

# The Nesting Season

June 1 - July 31, 1979

## NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

The Region experienced no severe weather and passerines appeared to have had a generally successful nesting season. As noted in the spring season report, May rains had an adverse effect on waterfowl. The two most interesting range extensions involved shorebirds. Wilson's Phalarope and Least Sandpiper were confirmed nesters in eastern Massachusetts. Details of these nesting records and other notable results from the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas, 1974-1979, are included below.

**LOONS** — Common Loons made small gains again this year in New Hampshire; 12 chicks were noted on L. Umbagog where officials maintained stable water levels throughout the nesting season (*vide* VHH).

**TUBENOSES** — Unique this season was a **Yellow-nosed Albatross**, seen 2± hours from Argentia, Nfld., on the Argentia, Nfld. - N. Sydney, N.S. ferry, CN "Marine Cruiser" (hereafter, C.N.M.C.), July 30. Carefully observed were broadly white underwing linings with a narrow "dark border on the leading and trailing edges" (HNMacK *et al.*, *vide* ELM). For the second consecutive year N. Ful-

### S.A.

Warm surface temperatures this summer apparently precipitated a northerly shift of Cory's Shearwaters. Although Cory's are regular in late summer as far n. as Sable I., N.S., which lies in close proximity to the Gulf Stream, the species is considered accidental in the colder waters of the Gulf of Maine and Cabot Strait. This summer, two Cory's were notably early off Sable I., June 19 (BMacT). Farther s. 400 Cory's Shearwaters at Cox's Ledge, R.I., July 14 was an unusually large concentration (CW *et al.*). A single Cory's Shearwater was a rare discovery off Monhegan I., Me., July 18 but more startling was a single Cory's seen from C.N.M.C., July 26 and another on the Port-aux-Basques, Nfld. - N. Sydney, N.S. ferry Aug. 7 (RJ). Equally remarkable were six Cory's from the "Bluenose" ferry Aug. 5 and an amazing 28 Cory's on a single crossing from the same ferry Aug. 11, where the species outnumbered Greater and Sooty shearwaters combined (DWF,WCR,PDV *et al.*)! Marine research in Cabot Strait reported unusually mild surface temperatures which occurred in the Gulf of Maine as well.

mar were again abundant in the Gulf of Maine through June and early July. An impressive 2000+ fulmars were observed from Kent I., N.B., June 7 (PFC) while 1500+ were noted from the "Bluenose" ferry July 5 (*vide* WCT).

Some 19 Manx Shearwaters seen from C.N.M.C., July 29 suggest that the species remains entrenched in its breeding grounds off s.e. Newfoundland (RJ).

**CORMORANTS, FRIGATEBIRDS, HERONS** — Two pairs of **Double-crested Cormorants** nested on E. White Rock, Conn., for a first state breeding record (CSW). A **Magnificent Frigatebird** was rare indeed off Penikese I., Mass., May 31 (*vide* RSH); the most recent previous Regional occurrence was also in late May off Monhegan I., Me., in 1978 (AB 32:978).

At least six Snowy Egrets occurred in New Brunswick, the most remote was seen in the n.e. part of the Province at Inkerman June 28 (SIT). Two Snowy Egrets were noted in Nova Scotia while in the same province a Louisiana Heron was rare on Sable I., May 18-20 (BMacT). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was unusual in Georgetown, Me., June 4 (RT); the species is known to breed as far n. as coastal Massachusetts. A Least Bittern at Amherst Pt., N.S., July 30 was a likely breeding prospect (ELM).

**DUCKS** — A pair of Am. Wigeon at Newport, Me., June 12, a single drake nearby at Corinna also June 12, 12 adults at Corinna in early July, and a female with four chicks at Corinna July 28 confirmed suspicions that the species is breeding, probably regularly, in that area. The ♀ Am. Wigeon and chicks constitute the second known state breeding record (MKL,PDV). Three N. Shovelers, including a female and chick, in Easton, Me., July 12 provided the first known breeding record for this species in Maine (*vide* NF). A brood of Redheads found in Wallace, N.S., established only the second provincial breeding record (*vide* SIT). A ♂ Harlequin Duck was unusual for the date e. of Sachuest, R.I., June 5 (RLF, *vide* CW), as was a ♂ King Eider off Kent I., N.B., June 21 (PFC). No doubt the most surprising nesting record for waterfowl involved a pair of **Ruddy Ducks** that nested at Amherst Pt., N.S., for a first provincial breeding record (*vide* SIT).



**HAWKS, EAGLES, FALCONS** — "The status of breeding *Accipiters* in Massachusetts remains poorly known. Most of the proven breeding records are of Goshawks which have a strong site fidelity from year to year. There were only three known nests for Cooper's Hawks during the 6-year period [1974-1979] and none for Sharp-shinned Hawk." (RAF). Researchers noted that many nesting hawks and owls did poorly in n.w. Connecticut this year. Many known Goshawk nests were abandoned (MR). It will be interesting to see if this is only a temporary situation or if there are some long term factors adversely affecting hawk reproduction. A sub-ad. Golden Eagle was rare on Cape Cod, at Wellfleet June 14-21 (*vide* RSH). Very rare and remarkably late was a gray **Gyrfalcon**, critically identified and fully described, over Kent I., N.B., June 13 (PFC). The only previous Regional record s. of Newfoundland for this time of year occurred on Monhegan I., Me., June 22-25, 1969 (AB 23: 639).

**SHOREBIRDS** — In recent years the increase of Am. Oystercatchers on outer Cape Cod and surrounding areas has been well documented. Considering this growth, it is perhaps not entirely surprising that a single Am. Oystercatcher should have appeared near Stonington, Me., June 27 (MH *et al.*) for a first unambiguous state record. An Am. Avocet was notably rare at Chatham, Mass., June 30-July 4 (*vide* BN) as was a Wilson's Plover in Old Lyme, Conn., June 17 (CT). "The first Willet nest found this century in Massachusetts was discovered this year on Monomoy I. Territorial adults have been reported from Sandy Neck in Barnstable, Duxbury Beach and the vast salt marshes at Plum I., but no

proof of breeding has been noted" (RAF) A concentration of 165 Whimbrel flying to roost on Monomoy July 18 easily eclipsed any previous Regional total (RSH). Also on Monomoy was a **Bar-tailed Godwit** of the nominate race July 14 - Aug. 19 (RC *et al.*, *fide* BN). Remarkable was a **Marbled Godwit** on Sable I., N.S., June 2 (BMacT), a first spring provincial record. Ruffs included two birds in e. Massachusetts, a single juvenile at Quonnie, R.I., July 11 (*fide* CW) and a Reeve near St. John's, Nfld., mid-June - July 1 (*fide* MMP). Richard Forster, co-ordinator for the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas, wrote the following comments. "With six years of field work to pore over it is difficult to report briefly on unexpected breeding records. However, some highlights this year are worthy of mention. Two new species, both shorebirds, were added to the state list. A Wilson's Phalarope nest with eggs was found at Plum I., Parker River N.W.R., June 29 (R.S. Heil). At the time of the discovery two males were exhibiting distraction display behavior leading to the conclusion that two nests were involved. Although there was no evidence that phalaropes have nested previously, eventual nesting has been predicted for some time. The other nesting shorebird was totally unexpected. Kathleen Anderson discovered a dead downy chick at Monomoy I., July 12. Personnel at M.B.O., tentatively identified it as a Least Sandpiper and the identity was later confirmed by Joseph Jehl." (RAF). Previously, the southernmost known breeding area was coastal Nova Scotia.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Two Long-tailed Jaegers were noted from Sable I., N.S., June 4 where the species has, of late, been quite regular in spring (BMacT). Four skua sp., all likely *C. skua*, were seen from Sable I., in June (BMacT) while at least three were observed from the "Bluenose," one June 20 and two July 22 (WCT, PDV). The only Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported occurred at Greenwich Pt., Conn. (*fide* TB) and on Sable I. (ELM). Unique this season was an ad. **Franklin's Gull** on Cox's Ledge, R.I., June 6, a second record for that locality (RRV *et al.*). Spring Sabine's Gulls included single birds at Monomoy June 1 (ICTN, *fide* BN) and Sable I., June 19 (IAMcL *et al.*, *fide* ELM). An ad. **Gull-billed Tern** at Three Fathom Harbour, N.S., July 24 - Aug. 1 was photographed for a first confirmed provincial record; there being three previous sight records (ELM *et al.*). At the same locality, Three Fathom Harbour, N.S., an ad. Royal Tern was carefully identified July 20 (ELM *et al.*). Interestingly, neither of the above Nova Scotia records was linked to any tropical weather systems. Arctic Terns summered in impressive numbers on Monomoy; 60+ noted June 21 swelled to 800 birds, apparently all "*portlandica*," July 16 (RSH, BN). More than seven Royal Terns were reported from s. New England while a Caspian Tern was unusual on E. Egg Rock, Me., June 15 (*fide* SWKr). Nesting Black Terns continued to push e. as at least one pair was seen carrying food at Amherst Pt., N.S. (ELM).

**ALCIDS** — A Com. Murre off Smuttynose I., Me., June 25 was considerably s. of its normal breeding range (ACB, *fide* VHH) but much more remarkable was a breeding-plumaged **Dovekie** off Machias Seal I., N.B., July 11 (PFC).

**OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, WOODPECKERS** — A pair of Barn Owls and four young were notable near Lakeville, Conn. (MR) as were two resident Barn Owls near Hadley, Mass. (*fide* SK). In Massachusetts single Chuck-will's-widows occurred at Manomet June 10 and Middlesex Falls June 19-21 (*fide* RPE). More surprising was a **Chuck-will's-widow** in Maine, the second this year and only a fourth state record, at Lincolnville, late June - early July (*fide* JMC). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was rare in Rockport, Me., June 15 as was a Red-headed Woodpecker at the same locality June 2 (*fide* JMC). Note Forster's comments on nesting Red-headed Woodpecker in Massachusetts. "The Red-headed Woodpecker is now as prevalent a breeder as any period since 1900. For the second year in succession a pair has nested in Essex County in Lynn. Previous to this, there were no breeding reports from Essex County for at least 50 years. Two other nests were discovered in the more likely Connecticut R. Valley." Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker continued its steady increase in Maine; nests were found in Cutler and Jonesport and at least 12 other individuals were reported (PDV).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was rare at Eastham, Mass., June 17 (*fide* BN) while a territorial ♂ Acadian Flycatcher was notable at Quabbin Res., Mass. (PY). "The discovery of a nest of Acadian Flycatchers in Scituate follows close on the first modern nesting record in Middleboro in 1977. Both localities lie in s.e. Massachusetts where most singing males have been found. However, this year a singing male was present near the Rhode Island border and at Quabbin Res. Again there seems to be an increase in the range of Acadian Flycatcher, even if it is only temporary." (RAF). But more unusual was a single Acadian at Conway, N.H., June 14 (*fide* VHH). A carefully scrutinized Cliff Swallow on Sable I., was thought to be of the western race, *P.p. hypopolia*, because of its very pale rump and front (ELM). Four Short-billed Marsh Wrens may possibly have been breeders at N. Sandwich, N.H. (*fide* VHH). "The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is now firmly established to the point of being locally common in proper habitat. In e. Massachusetts Blue-gray Gnatcatchers have flourished around beaver ponds. They have also nested on Cape Cod and Nantucket." (RAF). A family of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** in Berwick, Me., June 10 was quite certainly breeding and so constituted a first state breeding record (PA). A single gnatcatcher in n. Maine, at Masardis July 4, was unusually far n. (JSG, *fide* PDV). "The Golden-crowned Kinglet was listed by Forbush as a very rare or local summer resident in e. Massachusetts. In recent decades there has been no indication of breeding until 1977 when nest sites were discovered in spruce plantations that were planted in the 1930s. Perhaps an intensive search of such spruce plantings, particularly around reservoirs, would reveal a more widespread distribution." (RAF). A Loggerhead Shrike was unusual in Hermon, Me., June 12 (PDV) and in Rumford, Me., June 16 (*fide* PAC).

**VIREOS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — In Maine, single Yellow-throated Vireos were notable on E. Egg Rock July 1 and on Matinicus Rock July 14-15 (*fide* SWK). A ♂ **Black-**

**throated Gray Warbler** on territory in Exeter, R I., July 6-29 (DR *et al.*, ph) constituted only a third state record and interestingly did not seem connected to any significant weather systems. "To date not all the Massachusetts Atlas results have been conclusive. In 1977 both Connecticut and Vermont recorded their first nestings of Cerulean Warblers in their respective states. That summer, a singing male Cerulean Warbler was present at Shelburne Falls in the e. Berkshire hills for about 6 weeks but proof of breeding was never confirmed. The occurrence of Yellow-breasted Chat in Massachusetts has always been erratic. In recent years the chat has been restricted solely to the s.e. coastal plain where confirmation is seldom obtained but where a few singing males are present each year. This year a pair with young was found in Milton, a suburb of Boston." (RAF). Finally, a Blue Grosbeak singing at N. Greenwich, Conn., in late June was notable (*fide* TB).

**ADDENDA** — Please note a Varied Thrush at Norway, Me., Apr. 8, 1979 (*fide* PAC) Also note three skua sp., probable *C. skua*, and 19 Pomarine Jaegers observed off Madaket, Nantucket May 23 and a single skua sp., probable *C. skua*, and one ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at the same locality May 25 (SAP).

**CORRIGENDUM** — Note that the kittiwakes observed from L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Sept. 13, 1978 (AB 33:156) numbered 100,000+ not 10,000+.

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A writer called and asked us for a synonym for "flightless." Recourse to several dictionaries and textbooks failed to provide one. So we coined one. You are free to add it to your vocabulary.

#### **Involant**

In vol' ant = flightless. From in: negative, not, without and volant: flying, capable of flight (OED — 1665).

**QUEBEC REGION**  
/Michel Gosselin and  
Normand David

The weather during the 1979 season was average; June was cool with a fair number of hail and thunderstorms, and July was often quite hot.

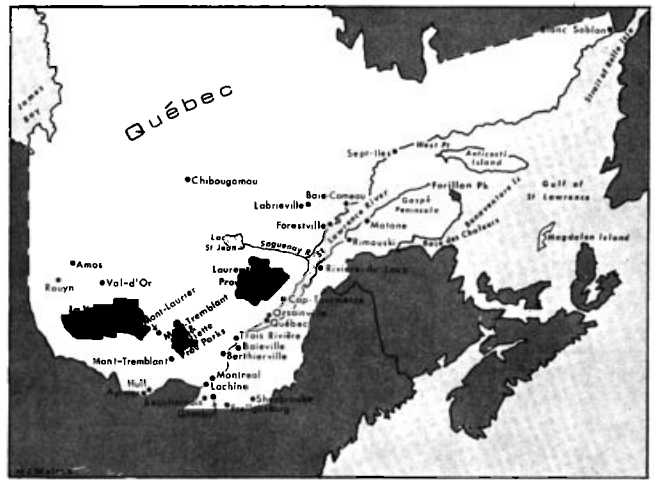
**LOONS THROUGH EIDERS** — A Red-throated Loon at La Baie, on the Saguenay R., June 17 was locally rare (JMe,NB), and at Montbeillard, Abitibi Co., a Red-necked Grebe was found June 22 (PC, MG, JH) in an area where breeding is very likely. A N. Fulmar was seen July 3 from the Matane-Godbout ferry (CK). The best bird of the season was a **White Pelican** found at Grondines June 17 and captured in a weakened condition two days later (*vide* JLD); it is the first preserved specimen for the Region (\*Can. Wildl. Serv., Qué.). A good season for s. herons produced an imm. **Little Blue Heron** at Rimouski June 5-9 (JL), single Cattle Egrets at Ile du Moine June 9 (RB) and Ile aux Cerfeuilis July 7 (PC, ND, MG), a Snowy Egret at Ile aux Fermiers June 2 (PC, MG), and a **Glossy Ibis** at Berthierville June 11 (AB). Last year's **Ruddy Shelducks** (now presumed to be male and female) were back again at Grandes-Bergeronnes June 21 - July 27 (ABO), ~~these birds could not have spent the winter any nearer than the New England coast. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Grandes-Bergeronnes July 10-14 (ABO) provided a first regional summer record as we have had none June 13 - Sept. 27. The Wood Duck has extended its range into the Saguenay R. valley; a female with 4-6 ducklings was seen 25± km n. of St-David de Falardeau July 14-29 (YB). An unusual count of 450 ♂ Com. Eiders was tallied at Montmagny July 3 (RA); they probably belonged to the population which migrates overland to the Atlantic coast (Wilson Bull. 88:333-344).~~

**VULTURES THROUGH JAEGERS** — The Turkey Vulture population of Gatineau P.P. (not yet established to breed) is still increasing; counts of 16 on June 21 (PC *et al.*) and 19 on July 16 (M. Gauthier) were made near Luskville, and a bird was also recorded at Kazabazua June 19 (JMO); elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Rigaud June 15 (*vide* JW) and St-Chrysostôme July 23 (ND). A Broad-winged Hawk at 5052' N., on the Moisie R., July 17 (CK) was noteworthy, as was an ad. Golden Eagle at Aylmer July 20 (LS). Two Am. Coots at St-Gédéon, L. St-Jean, June 26 were quite unusual for a bird known to breed only in the Montréal area; a coot was also recorded July 6 (MP, *vide* MS). Upland Sandpiper was still present at the n. edge of its range, with three seen at Jonquière June 28 (YB, NB), two at Mont-Joli July 7 (ML), and three at Matane-sur-mer June 10 (GG). A very alarmed ad. Greater Yellowlegs was found at L. Menistouc July 5 (CK); conclusive evidence of breeding is difficult to find in the northern bogs frequented by this species. A Marbled Godwit appeared at Ile Evers June 22 (CP), and, for the third consecutive summer, a **Ruff** was seen at Ile du Moine July 1 (RP).

Wilson's Phalarope, one of the recent additions to the list of breeding birds in the Province, was reported in increasing numbers: 25 birds were seen at Ile aux Fermiers June 2 (PC, MG), where two nests were found the following week (*vide* CP), stray birds were also recorded at Rimouski June 2 and Cacouna June 9 (GG). A Pomarine Jaeger at Hudson May 12 (MM, RB) established a first inland spring record and the earliest ever for the Region. A dark Parasitic Jaeger was noted at Aylmer June 14 (IJ, PJ).

**GULLS** — Great Black-backed Gulls now breed on islands in the St. Lawrence R., between Varennes and Contrecoeur; in addition to previously unpublished nesting records from Ile aux Deux-Souches in 1976 (PBI, *vide* JLD) and an unnamed island w. of Verchères in 1977 and 1978 (MBu). Single nests were found this year on Ile aux Ragominaires May 15, and Ile aux Rongeurs May 23 (ND). In this area, summering sub-adult Great Black-backed Gulls outnumber Herring Gulls almost 2:1. The status of the latter has remained unchanged over the years as a few pairs can be found nesting in Ring-billed Gulls colonies. This summer single pairs were found on Ile aux Deux-Souches (MCL) and Ile de la Couvée (ND, PM). These records were obtained in the course of studies of Ring-billed gulleries conducted by the Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montréal and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Preliminary results showed a total of 7000 pairs breeding on islands off Montmagny (*vide* JLD), *cf.* 1000 in 1971. Six gulleries between Contrecoeur and Montréal totalled 25,000± pairs, including 12,000± on Ile de la Couvée, the newly named island off St-Lambert (ND, PM). Since there remains, in that area, a large number of unoccupied suitable breeding sites, Ring-billed Gull populations can still increase tremendously, and it appears that only food would be the limiting factor. Ring-billed also occupy two small islands of the Ottawa R., in Hull; a very conservative estimate of 500 pairs was made at the end of May (MG, ND, PM). Franklin's Gulls appeared in remote areas: an adult at LaBaie June 14-15 (DSG, GS, YG) was a first on the Saguenay R., another (?) at Rimouski July 3-27 (GG, ML) was a third local occurrence. Two different birds frequented the Lasalle-Lachine area June 10 - July 3 (PBa, m.ob.). A Laughing Gull was at Pointe-au-Père June 15 and July 17 (GG), and single Little Gulls were at Aylmer June 5-6 (IJ, m.ob.) and Lasalle July 27 (PBa).

**TERNS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — In Aylmer, 2-3 Arctic Terns were present June 5-12 (BMD, m.ob.). A Caspian Tern was at Ile du Moine June 24 (RB), and up to three birds were observed at Lasalle June 19 - July 1 (DL, PBa, FH, PS); in the Laurentians,



two birds at Lac-des-Iles, Montcalm Co., July 11, were quite unexpected (AM). Three active nests of Razorbills were discovered June 20 on a small island off St-Jean Port Joli (RA), thus the westernmost colony on the St. Lawrence R. On June 28, a Hawk Owl was spotted on Mt. Albert (DH, MJ), in the Gaspé Peninsula, apparently the most accessible area where it can be found in summer. A lingering Great Gray Owl, previously reported in May, was seen again on Ile aux Basques July 14 (PR). Up to four Whip-poor-wills remained until July 13 at St-Ambroise, Dubuc Co., where they are not known to breed (YB). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at 50°44' N., on the Moisie R., July 17 (CK), was far beyond its normal range.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNAT-CATCHERS** — An E. Phoebe June 3 at L. Brochet, Dubuc Co. (YB) was in an area where the species is not known to nest. Willow Flycatchers were found at Franklin June 2 (PBa), Las Cèdres June 10 (RB, MM), and Granby June 21 (JPB). A Carolina Wren at Laval July 29-31 (PD) was the first occurrence since the species has been greatly reduced by the severe winters of 1976 and subsequently. Mockingbirds are well established on the n. shore of the St. Lawrence R., with birds at Bergeronnes June 7 (ABO), St-Joseph de la Rive June 15 (DH), and amazing, Harrington Harbor July 24-25 (KB); two birds had been seen at Baie-Trinité Aug. 2, 1978 (JC). Other mimic records of interest included a Gray Catbird at Val-d'Or July 16 (DSH), and a pair of Brown Thrashers seen carrying food June 12-15 at St-Joseph de la Rive (DH). Two Gray-cheeked Thrushes were found June 19 at 47°53' N., along Malabaie R., Charlevoix Co. (DH); the south-Québec breeding range of this "alpine" species is probably quite different from what is currently believed. The nest of a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was found at Oka June 16 (RB, MM); its issue is unknown.

**VIREOS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Yellow-throated Vireos were found nesting at L. Taylor, Gatineau P.P., June 14 (FBe); a Solitary Vireo at 50°44' N., on the Moisie R., July 17 (CK), was outside the species' main range. Single Warbling Vireos were carefully observed at Metis June 3 (GG) and LaBaie

June 13 (NB,GS) and two were at St Odile, Rimouski Co., June 14 (JRP,JL). Chestnut-sided Warblers were feeding young July 24 at Grandes-Bergeronnes, the n.e. edge of its range (ABO). A singing Cerulean Warbler was found in mature maple woods on the e. slope of Owl Mt. (i.e., the w. side of L. Memphremagog) June 10-14 (FBr,MG,ND), a new locality for this warbler. Another interesting record from the Moisie Valley was provided by a singing ♂ Red-winged Blackbird at L. Opocopa July 8 (CK). Northern Orioles were definitely breeding at St-Joseph de la Rive, as a pair and a nest were found June 15 (DH); it is thus a new limit for the species on the North Shore. In the same general area, a pair of Indigo Buntings was at Bergeronnes June 10 - July 12 (ABO). A ♂ Purple Finch at Pointe-Claire July 16 was found mated with a ♀ House Finch, both birds subsequently left the vicinity, perhaps realizing their mistake

(MM) Four Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Pointe-au-Père July 28 (GG) were at their e. limit on the Lower St. Lawrence R.; a singing bird at St-Paul du Nord, across the river, July 20 (JC,ABO) indicated that this sparrow is probably inhabiting suitable areas on the North Shore, where it is still unknown. Following the rediscovery of Clay-colored Sparrows at St-Colomban June 18 (MM), six individuals, including four singing males, were seen June 30 (PBA); the mating of a pair was observed July 10, and adults were seen carrying food July 23 (ND). Lincoln's Sparrows were found in a bog at Mirabel July 8 (RB,MM); the species is thus a probable resident in the Montréal lowlands. CK determined 51°40'N., as the approximate s. limit of singing White-crowned Sparrows along the Moisie R.

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## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/Keith C. Richards,  
Robert O. Paxton and  
David A. Cutler

The first two-thirds of the nesting season was marked by cool, damp weather. This may have affected the nesting success of insectivorous birds. Various woodland warblers and Purple Martins were down in numbers, left early, or had poor productivity. Some non-migratory birds were down, especially in the southern half of the Region. Two severe winters in succession have taken their toll.

Many species of southern affinity increased, as the spring season predicted. They occupied greater area and more territorial birds were present. Boat-tailed Grackle may have nested in New York and other breeding candidates were there.

The Aerial Survey of Coastal Colonial Birds, sponsored by the Division of Fish, Game & Shellfisheries Endangered and Nongame Species (hereafter, A.C.S.), and funded by a grant from the Office of Coastal Zone Management, was conducted June 4-7 by J. Galli and R. Kane. This survey found that the number of heronries occupied by each species of wader was stable. See *AB* 31:1116 (1977) for approximate colony numbers.

Only two Summer Bird Counts (hereafter, S.B.C.) reached this editor. Over several years, such reports build up quantitative data which are otherwise scarce. While these counts suffer the same interpretive problems as Christmas Bird Counts, they are valuable and future reports would be most welcome.

The gasoline crunch created some problems for birders, especially in June. Some stayed closer to home and discovered to their delight that there were birds there also.

### LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS —

A normal scattering of Com. Loons was reported in June, but there were no hints of nesting. A few observers noted Pied-billed Grebe. The only significant nesting group in New Jersey is at Kearny Marsh (RK). This bird is in trouble there.

Rowlett found no Cory's Shearwaters beyond the 100 fathom line in the s. half of the Region. Inshore of this line, it was the dom-

inant species. He has often seen Cory's beyond 100 fathoms in the past. A squid fishing fleet, 90 mi e. of the mouth of Delaware Bay, was tended by a stable group of 500 Greater Shearwaters in mid-July.

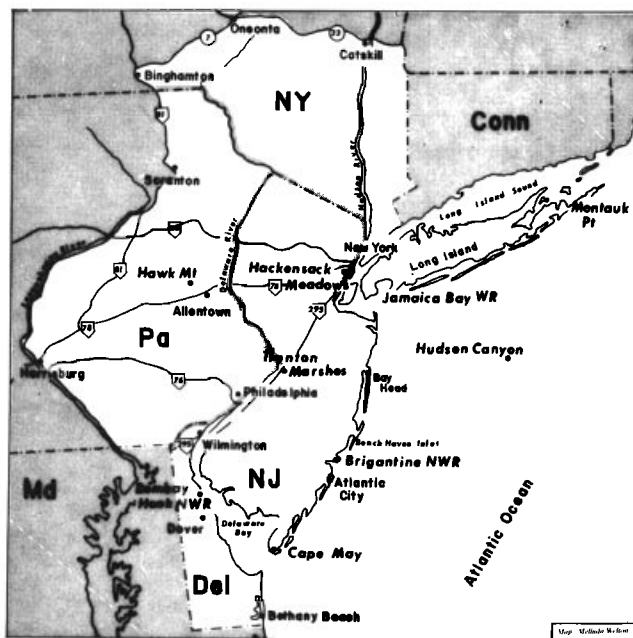
Four reports of Manx Shearwater were received with a maximum of three 50± mi off Atlantic City June 21 (RAR). A single Audubon's Shearwater was at the fishing grounds 6± mi off Asbury Park July 28 (S. Kiutems, *vide* RK). The same observer had only 35 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, low for the fishing grounds. More normal were the 200-400 with the squid fleet off Delaware Bay (RAR).

The surprise bird of the season was a **Harcourt's Storm-Petrel** seen with a flock of eight Leach's 220± mi due e. of Cape Henlopen (RAR), a second record off Delaware [see *AB* 30:39 (1976)]. This bird was a shade darker than the Leach's, exactly the same size and had a bright, white rump band. Details to be published elsewhere.

The number of Double-crested Cormorants summering in the Region continued to increase. There were 500± in the Raritan and Barnegat areas in early July (RK). In Pennsylvania, 35 were on the lower Delaware R., in mid-June (CMR,KCR), while four were at Nockamixon S.P., Bucks Co., Pa., in June (B. Kita). However, cormorants were slow to move into Delaware Bay in the last half of July, possibly owing to a low supply of food fish (J. McNiell).

An imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** was at Three Mile Harbor, June 30 (M. Ash). This observation followed a storm.

WADING BIRDS — Great Blue Heron reports were few. An apparent fledgling at a



new location near Flemington Jct., N.J., July 18 may show a new nesting location (GH).

Cattle Egrets increased in number on the New Jersey coast (A.S.C., JCM). They were down sharply in the King Ranch area of Chester Co., Pa. (JG). Great and Snowy egrets held last year's gains on the New Jersey coast (A.S.C.). Seven pairs of Great Egrets nested in Philadelphia at the Tinicum National Environmental Center (hereafter, T.N.E.C.), a larger number than usual (JCM,JG). A single wandering Great Egret at Wyoming, Luzerne Co., Pa., June 1 was exceptionally early (W. Beebe).

Since it is of less than annual occurrence, a Louisiana Heron at T.N.E.C., July 19+ produced a flurry of activity (JCM *et al.*). A second Louisiana Heron which summered at Camp Hill near Harrisburg, Pa., was even more unusual (CJ). The Bucks County, Pa., heronry comprised 33± pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons (RH). They produced 28 young (AM,JMi). Forty-five pairs at T.N.E.C., and vicinity was about normal (JG). A scattering of Yellow-crowned Night Herons was reported away from the coast, with seven



pairs nesting at the Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, N.Y. (TWB, Alison Beall)

About 50 pairs of Least Bittern nested at Bombay Hook N.W.R. (MG), and 20 pairs at T.N.E.C. (JCM), both above average numbers. Glossy Ibis numbers averaged lower this season. This species traditionally fluctuates, so no firm conclusion can be inferred.

A **White-faced Ibis** at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref. (hereafter, J.B.W.R.) from June 10 - July 31+ was outstanding (THD, G. Tudor, M. Monnier *et al.*, ph. PWP). Details will appear in *The Kingbird*. For a summary of other records see *AB* 31:979 (1977). Only a single observation of White Ibis was reported, that of an immature at Moore's Beach, Cumberland Co., N.J., July 23 (CS).

**WATERFOWL** — Eleven Fulvous Whistling Ducks were at J.B.W.R., June 26 - July 5 and July 19-28 (MH,PWP *et al.*). Apparently, the same 11 birds were at Pearsall's Hammock, Nassau Co., L.I., June 28 (PAB) and at Tobay Pond, L.I., July 16 (R. Laskowski). Three Fulvous Whistling Ducks were at Bombay Hook N.W.R., July 26 (DAC).

Gadwall was one of the commonest nesting ducks on the New Jersey coast (A.S.C.). Rather amazing, since it first nested there in 1949 (Sales, *New Jersey Birds*). A N. Shoveler with five large but downy young near T.N.E.C., July 22 provided one of the few breeding records for the Pennsylvania (KCR). Wood Duck was uniformly reported as either holding its own or up by as much as 100%, with many broods reported.

This year, five broods of Com. Merganser were observed on the Delaware R., in early June between Milford and Dingman's Ferry (P. Verbyla). A brood on the Flatbrook, a Delaware R. tributary in Sussex County, was a New Jersey first (T. Koebel). Five adults were found on a Breeding Bird Survey in Wayne County, Pa. (WR). Reid was startled when one of these birds scolded him from a chimney top. Other lingering birds were reported from the Delaware and Neversink rivers, Orange Co., N.Y. (JPT). Nine ad. Ruddy Ducks, including a female with four ducklings, were at Little Creek Wildlife Area, Del. (hereafter, L.C.W.A.) July 7 (JMA). This provided the first breeding record since 1962 (*vide* D. Niles).

**RAPTORS** — On the perimeter of their range, Black Vultures were at Bull's I., Hunterdon Co., N.J., June 15 (H. Barlow), Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co., June 12 (FM), Bashakill Marsh, N.Y., July 10 (B. Seguin) and four in Salem County, N.J., June 24 (PJD). The s. Lancaster County, Pa., S.B.C., tallied 62 Black Vultures as well as 135 Turkey Vultures (RMS). The previously reported pair of **Mississippi Kites** on Staten I., was last seen June 9 (WNS). A surprise was a single **Mississippi Kite** in Salem County, N.J., June 24 (PJD,CS), continuing the recent rash of sightings in s. New Jersey. Only a few *Accipiters*, mostly Cooper's Hawks, were reported during the season and several observers noted their absence. Goshawks fledged two young at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co., N.Y., (TWB). Red-shouldered Hawks got mixed reviews; down at Wilkes-Barre but "continuing its comeback" in Rockland County, N.Y. (RFD). Two summering Red-shoulders in Chester County were the first reported recently (JG,KCR).

Broad-winged Hawk reports were inconsistent. But groups of immature birds over Staten I. (RZE), in Delaware County, Pa. (KCR) and at Cape May (PJD,CS,PS) in June seemed exceptionally late migrants. Nineteen wandering Bald Eagles were reported. A bird at Cape May June 13 was spotted and first identified at 2.4 mi! (PJD,CS). In Delaware, the two known nesting pairs fledged one bird each (JMA). A survey of Marsh Hawks in s. New Jersey located 22 pairs, mostly along Delaware Bay (PJD). Few birds were noted on the New Jersey coast (A.S.C.). In the Hackensack Meadows of n. New Jersey, Marsh Hawks have dropped from four pairs in 1975 to two pairs this year (RK). Near Phillipsburg, Hunterdon Co., N.J., two females and one male were present in early June, then vanished (GH). One pair nested at the Philadelphia Airport (JCM). The New Jersey Endangered Species Project found 87 Osprey nests, up 20% from 1978. They produced an average of 0.95 young/nest, the highest in some time. This level of productivity matches the theoretical minimum required for a stable population (*vide* JGA). Few observers commented on Am. Kestrels. But the two S.B.C.s had 62 birds, more than all other hawks combined.

**GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Ruffed Grouse had a good year in Rockland County, N.Y. (RFD), n.w. New Jersey (GH) and n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). The only comment on Turkey was one of "doing well" at Wilkes-Barre (WR).

A survey of Clapper Rails at Bombay Hook N.W.R., found 400 birds including young of the year (MG). An imm. Virginia Rail at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, N.Y., July 13 & 29 was unusual for this coastal marsh (TWB). A Black Rail with a downy chick at Turkey Pt., Salem Co., N.J., June 18 was an excellent find (DK).

American Oystercatchers had a phenomenal year in New Jersey with 262 adults found vs 158 in 1976 (A.S.C.). Some pairs had three chicks (RK). In July, nesting was still going strong at Absecon Bay and Stone Harbor, N.J. (JCM). Many of these latter nests were on salt marsh islands rather than on spoil. This trend seems to have started in the 1960s and is catching on. At Longport, N.J., no Piping Plovers could be found June 10. However, dune buggies were noted as having a good year (HT). A single pair of Upland Sandpipers nested at the Philadelphia Airport (JCM). By July 31, 28 birds had assembled there. At the same time, 22 were at Stewart Airport in Orange County, N.Y. (JPT) and 12 at Columbus, Burlington Co., N.J. (RB). Spotted Sandpiper nested at Peace Valley P., Bucks Co., Pa. (RH) and many birds were noted elsewhere.

An exceptional assemblage of >1000 Willets at the Holgate Unit of Brigantine N.W.R., July 22 implied a good year (PWS). This may have led to the most unusual presence of singles at Hackettstown July 28 (GH) and Hackensack Meadows July 23 (RK). Red Knot may have been running late this year. There were still numbers of these birds at Longport June 10 (HT). They had not returned in normal numbers by the end of the period (*vide* THD). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Cape Hook N.W.R., July 19 (JMA). Three White-rumped Sandpipers at L.C.W.A., July 26 was

the maximum noted (JMA). Single Baird's Sandpipers were at Bombay Hook N.W.R., July 19 (JMA) and J.B.W.R., July 31 (D. Reipe *et al.*). A Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage at Brigantine N.W.R., July 22 (JD, PJD *et al.*) and another at Bombay Hook N.W.R., July 22 (P. DuMont *et al.*) were the only ones reported. Three Marbled and 15 Hudsonian godwits at the Line Is., Great South Bay, N.Y., July 28 were the maximum reported. However, four Hudsonians at Brigantine N.W.R. (JD,PJD *et al.*) and one near T.N.E.C. (KCR), both July 22, were also noteworthy. A series of Ruffs was at J.B.W.R., with a maximum of three on July 1. More unusual was an Am. Avocet at the same place June 7-8 (JAs *et al.*). Another avocet was in Barnegat Bay June 7 (RK). At Bombay Hook, the avocet flock built up to 132 birds July 28 (SRL). On July 7, several pairs of Black-necked Stilts were still nesting at L.C.W.A., the traditional Delaware location (JMA).

**GULLS, TERNS** — Great Black-backed Gull continued a slow but steady increase as a nesting bird in New Jersey (A.S.C.). First summering in 1966, this year 130 adults were noted. A second year **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at Oak Beach, L.I., July 1 (A. Lauro). Herring Gulls, like Great Black-backed, continued to increase as a nester in New Jersey. In part, their success results from nesting earlier in the season than other species using the same habitat (RK). Laughing Gulls had a banner year. The larger colonies in New Jersey increased in size, with both more adults present and greater area occupied (A.S.C.). A lack of marsh flooding contributed to this success. Miller banded 1500 juveniles at Stone Harbor and thought nestling losses were minimal this year. On Long Island, about 12-15 pairs summered at J.B.W.R., with several nests and chicks reported (PWP). Last summer's nest on North Line I. failed to fledge young, thus this may be the first successful breeding in New York since the 1880s.

Two Gull-billed Tern nests were at Brigantine N.W.R. (A.S.C.). Young being fed out of the nest July 22 indicated some success (JD). No Gull-billed nests were found in New York this year, but an adult feeding two young was at Freeport, L.I., July 30 (C. Ward). In Delaware, two imm. Gull-billeds at L.C.W.A., July 7 were also encouraging (JMA). Common Terns did very well on Long Island (MG). Following the Common-Roseate Tern pairing in Barnegat Bay this spring, there were a few observations of Roseate at Holgate, N.J., toward the end of the period.

Least Tern numbers were normal in coastal New Jersey (A.S.C.). Half the colonies are on vulnerable spoil sites which could be developed or become grown over with vegetation. That they are being used at all may indicate that larger colonies are saturated (RK). The Holgate colony was washed out July 2 (JL). In Delaware, Least Terns had a fairly good year with 18 young fledged by 15 pairs at Haven Rd., near Indian River Inlet (BF). A very unusual record was of three Least Terns at T.N.E.C., July 12 (BH,FH,JCM).

At least one, possibly more, imm. Sandwich Terns strayed into the area. Single birds were at Cape Henlopen July 14 (CMR,KCR), Holgate July 22-29 (PWS,JKM,JL *et al.*), and South Cape May July 30-31 (PJD *et al.*). At least 150 Black Terns were in c. Delaware in

the last half of July, but no White-winged were reported

The New Jersey Black Skimmer population was stable (A.S.C.). The birds seemed to be scattered. Only two large colonies remain and they have three-fourths of the birds, a very vulnerable condition (RK). Indeed, the colonies at Holgate were washed out in July and produced few if any young (JL). Some skimmers are now nesting in marsh wrack, like the oystercatchers. Can skimmers succeed there? On Long Island, the Cedar Beach population had a bad year. Many 10-day-old chicks died, apparently from lack of food (MG). The Jones Beach skimmers seemed to fare quite well.

#### CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

— As anticipated in the spring season, Yellow-billed Cuckoos generally held last year's high levels and increased in some places. The Black-billed Cuckoo had mixed reviews. There were no summering Black-billed in Rockland County (RFD), but Staten I., had its first nest in years (R. Clermont, RZE). In s.e. Pennsylvania, Yellow-billed outnumbered Black-billed 10:1. Black-billed Cuckoos were present at Camp Hill in July where none are usually found (CJ).

In Sussex County six of 14 Barn Owl boxes contained nests on June 30 (S. Thomas, G. Schultz, K. Mowerson). In Bucks County Barn Owls returned to some historical locations (RH). A Barred Owl at the Y.M.C.A. camp near Downingtown, Pa., was at a new location (BLM), continuing the modest increase of s.e. Pennsylvania records in the last few years. Two birds at Dividing Cr., Salem Co., N.J., June 2 was a good find (DK). A belated report of a Barred Owl with downy young out of the nest near Sandtown, Kent Co., Del., May 11 is valuable because of the scarcity of actual breeding records in Delaware (B. Blust). Two apparent pairs of Short-eared Owls were found along Barnegat Bay, Harvey Cedars June 7 & 10 (RK, JGa) and Beach Haven June 18 and July 15 (W. Shoemaker, JGa). Three were at Tuckahoe, Cape May Co., N.J., July 9 (CS). A pair of Short-eareds presumably nested at the Philadelphia Airport where adults were observed carrying food (JCM).

Chuck-will's-widows at Burlington I., N.J., June 2 & 6 (R. Mercer) and Laverock July 3 (B. & H. Cutler) were quite unusual while a bird at Riverhead July 13 (MH) was a bit farther e. than previous Long Island locales. Eight Whip-poor-wills in s.w. Chester County June 9 was a good number (JG). A Com. Nighthawk nest was found in the Delaware Least ternery (BF). Many observers thought Belted Kingfishers were down; thus the nesting of this species on a man-made island at Peace Valley P., was encouraging (RH).

Pileated Woodpecker nested successfully in upper Bucks County (RH) where it is rare. Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to move N. Two pairs were in the Palisades of Rockland County, N.Y. On the West Chester, Pa., S.B.C., they outnumbered Downies 60:41. At least four pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers nested in the Region. They were at Cape May, Pittstown, Luzerne Co., Pa. (L. Riley), near Wilkes Barre, Pa. (M. Pendleton) and in upper Bucks County (RH). Hairy Woodpecker was more numerous than of late in Rockland County (RFD). Bucks County had its first confirmed Hairy nest in some time (RH).

Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers courting

near Marmora, Cape May Co., N.J., June 3 was an unusual sight (HT) Acadian Flycatcher now seems firmly established in n.w. New Jersey and adjacent New York with 23 territorial males reported. Willow Flycatcher populations have exploded, with some accepting atypical habitat in Orange County, N.Y. A scattering of Alder Flycatchers was reported in the n. end of the Region. On a B.B.S., near Falls, Pa., Alder, Least and Willow flycatchers were allegedly recorded at one stop (WR). Two Least Flycatchers on the West Chester S.B.C., and another at Ridley Cr. S.P. (JGi, FH, BH) were the only s. Region reports. The Least was absent at Princeton, N.J., for the first time in 25 years (RB). It has declined in n. New Jersey over the last 5 years (RK). Is the Least Flycatcher losing out to the Acadian?

#### SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS

— Tree Swallows continued to increase in upland Chester County with 30 noted June 16 (*vide* JG). In Rockland Co., N.Y., 25± pairs had young along Hackensack Cr., July 16 (RFD). Cliff Swallows seem to be starting a comeback. The colony at Bull's I., N.J., contained ten nests (GH, RH). Three new nesting locations in New Jersey had single nests each in Sussex County (F. Tetlow), Warren County (B. Templin) and Essex County (T. Proctor). These are the only known breeding locations in New Jersey. In Pennsylvania Cliff Swallow is holding its own. Rough-winged Swallow was confirmed nesting on the man-made island at Peace Valley P. (RH). Purple Martins suffered a disaster in s.e. Pennsylvania. Brood sizes were down 40-50%. Many eggs were abandoned in late June and young were abandoned in late July. Perhaps the cool summer had some effect on these high aerial feeders (JG). Resident Purple Martins left this area by early August.

Three Com. Ravens at Morrisville, Bucks Co., Pa., were most unusual (R. Bell). Fish Crows have nested at Pittstown since 1962. This year they also nested 30 mi up the Susquehanna at Tunkhannock (WR). Fish Crows also nested along Hackensack Cr., Rockland Co., N.Y., the first county nesting away from the Hudson R. (RFD).

Black-capped Chickadee nested at its s. limit in the Upper Wissahickon of Philadelphia (KR). House Wrens moved back into several suburban areas where they have been absent recently. Three territorial Winter Wrens were near Harrisburg, establishing a first summer record (E. Schultz). Carolina Wrens seemed to be recovering from recent winters in some localities but not in others.

Eleven pairs of E. Bluebirds produced 68 young at Muddy Run Res., Lancaster Co., Pa. (RMS). Two pairs were attempting third broods at the end of the period. In Willistown Twp., Chester Co., Pa., 63 young were fledged as compared to 15 last year (JG). At the Tyler Arboretum, Delaware Co., Pa., 11 pairs fledged 40 young (C. U. Atkinson). In Bucks County only ten of 150 bluebird boxes were occupied (RH). At Pound Ridge, Westchester Co., N.Y., five pairs of bluebirds was normal (TWB).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers had a booming year. In s.e. Pennsylvania, numbers were about double last year's (RMS, KCR). Two new gnatcatcher sites were found in the Palisades June 4 (RFD). Cedar Waxwings seemed almost absent. The only positive note was a

number of birds near Marmora, N.J., June 3 (HT)

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — White-eyed Vireos were missing from most of their usual spots in Rockland County (RFD), but seemed normal elsewhere. On the s. Lancaster S.B.C., 16 Yellow-throated Vireos were found where about six is normal. Two singing Solitary Vireos at Pound Ridge June 24 - July 8 was a surprise (TWB). Twenty Warbling Vireos on the West Chester S.B.C., seemed a large number. Five Warbling Vireos at Catasauqua L., Lehigh Co., Pa., were also above normal (BLM).

Black-and-white Warblers were generally in small numbers. In the n. part of the Region, non-breeding Prothonotary Warblers were reported at two non-traditional locations, in Warren County, N.J., June 1 (GH) and in Rockland County, N.Y., May 30 - June 21 (RFD). Worm-eating Warblers were also present only in small numbers, but 17 on the s. Lancaster S.B.C., June 9 was an outstanding number. A ♀ Lawrence's Warbler in the Upper Wissahickon of Philadelphia June 16 was a good find (KR) as was a Brewster's near Dingman's Ferry, Pike Co., Pa. (C. Wonderly, J. Padalino). Northern Parula was much more common than usual with an explosion in s.e. Pennsylvania, where 17 territorial birds were known rather than the usual one or two. Yellow-rumped Warblers were present at the traditional locations, but no actual nests were reported this year. Cerulean Warblers seem to be expanding. Many observers reported increases of about 25% in singing males. A count of 13 on the s. Lancaster S.B.C., was three times last year's total. Following their spring invasion, Yellow-throated Warblers stayed through the summer. Breeding was confirmed at Ridley Cr. S.P., Delaware Co., Pa., where a juvenile was observed (JGi, BH, FH). Yellow-throateds were noted as far n. as Dutchess County, N.Y. At Tunkhannock, Pa., Pine Warblers nested this year, a first for the Wilkes-Barre area (WR).

Louisiana Waterthrush was greatly down in numbers in Rockland County (RFD), but a count of 23 on the s. Lancaster S.B.C., was a solid number. Kentucky Warblers increased at the edge of its range with birds noted in Sullivan County, N.Y., June 8 (JPT) and Suffolk County June 16 (*vide* G. Raynor). Yellow-breasted Chats were up substantially. Two territorial pairs on Staten I., were the first in years (WNS *et al.*). A pair of chats in Purchase, N.Y., raised only a cowbird (TWB). At Nockamixon S.P., eight pairs of chats showed a return to traditional levels (AM, JM). On the s. Lancaster S.B.C., chats were up 50% in Delaware County, Pa., Hooded Warblers staged a dramatic resurgence with at least nine territorial males where one or two have been typical. Two nests were located at Ridley Cr. S.P., where young were being fed out of the nest June 8 (J. & M. Piatt). These numbers have not been present since the late 1950s. A substantial warbler movement at Wilkes-Barre July 27-28 was two weeks ahead of normal. Twelve species were observed including Mourning Warbler (WR).

**MEADOWLARKS THROUGH SPARROWS** — The E. Meadowlark count on the s

Lancaster S.B.C., dropped to 25, less than half of last year's count. Others reported declines with less documentation. This may be a result of winter kill. Orchard Orioles had an excellent nesting season with several new locations found throughout the area. A group of six birds at Stafford W.M.A., Ocean City, N.J., July 29 was an unusual fall record (PWS, R. Norden). An astounding concentration of 75± N. Orioles was feeding in a peach orchard at Solebury, Bucks Co., Pa., in late July (D. Hartmann). In New Jersey, Boat-tailed Grackle numbers were up at Absecon and Stone Harbor. This species now nests in some numbers at Island Beach S.P. (JM). The Boat-tailed Grackle possibly nested on Long I., this year. Five birds including two apparently immature birds were studied at Pearsall's Hammock June 9 (THD, J. Zarudsky). At least one bird were still there June 28 (PAB).

Two ♂ Summer Tanagers were at Mastic, L.I., from late-May to mid-June (L. Commerford) and another on Staten I., June 2 (WNS). A bird at Moorestown, N.J., remained until at least July 6 (A. Gaymon). In Delaware, a bird at White Clay Cr., July 11 was apparently a wanderer since it was not seen before or after that date (MB).

Most observers reported a Rose-breasted Grosbeak or two this year indicating a small but Regionwide increase. Blue Grosbeaks increased both in numbers and area occupied. In Delaware and s. Pennsylvania, their num-

ber were twice normal with 13 on the s. Lancaster S.B.C., June 9. Birds were found in Berks County, Pa., June 30 (CMR, KCR), c. Bucks County (RH, FM), Westchester County, N.Y., June 6 (RD), Floyd Bennett Field, L.I., June 14 (JAs, PWP) and two on Staten I., July 7 (WNS).

The House Finch seems to be completing its invasion of Lancaster County where singing males were found in two rural locations for the first time (RMS). At Media seven territorial males were in one square block of suburbia, so the invasion there is already complete (KCR). Those who commented on Grasshopper Sparrow said it was down. It was apparently extirpated from Staten I., this year by habitat destruction (RZE). Henslow's Sparrow was present only at Broadkill Beach, Del. (DAC). Vesper Sparrow was generally reported as down, but four on the s. Lancaster S.B.C., June 9 was a first. In the Wilkes-Barre area, even Field Sparrow may become a problem for B.B.S. counts were down by up to 60%. A lone Song Sparrow raised three young at North Wales. When the young became feathered, they were Chipping Sparrows (AM).

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**Thomas W. Burke** (235 Highland Rd., Rye, N.Y. 10580), John Danzenbaker, **Thomas H. Davis** (94-46 85th Rd., Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421), **Robert F. Deed** (50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N.Y. 10960), Peter J. Dunne, Bill Frech, Joan Galli (JGa), Mac Garner Jr., John Ginaven (JGi), Jesse Grantham, **Barbara and Frank Haas** (East Forge Rd., Rt. 36, Media, Pa. 19063), **Greg Hanisek** (RD 3, Box 236, Phillipsburg, N.J. 08865), M. Hemmerick, Raymond Hendrick, Cliff Jones, Richard Kane, Don Kunkle, John LaVia, S. R. Lawrence, Fred Mears, **James K. Meritt** (809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, N.J. 08012), John C. Miller, August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella (JMi), **Bernard L. Morris** (825 N. Muhlberg St., Allentown, Pa. 18104), Peter W. Post, **William Reid** (556 Charles Ave., Kingston, Pa. 18704), Charlotte M. Richards, Richard A. Rowlett, Keith Russell, Robert M. Schutsky, W. and N. Siebenthaler, **P. William Smith** (24 Heyward Hills Dr., Holmdel, N.J. 07733), Clay Sutton, Pat Sutton, Harry Todd, **John P. Tramontano** (Biology Dept., Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, N.Y. 10940), **Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club** (c/o Mrs. Aline Romero, Cedar View Rd., Pleasant Valley, N.Y. 12569), Richard ZainEldeen. — **KEITH C. RICHARDS, 348 Summit Rd., Media, Pa. 19063, ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, 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

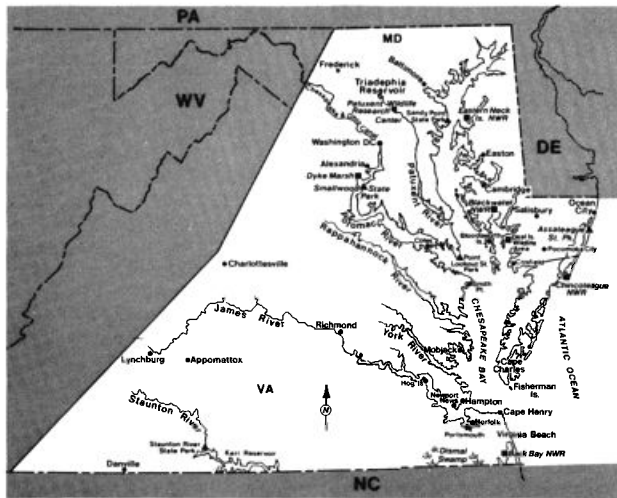
This was a relatively cool and wet season, although because of the uneven distribution of rainfall, the impoundment at Craney Island, Portsmouth, Virginia, dried up between mid-June and mid-July whereas most of the coastal impoundments held adequate water levels all summer. Since there were no major coastal storms or washouts during late May or June, most birds were nested successfully on the first try, and thus by the end of July there was less than the normal breeding activity.

