

# The Nesting Season

## June 1-July 31, 1985

### NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

Stuart I. Tingley

Most areas reported conditions very favorable to nesting birds this summer. Coverage of the Region was once again somewhat incomplete with thorough reporting submitted only from Newfoundland, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Substantial reports were received from Massachusetts and New Brunswick, and bits and pieces from Nova Scotia, Maine, and New Hampshire. No observations were received from Prince Edward Island.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — G.M.I. = Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick; S.P.M. = the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Red-throated Loons have apparently nested regularly at S.P.M. since at least 1964. This summer 5 nests were found there (RE). Elsewhere in the Region, scattered non-breeding birds were reported, the southernmost being one at Napatree Pt., R.I., June 10 (*vide* DE). A breeding pair of Com. Loons at Norfolk, Conn., established the first nesting in that state since 1978 (DR). A Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage which remained throughout the period off Castalia, G.M.I., furnished a rare summer occurrence for New Brunswick (BD).

The only N. Fulmars reported in the s. portion of the Region were six off Mt. Desert Rock, Me., June 16 (*vide* WT). A count of 500+ from the Cabot Strait ferry July 4 was unusually high (DS, ST). Three pairs of fulmars on the cliffs near kittiwake colonies at Langlade, S.P.M., probably indicated a future nesting location, which would be the southernmost in North America. The only Cory's Shearwater reported n. of s. New England was a single bird on the Nova Scotia side of the Cabot Strait ferry crossing July 19 (BM). Other shearwaters were reported in average numbers, although six Manx Shearwaters at Cox's Ledge, R.I., July 6 were unusual (*vide* DE). An estimate of 10,000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels between Great Duck I. and Mt. Desert Rock, Me., June 22-23 was extraordinary (*vide* WT). In Rhode Island the Sakonnet Point Double-crested Cormorant colony, established in 1981, continued to expand exponentially with 545 nests reported this year (*vide* DE).



**HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — In Connecticut, Great Blue Herons were found nesting at 2 new sites near Norfolk and N. Stonington (DR). A successful Snowy Egret nest on an island in the Mussel Ridge group in Penobscot Bay, Me. (*vide* WT), was the northernmost nesting ever in the Region, although again summering birds at 2 locations in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia suggested an impending further northward push. Very rare in w. Massachusetts was a Little Blue Heron at Hadley, July 28-29 and up to three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Pittsfield throughout the period (*vide* SK). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was unusual in s. New Hampshire June 25 (*vide* JW) as was one at Cushing, Me., July 9 (*vide* WT). In Rhode Island, the total of 296 Glossy Ibis nests on Narragansett Bay islands was reported as the highest ever (*vide* DE). A report of a "pale, immature flamingo" at Tracadie, N.S., for several

weeks in July and August has just surfaced and details are being sought (G. Cooch, *vide* AE), while a pale flamingo at Quonochontaug, R.I., June 26-July 31+ was identified as a Chilean (*vide* DE).

The Mute Swan flock at Briggs Marsh, R.I., reached an impressive 380 in late July. To quote David Emerson, "it would be interesting to learn where all these swans are coming from and why they congregate at this particular spot every summer. They appear to be all adults, possibly non-breeders that disperse northward during mid-summer." Summering Brant included one at Moonstone Beach, R.I., July 21 (*vide* DE) and three at Stratton I., Me., July 11 (*vide* WT). A Barnacle Goose was reported with a flock of Canada Geese in blueberry barrens n. of Kennebunk, Me., June 4 (K. Gammons, *vide* WT). Rare in Newfoundland were a Gadwall June 23 and a Wood Duck June 22, both in the Codroy Valley (RB). The southernmost summering Oldsquaw in the Region was one at Milford Pt., Conn., July 21 (REN, DV). Most unusual was a flock of 600-650 White-winged Scoters feeding off Cape Ray, Nfld., June 22-23 (RB).

**HAWKS THROUGH RAILS** — Turkey Vultures continued to be widely reported in Maine but the only report received from the Maritimes was of a single bird at McGowan's Corner, N.B., July 25 (BJ). Most observers agree that Ospreys continue to increase throughout the Region although no hard data are at hand to back this up. Up to six imm. Bald Eagles wandered around Cape Cod, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard this summer, apparently none of them banded (*vide* BN). Among several reports of N. Goshawks was one of a nest found at Langlade, S.P.M., June 21, providing a first nesting record for the islands (*vide* RE). A Red-shouldered Hawk nest discovered at Magaguidavic L., N.B., in early June (David Miles, *vide* BD) provided a first modern definite breeding record for the province, although the species occurs annually throughout the summer, particularly in the Fredericton area. The only Golden Eagle reported in the Region was an immature at Castalia Marsh, G.M.I., June 1 & 3 (BD).

Noteworthy was a confirmed nesting of King Rails at Old Lyme, Conn. (DR). A King Rail heard and seen briefly at Scarborough Marsh, Me., in early June was a rare occurrence for that state (PV *et al.*). A Purple Gallinule was observed at Guilford, Conn., July 14-21 (FS, *vide* DV).

**SHOREBIRDS** — As many as one dozen Black-bellied Plovers in mixed plumages apparently remained at Castalia Marsh, G.M.I., throughout the period, providing one of few definite summering records for New Brunswick (BD). In Newfoundland, a **Greater Golden-Plover** was discovered and photo-



Greater Golden-Plover at St. Paul's Inlet, Nfld., July 14, 1985. Photo/Jim Haw.



Greater Yellowlegs on nest at Liscomb Game Sanctuary, N.S., June 3, 1985. Photo/Harry Brennan.

graphed by a tour group at St. Paul's Inlet, Gros Morne N.P., July 14 (Jim Haw, BM, Sandra Schacht, Tony White *et al.*), providing one of very few Regional and North American records of this Old World plover. A good find in Maine was a **Wilson's Plover** at Seawall Beach, Phippsburg, June 9-10 (PV *et al.*, ph.), where the state's first confirmed Wilson's Plover occurred May 21-22, 1983. In the Grand Manan archipelago, a pair of agitated Semipalmated Plovers at Ross Island July 11 was probably nesting, something that has occurred only sporadically at one other site in New Brunswick (BD). A thorough survey of Piping Plovers by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program revealed 120 ± pairs in the state, the largest of any e. coast state or province, although obviously only a remnant of previous populations (*vide* BN). A pair of this species with young at Grand Barachois July 17 provided a first breeding record for S.P.M. (AD, PJ, *vide* RE). In Rhode Island, this species apparently had a very poor nesting season (*vide* DE).

An **oystercatcher**, sp., at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., on an unspecified date this summer was not described to species—in an area where Eur. Oystercatcher must be considered a possibility (Candice Storm, *vide* RE). American Oystercatchers continued their increase in s. New England, nesting at new sites in Connecticut (*vide* DV) and Rhode Island (*vide* DE), and as many as 16 nesting pairs reported from Monomoy (RH, *vide* BN). Not previously reported were two Am. Avocets photographed at Saint's Rest Marsh, Saint John West, N.B., May 11 (Jakko Finne *et al.*). The first Newfoundland nesting record for Willet was documented when 2 pairs and a half-grown young were found on Flat Bay I. in St. George's Bay, on the province's w. coast (Alan Burger, *vide* BM). A confirmed nesting at Castalia, G.M.I., N.B., July 28 provided a first modern breeding record for the archipelago (BD). In Massachusetts, 30+ pairs of Upland Sandpipers nested at 7 locations: 3 privately owned and probably soon to be developed, and 4 sites on U.S. Air Force Bases where hopefully the birds can be protected. The largest colony was at Otis A.F.B. (14 pairs) where 100+ birds in late July must have included migrants (BN).

The 2nd Massachusetts record of **Little Stint** was well-documented at Third Cliff beach, Scituate, July 25 into August (WP *et al.*). The bird was seen by many observers over a 2-3 week period. This influx of observers resulted in a confusing (to this editor) series of reports of several(?) stints which will be left to the fall migration editor to sort out (Good luck, Dick!).

A breeding-plumaged Purple Sandpiper was late at Crescent Beach, N.S., June 16 (J & SC). A breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper photographed at St. John's, Nfld., July 15, was surprisingly a photo for the province (D. & S. Phelan *et al.*, *vide* RB). There were 2 reports of Ruffs during the period: an ad. female at



Adult Curlew Sandpiper, first for Newfoundland, with a Greater Yellowlegs at St. Johns, Nfld., July 15, 1985. Photo/Doug Phelan.

Scarborough Marsh, Me., July 15-17 (PV, JeW), and one at Sandy Pt., West Haven, Conn., July 12 (RS, *fide* DV). The only reports of Wilson's Phalaropes were of single females at Castalia, G.M.I., May 31-June 3 (BD) and at Ipswich, Mass., June 1 (JB).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS**—Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were widely reported in small numbers during the period while reports of Long-tailed Jaegers were as follows: one off the e. coast of Miquelon, S.P.M., July 6 (MB, *fide* RE); two adults and one subadult off Big Barachois, Placentia Bay, Nfld., July 4 (RB, N. Soper); and one subadult in Placentia Bay, an hour out of Argentia, Nfld., July 13 (DS, ST). Well-described S. Polar Skuas included single birds at Cox's Ledge, R.I., July 6 (*fide* DE), 5 mi off Renewals, Nfld., July 21 (EM), and 10 mi n.e. of Mt. Desert Rock, Me., July 22 (BA, *fide* WT). Unidentified skuas included birds off Big Barachois, Placentia Bay, Nfld., July 4 (RB) and one seen from the "Bluenose," July 27 (AC, JeW).

There were 2 July reports of first-summer Laughing Gulls in Nova Scotia where the species occurs annually in very small numbers. Very rare in w. Massachusetts was a Laughing Gull at Longmeadow July 28 (*fide* SK). The Maine Franklin's Gull mentioned in the spring report was rediscovered and photographed at Machias June 7 (CD). The only Little Gull report received was

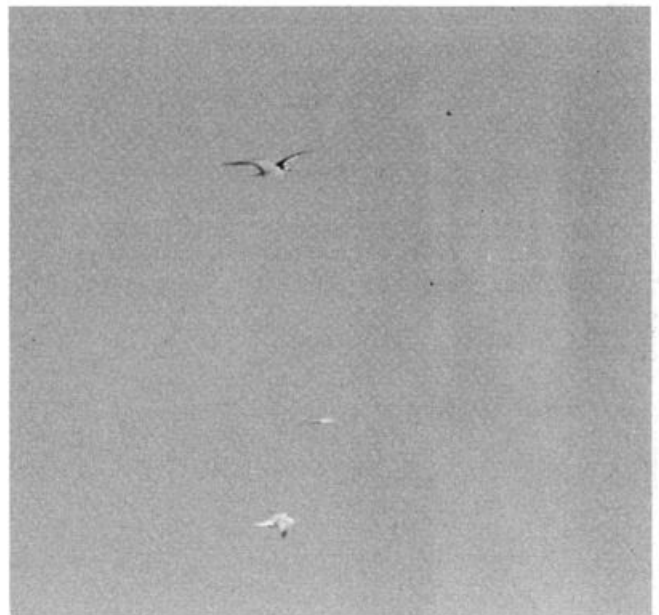


Adult Franklin's Gull at Machias, Me., June 7, 1985. Photo/Charles Duncan.

of a first-summer bird at Phippsburg, Me., June 4 (PV). The actual nesting site of the Com. Black-headed Gulls seen each summer at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., was discovered this year by Alan Burger who found at least 4 nests in tern colonies at Flat Bay I., St. George's Bay (*fide* BM). Among other reports of this species were two subadults and one adult at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., July 2, a first-summer bird at Glace Bay, N.S., July 8 and an adult at Conrad's Beach, N.S., July 24 (BM), a first-summer bird at Plum I., Mass., July 22 (JB), and a bird of unspecified age at Sandy Pt., West Haven, Conn., from July 5, found dead in August, wearing a *Netherlands* band! (RS *et al.*, *fide* DV). There were 3 reports of small groups of Bonaparte's Gulls summering in Nova Scotia and s. New Brunswick, all involving first-summer birds as would be expected. Perhaps as many as a few hundred individuals may sometimes (or routinely?) summer along the n.e. coastline of New Brunswick.

The imm. Mew Gull at E. Passage, N.S., mentioned in the spring report was again located there July 28 (EM, IM). The only Iceland Gull reported was an imm. bird at the mouth of the Little Codroy R., Nfld., June 22 (RB), while the only sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were of single birds at sea off Labrador, a subadult 300 mi e.n.e. of Cartwright July 2 and an adult 120 mi n.e. of Cartwright July 7. The latter bird was reported to have a very black back and was suspected of being of the nominate Scandinavian race (RBr). Unusual was a first-summer Glaucous Gull at Milford Pt., Conn., from July 20 into August (m.ob., *fide* DV). Interesting, but without details, was an apparent hybrid Herring x Great Black-backed Gull at N. Monomoy I., Mass., July 31 (WP *et al.*, *fide* BN).

Notable Caspian Terns were two at Milford Pt., Conn., June 18 (REn, *fide* DV), an adult at Antigonish, N.S., July 3 (DS, ST), and two off Cape Small, Me., July 10 (*fide* WT). The usual few Royal Terns were reported in s. New England, while an adult reported at Placentia, Nfld., July 31-Aug. 3 furnished only a 2nd provincial occurrence (JP, RB, *fide* BM). As usual, nesting terns were reported as doing poorly in most areas, although good news was received concerning Roseate Terns at Faulkner's I., off Guilford, Conn., which were said to have had a very successful year nesting in *old tires* brought out to the island (FS, *fide* DV). "*Portlandica*" Arctic Terns peaked at 500+ on N. Monomoy, Mass., in July, and up to four Forster's Terns were reported there throughout that month including a juvenile begging food from an adult (BN). A Sooty Tern was photographed at N. Monomoy I., Mass., June 21 (*fide* BN). A pair of Black Skimmers again nested successfully at Monomoy this summer, and the



Sooty Tern at N. Monomoy I., Mass., June 21, 1985. Photo/Robert C. Humphrey.

number of adults present throughout the period was unprecedented (maximum 15+, July 28, *vide* BN). In Connecticut, up to six birds were noted at 3 locations this summer, including a pair which remained around Faulkner's I. (*vide* DV).

**DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS**— Unusual in mid-summer was a Mourning Dove in St. John's Nfld., July 20 (RB). The only comment received on cuckoos was from Connecticut, where they were reported as "common in the east, rare in the west" (*vide* DV). Two July reports of N. Hawk-Owls from w. Newfoundland included a bird at Plum Pt., making the 3rd consecutive year the species has been reported there in summer (Andy Laird, *vide* BM). The species' exact status as a breeder in the province is unclear. In e. Massachusetts, 18-20 pairs of Short-eared Owls were found, confined entirely to the offshore islands (*vide* BN). Four scattered and well-documented reports of calling N. Saw-whet Owls in Newfoundland equalled or exceeded the total of previous records for the province where its status must now be reassessed (*vide* BM). The only comment received on goatsuckers came from Connecticut, where Whip-poor-wills were termed "more common than in the past 10 years" (*vide* DV).

Out of nesting range was a Red-headed Woodpecker at Sunset, Me., June 15 (*vide* WT), and noteworthy was a nesting in W. Hartford, Conn. (DR, *vide* DV). The same comment applies to nesting Red-bellied Woodpeckers at N. Kingston, R.I. (*vide* DE). An unconfirmed report of a Red-bellied Woodpecker seen and tape-recorded in the St. Andrews, N.B., area in June would be a first for that province (*vide* BD). The only report of Three-toed Woodpecker in the Region was of a single bird at Terra Nova, Nfld., in July (BM). Very few reports of Black-backed Woodpecker were received.

Acadian Flycatchers were widely reported in the southernmost portions of the Region, while three were banded on Appledore I., Me., during the first week of June (DH). Other migrant flycatchers banded there during the first week of June were five Yellow-bellied, four "Traill's", one Least, 17 pewees, and two Great Crested Flycatchers (DH). Northernmost Willow Flycatcher was a singing bird at Deep Cove, G.M.I., July 25 (BD), where the species is still very rare. This summer's Scissortailed Flycatchers were in w. Massachusetts at Northampton, July 3-4 (B. White, *vide* SK), and at Hull's Cove, Mt. Desert I., Me., July 18 (L. Winter *et al.*, *vide* WT).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS**— Rare visitants to Newfoundland were three Purple Martins in the Codroy Valley from mid-June to at least July 3 (CB, PG, DS). Fish Crows were confirmed nesting for the first time in Maine this summer at Brunswick (P. Donahue, J. Pierson, *vide* PV). No details were available. News from Roger Etcheberry concerning **Eurasian Jackdaws** in S.P.M. was as follows: one pair occupied a fairly small territory for almost 3 months, then vanished around July 10, a 3rd bird seemed to be paired with a crow, disappeared, then was relocated in Miquelon July 18. In short, no definite evidence of nesting. This species made it onto another state list when one was found at Matinicus Rock, Me., June 11 (S. Kress, *vide* WT).

Sedge Wren reports numbered two. In w. Massachusetts, one was present at Granville July 9-31 (SK), and a singing bird was reported from s. New Hampshire June 25 (DA, PV *et al.*, *vide* JeW). A Carolina Wren was reported from Camden, Me., July 22 (*vide* WT).

Rare in summer in Nova Scotia was a ♂ E. Bluebird near Antigonish July 3 (DS *et al.*). A Gray-cheeked Thrush nest found near Ashburton Head, G.M.I., June 14 provided a first nesting record for the archipelago (BD). No Loggerhead Shrike reports were received.

Rare in w. Massachusetts were single White-eyed Vireos at Northampton June 6 and at Cheshire July 10 (*vide* SK). Yellow-

throated Vireos were reported as much more numerous than usual in Maine this summer (*vide* WT). After 5 pairs and 3 nests of Philadelphia Vireos were discovered at S.P.M. last summer, this season was very disappointing with only one singing male noted for several days in late June, apparently without a mate (RE).

In Connecticut, "Brewster's" Warblers were reported nesting at Stafford and Sharon, and "Lawrence's" Warbler at Sharon (DR). A singing ♂ Blue-winged Warbler at Hopewell, N.S., in early June was perhaps the first in summer for the province (CaB). In Connecticut, Black-throated Blue and Cerulean warblers were said to be becoming more numerous in the n.w. part of the state (DR). Very unusual in Rhode Island was a singing Magnolia Warbler at Pulaski S.P., June 30 (*vide* DE).

In New Brunswick, a ♂ Prothonotary Warbler on White Head I., June 2, provided one of very few records for the province (BD). Unusual in New Hampshire was a singing Worm-eating Warbler near Kensington through the first 2 weeks of June (JB, GG). Other reports of this species included five in Rhode Island and one in w. Massachusetts. Reports of Kentucky Warblers were of singing males at Naugatuck, Conn., June 25 (*vide* DV) and at Arcadia, R.I., June 7 (*vide* DE). Amazing was a convincing sight record of a singing Connecticut Warbler at Thornton, N.H., July 7! (PY). In Connecticut, Hooded Warblers were reported as common in the Naugatuck area, with around 10 pairs at Naugatuck State Forest, regular elsewhere in the s.w. part of the state, and increasing in the e. one-half of the state. Also in Connecticut, 3-4 nesting pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats were found (DR).

Finally, the most common late migrating warblers banded at Appledore I., Me., during the first week of June were: Am Redstart (43), Blackpoll Warbler (28), Com. Yellowthroat (22), Magnolia Warbler (19), Canada Warbler (15), and Mourning Warbler (nine) (DH).

**CARDINAL THROUGH FINCHES**— A N. Cardinal nest discovered at North Head, G.M.I., July 14 furnished one of very few definite nesting records for New Brunswick (BD).

Very rare in New Brunswick was a ♂ **Lark Bunting** at Castalia, G.M.I., June 11 (BD). A good find in Connecticut and unique in the Region was a Henslow's Sparrow at Middletown July 20 (G. Zepko *et al.*, *vide* DV). Again, few details are at hand, but apparently a breeding population of Seaside Sparrows was discovered at Hampton marsh, N.H., in late July or early August for a first state nesting record (*vide* PL).

Orchard Orioles n. of their known breeding range included a territorial pair in s. New Hampshire in June (*vide* JeW), an imm. male at Appledore I., Me., June 3-7 (DH), and an imm. male at Cheeseman P.P. in s.w. Newfoundland June 13, providing a first record for that province (CB, PG). Reports of House Finches in New Brunswick included two separate birds in the Fredericton area in July and a male in North Head, G.M.I., June 7 (*vide* BD). There are no definite nesting records for that province yet Crossbills went virtually unreported after a good year in 1984 Surprising in w. Massachusetts was a flock of 14 White-winged Crossbills in Windsor June 16 (*vide* SK).

**OBSERVERS** (Contributors in boldface) — Dennis Abbot, Bev Agler, **Jim Berry**, Michel Borotra, Calvin Brennan (CaB), Chris Brown, **Richard Brown** (RBr), **Roger Burrows** (RB), Allison Childs, John & Shirley Cohrs, **Brian Dalzell**, Alain Desbrosse, **Charlie Duncan**, **David Emerson**, Richard English (REn), Anthony Erskine, **Roger Etcheberry** (RE), George Gavutis, Patricia Greene, **David Holmes**, R. Humphrey, Phillipe Jardel, Bruce Johnson, **Seth Kellogg**, Paul Lehman, **Bruce Mactavish**, Ian McLaren, **Eric Mills**, **Blair Nikula**, **Wayne Petersen**, John Pratt, **David Rosgen**, David Sibley, Fred Sibley, Ray Schwartz, Stuart Tingley, **William Townsend**, **Dennis Varza**, **Peter Vickery**, **Jeff Wells** (JeW), John Wells (JoW), **Peter Yaukey**.—**STUART I. TINGLEY**, Box 1185, Sackville, NB EOA 3C0.

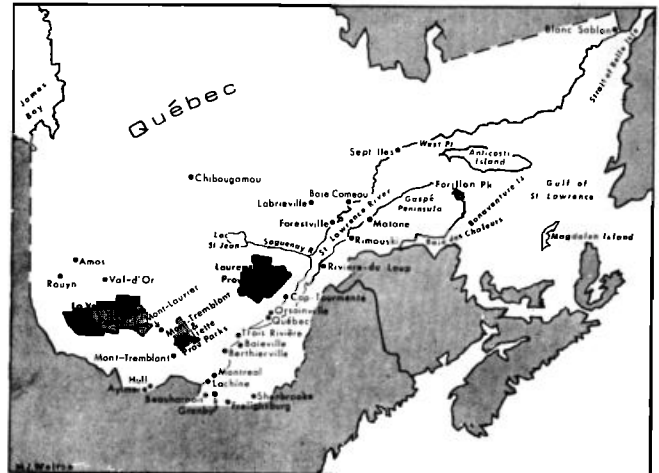
Richard Yank and Yves Aubry

While southern Quebec experienced cool and wet weather in June, the northern half of the province was milder and generally drier than normal. During July, precipitation patterns continued essentially unchanged with particularly heavy rains across the central portion of the province. Temperatures were near the mean in most areas.

**GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL** — The Pied-billed Grebe nested for the first time at Bergeronnes, along the n. edge of its range, where a pair with eggs was discovered July 22 (AB). Three grebes near Amos May 14 (AGB) were either W. Grebes or the recently-recognized Clark's Grebe; available details on the only 2 previous Quebec occurrences also do not allow a differentiation to be made between these 2 species. Northern Fulmars moved into the St. Lawrence Estuary in unprecedented numbers; a maximum count of 350 was made from the Trois-Pistoles ferry June 8 (*vide* GG). An **American White Pelican** was found at Chambord on L. Saint-Jean June 14 (MBd) and was seen at nearby Saint-Gédéon later the same day (MG, EK, RBo). What was possibly the same individual was present at Baie-Saint-Paul June 17-28 (BF). In excess of 50 non-breeding Double-crested Cormorants summered near Bromptonville (*vide* VL)—an unusually large concentration away from the St. Lawrence River. The confirmed breeding range of Least Bittern was extended by the discovery of a pair with young at Cap-Tourmente July 19 (RL). A Snowy Egret wandered to Pointe-au-Père July 4 (YG). While a few geese regularly summer in s. Quebec, the presence of up to 18 Snow Geese at Cap-Tourmente in late June and July (RL, JGu) was unusual. Also noteworthy was a Brant at Quebec City July 9 (CV). A pair of Gadwall was exceptional in the Mingan Is., May 16-26 (RN), there being only one other very old record from this area. Five others were at Coin-du-Banc July 8 (WP), on the Gaspé Pen. where the species is also rare. Male Eur. Wigeons were seen near Havre-Saint-Pierre May 24 (RN) and at Barachois June 16 (DS, GCa). A ♀ Canvasback was noted near Sainte-Pétronille June 4 (SM, JLe) and two ♂ Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Islets-Caribou July 13 (YA). Little is known of the summer status of the latter species along the N. Shore, so the report of a pair copulating at Mingan in late May (RN) was particularly noteworthy.

**VULTURES THROUGH TERNS** — A Turkey Vulture flew over Saint-Gabriel-de-Rimouski in late June (*vide* GG). Peregrine Falcons apparently had a very successful breeding season in the Ungava region, with most traditional sites occupied and a high percentage of nests containing four chicks in late July (DB). A lone N. Bobwhite was calling in Brossard June 9 (GS); a similar report originated from nearby Laprairie in 1980 (AB 34:877). Yellow Rails were encountered on the Gaspé Pen., at Wakeham June 7 (JMH) and Coin-du-Banc July 8 (WP). An injured **Purple Gallinule** was captured at Mont-Saint-Pierre June 7 (GL) but died a week later; the bird was an adult, unlike all 5 previous records for the Region. There were few notable shorebirds this season: a Willet and a Marbled Godwit reached Pointe-Lebel June 8 & 11 (GB, ADu), respectively, another Willet was at Rimouski June 23 (GG), and a Ruff was also there July 20 (YG). An Am. Woodcock at Havre-Saint-Pierre July 9 (RN) provided one of very few N. Shore sightings and a Wilson's Phalarope visited Saint-Adalbert June 6 (JLa).

Laughing Gulls were seen at Pointe-au-Père June 4 (YG) and at Pointe-Lebel June 10 & 24 (GB, ADu), while the only report of a Franklin's Gull was from LaSalle June 23 (PBa). For the 4th consecutive year Little Gulls failed in their attempts to nest at LaSalle, where 2 pairs established territories this year (PBa). A



single Little Gull was sighted at Anse Saint-Jean July 28 (YA, CV) for a 2nd Saguenay record. The Ring-billed Gull continues to establish itself along the St. Lawrence: a new breeding colony of 20 ± birds with three downy young was discovered off Baie-Saint-Paul June 30 (HM, MBl)—for a review of the dramatic colonization of the province by this species, see *Can. Field-Nat.* 98:29-37. An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was sighted along the Payne R., on the Ungava Pen., July 22 (DB, JW). The observers reported having encountered the species last year in the same area; the nearest known breeding site is along the Labrador coast. In addition to the regular summer reports of a few Caspian Terns along the Upper St. Lawrence R., one showed up at Chandler July 10 (WRP). An ad. Forster's Tern was spotted at Beauharnois June 24 (RY). This spring's **White-winged Tern** turned out to be a female that stayed to successfully breed with a Black Tern. Three eggs hatched July 7 & 8 (RBo, m.ob.) after an incubation period of 21-22 days; the fledglings were banded but were otherwise very similar to Black Terns of the same age.



Adult White-winged Tern, first for Quebec, at Saint-Gedeon July 12, 1985. This bird mated with a Black Tern and nested successfully; see text for details. Photo/Carol Harvey.

**ALCIDS THROUGH THRASHERS** — A Dovekie was seen at Bergeronnes on the unusual date of July 12 (AB *et al.*), while rare at Quebec City in any season were a Razorbill June 1 (ADE, RS) and a juv. Black Guillemot July 30 (CV). Also noteworthy were three Atlantic Puffins off Trois-Pistoles June 6 (GG, TAR).

A Great Gray Owl was located along the Chibougamau R., June 5 or 6 (SLa *et al.*); while this species has long been suspected of breeding in c. Quebec, firm evidence is still lacking. An extensive survey of suitable habitat s. of the St. Lawrence R. and w. of Montreal showed the Willow Flycatcher to be a well-established summer resident, with some 80 males on territory (GS); the two birds singing on I. Bonaventure June 30 (PL) were undoubtedly vagrants, but less certain was the status of the one at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Mégantic Co., July 7 & 9 (GO) and the two at L. à la Truite, Frontenac Co., June 16 (AC) where the species was also found in 1984. An E. Phoebe at Pointe-aux-Outardes June 11 (YR) provided an additional N. Shore sighting.

Census work in the E. Townships is revealing that several boreal species are more widespread in extreme s.e. Quebec in summer than current distribution maps indicate; this is not surprising since the area lies within the Appalachian Mts. where these species are known to occur both to the s. and to the n. One such species is the Gray Jay which was confirmed as breeding at Saint-Gédéon, Beauce Co., and was also found in Compton and Frontenac counties this summer (FS, SLe, VL).

The pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers reported at Hull in the spring remained there to nest (JD, m.ob.) and a lone bird was near L. Mégantic July 1 (VL). At least 4 pairs of E. Bluebirds were located on the Manicouagan Pen. and several more pairs were found elsewhere along the N. Shore (*vide* GCy), as well as in the Saguenay and at L. Saint-Jean (*vide* CC). Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Saint-Sébastien and Mont Gosford suggested additional nesting locales in Frontenac County (FS, VL). A Wood Thrush at Bergeronnes June 30 and July 20 (AB *et al.*) was beyond its established breeding range, as was a Brown Thrasher at Baie-Comeau July 2 (GCy).

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES** — Six ♂ Golden-winged Warblers at Fitch-Bay June 16 provided further evidence that the species is colonizing the E. Townships; three different ♂ "Brewster's" hybrids were studied at the same site June 16 & 24 (FS, JS, PF). Like the Gray Jay, the Tennessee Warbler proved to be well distributed in Compton, Frontenac, and Beauce counties this summer (*vide* VL). A Connecticut Warbler at Cap Eternité June 22 (AKF, BD, J & FI) furnished an additional Saguenay record, and gaps in the suspected breeding range of this species were filled by the sighting of three birds at Chapais and one at Desmaraisville July 5-15 (SLa, JGa, JL, MC). A Yellow-breasted Chat wandered to Ancienne-Lorette June 29 (GD).

Two ♀ Indigo Buntings were at Bergeronnes June 3 (AB, EB) where breeding has yet to be confirmed. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found near Huntingdon June 22 (PD, MR) and a singing male frequented a dry bog at Saint-Thomas, Joliette Co., June 7-25 (SB). A Field Sparrow at Chandler June 7 (PP) was well

outside its usual range, but less unexpected was one singing at Charlesbourg June 12 (RL); an adult feeding two recently-fledged young at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Mégantic Co., July 14 (GO) was at the edge of this bird's breeding range in the province. The rare Grasshopper Sparrow was detected at 2 new localities: three birds were at Franklin-Centre June 3 (PBa) and two more were singing at Onslow-Corners July 7 (DSH, NG). Even more exciting was the discovery of **Henslow's Sparrows** in extreme s. Quebec, for our first sightings since 1970. Two called repeatedly at Rockburn July 20-30 (PBa, m.ob.) and also in Yamaska P.P., July 31-Aug. 1 (SD). The Sharp-tailed Sparrow appears to be solidly established in recently-colonized areas along the St. Lawrence: 20 ± were tallied at I. du Moine and two were found at nearby Lavallière Bay July 27-28 (PBe, DJ, JD), 15 ± were counted at Cap-Tourmente July 16-17 (FG, CV), and four were noted at Baie-Saint-Paul June 30 (HM, MBl). Two singing Fox Sparrows were far s. of their published summer range at L. du Portage, Beauce Co., near the Maine border July 9 (FS, VL).

A W. Meadowlark was identified at Mont-Joli June 29 (TAR, DR, GG) and single Yellow-headed Blackbirds strayed to Pointe-Label June 4 (CT) and Alma June 5-6 (MC *et al.*). Extralimital summer records of 2 more species were received from the E. Townships. A ♀ Rusty Blackbird was transporting food at L. Bartley, Beauce Co., July 8 (VL) and a singing male was heard at L. des Araignées, Frontenac Co., July 15 (FS, VL, SLe). Also in Frontenac County, a Pine Grosbeak was observed on Mont D'Urban July 19 (FS). Ten Com. Redpolls were present on Mt Jacques-Cartier July 2 (PL); the species is known to nest at higher elevations on the Gaspé Pen.

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## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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**Robert O. Paxton, William J. Boyle, Jr.,  
and David A. Cutler**

**A**lthough June was cool and wet along the coast, the interior continued to parch. Low water levels inland produced good migrant shorebirding at lake shores, such as Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The remnants of Hurricane Bob, which came ashore in Georgia and the Carolinas and affected this Region July 26, downed many migrant waterbirds in the interior, and washed out Least Tern colonies. For the rest, it was a generally successful nesting season.

Atlas work provided a major component of this report. A summary of three years' efforts on the Delaware atlas proj-

ect, compiled for us by R. L. West, revises substantially our knowledge of the breeding birds of that state. The Pennsylvania atlas project is doing the same (WR). The New York atlas project completed its fifth and final summer. Their results show up often in the report that follows.

Colonial waterbirds were surveyed along the coast by helicopter by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game, as in 1983. On Long Island the Seatuck Research Project of Cornell University, supported by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, continued to coordinate ground surveying and monitoring of waterbird colonies. Both of these important projects were assisted by tax check-off funds.

**ABBREVIATIONS**—Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig. = Brigantine Unit, Edwin B. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co., N.J.; Green Lane = Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Pa.; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City; L.I. = Long Island, N.Y. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS**— The usual handful of Com. Loons summered on inland waters, such as Wild Creek Res., Carbon, Pa. (D. DelGrosso), Muddy Run, Lancaster, Pa. (RMS), and Ashokan Res., Ulster, N.Y. (FM), but without any suggestion of breeding. Something brought Wilson's Storm-Petrels inshore in July. They were found almost daily in the mouth of Delaware Bay (PD, DEK, C. Phillips). One was in the surf at S. Cape May Meadows July 13 (CS), and about 10 300 yards off Roosevelt Inlet, Del., July 6 (W & SF). For the 3rd summer in a row, Brown Pelicans wandered N as far as Delaware Bay where up to 12 were observed almost daily around Cape May Pt. or Cape Henlopen during July and into early August (PD, CS, WWF).

A few Great Cormorants stayed around Great Gull I., off the e. tip of L.I., in June (JDiC), as is frequently the case. Now that this species has bred in Massachusetts (AB 38:984), it bears even closer watching. Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase throughout the Region, but no breeding colony has yet been found s. of the recently-established colonies on L.I. and in New York City. Surely they are nesting somewhere in New Jersey, and 25 summered as far s. as Port Mahon, Del. (APE, JFS)

A **Magnificent Frigatebird** soared over Great Gull I., June 3 (JDiC), for about the 10th New York state record, and another was reported at Cape May in early July (A. Nicolson, *vide* PD).

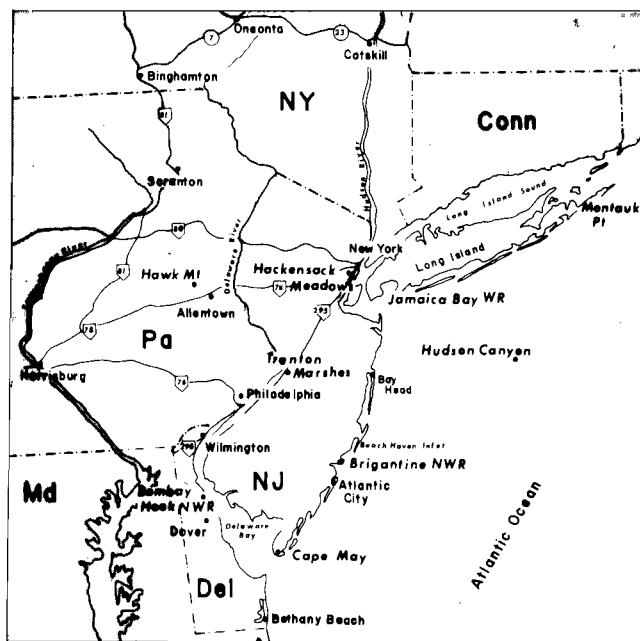
American Bittern was missing from many traditional sites in New Jersey, such as Great Swamp and Troy Meadows, and was being proposed for endangered status in the state (RK). One at Buckaloo Swamp, near Hope, Warren, N.J., July 6 (GH) was the only report we received. Least Bitterns remain regular and widespread, but four at L. Warren, Bucks, Pa., and a nest there June 24 (SF) were noteworthy.

Colonial waterbird surveys along the coast indicated some decline in herons there. Long-established colonies along the ocean parkway on the Jones Beach barrier island, L.I., have relocated and diminished, according to the Seatuck Research Project's ground censusing (DP). New Jersey's biennial helicopter survey showed all except Tricolored Heron and the 2 night-herons in lower numbers than in 1983 (LN):

Adults:	1983 and 1985	
Great Egret	598	425
Snowy Egret	2106	1858
Little Blue Heron	143	111
Tricolored Heron	149	183
Cattle Egret	346	284
Black-crowned Night-Heron	361	549
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	100	116
Glossy Ibis	1211	873

Another exception was Great Blue Heron which, having abandoned coastal breeding except in Delaware, was prospering in recently-established upland colonies. We had encouraging reports from colonies in Dutchess, N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.), n.w. New Jersey (RK), and n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Two new colonies were reported near Millboro (BR) and near Cedar Swamp (DM), Sussex, Del., as well. Noteworthy inland wanderers included a Little Blue Heron at Green Lane July 24-31 (BLM, GLF), the 2nd local record of Tricolored Heron there July 19-24, and the 3rd Yellow-crowned Night-Heron for n.w. New Jersey at Bull's I., Hunterdon, July 1 (E. Patten). Twenty Great Egrets just n. of Brewster, N.Y., July 29 (Les Line) made a notable inland concentration.

A minor invasion of White Ibises brought three to Goffle Brook P., Bergen, N.J., July 18 into August (G. Schultze).



**WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS**— Lingering Snow Geese were at Green Lane all summer and three were late at Newport, Cumberland, N.J., June 1 (RBa). Most unusual among a number of stray summering diving ducks were two different Com. Goldeneyes in New Jersey: Highland P., on the Raritan R., July 17, and Brig., July 20 (*vide* RK). Continuing the spring's nesting records, a juv. Hooded Merganser was at J.B.W.R., July 10 (PAB). Common Mergansers were doing well on the upper Delaware and Susquehanna rivers. Reid had 3 broods in sight at once at Tunkhannock, Pa., June 16.

Black Vultures summered for the first time down Delaware Bay in Cumberland, N.J., perhaps filling that curious gap in their breeding range (RBa, CS, DEK).

Long Island raised the most young Ospreys in recent memory, probably since the crash of the 1960s: 170 in 129 active nests, up from 113 nests last year (MS, N.Y.D.E.C.). The N.J.D.F.G. found 151 chicks in 108 of 109 known nests (122 in 105 of 108 known nests last year—LN). The N.F.D.F.G. also hatched six young Ospreys in the Newark watershed. Sussex, Del., where 43 of 50 nests were examined, produced 65 young (49 last year); breeding success there has increased from 50% in 1980 to 73% (L. Alexander). Ospreys are spreading n. of Sussex as well; breeding was confirmed near Dover and at 3 sites n. of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (C. Butler, G. Ralston, RLW). Elsewhere wandering Ospreys were rather widespread (Green Lane, GLF; s. Lancaster, Pa., RMS; Kensico Res., Westchester, N.Y., BW), and inland breeding seemed imminent in Monroe and Northampton, Pa., where for the first time since the state began a hacking program in 1980, three birds occupied nest sites. Two ad. males built nests, courted migrant females (in vain), and attended eight hatched fledglings, but no natural progeny were produced (L. Ryman).

Holdovers from the spring kite festival were one Am. Swallow-tailed Kite near Nyack, Rockland, N.Y., June 22 (J. Askildsen), and two Mississippi Kites around Cape May until June 6, as usual now since 1979 (CS, RBa, PD). At least 5 pairs of Bald Eagles breed in this Region. The Bear Swamp, Cumberland, N.J., pair hatched two chicks. The N.J.D.F.G. also hatched 10 young Bald Eagles near Dividing Creek, Cumberland, in late summer and were expecting another orphan from a New England nest site at the end of the summer (LN). In Delaware, although the Bombay Hook site was abandoned, 3 other Sussex nests produced three surviving chicks (JMA). A new nest was found along the Delaware R. at Blackbird Cr., Kent, near the

traditional Taylor Bridge site (B Brown) Two adults summered in Wayne, Pa., but without confirmation of nesting (*vide* WR).

A study of N. Harriers on L.I. found a remarkable total of 13 females attempting to nest in the 10 mi of barrier beach salt marsh between Captree and Tobay (some of the males were polygynous), and 3 additional nests in dwarf pine-blueberry (*Vaccinium*) heath near Westhampton Airport. The species is thus doing better than expected locally, but the wider picture is troubling since available habitat is shrinking and these birds already appear to be more than the habitat can support (ME). Northern Harriers were also believed to have had a good nesting season in s. coastal New Jersey (PD), but not inland, where a female near Hamburg, Pa. (KAG), provided one of very few reports.

Our information on most other nesting raptors is only fragmentary. Northern Goshawk pairs were rather widely reported as far s. as Hawk Mt., Pa. (LG, JBr), and were "picking up" (WR) in n.e. Pennsylvania. Several observers believed that Broad-winged Hawks were down, Dunne attributing the difficulty to gypsy moths which expose the nests to view at a crucial stage. Atlas work in Delaware has shown that Broad-winged Hawks, normally unexpected s. of the Piedmont, were breeding in Redden State Forest and near Magnolia (RLW). Red-tailed Hawks were "thick" (RK) all over the Region.

The first clearly southbound hawk at Cape May Pt. was an ad. ♀ Am. Kestrel in molt that headed out over Delaware Bay July 19 (PD, CS). Of some 40 known pairs of Peregrine Falcons in the East, 17 were in this Region. Six of these pairs were known to have nested successfully, bringing off 17 young: one pair on the Throg's Neck Bridge, New York City, and 5 pairs in coastal New Jersey. The Peregrine Fund has completed its hacking program in New Jersey, where in fact no new birds have been released since 1980. The directors of the project are counting on natural increase to restore the birds to natural sites in the interior. For the moment, the birds are mainly nesting on the hacking towers or on other man-made structures. Pairs are frequenting other New York City bridges and 3 bridges across the Delaware R. from Wilmington to Philadelphia, and one pair is using the Golden Nugget gambling casino in Atlantic City (J. Barclay, The Peregrine Fund).

**TURKEY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Wild Turkeys are "exploding" in n.e. Pennsylvania, as a result of natural increase (WR). The recently-stocked population at Milford Neck and Cedar Swamp, Sussex, Del., is now breeding in the wild (S. Fager, DMi).

In addition to the Black Rail sites mentioned in the spring report, one or two called at Oak Beach Marsh, L.I. (J. Greenlaw). Four recently-fledged young Virginia Rails at Green Lane in late July (GAF, GLF) were a good find. Atlassers could not find Sora in Delaware. The Purple Gallinule at L. Warren, Bucks, Pa., June 4-9 (SF, H. Rufe, B. Bell) was a typically far-flung early June vagrant. They were "almost certainly breeding" at Cape May Pt. (PD), however, where they have been present for the last 5 summers (ph. RMS, July 14). One was also at the Lily Pond, Brig., in July (RK).

The great shorebird show in this Region is so dependent upon local conditions that generalization is difficult. At J.B.W.R., where Arthur Morris is continuing Tom Davis' survey, arrivals were late and numbers down, probably because an algae bloom filled the usually sensational e. pond. By contrast, Barber found the peak early at Brig., around July 24, and there were many early arrivals in the interior. Inland shorebirding centered on drought-shrunk lakes rather than rain pools, and places like Green Lane had good counts—especially when the aftermath of Hurricane Bob downed migrants at the peak of migration July 26. There were over 200 shorebirds of 8 species at Green Lane that day, including some rarely seen inland such as an early Ruddy Turnstone and the area's 2nd Willet (GLF). We suspect that this was a western Willet interrupted on its way SE by the

storm, rather than an Atlantic coastal bird carried inland. A Sanderling, unusual inland at the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Pa., July 27 (DHe), was probably downed by the same storm.

American Oystercatchers, having abandoned the beach, are flourishing on sand bars in coastal lagoons. On the s. shore of w. Long Island, where they began nesting only in the early 1960s, the Jones Beach barrier strip contained 65 pairs (60 last year, BL); comparable increases were noted at J.B.W.R. (DR) and in the Town of Hempstead (JZ).

A Solitary Sandpiper was very early July 9 at Green Lane (GLF). Hudsonian Godwits were in normal numbers, the best concentration being of about 12 at the Line Is., Great South Bay, L.I., in late July. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was studied carefully at Bay P., East Rockaway, L.I., June 5-6 (ph. M. Lindauer), but could not be located again.

The troops out searching for vagrant Palearctic waders at the crucial moment in late July, when the first southbound adults are still in bright plumage, were rewarded again. A **Rufous-necked Stint** in rapidly fading alternate (breeding) plumage was at J.B.W.R. from July 27 until at least Aug. 11, when it was becoming difficult to pick out among the other peep (ph R. Cech, G. & M. Dreameaux, AM). This provided the first state and 2nd Regional record, following one at Little Creek W.M.A., Del., in July 1984. A **Little Stint**, similarly in fading alternate plumage, was minutely studied at Brig., July 22 (RBa), and found again—or just possibly another—July 24 (RBa, BMo, H. Langridge), but unfortunately not after that. This species was first recorded in this Region at Little Creek, Del., in May 1979 and has been found in July the last 2 years at J.B.W.R. In addition to the Curlew Sandpipers now annual at Brig. and J.B.W.R. (July 14-17, AM, J. Gee), a bird in high plumage was at Moriches Inlet, L.I., July 25 (PBe, P. Gillen). The only Ruff reported was inland at the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Pa., July 16, for a 2nd *Lancaster* record (RMS, DHe). We suspect that most of these Palearctic waders, with the possible exception of Ruff, arrive from e. Asia rather than from Europe.

Wilson's Phalaropes were unremarkable (*e.g.*, seven at Brig., July 30—RBa), and one Red-necked Phalarope was at Bombay Hook in late July (APE, JFS, BMo).

**GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMER** — The N.J.D.F.G.'s biennial helicopter survey suggests that breeding gull populations in New Jersey have levelled off (LN), as Buckley suggested several years ago for Long Island:

Adults:	1983 and 1985	
Laughing Gull	58,307	52,550
Herring Gull	5237	4738
Great Black-backed Gull	260	234

Remarkably far inland was an imm. Laughing Gull at Green Lane, providing the first record there, joined by another July 27 (GLF, RWi, m.ob.). A lingering Little Gull was at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., June 1. A Com. Black-headed Gull in breeding plumage was at Port Mahon, Del., June 13 (APE, JFS), and a subadult was at J.B.W.R. the next day (PAB). A California Gull in 3rd-summer plumage was at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., July 31 (ph PAB).

A colony of about 25 Gull-billed Terns at Brig. was the biggest ever found in New Jersey. Their now-annual late summer foray into the Jersey pine barrens peaked at 55 at Whitesbog, Burlington, July 31 (L. Little). For the 2nd summer in a row Caspian Tern bred in New Jersey, at Brig., in tidal wrack near Laughing Gulls and Gull-billed Terns (RK), not the same location as last summer's nest. Two were seen irregularly throughout the period along the Hudson R. in Orange and Ulster, N.Y. (B. Terwilliger, JPT). A few Sandwich Terns were around in coastal New Jersey in early July (JDo, PD), and two more mid-summer Roseate Terns: Holgate, July 7 (JDo), and Cape May, July 21 (PD, L. Mills). Maryland and e. Long Island, respectively, are these species' nearest known breeding locations.





*Third-summer California Gull at Jones Beach S.P., Long Island, N.Y., July 31, 1985. Photo/P.A. Buckley, who noted that this bird's orbital ring was "dull carmine overlaid by ash-grey."*

Common Terns did well on L.I. (DP), and the N.J.D.F.G. helicopter survey showed a small increase in New Jersey to 6015 adults (5566 in 1983). In Delaware, where there is no well-established colony at the moment, 25 nests were found in Rehobeth Bay (W & SF). An unusual number straggled inland, which may suggest saturation of available breeding habitat. One at Green Lane June 16 furnished the first June record there (GAF). A single was at the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Pa., July 18 (DHe), and six were riding debris in the Hudson R. at New Hamburg, *Dutchess*, July 6 (BW). Forster's Terns have increased steadily in New Jersey since 1976 (2333 adults in 1985, 1624 in 1983, LN), and a few were around in their newly-established w. Long Island beachhead (AJL, JZ). The first major known Delaware nesting colony, about 75 pairs, was discovered June 4 in Rehobeth Bay (W & SF).

Least Tern numbers are slipping, and breeding success was low yet again. The N.J.D.F.G. survey turned up only 315 adults, as compared with 656 in 1983. Their saving quality, in the face of incessant harassment on the open beach, is speedy shifts to new habitat. Eight to 10 pairs, for example, nested successfully on new landfill at the Vince Lombardi Service Area on the Jersey Turnpike (W. Wander). Even local increases seem precarious. The Delaware Audubon Society turned up 935 adults in June, the highest number since 1977, but all nests this year were concentrated in one vulnerable colony, and only 56 chicks were found (AF). Two ad. Bridled Terns were at "point blank" range 23 mi off Hereford Inlet, N.J., July 21 (CS).

#### S.A.

Although Black Terns sometimes linger in this Region (e.g., three on a small lake near Forest City, *Susquehanna*, Pa., June 13, D. Brauning), something entirely different seemed to be going on in a salt marsh abutting Gardiner's Bay, L.I., when one spent all of June and July in a small Com. Tern colony. "Extremely territorial," it chased away other birds, patrolled approaching humans, flew in with fish and out without them. In the end, there was no evidence that more than one bird had been present. The best hypothesis seems to be that it was stimulated by the nesting behavior of the Com. Terns (ES). Witmer Stone and Julian Potter observed similar behavior on several occasions in coastal New Jersey in the 1920s and 1930s (Stone, *Bird Studies at Old Cape May*, 1937, p. 595).

Black Skimmers were apparently stable on L.I. (DP) and increased slightly in coastal New Jersey, according to the N.J.D.F.G. helicopter census (1259 adults, compared with 1149 in 1983, LN). The Delaware Audubon Society's census found 70 skimmers in 2 flocks, but we have no information about nesting success (AF).

**OWLS TO CREEPER** — The responsiveness of Com. Barn-Owls to availability of nest sites was shown at J.B.W.R. where 26 young were banded at nest boxes (DR). Ominously, no Short-eared Owls were found in the extensive N. Harrier research carried out on the s. shore of L.I. (ME). Does this species still breed in our Region? Following several spring N. Saw-whet Owl reports, fledglings were found near Hawk Mt. (LG) and near Hamburg, Pa. (KAG), and a pair was at Hawley, *Wayne*, Pa. (VS). While Delaware atlassers found a few Whip-poor-wills in *New Castle*, n. of their *Sussex* stronghold (APE), and there were some encouraging reports from n.e. New Jersey (GH, PBa), it was the "worst year for them" in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Atlassers there have found them in only one place. It is a species that bears watching.

Red-headed Woodpeckers remain spottily distributed in this area, and their 1983 advances into L.I. and Great Swamp, N.J., have not established sustained breeding colonies. Delaware atlassers found them limited to 11 localities in a compact area around Millsboro, and nowhere else in the state. Their breeding areas are falling to drainage and clearing for agriculture (RLW). A Red-bellied Woodpecker near Accord, *Ulster*, N.Y., marked the present n.w. boundary of this expanding species (BW).

Alder Flycatchers were "in almost every suitable nesting location" in the Pequannock Watershed, n.c. New Jersey (PBa). Weissmann was able to find Alder and Willow flycatchers "almost anywhere n. and w. of *Westchester*," N.Y., by taping in suitable habitat (she adds that while she tapes for atlassing, she opposes it for "recreational" purposes). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher closely studied at a horse farm near Millbrook June 25 (J. Bontecou) provided a first *Dutchess*, N.Y., record.

Cliff Swallows continued their recent spread on bridges and other man-made structures in this Region. A new colony of 11 nests was discovered on the dam control tower at Peace Valley, *Bucks*, Pa., in mid-July (AM), and 2 nests were found again this year at Impounding Dam, *York*, Pa. (DHe). Of 4 new colonies found by the N.J.D.F.G. along the Delaware R., 3 were on bridges and one on a barn (LN). Five nests (on a barn) at Wassaic were the first in *Dutchess*, N.Y., since 1970 (BW). Our most southerly Com. Raven report was of one at Locust Lake S.P., *Schuylkill*, Pa., June 1 (RWi).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were "exceptionally numerous" in the s. Catskills (BW) and in the c. New Jersey highlands, where they first bred only in the early 1970s (PBa), and they were already spilling out of the breeding areas by July 27 (Scott's Mt., *Warren*, N.J., GH). A pair was carrying food and presumed breeding in the lowlands at Crosswicks, n. *Burlington*, N.J. (*vide* RJB), and a vagrant turned up at Great Gull I., L.I., June 26-July 4 (JDiC). Atlassers in Delaware have found that Brown-headed Nuthatches are present not only along the coast but are thinly spread across *Sussex* n. to Milton and w. to Nanticoke W.A. (RLW). Brown Creepers continued their S expansion. Singing birds were at L. Warren, *Bucks*, Pa. (SF) and near Hawk Mt. (MJS), and atlassers in Delaware found them at N. Wilmington, W. Dover, and Redden State Forest (*vide* RLW).

**WRENS TO WARBLERS** — Carolina Wrens have recovered or exceeded 1970s pre-crash levels in most places. The s. *Lancaster* count June 6 found 55, compared to an average 27 for 1977-1984 (RMS).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were in "most every spruce grove" in the Pequannock Watershed, n.c. New Jersey, where they began breeding only in the early 1970s. Weissman finds that in *Westchester* and *Sullivan*, N.Y., they do not need mature spruce, but will use young plantations. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are still "very numerous and spreading" in the n. of this Region,

especially *Sullivan*, N.Y. (BW) A Hermit Thrush with two fledged young at Wild Creek Res., *Carbon*, Pa. (RW, S. Boyce) was at its s.e. limit in Pennsylvania, although a few breed near the coast in the Pine Barrens. Most of our correspondents thought Brown Thrashers were scarce. Some evidence of coastal plain breeding of Cedar Waxwings was provided by a pair in courtship at Cape Henlopen S.P., July 14-15 (APE, JFS, J. Skolnicki). White-eyed Vireos are still expanding in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR).

A pair of "Lawrence's" Warblers was at Hawley, *Wayne*, Pa. (VS). Northern Parulas, a once-common breeder now only spotty here, were discovered at 2 locations in n. Delaware (APE) and were up in s. *Lancaster*, Pa., where the June count found 21 as opposed to an average 10 during 1977-1984 (RMS). There were encouraging reports from *Montgomery*, Pa. (GLF), and up the Delaware R. in New Jersey and into New York (BW). Several Magnolia Warblers in the Pequannock Watershed (PBA) furnished the first probable breeding records for New Jersey since the early 1970s.

Pine Warblers bred in some locally unusual inland locations: *Hamburg*, Pa. (KAG), the n.c. New Jersey highlands (PBA), and, for the first time since 1940, *Westchester*, N.Y. (TWB). Weissmann found them "much more common" than expected in s. *Sullivan* and w. *Orange*, N.Y., where they clearly prefer red pine or pitch pine to white pine (red pine has died out in Westchester). In Delaware they are common in *Sussex*, but, curiously, atlasers have reported only 2 locations n. of Dover.

Prairie Warblers were reported down in s. *Lancaster* (RMS) and on L.I. (PBe), but this species is notoriously dependent upon early stages of scrub growth after fires or clearing, a habitat fought by both agriculture and suburbia. The Cerulean Warbler colony at White Clay Cr., Del., reached 12 pairs (DM, JWR), and the new colony on e. Long Island was still in place (ES). We learned of 2 new colonies along the Blue Mt. range in central Pennsylvania (BLM), and good numbers around Hanover (DHe) and in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Atlasers in Delaware have found the Worm-eating Warbler's range to be opposite that in the range map in Peterson: common in *Sussex*, but missing n. of Dover (RLW). They are increasing in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR), and enter New York along both the Hudson and Delaware River systems (BW). A **Swainson's Warbler** was carefully described at Bushkill, Pa., June 27 (E. Brown).

Kentucky Warblers are doing well. In s. *Lancaster*, Pa., they have advanced from 14 to 46 rather steadily over 9 successive June counts. Schutsky speculates that gypsy moths have aided them by opening up the canopy. At the n. limit of their range, they are increasing in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR), and probably bred at Kakiat P., *Rockland*, N.Y. (*vide* RFD). A Connecticut Warbler, very rare in spring, was impeccably described near Newport, *Cumberland*, N.J., June 1, complete with long undertail-coverts (RBA). A Mourning Warbler June 14 was a good find near Dallas, *Luzerne*, Pa. (M. Blauer, J. Hoyson). A Hooded Warbler feeding newly-fledged young at Shu Swamp established the 2nd confirmed breeding on L.I. (BS).

**BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES** — The *Cumberland*, N.J., singing ♂ Dickcissel probably remained unmated (RBA). Another sang near Seaford, Del., June 20-July 14 (BR), apparently fruitlessly.

New Jersey Audubon Society and the N.J.D.F.G. have studied grassland sparrows extensively for the past 2 summers, using the listening-route system to cover 54 7-minute quadrangles containing significant grasslands. Vesper Sparrow was recorded on only 2.6% of the stops (PK), mostly in *Somerset* and *Warren*. In Delaware, by contrast, atlas work has found them "common" across the center of *Sussex* in extensive ditched fields, an expanding habitat (RLW). They were also "common in the right habitat" around *Hamburg*, Pa., where Grim found 22 in 2 hours and 37 minutes in 2 blocks. Grasshopper Sparrows were found at 5.6% of the New Jersey stops (PK) and were

"numerous" in Amish farm country w. of Dover, Del., where use of natural fertilizers and fallow fields favor grassland birds, Delaware atlasers have found them in 40 of the state's 222 study areas (RLW). On the other hand, Henslow's Sparrows do not seem to occur any longer in Delaware (RLW). They are also slipping in n.e. Pennsylvania, where only one location was occupied, near Dallas (WR).

Eastern Meadowlark, another species suffering in the more built-up parts of this Region, was doing well in the Amish farm country w. of Dover, Del. (APE). Boat-tailed Grackles are now at Sandy Hook, N.J. (PAB), thus filling in the gap between their Brig. stronghold and their new outpost on w. Long Island. A Purple Finch nest at Locust Lake S.P., *Schuylkill*, Pa., marked a new s.e. Pennsylvania locality (RWi).

**EXOTICS** — A banded Black-hooded Conure was at Piermont Pier, *Rockland*, N.Y., July 6 (P. Derven).

**OBSERVERS** (Subregional compilers in boldface) — J.M. Abbott, Pete Bacinski (PBA), Robert Barber (RBA), M.V. Barnhill, Paul Bernath (PBe), **Irving Black** (n.e. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), **R.J. Blicharz** (n.c. NJ: 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, NJ 08638), Jim Brett (JBr), P.A. Buckley, F.G. Buckley, Joe Burgiel, **T.W. Burke** (s.e. NY: 235 Highland Ave., Rye, NY 10580), **R.F. Deed** (Rockland Co., NY: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, NY 10960), Joe DiCostanzo, Jim Dowdell (JDo), **Peter Dunne** (coastal NJ C.M.B.O., Box 3, Cape May Pt., NJ 08212), **A.P. Ednie** (New Castle & Kent counties, DE: 21 N. Wells Ave., Glenolden, PA 19036), Marilyn England, Steve Farbotnick, Ann Faulds, Ed Fingerhood, William & Sally Fintel, G.A. Franchois, **W.W. Frech** (Sussex Co., DE Carr. Rt. 3, Box 1144, Lewes, DE 19958), G.L. Freed, Laurie Goodrich, K.A. Grim, Doug Gross, Al Guarente, **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. NJ RD 3, Box 263, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865), Dorothy Hartmann, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Paul Kalka, Rich Kane, D.E. Kunkle, A.J. Lauro, Brook Lauro, S.R. Lawrence, C.S. Marvel, **J.K. Meritt** (s.w. NJ 809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, NJ 08012), August Mirabella, Dorothy Miller, Doug Miller (DMi), Arthur Morris, **B.L. Morris** (e. PA 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown, PA 18104), Brian Moscatello (BMo), Frank Murphy, New Jersey Division of Fish & Game, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Larry Niles, Dave Peterson, Eleanor Pink, Peter Plage, **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Don Riepe, Bob Russell, J.W. Russell, Eric Salzman, Mike Scheibel, R.M. Schutsky, M.J. Spence, Barbara Spencer, Voni Strasser, Clay & Pat Sutton, J.F. Swiertniski, **J.P. Tramontano** (Orange & Sullivan counties, NY: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), R.T. Waterman Bird Club (Dutchess Co., NY), W.J. Wayne, Berna Weissmann, R.L. West, Ruck Wiltraut (RWi), John Zarudsky. — **ROBERT O. PAXTON, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027, WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., 13A Kensington Rd., Chatham, NJ 07928, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.**



Henry T. Armistead

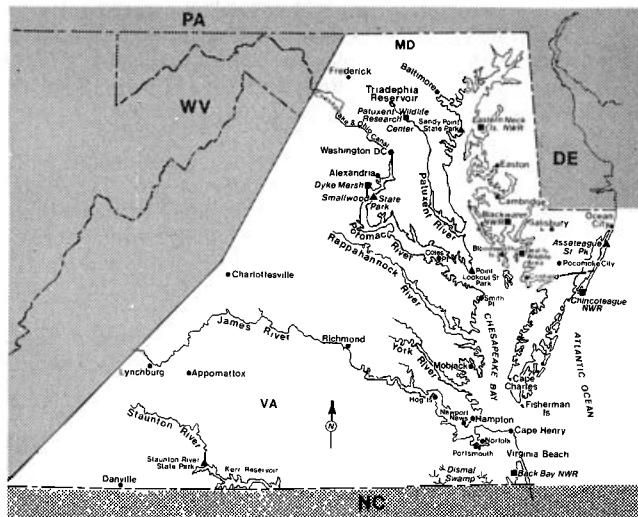
Summer's weather was variable enough within the Region that generalizations are difficult. June averaged about 0.8°F below the norm with precipitation a bit lower than usual in the north, a tad higher in the southern part. July's warmth was exactly average with the same pattern of precipitation as in June, Tropical Storm Bob bringing much-appreciated rain to Virginia but no fallout of good birds. In spite of this the drought continued and most lakes, reservoirs, and impounded areas were very low. Onshore winds brought some seabirds, deep-water fish, and blue water closer in than usual. Colonial waterbirds were well reported, as is usual for summer, even if many of them were in low numbers. In most cases the colonies were visited just once, which is good for the birds, less good for knowing how they actually fared. Except for the increasingly important results of the atlases, landbird reporting was less than inspired, as is usually the case.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, Va.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; H.M.C.P. = Huntley Meadows County Park, Fairfax Co., Va.; Lilypons = Lilypons Water Gardens, Frederick Co., Md.; S.P.S.P. = Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel Co., Md. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH STORKS**— Scarce as a summer vagrant, a Red-throated Loon was at C.B.B.T., June 28 (D & MM). The only Horned Grebe reports were of singles in Maryland at Thomas Pt., *Anne Arundel*, June 26 (HF, *fide* WK) and Bloodsworth I., June 1 (PRS, HTA, AJ). What was apparently the first multiple-pair nesting of Pied-billed Grebe in Maryland outside of Deal Island W.M.A., where 15 were seen July 21 (RFR), took place at Brandon Shores, *Anne Arundel*, where a pair had three young June 26 and another pair had four young July 4 (RFR, EB) on a pond with only *Phragmites* as shoreline vegetation. Three pairs also bred at H.M.C.P., s. of D.C. (JMA), bringing off at least eight young on a beaver pond. Out from Wachapreague, Va., three Cory's Shearwaters were seen 26 mi offshore June 28 (BT), an Audubon's Shearwater was present 17 mi out July 11 (GR), and an Audubon's was seen in July (HG, date?).

On the lower Bay there was a large fish kill in late May. Easterly winds brought blue water and ocean fish close in shore. Tuna were caught within sight of Parramore I., Va. The first Bay records of Blue Sharks were secured (GR, HG). And some pelagic birds were seen up the Bay all the way to Pt. Lookout, *St. Mary's*, Md., where 19 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen (here and in the mouth of the Potomac) July 30 (CJ). Just up from the Virginia capes in the lower Bay 80 were counted from "R/V Holton" June 3 (RLA). Other sightings of Wilson's Storm-Petrels from shore were of 67 in Ocean City, Md., inlet July 29 (MO) and various others from Cape Henry (D & MM), Quinby Inlet, Va. (BT), and Chinc. (MO). Off Ocean City 1500 were estimated June 15 plus single Greater, Cory's, and Sooty shearwaters (MSG, *fide* CPW).

An Am. White Pelican summered in the Metomkin I., Va., area where it was seen July 1 (BT). Brown Pelicans invaded again with a peak count of 232 on Fisherman's I., about half of them immatures, June 16 (BW). They made a good showing in Maryland also with 11 at Ocean City June 23 (RFR) and 56 on Assateague I., July 12 (PO, MO). Other notable records were of 75 at Ft. Story (Cape Henry) July 30 (D & MM), one at Smith Pt. far up the Bay near the Maryland line June 9 (PR, *fide* BP), 27 at Chinc., July 25-26 (CPW), and 23 at Back Bay N.W.R., July 31 (DD), these all in Virginia. Many are hoping they will begin



breeding in the Region, the most likely location being Fisherman's I., which has had the biggest concentrations of them most frequently these past 4 unprecedented summers. For the 3rd time since 1978 Double-crested Cormorants bred near Hopewell, Va., the only Regional breeding records. At least 8 occupied nests were found July 14 (FRS, BR, JWD) in the midst of the Cattle Egret colony there. Summering birds continued to be common with 20 in D.C., June 13 (DC), 28 at Brandon Shores June 26 (RFR), 39 on the Susquehanna Flats June 20 (DLK), and farther down the Bay, where one would expect more, 146 in the Bloodsworth I. area June 1 (AJ, HTA, PRS). At Ft. Hunt, Va., two that were "pure white from chin to vent" were seen July 7, and 56 were nearby at Hunting Creek June 30 (JMA). Up to three Anhingas were present at Stumpy L. in Virginia Beach May 17-July 22 (JE, WS *et al.*) and one was reported at L. Smith about 10 mi n. of there June 26 (HCI *et al.*).

Major mixed heronries were found on Metomkin, Hog, Cobb, Wreck, and Fisherman's islands as a result of the 11th consecutive year of surveys of Virginia barrier islands from Assawoman I. s. to Fisherman's (BW *et al.*). Total numbers of adults seen were 373 Great Egrets (lowest since 1980), 655 Snowy Egrets, 213 Little Blue Herons, 389 Tricolored (4th lowest), 242 Cattle Egrets (most since 1982), 21 Green-backed Herons (3rd lowest), 1082 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 60 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (2nd lowest), 742 Glossy Ibises, and two White Ibises (at Fisherman's; has occurred on 6 of 11 surveys). Heronries in the



Immature White Ibis at Lilypons Water Gardens, Frederick Co., Md., July 17, 1985. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

c. Bay area in *Dorchester*, Md., remained extremely low as in the past few summers, except for Great Blue Herons, of which 139 pairs nested on Bloodsworth I., 48 of them on the 15 nesting pole platforms erected for them there (HTA, AJ, PRS). Heron counts at Chinc. plummeted in late July as impounded water disappeared, with these notable counts prior to this: Great Egret 146, Snowy Egret 397, and Glossy Ibis 569, July 18-19 (HLW, *fide* CPW). Eighty-one Little Blue Herons were there July 1-2 (CPW).

Least Bitterns were noted more than usual with small numbers breeding at such interior sites as Lilypons, H.M.C.P., and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in D.C. (MO, JMA, DC *et al.*). Eight pairs were on the upper Patuxent R., Md. (JG), 10 were at Back Bay N.W.R., June 10 (DD), and Dyke found 14 while canoeing at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., July 14. A single Great Blue Heron nest with young on the upper Monocacy R. above Rte. 140 furnished one of the few inland Maryland breeding records, seen July 20 on the Piedmont of *Frederick* (DW, DHW). White Ibises appeared at Lilypons (one immature) the last one-half of July (m.ob.), two to four were at Hopewell June 30-July 7 (JWD, PM *et al.*), and an immature was at Elliott I., Md., providing a first for *Dorchester*, July 30 (MO, ph.). At Hog I., *Surry*, Va., two imm. Wood Storks (ph.) and an imm. White Ibis were seen for most of July (BTa, DP, WM *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS** — Mute Swans continue to increase in the Hooper's I., Md., area where Droege saw 50 June 22. Canada Geese also are still increasing, especially in Piedmont areas, with many young birds (EB, EMW). More compelling news (although one wit quipped "On the other hand, it is a duck") was the first Maryland breeding of **Northern Shoveler**, a hen with seven young at Blackwater N.W.R., June 12 (DRP), also establishing a first Regional breeding record. Among the expected records of out-of-place summer waterfowl the most interesting were seven Ruddy Ducks at the Hurlock sewage lagoons, *Dorchester*, Md., July 21 (RFR), and 18 Black plus three Surf scoters off Metomkin I., Va., June 19 (BW); Scott's two Com. Mergansers at Richmond July 30 deserve a nod also.

Ospreys had a poor season on the Bay. High salinity levels may have resulted in poor food supply (PRS, MAB) and many young starved, especially in central Bay areas such as the Poplar Is., Broad Cr., and Martin N.W.R. in Maryland, more so than in 1984, which was also a rather poor year (PRS). The Region had a total of 125 known active Bald Eagle nests (60 in Maryland, 65 in Virginia). Of these 92 hatched 173 young (43 nests with 80 young in Maryland; 49 nests with 93 young in Virginia). In Maryland 63 of the young were banded, and 71 of the Virginia young were tagged. This compared favorably with nest totals from 1982-1984 of 102, 107, and 113 respectively, and production of young was about on par with recent years (JMA). Unusual was a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Hayes, *Gloucester*, Va., July 28 (BW). In Maryland Cooper's Hawks have turned up in low numbers throughout the state, a somewhat unexpected result of state atlas work (EB). Northern Harriers are maintaining their numbers wherever there is extensive marsh on the Bay, the coast and the E. Shore of Maryland and Virginia (RFR, HTA, BW, SD).

Black Rails were common at Elliott I., *Dorchester*, Md., with tales of them attacking tape players there June 15 and July 16. One wonders how much of this noise pollution they can tolerate. Mention of it here is perhaps irresponsible, yet it is a wondrous scenario. Even though much of the marsh there is never trespassed by birders, use of tapes should be discouraged. A nest found July 18 had 6 eggs, 7 July 19, 8 July 20-22, but by Aug. 2 the eggs had hatched and another nest found July 19 had recently hatched out (BB, *fide* HLW). Small numbers of Blacks are believed to breed in coastal *Worcester*, Md. (EB). King Rails were present at H.M.C.P., Lilypons, and Mckee-Beshers W.M.A., *Montgomery*, Md. (v.o.). An adult with five juv. Virginia Rails was at Lilypons July 21-28 (RH *et al.*). Common



*Limpkin w. of Ellicott City, Md., June 1, 1985. Photo/Michael O'Brien.*

Moorhens were also present at Lilypons, Mckee-Beshers W.M.A., and H.M.C.P., and several pairs were at Brandon Shores (v.o.). Non-breeding Am. Coots were found in *Baltimore*, *Worcester*, and *Dorchester*, Md., by Ringler, and a pair with young was at Deal I., June 15 (SHD), for one of the few state breeding records, although they probably breed there every summer. The **Howard Limpkin** was seen at least until June 9 (MO, WS, FM, DLK *et al.*, ph.).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Williams' Virginia islands survey found only 18 Wilson's Plovers on 5 islands, the lowest in 11 years, while Piping Plovers totalled 95 on 9 islands, the lowest since 1981, and 1079 Am. Oystercatchers were counted, lowest since 1980. Unusual far up the Bay for the Virginia w. shore was an Am. Oystercatcher nest with 2 eggs near Bluff Pt., *Northumberland*, June 2 (JR, *fide* TK), a large range extension for the w. side of the Bay. At Chinc., two Black-necked Stilts were seen June 2-3 (DnP), and a group of five at Deal I., July 21, was suspected of being a family group (RFR). There is still no Maryland breeding record. American Avocets were present during July at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., the peak being 27 July 23 (HCI), a mere shadow of the hundreds sometimes found here in years when there is more standing water.

Good Baltimore area waders at Hart and Miller Is. were an Am. Avocet, a Whimbrel, four Sanderlings and a probable record state count of 175 Stilt Sandpipers July 28 (RFR, EB). In *Carroll*, Md., at Liberty Res., low water encouraged shorebirds; 17 Solitary Sandpipers, a Sanderling (2nd county record), seven Pectoral Sandpipers, and five Short-billed Dowitchers (2nd county record) were seen at this Piedmont site July 27 (RFR *et al.*). Low or no water plagued the Chinc. shorebird counts. Wilds conducted 6, and Wierenga one, 2-day counts here. "A humdrum summer . . . because of the horrid drought" (CPW). Peak counts included: 37 Piping Plovers, 375 Ruddy Turnstones, 15 White-rumped Sandpipers, and 1443 Semipalmated Sandpipers June 6-7, most of these spring migrants, of course; 61 Greater Yellowlegs, 31 Pectoral Sandpipers, and 954 Short-billed Dowitchers July 11-12; 91 Semipalmated Plovers, 19 Spotted Sandpipers, 106 Willets, 117 Lesser Yellowlegs, 426 Least Sandpipers, nine Stilt Sandpipers, and five Hudsonian Godwits July 18-19; 107 Whimbrels, 209 Red Knots, 95 W. Sandpipers, five Hudsonian Godwits, and 1441 Sanderlings July 25-26. Semi-rare species included a Lesser Golden-Plover July 11-12 (three July 10) and Wilson's Phalaropes June 13-14 & 30. On the betwixt and between dates of July 1-2 these birds

were seen, some of them early fall migrants: seven Black-bellied Plovers, a Ruddy Turnstone, a Whimbrel, 11 Greater Yellowlegs, a Red Knot, a Least Sandpiper, 30 Short-billed Dowitchers, three Semipalmated Sandpipers, a Hudsonian Godwit, and 10 Sanderlings.

Godwin I., Va., was godwit island with nine Marbled Godwits June 21, and two the next day in company with a well-seen Long-billed Curlew, the latter still a very rare but probably regular bird each year on the Virginia E. Shore (BT). Summer Red Knots are unusual in Maryland and this year 45 were in the Ocean City area July 12 (MO, PO) and 30 June 23 (RFR). Notable for D.C. were three Sanderlings July 27-28 (DC). Least Sandpipers were noted in several areas July 4-8 (RFR, DLK, LW), the first southbound migrants, and a late spring migrant was at Adam I., *Dorchester*, June 1 (PRS, AJ, HTA). An early Pectoral Sandpiper was at False Cape S.P., Va., July 6 (DS). Just received is the report of a Purple Sandpiper seen well at Hooper's I., Nov. 10, 1984, new for *Dorchester*, Md., and extremely rare on the e. shore of the Bay (KS, CS). The Curlew Sandpiper at Chinc. lingered until June 1 (TS, *vide* CPW). Bass reported two Long-billed Dowitchers at Nokesville on the Virginia Piedmont July 21, a rarity for that area.

**GULLS THROUGH TERNS** — At S.P.S.P., the site of the majority of Maryland's Franklin's Gull records, single birds were seen this year June 14 & 19 and July 15 (MO). Single



Subadult Franklin's Gull at Sandy Point S.P., Md., June 14, 1985. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

summer Bonaparte's Gulls were at Chinc., June 20 (CPW), and Hurlock, Md., June 23 and July 21 (RFR). Unique was a well-studied ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Chinc., July 25 (CPW). At Hart and Miller Is., Md., Blom and Ringler counted 500 ± Great Black-backed Gulls, probably a record Regional summer total, plus 100 Caspian Terns and one Black Tern July 28. This dredge spoil area, often excellent for waterbirds, unfortunately sometimes has restricted access. On the Virginia barrier islands survey gulls and terns fared as follows (number of adults counted): Herring Gull 2403 (6 islands), Laughing Gull 19,624 (2 islands; 19,056 of these on Wreck I.), Great Black-backed Gull 186 (highest ever; 5 islands), Gull-billed Tern 270 (lowest ever; 6 islands), Com. Tern 1843 (lowest in the 11 years of the survey; 9 islands; 1017 of these on Ship Shoal I.), Least Tern 717 (lowest since 1982; 8 islands), Royal Tern 7166 (4th highest; on Fisherman's and Metomkin islands), Sandwich Tern 18 (with the Royals), Caspian Tern two (nest with two downy young on Hog I.), Forster's Tern 59 (3rd lowest; 2 islands, but many nest in marsh areas not covered by this survey), Black Skimmer 3406 (lowest ever; 8 islands) [BW *et al.*]. Islands with the greatest variety of the 24 waterbirds censused were Metomkin with 21 species and Hog and Fisherman's islands with 16 species each. These were disappointing totals but a lack of washouts or other



Two views of the apparent Elegant Tern at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., June 20, 1985. If the identification can be proven (ruling out the very similar Cayenne Tern and other species), this would be a first for the Atlantic coast of North America. Photos/Claudia Wilds.



disturbances may have meant the birds that were there had good reproductive success.

Rare this far up the Bay were three Gull-billed Terns at S.P.S.P., July 10 (MO, PO, ph.). Vagrant Caspian Terns were as widely reported as ever all over the Bay with 12 at the Susquehanna Flats, Md., June 20 (DLK). Weske and Buckalew banded 5886 Royal and 20 Sandwich Tern chicks in Va. (3831 and 18 respectively at Fisherman's I.; 2049 and two at Metomkin I.) including six Royals on a sand island which has been building up s. of Chinc., a very good year for these. The precarious Royal colony in the mid-Bay near Shanks I., Va., had 300 pairs June 13 (ME, *vide* JSW, air survey) but on July 4 it had only destroyed eggs, a few Royals attending these, and 31 Black Skimmer nests (JSW). The bird of the year, perhaps of the decade, was at Chinc., June 20, bearing all the field marks of an **Elegant Tern** (CPW, ph.). World tern experts are being polled. Preliminary returns are favorable and if validated this would represent only the 4th record for e. North America (from Texas east). Sandwich Terns wandered N to Ocean City where two were seen July 20 & 27 (RFR, WS). Most unusual was a **Sooty Tern** on n. Ship Shoal I., Va., June 17 which "flew around us calling . . . at very close range" (BW, BT *et al.*). A Black Tern was in D.C., July 27 (DC), and the high count at Chinc. was 21 July 18-19 (CPW).

**GOATSUCKERS THROUGH SHRIKES**—Chuck-will's-widows are considered by some observers to be spreading and perhaps replacing Whip-poor-wills in some areas (EB). Several observers have been impressed by the opportunism of Red-headed Woodpeckers which settle in recently-logged woodlots with standing dead trees, breed for several years, and then move on to other similar areas (RFR, EB, SHD, HTA). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen continually jabbing at a 2-3 in. frog on the ground at Algonkian Regional P., Va., June 13 (EMW). Single Alder Flycatchers were reported from Monkton in n. *Baltimore*, Md., June 1 (PO, JO) and at Lilypons July 21 (RH). Many miles s. of the nearest known Delaware breeding areas was a Willow Flycatcher singing on territory on St. Martin's Neck, *Worcester*, July 20 (RFR) in coastal Maryland, possibly indicating the first breeding for Maryland's E. Shore. Several birders felt E. Kingbirds were increasing and noted their fondness for sycamores in the D.C. area (JMA, DC). The star flycatcher was a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** well seen June 14 n. of Oak Grove, *Westmoreland*, Va., 2 mi from where one was seen July 9-12, 1984 (FL, JE) *et al.*.

A large Purple Martin roost formed at Gum Springs, e. *Fairfax*, Va., with 500 as early as July 10, 2000 ± July 17, 8000 July 20, and 15,000 July 30 in company with robins, starlings, cowbirds, grackles, and Red-winged Blackbirds (JMA). Another roost at Hampton, Va., held 10,000 ± martins in late July (TK). A Bank Swallow colony near Hopewell still had young July 28, possibly a record late state date (FRS, JWD), and good counts of Banks included 1000 at Hart and Miller Is., July 28 (EB, RFR), and what were presumed to be post-breeding wanderers as early as June 16 in *Dorchester* and *Caroline*, Md. (RFR) and June 20 in D.C. (DC). Cliff Swallows nested under the Rt. 50 bridge over the Severn R. at Annapolis, Md., further evidence of a slow range expansion s. and e. (EB).

Astounding was a Red-breasted Nuthatch in n. *Carroll*, Md., in the Hanover Watershed July 10 in company with 60 Golden-crowned Kinglets frequenting large spruce plantings (EB). This is on the Maryland/Pennsylvania border, and Droege found several more nuthatches just n. of the line. Blom regards the spruces and not elevation as the factor limiting these birds. Even more surprising was a Red-breasted Nuthatch feeding with Pine Warblers near Hopewell, Va., on the coastal plain July 30 (PM, *fide* FRS). A pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches at Church Hill, *Queen Annes*, Md., in July may have been the northernmost ever seen in the state (EB). Brown Creepers continue to turn up almost anywhere in Maryland, with only 5 ± breeding records before the atlas began and records now in over 70 atlas blocks, although the majority are along the Potomac and Pocomoke rivers and in w. Maryland (*fide* EB). More unusual than most of the Maryland birds was one at Williamsburg, Va., July 26-27 (BW). After their unprecedented breeding in most of the Region in 1984 Cedar Waxwings were again widespread but not as numerous as last year (v.o.). On the basis of past records the Maryland atlas very reasonably began requiring documentation for all Coastal Plain waxwings, but the past 2 summers have made this unnecessary (EB). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported only from Lucketts and Upperville, Va. (EMW, BS).

**VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES**—Unusual was a Solitary Vireo in mid-July near Lilypons along the Monocacy R. (DHW, *fide* EB), this species being very scarce as a breeder in Maryland e. of the westernmost county, *Garrett* (EB). The only coastal plain Cerulean Warblers the Maryland atlas has produced were several at Elk Neck, *Cecil* (C), *fide* EB). Weird was the sighting of a Prothonotary Warbler being chased across the Pocomoke R., Md., by a Laughing Gull June 7 (RFR), a most surprising prey item. A real rarity was an out-of-place Swainson's Warbler well seen at Scientists Cliffs, *Calvert*, Md., June 22 & 24 (RAA) on the w. shore of the Bay. The suggestion is made that rich, lush understory resulting from the death of tall trees (from gypsy moths) may benefit Kentucky Warblers and perhaps other spe-



Female Dickcissel carrying food to nest s. of *Frederick*, Md., July 17, 1985. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

cies (RMS, EB), and in the midst of what was a mature oak forest a few years ago in n. *Caroline*, Md., were Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and Yellow-breasted Chats (WK).

A Dickcissel was at S.P.S.P., June 14 (MO) and as many as three males and two females were in *Frederick*, Md., July 17 near the intersection of routes 80 and 85 (MO, ph.). Small numbers were seen at several other spots in *Frederick* (DHW). A Bachman's Sparrow was found in *Warren*, N.C., within a mile of Virginia (HEL), tantalizingly close, but this species remains *in extremis* in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. Contrary to a paucity of reports elsewhere in the Region were 98 Grasshopper Sparrows counted at Lynchburg, Va., June 1 (*fide* MM). Two ♂ Bobolinks at Lilypons July 17 were difficult to categorize (MO) but some 15 near Upperville, *Fauquier*, Va., including eight males (date?) were undoubtedly breeding birds (BS). Unusual but not unprecedented were reports of N. (Baltimore) Orioles from 3 locations in Richmond (BR, FRS). They are unusual as breeders this far e. and s. in the Region. To end on a dull note, yet we must attempt to chronicle the mundane as well as the glamorous, numerous observers continued to comment on the increase and spread of House Finches.

**OBSERVERS**—J. M. Abbott, Margaret Abbott, R. A. Anderson, R. L. Anderson, K. H. Bass, Eirik Blom, J. H. Buckalew, Bill Burt, M. A. Byrd, David Czaplak, D. S. Davis, Donna Dewhurst, J. W. Dillard, Sam Droege, S. H. Dyke, Ethel Engle, Mike Erwin, A. J. Fletcher, Helen Ford, Hans Gabler, M. S. Garland, John Gregoire, Bob Hahn, Robert Hilton, H. C. Irving, Clark Jeschke, J. E. Johnson, Alice Jones, Teta Kain, D. L. Kirkwood, Wayne Klockner, Frank Laubinger, H. E. LeGrand, David Mehlman, Woody Middleton, Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, Paul Mocko (PMo), Myriam Moore, Floyd Murdoch, Paul Murphy, Paul Nistico, Mark Oberle (MkO), John O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, D. R. Perkuchin, Darrell Peterson, Don Peterson (DnP), Bill Portlock, Mike Purdy, George Reiger, R. F. Ringler, Peyton Robertson, Betsy Roszell, R. R. Runkles, Joyce Russell, Kurt Savoie, R. M. Schutsky, Don Schwab, F. R. Scott, P. R. Spitzer, Tom Stock, Wally Sumner, Byron Swift, Charles Swift, Brian Taber (BTa), Barry Truitt, David Walbeck, D. H. Wallace, J. S. Weske, H. L. Wierenga, C. P. Wilds, Lew Wilkinson, Bill Williams, E. M. Wilson, T. R. Wolfe, Charles Ziegenfus.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

**Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.**

The dry weather of spring continued into the summer in the Southeast. Stormy weather in the latter one-half of July broke the dry spell, highlighted by Hurricane *Bob* late in the month. Temperatures over 100°F occurred in early July but were more seasonable later in June and in July.

As happens each summer, field work was disappointingly limited. This scarcity of observations is especially acute in the Coastal Plain, and again no full-scale surveys of heronries or gull/tern colonies were made (or at least reported). Whereas a number of states in the country have conducted (or presently are conducting) Breeding Bird Atlases, the three states in this Region continue to show little interest in encouraging field projects (such as atlases and forays) during the nesting season. Thanks to the continued pelagic work of Lee, Forsythe, and others, we seem to know as much about summer bird distribution in the Gulf Stream as we do in the inner Coastal Plain! In fact, the highlights of the season did not involve breeding birds; they were the remarkable numbers of storm-petrels off North Carolina and the pelagic birds inland displaced by Hurricane *Bob*.

**HURRICANE BOB**— This was one of the seasonally earliest and most unusual hurricanes to hit the Region. In late July it was a tropical storm in the northern Gulf of Mexico that cut eastward across northern Florida into the Atlantic Ocean. It moved northward just off Georgia July 24, carrying winds of 75-80 m.p.h. Late on that day it hit shore southwest of Charleston, S.C., and moved somewhat due north during the day of July 25. Because the hurricane spent so little time over the open Atlantic, few birders expected any exciting records from the storm. As it turned out, few birds apparently were displaced, at least inland, but what birds they were!

On the 25th, Post toured L. Marion, S.C., which was in the direct path of *Bob*. He found only one hurricane waif—a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** (\*C.M.), the first ever inland for the Region. Also on that day, in North Carolina, a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** was observed at Woodlake, Moore Co. (JHC *et al.*), and a **storm-petrel, sp.** (?) was noted at Jordan L. (PF, *vide DL*); these are the first far-inland storm-petrels for that state. Lastly, an ad. **White-tailed Tropicbird** was seen flying over Jordan L., also on the 25th (HL, AC, DC); the second ever inland for North Carolina. Coincidentally, that state's first inland record was also at Jordan L., following a hurricane (*David* in 1979). It must be pointed out that these species were undoubtedly carried inland within the eye of the storm; they were not blown inland by strong winds.

**LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA**— A lingering Com. Loon inland was at Seven Lakes, Moore Co., N.C., June 15 (DT, SP); whereas a first mid-summer record of Pied-billed Grebe for n.w. South Carolina was established with one at Clemson June 18 (CW). Perhaps Georgia's most successful pelagic trip ever was one taken June 29 that reached 93 mi from shore off Jekyll I. (TM, CH *et al.*). Tubenose species recorded were one Black-capped Petrel; 88 Cory's, five Greater, and just two Audubon's shearwaters; and 43 Wilson's and five Band-rumped storm-petrels. A Black-capped Petrel was seen by Forsythe off Murrells Inlet, S.C., June 8; and Lee *et al.*, not surprisingly, recorded this species on all 7 pelagic trips this summer out of Oregon Inlet, N.C. (Table 1). Again this summer, no Sooty Shearwaters were observed, probably because their N migration is essentially complete in the



Region by mid-June; no pelagic trips off North Carolina were reported during the first 20 days of June. Likely the highlight of the multitude of pelagic trips was the observation of remarkable numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels, formerly considered only a rare spring and fall migrant and a casual visitor in mid-summer. One off Charleston, S.C., July 13 (DF) was very rare for that state; and truly amazing counts were made off Oregon Inlet (Table 1). The Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, a highly "wanted" species by visiting birders, is hardly a rarity now off that inlet from late May through August (Table 1).

No tropicbirds were reported offshore (only inland!), but the rarer Masked Booby was found—singles off Oregon Inlet June 22 (DL) and off Jekyll I., June 29 (CH *et al.*). An Am. White Pelican was again present all summer on the Ashley R., at Charleston (SC), and another was found in a Brown Pelican nesting colony at Cape Romain, S.C., July 17 (WP). Weske banded 124 young Brown Pelicans at Oregon Inlet, and he reported that many others had already fledged. This species is doing very well in the Region, although Georgia still does not yet have nesting pelicans. Post's visit to L.

**Table 1.** Pelagic observations off Oregon Inlet, N.C. (*vide DL*)

Species	6/21	6/22	6/23	6/24	7/14	7/15	7/25
Black-capped Petrel	16	7	2	5	77	17	22
Cory's Shearwater	143	230	32	76	174	65	46
Greater Shearwater	3	17	7	33	11	13	4
Audubon's Shearwater	80	75	8	123	103	33	19
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	81	70	561	73	238	73	127
Leach's Storm-Petrel	6	12	50	10	27	12	
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	11	9	4	5	8	21	4
Masked Booby		1					
Pomarine Jaeger				1			
Parasitic Jaeger						1	
Long-tailed Jaeger						1	
jaeger-sp.					3		1
Bridled Tern	4	2			1	1	3
Arctic Tern	2						

Marion, S C, July 25 to check for hurricane waifs resulted in a highly significant finding—15 active **Double-crested Cormorant** nests, the first report of breeding of the species in the state. This record closely parallels the discovery of several pairs—also nesting well inland—at Jordan L., N.C., this spring (KK); the species still breeds at L. Ellis-Simon, N.C., the only other such site in the Region. Anhingas made news throughout the North Carolina Coastal Plain this spring, and unprecedented numbers continued this summer. They apparently bred at Jessup's Mill Pond, s. of Fayetteville (PJC, MWh), and 3 nests were found at Great L., and 3 more at L. Ellis-Simon, both in Croatan Nat'l Forest (JWa). Apparently non-breeding were 24 near Weldon July 30 (RY). Hopefully, this "invasion" is not just a one-year fluke caused by a poor breeding season farther s.

**WADERS, WATERFOWL** — Comments were mixed on the breeding success of heronries in the Region, depending in part on local water levels. A previously large heronry at Midville, Ga., was nearly deserted June 8 (AW *et al.*); many nests were abandoned, apparently a result of hail and other bad storms earlier that month. The large heronry at Drum I., Charleston, S.C., was carefully monitored by Post. Although herons and egrets did well there, White Ibises crashed from 17,000 pairs in 1984 to 1300 pairs this summer; and few of these pairs reared young. A large colony of White Ibises near Georgetown, S.C., also fared poorly (*fide* WP). The severe drought in the spring was the major culprit.

Slightly out of habitat was a Least Bittern at a parking lot at Norcross, Ga., June 8 (*fide* TM); it was released the next day along the Chattahoochee R. Post-breeding dispersal of waders inland was about normal, as compared with previous years, although the ratio of Great Egrets to Little Blue Herons continues to swing to the former, so that it far outnumbers the latter on Piedmont lakes when 15-20 years ago the reverse was true. A pair of ad. Little Blue Herons June 16-23 near Fayetteville, N.C. (JS) was notable; could they have been breeders? A good count of Tricolored Herons inland was of six, July 26 at Jordan L. (RD, AB). A first inland for South Carolina was an imm. **Reddish Egret** near Townville July 28-30 (SCox, CW, SG); and a Reddish Egret at Topsail Inlet, N.C., Aug. 4 (MG, *fide* GM) was one of just perhaps a half-dozen records for that state. Many double-digit counts of Cattle Egrets were made in Fall Line counties of n.e. South Carolina (CW, BH), making one believe an undiscovered heronry or two is present in the Lee/Chesterfield/Kershaw counties area. A Charlotte, N.C., birder (DLo, *fide* HW) has had Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in his backyard for 3 summers, including two together this June; breeding must be occurring nearby. Surprisingly, all Piedmont records of White Ibises came from North Carolina, with sightings from Winston-Salem (RW, RS, BP), Jordan L. (AB), Falls L. (AB), Star (JNe), Ringwood (ML, KL), and s.w. Lee County (JHC, JWa). As mentioned earlier, White Ibises had a disastrous nesting season in many places, and so did the Glossy Ibis, which is disappearing from the scene in this Region. The Glossy, which is "low man on the totem pole" in heronries fares poorly in stormy weather. Perhaps the population increase of Glossies farther n. along the Atlantic coast is simply a result of emigration from the Southeast. No one reported whether Wood Storks are still nesting in Georgia or South Carolina (although they probably are), but non-breeders were noted more frequently than usual, such as one near Fayetteville July 28 (JS, PJC, JC), one at Bald Head I., N.C., Aug. 4 (MR), and 12 over I-75 near Unadilla, Ga., July 17 (JBE). Notable stork totals were 250 in the Santee R. delta, S.C., July 1-10 (WP) and 45 in w. Laurens County, Ga., July 10 (TKP).

The only noteworthy duck reports were of lingering birds, such as a few Ring-necked Ducks in summer in Georgia at Peachtree City L. (PB) and in Monroe County (TJ, FG). A ♂ Lesser Scaup lingered at Augusta, Ga., to June 27 (AW, VW), as did a Ruddy Duck most of the summer at Peachtree City L. (PB). A Surf Scoter was out of season at Harker's I., N.C., July 11 (SkP).

**HAWKS THROUGH MOORHEN** — American Swallow-tailed Kites were formerly common breeders along the Savannah R., s. of Augusta, but reports have been scarce in recent decades. However, the kite may be on the increase, as 12 were seen together over the river in Hampton County, S.C., in early May (JEC). A nest was also found here, as were 2 nests of Mississippi Kites this summer (JEC). Record Piedmont numbers of Bald Eagles occurred at Jordan L. this summer; counts of 32 on June 29, and 42 on July 27 (MWe, KK, HL), were most unexpected. These eagles, as well as scattered others inland, are likely to be post-breeders from farther s., especially Florida. A handful of summer sightings of both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were reported, as usual; whereas several Broad-winged Hawks were observed in June-July in Carteret County, N.C., well to the e of the breeding range (LC, JF). American Kestrels, which nest in the most bizarre places, were this season reported using an old Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity (JHC) and a pipe over a highway that supports road signs (TH).

Fussell heard a Black Rail calling June 23 at Back Cr., N.C., along the Carteret/Craven county line; this new site is somewhat farther inland than other known coastal locales. King Rails were heard calling at 2 sites near Clemson, S C., in early June (CW *et al.*). The Virginia Rail probably breeds sporadically inland in each state, but records are sparse. Thus, notable were one heard calling near Clemson June 1-6 (CW) and one seen at a Winston-Salem, N.C., golf course July 19-21 (KS, RP, *fide* RS). A Sora—not known to breed in the Region—was found dead on a road at Sunset Beach, N.C., June 29 (PJC *et al.*). A good count of Purple Gallinules was of 12 adults and 20± chicks in Decatur County, Ga., July 6 (PR). A rare mid-summer visitor was a Com. Moorhen near Whispering Pines, N.C., June 16-late July (SV, DT)

**SHOREBIRDS** — Black-necked Stilts, very local nesters along the coast, bred perhaps for the first time near Wilmington, N.C.; several pairs plus young were present on Eagle I., just w. of the city (JN, GM). Also at this site—a dredge spoil pond—were two Am. Avocets July 22 (JN). Hurricane *Bob* may have been responsible for the presence of Willets at Jordan L., July 25 (AB) and near Townville, S.C., July 28-29 (CW), plus a Whimbrel at Jordan L., July 27 (T & JK). Also notable inland were two Sanderlings at Jordan L., July 22 and a different bird July 25-26 (AB), plus another in a parking lot at Norcross, Ga., July 29 (JB). A possible Rufous-necked Stint was reported in mid-July from Eagle I., near Wilmington. Thorough details were provided, but the observation, by just one person, was rather brief; the observer wished not to publish the record in full. Early Least Sandpipers on July 7 were six each near Dublin, Ga. (TKP) and in Clayton County, Ga. (RM, DM). Seldom seen inland in July was a White-rumped Sandpiper, in alternate plumage, on the 14th at Jordan L. (AB). Eagle I. was also the location of other notable sandpipers: a Baird's July 14-18 (JN), eight Pectorals June 14 (GM), and 100+ Stilts June 2 (GM). A few other Stilt Sandpipers appeared at L. Hartwell, S.C. (CW), Falls L. (AB), and Jordan L. (AB) by late July. Rare for the coast in summer, and definitely out of habitat, was an Am Woodcock in Russell's yard in Morehead City, N.C., June 13. The only phalarope report for the season was of 25 Red-neckeds off Charleston July 27 (DF).



**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — Forsythe saw a Parasitic Jaeger off Murrells Inlet, S.C., June 8, whereas Lee *et al.* had one sighting of each of the 3 jaeger species off Oregon Inlet this summer (Table 1). Interestingly, the two jaegers on the July 15 trip were flying together and initially called Pomarine Jaegers by those on board; however, their correct identities were determined only in hand (\*, N.C.S.M.). Needless to say, identification of jaegers when not in adult breeding plumage is quite difficult. A Laughing Gull far inland near Greensboro July 26-Aug. 5 (HH) likely was displaced by the hurricane, as were a few Ring-billed Gulls at Jordan and Falls lakes (AB, BW, MW). Weske continued his banding of chicks of Royal and Sandwich terns on the North Carolina coast, totals of 16,249 Royals and 2904 Sandwiches were similar to those of 1984. Fairly good numbers of southbound Caspian Terns were found inland in North Carolina during July at Falls L. (BW, MW, HL), Jordan L. (AB, RD), L. Townsend (HH), and Roanoke Rapids L. (ML); whereas three at Jordan L., June 23 (DC) were quite early. One of the few Royal Tern records for the Piedmont was of one seen at Jordan L., with a Forster's Tern, July 25 immediately following Hurricane *Bob* (AB). As usual, there were scattered inland reports of migrating Forster's, Common, and Black terns in July, with the best record likely the four early Blacks at Clayton County, Ga., July 6 (DH). Though no Sooty Terns were detected on pelagic trips, an adult "landlubber" spent the summer in a tern colony at Cape Hatteras, N.C., first being seen June 26 (WG, JW). Sooties have nested in that state on several occasions, but this bird showed no signs of breeding.

**DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — Far from its breeding range was a Com. Ground-Dove seen in flight in e. Edgecombe County, N.C., June 8 (ML, HL). Perhaps a record early fall sighting of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was one observed and heard calling near Fayetteville July 21 (JS) by a birder familiar with the species in Illinois. Although Willow Flycatchers probably breed in many places in the upper Piedmont of North Carolina, only 2 reports from this area were received—a nest with four eggs at Winston-Salem June 20 (RS *et al.*) and one singing in c. Rockingham County June 25 (AB) The Gray Kingbird is a nearly annual visitor as far n. as North Carolina; that state's second for the year was one at Ft. Macon S.P., Jun 27 (JF, MD). This kingbird was again present on Sea I., Ga., where two were seen June 30 (PB, HG, TM), a few pairs probably nest every summer on the coast of that state, but poor accessibility to most coastal islands hinders a thorough study. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared near Sanford, N.C., July 12 and for a few days thereafter (CA, RJ, *vide* DB). Though it was seen for several days and was within an hour's drive for dozens of birders, word of its presence was received too late for all but a lucky few.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS** — Two early-migrating Tree Swallows were noted June 29 at Jordan L. (DC, HL), and also at that lake a non-breeding Bank Swallow was with breeding Cliff Swallows in June (AB). Jordan L. also had a great increase in breeding Cliff Swallows; dozens of nests were found under at least 4 bridges (HL *et al.*). However, the only other new site (for 1985) reported from that state was at Mayo Res., Person Co., where 7 nests were counted May 23 (ML, HL). Completely out of season was a Red-breasted Nuthatch in a Goldsboro, N.C., yard all summer (EDE). After unsuccessful nesting attempts over the previous few sum-

The Loggerhead Shrike news, as most readers can probably guess, was mostly bad everywhere in the Region, except for the Georgia Coastal Plain, where the bird is still reasonably numerous. Elsewhere, shrikes are steadily declining to the point of endangered status; this decline seems to be spreading southward. Practically no one has reported an increase in summer sightings in a given area, and nearly all observers see fewer (or none) with each passing summer. Making matters more puzzling are the facts that suitable habitat is still abundant and reasons for the decline have never been pinpointed with certainty. An intrinsic factor (such as disease) is a possible cause. Whatever the reasons, a sense of hopeless despair is present, and there is little optimism that anything can be done to reverse the situation.

mers, a House Wren produced offspring at Fayetteville this year (HR). Most unusual, though not unprecedented, were singing House Wrens in recently burned pocosins in w Carteret County, N.C.—one June 11 and another 3 mi away June 12 (HL). Probably at first for Georgia in June was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the 24th at Stone Mt. (PB). Cedar Waxwings showed a remarkable outbreak in the Region last summer, but 1985 was a more modest season. The best report was of a nesting colony, near Winson-Salem, where 8 nests were found June 27 at Tanglewood P. (RS, RW, BP, CF). Another nest was found with three fledglings at Raleigh July 14 (J&DBo, *vide* TH). This latter city is somewhat outside the usual breeding range, if anything about waxwings can be called "usual"!

Solitary Vireos are not known to breed in the Region's Coastal Plain, except rarely in the Sandhills; thus, completely unexpected was a juvenile that hit a window at Oriental, N.C., July 12; it was banded and released (DFoy).

**WARBLERS** — This was probably the poorest effort of the decade by Regional birders in uncovering new and exciting range extensions by breeding warblers. Very late migrants were a Black-throated Blue Warbler near Dublin, Ga., June 2 (TKP) and a singing Yellow-rumped Warbler at Rocky Mount, N.C., June 4 (RD). A Cerulean Warbler was heard singing along the Neuse R., e. of Raleigh in late June (DC), the first breeding season record for the state's Piedmont in many decades. The species breeds farther e. along the Roanoke R., but a follow-up next year along the Neuse is needed to see if a breeding population is actually present there. Worm-eating Warblers apparently breed in scattered locations in the n. Coastal Plain of South Carolina; thus, a possible nester was one netted near Mayesville June 21 (ED). One seen at Eagle I., near Wilmington July 30 (JN) might have been just an early migrant, but the species perhaps nests nearby. Rare in the Piedmont were singing Swainson's Warblers in Lancaster County, S.C., June 9 (CW) and near Stockbridge, Ga., June 22 (TM, PM). Good counts for the North Carolina Coastal Plain were 13 Swainson's Warblers in the Green Swamp near Juniper Cr., June 28 (MB, GM) and 42 Ovenbirds on a Breeding Bird Survey route June 15 in Hertford and Gates counties (ML).

**TANAGERS THROUGH SISKIN** — A singing ♂ Scarlet Tanager was noted all summer near the edge of the nesting range at Mayesville, S.C. (ED), and also near the periphery were singing birds in Cumberland County, N.C., at 3 locales this summer (PJC, JH). A wildfire in late April in Croatan Nat'l Forest, N.C., led to increased numbers of Bachman's Sparrows in summer in Carteret County (JF). Fire is beneficial to this sparrow in the

Coastal Plain because it kills many shrubs and saplings that invade the open longleaf pine forests and promotes a thick cover of wiregrass. In the Piedmont, where nesting occurs in overgrown fields and clear-cuts, two were in Fairfield County, S.C., June 21 (CW) and one was in n.e. Warren County, N.C., June 5 (HL). A Lark Sparrow, presumably on territory, was seen at Nijmegen Drop Zone in Ft. Bragg, N.C., June 25 (JHC *et al.*); nesting occurred here last summer. Near the edge of the breeding range were three singing Grasshopper Sparrows n.e. of Maxton, N.C., July 20 (HL).

**S.A.**

Not surprisingly, new locales were discovered for Henslow's Sparrows in the North Carolina Coastal Plain. The northernmost record was of one singing near Topsy, Gates County, June 15 (ML, KL), and the westernmost was another singing in n.e. Wilson County, June 29 (ML, KL). Also in new places were two heard in w. Martin County and a remarkable 13 singing in adjacent Edgecombe County June 8 (HL, ML). Filling in a gap in the previously known distribution was one singing in w. Carteret County on several dates in June (JF *et al.*). All birds were in recently clear-cut pocosins, where young pine saplings are present. Other Henslow's were reported from sites discovered in 1983 and 1984, and certainly the sparrows are breeding (presumably) throughout much of that state's Coastal Plain. Clear-cutting of the pocosins by timber companies, and subsequent replanting in loblolly pine saplings, has been ongoing for several decades; thus, the birds have perhaps been nesting for the same length of time. Could northward migrating birds in spring be "short-stopping" in eastern North Carolina to breed, and if so, is this at least partly responsible for the decline in Henslow's as breeders in states farther northward?

The N (Baltimore) Oriole nests in the Region only sporadically, most in n.w. North Carolina; thus, perhaps not unexpected was a male on territory June 10-13 near Winston-Salem (RS *et al.*). House Finches continue to spread into the Coastal Plain as breeders. A pair with three young was at Williamston, N.C. (ET); a nest was seen in Sumter, S.C., fledging three young (CM, *vide ED*); an adult was at nearby Florence July 30 (*vide ED*), and an adult was feeding juveniles at Augusta (AW, VW). Very late were four Pine Siskins at a Winston-Salem feeder until June 9 (RS).

**CORRIGENDUM** — A N. Goshawk taken for recuperation at Athens, Ga., in December 1982 (AB 38:306) was erroneously stated to be an immature. The bird was an adult, which appears in a photograph in *Oriole* 49:11-12.

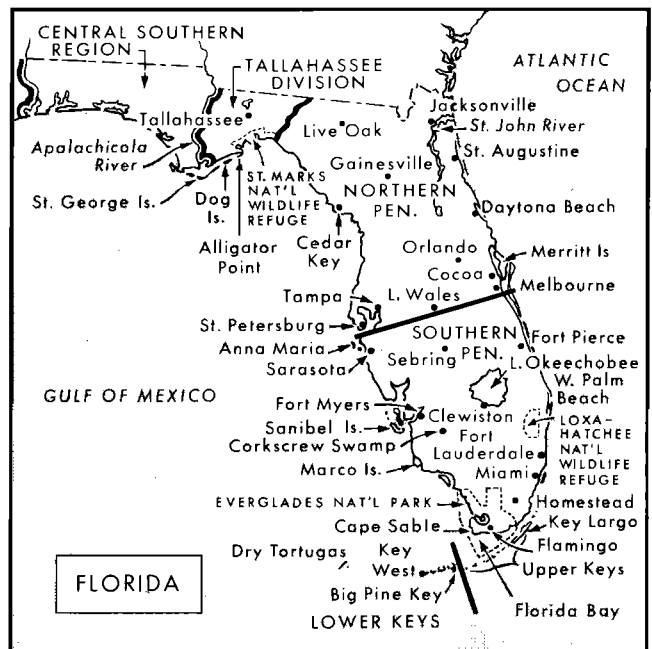
**OBSERVERS** — Clyde Adkins, Maurice Barnhill, James & Dee Bowers (J & DBo), Patrick Brisse, Dick Brown, Jerry Brunner, Allen Bryan, Ann Carter, Derb Carter, J. H. Carter III, J. E. Cely, Charleston Museum, Steve Compton, Steve Cox (SCox), Larry Crawford, Jim Crutchfield, P. J. Crutchfield, Evelyn Dabbs, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean (EDe), Mike Dunn, J. B. Elmore Sr., Dennis Forsythe, Dorothy Foy (DFoy), Peter Frederick, Charles Frost, John Fussell, Mark Galizio, Hugh Garrett, Sidney Gauthreaux, Walker Golder, Fred Granitz, Chris Haney, Dale Hardy, Herb Hendrickson, Bill Hilton Jr., Tom Howard, Jarvis Hudson, Ross Jarvis, Terry Johnson, Tom & Janet Krakauer (T & JK), Kathy Kuyper, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Dick Lowell (DL), Karen Lynch, Merrill Lynch, Cathleen Mallard, Didi Manns, Robert Manns, Greg Massey, Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Jeremy Nance, John Negus (JNe), North Carolina State Museum, Barbara Page, Richard Page, T. K. Patterson, William Post, Skip Prange (SkP), Steve Prior, Paul Raney, Henry Rankin Jr., Marcus Rich, Jim Sipiora, Ramona Snavelly, Kim Spear, Dick Thomas, Ed Torrence, Skip Vetter, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Jeff Walters (JWa), Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Melinda Welton (MWe), John Weske, Morris Whitfield (MWh), Harriet Whitsett, Robert Witherington, Charlie Wooten, Randy Yelverton.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.**, 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.

**FLORIDA REGION**

**Richard T. Paul**

In 1984, summer season weather in Florida was marked by refreshingly cool temperatures in early June and no tropical storms. This year a stationary high pressure system in early June brought an 8-day, state-wide heat wave and the highest temperatures on record as previously set records melted from Tallahassee to Key West. The highest temperature was recorded at Ocala June 4: 106°F. Soaking rains June 12-14 broke the heat, and also a severe drought: over the 12-month period ending in May 1985, 28.5" of rain were recorded at Tampa International Airport, just 61% of normal and the second lowest total of any 12-month period on record. May stream flows in west-central Florida averaged just 19% of seasonal norms, an indication of just how dry wetland systems were. Farther south near Naples and Ft. Myers, drought conditions did not ease until July 22-23 when Tropical Storm *Bob* crossed the state from Ft. Myers to West Palm Beach, with peak winds of 50 m.p.h., *Bob* was not strong enough to do much damage, but the rains (up to 11.6" at Marco Island and 7.8" at Ft. Lauderdale) helped ease local drought conditions.

The heat wave and tropical storm had few detectable effects on breeding birds, but other conditions did. They were the drought, which predictably affected the quantity and quality of wetlands, and the two freezes of December 1983



and January 1985 (see my previous summer report and Wayne Hoffman's winter reports) which killed mangroves and other vegetation in coastal nesting colonies from Tampa Bay and Haulover Canal north.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.S.&N. = Clear Spring and Noralyn Phosphate Mines, D.T. = Dry Tortugas, G.F.C. = Fla. Game and Fresh water Fish Commission, M.V.R. = Myakka Valley Ranches, Tally Div = Tallahassee Division.

**SHEARWATERS THROUGH PELICANS** — This year there were no reports of birds seen offshore during pelagic trips. The only shearwater reported was an Audubon's, found weak on Flagler Beach about July 20, and released there on the 29th. Eight Masked Boobies, no doubt holdovers from the flock seen last spring, were at Middle Key, D.T., June 5 (WR *et al.*). Single Brown Boobies were seen at Bush Key, D.T., June 30 (WR *et al.*) and Crocker Reef off Plantation Key July 6 (SS). Highest inland counts of Am. White Pelicans were 59 at Lower Myakka L., a rarely worked site, July 21 (BL), and 177 at C.S.M. July 28 (PF). The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's now biennial aerial survey of Brown Pelican colonies, was flown June 18-19. If estimates at Tampa Bay colonies are any guide, the survey followed peak nesting but the statewide estimate of 9078 pairs is still the highest ever (SN). Pelicans nested in freeze-killed mangroves at Alafia Bank in 1984, but this year crowded into live trees that provided more cover and/or stronger nest support (RP). Pelicans at the big Port Orange colony may also move as the dead mangroves there deteriorate (SN). Brown Pelicans occasionally turn up inland, and this year one did at L. Kissimmee June 10 (HE, LG).

**HERONS THROUGH STORKS** — There were several indications that the drought affected heron nesting. Ted Below found nesting numbers of Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Little Blue and Tricolored herons in the Naples area down from last year, and much fewer than would be expected from the numbers of herons counted in flights to evening roosts. In Everglades Nat'l P., Sonny Bass reported no summer heronries except for one small one dominated by Cattle Egrets. At Alafia Bank, nesting White Ibises declined from 10,000 pairs in 1983 and 5800 last year, to 2400 in 1985 (RP). White Ibises also declined at the big Seahorse Key colony, to just 500 pairs (G. Carowan). These are all coastal or near-coastal sites. One indication that inland colonies were also down was that a G.F.C. heronry monitoring program was interrupted owing to a lack of colonies to study.

At L. Kissimmee, 18 Least Bitterns — an impressive number of this secretive species — were found June 3 (LG, BC, GC, MM). Single Blue "Great White" Herons were well away from their usual range at Ft. Kissimmee on the Kissimmee R., June 20-July 29 (JW, LP), at s. Jacksonville June 21-July 3 (PP, MD), and at Duda Farms near Belle Glade July 21 (LA *et al.*). At Lower Myakka Lake July 6, notable numbers of wading birds were observed including 380 Great Egrets, 164 Snowies, and 149 Glossy Ibises (BL). One to three Reddish Egrets were seen at North Casey Key s. of Sarasota throughout the period (S & AS), an area where nesting has not been confirmed in decades. A Reddish Egret nest was confirmed at Pelican I., in mid-April (JR), where there have been strong indications of nesting in recent years. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Duda Farms near Belle Glade peaked at 120 on July 27 (PS), where numbers of other herons seemed lower than last year. A Scarlet Ibis was found on a nest at the Greynolds P. colony in N. Dade County June 8 (BN). Early migrant Glossy Ibises were detected in the Keys, where 15 were southbound over the reef line off Plantation Key (GP) July 4, and 22 were bound SSE over Plantation Key July 8 (KS). Roseate Spoonbills were twice found inland at Lower Myakka L., five June 8 and three July 21 (BL). Northerly spoonbill records of interest were: one near St. Mark Light June

17-July 9 (RC, JC *et al.*), and one at Tallahassee July 22, the first Leon Co. record (DE). About 5000 pairs of Wood Storks were tallied at 23 colonies (including 280 at 4 colonies in GA and SC). They produced about 4400 young, probably not enough to maintain population numbers of this endangered species (JO). At one stork colony, Pelican Island N.W.R., young in one-third of the nests were found dead in mid-April — due apparently to human disturbance (JR). Following breeding, storks disperse widely across Florida and may be found almost anywhere. Numbers at Zellwood exceeded 250 in late July (m.ob.), but more unexpected were the four storks found in n.e. Madison County July 4, somewhat away from their usual range (HS). They landed on a high hillside in a soybean field during a rain and began to feed! But on what?

**WATERFOWL** — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks peaked at just 136 birds at Duda July 27, a far cry from last year's 5300 (PS). Ten more, including two young, were found at Zellwood July 9 (LG, BC). Two Egyptian Goose nests were found on Shell Key, St. Petersburg, May 17 (SP, WH). The Ringed Teal reported last spring was present until June 4 at Wellington, Palm Beach County (HL, HS). Mottled Ducks at Duda peaked at 2500 June 29 (PS, BH). There was a Mottled x Mallard hybrid at Boca Ciega Bay June 2, one of two present since spring 1984 (LA). Up to 12 summering Blue-winged Teal were present in June at C.S. & N (PF, SB). Six more were at Zellwood July 9 (LG, BC) and one at Duda July 6 (PS, BH). Other waterfowl of interest at C.S. & N were a N. Shoveler and one to three Ruddy Ducks present through June, and a Lesser Scaup July 28 (PF, SB, LG, BC). Black Scoters were found June 2 in Hillsborough Bay (SP) and June 17-18 at St. George I., where SC thought his 2 sightings, 5 mi apart, were probably of the same bird. The Surf Scoter first seen May 27 in Hillsborough Bay was present through the first week of June (SP).

**RAPTORS** — A flock of 22 Am. Swallow-tailed Kites seen near Copeland June 22 (BH, HL, m.ob.) was the largest number reported. Noteworthy sightings of single birds were: 2 separate reports in s. Duval County June 1 (possibly the same bird — PP, JPC), July 1 w. of Wakulla (JDW) and July 17 near St. Mark Light (RW).

#### S.A.

As Herb Kale noted in his spring report, nesting of Snail Kites in s. Florida was disrupted by severe drought conditions and they dispersed widely across the state. Four nests were reported from L. Kissimmee (JT), however, where LG *et al.* also found 23 birds June 3. Most of the 30 kites found at a 75-acre Wellington impoundment in May remained through June (m.ob.), where twice one was seen to feed on a turtle (JT). The best news, though, was from n.c. Palm Beach County. There, in an 18-20/mi<sup>2</sup> area of upper Loxahatchee Slough wetlands, a roost was found in June of 372 birds. This area remained wet throughout the drought, and kites remained until it reflooded following summer rains. The good news is that kites were able to find areas in which to "hide out" during the drought, and further that small isolated pockets of wetlands can be of substantial importance to kites during stressful periods. Ironically, the roost was found just after the site had been selected for a new landfill and incinerator. Currently plans, planning agencies and kites are up in the air.

The G.F.C.'s annual aerial survey of nesting Bald Eagles turned up some good news too. This year 387 active territories were found; 280 were successful and 435 young were produced for the best production noted since the program began in 1973

(SN) Since 1979, the survey has reported at least 340 pairs annually. Hopefully new increases now reflect the discovery of new pairs, and not just old ones. Nesting Cooper's Hawks were reported from Matanzas N. M., where four young fledged in July (BP), and Archbold Biological Station, where at least three young were produced (FL). Two other Cooper's Hawks were found five mi n.w. of the latter nest, a bird of unknown age June 22, and an imm. female July 20 (FL). Both were in sand pine scrub habitat. The lone Short-tailed Hawk report was of a dark morph found June 12 near Gibsonton (WH). Single Am. Kestrels were found in early June at Gibsonton, where a pair or two has nested for several years (SP), Hooker's Pt., in the Port of Tampa (early June—WH), and on S.R. 60 w. of Lake Wales July 24 (TP). Henry Stevenson found six kestrels July 9, one in s.e. Suwannee County and five in n.c. Gilchrist County.

**TURKEY THROUGH PHALAROPES**— A brood of 13 young Wild Turkeys June 25 was evidence of breeding at St. Marks N.W.R. (JF). Seventy Sandhill Cranes at Lower Myakka Lake July 6 (BL) must have been an impressive sight.

Snowy Plovers were reported from N. Casey Key after a hiatus of a year, where a pair raised one young that was seen through June 25 (S & AS). Four pairs of Snowies nested with a Least Tern colony on Longboat Key's n. beach, with at least two raising one young each (M & BS). Ten pairs of Wilson's Plovers were found nesting with Least Terns, at N. Casey Key May 29 (S & AS), and two more with Least Terns at Longboat Key May 25 (M & BS). High counts of Black-necked Stilts peaked at 188 at C.S. & N., July 13 (PT), and 875 at Duda June 29 (PS, BH). Nesting was found at both sites. Seventy Am. Avocets were found at C.S. & N., June 30 (PF, SB). A few "late" migrants at Honeymoon Island S.P., June 4 included six Semipalmated Plovers, four Marbled Godwits, a Ruddy Turnstone, five Red Knots, eight Semipalmated Sandpipers and a Short-billed Dowitcher (TB), and 14 dowitchers June 9 at Duda (HL, GH). Amid a spate of shorebird reports, the following "early" migrant reports seemed most noteworthy: 57 Lesser Yellowlegs at Duda June 29 (HL *et al.*), a very unusual Spotted Sandpiper at C.S. & N., June 30 (PF, SB), 25 Red Knots in basic plumage at N. Casey Key July 9 (S & AS), and six Pectoral Sandpipers at the Tallahassee sewage lagoons July 11 (HS). Some high counts included 1200 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 2100 Semipalmated, 86 Western and 2100 Least sandpipers at Duda July 27 (PS), and 81 Stilt Sandpipers at C.S.M., July 28 (PF). One of six Spotted Sandpipers at Duda on the same date still retained alternate (breeding) plumage (PS). Three Wilson's Phalaropes were reported at Duda July 27, C.S.M., July 28, and Tallahassee sewage lagoons July 31 (PS, PF, TM).

**LARIDS**— The imm. Great Black-backed Gull present at the Tortugas since March, remained through June. Sooty Tern chicks were a major food (WR). Gull-billed Terns were not found nesting in Tampa Bay this year (SP), but eight at Duda June 9 & 29 were courtship feeding (HL, GH, ME, TM). Four Gull-billeds were also seen at C.S. & N., July 13 (PT). About 50 pairs of Caspian Terns nested successfully in Hillsborough Bay (SP); this is still the only Caspian colony in Florida. At least 800 pairs of Royals were nesting at Passage Key by May 17 (SP), but there was no word on whether the colony at Merritt Island N.W.R. is still active. Roseate Terns nested at Bush Key, D.T., where 85 birds were seen in June (WR). The first effort failed, possibly due to Laughing Gull predation, and a second attempt was suspected (but results unknown). An ad. Com. Tern was reported, without corroborating details, from the Tortugas June 19 (JK), and an early alternate-plumaged Forster's Tern was at the Leon County sprayfield July 11 (HS).

There was good news of Least Terns from both coasts, and a disturbing note from the Keys. Near St. Augustine, colonies of 279 and 200 ± nests were reported from Matanzas N.M., and Anastasia S.P., respectively (BP, RJ). Nearly 500 pairs nested at the Caxambas and Big Marco Pass colonies near Naples, both of

which were posted (so was the Matanzas colony) and which were very successful (TB). The Stedmans reported the best nesting season in 8 years at N. Casey Key, where they banded 41 young from 62 nests. Another 50-60 pairs nested at Longboat Key's n. beach (M & BS). Rooftop colonies were found at the Bayfront Center, St. Petersburg (hundreds of birds—LA) and the Winn Dixie on Pine I. (RR). An inland colony was reported for the 3rd straight year from C.S.M., where 16 pairs were counted May 28 (LG, BC). Up to 40 Least were found throughout the period at the Leon County sprayfield, but no nesting was confirmed. In the Keys, M. Brown reported Least trying "desperately to nest along U.S. 1, among weed tufts, cans, bottles and people," between the Seven Mile Bridge and Sugarloaf Key (That may be an indication of the degree of disturbance these birds must endure, but I see it also as a measure of their incredible persistence.)

Sooty Terns at Bush Key, D.T. enjoyed a "remarkably successful nesting season" with 35,000-40,000 young produced (WR). Eighteen Black Terns, normally among the first of our southbound migrants, were seen July 29 at Duda, a date considered early for Palm Beach County by HL. There were several reports of Brown Noddies blown ashore at Marco I. by Tropical Storm *Bob*, totalling about 50 birds (m.ob.). Ted Below, summarizing the situation, reported Noddies and Sooties in a 5:1 ratio and noted that those he examined had recently molted and were very thin. Black Skimmers nesting near Marco I. nested successfully despite the passage of Tropical Storm *Bob*, which ended nesting July 23 but did not destroy the crop of fledglings. Sixty-one, from about 150 nests, survived, the best effort in about 15 years (TB). Nesting skimmers were also reported from Anastasia S.P. (60-100 pairs for the season—RJ), Longboat Key, where four pairs were present June 1 for only the 2nd nesting attempt there in 9 years (M & BS), and 43 mi inland at Duda where counts peaked at 100 birds, 15 nests with eggs and another 16 scrapes July 27 (HL, GH, PS *et al.*; note in prep.)

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS**— Two Ringed Turtle-Doves were reported from Homeland June 8 & 23 (BH), the latest of many recent reports of this spreading species. White-winged Doves may be establishing in residential areas of Lake Placid and Sebring, where M & HS and FL found them throughout March-June. The G.F.C. released 160 White-wingeds in 1976-1977 at 4 Highlands County sites, but until now they have been confined to citrus groves (FL). A Budgerigar near the Wakulla R., July 20 (J & LE) was thought to represent the 2nd Wakulla County record, although escapes in Tallahassee provide a potential source nearby (HS). Monk Parakeets were reported breeding in n. Tampa, apparently not for the first year (WH). The two Blue-crowned Conures at the Tortugas remained through the period (WR).

Common Nighthawk numbers were thought low this year by 2 observers in the Tally. Div. (RC, HS). Chimney Swifts, formerly quite rare on the Lower East Coast in summer, may be slowly increasing. One was seen entering the chimney of a deserted house in w. West Palm Beach at 9:30 a.m., June 30 (AL), a possible sign of nesting. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen May 30 at Siesta Key (EM), June 16 at Lake Alfred (LG), June 28 at Myakka Valley Ranches (DM), July 14 in the Green Swamp (BC) and on the same date (two birds) at L. Kissimmee S.P. (LG, BC). A ♂ Red-bellied Woodpecker seen throughout the period in Orlando lacked barring on the central tail feathers but otherwise had all of the field marks (D & WF). Outstanding was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, seen July 20 in Coral Gables (DO)! Also good news was word that 13 active Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies were located June 11 in the Corbett W.M.A., n.w. of West Palm Beach (MR).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH TANAGERS**— Four *Empidonax* flycatchers, including two probable young, were found in the Green Swamp of n.w. Polk Co., July 14 (BC). A Gray Kingbird, feeding at night on insects attracted to Coral Gables streetlights in July (DO), gets the season's humor award. More

on the spectacular side was the **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** photographed at Garden Key, D.T., June 6 & 8 (WR *et al.*). It appeared to be an adult in heavy molt (note in prep.). Purple Martins are well known as early fall migrants, but perhaps less familiar are sizable flocks that roost annually near St. Marks Light: this year 1025 were counted July 11, and 2450 on the 19th (CR). On June 30, eight imm. swallows, probably Trees, puzzled observers at C S & M. (PF, SB). Early migrants included 13 Tree and one Cliff swallows July 26. The first summer record of N. Rough-winged Swallows for Highlands County was of two birds seen 3 mi s of Lake Placid (FL), while three to four more seen June 9 at Jupiter were unusually far s. (JL, DW). Two or three partial albino Blue Jays were found in Tallahassee (JL *et al.*). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Corbett W.M.A., June 14 provided the first indication of possible nesting on the Lower E. Coast (HL, MR), but 13 seen in the Fakhahatchee Strand n. of Copeland indicated the summer regularity of the species on the Lower W. Coast (HL *et al.*).

American Robins nested at Bradenton, Tallahassee, Tall Timbers Research Station, Jacksonville, and possibly Tampa (HS, WB & RC, KU, AS). The Jacksonville pair reared four young on its 2nd try, in the same yard as last year (the 1st documented n e Florida nest, omitted from last year's report). Eight Gray Catbirds were found singing and acting territorial at L. Jackson where they have nested previously (HS). Another was found singing until July 1 near Bradfordville (WB). A N. Parula at M V R, June 21 & July 2 (GM) was a little s. for a summer bird. In the wake of Tropical Storm *Bob*, a Yellow Warbler thought to be an ad female was seen briefly July 23 in Naples (TB, who wrote: "seldom reported here and never in summer"). Two somewhat early Yellow-throated Warblers were found feeding in cabbage palms in Lake Alfred July 23 (PF). The 2nd Palm Beach County nesting of the Pine Warbler was confirmed June 1 when GH, HL *et al.* found a nest at the Corbett W.M.A. A Kentucky Warbler at St. Marks Light July 24 was about on schedule (DM). Sighting of one to two Yellow-breasted Chats throughout May near the Payne's Prairie observation tower, raised the possibility of nesting (AW, m.ob.), but no nest could be found. A Summer Tanager near Myakka S.P., June 19 was s. of usual breeding range (SP, LH).

**GROSBEAKS THROUGH COWBIRDS** — Blue Grosbeaks were thought more common this year than usual in Gainesville (BM), while singing males at Zellwood July 9 (LG, BC) and near Paynter in Polk Co., July 14 (HS) were near the s. limit of their breeding range. Surveys e. of Leon County suggested that Indigo Bunting numbers were down, but a singing male Painted Bunting at the Leon County sprayfield June 20 provided the 2nd summer county record for that species (HS). Four singing male Bachman's Sparrows at Corbett W.M.A., June 1 (HL) and a high

count of 13 more in s e Madison County July 3 (HS) were the only reports of this species. A Field Sparrow in song July 9 in s.e. Suwannee County was wide-ranging, as if newly mated (HS). A ♂ Bobolink at Wellington June 4 was moderately late for s. Florida (HS). A ♂ Boat-tailed Grackle (plus five to six others tentatively identified) near Pinetta, Madison Co., was well w. of normal breeding range July 3 (HS).

Brown-headed Cowbirds continued to increase in Florida. This season there were 7 reports. First evidence of breeding in Pinellas County was a nestling brought to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary June 2 (GW, note in prep.). Another young bird was seen being fed by a N. Parula in n. Clay County July 14, at the Duval County Audubon sanctuary (P. Biederwell). Elsewhere, a female was seen at Archbold Biological Station June 12 (JH, AE) for the first summer area record known to Florida, four males were at C.S. & N., June 30 (PF, SB), and 21 were at Zellwood July 9 (LG, BC). Farther s., two were seen at Bokeelia (Pine I.), Lee County June 7 (RR), and two males were at Duda July 6 (PS, BH).

Finally, I must report the arrival of the **Shiny Cowbird** to the North American continent (and life lists of many). On June 14, Sandy Sprunt and Karen Sunderland found a ♂ cowbird in a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds and Com. Grackles on Lower Matecumbe Key. It remained for about 6 weeks to the delight of many birders. One wonders about the potential effects of Shiny Cowbird parasitism on Yellow and Prairie warblers and Black-whiskered Vireos nesting in the Keys, if the species establishes itself there. Perhaps now is the time to develop some index of population abundance of those species.

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## ONTARIO REGION

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### Ron D. Weir

**N**orthward migration extended into early June in the south, although its volume was less than normal, probably because of the advanced flight during May. Temperatures and precipitation were more or less normal and observers noted early nesting together with a high success rate. However, the north experienced perhaps the wettest summer on record with associated adverse effects on nesting success.

This year was the last of the five devoted to the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. Much of the work done in 1985 consisted of "just plain slogging" in the field to upgrade various

species. Nevertheless there were some interesting finds in many areas and exciting exploration again in the boreal forest, Hudson Bay lowlands, and the tundra of the north coast. Cape Henrietta Maria was visited by D.J.T. Hussell, E.H. Dunn, and R.H.B. Smith from June 20 to July 6, when some more of the area's secrets were revealed, including a Northern Wheatear. An expedition to Little Sachigo Lake and the Thorne and Sachigo rivers (54° to 55° N, 90° to 92° W) by J.M.C. Peterson, T. Mack, D. Nickerson, and T. Stiles, hereafter the Sachigo Expedition, extended the work begun in that area during 1984. The results of all this atlassing



were hosts of breeding range extensions which are invaluable additions to our knowledge of avifauna in Canada. Most of these range extensions are so far unpublished, a situation to be rectified when the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas appears in print in a few years. Meanwhile, some selections from the new discoveries are given below as space allows.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Pelee = Point Pelee Nat'l Park; P.E. Pt. = Prince Edward Point; P.P.P. = Presqu'île Provincial Park. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — A lingering Red-throated Loon was at P.P.P. to June 8 (RDM *et al.*) and two in breeding plumage appeared at Whitby June 24-29 (*vide* MJB). The 2 nests of Red-throateds discovered at Cape Henrietta Maria June 20-July 6 were only the 4th and 5th for Ontario (DJTH, EHD). The heavy rains during June in the n. destroyed many nests of Com. Loon in Quetico P.P. (SFP), through the Little Sachigo L. area (JMCP *et al.*), and probably in other areas. Horned Grebes summered s. of range at Casselman, *Russell*, July 10-31 (BMD, PMD, MG) and off the Cranberry marsh June 22-July 21 (*vide* MJB). One appeared in the Wawa sewage lagoons July 21 (JHA). The only noteworthy Red-neckeds were two at Oakville June 30 (KMCL), the same day one was found at Atikokan (DHE).

Single Am. White Pelicans surprised observers at Long Pt., July 17 (BC) and at Pelee July 22 for the area's 3rd ever (LO), as did the four in the P.E. Pt. area July 25-29 (*vide* RTS). Double-crested Cormorants continued their range expansion. At least 116 nests were at P.P.P., July 1, first time nesting there, and 450 adults were present June 30 (RDM, MI). The 2 nests with young at Hamilton were first evidence of breeding there (WL). One nest containing 3 eggs at Little Sachigo L., June 20 established a n. breeding range extension of at least 500 km (JMCP *et al.*).

The two Least Bitterns in the Dundas marsh through the period were presumed to have nested (WL) and the single at Sudbury June 11 was the area's 2nd ever (TD). In a N extension of their nesting range, a pair of Great Egrets raised young near Collingwood (GKP). Noteworthy among the post-breeding wanderers were singles n. to Algonquin P.P., July 7 (L & JL), Kingston July 13 (ST), and Cobourg July 28-30 (ERM). One Tricolored Heron was near Long Pt., July 29 (*vide* MPW), and the only Cattle Egret reported was on Amherst I., June 10-13 (LE). Green-backed Herons were in lower numbers in *Middlesex*, *Northum-*

*berland*, *Lambton*, and several counties around Kingston. The 95 nests with 200+ young Black-crowned Night-Herons at Hamilton were encouraging (WL *et al.*) as were their increased numbers in the Kingston area (K.F.N.). The sudden appearance of 16 adults at Sarnia July 7 raised the question why there was such an early dispersal from nearby colonies (DFR). In the aftermath of the heavy spring incursion of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, an adult was seen by many at Bolton June 7-16 (CC *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES** — One Tundra Swan spent the period around the Essex sewage ponds (GTH) and an immature visited the Wawa lagoons June 11-14 (ERA *et al.*) One nest with two young and one egg was found at Cape Henrietta Maria June 20-July 6 (DJTH, EHD). Two ad. Brant were at P.P.P., July 1, long after the last spring migrants had passed June 8 (RDM). The two Wood Ducks at Atikokan June 30 were the first to be found in a Breeding Bird Survey there (DHE, SFP) Four ♀ Green-winged Teal were with their broods in Hamilton Bay through July (AE), and the ♀ N. Pintail with her nine young at Maple June 13 was the first indication of nesting there in over 20 years (GMB). Pelee's ♂ Cinnamon Teal was last seen June 11 (AM), and single males were in the Quetico area in June (*vide* SFP) and at Lake-of-the-Woods July 1 (PL). Hamilton's first nesting N. Shoveler was seen July 12 with four chicks (AE).

The lone Canvasback at the Casselman lagoons July 20-31 represented the first in July for the Ottawa area (BMD, PMD) Redheads were found nesting at P.P.P. during July, the first since 1968. Two females with separate broods were present (RDM *et al.*) A pair of Ring-necked Ducks was with six young at Virginiatown June 30 (PWR). Several pairs of Greater Scaup probably nesting, were in the Little Sachigo L. area June 14-24 (JMCP *et al.*), as were Lesser Scaup. Out on the Hudson Bay coast, 26 nests of Com. Eider were located at Cape Henrietta Maria during June (DJTH, EHD, RHBS). The single ♂ Harlequin Duck on Manitoulin I., July 23 was out of season (RRT). Of the 31 Oldsquaws reported in the s., 28 summered along L. Ontario and a male was inland to Thornhill June 13-20 (GMB *et al.*) Observers on the Sachigo Expedition found a mated pair of White-winged Scoters on the Thorne R., June 25-27 (JMCP *et al.*). Ruddy Duck numbers were up at 32 (not including females with broods) at Strathroy (WRJ), near Clinton, *Huron* (*vide* JBM), and Alfred sewage lagoons, *Prescott & Russell* (MG *et al.*) all in July, and at the Luther Marsh Aug. 3 (ADB).

Turkey Vultures were reported in greater numbers in *Middlesex*, *Peterborough*, *Hastings*, *Lennox & Addington*, *Frontenac*, *Leeds*, and *Kenora*. A juvenile in Algonquin P.P., July 23 was the first indication of the species' nesting there (DB). Osprey nestings continue to increase as the species is doing well. Two heronries (Great Blues) in the Sault Ste. Marie area were abandoned when Ospreys moved in to nest (TDM), although in a similar situation at Kingston, the Great Blues returned the following year in what appears to be a peaceful coexistence. Perhaps the Ospreys are tolerated because they defend the rookery against predation by Great Horned Owls. Nests of Cooper's Hawks were found in *Elgin*, *Huron*, *Waterloo*, *Bruce*, and *Northumberland*, and N. Goshawk nests in *Grey*, *Bruce*, *Northumberland*, *Peterborough*, and *Frontenac*. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk was well n. of breeding range at Little Sachigo L. June 15 (JMCP *et al.*). There is but one breeding record for n Ontario. At least one young Broad-winged Hawk fledged from a nest in P.P.P., July 25 (RDM).

Several broods of Spruce Grouse were found just e. of L. Nipigon July 12-15 (KSA) and another family of five near Sudbury June 23 (JGL), where the difficulty in locating nests has led some observers to speculate that the species is born adult! An ad. N. Bobwhite with her brood appeared July 31 at the Mountsberg Wildlife Area, where none had been seen nor released in 4 years (MW, ADB). The Yellow Rail in the Richmond Swamp July 31 was the first detected in that month since 1977 (BMD). It is thought the species is regular there all summer, but remains quiet later in the breeding season. The pair of Am. Coots with

one chick at the Casselman sewage lagoons July 27 may have been a first for *Prescott & Russell* (BMD, PMD). One of the 2 pairs of summering Sandhill Cranes on the upper *Bruce* peninsula raised one young (MP), and pairs were found on Manitoulin I. and Cockburn I., just to the w. (PE).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS** — Last sightings of spring migrants at Pelee included Black-bellied Plover June 13, Semipalmated Plover June 11, Greater Yellowlegs June 5, Whimbrel June 4, Ruddy Turnstone June 6, Semipalmated Sandpiper June 19, Dunlin June 9, and Short-billed Dowitcher June 6 (AW). Tardy Lesser Golden-Plover and Lesser Yellowlegs were at Bright's Grove June 12 (AHR), while a Hudsonian Godwit (GTH, AW) and nine White-rumped Sandpipers (AW) were in the Harrow area June 5 & 18 respectively. One Lesser Golden-Plover was at Wawa June 13 (JHA *et al.*) and a late Least Sandpiper was in Algonquin P.P., June 11 (GT). Some 320 Sanderlings arrived at P.P.P., June 3 and the species was present to June 13. An exciting find there June 3 was a color-marked Red Knot that had been banded in s. Brazil (31°21'S, 50°00'W) in 1984 between Apr. 27 and May 2 (*vide* RDM). The Purple Sandpiper at Cape Henrietta Maria July 6 showed no signs of breeding and was judged to be a migrant (DJTH, EHD).

The only report of Piping Plover was of a single at Rondeau P.P., July 29-30 (PAW, PT), as the species' fortunes in Ontario show no sign of improvement. The southernmost nesting in the province of Greater Yellowlegs was detected at Jellicoe, w. of Geraldton, July 12-15 when an adult and two young were found (KSA *et al.*). Farther n., the Sachigo Expedition noted Solitary Sandpipers to be fairly common June 14-July 4 (JMCP *et al.*). The Willet at Winona June 29 was the first in that month for the Hamilton area (KMCL). Upland Sandpipers continue to decline in *Lambton* as more pastureland is converted to cash-crop farming (DFR), but the species appeared at 2 sites near N. Bay for the first time (RT, BR). Up to four Whimbrels "summered" at Pelee to June 19, where a single Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found June 13 for the area's 3rd spring record (AW). The Buff-breasted was seen displaying for Whimbrels and some Black-bellied Plovers. A lone Marbled Godwit appeared at Bourget, *Russell*, June 12, a very rare occurrence there (JRH). A very late nesting Com. Snipe was with two chicks at Virginiatown July 27 (JN).

Southward migration was detected as early as June 24 when a Lesser Yellowlegs appeared at Ottawa (BMD) and July 3 with a Short-billed Dowitcher at Ridgetown (AW, MM). By July 12 in the s., 7 species of regular migrants had returned, increasing to 22 species by July 29. Selected concentrations included the 44 not-so-solitary Solitary Sandpipers near Kingsville and 502 Least near Harrow July 16 (AW), and 116 Pectorals at Ridgetown July 17 (AW). A Whimbrel was at Pembroke July 19 (JMB) and a lone Hudsonian Godwit was at Long Pt., July 27 or 28 (*vide* MPW). Single W. Sandpipers appeared at the Smithville lagoons July 26 (DC) and in Hamilton July 28-29 (KMCL, AE, WL). The Baird's Sandpiper at Richmond July 7-8 was early (ES) and the only Ruff reported was a male near Harrow July 4-6 (AW).

Single ad. Laughing Gulls were at Rondeau P.P., July 16 (PT), and Long Pt., July 20 (DSE, BC). The only Franklin's Gull reported in the s. was an adult near Long Point P.P., June 4 (DS). About 1500 had accumulated at Rainy R. by July 30 (MJM). Only three Little Gulls were noted from L. Ontario sites, at P.P.P., June 5 and July 22 (*vide* RDM), and at Cobourg July 10 (ERM). Many more were seen along L. Erie led by 73 at Long Pt., July 31 (L.P.B.O.). An imm. Com. Black-headed Gull in the Cranberry Marsh July 15 was a good find (MJB). Numbers of Bonaparte's were well up along the lower lakes as several hundred immatures summered at several sites from Sarnia and Pelee to Kingston. The Ring-billed Gull colonies in L. Ontario were affected by a severe storm May 31-June 1, but the extent of damage is so far uncertain. Eggs and dead chicks and adults were washed ashore at P.P.P. (RDM). Herring Gulls in Quetico P.P. produced very few young this nesting season due to adverse weather (SFP). A 3rd-year Glaucous Gull spent the period

at the Nepean dump for Ottawa's first in summer (BMD *et al.*), while a 2nd-year bird stayed at the Cochrane dump (LT). The **Ivory Gull** found dead July 5 along the Hudson Bay coast at the n.w. corner of the province was a first-year bird (DS). The species is known in the province only as a rare winter visitor.

An ad. **Roseate Tern** at Long Pt., July 26-27 was well seen and described by experienced observers (DSE, BC). The number of Com. Terns raising young at P.P.P. fell sharply due to the severe storm of May 31-June 1, after which no more than six juveniles were seen at any time. Much better news came from Hamilton where over 300 young were fledged (WL *et al.*). The two late Forster's at the Dundas marsh June 10 were the only ones reported from L. Ontario (RC). From their breeding areas along L. Erie came a report of 500 pairs in the Walpole I. marshes (AW, GA). A Black Tern in Algonquin P.P., June 25 was unusual there (RK, BH) as was one in first-summer plumage near Harrow July 6 (AW).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Black-billed Cuckoos were common in widespread sections of e. Ontario where heavy caterpillar infestations occurred, but they did not reach Algonquin P.P. in numbers. However, Yellow-billed Cuckoos were either very scarce or completely absent everywhere. The Snowy Owl lingering near Cobourg to July 15 was seen to be wearing small straps on its legs, their source unknown (ERM). Confirmed for the first time as a nester in the Long Pt. area was the Barred Owl (DS). At Beamsville, a N. Saw-whet Owl just fledged from a nest flew into a window July 3 and was admitted to the Owl Research & Rehabilitation Foundation, Vineland, from which it was to be released soon (KMCK). Chuck-will's-widows were reduced to only one pair at Rondeau P.P., and at least one summered at the St. Williams' Forestry Station (HGC). A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird s. of Westport, *Leeds*, June 30 was well described and was the first for the Kingston area (SP).

Red-headed Woodpecker numbers were reportedly lower in *Peterborough* and the Kingston area (DCS, K.F.N.), reflecting their poor showing this past spring. The only Red-bellied reported away from the s.w. was a summering bird near Consecon Station, *Hastings* (MF, AGC). Last of the migrant Olive-sided Flycatchers was one at Port Perry June 15 (MJB). Spring migrant Acadians numbered one at Pelee June 2 (AW, KJB) and one at P.E. Pt. (DJM), the latter bird netted and banded June 6. Summering Acadians included two males near Cambridge (DAS), three at Rondeau P.P. (PAW), one at Rodney (DAM, PR), one at a new site in the Long Pt. area (DAS), and a pair with four young at a *Kent* site July 3 (AW, MM), also a new location. In *Lambton*, the Willow Flycatcher has become common, displacing the Alder as wetter habitat is altered to dry areas for farming (DFR).

An ad. ♂ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared at the tip of the Long Pt. peninsula June 5 (R & MB) to become the 4th in the province this spring. A pair of adaptable Purple Martins was encosed June 29 in an abandoned robin's nest located on the eave of a building on Cockburn I., w. of Manitoulin I. (JWJ). The outcome of the nesting was unknown. The swallow roost in the marshes of P.P.P. contained by June 28 some 1000 Purple Martins, 5000 Bank Swallows, and 4000 Barn Swallows (RDM *et al.*). Four active nests of Cliff Swallows were found July 7 at Point Edward, *Lambton*, for only the 4th or 5th county nesting (DFR).

**JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Migrant Blue Jays continued to pass P.E. Pt. to June 18 (DJM). The steady but slow range expansion of Com. Raven in e. Ontario continued, with nestings occurring near the s. edge of the Shield in *Peterborough*, *Hastings*, *Lennox & Addington*, and *Leeds*. Tufted Titmouse sightings were the most since summer 1982. One pair raised young near York (HGC *et al.*) and a male was at Cambridge June 10 (PE). A juvenile at Pelee July 21 was thought not to have been raised locally (AW). The Sachigo Expedition found Red-breasted Nuthatches well n. at Little Sachigo L., June 20-24 (JMCP *et al.*). First-time nesting evidence for Brown Creepers from P.P.P.

came when an adult was found feeding young July 13 (EJ) and from P.E. Pt., where a used nest was seen (DJM). Carolina Wrens continued to be scarce with singles reported from the Wainfleet Bog, *Niagara*, in early July (DC), Wingham July 13 (netted and banded) (JBM), and Whitby July 15 (DB). The 30 singing Sedge Wrens in the Richmond swamp was a high number (BMD), and by far the largest number reported.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continued to consolidate their recently-occupied range in e. Ontario, and one pair spent the month of June near Ottawa (*fide* BMD). One of the outstanding records of the period was of a ♂ **Northern Wheatear** at Cape Henrietta Maria July 2; it was in suitable breeding habitat, but no mate was seen (DJTH, EHD). The species is probably a regular but rare visitor to the n. coast. Eastern Bluebirds were reported in greatly-increased numbers in the Matachewan and N. Bay areas (LT, BR), and a nest at Nipissing established the first confirmed breeding there (GH). The ♂ Mountain Bluebird paired with the ♀ E. Bluebird at Port Stanley was present to at least June 18, and the pair raised three young (*fide* HGC). Southward-moving Swainson's Thrushes passed by night over the museum in Algonquin P.P., July 14 (JS). Two appeared at a site in *Kent* July 17 (AW, KJB), and arrivals at Wingham and P.E. Pt., July 27 were netted and banded (JMB, DJM). Hermit Thrushes became more common as the Sachigo Expedition paddled N along the Thorne and Sachigo rivers (JMCP *et al.*).

**MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Northern Mockingbird nests were located at North Bay for the area's first ever (GH) and at Cochrane June 29, the latter thought to have been a 2nd brood (LT). The ad. **Sage Thrasher** at Rondeau P.P., July 21 (ph. M. Hayes *et al.*) was the province's 4th or 5th since 1965, and 2nd at Rondeau. The Sachigo Expedition found 2 pairs of Bohemian Waxwings July 1 at the confluence of the Thorne and Sachigo rivers, many fewer than during summer 1984 in that area, as well as an ad. N. Shrike June 29 along the Thorne R. (JMCP *et al.*). Loggerhead Shrikes continued to decline. Only 4 nests were reported, of which the 2 at Kingston (K.F.N.) and the one at Arran L., *Bruce* (CM), were successful. The one at Peterborough was abandoned (DCS). No birds were seen in the Ottawa area after such encouraging nestings during 1984. White-eyed Vireos continued at low numbers in the s.w. Two nesting pairs were at Pelee (*fide* AW) and one spent 2 weeks in the Newcastle area (*fide* ERM, DCS). A male was also on territory at Little Red Bay, *Bruce*, June 8 (CEG, JEG). The Solitary Vireo nest with cowbird young at Berkeley, *Grey*, June 18 was at or beyond its southernmost nesting latitude in Ontario (GMB). The Sachigo Expedition reported several Solitary Vireos along the Sachigo R., where only one was found in 1984, as well as several Philadelphias and a number of Red-eyeds (JMCP *et al.*). For these 3 vireos, their findings represented a n. range extension based upon the current reference literature.

The Sachigo Expedition findings also included range extensions into the far n. for several warbler species, including Magnolia in 8 atlas squares, Cape May in 5, and Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, Ovenbird, and Connecticut. The Connecticut Warblers were confined to the Little Sachigo L. area (JMCP *et al.*). In the s., Blue-winged Warblers were noted in greater numbers and nesting was confirmed in *Middlesex* (WRJ), *Durham* (MJB *et al.*), and *Lambton* (AHR). In a colony at Pottageville, *York*, they now outnumber Golden-wingeds (GMB). Blue-wingeds have so far failed to penetrate farther e. into *Hastings*, *Lennox-Addington*, *Frontenac*, and *Leeds*, where relatively large numbers of Golden-wingeds nest. Magnolia Warbler was confirmed as a breeder in *Wellington* when young being fed in a pine plantation were found at Belwood July 28 (MDC). A ♂ **Kirtland's Warbler** sang on territory in s. Ontario June 22-July 9 and was found as part of the systematic annual search of 10 likely sites in Ontario and w. Quebec. It was the 3rd summer bird found in 9 years (PA, DP). Out-of-place Blackpolls were singles near Port Hope June 27 (ERM) and at Omemee July 4 (RH). Summering Prothonotary Warblers numbered 2 pairs at

Pelee (AW), 30 males at Rondeau P P (PAW), one male at Pinery P.P. (AHR), and one in a new location at Long Pt. (DS). Kentucky Warblers were in 3 atlas squares near Long Pt. (DS), and Mournings were summering in greater than normal numbers in *Peterborough*, *Northumberland*, and *Frontenac*. Atlas workers tallied 30+ ♂ Hoodeds singing on territory in s.w. Ontario (*fide* HGC). Yellow-breasted Chats continued in low numbers and their 3 reports were all in the s.w.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES** — One pair of Summer Tanagers was in Rondeau P.P., July 8-22, and was seen to be carrying food as though feeding young, but no nest was located (RWK, PAW). The species is not known to nest in Ontario. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager with one young in Wheatley June 20 was thought to provide the area's first nesting record (AW). The Dickcissel visiting the Kortright Centre near Kleinberg this spring stayed on to mid-June (*fide* GMB, HGC). Clay-colored Sparrows continued in their high numbers of recent summers in the s. Nesting was confirmed at Arkell, *Wellington*, July 26 (DG, DL), and 7 sites were occupied s. of Alfred, *Prescott & Russell*, June 16 (MG *et al.*). In the n., the Sachigo Expedition located a male at Little Sachigo L., June 20 (JMCP *et al.*), in the general area where present in 1984. Eight ♂ Henslow's Sparrows were at a *Grey* site July 7 where present in 1984 (RWK, CJS), but none was found at P.E. Pt. in spite of regular checks in the long-established colony there (DJM). Also worrying was their disappearance from 2 Amherst I. sites, but one male was found at a new Kingston location June 23 (RDW). Le Conte's Sparrows obliged atlasers by singing in 8 different squares from Thunder Bay e. to the Sibley peninsula, numbering 30 males in all (MJM), and nesting occurred in the Luther marsh where a juvenile was fed by its parents July 18 (AS, CAC). Two were found by the Sachigo Expedition June 18-20 (JMCP *et al.*), thereby helping to define its range inland from the Hudson Bay coast where present in 1984. The lone Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the tip of Long Pt., June 19, appeared to be of the James Bay race (L.P.B.O.). In contrast to the summer of 1984, Smith's Longspurs were absent from Cape Henrietta Maria June 20-July 6, and although Snow Buntings were present there, no sign of breeding was noted (DJTH, EHD). However, Snow Buntings were confirmed breeding along Hudson Bay at the n.w. corner of the province (DS).

A Red-winged Blackbird nest with 5 eggs and another containing young at Little Sachigo L., June 24, established a range extension n. (JMCP *et al.*). The W. Meadowlark showing was weak. The only reports were of singles near Madoc June 15 (PM, PG) and Collingwood July 7 (DBu), plus three near Kleinberg June 13-30 (GMB). The Stoney Pt. colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds increased to 20+ pairs (GTH), up over the 15 last year. Single males were reported at Squirrel I., *Lambton*, June 17 (AW), Ajax June 26 (JRN), and Temagami, *Nipissing*, July 6 (ph. RS). Common Grackles were found in the n. by the Sachigo Expedition June 19 & 24 and July 1 (JMCP *et al.*). Confirmed nestings of Orchard Oriole were noted in *Middlesex* (DM), near Brantford (*fide* PE), and in Toronto, 2 nests at the last site (CEG). Four nesting pairs were at Dundas (WL), and the male at P E Pt., June 8, did not stay (DJM). First-time nesting of House Finches occurred at 4 locations in *Essex* including Windsor (GTH) and at 4 new Ottawa sites (BMD). In St. Catharines, ad House Finches at one feeder were being killed and eaten by grackles (MEF). Crossbills in the s. followed no pattern in their appearance as isolated sightings were scattered over wide areas. In the n., however, the Sachigo Expedition detected one flock of Reds feeding in spruce at Little Sachigo L., June 17, and a major movement NW of White-wingeds in the same area. Some 1000 were counted there June 20 and birds were seen daily to June 23 heading NW (JMCP *et al.*). Hoary Redpoll was confirmed as an Ontario nester from along the Hudson Bay coast near the n.w. end (DS).



**CORRIGENDUM** — AB 39 48, The Sept 24 and Oct 4 records of Laughing Gulls were for 1983, not 1984.

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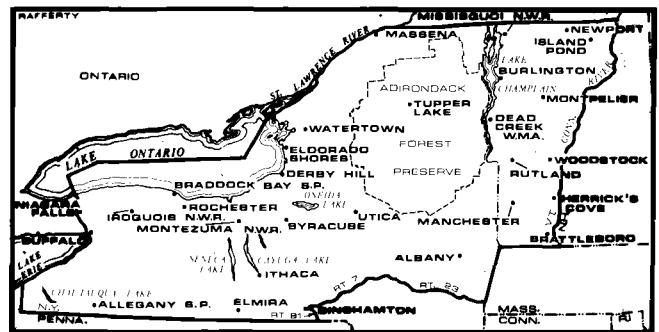
## NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

This summer marked the completion of New York's breeding bird atlas field work and publication of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Vermont*. Complete coverage of the Region by atlas projects has added immeasurably to the quantity of records compiled during the summer and will facilitate interpretation of the significance of sightings made during this and other seasons. Since population counts taken during the breeding season are far more reliable indicators of the status of species than, for instance, migration counts, we hope that observers throughout the Region will continue to monitor summer populations as intensely as they have in recent years. In Vermont, although collection of atlas data ceased in 1981, continued monitoring of several rare species has greatly increased our knowledge of their status and, hopefully, the ability to manage those needing assistance.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Monitoring of Com. Loon populations in Vermont continued. Only 13 chicks were found on 8 lakes. While this represented an increase from the past several years, recruitment into the population can barely match mortality, and human disturbance continues to limit breeding opportunities. In New York, nesting is restricted to the Adirondacks, where inaccessibility contributes to nesting success but makes population counts nearly impossible. A Red-throated Loon on Canadice L., June 9 (RBA) was tardy. Two Red-necked Grebes, well-described July 21 from Eagle Pt., Orleans Co. (S & CH), were far e. of their breeding grounds and months ahead of normal migrants. Pied-billed Grebes remained scarce. Double-crested Cormorants, on the other hand, continued to proliferate, although counts of the reportedly thriving L. Champlain populations were not submitted. Observers should watch for evidence of mainland breeding as Young Island nest sites are rapidly being filled. Missisquoi N.W.R., with its huge heronry, is the most likely mainland site although woodlands anywhere along L. Champlain are all potential habitat. Nesting on Four Brother Islands has yet to be confirmed although flocks of cormorants stage in that vicinity all summer.

Least Bitterns, hard to find anywhere in Vermont, are almost never reported from the Connecticut R. valley, consequently a sighting at Allen Brother marsh near Westminster (TJ) was particularly noteworthy. The best Vermont tally was of four at Mud Cr in Alburg (BM) while up to 20 were seen by canoeists at Braddock Bay (G.O.S.). Missisquoi N.W.R. continues to host the Region's largest reported Great Blue Heronry. This refuge deserves far more coverage than it receives from Vermont's birders. It is, for example, the only area in our Region where Yellow Rails have been reliably reported in recent history.



Proving last year's nesting to be more than a whim, Snowy Egrets returned to Young I. in L. Champlain this summer to raise another brood. In light of that unlikely colonization of the Region, the refusal of Great Egrets, who regularly summer here in numbers, to set up housekeeping is all the more puzzling. Perhaps more careful scrutiny of c. New York heronries would reveal occasional nesting? Cattle Egrets were barely noted, although they still breed on Young I. at least, and Glossy Ibises, much in evidence this spring, all disappeared before summer began.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS** — Lest one think n. Vermont immune from the E incursion of Mallard which has occurred in recent decades, consider that they led all waterfowl in abundance at Missisquoi, outnumbering Am. Black Ducks by at least a 5:1 margin. Increasing Gadwall populations are probably responsible for a general increase in their sightings, particularly in Vermont, but we suspect more observer activity accounts for a rash of Com. Merganser sightings along the w. edge of the Catskills. Ours was not the only chimney to host an overzealous female. A Red-breasted Merganser nest discovered on Rock I, L. Champlain (CF, RL), was only Vermont's 2nd documented breeding effort in a decade.

Turkey Vultures continue to increase although we seem to be no closer to discovering where most of them nest. Nestings in New York by Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons continue to increase, thanks presumably to hacking efforts and cleaner environment. Vermonters still await firm evidence of nesting by either of the first 2 species. A Rough-legged Hawk at Webster, N.Y., June 30 (WL) was an exceptionally late transient. Has anyone seen a Spruce Grouse in Vermont since they were determined to be threatened rather than endangered?

A Sandhill Crane at Braddock Bay June 18 (LM, JF) was unusual but we would not be surprised to see this expanding species eventually spread E along the Great Lakes as a breeder. A belated May 22 report of two Baird's Sandpipers just s. of

Braddock Bay (GM *et al*) provided further evidence of this w migrant's ability to show up anywhere during migration. The occurrence of all migratory shorebirds in our Region during spring/early summer is far more subject to weather patterns than is the case in fall, when birds seem to move at a more leisurely pace, with frequent stopovers. Weather-induced groundings are ephemeral in N migration as birds en route to breeding grounds typically leave as soon as conditions improve. The Red-necked Phalarope at S. Londonderry June 6 (WN) was apparently grounded by a passing storm. Two Willets at Dead Creek W.M.A., July 9 (J & PC) marked the onset of S migration. Most of the shorebirds in Vermont escape casual observation, witness the 48 Spotted Sandpipers tallied during a 7 mi canoe trip on the Big Otter July 28 (M & JD). A concerted survey of Upland Sandpipers is in order in Vermont if we are to monitor their population. By July 25 an ad. Long-billed Dowitcher had arrived at Onondaga Lake (FS). Other regular rarities (*e.g.*, Ruff, godwits) were either missed or overflew us.

Gulls were even less exciting than the shorebird passage. No further breeding records of Great Black-backed Gulls were reported, and Forster's Tern was the rarest larid reported. Is anyone monitoring their local Black Tern populations? Recent concern about perceived population declines has abated, but apathy, not recovery, may be responsible.

**OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES** — The owl reports of note included a Com. Barn-Owl near Springfield, N.Y., and a pair of Short-eared feeding young at Dead Creek (PL *et al.*). An adult and juv. (?) Short-eared were also seen along Big Otter from a canoe (M & JD) and we suspect many other breeding sites remain to be discovered in the Champlain valley. Long-eared Owl apparently nested in a spruce plantation near Delhi again, judging from the number present in late summer, but the species went unreported from traditional breeding areas along the lake plains, probably due to inadequate coverage. Although somewhat migratory, Long-eared Owls are apparently faithful to previous breeding sites but without special efforts (try camping out in a conifer plantation) they can be extraordinarily unobtrusive. We encourage individuals knowing of areas supporting sizeable (*e.g.*, 5 or more pairs) Whip-poor-will populations to make efforts to annually monitor them, recording also any habitat changes.

Although Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to appear in the L. Champlain valley, numbers are so low that we are not optimistic about the species' continued breeding success in Vermont. The Black-backed Woodpecker—generally considered a rare breeder in only the Adirondacks and extreme n.e. Vermont—may occur in very low numbers in the Green Mountains, as evidenced by the occasional appearance of birds, the most recent at Holland Pond (CF) and Winhall (WN).

Since the "Traill's" Flycatchers overlap throughout our Region, we eagerly await publication of the New York atlas to see whether a pattern in Alder and Willow distributions can be related to environmental features. We hope that atlas workers took time to listen carefully to all those recalcitrant flycatchers that flit (usually silently) about alder and willow thickets rather than guess (based on habitat or geography?) as to their identity just so another species could be added to the block's checklist. Olive-sided Flycatchers, presumably bound for boreal breeding grounds, continued to be found at lowland localities through June. A Gray Jay found June 27 at E. Springfield, N.Y. (GF, *fide* HH) was far from Adirondack breeding areas but furnished the 2nd report from that locality in several years. No reports of Fish Crows were submitted, for the first time in many years. Territorial Swainson's Thrushes at 2 Chenango County localities (JL) were further evidence of a c. New York breeding population. Only one breeding report of Loggerhead Shrike was received.

**VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES** — Detailed compilations of the total number of birds sighted (over 1400 observations) dur-

ing surveys of over 25 c. New York atlas blocks (JL, DN) permit us to make some rough estimates as to the relative abundance of vireos and warblers. Readers may wish to consult similar statistics compiled from Vermont atlas blocks (AB 34:893 and 35:937). Among the vireos, Red-eyed provided 46% of the observations, Warbling 25%, Yellow-throated 19%, and Solitary 10%. The warblers were led by Common Yellowthroat and Ovenbird (15%), Yellow (14%), Chestnut-sided (10%), Am Redstart (8%), Yellow-rumped (7%), Magnolia and Black-throated Green (5%), Blackburnian and Mourning (4%), and Black-and-white (3%), followed by Blue-winged, Canada, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-throated Blue, N. Waterthrush, Nashville, and Golden-winged warblers. Interestingly, although Golden-winged Warbler was outnumbered 10:1 by Blue-winged in s.c. New York, it enjoyed a 5:1 margin in n.c. New York (FS). Although White-eyed Vireos were seen carrying food in Pomfret, N.Y. (RS *et al.*), no nest or young could be found. No additional Yellow-throated Vireo breeding records were submitted although a male was seen June 7 at Rochester (MR *et al.*).

No new Clay-colored Sparrow breeding localities were reported outside the extreme w. portion of the Region where the species has been a documented rare breeder for decades. Despite a rash of Blue Grosbeak reports this spring, there were no claims of possible breeders this summer. Is anyone monitoring Grasshopper or Henslow's sparrow colonies on a systematic basis? There are many opportunities for observers to contribute significantly to the understanding of the population dynamics of these and other species through small local projects if only the inclination/motivation were there. We are willing to serve as the sounding board for projects anyone is considering. No word was received on the status of W. Meadowlarks (breeding?) around Rochester but the Brewer's Blackbirds eluded all observers there in June and July. Orchard Orioles appeared to have established several toeholds in the Champlain valley. The marvelous cone crop kept crossbill, Pine Siskin, and Purple Finch reports at record levels. Whether House Finches also benefitted from this plethora of cones or simply continued to expand at their previous rate is impossible to discern. In any event they rivalled Purple Finches in abundance in many areas and were encountered with increasing frequency outside urban areas.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The much viewed, highly touted Tundra Swan at L. Bomaseen this spring appears (in its photograph) to have been an imm. Mute Swan.

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It was not a "normal" summer, but in general it was a benign one. At Pittsburgh June temperatures averaged some three degrees below normal and precipitation was more than one inch deficient, while July averaged about one degree below normal with close to normal precipitation. Knoxville had above-normal June temperatures but all other locations were on the cool side, with some record lows at Chattanooga. June was generally quite dry and July had fairly normal rainfall, concentrated in a few hard storms.

The cool, relatively dry weather apparently produced a very successful nesting season. Although the numbers of many species seen in migration were quite low, most observers felt that breeding populations were generally normal. The unusually warm spring had resulted in many species bringing off first broods at very early dates, and multiple-brooded species were still nesting at the end of the period. A mid-June survey in the higher West Virginia mountains found practically all the warblers with fledgling young.

There were some exceptions to the generally good populations. As has been repeatedly mentioned, the Carolina Wren has become very scarce. Purple Martins have declined or disappeared at some places, and this year Field Sparrows were uncommon.

There was no general assessment as to how the late May tornados in northern Ohio and Pennsylvania affected bird populations, except that many acres of land have been deforested. The season's only hurricane, Bob, was not felt in this Region, although a modest shorebird influx came at that time.

Breeding Bird Atlas projects continue to occupy a great many observers and so far the results are impressive. Several species, particularly those in the grasslands, are being found to be much more numerous than we had thought. New nesting records, particularly of raptors, are being established.

The long-standing trend for "northern" or "high-elevation" species to expand farther south or to lower elevations continues. It is not clear if this trend is accelerating or the range expansions of the past have remained undiscovered until now. The corresponding trend of southern species moving north has slowed and even stopped for some species.

**ABBREVIATIONS**— B.B.S. = Breeding Bird Survey; B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Pa.; G.R.W.M.A. = Grand River Wildlife Management Area, Ohio; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Pa.; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES**— It is not unusual to have Com. Loons remain after the first of June, as at P.I.S.P., June 2 (JM), and L. Pymatuning, June 2 (RFL, ML), but individuals at L. Arthur, Pa., July 4 (NK), at Donegal L., Pa., July 13+ (RM), at Chickamauga L., Tenn., July 18 (WJ), and in *Augusta* (July 22) and *Highland* (July), Va. (R.B.C.), were noteworthy and puzzling. The spring report mentioned an increase in migrating Double-crested Cormorants; one or two remained at P.I.S.P. all summer (JM) and one was at Conneaut, Pa., July 13 (RFL).

The only reports of Am. Bitterns came from *Huntingdon*, Pa. (DM), and the G.R.W.M.A., Ohio, July 24 (CB). Least Bitterns were seen at State College, Pa., June 3-8 (TS) and at Yellowcreek S.P., Pa., July 26 (A & LH); at the Clark Fish Hatchery,



Rowan, Ky., up to three were seen in late June and July (FB). The Great Blue Heron appears to be increasing in the Region. There were many more than the usual number of summer sightings, and nesting colonies were reported from *Mercer*, Pa., where 5 heronries fledged 415 birds (EB); Warren, Pa., 56 nests in 7 locations (WH); Waynesburg, Pa., 14 nests (RB); and Crum, W.Va., 20-30 nests (TI). Great Egrets were reported from 7 areas but numbers were lower than in some recent summers. The only report of Snowy Egret was at *Warren*, Pa., July 15 (LA). The only Little Blue Heron reports came from *Loudon*, Tenn., from late June to the end of period (JBO). Twenty Green-backed Herons at the fish hatchery in *Rowan*, Ky., July 11 (BP-B) made an unusual concentration as did the nine at Waynesboro, Va., July 12 (RS). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen in *Huntingdon*, Pa., June 20 (DM), at Chickamauga L., Tenn., July 18 (probably nested—WJ), and at Waynesboro, Va. (MH, RS), and were thought to be in fair numbers at Chattanooga, Tenn. (RR). Two pairs nested at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE).

An imm. White Ibis was seen at Fairview, N.C., June 21 (R & JY); one was seen near Salem, Va., July 10-14 & 28 (BK), and two immatures were at Canaan Valley S.P., Pa., July 30-31 (CST), these last presumably the result of Hurricane Bob.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS**— An unusual number of waterfowl remained in the Region into the summer: Tundra Swan on the Juniata R., Pa. (DM) and another in *Blair*, Pa. (CS), both all summer; Green-winged Teal at Pymatuning L., Pa., July 28 (three—RFL) and at P.I.S.P., June 23 & 29 (TS); N. Shoveler, Pittsburgh, July 31 (DF); Gadwall, P.I.S.P., June 15 (one) & 29 (three—JM); Redhead, Pleasant Gap, Pa., June 1-6 (when the pond was drained—TS); Bufflehead, Scandia, Pa., June 4-July 31 (H) and *Clinton*, Pa., June 11 & 12 (*fide* TS); Com. Goldeneye, Ft. Littleton, Pa., May 31-June 16 (JW); Ruddy Duck, Keystone L., Pa., until July 17 (DW); Hooded Merganser, Nickajack L., Tenn., in June (DC); and Red-breasted Merganser, P.I.S.P., 25 June 2 (JM). There were also some unusual nesting waterfowl besides the usual Wood Ducks and occasional Mallards. American Black Ducks nested at Huntington, W.Va. (TI); Blue-winged Teal nested in ponds at a shopping mall near Parkersburg, W.Va. (LR); Am. Wigeon, adult with three young seen at Pymatuning L., Pa., July 20 (RFL, RCL); Hooded Merganser, adult with nine young near Russell, Pa., June 23 (CP); Com. Merganser seen with young near Lock Haven, Pa. (PS);

and Red-breasted Merganser, Pymatuning L., Pa., immature seen June 26 (RFL).

The Canada Goose continues to nest successfully throughout the Region, and may be about to reach the pest stage. Some 66, the whole population, were trapped at B.E.S.P. in June because of complaints of droppings on the bathing beach and were transported to South Carolina (*vide* CH).

Black Vultures successfully raised one young at a nest in *Huntingdon*, Pa. (TS). Ospreys were widely reported all summer, and there were 6 successful nests at Watts Bar L., Tenn. (WJ). Eleven Ospreys were hacked in the S. Branch Valley of West Virginia and 10 fledged by the end of the period (KK). One Bald Eagle fledged at Mosquito L., O. (CB), and in the Pymatuning L. area in Pennsylvania a newly-established nest was destroyed in the late May tornado. No reports were available from the other nestings in that area. Besides nesting there were 11 eagles reported from 7 localities with records coming in all summer.

Northern Goshawks nested again in *Huntingdon*, Pa. (DM), and one was seen on Grandfather Mt., N.C., in June (DL). Peregrine Falcons were successfully hacked on Grandfather Mt. and a bird, presumably the one hacked last year, returned to eat from the feeding platform (DL). Atlas work has produced more than the usual number of raptor nesting reports. All 3 Accipiter species nested in *Huntingdon*, Pa. (DM), and in the Warren, Pa., area 3 Cooper's, 3 Red-tailed, and 2 Red-shouldered hawk nests were reported. These nests fledged 14 young (JD).

**QUAIL THROUGH TERNS** — The N. Bobwhite, which had been almost eliminated from the n. part of this Region by a succession of hard winters, showed some signs of making a comeback. Increasing numbers were noted in s. West Virginia (NG) and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (R.B.C.), and records came from as far n. as Moraine S.P., Pa. (NK), and *Washington*, Pa. (TB, EH). The few reports on hand would indicate that both the Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey had good nesting seasons.

Virginia Rails were seen at the G.R.W.M.A., O., July 19 (CB) and at 2 locations near State College, Pa. (TS). Soras were found at Conneaut Marsh, Pa., June 2 (RFL), near State College, Pa. (TS) and at Wrightsville, Pa., June 21, and Akeley, Pa., June 28 (TG). Common Moorhens nested at the Clark Fish Hatchery, Ky., but the nest was destroyed (FB); the species was reported from the Hiawasee R. Area, Tenn., June 21 (DC).

As usual the shorebird migration started in early July with the arrival of both yellowlegs, Least and Semipalmated sandpipers, and a few other regular species. By the end of the period no great concentrations had arrived and rather few of the unusual species were reported. The now-very-rare Piping Plover was seen at P.I.S.P., June 15 (JM) & 23 (CE), and again July 27 (JM). An Am. Avocet was at Roanoke, Va., July 5 (MP, MD). An Upland Sandpiper was at Roanoke airport July 14 (MP) and four were there July 28 (MD). Other species found at Roanoke were Ruddy Turnstone July 27 (MP), Stilt Sandpiper, five July 25 (MD), and Short-billed Dowitcher July 29 (BA, MD). A Stilt Sandpiper was also seen at Union City, Pa., July 26 (JM). Other more unusual reports were of Ruddy Turnstone at B.E.S.P., June 1 (MW), Sanderling and W. Sandpiper at B.E.S.P., July 26, (TS), White-rumped Sandpiper at B.E.S.P., June 2 (TS) and at P.I.S.P., July 21 (JM), and Baird's Sandpiper in *Allegheny*, Pa., July 20 (DF).

A subad. Franklin's Gull was at P.I.S.P., June 15 (JM) and Laughing Gulls were seen there June 2 (two—JM) & 23 (one—JM, TS). A Least Tern at P.I.S.P., July 6 provided the 4th record for *Erie* (JM) and two were seen at Fort Loudon L., Tenn., July 7 (MDa). Caspian Terns were seen at P.I.S.P., June 15 & 29 (JM), at B.E.S.P., June 12 (MW), and at Norris L., Tenn., July 23 (JH). Forster's Terns were at P.I.S.P., June 15 (JM) and Roanoke, July 31 (MP). Black Terns were at Edinboro, Pa., June 4 (DS), Conneaut, Pa., June 16 (RFL), and Roanoke, July 25 (BH).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Neither cuckoo species was very numerous this summer, although there were a few more reports of Black-billed Cuckoos than we have had in recent years.

The only report of Com. Barn-Owl came from Moraine S.P., Pa., July 7 (NK). Long-eared Owls were reported from *Allegheny*, Pa., June 29 (DF) and *Beaver*, Pa., July 13 (DF), and from Grandfather Mt., N.C., again this summer (DL). It was a good year for N. Saw-whet Owls. An adult with three young was seen in *Indiana*, Pa., in early July (MHi), and a juvenile was struck by an automobile in *Erie*, Pa., July 10 (TK, SS). Other reports came from *Clinton*, Pa., late June to early July (PS) and from Grandfather Mt., N.C., in June (DL).

Three **Chuck-will's-widows** were singing in *Indiana*, Pa., through June and early July, for the first s.w. Pennsylvania record (R & MHi). This species has been moving N for several years.

A Red-headed Woodpecker nesting pair and two single birds were found in *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.), an immature was seen at Conneaut Marsh, Pa. (RFL), and one was at Clarksville, Pa., June 21 (RB). In most years there are no summer reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, once common in the n. and at high elevations in the south. This year, however, they were reported as abundant near Lock Haven, Pa., and a nest was found in that area (PS), two immatures were seen near Meadville, Pa., July 27 (RFL, RCL), and a juvenile was banded at P.N.R., July 7 (RM). Sightings were also reported from *Forest*, Pa., June 6 (CP) and at *Scandia*, Pa., June 24 (HJ). A **Red-cockaded Woodpecker** nest was found in June in *Laurel*, Ky. (BKn).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Cranberry Glades, W.Va., July 8 (GB), and this species was found on Grandfather Mt., N.C., new for that location (DL). Also new for Grandfather Mt. was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (DL), heretofore known in this Region only from Mt. Rogers, Va. Acadian Flycatchers were found nesting near Lock Haven for the first time (PS). Willow Flycatchers continue to increase S, with records as far s. as Fairview, N.C. (R & JY), Grandfather Mt., N.C. (DL), and Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE). The rarer and more northern Alder Flycatcher was found near P.N.R., Pa. (RM), 3 or 4 pairs were found above 5000 ft on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE), and the species was seen on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Fairview, N.C. (J & RY). Two singing ♂ Least Flycatchers were found in Shenandoah N.P., June 2 (R.B.C.) and one was seen carrying food on Big Black Mt., Ky., May 27 (DN), for the first apparent breeding record for that state.

At Warren, Pa., the nesting success of Tree Swallow was up 17% over last year when 375 young fledged from 250 boxes (WH), but at P.N.R. only 19 were banded compared with 45 and 47 the previous 2 years (RM). This species nested again s. of what had been considered the normal range with nestings at 4 locations in s.w. West Virginia (TI) and at least 2 nestings near Waynesboro, Va. (RS). There were 18 successful nests of Cliff Swallow at Beech Fork S.P., W.Va., also a relatively new station (TI). An interesting experiment was conducted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission near Ligonier where 23 of 28 nesting Purple Martins from a thriving colony were hand-raised and "hacked" in an attempt to establish a new breeding colony (*vide* RM).

**CORVIDS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — A roost of about 100 Fish Crows was located near Harrisonburg, Va. (R.B.C.), and this species continued to be in fair numbers in the State College, Pa., area (TS).

Carolina Wrens were decidedly uncommon in the n. part of the range, and even at Knoxville there has been a 40-50% reduction in numbers (CN). The only report of Bewick's Wren came from near Franklin, W.Va. (GP, CR). Singing Winter Wrens were found at State College, Pa. (DB) and at Coopers Rock S.F., W.Va. (GB), and the species was apparently nesting at P.N.R. (RM) All of these locations are at lower-than-normal elevations for this latitude. Sedge Wrens were found at Zelienople, Pa., June 15



One of the Jackdaws at the Federal Penitentiary, Lewisburg, Pa., July 11, 1985. