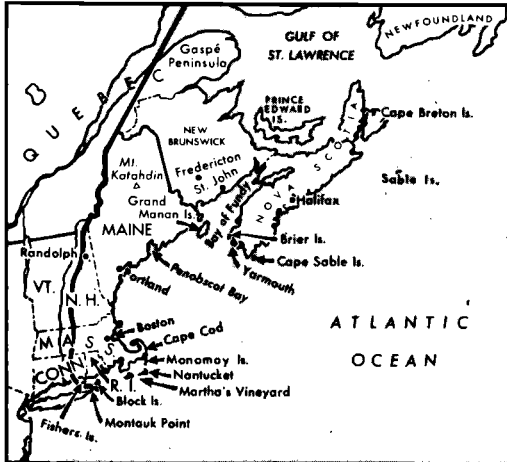


The Nesting Season June 1—July 31, 1973

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION /Davis W. Finch

June was a particularly wet month almost throughout the Region, adversely affecting terns and martins in a number of areas. A big storm with 70 m.p.h. winds in the Maritimes June 17 had a marked effect on several colonial nesters, and flooding in New England in early July resulted in water levels too high for loons, water-fowl and certain marsh nesters. The spread of Spruce Bud Worm in Maine and the Maritimes has been followed by the increase or spread of several insectivorous species.



Six species occurring in this brief period provided first state or provincial records, and 13 first state or provincial records, and 13 first state or provincial breeding records were also established.

TUBENOSES, TROPICBIRDS—The discovery of *N. Fulmar* breeding in the Region (to be reported in detail in *Am. Birds*, Feb. 1974) represented the first confirmed breeding record south of Baffin I., a considerable but not altogether unexpected range extension perhaps foretold by the recent increase in sightings in Regional waters (Bob Montgomerie *et al.*). Reflecting this trend, non-breeders have been appearing more frequently: as last summer, some were present in the Gulf of Maine, two being seen from the "Bluenose" July 23 (WCT *et al.*), and in Cabot Strait as many as 63 were counted July 8 (BM, JW).

—S.A.—

A more dramatic find was that of an incubating **Manx Shearwater** fortuitously uncovered when Gus Ben David turned over a plank at Penikese I., Mass., June 4. Penikese is situated at the mouth of Buzzards Bay near the w. end of the Elizabeth Is. chain, and has been known since 1933 as the southernmost breeding locality for Leach's Petrel, yet among the Region's many

offshore islands it doesn't seem an obvious first choice for prospecting Manx Shearwaters, and one naturally wonders if nesting might have been occurring undetected elsewhere in the n.w. North Atlantic prior to this first proven instance. The young bird hatched and fledged, and further details of the record will be published at a later date.

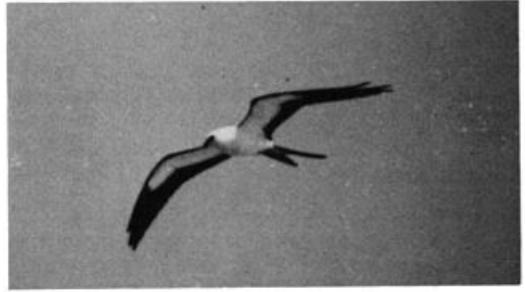
Other Manx Shearwaters reported in the period June 1—Aug. 15 included 13 individuals on seven dates in Massachusetts waters eastward to Cape Cod, 10 on four dates in the Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy, 14 in Cabot Strait July 15 (DSC *et al.*) and a total of 29 off Great I. in Witless Bay, Nfld., on four dates Aug 4-14 (BM). A bird identified as **Black-capped Petrel** was seen "about halfway between Cutler, Me. and Machias Seal I., N.B." June 27 (GSG). The observer, familiar with East Coast tubenoses, noted among other field marks the bird's short, thick, black bill and capped appearance formed by a broad white collar and some white on the forehead. There are no previous records of the species in Maine or New Brunswick. An unquestionable **Red-billed Tropicbird** was found in a moribund condition on a tenth floor window ledge of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank building in Providence, July 3 (specimen to M.C.Z.). The more southerly of the two Atlantic tropicbirds and much the rarer as an accidental, this was a first Regional occurrence, though there is a specimen record from New York (Jamaica Bay, June, 1963).

