most observers thought they had a good nesting season and showed considerable recovery. Some martin colonies in s.e. Virginia had no birds at all this year (CCS), which will obviously make recovery all that more difficult, and in the Delaware Valley area the adult population was considered down by 50 per cent The only negative comment on martin reproduction came from Fairfax Co., Va., where Abbott thought that few young were produced. Cliff Swallows were apparently not badly hurt last year. Broun found a colony of about 70 in June at New Ringgold, Pa. and considered this to be about normal in size. Another small colony was found at Elizabethtown, Pa. in June (HM).

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES—A count of 36 Blue Jays at Ewell, on Smith I., Md., June 4 must have been transients (HTA), and nine were counted flying northwesterly over Lewisetta, Va., June 9 (FRS). A Fish Crow nest with one young on Barren I., Md., June 19 was 5 ft. above a Green Heron nest with three eggs in the same tree (HTA), and a pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches feeding young in the nest at Saxis, Va., June 17 seemed late (FRS). A singing ♂ Brown Creeper was found at Burling Park, Fairfax Co., Va., June 9&15 (RJW), and a pair of Bewick's Wrens nested at Abert on the James R. near Lynchburg, Va. (WEK, *vide* RSF). Late migrating Swainson's Thrushes were noted in several localities in early June, the last date reported being June 5 at Ft. Hunt, Va. (JMA), and E. Bluebirds had an excellent nesting season in s.e. Pennsylvania (MB, JG *et al.*). Cedar Waxwings wandered a lot and were widely reported out of their normal range. In the Maryland Coastal Plain there were several nesting records as well as individual sightings (DB, RB, CSR *et al.*), and at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va. two nests were built in early June but apparently abandoned shortly thereafter (JMA). Farther north, three were seen at Prime Hook, Del., June 21 (NEH) and eight

appeared at Jenkins Neck, N.J., July 4 (JFA). A Loggerhead Shrike at Longwood, Pa., July 12 was out of its usual range (JG).

WARBLERS—Two singing ♂♂ Prothonotary Warblers near Princeton, N.J. from May to July may not have nested since no females were observed (RJB). A pair was present near Manahawkin, N.J. all summer and presumably did breed (FHL). A Golden-winged Warbler nest with two young plus a second pair was located at Penn Forest Res., near Kresgeville, Pa., June 17 (RW), and a pair of Nashville Warblers in the same area June 24 was presumed breeding (RW). Just outside Philadelphia, a pair of Nashville Warblers at Fort Washington S.P., Pa., June 24-July 1 (carrying food), was unprecedented (EHP & JAL). A Black-throated Green Warbler at Lynnfield, Del., June 2 was late (LLF), and four singing males were located along the Oswego R. near Jenkins Neck, N.J., July 4, confirming the probable breeding of this species in South Jersey (JFA). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was apparently holding territory in June in Howard Co., Md., well out of its normal range (KK, *vide* DB). Blackpoll Warblers remained into June in most of the Region, the last reports being at Bombay Hook Ref., June 8 (NEH) and Clifton, Va., June 15 (JWE). A Pine Warbler carrying food to a nest near Beltsville, Md., July 14 seemed late (JMS), and an early N. Waterthrush was banded at Chevy Chase, Md., July 31 (PP). A late Mourning Warbler was observed at Pomona, N.J., June 5 (JFA & JDD).

FRINGILLIDS—Blue Grosbeaks continued their long-term increase in the n. part of the Region. They were found in 18 localities in Delaware during the June Breeding Bird Survey (*vide* JTL), at least three pairs and a brood were seen at the Atlantic City, N.J. airport in June (JFA), and a pair was present during July at New Ringgold, Pa. (MB). A pair of Dickcissels found at the Atlantic City airport in early June had five eggs in a nest June 15 and later hatched two young (JFA, JDD), apparently the first state breeding record in nearly 70 years. A singing male was located near Elkton, Md., July 22 (JTL), and a sizable concentration of flocking birds (at least 22) was found near Longwood, Pa., Aug. 3 (PEB). The breeding House Finch population in Linwood, N.J. was estimated at 20 pairs during the summer (JDD). Banding House Finches was a profitable occupation for Mrs. Mutchler during the summer. At Bethlehem, Pa. she trapped 276 between May 24 and Aug. 3, and at nearby Easton, Md. she banded 172 between July 22 and Aug. 3. A Pine Siskin at North Star, Del., June 4-10 was out of place (JFK), and 15 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows were estimated at Pomona, N.J. during the summer, a good number (JDD). Armistead found an ad. Sharp-tailed Sparrow feeding a juvenile out of the nest at Bloodsworth I., Md., July 5 but only observed the species at three other sites in this area of lower Chesapeake Bay during his extensive field work here in June and July. A Dark-eyed Junco was seen at Mickleton, N.J., June 4 (CB) and another at Lynchburg, Va., July 8 (RS, *vide* RSF). Summer White-throated Sparrows included one at Lynchburg June 6 (TD, *vide* RSF), one at Columbia, Md., June 27 (CSR), and one at Edgewater, Md. during most of June (PM, *vide* DB).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION /Robert P. Teulings

A number of keen observers were afield and afloat this summer, reporting data which give a good overall picture of events in the Region. The coastal section received excellent coverage, highlighted by observations from a series of pelagic cruises, surveys of pelican-gull-tern colonies, and an interesting midnight census of Black Rails at Cedar Island N.W.R. In general, most species enjoyed a very successful nesting season, although heavy rains at Charleston in June (27 inches during a two week period) had a locally damaging effect including the loss of eggs and young by Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Francis Marion National Forest.



LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS—Inland at Roanoke Rapids, N.C. a Com. Loon was an unusually late spring visitor June 3-8 (ML). As usual, a few non-breeding Com. Loons lingered in coastal waters off Beaufort and Morehead City, N.C. throughout June and July (JF), and a Red-throated

Loon was seen at Wrightsville Beach, N C in early July (JP,RFS). A marked drop in numbers, for reasons unknown, was noted in the summer breeding population of Pied-billed Grebes in the Charleston, S.C. area (TB) On June 25, Paul Buckley and party observed 30+ Greater Shearwaters, 10+ Cory's Shearwaters and one Audubon's Shearwater, as well as 75 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, along the beach at Cape Hatteras, N.C. These same species were found in good numbers offshore throughout July by various parties, as summarized in Table 1.

A few dead or dying shearwaters (all identified as Greater's or Audubon's) washed ashore in the Morehead City, Wilmington, Charleston, and Sea I., Ga , areas, but no major die-off was indicated.

PELICANS, GANNETS, FRIGATEBIRDS—On Charleston's Deveaux Bank, Brown Pelicans enjoyed their most successful nesting season in recent years with an estimated 1150 young produced (TB). The small nesting colony at Ocracoke Inlet was censused in late June showing 73 adults and 13 sub-adults in attendance; 21 well-feathered but flightless young and 20 nestlings were counted, and 5 nests still contained eggs (PB,FGB,JSW). This latter colony represents the only breeding population in North Carolina and therefore merits close watch of its status. An imm. Gannet was sighted June 24 at Hatteras I. (PB). The observer reported the bird was seen so well as to rule out any thought that it might have been a booby. Summering Double-crested Cormorants were very scarce in the Jekyll I. area (CM) and virtually absent around Morehead City (JF) after having been relatively plentiful last summer. Inland there was a locally uncommon occurrence of an individual at Roanoke Rapids L. June 3 (ML) and another (same bird?) June 18 at nearby L. Gaston (HH). Magnificent Frigatebirds were sighted with unusual frequency in the coastal area with a total of five records reported from Jekyll I. northward to

Morehead City The specific sightings were of one bird at St. Simon's I., Ga. June 3 (EPr), one at Edisto Beach, S.C. June 12 (NC), one near Southport, N C June 21 (RJH,RFS), two birds at Jekyll I. June 10 (FM), and one at Morehead City Aug. 2 (JPo).

ANHINGAS, WADERS—May censuses in Okefenokee N.W.R. indicated the following nesting populations on the refuge: 150 Anhingas, 900 Green Herons, 3000 Little Blue Herons, 4000 Cattle Egrets, 1200 Great Egrets, 200 Snowy Egrets, 75 Louisiana Herons, and 1100 White Ibis (WM, *vide* EC). In the Charleston area, Ted Beckett reported that the Drum I. heronry produced 50,000 young of all species, probably making this one of the most important nesting sites on the eastern seaboard. Great Egrets and Glossy Ibis were found nesting on Deveaux Bank for the first time (TB). The long-legged waders also enjoyed a highly successful season in the major colonies along the N.C. coast with very little mortality observed (JP, RFS) Positive evidence of nesting of the Least Bittern was discovered at Gaston, N.C. where Merrill Lynch captured a still-downy juvenile in a cattail marsh July 25 The same observer noted adults at this as well as two other locations in Northampton County during the season. Other inland records of interest were a Louisiana Heron near Raleigh July 28 (CMA,DW) and Yellow-crowned Night Herons found near Winston-Salem July 12 (RH) and Chapel Hill July 21 (BR).

WATERFOWL—This was apparently a good nesting season for Wood Ducks in the Region with several observers commenting on high local production. A pair of Gadwall was seen on Roanoke Rapids L. near Vulture, N.C. July 7-8. A nesting attempt was probably made but no eggs or young were found (ML). Two juv Hooded Mergansers were a surprising find in a wooded swamp near N. Wilkesboro, N.C. May 7 giving strong evidence of a rare breeding record (WPS). The parent birds, however, were not seen. Elsewhere near Raleigh, a ♂ Ruddy Duck was seen at L. Wheeler June 25 (CMA,DW) and a Ring-necked Duck at L. Raleigh July 24 (RJH). These birds were believed to be non-breeding stragglers and not nesting residents.

BIRDS OF PREY—A good population of Mississippi Kites was noted at Augusta, Ga. where 40-50 were seen along the Savannah R. levee in early July (TR). Swallow-tailed Kites also were present. In North Carolina, both species were again sighted in the upper Coastal Plain where surprising occurrences were recorded this spring. The Mississippi Kite observed early in May at Oconeechee Neck in Northampton County (*Am. Birds*, 27: 758) was still present June 2, while another was seen later in the summer at Cutawhiske Creek in Hertford County (ML). Meanwhile, a Swallow-tailed Kite was observed near Rock Ridge in Wilson County June 17 (HH). An ad. Bald Eagle was a noteworthy summer visitor through the period at a private lake 17 mi. n. of Columbus, Ga. (*vide* LAW) Summer records from the interior of the state are rare. On the coast, an adult was present in late June at St Simon's I. (FB), and an immature was seen at Pumpkinseed I. near Charleston July 22 (TB). Two other young Bald Eagles turned up at Figure Eight I. near

TABLE 1
Observations of Shearwaters and Storm-Petrels
off the Coast of the Carolinas

| | Cory's Shearwater | Greater Shearwater | Audubon's Shearwater | Wilson's Storm-Petrel | |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| June 20 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 15 | Off Charleston (PL) |
| July 14 | 0 | 75+ | 75+ | 0 | Off Wrightsville Beach (JP,RFS) |
| July 25 | 20 | 5 | 2 | 15 | Off Charleston (PL) |
| July 25 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 75+ | Off Hatteras (PWS) |
| July 28 | 69 | 2 | 19 | 63 | Off Morehead City (PD,BB,HM,VW) |
| July 28 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 25 | Off Charleston (DF,SG,TB) |
| July 29 | 20 | 4 | 40 | 53 | Off Hatteras (PD,RA,RR, <i>et al.</i>) |

Wilmington in late July, one of them tame enough to accept handouts of food (news photos). A sighting of two **Marsh Hawks** June 20 at Jekyll I. causeway was reported to Cecily Masters. She questioned the sighting, but on July 19 an ad. male was at the Jekyll I. golf course with all field marks noted (*fide* CM). There have been no previous summer records in that s. coastal locality. There were reports of Osprey during the period at Kerr Scott Res. near N. Wilkesboro (WPS), and one was seen July 8 at the upper end of Roanoke Rapids L. (ML); but as yet no definite evidence of nesting has been noted at either of these inland lakes. Osprey nests in South Carolina's Santee Swamp were checked this summer by Ted Beckett who found several containing soft-shelled eggs.

—————S.A.—————

BLACK RAILS—*Eighty*, an astonishing total, were heard calling at Cedar Island N.W.R., Carteret Co., N.C. around midnight on May 27 by Richard Rowlett and Harold Wierenga. These observers systematically censused the area along Secondary Road 1387 from the s. end of the refuge northward for 5 miles, listening carefully for 3-minute periods at stops spaced a half mile apart. Very little is known about the distribution and abundance of this species in the Region and much could be learned by further field work of this type.

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SHOREBIRDS—A July 9 sighting of a Black-bellied Plover at Asheboro, N.C. was a very unusual inland occurrence for the summer period (HL). A Long-billed Curlew was observed on the tidal flats at Ocracoke I. July 30 (RA,RR). A Spotted Sandpiper seen in Wake County, N.C. June 12 was the first local June record (EL), and 4 were noted at Roanoke Rapids July 7 (ML). Pectoral, Least, Semipalmated and W. Sandpipers showed up at lakes near Raleigh and Roanoke Rapids in late July. Two Marbled Godwits were found near Wilmington June 22 (RJH, RFS) and three at Portsmouth I. June 23 (PB, FGB, JSW), a full month before the earliest full migrants were seen elsewhere along the coast. Six Am. Avocets were found July 19 at the Citadel in Charleston (DF) and one was noted July 21 at Carolina Beach near Wilmington (RD). A Wilson's Phalarope was a rare inland visitor at Raleigh July 28-29 (DW,CMA,HL,RJH).

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—As last year, at least two pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls nested in the Herring Gull colony near Oregon Inlet (JP,RFS). Great Black-backed Gulls have not yet been found breeding s. of that location. One or two pairs of **Caspian Terns** also nested at Oregon Inlet where a clutch of eggs was photographed (JP,RFS) and a fledgling was seen (PB *et al.*). In general, it was a very successful nesting season for Laughing Gulls and terns, but Gull-billed Terns again fared poorly at Charleston (TB) and Morehead City (JF). Six colonies of Forster's Terns, containing a total of at least 125 nests, were found along the Outer Banks from Hatteras Inlet s. to Ocracoke Inlet (PB *et al.*), confirming a growing breeding population on the North Carolina coast. A pair of **Roseate Terns** nested this summer with Com. Terns on Core

Banks near Cape Lookout, the first documented N.C. breeding record (JP,RFS). A Sooty Tern in full adult plumage was found loafing on a beach among a flock of assorted other terns at Cape Hatteras June 24 (PB *et al.*)

—————S.A.—————

Bridled Terns are being seen offshore in numbers which indicate that the species is of far more than accidental occurrence in the Gulf Stream off the Carolinas. As noted earlier (*Am. Birds*, 27:758), a total of 18 was recorded off Cape Hatteras and Morehead City in late May and early June. During the present period, sightings were reported of one off Charleston (PL) and 3+ off Cape Hatteras July 25 (PWS), five off Morehead City July 28 (PD,RR,HM,VW), and 12 off Hatteras July 29 (PD,RA,RR *et al.*).



Bridled Tern, 20 m. E. of Cape Hatteras, N.C. May 19, 1973. Photo/R.A. Rowlett.

Good nesting success of Least Terns was noted at sites checked along the North Carolina coast by Parnell and Soots. However, Beckett reported that colonies in the Charleston area were badly washed out by heavy rains in June. In Georgia, only one-third of the normal number of Least Terns returned to nest at Jekyll I. and Cumberland I., and none nested at Sea I. this year (CM). Black Skimmer nesting success followed the same general pattern as the Least Terns, ranging from very good on the N.C. coast to very poor at Charleston.

MONK PARAKEETS—The only new report during the summer period was of two "settled in and aggressively defending a feeder" at St. Simon's I., Ga. (CM). So far none have been found breeding in the Region.

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS—An unusually late occurrence of a Black-billed Cuckoo was noted at Raleigh June 17 (DW,CMA). Two observers (HH,ML) reported an apparent abundance of Red-headed Woodpeckers this summer in the area of Wayne, Wilson, Nash and Bertie Cos. in e. North Carolina where the species was found to be surprisingly common on censuses taken in June and July. Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies under study in Francis Marion Nat'l Forest suffered heavy losses of eggs and young as a result of their nest colonies being flooded with rain during violent storms in June (TB). The birds which lost their broods did not re-nest successfully. Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers nesting within the study areas were similarly affected. Nesting of Willow Flycatchers was recorded again at Raleigh, but only a single pair returned to the site (RSi,CMA).

Three Barn Swallows were seen in Houston County, Ga. July 10 (JD), a new summer record for that locality. The Barn Swallow has been extending its breeding range southward in Georgia during the past several years and has just recently been found nesting in n.w. Florida (*vide* RC).

WARBLERS—A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler was seen and heard July 4 & 21 in a swamp n. of Raleigh, the first local summer record for Wake County, N.C. (HL). One was also found on territory in Hoggard Swamp near Windsor in Bertie Co., N.C. July 13-14 (ML). These sightings provide further evidence of probable breeding of the Black-and-white Warbler east of the Fall Line, although confirmed nesting records from the Coastal Plain are still lacking. An unusual late spring occurrence of a Swainson's Warbler was noted at Raleigh June 16 (HL). Elsewhere, a singing male was seen and presumed to be on territory in Marion Co., Ga. June 23 (WDM), the first nesting season record for that locality (*vide* LAW). Worm-eating Warblers were suspected to be nesting in White Oak Pocosin in n.e. North Carolina (w. Gates Co.) where a singing male was found June 14 at the same site one was seen last summer (ML). An individual was also found as far eastward as Dare Co. in the N.C. Coastal Plain June 5 (JF). An early June survey of the area where Cerulean Warblers are nesting in Northampton Co., N.C. yielded a count of 12 singing males (ML).

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS
—Observers noted a good summer population of Scarlet Tanagers in the Raleigh-Chapel Hill area where they now seem to equal or outnumber Summer Tanagers in suitable hardwood forest habitat (HL, JOP). The Scarlets also summered in greater numbers and in more places in e. North Carolina, including Gates, Halifax, Bertie and Hertford Cos. (ML). Painted Buntings had an excellent year at Charleston with most pairs raising two broods and in one known instance three! (TB). There were several reports of House Finches lingering well into the breeding season. Single males were seen at Winston-Salem (RW, RS) and Greensboro (RAV) as late as June 2, and another at Greensboro July 5 (DG). No evidence of nesting has been indicated. Two Pine Siskins remained at Winston-Salem until June 24 (RH). An extraordinary late sighting of a Red Crossbill was recorded at Clayton, N.C., July 13 (CMA, DW). A late-lingering White-throated Sparrow was seen at Columbus, Ga. May 26 (JM); another sighting of probably the same bird was recorded July 15 by Peg Spencer (*vide* LAW). Song Sparrows seem to be becoming well established as summer residents in the e. Piedmont of North Carolina. Two pairs nested at Crystal L. near Durham (RSR). Another singing ♂ was present in downtown Durham July 27 (JOP), and two were also found in Raleigh June 19 (RT). In the latter urban situations, the birds' territories were in scrubby weed and shrub growth along railroad tracks running through commercial areas. Two ♂♂ were also found this summer in Roanoke Rapids (ML).

ADDENDUM—An interesting record not included in the Spring Summary was the sighting of 2

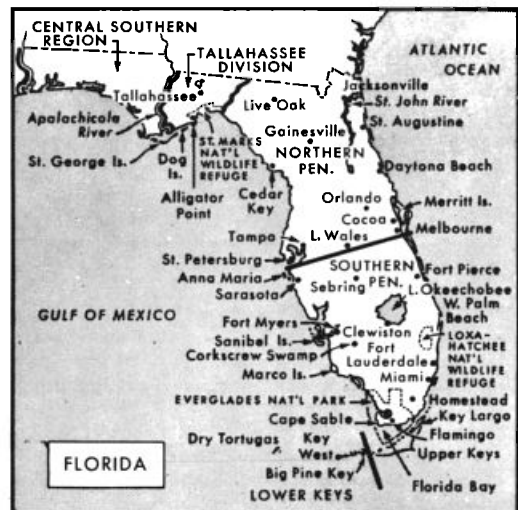
Black-necked Stilts April 14 at L. Seminole in extreme s.w. Georgia. The occurrence, documented with photographs, is apparently the only inland record for the state.

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FLORIDA REGION / John C. Ogden

Herb Kale recently commented that June and July in peninsular Florida is a period of "summer doldrums." The phrase seems particularly suited as the best description of both bird and human activity during the two months, when little migration is underway and much nesting is completed, and when temperature and



humidity are so high that most birders leave the state or considerably reduce their outdoor activity. In particular it seems inappropriate to refer to these months as the "breeding season" when as much or more nesting in peninsular Florida occurs in other months. I hope, therefore, our Editor will excuse me if I sneak a few records from outside the doldrum months into this report, particularly those of wader nesting, otherwise I might fall asleep from boredom attempting to get this written. Actually there was some very good field work in the region this summer, as there is each summer, by a hardcore of heat- and mosquito-resistant enthusiasts. So although the quality of observations reported here is of the best, the quantity of data produced in summer hardly compares with the flood of observations produced in other seasons.

There is nothing important to report on rainfall or temperature during the doldrum months, as both are reasonably close to normal, with a tendency for early year deficiencies in rainfall in the Southern Peninsula to be made up by slightly above normal July rains. No tropical storms approached the region during the period.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS—A late Com. Loon was at St. Marks Light June 22 (CSG), and one apparently summered at the mouth of Crystal R., Citrus Co., July 13-28 (WPJ). Presumably the same Horned Grebe first reported in the summer of 1970 (Ogden, J. 1970. *Aud. Field Notes* 24: 674) was again at L. Brooklyn, Clay Co., where it was seen July 28 in summer plumage and capable of flight (MJW). One Greater Shearwater was seen from shore 2 mi. south of Melbourne Beach June 10 (ADC). For the second consecutive summer a sick Leach's Storm-Petrel was found inland, this time at Bear L., Seminole Co., June 10, and now in Chuck Turner's freezer. A high count of 60 Wilson's Storm-Petrels was 4-6 mi. south of Seven-mile Bridge, Monroe Co., July 26 (WMS). Most White Pelicans seen in Florida in early summer apparently do not remain through the period. A surprisingly high count of 535 was at McKay Bay, Hillsborough Co., June 9 (WDC, FD & GE), but only four remained into late July (JBE). Presumably such a large number could only have come from Everglades National Park (E.N.P.) where approximately 3000 had wintered (JCO). White Pelicans were also on the East Coast during June with a high count of 75, Merritt I., June 28 (PWS). The 1973 aerial survey of nesting Brown Pelicans in Florida revealed approximately 6000 active nests, indicating the state's breeding population remains stable (MJF). A count of 19 Magnificent Frigatebirds at Shired I., Dixie Co., June 2, was high for a site north of Cedar Key (WWB & HMS).

WADERS—Again this summer I wish to put on record information on location, numbers and species composition and success (or lack of) for wader nesting colonies as a contribution towards present and future efforts to quantify population trends in these species. And again major attention is given to Wood Storks owing to their frequent nesting failures and alarming decline in numbers. Since last year the prospect of an annual state-wide survey of stork nesting rookeries appears much more likely, owing to the interest shown

both by the newly formed Florida Ornithological Society and by biologists of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. An encouraging start as such a survey was attempted this summer which resulted in a much more accurate list of stork nesting sites than could be presented during the previous three summers' reports. Approximately 200 young storks fledged during early June in E.N.P. before late-nesting ad. storks deserted most of the 800 active nests in the four park rookeries (JCO). The immediate cause of the desertion of so many nests and young was the initiation of normal summer rains which flooded the remaining areas of fish concentration in the marshes where ad. storks were feeding. These 200 young were the total production of s. Florida. Nesting attempts in central and n. Florida were as follows: Dee Dot Ranch, Duval Co., 50 pairs (SAG, SAN), Black Hammock in n.e. Duval Co., 30 pairs (new location, SAN), River Styx, Alachua Co., 125 pairs (SAN), Moore Creek, Merritt I., 50 pairs (also active last year, HMO), Grant, Brevard Co., 75 pairs (JJ, MJF, LE), Pelican I., Indian River Co., 75 pairs (JJ), Peace River near Bartow, Polk Co., unknown number nested (also used in previous years, RAM), El Clair Ranch, Hardee Co., probably more than 200 pairs (WDC, SS), and west of Highland Hammock State Park, 50 pairs (new location, HMS). From these 9 sites something like 700-1000 young probably fledged. Barley Barber Cypress, active as a stork rookery last year, was dry this spring and not used by waders (PWS), and Newnan's L., Alachua Co., a site used by about 12 pairs last year, and not previously reported in this journal, was not used by storks in 1973 (SAN). The total production of young storks, perhaps as high as 1200 including E.N.P. rookeries, appears insufficient to offset expected natural mortality in the estimated 6000 state-wide population, and further decline is likely by next breeding season. All of which leads me to say again that Wood Storks are the most endangered wading bird north of Mexico, regardless of what the U.S. Red Book on Rare and Endangered Wildlife says.

Following is a summary of other wader nesting in the region this spring and summer. In Alachua Co., 2500 pairs of Cattle Egrets, 50 pairs of White Ibis, and smaller numbers of Little Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons and Anhinga were nesting at San Felasco Hammock in early June, 500 pairs of Cattle Egrets nested with a few Anhinga and Black-crowned Night Herons on Paynes Prairie, 2500 pairs of Cattle Egrets nested with small numbers of Little Blues, Great Egrets, Black-crowneds, and Anhinga on an island in Orange L., and the Newnan's L. rookery contained 100 Great Egret nests, 30 pairs of Great Blue Herons, and a few Little Blues, Green Herons and Anhinga (SAN & JHH). The Riomar I. heronry near Vero Beach studied by George Maxwell contained 2300 wader nests in late May, with Louisiana Herons and Snowy Egrets most numerous. By July these 2 species had largely completed nesting, while Cattle Egrets and White Ibis had increased to become the most common nesters (HWK). An island rookery at the s. end of L. Helen Blazes on St. Johns River, Brevard Co., contained an estimated 1500 waders, mostly White Ibis and Little Blues, May 30 (HVH & PWS). Bumblebee I. in L. Istokpoga had approxi-

mately 10,000 wader nests in late May (PWS), mostly Cattle Egrets but including 1500 White Ibis nests and a few Little Blue and Black-crowned nests (JAK).

The large rookery on King's Bar, L. Okeechobee was only surveyed April 30 when it contained 3000 White Ibis nests, a larger uncounted number of Cattle Egret nests, plus small numbers of Great Egret and Anhinga nests (JAK). A willow-island rookery in central Conservation Area 3A contained 8000 White Ibis nests and small numbers of nests of Great and Snowy Egrets, Louisiana and Black-crowned Night Herons and Glossy Ibis, May 25 (JAK & JS). At the far s. end of the peninsula, the Rodger River Bay rookery, E.N.P., showed a considerable increase in nesting waders over previous years with 2000 nests in late May, mostly Snowy Egrets and Louisiana Herons, and at the same site in mid-July 1100 White Ibis nests (JCO, JAK). In late April Frank Key, E.N.P., contained 1200 Louisiana Heron nests, 400 Snowy Egret nests, 350 White Ibis nests and 200 Great Egret nests (JAK & JCO). The rookery in Greynolds Park, Miami, in mid-July contained 850 Cattle Egret nests, 50 White Ibis nests, 15 Yellow-crowned Night Heron nests plus 25 nests of other species including one of an introduced Scarlet Ibis mated to a White Ibis (JMK).

Wader observations of interest aside from nesting reports included 3 unusual northern or inland sightings of the so-called "Wurdemann's Heron" from the Fla. Keys, one each at L. Kissimmee June 23, L. Trafford, Collier Co., June 27 (both HMS), and Port Canaveral July 9 (RDB, JJ, & HMS). An Am. Bittern, rare anywhere in the Region in summer, was heard calling at L. Trafford June 27 (HMS). One Glossy Ibis was at Alligator L., near Lake City May 26, an unusual inland and northern locality for this species in Florida (HMS).

WATERFOWL—Several apparently healthy ducks remained unusually late into mid-summer at McKay Bay, six N. Shovelers June 9 (WDL, FD, & GE) and still one June 25 (PJF), three Redheads July 25 (PJF) and one July 31 (JBE), and three bright-colored ♂♂ Ruddy Ducks July 25 (PJF). Probably the same Com. Eider first seen in the Cocoa area last November (Woolfenden, G. 1973 *Am. Birds* 27:605) was again seen in early July near Port Canaveral (m. ob.) and photographed July 10 (JBE).

DIURNAL RAPTORS—Mississippi Kites showed signs of continued increase and possible range expansion in the N. Peninsula. Seven were perched in a single tree at Gainesville June 2 (JEH), and two were rather far south at Lebanon Station, Levy Co., June 6 (HMS). Much further south and well outside the known nesting range of Mississippi Kites, one adult was followed 4 mi. as it circled over a highway near Vero Beach June 11 (HWK). Cooper's Hawks, once thought to be quite rare in Florida in summer, continued to be reported from new localities. One was seen in s.w. Marion Co., June 7 (HMS), and there was one near Port Canaveral June 9 (WFW & ADC). Indication of nesting by Cooper's came from near L. Panasoffkee, Sumter Co., where a weak fledgling was taken during June (*U.S.F., *vide* GEW). Broad-winged Hawks probably again nested at their southern range limit at Gainesville

where 2 adults were seen all summer and an immature bird July 27 (JEH). Short-tailed Hawks were seen at two new locations, further indicating this species to be a widespread breeder in the peninsula, one at Blue Cypress L., Indian River Co., June 23, and one near Alva, Lee Co., June 27 (both HMS). Bald Eagles are rare in much of peninsula Florida in summer, but one adult was north of Lakeland July 16 (JBE). Ospreys have been doing well in most of Florida in spite of serious declines by this species in other regions. In Alachua Co., there were an estimated 100 Ospreys this summer in the River Styx-Orange L. area, and 50 around Newnan's L. (SAN). An Osprey nesting colony along I-95, two miles n. of the Indian River-Brevard Co. line, contained 20 nests which produced young (HWK). In Leon Co., however, possibly the only active Osprey nest was one on L. Talquin, which this summer produced at least one young (HMS). As scarce as Caracaras have become, it seems appropriate to record almost all sightings. One immature was eight miles s.w. of Kenansville, Osceola Co., June 23, and one adult was along Florida state road 833, 18 miles s. of state road 80, Hendry Co., June 26 (both HMS). The resident Am. Kestrels, generally uncommon in much of their Florida range, were found nesting in large non-operational airplanes at the Sebring airport (HVH & PWS). One such nest contained two young capable of flight June 6. In the Keystone Heights area of Clay Co., where seven kestrels were found in a summer survey last year, five adults and one immature were found this summer (MJW).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS—A very late Sora was recorded in Pinellas Co., June 2 (WDC). Four Black Rails were heard calling at sunrise from the St. Johns prairie near Cocoa July 29 (CT). A Purple Gallinule found dead at Bahia Honda beach, Monroe Co., June 16 (RR) may have been a late transient as the species is not known to summer in the Florida Keys. Indication of nesting by Am. Oystercatchers is always of interest. A pair of adults with two young was seen both at Dunedin Beach, Pinellas Co., May 3 (RCB), and on a spoil island s. of Vero Beach July 18 (HWK). Early transient sandpipers included one Upland Sandpiper at Jacksonville July 15 (NOW), and one Solitary Sandpiper on St. George I., Franklin Co., June 30 (HMS *et al.*), the latter representing the earliest fall record for this species in the Florida Region. American Avocets continued to make news in summer although there still is no nesting record. A group of 24 at Port Canaveral between May 1-June 9 (ADC) included birds seen courting and copulating, while three avocets at St. Marks Light, July 18 (R. Duncan, Mr. & Mrs. Hal Beecher) represented the second local July record. And there was a high count of approximately 100 avocets at McKay Bay July 31 (JBE).

GULLS, TERNS—Up to four Laughing Gulls appeared far inland at Orange L., Alachua Co., May 31-June 2 (HMS, JHH & SAN), and one appeared inland at L. Jackson, Leon Co., May 24 (HMS). Although I lack details, Laughing Gulls, Royal Terns and Caspian Terns were all reported to have nested this summer on spoil islands inside N.A.S.A., Merritt I

(RDB & ADC), representing the first breeding for all three species in Brevard County. The first certain nesting Gull-billed Terns in the Tallahassee Div. occurred on St. George I., June 30 (HMS) when a pair with nest and two eggs was located. One Gull-billed was seen at an unusual inland site near Citronelle, Citrus Co., July 4 (HMS). Roseate Terns nested on a spoil island in Key West Harbor, where 100 birds were counted June 20, and 150 on July 9 (FTH). An unusually large concentration of Least Terns estimated at 1000 birds was at Key Haven, Monroe Co., July 30 (FTH). Black Terns moved into the region rather early with one at Key Haven June 17, then 450 at the same place by July 27 (FTH), five at Merritt I., June 28 (PWS), and 50 inland at Zellwood July 28 (PJF).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—The number of White-crowned Pigeons which return each spring to Florida Bay to nest varies from year to year for unknown reasons. Several observers commented on the large number of pigeons this summer (RTP, FTH), and on the large daily flights for food into the mainland pinelands 20 mi. north of the bay (JCO). The increased number of pigeons feeding in the pinelands in recent years may be a response by the birds to steady loss of feeding sites on the larger Florida Keys as human development destroys the forest there (SS). The gradually expanding population of introduced White-winged Doves in s. Dade Co. reached e. E.N.P. where single birds were seen June 12 & July 16 (JCO & MB). Various parrots or parakeets are also extending their ranges in Florida. Two Red-crowned Parrots, *Amazona viridigenalis*, previously known from the Coral Gables area of Miami, built a bulky stick nest on top of a transformer box high on a utility pole on Key Largo in late July (JCO & MB). This nest was later removed, apparently by utility personnel. Canary-winged Parakeets made their first real show in Homestead where small flocks were seen in the north part of town for several weeks during July (WBR, MB). A pair of Monk Parakeets was seen carrying nesting material 10 mi. north of Punta Gorda in late July (WMS). And one Budgerigar was at Shired I., Dixie Co., June 2 (WWB & HMS).

The first Smooth-billed Ani nest I've heard of in the Florida Keys was reported at the Naval Annex, Key West July 3 (FTH). Anis were also increasing near their northern range limit, where fledged young were seen this summer at Vero Beach (HWK). Antillean Nighthawks, identified by calls, were reported from two unusual inland sites on the mainland, one at Homestead July 3, and one calling repeatedly at dusk over a drive-in theatre near Suniland, Dade Co., July 5 (both JCO). Red-headed Woodpeckers at Immokalee June 27 (HMS) and feeding young at a nest west of Deerfield Beach, Broward Co., June 25 (PWS) were near their southern range limit.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS—Gray Kingbird, primarily a coastal species in Florida, was found far inland at Belle Glade, where there were two June 27 (PWS). First evidence of nesting by Great Crested Flycatchers at Key West came this summer when an unidentified *Myiarchus* was seen at the Key

West cemetery June 25 (CTC & GEW), then two adults and one fledged juvenile Great Crested were seen at a nearby site July 16 (FTH). Mrs. Hames also had a report of Great Crested in the Solaris Hills area of Key West in previous summers.

Two Rough-winged Swallows were at a possible nesting site, a rock quarry near Ft. Meade, Polk Co., June 8 (HMS), and one other was seen June 27 at Moore Haven (PWS). Barn Swallows nested for the second year far south at Paynes Prairie where four young fledged from nests July 16-31 (JHH). Unusually large Purple Martin roosts were reported, with up to 10,000 birds nightly in trees at the Gainesville courthouse from mid-June until July 23 (JHH), and a peak of 2000 roosting in Lakeland July 13-19 (HNA, JBE). Following last summer's report of a Blue Jay in Key West, the species apparently nested there this summer (Gladys Andrelchik, *vide* FTH). Several observers saw one or more jays at the Key West cemetery June 25-July 29 (GEW, PWS, FTH *et al.*) and the nest was reportedly located just outside the cemetery.

STARLINGS, WARBLERS—Starlings apparently nested for the second year in Key West where two adults and one fledged juvenile were seen in the cemetery June 18 & 21 (FTH). Two singing Prothonotary Warblers and one N. Parula at Blue Cypress L., June 23 (HMS) were near the s.e. range limit for both species in the peninsula. One Black-throated Blue Warbler at Rockledge June 13 (HGG) was the latest spring transient ever recorded in the N. Peninsula, while a Louisiana Waterthrush near Pinecrest, Collier Co., July 11 (JCO) was an early southbound migrant. Yellow-breasted Chats may be slowly extending their nesting range southward, as indicated by one in song at Rockledge June 11 (ADC), and a pair in n.e. Citrus Co., June 7 (HMS). Likewise a Hooded Warbler was at its far southern limit, singing in s.e. Levy Co., May 27 (JHH).

ORIOLES, FINCHES—As an aftermath to last summer's freakish nesting by a pair of N. Orioles at the old Key West cemetery, one ♂ oriole in less than full adult plumage returned this summer, June 18-July 5 (FTH *et al.*). This bird was frequently in song and did build a nest, but apparently never had a mate. One Orchard Oriole on Plantation Key July 28 (RTP) was the earliest recorded in the S. Peninsula. There was another exotic located in Miami, a Brazilian Cardinal, *Paroaria cristata*, in song at Greynolds Park May 26 (JBE & PJF). Hopefully it didn't find a mate! The impressive spread through the N. Peninsula by Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks during recent years was still evident this summer. Brevard Co. had its first summering Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks and Painted Buntings (RDB), and one ♂ Indigo was far south at L. Trafford, Collier Co., June 27 (HMS). One Blue Grosbeak was near its southern range limit in n.e. Citrus Co., June 7 (HMS), and grosbeaks were reported to have shown further increase in Duval Co. (VMM). The rather rare, or at least elusive, Grasshopper Sparrows resident in s. Florida prairies were again located, one 8 mi. s.w. of Kenansville June 23 (HMS).

CORRIGENDA—The number of Ruddy Ducks at L. Jackson, Leon Co., was 5500, not 550 (Stevenson, H. 1972 *Am. Birds* 26:594). Likewise the statement on the same page that Turkey Vultures do not occur in winter on St. George I. is found to be in error.

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ONTARIO-WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin and Richard C. Rosche

It is unfortunate that summer is such an arid season for reports. Vacations and summer cottages combine to sabotage the reporting networks and observers get involved in other things because it is a "quiet time for birds," and so it is when compared to the migrant floods of May and September. But June and July have a little of everything: spring migration, the breeding activity which after all is what

the migration is all about, and the start of the return movement.

This year again emphasized that the three are not really clearly distinct phenomena except in books and seasonal summaries: at Point Pelee a Cardinal nest held two young April 26 (GBe), a month and a half before the later migrants were to pass through, and return movement was as usual visible by early July, only a week or so (and an arbitrary division) after the last spring migrants were seen.

Did the late birds ever reach their destination? Fairly clearly many of them did not, as southern pockets of suitable habitat recorded singing males on territory, with seemingly little hope of attracting a mate so far south of the species' normal range. Furthest from home was a Blackpoll Warbler singing persistently on Flowerpot I. in an isolated pocket of black spruce bog as late as June 26 (CEG, DR *et al.*), some 300 miles from its nearest Ontario breeding station, but there are a number of other reports in the following account. Some possibly found mates and succeeded in nesting. Perhaps such late seasons provide an initial impetus to southward range expansions where suitable habitat exists.

In Ontario at present the initial post-war reforestation programmes have now produced stands of large conifers, notably of red pine, and the continuing retirement of marginal farmland under various rural development legislation also results at present in conifer plantings. The face of the Province is changing, and although we tend to emphasize the losses, as woodlots disappear in the rich farmlands of the south-west and old fields and fence-rows are replaced by sterile stands of scots pine elsewhere, these changes present opportunities to any adaptable species that can take advantage of them. Hence we can anticipate that the Clay-colored Sparrows expanding across Ontario in recent years will be followed by other species, and that these will be birds that are already adapted to life in coniferous forests.

