

The Nesting Season

June 1 - July 31, 1977

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

Throughout the month of June rain plagued much of the central part of the Region. Although this diminished the number of singing birds and made Breeding Bird Surveys a real chore, most species, except possibly swallows, did not appear to suffer greatly from the wet weather. Clearly, the severe winter in the south had a serious effect on many semi-hardy species. In New



Hampshire the following species were down from 1976 levels: Ruby-crowned Kinglet 77%, Winter Wren 67%, Eastern Phoebe 50%, Brown Thrasher 33%. In Maine and New Brunswick Hermit Thrushes were noted in considerably fewer numbers. No doubt the large Hermit Thrush population that remained in southern New England into December was caught by the unremitting January cold. Apparently the birds farther south fared little better.

Among the most significant breeding records in the Region was the discovery of numbers of Manx Shearwaters digging burrows and breeding on an island off the coast of Newfoundland. Also from Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland came the first breeding record for North America of Black-headed Gull. Though neither discovery comes as a complete surprise, confirmed breeding of both species constitute important records. The Manx Shearwater nests represent only the second North American breeding for this species.

Of equal significance was the widespread expansion of Cerulean Warbler as a breeding species in Connecticut. Prior to this summer, the Region's only Cerulean nest was in 1972 at Canton, Connecticut. This summer at least four nests and 15 territorial males were located in southern New England.

Reports were received from nearly every part of the Region. Such excellent coverage makes the task of compiling a seasonal report easier for the regional editor and more comprehensive for the reader.

LOONS — In recent years the Com. Loon has become increasingly scarce as a breeder in s. New England, however small numbers continued to breed in Connecticut and Massachusetts. This summer two pairs bred successfully in Connecticut (NSP), and several pairs fledged young in w. Massachusetts (RAF). In New Hampshire only 23 young were fledged; this figure being dangerously low if the state is to maintain a stable population. Uncommon as a summering bird was the Red-throated Loon in Litchfield, Conn. (RAP).

TUBENOSES — Northern Fulmars remained off the New England coast into early June; two birds were seen off Chatham June 5 (WRP *et al.*) while $300 \pm$ (3 dark-phase) were observed off George's Bank in early June (RRV). By the end of the month numbers had declined to 50 birds (BN). In the Bay of Fundy, two N. Fulmars were noted from the "Bluenose" June 24 (EWP) Cory's Shearwaters off George's Banks June 18-22, numbered 200 but by mid-July some 1500 were observed (B.O.E.M., RRV). Off Cox's Ledge, 23 Cory's Shearwaters were observed June 28 (DLK, CW). Along the coast of Newfoundland an enormous concentration of shearwaters, with well over 100,000 birds visible at one time (80% Greater, 20% Sooty), was observed near Cape St. Mary's in mid-June (JW, *vide* BMCt). The birds were seen sitting on the water feeding on capelin.

The discovery of a number of burrows and breeding pairs of Manx Shearwaters on an island off the coast of Newfoundland has at last verified the suspicion that this species must be breeding in numbers somewhere in the n.w. North Atlantic. It is clear that this was the first year Manx have bred at this locality. Jon Lien, the discoverer of the colony, believes there may be other islands off Newfoundland that have breeding Manx. The Newfoundland colony is a second breeding record for North America, the first being the lone pair on Penikese I., Mass., 1973 (JL). Two Manx were observed near Dutch I., R.I., June 4 (RJC), and five were observed off Provincetown June 26 (BN).

A small black and white shearwater studied at close range along the edge of the Gulf Stream, s.e. of Nantucket July 14 (RRV) was reliably identified as an **Audubon's Shearwater**. In flight, the bird's coverts, smaller size and distinctive flight pattern were all carefully noted. There seems little question that warm-water pelagic species follow the Gulf Stream at least as far N as George's Banks. Noted with some skepticism in the previous report was the Audubon's Shearwater on Congamond Pond, Southwick, Mass., May 11. Details

of this extraordinary record are impeccable; on several occasions the bird flew directly overhead, no more than 10 ft away. Salient features noted were the bird's "small size, dark brownish-gray upperparts, light underparts except for dark tail and undertail coverts and dividing line on cheek approximately at eye line." In flight the bird "fluttered and flapped more than glided—fast wing beat" (SK). It is altogether a remarkable occurrence about which there can be almost no doubt.

An unusual number of storm-petrels, approximately 1500 (90% Leach's, 10% Wilson's) was noted from the Port-aux-Basques, Newfoundland—N. Sydney, N.S. ferry, July 20 (BMCT).

HERONS, IBISES — Little Blue Herons, perhaps 3 or 4 pairs, bred on Stratton I., Me., representing the n. limit of the species' breeding range along the Atlantic coast. Elsewhere wandering Little Blues included two in Nova Scotia; at Conrad's Beach July 3 and at Chezzetcook Inlet July 20 (BMCT). Cattle Egrets were confirmed nesters on Clark's I., Mass., and suspicions that the species might nest in Maine were raised when several adult birds were seen on Stratton I. carrying nesting material, but no nest or young were discovered. Startling was the discovery of a pair of Louisiana Herons nesting on Stratton I.; a pair was seen feeding at least one young bird (*fide* PKD). The first confirmed nestings in the Region occurred only last year on Chimon I., Conn., and House I., Mass. Louisianas were not anticipated as nesters in Maine for another two or three years. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported nesting on Shea I., Conn., with 6 - 8 pairs and many young present (JS). On White Head I., N.B., an imm. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was observed Aug. 3 - 10 (NS, ENW). The bird was found dead several days later, providing a second provincial specimen and only a fourth provincial record (*N.B.M., *fide* DSC). An imm. **White Ibis** at Weymouth and later at Cohasset, Mass., July 11 - 20 (FM, SRI, *fide* B.O.E.M.) was the northernmost of what was apparently a widespread incursion along the Atlantic coast (DB).

WATERFOWL — A single Snow Goose lingered in Stockbridge, Mass., to June 8 (MRI, *fide* BH) but more extraordinary were the 40 - 50 Snow Geese at St. Esprit, N.S., June 20 (S&RM, *fide* PRD). Gadwalls bred for the second year in Maine with at least one pair on Appledore I. (EWP), and one pair on Ross I. (SKr, *fide* BBC). A single "Common" Teal was observed at Lusby Marsh, N.S., July 1; a single European Wigeon was found at Amherst Pt. Sanctuary, N.S., July 3; and a pair of Redheads nesting there was apparently a first provincial breeding record (CD, *fide* PRD). Previously unpublished and quite likely without precedent in New England and perhaps for the Region was the successful nesting of a drake King and a duck Com. Eider, producing **King x Common Eider** hybrids, off an island in Penobscot Bay, Me., 1976 (SF *et al.*). Such hybridization is known to occur in Iceland but has not before been noted along the New England coast.

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — Rare in the pro-

vince, a single Turkey Vulture was observed at Riviere Verte, N.B., June 14 (BMCT) and represented the northernmost sighting in the Region this spring. Research on breeding raptors indicates that the Goshawk is the dominant accipiter in n.w. Connecticut. Researchers noted that it may be "extremely difficult for the Cooper's Hawk to regain its old prominence, owing to the abundance of the larger hawks. With the Goshawk now starting to occupy secondary habitats such as pine groves and woodlands bordering farmers' fields, it would seem likely that the Cooper's niche is being usurped (MR, WR)." Despite these discouraging observations Cooper's Hawks were found nesting in Richmond, R.I. (RAC *et al.*, *fide* CW), and two nests were located in s. Maine (SKenn). In Maine, Bald Eagle nesting success was the highest in recent history. Forty-four active nests were located (39 in '76), 22 of which produced a total of 33 young (19 in '76). There seemed to be some basis for optimism but the number of young fledged is still below the level considered necessary to maintain a stable population (RO, CT). A **Red-tailed Hawk** seen at Cape St. Mary's, Nfld., June 20 provided only the second or third record for the province (JW, *fide* BMCT). Nearly as rare was the ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** observed at Cranberry L., N.S., June 25 (DM, *fide* PRD). Farther south, Red-shoulders continued to expand their numbers; five pairs in the N. Windham, Conn. area were indicative of an improved population (RJC).

CRANES, GALLINULES — A single Sandhill Crane was observed at Edgartown Airport, M.V., July 25 - 30 (GBD, *fide* B.O.E.M.). Speculation as to whether this is the same individual that has been wandering around three New England states for the past six months could be resolved if observers would photograph such individuals. Although it is quite likely that the various sightings involved just one crane it is of importance to know how many cranes are actually in the Region. A **Purple Gallinule** was found on Long Island Plantation, just s. of Mt. Desert I., Me., June 30 (*fide* SG, WCT).

SHOREBIRDS — American Oystercatchers continued to strengthen their numbers along coastal Massachusetts this summer; 17 were counted at Nantucket, 12 at Monomoy, and a pair each at Barnstable and Chatham (*fide* RPE). A single oystercatcher was observed at Sandy Pt., R.I., June 19 (MP, *fide* CW), but apparently the species did not attempt to breed this season. A single **Wilson's Plover** was found at Nauset, Mass., June 1 (WB, DF, DT, *fide* B.O.E.M.). In Massachusetts Willets were found in Newburyport (four), Plymouth (four), and Scituate (two) (B.O.E.M.). Although no successful breeding is known to have occurred this summer, the species continued to expand its numbers along the Massachusetts shoreline. At least five Wilson's Phalaropes were found in e Massachusetts in early June (*fide* RPE). Off Sable I., N.S., 16,000+ Red Phalaropes were observed flying SE May 30 and may have been moving toward the Continental Shelf for feeding (IAMCL). Undoubtedly the rarest shorebird of the season was the breeding-

plumaged **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** found at Biddeford Pool, Me., July 16 - 21 (FC, KCE, CJ *et al.*). A first state record, this constitutes only the second Regional occurrence, the previous from Guilford, Conn., Aug 25, 1975 (AB 30:31). A breeding-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** was observed at Biddeford Pool, July 19 (BT), for a fifth state record and one bird (perhaps two) was found at Plum I., July 14 - 31 (RSH, *vide* B O.E.M.). A single Ruff at Plum I., June 21 - 30, described as a "juvenile," was unique this season (RSH, *vide* B.O.E.M.).

JAEGERS, GULLS — Summer Pomarine Jaegers numbered approximately 43, including 30± birds off George's Banks in late June (M.B.O. staff). Parasitic Jaegers were estimated at 78 with 45 at Placentia Bay, Nfld., June 16 being the largest concentration (JW, *vide* BMcT). Long-tailed Jaegers numbered an impressive 15 four off George's Banks; one over Sable I., June 13; one from the "Bluenose" June 24 (EWP); an intermediate-phased bird off the Grand Banks June 25 (RGG); and eight birds in Placentia Bay June 16 (JW, *vide* BMcT).

Uncertainty about skua identification will undoubtedly remain a puzzle for some time. Observations and excellent photographs (RRV) off George's Banks in June indicate that South Polar Skuas occur in numbers during the summer season. Difficulties in separating dark *macormicki* from *C. skua* leaves unanswered the question whether both species occur in this area at the same time. Speculation at this point leans toward *macormicki* being the predominant summer species and *skua* occurring in greater numbers fall-through-spring. That South Polar Skuas can wander farther north is supported by the observation of a likely South Polar, with a visibly "pale nape and neck, conspicuously paler than a Northern Skua," off the Grand Banks, Southeast Shoal (44° 40' N 50° 50' W), June 21 (RGG). Complicating the picture somewhat are the observations of three Greater Skuas observed from the "Bluenose" July 23 (EWP, RS, PDV *et al.*), to date *C. skua* being the only skua species reliably identified on this crossing, the species being fairly routine through the summer months. Quite possibly *macormicki* do not normally enter the Bay of Fundy or perhaps the species has simply eluded observation.

A late Iceland Gull, possibly a summering bird, was observed at Chatham, June 5 (*vide* RPE).

Black-headed Gull breeding in North America has at last been confirmed. Two (possibly three) pairs were observed and three newly-fledged young were photographed at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld. (DWF). Although 6 - 8 adults and second-year birds have been summer residents at this locality for several years (AB 30 929) actual nesting was photographically documented only this year. Farther south, single Black-headed Gulls were found at Revere and Newburyport and a Little Gull was seen at Barnstable (*vide* RPE). The season's only Sabine's Gull was a single at Sable I., N S., June 12 (*vide* IAMcL).

TERNs, SKIMMERS, ALCIDS — An imm. Gull-

billed Tern at Jerusalem, R.I., July 26 was unique for the Region and a rare occurrence for the state (DW, *vide* CW). Unrelated to any storm system and as such quite remarkable was an ad. **Sooty Tern** seen sitting on debris off George's Bank in early June (PKD). Despite the vagaries of weather and disturbance by beachcombers, dune-buggies and dogs, Least Terns appeared to be holding their own in the s. part of the Region. In Maine, 70 birds were fledged from three colonies (PDV) and breeding success was considered good-to-excellent on Cape Cod (ML, BN). Royal Terns numbered 15 in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, but certainly the most noteworthy record was a single **Royal Tern** seen and photographed from the "Bluenose" about two hours out of Yarmouth, N.S., June 27, a fourth provincial record (NSP). Besides several individuals noted at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld. (DWF), the only Caspian Terns of the season were a pair at Plum I., June 27 (*vide* B.O.E.M.) and a single bird at Newburyport, July 11 (*vide* B.O.E.M.). Black Terns suffered a poor breeding season in Maine with birds abandoning their Pocomoonshine L. locality (*vide* WCT) and only 6 - 8 pairs present at Messalonskee L. For inexplicable reasons Black Terns have continued to diminish in the Northeast in recent years. The species clearly requires careful observation and protection if it is to remain a breeder. Three or four Black Skimmers were found on Monomoy again this year but nesting efforts were unsuccessful (BN). Elsewhere in Massachusetts single skimmers were observed at Plum I. and Ipswich and pairs occurred at Chatham (*vide* B.O.E.M.). In Rhode Island, a pair was observed at Quonnic (*vide* CW).

Razorbills have increased their number to at least 25 birds at Matinicus Rock, Me., the species' southernmost breeding colony. Reasons for the diminished numbers of Com. Puffins nesting on Machias Seal I. have not yet come to light; quite possibly the island experienced a temporary diminution of no particular significance. A single puffin off Biddeford Pool July 26 was surprising (EWP).

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS — Extraordinary was the spontaneous appearance of *three White-winged Doves* in New Brunswick. A single bird was briefly observed but carefully identified at Mary's Pt., July 31 (DSC,PAP, BJS) and on the same date two were studied on Campobello I. (George Smith, *vide* DSC). The fact that the species is a strong flier with a history of wandering suggests that these were naturally occurring vagrants, but why in New Brunswick with none observed elsewhere is perplexing. Recent regional records include single birds in e. Massachusetts in '65 and '74 and in Lincolnville, Me., in December, 1973. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Cape Onion, at the n. tip of Newfoundland July 3 (RBS) was an extraordinary occurrence, the only previous Newfoundland record was at St. John's, Oct 12, 1955 (Godfrey, *Birds of Canada*). Although Black-billed Cuckoos have a more northerly breeding range, they have almost no history of wandering beyond their limits; the more southerly Yellow-billed Cuckoo is more frequently observed as a post-breeding stray.

Rare at any season, but extraordinary during the

breeding season were single **Hawk Owls** near Presque Isle, Me., June 12 (RH, *vide* SR) and in Shelburne County, N.S., July 4 (GE,JE, *vide* PRD). All summer occurrences should be carefully studied for nesting possibilities. Uncommon nesters in the province, a pair of Short-eared Owls and one young were found at Grand Pre, N.S. (*vide* PRD).

GOATSUCKERS, WOODPECKERS, FLYCAT-CHERS — The Region's only Chuck-will's-widow was a single bird found at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary June 13 (PB *et al.*, *vide* BN). In Massachusetts, **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** nested successfully in Adamsdale and Natick (RAF), providing what are probably first nesting records for the state. Farther north, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers have clearly benefitted from the damage wrought by the spruce budworm. In c. Maine and n. New Hampshire no less than 12 birds were reported, most associated with stands of newly dead spruce and fir. That Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers will also benefit from spruce budworm damage is not yet clear. Though the species has been more scarce than *arcticus* there is good reason to expect that Northerns will also expand their numbers. A single Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was observed on Mt. Carrigan, N H, July 2 (NEM).

An E. Kingbird at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., June 7 was well north of the species known breeding range (Lloyd Decker, *vide* BMcT). Acadian Flycatchers nested for the second consecutive year at Parker Woodland, R I, with five birds present (*vide* CW). In Connecticut, nests were found at Devil's Hopyard and North Guilford (NSP); four males were found at four separate localities near N. Windham (RJC), and two singing males were observed near Kent (JS). No doubt careful search would have confirmed some of these as breeding birds. In Massachusetts, a breeding pair found in Middleboro, the female observed on the nest, provided a first state breeding record this century (WRP *et al.*). Elsewhere in e. Massachusetts, eight Acadians were observed (B.O.E.M.). In New London, N.H., a singing Acadian was identified and song recorded June 15 (KCE, WS, *vide* VHH), and a bird critically examined in direct comparison with two smaller *Empidonax* on Sable I., N.S., May 23, was almost certainly of this species (IAMcL).

WRENS, KINGLETS — Short-billed Marsh Wrens remained one of the Region's most elusive and scarcest breeding species. This summer single birds were found in Sharon, Conn. (NSP), Blandford, Mass. (SK), Colebrook and Dunbarton, N.H. (*vide* VHH). The only nesting pair was found in Hadley, Mass., June 18 (RRV). Although the species breeds in the w. part of the state, Golden-crowned Kinglets have not nested in e. Massachusetts since the turn of the century. This summer three singing males and a nest with young were observed in a reservoir spruce plantation in Lakeville (WRP *et al.*).

WARBLERS — A Prothonotary Warbler in Abbott,

Me., June 5 was a rare occurrence for that state (FG, *vide* PC). Unusual was a ♂ Magnolia Warbler summering in Hampton, Conn. (RJC). A pair of nesting Yellow-rumped Warblers at Plympton, Mass., was perhaps the first confirmed breeding of the species in the e. part of the state since the 1920s (WRP *et al.*) No doubt the most significant warbler news centered around the widespread incursion of breeding Cerulean Warblers into Connecticut. A brief search of 11 singing males revealed at least one nest along the Housatonic R (JS *et al.*). Nesting Ceruleans were confirmed in Hadlyme, Devil's Hopyard and North Windham (RJC, NSP). This incursion is only the second time the species has been known to breed in the Region, the lone previous nesting in 1972 at Canton, Conn. (AB 26 837) Elsewhere in the Region single Ceruleans were singing and on territory in Shelburne, Mass., May 23 - July 5 (SK), and Exeter, R.I. (RAC *et al.*, *vide* CW), while two males were found in Parker Woodland (CW *et al.*) Readers will be interested to note Cerulean nestings in Vermont in the Niagara - Champlain Regional report **A Yellow-throated Warbler** on Machias Seal I., N.B., July 22 (PCr *et al.*, *vide* DSC) was perhaps the same individual seen on Kent I., N.B., in early July and again later in the month; the two islands are 12 mi apart This summer's observations constitute only the second occurrence of the species in the province. Previously unknown is the large breeding population of Pine Warblers in the s. part of Baxter S.P., Me.; 80 mi n of the species known range (NF, PDV). Particularly late migrant warblers included a Blackpoll at Crane's Beach, Mass., June 20 (*vide* RPE) and a Mourning Warbler at Saugus, Mass., June 18 (SZ, *vide* B.O.E.M.). Especially interesting was a ♀ Yellow-breasted Chat, with a brood patch, banded at Manomet June 9 (M.B.O. staff)

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS — Two N. Orioles at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., July 15 (Delena Anderson, *vide* BMcT) were far n. of the species known breeding range. A W. Tanager at Pemaquid Beach, Me., June 18 (WBW) was seemingly unique this season Summer Tanagers occurred at Tiverton, R.I. (CW), Appledore I., Me. (EWP), and two were found in e. Massachusetts (B.O.E.M.). Indigo Buntings have at last been confirmed as a nesting species in New Brunswick, the nest discovered at Woodman's Pt., Kings Co (JGW, *vide* DSC). Though uncommon, the species has been regular in the province for many years. Scarce breeders in the Region, pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows were seen at Dartmouth, West Newbury and Worcester Airport - all localities in Massachusetts (B.O.E.M.) Somewhat n. of its usual range a Seaside Sparrow was observed and photographed on Appledore I., Me., May 29 (EWP). Very late was the Tree Sparrow in Milton, Mass., June 19 (DTB, *vide* B.O.E.M.). More easily understood was the late Lincoln's Sparrow seen in Boxford, Mass., June 8 (RSH, *vide* B.O.E.M.).

ADDENDUM — Very unusual was the White-eyed Vireo examined in the hand in Farmington, Me., May 24 (John Mudge, *vide* PC).

CORRIGENDA — Delete “five fulmars off Eastham Feb. 11” *AB* 31:305. The *Cory’s Shearwater* off Cape Cod in December, ’76 was without precedent in the Region and should be appropriately emphasized. The 500+ *Razorbills* flying past North Beach, Mass., Jan. 16, were actually observed Jan. 15, 1977. From the spring season report delete the May 10, 1859 Massachusetts record of *Willow Ptarmigan*. Griscorn points out that this bird had been transported by boat from Labrador (*Birds of Massachusetts* p. 254).

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QUÉBEC

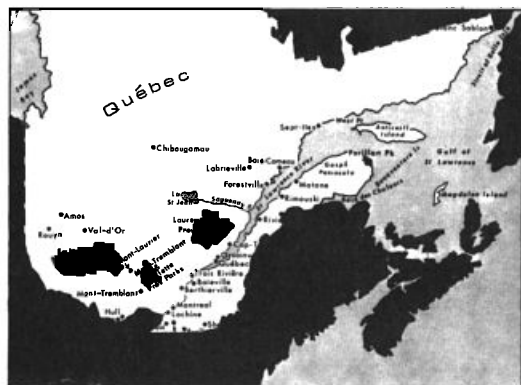
/Normand David and Michel Gosselin

It was not a very pleasant season. Normal precipitation was accompanied by slightly below-average temperatures. If these conditions did not bring extra help to breeding birds, it must be recalled that early nesters had enjoyed exceptionally fine weather in May.

We would like readers to note that boldfaced type is used generally for those species having occurred twelve times or less in this Region.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — The Red-necked Grebe, a species known to nest on L. Ontario, is increasingly reported here in summer: two birds were at Nuns’ I., Montreal, July 13, and four July 27 (PBa). A census of Leach’s Storm-Petrels breeding on Bonaven-

ture I., revealed an amazing 800 birds July 15 (*fide* RB), a bird reported as this species was seen on L. Squatec, Temiscouata Co., July 12 (CB). The usual visitant southern Ciconiids included two *Cattle Egrets* at St-Lambert June 26 (MA), a *Great Egret* at Mt. Orford in early June, and a *Glossy Ibis* at L. Magog (St. Francis Valley Naturalist Club, below, S.F.V.N.C., *fide* PBy). One of the outstanding events of the season was the raising of five young by a pair of *Canada Geese* on L. Boivin in Granby. Similar southern nesting occurrences (e.g. in Ontario, New York, Vermont) concern either captive, feral, or introduced birds; apparently this was not the case at Granby (PT *et al.*). Forty *Canada Geese* at Scotstown June 26 were also wild (*fide* PBy). A study in *Naturaliste can.* 103: 469-481, showed the recent *Gadwall* breeding range to extend as far N as Kamouraska County; a pair at Rimouski June 3-13, and five there July 20 (JRP) were thus to be expected. Belatedly reported for spring, a ♂ *Eur. Wigeon* at St-Fulgence, May 4, was a first local occurrence (EA). A totally unexpected report of 20 *Wood Ducks* was received from Barachois, Gaspé Co., June 10 (*fide* RB). *Redheads* were widespread in the East, being recorded at Grandes-Bergeronnes and Rimouski in June (AB, JRP); a flock of 14 was at Barachois June 4 (RB). Two broods of *Lesser Scaup* were found at Ile du Moine July 10 (SH *et al.*), certainly the easternmost breeding locality; a nest had been found there in 1972 (MG). Out-of-range drakes included a *Harlequin* at Métis June 11 (JLa), a *King Eider* near Tadoussac July 3 (DB), and a *Ruddy Duck* at Québec City June 27 (MJH).



VULTURES THROUGH PHALAROPES — Our spring report commented on the relative scarcity in summer of Turkey Vultures; this year was an exception, birds being present along the ridge of Gatineau P. throughout June and July, with a maximum count of five (*vide* RMP), suggesting the possibility of local breeding. This vulture was also reported from Lennoxville June 24 (S.F.V.N.C., *vide* PBy), Stanstead June 25 (JLg), and Scotstown July 1 (*vide* PBy). At Gros-Morne, Gaspé Co., a brown-plumaged Peregrine Falcon was feeding on a Black Guillemot in the middle of the highway (AM).

A Yellow Rail was heard at Barachois July 3 (*vide* RB), only the second local report since evidence of nesting was discovered in 1940. A count of 1000 Ruddy Turnstones was made at Ste-Flavie July 31 (ML). Upland Sandpipers are increasing at the n.e. edge of their range, exemplified by a pair spending the summer at Mont-Joli (ML). An estimated 4-6000 Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Québec City July 28 (BH); two Semipalmateds banded in Surinam were found at Laprarie July 27 (BB,JS). A Marbled Godwit appeared at Rimouski July 21 (GG), and a Ruff was in evidence at Ile du Moine July 23-25 (JS,ND *et al.*). Numerous Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from various localities; a flightless immature was seen at Boucherville June 14 (CL).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNs — An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger, a rare migrant recorded in May off Carillon I., also appeared at Lachine June 4 (BB). A lone Glaucous Gull lingered at La Malbaie July 12 (PC). Single Laughing Gulls were present at L. de l'Est, Kamouraska Co., June 8 (PBr), and Côte Ste-Catherine July 3, this one exactly where a Franklin's Gull had been noted June 5 by the same observers (BB,MM). The Québec records of this last species closely parallel those of the Hudson-Delaware Region (AB 31: 158), only one out of about 14 being a juvenile (and three sub-adults); immatures are surely not overlooked among Laughing Gulls, which are barely more common here, and have a similar adult/immature ratio. The first Little Gulls (2) of the year were at Québec City June 14 (BH) and a stunning ad. **Sabine's Gull** was seen from the Rivière-du-Loup ferry July 10 (DB,JC). Perhaps a clue to the presence of the Long-tailed Jaeger, three Arctic Terns were at Lachine June 9 (PC), two at St-Augustin, Portneuf Co., June 11 (one found dead, JPB *et al.*), and one at Québec City June 13 (BH *et al.*). Caspian Terns are now of yearly occurrence in the Montreal area; this summer one was in the Ring-billed Gull colony (4000 pairs) of St-Lambert June 26 (BB,MM), a most suspect location.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRUSHES — Red-headed Woodpecker occurred at new localities within its regional breeding limits: two at Cazaville June 16 (MJ), and a pair feeding young at Oka July 7 (GH).

Once again this year the Willow Flycatcher made the headlines. No less than 17 birds were singing in the Cazaville-Dundee area, Huntingdon Co., June 22

(DH,MJ); this is more in one day than the total number reported in all previous years combined. Single birds were also seen at Sherbrooke June 6 (PBy), Philipsburg June 18 (PBa), Granby June 20 (PT), and Les Cèdres June 25 (BB). No other species has ever showed such an increase in so short a period of time here: the first occurrence dates back only to 1971 when JS recorded one near Melocheville.

In Bellechasse County, Rough-winged Swallows were building a nest at St-Raphaël June 26 (RL), and Brown Thrashers bred at St-Luc June 24 (PP), both at the very edge of their range. Two Brown Thrashers found at Rimouski June 13 (JRP) failed to provide any breeding evidence. In absence of any other indication, normal vagrancy accounted for four extralimital Wood Thrushes, single birds at St-Siméon, Charlevoix Co., June 28 (JPB), St-Bruno, Kamouraska Co., June 10 (PBr), Rimouski July 5 (JRP), and Forillon June 9 (BC).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Rigaud June 5-18 (MA,PC), and another at Grenville June 18 (JP); these are only the second and third regional June occurrences (out of about 45 previous records). Only one Loggerhead Shrike was reported; is it true that this bird, formerly an uncommon breeder, is now only a rare summer visitor? Six Yellow-throated Vireos were found at a new spot in Rigaud June 4 (FH), and another was at Granby June 25 (PT). A complete description was received of a **Prothonotary Warbler** seen by two observers in a damp woodland near Ste-Rose L., St-Charles-de-Mandeville, Berthier Co., June 17-18 (Jean-Guy Gaulin), providing the first provincial sight record. The bird was described as having "bright orange head and breast, dark gray wings and tail, a white area near the base of the tail, and a black bill" (translated from the French). The Golden-winged Warblers reported were singing males, one between Low and Poltimore, Gatineau Co., June 16-22 (ND), and another at Philipsburg June 25 (PC). At Port-au-Saumon, Charlevoix Co., a singing but unseen bird was positively identified as a Connecticut Warbler June 23 (DH), at the same spot July 16-21, 1976, the same observer and others had seen a silent bird also identified as a Connecticut Warbler. Outside its restricted breeding range in w.c. Québec, Abitibi County, there is only one other summer record, of a male holding territory in a jack pine stand near Oriscani L., Laviolette Co., June 29, 1966 (Jack McLeod).

FRINGILLIDS — Seven Indigo Buntings at Port-au-Saumon in July (MJ), a pair at Grandes-Bergeronnes July 17 (AB), and another pair at Alma for the second year (MS), surely indicated that the species has spread N and E. A Dickcissel was discovered at Cazaville June 10 (DH,MJ), only the third summer occurrence as compared with 15 fall records. Evening Grosbeaks are definitely increasing as summer residents; the frequency of reports in June and July has doubled since 1971 (C.O.Q.). Two Clay-colored Sparrows near Ste-Marthe, Vaudreuil Co., June 11-27 (PBa,GH), and another at

Jonquière June 24-29 (NB) reflected a species slowly establishing itself in the province with over 20 records since 1960, including a belatedly reported 1976 first breeding occurrence (*vide* HO).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION
/P.A. Buckley, Robert O. Paxton and David A. Cutler

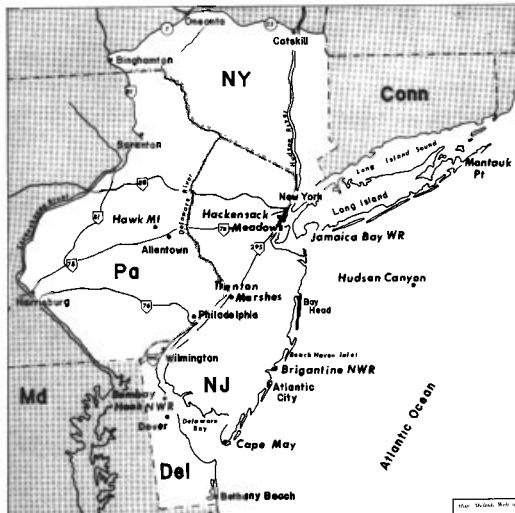
Generally speaking, it was hotter than normal this summer, and while the rest of the country, save the Northeast, was in severe drought, we had excess rainfall in June followed by subnormal quantities in July. This caused many wildlife refuge shorebird impoundments to be either at optimal levels (Jamaica Bay and Bombay Hook) or virtually dry (Brigantine and Little Creek). Brigantine was then precipitously flooded to waterfowl levels in August, attracting the poorest shorebird numbers there in any summer or fall of recent memory. No tropical

storms were even conceived this summer.

Expanded helicopter censusing of colonial waterbirds was done in New Jersey this year by Rich Kane and Rick Farrar of the New Jersey Audubon Society. Table 1 summarizes their data for the Atlantic Shore, and agrees in substantive respects with data from a similar census by F.G. Buckley a week later, from Manasquan Inlet to Cape May. Except for coverage of Delaware Bay marshes and of the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Delaware Bay riverine systems, this year's data are essentially complete for the coast of New Jersey for the first time in recorded history.

Table 1. Estimated numbers of breeding adults (*not* pairs as presented for 1976 data in *AB* 30: 934) of colonially nesting waterbirds in N.J. Censusing was done in the first week of June 1977 by helicopter, and covered the entire N.J. coast from Cape May to Sandy Hook plus the H.M. (Del. Bay was not censused.) Data courtesy Richard Kane and New Jersey Audubon Society Wildlife Research Unit.

Great Blue Heron	8
Great Egret	221
Snowy Egret	2470
Cattle Egret	480
Little Blue Heron	174
Louisiana Heron	119
Black-crowned Night Heron	745
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	121
Glossy Ibis	1533
(subtotal:	5871)
Herring Gull	4400
Great Black-backed Gull	101
Laughing Gull	29180
(subtotal:	33681)
Common Tern	5692
Forster's Tern	669
Gull-billed Tern	113
Least Tern	142
Black Skimmer	1944
(subtotal:	9460)
TOTAL:	49012



The number of "June Christmas Bird Counts" held in this Region continues to grow. Virtually without exception each has yielded extremely important information on breeding distribution, and has impressed on observers that passerine migration is still underway through the 15th and even 20th of June in most years. The Captree, L.I., count, June 11, again noted Red Crossbill in vast Connetquot River S. P. (In passing, readers are referred to a fascinating article on the breeding birds of the eastern Long Island pine barrens by Eric Salzman in the *Linnaean Newsletter* 31 (2): 1-3; (3): 1-2; and (4): 1-4 (1977),—a genuine contribution to local knowledge). The North Nassau, L.I., June CBC (date?) recorded a number of unexpected or little-known species including a Long-eared

Owl (nest), several pairs of Broad-winged Hawks, a brood of Worm-eating Warblers, five Acadian Flycatchers, and Orchard Orioles. Central Suffolk County, L.I., recorded 130 species June 18, including Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks, Common Nighthawk, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Parula—all rare and/or declining on the south shore of Long Island. Dutchess County N.Y., held its first summer CBC June 11, and discovered late migrants and four different Acadian Flycatchers. Inland Boonton, N.J., had a surprising 104 species, with King Rail, Marsh Hawk, Acadian and Alder Flycatchers of note. Greenwich-Stamford, Conn., listed 125 species June 19, among them Golden-crowned Kinglet and Black-throated Green Warbler. Southern Lancaster County, Pa., found 24 Black Vultures, Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees, 15 species of warblers including Northern Parula and Yellow-throated, and an amazing 264 Indigo Buntings June 11. Since most of these counts are in reasonably well-worked areas, isolated circles should yield even greater surprises, as well as quantification invaluable over the long term.

Attention should be called to an area in s. New Jersey along Dividing Creek, Cumberland Co., strikingly similar in aspect, plant and bird life to parts of the Delmarva Peninsula just across the bay. In a broad area, still virgin territory as far as detailed investigations of breeding birds go, the following species were breeding or suspected of breeding this summer and in some cases may be the only representatives of the species currently nesting in New Jersey: Black Rail, Acadian Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating and Yellow-throated Warblers, N. Parula, and Summer Tanager (five pairs). The similarity of the avifauna to that of the mixed southern hardwood-pine forests and adjacent areas of the Pocomoke River drainage in Maryland and Delaware is obvious. One wonders when New Jersey's first breeding Black Vultures, Brown-headed Nuthatches and Swainson's Warblers will be located there. This could well be the most promising site in the entire Region for a June CBC.

Species of special interest this summer, besides those already mentioned, included Anhinga, White Ibis, Franklin's Gull, White-winged Black Tern, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Bewick's Wren.

PELAGICS — Highlights from late May trips to Hudson Canyon paralleled those of recent years. May 22 produced two N. Fulmars, and Manx Shearwater, three **Long-tailed Jaegers** and four skuas (AB *et al.*; see below for discussion). May 25 (RR, RT, MH, GT) yielded single Leach's Storm-Petrels, **Arctic Terns** and **Long-tailed Jaegers**, plus two skuas. One of the 400 Wilson's Storm-Petrels was noted as having "...an all-dark rump but was still clearly a Wilson's." [We hope so: Eds.] On May 28 a combined D V O.C.-Urner Club trip listed two **Arctic Terns** (see photo AB 31:981), and two skuas (see Fig. 1 and discussion below). Three Mallards 100 mi at sea also caused some comment.

The muddy skua waters were recently clarified somewhat by the appearance of Devillers' long-awaited paper on the skuas of the North American Pacific coast (*Auk* 94: 417-429). He sorts out the status of West Coast skuas—all are *maccormicki*—gives field marks and in-hand identifi-

cation features for all forms, and concludes with a review of the Northern Hemisphere status of all Antarctic forms. Here he notes that besides *maccormicki*, only *lonnbergi* is known from north of the equator, and that from only one Indian specimen. Thus while the individual illustrated here may be *lonnbergi*, affirmation by other skua authorities is indicated, and a specimen might be well required to confirm such determination.

S.A.

In earlier issues of this column (AB 30: 826, 936; 31:314), we noted that **South Polar Skua** is now known to be occurring in the w. North Atlantic, although a run of specimens from several locations across all seasons is clearly in order. This year the situation was possibly compounded by the occurrence of an odd individual photographed May 28 at Hudson Canyon (p. 1108). Astute Alan Brady wrote to PAB, asking if this might not be one of the *other* Antarctic skuas, suggesting *lonnbergi* as his choice. PAB in turn wrote immediately to Dr. John Warham in New Zealand, enclosing Brady's splendid photo. Warham's reply, in part, notes that:

"If it had been sighted in this part of the world we would have diagnosed it as being our Southern Skua, ssp. *lonnbergi*...[it] looks wrong for the South Polar Skua, too big in the head and heavy in the bill, while its dark head, mantle and back look very like those of our usual Southern Skuas as opposed to the pale-headed birds we see on the Antarctic continent. However, we have no experience with dark-headed *maccormicki* such as I believe occur in the Antarctic Peninsula region... but surely it was most probably a Great Skua from one of the northern populations?"

SHEARWATERS THROUGH HAWKS — A single Manx Shearwater was described from shore at Spring Lake, N.J., July 22 (R. Newell, *vide* PWS) — just when most local Audubon's Shearwaters occur. The most impressive bird of the summer was undeniably the ad. ♂ **Anhinga** discovered circling up a thermal over Middle Line 1, in S. Oyster Bay, L.I., July 23 by AJL and THD. A detailed description has been examined, and leaves no room for doubt. A third observer present was unable to obtain as satisfactory looks. This is the northernmost occurrence of the species on the East Coast and follows one seen under much the same conditions at Cape May Point, N.J., Sept. 25, 1971 (AB 26: 42). There are several records in the last 25 years from as close as Virginia, so the species should not be totally unexpected.

A confrontation of sorts developed in Doe Run, Chester Co., Pa., when the owners of a ranch objected to the presence of Cattle Egrets (max.: 1500) feeding with cattle but roosting in nearby willows and ostensibly destroying the trees (JG). One entirely cinnamon Cattle Egret was seen at Cape May through early June (PS) and was nesting in a colony at Stingaree Pt. (FGB, PAB). The only heronry known in s.e. Pennsylvania, comprising about 21 Black-crowned Night Heron nests, was in Bucks County (A & JM). In n.e. Pennsylvania, the 30-pair colony at Exeter apparently moved to

Slocum S.P., Wyoming, after severe depredations by Fish Crows (WR). A Glossy Ibis inland at Exeter June 30 (Terry Baltimore) was the first known to WR in n.e. Pennsylvania.

S.A.

The event of the season was the unprecedented invasion throughout the Region by immature, almost certainly yearling, **White Ibises**. The total for New Jersey was probably about 30, Pennsylvania about 20, for New York about ten and for Delaware about a dozen. Maxima were flocks of 17 at Rookery I., in the Susquehanna R., Pa., Aug. 11 (Clyde Gamber); 12 at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del., July 31 (JMA, RMS), 11 and nine in two flocks in Cape May County in late July-early August (Marion Glaspey, Peter Dunne) and seven at Mt. Sinai and Stony Brook harbors, L.I., through mid-August (Julius Hastings *et al.*). The first birds seen were a single July 4 at Great Swamp N.W.R. by Ira Weigley, then two there July 6 with most reports in the latter half of July. Prior to 1977, the species had not nested for certain n. of Morehead City, N.C., although breeding had been suspected in the past few years in the heronry at Pea Island N.W.R., on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. In 1977, however, one pair nested successfully on Fisherman's Island N.W.R., at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, and others were present or were suspected of nesting in at least one other heronry on the Eastern Shore of Virginia as far n. as the vicinity of Chincoteague N.W.R. (*vide* Mitchell Byrd). While the birds that invaded our Region are probably from Morehead City, the species is clearly in a saltational stage of range expansion and it is very likely that the northern heronries which hosted roosting imm. White Ibises this summer will have some breeding adults in 1978 or 1979. (White Ibises take two years to mature). This leap-frogging pattern would nicely parallel that followed by the Glossy Ibis when it left the confines of Florida in the late 1940s-50s and headed N.

It was not an especially auspicious summer for breeding waterfowl., although a commendable 30 species were reported in June and July, running the gamut throughout the Region from expected dabbling ducks through Snow Geese, Brant, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-neckeds, both species of scaup, Oldsquaw, and all three scoters, including a White-winged July 3 on Pepacton Res., in Delaware County, N.Y. (S. Lebow). A single Com. Eider was seen at Cape May Pt., June 21-July 5 (PS) and a ♂ King was at Montauk Pt., June 11 (R. Smith *et al.*). A few summering eiders are now the rule, and both species seem equally likely. A ♀ Com. Merganser was seen in Narrowsburg, Pa.,

near the same location where it nested in 1974 and summered in 1975 (WR). Red-breasted Mergansers, usually in hen plumage but occasionally accompanied by males, were seen in their usual coastal locations, especially near inlets, and some at least may have been breeding

A single Black Vulture was seen June 10 at Yards Creek Res., Blairstown, N.J. (Floyd Wolfarth), and two summered at Unionville, in s.e. Pennsylvania (JG) Young Bald Eagles were scattered along the coast in the Region, a recent phenomenon. New Jersey's remaining breeding pair was on territory in the s. Pine Barrens, but success was not known owing to the untimely death of Joe Jacobs while working in the field with Ospreys. Joe's demise closes a chapter on large raptors in s. New Jersey; he will be sorely missed. A pair of Goshawks nested in Dutchess County (R.T.W.B.C.) where the young were banded, and another pair got off three young near Pound Ridge as the species continued its dramatic explosion as a Regional breeder. Most heartening of all were reports of possibly/probably breeding Copper's Hawks from Dutchess County, Wissahicken Cr., near Philadelphia, and the Long Island Pine Barrens.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS — The only other King Rail reported was at the Millbrook School marsh, Dutchess Co., through June 8, present since May (R.W. Smart) The only Black Rail was at Dividing Creek June 3, and apparently none was heard all summer at Oak Beach Marsh, L.I. A Purple Gallinule came aboard a ship 25 mi off Cape May June 2 and was brought to Lily L., where it was released June 4 (PD). The breeding population at Dragon Run, Del., may have increased to two pairs this year (Winston Wayne), although no information was at hand about the Bombay Hook N.W.R. pair. Common Gallinule was reported scarce to absent at numerous s. New Jersey locales, especially at Brigantine N.W.R., attributed possibly to last winter's harshness (*vide* PWS).

American Oystercatchers continued to expand their New Jersey population, and a count by boat of 300 through the Brigantine N.W.R. meadows Aug. 27 rivals numbers from the Eastern Shore of Virginia (JAK). Wilson's Plover seems totally eradicated as a breeder in New Jersey, following the departure of the Holgate birds; are any known elsewhere in the region, especially in Delaware? Information is desired and will be kept confidential if requested. Tying the highest Regional count ever for Lesser Yellowlegs was the 1000+ in the Hackensack Meadows (below, H.M.), Aug. 8 (RK). An early Baird's Sandpiper was at Tincum N.W.R., July 30 (J.C. Miller), and the Region's earliest Buff-breasted Sandpiper, presaging a fine fall flight later, was at a most unusual location Boonton Res., N.J., July 22 (GM). Northbound on schedule were 50 White-rumped Sandpipers at Brigantine N.W.R., June 10 (per PWS); this species is one of the latest spring migrants. The only southbound Curlew Sandpiper was at Bombay Hook July 14-23 (PAD *et al.*), and the usual July complement of returning Ruffs included singles at Cape May, Tincum and Bombay Hook on the 17th, 30 and 31st, respectively; one was at Jamaica Bay during the same period. Fewer than usual ad. Long-billed Dowitchers were seen in July, and both

early and unusual "inland" were three Whimbrels at Rye, N.Y., July 25 (Lysle Brinker). The peak Am. Avocet count was 90 at Bombay Hook July 31 (A&JM); few were in New Jersey and none on Long Island. Wilson's Phalaropes arrived July 1 at Jamaica Bay (W. Wilkens) but mostly only a few singles were seen towards the end of July in s. New Jersey and Delaware. Four were at the H.M. for a month beginning July 28 (RK)

Single Iceland Gulls were seen throughout the summer at Port Mahon, Del. (MBA) and at Whitestone, Queens Co., N.Y., June 27 (WR). A Glaucous was on the H.M., June 30 (RK). A surge of Laughing Gulls in the Greenwich, Conn., area in mid-June resulted in a count of 294 on June 19; many more than usual summered on Long Island, especially along the North Shore, including significant numbers of paired, courting adults. Despite intensive helicopter searches, no nests or colonies could be located (PAB, FGB). Maybe next year? A second-year Franklin's Gull was photographed (alongside a White Ibis!) in Hempstead Harbor, L.I., July 13-22 (BS, THD *et al.*). See AB 31 158 (1977) for the species' status in the Region.

While no Gull-billed Tern nests were found on Long Island this year, three to five summered at Jamaica Bay; the only other Long Island report was one at Mecox Bay June 4 (JA). In New Jersey Kane and Farrar located several pairs in a large Com. Tern colony at Chadwick Beach in n. Barnegat Bay. This is the farthest north in New Jersey the species is known to breed, although two adults in May (IB) and two on Aug. 8 (RK, IB) in the H M indicate more prospecting. Two to three Royal Terns were in the Mecox Bay area in early-mid June (JA) and three were in the vicinity of Beach Haven Inlet June 7-9 (PAB, FGB). First breeding on Long Island is most likely to be attempted in the Shinnecock Bay area, and in New Jersey near Beach Haven Inlet, so these areas should be watched in ensuing years. Lacking hurricanes, fancy terns were scarce, but the premier larid for the summer was the adult White-winged Black Tern found (again!) at Little Creek Ref., Del., July 24, and seen by many observers well into August.

OWLS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — Barn Owls were found nesting in several locations in the n. part of the Region this summer. Most noteworthy were eight nests located by Stiles Thomas in Sussex County, N.J., in June, and it is described as "verging on being common" in Hunterdon County, N.J., by GH. Another pair was found nesting in Beacon, N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.) for only the third modern Dutchess County breeding record. Chuck-will's-widow is now calling in June as far n. as Island Beach S P in New Jersey, although it was possibly absent from its breeding site at Oak Beach, L.I., this year.

Two pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers were feeding young at Tuckerton June 20, and up to five pair plus young were at Cape May Court House (*vide* PWS). One strains to interpret these data as evidence of a comeback. Early vagrants were a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher July 16 at Brigantine N.W.R. (Heck, Drever, Southerland), and a W Kingbird July 14 at Cape May (PD). Proper caution is urged by PWS in the identification of "yellow-bellied" kingbirds, as both Cassin's and Tropical have occurred recently in the Northeast. Acadian Flycatcher continued

to reoccupy the Region: at four locations in the Greenwich, Conn., area; at four locations in Dutchess County, at four locations in n. Nassau County, L.I.; at two locations in n.e. Pennsylvania; and at three locations (up to three at one spot) in Rockland County, N.Y. Singing Alder ("fee-bee-o") Flycatchers were heard at Rye L., Westchester Co., July 9; on the Boonton June CBC (two) and at Slocum S. P., Wyoming, Pa. (where it nested in 1973-75). Is this species pushing S in the Region as Willow pushes N?

S.A.

Red-breasted Nuthatch continued to make news as an expanding breeder in the Region, no longer restricted to spruce groves at higher elevations. Following the first two modern Long Island breeding records in 1973 (AB 27: 851), and one certain and one probable in 1975 (AB 29: 953), two more Long Island nestings occurred this year: one pair was feeding just-fledged young in late June at Douglaston (F. Smythe *et al.*) and a second brood was seen on the Frick estate, Greenvale (J. Doran *et al.*). Breeding has been suspected in the Long Island Pine Barrens by Salzman over the last few years: PAB believed a pair nested in June 1957 at Napeague, and Ewert had one July 4-6 this year in suitable habitat at C.R.S.P. Most interesting of all was the pair that raised three young in the s. part of the New Jersey Pine Barrens this year, in the extraordinary Dividing Creek area (D Kunkle and G. Regensburg). This is the second recent breeding in the Pine Barrens, the first having occurred at Moorestown in 1974 (AB 28: 888). Summering but not breeding also occurred at two n.e. Pennsylvania localities; breeding was suspected in Rockland County (*vide* RFD); and two were seen June 6 at Cruger's I., Dutchess Co.

WRENS THROUGH SISKINS — Following the devastating winter of 1976-77, Carolina Wren was reported significantly down this year in coastal s. New Jersey (PWS, JAK), s.w. Connecticut (M.F.N.), Wilmington, Del. (A. Conway), Montgomery County, Pa (E.W. Graham), Trenton-Princeton (RWB), but unchanged or in even higher numbers in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR) and (in part) Rockland County (RFD) A **Bewick's Wren** was reported mist-netted at Island Beach S.P., in May but details are not yet at hand (Mary Doscher, *vide* PWS). There are but a handful of records for New Jersey for this species. Golden-crowned Kinglets were at two probable hemlock-gorge breeding locations near Greenwich, Conn., but apparently did not renet at the 1975-76 site at Kensico (M.F.N.) The only possibly locally-raised Loggerhead Shrike was an immature seen July 27 in Dutchess County. This is the rarest of Regional breeders. Pairs of Yellow-throated Warblers were seen in June in Pennsylvania at Ridley Creek S.P. (Alex Sibbet) and Wissahickon Cr., (Eliza-

beth Flavell) — past and suspected breeding locations, respectively.

An early Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen on Brigantine I., June 17 (JAK), and a colony of 50 pairs of Bobolinks was discovered at Unionville, Pa. (JG). More modest numbers elsewhere included several males and females present through June and July on the H.M., although no nests could be located (RK); the dwindling colony at Purchase, N.Y., was down to one pair this year (M.F.N.). Blue Grosbeaks continued to prosper in mid- to south New Jersey and the species' boreal outlier holds its own at three pairs on the H.M. (RK). In the same area as the Bobolinks, JG located some 40 pairs of breeding Savannah Sparrows, the largest colony known in s.e. Pennsylvania. Grasshopper Sparrow colonies are still being located and existing ones are increasing in size if they are not disturbed: 20 pairs nested at NAFEC, Pomona, N.J. (JKM), but WR records it as fast disappearing in n.e. Pennsylvania. However, he has the only known site (Dallas) for breeding Henslow's Sparrows in the entire Region, even if only involving one pair or so. Dark-eyed Juncos nested farther south than ever before this year: three young were fledged at Island Pond Mt., at 1300 ft, in Harriman S.P. (Speiser, Schwenker, Verderame) and another pair raised at least one young at South Mountain Reservation in Orange, N.J.—not far from where Pine Siskins nested recently (RR, MK).