CORMORANTS, HERONS, IBISES—Non-breeding Great Cormorants occasionally summer along the coast in the s. part of the Region; this year there were three at Block I., R.I., June 6-11 (RLF), a first early summer record for the state, and another was seen in Maine on Wooden Ball I., in the Matinicus group, July 8 (DWF, CMP *et al.*). Results of a June 21 census of Rhode Island's Gould I. heronry, revealing an over-all reduction in numbers, were as follows (pairs): Little Blue Heron, 10; Cattle Egret, 25; Great Egret, 5; Snowy Egret, 25; Black-crowned Night Heron, 20 (DW). Figures from the Region's other mixed heronries were not available, but on Prince Edward I. (below P.E.I.) Great Blue heronries of 200 nests at Squaw Bay and 92 at Rustico I. were found to have lost respectively 130 and 42 young birds as a result of a wind and rain storm June 15-17 (AAMacL), while in New Hampshire a colony of about 55 nests on Long I. in Squam L. was apparently unaffected by heavy rains and flooding in early July (FRS). Single Cattle Egrets turned up at eight localities in Maine and New Brunswick during June, and about 25 were present throughout the summer on Jamestown I., R.I., where they are not known to breed (MD). In New Brunswick, three Snowy Egrets present in the Saint John area since April lingered at Saints Rest Marsh through the first week of June (CLJ), and another turned up at Cape

Jourimain I. June 22 (ARGMcI). Six Louisiana Herons were present during the summer at coastal localities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the birds being each year a bit less unusual though still not established as breeders. On Block I. there were two nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons, probably the Region's scarcest breeding heron, and an immature was found as far north as Sydney, Cape Breton Aug. 9 (IMacG). Two Glossy Ibises, rare in Newfoundland, were present on the Burin Pen. at Frenchman's Cove P. P. from June to mid-July (photographed, George Draskoy *et al.*, *vide* PRH). Though the birds were rather generously scattered throughout the summer in coastal New England from Rhode Island north to the big colony at Stratton I., Me., the only new breeding locality detected was in the Isles of Shoals, where a single pair nested at Apple-dore I.

WATERFOWL—An estimate of 850 Mute Swans on Martha's Vineyard, including a count of 622 on Squibnocket Pond Aug. 18, was thought to indicate an increase of about 30 per cent over last year (GGD). A noteworthy record unavailable for the last report was that of a Black Brant studied at Duxbury, Mass., May 3 (RAF, CAG, WRP); besides the dark belly, the observers were able to see that the notably conspicuous white crescents met on the front of the neck, an important character in separating dark-bellied forms of brant. After what could almost be called a flight of Gadwalls to the Maritimes this spring, two appeared at Sable I., N.S., June 12 and were photographed for a first island record (JB, DWF, IAMcL). More significantly, two pairs were found nesting at Indian River, P.E.I., the Region's first nesting record north of the population presently expanding in s. New England (banded, photographed; Randy Dibblee, Darryl Guignon). Two pairs of N. Shovelers nested at the same locality, following the P.E.I. breeding record last year, and the species, which now appears fairly well established in e. New Brunswick (Tantramar Marshes, Cape Jourimain I.), might well expand further; five at Beaver Cove, Cape Breton July 14 certainly suggested this possibility (IMacG). At the Lancaster Sewage Lagoon in Saint John West, N.B. a Lesser Scaup and 3 carefully watched but non-breeding pairs of Ruddy Ducks remained throughout the summer (CLJ *et al.*).

RAPTORS—Following sight reports of two separate birds in Massachusetts during May, two Swallow-tailed Kites were photographed at Block I., R.I., June 7, a first state record (RLF). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks somewhat northeastward of the species' usual limits was seen at Bayfield, N.B., June 19 (DWF, RDL, ARGMcI), and single late or summering Rough-legged Hawks were found at Sakonnet Pt., R.I. June 2 (DLE, RE), at Amherst, N.S., June 20 (DWF) and at Mount Desert I., Me., July 19 (WCT). A Golden Eagle was reported from Sweden, Me., July 14 (PR *vide* CMP), and another, thought to be in its third year, was present on Martha's Vineyard from early June into July (ABD *vide* GGD). In Maine, a Marsh Hawk nest found June 6 at Hulls Cove was the first on Mount Desert I. since 1941 (CJ). Some available figures for the



