

The Changing Seasons

by Robert J. Newman*

The Nesting Season, 1976

A period of increasing range extensions and surveillance examined in the light of old predictions.

Returning to writing the *Changing Seasons* after a 16-year lapse, I suddenly realize that I may have reappeared just in time to prepare the last account for the Breeding Season — not just my own last but anybody's. Current plans are to change the name to Summer Season and to include all of August. I heartily recommend the move, even though some birds are beginning to behave as if they at last accept our schedule (see Florida account).

ADDITIONS TO STATE LISTS

A widespread notion seems to be that given enough time all the species of birds in North America will be recorded from all the states. The idea probably stems from a source that many of its supporters have forgotten — "The Role of the Accidental," a famous essay by Joseph Baird Grinnell that appeared long ago (*Auk* 39:373-380). Grinnell hazarded merely that the *California* list will eventually comprise all North American forms. Extrapolating from the average of 1-3/5 additions per year in the 35 years preceding, he calculated that California would reach the ultimate goal in the year 2331, providing the same intensity of observation were maintained.

Well, coverage has continued to improve and state lists to grow. Though the "breeding season," particularly with its abbreviated June-July duration, is traditionally the poorest time to look for accidentals, readers will find 21 state or province additions in this summer's accounts: a Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Montana; White Ibises in Nova Scotia; a White-tailed Kite in Missouri; the first documented Swallow-tailed Kite for Connecticut; a Whooping Crane in Utah (summering after being hatched last year in Idaho); a sight-identified Spotted Redshank in Ontario; a presumptive Little Stint in mainland Alaska (still

awaiting evaluation of photographs as an established first for the A.O.U. Check-list area), a Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage in Illinois, photographed skuas apparently of the South Polar species (*maccormicki*) in the New York Bight; a Great Black-backed Gull in Kentucky; a Thayer's Gull in Texas (initially misidentified by multiple observers as an Iceland Gull but later collected), a belatedly corroborated Little Gull in Missouri, a White-winged Black Tern in the Aleutians, "a totally unexpected first for Alaska"; the Violet-crowned Hummingbird, previously an Arizona exclusive, frequenting a southern California feeder; four White-eared Hummingbirds in New Mexico, with at least one collected; a photographed Rufous Hummingbird in New Hampshire; a Tropical Kingbird in Nova Scotia, a Bobolink at Point Barrow, Alaska; a photographed Summer Tanager in Saskatchewan, Oriental Greenfinches in Alaska; and the first adequately documented Dickcissel for Oregon

The list provides instructive comparisons. Turning back 20 years to *Audubon Field Notes* for summer 1956, I find there only six additions to state lists, three of them questionable for one reason or another. Even summer 1975 brought only 11 additions. Obviously in spite of continuing disruptions of habitat evident all around us or perhaps because of them, birding this summer was better than ever. For a moment one could almost believe Grinnell's prediction, but it has a fatal flaw. Each time observers add a species to the California list, they are subtracting one from the list of potentials as yet unrecorded. Thus they are drawing from an ever-diminishing pool of possibilities that will eventually produce diminishing returns.

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BREEDING ADDITIONS TO STATE LISTS

The future fortunes of the California list were, however, only a sidelight of the Grinnell essay. The main thesis was that accidentals pave the way for major range extensions. Pointing out correctly that autumn brings the greatest harvest of rarities, Grinnell did not clarify how *autumnal* straying leads to expansion of the *breeding* range. No such explanation seems required in the case of summer rarities, such as many of those itemized in the preceding section. Usually the transformation from stray to breeder seems simple and direct.