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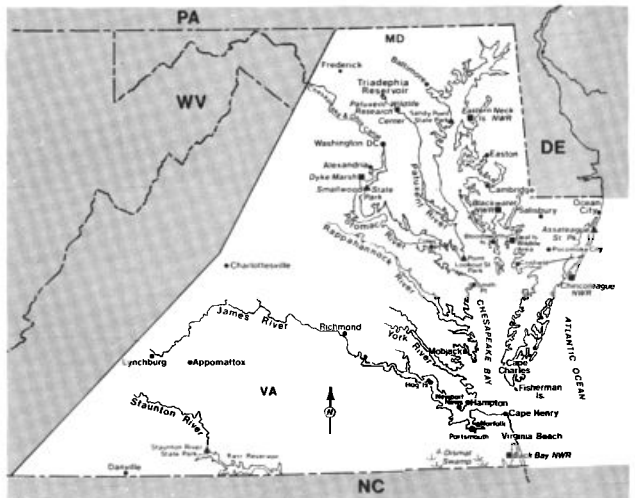
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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F.R. Scott

The period began with extremely dry conditions, and with deficient rainfall during June and July, drought conditions prevailed over most of the Region, intensified by record hot temperatures in July. Impoundments and stream flow were at very low levels, and there were no tropical storms. In general, the nesting season seemed to be more successful than usual, though nesting waterfowl were undoubtedly affected by low levels in freshwater impoundments. A breeding-bird foray run by the Virginia Society of Ornithology June 8-12 in the Kerr Reservoir area produced some interesting field records for this southern Piedmont area.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS—A few Com. Loons were reported as usual along the coast, but one far inland at Kerr Res., Va., June 8 (BO, NCM) was quite unusual. A Red-throated Loon was seen off



Wreck I., Va., July 7 (BW), and a Horned Grebe was noted at Kerr Res., June 25 (JHD, TD). An imm. Pied-billed Grebe which appeared at Green Springs, Va., July 22 (JBB) was the first breeding evidence for this Pied-

mont locality. A pelagic trip out of Ocean City, Md. to Baltimore Canyon May 29 yielded six early Cory's Shearwaters and a **Manx Shearwater**, among others (RAR, PGD *et al.*). On a two-day trip July 3-4, 59 Greater Shearwaters were recorded at Washington Canyon off Wachapreague, Va., and at least 130 (and probably hundreds more) Cory's Shearwaters were found off Ocean City July 4 (RAR). After the appearance of Brown Pelicans in coastal Virginia during the spring, from one to five were seen in the same area up to mid-July (BA, DD, LV *et al.*). Double-crested Cormorants were unusually widely reported in the coastal areas with astonishing concentrations of 278 in the Tangier I., Va. area of Chesapeake Bay June 24 (HTA, FRS) and 200 at Fisherman I., Va., June 25 (BA, BW, TFW). Inland records of interest included up to four at Alexandria, Va all summer (DFA, OEF *et al.*) and one at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (below, S.P.S.P.) July 10 (HLW).

HERONS AND IBISES — In spite of some fear that last winter's cold may have hurt the Great Blue Heron breeding population, it seemed in good condition in the Dorchester and Somerset Cos., Md., heronries (HTA). Of the several new heronries found in the Region, the largest comprised 410 active Great Blue and four Great Egret nests near Burnt Mills, King and Queen Co., Va., June 1 (MAB). Cattle Egrets nested late in both Virginia and Maryland. Excellent documentation of this was obtained at Poplar I., Md. by Reese, who visited the colony there almost weekly but noted no Cattle Egrets until June 5, when 15 birds were counted. By June 20 at least 30 pairs were on nests, although most other herons in the colony had completed nesting for the year. By July 24 this number had nearly doubled. At the Fisherman I. heronry this species also did not commence nesting until mid-or late June (MAB).

S.A.

The mystery of last summer's concentration of Cattle Egrets in the Hopewell, Va. area was solved when a nesting colony was found there Aug. 5 with an estimated 75 active nests (BG). The habitat of the colony was absolutely unique: vegetation (up to 30 ft) growing out of the decaying sides of long-sunken wooden barges in the middle of the James R.! The presence of both ad. and imm. Little Blue Herons and unusual numbers of Great Egrets in this area suggests that other species may have used this heronry earlier in the year. This is a major extension of the breeding range of the Cattle Egret in Virginia, the new heronry being some 70 mi inland from the previously nearest known colony.

Wandering, possibly nonbreeding, Cattle Egrets were noted near Kerr Res., June 7-9 (HEL, PEM *et al.*) and at Alexandria June 14 (JMA).

The **White Ibis** was finally confirmed as a nesting bird in Virginia when a nest with two young about ten

days old was found in the Fisherman I. heronry July 10 (PFg). An adult was also seen in the Hog I. heronry, Northampton Co., Va., June 30 (BW), but nesting here was not proved. The greatest influx on record of imm White Ibises into the Region began in late June in extreme s.e. Virginia with up to 20 being seen by the staff of Back Bay N.W.R. (*vide* DD). After early July one to four birds were recorded in virtually all sections of the Region w. to Albemarle County, Va. (FSW, CES) and n. to Warrenton, Va. (PC,AC), Laurel and Crofton, Md (DB), and the Baltimore, Md., area (MLH). The Glossy Ibis, whose numbers were previously reported far down in the coastal heronries, was also greatly reduced in the Chesapeake Bay colonies (HTA). It will be interesting to see whether this decline is general over the East Coast or if it indicates that the missing birds are colonizing new areas.

Postbreeding inland birds included a Louisiana Heron at Alexandria July 14 & 16 (LT) and an imm. **Wood Stork** near Kerr Res., June 25 (JHD,TD). The only significant postbreeding heron concentration reported was at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., July 25, which included 600 Great Egrets, 600 Snowies, 100 Little Blues, 125 Louisianas, and almost 1000 Glossy Ibises (DFA,OEF).

SWANS THROUGH COOTS — The low point in the summer population of Mute Swans at Chincoteague Ref , now seems to be up to 29 (FRS), and seven at S.P S P , July 6 (SJM) were considered unusual there. Two Snow Geese summered at Chincoteague Ref. (BWK *et al.*), and one was found on Watts I., Chesapeake Bay, Va , June 24 (FRS). Numerous long-dead Brant were discovered on Rogue, Hog, and Cobb Is., Va., July 30, including over a dozen around one water depression on Rogue I (BW, BSzr). The only explanation offered for these was the possibility that they were the remains of sick birds that were unable to migrate in the spring. Armistead and Scott recorded some 80 Gadwalls (plus two broods of young) at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., June 25 and single Green-winged Teals were reported at Chincoteague Ref , June 24 (BWK), Deal I., June 25 (HTA), and near Alexandria July 27 (OEF). A ♂ Blue-winged Teal near Hopewell June 4 (FRS) was also well away from this species' normal nesting areas. There were the usual reports of nonbreeding summering diving ducks, mostly near the coast, but a Red-breasted Merganser at Kerr Res., June 8-12 (JHD *et al.*) furnished a good record for the Piedmont.

After a dearth of summer records for many years, *Accipiters* seem to be making a modest comeback This year a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks nested for the second successive year in Stafford County, Va (BB, *vide* JMA), another was seen near Blackwater N.W R , Md., June 4 (HTA), and a Cooper's Hawk was noted at Clifton, Va., June 7 (CLE,JWE). A Broad-winged Hawk over St. Michaels, Md., July 28 and an Am. Kestrel flying across Chesapeake Bay from Tilghman I., Md , July 21 were both thought to be early transients (JR) Williams found two ♀ Marsh Hawks on Hog I., June 30, and Hughes reported an ad. **Peregrine Falcon** at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., June 4.

A King Rail and an empty nest probably of this species were located near Kerr Res., June 10 (PEM), one of the few summer Piedmont records of this species in Virginia. Purple Gallinules were seen at Back Bay Ref., June 26 (DD) and at Chincoteague Ref., June 25 (BWK) and July 2 (RAR), but the one that had returned to Lynchburg, Va. for a number of years did not show up this summer (*vide* RSF). Late Am. Coots were noted to June 4 near Hopewell (FRS), to June 11 at Laurel, Md. (DB), and one was seen on the Roanoke R., in s. Charlotte County, Va., June 11 (PEM *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — The somewhat isolated breeding population of Am. Oystercatchers in Chesapeake Bay appears to be increasing, and seven at Hooper I., Md., June 4 (HTA) was a record high count there. Armistead found them nesting at four sites in the Maryland part of the bay, and 33 were counted in the Tangier-Watts Is., Va. area June 24 (HTA, FRS), a record count there also. There is often a problem in distinguishing between late spring shorebird transients, summering nonbreeding birds, and early southbound migrants. There were many puzzles of this sort this year. Probable late spring birds included single Greater Yellowlegs inland at Kerr Res., June 11 (JHD) and Green Springs, Va., June 12 (JBB), a Red Knot at S.P.S.P., June 9 (HLW), a Pectoral Sandpiper near Lynchburg June 4 (GM, BShn), White-rumped Sandpipers inland in s. Charlotte County, Va., June 11 (PEM *et al.*) and at Parramore I., Va., June 19 (BA, TFW), three Dunlins at S.P.S.P., June 15 (HLW), and a **Northern Phalarope** inland at Alexandria June 8 (DFA, OEF). More confusing were 15 Whimbrel on Parramore I., June 19 (BW), 61 Lesser Yellowlegs at Chincoteague Ref., June 25 (FRS) and three the same day at Fairmount W.M.A., Md. (HTA), and 25 Red Knots on Metomkin I., Va., June 26 (BW).

Four extremely early Am. Golden Plovers first appeared at Chincoteague Ref., July 12 (CPW) and were present there for at least two weeks, and one was first seen at S.P.S.P., July 30 (HLW). Seventeen Upland Sandpipers in Frederick County, Md., July 10 (GCD) was a good count there and undoubtedly included some locally fledged birds. Early arrivals included three Solitary Sandpipers at Laurel July 5 (EWM), three Pectorals near Scottsville, Va., July 27 (CES), and 22 Short-billed Dowitchers in the Tangier I., area June 24 (HTA, FRS). A **Curlew Sandpiper** at Craney I., Va., July 22 (RJT, PT) was in near-breeding plumage and was seen by many observers into August. Stilt Sandpipers, first noted at Craney I., July 23, had built up to 180 by July 31 (DLH), and one was found at S.P.S.P., July 25 (HLW). A peak of 89 W. Sandpipers near Charles City, Va., July 27 (MLW) was a record for this inland area. The first Marbled Godwits appeared at Chincoteague Ref., July 13 (BWK) and S.P.S.P., July 25 (HLW), but an Hudsonian Godwit showed up at Chincoteague June 24 (BWK) and remained into July. There were two there July 10 (JHD, TD), and numbers had increased to 11 by July 21 (CPW). A Ruff was first seen at Chincoteague July 2 (RAR), remaining throughout the month, and a second, different bird was found there July 9 (BWK). The only other report during this period was one in

Baltimore County, Md., July 23 (MLH). The first Am Avocets were recorded July 13 at Chincoteague (BWK), and numbers at Craney I., had reached 410 by July 31 (DLH, TW). A Wilson's Phalarope at Chincoteague June 18 (BWK) was a confusing record, the next report not occurring there for over a month. But at Craney I., three appeared June 25 (DLH) and apparently remained, increasing to 22 by July 31 (DLH). One near Charles City July 26 (MLW) was unusual inland. A N. Phalarope was noted at Craney I., July 11 (JHD, TD) & 22 (RJT, PT).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — Five Pomarine Jaegers off Ocean City May 29 (RAR, PGD *et al.*) provided a record late spring observation for Maryland, and one Parasitic Jaeger there July 4 (RAR) seems to represent the first July record for the state. Wierenga suspected that the unusually high count of 29 Great Black-backed Gulls at S.P.S.P., July 25 were early fall arrivals. Armistead located the first nests of the Herring Gull in Dorchester County, Md., June 4 with four nests—three empty and one with two eggs—at Tar Bay. In the large Herring Gull colonies, Byrd estimated 1250 pairs at Fisherman I., May 29 and 4050 pairs at Smith I., Md., June 8. Ring-billed Gulls were again locally common inland. On the Potomac R., near Alexandria up to 500 were present during June and July, mostly subadults with a few adults arriving in late June (JMA, OEF). Reese noted peak counts of 100 on Eastern Bay, Md., July 5 and an equal number on the Choptank R., Md., July 21. At S.P.S.P. the first juvenile birds appeared with adults July 22 (HLW). Laughing Gulls seemed far more common inland than usual, with 2400 at S.P.S.P., June 9 (HLW) and up to 100 during mid-June at Alexandria, with adults outnumbering winter-plumaged birds here by five to one (JMA). A subad. **Franklin's Gull** (nearly adult except that its face was still white) appeared at Alexandria June 12-13 (JMA, DFA), and subad. Bonaparte's Gulls were noted at S.P.S.P., June 1 (two—HLW) and Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., June 15 (one—OEF).

Careful counts of nesting Gull-billed Terns over the last three breeding seasons on coastal Virginia seem to indicate a notable decline. Counts of adults (not pairs) were 2228 in 1975, 1994 in 1976, and 1032 in 1977 (BW). These figures may indicate only a normal fluctuation, or some active colonies may have been missed, but the situation obviously bears watching. Two tern colonies on the Manoken R., Md., June 8 were estimated to total about 800 pairs of Com. Terns and 165 pairs of Forster's Terns (MAB), probably the largest nesting tern concentration on Chesapeake Bay. Least Terns apparently nested early and successfully and had left their colonies on Tangier I. by June 24 (HTA, FRS). New—or previously unknown—colonies were located on the Potomac R., at Piney Pt., Md., May 18 (75 pairs) and on the Rappahannock R., near Ottoman, Va., May 21 (23 pairs—MAB). Unfortunately, owing to human disturbance, Least Terns failed to nest this year at S.P.S.P. (HLW). About 5100 pairs of Royal Terns were estimated nesting in four colonies in coastal Maryland

and Virginia (MAB, BW, JSW), with about 150 of these on Cobb I., Va., a new nesting location, at least in recent years. As usual, most of these (4600 pairs) were on Fisherman I. Sandwich Terns apparently nested only on Fisherman I.; Byrd found nine nests there May 29, and eight young were banded there June 18 & July 11 (JSW, JB). A Caspian Tern nest on Fisherman I., May 29 (MAB) marks the fourth successive year this species has nested in Virginia.

Wandering terns and skimmers appeared in a number of unusual places. Two subad. Forster's Terns (DLM) and three ad. Com. Terns (FRS) on Kerr Res., June 10 were quite out of place on the Piedmont, and one to two Least Terns appeared irregularly at Alexandria beginning July 12 (DFA, OEF *et al.*). On June 9, with rain and strong SW winds, three Royal Terns and three Black Skimmers appeared at S.P.S.P. (HLW), and an ad Sandwich Tern was observed at Craney I., June 25 (DLH). Apparently migrating or nonbreeding summering Caspian Terns were found inland again during the summer. Numerous records up to mid-June were considered to be of late spring transients, but at Alexandria there were counts of up to nine adults in late June and early July (JMA, OEF, LT), and Reese found seven June 27 and four July 5 near Cambridge, Md. One Caspian Tern appeared at S.P.S.P., July 6, and there were seven July 16 with smaller numbers later (HLW). Several begging juveniles were noted with the adults. A more "normal" fall arrival date was one at Laurel July 24 (DB). Up to 20 Black Terns were present at Dyke Marsh, Va., June 7-12 (JMA, OEF, LT), and five were observed at Chincoteague Ref., June 25 (FRS). A flock estimated at 100 Black Skimmers June 24 (HTA, FRS) was unusual for the Crisfield, Md. area of Chesapeake Bay

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH MARTINS — One or two Chuck-will's-widows were singing near Piney River, Nelson Co., Va. throughout June and early July (RC, RMC, MRB *et al.*), one of the few summer localities known for this species on the upper Piedmont. Wierenga found eight late E. Kingbirds still in migration at S.P.S.P., June 1, and the first early fall transients appeared here July 8. A **Gray Kingbird**, a first record for Virginia, was observed briefly but well at Chincoteague Ref., July 7 (RAR); the first regional report of this species was only recorded two years ago (AB 29: 957). There were three breeding pairs of Willow Flycatchers in the Alexandria area (JMA), three probably breeding birds were found near Lynchburg June 4 (JHD *et al.*), and one was singing in s. Charlotte County, Va., June 10 (BK, BO). This species appears to be continuing to increase slowly as a summer resident in Virginia e. of the Blue Ridge. Three or four singing ♂ Willow Flycatchers were in a well-known Coastal Plain breeding area near Jessup, Md., July 14 (HLW). In addition to the Tree Swallow nesting station previously reported during the spring period, there were two other Virginia nesting reports. In Stafford County a pair occupied a bluebird nesting box and had three young in the nest July 8 & 15 (ETM), and McQuarry and Fielder located an occupied

nest in Nelson County. Two broods also fledged from bluebird boxes near Potomac, Md., one in late June and the other in early July (ETM). A Tree Swallow near Charles City, Va., June 27 (MLW) might indicate that this species is spreading over a wider area. Single Bank Swallows were found at Back Bay Ref., June 10 (BWK) and along Rockfish R., Nelson County, Va., June 11 (RMC), both localities well away from any known nesting colonies. At S.P.S.P., Wierenga recorded 375 Rough-winged Swallows June 25 coming into a marsh to roost. The V.S.O. foray to Kerr Res., June 8-12 recorded at least 200 active Cliff Swallow nests in at least eight colonies in the Virginia part of the area. While by no means a complete census, this still confirms that this is the largest concentration of nesting Cliffs in the state. House Sparrows were occupying many nests in some colonies, and in one, in fact, the entire colony of 24 nests had been usurped and there were no Cliffs present (DLM *et al.*). The colony near Big I., Bedford Co., Va., had 28 active nests in late June with a production of an estimated 80 young (MRB). A census of Purple Martin colonies in Lynchburg this summer revealed the surprising total of 352 pairs (TNH), considerably more than were known previously.

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — A sample of four Virginia Breeding Bird Surveys, two on the s. Piedmont and two on the n. Coastal Plain, revealed a 74% decline in Carolina Wrens and a 34% decline in Mockingbirds since last year. A Lynchburg count on June 4 (in the Christmas Bird Count circle) showed a 78% decline from 1976 in the Carolina Wren (MPM *et al.*) Unfortunately, 1976 data on the Mockingbird here were not available at this writing. It will be interesting to see how these two species fared when all of the regional Breeding Bird Surveys are analyzed. An isolated colony of at least five pairs of Long-billed Marsh Wrens was located on the Roanoke R., just below Kerr Res., in June, and nests and eggs were found there June 7 (HEL, JML) & June 25 (JHD, TD). This is the only known breeding colony of this species on Virginia's Piedmont. The last Swainson's Thrushes of spring were recorded at Annapolis on the rather late date of June 5 (HLW). Eastern Bluebirds were apparently hurt by last winter's cold spell, as the nesting population in Stafford County, Va. was cut 50% from 1976 and that in Montgomery County, Md. was reduced 27%, based on nest box studies (ETM). Reproductive success was below normal this year. An ad. Loggerhead Shrike was feeding three fledged young near Kerr Res., June 11 (JP, BK)

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Although the Solitary Vireos reported last year in s. Brunswick County, Va. could not be relocated by the V.S.O. foray, one singing bird was found nearby in s.e. Mecklenburg County, Va., June 11 (DLM *et al.*). There were numerous late reports of migrant warblers in early June. Among these were a Tennessee near Charlottesville, Va., June 1 (CES), a Blackburnian at Myrtle Grove W.M.A., Md., June 3 (LT), N. Waterthrushes at Dyke Marsh June 1 (OEF) and at Williamsburg, Va., June 11 (BW), and two Am. Redstarts at S.P.S.P., June 5

(HLW). The Blackpoll Warbler was the outstanding late migrant, however, with numerous records up to June 9. Later ones, probably summer vagrants, were found near Lewisetta, Va., June 18 (FRS), Clifton, Va., June 21 (JWE), and two different birds near Williamsburg June 23 (RAB, BW). Prothonotary Warblers were found fairly commonly in six different locations near Kerr Res., June 9-11 (V.S.O.), which is especially interesting since when it was built, the reservoir flooded out most of the best habitat for this species. Yellow-throated Warblers were also fairly common in this area, especially in the bottomland hardwoods, but also occurring locally in pine forests as they do farther e. on the Coastal Plain. Elsewhere on the Piedmont, Boatwright and others found five of these warblers near Lynchburg June 4, and two were noted near Piney River June 5 (JHD, TD). A singing ♂ **Cerulean Warbler** at Newport News, Va., June 19 (DLM, SM) was some 40 mi s.e. of the nearest previously known summer station for this species, and Keelan and others found a probable ♀ **Mourning Warbler** (and a possible male) in n. Pocomoke Swamp, Md., June 26, a record that defies explanation. A Yellow Warbler at Annapolis July 8 (HLW) was an apparently very early fall transient.

BOBOLINKS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Five Bobolinks at S.P.S.P., June 15 (HLW) were probably extremely late spring migrants, but a pair, including a singing male, at Kerr Res., June 12 (JHD, FRS) seemed to be on territory, although it could not be located there two weeks later. Other summer records included two males at Dyke Marsh June 22 (OEF) and two singing males near Emmitsburg, Md., June 28 (DB). The first apparent fall transients at S.P.S.P., occurred July 8 (HLW). A N. Oriole at Annapolis June 4 (HLW) was probably a late migrant, and two in s. Charlotte County, Va., June 10 (BK, BO) was the only summer



Apparent Chestnut-collared Longspur, Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., June 5, 1977. Photo by Erik N. Breden.

report from the Kerr Res. area. Armistead found a late Rose-breasted Grosbeak near Golden Hill, Dorchester Co., Md., June 5, and a pair of Blue Grosbeaks with at least one fledged young were seen near Alexandria July 10 (DFA, JMA, OEF). The only Dickcissel report away from known stations was a pair in s.e. Mecklenburg County, Va., June 10-11 (JHD *et al.*). Two weeks later, however, following the mowing of the field, it could not be relocated. House Finches continued to increase

as summer residents in the Region, and they apparently nested for the second year at Richmond, Va. (FM). A Lark Sparrow inland at Hopewell July 31 (CRB, FRS) furnished a first local record, and a pair of Swamp Sparrows summered at Dyke Marsh for the second year in succession (JMA). Vying with the Gray Kingbird as bird-of-the-season was a ♂ **Chestnut-collared Longspur** in breeding plumage photographed at Chincoteague Ref., June 5 (ENB, PFY & RJS), providing the first confirmed record for the state.

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The summer of 1977 was one of the hottest and driest in many years. Many localities set records for consecutive days of temperatures 90°F or above. Fortunately, there were no major storms, especially along the coast, where one or two such storms generally linger for



days and play havoc with coastal nesting species. As a result of the scarcity of storms and rain, avian breeding

throughout the Region was very successful, since few nests, eggs, or young were wiped out. Parnell noted that essentially all waterbirds had excellent breeding results along the North Carolina coast. Little information on the breeding of marsh birds was received, but it is possible that such species might have had a difficult time owing to the drought. The major features of the summer were the exciting finds of David Lee on a series of pelagic trips off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, noteworthy wader and shorebird sightings at inland lakes, and (alas!) the very scanty field work or submission of observations from coastal areas. Nothing at all was received from the Georgia coast, practically nothing came in from the South Carolina coast, and essentially nothing was reported from the always-exciting Outer Banks of North Carolina. This scarcity of reporting from coastal areas *must* be corrected in future seasons, since the coast generally has the most rewarding birding at all times.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Common Loons occasionally remain on inland lakes into June, but two at the upper end of Roanoke Rapids L., N.C., July 25 were unusual (ML). Two breeding records of Pied-billed Grebes in the Piedmont of North Carolina were highly noteworthy, since the species nests almost strictly below the Fall Line in this Region. On Aug. 7 a pair with two, and possibly four, young was seen at Beaverdam Res., n. of Raleigh, N.C. (RJH), and on the same date an adult was noted with six or seven juveniles near Seaforth, Chatham Co., N.C. (JOP). It is significant that both sites were newly-created lakes not yet filled to capacity. David Lee recorded Cory's Shearwater on all five trips off Oregon Inlet, N.C., in June, with a peak of 60+ on June 30. However, Greater, Sooty, and Audubon's Shearwaters were seen on only two trips each, with peak counts of three, three or four, and 50+ respectively. Black-capped Petrels were seen again: Lee had one or two off Oregon Inlet June 1, and another was seen by an unidentified observer in that area on the June 22 trip. This supposedly endangered species has now been seen on *ten* occasions off the North Carolina coast—twice each in May and June, once each in August and September, and four times in October—all since 1972. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found on all five of Lee's trips, with a peak of 150+ on June 1. Eleven Double-crested Cormorants were noted at Roanoke Rapids L., June 6 (ML,HL), as many as five were seen all summer at Beaverdam Res. (RJH,JM), and three were at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., July 24 (BO). A ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird was soaring over Bear I., N.C., June 4 (RT,CW), and an immature was seen the following day down the coast at Wrightsville Beach, N.C. (BW₀,EW).

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — The good breeding success of waders along the coast and the low water levels of inland reservoirs because of the drought combined to produce a noticeable increase of post-breeding birds on these lakes. Excellent inland counts were 38 Great Blue Herons July 31 at Eufaula N.W.R. (BO), 24 Great Egrets near Winston-Salem, N.C., June

27 (FB,WI) and 14 near Raleigh July 24 (RJH), and a roost of 35 imm. Black-crowned and six imm. Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Eufaula June 18 (BO). Noteworthy inland records of the less numerous dispersers were of a single Cattle Egret near Ringwood, N.C., June 29 (ML), single Snowy Egrets in late July near Townville and Clemson, S.C. (HL) and near Seaforth, N.C. (JMo,BR), three Snowies near Raleigh July 23-26 (JM), and also individual Louisiana Herons in late July near Roanoke Rapids (ML), Seaforth (JOP,ET), Winston-Salem (PC,RS), and Eufaula (BO). A very rare Piedmont breeding record was established for the Yellow-crowned Night Heron s. of Durham, N.C. (NB,DK,EG). The nest with several young was found May 22 along New Hope Cr., and it was regularly watched by Garner until July 7, when a fully-fledged juvenile was seen. Ortego saw an Am. Bittern at Eufaula July 26, a very early date for this species. There was good news and bad news concerning the Wood Stork. For the second consecutive year Metzén observed nests with eggs at Okefenokee N.W.R., Ga., counting eight nests and 18 adults on May 12 and nine chicks in these nests June 9 (*vide* ECy). However, there were no signs of possible nesting this spring near Charleston, S.C. (PH), nor were there any extralimital records (as opposed to several such records in 1976), despite low water levels at inland lakes and good observer coverage at many of them.

Just as the Wood Stork made headlines in 1976, the summer of 1977 belonged to the White Ibis. Normally this species is a rather rare though regular post-breeding visitor to the Piedmont, but this summer ibises appeared in record numbers at nearly all reporting localities in this section. Some of the more notable reports (all immatures) were a flock of 51 near Ringwood, N.C., July 10 (ML), numbers reaching 13 birds at Beaverdam Res., July 14 (RJH), a maximum of four at Chapel Hill, N.C., during July (JOP,ET,BWa, MW), at least four at three sites in the immediate Raleigh area from late June to mid-August (KH,JM, CS), and one to two birds at three localities in the Clemson area after mid-July (HL). Completely inexplicable was a flock of 16 *adults* in flight near Winston-Salem June 23 (RS,BW). Needless to say, these records imply a highly successful breeding season for the White Ibis. An ad. **Roseate Spoonbill** was observed at North R. marsh near Beaufort, N.C., in late July (PV, *vide* JF). Jay Shuler found two **American Flamingos** on Bird I., just n. of Bull's I., Charleston Co., S.C., June 9. One was brightly colored, the other less so, but both were in good plumage. This is the third consecutive summer for the species in this area. Whether the recent series of flamingo sightings along the coast represent wild or escaped birds is not known, but it is nonetheless necessary to continue to report and publish all such sightings.

WATERFOWL — Two flying Brant seen by Parnell in Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., in the latter part of June were very late, but he suspected that they were sick or crippled birds that failed to migrate. A count of 11 Black Ducks, including a female with two half-grown duck-

lings, was made at Roanoke Rapids L., July 25 (ML). This was most unusual, since nearly all Black Ducks nest in the tidewater sections of e. North Carolina. Ortego had a pair of Blue-winged Teal at Eufaula all summer but did not detect any breeding activities. Seven birds in ad. ♂ plumage near Seaforth Aug. 7 were early (JOP,ET), as were four Am. Wigeons at Eufaula July 24 (BO). This season's stragglers were an ad. ♂ Ring-necked Duck at Beaverdam Res., June 21 (JM), a ♂ Surf Scoter near Charleston June 10 (JS), and a ♂ and ♀ Black Scoter near Morehead City, N.C., in early July (BH). A ♀ **Hooded Merganser** incubating 11 eggs in a Wood Duck box at the Ocmulgee W.M.A. near Macon, Ga., this spring, provided one of the very few nesting records for that state (TWJ).

HAWKS THROUGH COOTS — Kuerzi had the unusual experience of watching a Swallow-tailed Kite near Folkston, Ga., June 24, swoop down and take a fledgling Mockingbird from its nest! For the second consecutive summer, good numbers of ad. Mississippi Kites were seen in e. Halifax Co., N.C. (ML *et al.*). The birds are likely to be breeding there, but such an occurrence still has not been confirmed in the state. Single Cooper's Hawks at Eufaula June 28 (BO) and in Seminole Co., July 9 (SP) were very unusual for the s. half of Georgia. An imm. Bald Eagle at Beaverdam Res., July 28 -Aug. 3 was noteworthy, since most inland records are for the mid-spring and mid-fall periods (BiL,BL,RJH). Davis observed a Marsh Hawk June 1 at the n end of Ocracoke I., N.C. There have been a number of recent summer records for the coast, and the fact that there are several old breeding records for this area makes one wonder whether these recent birds might be breeding. Clearly, a detailed summer survey of the state's coastal marshes is needed. An active Osprey nest was discovered in Seminole County, Ga., July 9 (SP); inland breeding in the state (away from Okfehenokee) is quite unusual. There were several nesting season records of the Am. Kestrel, all from the Piedmont, and two were quite unusual—one or two seen regularly near downtown Durham, N.C., during the first three weeks of June (JOP), and a pair seen frequently on a downtown office building in Winston-Salem all summer (ZB,RH)! Could the species actually be nesting in these cities, when there seems to be an abundance of suitable yet unoccupied rural habitat throughout the Piedmont? A calling **Virginia Rail** was detected on several summer dates near Seaforth, and one was seen there in late June (MW). Within the past several years the species has been found breeding near Atlanta and suspected of breeding in n.w. South Carolina, and perhaps it is now also nesting in the Piedmont of North Carolina. An injured Purple Gallinule was n. of its breeding range near Morehead City June 7 (BBr); the bird was captured but died the next day. Ortego noted that 27 Am. Coots summered at Eufaula, but there was no indication of breeding.

SHOREBIRDS — A Piping Plover nest was found May 26 on Core Banks, N.C., not far from the s. limit of the breeding range (RD). Another was early and very

rare for an inland site at Eufaula July 22 (BO). A second exciting inland find was a Ruddy Turnstone at High Point, N.C., Aug. 11-16 (PC,RS,BW). A Com. Snipe on the extremely early date of *July 7* at Eufaula was remarkable (BO), but that was nothing as compared with the three Upland Sandpipers there on the amazing date of *June 24* (BO). Presumably the latter birds were early migrants. Two Long-billed Curlews were again present at Morehead City this summer, being noted July 15 (JF) and Aug. 9 (MT *et al.*). There were two inland reports of Willets in June—one bird June 15 near Fayetteville, N.C. (PJC), and two or three June 25 below Eufaula N.W.R. (BO).

Ortego had a number of other exciting shorebird records for Eufaula, including two early Lesser Yellowlegs June 29, an early Short-billed Dowitcher July 3, two early Stilt Sandpipers July 22, three Sanderlings July 26 (first fall record for the ref.), two Wilson's Phalaropes July 22 (first ref. record), and two N. Phalaropes July 24-26. There now seems little doubt that this refuge provides the most exciting year-round birding of any inland locality in the Region. Elsewhere, a White-rumped Sandpiper at Winston-Salem July 26-28 (RS,PC) furnished a rare inland record for the fall season, as did two Stilt Sandpipers at a farm pond in s. Franklin County, N.C., Aug. 2 (EP). Short-billed Dowitchers were noted at four inland localities: in addition to the Eufaula bird was one near Sumter, S.C., July 3 (BB, WB,CB), another at Townville, S.C., July 24 (HL), and two at Winston-Salem Aug. 6-8 (HS,RS). Lee collected a N. Phalarope off Oregon Inlet June 1, and he reported three to six in that area June 9.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — The pelagic trips led by Lee were a strong factor in the sightings of a skua, two species of jaegers, six species of gulls, and 12 species of terns in North Carolina during June, quite a notable achievement! A skua (sp?) was reported off Oregon Inlet June 1 (*fide* DL). It is probable that the skuas that have been sighted in May and June along the North Carolina coast over the past few years are South Polar Skuas; indeed, the only specimen (May 17, 1976) was of this species. Lee saw five Pomarine and three Parasitic Jaegers off Oregon Inlet June 1, and he saw another Pomarine there June 29. An imm. **Glaucous Gull** on June 6 at Topsail Beach, N.C., represented probably the first summer record for the Region (GW). Parnell noted that Herring Gulls are now well established as breeders south to the s. end of Pamlico Sound, N.C. An individual of this species, a Ring-billed Gull, and two Laughing Gulls were observed on W.F. George Res., Ga., on the late date of June 25 (BO,GB), and single Laughing Gulls were seen at nearby Eufaula June 22 and July 24 (BO). Also at Eufaula were single Forster's Terns June 15 and 22 and eight on July 26, two Royal Terns July 24 (first ref. record), two Caspian Terns June 24, and two Black Terns July 2 (BO). Most surprising was a **Roseate Tern** seen off Oregon Inlet by Lee June 29. Among other highlights of his Oregon Inlet trips were two Sooty Terns June 1, a maximum of 15-20 Bridled Terns June 29, and two **noddy terns** (sp?)

June 9. The Brown Noddy Tern is on the North Carolina Hypothetical List, and the Black Noddy Tern has not been reported from this Region; however, the unpredictable occurrences of pelagic species and the poorly known ranges of them make it imperative not to assume that these birds were "brown" noddies. A Sooty Tern was briefly present in a colony of Com. Terns near Beaufort June 8, but no indication of nesting was seen (RN,RD,MP). Nesting by this species so far to the north would seem absurd, but other observers have noticed similar occurrences by the Sooty in tern colonies along our coast.

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS — Ground Doves continued to occur along the c. coast of North Carolina; one or two were present at Ft. Macon during the summer (JF), and one was seen "inland" at nearby Beaufort June 14 (*vide* GH). The species might well be breeding this far north, but such activity has not been confirmed n. of Topsail Beach. Also in this vicinity was a Gray Kingbird at Atlantic Beach June 3 (JF), almost certainly just a visitor, as this flycatcher nests only sparingly n. to the Charleston area. A Horned Lark seen five mi n.e. of Scotland Neck, N.C., June 6 was somewhat to the e. of the known breeding range (ML,HL). A small colony of **Bank Swallows** was reported to be nesting with Rough-winged Swallows on the banks of the Roaring R., near N. Wilkesboro, N.C., June 18 (RS,PC *et al.*). Although no precise details were received, this would be the first report of breeding in this Region. The nearest nesting colony to our Region is believed to be near Hopewell, Va., and the species has nested in e. Tennessee and n. Alabama; thus, breeding in this Region was expected.

Ortego had a remarkable concentration of swallows at Eufaula July 31, including 4600 Banks and 2400 Rough-wingeds. Thirty-five active Barn Swallow nests were found this summer in s.w. Georgia along the W.F. George Res. (BO), and the species continued to increase in numbers and breeding localities over much of this Region. A Cliff Swallow was seen at a mud puddle with Barn Swallows June 5 at Moore's Landing near Charleston (JS), far to the s.e. of its known breeding range. Another "suspicious" Cliff Swallow was an individual at Beaverdam Res., June 12 (JM), perhaps only a migrant, but the species might well become a breeder in the Raleigh area in the next several years.

CROWS THROUGH WARBLERS — Lynch finally found evidence of Fish Crow nesting in the Roanoke Rapids area: one seen in flight over a residential area carrying a large stick in early June, and adults seen feeding a juvenile barely capable of flight June 13. Although this crow occurs regularly inland to the e. Piedmont of North Carolina, there are very few nesting records for the inland portions of the state and much is still to be learned about the habitat and feeding behavior of the species. Contrary to popular opinion, Fish Crows are seen infrequently around lakes there, but they occur mainly in wooded residential areas, and it is speculated that they feed primarily at garbage dumps and on eggs and young of Com. Grackles and

Blue Jays. Adult Cedar Waxwings were common during the summer at Winston-Salem, and two adults were observed feeding two nestlings at Salem L., July 8 for the second county breeding record (RS). A Solitary Vireo was heard singing in typical loblolly pine forest habitat near Essex in s.w. Halifax Co., N.C., June 1 (ML); this locality lies along the poorly defined e. edge of the breeding range.

Lynch again had two singing ♂ Worm-eating Warblers in w. Gates County, N.C., June 14, and he had another singing bird near the coast at Manns Harbor, N.C., June 20. The species must certainly be nesting over much of the state's n. Coastal Plain, mainly in bottomland forests with fairly dense growth of broad-leaved evergreen shrubs. A Blue-winged Warbler was on territory near Seneca, S.C., where it was noted May 7 (SG) and again on May 19 (HL); it was probably the same bird that was singing in the wet thicket May 4, 1976 and passed over as a migrant. There is no breeding record for the state, although there are nesting records for the n. Piedmont of Georgia. A N. Waterthrush studied carefully near L. Waccamaw, N.C., July 17 was a very early fall migrant (JF,DGo,DM).

FINCHES — As usual the only summer report of the Dickcissel came from n.w. South Carolina, where a singing male was noted several mi s. of Easley June 15-early July (PH,HL). The House Finch continues to spread as a breeding bird in the Piedmont of North Carolina, though so far only in large cities. Positive nesting again occurred at Charlotte (EC) and Winston-Salem (KH,RS), and conclusive breeding was found at Greensboro and Raleigh, both localities that have supported large wintering populations. At Greensboro a male was seen feeding two young June 11 (BSL, *vide* DG), and at Raleigh a nest was found June 21 at the Rose Garden and was donated to the N.C. State Museum (TLQ,KH). Breeding is likely in the Piedmont of South Carolina and Georgia within the next few years. A Savannah Sparrow at Beaverdam Res., Aug 3 was about six weeks early for the Region (RJH,TH). On the other hand, a singing White-throated Sparrow in a Charlotte yard June 2 was quite late (EC). Pullman noted an increase in Song Sparrows in Durham this summer, finding at least five singing males. Breeding pairs in this part of the Region occur mainly in streamside willow thickets and are seldom found in suburban shrubbery and farmyards as they are in the w. Piedmont.

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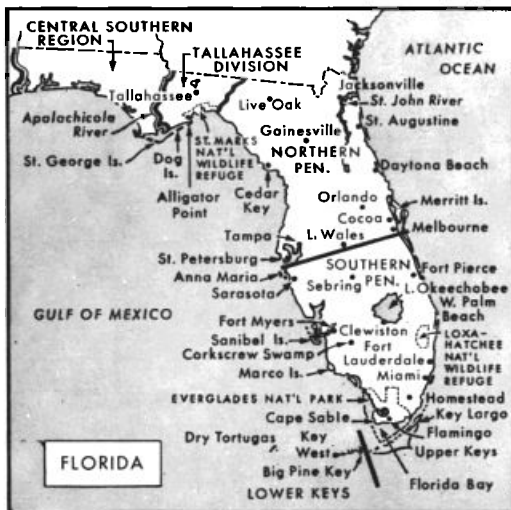
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PLEASE NOTE — Contributors should continue to send their seasonal reports to Robert P. Teulings, Route 6, Box 191, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

FLORIDA REGION

/John C. Ogden

The major weather note of the summer was the lack of rainfall throughout most of the Florida peninsula, which resulted in true drought conditions that were especially severe north of Lake Okeechobee. Rainfall deficiencies of 3 to 6 inches per month were common at many stations. I flew a survey over central and north Florida during July and noted that much of the cypress was turning brown, producing a landscape that looked more like November than mid-summer. The drought had a conspicuous affect on nesting wading birds, as described further in this report. Needless to say, no tropical storms approached the peninsula during the summer period.



GREBES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — A high count of 53 Pied-billed Grebes, including some that were nesting, was made on 2000 acres of flooded fields on the Duda farms, 5 mi. s. of Belle Glade, July 24 (PWS *et al.*). Pelagic trips revealed no real surprises this summer, although single Sooty Shearwaters off Cape

Canaveral, June 5 & 12, were of interest (RDB,B&LA) White Pelicans remained through mid-summer near St Marks Light, Wakulla Co.; up to 23 seen on several dates June 6 - July 20 (CSG,BG,DJD). Elsewhere, 50 White Pelicans were on phosphate ponds s. of Mulberry, Polk Co., May 25 (JCO,MB), and 44 were at the Duda farms July 24 (PWS *et al.*). A Great Cormorant that summered at the Canaveral jetties was still present during early August (RDB,DH,JJ). The Magnificent Frigatebird nesting colony on the Marquesas Keys shows puzzling year-to-year changes in size, this summer approx. 75 nests contained young during May-June (DK,PWS), in contrast to 250 nests in 1976

WADING BIRDS — The cooperative statewide aerial survey of wading bird colonies revealed that many nesting sites active during 1976 were abandoned in 1977 (JCO,HWK,SAN). The problem is that wading birds in Florida are keyed to nesting in vegetation over standing water, or on islands, and many of the former sites were dry this year. A close analysis of the 1977 survey data has not been completed, so it is not yet known if colonies that were active in 1977 contained more birds than in 1976, thus absorbing birds from the abandoned 1977 sites. Our impression, however, is that the total number of nesting waders in 1977 was below that in 1976, especially in summer colonies. For example, inland colonies in s. Florida during the summer of 1976 contained high numbers of Great and Snowy Egrets (AB 30:946), while the 1977 inland, summer colonies contained little more than the traditional summer nesters, Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets (JCO,BSW,LR). Waders searching for suitable nesting sites in drought-stricken n. Florida demonstrated the year-to-year flexibility in choice of nesting sites characteristic of these birds by forming a colony of about 9000 pairs in a newly created phosphate impoundment in Hamilton County (SAN *et al.*). The origins of these birds, mostly Cattle Egrets, White Ibises and Snowy Egrets, are unknown, although a large wader colony does exist 30 mi to the n.e. in the Okefenokee Swamp.

Other interesting wader observations included N dispersal of Great White Herons, one at Longboat Key, Sarasota Co., June 21 (M&BS), and one at the Duda farms July 24 (PWS *et al.*). Based on the number of ad Reddish Egrets seen at the Marco ABC Is., and four fledged young, Ted Below suggested that two pairs probably nested there this year. Seven Reddish Egrets at Hagen's Cove, Taylor Co., June 15 was a very high count from the N. Pen. (HMS). What must be one of the greatest concentrations of Yellow-crowned Night Herons ever reported in Florida was in flooded fields on the Duda farms: 252 on July 24 (PWS *et al.*). An Am Bittern well seen at Stony Bayon, St. Marks Ref., Aug 5, was in fresh juvenal plumage, which may have indicated local breeding (HMS). A high count of 302 Glossy Ibises was in the flooded Duda farms fields July 24 (PWS *et al.*). Immature Roseate Spoonbills wandered inland as far n. as near Mulberry, one on May 25 (JCO,MB), and one s.w. of Gainesville June 20 (RR,CP).

The summer drought in combination with the generally rainy winter were the factors largely responsible for a highly successful nesting season by Wood Storks in c. and n. Florida, proving once again that nothing is all bad. Water remained low, and fish were concentrated and more easily available during the spring and early summer when adult storks were feeding nestlings, resulting in successful production of young storks in 14 of 16 colonies n. of L. Okeechobee (JCO,HWK, SAN). Particularly exciting was the discovery in July of a surprisingly large colony of 400 pairs of storks near Chaires, Leon Co., only 17 mi s. of the Georgia line (JCO,SAN,HMS). A stork colony has been suspected in this region since 1971, when storks were seen carrying nesting material over the not-too-distant St. Marks R. (AB 25:847). In contrast to up-state Florida, the large stork colonies in s. Florida again failed. No young were produced at Corkscrew, and only 100-200 fledged from colonies in Everglades National Park (JLH,JCO).

DUCKS — The primary nesting range for Fulvous Whistling Ducks seems to be the sugar cane country at the s. end of L. Okeechobee. At the Duda farms, 327 Fulvous Whistling Ducks were counted July 24, including nine broods totaling 72 young (PWS *et al.*). In the Tallahassee Div., 39 Fulvous Whistling Ducks were banded on the St. Marks Ref. during June (CSG). Up to four Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, of unknown origin, were near Venice June 17 - Aug. 1 (T&AB,JBE). Single Ring-necked Ducks were jumped from two different sections of Conservation Area 3A, both June 20 (PWS, JCO), while one high-plumaged ♂ Ruddy Duck was on the Duda farm July 24 (PWS *et al.*).

RAPTORS — High counts of Swallow-tailed Kites included 63 birds going to roost at Corkscrew Swamp July 28 (JLH,TB), and 14 in n.w. Taylor County June 11 (GEM), the latter unusual so far n. A Swallow-tailed nest with single young was near the s. nesting limits on c Key Largo June 24, (JCO). Two reports of Short-tailed Hawks were received, both in Collier County, one an imm. dark bird at the Big Cypress Indian Res., June 21 (HMS), and one a light-phase adult near Corkscrew Swamp July 13 (JCO). An immature-plumaged Sharp-shinned Hawk was on the Dry Tortugas as late as June 11 (PWS). Mid-summer reports of Marsh Hawks are very unusual, but one brown-plumaged bird was well seen in s.e. Osceola County July 14 (B&LA *et al.*).

GALLINULES, COOTS, SHOREBIRDS — Another summer observation of a Purple Gallinule came from the lower Florida Keys, one adult on Big Pine Key June 22 (HMS). Hard evidence that Am. Coots breed in Florida is scarce, although possibly not

so to anyone living at the Duda farms. A grand total of 1900 coots were counted there July 24, including four broods totaling seven young (PWS *et al.*). One Am Oystercatcher was on the beach at Lake Worth June 10, where it is rare (WC). An early July flight of shorebirds produced several unusual or new extreme dates two Ruddy Turnstones at Duda farms July 24, unusual inland (PWS *et al.*), one Com. Snipe seen repeatedly between June 15 - July 6 at Tallahassee, a real surprise for mid-summer (GEM), two Spotted Sandpipers at L. Jackson, Leon Co., July 4, the earliest for the Tallahassee Div. (GEM,HMS), a very early White-rumped Sandpiper at Cape Canaveral July 28 (DH), six Least Sandpipers at L. Jackson July 4, and one Stilt Sandpiper at the same place July 14, both the earliest for the Tallahassee Div. (HMS,GEM). Also a high count of 1800 Leasts with 7100 unid. peeps at the Duda farms July 24 (PWS *et al.*), and one Wilson's Phalarope near St. Marks Light July 31 (NOW). This phalarope, plus an unpublished observation of one at St. Marks July 20, 1976 (GEM), constitute the first local July records. Included in this July flight were two real rarities, a **Curlew Sandpiper**, repeatedly seen July 10-25 at Hooker's Pt., Tampa (B&LA *et al.*), and a **Ruff** at Duda farms July 24 (PWS *et al.*). The Curlew Sandpiper was in breeding plumage when first seen, and was at the same site where one was found last summer. Similarly the Ruff was apparently in at least partial breeding plumage, as it was described as having a white head and neck in contrast to its brown body plumage. The Duda farms also produced an unusually high count of 430 Black-necked Stilts July 24, including four nests with eggs and three broods totaling 10 young (PWS *et al.*) Seven Black-necked Stilts were on phosphate lands n. of White Springs, Hamilton Co., May 27, a region of Florida where stilts are not known to nest (HMS,GEM)

TERNs, SKIMMERS — The Bird Island ternery in Nassau Sound was largely unsuccessful this year (RWL,SS). High tides during late May and early June destroyed all eggs in the 110 Gull-billed Tern nests, while Ruddy Turnstone predation was suggested as a major factor in the nesting failure by approximately 1500 pairs of Royal Terns. Two hundred pairs of Least Terns also abandoned nests on Bird I., but 816 pairs of Black Skimmers did produce young. Only four pairs of Least Terns out of 30 nesting on the Planet Ocean roof near Miami were successful owing to Fish Crow predation (MT), and Burrowing Owls took some young from a colony of 385 pairs of Least Terns on the Sears roof at Jacksonville (BO). Although heavy rains, raccoons and Fish Crows caused many nest failures on Virginia Key, a flock of 500 Least Terns there in late July contained about 100 flying young (MT). In the Bahamas, an Arctic Tern (see Kale's spring report) was well seen off Big Green Cay July 2, and a nesting colony of 400 pairs of Sandwich Terns was discovered on Dolly's Rocks, s. of Andros, July 3 (AS). Most nests in a Marco I. colony of 58 pairs of Black Skimmers contained eggs July 13, this site represents a slight s. extension of nesting range on the Gulf coast (TB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH KINGFISHERS — Late migration by Yellow-billed Cuckoos was indicated by the presence of four on the Dry Tortugas June 11 (HPL *et al.*) Two nests of Burrowing Owls in the Jacksonville area produced three and five young, plus a few bird bands from a nearby Least Tern colony (BO). Although "Antillean" Nighthawks are heard on Key Largo each summer, a close look at 30 nighthawks and six nests on upper Key Largo June 22, revealed all to be Com. Nighthawks (HMS). One Antillean Nighthawk nest with a single egg was found the same day, however, on Stock I in the Lower Keys (HMS). A Com. Nighthawk was calling on Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, June 11 (HPL *et al.*) Chimney Swifts again this summer showed signs of a s range extension. One was in Clewiston May 4 (JCO), one near Pahokee June 15 (MMS), up to 18 throughout June-July in Palm Beach (RHP), and eight were feeding over the n. fork of New R., Ft. Lauderdale, June 11 (PWS). A Bahama Woodstar came aboard ship rather far at sea, along the e. edge of Tongue of the Ocean, 12-15 mi s. of New Providence, Bahamas, July 1 (AS). Although nesting was not determined, a Belted Kingfisher was on Newnan's L., near Gamesville, throughout June-July (JEC,JJC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH ROBINS — An interesting Great Crested Flycatcher nest with young, located in a fence post hole only 25 in. above ground, was near Pt. Mayaca, Martin Co., June 18 (PWS). Southern breeding limits for the Acadian Flycatcher seem to be poorly known, thus reports of one singing on the upper Hillsborough R., e. of Zephyrhills, July 20 (RM), and up to four, including young, along the upper Withlacoochee R., during June and July (JBE), are of interest. Barn Swallows continued to expand their breeding range, and have reached Duval County, where a nest with five young was found under a bridge in Atlantic Beach (RWL). A Cliff Swallow at St. Marks Light July 31, was earliest for the Tallahassee Div. (NOW) The Gray Catbird has finally returned to Florida as a breeding species. Catbirds nested in n. Florida early in this century, and although they have occasionally been reported during summer (*AB* 26:851) no nest has been found in over 45 years. This year, two active catbird nests were located in Tallahassee (GEM,HMS), and a nest and single fledgling was found in Jacksonville (PCP). The Am. Robin continued to show a spotty summer distribution, with one singing along Morris Bridge Rd., n.e. of Tampa, July 2 (RM *et al.*), and two reported from Pinellas County in June (*vide* JBE).