Swallow-tailed Kite, Block I., R.I., June 7, 1973. First state record. Photo/ Richard C. Ferren.

much reduced Ospreys of s. New England are as follows: in Massachusetts, 14 nests in the Westport area produced 28 young (JF), 3 nests on Martha's Vineyard produced 7 young (GGD), and in Rhode Island 6 nests in South County produced 12 young (EAS, DW). The average of 2 young per nest represented a slight improvement over the recent past (JF). A gray Gyrfalcon at Gros Morne National Park, Nfld. June 20 was a first summer record there (PRH, Harold MacCausland); there are insular Newfoundland records for every month but summer records are few and the species is not known to breed.

RAILS, GALLINULES—A King Rail in suitable breeding habitat was found July 18-19 at Wells, Me., north of the species' usual limits (HMC). In New Brunswick's extensive Tantramar Marshes, where Yellow Rails have been reported from time to time since their discovery by George F. Boyer in 1948, at least 4 birds were found June 20-July 11, calling at different localities, including, in response to tape recorder playback, this observer's elbow! (DWF *et al.*). There is no satisfactory evidence that the species ever bred in New England, and the only nest to have been found in New England or Atlantic Canada was collected near Milltown, N.B., Sept. 10, 1881, on which surprising date it contained 5 eggs. A road-injured Purple Gallinule was picked up at Pembroke, Mass., June 12 and taken to M. B. O. (*v.o.*, *vide* RAF).

SHOREBIRDS—American Oystercatchers bred for the fifth or sixth year in Massachusetts, with the usual mixed success, though the total of five nests was the highest to date, as was the number of non-breeding adults present. A nest at Monomoy containing 3 eggs and a chick May 27 was apparently abandoned (RAF, CAG), and at Chappaquiddick, where two young were raised last summer (PM), a single young bird was found Aug. 14 (GGD, EMS, RMS). At Nantucket a nest with 2 eggs was found at Great Pt. May 30, and two pairs nested on Tuckernuck I., results unknown (EFA). A Killdeer with 2 chicks at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., July 16 represented a second provincial breeding record (DSC, MM *et al.*). In New Brunswick, a pair of Upland Sandpipers present June 8-20 and almost certainly breeding at Midgic were somewhat east of the well-established Salisbury colony, and a few miles farther east a bird was seen June 20 just across the Nova Scotia border at Amherst, a likely spot for a first provincial

nesting record (DWF, RDL) Maine's new and still isolated Willet population continued its slow expansion: 5 pairs were believed nesting in the Cape Porpoise—Kennebunkport—Biddeford area, and possibly another pair slightly farther north at Scarborough, where suitable marsh habitat is more extensive and Willet nesting a virtual certainty in the near future (JCL *et al.*). Willets are also becoming established or reestablished on P.E.I., where following last year's first nesting record, another nest was found this summer at Tracadie Harbor and two others presumed at Brackley Marsh (AAMaCL). The same province's first Curlew Sandpiper was a bird in breeding plumage at Little Harbor Beach July 21 (IAMcL) and a Ruff at Brackley Marsh Aug. 4 was the second to occur in the province this year (AAMaCL). Other Ruffs were a dark bird June 14 and 24 at Cape Jourimain I., N.B., where 3 were present last July, an unusual inland bird at Jackson, N.H., July 5 (Rachel Doucette, Dick May, *fide* VHH), and in Massachusetts, 2 Ruffs and a Reeve at Plum I., June 27-30 (v.o., *fide* RPE), another (?) Ruff photographed in Newburyport harbor July 12 and 17 (RAF, WRP) and a later bird at Nauset (v.o., *fide* RPE). The season's only Am. Avocet was found at Eastham, Cape Cod, July 25 (CAG, WRP), and 5 late spring migrant Wilson's Phalaropes additional to the 12 of the previous report were seen at Quonochontaug, R.I., June 3 (EAS), at Cape Jourimain I., N.B., June 1 and 14, and two at Great I. in Old Lyme, Conn., June 10 (WB, JMC).