The surprise about the present crop of new state breeding records is that it is so bountiful: Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret nests in North Dakota; Louisiana Heron nests in both Connecticut and Massachusetts (the first for the Northeastern Maritime Region); a young Black-crowned Night Heron in Nova Scotia; Wood Storks with eggs aerially surveyed in Georgia; White-faced Ibis outnumbering Glossies in an island colony off Alabama, a new site of sympatry; Gadwall with brood and evidence of nesting American Wigeon in Maine; presumptive Common Goldeneye with brood and a Turkey Vulture nest in Idaho; two Hook-billed Kites hatched in Texas but apparently not reared; two White-tailed Kites hatched in Louisiana but destroyed by a predator; American Oystercatchers nesting unsuccessfully in Rhode Island; young Little Gulls banded and photographed in two nests in Michigan, 28 Forster's Tern nests checked in Ontario after years of unaccepted rumors of breeding; a Berylline Hummingbird nest with two hatchlings in Arizona, three young Gray Kingbirds fledged in Mississippi, after a long stall of westward extension of the breeding range at Dauphin Island, Alabama; an Acadian Flycatcher fledging young, two Red-breasted Nuthatches being fed at a feeder, and a Worm-eating Warbler nest with four young — all in Rhode Island; a pair of Tufted Titmice confirmed as nesting in Vermont; Long-billed Marsh Wren nesting verified in New Mexico, a Golden-winged Warbler feeding young and a Blue-winged paired with a Brewster's in Vermont; two broods of young Cape Mays in Vermont; American Redstarts feeding young in the nest in Arizona; Great-tailed Grackles nesting in Arkansas; a young Bronzed Cowbird being fed by an Orchard Oriole in Louisiana; a pair of Scarlet Tanagers carrying food in Saskatchewan; and nesting House Finches in Vermont.

These state breeding additions total 31, as compared with 14 in 1956 and 20 in 1975. An odd quirk is that while our largest state, Alaska, takes top 1976 honors for nonbreeding additions with four species, our smallest state, Rhode Island, ties

at the same figure (four) with Vermont as the leading producer of new state breeding records.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

LOONS AND GREBES — Reports of the breeding success of Common Loons were fragmentary, mixed, and contradictory. As before, many individuals were observed summering in their winter range. Small, dark loons lingering into summer on the Texas coast inspired ideas of Arctic Loons in the minds of observers. That thought culminated in July, when two Texans caught and measured a loon "resting" on shore and deemed it too small to be even a Lesser Loon, a repudiated race of the Common Loon. Numerous observers agreed on the identification of a presumptive Arctic immature present at Minneapolis during most of the summer. The three Red-throated Loon reports from Maryland and Virginia were an unusually large number so far south at this season. Eared Grebes with young at Prescott provided the first Arizona breeding records outside the White and San Francisco Mountains regions. Western Grebes on the upswing in the Southwest Region and the second nesting record for California's Salton Sea contrasted with signs of decline farther north.

TUBENOSES — With the return of the Northeastern Maritime Region to its place in the breeding-season issue, the upsurge of pelagic news from North Atlantic waters, so notable a year ago, redoubled. It did so without obvious help from hurricanes, none of which touched United States boundaries with appreciable effect. The number of bird trips offshore, illuminated by increasing expertise, was the major factor. Off new England, the dates and points of record suggest greatly increased observation but elude quantification. In the recently constituted Hudson-Delaware Region, 19 trips were made offshore, the same number as last year. In the more northern Region, reports of both the Black-browed and Yellow-nosed Albatrosses inspire Davis Finch to a highly informative review updating the history of these species on this side of the North Atlantic. The three Hudson-Delaware authors provide an impressive summary of the progress in the study of pelagics in their Region. Tubenoses also received boldface treatment in other Regions: a Greater Shearwater that winged its way up the Hudson River, establishing the first inland sighting for New York State and the second record for Vermont; an Audubon's Shearwater and five Leach's Storm-Petrels off the Virginia coast; a Sooty Shearwater (photographed) in Chesapeake Bay and a dead one on a Virginia Beach; and a Sooty Shearwater and a Leach's Petrel (both found dead) on the Texas

coast. Along the Pacific coast, where pelagics are more numerous, they elicited about the usual amount of comment but produced less excitement.

PELICANS AND ALLIES — The Teton Dam disaster swept quantities of toxic chemicals downstream and apparently was the reason why a great many White Pelicans were found dead in the area. This bad news, with further mortality to come suggested by Thomas Rogers, is at least partly counterbalanced by Hugh Kingery's reports of heavy production of young in the Mountain West Region. Stray individuals attracted attention in Illinois, North Carolina, and New Jersey, as did a Brown Pelican in Chesapeake Bay. South Atlantic Coast colonies of the latter species appeared highly successful, and a few young were banded at two sites in Texas. The inept little population of introduced Florida birds in Louisiana is unmentioned in the present Central Southern report, perhaps because most of breeding activities there took place earlier in the year, having begun in November. Meanwhile, Brown Pelicans numbering into the hundreds were unexpectedly found on the adjacent Mississippi and Alabama coasts. Their past history is as enigmatic as their future. Perhaps they represent a postbreeding movement from Florida similar to the one that still brings birds back to California from Mexican colonies. Florida's Marquesas Keys, the only breeding site of the Magnificent Frigatebird in the United States, had 250 nests, a record number.