Against this must be balanced the conviction, shared by many responsible observers who have followed the bird life of the Province for many years, that there are just not as many birds as there used to be. How does one assess these impressions, formed as they have been often over half a lifetime, but formed against a backdrop of seasonal variation and with all the hazards in the memory of details long since past? Obviously the reporters are discounting species such as blackbirds, and the opportunities for improved observation provided by improved optical equipment, field guides and mobility. But they are recurring impressions, and the events provide some support. The loss of habitat both here and on the wintering grounds, the trends towards monocultures, the reluctance to suffer insect infestations without massive spraying, and the growing disruption of northern habitats are all inhospitable to a rich diversity of birdlife. Any scarcity was accentuated this year when migration had been very delayed and populations on the breeding grounds generally reduced. Perhaps the situation at Pimisi Bay expressed the story well for thrushes through warblers: "these species all present in smaller numbers than ever be-



fore Thus, with large territories and no competition, the dawn chorus of previous years is no more, only very few voices could be heard" (LdeKL).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—A Red-throated Loon was seen off Manitoulin I., June 3 (CB, CMY). The Sheguiandah Red-necked Grebe nesting lake had three pairs and a nest with one egg June 30 (JN), and the 30 White Pelicans at Harris Hill June 13 (GB) would be birds from the long established (but rarely visited) Lake of the Woods colony. The success of Double-crested Cormorants continues to be a matter of inference: there were 8 on Pelee I., July 25 (NC, RC *et al.*) but the only colony reported on was at Spanish where there were 15 adults and seven nests June 21 (WD, *vide* KM). Herons present a mixed picture, as there were one or possibly two pairs of Cattle Egrets apparently nesting in the Pelee I. heronry, an area not previously reported as a nesting site, and a single bird was seen at Long Pt. June 13 (GBe); and the Pelee I. colony also had at least two nests with large young of Great Egrets and an estimated 450 Black-crowned Night Herons (NC, RC *et al.*). On the other hand there were no Cattle Egret nestings reported from the Kingston area, and the Black-crowned Night Herons in the Pigeon I. colony suffered a further decline with only 15 active nests (IG); this compares with 129 nests in 1963 and 78 in 1968. The Pelee I. colony is more difficult to assess as it is not systematically visited and the estimates vary widely from under 500 to some 900 with no consistency in either the observers or the reports. The visits there this year also yielded a Little Blue Heron July 13 (TH) and July 25 (RC *et al.*). A further spring Glossy Ibis sighting was at Shrewsbury May 19 (DRa) and there was a bird at Bradley's Marsh, Essex Co., July 22 (GB, RC) and 3 at Long Pt. July 1 (RC).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—Mute Swans continue to establish themselves along the lower Great Lakes: the pair at Long Pt. had fully grown young July 1 (RC), and the first definite breeding evidence at Pickering was a pair with three young there on June 1 (RCL). A very late flock of Canada Geese were 50, Kingston June 5 (JAW). Duck reports fall into two main groups: dabbling duck nesting with increasing frequency in the south, and summering observations of apparent non-breeders. There are too many reports of both groups to detail, but noteworthy in the first was the continuing expansion of Gadwall, which are now fast becoming very common ducks along the lower Lakes from their first regular Ontario breeding in 1955. There were eight at Pickering in one marsh alone (GBe), 8 to 10 pairs in the Kingston area where the first nesting was established in 1973 (RDW), a pair at Strathroy to mid-July, the first in the London area in summer (WRJ), and a pair at Stokes Bay May 27 (JWJ). Green-winged Teal numbers also appeared strong with a pair at Peterborough June 17 and flying young seen June 24 (DCS); another pair at Aylmer June 11 (GBe) and several broods in the Hamilton area (RC). Aylmer

also had 2 pairs of N Shoveler (GBe) and there was a pair at Port Hope throughout the period (ERM). The summering sightings were principally of Canvasback, Ruddy Ducks, and both Common and Red-breasted Merganser, and were mostly along the lower Lakes

VULTURES, EAGLES, HAWKS—The heaviest eastern concentration of Turkey Vultures, at Dalhousie L., Perth, had up to 50 birds present this year (*vide* RAF) as this successful species sustains its high numbers in the Province. Accipiter nesting reports are always scarce: the first recorded nesting of Goshawks for the Port Hope area was a nest with two young May 31 (ERM), and a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks at Sunfish L., Waterloo, Mar 24 and Apr. 14, were apparently nesting (CAC, RP *et al.*). A Cooper's Hawk was seen at Palgrave July 1 (GBe). There were no Red-shouldered Hawks reported from the southwest, but some more encouraging reports elsewhere; with three nests located at Kingston (*vide* RDW) and 7 to 8 pairs in the Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge areas, although three of the nests were deserted (*vide* CAC). A southerly Broad-winged Hawk nest was at St. Williams June 13 (GBe). The only Bald Eagle nesting reported was at Arner, and apparently the birds brought off one young (*vide* JW) after everyone thought the nest was empty. An immature bird in the same general area was seen at Kettle Pt., June 2 (AR) and Pt. Pelee July 16 (JPK). Marsh Hawks seem to be in serious trouble: their decline has been fairly gradual and there was an exceptional concentration on Amherst I. with 21 birds on July 11 and 2 nests located (RN); but elsewhere birds were almost absent at Ottawa (*vide* RAF), a pair in Puslinch Twp. was the only Hamilton area report (*vide* RC), and in the southwest two adults and three young at Kettle Point (AR) and one other bird sighted constituted the sole sightings (*vide* AHK). This of a species once so widespread that no one ever bothered to report on it. By contrast Ospreys seemed to fare better: They were thought to be increasing locally at Marsh Bay on the French R (JMG); four Kingston area nests produced 8 young (HQ, AEH, EH), there were three pairs on Manitoulin I. (JN), a pair at Balsam Lake Provincial Park (RCL), and a successful nest at Katchewanooka in the Peterborough area (DCS). An ad Peregrine Falcon was in mid-town Toronto July 23 (CEG).

GROUSE THROUGH COOTS—A very early brood of Ruffed Grouse was at Pimisi Bay June 25 with ten flying chicks (LdeKL). Bobwhite seem to be increasing, although there are many intentional and unintentional releases: a bird at Wolfe I on June 5 and July 5 was the first in the Kingston area in over 100 years (K.F.N.), and in the heart of their breeding range in Lambton Co. there were 88 on a June 19 B.B.S. (DR), remarkable for a bird regarded as uncommon there only a few years ago, and possibly a reflection of the open winter. Ten Gray Partridge at Melbourne June 24, in an area where no

recent releases are known, constitute the first Middlesex Co. records (GEM). Northwestern Ontario has occasional reports of summering Sandhill Cranes, and the four at Harris Hill June 14 (GB) probably fall into this category. A King Rail at Prince Edward Pt. (below P.E. Pt.) July 15 was Kingston's third record (RDW), which also had its first Am. Coot nesting since 1962 with a pair and three downy young July 29 (HQ).

SHOREBIRDS—In spite of the record-high water levels on the Great Lakes there were two pairs of Piping Plover at Long Pt. (m.ob.). A northerly report of Am. Woodcock was a bird at Hornepayne July 27 (JBM, AM). Upland Sandpipers were everywhere in good numbers, with 17 on the Lambton B.B.S. alone (DR). Other shorebird records were principally of early arrivals and late departures: record or near-record early dates were a Com. Snipe at Bradley's Marsh June 8 (JPK); eight Whimbrel at Grand Bend July 1 (HISF) and one at Ottawa, where they are rare in fall, July 27 (BD, JHS); a Willet, also rare in fall at Rondeau, July 16 (JPK); four Pectoral Sandpiper at Bradley's Marsh July 8 (JPK); eight Dunlin at Rondeau July 8 (JPK) and another at Erie Beach July 18 (RFA *et al.*); a Stilt Sandpiper on Amherst I., July 29 (RDW) and two at Bradley's Marsh July 8 (JPK). A White-rumped Sandpiper on Amherst I., July 22 (RDW) was Kingston's first July record, and on June 5 two birds of this species and a Least Sandpiper at Sarnia DR) represented latest-ever departure dates for the Detroit Survey. Bradley's Marsh at the mouth of the Thames R. was one of the most productive areas in a year of little shorebird habitat: the season's first Buff-breasted Sandpiper was there July 25 and a Ruff July 22-26 (RC *et al.*). There were up to three ♀♀ and one ♂ Wilson's Phalaropes apparently breeding at Warton; the birds were seen into July (JWJ *et al.*), and there were widespread reports of migrants in late July, from Ottawa and Kingston to Pt. Pelee.

GULLS, TERNS—Ring-billed Gulls are the common summer gull along the Great Lakes, so a gathering of some 1000 birds on Pelee I. in July where Herring Gulls predominated (RC *et al.*) is noteworthy. There were also the usual aggregations of non-breeding Bonaparte's Gulls along L. Erie and western L. Ontario, including flocks of up to 100 as far east as Cobourg (ERM), and with them scattered individuals of the rarer species of small gulls. These included non-breeding Little Gulls, which may have included the entire population this year with the high water at Pickering, a Black-headed Gull at Bronte June 28-July 10 and a Franklin's Gull at Hamilton in July (m.ob.). The flock of 100 Franklin's Gulls on the Lake of the Woods June 13-14 (GB) may have also represented non-breeders, as this is east of the usual breeding range in Manitoba. Forster's Terns were in lower numbers than in recent years in s.w. Ontario (*fide* AHK), perhaps reflecting the problems all these water-line species had in breeding this year, with many breeding islands covered in water. There were unsupported, but apparently quite well founded reports that Com. Terns had successfully nested at the tip of the active lake-filling

operation off Toronto I (m.ob.) This species was migrating late in Ottawa on June 16, when 40 were counted (BD, RAF, BM) and a further four Arctic Terns were seen at Pembroke June 14 (RPy). Single Caspian Terns were at Ottawa June 16 (BD) and Rainy River June 14 (GB).

DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—An early Mourning Dove nest at Poplar had an egg Apr. 25 (KM), and 2 birds were seen at Chapeau June 20 (GBe) as this species continues to expand at the northern edge of its range. There were some interesting records from the northwest: two Black-billed Cuckoos, one at Thunder Bay June 22 (BS, KD) and one at Lac des Milles July 22 (GP); and the Screech Owl at Lake of the Woods P.P. June 14-15 (GB) was thought to be the *swenki* race at the eastern limit of its range, which does not normally include Ontario. The area also had four Great Gray Owls reported between June 15 and Aug 14, from Atikokan, Upsala, Sibley and, to the east, Longlac (*fide* KD). In the southwest there were two Barn Owls at Bradley's Marsh July 16 (JPK), but no evidence of nesting. The high vole populations on Amherst I. yielded record numbers of Short-eared Owls, with a high there of 32 on July 10, and apparent nesting (RN), and there were 4-6 birds at Melbourne in June (WRJ). Whip-poor-wills were scarce—or silent—around Virginiatown (*fide* PWR) and in the Bruce Pen. (CEG), but a bird was singing at King throughout June (GBe *et al.*).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Fort Erie June 4 (HHA). A very early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Pt. Pelee July 22, when *Empidonax* migration was noted (RC, GB). The Alder-Willow Flycatcher situation is a confused affair: the Willow Flycatcher is presumably at the edge of its range in s Ontario, but many of our Alders have a *fee-be-o* song that Earl Godfrey describes as *fee-beer*, and this can very easily sound like *fits-bew* to someone not familiar with the latter song. Habitat could be the key, with the Willow favouring drier areas, and using this key Willows seem to outnumber Alders 5 or 10 to one in the London area (WRJ) but they reduce sharply to the north and east, although there were two reported from Ottawa (RAF) and one from Kingston June 2 (AEH, RDW). Other Willow reports in the east seemed to be in bogs and we will reserve comment on these until we can sort the situation out. Swallows were everywhere scarce with the exception of Cliff Swallows, which have been taking to nesting under bridges and seem much commoner than a decade ago (GBe *et al.*).

CROWS THROUGH WRENS—The first group of reports in this section mostly continue the story of last fall's invasions: two Gray Jays were at Mer Bleu, Ottawa June 23 (GRH) but there was no evidence of nesting. A Black-billed Magpie was on Manitoulin I., June 14 (WK) and a Com. Raven at Cyprus Lake P.P. in June (m.ob.). The 2 Clark's Nutcrackers at Oxdrift were present until about June 19, but no evidence of breeding behaviour was ever noted (CG *fide* GB). Big Rideau L. had 5 Boreal Chickadees July 8 (AEH) and there were at least two on Flowerpot I. June 27 (CEG,

DR *et al.*) A Brown Creeper was at Rondeau, July 16 (JPK). There were scattered reports of Tufted Titmice, but the only nesting reported was from a well-established site at Ancaster, where three young were reared (RC). The Pt. Pelee woods rang with Carolina Wren song this year, a contrast to recent years, and the species seemed to be doing generally well in its limited range, principally along L. Erie. Short-billed Marsh Wrens are either increasing, or more people are becoming aware of them; a colony was located at Peterborough (*fide* DCS), there were some ten singing males in the Pt. Pelee colony on July 22 (GB, RC), and birds were widespread in suitable habitat in Rainy River June 14-15 (GB).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES—The recent Mockingbird burst of expansion may have tapered out: there were the usual scattered sightings and some nestings, with four pairs both in the Sudbury area (JN) and at Ottawa (RAF), and singing birds in five locations around Kingston (RDW). A singing Swainson's Thrush was in Sibbald P.P. July 5 (RCL) and an early migrant at Pt. Pelee July 22 (RC). The E. Bluebird situation seemed reasonably good, with nesting boxes reporting fair success. The highest count was at Harwood with over 100 nestings (*fide* ERM) but they were down in numbers in n. Ontario Co. (JAS) and there were none in the southwest (*fide* AHK). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested successfully in Lambton Co. (AR) and there were four adults apparently nesting at Turkey Pt., July 1 (RC). The same area had two Golden-crowned Kinglets June 10 (RC), and near Kingston the Harrowsmith Bog yielded the area's first summer records of the species since 1906, with four June 16 (RDW). The Bog also had a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets feeding young July 1, Kingston's first-ever in summer (RDW).

SHRIKES, STARLINGS, VIREOS—The decline in Loggerhead Shrikes appears to be extending even into those areas where the population has been quite strong until recently: in n. Ontario Co. the ten pairs of last year were down to five this year, and the species was absent from several breeding localities around Ottawa, with only two nests found (*fide* RAF). There were only three sightings in a week in the Bruce Peninsula (CEG, JEG), and although birds were located at three stations in Vaughan Twp., none were seen in a subsequent 15-day, 2600-mile trip around the south of the Province (GB). By contrast Starlings continue to be agricultural s. Ontario's commonest bird, and the species is expanding in the more wooded n. Ontario Co. (*fide* JAS). White-eyed Vireos evidently nested at Rondeau, but no details are available (AHK). Kingston had its first Yellow-throated Vireo nesting located June 3 (BAW, RDW). Two singing Solitary Vireos at St. Williams July 1 (RC) were well south of their normal range.

WARBLERS—There were two pairs of Prothonotary Warblers reported from Rondeau (*fide* AHK). Paralleling the Kingston Yellow-throated Vireo nesting the increase in Golden-winged Warblers there continues with nine singing males in the Otter Lake Sanctuary (K.F.N.), and a Blue-winged Warbler there June 1 (AEH). A Sudbury area Golden-winged was at Fair-

banks Park June 24 (JL). Eight singing Nashville Warblers were recorded in Harrowsmith Bog June 16 (RDW) and six at Chaffey's Locks in June (RN), the localities are well within the species' range but represent a generally unrecognized degree of abundance in suitable habitat for the Kingston area. Departing from sequence briefly, the same held for Canada Warbler with one and two pairs respectively in the same localities; and the Kingston Canoe L. colony of Prairie Warblers, which extends along an area of relatively inaccessible shoreline, proved to be much larger than previously known with 22 singing males there June 10 (RR). Two ♂♂ Magnolia Warblers at Turkey Pt. July 1 (RC) were further summer records south of normal ranges. Late departures additional to the spring summary were 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers at Sarnia May 31 (DR) and a Blackburnian Warbler at Long Pt. June 10 (RC, JH, DH). Some 17 Connecticut Warblers were recorded in the Rainy River-Lake of the Woods area, June 14-15, where they could be heard in "almost every aspen woodlot" (GB). The species' distribution in this southern corner of extreme w. Ontario has not been clear, and their abundance and habitat there seems to contrast sharply with that elsewhere in the Province, where the bird is often reported as one of the rarest of warblers, and usually seems to be in bogs.

BLACKBIRDS—George Bryant saw 7 Yellow-headed Blackbirds in his June 14-15 tour of the Rainy River-Lake of the Woods area. This was the scene of the first Ontario breeding in 1961 and the species is apparently well established there. We have no recent information on the fate of the only s. Ontario breeding population, at Bradley's Marsh. A pair of Orchard Orioles were still present at P.E. Pt. July 15 (RDW). The Bruce colony of Brewer's Blackbirds seems to move around from year to year this season it was in a field south of Ferndale and there were at least ten birds flying in and out in late June (JWJ *et al.*). A Scarlet Tanager was seen at Atikokan June 15 (SP).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Many observers noted a decline of Indigo Buntings, but the only solid factual support came from the four Kingston B B S routes where 3.9 birds per route compare to 5.5 last year. Some of this seems to be changing habitat there (*fide* RDW), but it is difficult to see that this could create such a sharp drop. Dickcissels did not repeat their influx of last year: the only reports were one from the spring, at Hay Bay, May 20 (MP *et al.*), and a bird at Melbourne June 24 (DM). The late spring movements of finches not unexpectedly led to a host of summer reports at or south of the limits of normal breeding ranges. The catalogue includes 2 Evening Grosbeaks at Miller Lake June 3 (JWJ) and 3 pairs at Cannington Aug. 4 (RCL), a singing ♂ Purple Finch and a Pine Siskin at St. Williams June 10 and June 2 respectively (RC); a Pine Grosbeak at Combermere July 28 (RCL); and, a northerly record, an Am. Goldfinch from July 19 at Hornepayne (JBM, AM). Red Crossbills were widespread, and even still in some numbers, as the 46 at Chelmsford June 13 (JL) attest. Kingston had its

first ever for June (RDW) and the southerly sightings were intriguingly almost in a straight line west to east: Forest, Byron Bog at London, St. Williams and Fort Erie! Although singing Henslow's Sparrows have been reliable in spring in recent years at Pt. Pelee (*vide* CEG) there is only one summer record to this year, when there were three singing July 22 (RC, GB). A Dark-eyed Junco on June 2 at St. Williams was behaving as though it had a nest, and one was singing there June 10 (JO, RC *et al.*); the area is south of its present breeding range. As noted above, Clay-colored Sparrows continue to increase: there were some nine pairs in the Sudbury area (JN), 12 birds on territory at Harwood on May 23 (ERM), possibly six pairs in Beverly Twp. (RC), and a bird singing in the Kingston Otter L. sanctuary on June 3 (RDW); hence it is not surprising to find they were also common in suitable habitat at Rainy River-Lake of the Woods (GB). To put the expansion in context, the first recorded breeding south of Sault Ste. Marie and known to this compiler was in 1950. There was a Field Sparrow at Magnetawan July 23-25 (AM1) and Le Conte's Sparrows were also common in suitable habitat in the Rainy River area (GB).

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APPALACHIAN REGION / George A. Hall

It was a strange summer, but apparently the birds fared well, even though they were not watched with a normal intensity. Both months showed about normal temperatures, and in June rainfall was slightly less than normal at the Pittsburgh weather station, and in July there was a two-inch deficit in rainfall. Several locations reported flash flooding, and water levels in reservoirs remained high after the spring rains. Although I have no quantitative data the Morgantown area must have set a new record for a low amount of sunlight since day after day was hazy and cloudy. However, most species of birds seemed to enjoy successful nesting seasons, once the cool and wet spring had passed.

BREEDING BIRD POPULATIONS—In many parts of the Region insectivorous birds had been subjected to two periods of stress before the breeding season: the prolonged cold and wet period associated with Hurricane *Agnes* in June of 1972 had both eliminated some adults, and had reduced the 1972 breeding success, and the cold wet spring had probably further reduced the populations of some species. In those areas directly affected by the 1972 flooding many ground-nesting species had been possibly eliminated. It is of interest, then, to examine some general data about breeding populations in addition to comments about specific species that are mentioned beyond. Near Lock Haven, Pa., Paul Schwalbe has been making a Breeding Bird Survey Count over a route that was about one-half in the heavily flooded area. Although a 1972 count after the flood showed reduced populations the 1973 count had about the same number of species and the same number of individuals as did the 1971 and earlier counts, indicating little actual damage. Elsewhere the picture was not so bright. At Pittsburgh a total of 16 species were reported to be in greatly reduced populations compared with 5-year averages. These ranged from House Wrens at 75 per cent of average to Purple Martins and Rufous-sided Towhees at only 35 per cent of the average (DF). At high elevations in the Cheat Mountains of West Virginia many warblers were in greatly reduced numbers. On one plot whose population has been measured continuously for 15 years the number of Magnolia Warblers dropped from ten pairs (for the three previous years) to only four pairs this year. In another study plot Blackburnian Warblers were reduced from six pairs to three pairs. Both of these study plots are at elevations greater than 4000 ft. (GAH). In the same general area, although generally at lower elevations, a series of ten B.B.S. routes were run by members of the Brooks Bird Club



Foray These routes had been previously counted in 1968, and this year 11 species were in very greatly reduced numbers while nine species were in greatly increased numbers. The Red-eyed Vireo was the species showing the greatest increase and the Rufous-sided Towhee showed the greatest decrease, with only 204 listed on the ten routes compared with 327 in 1968 (JL). It would thus appear that no general statements can be made about changes in these areas. It would appear, however, that very few young birds were raised in the high mountains of West Virginia in 1972.

DELAYED SPRING MIGRATION—The spring migration did not end in May, and an unusually large number of northbound migrants were reported during the first week of June. Representative sightings included Com. Loons as late as June 13 near Knoxville (PP, *fide* JBO) and June 28 in Somerset County, Pa. (GS & RS, *fide* DF); Bufflehead at State College, Pa. (JJ, *fide* MW); Whistling Swan throughout June at Yellow Creek L. near Indiana, Pa. (CW), and many northern warbler species. As will be mentioned later Pine Siskins remained quite late, but most unusual were Evening Grosbeaks in Buncombe County, N.C. on June 6 (EM, *fide* RR) and at Elizabethton, Tenn. until July 7 (GE).

HERONS, IBIS, AND DUCKS—At Warren, Pa. a total of five colonies of Great Blue Herons showed 166 nests of which 144 were definitely occupied (HJ, *fide* WH), and in n. Butler County, Pa. a colony had six nests (MK, *fide* DF). Very few Great Egrets were reported and no Little Blue Herons. In recent years the Little Blues have almost ceased to appear in the Region in late summer. Four nests of the Least Bittern were located near Chattanooga, Tenn. This area also turned up a Louisiana Heron July 23-24, and two imm. White Ibis June 27-July 2, the first local records of the latter since 1960 (KD). Black Ducks raised a brood in Berkeley County, W. Va. where they are unusual (CM).

RAPTORS—Except for the Red-tailed Hawk, which seems to be doing well at most places, the picture continues to be gloomy. Turkey Vultures were present in only one-third of normal numbers along the Blue Ridge Parkway in s. Virginia and Black Vultures were completely absent there (RK). Turkey Vultures were also scarce in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia (CM), but the species nested near Warren, Pa., well north of its usual range (WH). All the Accipiter species were generally reported as being in short supply although 12 Cooper's Hawk nests located in the Asheville, N.C. region is certainly remarkable (WHa). Broad-winged Hawks were present in only one-fifth of normal numbers and Am. Kestrels had completely disappeared (after a three year decline) along the Blue Ridge Parkway in s. Virginia (RK). At Irvine, Pa. 15 young Am. Kestrels were fledged from three nest boxes (RRi, *fide* WH), and again this year several kestrels spent the summer in downtown Pittsburgh, although it is not known whether they nested (DF). They did nest successfully in downtown Chattanooga (KD). The last two active Osprey nests in the Chattanooga region were unsuccessful (KD). At Pymatuning L., Pa. only

one of three Bald Eagle nestings were successful. Bald Eagles were also sighted at L. Arthur, Butler Co., Pa. June 2 (SR & TW, *fide* DF) and at Kinzua Reservoir, Pa. June 8 (HC, *fide* WH).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS, AND TERNS—King Rails were found during the season near Chattanooga but no nests were located (KD), and at Elizabethton, Tenn. a Purple Gallinule was found June 13, the second local record—the first being just this May (GW, *fide* GE).

The fall shorebird flight started on July 11 at State College, Pa., five days earlier than normal (MW), and elsewhere Solitary Sandpipers at Clarksville, Pa. July 16 (RB), and Powdermill Nature Reserve (P N R) July 26 (RCL), and Lesser Yellowlegs at Pymatuning, Pa. July 21 (RFL) marked the beginning of the flight, which was not very heavy by the end of the period. Stilt Sandpipers (always rare in the Region) were seen near Elizabethton on July 26 (GE) and near Ligonier, Pa. on July 30 (first local record) (RCL). A Long-billed Dowitcher was carefully identified at Pymatuning L., Pa. on July 21 (RFL).

Six Forster's Terns were seen near Elizabethton on July 27 (sev. ob., *fide* GE). Black Terns summered at L. Arthur, Pa. (DF) and were in somewhat lower numbers at Conneaut L., Pa. than last year (RFL).

DOVES, CUCKOOS, AND OWLS—Mourning Dove populations seem to be booming. At Clarksville, Pa. B.B.S. routes showed about twice the normal numbers (RB). At Charleston it was suggested that the construction of interstate highways has increased the dove populations by providing open grassy areas in otherwise forested country (except for the urban areas) and also providing wires for perches (CK).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in low numbers at P.N.R., where only one was banded all summer (normal would be 10—RCL), but at Charleston (CK), Newcomerstown, O. (ES), and Blue Ridge Parkway, Va. (RK) populations were very high, even though most areas reported rather few tent caterpillars.

As usual few observers mentioned owls. A Barred Owl nest was found near Meadville, Pa. (RBo, *fide* RFL). Barn Owls nested at Waynesboro, Va. (RSn), at Dalton, Ga. (AH), and at Elizabethton three Barn Owl nests produced 1, 5, and 5 young, and two of last year's nests were inactive (GE).

HUMMINGBIRDS, CAPRIMULGIDS, AND SWIFTS—Whip-poor-wills continue to decline through most of West Virginia. At Green Spring, W. Va. none could be heard where other years had produced four (JLa), but at Lewisburg, W. Va. populations were near normal (CH). Common Nighthawks were scarce at Indiana, Pa. (CW) but few observers reported on them. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were remarkably scarce at Lewisburg (CH) and Morgantown (GAH) the first ones of the year were not seen until late July.

It is clear that Chimney Swifts have been greatly reduced in numbers throughout the north, probably by the 1972 cold, wet June, although at Charleston they

were considered normal (CK). Qualitative reports on abundance were such remarks as one-third of last years numbers at Clarksville (RB), 60 per cent of normal at Pittsburgh (DF), and 75 per cent of normal at Waynesboro, Va. (RSn). Harder data came from Lock Haven where a B.B.S. route that had averaged 22 swifts for four years had none this year, and another count had only one where it had shown ten in 1971 (PS).

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS—E. Kingbirds were in good numbers at most all places, but Great Crested Flycatchers were generally down, for example 70 per cent of normal at Pittsburgh (DF). In Allegheny and Butler Counties, Pa. Willow Flycatchers were in reduced numbers (DF, FP). This species continues to expand its range in the s. part of the Region with three nesting pairs found near Asheville, N.C. (WHa), and the fourth year of nesting near Elizabethton, Tenn (GE). At least three Least Flycatchers were found in late May in Shenandoah N.P., which is apparently a new summer record (GP).

Barn Swallows were down by about one-third at Clarksville, Pa. (RB), but were considered to be 25 per cent above last year along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia (RK). At Warren, Pa. the Tree Swallows nesting in bluebird boxes were 23 per cent lower than last year, reflecting the loss of young during Hurricane *Agnes*, but this year a total of 112 nestings produced 544 eggs and fledged 400 young (WH).

As had been well recognized the Purple Martin was the real disaster species in the 1972 cold wet June. For example in Greene Co., Pa. Ralph Bell could find only 20 colonies and most of those had only two to seven pairs. He estimated that the population was perhaps only 1/20 or even only 1/50 of normal. At Pittsburgh the figure was 35 per cent of normal (DF). As was mentioned in the spring report at many places the few remaining martins congregated in one house, leaving many houses empty. However, it would appear that these few remaining birds had a fairly successful nesting season. Outside of the area affected by *Agnes* populations seemed normal, except that they were in reduced numbers with numerous empty houses at Elizabethton, Tenn (GE). The usual fall congregation of martins in the Kanawha valley near Charleston had either not formed or could not be located by the end of the period (CK).

TITMICE, CREEPERS, AND WRENS—At P.N.R. Black-capped Chickadees had an unusually successful breeding season (RCL), and at Pittsburgh Tufted Titmice were 75 per cent above normal (DF). At Mountain L., Va. at least three pairs of Brown Creepers were found and two nests were discovered (FS). Although this station is above 3000 ft. it is south of the normal range. Red-breasted Nuthatches were also found there (FS). Brown Creepers were also reported along the Shenandoah R. in West Virginia at elevations below 300 ft. (CM). They have nested here in the past.

Practically all stations reported high populations of Carolina Wrens, and they nested this year as far north as Meadville, Pa. (RFL). On the other hand House Wrens were showing some decline and were completely absent at Green Valley, W. Va. (JLa) and at

Barnesville, O. (MC). A Winter Wren was another northern species slightly out of range of Mountain L., Va. (FS). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found at two locations in Crawford Co., Pa. (SF & RFL), and one heard June 27 & July 11 near Warren was the first record there in 15 years (HJ, *fide* WH).

MOCKINGBIRDS, THRUSHES, AND VIREOS—Mockingbirds are increasing near Chambersburg, Pa. (DG), and one was seen at Pymatuning L., Pa. July 5, well north of the usual summer range (RFL).

At Pittsburgh the Am. Robin was felt to be in only 65 per cent of normal numbers (DF), but other observers did not comment on it except to note that nesting success was high. The small population of breeding Hermit Thrushes near Ligonier, Pa. is increasing and this year at least 12 pairs were present (RCL). Once again this year Swainson's Thrushes were netted at P.N.R. in late July (RCL). The source of these birds is a minor puzzle. They had not yet begun the post-breeding molt, but no nesting population is known anywhere near that station. On the other hand no other observers or banding stations in the Region (outside of the breeding grounds in West Virginia) find the species before late August.

Eastern Bluebirds had brought off their first broods before the June rains in 1972 and so populations were generally good, and this year's breeding season was apparently good. The following data come from Warren, Pa. where an "Operation Bluebird" has supplied a series of nesting boxes (now up to 400 boxes) since 1957. This year in two nestings a total of 356 pairs fledged 1031 young. In 1972 with 360 boxes 183 pairs fledged an average of 3.7 young per pair, while this year with 400 boxes 256 pairs fledged an average of 2.8 young per pair. In the 17 years of the project approximately 8980 young birds have been fledged (WH).

The great increase in Red-eyed Vireos in Randolph and Pocahontas Counties, W. Va. over 1968 was mentioned above. Elsewhere this species was in good numbers. For example at P.N.R. 57 were banded during the period compared with a normal 37 (RCL). In n. West Virginia three B.B.S. counts showed essentially the same populations of Red-eyes as last year (GAH). The White-eyed Vireo continues to increase, and one was seen near State College, Pa. during the period, where it is unusual (MW).

WARBLERS AND ICTERIDS—As usual conflicting opinions came in about the various warbler species. In the Knoxville area most observers felt that all species except the Hooded were doing well (JBO), but most species were considered scarce in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia (CM). Many observers felt that Yellow-breasted Chats were in reduced numbers. At Morgantown two B.B.S. counts showed the same numbers as last year but a third count showed only 6 compared with 16 last year (GAH). Similar results were obtained on the same three counts for Com. Yellowthroats, with an identical drop of from 16 to six from last year on one count.

Swainson's Warblers were found at two locations near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), and there was a June report from Cooper's Rock S. F. in n. West Virginia,

well north of its usual range (RSt, *vide* GAH). Both Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers are increasing near Charleston (NG). Besides the Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers mentioned above Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, and Canada Warblers were in reduced numbers in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia.

The N. Oriole populations were very good in most places. In c. West Virginia five B.B.S. counts listed a total of 47 orioles compared with counts of 15, 12, and 14 in the past three years (TF). A Brewer's Blackbird was seen at Asheville, N.C., June 23 (WHa), but the prize Icterid of the season was a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Tidioute, Pa., June 2 (JK, *vide* WH).

FRINGILLIDS—Dickcissels made interesting news this summer and it remains to be seen if these records correlate with increased populations in the Midwest. Immature Dickcissels were seen at feeders and one was collected at Asheville, N.C. in early July (WHa). Two nests were found (July 13 & 19) near Waynesboro, Va. (RSn), and singing males were noted through the season near Charlestown, W. Va. (CM). Observers who cease birding in late May, or who stop searching for nests in mid-June should note these dates which are typical of the species. Blue Grosbeaks were unusually common at Elizabethton (GE), and a nest was found at Dalton, Ga. (second record), where the bird has been increasing in recent years (AH).

The House Finch is still increasing at Indiana, Pa. (CW) and at least eight birds were present in two groups throughout the season at Staunton, Va. (YL & IO, *vide* RSn). Summering Purple Finches were found at New Kensington, Pa. (PH, *vide* DF), and at two locations in s. Butler Co., Pa. (PH, MK, *vide* DF). They were also found at the Mountain L. Biological Station, Giles Co., Va. June 3 (CHa, *vide* FS), and on Roan Mt., Tenn. June 14 (FB). All of these are out of the normal range but whether or not they were breeders or simply lost stragglers from the heavy winter and spring flight is not known.

There were also late stragglers from the heavy Pine Siskin flight at numerous places but adults apparently feeding young June 21 at Black Mt., N.C. (RR) and July 4 on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE & GW) may represent actual breeding. The uncertainty arises from the habit in this species (and others) of feeding well grown young which may have been fledged far away from the place of sighting. Red Crossbills were seen on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Rockbridge Co., Va. May 31, and at Mountain L., Va. June 3 (FS), and a small flock was found June 11 in the Cumberland Mts., Tenn. (FA & RA, *vide* JBO).

The several species of grassland sparrows brought mixed reports, usually with low populations in areas affected by last year's flooding, but good numbers elsewhere. The Grasshopper Sparrow seems to be undergoing a steady decline almost to the point of disappearance in e. Tennessee (e.g. only three records this year in the Chattanooga area (KD)). A White-throated Sparrow was banded at P.N.R. July 30 (RCL), and one was seen in mid-June on Spruce Knob, W. Va. (CK). Both of these records are well out of the breeding range, but may represent holdovers from the good spring

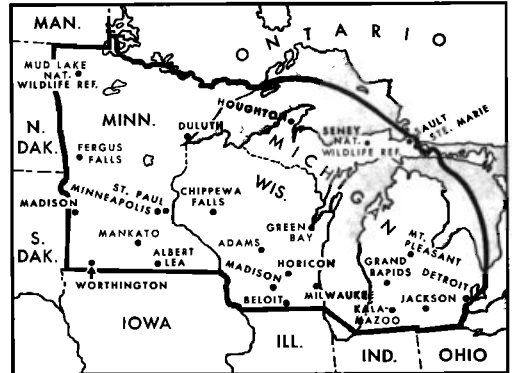
flight, or an early migrant in the case of the July bird. Bachman's Sparrow is currently in one of its declines in this Region and years go by without a report, but one was found in n. Washington County, Pa. June 9 (DF).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Robert B. Janssen

Weather was generally stable but dry throughout the region, although there were exceptions. Temperatures in Minnesota were near normal for both months. Minnesota was extremely dry through the period, especially in the northwest and east-central portions of the state. The southern tier of counties in the state was extremely wet as were areas in southern Wisconsin.



June and July were generally deficient in rainfall in Minnesota and Wisconsin, up to three inches short during June and one-half inch during July in the Twin Cities. Michigan was generally warm and dry during June with the exception of west-central sections of the state, which had above normal precipitation. Water levels throughout the region were generally adequate from ample spring rains. Few major storms were reported during the period, although one tornado hit northern Minnesota in early July causing considerable damage, including the loss of at least one Osprey nest.

An example of the rather stable conditions is indicated by the weather of July 7-8 in eastern Minnesota. On the seventh it was extremely hot and humid with temperatures in the 90s. By the morning of the eighth it was cool—in the 50s and 60s—with little humidity, representing complete change of air masses with little resulting bad weather, in fact not even a cloud in the sky. One "perfect" day following another could be a summary of Minnesota conditions.

Wisconsin experienced alternating hot and humid weather with considerably cooler conditions. The lack of rainfall during July over most of the state became a definite problem by month's-end. The higher lake, pond and river levels resulting from the heavy amounts of spring rain produced exceptionally good breeding habitat in the state. In general, the breeding season appeared to be normal for most species, but not without some real areas of concern. Ducks and other waterfowl populations were reported as "good" for most species in the region. Herons, especially Green Herons, are doing well. Hawks are, of course, a troubled group but the number of Marsh Hawks in Minnesota and American Kestrels throughout the region is encouraging. Both migrant and breeding shorebirds were well represented throughout the Region. The most exciting report was that of a flightless downy young Solitary Sandpiper in Minnesota. This is a first breeding record for the state and is probably one of the few records for breeding in the contiguous United States.

The "crash" of the Franklin's Gull colony at Agassiz N.W.R. in Minnesota is very disturbing. The reports of increases in Eastern and Western Kingbirds in Minnesota are encouraging, but the Eastern Bluebird situation appears poor throughout the Region. The increase in Common Grackles continues unabated across the region. What effect this is having on other species can only be guessed, but it is probably not good. The Henslow's Sparrow appears endangered across the whole region with a few minor exceptions, but the increase in Grasshopper Sparrows, especially in Minnesota, brightens the picture. One general note is that fifteen square miles of Muskegon County were converted into sewage treatment ponds, creating excellent new birding habitat in central Michigan.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—A pair of Common Loons was south of its normal breeding range in Wisconsin at the Necedah N.W.R., July 22 (FL). A Red-throated Loon was seen on L. Superior off the Lester R., Minn., June 7 (JAB). Red-necked Grebes were present at a large nesting colony at Rush L. near Winnebago, Wisc. (AG); this species appears scarce in Minnesota, being reported from only three counties. Eared and Horned Grebes were seen at Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall, Minn. June 15 (RBJ). Western Grebes are doing very well in Minnesota; colonies of 200+ adult birds were seen at Swan L., Nicollet Co. (JWP), 300 adults and young at Big Stone N.W.R., (DP) and 50 adult and 50 young July 21 at Sunbury L. Kandiyohi Co. (BH). White Pelicans again bred on Marsh L., Lac Qui Parle Co., Minn. with 150+ young produced (BH) and 33 non-breeders were present on Swan L., Nicollet Co. July 8 (JCG). Double-crested Cormorants continue scarce throughout the region.

However, it is encouraging that 200+ active nests were reported from L. Johanna, Pope Co. Minn. and 150 young were produced at Marsh L., Lac Qui Parle Co. (BH).

Little Blue Herons produced eight young from three nests at L. Johanna, (BH), and another was reported from Aitkin Co. Minn. June 25 (BB). The only Wisconsin report was one seen in Oconto Co. July 29 (PL). Cattle Egrets failed to nest at L. Johanna this year after being successful in 1972. Four adults were present June 2, but none were seen after June 16 (BH). Cattle Egrets were reported from Grand River Marsh (one carrying food) and 16 were in Winnebago Co., Wisc. The Green Heron went "wild" in Minn. with large numbers being reported in the e. part of the state and as far north as Pine Co. (ten on July 28, RBJ) and Itasca Co. Two young were reported in Crow Wing Co. on June 2 (TS). A Least Bittern was north of its usual range near Duluth, June 23 (JCG).

WATERFOWL—Duck breeding populations in Minnesota were good in spite of dry conditions in some areas of the west. At Agassiz N.W.R. Wood Ducks, Lesser Scaups and Am. Wigeons were more common than usual. An interesting phenomenon seemed to be occurring on the refuge. Well grown Canada Goose broods were present June 15, but few if any ducks seemed to be breeding. Paired adults were seen in loose groups loafing on ponds and mudflats but few if any broods were seen (RBJ). Duck populations were up on the Big Stone N.W.R., Minn. (DP), with an anticipated production of 12,000 young birds. In Wisconsin, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwalls, Pintails and Shovelers were reported to have had above-average breeding populations, while Mallards and Black Ducks were below. A brood of four young Black Ducks was observed on the Sherburne N.W.R., Minn. July 18, a first for the refuge. A Eur. Wigeon was seen on Big Sandy L., Aitkin Co., Minn., June 5 (TS). On July 4, 126 young Wood Ducks were counted on L. Como in the city limits of St. Paul (JW). Canvasback broods were reported in several extralimital breeding locations in Minnesota's Hennepin, Lyon (four broods), and Big Stone Cos. Of unusual occurrence was the presence of two ?? Buffleheads at Muskegon, Mich. July 7 (GW). Four White-winged Scoters were still at Duluth June 7 (JAB).