JAEGERS, GULLS—A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at Gray Beach in Yarmouth, Mass., June 9 (ICTN *et al.*); these birds are unmistakably rare anywhere in the Region. The total of 9 Skuas reported in the period July 7—Aug. 13 was surprisingly high, though no doubt the species' status in Regional waters is becoming better defined as more observers undertake pelagic trips. In any case, Skuas probably aren't so routine that they can be reported without a description, in particular one eliminating dark Pomarine Jaeger. Six of this summer's birds were in the Gulf of Maine, single birds from the "Bluenose" July (KCE *et al.*) and July 12 (TCS *et al.*), and 2 each from the "Bluenose" July 23 (WCT *et al.*) and the "Bolero" Aug. 6 (RDL); in addition, one was seen off Grand Manan, N.B., Aug. 2 (RKFE) and two off Great I. in Witless Bay, Nfld., Aug. 13 (BM). Single Black-headed Gulls summering in New England were found at Portland, Me., July 8-14 (DWF, JCL) and in Massachusetts at Newburyport July 6 and Monomoy July 22-26 (RAF *et al.*). Much as last summer, Laughing Gull colonies at Monomoy, Mass. and Petit Manan I., Me., contained respectively about 100 pairs (BGB *et al.*) and about 50 pairs, most nests in the latter colony containing two eggs by June 9 (JJH). A few Little Gulls were present in Massachusetts, single birds at Bird I. in Buzzards Bay June 2 (ICTN) and at Chatham June 9 (RP), and three were found at the s. tip of Plum I., July 17 (RAF, WRP). Summer Black-legged Kittiwakes in New England seem less unusual each year: one was found at Jeffreys Ledge off the New Hampshire coast June 3 (DWF *et al.*) and another at Barnstable, Mass., June 17 (RP).

TERNs, SKIMMERS—A Gull-billed Tern was seen over Trustom Pond in Rhode Island's Moonstone Wildlife Refuge Aug. 4 (CW); the species is rare north of New Jersey and virtually unknown north of Massachusetts except after hurricanes. For a variety of reasons the Region's commoner nesting terns had a poor year: the mixed colony at Plymouth Beach, Mass. was termed a "complete disaster" by Ruth Emery, Arctic Terns breeding at Matinicus Rock, Me. were said to be considerably fewer than last year (Ed Gamble *fide* CMP), Arctic Terns at Machias Seal I., N.B., where hatching occurred about June 24, produced few young apparently as the result of cold foggy weather (WCT) and the storm of June 17-18 was quite destructive to the big mixed colonies at Sable I., N.S. (JB) "Portlandica" Arctic Terns represented about 30 per cent of the terns loafing on the beaches near the Sable colonies in mid-June, an unusually high proportion (JB, DWF, IAMcL). Most of Canada's Roseate Terns breed on Sable, and except for this colony only a few breed north of Massachusetts; a small new colony was discovered this year on an island at the tip of Second Peninsula, Lunenburg Co., N.S. (Curtis Chipman *fide* PRD), and at two known breeding localities in Maine, 2-3 pairs were reported at Petit Manan I., June 9 (JJH) and 25 adults at Popham Beach June 17 (WSE). Five Royal Terns appeared at four localities in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, June 4-12, and five late Caspians were seen June 2, one at Jerusalem, R.I. (DLK *et al.*), and four at Crescent Beach, N.S. (JC *et al.*). Two typically pelagic Black Terns were present at Jeffreys Ledge off the New Hampshire coast, June 2 (MGB *et al.*), and later in the summer four birds in breeding plumage were found north or east of known colonies, two in Nova Scotia at the Canso Causeway, July 16, and single birds in n. New Brunswick at Tabusintac River and Belle-dune, July 20 (RCL). As in the past two years, Black Skimmers did not breed in Massachusetts, and only a very few scattered birds were reported.

ALCIDS—In Maine, 21 Razorbills were seen at Old Man I. off Cutler, June 3 (CMP *et al.*), and a count of 25+ at Matinicus Rock June 24 seemed to indicate an increase in that small and southernmost colony (WSE, WCT). A Com. Murre was also seen there July 15 (Ed Gamble *fide* CMP), the usual 3-4 birds summered with breeding Razorbills and Com. Puffins at Machias Seal I., N.B. (DWF, WCR *et al.*), and 2 birds in breeding plumage were seen off Deer I., N.B., Aug. 9 (DWF, SHF). Single Thick-billed Murres, quite uncommon in summer, were reported from five localities: in Massachusetts at Plum I., June 10 (SS *et al.*, *fide* RPE) and Monomoy June 3 (JH), at Cape Porpoise, Me., July 8-31 (JCL), and in New Brunswick off Machias Seal I., June 23 (DJA, DWF *et al.*) and off Deer I., Aug. 9 (DWF, SHF). More unusual was a moulting ad Dovekie seen 30 yards offshore at Grand Manan, N.B., Aug. 4 (ME, RKFE).