WARBLERS — A late N flight of Cape May, Black-throated Blue and Blackpoll Warblers came close to overlapping an early S flight by Black-and-white and Cerulean Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrushes. Late Cape Mays were at McKay Bay June 4 (BC,RM), Dry Tortugas June 11 (HPL *et al.*), and Tavernier July 29 (JCO,MB). The latter bird was extraordinarily dull in plumage, almost completely devoid of any yellow or green tones. A Black-throated Blue was at the Tortugas

June 12 (A.A.S.), and late Blackpolls were seen 20 mi offshore from Port Canaveral June 4 (HPL *et al.*); one was singing in Tampa June 25 (B&LA). The S flight brought Black-and-whites to Tallahassee July 11 (GEM), Sugarloaf Key July 15 (B&LA), Hillsborough R., Pasco Co., July 20 (RM), and Lakeland July 24 (GH). A nice cluster of late July observations of the rare Cerulean Warbler indicated a flight of this species entered Florida surprisingly early. Single Ceruleans were on the Hillsborough R., Pasco Co., July 25, and several mi farther downriver July 29 (RM), and one was dead at the WCTV tower, Leon Co., July 28 (RLC). Early Louisiana Waterthrushes appeared July 6 in Pasco County (RM), July 7 on the Peace R., Polk Co (HMS), and July 15 at Corkscrew Swamp (JLH). A possible nesting range extension of Yellow-breasted Chats was indicated when three were located on Merritt I., June 19, including an adult carrying food (RDB,DH,JJ).

COWBIRDS, ORIOLES, BUNTINGS — A singing ♂ Orchard Oriole n.e. of Oxford, Marion Co., June 18 was the farthest s. that Stevenson has found a bird he considers a probable breeder, while one on St. George I., July 26 was likely an early migrant (HMS). A Spot-breasted Oriole at Sarasota June 1 (Mrs. Bob Schneider) may represent the first Gulf coast report of this exotic. A range extension and/or early post-breeding dispersal by Brown-headed Cowbirds produced sightings of single birds in Highlands County, May 31 (JMS) and June 25 (HMS), the latter a fledged juvenile, and one in Osceola County June 5 (JMS). High counts of cowbirds were 35 near Live Oak June 28, and 50 in s. Jefferson County July 9 (HMS). A singing ♂ Indigo Bunting w of Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co., July 2-3, was well s. of the nesting range for this species (WM).

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ONTARIO REGION

/Clive E. Goodwin

The breeding season was awaited with interest and some concern, to assess the impacts of the severe winter upon breeding populations. The picture that emerged was typically fuzzy, but it seemed clear that many species had been hard hit. Each reporter had his or her own list of shortages but there was little agreement, and only Winter Wrens seemed everywhere scarce. Apart from a young bird with parents and another male on territory in Waterloo County (CAC,BD), the picture was one of unremitting gloom, with the Algonquin picture improving little during June and July (*fide* RJP) and the Marathon Breeding Bird Survey down to 11 males from 26 last year (NGE).

Most other species were reduced in some areas but in normal or good numbers elsewhere. Some reporters found Eastern Phoebes very scarce but most observers appeared to feel that suitable habitats were occupied as usual. The Palgrave Breeding Bird Survey failed to record a single Common Flicker (CEG,JEG,AD) but there were good numbers at Ottawa (*fide* RAF). There were only two Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Long Point June 12 (RC,GBr) but in Lakefield marsh there were birds calling at 50-yard intervals in June (DCS). House Wrens were in normal numbers in the southwest (*fide*



AHK) but absent at Crozier where the western race would normally be present (GIP). The status of mimids and thrushes was even more difficult to assess: on the Marathon Breeding Bird Survey alone, Hermit Thrushes were down from four to one but Veeries were up from two to eight (NGE). Similarly with sparrows, with Marathon finding White-throated Sparrows down but the Kingston Breeding Bird Survey recording the most ever (RDW); the reports on other species were even more ambiguous.

Whether by coincidence or not, the weather was equally diverse: so much so in fact that totally opposite

weather conditions were being reported from locations that are reasonably close to one another. Kingston was exceptionally dry but Toronto rainfall was 60 per cent above normal; the southwest was very hot but other areas had below-normal temperatures.

The inconsistency of the weather probably encouraged early migration, although it has always been a matter of speculation as to whether migration begins and ends in any orderly sort of way. This year the Observatory at Prince Edward Point (below, P.E.Pt.) continued banding during the summer, and reinforced the sense that birds continued to move throughout the period when they "ought" to be engaged in rearing families. What is surprising about the banding results is not that they support this view of migration as a continuing phenomenon, but rather the scale of movement they reveal: steady movement of both Yellow-bellied and Traill's Flycatchers to June 16, with as many as ten of the former on June 8, and netting of adult Least Flycatchers starting on July 3; Gray-cheeked Thrushes moving to June 9 and Swainson's to June 16, starting again July 16, and many Veeries from July 5; Blackpoll and Magnolia Warblers to June 11, and Nashvilles starting again from July 4, Black-and-whites from July 6, Blackburnian July 8 and even Yellow-rumpeds by July 24. The steady movements of Tennessees from July 9 were the first Kingston July records ever, and the passage of Yellows from July 17 was occurring while the local birds were still nesting (*fide* RDW).

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Two out of five Kingston area Com. Loon nests produced two young (FP) and there were four birds plus one young at Luther Marsh July 24 (BD *et al.*). Kingston had a Red-throated Loon June 27 (WT), and there were summering reports of Horned and Red-necked Grebes, with the largest numbers at Burlington, with three and 11 respectively. The same area had the only Eared Grebe July 24 & 30 (AW,BW,RF). A White Pelican at Lac La Croix June 6 was only the second Quetico record (SP) Noteworthy among several reports of small numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were two at Pukaskwa N.P., June 24 (S&MB-N).

HERONS — Ross James' fieldwork at Pickle L., in June provided some northerly records for the Province, and he sighted a Great Blue Heron there regularly. In the south the species seemed to be holding its own with maybe a slight decline in some heronries: there were 26 active nests at Embro (*fide* GG) and 27 on Collingwood I., June 5 (AM,DS,CJM). Manitoulin I. had four Green Heron reports June 5 - July 16 (CB,DF). Breeding Cattle Egrets were recorded on Pelee I. (AR) and on Pigeon I., where the two young in the nest were banded July 19 (K.F.N.). At least eight Great Egret nests and 50 birds were seen on Bassett I., near Walpole I., in the St. Clair R., May 29 (AR,DR) and a single bird wandered E to Ottawa June 3-5 (BB *et al.*). Other wanderers included a Snowy Egret at Erieau June 5 (PDP *et al.*) and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Rondeau May 28 & June 18 (PAW). There was cheering news of Black-crowned

Night Herons, as both the Collingwood I. and Pigeon I. heronries recorded sharp increases. On Collingwood I., there were 151 nests as compared to 117 in 1976 (AM, DS, CJM) and Pigeon I., where the population had declined very seriously in recent years, there were 72 nests with no sign of broken eggs or of young birds being tossed out of nests by parents (K.F.N.). Bassett I. had a previously unreported heronry which included at least 100 nests and 250-300 birds May 29 (AR, DR). A Least Bittern was in Wye Marsh June 24 (GB) and there were five at Lakefield July 23 (DCS).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Mute Swans continued their range expansion, and Algonquin P.P. had its first with two seen on Cauliflower L., July 5 (DH, DS, RT). Most of the geese reports were from the north: Canada Geese were reported from Larder L., with five on June 11 (PWR), Englehart with nine June 20 (DB), and at the mouth of the Little Pic R., with 19 on June 17 and eight on Aug. 3 (NGE). Kearns had two Brant June 9 (JNk, PWR). Farther s. there was a White-fronted Goose at Cheltenham June 16-23 (RG), and a blue-phase Snow Goose at Waterloo June 18 (DRu *et al.*). A Black Duck nest was located at Pickle L., June 13; the species outnumbered Mallards there 2:1 (RDJ). A Gadwall was seen at Lakefield July 5 (DCS), and although Kingston area sightings were down, three nests were found (*vide* RDW), while on Collingwood I., there were five nests June 5 (AM, DS, CJM). The same trip located three Pintail nests, and other reports were widespread: two pairs on Walpole I. (AR, DR), two broods at Arthur June 27 (AW), and up to five females including one with young July 16 at Garson, where there was a N. Shoveler with young two days later (JN). Farther s. nests of this species were located at Long Pt., June 12 (RC, GBr), and Blenheim June 17 (PAW), and a pair was seen at Exeter July 1 (WRJ). Two Am. Wigeon broods were seen at Lindsay July 13 (DCS, GC, DMcR), and there was a pair with young at Toronto July 10 (H&EK). The final waterfowl nesting record was of a Hooded Merganser with young at Branchton June 2 (CAC, AAR).

This represents an unusual number of these records, in contrast to the more customary summer reports, where diving duck sightings normally predominate. A Redhead at Ottawa to June 12 (m.ob.) and five at Lindsay July 13 (DMcR, DCS), a Ring-necked Duck at Port Hope throughout the period (ERM), and a Bufflehead at Ottawa July 16 (BDi) constituted the most interesting of these records. Two White-winged Scoters at Wendigo L., June 5 (JW) may have been late migrants. The 22 Ruddy Ducks reported were especially noteworthy because they represent a continuation of the trend for this species to summer in the south. Most were at sewage lagoons but the pattern of appearance was intriguing, as some areas failed to record them after mid-June while in others the numbers only built up from early July.

HAWKS, EAGLES — Sixteen Turkey Vultures at P E Pt., July 11 (RDW) and 13 in Carden Twp., July 31 (JAS) suggested early migration. The Point also had

eight Broad-winged Hawks June 11-12 (K.F.N.). Hawk nestings included Goshawks at Burwash (BR) and Algonquin P.P. (RK, PK), a Cooper's in the Pinery P P (CGH), and both a Red-tailed Hawk and an Am Kestrel at Pickle L. (RDJ). Red-shouldered reports suggested some improvement with birds w. to Crozier June 20-21 (GIP), but there were no s.w. sightings (*vide* AHK). A Golden Eagle was seen at Havelock July 9 (DFi *et al.*) and there were Bald Eagle reports from the N. Channel (DMF), Algonquin P.P. (*vide* RJP) and Komoka June 30-July 1 (ES). The nest near Rondeau fledged one young, the second s.w. nest to do so this year (*vide* AHK). Two of three known Marsh Hawk nests in Lambton County were destroyed, but there were pairs on Walpole and Squirrel Is. (AR) and in Algonquin P.P., the latter producing three flying young July 27 (DA, RJP). The six Osprey nests and five Merlin nests reported, although undoubtedly only a small fraction of the actual Provincial nestings, were still encouraging news.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — Over 100 Ruffed Grouse were counted killed by traffic on the Pickle Crow Rd., July 13 (ND). Sharp-tailed Grouse were breeding at Pickle L., and at a new location on Manitoulin I., July 2 (RDJ, GKP). The only indication of the impact of the past winter on Bobwhite numbers was from Sombra Twp., Lambton Co., where they were much reduced (DR). Breeding was finally established for the Sandhill Cranes at Massey, when two young, about a week old, were seen June 3 (WRL), and the pair near Ottawa reappeared briefly June 9-10 (Mrs Fentiman) only to vanish again, as last year. The count of calling Yellow Rails at Richmond reached 20 on June 27 (*vide* RAF). On July 29 an Am. Coot with young was seen at Garson (JN).

SHOREBIRDS — In a year of early fall movement, shorebirds characteristically yielded some of the earliest dates, and as the group also had the usual late spring migrants only a few days separated the two. The latest of many late spring reports were ten Semipalmated Plovers at Long Pt., June 12 (RC, GBr), a Lesser Yellowlegs in the Rondeau area June 15 (*vide* AHK) and a Stilt Sandpiper at Ottawa June 17-19 (BG); and the supposed return flight was heralded by another stilt, at Erieau, and seven Short-billed Dowitchers at Exeter, all on July 1 (*vide* AHK, WRJ). These were followed by a Solitary Sandpiper at Otter L., July 3 (EAH), an Am Golden Plover at Erieau July 4 (PAW), and a Baird's Sandpiper at Hamilton July 17 (RC, AW), as well as a host of more commonplace sightings as the month advanced. Algonquin Park's most productive shorebird area was Clarke L., and there was a Semipalmated Plover there July 17 & 25, and a Least Sandpiper July 15 (RT, DSi). The season's only report of Piping Plover was a bird on Walpole I., May 29 (AR). Two Whimbrel at Virginiatown June 2 (PWR), and one at Atikokan June 1 (DHE) were most unusual for these areas, and there were birds at Ottawa, Dundas and Toronto in July (m.ob.).

Upland Sandpipers continued to be reported in in-

creasing numbers, and Manitoulin I. was suggested by Ross James, on the basis of his field work in June, as having the largest populations in Ontario. There was a bird n. to Englehart July 5 (PWR *et al.*), and 13 at Bolton July 31 (AD,GB) were one of the rare evidences of migratory movement in this species. At some time in every fall migration of recent years someone has turned up an exotic shorebird which eclipsed the more routine sightings. This year's winner of the Ontario "Shorebird of the Year" award was a **Wandering Tattler** which, unlike last year's Spotted Redshank, had the decency to stay around for a few days. It was present at Windmill Pt., June 8-13 (RFA, m.ob.), the identical location to the Province's last (and only the second-ever) sighting, in 1960. More routine rarities were a Willet on L. St. Clair July 29 (JWJ), a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Toronto July 31 (E&HK) and two Hudsonian Godwits at Port Rowan June 19 (AW,RF). Wilson's Phalaropes continued to be seen throughout the period, and at least 20 birds were reported. These included three on the Atikokan R., June 5 (SP), a nest with four eggs at Blenheim June 13 (PDP) and fully grown young at Isaac L., July 6 (JWJ). Five N. Phalaropes were seen in the south from July 24 (m.ob.).

LARIDS — Spring jaeger sightings are most unusual and it is difficult to categorize the Parasitic Jaeger seen at Shirley's Bay June 12 (SG). Twenty Great Black-backed Gulls on Pelee I. (AR) were evidence of the con-



Wandering Tattler, Windmill Point, Fort Erie, Ontario, June 12, 1977. Photo by Alan Wormington.

tinued strengthening of this species' populations on the Great Lakes. Pigeon I. had a nest with two young June 19, when 25 Herring Gull nests and 2500 pairs of Ring-billeds were also counted (K.F.N.). The largest reported Herring Gull colony was on Collingwood I., June 5, with 516 nests (AM,DS,CJM), and seven active nests at Hamilton (AW) and one on Walpole I. (AR,DR) were also noteworthy. All reported Ring-billed Gull colonies continued to prosper. The 28 first-year birds of Lake of Two Rivers Aug. 1 (DMcR) reflected the continuing

trend for young Ring-billeds to disperse to Algonquin P.P. in late summer, and a northerly report was of eight birds throughout the period of Pukaskwa N.P. (S&MB-N). The season had the usual scattering of small gulls Laughing at Hamilton July 1 (KMCL) and Franklin's at Erieau June 19 (PDP) and Ottawa June 21 (JJ *et al.*) The first returning Bonaparte's Gulls arrived at Cedar Pt., July 26 when 150 appeared (JAS) and there were 27 near Osnaburgh House on the Pickle Crow Rd., July 13 (ND). Little Gulls were present at Long Pt., and there were five at Blenheim from mid-June (PDP); however, there were no summer reports from Pickering and the birds at Walpole I. in late May had disappeared by mid-June (AR).

Forster's Terns, on the other hand, nested in two new areas: at least 12 nests and 65 birds were seen on Walpole I., from late May (AR *et al.*), and the species also nested in Mitchell Bay (*vide* GKP). On July 11 full grown young Forster's were being fed in the centre of Steen's Marsh near Pt. Pelee (JWJ) but actual breeding has never been established in this favoured area.

S.A.

Northerly Com. Terns were seen 24 mi s. of Pickle Crow July 13 (ND) and two at Pukaskwa N.P., June 16 (S&MB-N), but their breeding colonies continued to decline: the Collingwood mainland colony was down to 12 nests (AM,DS, CJM), the very successful Toronto colony of last season was significantly reduced in numbers this year (*vide* PMF), and there are no known colonies in the Kingston area (*vide* RDW). If this trend continues these elegant birds will soon be things of the past on the Great Lakes.

Caspian Terns seemed to be faring much better: there were 225 pairs and 300 flying young on Pigeon I., June 19 (K.F.N.) and 101 nests and 240 young out of the nest on S. Watcher I., June 23 (CGH). These birds seem to wander inland frequently in July, and there were eight reports from inland localities, n. and e. to Algonquin P.P., July 24 & Aug. 1 (DSu,DMcC). Black Terns were seen daily and a nest was found May 31 at Pickle L. (RDJ).

CUCKOOS, OWLS — Both species of cuckoo appeared at the limits of their ranges: a Yellow-billed in Algonquin P.P., June 5 (DSu *et al.*) and Black-billeds at Greenwater P.P., where they were common June 22 (TK), and at Kearns, where a nest was found (JNk). A Barn Owl nest with three young was located at Thorold Aug. 2, and three captive-bred young from the Owl Rehabilitation and Research Foundation were released at Rondeau in June. Further releases of four at Kingston in August and another group later in the Niagara area are scheduled, for a total of 58 young raised over four years from two captive pairs of injured birds (O.R.R.F.). The owl that created the most interest this summer was a **Burrowing Owl** that appeared at Erieau June 14-July 1 (KJB, m.ob.) but more significant was the first established nesting for the Province of

Great Gray Owl when a nest was located June 4 at Pickle L. (RDJ). There was an unusual number of other owl reports: a Barred Owl nest at Kingston fledged three young (BBE), an injured imm. Long-eared from Hamilton was treated and released June 6 (O.R.R.F.), a Short-eared was seen at Pine R., June 20 (CGH) and a Saw-whet was calling at Blackwater June 18 (DSc).



Chuck-will's-widow, ♂ incubating eggs, Point Pelee, National Park, Ontario, June 5, 1977. Photo by Alan Wormington.

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS— A **Chuck-will's-widow** nest, the first for the Province following two years of suggestive reports, was located at Pt. Pelee June 5 (AW,BW,RF). Whip-poor-wills were in very good numbers, with the Pinery P.P. alone reporting 25 calling birds in June (CGH). A Com. Nighthawk nest with two young was found July 13 on Pickle Crow Rd., at 50°50'N 90°45'W (ND). Chimney Swift nesting was finally confirmed for Manitoulin I., June 26 (GKP) and there were two birds at Pukaskwa June 12 (S&MB-N). A Pileated Woodpecker nest at Rondeau P.P., was deserted after the May 24 holiday weekend (PAW). Kingston had a Red-bellied Woodpecker July 30 (GW). A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers feeding young at Sheguiandah July 9 (CB) was at the n. limit of its range, and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers thought to be nesting at Silent L., Peterborough (DMcR), were s. of their normal distribution. Nests of this species are rarely found, so one on Route 652 e. of Cochrane June 15 (TK) was noteworthy.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A pair of E. Kingbirds was nest building at Pickle L., June 17 (RDJ) and a W. Kingbird was seen at Silver Islet Landing June 28 (JH *et al.*). There were several other northerly Flycatcher sightings: the Atikokan B.B.S. had three Great Crested Flycatchers June 10 (SP), and there were sightings of an E. Phoebe at Kap-Kig-Iwan P.P., June 18 (JW) and an E. Wood Pewee at Manitouwadge June 21 (NGE). A southerly Yellow-bellied Flycatcher report was from Maberly July 1 (GB). Alder Flycatchers were s. to Komoka and Windsor and Willow Flycatchers n. to Tiny Marsh and Lively (m.ob.). Rondeau had an estimated five Acadian Flycatchers this year (PAW). A

Rough-winged Swallow was at the mouth of the Pic R., June 19 (NGE). Cliff Swallow, the most local swallow in the south, continued to expand its numbers with a new colony of 76 nests at Galt and increasing numbers elsewhere in Waterloo and Brant Cos. (CAC *et al.*). At Wingham one large colony had 189 nests this year (R&MM).

CROWS THROUGH WRENS — A pair of Gray Jays with young was seen at Maynooth July 10 (GC) Proof of Black-billed Magpie nesting continued to elude searchers although birds were seen or heard daily at Pickle L., June 11-17 (RDJ). A Tufted Titmouse was seen at Markdale June 26 (RV). The only s.w. report of Carolina Wren was one on Pelee I. (*vide* AHK) although there were five seen farther e., including two at Peterborough (DCS). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from a number of widely scattered localities, the most noteworthy being a pair with a newly completed nest July 29 on Walpole I. (DR *et al.*).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS — The encouraging growth in reports from n. Ontario is particularly evident in this section. At Marathon a Mockingbird was singing daily to July 11 and was thought to have bred (NGE) There were at least four Gray Catbirds in the Kirkland L. area and a nest was found at Kearns (WG,PWR *et al.*); birds were also at Marathon, and Pukaskwa N.P. throughout (NGE *et al.*). The final n. report was of two Wood Thrushes singing at Pancake Bay P.P., July 2-3 (RCR). At least three pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a nest were located near the mouth of the Ausable R., June 3 (CGH), and another nesting at Port Hope was destroyed (*vide* ERM). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet nest at Windmill Pt., June 11 (MJ) furnished the Province's most southerly nesting record for this species Loggerhead Shrike reports were encouraging, with four pairs or nests located and 17 birds sighted all in June and July. Starlings were breeding at Pickle L. townsite (RDJ). Yellow-throated Vireo reports from the extreme w. of the Province were of a pair nest-building at Rainy R., May 26 (RDJ) and a bird at Crozier July 18 (GIF) There was also a bird at Ottawa July 30-Aug. 8 (RAF *et al.*), and in the Pinery P.P., a nest was found and there were 15-20 singing males (CGH). Solitary Vireo nests were found on Manitoulin I., June 26 (GKP), at Pickle L., June 14 (RDJ) and at Midhurst June 14 (AM), and there was a bird singing at Pt. Pelee July 22 (JWJ). A Philadelphia Vireo nest was also found at Pickle L., June 15 (RDJ) and at Kap-Kig-Iwan P.P., there were eight singing males June 17 (TK). Warbling Vireo records from the species' range limits included four at Whitson L., Algonquin P.P., June 10 (m.ob.) and a nest on Manitoulin July 4 (GKP).

WARBLERS — There were three Prothonotary Warbler nests at Rondeau (PAW) and a single bird was seen at Long Pt., June 12 (RC,GBr). Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers continued to expand again as both species were reported at Kingston, and a Blue-winged at Cambridge was the first in summer there (TT *et al.*). Some interesting information came in on n

warbler distribution: Tennessees outnumbered other warblers 5:1 on Highway 652 (TK), and Black-throated Greens were commoner on the L. Superior coast—for example, at Pukaskwa N.P.—than inland (NGE, S&MB-N). Connecticut Warblers were uncommon at Pickle L. (RDJ) and recorded in Pukaskwa in early June (S&MB-N). One of the very few Cape May Warbler nests ever found in Ontario was on Manitoulin I., June 26 (DF,BF). Southerly reports included three Yellow-rumped Warblers singing at St. Williams June 12 (RC,GBr) and one in the Pinery P.P. throughout (CGH), and a Blackpoll at Kemptville June 30 (GB). Rondeau's first-ever Chestnut-sided Warbler nest contained six cowbird eggs (PAW). The Prairie Warbler colony at the Pinery had 10-20 males at the end of June (CGH) and a single bird was at Ottawa July 30 (RAF). The London area had a pair of Hooded Warblers at Newbury June 11 (JG,TNH) and two Yellow-breasted Chats at Komoka June 12 (TNH,GEM), and a singing chat at Cambridge in mid-June was the first-ever there in summer (GRD,CAC).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in new localities around Steep Rock in June (SP), and one was seen at Rondeau July 2 (PAW). Orchard Orioles nested on Pelee I. (CAC *et al.*) and birds were seen n. to Magnetawan June 11 (AM) and Waubashene June 23 (CGH). In the northwest a N. Oriole was at Atikokan June 20 (DHE). The Brewer's Blackbirds at Erieau nested (*vide* AHK), a new nesting location for the Province, and birds were seen at Heron Bay June 19 & July 16 (NGE). Scarlet Tanagers also were recorded in the north, at Greenwater P.P., June 22 (TK) and Pukaskwa P.P., June 7-12 (S&MB-N) and there was a high count of four on the Atikokan B.B.S. (SP) Brown-headed Cowbirds were around the Pickle L. townsite from June 8 (RDJ), further evidence of this species' spread in n. Ontario.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A Cardinal spent the summer at Nobel (CAC) and single birds were seen at Sheguiandah June 19 (CB) and in w. Rainy R., May 27 (RDJ). Evening Grosbeaks were in large numbers across the north with birds even s. to Toronto throughout, and a probable pair was feeding three young there July 13 (DHS). More House Finches were reported, the first a singing male with Purple Finches at Ottawa July 3 (BDi, LM) and the others at London June 2 & July 2 (TNH *et al.*) A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was found at Manitowadge June 21 (NGE). The Province had some intriguing crossbill movements, particularly in the north, where flocks of White-winged were seen at Greenwater P.P., June 15 & 23 (TK) and at Pukaskwa and Marathon, where there was a NW movement with up to 300 birds per day, July 16-23 (NGE *et al.*). Red Crossbill sightings were more scattered, but widespread. Both Grasshopper and Le Conte's Sparrows were found in Ingram Twp., July 6 & June 5 respectively (JW) and a Le Conte's was on territory at Atikokan in June (SP). Grasshopper Sparrow numbers seemed reduced, and the Barrie Henslow's Sparrow colony fell to the bulldozer, leaving Tiny Marsh as the remaining stronghold for this

species. There were 37 birds counted there July 20 (CJM). By contrast Clay-colored are still prospering with nine colonies reported and isolated birds on territory at Cambridge (TT *et al.*) and Atikokan (SP), as well as a nest found on Manitoulin I. (GKP,RDJ) The Dark-eyed Junco nest at Dyer's Bay June 4 (JWJ) and the pair of Lincoln's Sparrows at Mt. Forest June 28 (AW) were both quite southerly records for these two species.

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NIAGARA - CHAMPLAIN REGION **/Douglas P. Kibbe**

The summer was generally warm and dry with considerable mid-season rainfall. Nesting success and observer coverage appeared to have been very good. Further evidence of population declines among several species which winter in the Southeast (see spring report) was gathered. On the plus side were range extensions and/or population increases for several species (e.g., Turkey, Willow Flycatcher, Common Raven, Mockingbird, and Blue-winged Warbler). Two hundred thirty-three species were tallied in the Region this summer, most of the rarities being shore or water birds.

The Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas Project, now in its first full year, has already produced a deluge of new breeding records and range extensions. Most significant,

however, is the baseline information being produced on normal breeding distributions. This ambitious project, which uses survey units much finer than the latilong systems being tried in a number of western states, should be seriously considered by all environmental planners interested in conducting regional avifaunal inventories. For additional information contact the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, Vermont 05091.



LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A number of ongoing investigations into the breeding distribution of Com. Loons in the Northeast are all reaching the same distressing conclusion. Lakeside developers, boaters, and other recreationists have virtually eliminated the species as a breeder in the Region. In Vermont eleven pairs produced only five young this year (SL). Extirpation there seems imminent unless intensive protective measures, similar to those now being taken in New Hampshire, are initiated. Rochester's Eared Grebe continued to summer until July 3 (R.B.A.) and an exceptionally early Horned appeared at Iroquois N.W.R., July 12 (JS, PR).

Up to 40 Double-crested Cormorants were present around Four Brothers Is., in L. Champlain this summer but apparently no nesting occurred. The Region's only known Double-crested breeding colony, on Little Galloo I., in the St. Lawrence R., has grown steadily over the past four years. Nests totaled 130 this year compared with 68, 28, and 22 in 1976, '75, and '74 respectively (TC). The Black-crowned Night Heron colony on Little Galloo I., also experienced remarkable growth with 121 active nests this year versus 60, 29, and 25 during the previous three years. The single Glossy Ibis at Missisquoi N.W.R., apparently lingered into early June. Lake Champlain Cattle Egret populations continued to do well with at least two nests on Vermont's Young I. (DC) and New York's Four Brothers Is. (H.P.A.S.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLIFORMES — Gadwalls continued to expand their range with nests on L. Champlain; and increased numbers along the Great Lake plains. Owing to increased coverage, all three Accipiters were well reported; however, both Sharpshinned and Cooper's Hawks appeared to be continuing their declines as regional breeders. The scarcity of Red-shouldered Hawks was also widely bemoaned, so an estimate of 5-7 pairs s. of Ithaca (WH) was surprising. Breeding Broad-winged Hawks were well reported from the Green Mts., but were scarce or absent in the rest of the Region. Immature Broad-wingeds continued to migrate along the L. Ontario plains through most of June (R.B.A.). A single Golden Eagle was sighted over Boquet Mt., in the Adirondacks in early June (H.P.A.S.). Seven ad. and three imm. Bald Eagles were

reported. One immature near Rochester whose location received newspaper publicity was subsequently found dead and is now being necropsied. Only one of the sightings, near L. Champlain, was of a pair suspected to be breeding. The only Ospreys observed away from known Adirondack breeding areas were singles near Rochester June 18 (G.O.S.) & 21 (R.B.A.). Having proved their hardiness this past winter, Turkeys continued their increase with many observers commenting on broods or slight range extensions. Spruce Grouse were as usual unreported, while Ruffed Grouse apparently increased in the s. Green Mts. (WJN) Chuckars apparently held their own near Parma and Clarkson, N.Y., following introductions in 1973. Although breeding has not been confirmed, up to eleven birds have been tallied per day (RC).

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS — A cooperative survey of shorebirds and gulls near Rochester produced a staggering number of unusual sightings, most of which help to confirm what coastal shorebirders have known for years: there is no clear demarcation between spring and fall shorebird movements. Those still wishing to further define north and southbound migration periods (presumably choosing to ignore the existence of non-breeding summer vagrants) may choose to resort to differences between adult and juvenile plumages, thus further clarifying (or intensifying?) the current confusion. The more unusual sightings this summer included: a Whimbrel July 8 (NH) and a Willet June 13-14 (m.ob.), both at Long Pond near Rochester; a Stilt Sandpiper July 7 at Buffalo (DF); a Lesser Yellowlegs June 21 at Dead Cr. (AP); White-rumped Sandpipers June 17 & 21 at Montezuma N.W.R. and Long Pond (R.B.A.); a Dunlin July 7 at Times Beach (DF); a dozen Short-billed Dowitchers at Pt. Breeze June 25 (CP); up to four Semipalmated Sandpipers at Long Pond through the end of June (R.B.A.); and four W. Sandpipers June 19-21 (WL *et al.*), a **Marbled Godwit** June 6-7 (TT *et al.*), and a **Ruff** June 21 (B&CL, m.ob.), all at Long Pond. Phalaropes were well reported with two Northerns at Montezuma N.W.R., June 8 (SS) and six Wilson's, including a pair at Long Pond June 14-27 (R.B.A.), and two immatures of suspicious origin at Pt. Breeze July 19-31 (WL). Confirmation of breeding by Wilson's eluded observers for yet another year however

Although which state it was in may still be unresolved, the presence of a **Long-tailed Jaeger** on L. Champlain about 4 mi s. of Four Brothers Is., seems beyond dispute (GL, *vide* H.P.A.S.). The bird reportedly followed a University of Vermont research vessel for five minutes, allowing careful study. Astounding as this sighting may seem, there have been a number of recent early summer sightings from the New York Bight (see AB 30:934) and there are three previous Vermont records (including one specimen) and three inland New York specimens. This is, however, the first inland summer record for the Region. Interesting, although less exotic, were sightings of an ad. Iceland Gull (reportedly determined from photographs to be the race *kumlieni*) on L. Champlain July 3 (*vide* H.P.A.S.); a sub-adult Franklin's at Long Pond June 18 (CP *et al.*); and an ad. Black-headed Gull there June 13-16 (m.ob.). Rochester observers again had the only Forster's Terns with a maximum of three June 18 on Long Pond (CP *et al.*).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos and tent caterpillars were unusually abundant in the e. half of the Region this summer. Yellow-billed, usually uncommon in Vermont, were found in at least a dozen locations throughout the state. Readers, particularly cassette player enthusiasts, are cautioned to remember that both species may give the calls attributed to the opposite species by most popular field guides and records. This fact raises many questions regarding interspecific interactions which deserve further investigation by some enterprising ethologist.

The owls remain one of the Region's most poorly reported groups. Population status is impossible to derive from the reports currently being received. Vermont's first Barn Owl nest, discovered in a collapsed chimney in Charlotte, contained three young; two of which were successfully raised by V.I.N.S. and are scheduled for release at this writing. The only other sighting was in E. Amherst, N.Y., June 17 (DF). The only Long-eared Owl reports came from Killbuck, N.Y. (J&MF) and Winhall, Vt. (WJN). Four of the five locations reporting Saw-whet Owls were in Essex County, N.Y., on the e. edge of the Adirondacks (H.P.A.S.). The fifth report was from Winhall in the Green Mts. (WJN). Reports of nine Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers included a nest near Mt. Marcy (KA) and a single bird at Gale Meadows in s. Vermont where breeding was confirmed in 1968 (WJN).

Acadian Flycatchers were found in three New York locations: Bergen Swamp (R.B.A.), where they are known to nest; Randolph (RA *et al.*); and near Honeoye L., at an elevation of 2100 ft. The latter is an exceptional record for a species generally thought to be restricted to the lake plains. Alder and Willow Flycatchers exhibit significant differences in altitudinal preference in central New York, Willows being generally restricted to the valleys. In Vermont, however, Willows appeared to be expanding in some areas into more mountainous habitats (WJN). An Olive-sided Flycatcher on Connecticut Hill near Ithaca, June 24

(WH) must be considered an exceptionally late migrant, while two at Iroquois N.W.R., July 16 (G.O.S.), were early southbound migrants. In Vermont the Atlas Project coverage produced a severalfold increase in Olive-sided reports, but at least a local population decline was noted in the s. Green Mts. (WJN).

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — The phenomenal increase of the Com. Raven has been belabored in previous issues. But these comments in no way prepared one veteran observer (JC) for the shock of seeing a raven coursing East along the L. Ontario shore near Webster July 11. There is one previous April lake shore record, from Derby Hill, but the origin of this July bird is a mystery. The closest known populations are in Schuyler County, 70 mi s.e., or the Pennsylvania mountains, well over 100 mi away. Adirondack raven populations seem to be entering a growth phase similar to that shown in Vermont during the past 10 years. Five known nests fledged an estimated 15 young (H.P.A.S.) this summer and a bird in Clinton County was the first local record in recent times (PW).

Extending their winter invasion, Red-breasted Nuthatches were common-to-abundant breeders in many areas. A nest of four nearly-fledged young Brown Creepers discovered June 3 in Cornell's Sapsucker Woods (WH) probably set a new fledging record, the previous regional record being June 24. The population crash of Winter Wrens in both the Green (WJN) and Adirondack Mts. (KA) is probably a consequence of winter mortality. The winter apparently also took a heavy toll of Carolina Wrens because reports received were only a fraction of recent years; however, one pair was sighted as far north as Vermont's L. Dunmore (WS). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were recorded from only three locations including the West Rutland Marsh, apparently Vermont's only active breeding site.

Mockingbirds fared well during the past winter in s. Vermont at least; this year's survey totals were more than twice last year's (NS). Hermit Thrush, another s. winterer, was believed to have declined 50% over last year's levels near Winhall, (WJN). A singing Swainson's Thrush at Braddock Bay June 25 (J&WL) was another of a series of extralimital summer appearances of this species along the lake plains in recent years. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were scattered throughout Vermont's L. Champlain valley. Careful investigation will probably reveal that virtually all of w. New York's large Spruce plantations are inhabited by breeding Golden-crowned Kinglets. The time is ripe for a study defining the vegetational features which constitute acceptable plantations. Up to six Ruby-crowned Kinglets were recorded at Allegany S.P., in extreme s.w. New York (RA *et al.*) during July. Although this is the second consecutive summer record for s.w. New York, no comments regarding possible breeding accompanied the report. Water Pipits are only rarely recorded within the Region during the summer and then only as (presumably) nonbreeding vagrants in Vermont's alpine tundra. A bird at Braddock Bay July 23 (WL) became New York's earliest fall arrival by 10

days Only two successful Loggerhead Shrike breeding attempts were recorded (AP, PW), both in the L. Champlain valley.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — Male Philadelphia Vireos were recorded at four Vermont locations S. Strafford (HR), Bristol (WS), Vershire and Thetford (W&GE). A nest and eggs were located in the Adirondacks near the Cranberry L. Biological Station in St. Lawrence Co. (KA), within 20 m of a 1973 nest site. Although 31 species of warblers were recorded within the Region this breeding season, little new information was generated regarding their status. It is anticipated, however, that when the results of the Vermont Atlas Project are tabulated later this year the distribution pattern of many species will become much clearer. Preliminary Atlas returns are already yielding some exceptional findings: singing Tennessee and Cape May Warblers at Lewis (WE); a colony of **Cerulean Warblers** at Sand Bar Refuge n. of Burlington containing at least six males and three females (SL), including one on a nest (Vermont's first) June 12 (WE, FO, m.ob.); and a territorial ♂ Bay-breasted on Stratton Mt., in extreme s. Vermont July 4 (WJN).

One observer (WE) religiously recorded all warbler sightings (over 2000) as he surveyed 15 Atlas blocks (approximately 150 square miles). These totals provided the following insights into the relative abundance of breeding warblers in n. Vermont. American Redstart and Com. Yellowthroat were not the most commonly recorded species, each comprising over 17% of the sightings; followed by Chestnut-sided Warbler and Ovenbird (11% each); Magnolia, Black-and-white, and Canada Warblers (about 6% each); Yellow, Blackburnian, "Myrtle", Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers (3 to 4% each); and Nashville Warbler (less than 2%). Thirteen additional species recorded from the New York lake plains, Hooded Warblers proved surprisingly common at Letchworth S P., w. of the Finger Lakes, with up to eight birds recorded in June (R.B.A.). This diverse state park hosts

some 22 species of breeding warblers (R.B.A.). an exceptional total for any small area of North America

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — The first migrant Bobolinks passed over Winhall, Vt., July 19 (WJN), ten days earlier than last year. Nesting by the W. Meadowlark 'paired' with an Eastern in Murray (see spring report) was apparently never confirmed. Woodstock's Orchard Orioles apparently fledged several young (CRP) in late June. The only other nesting record was, as usual, from Pt. Breeze (R.B.A.) Vermont's summering Dickcissel was last reported June 16, probably because everyone in the state had seen it by then. Red-Crossbills were sighted June 11 at Canadice L. (JFe, RS), July 19 at Rice's Mills, Vt. (HR), and at Winhall in late July (WJN). White-winged Crossbills were also sighted twice in Vermont during July, two birds near Guildhall (WE, AG) and a singing male at Gale Meadows (WJN). Dark-eyed Juncos seemed "noticeably reduced in abundance in the Adirondacks" (KA), another consequence of this past winter? Two Lincoln's Sparrows near Stratton July 22 (AG *et al*) is Vermont's southernmost summer record.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a summer of contrasts, with some unusually cool weather as well as some very hot periods, some periods of drought and some very heavy rainfall. At Pittsburgh, June was much cooler than usual, and in the first half of the month temperatures were very low. The dry weather of late May continued until nearly mid-June when the rains came and the month finally showed normal rainfall. July was generally very hot; rainfall was quite variable with some places being quite dry but others having greater than normal rainfall. Most of the July rain came in a few hard storms and there was local flash flooding in several places.

As reported in the spring account many species had entered the breeding season in reduced numbers. This was particularly true of the permanent residents and the species which winter in the southern United States. It is

heartening to report that almost all species apparently had excellent nesting success. There was some nestling mortality during the freezing spell in May and during the cold snap in early June but in most of the Region the warm, moderately dry weather after mid-June was very favorable to nesting success. In the south the extremely hot weather was thought to have caused some nesting failure. There was an example of an extremely localized catastrophe on June 17 when a violent hailstorm which struck a very small area in e. West Virginia produced heavy bird mortality (CM).

There was still a few spring migrants moving north in early June, particularly shorebirds and a few warblers. The fall migration of shorebirds started in mid-July and the first passerine migrants were coming through before the end of July. More than in any recent summer there were reports of stragglers of various species which are known to nest only north of this Region.



LOONS, HERONS AND IBISES — There was an unusual number of summer records for Com. Loon with reports from Kinzua Res. Warren Co., Pa. (TG), Somerset County, Pa. (RS), Westmoreland County, Pa. (JMC), and Hardy County, W. Va. (Brooks Bird Club Foray, hereafter, B.B.C.F.). Also most unusual were reports of Double-crested Cormorant from Botetourt County, Va., June 18 (JTD) and Rockbridge County, Va., July 21 (RW).

Green Herons seemed to be in short supply at most places. At Shenango Res. Pa., June 21 only 15 Great Blue Herons were counted compared with 40 and 57 in the last two years (WB). A heronry in the Susquehanna R., near Carlisle, Pa., comprised 300+ pairs of Cattle Egrets and about 75 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons (RP). Great Egrets were reported only from Meadville, Pa. (RFL) and Botetourt County, Va. (BK). Little Blue Herons were at Franklin, Pa., June 12 (SS) and at two locations in Botetourt County, Va., July 8 & 28 (BK). The Yellow-crowned Night Heron is now appearing rather regularly in this Region. There were records from Washington County, Pa., June 2-24 (EH, MK) and from Latrobe, Pa., June 29 through July (JMC, PH). Immatures were found all summer near Roanoke, Va., and in Botetourt County, Va., July 31 (BK). The heronry on the Susquehanna R., also had several pairs of Glossy Ibises (RP). Most unusual were the reports of a Wood Stork in Frederick County, Va., July 9-12 (RSi) and a White Ibis near Strasburg, Va., in late July (*vide* RSi).

WATERFOWL — There was an unusual number of straggler waterfowl this year: Whistling Swan at Presque Isle, Pa., June 5 (JGS, JHS, SS); Bufflehead at Wilbur L., Tenn., all summer (GE); Oldsquaw at Presque Isle June 5 (JGS, JHS, SS); and Lesser Scaup at Daleville, Va., June 12 (BK). A most remarkable event occurred on June 24 at L. Julian, Buncombe Co., N.C., when an estimated 1000 Canada Geese landed on the lake at mid-day and remained for about 15 minutes before departing en masse northward (RR).

RAPTORS — The Black Vulture is now firmly established in s.-c. Pennsylvania. Three nests in that area raised four young this year (RP). There was considerable disagreement about the status of most hawks. In w. Pennsylvania accipiters, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Broad-winged Hawks were all thought to be at low levels (PH). In the Warren, Pa., area, however, Red-shouldered Hawk nests fledged 14 young and two Red-tailed Hawk nests fledged five young (WB). Most areas did agree that the Red-tailed Hawk was doing well. At Clarksville, Pa., two Am. Kestrel nests fledged five young (RB) but for the first time in years kestrels failed to nest at Lewisburg, W. Va., (CHa). A Goshawk nest was found in Warren County, Pa. (DSt). A Bald Eagle was seen in Butler County, Pa., June 5 (*vide* FP), but the most exciting raptor news was the sighting of a Peregrine at Austin Springs, Tenn., June 7 (DD).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS AND RAILS — The Ruffed Grouse has been at a low point in its population cycle but from all reports the nesting season was successful and perhaps populations will start to climb. The Turkey also had a good nesting season. In Hardy County, e. of the high mountains, the Bobwhite was unusually common (B.B.C.F.) but w. of the mountains they had been hard hit by the winter weather and were quite scarce. At both Morgantown (GAH) and Charleston (NG) they were essentially absent.

Virginia Rails occurred all summer near Youngstown, O. (WB) and a Sora was present all summer in Botetourt County, Va., although no nesting evidence was obtained (BK). There was an unusual number of reports of Am. Coots during the summer.

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS AND TERNS — Early June showed a number of shorebird stragglers: Whimbrel at Austin Springs, Tenn., June 4 (m.ob.) and at Washingtonville, Pa., June 1 (SS); Baird's Sandpiper at State College, Pa., June 10 (MW); Short-billed Dowitcher at Washingtonville, Pa., June 12 (SS) and Wilson's Phalarope at Presque Isle, Pa., June 5 (m.ob.). In July not many places had exposed shorelines and so the early fall migration was poorly reported. At Presque Isle, Pa., some early migrants were Red Knot, 14 on July 29 (DS); Baird's Sandpiper, July 20 (early—DSt), and W. Sandpiper July 29 (DS) Sanderlings were found at Washingtonville, Pa., July 17 (SS) and at Presque Isle, Pa., July 23 (RFL). Two Am Avocets at Austin Springs, Tenn., June 19 were most unusual (DD).

A Great Black-backed Gull at Presque Isle July 29 was early (DS), and a Franklin's Gull there on June 1 was unusual (JGS, JHS, SS). Also unusual was a Forster's Tern at Washingtonville, June 1 & June 14 (SS) and a Caspian Tern at Austin Springs, June 14 (DL).

CUCKOOS, OWLS AND GOATSUCKERS — Neither cuckoo species was in high numbers anywhere in the Region but in n. West Virginia and s.w. Pennsylvania Black-billed Cuckoo was more common than in recent years. Barn Owl nestings were reported

from Erie County, Pa. (BG), Elizabethton, Tenn. (three successful nests—GE), and Hockingport, O. (PM). The spring and winter reports had mentioned heavy Screech Owl mortality during the cold winter and this was evident during the summer when the species was extremely scarce throughout the n. parts of the Region. A singing Saw-whet Owl was found on the Virginia-West Virginia line in Highland County, Va., May 17-19 (BW) and this species was seen feeding young in the State College, Pa. area (SG).

Observers in w. Pennsylvania felt that the Whip-poor-will was in increased numbers (PH) but at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (below, P.N.R.), (RCL) and at Morgantown (GAH) they continued to decline. The Chuck-will's-widow reported in May at Fincastle, Va. remained to at least July 6 (BK). A juvenile Com. Nighthawk captured and released at Asheville, N.C., July 16 represented the first confirmed breeding record for the area (RR).

KINGFISHERS AND WOODPECKERS — Belted Kingfishers were extremely scarce throughout the Region. In the Pittsburgh area Red-bellied Woodpeckers were scarce and were thought to have suffered mortality in the winter (PH), but at P.N.R., not far away, populations seemed normal (RCL). This species nested in Meadville, Pa. (RFL) where it has not occurred until relatively recently. The population of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nesting in the s. Appalachians has been declining for many years and in some years is unreported, thus the report of nestings both this year and last in Avery County, N.C. is interesting (MP). Hairy Woodpeckers have been scarce for several years, but in the Pittsburgh region they were more common this year than they have been (PH).

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS — The picture of E Kingbirds and Great Crested Flycatchers remained very gloomy as almost without exception, populations were reported down. The kingbird was, however, thought to be very common at Warren, Pa. (WH). As mentioned in the spring report, some observers felt that the E. Phoebe had not been very hard hit by the winter, but as summer progressed it was apparent that this species had been greatly depleted. At Clarksville, Pa., populations were thought to be only one-half of last year's (RB) while at P.N.R. only two were banded during the period where the average for these two months has been 18 (RCL). Early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher migrants were banded at P.N.R., on July 28-29 (RCL). Alder Flycatchers have become scarce except in the mountain bogs so reports from Westmoreland County, Pa., in June (JMC) and L. Arthur, Butler Co., Pa., July 18 (PH) are noteworthy. The Willow Flycatcher continued to expand its range, and was found in Hardy County, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.), and at Waynesboro, Va. (RSn), both places s. and e. of its known range. At P.N.R. this species was abundant (RCL). The first recorded nesting of the Least Flycatcher in Shenandoah N.P., Va., was observed in mid-June (ST). Least Flycatchers were migrating at P N R., July 26 (RCL).

Tree Swallows nested at Fisherville, Va., where they had not been known before (RSn). Near Warren, Pa., the *Operation Bluebird* boxes were from 35-40% occupied by Tree Swallows and 375 young swallows were fledged (WH). All swallow species were felt to be low near Pittsburgh (PH), but at Jefferson, Greene Co., Pa. an all-time high number of Barn Swallows was counted on a Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter, B B S) route (RB). Barn Swallows were scarce in Avery County, N.C. (MP), but were more numerous than usual at Dalton, Ga. (AH). Small nesting colonies of Bank Swallows were reported from Columbus, Pa (WH), Austin Springs, Tenn. (GE), and near Glasgow, Va. (*fide* BK), new localities for the species. Purple Martins are slowly making a comeback after the 1972-73 disaster years, but populations are still low.

RAVENS, TITMICE AND CREEPERS — There continued to be an increased number of reports of the Com. Raven. In the n. part of the Region both Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees, as well as Tufted Titmice, were in low numbers going in to the breeding season. Apparently the winter weather was hard on these species, and some of the early nestings were eliminated in the May cold spell. A Brown Creeper nest at 2100 ft, near Blacksburg, Va., was the first local nesting at such a low elevation (JM) although low elevation nestings have become fairly common in West Virginia.

WRENS, THRASHERS AND THRUSHES — House Wrens were felt to be in low numbers at P N R. (RCL) and absent at Lewisburg, W. Va. (CHa), but from Warren, Pa. (WH) and Clarksville, Pa. (RB) came remarks about high populations and subsequent interference with bluebird nestings. A previously overlooked winter casualty seems to have been the Winter Wren. A B.B.S. Route in Avery County, N C, which had four wrens in the 25-mile stretch last year had none this year, and populations elsewhere in the North Carolina mountains were very low (MP). The earlier impression that the Carolina Wren had been nearly wiped out in the north was certainly confirmed. A B.B.S. in Greene County, Pa. had no Carolina Wrens this year against 27 last year (RB) and three routes in n West Virginia had none (GAH). There were a few still present and some data indicated that nesting may have been very successful. At Clarksville, Pa., two pairs that had survived the winter inside of barns managed to fledge 14-15 young in four nests. (RB). A Long-billed Marsh Wren's nest was found at Seneca L., O., June 26, the first known local nesting (ME), and near Youngstown, O. populations were only one-half of last year's (WB). Along the n. edge of its range, i.e., Newcomerstown, O. (ES) and Clarksville, Pa. (RB), Mockingbirds were in reduced numbers, and at Swannanoa, N.C., Brown Thrashers were uncommon (RR). On the other hand most observers felt that Gray Catbirds were in excellent numbers, as for example, 86 banded during the period at P.N.R., with only 49 an average catch (RCL).

The Am. Robin had an excellent breeding season in n. West Virginia (GAH) and most reporters felt that Wood Thrushes were in good numbers. Hermit Thrushes were in very low numbers in the West Virginia spruce belt (GAH) and may have been another previously unsuspected winter casualty. No other reporters in the breeding range mentioned this species. The E. Bluebird apparently was hit harder by the winter weather than had been previously suspected. Most observers found it to be scarce. At Warren, Pa., the *Operation Bluebird* project of 300 boxes showed a 40% occupancy and a total of 750 (the same as 1976) young fledged (WH). At Clarksville, Pa. a smaller line of bluebird boxes had rather poor nesting success largely owing to House Wren interference (RB). A summering Veery near State College, Pa. was unusual (MM).

