

The Nesting Season

June 1 - July 31, 1978

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

The summer was very quiet with fair, warm weather pervading much of the Region. The only unusual heat wave struck southern New England July 19 - 23, when Boston and surrounding areas registered temperatures in the upper 90s. Generally, breeding birds appeared to

Plovers on Cape Cod. Maine's White Pelican and White-winged Dove, June 8 - 10, seemed too closely linked to be happenstance. No doubt the most unusual bird of the season was New Brunswick's first Burrowing Owl, the Region's second this year.

Regional coverage was spotty, with only partial material received from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Massachusetts and Connecticut.



have a successful nesting season although few species made significant shifts in range. Willow Flycatchers expanded their numbers in western Massachusetts and pressed as far north as southern Maine. Acadian Flycatchers consolidated their position in southern New England although the individual seen at sea, off George's Bank, did not appear to be in ideal breeding habitat. In Maine, Turkey Vultures were present in notable numbers for the second consecutive year and apparently bred for the first time. Suspicions that Wilson's Phalaropes might be breeding in New Brunswick sounded promising but as yet remain unconfirmed.

The second severe winter in the Southeast took a heavy toll on several already suffering species. Throughout the Region, Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Eastern Phoeebes were scarce. Hermit Thrushes and Ruby-crowned Kinglets occurred in decidedly fewer numbers. In addition to the above, Breeding Bird Survey compilations from New Hampshire indicated a significant drop in the number of flickers, sapsuckers, House Wrens, catbirds, thrashers, meadowlarks, towhees, juncos and White-throated Sparrows.

Rare birds occurring June 3 - 4 were an Arctic Loon and Summer Tanagers in Maine and two Wilson's

LOONS — Nesting success of New Hampshire's Com. Loons was carefully monitored again this year; 34 young were fledged (23 in '77) from 80 territorial pairs. Perhaps the most promising aspect of the study was the use of artificial nesting islands. From each of the four islands placed in areas of great water fluctuation, two young successfully fledged. A breeding-plumaged Arctic Loon at Schoodic Pt., Me., June 3 - 4 provided the second convincing state record (JM *et al.*).

TUBENOSES — An unidentified albatross was seen by an M.B.O. observer on George's Bank in June (*vide* BA). Undoubtedly the most impressive tubenose occurrence involved the unprecedented numbers of N. Fulmars seen off New England in June and early July. Along the n. edge of George's Bank 8000+ fulmars (95% double light) were noted June 8 - 12 (RRV). Later in the month 1396 were counted on a single "Bluenose" crossing June 26 (EWP *et al.*). Finally 1119 were seen on the same crossing July 4 (PFC,PDV). Most of the "Bluenose" fulmars (95% double light) were observed on the water feeding on a semi-transparent organism, possibly ctenophores. Many of the birds, crops distended, were so obviously bloated they were barely able to fly. Interestingly, this shift of seasonal occurrence was not linked to any dramatic shift in breeding range (RGGB).

Greater Shearwaters along the n. edge of George's Bank in June were so numerous as to be almost uncountable; a minimal 60,000+ birds were observed (RRV). Presumably Manx Shearwaters bred again this year along the s. coast of Newfoundland; 27 Manx were noted from the Cabot Strait ferry July 4 (CV). A single Manx Shearwater just off the Portsmouth, N.H. coast, June 11 was a rare occurrence for that almost shoreless state (DJA,PDV *et al.*).

PELICANS, HERONS — A White Pelican on Flagstaff L., Stratton, Me., June 9 - 10 was a first state occurrence in more than 30 years (*vide* PAC, ph.). In inland Massachusetts, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron in New Marlboro July 1 - 10, represented a first Berkshire County record (v.o., *vide* DMcN). Louisiana Herons nested again on the Norwalk Is., Conn. (CSW) while a pair nested on Stratton I., Me., for the second consecutive year (LL).



Leucistic Greater Shearwater, 80 mi s. of Nantucket, June 13, 1978. Photo/ R.R. Viet.



White Pelican, Flagstaff Lake, Stratton, Me., June 10, 1978. First state occurrence in 33 years. Photo/ P.D. Vickery.

WATERFOWL, HAWKS, GALLINULES — Two summering Snow Geese on Flagstaff L., were unusual (CL) as were single, apparently summering Oldsquaw at Stamford, Conn. (*vide* TB) and Machias, Me. (NF). An imm. King Eider was an unusual summer bird near E. Egg Rock, Me. (*vide* SKr).

A family group of three Turkey Vultures, one newly fledged, over Dayton, Me., provided suggestive if not conclusive evidence that the species bred in the state for the first time (SKenn). For the past 3 years several ad. Turkey Vultures have summered at precisely this locality. Elsewhere in the state at least 50 individuals were reported (v.o., *vide* PDV). A Black Vulture in Biddeford, Me., July 13 was rare for the state (RC). A single Cooper's Hawk nest was discovered near Andover, N.H. — four young fledged (KCE) while two nests were found in s. Maine (*vide* SKenn). A Golden Eagle near Trout Brook on the Avalon Penn., Nfld., June 20 was unusual (*vide* MMP) but more surprising was an imm. Golden Eagle in Yarmouthport, Mass., June 24 (RAF,ICTN). An ad. Peregrine Falcon summering in the mountain region of New Hampshire might possibly have been a breeding bird (KCE *et al.*). Single Purple Gallinules were found in Sebasco, Me., June 23 (HS) and on Sable I., N.S., in July (IAMcL).

SHOREBIRDS — American Oystercatchers on Monomoy were 12± with at least three young fledged (BN). Farther n. 1 - 2 oystercatchers were noted at Duxbury Beach (WRP). A **Black-necked Stilt** on Nantucket I., June 12 was the first state occurrence in recent years (WT, *vide* RPE) while in the same state two Wilson's Plovers were identified; an immature was found at Nauset June 3 (BN) and another individual was seen at Plymouth Beach June 3 - 4 (*vide* RPE). On Monomoy at least 15 Willets produced seven young (BN). In e. Maine, up to three Willets seen throughout the summer along the St. Croix R., near Eastport and Lubec seem to indicate that Willets were again spreading E through the Bay of Fundy (ML,PDV). Two Ruffs on Sable I., in July were rare for the province but perhaps not surprising for that extraordinary locality (IAMcL). Elsewhere, a single Ruff was seen at Plum I., July 16 (RSH). A White-rumped Sandpiper at Goose Rock Beach, Me., was found on the curious date of

June 28 — exactly between migrations (KCE *et al.*) Perhaps the most interesting shorebird news involved four Wilson's Phalaropes suspected (but not proven) of breeding at Tintamarre N.W. area near Sackville, N.B Present throughout June and July, their behavior was described as being "very suggestive of nesting" (SIT) If confirmed, it would mean a considerable easterly expansion of the species' breeding range from its e limit in w. New York state.

JAEGERS, SKUAS — Summer Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were few or were unreported, although 14 Pomarines at Pollock's Rip, off Chatham, Mass., June 4 was certainly an impressive figure (WRP *et al.*). The season's two Long-tailed Jaegers included single adults off Cox's Ledge, R.I., June 4 (CW *et al.*) and George's Bank June 7 (RRV). This June, six South Polar Skuas and three unidentified skuas were carefully studied off George's Bank (RRV). In late June or July a single skua collected on George's Bank proved to be a Great Skua (BNick, *vide* RRV). Clearly both forms can and do occur during the summer months off New England waters. A single skua seen from the "Bluenose" July 22 suggested *C. skua* (WCT,PDV). Recognizing that both forms may well overlap during much of the year, it seems clear that extreme caution should be exercised in separating the two forms.

GULLS, TERNS — Unique this season was a single Iceland Gull, presumably summering, at Monomoy July 2 (CAG,BN). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Groton, Conn., June 29 identified as *L. fuscus fuscus*, furnished one of very few North American sight records for this more northerly Scandinavian subspecies (NSP) Previous Regional occurrences have all involved the lighter-mantled sub-species *L.f. graellsii*. A Little Gull at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., May 31 - June 1 was one of very few island occurrences (JA, *vide* BMact) In Massachusetts, 400 kittiwakes off Provincetown June 4 was a surprising total for that date (CAG, *vide* BN). A single Gull-billed Tern was found at Quonnie, R.I., July 7 (DLK,DR, *vide* CW). Arctic Terns on George's Bank in early June numbered 25± individuals. Interestingly, all were "*portlandica*," none being in ad. plumage (RRV). Six Royal Terns were

found at three Cape Cod localities (*vide* BN) while three were seen in Rhode Island (*vide* CW). Unique this season was a Sandwich Tern on Monomoy June 11 (ICTN, *vide* BN). A new Black Tern colony near Palmyra, Me., was confirmed this summer with the discovery of two nests. Some 15 - 18 pairs were present at this new locality (PDV). Only three Black Skimmers were found on Monomoy while a single skimmer was seen on Sampson's I., Mass (*vide* BN).

DOVES, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS — A **White-winged Dove** in Kennebunk, Me., June 8 - 9 (JF) was the first state occurrence in recent years. Readers will recall New Brunswick's *three* White-winged Doves in July, 1977 (AB 31:1112). The Region's *second Burrowing Owl* of the year (see Spring season), discovered on the Tantramar Marsh, near Sackville, N.B., June 18 - 28 (perhaps later) provided a first provincial record (AS, *vide* SIT). Pellet castings and shed feathers found in an old muskrat hole indicated that the owl may have been present for some time. A Boreal Owl was heard calling at Terra Nova N.P., Nfld., June 7 (BMacT). The species has yet to be confirmed as breeding on the island. Careful examination of transparencies taken of the previously reported *Selasphorus* hummingbird seen in Newton, Mass., Apr. 15 - 17 indicated that the individual was almost certainly a **Rufous Hummingbird** — a first state record (*vide* RAF).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WRENS — Massachusetts Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested successfully for the second consecutive year. This summer a pair and young were found near Southwick (SK). Also in Massachusetts, Red-headed Woodpeckers nested near Amherst (SK) and in the e. part of the state a pair with young in Lynn provided the first local record in more than 75 years (RSH). Willow Flycatchers were thought to have increased significantly in w. Massachusetts (DMcN). Northernmost Willows were two males singing throughout the summer, likely breeding, near Eliot, Me. (DJA,PDV). Acadian Flycatchers continued to consolidate their position in s. New England; six occurred in e. Massachusetts in June (*vide* RPE), four males were found on territory in Rhode Island (*vide* CW) and one was studied at sea on George's Bank June



Juvenile Horned Lark, Biddeford Pool, Me., Aug. 12, 1978. Photo/ Jan Pierson.

10, but was not considered a good breeding prospect (RRV). Winter Wrens were everywhere reported as *very scarce* while the only Short-billed Marsh Wren reported was a single male near Tewksbury, Mass., June 23 - 24 (RRV).

WARBLERS — The only extralimital warbler this summer was a single Prairie Warbler on the "Blue-nose" ferry July 22. Found, trapped indoors, caught, and paper-bagged, the bird was finally released in good health in Yarmouth, N.S. harbor (PDV *et al.*). Mourning Warblers were found breeding in three new w Massachusetts localities — all, predictably, near Mt Greylock (DMcN).



Presumed Am. Redstart X Bay-breasted Warbler hybrid, Brunswick, Me., May 1978. Photos/ P.D. Vickery.



Warbler hybrid (same). Note wingbar markings and coloring on head and throat along with bill shape and rictal bristles.



Hybrid warbler (same). Extensive black on head and undersurface of bird indicates Dendroica x Setophaga hybrid.

TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS — Seemingly unique was a Summer Tanager at Pemaquid Pt., Me., June 4 (CL). Previously unreported was a ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak in Plymouth, N.H., May 16 (CMS, *vide* DJA). A Blue Grosbeak in Scarborough, Me., in early June was apparently the only individual reported (*vide* PDV). Impressive were the six pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows found near Charlestown, R.I. (DR, *vide* CW) but perhaps more surprising were the three pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows close to the New Hampshire border in Pepperell, Mass. (RRV). Spring Clay-colored Sparrows are not unknown in the Region, but this year single males were found in Lincoln, Me. (PDV), Perry, Me. (*vide* NF) and Littleton, N.H. (*vide* VHH). Each male was on territory in appropriate habitat for at least several weeks. Hopes that the species might possibly breed were never realized. In each case the males were unaccompanied. Readers should be alert to the possible future expansion of this species' breeding range into the Region.

ADDENDA — Not previously reported was the occurrence of two **Western Grebes** at Reid S.P., Me., Dec. 18, 1977 – Feb. 18, 1978 — a first state record (DD *et mult. al.*).

DELETE — Kindly delete the four Audubon's Shearwaters seen in S. Great South Channel Nov. 3, 1977 (AB 32:175) and the Long-tailed Jaeger on N. George's Bank Nov. 10, 1977 (AB 32:177). Delete this spring's Lark Bunting at Sandy Neck May 9, 1978.

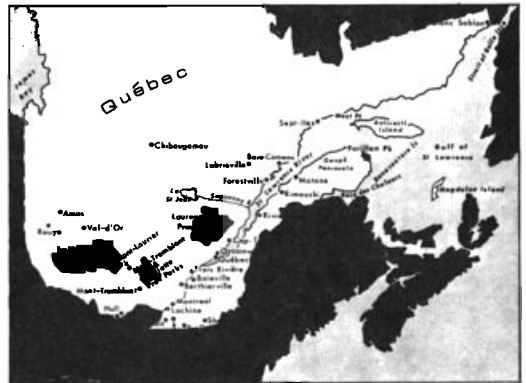
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QUÉBEC REGION

/Michel Gosselin and Normand David

The very short section of this report devoted to songbirds attests that the 1978 breeding season was most uneventful. Breeding birds exhibited a normal pattern; low numbers for some species (Winter Wren, kinglets,



etc.) are certainly the result of severe conditions the last two winters. June weather was not favorable: generally cool and rainy, with numerous heavy rainstorms. In contrast July brought exceptionally fine conditions, but probably too late to have a positive effect on birdlife. A glimpse into the nesting success of sub-arctic areas indicated widespread failures owing to snowstorms.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES — Unusual for the season were a Red-throated Loon near Aylmer June 10 - 16 (BD) and a Horned Grebe at Wychwood July 2 (MBm). Ten N. Fulmars were observed from the Matane ferry June 5 (PB, PC). Except for the now usual Cattle Egret at Ile du Moine July 10 (BB), the only southern wader was a Snowy Egret at Cacouna June 27 (JPN, YP). A Whistling Swan was present near Hull June 30 – July 3 (BD). Canada Geese again raised young at Granby this year (JL); Bergeronnes should be added to the list of breeding localities for this species, on the basis of a belated 1977 report (*vide* ABd).

Another exceptional breeding record came with the discovery of a brood of six downy Wood Ducks at Rimouski July 10 (JRP). Turkey Vultures are bound to become a part of our landscape: one was at St-Alexandre, Kamouraska Co., June 12 (RB), two at Breckenridge July 27 (RP), and an incredible 11 at L. LaPêche, Gatineau P.P., July 2 (*vide* JPR). A report of a closely observed **Black Vulture** was received from

Gaspe June 26 (YB); its description emphasized the short tail and white wing patches. The only previous Québec occurrences were specimens taken at Québec City in Oct. 1897, and March 1931, and possibly Nicolet in Nov. 1931. A **Sandhill Crane** was reportedly seen flying over Dundee marshes May 25 (PD).

S.A.

Two ♀-plumaged **Ruddy Shelducks** appeared, along with some Brant, in a small cove at Bergeronnes, e. of Tadoussac, on the rugged Québec northshore June 27 - 30 (ABd *et al.*). Such birds are often dismissed as escapees, but the date and locality raise the possibility of genuine stragglers. This Palearctic species has been known to wander as far as w. Greenland, within the Arctic Circle. Richard Ryan (*in litt.*) informs us that many private aviculturists in s. Québec have been breeding this species in recent years, and during the breeding season, these aggressive birds could be driven out of an aviary by competition. However, such reports ought to be recorded as this information might conceivably be useful in the future, in the event of possible range extensions (whether from wild or feral stock).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH JAEGERS — An early Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at LaBaie, Bagotville July 30 (GS). A full-plumaged chestnut **Ruff** visited I. du Moine July 9 - 10 (RP, m.ob.); almost certainly the same individual which had been briefly present there last summer, while in immature dress. Some 700 N. Phalaropes were near Mingan I., June 11 (ABt,GC), and a ♂ Red Phalarope was spotted at Baie-Comeau June 15 (FL). No fewer than seven Wilson's Phalarope nests were discovered on I. St-Jean, at the mouth of Yamaska R (MBu)! Only two nesting places were previously known in the Province, one of them on nearby I. du Moine. Jaegers were the great attraction of the season: a Pomarine Jaeger at Rivière-du-Loup June 1 (PC) and on the Trois-Pistoles ferry July 21 (BH) were somewhat to be expected. An inland "migration wave" however, was in evidence, first with a dark ad. Parasitic Jaeger at Lachine June 7 (PC), then a light one at Deschenes June 13 - 16 (BGo, m.ob.) and another at Lachine June 17 (BB). Up to seven ad. Long-tailed Jaegers were also present intermittently in the Lachine (Montreal's Mercier Bridge) area June 11-30 (PC,PB, m.ob.), and three in the Deschenes (Hull) area June 14 - 15 (JH,BGa,BD).

GULLS THROUGH CUCKOOS — A census of Montreal's Ring-billed Gull colonies revealed 11,000 nests on an islet of the St. Lawrence Seaway at St-Lambert, and 10,500 nests in five colonies of the Varennes and Contrecoeur Is. (ND). Two new nesting locations were also found in the St. Lawrence Estuary; a colony of 3000 birds at Baie-Comeau, and a nest in a colony of Herring Gulls at I. aux Basques (ABd,PLn). Single Laughing Gulls were at I. des Soeurs June 16 (PB), and Pointe-au-Pere July 20 (GG), and a Franklin's Gull was at Lachine July 3 - 14 (MA). Arctic Terns put in their annual appearance June 2 when one was seen,

and again at the Deschenes Rapids (RF). Subsequently they were seen in numbers of up to six until June 16 (m.ob.). Two Caspian Terns were present at Lachine June 3 - 23 (ME, m.ob.), and Hull July 18 (BM). Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued to be noticed in the Region, one was at Mt. St-Hilaire June 6+ (MA, m.ob.), a young just out of the nest was found at Chelsea June 20 (MBk), which represents a first for the Hull area, and another was seen at Kazabazua in early July (BL)

PASSERINES — A Willow Flycatcher turned up at Eardley June 25 (BL,RT). The locally rare Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen near Quyon June 25 (BL,RT), and at Boucherville July 8 (PC,GD). Mockingbirds were a noteworthy exception among hard-hit species of the two previous winters. The unusually numerous reports included sightings at LaTuque (ML), Tadoussac (JLD) and Rimouski (GG). A singing Gray-cheeked Thrush was found on top of Mt. Megantic at 1100 m July 6 (ND). On Mt. Bruno the paired Blue-gray Gnatcatchers mentioned in our Spring report were feeding their young in early June (RJ). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard and seen on Mt. Orford June 9 (ND), but could not be relocated in the following days, six previous provincial occurrences, all since 1957, were recorded May 7 - June 7. Three Pine Warblers were discovered in a jack pine stand near L. Taureau July 9 (PC,GD), and another in red pines near L. Kenogami June 26 (MBd); these are our northernmost records in breeding season. a ♂ Dickcissel at St-Marc-sur-Richelieu June 12 - 21 (ND, m.ob.) established the third Regional summer occurrence in the Montreal area (see AB 27:852). Lincoln's Sparrows were much in evidence in all areas; two at Magog July 5 (ND) were at the very edge of the upper St. Lawrence Valley lowlands, where they are not known to breed.

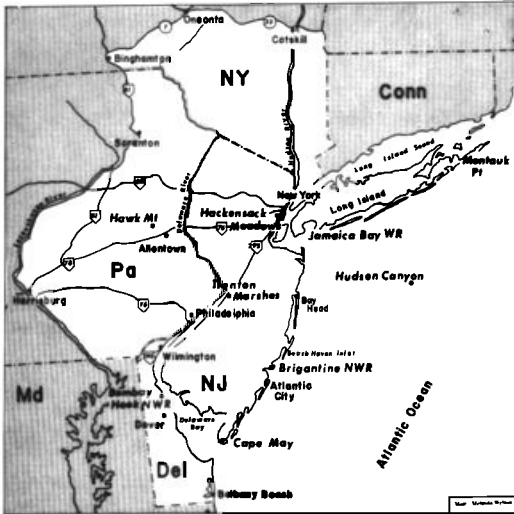
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Boxes with the initials S. A. above them in Regional reports were ingeniously designed to lure readers into reports from other than their home Regions. The initials stand for the words Special Attention, and are pronounced appropriately, "Essay".

HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/P. William Smith, Robert O. Paxton, and David A. Cutler

It was a good, if unexciting season. Paraphrasing subregional compiler Tramontano, "Abundance appropriately described the summer. It seemed that almost all species had a very productive breeding



season. Food sources (mostly insects) may have been made favorable by well-spaced rainy periods. Second, even third clutches occurred. . . . Certainly weather conditions were generally favorable. Based on readings at Fair Haven, N.J., furnished by weather observer Paul Croft, average temperatures in June and July were very slightly above normal, and without extremes. Rain in June was about 25% less than average. In July, a major storm July 3 - 4 caused the monthly rain total to approach eight inches, almost twice normal. This particular storm had disastrous effects on skimmers and certain other species such as Purple Martins, which had an estimated 60% nestling mortality in Grantham's area of southeastern Pennsylvania. Luckily it came sufficiently late in the breeding period to have limited impact. Waters in impounded areas such as Brigantine and Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuges were very high, resulting in poor conditions for observing migrant shorebirds.

It was gratifying to see many formal studies of bird populations, either of varying types of species or of specific geographic or biotic areas, being conducted in the Region. While it is interesting to speculate on the reasons for this swing in the pendulum of ornithological fashion, a basic underlying factor is certainly the environmental movement of recent years. One quickly realizes it is difficult to project environmental impact without knowing what's there to begin with. The next challenge will be to provide a single forum where the material being researched by many parties for diverse reasons can be published, or at least indexed, so that it all will be readily available to future investigators.

GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS — The largest colony of Pied-billed Grebes still in New Jersey, if not the entire Region was in the Kearny Marsh, where ten families raised some 60 young in just one 50-acre area (RK). A calling Pied-billed June 16 at Brigantine N.W.R., N.J. (hereafter, B.N.W.R.) was a probable breeder after several years' absence there (JA).

Pelagic observations were modest this summer, especially now that Cox's Ledge has been claimed by the Northeastern Maritime Region. A Sooty Shearwater inside Rockaway Inlet, L.I., June 10 (PP) was unusual. The only pelagic species observed July 23 at Barnegat Ridge, about 15 mi n.e. of Barnegat Inlet, N.J. were six Wilson's Storm-Petrels, a very poor showing (JM *et al.*).

Two **Brown Pelicans** were reported from Rehoboth, Del., July 4 (FA). At least one Great Cormorant summered at Barnegat Inlet, N.J., a traditional winter gathering spot (JD). The first reported Regional nesting of Double-crested Cormorants occurred this summer on islets near Fisher's I., N.Y., in Long Island Sound (*vide* PAB), and hundreds were roosting on Gardiner's I., N.Y., in June (PAB). Many others were reported on sandbars in coastal New Jersey in June (RK), and it seems inevitable that they soon will be found breeding in that state. Inland, Double-crested were at Spruce Run Res., N.J., June 20 (RK), Central Pk. Reservoir, N.Y.C., June 28 - July 6 (R. Welden), and at Peace Valley Pk., Pa., July 24 (AM).

WADING BIRDS — While Great Blue Herons were reported doing well at inland locations such as Orange County, N.Y. (JT), they were almost gone in coastal New Jersey. The Pomona heronry in Atlantic County was down to ten pairs from 50 five years ago (JA), and Sandy Hook, which held over 100 pairs twenty years ago, had none.

The New Jersey Division of Fish & Game's Endangered and Nongame Species Project sponsored the third annual New Jersey colonial waterbird survey this year, June 7 - 9, between Manasquan Inlet and Cape May, using helicopter techniques similar to last year's. Overall, large waders were up more than 75% over 1977, headed by Glossy Ibis which was up nearly 150%. Due to the peculiarities of the census method plus normal year-to-year variations, however, it is premature to postulate an upward population trend, although the results were far from discouraging. Every species was up except Yellow-crowned Night Heron, whose slightly smaller count (100±) was probably meaningless for such a secretive species. Detailed results of the survey should be published elsewhere.

Other regional wader reports of note included continued increases in the Cattle Egret population at Pea Patch I., Del. (JL), and a successful Black-crowned Night heronry in Bucks County, Pa., where 72 young were fledged from 27 nests (AM). A new heronry was discovered within the confines of New York City, on S. Brother I., in the East R. (PAB), which had Snowy and Cattle Egrets plus Black-crowned Nights. A small group of four pairs of Yellow-crowned Nights was at Rye, N.Y. (TB *et al.*), and one was seen at W. Fairview, Cumberland Co., Pa. (Cliff Jones), a historical nesting location along the Susquehanna R. Despite last year's

huge White Ibis incursion, not a single individual was reported from the Region during the period.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — Summering waterfowl were especially pentiful this year, and it is difficult to find a species which was *not* reported either coastally or inland. Breeding was another story, however, and except for Canada Geese and Wood Ducks, nesting waterfowl seemed not to be expanding and were probably down. A pair of N. Shovelers was seen at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, N.Y. (hereafter, J.B.W.R.) with six young in early June (WW *et al.*), one of the few Long Island breeding records, but only 2 - 3 adults at B.N.W.R., in mid-June (JA) seemed low. Ruddy Ducks no longer appear to breed at B.N.W.R., but 14 in courtship at Little Creek Wildlife Management Area, Del. (hereafter, L.C.W.M.A.) June 13 were noteworthy.

There were unusually many Black Vultures in w. New Jersey this season including three at two Salem County locations June 25 - July 1 (DK, W. Middleton), and four in Hunterdon County, mainly along the Delaware R., near Bull's I., throughout most of the period (GH, m.ob.). It seems only a matter of time before the expanding s.e. Pennsylvania population is found nesting in New Jersey. There was also a straggler at Sea Cliff, L.I., July 29 (Barbara Spencer *et al.*).

S.A.

For the third successive year, Mississippi Kites were found near Cape May, N.J., in early June. This year apparently two or even more birds were involved June 4 - 11 (Clay Sutton, Al Nicholson; ph.). The regularity of this phenomenon deserves attention, especially since it seems to involve imm. or subad. birds and is generally associated with notably late kettles of Broad-wingeds and other raptors. While a June hawkwatch at Cape May sounds preposterous, it might well prove illuminating.

Goshawks continued to solidify their recent gains in s.e. New York, with four pairs including three nests found in Rockland County (RSp) while a nest with three young was discovered in Westchester County (TB). Red-shouldered Hawks, which crashed in much of the Region twenty years ago, showed signs of a comeback; a pair of adults was seen in Westchester County in June where it had been thought extirpated (TB), and they were reported in Rockland County, N.Y. (RD) and n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). In the Pequannock Watershed of n. New Jersey, four were noted in June where a few have hung on through the decade (PB).

Outside Delaware, the only known active Bald Eagle nest in the Region is in Cumberland County, N.J.: this nesting was unsuccessful for the second successive year (*vide* JG). Adult Bald Eagles were noted at Ashley, Pa., June 4 (John Conrad), in Rockland County, N.Y., June 19 (*vide* RD), and two were seen June 24 near a traditional breeding area in Montgomery County, Pa. (Fred Mears). New Jersey's Osprey restoration program, conducted by the Endangered and Nongame Species Project, seemed to be doing well; this year no Maryland eggs were imported, and over 50 young were fledged (*vide* JG). The Peregrine restoration program

also showed encouraging signs in New Jersey with a pair seeming to form from birds previously reared in the Barnegat Bay area.

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — Clapper Rail populations in coastal New Jersey were only a shadow of their former numbers, following Hurricane *Belle* in 1976 and two rough winters. Virginia Rails also seemed low at places like B.N.W.R. (JA) but were up, or at least more frequently found, in s.e. Pennsylvania (*vide* DAC) Common Gallinules and Am. Coots were also absent, or nearly so, in coastal New Jersey this year (JA,JD) after being common until two years ago. Common Gallinules were plentiful in the Hackensack R. Meadows, N.J. (RK) and near Wurtsboro, N.Y. (RD), however, and a pair with ten young was seen at Goshen, N.Y., Aug. 5 (JT). At Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Philadelphia, four pairs of Am. Coots were referred to as a possible re-establishment (JCM), and an amazing 2000 were estimated nesting in the Kearny Marsh, N.J. (RK). While it is not hard to understand why this family seems to be doing so poorly near the coast, its apparent success in more inland areas may indicate populations which migrate beyond the effects of recent harsh winters.

An almost totally leucistic Semipalmated Plover was at Stone Harbor, N.J., July 30 (PD). Piping Plovers were in normal numbers on Long Island but were doing poorly farther s. owing to ever-increasing human use of the shoreline. None was reported breeding this year at Sandy Hook, and elsewhere in New Jersey they were down in numbers at Holgate, B.N.W.R., and Longport compared with previous years (JA,JD). In Delaware, the breeding population was estimated to be near 40 pairs (JL).

A Ruddy Turnstone at Exeter, Pa., July 31 (WR) was unusual for the area. Rarely observed in summer, a Purple Sandpiper was at Longport, N.J., June 18 (JD). Many observers commented on the numbers of Stilt and W. Sandpipers at locations such as B.N.W.R., despite water levels; unusual inland were eight Stilt Sandpipers near Philadelphia July 28 (JCM). Either observers are becoming blase about Ruffs or they are being observed less often than a few years ago; the only report was of one at B.N.W.R., July 26 - 28 (JD,CL). A Black-necked Stilt found at B.N.W.R., in late May remained until June 8 (SL, m.ob.) and was probably a wanderer from the Delaware colony rather than a relic from New Jersey's unsuccessful attempt to reintroduce this species by placing eggs in Willets' nests a few years ago.

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS — An estimated 15,000 gulls summering in the Jamaica Bay, L.I. area alone (WW) gave some indication of the abundance of these creatures in our garbage-infested region. Not surprisingly, some white-winged gulls were among them, including Glaucous at J.B.W.R., June 27 - July 13 (WW, m.ob.) and two Icelands at the nearby Fountain Ave. Dump June 2 (WW). An Iceland was also at Cedar Bonnet I., Ocean Co., N.J., June 9 (RK).

Breeding Great Black-backed Gulls in New Jersey were up about 25% from last year, and Herring 75%. A first Herring Gull nest was found in the Greenwich,

Conn. area (Charles Pettengill). The Laughing Gull census in New Jersey produced a count above 40,000, comparable to last year. The first definite Laughing Gull nest and eggs on Long Island in 88 years was found June 15 on the Line Is. (PAB *et al.*) but was thought unsuccessful (ROP). An imm. Little Gull at Breezy Pt., Queens Co., L.I., June 1 - 30 (PP, m.ob.) was surprisingly the only one reported. What happened to the summering group that used to frequent Raritan Bay?

Gull-billed Terns did not have a good year in New Jersey and only three pairs were found in the June 7 - 9 aerial survey. Peak counts at B.N.W.R., in late July were only 6 - 7 (CL,JD), about a third of last year's numbers. On the Line Is., L.I., two pairs fledged three young (PP *et al.*), and two were seen around Jamaica Bay over the summer (WW *et al.*). A pair of Roseate Terns, whose current status in New Jersey is obscure, was found at Holgate June 25 (PWS), observed courting July 1 (JD), and was present until at least July 22. There was no direct evidence of nesting, however, and this species has not been more than a casual breeder in historical times w. or s. of the Cedar Beach, L.I., colony. However, individuals or pairs were seen this summer, as in most other areas, in the vicinity of several Com. Tern colonies from Jones Inlet westward on L.I. (PP).

Least Tern numbers in New Jersey were about even with published figures from recent years, but nesting success was not reported. In Sussex County, Del., there were an estimated 300 pairs, but success was poor owing to the chicks being crushed by the ubiquitous beach buggy (Richard West). A most unusual Royal Tern was photographed at Cox's Ledge off Montauk, L.I., June 3 (TD *et al.*), and one was "scraping" in a tern colony on e. Long Island in June (James Ash, *vide* PAB). There were two Caspian Terns on islets in Barnegat Bay, N.J., in mid-June (RK) and one at B.N.W.R. (JD); perhaps Caspian is slated to beat Royal to nesting in New Jersey.

The **White-winged Black Tern** reappeared this year at L.C.W.M.A., July 19 (Floyd Murdock, m.ob.; ph. Alan Brady) and was seen until it moulted into obscurity in late August. Based on plumage characteristics, some observers contended that as many as three individuals were present! Black Skimmers in coastal New Jersey in



White-winged Black Tern, Little Creek W.M.A., Del., July 28, 1978. Photo/ Alan Brady.

early June were comparable in numbers this year to last, but the colony at Cape Henlopen, Del., was virtually gone due to human and beach buggy encroachment.

CUCKOOS THROUGH KINGBIRDS — Every subregional compiler commented on the banner number of cuckoos this season. The s. Lancaster County, Pa., summer bird count June 10, for example, reported 58 cuckoos, 85% Yellow-billed, against only four last year (RSc).

The Sussex County, N.J., Barn Owl nest box program proved somewhat disappointing this year, with only two of sixteen boxes occupied (Stiles Thomas). A Great Horned Owl July 28 at 125th St., Manhattan (L. Holland) was presumed a post-breeding wanderer as none have been known to nest on Manhattan I., in historical times. An impressive eight Short-eared Owls on Canarsie Pol, Kings Co., N.Y., during the period (WW) implied probable breeding at this isolated New York City location, near various garbage dumps.

Several Chuck-will's-widows near Dividing Cr., Cumberland Co., N.J. (PD,DK) indicated recent expansion of this species up the e. side of Delaware Bay. A communal roost of 200+ Chimney Swifts formed at Middletown, N.Y., by July 10 (JT), considerably earlier than normal. Pileated Woodpeckers were reported doing well in n. New Jersey (PB,RK) and Rockland County, N.Y. (RD), with Dutch elm disease thought to be a factor, but they continued rare and local in the s. portion of the Region though two suburban nestings were reported from e. Pennsylvania (RH,AM). In Delaware, a pair near Newark elicited the comment that the state's policy of allowing unrestricted harvesting of dead timber for firewood was hurting the species there (JL). A W. Kingbird reported at Middletown, N.Y., July 12 (JT) was remarkably early.

EMPIDONACES — Acadian Flycatchers are clearly the dominant *Empidonax* in the s. portion of the Region, but they are also re-establishing themselves N even into their ancient hemlock-gorge habitat vacated for some 75 years. Typical s. section counts were 61, s. Lancaster County, Pa., June 10 (RSc *et al.*), and 13 in Cumberland County, N.J., June 3 (DK *et al.*). In coastal New Jersey they were n. to the rich bottomlands at Allaire, Monmouth Co., where they have been present at least 20 years, and were found even in an oak woodland in the Ocean County pine barrens (WK *et al.*). Farther n., they were up the Delaware R. drainage to the New York state line, across n. New Jersey in locations such as the Pequannock Watershed (PB), through Rockland County, N.Y. (at least 5 pairs — RSp,RD), e to Greenwich, Conn (*vide* TB), and n. to Lagrangeville, Dutchess Co., N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.).

Least Flycatcher, on the other hand, seemed to have crashed this year. It was down or even absent in most traditional areas of n. New Jersey, n.e. Pennsylvania and s.e. New York. In s.e. Pennsylvania, where it was also down, Cutler pointed out that it had only "arrived" about 10 years ago. Perhaps, then, this was only a phenomenon at the edge of this species' range; a Breeding Bird Survey route in Broome County near Damascus, N.Y., produced 11 singing Leasts, considered a good number (JLe).

Willow Flycatcher is the Region's most widespread *Empidonax*, and it like the Acadian is clearly increasing. While data are lacking for Delaware, elsewhere it was common in suitable habitat (see below) with inordinate numbers in higher elevation areas of Rockland County, N.Y., where heretofore it had been quite uncommon. There were several reports of singing Alder Flycatchers on territory n. from Van Cortlandt Swamp, Bronx Co., N.Y. (John Farrand — nest), Bedford, Westchester Co., N.Y. (TB *et al.*), Piermont Marshes, Rockland Co., N.Y. (RD), a few locations in n.w. New Jersey (v.o.), and near Wyoming, Pa. (W.R.). Some of these locations were new this year and do not just represent increased field work. Reports of Alders s. of these areas were all early enough to have been migrants.

S.A.

Birds singing *fitz-bew* occur in at least four different habitats in the Region: dry brushy fields often overgrown with multiflora rose and dogwood; open swampy areas, especially those dominated by willows; the high tide bushes at the edge of the salt marsh; and in a few cases, wet alder thickets. Birds singing *fee-bee-o* seemingly occur only in the last habitat, almost invariably in this Region within hearing distance of *fitz-bews*. While certainly the split into two species has many strong supporters, the Region has many skeptics including those who insist they have heard individual birds sing both songs. This editor (PWS) has had several puzzling experiences, such as playing a *fee-bee-o* tape next to an alder thicket from whence "*fee-bee-o*" was emanating, only to have an *Empidonax* barrel out, glare at him, and assertively shout "*fitz-bew*"! Of course, this editor may only need better ears or tapes.

Perhaps, however, we should not be too quick to bury "Traill's" Flycatcher. One thoughtful observer raised the spectre of hybridization, evoking memories of the infamous "Ridgway's" Grackle. And one iconoclast pointed out that there is hardly a better opportunity for misinterpretation if not outright mischievousness than in *Empidonax* systematics. Help!

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — About five pairs of Cliff Swallows nested beneath a footbridge between Bull's I., N.J., and Lumberville, Pa. (GH, m ob.). If, as reported, these birds were nearer to the New Jersey side, they would represent the first Hunterdon County breeding record in 20 years, and the only currently known Cliff Swallows nesting in the state!

Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted in June at two locations in New Jersey (PB, WK), one in n.e. Pennsylvania, (WR), in Westchester County, N.Y. (David Havens *et al.*), and at Stamford, Conn. (Steven Potter), implying that this species probably nests sporadically over much of the Region. Winter Wrens, at their s. range limit here, were down in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR) and absent in recent n. New Jersey areas (PB), but were present in Rockland County, N.Y. (RSp). Also at their

range limit here, two Hermit Thrushes were at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co., N.Y., July 2 (TB) and two were in the Pequannock Watershed of n. New Jersey in June (PB).

While finding E. Bluebirds over most of the Region has been getting more difficult, the species is not necessarily in special trouble, thanks to a number of nest box programs. Perhaps the most successful effort was in Dutchess County, N.Y., where 198 young were fledged in the Clinton Corners area (Florence Germond, R.T.W.B.C.). Small programs produced 36 young from six boxes at the Great Swamp N.W.R., Morris Co., N.J. (*fide* RK), and 29 young from five boxes in the Collier's Mills W.M.A., Ocean Co., N.J. (Tom Mulvey). On the other hand, in JGR's area of s.e. Pennsylvania, E. Bluebirds dropped from about 20 pairs in prior years to 11 this year, with smaller broods as well.

Yellow-throated Vireos, very rare in s. New Jersey were seen again this year on territory near Dividing Creek (*fide* DK). Solitary Vireos continued to do well in the Pequannock Watershed of n. New Jersey (PB), and two nests were found in Sterling Forest, Rockland Co., N.Y. (RSp).

WARBLERS — Of the 30 species of warblers known to breed in the Region, most reach either a n. or s. range limit here. Thus, the ebb and flow of populations plus increased field work quickly renders obsolete the regional bird books and other principal sources of information about their status. The following is an attempt to provide an update for 17 species, mainly e. of the Delaware R., based on this year's field work plus selected recent literature.

Prothonotary: Common in swamps and along sluggish streams n. to c. New Jersey. Counts this year of 15 in the Great Cedar Swamp, Cape May Co., N.J., June 24 (JA, JD) and seven in s. Cumberland County June 3 were typical. Several pairs have bred since 1973 along the Passaic R., in Morris County (RK). A pair this year near Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J. (Fred Ditmers) was at best an isolated breeder. *Golden/Blue-winged* the latter continues to push N and into the higher areas occupied by the former, and genetic swamping may be occurring although there does not seem to be an increase in recognizable hybrids. *Golden-winged* is now scarcer and more restricted at its s. range limit in n. New Jersey than it was 50 or even 20 years ago, five *Golden-winged*s reported during June and July in Bear Swamp near Vincentown, Burlington Co., N.J. (KT) were well out of their historical range and habitat, and deserve confirmation. *Nashville*: s. portion of its breeding population within the Region collapsed in 1973. Now apparently extirpated in New Jersey and adjacent areas; one was reported from Dutchess County, N.Y., June 10 (R.T.W.B.C.). *N. Parula* Essentially extirpated as a regional breeder, but may be trying to re-establish itself. Singing males were reported in June in Monmouth, Ocean, and Hunterdon Cos., N.J., at Stamford, Conn., and in Lancaster County, Pa., where a June 10 census found eight versus one in 1977 (RSc *et al.*). *Magnolia*: A singing male n. of Stockholm, Sussex Co., N.J., June 18 (PB) may have

been one of New Jersey's occasional nesters. Still generally unestablished s. of the Catskills. *Black-throated Blue*: well established, with numerous pairs, s. to Rockland County, N.Y. (RD *et al.*), and Sussex County, N.J. (PB). *Yellow-rumped*: Increasing as a breeder at Wyoming, Pa. (WR). Several singing males in s e Westchester County, N.Y., June 25 (TB *et al.*) may represent a range expansion; a male n. of Newfoundland, Passaic Co., N.J., June 10 (KP *et al.*) encouraged continued search for breeding in that state. *Black-throated Green*: In addition to being common from n. New Jersey n., a small population first noted by Charles Urner in 1935 persists in cedar swamps and along streams in the New Jersey pine barrens; two singing males were near Weekstown, Atlantic Co., N J, June 18 (WK *et al.*). While there has been speculation that these might represent the s.e. race *waynei*, the only known specimen was referable to the nominate race (B. Murray, 1972 *Cassinia* 53:27-28). *Cerulean*: established somewhat colonially e. to the Delaware R. drainage, n. to n. New Jersey. First nesting records were established for Lehigh and Northampton Cos., Pa. (BM,RW), and several pairs were present along the Rockland - Orange County, N Y border (RD,RSp *et al.*), a possible connection with the long-established Dutchess County colony. A singing male at Freehold, N.J., June 25 (JP) was part of a pattern of recent Monmouth County reports, but there is no evidence of breeding in this area yet. *Yellow-throated: albilora* breeds sparingly in sycamores e. to the Delaware R., with several pairs this year, as usual, at Bull's I., Hunterdon County, N.J. (RB, m.ob.). A few pairs presumably of the nominate race have been found in pine-oak woods of s. New Jersey in recent years, with birds this year at Hollywood Beach, Cumberland Co., June 3 (DK *et al.*) and Ocean View, Cape May Co., June 18 (JA). A singing male at Sterling Forest, Rockland Co., N.Y., June 23 - July 1 (RSp) was almost certainly a vagrant. *Chestnut-sided*: Generally thought absent in New Jersey south and east of the pine barrens, two singing males were present this June, as for the last few years, at Manahawkin (PWS, m.ob.). *N. Waterthrush*: now well established in wooded swamps from n. New Jersey, Rockland and Westchester Cos., New York n.; dozens reported. Has nested occasionally in recent years s. to c. New Jersey, including coastal Monmouth County (*vide* WS). *Louisiana Waterthrush*: in addition to being well established along streams in piedmont and highland areas, there persists a small, little-known population in coastal New Jersey swamps. Reported this year from Great Cedar Swamp, Cape May Co., June 24 (JA,JD), and has been regular in most years n. to Allaire, Monmouth Co. *Kentucky*: occurs n. and e. to w. and s. New Jersey, where several were reported near Dividing Creek June 3 (DK *et al.*) and at Princeton (RB). They were considered locally common and possibly previously overlooked in Lehigh and Montgomery Cos., Pa. (BM). A pair at Livingston, N J, June 17 (RK) and a singing male at N. Greenwich, Conn., June 25 (*vide* TB) seemed typical of this species' half-hearted attempt to hold on farther to the n.e. *Yellow-breasted Chat*: very common this year in s. New Jersey with 18 in Cumberland County June 3 (DK *et al.*) and ten at Cape May June 24 (JD). Reported by

virtually every subregional compiler, including n e Pennsylvania and Dutchess County, N.Y. This surge smacked more of a cyclic than a secular increase *Hooded*: while reported as decreasing in many areas, was still locally common on laurel hillsides in the Pequannock Watershed of n. New Jersey, with 12 singing males in June (PB). The small population s and e. of the pine barrens in New Jersey seemed secure, with ten singing males from three locations.

Other warblers of note: One of the highlights of the season was the discovery of a singing ♂ **Swainson's Warbler** in a laurel association along the Kittatunny Ridge in Northampton Co., Pa., a few miles s.w. of the Delaware Water Gap June 4 (RW,WW; sketch). This is far to the n.e. of its known Alleghenies range and was probably a vagrant, as it could not be located subsequently. Perhaps equally astonishing was the discovery of a pair of Bay-breasted Warblers in a spruce bog in Sterling Forest, Rockland Co., N.Y., July 14 (RSp,JB), there was no evidence of these birds breeding, and this species is marginal even in the Adirondacks.

BOBOLINKS THROUGH SPARROWS — Bobolinks, which reach the s. limit of their range here, have always been scarce as breeders over most of the Region. Hence, an estimated 50 pairs at Doe Run, Chester Co., Pa. (JGr) were noteworthy, especially so far s. There were also singing males at Woodstown, Salem Co., N.J., June 25 (JM) and B.N.W.R., to July 15 (JD), both well s. of their historical range limit in New Jersey. A **Western Meadowlark** singing at Brooklyn, Susquehanna Co., Pa., June 2 - 7 (John Tripp) may indicate continued E expansion of this species.

New Jersey's only Summer Tanager "colony" near Dividing Cr., seemed down this year, but one or two pairs probably bred (DK). Another pair at Livingston, N.J., June 17 (RK) was well n. of any known breeding in the state. Dauphin County, Pa., had its first apparent Blue Grosbeak breeding record, when three young were fledged at Linglestown (G. Wertz). After last winter's tremendous flight, Pine Siskins were noted into June in Millville and Linwood, N.J., Staten I, N.Y., N. Greenwich, Conn., and Laverock and Hamburg, Pa., but only at Hamburg, where four young were seen June 24 (Kerry Grim, *vide* MB), was breeding proven beyond what was mentioned in the spring report.