CUCKOOS, OWLS, NIGHTJARS—A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found roadkilled at Lower Sheffield, N.B., June 18 (KHD) and another was present in Halifax, N.S., June 19-21 (CWH); the species is quite un-

common in the Maritimes. Both cuckoos were unusually plentiful this summer in s. New England, where many of them apparently arrived in the first half of June, and Black-billed were widespread and abundant throughout northern New England and the Maritimes. The only nesting Barn Owls reported raised several young at Sandwich, Mass. (v.o.; *vide* WRP), but five other birds were found at three localities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Single Snowy Owls were present during mid-summer at Jolicure, N.B., June 20 (BT), Cape Jourimain I.; N.B. at the end of June (ARGMcI) and at Seal I.; N.S.: July 30-Aug. 2 (BKD). On the basis of observations at Martha's Vineyard this summer, Gus Daniels estimated that the island's ideal moor habitat presently supports "perhaps 50 pairs" of Short-eared Owls, a density unequalled anywhere in the Region except possibly for Nantucket. At the latter island a Saw-whet Owl nest was unusual but not unprecedented (EFA), and both islands had Cuck-will's-widows this year, Nantucket for the first time, a bird present there June 19-24 being tape-recorded (EFA, Simon Perkins), and Martha's Vineyard for the fourth successive year, two calling birds present through the summer being tape-recorded again at Chappaquiddick (EMS). Cuck-will's-widows are not known to breed north of about c. New Jersey but in light of their gradual expansion in that state and recent summer reports from Connecticut and Long Island it seems possible that a range extension may be occurring along the coastal plain. In New Brunswick, Whip-poor-wills were found this summer to be fairly common residents at Kouchibouguac National Park, rather far north in the province (CET), and in Nova Scotia, where known breeding localities are even fewer, one was present during July at Lower Ohio, Shelburne Co. (Mrs. Herbert Harris; tape-recorded by CDG, JRG).

WOODPECKERS; FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, CROWS—A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers nesting at Gloucester, R.I. provided, perhaps surprisingly, a first confirmed breeding record for the state (RLF *et al.*) A Red-headed Woodpecker was found near Chebogue Pt., Yarmouth Co., N.S., June 19 (MWH) and single birds at four localities in Maine during the summer. In Newfoundland, where the birds are uncommon, five E. Kingbirds were present along the w. coast from Gros Morne north to St. Anthony, July 1-17, following a period of warm wet weather and steady southerly winds PRH *et al.*). Wandering Scissor-tailed Flycatchers turned up at Pt. Lepreau, N.B., June 10 (Mr. and Mrs. R. Harrison, *vide* DSC) and at Harrington, Me., July 8 (James Stauffer, *vide* RPE). Continuing a trend apparent for about five years, single singing Acadian Flycatchers appeared during the first week of June at five localities in Massachusetts and Connecticut, but the only known breeders were two pairs again at Devil's Hopyard S. P. in E. Haddam, Conn. (RCD). Another expanding *Empidonax*, the Willow Flycatcher, is now a common breeder in the Seacoast Region of New Hampshire, and in the last decade appears to have supplanted the Alder Flycatcher at a number of localities there, habitat succession no doubt account-

ing for some of the change. In s. Maine, two Willow Flycatchers at S. Eliot June 6 were the first reported in the state (DWF). Now that singing individuals of these two *Empidonaces* will no longer be reported as undiscriminated "Traill's" Flycatchers, their changing status in the s. part of the Region may become clearer. At Sable I. a typical sharp peak of flycatchers occurred June 12, when 84 individuals of six species represented nearly half of the migrant land-birds then present (JB, DWF, IAMcL). Rough-winged Swallows have been known to breed in New Brunswick since 1969, but a nest this summer along the S. Oromocto R. near Mill Settlement was the first one actually discovered in the province (DSC *et al.*), and a Cliff Swallow in Gros Morne N. P. July 18 was one of only a few records of this species in Newfoundland (PRH *et al.*). June's cold and wet weather was hard on nesting Purple Martins, and more or less complete failure was reported at various colonies in New Brunswick, Maine and Rhode Island. A careful survey in the latter state found 58 active martin houses, many of them around the salt ponds of South County (MD). In Massachusetts, two pairs of Fish Crows found nesting at W. Roxbury were the state's long-awaited first proven breeders (Fred Atwood); the dump at W. Roxbury, a southern suburb of Boston, has attracted fair numbers of these birds in recent winters, but nesting had seemed more likely in the Westport area, nearer the breeding population of the Rhode Island coast.