HAWKS—The hawk situation is not good in Michigan. Red-shouldered Hawks have almost disappeared and Marsh Hawks are exceedingly scarce. However, reports from observers in Minnesota indicate that the Red-shouldered is expanding northward in the state but numbers are low in the south. A Goshawk pair at the nest was observed in Hubbard Co., Minn. May 27 (JAB), one was in Duluth on June 5 and two on July 13 (MMC); this species was observed in four counties in Wisconsin. A ? Cooper's Hawk was sitting on eggs in Crow Wing Co., Minn. June 3 (TS). No report was received as yet on success of Bald Eagles nesting on the Chippewa Nat'l Forest, Minn. (their last real stronghold in the U.S. outside of Alaska). Adult Bald Eagles were at nests in Minnesota near Reno, Houston Co. June 16 (FL), Camp Ripley, Crow Wing Co. (on

an artillery range! PR) and at Rice Lake N W R during June and July (TS). Marsh Hawks were up all over Minnesota, being reported by many observers and especially at Sherburne N.W.R. Ospreys seemed to be doing well in Minnesota, with nestings reported from Crow Wing, Aitkin, Marshall and Itasca Cos. An ad. Peregrine was carefully studied on the Grand River Marsh, Wisc. June 8 (DT). No other Peregrines were reported in the region. Two Merlins were at St. John's Univ. campus, Minn. June 2 (MC) [no further details—Ed.]. Good numbers of Am. Kestrels were reported from Minnesota and Wisconsin.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS—Spruce Grouse were unreported in the region. Do their numbers fluctuate in the same cycles as Ruffed Grouse? Ruffed Grouse populations are low in Minnesota after the "crash" in populations during the fall of '72. A new Prairie Chicken conservation organization has been formed in Minnesota to prevent further declines in numbers through habitat preservation and study of the birds. Populations are holding their own in the n.w. part of the state, and a recent survey showed approximately 3,300 birds. Sharp-tailed Grouse young were reported from Aitkin Co., Minn. July 27 (TS). Bobwhite numbers in Minnesota have steadily declined and the species is rarely seen; however a brood of five young was seen in Dodge Co. July 14 (RBJ). They were also reported from three locations in Ottawa Co., Mich. (JP). Two adult and one imm. Sandhill Cranes were seen at the Grayling Marsh, Aitkin Co., Minn. July 8 (RBJ) and two were present in the Sherburne N.W.R., Minn. during June and July. Yellow Rails were located during the period in several areas in Aitkin Co., Minn., a new locality for the state. The Mahnomen Co. area, famous for Yellow Rails, was dry and "rail-less" in June but out-of-state birders reported rails present in July. Yellow Rails were heard during June in Vilas Co., Wisc. (SR). A ♂ **Purple Gallinule** was found dead June 22 in Macomb Co., Mich., a first for the Detroit area. Another was reported picked up sick, later died, from the Upper Peninsula, Mich. [no further details—Ed.].

SHOREBIRDS—A few shorebirds lingered until mid-June throughout the area, some until late June in Minnesota (White-rumpeds, Westerns, Lesser Yellowlegs in Lyon Co. and Pectorals, Stilt, White-rumpeds in Ottertail Co.) and the return migration began in Minnesota by mid-July, about one week later than normal. In Wisconsin returning migrants were noted by July 7. Piping Plovers again nested in Duluth. American Woodcock seems to be on the increase as a breeding bird in Minnesota. It was reported as common in Aitkin Co. (TS). Common Snipe was reported in widely spread localities in Minnesota during the period. Up to 20 Upland Sandpipers were on an old airfield in Anoka Co. Minn. July 2, and one adult and three young were seen near Duluth July 17 (MMC). A pair of Solitary Sandpipers were noted in display June 22 on the Cloquet Forest, St. Louis Co., Minn. (JAB). On July 11 two adults and one young downy **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen near Jacobson, Aitkin Co. (TS). This is the first positive breeding evidence for this species in Min-

nesota. Marbled Godwits bred in n w Minnesota with young being seen in Clay Co. (PBH) and Big Stone Co (DP).

The first state nesting record for Wisconsin of the **Am. Avocet** occurred at Fox Lake, Dodge Co. Avocets bred in Minnesota at Graceville, Big Stone Co., one adult and two young June 28 (DP). Wilson's Phalaropes continued to move north and eastward in Minnesota, two adult and two young June 19 in Aitkin Co. (TS), three young were found in Morrison Co. June 30 (DB), one female at Duluth June 9 and one male in Dakota Co. June 24 (RBJ).

Migrant shorebirds included 300 Black-bellied Plovers in Racine Co., Wisc. June 1 and the early return date of July 7 in Marathon Co., and Am. Golden Plover was still present at Agassiz N.W.R. Minn., June 15 (RBJ). There was a Whimbrel in Duluth June 2 (*vide* JCG), Long-billed Dowitcher July 15 at Green Bay, Wisc. (a state arrival record), a Stilt Sandpiper July 22, 400 Least Sandpipers July 22 and one W. Sandpiper July 29, all at Erie Marsh, Mich. An early Red Knot was seen in Hennepin Co. Minn. July 13 (OJ). A **Ruff** was carefully identified July 21 near Green Bay, Wisc (DT). Five W. Sandpipers were present July 14 at Marshall, Lyon Co., Minn. (HK). Fall records of the Hudsonian Godwit are extremely rare in Minnesota and there are no previous July dates, but one was recorded July 8 at Ortonville, Big Stone Co. (DP) and the amazing total of eight was seen at Marshall, Lyon Co July 14 (HK). Could these have been non-breeders that just turned around? A single N. Phalarope lingered until June 15 in Ozaukee Co. Wisc., a record late departure date.

GULLS THROUGH KINGFISHER—Ring-billed Gulls attempted to nest in the Duluth harbor, 30 nests May 28 were all destroyed June 16, with three new nests June 24 (JCG). A **Laughing Gull** in nearly full adult plumage was on the Erie Marsh, Mich. June 4, second Detroit record (JK). The Franklin's Gull colony at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn., which numbered 50,000 birds in 1971 was down to less than 1,000 birds this year. No explanation could be given by refuge officials. Bonaparte's Gulls were on Mille Lacs Lake, Minn.: 18 on July 18, 400 on July 3 (TS). Five **Little Gulls** were seen in late June and mid-July in Brown Co. Wisc. (DT). One juvenile-plumaged Hawk Owl was reported near Duluth May 27 (JAB). Short-eared Owls are very scarce throughout the region; they were reported from only one area in Minnesota and Wisconsin and none in Michigan.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—The Red-bellied Woodpecker is extending its range in both Michigan and Minnesota. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was recorded in Iowa Co., Wisc. June 8 (AR). The Acadian Flycatcher extended its range northward in Minnesota, when a single bird was recorded in June in Winona Co. (BTV). A single Acadian Flycatcher was seen and heard north of Prescott, Pierce Co. Wisc. July 1; this is also north of its range in Wisconsin (RG). Cliff Swallows were abundant in n w Minnesota and 533 active nests were reported on one farm in Kent Co., Mich. (JP). Tree Swallows were down in numbers over Minnesota and Michigan

JAYS THROUGH STARLINGS—A Gray Jay with two young was seen in Hubbard Co., Minn. May 27 (JAB). A Black-billed Magpie was seen June 15 at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn. (RBJ). Refuge officials reported them at several localities in the area and nesting was presumed. Boreal Chickadees nested in Hubbard Co (JAB) and Aitkin Co. Minn. (TS). Carolina Wrens were recorded in Michigan and Wisconsin but none in Minnesota. A singing Winter Wren June 23 in Chisago Co., Minn. was far south of its normal breeding range (RBJ). There were six singing Winter Wrens between Hovland and Grand Portage, Cook Co. Minn. June 30 (MMC). Mockingbirds were recorded in all three states. Eastern Bluebirds remain a problem throughout the area, numbers are down in Minnesota and Michigan with most observers either not reporting birds or poor and reduced nesting. A 25 per cent drop from 1972 in number of nests was reported from a study area in Michigan (BP). In Minnesota about one-third of the normal number of nesting adults returned this spring as compared to the average of six years of study. However, nesting success was up because of good weather conditions, but with fewer returning birds populations were down (OR). The Golden-crowned Kinglet nested in at least three localities in Minnesota: Lake (PBH), Clearwater (WL), and Aitkin Cos. (TS). Most unusual was the nesting of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet near Oshkosh, Winnebago Co. Wisc. [good details—Ed.]. Sprague's Pipits were in their usual area during June and July near Felton, Clay Co. Minn. (RBJ).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—Three Philadelphia Vireos were at Mineral Center, Cook Co., Minn. June 30 (MMC) and one male was singing near Duluth June 7 (JAB). Warblers as a group were reported in good numbers throughout their breeding range in the region. An interesting phenomenon occurred in Minnesota, where several typical boreal species occurred far south of their normal range. In Anoka Co. just north of the Twin Cities, Yellow-rumped Warblers were present all through June and July, a Mourning on July 1 & 2, two Tennessees July 14 and a Blackburnian July 15 (SC). Tennessee Warblers were present in Winona Co. during July, a Mourning Warbler with brood patch was banded in the same area in early July (BTV), Nashville Warblers were seen in Edina, a suburb of Minneapolis, June 11 & 22 (WE). Golden-winged Warblers were seen and reported in numbers from many localities in Minnesota and reported in good numbers in Michigan. A Prothonotary Warbler was 200 miles north of its breeding range in Itasca Co. Minn. July 2 (BB), a first for northern Minnesota. Cerulean Warblers were north of their normal breeding range in Minnesota; birds were reported in Morrison Co. June 30 (RG), a nest and three young in Anoka Co. June 19 (SC), one pair in St. Paul June 4 (JAB), and one in Hennepin Co. June 3 (KE). Several ad. Cerulean and one young were seen in Nicollet Co. Minn. July 8, a new breeding locality in the state (RBJ). Other observations were reported from Goodhue Co. (VL) and Houston Co. (FL) in the s.e. part of the state where it is more regular. The only report of the Black-throated Blue Warbler came from Minnesota where it is rare—a territorial pair near Duluth (Lakewood Twp.)

June 7 (JAB). The Louisiana Waterthrush nested in Chisago Co. Minn. (WL), which is probably the northward limit of its range in the state. A Hooded Warbler on June 14 in Oakland Co. Mich. was unusual. Six singing ♂♂ Connecticut Warblers were found in four different spruce bogs in Aitkin Co. Minn. and one young was found on July 23 (TS). The Yellow-breasted Chat has all but disappeared from Minnesota and no reports were received from other areas.

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS—Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in excellent numbers in Minnesota and are expanding their range northward in the state. Ten to 15 pairs were nesting in Aitkin Co. (TS). A pair of Rusty Blackbirds were seen June 30 at Mineral Center, Cook Co. (MMC); could they have nested? There are no Minnesota breeding records but they nest in nearby Ontario! Brewer's Blackbirds were unusually common in Minnesota. Common Grackles are on the increase everywhere; huge flocks were already appearing in the Twin Cities by mid-July. It was not an invasion year for the Dickcissel but fair numbers were reported all across s. Minnesota and Michigan. A ♂ Evening Grosbeak was in Duluth daily till June 28, during July, four-to-12 birds showed up at feeders in the area (MMC). After the unprecedented winter and spring invasion of Pine Siskins into the region, a few of the birds remained to breed. Nesting was confirmed in Michigan and Minnesota and reports were received of summering^a birds from widely scattered areas throughout the region. Red Crossbills were also seen in many scattered localities in the three states, but nesting was confirmed only from the Duluth area (*vide* JCG) and immatures were seen in two other Minnesota counties. Only two reports of Lark Buntings were received, both from Minnesota: Rock Co. June 24 (KE) and one unusual record from the n. part of the state, of a single bird in Aitkin Co. June 25 (BB). Grasshopper Sparrows were unusually common in many localities in Minnesota, but there were no reports from Wisconsin and only a few from Michigan. LeConte's Sparrows also did well in Minnesota, with numerous reports from the n. part of the state; there were four singing ♂♂ at Duluth July 18 (MMC). The Henslow's Sparrow has been extremely scarce recently in Minnesota and may be disappearing from the region but several were seen during June and July southwest of Minneapolis for the first Hennepin County record in over 40 years! (RBJ). In Ottawa Co. Mich. there were five Henslow's within a mile July 12 (HC). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from two localities in Cook Co., Minn. one singing male June 30 (MMC) and St. Louis Co. June 24 (DB). The Chestnut-collared Longspur was present in good number on the Felton prairie, Clay Co., Minn. A nest with four eggs was found May 26 (HK).

CORRIGENDA—The 300 Canada Geese (*Am. Birds* 27:618) reported from Kensington Metro Park, Oakland, Minn. should read Michigan. The statement under Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Am. Birds* 27:620) "as yet there are no breeding records" (for Minnesota) should be deleted. This species nests regularly in the s.e. part of the state.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION / Vernon M. Kleen

"The key word for the summer, 1973 in Coles Co., Ill. (and most of the Region—Ed!), was *wet*, and that spelled widespread crop losses but superb shorebird habitat." (LH). Thunderstorms accompanied with heavy winds and rains were normal occurrences during the period and added to the flooded conditions left over from spring. The relative humidity and temperatures were slightly above normal for the period.



All this led to a most unusual summer. Water-associated species such as coots, dabbling ducks and Ruddy Ducks nested far south of their normal ranges, diving ducks and shorebirds lingered well into the report period or remained all summer; fall migrating shorebirds returned only days after the last spring birds had departed—noticeable flights occurred on or before July 8.

Noteworthy reports of nesting species included: two fledged Bald Eagles in Ohio, six fledged Swainson's Hawks, two fledged Short-eared Owls and two Barn Owl nests in Illinois, the first Illinois record of a Purple Gallinule nest, and the return of nesting Piping Plovers.

Some of the incidental observations of various songbird species may be the initial notes indicating range expansion or contraction. A few species were seen in fair numbers (White-eyed Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Hooded Warbler) or greatly increased numbers (Prothonotary Warbler) farther north than usual; individuals or pairs (Solitary Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler and Canada Warbler) and fair numbers of other species (Veery, Song Sparrow) were present farther south than usual. Population "explosions" were noted for American Robins and Blue Jays in western Missouri.

Owing to the thunderstorms and their associated strong winds and rains, first nests for many songbirds were destroyed; however, indications showed that most species still had a successful breeding season even though somewhat later than usual. Some ground-nesting species, especially the Bobwhite, and Common Nighthawks that nested on rooftops may have had a poor nesting season.

A few nesting notes will have to be included with the fall season report since young of some species were still in nests beyond July 31.

GREBES, CORMORANTS, PELICANS—An Eared Grebe at the Maryville, Mo. sewage lagoons was unusual for June 2 & 17 (R). Pied-billed Grebes were much more numerous and conspicuous in the flooded bottomlands than usual; broods were reported from Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (below, S C R), Mason and Jackson counties, Ill., and Hamilton Co., Ohio. From 1-12 Double-crested Cormorants were present at S.C.R. until mid-July (L); two imm. birds were found at L. Renwick, Will Co., Ill June 8 (B, JR); four early migrants had arrived at Evanston, Ill. July 29 (B, JR). At least ten White Pelicans were present in the Ohio R. near Brookport, Ill. and Paducah, Ky. June 13-14 (LW).

HERONS—Great Blue Herons did not utilize their regular nesting site at Red Rock Ref., Ia.; however, 50 pairs nested at L. Rathbon, Ia. which only filled in 1970. Other observers made neither positive nor negative comments about this species. A total of two adults and five imm. Little Blue Herons were found at Springfield, Mo. during July (NF); one adult remained in the Louisville, Ky. area from June 29 through the end of the period (S, LB); two adults and six immatures arrived at the Red Rock Ref., Ia. July 1 and stayed the entire month (GB). Two Snowy Egrets were present at Schell-Osage Wildl. Area, Mo. July 21 (JRa) Black-crowned Night Herons nested in normal numbers in the Chicago area (C) and may have been the source of the two adults and 10 immatures found at the Will County, Ill. Conservation Area July 25 (BW); this species was absent from Red Rock Ref., Ia. this summer. Up to 11 Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found in the Patoka R. Bottoms in s.w. Indiana July 11 (NS *et al.*); another was present at the Skokie Lagoons (Chicago) July 21 (JS). Many observers reported Least Bitterns more commonly than usual; nests included 3 at L. Mermet, Massac Co., Ill. (DH), 2 at Purdue-Baker Wildlife Area, Ind. (EH), and one in Hopkins Co., Ky. (JH).

WATERFOWL—One Snow Goose (blue form) remained at Goshen, Ky. until June 16 (BM, JC *et al.*) Owing to the flooded conditions, Mallard nests were located in fields (DBu,GB) and in an abandoned Red-tailed Hawk nest (GB,BC). Two Black Ducks summered at a Lake Co., Ill. pond (B); two pairs with broods of five and eight were found at Schell-Osage, Mo (JRa); another individual was observed near Louisville July 12 (S, JC). Up to four Gadwalls were seen at four n.w. Missouri locations June 15-July 4 (SP,R) A brood of four Pintails was found at Goose L. Prairie, Grundy Co., Ill. (DBi); a minimum of nine summered at three Lake Co., Ill. locations and others "raised young" in Rock Island Co., Ill. (EF). Broods of 10 and 11 Green-winged Teal were found at Goose L. Prairie, Ill. (DBi); singles were noted in Mason Co., Ill June 30 (H) and on a n.w. Missouri Breeding Bird Survey June 15 (SP). Blue-winged Teal were common nesters throughout most of the Region, especially in flooded areas near the major rivers. Three ♀♀ N. Shovelers with broods averaging eight young were observed near Cuba, Fulton Co., Ill. June 30 (H). Most observers reporting Wood Ducks suggested that

nesting success was excellent this year, in Ottawa Co., Ohio, 42 per cent of the nest boxes checked were used by these ducks (LV). A pair of Redheads were found at the Maryville, Mo. sewage lagoons June 17—one female was still there July 4 (R); other singles were noted near Grand Tower, Jackson Co., Ill. June 1 (DH), Goose L. Prairie, Ill. June 13 (DBi), S.C.R., June 17 (R) and Hamilton Co., Ohio, July 15 (JM, KM). Two pairs of Ring-necked Ducks were present near Grand Tower, Ill. June 9 (DH); others occurred in Lake Co., Ill. all summer (B); a female summered near Maryville, Mo. (R). One ♂ Canvasback was found near Grand Tower, Ill. July 3 (DH) and later observed by others. A ♂ Lesser Scaup summered at Maryville, Mo. (R) and two females were found at Mark Twain N.W.R., Calhoun Co., Ill. (below, M.T.R.) July 18 (V). A ♀ Com. Goldeneye was present in the Cache R., Alexander Co., Ill. June 22 (K, DK). Two broods of Ruddy Ducks were found near Grand Tower, Ill. and a single female was noted there until July 18 (DH); at least ten males and five females summered in Lake Co., Ill. (B); a pair with seven young was the first area breeding record for this species in Hamilton Co., Ohio July 8 (JA, JM, KM); up to six were found in n.w. Missouri June 17-July 4 (R). Female Hooded Mergansers were noted at Iowa City, Ia., June 7-8 (NH) and Heron Pond, Johnson Co., Ill., June 10 (H), an immature was seen near Grand Tower, Ill. June 20 (K, DH).

HAWKS—A high total of 66 Turkey Vultures was considered unusual for n.w. Missouri at Honey Creek Wildlife Area (St. Joseph) June 20 (L). Numbers of Mississippi Kites were reported down along the Mississippi R. this summer (MSo); however, 30 were tallied at one time June 17 in extreme s. Kentucky at the n. end of Reelfoot N.W.R. (MB); another individual was seen well at Indian Dunes, Ind. June 3 (JS, m.ob.). Single Swainson's Hawks were reported from w. Missouri at Schell-Osage July 26-27 and Vernon Co. July 27 & 31 (JRa), and at La Benite Park July 4 & 13 (*vide* KH); a pair was observed near Springfield, Mo. (no date—*vide* NF); in n. Illinois, six young fledged from the nests reported in the spring report (JKr, *vide* B). Seven pairs of Bald Eagles had nests with eggs in n.w. Ohio; however, unlike the past two seasons, at least two young fledged from one nest (LV). Marsh Hawks were reported farther south than usual; one nest was found at Goose L. Prairie, Ill (DBi); two females were observed in Mason and Fulton counties, Ill. June 30 (H); a pair at Willow Slough, Ind. throughout the period suggested nesting; another individual was at Schell-Osage, Mo. June 6 & July 17 (JRa). Breeding Am. Kestrels were at an "all time low" in the Pleasantville, Ia. area (GB) yet in Ottawa Co., Ohio, of 14 nests located, 11 were successful fledging an average of 3.81 young/successful nest. Records of other hawk sightings have not been included in this report even though observations were made by competent observers; before records of very rare species in our Region can be printed, written documentation is absolutely necessary—irrespective of observer.

GALLINACEOUS SPECIES, RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS—Observers commenting on Bobwhites reported that these birds were scarce and declining. At M.T.R., Sally Vasse stated that the Bobwhite was “totally absent from bottomland habitats. This is the *only species* for which I can see clear evidence of adverse effect of the recent floods.” A count of 52 Greater Prairie Chickens was tallied in four areas of n.w. Missouri July 9 (SP). On July 14, 15 Gray Partridge were seen at Huntley, McHenry Co., Ill.—this is the closest known record to Chicago. Four Virginia Rails were found at Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson Co., Ill. July 9 (DH). A Sora nest with four eggs was found in Mason Co., Ill. July 21 (H); two imm. birds were observed at Jacksonville, Ill. July 14 (H) and an adult was seen at S.C.R. the same day (R). A Purple Gallinule’s nest with eight eggs was discovered at L. Mermet, Ill. July 19 (MH, MS)—this constitutes the first nest record for Illinois; single adults were also found at Purdue-Baker Wildl. Area, Ind. June 16 (EH, RM) and Willow Slough, Ind. June 23 (EH). Common Gallinules were rather common this year, but the pair with four young in St. Joseph Co., Ind. was considered unusual for that area (DBu). The flooded bottomlands attracted nesting Am. Coots much farther south than usual. Only a few of the 50+ nests reported from Jackson Co., Ill. in the spring report were successful because farmers drained the fields before the young birds had a chance to leave. Nine broods were counted in Hamilton Co., Ohio, during the summer (JM, KM) and young were present at S.C.R. through July.

SHOREBIRDS—Piping Plovers nested in Illinois again—the first nest since 1955. Three young were found at Waukegan July 8 (C, m.ob.); at least one was still there at the end of the period (B); singles were found at Red Rock Ref., Ia. (no date—GB) and Coles Co., Ill. July 31 (LH). An Am. Golden Plover in breeding plumage was present at Meredosia, Ill. July 8 (H) while others “apparently summered” at Red Rock Ref., Ia. (GB). Nine Ruddy Turnstones in breeding plumage had returned to Coles Co., Ill. by July 8 (LH). At least 3 Com. Snipe were seen and heard “winnowing” at one time at Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson Co., Ill. June 6-9 (DH, K)—this is the first summer record of this species in s. Illinois. The June 23 record of a Whimbrel at Cleveland was quite unusual (M); another individual was present at Waukegan from July 24-29 (m.ob.). The status of the Upland Sandpiper continues to look bad; no observers reported definite increase for this species although it was suggested in n.w. Missouri. A pair of Solitary Sandpipers at the Kankakee Fish and Game Area, Ind. June 16 was quite unusual (C *et al.*); fall migrants had returned to Schell-Osage, Mo. by July 8 (R) and Jefferson Co., Ky. July 14 (S). An early Red Knot was found near Cleveland July 20 (M). Up to six White-rumped Sandpipers were present at S.C.R. as late as June 17 (R). Stilt Sandpipers returned early and in good numbers; up to 11 at Meredosia, Ill. July 14 (H) and four and 11 July 30 & 31 respectively in Coles Co., Ill. (LH). Seven W. Sandpipers were identified at the Falls of the Ohio, Ky. July 12 (S, JC); others were found at



Black Rail, Beverly, Adams Co., Ill. May 28. Photo/Jim Funk.

Cleveland July 20 (M) and Fulton Co., Ill. July 21 (H). The spring record of an Am. Avocet (June 2) at Round L. (w. Lake Co.), Ill. is quite noteworthy (B, C *et al.*). One Sanderling appeared at the Falls of the Ohio, Ky. by July 12 (S, JC). Wilson’s Phalaropes formerly bred in n. Illinois; therefore, the presence of a female June 2 and 9 at a pond in Lake Co. may indicate a possible comeback for this species (B, JR); another individual was present at S.C.R. June 12 (L); the first fall migrants were a single noted at Meredosia, Ill. July 14 (H) and eight at Chicago July 28 (C).

GULLS, TERNS—A modest influx of the usual gull species was reported from the Cleveland area until July 20; populations increased rapidly thereafter (M). One Laughing Gull was identified at White City (Cleveland) July 26 (RH, *vide M*); another immature was well-described at Waukegan, Ill. Aug. 4 (JR, JG). At least four Franklin’s Gulls were still present at Schell-Osage, Mo. June 6 (JRa); single immatures were identified at the Maryville, Mo. sewage lagoons July 28 (R) and Waukegan, Ill. July 29 (H). An imm. Bonaparte’s Gull was present at L. Decatur, Ill. June 29 (H). An imm. Forster’s Tern was identified in Fulton Co., Ill. June 20 (H); fall migrants returned to McClure, Union Co., Ill. (I) by July 20 (DH) and L. Conrady, St. Joseph, Mo. (14) July 21 (L). Least Terns were not known to have nested in their usual areas near St. Louis this year and this insular subspecies may have had a poor breeding season; two individuals were found at L. Mermet, Ill. June 4 (DH), one at W. Lafayette, Ind. June 19 (EH *et al.*), two at Schell-Osage, Mo., June 24 and one there again July 26-27 (JRa). The five Caspian Terns found at L. Decatur, Ill. were quite unusual for June 29 (H).

DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHERS—A White-winged Dove was reported from July 3-9 at Schell-Osage, Mo. (JRa, JB *et al.*); however, it is sus-

pected that the bird may have escaped from a group of caged birds kept in Springfield, Mo. Letter responses from an article printed in the *Illinois Prairie Farmer* produced two Barn Owl nests in Illinois, one each in Hamilton and Hardin counties; only one nest was successful. One dead bird was found in Cook Co., Ill. June 8 (B *et al.*); only one nest was located in Ottawa Co., Ohio, this year—a noticeable drop from past years (LV). A maximum of six Long-eared Owls was present at Orland Park (Chicago) June 24-July 29 (PD). A Short-eared Owl's nest discovered at Goose L. Prairie, Ill. produced two young (DBi). Chuck-will's-widows were heard at S.C.R. several times during the summer—unusual for that area (m ob). Observers suggested poor nesting success for Com. Nighthawks; this may have been owing to flooded rooftops where many nest. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noticeably scarce through the Region this summer. Belted Kingfishers have apparently disappeared as breeding birds around the St. Louis area, according to local experts.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS—A single W. Kingbird appeared just east of Springfield, Ill. June 20 (H); their populations continued to be about normal in w. Missouri, but were restricted to areas near the Missouri R. bottomlands (L). Up to seven Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found at Taberville Prairie, Mo. July 8 (L,R) and seem to be increasing in numbers at other w. Missouri locations (JRa). Negative reports were received for nesting Willow Flycatchers at Magee Marsh, Ohio, and Tiffen, Ohio, where they have nested the past few years; however, at least three nests were found in extreme s. Illinois (Jackson and Williamson counties—DH). A pair of Tree Swallows possibly nested in Jefferson Co., Ky (S,LaS), others summered at L. Mermet, Ill. (normal, K) and in s.w. Indiana (unusual for that area, *vide* NS). In the Cincinnati area, "Purple Martins have taken a nose dive in numbers. Few houses were in use in this area this year. However, about 5000-10,000 martins were seen to gather and roost for the night along the Ohio R., July 27-28; but only a handful were present on the 30th." (W). In Loraine Co., Ohio, numbers of martins were reported as being the lowest in ten years (*vide* D). Blue Jays, on the other hand, had a good year and there was a "population explosion" in w. Missouri (m ob.).

NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS, WRENS, MIMIDS—One Red-breasted Nuthatch was present in Rocky R. Park, Ohio, June 30 (MSt). Brown Creepers continue to be found in new s. Illinois locations, this time at Heron Pond Nature Preserve, Johnson Co. July 18 (MH); in n. Illinois, one was found along the Des Plaines R. near Deerfield June 24 (C). Few observers reported observations of House Wrens, does that mean their populations are normal or that they are disappearing? At Dexter, Mo. none were found this summer. (BG). More Bewick's Wrens were reported than usual; five young, just fledged, were banded in Pope Co., Ill. June 21 (K,DH); three singing males were noted in mid-July near the Owen and

Scott Co. line, Ky (DC) and singles were found at the Mason State Forest, Ill. June 23 & 30 and at Springfield, Ill. July 15 (H).

—S.A.—

Of Mark Twain Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, which was flooded most of the spring and early summer, Vasse writes that "All small bird species which inhabit bottomland timber in this area appear to be present in normal numbers. I have over a period of several years kept records on Carolina Wrens in these bottomland areas, since I expected that this species, which usually works near the ground, might be affected by floods. Contrary to expectation, I can find no evidence of adverse effect on this species as a result of the recent flood. I have found Carolina Wrens in all bottomland habitats which I have visited and in those areas where I have numerical records for comparison, the present population is equal or greater than it was before the flood."

However, in w. Missouri, this species appears to be in "bad shape" (KH). Mockingbirds which normally occur annually in the Chicago area were not found this year in the usual areas (C).

THRUSHES, SHRIKES, VIREOS—Several areas in w. Missouri reported "bumper crops" of Am. Robins. A Swainson's Thrush was still present at Normal, Ill. June 12 (DBi). Veeries were relatively common at Willow Slough, Ind. (EH), in Pigeon R. State Fish and Game Area (LaGrange Co.), Ind. (LC) and s.w. Allen Co., Ind. (LC); one individual was observed at Normal, Ill. June 19 (DBi). Loggerhead Shrikes normally nesting at Magee Marsh, Ohio, were absent this year (LV); however, a pair of fledged two young at Hamersville (Brown Co.), Ohio (MSk). White-eyed Vireos have been increasing in s.w. Ohio, especially Butler Co. (TK); singles were found from July 4-18 in s.w. Allen Co., Ind. and the Pigeon R. Game Area, Ind. (LC); the species was entirely absent from the Rocky R. Park, Ohio (*vide* D). A Solitary Vireo was observed at Magee Marsh, Ohio, July 9 (D).

WARBLERS—A ♀ or imm. Black-and-white Warbler was found in Pope Co., Ill. July 9 (DH). A total of 22 Prothonotary Warblers were reported at the Kankakee Game Preserve, Ind. in the spring report; however Clark writes that there were "34 singing males . . . [there] . . . June 6. I estimate 100 pairs in the total area. This is a fantastic build-up since the war when only 1-2 pairs were found." A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler was found near Deerfield, Ill. June 2 and a male was there June 9—south of the normal range for this species (C,B). It was unusual to find a Blackburnian Warbler in s.w. Allen Co., Ind. July 8 (LC). A ♂ Kentucky Warbler remained at Indiana Dunes, Ind. until at least June 10 (C,B); singles were also located at three different n.e. Indiana locations July 1-8 (LC). Yellow-breasted Chats were reported from LaGrange and Allen counties, Ind. July 4-7

(LC); they were absent from Magee Marsh, Ohio (LV). One ♂ Hooded Warbler was found at Pigeon R. Game Area, Ind. June 10 (LC). One ♀ Canada Warbler was observed at Willow Slough, Ind. June 17 and a singing male was there June 22 (EH).

BLACKBIRDS, FRINGILLIDS—Owing to the wet fields in the late spring and early summer, more Bobolinks than ever before were found in n.w. Missouri (R). A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was found in Willow Slough, Ind. June 3 & 17 (EH); another bird was identified near Ft. Wayne July 16 (TB). Suggested increases for Blue Grosbeaks were reported for most areas on the northern periphery of their range, especially n.w. Missouri (L), St. Louis area (A), n. Kentucky (Hardin, Fayette and Scott counties) (BM,DC,RM), and Mason Co., Ill. (H). A record late date of June 18 for Pine Siskins was established in Missouri at Rolla (JP). A group of 30-40 Red Crossbills were observed in pine areas from June 10-15 in Hosking Co., Ohio (WR); others summered in Illinois Beach State Park, Ill. (Lake Co.—K,C), seven individuals were seen at Tiffen, Ohio June 30 (JK). At least six singing ♂ Savannah Sparrows and one nest were located near Lexington, Ky. (DC,RM); seven other individuals were found near Goshen, Ky. June 16 (S, JC,DM). It has been over 20 years since Henslow's Sparrows were present in the St. Louis area during the summer; three singing males were present at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area, Mo. (A). Only one Clay-colored Sparrow was found in Lake Co., Ill. (m.ob.) this year (early June) compared to several in the same area last year. Observers in n.w. Missouri suggested that the Song Sparrow is expanding its range into their area.

CORRIGIDUM—The Pine Warbler report for Kentucky in the June 1973 *American Birds* should be for McCreary County rather than Lawrence County.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION / Robert S. Kennedy

Predominantly southerly winds during May and June brought flooding throughout the coastal marshes of Louisiana. This greatly impeded marsh-nesting birds, with Mottled Ducks being hardest hit. Rodgers noticed that in early June, in Barataria Bay, nests of many White Ibis and some White-faced Ibis were submerged.



With heavy rains this past spring in the North, the Mississippi River rose 7.7 feet above average high water at Baton Rouge. For the first time since their construction, the Morganza Floodway structures were opened on April 17 to prevent possible flooding of populated and agricultural areas farther south. Within two days, water rose 6 feet or better above the already high levels in the Morganza Floodway and Atchafalaya River Basin. Thus, in a 70-mile long, 15-mile wide inundated bottomland hardwood forest and cypress-tupelo swamp, ground-nesting birds found reproduction impossible. Animals crowded on exposed ridges, as if to Noah's Ark. Dale Gustin, of Morganza, La., who visited the flooded area on June 5 shortly after the water began to recede, stated that even in areas "where the waters were only inches deep, there were no nests" whereas "last year there were lots of nests of doves, Mockingbirds, wrens, Cardinals, Yellow-breasted Chats, Orchard Orioles, etc." Therefore, it seems that

those birds that nest above ground were also affected Long-established heronries within the Atchafalaya basin were either slow at being formed this year or were abandoned.

Spring records from northwest Florida were not received in time for publication in the spring report. Some of them are included in this season's account.

SURVEYS OF THE CHANDELEURS.—This year the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission through the kind cooperation of its Director, J. Burton Angelle, and its Refuge Division Chief, Allen B. Ensminger, made the patrol boat *Widgeon* available to a group of ornithologists (RJR, AWP, RBH, and HDP) for a survey of the seabird colonies on the Chandeleurs and associated islands. The coverage, which extended from June 21 through June 23, was closely comparable to that achieved on a similar trip in 1971 reported in *American Birds* 25: 865-867. This time no air support was available, but miles of surface observation were increased to approximately 30, on foot tramping the beaches, plus many more by outboard motorboat along the shores of the islands.

On the main mass of the Chandeleurs proper, the concentrations of terns were largely confined to recently reemerged expanses of sand and shell at the southern end, areas with next to no vegetation. Fewer birds were present than in 1971 and far fewer nests. The dampness of the terrain and its low profile suggested that storm tides earlier in the season may have cut down drastically on nesting success. Farther to the north, miles upon miles of more elevated, less precariously situated beach were available but were being utilized by almost no terns except Leasts. On the Sound side of this part of the Chandeleurs herbaceous marsh vegetation and even shrubby growth back the gulfward rim of shell. Here evidence in the form of scats and tracks pointed to the presence of several kinds of mammals including raccoons, otter, and nutria. Perhaps these potential predators are the reason why colonial nesters tend to avoid such sections, although Laughing Gulls, which are everywhere, would seem to pose an even greater threat to tern eggs. Perhaps as a defense against nest predation, Royal and Sandwich Terns in the Chandeleur colonies tend to mass in mixed phalanxes so tight that the birds almost touch one another.

Our seabird inventories of the past have sometimes resorted to the assumption that the number of nests is roughly equal to the number of assembled adults divided by two. This year the party flushed a phalanx and found less than one-tenth as many nests as birds. One should bear this difficulty in mind when judging the following comparisons, in which the 1973 result is given first and the 1971 figures second: Am. Oystercatcher, 17 vs. 21; Laughing Gull, 3850 adults vs. 1800 nests; Gull-billed Tern, 27 adults vs. 9 adults and 4 nests; Common Tern, 3 adults and several young probably of this species (second Louisiana breeding record) vs. 1 adult on nest; Sooty Tern, 15 adults and 1 chick vs. 34 adults and 19 nests; Least Tern, 600 adults vs. 220 nests, Royal Tern, 2060 adults vs. 2600 nests; Sandwich Tern, 4040 adults vs. 26,400 nests; Black Skimmer, 650 adults vs. 155 nests. These totals include birds on the nearby North and New Harbor Islands.

The most significant change is the precipitous slump in the numbers of Sandwich Terns, which possibly demotes the Chandeleur complex from first place among Gulf production centers for the species. Runner-up in fading fortunes are the Sooty Terns at their northernmost breeding outpost. But the Chandeleurs and their satellite islands are so remote, so difficult of access, and so seldom closely examined that the 1973 counts of other breeding and presumably breeding birds are worthy of published record. Here are most of them in systematic order: Great Egret, 20, Snowy Egret, 8; Louisiana Heron, 20; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Least Bittern, 1; Clapper Rail, 24 adults, 12 chicks; Wilson's Plover, 130; Willet, 210, Common Nighthawk, 11 adults, 2 downy young; Yellowthroat, 1 singing male; Red-winged Blackbird, 47, Orchard Oriole, 3; Seaside Sparrow, 33. Most surprising in the list are the land birds, for they, like the mammals previously mentioned, are surviving in the absence of fresh water without obvious adaptations for doing so. On August 3-4, a second expedition, this one under auspices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which includes the Chandeleurs in its refuge system, brought 3 observers (JV, RJN, DB) to many of the sites visited on the earlier trip. Their main finding was that no renesting had been attempted. Among the well-advanced young was a short-winged immature Sooty Tern in the flying stage, all-black except for a few light flecks on the back, at first in the distance mistaken for a Fish Crow, a species never recorded from these islands. In the systematic accounts that follow, some additional data from the two Chandeleur Surveys appear with the credits 1st CP and 2nd CP for the two Chandeleur parties.

LOONS GREBES, SHEARWATERS—Summertime Com. Loons, long regulars in n.w. Florida but seldom reported farther east, are showing up in Chandeleur Sound with unexpected frequency; two in winter plumage near North I. June 22 furnished the third June record for the Louisiana and the latest ever in spring (1st CP). A real anomaly was another in winter plumage that suddenly appeared in early August on a small pond on the L.S.U. campus in Baton Rouge and vanished after one week (JAR, RSK, GHL *et al.*). The species had never before been observed in Louisiana in August. While Pied-billed Grebes were having only middling breeding success in Cameron Parish, four young photographed 5 mi. n.e. of New Iberia, La. May 24 documented nesting at this locality (RS). A Horned Grebe was seen at Pensacola Bay, Fla. Aug. 10 (RD). The third and fourth records in Alabama of the Greater Shearwater were reported 5-8 mi. off Dauphin I. July 25, when a flock of eight was photographed (TW), and Aug. 11, when one was seen (FWB).

PELECANIFORMES—Brown Pelicans seem to be increasing in numbers along the Gulf Coast with and without the assistance of man. At Dauphin I., Ala., 400 birds (4 imm.: 1 ad.) were seen June 17, the highest number since 1959 (LRT). On July 30, 256 or more (about 50 per cent imm.) were seen at Dauphin I (DCH). When Newman and Ensminger flew over the Chandeleurs June 8, they saw eight imm. at Grand

Gosier I The two adults and 13 immatures seen on the survey of the Chandeleurs (1st CP) July 21-23, almost doubled the earlier count. The La. Wild Life and Fisheries Comm. introduced another 102 Florida imm. birds at Barataria Bay this summer. The colony already established there bred on Queen Bess I. for the second year, rearing 26 young. An estimated 400 birds are now thought to be present in the Barataria Bay area (TJ). Three individuals seen Aug. 11 (BMB, RB) and nine Aug. 25-26 (E & MB) on E. Timbalier I. indicate that the Barataria Bay Brown Pelicans are beginning to disperse westward. At Ft. Pickens, Fla., two ad. and two imm. Brown Boobies were sighted Apr. 29 (A&TF), and a single immature, flying along the surf at Elmer's I., La. was carefully checked from a helicopter July 18 (RJN, PB). A highest-ever count of Magnificent Frigatebirds for Barataria Bay, La. was 87 sighted June 16, with a ratio of 15 imm.: 5 ad. females: 1 ad. male. Two Double-crested Cormorants at Pensacola Bay, Fla., on June 23, were unusual for summer (T&AF, E&CA, JJ, SN).