Many observers, especially in inland areas, commented on the continued decrease in field-nesting sparrows. Henslow's now seems extirpated in the Region except in s.e. Delaware, where a few were hanging on at Broadkill Beach (JLe). Vesper Sparrows, although widely reported down, were up at Dallas, Pa., to six pairs from two last year (WR), and there were 12 singing males tallied on six Breeding Bird Survey routes in Delaware (JLe). A singing ♂ **Clay-colored Sparrow** was present at Morris Plains, N.J., from at least June 17 - July 25 (PB,DR, m.ob.), but like several other summering regional Clay-colored in recent years, it did not seem to be paired.

OBSERVERS (subregional compilers boldfaced) — Francis Abbott, James Akers, Peter Bacinski, John Benzinger, **Irving Black**, (n. N.J.: 2 Beaumont Place,

Newark, N.J. 07104), **Raymond Blicharz** (w.c. N.J.: 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, N.J. 08638), Maurice Broun, Paul A. Buckley, **Thomas Burke** (Westchester Co., N.Y.: 26 Onondaga St., Rye, N.Y. 10580), **David A. Cutler** (s.e. Pa., Del.: address below), John Danzenbaker, **Thomas Davis** (N.Y.C., L.I.: 94 - 46 85th Rd., Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421), **Robert Deed** (Rockland Co., N.Y.: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N.Y. 10960), Peter Dunne, Joan Galli, P. Gillen, (JGr) Jesse Grantham, **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. N.J.: 363 James St., Phillipsburg, N.J. 08865), Ray Hendricks, Richard Kane, Wayne Klockner, Donald Kunkle, Steven Lawrence, Charles Leck, (JLe) Jay Lehman, J. Linehan, **James Meritt** (s.w. N.J.: 809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, N.J. 08012), J.C. Miller, August Mirabella, Bernie Morris, Robert M. Patterson, Jack Peachey, Peter Post,

Kenneth Prytherch, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.: 556 Charles Ave., Kingston, Pa. 18704), David Roche, William Sandford, (RSc) Robert Schutsky, **P. William Smith** (coastal N.J.: address below), (RSP) Robert Speiser, Kenneth Tischner, **John Tramontano** (Orange Co., N.Y.: Biology Dept., Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, N.Y. 10940), Wade Wander, **Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club** (Dutchess Co., N.Y.: c/o Mrs. Aline Romero, Cedar View Rd., Pleasant Valley, N.Y. 12569), Richard Wiltraut, (WWi) William Winkelman — **P. WILLIAM SMITH, 24 Heyward Hills Dr., Holmdel, N.J. 07733, ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Dr., Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, Pa. 19095.**

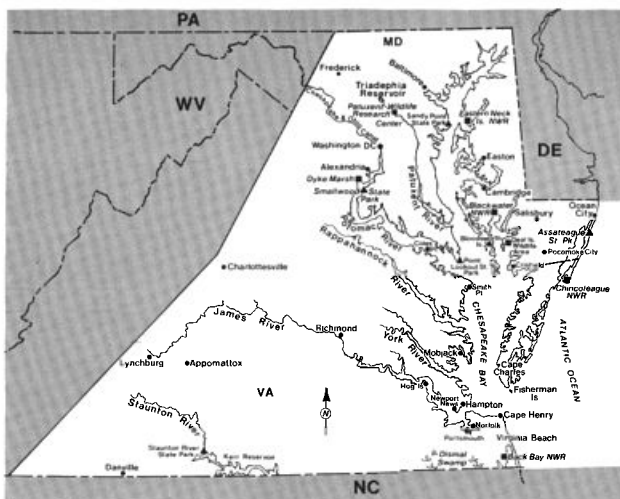
MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F. R. Scott

June began with high water levels in most impoundments and rivers, and summer rainfall, though highly variable from place to place, was adequate overall. Temperatures were also reasonably normal, and the nesting season was considered good for most species, although coastal birds were subject to the usual disruptions of occasional storms. There were, however, no major tropical storms during the period.

LOONS THROUGH IBIS — Summering Red-throated Loons were recorded for the fourth consecutive year with a report of two in Sinnepuxent Bay, Md., July 2 in company with Com. Loon (TFW). The only major pelagic trip of the season was one of the Baltimore Canyon area off Ocean City, Md., June 18. This produced some excellent counts of pelagic species including 80 Cory's, 4500 Greater, one Manx, and 600 Sooty Shearwaters plus 1500 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (RAR, PGD *et al.*). Most of the birds were in the vicinity of a fleet of scallop fishing boats about 46 mi e.s.e. of Ocean City. A **Leach's Storm-Petrel** came aboard a ship 65 mi e.s.e. of Assateague I., Va., June 26 and was captured and photographed (RSH). The bird had neither a brood patch nor a cloacal protuberance. Aside from the previously reported concentration of Double-crested Cormorants at Smith I., Md., the only reasonably large group of summering birds was well inland at Hopewell, Va., where up to 55 were present throughout the period in the vicinity of the previously reported nesting colony (FRS). The six nesting pairs here apparently fledged their young by mid-June, but nesting success could not be determined (CRB). In view of the Kepone contamination of this part of the James R., it will be of interest to see how this isolated colony persists in future years.

No complete survey of coastal heronries was made



this year, but based on available information there were no significant changes in overall populations, although several individual colonies seemed smaller than in 1977. The Cattle Egret colony at Hopewell had a maximum nest count of 298 June 6, and new or replacement nests were still being built in mid-July (CRB *et al.*). This colony also contained the aforementioned cormorants, six pairs of Great Egrets, and a pair of Snowy Egrets, the last found feeding young July 4 (CRB), a first nesting record this far inland. An ad. Little Blue Heron in the colony throughout June could not be confirmed as nesting. A count of seven ad. and two imm. Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Loudoun County, Va., June 15 (JWE, NCM, FRS) was a record high number for the Piedmont. The birds were suspected of having a colony across the Potomac R., in Montgomery County, Md. An ad. White Ibis seen in a heronry on Wreck I., Va., on the night of July 23 (JSW) could not be located the next day. This was the only report of this species so far this year.

WATERFOWL AND HAWKS — Summering Whistling Swans occurred in several places near the

coast, the best count being five at Cambridge, Md., July 10 (JR), and a Brant was seen on n. Assateague I., Md., June 26 (TFW). Gadwall still appear to be increasing in Chesapeake Bay, especially in Somerset County, Md., where Armistead found three nests with eggs at Deal Island W.M.A., June 7. The sewage lagoons at Dulles airport, Loudoun Co., Va., proved a good spot for Wood Ducks this year. There were six broods here June 18 and eight July 23 (WSC *et al.*). The number of apparently nonbreeding summering ducks seemed unusually good. Among the many reports were a pair of Am Wigeon at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., June 5 (HTA) and single N. Shovelers at Baltimore June 4 (EATB, RFR) and Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., July 6 (TRW). A Greater Scaup on n. Assateague I., Md., June 26 (TFW) was unusual, as was a Lesser Scaup far inland in Campbell County, Va., June 10 (VK). Canvasbacks and Oldsquaws were found in three localities each and Com. Goldeneyes in four. Scoters as usual were found in numerous coastal localities. Peak counts of Black Scoters were 13 at Ocean City, Md., June 13 (TFW) and 25 at Wallops I., Va., July 12 - 30 (CRV), whereas the maximum number of Surfs was seven on the Manokin R., Md., June 6 (HTA). There were only two reports of White-wingeds, both singles: South Marsh I., Md., June 2 (HTA *et al.*) and Poplar I., Md., June 10 & 27 (JR).

In a strange coincidence Owings Mills, Md., was the site of the observation of two different rarities, a **Swallow-tailed Kite** May 25 (JDS) and a **Mississippi Kite** June 24 (EB), the latter apparently a first record for Maryland. Summer Sharp-shinned Hawks continue to be reported in Virginia. This year single birds were reported at Fairfax June 1 (DFA) and Lewisetta July 16 (FRS), and a nest was reported (without details) at Appomattox in early June (FTH). In Sussex County, Va., a Broad-winged Hawk June 22 (BW) and three June 28 (BW, RAB) were unusual for s.e. Virginia, where the species is not known to nest.

S.A.

Increasingly good coverage of nesting Bald Eagles in this Region yielded 84 active nests this year, up from 78 in 1977 (JMA, MAB *et al.*). Of these, 41 were abandoned and 43 hatched a total of 59 young, though five of these died before fledging. The figure of 0.64 young fledged per active nest does not represent replacement production, but the species seems at least temporarily to be holding its own, and there is now more hope that there will be a future for the bird in this area.

A Marsh Hawk in n. Loudoun County, Va., June 15 (JH&TD) was a long way from the currently known breeding areas on the Eastern Shore or in extreme w. Maryland. Byrd estimated 600 pairs of Ospreys nesting in Virginia in 1978, and Armistead counted 31 active nests on Bloodsworth I., Md., May 27 and June 2. Renesting by some birds after weather disruptions caused some individuals to be late, with eggs still in one Virginia nest as late as July 7 (MAB). One determined but perhaps misguided Osprey was observed flying

ENE low over the ocean 50 mi e. of Virginia Beach, Va., June 25 (RSH). The first apparent fall transient Am. Kestrels were noted at Poplar I., Md., July 18 (JR) and Sandy Point S.P., Md. (hereafter, S.P.S.P.) July 26 (HLW).

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES — Several Soras were found in Somerset County, Md., in early June (HTA), and one at S.P.S.P., was present through June 3 but not later (HLW). One or more Black Rails apparently summered at S.P.S.P. (HLW) and Baltimore (RFR), and the best count at Elliott I., Md., was ten on the night of June 10 - 11 (HLW). One ad. Purple Gallinule was present throughout the period near Upper Marlboro, Md., where nesting was proved in 1976, but there was no indication of breeding this year (RMP *et al.*).

Armistead found two Am. Oystercatcher nests with eggs and a pair with one downy young on Hooper I., Md., June 4, part of the isolated Chesapeake population, and three Piping Plover nests with eggs were located at Chincoteague Ref., May 30 (KB). In the Chincoteague area the fall migration of shorebirds was late in getting started, and numbers were quite low the first three weeks of July (CPW). An Am. Golden Plover was seen on n. Assateague I., Md., on the odd date of June 21 (CPW), and at nearby Chincoteague Ref., one appeared July 7 and was joined by a second July 22 (CPW), the former the earliest fall arrival for Virginia. Two different family groups of Upland Sandpipers — four birds each — were located in Loudoun County in mid-June (RLA, JHD, FRS *et al.*) indicating that this species is still holding out as a breeding bird in Piedmont Virginia. Two Spotted Sandpipers near Lynchburg, Va., June 3 (MRB) and two at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., June 26 (OEF) were possibly summering birds but could have been late spring and early fall transients.

At S.P.S.P., a Willet June 24 (HLW) was unusual at this time of year, and the first transient Lesser Yellowlegs here were four June 28 (HLW). At Chincoteague Ref., Wilds found the following late spring migrants June 17: 69 Red Knots, 24 Least Sandpipers, and 26 Semipalmated Sandpipers, none of which were present July 1. Short-billed Dowitchers apparently summered, however, since 340 were present here June 17 and 109 July 1 (CPW). Since no godwits were reported during the spring migration, it is reasonable to assume that late June records of Marbled Godwits were probably early fall migrants. One was noted on Myrtle I., Va., June 26 (BW), another was observed on n. Assateague I., Md., June 28 flying S with three Willets (TFW), and another (or the same bird) was found at Chincoteague Ref., June 28 or 29 (KB). Elsewhere, a Marbled Godwit was seen at S.P.S.P., July 14 (SD) and three at Cape Henry, Va., July 30 (CES). Both of the Maryland records beat the previous earliest fall arrival date of July 23. A Ruff was present at Chincoteague Ref., July 12 - 29 (CPW *et al.*), and the Am. Avocet flock at Craney I., Va., did not go over 20 during the period (TRW).

A Wilson's Phalarope far inland at Alexandria, Va., July 28 - 30 (BN, JMA, OEF *et al.*) was very unusual but still the third fall record here in three years. There were two reports of N. Phalaropes at Craney I.; two on June

I were clearly spring migrants, but one on June 28 was puzzling (TRW).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — A Pomarine Jaeger flying *over the beach* on n. Assateague I., July 31 (TFW) set an early arrival record for Maryland. At least one of two skuas seen off Ocean City June 18 seemed to be a **South Polar Skua** and was well photographed (RAR *et al.*). Another skua 75 mi e.s.e. of Assateague I., Va., June 26 was not identified further (RSH). Forty-five pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls were estimated nesting on Smith I., Md., in late May and early June (HTA). Elsewhere on Chesapeake Bay one nest with eggs was found on the Manokin R., Md., in early June (HTA), and five nests with eggs were on Little Fox I., Va., May 29 (FRS). The only other nesting reported for this species was of five pairs on Sinnepuxent and Chincoteague Bays, Md., in June (CPW). Little Fox I., the only Virginia nesting site of Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls on Chesapeake Bay, is fast disappearing to erosion and will probably be gone in two or three years. According to Williams, breeding populations of Herring Gulls seemed quite reduced on coastal Virginia, but — as always — care must be used in making such generalities, since unless a complete survey is made, large newly formed colonies can easily be overlooked. An ad. **Franklin's Gull** was seen at S.P.S.P., June 22 (HLW) and another adult at Alexandria July 21 (DFA), and four Bonaparte's Gulls summered near Baltimore (RFR *et al.*). A **Little Gull**, apparently molting from first summer into ad. winter plumage, was present near Baltimore June 20 – July 22 (DS,EATB, RFR *et al.*).

Gull-billed Terns did not continue their decline of the last few years and were in numbers comparable to those of 1977 (BW). None was found nesting this year in Maryland. The only Chesapeake Bay report of breeding Forster's Terns was on the Manokin R., where 385 pairs were found nesting in early June (HTA); 200 post-breeding birds had moved inland to Alexandria by July 25 (OEF). A colony of 450 pairs of Com. Terns near Tangier I., Va., May 29 - 30 (FRS) was the largest nesting concentration reported, though there may be larger ones on the barrier islands. One hundred pairs of nesting Least Terns on Tar Bay, Md., near Barren I., in early June (HTA) was the largest colony reported on Chesapeake Bay. Elsewhere on the bay they did not do well, although several other small colonies were reported, including ones at S.P.S.P. (HLW) and near Baltimore (RFR *et al.*). Most of the bay colonies seem to suffer from predation or human disturbance. On n. Assateague I., however, they seemed to thrive with about 150 pairs nesting in the first 2 mi s. of Ocean City Inlet (CPW). Four Least Terns put in a most bizarre appearance at Dulles airport June 10 (RLA,WSC, CPW), one of the few Piedmont Virginia records for this species.

About 4000 pairs of Royal Terns nested in three colonies on Virginia's barrier islands this year with reasonably good success; i.e., over 2700 of the young were banded in spite of some washouts of low-lying nests (JSW,JB,BW). The Royal Tern colony on Cobb I., was also host to about 100 pairs of Sandwich Terns, a record number for Virginia, and 43 young had been

banded by the end of the period (JSW,JB,BW). Neither of these two species nested in Maryland this year. For the fifth successive year a pair of Caspian Terns nested on coastal Virginia, this time on Ship Shoal I., where Williams found a pair and two eggs June 27 and Buckalew banded the larger of the two young July 10. A few Caspians were also recorded farther inland during the summer, such as 20 near Baltimore June 20 (RFR), one to four at S.P.S.P. all summer (HLW), and four at Hopewell June 26 (FRS). As yet, however, there is no evidence of breeding away from the immediate coast. Forty Black Skimmers near Tangier I., Va., May 30 (FRS) were apparently nonbreeders, and an adult at Baltimore July 16 (RA) produced the first local record.

CUCKOOS THROUGH CREEPERS — At Bowie, Md., late migrating Yellow-billed Cuckoos remained in good numbers at least through the first two weeks of June (RMP), and high numbers were also reported during this period in the Manassas, Va. area (PM). Single Black-billed Cuckoos were reported at Manassas June 15 (PM) and Woodbridge, Va., June 30 (DFA) where they are considered quite rare in summer. Willow Flycatchers are continuing to expand their breeding range in the Baltimore area (RFR), and in n. Virginia an astonishing 34 different singing birds were located at Dulles airport June 10-18 (WSC,RLA,CPW *et al.*). One pair was feeding young at Alexandria July 29 (JMA). Inexplicable was a singing **Alder Flycatcher** near Lewisetta, Va., July 16 (FRS), probably over 100 mi from the nearest known nesting area, and a late Olive-sided Flycatcher was near Baltimore June 9 (MR). The only successful Tree Swallow nesting in inland Virginia was in Nelson County, where Boatwright found a newly fledged young near the nest hole June 30. Another Tree Swallow was killed in a nest box in Stafford County in mid-May by House Sparrows (ETM). In Loudoun County three Tree Swallows were seen entering and leaving a nest box June 15, but the next day the box was found to contain a healthy brood of E. Bluebirds (FRS *et al.*)! For the third successive year there were 28 Cliff Swallow nests in the Bedford County, Va. colony, and Boatwright estimated that 110 young fledged. The swallow migration began early with Rough-wingeds and Banks arriving at S.P.S.P., June 28 (HLW) and Rough-wingeds at Baltimore the same day (EATB). Also at S.P.S.P., migrating Purple Martins showed up July 3 and Tree and Barn Swallows July 4 (HLW). Blue Jays were moving northward over S.P.S.P. for most of June, the last record being 27 on June 29 (HLW). A Com. Raven was seen twice during the period near Prettyboy Res., Md., where one had been seen also earlier in the spring (HK). A singing Brown Creeper at Bellevue, Md., June 2 - 3 (HTA) represented the third year in the last five that this species has been found here in late May or June.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — House Wrens seemed unusually common in Loudoun County in mid-June (RLA *et al.*). In many other parts of inland Virginia they are still fairly local. A striking example of the decline of the Carolina Wren is shown by two strictly rural Breeding Bird Surveys on the c. Piedmont of Virginia. Totals went from 51 in 1976 to 13 in 1977 and 7

in 1978, a reduction of 86% in two years (FRS). Declines in more urban areas, however, do not seem as great, probably because of well-stocked feeders in winter. One or two Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Dulles airport June 17 - 18 (WSC *et al.*) were unusual for Piedmont Virginia; several empty or dummy nests were also found. The only E. Bluebird nesting report of any size came from Stafford County, Va., where about 125 young were fledged from 22 breeding pairs, well up from 1977 but still below the 1976 totals (ETM). Adult Loggerhead Shrikes with two young were seen in Loudoun County in mid-June (DLM *et al.*), and two Solitary Vireos were found on the upper Piedmont at Lynchburg June 3 (MBT). Apparently late spring migrants included a singing Black-throated Blue Warbler near Baltimore June 11 (DL), a Chestnut-sided and a Canada Warbler near Chestertown, Md., June 7 (FLP), and another Canada in Loudoun County June 14 (CES,RTB). A pair of Prothonotary Warblers feeding three fledged young at Dyke marsh, Va., July 29 - 30 (JMA *et al.*) seemed very late, and in Loudoun County two ad. Blue-winged Warblers were feeding one young June 14 (BLK,JP) and additional singing males were located here June 17 (RLA); the first breeding evidence for Virginia's Piedmont. A Brewster's Warbler was singing near Baltimore from May 28 into June and may have bred with a ♀ Blue-winged (RFR). A singing Wilson's Warbler near Cockeysville, Md., June 29 (JLS) was certainly a vagrant, and Wieboldt found two Prothonotary Warblers "on the move" on n. Assateague I., July 31, clearly early fall migrants.

ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS — A pair of N. Orioles feeding young in the nest at Richmond, Va., June 10 (FRS) was only the second summer record for this area, and a late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was singing near Baltimore June 6 (JLS). House Finches were found nesting in Richmond in late May (CRB), and they were also present in Lynchburg in early June (JH&TD). A Pine Siskin was noted near Baltimore June 1 (RFR), and one was still coming to a feeder in Loudoun County June 15 (HGH). In view of the recent expressions of concern for the Grasshopper Sparrow, it was pleasant to hear that this bird was still "abundant" in the Manassas, Va. area in June (PM). The peak count of Henslow's Sparrows at Elliott I., Md., was nine singing birds June 15 (JR *et al.*), and at Dulles airport a minimum of 30 different birds was found singing in June and July (WSC, JMA, RLA *et al.*). This last is not only the largest colony ever reported for Virginia; it is also the only colony currently known to be active in the state except for a small one at Saxis on the Eastern Shore.

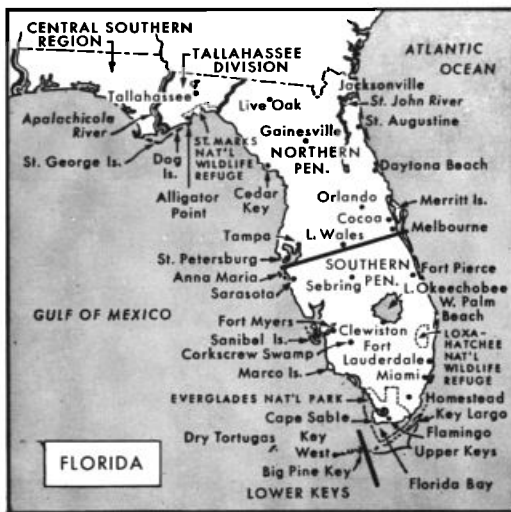
CORRIGENDA — Delete the Goshawk reported from Chincoteague last Dec. 4 (AB 32:333). The specimen turned out to be an imm. Red-shouldered Hawk. The Aug. 2, 1977, Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Chincoteague Ref. (AB 32:191) should have been attributed to Bazuin, Keelan, and Thomas.

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FLORIDA REGION / John C. Ogden

Cities around the Florida peninsula had a patternless mix of above and below average rainfall during June, and although I haven't seen the official July records, reports indicate that many stations had heavier rains that month. Surface water in freshwater wetlands



became especially high during July, due to the accumulation of water from an unusually rainy winter and spring and the July rains. Traveling about the state during mid-July, I noticed many instances of creeks and ponds at flood levels. Charlie Creek in eastern Hardee County was well out of its banks, with several feet of water under nearby live oak groves. Nearby pastures were soggy with rain ponds, and the calls of frogs and toads were deafening along flooded roadside ditches. During the same trip we crossed the St. Johns River west of Titusville. Water was belly deep on cattle in adjacent pastures (used to be marshes), and Pied-billed Grebes had replaced meadowlarks as the most conspicuous calling bird. High water levels about the state apparently provided additional nesting habitat for most water birds, and was especially noted with wading birds. Its affect on land birds went unrecorded.

GREBES THROUGH BOOBIES — The muck fields and water management areas on the Duda Farm s e of Belle Glade, Palm Beach Co., were again this summer the site of impressively high counts of water-birds. Seventy-nine Pied-billed Grebes, including two adults on nests and 43 fledged young in 12 broods, were there July 16, while a total of 101 grebes was counted July 29 (GSH,PWS *et al.*). Hereafter this site will be referred to simply as Duda Farm. Between May 28 and June 24, seven dead or dying Greater Shearwaters were picked up on beaches between Nassau Sound and Stuart (HWK,LNM,PCP *et al.*), along with a single Audubon's Shearwater near Stuart in early July (JH). A Greater from Vero Beach went to *U.F. Single Cory's Shearwaters were several mi out from Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia Co., June 24 & July 30 (PWS,H&WD), and a White-tailed Tropicbird was 10 mi e. of Ft. Pierce July 16 (RH). At the Dry Tortugas July 4, a booby described as overall brownish except slightly paler below, with bright pinkish-orange feet and whitish outer tail feathers, was identified as a Red-footed (LGB,BH).

WADING BIRDS — The Nat. Audubon Society Research Dept., the Fla. Audubon Society and the Fla. Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm. conducted the third series of aerial surveys of wading bird nesting colonies in peninsular Florida during 1978 (JCO, HWK,SAN *et al.*). With high water through most of the state's interior wetlands, the survey revealed a sizable increase in the number of colony sites and the total number of nesting waders by comparison with results of similar surveys during the much drier summer of 1977. Especially noticeable was a sharp increase in the numbers of Cattle and Great Egrets in interior colonies. Using Polk County as an example, 12,300 pairs of Cattle and 250 pairs of Great Egrets nested in 1977, *cf* 20,650 pairs of Cattle and 780 pairs of Great Egrets in 1978. Great Egrets were in three colonies in 1977 but were nesting in eight Polk County colonies in 1978 (JCO, HWK,SAN).

High water had a different affect on Wood Storks. As reported last year (AB 31:1129), storks that nested in c. and n. Florida colonies during 1977 were generally successful, apparently because food was so well concentrated by the low water levels. I estimated 3400± pairs of storks nested in 17 colonies and fledged 4000± young during 1977. By contrast, high water through the summer of 1978 caused poor feeding conditions for storks, thus fewer pairs attempted to nest and a fair amount of nest desertion occurred. The preliminary 1978 tabulations show that 2600± pairs of storks initiated nesting in 16 c. and n. Florida colonies, and produced 2000 - 2500 young (JCO). For the record, the large s. Florida stork colonies at Corkscrew and in Everglades N.P., again failed to produce young birds (JLH,OLB).

Other wading bird highlights included a mixed Great White-Great Blue Heron pair that nested at Marco I., of interest because so few Great Whites nest n. of Florida Bay and the Keys (THB). Another Great White wandered far inland to Port Mayaca, Martin Co., June 17 (PWS). Reddish Egrets nested successfully in Florida Bay between March and June, in contrast to

poor winter nesting in this same region (RTP) Four Cattle Egrets were flying E 90 mi offshore from Ponce de Leon Inlet July 30 (PWS *et al.*), a route headed into the open Atlantic well n. of the Bahamas. Is it possible that the occasional Cattle Egret that shows up in n w Europe is as likely an American bird as one from Africa, or were those four birds only performing a lemming-minded escape from crowded Florida colonies?

High counts of waders attracted to the Duda Farm included 57 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, 1222 Wood Storks and 530 Glossy Ibises in a total count of 3459 waders July 23 (GSH,PWS). A newly discovered nesting colony of several thousand Cattle Egrets and White Ibises in Loxahatchee N.W.R., included one full-color Scarlet Ibis on a nest apparently incubating May 19 (BSW,LR). Presumably its mate was a White Ibis, although this fact was not confirmed.

DUCKS — The Duda Farm produced high counts of 242 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks July 16 and 478 July 29, including nine broods totaling 63 young on the former date (GSH,PWS). During the July 29 survey at Duda, 951 Mottled Ducks were counted (GSH,PWS), a tremendous concentration for a species usually seen in pairs and family groups. Blue-winged Teal regularly remain in the Florida peninsula into late spring, and southbound transients return by late July; their presence in late June is a puzzle. One male was at McKay Bay, Tampa June 28 (LA), and a flock of 25 was at the St. John's Res., June 29 (HWK). Five Greater Scaup at Bald Pt., Franklin Co., June 2 (HMS) were unusually late. Ruddy Ducks have occasionally bred in Florida, thus four colorful males and one female at McKay Bay June 25, is of interest (B&LA).

RAPTORS THROUGH COOTS — Late summer bands of Swallow-tailed Kites included 36 at Hastings Aug. 5 (PCP,VMM), and flights of six July 19, 12± on July 29, and 50+ Aug. 3, all going SE along the shore of L. Okeechobee near Moore Haven (NS,JCO). Everglade Kites experienced an especially successful nesting season in s. Florida with 100+ young fledged (NS,RC). The Cooper's Hawk, rare but apparently widely scattered in Florida, was reported from n. Citrus County June 6 (HMS), while one Marsh Hawk at St Marks Light June 7, was unusually late (FHS,Leslie Warren). Pairs of Ospreys summered at Lakes Jackson, Lafayette and Talquin, the first time as many as three pairs summered in Leon County in recent years (HMS) American Kestrels are rare breeders in the Tallahassee Div., thus a pair with three young s. of Tallahassee June 10 RMC *et al.*, and two birds in Gadsden County June 26 (GEM), are of interest. The diminutive and rarely seen Black Rail turned up in the Tallahassee Div., one enticed into view in response to a taped call near Panacea July 16 (RMC,CME). An ad. Purple Gallinule, dead on the road on n. Key Largo June 2 (RTP), like some of the other recent reports of this species in the Keys during summer, was not close to any freshwater habitat considered normal habitat. The Duda Farm survey during July produced counts of four broods totalling nine young Purple Gallinules, 14 broods with 85 young Com. Gallinules, and confirmed nesting by Am. Coots for the second consecutive year at that

location, this time a single brood with adults July 16 (GSH,PWS). Another coot nesting report came from s. Dade County where an adult and two downy young were in highway pond Aug. 13 (JCO).

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — One to five imm. Great Black-backed Gulls were in the Jacksonville region June 21 – July 30 (CWH,JLW). Gull-billed Terns produced 40 young on Bird I., Nassau Co. (RWL), and 20 Gull-billeds, including two flying young, were at Duda Farm July 16 (GHS,PWS). One Gull-billed, rare in the Florida Keys, was at a Key Largo colony of Least Terns July 21 (RTP). An imm. Sooty Tern came ashore at Vero Beach June 28 and soon died (HWK; *U.F.). One ad. Sooty was perched on a floating oil drum far at sea off Ponce de Leon Inlet June 24 (PWS,B&LA). I received reports of Least Terns nesting on rooftops in Jacksonville, Orlando, Titusville, Cocoa, Ft. Pierce, Delray Beach, Deerfield Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami and Key West (HWK,PWS,RTP). With the exception of inland Orlando and Key West all are e. coast sites. Fisk's tabulation (*Fla. Field Naturalist* 6:1-8) of rook nesting in Florida also shows a preponderance of e. coast locations. Does this mean that Least Terns on the Gulf coast still have ample beach habitat available for nesting? It seems very unlikely, especially between St. Petersburg and Naples. The Nassau Sound Bird I., was partially destroyed by winter storms, and some Gull-billed and Least Terns and Black Skimmers moved to spoil deposits at nearby Mayport Naval Base (RWL). Royal Terns nested at Nassau Sound however, and produced 290± young (RWL). About ten pairs of Caspian Terns nested on spoil off Eastpoint, Franklin Co., details of this small colony are to be published in *Fla. Field Naturalist* (HMS). The first June record of Black Terns in inland Leon County occurred June 21, when at least five were at L. Jackson (HM&EHS). A Brown Noddy was perched on a buoy near the Mayport jetties July 26 (JPC), an unusual n. location for the species. Black Skimmers failed to produce young in Nassau Sound (RWL), but an unknown number of skimmers nested successfully at Ponce de Leon Inlet (Wilma Hawley).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Counts of Burrowing Owls near the n. edge of their range were 13 near Mayo, Lafayette Co., June 4 (RMC.CME), and ten at Imeson Industrial Pk., Jacksonville May 30 (HMS). An early flight of Com. Nighthawks was observed along 20 mi of highway in e. Orange County July 16, when 286 were counted between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. flying E in flocks of 4 - 10 birds (Oliver F. Swift). A Chimney Swift was again detected at the species' s. range limit, w. of Delray Beach June 11 (PWS). Belted Kingfishers seem to be rare breeders anywhere in Florida and perhaps absent in the s. peninsula. Thus a pair on the St. Lucie Canal between Port Mayaca and Indiantown June 17, is of considerable interest. One kingfisher flew with a fish in its bill; later two were heard calling but no nest search was possible at the time (PWS). Herb Kale's plea in the spring report that out-of-state birders provide details of unusual sightings in Florida produced an unexpected result. I received twice as much information from one observer refuting a Bahama Swallow, as another

observer produced in support of the record. The entire episode, therefore, will remain anonymous! A Bank Swallow at Port Mayaca June 17 was so out of season that it could have just as well been a late spring straggler or an early fall transient (PWS). Barn Swallows continued their rapid invasion of Florida as breeders. Active nests were again located near Jacksonville (RWL), and nesting pairs were discovered at new sites at Alligator Pt., and the Carrabelle R., in the Tallahassee Div. (CHW,Leon Neel,HMS). Much farther s., an active nest in e. Orange County. July 3 appears to be the first in c. Florida (BP,DF *et al.*). Cliff Swallows again nested near Port Mayaca June 17, still the only colony known in Florida (PWS). An estimated 5000 Purple Martins were in the annual roost in banyan trees in a Ft. Myers Beach park during late June (Keith Carstens).

JAYS THROUGH BUNTINGS — Two Blue Jays at Key West July 8 (PWS) were evidence that the only colony of jays in the Florida Keys continues to persist. Gray Catbirds returned to nest again in the Tallahassee area (GEM), and a single catbird was far s. at Wekiva S.P., July 24 (DF,BK). In the Florida Keys where Brown Thrashers are rare and uncertain breeders, a singing bird first reported in the spring on Sugarloaf Key remained until July 5 (LK). An early flight of Black-and-white Warblers produced two at Washington Oaks S.P., July 11 (CHC), one at Alligator Pt., July 16 (NOW), and one at Orlando July 27 (BK,DF,BP). Several Orchard Orioles including fledglings, in n. Citrus County, June 6 (HMS) were considered to be at the s. limit of their breeding range. An imm. Brown-headed Cowbird circled a boat at sea 53 mi e. of Ponce de Leon Inlet July 30 (H&WD,PWS). The s. breeding limit for Indigo Buntings seems to have stabilized at about Hillsborough and Polk Cos., following rather rapid range expansion through the n. peninsula during the late 1960s and early 1970s. One was singing at Crystal Springs, Hillsborough Co., July 15, near the s. limit (JBE).

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ONTARIO REGION

/Clive E. Goodwin

Drought was the main feature of the breeding season in southern Ontario, where there was concern for crop yields and water supplies by the end of the period. In the north, however, conditions were more normal and



there was little evidence of the lack of rain adversely influencing nesting, although there was concern expressed about production of some wetland species, such as American Bitterns at Kingston (HQ) and elsewhere.

It was an uneventful summer in the eyes of most observers, although it yielded more than the customary assortment of lingering non-breeding birds, merging with early and late migrants in such groups as shore-birds, and with possible breeders and would-be breeders in other species.

Scarcity was again a major feature of observers' reports, although some recovery was seen as occurring in some of the most seriously depleted species.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Non-breeding concentrations of Com. Loons were reported from Long Pt., where groups of 27 birds June 20 and 19 on Aug. 1 were counted (L.P.B.O.); and on Basswood L., Quetico P.P., where the traditional gathering numbered 73 by July 23. Loon production was quite good in Quetico, the only area reporting on this aspect (SP). A Red-throated Loon lingered at Ottawa to June 14 (m.ob.). White Pelicans seem to be turning up along the lower Great Lakes quite frequently in the past few years. This year birds seen at Rondeau June 14 (PAW,m.ob.), Luther July 5 (PS) and Trident Bay in the Bay of Quinte July 7 - 10 (TS) could possibly all have been one far-ranging wanderer. Isolated Double-crested Cormorants were seen, and on Pigeon I., off Kingston, there were 50, and three nests containing eggs June 22. However, a July 13 trip found the eggs still not hatched, so the success of the nesting is very uncertain (RDW *et al.*).

HERONS — The large Birdfall Great Blue Heron colony has apparently collapsed, declining from 150 nests to 12, but two new small heronries were located elsewhere in the Peterborough area (DCS), and the Quetico heronries were experiencing good success (SP). Long Point Bird Observatory has commenced an on-going survey of heronries which might provide a clearer picture of heron fortunes in the Province. The only Cattle Egret reports were of successful nesting on Pigeon I., two nests producing four young, banded on July 13 (RDW *et al.*). Wandering Great Egrets appeared at Ottawa June 5 (RAF) and two at Grafton June 1 (ERM). A Snowy Egret was photographed on the Rouge R., June 6 (GES,AJS) and probably the same bird seen again June 15 (JM,LR). Rarest of this group was a Glossy Ibis at Ottawa July 15 (StG).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Five Whistling Swan reports in June ranged from extreme e. to extreme w., and there was a blue-phase Snow Goose on Sable I., June 18 (AW,GH). Brant were moving off Bowmanville June 3, when eight were seen (MB) and there was a late flock of six at Mississagi Light June 24 (JN,DRK). Apparently non-breeding individuals of several species were seen along the lower lakes: they included Pintail, Redhead and Ring-necked Duck at Pickering and Com. Goldeneye, Oldsquaw and Red-breasted Merganser in the s.w. Sometimes, however, these sightings either presage or signify breeding, and there were some noteworthy breeding reports as well. A ♀ Green-winged Teal with eight young at Bright's Grove July 23 (AR,HR) was only the second confirmed breeding for the s.w., and further evidence of this species' increasing numbers in the s. in summer. A N. Shoveler with ten ducklings at Garson July 3 (JN) was the first nesting for the Sudbury area, and a ♀ Gadwall with eight ducklings at Wawa July 1 (CEG,JEG) represented a major n. extension of this expanding species' breeding range in the Province. By contrast Blue-winged Teal, with the Mallard, s. Ontario's commonest duck, seemed unusually scarce this year. A Wood Duck at Quetico July 13 & 30 was rare for that area (AW).

VULTURES, HAWKS — There were four Algonquin area Turkey Vulture reports, and to 11 at French L., July 31 (SP). In Carden Twp., Victoria Co., nine birds were located in several locations on a survey of part of the Township (JAS). For the second successive year the species moved very late at Prince Edward Pt. (hereafter, P.E. Pt.) as 30 were seen there June 24 (RDW). Two accipiter nests were located: a Goshawk at Burketon May 20 (JR,DB,RT) and a probable Cooper's Hawk nesting in the Pinery P.P. (CGH *et al.*). For the seventh successive year the all-white Red-tailed Hawk was recorded in Vaughn Twp. (AD). A survey of Waterloo County revealed only about five active pairs of Red-shouldered Hawks (CAC *et al.*), a continuing decline in spite of the recent suggestion of some improvement in this species' fortunes. Only one other nest was reported, at Courtice (JR) and a rare bird was seen in Algonquin P.P. (RDM). Another species yielding only gloomy (or no) reports was Marsh Hawk. None bred at Presqu'ile (RDM) and there were few anywhere. By contrast Broad-winged turned up places

they do not usually frequent in summer: two were in the Windsor area during July (PDP), and what 15 were doing at Tobermory on June 20 (JS) is anyone's guess. Radar Site 415 at Cape Henrietta Maria again had nesting Rough-legged Hawks this year (AW *et al.*)

One or two wandering Bald Eagles were seen in the s., but there was nothing further on this bird's nesting success, except from its n.w. stronghold where nine young fledged from six known nests to date in the Quetico area (SP). Osprey news was all good: four active nests in Algonquin (RT), two successful to date in Quetico (SP) and now two nests at Go Home Bay (CGH). In addition wandering birds at Pickering and the Pinery in June suggested a strengthening in numbers. A rare summer Peregrine Falcon was seen at Whitby June 6 (DC). The only Merlins reported were scattered observations from this species' northerly breeding range.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — Bobwhite, at the edge of its range in s.w. Ontario, appears to have seriously declined there after the severe winters; both London and Lambton County reported low numbers (WRJ,DR). Sandhill Cranes were recorded at Sable I., June 1 (AW) and Ottawa June 6 (RAF). On the latter date a Virginia Rail was recorded in Algonquin P.P. (RT *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — Piping Plover were seen at Sibley June 8 (BE) and Presqu'île Aug. 10 (AD) but at its only remaining nesting station on Long Pt., two were present throughout but no nest was located (AL). The July 1 - 2 trip to Cape Henrietta Maria (AW *et al.*) recorded on breeding territory shorebirds normally only seen in Ontario in migration. Two Am. Golden Plover nests were located, 20 Hudsonian Godwits were seen including some apparently nesting, and 30± Stilt Sandpipers were behaving territorially. In the s., Am. Woodcock seemed to continue in strong numbers in spite of unseasonably cold springs, and there were several families at the Pinery and two nests located at Presqu'île (CGH,RDM). Upland Sandpipers were reported in good and increasing numbers all across their normal range (m.ob.) and Wilson's Phalarope bred again at Toronto (ADo *et al.*) and up to eight birds at Amherstview July 30 (FC) suggested possible breeding there.

The usual assortment of late and early birds were seen, with only a week or two between, but it did seem that S migration started unusually early this year. The first migrants were Lesser Yellowlegs at Long Pt., from June 24 and Garson from June 23, and both areas reported the other commoner species from June 29 (L.P.B.O., JN *et al.*). Everyone saw movement by the first week in July, including record-early Greater Yellowlegs at Amherstview July 9 (KFE) and Semipalmated Sandpiper at Point Pelee N.P. (hereafter, Pelee) July 6 (JCW,MG,SG). Rarer species included a Willet at Sandbanks P.P., June 29 (GT) and a Ruff at Pelee July 24 (JCW,MG,SG). However, habitat was quite scarce as much mud had completely dried up, and only a few concentrations were recorded. Most outstanding was St. David's cannery pond, where remarkable counts of 650 Lesser Yellowlegs and 175 Short-

billed Dowitchers were seen July 30 & 22 respectively (RFA *et al.*,WK). All of these remarks apply to a rather theoretical "fall" movement, and just where one places the two Semipalmated Sandpipers at Pelee June 19 (GB) or the Willet on Sable I., June 18 (AW) is presumably a matter of choice. The more clearly spring birds were an interesting assortment, including two Whimbrels at Ottawa June 11 (StG,RAF *et al.*) and three at Mimico the previous day (JAK); another Willet at Whitby June 5 (MB); five White-rumped Sandpipers at Pelee June 13 (JCW,MG); an unusually large flock of 60 Sanderlings at Ottawa June 3 (StG) and a Marbled Godwit there June 9 (RAF); three Hudsonian Godwits reported to June 13; and finally a N. Phalarope at Sable I., June 1 (AW).

GULLS, TERNS — Spring jaegers of any species are very rare, but Ottawa had both a Parasitic June 13 - 16 (RG) and three **Long-tailed Jaegers** June 14 - 15 (JH,BG,m.ob.) and another bird was seen at Arnprior June 14 (MR). The previous week five Long-tailed had been seen at Moosenee June 6 (JC). For the second successive year Glaucous Gulls (or a wandering bird) were seen along the lower Great Lakes throughout the period (m.ob.) and an Iceland Gull was at Pelee to June 26 (JCW,MG,SG). News was scarce on the status of gull and tern colonies but the 344 Herring Gull nests on Nottawasaga I., June 10 represented a drop of 516 from last year, in keeping with the decline of this species. The 109 Ring-billed Gull nests there were the first nestings on the island since observations started in 1967, and there were 504 on an adjacent islet which was submerged on the last survey in 1971 (TL,DS,CJM). The huge Toronto colony yielded estimates of 14-20,000 birds this year (JAK *et al.*) and in fact Ring-billed continued to prosper everywhere throughout their range. A Laughing Gull was seen at Kettle Pt., July 22 (AR) and Franklin's Gulls were seen at Ottawa and Pelee; but the most interesting report was of 525 on Sable I., June 18 (AW,GH), a quite unprecedented total for Ontario but a logical event in the light of adjacent Minnesota colonies, as Wormington noted in his report. Little Gulls reported were few; only two at Bronte June 11 (AD) and two at Kettle Pt., July 2 (AR,DR), as this species seems to be undergoing a period of decline, in Ontario at any rate. The pattern is consistent with the species' history, and indeed with expanding species generally. Forster's Terns continued their expansion. Bennett found them "widespread" on Walpole I., June 18 - 19 and there were eight there July 9 (DR). Flocks of 11 and six juveniles at Long Pt., July 28 (AL,EN) and 29 birds at Pelee from July 16 (*vide* AHK) were noteworthy counts.

It is too bad the same encouraging things cannot be said for Com. Terns, but their decline seems to continue unabated, as only one was seen along 8 mi of beach at Nottawasaga Bay July 15 - 16 (DS,CJM), and the Presqu'île colony was down to three pairs this year. This compares with 16,000 pairs in 1970, and speculation there was that the birds had moved to Toronto but they have not, as the spring roundup there only yielded 750 on the E. Headland (JAK) and our own estimate at the end of July was about 2000 birds in all, including young. Ice I., Mallorytown is the only remaining known

colony at the e. end of L. Ontario and 100 pairs were present there this year (*vide* HQ). Arctic Terns appeared at Ottawa, and obviously they are a regular late spring migrant there as five were seen June 3 - 15 (m.ob.), and perhaps the species should be looked for elsewhere as well, as there were at least two at Bronte June 8 - 18 (GBe,m.ob.). Black Terns nested at Steep Rock (SP) and there were 136 at Tiny Marsh July 14 (DS,CJM) but some areas had few, so the picture for this species is not clear. The most amazing report of the summer was the appearance of a **Black Skimmer** at Pelee July 6 (JCW,MG,SG) at an improbable time of year without any freak weather conditions, only nine months after the Province's first.



Arctic Tern, Bronte Harbour, Ont., June 11, 1978. Photo/ Chauncey Wood.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Black-billed Cuckoo nest was located at Kearns (JNK). A Great Gray Owl was found dead at Marathon July 3 (NGE) and there were at least two — one of them killed by a car — between Atikokan and French L. (SP).

S.A.

The Atikokan area was also the scene of one of two Snowy Owl success stories this season. A starving bird found at Steep Rock in May was nursed back to health and successfully released at Churchill, Manitoba in mid-June (*vide* SP). Guidance for this achievement came from the Owl Research and Rehabilitation Foundation at Vineland, which had a far more remarkable achievement to report — the successful captive breeding of two disabled Snowies. Three young were reared by the birds, a flightless female admitted in 1971 as an immature and a male received in 1974 which can only fly short flips, both as a result of shotgun injuries. Both are still wild birds and have been maintained on an arctic photoperiod with a strict policy of no human interference or manipulation (KMCK). The event is maybe peripheral to our usual reporting but is too outstanding a success story not to include.

Not only was a Chuck-will's-widow at Pelee throughout (*vide* AHK) but one was calling at St.

Williams throughout June (BJ), the third locality where the species has been recorded this year. Whip-poor-wills were in especially good numbers in the Pinery, where 20 were calling (CGH) and there were three pairs at Kettle Pt. (AR) and a bird at Vineland June 10 (KMCK). The Pinery also had a nesting of Red-bellied Woodpeckers (SC *et al.*) and Long Pt., a Red-headed Woodpecker nest (RH,JJ), both nests the first for these localities.

FLYCATCHERS — A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen at Schreiber June 13 (NJ) and one was photographed at Dorion June 17 (OC). The two places are about 70 mi apart. The Thunder Bay region also had Great Crested Flycatchers in Paipoonge Twp., June 12 (MS *et al.*) and Stanley to July 19 (MC). Most reporters thought E. Phoebes very scarce or absent. An Acadian Flycatcher was on territory in Brant County, in June (PE,BD), and there were at least two nests and several pairs at Rondeau (PAW). The Traill's Flycatcher complex continues so: in Willow country there were three pairs of Alders at Kettle Pt. (AR), a "few" around Windsor (PDP) and one at Kitchener June 18 (CAC), and in Alder range there were Willow Flycatchers at Deep R., June 15 (WW), three at Lively (JL) and a nest in Tiny Marsh July 15, probably the first Simcoe County breeding since the species became one (CJM).