TITMICE, NUTHATCHES, WRENS, MIMIDS—Tufted Titmice nesting at Merrimack, N.H. were thought by Vera Hebert to constitute a first state breeding record, though numbers of titmice near the Massachusetts border would suggest that this may have occurred earlier (C. Weenk). Irregular but probably increasing as breeders in s. New England, Red-breasted Nuthatches were found nesting in Massachusetts at Lakeville and Norwell and in Connecticut at Devil's Hopyard S.P. (RCD), and in early June nine birds at three localities in Rhode Island probably indicated nesting there (RLF). Similarly, singing and probably breeding Winter Wrens were present at W. Greenwich, R.I., June 2 and at Devil's Hopyard June 12.

—SA—

During June small colonies of four and six singing ♂♂ Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found at Jolicure, N.B., where the birds were known to breed until the early 1960s (DWF); in Maine, single birds were seen July 24 & 31 at Moosehorn Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Calais, where high water perhaps made the Magallowick marsh unsuitable for nesting this season (WCT), two were reported in Farmington July 10 (Etzel, *vide* CMP), and the statement here (*Am. Birds* 26:836) to the effect that Short-billed Marsh Wrens have bred at the upper Weskeag marsh in S. Thomaston was found to be based on a misunderstanding, and should be deleted. Elsewhere in the Region, one was present for a single day at New Hampton, N.H. (VHH), another heard in Cape Cod's Harwich marshes June 25 (DTB, HD'E), and some bred just

outside the Region in the Connecticut Valley at Hadley, Mass. To sum up, the Region's only known breeders this season were in New Brunswick, but even nesting birds are likely to go undetected unless specifically listened for at night, or incited with a tape recording.

Mockingbirds, which have greatly increased in New England during the last decade, are increasingly abundant in New Brunswick, where 13 birds were reported from ten localities this summer, but the northernmost proven breeding was again at Columbia Falls in Washington Co., Me. (CD). Similarly, the northernmost known breeding Brown Thrashers were three pairs near the New Brunswick border at Danforth and Brookton, Me. (MLG) but five birds were present in New Brunswick including three in song for more than a month as far north as Cap Saint-Louis (CET).

THRUSHES, GNATCATCHERS, KINGLETS, PIPITS—In Nova Scotia, a Wood Thrush nest found at Kempt, Queens Co., June 15 was the first for the province, though singing birds have been noted during recent summers in Kejimikujik N.P. (DWF, RRH). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Milton, P.E.I., June 3 was a first provincial record, though the species' absence there hitherto is difficult to explain (Bruce MacLean, *vide* AAMacL). The northernmost breeding locality for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, known since 1965, is still the Squam L. area of New Hampshire, where this year an adult and young bird were observed July 10 (FRS). In Rhode Island, Golden-crowned Kinglets were discovered nesting in discrete bits of "boreal" habitat provided by maturing evergreen plantations. In early June two pairs were found at the Scituate Reservoir and another pair in the Burlingame Reservation in Charlestown, with one of the latter birds subsequently seen feeding a young cowbird June 26—a first state nesting record coupled with a rather bizarre case of parasitism (RLF, KBK, DLK *et al.*). In Maine, five Water Pipits were seen July 15 in flight song and carrying food on the M. Katahdin tableland, a breeding locality known since the 1930s and unique in the e. United States (DJA, DWF).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Sparse breeders in e. Maine, singing Yellow-throated Vireos were found during June and July at Fryeburg, S. Bridgton and Industry, and in Nova Scotia a singing Philadelphia Vireo appeared at Economy May 30 and remained there, apparently unmated, during much of the summer (FS); the species has not been found breeding in the province. A pair of Worm-eating Warblers at Wayland, Mass. was unusual, there being few breeding records in the e. part of the state (RAF *et al.*). The status of three warbler species in Newfoundland was clarified this summer: a Nashville Warbler feeding a young bird at Grand Codroy Provincial Park Aug. 21 (photographed, DWF) and a proven nesting of Blackburnian Warblers at Pasadena (LMT) established these birds as breeders in the province, and single Bay-breasted Warblers at four west coast localities Aug. 14-21 suggested more widespread breeding than indicated by the few records to date (DWF *et al.*). A Townsend's Warbler at Sable I. June 9-10 was a first record for Atlantic Canada (photo-