LONG-LEGGED WADERS — Keeping pace with the heightened pursuit of pelagics, the investigation of heronries intensified. No less than nine Regions appear to have had more or less organized surveys underway. The resulting avalanche of data defies adequate summary here, but wading bird enthusiasts will find particularly excellent commentary in the accounts for all the Regions bordering Atlantic waters from the Northeastern Maritime to the Central Southern. Most intriguing is John Ogden's thoughtful analysis of a seasonal shift in nesting time in south Florida, from spring to summer. Only 23 years after the discovery of its first North American nesting, the Cattle Egret with 200,000 pairs is now rated the most abundant colonial wader in Florida, it has become the dominant component at *inland* heronries in Louisiana; and its successes elsewhere grow ever more widespread. The Reddish Egret, once believed to be confined as a Louisiana breeder to remote North Island, is now nesting in small numbers in many mangrove heronries all the way west to the Isles Dernieres. Wisconsin, with only one previous record of the Louisiana Heron, reports several sightings of one to four birds. Though several accounts express concern over the fortunes of the Black-crowned Night

Heron, a colony in New Brunswick with some 125 active nests extends the northern limit of the range, eastern Tennessee reports "a great increase," and the unprecedented count of 1175 pairs on Virginia's Fisherman's Island more than doubles the 905 birds seen there last summer, a figure then considered "remarkable." The discovery of the Georgia Wood Storks and the reemergence of two "lost" colonies in Florida are factors in raising the estimated breeding population in the United States to 6000 pairs, the highest figure in many years. A concomitant is the straying of storks to Virginia and the Lake Ontario Parkway. In Utah and western Nevada, disastrously low reproductive success among White-faced Ibis is attributed to thin egg shells and searing drought. White Ibis on the Salton Sea provide California's second record. Harry LeGrand gives reasons for suspecting that three American Flamingos on the Georgia coast were of wild origin.

WATERFOWL — Cygnet survival of Trumpeter Swans at Red Rocks National Wildlife Refuge was only 20%, and the news from other localities does little to dispel this gloomy portent. The Alaska Region begins its coverage with waterfowl, giving initial mention to the first Snow Goose for the Aleutian Chain, where in addition a Canvasback was an unprecedented summer record and Garganeys remained well into July. A large brood of Black-bellied Tree Ducks hatched in Karnes County, Texas, at or near the northernmost limit of the breeding range. Farther south, at Laguna Atascosa, about 280 young were produced, and the Fulvous Tree Duck returned to nest after long absence, while vagrant members of the species were exciting birders in such far-separated places as residential Brunswick, Georgia, and Hamilton, Ontario. As a result of continuing expansion and the peripheral sightings that attend it, the Gadwall gets attention in 12 regional accounts, well more than any other duck. A female Ring-necked Duck with young supplies the first breeding record for the Canadian Rockies. Although the summering or late lingering of scoters far south of the breeding range is becoming less and less uncommon, two reports remain particularly exceptional: 25 Surfs along the northern Gulf coast of Florida June 17, and a Black at the Salton Sea August 14, the first documented occurrence for the California interior. The secretive Masked Duck was detected at the Santa Ana refuge in Texas, at El Paso, and near Naples, Florida.

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Turkey Vultures sustained their spread northward in New Hampshire but faltered in Ontario. Current observations of

the Black Vulture lead our regional authors seemingly to suspect that the species will soon be sighted in New Mexico and found nesting in Pennsylvania or New Jersey. A pair of White-tailed Kites summered in southwestern Oregon with no sign of nesting. High counts of Swallow-tailed Kites topped the 30 mark in both Florida and Louisiana, but numbers slumped in South Carolina. Mississippi Kites were widespread, with one on Cape Cod, two in New Jersey (following one previous record), predictions of breeding in North Carolina, one bird south of the breeding range in Florida, counts of as high as 136 in Louisiana, commonplace urban nesting in the Southern Great Plains, and breeding at new localities in Arizona. However, both the Middlewestern Prairie and Southwest reports contain warnings of government projects that may adversely affect kites. Goshawks seem to be thriving all across the continent. In Connecticut seven Goshawk nests were found in contrast with only one for the Cooper's Hawk, and the score was two to one in New Jersey. A Ferruginous Hawk won boldface acclaim by appearing in Minnesota. Bald Eagle results were mixed: only one of five pairs was successful in northwestern Ohio, but eight nests in South Texas produced eight young and two eggs, and North Carolina had its first nesting in several years. Good news about the Osprey abounds in this issue, the most impressive being 400 nests mentioned in the Middle Atlantic Coast report with more four-egg clutches than in any recent year. Attempts to improve the fortunes of the Peregrine Falcon by releases and by hatching in captivity are recounted in both the Québec and Mountain West reports.

GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS — Search revealed no Spruce Grouse in either the Ontario or Western Great Lakes Region; and Ruffed Grouse are at a low point in northeastern Minnesota, western Pennsylvania, much of West Virginia, and parts of Virginia. Heavy mid-June snowfall in Colorado caused many Sandhill Cranes to abandon nests, but a big reproductive increase at Malheur in Oregon probably more than compensated. For an update on the program of placing Whooping Crane eggs in Sandhill nests, see Thomas Rogers' account. A possible juvenile in July roused suspicion that Virginia Rails might be breeding for the first time in South Carolina. Black Rails were undetected on Long Island and in traditional Delaware Bay locales; but two were flushed in Indiana by dragging rope for Bobolink nests, adults with young were seen in Maryland, and several were heard west of the regular summer range in California. Purple Gallinules occurred in Maine and Massachusetts and nested successfully in Maryland.

SHOREBIRDS — The southward movement of shorebirds was again both early and heavy, so much so that some Regional authors worried that many birds may have returned without breeding. All American Oystercatcher nests in an area of Virginia failed because of high tides or raccoon predation, but counts of the species in New Jersey were high, and many new points of occurrence came to light in Louisiana. Only two pairs of nesting Snowy Plovers were reported from Florida, but birds seen regularly on Horn Island suggested that Mississippi may soon be added to the breeding range. Killdeer in Québec exceeded former breeding limits at several points. A count of 454 Long-billed Curlews in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region was considered phenomenal, as was a count of one in Maryland, but the Saskatoon area had 700. A housing development threatens the only known Upland Sandpiper colony in the state of Washington. Frances Williams urges search for the Spotted Sandpiper nests in the southern Great Plains. Massachusetts had its first breeding Willets in this century; California, its second White-rumped Sandpiper ever. The Curlew Sandpiper appeared in seven Regions, from Alaska to Florida, and within a short time, before the end of summer, two well-separated observations in Louisiana added the Central Southern to the regional round-up. No less than a dozen Ruffs in six states, most with ruffs, stirred speculation that the species must be nesting somewhere in North America. Wilson's Phalaropes lingered into June at a number of locations outside the breeding range and similarly led to predictions of imminent nesting in western New York and the Hudson-Delaware Region, while 8100 massed at Malheur. Two Northern Phalaropes were identified in Georgia. Outstanding among Alaska's "dazzling array" of Asiatics were another Far Eastern Curlew, Wood Sandpipers well beyond the Aleutians, the first summer Terek Sandpiper, and the first Black-tailed Godwit for the Pribilofs.

SKUAS, JAEGERS — The discussion of the South Polar Skua (*maccormicki*) in the Hudson-Delaware report is "must" reading, leading, as it does, to the conclusion that most of the skuas there are Antarctic in origin. New credence now attaches to an old Louisiana sight record in summer, published in *Audubon Field Notes*, that seemed virtually incredible at the time. For further word on skuas, see the Northeastern Maritime, Alaska, and Southern Pacific Coast accounts. A Pomarine Jaeger photographed in New Hampshire was the third for the state, the second inland; and one in eastern Montana was a first. No less than eight Long-tailed Jaegers were reported from the New York Bight.