SWALLOWS — The abundance of Tree, Bank and Barn Swallows was commented on by several reporters, and these species yielded record high counts on several B.B.S.s. At Long Pt., there were 6000 Bank July 12 (RH,AL), and 20 Barn and four Tree pairs nesting on buildings at Cape Henrietta Maria July 1 (AW *et al.*). An active Cliff Swallow nest was located at Moose Factory Aug. 8 (PWR).

CREEPERS, WRENS — Summer Brown Creepers are rare along L. Erie, but this year one was at Pelee during June, there were several singing in Rondeau and one was banded at Long Pt., July 15 (m.ob.). The only wren species without a gloomy story was the House Wren, and one or two reporters suggested it too was reduced in numbers. There was only one Winter Wren reported from Sudbury-Manitoulin (*vide* JN) and the Algonquin picture was little changed from spring (RT), but as last year there were a few singing birds in the s.w. Only *one* Carolina Wren was reported, from Pelee, and Long-billed Marsh Wrens were absent or in only very small numbers from all the main reporting areas. For example, five in three days of scouring Tiny Marsh was "about an 80% decline from the numbers we hear without working at it in other years" (DS,CJM). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were scarce too except in n regions, where a colony of 20 was seen at Rainy R., June 17 (AW,GH) and two were singing throughout June at Heron Bay (NGE).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS — A pair of Mockingbirds was feeding three young near Barrie July 13 - 14 (B.F.N.C.), and a single bird was at Petawawa in June (RJP). A Gray Catbird nest was found at Kearns (JNK). One spring sighting that was sufficiently noteworthy to include here was a Wheatear at

Amherstburg Apr. 22 (BEa); the vast majority of sightings of this rare species are during the fall. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested at Kettle Pt. (CGH) and there were eight pairs in the Pinery (FH). More scarcity was the story for E. Bluebirds — many areas failed to record any — and both kinglets. Unfortunately on these, and other species in the same situation, statistical details are scarce but the B.B.S. may provide some more information. Loggerhead Shrikes gave some relief to this rather unremittingly gloomy picture, as there may be some recovery from the very low numbers of past years. There were better numbers and good nesting success at Peterborough (*vide* DCS), birds at five locations in Carden Twp. (JAS) and four on seven Kingston B.B.S. routes (HQ). A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Hopeness June 3 (JWJ) and two were singing near Cambridge (CAC *et al.*), but in the Pinery there were only 8 - 10 territorial males as compared to 15 - 20 last year (CGH).

WARBLERS — Prothonotary Warblers showed surprisingly strong numbers, as in addition to at least five Rondeau nests and several other pairs present (PAW *et al.*), the Pelee pair raised two broods (JCW, MG, SG), there was a bird in Brant County in June (MRo, TC) and a June survey in Haldimand-Norfolk located six nests and two additional pairs (JMcC). Both Golden and Blue-winged Warblers sustained their recent increases, and among other reports there were 5 Algonquin area Golden-winged reports (RJP, DSt *et al.*) as well as territorial birds at 8 stations in Mara Twp., and 6 in Dalton Twp. (JAS). Blue-winged were at Cambridge July 1 (CAC, LEL) and Minesing Swamp June 4 - 11 (CJM). Reports from the main warbler breeding grounds were conflicting, some noting increases and others widespread decreases: if there was a pattern I failed to detect it! What was noticeable was the number of birds outside their normal range, some apparently on territory, others maybe just wandering, with some early migration mixed in. In the Pinery there was a Blackburnian Warbler June 28 (AR) and two Yellow-rumped and three Magnolias were singing throughout (CGH). There also was a Magnolia at P.E. Pt., June 23, as well as a Bay-breasted July 19 for Kingston's earliest fall date, and a Wilson's banded June 26 (*vide* HQ). Pelee had a Nashville July 20 and a Black-throated Green July 4 (MG, SG), and elsewhere there was a Tennessee singing in Toronto July 6 (CEG), and another banded at Long Pt., July 26 (L.P.B.O.). The one warbler that several areas agreed was reduced in numbers was the Com. Yellowthroat, and this apparently was supported by Marathon and Kingston B.B.S. results (NGE, HQ). The Pinery Prairie Warbler colony had at least 11 males this year (CGH). A Louisiana Waterthrush was in Oakland Swamp, Brant Co., during June (PE *et al.*) and at Newbury a Hooded Warbler nest was located June 9 (JG, TNH), one of few ever actually found in the Province.

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — The Ferndale Brewer's Blackbird colony had 8 pairs June 3 and another colony was located near Tobermorey June 15 (JWJ). A single bird was seen at Hearn July 4 (AW),

and the same observer had an E. Meadowlark at Rany R., June 1 - 3. Yellow-headed Blackbirds bred in at least two stations, 20 pairs at Steep Rock (SP) and 3 active nests at Bradley's Marsh, Essex Co., scene of the previous s. Ontario nestings (MF).

The most outstanding nesting record of the season was the expected first Provincial **House Finch** breeding at Niagara on the Lake. There were two nests located and the possibility of a third nesting (*vide* RDJ). Indigo Buntings were unaccountably absent from a number of areas, but appeared at Quetico June 11 and Paipoonge Twp., July 25 (SP, MC). Evening Grosbeaks were quite widespread in the n. and seen feeding young, and there was a Pine Grosbeak at Marathon July 28 (NGE) Pine Siskins were seen in many s. localities w. to the Pinery (CGH) and were apparently nesting in Toronto in early June (CEG). Both crossbills appeared in widely scattered localities and small numbers, with 20 White-winged on Flowerpot I., June 28 (JWJ) the most. A Le Conte's Sparrow was at Kelly L. throughout June (JL). Grasshopper, Henslow's and Clay-colored Sparrows all recorded relatively good populations. The Lambton B.B.S. had 33 Grasshoppers (DR) and there were several colonies near Credit Forks, where two Henslow's locations were also found (CAC, GD), and the Tiny Marsh colony of the latter species numbered 43 singing birds July 14 (CJM). At Harwood the Clay-colored colony has expanded to 40 birds (ERM) and there were 18 in Oro Twp., May 30 (CJM).

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NIAGARA – CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe

A hot, dry summer presumably enhanced breeding success among most of the Region's breeders; however, such a conclusion is conjecture as actual data on success rates, past or present, are lacking. The absence of major weather disturbances may have contributed to the general scarcity of rarities but apparently did not prohibit the appearance of some remarkable vagrants.

Vermont's highly touted Breeding Bird Atlas Project continues to gain momentum but a detailed analysis cannot be presented here since the results of this year's efforts will not be assimilated until October. Some highlights presented herein illustrate the significance of this monumental undertaking by Vermont's foresighted birders whose unified effort promises to yield more meaningful data on the status of the state's birdlife than decades of random observations have.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — An extensive survey of Com. Loons breeding in Vermont lends further support for proposed endangered species listing in the state. Seventeen known nesting attempts produced only ten chicks (LNM). Since adult pairs at five additional locations probably represent aborted nesting efforts, it appears that less than one half of all nesting pairs produced a single young. Two southbound Horned Grebes at Montezuma N.W.R., July 3, and another July 18 at Parma (R.B.A., G.O.S.) are unusual but are overshadowed by the appearance of a **Western Grebe** in early July on Tupper L., N.Y. (TD, m.ob.). The latter was superbly photographed making it the first confirmed New York record. The three **White Pelicans** cited this spring reappeared at Montezuma N.W.R., two remained there through July (m.ob.). Solitary



Double-crested Cormorants were sighted near Rochester and at three areas in Vermont. The summer's sole Snowy Egret was spotted in Westminster, Vt., June 27 (LNM). The final destination of the number seen in w. New York this spring remains a mystery. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron strayed to Pt. Breeze July 22 (R.B.A.). Least Bitterns remained extremely elusive, the only reports coming from Iroquois N.W.R. (DF), Braddock Bay (M&RM), Hamlin (RO) and Vermont's West Rutland marsh (G&WE). American Bitterns were also alarmingly scarce. Single Glossy Ibises were found at Burlington (EO, *vide* FO) and Montezuma N.W.R. (WB). The only noteworthy waterfowl sightings were single Mute Swans at Buffalo (DF) and Bellows Falls (*vide* WK), and a nesting pair on the St. Regis R. (H.P.A.S.).

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Although a Turkey Vulture was seen as far n. as Island Pond (CS), deep in the heart of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, the state still awaits its first nesting confirmation. The Braddock Bay hawk watch, covered for 118 consecutive days through June 30 by Laura Moon and others, tallied 19,893 raptors. Despite better coverage the count is down slightly from last year's record 22,566 owing to unfavorable winds during the usual late April peak of the Broad-winged flight. June tallies included 635 imm. Broad-winged Hawks and two ad. Golden Eagles (LMo *et al.*). The latter, recorded June 8, is an exceptional summer sighting. Bald Eagles were seen in seven localities. The Region's only known nesting pair, at Hemlock L., fledged one adopted young. Although 14 Ospreys soared past Braddock Bay in June, only four were reported by observers in other areas. Vermont Atlas workers canoeing L. Memphremagog's marshes July 1 stared in amazement as an ad. Peregrine Falcon streaked within 150 ft of their boat, then circled it in pursuit of protesting Black Terns (AG,FO,DK). Any mid-summer sighting is exceptional and this sighting, apparently of an unbanded male, was little short of extraordinary. Although nesting is, unfortunately, out of the realm of possibility, it is intriguing to note that the last occupied East Coast eyrie was within 20 mi at L. Willoughby and another historic site lay a scant 10 mi n., across the Canadian border. In Vermont broods of Spruce Grouse were found at Moose Bog (FO,AP), Island Pond (LNM), and Ferdinand (WE). It



Western Grebe, Tupper Lake, N.Y., Aug. 5, 1978. First confirmed state record. Photo/ T.H. Davis.

appears that Vermont's population may now be limited to an area of about 100 mi², none of which is protected from the ever-growing demands of the timber industry. Even now within this area only a patchwork of suitable Spruce Grouse habitat remains.

A King Rail at Oak Orchard W.M.A., June 11 (DF) provided the first regional record in two years. Notable shorebird numbers included; 16 Upland Sandpipers June 23 and 75 Short-billed Dowitchers July 8 on Pt. Breeze (R.B.A., G.O.S.), and 45 Solitary Sandpipers at Hardwick L., July 27 (LNM). Tarriers included a Dunlin and two W. Sandpipers (J&WL, CP) June 17 and a Red Knot June 13 (WS, CP) at Kendall, and a ♂ N. Phalarope until June 4 at Perinton (MT, m.ob.). Novelties included a Willet July 14 - 16 (WS, NH) and Baird's Sandpiper July 23 (CP, RC) on Pt. Breeze and three White-rumped Sandpipers on Hardwick L., in n. Vermont July 27 (LNM). Four Wilson's Phalarope records included a fledgling sporting vestiges of down at Kendall July 22 - 23 (R.B.A.), the nearest thing to breeding confirmation thus far for the Region.

GULLS THROUGH SHRIKES — An ad. **Pomarine Jaeger** photographed at Braddock Bay June 19 - 26 (JC, WL *et al.*) represented the second inland New



Pomarine Jaeger, Braddock Bay, N.Y., June 19, 1978. Photo/ Norm Henderson.

York summer record. Eggshell thinning and other reproductive abnormalities are apparently causing a drastic decline in Herring Gull populations in the e. end of L. Ontario (GS). Determination of the factors responsible and long term monitoring of all waterbird colonies are items of top priority. Rochester's **Laughing Gull** remained until at least June 11 (G.O.S.). Up to three Forster's Terns were present on Braddock Bay in July (RS). Both cuckoos seemed to be well represented. Barn. Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were unreported and only a single Saw-whet Owl was seen in Winhall, Vt. (WN).

Vermont Atlas workers managed to locate two Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers near Ferdinand Bog (CJ, CS). This species and Spruce Grouse appear to share equally dismal hopes for survival in the future. In Vermont Willow Flycatchers have now been found as far n. as L. Memphremegog (FO), but whether this is a reflection of range extension or better coverage is problematic. Acadian Flycatchers were found in

increasing numbers; four locality reports including two pairs in Allegany S.P. (DF, RSu) and three at Bergen Swamp (R.B.A.). With only two localities reporting Short-billed Marsh Wrens, the species would appear a prime candidate for Blue-listing; however, how many fallow hay fields were actually searched for this elusive late migrant? Mockingbirds remained scarce in New York but continued to expand their numbers in Vermont. Proponents of the hypothesis that Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are widespread in Vermont were vindicated when a pair was discovered July 1 feeding young along the Barton R., in extreme n.e. Vermont, barely 10 mi from the Canadian border (FO, AG, DK). This is the northeasternmost breeding locality for gnatcatchers and it will be up to observers in the Northeastern Maritime and Québec Regions to significantly extend the species' range now. A Screech Owl tape recording helped lure an astonishing 15 gnatcatchers into view at W. Haven, L. Champlain July 22 (G&WE), setting a regional summer record in Vermont. Charlotte, N.Y., hosted a very late, June 7 Water Pipit (RS) and a flock of 23 early fall arrivals appeared in Greece July 31 (MP). Loggerhead Shrikes apparently bred on Pt. Breeze (R.B.A., G.O.S.) and single birds were discovered at Webster Pk. (DS) and in N. Hero, Vt. (AG, DK). This year's reports simply heighten concern for this chronically declining species as apparently only single young were seen while normal broods range from four to six.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Philadelphia's should be confirmed as Vermont breeders shortly, as three locations in the Northeast Kingdom yielded up to four singing males in July (FO). Blue-winged Warbler completed its sweep across Vermont as a male was found July 13 at Eagle Pt., just s. of the Canadian border on L. Memphremegog (TH). This is far n. of the known range of Golden-winged Warblers in the state and leads one to speculate that genetic swamping will occur at an even faster rate in Vermont than is occurring in c. New York. **Tennessee Warbler** was finally confirmed breeding in Vermont at Bear Swamp (FO, CS) and it is expected that Atlasers will turn up numerous other breeding locations. Cape May Warblers were found nesting at several locations in n.e. Vermont and one is forced to wonder if equal coverage of the Adirondacks would yield similar numbers. Diligent searching there, sparked by several early summer sightings, produced New York's first **Wilson's Warbler** nest, complete with four eggs, at N. Meadow in N. Elba, Essex Co. (DN, *fide* H.P.A.S.). Counts of warblers (2000+ individuals) found in nearly 20 Atlas blocks in n. and c. Vermont by the Ellisons gave results strikingly similar to last year's Common Yellowthroat, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, and Chestnut-sided Warblers were most abundant of the 21 species recorded followed by Yellow, Canada, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, "Myrtle", and Magnolia Warblers.

FRINGILLIDS — Although the Pine Grosbeak reportedly breeds in n. New Hampshire, two in spruces at Pownal, Vt., July 9 (DJ), are apparently unprecedented in the Region. House Finch continued its range expansion, reaching Plainfield, Vt. (MFM) this summer. Pine Siskins surprised observers in w. New York

with numerous appearances throughout the summer but no nests were found. Although the species probably breeds in some portion of New York nearly every year, it has apparently been 80+ years since the last nest was located. An Am. Goldfinch nest in Amity set a new regional early nestling record with five young July 24 (VP). Single reports of both crossbills were received from Vermont. Singing Clay-colored Sparrows were found at Grand I. (DF) and Whallonsburg, N.Y. (DN, *vide* H.P.A.S.).

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a bountiful season with normal summer temperatures, and generally adequate (more than adequate in places) rainfall. At Erie, Pa., the June - July rainfall was only 47% of normal, and at Pittsburgh it was



somewhat lower than normal, but farther south the season was much wetter, as at Morgantown where the July rainfall was three times normal. All this added up to a season of generally lush plant growth, good food crops, and apparently a successful nesting season.

Nesting did not start in earnest until rather late, but it continued at peak effort even to the end of the period. For example some 18 new nests of grassland sparrows were found on the Preston County, W.Va. strip-mine study during the last week of July (RW). The Brooks Bird Club Foray (hereafter, B.B.C.F.) recorded only 100 nesting observations in the Cheat Mountains of West Virginia *cf.* 437 in the same location in 1968. This may in part reflect the lateness of the nesting season since the Foray was held during the first two weeks of June (NG). With the unusual decreased observer activity during the summer it becomes possible to utilize some space to discuss several range expansions

that have been occurring along the Appalachian chain. The well-documented spread of certain southern species such as Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, and Yellow-throated Warbler, continues but the real news of the past few years has been the spread of several northern species into the south. As will be discussed beyond a number of the "northern" warblers are now summering farther south than ever and some of the flycatchers and swallows have also been on the move.

The breeding season is also the time to take stock of populations of those species that have been hard hit by two successive severe winters. The two hardest hit species, Screech Owl and Carolina Wren, are almost extirpated in the north. Both the Eastern Phoebe and the Eastern Bluebird are well below normal numbers, although they have not been eliminated completely. In the mountains of West Virginia and North Carolina-Tennessee both Winter Wren and Golden-crowned Kinglet are very low and even the ubiquitous "Carolina" Junco was not in its usual numbers. There is, however, every reason to believe that these species had good nesting seasons.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Summer records of Com. Loon came from Lock Haven, Pa. (FP), Somerset County, Pa. (RSa); Deep Creek L., Md. (PS), and Rockingham County, Va. (R.C.B.C.). A new heronry of 70 - 75 nests of the Great Blue Heron was located near Wyalusing, Pa. (EW). The Great Egret no longer appears in this Region in the numbers once known, and the only reports came from Watauga L., Tenn., July 20 - 25 (GE) and Rockingham County, Va (R.C.B.C.). Little Blue Herons were reported from Youngstown, O., in June (WB), Roanoke, Va., July 11 (NM,MP) and Daleville, Va., July 29 (BK). Black-crowned Night Herons were reported more commonly than usual and Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found at Austin Springs, Tenn., June 9 (RK).

WATERFOWL — The Lesser white-fronted Goose remained in Allegheny County, Pa., through June (PH)

There was the usual number of reports of waterfowl lingering in this Region well into summer: Whistling Swan, Lock Haven, Pa., June 4 (PS); Gadwall, Pymatuning L., Pa., June 3 (RFL); Green-winged Teal, and Am. Wigeon Presque Isle, Pa., July 31 (DS),

Bufflehead, Deep Creek L., Md., June 1 (FP); and most unusual, a Surf Scoter at Deep Creek L., June 1 – July 21 (FP). A brood of young Com. Mergansers was seen on the Allegheny R., near Irvine, Pa., July 31 (TG).

RAPTORS AND GROUSE — A Goshawk was seen at Laurel Summit, Westmoreland Co, Pa., June 4 (PH). Both Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were somewhat more numerous than usual, but Broad-winged Hawks were generally down in numbers. Rather unusual was the apparent late migratory flight of 13 Broad-wingeds seen June 4 at Girard, Pa. (JB). There were three sightings of Bald Eagles in the Warren County, Pa. area, Hemlock July 4 (JA) and Kinzua Res., July 18 & 25 (SR), and two were seen July 30 in Rockingham County, Va. (R.C.B.C.). At Powdermill Nature Reserve (hereafter, P.N.R.) Am. Kestrels were in good numbers (RCL), and several nests watched in Bradford County, Pa., were successful (EW).

In Pennsylvania both Ruffed Grouse and Turkeys were in good numbers. Bobwhite were very scarce in most of w. Pennsylvania, e. Ohio and n. West Virginia, but were about normal farther s. A Chukar was seen at Erie N.W.R., Pa., July 16 (RFL).

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS — Common Snipe were present during the summer at Newcomerstown, O (ES), well s. of what had been thought to be its breeding range in Ohio. Upland Sandpipers were in good numbers in Garrett County, Md. (FP) and at least four birds were present on one farm in Rockingham County, Va. (R.C.B.C.), while single records came from Latrobe, Pa., June 4 (DSm), Youngstown, O., June 4 (MS) and Lander, Pa., June 22 (WS). Only a trickle of the fall shorebird migration had occurred before the end of July. As usual the unusual shorebirds were reported from Presque Isle on the L. Erie shore: Whimbrel July 22 (JF,BG,SS), White-rumped Sand piper June 10 & 17 (SS, JM), Sanderling July 29 (RFL) and Wilson's Phalarope July 23 (DS).

Foster's Tern at Presque Isle July 19 & 23 were unusual (JB,DS) as were two Caspian Terns at Austin Springs, Tenn., July 14 (RLw).

CUCKOOS, OWLS, AND GOATSUCKERS — Both cuckoo species were in generally good numbers, with Black-billed being unusually numerous ("best year in a decade") at Pittsburgh (PH). Black-billeds were found in Jackson County, N.C. (HL), well s. of its normal range

Barn Owl nestings were reported at Salona, Pa. (CH) and Mountain Lake Pk., Md. (FP) and a single record at Springboro, Pa., July 14 (RFL). A Saw-whet Owl was seen at Boardman, O., and may have nested there (NL)

The Whip-poor-will continues to decline and should be a likely candidate for the Blue List, but records from n. Pennsylvania, Tidiotone June 15 (JK), and Erie County throughout the period (JB) are of interest. Near Fincastle, Va., seven individual Chuck-will's-widows were located June 4 – July 17 (BK). This is the only known breeding location w. of the Blue Ridge in Virginia

WOODPECKERS — Two woodpecker species nicely illustrate the two types of range expansions mentioned earlier. The southern Red-bellied Wood pecker has steadily increased in w. Pennsylvania and is now no longer an unusual species. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a northern species, formerly nested rather commonly s. along the mountains to Tennessee and North Carolina. Approximately 20 - 30 years ago it began to disappear from much of this range, for reasons that were never very apparent, and it became quite unusual as a summering species. Now there are signs that this trend may be reversing itself. There were summer records from Ulster, Pa. (EW), populations were unusually high at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), and there were records at Unaka Mt., Tenn., June 24 (SG).

FLYCATCHERS — Unlike some other boreal species, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has not extended its breeding range S along the Appalachians although there is much suitable habitat. This year a singing ♂ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was found in the Cheat Mts., W. Va., in early June (B.B.C.F.), and July 8 - 9 one was found on Mt. Rogers, Va., at 5000±ft (BK,JP). The Alder Flycatcher has been limited in its range to the mountain bogs of West Virginia at the s. extremity of its range. In recent years the range expansion of Willow Flycatcher has caused a general retreat of the Alder. This year, however, a sizable colony of Alders was found at L. Arthur, Pa., where only Willow had been known. Populations of Alders were good in Garrett County, Md. (FP) and in the Cheat Mts. (B.B.C.F.). The interesting events however, were the location of a sizable colony on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE), and the presence of Alders on Mt. Rogers, Va. (JP,BK) and in the North Carolina Mts., in Haywood County (HL). These last three stations thus represent major extensions to the S. Meanwhile the Willow Flycatcher continues its S expansion and was present during the summer in Rockingham County, Va. (R.C.B.C.), Waynesboro, Va. (RS), Big Meadows, Shenandoah N.P. (R.C.B.C.), Alcoa, Tenn. (SSt), Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE) and along the French Broad R., N.C. (HL).

There were more than the usual number of reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher from the mountains this summer. This species also may be returning to its former habitat. A W. Kingbird was at Toccoa Falls, Ga., June 11 (RSt) and another at Upper Strasburg, Pa., June 18 (CG). Both Least and Acadian Flycatchers are doing well and the latter was seen in Warren County, Pa., June 17 (HJ), well n. of its usual range.

SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS — Add Bank and Tree Swallows to the list of s. invaders. Tree Swallow has been moving S along the mountains for some years but this year it nested at Clarksville, Pa. (RB—first county record), in Rockingham County, Va. (R.C.B.C.) and at Waynesboro, Va. (RS), locations not in the mountains. In Warren County, Pa., it was felt that the appropriation of nesting boxes by Tree Swallows was one of the major factors in limiting E. Bluebird nestings (WH). Bank Swallows nested in Augusta (RS) and Botetourt (BK) Cos., Va., both well s. of normal. The Purple Martin continues to be in low numbers at most

places; recovery from the 1972 – 73 disasters has been very slow.

The Com. Raven continues to thrive and spread, and this June was found in Pickens County, S.C., at 1200±ft (HL). The Fish Crow wanders up the Susquehanna R., particularly in winter, but was found on the Lock Haven Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter B.B.S.) for the first time this year (PS).

CREEPERS AND WRENS— Brown Creeper populations in the Cheat Mts., were unusually high (B B.C.F.), and the species continues to appear at low elevations.

As mentioned above Winter Wren populations in the mountains were low as were House Wren populations. A Short-billed Marsh Wren in Transylvania County, N C., May 28 (HL) may have been a late migrant, but in view of other records from this area, further exploration is indicated.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES AND VIREOS — The Mockingbird expansion N has slowed and it is decreasing in some places. One can only speculate on the effect of the current campaign to eradicate multiflora rose, which is so important to the Mockingbird in the winter in this area. Populations of E. Bluebird are low in most places (see Swallows above).

Red-eyed Vireo populations are at a very high level at most places. On three B.B.S. routes in n. West Virginia the numbers were up 60%, 50% and 33% over those of three and four years ago (GAH). At P.N.R., the word "explosion" was used to describe the species (RCL). The White-eyed Vireo continues to push N with the Pittsburgh area a possible exception (PH). The Solitary Vireo nested in Allegheny County, Pa. (PH), another northerner moving S.

WARBLERS— Yellow Warblers were thought to be scarce at P.N.R. (RCL) but three B.B.S. routes in n. West Virginia show essentially stable populations over the last six years (GAH). Yellow-breasted Chats continued in short supply almost everywhere.

Of the southern species expanding N the main adventurer is the Yellow-throated Warbler which is now well established as far n. as the Ohio R., in Pennsylvania. The first definite w. Pennsylvania nesting was discovered this spring (RCL). Swainson's Warbler was found at Erwin and on Unaka Mt., Tenn. (GE) and a colony was located in the North Carolina Mts., near Fontana Village (HL).

Two Canada Warblers were heard on a B.B.S., in Butler County, Pa., for the first time (PH). Mourning Warblers turned up in new places in early summer; State College, Pa., June 10 (PB), two locations in Bath County, Va., July 15 (BW), and Fincastle, Va., June 4 (MP). This last was thought to be a late migrant, but in view of the other records it may not have been. The Yellow-rumped Warbler has been known to nest only rarely s. of the Poconos, but after four years of late May records, this year the species was found to be definitely established on Gaudineer Knob in the Cheat Mts. (GAH).

Cerulean Warblers were generally scarce in w. Pennsylvania (PH,RB), but one was present for a week in

Erie County, although no nesting has ever been established there (JB). A sizable colony was found near Fontana Village, N.C., one of three known for the North Carolina mountains (HL). A Brewster's Warbler was seen on Little Hump Mt., N.C., in a region where Blue-winged Warblers have never been found (EL)

As in the past few years early migrant molting Tennessee Warblers were banded at P.N.R., July 28 (RCL) and one was seen in Allegheny County, Pa., July 30 (SC), these the only early signs of the fall migration

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS — The E. Meadowlark continues in low numbers in n. West Virginia, as indicated by B.B.S. counts (GAH) and in the Ligonier Valley of Pennsylvania (RCL). A W. Meadowlark was present in Erie County June 29 – July 19 (m.ob.)

Summer Tanagers have been present in summer in w. Pennsylvania for several years but the first definite nesting was located in Greene County June 11 (JBB, TW). A W. Tanager was seen in the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., July 18 (HD)

FRINGILLIDS — Rose-breasted Grosbeak has established itself as a breeder at Wheeling, W. Va., well away from its usual range (GP), and a female or immature was seen at Townsend, Tenn., July 17 at 2000±ft (GM). At this latitude the species is usually confined to > 3000 ft. Blue Grosbeaks were common in Rockingham County, Va. (R.C.B.C.), but no reports came from s.w. West Virginia and s. Ohio where the species had been invading. A Dickcissel was seen at Winchester, Tenn., July 14 (GM) and two singing males and one female were located near Dalton, Ga., in June (AH)

A ♀ Evening Grosbeak visited a feeder at Sheffield, Pa., throughout June (CN). This was probably a straggler, but it is only a matter of time before this species does remain to nest in the Region. House Finches are now nesting throughout the Region, and numbers are building. They were found in the high (2800 ft) intermountain valleys of West Virginia in June (NL). A few Pine Siskins remained into June at Warren, Pa (WH) and State College, Pa. (MW), but as yet no definite nestings are known for the Region. Once again this summer Red Crossbills, including immature birds were found on Shenandoah Mt., on the West Virginia-Virginia border (R.C.B.C.). Here too, no definite nesting has been established. In the mountains of North Carolina, crossbills were "everywhere" (HL).

Henslow's Sparrows were locally common, with 100+ observed in Erie County, Pa., during the period (DS), and a nesting observed at Leeper, Pa. (LC) Most observers felt that Grasshopper Sparrow continued to decline, but populations were high on some of the reclaimed strip mines in n. West Virginia (see AB 32 6-9, 1978). Song Sparrows were low at most places, as were Vesper Sparrows, while at P.N.R., Field Sparrows were felt to be in the lowest numbers ever (RCL) These three sparrows may also represent winter casualties

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

This summer numerous severe storms battered both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Torrential rains of three to nine inches accompanied many of these storms, especially from late June to mid-July. Flooding was quite extensive, especially in southeastern and southern



Minnesota and southwestern and southern Wisconsin. For example in Minnesota Austin had flooding twice and Rochester once with seven to nine inches dumped in single rains. Similarly Wisconsin received its share of rain with an area from LaCrosse to Madison receiving five to eight inches in a single night. As expected portions of these two states recorded their wettest July on record. Generally Michigan received far less severe weather, with the notable exception of the extreme southern portion of the Lower Peninsula. In fact portions of the Lower Peninsula (hereafter, L.P.) were exceptionally dry by the end of the period. The usual hot and humid weather of a Midwest summer was far less prevalent this year, with the summer generally being characterized as cooler and wetter than normal. The absence of the prolonged heat was welcome after last summer.

Comments from reporters in all three states found this summer to be less than an exciting season. Despite this feeling a surprising number of interesting records dot the seasonal summary. Easily the two highlights were the discovery of two singing male Kirtland's Warblers in west central Wisconsin and a nesting pair of Boreal Owls in northern Minnesota. Again this summer

there were northern and southern species found significantly beyond their expected ranges. In addition a surprising number of southern species was sighted more frequently than usual. On the negative side if some nesting species had not fledged their young by late June, torrential rains that followed may have taken a heavy toll on nestlings in portions of the two states. Add to this the lateness of the spring this year and one can only speculate as to the successful outcome of the multitude of nesting birds. Unfortunately no data are available to substantiate these thoughts.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — This summer at least 12 pairs of Red-necked Grebes nested at Rush L., Winnebago Co. (m.ob.) and three pairs at Oakridge L. St. Croix Co., Wis. (CF). The latter number was lower than last year. For the second consecutive year Eared Grebes summered in Wisconsin, this time four on Rush L. (JI,DT *et al.*). Western Grebes had a productive nesting season at Big Stone N.W.R., with a nesting record e. of their normal range at Rice L., Anoka, Minn. (KL). Unusual was a White Pelican in Monroe County, Mich., July 5 - 6. Birds were also present in Wisconsin with 19 mid-June - July 4 at Grand R. Marsh, Green Lake - Marquette Cos. (m.ob.) and a solitary individual at Green Bay July 4 (*vide JT*). The bird find for Michigan this summer proved to be a **Brown Pelican** watched and photographed on L. Macatawa, Ottawa Co., June 13 (SG,RN). The sighting represents the first documented record for the state. There was encourag-



Brown Pelican, Lake Macatawa, Holland, Mich., June 13, 1978. Michigan's first documented record. Photo/ Steve Grinczel.

ing news about the Double-crested Cormorant as numbers were up considerably at Big Stone N.W.R., Minn. In Wisconsin there were five known breeding colonies,

with 200+ birds present at three of them by early to mid-July (Marquette, Green Lake, Marathon and Brown Cos.). The placing of poles at some of these nesting colonies where dead trees have been lost apparently accounts for some of the noted nesting success this year. In addition 40 birds summered at Horicon N.W.R., Wis. Little Blue Herons were found in two locales in Minnesota, with three at Pelican L., Grant Co., during June (GO), and several at Big Stone N.W.R., where they nested for the first time. In Wisconsin two appeared at Green Bay in early June, and were seen intermittently for the duration of the period (TE *et al.*). One was found July 13, on the w. side of L. Poygan, Waushara Co., Wis. (RaH).

Cattle Egrets were located in four Wisconsin sites including Winnebago County June 13 (DT), four in Marquette County July 8 (DT), with seven pairs nesting on one of the islands in s. Green Bay (TE *et al.*), while at Horicon N.W.R., eight present at the beginning of June had increased to 20± by late July (m.ob.). In Minnesota only four were present at the Pelican L. heronry in Grant County where there was no nesting this summer (m.ob.). However their numbers were up at Big Stone N.W.R., with nesting occurring again this year. Unusually far n. was a nesting pair of Great Egrets at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn. Snowy Egrets nested for the second consecutive year at Big Stone N.W.R., with a lone bird in Lac Qui Parle County July 10 (D&GW). In Wisconsin four were discovered in Brown County June 18 (JT) with many observers seeing them by the period's conclusion. For the third consecutive year the **Louisiana Heron** appeared in the Region. Two birds were discovered again in Brown County (JT) where they were seen intermittently throughout the period (m.ob.). In Michigan one was present in Bay County in July (AR *et al.*) Yellow-crowned Night Heron nested in all three states; being found in five Wisconsin, two Minnesota and one Michigan counties.

WATERFOWL — Mute Swans continued to reside in the Ashland, Wis. area with nesting again occurring this year. A pair of injured Whistling Swans summered at Breckenridge, Wilkin County (*vide* GO) with another in Clay County, Minn., until June 20 (KL). In Wisconsin two summered in Wood County (K&JL,DF). Late was a Snow Goose in Cook County, Minn., June 4 (RJ) Canvasbacks summered in Monroe County, Mich., and Brown, Burnett and Milwaukee Cos., Wis. Three to fifteen Greater Scaups were found in three Wisconsin locales including Burnett County in mid-June (SR), Manitowoc until mid-June (SR,DT) and in Milwaukee where they summered (DG). Lesser Scaup summered in 14 Minnesota (unusually high), three Wisconsin and one Michigan counties. Unusual were a ♀ Com. Goldeneye and Bufflehead at Manitowoc, Wis., July 16 (RK). Buffleheads were noted during the first half of June in Roseau (D&GW), Beltrami (*vide* DW) and Marshall (RV) Cos., Minn., with one July 30 in Becker County (TA). Most unusual was a Black Scoter that lingered until June 21 in St. Louis County, Minn. (B&DC,KE). Southeastern Michigan was pleased with its first nesting record of Ruddy Duck with a family of 11 in Monroe County July 23 - 24 (AC,JK).

HAWKS — The second modern nesting record for the Turkey Vulture occurred in s.e. Michigan, where a successful nest was watched during the summer in Livingston County (BB). Interesting nesting observations occurred of successful Broad-winged Hawk nests in St. Clair (AR) and Oakland Cos., Mich. (BF *et al.*) The latter provided only the second record for that part of the state. Interesting is the observation of three pairs of Swainson's Hawks from late June through July in St. Croix County, Wis. (WN). A carefully observed Rough-legged Hawk on the Buena Vista Marsh, Portage Co., Wis., June 2 was unusual (AB,MR) The sighting of three ad. Golden Eagles in Marquette County, Mich., June 24 (FR,CC,RP) was hard to explain.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — The only Spruce Grouse reports this summer came from Minnesota's Beltrami County where scattered broods were noted (*vide* DW) and Ashland (SR) and Forest (RS) Cos., Wis. While few Bobwhites were observed in both Michigan and Minnesota, Wisconsin seems to have a healthier situation. The report of many more Ring-necked Pheasants in w. Minnesota, after several years of declining numbers was encouraging. The only King Rail sighting this summer was of one July 14 at Oconto Marsh, Wis (DT). The Yellow Rail was found at three localities in n. Minnesota including Aitkin County, where high water conditions made it difficult to locate them; Mahanomen County, where it had been missing the past few years due to dry conditions, and a new area near Waskish, Beltrami County, (June 27 & 29, *vide* DW). Up to 12 were heard at Powell Marsh, Vilas Co., Wis., June 28 (RS) where they had been absent for several years

SHOREBIRDS — Late lingering spring migrants for Minnesota included Ruddy Turnstone June 12 in Anoka County (KL), a White-rumped Sandpiper in Kittson County June 17 (KE) and a W. Sandpiper at Duluth June 11 (KE). Especially noteworthy was a Whimbrel June 4 at Duluth (ES), a Willet June 7 in Lac Qui Parle County (GO) and June 23 at Duluth (D&GW) and a Dunlin June 20 also at Duluth (KE). The fall migration commenced in late June with unusual Minnesota sightings including Buff-breasted Sandpipers beginning July 29 in Anoka County where they were noted as unusually common (KL) and a ♀ **Ruff**, carefully observed in Otter Tail County July 22 (GO). The Am. Avocet was again present in Wells, Faribault County during June (m.ob.) and also at Salt L., Lac Qui Parle County July 16 (D&GW). Wisconsin, too, had its share of late spring and interesting fall migrants, The former category included a Red Knot at Manitowoc June 14 (SR,DT), Stilt Sandpipers and N. Phalaropes June 6 in Dane County (RK). An Am. Avocet was found at Horicon N.W.R., June 9 and in Milwaukee June 19 (DG). A Willet summered at Manitowoc in June and most of July (CS,DT) In addition one or two birds were in the Cos. of Marinette July 10 (HL), Dane July 13 (RaH) Milwaukee July 13 & 29 (WW,DG). Other interesting fall sightings included 450 Lesser Yellowlegs in Dodge County July 23 (DT), W. Sandpipers in Dane County July 15 - 16 (RK) and Columbia County July 22 (RaH); a Marbled Godwit at Green Bay July 22 (TdB); an Am. Avocet and 55

Wilson's Phalaropes in a flooded field e. of Fox L., Dodge County July 15 (RoK,DT).

Apparently Michigan had a poor late spring – early fall shorebird movement, as only late lingering Ruddy Turnstones, Semipalmated Sandpipers and Dunlins were reported. Three Willets were at St. Joseph, Berrien County June 27 (WB) and two Am. Avocets at Benton Harbor, Berrien County July 7 (WB). Several shorebird species began to appear in the s.e. corner of the L.P. by early July.

GULLS THROUGH TERNS — There were a number of very interesting gull sightings in Wisconsin along L. Michigan. For example, very unusual was a second-year Glaucous Gull that appeared at Manitowoc July 13 and remained until the period's end (CS,DT,RK,TdB *et al.*). Even more unique was the sighting of an imm. **Great Black-backed Gull** at Manitowoc once each in June and July (CS,DT). **Laughing Gulls** were found at Milwaukee, with two June 9 (NC) and one adult in full breeding plumage June 14 – July 31 at Manitowoc (SR,DT,RK,TdB,CS *et al.*). Franklin's Gulls were found at Manitowoc with one July 13 (DT,CS) and nine July 30 (RK,TdB). Single birds were at Sheboygan July 16 & 30 (RK). One to three Little Gulls could be found during the period at Manitowoc and Two Rivers (m.ob.) with two in full breeding plumage and the other a curious mixture of ad. and imm. plumage. A bird also appeared at Milwaukee July 25 (DG). Minnesota recorded its third Laughing Gull with one at Duluth June 1 (KE,PE). Franklin's Gulls remained at Duluth until June 11, reappearing July 29 (KE). One Franklin's was at St. Joseph, Mich., June 10 - 12 (WB). Herring Gulls had 50% less breeding success on L. Superior at Marquette, Mich., this summer (NI). Data from other Regional breeding colonies were unavailable. An **Arctic Tern** seen well at Duluth June 1 (KE,PE) represented Minnesota's fifth record, four of which occurred this spring.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Black-billed Cuckoos were especially numerous in n. Minnesota owing to the tent caterpillar invasion. Great Gray Owls were found in four Minnesota areas: nesting again in Roseau County (RN), June sightings in Lake (two places, JN,KS) and St. Louis (KE) counties. Most interesting was the first summer sighting in several years in mid-July of the Great Gray in Wisconsin in Douglas County (AC). An unusual Long-eared Owl nesting occurred in s.w. Minnesota; three young were fledged in Watonwan County (EB). Short-eared Owls proved unusually common in certain Wisconsin locales this summer, apparently a result of the high vole density in these areas. For example there were ten pairs on the Buena Vista Marsh, Portage County (AB), four pairs fledging at least 25 young in Clark County (K&JL), at least seven nests in Marathon and Wood Cos. (K&JL) and a pair in Taylor County (J&LF). One bird was found July 30 in Bay County, Mich. (HJ).

Minnesota has few Saw-whet Owl nesting records. However breeding occurred in Cook, Crow Wing and Ramsey Counties this summer. The **Chuck-will's-widow** was heard calling at its Kalamazoo County, Mich., site for the third consecutive year June 9 (AR).

S.A.

Truly startling was the discovery of the **Boreal Owl** nesting in n. Minnesota. Not only does this represent the first Minnesota record but also apparently is the first nesting record for the 48 contiguous United States. The site was along the Gunflint Trail, 20.8 mi n. of Grand Marais, Cook County. The nest, in a dead spruce stump, was first discovered by Eckert and Savaloja May 5 - 6 when the male was heard calling on its territory. The female was first seen June 16 with her five eggs first observed June 24. The young undoubtedly hatched during early July but were not seen until July 12, during which time the male was noted bringing prey for the young. The female remained in the cavity until about July 15, noted thereafter bringing food to the nest only at night. On July 23 all five juveniles were still in the nest but by the 28th two had left, being concealed in the undergrowth only a few feet away. By Aug. 3 all the young had left the nest and could be heard begging for food from concealed perches high in the spruce trees 100 - 150 yards from the nest tree. Photographs were taken documenting this event.



Boreal Owl (♀) in nest hole. Cook County, Minn., July, 1978. First documented nesting record for the 48 contiguous United States. Photo | Kim Eckert.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLINGS — Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were noted in Douglas County, Wis. (SR), and four Minnesota areas including Cook, Clearwater and a nest in Beltrami Counties. Western Kingbirds were found in very good numbers this summer in Minnesota while Wisconsin had a late spring migrant at the LaCrosse Airport June 2 (FL). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in both Wisconsin and Minnesota this summer. In Wisconsin a bird possibly seen in Door County in late May may have been a bird observed in that county June 28 (CL,RN) Minnesota's bird was in Sibley County July 6 (PB). An out-of-range Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was heard and observed with an in-range Acadian Flycatcher in Sauk County June 18 (RaH,TdB). Acadians were found to be more numerous in s. Wisconsin this year than usual Out-of-range Acadians in Minnesota included birds in Anoka County June 17 (KL) and Hennepin County

June 23 (ES). The **Western Wood Pewee** returned to its nesting site at Pelau, Roseau Co., Minn. It was heard calling and observed building a nest June 10 (D&GW); no further information received. The **Black-billed Magpie** was found in 5 Minnesota areas including three in Marshall County, one each in Roseau and Kittson Counties. No Carolina Wrens were reported this summer. Mockingbirds were found in Berrien and Cass Cos., Mich., Washington and Beltrami Cos., Minn., and Kenosha, Waupaca, and Brown Cos., Wis. Out-of-range thrushes included Wood Thrush in Clay, Beltrami and Lake of the Woods Cos., n.w. Minn., and a Hermit in Waukesha County s.e. Wis. Two Sprague's Pipits were found June 7 at the usual place in Clay County, Minn. (B&DC). The only Loggerhead Shrikes reported were from Wisconsin. The familiar pair raised young in Sauk County (m.ob.). A single bird was in Portage County July 5 (SK) but most encouraging was a pair in Barron County and *five pairs* in St. Croix County (CF) during the season.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — The White-eyed Vireo was at its usual location in Berrien County, Mich., during the season (RS *et al.*). This species remained in Milwaukee until June 6 (DG), with one at Wyalusing S.P., Grant Co., Wis., June 10 (RK,TdB) and another at Yellowstone Lake S.P., Lafayette Co., Wis., July 19 (NB). Bell's Vireos were present in Berrien County, Mich., Wabasha County, Minn., and in Grant, Juneau, Trempealeau and Green Lake Cos., Wis. Far s. of its normal range was a Solitary Vireo in Waukesha County June 21 (JB). Suddenly Worm-eating Warblers are being located in Wisconsin during the summer. This year a bird was located in May and again during mid-June in Sauk County (RaH,TdB), while another individual was carefully observed June 5 & 8 at Wildcat Mountain S.P., Vernon County (EE). There was a surprising number of eight Brewster's Warblers sighted in all three states. A Lawrence's Warbler fleetingly glimpsed in May was studied at leisure in Waukesha County, Wis., June 5 (JB). Unusually far s. in Wisconsin were Black-throated Green Warblers June 18 in Sauk County (RaH) and June 19 in Milwaukee (DG), a Blackburnian June 18 in Sauk County (RaH) and a Pine June 22 in Waukesha County (JB).

A **Prairie Warbler** was seen near the Wisconsin R., in Dane County June 11 (RaH). A pair of **Palm Warblers**, with young in the nest, was found in Oneida County June 29 (RS). **Kentucky Warblers** summered in Columbia, Grant, Waukesha and Vernon Cos., Wis. A dead bird picked up in a Detroit suburban yard at the beginning of August (TK) represented the first summer record of a Kentucky Warbler in s.e. Michigan. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found in Berrien County, Mich., and Kenosha, Walworth and Juneau Cos., Wis. Besides the usual **Hooded Warblers** in Berrien and Muskegon Counties, a lone bird was found in a Detroit park June 2 - 3 (E&HC). In Wisconsin birds were found in the counties of Adams June 2 (RaH), Sauk June 13 (RK *et al.*) and Waukesha (six to seven birds during the period — JB). Unusual was a one-day sighting June 24 of a singing ♂ **Wilson's Warbler** in Cook County, Minn. (KE).

S.A.

Certainly the find in Wisconsin this summer was of two singing ♂ **Kirtland's Warblers** in the Black River Falls S.F., Jackson County. The Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, had initiated an extensive survey of suitable habitat for Kirtland's. On June 10 it paid the first dividend when one was discovered by Tilghman and Rodgers singing in a jack pine. A more extensive search of the same area June 15 revealed two males, approximately a quarter of a mile apart. On June 21 one of the males was netted and was discovered to have been banded as a nestling near Grayling, Mich., in 1972. The other male was unbanded, and attempts to net it were unsuccessful. The birds were seen and heard until July 18. Photographs were taken documenting this event. In Michigan the 1978 Kirtland's Warbler survey tallied 193 males, down from 218 the previous year. Most of the decline occurred in Ogemaw County; one Michigan expert had predicted the decline for this year owing to drought in 1977.