**PELAGICS** — In the past it has been customary to assign an observation of a bird at sea to a particular state or region depending on the latitude where seen. This works fine for birds reasonably close inshore, but as observers wander farther E off the Atlantic Coast, this reasoning becomes less valid. At issue here are observations made 160-240 mi due e. of Maryland and Delaware July 18 by Rowlett, the first time this situation has come up for this Region. Along with small numbers of Cory's and Greater shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels, there were 173 Audubon's Shearwaters, the most common species observed, 54 **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, one **Harcourt's Storm-Petrel**, and one **Black-capped Petrel**. The Harcourt's was at the latitude of Cape Henlopen, Del., and thus clearly belongs to the Hudson-Delaware Region, but the Black-capped Petrel was 180 mi due e. of Ocean City, Md. To confuse regional editors, Rowlett points out that this bird was actually closer to Fire Island, N.Y., and Atlantic City, N.J.!

Closer inshore, mostly in the Baltimore Can-

yon area off Ocean City, there were peak counts of 145 Cory's and three Audubon's shearwaters July 20, 258 Greater and two **Manx Shearwaters** June 17, and 3700 Wilson's Storm-Petrels June 9 (RAR *et al.*). A few Sooties were also present here June 9 & 17. A remarkable experience, again by Rowlett, occurred at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., July 29 when an Audubon's Shearwater buzzed by his face within arm's reach where he was swimming in the surf! Rowlett postulates that the bird was attracted by his sun-tan oil, which formed a noticeable slick. Have pelagic observers been using the wrong chum?

**GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Vaughn found a pair of Pied-billed Grebes with young near Pittsville, Md., June 18, and a **White Pelican** was seen near Girdletree, Md., July 1 (JSW *et al.*) & 8 (JB), possibly the same bird that had been reported in several localities in Virginia since October 1978. Two Brown Pelicans appeared at Parramore I., Va., May 27 (GJH), and at L. Anna, Louisa Co., Va., a single **Brown Pelican** was seen in mid-July and remained into August (EGB, NL, WLP). The latter bird provides only the second record for Virginia's Piedmont. Double-crested Cormorants summered at Hopewell, Va., but they apparently did not nest there as they did in 1978 (CRB, HO & FRS).



**HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS** — Although a few Cattle Egrets visited the site of the successful 1978 heronry at Hopewell, they did not nest there this year and apparently left the area by early June. The only birds utilizing this colony were about 12 pairs of Great Egrets (FRS *et al.*). Probably totally unrelated to this — but still interesting — were two unusual flocks of Cattle Egrets that turned up near Baltimore June 8, 14 at Rocky Pt. P. (EATB) and 12 near Randallstown (JO). During June 23-27 Williams, Akers, and others made a complete survey of the Virginia Eastern Shore barrier islands s. of Wallops I., and recorded the totals of breeding adults seen. The most abundant were Black-crowned Night Heron, 1143; Louisiana Heron, 497; Glossy Ibis, 481, and Snowy Egret, 364. Also found were 105 Yellow-crowned Night Herons and six White Ibis. Four of the latter adults

were on Hog I., June 24, and two on Wreck I., June 27. Unfortunately, actual nesting could not be proved. A Snowy Egret in Loudoun County, Va., July 16 (JBB) established an unusual Piedmont record, and Knight found a Louisiana Heron at Baltimore, Md., on the odd date of June 3. Up to four ad. and one imm. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were present in Loudoun County, Va., June 9 - July 7 (JBB).

If red eyes and a pink face are diagnostic characters of the **White-faced Ibis** (H. D. Pratt, *Birding* 8:1-5, 1976), then the bird that Dave Abbott and Rich Rowlett saw (and photographed) at Chincoteague Ref., July 8 was certainly this species, a first record for this Region and possibly only the fifth record for the East Coast (AB 31:979). Another spectacular appearance was put in by a **Roseate Spoonbill** at Smith I., Md. (Chesapeake Bay). First seen about Apr. 14, it was still present in early August (DB,BG,CM *et al.*) but was difficult to locate in the extensive salt marshes.

**SWANS THROUGH RAILS** — The Mute Swan population at Chincoteague Ref., was up to 58 adults and five large brown young July 28 (JWD & FRS), and 95 were counted at Eastern Neck I., Md., July 31 (JR). A ♀ Pintail with two or more young at Chincoteague Ref., July 10 (JMA) provided only the third breeding record for the state. Of the many summer non-breeding waterfowl records, the most interesting perhaps was one of two Am. Wigeon at Craney I., Va., June 20 (RLA). A Ruddy Shelduck at Chincoteague Ref., July 9-31+ (DLM *et al.*) was unlikely to have been a wild bird.

**Swallow-tailed Kites** showed up twice in Maryland in June; one near Jacksonville June 1 (MR) and the other near Manchester June 24 (HK&PK). These locations, near Baltimore, are 25 mi apart. The Bald Eagle nesting survey yielded results similar to those of last year. Preliminary figures showed that 59 young fledged from 84 active nests, or 0.70 young fledged/active nest (JMA, MAB *et al.*). Four additional young that hatched either died or disappeared before fledging, and an additional three young that were hatched in captivity fledged after being introduced into nests in the wild. There were also about 20 former nest areas where adults were seen but no nests found. Four apparently nonbreeding (or post-breeding) adults were noted near Hopewell June 2 (PM). Hennessey located a ♀ Marsh Hawk at a nest with three young on Cobb I., Va., June 14, the first actual nest found in the state in a number of years. Elsewhere away from known summering areas, single Marsh Hawks were seen at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (hereafter, S.P.S.P.), July 9 (HLW), and Craney I., July 27 (FRS).

Five young Peregrine Falcons were successfully fledged from a hacking station on Cobb I., and one that fledged there in 1978, returned for part of the summer (MAB & DD). Four additional young were in the process of fledging from a hacking station in downtown Washington, D.C., in late July, and others were released on Carroll I., near Baltimore. The real success story came from downtown Baltimore, however, where a ♀ Peregrine originally released at Carroll I., in 1977 was induced to accept a nest box on the thirty-fourth floor of an office building. After unsuccessful attempts to mate her with two different males, she laid three infertile eggs, which were replaced by four downy young

brought from Cornell. The female immediately accepted them, and all four later fledged (*vide* RFR).

An Am. Kestrel at S.P.S.P., July 19 (HLW) was considered to be the first fall migrant there. Single Soras were found at S.P.S.P., June 1 (HLW) and at Elliott I., Md., June 8 (BWK), and two pairs of Black Rails summered at S.P.S.P. (HLW).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Late spring transients at S.P.S.P., included 50 Ruddy Turnstones June 1 (MLH), a Whimbrel June 5 (MLH), and 135 Sanderlings June 4 (HLW), and an **American Oystercatcher** June 1 (MLH) was extremely unusual this far up Chesapeake Bay. In their survey of breeding birds on Virginia's barrier islands s. of Wallops I., June 23-27 Williams *et al.* totaled 1239 Am. Oystercatchers, 121 Piping Plovers, and 51 Wilson's Plovers. Since the latter two species are not often found away from the barrier islands, these numbers should give a reasonable approximation of the total summer population here. A late nest with eggs of the Piping Plover was found on Cedar I., Va., June 25 and one of the Wilson's Plover on Metomkin I., Va., the same day (BW). Two Willets on Poplar I., Md., June 10 (JR) were unusual so far up Chesapeake Bay, and a **Curlew Sandpiper** in breeding plumage was found on Metomkin I., July 30 (JSW). Twelve Stilt Sandpipers at Chincoteague Ref., July 8 (DFA) were extremely early as was a W. Sandpiper far inland at Alexandria, Va., July 3 (DFA), and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Chincoteague Ref., July 29 (RAR) beat the previous state fall arrival date by one day. A number of Marbled Godwits were found on the Virginia barrier islands June 25-27 with a peak of 16 on Smith and Ship Shoal Is., June 27 (BW *et al.*). It is not known if these were summering birds or early "fall" arrivals, but there are numerous previous late June records for the state and relatively few late spring ones. The first Hudsonian Godwits were six on n. Assateague I., Md., July 22 (RAR), and a breeding-plumaged ♂ Ruff was photographed at Chincoteague Ref., July 7-10 (RAR,DFA, JMA *et al.*). Up to 45 Am. Avocets were present at Craney I., in June, but as the water dried up, they virtually disappeared in late July (TRW). The only Black-necked Stilt reported was one at Craney I., June 2 (ESB *et al.*). Summer records of phalaropes continued to defy easy explanation as they have for the past few years. A Wilson's Phalarope at S.P.S.P., July 19 (HLW) and one on Assateague I., Md., July 22 (RAR) were considered very early; in fact, the first was a record fall arrival for Maryland. Yet one was seen at Craney I., June 13 (RLA) and two at Chincoteague Ref., July 8 (RAR & DFA). Three N. Phalaropes at Craney I., June 2 (ESB *et al.*) were certainly late spring transients, but one was also seen here June 19-20 (RLA & TRW).

**SKUAS THROUGH TERNs** — Rowlett found two **South Polar Skuas**, one about 75 mi e.s.e. of Chincoteague July 10 and a different bird photographed 42 mi s.e. of Ocean City July 20. Williams and others could find only 13 apparently breeding ad. Great Black-backed Gulls and 1429 ad. Herringons on the Virginia barrier islands June 23-27, but they found 27,000 ad. Laughing Gulls including 15,750 adults in one colony on Wreck I. A near ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen at

S.P.S.P., July 29, and the first juvenal Ring-billed Gull arrived there July 19 (HLW). A second-year **Franklin's Gull** arrived at S.P.S.P., June 1, and a different sub-adult appeared June 11; presumably the same bird was seen off and on to July 29 (HLW).

Williams *et al.* totaled only 569 ad. Gull-billed Terns on the Virginia barrier islands June 23-27, well down from the recent peak of 2228 in 1975 and 955 in 1978. Future trends in this nesting population will be carefully watched. Common Tern counts here were also sharply lower, with only 2712 adults counted vs. 8496 in 1977 and 3605 in 1978. The only Roseate Tern report was of one bird in a Common-Least colony at Chincoteague Ref., June 28 (RAR). Nearly 4000 pairs of Royal Terns nested successfully on coastal Virginia in three colonies (BW,BA,JSW *et al.*), but a minor nesting attempt in Sinepuxent Bay, Md., failed (JSW). At least 12 pairs of Sandwich Terns nested with the Royals (JSW) Two ad. Caspian Terns were seen on Metomkin I., June 25 (BW), and a juvenal was banded here July 30 (JSW). Other reports of summering Caspians were fewer than in recent years. Williams *et al.* counted only 409 ad. Least Terns on the barrier island survey vs. a recent peak of 1013 in 1977, but their nesting success seemed rather good in Chesapeake Bay as far n. as Baltimore (FRF,RLA, JR *et al.*), although the nesting at S.P.S.P., was destroyed by human interference (HLW). Two unusual inland records were of six ad. Com. Terns on the Piedmont section of the Potomac R., near Seneca, Md., July 21 (JBB) and a Least Tern at Alexandria July 11 (DFA), the third straight year for this latter occurrence.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WRENS** — Yellow-billed Cuckoos remained very common all summer, but Belted Kingfishers were still reported in poor numbers. Reese, in fact, found none at all in Talbot County, Md., during the period. At Clifton, Va., the Eikes noted a strange woodpecker July 13-18. It had the size and bill of a Hairy and body plumage that could have been that, but the head had a dull red crown from base of bill to back of head and what seemed to be a gray median stripe. There was no red on the nape. In s.e. Virginia five active Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest sites were located, four in Sussex County and one in the city of Virginia Beach (MAB *et al.*). All five were successful and produced a total of nine young. Evidence of activity was found at three additional sites, but no other nests were found. A **Western Kingbird** near Seneca, Md., July 1 (DC & RAP) was unique for this Region in early summer. Two pairs of Willow Flycatchers nested near Alexandria; they had the *fitz-bew* call but no eye ring (JMA). Alder Flycatchers were found in two areas near Baltimore (PJK & JLS), a good distance from any known nesting areas. A pair of Tree Swallows were feeding young in a fresh *Cliff Swallow nest* near Big Island, Va., June 12 (FRS), an interesting takeover situation not reported here previously. The Cliff Swallow colony previously reported near Hopewell contained only 12 occupied nests June 23 (FRS & HO), and a new colony far from any previously known was located at L. Anna where 35 nests (many inactive at this date) were discovered July 10 (BWK). Bank Swallows were still apparently migrating N at S.P.S.P., June 4 when 42 were counted (HLW). A Brown

Creeper was still singing at Bellevue, Md., as late as June 23 (HTA), and a singing Winter Wren was at Baltimore June 9 (RFR).

**THRUSHES THROUGH SPARROWS** — A Swainson's Thrush was found near Baltimore in July (EATB), and a singing Veery was present in Arlington, Va., June 20 - July 10 (RJW). Veeries have not heretofore been reported on Virginia's Piedmont in summer, although a nesting population has been present for many years in nearby Washington, D.C. Mitchell banded 70 young E. Bluebirds in Newport News, Va., in June and July, and a Loggerhead Shrike at Towson, Md., July 5-6 (CG) was the first local summer record in a long time. Prothonotary Warblers were found breeding along the Gunpowder R., Md., as far n. as Loch Raven (*vide* RFR), and a Worm-eating Warbler at Newport News July 6 (EB) was unusual for s.e. Virginia. Wierenga watched an ad. ♂ *Magnolia Warbler* at a bird

bath at Annapolis June 29. The first fall Bobo links appeared at Carroll I., Md., July 15 (JLS), and July 18 they also appeared at S.P.S.P. (HLW), Ocean City (CRV), and along the Choptank R., Md. (JR). Orchard Oriole populations were exceptionally high during the period in the c. Delmarva Peninsula (SHD & JR). A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak feeding young near Jacksonville, Md., June 23 (JLS) and a recently fledged young near Sparks, Md., in July (HK) were the first breeding records of this species near Baltimore. Two pairs of Dickcissels were located at Lynchburg June 2-3, and one pair was feeding young in mid-July (JHD & TD). An ad. Savannah Sparrow was feeding young at Eastern Neck I., Md., July 5 (JR), and two Sharp-tailed and two Seaside sparrows — all singing — at S.P.S.P., June 4 were apparently late transients, as they did not remain in the area (HLW). Single White-throated Sparrows were seen near Great Falls, Va., June 11 and near Seven Corners, Va., July 16 (JBB). Summer reports of

this species apparently nonbreeding vagrants, have been increasing recently.

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## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

Weatherwise, it was one of the most unusual summers in recent memory. Throughout June and well into July, temperatures were unseasonably cool, as cloudy skies and frequent showers prevailed. By mid-July typical summertime weather was in order. The wet summer left many of the reservoirs uncharacteristically full all period. No major storms occurred in the Region this summer; and thus, colonial waterbirds fared well. Despite the cool and wet conditions, most observers noted that nesting success of landbirds in their areas was good to excellent. (The breeding season is so long in the Southeast that landbirds have ample time to successfully fledge offspring, even if a first attempt is unsuccessful; thus, a poor nesting season is quite rare.) It was very clear that few birders did much exploring for significant breeding records, and few such records appear in this report. Almost everyone else either got out afield infrequently, or birded regularly only at their favorite hot spots (mainly lakes and mudflats). "Hot spot birding" is fine and dandy in fall, winter, and spring, but it tends to be rather dull and unproductive in summer, especially in June. A major exception was the exciting finds in the lakebed of the Jordan Reservoir in central North Carolina by a corps of active Chapel Hill birders.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — A few Com. Loons were sighted along the coast during the summer, as is normal, however, one at L. Pinehurst near Pinehurst, N.C., June 6-12 (PJ), and two on L. Lanier, Ga., June 21 (FM) were rather unusual. Two Red-throated Loons were rare June 15 on Roanoke Sound, N.C. (DM), and Pied-billed Grebes again nested at the new Jordan Reservoir (hereafter, Jordan Res.), in n.e. Chatham Co., N.C. (BW,MW). The "reservoir" is really not yet a lake — it is a hodgepodge of cleared land, ponds, creeks, marshes, and fields — all of which are expected to be flooded when the dam begins backing up water this fall.

Four pelagic trips were made off North Carolina between mid-June and late July, the "summer doldrums" for pelagic birding off our Region's coastline. Cory's, Greater, and Audubon's shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found on all trips, but the only rarity was Leach's Storm-Petrel — four or five rather late off Oregon Inlet June 13 (DL). Lee also noted that *tens of thousands* of Cory's were seen by boat captains in early July between Oregon Inlet and Cape Hatteras. Parnell reported that the recently formed nesting colony of Brown Pelicans in the lower Cape Fear R., N.C., continues to grow in size. Double-crested Cormorants are rarely seen inland in summer; thus, noteworthy were North Carolina reports from Jordan Res. (BL), Raleigh (MT), and Fayetteville (PJC), and also at Dublin, Ga. (TKP), during the period. Two ♂ Anhingas at Walker's Mill Pond near Newport, N.C., Apr. 15, and a female there Apr. 28 (JF), were believed to be breeding; this locality is at the n.e. extremity of the nesting range. Rare, although not unexpected, was a Magnificent Frigatebird at Atlantic Beach, N.C., in early July (TN).

**WADERS** — Jordan Res., was a haven for waders this summer, and birders from nearby Chapel Hill saw many more of these birds than they had ever seen in the Chapel Hill area. The Little Blue Heron peak was 60 July 20-22 (BL), but Great Egrets captured the birders' attention, as several counts of 100-200 were noted in July and early August. Huge Cattle Egret breeding colonies were discovered near Bamberg, S.C., with 3000+ nests (JCe), and in Laurens County, Ga., with 4500 nests (TKP). It is surprising that this species is such a locally abundant breeder in the interior of the Coastal Plain in Georgia and South Carolina, yet in North Carolina there are no known active colonies away from tidewater



areas. As usual, a few Snowy Egrets and Louisiana Herons dispersed inland, although the peak for each was only three, except for 15 Snowies at Augusta, Ga., July 28 (CB).

A pair of Louisianas again bred at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., and fledged two young (BO). Black-crowned Night Herons are seldom seen inland in summer away from breeding colonies, therefore of interest was an immature at Pee Dee N.W.R., N.C., July 2 (DM), and individuals near Fayetteville May 29, July 19 & 31 (PJC). Immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were noted at Jordan Res., and Winston-Salem, N.C., and near Lugoff, S.C. An Am. Bittern heard calling at Buxton, N.C., June 3 (JP,RS,LJ) was presumably on territory, but individuals at Raleigh May 30 (JM), Eufaula July 8 (DC), and Jordan Res., July 11 (BL) were probably migrants. A Wood Stork near Beaufort, N.C., Aug. 5 was n. of its normal range (AP,JPr,DH), and a Glossy Ibis was rare inland near Fayetteville July 6 (PJC). What happened to the inland dispersal of White Ibises? In the summer of 1977, the species turned up practically everywhere in the Piedmont; yet despite reports of excellent breeding success along the coast, only several were noted in the Piedmont during the period. Two Am. Flamingos were seen near Drum Inlet, N.C., June -July 6 (CD,SP).



**WATERFOWL — A Fulvous Whistling Duck** seen at Buxton June 15 (TW,SS) was out of season; most recent North Carolina sightings have been in late fall. At least 25 Mallards were noted at two locations near Southern Pines, N.C., during the summer (JC), as well as at Jordan Res. (BL,BR). These may well represent feral birds. Black Ducks breed in moderate numbers in the tidewater section of n.e. North Carolina, a situation that makes it difficult to determine whether birds this summer at Fayetteville and Jordan Res., were wild or feral. At any rate, an ad. Black with 12 ducklings at Jordan Res., July 9 (BR) was an unusual occurrence. Very rare for the season was a ♂ Redhead near Ft. Macon S.P., N.C., from spring through July 11 (JF). A first-year ♂ **Common Eider** at Long Beach, N.C., June 11 (DM) was surprising; the bird appeared sick.

**KITES THROUGH GALLINULES** — North Carolina came one step closer to its first positive breeding record of the Mississippi Kite when Lynch saw an immature in e. Halifax County July 4, at the location where the species has been seen the past four years. On June 2, Lynch had 29 adults there, a record state total. There can be no question that nesting is occurring here, the n.e. most site in the country. Coastal Plain Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported from Rocky Mount, N.C., June 12 (LF), and near Huger, S.C., June 13 (DW). Another hawk rare on the Coastal Plain, the Broad-winged, was noted at the Santee N.W.R., S.C., June 24 (DM), near Tatum, S.C., June 10 (JC), and near Laurinburg, N.C., July 21 (JC). Marsh Hawks breed sparingly in coastal North Carolina, but recent sightings have been sparse. Gratifying were reports from Cedar I. (pair June 2 — JP *et al.*, pair June 12 — DM, and four+ July 9 — JF); Ocracoke (pair June 3 — JP *et al.*, and a sub-ad. male June 13 — DM); and Stumpy Pt. (ad. male June 15 — DM). Inland Ospreys were rare near Fayetteville June 27 (PIC) and Chapel Hill July 8 (JOP,ET). In addition to the usual several reports of Am. Kestrels from rural areas, a report of an adult and an immature on a building in downtown Raleigh July 29 (JCo) was received. The date, however, does not rule out early migrant individuals, as fall birds appear in this Region by mid-July.

Four King Rails near Raleigh May 5 (m.ob.) and at least one there May 26 (AB,KH) indicate breeding. Lewis heard a **Black Rail** at a marsh in the Jordan Res. lakebed July 11 providing a first record for the Chapel Hill area, and he and three other birders managed to flush the bird the next day. The rail apparently was a non-breeder, as it was not heard before or after these dates, despite intensive birding in the lakebed. Purple Gallinules bred at a mill pond near Boykin, S.C., where five young were seen with an ad. pair during the summer (PP,ED *et al.*). Two Am. Coots at L. Surf, near Vass, N.C., were very early July 25 (JC), as was one near Duluth, Ga., July 26 (JPe).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Three pairs of Piping Plovers were seen at Ocracoke I., N.C., June 13, two pairs at the w. end of the island and the other at the e. end (DM). Also of interest, two adults were seen with chicks at nearby Cape Hatteras point July 11 (DMe). Ocracoke also had a Long-billed Curlew July 27 (JP), and two curlews were at Bird Shoal near Beau-

fort, N C, July 18 (JF,DCa), where the species has been seen frequently for a half-dozen years. An excellent inland fall count of Upland Sandpipers was 13 at Shaw A.F.B., near Sumter, S.C., July 29 (DM); most Uplands at this season occur along the coast. Always exciting inland, one to two Willets were noted at Jordan Res., July 18-24 (BW, MW,BL *et al.*). Also there were two species seldom seen inland in June — a Greater Yellowlegs on the 16th (JOP,ET) and three Pectoral Sandpipers on the 30th (JOP,ET). One to three Short-billed Dowitchers at L. Surf July 24-26 (JC) were the first for the North Carolina Sandhills. Reasonably good inland counts of Short-billed were six at Winston-Salem July 12 (BaP,RSn) and five at Jordan Res., July 21 (BL). A Long-billed Dowitcher near Beaufort, N.C., was early July 21 (BP), and a Stilt Sandpiper was a good find at Jordan Res., July 14 (BL). Another Stilt Sandpiper, at Ocracoke I., June 13 (DM) must have been one of the very few Regional records for that month. Late Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen at Jordan Res., June 2 (BL) and Dublin June 8-9 (TKP); and notable W. Sandpipers were a first North Carolina Sandhills individual at L. Surf July 25 (JC), and three early birds at Eufaula July 10 (BO,DC). Another rare shorebird at L. Surf was a Sanderling in breeding plumage July 24-26 (JC). Two pairs of Black-necked Stilts were at North R. marsh near Beaufort in June, and breeding was implied when 12 birds were seen there July 17 (JF). Fussell also had a ♀ N. Phalarope at a spoil pond near Ft. Macon June 2.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — The only jaeger reported was a Pomarine seen off Oregon Inlet June 13 (DL). Parnell noted that a pair of Herring Gulls again nested this summer on the lower Cape Fear R., the farthest s. it breeds on the Atlantic Coast. Other noteworthy gull sightings were a Laughing at Eufaula July 10 (BO,DC), and a Bonaparte's near Ft. Macon from the spring through July 5 (JF). Terns are rarely seen inland in summer, thus both a Forster's and a Com. Tern at L. Marion, S.C., July 28 (DM) were of interest, as was a Common at L. Surf, July 26 (BLa). Accidentally omitted from the spring report was a report of several Roseate Terns seen May 12 at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C. (JH *et al.*). Counts of three to five Bridled Terns off Oregon Inlet June 13, and ten there July 11 (DL) were about normal for mid-summer; the large counts of Bridleds (over 25) have generally been from mid-August to early September. No Sooty Terns were reported breeding this year, but there were three sightings: one at Morgan I., N.C. (last summer's nest site), June 29 (HH); two offshore from Morehead City, N.C., July 20 (BP); and one at Bull's I., S.C., July 22 (MR,SF).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A Black-billed Cuckoo seen July 4 in Winston-Salem (KH) was a very rare summer record for the Piedmont. Several times per year we receive reports of Ringed Turtle Doves and Monk Parakeets from scattered localities. However, until evidence that an established population has existed for ten or more years is received, it seems best not to publish these records. Lewis heard several Chuck-will's-widows in early June at Carrboro, N.C., rare breeding season records for the Chapel Hill

area. Most remarkable was a Whip-poor-will heard at Harker's I., N.C., June 6 (SP). The species occurs in summer in the n. and w. sections of the state's Coastal Plain, but coastal nesting is unknown. Probably the rarest bird of the season was a **Western Kingbird** seen on a telephone wire at Ocracoke June 13 (SS, TW); this species is casual in the Region in spring and summer. Significant was an ad E. Phoebe seen on a nest at Elizabethtown, N.C., May 22, by McNair, perhaps a range extension E in the Coastal Plain.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — The Bank Swallow colony first found in 1977 at Roaring R., N.C., was considerably larger than during the previous summers, with 100 birds estimated present (RSn). A Cliff Swallow seen in June at an arm of Clark Hill Res., S.C., might well have been a breeder (ETA); if so, it would represent a range extension SE approximately 50 mi. At least three Fish Crows spent the spring and summer at Clemson, S.C., but apparently did not nest (HL). Breeding in this area might well occur there in the next few years. A nesting pair of Am. Robins at Black-shear June 28 (WBO) was rare for s.e. Georgia, and the species continues to spread E in Carteret County, N.C., along the coast (JF). Completely out of season was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Winston-Salem June 19 (CF), another was just as bizarre at Table Rock, S.P., S.C., June 2 (HL). Needless to say, the kinglets were non-breeders, as perhaps were two Cedar Waxwings near Raleigh June 24 (JCo).

**WARBLERS** — Several species of warblers breed sparingly in the North Carolina Coastal Plain e. to n.w. Carteret County. Thus, possible range extensions were indicated when Palmer-Ball observed three Black-and-whites, a Swainson's, a Worm-eating, two Kentuckys, and five Am. Redstarts at North River community in c. Carteret Co., July 16. Another noteworthy Swainson's was an individual heard singing in s. Franklin County, N.C., June 3 (EP), in the e. Piedmont. Also rare in the Piedmont in summer was a Worm-eating Warbler seen July 4 in Winston-Salem (KH). Black-throated Green Warbler breeding populations in the Coastal Plain are quite local, therefore, of interest was a belated report of six or seven singing birds in Atlantic white cedars in the Green Swamp of n. Brunswick County, N.C., April 1978 (ML). Apparently the species is one of the most numerous breeders in white cedar stands, as good populations of both occur in the Dismal Swamp along the North Carolina-Virginia border. Further field work in white cedar stands in the Region is definitely needed, as little data have been published on the breeding birds of this forest type. Four singing ♂ Am. Redstarts along a one-mile stretch of the Cape Fear R., at Elizabethtown, N.C., May 22 (DM) were probably nesting birds. The locality lies near the s. edge of its breeding range. A first-year ♂ redstart at Pawleys I., S.C., June 5 (JCe) was outside the nesting range and was most likely a late migrant.

**ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS** — A ♂ N. Oriole seen regularly in a Sumter, S.C., yard until July 8 was remarkable (*vide* ED). Perhaps it was a feeder bird that enjoyed its stay in the South so much that it didn't want



to migrate N to breed! A Scarlet Tanager singing at Evelyn Dabbs' home in Mayesville, S.C., most of June might have been attempting to breed; this locality is somewhat s.e. of the breeding range. Far to the s.e. and presumably a non-breeder was another Scarlet Tanager seen June 26 at Edisto I., S.C. (WCW). McNair found five to six pairs of Painted Buntings this summer along the Broad R., just n.w. of Columbia, S.C. The species breeds s.e. of the city, but these individuals may represent a new nesting locale. As usual, the only summer report of Dickcissels came from the Clemson area, where a pair was seen in June near Pendleton and a juvenile was found with the adults July 4 (HL). Northwestern South Carolina can't be the only place in the Region where Dickcissels breed.

Not unexpectedly, House Finches were found nesting in South Carolina this summer. One to two young were seen in June with parents in a Greenville yard, and two ad. males

were seen June 6 (WG) Breeding was again reported from Winston-Salem, Raleigh, and Atlanta, with the greatest numbers in the first city — several colonies, including one of approximately 40 birds (*vide* RSn). Because so few birders live in the interior Coastal Plain, the s.e. edge of the breeding range of many species is poorly delineated. The Am. Goldfinch is such a species; many records during the summer around Fayetteville (PJC) indicate that the edge of the range lies somewhere to the s.e. An important discovery was that of a colony of Grasshopper Sparrows (five or six singing birds) at Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter July 29 (DM). Few breeding sites of this species have been reported from the Coastal Plain of this Region.

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## FLORIDA REGION

/John C. Ogden

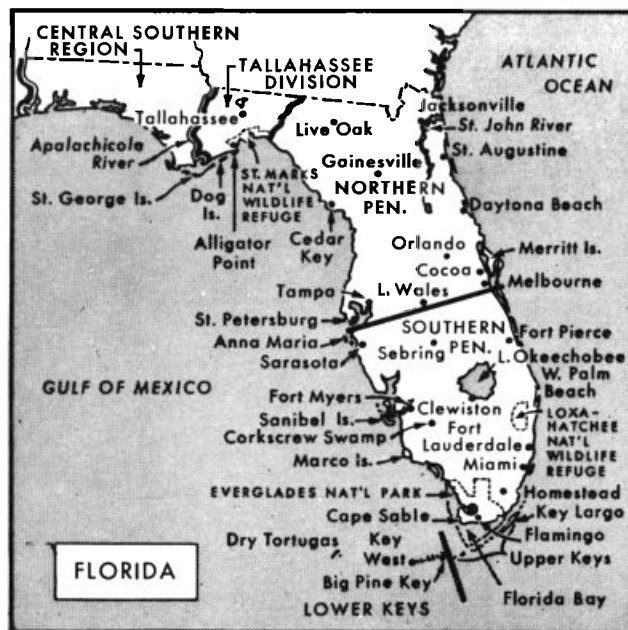
Writing an introduction for a seasonal report that includes only two midsummer months becomes increasingly difficult each year, unless I give up trying to say something new and stick to you've-heard-them-before statements about the 1) wetter than usual, or 2) drier than usual summer. For the record, the summer of 1979 was not strongly in either camp, although water levels in many ponds and marshes were low because of prolonged dry spells during the spring and early summer. More about the weather is in the wading bird section.

But to get back to my original topic. The problem in Florida is that June and July is not the nesting season, but only the end of the nesting season. Spoonbills lay in November, eagles and Ospreys as early as December, many wading birds begin nesting between December and March, Red-shouldered Hawks and Swallow-tailed Kites during March, and great numbers of shorebirds, terns, gulls, and resident land birds by April. I do not wish to suggest that the dates for the four seasonal issues be rearranged, because June and July are obviously the nesting season in more temperate latitudes. But since this is my parting seasonal report (I'm going to California for awhile) and my final chance to deal with this topic, I suggest that the four seasonal editors in Florida consider a reshuffle of our important bird records. I have already taken the liberty of putting nesting records from other months besides June and July into the "nesting season" issue when I can get them and when they're not previously used in the winter or spring reports prepared by Harry Stevenson and Herb Kale. A really in-depth analysis of the breeding season is difficult, however, because I do not have all of the nesting records and because up to half of my space-limited report is filled with accounts of late spring and early fall transients. Is it possible in Florida that we prepare the four seasonal reports on the present schedule, but divide the bird reports so that the spring season deals exclu-

sively with spring migration, the summer season only with nesting records, the fall report with south-bound transients, and the winter report with wintering populations? Late spring transients in June could still be in the spring seasonal report, nesting records from any month would go into the summer report, and the waves of shorebirds, swallows, and warblers moving south through the peninsula in July would become part of the fall season report.

### WATERBIRDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

— In a state once famous for its vast natural wetlands, it is considerably revealing of the changes that water management and drainage schemes have caused, that the most important concentrations of feeding or nesting waterbirds in freshwater habitats now seem to be more often associated with man-made impoundments than with natural sites. I described in 1976 (*AB* 30:946) how Polk County had become the Cattle Egret capitol of the U.S.A., because more pairs nested in that country than in any other. The reason is that the large number of abandoned phosphate mine pits, now filled with willow thickets and standing water, have become better nesting habitat than the drained swamps and marshes in that region. The same is true over much of the state. Only ten percent of the state's Wood Storks nested in artificial water impoundments in 1960, but by 1976, an amazing 59 per cent nested at these artificial sites. In 1979, the two largest concentrations of waterbirds in the state's interior were also in water impoundments. The Occidental phosphate mines in Hamilton County,



first utilized by nesting birds in 1977, were again major waterbird nesting areas (DSM). An estimated 1500-2000 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nested there along with numbers of White Ibises, Cattle Egrets, and several species of herons. The total number of long-legged waders was less this year than in 1977, owing to a problem common to many water impoundment colonies. That is, most species of trees that are permanently flooded eventually die, rot and lose the lateral branches needed for nest supports. This process usually takes two-to-four years from the time impoundments are created and severely limits the life of most impoundment colonies. At many of these sites where water is not too deep, willows eventually become established, providing more stable nesting substrate. Fewer species of wading birds appear to prefer to nest in willow thickets, however, than in the taller woody growth originally in the impoundments.

Highlights in 1979 at the Occidental site were a pair of Blue-winged Teal with brood of

young and a pair of Ruddy Ducks with young, both rare breeders in Florida, the nesting by 12 or more pairs of Black-necked Stilts (see spring report) and a high count of 200 pairs of nesting Least Terns, the latter quite unusual so far inland (DSM).

The other major concentration of waterbirds was at the impounded agricultural fields on the Duda Ranch s. of Belle Glade, where again this year thousands of feeding birds were attracted to exposed, muddy shorelines and concentrated food as water fell during late summer (PWS *et al.*). High counts were 1218 Glossy Ibis, 1558 Fulvous Whistling Ducks (including eight broods of 77 young), 1762 Mottled Ducks, 697 Com. Gallinules (five broods of 42 young), and 1537 Black-necked Stilts (three broods of 11), all July 15, 100 Yellow-crowned Night Herons July 22, and 364 Wood Storks, 8725 Lesser Yellowlegs, 91 Stilt Sandpipers, and eight Wilson's Phalaropes July 29. Of special interest was one albino Killdeer July 15, and two ♀ Ruffs, July 22 & 29 (PWS *et al.*).

**SOUTHERN BREEDING RANGE EXTENSIONS** — Of major interest during the nesting season is the documentation of range changes, especially for certain species that appear to be making truly significant shifts in nesting range. The number of species of land birds nesting in Florida becomes progressively smaller from n. to s., thus many species reach the limit of their nesting range somewhere along the peninsula. Several species have extended their nesting range farther S during the past decade or longer, more than have restricted their range during the same period. Since the late 1960s the expanding species often mentioned in *American Birds* have been Mississippi Kites, Barn Swallows, Gray Catbirds, Am. Robins, Starlings, Yellow-breasted Chats, Orchard Orioles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo and Painted buntings.

This year many of the familiar names are again in the news. Barn Swallows again nested at the Carrabelle Bridge, Franklin Co. (GEM & HMS), at Crescent Beach, St. Johns Co., and at Paynes Prairie, Alachua Co. (CHC). New Barn Swallow nesting colonies on State Rd. 24 into Cedar Key (WP&KP) and State Rd. 40 into Yanketown, Levy Co. (BSO, HMS, HWK), extend the known breeding range S along the Gulf Coast. Gray Catbirds again bred in Tallahassee (GEM), while single birds were detected far s. of the nesting range near Sebring June 7 (HMS), and L. Worth, Palm Beach Co., a bird in song July 1-11 (GSH). The breeding range of the Am. Robin was extended considerably with the confirmation of nesting in Tampa, where a few have been seen during several recent summers. A pair of robins feeding spot-breasted young was seen repeatedly on a lawn in Tampa during late June (ERM). Up to 15 robins were in Tallahassee, an indication that the number nesting there is increasing (GEM). One of the more consistently mentioned expansion species is the Brown-headed Cowbird. Cowbirds pushed farther S in 1979, with adults present through the summer in Gainesville (JHH), and at Cedar Key (WP); at the latter location a pair was observed copulating. After rapidly extending its nesting range S to c. Florida during the 1960s, the Blue Grosbeak has not been much reported in recent summers. One was singing

near L Hancock, Polk Co., June 6 (JBE & HMS) at about the s edge of where the grosbeak's expansion seemed to have halted.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Unusual anywhere in Florida in summer, especially inland, was one Com. Loon on L. Overstreet, Leon Co., June 21 (EHS) and one at Kingsley L., Clay Co., June 26 (NPC & LHC). In the same category, although not inland, was a Horned Grebe in breeding plumage at the mouth of the Weekiwachee R., Hernando Co., July 3 (HWK). Shearwaters were not much seen, except for one dying Greater Shearwater at Vero Beach June 15 (HWK, \*Miss. State Univ.) and two dying Greaters were picked up near Ft. Pierce June 22 (IC, BD, HD, \*U.S.F.). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was well off track in n.e. Florida Bay dodging mangrove islands on an unspecified date in late May (LL & DW). White-tailed Tropicbirds were again at the Dry Tortugas, including one that circled the fort walls June 4 (KB & FB). A new site for summering White Pelicans was the mouth of the Withlacoochee R., where 150 were bathing July 18 (HWK). An imm. Masked Booby at sea e. of Ft. Pierce May 13 was photographed (MT, ph. T.T.R.C.), and another was found dying at Manasota Key, Sarasota Co., June 30 (AFS & SDS). The Red-footed Booby has become a rare but regular visitor to the Dry Tortugas during the last 15 years. One Red-footed on Bush Key June 5, possibly the same bird there in the spring, was in the brown plumage with pale rump and tail and bright orange feet (KB & FB). The Magnificent Frigatebird nesting colony at the Marquesas Key apparently was abandoned during early summer, since no active nests were visible during an aerial survey June 20 (JCO). An amazingly high count of frigatebirds from Florida Bay was 900 on Porjoe Key during late July (DW).

**WADING BIRDS** — The Nat'l Audubon Society-Game Commission Cooperative Wading Bird Survey was not flown this year, while results of the 1976-1978 surveys are being evaluated. But scattered observations from across the state indicate that numbers of wading birds in nesting colonies were lower than usual, possibly owing to the combined affects of weather extremes during the spring months. Much of Florida, especially in the s., experienced a real drought February - April, which was abruptly broken by torrential rains Apr. 26-28 and again May 8-9, the latter accompanied by several tornadoes in c. Florida. The drought conditions may have delayed nesting efforts by herons and egrets, especially in inland colonies, then the heavy rains produced a one-two punch that destroyed some nests (Alafia heronry, DP) and dispersed food concentrations in drying ponds. Conditions were so bad at Madeira Rookery May 9, that stork and Snowy Egret juveniles were wandering on the ground below nests attempting to feed on carcasses of dead nestlings (BWP & MB). The number of waders nesting at three East Coast colonies — Riomar, Ft. Pierce, and Grant's Farm — was 25-40 per cent below normal (HWK), and Cattle Egrets nesting in the Big Cypress colonies were estimated at only 50 per cent of last year's totals (OLB). Farther up-state, the large and usually stable L. Hamilton colony appeared empty during the spring. The Little Gator Cr. stork colony com-

prised only storks and Great Egrets, Apr 19, last year on May 2 it included 1500 Cattle Egret nests as well (JCO).

Wood Stork experienced another disappointing year, largely owing to its nesting collapse in the big s. Florida colonies. The dry spring resulted in ideal feeding conditions for storks, and nests in the Everglades Nat'l Park (hereafter, E.N.P.) colonies comprised an estimated 2000 large, healthy young when the heavy rains hit in late April. Conditions on the feeding grounds deteriorated rapidly and only about 200 nestling storks survived to fledge (JCO). The rain was less severe at Corkscrew but the 900 nesting pairs of storks only managed to fledge 600 young (BWP & LR). The 16 smaller stork colonies in c. and n. Florida were less adversely affected by heavy rains and produced approximately 3300 young (JCO, BWP & LR). Thus the total number of young storks fledged in 1979 was greater than any year since 1975, but probably not enough to provide a temporary halt in their overall decline.

Other noteworthy wader observations include one "Great White" Heron farther n than usual, at the mouth of the Waccasassa R., Levy Co., July 19 (HWK, WP & KP), and nesting by a pair of Reddish Egrets at a new West Coast site, Terra Ceia Bird Key, Manatee Co. (DP). Larger-than-usual numbers of Reddish Egrets dispersed N during the summer; one was inland in the Shark Valley everglades throughout the period (OLB), a high count of seven roosted at Rookery Bay, Collier Co., during late July (THB); others were three at Casey Key, Sarasota Co., June 13 (AFS & SDS) and single dark birds were on St. George I., Franklin Co., June 19 & July 16 (JMS, GEM & HMS) and near St. Marks Light June 17 (NOW). All of these Reddish Egrets were reported as immatures except those at Rookery Bay, which were not categorized. Introduced Scarlet Ibises, or their offspring, were still being seen at Greynolds P., Miami, where two bright red birds and two pink birds were seen in late July (RPR).

**GEESE, KITES, HAWKS, FALCONS** — If I remember correctly, the summering Canada Geese in the Tallahassee Div., were introduced by state or federal agencies in the hope of eventually providing more meat on the tables for our starving citizenry. This year seven were on the Panacea unit, St. Marks Ref., June 26 (MR), and one adult with three young was on L. Jackson, Leon Co., June 13 (GEM & HMS), the latter is the first suspected nesting in that region outside a protected area. Presumably this n. Florida goose colony is the source of the Canada Goose that appeared at a pond behind the Key West High School June 17, disappeared after July 4 (FTH, TBW *et al.*), reappeared (same bird?) 65 mi away on the lawn inside Ft. Jefferson a few days later and was still there Aug. 23 (OLB, JCO *et al.*). Rumor is that the goose will be invited to Thanksgiving dinner if it stays that long, thus fulfilling its envisaged role. High counts of Swallow-tailed Kites were 100 at Ochopee, Collier Co., July 19 (GP & CM), 11 over Stoney Bayou, St. Marks Ref., July 27 (CSG), and eight over H 441 s. of the Alachua-Marion County line, June 9 (BSO). The count at St. Marks may be indication of an increase by Swallow-taileds in the Tallahassee Division. The equally attractive Mississippi Kite also appears to be slowly increasing at its s. range

limit at Gainesville, where five were seen July 30 (BSO). One brown-plumaged Everglade Kite was far n. of Tosohatchee State Preserve, Orange Co., July 21 (SR&TR). Dark-phase Short-tailed Hawks at two locations at Tosohatchee May 9 - July 21 (RD, BP *et al.*) offer hope that they may be nesting in this newly created preserve, while one dark-phase in e. St Marks Ref., Jefferson Co., June 26 (GEM&HMS) was about as far n.w. as the species has ever been found in Florida. In the Fishheating Cr region where Short-tailed are known to nest, a pair of dark birds began incubating unusually late during the last week in May (HS&NS). A Peregrine Falcon, very rare anywhere in Florida in mid-summer, was on Merritt I., July 29 (JJ). The local breeding race of the Am. Kestrel appears to be declining in its Florida range, thus reports during summer are of interest. Two were five mi s.w. of Tallahassee June 10 (GEM), and one female was eight mi n. of Sumatra, Liberty Co., July 8 (GEM).

**COOTS, SHOREBIRDS** — The first breeding record for Am. Coots in Duval County occurred Aug. 16-17 when adults and two broods of young were discovered in s. Jacksonville (JPC). An early Piping Plover was at Sanibel July 17 (GP&CM) and early Killdeer were at two Key Largo locations July 3 (HMS). Breeding records of Snowy Plovers are always of interest because this species has suffered so greatly in competition with people for the Gulf beaches. A Snowy was on a nest (incubating?) July 28 at N. Lido Beach, Sarasota Co. (EVM). The second June report of a Long-billed Curlew in the Tallahassee Div. occurred June 2 at St George I. (GEM&HMS). Early arriving shorebirds included a high count of 30 Lesser Yellowlegs near South Bay July 4 (HMS), the earliest fall record of Red Knots in the Tallahassee Div., 35± on St. George I., July 20 (GEM, HMS&NOW), an extremely early (or late?) Stilt Sandpiper in breeding plumage near St. Mark's Light June 30 (NOW), and equally out-of-season three Wilson's Phalaropes June 17 at the same location and in breeding plumage (NOW), another early Wilson's Phalarope at Port Canaveral July 19 (RDB&JJ), and an Am. Avocet near St. Marks Light July 29 (NOW). Most unusual in mid-summer was one Am. Golden Plover (breeding plumage) and two Long-billed Dowitchers (seen and heard well) July 15 at Ward's Bank near Jacksonville (JLW). Black-necked Stilts are increasing in n. Florida and showing indications of expanding their nesting range. The nesting by stilts in Hamilton County is mentioned earlier, and five pairs at the Mayport Naval Base, Duval Co., June 16, almost surely were nesting (BSO&JLW). Two stilts were on St George I., July 20 (GEM, HMS *et al.*).

**GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — A Lesser Black-backed Gull June 10 at Conch Key, St. Augustine, adds another record to this increasingly seen species and may be the first for St Johns County (BSO). About five to eight pairs of Gull-billed Terns joined a like number of nesting Caspian Terns at the new (1978) colony site off East Pt., Franklin Co. (HMS) and 67 pairs of Gull-billed were nesting at Mayport June 16 (JLW). A Gull-billed nesting colony at nearby Ward's Bank, Duval Co., along with 2000 pairs of nesting Royal Terns was destroyed by high water during a

storm June 14 (JLW). Roseate Terns may have again nested at Key West, where several pairs were feeding flying young at Key Haven July 14 (RPR&PWS). Elsewhere, two Roseates were at Port Canaveral June 20, where they are rare anytime onshore (JJ), and 100± Roseates were feeding over the bar into Alicetown Harbour, Bimini, B.I., Aug. 3 (JCO&MB). Although the date is late, such large numbers at Bimini suggest the possibility of nearby breeding. I don't know where they're coming from, but since 1977 Arctic Tern has suddenly become an annual visitor to Florida. This year's report is the first from the Gulf Coast, with one adult at St. George's I., July 19-20 (NOW, TN).

#### S.A.

It's hard to know what to write about Least Terns. Many reports are submitted on Least Tern nesting efforts, but a year-to-year analysis of these data provides no real clues about their status. Least Terns nest in too many places and move about too much for population trends to be easily understood. Each year brings reports of successful and unsuccessful colonies, although one interesting measure of success was provided this year by Bryan Obst who suggested that a colony with at least a ratio of one fledged young to four adults probably was reasonably successful. This year the beach colonies near Jacksonville fared rather poorly owing to storms and human disturbance, but did better on the naval base at Mayport where the birds are better protected. The Jacksonville rooftop colonies apparently were not checked regularly (BSO). About 60 adult and 15 fledged young Least were at N. Lido Beach, Sarasota Co., June 23 (EVM).

Unusual for Sandwich Terns, two basic-plumaged birds were inland at L. Thonotassassa June 30 (HMS). Black Skimmer nesting colonies contained 150 nests at Mayport June 16 (JLW), and 100-125 nests at East Pt. (HMS).

#### PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

— Unusually large numbers of White-crowned Pigeons were making feeding flights from Florida Bay into the mangrove forests between Flamingo and Watson R., during late summer, where 300 were counted during a single day's aerial survey (OLB). The enigmatic Key West Quail-Dove lives on, still haunting its few square yards of leaf litter along the Snake Bight Trail, E.N.P., throughout the summer season (OLB). The mid-summer movements of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in n. Florida remain unclear; three were killed by flying into the WCTV tower on the nights of June 19-20 (RLC), and six silent Yellow-billed on St. George I., July 16 (HMS&GEM) were the first ever seen there in numbers in July. The Burrowing Owl colony at Imeson Industrial P., Duval Co., at the species' n. range limit, comprised 18 owls (6 ad., 12 juv.) in three burrows, June 10 (SAG). Belted Kingfishers regularly return to peninsular Florida during the first week in July, while those seen through June may represent rare breeders. Two kingfishers were at L. Hancock, Polk Co., June 6 (JBE&HMS), and one at E.N.P., June 17 (OLB). Red-headed Woodpeckers near their s. range limit were near Hwy. 441 and

S R 808, Palm Beach Co., June 17 (PWS), and a successfully nesting pair at Naples (THB). Also possibly near its s. range limit along the Atlantic Coast was one Red-cockaded Woodpecker at the W. Palm Beach Country Club June 23 (TT).

#### SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES

— Perhaps an award should be offered for the first person to find Bahama Swallows nesting in the lower Florida Keys, where they are reported every summer on the large, pine-forested islands. One was on Big Coppitt Key June 30 (JGM&TGL). Tree and Bank Swallows made an early and heavy push into Florida, an event especially unusual for the former. Two Tree Swallows were at Tosohatchee July 21 (SR&TR), a high count of 98 Tree and 409 Bank swallows at the Duda Farm, July 22 (PWS *et al.*) and up to six Tree Swallows at Tallahassee July 29-30 (GEM). Cliff Swallows again nested in the disjunct colony near Port Mayaca, Martin Co.; this year a total of four nests at two sites (PWS). Large post-breeding flocks of Purple Martins included 3000 at Mashas I., June 12 (CSG); 2500± in the same area July 27 (CHW *et al.*); and 1000 near St Marks Light June 28 (FHS). A pair of Com Crows nested at Naples Beach where they have not been known to nest previously (THB). For the second consecutive year a Brown Thrasher sang through much of the summer on Sugarloaf Key (LK); thus far there is no thrasher nesting record in the lower Keys, and the bird is very rare in summer anywhere s. of mainland Florida. A stray Gray-cheeked Thrush, presumably a delayed spring transient, was carefully studied on Hypoluxo I., July 28 (PWS).

#### VIREOS, WARBLERS

— A Black-whiskered Vireo, generally a coastal species, was singing in a hardwood hammock in the Shark Valley everglades June 14 (OLB). Two Red-eyed Vireos at Bald Pt., Franklin Co., July 14 (CHW) were considered early migrants. Apparently the s. breeding limit for the Swainson's Warbler is about the Suwannee R., although without recent summer reports that far s. we do not know the significance of one this year near the Suwannee at Otter Springs, Gilchrist Co., July 15 (BSO). The late date means the bird could have already moved S of its breeding grounds. Late northbound transients included one very late Yellow-rumped Warbler near East Pt., Franklin Co., June 12 (JMS), one Palm Warbler at Dry Tortugas June 7 (RD&LD), and a Connecticut Warbler well described to PWS at Saddlebunch Key, Monroe Co., July 17-18 (CM&GP). The rare Cerulean Warbler apparently migrates regularly through Florida in July, perhaps the most likely time to see one in the state. This year two Ceruleans were at Prairie Lakes State Preserve, Osceola Co., July 11 (CG&RD), and one at L. Jackson, Leon Co., July 27 (HMS). I used to think southbound Louisiana Waterthrushes arrived in Florida earlier than Northern, but this year they appeared at the same time: one Northern killed by a car at Otter Cr., Levy Co., July 9 (WP, \*F.S.M.), one Northern in s. Dade County July 10 (OLB), a Louisiana killed at the WCTV Tower July 10 (RLC) and two Louisianas at Loxahatchee Ref., July 10 (CM&GP), a Northern near Ft Pierce July 15 (HD&BD *et al.*), and a Louisiana on Sugarloaf Key July 17 (LK).