HERONS, IBIS—A heronry on Raccoon I. in Louisiana contained the following species and numbers on July 17-19 (JMV): Louisiana Heron, 6000; Snowy Egret, 3000; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2000; Common Egret, 1000; and Reddish Egret, 10. Reddish Egrets are thought to be breeding in Barataria Bay, as ten adults and five juvenile birds were seen in a large heronry there in late June (JAR). The only other known Louisiana breeding location is in the Chandeleur area. Of the 41 Reddish Egrets sighted in the Chandeleur Is. and vicinity, June 21-23, (1st CP), five were white-phase birds. This number equals all previous Louisiana records of the white phase combined. Although the species was once considered almost a resident on Dauphin I., Ala., Reddish Egret sightings have become unusual enough to make two birds seen there Aug. 5 and one Aug. 14 (LRT, LPA) noteworthy. An Am. Bittern near Phenix City, Ala. Aug. 10, provided the earliest fall coastal plain record for the state (MF). Although the point of origin of summering Wood Storks in Louisiana remains a mystery, breeding may have been particularly successful somewhere, as higher-than-normal numbers were reported this year. An estimated 1000 were seen in Cameron Par. July 28-29 (RJN, RPH), and one flock of 450 noted at the Atchafalaya River Basin, St. Landry Par., Aug. 2 (RSK, AWP), further indicates their summer abundance. Glossy Ibis do not seem to be increasing in numbers; one on June 8 near Bay Gardene, Plaquemine Par. (RJN, ABE) was thought representative of at least a pair or two remaining in the heronry. Rodgers states that Glossies are regularly seen in Barataria Bay, but he only found one nest of the species on Queen Bess I. Near Hartburg, Tenn., two imm. White Ibis were seen Aug. 7 (JL).

WATERFOWL—Aside from the poor nesting success of Mottled Ducks, and perhaps the Wood Ducks, owing to summer flooding of Louisiana marshes and the Atchafalaya River Basin, there is little waterfowl news. Pintails are suspected of breeding at La Branche, La., where two pairs were reported to R. J. Stein on June 23.

A Canvasback July 12 (RJN, RSK) at Venice, La. was the first ever recorded in that month in the state. Two Ring-necked Ducks remaining on East L., Birmingham, Ala. until July 4, marked the tenth consecutive year that this species has summered there (RRR *et al.*)

KITES, HAWKS—Although the Swallow-tailed Kite has long been assumed to breed in Louisiana, a nest still remains to be found. The Atchafalaya River Basin yielded several sightings of this species this summer, all of adult birds: two, 8 mi. north of Henderson, June 3 (RSK, JAR); three on Upper Grand R., Iberville Par., near Little Tensas Bayou July 12 (RSK), four in company with 11 Mississippi Kites feeding over the Levee Road 4 mi. north of Bayou Sorrel July 13 (RSK); one on July 17 and two on July 18 (RSK, DT, TH) along Bayou Sorrel and Bayou Pigeon, Iberville Par., respectively. The last Swallow-tail seen this summer was one at L. Fousse Point Cut, St. Martin Par., Aug. 7 (DT). Mississippi Kites were much in evidence this summer in s.c. Louisiana. Along a 5-mi stretch of River Road from Laplace to the Bonnet Carré Spillway, 17 were seen July 8 (RJS). The Atchafalaya River Basin and adjacent areas proved particularly rich in Mississippi Kites, with 40 adults, 6 immatures, and 13 individuals of unknown age sighted along 6 mi. of levee from Bayou Pigeon north to Upper Grand R. July 13 (RSK). In the same area, 75 individuals of unknown age were observed along 18 mi. of La. Route 75, beginning at Bayou Pigeon July 18 (RSK) An 82-mile hawk count along levee roads within the Atchafalaya River Basin on Aug. 4 produced 72 adults, 66 individuals of unknown age, 3 immatures, and 2 juveniles (RSK, RBH). The near-absence of juvenile Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites is noteworthy. Breeding success of these species should be closely watched next summer. A Sharp-shinned Hawk near Cypress, La. June 7 (CEV) was unusual. A ♀ Cooper's Hawk, disturbed from her nest at Ft. Polk on May 23 (CEV), provided one of the few recent breeding records for this species in Louisiana. A nesting pair of Red-tailed Hawks observed at Wilson, La. at close range several times during the period Apr. 17-June 5 (BMB, *et al.*) reared at least one young. A Swainson's Hawk, observed circling and heard calling, at Marianne, Fla., June 10 (M&MG, D&FS) provided a good record for that area. An imm. Bald Eagle was seen at Panama City, Fla. July 28 (D&FS). Ospreys, absent along most of the Gulf Coast, were reported in a few localities. At least five active nests were recorded in Bay Co., Fla. (FJ, SS), while in Mississippi 10-11 active nests were found on Horn and Round Is. (DMB). One Osprey was sighted in St. Bernard Par., 4 mi. s. of the Violet Canal along the Mississippi R. Gulf Outlet June 23 (MM). Another individual was seen carrying a fish over the St. Bernard Post Office by the returning Chandeleur Party June 24. On July 28, two adults and one juvenile Caracara were sighted at Gum Cove, Cameron Par. (RBH, RJN). The birds had been seen several times by residents in preceding weeks (R&BO). The presence of the juveniles apparently indicates breeding at this location, the farthest east for this species, excluding Florida. Two breeding pairs of Am. Kestrels at both Ft. Polk and Derry, La. were located on June 5 and June 12 (CEV) respectively.

FRANCOLINS, LIMPKINS, RAILS—On July 28 Newman and Hamilton reported that more Black Francolins at Gum Cove, Cameron Par. "were heard and seen than earlier in summer, when it seemed that flooding had adversely affected breeding." The Limpkin appears to be firmly entrenched at Econfina Creek, Bay Co., Fla. the westernmost locality in its Gulf Coast range, with five sighted Apr. 14 (VM, SS). A Black Rail heard calling May 13&14 and again June 18 (JVP, DP) at Gulf Shores, Ala. was thought to be breeding locally, although the species is not previously known to have done so in the Central Southern Region.

SHOREBIRDS—A good aerial count of 16 Am. Oystercatchers over the Chandeleurs and Isle au Pitre, La. was made June 8 (ABE, RJN). At Timbalier I., La. 2 oystercatchers June 22 (RG, LG), provided the first record of this species west of the Mississippi R. Delta since the time of Audubon. A single bird at L. Machias, St. Bernard Par., June 23 was also out of the usual range (MM). A Black-bellied Plover in fall plumage July 10 and two Ruddy Turnstones July 31 at Hustburg Unit, Tennessee N. W. R. were considered uncommon (JL). A Com. Snipe at Lakeview Levee Pond, Walls, Miss. Aug. 7 was about one month early (LCC, HD, TC). Solitary Sandpipers are always considered unusual during summer in Louisiana. The following sightings were reported: one on June 28 in a rice field 9 mi. w. of Lafayette (MBE & class); four together July 8, Bonnet Carré Spillway, St. Bernard Par., A Willet at L. Benwood, Crittenden Co., Ark. June 27 was the second seen in that county (RM & class). Summering Red Knots continue to be found in the Chandeleur chain; 261 on June 19-21 (1st CP) were the latest for June in Louisiana and 125 on Breton I. off the Mississippi R. Delta August 4-5 (2nd CP) provided an early Aug. record for Louisiana. The earliest fall Pectoral Sandpipers for the Tenn. Valley of Ala. were three sighted July 22 at Nat's Pond, Muscle Shoals (JVP, WRM). Sanderlings, five on Aug. 7 at Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N. W. R. were considered unusual (JL). Both the number and the date of 20 Marbled Godwits in the Chandeleurs June 19-21, (1st CP) made this observation one of the most interesting summer records in the "Region. Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from several localities: one May 5 at Destin, Fla. tenth record for that area in the last 4 years (CLK, MLM, SS); a female on June 17&24 at Alabama Pt., a summer first for Alabama (KB, M Beck, MLM, SG); one on July 31, in fall plumage, Hustburg Unit Tennessee N. W. R. (JL).

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—A Great Black-backed Gull at Panama City, Fla. Mar. 29 provided the first record of this species in n.w. Florida (SS). Ring-billed Gulls, long known to nest in the Great Lakes area, have never before been found breeding along the Gulf. However, this year an adult, feeding a young July 12 at Alabama Pt. at the mouth of Perdido Bay, Ala. almost certainly points to breeding at that locality. A possible explanation for this unusual event was provided by Elin Kincaid who suggested that the adult was a female unable to fly that mated before its male mi-

grated (LM, EK). On July 17-19, Valentine visited Raccoon I. and tallied adults and young of the following species: Laughing Gull, 25,000; Royal Tern, 10,000; Sandwich Tern, 5,000; and Black Skimmer, 1,000. These figures were considerably higher than those from an earlier survey of Raccoon I. in the summer of 1971. Although the Least Tern is regular in Tennessee, the first accessible nests were found this year on a sandbar 8 mi. s.w. of Tiptonville. One nest contained two eggs, while five other nests were either disturbed or wind-covered (BBC). Three Black Terns at Hustburg Unit, Tennessee N. W. R. July 3 were considered rare for the date. (JL).

DOVES, CUCKOOS, ANIS—A Ringed Turtle Dove in the Magnolia Beach area of Panama City, Fla., Aug. 1 was the first seen in that area since the 1971 CBC (SS). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were particularly numerous this summer at Natchitoches, La. (CEV). Sightings of nine individuals on June 9 and two on June 23 in St. Bernard Par. indicated that this species is fairly widespread in the marshes of s.e. Louisiana where some shrubbery grows along banks of canals and bayous (MM). The second spring Groove-billed Ani for Panama City, Fla. was one seen during the last part of March (GT).

SWALLOWS—A Tree Swallow nest cavity containing young at Reelfoot L. June 16 supplied the second breeding record for Tennessee (MLB). The second earliest Tree Swallow for Alabama was one at Muscle Shoals July 22 (JVP, WRM). Bank Swallows were also among the highlights this summer, with the fourth Tennessee nesting colony of 40 individuals found on May 20 southwest of Tiptonville (MLB, BBC, LCC). A count of 62 or more nesting holes remained from the previous season. Two Bank Swallows June 9 in St. Bernard Par. provided the first June record for Louisiana (MM) and three Bank Swallows at Panama City July 20 were the earliest for fall in n.w. Florida by 9 days (SS). Barn Swallows are increasing in Louisiana, as evidenced by numerous individuals seen in St. Bernard Par. (MM), where they are apparently breeding under the eaves of cabins in the marshes. In the Natchitoches area, they were also common, and 8-10 nests were found under the new Natchitoches Hwy. 1 Bypass (CEV). One of the 71 Barn Swallows netted at Tharptown, Ala. May 21, wore a band which was placed on the individual June 22, 1970, at Leeds, Ala., over 100 mi. northwest of its recovery site (JVP). At Shelby Forest State Park, Tenn., a Cliff Swallow and nest were found on May 18 by McGowan and class. The nearest known Cliff Swallow nesting sites are 99 mi. east and 90 mi. northwest, though the latter is no longer in use. The present record is the first for the lower Mississippi R. area.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH VIREOS—A Red-breasted Nuthatch remaining at Panama City, Fla. until May 1, was the latest ever by 8 days for that area (SS). A House Wren made the news this summer by building a nest single-handedly in a nestbox formerly used by chickadees at Mountain Brook, Birmingham, thus establishing the second recorded breeding attempt of this species in Ala. (ELG, KWG). Until recently,

Black-whiskered Vireos were considered accidental in n.w. Florida; however, one immature seen May 6 and another June 21-22 at Gulf Breeze, were the eighth and ninth records for n.w. Florida (R&LD). Although two trips were made to the Delta N. W. R., one May 26 and one Aug. 2, Newman and party were again unable to repeat the 1971 summer records of the species there.

WARBLERS—The following warbler records are of interest: Blue-winged Warbler - singles 13 mi. and 15 mi. west of Corinth, Miss. June 8, the second and third in June for n. Miss. (BBC, LCC); Nashville Warbler - one, St. Andrews S.P. Panama City, Fla., May 8, only spring record for Florida; one ♂ Yellow Warbler June 9 & 17, at Huntsville, second summer record for Alabama (BGM, PS, MLB); one Black-throated Blue Warbler May 5 equaling the previous date at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (R&LD); one singing ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler June 10, at Bankhead Forest, Lawrence Co., Ala., the same spot where one was seen last year (MLB, BGM); five singing Prairie Warblers, the only ones found in Derry, La. on the Breeding Bird Census June 5 (CEV); Louisiana Waterthrush—one June 15 on the Econfina R., Fla., where considered rare (SS, HMS, MAO); Canada Warbler—one at Gulf Breeze, Fla. Aug. 4 was earliest for that area by 2 days (R & LD); American Redstart—one in n. Escambia Co., Fla. June 2, was the seventh summer record for that area (R&LD, SG, SS).

BLACKBIRDS, FRINGILLIDS—A Rusty Blackbird at Pensacola, Fla. Apr. 21 was 2 days later than ever before (R&LD).

—S.A.—

According to H. Douglas Pratt: "The 1973 breeding season saw a dramatic increase in the number of Great-tailed Grackles nesting in the coastal ridges of Cameron Parish, La. This species is rapidly expanding its range in the state. Specific sites of new colonies in 1973 are Cameron, Johnson's Bayou, and Oak Grove. There is no apparent reduction in the Boat-tailed population as the Great-tails move in, since their ecological requirements are different. Great-tailed Grackles are also moving into the rice country southwest of Lafayette. A bird heard at Rayne in May (PB) was the first for Acadia Parish. Several hybrid Boat-tailed X Great-tailed Grackles were collected in May and June in Cameron Parish. A discussion of these hybrids will be published elsewhere."

An Evening Grosbeak remaining at Marianna, Fla. until Apr. 19 was the last seen in Florida this year (MG), and two Song Sparrows Apr. 21 were the latest ever for Pensacola (A&TF, KB, MN).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/ C. Stuart Houston

This was a disastrous summer for many species. The entire region began with very low water levels, typically about half the area of 1972. Southwestern Saskatchewan, adjacent Montana and most of the



Dakotas remained dry, Swift Current outdoing the "dirty thirties" with the driest July ever recorded. Heavy rains with 70 m.p.h. winds, centered on Regina and Raymore June 2-3 and on Kindersley June 14-15, damaged early broods, while accompanying winds destroyed many nests and the driving rains caused whole rows of nestboxes to fail. Mice and voles were virtually absent throughout the region and nearly all raptors fared badly, with many pairs not nesting, many early nest failures and low brood sizes in those nests that were successful.

GREBES—Western Grebes showed no evidence of production at Devil's L. or Tewaukon Ref., N.D. (DEG, EAA). A Pied-billed Grebe nest in Custer Park, S.D., June 30 was perhaps a first for the Black Hills (RCR) and at Yorkton, Sask., a striking increase since the 1940s included two nests and at least 21 broods (APS), while two nests and five broods were recorded east of Saskatoon (JBG, WCH).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS—Seventy-two White Pelicans fledged at Redberry L., but the six surviving young at Quill L., Sask., were heavily infested with biting lice in their mouths. Some California Gulls nearby were alive but paralysed, possibly from eating maggots in the pelican carcasses (G. Wobeser, D V M.). Two pelican colonies at Medicine L. Ref., Mont., fledged 1250 and 1150 young (DNW), while 1542 fledged at LaCreek Ref., S.D. (CAF). Double-crested Cormorant colonies produced few if any young at Dore L. (AJE, RJL), 19 at Redberry L., over 300 at Last Mountain L., Sask., 525 at four colonies at Medicine L., Mont. (DNW) and 19 from 39 nests at Waubay, S.D. (KFH). There were new cormorant colonies of 100 pairs in tall willows in the Netley-Libau marshes, Man. (WCW), six adults and at least one nest in dead cottonwoods in a Great Blue Heron colony at Horgan dam, e. Custer Co. (EMS), while other cormorants took over a night heron colony in cottonwoods in Deuel Co., S.D. (BKH); LaCreek Ref. produced 444 young cormorants to flight (CAF).

HERONS, BITTERNs—At LaCreek Ref., S.D., 40 Black-crowned Night Heron nests with 120 eggs fledged only 40 young due to raccoon predation (CAF) and there was a drastic decrease at Devil's L., N.D. (DEG, RGR). A new Great Blue Heron colony near Fillmore, Sask., had 36 nests (FB), 155 young fledged at Medicine L., Mont. (DNW) and nesting success was reported from Pennington, Yankton, Bon Homme, Custer, Deuel and Roberts Cos., S.D., the latter two new county records (DA, WH, EMS, BKH). Am. Bitterns showed a decrease at Moose Jaw and Saskatoon; there were no nests at Woodworth, N D., where there were 15 in 1972, and only one nest in 11 study fields in Edmunds Co., S.D., compared to 13 in 1972 (LMK, JTL). Near Prairie City, S.D., all five bittern nests failed, four by the numerous predators (a raccoon nest in each hayfield, a high fox population suggested by 15 dead foxes in 20 miles) and one by a haying machine (AH).

GEESE, DUCKS—There were at least 20 Canada Goose broods near Yorkton, Sask. (APS), 936 flying goslings from 234 nests at Medicine L. Ref. (DNW), 235 from 50 nests at Audubon Ref., N.D. (DCM) and 400 from 103 nests at LaCreek Ref., S.D. (CAF). In s. Saskatchewan, the number of ponds was down 46%, Mallards down 20% and Pintails down about 55% from last year and the total duck brood index was down 51% from the long-term average (U.S.F. & W.S.), while pairs and brood counts were both down 65% at Sullys Hill and 35% at Audubon Ref., N.D. (DEG, DCM). At Valley City, N.D., Type IV wetlands were completely dry and Type V very low (DMB).

In spite of this, Green-winged Teal showed an increase in s. Saskatchewan and s.w. Manitoba (DRMH). A Black Duck female had six ducklings at Calgary May 16 (HV). Wood Ducks were particularly successful at Winnipeg, Oak L. and Souris, Man (DRMH), there were 150 molting males near Anselm, N.D., May 29 (EAA) and 62 of 72 occupied nestboxes in e. North Dakota produced 684 ducklings (HAD). At LaCreek Ref., nesting pairs and young produced to flight, respectively, tallied: Mallard, 890 and 1440, Gadwall, 435 and 708; Pintail, 188 and 306; Green-winged Teal, 34 and 63; Blue-winged Teal, 2538 and 4816; Cinnamon Teal, 6 and 7; Am. Wigeon, 35 and 63; N. Shoveler, 297 and 480 (CAF).

A ♀ Ring-necked Duck with four young was photographed from a canoe at 20 feet at Arctic Red River, N.W.T., a range extension of 500 miles (A. Wormington, C. Holdsworth), while there were three broods at Yorkton (APS) and a female with 13 young at Bowdle, S.D. (JTL). A single ♂ Harlequin Duck was on the river at Saskatoon June 22-26 (E.A. Driver). Nine Hooded Mergansers hatched from a nestbox at Arrowwood Ref., N.D. (HAD). Com. Mergansers were the commonest anatid on the Churchill R. east of Southern Indian L., Man., with 435 in one stretch below the proposed dam site at Missi Falls June 20 (WCW). At LaCreek, pairs and young included: Red-head, 229 and 372; Canvasback, 6 and 5; Lesser Scaup, 0; Ruddy Duck, 44 and 48.

ACCIPITERS, BUTEOS—Successful Cooper's Hawk nests included 3 with 11 young near Edmonton (KT) and 3 with 7 young near Saskatoon and Yellow Creek, Sask. Red-tailed Hawks, after record numbers in 1969, had their poorest year of four poor years since, with only one young banded at Holden, Alta (KT), and only 1 of 16 nests at Yellow Creek, 1 of 17 at Raymore, 5 of 9 at Yorkton and 3 of 4 nests at Saskatoon successful, with few immatures seen flying (WCH, APS, CSH, JBG).

Swainson's Hawks also fared badly with two young banded at Fort Saskatchewan, Alta. (BN), and one raised at Stettler (LML). Only 2 of 6 nests at Wartime, 3 of 13 at Rosetown and 1 of 16 at Raymore-Kutawagan were successful, all six producing only a single young each, while at Davidson-Simpson-Nokomis there were 2 nests with 4 young compared to 16 with 40 young in 1972. The only reasonable Swainson's performance in Saskatchewan was at Kindersley where 15 of 23 nests were successful, with 36 young. There were only two Swainson's nests in the 104 sq. mile raptor study area in McPherson Co (JTL), but three nests at Waubay Ref., S.D., raised 6 young (KFH).

Ferruginous Hawks had their worst year yet at Kindersley, Sask., even though ground squirrels seemed numerous; 9 of 15 nests failed and only 17 young were produced. An unprecedented concentration of 27 ad Ferruginous Hawks in a one-half by two mile area near Calgary June 1, at the height of the breeding season, may have been non-breeding birds or adults whose nests had failed (HV, VL). A successful nest s of Frobisher, Sask. was the furthest southeast for

some years (DGH), a nest at Arrowwood Ref, N D produced five young (GRM) and there were 16 Ferruginous nests on the study area in McPherson Co. (JTL).

EAGLES, HARRIERS—Thirteen of 20 Golden Eagle nests were successful, producing 20 young in Alberta river valleys and 6 of 7 produced 9 young on the Saskatchewan side (HA, RWF, CSH). There were two Golden Eagle nests with four young in Custer Co., S.D. (Barney Nordstrom) and a nest with one young in Slope Co., N.D. (RES). At Besnard L., Sask., a probable saturation population of Bald Eagles enjoyed average success with 17 of 27 pairs successful, fledging 23 young, 18 of which were banded and vinyl wing markers applied (J. Gerrard). Marsh Hawks had poor success across the entire region, with few pairs nesting and most nests failing. In Edmunds Co., S.D., no harrier nests could be found where 9 were present in 1972 (JTL).

OSPREYS, FALCONS, GROUSE—In the Pelican Narrows-Reindeer L. area, Sask., 4 of 5 Osprey nests were successful and fledged 11 young; all five nests were in water, two in dead trees and three on flat, solitary rocks (DGH). Merlins continued their recent resurgence on the Canadian prairies with a nest in Edmonton Apr. 26-June 10 (ARS), a total of 96 were banded in Alberta (HA), two nests near Marengo (RWF), one near Unity (WER) and three at Saskatoon, where four young fledged from a tall spruce on a busy residential street (LWO). Prairie Falcons showed a further slight increase, with use of man-made cavities in river cliffs, with 240 young and 33 adults banded in Alberta (plus returns of 13 adults banded previously) and 20 young banded in 5 Saskatchewan nests (HA, CSH).

S.A.

CRANES—Whooping Cranes had poor nesting success again this year at Wood Buffalo Park, N.W.T. Three pairs failed to nest, one nest had two addled eggs and another was abandoned after the single egg disappeared. From the remaining 11 nests with two eggs and one with one egg, only five young were sighted June 24-26 and only three remained by the end of July (E. Kuyt). No eggs were taken from the nests this year and this may prove to be unfortunate, since this was the alternate year slated for this experimental (and controversial) program. The numbers were admittedly small, but in the four years when eggs were picked up for propagation purposes, the production from the remaining egg per nest actually improved over that expected. This suggests that each pair of Whooping Cranes in the wild does better when it can concentrate on raising one single young per nest.

A pair of Sandhill Cranes reared young at Upham, N D. in June (AKT).

RAILS, COOTS, WADERS—Yellow Rails returned to Beaverhill L., Alta. after a ten-year absence (LLG, REG). Of 356 Am. Coot eggs in 53 nests, 254

hatched at LaCreek Ref (CAF), while four downy young were the second breeding record for the Black Hills (RCR). Coot numbers were down in e. North Dakota, with no production at Woodworth (HAD, LMK). Two pairs of Willets with three young at Hurricane L. June 15 was the first breeding record for Roberts Co., S.D. (BKH). Two pairs of Greater Yellowlegs May 22-June 24 and an agitated Short-billed Dowitcher June 22-24 at a muskeg near Dore L., Sask., were both southerly records but no nests or young were observed (AJE). A Marbled Godwit nest was found June 2 in Codrington Co., S.D. (BKH) Eight Am. Avocets at Spearfish June 17 were unusual (TH), there were three nests in Edmunds Co., June 5 (JTL) and a nest with 3 eggs in Deuel Co., June 30, a first (BKH).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—A Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Whitewater L. in Riding Mountain Park June 9 (R.J. Walker, W.J. Walley) and another at Southern Indian L., Man., June 27 (WCW) The Ring-billed Gull colony at Oak L., Man., was deserted just one week prior to general hatching, when the lake became nearly dry (DRMH). Colonies on Southern Indian L., soon to be flooded by a new dam, contained 353, 159 and 158 Ring-billed Gull nests respectively, one associated with 92 Com. Tern and 154 Caspian Tern nests and another with 32 Herring Gull nests (WCW). There were 47 Forster's Tern nests with 137 eggs, of which 90 hatched at LaCreek Ref. (CAF) At Redberry L., Com. Terns had the poorest success ever, with only six young fledged from one island with over 100 nests, and barely 50 from another colony of similar size. There was also heavy tern mortality at Quill L., Sask. (WER). In contrast, 700 were produced at Medicine L. (DNW) and the 100 pairs at Audubon Ref. had good success (DCM).

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS—At Arrowwood Ref., in spite of nests destroyed by high winds, 40 of 67 Mourning Dove nests fledged 74 young (GRM) Black-billed Cuckoos were common for the third year in w. Canada, as far north as Dore L., Sask. and Duck Mountain, Man., with increases reported at Moose Jaw, Spring Valley, Dilke and Wauchope, Sask. and with "a pair in every thicket" at Vermillion, S D Great Horned Owls had a poor year with the majority of pairs not nesting. Of 8 nests at Edmonton, 2 failed and 6 raised 10 young (KT, BN) and in Saskatchewan, 27 nests produced only 49 young, a ratio of 1.8, the lowest ever for this sample size. Five of seven Great Horned Owl nests were successful at LaCreek Ref and two pairs nested in artificial baskets mounted over marshes in e. North Dakota. Both Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were absent from most localities, with no Short-eared and only six Long-eared Owl nests reported from the entire region.

WOODPECKERS, KINGBIRDS, SWALLOWS—Pileated Woodpeckers were sighted at Portland, N.D., Apr. 10-May 23 and the first nest for the state at Fargo May 15-June 9 had two young (PKL, FJC). Western Kingbirds were down to half their 1972 levels at Riverdale, N.D. (F.A. Splendoria)

and Sioux Falls, (HK), with an even greater drop at Raymore, Sask. (WCH). An unusually large colony of Bank Swallows in an idle gravel pit just west of Turtle Mountain Park, Man. had at least 1000 active holes (HHA). A pair of Rough-winged Swallows at a bank nesting hole at Eagle Creek May 27-June 23 was a first for the Saskatoon area (JBG, SJS). A colony of Cliff Swallows south of Belle Fourche, S.D., was down to six nests from a previous high of over 100 (TH) and other sites have been lost as the highway department took out low bridges, yet a bridge across Fort Randall reservoir had 250 nests (GLS). Purple Martins enjoyed their best year at Thunder L. near Barrhead, Alta., with 31 pairs (Cam Finlay), while 40 nests had eggs May 28 at Sylvan L. (HSA) and eight new houses attracted 25 pairs at Holden, Alta. (KT). In Saskatoon, martins have taken up residence within the city only in the past four years and this year increased to 11 pairs at 3 locations (J.D. Hogg). A ♀ Purple Martin at Churchill, Man., June 15-16 was a first for the area but probably succumbed to morning frosts (HHA).

CROWS, WRENS, MIMIDS—Com. Crows had poor nesting results and flocked early at Calgary, Raymore and Moose Jaw and were scarce at Rapid City and Yankton. At Sioux Falls there was only one pair of House Wrens in a 12-block residential area and only one heard singing on a 50-mile route (HK). A singing ♂ Winter Wren south of Armit June 16 (JAW) and at least six on territory near Dore L. suggest they are commoner in Saskatchewan than was once believed (AJE). At Douglas, Man., 35 singing ♂♂ Short-billed Marsh Wrens in about half a mile suggested a total of hundreds in this one marsh (HHA). The first Mockingbird nest for Winnipeg had four eggs June 19 and young fledged Aug. 8 (N.B. McLean). Single Mockingbirds were seen at Regina May 25 (Dwayne Harty) east of Lenore, Sask., July 8 (WCH), Moose Jaw June 10 (F. W. Lahrman).

BLUEBIRDS—The Mountain Bluebird numbers on the Canadian prairies now exceed those of any time in history, thanks to 'management' by a heterogeneous collection of amateurs of all ages in at least thirty localities. There are two or three boxes per mile for several thousand miles, with over 500 miles between the extremities of the connected routes. The Saskatoon juniors' exponential rise in bluebird occupancy of 3, 8, 12 and 25 in the first four years rose again this year to 35 pairs. Unfortunately, owing to heavy rains and some vandalism, bluebird nesting success dropped, with 13 complete failures, a low brood average of only 4.5 and only three pairs that raised two broods (David V. Houston).

At Raymore, after heavy rains, 85 Mountain Bluebird eggs fledged only 32 young (WCH). At Langham, 55 pairs nested in a line of over 200 houses (J. Kargut). The 1600 houses radiating from Indian Head had 700 adults and young banded, even though rains caused desertion of 80 per cent of first nests in some sections. There were also 13 young E. Bluebirds in 3 nests (RLS). Along the 4100 box trail centering on Brandon, there were approximately 900 pairs of

Mountain Bluebirds but only about 100 pairs of Eastern Bluebirds, down from 175 last year (J. Lane). The Mountain Bluebird nest at J. Clark Salyer Ref., N.D. was a first for the area (AKT, R.C. Fields) and most of the 25 boxes at Spearfish, S.D., were occupied by Mountain Bluebirds (TH).

VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS—Solitary Vireo nests were reported east of Flatbush, Alta., June 23 (E.B.C.) and from Emma L., Sask., June 1 (REG). Vireos showed a decrease at Edmonton and were absent at Grenfell, Sask., while Red-eyes were absent and Warblers drastically reduced at Sioux Falls. A Palm Warbler nest near Edmonton June 17 later fledged two (REG). House Sparrows killed at least 16 ad Mountain Bluebirds and 52 ad. Tree Swallows, as many as four in one box, in Lorne Scott's boxes. At Arrowwood Ref., N.D., 13 of 17 Red-winged Blackbird nests were parasitized by cowbirds so that only 11 blackbirds plus three cowbirds resulted from the five successful nests (GRM). Sixteen N. (Baltimore) Oriole nests were located at 18 to 40-ft. in tall poplars at Sylvan L., Alta (HSA). At Arrowwood Ref., 35 of 46 Com. Grackle nests were successful, with 115 young (GRM) and at Valley City, 14 nests with 63 eggs produced 27 young (DMB).

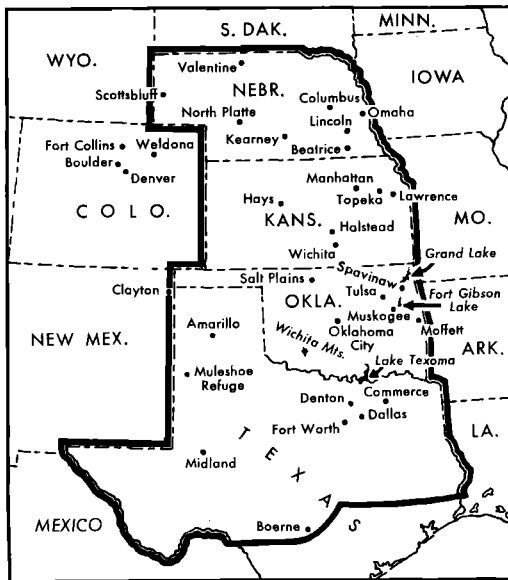
TANAGERS, BUNTINGS, DICKCISSELS—A W. Tanager was feeding young near Edmonton July 28 (Jack Park) and a singing male at Cypress Hills Park, Sask., June 20 was new for the area (G. Bryant). There were more Indigo Buntings than ever before in the Black Hills, outnumbering the Lazulis which were also common this year (B.H.A.S.) and a singing Indigo was reported at Fort Peck, Mont., July 21 (PDS). This was a peak year for Dickcissels with four per mile in alfalfa fields and two per mile on prairie roads near Prairie City (AH), several per mile at Burke (GLS), two per mile at Yankton (WH), 50 daily near Spearfish, S.D. (TH) and a singing male near Hardin, Mont., July 1 (Don McDonald). Male Dickcissels were reported from Saskatoon (two), Carberry (two), Marquette (five), Selkirk (one), Winnipeg (a few), Coulter (one), Lauder (two), Lyleton (five) and Sprague, Man. (three).

OTHER FRINGILLIDS—Pine Siskins were abundant at most localities, with two nests at Moose Jaw, the first Apr. 6 with three eggs, and other nests at Portage la Prairie, Jamestown and Sioux Falls. At least three pairs of Red Crossbills nested at Moose Jaw and a pair fed two young at Jamestown May 9-12 (S.E. Haladay). Rufous-sided Towhees were scarce at Rapid City (two families only) and Spearfish, contrasted with many in 1972, and were absent from most other localities in South Dakota. There were 46 singing Grasshopper Sparrows along Custer State Park Wildlife Drive June 30 (RCR). Baird's Sparrows were the first seen at Sheho, Sask., since 1950 (WN), but were absent at Hope, N.D. (DLK). Adult Baird's banded in 1972 were recaptured and new immatures banded at Cresbard, S.D., further evidence of local breeding (HWW) and there was a singing male near Prairie City, S.D. (J.A. Greenhouse). Two pairs of Lark Sparrows were on territory for the first time at Oak L., Man. (DRMH).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS
/Frances C. Williams

Reports from eastern Colorado are included in Hugh Kingery's Great Basin-Central Rocky Mountain Region in this issue. Two previously unreported areas of the Southern Great Plains are included here: the Nebraska panhandle submitted by Richard C. Rosche and northeastern Texas submitted by Suzanne Winckler. Miss Winckler's notes on a canoe trip down the pristine Sulphur River in Cass and Bowie Counties provided much evidence on the value of wild rivers to birds.



Excessive rains of early spring were detrimental to early nesters, but left excellent water conditions and vegetation growth which led to one of the best nesting seasons of recent years.

LOONS, GREBES—A Com. Loon was sighted in Douglas Co., Neb. on the unusual date July 15. In Sheridan Co., Neb., 24 Eared Grebe nests were located July 26. In late July, 15 ad. W. Grebes and 20 young were noted in Grant Co., Neb. Pied-billed Grebes are uncommon breeders in the Region, but this summer they nested successfully in Ellis Co., Kans., Bowie Co., Tex. and Oklahoma City. Five nests were found at the latter location (WL *et al*)

PELICANS, CORMORANTS—A White Pelican remained at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., June 8-12. In Grant Co., Neb., ten were sighted July 11 and in Cherry Co., Neb., three were seen the same date. **Double-crested Cormorants** had not bred in Oklahoma since 1950, but this summer a colony containing 186 nests was located at Sequoyah N W R. Indications were that the colony had actually become established in 1972. A storm destroyed many of the nests in early June but about 250 young were produced (PWN). Single Double-crested Cormorants were recorded in Dawes Co., Neb. several times in June.

HERONS—A heronry containing 190 Great Blue Heron nests was established on the Clay-Archer Co line in n. Texas. In the Cleveland Co., Okla heronry there were about 90 Little Blue Heron nests. A new heronry near Ft. Worth also contained Little Blue Herons, but it was on private industrial property where no access for counting birds was possible. A roost in Washington Co., Okla., contained 499 Little Blue Herons July 18 but a week later most of them had departed. This species wandered as far north as Sarpy Co., Neb., July 27. Other wanderers were noted in Randall Co., Tex., June 6. A heronry in Moore Co., Tex. contained at least 100 nests of Black-crowned Night Herons. This species was also recorded in a heronry at Dallas and in the Nebraska sandhills. An imm. Black-crowned Night Heron was found in Bowie Co., June 16. An imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Morton Co., Kans., July 13 was one of the few records for s w Kansas. Least Bitterns nested at Oklahoma City for the first time in several years, but a nest of a Least Bittern at Lincoln was destroyed by an unknown predator. The only Am. Bitterns reported were in Sheridan Co., June 12.

STORKS—From July 28 to Aug. 5, birders in n e Oklahoma were excited by the incredible appearance of a **Jabiru** (*Jabiru mycteria*), (S&JMc, m.ob.) The stork was observed closely and at length, and photographs were taken. It was determined that the bird had not escaped from either the Tulsa or Oklahoma City zoos, and zoo officials had no information that such a stork had escaped elsewhere.

DUCKS—There was an unusually high population of nesting ducks on the Southern Plains this summer, possibly because the heavy early spring rains left favorable nesting conditions. Mallards nested successfully in Cimarron, Texas and Comanche Cos., Okla., in the Nebraska sandhills, Ellis Co., Kans., and Lubbock, Tex. Gadwalls nested in Dawes Co., Neb., and were present all summer in Ellis Co. Pintail broods were sighted at Ellis and Logan Cos., Kans., Cimarron Co. and Amarillo. Blue-winged Teals nested in numbers in Ellis Co., Amarillo, and Comanche, Woodward and Grady Cos., Okla. Some Cinnamon Teals nested in the Texas panhandle. Wood Duck broods were found in Osage Co., Okla., Ellis Co. and Bowie Co.

—————S.A.—————

MISSISSIPPI KITES—The brightest spot in re-viewing nesting birds of the Southern Plains is the rapidly expanding population of Mississippi Kites. This summer more nests were reported than ever before, and the birds summered in many areas where they were previously just transients. Only a few records can be cited here. The last Mississippi Kites reported in Bowie Co. were in 1902. Nine were seen there June 16 and a tenth bird was sighted in neighboring Red River Co. (SW). As recently as 1963, Richard F. Johnston wrote that occurrence of Mississippi Kites in Morton Co., Kans. was unusual. This summer at least 30 individuals were seen and two active nests found (STP).

Peggy Acord sent the following interesting note on the feeding habits of Mississippi Kites: "There are at least 30 pairs of Mississippi Kites in Amarillo. These birds have formed a unique feeding habit. During late summer as many as 30 kites flock to our 31-story bank building to feed on the insects there. They fly toward the building swooping upward only a few feet from the windows, feeding predominately on millers. The men whose offices are on the higher floors say they can hardly work for watching the aerial show. I have even seen the birds rest their feet on the building momentarily while pulling insects from crevices in the stone."

HAWKS—The only Accipiters reported were one Sharp-shinned Hawk in Morton Co., July 13 and one Cooper's Hawk in Sioux Co., Neb., July 14. (All contributors were asked to report on all "Blue List" species in their areas.) A Red-shouldered Hawk was sighted in Sioux Co., June 10. Observers in the e. half of the Region report that population of Red-shouldered Hawks is decreasing. Swainson's Hawks were down in Ellis Co., normal in Morton Co., slightly improved in w. Texas and nowhere common. Two near Cushing, Okla. were the first since 1966. In Gove and Logan Cos., Kans., four Ferruginous Hawk nests were found. Eleven young fledged. Harris' Hawks show no decrease in Midland Co. or neighboring areas of w. Texas. Three Golden Eagle nests in Randall Co., Tex. produced three young. The rancher who owns the land where

the eagles nest was impressed by the return, with a mate, of a female eagle which had been released on the ranch four years ago after being injured and nursed back to health. Only four other Golden Eagles were reported in the Region. Marsh Hawk nests were located in Phillips and Trego Cos., Kans. The latter nest was destroyed when alfalfa was mowed. Marsh Hawks were common only in the Nebraska panhandle. Am. Kestrels continue to hold their own in the Region. West Texas birders have long thought the reason they have so few kestrels is the lack of trees big enough to have nesting holes. But this summer a pair built a nest behind a ledge in a wooden shelter at the Girl Scout camp in Potter Co. Am. Kestrels were present in Lubbock Co. in June but no nests were found. Prairie Falcons were reported from only one area.

RAILS—King Rails with seven young were seen near Cushing July 21-24. Both Sora and Virginia Rails summered in Moore Co., Tex. Two Soras in juvenal plumage were found in Ellis Co., July 9. A Purple Gallinule at Oklahoma City June 6 was a first record there (JN). This species was also sighted in Bowie Co., June 16. Three Com. Gallinule nests were found at Oklahoma City.



Jabiru, Tulsa, Okla, August 4, 1973. Photo/Bob Farris.