KINGLETS, PIPITS AND VIREOS — A population study area in the West Virginia spruce belt counted only three Golden-crowned Kinglets this year as compared with six last year (GAH) reflecting the winter mortality. Golden-crowned Kinglets summered at Forbes State Forest, Pa. (RCL), newly added to the summer range. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in June at State College (DB) was probably a straggler, but this species will eventually nest in this Region. A Water Pipit was seen at Presque Isle, Pa., June 19 (JGS, JHS). White-eyed Vireos continued to increase in Greene County, Pa. (RB) and at P.N.R. (RCL), but near Pittsburgh they were lower than in recent years (PH). Yellow-throated Vireos have been declining for several years, but this season they may have made a modest start towards recovery. Near Pittsburgh (PH) and Charleston (NG) Red-eyed Vireo populations were down slightly, at Morgantown three B.B.S. routes showed no change in populations (GAH), while in Greene County, Pa. a record high was listed on one route (RB). At P.N.R., 108 were banded during the period (average is only 41) and a heavy movement was noticed there on the last few days of July. In Avery County, N.C., a 1976 B.B.S. showed 17 Solitary Vireos and 14 Red-eyeds. This year the count was only three Solitaries but 25 Red-eyeds (MP).

WARBLERS — There were several reports of such n. species as Cape May, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers present in the Region during the first few days of June, but more puzzling than these obvious stragglers were the Tennessee Warbler near Edinboro, Pa., June 16-21 (DS) and the singing ♂ Cape May Warbler at Blacksburg, Va., June 30 & July 4 (*vide* JM). A Cerulean Warbler in Erie County, Pa., June 1 was n. of the usual range (DS). This species was in below-normal numbers near Pittsburgh (PH) and at Charleston (NG). The Yellow-breasted Chat continued to show low numbers in n. West Virginia and s.w. Pennsylvania, but the Yellow Warbler was extremely common there with 43 banded at P.N.R., where the average catch has been eight. Yellow-throated Warblers continued to do well at P.N.R. (RCL) and are now possibly the most common breeding warbler at Charleston (NG). A Yellow-throated Warbler was found in Fayette County (new location), Pa. in June (PH). A Blackburnian Warbler

was at Dally Gap, Ga., July 7 (HD). A Mourning Warbler was seen at Milam Gap, Shenandoah N.P., June 12 & July 24 (*vide* ST). This species has not been known to nest that far e. and that low in this Region. The Blue-winged Warbler continued to push E and N.

There was a fairly heavy migration of Yellow Warblers at P.N.R. in the last third of July (RCL). A minor mystery of the local fall migration has been the occasional capture at P.N.R., of molting Tennessee Warblers in late July or early August. The species is not known to nest anywhere near this Region, and the books tell us that molting warblers do not migrate. This year 39 were banded July 23 - July 31. All were adults, all were in molt and many females still had brood patches (RCL).

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS — Northern Orioles were unusually common in the Pittsburgh area (PH). Orchard Orioles nested in Erie County for the first time (DS). Five Orchard Orioles banded at P.N.R., July 29 apparently represented early migrants. At P.N.R. (RCL) and at Morgantown (GAH), E. Meadowlarks were scarce but at Clarksville they were normal. A B.B.S. in n. West Virginia had the highest count ever (RB). Red-winged Blackbird populations at Newcomerstown, O., were thought to be only one-third of normal (ES). Scarlet Tanagers were extremely common throughout the n. part of the Region.

FRINGILLIDS — The Blue Grosbeak has joined the list of s. species making almost explosive range expansions into our Region. It was found in Hardy County, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.) and one was seen near Swoope, Va., July 28 (IO). However the major news came from s. Ohio. A pair with young was seen in Vinton County and two pairs were noted in Meigs County (AN). Young birds were also seen in Mason County, W. Va. (AN). At P.N.R., a total of 53 (yearly average, 20) Indigo Buntings were banded during the period, indicating a very successful nesting season, and a migratory or wandering movement was observed in late July (RCL).

Two Purple Finches seen on Roan Mt., Tenn., June 16 & 19 (GE) may represent a further range expansion for this species. The House Finch has now reached the w. boundary of our Region, with nesting observed at Barnesville, O. (ME). Young birds were also banded at Wheeling (*vide* GP), the first definite evidence of nesting there. Other nestings were at Sheffield, Pa. (TG), and the first in Erie County, Pa. (DS). At State College, Pa., 137 House Finches were banded during the period (MW) and at Indiana, Pa., 137 had been banded for the year (CW). Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills were on Roan Mt., Tenn., on several occasions in late June (GE *et al.*) and one was photographed at Monroeville, Allegheny Co., Pa., July 21-26 (BZ).

Both Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows continued to decline in W. Pennsylvania, but several Vesper Sparrows were seen on the balds of Roan Mt., June 13-20 (ESc). In Erie County approximately 100 singing ♂ Henslow's Sparrows were recorded during the period (m.ob.) and at the Erie N.W.R., Crawford Co.,

Pa., 30+ males were counted (RFL). Courtship of White-throated Sparrows was observed in Garrett County, Md., June 2 (CH). There have been a few nesting records for this part of the Allegheny Tableland in the past. One was also seen in Allegheny County, Pa., June 26 (*vide* PH), very late for a straggler.

POSTSCRIPT — We note with sadness the death of Charles O. Handley, Sr., of Lewisburg, W. Va., in June. "Charley" made his first contribution to the old *Bird Lore* in 1914. After a distinguished career in biology he had remained a faithful contributor to the *Region* even after a crippling illness struck him in the early 1970s.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

The excitement in the Region this summer centered around the weather rather than the birdlife. Meteorological records tumbled in all three states due to the prolonged heat wave. While June temperatures were close to normal, July developed into one of the hottest months on record. The heat arrived during the Fourth of July weekend and continued unabated until the last few days of the month. Continual days in the mid-and upper 90s "changed" to 100+°F readings during the second and third weeks.

The severe drought that hit Wisconsin and Minnesota last year ended with the repeated periods of rain this summer. However, adequate autumn and winter

precipitation is needed to continue this recovery. Unfortunately this summer's rain was accompanied by exceptionally severe storms. This was especially true in Wisconsin, where the severest storm raked a ten-county region in the northern and north-central part of the state

on the Fourth of July. Sections of forests were topped or leveled as the storm moved eastward. The effect on the bird population can only be speculated on at this time. Perhaps, however, it was not as severe as might be expected, owing to the exceptionally early and warm spring, which allowed many species to nest earlier than normal, with many young out of their nests before July.

This summer the drought shifted to Michigan, mainly the Lower Peninsula. June and especially July were exceptionally warm and the beneficial rains in Minnesota and Wisconsin apparently were spent by the time they reached Michigan. As a result the Lower Peninsula had far below normal rainfall, making the upcoming winter and spring precipitation important.

Ornithologically this summer lacked the excitement of the past several years. The early and hot spring advanced all plant growth, including crops, i.e., corn was "knee-high" by the fourth of June, not July, and Breeding Bird Survey cooperators commented on the unusual number of young already fledged by early June and the quietness of the birds by late June. Added to this was a probable decrease in coverage owing to the overwhelming heat and a lackluster season was the reported result.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Undoubtedly the best sighting in the Region this season was of the **Arctic Loon** in full breeding plumage, watched for one-half hour at Wisconsin Pt., Douglas Co., Wis., June 11 (CF). Making the sighting even more noteworthy was the fact that two Red-throated and several Com. Loons were also swimming in the same general area of L. Superior at the time. This represents only the third state record and the first breeding-plumaged bird. Red necked Grebes nested in Minnesota (Wright and Becker Cos.) and Wisconsin (Winnebago and St. Croix Cos.) In the latter county there were five nesting pairs with a total of 18 young, the most ever recorded there Unusual were two Eared Grebes, each on a different lake, during early June in St. Croix County, with one



precipitation is needed to continue this recovery. Unfortunately this summer's rain was accompanied by exceptionally severe storms. This was especially true in Wisconsin, where the severest storm raked a ten-county region in the northern and north-central part of the state

summering (CF *et al.*). In Minnesota this species was found in two counties, Marshall—120 on June 10 (KE), and Lac Qui Parle—two adults, one immature July 19 (CMB). As usual Minnesota had nesting W. Grebes with 63 adults counted in June at the Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle Co., and 23 adults, also in June, at Pelican L., Grant Co. White Pelicans were found in two localities in Lac Qui Parle County—Big Stone N.W.R. (71 adults, 13 immatures) and Marsh L. (788 by July 31) Wisconsin also recorded White Pelicans, with eleven from mid-July well into August in Monroe County (EE *et al.*) and three July 24 in LaCrosse County (FL). The Double-crested Cormorant again nested in several Wisconsin counties. However, most encouraging were the two large colonies (both estimated at 500± nests) in Minnesota (Big Stone N.W.R. and Pelican L.). Michigan had a solitary individual July 4 in Monroe County (JAG), and there were two birds near Alpena June 25 (AV).

Effects of the 1976 drought are still being felt, especially among the herons. For example, while comments from reporters were varied, a surprising number of abandoned Great Blue Heron heronries was indicated; to a lesser extent a similar condition prevailed for Black-crowned Night Herons and Am. Bitterns. Least Bittern presented an interestingly contrasting picture. In Wisconsin this species was uniformly reported in numbers considerably below normal. However in Minnesota and parts of Michigan reporters consistently commented on the unusual abundance of the species. On the negative side Wisconsin's Oconto Marsh dried up by late May. The herons sighted there in mid-May left the area, with the result that no Cattle and Snowy Egrets nested. Even the Black-crowns deserted. Despite this disturbing aspect there were a number of interesting sightings within this group. Minnesota was justifiably excited about its unprecedented number of Little Blue Herons, a maximum of 15 at Pelican L. during the summer (m.ob.); three ad. Cattle Egrets there July 2 (RJ) and 18 adults and eight immatures at Big Stone N.W.R. (CMB); Louisiana Herons at Pelican L. from mid-June through July (m.ob.) with a maximum of four; and finally the Yellow-crowned Night Herons at the usual spot in Houston County plus two new areas, Big Stone N.W.R., two July 9 (RJ) and Cass County, one June 28 (DK). Michigan's contributions included a solitary Little Blue Heron July 23 (TC,AC) and Snowy Egret July 16 & 22 (JPK,EC), both in Monroe County, and single Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Muskegon County (first county record) June 26 (BB,EBP,LR) and Berrien County July 17-30 (WB,RS). For Wisconsin, noteworthy sightings included the Cattle Egret in Dodge County June 11 (RD), Oconto County, two June 13 (DT), and Brown County, 13 on June 29 (BC); single Snowy Egrets at Horicon N.W.R., Dodge Co., June 11 (RD) and a summering bird at Green Bay (JJ,JF *et al.*); a Louisiana Heron at Crex Meadows N.W.R., Burnett Co., July 7 (RC,JT); Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Waukesha (July 21, DG), LaCrosse (period, FL) and Outagamie Cos. (pair, possible nesting, JA,DTi *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — Mute Swans nested in w Michigan and n. Wisconsin. Whistling Swans appeared in all three states, an unusual occurrence that seems to be developing into a regular event. For Wisconsin this included four June 2 in Winnebago County (TZ), two until late June in Ashland-Bayfield Cos. (m.ob.) and one June 21 in LaCrosse County (FL). Michigan had single birds June 7 at Ludington and July 4 at Seney N.W.R., Schoolcraft Co. (FM). Minnesota had two birds present in Duluth harbor during June. Unusual were individual Snow Geese seen June 14 in Lake of the Woods County (KE) and July 15 at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn. (SV). Out-of-place duck sightings included a Redhead in Charlevoix, Mich., June 29 (FM); Ring-necked Ducks June 28-July 8 at Horicon N.W.R. (RD), June 28 in Milwaukee (DG), summering in Columbia County, Wis. Canvasbacks were in Ottawa County, Mich., June 16 (LF) and in Wisconsin. June sightings were in Winnebago (TZ) and Burnett (JE) Cos., with July sightings in Kewaunee (DT) and LaCrosse (FL) Cos. One Greater Scaup was on the Roseau R., Minn., June 13 (KE); Lesser Scaups were present in Wisconsin during June in Milwaukee, Columbia, LaCrosse and Burnett Cos. with one in Leelanau County, Mich., June 7 (AM); a ♀ Com. Goldeneye was in Kewaunee County, July 7 (DT). Single Buffleheads were in Minnesota June 14 (Ke) and Wisconsin from June 17 to the period's end (DG); a ♀ White-winged Scoter was found dead on S Manitou I., Mich., June 13 (AM); Ruddy Ducks lingered in the following Michigan counties: Monroe, Ingham and Leelanau.

HAWKS — The Red-shouldered Hawk situation in Michigan proved variable this summer. Cautious optimism was expressed by observers in the n. and e portions of the Lower Peninsula (hereafter, L.P.) as the result of nesting. However a less positive picture was found in the more w. L.P. counties. A partial cause for this was the extremely dry spring and summer in Michigan. As a result many of the nesting trees that ordinarily stand in water were high and dry, allowing abnormally high raccoon predation. More Swainson's Hawks were observed in w. and s.-c. Minnesota than usual. Again this summer **Ferruginous Hawks** were found in Minnesota, with an immature at Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co., June 3 (KE) and two adults in Traverse County July 9 (PE,KE). An apparent effect of the severe winter was discovered in the Osprey population, principally the Fletcher Pond colony in the n. L.P. A large winter kill of pike and perch occurred (preferred Osprey food) forcing the Osprey to replace these with the more hardy (but less preferred) bullhead (SP)

GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES — Spruce Grouse were observed in Wisconsin June 15 in Oneida County (PLE) and in Minnesota June 29 & July 5 in Cook County (RJ). Encouraging was the location of ten coveys of Bobwhite in Minnesota's Fillmore and Houston Cos., a state where this species was suspected of having disappeared. Scattered marshes in all three states dried up this summer. This was the prime factor in the decrease of Virginia and Sora Rails seen and

responding to tapes. Two Virginia Rails seen July 20 & 22 were the first for Marquette County, Mich. (NI). King Rail was found less frequently this summer than last. It was not reported at all in Wisconsin, Minnesota had only one sighting during June in Lyon County (PE), while Michigan had one at Ludington during the period (FM) and a maximum of six at Pt. Mouillee, Monroe Co. The only Yellow Rails were found in Aitkin County, Minn., and in Wisconsin one was present in Crex Meadows N.W.R., during early June. A **Purple Gallinule** appeared in Whitnall Park, s.w. Milwaukee Co., during early June, remaining until about the 18th (DH *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — As is now normal, substantial numbers of this group continued migrating through the Region well into June. The fall movement started early with unusually good numbers in scattered parts of the Region, spiced by the sighting of several unusual species. For Wisconsin late migrating birds included the Greater Yellowlegs, White-rumped (61 June 11, Douglas County, CF) and Least Sandpiper, dowitcher (sp), Semipalmated Sandpiper and Sanderling. Minnesota's late spring migrants included the Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot (including 15 on June 3 at Duluth, ES), White-rumped Sandpiper (400+ June 9 at Marshall Sewage Lagoon, HK), Hudsonian Godwit and a **Ruff** (June 8 in Clay County, ES). In Michigan the late migrants included a Piping Plover (June 12 in Emmet County, JB), Ruddy Turnstone, White-rumped and Least Sandpipers and Red Knot (five June 5 at Pt. Mouillee, one June 10 in Berrien County, WB,RS). Summering birds included a Semipalmated Plover until June 27 in St. Croix County, Wisconsin (CF), Semipalmated Sandpipers seen intermittently in s.-c. and e. Wisconsin during June, a maximum of eight Am. Avocets at the Moorhead Lagoons, Minn., during June, and most unusual, a pair of N. Phalaropes seen intermittently on a pond in s. Dodge County, Wis. during the period (m.ob.). Encouraging news about the Piping Plover came from the n. part of the Region, where a nest containing two eggs, with five adults in the general area, was found at Duluth in early June (KL). At least one pair, possibly two, nested in Superior, Wis., with four young being noted (FS).

The fall movement of shorebirds included good numbers of dowitchers in Minnesota and Michigan, Solitary Sandpipers in Wisconsin, and Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers in Minnesota. Generally the early fall shorebird migration was considered good-to-excellent in Minnesota and Michigan and unusually poor in Wisconsin, probably for lack of proper habitat. Interesting sightings included two Red Knots at Pt. Mouillee, July 16, six Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Duluth July 29 (RJ), six Willets July 7 at Two Rivers, Manitowoc Co., Wis. (DT), and 1-9 Willets intermittently in July at Benton Harbor, Mich. (WB), record early-arriving Least and Stilt Sandpipers in Columbia County, Wis., June 25 (DG), a Marbled Godwit at Alpena, Mich., July 14-15 (OE) and two N. Phalaropes in Muskegon County, Mich., July 20 & 27 (GW, JH).

GULLS — Laughing Gulls were found in Wisconsin for the third consecutive summer. Nine were observed at Ashland June 18 (MD,LE) and two beside the Kewaunee Nuclear Plant July 7 (DT). A lone Franklin's Gull was at St. Joseph, Mich., June 13 (WB). This species was also noted in Wisconsin, with single birds June 21 (LaCrosse County, FL) and July 30 (Kewaunee County, RK,BA) with nine, also on July 30, in Manitowoc County (RK,BA). In Minnesota the Franklin's did not nest at the Agassiz N.W.R. (SV) Little Gulls summered in Wisconsin, but again there was no evidence of nesting. Two-to-four birds were present between Two Rivers and Manitowoc from mid-June until the period's end (MD,LE,JW,DT *et al.*), four were found in Brown County from July 10 on (BC *et al.*) and one individual frequented the Milwaukee harbor commencing July 21 (DG *et al.*). Most unusual for a summer season was the careful observation of an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake on S. Manitou I., Mich., July 30 (AM).

PARAKEETS — A lone Monk Parakeet began constructing a "nest" in early July in Brooklyn Park, a n. suburb of Minneapolis (BE,RJ).

OWLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — The first Barn Owl nest in several years in Wisconsin was discovered on top of some old silage on a farm in Waukesha County. The farmer needed the silage but did not want to harm the nest. It was decided that the best policy was to care for the two hatched young and incubate the remaining eggs. At the time of this writing one of the nest-hatched young died, the other is doing nicely, one of the incubated eggs hatched and that juvenile is also doing well. Four active Great Gray Owl nests were watched in Roseau County, Minn. Three of these successfully fledged two young each (RN). Two Short-eared Owls spent the summer at Pt. Mouillee. The **Chuck-will's-widow** that was discovered on the MacLean residence in s.w. Dane County, Wis. during May, was seen and heard by many birders during June and July.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLINGS — Each state discovered one nesting pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers. Michigan's was located at Grayling, Crawford Co., June 25 (FM *et al.*), Minnesota's in Lake of the Woods County June 13 (KE) and Wisconsin's was along the Brule R., Douglas Co., during June where it was photographed (RK *et al.*) The pair of **Western Wood Pewees** that appeared at Pelan Park, Roseau Co., May 28 provided Minnesota with its second state and first nesting records. It remained through the summer, with three young fledged July 8 (m.ob.). Black-billed Magpies were occasionally seen at Agassiz N.W.R., during the period; single birds were found in Roseau and Pennington Cos., June 11 (RJ) and Lake of the Woods County June 14 (KE), all in Minnesota. A pair of Carolina Wrens successfully raised one brood in Wayne County, Mich. (HH) Mockingbirds were observed in s.e. Michigan (one) and Blue Mounds S.P., Minn. (pair, nest-building during July, KE). The cautious optimism expressed last



Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, ♀ at nest. Douglas Co., n.w. of Stone's Bridge, Brule River, Wisc. June 17, 1977. Photo by Randy Korotev.

summer concerning the Loggerhead Shrike is justified again this year. Successful nesting occurred in Sauk and St. Croix Cos., Wis. Several sightings of this species occurred in Minnesota with the best being of six adults and ten young in Dakota County July 2 (BE). Michigan had one individual near Alpena June 24 (RR).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — In contrast to last summer no White-eyed Vireos were reported. A Bell's Vireo was heard and seen in Berrien County June 4 - July 9 (RS, WB *et al.*). This species was also present in Wisconsin, with singing birds in Green Lake (RK), St. Croix and Trempealeau (CF) Cos. Two pairs of Prothonotary Warblers nested in Wayne County, for the second consecutive year. Out-of-range Blue-winged were found in Cook (CB) and Lake of the Woods Cos., n. Minn. A Brewster's Warbler was observed July 11 in Kent County, Mich. (BB). A Tennessee Warbler present in Ottertail County, Minn., during the summer was out of its normal range (GO). Another out-of-range species was the Black-throated Green Warbler that was in Milwaukee County June 20 - July 7 (DG). Berrien County's spring Yellow-throated Warbler remained until June 19 (WB). Most unusual was the presence of one, possibly a pair of Blackpoll Warblers July 4 - 7 in Oshkosh, Wis. (CS). The male was seen and heard repeatedly during these days. It represented the first summer record of this species for the state.

Prairie Warblers were again recorded in Michigan, with singing males in Mason County (two June 15, EG), Presque Isle County (one June 14, FM), Leelanau County (one June 17, AM) and a returning nesting pair in Ottawa County (JP). Kentucky Warblers were again present in Dane and Grant Cos., Wis., during the summer. A singing male was observed in Washington County, Minn., June 17 (RJ). The only Yellow-breasted Chats reported were birds in Wayne and St. Clair Cos., Mich. and a nesting pair in Walworth County., Wis. Hooded Warblers were observed only in Milwaukee County, June 11 (DG) with three singing males and at least one female in Waukesha County (m.ob.). A late Wilson's Warbler was noted June 11 in Lac Qui Parle County (CMB). Another late migrant was a Canada Warbler in Milwaukee County June 13 (DG). By the third to fourth weeks in July reporters were seeing the early fall movement of this family.

S.A.

There was encouraging news about the Kirtland's Warbler as the result of the preliminary figures from the 1977 census. A total of 218 singing males was noted in Crawford, Oscoda, Ogemaw, Kalkaska, Roscommon and Wexford Cos. Since each singing male is considered to represent a nesting pair, the present nesting population would be 436, plus this year's young and non-nesting adults, if any. This represents a 9.5% increase over 1976 in the Kirtland Warbler population (The Michigan Audubon Newsletter).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Orchard Orioles were present in w. Minnesota in above-normal numbers. In Wisconsin this species was present in seven counties. The Blue Grosbeak showed a modest increase in Minnesota this summer, with nesting at Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co., with four pairs present. Additional males were recorded elsewhere in Rock (three) and Nobles (two) Cos. The Dickcissel was very abundant in s. Minnesota but in contrast to last summer it was very scarce in Wisconsin, being found only in sixteen counties, with but a few individuals present in most of these counties. An out-of-place Dickcissel was found in Kittson County, Minn., June 11 (RJ) and one was found in Berrien County July 7 (DM). Red Crossbills were scarce throughout, with a few individuals in Marquette County, Mich., during July (NI) plus also a few birds in the n.e. part of Minnesota and in four n. Wisconsin counties. This is in contrast to the White-winged Crossbill which put on a most surprising show this summer, as evidenced by the following: June 21, Douglas County and June 22, Burnett County (SR) and two July 26, Manitowoc County (MA), all Wisconsin; 100 at Rogers City, Mich., July 25 (BG), while Minnesota had a movement bordering on a small "invasion" across the n. part of the state. Flocks of 5-12 birds were common in the n. counties, increasing in size by late July as evidenced by its abundance in Duluth and by the 200-330 birds in one flock July 31 along the Gunflint Trail, Cook Co. (RJ). Several Lark Buntings were present in Rock and Pipestone Cos., Minn. At least four **Baird's Sparrows** were present during June near Felton, Clay Co., Minn. Le Conte's Sparrows were recorded in five Wisconsin counties with a maximum of nine birds at one spot in Burnett County alone. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in several spots in Aitkin County, Minn. Two Lark Sparrows were seen intermittently in Marquette County, Mich. during the period (NI). This species was present in at least seven counties in Wisconsin. A surprising find within this group was a singing White-crowned Sparrow June 24-27 at Rogers City, Mich. (BG). Between 20-30 pairs of Chestnut-collared Longspurs were present at their usual spot in Clay County, Minn.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Vernon M. Kleen

The 1977 breeding season was greatly advanced before this report period ever arrived; the hot and dry conditions experienced in late spring continued into summer. It appeared that an extended drought was following the severe winter, but temporary relief came sporadically across the Region with extremes of flooding in w. Missouri, and a June drenching of Louisville; Ohio and Indiana experienced below normal rainfall. June was a near-average month in respect to temperature except for Cleveland, which averaged 5°F below normal; July temperatures were somewhat above normal Regionwide.

Much appreciation is extended to those birders who concentrated on determining breeding species' abundance for particular areas (i.e. - n.w. and n.e. Iowa, n.e. and c. Illinois and n.e. Indiana) and those who participated in Illinois' Breeding Bird Challenges; for other birders it was a rather normal, dull season.



The general lack of breeding season data shows that many birders are more interested in large lists and spectacular records rather than determining species abundance and distribution and concentrating on conservation of habitat so that those species can be counted in future years.

There were few comments on the success of resident species following the severe winter; however Carolina Wrens were extremely scarce. Around Cincinnati populations of Blue Jays, Mockingbirds, Cardinals and chickadees were down 15-25% (W). Cleveland reporters suggested that there was decreased nesting success for some species even though habitat was unchanged. Computer studies of Breeding Bird Surveys must be used to determine the extent of population changes Regionwide for species affected by last winter's freeze.

As usual, there were fair numbers of late migrants, especially warblers and shorebirds and many early-returning (?) shorebirds. There appeared to be no widespread dispersal of post-breeding herons and a major concern of experts is how much breeding success are herons experiencing, and how rapidly are heron colonies disappearing.

Since all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation, more accurate and informative data are being collected. A total of 13 documentations was received (Ill. 7, Ind. 3 and Ohio 3). All documented records are denoted by a dagger (†). Specimens are denoted by an asterisk (*) Records which were not satisfactorily documented appear in the **UNCORROBORATED REPORTS** section.

EXOTICS — Ringed Turtle Doves continued to appear sporadically from time to time; this year the species was reported to have summered at Munster, Ind (RK).

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS — Two Com. Loons were observed at Springfield, Mo., July 5 & 7 (MCo) and one was present at L. Baldwin, Ill., June 10 (MMo). Pied-billed Grebes were considered common nesters in n.w. Iowa but low water conditions kept productivity low (JD); 21, including ten young, were observed at Grafton, Ill., July 3 (RPa) and a few adults summered near Charleston, Ill.—no evidence of breeding (LBH). A few White Pelicans were early returnees to the Region; 8-21 at various Iowa locations in July (*vide* N); nine at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo. (hereafter, S.C.R.) July 3 (L) and six at Calumet, Ill., July 11-14 (SM). Eight Double-crested Cormorants were still present in Clay County, Ia., June 2 (JD) and the nesting colony at Thomson, Ill. remained stable. An **Anhinga** was observed flying up the Big Muddy R., Jackson Co., Ill., June 4 (†MMo) and was probably the same bird present at Cedar L., Jackson Co., Ill., July 24 & 26 (JG).

HERONS — Heron colonies are disappearing at an alarming rate. The Great Blue Heron colony at Lordstown, O., showed a 10% drop this year—only 226 nests present (C.J. *et al.*); only seven young were fledged

from the small but heavily disturbed colony near Tiffen, O (JK); over 150 post-breeding wanderers were observed at S.C.R., July 30-31 (NJ, L). An ad. Little Blue Heron was near Cincinnati, during the first week of June (W); post-breeding movements were first detected early in July and the species was very common in w. Missouri with at least 160 at one location July 23 (KH *et al.*); 1-6 individuals were present near Louisville, Ky, July 3-31 (LR, m.ob.); a maximum of six was observed in Gibson County, Ind., July 24 (MB); and three in Clay County, Ia., July 23 (MR). There were apparently 5-8 pairs of Cattle Egrets at Plainfield, Ill.; only three nests were constructed (m.ob.). Exceptional were the 18 Snowy Egrets encountered near Horseshoe L., Alexander Co., Ill., June 6 (MMo); single pairs summered at both Plainfield, Ill. (SM *et al.*) and E. St. Louis, Ill. (hereafter, E.St.L.), (JEa); singles were encountered at W. Hottes L., Ia., June 28 (MR) and Schell-Osage, Mo., July 28 (*vide* NJ). Black-crowned Night Herons were successful nesters in n.w. Iowa (DH, JD) and around Louisville 108 were counted, June 27 (JEL), however, 69 birds returned to the Waukegan, Ill. colony and were so disturbed by bulldozing that nesting was unsuccessful; at least 60 birds were present at the E St L. sanctuary July 22 (JEa) and small numbers (non-nesting) were reported from Peoria, Ill. (VH) and Schell-Osage, Mo. (KH). Yellow-crowned Night Herons (10-12 pairs) summered near Grafton, Ill. (JEa); one pair nested at L. Calumet, Ill. (SM); five adults were noted at Decatur, Ill., June 19-July 3 (RPa); and one was present at Willow Slough, Ind., June 5 (DA, EH); 1-3 individuals were observed later in the summer in scattered locations Regionwide.

WATERFOWL — Although Mute Swans should probably be treated as exotics, a pair raised seven young in Springfield, Mo. (CB); a pair returned to Grass L., Steuben Co., Ind., for the third consecutive year (LCs); and three were present at Ottawa N.W.R., O., July 27 (LV) It was a good nesting season for Mallards. As usual, a few lingering northern dabblers were encountered; however, breeding was suspected for the Gadwall, Pintail and N. Shoveler for L. Ruthven, Ia. (JD) and for the Green-winged Teal in n.e. Iowa. The Pintail and Green-winged Teal may also have attempted to nest at three n. Illinois locations. Blue-winged Teal did nest in Lake County, Ill. (DJ) and in Jackson County, Ill. (MMo); the species was present at both S C R., June 8 & July 31 (NJ) and Decatur, Ind., June 26 (LP). Wood Ducks enjoyed a very successful breeding season.

Redheads were nesting in n.w. Iowa (JD). There were two summer records of both Ring-necked Ducks and Canvasbacks including five pairs with broods of the latter species in Clay County, Ia. (DH). Two or three Lesser Scaup were reported from five locations during mid-June and a single was observed at another location in late July. A Bufflehead was detected near Clinton, Ia., July 23 (P). Ruddy Ducks bred in n.w. Iowa (JD) and were noted as summer residents at S.C.R. and around Kansas City, Mo. (*vide* NJ); singles were

observed at Goose Lake Prairie S.P., Ill. (hereafter, G.L.P.) in late June (DB) and at Waukegan, Ill., July 1 (JN). A Red-breasted Merganser lingered at Louisville until at least June 19 (JEL).

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — Roosts of Turkey Vultures each with 20-40 birds were found at four Iowa locations. Five nests of Mississippi Kites were under surveillance at Union County Refuge, Ill., this summer; it is possible that there were more nesting pairs (JHr) as 39 individuals were counted there June 26 (MMo, MT); the species was encountered with more frequency along the Kentucky portion of the Mississippi R., this summer (CP, BM) than in recent years. Several persons suggested that Red-shouldered Hawks staged a minor comeback in what has recently become known as former breeding range; such areas included n. Iowa, n. Illinois, n. Indiana, and all of Ohio. A few Swainson's Hawks were resident in w. Missouri with four encounters in the Kansas City area (*vide* NJ). Four successful Broad-winged Hawk nests were reported three in n. Illinois and one in n. Indiana; the species was also found regularly in n. Iowa—especially the northeast (DKo). The five pairs of nesting Bald Eagles in n.w. Ohio produced but one fledged young; one adult met her death when she flew into a high tension line, single adults were noted near Hamilton, Ill., in late June (GA) and N. Buena Vista, Ia., July 26 (P). A pair of Marsh Hawks successfully fledged three young near Iowa City, Ia. (*vide* N); there were none at the traditional G.L.P. nesting location (DB) but one adult was observed near Belvidere, Ill., July 7 (EB). Single Ospreys were noted in s. Holmes County, O., June 8 (DKI); Ingham L., Emmet Co., Ia., June 2 (*vide* N), and Camanche, Ia., July 27 (P). Cleveland observers reported Am. Kestrels in near normal numbers and distribution; however, reports from Iowa suggested that the species did not fare so well.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH COOTS — The highest number of Greater Prairie Chickens reported from s.w. Missouri was 38, June 4 (SP). Iowa observers found that despite last winter's lengthy freeze, Bobwhites fared well; they suspected the survival was in part owing to the lack of snow cover suffered in other areas of the species range; populations of Bobwhites in c. Illinois appeared good, however few young were observed. Ring-necked Pheasants also fared well in Iowa, but were noticeably down in c. Illinois. A group of five hen Turkeys was observed escorting 29 young in n.e. Iowa (DKo); the population around Dubuque, Ia., has shown an excellent increase.

A Virginia Rail was heard calling throughout the summer in St. Lucas County, Ia. (JSc); two individuals were reported from Peoria July 29 (VH). Soras were present all summer in Mason County, Ill. (H) and singles were noted at G.L.P., July 10 (RPa) and three sites near Charleston, Ill., July 18-19 (LBH). A Purple Gallinule appeared at Evanston, Ill., and was observed June 11 & 15 (*JGr, LY *et al.*). Common Gallinules have not been known to nest around E.St.L., so their summer presence there has implications (JEa)

American Coots were found nesting in n.w. Iowa (JD) and Lafayette, Ind. (DA) but only recorded as summering residents at all other locations including 40 at Dubuque, Ia., July 26 (P); 35 at S.C.R., June 24 (L); 15 at Grafton, Ill., July 3 (RPa); nine at Madisonville, Ky., June 10-11 (JHa) and "present" at Decatur, Ind. (LP) and Charleston, Ill. (LBH).

SHOREBIRDS — As expected, observers spent most time afield during July looking for shorebirds and found to their delight that many birds returned earlier than usual. Actual publication of early arrivals will be left for appropriate state journals. The most noteworthy observations follow. Piping Plover, three at Louisville July 21 (DP) and one at Cleveland July 15 & 17 (RH_a, JHo). Ruddy Turnstone, one at E.St.L., June 15 (JEa). Whimbrel, one at S.C.R., July 9 (L). Upland Sandpiper, increasing in numbers at G.L.P. because of the season's dryness and a late burn causing lower and sparser vegetation; the greatest Iowa density was found to be in the northeast. Spotted Sandpiper, nesting evidence (either pair defending territory of fledglings observed) at Decatur, Ill. (RPa); Illinois Beach S.P., (JSu); Rockford, Ill. (DC); and Springfield, Ill. (hereafter, Spfld.), (H). Willet, singles at four widely scattered locations, each in a different state, July 11-31. Greater Yellowlegs, 25 in Osceola County, Ia. (JD). Lesser Yellowlegs, 30 at S.C.R., June 24 (L); eight in Osceola County, Ia., June 25 (JD); 2-3 near Antioch, Ill., June 25 (DJ); and one at E.St.L., June 16 (JEa). Red Knot, one at Cleveland July 30-31 (M *et al.*). Semipalmated Sandpiper, at least one present all summer at Waukegan with 40 there June 12 and seven on July 16 (JN). Hudsonian Godwit, two at Cincinnati June 5 (DMr, m.ob.). American Avocet, only small numbers, five or fewer at two Kentucky, one Ohio and one Illinois locations. Wilson's Phalarope, one acted as if defending territory and nesting near Antioch, Ill. throughout the summer (JN); N. Phalarope, 12 in Clay County, Ia., June 2—"remarkable as to number, date and location" (JD).

GULLS AND TERNS — Fifty pairs of Herring Gulls were nesting with 75 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls at Maumee Bay, Lucas Co., O. (LV). Several Ring-billed Gulls summered in n.w. Iowa; maximum 37, June 23. (JD *et al.*); four were observed at Princeton, Ia., July 27 (P) and one at S.C.R., July 30 (NJ). A few Franklin's Gulls summered at Waukegan, Ill. (JN); groups of 20-40 were encountered in n.w. Iowa June 11-July 25 (JD *et al.*); 12 were noted at S.C.R., June 24 (L) and two at Spfld., July 4 (H). A Forster's Tern nest with young was photographed at W. Hottes L., in n.w. Iowa June 21; there were at least 60 birds present (JD). The nine Com. Tern nests at Waukegan May 29, were all destroyed by July 23—so the birds shifted nesting location to an off-shore islet and were successful (JN); 500 pairs nested at the Maumee Bay, Lucas Co., O. colony; however, a thunderstorm July 27 destroyed much of the nesting (LV); a few individuals of this species were noted in Allen County, Ind. during mid-June (LCs). A pair of Least Terns attempted nesting at

the former E.St.L. site in the Mississippi R., however, they were flooded out again (JEa); six individuals were observed at Sabula, Ia., July 26 (P) and one at Springfield, Mo., June 23 was unusual for that area (MCo). Although the Black Tern was considered a common breeder in n.w. Iowa, it was mostly unsuccessful because of low water levels (JD); possible breeding was suggested for extreme n.e. Illinois (JN, DJ).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Many observers felt that Mourning Doves were very successful this year. There were few comments about the cuckoos—so I hope this means they maintained their *status quo*. Two pairs of nesting Barn Owls were reported from Ohio (DKI, M) and another bird was found in Ottawa County, O. (*fide* LV). A Long-eared Owl was hit by a car near Carbondale, Ill., June 11 for an unusual southern record (**fide* MMo). It was surprising to find a Short-eared Owl in s. Perry County, Ill., June 19 (†MMo, MT); another was also encountered in Guthrie County, Ia., July 7 (DSt), none occurred at the regular nesting location at G.L.P. (DB). Five Chuck-will's-widows were heard in s.w. Missouri June 5 (SP, NJ)—but that should be normal, one summered at Decatur, Ill. (RPa) and one was present at Willow Slough, Ind., as late as June 28 (GN), the species appears to be increasing around Madisonville, Ky., according to JHa; none appeared at the Sand Ridge State Forest, Ill. (hereafter, S.R.F.), as had occurred that past couple years (DB). Several areas reported that the number of Belted Kingfishers was subpar this summer and the same was suggested for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. A Pileated Woodpecker nest was discovered near Dubuque, Ia. (GC). The Red-headed Woodpecker population seemed to do extremely well in the w. portion of the Region; however, just the opposite was observed in the east. Two nests of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were under observation in n.e. Iowa, and the species was termed "common" there in early June (JBd). A pair of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at a nest was exciting for Laurel County, Ky., June 17 (BM *et al.*)

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS — The only W. Kingbirds reported were those few from w. Missouri and the three from c. Iowa. From one to six Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were encountered 17 times at various w. Missouri locations (m.ob.). Many Acadian Flycatchers were present along the Des Plaines R., in n. Illinois (JSu) and a nest was located in Lake County, Ill. (DJ). The Willow Flycatcher was very common this summer in the L. Ruthven, Ia. area (JD) and were found to be more common than last year around Davenport, Ia. (P); 67 singing males had territories at the Pigeon River Fish & Game Area, Ind. (hereafter, P.R.A.) (LCs, MW) and two nests were successful at Lafayette, Ind. (DA); seven territorial males were present at G.L.P., July 10 (RAa). Four Alder Flycatchers were on territory at P.R.A., but their success was undeterminable (LCs). There were also ten territories of Least Flycatchers at P.R.A. (LCs) and

singles were noted at two other Indiana locations during June; at least six were observed in n.e. Iowa throughout June (DKo, m.ob.). Tree Swallows were considered common all summer around Iowa City, Ia. (N *et al.*); a pair was found feeding young in e. Jefferson County, Ky, June 2 (S); and the fall migration had started by July 19 at Charleston, Ill. (LBH). Two new colonies of Cliff Swallows were begun under Barren R. Res. bridges in Kentucky, with 26 nests under each June 11 (RSt); small colonies were found using barns at two n.e. Indiana locations (LCs); 135 pairs were noted in Holmes County, O. (DKI); and 35+ at S.C.R., July 30 (NJ); Iowa reporters thought the species was fairly successful in nesting attempts this year. The same Iowa reporters noted that Purple Martins did well; however, there were few comparable reports from other states.

CROWS THROUGH WRENS — Several Fish Crows were heard as far north as E.St.L., June 15 (JEa). An ad Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported feeding a young bird in Champaign, Ill., June 12-14 (JP); another adult was observed at S.R.F., June 27 (DB) and singles were noted in Cleveland June 19 & July 10 (OD). A singing Brown Creeper was found at Niles, O., June 12 (CJ); a pair and two others summered at Spfld. (H); and one carrying food was observed in e. Macon County, Ill., June 7 (RSa). Some reporters commented that House Wrens were down as much as 50% (Cincinnati) while others indicated that the species was doing rather well (Kentucky). The only Bewick's Wrens reported all summer were the two present in s.w. Missouri, June 5 (SP, NJ). Carolina Wrens obviously were hit very hard last winter; all reporters noted that they were extremely scarce; however, very few reporters indicated that they hadn't seen or heard at least one this spring or summer. The Long-billed Marsh Wren was reported as being common in every lake and marsh in Lake County, Ill., especially Illinois Beach S.P. (DJ). A small colony of about 12 Short-billed Marsh Wrens was established by June at P.R.A. (LCs); ten were found at the Chain-O'-Lakes S.P., Ill., June 25 (DJ); however, the majority of birds was not detected Regionwide until mid-or-late July

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Two pairs of Mockingbirds returned to the Cleveland area and nested successfully; the population in Macon County, Ill., was reported as down—possibly due to last winter's spell (RPa). It's hard to believe that robins could be scarce (after recovery from the DDT era), but some observers (Kentucky and c. Illinois especially) reported the species as rather scarce compared to normal years; in fact, on one of my s. Illinois Breeding Bird Survey routes, I didn't find a single individual where my 6-year average is 6 birds. It may not have been a population explosion nor dramatic range expansion, but Veeries were reported rather commonly through n. Iowa, n. Illinois and n. Indiana (m.ob.). Reports of E. Bluebirds were mixed: some say "everywhere" and others say "scarce." Southern Iowa observers reported several nesting pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes (GBI, GBu) and a family of four was noted in Lorain County, O., July 2

(OD); the species was also found regularly in w. Missouri (*vide* NJ).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Primary notes concerning these species were of peripheral or extralimital breeding records. Observations included five White-eyed Vireos at P.R.A., in early June (LCs), three at Iowa City, Ia., June 12-July 25 (RDe) and one at Cleveland June 17 (OD). A stable population of Bell's Vireos was reported from Iowa (*vide* N) and a singing Solitary Vireo was at S.R.F., July 1 (DB).

Adult Black-and-white Warblers were feeding young at Waubonsie S.P., Ia. (RSi), and there were other Iowa June and July sight records; a pair was noted in Allen County, Ind. (*vide* LCs); one bird was observed near Kansas City July 2-3 (*vide* NJ); and one was found at Libertyville, Ill., June 6-14 (JSu). A Worm-eating Warbler was present in Waubonsie S.P., Ia., June 7 (RSi). Three Golden-winged Warblers summered at the extreme n. end of the Region (but extreme s. end of their breeding range)—two in n.e. Iowa (DKo) and one in n.e. Indiana (LCs). Blue-winged Warblers were considered common in n.e. Indiana, n.e. Illinois and n.e. Iowa (m.ob.). Two Brewster's Warblers were possible returnees of last year to n.e. Indiana (LCs). Late migrants include a Tennessee Warbler at Cleveland June 8 (OD) and a Nashville Warbler at Chicago June 4 (GN). Yellow Warblers were found to be especially common compared to last year in much of Iowa (m.ob.). A Black-throated Green Warbler remained as late as June 21 at Winnetka, Ill. (LY). Blackburnian Warblers were reported from June 4 - 14 at seven different locations encompassing five states and a Bay-breasted Warbler lingered until June 18 at Elvaston, Ill. (ZW). Chestnut-sided Warblers may have nested at P.R.A. (LCs), Libertyville (JSu) and Rockford (DC), Ill., and in n.e. Iowa (DKo). Eight pairs of Prairie Warblers were reported from one small area in Holmes Co., O. (DKI). More than ten Louisiana Waterthrushes were located in n.e. Iowa (DKo) and two territories were established near Libertyville, Ill. (JSu). Six territories were being held by Yellow-breasted Chats at P.R.A. (LCs) and in Iowa there were more reports of the species than usual. Many observers believe that Kentucky Warbler populations were down this year. At least four Mourning Warblers were holding territories into mid-June at Libertyville, Ill. (JSu). Hooded Warblers were up slightly in numbers at P.R.A.—four this year (LCs), and individuals were also reported from Niles, O. (CJ) and Marquette, Ia. (DKo). Singing Canada Warblers were last observed June 8 at Libertyville, Ill. (JSu)

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS — Some reporters wondered whether meadowlark numbers had dwindled. Summering individual Bobolinks were reported farther south than usual—especially c. Illinois (m.ob.). The number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds nesting in n.w. Missouri was thought to be decreasing (L) but n.e. Iowa observers were more optimistic, although there were some colony desertions noted because of low water levels (JBd, GC); twenty birds appeared at P.R.A., July 22 (LCs, MW) but possible

nesting was not implied. It was an apparent good summer for Orchard Orioles in Iowa (MN) and Findlay, O (RPh). At least five pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds (three with fledged young) were observed in extreme n e Illinois (JN, LY). The first summering activity of Summer Tanagers in five years for Lafayette, Ind., was exciting for local birders (DA).

FRINGILLIDS — All observers reporting Blue Grosbeaks suggested increases or at least good numbers in w Kentucky (JEr); s. Indiana (HB); w. and s. Missouri (*vide* NJ, JEa); and w. Iowa (GBu). The first House Finch, a male, arrived at a Millersburg, O. feeder June 6 and was accompanied by two more by early August (WM). Increased numbers of Savannah Sparrows were evident where appropriate habitat existed through the n. one-third of the Region—note the 41 on a Steuben County, Ind., Breeding Bird Survey (LCs) Grasshopper Sparrows were also considered “plentiful” when habitat was available—a good season for this species as long as hayfields were left unmowed. Observers also reported a good nesting season for Henslow's Sparrows with small groups occurring at eleven different areas in five states; the best record was of 40 territories set-up in a Holmes County, O. field (DKl) Seven Vesper Sparrows were observed at G.L.P., July 10 (RPa) and several occurred in n.w. Iowa; however, they were not widespread throughout Iowa (JD) A full-plumaged Harris' Sparrow was present in Clay County, Ia., June 9-15 (JD *et al.*). It was a good year for Swamp Sparrow populations in n. Iowa marshes (DKo *et al.*); stragglers (?) were noted at G L P., July 10 (RPa) and Louisville June 5 (BPB).

UNCORROBORATED REPORTS — Louisiana Heron, Calumet, Ill., July 21 (*vide* SM). Wood Stork, Hickman, Ky., July 31 (CP). Sandhill Cranes, pair with one young, during mid-June in LaGrange County, Ind., (PP) Virginia Rail, two at Schell-Osage, Mo., July 23 (KH) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, one in Ballard County, Ky., June 4 (BM).

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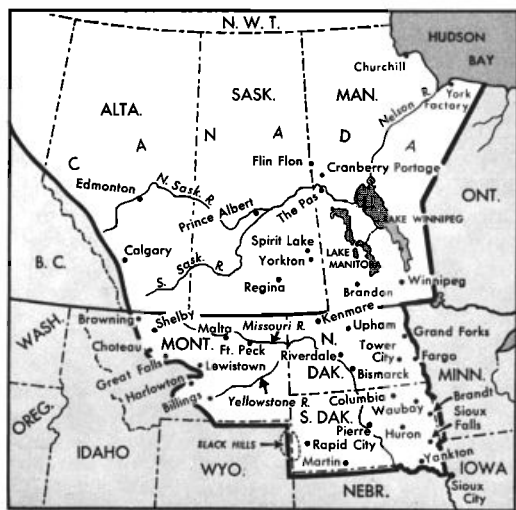
CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION — We apologise to our readers, and especially to those in the Central Southern Region who provided the Regional Editor with their nesting season records, but the editor assigned to that season failed to submit a report to American Birds.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION /Esther M. Serr

This nesting season had average precipitation, but the early spring had been so dry that the waders, waterfowl and shorebirds didn't have good nesting conditions. The Missouri River was low because of lack of mountain snow. Berry and seed crops were the best in years in most places.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Common Loons had successful breeding in Whiteshell P., the Duck Mts., the Turtle Mts., and Hecla I., L. Winnipeg, Man. Singles were on the Missouri R., at Yankton, S.D., June 21 (JW) and in Rollette County, N.D., June 26 (GBB). Red-necked Grebes were in Elk Island N P, Alta., with a total of 50 sightings; six were on nests (RJB). In s. Saskatchewan 30 birds and 11 nests were counted. Wascana Marsh, Regina, Sask., had 130 nests of Horned Grebes—the best in at least six years; all but 15 were lost in heavy rains (RBD,LS). Eared Grebe numbers were high, with 2000 birds and 950 nests at Burdette, Alta., July 1 (RJB). A new colony of 35 pairs with young was noted July 5 in Williams County, N D (JTL,HFD). At Waubay N.W.R., S.D., 75 ad. Eared Grebes were present all through the period with no nests or young observed (MHP,KFH). The best numbers of Pied-billed Grebes came from small ponds at the edge of South Dakota's Black Hills (JLM).



The best White Pelican season was 3025 at two lakes near Moose Jaw, Sask. (ROH, MAR, SJT, EWK). At Oak Hammock Marsh, Man., which was away from their breeding area, 500 gathered by July 30 (RWK, PT). A Double-crested Cormorant colony of 427 nests at Drywood L., Roberts Co., S.D., June 13 was believed to have been displaced by an increasing Ring-billed Gull colony on the same island (BKH). A colony in Divide County, N.D., declined to ten nests from 1976 (RAS).

HERONS THROUGH BITTERNS — Breeding colonies of Great Blue Herons seemed to flourish near Pinawa, Hecla I., and Turtle Mts., Man. A total of 11 Green Herons was found in Yankton, Bon Homme and Deuel Cos., S.D., June 18 - July 18 (WH, BKH). One was at Delta June 11 and another at St. Norbert, Man., July 25 (WDK). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was in Ward County, N.D., June 25 and one was at Oak Hammock this season (AL). The rare Great Egret was on Frank L., Alta., June 18 - 22 (RJB, JSK); two were at Old Wives L., Sask., June 23 (KD) and one was at Kinsey, Mont., June 29 (NM). Snowy Egrets were unusual at the following places: Frank L., June 19, Oak Hammock June 4 (GDG); two adults were at Briercrest, Sask., July 5 (DGH) and one July 19 was in Divide County, N.D. (TLF). Six Cattle Egrets furnished a second record at Maxim, Sask., July 28 (DGH) and a first record for e. Montana was of one sighted near Billings July 6 (HWC, BBF).

North Dakota lost a big Black-crowned Night Heron colony because the pond went dry in Divide County (RAS) but at Freezeout L., Mont., June 17, the species increased (LMM). The best total for the species was 389 reported from Saskatchewan. American Bittern numbers reported were very low. One Least Bittern was heard at Clarkleigh, Man. (GEH, IWa) and one was at Gavin's Pt., S.D., July 28 (WH).

DUCKS — A special study was made on a 12.5 acre island in Miller L., Divide Co., N.D. A total of 489 Mallard and 238 Gadwall nests was found, mainly in 2.2

acres of brush (JTL). Pairs of Cinnamon Teal were observed in many places but no nests or young were reported. An aerial survey made by the U.S.F.&W.S - C.W.S. counted 263,000 Canvasbacks s. of Prince Albert, Sask. (JBG). Two ad. Wood Ducks with two immatures at Nisland Marsh June 23, were believed to represent a first nesting for s. South Dakota (JLM). A female with four young in n. Spink County, S.D., July 12 indicated off-refuge nesting (RLH). In Winnipeg there were several broods along the Red R., during the season (DRMH, RFK). Two White-winged Scoters were seen in three places within the Calgary area June 4 - 11 (JJR, RJB). Three ♂ Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Benton Lake N.W.R., Mont., June 25 (B.Ake, J.Ake, D Johnson, *vide* PDS).