### BOBOLINKS THROUGH TANAGERS —

A couple of Bobolinks made mid-summer appearances, one apparently healthy male feeding on the lawn within the shadow of the WCTV tower June 29 (RLC&BN, \*T.T.R.C.), and one female at Merritt I., July 29 (RDB). The presence of Bobolinks in Florida in summer is puzzling at best. A Spot-breasted Oriole at Ft. Pierce June 19 (DD) was the first for St. Lucie County, although Spot-breasteds have earlier been found farther n. in Indian River and Brevard Cos. Spot-breasted Orioles have not been mentioned much in recent years, suggesting that they no longer are expanding their range; in fact, several observers' comments from s. Dade County during the past year indicate that fewer Spot-breasteds are being seen than formerly. The status of this attractive, introduced species might bear closer attention. Six to ten Boat-

tailed Grackles, including fledged juveniles, at L. Jackson during June (GEM&HMS) represented the second Leon County nesting record. And finally, a Summer Tanager at the Dry Tortugas June 8 (RD&LD) was unusually late northbound.

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## ONTARIO REGION

/Clive E. Goodwin

Summer is always a poor season for reports, but this year it was exceptionally so. It is unfortunate that the season when so much of interest occurs is so poorly reported, and observers outside their home areas are encouraged to send in reports directly, if they do not know the local compiler for a locality they may be visiting.

It was another season when averages were misleading, as hot weather alternated with some very cool periods in June and to a lesser extent in July, with the result that the period as a whole was rather cooler than average. It was very dry in many areas, but again the averages failed to tell the story as some torrential downpours may have influenced breeding success, and some areas had more rain than normal. On the whole, however, observers saw the season as a good one, with a profusion of insect life and little to interrupt breeding activity. They also saw it as uneventful, and there were few of the rarities or odd occurrences that tend to form the stock in trade of reports such as this one.

### LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS —

Concentrations of ad. Com. Loons were building up in Quetico P.P., July 8 when 22 were seen at Kawa Bay (SP,AW) and there was a scattering of birds — presumably non-breeders — along the lower Great Lakes. Summer Red-throateds were reported from Pickering over the period (MB,NL) and two at Neys P.P., June 7 (AW). There were also reports of both Red-necked and Horned grebes s. of their present breeding ranges, although the status of two Red-neckeds on the Bustard Is., July 8 (RG) seemed uncertain. Everyone who mentioned Pied-billed Grebe commented on either its absence or scarcity but most of the time it went unmentioned! This highlights a common problem: in a 2000-mi, two-week trip around the s. of the Province we saw only one Pied-billed, so the species is scarce; but unless observers mention this (preferably with some supporting figures) it is impossible to determine whether absence in reports means absence in the field or just

the stable status of a normally common species.

Further to the early summer White Pelican sightings in the last report, a bird was at Hay Bay Aug. 5 (PRM). The Double-crested Cormorant picture was again encouraging: on Duck I., in Georgian Bay, 100+ adults were seen July 2, compared to only 20 four or five years ago (MBy), and the 46 Pigeon I. nests (34 with eggs) June 25 were a notable increase there (MJB). There were 22 nests on Bustard Rocks July 7 (RG) but still none in the Port Hope area (ERM). Away from the breeding colonies birds were sighted near Marathon June 5 & 7 (AW,SP), Quetico P.P., June 2-3 (AW) and 16 at Toronto July 7 (HK *et al.*).

**HERONS** — Green Herons at the edge of their range were seen on Manitoulin I. (m.ob.) and the Barron R. canyon June 3 (MR). The only Cattle Egrets seen were a bird at Oshawa June 26 (BK) and four in the Walpole I. heronries June 14 (*vide* AHK). The latter — referred to in the spring report as St. Clair heronries — also had 145 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons, and on Nottawasaga I., there were 129 nests, a slight decline from the 1978 total but the colony was still prospering (CJM,DS). This species seemed in generally good numbers this summer. A Great Egret was seen at Collingwood June 2 (CJM), and a Louisiana Heron on Prince Edward Pt. (hereafter, P.E.Pt.) June 5 was the first-ever for the Kingston area (JJD,RDM). Least Bitterns are rarely reported, but this year five were seen: three in Wye Marsh July 17 (CGH), one at MacGregor Pt. (CEG, JEG) and another in Waterloo (CAC *et al.*) both on June 16. This is a species that some reporters feel may be in trouble. To a lesser



extent Am. Bitterns fall into the same category and the only numbers noted this year were six in Wye Marsh and 10 in Tiny Marsh (CJM *et al.*) but it is a particularly difficult species to assess with any accuracy.

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — Mute Swans continue to expand along the lower Great Lakes, and four at Rondeau July 13-16 (PAW) were noteworthy. The burgeoning Canada Goose population in the Toronto region is now being exported across the continent to any other misguided municipalities that want the birds. They continue to occupy a wholly disproportionate amount of attention from the Provincial Resources Ministry, although the geese admittedly have become pests. Canadas of the old-fashioned migrant sort were seen moving very late at Pimisi Bay June 9 (LdeKL). Two Pintail nests on Nottawasaga I., one with eight and the other nine eggs, June 2 were probably the first well documented nestings for Simcoe Co. (CJM,DS). Sewage lagoons continue to offer waterfowl secure nesting and summering havens, and in the s.

the usual assortment of summering birds, breeders and potential breeders were seen in these areas, as well as along the lower Great Lakes generally.

More noteworthy reports included two broods of Green-winged Teal at Lakefield July 16 (DCS) and a nesting for the second successive year at Bright's Grove, where two pairs of Am. Wigeon and one of N. Shoveler were also seen (*vide* AHK). Elsewhere pairs of N. Shoveler were at Port Hope and Toronto (ERM,CEG) and the species bred again at Garson (JN). Up to four Redheads were at Garson throughout, and another was at Lakefield July 16 (JN,DCS *et al.*). Five Ruddy Ducks were reported, and it is noteworthy that the Ontario Nest Records Scheme recorded three nests of this species from Prescott County in 1978. The Scheme — now in its 24th year, with over 70,000 cards for 268 nesting species in the Province — is not usually mentioned in this report because its information necessarily arrives much too late even for inclusion in the fall summary. A Barrow's Goldeneye was seen at Ottawa July 1-2, and the first-ever summer Oldsquaw there July 1-22 (RAF,SG).

**VULTURES, HAWKS** — There were two Algonquin P.P., sightings of Turkey Vultures (RT) and to the s. birds were at Woodbridge June 2 (AD) and in King Twp., July 7 (M&OED). Two nest reports for each of the three *Accipiter* species probably reflect the distribution of active observers more than the birds, but a young Cooper's Hawk in Algonquin P.P., June 4 (RJP,RT *et al.*) was noteworthy there Red-shouldered Hawks continue to experience poor nesting success in the Waterloo area: only one of five nests produced young (CAC). Broad-winged Hawks were again present during June at St. Williams and Beverly Swamp (RC) and a late Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Quetico June 2 (AW,SP). The far n. of the Province is so inaccessible and poorly covered that reports from there are always of interest. This year Gerry Bennett spent June 25 - July 1 at Winisk as part of an epic search for nests in the Province, and recorded a number of noteworthy species, including a Golden Eagle June 26. There was little further on Bald Eagle nestings to add to the spring report, but 13 young were fledged in Quetico P.P. (PM *et al.*) and an adult male was at Long Sault June 25 (CEG,JEG). There was no cheer in the Marsh Hawk story: few birds were seen and even fewer nests found. Only two out of four known nesting sites in the s.w. were occupied (*vide* AHK). Ospreys, by contrast, seem to be making a good recovery and all the major nesting areas reported active pairs and successful nestings on the increase, and the sightings of individual birds were far too many to list. Seven Merlin nestings is about average, and again says more about the inaccessibility of most of the species' range than its true numbers. By contrast Am. Kestrels should be among our more conspicuous raptors, but the only area we found them common in the s.w. was around Barry's Bay, and high densities were also reported from Amherst I. (MM) and around Lively, where 75 young fledged from 25 nest boxes (JL).

**GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS** — A Willow Ptarmigan with eight young was seen at Winisk June 29 (GB). Bobwhites are still in trouble in their limited Ontario range with few

heard or seen, although one was e. to Beverly July 4 (RC,AMcT) Sandhill Cranes nested in s.e. Manitoulin I. (*vide* DF), a new station for them, and three on the Bustard Is., July 8 with a young bird there July 30 (RG) were suggestive of nesting: there must be ample habitat along this wild coastline. Three Virginia Rail reports in Algonquin P.P., June 6-25 were noteworthy (m.ob.). The Richmond Yellow Rails failed to reappear this year, and Com. Gallinules were far from common along many of the lower Great Lakes marshes (m.ob.). Both species may be quite cyclical in their numbers.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The fall shorebird passage started early and peaked early. Movement started in late June, with a Pectoral Sandpiper at Ottawa June 23 (RAF), a Solitary at Napanee June 25 (CEG) and Lesser Yellowlegs at Amherstview June 24 (RDM). By July 16 peaks of Greater and Lesser yellowlegs at Lakefield reached 250 and 500 birds respectively (DCS,GC,CV) and there were 140 Short-billed Dowitchers at Dunnville July 19 (RC). During this period there were early birds of the less common species: a Piping Plover at Southampton July 26 (WC), three Am. Golden Plover at Rondeau July 25 (*vide* AHK), five Whimbrel reports including four at Kettle Pt., July 22 (AR), a Willet at Lion's Head during the last week of June (GY), five White-rumped at Lakefield July 8 which also had its first-ever Stilt Sandpiper the same day (DCS), a Baird's Sandpiper at Dunnville July 22 (RC), and a N. Phalarope, Long Point, July 30 (RC, RB,RJ). Just how many of these birds were really summering loiterers is, as usual, questionable and the Dunlin at Presqu'île June 28 (CEG,JEG) was almost certainly one. A Hudsonian Godwit at Kettle Pt., June 12 (AR) was also a strange record for the date. The rarest shorebird of the early fall was a Ruff at Dunnville July 19 & 22 (RC). A noteworthy late report from spring was of three Purple Sandpipers at Winona May 26 (KMCL *et al.*). With the influx of early migrants the status of Wilson's Phalaropes was particularly difficult to sort out. A "colony" of 40 on Lake of the Woods July 1 (AW,MRO) seemed to be clearly breeding, and possible summering occurred at Exeter (WRJ,MD *et al.*), Ottawa (SG) and Toronto (JAK). In all at least 43 probable migrants were reported.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — A dark-phase ad. Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Ottawa June 14 (I&PJ), which also had a Glaucous Gull to June 5 (BMD), a Caspian Tern July 22 (BC), and its now regular Arctic Terns June 5-12 (m.ob.). Eight Herring Gull nests on Kettle Pt. vanished (AR), but 437 nests on Nottawasaga I., was a 25% increase, and the 34 Ring-billed Gull nests there a 70% decrease over 1978 — a remarkable reversal of current trends on the Great Lakes (CJM,DS). There were 200 ad. Franklin's Gulls on the Sable Is., July 1 (AW,MRO). Two pairs of nesting Little Gulls on Bassett I., were unsuccessful (*vide* AHK,AR). There were several birds elsewhere in the s.w., and individuals e. to Simcoe County July 29 (DMS) and Ottawa June 5-6 (I&PJ, m.ob.). A previously unmentioned Arctic Tern report from 1978 was a bird at Presqu'île Aug. 7 (GC); documentation was approved by the Provincial Records Committee. Ten pairs were seen at Winisk in late June (GB). Forster's

Terns continue to prosper there were 25 nests on Walpole I. (AR), 40 birds including 25 juveniles at Long Pt., July 30 (RC,RB,BJ) and 12 birds at Pt. Pelee July 8 (JPK). By contrast Com. Terns seem to continue their decline although one bright note was a new colony of 21 nests near Collingwood June 2 (CJM,DS) Black Terns also were seen by many observers as in serious trouble, as there were few in the areas w. of Toronto, and their distribution elsewhere was uneven.

**CUCKOOS, OWLS** — Yellow-billed Cuckoos appeared at Atikokan July 12 (TN) and there were ten along the Rainy R., July 1-2 (JLa,AW,MRO). A pair feeding young at Sudbury July 10 (JL) was also beyond the limits of the species' rather variable range. The Barn Owl at Peterborough was present to June 10 (m.ob.). There were two young Hawk Owls out of the nest at Quetico July 5, which also had a Great Gray Owl June 1 (SP,AW,SW). Another Great Gray was at Marathon June 4 (MP), but the really remarkable sighting was of a bird photographed near Lion's Head May 13-16 (EMJF, *vide* DFi). Algonquin's first Long-eared Owl breeding came with a bang: three pairs recorded June 5 - July 7 (RT *et al.*). Summer Short-eareds are rarely reported: one was at Sarnia June 6 (AR). Saw-whets were banded at P.E.Pt., July 21 (*vide* HQ) and on the Maitland R., June 17 (JBM) and one was picked up dead July 3 at Pimisi Bay (LdeKL). These reports are rather overshadowed by the Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation's latest triumph, in successfully breeding four young from two injured wild birds. The Foundation also had a newly fledged wild bird, brought in from Grimsby July 14, which subsequently died of Gapeworm (*Synganus trachea*), implying it had been fed on earthworms (*vide* KMCK). Incidentally, owl enthusiasts will be pleased to know the Foundation now has an excellent booklet available, *Care and Rehabilitation of Injured Owls*, which should fill a long-felt need.

**CAPRIMULGIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Chuck-will's-widows were calling at both Pelee and Rondeau during June (*vide* AHK), and Rondeau also had a Whip-poor-will June 23-30 (PAW). Northerly Chimney Swifts were recorded at Atikokan July 3-5 and Marathon July 8 (AW,NGE). At Winisk a Belted Kingfisher visiting a hole in the river bank June 26 (GB) was outside its range in the Province. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were recorded e. to King Twp., June 2 (CEG).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A W Kingbird was photographed at Kettle Pt., June 12 (AR). Acadian Flycatchers were scarce at Rondeau (PAW) but elsewhere there were birds on territory at Spottiswood June 4-16 (PFE,CAC) and Glen Morris (BD, m.ob.) Willow Flycatchers were n. to Sudbury (*vide* JN) and in Tiny Marsh there were 21 singing, with 13 Alders July 23-24 in willow-dogwood tangles (DS,CJM). The June cool spell led to swallow mortality in the s.w., both directly and as a result of road kills (*vide* AR *et al.*). Most of the other swallow reports were from the n.: 11 Rough-winged Swallows at Rainy R., July 2 (AW,MRO) and several pairs of Barn Swallows nesting at Winisk June 25 (GB) beyond their range limits. Two Purple Martins were seen at Achray June 4 (RT *et al.*). There were several



comments on the abundance of Cliff Swallows, and the species continues to establish new colonies in the s. There were 118 at Oshawa Aug. 5 (JRN,EA).

**TITMICE THROUGH THRUSHES** — Rondeau reports included one+ singing Tufted Titmice June 13 (CEG,JEG) and a Brown Creeper nest July 7 (PAW). A belated spring report was of a Bewick's Wren at Bronte May 26 (RC,JY *et al.*). Wrens were among the hardest hit of the species that suffered in the recent series of severe winters. Winter Wrens rebounded to a high on the Marathon Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter, B.B.S.) (NGE), but were still much reduced in Algonquin (*fide* RT) and scarce on the more southerly B.B.S. The only Carolina Wrens were two at Rondeau, one at Point Pelee, and a bird in Toronto in July (TRS). Long-billed Marsh Wrens staged some recovery, but were in good numbers only in Wye Marsh (CGH), and Short-billeds were absent in most areas, but there was some recovery in Simcoe County (*fide* CJM), and in the Rainy R. area the species was extremely common (AW). Among the harder-hit *turdids*, Veeries again presented a very mixed picture — for example, absent on the Marathon B.B.S., but increasing markedly at Pimisi Bay (NGE, LdeKL), and E. Bluebirds seemed to have made little if any recovery. Both kinglets continued very scarce, although the Marathon B.B.S., recorded a "dramatic increase" of Ruby-crowneds (NGE), and there were two or three Golden-crowneds at St. Williams June 17 (RC,GBr). There were ten Mockingbird reports n. to Moosonee (FJ) and including a nest at Ottawa (SG). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continued their abundance of the spring, with pairs at Hamilton and the Pinery (RC,DM *et al.*) and a nest at P.E.Pt., with two young banded (HQ). From 1978 seven nests reported to the Nest Record Scheme included cards from Leeds and Lennox and Addington Counties, easterly records for this species.

**WAXWINGS THROUGH VIREOS** — An exceptionally late Bohemian Waxwing was with 11 Cedars at Woodbridge May 27 (AD). The latter species must have stayed s., as there were none at Marathon (NGE) in spite of their exceptional abundance in the s. Loggerhead Shrikes showed no recovery, and only four pairs were recorded away from the Ottawa area, where eight nests fledged 24 young (RMP). Winisk had 25 Starlings at the end of June (GB). A White-eyed Vireo was seen at Long Pt., June 17 (RC,GBr) and following the spring influx there were at least four birds at both Pt. Pelee and Rondeau, with young being fed (*fide* AHK). A Yellow-throated Vireo summered at Ottawa (WEG) and four were at Rainy R., July 2 (AW,MRO). Two Solitary Vireos at St. Williams June 17 (RC,GBr) were in coniferous plantings there.

**WARBLERS** — Golden-winged Warblers were e. and n. to Algonquin and Killarney (RT,IM) but in Waterloo Blue-wingeds were surpassing them in abundance, with birds in numerous locations on a June 16 "roundup" there (CAC *et al.*). Tennessee and Yellow-rumped warblers were present in very good numbers at both Quetico and Marathon (SP, NGE). Farther s. St. Williams had three Yellow-rumped and a Nashville with young

June 17 (GBr,RC) Other northerners in the s included a Tennessee in Wye Marsh June 17-18 (CGH) and a Magnolia in the Pinery June 16 (CEG,JEG) both in full song.

Two new Prairie Warbler stations were located, both in Prince Edward County July 11-12 (RDM,RCT). Other noteworthy warbler reports included a Louisiana Waterthrush on the Maitland R., June 8 (JBM), a Kentucky at Kettle Pt., June 1 (AR) and two Yellow-breasted Chats at Cayuga June 10 (RC *et al.*). There was the usual early movement of warblers and other species from late July: a Wilson's Warbler at Long Pt., July 30 (RC *et al.*) was one such early arrival.

**BLACKBIRDS** — There are few reports of W. Meadowlarks in the s. any more: birds in Lambton County (AR) and Toronto Gore (AD) were the only ones this summer. An E. Meadowlark was heard at Lake of the Woods June 30, and there were 200 ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the marsh there the next day (AW,MRO). Elsewhere Yellow-headed were at Taunton July 1-2 (BK) and Silver Islet June 15 (JH). A Red-winged Blackbird was seen at Winisk June 27 (GB). Rusties nested successfully in Quetico July 5 (AW,SP), and a new Brewer's Blackbird colony was located at Sturgeon Falls June 16 with >six birds seen (MG). In Bruce Co., there were 15 birds in Tobermory bog (JWJ) and >eight near Ferndale (CEG,JEG) both June 20.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — There were two Indigo Bunting reports from Thunder Bay (DA) but again none along Hwy. 60 in Algonquin (RT). Evening Grosbeaks with young were widespread in Quetico (SP), at Virginiatown (PWR), near Denbigh (RSB) and at Verona (KC). Winisk reports included two Am. Goldfinches June 29 and four Smith's Longspurs July 1 (GB). A Red Crossbill was at Ancaster July 20 (RC), and the species was common in east Algonquin in late July (GT); White-wingeds were reported from Quetico, and regular at Marathon from June 24 (AW, NGE). The Henslow's Sparrow decline continued with only three reports, and even the Tiny Marsh colony had only eight singing males this year (CJM *et al.*). Two singing Le Conte's Sparrows were at Onion L., Thunder Bay July 31 (CG). Over five singing Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Rainy R., June 30 (AW, MRO), were identified as the *nelsoni* race, new to the Province as breeders. Clay-colored continued to expand: new colonies were located at N. Keppel and Castleton (JWJ,GB), Milford (RCT,RDM) and S. Bay (CEG,JEG), and there were good numbers from most known stations.

**CORRIGENDUM** — Delete the reference to a Black-legged Kittiwake at Rondeau in the spring season report: this sighting was disallowed by the Records Committee.

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## NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION /Douglas P. Kibbe

The summer seemed singularly devoid of noteworthy ornithological events. Weather, with the exception of an early July cold front which left traces of white on a few mountain peaks, was unremarkable and generally conducive to successful nesting. Vermont's Breeding Bird Atlas workers toiled long and hard getting into remote 10-square-mile "blocks" on foot or by canoe but produced only a handful of unexpected finds. This ambitious project has now passed the midway point with completion of field efforts scheduled for summer 1981. The dedication of the volunteers and regional coordinators to this project has been immense and the success of their efforts to date should be an inspiration to others planning similarly extensive surveys with limited manpower. New Yorkers are in the process of organizing an Atlas Project and the Region may eventually have the unique distinction of being entirely "atlated"!

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Accelerating lakeside development and associated recreational activities have caused increasing concern for n.e. Com. Loon populations. Extensive surveys were continued in Vermont this year. Although several more breeding locations were discovered, there is no evidence of an upswing in the current downward trend. Failure of that state to pass pending endangered species legislation makes the future of this and 15 other species considered in threatened or endangered straits (*Am Birds* 33:174) even more tenuous. Pied-billed Grebes seem to be sharing the loon's decline although the causes are less apparent. An Eared Grebe appeared July 28 at Kendall, N.Y., to become the Region's first summer record (R.B.A., G.O.S.). Double-crested Cormorants are reported with increasing regularity from the L. Champlain islands but evidence of breeding is still lacking. An albino Great Blue and an imm. Little Blue Heron were reported from McQuens Slang in Addison County, Vt.,



July 29 (*vide* BF) Two Snowy Egrets were "strongly suspected" of breeding on Four Brothers I. (H.P.A.S.) but no nest was located in the active heronry there. Newly reported heronries include a Black-crowned Night Heron colony in Poultney, Vt. (WJN) and two Great Blue heronries near Cooperstown, N.Y.; one later abandoned after serving as a target practice area (HK). Always rare in Vermont, two Glossy Ibises were discovered on Shelburne Bay and later at McKuens Slang (BF). Seven Mute Swans appeared in late June on Braddock Bay, N.Y. (BK *et al.*) and a probable one was sighted on the Connecticut R., near Barnet, Vt., June 8. A Snow and an injured "Blue" Goose lingered at Montezuma N.W.R., N.Y., through June. One must wonder at the zeal which inspired a Black Duck to lay her 10 eggs at timberline on Vermont's Camels Hump, at least 3 mi from open water (CS).

**HAWKS AND SHOREBIRDS** — Tallies from Derby Hill, the nation's premier spring hawkwatch, were finally received. A staggering record total of 55,347 raptors was recorded this spring (>40,000 of them Apr. 21 - May 8) bolstered by record counts of Turkey Vulture (1009), Sharp-shinned (9367), Cooper's (464), Red-tailed (7525), Broad-winged (33,055), and Rough-legged (432) hawks, Bald Eagles (14), Marsh Hawks (667), and Ospreys (692) (DM). The hill is currently being acquired by the Onondaga Aud. Soc., as a sanctuary and those wishing to aid in acquisition of the area or simply to partake in the spectacle next spring are urged to contact David Muir, 2679 Dunbar Rd., Marcellus, N.Y. 13108. The Bald Eagle 'hacking' program continued at Montezuma N.W.R., with the release of four more young. Adults seen twice in Vermont and once in the Adirondacks may have belonged to the s. race which breeds early and disperses N by mid-summer. An ad. ♂ Merlin identified June 16 at Jeffersonville, Vt. (LM) was exceptional. As usual the ebb between the northbound and returning flow of shorebirds was nebulous with several localities reporting southbound (?) 'peeps' and yellowlegs in late June. Notables this season included 15 W. Sandpipers near Rochester June 12 (WL), a Ruff at Montezuma N.W.R., July 2 (WB), and a Whimbrel July 4 at Kendall, N.Y. (R&SH). Solid evidence of nesting by Wilson's Phalarope continues to elude New York observers but an "awkward" immature at Point Breeze kept hopes alive.

#### GULLS THROUGH VIREOS —

An Iceland (*kumlieni*) Gull reported from Four Brothers I., in L. Champlain in late June (*vide* H.P.A.S.) is presumably the same bird



reportedly photographed there in 1977

#### S.A.

Central New York orchardists may be less than enthralled to hear that small flocks of Ring-billed Gulls have learned to snatch unpicked cherries from trees on the L. Ontario plains. While it is doubtful that serious economic ramifications will result, observers in all regions should be cognizant of this novel behavior. Documentation of the spread of this foraging strategy on a regional and/or interspecific basis may prove to be one of the most fascinating avian ethology endeavors since the celebrated titmice/milk bottle studies in Great Britain.

Equally noteworthy were at least two ad. Franklin's Gulls in the Rochester vicinity in late June (R.B.A.). The Elmira area reported another Arctic Tern (WH, *vide* WB) but details were lacking. A Barn Owl near Watertown, N.Y. (TD, *vide* LC) was the Region's sole report. A few observers in Vermont reported increases in Whip-poor-wills but solid evidence of population trends of all nocturnal species in the Region is lacking. Evening surveys for these species would be one of the most worthwhile research undertakings available to Regional observers. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker discovered nesting at Branch Pond in Vermont's Lye Brook Wilderness Area (WE *et al.*) provided only the second nesting record s. of Vermont's "Northeast Kingdom" in recent history. Acadian Flycatchers bred in Bergen Swamp and near Cayuta L., and one was seen at Braddock Bay in early June (R.B.A., G.O.S., WB). There is a strong possibility that this species is sparsely distributed throughout the lakeplain woodlands of western New York. An Amity Township, N.Y., Tree Swallow still in the nest Aug. 10 broke the previous Regional late nesting date by nearly a month and Purple Martins at Wellsville were still feeding nestlings Aug. 31, sixteen days late (VP). Ithaca's Fish Crows, returning for the fifth consecutive year, finally nested but were apparently unsuccessful. Only a single pair of nesting Loggerhead Shrikes was found in the entire Region. An unusually early Water Pipit appeared at Braddock Bay June 28. Except for a handful of sightings on the L. Ontario plains and in the St. Lawrence R. valley Short-billed Marsh Wrens eluded observers. Reason for this late migrant's apparent decline are still unknown. The influx of White-eyed Vireos noted this spring may have extended the species' breeding range into the Region. Two were present at

Braddock Bay through June (m.ob.) and a pair present throughout the period at Ithaca was observed carrying food (*vide* WB).

**WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS** — This spring's influx of Kentucky Warblers produced at least on Regional breeding record, as a pair carrying food for a

Although it was generally recognized that confirmation of nesting by **Philadelphia Vireos** in Vermont was imminent, since the species has nested in New York's Adirondack Mts., the plethora of reports this summer was little short of staggering. At least three pairs were confirmed by atlas workers and two observers (AG,DK) using prerecorded tapes succeeded in locating 15 birds along 1.5 mi logging road near Avery's Gore at 1400 ft elevation. The abundance of this species within a small expanse of selectively logged, open canopy hardwood forest, while surprising, may be indicative of its abundance over a major portion of northern Vermont and New York. Philadelphia Vireos prefer open woodland and woods edge, habitats which have been created by selective logging over much of the Green and Adirondack Mts. in recent decades. They share this habitat with Red-eyed Vireos and because of song similarities are probably overlooked in the majority of cases by casual observers. Concerted efforts by atlas workers will do much to delineate the species' current status in the Region.

fledgling was found in Brooktondale, N.Y. (m.ob.). Another s. warbler, the Hooded, often thought to be primarily restricted to the lakeplains in our Region, may be well distributed among the Finger Lakes. At least seven males were recorded from four Tompkins County locations (*vide* WB). Yellow-breasted Chats strayed N to Watertown, N.Y. (B&JW) and Winhall Hollow, Vt. (WJN). At least one of the Rochester area W. Meadowlarks lingered into July (R.B.A.) and a ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was discovered at Braddock Bay June 25 (CP,MD) following several days of strong NW winds.

Pine Siskins appeared in several w. New York locations without conclusive evidence of breeding. A few Red and White-winged crossbills were found in late June in Vermont. The latter were also sighted in the Adirondacks. Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows continued to be only sparsely reported, most colonies being located on the L. Ontario plains. A Clay-colored Sparrow appeared at L. Luzerne, N.Y., June 2-3 (DF) continuing this species' pattern of sporadic summer occurrence in the Region. Vermont atlas workers have succeeded in locating Lincoln's Sparrows within nine miles of the Massachusetts border. They are also finding that the species is less closely tied to 'traditional' breeding habitats (*i.e.*, bogs) than the literature would indicate. Pairs are frequently found in high altitude shrubby fields and along the edges of clearcuts and beaver ponds.

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a relatively strange summer. Both June and July were cooler than normal at the Pittsburgh weather station and other localities were similar. At Pittsburgh June was deficient in rainfall and July slightly in excess, but farther south the season was much wetter with some Tennessee stations reporting 10-15 inches of rainfall in July. It was a good summer for plant growth, although the wet July slowed the development of many crops, and from all indications it was a successful breeding season for most bird species.

It seems appropriate for a Breeding Season report to break out of the straight jacket of the phylogenetic order of species, and devote most of the account to several topics of interest. At the end of the account will appear the usual rarities in the usual order. For many years these reports have stressed the expansion of ranges of several southern forms to the north, and indeed this continues, but in those years some species were extending their ranges southward, (and/or downslope). This latter trend has now snowballed, even as the former continues.

**NORTHERN SPECIES BREEDING SOUTHWARD** — No fewer than 24 species were found either nesting, or gave evidence of being on territory at places s. of what has been thought to be the normal breeding range. Some of these occurrences were not new this year, but are a part of a recent trend. Hooded Mergansers were seen in Erie County, Pa., June 14 and July 11 (JM); in Union County, Pa., June 3 (SS); Rockingham County, Va., through June until early July (R.B.C.), and two immatures were seen on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Watauga County, N.C., June 20 & 30 (TH). A pair of Com. Mergansers was present at Presque Isle S.P., Pa., until at least July 14 (JM). Nesting Saw-whet Owls were reported from Youngstown, O., June 13 (NL) and were heard at Mt. Rogers, Va., June 2 & 3 (TW&BKe). The Alder and Willow flycatchers continued to move S along the higher mountains. Alders were reported from Mt. Rogers and Whitetop Mt., Va. (TW&BKe); from Roan Mt., Tenn.-N.C. (GE, HL *et al.*); Haywood County, N.C. (MT&BL); Watauga County, N.C. (HL *et al.*), as well as at lower elevation as Erie County, Pa. (JS&JM) and Butler County, Pa. (PH). New locations for the Willow Flycatcher were Waynesboro, Va. (RS) and Oliver Springs, Tenn. (JC). The exciting flycatcher news was of a pair of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on Mt. Rogers, Va., June 2-3 (TW&BKe). This species had nested there for the first time in 1978, but was previously unreported. This year's breeding indicates that last year's nesting was not a one-time occurrence, but

rather may represent a major extension of range. Olive-sided Flycatchers were more commonly reported from the s. highlands than in recent years.

The S movement of Tree Swallow continues with the first North Carolina nesting in Ashe County (EP), nestings at Norris, Tenn. (CN) and Louisville, Tenn. (MD), as well as Waynesboro, Va. (RS), and new colonies at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (hereafter, P.N.R.) (RCL) and Clarksville, Pa. (RB).

Hermit and Swainson thrushes were nesting again on Mt. Rogers, where they have only recently moved (TW&BKe) and a singing Hermit Thrush was seen on Roan Mt., N.C., June 7 (HL *et al.*). Brown Creepers summered in Columbiana County, O. (NL), at low elevations in Shenandoah N.P. (LT), and Milton S.P., Pa. (SS).

Solitary Vireos nested in Columbiana County, and were present in several locations there (NL). Two out-of-range warblers were found at Glades, Butler Co., Pa.: Black-throated Blue June 18 (RBy) and N. Waterthrush July 23 (PH). Other warblers at low elevations were Magnolia in Crawford County, Pa., June 15 (DS), Chestnut-sided at East Liverpool, O., during June and July (NL), Mourning at Milton S.P., Pa., June 17 (SS) and at Rosecrans, Pa., June 6 (PS).

A singing ♂ N. Oriole was present at Knoxville through June (BS). Four ♂ Bobolinks were found in Ashe County, Tenn., June 10 (HL). There is only one nesting record for the state.

Purple Finches nested in Butler County, Pa. (FP), and single birds were seen at two Allegheny County, Pa., locations and one Washington County, Pa., location (*vide* PH). Summer records of Pine Siskins came from Ligonier, Pa. (RCL), Cheat Mts., W. Va. (R.B.C.), and Great Smoky Mts. N.P. (MT). This species is not unusual in summer but no definite nestings have been found in the s. Appalachians. A similar situation obtains with Red Crossbills which were present on Allegheny Mt., on the Virginia-West Virginia border (R.B.C.), and at several locations in the North Carolina-Tennessee mountains (MT). The first South Carolina nesting of the Dark-eyed Junco was discovered in Pickens County at an elevation of 3500± ft. (EF&SG). White-throated Sparrows in Sullivan County, Pa., June 9 (SS) and at P.N.R. (RCL) may have represented stragglers but may also have been additional pioneers of range expansion.

One is tempted to speculate that this surge of northern species southward may presage a coming ice age, or at least a long term period of colder climates. Perhaps the Appalachian Region will be reporting Spruce Grouse and Gray Jays as it once would have, had *American Birds* been published in the late Pleistocene.

## SOUTHERN SPECIES MOVING



**NORTHWARD** — The White-eyed Vireo and the Red-bellied Woodpecker have been moving N for some time and their numbers continue to increase in w. Pennsylvania. This year a Red-bellied Woodpecker nest was found in Crawford County (DS). In recent years the Yellow-throated Warbler has joined this pair and this species too continues to increase and expand in w. Pennsylvania and n.e. Ohio. Common Ravens at World's End S.P., Pa. (SS) and at two locations in Warren County, Pa. (WH), fall in this category since the increasing population of this species in c. Pennsylvania probably represents an immigration from the s.

More unusual than the above were the Swainson's Warblers at three new locations in Lee, Floyd, and Menifee counties, Ky. (DC); Summer Tanagers in Green and Allegheny counties, Pa. (*vide* PH) and most unusual at Presque Isle S.P., Pa., May 19 (DS). The Blue Grosbeak has shown signs of expanding from the s. and this year 3-4 nesting pairs were present in the Elizabethton, Tenn. region (GE), 2-4 could be found daily around Harrisonburg, Va. (R.B.C.) and it nested successfully at Cumberland, Md. (KH).

Perhaps the most exciting news of a southern species were the reports of nesting Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Laurel County, Ky. (EL) and of nesting colonies in Grundy County, Tenn., where last reported in the 1940s, Great Smoky Mts. N.P., and Campbell County, Tenn. (CN).

**DISASTER SPECIES AND CANDIDATES FOR THE BLUE LIST** — Purple Martins have never fully recovered their losses, at most places, of the great June 1972 storm. In the Knoxville region the Carolina Wrens counted on the Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter, B.B.S.) routes showed almost complete recovery (CN), but northward the species remained in extremely low numbers. The only reporter who even mentioned Bewick's Wren, did so only to report its absence. This species has disappeared without much notice. Golden-crowned Kinglets were abundant on Roan Mt., N.C., and near Linville, N.C. (MPI), but were still in below-normal numbers in the mountains of West Virginia (GAH). Another species that has disappeared in w. Pennsylvania

nia and n. West Virginia without any fanfare is the Yellow-throated Vireo. No good explanation is apparent for this. The Yellow-breasted Chat remained in very low numbers at Morgantown, W. Va. (GAH), at P.N.R. (RCL) and elsewhere in w. Pennsylvania (RB,PH); but in s. West Virginia it was reported as quite common (DW). The Song Sparrow was reported in low numbers at several places, but abundant in others. There has been some concern about the status of several of the grassland sparrows. There is no doubt that suitable grassland habitat is disappearing in the Region, except for reclaimed strip mines, but organized searches for some of these species indicate that they are either recovering or that they never were so uncommon as thought. Such searches were conducted with some success at Knoxville (CN) and Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE) for the Grasshopper Sparrow.

**SOME NOTABLE BREEDING SUCCESS DATA** — Lines of bluebird boxes have become quite popular. The venerable "Operation Bluebird" in Warren County, Pa., reported 48% of 200 boxes were occupied in first nesting and 272 young fledged. For the second nesting 23% of the boxes were occupied and 150 young fledged. In the first nesting 104 young died and in the second 22 died. It is also noted that Tree Swallows occupied 43% of these boxes and fledged 274 young (WH). A line of 100 boxes in Rockingham County, Va., fledged 234 young (R.B.C.).

The House Finch has now permeated the whole Region, but even so the banding of 397 young of the year during June and July at State College, Pa. (MW) is fantastic.

**LOONS, HERONS, AND IBISES** — There were four records from w. Pennsylvania and one from e. Tennessee of Com. Loons remaining into early June but all suggest these were stragglers. There were a few records of Great Egret in late summer and none of Snowy Egret. Little Blue Heron was reported from Kingston, Tenn., July 11 (JH) and Botetourt County, Va., July 23 (BK). A Cattle Egret was at Kingston July 18 (LTa). A colony of Black-crowned Night Herons at Cherokee L., Tenn., was the subject of a partially successful attempt at relocation made by T.V.A. personnel. The birds left the undesirable site but failed to nest at the chosen relocation spot (CN). The Yellow-crowned Night Heron is gradually increasing in our Region. A pair was present at Knoxville throughout the summer (*vide* CN), and there were two other records in that region (JH,B&SS), as well as reports from Waynesboro, Va. (RS), and the first successful local nesting at Elizabethton, Tenn., where two nests fledged four young (GE).

Late summer vagrant Wood Storks are getting to be an almost annual occurrence. This year there were two reports, July 29 from near Mt Rogers, Va. (PK), and at Rockbridge County, Va., where 19 were present late July into August (R.B.C.). A Glossy Ibis was seen near Bristol, Va., July 24 and Aug. 1 (JHe).

**WATERFOWL** — Canada Geese nested successfully at L. Arthur, Pa., and at Glades, Pa. (PH), and at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (CH). Blue-winged Teal were present all summer in

Rockingham County, Va. (RBC) and one was seen at Roanoke, Va., July 6 (MP) A **Fulvous Whistling Duck** was at Roanoke May 29 - July 2 (MP&BK).

**RAPTORS** — Sharp-shinned Hawks continue to decline as nesting birds in this Region, but Cooper's Hawk appears to be making a modest comeback. The Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks are holding their own, or even showing slight increases, but the Broad-winged Hawk appears to be in a decline. There were several reports of Bald Eagle for the summer; Norris L., Tenn., during June (JC) and July 9 (JH), French Broad R., Tenn., two June 15 (PP); Presque Isle S.P., Pa., two immatures June 1 (SSt); Fayette County, Pa., July 5 (DK), and Cumberland, Md. (no date) (KH). The T.V.A. personnel transplanted two young Ospreys from Maryland to artificial nest platforms at Norris L., and L. Chickamauga, Tenn., where they were being hand fed. Two nests each produced two young on another lake in that area (CN).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Shorebirds began to arrive at Kingston, Tenn., about July 18, and at Presque Isle July 26. During July 26-28 twenty species were seen at Presque Isle (DS). The more unusual records were: Piping Plover Kingston, Tenn., July 24 (L&KD,B&SS); six Whimbrel July 26 at Presque Isle, and one there July 27 (SSt); Willet July 10 at Roanoke; and Marbled Godwit found dead at Presque Isle July 27 (JF). Sanderling was the most common species at Presque Isle (DS) and dowitchers (sp.?) were reported from Kingston, Tenn. June 29 (MD&LTu), and Cumberland, Md., July 21 (KH). The latter was reported as a Long-billed but without supporting evidence. The only phalarope reports were of a Northern at Roanoke, Va., June 3, and a Wilson's there June 23-29 (MP). **American Avocets** were at Lewisburg, W. Va., July 14 providing a second state record (CHa), and at Presque Isle July 28 (JM).

**GULLS, TERNS, CUCKOOS** — The best record of the season was a carefully identified **Black-headed Gull** in transitional plumage between first-winter and first-nuptial at Presque Isle S.P., Pa., May 28. Full details of this, the first record for Pennsylvania were submitted (DS). A Franklin's Gull was at Presque Isle June 10 - July 1 (SSt&DS). An imm. Great Black-backed Gull was still present at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., June 6 (PS). A Least Tern was at Presque Isle June 11-12 (SSt&DS), while four Caspian Terns were seen at Kingston, Tenn., June 29 and July 4 (B&SS *et al.*).

In most of West Virginia both cuckoo species were in good numbers, partly a reflection of a heavy outbreak of tent caterpillars in the upper Ohio Valley, but in w. Pennsylvania Black-billed were scarce and Yellow-billed not particularly common (PH,RCL). Black-billed Cuckoos were seen as late as June 9 at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE) and one at Kingston, Tenn., July 22 (LT). [Several regional editors have attributed an abundance of cuckoos to this year's outbreak of tent caterpillars, but the logic of this escapes us. This year's abundance might result from *past* year's outbreaks, and an outbreak this year might produce more *visible* cuckoos, but surely not more cuckoos.—Ed.]

**CAPRIMULGIDS, WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — The Whip-poor-will continues to decline, evidenced for example, by only three reports for the season from w. Pennsylvania (PH). On June 9, 12 Chuck-will's-widows were heard near Fincastle, Va. (BK&MP). Hairy Woodpecker continues to decline and may soon qualify for the Blue List, but there were a few more than usual reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Both E. Kingbird and Great Crested Flycatcher were thought to be in low numbers at P.N.R. (RCL) and the first migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded there July 24 (RCL). A W. Kingbird was seen near Centerville, Va., June 22 (LT).

**SWALLOWS, NUTHATCHES, THRASHERS** — The number of reports of Cliff Swallow at various places indicated that this species may be making a welcome comeback. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported to have possibly the best nesting season in years, and were reported quite numerous on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE); but in the West Virginia spruce belt they were in well below normal numbers (GAH). Brown Thrashers were quite common in n. West Virginia, but strangely they were almost completely silent (WW).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — Red-eyed Vireos were unusually numerous almost everywhere. The Blue-winged Warbler continues to increase N and E, e.g., 11 vs an average of 5 on a northern West Virginia B.B.S. route (RB). With this expansion the Golden-winged Warbler is retreating and is now becoming quite scarce except in the higher mountains. The only report of the "Brewster's" Warbler was of one in Allegheny County, Pa., in June (KV), while "Lawrence's" Warbler was seen near Morgantown in June (GB), and one was banded at P.N.R., July 11 (RCL). In the mountains of w. North Carolina (MT), in the Cheat Mts., W. Va. (GAH) and in the Ligonier Valley of w. Pennsylvania (RCL) the Black-throated Green Warbler was in unusually low numbers. It has been my experience that this species undergoes rather violent oscillations in numbers in a highly irregular fashion, but no explanation for this is immediately apparent.

**FRINGILLIDS** — In those parts of the Region where the Rose-breasted Grosbeak nests, numbers were on the high side. Two singing ♂ Dickcissels with one female were seen near Hairston, Augusta Co., Va., June 5, but the field was mowed soon thereafter and the birds disappeared (LT). A male was seen July 15-22 near Mt. Solon, Augusta Co., Va. (R.B.C.).

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

The weather for the majority of the summer was cool. There were periods of hot, humid conditions but they were surprisingly infrequent for this area. Precipitation was varied within the Region, being adequate in most sections, with south and east-central Wisconsin, southeastern Michigan, and southern and western Minnesota having above normal rainfall. There were scattered heavy storms, with more than usual accompanied by hail. However damage was minimal.

Ornithologically this summer, even more so than last year's, failed to generate much excitement. Each state had its share of interesting sightings but few truly exciting finds. For Michigan the features were the still lingering Sprague's Pipit and House Finch, in Wisconsin it was another appearance of Arctic Tern and for Minnesota it was a cooperative Black Rail. Undoubtedly the most significant occurrence this summer was the continuation of unusual numbers of southern species, predominately vireos and warblers, found in all three states, with many nesting. It will be interesting to see if this will be repeated, as has happened with certain southern herons. Continued improved coverage in suitable habitat seems not the reason for this sudden influx of southern sightings, especially as many regional reporters lamented the paucity of reports that they received. One explanation was undoubtedly the ornithological quietness of the summer; however, the prime factor was the scarcity and inflated price of gasoline, necessitating limited coverage. If this gasoline problem continues it may promote improved coverage of local areas. This would certainly be an asset if it could clarify the ranges of various resident species. Certain gains towards this end already occurred this summer in limited areas of Michigan and Wisconsin.

In the following report, all county names lacking specific site designation are italicized.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Some reporters commented on the difficulty in finding Com. Loon in parts of its traditional nesting territory. One apparent cause was harassment by boaters and water skiers. The Red-necked Grebe colony in *St. Croix*, Wis., continues to decrease in size. Consistently high water is the main problem. However the nesting colony at *Rush L.*, Wis., continued strong, as exhibited by 20 adults and 20-25 young counted July 21 (DT). Of interest was the

discovery of another pair that summered on the Green Lake W.M.A., Columbia Co., Wis. (RH). A tardy Horned Grebe was found in *Wexford*, Mich., June 12 (CSchu) and one summered at *Crex Meadows* W.M.A., Burnett Co., Wis. (JE). Two Eared Grebes were found in *Muskegon*, Mich., July 14 (JP, EH). In Minnesota this species was more widespread than usual, with an exceptional peak of 105 at *Swan L.*, Nicollet Co., July 20 (JF). Similarly in Minnesota the W.

Grebe was found in above-normal numbers with sightings from 18 counties. In Wisconsin one was found at *Fish Lake* and *Crex Meadows* W.M.A.s, June 3 & 11 (JE). The unusual abundance of White Pelican that characterized the spring over much of the Region continued this summer in Minnesota. However in both Michigan and Wisconsin only two birds each were found. In the former they were at *Shiawassee N.W.R.*, from mid-July - 31+ (BJ *et al.*), while in the latter they remained until June 11 at *Superior* (RJo). Double-crested Cormorant was found more common than normal in Minnesota and Wisconsin. In the latter a new nesting colony joined the existing five, this one located at *Horicon N.W.R.* (BD). Little Blue Heron again nested at *Big Stone N.W.R.*, Minn., but in lower numbers than in previous years. A calico bird was observed at *Horicon N.W.R.*, July 21 (DT). The Cattle Egret, 20-30 pairs, nested in Wisconsin at *Horicon N.W.R.*, *Green Bay* (several pairs) and was present during July at *Crex Meadows* W.M.A. (JE). It also nested in Minnesota at *Big Stone N.W.R.*, but was down in numbers. Snowy Egret was also present at its *Big Stone N.W.R.*, nesting site but in lower numbers. One pair was also believed to have nested at *Green Bay*, Wis. Other sightings, all in Minnesota included *Nicollet* June 5 (JF) and *Grant* July 15 (KLa). The only confirmed nesting in the Region for the Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at *Westland*, *Wayne Co.*, Mich., although nesting was suspected in several Wisconsin locales. Additional sightings included *Oakland*, Mich. (AV), *Columbia*, *Outagamie* (DT) and *Racine* (JI), Wis., and *Ramsey*, Minn. (GO, D&GW).

**WATERFOWL** — The nesting success of Mute Swan in *Benzie*, Mich., was down this summer, reportedly owing to high water levels (CF). In Wisconsin, besides the usual sightings in *Ashland* and *Bayfield*, it was found during June in *Milwaukee* and July in *Dodge* and *Columbia* (m.ob.). A Whistling Swan was found in *Taylor* June 4 (SR) and one summered in *St. Croix* (RH), both in Wisconsin. A Snow Goose, possibly injured, was observed in *Stevens*, Minn., July 14 (RJ). Out-of-range duck sightings included a Black in *Meeker*, Minn., June 24; Ring-neckeds in *Benzie*, Mich., June 12 and *Columbia*, Wis., June 17; Canvasbacks in *Fond du Lac* and *Douglas*, Wis. (June 9 and throughout the period, respectively); Greater Scaup at *Manitowoc*,



Wis., June 12; Lesser Scaup in one Michigan and eight Wisconsin counties; a Com. Golden-eye July 1-9 at *Manitowoc*; and 25 Com. Mergansers June 28 in *Baraga*, Mich.

**HAWKS** — The lateness of the spring was further evidenced by hawks of several species still migrating at *Whitefish Pt.*, Mich., in early June. For example, 1270 Broad-winged Hawks June 2-3 (AR); and a late migrating Rough-legged Hawk observed there June 1 (AR). At *Keweenaw Pt.*, Mich., 900+ Broad-wingeds and 100 Red-taileds were counted June 11 (RS). Swainson's Hawks nesting in *Wright*, Minn., were unusual for that part of the state. Encouraging was the nesting success of both Bald Eagle and Osprey in Michigan. For the eagle 78 young from 82 nests was reported *cf.* last year's 68 young from 83 nests. Much of the increase was owing to greater success of the Lake Superior nests (SP). For the Osprey, 111 young from 110 nests, was up 10% from last year (SP).

**GROUSE THROUGH RAILS** — Certainly there are more Spruce Grouse present than reported. However this species continues elusive, as shown by only a solitary sighting reported from the entire Region; one in *Douglas*, Wis., June 12 (JI). The Bobwhite is being increasingly reported as scarce throughout much of the Region. Undoubtedly the past three severe winters have been a factor. The only King Rails sighted this summer were in Wisconsin with single birds in *Columbia* June 10 (RH) and *LaCrosse* June 28 (DT). Yellow Rail was reported from all three states, being probably more abundant than formerly believed, but lack of coverage prevents a close estimate of its numbers. At least four were at the *Seney N.W.R.*, *Schoolcraft Co.*, Mich., during the season (JS *et al.*). Two were heard at *Powell* W.M.A., *Vilas Co.*, Wis., June 11 (JI). In Minnesota there were good numbers in *McGregor* and *Waubun*. In addition they were also found in *Cass* and *Hubbard* (TS). One of the most exciting discoveries of this quiet summer was a Black Rail in *Hennepin*, Minn., June 11 (L. Gillette). It was subsequently seen and heard by many observers for the duration of June. A second bird was thought to be present also. This represented only the sixth state record.

**SHOREBIRDS** — As a result of the late spring there was a wealth of late migrating

shorebirds lingering until mid-June. For Michigan this included, all on June 15, Semipalmated and Black-bellied plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot and eight Dunlins all in Bay (AR); White-rumped and Semipalmated sandpipers in Muskegon; and W. Sandpiper June 2 in Chippewa (AR) and June 4 in Muskegon (JP). Minnesota's late migrants included Solitary Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs June 11 in Hennepin (OJ), Willet June 16 in Duluth (D&GW), Pectoral and Baird's sandpipers, and Dunlin June 15 in Lake of the Woods (KE) and Am. Avocet June 5 in Lyon (HK). In Wisconsin species that were likewise late included Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Lesser Yellowlegs June 14 in Green Bay (SR,DT), three White-rumped and one Baird's sandpiper June 20 in Dodge (DT); Least and W. sandpipers June 2 in Calumet (CR).

In addition the state had summering birds that included an undocumented Whimbrel at Green Bay, and Dunlins and Semipalmated Sandpipers at Manitowoc (CS *et al.*). Of special interest were studies done in Michigan and Minnesota of nesting Piping Plovers. In Michigan 30± pairs were found statewide (AL) with the majority along the Lake Superior and Emmet shorelines with single pairs as far s. as Lake Huron and Berrien. In Minnesota 20 pairs were found in Lake of the Woods (*vide* CH). A pair of Upland Sandpipers with two young in Marquette, Mich., represented only the second Upper Peninsula (hereafter, U.P.) nesting record (NI). The fall migration followed closely behind the last spring migrants. By late June assorted "peeps", yellowlegs, dowitchers, Solitary and Still sandpipers were appearing regionwide. Interesting sightings included the 10-15 Piping Plovers July 28 in Emmet (TA) and 104 Spotted Sandpipers July 14 at Muskegon, Mich. (JP,EH). A Whimbrel was observed July 28-29 at Long I., Ashland Co., Wis. (RE). Four Willets were found at St. Joseph July 24-25 and one each at New Buffalo, Mich., July 30 and Manitowoc, Wis., July 26-30 (CS). Lone W. Sandpipers were also found at New Buffalo, Mich., July 22-25 (RS,WB) and in Outagamie, Wis., July 29 (DT). The Buff-breasted Sandpiper found July 10 in Lyon (HK) was a record fall arrival for Minnesota. A Marbled Godwit was seen at St. Joseph, Mich., July 31 (WB). Always exciting, a ♂ Ruff was found July 9 near Cottonwood, Lyon Co., Minn. (HK). An Am. Avocet was observed July 29 in Otter Tail, Minn. (GO). Finally, a N. Phalarope was seen at Horicon N.W.R., Wis., July 31 (DT).