SHOREBIRDS—On July 15 there were 12 Piping Plovers at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex. At Buffalo Lake N.W.R. 16 Snowy Plovers were present June 12. A single bird was seen in Tarrant Co., June 13. This species has not nested at Midland for several years and is scarce even in migration. A Ruddy Turnstone was sighted at Hagerman N.W.R., July 15. An Am. Woodcock was noted in Sarpy Co., Neb., June 8. Long-billed Curlews in Ward Co., Tex., June 23 were unusual at that date. Downy young of this species were observed in Dawes, Box Butte and Sioux Cos. Upland Sandpipers were present in Canadian Co., June 23 and Osage Co., Okla., June 2-July 14. This species was common in grassland habitats of the Nebraska panhandle. Spotted Sandpipers summered in Dawes and Ellis Cos. Willets with downy young were found in Sheridan Co., June 12. Stilt Sandpipers were sighted in Ellis Co., where there are few records, July 28. White-rumped Sandpipers are the last spring migrants to cross the

plains, but one in Brazos Co., Tex., June 29 was extraordinarily late (KAA). A Sanderling at Hagerman N.W.R., July 16 was noteworthy.

AVOCETS, PHALAROPES—A concentration of 200 Am. Avocets at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., June 8-12 was unusual at that date. This species nested at the sewer ponds at Boise City, Okla. and in the Nebraska sandhills. The second "fall" record of avocets in Ellis Co. occurred July 7-14, with a peak of 31 on the last date. In the Sheridan Co. sandhills, 800 Am. Avocets were counted July 26. At Buffalo Lake N.W.R. 50 ♂♂ Wilson's Phalaropes lingered as late as June 12. One in Ellis Co., July 8 was the earliest and only the third "fall" record. Southbound N. Phalaropes arrived in Sheridan Co., July 11; by the 26th a total of 17 were present.

GULLS THROUGH CUCKOOS—An ad. California Gull was sighted in Garden Co., Neb., July 18 (RCR). All field marks were carefully noted. Six pairs of Least Terns attempted to nest at Hagerman N.W.R. but were unsuccessful because they placed their nests on a graveled road. A flock of 50 Forster's Terns appeared at Hagerman in mid-July. Inca Doves are increasing in numbers in Lubbock and Midland. Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued to increase throughout the Region. Black-billed Cuckoos were sighted in Osage Co., June 10, Washington Co., Okla., June 22, Lincoln, June 17, July 22, Dawes Co., June 7, Sioux Co., June 24.

OWLS THROUGH SWIFTS—A Barn Owl with five young was noted in Greer Co., Okla., July 21. At Dallas Barn Owl nests in hunting blinds were inundated by high water and 15 eggs were lost. Observers in w. Texas see Barn Owls throughout the summer but no nests have yet been located. (Barns and churches with steeples are scarce in this part of the Region.) Burrowing Owls continued to increase in w. Texas. A Short-eared Owl was sighted in Sioux Co., June 19. A Whip-poor-will was heard in Ottawa Co., Okla., June 6. A Lesser Nighthawk was sighted in Ward Co., Tex., June 29. The northern limits of this species in w. Texas are still poorly defined. Chimney Swifts summered in Crawford, Neb (RCR).

HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHERS—Oklahoma observers reported fewer Ruby-throated Hummingbirds this summer, but the species was abundant at Tyler, Tex. Both Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds summered in Wichita Co., Tex., although the only nest found was of a Black-chinned. The latter species continues to summer at Oklahoma City. A rancher in Kenton Co., Okla. stated that Black-chinned Hummingbirds had been at his feeders all summer. At Amarillo a hummingbird nest with two young was discovered in a light fixture in a garage, July 13. Tentatively identified as Black-chinned, this was only the second hummingbird nest ever found in Amarillo. It is impossible to estimate the number of hummingbirds in

a locality until feeders are erected. At Midland, where such feeders have become popular, the number of hummers reported each summer has increased a hundredfold. Although Black-chinned Hummingbirds are the only species expected to nest in w. Texas, observers at Lubbock reported both Ruby-throated and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds present all summer. Belted Kingfishers are rare summer residents in the western parts of the Region. Reports were received from Brazos Co., Lubbock and the Nebraska panhandle.

WOODPECKERS—Several contributors reported the decrease of nesting woodpeckers because of usurpation of nest holes by Starlings. Species affected included Com. Flicker at Norman, Red-bellied Woodpecker at Tyler and Ellis Co., Red-headed Woodpecker at Tyler and Ft. Worth. In Johnson Co., Kans., Mary Louise Myers reported good populations of five species of woodpeckers. Golden-fronted Woodpeckers nested in Lubbock Co. and were noted in Wichita Co. Red-headed Woodpeckers are becoming more numerous and widespread in the w. part of the Region where as yet there are few Starlings. They nested in Roosevelt Co., New Mex., Cimarron Co. and Lubbock.

FLYCATCHERS—In many localities in the Region both E. and W. Kingbirds nest. In the Nebraska panhandle, Richard Rosche points out that E. Kingbirds nest in moist habitats, while W. Kingbirds nest in dry habitats, including the downtown sections of towns and villages. Western Kingbirds are increasing throughout the Region and were even recorded in Center Plaza in downtown Tulsa. Cassin's Kingbirds were noted in Sioux Co., July 14-15.

S.A.

Near Roby, Tex., an albino Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, completely white with a pink eye, managed to survive at least two years. First seen in the summer of 1971, it migrated and returned in 1972 and 1973. A female, it mated this summer with a normal male, built a nest and hatched four nestlings. Then the albino disappeared but the male successfully raised the juvenals (KRA).

Eastern Phoebes were noted in Dawes Co., June 8, 23 and nested in Randall Co. The nest of an Acadian Flycatcher was found in Osage Hills S.P., Okla., June 17. This species was also recorded in Tulsa June 9 and Sarpay Co., July 2-10. A Willow Flycatcher was observed in Dawes Co., June 20 and a Least Flycatcher was at the same locality July 5, 10. Vermilion Flycatchers were found at Dallas June 30, July 5 (HN, PJ). Previous records for this species at Dallas were nearly all March or October.

SWALLOWS—Rough-winged Swallows nested in the retaining wall of the parking lot at Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa. Four nests of this species were found at Lincoln.

The square culverts now used in highway construction, as well as the interstate highway overpasses, have been responsible for the spread of nesting Barn Swallows throughout Texas. In w. Texas, Cliff Swallows also inhabit these sites. This year Cave Swallows were discovered nesting in culverts w. of Ft. Stockton, Pecos Co., Texas. Over 60 nests were present in one culvert, six in another. Six Cave Swallows were banded and one was taken as a specimen (KAA *et al*) Cliff and Barn Swallows were nesting in the same culverts. Such nesting sites are not without hazards, for heavy spring rains destroyed many Barn Swallow nests.

Purple Martins had a good year throughout the Region. A new colony begun at Big Spring, Tex. last year had three pairs this year. At Scott City, Kans., four martin colonies were active in one block.

JAYS THROUGH TITMICE—Blue Jays decreased in Ellis Co. and Lincoln, but increased at Lubbock, Scrub Jays summered in Palo Duro Canyon, Tex. Clark's Nutcrackers were present in Sioux Co., June 25. Possibly these were lingerers from last winter's invasion. Fish Crows were located June 14 at Caddo S.P., Tex., June 15 on the dam that forms Texarkana L., and June 16 on the floodplain of the Red R. (CDF, SW). Carolina Chickadees at Tyler lost numerous young during a long rainy spell. A Black-crested Titmouse in Lubbock July 21 was a first record there (KRy). One was also seen at Wichita Falls, which is in the overlap zone of Black-crested and Tufted Titmice.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH MIMICS—At Tyler, White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches had poor nesting success because of excessive rainfall. Bewick's Wrens show no reduction in numbers in this Region. Carolina Wrens were recorded in Osborne Co., Kans., June 2 and in Lubbock throughout June. This species has a propensity for wandering. A Cañon Wren nest containing four young was found May 28 in a canyon which straddles the Caddo-Canadian Co. line, Okla. (DN). Gray Catbirds were unusually common at Dallas. One in Lubbock July 19 was far west of its normal range (DSt). A singing Brown Thrasher was reported at Lubbock in mid-July. A Curve-billed Thrasher nest in a cholla cactus in Randall Co., June 25 was a first County record (RCu).

THRUSHES THROUGH STARLINGS—American Robins nested at Lubbock and Big Spring for the first time in several years; mud for nests is not easy to find in arid w. Texas. The Wood Thrushes which nested at College Station, Tex. in May remained into July. Wood Thrushes were unusually common in Johnson Co., Kans. and were also recorded in Washington and Payne Co., Okla. Of ten E. Bluebird nests reported by various observers, five were unsuccessful because of predators.

In addition, spring rains at Tyler killed some young in nesting boxes. During the Sulphur R. canoe trip June 15, 90 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were counted Cedar Waxwings were observed July 3 in Johnson Co., Kans. and June 11, 16, July 5 at Crawford Mrs. Randolph's comment regarding Loggerhead Shrikes at Ft. Worth applies to the whole Region "No shortage here!" Starlings nested for the first time in Lubbock Co. and continued to increase at Ft. Worth.

VIREOS—The Black-capped Vireos found in Cleveland Co., Okla. in May were still present June 16, but no nest was found. At Dallas seven singing ♂ Black-capped Vireos were present June 30 and two were singing as late as July 21. Several contributors noted a decrease in numbers of nesting Bell's Vireos but one at Crawford June 25 was on the western edge of the range of the species. A Yellow-throated Vireo summered in Johnson Co. for the first time in several years. Two Solitary Vireos at Dallas June 30 were noteworthy for that date. The canoers on Sulphur R. counted 75 Red-eyed Vireos. A Red-eyed Vireo was observed at Tishomingo N.W.R., Okla., July 7.

WARBLERS—At Tyler warblers had poor nesting success, especially those that nest on the ground. Too much continuous hard rain flooded nests. Black-and-white Warblers were present in Sioux Co., June 10, Dawes Co., June 20 and Ft. Worth July 9. Prothonotary Warblers using nest boxes at L. Oberholser, Canadian Co., Okla. fledged 39 young. It is noteworthy that no Prothonotaries other than those using the boxes nest at this locality. A Prothonotary was observed carrying nesting materials into a hole in a dead tree in Sarpy Co., July 27. This species was recorded at Hagerman July 17 and in Archer Co., Tex., June 8. The Sulphur R. canoers counted 80 Prothonotary Warblers during their 20 mile trip, but only four Swainson's Warblers. A Worm-eating Warbler was feeding a juvenal in Cass Co., Tex., June 14. A Black-throated Green Warbler remained at Ft. Worth until the late date June 10. Fourteen Ovenbirds were observed at five locations in the Nebraska panhandle June 10-25. Louisiana Waterthrushes were feeding young in the nest in Johnson Co., June 23. This species was present in three areas of Payne Co., Okla. in July. A Kentucky Warbler in Sarpy Co. during July was at the northern limits of its range on the plains. A ♂ Hooded Warbler at Dallas July 22 represented the first summer record at that locality. Only one Hooded Warbler was recorded during the Sulphur R. journey, but over 100 Am. Redstarts enlivened the day!

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Bobolinks were reported in Cawes and Sheridan Cos. during June. Eastern Meadowlarks were present during the period in Sheridan Co., Ellis Co. and Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., all locations west of the normal range. Ten nests of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were located at Lincoln (EB). The Bullock's form of Northern

Oriole continued to increase at Ft. Worth. Brewer's Blackbirds nested in Lubbock. About 200 Great-tailed Grackles nested in a heronry in McClain Co., Okla. Three Great-tailed Grackles were present in Red River Co., June 17. Common Grackles again summered in Lubbock but nesting has not yet been proven. A Scarlet Tanager was observed in Wichita Co., July 4 (MBr *et al.*).

FRINGILLIDS—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were abundant in Johnson Co. all summer. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak sang all during June in Washington Co., Okla., but observers could not locate a female or nest. Very few Black-headed Grosbeaks were sighted in Ellis Co. Indigo Buntings were present in Dawes Co. during June. One was sighted in Wichita Co., June 10. Over 100 were counted during the Sulphur R. canoe trip. Painted Buntings have been nesting in Johnson Co. about five years, marking a northward extension of the range of this species. At Bartlesville, Dickcissels arrived late and fields were cut soon after the birds began nesting. Thereafter, in suitable habitat, Dickcissels numbered about one to the mile as opposed to six or eight in previous years. Evening Grosbeaks in Canadian Co., June 10 constituted a late record (JN). The nesting population of Pine Siskins at Hays, Kans. was above average and a nest in Trego Co., Kans. was a first record.

Am. Goldfinches were present during the period in Ellis Co. but there was no evidence of nesting. Red Crossbills were reported eating leaf galls of cottonwood trees at several Kansas localities during June. There were also many records of Red Crossbills in the Nebraska panhandle during June. Brown Towhees summered and possibly nested in Palo Duro Canyon. Lark Buntings were abundant in the Texas panhandle and a nest was found in Moore Co. In Ellis Co., 60 nests were found. Grasshopper Sparrows were found in Tulsa Co. where the species had not been reported in July since 1958. A Cassin's Sparrow nest was found in Moore Co. Male Cassin's Sparrows were singing in sagebrush habitat in Logan and Gove Cos., Kans. during June. Two Field Sparrows were heard July 13 in s.w. Morton Co. (STP). Brewer's Sparrows were common in Sioux Co. throughout the period. Swamp Sparrows were recorded in Sheridan Co., July 11 & 26 and at Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb., July 18. Song Sparrows summered in Lancaster, Sarpy and Douglas Cos., Neb. (BA, MW). This species is normally considered a winter resident only. About 20 McCown's Longspurs were observed in extreme w. Sioux Co., July 15. Singing and displaying Chestnut-collared Longspurs were present in Box Butte Co., Neb., June 12, July 2. This species was also recorded in Sioux Co. during July.

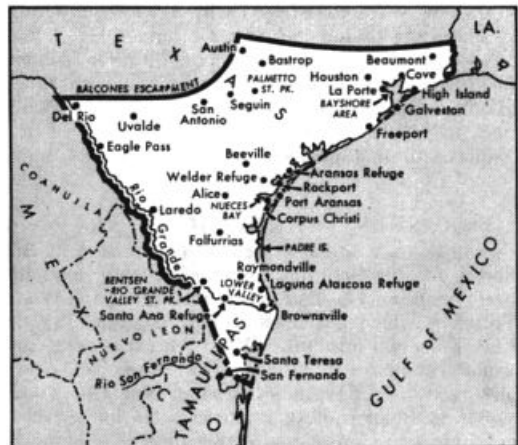
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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/ Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Temperatures averaged below normal during the long nesting season. Rainfall was adequate-to-ample in most areas, stimulating excellent plant growth and maintaining water levels. Much of the coastal plain was



subjected to excessive rainfall at times, and bird species nesting in low places suffered accordingly. Most nesting was thought to be about a month late at Santa Ana N.W.R., possibly owing to the unusually cold winter and cool spring (WAS). On May 18, the Bones had recorded 153 nests on their census run out of Falfurrias, which compared with 265 at the same date last year. The Bones, unofficial nest-finding champions of this Region, had recorded 56 nests completed and 97 under construction when activities were temporarily halted by an accident on May 20.

PELICANS CORMORANTS—Carroll I. (Second Chain of Islands Sanctuary) in lower San Antonio Bay supported 14 ad. Brown Pelicans and six nests with 18 eggs on May 1. Eleven young fledged in June (DB). This species failed to nest in Corpus Christi Bay. Many immature Olivaceous Cormorants were present in the Rockport area in late summer (DNW).

HERONS, IBISES, SPOONBILLS—Great Blue Herons did well along the coast. The heronry in the Rockport Yacht Basin had 17 young in late May (DNW). Sixty or more Green Heron nestlings were counted at Anahuac N.W.R. in late June (ECB). Cattle Egrets continued to increase phenomenally, with up to 90 per cent nesting success (JCS). The White-faced Ibis population continued to decline (KK). Roseate Spoonbills had another good nesting year.

WATERFOWL—Conditions were favorable for a good Black-bellied Tree Duck year and the species apparently nested as far up the coast as Rockport. More than 100 young were fledged at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). Mottled Ducks had a good season. Blue-winged Teal nested at San Antonio for the first time in about 15 years (CRB). Several nests were observed at Anahuac Ref. (ECB). Several observers reported **Masked Ducks** on a resaca in w. Cameron Co. throughout June and July. An ad. male and three females or immatures were observed, but nesting was not verified (WAS).

HAWKS—Four pairs of White-tailed Kites nested on Santa Ana Ref.; results were not known (WAS). A family group with 4 fledglings was seen in the McAllen area (JCA). A pair of White-tailed Hawks apparently continued to occupy the same territory as in previous years in Refugio Co. (LBP). An ad. Gray Hawk was seen at Santa Ana Ref. in mid-July, an early occurrence; two adults have been present since the first of August (WAS). Two Harris' Hawk nests in Jim Hogg Co. were located one-half mile apart. Two surviving young from four eggs in one nest were two weeks old and two young from two eggs in the other nest were 12 days old when last checked (OCB). Marsh Hawks had two nests in a field in s.e. Houston. One nest was destroyed by animals; four young fledged from the other nest and left the field between June 30 and July 7 (MJB). An Osprey was seen along the Rio Grande below Falcon Dam, July 13-15 (DW); this species is not known to breed in South Texas.

GROUSE, QUAILS—Heavy rainfall and flooding in April and May hampered nesting efforts of the Greater Prairie Chicken. The hatch in nine coastal counties averaged less than one young per adult. Quail production was average. Rains took a heavy toll of the early crop, but a good hatch was expected from late nesting. Such was not the case at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. where both early and late nestings were rained out (GAU).

RAILS, GALLINULES, JAÇANAS—At Anahuac Ref. 100+ young King Rails and 25+ Clapper Rails were observed to June 20, while 50+ young Purple Gallinules and 150+ Com. Gallinules were seen during the same period (ECB). At least some of the Jaçanas at Manor L., Brazoria Co., survived the winter, but we have no information on nesting.

SHOREBIRDS—Snowy Plover hatched at Tule L., Corpus Christi, on Apr. 26, and one had two chicks on Aug. 1 (KM). At San Antonio, two pairs of Black-necked Stilts produced three and four chicks (CRB). This species apparently fared well where not flooded out.

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—Least Terns and Black Skimmers were hardest hit of species attempting to nest on spoil islands along the Intracoastal Waterway in Laguna Madre, between Port Mansfield and Port Isabel. These old banks had been topped with fresh mud. Eggs stuck to the clay and attempts of the parent bird to roll them were usually futile, and often resulted in pierced shells. More fortunate birds managed to free one or two eggs of a clutch. Laughing Gulls, which nested in adjacent vegetation, thereby avoided this hazard (JCS). In the Corpus Christi area, Black Skimmers settled on a small island off the John F. Kennedy Causeway, only to be washed out by high tides. By May 6 this colony of about 100 pairs had resettled beside the causeway (KM). At Galveston, skimmer nests on Bolivar flats still held eggs on Aug. 11 (DW).

PIGEONS, DOVES—Red-billed Pigeons failed to nest at Santa Ana Ref.; only three birds were reported during the summer (WAS). Conceding that many observations never reach the editor, it is nonetheless assumed that this species was more difficult to find than usual. However, on June 11, a nesting pair was discovered below Falcon Dam, just downstream from the camping area. The nest, in a tree overhanging the Rio Grande, contained one egg (GRG, DRH & BLT). Wolf reported that in mid-July he saw "at least 12" pigeons along the river, in the dam area, in late afternoon. The White-winged Dove breeding population this spring in the Lower Rio Grande Valley was reported at 526,000, compared with 475,000 in 1972. The production index of 2.49 was extremely good, even when compared to 2.95 in 1972. (PBU). Mourning Dove production was down a little from 1972 but still above the 10-year average. (PBU). Late nesting made up for earlier losses to heavy rains. At Santa Ana Ref., Shifflett reported that Ground Doves "seem to have made a remarkable recovery after being completely wiped out during the winter ice storm."

CUCKOOS, ANIS—Yellow-billed Cuckoos fared well at Beeville, with an abundance of web worms and walnut caterpillars. A pair brought off young on the rather late date of Aug. 12 (AHG). Numbers were reported "very low" in the Rio Grande Delta (JCA). The breeding population of Groove-billed Anis in the R G D. appeared to be down from a year ago but the season was highly successful (JCA). This species became abundant in the Mission area in early May, with "an average of two pairs per mile in all suitable habitat" (GD). Anis were abundant and conspicuous in the Falcon Dam area in mid-July (DW). Far from the Rio Grande, a pair with seven young recently out of the nest was seen near Tilden, McMullen Co., July 22 (JR & MR, *vide* AHG).

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS—Three Great Horned Owl nests in the general area of Falfurrias were failures, one, located in a hay barn, was destroyed during incubation; spoiled eggs and dead young occupied the others (CB & OCB). At least two pairs of Elf Owls were found in Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). From the R G D., Arvin observed that the Com. Nighthawk "apparently has disappeared as a breeding bird from all but the coast in the last few years. It was formerly very common in all sections. Only on S. Padre I. and along the immediate coast can this species now be found."

HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHERS—At Beeville, on the eastern edge of the Black-chinned Hummingbird's range, a pair visited the observer's yard during the summer (AHG). A **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** was seen at Beeville May 23-30 (ELB & RER). This species was more numerous than usual at Santa Ana Ref., as many as six birds being present (WAS). Ringed Kingfishers may have nested in the vicinity of Chapeno, several miles downstream from Falcon Dam; a female was flushed from a hole in a dirt bank on the U.S. side of the river Mar. 25 (DAG, SEL & JL). A pair was seen in this area in mid-July (DW). As many as six Green Kingfishers were seen in a one-half mile stretch of river below Falcon Dam July 13 (DW).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS—The nesting population of Tropical Kingbirds was down from previous years at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). Western Kingbirds nested successfully in Beeville for the third consecutive year. Two young left the nest July 28 (AHG). At Refugio, 30 mi. e. of Beeville, a pair was nest-building the first week in June; 3 fledglings were with adults in mid-July (LBP). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, formerly common at Rockport, were noticeably lacking (DNW). From one to several pairs of Barn Swallows appeared to be on nesting territory at each bridge on a stretch of State Highway 16 between Freer, Duval Co., and Poteet, Atascosa Co., Mar. 10. Nests, possibly from last year, were seen under several bridges (JCA). The presence of Barn Swallows at these locations had not previously been brought to the attention of the writer. The Bones reported 50 young from 18 Purple Martin nests in the Falfurrias area; five of the nests were failures. A pair of Green Jays were feeding a

Bronzed Cowbird in the McAllen area, Hidalgo Co., Aug. 28, a very late date since most nesting occurs in April and May (JCA).

MOCKINGBIRDS THROUGH VIREOS—The Bones' census routes out of Falfurrias produced 16 Mockingbird nests and 28 Curve-billed Thrasher nests. A **Clay-colored Robin** (*Turdus grayi*) was discovered at Santa Ana Ref. July 9 (TF). "We have been seeing or hearing it irregularly ever since" (dated Aug. 24, WAS). A Wood Thrush, in somewhat "squeaky" song, was seen at Bastrop S. P., July 8; it appeared to be slightly immature or moulting (RBH). The species is not known to breed in this area, but the occurrence fits no migration pattern. A **Yellow-green Vireo** was described from the Falcon Dam area on June 11, and one from Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., June 12 (GRG, DRH & BLT).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES—Red-winged Blackbirds were more plentiful than usual at Beeville in response to ideal habitat conditions (AHG). Five pairs of Black-headed Orioles were noted at Santa Ana Ref during the season; 4 nests were found or suspected (WAS). A pair was found at Chapeno on the Rio Grande, July 14, and a pair in n.w. Jim Hogg Co., July 15 (DW). During the summer 2 birds occasionally visited a hummingbird feeder at Helotes, a few miles n w of San Antonio; singing was noted (MM, *vide* SW). The Lichtenstein's Oriole population at Santa Ana Ref remained stable (WAS). One active nest and 2 old nests were found below Falcon Dam in mid-July (DW)

FRINGILLIDS—Two pairs of Varied Buntings nested one-half mile e. of headquarters at Laguna Atascosa Ref. (GAU). Painted Buntings were largely missing from the Rockport area, where formerly common (DNW). Migrating Dickcissels found weed growth suitably advanced at Beeville and remained to nest. They were feeding young mid-June and continued to sing until late July (AHG). A Lesser Goldfinch was being fed at Beeville Aug. 9 (AHG); this locality is, if at all, on the extreme e. edge of the breeding range

—S.A.—

Stephen G. Williams' *Checklist of the Birds of the Upper Texas Coast* (1962) carried the following notation under **Henslow's Sparrow**, rated a rare winter resident: "S(ummer): May 27-June 27, 1952 Deer Park (s.e. of Houston). May have bred. Singing male and female." On April 8, 1973, in s.e. Harris Co., within the Houston city limits, an individual of this species was observed singing from a dry reed perch (MJB). Braun described the area as a "natural prairie—not fenced or grazed in recent years. After rainy spells it is 3- to 6-in deep in water. Ditches have been put in recently to speed drainage." It is an area destined for industrial development. Sparrows were found here in good numbers on Apr. 22 (DHH & MJB), and remained throughout the summer. Singing could be heard at least until Aug. 12 (date of report), at all hours of the day and as late as 9:30 p.m. Braun estimated at least 300 acres over

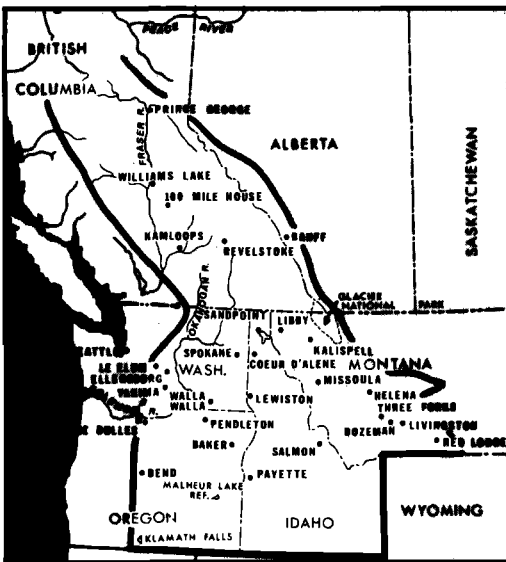
which singing had been noted On Aug 12, from 7-11 a m., a 5-man expedition counted 71 Henslow's Sparrows (including 9 immatures), many singing, in an area of about 180 acres.

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Summer in the Region can be described very simply—it was *extremely* dry and, after June, quite hot, often with drying winds. At Missoula, Mont. for example, 1973 was the driest year on record, with 3.37 inches



of precipitation, compared to the normal 8.12, and this after a dry fall and early winter. Most reporting localities in eastern Washington had no measurable rainfall after June 25 and Wenatchee and Yakima had practically none since February. The southern Okanagan of British Columbia, cool in June, had the sparse snowfall persisting late in the mountains, but July and August become hot and dry like the remainder of the Region. Only Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. reported about normal temperatures and precipitation after a cold, late spring. Many areas reported low water levels,

with ponds and creeks drying up, lakes and marshes receding and vegetative growth poor. Non-irrigated crops were generally poor and extremely dry conditions in the forests resulted in numerous late summer fires.

Such conditions might be expected to have drastic effects upon bird life and in some cases it did, reducing nesting success of waterfowl in some areas and tending to concentrate birds in the vicinity of water in some localities. Duck production at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. was about half of normal, presumably because of cold spring weather. For most species, however, one got the impression that nesting success was good, with many birds about, both adult and young.

LOONS AND GREBES—The Com. Loon was reported only from Jasper Nat'l Park, Alta.; on Dickey L. and two other lakes in the vicinity of Fortine, Mont., and one on the Spokane R. below Seven Mile, west of Spokane July 1. Two Arctic Loons were seen on Botanie L. near Lytton, B.C. June 2-3. Red-necked Grebes were present in record numbers at Kootenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, where an estimated ten pairs hatched about 25 young. About 40 nests of W. Grebes were found on Duck L. near Creston, B.C. July 8

HERONS AND BITTERNs—In the Baker, Ore area Great Blue Herons abandoned their Clover Creek heronry when an eagle moved in, and nested on power poles along the Powder R. in Keating Valley, where four nests produced 12 young. In the same general area the Sumpter Valley heronry, destroyed two years ago, had about nine young. In Montana a new heronry of this species was flourishing just upstream from Ennis L., near Ennis. A Green Heron was seen at Sun Lakes S.P., Grant Co., Wash. June 16 (GH&WH). A nesting concentration of 18 Black-crowned Night Herons was observed south of Quincy, Wash. and many were seen on the breeding bird survey near Moses Lake, Wash. Two immatures were seen at Pumphouse Pond on Yakima Indian Reservation near Yakima, Wash. Their nesting area is close by. About ten pairs of Am. Bittern were present on Kootenai Refuge, Bonners Ferry, Ida

WATERFOWL—Four pairs of Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. produced 17 young, 12 of which were still present in August. Nesting success for species at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. was 66 per cent, bringing off 100+ cygnets, of which 35 survived to the end of the period. Canada Goose broods at Kootenai N.W.R. were smaller than usual, averaging about three per brood. At Turnbull Refuge the figure was higher, for 50 pairs produced an estimated 100 goslings. Seventy nests were located on Cabin I. in the Columbia R. above Priest Rapids Dam.

Duck nesting success at Kootenai Refuge appeared about normal in spite of the drought, as water levels were controlled. Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Com. Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser seemed particularly successful. The latter made much use of nest boxes. At Turnbull Refuge pair counts of ducks were higher than last year for many species. The Mallard count went from 421 pairs in 1972 to 672 this year. Blue-winged Teal nearly

doubled and Cinnamon Teal increased about 50 per cent. However, Ring-necked pairs declined about 50 per cent and Ruddy Ducks were down from 280 to 183. At Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. production estimates for Mallard, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Redhead and Ruddy Ducks together were down to 985 young from 1220 last year, largely because of extremely low water. Nesting activity in n. Idaho outside of Kootenai Refuge was believed to be lower than normal because of water lack.

An apparent hybrid, with head marking of a ♂ Blue-winged Teal and the rufous body color of the Cinnamon, was seen at Davis L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (WH). Wood Ducks occupied 10 of 35 nest boxes put up at Toppenish N.W.R., Toppenish, Wash. a ♂ Harlequin Duck with a brood of five well-grown young was seen on the Shuswap R. at Cherryville in s. British Columbia R. Aug. 12 (SD).

HAWKS—Six active nests of Swainson's Hawk were located in the Heppner, Ore. area, and five of the scarce Ferruginous Hawk, with the latter species producing 19 young. Seven nests of Golden Eagle were found in that area, with one known failure and two producing one young each. Six nests of this species were observed in n.e. Oregon. One failed but the others produced one or two young each. Osprey nests were found at L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash.; at Coeur d' Alene and Pend Oreille Lakes in Idaho; on the middle fork of the John Day R. in n.c. Oregon, and at Townsend, Trident, Ennis and Somers, Mont. A Merlin was seen in Gallatin Co., Mont. July 8.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—Two broods of Blue Grouse were observed at Kootenai Refuge and one was seen in the valley near Fortine, Mont. The only report on Spruce Grouse was from the latter locality, where it was described as scarce. A ♀ Ruffed Grouse with young was seen at Fernan L. near Coeur d' Alene, Ida. July 5. The Green Pheasants at Kootenai Refuge produced a number of broods, but most had only two or three young and did not hatch until late July.

RAILS AND COOT—Sandhill Crane production at Red Rocks Lake N.W.R. was estimated at 24 chicks surviving through July, believed somewhat better than usual. A young Virginia Rail was observed at Willow L. in Spokane Co. July 26 and three young Sora were seen at a marsh about three miles north of Spangle, Wash. July 29 (WH). American Coot numbered 500 pairs at Turnbull in the spring and the species produced a record number of young, about 300, at Kootenai Refuge.

SHOREBIRDS—An estimated 500 Killdeer were at Turnbull Refuge. Young birds perhaps a week old were found at Baker, Ore. May 15. Two tiny young of the Mountain Plover were found 10 mi. s.e. of Boulder, Mont. (ETH & RAH). Three broods of Long-billed Curlew, with 2-5 young, were found in the Baker, Ore. area June 24-July 4 (AW), and an adult was incubating near White Swan, Wash. May 6. Several Whimbrels were identified at irrigation ponds near Touchet, Wash. about July 1 (SI, *vide* NFM). A single Upland Sandpiper was reported, near Newman L., Wash. June 25

(WH & REW). A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at a small pond in the Monashee Mts. 50 mi. s.e. of Vernon, B.C. July 21 and one was at Reardan, Wash. on the same date. A scattering of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs occurred in several places in e. Washington during July. The latter species was seen at Reardan June 20 and in the Bozeman area June 23. A few Least Sandpipers were at Reardan July 1 and July 21. A total of over 200 W. Sandpipers was counted in four localities in c. Washington July 15 (JA & WH). Young Am. Avocets were seen in the Baker area and at Turnbull N.W.R. and very small young of Wilson's Phalarope were found at the former locality July 3.

GULLS, TERNS—A breeding colony of at least 800 Ring-billed Gulls was occupying an island in Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. July 15. Some 500 of the birds at Sprague L. near Sprague, Wash. July 19 were about half grown young birds. About 50 pairs nested on an island in the Columbia R. above Priest Rapids Dam and a nesting colony started at a sewage lagoon near Baker. Unusual numbers were seen along the Kootenai R. in Lincoln Co., Mont. below Libby Dam, where the water has receded and some fish kill has occurred. Franklin's Gull was noted at Thompson Falls in Sanders Co., Mont. (PDS) and five adults were seen at Sprague L. June 2 (JA).

More than 25 nests of Forster's Tern were found on Cabin I. in the Columbia R. and adults and young were seen in the Potholes area near Moses L., Wash. July 15. Four Com. Terns were at Duck L., Creston, B.C. July 8 (JaG). About 30 pairs of Caspian Terns nested at Potholes Res., Moses L. (CR), and 25 pairs on Cabin I.

DOVES, PIGEONS, CUCKOOS—Mourning Dove numbers appeared to be down at Kootenai N.W.R. and perhaps in the Spokane area but were described as plentiful in rural areas around Yakima. A late nest with two eggs was found along the Little Spokane R. n. of Spokane Aug. 5. Single Band-tailed Pigeons again were identified, one about 10 mi. e. of Thompson Falls, Mont. June 15 PDS; a second near St. Mary, Mont. in early July (PLW), and another at Shuswap Falls near Vernon June 30 (JaG). The Black-billed Cuckoo was markedly more numerous in w. Montana. It was found on 7 of 50 stops at the Twin Bridges Breeding Bird Survey; formerly the birds were found only 2 or 3 times in 5 years in the area (PDS).

OWLS—A Barn Owl used a Wood Duck nest box at Toppenish N.W.R. (ERC) and another responded to the playing of its call on Bateman I. near Richland June 28 (REW). A **Flammulated Owl** was heard in the Blue Mts. south of Pomeroy, Wash. June 29 and north of Diamond L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. June 30 (DP). Nests of the Great Horned Owl were found at three localities. Three were found in the Bozeman area, one near Spokane and six in the Heppner, Ore. area. Single Pygmy Owls were seen on three dates in early June at Cougar Gulch and Mica Bay just west of Coeur d' Alene, Ida. at elevations not much over 2000 ft. and on June 30 at a little higher elevation on Browne (Tower) Mt. just s.e. of Spokane. The species was also reported in more likely territory at Calispell Peak, Pend Oreille

Co., Wash. A nest with young of the **Boreal Owl** was reported at Waterton L. in Glacier N.P., the first nesting for Montana (DS, *vide* PLW). The **Burrowing Owl** was found at only two localities, between Quincy and Moses L., Wash., a burrow with one adult and three young June 4, and at Brothers, Ore., a pair with three young. The species was inexplicably absent in the Baker, Ore. and Walla Walla, Wash. areas. A very few Short-eared Owls were noted near Spokane and Moses L., and near Prineville and Baker, Ore.

POOR-WILLS AND NIGHTHAWKS—The Poor-will was reported only near Yakima in Ahtanum and Wenas Creek valleys, and just north and west of Spokane. Common Nighthawk sightings at Kootenai N.W.R. were very few—reason unknown. Numbers in the Fortine, Mont. area continued to be much reduced from former years and the birds were abnormally few in the Spokane area until late July. A brood in the Dishman Hills near Spokane contained two young July 19 and one nearly fledged July 25.

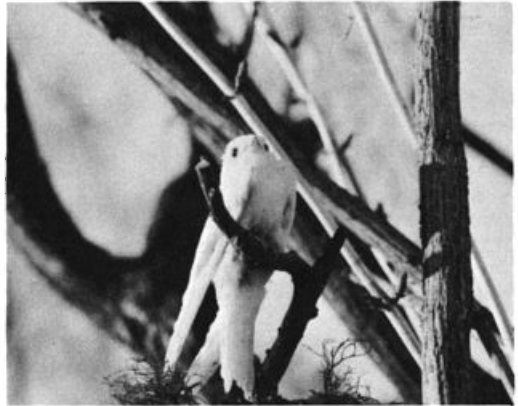
SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS—Two Black Swifts were seen along the Columbia R. in the vicinity of Keller, Wash. June 30 (JA) and several were sighted at Harts Pass, Okanogan Co., Wash. July 2-3 (REW). At Cle Elum L. n.w. of Cle Elum, Wash., 15 were seen June 3 (EHu). About 50 Vaux's Swifts were seen over Bull L., Lincoln Co., Mont. July 15 and in Glacier N.P. 10-20 were seen in the vicinity of Avalanche Creek in June and July. A single bird was seen n. of Cusick, Wash. June 25 and several were seen in the L. Wenatchee area June 15. They were common at the confluence of Nile Creek and Naches R. n.w. of Yakima June 17. Two White-throated Swifts were observed near Ancient L. near Quincy, Wash. June 4. The species was also reported from the Bozeman area.

Black-chinned Hummingbirds were more commonly observed than the Rufous or Calliope at Winton Weydemeyer's ranch near Fortine, Mont. A nest of the Rufous containing young was found there in early July and a nest of the Calliope with two nearly fledged young was found atop a set of chimneys over a door entrance at Liberty L., Wash. July 26. An ad. ♂ Rufous still lingered at Spokane July 9.

WOODPECKERS—A Pileated Woodpecker was seen at its nest hole 2 mi. s.w. of Kalispell, Mont. June 9. Thirty or more Lewis' Woodpeckers, many nesting, were observed at Ft. Simcoe S.P. west of Toppenish, Wash. May 6. A pair of the scarce Williamson's Sapsucker was excavating a cavity at Barnaby L. near Fortine June 12 & 19. The species was also seen June 22 and July 20 in the Bridger Mts. e. of Bozeman and a ♂ was found near Blewett Pass in the Cascade Mts. n. of Ellensburg, Wash. June 30. A ♂ of the scarce Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was noted in a small burn about 4 mi. s.e. of Tumtum, Stevens Co., Wash. June 26 (REW & WH). A very few N. Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in w. Montana, n. Idaho and e. Washington. A nest of this species was found near Calispell Peak, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. June 18. The young birds were still in the nest July 14 (JA).

FLYCATCHERS—A pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers, presumably nesting, was seen along Crab Creek in Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. June 10 & July 1 (REW). The species was also noted on the refuge near Soda L. on July 15 (JA & WH) and one was sighted at the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. July 7 (JAG). A Least Flycatcher was identified in the Kettle R. valley near Westbridge in extreme s. British Columbia July 4 (JG). A small breeding colony of the Gray Flycatcher was found in Klickitat Co., Wash. between Goldendale and Glenwood June 27. At least six birds were present, including an adult feeding two well-fledged young and three singing.

LARKS, SWALLOWS—Horned Lark numbers seemed definitely down in the Pasco-Richland-Kennewick ("Tri-cities"), Wash. area, where the breeding bird survey recorded less than half the number found last year. The situation seemed to hold true for Walla Walla also. Rough-winged Swallows occupied 4 nest boxes put up in the Baker, Ore. area (MB).



Pure albino swallow (?) Salmon, Idaho. Undated. Photo/Mrs. O. Brenneman.