RAPTORS — The Turkey Vulture population in South Dakota seemed cut in half. At Eastend, Sask., there were up to 20 Turkey Vultures at one time (MAG). Two were observed feeding on a rabbit in Dunn County, N.D. (DGD). A pair of Goshawks was nesting in the Judith Mts., in e. Montana during June (PDS). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk reports had low counts of eight each in s. Saskatchewan.

There were 16 young Red-taileds in 11 nests at Waubay N.W.R., S.D. (RRJ) and the species was generally widespread over South Dakota. In July ad Broad-winged Hawks were seen with dependent young in Dunn County, N.D. (JG). Then, to further extend their range to the w., two young were fledged in late July from a nest in a ponderosa pine on Terry Peak, S.D. (elev. 6400 ft—M. Scott, *vide* NRW).

There was a total of 287 Swainson's Hawks counted in the populated areas of Saskatchewan. On June 13 there were 12 hunting in a field near Riceton (FB); thirteen *Buteos*—seven Swainson's and six Ferruginous Hawks—were circling a stubble field near Orkney, Sask. (MB). Stuart Houston's party banded 81 young in 39 nests July 16 - 17 in the Kindersley, Sask., area. The main prey were Richardson's ground squirrels and a few voles. Ferruginous Hawk sightings were excellent with 136 counted in Saskatchewan. On June 18 one was n. of the known breeding range at Maidstone (WCH, SML). The Houston party banded 53 young from 16 nests. Nine of these nests were located in a 30 sq.-mi pasture near Kindersley and three of these were on artificial poles (JMH, CSH).

Golden Eagles built a nest in a large European white poplar in a deserted farm shelter belt near Riverhurst, Sask. Incubation was noted Apr. 20-22; by June 4 the nest seemed to have failed. When Houston climbed the tree, a Mallard exploded into his face. She was incubating seven eggs in the gigantic eagle's nest. It is believed that about 50 young Golden Eagles were raised and banded in Saskatchewan (CSH). One adult and two young were at a nest on June 11 at Medora, N.D. (KJJ). There were two well-feathered eaglets June 5, Fairburn, S.D. (BMN). The Merlin continued its comeback with good increases the last four years. It is once again seen in deserted shelterbelts in Saskatchewan where it last nested in 1960. Sig Jordheim of White Bear, Sask., used

nest boxes for Am. Kestrels and from four boxes 17 young were banded.

CRANES, RAILS — One ad. Whooping Crane remained on a slough near Saskatoon while being studied from a U.S.F.&W.S. aircraft July 7. Two ad. and two imm. Sandhill Cranes were seen at Buffalo L., near Saskatoon July 3—a rare breeder for that area (JBG). Five Sandhills near Lac du Bonnet, Man., suggested breeding (PT).

A Virginia Rail's nest with ten eggs was found s.e. of Saskatoon June 10 (MAG). It was unusual to count 13 in the Black Hills area but water conditions were better there this season. There were 22 Soras reported in the Black Hills, including an immature near Rapid City July 17 (TMH,JLM).

SHOREBIRDS — Populations were below average because of temporary loss of habitat or simply the drought (RRJ). Some birds nested and more than usual just loafed. Four Piping Plovers were seen in c. Saskatchewan; five adults were seen at Gavin's Pt., S.D., July 13-14 (JW,WH); and four young were fledged June 17 at Ft. Peck, Mont. (CMC). Long-billed Curlew was most successful in Alberta with many young noted (RJB). There was a major increase in Spotted Sandpiper reported from most states and provinces. Ten nests averaged 4.5 eggs at Wascana Marsh, Sask. (RBD). A flock of 100 Dunlin was probably the largest ever reported in c. Saskatchewan July 3 (WCH,SML). Marbled Godwits had young by June 7—an early date in Oliver County, N.D. (DPK). On June 25 there were 200 at Frank L.; 600 were at Stirling July 9 and 120 good-sized young were at New Dayton, Alta. (RJB).

Excitement over Black-necked Stilts in the region still prevailed throughout the nesting season. They were found many places in e. Montana (LMM,BE,JRF). Two adults and a nest with six eggs were most unexpected in July at Beaverhill L., Alta., 53° N. latitude (RJB). Nine at Spearfish, S.D. lagoons June 3 - July 31 acted as if they were nesting but no evidence was found (TMH,m.ob.).



*Black-necked Stilt, Beaverhill Lake, Alta., July, 1977.
Photo by Rudi J. Butot.*

Several thousand post-breeding Wilson's Phalaropes came to Miller L., Divide Co., N.D., in late June and July, where it is believed they fed on the abundant brine shrimp (JTL,HFD). A total of 779 ♀ N. Phalaropes was sighted at lakes in s.e. Alberta June 19 - July 9 (RJB).

GULLS, TERNS — A Lesser Black-backed Gull provided a first Saskatchewan record May 28 at Wascana Marsh—documentation submitted (FHB). An ad California Gull was found dead after suffocating trying to swallow a ground squirrel at Freezeout L., Mont. in June (LMM). Six ad. Forster's Terns and seven young were being fed at Indi L., for a first breeding record for the Saskatoon area (BCG,MAG,BWJ). In late June and July Least Terns became regular over backwaters of the Missouri R., at Bismarck, N.D., and a young was found July 31 (RNR). A total of 14 Least Terns was observed along the Missouri R., in South Dakota from Vermillion north to Pierre June 16 - July 7 (KJH,RLH,WH). Three Caspian Terns were in the Region at Gavin's Pt., June 25; two downy chicks were found in McLean County, N.D., for a first nesting record (RASC,KJW,JFH) and one was unusual at Seven Sisters, Man. (PT). The Black Tern population seemed to be increasing after very low numbers for a few years.

CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS — A total of nine Yellow-billed Cuckoos was counted at Highmore, w. Perkins Co. (AH), Pierre, Yankton, and Fall R. and Pennington Cos., S.D. Black-billed Cuckoo sightings in South Dakota totaled 35.

Screech Owl young were seen in Moody County June 28 (NJH) and four downy young were out of the nest begging for food June 30 in Roberts County, both S.D. (BKH). One pair was found along the Knife R., Beulah, N.D. in June (DPK). Four Hawk Owls were fledged on Hecla I. (J. Hnytko and W. Kelner). One ad. Hawk Owl was seen on a telephone pole and two downy young were on the ground near the railroad tracks at Chip L., Alta., June 23 (DR). Burrowing Owl numbers seem to be decreasing each year. A Barred Owl nest with young was found at Bisset, Man. (CWC). An ad. Great Gray Owl and two young were found June 26 (AM) and another one July 5, both s.w. of Prince Albert, Sask (DGH). One young and two adult Long-eared Owls were found in the same area of the South Dakota Badlands as in 1976 (RAW).

Whip-poor-wills became more widespread as the summer progressed at Hudson Bay, Sask., June 7 (WCH) and one was at Gavin's Pt., S.D., June 10 (JW). A sizable resident population was noted in Sandiland and Whiteshell P.P., Man.

HUMMINGBIRDS, PICIDS — Three Ruby throateds were feeding around Yellow-bellied Sapsucker holes June 27 at Nipawin, Sask. (Debi Robinson), and two fledged from a nest 10 ft up in a tamarack at Indian Head, Sask., July 27 (MS). A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was banded June 26 at Rapid City, S.D., which probably represented a first state record (TMH) and another was seen July 2 at Calgary (DD). A Calliope Hum-

mingbird was reported observed s. of Rapid City July 31 (AMB). [Details?—Ed.]

A Red-headed Woodpecker was a rare find at Frontier, Sask. (JJW). Pileated Woodpecker sightings this period in s.e. Manitoba totaled 11 (PT,PAH,RWK). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers occupied two nests June 22 in w. Custer County, S.D. (NRW). Seldom-reported Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were at Pinawa, Man., and Hudson Bay, Sask., in mid-June; in Custer County and Palmer Gulch, S.D., in mid-July (C. Faanes, TMH,RMM). Northern Three-toeds were found on the w. side of the Region at Keoma, Alta., June 11 (RJB) and at Cypress Hills, Sask., July 16 (WCH).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A W. Kingbird was far to the e. at Indian Bay, Lake of the Woods, July 10 (RFK,RWK,JLMu,PT). Three Great Crested Flycatchers were at Maidstone, w. of the known Saskatchewan range, June 19 (WCH,SML). There were at least 13 Great Cresteds reported from the e. half of South Dakota. The Say's Phoebe still maintained a "toehold" in s.w. Manitoba and n.e. North Dakota and was reported in good numbers in the rest of the Region. Reporters sent in many reports of *Empidonax* species—Willow, Alder, Least and W. Flycatchers. The E. Wood Pewee pushed W in South Dakota and Saskatchewan. It was seen and taped calls were compared July 6, 20 mi e. of Rapid City (JLM,EMS); two were at Good Spirit L., June 11 (WCH) and one was e. of Grenfell July 27 (SML). The Saskatchewan observations have been filed with Earl Godfrey in preparation for his revision of *The Birds of Canada*.

Nesting Violet-green Swallows at Eastend June 19 (MB) and at Ravenscrag Butte in July (WCH) were rare breeding records for s.w. Saskatchewan. Tree Swallows fledged 480 young from 99 nest boxes near Mandan, N D (FG). At Saskatoon 611 young were banded in 116 nest boxes (MIH). Purple Martins nested for the first time in 10 years at Audubon N.W.R., N.D. (DCM). They had good nesting at Highmore, Yankton, Brookings County and Burke, S.D., with about 300 young reported (JHH,NJH,GLS).

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS — The Corvid group was mentioned as being somewhat scarce this summer. The largest flock of Black-billed Magpies was 30 in Rapid City July 25 (BLG). An ad. Mountain Chickadee was teaching two young to fly at Cochrane, Alta., June 19 (MO). Dippers were found in Custer and Pennington Cos., S.D., July 2-6 (RLH,GRB). Long-billed and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were more common than usual in their preferred habitats. Three Canyon Wrens were observed in Custer County, S.D., July 2 (RLH).

MIMIDS THROUGH WEAVERS — Two Mockingbirds were fledged at Dundurn, Sask., July 26 which probably represented the first breeding record for the province (Dale Guthormsen). Young were being fed in a nest June 30 at Angela, Mont., and probably indicated a first breeding record for e. Montana (NM). A Sage

Thrasher was found July 17 on bentonite spoils in s w Butte County, S.D. (TMH). A singing ♂ Wood Thrush was seen June 4 in Roberts County, S.D. (BKH). Two Hermit Thrushes were observed in Cypress Hills July 5-7, at least 200 mi from their known breeding range (WCH). On June 26 in a one-hour walk, 12 Veeries were heard or seen in L. Metigoshe S.P., N.D. (GBB). Eastern Bluebirds now inhabit most of the Region. From 62 nest boxes 243 young were fledged in the Mandan, N.D. area (FG). It was rare to have 13 young from three nests as far n. as Saskatoon (MIH). South Dakota reported 31 adults and young (NJE,DHK,GRB). One E. Bluebird was found in Carter County, Mont., June 24 (HWC,BBF) and two males were at Calgary June 1-12 (RJB). The Mountain Bluebird is not doing well generally; however, at Saskatoon 23 adults and 274 young were banded in 69 nests (MIH).

A Sprague's Pipit was singing e. of its normal range July 30 at Oak Hammock Marsh (RWK,PT). All states and provinces had good numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes. Red-eyed Vireos were common and especially so around Pinawa, Man., when 77 were found on a 12-mi hike (PT). A Philadelphia Vireo was observed on Hecla I., July 31 (PAH). Yellow-throated Vireos were seen along the Red R., Winnipeg (DRMH) and one was on the w. edge of its range at Minot, N.D., where it was singing July 17-25 (GBB). A Solitary Vireo was in Cleghorn Canyon, Rapid City, June 19 (DSM) and three were at Stockade L., Custer Co., S.D. (NRW). Unusual was a Bell's Vireo in Shannon County, S D., July 26 (RAW) and one was at Gavin's Pt., S.D., July 8 (WH).

The best warbler report came from Peter Taylor of Pinawa, Man. He observed 622 individuals of 24 species in coniferous and mixed forests June 15-30. The list included Black-and-white 29, Magnolia 27, Blackburnian 14, Ovenbird 116, Connecticut 36, including a nest with five eggs at nearby Hadashville (HWRC), Canada 8, Nashville 117, N. Parula 16, Chestnut-sided 101, Mourning 86, and Am. Redstart 65. How nice that his count wasn't a tower kill! Out-of-range were N. Parulas; 28 at Yankton June 1 (JW) and a male June 22-28 in Pennington County, S.D. (JLM).

"House Sparrows seemed to have taken over nests from the Barn Swallows. The male raked out the nests, eggs fell and were broken; and young were on the ground with their heads practically eaten off."—Spring Valley, Sask. (FB).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — There were 20 records of Scarlet Tanagers and 71 of Indigo Buntings in s e Manitoba. A pair of Indigo Buntings was observed June 12 at Good Spirit L., Sask. The male was singing; it was possibly the first breeding for that area (BCG,KKM DWR). A Lazuli Bunting's nest was found with three young at Ft. Peck, Mont., July 10 (John Carlson, *vide* CMC). Two Cassin's Finches were sighted in s. Custer County (above 5000 ft) July 2 (C. Faanes). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks on June 1 was most unusual s. of Rapid City (AMB).

SPARROWS — Lark Buntings were down 10% from 1976 levels at Frontier, Sask. (JJW). Baird's Sparrows were singing in six locations June 16 in McPherson County, S.D. (BKH); four were at Balzac, Alta., June 22 (JM) and a female was singing June 29 in w. Pembina County, N.D. (DLK). Le Conte's Sparrow was listed as on territory from each state and province. Alberta had a total of 12 Le Conte's June 23 - July 24 (EH,DR). Only two McCown's Longspurs were observed on their breeding range at Etizikom, Alta., June 4 (HWP).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION
/Frances Williams

Great Plains birders always tend to estivate during the blistering summer months but this summer was so extraordinarily hot for so long a time that less than half the usual number of reports was submitted and those that were received often contained just one sentence: "Nothing unusual, no observable change in breeding bird population, too hot to get out much."

But in west Texas, where daily temperatures of 98-108°F were mitigated by cool nights and low humidity, birders worked to fill in the blank spaces on the maps in Oberholser's *Bird Life of Texas* (1974). The maps as printed indicate many counties with no breeding birds at all! Ken Seyffert wrote from Amarillo,

"It's been great fun exploring the area and for me it has become as exciting as the migration season." In Crosby County, Kelly Himmel kept close watch on eighteen of the county's more than 600 playas and obtained a very good sampling of the waterfowl nesting there. At San Angelo, Terry Maxwell and C.C. Wiedenfeld were working on a checklist of birds of the Concho Valley and discovered many breeding species previously unsuspected. The Midland Naturalists confirmed about a dozen new breeding species in Midland County and also participated in eleven widely scattered Breeding Bird Surveys. Mary Clayton and other Crockett County observers added much to the knowledge of breeding birds in their area and at Alpine the Big Bend Birders were organized to cover the almost unknown area (ornithologically speaking) between Big Bend National Park and the Davis Mountains.

GREBES THROUGH ANHINGA — At Midland tiny chicks of both Pied-billed and Eared Grebes were discovered during July (TSJ,GP,m.ob.). These species often summer in w. Texas, but actual nesting records are rare. A lone White Pelican remained at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., throughout the period. About 30 Double-crested Cormorants summered on Toledo Bend Res., on the Texas - Louisiana line and one nest was discovered June 25 (CDF). Double-crested Cormorants summered on L. Somerville, Lee and Burleson Cos., Tex., where Olivaceous Cormorants were also present June 22. A nest found July 12 was unattended by adults so it is unknown to which species it belonged (KR *et al*). The Olivaceous Cormorants at L. Arrowhead, Clay Co., Tex., scattered and established new nesting sites so the Kiblers could not determine just how many nests there were. Six imm. Olivaceous Cormorants spent the summer at L. Hefner, Oklahoma City (JGN). Three Olivaceous Cormorants were observed at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Kans., July 2 (DV *et al.*). Anhingas were present at L. Somerville June 22 & July 12



HERONS THROUGH IBISES — Most contributors noted the presence of a few juvenal and adult herons late in the period, but observations of nesting sites were scarce. An established Great Blue heronry in Potter County, Tex., produced 14 young from eight nests and one in Ochiltree County, Tex., produced seven young from two nests (KS). Wandering Louisiana Herons were reported at Waxahachie, Tex., June 27 & July 18 (GG) and in Linn County, Kans., July 23 (JP *et al.*). Nesting of Green Herons at San Angelo was confirmed. The blue-listed Black-crowned Night Heron increased at the Ft Worth heronry and a total of 18 wandering birds was sighted in Crosby and Hale Cos., Tex. during July. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron nest containing two young was located in Crosby County (LR, m.ob.). Fisher reported that he knows of only one locality in e. Texas where Least Bitterns nest, so the discovery of two nesting sites in arid w. Texas is surprising. These were located in Hemphill County (KS) and Tom Green County (TM). The only Am. Bittern reported anywhere in the Region was at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., July 31. At L. Rayburn in e. Texas 16 Wood Storks were present July 31. Also at L. Rayburn, 21 White Ibises, all birds of the year, were sighted July 3. This species nested in large numbers in Polk County, Tex. About 60 White Ibises visited Osage Hills S.P., Okla., July 6 (R&MH).

WATERFOWL — Three Canada Geese summered at Hagerman N.W.R. but no nest was found. In the Texas Panhandle Mallards with young were observed in Randall, Moore, Gray, Hansford, Carson and Hartley Cos. Mallards at L. Somerville June 22 and Midland July 30 provided first summer records. A Mottled Duck with young was observed at Cheyenne Bottoms, N.W.R., July 4 (JS) and a Mottled Duck was present at L. Rayburn July 24 & 31. An unusual number of Blue-winged Teals nested successfully throughout w. Texas. A Wood Duck with seven young was sighted at Tulsa July 19. In Hemphill County, Wood Ducks nest on small private lakes where they are relatively undisturbed. An ad. Ruddy Duck accompanying three juveniles July 31 in Crosby County provided the first nesting record anywhere in w. Texas.

KITES THROUGH KESTRELS — At Tulsa four young Mississippi Kites were banded from two nests. Feathers in the nests were identified as Chimney Swift feathers and ad. kites were twice observed eating Chimney Swifts (VH). In w. Texas kites nest in riparian habitats and in tall trees near ranch houses, stock ponds and golf courses and are increasing in urban habitats. At both Lubbock and Wichita Falls the birds caused much consternation by dive-bombing golfers. Ten nests were discovered at the Wichita Falls Country Club. Mississippi Kites were present along the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P. throughout the period.

Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were present in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P. In the park a Cooper's Hawk was observed feeding on juniper berries (GY) while at Tulsa one was sighted carrying a small snake. For the third year, Swainson's Hawks successfully raised

young in a Tulsa light industry area. This species nested in Dallas County for the first time (WP). Very few Swainson's Hawk nests could be found in w. Texas. Ferruginous Hawks were observed during early June in Hartley, Sherman, Ochiltree, Dallam and Hansford Cos., Tex. A nest was found in Dallam County and a recently fledged bird was sighted in Hansford County. Seyffert believes many more nests could be located if access to the large private land holdings were permitted. Most of the Ferruginous Hawks were near prairie dog towns. There were very few reports of Broad-winged Hawks, but they are much more difficult to see in their woodland habitats than are the large Buteos on the western plains. In the Midland area the chief danger to Harris' Hawks are teen-aged boys who take the young from the nests to "train".

An Osprey seen at Toledo Bend Res., July 15 was the only one reported. Prairie Falcons were sighted in Dallam County June 11 (KS) and in Palo Duro Canyon S P, Tex., July 17 (BH). At least two pairs of kestrels nested in the Dallas area: four young were banded at Duncanville May 16 (TD,WP) and adults were seen feeding two young in downtown Dallas June 8 (P.J). Kestrels were present at Midland in early July, an unusual period (ME *et al.*)

RAILS, COOTS — In Crockett County, Tex., a King Rail with five chicks was discovered in late July (MC, m.ob.). King Rails were sighted at Hagerman N.W.R., June 11 & July 18 (KWH). Adults with at least six downy chicks were seen in Washington County, Okla., June 23 (ED). During July at least three birds were heard in the Cattail Marsh at L. Overholser (JGN). Virginia Rails were present at L. Meredith, Hutchinson Co., Tex. and Waxahachie in mid-June and at Midland July 30. An immature was seen at San Angelo in mid-July. Soras were heard at many localities by the end of July but apparently there were no June records. An ad Black Rail was seen briefly in Osage County, Okla., June 7 (EHi).

The Midland sewage evaporative ponds have been birded constantly for 30 years but no nesting Am. Coots had ever been seen. This summer three nests were located and there must have been dozens, because over 50 fuzzy black and red chicks were present by early July. Coots are also common breeders on the playas from Midland north through the Panhandle. Four Am. Coots summered at L. Rayburn for the first time, but did not nest, and no evidence of nesting was found in Tom Green County where there were many summering birds.

SHOREBIRDS — A Piping Plover was noted at Oklahoma City July 25 (ScW). Snowy Plovers were numerous in Russell and Barton Cos., Kans., in early July and were present at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., throughout the period but no young were reported anywhere. A single Mountain Plover was noted in Dallam County June 11. In Kansas, Marbled Godwits were present the first week of July at Quivera and Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R.s and a Whimbrel was found at the latter locality July 31 (DV). Pairs of Long-billed Curlews were widespread during early June in Hartley, Dallam and Hansford Cos. Juvenal-plumaged Upland

Sandpipers were reported in Lancaster County, Neb. (NoJ) and Tulsa County (H&WE). Upland Sandpipers were widespread in w. Texas in late June and early July, but no evidence of breeding was found.

A Willet at L. Somerville June 14-15 was the third area record. A flock of 16 Willets at the Nacogdoches sewage ponds July 7 was the largest number seen at one time in that area (SL). Spotted Sandpipers were sighted at numerous locations during the period but no evidence of nesting was obtained. A Ruddy Turnstone was observed at Hagerman N.W.R., July 26. Two Dunlins in Dallas County July 10 (WP) and three Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Hagerman July 26 were unusual for the dates. Black-necked Stilts fledged two young at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., a first record, and at San Angelo five young were seen.

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS — A Herring Gull and a Laughing Gull were both photographed at L. Livingston July 31 (KB). Three Laughing Gulls were present at L. Rayburn in late June, a first record for the pineywoods region (CDF). A Franklin's Gull was reported at L. Somerville June 22, an unusual date (KR). A Ring-billed Gull on the Rio Grande in the Big Bend July 5 was also noteworthy. Seyffert observed ten Least Tern nests on a sandbar in the Canadian R., Hemphill Co., June 14. One nest contained one egg, three nests contained two eggs each and six nests contained three eggs each. While these were the only nests of this endangered species reported, there were sightings at Conestoga State Recreation Area, Denton, Neb. (HTB), in Crosby County, at Hagerman, Wilson Res., Cheyenne Bottoms and in Rogers County, Okla. The bird of the season was the **Black Skimmer** at Wilson Res., Russell Co., Kans., discovered by Charles A. Ely and photographed by Ed Schulenberg July 3.



Black Skimmer, Russell Co., Kans., second state record, July 3, 1977. Photo by Ed Schulenberg.

DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — In the Davis Mts., Band-tailed Pigeons fed at lower elevations throughout the period but in the Chisos Mts., they remained on the higher slopes until late July. Three White-winged Doves in Scurry County, Tex., June 7 were far north of their usual range (JHY). Without exception, contributors noted that Yellow-billed Cuckoos were common to abundant. Black-billed Cuckoos nested at Lincoln (NoJ) and one was sighted in Lyon County. Barn Owls were discovered nesting in a deer blind in Midland County (ME *et al.*),

the first confirmed nesting of this species in the county. Reports of Barn Owl nests in deer blinds are increasing throughout Texas. Perhaps birdlovers can establish "Barn Owl trails" as they have bluebird trails by erecting deer blinds at the proper intervals. In Crockett County eastern-voiced and western-voiced Screech Owls called within a mile of each other (M.N.). Two Flammulated Owls were observed in the Chisos Mts., June 30 (PS). A Barred Owl in Hemphill County July 24 constitutes one of the few records from the Panhandle. In Lancaster County, Neb., Long-eared Owls usurped a new crow's nest and on Mar. 26 the nest contained five owl eggs. On April 8, broken egg shells were under and in the nest and the owls were gone (NoJ). A Lesser Nighthawk was observed in Uvalde County, Tex., July 7 (E&KM).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Lucifer Hummingbirds were scattered throughout the Chisos Mts., in small local concentrations. A few females fed on century plants along the East and South Rims June 30. During the first two weeks of July as many as ten males and females fed on trompetilla on the lower Window Trail. A few females remained after the trompetilla finished blooming and fed at century plants. An Anna's Hummingbird appeared at Alpine, Tex., July 30 (JSy, m.ob.). A Rufous Hummingbird remained at a feeder in Sherman, Tex., July 19 to the end of the period (CRB). A Rivoli's Hummingbird visited a feeder at Davis Mt. Resort throughout the period (*vide* JSt) but the species was noted in the Chisos Mts. only on July 23 (DW).

"Yellow-shafted" Flickers had fledged young in Crosby County by mid-June (RE). Three Com. Flickers were present at Hagerman N.W.R., June 6, where they are not known to breed (CRB). Most observers within the range of Red-headed Woodpeckers reported greatly increased numbers. Downy Woodpeckers nested in Potter and Hemphill Cos., and were also present in Ochiltree and Gray Cos. This species is considered a rare breeder in the Texas Panhandle but its "scarcity" may reflect a lack of observers more than a lack of birds. At Midland an E. Kingbird June 5 provided a first spring and/or summer record. An ad. E. Kingbird fed two fledglings in Crosby County July 31. The last recorded nesting in the county was in 1973. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were extremely scarce on all Breeding Bird Survey routes in w. Texas. The nest of an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Jackson County, Okla., contained two nearly fledged young July 14 (JDT, JA). This is at the e. limits of the range of the species as was one at Possum Kingdom L., Palo Pinto Co., Tex. The latter nest, in a cavity in a fence post, was found May 22. Eventually five young fledged (KN). A Say's Phoebe in Crosby County in late June constituted the first mid-summer record there. Singing E. Wood Pewees were heard in Grayson County, Tex., June 2 and July 3-21 (KWH).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS — The staff at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., erected nest boxes for **Tree Swallows** and were successful in attracting a pair, thus establishing a first state breeding record for the species (*vide* JS). Five Cliff Swallow nests and three Barn Swallow

nests were built under a bridge over "Stunk Creek" in Ector Co., Tex. (BE). Rough-winged Swallows have just about disappeared as a breeding species in Grayson County (CRB) but are increasing in the Texas Panhandle. In Hemphill County July 24, 77 Rough-winged Swallows, which all appeared to be young of the year, perched together in typical swallow fashion. Although there has been a colony of Purple Martins at Big L., Tex. for many years, this was the first summer they appeared at Rankin just 28 mi west. A Verdin nested at Lubbock. House Wrens were very common in Hemphill County and also sang vigorously in Gray County July 17 and Ochiltree County June 7. Observers in Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska all noted the scarcity of Carolina Wrens and all blamed it on the severity of the winter of 1976-77. Although Carolina Wrens are normally rare west of the 100th meridian, they were present in Hemphill County June 14 and Gray County July 17 (PA, KS). Cactus Wrens nested for the first time at Muleshoe N.W.R. (KH), and probably nested in Oldham County where unoccupied nests were found. The species' habit of building roosting nests makes it obligatory to see eggs or young before postulating breeding. A Cactus Wren was reported in Dallas County July 27, providing a first record there (*vide* WP). A Rock Wren nest was found in an abandoned caliche pit in Midland County where there were no previous summer sightings of the species (JMe).

MIMICS THROUGH VIREOS — Curve-billed Thrashers nested at Muleshoe N.W.R. for the first time and were seen in Hutchinson, Potter and Randall Cos. Brown Thrashers at Midland fledged two broods, a first breeding record there (JK). A pair of E. Bluebirds was discovered in Midland County in mid-July, but no young were seen and it could not be determined how long the birds had been at that locality. There were no previous summer records in the county. Wood Thrushes were more numerous in Washington County, Okla. than usual, and juveniles were seen July 28 (ED).

Five species of vireos nested in the Concho Valley: Black-capped, White-eyed, Bell's, Gray and Red-eyed. Yellow-throated Vireos were also present, but breeding was not verified. Bell's, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos were much reduced in numbers in Payne County, Okla. (DI). Black-capped Vireos were numerous in the Dallas cedar brakes area. One was seen at the Wichita Mts. N.W.R., Okla., July 9 (JDT). Contributors were about evenly divided on the question of whether Bell's Vireos declined or increased, but it is the editor's belief that because of the hot, dry weather the birds stopped singing earlier in the day than usual and so went undetected in most areas. Gray Vireos were present in the Chisos Mts., in good numbers. A Red-eyed Vireo at L. Marvin, Hemphill Co., June 14 constituted the first summer record for the Panhandle. A Warbling Vireo summered in Presidio County, Tex., but nesting could not be confirmed (JMI). A juvenal-plumaged Warbling Vireo was observed begging for food in Gray County July 17, but the species was absent from Hemphill County where it normally breeds.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS — Several contributors in the e. one-third of the Region com-

mented that Prothonotary Warblers were present in good numbers. One at L. Somerville July 12 provided a first summer record, although Arnold believes breeding could be verified with more field work. A Swainson's Warbler was seen in Mayes County, Okla., June 12 (ScW). A Lucy's Warbler was singing on the Rio Grande floodplain in Presidio County June 10 (JHY). Prairie Warblers were present in Linn County, Kans., July 10 (JP). Nesting of Com. Yellowthroats was verified at San Angelo for the first time. A pair of this species remained on territory at Midland throughout the period but nesting was not confirmed. There was an unusual number of Com. Yellowthroats at L. McClellan, Gray Co., in July. Unusual summer sightings of Am. Redstarts were made in the Dallas Cedar Brakes July 14 (C&ES), Big Bend N.P., June 10 (R&JB), L. Marvin June 14.

In Andrews County, Tex., the only meadowlarks heard during the Breeding Bird Survey sang the song of the e. species. A ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole was sighted in Tarrant County, Tex., July 20 (MR). A Hooded Oriole regularly brought young to a hummingbird feeder at Kerrville during June. The spring report cited several new colonies of Great-tailed Grackles and the Breeding Bird Survey in Winkler County, Tex., located another. In w. Texas, Summer Tanagers normally breed only in riparian habitats but this summer there were scattered sightings in urban habitats.

FRINGILLIDS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were nesting in Lincoln County in late May, so what were some individuals doing in Potter County July 30 and Chisos Mts., June 5? Indigo Buntings may be extending their breeding range W in Texas as they were present during the summer at six localities where they are normally only transients. Dickcissels are unpredictable, so their presence in irrigated alfalfa fields all through the s. Texas plains was not surprising even though first breeding records were established at several localities. In Hemphill County Am. Goldfinches were present throughout the period, but nesting was not confirmed.

The first reported nest of the **Rufous-sided Towhee** in Oklahoma was found June 15 four mi n. of Colcord. It contained three large young (RS *et al.*). A male of this species defending territory in Lyon County, Kans., July 24 was also noteworthy (MS). Grasshopper Sparrows summered in unusually large numbers on the w. Texas plains and some were heard singing in the Davis Mts., in July (BE,RMS). Juvenal birds were present in the Midland area by July 10, providing a first breeding record there. A Chipping Sparrow in Crosby County July 24 constituted a first summer record.

CORRIGENDUM — *Am. Birds* 31:197 — The Texas Bird Records Committee rejected the Yellow-green Vireo in Kerr County by a 6-0 vote.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — **Nebraska:** H. Thomas Bartlett, Norma Johnson (NoJ). **Kansas:** Charles A. Ely, Nan Johnson (NaJ), Ed Martinez, Earl McHugh, John Parrish, Ed Schulenberg, Jean Schulenberg, Marvin Schwilling, Donald Vannoy. **Oklahoma:** John Ault, A. Marguerite & F M

scarce surf-loving bird. **Hooded Mergansers** are not known to breed in Texas, but it can no longer be said that no nest was ever prepared nor egg laid. In n. Fort Bend County Mar. 4, a Hooded Merganser flew into an old woodpecker hole. On the following day, investigation showed one egg reposing in the down-filled hollow (MAC, TBF, CDF).

HAWKS — One or two **Hook-billed Kites** were reported at wide intervals throughout the season at Santa Ana N.W.R., but no nest was located (DDeL). Our latest report was of one adult July 9 (LRB, MRB). Mississippi Kites were found nesting about 4 mi e. of Richmond in Fort Bend County. Single active nests were discovered May 29-30, at which time perhaps 15 individuals could be found in the area. Apparently within a matter of days all but two (possibly three) pairs had moved on. By June 26 the nesting birds had become quite active in feeding and harassing birders. Fledglings were seen July 30 (DDeK, HH). Until shortly after the turn of the century this species bred regularly to the c. and upper coasts, but during modern times had been restricted to n.w. Texas. An imm. **Snail Kite** was present at L. Alice, Jim Wells Co., July 22-26 (ROA *et al.*). It was seen feeding on *crayfish*. This species is on the hypothetical list for Texas on the basis of a sighting made on S. Padre I., Oct. 4, 1971; it was generally assumed that this was a displaced bird from the marshes of Veracruz, Mexico. Red-shouldered Hawks fledged two young at Rockport in late May (CK). White-tailed Hawks apparently did well this season. The most publicized nests were one near Tivoli, Refugio Co., which fledged two young by early May, and one on the King Ranch, Kenedy Co., which had at least one downy nestling Apr. 19 (RAR). An ad. **Gray Hawk** was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., July 9 (MRB). One young Bald Eagle left a nest w. of Tivoli early in March (RAR).

GROUSE THROUGH JACANAS — The breeding population of Greater Prairie Chickens at Aransas N W R. was estimated at 140 birds, a number based on 48 males seen on a March census—a “tremendous increase.” No young have been seen, and it was thought that the very wet spring may have hurt production (JK). The Maner L. Jacana population appeared to have declined (JGM).

SHOREBIRDS — Wilson’s Plover is disappearing from Rockport as a nesting bird (DNW), but must have been active elsewhere on the c. coast, judging by the frequency of reports. Flocks of 71, 58 and 37 on the bare mud flats of Harbor I., Port Aransas area, July 1, were unusual (RTP). It was suspected that work in progress at Mitchell L., San Antonio area, may have interfered with nesting of Black-necked Stilts. Of 30 birds observed July 19, only two were young (JAM).

TERNS, SKIMMERS — Two Sooty Terns were observed in the Aransas Pass area in early August (HD). This is a rare breeder on the Texas coast. A small colony of Least Terns at Aransas Pass was “scraped clean” by a road grader on June 2. However, not all progress

fosters disaster; a new spoil island in the Laguna Madre was promptly colonized by perhaps 100 pairs of Least Terns, seen June 9 (RTP). Aggressive behavior by adults and the presence of a downy young indicated nesting activity at L. Casa Blanca at Laredo (RTP). Black Skimmers nested successfully on Bolivar Flats (JGM), but “people problems” beset some colonies on the c. coast. Possibly the worst slaughter occurred at Rockport beach when skimmers decided to move in from their island in Little Bay. Over 100 nests were established, and although authorities attempted to protect the birds, people racing through the colony took a heavy toll of chicks (DNW).

DOVES, PARAKEETS — An increase in White-winged Doves with improving habitat was noted at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. During recent years White-fronted Dove numbers have slowly risen on the refuge, with about 150 currently using the area. This species finds little suitable habitat remaining in the Rio Grande Delta (GAU). A flock of six obviously wild **Green Parakeets** (*Aratinga holochlora*) was seen over McAllen, Hidalgo Co., June 12. This parakeet is still common in n.e. Mexico.

CUCKOOS, OWLS — If numbers of territorial birds are an indication, Yellow-billed Cuckoos had a fine season in s. Texas. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** nest with four eggs was discovered in Live Oak County, June 1 (DF, *fide* GWB); they were abandoned later (*Welder Wildlife Refuge—GWB). There is no previous breeding record for s. Texas. Ferruginous Owl sightings dropped sharply from last year in the Rio Grande Delta (SB). East Woods Park is a small area of towering trees and meandering Waller Cr., adjacent to the Univ. of Texas campus in Austin. This year, after an absence of 20 years, Barred Owls returned to East Woods. Perhaps Barred Owls are not aware of the polluting influences of civilization, until it is too late. The story: on Oct. 24, 1976, a ♂ Barred Owl was seen at the n.e. corner of the park, where it was thereafter observed every day or so in the live oaks (DCH). On Jan. 23 a second owl was present, and on Jan. 24, near dusk, the pair was seen mating. The female was seen one other time, on Feb. 6. On Mar. 15 the male, very unwary and with one wing drooping, sat about 10 ft up in a sweetgum tree; later it was observed on the ground—and was not seen again (DCH, EBK).

GOATSUCKERS AND HUMMINGBIRDS — A Poorwill in Wilson County June 20 was a first record there (WS). Lesser Nighthawks were found at three locations in s. Medina County May 31 (JAM). Near Falls City, Karnes Co., a Chimney Swift was incubating three eggs Aug. 15, at least a month late (WS). The **Green Violet-ear** came early this year and to a new locality. An individual appeared at a residence in West Lake Hills May 12, and fed regularly there until June 9 (CMo *et al.*). This location is on the Balcones Escarpment, just w. of Austin. The writer saw this bird in early morning when sunlight sparkled on rain-wet leaves and patches of fog moved up from the canyon behind the

house. Typically, this beautiful individual perched back in dense shade when not feeding, and amidst this lush, flower-filled setting it was not difficult to transfer the scene to its native Mexican highlands. A pair of Buff-bellied Hummingbirds made nesting motions at Corpus Christi. The female was tearing threads from a rope basket holder May 17; however, no nest was found (TL, *fide* KM).

BECARDS, FLYCATCHERS — Probably the majority of birders visiting Santa Ana N.W.R. this spring saw a ♀ **Rose-throated Becard** building a nest in a clearing. As of June 17 she had built four of the bulky structures (DDel), with no male present. The E. Kingbird was rediscovered as a breeding bird in Calhoun County (GWB), possibly for the first time since 1900. Western Kingbirds nested in w. Harris County, at the e. edge of their range. In the river bottom woodland at Rancho Santa Margarita, Starr Co., Arvin watched a pair of **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers** “feed a stub-tailed nestling for over two hours on July 30.” This is the first conclusive evidence of nesting there. At least five territorial male E. Wood Pewees occupied an 1800-acre area at Camp Stanley (MJ). Three pairs of Vermilion Flycatchers could be seen in the Beeville area (AHG).

HORNED LARKS, SWALLOWS, JAYS — Juvenile Horned Larks indicated a first nesting record for Jim Wells County (ROA). The Barn Swallow count was down drastically in s. Medina County as of May 31 (JAM), but these swallows were conspicuous at many other localities (culverts) within their rapidly expanding range. Cliff Swallows had a good year. They nested again in Fort Bend County (JGM), and two new colonies were found. Another new nesting location is Bee County, where about 40 pairs were at home under a highway bridge (AHG). The big colonies on State Hwy. 35, in Refugio County, were washed out June 15 but rebuilding was in progress under the culverts June 24 (DNW). Purple Martins had a “great season” at Corpus Christi (KM). A pair of Blue Jays fledged two young at Corpus Christi in early July (KM). At least one pair nested at San Antonio, where this species is a very irregular breeder (JAM). Many observers found Brown Jays at Rancho Santa Margarita during the season but no nests were reported.

WRENS THROUGH STARLINGS — Carolina Wrens are thought to be rare along the coast s. of Corpus Christi, but a pair with fledglings was seen at the U S 77 roadside park, 2.7 mi. s. of Sarita, Kenedy Co., July 25 (WMC). A single resident **Curve-billed Thrasher** has been on w. Galveston I., for the past 4 years. On July 23, a second bird was found at this site (DTD, TLE, JGM). A **Clay-colored Robin** was found at Santa Ana N W R., June 23 (CMA) and was reported as late as the second week of July (*fide* DDel). Three E. Bluebird pairs were present in the Beeville area but only one pair is known to have raised young; they were feeding large fledglings Aug. 2 (AHG). A pair nested in Wilson County. The eggs started hatching the last week of April; about a week later all birds were gone (WS). Starlings have

reached Beeville; a pair was feeding nestlings May 2 (AHG).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos enjoyed a good season on the upper coast, particularly in Fort Bend County (JGM). Black-capped Vireos were common in preferred habitat on the hilly w fringes of Austin but failed to outnumber birders Tropical Parulas again occupied the stunted live oak woodland at the now famous roadside rest area s of Sarita (see above). Most correspondents reported two singing males and one female; singing was in progress at least from early March to early July. On July 7 a female was seen carrying Spanish moss (MRB). On July 25 a pair was feeding a small cowbird in the nest, about 8 ft up in an oak; on July 26 a warbler baby was visible in the nest; on July 28 the nest was empty (WMC). Golden-cheeked Warblers were common w. of Austin and apparently did well. This is still an excellent area to find both this species and the Black-capped Vireo at one stop. The presence of two singing ♂ Am. Redstarts in Fort Bend County from May 29 (MG, TPJ) throughout June (JGM *et al.*) may represent a southern extension of the bird's breeding range in e. Texas.

ICTERIDS — Apparently the E. Meadowlark is increasing as a breeding species in Bexar County. The Com. Grackle has been rediscovered as a breeding species along the lower Guadalupe R., in Calhoun County (GWB).

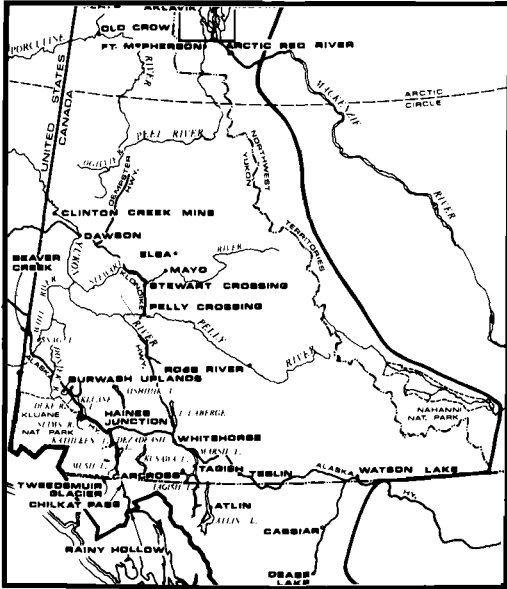
FRINGILLIDS — Painted Buntings were in excellent numbers in Fort Bend County (JGM) but decidedly down at Rockport (DNW). Weed growth was right for Dickcissels to stop and breed at Alice (more than usual—ROA), and n.w. Bexar County (MJ). They “nested in every cornfield in the county (Nueces)” Mrs McCracken reported, and were large enough to fledge before harvest time. Grasshopper Sparrows were more numerous than usual at Alice (ROA), and widespread in n.w. Bexar County. Lark Sparrows did well in the latter area but Cassin's Sparrows were low, perhaps due to early wet conditions (MJ).

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/Helmut Grünberg

June and July were normal months in Whitehorse with respect to temperature (52.2°F and 55.9°F, respectively). However, the amount of precipitation was abnormally high. While 20.3 inches were measured in June (average 11.5 inches), the July rainfall of 33.8 inches (average 13.3 inches) was the highest ever recorded in



July in Whitehorse. This high precipitation had a visible effect on the vegetation. Plant growth was much more lush than in drier years. In turn, there were better conditions for the food sources of many birds (more insects and more small mammals). Although it cannot be numerically proven, birds appeared to have successfully brought off more young this year than in previous years. While the above was generally true in the southern part of the Region, the northern Yukon is more difficult to judge because comparative data are lacking.

The southern Yukon was covered fairly well by observers. In addition, we had reports from the North Coast (Arctic Ocean), from the Old Crow Flats in the northern Yukon and a few reports were submitted from other areas.

Dave Mossop of the Yukon Game Branch gave valuable background information on the Old Crow Flats and the North Coast for this report.

LOONS, WATERFOWL — A Com. Loon, not frequently seen in the Old Crow Flats, was observed there July 14 (WJ,TB). In the same area the uncommon Canada Goose was noted June 18 (DM,WN).

A rare sighting for the North Coast, of a Mallard was reported for July 27-28 (BH). The first report of a **Black Duck** for the Yukon came from the Old Crow Flats June 1 (details in prep.—DM).

Blue-winged Teals formerly were uncommon in the s Yukon. This season they nested at the Yukon Game Farm, 12 mi n.w. of Whitehorse. Two pairs were seen, one of which later had five young (DN). Seven birds were noted at Nisutlin Bay May 27-June 3 (DR), they were observed near Teslin during the same period (DR). Blue-winged Teals were also reported from as far n as the Old Crow Flats where a female and three flightless young were banded July 30 (details in prep.—DM).

Several nests of Canvasbacks were found in the Old Crow Flats (DM,WN). Three ♂ Redheads were observed at Rose L., June 28 (RB), and three Redheads were at the Yukon Game Farm during the summer. Two ♂ and one ♀ Harlequin Ducks were reported from Rose L., June 27 (RB), and three ♀ Oldsquaws, also from Rose L., June 25 (RB). A rare report of a Com. Merganser was obtained from the North Coast July 14-17 (BH,DR).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — One Goshawk was seen at Snag R., June 6 (DM) and a pair spent the summer at the Yukon Game Farm (DN). A Marsh Hawk was observed on the North Coast July 27-28 (BH) and a Bald Eagle as well as a Peregrine Falcon were there July 14-17 (BH,DR), all three uncommon in that area.

A Blue Grouse was noted at Rose L., June 20-30 (DR). A clutch of young Willow Ptarmigans was “ambushed” by Arctic ground squirrels at Grizzly Cr., Klauane N. P., in June, in which the ground squirrels apparently “got the better of it” (MM).

Two Sandhill Cranes were observed in the Old Crow Flats July 7-8 (BH,CH) and one on the North Coast July 14-17 (BH,DR).

At the Yukon Game Farm three Killdeer were seen July 27 (HG), one Am. Golden Plover on the North Coast July 14-17 (BH,DR) and another July 27-28 (BH). An uncommon sighting of a Black-bellied Plover was reported from the Dempster Highway July 19 (DS). Whimbrel and Baird’s Sandpiper were seen on the North Coast July 27-28 (BH); the latter was also noted there July 14-17 (BH,DR). A pair of Wilson’s Phalaropes appeared to be “defending the nest” at the Yukon Game Farm (DN). This species seems to be extending its breeding range NW.

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The uncommon Pomarine Jaeger was reported twice from the North Coast July 14-17 (BH,DR) and July 27-28 (BH). In the same area a Herring Gull was seen July 14-17 (BH,DR) and a Black Guillemot July 27-28 (BH).

Short-eared Owls, uncommon on the North Coast, were observed July 14-17 (BH,DR) and July 27-28 (BH). The only report of a Snowy Owl came also from the North Coast, July 14-17 (BH,DR). The rare Great Gray Owl was seen in the s. Yukon in the Nisutlin area May 27-June 3 (DR). One Hawk Owl was observed in the Teslin area May 27-June 3 (DR) and one at Meister R., in s.e. Yukon June 25 (DS). A Boreal Owl was noted at Rose L., June 20-30 (DR).

A Hairy Woodpecker was seen early in June near Whitehorse (KB). Three Black-backed Three-toed

Woodpeckers were observed near Upper Liard Village in s.e. Yukon June 27-29 (DS).

PERCHING BIRDS — An Am. Robin was seen as far n. as the North Coast July 14-17 (BH,DR). The only Hermit Thrush reported was at Snag airport June 5 (DM). A Bohemian Waxwing, uncommon in the Old Crow Flats, was noted June 18 (DM,WN). The only Tennessee Warbler reported this season, one male, was observed near Whitehorse June 2 (HG,PM). There were two reports of Com. Yellowthroat, one from Duke Meadows in s.w. Yukon June 6 (DM) and one from Rose L., June 20-30 (DR). One to two Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen in Whitehorse throughout June until July 1 (DS).

Purple Finches have been observed in increasing numbers over the past few years and especially during this nesting season. Six pairs nested successfully 12 mi s.e. of Whitehorse (KB) and at least five pairs nested successfully in a w. suburb (DS). "More Purple Finches than usual" were observed one mi outside of Whitehorse (HH), two singing males 4 mi n. of Whitehorse June 2 (HG) and one in the same area July 15 (HG). Dark-eyed Junco and Fox Sparrow were reported from as far n. as the North Coast July 14-17 (BH,DR); Fox Sparrow was there also July 27-28 (BH).

OBSERVERS — Tom Benjamin, Kate Bennett, Ron Butler, Bob Hayes, Caroline Hayes, Helen Horback, William Josie, Paul Mantle, Michael Maxwell, Dave Mossop, Danny Nowlan, William Nukon, Don Russell, Don Schuler — **HELMUT GRUNBERG, General Delivery, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 3S7.**

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Except for the Bozeman-Gardiner-Red Rock Lakes area in Montana, which enjoyed normal summer weather, the drought, with abnormally high temperatures, continued into June in nearly every part of the Region. July continued dry except for western Montana and adjacent mountainous Idaho, which were decidedly wet. Temperatures were generally subnormal.

Waterfowl nesting suffered markedly in drought areas but other species appeared to have a good nesting season. Exposed mudflats attracted more late spring and early fall shorebird migrants than usual and some water-related species appeared in unusual numbers and places, supposedly driven in by worse drought to the south. Lack of water forced some early fall migration in the southwestern part of the Region.

LOONS AND GREBES — Two Com. Loon nests, one with two eggs hatched, were on two small reservoirs e. of Ashton, Ida., possibly in Wyoming June 19 (CHT). Two pairs with five young were at Pablo N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., July 28 (MB). Lake Roosevelt, Wash., had one June 12 and two July 16 and one was on Potholes

Res., Grant Co., Wash., July 24. One was on Rufus Woods L., near Nespelem, Wash., June 22 and five were on the Columbia R., near Wenatchee, Wash. in June. At least one pair of Red-necked Grebes nested at Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., Ida., a new locality, and seven appeared on Upper Klamath L., Oreg., June 4. A "large number" nested at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. Fortine, Mont., was the only other locality that reported them. An albinistic Eared Grebe at Malheur N.W.R. appeared wholly whitish except for black in the primaries (DMF). Western Grebes had good nesting success in s.e. Idaho at Mud L., Jefferson Co., and at L. Walcott, but apparently not at Market L., near Roberts nor at Am. Falls Res. The species was at the Yakima R. mouth, Wash., July 14, Woodley's first ever for that month and the species was noted in June in the Columbia Basin e. of Wenatchee.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — Five White Pelican nests with a total of nine eggs were found on Gull I., in L. Walcott, Blaine Co., Ida., for the first known nesting in the state since the birds were all shot out from Blackfoot Res., ca. 1958. About 200 were loafing near the colony June 17 (CHT). Double-crested Cormorants had 25 nests at Mud L., 23 at Blackfoot Res., and perhaps 70 at L. Walcott. The colony at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. had 40 nests. Seventy pairs were at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Oreg., up from 40 last year, but the species failed to nest at L. Helena this year. A Great Blue heronry at Ninepipe had 87 nests. A Green Heron was near Arco, Ida., June 9 (CHT) and one was sighted at Market L., June 12 & 21 (MRC). A Cattle Egret was in a field near Rexburg, Ida., June 13 (MRC) and four were near Rupert (CHT) Refuge personnel at Malheur estimated 125 pairs of Great Egrets, down from 200 in 1976 but another observer found both Great and Snowy Egrets there in unusually high numbers in July compared to the



previous two years (DMF). The Snowy was estimated at 50 pairs, down from 80, by refuge personnel. Black-crowned Night Heron numbers there remained steady. White-faced Ibises seemed to have good nesting success at Market and Mud Lakes and at Oxford, Ida. A flock of 40-50 was just s. of Rexburg July 30.