Netted ♂ Kirtland's Warbler, Jackson County, Wis., June 1978. This male was banded in Grayling, Mich., in 1972. Photo/ R. Rodgers.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS — Orchard Orioles were counted in 9 Wisconsin counties this summer with birds in one Michigan county. **Blue Grosbeaks** were present in Pipestone, Murray and Nobles Cos., Minn., and were reported to be in good numbers at Blue Mound S.P., Rock Co., Minn. In Wisconsin the location of two males near the Wisconsin R., in Dane County June 11 was surprising, with one still there June 13 (RaH,TdB). While Michigan could find no Dickcissels this summer and Minnesota made no note of them, Wisconsin had an extensive movement as evidenced by 30 reporting counties. Many of these represented areas where Dickcissels are located only in years of a major movement. After the major Pine Siskin movement of the past winter it is not surprising that birds lingered in all three states. In both Michigan and Wisconsin unexpected numbers were found in scattered locales in the c. and s. portions of the states, with

nesting confirmed or highly suspected in both states. The observation in Fond du Lac, Wis., of a parent bird feeding a young cowbird June 6 (RK) was interesting. Red Crossbills were recorded only in Forest County, Wis., July 3 (JaB) while White-winged Crossbills were almost as scarce: Beltrami County, Minn., July 7 - 8 (*vide* DW) and Douglas and Ashland Cos., Wis., in mid-June (SR). Two Baird's Sparrows were found in Clay County June 7 (B&DC) but none could be relocated in July. Henslow's Sparrows continued uncommon to scarce, as witnessed by single county reports from Michigan and Minnesota while Wisconsin had 13 reporting counties. Le Conte's Sparrows were tallied in five Wisconsin counties. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found more frequently in Minnesota this summer with sightings at Agassiz N.W.R. (SV), good numbers at Aitkin (m.ob.), Kittson (KE) and Beltrami Counties (*vide* DW). Lark Sparrows were noted in five Wisconsin counties. The first documented **Chestnut-collared Longspur** generated excitement in Wisconsin when a late migrant was photographed June 6 in a field along the L. Michigan shoreline in Sheboygan County, by Cutright. This species was found in very good numbers at Felton Prairie, Clay Co., Minn.; 100+ juveniles were noted July 23 (RJ).

ADDENDUM — A White Ibis was carefully studied on the Mead W.M.A. in Marathon County on May 31 by James Hoefler and Todd Eisele. While an excellent description was provided the absence of a photograph dictates the species be placed on Wisconsin's hypothetical list.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Vernon M. Kleen

The 1978 breeding season was our best reported ever. More observers spent more time gathering important field data than during any other breeding season to date. This is reflected in the length of this report compared to those of other breeding seasons.



It is apparent that there are many range expansions occurring — both northern species moving south and vice versa; in a few instances, the expansion was lateral. Owing to the increased availability of water (hence marshes and sloughs), many species experienced good nesting seasons — especially waterfowl, gruiformes, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and terns. There were several first nesting occurrences for Indiana.

Thanks to Iowa's Wildlife Foray and Illinois' mid-June Birding Challenge, much needed information concerning breeding species was assembled. As for the Illinois data, a hearing has already been conducted using the results from the Lake Calumet area aimed at saving it. Had general birding information rather than specific breeding data been used in the hearing, the

outcome would not have been favorable for the nesting species. Much thanks to Richard Biss for his time and effort in assembling those data.

Another situation had the opposite result. Two birders neglected to report their observations and only after the habitat was being destroyed did they voice an objection. Had they made the information known, there would have been ample time to alleviate the problem.

As usual, the spring migration overlapped the breeding season with several records of lingering warblers, siskins, shorebirds, and flycatchers. On the other side, excellent numbers of shorebirds were beginning their return trip well before the end of the "two-month" breeding season. In addition, several species or individuals lingered in the Region throughout the entire breeding season — some may be the nucleus of expanded breeding ranges in the future — i.e., Caspian Terns, some gulls and warblers.

It was a welcome pleasure to note extensive wetland habitat after a number of years of drought or near-drought conditions. June and July were a little warmer than average, but only average for moisture. Unfortunately, little data were amassed concerning passerines. This is a problem we all should address. I encourage all readers and contributors to select next year a study plot and determine exactly how many pairs of each species utilize it. If we intend to use birding for conservation purposes, we must know what we are trying to conserve.

Since all extraordinary sight records must be documented thoroughly at the time of observation, extralimital observations have become more meaningful. For the breeding season, a total of 45 documentations was received: Indiana, 16; Illinois, 11; Iowa, 7; Ohio, 5; and Missouri, 4. In addition, 18 photographs (mostly slides) were received. All documented records are denoted by dagger. Records which were not satisfactorily documented appear in the UNCORROBORATED REPORTS section.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A regular number of Com. Loons lingered into June; at least one summered at Olney, Ill. (LHa); singles were noted at Gibson L., Ind., beginning July 9 (CM *et al.*), and in Polk County, Ia., July 8 (JD). Eared Grebes lingered as late as June 13 at St. Joseph, Mo. (L) and in Iowa at Pocahontas County June 27 (JD), four in Clay County June 21 (JD) and Forney's L., s.w. Iowa, June 14 (RPh). A W Grebe was unusual at Rockford, Ill., June 29 – July 2 (†RBI, m.ob.). Pied-billed Grebes were successful nesters in c. Ohio (J), five Iowa locations — especially w. and n.; and four Illinois locations — especially n. From one to ten White Pelicans summered at L. Ruthven, Ia. (TN); 19 occurred at Trumbull L., Ia., through June 8 (JD) while 42 were still present in Mills County, Ia., June 4 (BW); 138 arrived at Squaw Creek N W R., Mo. (hereafter, S.C.R.) by early July (L) and one was observed at Delair N.W.R., Pike Co., Ill., July 25 (K). The best news about Double-crested Cormorants was the use of the man-made structure at the Thomson, Ill., nesting location which was placed there three breeding seasons ago; five nests were built on the structure while nine nests were built in the two adjacent trees and two additional nests in a tree nearly one mi

away; single birds were detected at Louisville, Ky., July 16 (BP); Schell-Osage, Mo., July 23 (KH) and Reed W.A., Mo., July 24 (BB); one summered in Emmet County, Ia. (TN).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES — A few heronries were surveyed as part of the Colonial Bird Register program. Great Blue heronries were reported from only Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois; concentrations of post-breeding migrants were detected in many localities. Those who noted Green Herons reported their numbers greatly decreased. A pair of Little Blue Herons was observed in the Cattle Egret colony at the Ottawa N.W.R., O. (hereafter, O.W.R.) however, without nesting evidence; there were usual numbers of post-breeding migrants by early July. The first nesting of **Cattle Egrets** in Ohio was documented at O.W.R., where 20 nests were reported (RPa); there is still no confirmation of nesting of this species in Iowa, however groups of 10 and 14 were reported from Pleasantville (GB) and Forney's L. (RS) respectively; none were recorded from the traditional E. St. Louis, Ill., colony this year (LW). Great Egrets were reported as scarce from many areas. A single Snowy Egret was apparent in the O.W.R. colony (RPa); another was noted at Springfield, Ill. (hereafter, Spfld.), June 11 - 12 (H,K). Two Louisiana Herons were noted: one at Horseshoe L., Madison Co., Ill., July 16 - 17 (AWR, m.ob.) and one in Gibson County, Ind., July 2 (†DJn). Black-crowned Night Herons were scarce in Iowa and the heronry reported from Dickinson County indicated a decrease of nearly 60% from 1977 (JD); a peak of 118 individuals occurred at Louisville, Ky., June 30 (LR); the species was reported from 7 Illinois locations which included 3 nesting areas. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found nesting in the Rocky R. Valley near Cleveland for the first time (M *et al.*); nesting was documented in Fayette County, Ky. (GH) and a peak of 14 appeared at Louisville July 9 (BP); from one to three individuals were noted at three Iowa locations during June; and small numbers (no definite nesting) occurred in Illinois. A nest of Least Bitterns was discovered in Franklin County, O. (J); five nests at Forney's L., Ia. (RS), one nest in Mills County, Ia. (BW); eight individuals at Beardstown, Ill., June 21 (K,H); summering evidence was noted at several other localities Regionwide, however, they were reported as scarce at S.C.R. (R). Two Am. Bitterns flushed from a Beardstown, Ill. marsh suggested nesting in the area June 21 (K,H). Two dark ibises were reported from Kansas City June 27 (JGa) A **White Ibis** was present at S.C.R., July 1 - 8 (L, †m.ob.)

WATERFOWL — A pair of Mute Swans was escorting young in Steuben County, Ind. (LCr). Fifteen Snow Geese lingered in Fremont County, Ia., until at least June 4 (RS). Mallards apparently had a very good nesting season. Nesting Gadwalls were reported from Mills County, Ia. (BW) and small numbers were noted in n w Iowa (JD); although 1 - 3 individuals were noted at two other Iowa locations and from L. Calumet, Ill., breeding was not confirmed. Pintails were definite breeders at L. Calumet, Ill. (RBI) as well as in other Cook County locations (B); breeding was suspected at one Iowa location (TN) but was not expected at the two other Iowa

locations (TN,RS); another pair summered around Cleveland (M *et al.*). **Green-winged Teal** lingered as small groups or as pairs in several areas; however the only breeding record came from Decatur, Ind., establishing the first such record for the state (LP); summer records included three other Indiana locations, three in Illinois, and three in Iowa. Blue-winged Teal took advantage of the many flooded areas and successfully nested with one brood in Indiana (EH); Illinois had many broods, some as far s. as Champaign, Sangamon and Cass Cos., (m.ob.) but especially in n.e. counties, three broods in Missouri (R,TBk), and excellent numbers in Iowa (m.ob.); non-breeding individuals were widespread. Northern Shovelers probably bred in 2-3 Iowa locations (JD,TN,RS). Single Am. Wigeons were encountered in Clay County, Ia., during June (JD) and at Spfld., most of July (H). Wood Ducks were very successful as a breeding species this year. Redheads were common nesters in n.w. Iowa (JD); nesting also occurred in Mills County (BW), at Forney's L. (RS) and in the Iowa Great Lakes region (TN); nests were also found and young present in both Lake and Cook Cos., Ill (B,DJh,CBe).

Several Ring-necked Ducks were present in Clay County, Ia., during June (JD); three in Mills County, Ia., in early July (RS) and a few elsewhere (TN); one was observed around Chicago during July (JN). Seven broods of Canvasback were found at Mud L., in the Iowa Great Lakes region June 27 (*vide* TN). A few Lesser Scaup summered in Iowa. Ruddy Ducks probably nested in s.w. Iowa (RS); good numbers were noted in the Iowa Great Lakes region (TN) and small numbers nested in Iowa's n.w. counties (JD); 11 individuals were present at L. Calumet, Ill., July 8 (RBi). Except for the one Hooded Merganser noted in Mills County, Ia., June 4 (BW), all reported were from Illinois mostly late June-early July — primarily as singles or pairs from six different n.e. and c. locations; however, seven immatures were found at Spfld., June 24 (H) Single Com. Mergansers were unusual for Granite City, Ill., July 16 (†VB *et al.*) and Waukegan, Ill., during the summer (JN). A single Red-breasted Merganser was encountered in Mills County, Ia., June 4 (BW) while two were found in Pocahontas County, Ia., June 27 (JD).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Three ad. Mississippi Kites were observed at the Sanganois Conservation Area, Ill., July 29 (H) — it is conceivable that nesting may occur here in the future; one was regularly encountered at the Mingo N.W.R., Mo., most of July (BE) A pair of nesting Sharp-shinned Hawks was found around Cincinnati (W); one bird was noted in Ross County, O., June 17 (J); in Louisville, Ky., July 11-15 (*vide* S); and Shades S.P., and South Bend, Ind., during July (AB,TS, respectively). Fifteen Red-tailed Hawk nests in Iowa produced 25 young (GB). Three pairs of Red-shouldered Hawks nested in n.e. Ohio counties (J); a single was found in Wayne County June 24 (J); three young fledged from an Indianapolis nest for the third consecutive successful year; a pair at Barrington, Ill., was also successful in fledging young (CBe). Broad-winged Hawks were successful in the Pigeon River F.&W.A., Ind. (hereafter, P.R.A.). Young

Swainson's Hawks were observed in a Fayette County, Ia. nest, July 15 (JSc); two birds were reported from the Kansas City area June 22 (NM) while one was seen at Springfield, Mo., June 3 & 12 (LCn); two were present in Kane and McHenry Cos., Ill.; however, in order to avoid disturbance the woods where nesting was suspected was not entered (B,†m.ob.); another individual was found at O.W.R., June 4 (†LCm) The greatest news concerning Bald Eagles was the successful fledging of two eaglets in Alexander County, extreme s. Ill. (*vide* K); four pairs nested in n.e. Ohio — however, only one was successful; an imm. bird was present in Lawrence County, Ill., June 25 (†DJn) The Ospreys at Riverton, Ia., and in Fremont County, Ia., raised suspicions there about nesting.

GALLIFORMES AND GRUIFORMES — A 34 6% hatch of the 55 Greater Prairie Chickens found in the 340 acres of sanctuary in Jasper County, Ill., was considered well above average as compared to other years (RWe). The Bobwhite population was observed from two points of view; greatly reduced in the e. (Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky); down about 10% s. of I-57 in Illinois, but a slight increase from last year in w. Illinois, a good season for most of Missouri (recovered about 40% around Columbia — WG); and, of uneven distribution in Iowa (m.ob.). The Ring-necked Pheasant population was very low; in Illinois, it was an 83% decrease from 1973 population figures (RWa) and a 20% decline from 1977 totals. Two major factors seem to present problems for pheasants: expansion of row crops, and winter storms (JES); n.w. Missouri reported a good population this year. Although there was no breeding evidence, at least three Sandhill Cranes were observed at the P.R.A., during June (Haw,LCs). Young King Rails were noted in Gibson County, Ind., July 4 (ph — Jcm,DJn); five were noted at Schell-Osage, Mo., July 23 (KH); young were present at L. Calumet, Ill., July 15 (DJh *et al.*) and three were heard at Beardstown, Ill., June 21 (K,H). One young Virginia Rail was accompanied by an adult at Waukegan, Ill., July 8 (JN), six were found in Lake County, Ill., June 24 (DJh), they may have nested in n.e. Iowa (JSc) and it was reported as a good year for them in n.w. Ohio (TBT). A Sora was noted in Lake County, Ill., June 24 (DJh). Common Gallinules were found nesting in at least four Cook or Lake Cos., Ill. areas; it was a good season. American Coots too, experienced a good nesting season and expanded geographically somewhat S of normal expectations to include c. Illinois and s. Iowa; an example of good numbers: 46 nests counted at Forney's L., Ia (RS).

SHOREBIRDS — Many of the June records of shorebirds were of lingering migrants; such was the case for the Semipalmated Plovers with one at Spfld., June 18 (H) and at Sweet Marsh, n.e. Ia., June 14 (JSc), and two in Hancock County, Ill., June 4 (K). One Piping Plover summered at the nesting area in Lake County, Ill., (B); however, nesting behavior was not noted, migrants had returned to Waukegan, Ill., by July 22 (JN) and Spfld., July 24 (H); and to Gibson County, Ind., July 23 (LHa). The latest Am. Golden Plover was observed in Alexander County, Ill., June 26 (MMo), an

individual in breeding plumage appeared at Gary, Ind., by July 21 (KB *et al.*). A Whimbrel was present at Waukegan, Ill., July 30 (JN). Upland Sandpipers were observed widely, but only in small numbers at each of the reporting locations; nowhere were more than 3 or 4 pairs encountered at a supposed breeding location; only Kentucky was not represented; the picture in Iowa was classified as "arrested decline" (N). Young Spotted Sandpipers were encountered only in Illinois — that included: Spfld., Waukegan, Chicago, and L. Calumet. Returning Willets were present by July 1 in Mills County, Ia. (BW) and Waukegan, Ill. (RBI); by July 9 in Morgan County, Ind. (CK) and later in July at two Iowa and Indiana locations. Normal numbers of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs returned — many began appearing in late June. Single Marbled Godwits appeared at Cleveland June 11 - 12 (†JHo) and O.W.R., July 22 (LV) Lingering Hudsonian Godwits were still present at Forney's L., Ia., June 4 (RS) and Spfld., June 7 (H). A Ruff made another Illinois appearance: July 16 - 19 at L. Calumet (†B,†m.ob.) it was in changing plumage. American Avocets began returning by early July: one at Cleveland July 6 (JHo) then 11 by July 27 (JHo, M); seven at Waukegan, Ill., July 10 (RBI); and two at Spfld., July 24 (H); eight at Michigan City, Ind., July 21 (KB *et al.*); and three at Louisville July 31 (BP, JEL).

GULLS AND TERNS — The first nesting record for **Herring Gull** for Illinois was established at L. Calumet this summer (RBI); at least three nests were present, while 32 adults and three sub-adults utilized the area; one adult was noted at Spfld., June 19 (H). A Thayer's Gull was reported from Michigan City, Ind., June 20 (†KB, PG). The Ring-billed Gull colony at L. Calumet, Ill., was also quite noteworthy; 114 adults were incubating and 118 young were observed June 12 (RBI); there were 1040 birds (not including young) present; another 400 individuals summered at Waukegan, Ill. (RBI), two at Spfld. (H); and 14 at Columbus, O. (J); 20 were present in Dickinson County, Ia., June 9 (JD). An ad **Black-headed Gull** was viewed by many at Cleveland July 23 - 30 (†RHa,†M). An ad. Laughing Gull was present at Michigan City, Ind., July 15 (ph.†PG). Franklin's Gulls lingered at Spfld., until June 7 (H); Forney's L., Ia., June 6 (RS); and Iowa City, Ia., June 3 (RH); returning birds were first noted July 2 at Iowa City (CBd) and July 3 at Michigan City (†PG); one appeared at Columbus, O., July 19 - 24 (J) and at Chicago areas about the same time. Seven Bonaparte's Gulls summered in the Waukegan area. Three small colonies of Forster's Terns were reported from n.w. Iowa counties (JD); four individuals including two immatures were present at Chicago July 3. The birds were not from a local source (JN). Thirteen nests of Com. Terns were destroyed by off-road vehicles at Waukegan, later nesting attempts there were flooded out; however, three nests may have been successful even later (JN) Reports of Least Terns included singles at Kansas City June 2 (NM); S.C.R., June 8 (L); Wright County, Ia., June 22 (JD) and Waukegan June 3 (DJh,†RBI); two (one imm.) were photographed in Gibson County, Ind., July 2 - 4 (†DJn,†Jcm). Six Caspian Terns summered at Waukegan (JN); four adults were present at Spfld., June 29 and one July 8 (H); one remained at Columbus

throughout June (J). Black Terns were successful nesters at four n.e. Illinois marshes and adults were observed elsewhere there, too; although birds were present in n.e. Indiana during the period, there was no evidence of breeding (LCs); the species nested commonly in n.w. Iowa (JD); three individuals were encountered at L. Waveland, Ind., June 19, then only one on June 26 (AB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported as common to very common Regionwide this year. The Black-billed Cuckoo was reported only as normal in abundance and distribution. Three nesting pairs of Barn Owls utilized man-made structures in a Wayne County, Ohio, Wildlife Area; two pairs successfully fledged a total of nine young (JSt); several persons learned of the nesting and attempted photographs — a sure way of disturbing the nesting and causing abandonment. Of the 150 Screech Owl nesting boxes checked in Ottawa County, O., there were only nine utilized (*cf.* 17 in 1977); it was theorized that the paucity of food during the winter affected the owls (LV). Of the five pairs of Great Horned Owls on the O.W.R. in 1977, only one pair made it to 1978. Two Chuck-will's-widows returned to Willow Slough, Ind., for the second consecutive year (Haw, JM), and one to the Sand Ridge S.F., Ill., after a lapse of a year (DBI), two were heard at the Waubonsie S.P., Ia., June 3 (RS) and one at Maumee, O., June 23 (MA); several were heard in Brown County, Ind., in late June (TK). Many areas reported a decrease in the number of Com. Night-hawks; although this was not apparent Regionwide. The same comment holds for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Although Pileated Woodpeckers do occur in small numbers around Cleveland, the presence and successful nesting of the species in the Rock R. Valley represents a range expansion; the individual at Willow Springs, Ill., last winter remained through the summer (B). The e. reporters suggested that there was a decline in Red-headed Woodpeckers; however, the w. reporters feel just the opposite.

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS — More than the usual number of W. Kingbirds was encountered around Kansas City (m.ob.); one was observed at Spencer, Ia., June 3 (CS) and in Fremont County, Ia., June 5 and July 29 (RPh); another was present at Louisville, June 23 (†BP). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was belatedly reported from Douglas County, Ill., July 4 (†EL). Surprisingly, two **Say's Phoebes** were present in n.e. Linn County, Ia., to the delight of many e. Iowa birders; one was was first noted June 17 (†FT). Nests of Alder Flycatchers in Indiana are still wanting; however, nine territorial males were observed in n. counties (LCs, KB *et al.*); 1 - 4 were present in n.e. Iowa during the period. Two territorial ♂ Least Flycatchers were present in a Wayne County, O. refuge (J); a nest was found at P.R.A., June 16 (LCs *et al.*); others were present during the breeding season in n.e. Iowa (JSc) and n. Illinois (RM); a fall migrant had arrived at Spfld., by July 24 (H). An Olive-sided Flycatcher had returned to Spfld., by July 30 (H). Some of the better s. records of nesting Tree Swallows included: Jefferson County, Ky

(S), and Atterbury F.&W.A., Ind. (CK); other summering individuals included: four at Charleston, Ill. (LHu) and one adult and one immature at Spfld. (H); Ballard County, Ky., in early June (JER) and Taylor County, Ky., June 15 (BP). The largest Bank Swallow colony reported consisted of nearly 1500 pairs in Henderson County, Ill. (K); four other Illinois colonies were reported. The Cliff Swallows, nearly 100 pairs in Holmes County, O., were reported to have been double-brooded this year (DK); the total population from last year was up over 60%. The fall build-up of Purple Martins was most evident at Louisville where 10,000 were estimated July 31 (BP,LR); the Waukegan roost was only 10 - 25% as large (JN); the overall nesting success of the species was not evident from reports received.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS — Even though the last two winters were harsh, no one really reported a decrease in either species of chickadee; however, Tufted Titmice did receive a few comments indicating declines. A Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared in Des Moines, Ia., on July 9 and was joined by two more July 17 (LWa). Brown Creepers nested again at Spfld. (H), territorial males were present in Lake County, Ill. (JSu), and possible nesting was suspected in Ashtabula County, O. (CJ). Bewick's Wrens were extremely scarce throughout our portion of its range. Of course, Carolina Wrens were practically nonexistent and many thought it should be added to the Blue List.

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Mockingbirds did not make a good appearance in the n. portions of the Region; in fact, the more c. portions even indicated declines. Veeries were well represented in the n. portions of Illinois and Iowa; three territories were in evidence at a Wayne County, O. refuge June 24 (J). Eastern Bluebirds were in very low numbers; not apparently as poor as Carolina Wrens, but scarce everywhere. However, a trail near Tiffin, O. was considered good with its 40 young fledged (TbT). Ohio and Kentucky, reported no Loggerhead Shrikes at all; only one pair was found in Indiana in Harrison County (EH); eight nests produced 15 young in several Iowa counties, but Fremont County had 36 breeding pairs; it was a good season for the species in Missouri as well as s. Illinois; the species remains scarce in c. Illinois.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — These birds are, to many people the most delightful species, yet very few observers provide significant notes detailing their status! Eight pairs of White-eyed Vireos utilized the P R A. (LCs); a pair was present at Iowa City (MN); there was an apparent slight decrease in numbers of pairs returning to the more n. portions of the range (DBi,RC). The Bell's Vireo was reported to have extended its range to the NE in Indiana (LCs); 24 territories were delineated at the Mingo N.W.R., Mo. (BE), the species was reported in uneven distribution in Iowa (N). Although some new species of birds have taken up residence in the Rock R. Valley, Cleveland observers were concerned about the loss of five marginal or regularly occurring species of warblers. The Golden-winged Warbler seems to be colonizing a portion of n.e. Illinois that has been traditionally held by

the Blue-winged Warbler. Last year in one Lake County, Ill. area, there were no Golden-wingeds; however, three were present this year at the expense of Blue-wingeds (JSu); a pair of Golden-wingeds was observed feeding young in Brown County, Ind., rather far s. for this species (TK). The first evidence of breeding Blue-winged Warblers was obtained for the second consecutive year (Haw, JM), and one to the Sand Ridge S.F., Ill., after a lapse of a year (DBi); two were heard at the Waubonsie S.P., Ia., June 3 (RS) and one at Maumee, O., June 23 (MA); several were heard in Brown County, Ind., in late June (TK).

BOBOLINKS THROUGH ORIOLES — Bobolinks experienced an excellent season including a detectable expansion S into many c. portions of the Region, especially Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. The E. Meadowlark was termed to "have taken a nose dive"; there were no favorable comments for the species. The W Meadowlark was also rather scarce in much of its range. On the other hand, the Yellow-headed Blackbird took advantage of the newly available marshes as well as re-establishing colonies forsaken during the drought (N); a new colony of four territories was established as far s. as Beardstown, Ill., where nests and young were observed (K,H); in n.e. Illinois, three former nesting areas were abandoned; however, two new areas were established. In Iowa the Orchard Oriole was reported in small numbers and in uneven distribution. Five pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds were located in the Waukegan area this year (JN).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH SPARROWS — There were some indications that the Rose-breasted Grosbeak is gradually expanding its range S, especially in Ohio and Indiana. The Blue Grosbeak is extending its range E in Kentucky (S), and N in Indiana (*vide* CK), individuals were still encountered in s.w. Iowa (RS). The Dickcissel was very scarce in e., but very common in the w. with 668 in Cass County, Mo., June 10 (JGa). The House Finch made its first appearance to the Rock R. Valley where four birds were noted July 11 and ten including young on July 12 (M); one was seen in St. Louis June 19 (RBo). The nesting Pine Siskins were just leaving as the current report period was beginning, latest departure was June 17 from St. Joseph, Mo. (L). The first Indiana occurrence of a **Lark Bunting** was documented in Newton County June 7 - 10 (†KB *et al*). Savannah Sparrows were encountered in good numbers; some were present somewhat farther s. than is normal in Illinois. Small to moderate numbers of Henslow's Sparrows are maintaining populations in favorable habitats not being destroyed, i.e., wildlife refuges or private sanctuaries; ten or more pairs were reported from three Ohio areas; however, all other reports were of smaller colonies. The Grasshopper Sparrow also seems to "be holding its own" as long as suitable habitat continues to remain; 145 were counted in Clinton County, Mo., June 25 (CH). According to regular surveys the Vesper Sparrow population in Ohio has doubled (J). A Lincoln's Sparrow was reported to have been singing near Amana July 8 (CBd).

CORRIGENDUM — The N. Shrike of Elkhart (AB 32:3 p. 360) should have been Iowa rather than Indiana

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Jerome A. Jackson and C. Dwight Cooley

Above average temperatures prevailed throughout the Central Southern Region during June and July. June was relatively wet in many areas, but there was only light precipitation in the Mississippi Delta, north Louisiana, and southern Arkansas. By July drought



conditions had set in in many areas of the Region, but there were some heavy rains in coastal areas — so heavy that at least one Alabama area was considered a disaster area owing to flooding.

This seemed to be the year of the cuckoo. Everywhere we travelled this summer, including all parts of the Region, Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noticeably abundant. The reason for the cuckoo abundance was obvious too: webworms and other caterpillars were everywhere. One of the highlights of our report is the first record of an Audubon's Shearwater for Alabama. Other pelagic species were also reported more frequently than in past years. These records are all of

prime interest, but we must be careful in interpreting them. Perhaps the birds are not really new to the area, but rather more birders are going out where the birds are. It would be good to have more systematic coverage of offshore areas.

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS — There were five records for Com. Loons in the Region. One was seen near Ocean Springs June 4 and five in one flock off East Ship I., July 1 (WCW). Singles were seen near Dauphin I., Eufaula N.W.R., and L. Purdy near Birmingham (m.ob.), all in winter plumage. An Eared Grebe apparently spent the summer at Hattiesburg, producing the first summer record for Mississippi (LG).

An Audubon's Shearwater photographed June 30 between Dauphin and Sand Is., provided the first record for Alabama (CDD,RWH,PK). The bird was flying in an area n. of a line of thunder squalls and was seen from a high speed boat at distances as close as 10 m. Another Audubon's was seen July 22 in the Gulf s. of Grand I. (PB). This shearwater landed on the boat and was identified in hand! The bird stayed all day and part of the night. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel, hypothetical in Alabama, was seen 30 mi s. of Sand I. Light June 11 (CDD,HME,RWH,PGJ,PK). Belatedly reported, a Greater Shearwater was seen 2 mi offshore from the mouth of Pensacola Bay July 17, 1977 (JD, *fide* CLK) and on the same date either a Greater or Cory's was seen 1 mi off Detsin Pass (SJS). Five unidentified shearwaters were also reported near Pensacola Beach July 24, 1977, (CS,DB).

Estimates of 2500 Brown Pelicans June 28 (TF) and 800-850, July 29 (TB) at St. Vincent N.W.R., are significantly high for n.w. Florida. Good reproduction this year was suggested by the 54 immatures among 94 Brown Pelicans counted on pilings at Ft. Morgan Aug. 3 (TAI).

Boobies are becoming regular in small numbers in the n. Gulf as indicated by increasing records. A Masked Booby in transitional plumage was picked up on

Panama City Beach June 8 and died the next day (MAO, *U S N.M.). Two were seen and photographed 7-8 mi off Sand I., near Dauphin I., June 10 (CDD,HME, RWH,PK). For the fourth year in a row a Brown Booby was seen s. of Dauphin I., this one June 22 (RWH), constituting the eighth Alabama record, all but one June-August. Double-crested Cormorants have shown an encouraging increase in the Region in the last 5 years. The first summer record for the Tennessee Valley of Alabama was an immature June 5 at Wheeler N W R. (DMB), while at Eufaula, N.W.R. three were present June 17 with at least one remaining all summer (JBO)

Heron was widespread and by the end of the period were recorded in localities far away from known heronries. A large roost s. of Dyersburg, Tennessee, comprised six species of herons with a maximum of 600 ad and 350 imm. Little Blue Herons July 30 (WGC). Four species of herons were at Village Creek S.P., Cross Co., Ark., July 19 - 20, suggesting either a heronry in the area or post-breeding wanderers from Dyersburg or the Burdette heronry in Mississippi County, Ark. The Cattle Egret continues to parallel the Starling and House Sparrow in its sociality. This year 500-1000 pairs nested within the city limits of Wiggins, Miss (WCW,MBH). More than 100 were seen flying to and from an unknown destination in Lauderdale County, Tenn., suggesting a possible heronry in that area (MLB,CDC,TM).

Louisiana Herons inland are rare at any season, so one at Noxubee N.W.R., July 30 was noteworthy (WCW). One at Swan Creek W.M.A. (hereafter, S C W.M.A.), Limestone Co., Ala., Aug. 8 (CDC) brings to mind the 1963 nesting of the species at the same location. Reports of night herons were encouraging, especially the Yellow-crowned. Highs of 24 along the Mississippi R. levee at Dundee, Miss. (WCW) and 40 immatures at Pascagoula R. Marsh (hereafter, P R M.), Miss., were encountered (JT).

Wood Storks staged their annual northward incursion early this year. Two were at Lakeland Farms near Marion, Ala., June 1 (HHK,HBT). At Noxubee N W R., five arrived June 13 with a maximum of 75 there July 27 (PR). Ten were at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., July 1 for the earliest parish record (HDG,CG). The White-faced Ibis has been expanding its range E in the Region for the past 2 years and the second inland record for Alabama was one at Uniontown June 1 - 28 (RRR, m.ob.). Up to five White Ibises were at Dyersburg July 30, the second year in a row for this species at the same place. A Roseate Spoonbill, rarely seen in Evangeline Par., was at Miller's L., July 1 (HDG,CG).

WATERFOWL — The introduced Mute Swan has maintained a static population for many years in Alabama. The first record of one at Wheeler N.W.R., June 5 (DMB) therefore represents either a new introduction or a local increase. One apparently wild Canada Goose summered in the Pace, Fla., area with a group of wing-clipped Canadas (CWM). Most unusual was a **Brant**, capable of flight, off Ship I., July 1, representing the second record for Mississippi (WCW). A ♂ Gadwall at Wheeler N.W.R., July 28 (RWL,LAL) produced one of a few summer records for Alabama. Blue-winged Teal appear to be increasing as summer residents over

much of the Region. A pair remained at P.R.M., throughout the period with as many as nine seen on several days (JAJ, BJS, m.ob.). Two were seen near Phillippy, Tenn., June 28 (MLB,CDC,TM) where it is an occasional summer resident. A male remained near Pace, Fla., through June 2 (CWM) where there are only a few previous summer records. The N. Shoveler nested at S.C.W.M.A., with a female and six young seen May 11 (DW). An ad. male, probably the mate of the female of the previous sighting, was seen in the same area July 27 (DMB).

There were several sightings of diving ducks in the Region this summer. A Ring-necked Duck, rare in the summer, was seen at S.C.W.M.A., June 26 (DMB). A ♂ Canvasback and at least four Lesser Scaup were present at P.R.M., throughout June and July (JT,MHo, BBe,WCW). A flightless White-winged Scoter, the third summer occurrence for Alabama, was at Little Dauphin I., June 30 (DP,CSp). The first summer record for n.w. Florida of a Surf Scoter was of one seen at St Vincent N.W.R. (TB). Several Ruddy Ducks were present all summer at the Hattiesburg sewage ponds (LG). Two were seen off the Cochrane Causeway, Baldwin Co., Ala., July 30 (JVP,RRR). Red-breasted Mergansers summer annually along the n. Gulf Coast. An ad. male was seen in Mississippi Sound off Pascagoula June 23, and another in ♂ plumage, was off E. Ship I., July 1, (WCW). A ♂ individual was seen near Scottsboro, Jackson Co., Ala., June 11 (CDC).

RAPTORS — Kites were widely reported, suggesting good nesting success. Swallow-tailed Kites were reported from Alabama with a high of 20 along the Alabama R. (CDD,GV,JV), Louisiana with a high of three at I-10 and Butte-La Rose exit (EL,PCD) and Mississippi with a high of five near Wade (JT,MHo). Mississippi Kites were even more widespread, being reported throughout the Region. High counts were of 15 at Live Oak, Baldwin Co., Ala. (LT,LA), 11 near Phillippy, Tenn. (MLB,CDC,TM), groups of 2-6 near Grove Hill, Ala. (CDD,HME), and six along the Arkansas R. levee in Lincoln County (HH,EMH,MBr). In the past two years Mississippi Kites have been repeatedly seen during the summer along Piney and Beaverdam Crs., Limestone Co., Ala., indicating possible nesting (CDC,DMB,TAB, m.ob.). This year the presence of two adults in the same area in early August constantly vocalizing and remaining in tree tops, was interesting (CDC,DMB). In Arkansas, Red-shouldered Hawks were noted on only six B.B.S.s, with a total of only six individuals.

Bald Eagles, extremely rare in the summer in Alabama, were noted at two widely separated points. A two- or three-year old immature was on Dauphin I., July 1 - Aug. 2 (DP, m.ob.) while two adults were seen at Eufaula N.W.R., July 22 (JBO,IR). These records may indicate that sometime soon Bald Eagles may breed again in Alabama as they have in Louisiana and Mississippi. Ospreys nested in coastal Mississippi and Louisiana this year. Five were seen near Escatawpa, Miss., including one on a nest (JT,LS,JL). The Presence of a first-year bird with an adult near Venice, Plaquemines Par., Aug. 10 (DBC, RJN) indicates breeding in the same location as in years past. Encouraging were two reports inland. One was seen at

Wheeler N.W.R., June 12 (DMB) and a single bird summered at Eufaula N.W.R. (JBO). Quite late for coastal Mississippi was a Peregrine at P.R.M., June 2 (BC,JC). American Kestrel was recorded on only two Arkansas B.B.S.s, reinforcing its inclusion on the Blue List.

RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS — Long suspected of breeding in Alabama, three Soras were heard along McAfee Cr., Colbert Co., July 26 (RWL). Further enhancing the possibility of nesting there was an immature in early August (RWL). The first July record for n.w. Florida of a Sora was one at Gulf Breeze July 16 (RD). Common Gallinules were present throughout June and July with broods seen at P.R.M. (JT,WCW) and at Battleship Marsh near Mobile (RRR). There were two nest records of Am. Coots in Alabama this summer. A nest with five eggs was found at Decatur; four hatched Aug. 13 (DCH). An ad. with two chicks was seen at Battleship Marsh July 30 (RRR).

SHOREBIRDS — It is hard to draw a distinct line between spring and fall migration and even harder to draw conclusions about summering shorebirds in the Region. Many linger well into June and others are presumably back in early July on their way S. Only in the last two weeks of June are shorebirds noticeably absent. The list of "summering" shorebirds is extensive. An Am. Oystercatcher on Shell I., June 1 provided the first n.w. Florida June record (HMS). A Snowy Plover nest with three eggs in a Least Tern colony at Gulfport provided the first mainland nesting for Mississippi (MBH, m.ob.). A Ruddy Turnstone at Gulfport June 10 (PR,BT,MBH), where it is rare in June, was interesting. Several shorebirds were at S.C.W.M.A., June 15 suggesting summering birds. Two Solitary Sandpipers, two Greater Yellowlegs, ten Pectoral Sandpipers, 30 Least Sandpipers and two Long-billed Dowitchers in summer plumage were there (CDD), the dowitcher being rare in n. Alabama, especially on that date. The Spotted Sandpiper extended its breeding range into Alabama with two adults and three downy young being found at S.C.W.M.A., in June (DMB), the first positive breeding for Alabama. Short-billed Dowitchers were present at P.R.M., throughout June and July with a maximum of 300 June 2 (JT,WCW,BC,JC). Black-necked Stilts enjoyed a good nesting season in Alabama with 76 seen on Blakely I., July 15 (BW,JW) and in Mississippi where they probably nested for the second year in a row at P.R.M. (WCW,JT, m.ob.). The productive year on Blakely I., probably resulted in the fifth inland Alabama record of stilt at Marion Aug. 1 (CWB,PBr). Two adult and two downy young were seen at Miller's L., July 1 for the first confirmed nesting record in Evangeline Par. (HDG,CG).

Early fall migrants were widespread. The earliest local fall occurrence of a Ruddy Turnstone was of one at Finley I., Morgan Co., Ala., Aug. 16 (DCH). One Greater and 65 Lesser Yellowlegs were at P.R.M., June 27 (WCW). The sixth and earliest inland Red Knot for Alabama was at S.C.W.M.A., July 18 (DCH). The first Mississippi June record of a Pectoral Sandpiper was of two on East Ship I., June 28 (WCW). White-rumped Sandpipers were last reported in the Region June 1 at

Tupelo Fish Hatchery (BBC,LC) and June 2 at P.R.M. (BC,JC), and arrived early at S.C.W.M.A., July 3 (DMB). A Short-billed Dowitcher was seen at Navarre Beach, Fla., July 7 - 19 (DR,CLK, m.ob.). Stilt Sandpipers made an early surge into the Region with one at Wheeler N.W.R., July 6 (DCH) and nine in breeding plumage at P.R.M., July 5 (JT,WCW). Semipalmated Sandpipers congregated at P.R.M. early in June with 1000 seen there June 2 (BC,JC). The highest counts of W. Sandpipers were of 400 at P.R.M., July 23 and 450 at Waveland, Miss., July 26 (JT,MHo). Buff-breasted Sandpipers (25+) were seen on campus of Univ. of New Orleans Aug. 12 - 20 (DBC,RJN,PMM, m.ob.) where the second Louisiana record of a Ruff was one ♂ plumaged bird Aug. 12 - 13 (MB, m.ob.,ph.). The first Van Buren County record of (two) Am. Avocets July 28 (RB,TiF) was also the earliest fall record for Tennessee



Ruff, Univ. of New Orleans campus, La., Aug. 13 1978. Second state record. Photo by Fred Barry.

by 14 days. Three were at Wheeler N.W.R., Aug. 18 (RMB), the earliest local record by eight days. A Wilson's Phalarope in breeding plumage was seen at P.R.M., June 27 (WCW) and four, two females in breeding plumage, were there July 18 (JT). One was seen on Blakely I., July 15 (BW,JW).

LARIDS — An intermediate phase Parasitic Jaeger was seen and photographed 30 mi. s. of Sand I. Light June 11, constituting the first spring record for Alabama (CDD,HME,RWH,PGJ,PK). Two juv. Herring Gulls, rare in summer, were seen w. of Petit Bois I., Miss., July 8 (WCW). Ring-billed Gulls were seen twice this summer — one at L. Seminole, Fla., June 22 and one adult at P.R.M., July 23 (JT,MHo). An ad. Forster's Tern was seen throughout June and July at Eufaula N.W.R. (JBO) and as is true with many other birds away from their breeding grounds in the breeding season, it was not in breeding plumage. Sooty Tern productivity appeared good on the Chandeleur Is. The highest count of young for Louisiana, 27 juveniles was

Aug 12 (HHJ,LO,LH); 200+ individuals were seen there Aug. 20 (RJN,DBC,PMM,JF).

Alabama's second record and the first since 1932 of **Bridled Tern** was of two 30 mi. s. of Sand I. Light June 11 (CDD,HME,RWH,PGJ,PK, ph.). Two more were seen July 21 off Dauphin I. (RWH). Over 4200 pairs of Least Terns nested along the Mississippi Gulf Coast this year (MBH,JT). Sixty were seen at Island 13, Lake Co., Tenn., June 28 (MLB,CDC,TM) where they have nested for the past several years. For reasons unknown, Royal and Sandwich Terns failed to nest on spoil islands off Petit Bois I., where last year 50 pairs of Royal and 400 pairs of Sandwich nested. However, 50 Royal and 400 Sandwich were seen on the spoil island July 8 (WCW). A Black Tern was seen at L. Seminole, Fla., June 22 (HMS) where they are rare in summer. The earliest fall record for the Tennessee Valley was of one at Guntersville L., Ala., July 4 (CDC). No Black Skimmers were seen on spoil islands off Petit Bois I., where 200 pairs nested in 1977, while the colony on Horn I., was also abandoned (WCW).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A single White-winged Dove was seen at a farm near Belle Mina, Ala., July 21 - 23 (DCH) and two were observed feeding in a yard near there Aug. 6 (JHG), representing the first summer inland records for Alabama. Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed to be in unusual abundance throughout Mississippi this summer (JAJ,NH) and were recorded on 23 B.B.S. routes in Arkansas (m.ob.). A Roadrunner s.e. of Marnou, Evangeline Par., July 28 was a significant range extension to the s.e. (DHF). Two Lesser Nighthawks in Calcasieu Par., July 16 provided the first July records for the species in Louisiana (RJN,DBC). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported on 23 B.B.S. routes in Arkansas and 13 were seen along the levee of the Arkansas R., in Jefferson Co., June 25 (HH,EMH,MBr). A single Red-cockaded Woodpecker was seen on a B.B.S. route n. of Meridian, Miss., although no colony site was found (BBC,LCC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — At least two pairs of Gray Kingbirds were on Horn I., during July; one pair was incubating July 8 - 11 at a nest in the same location as 1976 (WCW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed June 9 near Marion, Ala. (CDD,HME); no Scissor-taileds were seen near the nest site of the past three years at Tupelo, Miss., area (JAJ). The E. Phoebe continues to expand its breeding range S in Mississippi. Two nests were found near Center Hill; one was three-layered, suggesting nesting in previous seasons (LCC,BBC). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Cameron Par., July 16 marked the first July record for Louisiana (DBC,RJN). A newly noted Bank Swallow colony of 50+ birds was found in the Mississippi R., bank at Fulton, Tenn. (MLB,CDC,TM). Six Bank Swallows were seen June 26 at S.C.W.M.A., and an estimated 1500+ had congregated in the area by July 17 (DMB). Bank Swallows were noted at Mobile July 30 (RRR) and approximately 2000 were photographed near Marion, Ala., Aug. 1 (CWB,PB). Barn Swallows continued their southward range expansion across the Region. Nests were found this year in Allen, (CM,

HDG), Avoyellus (JBO,HDG), and Evangeline (m.ob.) Pars., s. of McComb and Hattiesburg in Mississippi (JAJ), and were 20-25 air mi from Spanish Fort e of Mobile (RRR). In Florida nests were found near Phillip's Inlet, Bay Co. (HMS,MAO); Ebro, Washington Co. (HMS); Navarret, Santa Rosa Co. (BD); and a bird was seen near a bridge at Century, Escambia Co., June 8 (HMS). Cliff Swallows were reported nesting at Graysport bridge near Grenada L., Miss. (WCW), Shirley, Van Buren Co., Arkansas (DMJ); and an adult was seen feeding two fledged young (though no nests were found) in Cameron Par. (DBC,RJN). Six Cliff Swallows seen near Mobile July 30 were early for the area (JVP,RRR). Purple Martin populations seemed to be down across the Region (JAJ), but a roosting congregation of 2000± was seen at P.R.M., July 20 (JT,MHo).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — A House Wren singing at Fort Payne, Ala. (HHW,NF) July 14 was unusual. On June 17 Bewick's Wrens were found at two locations in Tate County (a nest with young at one stop), and two locations in Panola County, Miss. (ER,RJ). Breeding Bird Survey cooperators in Arkansas and middle Tennessee suggest that the winter of 1977-78 was not as hard on Carolina Wrens as the previous winter, although populations seem down. Gray Catbirds were seen in at least three localities in Jackson County, Fla. (MG,MBr,DS,HMS,GM). A nest was discovered at Seminole L. (HMS,GM). In middle Tennessee, the winter of 1977-78 seems to have been particularly hard on E. Bluebirds; BBS data for 11 middle Tennessee routes indicate a 25% decline in 1977 over 1976 and a 75% decline in 1978 over 1977 (TOS). A bluebird trail in Cheatham County had a 91% decrease in active boxes in 1978 over 1977 (MH). Twelve Cedar Waxwings at Hillsboro June 12 (CDC) and 14 at Decatur, Ala., June 20 (DMB) were unusual in summer for the Tennessee Valley. Swainson's Warblers were at Tishomingo S.P., Miss., June 19 (WCW) and at Overton Pk., in the middle of Memphis, for the second year during June and July (BBC). A single ♂ Golden-winged Warbler was seen and heard May 27 - June 2 at Gordonsburg, Tenn. (GRM). Single Yellow Warblers were seen at Ocean Springs June 4 (WCW) and near Pascagoula, July 29 (JT). A Magnolia Warbler at S.C.W.M.A., June 5 (DMB) was by one week the latest in spring for Alabama. A Yellow-rumped Warbler in breeding plumage and singing at Ft. Pickens, Ala., June 5 was very late (RD). A ♀ Cerulean Warbler with two young June 12 provided the first breeding record for the species at Wheeler N.W.R. (DMB). On June 29 a lone Louisiana Waterthrush was observed on E. Ship I (WCW).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — Bronzed Cowbirds were seen throughout June and July near Reserve, La. (RJS) and for the second year on the Univ of New Orleans campus (DBC,RJN,SAH,KSZ) where a juvenile was seen Aug. 13. At Village Creek S P., Ark., a ♂ W. Tanager was seen May 14 (KS). Five Red Crossbills seen in Ashley County, Ark., May 22 (FBu) were late enough that they might easily have nested in the state, although nesting records are still lacking

Lark Sparrows were seen June 20 near West Point, Miss. (CDC) and a nest with young was found May 28 in Decatur County, Tenn. (RLW). Noteworthy records of Bachman's Sparrows included one near Tupelo, Miss., June 21 (CDC), three in Ashley County, Ark., May 22, and again July 3 (FBu) five in Macon County, Ala., June 23 (MSG, DMB) and 19 (5 imm.) there July 1 (MSG, JS). In Nashville, the original nesting site of Song Sparrows has been "abandoned" since 1971. This year two singing males and a nest with three young were discovered a half-mile away. The second nesting area in Nashville, Buena Vista, was also active (LJ, KAG).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

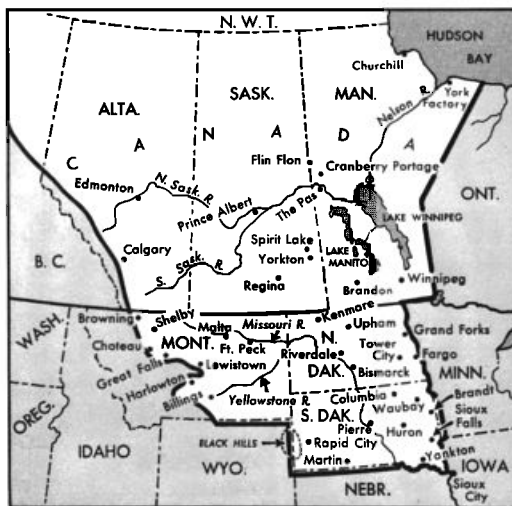
/Esther M. Serr

This nesting season was the best that could be expected for a region of such variable climate. Frequent thunderstorms often developed tornadoes; however, damage from strong winds, rain and hail was barely mentioned by our reporters. Lush vegetation prevented accurate counts of most species. By May 31 one got the impression that the birds that pass through southern South Dakota were acting as if on territory rather than as late migrants. North Dakota reports showed excellent shorebird nesting numbers, with this comment from D. Lambeth. "It is well known that shorebirds nearly meet each other 'coming and going' during their migrations. Several shorebird species' numbers here approached zero about June 12 - 15. On the other hand, yellowlegs increased rapidly after June 17 and by July 1 other species had returned." Earlier there were 80,000 shorebirds in the Moose Jaw-Regina area May 25.