RAVENS, CROWS, JAYS, NUTCRACKERS—The Com. Raven was one of very few species that is becoming more common at Fortine, Mont. The breeding population of Com. Crow in the Okanogan Valley, B.C. continued to increase; crows are nesting in Vernon, where they have become a pest. A flock of about 100 Piñon Jays at Trident, Mont. June 27 included many young birds. Adult Clark's Nutcrackers were carrying worms to a presumed nest near Norris, Mont. Apr. 8. Three immature birds were seen in Richland, Wash. July 30.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, WRENS—Black-capped Chickadees occupied 4 nest boxes at Baker, and a pair of Mountain Chickadees produced seven young in a nest box on upper Wenas Creek n.w. of Yakima. The Boreal Chickadee was seen in Banff N.P. (ToW) and on the trail to Siyeh Pass in Glacier N.P., Mont. (ShS). High numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported near Peola, Wash., where 30 were counted July 23. House Wrens occupied 46 of over 100 nest boxes put up in the vicinity of Baker

(MB) Two ad Bewick's Wrens were feeding three young at Yakima Apr. 30. The Cañon Wren was observed at a new site near Ennis L., Ennis, Mont. as well as at the previously known site June 23 (DRS & PDS).

MIMIC THRUSHES—A Mockingbird showed up on Yakima Indian Reservation June 12 and one was identified near the Flathead-Lincoln Co. line s.e. of Fortine, Mont. June 12 (PDS & WW). A Sage Thrasher appeared at Williams L., Spokane Co., July 19 (WH) and one was seen feeding well-fledged young at Baker July 4.

THRUSHES—At Fortine the Hermit Thrush was described as becoming scarce as most of the mountain basins have been logged. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported for Banff N.P. (TW). At Baker W. Bluebirds used ten nest boxes compared to only one used by Mountain Bluebirds. At Yakima the former species reared about 68 young and the Mountain, 8 young. In the vicinity of Peola, Wash. the latter species was abundant, however. Three sightings of imm. Townsend's Solitaire were obtained in the Spokane vicinity in July and early August.

KINGLETS, VIREOS—A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was nest-building on Fernan L. near Coeur d' Alene June 8; young birds were present July 12. A ♀ Solitary Vireo on the nest was observed at Battle Mt. S.P. south of Pendleton, Ore. June 28. A Red-eyed Vireo nest with three eggs was found July 8 at Fortine and on the same date a pair was feeding nestlings near Spokane. A Warbling Vireo was incubating near Spokane June 13 & 18 and in that immediate vicinity an adult was feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird July 5.

WARBLERS—An ad. Blackpoll Warbler was identified at Missoula the second week of June (PDS & PLW). An Ovenbird was discovered at the south end of Sullivan L. in Pend Oreille Co., Wash. June 16. Its song and that of a N. Waterthrush were taped (RL & LL). A nest of the latter species with 4 young was found at Silver L. near Peachland, B.C. June 25 (JaG). One bird was seen at Cougar Bay near Coeur d' Alene, Ida. June 5 (ShS). Yellow-breasted Chat numbers on the Breeding Bird Survey at Baker went from 5 in 1971 and 1972 to 14 this year.

BLACKBIRDS—A few Bobolinks were found near Cusick and a few miles s. of Oroville in Washington; near Prairie City, Ore. in June; near Deep L. s.e. of Northport, Wash. and n. of Baker in July. More pairs than usual were seen in the Fortine area. Baker's Breeding Bird Survey indicated a continuing increase in W Meadowlarks, with this year's figure over twice that of 1971. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were numerous at Kootenai N.W.R., about doubling last year's numbers. A (Bullock's) N. Oriole was observed at Eureka, Mont.

FINCHES—Nests and young of the Black-headed Grosbeak were reported from the Spokane area. A ♂ Indigo Bunting in full song was found at Pend Oreille S P in s. Pend Oreille Co., Wash. July 7 (DoD) and

subsequently seen and photographed by several parties from Spokane Audubon Society. Lazuli Buntings were nearby. A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was observed during a snowstorm at 6000 ft. in the Blue Mts of s.e. Washington June 16. Purple Finches were found in the Ochoco Mts. near Prineville, Ore. and on the Breeding Bird Survey for Kittitas Co., Wash. A male of this species was seen feeding an immature at the confluence of Nile Creek with the Naches R., n.w. of Yakima. Cassin's Finch numbers appeared definitely down in the Spokane and Fortine areas. A Lesser Goldfinch was seen July 11 in the same area near Prineville, where it has nested in two previous years (GM).

SPARROWS—A Green-tailed Towhee was singing at Wenatchee Guard Station at 6000 ft in Washington's Blue Mts. June 16. The uncommon Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; near Oroville, Sprague and Spokane, Wash. and at Goose L. near Vernon, B.C. Two nearly fully-grown juveniles were seen at Potholes Res., Wash. July 15 (WH). Two Black-throated Sparrows were heard singing in the sagebrush-juniper woodlands 12 mi. n. of Hampton, Deschutes Co., Ore. June 11 (HN). The Breeding Bird Survey in that area found Brewer's Sparrows scarce in the dry sagebrush but concentrated on hill-sides above wet meadowlands. A nest of the Clay-colored Sparrow with four eggs was found near Goose L. near Vernon, B.C. July 7 (KB) and a singing male was observed near Spokane June 23 (JA). White-crowned Sparrows were found at a hitherto unknown nesting area on the top of Lookout Mtn e of Prineville. About ten pairs were believed nesting there (GM). Two unusual lowland observations were made, one of two birds along the Walla Walla R. near Milton-Freewater, Ore. June 15 (NFM) and one bird near Spokane July 1 (Mr. & Mrs. SOS)

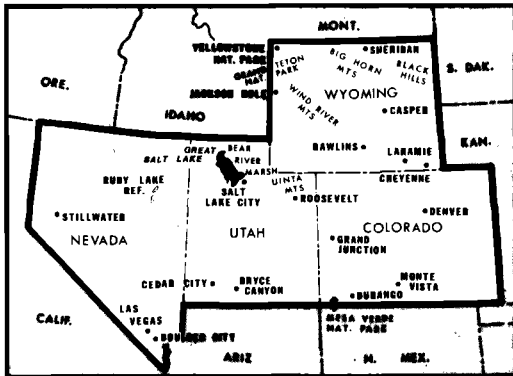
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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

/ Hugh E. Kingery

The effects of man on birdlife become most conspicuous during the nesting season. Man's imprint filters through this report, with commerce, nest robbing, vandalism, poisons, traps, and alterations to small areas which may presage shifts on greater scales.



Park "improvements" destroyed nesting habitat: in Littleton, Colo., where two-thirds of a natural park was bulldozed for tennis courts and a ball field, razing in the process a few nests of birds like House Wrens, Am. Kestrels, and magpies (and Thirteen-striped Ground Squirrels); and in Loveland, Colo., where some sprawling dead cottonwoods were cut down for "esthetic" and public safety reasons, thus relieving Lewis' Woodpeckers of a nest site.

Subdivisions sprawl over prairie and pines, second-home developments transform willow creek bottoms and forests into condominiums and golf courses, and freeways asphalt acres of irreplaceable

habitat. Our census reports don't compare freeways with grassland or creek bottoms. We find it difficult to measure diminished populations of birds caused by these developments—or any increased birdlife in subdivisions after 10-20 years—like the Am. Kestrels which fledged 3 young from a church belfry in Springville, Utah. The spring report mentioned the drying marsh at Stillwater, doomed by demands by Paiute Indians and Lahontan Valley irrigators.

Some changes are positive, with this interesting report from Naturalist Follett at Yellowstone Nat'l Park: "For the past two years Yellowstone has put in operation a new fire policy. In two areas totalling 340,684 acres, or about 15% of the park's total area, any natural fire will be allowed to burn. The rationale behind the policy is obvious—fire has been an important factor in Yellowstone's environment for thousands of years.

"Do birds and animals profit from fire? I would answer emphatically, yes! Anyone who has traveled extensively in the park recognizes that the lodgepole pine forest of the plateau is a very sterile habitat compared with other areas in the park. Yet a large burn area in the heart of the lodgepole forest had nesting Great Gray Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, robin, Mountain Bluebird, and Tree Swallow. Apparently natural fires are in the long range profitable to birds."

Weather this summer in the Great Basin came hot and dry, and the refuges had reduced water bird production. In the central Rockies June offered cold and rainy weather which delayed nesting and inhibited success. The cold postponed movements to the high country, with alpine birds like pipits and rosy finches visiting feeders in Estes Park and Eldora, Colo., during stormy June weather, 12 Swainson's Thrushes at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Colo., June 12, and 4000 swallows plying the lakes of North Park, Jackson Co., Colo., on a cloudy June 16. Several species nested at lower elevations than usual, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet pair at Boulder, Colo., and White-crowned Sparrows at Estes Park. The calamitous decline in jackrabbits, among other factors, contributed to poor nesting success for birds of prey.

At Hahns Peak, Monte Vista, and LaVeta, Colo., and Cheyenne, Wyo., most birds enjoyed successful nesting, but at Jefferson, Colo., Hack and Hawks observed "utter disaster" among species not nesting in cavities, with the nests they found achieving less than 25 per cent success.

BOUNDARY CHANGE—With this issue our Region takes on the whole state of Colorado. Eastern Colorado observers commend Fran Williams for her success in plugging our bird movements into her Great Plains report.

LOONS, GREBES—Trost found breeding pairs of Com. Loons on "almost every pond" on Falls R., s. Yellowstone—a remarkable discovery for a bird regarded as a transient in our Region. Equally remarkable were a ♀ and 6 young of apparent Red-necked Grebes floating serenely down the Wind

R. at Dubois, Wyo., June 12, probably a first breeding record for Wyoming**. Minidoka N.W.R., Ida., had 1900 nesting Eared Grebes, Malheur N.W.R., Ore., had 1200 (continuing a 2-year decline), Farmington Bay had 400, and Stillwater N.W.R., Nev. and Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo., each produced about 75 young. In Jackson Co., Colo., and Seedskafee N.W.R., Wyo., modest populations showed no signs of nesting by mid-July. Western Grebe production increased by almost 50 per cent to 1000 at Stillwater, and Minidoka had 3000 nesting birds. A few nested at Farmington Bay and Bear River N.W.R., Utah. Summer populations at Flaming Gorge Res., Utah, Seedskafee, and Barr L. near Denver did not nest, the latter hampered by unusually high waters. Pied-billed Grebes nested in smaller numbers throughout the Region with the highest numbers the 450 nesting birds at Malheur and 180 young birds at Stillwater.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS—White Pelicans offer good news: Pyramid L., Nev., showed a substantial increase, from 2500 to 3200 young birds; and at Riverside Res., Weld Co., Colo., banders marked 254 nestlings, the most in 10 years of banding. We have no figures on breeding, however, in the Great Salt L., although the two reporting refuges had a peak of 5000 birds. Non-breeding populations included 4425 at Malheur (equal to 1972), and 100-300 at Am. Falls Res. Double-crested Cormorants at Utah L., in three separate colonies, had 106 active nests and 250 young; one batch of dead trees had 83 nests, twice the number of a year ago. Most colonial nesters at Malheur increased over last year and previous years. **Green Herons** nested for the first recorded time in Colorado with a nest found June 26 at Rocky Ford; on July 21 nothing was left but eggshells (VT).



Green Heron on nest; first Colorado record. Rocky Ford, June 26, 1973. Photo/Van Truan.

Malheur had its second and third Green Herons with two different birds Aug. 1-2. Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., had its first record of **Cattle Egret**, a bird found May 7. Nesting success of **Snowy Egrets** in the San Luis Valley, Colo., apparently improved; although hatchery personnel continue to shoot a few, no starved young were found in nests this summer. At Utah L. 210 pairs produced about 175 young, including a few nesting in settling ponds at the Geneva Steel plant. **Black-crowned Night Herons** nest in

small scattered heronries, with reports like 40 young at Hutton L. and at Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah; 330 at Utah L.; 200 at Stillwater (down from 700 a year ago); 44 birds at two locations in Jackson Co., and 102 young banded at Riverside Res., present for the first time last year. **White-faced Ibis** staged an impressive increase at Stillwater, to 3300 nests, and a new group at Lovelock, Nev., built 125 nests—10 times the 1972 estimate. **Bear R.** had 6000 on July 27, with success unknown. At Utah L. 40 nests hatched May 10-20 with only 25 per cent survival while 70 nests hatched June 5-15 with 50 per cent success—the May rate possibly owing to the late cold spring and lack of cover for the hatchlings.

WATERFOWL—Compared with last year, Canada Geese produced substantially fewer goslings at Malheur (to 680 from 1630) and Bear R. (to 1000 from 1500). Malheur's duck production nosedived from totals of two years ago—this year producing 13,300 ducks, only one-third of peak year 1971's total. Stillwater produced 9400 young ducks, about the same as last year; Ruby L. had 8665 young, down from 13,330. Minidoka's production dropped 12 per cent. Bear River's nest transects went up, and the refuge had an average population of 135,000 birds, with peaks including 107,000 Pintails July 10. Farmington Bay had a normal nesting season, producing 5525 young including 2500 Ruddy Ducks. Fish Springs produced 600 young ducks, and Hutton L. and Pathfinder refuges combined for 940 young. Arapaho N.W.R., Colo., has steadily improved, this year to 2444. Monte Vista N.W.R. Colo., had a healthy increase, with final figures of 21,741 young ducks, including 10,733 Mallards. In w. Colorado, Ring-necked Ducks and Com. Mergansers apparently nested successfully, with records coming from Hahns Peak and Durango. Common Mergansers nested at Dubois and at Zion Nat'l Park—the first nesting record there.

—S.A.—

Eastern Colorado this spring came up with a mortality tale to rival the East Coast television tower kills. Sludge pits from oil drilling operations attract thousands of migrating birds, coat their feathers with oil, with a resultant 30,000 birds killed for each of the last 3 years. Most birds killed are ducks; actual analysis in 1973 of 203 birds showed 62 per cent ducks, plus shorebirds, pheasants, Great Blue Heron, Horned Lark, Red-winged Blackbird, and various others. Clean-up has begun, and 8 drilling companies are in court: 4 have paid fines totaling \$7950—\$150 per bird.

HAWKS, EAGLES—Colorado raptor biologist Craig reports that Mississippi Kites, which have had some success rearing young at La Junta for the past several years, failed to produce young this year. We heard of only 3 Goshawk nests this year, one of which, west of Salt Lake City, lost its young to the perpetrator of spike holes in the trunk of the nest tree. Craig's crew located 37 Red-tailed nests. High winds spelled disaster for Swainson's Hawks in e.

Colorado, with flimsy nests blown out of trees and only 20 per cent success. Ferruginous Hawks around Pocatello and Salt Lake City had a poor nesting year, as a jackrabbit crash continues. At Fish Springs, a nest on June 15 had two young; on July 1 only the parents were left, along with truck tire tracks and an empty beer can.

S.A.

Colorado Golden Eagles had a poor year also; Craig located 60 nests in n.w. Colorado, and of these 12 failed and 32 raised only 38 young. A combination of lack of prey and freakish weather caused the problems; he saw several "eagles incubating with an inch or so of snow on their backs." Elsewhere observers reported 11 successful nests. Analysis of a January-dead bird from Seedskaadee showed 7 ppm of thallium. Last winter we reported on the eagle slaughter by coyote/bobcat traps in n.e. Nevada. A nest survey showed that of 72 sites used last year, eagles this year used only 16, plus eight new ones. The Bureau of Land Management attributed the drop to the jackrabbit crash; Lawson and Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife blame the trapping—much of the nesting population of Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon winters in this area. The 1973 Nevada Legislature defeated a bill to outlaw the culprits traps and does not meet again until 1975. The traps, baited with jackrabbits, also caught an estimated 10,000 bobcats.

Ospreys prosper at new reservoirs—at Flaming Gorge five active nests meant an increase of one. Sheridan had its first nesting pair, a success with three young. This success will likely be short-lived, with Reynolds Metals using the lake as part of its industrial expansion tied to n.e. Wyoming coal. Prairie Falcons had a good year in Colorado, and three locations reported Merlins, including last spring's Zion bird seen three times.

GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS—Sage Grouse had good success at the three locations mentioning them, Seedskaadee, Eureka, Nev., and the Big Horn Basin of n.w. Wyoming. Ring-necked Pheasants have plummeted in the Big Horn Basin, owing to habitat changes like increased grazing, which drastically reduced available cover in late winter, and irrigation construction, as well as, possibly, use of parathion. Sandhill Cranes at Grays Lake N.W.R., Idaho, had an excellent year, with 300 young; they had a poor year at Malheur, the 50 young representing a 21 per cent hatching success. North of Steamboat Springs, Colo., many displaced birds searched fruitlessly for suitable nesting territory after disruption by a new reservoir and extensive second-home developments in this ski center. Utah may harbor a small population of Com. Gallinules, with two seen near St. George and one at Utah L. (MW). Am. Coots' success paralleled duck production at the various refuges; Stillwater had 4750 young, up 79 per cent, while Minidoka had 157 young, down 55 per cent, and Malheur's production crashed from 37,000 to 6700.

SHOREBIRDS—At Am Falls Res., Idaho, release of water from a leaky dam exposed large mud flats and attracted a huge shorebird concentration unique for s.e. Idaho. Packing the flats July 15-25 were 15-20,000 Baird's Sandpipers (plus a few hundred Western and Semipalmated), 2-3000 Marbled Godwits (rarely seen in Idaho), 5000 Am. Avocets, 300 Wilson's Phalaropes, and scores of Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Long-billed Dowitchers. To the south, by July 27, Bear R. had 36,500 shorebirds including 12,000 Am. Avocets, 8000 Black-necked Stilts; 5000 dowitchers, 2500 Marbled Godwits, and 3000 each of Baird's and Western Sandpipers and Killdeer. A B.B.S. in Dubois revealed three Piping Plovers carrying food presumably to two nests**. The few Snowy Plover reports included 65 young produced at Stillwater. Seedskaadee had its first nesting record of Mountain Plover, observers at Cheyenne found two families, and numbers at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland compared favorably to last year. Rarely seen in e. Idaho, a Solitary Sandpiper at Arco added to Idaho's stellar shorebirds year, and one visited Dubois the same day. First Greater Yellowlegs in the Region arrived at Sheridan, Wyo., July 17; the first Lesser Yellowlegs were at Walden, Colo., July 7. Other early sandpipers included 45 Least at Silver L., Ore., July 13, nine Stilt at Pueblo, Colo. July 18, and 490 Western at Pathfinder July 18. Am. Avocets apparently had an average year. Stillwater had 1800 young, down from 2100 the year before; other locations reported varying success. Black-necked Stilts appeared at new Colorado locations: four pair at Cheraw, (one young banded), one pair near Denver for a month, and a bird at Walden June 16. Fish Springs had 400 young and Farmington Bay had 200 birds. Stillwater produced only 720 young (1000 in 1972) and the bird was noticeably absent from Seedskaadee. Stillwater counted 3150 young Wilson's Phalaropes, and the N. Platte Refuges had 625 young. At Farmington Bay 30-50,000 moved in close to the outer dike. There the advancing waters of the Great Salt Lake mix with fresh marsh water, causing a brackish condition below the dikes. Along with the brackish water come brine flies, followed by phalaropes feeding on them.

GULLS, TERNS—The low water which attracted shorebirds to Am. Falls meant trouble to the nesting California and Franklin's Gulls; many young lost out to predators such as dogs, badgers, and people which could approach on a land bridge to the "island." Pyramid L. produced 3050 young California Gulls. Franklin's Gulls thrived, with 15,000 young at Grays L., 1000 nests at Malheur (twice last year's total, and up from 185 in 1969). An air force of 2500 descended upon a burned field near Am Falls to gorge on cooked grasshoppers. First fall contingent in Colorado was 200 reported from Boulder, July 1, and by July 9 they had spread to the Kansas line, with 1000 in Kiowa Co. Minidoka reported a peak of 250 Bonaparte's Gulls; 6 visited Stillwater July 19, and one strayed to Cheraw June 26. Least Terns, rare in e. Colorado, visited Cheraw June 26 and Pueblo Aug. 1.

PIGEONS THROUGH SWIFTS—Band-tailed Pigeons did well this summer, with large numbers reported from Evergreen, Pueblo, LaVeta, and R.M.N.P., Colo. Zion had its first low-country records, and Ruby L. had its fourth refuge observation June 27. Mourning Doves, on the other hand, seemed scarce. Numbers declined at Seedskaadee and Big Horn Basin, Zion, Denver, and Pawnee N.G. Reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos came in more frequently than usual in Denver and Boulder, and at Sheridan the Black-billed Cuckoo increased. Chimney Swifts went mostly unreported in e. Colorado, and where they did appear, stayed only briefly.

HUMMINGBIRDS—Black-chinned Hummingbirds reached only 40 per cent of the 1971-72 concentrations at Zion feeders. Apparently with the break of the drouth, the birds, which were numerous in April, dispersed widely with more natural food available. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds likewise deserted the Zion feeders. Regional observers found 12 Broad-tailed nests, including one on the plains near Denver. First ♂ Rufous Hummingbird to reach the Rockies arrived in Boulder June 26, and many arrived shortly thereafter, with the first west of the Continental Divide at Hahns Peak July 6. Most remarkable, though, were two males which spent the summer, from May 23 to Aug. 1, at Minturn, Colo.—perhaps with two females, since the aggressive Rufous males permitted these two to feed without chasing them away (EB). Calliope Hummingbirds provided more reports than usual, with Nampa having them June 2-July 21, one at Cody, Wyo., in mid-July, and five reports from the Colorado foothills, including three from Evergreen. Zion, however, had none. Seven intriguing reports of large hummingbirds originated in



Cryptic hummingbird, Evergreen, Colo., July 21, 1973, Photo/Ralph Mayo.

Colorado, and one from Idaho; the only ones with enough details for identification were a first-year ♂ at Bailey, Colo. (NH), and a possible hybrid Rivoli's/? at Evergreen: an aggressive male commandeered a feeder June 10-Aug. 2, having a green belly and chest, gray collar with stick-pin, a gorget usually reflecting yellow or yellow-green, rarely Rivoli's green, a crown which iridescenced green on rare occasions. A pair of large hummers at Granby, Colo., probably qualifies as Blue-throated by a description by inexperienced birders.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS—A descent of Hairy Woodpeckers has responded to bark beetles which have attacked forests in Yellowstone and Grand Teton. Of seven N. Three-toed Woodpecker reports, the unusual one came from the Boulder foothills June 5—a low elevation on a late date. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared for Malheur's first verified record June 27. One occurred west of Pueblo, where rare, July 11. Pueblo observers report for the Black Phoebe, "Success, finally!" After several unsuccessful nesting attempts last year, the pair, presumably the same as last year's first Colorado record, produced an immature observed July 18. At Jefferson, Colo., Hack and Hawkins found three *Empidonax* nests in the same aspen grove. All three nests had long fibers hanging down, and the two sets of eggs observed were white and unmarked. The sitting birds, however, had plumage variations which cast more doubt on field identifications of western Empidonaces. One had crisp gray and white markings; one had less distinct gray markings and a light yellow wash on the abdomen; the third had less distinct grayish plumage and a conspicuously fleshy lower mandible; all had the same single call note. By nest, eggs, and habitat, the birds were Dusky; by plumage—who knows? At Longmont, Colo., an E. Wood Pewee was banded, with all distinguishing field marks noted (AC).

SWALLOWS—Tree Swallows thrive, with dozens of successful nests reported throughout Colorado and Wyoming, but this year running two weeks behind their usual schedules. They filled 20 nest boxes at a motel in Granby, 35 aspen holes near Jefferson, occupied bluebird boxes, kestrel and Downy Woodpecker nest holes, and nested for the first time near Durango. Cliff Swallows, nesting in large colonies, continue to suffer from vandals; this year the persons who partially destroyed a colony near Lyons, Colo., were caught. Purple Martins nest on three sides of the Region, so reports from Glens Ferry in e. Idaho and from Durango are noteworthy (LP, EF).

JAYS THROUGH DIPPERS—At Antero Res., Colo., a cooperative wind blew the neck feathers of a White-necked Raven to confirm identification on May 20; mountain ravens in s. Colorado could bear closer examination (MSc). Common Crows visited Denver, and a flock of a dozen stayed in Boulder through mid-June, but otherwise Corvids seemed in short supply. Clark's Nutcrackers, remnants of the fall-winter invasion, remained in Boulder until June 16, Evergreen to June 26, and Pocatello to July 7. June seemed like an

odd month for Piñon Jays to patronize feeders in ponderosa-clad Boulder, but 50 birds around Sheridan, Wyo., in June acted like possible nesters. Pocatello had a rare White-breasted Nuthatch June 4 and July 1, and the Region had its usual scattering of Red-breasted Nuthatches, including one misplaced at Pawnee Grassland June 11. Dippers met with fair to good success, including a pair near Loveland, Colo., which fledged two broods of young, on June 1 and July 10.

THRASHERS THROUGH SHRIKES—Gray Catbirds may have spread in w. Colorado, with reports from Oak Creek, New Castle, and Jefferson; a pair nested at Dubois. American Robins had fair success; at Jefferson they raised only 11 young from nine nests found. In Denver a pair deserted a nest after intense July 4 fireworks. Webster found Veeries abundant around Oak Creek in late June.

—S.A.—

Western Bluebirds remain scarce and hard to find with no one reporting any in the Region except for a paltry few around Durango, and no young. Mountain Bluebirds enjoy normal populations in Colorado and most of Wyoming. The populations seem to fluctuate; over the past few years they apparently have declined in the Big Horn Basin (although not everyone there agrees), around Eureka, and particularly in w. Idaho: "Our greatest Blue List concern has been for our state birds, the Mountain Bluebird. We now see only two or three where we formerly would see 2-300" (BS). Three observers commented on Mountain Bluebirds losing contests for nest sites with Tree Swallows—Follet suggests that competition with Tree Swallows may be a limiting factor in the total population of Mountain Bluebirds.

Late Bohemian Waxwings visited Dubois June 3 and Pocatello June 14. At Pawnee N.G., a survey of 15 Loggerhead Shrike nests showed nest success of 47 per cent, down from last years' 5-year high of 82 per cent.

WARBLERS—Black-and-White Warblers came to Boulder June 10, to R.M.N.P., the first there, June 12, and Bonny Res., Colo., July 28. Orange-crowned Warblers were abundant on apparent nesting grounds at Oak Creek June 23-24, and Yellowstone had two singing males July 3. Yellow Warblers have returned after a 4-year absence to a part of Denver where they disappeared after leaf roller spraying. At Boulder, though abundant this spring in migration, they seemed scarce as nesters, and they have restricted their range at Zion to the high plateaus, abandoning the lowlands. Denver observers found none July 28-29 at Bonny. Mid-summer strays included a Townsend's Warbler at Dubois July 4-8, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Sheridan July 1. Late migrants included Chestnut-sided at Boulder June 4 and 12; Bay-breasted at Loveland June 3, and Englewood Colo., June 16; Blackpoll at Jefferson June 2; and an Ovenbird June 4 which struck a window at Dubois—the first there in 37 years of observation

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—Longmont and Sheridan had several Bobolinks, and Colorado Springs had one June 8. Two territorial Scott's Orioles were found in the same area as last year in Curlew Valley, s Idaho. Com. Grackles continue to multiply and spread. Fringe records include one June 23 at Kremmling, Colo., and one July 22 at Pinedale, Wyo., the first record that far west in Wyoming (WCR), while Dubois had 15 observations during the two months. They had successful nesting in Cheyenne, Colorado Springs, Denver, Estes Park, and Boulder (where they ganged up to destroy a House Finch nest). Many observers found young cowbirds enjoying the attentions of smaller parents; Yellow-rumped Warbler at Yellowstone, Yellow Warblers at several locations (including one parent a third the size of its offspring), Brewer's Blackbird, and Savannah Sparrow. Two pairs of **Hepatic Tanagers** were reported near Grand Valley, Colo., a state with one previous record; the details are convincing (AS).

FINCHES—Dickcissels were abundant at Bonny July 28-29, and Boulder had two east of town. Evening Grosbeaks nested at Durango, R.M.N.P., Evergreen, and Unionville, Nev. They lingered through early June at Longmont, McCoy, Dubois, and Rexburg, Ida., with July observations in Denver, Eureka, Pocatello, and Nampa. Cassin's Finches seemed reduced in the Colorado mountains, and they remained at Dubois into July. In s.e. Oregon they were abundant at Crater L. and a few visited Silver L. July 12-14. Sheridan had a big influx of Pine Siskins at lower elevations and Nampa counted 125 on July 20. Substantial numbers were found in the Eagles Nest and Mt. Zirkel wilderness areas in c. Colorado. Red Crossbills scattered throughout the Region, with plains records at Pawnee June 5, Longmont June 6, Colorado Springs. June 10, and Denver until mid-June; Sheridan had 100 for the first week in July. They remained in the mountains through the season. A Green-tailed Towhee was singing at timberline in R.M.N.P. July 3. Lark Bunting densities at Pawnee declined to 50-60 per cent of 1972, the last nest found July 12 with four eggs. Perhaps southern greens lured them—at Alamosa, Colo., they were abundant all summer and probably nesting; where they usually stay a week during spring migration. Abundant moisture, causing unusually good grass seed production, receives credit for persuading them to stay. They had begun massing in fall flocks by July 29 east of Last Chance, Colo., and the vertical migration began as usual, with two on July 31 in the Boulder foothills.

SPARROWS—Trost found a new colony of Grasshopper Sparrows near Pocatello, with a substantial population which was territorial and nesting after Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows finished nesting; Pueblans found three Grasshopper Sparrows singing near Rocky Ford; and many still sang at Bonny at the end of July. Zion had its first summer Dark-eyed Junco, a typical Oregon form rather than winter's common Pink-sided variety. Chipping Sparrows arrived late and nested late at Boulder. Singing Brewer's Sparrows increased at Yellowstone. In a Uintah Co., Utah sagebrush study

four of five breeding species were sparrows: the population was half Brewer's, one-third Sage, plus a few Lark and Black-throated—Sage Thrashers were the fifth species. The total population, in typical Great Basin desert density, mounted to only 144 per square kilometer (58 per 100 acres). Fox Sparrow records came from Jefferson June 9, Blue R., Summit Co., Colo. June 16, and both Fraser, Colo. and Pocatello July 1. Porter found 27 nests of McCown's Longspurs on the Pawnee, and noted 64 per cent nesting success. He observed Chestnut-collared Longspurs in several new locations this year, indicating a possible increase in numbers.

CORRIGENDA: In *Am. Birds* 27:581, delete Anna's Hummingbird wintering in Utah, and 27:583, Yellow-billed Loon in Nevada. In 27:645, correct the 5th line, on Jays, to read, "remarkable for a state with but one or two records prior to this fall: . . ."

ABBREVIATIONS—B.B.S.: Breeding Bird Survey; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park; **: sight record report on file with Regional Editor.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/ Ted Parker

After an unusually late, cool and wet spring, the region experienced somewhat variable weather in June and July, with generally dry and warm conditions in southern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and



southern Nevada, and cooler, damper weather in most of New Mexico. July rains were somewhat scattered and below normal. Excellent nesting conditions, the result of above-average winter and spring rains, prevailed in nearly all areas. The abundant vegetation and water conditions combined to produce especially optimum nesting conditions for many insectivorous species (flycatchers enjoyed best nesting success in several years), and granivorous species, especially quail and fringillids, also fared well. Breeding was somewhat delayed in the northern parts of the region, and low densities of nesting species reported in the mountains forests may have been the result of a more even distribution of birds through the greater amount of suitable nesting habitat. As a direct result of the cold and snow cover persisting in May, certain high altitude species nested at relatively low elevations. MacGillivray's Warblers, for example, were apparently nesting below 6000 feet in the mountains near Flagstaff, Arizona; the species is usually not found much below 9000 feet. Lark Buntings and Cassin's Sparrows were found in areas where they were previously unrecorded in summer. These and possibly other fringillids took advantage of suitable habitat by either lingering in areas south and west of their usual breeding range (Lark Bunting), or by pushing north into new areas (Cassin's Sparrow). Such trends may also occur among insectivorous species. Olivaceous Flycatchers, for example, were found in the Pinal Mountains of Arizona, far north of any previous nesting area; it will be interesting to see whether the species is there next summer. Included in this report is an unbelievable in-

curtion of Roseate Spoonbills into southwestern and central Arizona, the first documented records of Western Grebe and Tree Swallows nesting in Arizona, and numerous records of vagrant wood warblers in all parts of the region.

GREBES, PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS—Three reports of W. Grebe were noteworthy: an estimated 200 adults present at the n. end of Havasu L., Havasu N.W.R., Colorado R. produced nearly 100 young (photographed for the first documented Arizona record of nesting—Robt. Karges); 15 pairs with young were noted near Overton, Clark Co., Nev., July 4 (CL); and one on Picacho Res., Pinal Co., Ariz., July 24 was summering (GMo). Three White Pelicans near Overton July 4 (CL) were the only ones reported. Similarly, only one Brown Pelican was observed, an individual in flight near Tucson July 29 (Dan Sheppard). A Magnificent Frigatebird (age, sex?) was seen east of Yuma, Ariz., July 27 (Allen Guenther, *vide* JW1).

HERONS, STORKS, SPOONBILLS—A possible ad. Little Blue Heron was seen at Isleta Swamp south of Albuquerque June 23 (RT). Three Snowy Egret nests found in tamarisks at Picacho Res., July 24 (GMo) were the first nesting records for the state away from the Colorado R. Similarly, a Black-crowned Night Heron nest found there on the same date was the first away from the river in this century (GMo). As usual, several flocks of Wood Storks (mostly imm.) were seen along the Colorado R., but the big news was of an invasion of **Roseate Spoonbills**, the first on record; there were only three previous records for Arizona.



Roseate Spoonbill, Picacho Reservoir, Ariz., July 7, 1973. Photo/Gene Bauer.

The following reports were received: one adult at Quitobaquito, Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument June 11 (RS); 21 immatures 15 mi. n.e. of Yuma June 18 (StL), six (imm.) 10 mi. s. of Parker Dam, Colorado R. (in Calif.), June 24 (DE, JM, VR), and six (imm.) n.e. of Yuma July 1 (RWe). At Picacho Res. the following counts were representative of the first e. Arizona records: June 4, 23 (Renard Jolly), July 17, 27 (Seymour Levy), and July 24, 32 (GMo); another was seen near Nogales, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. sometime in July (*vide* Bill Harrison).

WATERFOWL—The following Blue-winged Teal records were of interest: a pair with young on Pahrangat Lake N.W.R., Lincoln Co., Nev., July 4 (CL, LH), one female with eight young at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., N. Mex., July 12 (GZ), several displaying at Isleta Swamp south of Albuquerque June 2 (JD), and, finally, five males in Phoenix June 28 (SD, Helen Longstreth). A ♂ Wood Duck was present at Tule Springs near Las Vegas, Nev., July 29 (VM).

RAPTORS—An ad. **Broad-winged Hawk** in Scotia Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz., July 1 (TP, Claudia Wilds, Vee Weggel) was the fourth state record. Two northerly records of Zone-tailed Hawk were reported: an adult near Jacob L., Coconino Co., Ariz., July 4-12 (R & MW), and another near Los Alamos, N. Mex., July 19 (BL). Golden Eagles were reported in numerous localities in s.e. Arizona and s.w. New Mexico. Walter Spofford reported having seven active nests under observation in this area, and attributed the success (ten young) to a high cottontail and jackrabbit population. "By way of contrast," he states, "a set of four nests in Curlew Valley, s. Idaho, which averaged about one young per nest per year from 1969 to 1972, completely failed in 1973 . . . and no sign of rabbits anywhere."

QUAILS—Gambel's Quail had excellent nesting success in many areas of the region due to the previously mentioned environmental conditions. Similarly, Scaled Quail were doing well in the El Paso area, and in s.e. Arizona.

SHOREBIRDS—A Whimbrel at Mormon Farm near Las Vegas, Nev., July 28 (VM), and *eight* carefully identified as they flew south over Imperial Dam, Colorado R., July 1 (RWe) were unusual (the latter number was the highest count ever for Arizona). Three dowitchers identified as Short-billed were found north of Yuma July 1 (RWe).

GULLS, TERNS—A Franklin's Gull was noted on a pond near Willcox, Cochise Co., Ariz., July 6 (TP), and two were seen northeast of Las Cruces, N. Mex., July 29 (Debra Hickman). An ad. Least Tern observed on both sides of the Colorado R. near Imperial Dam July 1 (RWe) was only the third record for the valley.

DOVES THROUGH OWLS—Three White-winged Doves were in the Overton, Nev. area July 4, but no evidence of nesting was obtained (CL). A pair of Monk Parakeets nested in Las Vegas, Nev.; on July 30 three broken eggs were found below the partially destroyed nest. The adults, which were almost certainly local escapes as opposed to strays from eastern populations, were rebuilding the nest in early August (CL). An Elf Owl heard July 6 near Glenwood, Catron Co., N. Mex. (BM), was at the northern limit of its range. An ad. Long-eared Owl was found injured at Central, Grant Co., N. Mex., July 29, and a pair nested along the Gila R. near Cliff in the same county (DZ). A Saw-whet Owl was banded at Eagle Peak Spring, Tularosa Mts., Catron Co., N. Mex., July 4 (BM). This species is a very local resident of New Mexico's mountains.

NIGHTJARS, SWIFTS—Two Whip-poor-wills were heard July 12 in the Hualpai Mts. south of Kingman in extreme n.w. Arizona (EH); the species has been recorded there since 1948. Nine probable Black Swifts were observed and photographed over Albuquerque June 4 (Pat Basham). White-throated Swifts seen in June and July near Lake Pleasant, Maricopa Co., Ariz. may have been nesting nearby (SD).

HUMMINGBIRDS—Although hummingbirds were generally scarce at feeders in most areas (owing to abundant natural food), several interesting reports were received. An imm. ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was identified in Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 8 (EH *et al.*) and a female remained in Guadalupe Canyon, Cochise Co., Ariz. into early June (TP). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird that frequented a Phoenix feeder in June-July (Kitty Johnson) was only the second summer record for that area. Anna's Hummingbirds, formerly unknown in summer, were noted during the period in Tucson, w. of Nogales, and in Yuma. Finally, a much-talked-about hummingbird that appeared at several feeders in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. in June (RS, E & SC, Bob Yutzy) was probably a hybrid Blue-throated X Anna's or Broad-tailed. Hybridization between the former species (*Lampornis X Calypte*) has occurred in the past.

TROGONS, WOODPECKERS—A Copper-tailed Trogon was seen in Guadalupe Canyon, Cochise Co., Ariz. in early June (RS); there were two previous records for the canyon. A Red-headed Woodpecker at Bosque N.W.R., June 20 (GZ) was at the western limit of its range. A Hairy Woodpecker at Camp Pioneer near the Rio Grande north of El Paso June 6 (GW) was quite unusual.

COTINGAS, FLYCATCHERS—Nests were located for eight of nine pairs of Rose-throated Becards present along Sonoita Creek, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz. in early June (TP, Steve Hanselmann). This is virtually the entire U.S. population of this Mexican species. The presence of E. Kingbirds in s. Nevada at Logandale, Clark Co. (3) and in the Pahrangat Valley (2) on July 4 suggested the possibility of breeding (CL). At least 14 pairs of Thick-billed Kingbirds were counted in s.e. Arizona and s.w. New Mexico (ten pairs in Guadalupe Canyon, four of these in the New Mexico portion; and four pairs (low) along Sonoita Creek (TP). A Tropical Kingbird 20 mi. n.e. of Yuma June 10 (StL) was probably an early straggler from Mexico. An uncommon Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared at Bisbee Jct., Cochise Co., Ariz., July 16 (Mike Wihler). Very interesting were several pairs of Olivaceous Flycatchers found in the Pinal Mts., Pinal Co., Ariz., June 25 (E & SC). These were well north of any previously known breeding locality.

SWALLOWS, CORVIDS—Tree Swallow nests were found near Kaibab Lodge, Coconino Co., Ariz., July 17 & 21 (R & MW). Adults were photographed at nest holes for the first positive record of nesting in Arizona. Fairly large colonies of Bank Swallows were

located in n.c. New Mexico (RWa). This species is not known to nest in Arizona. Clark's Nutcrackers lingered in the lowlands and in mountains south of their known breeding range through June, following the invasion of the previous fall and winter.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES—Three reports of Gray Catbirds were received: one singing along the Little Colorado R. near Springerville, Apache Co., Ariz., June 29 (E & SC), another on the Santa Clara Indian Reservation, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., June 22 (RWa), and a singing bird in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis Co., Tex., June 29 (PE, JMi). Three Am. Robins in Phoenix June 13 (DS) were unusual summer records for that area.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A pair of Bell's Vireos nested near Overton, Nev. (CL). An ad. ♀ Golden-winged Warbler (third state record) seen four mi. s.w. of Springerville, Ariz., June 28 (E & SC) was very close to the area where an ad. male was observed July 26, 1972 (*Am. Birds* 26:889). A N. Parula was observed singing on the Santa Clara Indian Reservation June 22 (RWa), an unusual summer record. Another unexpected record was of an ad. ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler seen near Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., June 17 (Tom Heindel). The somewhat frequent occurrence (12 records) of this eastern species in Arizona is inexplicable since it is a trans-Gulf of Mexico migrant and is rare even in coastal Texas and e. Mexico in migration. Two Grace's Warblers reported from the Hualpai Mts., n.w. Ariz., July 13 (EH) were at the n.w. limit of their range. Two Red-faced Warblers at Horse Seep, Maricopa Co., Ariz., June 9 (Robt. Bradley) were only the second county records. Two records of ad. ♂ Hooded Warblers were received: one below Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., June 30 (Randall Madding, RWe), and another in Sycamore Canyon, Pajarito Mts., Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., June 7 (HK); these represent the third and fourth records of the species for Arizona. An Ovenbird (sixth record for state) was seen in E. Tucson June 8 (Genevieve Oakes), and an imm. ♂ Am. Redstart was observed 15 mi. below Parker Dam on the California side of the Colorado R., June 24 (GMc), an unusual date.