WATERFOWL — Trumpeter Swans at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., produced 66 cygnets but at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Malheur N.W.R., and Antelope L., near Harrison, Mont., nesting success was zero. Waterfowl production was down about 50% from last year at Turnbull N.W.R., and in e. Washington in general (JS). In the area surrounding Malheur N.W.R. only about 1500 ducks were produced, compared to nearly 18,000 last year, but they did better on the refuge, with nearly 16,000 young. However, Cinnamon Teal there had only about 2500 young, compared to over 17,000 last year. The species is normally the most or next to most abundant nester there. Lack of water there caused ducks to start leaving in late June. Duck production at Red Rock Lakes was about normal.

Ninepipe N.W.R. had a **Ross' Goose** July 28 (F.A.S.) and two Snow Geese summered at Malheur N.W.R. (M F S.). Four pairs of Wood Ducks at a marsh n. of Polson, Mont., brought off 15 young and the species' success at Ninepipe N.W.R. seemed good. A male at Helena July 23 was unusual (SM). A female with eight nearly grown young at Dry L., July 10 gave the first-ever record of nesting for the Fortine, Mont. area. A ♂ Com. Goldeneye was on the Spokane R., in downtown Spokane July 13 (THR), and presumably the same bird was seen July 21 (JWW). A Bufflehead was at Malheur in early July (CB).

VULTURES AND HAWKS — A **Turkey Vulture** nest with one young at Black Rock Bay, Coeur d' Alene L., Ida., was apparently the first ever found in the state (DC, DJ). Six of the birds, mingling with ravens, were along the Thompson R., 70 mi w. of Kalispell, Mont., July 1 (BF) and one at Salmon, Ida., June 11 was unusual (HBR). Single Goshawks were reported at seven scattered localities and an active nest was located s. of Stanley, Ida. (EHB). Ferruginous Hawks were more evident this summer at Malheur. One appeared near Helena and another from that area that had been shot was brought to the game department for nursing. The species was observed regularly near Three Forks, Mont. Golden Eagles seemed to be doing very well around Malheur Ref., reportedly in response to an increase among rodents and lagomorphs (DMF). Except for an active nest in June, the species went unobserved in the Bozeman area. One was noted in the Island L. area in Pleasant Valley between Libby and Kalispell, Mont., July 13 (F.A.S.). Several were brought to Montana's game department, victims of shooting, electrical burns, a mammal trap, a broken wing and apparent starvation (VY). A pair of Bald Eagles was high over Parker, Wash., July 13 (Y.A.S.) and a pair summered at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JAB). One was at Columbia Icefield, Banff N.P., Alta., July 31 (RJB). The Osprey population at Holter L. near Helena was main-

taining itself (VY). One appeared near Seneca, Oreg., June 27 & July 12 (LDN). Prairie Falcon numbers appeared unchanged in the Malheur N.W.R. area. An active nest was found in s.e. Montana and the birds appeared at three localities in n.w. Montana. The Helena area had a sighting and two injured birds were brought to the game department. The only Peregrine Falcon sightings were one each from s. Idaho and w. Montana. The only Merlin sighting was in late June in the Okanogan Valley, Wash. (PC).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — In n. British Columbia a Spruce Grouse was seen 30 mi n.w. of Meziadin Jct., and a female of the Franklin's race, with small chicks, was on Hudson Bay Mt., 5 mi w. of Smithers (JDW). A Willow Ptarmigan was found in that general area on Mt. Cronin and a Rock Ptarmigan was sighted on Hudson Bay Mt. (JDW). Blue, Spruce, Ruffed and Sage Grouse had a good nesting season in the Salmon, Ida area, where numbers appeared to be up (HBR). Upland game birds had good nesting success in e. Washington although late broods of Gray Partridge appeared less successful (JS). Sharp-tailed Grouse continued rare in the Bozeman area. Two Mountain Quail were listed for s.w. Idaho June 26 (G.E.A.S.). Five Turkeys showed themselves on Yakima Indian Reservation June 30 (TS) and two adults and five young were seen just n. of Lyle, Wash., June 22 (TW *et al.*).

S.A.

From the 30 Whooping Crane eggs substituted for Sandhill Crane eggs at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., 20 young hatched but two died during a May snowstorm. Mortality of the remaining birds was high because of drought-caused inadequate food supply and easy access to the nesting and rearing areas for coyotes. Of six sub-adult birds from the 1975 and 1976 hatches, three returned to Grays L., one summered along the upper Green R., n.w. of Pinedale, Wyo., another was found along Henry's Fork of the Green R. near Lonetree, s.w. Wyo., and the sixth summered in the vicinity of Ouray N.W.R., Utah as it did in 1976. The bird near Lonetree was found dead May 29. Autopsy showed the cause to be a collision with an unknown object (RDr).

CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS — Greater Sandhill Crane nesting success at Malheur N.W.R. was 46%. The species apparently bred in Helena Valley, where two young appeared June 12 and one in July (GH). Numbers seemed to be up in the Bozeman area. Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had at least eight nests, fledging eight chicks (JAB). One bird was near Fortine July 10. The only previous records there were of one last year and in 1975 (WW). Young Virginia Rails were found at a new breeding site north of Dillon, Mont. (KA).

A single Semipalmated Plover was at Reardan, Wash., July 20 (JA) and up to five were at the Yakima R. mouth. The first sighting, July 14, was three weeks earlier than any previous records (REW). Snowy

Plovers were seen July 16 at Lower Borax L., s.e. Harney Co., Oreg., a known nesting locality, but no young appeared (DMF). Possibly the second sighting for Idaho of a **Mountain Plover** occurred May 29 about 35 mi n. of Arco (KM). A **Ruddy Turnstone** turned up in an irrigated field near Osgood, Ida., June 21 (MRC). A **Whimbrel** at L. Helena July 16 was the first ever for that area (SM, GH). Five pairs of Upland Sandpipers and two nests with eggs were found in Bear Valley n. of Seneca, Oreg., June 9 (HBN, MK). The species also appeared on the Reedpoint Breeding Bird Survey, Mont. At Malheur, where shorebird migration began early, there were 200 Willets June 22 but only eight, July 3. Two Red Knots were at Harney L. on the refuge, June 6 (TP, NC). A Dunlin was along the Yellowstone R., near Gardiner, Mont., June 12 (JEQ). Two juvenile W. Sandpipers were at Malheur Ref. on the startlingly early date of July 6 (DMF). Malheur had 2500 migrating Am. Avocets June 22 and Am. Falls Res. in s. Ida., had hundreds June 25. Up to 30 were on the mud flats at the Yakima R. mouth in July. Black-necked Stilt numbers at Malheur were high, supposedly increased by birds forced N by the drought. They nested successfully in several locations near George and in the Potholes area s. of Moses L., Wash. (m.ob.). The species summered at L. Helena, with up to three pairs present with no evidence of nesting (GH).

PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNS — Malheur Ref had 4000 Wilson's Phalaropes June 22 and 13,000 on July 3. Williams L., B.C., had two California Gulls July 15 - 16 (JDW). This species, formerly rarely reported from s.e. Washington, made up about 5 - 10% of the gulls from Central Ferry to Clarkston along the Snake R., probably the result of damming the river (JWW). California Gulls were moving through the Malheur area June 22, when 4800 were seen. No gulls were produced in the California and Ring-billed colony 4 mi s.e. of Burns, Oreg., but the colonies of both species in the Pocatello, Ida. area were mostly expanding their numbers (CHT). One or two Mew Gulls were sighted in the Smithers, B.C. area in July at Upper Gnat L., the Stikine R., and Kinaskan L., (JDW). About 250 pairs of Franklin's Gulls began nesting on Malheur L., but later deserted. One bird was sighted at Taylor Ranch Research Station, n.e. Valley Co., Ida., June 14 (CLE, TT) A Bonaparte's Gull was still at Malheur N.W.R., June 22 (LDN) and an imm. bird was sighted in the Alvard Basin, Harney Co., Oreg., June 10 (HBN). Two Arctic Terns were at Upper Gnat L., B.C., July 8 (JDW). A Caspian Tern, rare in interior British Columbia, was at Tranquille June 6 (GA). The species, becoming rare on the Upper Snake R., in Idaho, was noted only at Island Park Res., two non-nesters June 18, and at Am Falls Res., six non-nesters June 25 (CHT).

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS — The only Band-tailed Pigeons to venture into the Region were one at Malheur June 27 (LDN) and one at Taylor Ranch Research Station May 29 (CLE, TT). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo self-destructed on a glass door at Echo, Oreg.,

about June 19 (RGS, HMS) A Black-billed Cuckoo appeared for a week starting June 23 at Helena (LS, m.ob.) and a road-killed one was found on the Portneuf R. bridge on Highway 30 w. of Pocatello June 10 (JHJ) The first nesting record for Washington for the **Flammulated Owl** was obtained at Scotty Cr. Campground, 5 mi n. of Blewett Pass, Chelan Co., with a pair at a nest hole in early July (DH *et al.*). An adult and a newly fledged young were photographed at Penticton for the second breeding record for British Columbia (SRC) A breeding colony of about 15 Burrowing Owls was found in w. Whitman Co., Wash., July 7 (JWW). Little Bitterroot L., Flathead Co., Mont., had a Barred Owl June 23 through July (BF). Pairs with young were observed near Republic, Wash., June 27 (TW) and near Middleport, Wash., June 29 (TW) & July 10 (RD, RH) One or two were at the bog on Calispell Peak n.w. of Cusick, Wash., June 5 & 23 (JA, WH). A pair of Spotted Owls was inhabiting the forest near Blewett Pass, Wash in June and July (m.ob.). Great Gray Owls nested again at the site in Hodgman Canyon s. of Bozeman, Mont., and brought off one young (m.ob.). One was sighted in s.e. Idaho near Henry's L., July 26 & 28 (MF, JAB, DM) and on Bishop Mt., s. of Island Park (MRC). Short-eared Owls were described as far fewer than usual in the valley s. of Flathead L., Mont., very scarce at Salmon, Ida., and were not sighted in the vicinity of Yakima Indian Reservation. No other reporting localities mentioned them. "Many" Saw-whet Owls were heard near Wickiup Res., 20 mi s.w. of Bend, Oreg., the night of May 28 (GG, DMF).

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS — A half-grown nestling Black Swift was found near Armstrong, B.C., at the Harland Cr. site that normally is protected by a waterfall, but was dry this year (JG). Both species were on the wing at Avalanche Camp, Glacier N.P., Mont Four White-throated Swifts were around a quarry near Kamloops, B.C., June 4 for the most northerly record in the province (GA). The species apparently is becoming regular at Steens Mt., Harney Co., Oreg., where up to a dozen were found in July (DMF). Black-chinned Hummingbirds appeared rather far north and west Three were at Oliver, B.C., June 9 (RC), a male was at Wickiup Res., s.w. of Bend May 29 and the birds were sighted at various spots in Malheur N.W.R., May 22 (DMF, GG). A female was regular at Richland, Wash., through July (REW) and the species was regular at Parker, Wash. (Y.A.S.). An ad. ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird appeared at Windfall Campground, Grant Co., Oreg., July 9 (DMF *et al.*). A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was at Summerland, B.C. in mid-July (RL)

WOODPECKERS THROUGH MARTINS — Lewis' Woodpeckers seemed scarce but were seen oftener than usual at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., where at least three nests were found. An encouraging number of Williamson's Sapsucker sightings came in, including several nesting observations. One, possibly two, broods of White-headed Woodpeckers were raised at Naramata, B.C., in July (EH) and the species was seen regularly at Tieton Ranger Station w. of Yakima

(Y A S.). Sightings also occurred in Klickitat County, Wash., and on Yakima Indian Reservation (EH). Nests of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker were spotted in Hyalite Cr. Canyon s. of Bozeman (EHa, CH); along the S Fork of the Salmon R., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (DAK), and at Calispell Peak bog in that county (JA, WH) The species was noted at Rimrock L., w. of Yakima. An E. Kingbird was foraging along the Deschutes R. at Lapine S.P., Oreg., July 31 (JC). Singing ♂ Least Flycatchers were discovered June 28 at White Mud L., near Colville, July 1 three mi w. of Winthrop, Wash. (TW, FM), June 11 at Heyburn S.P., Ida. (BW, SS *et al.*), and June 16 along the Wenaha R., in e. Oregon (SS). Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash. had several Gray Flycatchers June 18 (EH) and the species was noted at Malheur N.W.R. (DMF). A **Purple Martin** was sighted at Twin Falls, Ida., June 25 (GG).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES — The pair of Blue Jays that wintered in E. Helena lingered until late July but apparently did not nest (GH) but the species bred at Umon, Oreg. (KS). "Thousands" of Clark's Nutcrackers were reported making daily trips from Douglas fir to limber pine forest in the Sun R. region n.w. of Great Falls, Mont. (SH). Several Com. Bushtits were sighted at Lyle, Wash., June 18 and a pair had a nest at Satus Cr., Yakima Co., July 4 (EH). Two nests with eggs and young were located at 5500 ft elevation in the Pueblo Mts., between Fields, Oreg., and Denio, Nev., July 16 (DMF). Two pairs of Pygmy Nuthatches were sighted 6 mi n. of Polson, Mont. (F.A.S.). A Winter Wren at Bishop Mt., 15 mi s. of Island Park, Ida., June 16 apparently extended the known range of the species (MRC). The only Mockingbirds to be noted were two s. of Ellensburg, Wash., near the e. end of Murray Wildlife Recreation Area (DH, KZ). At least three pairs of Gray Catbirds were believed nesting 12 mi n.e. of Pendleton, apparently the westernmost site for Oregon (DSI). Also on the w. edge of the species' range were a pair at Toppenish N.W.R., Wash. (EH), and "many" in the Blue Mts. of n.e. Oregon (m.ob.). Four at Williams L., B.C., apparently were n. of the known range of the species (JDW). A pair of Veeries at the Pendleton catbird site also was w. of previously known sites for the state (DSI) and one was at Satus Cr., Klickitat Co., Wash., July 4 (EH). Western Bluebirds at a farm w. of Spokane occupied 36 nest boxes and brought off 219 young. A ♂ **Wheat**ear was photographed at the entrance road a few miles w. of Malheur N W R., June 22 (Robert F. Ringler).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — A wandering Tennessee Warbler stopped at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash., June 5 (JWW). A **Virginia's Warbler** banded and photographed at Hart Mt., Lake Co., May 29 was Oregon's first ever (LRM). Seebe, Alta, had a Magnolia Warbler May 29 (JJR) and a Townsend's Warbler in the Elkhorn Mts., s.e. of Helena was a rare find (GN, NN). Two N. Waterthrushes were at Crescent Cr. on the e. slope of the Oregon Cascade Mts., June 4 to at least early July and another was on the Little Deschutes R., 12 mi from

Crescent Cr. Camp during the same period (AC, ME, SG, m.ob.). American Redstarts were found in June and July at their nesting areas along Crescent Cr., and at Davis L. (AC), one in ♀ plumage was at Malheur N.W.R., June 11 (HBN, MK), and three were at Cascade Meadows w. of Wenatchee, Wash., June 11 (MC). Bobolinks were again seen at the John Sudan farm e. of Bigfork, Mont. (F.A.S.) and near Salmon, Ida., where they are extremely scarce (HBR). An active **Bobolink** nest was found at Toppenish N.W.R., for the first definite nesting record for Washington (EH) The Tricolored Blackbird colony showed fair numbers at Upper Klamath L., near Klamath Agency, Oreg., after much reduced numbers the last two years (HBN, MK) A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was well described at Kalispell, Mont., in June (BR). Common Grackles were sighted at Twin Falls, Ida., June 25 (GG).

FINCHES — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was sighted at Ketchum, Ida., July 30 (WHS) and a male was in Burns, Oreg., June 5 - 11 (CG). Another male not in full plumage was sighted at Field, Oreg., June 10 - 11 (HBN, MK) and a pair nested at Barnhartvale near Kamloops, B.C. (RR, DL). This is the first breeding record for s. British Columbia and one of very few reports of the species w. of the Rockies in the province. An ad. male was seen at Naramata, B.C., May 29 (SRC) and a singing male was at Helena June 25 (GH). An ad. ♂ Indigo Bunting in riparian habitat in the Sun R. Range n w of Great Falls, Mont., July 31 was the most westerly indication of breeding in the state (SH). Another male was found n. of Spencer, s.e. Idaho July 20 (KM), and a male with some imm. plumage was sighted in Chewelah, Wash., June 25 (JA, WH). What was believed to be a ♂ Painted Bunting was observed at Malheur N.W.R. at a ten-ft distance June 11 (HBN, MK). Purple and Cassin's Finches were together at about 500-ft elevation near Lyle, Wash., June 18 (EH). Black Rosy Finches, some feeding young, were observed in alpine areas of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Oreg. (DMF). Hart Mt., Lake Co., Oreg., yielded two Lesser Goldfinches July 12 (DMF) and at least three were near Lyle, Wash., June 18 (EH). Six - ten White-winged Crossbills were in spruce-fir areas in Franklin Co., Ida. during July (KS)

SPARROWS — A single Green-tailed Towhee was seen at Wenatchee Guard Station, Asotin Co., Wash., July 1. The species was looked for there last year without success (RT). Another was reported on the w. side of Lewis Peak e. of Walla Walla, Wash. in July (KK). Single Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from near Bigfork, Mont. (JSu); in the Nampa, Ida. area (G.E.A.S.), and at Keller Ferry, Lincoln Co., Wash (DAK), but were not found at the usual breeding grounds near Asotin, Wash. Black-throated Sparrow numbers were up in the Alvord Basin, s. Harney Co., Oreg., and two adults were at the northernmost known spot, Wrights Pt., just s. of Burns (DMF). Sage Sparrow numbers apparently had built up well in the Alvord Basin after very low numbers in 1974. A Clay-colored Sparrow was sighted July 2 & 9 near Valley, Wash (JA). Several singing ♂ White-crowned Sparrows of

undetermined race were at Howard L., in the n.w. part of Yakima Indian Reservation June 30 (EH). Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen during June and July in the mountains around Smithers, B.C. (JDW).

OBSERVERS CITED — James Acton, Kathleen Anderson, Gerry Ansell, John A. Beam, Erik H. Bergman, Marcy Bishop, Cathy Bolles, R.J. Butot, Richard Cannings, Steve R. Cannings, Mike Carmody, Dean Carrier, Phil Cheney, Neil Cobb, Mark R. Collie, Alan Contreras, John Contreras, (RD) Richard Donham, (RDr) Rod Drewien, Charles L. Elliott, Mark Egger, Barbara Fenner, Mike Fitzpatrick, David M. Fix, Flathead Audubon Society, Cal Giesler, Greg Gillson, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, James Grant, Sayre Greenfield, Warren Hall, Camille Harper, (EHa) Ed Harper, Dudley Harrington, Steve Harvey, (EHi) Erland Hindson, George Holton, Rick Hudson, Eugene Hunn, David S. Irons, Don Johnson, Joseph H. Jeppson, Daniel A. Knierim, Ken Knittle, Mark Koninendyke, Ray Leiner, Dick Low, Ken MacKenze, Dan Makenna, Sid Martin, L. Richard Mewalt, Fran Morlock, Larry D. Napier, Harry B. Nehls, Gene Nixon, Norma Nixon, Tom Pogsdon, Joyce E. Queckborner, J.J. Riddell, Ralph Ritcey, Hadley B. Roberts, Thomas H. Rogers, Betty Rose, Lorelei Saxby, Hilda M. Saylor, Ralph G. Saylor, Terry Selam, W.H. Shillington, Kimberly Smith, Malheur Field Station, (JS) Jim Stout, Shirley Sturts, (JSu) John Sudan, Tom Thurow, Ron Toonen, C.H. Trost, Terry Wahl, John W. Weber, J. Dan Webster, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society, Vince Yannone, Kathleen Zinn. — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST

/Hugh E. Kingery

The winter's drought spelled troubled nesting for water birds and rosy finches, but congenial summer weather brought successful breeding for most passerines. As Hack said, referring to the central Rockies, it was the first nesting season in several years without a heavy snowstorm in June. Observers reported many non-nesting water birds such as grebes, pelicans, and ducks. The summer brought first nesting records of Cattle Egret in Colorado, Franklin's Gull in Wyoming, and White-winged Crossbill (and possibly Common Grackle) in Utah, the egret and crossbills first for the Region. Nevada had its first state records of Roseate Spoonbills—nine different birds—and of Cape May Warbler.

The National Audubon Society convention in Estes Park, Colorado, attracted out-of-state birders who found some oddities—note Winter Wrens and warblers.

Austin and S. Miller studied nesting success in a section of Las Vegas, and calculated the percentages of nests which fledged at least one young and of eggs vs. young which actually fledged. Generally they reported both fledging categories at 30-40 per cent.

LOONS, GREBES — A pair of Com. Loons produced young at Jackson, Wyo. (BR) for a rare Regional nesting record, and a pair, apparently not nesting, summered at Yellowstone L. (SG). Other unusual June and July records came from Sheridan, Wyo., and Denver, Durango, and Julesburg, Colo. (HD, HEK, RWS, PM, AW). A Horned Grebe summered at Barr L., near Denver, furnishing the first such Colorado record (BA). Eared Grebes nested successfully at Jackson and Cody, Wyo. (70 nests at Cody—UK). At Walden, Colo., they made three separate nesting attempts—123 nests June 30 during the second attempt—but finally produced only five young. Failures occurred twice from avian and mammalian predation and once from man-caused lake level changes for irrigation (PG). Las Vegas had 150 W Grebes June 8 which were gone by the end of June (VM). Scattered flocks of non-breeding W. Grebes summered in Colorado. At each of three new Colorado breeding locations, 1-2 pairs produced young: Alamosa N.W.R. (RLD), Eleven-Mile Res., Park Co. (RAR), and Pueblo (CK).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS — Breeding White Pelicans at Anaho I. N.W.R., Nev., down 44% from last year, produced about 1400 young (LCH) Yellowstone's colony had 305 young, its best since 1970 (*vide* SG). The Riverside Res., Colo., colony increased 20% this year, but had poorer nesting success; 400 young fledged. Perhaps contributing to the reduced production, the adults apparently ranged farther to feed, as fewer used the home lake (GM). A massive die-off of pelicans occurred at Fallon, Nev., with 100+ birds dead, from unknown causes (LCH). Double-crested Cormorants at Bear River N.W.R., Utah, increased their nesting by 25%, with 300 young (RK). Anaho I cormorants brought off 1250 young, down 17% from last year. Riverside's colony doubled, fledging 54 young while other small scattered colonies fledged average numbers (GM).

HERONS — Bear R. produced 350 young Great Blue Herons, down about 50 from last year (RK). Ruby



Lakes N.W.R., Nev., had 41 young, down by 30 from last year (SHB). A heronry at Chatfield Res., near Denver, has increased from nine nests in 1971 to 42 this year, helped by the new reservoir and by a recently-protected nesting site (HEK). Other heronries reported normal nesting, but advanced by 1-3 weeks. In addition to the Louisiana Heron reported in the spring report, Colorado had single birds May 30 and June 16 at Pueblo and Wellington (CK, DAG, CG; MJ; †). July Green Herons visited Las Vegas (four on three days—VM) and Green R., Utah, July 2 (JRG). G. Miller discovered Colorado's first nesting **Cattle Egrets**, one pair which fledged four at Riverside Res. An adult was banded at Alamosa, Colo., June 25 (RAR). A pair of Great Egrets spent June at Riverside, but did not nest (GM). Grand Jct. had a Great Egret July 19 (HA). Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons in the San Luis Valley, Colo., had mixed success; low water and avian predators (owls, crows, magpies), wiped out one colony while a second one nearby produced 300 young. Ruby L. Egrets fledged 115 young. Eastern Colorado had almost no summer records of Snowy Egrets, although Riverside's nine nests fledged 30 young and Barr L. had three nests. Two ad. Yellow-crowned Night Herons, apparently fall migrants, remained at Barr July 23-27 (BA). Colorado had four summering Least Bitterns: one at Boulder June 12 (PM), one at Walden July 7 (PG), and two at Pueblo July 24 (CK).

IBISES, SPOONBILLS — No White-faced Ibises nested in n.w. Nevada, where Carson L., in past years had one of the nation's three largest nesting colonies (LCH). Ruby L. had 300 young, comparable to last year, nesting in a sump coveted by power boaters (SHB). San Luis Valley birds managed only six successful nests (RAR). Abundant at Logan, Utah, ibises frequently fed in flocks of over 200 (only a few immatures observed), but observers could find no nests. The Bear R. colony apparently moved from the refuge to an adjacent gun club, success unknown. A stray Am. Flamingo, escaped from somewhere, fed w. of the Salt Lake City airport July 7 (WWB). Nevada's first **Roseate Spoonbills** trooped in. The first, an immature, dropped into a sewage pond at Mercury June 5-6 (RC, #). Then two immatures, photographed at Overton June 27,



Roseate Spoonbills (imm.), Overton W.M.A., Clark Co., Nev., June 28, 1977. Photo by C.S. Lawson.

stayed to July 31 (CL, RH). On July 1, 30 mi n. of Las Vegas, four stood in the middle of U.S. 93 at 11:00 p.m.; a truck killed two (*U.N.L.V., Nev. St. Mus.), both imm. females (#). Finally, two visited Las Vegas July 11 (VM).

WATERFOWL — Owing to drought conditions, waterfowl and water bird production in n.w. Nevada (including Stillwater W.M.A., Carson L., and Humboldt Sink) plummeted. Compared to 1975 (the last normal year) Canada Geese broods dropped 76%, duck broods went down 81%, Redhead broods sunk by 88% (LCH). Eastern Nevada fared better: Ruby L. produced 14,800 waterfowl, including 1900 Redheads and 1400 Canvasbacks (SHB). Alamosa N.W.R. had duck production similar to last year, and 80 Canada Geese, a 60% increase (RLD). However, observers reported flocks of non-breeding ducks at several reservoirs, and surmised that low water conditions which thwarted nesting attempts at scattered sites had concentrated geese, ducks, and coots at lakes unsuitable for nesting.

Trumpeter Swans in Yellowstone had 50 cygnets in early July, but only nine in late July. While the cause of mortality is not known, if all nine survive it will amount to eight more than last year's production (SG)! Ruby L. had eight cygnets with one pair still sitting Aug. 17 (SHB) and Jackson, Wyo. had four nests but no young (BR). Study of duck success in the scattered mountain ponds is difficult, but Reeser reported that Mallards occupied most of the available habitat in R.M.N.P., with noticeable success. The first summer Com. Goldeneyes in the Region in four years were a summering male at Durango (RWS) and a molting bird at Cheraw, Colo., July 30 (JR, DAG). Four Black Scoters were described from Boulder, Colo., July 29 (TVZ). Kanab had three Red-breasted Mergansers June 4 (SH).

HAWKS — Bald Eagles occupied eight territories in Yellowstone N.P., with four young fledged from three of the nests—the most in six years of study (JS). Sheridan's Ospreys fledged four young—their first successful nesting after two previous failures. Colorado found two new eyries of Peregrine Falcons, the total now ten; in one area six young fledged (WDG, RWS)

CRANES, RAILS — An imm. Whooping Crane spent the summer at Pinedale, Wyo. (BR). Routt County, Colo. Sandhill Cranes had a successful summer, early nesting aided by a lack of spring storms which allowed most to hatch in mid-June (WDG). Jackson's cranes hatched later, with poorer success. Ten stray Sandhills flew over Denver June 4 (PE). Durango reported very poor production by Am. Coots, caused by dropping water levels, and Kanab, Utah, Barr, and Cody reported many non-breeders.

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebirds began returning by late June, the first apparently a Willet and a Greater Yellowlegs at Las Vegas June 19 (VM) and ten Long-billed Dowitchers at Pueblo June 23 (CK). The early movement had by July 31 produced 16 migrant species

at both Las Vegas (VM) and Barr (BA). A dozen Snowy Plovers, including young, ran the shoreline at Cheraw, Colo., July 30 and the San Luis Valley July 23-24, the first recent report of breeding there (DAG). Mountain Plover enjoyed a good year at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Cheyenne, and Pueblo, as well as at a proposed power plant site near Ft. Collins, Colo. (RAR, DAG, AK). At Crook, Colo., the presence of 4-8 Upland Sandpipers in June (JR, AW) implied nesting. Credit for the 50 Spotted Sandpipers at Ramah Res., Colo., June 28, including one nest with eggs, went to discontinuance of fishing and camping (EW). Willets began moving in July, with single birds at Corn Cr., near Las Vegas from June 19 on (VM, CLH), Rocky Ford, Colo., July 4 (DG, CK), and over 100 July 9 at Sheridan (MC), a record big count there. July 4 at Rocky Ford also brought 100 Greater and 200 Lesser Yellowlegs (DAG, CK) At Julesburg, Colo., June 4 were 22 late-migrating White-rumped Sandpipers, and Monte Vista N.W.R. had one July 23 (DAG), one of the few mountain records. Stilt Sandpipers visited Julesburg June 4 (PM), Ramah June 28 (EW), and Rocky Ford July 30 (JR). Yellowstone N.P. had three Marbled Godwits in June and July, the first summer records, but no evidence of nesting (SG). Bear R. reported 50,000 nesting Am. Avocets. Avocets began flocking in early July, with 300 at Ordway during July (JR, DAG). Black-necked Stilts apparently failed to nest in Colorado, but Bear R. had 10,000 nesting adults. Bear R. had a nesting population of 3000 Wilson's Phalaropes. Wilson's had begun flocking by the end of July, with 2000 in Crowley County, Colo (DAG), and 320 at Las Vegas (VM).

GULLS, TERNS — Sheridan again had a summer Herring Gull, July 11 (HD). California Gulls in Colorado improved their nesting success, with 800 young from Antero Res., Park Co., 15 young from a new colony at Eleven Miles Res. (RAR), and 38 young fledged from Riverside—triple last summer's success (GM). Kepler reported 10-20 nesting **Franklin's Gulls** at Cody—the first nesting report for Wyoming although they do nest w. and n. of that state. Hundreds of migrant Franklin's arrived at Jackson in late June, and Crowley County had 5000 by July 30 (DAG, CK, JR). A Bonaparte's Gull summered at Longmont (BA), and singles occurred at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland June 5 (PM) and Sheridan July 19 (HD). Twenty pairs of Forster's Terns at Walden failed to produce any young after three attempts due to the same adversities as met by the Eared Grebes (PG). Eight Com. Terns came to Julesburg June 4 (PM), two to Pueblo June 20 (DAG, CG), and one to Crook June 26 (JR). Of particular interest were single Least Terns at Latham Res., Weld Co., Colo., June 8 (SR) and Prewitt Res., Logan Colo., July 17 (SB). Yellowstone had its best fledging of young Caspian Terns—six birds from 30 nests (SG). Unusual numbers of Black Terns plied the e. Colorado reservoirs during June, the highest count 250 at Julesburg June 4 (PM).

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS — Mourning Doves met with great success throughout the Region, abetted

by good weather. Reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Colorado increased markedly—including a bird June 16 in R.M.N.P. (HTB). In n.e. Colorado, Barn Owls met with success: at 13 nesting sites, Millsap banded 37 birds, mostly flightless young. Flammulated Owls nested again near Florissant, Colo., in a dead aspen too flimsy for bears which preyed on other hole-nesters and not, this year, disturbed by human intervention (RW). Another was seen July 4 at Logan (LRY). Burrowing Owls have departed or decreased at old nest areas (DAG, RFL) while establishing new sites (FJ). Three young fledged from a Great Gray Owl nest at Colter Bay, Grand Teton N.P. (EB). Poor-wills at Leadville, Colo., June 28-30 (WWB) were at elevations much higher than usual.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — Black Swifts appeared in the skies of R.M.N.P., as they do periodically, probably nesting near Cub L. (WR, HTB *et al*). More e. Colorado observers reported Chimney Swifts than they have in the last few years. Wyoming's second **Black-chinned Hummingbird** stayed at a feeder in Rawlins July 12 to at least Aug. 9 (RL †). They may occur regularly in s.w. Wyoming, as few birders study the area and the species is not infrequent in n.w. Colorado and Logan, Utah. The Region's first Rufous Hummingbird came to a foothills feeder near Boulder June 27 (EV); soon they had commandeered perhaps half the feeders in the Mountain West. Despite the aggressive Rufous, Calliope Hummingbirds appeared in unusual numbers at feeders at Jackson, Brighton (GK) and Beaver (nest—CL), Utah, and in the Colorado Rockies. An unexpected ♀ Blue-throated Hummingbird swooped into a feeder near Ridgway, Colo., July 30, four ft from the observers (HEK, UKi) for one of Colorado's few records.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Observers reported improved numbers of most woodpecker species nesting in the Mountain West: Com. Flickers, Red-headed, Lewis', and N. Three-toed Woodpeckers, and Yellow-bellied and Williamson's Sapsuckers. The exceptions were Downy Woodpeckers, with average numbers, and Hairy Woodpeckers, with fewer. Well-described lone Scissor-tailed Flycatchers passed through Barr L., June 20 (*vide* BA), and actively fed near Lusk, Wyo., June 28 (JMo). Another wandering flycatcher, an Ash-throated, moved quickly through the Chatfield heron grove July 9 (HEK). Dusky Flycatchers at Jefferson, Colo., raised two young and one cowbird (CH, KH). Although scarce at Salt Lake City and Boulder, W. Wood Pewees met with successful nesting in most of the Mountain West.

LARKS, SWALLOWS — Horned Larks nest at all altitudes in the Mountain West; this year King estimated 1500 on her ranch on the high plains near Cheyenne, Kelper counted 30 on July 20 on Rattlesnake Mt., near Cody; Hack and Hawkins had a nest at Jefferson in one of Colorado's high mountain parks; and Back found a nest on the alpine tundra near Dubois, Wyo., June 14

Over half the commenting observers reported fewer Tree Swallows, from Sheridan to Bryce Canyon N.P. to Evergreen, Colo.; at Eagle, Colo., Merchant observed a 50% mortality of young in three birdhouses. The 400 Bank Swallows at Latham Res., July 23 was a high count (JR).

S.A.

Cliff Swallows have become the most conspicuous swallow in much of the Mountain West. Flocks now nest along every overpass on the interstate highway from Cheyenne to Casper (RFL), 100 nested on a church in Carpenter, Wyo. (RFL), 27 built on a high school in Boulder (BK) and a comparable, unwelcome, group built on a ranch house at Ridgway. At Jefferson, Colo., 4-8 Cliff Swallows tried to feed the young birds in one nest during July; on July 24, 25 swallows tried. Such altruistic feeding habits, if the young don't burst, may partially explain the burgeoning numbers of these swallows.

CHICKADEES, DIPPERS, WRENS — Although Salt Lake City and Jackson reported a scarcity of chickadees, a pair of Mountain Chickadees at Dubois produced the first nesting record there below the evergreen forest (MB), and Westcreek, Colo. had four nests, more than in previous years (RW). Alles found nesting Com. Bushtits near Lyons, Colo.; flocks of bushtits have occurred in this area of Colorado (like that of July 27 w. of Boulder—OC), particularly in winter, for years, but the closest previous nest locations were at Canon City, 125 mi s., and Glenwood Springs, 125 mi w. Dippers became more common in R.M.N.P., perhaps including some of the birds displaced from the flood-scoured Big Thompson Canyon (WR). At Jackson, they occurred in the usual places, but since many streams dried up in mid-summer, the nesting success was problematical. R.M.N.P. had three reports of singing Winter Wrens (WR; E&CH †)—a species never before reported from the Region in summer in this century. On a B.B.S. near Grand Jct., Rock Wrens have dropped to 25% of their former numbers (DG).

THRASHERS TO PHAINOPEPLAS — Rated as rare in s.e. Wyoming, Mockingbirds have nested for 13-14 years near Cheyenne, a report this year reveals; this year four young hatched, but perished in a hailstorm (MW). The mockingbird at Moose, Wyo., June 1 (BAN) had wandered far from its usual range. Sage Thrashers were common and territorial in Yellowstone N.P., June 4, although not yet recorded as nesting in the park (SG). Boulder County had rare singing thrushes: a Wood Thrush June 12 at Boulder (LH); also at Boulder a Veery June 26 (LH), and at Lyons two Veeries June 28 (DA). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest at Red Rocks P., near Denver, moved the E. Slope breeding range N 100 mi from Canon City (LR, PE *et al.*). Sprague's Pipits were carefully described from Sheridan, one June 10

and five on July 5 (MC). The regularity of Sprague's Pipit reports from Sheridan, and the diligence of Sheridan observers in describing them, documents the species as a regular, scarce migrant there. Nesting of Cedar Waxwings was confirmed in Sheridan, Jackson, Lyons, and Loveland, Colo. Phainopeplas at Kanab, Utah, have increased from one nesting pair for the past three years to four pairs this year (SH). At Las Vegas, 64 nests had 109 eggs, 36% of which fledged. The principal species studied by Austin and Miller, Phainopeplas take longer to fledge after hatching than any other United States passerine.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Colorado's first reported Bell's Vireo nest in many years was found with one egg at Crook June 26 (AW). In the same area eight singing males proclaimed territories within a quarter-mile stretch of the S. Platte R. (JR). Red-eyed Vireos, plentiful at Big Horn, Wyo. (HD), continued scarce in e Colorado, although they continued to nest sparingly along the cottonwood river bottoms (AM, HEK). Yellow Warblers have deserted urban forests in Denver and Salt Lake City, although they continued in normal numbers in their natural riparian zones in the Region. Black-throated Gray Warblers have disappeared from a B.B.S. near Grand Jct. (DG), but at Meeker, Colo., maintained the same population for two years (WDG).

The Region reported a number of stray warblers. Las Vegas had a singing Black-and-white June 18 and a Nashville June 3 (VM). A Tennessee Warbler at Barr L., June 12 was late; another there on July 9 occurred four weeks after or before any other Colorado record, and 725 mi from the nearest nesting area in n.w. Montana (BA). Singing N. Parulas visited Barr L., May 30-June 2 (DK, BRz, BA) and Chatfield Res., June 14 (PE, HK); another stayed at Corn Cr., July 28-31 (VM). A Magnolia, rare in the Colorado mountains at any time, graced Evergreen June 3 (ECT, WWB). Audubon conventioners discovered a pair of Cape May Warblers in R.M.N.P., acting as though it was nesting (KHB, FK, SW); subsequent attempts to locate the birds failed (WR, BK *et al.*). A ♂ Cape May Warbler at Corn Cr., provided the first Nevada record July 26-30 (CL, VM, ph. †#). A Black-throated Blue visited Barr June 2 (BA). Conventioners found a Bay-breasted Warbler in a Kemmerer, Wyo. park June 15 (RRR †), casual in the state, and found a singing Hooded Warbler at R.M.N.P., June 17 (HTB †). Las Vegas had Am Redstarts June 16 and July 26-31 (VM).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — In n. Wyoming W. Meadowlarks have declined, as have ground-nesting sparrows (BR). Downing reported a drop on her B.B.S., from 1858 meadowlarks in 1975 to 340 this year. An Orchard Oriole stayed at Corn Cr., June 15-July 17 (CL, VM, TV *et al.*). Although Brewer's Blackbirds nest successfully in the Colorado mountains, only a few maintain nesting colonies on the plains and piedmont; Com Grackles have displaced them. At Dubois they are much less common than formerly, and grackles are more abundant. Common Grackles nested for the first time in

the Chatfield heron grove—11 pairs strong (HEK). One at Logan June 3 gave Cache County its first record (MBp, AL ph.). Twelve Com. Grackles at Green R., Utah July 24 included two juvenile birds; assuming that they were raised locally, this offers the first suggestion of breeding in Utah (E&NH). At Las Vegas Brown-headed Cowbirds parasitized 11 of 30 Abert's Towhee nests, one of eight N. Oriole nests, and three of three Black-tailed Gnatcatcher nests found. That's the bad news, the good news is that only 15.4% of the cowbird eggs hatched and fledged (SM, GA). A young cowbird raised by Savannah Sparrows survived a direct attack (accidental) by a tractor at Jefferson (CH, KH). The plains saw an early movement of W. Tanagers from their mountain breeding areas, with one at Julesburg June 26 (AW) and dozens across the Colorado piedmont from July 11 on. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager visited Ft. Collins June 19 (*vide* RAR), and another male perished after crashing into a picture window at Burns, Wyo., June 27 (SA, ph. †). An Hepatic Tanager was at Eureka, Nev., June 19 (AB, *vide* JE). A pair of Summer Tanagers summered at Corn Cr., although no nest was found (CL, VM, TV).

FINCHES — Denver had reports of two different Cardinals during the summer (PE). None of the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported evidenced nesting; they included two at Las Vegas June 22 (CL, VM, TV), one at Rawlins June 26-27 (RL), and one at Sheridan June 25 (HD). Evening Grosbeaks congregated around Jackson to nest; some also nested in the Colorado foothills and in Ft. Collins. They disappeared, though, from Logan and Bryce Canyon. Cassin's Finches nested on the valley floor at Jackson in numbers (BR), and in Sheridan and Dubois, most unusual; they also nested in increased numbers at Bryce Canyon, Westcreek, Jefferson, and R.M.N.P.

S.A.

Rosy Finches may have suffered from the deficient winter snowfall. Brown-capped were reported less numerous on 14,000 ft Mt. Evans (WWB) and Mount of the Holy Cross (AW), and Back found no Blacks in three days of searching where they had nested in 1948. She reported, "The snowbanks are nearly all melted in our continuing drought. On previous trips the edges of the snowbanks were where we had seen the Black Rosies feeding. We theorized that they must have gone higher, to the snowfields of high glaciated peaks." However, those peaks already support breeding populations; the absence of summer snow in the high Rockies may have adversely affected nesting rosy finches this year.

Red Crossbills returned, with small flocks observed throughout the Colorado and Wyoming mountains. At Logan, for the first time in 25 years, both the spruce and fir produced peak cone crops simultaneously. The

record cone drop produced not only high numbers of Red Crossbills, but the first evidence of nesting **White-winged Crossbills** in the Region. With about 40 White-wingeds present, Smith banded 19, with both males and females evidencing breeding condition. Other White-wingeds were seen w. of Salt Lake City July 10 (GK), and s. of Yellowstone L., throughout the season (SG) At Las Vegas, 33 nests of Abert's Towhees produced 57 eggs and 25 young (GA, SM). The numbers of Lark Buntings varied locally; in Colorado spotty rains received credit for a 10-year high on the Fleming B B S, average numbers on Nunn B.B.S., and an all-time low on the Briggsdale B.B.S. (RAR). In Wyoming the two B.B.S. reports dropped—from 361 and 541 four years ago to 52 and 382 this year, but the overall population remains about the same; buntings are now abundant in places where previously they were scarce (HD) Observers located small colonies of Grasshopper Sparrows in n.e. Colorado (JR, AW) and Sheridan (HD) Cassin's Sparrows at Crook in early June were suspected of nesting (JR).

ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.S.: Breeding Bird Survey, R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park; †: Detailed description on file with Regional Editor; ††: Detailed description on file with Colorado Field Ornithologists, # Details to be published elsewhere; *: specimen.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and
Kenn Kaufman

What had long been a source of subconscious annoyance reached the conscious level for some of us this summer: namely, the large number of nestling and fledgling cowbirds that one sees annually being fed by other passerines. The situation is perhaps most noticeable in southeast Arizona, where there are two cowbird species, both of which have increased greatly in abundance during recent decades. There one can see the parasites' effects at all elevations from mountain canyons (in the Huachuca this summer Kaufman watched Grace's Warblers, Solitary Vireos and Hepatic Tanagers feeding cowbirds in practically adjacent trees) to the low deserts (where Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, for instance, seem to raise *nothing* but cowbirds).



If it is sometimes assumed that the cowbirds' influence will be felt primarily by the most common birds in an area, this summer provided some striking evidence to the contrary. Example: near Springerville, Arizona, resides the only known summer population of Veeries in the entire Southwest. It is a tiny population, rediscovered in 1975 after a 39-year hiatus, consisting of only one or two pairs so far as known. Actual proof of the species' breeding there was obtained this summer, when Stotz came upon a pair of adult Veeries feeding a young... Brown-headed Cowbird! Another example: the Sonoita Creek colony of Five-striped Sparrows, at a low point in its chequered career, was down to one pair of adults this summer. When Mills found its nest, it contained one sparrow egg and two cowbird eggs. This raises the old, but pertinent question: is it not likely that some isolated local populations of songbirds may be extirpated in this manner?

However valid this depressing thought might be, Southwestern observers could not remain depressed for long this summer—too much was happening for that. For starters, the unfortunate Five-striped Sparrows on Sonoita Creek were overshadowed by the discovery of thriving populations of the species elsewhere in the state. Beyond this, the Region saw nesting Northern Parulas, invading Indigo Buntings, a Berylline Hummingbird that played hide-and-seek with birders and a

Rufous-capped Warbler that did the same, a rash of Hooded Warblers and Ovenbirds, photographic confirmation of *three* Yellow Grosbeaks, two new waterbirds for the Arizona state list, and a new sparrow for the New Mexico list. In the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona, where much of the action occurred, there was also a forest fire which took out about 9000 acres (but spared most riparian areas, e.g. Ramsey Canyon) before being quelled by a force of 1200+ firefighters. We expect one result of the blaze will be the production of more favorable habitat for Buff-breasted Flycatchers

GREBES THROUGH SPOONBILLS — Seven adult and 19 young **Western Grebes** reported at Caballo L., in June and July (WB) provided the first indication of breeding in s. New Mexico. The Least Grebe reported during the winter at Quitobaquito Pond, Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Mon., Ariz., was seen there as late as June 21 (RC). A Double-crested Cormorant seen on the Animas R., near Farmington, N. Mex., June 11 (AN) was the first summer record for that area.

The Lower Colorado Valley (below, L.C.V.) produced records of single imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds June 30, s. of Ehrenberg (AEH,KC), July 9 over Imperial Dam (KVR,PDM), and July 10 at Cibola N.W R (AEH,DW,LC); no obvious differences were noted between these individuals, and some duplication may be involved. The species is a rare, but apparently annual, visitor to s.w. Arizona.

Several score of Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons established an apparently new herony just s. of Albuquerque, with young produced in June (JPH *et al.*). A Cattle Egret at Roswell June 16 (JPH) was in an unusual area for summer. Possibly indicating a new breeding area, a Least Bittern was seen in the Chino Valley n. of Prescott June 20 (SSPe, CST). An ad. **White Ibis** on the Hassayampa R. near Wickenburg, Ariz., June 4 (ST,AG) was probably part of the same movement that brought ten to the Verde R. in May

Southwestern Arizona saw a minor invasion of Roseate Spoonbills, all immatures. On the Lower Colorado R. (below, L.C.R.), five appeared s. of Parker June 18 (PDM), and up to seven remained in that area through July (KVR,AEH *et al.*), while farther s. at Imperial N.W.R., two were seen June 24 (KVR,ML). At Tacna, five were seen June 10 (RRJ), and four were near Sells June 29 - July 4 (VMo *et.*); the northeasternmost individual was one at Granite Reef Dam e. of Phoenix July 24-30 (PB *et al.*). The invasion was thus less extensive, and involved fewer individuals, than the last previous flight in 1973.

WATERFOWL — As usual, a few Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks appeared at scattered points in s. Arizona during the spring and summer, with sightings near Nogales, St. David, Tucson, Picacho Res., and Phoenix. Comparing numbers of this species from one year to another may be difficult, owing to the wandering tendencies of the birds and the large element of chance involved in their being detected by observers. A ♀ Green-winged Teal with a brood seen June 6 at Centerfire Bog, s.w. New Mexico (JPH), established the

first breeding record for the area. Blue-winged Teal summering in unusual areas included 15 along the L.C.R., four at Phoenix, one at Prescott, one at Nogales and one at Willcox; most of these were accompanied by female teal. Anomalous summer records of Wood Ducks in Arizona included a male s. of Parker June 22 (AEH), a pair n. of Imperial N.W.R., June 25 (KVR,ML), a female near Prescott June 26 (CST), and a female near Nogales May 25 - Sept. 15 (KK *et al.*).

RAPTORS THROUGH TURKEYS — During a study of Mississippi Kites in Arizona, Glinski found that 16 young fledged from 16 occupied territories. Most of these were in the previously established colony along the San Pedro R., but two young fledged from two nests in a newly discovered area along the Gila R., near Kearny. RG feels that the future success of the species in the state may depend on the effect of the spraying and clearing of cicada habitat that is occurring, as well as the effect of the proposed destruction of riparian habitat. A♂ and ♀ Marsh Hawk were apparently present all summer near Chevelon Cr., e. of Winslow, in what appeared to be suitable breeding habitat (*vide* DT); there are no Arizona breeding records for this century.

A White-tailed Ptarmigan was reported July 2 on Gold Hill, Taos Co. (Butch Morris). Populations of this scarce species appear to be increasing in New Mexico. Two Turkeys seen June 18 at 4500 ft in the Arizona half of Guadalupe Canyon (S&LB,R&JW *et al.*) were probably wanderers from higher elevations nearby, although it is possible they may have been escapes from isolated ranchos in adjacent Sonora.

SHOREBIRDS — A breeding-plumaged **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at Willcox June 4 (†KK, EC,DSz; ph.DD) for Arizona's first verified record. The occurrence of this species at Willcox was consistent with the Great Plains element in that locality's migrant avifauna; the June date was interesting in that both of the California records known to us have also been in June.

First discovered summering in New Mexico only two years ago, Com. Snipe were recorded again this summer: two were found at Parkview and four near Canyon Lakes, Rio Arriba Co., June 28-29 (JPH). The species is probably more common in the area than suspected, and may also occur in the Sangre de Cristo Mts. A Baird's Sandpiper at Willcox June 28 (GM,KK) established the earliest fall record for Arizona. Apparently a local first was a Stilt Sandpiper, still in breeding plumage, at White Sands Nat'l Mon., N. Mex., July 27 (MW).

GULLS, TERNS — An ad. Heermann's Gull at Tucson June 19 (GM *et al.*) was the first to be recorded in Arizona in summer; there are now records for virtually all seasons. In our preceding report we noted numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls remaining in Arizona through late May. At Willcox the last individual was seen June 19; several were seen through June on the L.C.R., with the last individual seen July 1; and at Phoenix six were seen June 23 (SRD,HL,JW), with one remaining until Aug.

5. These summer records are unprecedented and inexplicable. Ten Black Terns were present in the San Juan Valley w. of Farmington June 6-7 (GS); this species is occasional in summer in New Mexico, and might be expected to breed there.

On June 12, a **Black Skimmer** was discovered independently by two parties on the Colorado R., above Yuma and extensively documented (AL,KC,SF; ph JFD, †C&RI, †SSpt) for the first Arizona record. This record undoubtedly either results from, or reflects the same phenomenon as, the recent proliferation of the species on the Salton Sea.

ANIS, OWLS — A Groove-billed Ani near Chandler, s.e. of Phoenix, July 1 (†RBo) was the only one found in Arizona so far this year; the species is a rare straggler from Mexico, occurring at almost any season.