Environmental studies produced concentrated observations in each state and province.

The Linnaean Society of New York celebrated its centennial in June with two group trips to Churchill. Note their sightings within the report.

LOONS THROUGH WADERS— Non-breeding Com. Loons were in Sheridan and Rolette Cos., N.D., June 8 & 25 (TAG, PCH). Two adults were seen at Deerfield L., Black Hills, S.D., July 23 (BMN).



Eared Grebes enjoyed good nesting over the Region and especially in n.e. Montana (MWA,CMC), and in s.e. Alberta (RJB) with each area producing a few thousand young. Horned Grebes had their best breeding success in n.e. South Dakota (BKH, DSW) but showed a decrease in Saskatchewan. Western Grebes were breeding at Oak Point L., Man., e. of their range (HWRC).

White Pelican production at refuges in North and South Dakota was about 5000 for each, but production was poor at Suggi L., (HC), Redberry and Mud Lakes, Sask. (DE,WER,GJW) on their n. breeding grounds. After three seasons of showing a decrease, the Double-crested Cormorant population increased, probably reaching 10,000. Great Blue Herons were few, for a second season. Two Green Herons were observed in Grand Forks County, N.D., June 17 - 18 (SOL,DOL). A nest with five young 15 ft up in a willow, was found in s. Brookings County, S.D., July 20. Young boys harassed the birds until the adults deserted and the young died (NJH). A **Little Blue Heron** July 19 at Salyer N.W.R., N.D., may have been a first nestling in 1976 (RS).

Egrets were more numerous than ever. The Cattle Egret was well-established as a colonial nester in n.e. South Dakota (BKH,SJW). A new nesting area was found in Burleigh County, N.D., July 18. Three birds in non-breeding plumage were rare at Kinistino, Sask., June 8 (JRS,DH). Four Great and three Snowy Egrets were present in the Dakotas but with no proof of nesting.

A single Snowy was a find near Saskatoon June 3 - 4 (JBG *et al.*). A nesting of the **Louisiana Heron** was a first for North Dakota, at Long Lake N.W.R., July 22 - 30.



Louisiana Heron, Long Lake N.W.R., N.D., July 30, 1978. First nesting attempt for the state. Photo/ Rod Schmidt.

The nest was abandoned in August as botulism had broken out and a decayed chick was found (RS,RNR *et al.*). The c. North Dakota area of Burleigh, Kidder and Stutsman Cos., provided good nesting for the piscivorous birds (KJW,CF,TAG). Two single **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were observed in n.e. South Dakota June 12 & 23. A **Least Bittern** was at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D., July 11 and in Carter County, Mont., June 27. The Black-crowned and Am. Bitterns appeared to have increased in the Dakotas but decreased in Saskatchewan.

White-faced Ibises moved into the Dakotas to nest, with a first record at Sand Lake N.W.R. (SJW); ten

birds with two confirmed nests were found at Long Lake July 18 - 30. An ibis chick was caught as it scrambled through rushes and swam into open water (RS,RNR *et al.*).



White-faced Ibis fledgling, Long Lake N.W.R., N.D. July 18, 1978. First state nesting record. Photo/ Rod Schmidt.

WATERFOWL — Trumpeter Swans, under management in w. South Dakota and Cypress Hills Sask., have spread to nearby waters as the sub-adults are forced into new areas during nesting season by the older birds (EMS,GB,RJI).

Surveys in North Dakota showed duck numbers should double those of 1977. Aerial surveys noted good water supply but ground observers did not always agree with their numbers. There was not much change in Canvasback production. Three **Harlequin Ducks** were out of their range at Churchill June 16 - 24 and the hundreds of scoters in Hudson Bay, Man., were 80% Surf, 15% White-winged and 5% Black (NSH *et al.*).

HAWKS AND EAGLES — The most n. (ever?) sighting of the Turkey Vulture was at Churchill June 27 (H. Fisher, RA, *vide* THD), and six were at Spruce Woods P.P., Man., July 26 (RWK). At least four Goshawk nests were found at Elaine and Cluff Lakes, Sask. (ANM,CSH,JEP). The accipiters always have good nesting in Saskatchewan. Red-taileds had better success at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., this year with ten nests (DSW,LLW), and 137 were counted in the Hudson Bay area, Sask. (WCH). Three young were fledged on a steel tower at Saskatoon June 25 - July 15 (JBG, m.ob.). A nest with Broad-wingeds was at Elaine L., July 5 (ANM,RIM). There was a total of 250 Swainson's Hawks counted in Saskatchewan and a far e. sighting at Stony Mt., Man., July 30 (KG). Ferruginous Hawks reported totalled 100 with 54 banded in the large pastures of Saskatchewan (CSH). Sixteen nests were found in Hyde and Perkins Cos., S.D. (JHH,CF); s.c. North Dakota (GSL,DLK); McCone County and Chester, Mont. (LST,HMM) and at Wild Horse, Alta., July 8 (RJB).

Four Bald Eagles were at Saginas and Green Lakes and Waskesiu, Sask., June 24 - July 12 (WCH,RAW,BCG,BWJ). Marsh Hawks and Am. Kestrels showed improved nesting success.

Nearly half of the Osprey nests failed at Loon L. (CSH) and four birds were found at McBride L., Sask. (WCH). A pair was nesting on a tower at Churchill July 1 (NSH). A nest with two young was seen at Ft. Peck

L., Mont., July 27 (CMC,MWA). A record 53 Prairie Falcon nests were found, and 114 nestlings banded in Saskatchewan (CSH, P. Thompson). A cliff nest with three eggs was spotted June 26 at Custer S.P., S.D. (RLS). A Peregrine Falcon was observed near Angostura Res., S.D., July 27 (T.C.Hinz, *vide* CMC).

GAME BIRDS THROUGH RAILS — There were 20 broods of Spruce Grouse at Cluff L., Sask., at 58°22' N (JEP) and 130 tallied Ruffed Grouse in the Hudson Bay area, Sask. Sharp-taileds had excellent reproductive success with 67 broods located in n.e. Montana in July (MWA). Gray Partridge broods were found from c. North Dakota n. to Saskatoon (PCH, FB). Eleven Sandhill Cranes were at Whitemouth, Man., July 1 (PT); they were calling near Grand Forks, N.D., by July 2 (DOL); five were in Kidder County, N.D., July 28 (GSL) and 62 non-breeders were at Last Mountain L., Sask., July 24 (BCG,BWJ). Might this southern loafing presage breeding again in the area?

Ten Virginia Rails were heard or seen in the Region and four of those were in Saskatchewan (GJW,SML). Soras were numerous. Single Yellow Rails were in s.e. Manitoba on June 8 (PT) and at St. Denis, Sask., July 25 (MJL,EAD).

SHOREBIRDS — A Semipalmated Plover nest was found at Cluff L. (RJ) and 40 birds were in Kidder County and Fargo, N.D., July 21 & 30 (CAS,MAB). A total of 235 Piping Plovers was found in North Dakota and (with 7 nests in) Saskatchewan. Nine Mountain Plovers were seen in Phillips and Valley Cos., Mont., June 9 - 17. In the Grand Forks sludge field, a peak of 57 Ruddy Turnstones was noted June 2 - 24 (JFK,DOL). A flock of 50 Long-billed Curlews was moving S in s.w. Meade County, S.D., July 23 (EMS,RDM). A flock of 30 Willets was at a small stock dam in Jackson County, S.D., not far from the Nebraska line July 3 (RLS *et al.*). Red Knots were far from their nesting grounds when 16 were seen s.e. of Saskatoon (WER,GJW,DE). A Ruff, the third for Manitoba, was seen June 18 - 26 at Churchill (THD,RA *et al.*). Sightings of White-rumped Sandpipers, dowitchers, and Sanderlings were more numerous than usual up to June 15 in the Region (KMM). By July 31 there were 24 White-rumped in w. Clay County, S.D. (WH); 15 Sanderlings at Moose Jaw, Sask., July 18 (PRK), and 50 at L. Sibley, Kidder County, July 21 - 31 (GSL). Dowitcher sightings peaked at 100 by mid-July in s. Saskatchewan (DGH,EWK, SJT) and Grand Forks County, N.D. Up to 20 Red Phalaropes were seen at Churchill June 17 - 26 (*vide* THD).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — A Parasitic Jaeger was uncommon at St. Ambrose, Man., July 26 - 27 (CWC). Three Herring Gulls were at Gavin's Pt., S.D., June 5 (WH). Some 1500 California Gulls were in dense vegetation on an island in Ft. Peck L., Mont., July 7 (CMC). Gulls uncommon to the Churchill area were four Icelands June 8 & 28 (THD,NSH), and one Mew Gull June 19. The frosting on the birthday cake was the sighting of a Ross' Gull in the Churchill R., June 20 - 23. This was the second known sighting in North America s. of Alaska, and the first for Manitoba (TB *et al.*).



Ross' Gull on ice floe in the Churchill River, Manitoba, June 20 - 23, 1978. Photo/ Simon Perkins.

Common Tern nesting at Redberry L., Sask., was poor as the area is fast being developed as a resort (CSH). Least Tern reproduction was equal to 1977's on the Missouri R., from Bismarck, N.D., to Yankton, S.D. (JEW,KJH,RNR). Black Tern production showed a definite increase in the Region, except in South Dakota (DD,JFK,FFK). The uncommon Caspian Tern produced 200 young in the Doré L., Sask., area. A pair re-nested in McLean County, N.D. (KJW).

CUCKOOS THROUGH PICIDAE — There were 16 Yellow-billed Cuckoos sighted in South Dakota (NRW, JLM *et al.*) and one was found dead near the Tongue R. Res., Mont., in June (*M.S.U. at Bozeman). Total sightings for Black-billeds were 188 with a confirmed nesting at s. Chester, Mont. (HHM) and one at Buffalo L., Alta. (CDB).

Burrowing and Short-eared Owl numbers were much improved over the Region. Burrowing Owls were not found in the South Dakota Badlands where a prairie dog poisoning program took place this year.

Whip-poor-wills were heard calling in the Missouri R., woods in the Yankton, S.D. area June 4 - 18 (KJH, JEW). An unidentified hummingbird was early July 29 at Rapid City, S.D. (BLG); 74 Ruby-throateds were sighted in Saskatchewan; eight in North Dakota (JAB *et al.*); and four in Elk Island N.P., Alta., July 21 - 22 (TRW).

Woodpecker numbers were average. There were eight ad. Lewis' and two nests near Rapid City (TMH,CF). Young Black-backed Three-toeds could be heard in Custer S.P., S.D. (RLS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker sightings numbered 56 and three nests were located in Saskatchewan (WCH,JDH). One nest was found in Roberts County, S.D. (BKH) and five ad. birds in s.e. North Dakota (DLK,DOL).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Eleven Great Crested Flycatchers were noted far n. at Hudson Bay, Sask. (WCH), and equal numbers were reported in the Dakotas. One was singing June 22 in Bismarck, N.D. (RNR) and another was at Burke, S.D., June 18 (GLS). Three young Say's Phoebes, partially feathered, were deserted but indicated a second nesting record at Saskatoon (BWJ). On an environmental survey in McCone County, Mont., 31 Say's Phoebes were found (LST). A population estimated at 50,000 swallows —

65% Tree, 25% Bank and 10% Barn, inhabited a forested ridge adjacent to the Delta marshes Field Station (RFK,RWK). Purple Martins did well in the c. and e. Dakotas (NJH,GLS,GBB).

JAYS THROUGH VIREOS — A first Montana **Blue Jay** nest was reported from the Long Pine hills, Mont., in June (K. Dubois, *vide* P.D.Skaar). Black-billed Magpies and Com. Ravens reported totalled several hundred, from Saskatoon northward (WCH). Common Crows were scarce. At Saskatoon crows reduced a Short-eared Owl to feathers and bones and harassed Eared Grebes off their nests to destroy several clutches (BCG,BWJ,JBG).

A brood of White-breasted Nuthatches was unusual at Emma L., Sask., and 54 were observed at Hudson Bay, Sask. A Wood Thrush nest with nearly fledged young, 10 ft high in a tree was found June 23 in Roberts County, S.D. (BKH). The Hermit Thrush was reported only from Saskatchewan (WJA,BK). Two Sage Thrashers and 24 Sprague's Pipits were found in sparsely settled McCone County, Mont. (LST). There were 20 Sprague's Pipits at Crowfoot, Alta., July 1.

Bluebird nest box trails near Saskatoon (MIH) and those near Mandan (FCG) and Father Viet's s. of St. John, Rolette Co., N.D. (PCH) produced many young, but more of the young were Tree Swallows than Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds. At least 74 Loggerhead Shrikes were counted in McCone County, Mont., during the season. An imm. Townsend's Solitaire was seen near Rapid City at an unusually low altitude for nesting, June 24 (DHK,JLM). There was a good increase in Warbling Vireos on B.B.S. routes in Grand Forks County, N.D. (JFK,FFK) and in the Black Hills, S D (NRW). A Yellow-throated Vireo was far w. at Haynes, N.D., June 14 (CMM) and seven were in the Red River Valley, N.D., June 20 - July 3. Two were unusual in Manitoba June 1 - July 15 (RFK,SGS).

WARBLERS — Populations were small except in Saskatchewan. The Golden-winged Warbler is becoming regular in e. Manitoba. Seven singing males were seen June 3 - 11 (PT,GEH,R.Ferguson). Nine singing ♂ N. Parulas were observed on 10 acres at Birch Pt., Lake of the Woods, Man., June 24. Four Yellow-breasted Chats were in the Saskatoon area June 15 - July 5 (BCG,JBG). A chat was in e. Pennington County (JLM) and a pair near its nest with eggs, was observed in the South Dakota Badlands July 3 (RLS). In June Connecticut and Mourning Warblers were concentrated between 54° and 55° N, from Cross Lake P.P., Alta., through the Prince Albert N.P. area and Hudson Bay, Sask. At Cross Lake, tape recorded songs usually brought response or retreat from some of the birds (TRW).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — More Brewer's Blackbird sightings than usual were reported. Montana had the most with hundreds in McCone County and Chester. Three Scarlet Tanagers were in Richland County, N.D., June 20 (DLK) and 16 were noted June 3 - July 3 in the Pinawa, Man., area (PT). South Dakota had a total of 35 Blue Grosbeaks (LAW *et al.*)

SPARROWS — There were 16 species of sparrows reported, mostly on environmental studies in the Dakotas by Craig Faanes, and for a coal development study in McCone County by Larry Thompson. The open spaces are not too accessible; the sparrows are rather elusive and a few are tricky to identify. Not many observers will tackle sparrows. Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco nests were frequently found in the Black Hills. A colony of 15 McCown's Longspurs was at Rosetown, Sask., June 6 (GJW). Chestnut-collareds were abundant over the Region. Seven Snow Buntings were in summer plumage at Churchill June 28 — far s of their nesting grounds (NSH).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION **/Frances Williams**

Extreme high temperatures over an extended period were the rule. According to the locality, it was reported to be the hottest summer on record or the third hottest. But the hot weather influenced the birders more than the birds. The few observers who braved the heat to look found most species present in good numbers and abundant fledglings by the end of the period. Those species which declined did so from reasons other than the heat, principally last summer's drought or last winter's cold.

LOONS THROUGH GREBES — Unusual for the season were Com. Loons at L. Livingston, Polk Co., Tex., July 12 - 18 (KBB *et al.*) and Lubbock County, Tex., June 2 - 8 (m.ob.). A breeding population of 860

Eared Grebes was present at Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb., and many chicks were observed in July (CFZ). Several Eared Grebes summered on a playa in Castro County, Tex., but no young or signs of nesting were discovered (KS). A breeding population of 250 W. Grebes inhabited Crescent L. Pied-billed Grebes fledged young in Kerr County, Tex. (E&KM), Osage County, Okla. (EHi) and Lyon County, Kans. (JS).

PELICANS THROUGH ANHINGAS — Non-breeding White Pelicans were scattered widely in the Region throughout the summer. By the end of the period returning migrants had increased the population at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., to 1000± birds. At Crescent L., 75 nests of Double-crested Cormorants were counted in June. Olivaceous Cormorants were present in Trinity and Dallas Cos., Tex., in July. An Anhinga was sighted in Canadian County, Okla., July 1 (JGN,HW).

HERONS — A Great Egret was a visitor in Hale County, Tex., July 24 (ML). At Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., 84 Little Blue Herons were counted July 16. Two imm. Little Blue Herons stopped at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., July 30 and a single bird was seen in Gray County, Tex., July 23. A lone Cattle Egret appeared in Big Bend N.P., Aug. 1. Two pairs of Green Herons nested in Crosby County, Tex., providing a first breeding record (KH). Green Herons were sighted in Keith and Dawes Cos., Neb., during June (RCR). At Crescent L., 32 nests of Black-crowned Night Herons were counted in June. Small groups of this species were present on several Texas Panhandle playas during the summer, but no evidence of nesting was discovered. Least Bitterns were located at 12 sites, with nesting confirmed in Tarrant (TW) and Tom Green (CCW) Cos., Tex., and Canadian County, Okla. (JGN).



Least Bittern and two visible downy chicks; two others under female's wings, Tarrant County, Tex., June 5, 1978. Photo Tom Wood.

One in Briscoe County, Tex., June 3 provided one of the few records from the Texas Panhandle (KH). An Am. Bittern at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., July 7 was unusual for the date (CRB).

STORKS THROUGH DUCKS — About 250 Wood Storks congregated at Lakes Livingston and Somerville in late July. Non-breeding White-faced Ibises were

scattered widely in the Region most of the period. White Ibises in Canadian County, July 8 - 21 (T&BP *et al.*) and Wood County, Tex., June 26 (JY) were noteworthy. Fourteen Roseate Spoonbills were present in Trinity County July 30. Torrential rains in mid-May filled most of the playas in the Texas Panhandle but by then most waterfowl had moved on and the breeding population than in recent years. Normally rare inland Mottled Ducks were present on Lakes Livingston and Somerville in late July and in Dallas County through the period. Cinnamon Teal with ducklings were located in Hutchinson and Castro Cos., Tex. As Seltman wrote "Wood Ducks aren't big news anymore", but birders in the w. portion of the Region can't resist reporting all occurrences of this uncommon summer resident. Breeding records are limited to the e. half of the Region. Two ♀ Ruddy Ducks with chicks sailed on a playa in Castro County July 2. Seyffert speculates that more field work would reveal that this species breeds more often in w. Texas than the literature states.

KITES THROUGH FALCONS — Larned, Kans., is the place to go to observe Mississippi Kites. It is a town of 5000 people covering less than 10 sq. km. and Seltman estimates 100 breeding pairs of kites. Probably most w. plains towns with many trees now harbor a few pairs of Mississippi Kites. For the past 10 years kites have summered along the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P., where they feast on the deafening host of cicadas. It is strange that the species does not nest in this area.

It is unwise to make any estimates about the nesting success of Red-shouldered or Broad-winged Hawks since their woodland habitat makes them difficult to find and high summer temperatures do not encourage birders to spend much time searching. The open country in which Swainson's Hawks nest makes them easily visible, yet reports of nesting Swainson's Hawks are almost nonexistent. A pair was seen near Kansas City in late July (MLM). This summer's grasshopper plague, which undoubtedly necessitated numerous pesticide applications, could lead to further reduction in population of this formerly common summer raptor. An imm. Zone-tailed Hawk was sighted in Kerr County, Tex., July 6 (E&KM). This species is a rare breeder on the Edwards Plateau, but the population in Big Bend N.P. seems to have increased in the past 10 years — or perhaps more knowledgeable observers are now visiting the park. A Ferruginous Hawk nest in Dallam County, Tex., has been occupied the past four summers. Three young were in the nest June 10 (KS). Ferruginous Hawk nestlings just outside Crescent L. Refuge were ready to fledge July 20. Four pairs of Black Hawks nested in the Davis Mts., Tex. At least three were successful (PE), although the pair which built near the one public road through the area was much harassed by birders and photographers. Such incidents are making local experts more and more reluctant to reveal the location of uncommon birds.

An Osprey in Walker County, Tex., June 23 - 24 provided a first summer record (KBB). A Prairie Falcon in Lubbock County July 1 was the first summer occurrence at that locality since 1954 (NJ). Both Prairie and Peregrine Falcons were sighted in Big Bend N.P., intermittently through the period. A pair of Am. Kestrels

accompanying two juveniles at Tulsa July 9 was the first indication of possible nesting there since 1959 (ES, EHa). Seltman located 20 pairs of nesting kestrels in Pawnee and Rush Cos., Kans., and estimated that most were successful in fledging young.

RAILS — King Rails called all summer long in the cattail marshes at the n. end of L. Overholser at Oklahoma City and lucky observers at Cheyenne Bottoms actually saw a King Rail July 1. The estimated peak population of 2000 Virginia Rails and 2500 Soras at Crescent L., occurred in early June. A Virginia Rail was present in the cattail marsh below the dam at L. Meredith, Hutchinson Co., Tex., June 6.

July 26, while performing a routine swathing of a small grass waterway in Pawnee County, Seltman flushed a Black Rail. It remained in full view for two minutes, less than 10 m distant. He commented, "For some time I have felt that farmers have an unparalleled opportunity to observe wildlife. I wonder how many Black or Yellow Rails go unnoticed by machinery operators who don't know what they are seeing. The Black Rail is rated as a rare nester at Cheyenne Bottoms but farmers near there probably see many more of them than the wildlife biologists. Some of my birder friends have gone to a great deal of trouble and expense to see a bird I saw by chance while just doing my job."

A Purple Gallinule in Crosby County June 25 provided a first record (KH,DS). At Cheyenne Bottoms a pair of Com. Gallinules with two chicks were observed July 1.

PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES — The miles and miles of white sand beaches along the shores of L. McConaughy, Keith Co., Neb., are prime habitat for nesting Piping Plovers. On June 3, Rosche found approximately one pair per mile of beach over 6 mi route. Nesting Piping Plovers were located at Two Rivers S.P., Neb., June 28 (ME). By the end of the period migrating Piping Plovers had appeared at Tulsa and Polk, Trinity and Dallas Cos., Tex. Snowy Plovers were reported only at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., and Balmorhea L., Reeves Co., Tex., and it was not known whether these nested. More field work should be dedicated to studying these two plovers, since their habitat is subject to much human activity. Two Mountain Plovers were sighted in Dallam County, Tex., June 10. An Am. Golden Plover at Dallas July 14 - 16 was unusual for the date (KN).

The usual flocks of southbound shorebirds were present by the end of the period but were unusually numerous in the e. half of the Region. Six Am. Woodcocks fed along the edge of a drying pond at the new Oxley Nature Center at Tulsa July 27 - Aug. 9. Observers were able to photograph a species previously seen only as it flew to cover. A Long-billed Curlew nest containing four eggs was found in Dallam County June 10 (KS). The species is quite common in that county and Seyffert believes nests could be found every year if observers took the time to search. The same is probably true in Morton County, Kans., where curlews were observed June 10 (JS). A Long-billed Curlew in Coleman County July 3 was newsworthy at that date (CWS) and 50 near Boerne July 31 comprised

an unusual number for the locality (MJ). A Whimbrel in Trinity County July 22 provided a new area record (RM). Willets were abundant in Trinity, Polk and Llano Counties where only single individuals are normally expected. Five White-rumped Sandpipers were carefully identified at Tulsa July 22 - 23 (EHa *et al.*). This species is extremely rare in the fall anywhere in the Region. A Baird's Sandpiper in Trinity County July 28 was unexpected at that locality (RM,KBB), as were Stilt Sandpipers at Tulsa July 23 and L. Somerville July 21. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were common in Trinity County the last two weeks of July (KBB) and were sighted at Dallas Aug. 2 (KN). Marbled Godwits were reported at Hagerman July 7 (CRB), Dallas July 25 (KN), Trinity County July 22 (RM) and Crescent L., July 7 - 11. Nesting Am. Avocets have been scarce in w. Texas the past few years, but this summer were located in Castro County, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., and Midland Black-necked Stilts with chicks were discovered in Hale County, Tex., in late July (J&FD) and three families were observed in Tom Green County (CCW)

GULLS AND TERNS — An imm. Laughing Gull was carefully identified at L. Buchanan, Llano Co., Tex., Aug. 4 (KBB). Observations of the Blue-listed Least Tern are so important that all are noted here — six sightings in Douglas and Sarpy Cos., Neb., including two immatures July 9, Osage County, Kans., July 23, Pittsburgh County, Okla., June 15, Tulsa throughout the period, Roberts County, Tex., July 4.

DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — White-winged Doves were observed in Medina County, Tex., July 13 (E&KM). Because Inca Doves prefer to live in areas of human habitation they are rare in sparsely populated trans-Pecos Texas. One sighted at Alpine July 23 apparently provided a first record there (SWE). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were conspicuous throughout. Seltman stated that every farm shelter belt in c. Kansas supported a pair or two. In e. Texas, Yantis found "hundreds" of Yellow-billed Cuckoos dead on the road and Bryan stated that in the course of driving over an extensive area getting from one B.B.S. route to another he hit six cuckoos. Neither had any explanation as to why the cuckoos were so accident prone. Black-billed Cuckoos were sighted at Olathe, Kans., June 3 (FB) and Ceresca, Neb., June 17 (ME).

A pair of Barn Owls with six young was found at Tulsa June 15. On the same date a Barn Owl at Crescent L., was incubating six eggs in an old fire tower. Barn Owls by ones, twos and family groups were found nearly everywhere in dense thickets or on rocky ledges in Crosby and near-by counties (KH). A Flammulated Owl was heard in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., June 12 (DMcC). There were two July records of Short-eared Owls in n.w. Nebraska, the first in 6 years of work in the area (RCR,DJR). In Franklin County, Tex., a Chuck-will's-widow nest discovered May 21 contained two eggs (JY). Lesser Nighthawks near Albany (KN) and Kerrville (E&KM), Tex., provided extralimital records in early June.

HUMMINGBIRDS — It was not difficult to find Lucifer Hummingbirds in the Chisos Mts., during the

flowering season of mountain sage and century plants in late June. In the washes around the mountains the hummers fed in desert "willow" and anisacanth. The seventh recorded nest for the park was found in Window Canyon on a dead lechuguilla stalk June 14 (JF) Five species of hummingbirds zoomed about feeders at the Miller ranch in Presidio County and in the Davis Mt. resort area: Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Rufous, Calliope and Rivoli's. Of these, the only confirmed nester is the Black-chinned. Rufous Hummingbirds were present at Edmond, Okla., July 23 - 24 (VD) and Crawford, Neb., July 17 - 20 (RCR,DJR). Rosche pointed out what feeders can do for a supposedly "hummingbirdless" area like n.w. Nebraska as four species visited his home. A Calliope Hummingbird was sighted at El Paso July 22 (SWi). Two reports of White-eared Hummingbirds in the Chisos Mts., were received but with no documentation of the sightings. However there is a record of a specimen taken in 1938. A **Broad-billed Hummingbird** frequented a feeder in Alpine June 25 - Aug. 1 (JS†, m.ob.).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Red-headed Woodpeckers at Muleshoe N.W.R., July 4 (HB, m.ob.) and Crosby County July 14 (KH) were unexpected. Both these birds perched atop utility poles in areas of parched rangeland more than 2 mi from any source of water and even farther from anything that might be considered a tree. This Blue-listed species is doing well in the dead trees and snags on L. Livingston and surrounding shores. Thirty were counted in a small fraction of the area (JGM). Several Lewis' Woodpeckers were present in late June and July in Nebraska N.F. "Deadhorse Burn", s. of Chadron, Dawes Co. (TB *et al*) A very late E. Kingbird was observed on the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P., June 28 (TG). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were scarce along the w. edge of their range, but as numerous as ever in the c. portion of the Region. At Omaha, Ruth Green banded a ♀ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher which had a large brood patch June 1 A Black Phoebe in Medina County July 13 was e. of its usual range (E&KM).

SWALLOWS, CORVIDS — Three pairs of Rough-winged Swallows flew in and out of holes in a bank in Randall County, Tex., June 18 (KS). Extreme summer heat was responsible for the death of many late broods of Purple Martins. Martins did not return to colonies at Lockney and Plainview, Tex., but at Midland, where martins have never become established, one house was occupied. A Mexican Jay in the Chisos Mts., was found eating an 18-inch Texas Lyre Snake which it had just decapitated. The report is of interest primarily because of the rarity of the Lyre Snake (PS).

WRENS THROUGH MIMICS — House, Carolina and Bewick's Wrens were very scarce; most contributors blamed it on last winter's snow, ice and long periods of below-freezing temperatures. Rock Wrens were scarce from the Texas Panhandle s. at least to Midland. A pair of Gray Catbirds fledged young in Cleveland County, Okla., where the species is a rare breeder. Although Brown Thrashers resided in every thicket in Crosby and neighboring counties, no nests

could be found. A **Crissal Thrasher** nest containing nestlings was found in a shrub underneath the Delaware Cr. bridge, Culberson Co., Tex., Aug. 13 (KH) This seems to be an extremely late nesting date although little is known of the life history of Crissal Thrashers in Texas.

THRUSHES THROUGH WAXWINGS — In dry w Texas, Am. Robins can nest only in urban areas where lawn irrigation provides mud for nests. Lubbock is the only city where the species is well established but robins frequently summer in other towns. A pair of E Bluebirds fed young in the nest in Gray County, Tex., June 16 and bluebirds also nested successfully in the Davis Mts. A pair of Cedar Waxwings accompanied two juveniles in Kansas City June 15 (SH).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Black-capped Vireo in Taylor County, Tex., in early July provided a new county record (TH). Sexton was unable to find this species in appropriate habitat in neighboring Coleman County. Newell could find only one ♂ Black-capped Vireo in Caddo and Canadian Cos., Okla. He stated that cowbirds destroyed eggs in all Black-capped Vireo nests he has found for the last several years. A Yellow-throated Vireo was sighted at Marais des Cygnes July 23 (EMcH). A Solitary Vireo at Lubbock July 3 - 9 was unusual at that date (EB). Three Warbling Vireo nests were located in Tarrant County, Tex., and the species was present at L. Livingston where it has bred in the past. Ten Prothonotary Warblers, including six young of the year, were present at Marais des Cygnes July 23 Two unusual warbler observations were reported in the Chisos Mts.: a Red-faced Warbler July 9 and a Golden-cheeked Warbler July 10 (both HPL, *fide* PS). An Am Redstart in Big Bend N.P., July 13 was unexpected at that date. Painted Redstarts have bred in the Park at least 3 consecutive years.

ICTERIDS — Bobolinks were observed at Two Rivers S.P., Neb., June 28 (ME). In Sterling County, Tex., E. and W. Meadowlarks were heard singing within 150 yards of each other June 16 (CCW). In Tom Green County, E. Meadowlarks were heard July 29, for a first record during the breeding season.

S.A.

In Castro County, Tex., 16 nests of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were located May 20 (KS,MT). Eight of the nests contained four eggs each, the others were empty. On June 4 seven of the nests were still in use. At least 50 adults were present in the marshy playa but the observers inspected only those cattail clumps close to shore. Possibly there were many more nests. Singing males were also found in playas in Moore and Hansford Counties, but no nests located. This is the first confirmed nesting of the species in the Panhandle since 1899.

The status, ecological relationships and distribution of four species of orioles of the Edwards Plateau need study. Hooded Orioles were sighted in Gillespie and Kerr Counties, while Scott's Orioles were present in

Kendall, Comal and Edwards Counties. Orchard and N. Orioles are uncommon throughout the area. Great-tailed Grackles continued to spread. A female fed young in Osage County, Okla., July 4 (ED,EHi) and a pair fledged young at Alpine, Tex. They are now established throughout the Texas Panhandle and in Brown County in c. Texas. Common Grackles are even more widespread in the Panhandle than the Great-tailed. A Bronzed Cowbird was sighted in Kerr County July 6 (MJ).

FRINGILLIDS — Dickcissels are very erratic in the Region. One breeding area near Lubbock which had been occupied each summer since 1966 was not inhabited this year. Yantis found ten dead on the road in 0.25 mi in n.e. Texas. Mary Louise Myers discovered a breeding colony in Johnson County, Kans. Northeastern Kansas observers see few Painted Buntings so they were startled when a male was found dead in a parking lot in Kansas City. House Finches visited a feeder in Comanche County, Okla., July 11 & 22 (L&EB). Pine Siskins from last winter's invasion remained into June in good numbers at Tulsa, Crescent L., and Muleshoe N.W.R., but were absent in several w. Texas areas where they bred last year. Yantis found one colony in n.e. Texas. Cassin's Sparrows were in very low numbers throughout w. Texas, at least in June. But a nest with five eggs was found in Tarrant County June 15 (WP,MR) and several were heard singing as far e. as Gillespie and Kendall Counties. After late June rains Cassin's Sparrows sang day and night in both foothill and desert areas of Big Bend N.P. Unfortunately other areas where rains may have occurred were not re-examined later. Swamp Sparrows were present in both May and late July in one section of the Crescent L. Ref., but the area was not visited between those dates.

In the N. Platte R. valley, Keith Co., Neb., four Field Sparrows were singing in small cottonwood trees June 3. This seems an unlikely habitat for breeding of this species (RCR).

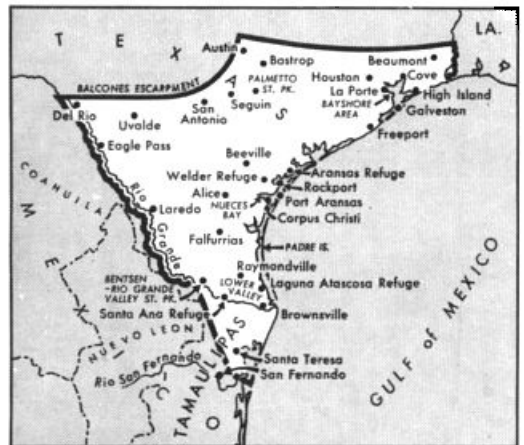
CORRIGENDUM — *Am. Birds* 32:372. 6600 Pine Siskins were banded at Baldwin City and 700 at Shawnee, Johnson County.

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

The generally dry trend of spring was interrupted during the first two weeks of June. During the period following, lack of rainfall and temperatures consistently several degrees above normal combined to obliterate the benefits of early June moisture. Relief came to the upper Texas coast after mid-July, and widespread rains of late July and early August refreshed most localities before the season finished on a dry note. Tropical storm *Amelia*, which went onshore south of Brownsville July 31, was responsible for most of the rainfall. Its moisture-laden remnants moved northward and stalled over the hill country northwest of San Antonio, with record flooding resulting. The drought seemed to have little effect on nesting of birds except those deprived of habitat by falling water levels or dying vegetation. For coastal waterbirds it was a very good season, free of excessively high tides and destructive storms. While drying conditions held down some insect populations, grasshoppers plagued some localities. They did extensive damage in Karnes and



Wilson Counties, for example, eating even the stalks of sunflowers and leaves and fruit of cultivated fruit trees. Persistent aerial spraying proved ineffective in controlling the grasshoppers, but apparently did interfere with bird production (WS).

GREBES THROUGH SPOONBILLS — Least Grebes were nest-building at San Antonio, at the n. limit of the breeding range May 22, but no nest or birds could be found a month later (*vide* JAM). Brown Pelicans continued excellent progress in their recovery from virtual extirpation. An estimated 300 pelicans were on the Texas coast (DRB); on one occasion 187 were flying about Pelican I., in Corpus Christi Bay (EP). Fourteen nests were reported at Pelican I., 11 at Deadman's Reef, n. of Rockport; a total of 39 hatched. Some young had fledged as late as June 4 (*vide* KM). Cattle Egrets became increasingly dominant among waders on the upper Texas coast, while Reddish Egrets appeared to be "holding their own" (TLE). Roseate Spoonbill numbers indicated a good season along the entire coast.

WATERFOWL — Black-bellied Whistling Ducks appear to be expanding their range, although evidence of nesting is lacking from the fringe areas. They are now being seen as far as e. as Galveston County, and were reported common in Colorado and Karnes Cos. At Aransas N.W.R., a brood of 11 was produced from a ground nest (SEL). In the vicinity of Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., Fulvous Whistling Ducks were common in flooded rice fields but nesting was not noted (WAS). Two Masked Ducks in ♀ plumage were sighted at a pond near Brownsville May 5, and one on June 2. By the latter date the pond was fast drying up (JCA). Mottled Ducks had an excellent breeding season on the upper coast, but those nesting on open prairie around Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., suffered predation (WAS).

HAWKS — White-tailed Kites were found nesting on Galveston I., July 1 (TLE, JGM, RHP), apparently for the first time. **Hook-billed Kites** nested again at Santa Ana N.W.R., the third known occurrence at the refuge (and in the U.S.). The male was seen carrying nesting material Apr. 29 (JLR, RAR *et al.*). The nest, with two half-grown young, was discovered (CM) on an undisclosed date. Mississippi Kites nested again in Brazoria and Ft. Bend Cos., on the upper coast. At least one pair of Red-tailed Hawks nested, and two pairs of White-tailed Hawks fledged young at Aransas N.W.R. (SEL). A successful nesting of the latter species occurred at Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R. (WAS), rather far inland for modern times. Several Harris' Hawks were seen in Val Verde County in July (SAH), the first reported in summer. Only three Marsh Hawk nests were found on the upper coast, all on protected property in Galveston County; land development is rapidly claiming this species' habitat (TLE).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Despite favorably dry conditions at Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., productivity of Greater Prairie Chickens was poor. "The poult-adult ratio was .25 - 1, which is well below the ratio considered necessary for a viable increasing population." Predation was suspected as the major limiting factor (WAS). Clapper Rail nesting was "extremely successful" on the upper coast (TLE). Removal of water hyacinths from Maner L., drastically changed the habitat, accounting for the disappearance

of most — if not all — Jacanas (TLE). No Snowy Plovers were reported nesting on the upper coast, but Wilson's Plover had a spectacular year (TLE). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Galveston June 3 provided a latest spring record for Texas (NP). Black-necked Stilts nested successfully at Mitchell L., San Antonio (JAM).

GULLS, TERNS — A Laughing Gull colony at Pelican I. (Galveston) comprised 15,000 pairs. Eight nests of the scarce Sooty Tern were found on an island in Matagorda Bay May 26 (KK, CL). A shell island was prepared for the Least Tern colony which nests on Rockport beach, but the terns rejected this safe refuge for the hazards of the public beach. Some losses occurred, and many pairs raised second broods (DNW).

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS — A pair of Red-billed Pigeons was found nesting at Falcon Dam July 4. The nest was in a willow overhanging the Rio Grande (P&LW). A Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severa*) has existed in a wild state at Austin for over three years. Its origin remains a mystery, but the likelihood of this species flying to Texas from Panama or Colombia is remote. This macaw frequents a locality adjoining the Univ. of Texas campus, and often consorts with Rock Doves. In the breeding season it exhibits aggressive behavior toward and aerial pursuit of certain of these pigeons (EBK). A **Red-crowned Parrot** (*Amazona viridigenalis*) was seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., June 5 (MA, JKP). Since this parrot ranges close to Texas, and is not prized as a cage bird, it seems likely that this one was feral. After being suspected for some years, nesting of Groove-billed Anis was confirmed for Bee County. A pair with four nestlings was observed at Beville May 27 (AHG, VH). Three families were reportedly raised in w. Bee County. A pair was found nesting along the Rio Grande in Val Verde County in July (SAH). This species is new for the county. Common Nighthawks were in excellent numbers on the upper coast (JGM).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS — An unusual number of Buff-bellied Hummingbirds occurred in early summer n. of the usual range, but no nests were reported. At a feeding station at Sarita, Kenedy Co., where as many as six pairs have occurred in past years, a substantial increase was noted (LL, *vide*



Two Buff-bellied and one Black-chinned hummingbirds Sarita / Kenedy Cos., Tex., June 16, 1978. Photo/ Sheriton Burr.

KM). Two Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were seen in Washington County June 22 (WMC), a new species for the county. Wied's Crested Flycatchers nested in a pipe in Karnes County; ants killed the young (WS). A pair occupied one of 100 nesting boxes erected at Camp Stanley, n.w. Bexar Co., and fledged five young. Utilizing these boxes, 10 pairs of Ash-throated Flycatchers fledged 44 young from 58 eggs (MJ). Black Phoebe with four fledged young were seen along the Frio R., at Concan, Uvalde Co., May 3 (DEW). Apparent Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Hale Ranch, Ft Bend Co. — one June 4 and two June 24 (TLE, JGM) stirred speculation. Previous late spring and early fall records for Texas are June 2 and July 23. Sonograms are being studied as an aid in identification. June rains destroyed most Cliff Swallow nests under the Hwy 35 bridge n. of Rockport, but 226 completed nests were found June 30 (DNW). It was a good season for Purple Martins in most localities. Many late arrivals (early May) and late nestings were observed at Corpus Christi. In late July, with pre-migration flocking well advanced, martins were fledging young throughout the city (KM).

TITMICE THROUGH STARLINGS — At the Camp Stanley nesting box complex, 19 pairs of Tufted (Black-crested) Titmice succeeded in 21 of 27 nesting attempts, fledging 109 young from 149 eggs, while 26 pairs of Bewick's Wrens succeeded in 23 of 31 attempts, fledging 128 from 170 eggs (MJ). The Wood Thrush seems established as a breeder at one stream-side campground in Bastrop S.P.; several were singing July 6 (CWS). The E. Bluebird population on the upper coast has been reduced by one-third to one-half in the past 2 years (JGM). The Camp Stanley bluebirds expanded from one to seven pairs, of which at least five pairs contained one or more offspring of the previous year. Nine nesting boxes were used. Eighteen of 19 nesting attempts were successful and 67 young fledged from 91 eggs (MJ). The Loggerhead Shrike, Blue-listed in some regions, seems to be thriving in South Texas. The Starling's dominance of hole-nesting sites at Austin's East Woods Pk., was even more pronounced than a year before (AB 31:1158). The problem for native species was compounded by a late start — by about two weeks — and a prolonged nesting period — by about a month — for the Starlings. By August, it was apparent that Great Crested Flycatchers, Carolina Chickadees, and Tufted (Black-crested) Titmice had produced no young in the area, and the only evidence of successful nesting by Red-bellied Woodpeckers was the presence of a grown young June 10, and a dead chick on the ground June 20 (EBK).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Black-capped Vireos were feeding two young in Friedrich Pk., San Antonio, June 18 (DEP,RHP). The Prothonotary Warbler is listed as uncommon on the upper coast, but diligent investigation has shown it to be common in suitable habitat such as that found on the Hale Ranch, and as many as 20 singing males can be located in a single day (TLE,JGM). A small territorial population of Swainson's, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers was again found along Alum Cr., in Bastrop County (RAR *et al.*).

Newly fledged Kentucky Warblers were seen July 6 (CWS). Progress of the Tropical Parulas at the U S 77 rest area s. of Sarita was reported at intervals by birders in transit. A female was working on a nearby completed nest in the presence of a singing male Apr. 13, and was incubating Apr. 29 (DEW *et al.*). A female was building a nest of Spanish moss June 9 (WMC,PG). Two competitive males were singing on territory, June 11 (PJB). A pair was feeding a young cowbird July 5 (P&LW). As many as three singing ♂ Am. Redstarts were found at Hale Ranch, at the site where the species was discovered a year earlier; one male was carrying food (*vide* JGM).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH SPARROWS — Eastern Meadowlarks appear to be moving W into Medina County, possibly prompted by brush clearing, improved pastureland and hay fields (JAM). Black-headed Orioles were feeding young in the nest a Falcon Dam July 4 (L&PW). Blue Grosbeaks were absent from Karnes and Wilson Cos., and Painted Buntings were much below a year ago (WS). Bunting numbers remained low at Rockport, but this species was abundant on the upper coast. The Seaside Sparrow, listed only as a winter resident in the Rio Grande Delta, was found at the mouth of the Rio Grande June 2 (JCA). Cassin's Sparrows were locally quite common in Karnes County (WS).