—S.A.—

It should be mentioned here that several of the wood warblers noted in this report (i.e., N. Parula, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler) which are usually considered vagrants in the Southwest, winter in small numbers in the lowlands of Sinaloa and Nayarit, Mexico (on the west side of the Sierra Madre Occidental) less than 1000 miles south of Arizona and New Mexico. Some spring (and fall?) records of these species could perhaps be attributed to the closeness of these wintering populations. This would seem to be supported by the fact that the Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Am. Redstart, all uncommon to rare migrants in the region, winter rather commonly in Sinaloa and Nayarit. On the other hand, the Louisiana Waterthrush, a regular winter visitant in w. Mexico, has been recorded only a few times in the Southwest.



Five-striped Sparrow, Southeastern Arizona, Sept. 8, 1971. Photo/C.S. Lawson.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Great-tailed Grackles continue to increase in many parts of the region, and 400 young produced at Bosque N.W.R. were indicative of this increase. Common Grackles were nesting in increasing numbers at Isleta Swamp s. of Albuquerque (JD). Bronzed Cowbirds also seem to be expanding their range in parts of the region as demonstrated by the following records; an ad. male at Bosque N.W.R., June 6 (GZ), several birds that may have been locally raised in the Silver City, N. Mex. area in July (DZ), and large numbers in the Davis Mts. of w. Texas (PE) where the species was absent just a few years ago.

FINCHES—Indigo Buntings were reported from many localities of the region; this species appears to be a regular summer resident of riparian areas in Arizona and New Mexico. A Painted Bunting (♂) at Camp Pioneer along the Rio Grande R. near El Paso June 6 (GW, Linda Jones) was unusual. Evening Grosbeaks lingered in the lowlands of the region into June following the invasion of the previous winter. Similarly, a pair of Red Crossbills in n.w. Phoenix June 6 - 12 were extremely late (DS). A large flock of Lark Buntings was reported from ten mi. s. of Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument. Mohave Co., Ariz., May 22 (RW), and three were noted at Hachita, Grant Co., N. Mex., June 9 (Alan Nelson). No nest of this species has ever been found in Arizona, but an unverified report of nesting in the c. part of the state was received. Cassin's Sparrows were reportedly common in several areas where they had previously been unrecorded or scarce. At least 20 singing birds were noted in the grasslands east of Mt. Triplet, San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, Graham Co., Ariz., July 14 (E & BJ). The species apparently bred near Whitewater, Grant Co., N. Mex. with 12 adults being seen July 21 (DZ).

CORRIGENDUM—The Bald Eagle record for Dec. 13 (*Am Birds* 27:647) should be omitted, and the following record added: An ad. Bald Eagle was seen on the Salt R., near the e. end of Roosevelt L., Gila Co., Ariz. Dec. 12, 1972 (Dick & Bea Smith).

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ALASKA REGION

/ Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

The breeding season was described almost everywhere in the Region as generally cool and wet, with stormy weather at irregular intervals all summer. Coverage of peripheral areas continued to improve, as in 1972, and observers reported rarities from all corners of the state.

SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS—Two **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** were observed closely, their pale feet seen clearly, at 56° 03' N 160° 45' W, Bering Sea, 2.5 miles north of the Alaska Peninsula July 6

(GVB). This is the first Bering record of a species that is very poorly known in Alaska waters; it was also reported off Kodiak I. at the end of May (JK & MK). Enormous concentrations of Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen July 4 in Unimak Pass, e. Aleutians, and along the n. side of Unimak I. (GVB & GJD). The densest flocks, perhaps totaling one million birds, appeared just off Unimak I. A Scaled Petrel was reported seen from the ferry between Kodiak and Seward June 28 (FMM). Hundreds of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, the largest concentration seen during daylight hours in two field seasons of intensive work in the Aleutians, fed in Unimak Pass July 4 (GVB & GJD).



CORMORANTS, HERONS—Several very large colonies of Red-faced Cormorants totaling at least 1500 nests were discovered at Amak I., just n. of the Alaska Peninsula, July 4 (GVB & GJD). An *Am. Bittern* seen and heard at Beaver Creek, Chickamin R., extreme s.e. Alaska, June 18 (SOM & NIM), is the first recent record for the state.

WATERFOWL—A White-fronted Goose seen near Clam Lagoon, Adak I., June 10 (EDA), is the first c. Aleutian record. Probably the same bird was photographed near the Naval Station June 18 (EDA). A pair of Green-winged Teal (the male was clearly either *A. c. crecca* or *A. c. nimia*) seen at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., June 9 (DDG & B.B.), is the first record of "Common" Teal from the island. A pair of *Cinnamon Teal* was color photographed at Potter Marsh, Anchorage, May 26 (SFT & CT), providing the first substantiated record for the state. A pair of *Com. Pochards* (see Spring Migration) remained on Smew Pond, Adak, through mid-June (JLT *et al.*), and a female remained on Jones L., Amchitka I., through June 13 (GVB). One female was seen on Webster L., St. Paul I., June 6-7 (DDG & B.B., FMM). There are very few data on Ring-necked Ducks in s.e. Alaska, so finding the species in numbers on beaver ponds in the Chickamin

R. vicinity this summer is of particular interest. At least 12 pairs were seen June 1, and 11 males June 18, but no definite evidence of breeding was found (SOM & NIM). A nearly eclipse-plumaged Barrow's Goldeneye was seen on Unalaska L., Unalaska I., e. Aleutians, July 2 (GVB & GJD), the first Aleutian summer record. Hooded Mergansers were found breeding in the Chickamin R. area: a female with 10 downies on Canoe L. June 18 and 22, another female with eight young June 22, and a nearly grown brood of at least six on a beaver pond July 16 (SOM & NIM).

RAPTORS, RAILS—A nest with two young Golden Eagles (photographed) was discovered on Izembek Nat'l Wildlife Range July 10 (EPB). This is the southwesternmost substantiated record of the bird in the state. Single *Soras* were located in the Chickamin R. area June 17 and 28 (SOM).

SHOREBIRDS—The first Semipalmated Plover in the Aleutians w. of Unimak I. was collected at Amchitka June 13 (GVB; * to U.A.). A Killdeer was observed at Barrow, where it is casual, June 9 (GEH). A Rufous-necked Sandpiper at Barrow June 7 (GEH) was the only one reported during the period. The first White-rumped Sandpiper arrived at Barrow June 4, on time (GEH). A Pectoral Sandpiper collected at Amchitka July 14 (GVB & CMW; * to N.M.N.H.) is an unprecedented Aleutian summer record. Extremely interesting is a full-plumaged Sharp-tailed Sandpiper collected at Barrow June 1 (GEH; * to U.A.). Although there have been a number of spring sightings in the Region in recent years, there is, to the writers' knowledge, only one other spring specimen from N. America, a bird taken in 1972 at Barrow (see *AB*, 26: 796, 1972). Another Sharp-tailed was reported just e. of Nome June 15 (JK & MK). A calling ♂ Curlew Sandpiper was observed at Barrow June 9 (GEH). There were apparently no further records this year though. Single pairs of Red Knots were seen in display at Barrow June 7 and 10 (GEH), and a full-plumaged Great Knot was watched at close range at the mouth of the Nome R., just e. of Nome, June 8 (DDG & B.B.). After arriving in significant numbers this spring (see Spring Migration), Wood Sandpipers *bred* at Attu I. and at Amchitka this summer. Two broods were photographed at Attu during the third week of June (GM), and a newly-fledged young was collected at Amchitka July 16 (GVB & CMW; * to N.M.N.H.). These are the second and third nesting records of the species for the Aleutians and N. America. A Long-billed Curlew was studied for over an hour with four Whimbrels at Eagle R., Juneau, June 5-6 (ESD & WPD). There are less than a half dozen sight records of this species in the Region, all from s.e. and s.c. Alaska. None has yet been substantiated by photograph or specimen. One Bristle-thighed Curlew was seen at Mile 12 Teller Road, w. of Nome, June 15 (JK & MK).

GULLS, TERNS—There were two records of Slaty-backed Gull during the period: an adult at Nome June 15 (JK & MK), and at least one immature at Gambell June 17 & 19 (FMM). An ad. Herring Gull at Bogoslof I., e. Aleutians, June 30 (GVB & GJD), was

west of the breeding range. Single very late Ivory Gulls were seen at Gambell June 18 & 19 (FMM). For the second year in a row (see *AB*, 26: 891, 1972) a *new breeding station* for Red-legged Kittiwakes was discovered. Bogoslof and Fire islands, e. Aleutians (EPB, GVB, GJD, & GW). Seven Ross' Gulls were seen at Gambell June 10 (DDG & B.B.), and three were still present as late as June 18 (FMM).

—————S.A.—————

Aleutian Terns were widely recorded in summer 1973. The North American breeding range has been found to include the Aleutians (locally from Attu east), the Pacific coast of the mainland from Cold Bay and Kodiak I.) to at least Yakutat, and the Bering coast from Port Moller to Safety Lagoon. This summer the range was found to extend even farther north: small colony on the lagoon at Kotzebue, the first record north of the Arctic Circle. An intermediate locality, but one at which the species had not been recorded, is the Kashunuk R., Clarence Rhode Nat'l Wildlife-Range, where Aleutian Tern was recorded June 4 (LA, *vide* CPD).

ALCIDS, SWIFTS—Whiskered Auklets were noted at several interesting locations this summer; about 75 birds were seen at Adak June 4 (Eds. & B.B.), the third record for that area, and one bird seen near Amak I. July 4 (GVB) was nearly 100 miles east of the former easternmost record. Black Swifts were recorded regularly through June and July on the Chickamin R. Twenty-40 feeding birds were seen almost every morning, and one was collected June 4 (SOM; * to U.A.).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A vagrant that has occurred in almost every major region of the state at one time or another, *E. Kingbird* was recorded this summer on the Chickamin R.: one was collected June 16 (SOM; * to U.A.) and another was seen later the same day. Overshooting the breeding range, single Tree Swallows were seen at Adak June 3 (HW, HMo, & JLT) and at Barrow June 10 (GEH). The first Alaska specimen of *Rough-winged Swallow* is one of three birds seen on the Chickamin R. May 31 (SOM; * to U.A.). Further observations were of one June 26 and two June 27, in the same area.

VIREOS—Following the discovery last year of at least one *Red-eyed Vireo* on the Chickamin R., a pair was observed in that area this summer, and the male was heard June 17-23 (SOM). Warbling Vireos were described as fairly common in black cottonwoods along the Chickamin R. during June (SOM).

WOOD WARBLERS—A ♀ *Magnolia Warbler* collected at Beaver Creek, Chickamin R., June 10 (SOM; * to U.A.), is the first record of the species in the state since an accidental occurrence in the arctic 60 years ago. Yellow-rumped Warblers were frequently noted on the Chickamin R. this summer, and both "Audubon's" and "Myrtle" subspecies were seen together. A ♂ "Audubon's" seen carrying food June 23 (SOM) suggests that both *D. c. hooveri* and *D. c. audu-*

boni breed in the state. A pair of Blackpoll Warblers, rare in s.e. Alaska, was seen on the Chickamin R. June 13 (SOM). A N. Waterthrush collected at Barrow June 5 (GEH; * to U.A.) is the second record for the N. Slope, the first for that locality. A singing ♂ Com. Yellowthroat observed at Harding L., s.e. of Fairbanks; June 16 (GEH & DDG) is the first Interior record of the species. The bird could not be located subsequently. At least five *Am. Redstarts* were seen on the Chickamin R. June 11-14, but none remained in the area (SOM).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—One Red-winged Blackbird was seen at Potter Marsh, Anchorage, May 26 and 30 (SFT & CT). Apparently the same bird was seen there later in the summer, but no date was supplied (*vide* NAM). The species bred on the Chickamin R., where three active nests were found (SOM), and a pair with one young were seen at Juneau July 6 (ESD). The first ♂ W. Tanager observed on the Chickamin R. this year was collected May 28 (SOM; * to U.A.). The species was seen regularly through July 22.

FINCHES—A ♂ *Brambling* was seen at Gambell June 9 and 12 (DDG & B.B.). There is no previous record for St. Lawrence I., and this is the northernmost one for Alaska. The only other record of this species this spring was made in the Aleutians (see Spring Migration). A ♀ *Com. Rose Finch* (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) was leisurely studied at close range at Gambell June 9 (DDG & B.B.); all field marks were noted, but the bird was not collected. The only other North American record is a male collected near Hooper Bay June 4, 1972 (see *Auk*, Oct., 1973). A Savannah Sparrow, very rare west of the e. Aleutians, was collected near L. Andrew, Adak, June 1 (GVB & JLT; * to U.A.). Three *Harris' Sparrows* were trapped and one collected (* to M.V.Z.B., *vide* GEH) at Barrow June 11, the first record for that area. A ♂ and a ♀ *Rustic Bunting* were observed at length at Gambell June 10-11 (DDG & B.B.). The birds were seen some distance from each other, so they were not obviously paired. The male was very bright rusty above, apparently *E. r. latifascia*, the race to be expected. This is the first record of Rustic Bunting in Alaska north of the Aleutian Islands.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The southern half of the Region—from which virtually all reports emanate—continued to experience the condition of less-than-normal precipitation, which has prevailed since last December. In that period, only two-thirds of the average quantity of rainfall has occurred. Temperatures in June and July averaged a bit above normal. Thus, without any prolonged cold and wet periods, bird life experienced excellent nesting conditions and seem to have enjoyed good reproductive success.



LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS—Common Loons were to be found at scattered points on salt water throughout June and July from Gray's Harbor, Wash., to s. Vancouver I. A few Arctic Loons lingered in the same area until the latter part of June, with very small numbers present through July in the vicinity of Victoria, B.C. Single Red-throated Loons were observed at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 23 and July 8 & 28 (G & WH); others were found at Victoria June 13 (VG) and at Jordan River, B.C., west of Victoria June 14 (SJ). Again this year, up to ten Red-necked Grebes at a time were seen at Victoria and at the s.w. end of Vancouver I. all through the report period (VG *et al.*). A few Horned Grebes also spent the period in the area from Gray's Harbor around to Victoria. A very few individual W. Grebes were to be found along the n. Oregon coast and in the vicinity of Victoria during June and July. A pelagic trip out of Westport, Wash., June 17 turned up 13 Black-footed Albatrosses; on July 22 another trip resulted in a count of 41 individuals (TW *et al.*). A three-day offshore trip from Newport, Oreg., also gave a total of 40 birds (MS *et al.*). Northern Fulmars were present on those offshore trips in surprising numbers: 60 out of Newport July 13-16, 34 out of Westport July 17 and 172 from

there July 22. On June 17 there were 17 Pink-footed Shearwaters counted out of Westport, while on July 22 a total of 54 individuals was noted; the July 13-16 trip from Newport found 150 birds, almost all of them 20 miles at sea. A single Flesh-footed Shearwater was discovered on the July 13-16 Newport trip, while three individuals of this species were identified on the July 22 Westport outing. Sooty Shearwaters in hundreds at some places, and in thousands at others, were observed at sea and from coastal vantage points in Oregon and Washington during the report period.

An estimated 41 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen at sea from Westport June 17, and 55 were seen July 22 (TW *et al.*); "several" were seen 30 miles at sea from Newport July 13-16 (MS *et al.*). A large nestling of this species was dug out of a burrow on Goat I., off the s. Oregon coast July 2 (FZ, MS *et al.*). On the nights of July 2-3, an estimated half million Leach's Storm-Petrels swarmed over the island where, of a total of 65 burrows checked, 48 contained either an incubating adult, an adult with chick or one or both adults (FZ *et al.*). There were 38 Brown Pelicans at Goat I. July 2, only one being a young bird of the year, while ten others were sub-adults (FZ *et al.*). Approximately 200 nests of the Double-crested Cormorant were counted at Bare Point Cliffs near Duncan, B.C., during the breeding season (JCo). Green Herons were common along the Black R. near Littlerock, Wash., in June and July (G & WH); Three were at Gold Ray Dam on the Rogue R., in s. Oregon June 12 (OS), and two were at Duncan, B.C., during July and August; there were other reports of scattered individuals in the s. half of the Region. Great Egrets had moved into w. Oregon by the last week in July; the four individuals at Netarts on the 27th (JH, *vide* HN) were the maximum. A pair of Am. Bitterns was found repeatedly at a favored location on Sauvie I., west of Portland (JG).

WATERFOWL—A single Black Brant was seen repeatedly at Victoria in mid-June and again in mid-July; two were at Ocean Shores, Wash., July 8 and ten were there July 28 (G & WH). A few Pintail spent the breeding season in the vicinity of Victoria; two ?? were similarly at Cowichan Bay, near Duncan; on July 14 two individuals appeared at Wm. L. Finley N.W.R. s. of Corvallis, Oreg., where five individuals were present July 17 (FZ). A ? Pintail was noted at the mouth of the Columbia R. July 4 (JG). A Green-winged Teal was seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Dallas, Oreg., June 4 (JM, *vide* FZ). At Ocean Shores on June 3 a pair of Blue-winged Teal flushed from a nest (G & WH); at Saanich, B.C., north of Victoria June 20, two ♂♂ and a single ♀ were present, and in the same place July 16 a flightless youngster was noted when four adults flushed (SJ). A ♀ Blue-winged Teal with seven young was discovered at Duncan, B.C., June 13, while two ♂♂ were nearby (VG). A few Cinnamon Teal broods were noted at Finley N.W.R. in July (FZ), and at Ocean Shores in June and July (G & WH); several adult birds were at Saanich, B.C., June 10 (SJ). Two ♂♂ Am. Wigeon were seen at Sidney I., near Victoria June 29 (WC *et al.*, *vide* VG) and a lone male was at Duncan, B.C., June 30 (JCo). A brood of N. Shovelers was found at Ocean Shores July 7 (G & WH); individuals of this species were seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. June 4

(JM, *vide* FZ), at Duncan, B.C. June 13 (VG), at the mouth of the Columbia R. July 4 (JG), and at Saanich, B.C., July 29 (SJ).

Up to a score of Greater Scaup spent the early summer at Tillamook, Oreg., (JG & RK), and at Ocean Shores (G & WH). A Com. Goldeneye at Tillamook July 29 (JG) was most unusual; the three seen at Manning Prov. Park, B.C. July 23 & 24 (RS, *vide* VG) are also of interest. There were three broods of Barrow's Goldeneye with from six to fifteen youngsters in Manning Prov. Park July 27 (RS, *vide* VG). A ♀ Bufflehead was at Jordan River, B.C., June 28 and July 4 (SJ); two ♀♀ were at Cowichan Bay, near Duncan, during the report period (JCo). As many as three Oldsquaw spent the early summer at Victoria (VG *et al.*) where up to 75 Harlequin Ducks were also present during the same period (SJ). On June 19 there were an estimated 375 White-winged Scoters and 150 Surf Scoters at LaPush, Wash., (MS & WHo). Two Black Scoters were seen at Ocean Shores July 1 & 2 (JM); another was seen at Tierra del Mar, Tillamook Co., Oreg., July 8 (JG). The lone Ruddy Duck seen at Olympia June 8 (G & WH) was the only individual of this species noted in the Region for the report period. An estimated 200 young Com. Mergansers were raised on Cowichan Bay near Duncan (JCo).

HAWKS, EAGLES, GAMEBIRDS, RAILS

—Another record of a White-tailed Kite was made near Medford, Oreg., July 11, two miles n. of the locality where last winter's bird was seen; a local resident reported that one had been there from January through March (JB, *vide* OS). An ad. Goshawk was seen at Manning P.P. July 27, where single Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and two Rough-legged Hawks also were noted during the last week of July (RS, *vide* VG). A Golden Eagle nest well up in a Douglas fir and containing one or possibly two young birds was discovered at Malahat north of Victoria June 30 for the first s. Vancouver I. nesting record (VG, SJ & RS); it is anticipated that full details will be published elsewhere. Two other adult birds were seen not far away on July 19, suggesting the possible existence of a second eyrie (V & MG). Elsewhere in the Region, Golden Eagles were recorded at Manning P.P. July 25 (RS, *vide* VG), at Saanich, B.C., July 28 (ARD, *vide* VG), on the w. side of Mount Hood in Oregon July 8 (JG & HN), at Salem, Oreg., in late June (*vide* RL), and south of Medford June 4 & 24 (OS). A pair of Bald Eagles brought off one young bird at Duncan this season (JCo), an imm. bird of this species was found at Pt. Grenville north of Gray's Harbor, Wash., June 30 (JM). Three Marsh Hawks at Tillamook July 29 (JG) may indicate the possibility of a successful nesting of the species there this year. Ospreys continue to be well recorded, particularly from the s.e. end of Vancouver I., two pairs were repeatedly observed on the lower Clackamas R. southeast of Portland, and one pair was found successfully nesting on the Bull Run watershed on Mount Hood (JG & HN); a single bird was seen at Copalis, Wash., June 30 (JM). *No reports of Peregrines were received.* Merlins were seen singly at Corvallis June 28 (WE, *vide* FZ), at Goldstream north of Victoria June 3 (RS, *vide* VG) and at Victoria July 8 (VG)

Blue Grouse was heard "hooting" on the n.w. side of Mount Hood until as late as July 21 (HN *et al.*). A hen Spruce Grouse with one chick was found at Manning P.P. July 22 (RS, *vide* VG). California Quail had a highly successful nesting season on s. Vancouver I (VG), as did Ring-necked Pheasant on the Finley N.W.R. (FZ). Three crippled Sandhill Cranes spent the early summer on Sauvie I. (RK, *vide* JG). A number of Virginia Rail broods were found in the vicinity of Victoria; Soras also seemed to have a successful nesting season there (V & MG, RS). At Hoquiam, Wash., two ad. Am. Coots with four downy chicks were found July 11 (JM).

SHOREBIRDS—Two pairs of **Semipalmated Plover** each successfully fledged one juvenile at Ocean Shores during the report period (JM, EH, G & WH); this evidently constitutes the southernmost breeding record ever noted for the species in w. N. America. Migrant Semipalmated Plovers had begun to reappear in the Region by the first week in July, but the 35 at Sand Lake on the Oregon coast July 8 (JG) is an abnormally high concentration for such an early date. Six ad. Snowy Plovers were at Ocean Shores where youngsters were discovered last year, but neither nests nor young were found this year (JM); 14 birds at Bay Ocean spit on Tillamook Bay July 29 (JG) may indicate that breeding occurred there successfully this season. A single Black-bellied Plover remained at Ocean Shores throughout the season (G & WH). Representatives of that species, of Surfbirds, and of Ruddy and Black Turnstones all were appearing in the Region again in the latter part of July. A lone Ruddy Turnstone at the mouth of the Columbia R. still in winter dress July 4 (JG) is of interest. A Long-billed Curlew was at Medford for a few days in early June (*vide* OS); another lingered at Ocean Shores where it was seen repeatedly from late May until July 7 (G & WH). Two Whimbrel also remained at Ocean Shores through June; on July 8 there were 18 individuals there (G & WH). The 50 Whimbrel at Tokeland, Wash., July 21 (TW *et al.*) was the maximum count for the period, but migrants were showing up in scattered coastal localities after July 1. Solitary Sandpipers were seen twice—both near Victoria on July 30 & 31 (VG *et al.*). A Wandering Tattler near Victoria June 23 (WC, *vide* VG) was unusual, although later the vanguard of the southbound movement was at scattered points within the Region. On July 23 two Willets were found at Ocean Shores (*vide* G & WH). Three Pectoral Sandpipers at Saanich July 19 (RS, *vide* VG) and one there on both July 23 (SJ) and July 29 (VG *et al.*) all were early arrivals. Saanich and Victoria were the only sites where Baird's Sandpiper was recorded—all in the last four days of July (VG *et al.*). Two Dunlin were discovered at Ocean Shores July 7, where five were noted exactly three weeks later (G & WH). A Semipalmated Sandpiper seen at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Oreg., July 29 (AC, SG, PT) is of particular interest because this decidedly uncommon species is seldom noted very far from salt water in this Region. Western Sandpipers returned to the Victoria area in large numbers the first week in July (SJ, RS *et al.*). On July 7 four Marbled Godwits showed up at Ocean Shores (G & WH). A lone Sanderling was

at Victoria June 3 where one was observed repeatedly after July 17 (VG *et al.*). There were two Wilson's Phalaropes at Tillamook July 29 (JG). A N. Phalarope was seen at Ocean Shores June 23 (EH); a few were found at sea on each of the July pelagic trips from Westport and Newport, and by the latter half of July a few individuals were to be found at favored spots in the

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—The only reports of jaegers were of one Pomarine July 14 off Newport (MS *et al.*), another Pomarine July 17 at Victoria (KT, *fide* VG), and two Parasitics off Westport June 17 (TW *et al.*). Two Skuas were recorded 40 mi. off Newport July 13-16 (MS *et al.*). A survey of Glaucous-winged Gull nests in the Chain Is. near Victoria June 23 turned up 1,550 nests containing 3,714 eggs and 194 nestlings (WC *et al.*, *fide* VG). Western Gulls use the offshore rocky islets comprising the Oregon Island N.W.R. to good advantage; some 13,200 individuals were aerially counted by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife June 29 (FZ); seven pairs of this species nested on the sand spit at Ocean Shores in a locality which was shared with two pairs of nesting Glaucous-winged Gulls (JM). At Manning P.P. July 25, there were 23 California Gulls (RS, *fide* VG); subadults were around s Vancouver I. in June (SJ). Immature Ring-billed Gulls were appearing there by the last week in July (VG *et al.*). A concentration of 30 subadult Mew Gulls at Metchosin, B.C., Vancouver I. June 27 (SJ) was extraordinary; each year a few individuals appear in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca in July, but usually not until September is the species recorded further south. A Franklin's Gull was carefully studied at Tierra del Mar, Tillamook Co., Oreg., July 8 (JG), adding to the meager total of observations of this species on the Oregon coast. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Victoria and Metchosin, B.C., where 14 were counted (SJ), at Salem (*fide* RL) in the last week of June, and at Sequim, Wash., where six individuals were noted June 19 (WHO, MS). Eight were at Sand Lake, Oreg., July 8, and 20 were at Tillamook July 29 (JG); several hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were at Metchosin July 30 (SJ). Heermann's Gulls moved north in June; the one at Ocean Shores June 3 (G & WH), and the several at Victoria and vicinity by June 10 being particularly early; the movement was heavy along the Oregon coast the last week in June (WHO, MS). Up to a score of Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Ocean Shores throughout the report period (EH, G & WH). Off Westport three adult Sabine's Gulls were seen June 17 and two were seen July 22 (TW *et al.*). Ten Com. Terns were seen at Bellingham June 1 (TW); by July 31 there were 100 at Victoria as a result of a build-up which commenced in mid-July. An Arctic Tern was seen off Newport July 14 (MS *et al.*), and another was seen at Victoria July 24 (KT, *fide* VG). Caspian Terns were more than usually in evidence in the vicinity of Victoria throughout the report period, six individuals in one day being the maximum. A **Black Tern** at Cordova Spit on the Saanich Peninsula north of Victoria June 16 was well described after careful study, and constitutes the first Vancouver I. record (RS, *fide* VG).

ALCIDS—Approximately 160,000 Com. Murres were censused by air on the 25 segments of Oregon Islands N.W.R. June 29 (FZ). On July 2, 150 Pigeon Guillemots were counted on Goat I., off Brookings, Oreg. (WHO, MS, FZ); individuals were also found nesting in the Chain Is. near Victoria (WC *et al.*, *fide* VG). There were 65 Marbled Murrelets at Victoria July 8 (VG). An Ancient Murrelet in breeding plumage seen a mile off Yaquina Head near Newport July 13 & 16 (MS *et al.*, *fide* HN) was quite an unusual find. Out of Westport July 22, a good count of 71 Cassin's Auklets was obtained (TW). Rhinoceros Auklets were common at Victoria in June and abundant in July, it being possible to count between 200-400 in a day, by late July, however, numbers fell off sharply (VG), near Sequim June 19, 200 individual birds were seen. Rhinoceros Auklets were also observed along both the Washington and Oregon coasts in small numbers during the period. A few were found nesting at Goat I. in late June where two downy chicks were dug out of a burrow (WHO, MS, FZ). On July 2, 80 Tufted Puffins were counted there; two others were seen 35 mi. at sea from Newport in mid-June (MS *et al.*, *fide* HN); another was at Victoria July 6-July 28 (VG) where the species does not commonly occur. Records of **Horned Puffins** in the Region are rare; it is therefore of great interest that two individuals were seen off Newport, Oreg., July 13—one ten mi. at sea, the other 35 mi. out (MS, WE, WHO, CL, *fide* FZ). On June 21-22, a **Horned Puffin** was at Yaquina Head Rocks (PR, JO, *fide* FZ), still another individual of this species was recorded at Victoria June 27 (MG)!

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—Two Barn Owls were found at Saanich, B.C. July 15 (RS, JT, *fide* VG). A Short-eared Owl at Nehalem, Oreg., July 29 (JG) was unusual. More than 300 Black Swifts were inexplicably around Duncan, B.C., June 5-25 (JCo); on June 16 the same number was estimated to be at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver, B.C. and over the city itself, moving southeasterly with a storm front, while on the following day at the same place, up to 40 were seen (DM). Anna's Hummingbirds are said to have reached numbers almost in parity with Rufous Hummingbirds in the Medford area by the end of the report period (JH). Lewis' Woodpeckers were unreported. Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers, however, were found at Lost L. on Oregon's Santiam Highway May 23 (FS, TM), at Mount Rainier Nat'l Park July 22 (JM) and at Manning P.P. July 24-27 (RS, *fide* VG). Two E. Kingbirds were seen at Victoria June 23 (RMG, *fide* VG). A pair of W. Kingbirds nested at Sauvie I., near Portland, and had brought off two young birds by August 1 (JG); up to a dozen individuals of this species were counted between Roseburg and Elkton, Oreg., July 12 (OS). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered at Salem June 9 (RL, *fide* HN).

LARKS THROUGH THRUSHES—Six or eight Skylarks were observed on San Juan I., Wash., July 17 (TW); five were at Saanich, B.C., July 14 (V & MG, RS). A Horned Lark was carrying food at the latter place July 21 (RS, *fide* VG). Three pairs of Purple Martins were at Olympia all during June and July, and

evidently raised at least five young (G & WH), others were seen in the Bellingham area, at San Juan I., at Saanich and Victoria, at Seattle, and near Portland, but never in numbers exceeding a half dozen. A Blue Jay was found at Victoria again, on July 23 (*vide* VG). From July 24 to 28 up to 25 Boreal Chickadees were seen at Manning P.P. (RS, *vide* VG). House Wrens were found singing in many places on s. Vancouver I. during the report period (SJ). A pair of Rock Wrens in a clearcut on the w. side of Mt. Hood July 8 were suspected of nesting (HN). A Mockingbird is belatedly mentioned as having been seen at Salem May 10 (TM). Western Bluebirds were reported seen only in Oregon's upper Rogue R. valley, and from there only "irregularly" (OS). A Mountain Bluebird was found low on the w. side of Mt. Hood July 21 (TL, HN).

GNATCATCHERS, VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS—A Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was seen at Emigrant L. s. of Ashland, Oreg., July 17 (OS). Almost 40 individual Hutton's Vireos were seen in the vicinity of Victoria during the report period—20 of them on July 13 and 10 more July 14 (KT, *vide* VG)! Hutton's Vireos were also reported to have been "most plentiful" during the same period at Duncan, a bit further north on Vancouver I., as were Red-eyed Vireos (JCo), which is even more surprising. Otis Swisher counted 30 Yellow-breasted Chats in the course of a two-mile canoe float behind Gold Ray Dam on Oregon's upper Rogue R. July 11; the birds were paired regularly at about 75-yard intervals in suitable habitat. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Baskett Slough N W R. near Dallas, Oreg., June 11 (JMi, *vide* FZ). Brown-headed Cowbirds were found to have parasitized nests of the following nine species in the Victoria area: Com. Bushtit, Hutton's, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch and White-crowned Sparrow; a flock of 25 cowbirds, mostly juveniles and ?? was seen at or near Victoria July 23 (SJ)

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS—A second w. Oregon record for the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was made on June 25—precisely six months after the first one—when a ♂ second-year bird struck a window and was killed at Eugene (HW, *vide* HN). Three ♂ Lazuli Buntings were at Saanich June 2 (V & MG, RS). Evening Grosbeaks were observed in small numbers around Victoria and in the Oregon Cascades. A Pine Grosbeak at Washington's White Pass southeast of Mt. Rainier N.P. June 2 (EH) is of interest, as is the ♂ seen at Manning P.P. July 24 (RS, *vide* VG). Pine Siskins, Am Goldfinches and Red Crossbills all were reported to have been in Duncan, B.C., in "unprecedented numbers" during the report period (JCo). Red Crossbills elsewhere were intermittently scattered through the s. portion of the Region except, apparently, for s. Oregon. Five Green-tailed Towhees were seen on Mt. Ashland, s. of Medford, in an alpine meadow, of all places, July 3 (OS). Grasshopper Sparrows again appeared in late May at the same locale west of Eugene where they were discovered last year, and were seen

thereafter throughout June (AC, SG). A nest of the **Golden-crowned Sparrow** containing three large young was discovered on June 1 in a field near a gravel pit in N. Saanich, Vancouver I., by J. W. McCammon (*vide* WC); the identification was confirmed two days later when Wayne Campbell saw the adults with the young birds, which were by then out of the nest. The nest was collected for the Provincial Museum. On June 4, two ad. Golden-crowns were found at a different locality at central Saanich, and on June 5 a singing adult was discovered at a third location on the Saanich Pen. (*vide* WC). An adult was also seen at Saanich July 5 (WC, *vide* VG). Fox Sparrows were noted all through June and July at Sooke, B.C., but no nest was found (SJ), the species is not known as a s. Vancouver I. nester, so that the presence of several individuals during the breeding season is cause for speculation.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION / Van Remsen and David A. Gaines

Mild, dry weather typified the summer season in the lowlands. In contrast to last year, water remained in many streams and ponds even on the floor of the Central Valley. In the foothills and mountains, a bumper crop of dry herbaceous vegetation, the product of a wet winter, fueled extensive brush and forest fires. Warm weather in June caused snowmelt to swell mountain streams to near flood levels. Thunderstorms were frequent at higher elevations, keeping mountain meadows lush into the summer. It was a successful nesting season for most species, and timing of nesting in the coastal district, Central Valley, and foothills was near normal. Snow and cold, however, delayed arrival of birds in the higher montane regions, but all expected species were present in usual numbers by July 4 (GMcC *et al.*).

The usual movement of birds up-mountain from their breeding areas was well underway by the end of July, for example: an immature Black-chinned Hummingbird at Crane Flat, Tuolumne Co., July 15 (RS, Peter Warshall) and another at 5175 ft. at Buck's L., Plumas Co., Aug. 10-15 (RS, GM); a ♀ Anna's Hummingbird at Buck's L. Aug. 9-13 (RS), *Selasphorus* hummingbirds very common at high elevations in the Sierras after early July (MM, DAG),



Four W. Flycatchers at 6500 ft. at Robinson Flat, Placer Co., July 28-29 (DDeS, JF); a fledged Bushtit at 9860 ft. in the c. High Sierra July 19 (Gary Colliver, *vide* DDeS); House Wrens at several Sierra localities up to 10,200 ft. in mid-July (MM; Gary Colliver, *vide* DDeS); Orange-crowned Warblers at 9500 ft. in mid-July and very common in early August (MM, DAG); a Yellow Warbler at Robinson Flat, July 28 (DDeS, JF); and an ad. Lesser Goldfinch at Buck's L., Aug. 12(RS). Lazuli Buntings arrived at Crane Flat in early July and, in contrast to "up-mountain" Orange-crowned Warblers common in the same habitat, behaved as nesting birds, i.e., set up territories and were observed carrying nesting material and insects. Do the same birds nest twice, once at lower and later at higher elevations (MM)?

Migrant landbirds appeared in the Central Valley by July. Orange-crowned Warblers and Western Tanagers, for instance, became increasingly common after July 5 (DAG), and migrant landbirds had already reached the coast by late July. Last winter's severe weather may have had a profound effect on resident landbird densities. At Point Reyes, for example, resident densities were down on most breeding bird censuses (NS).

Gulf of California waterbirds arrived early and in good numbers and were accompanied by at least three very rare, warm water species (Red-billed Tropicbird, Magnificent Frigatebird, Xantus' Murrelet). This early influx plus low percentages of juvenile Brown Pelicans hinted at a large-scale nesting failure to the south. On the other hand, a large number of waterbirds breeding in the Arctic were recorded abnormally late into the summer, and among them also were several rarities (Yellow-billed Loon, Black Scoter, Glaucous Gull, Horned Puffin). Sight records for which we have thorough documentation on file (usually our standard description form) are indicated by an asterisk after initials of the observer who completed the form.

LOONS, GREBES—Seventeen Commons, 23 Arctics, and 12 Red-throated Loons were reported summering along the coast. A non-breeding plumaged imm. **Yellow-billed Loon** was discovered June 17 at Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co. (LCB, VR*), and was subsequently seen until at least June 25 (SFB,BGE,DR, NS, WS, ST); this is the first summer record for the Region, the previous latest and earliest dates being Apr. 29 and Oct. 20. There are now 20 acceptable records for the Region, all since 1965; all but the three between Dec. 3 and Mar. 19. Breeding plumaged Arctic Loons were still migrating north at about 20 per hour on the San Mateo Co. coast June 16-17 (VR,J&SL,JM) and two probable migrants were flying north at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co., July 6 (VR,DE), an incredibly late date. A Red-throated Loon in breeding plumage was also seen moving north on the late date of June 17 at Moss Beach (VR, LCB). In no previous year has loon migration been recorded later than about June 9, but this may be owing to lack of observations from the coast at this time of year. A late Red-necked Grebe in full breeding plumage was at Trinidad, Humboldt Co., June 8 (DE, TS), and a Horned Grebe was at Moss Landing June 21 (AB). Nearly 500 summering W. Grebes were found from Santa Cruz to Pt. Reyes, including two inside San Francisco Bay (hereafter S.F. Bay).

SHEARWATERS, PETRELS—As usual, a couple of summering N. Fulmars were reported: one off Humboldt Co. June 20 (RLeV) and one inshore at Monterey June 27 (AB). Three New Zealand Shearwaters were seen from shore at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., July 7 (BGE); not only is this extremely early, but this species is seldom seen from shore. Perhaps owing to a poor squid season, Sooty Shearwaters were much less common than usual in Monterey Bay (AB), but were in normal numbers, or better, farther north. Following stormy weather, 50 Fork-tailed Petrels were off Humboldt Co. and a few were inshore at Humboldt Bay July 14 (RLeV). Also off Humboldt Co. on July 14 were three Ashy Petrels, the fifth or sixth county record.

PELECANIFORMS—A **Red-billed Tropicbird**, at Pescadero, San Mateo Co., June 29 (MH*, ER) was the second record for the Region. White Pelicans were very scarce throughout the Region, but larger numbers of Brown Pelicans reached the Region earlier than normal, e.g. 368 at Moss Landing by June 17 (LRD), 110 Pebble Beach June 26 (AB), and 105 in San Mateo Co. where there were only 24 at the same roost at the same time in 1972 (BGE). Unfortunately, the proportion of juveniles was much lower this year (10-25%) than last (50-75%). The largest concentration was at Pajaro Dunes where there were 601 (20% first-year., 15% second-year., 65% adults) July 25 (J&RW). A possible Brown Booby, an adult, was described from Pt. Reyes South Beach July 14 (F&LN*); if accepted, this will be the first Regional record. Single **Magnificent Frigatebirds** appeared off Bodega Bay in early July (vide RS) and in Bodega Harbor July 21 (WMP).