**GULLS THROUGH TERNS** — A white gull (Glaucous or Iceland) was briefly seen at Manitowoc, Wis., June 28-29 and July 20 (CS). Three Great Black-backed Gulls were found in Erie, Mich., June 24 (AR). The Laughing Gull appeared less frequently this summer than in past years. One was observed at Manitowoc June 6 (CS) and an adult was seen at New Buffalo and St. Joseph, Mich., intermittently July 3-14 (RS,WB). The only Franklin's Gulls sighted were in Wisconsin with two June 3, six June 12 and one July 27 at Manitowoc (CS,DT,SR) while three were at Milwaukee July 4-31+ (ST,DG). Two Little Gulls were present during the summer at their nesting site in Two Rivers, Wis., occasionally being seen s. to Manitowoc (m.ob.). Two different birds were present in Milwaukee July 24-31+

(JI) In Minnesota an adult was observed June 6-9 at Duluth (KE). Wisconsin birders were excited by the sighting of an Arctic Tern at Manitowoc June 12 (SR,DT) and 20 (CS). One wonders if this species is a more frequent May-June migrant than originally believed. An unusual concentration of 350 Caspian Terns was found at Duluth June 6 (KE).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS** — In all three states both cuckoos elicited considerable comment from birders. Both species were exceptionally common, undoubtedly owing to large tent caterpillar populations. Even the Yellow-billed was found in good numbers in much of the n. portion of the Region. Two Great Gray Owls were discovered by B. Cochrane July 20 on his farm in Forest, Wis. Photographic verification occurred in August (D. Follen, ph.) but the pair was present well into the autumn. In Minnesota this species was found in two locations in Lake (*vide* CH), a nest with two fledged young in St. Louis (JC) and one all summer near Moose L. in Carlton (BE), which represents one of the most southern summer records for the state. Most unexpected, because none was heard nor seen this past spring, was the discovery of a juv. Boreal Owl in the entrance hole of an aspen tree cavity in Cook, Minn., June 17 (D&GW). Two days later it was seen leaving the nest hole (RE), but not thereafter. Minnesota established another of its few nesting records for Saw-whet Owl with two fledged juveniles being fed by an adult in late July in Duluth (K&MH).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLINGS** — The only reports of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers came from Michigan where a nesting pair in Schoolcraft, the U.P., was observed feeding young during June (m.ob.). A female was found in Chippewa June 18 (BB *et al.*). Unusual was a W. Kingbird found in Columbia, Wis., July 7 (RH). The rare Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed near Moorhead, Clay Co., Minn., July 8 & 22 (L&CF). Observers in all three states commented on the greater number of Acadian Flycatchers found. Undoubtedly a major factor was improved coverage in suitable habitat. One Western Wood Pewee returned to its old nesting site at Palm Park, Roseau Co., Minn., but no nesting activity was observed (RHu).

Both Wisconsin and Minnesota noted fewer Boreal Chickadees, seemingly a pattern that commenced several years ago. The only Carolina Wren reported was an individual in Grant, Wis., June 3 (DT), probably the same one located in the general vicinity in early May. While Minnesota observers could find no Mockingbirds, and Wisconsin's only one June 30 - July 1 in Kenosha (HB), Michigan had a surprising number of sightings. They included single birds in Ottawa, Kent and Wayne, with several birds each in Grand Traverse, Kalbaska and Crawford. South of its normal range was a Hermit Thrush in Columbia, Wis. (KL,MM). An early migrating Swainson's Thrush was seen in Manitowoc, Wis., July 24 (CS). The E. Bluebird picture throughout the Region continued bleak. Again observers indicated few sightings and limited nesting. Unusually late were Water Pipters in Michigan. Two were observed at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa Co., Mich., June 2 (AR) and one in Alger June 12 (MA). The remarkable Sprague's Pipit that appeared in

Muskegon, Mich., during May lingered until June 9 (m.ob.). Loggerhead Shrike continues scarce in the Region. Wisconsin had several in Sauk (m.ob.), two during July in Door (CSch), and one during July in Iron (MB). In Michigan it was reported only from Benzie (KW), where fewer than usual were present. Minnesota's lone sighting occurred June 29 in Mower (DT)

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The news within these two groups reflected patterns of the past several summers. More northern species are extending or being discovered breeding farther s. than originally believed. And southern species are more common than originally believed. Certainly this past spring there was a remarkable upsurge in their variety and numbers in all three states. It is interesting to note that these patterns continued through the summer as witnessed by many of the following sightings. White-eyed Vireos were unusually common in both Michigan and Wisconsin. In Michigan, besides the usual several birds in Berrien, two pairs were found in St. Clair, one pair built but then abandoned its nest (AK,HD), one in Jackson until mid-July (JG *et al.*) and another in Wayne July 9 (DFr). Wisconsin sightings included Grant June 3 and Walworth June 20 (DT), Milwaukee June 3 (WW), until mid-June at Manitowoc (m.ob.), a banded bird in Sauk June 18 (EP), Dane June 24 (KL) and a pair during June in Washington (NC). Bell's Vireos were found in LaCrosse, Grant, Dane, Sauk and Columbia, Wis., and Berrien, Mich. The Yellow-throated Vireo is considered rare in parts of Michigan. Therefore eight found in five sites in Osego, including a fledged bird was interesting (DM).

Worm-eating Warblers were again present in Stevensville, Mich., during June. In Wisconsin this species was found during June in Waukesha (m.ob.), Grant (DT) and Sauk (KL, BH). "Brewster's" Warblers were located in several Wisconsin and Michigan counties. The rarer "Lawrence's" Warbler was found in Michigan in Livingston (JG) and in Lapeer until July 29 (RL *et al.*). The Tennessee Warbler posed a puzzling picture this summer. It was found in all three states at unusual times. In Wisconsin one in Winnebago June 11 (CS) probably was an exceptionally late spring migrant. However the one in Madison July 4 (BH) is hard to explain while the two in Milwaukee July 24 (JI) probably were unusually early fall migrants. In s.w. Minnesota an exceptionally late bird was found June 21 in Murray (AD). Michigan's birds included June 17 in Berrien (RS,DP) and June 23 in Houghton (AW). Nashville Warblers were found farther s. in the Region than had been expected. For example, in Michigan nesting pairs were found in Genesee (BR), Waterloo S.R.A. (JG) and Bald Mt. R.A. (JK).

In Wisconsin the most southerly observations included Waukesha (JB), Dane (ST), Columbia, Sauk, Richland and Grant (KL, MM). The Cape May Warbler is rare in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, hence the interest when one female and two males were found July 2 in Osego (DM). Three ♂ Cerulean Warblers in Otter Tail, Minn., were n. of their normal range (SM). Yellow-throated Warblers were again present in Berrien with 3-5 males present into July. Also in Michigan, one was found in St. Joseph July 10 (WB). Unusually far s. were five Pine Warblers present in



*Waukesha Wis (JB)* during June Grattifyingly the Kirtland's Warbler showed an increase in the number of singing males this summer. There were 310 counted *cf.* last year's 193 (LR *et al.*). In Wisconsin one, probably two singing males were found during June and early July in *Jackson (DF et al.)*.

Prairie Warblers were found in *Mason (EG)*, *Crawford (m.ob.)* and *Jackson (JG)*, Mich. Kentucky Warblers were present in Wisconsin with five in *Grant (DT)*, four in *Waukesha (JB)* and one in *Trempealeau (FL)*. In Michigan one was located in *Jackson (m.ob.)*. Yellow-breasted Chat was present in above normal numbers with at least seven in five Michigan counties and three in two Wisconsin counties. Hooded Warbler was likewise present in greater than normal numbers. This was especially true in Wisconsin with several in *Sauk (KL)*, single birds in both *Walworth (DT)* and *Dane (ST)* and 12+ in *Waukesha (JB)*. Michigan had a nesting pair in *Wash-tenaw (TW)* plus the usual birds in *Berrien (RS)* and *Muskegon*. Even Minnesota had a summer sighting with one June 7 in *Sherburne (NH)*. Somewhat unexpected were three Canada Warblers in *Waukesha, Wis.*, during the first week of July (JB).

**ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS** — Orchard Orioles were sighted more frequently than usual this summer. This was especially true interestingly, in n.w. Minnesota. In Wisconsin sightings occurred in six counties including a surprising one from *Marquette* in the n.e. (HL). Michigan had birds in three counties. Unusual was the sighting of two

Rusty Blackbirds in *Cook*, in n Minnesota during June (KE,RJ). Amazing was a ♂ Blue Grosbeak that came sporadically to a Duluth feeder during the summer (*vide KS*). This represents the farthest n. in the state this species has ever been recorded. For Wisconsin and Michigan the unpredictable Dickcissel appeared later than usual in fair numbers. Wisconsin had sightings in 18 counties and Michigan in two. Michigan's **House Finch** that resided in Utica remained until at least June 8. Pine Siskins again lingered farther s. than normal. Birds were found in s.e. Minnesota, while in Wisconsin a few remained until mid-June in *Appleton (DT)* with nesting occurring in both *LaCrosse (HY)* and *Dane (CL)*. Crossbills continued scarce throughout the Region, with Red found sparingly in only one Michigan, one Wisconsin and two Minnesota counties. A White-winged Crossbill was observed July 8 in *Lake, Minn. (SW)*. Lark Bunting, a marginal species in w. Minnesota, continues unusually scarce. This summer only two birds were reported, from *Pipestone* July 25. Grasshopper Sparrows were noted in 18 Wisconsin and four Michigan counties. Le Conte's Sparrows were reported from two Michigan and two Wisconsin counties, while Henslow's Sparrow was found in 12 Wisconsin and three Michigan counties. Sharp-tailed Sparrow was located more frequently than expected in Minnesota, especially in the n.w. section. Lark Sparrow was found in only three Wisconsin counties.

**ADDENDUM** — A Gannet was photographed over the St. Clair R., at Port Huron

Oct. 13, 1978 (A. Rider). This represents the fifth Michigan record.

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## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Vernon M. Kleen

The 1979 Breeding Season was good for birds and in most instances, good for observers. More observers provided more meaningful information for this season than for any previous breeding season. Such programs as Iowa's birding Forays and Illinois' Mid-June Birding Challenge found observers recording data that have been lacking from many past reports. Hence, this is the longest and most comprehensive of all breeding season reports to date. Thanks are also extended to individual observers from other states who comprehensively surveyed particular areas in order to document species abundance and distribution patterns.

From these accounts, it is readily noted that several species have extended their breeding ranges farther south (some ducks, gulls, flycatchers, Veeries, warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and sparrows); or farther north (some shrikes, vireos, warblers, orioles and grosbeaks). Some species populations seem to have increased (both cuckoos, woodpeckers, gnatcatchers) but more have apparently decreased (herons, hummingbirds, kingfishers, mockingbirds, titmice, meadowlarks, Dickcissels and sparrows). Several species lingered throughout the season (loons, ducks, shorebirds, gulls and terns). Other were hardly gone before returning (shorebirds and warblers).

Owing to the late spring, migration continued later than usual and nesting began up to two weeks later than usual for many species. June was rather cool with low to moderate rainfall; however, the coolness of July was coupled with extreme rainfall — especially in the south at the end of the month.

Some of the excitement came from observations of new additions to state lists: Western Wood Pewee in Iowa, Black-headed Gull and White-winged Black Tern in Indiana; and rarities elsewhere: Curlew Sandpipers in Illinois, White Ibis in Kentucky.

As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. For the breeding season, 43 documentation forms were received: Indiana — 14, Illinois — 13, Iowa — 7, Ohio — 7, Kentucky — 1, and Missouri — 1. In addition, nine photographs were received. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†) and specimens by an asterisk (\*). Records which were not satisfactorily documented, but which may be credible appear in the UNCORROBORATED RECORDS section.

As a reading aid, the following abbreviations have been used in the text: E.St.L. = E. St. Louis, Ill.; L.Cal. = Lake Calumet, Ill.;



Mich.C. = Michigan City, Ind.; O.W.R. = Ottawa Nat'l Wildl. Ref., O.; P.R.A. = Pigeon River Fish & Wildl. Area, Ind.; S.C.R. = Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildl. Ref., Mo.; S.L.R. = Swan Lake Nat'l Wildl. Ref., Mo.; S.R.F. = Sand Ridge State Forest, Ill.; and Spfld. = Springfield, Ill.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Nine Com. Loons summered or lingered into June at 6 scattered locations in 4 states. A single Horned Grebe was reported from Lora County, O., June 20 (JP). Five W. Grebes were present in Clay County, Ia., June 15 and one remained through June 17 (†JD); another was at Decorah, Ia., through June 17 (RSI, BW). Nesting Pied-billed Grebes were reported as far s. as Springfield, Mo., for a first area record (RM,CB) and E.St.L. (BR *et al.*); 12+ broods were encountered at L. Cal. (RBI);



there were other Regionwide encounters but the species was scarce in Ohio. White Pelicans reported were: 15 Clay County, Ia., June 14 (JD), five Decorah, Ia., through July 8 (RSi *et al.*), two S.C.R., June 2 (L); and two Cleveland, Mo., July 14 (MS). Double-crested Cormorants were reported from all six states; the Thompson, Ill., colony increased to 25 nests including use of an artificial tree; the species, with a max. of three, was found in all corners of Iowa, but 20, mostly immatures, were present at Decorah (RSi, m.ob.); singles were reported from Louisville, Ky., June 29 (LR); Hammond Beach, Ind., July 5 (KBr); Ottawa County, O., July 21 (JP); Columbus, O., June 10-12 (JF); Cincinnati June 10 (WR); E.St.L., June 29 - July 17 (BR *et al.*); L.Cal., June 9-17 (RBI), and two at Oquawka, Ill., June 23 (LM).

**HERONS AND IBISES** — Four colonies of Great Blue Herons were reported from Illinois — max. of 160 nesting pairs; other reports were of 254 nests at Lordstown, O. (CJ) and a new colony in Seneca County, O. (TB); other Ohio colonies had normal numbers and apparently good success (m.ob.). A Green Heron colony of 14 nests was present at L.Cal. (RBI), small numbers were reported nesting elsewhere in Illinois; low numbers were suggested for parts of Kentucky (S). The E.St.L. heronry had 100± pairs of Little Blue Herons (DJ *et al.*); post-breeding migrants appeared in late June or early July in most states. Cattle Egrets were scarcely reported; the E.St.L. colony contained 30-40 pairs (DJ). Great Egrets were rarely encountered except in the w. L. Erie marshes of Ohio where normal numbers were suggested, and in the E.St.L. area; 35 were found in e. Iowa July 22 (T *et al.*). If the 10-20 pairs of Snowy Egrets at the E.St.L. colony is correct, a dramatic increase is evident from past years; the presence of one or more at several Ottawa County, O., locations June 13 - July 9 warrants optimism for possible nesting there (†JP, LV); singles were reported from L.Cal., June 9-10 (RBI, m.ob.) and Kansas City, Mo., July 29 (SP, m.ob.). Indiana's second **Louisiana Heron** was documented at Indianapolis July 8-9 (AS, †TK *et al.*); another was observed at O.W.R., July 22 (†JP). Normal numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons occurred in w. L. Erie marshes (PJ *et al.*); 150-180 pairs nested at E.St.L. (DJ); nearly 100 were observed in the L.Cal. area, but local disturbances forced abandonment; 20 nests in Dickinson County, Ia., were washed out (JD); Louisville totals max. 81, were lower than previous high encounters (LR); none was observed in Indiana. One or two Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from eight locations during July; the only nest discovered was near L.Cal. (WM). Least Bitterns successfully nested at Cincinnati (WR) and L.Cal. (RBI, JL); one or two birds were noted at many locations. American Bitterns were "fairly common" at Ruthven, Ia. (JD), but were reported from only three other Regionwide locations, including a nest at Beardstown, Ill. (CBe). A White Ibis appeared at Louisville July 29 (†LS).

**WATERFOWL** — Seven Mute Swans were present at Gary, Ind., July 14-17 (TK, KBr); a pair raised two young at Springfield, Mo. (RM), another pair was reported from s. Cook County, Ill., July 6-22 (KBa). Increasing numbers of Canada Geese summered in Ken-

tucky (*vide* S, FS), a pair attempted nesting at L. Waveland, Ind. (AB), and did nest at Ruthven, Ia. (JD). Thirty Snow Geese summered near Decorah, Ia. (m.ob.). As usual, there were several isolated instances of lingering ducks. Two Black Ducks at L.Cal., through June (RBI) and one at Spfld., July 1 (H). Three to five Gadwalls at L.Cal., June 17 - July 31 (RBI, JL); four at O.W.R., July 1 (*vide* PJ); one to three at Hastings, Ia., all summer (BW); and present at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., June 19 (J). Pintail: two at L.Cal., June 17 (RBI, JL); several pairs summered at O.W.R.; and probable nesting in Clay County, Ia. (JD). Green-winged Teal at six scattered Iowa locations (T, m.ob.); two at Thomas, Mo., all summer (JR); three pair at O.W.R. (J, PJ); two at Riverdale, Ill., June 23 (JL). Blue-winged Teal reports were too numerous to detail. American Wigeon: one at L.Cal., June 17 (RBI). Northern Shoveler: two summered at L.Cal. (RBI, JL). There were two early June records of Redheads in e. Iowa (P, RH); three pairs at Cedar Pt., O., June 3 (J); one pair at O.W.R., in July (*vide* PJ); and one at Spfld., June 11 (H). There were six June reports of Ring-necked Ducks in Iowa (m.ob.); one bird in Erie County, O., through June 13 (PJ); and one at L.Cal., June 14 (JL). A pair of Greater Scaup was still at L.Cal., June 9 with one remaining through July 8 (†RBI). A Lesser Scaup summered at Riverdale, Ill. (RBI, JL); the species was noted at several Iowa locations during June, but only once in July; and one bird was at St. Charles, Mo., July 7 (PSn). A Bufflehead stayed at L.Cal., June 14-23 (RBI, JL). Isolated pairs of Ruddy Ducks stayed at O.W.R. (PJ) and until July 13 in Lorain County, O. (JP). Small numbers of Hooded Mergansers were found in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana; many were immature. Two Com. Mergansers summered at L.Cal. (RBI) and one was in Clay County, Ia., June 28 (JD).

Actual nesting was recorded for many of these species. Gadwall: Erie County, O. (PJ), Pintail: Riverdale, Ill. (RBI, JL), Green-winged Teal: L.Cal. (RBI), Blue-winged Teal: Columbia and Thomas Hill Reservoirs, Mo. (JR); Cincinnati (WR); Mahomet, Ill., for the second Champaign County record (RCh); E.St.L. (BR); L.Cal. (RBI); and Riverdale, Ill. (RBI, JL). Redheads were common nesters near Ruthven, Ia. (JD); one young was among a Mallard brood at L.Cal., July 14 (RBI, JL). Lesser Scaup in Story County, Ia. (LZ). Five Ruddy Duck broods at L.Cal., produced 26 young and three broods at Riverdale, Ill., produced 17 young (RBI). Hooded Merganser: Kankakee Fish & W.M.A., Ind. (KBr); s. Cook County, Ill. (KBa); and other probable locations.

In addition to these records, the commonly nesting Wood Duck did very well this year.

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — A Mississippi Kite was again present at the Sanganois Conservation Area, Ill. (H). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks nested for the second consecutive year near Cincinnati (WR *et al.*); singles were detected (primarily in July) at five other widely scattered locations. Cooper's Hawk nests were located in Kentucky (JEr) and Indiana (ABr); there may have been a modest increase in numbers in Ohio (J). Red-shouldered Hawks continued to receive favorable comments with at least three nests reported; singles were noted throughout the

season at several locations. Nesting Broad-winged Hawks were reported from Park Forest, Ill. (AD); Columbus, O. (JF); and as possibly breeding in n.e. Iowa and n. Indiana. Swainson's Hawks summered at two Kane County, Ill. locations; other observations were from w. Missouri. An imm. Golden Eagle was documented at Iowa City, Ia., July 23 (†N).

The Bald Eagle population in n.w. Ohio had its most successful breeding season since 1975 with three young fledged from four nests; in addition, a non-breeding pair remained in the area (LV); an immature bird was noted at Monroe Res., Ind. July 29 (SG). The only N Harriers reported were singles at L.Cal., June 17 (RBI) and Carlyle, Ill., July 15 (H). Two Ospreys were still present in Calhoun County, Ill., June 7 (HWu); two others, in Sandusky Bay, O., June 12 (JP); one at Salamonie, Ind., in June (BL). Fair-to-good numbers of Am Kestrels were reported from Kentucky and n.e. Iowa; Illinois survey routes indicated a 26.6% increase since 1978 (JE); at L.Cal., 25 (11 in one flock) were observed July 21 (RBI).

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Ruffed Grouse have apparently been successfully introduced into s.e. Iowa (DR); good numbers were found in n.e. Iowa (DKo). Illinois' Greater Prairie Chicken flock dwindled to only 68 cocks — 27% below the 1963-78 mean; primary problems have been: (a) predation on nests, and (b) competition, harassment and nest parasitism by pheasants (RW). The Bobwhite is still at low ebb; Ohio observers suggested a possible slight increase; Indiana reporters recommended a temporarily closed hunting season. Gray Partridges continued normally — a S movement was noted in n. Audubon County, Ia. (RSi). Lone Sandhill Cranes were detected several times at P.R.A., during June. Virginia Rails nested at Chicago (WM) and Bloomington, Ill. (DB) and may have bred at L.Cal. (RBI). At least two pairs of Soras nested successfully at Cincinnati (WR), fledged young were also reported from L.Cal. (RBI) and n.w. Indiana (RBI). At least 17 nests or broods of Com. Gallinules were recorded for L.Cal. (RBI, JL, WM); three young were also found in n.w. Indiana (RBI). The Am Coot was an abundant nester in n. Iowa (JD) and much of n.e. Illinois (RBI, JL, WM); nesting also occurred at E.St.L. (BR, PSn) and Beardstown, Ill. (CBe).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Piping Plovers arrived at Frankfort, Ky., by July 22 (JEI) and E.St.L., July 23-24 (BR). An Am. Golden Plover lingered at Spfld., June 26 (H). Ruddy Turnstones (21) lingered at O.W.R., until June 3 (LV, m.ob.) and returned to Erie County, O., by July 20 (JP); the species hardly left n.e. Illinois. The three Whimbrels reported were found at: Mich.C., July 13-23 (†KBr *et al.*), Erie County, O., July 22 (JP) and Evanston, Ill., July 28 (RBI, HE). At least 20 young Upland Sandpipers were fledged from six breeding pairs at Atterbury Fish & W.M.A., Ind. (CK), one nest was found near Dallas City, Ill. (K, CBe); possible breeding was evident at Magee Marsh, O. (JP); five to eight individuals were repeatedly present at L.Cal. (RBI, JL); other possible nesting locations were: Vermilion County, Ill. (MCA); Henry County, Ill. (*vide* P), and scattered s.e. and n.e. Iowa locations. The widespread Willet migration began with one

bird at L. Cal., July 8 (RBI) then nine at Mich. C., five at Cleveland July 13, and 43 were present at Mich. C., July 14 (KBr,TK); late spring migrants were singles at L. Cal., June 10 (RBI) and Forney L., Ia., June 1 (RSi). Lone Red Knots arrived in Erie County, O., July 12 (JP); Chicago July 30 (RBI, JL); and Monroeville, Ind. Aug. 5 (†LP). The June 30 presence of a **Purple Sandpiper** at Chicago was exceptional (†JL, †RBI, †HE). Least Sandpipers were absent from n.e. Illinois for only one week; the 300+ at L. Cal., July 14 (RBI, JL) was indicative of their abundance on return. The most noteworthy species for the entire season was **Curlew Sandpiper**; first discovered at L. Cal., July 22 (†RBI) providing Illinois' second record. The bird remained through July 26 (†B, m.ob.). A second bird was found at the Chicago Metropolitan Sanitary District Plant, July 29 (†B); and a third, at Waukegan Beach, Ill., July 31 (GR, JN). Stilt Sandpipers were reported in modest numbers, max. 25, during the last two weeks of July everywhere but Kentucky; however, the first had returned by June 29 to Erie County, O. (JP). A Marbled Godwit had arrived at Mich. C., by July 13 (KBr); two at O. W. R., July 30 (JP). Lone Hudsonian Godwits were late spring migrants at Ames, Ia., June 3 (HZ) and Hastings, Ia., June 1 (BW). A ♂ Ruff was present at Urbana, Ill., July 17-25 (†RCh, m.ob.-ph.). Except for the six Sanderlings at Louisville, Ky., June 24 (JEL, DP), there was a six week gap before the species reappeared July 18 at Mich. C. (CK, TK). One to three Am. Avocets were reported at each of six locations in the four n. states July 10-24. Wilson's Phalaropes occurred at five locations July 14-28 (max. five) in Missouri, Ohio and Illinois; one bird was present in Iowa June 14 (DKO).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — The gull colony at L. Cal., seems to be increasing; at least 26 pairs of Herring Gulls nested and 70 young were present July 21 (RBI) and at least 665 young Ring-billed Gulls were counted July 8 (RBI). Summering gulls, not including the 2400 ad. Ring-billeds at L. Cal., were more numerous than usual. Nearly 200 Herring Gulls remained near Waukegan, Ill., and another 100 around Chicago; while 800 Ring-billeds stayed in the Waukegan area and nearly 1700 around Chicago (RBI). The nesting colony of Ring-billeds in Lucas County, O., increased from about 200 pairs in 1977 to nearly 2000 this year (LV); 21 non-breeding individuals were present in St. Charles County, Mo., June 6 (TP) and six in Calhoun County, Ill., June 29 (m.ob.). An ad. Laughing Gull arrived at Oregon, O., June 23 (†LV) and different immatures arrived at Spfld., June 20 and 28; the latter stayed until July 12 (H). Thirteen Franklin's Gulls lingered at Ames, Ia., through June 9 (HZ) and one at Trumbull L., Ia., June 14 (JD); another summerer? In Erie County, O., June 16 - July 6 (JP); one appeared at Mich. C., July 23 (KBr). An ad. Bonaparte's Gull was at Chicago July 1 (JL); but seven individuals were found at Waukegan, Ill., July 7 (RBI, JL); and one at Spfld., June 20 - July 3 (H). The July 18 presence of a **Black-headed Gull** at Mich. C., was noteworthy (†CK, TK).

Forster's Terns nested in n.w. Iowa (JD); several summered at L. Cal., and 20, including immatures, were present in early August (RBI); four, Oquawka, Ill., June 23 (LM);

migrants appeared elsewhere by July 7 (m ob.) Several Com Terns summered at L. Cal. (RBI) and 30+ nests were recorded near Waukegan, Ill., July 7 (RBI, JL) with young already present; the colony in Lucas County, O., totalled 350 pairs (LV) with only 25 young produced. Most nests were abandoned during the incubation stage — cause unknown. Ten to twelve Least Terns were found in Alexander County, Ill., July 23 (JGa); one was reported from St. Joseph, Mo., June 30 (L). The two ad. Caspian Terns at L. Cal., all summer may have nested since one fledged young was observed there July 14 (RBI); seven birds were present at Waukegan July 7 (RBI, JL); two summered at Spfld. (H); a few were present near Louisville June 29 and July 1 (JEL, DP); they were found in four widely scattered Iowa locations, two Missouri locations and Cincinnati during June and early July. Black Terns nested at L. Cal. (RBI); Antioch, Ill. (CBe); n.w. Indiana (RBI); and w. L. Erie marshes in Ohio (J). The **White-winged Black Tern** at Gary, Ind., July 17 was well-documented, but could not be rerelocated (†KBr *et al.*); this is apparently the first inland United States record in over a century (KBr).

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — On 45 bird survey routes in Illinois, wildlife biologists indicated a 75% increase in the Mourning Dove population since 1978 (JE). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were unanimously recorded as abundant this year. Black-billed Cuckoos, too, were more common than in other recent years. Nesting Barn Owls were reported from s.w. Iowa; Carroll County, Ky.; Caruthersville and St. Joseph, Mo.; and Killbuck Marsh W.M.A., O., where two of the five pairs that attempted nesting were successful and produced 12 young. The Chuck-will's-widow returned to the S.R.F., for the fourth year in the past five (RBJ). The Ruby-throated Hummingbird population must be declining. Belted Kingfishers were also scarce. Pileated Woodpeckers are apparently expanding. N. Hairy Woodpeckers in n.e. Iowa were just as common as Downy Woodpeckers.

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — A W. Kingbird was found in Lee County, Ia., June 9 (†MN). Iowa's first **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** nesting was established at Ames (JD, m.ob.); one bird appeared in Richland County, Ill., July 1 (†LHa). More Acadian Flycatchers occurred in e. Iowa than expected. Possible breeding Alder Flycatchers were found in four n. Indiana locations. Territories and possible nesting were recorded for the Least Flycatcher in Vermilion and Will counties, Ill., Holmes County, O.; many locations in Iowa; and n. Indiana, especially P.R.A., where 25 pairs were detected (MWe, PSi). Iowa's first **Western Wood Pewee** was documented by sight and song in Wright County June 21 (†JSc). The Olive-sided Flycatcher at Akron, O., was a little out of range June 29 (CT). Tree Swallows had excellent nesting success along L. Erie. High water killed many trees, thus creating good nesting sites. Isolating nesting instances were also recorded for Kentucky Lakes, Ky. (JEr) and Spfld. (H). Nesting Cliff Swallows were significant at Glasgow, Ky. — 20 nests (RSt); two Indiana locations; three Ohio locations — one of which, Holmes County, had 174 pairs (DK); and one Illinois location. Comments concern-

ing Purple Martins were still varied, some observers feel that the species is doing fine while others question their disappearance

**CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS** — Black-capped Chickadees have been replaced by Carolina Chickadees at Fox L., near Ft Wayne, Ind. (JM). Declines in Tufted Titmice may be occurring. Indiana's first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** nesting was established at Terre Haute (†MWa); one bird was observed in Holmes County, O., June 2 (CT). Summering Brown Creepers were reported at three locations. Winter Wrens were found in three n.e. Iowa areas in late June (DKo). Bewick's Wrens are still scarce, but nesting was successful in Jefferson County, Mo., and at Columbia, Mo.; one bird was noted at Frenchburg, Ky., July 1 (DC). Obviously, the Carolina Wren has had too little time for noticeable recovery, however, some Indiana reporters feel the population has increased slightly.

**MIMICS, THRUSHES AND GNAT-CATCHERS** — The Mockingbird population is much reduced in many areas. The Veery continued its S expansion in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Ohio. Eastern Bluebirds were encountered in many areas — but still in reduced numbers; there were no signs of a strong comeback. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher population in the n. Ohio areas was apparently improved over past years (M, ET).

**WAXWINGS, SHRIKES AND VIREOS** — As usual, there was a scattering of Cedar Waxwing nests in Kentucky, Ohio and Missouri. Loggerhead Shrike was more plentiful in n. portions of its range than in recent years and nesting was reported from Indiana and several c. Illinois locations; several individuals were found throughout Iowa. White-eyed Vireos were detected at eight Iowa locations, they were expanding into the n. tier of Ohio counties with 5-7 pairs in some areas; and maintaining or improving populations in n.e. Illinois. Bell's Vireos appeared in many Iowa locations; were termed plentiful in the St. Louis and Springfield, Mo. areas; and found in good numbers in e.c. Illinois. A **Solitary Vireo** nest in S.R.F., was Illinois' first although the only young fledged was a cowbird; one bird was found in Newton County, Ind., July 4 (†KO).

**WARBLERS** — Many species were still moving through the Region during early June, since this is normal, those records have not been included unless significant. Black-and-white Warblers were "commonplace" in n. Indiana at four locations and noteworthy at two Iowa sites; another was found in Jasper County, Ill. Fifteen Worm-eating Warblers in early June at two s.e. Iowa sites indicated that the species may be more common than previously thought; it was routinely encountered in its n. haunts. A Golden-winged Warbler was present near Indianapolis near mid-June (AS); another demonstrated "aggressive" behavior near Park Forest, Ill., in late June (AD). A "Brewster's" Warbler held territory near Columbus, O., for the second consecutive year (JF). A disoriented Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was still present at Charleston, Ill., June 19 (LHu). A Black-throated Green Warbler summered in Erie County, O. (JP). Ceru-

lean Warblers increased in numbers in e Iowa and n e Ohio. A Blackburnian Warbler at Pine Hills, Ind., has been present there for the third consecutive year (AB); three males were noted at P.R.A., June 15-16 (LCs); another summered at Milan, O. (JP). Yellow-throated Warblers nested at three Iowa locations; four pairs were reported from Milan, O. (JP).

Chestnut-sided Warblers nested near Ft. Wayne, Ind. (DL, JM) and in Lorain County, O. (JP); possible breeding or establishment of territories was encountered at two other Indiana, two Iowa, three Ohio and one Illinois location. The N advancement of Prairie Warblers continued in evidence in Lorain County, O. (JP); several c. Ohio areas (J); Salamonie, Ind. (JM, DL); S.R..F. (RBj); and Vermilion County, Ill. (MCA). Kentucky Warblers were widely reported in the n. Yellow-breasted Chats were somewhat more common in the n. Eight pairs of Hooded Warblers were found at P.R.A., in June (LCs, PSi); territorial males were located in two n.e. Iowa locations (JSc); and five pairs were reported from Lorain County, O. (JP). A Wilson's Warbler was encountered in Jackson County, Mo., June 18 (KH). Canada Warblers were present during June at P.R.A. (LCs), Beverly Shores, Ind., Bellevue S.P., Ia., June 5 and White Pines Hollow, Ia., June 19 (DKO).

**BLACKBIRDS** — Bobolinks, dependent on changing farming practices, have fared well in some areas and declined in others; slight S extensions continued. Eastern Meadowlark populations should be monitored closely. The presence of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Lucas County, O., is the hoped-for initiation of a breeding colony (LV). Small numbers of Orchard Orioles were found throughout Iowa; the species is increasing in numbers in n. Ohio. The nesting Great-tailed Grackles at S C R., had all disappeared by early June (L).

**GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, FINCHES** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted farther s than is usual in Ohio and Illinois while Blue Grosbeaks were farther n. in Iowa, Indiana and Illinois. Painted Buntings may be increasing in numbers in s.w. Missouri, especially along brushy rural roadsides (RBn). There has been a serious decline in Dickcissels in Ohio and they have been less frequently reported at other areas; however, the 115 males in Lawrence County, Ill., June 10 (LHa) is encouraging. A nest of Purple Finches was successful in Lorain County, O. (JP); a territory had been established in Wayne County, O. (J) and several summered at Akron, O. (CT). Two different groups of House Finches summered in Cincinnati (RSc); 25-30 birds were noted in Lorain County, O. (JP) and the first Trumbull County, O., record was established (CJ). Young Pine Siskins fledged June 14 at Iowa City, Ia. (TS, T); one bird was still at Louisville June 9 (BP, KC). A dead White-winged Crossbill was salvaged at Anita, Ia., July 24 (\*DPa).

**SPARROWS** — Slight increases in Grasshopper Sparrow populations were noted in Kentucky (S), c. Ohio (DK) and e. Illinois (LHa). Moderate numbers of Henslow's Sparrows were reported. The Vesper Sparrow was another of the S expanding species in e. Illinois (LHa). A Bachman's Sparrow was recorded three times at the Atterbury Fish & W.M.A., Ind., in late May and early June (CK, TK).

Four White-throated Sparrows summered at Evanston, Ill (RBi). A lone White-crowned Sparrow was present at Decatur, Ind., June 3 (LP).

**UNCORROBORATED RECORDS** — Eared Grebe, Pocahontas County, Ia., July 3. Glaucous Gull, Ashtabula County, O., July 18.

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All field reports for the Winter Season Dec. 1, 1979 - Feb. 29, 1980, should be in the hands of the Regional Editors no later than Mar. 10, 1980.

## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Jerome A. Jackson and  
C. Dwight Cooley

The summer season in the mid-south was a wet one punctuated by the appearance of hurricanes *Bob* and *Claudette*. July was the wettest on record in northwest Florida in over 100 years. Not unexpectedly the notable ornithological events of the season are primarily (1) new or unusual records of shorebirds that were taking advantage of the many flooded areas or seabirds moved inland by the Gulf weather and (2) losses to seabird colonies as a result of the storms. The southward expansion of the breeding range of House Wrens in Arkansas is an event worthy of continued monitoring. Thanks to the network of observers across the South and the interest of regional editors, we have very thorough documentation of range expansions of several species in recent years. That of the Barn Swallow in the Central Southern Region has culminated with the species now nesting throughout Mississippi. The news on expansion is old, and now we are beginning to document population increases as the birds become firmly established in their new ranges.

The status of northern Gulf Coast pelagics, previously ignored by all but a few hardy souls, got a tremendous shot in the arm this season with the advent of regularly scheduled trips out of Dauphin Island and at least one trip out of Louisiana. These expeditions extend out to and beyond the continental shelf and much valuable information on offshore species is being gathered. We hope these pelagic trips will continue and expand to seasons other than summer and fall. Then the status of pelagic species can be determined with certainty.

**LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS** — Records of two Com. Loons off Horn I., July 5-6 and two off E. Ship I., July 9 (JAJ, CDC) further document the apparent regular summering of this species in winter plumage (juvinal?) on the Gulf Coast. An Eared Grebe in breeding plumage at the Hattiesburg sewage lagoons was last seen June 5 (TF).

Up to four Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen June 10, July 1, and Aug. 4-5, 20-30 km s of Dauphin I. (S.P.E.) and at least two were spotted 60-65 mi s. of Grand I., July 21 (JRS, NNe, PN, m.ob.). Two White Pelicans were seen at the Pascagoula R. marsh June 6 (JAT, MH) and 150± Brown Pelicans were at Dauphin I., July 23 (REH). Single Brown Boobies off St. Vincent I., July 10 (GEM, HMS, m.ob.) and at Mexico Beach, Bay Co., July 21 (JEC) are good Florida records. Records of Blue-faced Boobies are becoming regular on the n. Gulf. One at Dauphin I., June 23 provided the second June record; the species has been recorded in Alabama each year since 1971 (RWH). Single sub-adult birds were also seen July 6 near Horn I. (CDC, JAJ) — the second record for Mississippi — and July 28 at Pensacola Beach (CLK, FW, DR, KR, RR). Double-crested Cormorants lingered until at least June 12 near Gallatin, Tenn (DC, PC) and until June 29 at Wheeler N.W.R (DMB, CAB). Disturbances in the Gulf resulted in Magnificent Frigatebirds moving inland; 140+ were at Ocean Springs during hurricane *Bob's* appearance (MH), one was observed

near Kenner, La., July 24, and 275+ were over the beach in Harrison and Jackson Cos., Miss., July 25 (JAT).

A pair of Reddish Egrets on a nest on Cat I., Mobile Co., June 25, provided the first Alabama nest record (DCH). Increasing numbers have also been reported in Mississippi, with a new state high of nine seen on E. Ship I., July 10 (CDC, JAJ). Other records included six on Horn I., July 12 (MH), and one at Biloxi July 25 (JAT). At New Orleans a group of Great Egrets was again reported feeding on rats along I-10 and other roads (JK). A Snowy Egret at L. Millwood July 20 (DA, WHA) and an imm. Louisiana Heron n.e. of Marion (BBC, LCC) were unusual Arkansas records. Over 75 pairs of Yellow-crowned Night Herons successfully nested in New Orleans (JK). This species was also reported at two Arkansas localities: four at DeQueen, Sevier Co., June 9 (DA, WHA) and one at L. Millwood July 26 (DA). A Least Bittern was seen at Grenada L., Miss., June 19 (WMD) and an Am. Bittern July 8 at Eufaula N.W.R., was the earliest of three July records for Alabama (DCO).

Five Wood Storks in n. Escambia County, Fla., June 23 (BP, GP, HB, EB), three at the intersection of LA 61 and I-10, July 10 (MW), and two at L. Millwood, Ark., July 22 (CM) were the only positive reports from the mid-South. No Wood Storks appeared this year at Noxubee N.W.R., where the two large lakes are now dry as a result of their dams having washed out this spring (JAJ). Two pair of Glossy Ibises were seen June 25 at Cat I., Ala., where they have nested in recent years (DCH, TAD). A flock of 14 White Ibises was seen between E. and W. Ship Is., July 9 (JAJ, CDC, PT) and a flock of 18 was reported s.e. of Horn I., July 19 (MH).

**WATERFOWL** — A Gadwall pair with nine young at Wheeler N.W.R., provided the first breeding record for Alabama (DMB, CAB) and an ad. ♂ Green-winged Teal June 9 & 16 was a rare record for Jackson County, Miss. (JAT). This record, however, is surpassed by that of a ♀ Blue-winged Teal photographed June 9-10 with five young at the Pascagoula R. marsh, Jackson Co., Miss. (JAT, PVD). Five birds there July 28 (MH) may have been early migrants. Blue-winged Teal also nested at Hillsboro, Coffee Co., Tenn., where two adult and six young were seen May 28 (ER). Two Blue-winged Teal were also seen at St. Vincent I., Fla., July 10, for the third July record (HMS). Near Grand Is., La., a ♀ N. Shoveler with a damaged bill was seen July 21 (NNE). Late broods of Wood Ducks were reported at the Pascagoula R. marsh June 16 (JAT) and in Lonoke County, Ark., July 21 (HH, EH). One Ring-necked Duck and two ♂ and two ♀ Ruddy Ducks spent the summer at the Hattiesburg sewage ponds (LG, TF).

**RAPTORS** — The first Hattiesburg record of a Swallow-tailed Kite was one seen July 11 (TF). Three were reported e. of the Atchafalaya R. floodway on U.S. 90, July 22 (JRS, ES). Four pairs of Mississippi Kites made e. New Orleans their summer home and these were joined by a similar number by the end of July (JK). Six Mississippi Kites were found in Sevier and Little River Cos., Ark., June 27 - July 24 (DA). Up to five Red-shouldered Hawks were seen in Sevier County, Ark., June

28 July 20 (DA), three were reported on the D'Iberville B.B.S., Jackson Co., Miss. (JAT), and two were seen July 28 in Hot Spring County, Ark. (MP, HP, HT, YT). Summer records of Broad-winged Hawks included two June 3 on the D'Iberville B.B.S. (JAT), seven June 28 - July 24 at DeQueen, Ark. (DA), one July 27 near Boydsville, Ark. (ELH), and four July 28 at E. New Orleans (JR). A Bald Eagle was seen July 5 near Mauchac, La., and an unconfirmed nest was reported in the area (MW). An ad. Bald Eagle was seen June 14 at Baton Rouge (DJ, JCT). Six active Osprey nests were found this year along the lower Perdido R., in Alabama and Florida (CLK, MLM, GG, DR). A first July record of a Peregrine Falcon was of one sighted independently by TFr and GT on the 20th. The third summer record of a Merlin in Alabama was recorded at Wheeler N.W.R., June 22 (DMB, CAB). Unusual southern records of Am. Kestrels included three on the D'Iberville B.B.S., June 3 (JAT) and one at E. New Orleans July 28 (JR).

**RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS** — A Clapper Rail rescued as it was swimming 1/4 mi. w. of Horn I., July 12 may have been blown out to sea by hurricane *Bob* (MH). HMS and MPe flushed a Black Rail on St. Vincent I., July 10, for the first summer record for Florida. Adult Com. Gallinules with broods of two and four young were observed at different ponds near the Pascagoula R. marsh June 6 & 9, respectively (JAT, MH), and eight Am. Coots spent the summer at the Hattiesburg sewage ponds (LG, TF).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two Semipalmated Plovers at the Gallatin Steam Plant in Gallatin, Tenn., June 11 tied the latest spring record for this species in the Nashville area (DC, PC). Twenty of them at the Pascagoula R. marsh June 16 provided the high count for the period (JAT). A Piping Plover at Perdido Key July 12 (OF) and another at Hattiesburg July 19-20 (LG, TF) were apparently early migrants. Only one Wilson's Plover was seen on Sand I., Ala., July 2 (CDD, RWH). A Wilson's Plover chick was banded on Horn I., July 8 (JAJ), and at least nine Wilson's Plovers were seen on East Ship I., July 9 (JAJ, CDC). In spite of the numbers in Mississippi, this species seems to be increasingly rare. Single Black-bellied Plovers on East Ship I., July 9 (JAJ, CDC) and at Gallatin, Tenn., July 29 were both early records. At least three Ruddy Turnstones made an appearance at the Pascagoula R. marsh June 6, 9, & 16 (JAT, MH) and one was seen there July 28 (MH). One at the Gallatin Steam Plant July 29 was not only rare, but early by one day (DC, PC). For the fourth summer in recent years a Com. Snipe has been found near Decatur, Ala., — this year one was flushed June 22 at the Swan Creek W.M.A. (DMB, CAB). Early southbound Spotted Sandpipers



included 17 in Lonoke County, Ark., July 21 (HH, EH) and 10 at New Orleans July 27 (JR).

Willetts were again reported inland, this time one at Hattiesburg July 22 (TF) and one at Metro Center, Nashville, July 28 (EQ, JB). Greater Yellowlegs made early appearances across the mid-South. These included one at Perdido Key July 11 (OF), three near New Orleans July 14 (MW, RS), and one at Hattiesburg July 26, the earliest local fall record (LG). A Lesser Yellowlegs at the Grenada State Waterfowl Ref., Calhoun Co., Miss., June 19, was unusually late (WMD). Early southbound migrants included six July 29 at L. Millwood, Howard Co., Ark. (CM). Three Pectoral Sandpipers arrived at the Swan Creek W.M.A., Limestone Co., Ala., July 11 (DMB, CAB), and one was at the Hattiesburg sewage lagoons July 28. Four White-rumped Sandpipers were at the U.S. Fish Hatchery in Tupelo, Miss., and a group of at least 60 was seen June 6-16 at the Pascagoula R. marsh (JAT, MH). Two Baird's Sandpipers at Gallatin June 4 (DC, PC) tied the latest spring Nashville area record. Two more were found near New Orleans July 28 (MW). Least Sandpipers appeared inland in Alabama at Eufaula N.W.R. (BO, DCO) and at Hattiesburg, Miss. (LG) July 10 & 11, respectively.

Early records for Short-billed Dowitchers included 3-7 present throughout July at the Bonnet Carre Spillway near New Orleans (RS, MW), two on Horn I., July 5 (CDC, JAJ), and 120 in fields flooded by hurricane *Claudette* near New Orleans July 25 (JR). For the first time in a decade Long-billed Dowitchers were found in Crittenden County, Ark.; were seen and heard July 24 (LCC, BBC). Stilt Sandpipers were also early in returning S this year. Six were seen near Grand I., July 9 (FB), five were found at the Swan Creek W.M.A. (DMB, CAB), the second earliest record for Alabama, one was at the Bonnet Carre Spillway July 14 (MW, RS). Fifteen Semipalmated Sandpipers were at the Fish Hatchery in Meridian May 30 and 25 were at the hatchery at Tupelo June 1 (BBC, LCC). At the Pascagoula R. marsh this species was present all summer, with > 150 seen June 16 (JAT). Early inland records of W. Sandpipers at Eufaula N.W.R., July 10 (BO, DCO) and Swan Creek W.M.A., July 11 (DMB, CAB) are the second and third earliest dates for Alabama. At New Orleans a concentration of 250 July 25 took advantage of fields

flooded by *Claudette* (JR) A lone Sanderling at the Gallatin Steam Plant July 28-30 set a new fall record for the Nashville area by eight days (DC,PC). An Am. Avocet appeared at the Pascagoula R. marsh June 6 and others followed, building to a peak of 68 July 25 when they were last seen (JAT). A lone avocet was among the thirteen species of shorebirds found at New Orleans July 23 (JR). Black-necked Stilts were present in numbers at the Pascagoula R. marsh: 48 July 25 included 24± young (JAT), and 112 July 28 included 34± immatures (MH). A Wilson's Phalarope at the Pascagoula R. marsh June 6-7 stayed near a N Phalarope both days (MH,JAT,PVD). Both birds were photographed, confirming the occurrence of the N. Phalarope in Mississippi. Two Wilson's Phalaropes were reported near Grand Is., July 9 (FB) and four were at the Pascagoula R. marsh July 28.

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — Jaegers were once considered rare along the Alabama coast but have become regular in the past three years in the vicinity of Dauphin I. This year an imm. Parasitic was seen and photographed July 2 near Sand I. (CDD,RWH). In s.e. Louisiana where the Ring-billed Gull is considered uncommon in summer, up to three were found at the Bonnet Carre Spillway July 7-28 (MW,RS) and 15 were near New Orleans July 23 (JR). A Laughing Gull at the Gallatin Steam Plant June 9 (DC,PC) established the first June record for the Nashville area and was somewhat unexpected. As could be expected though, tropical storms which lashed the n. Gulf Coast in July forced Laughing Gulls far inland. Hurricane *Bob* pushed one up in Eufaula N.W.R., Ala.-Ga., July 10 (BO,DCo) constituting the first July record for the Inland Coastal Plain. Two immatures July 25-28 at Hattiesburg, Miss. (TF,LG) and 42 immatures near Shreveport (JRS,CIM) Aug. 5-7 were thought to be the results of *Claudette*. In Alabama the Franklin's Gull continues to be an enigma to serious students of distribution and migration. It has been recorded ten times but only two of those records are during the migration season. The other eight are from mid-winter (5 records) and mid-summer (3 records). The third summer record was of two birds July 30 at Swan Creek W.M.A., Limestone Co. (DMB).

A single Bonaparte's Gull in winter plumage was at Pascagoula R. marsh June 6 (JAT, MH), the latest spring date for Mississippi. Gull-billed Terns enjoyed relatively good nesting success in Alabama with 100 pairs on Sand I. (CDD,RWH). Two pairs with one downy young were on a spoil island off the w. tip of Petit Bois I., Miss., where they have not been known to nest before (JAJ,CDC,BJS). A Forster's Tern was at White-Western L., Bay Co., Fla., June 27 (HMS,GEM) where it is rare in summer. Common Terns nested sparingly again this year along the n. Gulf Coast. On Sand I., Ala., where they are not known to nest, six individuals acting very aggressively were seen July 2 (CDD,RWH). Five pairs and four nests were found on a spoil island off the w. tip of Petit Bois I., Miss., July 7 (JAJ, CDC,BJS). Sooty Terns were reported from all four states along the n. Gulf Coast this summer. All sightings were after *Bob* and a few birds lingered through the period. In Florida "several" were at Gulf Breeze July 11-27 (BD, LD,SD,WAB,OF). Twenty-five were on Dau-

phin I., July 10 (RWH,PK,LRT,DLP,CAS) and five were well offshore Aug 5 (SPE) Nineteen (14 ad., 5 imm.) were at Bellefontaine Beach and Ocean Spring, Miss. (MH). Louisiana observers aboard the "*Sea Hawk*" found two 75 mi s.s.w. of Grand I., July 21, while "landlubbers" found one on the Univ. of New Orleans East Campus July 11 (MB,NNE, PN,BM).

Bridled Terns were reported almost as frequently. In Alabama reports came in from Dauphin I., July 10-11 to 50 km offshore July 10, July 1, and Aug. 4, (S.P.E., m.ob.) with a high of 25 July 1. In Louisiana 6-7 were seen July 21 by observers from the "*Sea Hawk*." Least Tern production along the coast was thought to be only fair with later broods destroyed by hurricanes *Bob* and *Claudette*. In Louisiana six rooftop colonies produced young (JK,JR). Along the Mississippi coast 4000 pairs nested in two large colonies with varying success owing to weather. On a spoil island off the w. tip of Petit Bois I., Miss., 1500 pairs nested with relatively good success due to the fact that many of the young fledged before the hurricanes (JAJ,CDC,BJS). Three Sandwich Terns were at Hattiesburg, Miss., July 11 (LG,TF) probably forced inland by *Bob*. A Caspian Tern at Percy Priest L., July 9 (MM) was the earliest fall record for the Nashville area by 31 days. A Noddy Tern found on Horn I., July 5 (JAJ,CDC) had been dead for some time. The second specimen for Mississippi has been deposited in the collection at Miss. St. Univ. The earliest fall record for Alabama of a Black Tern was of one at Eufaula N.W.R., July 2 (DCo). Eleven were at Hattiesburg, Miss., July 11 for the earliest date there (LG,TF). A breeding colony of 1000 pairs of Black Skimmers was on Sand I., Ala., July 2 (CDD,RWH) and 75 pairs nested on the spoil island off the w. tip of Petit Bois I., Miss. (JAJ,CDC,BJS) down about 50% from former years.