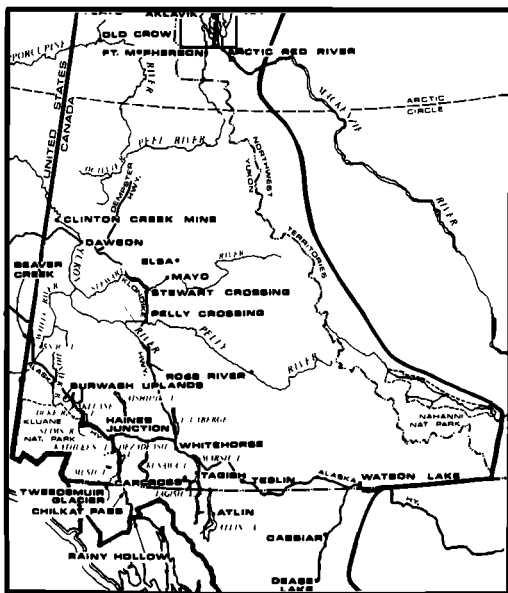
CORRIGENDA — After White-tailed Kites, "They" refers to White-tailed Hawks as being "seen on the coastal plains . . ." (AB 32:373). Back cover reference to front cover photograph of ♀ Hook-billed Kite which reads "first nesting pair in the U.S.A." (AB 30, No.5) and inclusion of this record in "Breeding Additions to State Lists" (AB 30:921) are incorrect. This was a second nesting; for the first see *AFN* 18 521 Gray Hawk at Santa Ana N.W.R., was third — not first — June record for refuge (AB 29:1004). First was an immature seen June 12, 1972 by Cruz Martinez, second was reported AB 28:923. Jacanas remaining at Maner L., in late January, were thought to number two, this is quoted opinion only (AB 32:374). Green Violet-ear observation made Mar. 24, not May 24 (AB 27 794). Delete "WOODPECKERS" in paragraph heading, add "COTINGAS" (AB 32:374). Relative to Long-billed Thrashers, substitute "subsequently" for "consequently" (AB 32:374). The N. Oriole should be Bullock's race, not Baltimore (AB 32:374). Under credits paragraph, boldface type was intended for contributors, instead identifies observers (AB 32:375).

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION /Helmut Grünberg

A blizzard in the northern Yukon during the last days of May left hundreds of birds dying. On June 21 the temperature dropped to 16°C at the North Coast, undoubtedly taking a heavy toll among summer visitors. Otherwise the weather pattern was fairly



normal. The deficit in precipitation from the previous seasons was further increased by a low amount of rainfall in July (one third less than normal). The resulting low water table is probably one of the causes of low productivity observed in birds during the nesting season.

Contributions for this report were received from northern British Columbia — now also including the Atlin area — and the Yukon as far north as the Arctic Coast. A total of 135 species was observed.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS — In the Old Crow Flats three Whistling Swans were seen June 3 (DM). At Shingle Point, North Coast, Whistling Swans were incubating June 19 (DM), and at Old Crow they failed completely to produce young this year (DM). Three late Trumpeter Swans were seen at Teslin June 1 (BS). At Old Crow 150 White-fronteds and 200 Canada Geese were noted July 15 (DM). A pair of Ring-necked Ducks was seen at Swan Lake (hereafter, S.L.) 20 km n. of Whitehorse June 3 – July 7 (HG,PM). On July 8 a female was leading two young ducks indicating breeding at S.L. (HG). Thirty individuals were seen at S.L., July 16 (HG,RM). Six Greater Scaup were noted at

Shingle Pt., June 19 (DM). A pair of Harlequin Ducks was observed at Rock R., Richardson Mts., June 5 (SR), one male was seen in Whitehorse June 19 (HG) and one individual on Surprise L., near Atlin, B.C., in June (SF, *vide* CL). Oldsquaws were fairly common in the Old Crow Flats June 7 (DM).

An Osprey was sighted at Lower Rainbow L., s. of Haines Jct., in early June (CD), and one was seen fishing at Snafu L., July 26 (DM). A Gyrfalcon survey by the Yukon Game Branch indicated moderately high productivity for 1978 (DM). Specific observations: one at Shingle Pt., June 19 (DM) and one near Kusawa L., July 26 (HG).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — The only Sharp-tailed Grouse reported this summer was seen near Jake's Corner, Alaska Hwy., July 7 (SH). Rock Ptarmigan were demonstrating peak densities in the n. foothills of the British Mts., June 7 (DM). One bird was seen at Malcolm R., June 17 (DM) and one at the Canol Rd., in July (LO). Two Sandhill Cranes were flying overhead at Rock R., June 5 (SR), they were common at Shingle Pt., June 19 (DM). One to three Soras were observed at S.L., June 3 - 25 (HG).

Black-bellied Plovers were seen at Komakuk Beach, North Coast, June 5 (DM). A nesting pair of the rare Surf-bird with one young was discovered in a new area, at Rock R., in the Richardson Mts., July 6 (SR). This is the northernmost known breeding locality of this species. Numerous pairs of Wandering Tattlers with one or two young were noted at Rock R., during the summer (SR). One pair was on territory at Malcolm R., June 17 (DM). A rare Short-billed Dowitcher appeared to have a nest or young at S.L. The ad. bird was observed and photographed from close range on July 7 & 8 (HG), before that time probably overlooked. Ten



Short-billed Dowitcher near suspected nest or brood, Swan Lake, n. of Whitehorse, July 8, 1978. Photo/ Helmut Grünberg.

Long-billed Dowitchers were seen in the same area on June 3, 4 & 16 (HG,RM). Two to six dowitchers were noted there June 25 (HG) and more than three on July 1 (HG,PM). Ten Wilson's Phalaropes were first sighted at S.L., June 3 (HG). Fourteen were noted there June 4 (HG). On July 25, the northernmost breeding location of this species was substantiated by a series of color photos of a nest with four eggs and two young just hatched (HG). Two males and the same nest were again seen July 1 (HG,PM). On July 7 the nest was empty. One male was noted at S.L., July 7 - 8 (HG).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Fifteen Glaucous Gulls were observed at Shingle Pt., June 19 (DM). Swan L. appears to be a good area for "pioneer" birds: Two **Black Terns** showed up June 3 (HG) establishing the first record in the Yukon.

A Mourning Dove was noted s. of Whitehorse June 22 (KB). Rufous Hummingbirds were nesting at Graham Inlet, B.C., this summer (RB). An imm. male was seen at Carcross July 3 & 21 (HW). The observation of a hummingbird was reported from as far n. as Old Crow, n. of the Arctic Circle, July 25 (CB). We are expecting the first breeding report for the Yukon in the near future.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are possibly becoming more common in the Region. One was reported near Atlin, B.C., during June (C&RL,LO), one was at S.L., June 4 & 7 (HG) and one near Whitehorse June 22 (HG). The uncommon Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was observed near S.L., July 16 (HG, RM).

PASSERIFORMES — A rare E. Kingbird was seen feeding young at Snafu L., July 26 (DM) suggesting that this species may nest in the Yukon. One or two Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted eight times after their invasion this spring: in Atlin during June (C&RL), near Whitehorse until July 21 (HG) and at S.L., until July 8 (HG). A nest tree with two adults feeding their young was found and photographed June 10 - 13 near Whitehorse (HG). A rarely seen **Yellow Wagtail** was noted at Komakuk Beach June 7 (DM). A probable Warbling

Vireo was observed at Tagish in June (LO). Warblers were less common than in previous years, but it is still not conclusive whether we are witnessing a trend. A possible Tennessee Warbler with an immature was seen at Cassiar, B.C., July 23 (PM). An imm. ♂ Am. Redstart was singing near Whitehorse June 14 (HG) and the first suspected breeding record for the Yukon of this species was received from Teslin where two adults with three young were observed July 19 - 21 (D&PD). The unusual observation of an ad. Sage Sparrow in Whitehorse July 30 might have been the first record for the Yukon had there been photographic evidence (SH). A Song Sparrow was reported from an area near Whitehorse June 24 - July 8 (D&SS).

ADDENDUM — An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus graellsii*), was observed and photographed in the n. Richardson Mts., near the margin of the Mackenzie Delta July 3 - 4, 1977. This was the most north-westerly record of this species at that date (PS).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

June tended to be rather hot and dry in most of the Region but July was very wet in much of eastern Washington and in Idaho and northwestern Montana. The general consensus indicated excellent vegetative growth and ample moisture to suffice through the summer. Streams, lakes and reservoirs were close to normal once more.

LOONS, GREBES — A scattering of Com. Loons lingered into June and July and even to the end of the period at many localities. Red-necked Grebes appeared at several unusual places. A pair with one young was found at Little Sweden Marsh above Waits L., s. of Chewelah, Wash., June 24 (JN) and Banff, Alta., had four adults and two young July 24 (RJB). Jasper, Alta., had two July 17 (RJB) and Davis L., s. of Usk, Wash., had one July 3 (JA). One was sighted near Ovando, Mont., June 26 (EM,SMi), Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., had a peak of 4000 Eared Grebes (RRS). Eared and W. Grebe numbers were way down at North Lake, W.M.A., Jefferson Co., Ida., and at Market Lake W.M.A., near Roberts, Ida. The former area had irrigation draw-down causing early mud flats but the latter area did not, indicating a likely widespread population decline in s. Idaho. Practically no W. Grebe nests were

found along the reservoirs of the Snake R., but the population at Blackfoot Res. did not appear to be declining (CHT). On North Arm of Okanagan L., B.C., two small W. Grebe colonies not previously known were found (RC, RoC & SC). At Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., the carp control program resulted in



increased breeding success for Eared Grebes but caused a decline in W. Grebes from $1200 \pm$ in 1977 to $350 \pm$. Analysis of three dead birds showed starvation the cause. Pied-billed Grebes there increased as did their main food, invertebrates (CDL).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS — Most of the White Pelicans at Malheur N.W.R., left because of the scarcity of carp. Large flocks of the species loafed at L. Walcott and Am. Falls Res., in s. Idaho in mid-June but successful nesting was not evident (CHT). They were also abundant on the Snake R., near Massacre Rocks S P., at that time (EH). Up to 55 were on Frenchman Hills L., s.w. of Moses L., Wash., in late July (PM,AR). Lake Helena, Mont., had 400 non-nesters in early June (SM). Double-crested Cormorants seemed to be doing very well along the Snake R., in s. Idaho, except at Blackfoot Res., where eggs and adults disappeared, "sportsmen" the suspected cause (CHT). Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., had 200 July 20 (JH). At Malheur only 20 pairs nested, down from 70 last year. Instead the birds were widely scattered throughout the basin, supposedly owing to lack of food at Malheur L. (CDL). Crane Prairie Res., Deschutes Co., Ore., had 20 June 6 (HBN) and five were about 10 km w. of Moses L., Wash., June 23 (EH).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES — Great Blue Herons at Malheur were down from 200 pairs in 1977 to 30 pairs. One bird was analyzed as starved and another succumbed to enteritis. Many were seen engaged in the unusual behavior of hunting for small rodents and insects in alfalfa fields. However, Black-crowned Night Herons there were up to 526 pairs (*cf.* 375 in 1977); Snowy Egrets 137 pairs (*cf.* 50 in 1977), and 400 pairs of Great Egrets (*cf.* 125 in 1977). White-faced Ibises decreased slightly to 190 pairs from 200 last year. An imm Black-crowned was at the Chewelah, Wash. sewage ponds June 24 - 25 (JN,EH). About 60 were counted in the Moses L., Potholes area of Washington June 23 (EH). An imm. bird was at Ennis L., Mont., June 13 (PDS,SCo). Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons appeared to be in trouble at several refuges in s. Idaho, with dented and infertile eggs found. Both species were in very reduced numbers at Market Lake W.M.A. and the Portneuf site was not used at all (CHT). A Green Heron was seen at Upper Klamath L., Ore., June 5. A pair has been there regularly the last few years (ABN,OS). One was flushed near the Pocatello, Ida. trout farm June 12 (CHT). At least one pair of **Cattle Egrets** nested at L. Walcott on the Snake R., s. Idaho for the first state breeding record (CHT). One was near Hamer, Ida., June 19 (DH *et al.*). A pair of Great Egrets was at Pocatello briefly in early June (CHT). Ennis L. had a Great Egret June 11 for one of the few Montana records (ETH&RAH) and Minidoka N.W.R., had one July 20 (JH). White-faced Ibises were doing well in s. Idaho at Market, Mud and Oxford Lakes, with over 200 young banded (CHT).

WATERFOWL — Trumpeter Swans hatched 105 cygnets at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., but only 49 survived to the period's end. Sixty-six hatched last year. At the close of the period Malheur had 14

cygnets. Canada Geese at Red Rock Lakes produced 88 goslings, about double last year's figure. Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., had 100 birds during the period and flocks of up to 150 locals formed at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., in July. Gosling numbers on the Snake R., near Nampa Ida., were up to 30% from last year.

Waterfowl habitat improved on Malheur L., and 6150 duck pairs apparently nested. Redheads were the most abundant at 2660 pairs and Ruddy Ducks next with 1885. Including the surrounding basin 22,700 duck pairs were present for the nesting season, in order of decreasing abundance as follows: Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Mallard, Pintail and Gadwall. Pintail numbers were most noteworthy; presumably they halted their N movement because of excellent water conditions. Redheads moved from private land to Malheur L., to take advantage of increased food supplies there. At Turnbull N.W.R., Mallard and Redhead numbers were highest, Ruddy Ducks next. A good production year was reported for McNary N.W.R. Migrant waterfowl moved into the Malheur area in late June, where Malheur Ref. had 78,000+ ducks with Pintail the most abundant. Excellent emergent vegetation provided abundant food. Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., had 20,650 ducks July 20, primarily Lesser Scaup, Mallards, Ruddy Ducks, Gadwall, Redhead, Com Merganser, Pintail and Canvasback, in decreasing order of abundance. Canvasback numbers at 1200 appeared good. Common Goldeneye numbered 500. Breeding Ring-necked Ducks were becoming more common in the Fortine, Mont., area but Barrow's Goldeneye and Bufflehead numbers were down. Fourteen Com. Goldeneye broods were seen on lakes in that area (WW).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Turkey Vultures were reported mostly from s. Idaho, the largest number being 14, along the highway one mi s. of Cascade July 23 (EM,SMi). Two in the Salmon, Ida. area June 20 may have been nesting (HBR). An active nest was found at Black Rock Bay on Coeur d'Alene L., Ida., in June (DC). Up to ten birds per day appeared in the Kimberley, B.C. vicinity (MVW). *Eighty* were counted on a two-day trip in c. and s. Oregon in early July (JGO,JB). Thompson Falls, Mont., had three in June (EHa).

Ferruginous Hawks apparently had a good nesting season in s.c. Idaho and may be slowly recovering from their sharp decline in the early 1970s (CHT). Nine other sightings were reported. A Buteo carefully observed at Malheur N.W.R., July 8 appeared to be a sub-adult Rough-legged Hawk. If correct, it would be the first summer observation for Oregon (JCO,JB). Bald Eagles evidenced good nesting success in the Helena area, two nests had three young and the third, two (VY). Pend Oreille L., had the first reported Bald Eagle nesting for n. Idaho, with three birds fledged (DC). Idaho's Dept of Game checked over 175 Osprey nests on Pend Oreille and Coeur d'Alene Lakes. They averaged about 1.5 young/nest. Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., had 3 - 4 all summer but no nesting took place (LDN). The species was very common along the Flathead R., s of Kalispell, Mont. Two active nests were found (EHa). Four localities reported Peregrine Falcon sightings

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Brood counts in Wallowa County, Ore., indicated a 40% decline for both Blue and Ruffed Grouse (CC). Very poor survival for the latter was reported in the Chewelah, Wash. area due to cool, wet weather (JN). In Wallowa County White-tailed Ptarmigan were observed on Chief Joseph Mt. The species was introduced into that area in 1971 (CC). At least three Scaled Quail were sighted on Yakima Firing Range 5 km s.w. of Priest Rapids Dam June 14 (EH). Two or three Bobwhite were reported in the Nampa, Ida. vicinity (G.E.A.) and they were heard in the Walla Walla area (CS). Quail and pheasants had a very good nesting season at McNary N.W.R. Turkeys in the Rice-Cedonia, Wash., area were reported faring well (JN).

CRANES, RAILS — A Whooping Crane in ad. plumage was observed in mid-June at Grays L., s.e. Idaho, showing very aggressive behavior toward Sandhill Cranes (CH,EHa). High predation and a late April flood cut nesting success to 34.6% for Sandhills at Malheur N.W.R. It was a "vastly improved" year for Virginia Rails and Soras in the Chewelah, Wash., area (JN). The former had "the best year yet" at Reardan, Wash. (JA).

SHOREBIRDS — The only Am. Golden Plover reported was one in breeding plumage in a flooded field s. of Klamath Falls, Ore., July 29 (SS). Some 1300 Long-billed Curlews, most apparently nesting, were in the Malheur N.W.R. area. A pair of Upland Sandpipers at the traditional site along Idaho Rd. e. of Spokane, presumably nested. The only others reported were nine on the Reed Pt., Mont., B.B.S., comparing favorably with five in 1977 (EHa). The only Stilt Sandpiper report was of an adult at Reardan July 20 - 22 (JA). Malheur had 200+ Willets and 2400+ Am. Avocets. Two Marbled Godwits were at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., July 17 (RRS). Four Black-necked Stilts were observed in June and July at the pond s.e. of George, Wash., where they nested successfully last year (PM,BR). Over 5400 Wilson's Phalaropes were at Malheur.

GULLS, TERNS — California and Ring-billed Gulls had very good nesting success on their island in the Columbia R., at the mouth of the Yakima R. About 600 of these two species again occupied the nesting site 4 mi s.e. of Burns, Ore. Some 520 pairs of Franklin's Gulls nested at Malheur L. The species was noted along the lower Imnaha R., Wallowa Co., Ore., June 27 (BA) and one in breeding plumage showed up 15 km s. of Kalispell, Mont., July 5 (EH). Salmon, Ida., had one June 24 (HBR). Two young Bonaparte's Gulls, swimming but not able to fly, were near Pyper L., w. of Alexis Cr., s. interior British Columbia July 7 and two adults, apparently nesting, were at a small lake at the s. end of Tweedsmuir Pk., B.C., July 8 (EL). The sighting of a group of eight **Black-legged Kittiwakes** over Chickahominy Res., Harney Co., Ore., July 7 was apparently authentic (JGO). The only Com. Terns were five on the Snake R., between Lewiston, Ida., and Asotin, Wash., July 26 (JWW) and one on Frenchman Hills L., s.w. of Moses L., Wash., July 24 (PM). Two Caspian Terns were at Kamloops L., Tranquille, B.C., July 7 (RRH,

DS). The species' numbers appeared to be recovering along the Snake R., in s. Idaho (CHT). Six were along the Snake at Silcott, Wash., July 19 - Aug. 10 and two were along the Clearwater R., at Lewiston, Ida., July 19 (JWW).

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A Band-tailed Pigeon appeared at Lily L., Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore., June 7 (CCo). One of two Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Ida., was banded June 6 (JHe) and two were again sighted in that general area July 15 (G.E.A.). A window-killed bird of this species was picked up at George, Wash., June 21 (JT). Black-billed Cuckoos were described as rare in the Bozeman, Mont., vicinity this year (PDS). Barn Owls nested at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters for the first time since 1971 and an adult and four young were found in a drain pipe on Marian Drain, Toppenish N.W.R., Wash. Single Flammulated Owls were observed at Blewett Pass in the Washington Cascade Mts., June 23 (JBU, *vide* DP) and at Pataha Cr., Umatilla N.F., 20 mi s. of Pomeroy, Wash., June 30 & July 7 (GB,MM,AR). Two were at Tucannon C.G., Columbia Co., Wash., July 15 (EH). Burrowing Owls were believed starting a comeback in the Rupert, Ida. vicinity, where 12 nests were found (WHS). Numbers appeared to be down in the Walla Walla, Wash. area, where old burrows seemed vacant (SMu). At the Davenport, Wash. stockyard, numbers looked better, with at least three pairs (JA). A surprising congregation of 20 - 30 was found along the highway between Richland and Kiona, Wash., July 25 (JL,REW). One or two Barred Owls were at Calispell Bog, Pend Oreille Co., Wash., June 11 - July 9 (EH,JA,JR) and to the n. near Middleport June 28 (MD). One was heard at Sweat Cr. C.G., Okanogan Co., Wash., June 26 (TB,IK). A nest with a brood of Spotted Owls was found on Hamner Butte, n. Klamath Co., Ore., June 17 (EF,BH). A freshly dead Great Gray Owl was found hanging on a barbed wire fence where it had snagged itself, near Fraser L., in s. British Columbia July 24 (DCo,SH). The species was seen in the Bozeman area but the nest site of the last few years had been abandoned (PDS). One was seen near Henry's L., Fremont Co., Ida. (RRS). Long-eared Owls fledged young July 13 from a nest near Chewelah (JN).

Hummingbirds remained in low numbers in the Spokane area and likewise at Chewelah except for the Calliope, which was "doing fine" at the latter place (JN). It seemed a good year for hummers at Rupert and 500± Rufous Hummingbirds were feeding from columbines near Fish L., on Steens Mt., July 25 (DG). An Anna's Hummingbird was present in June at Husum, Wash. (DF). The species has reportedly nested at nearby White Salmon (BH).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — The Klamath R. Canyon, s.w. Klamath Co., Ore., had eight Acorn Woodpeckers June 14 (SS) and the birds were reported for Tygh Valley, Ore. (KH). Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported for six localities. One was sighted 5 mi s. of Sun Valley, Ida., July 24 (EW,SMI), the species was found near Dayville, Ore., June 3 (CC), and two adults were feeding young in a nest w. of the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., in June (EHa). The

population was still low in Chelan County, Wash. (PC). In the Fortine, Mont. area, where it is rare, Williamson's Sapsucker was reported at the site they have used since 1973 (WW). The Salmon area had one July 18 (HBR) and 15 were seen in the Blue Mts., s. of Pomeroy, Wash., July 1 (GB,KM,MM&PM). Three nests of White-headed Woodpeckers were located in the Chewelah area (JN) and single birds were found in Ahtanum Woods w. of Yakima and at Tieton Ranger Station in the Cascades to the w. (Y.A.S.). A good number of Black-backed and N. Three-toed Woodpeckers was reported. Of special note was one of the former in Colorado Gulch near Helena June 18 (GN).

A carefully described **Tropical Kingbird** was reported at Maryhill S.P., Yakima Co., Wash., June 24 (AM,MMo). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was photographed at Davis L., w. of Lapine June 13 for Oregon's second record (LBM). The Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported at Badger Mt., n. of Wenatchee, Wash., June 22 (HO). The only other reports were for the Redmond-Prineville, Ore. area (RG,FS). Meticulous observation of *Empidonax* flycatchers at Jasper N.P., Alta, June 28 led to the conclusion that three or four pairs were Willow and only one, Alder (EH). A Least Flycatcher near Fortine, Mont., for several days in mid-July was only the fourth in 58 years' observing (WW) and two males were singing near Kalispell, July 10 & 12 (EH). Three ♂ Gray Flycatchers were detected 5 mi n. of Godman Springs in Umatilla N.F., July 2 for an E extension of the species' known range (GB,MM). Occasional W. Wood Pewees were seen and heard along the Columbia R., at Richland June 1 - July 6 (PW & REW). Malheur L. had 6000 swallows, mostly Cliffs but with 300± Banks July 20. A Bank Swallow colony of 100 nest holes was in a gravel pit at McNary N.W.R.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — A flock of perhaps 80 Piñon Jays, comprised of family groups with young still begging, was w. of Sisters, Ore., May 20 - 21 and a second group of 30 - 40, mostly juveniles, was there June 18 (JBi,DI,MK,HBN). The Bozeman area had a concentration of 200± Clark's Nutcrackers June 25. However the species seemed in low numbers at Salmon. At the Spokane farm sanctuary Pygmy Nuthatches occupied ten boxes and fledged 62 young. The species seemed absent from several prime habitat areas in Oregon (HBN). Spokane's farm sanctuary fledged 50 House Wrens as of July 23 with 23 still in boxes. A singing ♂ Bewick's Wren in the Potholes area of Columbia N.W.R., Wash., June 23 established a new n. record (EH).

MIMIDS THROUGH PIPITS — The only Mockingbird report was of one at Malheur Field Station late May - early June (CDL). At the Spokane farm sanctuary W. Bluebirds occupied 27 boxes, fledging 41 by June 25 and another 43 by July 23 with 46 still in nests. However, 27 nestlings died May 28 - June 25 (WCM). In some other Washington localities the birds were scarce; at Chewelah, Mountain Bluebirds seemed to outnumber them (EH). Nineteen of the latter were seen in a plowed field at Joseph, Ore., June 11 (CC). Water Pipits were found on Chief Joseph Mt., near Joseph July 20 (VC) and in the Salmon area July 30 (HBR).

VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — A Red-eyed Vireo was along the Little Deschutes R., near Gilchrist, Ore., June 12 (TL) and singles were found at Davis L., and Crescent Cr., Deschutes and Klamath Cos., Ore., June 2 (JG). Two sightings of the species in the Yakima area in mid-June were unusual (Y.A.S.) Two singing ♂ Solitary Vireos were found in the Bozeman area where they are rare (PDS). A ♂ and a ♀ **Blackburnian Warbler** were sighted at Banff, Alta, June 27 (EH). A singing ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** in breeding plumage was at Magic Res., in the Pocatello area June 15 (SF). A singing Ovenbird was closely observed at Spillimacheen, B.C., June 16 - 17 (RRH) and at least three were singing in Cottonwood Canyon s. of Bozeman June 12 - 28 (PDS; EHa). Northern Waterthrushes were found consistently, some carrying nesting material, along the Little Deschutes R., near Gilchrist and at Crescent Cr., Ore. (AC,LBM). The species was found along the w. fork of the San Poil R., Okanogan Co., Wash., July 6 (N.C.A.). American Redstarts were at Crescent Cr. in June (LBM). One at Salmon, July 6 was Roberts' first for that area.

The Bobolink colony in the Aeneas Valley, e Okanogan Co., Wash., had the highest breeding population in 4 years (PC). A small colony just e of Chewelah had "fair" success and the colony of at least three pairs just w. of Valley, Wash., had "good" success (JN). A few were at Toppenish N.W.R., in June (Y.A.S.). A lone ♂ Tricolored Blackbird appeared at Upper Klamath L., Ore., where its nesting site was probably under water (HBN). A pair of N. Orioles was feeding young near Kimberley, B.C., where it is scarce (MVW). One was at L. Chatcolet, Benewah Co., Ida, July 1 for that state's most northerly recent record (DJ) and one was seen at Salmon June 24 (HBR).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS — Helena had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in late June (RK) and an ad. male was sighted in Diamond, Ore., July 6 (SHe). An **Indigo Bunting** appeared at Bozeman June 2 - 5 (Mrs. JH & ETH). A ♂ Black Rosy Finch was found on Vienna Pk., Sawtooth Mts., near Stanley, Ida., July 12 (EHB). A successional stage of solid bitter brush (*Purshia tridentata*) near Chiloquin, Ore., showed ten Green-tailed Towhees (SS). One was at Salmon, June 26 (HBR). Three Brown Towhees were found in Klamath R., Canyon, s.w. Klamath Co., June 14 (SS). Two ♂ Lark Buntings were near Antelope L., 4 mi w. of Harrison, Mont., June 20 (EHa) and the n. side of Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., had two sightings in mid-June (RRS). Grasshopper Sparrows were sighted at the Nat'l Bison Range in the Spokane Valley and w. of Spokane, at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., and about 5 km s.w. of Pomeroy, Wash.

OBSERVERS CITED — Bill Ables, James Acton, Eric H. Bergman, Greg Butcher, Jennifer Beckman (JB), John Biewener (JBi), Joe Burgiel (JBU), R J Butot, Thais Bock, Alan Contreras, Christopher Carey (CC), Char Corkran (CCo), Dean Carrier (DC), Dave Comfort (DCo), Phil Cheney, Richard Cannings (RC), Rob Cannings (RoC), Sidney Cannings (SC), Sharon Cotterell (SCo), Vic Coggins, Mike Donahue, David Fix, Eric Forsman, Scott Findholt, Debbie Golden-

berg, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.), Jeff Gilligan, Roy Gerig, Bill Harrington-Tweit, Camille Harper, Don Hunter, Eugene Hunn (EH), Ed Harper (EHa), Eve T. Hays, John Hill (JH), Mrs. J. Harp (Mrs. JH), James Heckathorn (JHe), Kirk Horn, R.A. Hays, R.R. Howie, Sue Hackman (SH), Steve Herman (SHe), David Irons, Don Johnson, Irene Klevens, Mark Koninendyke, Ronald Keim, Carroll D. Littlefield, Edith Levey, Jim Leikes, Tom Lund, Archer Mortland, Elinor Miller, Kathy Matt, Larry B. McQueen, Mike Moore (MM), Mary Mortland (MMo), Phil Mattocks, Sid Martin, Stauffer Miller (SMi), Shirley Muse (SMu),

Wilburn G. Moore, Gene Nixon, Harry B. Nehls, Jack Nisbet, Larry D. Napier, North Cascades Audubon Society (N.C.A.), James G. Olson, Howard Oswood, Dennis Paulson, Alan Richards, Bill Reichert, Hadley B. Roberts, Jan Reynolds, Connie Sherer, David Stirling, Floyd Schrock, Otis Swisher, P.D. Skaar, Richard R. Sjostrom, Steve Summers, W.H. Shillington, Charles H. Trost, John Tellinghuisen, John W. Weber, Mildred V. White, Pat & Robert E. Woodley, Winton Weydemeyer, Vince Yannone, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.). — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

/Hugh E. Kingery

Breeding range extensions or gap-filling for 21 species and range contractions of five species have received attention from Mountain West contributors this year (some of them detailed in prior seasons' reports). Data from professionals and students (especially that funded by Non-game Programs of state

landscape? Are extra individuals failing to breed because of the lack of suitable breeding habitat or for other reasons? Pelicans reportedly have lost historic breeding sites to human development. Do the non-breeders perform a function in the population dynamics of each species? Studies of the non-breeders might enlighten us as well as provide guidance for wildlife management.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS — A surprising Arctic Loon sporting breeding plumage briefly visited Pyramid L., Nev., July 7 (D&KG). Only at Bear River N.W.R., Utah did W. Grebes produce significant numbers of young — about 300 from 500 nests. Double-crested Cormorants fledged substantially more young at Bear R., and Riverside Res., Colo., than last year (440 and 110 - 150 respectively), and fledged numbers at least equal to last year at Barr L., near Denver, Pyramid L., and Yants Puddle at Casper, Wyo. An **Olivaceous Cormorant** appeared June 15, for one day only, at Barr L., near Denver for the second Colorado record after one in 1899 (+RA).



agencies and the federal Bureau of Land Management) have added information about numbers of hard-to-find breeding species. Note entries under water and shore-birds, raptors and owls. Non-funded amateurs, however, documented entirely 18 of 26 range extensions and contractions.

Hot, dry weather this season favored successful nesting by water and landbirds, despite early June snows in the mountains, and some hailstorms in eastern Wyoming. The spread of insects like the pine beetle, spruce budworm, and tussock moth affected range expansions more than weather did.

Non-breeding flocks of 5-250 Western Grebes, White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, and Ring-billed Gulls spend the summer on Mountain West water impoundments. The first three species also breed here in a few widely-separated breeding colonies. Thousands of grebes winter on Lake Mead, a huge artificial lake. Has the population of these species increased in historic time, as irrigation lakes sprouted on the arid

HERONS, IBISES — Two pairs of Cattle Egrets nested at Riverside, where last year one pair gave Colorado its first reported nesting record (AB 31:1167), and one pair nested near Alamosa, Colo., where a belated report confirms nesting there last year also (RAR). Apparently a small colony nested near Bear R. at a private hunting club. Bear R. and Ruby L. produced the only substantial numbers of Snowy Egrets — 2000 and 150 young respectively — the Bear R. report heartening because of nesting failure there last year. The large Colorado colonies in the San Luis Valley did poorly, the Grand Jct., Colo., colony did not nest, but a small group at Riverside did well. The Black-crowned Night Heron flourishes in the Mountain West. It nests both in several small scattered colonies for which we have encouraging reports, and in large colonies. At Bear R., the 800 pairs and 1200 young are a whopping increase over the last two years' 175 and 150 pairs (TF,JS). Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nev., reported 150 young produced (SHB). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen at Barr L., June 21 — a month earlier than prior, presumably migrant, records (RA). In Nevada 800 pairs of White-faced Ibises nested in seven scattered sites (PI); at Ruby L., they raised 400

young. At Carson L., 400 had poor success owing to poor water conditions and trampling by cattle; 3300 pairs nested there in 1973 (LCH). Bear River's 1000 pairs produced 1500 young, and flocks up to 300 fed in the fields around Logan, Utah. Colorado's nesting colonies in the San Luis Valley fared poorly, with perhaps two young fledging.

WATERFOWL — Production of ducks and geese from all Utah marshes dropped significantly, Farmington Bay by one-third, Bear R. by one-fifth. Bear R. had 4142 young ducks (3140 Gadwalls) and 1605 Canada Geese (TF,JS). Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., still plagued by low water, had a peak of only 3500 ducks (LCH). Ruby L., reported 2560 pairs, which produced 6025 young, including 1500 Redheads, 1400 Cinnamon Teal, 1200 Pintails and 1200 Canvasbacks (SHB). Farmington Bay produced only 447 ducks and 284 Canada Geese. Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., doubled its 1977 production to 2135 ducks, but water remains a problem (MBS). A Snow Goose summered near Torrington, Wyo. (SB). A few Blue-winged Teal, regarded as rare in Nevada, occurred at Reno, Las Vegas, and Eureka, and five pairs produced 20 young at Ruby L.

HAWKS, EAGLES — Population estimates of raptors are uneven because of large, isolated territories spaced far apart. State raptor biologists, and B.L.M. researchers, with time and funding, have contributed almost all of the following thoroughly-researched population data. Discovered this spring as the third Colorado nesting site (AB 32:1037), the Lamar City Pk., had 6 - 9 Mississippi Kite nests (CC). B.L.M. sponsored a raptor survey of the pinyon/juniper-covered Kaiparowitz Plateau near Escalante, Utah. From three nests of Goshawks and of Sharp-shinned Hawks, eight young fledged for each species, and from 11 Cooper's Hawk nests 26 young fledged. Only one accipiter pair picked a pinyon/juniper nest site: all others nested in riparian habitats or other conifers, most in sites off the plateau. Of other raptor nests found, 41 of 42 were on cliffs (SH). Ferruginous Hawks, intolerant of disturbance and man's activities on the short-grass prairie, have 160 nests in Colorado. C.D.W. has stabilized half of the nest sites to prevent wind damage, and this year the hawks had fairly good production (GC). C.D.W. surveyed 400 Golden Eagle nests, finding half occupied. Production averaged 1.23/site, an increase over the past 4 years and linked to an increase in jackrabbits (GC). In the Medicine Bow, Wyo. area, 22 nests fledged 25 young (BO). Eight other observers from the four states reported nests with young. Colorado's two known Bald Eagle eyries produced four young (GC) but Wyoming's 7 eyries outside of Yellowstone N.P. fledged only one eaglet (BO). Ospreys occupied 10 sites in Colorado with poor success (as in the past 6 years) — probably six young fledged (GC). A band return from Honduras implies that Colorado Ospreys winter in Central America, where pesticide use is heavy. Ospreys at Sheridan, Wyo., and L. Tahoe (Nevada's only site) successfully fledged young (HD,PL). In w.c. Wyoming 13 nests produced 14 young (BO,JSq). C D.W. sampled 190 Prairie Falcon nests, with 31 young, and Wyoming had nests in at least ten other

locations (BO). The numbers strongly imply that Prairie Falcons really do not merit Blue List status, at least in those two states.

GROUSE, CRANES, COOTS — White-tailed Ptarmigan in n. Colorado had low breeding densities because of heavy May snows, but better than 60% success (CEB). Colorado Sage Grouse displayed excellent production statewide — probably with the highest fall densities since the late 1960s. Brood counts mounted to four chicks per hen, and probably better than 65% nest success (CEB). Similar success occurred in Nevada judging by reports from Jarbidge, Eureka, and Ruby L. Native and introduced quail thrived this year; exotic populations of Bobwhites on the w slope were detected at McCoy and Silt, Colo. (ME,RP) A Whooping Crane summered at Pinedale, Wyo., a different bird from last year's summerer (BO). American Coots thrived at Ruby L., with 4000 young and Farmington Bay with 20,000 young. They even nested in the sewer ponds at Blanding, in the heart of the Utah desert.

SHOREBIRDS — In a C.D.W. survey of se Colorado's Arkansas Valley reservoirs, Chase found **Snowy Plover** the most common nesting shorebird — an unexpectedly high of 49 pairs at four reservoirs, the data suggest 130 young were produced. Seasonally-receding water levels create barren shorelines which offer good nesting conditions for Snowies and not much else. (In this section of Colorado, Killdeer are the most common breeders, plus prairie-nesting Mountain Plovers and Long-billed Curlews.) A Piping Plover stopped at Cheraw, Colo., in mid-July (CC). A July throng of 700 Mountain Plovers at Adobe Creek Res., indicated good breeding success on the nearby short-grass prairie (CC). North of Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, (hereafter, P.N.G.), where Mountain Plovers had a good year, they nest sparingly. They were observed at Cheyenne, Laramie, and Jeffrey City, Wyo (AKg, EH,SW), but a principal nest site, Shirley Basin near Casper, is staked out for uranium mining (CF) Long-billed Curlews displayed evidence of good success in Nevada (PL,JE,SHB): Bear R. had 150 young (TF,JS), and Logan had its first confirmed nest in Cache Valley (AS). Upland Sandpipers nested in at least four locations in sparsely-birded e. Wyoming (CF,HD,CM) A flock of 50-75 White-rumped Sandpipers summered in the Arkansas Valley, primarily at Cheraw, but did not breed (CC), the first such regional record. American Avocets reared 3000 young at Bear R. (TF,JS), and 710 at Pyramid L. (D&KG). Nesting Black-necked Stilts have steadily increased their numbers at Bear R., from 7000 in 1975 to 15,000 this year, with production up to 2000 (TF,JS). Two pairs summered at Casper (SB), but none bred at Cheraw, the only e. Colorado site

GULLS, TERNS — California Gulls fledged 225 young at their three Colorado colonies (RAR,JP) They produced 1000 young at Bear R., a low number probably reflecting a continuing control program. Bear R Franklin's Gulls produced a substantial 10,000 young (TF,JS). Colorado, however, saw very few Franklin's, the main reports being 250 which summered in the

Arkansas Valley (CC) and 400 at Boulder July 30 (D F O). One Bonaparte's Gull visited Reno June 3 (B&JA) and three were in Cache County June 19 with a flock of Franklin's (NH). Fifty pairs of Forster's Terns at L. John, near Walden, Colo., had high reproductive success, up from 20 pairs which failed completely last year Forster's fledged 500 young at Ruby L., and 150 young at Bear R. Observers reported Com. Terns in June at Boulder (BK), Barr (RA), Logan and Bear R. (†LM) Two pairs at Least Terns nested in the Arkansas Valley (CC), the first such report in many years (perhaps because of no investigations); single birds were seen at two Arkansas Valley non-nesting sites (VT,EH). The Denver reservoir at which the second Colorado Caspian Tern was recorded this spring (AB 32 1038) had 1 - 2 June 24 - July 6 (FP,LM).

PIGEONS, CUCKOOS — Band-tailed Pigeons seemed especially numerous in Colorado (m.ob.) but the early flocks reported may reflect nesting failures; C D W banding studies reveal a very low ratio of immatures (CEB). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found dead at Eureka, Nev., June 23 (JE) for the only Nevada report Colorado observers found more nesting pairs, confirmed nesting in three new latilongs [a latilong is an area bounded by 1° of latitude by 1° of longitude — Ed], and added records in two new latilongs. Similarly, Black-billed Cuckoo reports increased, including Utah's third at Logan June 16 (ASt), the first Arkansas Valley nesting record at John Martin Dam (CC), and surprising numbers in Wyoming's Big Horn Basin, one at Worland June 23 - 24 (SPH) and 13 along 12 mi of river at Greybull (BO).

OWLS, SWIFTS — Banders tagged 164 young Barn Owls in the 40-mi stretch from Bear R. City to n. Davis County, Utah (CMa, *fide* JN). Diligent nighttime study elicited a breeding pattern of nesting **Flammulated Owls** from Florissant, Colo., with two pairs (RW) to Gunnison with eight territories (KC), and in Mesa County, Colo., with one pair (BW), to Bryce Canyon N.P. (SJM) No Spotted Owls responded to extensive taping at Gunnison or the Kaiparowitz Plateau, but two juveniles found on Kaiparowitz in late July added a new dimension to that owl's range (SH). A Pygmy Owl called in Yellowstone N.P., June 30 (EH) and flightless young with an adult June 12 in Larimer County, Colo., added a new breeding latilong to its distribution (MAJ). New locations for Burrowing Owls included Jail House Rock near Monticello, Utah (FB). Three Great Gray Owl nests were located at Jackson, Wyo. (BR). At Eureka, at least four young Short-eared Owls were found dead in farming areas, hopefully indicating a high nesting population (JE). An ad. Boreal Owl seen July 15 (BW) reenforced records of several year ago at the Red Feather Lakes, Colo., nesting site where it had since eluded observers. Saw-whet Owls were found in new mountain locations; Gunnison July 4 & 18 (KC), Rabbit Ears Pass, Colo., July 21 (BW), and Bryce Canyon (SJM) A nest in a farmhouse chimney near Bonny Res., Colo., added to the Chimney Swift's nesting latilongs (JES,LS,MM).

HUMMINGBIRDS — Wyoming's third Black-chinned Hummingbird stayed at a Story feeder July

27 - 30 (MC). Wildflowers flourished, so that the feeder visits by common hummingbirds diminished, although Broad-taileds inexplicably became very abundant at Boulder the last two weeks of July — about the time that most Rufous Hummingbirds arrived (LH). The first regional Rufous showed up at Cody, Wyo., June 27; Jefferson, Colo., July 1; Carson City, Nev., and Salt Lake City July 4. Rufous commander at least half the mountain feeders during late summer; their numbers must be immense considering the popularity of feeders in the West. The 33 Rufous along 3 mi of road on Rabbit Ears Pass July 22 (BW) probably echoes only weakly the concentrations at feeders in nearby Steamboat Springs or any other mountain town, but the number probably accurately denotes their abundance in appropriate flowerfields away from feeder complexes. **Calliope Hummingbirds** breed in n. Wyoming, Utah and Nevada, and ordinarily are spread thinly through the Colorado mountains in late July and August. An unprecedented influx July 22 - Aug. 13 along the E. Slope of Colorado brought them to at least seven foothills and four plains locations from Denver to Ft. Collins (Details to be published elsewhere).

FLYCATCHERS — In Arkansas Valley riparian, the Western/Cassin's Kingbird ratio is 8:1, but immediately s. in Baca County's dryland farm and grazing land the ratio is 3:1, with the number of Cassin's the same in both (CC). Post-breeding vertical wandering had begun by late July, with a W. Kingbird at 10,500 ft and a Say's Phoebe at 12,000 ft in R.M.N.P., July 26 (DH). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers strayed equal distances N and W of their range, with one at Laramie June 5 (PW) and one June 8 at Bullfrog Basin, L. Powell, Utah (PWg, †AH). At Blue Mesa Res., near Gunnison, a pair of Say's Phoebes produced two broods of three each. "The parents continued to feed the first young while incubating the second brood. Some feeding of the first young occurred after the second brood hatched, but soon stopped." (KC).

SWALLOWS TO WRENS — Tree Swallows have begun a descent to the plains to nest in e. Colorado, with nests reported this summer from three locations near Denver and Loveland (RA,HEK,IS). The Blue Jays which began nesting at Cody this spring did not stay. An Oregon visitor submitted a late description of a **Boreal Chickadee** calling and moving slowly through conifers in the Big Horn Mts., near Shell, Wyo., June 25, 1977 (†GG). Boreals nest about 300 mi n.w. in Montana where drought could have pushed this sometimes incursive species S; Downing led a team which scoured the site this June but failed to find any Boreals Plain Titmice thrived in pinyon/juniper in s. Colorado and Utah, and were found with juveniles at Flaming Gorge Res., Utah, July 4 (AK). Brockner reported what seems to be the first nesting colony of **Short-billed Marsh Wrens** in the Mountain West, when he counted 14 singing males June 27 in sedges adjacent to cattails near Crook, Colo. His count that day exceeds the total number ever reported from Colorado. The closest nesting site is e. Kansas. A Long-billed Marsh Wren gave R.M.N.P. its first record June 1 (DJ).

THRUSHES TO VIREOS — American Robins had excellent nesting success, sometimes building nests in close linear proximity but at different canopy levels (KC,HEK). Of 19 robin pairs studied in Longmont, Colo., 11 nested twice and one nested three times (IS); at Jackson the 76 on a B.B.S., was the highest total of any species on the survey (BR). A mid-summer Varied Thrush was at Verdi, Nev., July 4 (BA). Swainson's Thrushes continued migrating through valley towns in Wyoming and Colorado until mid-June; two even summered in Cheyenne (AG), but by June 15, 12 singing males were counted at Snow Basin near Ogden, Utah (JN). Reporters in R.M.N.P., and Evergreen, Colo., characterized Mountain Bluebird numbers as down, but most other reporters found them especially numerous and nesting successfully. Red-eyed Vireo reports continued low; a few nested in Colorado Springs and Boulder, but none in Denver; Warblers were the only vireos in the Arkansas Valley. Along with Yellow Warblers, the Red-eyed may have fallen victim to pesticide spraying of the urban forest in which, 30 years ago, it established a good foothold.

WARBLERS — Colorado nesting: Four new species of warblers nested or acted territorially and reports persist on a fifth; all represent significant range extensions. *Tennessee*: From July 13 - 25 two males sang from the tops of stunted Englemann spruces in R.M.N.P.; the territories lay 300 feet apart, in a small marshy glade at 10,000 ft (WR). Near Alma June 9 - 11 five and July 15 - 17 eight Tennessees fed actively in aspen, some singing but without territorial behavior (CLC). The closest known breeding is n. Montana. *N. Parula*: The bird seen on the Colorado Springs spring count remained in the same place May 14 - June 13, but apparently no breeding was suspected (EC). *Grace*'s: This species increased at Bryce Canyon and especially at Durango; however an adult carrying food at Rye (D&CG, DS) extended the (probable) breeding range E 100 mi, over the Continental Divide and a second mountain barrier. *Chestnut-sided*: A male maintained a territory in R.M.N.P., July 1 - 16 without a female (EH,ph.,WR *et al.*). Continuing records show this species as a solidly-established but rare breeder along the edge of the Colorado foothills, and now into the high country. The closest normal breeding occurs in e. Nebraska. *Bay-breasted*: At Westcreek a pair was seen June 24, the female with nesting material, in budworm-infested spruces; July 24 the male and two apparent immatures were found (RW,CLC). From July 2 - 17 a pair maintained a territory in spruces at the e. edge of R.M.N.P., although no one found either nest or young (WR,CEB,EH). Bay-breasteds have become frequently-reported migrants in Colorado only in the last 6 years; at the end of 1972 the state had only 14 records. The closest breeding spots are n. Alberta and n. Minnesota.