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — Hand in hand with the increased coverage of coastal heronries went increased study of seabird colonies, particularly along Atlantic and Gulf beaches. Many of the accounts contain excellent quantitative data, untranslatable into capsule form. Some sample gull items are: four summering Icelands, Massachusetts to Nova Scotia; a putative Lesser Black-backed shot in Newfoundland; several previously unobserved Herring Gull colonies in Virginia, regarded with alarm; the second Black-headed Gull for Illinois and the first for Arctic Alaska; the second Franklin's Gull for Alaska; and an "inexplicable" Ivory Gull in southeastern Alaska. British Columbia's first immature Black-headed Gull is the occasion for informative comment by John Crowell and Harry Nehls on the shortcomings of most bird guides with respect to the species in this plumage. The Roseate Tern population on Long Island, New York, said to be the world's largest, is declining. In spite of the claim that a Roseate nest found this summer in Barnegat Bay may be the first documented one for New Jersey, I have not included the record in my summary of state breeding additions. Julian Potter, a noted *Audubon Field Notes* author of long ago, banded young Roseates in New Jersey, and I myself once found a nest at Egg Harbor. Of course, work in tern colonies can be highly deceptive. Independent appraisals of Sooties, only three days apart, on little Curlew Island, Louisiana, came up this year with counts of 40 and 20 respectively, four of the former with bands. A report of one Sooty from Petit Bois Island does not specify whether it was in the Alabama or Mississippi part. Worry over the Least Tern persists, particularly inland, but thriving colonies on yet undisturbed beaches plus ever-increasing use of roof-top sites seem to insure survival of the species. An amusing coincidence is that in Florida, colonies of equal size (180 pairs) in Fort Pierce and at Jacksonville both chose roofs of Sears establishments. A Royal Tern in Maine was the first in recent years, and a pair of Caspian Terns in Québec established the second known breeding locality there. A long-dead Parakeet Auklet in breeding plumage found at Westport is probably the first summer specimen for Oregon.

OTHER NONPASSERINES — An alleged White-fronted Dove forged its way to Pecos County, the farthest north the species has ever been reported in Texas. Parrot bulletins from Florida indicate an accession to Miami's outdoor menagerie, the Hispaniolian Parakeet, while Canary-winged Parakeets seem to be establishing a secondary center in Tampa. Eight Mangrove Cuckoos in a one-mile stretch on Saddle Bunch

Key, Fla., may provide a lure for observers who have not yet recorded this rather elusive species. The accumulating concentration of Groove-billed Ani records at Patagonia, Ariz., forecasts possible nesting there. Barn Owls are mentioned in many Regions, usually without clear-cut conclusions. In Ottawa, a Great Horned Owl stole their act by nesting in a barn. Unprecedentedly, two or three Snowy Owls summered in Wisconsin. A seeming explosion of Ferruginous Owls, along with other primarily Mexican species, raised fear of habitat destruction in Mexico as impetus for the influx. A Burrowing Owl in South Carolina on June 24 was enigmatic. The Regional authors are beginning to wonder whether breeding Short-eared Owls are extirpated in Delaware, New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania.

In spite of widespread anxiety over the Whip-poor-will, the species was found farther north than ever in California, farther south than ever in Arkansas. A bi-Regional listening survey by indefatigable Ben and Lula Coffey along 173 miles of southeastern Oklahoma roads tallied 597 Chuck-will's-widows to five Whip-poor-wills but showed Whips as the more numerous species both in northeastern Oklahoma and the Natchez Trace of Tennessee. The phantom Buff-collared Nightjars of Arizona's Guadalupe Canyon reappeared after 15 years of unconfirmed rumors of their continued presence. Alaska had its first White-rumped Swift since 1949 and its second Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker nest ever. Comments on hummingbirds deal with a variety of topics: a Black-chinned (boldfaced) in a new Oregon locality; a Black-chinned that may have interbred with a Costa's in Colorado; a Broad-tailed and a Rivolis all summer at a feeder in Texas' Davis Mountains, where neither species is known to breed; the first Rufous for northwestern Louisiana; and a surmise regarding altitudinal movements of male hummers in summer in the Southwest. The Northern Rocky Mountain Region enjoyed an increase in Williamson's Sapsuckers, while a female in southern Arizona in late June perhaps foreshadowed an extension of the breeding range.

COTINGAS, FLYCATCHERS — Three nesting attempts by the Rose-throated Becard at the Santa Ana Refuge, Tex., produced no progeny. While the Gray and Tropical Kingbirds were qualifying for our lists of state firsts, the recently arrived Thick-billed was fortifying its entrenchment in Arizona. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Minnesota wins special recognition in the Western Great Lakes Region account, and another qualifies as the first for western Montana and the second for the state. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher near Cliff, N. Mex., north and east of the normal