**OWLS THROUGH VIREOS** — The first n.w. Florida nesting of a Barn Owl was near Gonzalez, Escambia Co. (ENO,CLK,DR,FW *et al.*). Three young hatched with only two fledglings. Whip-poor-wills seemed to be more common in n. Mississippi, w. Tennessee, and n.e. Arkansas this year with many first county records established (BBC,LCC). Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found on the Arkansas Ramsey and Eudora B.B.S.s June 14 & 15, respectively (HHS,LS) where they are unusual but not unprecedented. Gray Kingbirds were more common on Horn I., Miss., this summer with at least five pairs present as early as Apr. 20 (CDC,JAJ). A W. Kingbird was seen and heard near Natchitoches July 29. The first June record of Least Flycatcher for Little River County, Ark., was one near Wilton June 4 (CM). Tree Swallows were reported in two Arkansas localities. On the Hughes B.B.S., 21 were seen June 25 and on the Harrisburg B.B.S., eight were seen June 27 (SG, EJ,MFo), a full month ahead of migration dates. The highest number of Bank Swallows ever seen in Alabama, 7000, were at Swan Creek W.M.A., Ala., July 12 (DMB,CAB), while two the same day near Pace, Fla. (BMi) were very early. From all indications, Barn Swallows enjoyed an excellent nesting season throughout the Region with local increases noted in n. Louisiana and n.w. Florida (*vide* GEM,MPE,JRS). Cliff Swallows continued to

use interstate bridges as nest sites. A new nesting locality for Arkansas was discovered along the n. end of I-430 across the Arkansas R., Pulaski Co. (DMJ). The latest spring record and the first in June for Louisiana of a Red-breasted Nuthatch was of one at Cocodrie L., Evangeline Par., June 2 (HDG,CG,DHF).

House Wrens have apparently expanded their breeding range into n. Arkansas. At Fayetteville four territorial males were noted all summer (DJ) and up to six singing males July 18 near Rogers, Benton Co., were one of the first indications that a breeding population exists in Arkansas. DJ speculates that the extension could be the result of a lack of competition with Carolina Wrens. After three winters with month long freezes the Carolina Wren is almost non-existent in n. Arkansas. Perhaps House Wrens are occupying the vacuum?

Bewick's Wrens continued to be scarce in the Region. The only report of one was at Finger, McNairy Co., Tenn. (LCC,BBC), although undoubtedly there were more. A Swainson's Thrush at Dauphin I., June 1 (REH) was the latest for Alabama by four days. In most of the Region concern was again voiced for the Loggerhead Shrike. Local populations appear to be decreasing slowly but surely. A singing ♂ Bell's Vireo was on territory at a railroad yard site throughout the period (JRS) near Shreveport, but no nest was located. For the past two decades Warbling Vireos have been rare during the breeding season in Alabama. For that reason a singing male on the Hillsboro B.B.S., Lawrence Co., June 11 was encouraging (CDC).

**WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Swainson's Warblers appeared to be particularly abundant in Alabama this year. The first Choctaw County record was of one near Halsell May 27 and the second Monroe County record was one heard near Perdue Hill July 16 (RRR,EGR). At Auburn, Lee Co., a pair on territory was present from the second week of June - July 31+ within the city itself (SG). The first breeding season record of a Worm-eating Warbler in s.e. Louisiana was of two seen and heard in Evangeline Par., June 22 (HDG), while one at Hattiesburg, Miss., July 20 (TF) was the first local summer record. For the second consecutive year a ♂ Golden-winged Warbler was found in Lewis County, Tenn., June 2-16 (GRM). There are no nesting records for the w. Highland Rim of Tennessee where the elevation is only 1000± ft. The first June record of a Blue-winged Warbler for Mississippi was of a singing male on the Tupelo B.B.S., June 1 (CDC). It is not known to nest in Mississippi. Yellow Warbler sightings were widespread with Shelby County, Tenn., getting its first record July 14 (JGH) where the Coffey's have searched for them for decades. A Magnolia Warbler at Dauphin I., June 1 (REH) was the latest for Alabama by three days. The first n.w. Florida record of a Black-throated Blue Warbler was of one at Alford, Jackson Co., July 26 (MG). In Louisiana, one, possibly two Louisiana Waterthrushes were found in Evangeline Par., June 22 (HDG) which constitutes one of a few records outside n.e. Louisiana.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird near Petal, Miss., July 22 (TF,MF) was extremely early. Bronzed Cowbird production was only fair in the New Orleans area (JK) but in Metairie they appeared to be on the increase (NNE). Scarlet



Tanagers once considered quite uncommon in Mississippi are now on the increase with more records from more locations each year (BBC, CDC). Although Rose-breasted Grosbeak is not known to nest in Arkansas, a male in Newton County June 12 (DJ) suggests it may. A Blue Grosbeak nest with three young May 21 - June 13 (CMO) is the first positive nesting record for Evangeline Par. The 24 Grasshopper Sparrows at Swan Creek W.M.A., Ala., July 12 (DMB, CAB) was encouraging for this Blue-listed species. Lark Sparrows were noted on the Aberdeen B.B.S., in Mississippi June 2 (CDC) and in Clark County, Ark., July 1-9 (LP) where an atypical nest site for this ground-nesting species was found 48 ft. above ground in a short-leaf pine. The maximum count for Bachman's Sparrow was of 26 singing males on the D'Iberville, Miss., B.B.S., June 3 (JAT). The two Song Sparrow nesting locations in the Nashville area were again active this year with one of those locations having more birds singing than ever recorded — 17 (N.T.O.S.).

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## PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/J. Bernard Gollop

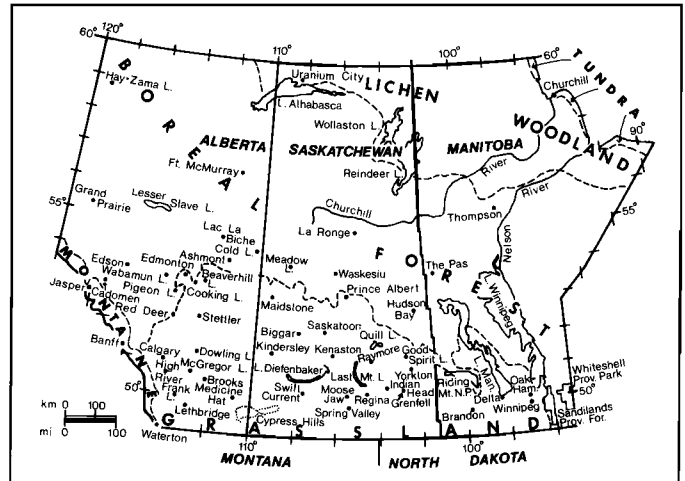
In June all principal climatological stations were within 1°C of normal, except for some in Saskatchewan where the maximum positive deviation was 1.6°. Most stations in the southern Prairies had between 30 and 40% of normal precipitation. In July, the entire Region was warmer than usual. Most of the grassland-parkland area had less than 25% of normal precipitation.

For the southern Prairie Provinces there were an estimated 1,800,000 ponds in July, 1979. This was 21% more than last year and 4% more than the average of the last 25 years. Fifty-eight percent of the ponds had dried up between May and July, compared to an average of 51% (U.S.F. & W.S., Canadian Wildlife Service).

GREBES THROUGH IBISES — About 100 pairs of Eared Grebes nested on small mud islands in Jaydot Res., Alta., w. of Govenlock, Sask. (WCH), and in Regina a colony of 45 pairs did not start nesting until July 13 (TB,LS). A "colony" of one White Pelican nest with two eggs was found June 19 on Big Sandy I., n. L. Winnipeg; Double-crested Cormorants and Com. Terns also nested on the island (WHK). A large concentration of 136 cormorants was noted at Irricana, Alta., Aug. 5 (RJB). On an island off Richard Pt., L. Manitoba, there was a mixed colony of two Great Blue Heron nests and one Black-crowned Night Heron nest along with 200 cormorant nests in June (WHK). On July 30 a Green Heron was studied at the Ft. Whyte Nature Centre, Winnipeg (RS *et al.*). There was still at least one Cattle Egret on the Oak-Hammock Management Area June 16 (RFK). A pair of Great Egrets was seen in a Great Blue herony on Creer L., Riding Mt. N.P., in June; a single egret had been seen just s. of Wasagaming in the same park in 1978 (*vide*

Jacques Saquet). Single Snowy Egrets were seen near Ardill, Sask., May 31 (DWG, DWP, DAW) and at Oak-Hammock July 16 (NC). A Louisiana Heron was reported on the s.e. shore of L. Manitoba July 11 (CWC). Fewer Am. Bitterns were reported this summer than last in Saskatchewan. A White-faced Ibis was photographed July 10 at Pakowki L., Alta., where the species was first found breeding in 1975 (PP).

WATERFOWL — A pair of Whistling Swans was reported at Irricana July 1, an unusual date (RJB). Canada Goose production was down at Wascana Park, Regina, with 225 pairs producing only 600 young (LS). Three Canadas at Altwan Res., Govenlock, Sask., had green neckbands with white symbols June 14 (WCH). Two Snow Geese, able to fly, were on Buffer L., near Saskatoon, June 23 (SJS, DN) and a molting Snow was seen on Mantago L., n.e. of Ashern, Man., July 31 (WHK). Duck production in the s. Prairie Provinces was about the same as in 1978, based on aerial surveys by the U.S.F. & W.S. Almost as many Canvasbacks as Mallard broods were reported by observers in Saskatchewan. Two ♂ Greater Scaup were late migrants at Lac du Bonnet, s.e. Manitoba, June 24 (PT). At Churchill a rare occurrence was a group of Harlequin Ducks July 27 — four males in spring plumage, two males in eclipse and two females (BAC, FC, AD).



RAPTORS — The first Goshawk nest for Cypress Hills P.P., Sask. (hereafter, C.H.P.P.) was found June 21 (RK). In Saskatchewan Stuart Houston reports that Red-tailed Hawks nested a week late but 10 nests produced an above-average 1.8 young banded; Swainson's were on time with 38 nests and average production of 2.3 young per nest banded; Ferruginous Hawks were on schedule with normal production (3.1 young average for 15 nests), along the South Saskatchewan R., there were four pairs of Golden Eagles instead of the usual eight and only one had an active nest with one young; Ospreys around Loon L., varied from on time to three weeks late but only 12 of 21 nests were successful. A Broad-winged Hawk July 2 at Ile a la Cross suggests a N extension of its breeding range (RK). Ferruginous Hawks were reported down from last summer in s.w. Saskatchewan.

A Golden Eagle appeared at Churchill June 6 (WS) and an Osprey nest was found there June 8, n. of its published breeding area but not the first nest for the area (BAC). A wild ♀ Gyrfalcon attacked a trained male near Sask-



atoon July 29 for a rare summer record in the Province (RR) Ten of 11 Merlin nests in Saskatoon were successful (LO) and a group of six almost-flying young was introduced to Wasicana Park, Regina, in an artificial nest; all fledged (LS,RK). At York Factory, Man., July 21, three young Merlins, at least two weeks from flying, were found on the moss, three feet from their nest tree (HWC). A pair of Am. Kestrels nested successfully in a sign's huge D high up on the Toronto-Dominion Bank Bldg., Regina (FWL).

**TURKEYS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — A wild Turkey with at least four young in C.H.P.P., July 22 may represent the first Saskatchewan breeding record for this introduced species (WCH). Also in the park June 15, a pair of Sandhill Cranes was bugling on Adams L., where they are not known to breed, while at Kutawagan L., Sask., a pair with a flightless young July 29 represents a rare breeding record s. of Prince Albert (WCH). A large flock of 61 Semipalmated Plovers was counted near Saskatoon July 22 (MJL). Piping Plover continues to be found as new areas are checked: a survey of parts of five lakes in the Unity, Sask., area turned up 37 adults and six nests and broods (GJW,WER). The first Am. Woodcock nest (four eggs) in Manitoba was found May 14 near Richer (GM,RWN). A flock of 264 Whimbrels — the largest ever reported for the s. Prairie Provinces — was found n. of Raymond, Alta., May 13. On May 14 there were 60 (ARS,BCT). Spring rarities at Churchill included single Upland Sandpiper June 6, Buff-breasted Sandpiper June 20, Red Phalarope June 13 and Wilson's Phalarope June 14 (BAC *et al.*). Flocks of 250 Lesser Yellowlegs and 250 Pectoral Sandpipers at Natalie L., e. of Seven Sisters, Man., occurred when flats were exposed during a drawdown to repair a dam (PT). White-rumped Sandpipers are rare in the s. Prairies in fall migration but one was seen July 29 near Saskatoon (MJL). Two Semipalmated Sandpipers with orange plastic leg-bands (indicating banding at James Bay, Ont.) were seen n.e. of Saskatoon June 2 (MJL). An off-white Marbled Godwit was feeding with normal godwits July 29 s.w. of Saskatoon (MJL).

**GULLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — Glaucous Gulls continue to appear this season in Manitoba: a first-year bird June 9 & 11 at Portage La Prairie (IAW,CWC) and a second-year bird near St. Ambrose July 6 (CWC). More rarities at Churchill included a single **Mew Gull** June 18, 27-28 (BAC,FC); two **Little Gulls** in a flock of Bonaparte's June 5, the first seen there in three years (BAC); a rare **Common Tern** studied and described for 15 minutes in the presence of Arctic Terns June 18 (BAC,FC), and a rare Black Tern June 5 (BAC).

Black-billed Cuckoos were frequently reported in Saskatchewan n. to Waskesiu, apparently associated with a tent caterpillar outbreak; the number on two Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter, B.B.S.) at Leroy and Watson went from a 6-year average of seven to 28 this year (WCH). The species was down in Manitoba. A Screech Owl was heard s. of Hudson Bay June 26 (WCH). Great Horned Owls nested about a week later than normal in Saskatchewan but had average production of 2.5 young banded in 84 nests (CSH). A Hawk

Owl apparently injured but able to fly, was caught near Saskatoon July 2 (RDB,RHK). Occupied burrows of Burrowing Owls were reported as follows: 10 in Alberta from Calgary s.; 32 in Saskatchewan and 10 in Manitoba and yet this owl was reported down from last year in three s. Saskatchewan locations and up in none (RB,JBG,HWC). A family of Burrowing Owls was raised in a park surrounded by houses in Regina (JEK). Seven of nine Great Gray Owl nests were successful in Manitoba (RWN). Short-eared Owls were down in Manitoba and scarce through most of Saskatchewan but 57 flying birds in 13 families were seen July 28, 29 & 31 from Last Mountain L., to the Quill Lakes (WCH) and they continued to be numerous in s. Alberta (RJB). Nighthawks are not reported every year at Churchill but one was seen June 22 (BAC).

**KINGBIRDS THROUGH VIREOS** — Western Kingbirds are increasing in the Calgary district (RJB). More than 500 pairs of Cliff Swallows nested under the St. Louis (Sask.) bridge; some 20-30 pairs overflowed to a building under construction one-quarter mi away but all of these were destroyed (WCH, JBG). Thousands of this species turned up at Oxbow, Sask., for a week in July and then disappeared (JHP). Forty Purple Martins spent a half hour over Frontier, Sask., June 6 before moving on (J&JW). In Saskatchewan colonies of martins were reported at Prince Albert (two colonies; WCH), Jackfish L. (GJW), Hudson Bay (two colonies; WCH), Sheho (WN), Moose Jaw (EWK), Watrous (GJW), Raymore (four colonies; WCH), Saskatoon (two colonies; JBG,JAW), Seamans (WCH), Katepwa (DGH) and Wolseley (JDH). A pair of Brown Creepers was seen at a nest near Pinawa, Man., May 27 (PT) and the first breeding record for C.H.P.P., was a family of five July 21 (WCH). A fledged brood was also seen near Waskesiu July 4 (BWJ). A ♂ Short-billed Marsh Wren, singing at Coulee L., C.H.P.P., June 15 was far s.w. of its Saskatchewan breeding range (WCH).

In late May there was a Mockingbird at Ile des Chenes, s.e. Man. (FK). Strays included a Brown Thrasher at Churchill June 6 (WS) and a Varied Thrush near Wolseley, Sask., July 17 (JDH). A **Wood Thrush** was heard singing on seven of nine June surveys in Beaudry P.P., w. of Winnipeg; the female was seen once (WHK). Mountain Bluebird production was down around Saskatoon, based on 221 birds banded this year and 359 in 1978. There were fewer and later first nests but that hatch was good; presumably because of the lateness, there were still fewer second nestings (MIH). The first breeding record of Townsend's Solitaire in C.H.P.P., was obtained July 20 when a pair was feeding three recently-fledged young; the adults had been seen and heard at the same place in June (WCH). In Manitoba a Sprague's Pipit, e. of its published breeding range, was singing over a meadow near White-mouth June 23 (PT); a tired looking Cedar Waxwing appeared at Churchill June 5 (BAC); and a Yellow-throated Vireo, w. of its known breeding range was seen June 21 at Souris (RFK,WPN). Most compilers in s. Saskatchewan felt that Loggerhead Shrikes were down from 1978.

**WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS** — In s.e. Manitoba, there was a significant

increase in Tennessee and Cape May warblers and the first local evidence of breeding by a Bay-breasted Warbler, all apparently related to a spruce budworm outbreak (PT). The second breeding record and first nest of N. Parula for Manitoba was found n.e. of Lac du Bonnet July 7 (PT). The first breeding of **Townsend's Warblers** away from the mountains was documented by Wayne Harris at Ft Walsh, C.H.P.P., July 18: two adults were feeding two recently-fledged young. While it was too dark to photograph, detailed descriptions have been provided (WCH). This is the second sight record of the species for Saskatchewan. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Churchill June 10 & 16 (BAC). On the Watson and Leroy, Sask., B.B.S., N. Orioles showed a sixfold increase over the five-year average (44 vs 7; WCH) and in s. Manitoba they were much more common this summer than last (HWC). A ♂ Cardinal apparently spent the summer in Turtle Mt. P.P., s. Man., for the fourth consecutive year (DG,NM). The first Winnipeg record for Red Crossbills since 1976 was two July 11 and for White-winged since 1977 was 12 on July 15 (RFK). A Grasshopper Sparrow, beyond its recognized breeding range, was seen n.w. of Unity, Sask., June 14 (GJW) and this sparrow was more common than usual in Manitoba (HWC). On June 23 a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was s. of its normal summer range at Raven, Alta. (WEH). Two Lark Sparrows were an uncommon observation in Winnipeg in early July (NC). Eleven scattered **Clay-colored Sparrows** had been found at Churchill to the end of June, more than 300 mi n.e. of their published breeding range (FC,BAC). On June 17 in a colony of at least 20 singing ♂ Brewer's Sparrows n.w. of Govenlock, there was a bird that looked like a Clay-colored Sparrow with a two-part song. The first was buzzy, like a Clay-colored's, but the second was longer like a Brewer's (RK) A Swamp Sparrow, singing on Adams Creek, C.H.P.P., June 21 was far s.w. of the nearest known breeding area (WCH).

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## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Esther M. Serr

The nesting season took on a new attitude this year. In most areas of the Region June was too dry and in July there were almost daily showers. Rapid City broke previous records for high humidity. Observers found more nests than previously, probably through increased hard work. Certainly the weather change was partly responsible for some of the accidental occurrences of birds.

The Red River and its tributaries flooded and may have even accelerated the spread of the Dutch elm disease from Wahpeton, North Dakota, into Manitoba. Cutting of the diseased trees will increase pressure on cavity nesters in this already tree-scarce area (DOL). Southern waders continued to cause excitement. They are becoming more common and birders happen on them more easily.

**GREBES THROUGH IBISES** — Red-necked Grebes occupied a nest at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., June 2 (BKH,RLS) and also at L. Metigoshe S.P., Bottineau Co., N.D., June 30 (ECH). Kidder and Stutsman Counties, N.D., and Bowdoin N.W.R., Malta, Mont., were top production areas for Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed grebes. Ten broods of Eared Grebes were probably a rare breeding record at Stewart Slough N.W.R., in the Agassiz Lake Plain, N.D. (DOL) and 500+ nests were found in Big Slough, Sargent Co., N.D., July 5 (RAS). A W. Grebe colony of 160 nests was found at Buffalo L., Day Co., S.D., June 13 (BKH,KH).

Total production of White Pelicans was good and again 5000 young should be a reliable estimate for each of the three states. The smaller lakes averaged 300 nests and refuges about 1800 nests. Chase Lake N.W.R., N.D., alone had 3100 nests (CAF). Double-crested Cormorants seemed to flourish along with White Pelicans. At Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., cormorants nested in trees standing in water below a dam. As the water receded nests were abandoned (IOR). The cormorant colony in Freezeout L., Mont., continued to increase with 236 nests June 16 (LMM).

A Green Heron was observed carrying twigs June 26 and July 3 in Yankton County, S.D. (WH) and an adult was flushed from its nest July 5 in Grand Forks County, N.D. (SOL, DOL). Two ad. Little Blue Herons and one in white plumage were seen at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D., June 17 (TKK).

A Cattle Egret nest was found with three young June 26 in Kraft Slough, Sargent Co., N.D., and by July 31 all were fledged (RAS, TRA). Great Egrets were found only in North Dakota. Two were far w. at McKenzie Springs, Burleigh Co., July 4 (CAF) and the other was in a Black-crowned Night Heron colony in McLean County, N.D., July 10 (TAG). One Snowy Egret was in Burleigh County June 1 (TAG,GCB); a pair was nesting at Freezeout L., Mont., where they had nested May 7, 1977 (LMM) and one was seen at Sand Lake N.W.R., July 30 (TKK).

A **Least Bittern** was in a brackish marsh n. of Dawson, Kidder Co., N.D., July 25 (CAF). An Am. Bittern nest with eggs was found in Sargent County, N.D., June 9 and was photo-

graphed hatching July 7 (RAS). There was a breeding population of 174 at Bowdoin N.W.R., Malta., Mont., during the season (GAS).

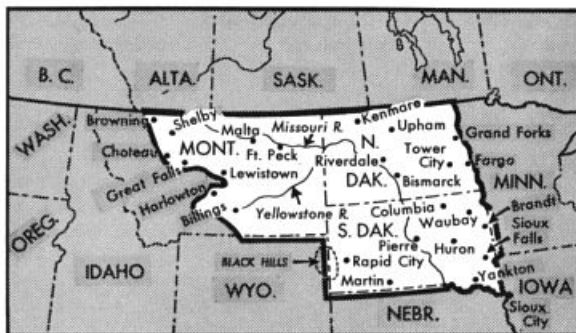
White-faced Ibises were seen regularly but no nests were found at Bowdoin N.W.R. (GAS). A nest with four eggs in Sargent County, N.D., provided a second nest record for the state July 7 (RAS,TRA) and the July estimate at Sand Lake N.W.R., for White-faced Ibises was eight nests and 18 young (SJW).

**WATERFOWL** — Young Canada Geese fledged from a usurped Osprey nest 80 ft in a tree at Tongue River Res., Mont. They floated down to a smooth landing using their wings as brakes (EJP, *fide* HD). A ♀ blue-phase and ♂ white-phase **Snow Geese** established a first North Dakota breeding record at Arrowwood N.W.R., Stutsman Co., June 19 when three out of four eggs hatched. Observers could find no evidence that these arctic nesters were escapees (JRF,JGS).

North Dakota Dept. of Game and Fish reported duck breeding populations up 38% over 1978 and 77% over the long-term average. However, there was an outbreak of botulism at n. Billings, Mont. Shallow water areas caused by last spring's snow melt became stagnant resulting in a die-off of thousands of waterfowl (CMC).

A nest with 10 eggs was believed to be that of a Cinnamon Teal pair, found in McLean County, N.D., June 7, 1978. The hen was captured and six eggs were taken and have been under study for the past year at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, N.D. Three ♂ Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal hybrids have matured, providing the first nest record involving **Cinnamon Teal** in North Dakota (JTL).

Two pairs of **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** were



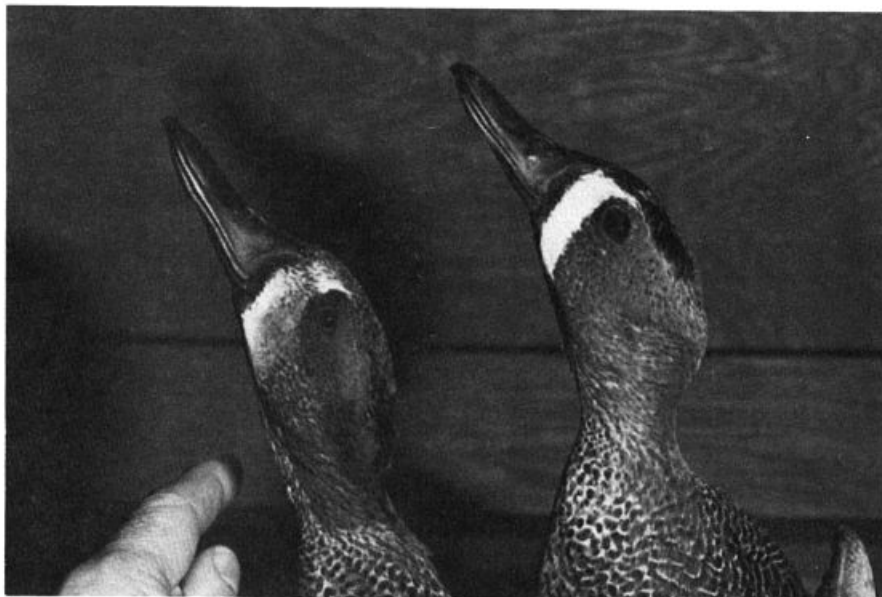
observed and photographed at Stewart Slough W.P.A., Grand Forks Co., N.D., July 14-31. This is the second confirmed sighting for North Dakota — the first was at Salyer N.W.R., in 1976 (SOL,DOL,GSL,CAF).

Many broods of Wood Ducks were recorded in the Region. One July count at Fargo, N.D., totaled 85 Wood Ducks (GIO).

**HAWKS** — The lush growth of vegetation in Montana and North Dakota resulted in an explosion of mice and voles with a seemingly resultant increase in the visibility of predators (CMC,RNR). Hawk nests examined had sufficient prey.

An ad. Sharp-shinned Hawk was reported in Spearfish Valley, S.D., July 14 (DLB,GGR) and another at Upper Souris N.W.R., Foxholm, N.D., July 15 (GGB). One imm. Cooper's Hawk was sighted in LeMoure County July 12 (CC). Ten Red-tailed Hawk nests at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., produced 14 young (RRJ,LLW). Golden Eagles were noted only in Custer, Harding, Jackson and Lawrence counties, S.D., with five adults and two young found June 16 - July 14 (RLS,DLB). Two Osprey nests at Tongue River Res., and Ft. Peck Lake, Mont., produced three young (EJP,CMC) and an adult was sighted along the Sheyenne R., Eddy Co., N.D., June 18 (MAJ).

A Prairie Falcon nest with three young was found in Custer County June 15 and three



*Blue-winged Teal (right) compared with Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal hybrid (left). Note the larger bill, mottled crescent and diverse color pattern of the hybrid. For further discussion see The Canadian Field-Naturalist 93:316-317. Photo/John T. Lokemoen.*

nests with 10 young in Harding County, S D , June 27 (RLS) Two young **Peregrine Falcons** were fledged from three eggs that were placed in a Prairie Falcon's nest somewhere in the Black Hills, S.D., under the cross-fostering program sponsored by the Peregrine Foundation, Fort Collins, Colo., the U.S. Fish & Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Services (JCS).

**RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS** — A **King Rail** provided a rare record for Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D., July 24; its reddish-brown color and size left no doubt to its identity (SJW). American Coot had excellent nesting in North Dakota (RAS). Piping Plovers were very successful in North Dakota with 78 in saline L. Williams and 82+ eggs and young in 95 mi of Missouri R. sandbars July 9-29 (KJW *et al.*). There were 100 migrant Ruddy Turnstones in Day County, S.D., June 1 (BKH). A migrant flock of 50 adult and young Am. Avocets was at Cactus Flats Pond, Jackson Co., S.D., June 23 (DLB), seven were n.e. of Sturgis, S.D., June 29 (EEM) and 280 were at Kelly Slough, Grand Forks Co., July 25 (GSL). A flock of 45 migrant White-rumped Sandpipers was seen in Grand Forks County June 18-22 (JFK) and seven were in Kidder County, N.D., July 10 where the species is rarely seen in fall migration (CAF). Six **Short-billed Dowitchers** were identified by calls and plumage June 22-28 at Grand Forks sewage plant (JFK,DOL). Fifty Long-billeds were observed at Grand Forks July 10-29 (DOL) and 100+ were at Fargo, N D , July 12 (MAB).

**JAEGER THROUGH TERNS** — An ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was observed in e. Bismarck, N.D., July 27 & 29 just 17 mi e. of where one was observed in October 1978 (AJS, RC)

The yearly gull banding at Freezeout L., Mont., in June brought birders to the area for the event. Californias and Ring-billeds vied for scarce nesting space on the peninsula. It is impossible to distinguish chicks of the two species so the dividing line between the colonies had to be searched out and then the banders worked into the colonies both ways to be sure of the species as they banded hundreds of gulls (LMM). Concentrations of Franklin's Gull were estimated at 12,000 nests on Kraft Slough, Sargent Co., N.D., June 1 - July 31 to be verified by infra-red photography (RAS) and a peak of 18,400 individuals was noted at Horsehead L., Kidder Co., July 31 (CAF). Common Terns had better than usual nesting with 52 nests on two small islands in L. Williams, McLean Co., N.D., June 8 (KJW,TMP) and 23 nests — most with two eggs — were found at Waubay L., Day Co. (BKH,LLW). Least Terns were not plagued with high water in the Missouri R., this year and ten colonies of 111 adults and fledglings were counted in 95 mi between Garrison Dam and Oahe Res., N D , July 14-29. This may represent the northernmost nesting area in North America (KJW,TAG,SET).

A **White-winged Dove** at Benton Lake N.W.R., provided the first record for Montana. It was viewed sitting on the road and flying at 50 ft, June 27 (Ian Halladay, Alan Nelson, accepted by PDS).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH PICIDAE** — Both Yellow-billed and Black-billed cuckoos sightings increased. A total of 17 Black-billeds was

sighted in Yankton County, S D , June 2 - July 22 (JEW,WH)

Screech Owls fledged four young in Hyde County, S.D., June 8 (JHH) and a pair with six young was seen at Carpio, N.D., July 2 (IOR). Four adults and six juv. Great Horneds were observed in a 15 mi canoe trip on the Red R., Grand Forks Co., N.D., July 2 (DOL,GSL). Burrowing Owls were found in ground squirrel holes near Ft. Peck, Mont. (CMC). In spite of the poisoning program of prairie dogs in South Dakota, Burrowing Owls are still quite numerous. Swift fox have been introduced in w. South Dakota as a predator of prairie dogs and it was estimated 20 young fox were produced (JCS). An average of 15 pairs of Short-eared Owls was counted at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont. (GAS).

Two Pileated Woodpeckers were seen at Fargo, N.D., June 2 & 15 (PPF). Many Red-headed observations were received from the Dakotas with a total of 70 sightings alone from Yankton County (WH). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were especially numerous along the Red R., and its tributaries in e. North Dakota (DOL,AJL,ECH).

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — There was a change in kingbird population this season as Easterns showed some decrease in South Dakota and Westerns counted were doubled in number over recent years. Yet, in North Dakota there was an all time low of Westerns in Nelson and Grand Forks Counties. Say's Phoebe nests increased in numbers. An adult was seen carrying food in Barnes County, N.D., June 23 where the species has been nesting in this easternmost range since 1976 (DLK). Ten Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were studied while foraging near ground along the Red R., Grand Forks Co., June 5 (DOL, SOL,JFK). Willow Flycatchers were numerous in the e. half of North Dakota down through the mid-section of South Dakota June 8 - July 7 (WH,GLS). All swallow species appeared to be more numerous possibly owing to high insect populations.

**JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Three Blue Jays s. of Sidney, Mont., June 26 was more evidence of w. expansion (ECH). Black-billed Magpies in South Dakota continued to decrease and the Com. Crow in the Region was next to absent.

A Winter Wren was singing at Black Fox Campground, Black Hills, S.D., June 4 (NJH) and six Canon Wrens were in Custer County, S.D., June 16 (RLS). A Mockingbird seemed territorial at Jamestown, N.D., July 5-16 (CAF). A **Wood Thrush** nest with two young provided a second state breeding record in Traill County, N.D., July 15-28 (SOL,DOL). Father Viet's nest box trail produced 23 E. Bluebirds in 11 boxes June 13-23 in Rolette County, N.D. (*vide* PCH). Two clutches of eggs from the mating of a ♂ Mountain and a ♀ E. Bluebird failed to hatch during the period s. of Bismarck, N.D. (RQ,RNR,TAG).

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Bell's Vireo, seldom reported in South Dakota, nested in Yankton County June 17 - July 4 (WH); one was answering tapes in e. Pennington County June 24 and two were at Pierre July 14 (JLB). Yellow-throated Vireos were more numerous in North Dakota than usual and a nest with six young was found in Sargent

County June 20 (RAS) Two were sighted in Marshall and Roberts Counties, S D , June 27 (NJH,BKH). There was a 50% increase in Warbling Vireos on Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter, B.B.S.) in Nelson and Grand Forks Counties, N.D. (JFK,FFK).

Yellow Warbler sightings came from all parts of South Dakota while three B.B.S.s in North Dakota showed a slow long-term decline from 3.5 birds in 1973-1975 and 2.4 birds from 1976-1979 (JFK,FFK). An Ovenbird was a rare sighting June 1 in Siche Hollow, Roberts Co., S.D. (BKH,RLS).

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES** — On a B.B.S. in Jackson County, S.D., 656 W. Meadowlarks were counted June 17 (NRW) while an all time low on three B.B.S.s in n.e. North Dakota averaged 45.7 birds/survey vs 93.3 birds in 1978 (JFK,FFK). Orchard Oriole numbers continued to increase. A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was feeding young n. of Bismarck, N.D., July 29-31 for a first state breeding record (KJJ *et al.*). Brewer's Blackbirds consistently harassed Loggerhead Shrikes so that they abandoned four nestlings s. of Chester, Mont. (HMM). A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was 125 mi e. of its breeding range at Valley City, N.D., June 22 (DLK). Red Crossbills numbered 214 on the Custer County, S D , B.B.S., June 27 (NRW).

**SPARROWS** — An unusual turn was the many Grasshopper Sparrows reported in the Region. Observers that went into the idle pastures n. of Minot and Grand Forks, N.D. (GBB,DOL) and those that visited the wild areas along the Missouri R., s.e. South Dakota (RAP,WH) or to grassy prairies in the Black Hills at 4000+ ft, found them singing during the season (NRW,JLB,DLB). Field Sparrows were singing at Forsyth, Mont., June 26 for a new latilong record (ECH,PDS). Cowbird eggs were removed from a Field Sparrow's nest July 18 in Yankton County, S.D. (WH). Swamp Sparrows were found in Kelly Slough N.W.R., N.D., June 24 - July 31 where there have been no previous sightings (DOL,GSL). A pair of **Lincoln's Sparrows** was seen in courtship in Big Horn County, Mont., at 4200 ft, June 20 (HD).

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## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances Williams

Birders in the Lubbock, Texas, area were the most energetic nest seekers this summer, and consequently learned that several species previously not known to nest on the Texas south plains did indeed find islands of suitable habitat among the thousands of acres of farmland. Elsewhere in the Region, there was little summer activity among bird watchers, and most statements regarding the increase or decrease of a particular nesting species were based on impressions rather than on numerical data.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — During the month of July one or two Com. Loons were sighted frequently in Sarpy County, Neb. Although 65± W. Grebes were present at Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb. (hereafter, Crescent L.), no chicks had been observed by the end of the period (CFZ). Two pairs of Pied-billed Grebes nested at Hagerman N.W.R. (hereafter, Hagerman), Tex. (CRB). Non-breeding White Pelicans were present at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex. (hereafter, Buffalo L.) until July 4 (KS) and several remained at Crescent L., through July. Two Double-crested Cormorants at Buffalo L., provided an unusual summer record. At Crescent L., 57 nests of this species were found June 21. An Olivaceous Cormorant was present at Hagerman July 13.

**HERONS THROUGH DUCKS** — A heron roost at Waxahachie, Tex., was being used by 562 birds, mostly Cattle Egrets, July 24 (GG). At Tulsa, Hoffman estimated a population of 3-5000 birds at a heronry. Approximately 60% were Cattle Egrets and 40% Little Blue Herons. In addition there were 32 Great Egrets and two Snowy Egrets. At least 100 nests were counted in a Great Blue heronry in Bosque County, Tex. (PP). Post-breeding dispersal brought 22 Green Herons, 25 Little Blue Herons, 24 Cattle Egrets and one Great Egret to the Nacogdoches, Tex., sewage ponds July 6 (DW). Black-crowned Night Herons bred at Buffalo L., last summer, but the few that resided there this year did not nest. This species also failed to nest at Crescent L., where the severe winter fish kill was believed responsible. At Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., a few Black-crowned Night Herons fledged young, but there was no success for Yellow-crowned Night Herons (RB). In Gray County, Tex., 70 Black-crowned Night Herons were counted July 20 (EBE). A Roseate Spoonbill was discovered in Concho County, Tex., Aug. 4 (TM). At Tulsa, a ♀ Wood Duck with three very young ducklings was observed on the late date July 4. At least three pairs of Ruddy Ducks nested at Midland, where ducklings observed in early July provided a new county breeding record (TJ, m.ob.).

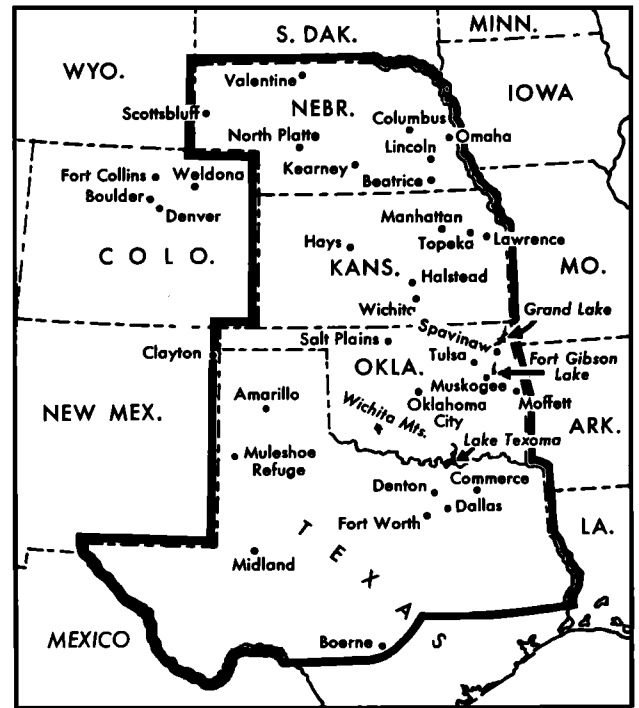
**RAPTORS** — At Nacogdoches a pair of White-tailed Kites returned to last year's nest area May 7. They nested in a pine tree near the former site. By Aug. 7 they had fledged three young (LR, m.ob.). The status of Mississippi Kites is ambivalent. In some areas they

are decreasing, in some increasing, and in others holding their own. There were apparently not as many urban nests this season as in former years. During the period a pair of Broad-winged Hawks was seen regularly in Sarpy County, Neb., and Aug. 4 an immature was seen in the same area (L&BP). There are no recent records of Broad-winged Hawks breeding in Nebraska. This species is a generally conspicuous but widespread and fairly common breeding bird in Nacagdoches County. Swainson's Hawks were scarce throughout w. Texas. Observers in Payne County, Okla., were jubilant over the discovery of two ad. and one imm. Swainson's Hawks Aug. 6

(JC). The nest of a pair of Ferruginous Hawks in Dallam County, Tex., which had been occupied the previous five summers, was empty this year (KS). This species was present in Roberts and Crosby Counties, Tex., in June, but no nests were found. Northern Harriers were present all summer in Pawnee, Rush and Ness Counties, Kans., and at Crescent L., but no evidence of breeding was seen. An Am. Kestrel in Grayson County, Tex., provided the first July record (CRB). In Crosby County several family groups of Am. Kestrels were observed. At Tulsa the population of Kestrels was low and no young were seen.

**GROUSE THROUGH PLOVERS** — As expected after the severe winter, the population of Sharp-tailed Grouse at Crescent L., was far below that of one year ago. Bobwhites were scarce in Kansas for the same reason. Common Gallinules were present in Castro County, Tex., June 24 (KS) and Gray County, Tex., July 29 (EBE). Piping Plovers were sighted frequently by people canoeing on the Platte R., near Louisville, Neb. One was seen at Hagerman July 22. Only one pair of Snowy Plovers summered at Buffalo L. Although 25 Snowy Plovers were present at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., all summer, no young were seen. At Cheyenne Bottoms, where high water levels were maintained, only three pairs of Snowy Plovers nested, in contrast to the usual 25 pairs.

**TERNS** — Although 325 Forster's Terns were present at Crescent L., in June, only 40 remained in July and no nests were found. At Hagerman Forster's Terns repeatedly drove two Least Terns from a sandbar. The Least Terns finally left the area. On July 4, two flightless Least Tern chicks were observed on a large island in the Arkansas R., at Tulsa. There were 17 adults in flight in the area. On July 8 observers went to the island and found a nest with two eggs, two flightless young birds and ten fully developed juveniles (JCH). Least Terns were present at Quivera N.W.R., Kans.,



and at Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., but no information on nesting success was received. At Cheyenne Bottoms, high water levels precluded nesting by Least Terns. The species was also observed several times along the Platte R., near Louisville, Neb.

**OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Burrowing Owl is thriving in the city of Lubbock where it nests in vacant lots, railroad and highway right of ways, golf courses and even in the landscaped grounds of the city's largest savings and loan institution (KH). Parks in cities and towns of the Region frequently include a prairie dog town with its accompanying Burrowing Owls. A Poor-will was sighted in Ellis County, Kans., July 16 (CAE). There would seem to be nothing much more barren of bird life than a plains cotton field, but Com. Nighthawks nest there regularly and successfully (KH). Chimney Swifts have been present at Lubbock the past five years but the first positive breeding record was established Aug. 5 when a nest with one nestling was discovered (HH, m.ob.). A Chimney Swift at Sanderson, Tex., Aug. 10 may have been a migrant (WC). Four Calliope Hummingbirds were present in El Paso the last week of July (JD) and one was seen at Alpine, Tex., July 22 (m.ob.).

— S.A. —

Three Lucifer Hummingbird nests were observed in the foothills of the Chiso Mts., Big Bend N.P., bringing to ten the number of Lucifer nests reported for the Big Bend since 1962 when the first was discovered. Two of this year's nests were built on seed pods of old lechugilla stalks, one on a green ocotillo branch. By July 1 the shrub *Anisacanthus insignis* was in bloom and Lucifers concentrated in the washes where this plant grows. In a half-mile stretch of one wash, three ad. males and eight female-plumaged birds were counted July 20 (PS).

**KINGFISHERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — Belted Kingfishers were scarce at Tulsa and Bartlesville, Okla. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was discovered in Smith County, Kans., June 22 (G&WH). Common Flickers were present in Presidio County, Tex., all summer. A Red-headed Woodpecker was observed during June near the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P., and a pair with a nestling at Muleshoe Ref., provided a first breeding record there (BL). Hairy Woodpeckers were located in Hutchinson County, Tex., June 16 and Hall County, Tex., July 15 (KS). A Downy Woodpecker summered at Amarillo. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher remained on or near the University of Nebraska at Lincoln campus through June (MBO), and one was seen frequently near Bellevue, Neb., in July (MW). At Lubbock an E. Phoebe nest with nestlings discovered in early May provided a first breeding record (DS, m.ob.). A Willow Flycatcher was located in Crosby County July 1, but no evidence of nesting could be found (ML). At Crescent L., a singing E. Wood Pewee July 12-13 provided a new refuge record.

**SWALLOWS** — A pair of Tree Swallows feeding young in a woodpecker hole in a dead cottonwood at L. Etling S.P., Cimarron Co., Okla., June 29 provided a new nesting record for the state (JN, m.ob.). Cliff Swallows suffered many casualties from washouts and heavy ectoparasite loads in the colonies near L. Somerville, Tex. (KA). On July 1, many Cliff Swallows were feeding fledged young in Tulsa County (JCH). Later in the month >5000 Cliff Swallows swarmed over the fields of Tulsa County where normally only half a dozen are expected. In Pawnee County, Kans., Cliff Swallow nests and fledglings suffered losses in a serious flood in late July. At Crescent L., a pair of Cliff Swallows built a nest on top of a Barn Swallow nest.

Barn Swallows have nested in an abandoned building in Reeves County, Tex., since 1976. But late this summer when the edifice was checked there were at least 40 flying Cave Swallows. There were nine active or recently abandoned Cave Swallow nests, and no Barn Swallows were present. This provided the first nesting record for Reeves County and the first observation of Cave Swallows nesting in a building in the United States. In Mexico and parts of the West Indies Cave Swallows normally nest in buildings (SW).

**JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Of 107 Blue Jays banded in one backyard at College Station April - July, 63 were birds of the year (KA). A White-necked Raven was observed in Keith County, Neb., June 17 (CAF). Black-capped Chickadees summered in large numbers in Pawnee County, Kans. (SS). In Lubbock County the discovery of nests of both "Black-crested" Titmouse and Bushtit in early May provided new county breeding records (RE, m.ob.). The number of White-breasted Nuthatches in and near Bartlesville increased noticeably. A Red-breasted Nuthatch remained at Hays, Kans., until June 15 (MER), and a "fall" migrant was observed at Crescent L., July 30 (MZ).

**WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Bewick's and Carolina wrens remained scarce in the Region. A Bewick's Wren built a nest behind the screen in a drive-in theater at

Pecos, Tex (SW) Gray Catbirds summered in Comanche County, Okla., Pawnee County, Kans., at Ft. Worth and were abundant at Tulsa. Curve-billed Thrashers nested again in Morton County, Kans. (*vide* CAE). Wood Thrushes in Cleveland County, Okla., July 7 (MAJ) and Tulsa June 17 (AH) were unusual for the dates. Several Kansas observers noted there has been a slight increase in the population of E. Bluebirds.

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS** — In late May a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest with nestlings was found in Dickens County, Tex., providing a first county and area record (RE,DS). Plains observers expressed concern for the Loggerhead Shrike, as very few breeding pairs could be located. A Hutton's Vireo was discovered in the Chinati Mts., Presidio Co., Tex., May 30 (SW). In the Chisos Mts., a Gray Vireo nest contained three young within a few days of fledging July 2. Several species of transient warblers lingered in the Region through the first two weeks of June. A pair of Kentucky Warblers attending a barely fledged cowbird in Caddo County, Okla., June 10 provided the first breeding record for the area since 1867 (HW, JN). A singing ♂ Hooded Warbler in the Chisos Mts., June 16 was far from normal summer range and habitat (AA,ME). A lone singing Ovenbird appeared briefly at Crescent L., July 1 (MZ,CFZ). In recent years Ovenbirds have increased greatly near Baldwin, Kans. (AJB). The Rufous-capped Warbler which inhabited a thicket in Santa Elena Canyon, Big Bend N.P., during the spring could not be located after a 15-foot flood ripped through the canyon in early June.

**BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS** — Yellow-headed Blackbirds again summered at three playas in Castro County, Tex., but the dense vegetation prohibited entry to search for nests. Each year more Scott's Orioles are found on the Edwards Plateau of c. Texas, but it is not clear whether this represents an increase in birds or an increase in observers. Residents throughout the Plains are complaining about the explosion in population of both Common and Great-tailed grackles. Great-tailed Grackles nested for the first time in Washington County, Okla., and 40 fledglings were counted June 3 (RP). On June 13 the nest and eggs of Great-tailed Grackle were found in Buffalo County, Neb. This is apparently the second nest record for Nebraska (CAF). One pair of Great-tailed Grackles was observed in Phelps County, Neb., but no nests were found (CAF). The colony of this species at Midland tripled in size this summer. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager with a probable Summer Tanager mate nested in Cushing, Okla. At least three young fledged about July 18 (DI, m.ob.).

**FRINGILLIDS** — The breeding range of Pyrrhuloxias was extended 90 mi N when a nest with nestlings was discovered in Crosby County July 1 (ML). Four singing ♂ Indigo Buntings were present in the Chisos Mts., through June. A pair feeding young in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex., July 8 provided a first breeding record there. Several pairs of Indigo Buntings spent the summer at Buffalo L., but no nests were found. Dickcissels were present in Tulsa, the Texas Panhandle and the Lub-

bock area in more than usual numbers. House Finches nested at Hays and Atwood, Kans (MS). A ♂ Cassin's Finch appeared at a feeder at Crescent L., July 24, providing a first refuge record. It was a banner year for Lark Buntings in the n.w. Texas Panhandle. There were 443 on the Dallam County Breeding Bird Survey, where the previous high was nine! Seyffert wrote, "It was an incredible experience. At almost every stop I would find the males skylarking all around me, pouring forth a constant stream of song. The sunrise chorus of Lark Buntings and meadowlarks on the high plains is an unforgettable happening." Reporters in the Region are unanimous in the opinion that the Grasshopper Sparrow need not be Blue-listed here. A Henslow's Sparrow was observed in Coffey County, Kans., June 1 (MM).

In Big Bend N.P., two nests of Rufous-crowned Sparrows were discovered in the rocky bank of a desert wash, only a foot or less above the floor of the wash. The nests were lined with grass and were shaded most of the day. They came dangerously near being flooded out in early June. Three young in one nest disappeared before fledging, four fledged from the other nest. In the Lubbock area, the breeding population of Rufous-crowned Sparrows was low after severe winter losses (KH). In Morton County two colonies of Brewer's Sparrows were located. At least 13 pairs nested (*vide* CAE). Cassin's Sparrows sang constantly through July in the Alpine, Tex., area, where it was rainy and the hills were green.

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## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Mild temperatures and heavy rainfall in most areas from late March into the first half of June assured generally good habitat and food sources for most breeding birds. Rainfall was much below normal for the remainder of June but in July became excessive on the upper Texas coast and deficient in varying degrees south and west of the Coastal Bend (central coast). On the whole, production was good-to-excellent for most species during the peak nesting period. Flooding destroyed some later nesting attempts on the upper coast, the culprit being tropical storm *Claudette*, which having made landfall in Jefferson County July 24 dawdled across east central Texas for two or three days. From Freeport to Sabine Pass, from the beaches to 20-30 miles inland, the coastal wetlands and prairies were deluged with 10 or more inches of rainfall (JGM). Heaviest amounts fell to the southwest of the storm's path. Over a two-day period Freeport received approximately 20 inches and Alvin, 30 miles southwest of Houston, received over 25 inches. Brazoria and San Bernard Nat'l Wildlife Refuges in southern Brazoria County were flooded by rains and storm tides. Most of San Bernard's 24,000 acres were under water. Losses were heavy among nesting marsh and waterbirds and their newly fledged young (RB). Meantime, in the Rio Grande Delta, a mini-drought was under way and all but a few of the deepest ponds had dried up (JA).

**GREBES THROUGH HERONS** — Pied-billed Grebes apparently were scarce on the upper coast and at Rockport. Presence of immatures in Karnes County (WS) indicated nesting, heretofore not noted in that county. Brown Pelicans are slowly increasing as non-breeding summer residents in the South Padre I. area. "I counted 42 resting on pilings at Port Isabel July 18." (JA). A Brown Booby was photographed on an island in Matagorda Bay June 13 (K&SK). Nesting efforts of Great Blue Herons on Ski Basin I., at Rockport failed. "Someone had put a deodorized skunk on the island . . . it played havoc with eggs." (DW). Approximately 50 nests of Green Herons were located in the Willow Cr. estuary on Aransas N.W.R. (SEL). Cattle and Snowy egrets lost a considerable number of unfledged young when Brazoria and San Bernard N.W.R.s flooded in July (RB). A nesting colony of Yellow-crowned Night Herons was located at San Antonio. Eight nests were found and at least 15 young were seen May 26 (RAC).