Other Warbler reports: Ewing located an Orange-crowned nest at McCoy July 4, one of the few nests actually reported in Colorado; a pair with two young were observed in Rout County, Colo., July 22 (BW) and a nest was found at Sheridan July 10 (HD). The regional consensus on Yellow Warblers is of healthy populations in their natural riparian habitat but deci-

matation by pesticides in cities like Denver and Salt Lake City, where once they were common. Late migrants included Magnolias June 5 at Laramie (PW) and June 8 at Dayton, Wyo. (DN). Black-throated Blues were at Laramie June 5 - 6 (PW,OKS) and a pair June 6 at R.M.N.P., was seen only one day (†CMs), the park's first record. Observers in Logan reported a Townsend's Warbler July 4 and a Chestnut-sided July 9, both singing in appropriate habitat but neither found later (E&SM), and another Townsend's July 24 (*vide* AS). Northern Waterthrushes were at Barr L., June 5 (RA) and Johnson County., Wyo., June 9 (CF); Las Vegas had one July 5 (VM) and Sheridan reported two July 30 (B&PK).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS — Evening Grosbeaks nested abundantly in a narrow strip from Evergreen s. to Westcreek and Beulah, but few were seen e. or w. of there, and none in the other states except two nesting at Sheridan. Cassin's Finches stayed in the valleys for nesting in Jarbidge, Jackson, Cody, Dubois, Sheridan, Buena Vista, and Durango. The Lesser Goldfinch ordinarily ranges N only to n. Colorado, so that two at Laramie June 5 were of interest (PW). Red Crossbills apparently nested throughout the Region in small numbers, with observations noted from Devils Tower in n.e. Wyoming to Gunnison, Bryce Canyon and Reno. Two flocks of White-winged Crossbills, both on June 17, were seen in the foothills w. of Boulder and Denver (SBu, HEK). June 3 saw one Lark Bunting at Jefferson, Colo., and 30 at Dubois, migrants straying in a storm. More typical was the count of 470 June 28 at Sterling, Colo. (WWB) and Ryder's 362 on two B.B.S. routes in n.e. Colorado. Experienced observers feel that the ups and downs of this cyclical species indicate no alarming population trend (RAR, HD). Cassin's Sparrows, on the other hand, this year disappeared from their foothold at P.N.G. (RAR), while remaining common in s.e. Colorado (CC,DG). Meanwhile Faanes discovered a ♂ Cassin's Sparrow in full larking song, at Columbine, n. of Casper, for Wyoming's first overdue record (†). Chipping Sparrows nested to 10,000 ft near Eagle, Colo., much higher than expected (JM). A Clay-colored Sparrow, in song, was the first in the Jackson area (BR). A possibly-breeding Fox Sparrow spent June and July at Evergreen (FE). McCown's Longspurs were reported nesting from P.N.G. n. through Cheyenne (prolific — 3 hatchings, AKg) to Goshen County and Shirley Basin (SB). Only two pairs of Chestnut-collared Longspurs were reported from P.N.G. where more usually are found (RAR).

S.W. UTAH — Beaver Dam Wash in far s w Utah has produced a number of records unique to Utah, a one-day visit there July 8 confirmed the continuing presence of many species recorded before on the rare field trips there. These included: two White-winged Doves, a ♂ Rivoli's Hummingbird, three Wied's Crested Flycatchers, 25 - 30 Bewick's and 30 - 40 Cactus Wrens, 150 Lucy's Warblers, four Hoodeds and 12 Scott's Orioles, and two Summer Tanagers (SH)

CORRIGENDA — We reported two Blue Jays at L. Tahoe, Mar. 3 - 4 (AB 32:1038). The observer verified

the first Nevada occurrence of the two which were feeding on scraps at a ski area (†CB). In the winter report, *AB* 32:380 *et seq.*, Durango's Dec. 26 loons were Commons. The imm. swan with the Trumpeters at Westcliffe was apparently a Whistling, although observers debate its identity.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.L.M. — Bureau of Land Management; B.B.S. — Breeding Bird Survey; C.D.W. — Colorado Division of Wildlife; D.F.O. — Denver Field Ornithologists; R.M.N.P. — Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park; U.D.W.R. — Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; † — documentation on file with Regional Editor; †† — documentation on file with Colorado Field Ornithologists.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and
Kenn Kaufman

Temperatures throughout the Region averaged higher than usual this summer; although the birders may have noticed this, it had no obvious effect on the birdlife. Highlights of the season included northward occurrences of several hummingbird species, plus a number of additions to the summering or breeding avifauna of the Hualapai Mountains in northwestern Arizona.

PELICANS, WATERFOWL — A notable dispersal of Brown Pelicans into the Region occurred, with at least 25 individuals reported from s.w. and s.c. Arizona, all after July 15.



Two Fulvous Whistling Ducks (rarely reported in Arizona in recent years) were noted around July 1 at Cibola N.W.R. (GC) and another was in a nearby flooded field July 13 (RD); these records in the LCV are undoubtedly part of the same pattern of summer dispersal as that which brings the species to California's Imperial Valley. A ♀ N. Shoveler with a brood of three near Luna, s.w. New Mexico, June 25 (RAF) provided a first local breeding record.

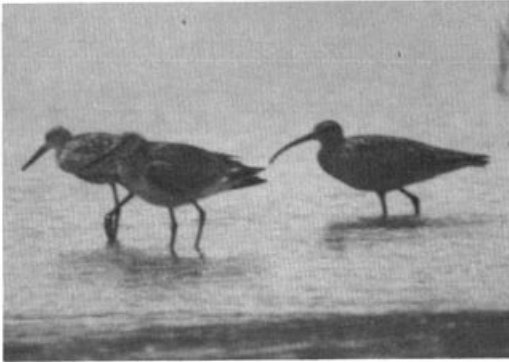
RAPTORS — An ad. Goshawk seen June 21 in the Hualapai Mts., Ariz. (KVR), was the first evidence that the species might breed in this isolated range. In New Mexico, Goshawk nests were reported from the Jemez, Sangre de Cristo, and Jicarilla Mts., and the species was also sighted in several other ranges.

A near-ad. Bald Eagle was seen July 25 in the Canadian Canyon w. of Roy, N. Mex. (Dick Brown); this is the first recent summer record there and perhaps the most definite one ever. An ad. pair in Cottonwood Canyon, Zuni Mts., N. Mex., July 1-2 (Wendy Brown) was also very unusual. In Arizona, ten pairs of ad. Bald Eagles were on territory this season. Seven nests were active, all on the Salt and Verde Rivers, and a total of seven young fledged successfully.

An injured fledgling Marsh Hawk was found July 25 near Portales, N. Mex. (*vide* Scott Brown), probably representing an infrequent instance of local breeding in Arizona where the species is not currently known to nest, there were early sightings of singles n. of Ehrenberg July 19 (GHR, BW) and e. of Bisbee July 22 (THPL); in addition, a pair was seen sporadically through the season s. of Apache Pass, s.e. Ariz. (RR).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS — Common Snipe were present for the fourth consecutive summer at Los Ojos (Parkview) in n. New Mexico (two on June 22, JPH), but could not be found in the nearby Canjilon area, where present last year. The species is not known to summer regularly elsewhere in the Region. A Long-billed Curlew w. of Magdalena, N. Mex., May 31 (JPH) was probably on its breeding grounds, but in an area where now infrequently reported.

The LCV produced an impressive number of Whimbrels for Arizona, with one at Martinez L., July 7 - 9 (SFu), one across the river from Picacho S.P., July 13 (ph., KVR, DB), another four at Martinez L., July 15 (JDB), one near Poston July 18 (GHR), and one s. of Bullhead City July 28 (BW). KVR points out that the increase in records may be due in part to increased coverage of flooded fields.



Whimbrel with Willets, Lower Colorado River, July 13, 1978. Photo of Ken Rosenberg.

The third summer record of California Gull in New Mexico was established by 45 birds (mainly adults) seen June 24 (JPH) at Heron L., the same locality where 31 were recorded in July 1975. One was collected June 27 (CGS) for the first state specimen. A Franklin's Gull was reported June 6 (HK) at Luna L., White Mts., a part of Arizona from which there are few records; also notable were three on June 5 and two on June 25 at Holloman L., near Alamogordo (LM).

DOVES, CUCKOOS — The White-winged Dove continues to expand N in the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico, albeit in small numbers. At least one probable breeding pair was present from mid-April through the summer at Albuquerque (PT); others were again present at Socorro (PB) and Alamogordo (LM), with nesting noted at the latter point July 8 - 16 (Gerri Smith).

A Groove-billed Ani was well-described and undeniably photographed at Oasis S.P., near Portales, June 15 (DD) for New Mexico's first summer record.

OWLS, NIGHTJARS — A Screech Owl at Cottonwood Gulch, N. Mex., from May 24 through at least June 19 (AMc) was apparently the first record for the Zuni Mts., since 1887. A Short-eared Owl found June 9 near Sunrise L., White Mts. (EC, KK), provided a first summer record for Arizona.

In the area n. of Tucson where a Buff-collared Nightjar was found in May, the species was heard and seen sporadically as late as July 19. On July 18, there were definitely at least two individuals calling at this location (DSz, RSt, DWF *et al.*).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — Five Black Swifts were seen July 19 (JPH *et al.*) at over 12,000 ft above L. Peak, e. of Santa Fe, the same area where five were seen in early August 1977. These records could indicate the presence of a local breeding population; the species has not yet been found nesting in New Mexico. Chimney Swifts summered in Tucson for the third consecutive year, with five seen June 30 (BH) being the maximum count.

The **Plain-capped Starthroat** (*Helioaster constantii*), recorded but once before in the United States, made news this summer. One probable individual was glimpsed in Sycamore Canyon June 17 (DSz, SP), another was seen briefly but well s.w. of Patagonia June 24 (E. A. Cardiff *et al.*) and in the same general area an unfamiliar large, long-billed hummer was seen July 15 (Liz Mills). Finally, one was found at a feeder in Patagonia July 15 (Steve Larson), and this bird was seen by many and photographed through July 20. All of these sightings were within a few miles of Nogales, where the only previous United States record was established in September 1969. This species might be recorded in s. Arizona more often if hummingbird feeders were not so scarce around the 4000-ft level.

The second and third records of Rivoli's Hummingbird in the White Mts. region of e.c. Arizona were provided by an ad. male at Greer June 3 - 11 (BB *et al.*) and another at South Fork Ranch near Springerville June 16 - Sept. 3 (BJo); occurrences of the species n. of the Graham Mts. have been few and scattered. An apparent Blue-throated Hummingbird was present during the period at Mogollon, N. Mex. (Bill & Nikki English); this would be a local first, and perhaps the fourth credible record for the state n. of the immediate Mexican border area. Another individual was rumored to have been present nearby at Luna during the period (*vide* R. Jenks).

The Berylline Hummingbird is rapidly becoming a summer staple in Arizona. This year one appeared at Ramsey Canyon June 8, a new early record; by June 18 there were clearly two present, in July there may have been as many as *five* adults, and the species was present well into September for a new *late* record. In addition, a nest was found (second for the U.S.), which fledged two young (details to be published elsewhere). This was the fourth consecutive (sixth or seventh overall) summer of occurrence for the species in the U.S.

BECARDS, FLYCATCHERS — Two pairs of Rose-throated Becards with nests were found June 17 - 18 in Sycamore Canyon, Ariz. (DSz, BH, SP). The only earlier records for Sycamore, previously unpublished were of singles May 2 - 8, 1972 (J. Comfort) and June 12, 1977 (BH).

Thick-billed Kingbirds continued to expand and consolidate their Arizona range. The species was present in good numbers in "traditional" locations this summer at Oro Blanco and California Gulch, where first re-

corded last summer, the species was found again this year June 13 - 14 (GM,PW,H.Brokaw *et al.*). In addition, one was n. of Nogales June 10 (KJZ), three were found in June in Sycamore Canyon (DSz,BH *et al.*), and three were found in Brown Canyon on the e. side of the Baboquivari Mts. (SM,BR), the latter being the westernmost summering locality yet discovered. Both Sycamore and Brown Canyons also hosted Sulphurbellied Flycatchers w. of the species' previously reported range, with four pairs in Sycamore June 17 - 18 (DSz,SP,KGr) and three individuals in Brown (SM,BR); previously unpublished were sightings of the species in Sycamore Canyon in 1968, 1971, 1973, 1976 and 1977 (GM *et al.*).

A Tropical Kingbird seen June 5 at B.W. Delta (KVR,GHR) was well w. and n. of the species' breeding range, and may have been an "overshooting" migrant. The only recent summer records of the E. Phoebe in New Mexico are from the vicinity of El Pueblo, San Miguel County, where the species was noted July 4 this year (WH). A Black Phoebe at Cottonwood Gulch July 29 (AMc) was apparently the first specific record for the Zuni Mts. of New Mexico, which are n. of the species' usual limits.

First found summering (and breeding) in the Zuni Mts. last year, the Dusky Flycatcher was found again this summer in that range, with two in Kettner Canyon June 10 - 11 (AMc). Two Gray Flycatchers were noted June 14 (JPH) in the Jicarilla Mts., N. Mex., at the s.e. limit of the breeding range, where first reported last year. A Coues' Flycatcher that sang on several occasions July 6 at Glenwood, N. Mex. (BCM), was at an unusually low elevation for summer and established a first local record.

SWALLOWS, CORVIDS — Historically unknown as breeders in the isolated Hualapai Mts. of Arizona, Violet-green Swallows were "fairly common" there in July 1977; this June the species was again common there, and three nests were found (KVR,AEH *et al.*). Tree Swallows, first found nesting in Arizona in 1973 n. of the Grand Canyon, are now colonizing (or being detected in) the White Mts. region. A nest was found (and other adults seen carrying material) at Lee Valley Res., May 28 (DSz *et al.*), a pair was at Scott's L., near Show Low May 29 (DSz *et al.*), and at least one pair was near Sunrise June 10 - 11 (KK,EC). Six Purple Martins seen over the higher elevations of the Animas Mts., N. Mex., July 1 (JPH) provided the first summer record for that range.

A White-necked Raven nest with young found July 1 along U.S.60, e. of Bernardo (JPH) established the northernmost breeding record for the Rio Grande Basin of New Mexico. Six Com. Crows were noted June 5 e. of Fence L., N. Mex., a new locality record (JPH).

TITMICE THROUGH THRASHERS — Two Plain Titmice seen July 1 in the Animas Mts., s.w. New Mexico (CGS), were at the s. periphery of the species' range and apparently provided the first local record. Red-breasted Nuthatches were recorded for the first time in summer in the Animas Mts. (two on July 1, JPH) and in the Gallina Mts., near Corona, N. Mex. (three on June 21, CGS).

A pair of Brown Creepers was found in Arizona's Hualapai Mts., in July 1977 and a singing bird was noted there this year on June 21, both sightings being in suitable breeding habitat (KVR); the species was not previously reported there in summer. Another new n. outpost for Cactus Wrens in the Rio Grande Basin of New Mexico was indicated by two seen June 17 near Correo, Valencia County (JND *et al.*); these may not represent recent range expansions so much as better coverage of remote areas by birders. A Gray Catbird was seen June 3 near Portal (SHS); there is one previous spring record there (May 1976). A Sage Thrasher was found June 5 e. of Fence L., N. Mex., for the second consecutive summer of occurrence in that s. peripheral locality (JPH).

THRUSHES, KINGLETS — The Am. Robin was another new summering species for the Hualapai Mts., with one singing there June 21 (KVR) and two seen June 25 (ML). The species was also present again (two birds) in the lowland locality of Willow Valley in the LCV, and probably bred (*vide* KVR).

Except for a tentative sighting on June 1 the Veery could not be found at Springerville, its only "regular" locality in the Region, where recorded in the summers of 1936 and 1975 - 77. However, at least one Swainson's Thrush was present and singing in the same place throughout June (Bjo *et al.*). This area is at a lower elevation than any of the few points where Swainson's has been found summering in Arizona previously.

At least five singing ♂ Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found in the Hualapai Mts., June 21 (KVR,GHR,TB), this is another new summering species for that range. This kinglet is rather local in summer in the drier mountains of New Mexico, so its presence in Diener Canyon, Zuni Mts., June 9 - 10 (AMc) was noteworthy.

VIREOS — A singing Red-eyed Vireo was seen at B.W. Delta June 28 (KVR); Arizona has a number of odd summer records like this. Another addition to the summer avifauna of the Hualapai Mts. was the Warbling Vireo: several were seen there in July 1977, and three were singing there June 21 this year (KVR, AEH,TB,GHR).

WARBLERS — As usual, the "spring" occurrences of vagrant e. warblers continued into June. The highlight in this category was a **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Capulin Spring, Sandia Mts., N. Mex., June 24 (JND), also notable (although probably annual in Arizona in late spring) was an Ovenbird at Portal June 19 (KGa). A good scattering of N. Parulas was recorded in Arizona, with a female near Springerville May 30, a male there June 3 - 7 (Bjo), one in Ramsey Canyon May 30 - June 1 (RH,WD), one in Madera Canyon June 2 (LJ), one at Globe June 7 (Bja), one at Prescott June 7 (CST), and one in California Gulch July 9 (KGr).

Of less excitement but possibly more significance were certain developments regarding summer-resident warblers. At least two pairs of Olive Warblers nested in the Sierra Prieta w. of Prescott, Ariz. (CST); this was a new W extension for the species. The Black-throated Gray Warbler was another addition to the breeding list for the Hualapai Mts.: a pair was noted feeding a young cowbird there in July 1977 and a pair seen there June 21

this year acted as if their nest was nearby (KVR, AEH). The Red-faced Warbler — first seen in the Hualapais in May 1977 — appeared there again this year, with one singing male June 21 (KVR), several birds seen June 25 (ML), and one still present July 30 (BW). Two more records came from the Grand Canyon, n. of the known breeding range: one on the North Rim June 10, 1977 (Mark Larson, *vide* RR), and one on the South Rim near Grand Canyon Village Aug. 5 this year (T. Manns, *vide* Bryan Brown).

Five Wilson's Warblers were found June 23 near Canjilon, N. Mex. (JPH); this species may summer regularly in the San Juan Mts. Along the S. Fork of the Little Colorado R., near Springerville, Ariz., where the Am Redstart has bred, two singing males were found in June (BJo, JW *et al.*), but evidently neither was paired.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — The northward distribution of Scott's Oriole in New Mexico is still being clarified, so of interest were the following records of singles in new or peripheral areas: near Fence L., June 5 (JPH), near La Cienega June 10 (J.R. Travis), near Torreón June 25 (C. Hundertmark), and El Pueblo July 4 (WH).

Seven Great-tailed Grackle nests, the first ever to be actually found in the San Francisco Valley of New Mexico (although fledged young have been seen in the past), were located at Glenwood late May — early June (CLH, JPH). The nests were in trees, evidently because of the destruction of the marsh where past nesting probably occurred; tree nest sites are seldom used in New Mexico except in the Las Cruces area. A ♂ Great-tailed seen June 11 at Snowflake, Ariz., n. of the current breeding range, probably reflected continuing N expansion (KK, JW, EC).

An unmarked egg in a Hooded Oriole nest at Pleasanton in late June, plus a fledgling cowbird at an earlier nest (L. & M. Sumner), were probable evidence that the Bronzed Cowbird now breeds in the San Francisco Valley of New Mexico — although it is still very rarely seen there.

The extended migration periods of the W. Tanager make it difficult to establish summer residency in this species, but several seen in the Hualapai Mts., this June were mostly in pairs, with the males singing (KVR *et al.*), this would be a new breeding species for that range. A sub-adult ♂ Scarlet Tanager was seen June 29 on Sonoita Cr., near Patagonia (RSt). There are only about half a dozen previous Arizona records, none of them for summer dates.

FRINGILLIDS — The Cardinal is apparently expanding its range in the LCV. At new locations were one at the n. end of Imperial N.W.R., June 10 (GHR), a male at Cibola N.W.R., in early August (JDB, GHR), and two males in Yuma all summer (*vide* KVR). A ♂ Painted Bunting was seen near Sierra Vista July 30 (GB *et al.*) and another was near Tombstone Aug. 4 (AC); this species was formerly known as a regular late-summer migrant through s.e. Arizona, but it has seldom been detected in recent years.

Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported, with good numbers in the Sandia Mts., and unusual summer records in the Gallina and Jicarilla Mts. of New Mexico.

Notable breeding stations included Santa Fe (first for the city — Mickey Lang), Garden Canyon in the Huachuca Mts., Ariz. (second consecutive year, DD *et al.*), and the Sierra Prieta w. of Prescott (first definite record, CST).

Although there have been several recent spring records of Purple Finch in the Portal area, a female seen there June 19 (†KGa) was certainly unexpected. A new summering locality for Cassin's Finch in New Mexico was the Sandia Mts., where noted June 26 — July 22 (JND *et al.*). The first nesting attempt for Am Goldfinch in the Region was established by a pair building a nest found May 31 at Teec Nos Pos, n.e. Ariz. (AG, ST, KVR, GHR). Lawrence's Goldfinches might have bred in the B.W. Delta, where one was heard as late as June 19 (KVR). Exceptionally late was a Lark Bunting n. of San Simon, Ariz., June 3 (WS, SHS).

Continuing investigations (SM, KGr *et al.*) showed Five-striped Sparrows to be present again this summer in all the "new" Arizona locations where they were discovered last year (AB 31:1175). A significant new area — the westernmost known to date — was Baboquivari Canyon, on the w. side of the Baboquivari Mts., where one pair was found July 20 (SM, BR, DSz), the species had not been sought there previously.

After being exceptionally numerous over much of s.e. Arizona and adjacent areas last winter and spring, Cassin's Sparrows seemed oddly scarce in some parts of s.-c. Arizona during July. Numbers also appeared to be reduced on U.S.F. & W.S. Breeding Bird Survey routes on the e. plains of New Mexico, but several critical routes were not run in 1978. A single Cassin's seen June 19 near Cottonwood Gulch, N. Mex. (AMc), was definitely out of normal range.

Three Sage Sparrows were carefully identified s w of Horse Springs, Catron County June 16 (BCM, DM) for New Mexico's southernmost summer record ever. Inexplicable were single ad. White-crowned Sparrows in the Lower Sonoran Zone at Tucson July 1 (DE, LB, KK) and near Parker July 8 (KVR); both were of pale-lored forms.

CORRIGENDUM — Delete records of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers in New Mexico, AB 32:1042, as being either equivocal or Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

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ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

Summer 1978 was widely cool and wet in this Region, although mild and sunny on the Southeastern mainland. Few breeding data were received.



LOONS, GREBES — A breeding-plumaged Com. Loon with a similarly-plumaged Yellow-billed at Storkersen Pt., Beaufort seacoast July 26 (DBM) was unusual, since the former species is replaced by the latter on the tundras n. of the Alaska taiga. One of the most exciting events of the season was the discovery of breeding **Pied-billed Grebes**: an adult with downy young observed near Alaganik Slough, Copper R. Delta, southcoastal Alaska, on several dates in July (PGM *et al.*, *vide* MEI). There is no previous breeding record for Alaska. Single adults were seen at two other locations in that area during the summer as well (MEI). There were first summer records, but no evidence of breeding, in s.e. Alaska too, of one bird at St. John Baptist Bay, Baranof I., June 3: a pair at Mendenhall L., Juneau, July 10; and one at Whitestone Harbor, Chichagof I., July 16 (all DAV).

WATERFOWL — Hard on the heels of the Buldir-collared "Aleutian" Canada Goose (*B. c. leucopareia*) in May (*q.v.*), three more birds were observed at St. George I., Pribilof Is., June 18 - 19 (RG, *vide* WER), one of them a bird that had been neck-collared in California earlier this year (PFS). These are the first records of this subspecies n. of the Aleutian Is. A pair of Hooded Mergansers with downy young on Long I., Copper R. Delta, in July (LK, *vide* MEI) provided the first evidence of breeding w. of s.e. Alaska. Rare n. of the Alaska Range, Com. Merganser seems to be penetrating the n. Bering Sea, although whether *via* the coast to the s. or the river valleys to the e. is not known. In summer 1977, it was recorded at Norton Bay, Seward Pen., in some numbers (LJP), and in 1976 it (nearctic *M. m. americanus*) was first recorded in n.e. Asia, on the Chukotski Pen. (AAK). In summer 1978, up to five birds (3♂2♀) were observed at Wales June 12 (DRP, MP) and June 22 (DRP) and a lone male was seen as far n. as Cape Thompson, on the Chukchi seacoast June 17 (WRT).

RAPTORS, SHOREBIRDS — An Osprey observed at St. Paul I., July 3 (GLH, *vide* WER) numbers among very few Pribilof records, all in mid-summer. Following a record at Gambell at the end of May (*q.v.*), single **Ringed Plovers** carefully studied at close range at Wales June 4 & 21 (DRP) provided the first records of this species on the Alaska mainland. A Wood Sandpiper observed at Wales July 10 (JE, SH, *vide* DRP) was most unusual; there are only three other summer records on the mainland.

GULLS, TERNS — Red-legged Kittiwakes underwent a major reproductive failure this summer at St. Paul, where of 110 nests monitored all season, only 11 produced young (WER); at nearby St. George the species was also reported to have done poorly, although better than at St. Paul (RG, *vide* WER). Black-leggeds had lower reproductive success on the Pribilofs this year than in the last 3 years (WER). Casual in the Region in mid-summer, Ross' Gulls were seen at Safety Sound, Seward Pen. (one 2nd-year bird, July 1, GT), and at Thetis I., off the Colville R. Delta (up to two 2nd-year birds, June 21 - 22, JWH). Breeding numbers of Aleutian Terns were reported to be increasing dramatically on the Copper R. Delta. Many new colonies were discovered on the w. delta, where the population exceeded 1200 birds between Eyak R. and King Salmon Slough this summer (MEI).

HUMMINGBIRDS, FLYCATCHERS — At least one Anna's Hummingbird was present at Auke Bay, Juneau at sugar-water feeders July 17+ (RBW), and birds reported later suggest that it may be another interesting fall for this species in Alaska. Far beyond the normal range were single **Eastern Kingbirds** at St. Paul I., July 23 - 24 (NS, *vide* WER) and on the Colville R. Delta June 27 - 28 (JWH); each of these was the *second* local record of the species!

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES — An Eyebrowed Thrush at *St. Paul* June 8 - 9 (WER) may be the first spring (and second overall) record for the Pribilofs, although the species is all-but-annual in spring in the w. Aleutians. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported to have done well in the Cohoe-Kasilof area, Kenai Peninsula, where 16 of 17 nests found (both species together) fledged young (MAM). At least one defensive and singing Gray-cheeked Thrush was present at Mendenhall Glacier campground, Juneau, in June and July (FAG, RHA). This species is a peripheral probable breeder on the Southeastern mainland arriving *via* the trans-Coast Range river systems. Red-winged Blackbirds were numerous at Northway, where they have bred in small numbers for years, in early June (RHA), and two pairs nested on the Copper

R. Delta — a pair feeding a just-fledged young, July 21, for the first breeding record in that area (MEI). A ♂ Brown-headed Cowbird at Wales June 16 - 17 and July 11 (DRP) provided a second w. Alaska record for the species. There were several later extralimital reports of this species in other parts of the state. White-winged Crossbills were ubiquitous in the Cohoe-Kasilof area this summer (MAM) and were seen regularly in small numbers about the town of Kodiak (RAM). Pine Siskins were abundant and nesting at Kodiak and Afognak Is. this summer (RAM). Following the report this spring (*q.v.*), two ♂ McKay's Buntings were present all summer at St. George I. (RS, *vide* WER), but there was apparently no evidence of breeding.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/Bill Harrington-Tweit, Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., and Eugene S. Hunn

Temperatures for June and July were consistently 2°F above normal, averaged over the Seattle, Portland, and Medford stations. Seattle in June was dry (half the normal rainfall), but overall the three stations experienced 24% more rainfall than usual.

Daily coverage of the Iona Island sewage treatment plant by Vancouver, British Columbia birders paid off handsomely with several extraordinary shorebird finds, including a Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Concentrated during the first week of June there were records of several vagrant warblers and flycatchers, and of Upland Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, and Bobolink mostly at coastal localities.

We welcome our nesting season collaborator, Bill Harrington-Tweit, a biologist from Olympia, Washington, who serves as a sub-regional editor throughout the year.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Common, Arctic, and Red-throated Loons were reported summing in their usual mixture of plumages from all coastal sections. Arctic Loons seemed to extend their spring migration to the end of June, as birds in breeding plumage were reported heading N off Oregon and Washington June 24 - 25, at rates of up to 5/min (HN, BHT). A pair of Red-throateds on Morte L., Quadra I., B.C., July 22, could have been breeding (HT); there are breeding records from the Queen Charlotte Is. An ad Com. Loon was found on a nest at Matheson L., V.I (RWe, *vide* VG), where the species has nested before. The first breeding record for the Pied-billed Grebe in the Campbell R. area of V.I., was obtained July 22 (HT).

The only reported pelagic trips were July 4 & 23, off Westport, Wash. (TW). Black-footed Albatrosses were seen in above-average numbers (166 & 64, respectively); the July 4 count was particularly high. With these birds on the 4th was a white-headed, dark-bodied bird judged to be a **Laysan x Black-footed Albatross** (TW, †BHT). One Black-footed was seen only 2 mi off



the Columbia R. mouth June 11 (Jki, *vide* HN), and three were found dead on the beach near Yaquina Bay, Oreg., June 18 (BL, *vide* HN). About 60 N. Fulmars were noted on each of the pelagic trips. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers were somewhat low (17 & 79) and Flesh-footeds were absent, possibly owing to reduced commercial fishing activity offshore. Sooty Shearwaters were noted all along the ocean coast and twice in the Straits of Juan de Fuca; the highest count was about 35,000 off Westport July 23, when TW noted that they were "widespread and hungry". Short-tailed Shearwaters were unrecorded on the pelagic trips. However, one was captured and photographed June 27 just offshore Cape Alava, Wash. (SSp,RP), and two carcasses were found, one June 24 at Westport (BHT) and the second July 15 on Sunset Beach, Oreg. (HN,JE).

Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were in good numbers relative to last year; 43 & 69 were seen on the pelagic trips. Fork-taileds were also seen three times in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, generally from the evening ferry ride, Victoria to Port Angeles (SSp,JE). Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported once, 32 off Westport July 23, well offshore in the waters of the Warm West Wind Drift, as is typical.

White Pelicans appeared twice, four adults at the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., June 11 - 13 (RK,CCr) and one adult on Saltspring I., off V.I., July 1 (RA, *vide* VG). The species is casual in our Region, with most sightings in the fall. Two Brown Pelicans on Yaquina Bay from mid-June were perhaps the two seen earlier this season at Newport; small numbers were present along much of the Oregon coast by the end of the period. Several hundred Brandt's Cormorants appeared at Pt. Grenville, Wash., after mid-July, apparently post-breeding migrants from farther s. as only very few non-breeding birds were present in late June (EH,BHT). Small numbers of Great Egrets were seen in late July along much of the Oregon coast, with one July 9, at Fern Ridge Res., near Corvallis the earliest (LN). Two Black-crowned Night Herons were seen in coastal Oregon. A juvenile was at Coos Bay June 11 (AM) and another was at Yaquina Bay July 22 (JE,DI).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS, AND RAILS — An ad Trumpeter Swan appeared briefly near Sooke, V.I., July 21 - 22 (M&VG), and the imm. Whistling Swan stayed in the Dungeness, Wash., area through early June (SS). Gadwall brought off about a dozen broods in two Seattle locales (DP,KB,SH), and two duck species that rarely nest in the Region also bred successfully in the Seattle-Everett area this year. A single brood of Am. Wigeon was seen July 3 at the Everett sewage ponds (MP), and a brood of N. Shovelers was seen in Seattle June 25 (DP,KB). Another brood of N. Shovelers was in Portland July 10 (HN). Four drake Ring-necked Ducks and one drake with a brood were seen on San Juan I., Wash., June 24 (AR) for one of very few w. Washington nesting records. A ♀ Lesser Scaup with a large brood at the Everett ponds July 3 provided the first breeding record for the Region (MP). All the diving ducks that regularly winter in the Region were reported, although as usual only the Harlequin Duck (in British Columbia), White-winged and Surf Scoters

were in large numbers. Ruddy Ducks bred at Portland (HN) and at Everett (PM,H).

White-tailed Kites continued to expand their breeding range. A pair with two recently fledged young was seen near Tillamook July 28 (DT, *vide* HN) for the first coastal breeding record in Oregon. Three pairs apparently bred at their favorite stomping grounds, Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis, Oreg. (*vide* HN), and one was seen in late July at Raymond, Wash (SH), where two birds spent last winter. Goshawks may be replacing Cooper's Hawks in e. North America, but no such phenomenon is noticeable here. There were 11 Cooper's sighted throughout the Region compared to four Goshawks and 13 Sharp-shinned.

Marsh Hawks are known to nest regularly only in the vicinity of Finley N.W.R. This year at least three pairs were suspected of breeding there (LN,HN) HN thought that birds observed at Tillamook, the S J C R , and Leadbetter Pt., Wash., were also breeding. G&WH observed two adults feeding a weakly flying young bird at Ocean Shores, Wash., July 14, a first breeding occurrence for that locale.

Twelve active Osprey nests at Ten Mile L., near Reedsport, Oreg., was the largest concentration known in our Region (*vide* HN). Six active nests were followed in w. Washington, and four of these fledged seven young (CS,JL). There were five active nests found in the s. V.I. area as well (*vide* VG). Two active Peregrine eyries were followed this summer. One produced three young, while the second had two young which were stolen, despite a concerned falconer's efforts to guard the eyrie. Another Peregrine was found shot dead near Aberdeen, Wash., in June. Merlins were noted only on V.I., this summer, and a possible nest was located near Campbell R., in late July (†HT).

A ♀ Spruce Grouse with about seven young was at Manning P.P., B.C., July 10 (JE), and a White-tailed Ptarmigan hen with six young was on Mt. Rainer July 21 (EP). A pair of Sora bred at Saanich in late June (M&VG).

SHOREBIRDS — A few Semipalmated Plovers lingered past mid-June at S.J.C.R., and Leadbetter Pt. This species has nested s. to Ocean Shores (*W Birds* 5:22). Fall migrants returned *en masse* in mid-July. Breeding Snowy Plovers were reported June 13 from Leadbetter Pt., where five nests were found (JW), and June 25 at Ocean Shores, where one family was seen (BHT). Both Ruddy and Black Turnstones reappeared in mid-July. One Black seen June 17 near Sidney, V I (*vide* VG) may have been a rare summering bird, while five at Victoria July 2 were probably the first fall migrants (KRS, *vide* VG). Seven Long-billed Curlews were on Willapa Bay, Wash., June 24 (BHT), and up to six Marbled Godwits were noted there throughout June (PM,DF); this is the only locale in the Region where either summers regularly. A Long-billed Curlew at Victoria June 28 was only the fourth ever for V I (JKe,*vide* VG). Whimbrel summered at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, and Dungeness, Wash., and Chatham Sound, V.I.

An Upland Sandpiper was reported May 29 in fields along the Wynoochee R., near Aberdeen, Wash (†J&NS), but could not be found subsequently. This

was the first spring sighting for the Region. The three Solitary Sandpiper reports were all two to three weeks early. Singles were at C. Saanich, V.I., June 27 (JT, *fide* VG), Duncan, V.I., July 5 (VG), and Seattle July 7 (†KB). Lesser Yellowlegs appeared in small numbers throughout the Region after mid-July; one at Saanich June 29 - 30 was early (J&MH, M&VG). A very early Surf-bird was at Victoria July 2 (RS, *fide* VG). Four Willets were at Yaquina Bay July 8 (HN,DF), where they are regular, and four were on Dungeness Spit, Wash., July 21 (KK), where they are casual. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported near Everett July 22 (†EH) and 15 - 25 were at Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C., July 31 - Aug. 3 (EH,DP, m.ob.). The distinctive call note was heard and photographs were taken.

A **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** with a bright orange head and neck was seen and photographed at Iona I., June 24 - 25 (RPh, †DM, m.ob.). Another Rufous-necked, possibly the same bird, was found at the same locale July 13 - 15 (†GA, †BM, m.ob.). These are the first validated records of this species for British Columbia and the Region, but were not entirely unexpected in light of the three recent records from California. Totally unexpected, however, was the **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** discovered at Iona I., July 30 (BS, †DM, m.ob.). It stayed until Aug. 3, long enough to be seen by hundreds of birders. The bird could be found only at high tide, when it flew in to roost on the sewage ponds with other peep that utilize the vast mudflats of the Fraser R. delta during migration. The Spoon-billed could be readily picked out of the flock by its rufous face and throat, dark dorsal plumage, and peculiarly-shaped bill. This is the third North American record, and the first outside of Alaska (see AB 31:1036).

Adult W. and Least Sandpipers appearing in the Region in late June must be non-breeders, with post-breeding adults arriving in numbers after mid-July. A rare spring migrant Baird's Sandpiper was seen June 3 at the S.J.C.R. (JGi); the first fall migrants were noted in the Victoria area July 9 - 13 (RS, MS, *fide* VG), again very early dates. Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers both returned during the first week of July. Peak counts of the two species reflect their relative abundance during early fall migration: over 500 Short-billeds were at Ocean Shores July 15 (G&WH) while 23 Long-billeds were near Victoria July 27 (VG). An **Hudsonian Godwit** in breeding plumage was at Iona I., June 17 - 18 (DK,DM, m.ob.) and a **Ruff** was at the Iona I., ponds July 30 - Aug. 4, on which date two were present, for the seventh British Columbia record (DK,GA, m.ob.). Six Wilson's Phalaropes strayed to the Oregon coast June 3 - 4 (JGi,AM).

LARIDS AND ALCIDS — A South Polar Skua off Westport July 4 (TW) was over a month early, although two skuas were seen here this May. Two ad. W. Gulls, one mated with a Glaucous-winged Gull, were seen on Cleland I., near Tofino, V.I., July 15 - 16 (MS, *fide* VG), and another was on territory on Protection I., near Port Townsend, Wash., July 9 (TW). These are considerably n. and e. of the zone of interbreeding, which is largely restricted to Washington's outer coast (*Auk* 95:441). California Gulls pour into the Region from the e. every

year in mid-to late July, using primarily the Columbia R. route. However, a N movement of California Gulls along the Oregon coast during July is also apparent. Ring-billed Gulls nested in the Region for the third straight year with 12 pairs on Sand I., Grays Harbor, Wash., adjacent to the large Caspian Tern colony (JS).

Mew Gulls were found nesting on four V.I. lakes this June, two near Campbell R., and two in the Tofino-Ucluelet area (M&JR, *fide* VG). The ad. Franklin's Gull at Victoria July 6 was in an unusual plumage, unusually far w., and rather early (RS, *fide* VG). There was no repeat evidence of the June migration of Bonaparte's Gulls noted last year. The southernmost and largest summering flock of this species, up to 270 birds was seen through June at Ilwaco, Wash. (HN,DF). An imm. **Little Gull** was at Iona I., June 17 - 18 (GA, †DM, m.ob.); almost all of the previous records have been of adults in fall. Two Heermann's Gulls at Dungeness May 28 (JS) and one at Victoria June 3 (*fide* VG) were very early. Two of this species above Bonneville Dam, 150 mi up in the Columbia R., July 11 were amazingly far from their usual salt water habitat (DF).

A Forster's Tern was reported at Forest Grove, w. of Portland, Oreg., July 2 (DF,DI). This species is very rare w. of the Cascades, although it is a common breeding bird e. of the mountains and is abundant in fall on the California coast. Three Com. Terns, including a sub-adult bird, apparently summered in the Columbia R. mouth (HN).

S.A.

Last summer we reported the discovery of a colony of small terns on Jetty I., near Everett in Puget Sound. We opined that they were either Forster's or Commons, probably the latter. We were wrong on both counts. This summer 10 - 12 pairs of **Arctic Terns** were found breeding in the colony. On the July 13 visit two nests with eggs, three downy chicks and three recently fledged young were counted and photographed (PM, DMn). This extends the breeding range some 1300 km beyond the southernmost colonies previously known in s.e. Alaska. Some of the confusion was due to a small flock of nonbreeding ad. and subad. Common Terns also present on the island throughout the summer.

Up to 15 Caspian Terns were seen this season on Dungeness Bay (DS,DF), which is well n. of the breeding limit at Grays Harbor. Singles appeared off V.I., and in n. Puget Sound. A Black Tern at Leadbetter Pt., June 25 (RW;) was an early date for this fall stray.

Like Brandt's Cormorants, Com. Murres moved N along the coast after late June. The migration was first noted at the Columbia R. mouth June 24 (HN) and at Ocean Shores June 25 (BHT). DF estimated 5-6000/hr moving N past Tillamook Bay July 16. In 1924, Ralph Hoffman collected a ♀ Ancient Murrelet incubating on Carrol I., near La Push, Wash., for the only breeding record s. of the Queen Charlotte Is. This summer an adult in breeding plumage July 4 off Westport (TW, †BHT) and single juveniles seen at Alexander I., also near La Push, July 12 (†RP, SSp), and found dead on the beach at Westport July 24 (BHT) raise hopes of a

"modern" breeding record. An estimated 25,000 Cassin's Auklets were breeding on Alexander I., in early June (RP,SSp). Many observers commented that Rhinoceros Auklets were conspicuously common along the coast during June. This may be owing to feeding habits, since in some years the bulk of the population forages well offshore, and the species appears uncommon.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Mourning Dove was near Courtenay, V.I., June 4 (HT); the species is scarce in central V.I. Mourning Doves were scarce this summer in the Willamette Valley, where they are normally quite common (HN,RL). On June 26 a **Black-billed Cuckoo** became a future University of Washington museum specimen against the window of an Audubon Society member (JGa) in Bremerton, Wash., for the first record for the Region. A Barn Owl found July 22 was the first in many years in the Campbell R. area (SR, *vide* HT). A pair of Barred Owls was at Colonial Cr. campground, Whatcom Co., Wash., for the fifth straight year (TW). A Spotted Owl was found dead, apparently shot, near Neah Bay, Wash. (MF).

The Barred Owl's recent range extension s. and w. into Spotted Owl country provides an opportunity to determine how the two species will interact competitively, if at all. DF describes two Barred Owl sites and one of the Spotted Owl, all within a 10-mi circle in the Gifford Pinchot N.F., Skamania Co., Wash. These Barred Owls were in old growth forest, the Spotted Owl in second growth Douglas Fir forest. This is the southernmost record of Barred Owls in the Cascades, and is less than 20 mi n. of Oregon.

Two Poor-will nests were found on Roxy Anne Butte, Oreg., June 12 & 17 (OS). The 300 Black Swifts seen near Newhalem, Wash., June 3 (TW) was a high count. At least six Acorn Woodpeckers nested again in a Douglas Fir woodlot near Aloha, Oreg. (JE). An ad. and a juv. Lewis' Woodpecker was seen June 21 - 22 in a clearcut area of the Gifford Pinchot N.F. (DF); the species was formerly more common in the Region. Two breeding pairs of Williamson's Sapsuckers June 28 and July 2 in Manning P.P., B.C., were w. of their known British Columbia breeding range (TW, *vide* VG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS — Eastern Kingbirds were noted in June away from their regular breeding area in the Skagit R. valley of Washington. Three singles were reported from V.I., n. to Campbell R., and three other reports came from lower Puget Sound, including a pair feeding young near Redmond, Wash. (B&PE). Western Kingbirds bred at their isolated outpost at Packwood, Lewis Co., Wash., for the fourth straight year (BHT), and strays turned up near Corkindale, in the Skagit R. valley, June 3 (TW), and two were in Seattle Aug. 2 (ME). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers, quite rare in the Region, were found. One was in the coastal scrub at Tillamook July 16 (†DF,DI) and another was at Tacoma, Wash., July 18 (†CCh). A Say's Phoebe s.w. of Eugene, Oreg., June 17 (EWS,DB, *vide* AC) completes the list of eastside flycatchers wandering W this summer.

Hammond's Flycatchers were reported only three times away from the Cascades, although they are

known to breed in the Coast Range of Oregon, in w. Washington, and on V.I. A Horned Lark nest with five eggs was found July 1 above Hurricane Ridge, Olympic N.P., Wash. (KK). Purple Martins continue to be a cause for concern. Nesting reports were mixed, but some of the colonies were not reported on this year.

The Scrub Jay found in Seattle last winter reappeared there July 25 (SD,DP). Common Ravens were more abundant than usual in the Willamette Valley (LN, SG, *vide* AC); they are uncommon in cultivated areas in this Region. The Bushtit was unknown on V.I. prior to the 1940s, the species is now common at Victoria (VG) and uncommon as far n. as Campbell R. (HT). White-breasted Nuthatches were reported n. of the Columbia R. Wrentits continue to be found in the Willamette Valley; this sedentary species was once restricted to the immediate vicinity of the coast. Rock Wrens are generally regarded as rock dwellers e. of the Cascades, thus BHT and DF were surprised to find them singing in June on three different clearcuts in the Gifford Pinchot N.F., at 100 m elevation, with no rocks in sight.

THRUSHES THROUGH SPARROWS — A Veery singing at Spuzzum in the Fraser R. valley n. of Hope, B.C., June 18 (TW) is at the very edge of the Region. Only four W. Bluebird reports totalling ten individuals were submitted. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Cape Arago, near Coos Bay, June 12 (DFa, *vide* HN) was very late for a migrant. Water Pipits in alpine areas of the Olympic N.P., this summer may have been breeding (KK). We know of no nesting records from the Olympics. A Water Pipit coming to drink at a backyard pool near Dungeness at sea level (DS) June 18 - July 4 is difficult to explain.

A pair of Red-eyed Vireos found in June along the Columbia R., near Knappa, Oreg., was only 20 mi from the Pacific Ocean (*vide* HN); they may yet be found breeding on the coast. Warbling Vireos were more abundant than usual in w. Oregon this year (HN).

Several exciting vagrant warblers were found this season at Cape Blanco, Oreg., all by ATL and written descriptions are on file for each. A ♀ Black-and-white Warbler was there June 2 - 3 as was a male of the same species June 3 - 6. A **Magnolia Warbler** there June 3 represented the first spring record for the Region. Subadult ♂ Am. Redstarts were present June 2 - 3 and, a different bird, June 9.

HN characterizes the current status of the Yellow Warbler in w. Oregon as "not uncommon in the better areas, but quite scarce in less desirable spots" This is of concern, as numbers of Yellow Warblers breeding in the Central Valley of California have also declined greatly in recent years (see AB 27:917 and 26 899). Wilson's Warblers also have "never been so scarce" in w. Oregon (HN), although normal to above normal numbers were present in Puget Sound locales (G&WH,BHT). Black-throated Gray Warblers were noted at two sites on s. V.I., including several singing males recorded at N. Saanich (JT.VG). This species is scarce in the area although apparently suitable habitat is present and the birds are common at nearby points in Washington. Hermit Warblers were readily seen in the Hamma Hamma R. valley on the e. slope of the Olympics June 16 (CCh), which is an area that has received only minimal coverage.