Townsend's Warbler, Sable I., N.S., June 10, 1973. First record for Atlantic Canada. Photo Davis W. Finch.

graphed; JB, DWF, IAMcL), and other notable warblers were a Cerulean at M.B.O., Aug. 8 (BAS), a Prairie at Sydney, N.S., Aug. 6, one of few records for Cape Breton (IMacG) and an unseasonable Palm at Star I., N.H., June 3 (DWF, RWS *et al.*).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS—A Bobolink census in Rhode Island resulted in the estimate of 106 pairs breeding in the state, somewhat more than previously thought (RLF), and Boblinks are now established in Newfoundland at various localities as far up the west coast as Pasadena (LMT). In the same province a wandering Scarlet Tanager was found at St. Anthony July 1 (Melvin MacNeil *vide* PRH), and in Nova Scotia 2 singing ♂♂ were present in Kejimikujik N.P. in mid-June, once again without proof of nesting (DWF, RRH). Nova Scotia may have missed a first nesting record of Cardinals when the male of an apparently mated pair was shot by a boy at Pinkney's Pt. near Yarmouth in April (MWH *et al.*). A young Rose-breasted Grosbeak being fed out of the nest at Pasadena, Nfld., Aug. 29 provided a first provincial breeding record (LMT). Indigo Buntings, perhaps remaining from the spring flight mentioned in the last report, were rather widespread in New Brunswick, with single birds reported at nine localities as far north as Dalhousie, and a pair, the female carrying food, near Petitcodiac in late June and early July (Doreen Carter *vide* DSC). Evening Grosbeaks are now known to breed at least sparsely in Newfoundland and generally if not too abundantly in Nova Scotia; they have recently become established and now breed in fair numbers on P.E.I., are surprisingly abundant in New Brunswick and Maine, where the toll of roadkills is remarkable, and this summer bred for the first time in Rhode Island, adults being seen feeding young in Wakefield June 15 (DLK *et al.*). A new breeding locality for the very uncommon Henslow's Sparrow was found at Leicester, Mass., where four singing males were present July 30 (CAG, WRP *et al.*), and in New Brunswick single Field Sparrows were present at three localities during the summer but apparently did not nest.

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—DAVIS W. FINCH, 240 W 98 St., Apt. 11-C, New York, N.Y. 10025.



Wood Thrush at nest, Kempt, Queens Co., N.S. June 18, 1973. First provincial breeding record. Photol Davis W. Finch.



Louisiana Heron, Bayfield, N.B. May 11, 1973. Photol R.G. McInnis.

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includes some South American material as well. The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology maintains one of the largest and most complete collections of eggs of birds from all parts of the world. It also includes an expanding world-wide collection of nests and bird specimens from western North America, Mexico, and Africa. The Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, in addition to its displays and habitat groups, has a very large research collection of world birds with particularly good representation from North America, Mexico, South America, Australia, and Africa. An extensive collection of fossil birds, primarily from California, includes the Pleistocene to sub-Recent material from the tar pits at Rancho LaBrea.

The environment—Despite an enormous human population and rampant urbanization, the Los Angeles region probably includes a greater variety of major habitat types than any area of comparable size within the United States. The habitats include rocky and sandy coast and estuaries, lakes and fresh water marshes, desert, savanna, chaparral, a variety of broad-leaf woodlands, and montane coniferous forest—all within no more than two hours driving time from metropolitan Los Angeles. On any day of the year a determined birder can compile a list of over 100 species that could include Cassin's Auklet, Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, Wrentit, Tricolored Blackbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and California Condor. This wealth of habitats and species adapted to them provides a great variety of subjects for research on ecology, physiology, behavior, and other aspects of avian biology.