**DUCKS** — Black-bellied Whistling Ducks nested in two areas of Karnes County (WS) and at Aransas N.W.R., Aransas Co. (SEL). Oberholser (*The Bird Life of Texas*, 1974) does not record breeding in these counties. A pair with 16 nearly grown young at a stock tank at Sabinal, Uvalde Co., Aug. 19 (WC) should represent another county first. A "phenomenal" season for this species was reported at Santa Ana N.W.R. Of 42 clutches, 30 were incubated. As of Sept. 4, 26 clutches had hatched, producing 428 young. The high rate of success was attributed to sheet metal placed on the nest poles and liberal application of grease to the metal. Marks and hair left in the

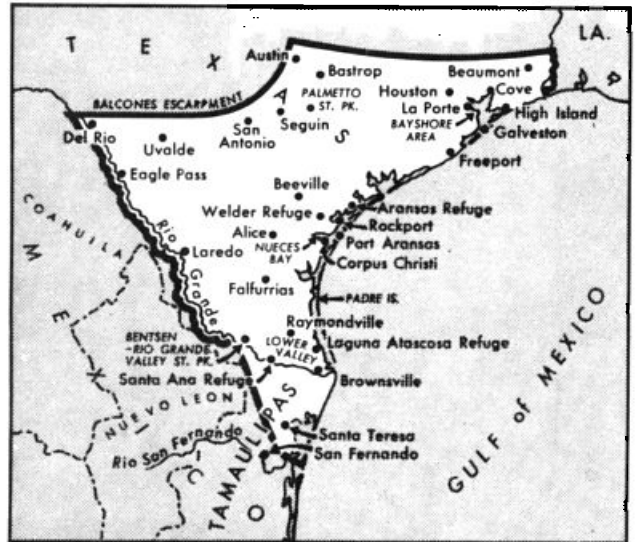
grease indicated that snakes and raccoons still attempt to climb the poles (DD). Mottled Ducks continued a long term decline. Many nests were lost to high water in April, and *Claudette* flooded out late nesting birds (CDS). To all appearances, Wood Ducks had a very good season at Austin.

**HAWKS** — A pair of Hook-billed Kites was seen occasionally at Santa Ana N.W.R., but no nest was located. Adults and one juvenile were reported there Aug. 19 (KA). Kites have nested on the refuge on three previous occasions. An ad. male was seen just below Falcon Dam Apr. 7, and a female was on a nest downriver in Starr County May 8 (JA). A pair seen at Rancho Santa Margarita, w. of Roma, May 4 (GB&RCB) may be related to the preceding observations although exact distances are not known. A White-tailed Hawk nest with two downy chicks was seen near Norias, Kenedy Co., Apr. 28 (JA).



Hook-billed Kite at active nest. Santa Ana N.W.R., Texas. June 1978. Third known United States nesting record. See AB 32:1183. Photo/Don Delnicki.

**GROUSE, QUAIL, TURKEY** — The spring population of Greater Prairie Chickens on the Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., was 156 birds, an increase of 12 over 1978 (WAS). A hen with six half-grown juveniles was observed at Aransas N.W.R., June 18 (SEL). Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. personnel noted a significant population increase of Scaled Quail and Bobwhite on censused land (HG). Peak hatch normally occurs in July and conditions appeared to be favorable at that time. Turkey reproduction was considered excellent, which usually implies an average of 3-4 poults/hen (HG).



**TERNs, SKIMMERS** — The aforementioned skunk wrecked Gull-billed Tern nesting efforts at Rockport (DW). Least Terns used the same area as usual at Rockport; 30+ juveniles were seen June 18 (C&HK). Approximately 20 pairs colonized the boat launching ramp at Falcon S.P.; 20± juveniles were present July 4 (JA). Heavy losses of unfledged Royal Terns and eggs of the Black Skimmer were reported at Brazoria and San Bernard N.W.R.s (RB).

**PIGEONS, DOVES** — Several pairs of Red-billed Pigeons nested downstream from Falcon Dam (JA). Few reports came from other areas along the Rio Grande. What effects freeze damage to citrus orchards in the Rio Grande Delta would have on White-winged Dove nesting was a concern to Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel. However, regrowth appeared to improve nest cover and production was thought to be very good (JHD). Great-tailed Grackles, which normally nest in the tops of citrus trees, were the ones to suffer inconvenience, where the freeze damage was sustained, to the probable benefit of the doves. A remarkable increase has been noted in White-fronted Dove numbers. Ten years ago this species was seldom heard on citrus grove surveys; now as many as 20-30 may be found at a single location (JHD). Apparently this dove, usually associated with tall trees and dense brush, has found a new niche in the citrus orchard, which it shares with White-winged Doves. What effect, if any, extensive land clearing in adjacent Mexico has had in augmenting Texas' resident population is not known.

**ANIS, OWLS, KINGFISHERS** — A group of nine Groove-billed Anis was seen at Sabinal Aug. 18 (WC); apparently this is a new species for Uvalde County. "The Elf Owl colony near LaGrulla, Starr Co., was virtually destroyed when vandals chain-sawed all the nesting poles which had been erected the previous year by Pan American Univ. students. Many of the nest boxes which I put up were destroyed when large areas of the mesquite woodland were cleared. A few pairs nested in Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P." (JA). A Green Kingfisher on Cibolo Cr., n. Kansas Co., July 15 (WS) was a county first.

**BECARDS, FLYCATCHERS** — An ash tree in the Anzalduas unit of Santa Ana N.W.R., had held a nest of the Rose-throated Becard for nine consecutive years; this year no birds returned (JA). At Aransas N.W.R., nesting of a pair of E. Kingbirds had progressed to the egg stage by the second week of May when a Texas rat snake took over (SEL). This locality is s. of the species' usual breeding range. The pair of Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers that nested along the Rio Grande at Rancho Santa Margarita "for at least the previous five seasons" was present May 8 (JA). Nesting of the Acadian Flycatcher in Bastrop County was suspected (G&BL,CS), although conclusive evidence is still lacking.

**SWALLOWS, JAYS** — Rough-winged Swallows were feeding young on dead trees on the banks of the Rio Grande at San Ygnacio, Zapata Co., May 29 (RL). Breeding of this species had not been confirmed from Laredo to the mouth of the Rio Grande. Barn Swallows continued the widespread use of highway culverts in South Texas. A survey of Cliff Swallows in the Rockport area in June disclosed 270 nests under three culverts (C&HK). "They seemed to avoid the culverts that had been washed out the past two years." (DW). Cave Swallow nesting has been confined to a cluster of counties in s.w. Texas. McMullen County on the s.e. border of this area can now be included. A colony of 20± birds was inspected Apr 8 - June 3, in a highway culvert 10 mi n. of Tilden. On the latter date the flock numbered 50± and the first brood was flying (JA). This culvert was shared with Barn Swallows. A good season was indicated throughout the Region for Purple Martins. At McAllen, Hidalgo Co., the relatively recent colonies expanded from three to possibly as many as ten (JA). Arvin states that Brown Jays are now regular all along the Rio Grande from Falcon Dam to Fronton, Starr Co. He observed a pair, plus a "helper," building a nest below Falcon Dam May 1, and a recently-fledged juvenile at Rancho Santa Margarita July 4.

**WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES** — An alarming decrease in Bewick's Wrens was noted in deep s. Texas (JA). A pair of Curve-billed Thrashers, each bird with plant material in its bill, was seen near Rockport Apr. 26 (RLC&JD); this location is at the e. limit of the species' range. A singing Clay-colored Robin was observed at Santa Ana N.W.R., Apr. 27 (SS) After hearing Wood Thrushes sing at a creekside campground in Bastrop S.P., for three seasons, birders finally located a nest. On June 23 one young in the nest was being tended by both adults (AB&EK *et al.*). Nesting of this species was suspected in Austin where a pair was present and singing around an overgrown wood lot in an older residential area June 12 - July 8 (PH,CS).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Several pairs of Black-capped Vireos were reported at Friedrich P., n.w. San Antonio, and this species seemed to be "holding its own" on City Park Rd., Austin, despite additional land development. Bell's Vireos were "fairly common 15 years ago" in deep s. Texas but are now "all but extirpated." Arvin found a singing male near San Ygnacio May 25, his first in several years. Swainson's Warblers were again on territory in Bastrop County. A pair of Tropical

Parulas was carrying nesting material into a large bromeliad clump at the usual site near Sarita, Kenedy Co., Apr. 27 (JA). Golden-cheeked Warblers seemed to be in normal numbers at Austin.

**BLACKBIRDS** — About 200 nests of the Boat-tailed Grackle were located in the Willow Cr. estuary in St. Charles Bay, Aransas N.W.R. (SEL). This is a s. extension of the breeding range. Arvin, probably the most active birder in the Rio Grande Delta for the past two decades, submitted these observations regarding the Bronzed Cowbird: "I have come to suspect that this species may primarily parasitize second or late broods . . . During the winter months some withdraw from Texas. Those that remain flock with other blackbirds. In March the Bronzed Cowbirds separate into flocks of their own kind and spend much time hunched thickly in trees giving their reedy squeals in chorus. This goes on through April and only toward the end of that month do pairs break out of the flocks and appear to disperse. Their famous courtship antics generally are observed from mid-May into June. *Many resident passerines are already feeding young at that time.* Only during late July and early August do I see or hear begging young cowbirds. This would coincide with June egg-laying, after many local species have young on the wing . . . Adult cowbirds disappear from the scene about August 1 when they rejoin the widely ranging flocks." (JA).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Blue Grosbeaks, Painted Buntings and Dickcissels were "numerous" in Karnes and Wilson Counties, apparently responding to favorable habitat (WS). The latter species was common in the Austin area where wild sunflower crops were tall and dense. About 20 Lesser Goldfinch, including one juvenile scarcely able to fly, were seen at the Tropical Parula site s. of Sarita Aug. 10 (HMS). *The Bird Life of Texas* does not record this species for Kenedy County, although it is recognized as occurring locally in live oak areas of s. Texas — of which this is one. Olive Sparrows were singing in a brushy area near Mitchell L., San Antonio, in July (SH), and one was heard in a brushy pasture near Poth, Wilson Co., Aug. 5, presumably on territory (WS). If these discoveries represent breeding, they imply a n. extension of the breeding range. Grasshopper Sparrows were fairly common in root-plowed pastures of tall, introduced grasses in n. Starr County in late May. This species moved into the area after extensive clearing of brushlands (JA). Seaside Sparrows nested in two localities at Rockport (DW). Cassin's Sparrow numbers were down at Rockport (DW) and in Wilson County (WS); relatively wet conditions were suspected of being one of the inhibiting factors.

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## NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/Helmut Grünberg

Summer is the only season in which bird-watchers go up into the Arctic. Consequently, there will be some emphasis on observations in the Far North. In the expanded Region (Yukon, Northwest Territories, northern British Columbia), 187 species were observed.

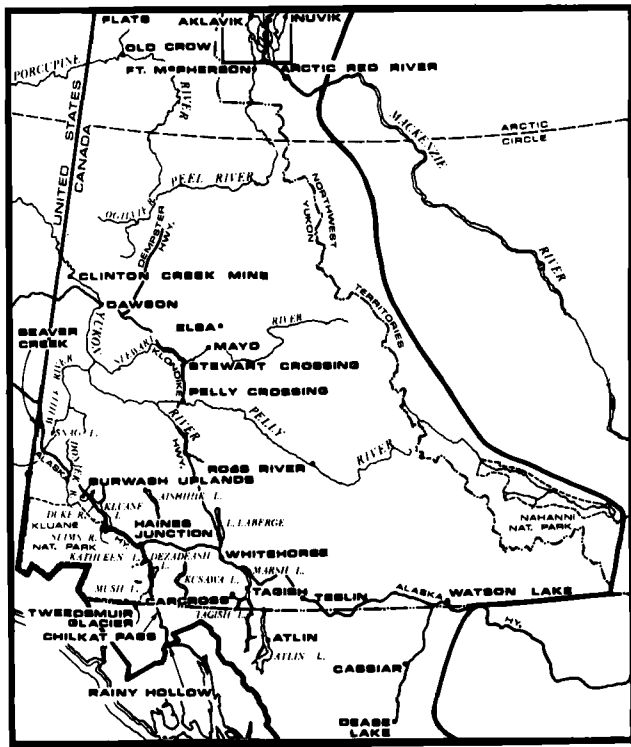
Temperatures in Whitehorse were close to the long-term average, while precipitation was almost twice normal. A wet summer in a climate as dry as ours has a significant effect on plant growth and all life ultimately dependent upon it. Bird life was plentiful; productivity appeared to have been high. Even warblers, which seemed to have declined over the past years, appeared to have been present in good numbers, probably owing to the large numbers of available insects.

**LOONS THROUGH FALCONS** — Three Com. Loons were reported at Coppermine, N.W.T., n.e. of their known breeding range June 21-25 (IW). Three Yellow-billed Loons were at Yellowknife June 2 (RPM). A rare Pied-billed Grebe was seen 60 km w. of Ft. Smith, N.W.T., June 18 (EK).

A detailed description of a dark-phase N. Fulmar at the s. end of Bathurst Inlet (66° 50'N, 107°20'W) June 8, 1978 was submitted (RMCK). The only known colony of White Pelicans in the Northwest Territories is at Mountain Rapids near Ft. Smith. By May 17 it comprised 30 individuals (JvP). Its existence is threatened by a hydroelectric development. American Bitterns occurred regularly in s. parts of the Northwest Territories (*vide* DK).

There were at least 1700 (Black) Brant and 1000 Snow Geese in molting aggregations on the Lower Thomsen R., Banks I., July 21 (DK). One (Black) Brant was seen near Km 125, Dempster Hwy., June 11 (RF). Two Com. Eiders and one King Eider were seen at Komakuk Beach, Arctic Ocean, Yukon, June 25 (RH,DM). These two species were common at the Arctic coast, of N.W.T. (DK) Ruddy Ducks were regularly seen in the Ft. Smith area, N.W.T. (*vide* DK).

A pair of Goshawks, a species that is fairly common in the Yukon, nested at Prelude L., near Yellowknife (GG *et al.*). Ospreys were observed in the Whitehorse area and at Snafu Lakes, s. Yukon (HG,WH). Two to three pairs of Swainson's Hawks were reported from Lower Snake R., Yukon, in June (RH). There was continued occupancy of known Gyrfalcon and Peregrine aeries near Bathurst Inlet (G&TW); but the number of active Peregrine sites near Inuvik declined from three in 1978 to one in 1979 (AW). In the Yukon, Peregrine and Gyrfalcons were found nesting in the Peel Plateau, n.e. Yukon, and along the Dempster Hwy., in early June (RH,DM). Three Gyrfalcons were seen along the Dempster Hwy., July 10 (MH).



**PTARMIGAN THROUGH SHORE-BIRDS** — Reports from the Arctic coast (RH,DM) and the British Mts., 20 km s. of the coast (AM&JMcD) as well as from Banks I. (DK), indicated that Rock Ptarmigan was usually more common near the coast than Willow Ptarmigan, while the latter were more common in the lush vegetation around Bathurst Inlet (DK). In Wood Buffalo N.P., the first hatching of the Whooping Crane took place June 7 and was completed by July 14 (EK). An ad. Sora with young was observed n. of Whitehorse July 8 (HG,WH). One was reported from s. Northwest Territories in mid-July (DK,RS).

Killdeers appeared far n. of their known breeding range: two were seen in the Peel Plateau June 7 (RH,DM) and one was observed at close range at Coppermine June 21-25 (IW). A Black-bellied Plover, common in the Northwest Territories, was noted in the Peel Plateau June 1 (RH,DM). A Ruddy Turnstone observed at Ft. Smith May 30, was EK's first record in 20 summers at that locality. Up to 12 were seen at Yellowknife June 6-8 (JC,DK,KS), one was observed near Snake R., Yukon, June 4 (RH,DM) and 2-8 pairs were noted in the British Mts., in early June (AM,JMcD). A pair of Whimbrels showed territorial behavior at Km 94, Dempster Hwy., July 1 (SC) and one bird was seen in Klauene N.P., July 30 (MH).

Only two Upland Sandpipers were seen at Duke Meadows June 23 (HG,WH) while four were noted in two areas of Klauene N.P., July 12 & 24 (SC). A pair displayed territorial behavior in the e. foothills of the Richardson Mts., and there were locally many in the Wernecke Mts. (RF). Wandering Tattlers were reported from eight areas in n. British Columbia, s., c., and n. Yukon and n.w. Northwest Territories (SC,RF,WH,MH,AM&JMcD) including one pair in the British Mts.

Short-billed Dowitchers were seen near

their known breeding area at the Chilkat Pass, B.C., June 13-14 (SC). The first substantiated breeding record for the Yukon was obtained when an adult and a young bird, 6-10 days old, were observed at L. Laberge July 2 (HG,WH) and the young bird photographed the next day. Upon visiting last year's suspected breeding area at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse July 8, two adults and three fully-fledged young were found (HG,WH). Sanderling and Red Phalarope, not reported from the Yukon, were common in the Northwest Territories (*fide* DK). A new breeding area for Wilson's Phalarope was discovered: one male attending two young, 3-5 days old, was found at L. Laberge

July 2 (HG,WH). In the same location, a male with two young and a male with one young as well as one female were seen and the young photographed July 3 (HG,WH) for the third and fourth breeding records of this species' northernmost nesting site in the Yukon. At last year's breeding area, Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse one or two males were seen July 8 (HG,WH).

**JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Pomarine Jaeger was observed at Komakuk Beach June 25 (RH,DM). There were several reports of Parasitic Jaegers at Yellowknife in June and July (DK,PV), suggesting that they might breed in the area. One pair was seen in the British Mts. (AM,JMcD).

Glaucous Gulls were seen in good numbers at Komakuk Beach June 25 (DM) as well as on the Northwest Territories coast (*fide* DK) and in small numbers in the British Mts., during the summer (AM&JMcD). A probable Thayer's Gull was present with Herring Gulls at the Yellowknife dump June 16; the bird had a dark brown iris, pink feet and was slightly smaller than the Herring Gulls (DK,RS). Reports by IW indicated that Mew Gulls were fairly common at Coppermine June 21-25. Breeding evidence should be sought here. The nest of a Sabine's Gull with two eggs was found at Thomsen R., Banks I., July 24 (DK). Caspian Terns were nesting around Yellowknife and Black Terns were seen regularly in the Ft. Smith area (*fide* DK).

The Thick-billed Murre colony at Cape Parry, N.W.T., is unique in Canada's w. Arctic. On Aug. 2 this colony had an estimated 770 birds (JW). Two Rock Doves, a species common in Whitehorse, were in downtown Yellowknife June 22 (DK). A Mourning Dove was observed at L. Laberge July 21 (WH).

Local informants commented that Snowy Owls seemed scarce in 1979 compared to other years at Banks I., and at Bathurst Inlet

(DK,G&TW) The rare observation of a Great Gray Owl was made near Frog Cr., near Dempster Hwy., e. of Ft. MacPherson June 27 (RF). Boreal Owls had a nest with young at Lower Tibbit L., 100 km e of Yellowknife July 1 (LH). None of these owls was reported from the Yukon.

The only Rufous Hummingbirds reported for the entire Region were two observed at Graham Inlet, B.C., during the whole summer (MB). Among the four accounts of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker this summer (SC, HG&WH, JL, *fide* DK), most notable was the first report for the Region of an ad. bird of the *ruber* race which was seen at Kluhini R., Km 80, Haines Rd., B.C., June 12 (SC) Hairy Woodpeckers were regularly observed in the Yukon (DS) and Northwest Territories (*fide* DK). A Downy Woodpecker was seen all summer at the Takhini Hotsprings Rd., n.w. of Whitehorse (MH).

**PERCHING BIRDS** — An E. Kingbird was seen at the Yukon Game Farm June 10 (DN&US) and, surprisingly, a pair was observed as far n. as the Dempster Hwy., between the Yukon/Northwest Territories border and Peel R., June 23 (RF). A purported ♂ Hammond's Flycatcher [identification needs verification — Ed.] was heard at Rainy Hollow, Haines Rd., B.C., June 12 (SC). Pairs of Cliff Swallows were seen in three places near Coppermine June 21-25 (IW) and four were noted at James R., w. of Bathurst Inlet July 30 (DK). Both localities are n.e. of the known breeding range.

The first report for the Region since 1974 of a Chestnut-backed Chickadee came from Kluhini R., Km 80, Haines Rd., B.C., June 12 (SC). A Dipper was seen as far n. as the British Mts., 20 km from the Arctic Ocean (AM&JMcD). The only report of a Red-breasted Nuthatch came from Nisutlin Bay, Yukon, at the end of July (RH). In the British Mts., one to two pairs of Am. Robins were noted on territory (AM&JMcD). Wheatar observations were made in the British Mts., in early June (AM/JMcD) and in the Ogilvie Mts., July 10 (MH). It was commonly seen in the Wernecke Mts., where fledged young were observed (the highest concentration of Wheatears encountered by RF). Hermit Thrushes seemed to have been more common than usual in Yukon and n. British Columbia (SC,HG,JL) and were "pushing" their n. breeding limit near Yellowknife where a nest with two piped eggs was found at the inlet of Prosperous L., July 22 (TD,LH).

A probable Yellow Wagtail appeared in the Ogilvie Mts., in June (NB, *fide* RH). Northern Shrikes were regularly seen and one was noted as far n. as the British Mts., in June (AM&JMcD). The uncommon Warbling Vireo was observed in two locations near Whitehorse June 1 (J&RT), at Snafu Lakes June 9-10 (HG,WH) and 3 km n. of Whitehorse June 13 (HG). Tennessee and Palm warblers, although not reported for the Yukon or n. British Columbia, were common in s. parts of the Northwest Territories (*fide* DK). An Ovenbird was observed near Ft. Smith June 12 (KW). A ♀ MacGillivray's Warbler was seen at Rainy Hollow June 12 (SC) and three males were singing at Shallow L., Skagway Rd., B.C., June 24 (SC) At least one Am. Redstart was noted at Tel-

egraph Cr , B C , June 25 (PM)

An apparent decline in Pine Grosbeaks, usually a very common species in the Region, was noted by RF and HG and is reflected in the scarcity of reports received of this species. Five to ten Red Crossbills were seen n. of their breeding range in the Peel Plateau June 6 (RH,DM). Smith's Longspurs were observed at Km 129, Haines Rd., B.C., June 11-14 and in the Kelsall L. area, Haines Rd., B.C., July 18 (SC). One individual was seen at Coppermine June 21-25 (1W). DK is anxious to obtain any breeding records of this species in

the Northwest Territories. He suspects that this species is less common than published range maps indicate.

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## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Summer weather in the Region can be quickly summarized as "hot and dry", although for central and eastern Washington that is normal. In spite of drought conditions, water levels in lakes, reservoirs and ponds remained satisfactory in most areas and lack of rain probably favored most nesting landbirds. Increasing carp numbers helped most fish-feeders at Malheur N.W.R. A rather good number of "rarities" for the summer season perhaps primarily reflected increasingly good coverage of the Region.

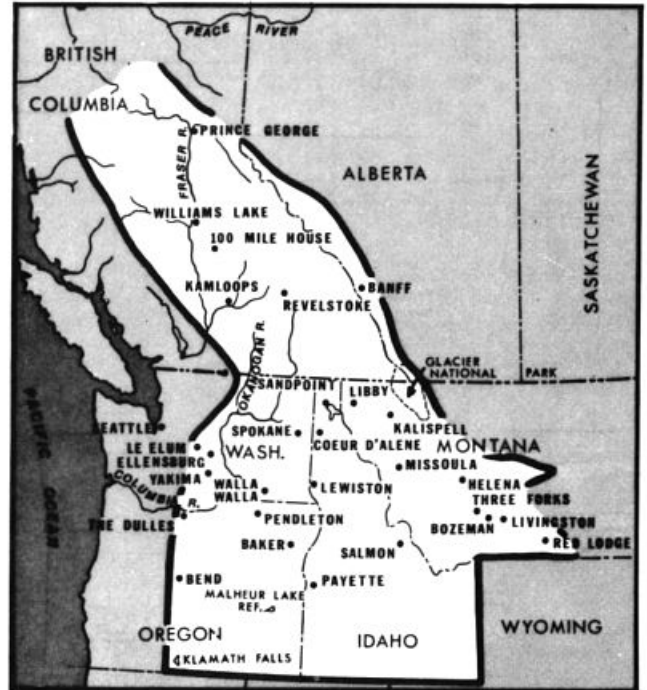
**LOONS, GREBES** — Wells Dam Res., near Brewster, Wash., harbored 13 ad. Com. Loons July 14 (VM) and an Arctic Loon was studied well on Suzy's Pond 10± mi w. of Coulee Dam, Wash., July 9 (GB,VM). It was an unusually good summer for Red-necked Grebes, with sightings in w. Montana, n. Idaho, n.e. Washington, and s. Oregon. However, high winds all summer at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., raised havoc with nesting attempts of Red-necked and Pied-billed grebes. A Horned Grebe at Spencer Res., just n. of Triangle, Ida., was apparently the first for that area (AL). At Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., 2000 Eared Grebes were counted July 20. Low water levels at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., caused very poor nesting success for the species. Western Grebes showed an increase there, however, with 700± pairs. Over 280 eggs were collected from abandoned nests at Blackfoot Res., Blackfoot, Ida. Drawdown for irrigation was the cause, apparently as it was for the very few active nests on L. Walcott and Am. Falls Res., on the Snake R. (CHT). At Minidoka N.W.R., 3000 Western and 600 Pied-billed grebes were recorded July 20.

**PELICANS, CORMORANTS** — The White Pelican total was record high at 1000 at L. Helena June 10. A pelican egg found floating in Malheur L., Malheur N.W.R., in July indicated that at least some of the birds were in reproductive condition, although no nesting has taken place there since 1960. Frenchman Hills Wasteway just w. of Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., had 13 of the birds July 12 (GC&DG) and 12 stopped at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., June 5 (JRR). McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had 30± July 26 (JCo). Minidoka N.W.R. was still averaging 400, and 250 were above Am. Falls Res., in July (WHS).

Forty-two nesting pairs of Double-crested Cormorants at Ninepipe N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., produced 99 young (F.A.S.). Five birds, adult and immature, were at the breeding area at Potholes Res., June 15 (JA), and Malheur N.W.R., had 80 pairs compared to 20 in 1978. The species seemed to be doing very well at L. Walcott, Minidoka N.W.R., and Mud Lake N.W.R., s. Ida. (CHT).

**HERONS, IBISES** — Eight Cattle Egrets were in the Rupert area in late July (WHS). Malheur had 415 pairs of Great Egrets, up slightly, Potholes Res. had four birds and at least one active nest (RF). One was at McNary N.W.R., July 10 (JCo) and Ft. Boise W.M.A., s. Ida., had one July 20 (JHe). At Malheur Snowy Egrets dropped to 40 pairs from 137 in 1978. Minidoka N.W.R., had 100 of the birds (WHS) as did a marsh one mi n. of Owyhee, Nev., June 6 (AL). Black-crowned Night Heron pairs numbered 730, up from 526 at Malheur, and Potholes Res., had at least 500 pairs (RF). White-faced Ibises were doing well in s. Idaho; >270 were banded during the summer in the Pocatello area (CHT).

**WATERFOWL** — A group of 16 Mute Swans appeared at a gravel pit pond near Bozeman, Mont., in late June (PDS) and four appeared on Swan L., near Vernon, B.C., the first week of June and stayed through the period (PS). Ninety-eight Trumpeter Swan cygnets counted July 20 at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., was a good average year for the birds there (RRS). Two pairs at Turnbull N.W.R., produced five young to be fitted with green neck collars. Off-refuge sightings are solicited. At Malheur the birds had their best year since their introduction in 1958, with 35 cygnets on or near the refuge. Canada Geese averaged 350 at Turnbull N.W.R. Production at Kootenai N.W.R., was 92, double last year's, the success attributed to mammal-proof nesting structures. Thirty White-



fronted Geese were along Hwy 52 between Emmett and Payette, Ida., July 20 (DJo).

Duck production at Kootenai N.W.R., was expected to equal that of 1978; numbers at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., were about half of 1978's but the situation at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., was about normal. Minidoka N.W.R., had 5800 Gadwall, 1500 Canvasbacks, 800 Com. Goldeneye, 6300 Ruddy Ducks, 2400 Com. Mergansers and 100 Red-breasted Mergansers July 20. At Fortine, Mont., Com. Goldeneye was holding its own fairly well despite the pressures of low water levels, cattle grazing, timber cutting and new housing developments. At least 60 White-winged Scoters flew over Okanagan L., Sumnerland, B.C., July 8 (SRC).

**VULTURES, HAWKS** — Two Turkey Vulture nests were located on the Diamond Craters, Malheur N.W.R. Observers reported at least six active Goshawk nests and ten other well scattered sightings. Only four reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk came in. Two active Cooper's Hawk nests were found and seven other sightings reported, all in e. Washington and Idaho. In addition to an active nest and several other pairs in the Malheur area, nine sightings of Swainson's Hawks were reported. Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area's

(hereafter, BPNA), preliminary data showed 15 pairs of Ferruginous Hawks fledging ten young and Malheur had four pairs. In Washington the Benton City area had two adults and four young June 4 and the Eltopia area had nine adults and at least four young (RF). The only other report was of one near Wilsall, Mont. (CH&EH). Twenty-eight Golden Eagle pairs were tentatively reported to have fledged 18 young at the B.P.N.A. A pair of Bald Eagles fledged two young near Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., and Columbia L., n. of Kimberley, B.C., had three adults June 3 (MVW). The Osprey situation appeared satisfactory. In addition to the usual, five active nests were found on a float trip from Moyie Springs to Bonners Ferry, Ida. (PRS), and at least two active nests were on the Middle Fork of the Clearwater R., between Kooskia and Lowell, Ida. (EM). Georgetown L., w. of Anaconda, Mont., had up to four birds June 28 & July 9, and two were at Canyon Ferry Res., near Helena July 11 (PSC). The B.P.N.A. survey tentatively reported 83 pairs of Prairie Falcons fledging 67 young but only five other localities reported them. Two Peregrine Falcons and two Merlins were reported for the Region.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Four young Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported e. of Tonasket, Wash. The only other report was of a "sharp increase" from the Arco Desert to Minidoka, Ida. (WHS). The only mention of Sage Grouse was of >100 between Jarbidge, Nev., and Rogerson, Ida., July 30 (EB). Bobwhite were found up to mid-July near State-line, Ore. (B.M.A.S.; WS). Gambel's Quail was observed 5 mi s. of Horseshoe Bend, Ida., July 25 (C&EF). The transplanted Turkeys in the Chewelah, Wash., area apparently are expanding their territory for at least six were seen regularly (JN).

**CRANES, RAILS** — A pair of Sandhill Cranes brought off two young at the n.w. edge of Helena (SM) and a pair was back at the usual site near Davis L., w. of Lapine, Ore. (LM). The pair at Island L., between Kalispell and Libby, Mont., apparently raised no young (DD). The Virginia Rail was reported only for Island L.; Reardan, Wash., Ft. Boise W.M.A., and Crescent Cr., n. Klamath Co., Ore., an unusual mountain location (SS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The only Semipalmated Plovers reported were single birds at the Yakima R., delta at Kennewick, Wash., July 4 (REW) and near Reardan, Wash., July 23 (JA). Forty-seven Long-billed Curlews were feeding on a grasshopper infestation at Malheur N.W.R., June 29, and 12 circled over the desert n. of Richland, Wash., July 1 (PW&REW). Single birds appeared 15 mi e. of Moxee, Wash., June 7 (Y.A.S.) and at Salmon, Ida., June 2 (HBR). Two were near Potholes Res., June 15 (JA). Six Upland Sandpipers were seen and two more heard for the maximum count at the unique colony in the Spokane Valley July 4 (JA). The land may soon be sold for housing developments. The species was seen regularly during June and early July in Logan and Bear Valleys in the Seneca, Ore. area (JC; SCG; SS), but was unreported otherwise except for two on the Reed Pt., Mont., Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter, B.B.S.) (C&EH). Noteworthy were a Stilt Sandpiper at Pablo N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., July 7 and a

Marbled Godwit at Polson, Mont., the same day (FAS). Four of the latter were at the Yakima R. mouth July 4 for Bob Woodley's second record there. Black-necked Stilt numbers were low at Malheur N.W.R., but increased substantially by the period's end. At least two were at Columbia N.W.R., June 15 (JA); two pairs were at a pond s.e. of George June 12 (WD), and four were at sewage ponds near Wheeler July 10 (WM), all in Washington. An aerial survey over s.e. Oregon July 25 revealed hundreds of Am. Avocets and Wilson's Phalaropes many miles from their nearest nesting habitat (CDL); thousands of the latter were grouping at Am. Falls Res., June 28, supposedly having completed nesting. Nearly grown young Wilson's at Fortine, Mont., June 27 was unusually early (WW).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — A Parasitic Jaeger at Harney L., July 5 established only the fourth record for Malheur N.W.R. (SH). One was harassing terns on the Columbia R., 7 mi s. of Beverly, Wash., June 3 and possibly the same one was over Lenice L., 3-4 mi e. of Beverly June 21 (NW). The 1100 pairs of Franklin's Gulls at Malheur was the greatest number ever known to nest there. Twenty appeared at Cascade Res., near Cascade, Ida., June 17 (JHe). An ad. Bonaparte's Gull at L. Wenatchee, Wash., June 3 was remarkable (WD). A tern at Fortine, Mont., either Forster's or Common, would have been Weydemeyer's first there for either species. An **Arctic Tern**, minutely described, was observed near Somers, Mont., June 5-11 (CCA,MS,SSu). Caspian Terns moved into the Malheur area in late June and ten were seen on Rock Creek Res., 30 mi w. of Frenchglen, Ore., July 25. Supposedly they were post-breeding wanderers from Warner Valley, Ore., and n.w. Nevada (CDL). Davis L., w. of Lapine, Ore., had a pair in July (LM) and Island Park Res., Fremont Co., Ida., had two June 15 (CH&EH). A single bird appeared at Harrison, Ida., July 7 (DJ).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS** — Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported at Prairie, Ida., in July (PC). The only Black-billed Cuckoos were one on the Reed Pt., Mont., B.B.S., and one at Daggett Cr., n.e. of Boise (AL,HL). A Flammulated Owl was heard in May and June near Penticton, B.C. (SRC). Six were in the Swauk Pass - Scottie Cr., area n. of Cle Elum, Wash., June 14 (EHu), and the species was regularly found in June and until July 7 at Starr Campground 9 mi n. of Seneca, Ore. (JC; SS). An estimated 152 Great Horned Owls nesting in the Blitzen Valley at Malheur produced an estimated 222 young. Burrowing Owl numbers looked encouraging at the few localities where they are known in e. Washington. Banded Owls continued to appear in n.e. Washington and n.w. Montana. One unfortunate bird, found June 5 near Keller, Wash., was a casualty of a barbed wire fence (AM) and others responded to taped calls on night surveys there (JAR). At Island L., w. of Kalispell, Mont., a nest was found and a flying brood observed in July (DD). One was heard at Ross Cr., between Libby and Thompson Falls, Mont., June 13 (PDS). The Spotted Owl was found in two locations along the w. side of Upper Klamath L., Ore., in June (U.S.F.&W.S. biologist, *vide* SS). Young Great Gray Owls had fledged by June 20 from a nest s. of Bozeman, Mont. (CVD). Apparently a differ-

ent bird was seen at Kelly Canyon n.e. of Bozeman in late June and early July and one of this species was observed on a nest n. of Island Park Res., s.e. Ida., June 15 (CH,EH). A pair fledged at least two young near Kamloops, B.C. (RH). Long-eared Owl numbers appeared good, particularly at Malheur, N.W.R., where 24± pairs generated 59 young. Eight of the nine nesting areas examined had been retired from livestock grazing last year. The Short-eared Owl population there was also high, 71± pairs in the Blitzen Valley at Malheur producing 75 young. A high mouse population in Lincoln County, Wash., attracted large numbers of the birds; 43 were seen along the Coffee Pot L., road n.e. of Odessa June 27 (JH). Four fledgling Saw-whet Owls were near Penticton June 14 (SRC) and a pair bred successfully near Chewelah, Wash. (JN).

**POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Poor-wills were reported only w. of Spokane, and at the Boise-Cascade campground on Wenas Cr., s.w. of Ellensburg. An amazing 500+ Black Swifts were reported over Wells Dam Res., near Brewster, Wash., June 17 (MH). White-throated Swifts were seen in Picture Gorge, John Day R., near Dayville, Ore. (JC). The colony reportedly has been there for many years. A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird was observed closely at a feeder s. of Meadow Brook Pass s. of Dale, Ore. (SCG,SG,LJ). One was reported at Blewett Pass in the Washington Cascade Mts., July 10 (Y.A.S.). A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird visited a feeder at Okanogan Falls, B.C., June 14 (SRC) and an imm. bird was sighted at Spokane July 10-11 and Aug. 1-2 & 7 (JA). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., June 24 furnished one of very few Montana records (P.A.S.). Rufous Hummingbirds were said to be at feeders all summer at Bozeman (JM).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A belatedly reported **Acorn Woodpecker** at Ft. Simcoe, Wash., Mar. 25, carefully described, provided the first state record (BB, CB,CP). Williamson's Sapsucker was reported 14 times, from s. British Columbia, n. Idaho and mostly, e. Washington. Lewis' Woodpecker appeared in a few n.e. Washington, Idaho, and n.w. Montana localities. White-headed Woodpeckers were reported at five localities. Only four locales produced Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker sightings and ten localities reported N. Three-toeds. Numerous Ash-throated Flycatchers were apparently on territory in an extensive grove of junipers near Diamond Craters, Malheur N.W.R. (CDL). One was reported at "a nesting area" at Badger Mt., just n. of Wenatchee, Wash. (WD). A Least Flycatcher was seen and heard at Okanogan Falls June 8, 11, 14 & 24 (SRC,RW) and one was counted in Wright's Valley on the B.B.S., near Chewelah, Wash. (EH). A ♂ **Purple Martin** was over a pond along the Tucannon R., Columbia Co., Wash., in the Blue Mt foothills June 14 (JWW).

**JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES** — The only Blue Jay sighting was along the Spokane R., n. of Reardan the first week of June (SK, *vide* WH). Klamath R. Canyon near the California border in Oregon yielded a Wren-tit June 8 (SS). Twenty-nine singing Winter Wrens were noted on a one-week backpack



trip in the Glacier Park area of Washington's n Cascades July 18-25 and one was singing on Browne Mt., near Spokane for the only other report (THR). Cañon Wrens were missing from most of the usual sites in the Bozeman area, the only report came from Bear Trap Canyon (DS), the severe winter was possibly the cause. The only other reports were of a singing male near Chewelah (JN) and one at Chelan, Wash., June 17 (WD). The Mockingbird found in May near Klamath Falls was joined by another June 27 but no nesting activity was noted (SS). Twenty observations of Sage Thrashers came from sagebrush areas of n c Lincoln County, Wash., June 28 - July 18 (JH) The B.B.S., 20 mi e. of Pendleton, Ore., turned up five Gray Catbirds (CC); several were along Pine Cr., near Weston, Ore., July 18 (PD,RF), and the species was found in the vicinity of Naches, Nile and Yakima Indian Reservation, Wash. (Y.A.S.). A one-week backpack trip in the Glacier Park area found 30 singing Hermit Thrushes and a colony of Veeries at Ochoco Ranger Station campground e. of Prineville, Ore., appeared to be doing well (JC). "Goodly numbers" of Mountain Bluebirds were reported in the Helena area and the Nampa, Ida., area reported 44 July 5, but the birds appeared scarce elsewhere. Western Bluebird numbers were apparently normal in most areas.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — One or possibly two pairs of Solitary Vireos were on territory in the Kirk Hill Nature Area s. of Bozeman (CH,EH). A ♀ Black-throated Gray Warbler (CH,EH). A ♀ Black-throated Gray Warbler on the upper Pahsimeroi R., e. of Challis, Ida., was apparently the first for the area (HBR). A supposed Hermit X Townsend's Warbler, the third such for the Davis L. - Elk L area, was found among a mixed singing population of the putative parent species (LM) A ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler was singing July 7-8 at Ochoco Ranger Station campground (JC). A singing Ovenbird, well-studied, was at the junction of the Yakima and Teanaway Rivers just e. of Cle Elum, Wash., June 9 (RH) and singing males were again found in Cottonwood Canyon s. of Bozeman (PDS). Northern Waterthrushes were singing regularly at the usual spot along the Little Deschutes R., near Gilchrist, Ore., during June (m.ob.). Yellow-breasted Chat was reported only for the Grande Ronde R., between Elgin and Imbler, Ore. (SCG), at two places in s. Idaho, at Browne Mt., near Spokane (THR), at Columbia N.W.R. (JA), and in the Yakima - Naches area (Y.A.S.). The Am. Redstart was observed along the Little Deschutes R., near Gilchrist in June (m.ob.).

**BLACKBIRDS** — A Bobolink was sighted at Salmon, Ida., June 2 & 30 (HBR). In Montana the birds were reported at Bigfork and at Swan Lake N.W.R., e. of Flathead L. (F A S.). Near Bruneau, Ida., the hayfield where the birds unsuccessfully attempted nesting yielded only a male June 16 (JSM). McCall, Ida., had one July 24 (RB). An ad. ♂ N (Baltimore) Oriole 35 km n. of Hudson Hope, B.C., June 27 was far n. of its normal range (KV). A pair of "Bullock's" again brought off young at Wasa Sloughs near Wasa, B.C. (MVW).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A ♂ and a ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak along Wenas Cr., s. of the Boise-Cascade campground s w of Ellensburg June 29 made the third record for Washington (DH) and a male was sighted July 7 between Colbert and Chattaroy, Wash. (JK). A male was photographed at Indian Fork campground near Sisters, Ore., May 28 (JC,SCG) and a female stayed in a Helena yard the last week of July (LS). Two singing ♂ Lazuli Buntings 29 km s. of Chetwynd, B.C., June 26 were well n. of their usual range (KV). There was an unexpected dearth of Evening Grosbeaks in the Cascade Mts., Deschutes Co., Ore., but July found them in high numbers in the c. Cascades of Washington including the Glacier Peak area. No unusual concentrations were reported elsewhere. Black Rosy Finches were easy to find in July and August in a cirque above Fairy L., Bridger Mts., n. of Bozeman. Adults were feeding young there July 30 (CH,EH). A singing ♂ and a ♀ Lesser Goldfinch were on territory just e. of Lyle, Wash., again this summer (WS). Red Crossbills were apparently little in evidence; the one-week backpack trip into the Glacier Peak area found none at all! A Green-tailed Towhee was reported at Salmon, Ida., June 10 and July 2 (HBR). Grasshopper Sparrows were noted only in the Upland Sandpiper area of the Spokane Valley June 20 & 27 and July 8 (JA; THR). The only Sage Sparrows were at Columbia N.W.R., June 15 (JA). Up to three singing ♂ and one ♀ Clay-colored Sparrows were discovered in hedgerows of an old apple orchard in the Spokane Valley. They were noted several times June 26 - July 8 (JA;WAH;LH;THR). This supposed breeding colony would be the only one w. of the Continental Divide. Unfortunately it is on land approved or proposed for housing developments. A singing male was in Camas Cr. Meadows on the w. side of Glacier N.P., Mont., July 10 (EH). White-crowned Sparrows were reported only on the B.B.S., s. of Avery, Ida., June 23 (THR,SGS). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported for subalpine meadows around Glacier Peak (THR) and in Idaho at Warm L., near Knox; at Fish L., 30 mi s. of Elk City (JH), and near Hoodoo L., n.e. Idaho Co., 15 mi s. of Powell Range Station, an adult flushed from a nest containing four eggs (SKE,EM).

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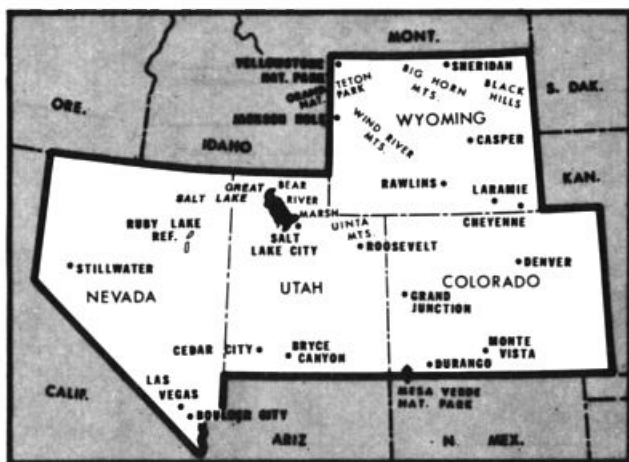
## MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

A wet spring, capped by some June snows, prolonged the migration and affected some nesting birds. Migrants continued to pass through into mid-June — a few shorebirds, thrushes, and warblers.

The high spring precipitation produced taller, lusher grasses on the prairies and improved the nesting success of plovers, Lark Buntings, and longspurs, but made their nests harder to find. Lark Buntings seemed particularly abundant at the Pawnee Grassland and Mountain Plovers particularly hard to find (MM,CO,RAR). At Sheridan, Wyoming Downing reported a steady population of Lark Buntings in the area, although her two Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter, B.B.S.) routes show decreasing counts — from 110 in 1975 to 40 in 1978 and 1979. She suspects a link to pesticide use; the number of stops on which she has recorded them has dropped to ten, suggesting that certain fields are congenial, others anathema.

The Colorado Field Ornithologists sponsored a June weekend exploration of Latilong 13, covering Limon and Hugo, east of Denver and Colorado Springs. It is a poorly-explored section of Colorado despite its proximity to urban centers. They found few surprises, but instead filled in gaps in Colorado ornithological knowledge.

**LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS** — An Arctic Loon displayed striking summer plumage at Sheridan July 19 (MC,HD,†ME), the Region's only summer record. Breeding pairs of Eared Grebes doubled in e. Nevada, with Little Fish L. (JE) and Ruby Lakes N.W.R. (SHB) reporting 675 breeding pairs. Cody, Wyo., had 40 nests (UK). The only White Pelican breeding site reported on, Riverside Res., near Ft. Morgan, Colo, had 250 young, a minimal production figure about half of last year's (RAR). Double-crested Cormorants nested for the first time at Antero Res., near Hartsel at 8900 ft in the Colorado mountains with three large young noted July 7 (RAR), and at Chatfield Res., near Denver with five unsuccessful nests (HEK). The 136 nests at Bear River N.W.R., Utah marked a decline from last year's 215 nests (TF).



**HERONS, IBISES** — Bear R.'s nesting pairs numbered 175 Great Blue Herons, 1500 Snowy Egrets, 500 Black-crowned Night Herons and 20 Am. Bitterns. Most totals are down by 10-20% (TF). Superb pictures document Colorado's first Least Bittern nest in 20 years, near Boulder (HKD). White-faced Ibises enjoyed success throughout the Mountain West, with 1300 young at Bear R., and 500 at Ruby L.; successful breeding at Colorado's San Luis Valley with 100 adults and >20 nests at Adams L.; and the first nesting at Stillwater Ref., since 1960 — probably refugees from dried up Carson L., nearby, but also signaling the improvement in Stillwater's habitat.



Least Bittern nest, Sawhill Ponds, Colorado. First nesting record for Colorado in 20 years. Photo/Horst K. Droeger.

**WATERFOWL** — Utah's breeding population of ducks dropped to 21,671 from 44,238 birds in 1978. This year's total lacks numbers from Farmington Bay W.M.A., which last year had 14,965. Gadwalls predominate at 4636, followed by Pintails, Redheads, and Cinnamon Teal (U.D.W.R.). Ruby L., produced 2200 Canvasbacks, 2115 Redheads, and >3200 other ducks (SHB). Trumpeter Swans fared well. Ruby Lakes' transplants had 19 young (SHB). Near Cody, Wyo., one pair had a cygnet (UK) and the Nat'l Elk Ref., at Jackson

boasted its first cyg nets in 6 years, with five young hatched (BR). We have no data from Yellowstone. Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park (hereafter, R.M.N.P.) reported two territorial pairs of Ring-necked Ducks at Spragues L. (WR); the park has had no observations reported for 30 years. Ruddy Ducks had at least five broods, with 50 young, at gravel pits near Las Vegas (VM).

#### HAWKS, EAGLES

— Mississippi Kites had a "great" year in Colorado's Arkansas River Valley (hereafter, Ark. Val.) with 14 nests at Lamar and other pairs at La Junta, Las Animas, John Martin Dam, and Two Buttes. The total reached 56-60 birds, and 25-26 nests (CC). Swainson's and Ferruginous hawks both had a good year in Ark. Val. (CC). At Pawnee Grassland Swainson's Hawks seemed scarcer, perhaps because of the June snowstorm, but Ferruginous Hawks had their usual numbers — 31 nests produced 102 young (CO). In Wyoming, intensive survey work on Ferruginous Hawks revealed many empty nests (BO). Bald Eagles in Jackson Hole, Wyo., had poor success; nine pairs produced only nine young (BO). The subdivisions closing in there may soon restrict Bald Eagle nesting to the national parks — Grand Teton and Yellowstone (BR). Regional Ospreys apparently met mixed success: only one young hatched from 15 eggs in five nests at Shadow Mt. Res., near Grand L., Colo. (DJ); 13 nests produced 12 young around Pinedale, Wyo. (BO); three young at Sheridan's only nest had not fledged by report time. Salaun's study area covers 15± acres on The Diamond on Longs Peak in R.M.N.P. — but they comprise a vertical cliff and his birding equipment includes climbing ropes, pitons, and karabiners. He described "one hapless Prairie Falcon that ventured near the wall and was mobbed by 7-10 serious rosy finches. Visual observation was often limited, but at no time was the hawk's position in doubt. After taking refuge in a rock crack for about 15 minutes, it dove at tremendous velocity straight for a lower wall one-quarter mile away, never unfolding its wings until landing." A Peregrine project near Durango, Colo., resulted in fledging 3-5 young, placed in two nests shortly after hatching (EF). Merlins probably nested near Casper, Wyo., judging by strong defense from a pair July 14 (DC).

**QUAILS TO RAILS** — Bobwhites flourished in e. Wyoming to as far w. as Lander (BO), and also in s.e. Colorado, along with Scaled Quail (CC). But at Sheridan Gray Partridges were nearly wiped out by the severe winter (BW). At least three Whooping Cranes spent several weeks in w. Wyoming (BO). At Sweetwater Station, Wyo., on the e. fringe of its range, Sandhill Cranes produced one young (BO) and at the s. fringe, Elko, Nev., at least five nested (EB). Bear R., had 15,000 nesting Am. Coots and Ruby L., had 6400 which produced 2800 young (TF,SHB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — At Eureka, Eyre saw a scattering of shorebirds throughout July. Ruby L., a superb refuge 50± mi from Eureka, attracted only about twice as many. More use the refuge later in the season. The presence of migrant shorebirds raises the question as to how many shorebirds — and passerines — actually cross the deserts — and mountains — and how many fail the test.

**Snowy Plovers:** Snowy Plovers had a banner year in Ark. Val., with 46 nests at Cheraw and 18-20 at Blue L., Aug. 11 found 100 at Blue L., and 100-125 at Cheraw, mostly young. Six nests at Nee Noshé were flooded, along with those of 11 Spotted Sandpipers and 1-2 Least Terns, when irrigation storage began. Man's work on the prairie has created a nesting and migratory bounty for water and shorebirds. While the prairie originally had potholes, e. Colorado had few and could not have supported its present plentiful birdlife. Satisfactory habitat for Snowy Plovers must have been non-existent; Colorado's first record occurred in 1939. On the other hand, a Snowy Plover was at one of several alkali lakes near Laramie, Wyo., July 16 (E&CH), possibly a nester? The Great Salt L., probably supports scattered nesters, including Bear R.'s ten pairs (TF).

**Other plovers:** A Piping Plover visited Hygiene, Colo., June 1 (TV). Killdeer at Bear R., had 600 young (TF); Ark. Val., had >40 nests and at least 100 young (CC). Ranches at Eureka had six nests cf. two last year (JE) and at Silt, Colo., nine nests (RP). At Cheyenne Mountain Plovers were prolific in their first hatching, but after a hailstorm July 20, no young and only a few adults were seen (AKI). From 75-100 Black-bellied Plovers migrated late through Ark. Val., in early June (CC).

**SANDPIPERS** — Common Snipe, like Snowy Plovers, take advantage of man-made habitat: they nest and feed in irrigated hayfields in w. Colorado (JW). Abundant winnowing birds indicated good nesting throughout w. Colorado. At Bear R., 250 adults raised 75-100 young (TF). Several hundred Long-billed Curlews nested in scattered pairs around Pinedale, Wyo., in pastureland and upland sagebrush/grass (BO), and Jackson had extra good nesting (BR). At Blue L., Ark. Val., all but one of 8 nests fledged young. A Whimbrel flew over a Ft. Morgan, Colo., ranch-house June 10, as did five Upland Sandpipers (JCR). Nesting Willets at Bear R., raised 150 young. Sheridan had four Willets June 29, only its fourth June record. Unlike last year White-rumped Sandpipers did not summer in the Ark. Val., this year (CC) but six were at Monte Vista N.W.R., July 24 (WWB). Several hundred Stilt Sandpipers spent the last half of July in Ark. Val. (CC). Bear R.'s 30,000 Am. Avocets and 20,000 Black-necked Stilts produced only 4000 and 1500 young respectively, unexplained low proportions compared to last year's (TF).