A ♂ Bobolink near Salem June 3 was only the second record for w. Oregon (HN). Pine Grosbeaks were noted July 11 in Manning P.P. (JE,DM) and July 3 & 12 in Mt. Rainier N.P. (DM,JSh). **White-winged Crossbills** appeared abruptly and in large numbers after July 23. By early August they had been reported in the mountains near Vancouver, B.C. (BS,DM). throughout the Cascades s. to the Indian Heaven area of the Gifford Pinchot N.F. (BHT), as well as in the Olympics (MP). Most were found above 120m in the Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir zone feeding on spruce cones and new fir needles. Pine Siskins were present in normal numbers in their usual locations. A vagrant Harris' Sparrow was reported near Campbell R., June 25 (KC,HT).

ADDENDUM — Last fall's Oregon records of Mongolian Plover and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were substantiated by clearly recognizable photographs, for the first such documentation for either species in that state.

CITED OBSERVERS AND ABBREVIATIONS (sub-regional editors in boldface). Ruby Alton, Gerry Ansell, Diane Beaulaurier, Kathy Bolles, Chris Chappell (CCh), **Alan Contreras**, Kay Conway, Carl

Crouse (CCr), Susan Dallum, Mark Eisdorfer, Joe Evanich, Bob & Pat Evans, Darrell Faxon (DFa), Mike Fitzpatrick, David Fix (DF), Jim Galbraith (JGa), Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Margaret & **Vic Goodwill**, S. Greenfield, John & Mark Hart, Steve Herman, Glen & Wanda Hoge, David Irons, John Kenning (JKe), Jack Kiley (JKi), Rick Knight, Ken Knittle, Doug Kragh, Bob Loeffel, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, Janet Lutner, Bruce McDonald, Dave Manuwal (DMn), David Mark (DM) Alan McGie, **Harry Nehls**, Lars Norgren, Dennis Paulson, Evelyn Peaslee, Michael Perrone, Roy Phillips (RPh), Robert Pittman (RP), Alan Richards, J. & M. Rodway, Sean Russell, Ron Satterfield, Barry Sauppe, Michael Shepard, Jim Shifflett (JSh), Dory & Stan Smith, Jack & Nancy Smith, Steve Speich (SSp) Chris Stinson, Otis Swisher, Jeremy Tatum, Doug Taylor, Howard Telosky, **Terry Wahl**, Joe Welch, Rick West (RWe), E. White-Swift (EWS), Ralph Widrig (RWi), written description of file (†), South jetty of the Columbia R., Ore. (S.J.C.R.) and Vancouver I., B.C (V.I.). **BILL HARRINGTON-TWEIT**, 1607 N. Bigelow, Olympia, Wash. 98506, **PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, Jr.**, Dept of Zoology, Univ of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195, and **EUGENE S. HUNN**, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103.

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION
/Jon Winter and Tim Manolis

The heavy winter and spring rains were a boon to nesting birds in the Region this summer. Nesting waterbirds were more widespread than they had been during the past two summers in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.: BED,RH), and the productivity of gallinaceous birds, particularly California and Mountain quails, was good-to-excellent in many areas (BBa,BGE). Birds started nesting early in the Sierras, despite a heavy snowpack that lingered into June above

6000 feet, and some species (e.g., American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco) had second broods developing at the end of the period (TM). Monterey Bay seemed to be "full of fish" and the kinds of birds (shearwaters, pelicans, cormorants and murre) that feed on them (J&RW). Cattle Egrets were finally found nesting in the Region, and reports of White-rumped Sandpiper and Black Skimmer stirred birding hotlines along the coast.

Observers who spent time early in the period along the coast looking for vagrants noted that the numbers and diversity of these much sought after waifs were well below last spring's landfall. But as usual a few surprises made "hunting" most enjoyable. A dagger means that documentation is on file with the editors.

STORM-PETRELS, PELICANS — Storm-Petrels have a way of showing up in strange places. A report of a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel in Monterey Bay May 7 (RLeV) and one found dead at Moss Landing July 17 (R.L. Pitman) were not too unusual, but one found dead on Grove St., Berkeley June 27 (*vide* VR) certainly was! An Ashy Storm-Petrel seen 1.5 mi w. of the Berkeley Marina July 12 (VR *et al.*) was also a surprise, and one of but a handful of San Francisco Bay (hereafter, S.F Bay) records.

Around S.F. Bay, large numbers of White Pelicans returned early (or never left?), with 200+ at Alvarado, Alameda Co., June 24 building up to 500 by July 29 (DE), up to 250 on salt ponds near Vallejo July 31 (FKB) and 400+ near Mountain View, Santa Clara Co., from July 7+ (TC). There were scattered reports elsewhere around the bay, and many of these sightings may be of the same birds. Was some large, interior colony abandoned early this year? Only 24 were noted at Honey L., July 12 (JM), but about half were juveniles



and nesting was suspected. Brown Pelicans remained common along the coast, and 4771 flew by the Pajaro R. mouth in one hour July 29 (J&RW).

HERONS, IBISES — One or two Little Blue Herons, reported present since spring, were seen at the Palo Alto Baylands in late July (JM,DE,PM). An ad. Cattle Egret was chasing insects through pickleweed at Moffett Field, Santa Clara Co., June 29 (WB) and 20 were on a ranch s. of the S. Wilbur Flood Area (hereafter, S.W.F.A.), Kings Co., July 7 - 10 (BED).

S.A.

Expected for some time, the nesting of Cattle Egrets in the Region was confirmed at *three* different locations this summer. A number of Cattle Egrets in a Snowy Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron colony at the Corcoran Irrigation Dist. Res., Kings Co., June 30 looked suspicious; on July 4, 15 - 20 active Cattle Egret nests were tallied (JLi). The birds were nesting in willows. In another Snowy Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron colony, this one in cattails on Mendota W.A., Fresno Co., 15 adults and three-five nestlings were seen July 2 (RH). Finally, three nesting pairs were found on a cypress grove island in a marsh near Eureka, Humboldt Co., Aug. 4 (SAK). Cattle Egrets probably bred at one or more of these sites in recent years but went undetected. Future nesting elsewhere in the Region seems likely.

A belated report of a Least Bittern calling near Grenada, Siskiyou Co., May 6 - 7 (MT) and two seen in the S.W.F.A., July 6 - 9 (BED) were of interest. Reports of White-faced Ibis included three at the McCloud Sewage Ponds, Siskiyou Co., May 18 (MT *et al*), 15 at Honey L., June 3 (SAL) and one at the S W F.A., July 9 (BED).

WATERFOWL — While they are perhaps regular there, at least seven Fulvous Whistling Ducks in the Tulare L. Basin July 6 - 10 (BED) were the first reported in the Region since 1975. Sixty-five adults and 185 ducklings were amazing numbers of Gadwalls at the Salinas R. mouth June 16 (PM,DP). A "ratty" ♂ Ring-necked Duck at Alvarado July 20 (DE) probably summered. Possible breeding pairs of Ring-neckeds were on Baum L., Shasta Co. (DM, JM) and Manzanita L., Lassen N.P. (DM) during the summer. A ♀ Canvasback with young at the Woodland Sewage Ponds in July provided a first local breeding record for a rare breeding species in California (*vide* BK), and another Canvasback brood was seen in the Tulare L. Basin July 10 (BED). Three ♂ Buffleheads summered at coastal localities, and the species was more common than usual in its normal breeding range in n.e. California (BED). Two ♂ **Harlequin Ducks** Upper Twin L., Lassen N.P., July 19 (SAL) provided some grounds for hoping that this species may still nest in California. Surf and White-winged Scoters summered in good numbers along the coast (m.ob.), and reports of 13 Black Scoters during the period included 11 (6 males, 5 females) together near Thornton Beach.

HAWKS, CRANES — White-tailed Kites remained scarce in areas reporting reduced numbers during the preceding winter. A statewide survey seems in order. Only 8 - 9 Swainson's Hawk reports continued another discouraging recent trend. A Prairie Falcon nest in the e. S.F. Bay area failed, apparently because the nest was "robbed" (*vide* HLC).

On the bright side, young Sandhill Cranes at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (hereafter, L.K.N.W.R.) were the first signs of nesting success there in three years (*vide* MT).

SHOREBIRDS — A pair of Black Oystercatchers nesting at the Cliff House June 6 (LCB) may have been the first ever to breed in San Francisco. As noted in the spring report, Snowy Plovers fared poorly at Pajaro Dunes, and only ten fledged from 36 nests (J&RW). Two pairs were found nesting at L.K.N.W.R., July 30 (*vide* MT) and a nest with eggs was found at Pescadero Cr. mouth July 15 (*vide* TC).

The breeding of Spotted Sandpipers along the Pajaro R., near Watsonville was finally confirmed when three young were seen July 22 (PM). A Ruddy Turnstone in breeding plumage was seen at L.K.N.W.R., July 30 (*vide* MT). Two Wilson's Phalaropes at the Ukiah Sewage Ponds July 29 - 30 (OLK) were considered noteworthy for Mendocino County. A breeding-plumaged Red Phalarope at the Carmel R. mouth June 3 - 4 (m.ob.) was late. Single Com. Snipe at the S.W.F.A., July 7 (BED) and the Palo Alto Baylands July 31 (PM) were apparently very early migrants. A calling Short-billed Dowitcher was at the Hollister Sewage Ponds July 31 (DE).

S.A.

The birding event of the season involved a **White-rumped Sandpiper** found at the Carmel R mouth June 2 (†JML) and observed by many until June 6. Additionally, what was described as a different individual (the observer had seen the Carmel bird) was found at Kehoe Beach, P.R.N.S., June 11 (†RLv, T. Parmenter). There are only two previously published records for the state, both from the Salton Sea in June (AB 30:1003).

Three Dunliis, a species which rarely summers in the Region, were at Alvarado June 24 (DE).

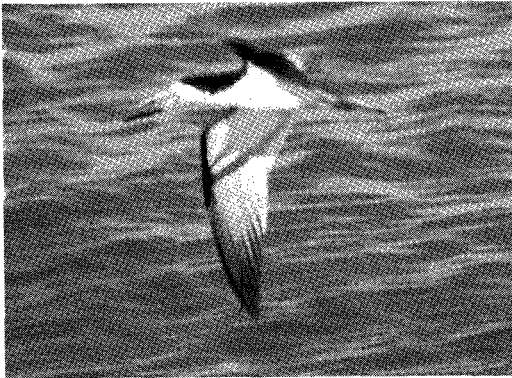
JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The only jaegers reported were in Monterey Bay; an ad. Pomarine and an imm. Parasitic at the Salinas R. mouth June 16, and single imm. Parasitics at Pajaro Dunes June 3 and July 14 (PM,DP).

California Gulls hung on and nested successfully at Negit I., in Mono L., but their future there remains cloudy as the water level of the lake inexorably continues to drop. Rare in the summer, two ad. Franklin's Gulls were at Hartson Res., Honey Lake W.A., June 3 (SAL *et al.*) and a single adult was at the S.W.F.A., July 9 (BED). Flocks of non-breeding Bonaparte's Gulls may show up anywhere in the Region: witness 20 - 150 at L.K.N.W.R., June 20 - July 15 (*vide* MT); 40 at

Alvarado June 24 (DE); 80 at Pajaro Dunes June 11 (PM) and 30 - 40 at S.W.F.A., July 6 - 11 (BED).

A few Com. Terns apparently summered in Monterey Bay (PM). Very rare in summer were two ad. Arctic Terns 5 mi w. of Pt. Pinos June 4 (PM) and an adult and immature at the Pajaro R. mouth July 7 & 21 (PM, DP, J&RW). Eighty pairs of Least Terns nested at the Alameda Naval Air Station, making it the second largest colony in the state this year, and two pairs nested near Alvarado, apparently for the first time (DE). Reports of up to 14, including some immatures, at Palo Alto Baylands July 28 - 31 (JM, PM) and of 80 at the e side of the Dumbarton Bridge July 30 (AE) may be of birds dispersing from those colonies or from some undetected colony in s. S.F. Bay. Only two reports of singles were received from Monterey Bay. Two Caspian Terns circling over flooded Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite N.P., June 21 (FBc) must have been a sight. A reported decline of nesting Black Terns in part of the n. C.V., bears watching in the future (SAL).

Reports of **Black Skimmer** were received from three locations, but all sightings may have been of the same bird. One was noted at Moss Landing June 21 - 28 (*vide* JM, †PM), one was seen along Charleston Slough, Palo Alto June 29 and July 9 (*vide* JM) and one was seen at Alvarado July 20 (†DE, VR). There are only two previous regional records, but given the recent arrival of this species as a breeding bird on the s. California coast, can nesting in n. California be far behind?



Black Skimmer, Alvarado, Alameda County, Calif., July 20, 1978. Photo Van Remsen.

Remains of single Horned Puffins, both dead for some time, were found at Kehoe Beach June 11 (RLeV) and the Salinas R. mouth July 8 (PM).

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS — Six Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found July 20 near Woodson Bridge S R.A., Tehama Co., with two recently fledged young (SAL). This species has suffered major declines in the Region in the past 30 years owing to habitat destruction and cowbird parasitism, so any reports of successful breeding are encouraging. Two young Flammulated Owls found June 2 by a woodcutter near Cecilville, Siskiyou Co., were hand-raised and released in late July (*vide* MT).

S.A.

A belated report of a Great Gray Owl that was picked up injured in May 1977, at Coon Hollow, on the Lassen N. F., is of considerable interest. Although the bird later died, this is the third known and reliable occurrence of this owl since 1937, in the Sierra, outside Yosemite N.P. There is little doubt that the Great Gray Owl is an endangered species in California. Its decline in the Sierra may be linked to the loss of old-growth forests to lumbering activities. However its ecological requirements are poorly known and research is needed to determine what factors must be considered to insure its continued existence in California. Hopefully, the U S Forest Service, which currently administers all of the known Great Gray Owl habitat outside of Yosemite, can be encouraged to underwrite a study to determine what status this owl now enjoys on National Forest land before it is too late.

The report of 50 Burrowing Owls enjoying a suitable bit of real estate around the Executive Airport in Sacramento this summer was good news (*vide* BK). These little owls are having more than their share of trouble staying ahead of the bulldozers and concrete in California. Short-eared Owls were found nesting again at Honey L., where five pair were found June 3 - 5 (SAL). The drought appears to have affected nesting the last two years.

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Black Swifts nested in normal numbers at Ano Nuevo and Mossbrae Falls, but appeared well below expected numbers at Burney Fall S.P., where only three were found June 21 (DM). The ♀ Blue-throated Hummingbird reported from Three Rivers, Tulare Co., after having nested once this spring, apparently re-nested. The suspected mate was a ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird, but the attempt failed when the fledglings died. The persistent Blue-throated Hummingbird departed for parts unknown on May 27 (*vide* DRo). Williamson's Sapsuckers apparently had a banner year in the Sierra where several observers reported them as "common" this summer. An E. Kingbird seen on Pt. Reyes June 18 was the only one reported for the period (*vide* DRo). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen and well described 12 mi n.e. of Clovis, Fresno Co., July 8 (KHt *et al*). This is the first occurrence for this flycatcher in the San Joaquin Valley, and the eleventh record for the Region.

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES — Some 30 pairs of Purple Martins nesting along the Pit R., Shasta Co., this summer represented one of the largest breeding populations in the Region (PD). A Clark's Nutcracker, a very rare straggler on the coast, was seen June 13 at Tomales Bay S.P. (JE). An out-of-range Mountain Chickadee that probably came from the Cascade Range populations was seen June 2 on Pt. Reyes (VR *et al*). Most interesting was the discovery of a dead Brown Thrasher June 29 on the beach at Pajaro Dunes (PM, *Calif. Acad. Sci.). Mid-summer records for this species are exceptionally rare.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS — Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers seen July 14 on Red Rock Rd., Lassen Co., appear to be continuing a recent colonization of the Great Basin (JM). A **Yellow-throated Vireo**, the Region's second mainland record, was seen by a number of observers on Pt. Reyes June 3 (B&HL, †JM, m.ob.). A singing Solitary Vireo seen at Woodson Bridge, Tehama Co., July 6 was probably an early fall migrant (SAL). Two Red-eyed Vireos were reported for the period; one at Golden Gate Pk. June 6 (LCB) and the other at Bodega Bay July 4 (BDP *et al.*). After having withstood the rigors of many migrations, dodged the talons of hungry predators, and helped raise countless young, a very old and very noble Warbling Vireo returned to P.R.B.O.-Palomarin for its thirteenth summer (*vide* RLeV).

Four Black-and-white Warblers were found coastally June 2 – July 9, fewer than could be expected. The Region's ninth **Worm-eating Warbler** was found at Jewel L., Tilden Park July 11 – 21 (P. Gordon, †DE, †JM, m.ob.). Only three Tennessee Warblers were reported; two at Pt. Reyes June 2 – 3 (KVV, VR, EM) and another, quite rare inland, was seen at Honey L., June 4 (SAL). A Magnolia Warbler on Pt. Reyes June 29 (WMP *et al.*) and another on the F.I., June 22 (P.R.B.O.) were both on rather late dates for this species. Single Cape May Warblers were seen June 1 at Pt. Reyes (JM) and on the F.I., June 17 (P.R.B.O.). Nearly all of the Region's spring records for Black-throated Green Warblers are from the F.I. Another was seen there June 3 – 7 (P.R.B.O.). A Hermit Warbler seen at P.R.B.O.-Palomarin July 23 was probably an early migrant (P.R.B.O.). The Region's second summer record for the **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found on the F.I., June 4. It proved to be the white-colored (*D.d. albilora*) race, as expected. A single Chestnut-sided Warbler at the Watsonville Sewage Plant June 14 was the only one reported (EM). Five Bay-breasted Warblers found there way into the Region; four were on Pt. Reyes and the F.I., June 1 – 2 (m.ob.) and another was found inland at Grenada, Siskiyou Co., (*vide* MT) where they are exceptionally rare.

A single Blackpoll Warbler on the F.I., June 18 – 20 was the only one found this summer (P.R.B.O.). Unlike fall, Palm Warblers are very rarely reported in spring. Two birds turned up on the F.I., June 2 & 22 which is where nearly all of the Region's spring birds have been found (P.R.B.O.). At least five Ovenbirds were found coastally from Bodega Bay to Pt. Reyes (two on the F.I.) May 31 – June 8 (m.ob.). Complementing this spring's mainland record, a Hooded Warbler was seen on the F.I., June 3 – 11 (P.R.B.O.). Six Am. Redstarts were found; four along the coast June 2 – 24 Pt. Reyes to L. Merced and two were inland at Todd I., Tehama Co., July 20 (SAL) and at Honey L., June 1 (SAL). This is about the number of redstarts we can expect in spring; last spring's showing was exceptionally high.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — Always rare in spring, a Bobolink was found on the F.I., June 3 – 6 (P.R.B.O.). Most of the Region's spring records for "Baltimore" Orioles have been found on the F.I.,

but a female was seen at Pt. Reyes June 1 (WMP, JM *et al.*). The Region's first **Great-tailed Grackle** was found feeding on the lawns of the Palace of Fine Arts in S F, June 18 (†JH, m.ob.) and remained there, to the delight of the Region's army of "listers," until July 4 (PM) The bird was carefully identified, ruling out the possibility of the similar but unlikely Boat-tailed Grackle. Two Summer Tanagers were reported; one on the F.I., June 12 and the other on Pt. Reyes June 3 – 4 (JM *et al.*)

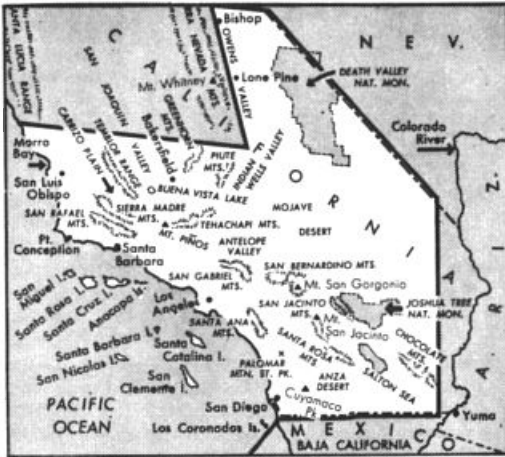
Only four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen this summer; all were from the coast June 3 – July 1; this is fewer than normal. Five Blue Grosbeaks were reported from inland locations and were probably breeding. A very late ♀ Evening Grosbeak was seen in Golden Gate Pk., June 8; the first recorded there (PM). An unusually late Vesper Sparrow remained on the F.I., June 23 – 24 (P.R.B.O.). A Clay-colored Sparrow found its way to the F.I., June 1 – 3 (P.R.B.O.). This bird is very rare in spring and all the records have been from the F.I. A very late Fox Sparrow was seen in Hayward June 8 (HLC). The bird was not one of the wintering races, having a distinctly gray head.

CORRIGENDUM — The reference to Swamp Sparrows in AB 32:397 should refer to Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Delete the editor's remarks that follow this reference.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION **/Guy McCaskie**

The summer season was mostly dry, with only a few thunder showers in the mountains during July, but the effects of last winter's heavy rainfall were still evident with much lush vegetation, full lakes, and running streams remaining. Extensive breeding bird surveys conducted by the California Department of Fish and Game revealed some startling facts about the status of various riparian nesting species, and it is clear that we are on the verge of losing some as breeding birds.



along the coast; inland one was at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) July 9 - 15 (JD,EC), and another was at the unlikely locality of Rancho Bernardo near Escondido July 16 (ME).

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS — Cattle Egrets were more numerous along the coast this summer than in previous years, with groups of up to 35 reported in San Diego County (PU), and nesting should be checked for in the coming years. A Reddish Egret remained in San Diego to at least June 30 (CGE) and another was present in Imperial Beach July 16+ (GMCC). A juv. Am. Bittern found in Goleta May 18 (BS) documented nesting at that locality, one at McGrath S.P. all summer was believed to be a non-breeding individual (RW), and two flushed from the dense reed beds at N.E.S.S., July 12 (GSG) could well have been nesting at that locality; this species has been found nesting along the coast s. to Los Angeles, but recent records are few indeed and it is not known to nest at the Salton Sea. At least ten pairs of White-faced Ibis successfully nested at N.E.S.S. (GSG), and up to six remained along the coast of San Diego County all summer (PU); this species formerly nested commonly at the Salton Sea, with smaller numbers breeding along the coast s. of Los Angeles. A sub-ad. White Ibis at Pt. Mugu June 6 - 10 (RD) attracted much attention, however, the fact that a similarly marked bird was at nearby Malibu during March and April (KG), and that a pair of captive birds at Busch Gardens in the San Fernando Valley have successfully nested and raised young (all but one having escaped), cast doubt on the wild origin of the Pt. Mugu bird. A brightly colored sub-ad. Roseate Spoonbill at N.E.S.S., throughout the summer (GMCC) was probably the same individual seen at S.E.S.S. last winter.

LOONS, GREBES — All three species of loon regularly found in s. California during the winter were present along the coast throughout the summer in small numbers as indicated by reports of ca. 40 Com. Loons, ca. 50 Arctic Loons and ca. 15 Red-throated Loons during June and July. A Com. Loon on L. Murray June 16 (CGE) and another on L. Cuyamaca July 29 (PU) were at inland localities. A flock of 150 Arctic Loons off Pt. Mugu June 10 (KG) were northbound migrants, and indicate how late migrants of this species are encountered in this Region.

Some 200 Eared Grebes were present on Baldwin L. all summer with some nesting; six pairs bred at McGrath S.P. near Ventura (RW), three pairs were nesting near the mouth of the Santa Margarita R., near Oceanside in early August (PU), and over 40 nests were found at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) June 27 (GSG); this species nests only locally and sporadically in s. California, and is previously unrecorded as a breeding species on the Salton Sea. For the second year W. Grebes nested on the Salton Sea with at least ten nests seen at N.E.S.S., June 27 (GSG); Sweetwater Res. in San Diego is the only other locality within the Region where this species breeds.



Immature White Ibis, Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Calif., June 9, 1978. Photo Ron Dow.

SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — Sooty Shearwaters outnumbered Pink-footed Shearwaters offshore, with six Manx Shearwaters off San Diego July 25 (DP) being the only other shearwater species reported. Small numbers of Black Storm-Petrels were present offshore throughout the summer with no other storm-petrel species reported.

PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS — Brown Pelicans were continuously present on the Salton Sea after an early arrival May 24, with a high count of 20 on July 23 (EC); one on L. Cuyamaca July 29 - Aug. 3 (PU) was the first to be found in the mountains of San Diego County. Magnificent Frigatebirds were somewhat scarce with one at Carlsbad July 16 (DS) and another over San Diego July 28 (SD) being the only two seen

GEESE, DUCKS — Two or three Brant were found summering along the coast as usual; one at N.E.S.S., June 11 (LD) and another at S.E.S.S., July 15 (EC) were the only two seen on the Salton Sea. A pair of Gadwall, an uncommon and very localized breeding species in s. California, successfully nested at McGrath S.P. (RW) and two pairs were found breeding around Oceanside in late May (PU). Two pairs of Blue-winged Teal at Bishop July 3 (TH) and a male near Big Pine June 10 (LB) were in the n. portion of the Owens Valley where nesting should be anticipated; a male at Goleta July 27 (PL, LB) was probably an early fall migrant, but a male in Carlsbad July 6 (AF), and another male at

McGrath S.P. throughout June (RW) indicate that nesting along the coast of s. California is a possibility. A White-winged Scoter lingered in Goleta to June 15 (PL, LB). Surf Scoters were more numerous than usual along the coast this summer, with 25± around Santa Barbara, 90± along the coast of Ventura County, and 100+ in San Diego during July; one at N.E.S.S., June 11 - July 15 (GMcC), and single birds near there July 15 & 23 (EC) were the only ones found on the Salton Sea this summer. A Black Scoter at McGrath S.P., June 9 - 11 (RW, PL) was exceptionally late. Up to ten Red-breasted Mergansers were present near Big Pine in the Owens Valley all summer (TH), an unusual locality for this species.

KITES, HAWKS, FALCONS — White-tailed Kites have evidently extended their range to include the Antelope Valley with one near Valerme all summer and an adult accompanying two juveniles near Lancaster July 25 (KG, JD). Most interesting were four reports of Goshawks with one near Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., Mar. 25 (FH), two together at Green Valley in the San Bernardino Mts., May 21 (KG), one near L. Fulmer in the San Jacinto Mts., May 6 (PL) and another at Tahquitz Meadow in the same mountains June 7 (DMM); nesting is not known s. of the Sierra Nevada in California, but continued reports from these s. California mountains during the summer strongly suggest that small numbers are resident s. to the San Jacintos. Very few Sharp-shinned Hawk nests have been found in s. California, hence single birds around Idyllwild in the San Jacinto Mts., May 5 - 6 (JD) and an apparent pair near Julian in the mountains of San Diego County Apr. 29 (JD) are of interest. A Red-shouldered Hawk in Kelso July 12 (SC) and another along the Colorado R., near Needles July 26 (SC) were both e. of the species' normal range in California. An ad. Zonetailed Hawk at Ft. Piute in e. San Bernardino Co., June 17 (GMcC) was unexpected. A pair of Swainson's Hawks, now an exceptionally rare breeder in s. California, fledged two young from a nest near Lancaster (KG) and another pair successfully raised one young at a nest in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino County (SC). A Peregrine Falcon near Imperial Beach July 4 (EC) was the only one reported this summer.

QUAIL, RAILS — Mountain Quail were found to be commoner than usual in many areas with a number of young seen in the San Gabriel Mts., and a pair with ten young found in the desert scrub of Ballinger Canyon of n e. Santa Barbara County July 10 (PL). A juv. Virginia Rail at Batiquitos Lagoon near Carlsbad July 5 (PU) substantiated nesting at that locality. Two calling Black Rails near Seeley in the Imperial Valley Mar. 18 (CGE) would suggest nesting there.

OYSTERCATCHERS, PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS — A Black Oystercatcher remained at Playa del Rey all summer (KG). Nine pairs of Am. Avocets were found nesting in coastal San Diego County during May (PU) and five active nests were seen at S.E.S.S., in May and June (GSG); this species is a rare breeder in both areas. About six nests of Am. Avocets at Furnace Creek

Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) in late May (GMcC), and a pair with four juveniles at Baker July 12 (SC) established positive breeding records for the Mojave Desert. A Semipalmated Plover in Bishop June 10 (TH) and four near Tecopa July 16 (JT) were in areas from which few have been reported. An Am. Golden Plover on San Miguel I., June 29 (JG) was unexpected, the date being exceptionally early for a fall migrant and too late for a spring migrant. A pair of Long-billed Curlews accompanied by three juveniles near Big Pine in the Owens Valley in July (TH) establishes the southernmost breeding record in California. A Whimbrel near Big Pine July 22 (LB) and five near Palo Verde along the Colorado R., July 21 (KVR) were in areas from which few are reported. A Solitary Sandpiper at Baker July 18 (SC) and another near Encino July 25 (JD, KG) were early fall migrants. Most unusual was a Wandering Tattler at S.E.S.S., June 11 (LD) since the species is but an accidental straggler away from the coast and offshore islands. A Surfbird on San Diego Bay July 14 (DE) was either an early fall migrant or had summered locally. Two Red Knots at S.E.S.S., July 9 (DE) and six there July 15 (EC) were at an inland locality where small numbers occur regularly each fall, however, one near Lancaster July 25 (JD, KG) was unexpected and only the second found inland away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R. Valley in s. California. The first Baird's Sandpiper of the fall was one at McGrath S.P., July 31 (RW). A breeding-plumaged Dunlin at McGrath S.P., June 11 (RW) and another at N.E.S.S., the same day (LD) were both exceptionally late. The last of the spring migrant Stilt Sandpipers was at S.E.S.S., June 4 (LD), and ten there July 23 (EC) were the first for the fall at the Salton Sea, one at McGrath S.P., July 18 - 26 (RW, PL) was at a coastal locality, this species being very rare anywhere in California away from the Salton Sea.

LARIDS — One or two Pomarine Jaegers, along with an equal number of Parasitic Jaegers, were found off the coast of San Diego and Ventura Counties during June and July (DP, RW) indicating that small numbers of both species summered in s. California waters. A South Polar Skua was 10 mi off Oxnard June 25 (BS); this species is now being found regularly in s. California waters during May and June.

Two sub-ad. Herring Gulls at N.E.S.S., July 3 (PU) were summer stragglers; this species is exceedingly rare in s. California during the summer, with most documented records being from the Salton Sea Numbers of Laughing Gulls at S.E.S.S., built up to ca 300 by late July (GMcC); this is a regular post-breeding visitor to the Salton Sea, and is not known to have nested there in recent years. Four Franklin's Gulls were seen on the Salton Sea June 11 (LD), and a dying bird was captured at N.E.S.S., July 9 (DE); one or two are found around the Salton Sea almost every summer, but all are in non-breeding condition. An ad Heermann's Gull, a casual straggler to the Salton Sea, was at S.E.S.S., July 3 (PU), followed by an immature there July 15 (GMcC) and another immature at N.E.S.S., July 23 (EC).

Over 200 pairs of Forster's Terns nested at N.E.S.S. this summer (GSG); a nesting colony on San Diego Bay

since 1962 (*Condor* 65:246, 1963) and irregular nesting at S.E.S.S. since 1970 (*AFN* 24:717, 1970) are the only other nesting records for s. California. An Arctic Tern off San Diego June 7 (DP) and three off Oxnard June 10 (RW) were spring migrants; this species is normally found in small numbers off our coast from mid-May into early June, being one of our latest migrants. A Least Tern was at N.E.S.S., July 9 (DE); this species is a casual straggler to this inland locality.

Black Skimmers again nested in large numbers on the Salton Sea, and 12 adults succeeded in raising seven young on San Diego Bay during the summer (PU); this species is now well established as a breeding bird in s. California.

ALCIDS — A few Com. Murres evidently summered along the coast as indicated by six off Oxnard June 10 (RW), another there July 29 (RW), one off San Diego June 7 (DP) and two there June 20 (DP). A Xantus' Murrelet (*Endomychura hypoleuca scrippsi*) 3 mi off San Diego July 11 (DP) was of interest since these birds appear to disperse from s. California waters in late June to be replaced by Craveri's Murrelet and the occasional nominate form of Xantus' Murrelet (*E. h. hypoleuca*). A Rhinoceros Auklet off San Diego Aug. 7 (DP) had evidently summered locally.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS — A Band-tailed Pigeon at Ft. Piute June 17 (PU) and another in Solana Beach June 22 (GMCC) were both out of range. A White-winged Dove near San Diego July 30 (DP) was in coastal lowlands away from the species' desert habitat. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Ft. Piute June 17 (PU) was believed to be a migrant, however, a group of 3-4 near Vista Aug. 11-12 (CW) was judged to be a family group, and if so, establishes the first nesting record in San Diego County in over thirty years. Spotted Owls were reported from all the s. California mountain ranges, and three juveniles were found along Big Rock Cr., on the n. side of the San Gabriel Mts., July 15 (KG). A Pygmy Owl at 8500 ft in the Inyo Mts., near Lone Pine June 16 (LB) was in Pinyon Pines and most likely of the Rocky Mountain race, *G. g. pinicola*. Some ten pairs of Elf Owls nested along the Colorado R., n. of Needles, with young being fed on May 13, young fledged by June 2, and an adult still present as late as July 26 (SC); these and another pair located near Blythe June 10 (SC) are believed to be the only individuals of this species still remaining in California. Long-eared Owls were found nesting near Lancaster (2 pairs in May — JD,KG), at Morongo Valley (1 pair in May — BAC,RCY) and near Borrego Springs (1 pair in April — PU).

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS — Whip-poor-wills were found at Camp Angeles in the San Bernardino Mts., from May 13 well into July (DMM,SG) and one was at Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., June 28 (KG); this species is present each summer, but definite breeding evidence is still lacking. Ten Com. Nighthawks at Table Mt., in the San Gabriel Mts., July 28-29 (KG) would suggest nesting at that locality, however, there is no previous record for these mountains, an isolated area in the neighboring San Bernardino Mts. being the only known breeding locality in s. California. The only Black

Swifts reported were eight in Santa Anita Canyon of the San Gabriel Mts., in June and July (FH,GSS) and an equal number at Fallsvale in the San Bernardino Mts., throughout June (DMM,GSS); the species is known to nest at both localities. Some 50 Chimney Swifts were discovered going to roost in a chimney in Burbank July 6 (JB) and were still present at the end of the season, this is by far the largest group so far recorded in California. Intriguing were 3-4 Vaux's Swifts over Big Bear L., in the San Bernardino Mts., July 22 (KG); this is the rarer of the two *Chaetura* swifts occurring in s. California during the summer, however, one was seen in this same general area during the summer of 1976 (*AB* 30:1005, 1976) and nesting locally is a distinct possibility.

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS — Two E. Kingbirds at Tinnemaha Res., in the Owens Valley June 12 & 24 (TH) may have been nesting; breeding records for California are few indeed (*West. Birds* 4 33-44, 1973). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always a rare find in California, was ca. 30 mi n. of Baker July 18 (ASE) and another was near Needles July 26 (SC). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher near Victorville July 27 (SC) was in suitable breeding habitat, and had it nested, would have extended the species' breeding range NW by about 50 mi from Morongo Valley; a pair near Mecca during May and June (GSS,LD) were the first to be found in the Coachella Valley. Willow Flycatchers were formerly common breeding birds of willow thickets throughout s. California, hence, it is a great concern that only two territorial birds were found, both in coastal San Diego County, during surveys conducted in suitable habitat throughout s. California this summer (SG). A pair of Dusky Flycatchers seen feeding a juv. Brown-headed Cowbird at Cibbets Flat in the Laguna Mts., July 4 (DP) establishes the second breeding record for the species in San Diego County. A pair of Horned Larks feeding three juveniles at the summit of San Gorgonio Peak (11,485 ft) July 6 (DMM,SC) establishes an altitude record that will be hard to beat. Breeding Purple Martins were found only in San Diego County with six at nest holes along San Onofre Cr., on Camp Pendleton July 6 (AF), eight flying around holes near the Mt. Palomar Observatory July 16 (PU) and up to 17, including juveniles, at Cuyamaca Peak during July (CGE); the species is nearly extirpated from s. California.

VERDINS THROUGH VIREOS — Verdins found nesting near Palmdale in March (JD,KG) established the northwestern extreme of the species' range. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were fairly numerous as breeding birds in the marshes n. of Lancaster this summer (KG), this locality is outside the species' known nesting range (*Pacific Coast Avifauna* 27:338-341, 1944). Unprecedented was a pair of Water Pipits at the summit of San Gorgonio Peak June 15 - July 6 (DMM,SC), with one observed carrying food on June 20 & 24, since nesting was only recently established for California (*AB* 29 1028, 1975).

During an extensive survey of most of the riparian habitat still remaining in s. California a total of 89 territorial ♂ Bell's Vireos was located (SG), certainly a far cry from what a similar survey would have revealed 50 years ago, and there is just cause to be concerned

about the species' continued existence as a breeding bird in California. Fourteen territorial ♂ Gray Vireos were located in the area e. of Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts. (SG) and 3-4 pairs were present on the s. side of the Laguna Mts. of San Diego County this summer (ME); this is another species that is on the decline. The gray race of the Solitary Vireo *V. s. plumbeus*, continues to move W, with two pairs found along Big Rock Cr., on the n. side of the San Gabriel Mts., July 15 (KG) along with a ♂ *plumbeus* apparently paired with a *cassinii*; this is the first recorded instance of these two distinct forms of the Solitary Vireo occurring together on breeding territories. Only one pair of Warbling Vireos could be found in San Diego County during June and July (PU) indicating that this once common nesting species is almost extirpated as a breeding bird.

WOOD WARBLERS — A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler in Los Angeles June 8 (GSS) was a late spring vagrant. Virginia Warblers were found on breeding territories in the White Mts. (RW), and on Clark Mt. (DE) during May and June as expected, but one at Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mts., July 22 (KG) was w. of the species' established range (*West. Birds* 5:45-56, 1974). Yellow Warblers once were abundant breeding birds throughout the riparian habitat of s. California, yet only 80 territorial males were located w. of the deserts during the summer (SG) with none along the Colorado R. A Townsend's Warbler in Glendale July 25 (OC) was exceptionally early for a fall migrant. Several territorial ♂ Hermit Warblers were around Green Valley in the San Bernardino Mts., May 21 (KG), and another territorial male was located in the San Gabriel Mts., June 9 (KG) giving us additional evidence to support the theory that small numbers regularly nest in these mountains each summer; one on Mt. Pinos July 22 (RW) was most likely a fall migrant. A ♀ Blackpoll Warbler near Imperial Beach June 24 (GMCC) was a spring vagrant. A ♂ Prairie Warbler at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., June 2 to at least July 1 (RW, LJ, TH) was most unusual, there being but one previous spring record; it would appear that this year's bird remained all summer. Small numbers of MacGillivray's Warblers were in willow thickets along streams in both the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mts. all summer (KG, DMM); it now nests in these mountains every year. One or two Red-faced Warblers were at Charlton Flats in the San Gabriel Mts., June 17 - July 2 (BM, RW, JA); this species is a casual straggler to California, however, half the records are from mountain localities such as this in May and June. A Canada Warbler, an exceptionally rare vagrant in spring, was found in the Sacramento Mts. of San Bernardino Co., June 3 (ASE). The only Am. Redstart reported this summer was one in Goleta June 16 (JG).

ORIOLES, GRACKLES, TANAGERS — A ♂ Baltimore Oriole at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., June 6 (TH) was a late straggler from the spring movement. Two or three pairs of Great-tailed Grackles appeared to be nesting at F.C.R., at the end of May (RW), which extends the species' range in California N from the Colorado R. Valley. Two pairs of Hepatic

Tanagers on Clark Mt., May 20 (PL, DE) were the only ones reported. A few Summer Tanagers were found w. of the Colorado R. Valley, with two pairs at Brock Ranch May 20 (SC, BB), a pair near Palm Springs May 3 (SG), a male in Whitewater Canyon May 3-8 (SG), and three pairs around Morongo Valley after May 5 (BAC, RCY, SG) all believed to be on breeding territories; a male near Saugus June 15 (SG) was apparently a summer wanderer w. of its range.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Corona July 6 (SG), another was near Imperial Beach June 23 (EC) and a third was on Pt Loma in San Diego June 30 (CGE); summer stragglers are not too infrequent. A ♂ Indigo Bunting near Blythe in late June appeared to be paired with a Lazuli Bunting (KVR), and another male in Morongo Valley during July also appeared to be paired with a Lazuli Bunting (SG). A pair of Lawrence's Goldfinches successfully nested ca. 10 mi n. of Bard with a juvenile seen accompanying the adults June 11 (KVR); this species is previously unrecorded as a breeding bird along the Colorado R. Valley. The breeding range of the Green-tailed Towhee was extended S into San Diego County with a juvenile seen in the company of adults on Cuyamaca Peak July 29 (PU).

S.A.

Totally unexpected were nesting Lark Buntings in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino County. One or two ad. males were seen in the area during May but had departed by the end of the month leaving two females. A nest containing four young was discovered May 27 (SC, EAC), and both females were seen with young out of the nests June 4 (DMM), with one female still accompanying two juveniles June 17 (GSS) I can only speculate that the lush growth stimulated by last winter's heavy rains induced these birds to stay and breed. Northwestern New Mexico and e. Colorado are the closest known breeding localities, and these are some 650 mi distant from the Lanfair Valley.

Probably as a result of the introduction of citrus orchards, Lark Sparrows are now common nesters around Blythe (KVR); formerly the species was unrecorded breeding anywhere in s.e. California. A few territorial White-crowned Sparrows were present in willow thickets around the summit of San Gorgonio Peak all summer (DMM); breeding was first established here in s. California in 1956, and it appears that small numbers are still nesting each summer. The presence of up to eight Fox Sparrows on Cuyamaca Peak during June and July (PU) strongly suggests nesting at that locality; the species is previously unrecorded breeding s. of the San Jacinto Mts. Several pairs of Lincoln Sparrows nested near Big Bear L., in the San Bernardino Mts., as usual (KG), but two pairs on Mt. Pinos June 18 (RW) and two more pairs at Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., all summer (KG) establish new nesting localities within the Region.

CORRIGENDA — In the winter season report the photograph of the Coues' Flycatcher should be credited

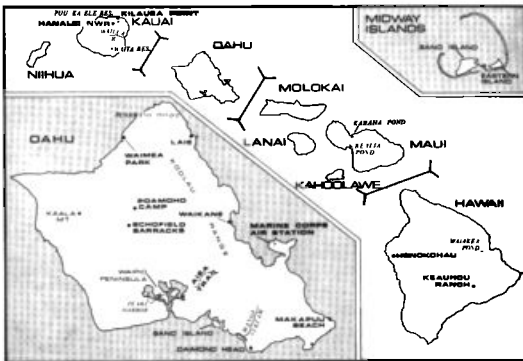
to Kenneth V. Rosenberg, and the record of a wintering ♂ Cape May Warbler at Finney L., Mar. 5 - 20 (SC,JD) was omitted.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/C. John Ralph and Robert L. Pyle

The wet trade wind regime of Spring continued into June with rainfall in Honolulu three times normal for the month, bringing a green look to many dry hillsides. July turned dry, however, and cumulative rainfall for the year is still well below normal. The remnants of tropical storm *Carlotta* and the full strength of *Fico* brushed the islands, causing some rain, but bringing no unusual birds.



ALBATROSS THROUGH TERNS — The Laysan Albatross colony at Kilauea Pt., Kauai (hereafter, K), continued to grow. Astounding news came July 5, when an adult was seen at Barking Sands, on the opposite side of the island (*vide* TT, GVB). The military personnel there related that several pairs had been present since December, and that this was the third year they were present! Some ducks overwintered, including a Green-winged Teal at Waipio Peninsula, Oahu (hereafter, O.), seen on July 20 (RLP), and a surprising 14 scaup (sp?) on the island of Hawaii (hereafter, H.), according to the Fish and Game waterfowl count. Wandering Tattlers are usually only coastal winter visitants, so it was very surprising to find five in winter plumage June 9 at Waihee R., Maui, about 3 mi from the

sea (SC). Over 50 Ruddy Turnstones took advantage of a Hawaiian summer by spending the season at various units of the Pearl Harbor N.W.R. (GB,RAC), and 15± summered at Waipio, O. (RL). The Least Tern is a scarce but regular fall migrant, but unknown during the summer. Thus up to 3 seen at Pearl Harbor N.W.R. during the season (DB,RAC,RL), and four at Kii Pond, James Campbell N.W.R., O., July 4 (PP,RL), proved surprising.

CROW THROUGH HONEYCREEPERS — Several knowledgeable estimates had put the endangered Hawaiian Crow population at about 50 individuals, but the F.&W.S. survey on the Kona coast of H., during the season, estimated the population to be somewhat higher, although certainly fewer than 200 (*vide* JMS). The species is still obviously endangered. This survey covered almost 250 mi of census transects and more than 5800 station counts (JMS,CBK). The Hawaiian Thrush, common in other native forests on H., has been virtually unknown in the Kona area since the 1900s, and was found this season only in the extreme S. Kona area, where only 3 - 4 individuals were found (*vide* JMS). This is despite what appears to be excellent habitat in many areas. Introduced by unknown means about 5 years ago to Midway Atoll, the Com. Myna, according to RBC, is becoming quite numerous on Sand I. Deep in the Alakai Swamp, K., a single individual of the endangered Kauai Oo was briefly observed May 26 (JLS). This is the first report in more than a year, despite much field work. No reproduction has been found in this species since 1973, and it may be "on its last legs." The F.&W.S. survey on the Kona coast of H., documented disappointingly low numbers and restricted distributions of three endangered honeycreepers (*vide* JMS). Fewer than 100 Hawaii Akepa and Hawaii Creeper were found, much lower populations than in other areas of native forest previously censused. Less than 20 of the woodpecker-like Akiapolaau were found. These figures indicate that these species probably number only in the low thousands in this area.

EXOTIC FINCHES — The Lavender Fire-finch has been previously recorded only on Diamond Head, O. However, with increasing reports of other introduced species in the Puu Waawaa Ranch area, H., it came as no great surprise that about ten individuals were reported (*vide* JMS) at several spots over a 2-mi area near the ranch. The Saffron Finch has also spread from Puu Waawaa Ranch over about a 10-mi area, with up to 100 seen during a day by F.&W.S. teams, especially around ranch buildings. It was also found fairly commonly in the native forest (*vide* JMS). The first nesting record of the species was also made by the F.&W.S. survey crews (PP,PA,CBK,JMS). The Com Canary on Midway Atoll numbered a rather high 73 during the third week of July (RBC).

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