range, was outdone by a pair in South Texas that battled a Golden-fronted Woodpecker for a hole in a stub with an ironic outcome related by Fred Webster. But overriding all other flycatcher reporting is the space devoted in account after account to the changing fortunes of the *Empidonax* group. The headlines are the Willow and Alder Flycatchers, with seven Regions reporting both, often in proximity (note particularly the S A paragraph in the Québec account and the allegation that both have been found in the same habitat in western New York). Everywhere the Willow seems to have the greater momentum; in fact its advances in South Dakota and Arizona are uncontested. Other notes concerning the genus deserve mention: the sustained northward march of the Acadian; the presence in Arizona of two forms (species?) of the Western Flycatcher; and another likely but not completely authenticated report of a Buff-breasted from New Mexico, perhaps the first in half a century. An adult male Vermilion Flycatcher in Louisiana in mid-July taxes imagination.

SWALLOWS, CHICKADEES — The lingering of Bahama Swallows in the lower Florida Keys until June 28 caused John Ogden to wonder who will be first to establish a United States breeding record. Several pairs of Violet-green Swallows nested near Los Angeles, outside the previously known breeding range. The 25 pairs of Black-capped Chickadees on the Sandy Hook, New Jersey, Breeding Bird Census demolished the idea that the Raritan River is the dividing line between this species and the Carolina.

NUTHATCHES TO KINGLETS — A tendency for northern breeders to edge southward or to slip lower on mountainsides was common to a taxonomically diverse group, notably the Red-breasted Nuthatch, the Brown Creeper, the Winter Wren, and the Golden-crowned Kinglet, with the Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingering uncommittedly along the fringes. The ultimate, perhaps, was the fledging of Brown Creepers in the Nashville area. But see the eastern accounts for details. House Wrens had mixed ratings from the "highest ever" (Kingston, Ont.) and "more common than usual" (Wayneboro, Va.) to sharp declines (Morgantown, W. Va.; Clarksville, Pa.). Bewick's Wrens nowhere showed real signs of comeback. Though in no danger overall, the Carolina Wren sustained losses at both extremities of its range. Only one bird was noted north of Massachusetts and populations in Erie County decimated after the cold snowy winter, while in the Rio Grande Delta for unknown reasons the species has changed from once common to sporadic. The

Gray Catbird reached its northernmost point on the continent (Ft. Chimo, P.Q.) and extended its breeding range farther into the Mountain West. A Curve-billed Thrasher in Caprock Canyon (Tex ?) extended the known range of the species, and two Black-tailed Gnatcatchers supplied Utah's second sight record.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Black-capped Vireos and Golden-cheeked Warblers both nesting in a city park in San Antonio provide new convenience for observers seeking to see these two Texas specialties. Both the White-eyed and Hutton's Vireos are expanding northward — the former in western Pennsylvania, the latter in Arizona. Frances Williams explains the predilection of certain western vireos for the dry, thicketed watercourses called "draws" and the importance of preserving this habitat. Among warbler developments were the following: the continued decline of the Black-and-White in the Appalachian Region along with the Swainson's; the first nesting of the Prothonotary west of the Blue Ridge in West Virginia; the second summer record of the Worm-eating Warbler in Wisconsin; Bay-breasted in Arizona, Oregon, and California; a Townsend's x Hermit hybrid in Oregon; an odd hybrid from the Southwest Region that awaits diagnosis; and another Rufous-capped Warbler in the Big Bend.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — An adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird at a New Jersey feeder in July raised hope of potential regional nesting, but the Southwest authors caution that the mere presence of this species in summer often does not presage local breeding. The Northern Great Plains had an influx of Orchard Orioles, and Scott's Orioles nested at Unionville, Nevada, 200 miles north of their previous breeding range in the state. Great-tailed Grackles and Bronzed Cowbirds both pressed farther northward in Arizona. A Pyrrhuloxia nest in extreme southeastern New Mexico may represent the first breeding record in the state west of the Rio Grande Valley. A singing male Black-headed Grosbeak in Kootenay National Park, B.C. was considerably north of its known breeding range. A marked invasion of Blue Grosbeaks north of their usual limits occurred in the Appalachian Region. An influx of Indigo Buntings into Arizona areas formerly inhabited solely by Lazulis has not yet led to noticeable mixed breeding; but a Clay-colored Sparrow and a Chipping Sparrow feeding young together in Ontario do suggest mismating. A singing adult Harris' Sparrow in New Mexico defies explanation; but a singing male Crimson-collared Grosbeak in Hidalgo, Texas, seems just another illustration of "the role of the accidental"