**GULLS, TERNS** — California Gulls raised 500 young to flight stage at Bear R. (TF). They produced 30± young at Riverside Res., and 300-400 at Antero Res., Colo. (RAR). About 300 Franklin's Gulls summered in Ark. Val. (CC). By July 24, >1000 had moved from the n. into the Denver/Boulder area (JR,MM). At Walden, Colo., Forster's Terns' nesting success improved, with adults feeding at least 100 juveniles July 29 (RAR,RCR). Common Terns

July 15 at Denver (DK) and July 22 at Jackson (AS) provided the first July records for Colorado and Wyoming, in at least the past 6 years. The Least Terns flooded out of Nee Noshe Res., apparently moved to Blue L. "In mid-July, 3 presumed re-nest attempts were located within 5 m of each other, about 60 m from where the birds bred at Blue L., last year. Each nest had 2 eggs all of which hatched during the first week of August." At least 3 fledged and one died, with the fate of the other 2 unknown (CC). Caspian Terns at Bear R., had 30-40 young from 64 eggs in 38 nests. Other Caspians were observed at Jackson, Yellowstone, and Laramie (BR,E&CH).

**PIGEONS, CUCKOOS** — Coloradans reported Band-tailed Pigeons in good numbers. One of West Creek's 40-50 pigeons was marked July 16 at Niwot, Colo., and appeared at W Cr., 60 mi s., July 18 (RW). Many were at R.M.N.P. (WR) and McCoy had its first July 21 (ME). Small flocks of up to 11, were common at Zion to early July (LE,JG), and Las Vegas reported one June 23 (VM). Mourning Doves displayed higher numbers but half as many nests as last year according to study counts at Nunn, Briggsdale, and Yuma, Colo. (TEO). They increased in Ark. Val. (CC) and n Nevada with congregations of >500 in late July at Eureka (EB,JE). Yellow-billed Cuckoos fared well in Ark. Val.; 14 nests found, many more suspected (CC); and Boulder reported more than usual (LH *et al.*). Black-billed Cuckoos probably nest in limited numbers in Wyoming; reports included Jackson's first summer record June 26 (BR), five at Greybull (ER), one at Wheatland June 29 (RRt), and 16 observations of ones and twos at Sheridan, topped by six July 8 (HD). One was at Fountain, Colo., July 10 (KK,MEg). A notable Roadrunner was seen at Durango June 3 (*vide* EF).

**OWLS** — Colorado had the only Barn Owls reported with 11 nests in Ark. Val., and four nests at Ft. Collins (CC,KW), plus one heard July 6 & 18 at Boulder (MM). A 150-hour study, sponsored by D.A.S., found five Flammulated Owl nests around Florissant, Colo., June 6 - July 19 (RW). At Gunnison, Colo., four Flammulateds were found (KC). Pygmy Owls nested at Zion with a pair found July 14 (SH). Sheridan discovered its first nesting Burrowing Owls, a colony with five adults and at least two young; they were also seen at a proposed coal mine site (BS). Good numbers were reported in Colorado including 3 large prairie dog towns in the Ark. Val., each of which supported at least six nesting pairs (CC), and at Las Vegas they nested successfully at the gravel pits (VM). Jacksonites found three Great Gray Owls (BR *et al.*). A Long-eared Owl June 13, with four young, provided Sheridan its second breeding record (BH). A dead Boreal Owl found on Trail Ridge Rd., R.M.N.P. (\*R.M.N.P.), and one found there in a chimney last year, suggest a breeding population somewhere nearby (DJ). The Florissant survey also located a Saw-whet Owl nest June 23. The birds departed and nest failed by July 1 (RW). Although a few probably breed in the Region this is only the second nest reported in 9 years. The other was in Salt Lake City. Two Poor-wills flushed out of sagebrush May 15 for Jackson's first record (BG). City populations of Com. Nighthawks seemed low (BP,

HEK,B A S), but rural populations seemed good except at Jackson

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — A pair of early Black-chinned appeared June 2-3 at Blue Mesa Res., Colo. (KC), and a pair summered at Las Vegas, raising two young (VM). Apparently a good number of Broad-tailed perished in the June 8 snowstorm at Silver Plume, Colo. (EC), but they achieved usual numbers elsewhere. First Rufous Hummingbirds arrived at Jarbidge June 27 (EB), Cody June 29 (UK), and Ridgway July 2 (JRG). Southbound Calliope appeared in July at Evergreen (AB), Grand L. (DJ), and Colorado Springs (RWA).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Common Flickers may have problems with Starlings in urban habitats, but in mountain areas lacking the ubiquitous alien, they do well. At Florissant their plentitude runs to one pair/aspens stand, so they leave few holes for other hole nesters, such as Flammulated Owls (RW). At Sheridan, since observers started applying a point system to flickers, they do not report Yellow-shafted any more — only hybrids and Red-shafted (HD). Red-headed Woodpeckers spread W from Sheridan to the Big Horn Basin at Lovell (BO) and Cody (UK). An Acorn Woodpecker at Zion June 8 provided the park's second and Utah's fourth record (GT, m.ob., †Zion N.P.). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were fairly numerous at Jackson with nests both of it and of Black-backed Three-toed found (BWd). At Torrington, Wyo., the proportion between E. and W. kingbirds flip-flopped from a majority of Westerns last year to a majority of Easterns this year (CM). A power line which runs through a Sheridan grassland sported both kingbird species nesting almost alternately on power poles spaced 0.2 mi apart; the total in 5 mi was nine Western and six Eastern nests on 23 power poles (HD). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher graced the Limon latilong with its first record May 18 (WDG).

**SWALLOWS, JAYS** — Tree Swallows met good success on both sides of R.M.N.P. (WR, DJ). With the first Colorado plains nesting about 4 years ago, the 8 pairs that nested in the cottonwood heron grove at Chatfield near Denver represented a virtual population explosion. Bank Swallow, a localized species, fared well in the colonies observed, at Axial, Boulder, and Dubois; 807 were observed in the Denver area July 22 (JR). Ward reports that "Cliff Swallows seem to be abandoning cliff nest sites to utilize greater nest protection offered by new bridges." She found 100-150 nests under the Milk Cr. bridge near Axial, and many active nests under most highway bridges in the Meeker/Craig area, as well as some on rocky bluffs. A flock of 12-18 Purple Martins followed a large insect hatch with 5 other species of swallows June 3 at Silt (RP). Two observers, in 1872 and 1888, reported in a vague, general manner **Purple Martins** nesting in Colorado; the first definite nesting record for the state came this summer with a pair that fledged two young at Stoner (VES, †C.F.O.).

**THRASHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Four extra-limital Mockingbirds were in Millard County, Utah, June 30 (MP) and two were at Pine Bluffs, Wyo., June 23 (DS). A

Curve-billed Thrasher nest at Fowler, Colo., contained four eggs June 10 (D&CG). A Hermit Thrush nest at Axial gave Colorado latilong 2 its first confirmed nesting record (JW). A count of 27 Hermits on the Lander B.B.S., was high (BO) and Snow Basin near Ogden, Utah, had good numbers of both Hermits and Swainson's (JN). Late migrants were a Hermit Thrush at Las Vegas June 2 (VM) and several Swainson's at Limon June 1-3 (C.F.O.). Zion picked up its first nesting Swainson's Thrush, only its fifth record, with an eggless nest found July 14 (SH). At Gunnison there was an "explosion" of Townsend's Solitaires: they spread into "every available habitat — sagebrush, cottonwood groves, hay meadows, pinyon/juniper, spruce/fir, aspen, and alpine — but in greatest numbers in areas where spruce and aspen mingle. Along Red Cr., I counted 30 solitaires in 2 mi. In other years in this stretch of forest I couldn't buy a solitaire." (KC). No other observers noted similar abundance, although Water Pipits showed localized abundance at Jackson, between 8500-10,000 ft (BR). Two Cedar Waxwings appeared at Eagle July 24, the first in years (JM). In early June, small groups were at Las Vegas (VM) and Zion feeding on ripening mulberries (LE). They nested in n. Wyoming, and made a brief nest attempt at Lyons, Colo. (BH). Tourists found a well-described Yellow-throated Vireo at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland July 3-6, the first Colorado summer record (CB,TO,†PS). The late snow melt received credit for the nesting of Solitary Vireos at lower elevations than usual at Durango (EF), but they departed from their haunts of former years at snowless Zion's Oak Creek in favor of serenading the Springdale trash dump (LE). An unsuccessful nest in Colorado Springs confirmed the nesting of Red-eyed Vireos in that latilong; despite singing birds there for several years, no one had previously located a nest (CLC).

**WARBLERS** — On snowy June 7-9, four Tennessee Warblers fed busily in cottonwoods at Dubois, Wyo., the first observation there (†DLH). Other late migrants included N Parulas at Laramie June 16 (†PW) and at Las Vegas June 5 (VM). Of 4 warblers that last year displayed possible extra-territorial nesting in Colorado (AB 32:1193), only one persisted this year: at Rye, Colo., Grace's Warblers returned Apr. 28, and four were there June 24 (WWB,D&CG). Two N. Waterthrushes at Big Horn, Wyo., July 15-16 in the same place as last year raised suspicions of nesting. Although it nests to the n.w. in Montana, it has not nested so far in Wyoming (JD, HD). An Am. Redstart at Limon June 2 provided a first latilong record; it could have been either a late migrant or a nester (C.F.O.).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — Four observations of Bobolinks at Ridgway June 27 - July 4 provided that latilong with its first records. The Sheridan B.B.S., shows a decline of W. Meadowlarks from an average of 670 for 1974-76 to an average of 202 for 1977-79 (HD). Continuing their slow spread, eight Great-tailed Grackles frolicked along the Rio Grande R., at Alamosa, Colo., July 27, about 15 mi from their Monte Vista nesting site; one in early June wandered to Hartsel, Colo. (CC). At Durango W. Tanagers nested at lower elevations owing to high-country snow (EF). At Florissant, where the snows did not persist,

the nesting population dropped substantially after experiencing good numbers in 1977. Winn found only two pairs in 150 hours of exploring a 50 sq mi study area. Many descended in early July, after breeding, upon peach trees in Springdale, Utah (LE). Mentioned last season, the pair of Hepatic Tanagers near Kim, Colo., remained to late July, and a second male was found one mi away; no nest or young was found, but nesting seems likely (CC). Another late June migrant was a Summer Tanager at Boulder June 5 (JH).

**FINCHES** — A pair of late-May Cardinals at Ft. Collins did not stay to nest (RAR). Early-June Rose-breasted Grosbeaks passed through Evergreen and Boulder (RO.B.A.S.), and a pair at Sheridan possibly started nesting, June 6-7, until a girls' softball team started practice at the site (HD). At Springer Res., near Torrington, a Blue Grosbeak June 2 had strayed farther N than usual (FS). Indigo Buntings continued to encroach in the Region, with reports from all four states. Nesting has stretched N to Loveland, Colo. (IS) and Rockville, Utah (LE); one in Sundance, Wyo., June 27 provided a first latilong 7 record, in a possible nesting locale.

*Rosy Finches:* Few birdwatchers brave the rocky cliffs and snowbanks to see the rosy finch on its nest site. Terrain and weather make their nests hard to find; even dangerous. Each summer I look forward to Back's description of her search for the nest of the Black Rosy Finch; this year, on her tenth annual rosy finch backpack into Wyoming's Wind River Mts., she came closest. She found them "courting, mating, and feeding on snowbanks, eating midges and leaf hoppers carried there by the wind and immobilized by the cold . . . We came closest yet to finding a nest; we think we found a female gathering nest material . . ." More observers studied the Brown-capped Rosy Finches in R.M.N.P. Jasper found two nests on the w. side of Mt. Richthofen. On The Diamond, Salaun described fledging rosy finches on that 1700 ft rock face: "Very young birds seem always accompanied by an adult male finch. The trick appears to be for the adult to lure the fledgling along tiny ledges or edges on the face while it clings by its claws and flaps according to necessity. Occasionally they balk and return to a safer stance. Adults show a high degree of aggression toward ravens and hawks at this time. I saw several 600-700 ft plunges down the wall by adults." Lesser Goldfinches, one black-backed form June 17, and three green-backed form June 24 visited Jefferson, Colo. (CH,KH); any at all are unusual in the mountains. Red Crossbills apparently found good cone crops; they moved into the Colorado Front Range in good numbers. At Durango Fox identified on July 4 an apparent Green-tailed X Rufous-sided Towhee cross. It looked like a Rufous-sided but had a rusty cap, and a white throat somewhat like a Green-tailed. It mewed like and fed with a young Green-tailed. Brown Towhees found in the Limon latilong in likely habitat, moved the likely breeding range of that species to its most northerly point for the e. population (C.F.O.).

**SPARROWS** — Western grassland and brush support numerous sparrows; habitat determines the species. In Ark. Val., riparian brush, the Lark Sparrow was the most com-

mon breeding bird, and in drier brush there and in Baca County, Colo., Cassin's Sparrow bred abundantly — in fact was the only breeding bird in sand/sagebrush transects (CC). Five pairs of Cassin's in 5 areas around Pueblo may mean good populations there (VT); one skylarking July 12 at Colorado Springs was likely breeding, as it was found in the same area 2 years ago (EW). In the shadscale and greasewood of Millard and Juab Cos., Utah, hundreds of Black-throated Sparrows made it the second commonest bird, following after Horned Lark (MP). Clay-colored Sparrows were heard often, with one on territory June 3, at Jackson — where they were first identified last summer (BR). Many Brewer's Sparrows were found at Jackson, Axial, and Pawnee Nat'l Grassland; those at Axial occurred in short sagebrush (with Vespers in taller), and at Pawnee in the taller plant growth (BR,JW, CO). A Fox Sparrow June 2 gave the Limon latilong its first, odd out-of-season, record (C.F.O.). Sheridan had 4 observations of five Fox Sparrows June 5 - July 6, the first summer observations since 1975 (HD). Jarbidge had two which stopped feeder visits in mid-July (EB).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The date for the Sanderlings at Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., last fall, should be Sept. 20, not Nov. 13 (AB 33:200; PS).

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Ark. Val.: Arkansas Valley; B.B.S.: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Svc. Breeding Bird Survey; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park. †: details submitted. \*: specimen.

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman

No one seemed to consider this a stellar season. It was a poor season for occurrence of Mexican strays and, more importantly, it was apparently also a poor summer for breeding success in some areas.

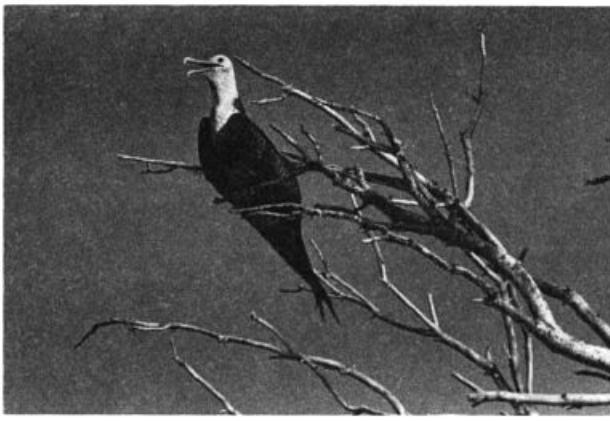
The results of last winter's unusual cold continued to draw comment. A very noticeable effect was the killed-back vegetation in parts of southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico (south of the Mogollon Plateau), and locally in the east-central sector of New Mexico. Mesquite was the most obvious victim in many areas — for example, huge tracts of mesquite bosque on the upper San Pedro River appeared lifeless at the beginning of the summer — but a number of other species of trees and woody plants were affected. Despite initial appearances, most of the plants evidently were not dead. New shoots were sprouting on many as the season progressed. However, the overall reduction in foliage, for this season at least, was substantial; although we have no data to support this contention, it seems certain that breeding success must have been reduced for birds in the mesquite associations.

Following a rather wet spring, this turned out to be a dry summer, with the usual July rains hardly materializing until a month later than normal. Some observers suggested that this may have lowered the breeding success of those grassland birds which normally nest at the time of the summer rains.

Two positive aspects of the season are worth mentioning. Observers in southeastern Arizona, taking a cue from experiments in other states, ran a "summer Christmas count" June 30 in the Ramsey Canyon circle. The numbers recorded on this count (like those of the usual winter CBCs) may have little meaning, but the intensive coverage of the CBC methodology produced some significant records. Another break from the summer doldrums was provided by Painted Rock Dam (hereafter, P.R.D.) in southwestern Arizona: the reservoir behind the dam, swelled by last winter's floods, was at its largest ever, and the great expanse of water there attracted a number of interesting birds and interested birders. Some of the records produced on the Ramsey Count and at P R D will be found in the following species accounts

**GREBES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Western Grebes nested again (second actual report) at Caballo L., on the Rio Grande (CAH,DLg). Eared Grebes were found nesting at Black L., n.e. N. Mex., July 26 (WHk) for a first definite report there, while two birds at L. McMillan, s.e. N. Mex., July 29 (WHo,MA) were very unusual for the season at that locality, the presence of 40+ Westerns at P.R.D., in July (KK *et al.*) was also somewhat surprising. The usual July dispersal of imm. Brown Pelicans into s.w. Arizona occurred, with reports e. and n.e. to Patagonia and Mammoth; nine were at P.R.D., July 27 (GM,WD) and 11 were there Aug. 15 (GM,GG), indicating an unusually high concentration.

The cormorant breeding colony at Elephant Butte Marsh, N. Mex., was not occupied this year; birds evidently relocating from this col-



Immature Magnificent Frigatebird, Painted Rock Dam, Arizona, July 22, 1979. One of several that appeared in s.w. Arizona this season. Photo/Janet Witzeman.

only nested just to the s. at Caballo L., with many Double-crests and a few Olivaceous there (CAH,DLG). Double-crested Cormorants nested at P.R.D., for the first breeding records in the lower Gila Valley. At the time of discovery (mid-July) a number of adults and vacant nests were present, and the one occupied nest contained three young (ph., JW).

This was a big year for Magnificent Frigatebirds inland, and undoubtedly it was merely coincidence that it happened to be a big year also for the reservoir behind Painted Rock Dam. Nonetheless, the expanse of water at P.R.D., must have acted as a magnet, to attract and hold frigatebirds wandering over s.w. Arizona. From one to six individuals, all immatures, were seen there July 15 - at least Aug. 15 (RBr,SB, m.ob.); notable was the sighting of an ad. male there Aug. 9 (ST,LD). Frigatebirds also occurred over Cibola N.W.R., with sightings of one immature July 25, 27 & 30 (SG,CH,LM), and one over w. Phoenix July 8 (*vide* DT). Most remarkably, nine were circling over e. Phoenix Aug. 11 (R. Van Swinderen). Prior to this year Arizona had only about a dozen frigatebird records — all of singles except for three at Imperial Dam in 1968 and four near Tacna during hurricane Kathleen in 1976.

#### HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL —

As with cormorants, herons also relocated southward from Elephant Butte Marsh, with many Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons breeding successfully at Caballo L., along with a few Great and Cattle egrets and probably a pair of Little Blue Herons (CAH, DLG). The large herony of Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons near Loving, N. Mex., was also successful; a nesting pair of **Little Blue Herons** found there June 2 was the first for that area and only the second for the state (RW,SW). Two White-faced Ibises on the Zuni Res., July 14 and 21 (AFS) provided first local summer records, but there was no evidence of breeding.

An ad. Snow Goose at Redrock, N. Mex., seen June 12 (BJH) and June 27 (M. Lang), was an odd straggler. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks reached s.e. Arizona in numbers slightly above average; two seen at San Bernardino Ranch e. of Douglas July 20 (DD, J. Bealer) were unusually far e. Cinnamon Teal nested in areas of s. and w. Arizona where previous breeding records are few or lacking, with two broods seen near Willcox July 12 (GM), at

least two broods at Arivaca July 3 (GM,BH), three broods in the Dome Valley June 13 (SG), and one pair known to be nesting near Poston (*vide* SG).

**RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS —** Numbers of Mississippi Kites may be increasing in the areas of Hobbs and Clovis, N. Mex.; the species nested at both points this year (HS, R. Johnson). An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** n. of Mammoth July 5-6 (KVR *et al.*) was only the fourth to be recorded in Arizona and the first for summer. At an unusually high elevation and in a new area for the species was an imm. Gray Hawk studied near Paradise (above Portal), Ariz., July 23 (WR, †MT, †RS *et al.*).

The only Clapper Rails found in c. Arizona this year were three on the Salt R., e. of Phoenix June 5 (DT *et al.*).

#### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS —

Reports of Mountain Plovers in the n.e. quadrant of New Mexico were more frequent than usual, while a nest observed near Nageesi June 11-14 (P. Pache) was only the second ever reported in the n.w. sector. The only proof of the breeding of Com. Snipe in the Region was obtained in 1936 near Springerville, Ariz., so one seen there July 7 this year (ST,GR) is of particular interest. Two at Zuni, N. Mex., July 21 & 31 (AFS) and one at Poston, L.C.R., July 18 (ph., KVR) were exceptionally early for fall migrants and might have summered locally.

Whimbrels reinforced their pattern of late-summer occurrences in Arizona, with one at Cibola N.W.R., July 16 (AL), two near Poston July 27 (CH), and one at P.R.D., July 30 (KK, GR,JW). Red Knots also occurred at P.R.D., with one July 22 (KK,RAW,JW) and two Aug. 9 (DSz); Arizona had only ten previous records. An apparent **Short-billed Dowitcher** was well-seen, and diagnostic calls heard, at Bitter Lake N.W.R., July 28 (†WHO,MA); this was only the third report for New Mexico, and the species is still undocumented in the state. In w. New Mexico, an Am. Avocet near Fence L., June 25 (AMc) and a Black-necked Stilt at Tyrone June 3 (RAF) were both very unusual and established first local summer records.

Two gull records demonstrated the drawing power of the large body of water behind P.R.D. A large dark-mantled gull seen there July 18 (†DSz) was most likely the Yellow-legged W. Gull (*L. o. livens*), from the Gulf of California, a form as yet unrecorded in Arizona. A Herring Gull in third-summer plum-



age studied there July 22 (KK,SB,RAW) provided Arizona's first summer record. Two definite and 23 possible California Gulls were identified June 26 at Heron L., n. N. Mex., for the species' third summer of occurrence there; this locality is now established as one of recent regular summering, but as yet there has been no evidence of local nesting. A Bonaparte's Gull at Sierra Vista, Ariz., June 30 (DSz,SP, GR) was very unusual for the season. Eight imm. Least Terns seen July 15 at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (WHO) represented the first evidence of breeding success in several years for that disjunct population.

#### OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS —

Successful breeding of Spotted Owl was recorded June 30 with one adult and two young in N. McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., N. Mex. (W. Risser) where the species is generally considered rare, and June 22 with one adult and one young photographed in the Organ Mts. (R. C. Castetter) where not previously recorded and somewhat unexpected.

A probable Chimney Swift at Hobbs, N. Mex., June 2 (HS) was a local first. Small numbers of Chimney Swifts were seen over Tucson at points up to 3 mi apart into August; possibly the birds are nesting there, but their center of activity has not been located. Two Black Swifts were seen over Santa Fe July 8 (JPH), a local first, although there have been recent summer sightings high in the mountains nearby.

Normally we see almost no ad. ♂ Costa's Hummingbirds in Arizona after May, but this summer substantial numbers remained on the s. slope of the Santa Catalinas and the n. slope of the Santa Ritas through June and into July (GM,KK *et al.*). A Blue-throated Hummingbird in Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., s.w. N. Mex., June 11 (SW) established a first local record, although not unexpected.

A massive blooming of *penstemon* at the top of Carr Canyon, Huachuca Mts., in late June-early July attracted a major concentration of hummingbirds. Several Broad-billed Hummingbirds there during this period (GM,DD, KK) were at the unusually high elevation of 7000+ ft, perhaps unprecedented in Arizona, although a post-breeding uphill movement has been noted in Sonora. A Berylline Hummingbird at the same place June 30 (DD, RBw), one of very few ever noted away from feeders in the state, was the only one of the summer — a surprising paucity after last



year's numbers, clearly, this species' "invasion" of Arizona is an uneven process. These *penstemon* patches also produced several likely sightings of White-eared Hummingbirds, but the most definite one of the season in Arizona was an ad. male at Summerhaven July 4-31+ (BR, m.ob.), establishing the first record as far n. as the Santa Catalina Mts., since 1915 (*fide* GM). Another was noted July 19 in Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. (RW), for one of the few ever reported in New Mexico.

**TROGONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — On June 13 just n. of the Animas Mts., s.w. N. Mex., two observers (SDo, J. Dobrott) independently saw a trogon that was apparently not a Coppery-tailed. Although no definitive views were obtained, the bird was thought to be larger than a Coppery-tailed, bluish-green and red in color, and it was heard "cackling" ("chirp-chirp-twee"); the evidence suggests Eared Trogon. A ♂ Coppery-tailed Trogon recorded in the Animas Mts., several times during June and July was found to be accompanied by a probable female July 17 (SDo *et al.*); there have been very few records of the species, and no indications of the possibility of breeding in New Mexico previous to this year. Non-breeding single Coppery-tailed Trogons were found below normal elevations in Arizona on Sonoita Cr., June 28 (DSz *et al.*) and at Lewis Spring on the San Pedro R., June 30 (SP).

The Belted Kingfisher has not been found nesting in Arizona in this century, but there have been suggestive June sightings in the White Mts. region; this summer, a male stayed through the season on the Little Colorado R., s.w. of Springerville (Bjo *et al.*). Very much out-of-place, however, was one seen on the lower Gila R., s.w. Arizona, June 19 (GRb).

Gila Woodpeckers are very local in extreme s.e. Arizona, and one seen July 23 at the mouth of Skeleton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. (RM), was at a new locality. A "suspicious" pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers found in late May at Ganado, Ariz. (KK *et al.*), was feeding young in the nest there July 4 (ph., JW): this is a new breeding area for the species. Another pair in the same general area was s. of Navajo June 24 (RAF). Two Acorn Woodpeckers in Carson N.F., w. of Dulce June 13 (APN) and another nearby July 28 (AW, *fide* APN) provided first records there; the species is quite local in that part of New Mexico.

**BECARD THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A ♀ **Rose-throated Becard** was seen and well-described in upper Guadalupe Canyon June 9 (SW); there was but one previous hypothetical sighting for New Mexico. Another female of this species seen July 6 on upper Aravaipa Cr. (GSM) was the northernmost ever found in Arizona.

Eastern Kingbirds occur regularly in very small numbers in n.e. Arizona, where singles were seen at Round Rock and Teec Nos Pos June 1 (DSz,SP). However, the species is almost unknown in s.e. Arizona; individuals were found at Tucson June 10 (KK,CW) and n. of Pomerene June 25 (DSz). A Thick-billed Kingbird n. of Mammoth July 18 (GM,RG) was n. of normal limits in Arizona. Arizona's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher of the summer (but the third for the L.C.R. this year) was at Cibola N.W.R., July 10 (DC,MH). Rare in

New Mexico, a Great Crested Flycatcher at Hobbs June 1 (HS) was probably a late spring stray. At El Pueblo, N. Mex., where E. Phoebe have been reported in summer before, the first local nest was found July 3 (JPH).

Tree Swallows were found nesting at several points in Arizona's White Mts. region, where breeding was first detected just last year (DSz *et al.*). Three Bank Swallows near Zuni, N. Mex., June 3 (AFS) were probably late migrants, as the species is not known to nest in this area. A pair of Purple Martins on the upper Pecos R., July 21-22 (RLT) represented the first summer record of the species for the Sangre de Cristo Mts. Up to five Purple Martins were present, with two at an apparent nest hole, in the Hualapai Mts. of n.w. Arizona June 20-22 (TA, *fide* RSH); evidently the only previous record for the Hualapais, heretofore unpublished, involved one ♀-plumaged bird there Aug. 17, 1951 (GM).

**CORVIDS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — Blue Jays have not been known to summer at Artesia, N. Mex., but one was seen there July 18 (MA,WHO) and local people told the observers that several were around town. A family of Mexican Jays was observed at Bayard, N. Mex., for a first indication of nesting there (RAF). Two Com. Crows near Logan June 21 established a first, and totally unexpected, record for that part of New Mexico; surprisingly enough, in the same area Com. Ravens outnumbered the expected White-neckeds by 35 to zero on a U.S.F. & W.S. Breeding Bird Survey route (JPH). A White-necked Raven nest near Abbott June 21 (JPH) was a first for Colfax County, and the northwesternmost to date for the population on the e. plains of New Mexico.

A Gray Catbird at Cottonwood Gulch, Zuni Mts., N. Mex., July 6 (AMc) provided a local first summer record and two Gray Catbirds at El Pueblo, N. Mex., July 3 (JPH) were apparently the first to be recorded there, although they were not far downstream on the Pecos R., from known areas of summer occupancy. Single Swainson's Thrushes were singing s.w. of Springerville July 7 (ST,GR,BJo) and above Sheep's Crossing July 14 (DSz,SP); there are still few summer records for Arizona's White Mts. region. Two Veeries were singing on territory in July s.w. of Springerville, at the species' only known breeding locality in the Region (Bjo *et al.*).

Two Water Pipits were seen in the Chuska Mts., N. Mex., June 29 (AW) for the first reported summer occurrence there; 1-3 were on La Mosca Peaks near Grant, N. Mex., July 10-11 — one carrying food suggested breeding which would be a local first (AM).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A **Yellow-throated Vireo** near Amistad, N. Mex., June 21 (JPH) established a first state summer record and was undoubtedly a non-breeding straggler. In the area of Zuni, N. Mex., a Gray Vireo seen July 21 (AFS) provided a first local record. A Red-eyed Vireo at Zuni June 10 (AFS) was probably a late spring stray, but one found singing at 10,000 ft in Arizona's White Mts., July 14 (DSz,SP) was remarkable.

The end of the "spring vagrant season" is impossible to define, since occurrences of "eastern" warblers extend well into the summer. Mid-summer N. Parulas in Arizona were

on the upper San Pedro R., June 30 (SP) and at Molino Basin, Santa Catalina Mts., July 11 (†Tom & Paula Bartlett). Notable were individual Prothonotary Warblers on Bonito Cr., e. of Safford, Ariz., June 5 (ph., Tom Clark) and in Taos County, N. Mex., June 10 (WHk); and single Kentucky Warblers near Tucson June 8 (†M. Egger) and at the bottom of the Grand Canyon June 18 (RD,DL). An Ovenbird was singing in the Bill Williams Delta (hereafter, B.W.D.) June 13 (WHO,DF) and another was seen in the Magdalena Mts., N. Mex., June 19 (RLT). Wilson's Warbler is not yet known to breed in Arizona, but there have been some suggestive summer sightings, this year a pair was in appropriate nesting habitat at Phelps's Cabin, White Mts., June 16 (DSz,SP). A ♀ and imm. ♂ Am. Redstart banded at Cottonwood Gulch, N. Mex., were present July 5 at least to Aug. 24 (AMc). While no evidence of successful breeding was obtained, these records are suggestive of summering — a first for the area.

In a class by itself was the Hooded Warbler, with no fewer than *eight* recorded in Arizona in addition to the two in late May. Singles were noted at B.W.D., June 21 (TB), in Garden Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 13 through August (WR,KK,DD *et al.*), in Guadalupe Canyon July 21 (WR,RS *et al.*), and at Tucson, where one was banded July 26 (PW). More remarkable were two evident *pairs*, with a male and female on Workman Cr., Sierra Anchas, June 24 (ST,LD,GW) and another male and female together near Prescott during July (*fide* CST). Bizarre as it seems, we suspect it is only a matter of time until this species is found breeding in Arizona.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — Three ♂ and one ♀ **Bobolinks** were found June 16 near Springerville (DSz,SP); by July 7 there were at least two females there, and a nest was found (GR,ST), for the first evidence of breeding in Arizona since 1937 when a small colony was present near Show Low. A pair of Orchard Orioles with a young cowbird at Hobbs, N. Mex., July 29 (HS) represented the first local evidence of breeding (for the orioles!), although not unexpected; more surprising was a young ♂ Orchard Oriole at Ft. Sumner, N. Mex., June 20 (JPH). Brewer's Blackbirds were found nesting at Mescalero June 12-13 (HS), for the first known instance of breeding in the entire s.e. sector of New Mexico; other birds were present and possibly nesting at Santa Rosa June 19 (JPH).

Late spring vagrant Scarlet Tanagers were noted at Petrified Forest N.P. (Visitor Center), with a male and female seen June 3 (*fide* JC) and a male there June 4 (Ron Thomas). There are only about eight previous state records. Summer Tanagers are local in occurrence on the Pecos R.; one n. of Roswell in July (WHO) provided only a second record for that area.

**FRINGILLIDS** — A singing Varied Bunting near Portal July 28 - Aug. 25 (RM) was probably the first to be recorded on the e. side of the Chiricahuas although the species is common just s. of this area in Guadalupe Canyon. In recent years Indigo Buntings have summered regularly in s.e. Arizona, for example, at least 20 singing males were found there this season. Apparently the first actual evi-

dence of breeding there was provided by a pair with one recently-fledged young in upper Carr Canyon July 7 (KK, EC, CMC).

A foraging ♀ and four singing ♂ Dickcissels at Ft. Sumner, N. Mex., June 19-20 (JPH) suggested the possibility of breeding in the area; this likelihood had been only obliquely indicated by the previous scattering of summer records in the state. Unusual was a singing ♀-plumaged Cassin's Finch at Farmington June 1-21 (APN). Rufous-sided Towhees were found to be common in July in the Pecos Valley between Artesia and L. McMillan (WHO), for a new area of lowland summering in this typically upland species; a Brown Towhee near Artesia July 29 (WHO) was somewhat out-of-range.

Grasshopper Sparrows were noted at several points peripheral to their limited Arizona breeding range: at least one was on territory n. of Madera Canyon in May and June (KK), four or more were singing at Arivaca July 3 (GM, BH), and one was singing at Kansas Settlement July 12 (GM). These records undoubtedly pertained to the localized Arizona-Sonora breeding race, *A. s. amolegus*. A singing Five-striped Sparrow in Pima Canyon n. of Tucson June 26 (GM, Tom Valega) established

the northernmost record to date evidently a wanderer, the bird was not seen on subsequent visits. Black-chinned Sparrows summered on Silver Cr., above Portal, with six territories located in May and some singing heard into August (RM), for the first recent indications of breeding in the Chiricahuas. Two Lincoln's Sparrows near Sunspot June 11 (HS) established a first local summer occurrence and only the second such for the entire Sacramento Highlands region of s.-c. New Mexico.

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## ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

After a warm dry May, June 1979 was widely cool and wet. July had mixed reviews — generally warm and dry in central Alaska but variable elsewhere.

**LOONS, GADFLY PETRELS, HERONS** — Arctic Loon arrived at Atkasuk, Meade R., n. Alaska (WDS), and at Barrow (BJM) June 3, and at Prudhoe Bay June 4 (CH), where it tied the early record. Elsewhere, it was the first year in 25 that the observer's homestead lake in Coho was not occupied by a nesting pair of Arctic Loons (MAM). Scaled Petrels were recorded with some regularity off the Kodiak-Seward ferry this summer; maximum reported was 6-7 birds in groups of up to three June 14 (JRC *et al.*). An Am. Bittern was reported at Barnes L., Stikine R., s.e. Alaska June 6 (DM, *vide* RHA); the species has occurred there — and nowhere else in the Region — annually since at least 1974.

**WATERFOWL** — Tundra-nesting waterfowl at Barrow, *i.e.*, Oldsquaw and King, Spectacled and Steller's eiders, occurred in higher densities in 1979 than in 1978, but Arctic Fox and Parasitic Jaeger predation was heavy and resulted in many early failures (BJM *et al.*). White-fronted Goose and N. Shoveler both bred at Barrow for the first time, a nest with six eggs of the former on June 26, a nest with nine eggs of the latter found June 23. The fate of the geese was not learned, but the shovelers were believed to have hatched (BJM). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** at Franklin Bluffs, lower Sagavanirktok R., July 17-25 (CH&SJ&MP) produced a first record for n. Alaska.

**SHOREBIRDS** — American Golden Plovers were present at Barrow in the highest densities seen there in five years of study, and N.

Phalaropes were present in higher-than-normal densities as well (JPM, *vide* BJM). A number of occasional breeders at Barrow bred there this year, including Semipalmated Plover, Long-billed Dowitcher, Red Knot and Sanderling (BJM, CWS *et al.*). At least eight displaying Com. Snipe, which species has been an occasional breeder at Barrow, were present there June 6 - July 7 (CWS, but there was no further nesting evidence.

A flock of 29 Hudsonian Godwits at Womens Bay, Kodiak, July 15 (RAM&MR) was a first record for the Kodiak archipelago, although the species is uncommon to fairly common in adjacent Cook Inlet. Kodiak presents an interesting situation . . . despite intensive field work at Kodiak for at least the last five years, more than a few species that are numerous in adjacent mainland areas are unknown or very scarce visitants on this island and its satellites, isolated at the interface between the western hemlock/Sitka spruce forest and the open Aleutian heath. Three territorial pairs of Bristle-thighed Curlews were observed on the ridge above Curlew L., near Mountain Village, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta June 11 (TGT *et al.*), where an occupied but subsequently abandoned nest was discovered in 1978 (LGB; † ph. U.A.M.). A Surf-bird in distraction displays at Talaverat Hill, Cape Thompson, July 27 (DBM) provided the northwesternmost sug-



gestion of breeding and the first ever for any part of the Brooks Range. The Surinam-banded Semipalmated Sandpiper reported in 1978 at Atkasuk (AB 33:205) nested in virtually the same spot in 1979 (WDS, JE). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Womens Bay with Westerns on July 11 (RAM&DDG) was noteworthy, since there have been few Kodiak records. Some W. Sandpipers had begun to trek back S by June 18, when 89 birds had returned to Kalsin Bay flats, Kodiak; June 24, 300 were at Womens Bay alone, and numbers peaked July 1, when 2500 were seen at Middle and Kalsin bays. On July 8 numbers at Womens and Middle bays

were still as high as 700, but July 16 only 40 were present at Womens Bay (RAM *et al.*) A second **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** (see Spring) was discovered at Anchorage June 28 (RA *et al.*). There was no record of White-rumped Sandpiper at Prudhoe Bay this summer (CH); the species performed intense displays at Barrow June 6-13, but no nests were found and the species was not seen after June 29 (BJM). An unseasonably early Pectoral Sandpiper, which species does not usually return until mid- or late August, was seen at Womens Bay, Kodiak, July 11 (RAM&DDG).

Apparently peripheral records, one Stilt Sandpiper at Barrow June 10 (BJM *et al.*) was the only sighting there this season, and a juvenile at Meade R., July 27 (WDS) was only the second record at that locality in five years of study. But at Prudhoe Bay flocks of up to 30 juveniles were seen by July 23 (CH), evidence of a good breeding season on the coastal plain between Barrow and Prudhoe. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were down in numbers at Prudhoe Bay compared to 1978, and none was seen there after July 1 (CH). Two three-bird leks were found at Barrow, but predators destroyed the only nest found (BJM); at Atkasuk, however, a lek of at least eight males and eight females was under close behavioral observation the first two weeks of June (JPM *et al.*, *fide* WDS); first downy young were seen July 9 (JPM) and another brood of at least three downies was seen July 15 (WDS). A distinctively-plumaged ♂ Ruff at Prudhoe Bay June 20 was undoubtedly the same individual present there June 18 and 28, 1978, when photographed (CH; details and photos U.A.M.). These records are the easternmost of the species in n. Alaska, in which region of the state it had not been recorded at all until 1976. Another ♂ Ruff, a bird not in full nuptial plumage, was observed at Barrow June 23 (GEH&BJM).

**GULLS, PIGEONS, OWLS** — An ad. Black-headed Gull at Homer June 26 (RAB; † U.A.M.) provided the second (and first in spring or summer) record on the Alaska

Pacific coast e of the Aleutians An imm Bonaparte's Gull at Atkasuk June 5 (WDS, † ph. U.A.M.) provided the second North Slope record of the species. The first was of an adult at Prudhoe Bay June 6, 1970 (SOM). A Band-tailed Pigeon at Juneau July 13 (RL, *fide* RHA) was only the second Southeastern record n. of the Petersburg area. Neither Snowy nor Short-eared owls, both of which were present all summer, nested at Barrow this season, a low year for microtine rodents there (BJM). The saga of Barred Owls at Juneau continues . . . three calling birds were recorded along Thane Rd., July 3 (RL, *fide* RHA), the only report this summer. And Boreal Owls were very popular with visitors this summer, as nests in Fairbanks and Anchorage did not fledge until mid-June, unusually late (m.ob.).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers are scarce residents in the Region, so a pair that fledged young from a nest at Trapper Creek, on the Parks Highway s. of Talkeetna, in mid-June (DKP) was of interest. Western Wood Pewees were conspicuous after June 9 at Eagle R., Anchorage area, with up to six singing birds in a one hour count period, as in summer 1978 (EEB). The species has been regarded as rare in that area. Cliff Swallows constructing a nest under an eave at Ambler June 26 (OW) provided the first recent breeding evidence for the Kobuk-Ambler river drainages and for w. Alaska n. of the Seward Pen. Bluethroats nested in small numbers at Atkasuk in 1979, as in past years, but they inexplicably disappeared after July 12 (JE&WDS).

**STARLINGS** — Pilgrim Starlings reached *arctic Alaska* — one was seen at Barrow June 3 (BJM *et al.*), and one was present all summer at the Colville R. Delta (JWH, *fide* SRJ), the first records for this region of the state. Southwestern Alaska remains the only hold-out region, where not even a vagrant has been seen yet.

**FINCHES** — The Barrow Brambling (see Spring) was a male present May 27-31 (BJM *et al.*).

Few Pine Siskins were recorded this summer at Kodiak, in contrast to last year, when abundant (RAM). White-winged Crossbills bred in the Kasilof area — a female with two young

S.A.

A nest with five eggs June 3 at Attu of "an intermediate female and a Hoary male" (TGT) provided the first nesting record of redpolls in the w. Aleutians. They are irregular visitants throughout the year in the c. and w. islands, probably involving an interchange of birds from both Asia and Alaska, and Commons breed in the e. islands as far w. as the limit of shrub willows, *i.e.*, Unalaska I. There follows a broad hiatus in distribution of the nesting substrate, and shrub willows have only barely colonized the w. islands from the West, occurring only at Attu. As a result of this disjunct distribution of willows, and the broad distribution of redpolls in Asia and Alaska, redpoll has become the first passerine to begin to colonize the Aleutians from both e. and w.

was seen June 8 — but the species vanished after June 29 (MAM). Few crossbills were recorded at Kodiak this summer (RAM)

**ABBREVIATION** — † details on file.

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Bill Harrington-Tweit,  
Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., and  
Eugene S. Hunn

This summer contributors were asked to note in particular, observations of several species that seem to be showing local declines; Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin, bluebirds, and Yellow Warbler. The information received indicates that each bears watching in the future. Most of the breeding range expansions noted over the past few summers are continuing without interruption, except possibly that of the White-tailed Kite. Virtually all of the passerine expansions are northward movements, while waterbirds are expanding into the Region from the east and north.

An increasing number of observers are undertaking projects involving systematic observations of a specific locale. We are grateful that we have been allowed to glean

some of the more interesting findings from these studies and hope that others will be inspired to do likewise. Among these projects are the monthly census of a 300-acre city park in Seattle (coordinated by SH, EP and B&GR), weekly shorebird censuses of Leadbetter Point (RW) and Ocean Shores (DP), and the monthly raptor census of the Vancouver area (compiled by A&JG).

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — The only report of nesting Com. Loons came from s. Vancouver Island (hereafter, V.I.) (*fide* VG). This species may well be extirpated as a breeder in w. Oregon and Washington. A comparison of reports of summering W. Grebes over the last 14 years indicates a gradual long-term decline in the non-breeding population in our area. No N. Fulmars were seen offshore Washington or British Columbia (TW, WC). Usually a few can be found throughout the summer. A Leach's Storm-Petrel in the Straits of Juan de Fuca July 5 (JA, *fide* VG) was unusual in its proximity to the coast. Leach's are denizens of the warm water well offshore. Nine Fork-

taileds in the Straits July 14 (JH) were more usual, since they prefer to feed in the colder onshore waters. Another good Brown Pelican fall may be in the offing. The 300 at the mouth of the Rogue R., Oreg., July 27 (JR, *fide* HN) was a very high count for July, and the first V.I., record since 1973, was an immature July 28 off Pacific Rim N.P. (WC).

Cormorants are apparently on the increase in breeding areas where human disturbance is at a minimum. A colony of >100 pairs of Double-cresteds was established in Grays Harbor, Wash., this summer, and its nesting success was excellent (JS). The large Mandarte I., V.I., colony has been increasing over the past few years, and the small Chain Islet colony off Victoria showed an unexpected increase this summer (MS). Also the Pelagic Cormorant colony on the Chain Islets jumped from 215 nests in 1978 to 373 this year.

A newspaper account of a Magnificent Frigatebird near the mouth of the Rogue R., in s. Oregon July 24 (*fide* HN) may be plausible, since extraordinary numbers were seen in California this summer. The 165 Great Egrets

seen in s Oregon this spring had dwindled to two at Coos Bay June 5 (HN). Presumably they returned S to breed after wintering in the Region, as none were seen farther n. There were three reports of Black-crowned Night Herons; an adult on Reifel I., B.C., June 8 (WC), several adults throughout the season at Canby, near Portland (*vide* HN), and an immature on the S. Umpqua R., Oreg., July 1 (FP). These sightings suggested possible breeding in the Region.

**DUCKS THROUGH CRANES** — Last summer's spate of unusual duck breeding records was followed by nesting only at Everett, Wash., where Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck were again found breeding at the sewage ponds (DP,SD). Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and N. Shoveler summered in good habitat in several locales, but no breeding was reported. A ♂ *Garganey* spent June 8-12 at Iona I., B.C., where the only previous regional record was of one seen in May 1977 (HC,†VG *et al.*). A natural origin is not unlikely since a number of recent Alaska records are mid-May to mid-June. DP observed an influx of ♂ White-winged Scoters in breeding plumage into Grays Harbor in mid-July, after which they began their post-breeding molt. A molt migration following breeding could explain the presence in July of scoters in this plumage noted in previous years.

Our pioneering White-tailed Kites may have run into trouble. They could not be found at Finley N.W.R., Oreg. (*vide* HN), where they bred 1976-1977. The only report from the Region was of a single bird near Riddle, Douglas Co., Oreg., June 27 (FP). This correlates with the recent decline noted in n. California (AB 33:309). An out-of-range ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen June 24 near Chemainus, V.I. (†JC,ML). Five Golden Eagle nests were found this summer in w. Washington. The nests on San Juan I. (CN, *vide* RK) and on nearby James I. (PC, *vide* TW) were in a traditional locale, but the nests in Grays Harbor County (RK), Mason County (BB), and in Mt. Baker N.F. (SB, *vide* CC) were surprising. It has been suggested that Golden Eagles may be expanding into w. Washington as large clearcuts with abundant Mountain Beaver (*Aplodontia rufa*) populations become an ever larger part of our landscape (*Murrelet* 59:77). Osprey nesting success was good on s. V.I. (VG) and in the Willamette and Umpqua valleys of Oregon (GG,FP). Marsh Hawks were noted at one inland and four coastal locations, and breeding was documented at Ocean Shores (DP). Two Peregrines were found summering in the Region. There were three sightings of Merlins around Victoria, where they have been seen almost every summer since 1974. The species is rarely found summering elsewhere in the Region.

Sandhill Cranes bred for the first time in w. Oregon. A pair with two chicks was seen in early July at Wildcat Swamp, Three Sisters Wilderness, Lane Co. (DPe,JB, *vide* AP). This location is not far across the Cascade crest from established nesting areas in w. Deschutes County. At least one chick was produced at the Pitt Meadows, B.C., nesting area (DK, *vide* GA).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The pair of Semipalmated Plovers on territory at Ocean Shores, Wash., disappeared in late June (EH,JS), and

an ill fated pair at Iona I., B.C., had their nest destroyed by predators (GA). Snowy Plovers also had a rough summer, at least in Washington. Only four chicks were produced on Leadbetter Pt. (RW). One chick was fledged at Ocean Shores (KK) and a second nest there was abandoned (JS). Snowies were found on a dredge spoil bank in Coos Bay this summer (BF, *vide* HN). The species may yet survive in the Pacific Northwest if it can adapt to dredge spoil and natural sand islands. Three Am. Golden Plovers June 9 at S.J.C.R., were the last of a very large number of spring occurrences. In addition to those cited in the spring report, nine birds occurred on Leadbetter Pt. (RW); one very early Mar. 28,

three in late April - early May, and five in late May. One golden plover at Coos Bay July 14 (JE,BF, *vide* AM) was early. The earliest date for returning Ruddy Turnstones was July 13 until this summer when two were at Victoria July 1 (RS), eight on Cleland I., V.I., July 7 (MS), and two at Ocean Shores July 10 (DP). Black Turnstones outdid Ruddies, with 16 at Victoria June 26 (RS). Surfbirds also returned early, with 64 at Barkley Sound, V.I., July 3 (WC).

Two Long-billed Curlews were at Coos Bay June 23+ (AM,HN). One was at Leadbetter Pt., June 24 (DF), and two were at Ocean Shores from July 10 (DP). A very few Whimbrels apparently summered in coastal locations, and large flocks were reported in late June and early July. The 175 at Leadbetter Pt., June 24 (DF,HN) were not present throughout June (RW). Sixty were on Cleland I., off V.I., by July 7 and 300 were at Ocean Shores July 10-19 (DP). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, but only the one July 28 at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., had accompanying details (†HN,†DF). The first flocks of W. Sandpipers were at Leadbetter Pt., June 22 (RW) and Victoria June 24 (RS). By July 10 there were 30,000 at Ocean Shores and Hoquiam (DP). Short-billed Dowitchers also massed in the same area, with 12,000 there July 10-19 (DP). An Am. Avocet was at Iona I., July 24-27 (GA, ph.).

**GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS** — The Ring-billed Gull colony in Grays Harbor increased to 18 nests this summer (JS). Heermann's Gulls were late in arriving and slow in building up their numbers, but were common as usual by the end of the period, as illustrated by the count of 1000 birds/hr moving past Yaquina Bay, Oreg., July 28 (TC, *vide* HN). A sub-ad. Franklin's Gull July 30 at Metchosin, V.I., was early (M&VG). Both Bonaparte's Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes seemed present in lower numbers than in years past.

Five pairs of Arctic Terns nested again this



year on Jetty I., in Everett, Wash. Three nests were found June 13 (DM) and adults guarding young were seen July 7 (PM). This outpost may prove temporary, as grass is overgrowing the nesting sites. The huge Caspian Tern colony in Grays Harbor held 1900 nests this summer, and 900± of the chicks were color-banded (JS). Six Black Terns which summered along the Willamette R., between Albany and Corvallis may have bred there again (FR, *vide* HN).

Several alcid species showed signs of colonizing or recolonizing unoccupied areas. Twenty breeding plumaged Ancient Murrelets were seen off LaPush, Wash., in mid-June (SS). One in breeding plumage was found dead at Ocean Shores July 19 (DP), and a ♂-plumaged bird was off Cleland I., V.I., July 15 (MS). TW noted ad. Tufted Puffins in several places in the San Juans, where puffins have been absent for a number of years. Two ad. Horned Puffins in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, s. of Victoria, June 4 (MGU, *vide* WC), another adult investigating crevices on Island Rock, s. of Port Orford, Oreg., July 3 (BP, *vide* AM), and an adult seen in the Tufted Puffin colony on Protection I., near Port Townsend, Wash., Aug. 5-26 (†PG,EH,InS, ph.), add to the lengthening list of sightings of adults in summer in the s. half of the Region. Although at possible nesting sites, these records should be interpreted cautiously, as young adults may "own" burrows but not breed until they are at least five years old (*Can. Field-Natur.* 93:84-86).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A calling Yellow-billed Cuckoo, seen July 26 - Aug. 1 in a riparian area along the Skykomish R., near Sultan, Wash. (†KB,†EH,†PM) was delightful news. It has been >40 years since a cuckoo has been found in breeding habitat in w. Washington. It is possible, however, that the bird was an e. vagrant. The site should be closely monitored next summer

without disturbing any birds that might be present

#### S.A.

The U.S. Forest Service has, over the last two summers, greatly expanded our knowledge of the distribution and abundance of Barred and Spotted owls in Washington and Oregon. They are to be commended for the extensive survey work and more importantly for the resulting changes in snag policies and timber sales that are directed toward preserving some forest for the beleaguered Spotted Owl. Approximately 120 pairs have been located on Nat'l Forest lands in Washington, and in Oregon the population levels are even better. Sixty pairs may be in the Mt. Hood area alone (*vide* KH). Recently the Barred Owl has firmly established itself in the same habitat used by Spotted Owls. In the Gifford Pinchot N.F., Wash., where there are 13 known Barred Owl sites, Barred and Spotted owls have been heard hooting at each other (SP). The outcome of this newly established sympatry is unknown, but should be obvious within a few years, as the Barred Owl continues its explosive expansion. This species was found in three new locales in the Skagit R., drainage this summer. It crossed the Columbia R., into the Cascades of Oregon, where there were no previous records. KH heard one near Bear Springs on the s.e. side of Mt. Hood late last winter, and one was calling in June near Zigzag on the w. side of the mountain (*vide* HN,DF).

Common Nighthawk numbers were reduced in many lowland areas around Puget Sound and the n. Willamette Valley. They were as abundant as usual, however, in clearcuts in the foothills. A ♂ **Costa's Hummingbird** at a feeder at Molalla, Clackamas Co., Ore., June 26 - July 20 (HN,TC, ph.) is at least the fifth state record. A ♂ *Selasphorus* hummingbird with full gorget and completely green back was found June 12 at Lincoln City, Ore. (JE), somewhat n. of the usual range of the Allen's Hummingbird on the s.w. Oregon coast. For details on definitive identification of Allen's vs. Rufous hummingbirds see *The Condor* 74:25-32, 1972 and 77:196-205, 1975. Single ♂ Calliope Hummingbirds were w. of their usual range at Manning P.P., June 10 (AG) and at Newhalem, Wash., June 2 (TW).

There were no reports of Acorn Woodpeckers. This species may show drastic changes in abundance over short periods of time, especially at its n. limit in the Willamette Valley. Williamson's Sapsucker was found again at the w. fringe of its range, at Manning P.P., B.C. (VG), and at White Pass, Wash. (DP). A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen near Courtenay, V.I. (DS,HF, *vide* VG) for one of very few records for the area.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNAT-CATCHERS** — One definite and two probable nests of the Ash-throated Flycatcher in the Umpqua R. drainage (FP) were n. of their normal Rogue R. haunts. A single Ash-

throated was w. of its range in Washington at McKenna July 29 (†TB,EP). A Black Phoebe near Shady Cove, Ore., was n. of that species' usual range around Medford (JH, *vide* HN). A single singing Least Flycatcher July 7-17 near Duncan established at least the third record for V.I. (†JC,ML,KI). CC found Hammond's Flycatchers more common this June in the heavily logged Willapa Hills of s.w. Washington than at comparable elevations in the Cascade foothills.

Purple Martins are still in trouble. The w. Washington populations seem to be stable only where nest boxes have been provided (JD). In w. Oregon there appeared to be 50± pairs along the Columbia R., 25± at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, another 25 scattered along the coast, and a few others nesting in burn areas (JP,HP,TL). A Clark's Nutcracker along the coast at Tokeland, Wash., June 7 (TB) would be surprising even in winter. The Wren-tit in Corvallis July 30 (E&EE) was a short jump n. of the population around Finley N.W.R. This species is showing steady range expansion in the Willamette Valley.

Rock Wrens bred again at Spencer Butte, Eugene, Ore. (*vide* SG). A pair nesting along the Elk R., e. of Port Orford provided the first breeding record in the Oregon Coast Range (DR, *vide* AM). Varied Thrushes were found on territories in two spots in Capitol Forest near Olympia, Wash. (BHT,G&WH), where they have not been known to breed before. A **Veery** singing in Beacon Hill P., Victoria, June 16 (†HH,†MG, *vide* VG), provided the first record for the Victoria area. Western Bluebird populations were stable in some areas, but other, often nearby, areas that traditionally have been good sites have lost their bluebird populations entirely. It is only recently that Townsend's Solitaires have been discovered breeding in Oregon's Coast Range (AB 31: 1182). This summer one was found in the headwaters of the Coquille R. (AM) and three freshly fledged young were found at Alsea, near Corvallis (E&EE, *vide* HN). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 12 mi s. of Roseburg, Ore., June 22 (RSm, *vide* HN) provided only the third Regional record outside of its usual s. Jackson County haunts. The species had a good year on Roxy Anne Butte and two nesting pairs were found at a new location near Gold Hill (OS).

**WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS** — July 13 was **Northern Parula** day in Washington, with an ad. male near Ocean Shores (†G&WH) and another male near Neah Bay (†JF,BFe *et al.*). These established the first Regional records. An ad. ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** provided another first Regional record. This bird stayed around Still Cr. campground on Mt. Hood, Ore., June 23 - July 15 (DMr,†HN *et al.*). A ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen well in Florence, Ore., May 31 (MM,MF, *vide* AC), and another male was on the U.B.C. campus in Vancouver June 19-21 (R&SC *et al.*, *vide* G&WA). A ♂ Am. Redstart was at Sultan, Wash., July 27 for one of very few records for w. Washington (†DP,SD). Yellow Warbler numbers in Oregon appear to be depressed, but the species was reported to be in normal numbers in Washington and s. British Columbia.

Hermit Warblers were abundant this year in the Siskiyous, Cascades, and Coast Ranges of Oregon. In Washington the species was sim-

ilarly abundant in the s. Cascades and was common in several river drainages on the e. slope of the Olympics. However, they could not be found in the Willapa Hills, the range that links the Oregon Coast Range and the Olympics. Hermits were found this summer in the c. Cascades of Washington, an area with few previous records. Two males were found in the Snoqualmie drainage near N. Bend (KB, EP), several were in an area above Skykomish (FW, *vide* TW), and singing males were at three sites in the Sauk drainage near Darrington (CC).

The W. Meadowlark seen July 5 at Saanich provided the first July record there in four years (VG). Northern Orioles are becoming more common on s. V.I., with at least seven birds noted this summer. This species was not seen regularly on s. V.I., until the late 1960s. The 25 pairs of Tricolored Blackbirds nesting near Central Pt., Jackson Co., Ore. (CR), was the first sizable colony in the Region since 1974.

A ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen along Puget Sound near Tacoma, Wash., June 22 (†TB), for the first record for w. Washington. Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported as abundant in s. Oregon and w. Washington, and scarce in n. Oregon and on V.I. Evening Grosbeaks were far more common than usual on the Washington coast, around Puget Sound, and in the Victoria area, while in normal numbers elsewhere. Two Pine Grosbeaks were found June 24 in the Sharp Rocks area of the Gifford Pinchot N.F. (BS, *vide* HN). This is s. of Mt. Rainier, the usual s. limit of breeding for this species. A pair of Grasshopper Sparrows was in residence at their favorite field near Eugene after a two-year absence (TC, SG). Two singing ♂ Black-chinned Sparrows were found May 23 and one singing male June 11 about 10 mi n.e. of Medford (DSO). Another male was found in the same *ceanothus* patch on Roxy Anne Butte where a pair was seen in 1977 and birds were found in 1970 and 1971 (†SG).

**CORRIGENDUM** — Please delete the record of the Parakeet Auklets off Dungeness Spit in Washington (AB 32:1047). The possibility has not been eliminated that these birds were freshly fledged juvenile Rhinoceros Auklets.

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## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Stephen A. Laymon and W. David Shuford

The summer was a mild one with inland temperatures averaging 10°F or more below normal until the middle of July and again dropping back down to low levels by the end of the month. Winds were very light throughout the period inland, however, coastally the Farallon Islands (hereafter, F.I.) reported wind less than 10 knots on only seven days in all of June. These persistent NW winds coupled with extended periods of clear weather put a damper on coastal landbird migration and vagrant sightings.

The only rain was on July 20 and 21 resulting from a tropical storm which penetrated the area. The storm brought a frigatebird mini-invasion, including the Region's first inland sighting. The highlights of the summer were the addition of two species to the state list, Red-tailed Tropicbird and Crested Auklet. The low point was the complete destruction of the Negit Island, California Gull colony at Mono Lake, a fate which had been predicted for several years by biologists working at the lake.

**LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS** — Summering loons were down in numbers from recent years, with only two Commons, 12 Arctics and eight Red-throateds reported, all from the coast. A pair of Horned Grebes was building a nest mound at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 27, but only one bird and no nest was there on further investigation in July (RE,MR).

Two Black-footed Albatrosses at F.I., June 6 (P.R.B.O.) were the only ones reported. The only Pink-footed Shearwater was one seen from Pt. Pinos July 20 (DRo). Both of the above species are usually much more commonly reported during summer. Sooty Shearwaters were reported in unprecedented numbers with 500,000 moving W-NW of the F.I., July 3-5 (P.R.B.O.), one million (est.) heading S past Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co., July 15 (BL) and 13,000 flying W out of Monterey Bay July 20 (DRo). No storm-petrels were reported.

**TROPICBIRDS THROUGH HERONS** — An ad. Red-tailed Tropicbird was observed from the F.I., July 3 (†P.R.B.O.). It is the first

record for California and possibly the first for North America. Surprising were 40 White Pelicans at Tulare L., Kings Co., June 9 (HLC). This is a site of a former large nesting colony, but no nesting was in evidence. As usual several hundred had arrived in San Francisco Bay (hereafter, S.F. Bay) by July 31. Southbound migrant Double-crested Cormorants were noted on the Sacramento R., at Hamilton City, Glenn Co., as early as July 1; 45 passed S between that date and July 15 (SAL). A large concentration of 200 was at the Hayward salt ponds by July 24 (HLC). Magnificent Frigatebirds staged an invasion comparable to the summers of 1972 and 1977. Six were sighted along the coast from Berkeley to Crescent City July 11-29 (m.ob.). Most notable was an immature soaring with Turkey Vultures over the Sacramento R., at Hamilton City, Butte and Glenn Cos., July 27 (SAL). This represents the first inland record for the Region.

At the Palo Alto Baylands Little Blue Heron was again seen July 3-11 (m.ob.). Snowy Egrets were well reported, with 35 nests at the Hartson Res., Lassen Co., colony June 10 (SAL), 345 at Palo Alto Baylands Aug. 1, 120 in a heronry s.e. of old Tulare L., June 9 (HLC) and 35+ at the Humboldt Bay colony June 16-17 (DE), all illustrating expanded numbers or range. The Hartson Res. heronry also had 150 Black-crowned Night Herons June 10 (SAL) and hundreds were seen flying to a heronry between Colusa and Delevan N.W.R.s. July 11 (SAL,KC). A Least Bittern was calling at Sacramento N.W.R., July 11 (SAL,KC) and four sightings were made at Gray Lodge S.W.M.A., July 6-31+ (BED). Three White-faced Ibises at Gray Lodge July 8 were the first for Butte County since 1964 (BED) and 10-30 summered and were believed to have nested near Colusa, Colusa Co. (Randy Gray, *vide* Alan Craig). This is very encouraging since they have not nested in the Central Valley for many years.

**WATERFOWL** — A White-fronted Goose summered at the Chico Oxidation Ponds along with one Snow Goose and five Canadas (SAL). Two additional Snow Geese were at Sacramento N.W.R., July 11 (SAL) and another was at Tule Lake N.W.R., July 23 (B&CY). Mallard numbers were found to be 25% below the four-year average on censuses run in Butte County (JS). A flock of 106 Pintails at Nelson in c. Butte Co., June 25 (JS) was a very high total for that date. Was this a post-breeding flock of local birds or early migrants from the n.? A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Palo Alto Baylands July 8 & 24 (JM,SFB) provided the first summer record for the Region. Fifteen Am. Wigeon at the same location July 8 (AE) was a high total for a coastal site in mid-summer.



A ♂ Redhead also summered at the Palo Alto Baylands (WB). The only Ring-necked Ducks reported were a pair at Baum L., e. Shasta Co., July 4 (DM); none were at Manzanita L., where they have bred in recent years. Seven Harlequin Ducks were found along the coast from Del Norte to San Mateo Cos. An additional bird at the Oakland Airport June 11 (*vide* ERO) was most unusual. A few White-winged Scoters are always found in summer, but 100 at the n. jetty of Humboldt Bay June 16 (SFB) and hundreds at the mouth of the Mad R., July 15-30 (RL&V) were out of the ordinary. Eighteen Black Scoters were reported, which is a higher-than-normal summer total. Three broods of Com. Mergansers were observed on the Sacramento R., between Red Bluff and Chico during July (SAL,JS). A brood of four flightless young at the mouth of Salmon Cr., Sonoma Co., Aug. 4 (JP,BDP) was unusual. A Red-breasted Merganser at Pine Cove on Trinity L., Trinity Co., June 3 (B&CY) was also a surprise.

**HAWKS THROUGH RAILS** — A downy young Turkey Vulture was found in a nest in a driftwood pile along the Sacramento R., near Chico July 1 (JS). White-tailed Kite status is still open to question. In the Chico area nesting kites were the most numerous among the raptors brought into the bird rehabilitation center there and a housing project was held up until a nest with seven young fledged (*vide* LT). At Gray Lodge they were judged very scarce with no immatures seen (BED).

An extraordinary 34 pairs of nesting Goshawks were found on Forest Service timber sale areas in the Warner Mts., in Modoc Co. (*vide* Sharon Whisler). This must be the highest concentration in our Region. Only two other Goshawks were reported. Several Sharp-shinned Hawk sightings indicated possible nesting locations; Platina, Shasta Co., June 3 (B&CY), Priest Grade Rd., Tuolumne Co., June 30 (AE) and two at Manzanita L., Shasta Co., July 4 (DM). One June 8 at Golden Gate P., San Francisco (PM) was a real surprise. An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk near Yreka, Siskiyou Co., July 26 (RE) was unusual.

A pair of Sandhill Cranes had two half-grown young at Papoose Meadows near Eagle L., June 10 (SAL). This is a new nesting area for this species. The only Black Rails were two heard calling in the Delta region at Lost Lake, Tule I., June 11 (Doug Ellis). Common Gallinules again nested successfully at Palo Alto Baylands (WB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Black-necked Stilt numbers were found to be 50% above the four-year average on B.B.S. routes in Butte County (JS), and a range expansion of 40 mi occurred when they colonized a new rice field s. of Red Bluff. Thirty were found there July 25 and several immatures were found (SAL). There was also a range expansion in the S.F. Bay area when a pair and four downy chicks were found at San Rafael, Marin Co., July 14 (BRa). They nested there last summer but were not reported at that time.

The Snowy Plovers at Pajaro Dunes fledged only 15 young from 44 nests (J&RW). Other nesting areas were; Waddell Cr. mouth, Santa Cruz Co., three pairs July 7 (PM), Ano Nuevo Pt., July 9, four pairs (PM), and the Oakland Airport June 11, three pairs (*vide* ERO). More-than-normal numbers of Black-bellied Plovers summered at Alameda South Shore with 48 June 9 and 118 there June 21 (*vide* ERO). A Greater Yellowlegs was at Pescadero Marsh June 11 (PM), a time when there are very few coastal records. Spotted Sandpipers again nested near the mouth of Pajaro R., where a nest with four eggs was found June 4 (PM).

A total of 38 Wilson's Phalaropes was seen at Pajaro Dunes June 23 - July 30, with a peak of 15 on July 6 (J&RW). This is many more than is normally recorded there. A late migrant N. Phalarope was also at Pajaro Dunes June 6 (J&RW). The Semipalmated Sandpiper found in the spring at Pajaro Dunes was still there at the end of the summer (PM,J&RW). Summering Dunlin were two at Pajaro Dunes June 8 (J&RW) and one at Monterey Bay July 11 (DRo).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — One Pomarine Jaeger was at Pt. Pinos July 20 (DRo) for an early migration date. Parasitic Jaegers were reported from Pajaro Dunes June 3-4 and July 5 (PM,J&RW). Herring Gulls, very rare in summer, were at Bay Bridge Toll Plaza June 6 (SFB) and Alameda South Shore June 9 & July 7 (ERO).

— S.A. —

Approximately 35,000 of Mono Lake's 50,000 breeding California Gulls failed to nest successfully this year. The Negit I. gully which supported 75% of Mono's nesting gulls was finally connected to the mainland by a land bridge despite three efforts by California Department of Fish and Game and Bureau of Land Management to blast a channel. Mono Lake's level continues to decline as a result of the ongoing diversion of its tributaries. A measure to finance dredging of an effective channel in fall 1979 is expected to pass the legislature. While this may provide a temporary solution to the gull nesting problem, the outlook for the birds of the lake will not be improved until the decline of the lake level is stopped. —David Winkler

An ad. Laughing Gull was at Pajaro Dunes June 10 (J&RW) One-third of our regional records date from June. After the hundreds of summer Bonaparte's Gull sightings over the last three years it seems odd to have only one reported this year, at Dumbarton Pt., July 8 (AE). An interesting and probably normal migration sequence was noted for Heermann's Gulls at Pt. Pinos. Two were there June 11, "a few" July 3, several hundred July 11 and 1000+ July 16 (DRo).

Common Terns again summered at S.F. Bay and Monterey Bay with 15 reported June 6 - July 28; seven of these reports were from June.

— S.A. —

Least Terns had very poor nesting success when the colony at the Alameda Naval Air Station was completely destroyed. Of the 100 pairs nesting May 20, not one egg or chick could be found June 11 (*vide* ERO). This is very disturbing, since it was the largest and most stable colony in the Region. The only immature reported was one at Pajaro Dunes July 21 (J&RW).

Black Terns were well reported in the Sacramento Valley and were 100% above the four-year average on B.B.S. routes in Butte County (JS). Breeding success, however, appeared to be low and only four of a flock of 40 at Sacramento N.W.R., in July were immatures (SAL,KC).

Eight to nine pairs of Marbled Murrelets were seen flying in and out of Jedediah Smith S.P., Del Norte Co., June 18 (GS) and 30 were seen calling and chasing each other at Crescent City July 18 (GS). A Crested Auklet was identified 5 mi n. of Bolinas, Marin Co., July 16 (Fred O. Weyman). The next day the bird was found dead on the beach at the same location and the specimen was sent to California Academy of Sciences (P.R.B.O.). This documents the first record for California and possibly the first s. of Alaska.

**PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Band-tailed Pigeons almost certainly nested at Pine Cr. Landing, Butte-Glenn Cos. Birds were repeatedly seen carrying nesting material and heard calling throughout the period (SAL). These observations provide the first evidence of nesting anywhere in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.). Singles June 6 & July 8 above 10,000 ft at the Hall Natural Area (hereafter, H.N.A.), Mono Co., are perhaps altitudinal records for the state (DDeS *et al.*). A flock of 200 on July 20 at Auburn, Placer Co., was a large number for a foothill locality at this time of year (BBa). A minimum of 17 Yellow-billed Cuckoos was reported from eight sites in the C.V. (m.ob.). Remarkably, four nests, fledging a total of seven young, were found near Hamilton City, Glenn Co. (SAL). Three of these nests were in walnut orchards and adults foraged in adjacent riparian stands. Concentration of pesticides in their food chain had been postulated as one of many factors contributing to recent declines of this species in California; however, more direct effects were noted as one brood apparently suffered impaired balance and slowed development when an orchard was sprayed while young were still in the nest (SAL).

Coastally, a cuckoo was at F I, July 27-28 (P R B O)

There were only two reports of Flammulated Owls, both from known localities in the Sierra (JP,BDP,JH). An intensive search for Great Gray Owls this summer, in an attempt to obtain a total census of the species in the state, turned up only six birds (JW). Although population numbers historically were never very great, this species presently would seem to warrant endangered status. Hopefully future studies would provide more information on specific ecological requirements which can be used in land management decisions that will enhance Great Gray Owl habitat.

The courting Long-eared Owls at Palomar in, Pt. Reyes National Seashore (hereafter, P.R.N.S.) remained through the period (P.R.B.O.). A late report indicated that this species bred in a Monterey pine stand at Home Bay, P.R.N.S., where there had been a winter roost. On May 12 three adults and one downy but full-sized juvenile were seen (John Lovio, †Napa/Solano Audubon). Up to seven Short-eared Owls, including three somewhat downy juveniles were seen June 24-26 at N Pt Reyes Beach, P.R.N.S. (SFB,JM *et al.*). Although local nesting was not confirmed, there are no previous summer records for this area. The nesting Saw-whet Owls at Palomar in found this spring successfully fledged seven young (P.R.B.O.). It seems not unlikely that these three species of owl were responding to a micro-tine rodent peak evident throughout the Pt Reyes area (m.ob.).

— S.A. —

The phenomenon of up-mountain drift of landbirds in late summer has long been known. The birds that usually move up-slope in the high mountains are primarily juveniles in their post-breeding wanderings, mostly from late July onwards, interspersed with some adults after completion of their post-nuptial molt. Undoubtedly some species migrate in fall at high elevations thus complicating the picture.

Naturalists at H.N.A., Mono Co., while studying sub-alpine bird communities this summer, discovered an impressive number of altitudinal vagrants, all above 10,000 ft, on the Sierran Crest (DDeS *et al.*). Contrary to previous experience and expectations these vagabonds arrived in late June and mid-July and were virtually all ad birds; many were singing males! The first wave occurred June 22-26 and had no easy explanations. The following species, all ad males, were involved: Yellow Warbler (one June 22); Hermit Warbler (one June 22, two June 23, one June 26); and Tree Swallow (one June 26). The second wave occurred July 12-13 and correlated with a very warm spell. Involved this time were: W. Flycatcher (one probable adult July 13), Black-headed Grosbeak (one probable female July 12); Lazuli Bunting (one ad. female July 12); Lesser Goldfinch (one ad. male and one unknown age/sex July 13); and Sage Sparrow (one adult July 12). As if there is not already a dizzying array of local and long distance bird movements to keep track of, these observations further complicate matters. If anyone has any idea as to what this all means please let us know.

A Poor-will July 31 at H N A , was seen at 10,500 ft where it occasionally strays (DDeS *et al.*) An errant Lesser Nighthawk reached F.I., July 21 (P.R.B.O.). Black Swifts were widely reported, largely from known nesting sites (m.ob.). Ten flying N at Golden Gate P., June 8 were undoubtedly migrants but one there July 1 seemed out of place since there are no known nesting sites in the vicinity (PM). Two Vaux's Swifts nesting in a chimney in Sonoma, Sonoma Co., July 11 were originally thought to be Chimney Swifts. Netting and subsequent measurements of one individual confirmed its identification as a Vaux's (LCB), and underlines the difficulty of identifying these two species in the field.

A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird July 23 at Lower Klamath N.W.R., was near the n. edge of its range in the Region (B&CY). Anna's Hummingbirds first appeared at Dog I., Tehama Co., July 11 and an influx peaked there with 12 birds July 25 (SAL). Although in some places this species is seemingly sedentary, it can often be highly migratory. The first southbound "fall" migrant Rufous Hummingbirds were recorded June 26 at Auburn (MA) and June 29 at Palomarin (P.R.B.O.). A nest of a Calliope Hummingbird was found July 8 at H.N.A., at 10,000 ft on the Sierran Crest (Craig Benkman, *vide* DDeS)! This nesting attempt was unsuccessful but another female was feeding young in the same area in August (DDeS *et al.*). These observations confirmed suspicions dating back to "Dawson" that Calliope bred "nearly up to timberline" (Gaines, *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*, 1977).

Movements of "Red-shafted" Flickers in our Region are puzzling, with many areas having influxes or departures at different seasons. At Auburn, in the Sierra foothills, flickers are absent "annually for three months April - June" with the first fall bird returning this period July 9 (BBa). Williamson's Sapsuckers were "almost everywhere above 6500 ft" at Lassen N.P., July 4-14 (DM). Two pairs of Downy Woodpeckers July 4 at Manzanita L., Lassen N.P., at 5800 ft was noteworthy (DM); one female feeding an immature at this site does not, however, confirm nesting at this elevation. Reports of five Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were about normal for the season (m.ob.)

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — An E. Kingbird was seen at the Fish Docks, Pt Reyes July 1 (*vide* SFB). A singing ♂ Willow Flycatcher June 12 at Dog I. (SAL), was an encouraging find since this species has been essentially extirpated as a breeding bird in the C.V., in recent years. A Gray Flycatcher at 9700 ft June 24 near Sawmill Campground, Mono Co., was of altitudinal interest (DDeS *et al.*) A W. Flycatcher was on territory June 14-29 at Mammoth Lakes, Mono Co. (PL), e. of the Sierran Crest where its breeding status is uncertain. A flock of 600, presumably post-breeding, Horned Larks was seen at Black Butte Res., Tehama-Glenn Cos., July 4 (SAL); this seems to be an unusual concentration for such an early date.

The only reported Gray Jays were two on July 11 at Lower Twin L., Lassen N.P. (DM). Mountain Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported significantly down on four of five U.S. F.&W.S. B.B.S.s. (LT, *vide* SAL,JS). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was at F.I., June 8 for the first inland spring record

(P R B O ) Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen in Siskiyou County in the Kilgore Hills near Yreka July 4 and at Lava Beds, N.M., July 14 (RE, *vide* MT). Suspected breeding at the latter locality, if confirmed in the future, would provide the northernmost breeding outpost in the Region.

Two Water Pipit nests were found at H.N.A., July 10 (Craig Benkman and Brett Engstrom, *vide* DDeS *et al.*), and a total of five breeding pairs was estimated for the immediate area (DDeS). Not coincidentally this is the site of the first California nesting record in 1975. A flock of 25-30 Cedar Waxwings flew over Lafayette July 1 (LF) at a time when this species is very rare in the s. part of our Region. A Hutton's Vireo at 5800 ft at Manzanita L., Lassen N.P. (DM), was at a high elevation on the e. edge of its range. A Red-eyed Vireo at F.I., June 3 was the only one reported (P.R.B.O.).

**WARBLERS THROUGH ICTERIDS** — Six Tennessee Warblers June 1-18, were all sighted in coastal areas (m.ob.). Since Orange-crowned Warblers are not known to breed on the floor of the C.V., one at Pine Cr. Landing June 7 was perhaps a post-breeding wanderer (SAL). A ♂ N. Parula was at Golden Gate P., June 2-4 (LCB,DM) as well as a male and female at Muddy Hollow, P.R.N.S., June 24-25 (Jri *et al.*). It was suggested that these two might have bred, but no details were submitted. A ♂ Magnolia Warbler turned up at Natural Bridges S.P., June 9 (SG) in addition to a male June 3-4 and a female June 10-11, both at F.I. (P.R.B.O.). Townsend's Warblers at Pine Cr. Landing June 6 (SAL) and Golden Gate P. July 31 (DHE,JGH) were late spring and early fall migrants respectively.

A singing ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler (identified as *D.d. albiflora*, the expected race) treated observers June 23 - July 3 at Nunes Ranch, P.R.N.S. (George Hugenberger, †JM *et al.*). This is the ninth Regional record, but only the first mainland "spring" record. Chestnut-sided Warblers made two appearances: one June 8 at F.I. (P.R.B.O.) and a male July 5-7 at Golden Gate P. (LCB,GK, JM). A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler June 5-6 at Drake's Beach (GK *et al.*) was followed by one June 24-27 at F.I. (P.R.B.O.).

A Palm Warbler visited the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse June 2 (JM), but more unusual was one identified as the "yellow race" (*D.p. hypochrysea*), at F.I., June 26-28 (P.R.B.O.). Single Ovenbirds were grounded at F.I., June 3 and June 26-28 (P.R.B.O.); this is considerably fewer than we've come to expect in recent years. Hooded Warblers, contrary to other parulids, were sighted in unprecedented numbers, with singing males June 11 at Gazos Cr., San Mateo Co. (PM); Muddy Hollow June 23 (Jeri Langham, *vide* SFB); Golden Gate P., June 27 (LCB, JM); and a female at F.I., June 4 (P.R.B.O.). Six Am. Redstarts were seen in coastal Marin and San Francisco Cos., June 1 - July 24 (m.ob.).

Always rare in spring, a ♂ Bobolink was observed near Bolinas June 5 (P.R.B.O.). A Tri-colored Blackbird colony s. of Half Moon Bay June 2 (FN) and a flock of 200, presumed not to be breeding, on outer Pt. Reyes June 26 (JM) were notable since this species is rare on the immediate coast in summer. Hooded Orioles were reported in normal numbers from the usual parts of their range (m.ob.). Migrant numbers of "Bullock's" Orioles peaked at 25

at Dog I., July 18 (SAL), this correlated well with departure dates from Alamo, Auburn, and Lafayette (Jri,MA,LF). A ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole was at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse July 6 (FN). The Great-tailed Grackle that graced San Francisco for many months was still there July 4 (*vide* SFB). The 4000 Brown-headed Cowbirds near Hamilton City July 30 (SAL) were the most ever reported at this season in our Region. Is this species still on the increase?

**FINCHES THROUGH SPARROWS** — Nine Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen on the coast June 1 - July 1 (m.ob.) — somewhat less than average for recent years. A well out-of-range Blue Grosbeak was at Hiouchi, Del Norte Co., June 10 (GS). Seven Indigo Buntings were seen along the coast from Mendocino to San Mateo Cos., June 3 - July 8 (m.ob.). Most interesting was the sighting of a hybrid ♂ Indigo X Lazuli Bunting June 22 at Olema Marsh (†JM) where a ♂ Indigo has been seen every year since 1976 (m.ob.). As Lazuli regularly breed at this site the hybrid sighting suggests that interbreeding occurred there in recent years. However, more direct evidence of interbreeding was observed near Ukiah, Mendocino Co., where a male Indigo was recorded June 19 - July 8 (†OJK,BBu) The male was seen chasing female Lazulis and was seen feeding a begging young at the nest (OJK). Several observers noted that Lazulis were more common than usual this season.

A ♀ Dickcissel June 24-27 at F.I. (P.R.B.O.) is only the sixth Regional spring record. A ♂ Lawrence's Goldfinch at Fairhaven June 17 provided the first Humboldt County record (DE,SFB). A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.I., July 20 (P.R.B.O.) was probably an early fall migrant. "Out-of-range" Black-throated Sparrows were recorded in Siskiyou County at the Kilgore Hills near Yreka July 1 & 11, and at Lava Beds N.M., July 14 (RE, *vide* MT), also of note was one at Cohasset Ridge, Butte Co., June 30 (JH).

Up to two Brewer's Sparrows were near Butte Meadows, Butte Co., June 14 & 20 (JS) and one was seen Aug. 4 near Meridian, Sutter Co (JP,BDP *et al.*); records from the Sierra foothills and C.V., are quite rare. A singing ♂ Fox Sparrow July 2 at H.N.A., above 10,000 ft (DDeS *et al.*) was at a very high elevation, especially at this date. A singing ♂ Lincoln's Sparrow June 12 at Mammoth Lakes (PL) was notable as there is little evidence of breeding e of the Sierran Divide.

**ADDENDUM** — A ♂ Summer Tanager was seen in Davis, Yolo Co., May 5, 1979 (†Jeffrey T. Wilcox).

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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

It was a relatively dry summer with only a few thunder showers in the mountains and deserts during July. However, as a result of last winter's heavy rains the entire Region supported more than the average growth of vegetation and most rivers and streams still contained running water at summer's end.

The discovery of nesting Little Blue Herons and a breeding pair of Zone-tailed Hawks added two species to California's list of breeding birds. However, the massive influx of Magnificent Frigatebirds was undoubtedly the most talked-about event of the season, particularly in light of the absence of other wanderers from the south.

**LOONS, GREBES** — The only loons reported along the coast this summer were 18 Com. Loons, 25 Arctic Loons and seven Red-throated Loons in the Ventura/Santa Barbara region. A Com. Loon on L. Cachuma throughout the period (PL) and two on L. Palmdale July 31 (KG) were inland; few are recorded away from the coast in summer. More than 400 pairs of Eared Grebes nested at Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts. (JD) and six pairs nested at McGrath S.P. (REW), both being localities where breeding occurs at least sporadically; 75± pairs nesting near Lancaster (JD) and a pair at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) (GMcC) establish new breeding localities.

**ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS** — A Black-footed Albatross 80 mi off San Diego July 12 (PT) was the only one reported. Shearwaters were scarce off the coast from Santa Barbara s., but thousands (e.g., 500,000 off the Santa Maria R. mouth July 15) were visible from shore n. of Pt. Conception in July as appears to be normal. Thirty Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen 25 mi off San Diego July 13 (PT), this species occurring regularly in these waters in late summer.

**PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS** — A White Pelican remaining in Goleta through the period (PL) was the first to be recorded in the Santa Barbara area in summer. Brown Pelicans became quite numerous along the coast n. of Los Angeles in July (e.g., 800 near Rincon July 15) as birds dispersed N after nesting; five on the Salton Sea July 14 (SG) and another at Imperial Dam July 19 (KVR) were the first to arrive in the s.e. part of the Region.

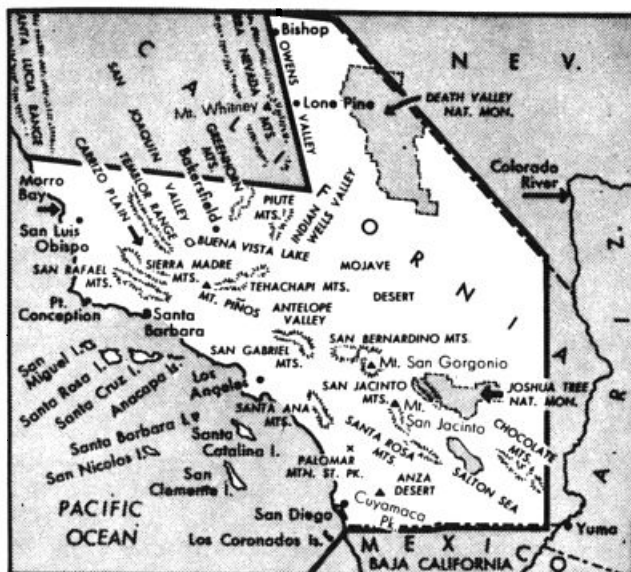
S.A.

Magnificent Frigatebirds appeared in unprecedented numbers after the first was noted over San Diego Bay June 23 (DPo). The species was reported from all six coastal counties, with concentrations of up to five together; five near Imperial Beach July 20 (GMcC), four at Pt. Mugu July 14 (REW) and again July 31 (RDo), and five over Santa Barbara July 20 (RS). It would appear 35-40 individuals were involved, all being immature except for an ad. male near Imperial Beach July 20 and an ad. female near San Diego July 30. At the Salton Sea numbers were even more impressive with nine present July 14 (SG,GMcC) and 22 together at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) July 29 (DPa). Elsewhere inland one was at L. Hemet July 13 (NHM) and another was at Castaic L., July 30 (A. Small, *vide* KG). What caused such an invasion is as yet unknown; however, this is certainly the greatest influx on record.

**HERONS, STORKS, IBISES** — The imm. Little Blue Heron remained in Goleta to June 10 (PL), an adult was at Pt. Mugu July 8 (REW), one was at Imperial Beach June 8-9 (ME) and what may well have been the same adult was 40± mi n. near Leucadia June 12-24 (DM), and another adult was in the Colorado R. Valley near Winterhaven July 19 (SG). Most significant, however, was the presence of up to three adult Little Blue Herons in a large Cattle Egret colony near Seeley in the Imperial Valley after June 10 (MR), with two building a nest, laying four eggs and fledging two young, this constituted the first documented breeding record for California (*Western Birds* 8:151-154, 1977). Cattle Egrets have been nesting in the vicinity of the Salton Sea since 1970 (*AFN* 24: 715-718, 1970), but breeding has been unknown elsewhere in this Region until this summer when 100 pairs nested in Carlsbad, San Diego Co. (JPR) and an additional 20 pairs nested near Lakeview, Riverside Co. (DMM); this species can be expected to expand nesting to other areas, particularly along the coast where substantial numbers are summering. Twenty active Great Egret nests near Lakeview in July (DMM) gives us the first breeding record for the Pacific slope of s. California. Some 125 pairs of Snowy Egrets nesting in Carlsbad this summer (JPR) were the first known to breed on the coast of s. California; this species appears to be on the increase in this Region. An ad. Louisiana Heron, a rare straggler to the Salton Sea, was at N.E.S.S., July 21+ (GMcC) and another was on the coast near Imperial Beach June 23 - July 6 (SD,RCS). A Least Bittern, now rare along the coast, was near San Pedro July 30 (JA), two

were around Irvine throughout the summer (TS), four were seen in Carlsbad July 30 (DRW) and another was at nearby Leucadia June 2 (EC). Wood Stork numbers built up to 200± around S.E.S.S., in July (GMcC), but one at Furnace Cr. Ranch, Death Valley July 15 (JS) was the only one found elsewhere. Exciting was the discovery of about six pairs (two nests seen) of White-faced Ibises in Carlsbad (JPR), as the last known nesting along the coast of California was in 1901 and the species appears on the decline. An ad. White Ibis at Irvine July 29+ (TS) was probably an escapee from the recently dismantled Busch Gardens in Los Angeles.

**GEESE, DUCKS** — As usual a few Brant remained throughout the summer along the coast with 13 at Pt. Mugu in June (REW) being the largest flock; one inland near Lancaster July 14+ (FH) had undoubtedly summered locally. Nesting Gadwall were found along the coast with two pairs at the Santa Ynez R. mouth (PL), one pair at Goleta (PL), one pair at McGrath S.P. (REW) and two pairs at Pt. Mugu (REW) along with the small numbers regularly nesting in San Diego County; inland at least two pairs are known to have nested near Lancaster (FH) and three pairs bred at Baldwin L. (JD). A pair of N. Shovelers nesting at Tecopa, Inyo Co. (JT) gives us one of the very few specific breeding records for this Region. A pair of Wood Ducks raised four young at L. Cachuma (PL) and another pair raised six young on L. Sherwood (REW); few nest in this Region. Five Ring-necked Ducks spent the summer on L. Cachuma (LRB), one spent the summer near Lancaster (JD), another was on Cleveland L., near Gorman July 29 (FH) and five summered on Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts. (JD); this species is normally rare in s. California during summer. A Canvasback on Baldwin L., Aug. 14 (JD), another at N.E.S.S., Aug. 19 (DPa) and two at S.E.S.S., July 28 (BB) all probably summered locally. Two Com. Goldeneyes at S.E.S.S., June 16+ (GMcC) were the only ones found this summer. A Bufflehead, rare in summer, was at N.E.S.S., June 10 (GMcC), another was near Leucadia July 15 (PU) and a third was on San Diego Bay July 26+ (JD). An Oldsquaw near Lancaster July 14 (FH) was exceptional,



the locality being far inland and the species being rarely found in summer. The ♂ Harlequin Duck remained in Carlsbad throughout the summer (PU). A few White-winged Scoters were found along with the expected summering Surf Scoters; 12 at Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., July 15 (JD), 15 at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Aug. 16 (PL) and six at Pt. Mugu all summer (REW) being the largest groups. A Black Scoter, by far the rarest of the scoters occurring in California, was at Pt. Mugu all summer (REW) and another remained at Marina del Rey throughout the period (KG).

**HAWKS** — A pair of Swainson's Hawks in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino Co. (SC) was the only pair known to nest within the Region, although a single bird remained in the Antelope Valley throughout the period (JD); one near Lancaster Aug. 2 (JD) and four together there Aug. 11 (JD) were believed to be fall transients. Totally unexpected was a pair of Zone-tailed Hawks at a nest on Santa Rosa Mt., Riverside Co., July 8+ (SC); this species is a casual straggler to California with no pre-



One of two Zone-tailed Hawks found at a nest on Santa Rosa Mountain, Calif., in July. Photo/Lawrence Sansone.

vious indications of nesting. A Prairie Falcon at S.E.S.S., June 16 (JD) was unexpected, the species normally being absent from the Salton Sea in summer. The only Peregrine Falcons reported away from nesting sites were single birds at S.E.S.S., July 14 (SG), near Leucadia July 19 (PU) and in San Diego July 20 (EC).

**RAILS** — A pair of Virginia Rails, a species becoming alarmingly scarce as a nesting species along the coast of s. California, successfully bred at McGrath S.P. (REW), a pair was thought to be breeding at Pt. Mugu (REW) and another pair probably nested near Leucadia (EC). Three calling Black Rails were at Finney L., Apr. 7 - May 12 (EAC) and 11 calling birds were found along the All American Canal near Calexico Apr. 6 - May 13 (SC) indicating that this secretive bird is well-established as a breeding species in the Imperial Valley as well as along the Lower Colorado R.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two Am. Oystercatchers were at Frazier Pt., on Santa Cruz I., July 6 (DS); one or two have been noted off and on at this locality since 1966 and it is most likely that two birds are resident. The **Wilson's Plover** remained at Pt. Mugu through June 24 (REW). A Mountain Plover at S.E.S.S., July 15 (SG) was only the third to be recorded in summer in this Region. Three Spotted Sand-

piper nests were found along the Santa Ynez R., of Santa Barbara Co., in June (JG), two pairs nested at McGrath S.P. (REW), another pair nested at the Ventura R. mouth (REW) and four pairs nested along the Santa Clara R., near Piru (REW); this species is a scarce breeder along the coast of s. California with no documented nesting records s. of Ventura County. A Surf-bird at McGrath S.P., June 7 (REW) was probably a very late spring migrant whereas another on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., July 26 (MTO) was considered an early fall migrant. A flock of 45 Red Knots at S.E.S.S., July 14 (DPa) was an exceptional number for this locality in fall. An early Baird's Sandpiper near Lancaster July 14 (FH) was most likely an adult (*Studies in Avian Biology* 2:55-68, 1969). A Dunlin, exceptionally rare in summer, was at Pt. Mugu June 17 (REW).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, SKIMMERS** — A Pomarine Jaeger at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 13 (PL) was probably summering locally. A Glaucous-winged Gull was at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 13+ (PL), another was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth July 13 (PL), up to three were at McGrath S.P., throughout the period (REW) and single birds were at Pt. Mugu June 9 (REW), Carlsbad June 17 (GMcC), Malibu Aug. 17 (JD), and Marina del Rey July 30 (JD); a few are found summering along the coast each year. A Herring Gull at the Santa Maria R. mouth Aug. 25 (PL) and another at N.E.S.S., Aug. 4-19 (GMcC) had both evidently summered locally; it is amazing how few Herring Gulls occur in summer, there being virtually no records from along the coast. Two Mew Gulls in Goleta during July (PL,LRB) were the only ones reported summering this year. Laughing Gull numbers built up to 800± on the Salton Sea in late July after the first of the post-breeding birds appeared in early July (GMcC); interesting was that 60%+ were in juvenile plumage, indicating a successful nesting season in West Mexico. A Franklin's Gull at Bolsa Chica May 25 (JA) and another at N.E.S.S., June 10 (GMcC) are both best treated as spring migrants, but an adult in Goleta June 21 (LRB) defies categorizing. A Bonaparte's Gull inland near Lancaster July 14 (FH) with three at the Santa Ynez R. mouth July 13-20 (PL) and another at McGrath S.P., throughout the period (REW) were the only ones reported summering this year; numbers present in summer vary greatly from year to year (e.g., "hundreds" present during the summer of 1977). An ad. Heermann's Gull, a rare straggler to the interior, was at Seeley, Imperial Co., July 4-14 (GMcC) and an immature was at N.E.S.S., July 29 (DPa). Black Skimmers successfully nested at the Salton Sea and on San Diego Bay, with 14 pairs fledging 25+ young at the latter locality (ME); four near Leucadia Aug. 5-9 (EC), one at Pt. Mugu July 1 (REW) and one or two intermittently at McGrath S.P., June 28+ (REW) were the only ones found away from these two breeding localities.

**DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — A Com. Ground Dove in Long Beach June 23 (JA) was somewhat n. of the species' range, small numbers being resident on the coast n. to the Santa Ana/Anaheim area of Orange County. Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Tecopa June 22 (JT) could have been nesting, and if

so, were the only ones nesting w. of the Colorado R. valley; one along the Santa Clara R., near Piru June 23 - July 4 (REW) and another in pinyon-juniper woodland of Quatal Canyon, Ventura Co., July 4 (JD) were the only other cuckoos around. Pygmy Owls are scarce in s. California, hence, two on Frazier Mt., Ventura Co., July 7 (REW) are of interest. The only Elf Owls located this year were 4-6 pairs near Needles on the Colorado R., in May (SC); unfortunately the habitat is being cleared for agriculture, and the species appears doomed as a breeding bird in California. The only Whip-poor-wills reported this summer were a calling bird at Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., June 13 (KG) and two calling birds at Heart Bar Campground in the San Bernardino Mts., June 17 (MAP); positive proof of nesting in California has yet to be obtained.

#### SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

— Most interesting was the presence of up to 14 Black Swifts along the N. Fork of the San Jacinto R., in the San Jacinto Mts., all summer (AS) since they appeared to be nesting behind a waterfall near Idyllwild; the only other nesting localities known in this Region are in the San Gabriel (Santa Anita Canyon) and San Bernardino (Fallsview) Mts. Again Chimney Swifts were found summering with four over Arcadia June 17 (JA) and ten near Burbank July 10+ (JD); however, there was no indication of nesting. An Anna's Hummingbird that fledged two young near Parker Dam, along with a female at Tecopa May 20 (JT), and two more around Blythe during June and July (SG), were along the e. edge of the Region where documented nesting records are few. The migratory Allen's Hummingbirds (*S.s. sasin*) breed s. to Santa Barbara and Pt. Mugu, with the resident race (*S.s. sedentarius*) occurring on the Channel Is., and the Palos Verdes Pen.; hence, at least seven territorial birds at Malibu May 25 (KG), that were believed nesting, are hard to assign to race, although *sasin* appears the more likely. Two pairs of Belted Kingfishers were found nesting along the upper Santa Ynez R., in June (JG), a pair raised two young at the Ventura R. mouth (REW), one was seen near Rancho California, Riverside Co., July 6 (JD), one was near Bonsall, San Diego Co., June 17 (PU) and two were near San Diego July 7 (CGE); this species is now exceedingly scarce in s. California during the summer. A Lewis' Woodpecker in the Lockwood Valley, Ventura Co., July 1 (JD) was most unusual, the species normally departing from the Region in summer. Two pairs of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nesting on Mt. Palomar (RH) were at the s. extreme of the species' breeding range. A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers suspected to be nesting near Bishop June 18 (PL) were of interest since the locality is on the floor of the Owens Valley, the lowland area separating the race *hyloscopus* of the s. Sierra from *leucothorectis* of the Great Basin. Four Downy Woodpeckers around Bishop June 18-19 (PL) were in an area believed to support a small resident population that has recently become established; this species was unrecorded here 30 years ago. A Downy Woodpecker at L. Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mts., July 6 (JD) was at an unusual elevation and away from any known breeding locality.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — The outcome of the nesting of a Scissor-tailed



Flycatcher paired with a W Kingbird at Needles is unfortunately unknown, although the original nest containing five eggs was abandoned in early June, and the material from that nest was used to construct a new nest, with the bird still in the area at the end of June (SC). Say's Phoebe normally leave the vicinity of the coast in summer, hence, one on San Miguel I., July 16 (N&HS), another at Pt. Mugu June 9 (REW) and a third near Imperial Beach on the same day (PU) were of interest. The only territorial Willow Flycatcher reported was a singing male near Bishop June 19-20 (PL); numbers of this species have declined at an alarming rate. A Dusky Flycatcher on Cuyamaca Mt., July 1 (PU) was at the s. extreme of the species' breeding range. The presence of a Gray Flycatcher at Pinyon Flats on Santa Rosa Mt., May 14 (AS) suggests nesting at that locality; small numbers breed as far s. as the San Bernardino Mts. (*Western Birds* 5:45-56, 1974). Nesting Purple Martins were located at Nojiqui Falls P., Santa Barbara Co. (3-4 pairs), on Big Pine Mt. (one pair), in the San Jacinto Mts. (6-8 pairs), at Casper Regional P., Orange Co. (three pairs), at O'Neill P., Orange Co. (one pair), on Mt. Palomar (four pairs), at Cuyamaca Peak (three pairs) and at Laguna Mt., San Diego Co. (one pair); a far cry from the numbers present 20 years ago. A flock of 65 Purple Martins passing over Mt. Palomar Aug. 6 (RH) was an unusual concentration, and one at S.E.S.S., July 24 (MAP) was unexpected there at that time of the year.

#### CHICKADEES THROUGH THRUSHES

— Seven Chestnut-backed Chickadees at the Santa Ynez R. mouth July 20 (PL) advance the species' range another step s. A pair of Dippers nested near Santa Barbara (MP) and another pair nested near Idyllwild (AS); only a few breeding records are published for s. California. A Bendire's Thrasher near Yucca Valley June 4 (DRW) was believed to be on breeding territory; the species is scarce in this area, although common in e. San Bernardino County. A pair of Am. Robins again nested in Blythe (SG), and it is suggested the planting of shade trees along with the development of a well-watered golf course are the factors inducing the birds to breed in this area. A singing Varied Thrush on Mt. Pinos July 20 (KG) was totally out of place, the nearest nesting localities being in extreme n.w. California.

**VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS** — Bell's Vireos were found to be more common than suspected in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties with 50+ pairs along the upper Santa Ynez R. (JG) and 12 pairs present on the Santa Clara River near Piru (REW); seven singing males near Needles in June (SG) were the only ones found on the California side of the Colorado R., and four singing males at Tecopa in June (JT) were the only others reported in the e. part of the Region.

A Black-and-white Warbler at Newport Beach June 10 (SJR) was a late spring straggler. Three or four singing Nashville Warblers were found on Mt. Pinos during June and July (REW,KG), suggesting the species was nesting locally; documented breeding records s. of the Sierra are lacking. Yellow Warblers are commoner than previously indicated (AB 32:1210, 1978), with 120 males along the Santa Ynez R. alone (JG), and the species is considered

"common" in parts of Ventura County (REW). A pair of Yellow Warblers nesting at Tecopa (JT) was noteworthy since it probably represents a s. range extension for the race *morcomi*. Three singing Hermit Warblers in the San Gabriel Mts., June 13 (KG) were the only ones reported; small numbers are believed to breed in these mountains every year. Yellow-breasted Chats are still relatively common in suitable habitat of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties; however, a singing male along the Santa Ana River near Fullerton during May and June (J&PR) was the first seen there in several years, indicating we should monitor numbers throughout the Region.

#### BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS

— The ♂ Great-tailed Grackle found near L. Cachuma May 12 remained through June (PL) and another male was at Gaviota July 2-7 (DV); the species continues to expand its range. Most unusual was a Com. Grackle, a casual straggler to California, near Blythe June 9 (SC). A ♂ Summer Tanager at Tecopa all summer (JT) was clearly on territory; however, one in Santa Barbara June 7 (WA) and another near Piru June 28 - July 4 (JD) were stragglers w. of the species' normal range. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen along the upper Santa Ynez R., June 19 (JG) and another was at L. Hemet July 13 (NHM); one or two are found most summers. A Blue Grosbeak at the summit of Mt. Palomar July 16 (RH) was at an exceptionally high elevation (6140 ft). Three or four singing Indigo Buntings at Morongo Valley during May and June (EAC) were clearly on territories, but no nest was located; one in Goleta July 11-17 (PL), and another at Tecopa June 9 (JT) and a third on Mt. Palomar July 20 (RH) were summer wanderers. Interesting were several singing ♂ Lazuli Buntings in citrus orchards around Blythe during June and July (SG) since breeding is unknown for that area. Two Red Crossbills were seen on Mt. Pinos July 20 (KG), one was found near Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., June 13 (KG) and another was on Santa Rosa Mt., July 13 (SC); this species is rare in the mountains of s. California. Green-tailed Towhees were again present on Cuyamaca Peak with ten seen July 1 (PU); this establishes the s. limit of the species' breeding range. A pair of Savannah Sparrows was accompanying three young near Tecopa June 19 (JT); the birds were most likely *nevadensis*, extending the range a little S into the high desert. Lark Sparrows were again present in citrus orchards around Blythe during June and July (SG) and undoubtedly nesting. A Black-throated Sparrow in Orange June 12 (JH) was w. of the species' normal range. Three or four pairs of Fox Sparrows on Mt. Palomar all summer (RH) and five seen on Cuyamaca Peak July 1 (PU) were believed to be nesting, but concrete breeding evidence from these localities, s. of the species' known breeding range, has yet to be obtained.

**ADDENDA** — Significant sightings received too late for inclusion in the Spring Report included an ad. Goshawk on Clark Mt., May 23 (AS); this species is believed to nest occasionally in the mountains of s. California. A Red-eyed Vireo, a scarce straggler to this Region in spring, was at Kelso May 25 (AS). A Painted Redstart at Borrego Springs Apr. 1 (SJ) was evidently an early spring straggler,

but a singing male on Clark Mt., May 23 (AS) was in an area where nesting is a possibility

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#### HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle and C. John Ralph

Heat and drought were the keywords for the summer season in Hawaii. Honolulu's rainfall was well below the mean for June and July, normally the year's driest months. Total precipitation from the first of March was less than 30% of normal. Tradewinds were generally weak through the summer, and daily maximum temperatures usually were near (and on several occasions exceeded) the record highs for the dates. Although landbirds may have been negligibly affected, ducks and shorebirds in the coming fall probably will be, as the wetlands are much drier than at this time last year.

#### ALBATROSSES THROUGH QUAILS

Many individual Newell (Manx) Shearwaters were heard and seen on Molokai I. (MS) during the summer surveys by the U.S. F.&W.S. This is one more of the main Hawaiian Islands now proven to have a remnant population of this threatened species. Eleven Koloa (Hawaiian Duck — *En*) were found at Waipio Peninsula, Oahu, July 4 (RL). A Japanese Quail hen with five newly hatched chicks observed June 7