A Pygmy Owl was heard repeatedly July 27 in the isolated Hualapai Mts. of n.w. Arizona (KVR, AEH), evidently there are no previous records of the species in this section of the state. A Ferruginous Owl was found in mid-June in Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Mon., where the species has nested in the past, but not consecutively (RC). The Saw-whet Owl is infrequently found breeding in the Region, so it is worth noting that a family was netted and banded in the Zuni Mts., s. of Thoreau, N. Mex., in early June (AM).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — The roosting site of the Chimney Swifts in Tucson could not be located this summer, and keeping tabs on the birds was thus difficult; however, single individuals were seen as late as July 11 & 15 (DSz, KK).

All three of Arizona's rare-but-regular hummingbird species occurred at the Mile Hi feeders in Ramsey Canyon this summer, albeit briefly. A♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was seen only June 18 (GMcC). A Berylline Hummingbird was present intermittently at the feeders during July, being recorded only July 2-4, 10-11, and 26 (ph.†B&CY, FS *et al.*); this was the fifth summer of occurrence in the United States. for this species A♀ White-eared Hummingbird came in June 18 and remained through June 20, despite the disturbance of fire-fighting traffic and activity during this time (GMcC, B&CY *et al.*).



White-eared Hummingbird, Ramsey Canyon Preserve, Ariz., June 1977. Photo by Bob and Carol Yutzky

Other Lucifer Hummingbirds noted this summer were a male at Portal during June and July (W&SSpf, F&ER, EAC *et al.*), a female in Guadalupe Canyon June 26 (DSz, SH *et al.*), and a male and female seen during August in the Coronado Nat'l Memorial (DD). The recent increase in Arizona records of this species is striking, and may indicate a northward range extension into the state; prior to 1970 there were only two very old records here. A singing ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was in a yard in Silver City June 18-20 (MM). Except for one spring record the few previous records of this recent invader to New Mexico have been in the fall.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A few Acorn woodpeckers may wander to the lowlands at almost any time of year except early spring. An extreme example of this was provided by one seen near the Colorado R., s. of Parker June 25 (AEH, LC, DRC)

An E. Kingbird was seen near Springerville, Ariz., July 29 - Aug. 7 (DSz, GG, MH); individuals of this species have been found in that general area annually for at least the last four summers. Thick-billed Kingbirds were found at four new points of occurrence in Arizona: one was on Cienega Cr., e. of Tucson June 12 (SM), one was on the San Pedro R., near Hereford July 19 (WR, RS, BY); in two canyons w. of Nogales, one was in Walker Canyon June 25 (SM) and three were found Aug. 5 in California Gulch (DSz *et al.*).

Tropical Kingbirds returned to one of their northernmost Arizona breeding localities, Cook's L., between Mammoth and Hayden, where first found nesting in 1975, however (possibly because the "lake" had been drained during the winter), the birds were seen only on May 21 (KK *et al.*) and not subsequently. The species also returned to an area e. of Douglas where first noted last August, with a pair seen July 5 (DD). A pair found near Arivaca, w. of Nogales, June 15 (BH, KK, JW) marked a new summering locality for the species.

At least two pairs of Dusky Flycatchers were found nesting s. of Thoreau, N. Mex., June 8, establishing a new southernmost breeding locality for the state. One pair was unsuccessful, but the other, which fledged young, represented the first successful nesting s. of the Jemez Mts. (JPH, AM). Seven Gray Flycatchers singing near White Oaks, Lincoln Co., June 16 (JPH) were at the s e limit of the species' summer occurrence in New Mexico. Five pairs of W. Flycatchers were found nesting July 7 in collapsed lava malpais tubes in the cold arid country near Grants, N. Mex., where there are only scattered ponderosa pines. This was the first instance of low elevation nesting of this species in the state.

Violet-green Swallows were seen throughout the summer in the L.C.V., at Bill Williams Delta (below, B.W. Delta), and may have bred there (KVR, AEH *et al.*); the species has nested on the California side of the river near Parker Dam. Two Purple Martins seen June 21 over San Rafael, N. Mex., a grassland and lava area, were in an unusual summer habitat (JPH).

CORVIDS, PARIDS — A Purplish-backed Jay was observed June 8, and two on June 10, near the village of

Santo Nino in extreme s.w. Chihuahua (SW). These may represent the first records for that state, although the species is common in adjacent areas of Sonora and Sinaloa. A family of Com. Crows noted at Algodones, Sandoval Co., July 17 (DC) marked a new s. limit of probable breeding for the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico.

Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees were again present during the summer in the Rio Grande Valley near Albuquerque, where both were only recently confirmed as breeders. In addition, both species were found at new s. limits along the Rio Grande in Socorro Co Black-capped near Bernardo, and Mountains at Sabinal (DC). Two Mountain Chickadees were seen July 26-27 in the Hualapai Mts. of n.w. Arizona (KVR, AEH), where the species has been previously unrecorded (and, in fact, noted as conspicuously absent — *Birds of Ariz.*). The Hualapais are some distance from any potential source population, but the chickadees may have arrived there by virtue of winter wanderings to the lowlands; it is perhaps notable that the first records of the species in the L.C.V. occurred last winter.

WRENS THROUGH VIREOS — A Cactus Wren present 18 mi s.e. of Corona June 17 represented a new n. limit for the species in New Mexico e. of the Rio Grande Valley (JPH). A Brown Thrasher at Cottonwood Canyon, s. of Thoreau, N. Mex., June 21 (AM) represented the third summer record for w.c. New Mexico. Seven Sage Thrashers were noted June 9, e of Fence L., a new area of occurrence (JPH); the species has only recently been found summering as far s. as w c New Mexico. A single bird seen e. of Albuquerque July 17 (DBy) was probably an early migrant.

Lowland nestings (below 2500 ft) of Am. Robins in the Southwest are still quite rare. The first known occurrence on the Arizona side of the L.C.V. was registered this summer with a pair of adults feeding young in Willow Valley (n.e. of Needles), June 19-21 (KVR, AEH *et al.*). At least one pair of robins also nested successfully in Tucson, fledging two young (KK, DSz) A pair of Warbling Vireos was found building a nest May 28 near the Southwest Research Station, at 5400 ft in the Chiricahuas (DSz,M&DK); it had been previously thought that this species nested only at much higher elevations in these mountains.

WARBLERS — It is becoming clear that the occurrences of rare warblers are not entirely restricted to the traditional migration seasons. The season for "spring" vagrancy extends well into June. Beyond this, a few out-of-the-way warblers may be found at almost any time in mid-summer; this seems to happen more often with some species than with others.

Records of Black-and-white Warbler in Arizona literally span the calendar; this summer, one was in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahuas, July 2 (PWS, KK *et al.*), and one was near Prescott July 5-6 (CST). Single Ovenbirds were seen on Mt. Union, s. of Prescott, June 14 and on Granite Cr., n. of Prescott, June 28 (both CST); an Ovenbird killed itself against a window near

Gila Cliff Dwellings Nat'l Mon., N. Mex., June 7 or 8 (* to W.N.M.U., *vide* DAZ), and another did the same in Phoenix June 22 (* to U.A., *vide* SRD). It seems that either summer Ovenbirds in the Southwest have an inordinate tendency to hit windows, or else these secretive birds are being overlooked in life. Hooded Warblers appeared in three mountain canyons in Arizona during July, a male in Garden Canyon, Huachucas, July 18-19 (WR,JD,RS *et al.*), a female in Cave Creek Canyon, July 20-24 (EH *et al.*), and a male in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita, July 28 (†KK). These three species appear to be among the more regular summer vagrants in the Region. More notable were a **Worm-eating Warbler** near Prescott July 5-6 (CST), and a probable Yellowthroated Warbler at Kirtland, extreme n.w. N.Mex., June 2 (CS)

Several nesting warblers made news. A pair of N. Parulas settled in cottonwoods on the Rio Grande near Algodones, Sandoval Co., N.Mex., and attempted to breed there during the period May 31 - June 24. Apparently the attempt was unsuccessful. The nest (made of shredded cottonwood bark and other plant material) and a broken egg were collected July 7, documenting this first attempted breeding for New Mexico (DC). In Arizona, a pair of Am. Redstarts on Granite Cr., near Prescott, established the state's second breeding record (CST). Meanwhile, in the area near Springerville where Arizona's first nesting was confirmed last summer, a pair of ad. redstarts was found July 28, but no nest or young could be located (DSz *et al.*).

Some range extensions for the Region's regularly breeding warblers were noted. A Lucy's Warbler seen

S.A.

The greatest enigma of the season involved the first nesting of the **Rufous-capped Warbler** (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) in Arizona. As noted in our preceding report, the state's first sighting of this Mexican species occurred this May, in Cave Creek Canyon. That individual vanished promptly after its discovery; but on July 17, another or the same bird was found about 1.3 mi up the canyon from the location of the May sighting (ph. ME, MC). This bird proved easy for subsequent visitors to find. The reason for its faithfulness to the site became clear when a *nest* with four eggs (to U.A.) was found July 19 (HB *et al.*). However, the adult warbler disappeared a few days later (last definite sighting early on July 23), leaving behind unhatched eggs and a question as to their origin: was this a case of a lone, unmated female building a nest unaided and laying infertile eggs? There were no concrete sightings of two ad. birds (sexes are alike in this species), and no singing male was ever heard in the area, so the possibility cannot be ruled out at this time. More information may be available later.

June 15 at Bent, e. of Tularosa (JPH), marked a new n.e. limit for New Mexico. Three Black-throated Gray Warblers were found near White Oaks, N. Mex., June 16 (JPH); there have been unaccountably few previous summer records in the s.e.-c. section of the state. Single Com. Yellowthroats were found singing on territory in an odd habitat, dense sacaton grass far from water, near Guadalupe Canyon June 19 (JW *et al.*) and in lower Gardner Canyon June 25 (KK, EC); a similar situation was noted near Bisbee in 1940 by Gale Monson (*Condor* 44: 224) but we know of no recently reported cases. Belatedly, we report a Red-faced Warbler seen June 19, 1976, on the n. rim of the Grand Canyon (CJR, CPR), and several seen in May 1977, in the Hualapai Mts (T Fears, *vide* KVR). Both represent apparently new localities for this species, which seems to be gradually extending its range toward the N and W.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — A singing ♂ **Bobolink** was found in an agricultural area s. of Parker June 8 (†AL), a surprising date; the species is a very rare straggler to Arizona in spring. The two meadowlark species occurred sympatrically in June in shortgrass prairie areas of New Mexico, with counts of 17 Easterns to five Westerns near Fence L., Valencia Co., and 222 Easterns to 79 Westerns in Lea County on Breeding Bird Survey routes (JPH *et al.*) There are few records for Orchard Oriole in s.w. New Mexico. Two individuals were observed along the Gila R. near Riverside: a female June 10 and a male June 14 (†ST, AG). Single Scott's Orioles were seen near their n. limits in extreme n.w. New Mexico near Beklabito June 13 (GS) and near Nageezi June 14 (AN, CS).

FRINGILLIDS — A Pyrrhuloxia, considered to be local in summer in extreme s.e. Arizona, was seen in Guadalupe Canyon June 19 (SB, JW), and another was found there on July 24 (WB).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued to be reported in greater numbers than usual from several areas in Arizona: along the Colorado R., near Flagstaff, at Prescott, at Alpine in the White Mts., at Patagonia, Canoa, in the Huachucas; and in w. New Mexico at Farmington, Sabinal and Cliff.

Last summer's score of 38 Indigo Buntings in Arizona (*Am. Birds* 30: 989) pales considerably in comparison to the numbers found in the Region this summer. In the L.C.V. alone, KVR, AEH *et al.* located 55 singing males between Cibola N.W.R. and Topock, and reported that large areas of suitable habitat (as in B W Delta and Topock area) had not even been investigated. Successful breeding occurred at least at Topock, where recently fledged young were being fed July 24-26 (TB, AEH). In the Prescott area, both Indigo and Lazuli Buntings were nesting with very little interbreeding noted (CST). In the Tucson-Nogales axis, at least 22 different individual Indigos were tallied. One or two were seen throughout the summer in the Huachucas area, and at least ten were noted in the Chiricahuas and vicinity. The species was considered "abundant" in the general region of Cliff, in s.w. New Mexico (ST, AG).

Occurrence of the **Yellow Grosbeak** (*Phaeucticus chrysopheplus*) in Arizona and the United States was photographically confirmed this summer, with a male in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., June 4 (ph., PJM, JRM), another in Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., June 15-17 (C&JP, ph. BY, m.o.b.), and yet another, an imm. male, at Prescott July 26 (ph., VMi). (The Ramsey Canyon bird, studied carefully by many, showed no unusual feather wear, toenail growth, tameness, or other signs of recent captivity.) This brings to six the number of records we find convincing. One of these, not previously published, was of a ♀ -plumaged bird on Sonoita Cr., near Patagonia June 21, 1975 (†SCa, EAC *et al.*).

When the first of the Yellow Grosbeaks appeared on Sonoita Creek in June 1971, it was stigmatized as a possible escape from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum—not a very plausible theory to those familiar with Arizona geography; the possibility of an escapee from a cage in Nogales, Sonora, was more problematical. But the records that have accumulated since have consistently been in “logical” places for wild strays from Mexico (i.e., riparian trees or mountain canyons). All have been during July—except the Prescott bird, which was farther n. and correspondingly later. Since the northernmost populations of Yellow Grosbeaks in s. Sonora are migratory, nesting during the rainy season of mid-summer, it seems likely that the Arizona records represent north-bound migrants “overshooting” their normal range.

An ad. ♂ **Varied Bunting** found June 12 at Glenwood, N. Mex. (D. McKnight), was the northernmost ever recorded in summer. A ♂ **Painted Bunting** near Las Cruces June 7 - July 4 (Barbra Steinaut *et al.*) established one of the few recent records for that area. Several Evening Grosbeaks seen June 8 in Cottonwood Canyon, s. of Thoreau, N. Mex. (JPH, AM), were unusual for the area; while between one and two Cassin’s Finches at the same place during June and July (JPH, AM) were the first for the Zuni Mts. and a new s. limit for the species in summer. The species may be breeding in that vicinity. A Savannah Sparrow was noted July 11 near Parkview, extreme n. New Mexico (DBy), an area of infrequent summer occurrence. A singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrow was found June 25 e. of Cloverdale, N. Mex. (J&WM); judging by the location this was possibly *A. s. ammoregus*, the breeding race of s. Arizona and n. Sonora. The only previous summer record for the species in s.w. New Mexico in-

involved an 1880 specimen taken near Silver City. The discovery of nine Vesper Sparrows near White Oaks, N. Mex., June 16 (JPH) marked a new southeasternmost limit of summer occurrence for the species in the Region.

Although the position of the Sonoita Creek colony appeared more precarious than ever, a remarkable series of discoveries elsewhere brought about a major revision in the known status of the **Five-striped Sparrow** in Arizona. The discovery of a Five-striped in lower Sycamore Canyon June 12 (BH) led to a major search, coordinated by Scott Mills, of that and similar areas. By summer’s end no less than *forty* territorial males had been located in four canyons in the Atascoca Highlands region w. of Nogales, plus another two on the w. side of the Santa Rita Mts. As remarkable as these records are, we are not at all certain that these “new” localities represent actual range extensions on the part of the birds. All of the localities involved are remote, relatively inaccessible, and had been virtually unexplored in summer previously, the sparrows may have been there all along.

Cassin’s Sparrows, formerly seldom recorded in Arizona during June, were heard singing on the w. side of the Chiricahua Mts., June 7, and in lower Guadalupe Canyon June 19 (R&JW). Usually silent until after the rains of July, rain in June this year may have contributed to their making their presence known earlier than usual. The species was detected earlier than usual in New Mexico as well. Eight were in the Mimbres Valley June 11 (JPH), 28 on the Jornada Experimental Range June 15 (WB, W. Pilz), and one at San Simon Cienega June 23 (JPH).

Two Gray-headed Juncos were found July 26-27 in the Hualapai Mts. of n.w. Arizona (KVR, AEH), where no form of junco is known to breed. A new area of summer occurrence for the Brewer’s Sparrow was Fence Lake, w.c. New Mexico, where seven were found June 9 (JPH).

Botteri’s Sparrow was added to the New Mexico state list June 23, when SMR found one near Rodeo. At least two pairs (and possibly up to six) found in the area June 25 (J&WM) were present through July and apparently nested successfully. At least one Botteri’s was found singing among Cassin’s Sparrows in a pasture at 5000 ft, 50 km n. of Chihuahua, Chi., Mex., June 23 (J&WM)

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ALASKA REGION

/Daniel D. Gibson

The summer was warm, sunny, and dry throughout most of the Region and was described by many observers as relatively quiet and unexciting. It did have its peculiarities though. Characteristically, spring migration did not taper off until mid-June, so many exciting records were not 'nesting season' phenomena. Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, a famous migrant trap because of its location and topography, produced numerous spectacular records at the end of the spring migration in early June.

Elsewhere, the widespread movements of several ducks (e.g., Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck)

this spring resulted in further widely-scattered records of these species in summer. In fact, many observers mentioned larger numbers of ducks. At Barrow, for example, Pete Myers described the situation as being inundated by duck species for which there had been few previous records, particularly dabblers, and as being a lower-than-normal year for several normal breeding species (e.g., Oldsquaw, Steller's Eider).

In central Alaska and on the Seward Peninsula there were extensive forest fires in midsummer, but their effects on breeding birds could only be guessed.

There are many palearctic species discussed in Alaska that are not found in the 5th A.O.U. Check-list and supplements. The reference used for names of all such birds discussed in these reports is Vaurie's two-volume *The birds of the palearctic fauna* (1959, Passeriformes, 1965, Non-Passeriformes).

GREBES, GADFLY PETRELS — A Pied-billed Grebe was present on Portage flats, Anchorage area, from at least June 5 (SS) - 27 (RJG), the first Alaska record w. of Southeastern where it is a rare fall migrant. Seven Scaled Petrels were reported from the Kodiak-Homer-Seward ferry June 16 (WCR & RWS *et al.*), a good count. The species is a regular uncommon high seas summer visitor off the Alaska Pacific coast, but it does not occur regularly close inshore in any areas except, apparently, the n. Gulf of Alaska, still within direct influence of the Alaska Gyre.

WATERFOWL — Ducks were newsworthy this summer, as many species, both dabblers and divers, occurred in greater-than-usual numbers and in peripheral areas "Prairie" ducks were particularly involved, apparently a result of drought conditions to the e. and s. of Alaska.

Mallards and N. Shovelers were both widely commented on as being slightly more common than usual Pintails, which were more than normally common migrants in s., c., and w. areas of the state this spring (q.v.), were similarly more numerous at Barrow this



spring and summer (e.g., 150 birds June 4, JPM & DE & WDS) There had been only about five Barrow records of Am Wigeon before this year, so a female on May 29 and at least 14 birds seen June 4-6 (JPM & DE) were clearly part of this phenomenon. Blue-winged Teal were widely reported from the Stikine R. (SOM) and Juneau (FAG), to the Copper R. Delta (REI) and McKinley Park (PP & GP, *fide* KK). There are few breeding records, so a female with brood at Tiedeman Slough, Copper R. Delta, was of interest (PGM).

Canvasbacks were seen in pairs and small flocks as far n and w. as Cape Krusenstern, on the Chukchi Sea coast, in early June (PGC & CSC); Redheads were reported at Juneau in June (DEM, *fide* FAG), and three were observed at Cape Krusenstern June 26 (PGC & CSC), and at least two pairs of Ring-necked Ducks may have bred in the Cordova area (REI). A pair of Ring-neckeds at St. Paul I., Pribilofs, June 9 (BFK *et al.*) & 13 (RWS) was amazing (but see also spring).

EAGLES — The pair of **White-tailed Eagles** at Attu I., w. Aleutians, in May (see spring) was subsequently recorded in the same valley at intervals throughout the summer; pair June 19 & July 6 and one bird July 7 & 16 (TGT)

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — On the Stikline R., s.e. Alaska, calling Soras were recorded at Barnes L., one June 15 (SOM), and along Ketili Cr., four June 16 (SOM), suggesting that this species may breed in some years Killdeers were reported well beyond the normal breeding range, singles at Kaktovik, n. Alaska, in June (*fide* AJM) and at St. Paul I., June 9 (BFK *et al.*). Birds bred at Fairbanks (see spring), only the second such record in c. Alaska, and a pair was seen at Kasilof July 23 (MAM, DBM).

There were many records of rare sandpipers as late spring migrants or summer visitants, a function of increased observer coverage at certain points, e.g., Far Eastern Curlew (one, Amchitka I., June 13, GWE & JTC), Great Knot (one, St. Paul I., May 26, WER; one, Gambell, June 8, LGB *et al.*), Temminck's Stint (one, Buldir I., May 25-26, RPS *et al.*; one, Gambell, June 4, RWS, one, St. Matthew I., July 28, RJG), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (singles, Gambell, June 1 & 9, BFK *et al.*). At interesting localities were a Rufous-necked Sandpiper at Nelson Lagoon, Alaska Pen., far s. of the breeding range July 9 (REG) and a Polynesian Tattler at Pt. Barrow June 19-20 (RJB), the second arctic Alaska record. A Terek Sandpiper at Anchorage June 18 (RWS, TVH, JB) was amazing, the first Alaska record e. of the Bering Sea

Pectoral Sandpipers were present in low breeding densities at Barrow, with males' territories at least twice as large as in years of normal densities. A very large wave of birds of both sexes arrived in late June, and some nesting commenced then (JPM, DE, WDS). Probably related were large numbers of nonbreeding Pectorals present on flats of the Copper R. Delta until June 19 (REI).

GULLS — Slaty-backed Gulls were widely reported this summer, probably another result of increased

observer coverage (but the birds *were* more numerous than usual in the w. Aleutians). Singles or twos or threes (usually, but six at Gambell June 4, BFK *et al.*) were reported from the w. Aleutians (DDG, GEH, TGT) and Bristol Bay (adult off Unimak I., June 19, RAM) n to the arctic coast (adult at Barrow, June 24-26 and July 2-6, DE, WDS, JPM, GEH) and as far e. as Prudhoe Bay (subadult, July 31, JPM, WDS). In a summer in which sea ice disappeared at Barrow very early (late June), it is peculiar that Ivory Gulls, which are ice-related birds and casual summer visitants there even in normally ice-bound summers, were recorded there three times in late June and early July, up to two birds (JPM)

GOATSUCKERS — A first for Alaska and certainly one of the most astounding finds of the year was a ♂ **Jungle Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus indicus*) found dead in the Buldir wrack line May 31 (RHD, EPK, *U.A.M.)

SWALLOWS, THRUSHES — Cliff Swallows, which have expanded their breeding range in recent years, overshot N (one, Barrow, July 6, JPM *et al.*) and W (one, Buldir I., June 28, TGT *et al.*) Following records in the Aleutians in May (*q.v.*), a Dusky Thrush was seen at Gambell June 4-6 (BFK *et al.*), at least the eighth Alaska record. A Swainson's Thrush at Pt. Barrow June 8 (DE & WDS) was a second record at that location.

MUSCICAPIDS, WAGTAILS, SHRIKES — A **Dusky Warbler** (*Phylloscopus fusatus*) was studied at length at Gambell June 6 (BFK, DWF, RWS, WCR *et al.*). Details of this first Alaska sighting will be published elsewhere. A few Gray-spotted Flycatchers (see spring) were present in the w. Aleutians into mid-June, latest one at Buldir through June 29 (TGT). A Gray Wagtail at Gambell June 6-7 (RWS *et al.*) was the sixth state record, the only report this year. Another first for Alaska, a **Brown Shrike** (*Lanius cristatus*) was present at Gambell June 4-6 (BFK, DWF, RWS, WCR *et al.*) Details elsewhere.

WAXWINGS THROUGH FINCHES — Bohemian Waxwings began to appear in the Cordova-Copper R. Delta area in early June and by mid-July they were present in invasion numbers, with flocks of up to 70 present over a wide area (REI). The species was common in c. Alaska all summer, but it was not clear if larger-than-normal numbers were present in other areas as well Common Rose Finches, recorded irregularly in spring at Gambell since 1973, reached an amazing high of 18 birds June 6 at Gambell (BFK *et al.*), an estimated six males and 12 females. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Pt. Barrow June 6 (DE, WDS) furnished the first record of the species in arctic Alaska.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Eugene Hunn and Philip Matlocks, Jr.

The Region continued into the breeding season in the grip of drought. At Seattle June and July rainfall was but 43 percent of normal (0.96 in.) and temperatures were 1.9° F above average. Dry conditions were somewhat moderated in July, and their impact on bird distributions was not obvious.

Owing to a temporary breakdown in communications during the transfer of editorial duties, this summary does not include the observations of many Vancouver, B.C., collaborators. Highlights missed here will be included with the fall summary. Non-standard abbreviations used are: S.J.C.R., South Jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., Oreg., and V.I., Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Common Loons nested at Pye L., n. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT) and may also have nested at two lakes near Victoria, V.I. (*vide* VG). Common and Arctic Loons were still moving N past Oregon and Washington coastal points through mid-June. The few Common and Arctic Loons were joined all summer on salt water by numbers of Red-throats along Oregon and Washington coasts and about Victoria. Six **Yellow-billed Loons** in both nuptial and basic plumages were reported in late June and July at several points on the Queen Charlotte Is. shores (B.C.P.M.). There is but a handful of previous summer records for the Region. A few Red-necked Grebes summered near Victoria (RS, JTa), while single Horned Grebes were reported from Tillamook Bay, Oreg., Ocean Shores, Wash., and Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. Western Grebes were notably scarce this summer at Bellingham, Wash. (TW), but 300 were at Pt. Grenville on the Washington coast July 9 (G&WH), a good mid-summer concentration. A Pied-billed Grebe nest was reported from Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, Oreg., and five were found in the Victoria-Saanich area.

Black-footed Albatrosses were noted off the Queen Charlotte Is., five on June 19 (B.C.P.M.), and by Terry Wahl's Westport trips, June 26 & July 17 (68 each). TW's two cruises also reported N. Fulmars (6, 38) and Pink-footed Shearwaters (129, 117) as well as a few Flesh-footed Shearwaters (1, 2), which are rare but regular visitors offshore May through October in the Region. Only Sooty Shearwaters were reported inshore. He reported that storm-petrel numbers have been down all year; Fork-taileds were noted June 26 (2) & July 17 (23) off Westport, but no Leach's were observed.

Both Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants nested in good numbers on Mandarte I., S.) Georgia Straits, B.C., with 840 and 501 nests respectively, June 22



(B.C.P.M.). The Pelagic Cormorant also nested on the nearby Race Rocks, with 389 nests on June 21. Brandt's Cormorants were unusually scarce in the Victoria and Saanich area (VG). Also noteworthy were 20 Pelagic Cormorants in s. Puget Sound near Olympia all summer, although no nesting was noted (BH-T, G&WH). Green Herons were well reported n. to Agassiz, in the Fraser R. valley, B.C., where there were four on July 10 (MS). The high count was along the Chehalis R., near Oakville, Thurston Co., Wash., July 22 (G&WH). Only one Great Egret report came in, a single bird at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., July 28 (DI, DFi).

WATERFOWL — Mute Swans in the S. Vancouver I. colony numbered at least 48, including six half grown young July 23 (*vide* VG). Two **Trumpeter Swans** were found near Elma, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 11 & July 12 (G&WH, KB), and one immature was near Gold R., on the w. side of Vancouver I. all summer (HT). Neither bird was injured. An odd-plumaged Brant was noted in Lincoln County, Oreg., at the Salmon R. mouth June 12 (DFi). Other Brant reported were six at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 11 & 24 and July 15, and singles at Victoria, June 1 & July 6. These are normal numbers. It should be noted that summer Brant plumages are frequently not reliable for subspecific identifications. A healthy **White-fronted Goose** at Ocean Shores June 11 & 24 (G&WH) provides the first June record for Washington. A second White-fronted Goose, a sickly adult, was at the S.J.C.R., July 16 (HN, CS).

Blue-winged Teal were unusually numerous along the Oregon coast (*vide* HN), and a pair at the Applegate R. mouth, Josephine Co., June 11, was a first for that southern location (SS). Blue-winged and unidentified female teals bred at several S. Vancouver I. locations (*vide* VG). The Hoges reported a Blue-winged or Cinnamon brood brooding the Black R. current near Oakville, Thurston Co., Wash.; unusual habitat for a puddle duck. A ♀ N. Shoveler with six young at Cannon Beach, Oreg., provided an unusual nesting report w. of the Cascades. The young were grown by July 30 (*vide* HN). A second brood was reported at Seattle's Montlake fill July 4-10 (EG, KB). A Wood Duck brood at Progress, near Portland, Oreg., June 23 was the only nesting report received (DFi). Five ♂ Ring-necked Ducks in three s. British Columbia locations June 4-18 suggested the possibility of breeding (RS, CRu, RRo, HT, KC), a rare occurrence in the Region. A few Pintail and Am Wigeon summered on Vancouver I., as usual. So did scattered Greater Scaup and Com. Goldeneye; the scaup were noted in Oregon and Washington as well with 75 at Ilwaco, Pacific Co., Wash., June 17, a high count Barrow's Goldeneyes raised young on mountain lakes in Manning P.P., B.C., and near Santiam Pass s. of Mt Hood, Oreg. A ♀ Bufflehead in Seattle until June 29 (EG), and single Oldsquaw in early July at two localities in s. British Columbia and a male in Tillamook County, Oreg., were notable summer stragglers.

Good numbers of Harlequin Ducks summered throughout Georgia Strait; the high count of 150 was at Mandarté I. (JSm, *vide* VG). No nests were reported. White-winged and Surf Scoters summered all along the coast and into Victoria as usual. High counts were 120 White-winged in Oregon at Cape Lookout June 15 (HN, CS), and 104 Surf Scoters at Victoria's Clover Pt., June 1 (RS, HH). The only Black Scoters were three well n. in Georgia Straits, July 7 & 28 (HT), with one at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., July 31 (ME). Hooded Mergansers nested in Oregon, near Forest Grove, Washington Co., in Washington near Oakville, Grays Harbor Co., and on Vancouver I., n to Campbell R. Common Merganser broods were also reported from Oregon; two at Cannon Beach, Clatsop Co., and one near Forest Grove, in Washington near Oakville (2 broods), and in British Columbia on s. V.I.'s Sooke R. (several broods) and Cowichan Bay (also several broods).

DIURNAL RAPTORS THROUGH QUAIL — Goshawks nested in Oregon near Zig Zag, Clackamas Co., where an adult was feeding a juvenile June 16 (ESc). Singles were also noted in Washington near Packwood, Lewis Co., and in British Columbia near Campbell R., V.I. The seven Sharp-shinned Hawks reported were all on V.I. There were three Cooper's Hawks reported also, one at Olympia, Wash., and two from Victoria, B.C. The precise nesting status of these species in the Region needs further study. Two Red-tailed Hawk nests were cited, both by Vancouver I. reporters. Single Golden Eagles were reported in Jackson County, Oreg. (ME), and at three Vancouver I. locations. A summer concentration of Bald Eagles at

Active Pass in Georgia Straits had a minimum of 74 on June 4, forty-four of which were immatures (RS). Other reports came from scattered Vancouver I. sites, the Washington coast with 13 in Clallam County, June 27-July 5 (ME), and s. to the Salmon R., Lincoln Co., Oreg. A pair of Marsh Hawks at Ocean Shores, Wash., all summer was noteworthy although no nest was found. There were three other w. Washington sightings, and Vancouver I. also reported an individual. Eight known Osprey nest sites on s. V.I. were checked. Two were successful, three were not, and the success of the remaining three was uncertain (HT, VG, RS). More than 30 individuals were noted in Washington and Oregon with notable concentrations the 15+ counted along the Rogue R., s. Oreg. (ESc), and the eight along the outer beach of Clallam County, Wash. (ME). These are good numbers. Few falcons were reported. The single Prairie Falcon in Deschutes County, Oreg., July 18 was just e. of the Cascades crest (ME), and three Merlins were reported from V.I.

Four Ruffed Grouse broods on V.I. were noted HT reported a good year for Ruffed Grouse around Campbell R., V.I. The Bobwhite in Washington is apparently widely distributed in prairies and clearcuts in Thurston and Pierce Cos. BH-T found nine calling males at two new locations there this summer. The northernmost California Quail was a pair near Courtenay, V.I. (LS, HT). Mountain Quail were reported only from Lincoln County, Oreg., and near Malahat, V.I., where they are probably remnants of an introduced population.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Virginia Rails bred in Oregon (at Progress near Portland), Washington (Nisqually N.W.R.), and Vancouver I (Saanich). An ad. Virginia's and breeding Soras were at Beaver Pond, Manning P.P., B.C., July 4 (RS). American Coots bred at Saanich, V.I. for the only nesting reported.

Black Oystercatchers were common and nested at several points in the Victoria area. No Semipalmated Plover nests were reported, but low numbers were present on Iona I., B.C., through mid-June, and large numbers were along the Oregon and Washington coasts after mid-July. In contrast, numbers at Victoria in late July were eight this year compared to 37 in 1976 (*vide* VG). Snowy Plover bred successfully at its n. outpost at Ocean Shores with four pairs nesting and three young banded (JaS). The Am. Golden Plover at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., June 17 was unique (HN, DFi, EW). Black-bellied Plovers summered throughout coastal areas and the Georgia Straits with the high count 70 at Leadbetter Pt., June 17. A trickle of fall migrant Ruddy Turnstones was noted in late July, with two in Grays Harbor, Wash., on the 14th, a record early date for the state (BH-T). A Black Turnstone held on at Ocean Shores until June 11, a record late spring date, while the first fall bird was a single there on July 15 (G&WH). The Long-billed Curlew July 26 at the Komo Kulshan Guard Station in Washington's N. Cascades defies explanation (BU, *vide* TW). A few Whimbrel were reported from several localities on the s. Washington coast throughout

June, and by mid-July hundreds had gathered at Ocean Shores and Leadbetter Pt. in fall migration.

Spotted Sandpipers bred at Progress, near Portland, at Seattle's Montlake fill, and at several Vancouver I. points. A single Solitary Sandpiper July 25 near Monroe, King Co., Wash., was the only one reported of this scarce migrant (MC). Both yellowlegs were widely noted in July, probably early fall migrants, although five Greater Yellowlegs June 17 at Leadbetter Pt. may have summered. AC found an unusually high percentage of Lesser Yellowlegs at inland Oregon locations. The first Wandering Tattler returned to s. V.I., July 13 (M&VG) and had reached the S.J.C.R. by July 30 (HN). The only Willets were one at Ocean Shores June 11 (G&WH), and six in Oregon at Yaquina Bay July 31 (ME). This species is rare n. of the Columbia R. Fourteen Surf-birds returned to Ocean Shores July 15 (G&WH) and 37 to the Victoria area on July 18 (RS). Red Knots apparently summered at Ocean Shores as 20 were there June 11 & 24 (G&WH). Sanderlings returned early and in large numbers with the vanguard of 500+ at Ocean Shores July 15. Unusual numbers were observed at Willamette Valley, Oreg., reservoirs in late July (AC), perhaps attracted by the extensive exposed mud produced by the recent drought. Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen in Seattle July 10-11 (KB†, FK). Small numbers of Semipalmateds pass through the Region in both spring and fall. However, there is great danger of confusing them, especially in fall, with the gray, short-billed, juvenile ♂ Westerns. The vanguard of fall Western and Least Sandpipers appeared at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, B.C., July 7, when MS counted 6500 Westerns and 3000 Least. The only Baird's Sandpipers were in Oregon; three at Agate L., Jackson Co., July 30, and three more at Yaquina Bay July 31 (ME). A lone Pectoral Sandpiper was early at Saanich, V.I., July 21 (M&VG). A very few Dunlin apparently summered on the s. Washington coast, although the single near Nanaimo, V.I., July 20 may have been an early fall migrant. Short-billed Dowitchers are clearly the common summering dowitcher. From 40 to 100 individuals were seen on the Washington coast throughout June, and BH-T saw a cloud of 3000 on an island in Willapa Bay, Wash., June 29. The Short-billed also beat their Long-billed kin back to the Victoria, V.I., area by two days, arriving July 5 (MS), and then outnumbering the Long-billed there through the end of July (RS, VG). By contrast the Long-billed is far more frequent in late fall and winter. The single **Stilt Sandpiper** at Yaquina Bay July 28 was seen by several observers (DFi, DI, BO). Marbled Godwits were noted only at Ocean Shores where 28 lingered through June 24 (G&WH). Phalaropes were few and scattered. TW had two Red and three N. Phalaropes off Westport July 17. VG and RS make a strong circumstantial case for nesting by Wilson's Phalarope on a pond at Cowichan Bay, V.I., where a territorial male was encountered July 7 and three young were noted July 20-23.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — TW's pelagic trips had good variety but small numbers of jaegers

June 26 & July 17 out of Westport. Pomarine (1, 7), Parasitic (0, 2), Long-tailed (0, 3), and "South Polar" Skua (2, 5). (For a recent analysis of the West Coast Skuas see *Auk* 94:417). The earlier skuas furnished the only recent June records for these waters. Otherwise, a single Parasitic Jaeger was found by MS in s. Georgia Strait June 30.

Glaucous-winged and W. Gulls continued their miscegenating ways! The large Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay island colonies appeared thoroughly and randomly mixed (BH-T). To the south, two apparently pure Glaucous-wingeds showed up in a Cannon Beach, Clatsop Co., Oreg., Western Gull colony (DFi). In Puget Sound, however, Glaucous-wingeds are all alone; a 50% reduction in the Swinomish, Snohomish Co., colony was thought owing to food supply reduction (TW). On V.I. only Glaucous-winged Gulls were reported nesting, with 423 nests counted on Race Rocks and 1666 on Mandarte I. (B.C.P.M.). California Gulls apparently move to the coast down the Columbia R., from their inland breeding colonies, beginning to arrive about mid-June (HN, DFi). By July 21, 7000 adults were counted in the mouth of Willapa Bay (BH-T) and 5000 were at the S.J.C.R., July 30 (HN). The importance of the Columbia R. route versus the Fraser R. in British Columbia is highlighted by the low numbers noted on V.I. in late July.

A new nesting species for the Northern Pacific Coast Region is the **Ring-billed Gull**. Jack Smith of the Washington Dept. of Game discovered 20 nests on Snag I., Willapa Bay, in 1976. That site had none this summer, but nine nests with photogenic eggs and chicks were among the Caspian Terns on Whitcomb I., in Grays Harbor (BH-T). Ring-billed Gulls nest fairly commonly to the e. but are a welcome addition to the Regional breeding fauna.

A few Mew Gulls summered as usual on s. V.I. although no nests were noted. A few fall birds were s. to Yaquina Bay by July 28. Franklin's Gulls were at Victoria's Clover Pt., hot spot July 8, an adult, and again on the 30th, an immature (M&VG, RS). TW noted that numbers about Bellingham were far below normal. However, s. Oregon birders were surprised by three near Medford, Jackson Co., a new location (AC, DFi, ME). How do Bonaparte's Gulls do it? They were still migrating N in numbers at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., June 15, and at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., June 17, but were back at Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay by the hundreds in mid-July. Most intriguing is a possible nesting site at Pye L., n. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT). Bonaparte's Gulls are not now known to nest in our Region. Heermann's Gulls arrived at Ocean Shores by June 11 (G&WH) with numbers building to 5000 adults (with but four immatures) by July 21 in Willapa Bay (BH-T). However, numbers about Victoria were down from last year (*fide* VG). The Huges counted 200 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Ocean Shores throughout the summer, somewhat fewer than normal, and there were none offshore (TW), which is typical. Seven Sabine's Gulls were found out of Westport July 17 (TW) for the only report

A few **Common Terns** are not unusual in mid-summer at coastal points. However, the seven pairs of small terns found nesting on a rough sandy beach on Jetty I., in Everett harbor, Snohomish Co., Wash., by DM June 9 & July 21 were unprecedented. Although the nests and eggs were photographed, it is still not certain if the terns were Common or Forster's. Either would be a Regional first. Forster's breeds e. of the Cascades and is extremely rare at any time on the w. side. Common Terns are not known to breed w. of the Continental Divide, to our knowledge! Adult and juvenile Com. Terns were positively identified at the nest site in late August (KB, PWM†). This and the fact that Forster's Tern typically builds its nest on aquatic vegetation in freshwater marshes points strongly to *Sterna hirundo*.

Two Arctic Terns were noted offshore from Westport July 17 (TW) for the only report. Caspian Terns were noted often in small numbers n. to Neah Bay, Clallam Co., Wash. (BP), and to Cortes I., s Straits of Georgia June 27 (GS). Their center of abundance, however, is between the Columbia R. mouth and Grays Harbor. BH-T counted 2040 nests at the latter location. Only 30 nests were successful in Willapa Bay; a large colony of previous years was apparently wiped out by high water. A single Black Tern strayed to Monroe, King Co., Wash., July 17-22 (MC) and a few were found in the Rogue R. valley, Jackson Co., Oreg., July 30 for the first local record (AC, ME, DFi). A single **Horned Puffin** was seen June 9 and off-and-on all summer in Oregon at Cape Lookout, Tillamook Co. (JG, m.ob.). Another single individual was photographed at Cape Flattery, Clallam Co., Wash., July 2 (RRi). In addition, three small nesting colonies of this species were found by B C P.M. biologists this summer on the w. coast of the Queen Charlotte Is., for a first Canadian and Regional breeding record. This represents an extension of about 100 km S from their previous southernmost colony on Forrester I., Alaska.

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Barred Owls were nesting again at Colonial Cr. Campground, Whatcom Co., Wash., where they were first found in 1974. Another westside Barred Owl location is Cortes I., n.w. of Powell R., in the Georgia Straits, where a single bird was noted June 29 (MS, GS). Short-eared Owls nested this June at Sand Pt., in Seattle, for a local first, but the nest was destroyed by vandals (FS). A pair was near the Ocean Shores Game Range throughout June and was seen in display flight (G&WH). A probable family group was seen near Bellingham July 13 (DMc, fide TW), and other sightings suggestive of nesting came from near Vancouver, B.C.

Up to six Poor-wills at Roxy Ann Butte, Jackson Co.,

Oreg., in our Region's "little California" were unique Black Swifts gave cause for comment. Although fairly common and regular to the n. of the Columbia R., this summer they were noted numerous times and various places throughout w. Oregon (*fide* AC). Anna's Hummingbirds were again present all summer at Saanich, V I., where an immature was seen from June 27 into July (RM-G, *fide* VG) and in Bellevue, King Co., Wash., one-two through July 10 (BM1), but nests were not found. A ♀ hummingbird seen on Leadbetter Pt., at close range but briefly June 17 exhibited some features of both Anna's and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds (HN†).

An Acorn Woodpecker at Cornelius, Washington Co., Oreg., was at the species' n.w. limit (DFi). A Lewis' Woodpecker at the Nisqually N.W.R., June 11 (J&GM) was unusual, since there are no recent breeding records for the Region. The ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker at White Pass in the Washington Cascades June 4 was an e. slope species at the w. edge of its range. Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported only from a restricted area in the N. Cascades. Nests were found July 3 at Hart's Pass on the Cascades crest (MPe), and July 16 near Mt. Baker (DV, *fide* TW), both Whatcom County, Wash. There were four E. Kingbirds at Agassiz e. of Vancouver, B.C., July 10 (MS) and a single at Victoria June 27 (EL, *fide* VG), but no nesting activity was reported. The W. Kingbird, however, nested again at Packwood, Lewis Co., Wash. (G&WH, BH-T), and strays appeared in coastal Tillamook and Lincoln Cos., Oreg., in mid-June (DFi, HN). The four Ash-throated Flycatchers at Roxy Ann Butte, near Medford, Oreg., July 30 were not unexpected (ME), and two Black Phoebes nearby, just s.w. of Medford at Ruch, are regular in that area.

A Bank Swallow in the mountains of Skamania County, 15 km w. of Trout L., July 30 was perhaps an example of post-breeding up-slope drift from the e. side breeding populations (BH-T). Cliff Swallows "increased tremendously this year" at Portland, nearby Sauvie I., and on the Oregon coast (DFi *et al.*), and were present in higher-than-usual numbers near Campbell R., V.I. (HT). Our precious few Purple Martins had an up year with nesting pairs double that of 1976 at Florence in coastal Lane Co., Oreg., at Portland (TL), and in Seattle and Tacoma (DFe). Other colonies held their own, as at Fern Ridge near Eugene, Oreg., at Olympia and L. Whatcom, Wash. At one nest reported from Saanich, V.I., adults were feeding young July 8 (M&VG).

PARIDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Plain Titmice were common near Medford as usual at the n. extreme of their range (ME), and Com. Bushtits ranged N to Campbell R., their n. limit (HT). A White-breasted Nuthatch in Manning P.P., July 3 represented perhaps the fifth park record (RS). The uncommon House Wren increased near Tacoma and nested near Campbell R., V.I. A **Mockingbird** was at Eugene, the last week in July (JC, *fide* AC). Details of a sighting of a **California Thrasher** at O'Brien, Josephine Co., Oreg., June 18,

have been submitted to the Oregon Bird Records Committee (TT, PN, *vide* AC). There are but a few sight records of this species n. of the California line. A Townsend's Solitaire nest with three eggs was photographed June 12 near Crow, Lane Co., Oreg., in the Coast Range where only one previous nest was known (*Condor* 51: 190). The nest was on the ground in a clearcut at ca. 500 m elevation; by June 23 three young had hatched (ph-ME). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested as usual at their n. limit near Medford. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing near McCleary, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 21 was a first for w. Washington in summer (PWM†). It breeds commonly on the e. slope of the Cascades, however, and in the mountains of Vancouver I

Red-eyed Vireos were located again this year on the Rogue R., near Shady Grove, Jackson Co., Oreg., June 13 (SS). This marks the s.w. extremity of their breeding range. California observers should be on the lookout. The Red-eyed Vireo is not uncommon n. through the Willamette Valley of Oregon (AC) and the Puget Sound area, and may be found n. to Cortes I., near Campbell R., V.I. (MS, GS). It avoids the immediate coast and the w. slope of the Coast Ranges, however. Ten Black-throated Gray Warblers on Cortes I., June 28-30 were a bit far w. at this species' n. limit (MS, GS). Hermit Warblers were apparently breeding at two Mason County, Wash., locations, n.w. of the species' favorite haunts. Two were noted at Jarrell Cove S.P., on Hood Canal June 12 (KSc) and three were singing at Staircase Campground, Olympia N.P., June 9 (BH-T). BH-T had Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, and Hermit Warblers all together at the latter site. **Northern Waterthrushes** may nest in the isolated Am. Redstart colony just e. of the Cascades crest in c. Oregon along Crescent Cr., Deschutes Co. (AC, ME *et al.*). This location is several hundred kilometers s. and w. of the nearest known breeding colonies. Yellow-breasted Chats singing near Portland June 5 & 7 were unusual (DFi). A chat was also along the Rogue R., in s. Oregon July 11 (ESc).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — **Bobolinks** on Tatoosh I., Clallam Co., Wash., June 4-5 (2 males, 2 females), provided the second record for w. Washington (BP). Yellow-headed Blackbirds are scarce breeders with us; this year they nested near Vancouver, B.C., and on Sauvie's I., near Portland (DI). A few strays appeared on V.I., n. to Campbell R. A small colony of **Tricolored Blackbirds** nested near Eagle Pt., Jackson Co., Oreg. (CRo, *vide* AC). This location is across the Cascade crest from, and about 75 km w. of the northernmost regular breeding site at Klamath L., Oreg. Northern "Bullock's" Oriole nests were found well n. at Saanich and near Courtenay, V.I., while DFi estimated a population of near 150 for Sauvie's I. The Lazuli Bunting is relatively uncommon in w. Washington and British Columbia; a singing male was at Abbotsford, B.C., June 18 (*vide* VG), two males were found near McKenna, Pierce Co., Wash. (BH-T), while 21 males were near Portland (DFi). Pine Grosbeak reports are always welcome. Three were at Manning

P.P., July 3-5 (RS) and a single male was found at Rainy Pass, Skagit Co., Wash., June 4 (TW). Both sites are on the Cascade crest. Six Lesser Goldfinches were at their n. limit at Scappose Bottoms, Columbia Co., Oreg., June 5 (DFi), and a group was well n. on the coast at Devil's L., Lincoln Co., Oreg., July 28 (DFi). Red Crossbills were well reported throughout, both on the coast and in the Cascades. Outstanding were the 30 White-winged Crossbills at Mt. Rainier N.P., July 14 & 24 (CC†, TB, MD). This species is rare and irregular at any season s. of the International border. Brown Towhees were numerous at the n. limit of their range near Medford (ME, AC).

The ♂ **Grasshopper Sparrow** singing at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., in early June was extraordinary. The bird was last seen June 18 (ph, BMa, AG, JFu, ESi, MW). This species is generally restricted to the arid interior e. of the Cascades where it is uncommon and local. The pair of **Black-chinned Sparrows** reported near Medford in late May was seen again July 23 & 29 (SG, CRo). This is the second report for the Medford area and the species is unknown elsewhere in the Region. The only Fox Sparrows reported were several singing males on the s.w. side of V.I. near the Jordan R. (M&VG). These are no doubt of the race *fuliginosa*, which is said to reach its s. limit of breeding in adjacent coastal Washington. Two ♂ White-crowned Sparrows were singing the *pugetensis* song pattern at Huckleberry Meadows, 15 km w. of Trout L., Skamania Co., Wash., at 1600 m elevation July 30 (BH-T). Probable *pugetensis* were singing just e. of the crest on June 30 at Howard L., Yakima Co., at a similar elevation (ESH). This coastal lowland race appears to be rapidly colonizing clearcuts and other open areas in the s. Cascades of Washington.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jon Winter and Joseph Morlan

The worst drought on record continued unabated, and many waterbirds faced serious nesting failure as available water continued to diminish. Willets and California Gulls failed at Honey Lake (DW) and Forster's Terns failed at Lake Tahoe (WS). However, all was not gloom. With Lake Tahoe four feet below normal water level mud flats that had not been exposed for years attracted an incredible variety of wading birds. Additionally many interesting distributional records were obtained for the mountains.

Some blackbirds, wrens, and warblers were noted as being down in number or absent entirely because their habitats dried up. By in large it was an interesting summer period in spite of the drought, one that produced nesting Yellow-crowned Night Herons, surprising numbers of Black Rails, Bar-tailed Godwit, Wood Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, and Northern Parulas to mention the only most exciting.

LOONS, GREBES, TUBENOSES — A single Com. Loon at Shadow Cliffs P., Alameda Co., June 10 (SFB) was late for an interior locality, but one along the Sacramento R., between Chico and Ord Ferry June 28

(SAL) and two at Topaz L., June 29 (DW) were probably summering. This species is regular in summer along the coast, but it is irregular inland then.

A Horned Grebe at the n. end of Eagle L., June 11-July 3 (DAG,SF), and a pair at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 16 (*vide* MT) were most unusual. Six were found at coastal localities throughout the period. Eared Grebes are irregular on the coast in summer, but one was at the mouth of the Smith R., June 18, and three were at the mouth of the Salinas R., July 17 (PM).

At least three N. Fulmars spent the summer in Monterey Bay and three others were noted near the Farallon Islands (below, F.I.) June 26 (RLeV). They are probably rare but regular in summer. An early New Zealand Shearwater was seen from Pt. Santa Cruz July 28 (TB†). A Manx Shearwater seen from Pigeon Pt., July 9 (Barry Sauppe, *vide* PM) provided only the third summer record for the Region.

PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS, HERONS — Forty White Pelicans at L. Tahoe May 11 - 12 (WS) were in an area where the species is casual. Despite the presence of about 200 eggs at the Goose L., White Pelican colony, there was no evidence of major fledging, and there was no nesting at Honey L. (DW). It was a good summer for Magnificent Frigatebirds, with at least five reported July 12 - 17 along the coast from Humboldt to Monterey Cos. An immature was in Monterey Bay July 12 - 16 (J&RW, Frank Wilson, Paul Kelly *et al.*). Two were at Pt. Reyes July 12 (Liza Riddle, Doug Wechsler) and a female was at San Francisco July 17 (Betty Land)

Single Snowy Egrets at L. Tahoe May 3 & 11 were unusual but 13 there on May 13 (WS) were unprecedented. Three Black-crowned Night Herons were at L. Tahoe July 26 (WS), but an adult there May 13 (WS) appears to represent the first spring mountain record. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron described from Tomales Bay July 5 (Clifford Conly Jr.) furnished only the second Regional record. Vagrant White-faced Ibises were found scattered in unexpected places. One was at Sacramento N.W.R., July 31 (SAL). In Tulare County, one was at Bravo L., June 10 (Alberta and Travis Brown, *vide* RAB), and another was at the Corcoran I.D. Reservoir June 26 (JLi). In Fresno County, one was at Mendota W.M.A. through June 4 (Charles Peck, *vide* RH). One was at Palo Alto June 2 - 17 (WB), and two were at Fish Slough, Mono Co., June 12 (Dean Taylor, *vide* DAG).



WATERFOWL — Crippled Canada and White-fronted Geese summered at Gray Lodge (BED), but a healthy imm. Snow Goose was seen flying into Pescadero Marsh July 6 (PM) and remained until July 10 (AE,GB) for the Region's first coastal summer record. A Snow Goose was also seen along the Sacramento R., in Tehama Co., July 9 (SAL).

Gadwall nested successfully at Pescadero Marsh July 2 (PM). A ♂ Green-winged Teal was at Palo Alto July 24 (JE) where it is rare and irregular in summer. Blue-winged Teal was much more common this summer, and breeding was noted at several new Central Valley (below, C.V.) and coastal localities. At Lower Klamath N.W.R., numbers were up over previous years (*vide* MT) and 12 - 18 pairs nested successfully (David A. Mullen, *vide* LCB). One at L. Tahoe Apr. 14 - 16 was followed by another June 24 - July 1 (WS) for the third and fourth records from the mountains.

A ♂ Canvasback at L. Tahoe July 23 - 26 provided a first summer record for the mountains. Eighteen Canvasbacks were reported summering at coastal localities, and six at C.V. localities. Very rare in summer in the interior, at least two Com. Goldeneyes were found. An ad male was at Tehama June 19 (SAL) and possibly the same bird was at Hamilton City July 2 (SAL). A female was at Friant July 5 (RH *et al.*). Two Buffleheads summered along the coast. One at Bodega Bay July 30 (BDP) was an early fall migrant.

A beached, apparently flightless Oldsquaw was found at Oakland July 31 (SFB,VR). As usual Harlequin Ducks summered in small numbers at Ano Nuevo and Pt. St. George. Only two Black Scoters summered at Pt. Reyes this year. Five there in early June appeared to be late spring migrants.

Common Mergansers are known to breed locally at the n. end of the C.V. but a total of 66, including five broods along the Sacramento R., in Tehama and Butte Cos., June 28 - July 30 (SAL) suggests that they may be more widespread there. Most unusual was a Red-breasted Merganser at Mono L., June 23 (DAG, DDeS). This is the second interior summer record, the first being from the same locality, June, 1976.

RAPTORS, PTARMIGAN, RAILS — California Condors were found regularly throughout the season at the n. limit of their Sierra foothill range in Tulare County, with a maximum of seven seen June 29, which included three juveniles and two immatures (RAB).

Red-shouldered Hawks are rare on the n. coast in summer, but one was at Dyerville June 7 (DA). A communal roost of 19 Am. Kestrels was found in a hole in a eucalyptus in Vallejo July 25 - Aug. 3 (FKB).

After its introduction in 1971 and 1972 at Mono Pass the White-tailed Ptarmigan has spread rapidly and is now known to range along the Sierran Crest from Parker Pass n. to Matterhorn Peak (DAG). It has bred successfully in the Hall Natural Area where three broods were counted (DDeS). They were seen from 10,400-11,500 ft. The success of this species in only five years bodes danger to the world's smallest willow which is less than one cm in height and an endemic of the high country of Mono County (DDeS).

From Mar. 25 - July 14, the California D.F.& G. sponsored a survey, particularly around San Francisco Bay, of Black Rails. The survey was conducted by playing taped calls. At least 32 Black Rails were found in 14 locations around San Francisco Bay. Most of these birds were in pickleweed (*Salicornia*) and/or bull rush (*Scirpus*) marshes bordering San Pablo Bay or in marshes along the Petaluma and Napa Rivers entering into San Pablo Bay. One bird was calling at Olema Marsh, and a handful of birds was found at two localities in the Suisun Marshes, two near Suisun City and one near Pittsburg; Southampton Marsh, Benicia S.P. — about four pairs (*vide* FKB) and a marsh along White Slough near Lodi, San Joaquin Co.

Nearly all, except one at Olema Marsh, were in tidal marshes, at or above the limit of flooding by extreme high tides. This appears to be the preferred zone of Black Rail, at least in the breeding season. A number of lower elevation marshes where Black Rails have been found in winter were checked with negative results. Surveys of a wide variety of diked marshes also gave negative results.

This survey provides evidence (up to six calling birds at one location), that populations of Black Rails do nest in the San Francisco Bay area in the little remaining undiked high, tidal marsh that is left (TM). An actual nest, previously unreported, was discovered near Pinole in the fall of 1976 (Martha Ture)

SHOREBIRDS — Black-necked Stilts continued to expand in the Region. Two pair raised young near Petaluma (CP,BDP) for the first Sonoma County breeding record, and a pair nested at Pescadero Marsh (PM) for the first San Mateo County coastal nesting. Two at Bolinas June 29 (P.R.B.O.) were out of place. American Avocets are always rare in the mountains. Five early fall arrivals were at L. Tahoe July 23 (WS), and by July 26 there were nine. A maximum of eight was at Tahoe in May (WS).

Three Snowy Plovers at L. Tahoe May 11 - 13 with two still there May 19 were the first spring records for the mountains (WS). Nesting success at Pajaro Dunes was the best in six years with 57 chicks hatched out of 27 nests (J&RW). An Am. Golden Plover at L. Talawa June 11 (RSW) was very late and marked only the second June record for the Region. Four Black-bellied Plovers at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 16 (*vide* MT) appear to constitute the first summer record for the basin. One appeared at Mono L., July 6 (DW).

A **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Mono L., July 8 (DW†) represented the fourth regional and first interior record. The first southbound Marbled Godwits at L. Tahoe were amazingly early June 24 (WS) and by July 16 there

was a maximum of 26. They were early in the basin too with 13 at Mono L., July 5 (DW). A Whimbrel at L. Tahoe July 26 (WS) was an early fall migrant. The species is casual in the mountains at that season. The first Long-billed Curlews arrived at L. Tahoe June 24 (WS) and the maximum was six July 20. Over 20 Greater Yellowlegs at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 7 (*fide* MT) and four at Mono L., July 6 (DW) were remarkably early returnees, but 20 Lesser Yellowlegs at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 7 (*fide* MT) were even more remarkable and totaled five times all other reports combined. One at L. Tahoe July 13 (WS) was an early fall returnee in an area where the species is casual. A Willet at Mendota W.M.A., June 17 (*fide* RH) appears to provide the first summer record for the C.V. In the mountains Willets arrived early July 1 (WS) with a maximum of four at L. Tahoe July 20. Nine Spotted Sandpipers June 11 near Watsonville (PM) were very late spring transients.

Single Ruddy Turnstones at L. Tahoe May 11 - 13 (WS†) and another there July 26 (WS) provide the second and third regional mountain records respectively. For the first time Wilson's Phalaropes nested successfully along our coast. An ad. female was seen with two chicks at L. Talawa July 11 - 25 (RSW). Northern Phalaropes arrived early with the first at L. Tahoe July 7 and a maximum of four there July 23 (WS). Very early and out-of-place was a Red Phalarope at Black L., Mono Co., July 4 (TH†). Single Sanderlings were at L. Tahoe July 20 & 26 (WS) where they are very rare transients. These were the earliest ever for the Tahoe Basin. Southbound W. Sandpipers arrived unprecedentedly early in the C.V., with one at Caldwell Ponds, Tulare Co., June 16 (JLi); by June 28 there were five there.

JAEGERS, GULLS — Two Pomarine Jaegers in Monterey Bay June 12 (DP) were probably summering. The first fall arrivals were noted in mid-July. A Herring Gull at Santa Cruz July 21 (DP,TB) was the only one reported. An ad. **Laughing Gull** at Cape Mendocino June 12 (DA†, Kris Tyner) marked the ninth regional record and only the third away from Monterey Bay. Last season's invasion of Bonaparte's Gulls left large numbers throughout the Region. Normally they are rare and irregular through June and July. The largest concentration reported was 200+ at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 9 (*fide* MT). At the mouth of the Pajaro R., 110 June 11 dwindled to 30 by mid-July (PM). They were literally everywhere with small flocks reported by many observers. Either the w. population of Bonaparte's Gulls exploded or this gull is changing its migratory patterns drastically. The N migration of Black-legged Kittiwakes continued through most of June, although at least seven summered in Monterey Bay. Always a rare find in summer, a Sabine's Gull was at Pt. Santa Cruz June 4 (TB).

TERNs — Two Com. Terns at the Pajaro R. mouth June 12 (PM) were probably very early fall arrivals; numbers built to 20 there by June 25, and 35 by July 1 (J&RW). Most unusual were two Com. Terns at L.

Tahoe July 5 (Jri). Two Arctic Terns seen well at the Pajaro R. mouth June 12 (PM) were remnants of last season's bonanza. Our only Least Tern colonies are in San Francisco Bay. This year a nesting attempt at Bair I failed. Six to seven pairs attempted nesting at the Oakland Airport with unknown success. But the good news is that 20+ young were raised at a newly-revealed colony at the Alameda Naval Air Station. This colony, known by a handful of Air Station personnel for 10 years, is thus the most successful, largest, and perhaps most stable in the Region (TM). A vagrant Least Tern at Big Lagoon, Humboldt Co., June 25 (RSL) represents the northernmost occurrence of this species in the Region. Caspian Terns were much more common than usual in the mountains with up to three at L. Tahoe July 5 - 20 (Jri,WS), and two at Saddlebag L., July 26 (TH). Numbers were also abnormally high at Tahoe this spring with up to seven present Apr. 21 - May 19 (WS). Black Terns have increased substantially in the Sacramento Valley in the last five years. They were very rare in the early 1970s, but are now common in rice fields. This has been attributed to changes in pesticide use (SAL).

ALCIDS — Marbled Murrelets were observed flying inland at dusk and out to sea at dawn at Butano Cr (PM), Jedediah Smith S.P. (Rae Schmuck), and over the U.C.S.C. campus (TB), indicating probable nesting near these localities. At least one Ancient Murrelet lingered in Monterey Bay until June 18 (JL,VR), and another late straggler was at Pt. Reyes June 25 (J Langham). As usual Cassin's Auklet numbers increased in Monterey Bay in mid-June and by June 12 there were 200 there (PM), whereas on June 5 only nine could be found (VR). Rhinoceros Auklet is now an established breeder on the F.I., and numbers continued to increase (RLeV). Several attempted to summer along the coast from Monterey Bay to Pt. Reyes, but they were gone by mid-July. Two Horned Puffins were photographed in Monterey Bay June 12 (JL,PM), both apparently healthy; at least one could fly. Another was found near the F.I., June 17 (RLeV) and possibly the same individual was seen there June 26 (P.R.B.O.). Tufted Puffin numbers continued to increase on the F.I. (RLeV), and some individuals may have attempted to colonize Pt. Reyes. At least seven were seen in the Chimney Rock area of Pt. Reyes June 12 - July 19 (m.ob.). Some were gathering algae by diving, and flying to a nearby cliff but the suspected nesting site was inaccessible to observers.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Most unusual was the observation of two Mourning Doves lurching on pickleweed Aug. 3 in the salt marshes around Golden Gate Fields racetrack (TM *et al*) Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported in encouraging numbers. Two appeared on the coast July 2 at Pt. Reyes (LCB) and on the F.I. (P.R.B.O.), while inland between 38-43 were censused along the Sacramento R., from Colusa S.P. to Todd I., Tehama Co., June 20-Aug 7 (SAL *et al*). There are few reliable records of Spotted

Owls from Santa Cruz County in recent years. A calling male was heard in Porter Gulch near Soquel July 20, an area where the bird was last recorded 10 years ago (RM, TB). Three Burrowing Owl nests produced at least 15 young in Siskiyou County this summer (*vide* MT). Six Short-eared Owls were seen July 17 at the Salinas R. mouth where a nest containing four egg shells was found (PM). A Com. Nighthawk on the F.I., June 16 was the second ever recorded there (P.R.B.O.).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Nine Black Swift nests were found at Mossbrae Falls, Siskiyou Co., where they returned to breed again this year (*vide* MT), but a nest located at the Santa Cruz Lighthouse apparently failed (TB). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds continued to be found in the Sierra. A female was seen at the Harvey Hall Natural Area at 10,000 ft Aug 4 (DDeS), and a male was seen in Lee Vining Canyon July 8, both in Mono County (TH). A nest has yet to be discovered. Upslope drift accounted for an Acorn Woodpecker seen at 9800 ft Aug. 3 near Saddlebag L., Mono Co. (DDeS). Most unusual was the presence of a "Red-naped" Sapsucker, *S.v.nuchalis*, June 9 on Pt. Reyes (SFB). The subspecies has never been recorded on the coast in spring or summer.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A pair of E. Kingbirds successfully nested, producing two young near Edgewood, Siskiyou Co. (MT†). This is the second time the species has nested in California (*West. Birds* 4:33-44, 1973). Three others were reported, one each from Pt. Reyes, Pt. Arena and Honey L. Some 176 W. Wood Pewees were censused along the Sacramento R., from Red Bluff to Colusa June 20-July 30 (SAL). At least 21 Purple Martins were reported from the coast during the period from Mendocino County to Pescadero, which is more than normal.

CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES — A nesting White-breasted Nuthatch found at over 10,000 ft near Saddlebag L., was well above its normal nesting range (DDeS). A courting pair of Dippers found at Kidd Cr., Sonoma Co., June 4 may have bred (BDP). The breeding distribution of this bird in the coast range is fragmented and not well known. A House Wren was found at 10,600 ft July 28 at Mono Pass (DAG). Drought conditions caused a major decline in the breeding success of Long-billed Marsh Wrens in Fremont's Central P.; none was found nesting this summer (HLC). A Mockingbird seen at Wendel, Lassen Co., June 4 was well e. of its normal (however sparse) range in the Great Basin (TM). A single Brown Thrasher, rarely ever recorded in spring, was seen on Pt. Reyes June 6-8 (JM *et al.*). Two most remarkable records of Varied Thrushes were received. Single birds were seen on the F.I., June 6, establishing the latest spring record for the island (P.R.B.O.), and another was seen singing near Saddlebag L., June 23 at 9800 ft (DDeS). Probably the best landbird find in the summer period was a **Wood Thrush** in the mist nets at P.R.B.O., Palomarin June 18-19 (BSO†, JM, CH *et al.*). The bird

was photographed and released and was heard singing during its brief stay. This is the first Wood Thrush ever recorded in the Region and only the third for the state

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — At least 75 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen along Red Rd., Lassen Co., June 17 and many were noted as "sitting on nests" (FBE). Three or four young fledged from a Water Pipit's nest on the Harvey Hall Natural Area, Mono Co., in an area where they were recorded nesting in 1975 (DDeS). This species is probably widespread at alpine levels in the Sierra but is rarely seen because few observers visit these areas during the breeding season. Rarely reported as a nesting species, Cedar Waxwing was found breeding at Bray and Etna, Siskiyou Co., where young successfully fledged from two nests in late June (*vide* MT). The second Regional and state **White-eyed Vireo** was found on Pt. Reyes June 7-8 (DRO†, JM† *et al.*). The only other record was that of a June bird from the F.I., in 1969. A convincing description of a Bell's Vireo was submitted of a bird seen June 15 at Dog I., Tehama Co. (SAL†). The description indicates that the bird was probably *V.b.pusillus*, the gray California subspecies, which is critically endangered throughout its range. While on the subject of subspecies, the "Plumbeous" Solitary Vireo, *V.s.plumbeus*, not known to occur in the Sierra, appeared to be expanding its range W from the Great Basin. Two vireos fitting this subspecies description (possibly male and female) were seen near Lee Vining July 13, and an adult was seen feeding a young bird at Inyo Craters, Mono Co., July 25 (TH *et al.*) Three Red-eyed Vireos were found on Pt. Reyes June 14 (JM *et al.*) and a fourth was seen at Honey L. W.M.A., June 4 (TM†, SAL).

WOOD WARBLERS — More observers spent more time along the coast this summer looking for "vagrants" and as expected they found what they were looking for. In terms of diversity and abundance of "vagrant" warblers, this spring produced the best landfall on record. Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers made a particularly impressive showing. Most occurred in the first two weeks of June with apparent waves on or around June 10-11 and June 16-17. Stragglers were reported until the end of June.

Six Black-and-white Warblers, all coastal (two F I), were found June 9-July 4 from Pt. Reyes to San Mateo County. Ten Tennessee Warblers were also seen all from near the coast June 2-26. Five N. Parulas were seen (two F.I.) June 11-July 9 from Marin to San Mateo Cos. Yellow Warblers appeared to be suffering a 50% reproductive decline in San Mateo County, owing to drought conditions (PM). Magnolia Warblers made an excellent showing, with a total of 12 (nine F I) all coastal from Mendocino County to Pt. Reyes June 5-16. A total of eight Cape May Warblers was found (four F.I.) June 7-16, all on Pt. Reyes except one seen June 9-10 at Bodega Bay where it was the first for Sonoma County (JM *et al.*). A "Myrtle" Warbler was late on Pt. Reyes June 13-14 (JM), as was a Townsend's Warbler in Golden Gate P., June 15 (PM). Only one Black-throated

Green Warbler was reported; on the F.I. June 11 (P R B.O.). Two Blackburnian Warblers were on the F I , June 9-10 (P.R.B.O.). They are much scarcer in spring than fall. Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in normal numbers. A total of eight was found (three F I) June 12-18 all coastal except for one male in Fresno June 14 (RH *et al.*).

S.A.

Perhaps the most extraordinary event of the season was the discovery of nesting **Northern Parulas** in Marin County. On June 2 a singing male was found at the Five Brooks Stables on the Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore (JM *et al.*). On June 5 a female and a nest were found (SJ *et al.*). In addition to the first male reported apparently a second male was seen frequently in the vicinity of the nest. On July 5 two fledglings were seen being fed by the parents. The last observation was of one of the males July 15 (EM).

A similar nesting occurred in 1952 at Pt. Lobos when a σ N. Parula and two females raised three young from two different nests May 18-July 16. The nesting of "vagrants" in California has increased with regularity in the past decade. Eastern Kingbirds, Am. and Painted Redstarts, Hepatic Tanagers and Grace's Warblers have all been found nesting in California in recent years. In addition there are records for Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks for every month, but no nest has yet been found.

Bay-breasted Warblers appeared in awesome numbers with at least nine seen (two F.I.) all on Pt. Reyes June 11-28 except one singing male at Bodega Bay June 9 where it was the first for Sonoma Co. (JM *et al.*). Blackpoll Warblers are much rarer in spring than in fall, and a total of nine (six F.I.) on Pt. Reyes June 2-19 was exceptional. At least 21 Ovenbirds were seen (12+ F.I.) June 6-29 including one 5 mi. e. of Yreka June 27 (R. Ekstrom) and one found dead at Thornton Beach S.P., San Mateo Co. (S. Wilson-*to M.V.Z.) June 28. All the others were from Marin County, and S.F. Always rare in spring, a single N. Waterthrush was seen on Pt. Reyes June 16 (EM, CH *et al.*). A Com. Yellowthroat seen feeding a cowbird June 15 at Pacifica was noteworthy (PM). A Canada Warbler was seen on the F.I., June 11 (P R B.O.). Some 24 Am. Redstarts were listed (nine F I), all but three were on the coast from Marin County to the Carmel R. mouth June 6-27. Inland, single birds were found at Yreka June 11 (*vide* MT), Woodson Bridge, Tehama Co., July 9 (JRi), and at Honey L., June 4 (TM).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Two Bobolinks, exceptionally rare in spring, were seen; ad. males were at Pt. Reyes June 12 (JM *et al.*), and at the Presidio, S.F. (*vide* LCB) June 9. Yellow-headed

Blackbirds failed to nest at L. Tahoe this summer because their marshes dried up (WS). Hooded Orioles seemed to fare rather well this summer in Alamo where 12 birds including immatures were seen (JRi). A Summer Tanager on the F.I., June 12 was the only one reported (P.R.B.O.).

FRINGILLIDS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks staged a major invasion. At least 43 were reported all from the coast except three; two from the C.V. and the other from the Great Basin. Nearly all were found in Marin County, (ten F.I.) with a few in San Francisco and San Mateo Cos. Soon, surely, this species will breed in the Region. Between June 20 and July 30 some 254 Black-headed Grosbeaks were censused along the Sacramento R., from Red Bluff to Colusa (SAL). Laymon also found an encouraging number of Blue Grosbeaks there. On seven census days (June 19-July 11) from Red Bluff to Ord Ferry, Glenn Co., he found 13 birds, and on two census days (July 14 & 23) from Ord Ferry to Colusa he found 38 birds. Eight Indigo Buntings were reported, all coastal except for one July 27 at Springville, Tulare Co (*vide* RAB). Lazuli Buntings appeared near the coast in larger numbers, possibly because of the dry conditions. Most unusual was an imm. Dickcissel at Pt. Reyes June 17 (JM, SFB, BSo). This represents the first mainland spring record. Interesting were Purple and Cassin's Finches singing side by side in Duncan Cr., 22 mi n.e. of Foresthill, Placer Co., June 30 (JW, BBu).

Juvenile Red Crossbills were seen with flocks of adults in Marin and San Mateo Cos., and in Golden Gate P., suggesting that breeding had probably taken place there. An out-of-range Green-tailed Towhee was netted on the F.I., June 26 (P.R.B.O.). Grasshopper Sparrows appeared near the coast in larger-than-normal numbers. At least 11 were at Rodeo Lagoon in mid-July (TC), and 36 were singing in San Mateo County July 2-4 (PM). A tardy Tree Sparrow put in on the F.I., June 26, establishing the latest spring record for the Region (P.R.B.O.). Two more Clay-colored Sparrows turned up on the F.I., June 9 & 16 (P.R.B.O.). It is odd that all the Region's spring records for this sparrow have been from the F.I. A singing σ Brewer's Sparrow near Westville, Placer Co., was w. of its normal breeding range June 26 (AC). The Region's second summer record for the Harris' Sparrow was listed on Pt. Reyes July 2 (LCB). Also noteworthy was a very late White-crowned Sparrow of the race *Z. l. pugetensis* on the F.I., June 16 (P.R.B.O.).

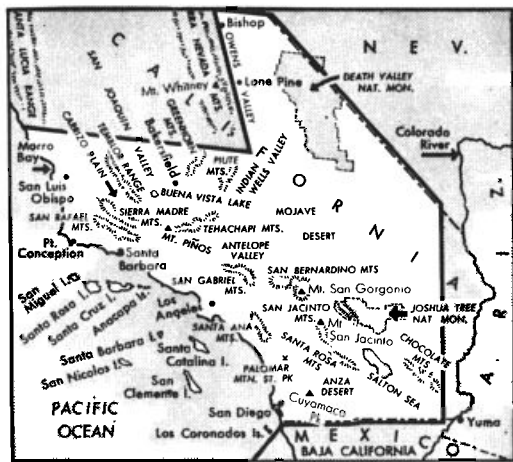
CORRIGENDA — In AB 31:219 the Thayer's Gull was at L. Tahoe Nov. 24-30 not Oct. 24-30. In AB 31:220 the Petaluma Hooded Warbler was the second August record for the Region and obviously not the second record for the Region. Also in AB 31:219 delete the reference to Barn Swallows in Humboldt County, and in the S.A. on the same page the Willow Flycatcher collected on the F.I. was taken because it was thought to be an Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*). In AB 31:220 the Bobolinks seen at Neary's Lagoon were ac-

tually at Younger's Lagoon in the same county, and in AB 31:220 the Prairie Warbler in Sharp Park was found Oct. 24, not Sept. 24.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

Dry conditions prevailed throughout the Region, but the effect of these conditions on breeding birds was not apparent from information supplied by reporters. The coast again experienced an influx of Magnificent Frigatebirds during July and the species was more numerous than usual on the Salton Sea during the same period. A major flight of Roseate Spoonbills brought three individuals westward to the coast for only the second known record for that area of California.



Work in the eastern part of the Region produced evidence that extends the known breeding ranges of a number of bird species into the mountains of eastern San Bernardino County. Particularly interesting is the possibility of nesting Rufous-crowned Sparrows of a race heretofore unrecorded in California.

The Salton Sea continued to be the most exciting birding locality in summer, producing records of White Ibis and Black-bellied Whistling Duck, along with all three species of scoter. However, the Wilson's Plover near Ventura was most certainly the outstanding rarity of the season, with the pair of Pyrrhuloxias in eastern San Bernardino County coming in a close second.

LOONS, GREBES — As usual a few loons were found along the coast. A Com. Loon was in Santa Barbara July 21 - Aug. 3 (LRB), another at nearby Goleta Pt., July 6 (PL) and four at Pt. Dume, Los Angeles Co., June 23 (JDO). Three Arctic Loons were off Goleta Pt., June 23 (PL), three more at Pt. Dume on the same day (JD) and a freshly dead bird at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., July 1 (KC - *L.A.C.M.). Two Red-throated Loons were around Santa Barbara during most of June and July (PL,LRB) and another was at Goleta Pt., July 5 (PL). A Horned Grebe at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) July 10 (GMcC) was unexpected since the species is uncommon inland and normally absent from the region in summer.

PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS — Four Brown Pelicans on the Salton Sea June 11 (PU) were the earliest to appear there this summer, but no more than ten were present by the end of July. Magnificent Frigatebirds were present along the coast in small numbers with two over La Jolla, San Diego Co., July 4 (PC) being the first noted and one over Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., July 16 (FRT) being the farthest north; in all, 12 reports of up to three individuals together were received and as usual all were of immatures. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird was at N.E.S.S., June 26 (WTE) and the species was then continually present on the Salton Sea through July with a high count of four on July 10 (GMcC,CH).

HERONS, STORKS, IBISES, SPOONBILLS — A single ad. Little Blue Heron was at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) June 25 (DVT) and July 10 (GMcC); this species now occurs every summer on the Salton Sea and can be expected to nest there in the near future. An ad. Little Blue Heron at San Elijo Lagoon June 19 (WTE) adds another record to the list of coastal occurrences for May and June. Cattle Egrets were exceptionally numerous around the Salton Sea with 5000 pairs nesting along with 2000 pairs of Snowy Egrets and 250 pairs of Great Egrets. An ad. Louisiana Heron near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., July 31 (ME) could well have summered locally. Two pairs of Am. Bitterns in Afton Canyon, San Bernardino Co., during April and May (SC) were possibly nesting; this locality is near the s. boundary of the species' breeding range. A Wood Stork photographed at S.E.S.S., May

14 (D&BH) was early but numbers built to about 650 by the end of the period; one at N.E.S.S., July 15 - Aug. 13 (SC,PL) was the only one found outside of Imperial County. Encouraging were 3-4 pairs of White-faced Ibises nesting at S.E.S.S. (GMcC), the first reported nesting in S. California in over 20 years. An ad. **White Ibis** was present at S.E.S.S., June 25 - July 14 (JR,CH,DR) and established the third valid record for the Region.

S.A.

Roseate Spoonbills staged a major invasion into the Southwest with birds appearing along the Colorado R. Valley and around the Salton Sea with three reaching the coast. Two at S.E.S.S., June 3 (DVT) were the first to be noted, and ten were in that area by the end of the period. Along the Colorado R., six were found at Imperial Dam June 15 (TH) and two more were a little farther upstream on Draper L., June 24 (KVR). Three at the mouth of the Santa Margarita R., San Diego Co., June 24 (PJ) had moved N to the San Joaquin Marsh in Irvine, Orange Co., by June 26 (TS) where they remained to the end of the period.

GEESE, DUCKS — As usual a few Brant summered along the coast with individuals present in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Diego Cos.; in addition one was present at N.E.S.S., until at least July 16 (PU) and another was at S.E.S.S., July 2 (PL). A **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** near Brawley, Imperial Co., Aug. 4-14 (DVT) constituted the fifth record for California. Blue-winged Teal appeared more numerous than normal this summer with 40 individuals reported from throughout the Region. Reports of some of our more northern breeding species of ducks included a Canvasback in Bishop July 4 (TH), another at N.E.S.S., July 2 (EC) and a third at S.E.S.S., July 11-16 (JD); two Greater Scaup at N.E.S.S., June 11 (SC) with one still present July 16 (PU, *S.D.N.H.M.); two Com. Goldeneyes at S E S.S., July 17-19 (LRB) and a Bufflehead on L. Elsinore June 18 (SC). A White-winged Scoter, rare inland at any time of the year, was at N.E.S.S., June 11 -Aug 6 (SC,GMcC). As usual a few Surf Scoters remained along the coast throughout the summer and up to 12 were present on the Salton Sea during May-July. Up to five Black Scoters at N.E.S.S., May 1 - Aug. 13 (GMcC) were totally unexpected since there are only two previous inland records of this species for California. Three Red-breasted Mergansers at Little L., Inyo Co., June 19 (RHN) and another in Afton Canyon, San Bernardino Co., June 7 - 9 (PH) were late spring migrants, but an unprecedented 150 summered on the Salton Sea (GMcC).

KITES, HAWKS, OSPREYS, FALCONS — A White-tailed Kite 15 mi n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co., June 2-5 (PH) was well e. of its normal range in California. An ad. Goshawk at Humber P., in the

San Jacinto Mts., July 9 (JD) adds another sighting to the list of summer records for the S. California mountains. A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Humber P., July 11 (JD) would suggest local breeding. A Red-shouldered Hawk in the Saline Valley, Inyo Co., July 20 (TH) was e. of its normal range in California. Swainson's Hawks were still to be found nesting in the Owens Valley (TH) but one near Palo Verde, Imperial Co., July 19 (AEH) and another near Mecca, Riverside Co., on the same day (DR,KG) were both far from known nesting localities. Ospreys were reported from many localities within the Region but none are known to have successfully nested. A Peregrine Falcon near El Toro, Orange Co., July 14 (JB), another near Imperial Beach July 27 (EC) and a third around S.E.S.S., July 19 - Aug 6 (KG,DVT) may well all have been wanderers moving N from Baja California.

RAILS, GALLINULES — Black Rails were found around the Salton Sea, with two heard at N.E.S.S., June 14 (BDP), one heard at Salt Cr., Mar. 8 (MZ), one seen at S.E.S.S., May 24 (DM) and up to seven heard at Finney L., Apr. 19 - June 13 (SC,DM,BDP). Clapper Rails appeared to be faring well around the Salton Sea with over 50 believed inhabiting one marsh at S.E.S.S., one at Harper Dry L., near Barstow June 4-7 (PH) was far out in the desert and over 120 mi from the nearest breeding locality. A pair of Com. Gallinules raised young in Afton Canyon, a locality well out in the desert of e. San Bernardino County, during April and May (EAC).

SHOREBIRDS — Two pairs of Am. Avocets were found nesting around S.E.S.S., June 23 (GSG), this species is rare as a breeder on the Salton Sea. A Semipalmated Plover at Harper Dry L., near Barstow June 3 - 5 (PH) was a late spring migrant. Up to 100 Snowy Plovers on Harper Dry L., during June (PH) and 116 counted on Owen's L., May 28 (TH) illustrate how numerous this species can be on some of the alkaline lakes in the desert regions of e. California. A **Wilson's Plover** at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., June 27-29 (LRB, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was only the third ever found in California, the previous two being from around San Diego on June 29, 1894 and May 11, 1918. Unexpected was a breeding-plumaged Am. Golden Plover near El Toro June 24 - 26 (JB) and two more at McGrath S P., July 2 (AC). At least 15 pairs of Spotted Sandpipers were present throughout the summer in the Big Bear/Baldwin L. area (KG), a pair accompanied by a juvenile was at L. Arrowhead July 13 (KG) and another pair with young was at McGrath S.P., June 22 (LRB), there are few documented nesting records for this species in S. California.

Three Ruddy Turnstones at Salton City July 19 (DR,KG) were of interest since the species is rare away from the coast in fall. The first reports of the fall of Short-billed Dowitchers, which normally appear in California before the Long-billeds, were of some present at McGrath S.P., June 28 (PL) and four at N.E.S.S., July 2 (GMcC). A Red Knot at N.E.S.S., July 10 (GMcC) was the only one found away from the

coast A Baird's Sandpiper at McGrath S.P., July 28 (GSS) and another at Tinnemaha Res., in the Owens Valley July 30 (TH) were the earliest reported this fall. Most unusual was a Pectoral Sandpiper on San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., June 29 (PU,EC) and another in Goleta July 10 (PL); this species is previously unrecorded in California during June and there appears to be only one other July record for the state. A breeding-plumaged Dunlin at McGrath S.P., June 20 (LRB) was totally out of season. A Stilt Sandpiper at S E S S., July 16 (PU) was the earliest reported this fall. A Red Phalarope at S.E.S.S., June 18 (PL) was somewhat surprising since it is rare inland at normal times of migration and not to be expected anywhere in California in the middle of the summer.

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — Reports of summering Glaucous-winged Gulls included one at McGrath S P., July 1 - Aug. 3 (LRB,PL) and another near Imperial Beach Aug. 1 (GMcC). Two Herring Gulls were at McGrath S.P., July 22 (LRB) and three individuals were seen around S.E.S.S., June 11 - Aug. 13. (GMcC); this species is rare in S. California during the summer months. A Mew Gull, another species rarely found during the summer in S. California, was in Santa Barbara June 23 - 30 (PL,JD) and another was near Imperial Beach July 6 - 30 (GMcC). Yellow-legged W. Gulls (*Larus livens*) [?-Ed.], now regular post-breeding visitors to the Salton Sea, arrived in early June, with 12 at Salton City June 11 (PU), and became quite numerous by August with over 200 at Salton City Aug. 19 (JD). A Laughing Gull, another post-breeding visitor to the Salton City, was at S.E.S.S., May 29 (GSG) with numbers building to 600+ in mid-August (PL); the fact that virtually all the birds seen on the Sea this summer were adults is unexplained at this time. Four Franklin's Gulls on the Salton Sea June 11 (PU), two near Barstow June 3 - 7 (PH) and another at Little L., June 5 (RH) were all most likely late spring migrants; one at McGrath S.P., July 1 (KC) must have been a summer straggler. An unusually large number of Bonaparte's Gulls remained along the coast throughout the summer with a high concentration of 60 at McGrath S.P., throughout the period (PL,LRB); inland ten were seen on L. Elsinore June 18 (SC) and up to 250 were on the Salton Sea during June and July (GMcC)! A few Black-legged Kittiwakes were present on the coast as indicated by one in Goleta Aug. 3 (PL), another in Santa Barbara July 21 (LRB) and up to eight at McGrath S.P., during June and July (LRB,PL). A Sabine's Gull at N.E.S.S., July 15 (SC,DM) represented one of the few interior records for California.

Nesting Least Terns were found at various points along the coast n. to the mouth of the Santa Maria R., in s San Luis Obispo Co.; one at N.E.S.S., June 18 (PL) added another record for this inland locality. Four Royal Terns at McGrath S.P., June 19 (LRB) were unusually far n. for that time of year. Black Skimmers continued to increase on the Salton Sea, with 100+ nests found at S.E.S.S., in July (GSG) and nearly 500 birds seen around the Sea, Aug. 6 (GMcC); in addition

three pairs nested on the coast near Imperial Beach (ME), a N wanderer was at Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co., July 16 (LRB) and two more were at the mouth of the Santa Maria R., July 15 (HM).

ALCIDS — A few Com. Murres spent the summer along the coast n. of Los Angeles as indicated by five off Goleta Pt., July 10 (BS,PL), ten off Pt. Mugu July 25 (BB) and 15 off Pt. Dume throughout the period (KG). Unexpected were 1-2 Pigeon Guillemots off Goleta Pt., Aug. 2-3 (PL) and two more off Pt. Dume all summer (KG); this species is rare along the shoreline s. of Morro Bay.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon on Clark Mt., in e. San Bernardino Co., June 12 (BDP) was outside its normal range in California. A survey of breeding Yellow-billed Cuckoos sponsored by Calif. Fish & Game turned up three near Big Pine and another near Lone Pine in the Owens Valley July 16 (DG), two near Tecopa, Inyo Co., June 18 - Sep. 3 (PH,JT), and two more along the Santa Ana R., near Riverside July 20 (DG), besides 50± pairs along the Colorado R. valley, between Needles and Laguna Dam; two at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley June 4 (TH) were probably spring migrants and another at S.E.S.S., July 10 (GMcC) appeared lost. Two calling Flammulated Owls on Clark Mt., May 21 (SC,VR) and June 11 (BDP) would indicate nesting at that locality and one heard in the nearby Kingston Mts., June 21 (SC) was probably also on territory. Two or three pairs of Elf Owls were repeatedly seen near Needles Apr 29-June 12 (DR,BDP) with young seen May 14 (SC,DM), this may be the only locality within California still supporting this diminutive owl. A calling Whip-poor-will on Clark Mt., May 21 (DR) was expected, but three at Camp Angeles in the San Bernardino Mts., June 3 (DM) and another at Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., June 8 (KG) were in localities from which no previous records exist.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — The only Black Swifts reported in the S. California mountains were three at Fallsvalle in the San Bernardino Mts., July 16 (GSS) and three more over Humber P., in the San Jacinto Mts., July 9 (GMcC). Up to three Chimney Swifts over the Palos Verdes Pen., June 16 -28 (LH,VR), one or two over Arcadia June 26 - July 21 (AC) and another around Duarte throughout June (MSanM) were all in areas where the species has been appearing during June of previous years; one near Big Pine July 5 (DG) was outside the area of expected occurrence. Small numbers of Anna's Hummingbirds were present in e. San Bernardino County during May and June (VR,SC) and may actually have nested in the New York Mts. In addition, up to five Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were seen in the New York Mts., during May and June (VR,SC) and an active nest was found in the nearby Kingston Mts., June 21 (SC); this species was not previously recorded as nesting in either of these mountain ranges. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was displaying on Clark Mt., May 21 (VR), another was

seen in the New York Mts., June 28 (DR) and an active nest found in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (SC); these localities are all outside the species' known breeding range in California. A pair of Red-naped Sapsuckers found at Horseshoe Meadows along the e. slope of the Sierra in Inyo Co., July 14 - 15 (TH) was w. of its normal range. A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers in Riverside April - May (SC,EAC) was nesting at an exceptionally low elevation for S. California; one in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (SC,VR) would suggest that the species also nests there. A pair of Downy Woodpeckers at 6400 ft near Green Valley in the San Bernardino Mts., June 9 (KG) was exceptionally high in the mountains.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — An E Kingbird, a regular wanderer to S. California, was at Oasis, Mono Co., July 23 (TH), another was at Tinnemaha Res., July 21 (TH) and a third was on the coast at Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., July 18 (FRT). About 12 singing Dusky Flycatchers were found in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (VR,SC) and an active nest was seen in the New York Mts., June 21 (VR,SC); this species was not previously reported breeding in either of these two mountain ranges. Similarly three territorial W Wood Pewees in the New York Mts., June 20 (VR,SC) and an active nest in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (VR,SC) indicate new breeding areas in California. The first evidence of breeding Cliff Swallows in the Imperial Valley was obtained this summer with the discovery of 25 nests under a bridge at S.E.S.S., May 1 (GSG).

Two Le Conte's Thrashers near Big Pine in the Owens Valley July 25 (TH) were near the n. limit of their range. Most unusual was a breeding pair of Am. Robins that raised three young in Blythe on the Colorado R. (KVR,PDM).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Bell's Vireos are still to be found in suitable habitat in San Diego County, but are now very rare away from there, with two in Morongo Valley July 19 (DG) being the only ones reported outside San Diego County. Gray Vireos were found in piñon-juniper habitat on Clark Mt. (DR), in the New York Mts. (SC,BDP) and in the e. part of the San Bernardino Mts. (KG); in addition the species was relatively common in dry chaparral on the s.-facing slopes of the Laguna Mts., San Diego County (ME) where it has probably been overlooked in recent years. A Red-eyed Vireo at Oasis June 11 (TH) and another at Ft. Piute in e. San Bernardino Co., June 23 (VR) were probably late spring stragglers.

A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler at Kelso, San Bernardino Co., July 9 (EAC,SC) must have been thoroughly lost. A Worm-eating Warbler at Ft. Piute June 23 (VR) & July 10 (EAC,SC) may have attempted to summer locally. A ♂ Tennessee Warbler at Oasis June 12 (TH), another at Ft. Piute June 23 (VR) and a third in Goleta June 24 (PL) are all best treated as late spring stragglers. A singing ♂ Nashville Warbler in the San Gabriel Mts., June 8 (KG) would suggest local breeding. Small numbers of Virginia's Warblers were found on ter-

ritories along the e. edge of our Region along Wyman Cr., in the White Mts. (BDP), on Clark Mt. (DR,BDP) and in the New York Mts. (SC,VR); one seen along Arrastre Cr., in the San Bernardino Mts., July 10 (KC), and a pair accompanied by a young bird recently fledged at nearby Green Spot Picnic Ground July 17 (KG) were in an area at the w. extreme of the species' expanding range. Three pairs of Lucy's Warblers nesting at Morongo Valley during June and July (SC,KC) were at the w. limit of their range. A ♀ N. Parula at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., June 20 (*fide* KG) was a late spring straggler. Seven singing ♂ Hermit Warblers found at five localities in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mts., during June and July, along with a female carrying nesting material near Green Valley in the San Bernardino Mts., June 9, and a pair accompanied by a juvenile near L. Arrowhead July 13 (KG), provided additional evidence that this species regularly nests s. to these mountain ranges. A ♀ Blackpoll Warbler, quite rare in spring, was on the California side of the Colorado R., on the Imperial N.W.R., June 23 (KVR). Four singing ♂ MacGillivray's Warblers at four localities in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mts., during June and July (KG) strongly suggest local breeding. Eight Am. Redstarts were found with five in the n.e. part of the Region June 8-20 (TH,KG), a male near Blythe June 25 (KVR), a female in Santa Barbara June 9 (GH) and another on Pt. Loma June 23 (PU). A pair of Painted Redstarts in the New York Mts., June 20 (VR,SC) appeared to be on territory and may well have nested.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A Bobolink was found in the Saline Valley June 28 (PH), another was seen in Arcadia June 25 (AC) and two were on Catalina I., June 21 (LJ); small numbers are now found each spring, but these were late for spring migrants. Three or four pairs of Scott's Orioles in Baling Canyon, n.e. Santa Barbara Co., June 14 (PL,BS) were at the n.w. limit of their range. Bronzed Cowbirds were found only along the Colorado R., with up to four near Parker Dam Apr. 30 - June 13 (GMCC,BDP), and up to three around Laguna Dam June 12-July 26 (GMCC,DG). A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was found on Catalina I., June 21 (LJ); this species is an exceptionally rare vagrant to California in spring. Hepatic Tanagers continued to spread W into e. California, with three pairs along with an active nest seen in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (VR,SC), a territorial male on Clark Mt., May 21 and June 12 (VR,BDP), and a pair in the New York Mts., June 20 (VR,SC); one in Afton Canyon June 8 (PH) was a migrant at a desert oasis. A pair of Summer Tanagers nesting near Tecopa (JT) and two pairs on territory near Victorville were along the n. edge of the species' spotty range in California; a male at Oasis June 12 (TH), another near Weldon, Kern Co., July 13 (DG), a female at Cadiz, San Bernardino Co., June 24 (VR,LH) a male in the foothills of the Laguna Mts., June 18 (WTE) and another near San Diego June 29 - July 4 (CGE) were all stragglers and most likely of the nominate form, *P. r. rubra*.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A pair of Cardinals in Earp, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 30 (DR) appeared to be on territory; this species is a scarce resident along the Colorado R., from Needles s. to near Blythe. Most exciting was the discovery of a pair of *Pyrrhuloxias* about 20 mi n. of Vidal Jct., in e. San Bernardino Co., June 6 (NG); both birds were consistently found there through June with the female observed on a nest June 18 (PDM) but eggs were never seen. An unprecedented number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was in the Region, with nearly 30 reported during June and July. Indigo Buntings were also more numerous than usual, with 20+ reported from areas w. of the Colorado R. Valley. Single Cassin's Finches in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (VR,SC) and the New York Mts., June 28 (DR) were outside their normal breeding range. The only Red Crossbills reported were seven in the New York Mts., May 23 (VR) and two on Mt. Pinos Aug. 3 (JD). More than 100 pairs of Savannah Sparrows were in the Big Bear/Baldwin Lake area during the summer (KG) and it must now be considered a common nesting species in that area; this species formerly nested s. only to n. Kern County (Grinnell and Miller, 1944). Nesting Grasshopper Sparrows were found in suitable habitat in Orange and San Diego Cos., where they appeared to be maintaining a constant population; three near Goleta Apr. 27 (GHum) may have been on territory, but one in Goleta July 10-11 (PL) was a wanderer away from known breeding sites. Unexpected was the discovery of Rufous-crowned Sparrows at two localities in the New York Mts., during May and June (SF&KLB,VR) with a high count of three singing males found May 30 (SC); at this time we can only speculate as to which race is involved, but the heretofore unrecorded *A. r. scottii* would appear the most likely. Some half dozen pairs of Black-throated Sparrows in Ballinger Canyon in n.e. Santa Barbara Co., June 14 (BS,PL) mark the w. limit of the species' breeding range in California. A pair of Sage Sparrows with a juvenile out of the nest in the New York Mts., July 9 (SC) was s. of the species' recorded breeding range in e. California. Dark-eyed Juncos are now regular nesters in eucalyptus groves of the Goleta/Santa Barbara area (PL), an adult was seen feeding a juvenile in Topanga Canyon, Los Angeles Co., July 14 (LJ) and a pair was observed on Catalina I., during June and July (LJ); this species is extending its breeding range S along the coast. Single Gray-headed Juncos found in the New York Mts., Apr. 15 & May 2 (SC) suggest that nesting should be looked for locally. Lincoln's Sparrows are nesting near Big Bear L., in the San Bernardino Mts., where ten pairs were found in June (KG); this area marks the s. limit of the species' breeding range.

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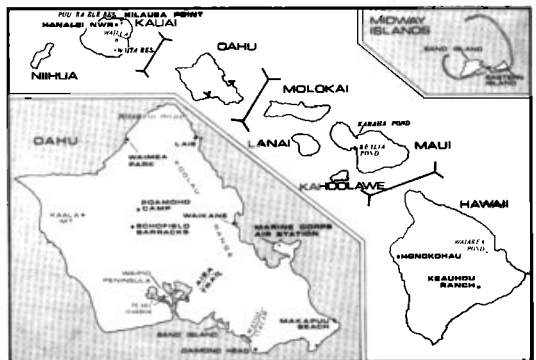
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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/C. John Ralph and Robert L. Pyle

After a dry winter, April and May rains restored some reservoirs and other wet areas to near normal conditions. However, the respite was brief, and rainfall in June and July was down significantly at most stations, particularly the drier parts of Oahu (hereafter, O.). In addition, temperatures have been warmer than normal by 2 to 4°F each month since January.

The unusual weather did not noticeably affect the mountain forests, and wetland habitats for breeding



water birds, most of which are endangered, were maintained by pumping and irrigation for agriculture.

Both bird and birder activity in Hawaii were at a low ebb in June and July. Most of the visiting waterbirds departed for northern nesting grounds in May, and the next winter's visitors did not begin to trickle in until late July and August. Seabird nesting was in full swing, but largely on inaccessible, offshore islets.

ALBATROSS THROUGH TERNS — After tantalizing observers for months with apparent courtship behavior, on June 4 the *Laysan Albatross* was finally documented as nesting near Kilauea Pt., Kauai (hereafter, K.) (CFZ). This is the first recorded nesting on any of the main Hawaiian Is. The "nest", only a half mile from the Fish and Wildlife Service (F. & W.S.) sub-

headquarters, went undetected in a remote area for many months. When discovered, the young was almost fully feathered and approximately five months old. The presence of a dead adult nearby suggested that the chick may have been orphaned, so CFZ initiated supplemental feeding. On June 27 one adult was seen feeding the bird. In an accident on June 22 the young bird broke its leg and died in late July, despite treatment at Sea Life Park. Hopefully, future breeding seasons will see a colony established despite this setback. The endangered Newell's (Manx) Shearwater was heard overhead in two locations on the Hamakua Coast, Island of Hawaii (hereafter, H.) in July by F. & W.S. census crews (*vide JMS*). This raises the possibility that the species may nest on H., where it was thought to be exterminated (probably by mongooses) near the turn of the century. At present it is only known to nest on K. Two pairs of Blue-faced Boobies with fully grown young were found in late May on Sand Is., Midway, the first record for this species nesting there (NB-C). A pair, possibly re-nesting, was also seen at the end of July. The species has nested, but uncommonly, on nearby Eastern I. About two dozen Ruddy Turnstones and six Bristle-thighed Curlews, an unusually high number, did not breed but spent the summer on Midway I. (NB-C). A White Tern successfully fledged a young in early June in the unprecedented site of a tree along a busy street near the Police Station in downtown Honolulu (LDM). The ad. birds regularly flew the mile to the ocean to forage, apparently leaving their nest well guarded!

SWIFTLETS THROUGH FINCHES — The introduction in 1962 and 1965 of the Edible-nest Swiftlet

from Guam seemed to have failed, since no birds had been seen since 1969. However, some reports in the last year, 11 years after the last introduction, indicate that it is hanging on. In the forest of the Halawa Valley, O., one was observed at 1300 ft, and five more at 800 ft on June 16 (RJS). More than 500 individuals of the endangered Hawaii Creeper were counted by F. & W.S. crews on H., during the summer, indicating the existence of a much higher population than had previously been thought (*vide JMS*). The Maui Parrotbill is rarely observed because of its scarcity and the arduous hike into its remote range. Two individuals were sighted June 18 in the upper Hana Forest Reserve, on the slopes of Haleakala, Maui (RLP, MS, SC, OB). A related species, the 'O'u, has been infrequently seen on H. since the 1940s, probably averaging less than one sighting/year. Thus F. & W.S. reports of about 60 sightings (*vide JMS*) scattered over nearly 35 mi between the Nat'l. P., and the area above Lapahoehoe, H., during summer censuses are good news. The introduced Red-crested Cardinal may have had a good breeding season on O., with flocks of 20-40 (all young birds) seen several times in July in Manoa Valley (CJR).

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CORRIGENDUM — For those careful observers who noted that the McCown's Longspur in the May, 1977 issue of *American Birds* (31:294,309) was in fact a Lapland Longspur, let them rest assured that it was indeed a McCown's Longspur. The undated photo is by Sibley Higginbotham.