HERONS—At the Bair I heronry in San Mateo Co., peak pair densities were reported (RM) as follows: Great Blue Heron 34 pairs (approximately the same as 1968-70), Snowy Egret 362 pairs (100% increase over 1968-70), and Black-crowned Night Heron 609 pairs (50% increase over 1968-70); nesting success was about the same as in 1972 (BGE). The ad. Little Blue Heron found there last spring was seen again June 5 (BGE,DAZ). The preservation of this island, hopefully through the proposed South Bay N.W.R. is critical to S.F. Bay heron and egret populations. At another important heronry, W. Marin I. in San Rafael, the following peak counts of individuals were obtained (RSD): Great Egret 88 (June 3), Snowy Egret 294 (July 26), and Black-crowned Night Heron 47 (June 17). The ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron which has been present for six summers was seen June 29 (BGE). A new Great Egret rookery with 100 birds was located near Sacramento west of Franklin Road. and northwest of Twin Cities Road. (T. Argante, *vide* BK).

GEESE, DABBLING DUCKS—As many as 75 Canada Geese were present at Bay Farm I. through the summer and some apparently nested; they were first reported nesting there in 1967 (*vide* ER). This may be the only nesting area on the Calif. coast; Grinnell and Miller (1944. *Distribution of the Birds of California Pac. Coast Avifauna No. 27*: 66-68; hereafter G. & M.) list only one old nesting record for the coast; however, these birds may have originated from the semicaptive breeding birds at nearby L. Merritt (JM). As many as 30 Black Brant summered at Año Nuevo Pt (BY *et al*); another 29 birds were reported from four other coastal localities, and singles were found inside S F Bay at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (hereafter B B T.P.) June 14 (DE) and at Alviso, Santa Clara Co., July 13 (BGE). The Ross' Goose that wintered at Livermore remained there until June 9 (AE), indicating that the bird was probably either unhealthy or an escapee.

The only Fulvous Tree Ducks reported were 1-2 Woodland June 16 (D. Shuford, *vide* BK), two there July 1 (VR,J&SL), and two at Firebaugh, Fresno Co. (RH). A pair of Blue-winged Teal produced five young at Marina, Monterey Co., by June 14 (DB). Although Blue-winged Teal have been reported regularly in the summer, this is apparently the first nesting record for the coast of N. California; G. & M. list only one nesting record west of the Sierras in our Region. Other Blue-winged Teal were reported from Humboldt Bay, Sacramento, and Woodland, with as many as four at Woodland July 7 (JH). One Green-winged and five Cinnamon Teal nests were found at 6000 ft. at Kyburz Flat, Sierra Co., July 4 (GZ).

DIVING DUCKS—Three non-breeding summering Canvasbacks were reported: one male all summer at Woodland (m.ob.), one male at San Leandro Bay June 30 (BP), and one female at Belmont Slough (PM). A pair was also seen at Modoc N.W.R. June 17 (JM), indicating possible nesting. Two ♂♂ Greater Scaup were at Bolinas Lagoon July 14 (LCB, DE, JM, VR); no summer records are given for our Region by G. & M. or McCaskie & DeBenedictis

[1965 *Birds of Northern California* (Annotated Field List). Golden Gate Aud. Soc., Berkeley; hereafter M & D.] and we have only two sight records since the latter's publication. Summering Lesser Scaup were reported from Humboldt, Bodega, Tomales, San Pablo, and S. F. Bays, and at Woodland; 150 on San Pablo Bay July 1 (FB) was an exceptional number. Summering Com. Goldeneyes were reported as follows: one at L. Hennessey, Napa Co., July 14 (WT), one female at Belmont Slough June 16 (PM), and one female at Hayward July 28 (J&SL). Two ♀♀ Bufflehead were at Bodega Bay on the late date of June 9 (MLR). As usual, as many as four Harlequin Ducks (at least three males) summered at Año Nuevo Pt. (TC, BGE, B&CY *et al*), and an imm. male was at Pacific Grove through the end of the period (AB). Twenty White-winged Scoters were found at six locations and 47 Surf Scoters at three coastal and two S.F. Bay locations. Only three summering Black Scoters have been reported since 1962, but this summer eight individuals were reported: one female (possibly late migrant) at Santa Cruz June 3 (BGE), one female at Pacifica June 17 (LCB, VR), one imm. male Moss Beach June 17 (LCB, VR) three females and one imm. male at Princeton Harbor - Half Moon Bay (DDeS, MLR *et al.*), and one female at Pescadero Beach July 6 (DE, JM, VR); some of these may have been the same individuals shifting locations, but the number is exceptional in any case. Adding to known breeding localities for Com. Mergansers, females with young were noted at Boca Dam, Nevada Co., July 14 (LCB, DE, JM, VR), Independence L., Nevada Co., July 7 (GZ), L. Pillsbury, Lake Co., July 21 (PM), and on the Sacramento R. in both Tehama and Glenn Cos (DAG). G. & M. do not record this species as breeding below the Transition Zone, and so the Sacramento R. observations are of particular interest. Sixteen summering Red-breasted Mergansers (no breeding plumaged males) were found at five coastal localities

RAPTORS—A California Condor was seen by a qualified observer familiar with condors and vultures July 22 at Eagle Rock Lookout, Santa Cruz Mts. (*vide* BGE), for one of the only Santa Cruz Co. records in recent times. Nine Goshawks were reported from the Sierras, an exceptional number. Sharp-shinned Hawks were much scarcer than usual at Duncan Peak, Placer Co. (JW). Despite an extensive search, no Cooper's Hawks were found in the Sacramento Valley riparian (DAG) where they presumably once nested. Nesting Swainson's Hawks were down in the Central Valley (hereafter C.V.) following last year's encouraging season. Singles were seen in the Sierras July 12 at Virginia Lakes, Toiyabe N.F. (MM) and July 17 Duncan Peak (JW). An encouraging 31 Golden Eagles were reported, and breeding populations in the Diablo Range remained stable (BGE); however, no Bald Eagles were reported for the second straight summer. Ospreys were considered holding their own in Sonoma and Mendocino Cos.

S.A.

A Prairie Falcon nest in Alameda Co. was again successfully defended from falconers by a round-the-clock vigilance organized by Bill Bland; Alan Pistorius

was actually engaged in a cliff-top confrontation with a determined falconer when the authorities arrived in the nick of time. The nest fledged two young. The insanity with which some falconers pursue their hobby is selecting against and possibly exterminating those few falcon genotypes successfully breeding despite pesticide contamination. Must we guard every nest 24 hours a day in order to maintain a breeding population in California or should the Dept. of Fish & Game not put a moratorium on falconry until populations of endangered or threatened species show other than unhealthy signs?

No other Prairies and only two Peregrines were reported. American Kestrels also continued to decline in several areas.

GROUSE, RAILS—The large numbers of Blue Grouse reported indicated that populations must be approaching a cyclic peak. A small population of escaped Asian Peafowl is breeding successfully at Loma Prieta, Santa Cruz Co. (BGE). A pair of Virginia Rails, a pair of Soras, and three pairs of Am. Coots nested at 6000 ft at Kyburz Flat (GZ) near the upper limit of their altitudinal breeding range. As many as three Com. Gallinules were at Pacific Grove June 2-10 (AB); they are uncommon along the coast, especially in summer.

SHOREBIRDS—Two Semipalmated Plovers were found at Alturas, Modoc Co., June 16 (JM*); this species is rare inland even in migration and this is the first report of this species summering inland. Six migrants were seen inland at Woodland July 28 (B&RL). The Semipalmated Plover is not listed as present by M. & D. from late May to late July; however, summering individuals were reported from Bodega Bay (MLR), Bolinas Lagoon (VR), BBTP (DE), and Alameda (ER). A few individuals probably summer every year. A pair of Snowy Plovers nested successfully on the busy beach at Alameda (ER) and numbers elsewhere appeared stable. The first returning Surf-bird was at Princeton July 13 (BJM). The Ruddy Turnstone is another species not considered to summer by M. & D., but individuals noted at Bodega Bay June 30 (MLR), Bolinas Lagoon July 14 (LCB, DE, JM, VR), and others reported before late July in previous years seems to indicate that it is present every summer. A very large number of Long-billed Curlews (2100) were found near Sacramento July 27 (*vide* BK). The Whimbrel is not recorded by M. & D. as present from early June to mid-July; however, one at Bodega Bay June 17 (FB), four at Alameda June 28 (ER), and June birds last year at Pacific Grove (AB) and Pajaro Dunes (J&RW) are probably normal for this time of year. Two early Wandering Tattlers were at Castro Pt., Richmond, July 2 (BP); this species is unusual inside S.F. Bay anytime. One thousand Willets had already returned to the Dumbarton Bridge by July 6 (DE, JM, BP, VR), and two thousand were at Palo Alto by July 15 (DDeS). This species apparently begins to return in late June; on June 13 ten were counted at Alameda but on June 28 the total soared to 687 (ER). Only three Lesser Yellowlegs were reported: Woodland July 7 (B&RL), Angwin, Napa Co., July 22

(WT), and Livermore July 29 (AE). The first Red Knots to return were five in breeding plumage at B.B.T.P. July 16 (DE). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Pt. Reyes July 26 (WMP) may be the earliest ever reported from the Region. Extremely early Baird's Sandpipers were singles at Alameda July 15 (ER *et al.*) and Pescadero July 22 (DDeS). Two Short-billed Dowitchers, rarely reported inland, were heard distinctly at Woodland July 8 (VR, DE, JM) and July 28 (B&RL). An Am. Avocet was on the Farallons July 28 for the second island record (BT). On July 7, 730 were censused at Woodland, more than twice the summer peak count in two previous years of censusing (B&RL). On July 4, two Wilson's Phalaropes were at Mono L. but they increased to 12-16,000 by July 14 (RS). On July 6 at least 10,000 were at the Dumbarton Bridge (DE, JM, BP, VR), and one on the Farallons July 28 was the first island record (BT). The N. Phalarope is not recorded by M. & D. as present between June 1 and about July 7. This year, however, 37 were recorded at four coastal localities June 9-30 and two were at Woodland June 2 (B&RL).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—Single Pomarine Jaegers were seen flying south at Moss Beach June 17 (SFB) and Pt. Pinos July 11 (AB). A *Skua* June 11 off Santa Cruz (SFB*, BGE*, PM *et al.*) seems to be the first June record for the Region, although there are May and July records. A sub-ad. **Glaucous Gull** was at Pajaro Dunes July 15 (BGE*) for one of the very few summer records from the Region. No summering Mew Gulls were reported. Heermann's Gulls appeared in large numbers early: 100+ were already at Pacific Grove June 4 (AB), numbers at Santa Cruz were higher than in at least the past four years (BGE), and along the San Mateo Co. coast numbers increased from 22 on June 17 to 565 July 6 (VR). Summering Black-legged Kittiwakes were extremely scarce. Two or three breeding plumaged Sabine's Gulls were off Humboldt Co. June 20-21 (RLeV); M. & D. list no records May 25-Aug. 20, but we now have 12 records within that period, six of which are in June and July (none June 22-July 25).

TERNs—Three hundred pairs of Forster's Terns nested on Bair I. (RM), possibly the biggest nesting area in S.F. Bay. At Bay Farm I. July 31, 171 Least Terns were counted, about half of which were flying but still dependent young (BGE). This is the highest number reported in at least 12 years, very encouraging for this endangered bird, except that there are plans to develop Bay Farm I. Elegant Terns arrived early this year: 12 were at Pajaro Dunes by June 4 (J&RW) and 17 were at the B.B.T.P. by June 27 (JM). Numbers were just average, however, with 250 at Pajaro Dunes July 26 (J&RW) the largest number reported. Caspian Terns were reported in exceptional numbers from the San Mateo Co. coast (DDeS, VR) and from Pajaro Dunes, where 77 censused on July 22 exceeded any previous count by 20 birds (J&RW). Adding to the list of known nesting localities, Black Tern nests were found at Sierra Valley, Plumas Co. and at Kyburz Flat (GZ). Forty-three south of Los Banos June 16 (VR, PMy) were encouraging in light of decreases reported

in the San Joaquin Valley in recent years. Perhaps the more extensive planting of rice authorized by the government was responsible. Black Tern numbers were down at Elverta and Robbins, but hopefully this was owing to a spreading out of the population due to increased rice-planted acreage in the Sacramento Valley (B&RL).

ALCIDS—At least 3500 Com. Murres were found dead at Santa Cruz this summer, a high percentage of which showed evidence of drowning in fishing nets; eye-witness reports substantiated this (*vide* BGE). Pigeon Guillemots fledged young from nests under piers at Monterey (AB) and one nest with young was found in beams under a pier at Santa Cruz (RH), an encouraging adaptation to man's presence. The nest of the Marbled Murrelet remains undiscovered, although many were seen to alight in tops of redwoods at dusk in Portola S.P. (BGE). Does that not sufficiently tantalize some ambitious, arboreal nest-finder out there to undertake the discovery of the last unknown nest in North America? [And win the *American Birds* prize?—Ed.]. Where is Tarzan now that we need him? A Xantus' Murrelet July 17 on the Farallons (BT) is probably the earliest record for the Region. Four **Horned Puffins** were found this summer: one off the Farallons June 2 (BE*), one in flight six mi. west of the Golden Gate June 10 (GLB*), another in flight three mi. off Humboldt Bay July 14 (RLeV*), and one dead on the Farallons sometime this summer (*vide* BT). The only previous report of a healthy, flying bird was also during the summer: June 6, 1967. We also have about ten records of dead or dying birds from January to March, May, and August. A breeding-plumaged Tufted Puffin was seen from shore at Moss Beach June 17 (VR, LCB) and again July 6 (DE, JM, BP, VR).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—A few Band-tailed Pigeons summered along the Sacramento R. in Tehama, Butte, and Glenn Cos. (DAG). At least 30 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were observed at 18 localities along the Sacramento R. between Colusa and Tehama Cos. in extensive, dense thickets of cottonwood-willow riparian (DAG, PB, BW *et al.*). In addition, one was below Indian Resort near Tracy June 24 (MM), one was at the s. end of Clear L., Lake Co., June 28 (BGE), and four were in the lower Butte Sink, Butte Co., July 5-6 (DAG *et al.*). A Barn Owl was on the Farallons July 13 for the first island record (BT). A Flammulated Owl at Alderpoint on the Eel R. June 3, the second for Humboldt Co., was at the unusually low elevation of 350 ft. (TS, RW). Three nests of the Great Gray Owl produced seven young in the Yosemite region (RS, B&CY, BDP *et al.*). The only Long-eared Owl reported was, strangely enough, on the Farallons July 17, the status of this species is the least well known of any owl in the Region. At least two young were fledged by Short-eared Owls on Bair I., confirming that this species yet breeds in the marshes of San Francisco Bay (BGE). A pair observed at Moss Landing June 21 may also have bred (AB). A Com. Night-hawk near Santa Rosa July 20 may be the first for

Sonoma Co (GLB) despite the fact that the species breeds north in Humboldt Co. Four Lesser Night-hawks were at Los Banos June 9 (ROW) and two were south of Los Banos June 16 (VR, PMY); pairs were observed nesting on gravel bars at two localities along the Sacramento R., Glenn and Butte Cos. (DAG, PB).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—A Black Swift at New Almaden, Santa Clara Co., June 2 was probably a migrant (LCB). Up to 11 were present at Ano Nuevo Pt., a known nesting locality, during June (m. ob.). Again this year a nest was found at Lighthouse Pt. near Santa Cruz (DB *et al.*). In the Sierras, Black Swifts were reported in good numbers from the Yosemite region (B&CY, BDP, PM, JF, DDeS). Vaux's Swifts were continually present during early July in Big Basin S.P., San Mateo Co., near the southern limit of their nesting range (BGE). Several summered on the floor of the Sacramento Valley in Chico (BW, JC, DAG). In the Sierras, Vaux's Swifts were sighted at Yuba Pass, Sierra Co., Crane Flat, Yosemite (MM), and Hazelwood Picnic Area, Sequoia N.P., (HB); they probably nest in these areas but no nests have been found. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird and a probable imm. ♂ Costa's X Anna's hybrid appeared at a feeder in Paradise, Butte Co. The hybrid was mist-netted, and photographs, a few plucked feathers, and voice recordings sent to experts for confirmation (BW, JC). With reports from 12 localities between Sequoia N.P. and Yuba Pass, Pileated Woodpeckers may be increasing in the Sierras. Others were observed in the Santa Cruz Mts (BGE), on Mt. Tamalpais, Marin Co. (WMP), and on Hull Mt., Mendocino and Lake Cos. (PM, PB) Common Flickers, Acorn Woodpeckers, and Lewis' Woodpeckers were ousted from nest sites by Starlings this season (PB, LF, AE); a pair of Acorn Woodpeckers in Lafayette then nested successfully in July after the Starlings had departed (LF). A Red-breasted Sapsucker at L. Pillsbury, Lake Co., July 1 was south of the species' known nesting range. A Nuttall's Woodpecker was at the incredible elevation of 8000 ft at Bridalveil Campground, Yosemite, June 18 (BGE). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker nest was found near Yuba Summit, Sierra Co., June 17 (MLR, AP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS—A **Tropical Kingbird**, well-described from Los Altos July 21 (B&CY), is the first summer and second non-coastal sighting in the Region. Cassin's Kingbirds reported in Alameda Co. from Del Puerto Canyon (AE) and Arroyo Mocho south of Livermore (VR) were the only ones reported. An extremely early Ash-throated Flycatcher was on the Farallons July 15-16 (BT) A Willow Flycatcher along Arroyo Mocho June 21 was the only one reported from the lowlands; 25 were present June 11-12 at Hodgden and Akerson Meadows, Stanislaus N.F., Tuolumne Co. (MM *et al.*), and at least two were at the record elevation of 9000 ft. near L. Ellery, east of Tioga Pass, Mono Co., June 18-20 (BGE, DAZ). In the Sacramento Valley, W. Wood Pewees have become common nesting birds in

cottonwood-willow riparian and are apparently increasing in the San Joaquin Valley as well; 13 were evenly spaced and calling at Caswell S.P. June 24 where none had been present in June in prior years (MM). At least 15 Bank Swallows south of Susanville, Lassen Co., June 3 (PB) and another near Alturas June 23 (JM) are our first reports from northeastern California. (not recorded there by G. & M.); they may breed there in small numbers. At least six pairs of Plain Titmice were along the Eel R. south of Alderpoint June 3, the largest concentration yet discovered in Humboldt Co. (TS, RW). Five Rock Wrens, including one feeding young, were in the same area on the same day (TS, RW). Wrentits, although common in the Sacramento Valley along the Feather and lower Sacramento Rivers, could not be found from Colusa Co. north where they were previously present (DAG), perhaps the result of the severity of last winter.

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES—A Townsend's Solitaire on Hull Mt. July 1 was south of its known nesting range (PM). Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers along the Eel R. south of Alderpoint were only the second Humboldt Co. record (TS, RW). A Cedar Waxwing was observed feeding two young at Buck's L., Plumas Co., Aug. 11 (RS) for the first nesting record for the Region outside the n.w. coast belt. An extremely early Cedar Waxwing was on the Farallons July 15-16 (BT). Breeding Loggerhead Shrikes were uncommon in Marin Co. (MLR), but seemed to be holding their own in the C.V., where some pairs raised broods in June (DAG).

WARBLERS—Orange-crowned Warblers seemed to outnumber all other bird species combined at 5-7000 ft in the Sierras this summer (DDeS, JF). In contrast to past years, Yellow Warblers could not be found at Caswell S.P., San Joaquin Co., June 24, despite an intensive search (MM); this species, like the Bell's Vireo and Com. Yellowthroat, has become nearly extinct in the C.V., probably due to cowbird parasitism. Three Yellow-rumped Warblers were on the Farallons July 15-16 (BT), an incredibly early date, and three early Hermit Warblers had arrived in Berkeley by July 27 (Jack Reinhoehl). Hermit Warbler fledglings, often four young per brood, were thought to be unusually common in the Sierras, indicating good nesting success (MM). Single vagrant ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were recorded as follows: Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co., June 2 (MLR*); near Clear Lake Highlands, Lake Co., June 28 (BGE*); and Arcata, Humboldt Co., July 2 (S.W. Harris, *vide* RLeV). A dull-plumaged **Prairie Warbler** was observed on Pt. Pinos on the unusual date of July 19 (RS). A singing ♂ Am. Redstart returned to the site near Arcata where a pair bred last year, but no female was seen as of June 8 (TS, DE). Unfortunately, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory failed to report any of its crop of late spring vagrants.

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS—A pair of Bobolinks, a singing male with a female, were in a hayfield north of Ft. Dick, Del Norte Co., July 1 (JG); there are no records of coastal nesting, but two males (previously unreported) summered last year near

Eureka (S.H. Harris, *vide* JG). Another male was at Año Nuevo Pt. July 14 (ST). An imm. ♂ **Summer Tanager** was seen near Santa Rosa June 29 and a female-plumaged individual was collected there July 25 (GLB). A group of five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, two males and three females or immature, appeared near Sebastopol, Sonoma Co., July 30-Aug. 1 (Lewis & Betty Land, *vide* BP). Another Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at a feeder in Pacific Grove July 6-7 (AB). At least two Evening Grosbeaks lingered in Berkeley until June 13, they were found in better than usual numbers in the n. Sierra, but were scarcer than usual in the Yosemite region (MLR, RS, MM, DDeS *et al.*). Six Red Crossbills flying over Santa Rosa July 15 (GLB) and a pair throughout June in San Francisco (MLR *et al.*) were the only ones reported from the coastal district. Pine Grosbeaks were present in expected areas and numbers. Cassin's Finch, Green-tailed Towhee, and Lincoln's Sparrow on Hull Mt. were all south of their known nesting ranges (PM). Small colonies of Grasshopper Sparrows were present in Contra Costa Co. in Wildcat Canyon (GZ *et al.*) and Las Trampas (JM) Reg. Parks, and south of Limantour on Pt. Reyes (AP), but none were present in Briones Reg. Park where they were present last year (NS). One was at San Gregorio, San Mateo Co., July 22 (DDeS, JF). A "good breeding population" of Rufous-crowned Sparrows at Aetna Springs, Napa Co., was near the northern limit of their nesting range (BDP). Both Dark-eyed Juncos and Chipping Sparrows were thought to have had tremendous nesting success in the Sierras (MM).

CORRIGENDA—In Table 2 of the winter report for our Region, *Am. Birds* 27: 661, the % of Myrtle-type Warblers on the outer coast should read 42.0, not 4 2, and the number of Anna's Hummingbirds at the Berkeley feeder should read 300, not 30.

ADDENDA—A White Pelican at Eureka Mar 3, 1973 was one of the few county records (DE). A ♀ Black-and-white Warbler was at the Carmel River mouth and a singing Tennessee Warbler was at Pacific Grove, both May 23, 1973 (RS). A singing ♂ Magnolia Warbler was at Pt. Pinos May 21-22, 1973 (RS, GM).

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

This summer was hot and dry in the eastern portions of the Region, pleasantly warm and dry in the mountains, but relatively cool along the coast owing to prevailing fog. However, the vegetation was more



lush than normal throughout the Region as a result of the heavy rains last winter. All observers reporting from the mountains and the chaparral-covered coastal slopes indicated a good year for most of the nesting birds with many young produced. One exception appears to have been the hummingbirds. Alice Fries, located in San Diego County, commented that all the species occurring in her area were much scarcer than normal, and the Mortons, studying hummers on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, found nesting success among Black-chinned and Allen's Hummingbirds far below normal.

Ocean temperatures were low all summer, hovering around 63-65° F. rather than the normal 68-70°. Fishermen were complaining the waters were devoid of fish, and albacore (a member of the tuna family associated with warm waters) had not appeared by the end of the period. Warm water birds such as Least Petrels were evidently absent, and shearwater numbers were very low. In addition, numbers of Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls and Elegant Terns were lower than usual along the coast, and few birds could be seen feeding in the coastal waters.

The level of the Salton Sea was higher than in any previous year, inundating much of the exposed mudflats and eliminating many areas previously used

for nesting. However, post-breeding dispersal from nesting colonies in Mexico brought the expected species such as Wood Storks to the Sea, and also graced us with an unprecedented number of Roseate Spoonbills.

LOONS — Each summer a few loons can be found along the coast, as illustrated by the presence of a Com. Loon at Santa Barbara June 29, an Arctic Loon there July 15, another off San Diego July 25, and a Red-throated Loon at Santa Barbara July 15 and another at Marina del Rey July 21. Most of these summering non-breeding individuals are in winter plumage; however, the Arctic Loon off San Diego and the Red-throated Loon at Marina del Rey were both in full breeding colors.

SHEARWATERS, PETRELS — In June Sooty Shearwaters far outnumbered Pink-footed Shearwaters off our coast, as illustrated by counts of 6000 and 1000 Sooties on June 16 & 17 compared with 250 and 100 Pink-footeds on the same days off Oxnard, Ventura Co. By late July total numbers had apparently dropped drastically, but Pink-footed Shearwaters had become the commoner bird as indicated by a count of 70 Pink-footeds and 40 Sooties off San Diego July 25. Only two Leach's Petrels were found off Oxnard June 17, but 40 were seen there July 23, and 375 were counted off San Diego July 25; this suggests a build-up of numbers off our coast in the late summer, a normal trend evident from the fact that this species is often missed on May boat trips yet commonly encountered on September trips. Five Ashy Petrels were found off Oxnard June 17 and others were noted there July 23; this species is known to nest on some of the more northern Channel Is. Numbers of Black Petrels increased steadily after mid-May, and as is normal remained fairly close to shore; only two could be found off Oxnard June 17, but 200 were encountered off San Diego July 25.

PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS — Brown Pelicans were clearly less numerous along the coast than last year, and Lee Jones, doing much work on the Channel Is., finds that adults tend to concentrate around these islands whereas immatures are attracted to the mainland coastline. At the Salton Sea two or three individuals have been seen since July 7; one on July 15 & 31 was an adult which is most unusual, since virtually all appearing inland are immature. Along the coast an ad. ♂ Magnificent Frigatebird was seen at Seal Beach, Orange Co. July 7 (*EC et al.*) and an immature was near Oceanside, San Diego Co. July 26 (*P. Doheny, fide GSS*); a normal number of reports for July after last year's influx. At the south end of the Salton Sea (S.E.S.S.) single imm. frigatebirds were noted July 7 & 31 (*DVT*), and another was studied over nearby Finney L. July 28 (*J. Morlan, fide JVR*); this species is becoming a regular late summer visitor to this inland locality.

HERONS, STORKS — An imm. **Little Blue Heron**, a rare bird in California, was constantly at the north end of the Salton Sea (N.E.S.S.) from

June 4 to the end of the period (HK, GMcC), in this time it turned from a predominantly white bird to virtually all blue-gray. The Cattle Egret population at S.E.S.S. continues to increase, and over 3000 birds were in the area at the end of the period; 461 young were banded (20 fitted with green wing tags) at the nesting colony located at the mouth of the New River containing about 600 Cattle and 40 Snowy Egret nests. Snowy Egrets appear to be less successful at the Salton Sea colony now that Cattle Egrets also occupy the colony. They are forced to use those nests on the periphery of the colony, since they start nesting at a later date than the Cattle Egrets, and are consequently subject to a higher degree of nest failure. Two imm. Louisiana Herons at N.E.S.S. July 4 (JF) were most unusual since only two or three others have ever been found on the Sea. As usual a few of the secretive Least Bitterns were seen around the Salton Sea in July, and one or two were also found in the coastal marshes. An Am. Bittern in Tecopa, Inyo Co. July 12 was unseasonable indeed. Wood Storks, first seen at S.E.S.S. June 17, built up to a peak of 582 on July 12 (DVT) and were still quite numerous at the end of the period; this species is a regular post-breeding visitor to the Salton Sea, but now exceedingly rare elsewhere in the Region.

S.A

SPOONBILLS — The most exciting event of the season was an invasion of immature **Roseate Spoonbills** into the Southwest. In California this species is a casual straggler to the Colorado River Valley and the Salton Sea, with a single sight record near San Bernardino June 20, 1903, and another photographed in the San Joaquin Valley Sept. 24-Oct. 2, 1966. The statement in the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, that it wanders to c. California, can not be verified, and is undoubtedly based on Gambel's vague statement (*Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, ser. 2, 1:222, 1849) that small flocks had several times extended up the coast even as far as San Francisco.

At the Salton Sea Roseate Spoonbills have only been recorded during the summers of 1927, 1951, 1956, 1966, 1969, 1970 and 1972 with seven on July 29, 1972, being the largest flock reported. This year a single bird along the south shore of the Sea June 14 (DVT) and four at N.E.S.S. June 16 (GMcC) were the first arrivals with numbers building up to 33 at S.E.S.S. and 14 at N.E.S.S. by the end of the period. In addition 16 were counted near Seeley July 1 (GMcC) and one was seen at Finney L. July 21 (SS); both localities in the Imperial Valley.

We had the first reliable coastal records for California this year. Three were at Zuma Beach, L. A. Co. June 20-29 (D & CV, AH *et al.*), then what were probably two of these birds moved up the coast, stopping at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. July 4-20 (BB *et al.*) and Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. July 30-31 (BS *et al.*). In addition a single bird was at Laguna L. in San Luis Obispo July 13-24 (FT *et al.*) and another was in Marina del Rey for a couple of days in mid-July (B. Hoffmann, *vide* GSS).

GEESE, DUCKS — As usual a few Black Brant remained through June and July with one at Newport Bay and another near Oceanside on the coast, and at least ten at the Salton Sea. Fulvous Tree Ducks were exceptionally scarce at the Salton Sea this summer and may not have nested at all; on the coast 1-4 were noted on Upper Newport Bay June 30-July 15 (CS) but could well have wandered from nearby Lion Country Safari where this species, along with many others, is on display. Two broods of Gadwall were raised on Camp Pendleton, San Diego Co. (AF), which is quite far south for nesting. It was rather surprising to find up to six ♂ Blue-winged Teal at the Salton Sea in June and early July; however, after mid-July all the teal had acquired eclipse plumage and it became impossible to separate any Blue-winged from the numerous Cinnamon Teal. A Wood Duck at N.E.S.S. June 18 was most unusual since it is most rare here even in winter. A White-winged Scoter was seen at N.E.S.S. July 2 (RW) & 21 (GMcC) and another was at Salton City July 1-2 (DVT, RW), and single Surf Scoters were noted at N.E.S.S. July 21 (GMcC) and Salton City July 2 (RW); these birds apparently arrive on the Sea during the spring migration and remain through the summer.

HAWKS — A Mississippi Kite was again found at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley June 14 (DDeS *et al.*); whether this was the same bird present there May 21-June 3 or another individual is not clear, but careful searching there June 8-10 failed to turn up any kites. Out of 22 Red-tailed Hawk nests in San Diego County only 12 were successful in raising young (1-3 chicks per nest); most failures were owing to land clearing operations. Red-shouldered Hawks were more successful, for only 2 of 14 nests under observation failed (one abandoned, dead young found below other). An ad. **Broad-winged Hawk** at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. June 12 (DDeS *et al.*) represents the second spring migrant record for California. The only Swainson's Hawk found away from the extreme n.e. portion of the Region was an immature at Brock Ranch near Holtville, Imperial Co. June 30. A few Ospreys were present in s. California as evidenced by 1-2 around Newport Bay throughout July, one seen near Laguna Beach, Orange Co. July 26, one around La Jolla, San Diego Co. all summer, and one at Ramer L. in the Imperial Valley July 14-26. An imm. Peregrine Falcon at N.E.S.S. July 1-2 had probably wandered north from the Gulf of California where a few still breed.

RAILS — Clapper Rails (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) are apparently holding their own along the south shore of the Salton Sea with 5-6 pairs nesting in one favored marsh; in addition individuals were heard at N.E.S.S. in July where they were not previously known to occur.

SHOREBIRDS — It is always surprising to see fall migrants arriving in the middle of the summer, but each year the earliest shorebirds appear but two or three weeks after the last of the spring migrants leave. Since many non-breeding shorebirds remain

through the summer, observers must use caution. However, these summering birds are usually in non-breeding plumage, whereas the first arriving migrants are still in summer dress, and small "peeps" are rare among them. On June 17 at N.E.S.S. 15 Semipalmated Plovers, 5 Greater Yellowlegs, 4 W. Sandpipers, 10 Wilson's Phalaropes and a N. Phalarope were all judged to be newly-arrived fall migrants, whereas, 10 Black-bellied Plovers, 20 Long-billed Curlews, 10 Whimbrels, 6 Willets, 2 Dunlin and 10 Marbled Godwits were felt to be summering birds based on previous experience at this locality. A week later the first dowitcher had arrived and the number of phalaropes increased to 150 Wilson's and 30 Northern. Similar trends could be shown for any locality in Southern California that attracts shorebirds.

A Black Turnstone at N.E.S.S. July 15 (JF) was most unusual since it is accidental away from the coast. Two Dunlin, always rare in summer, spent June and July at N.E.S.S. Stilt Sandpipers were first noted at S.E.S.S. July 21 when about ten were seen. A Red Phalarope in breeding plumage near Anacapa I June 16 could have been either a late spring or early fall migrant. A bedraggled-looking individual was at N.E.S.S. from July 14 to the end of the period (GMcC *et al.*), and another was at S.E.S.S. June 24 (RS); this species is very rare away from the coast.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — A Pomarine Jaeger off Oxnard June 16 was the only jaeger reported this summer. Single Glaucous-winged Gulls at Anacapa I. June 16 and in Carlsbad June 26 were undoubtedly summering locally; each year a few of the northern gulls remain through the summer. The first yellow-legged Western Gull of the summer was noted on the Salton Sea June 4, but it was not until July that any numbers appeared with 40 found on July 14. A single Laughing Gull on the Salton Sea June 24 was the first noted, and numbers had built up to 75 by July 17. Both the yellow-legged Western and Laughing Gulls are regular post-breeding visitors to the Salton Sea. The only Franklin's Gulls noted this summer were three or four at N.E.S.S. June 16-July 14 and one at S.E.S.S. July 26. It is becoming evident that a few Sabine's Gulls remain off the coast each summer, for this year six were seen off Oxnard June 17 and one more was found off San Diego July 25. Gull-billed Terns appeared scarcer than usual at the Salton Sea, and very few were believed to have nested, owing to the high water level; however, for the first time small numbers were present at N.E.S.S. The first of the fall migrant Com. Terns was noted on the Salton Sea July 21, and one was seen on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. July 28. Least Terns nested at most lagoons and inlets along the coast of San Diego County with 302 nests counted at the mouth of the Santa Margareta R.; however, over a third of these failed, owing to predation and tidal flooding. North of San Diego County Least Terns apparently were rare. One or two Least Terns at N.E.S.S. July 1-21 (DVT, SFB, EAC *et al.*) were inland where few rec-

ords exist. Elegant Terns appeared to be more scarce than normal around San Diego with numbers in the hundreds rather than the usual thousands, only 170 were present at the mouth of the Santa Margareta R. in July; 80 was the maximum number found on Newport Bay, but 400-500 were congregated at the mouth of the Santa Clara R. in Ventura Co. About ten Black Skimmers were present on the Salton Sea with three nests located; however, only one of these was successful in hatching two young. A Black Skimmer photographed at Pt. Mugu in late May (R. Baker, *vide* GSS) provides us with yet another coastal record.

ALCIDS — A Com. Murre off Marina del Rey July 28 was evidently summering locally, not too surprising considering the numbers reported in May. Two Xantus' Murrelets off Oxnard June 16 and another off Marina del Rey July 28 were the only individuals reported; each year these birds appear to leave the waters close to shore in the late summer either moving farther out to sea or going northward. A Craveri's Murrelet was seen in flight off San Diego July 25 (GMcC).

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS — A well-publicized Flammulated Owl nest was discovered at Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel Mts. May 20 (J & DM); two of the three eggs hatched in June and the young were still in the nest July 6, but had fledged a week later. Whip-poor-wills evidently remained in the San Jacinto Mts. all summer, for three were heard calling near Idlewild June 25; this species is suspected of nesting here even though there is no definite breeding record for California. A few Black Swifts were seen around Santa Anita Falls in the San Gabriel Mts. during June and July suggesting nesting at that locality. A Chimney Swift was identified near La Cumbre Peak behind Santa Barbara July 15 (RW), and another unidentified *Chaetura* was seen over the Irvine Campus of the University of California July 7 (CS); past records indicate that Chimney Swifts are the most likely *Chaetura* in Southern California during the summer.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An out-of-season E. Kingbird was at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley June 14-25 (DDeS, JVR). A pair of Wied's Crested Flycatchers was feeding young in a nesting cavity at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. July 9; this is the only place in the Region where this flycatcher occurs. For the first time on record Barn Swallows nested in the Imperial Valley, two pairs each raising two broods near Westmoreland in May and July. Purple Martins are on the decline in Southern California, so it is of interest that ten adults and young were over Frazier Park, Kern Co. July 7 and an adult was feeding two young in Monrovia, L.A. Co. July 22.

THRASHERS, PIPITS — Most unusual was a Curve-billed Thrasher at Brock Ranch near Holtville June 24 (RS); there are but a handful of records for California (*Condor*, 67:443-444, 1965 and 69:310,

1971) all falling between Oct. 29 and Jan. 25 with a single record for Sept. 6. A completely out-of-season Water Pipit was seen in the San Bernardino Mts. July 14.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — It is evident that Gray Vireos are holding their own around Round Valley in the San Bernardino Mts.; up to four singing males were found there in June and July. A singing **Red-eyed Vireo** at Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. June 14 (DDeS *et al.*) was a late spring vagrant, and represents the fourth spring sighting in Southern California. The presence of a singing Nashville Warbler near Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts. June 14 would suggest nesting, however nesting is unrecorded south of the Sierra Nevada Mts. Lucy's Warblers finally appeared at Morongo Valley in June with one seen there on June 2. A ♂ N. Parula was well studied at Santa Barbara June 12 (J. Hand, *vide RW*); the species is a regular spring vagrant in California. Singing ♂ Hermit Warblers were near Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts. June 10, and at Buckhorn in the San Gabriel Mts. May 31 & June 14; however nesting has so far not been proven in any of the Southern California mountain ranges. A rare straggler for spring was a ♂ **Blackpoll Warbler** on the Palos Verdes Pen., June 20 (D & R Bradley, *vide GSS*). Singing MacGillivray's Warblers, another species not known to nest in Southern California, were at Buckhorn May 31 & June 14. California got

its second record of a **Red-faced Warbler** when a singing male was discovered at Buckhorn in the San Gabriel Mts. June 14 (KG, JD, LJ, GSS), remaining in the area all day as if on territory, but not found thereafter; the first was collected in the desert during the spring of 1970 (*Calif. Birds*, 1:145-146, 1970). Single late straggling Am. Redstarts were seen on the Palos Verdes' Pen. June 20 and at the Brock Ranch near Holtville June 24.

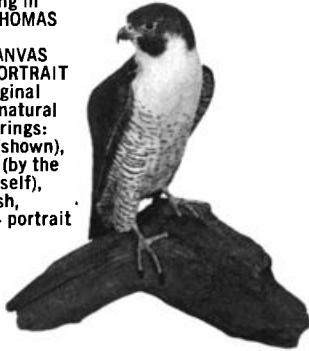
BOBOLINKS, BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — A **Bobolink** on Santa Barbara I. July 24 (LJ) must have been utterly lost since spring birds occur only to early June and fall migrants do not appear before September. Great-tailed Grackles probably nested at Ramer L. in the Imperial Valley, for three adults were watched carrying food there July 14. A pair of Bronzed Cowbirds at Jacumba, San Diego Co. June 3 (TT) were well west of their normal range; the female remained until at least June 17. Two pairs of Hepatic Tanagers were present at Arrastra Creek in the San Bernardino Mts. May 26 (LCB) when one bird was seen building a nest; a female carrying food there on July 21 (KG) suggests that nesting was successful. The species is apparently becoming established as a breeding species in these mountains. An out-of-range **Hepatic Tanager** was seen in Santa Barbara July 16 (RW). Summer Tanagers nested at Morongo Valley, Whitewater Canyon, and at Brock Ranch; one at Deep Springs June 13 (DDeS) was outside its normal range.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak on San Clemente I. June 9 (LJ) was a spring straggler. A ♂ Indigo Bunting at Toll House Springs in the White Mts. July 1 (SFB) was singing as if on territory, and another male near San Diego June 2 (DR) was defending territory and accompanied by a ♀ Lazuli Bunting; the nest of this pair could not be found, but the young were seen off the nest June 10. There is an earlier record for mixed pairs nesting in California (*Condor*, 60: 408, 1958). A ♂ Lark Bunting on San Clemente I. June 10 (LJ) represents the latest spring record for California. Grasshopper Sparrows were found on grass-covered hillsides in the coastal lowlands of San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Orange and San Diego Counties, and were all assumed to be nesting.

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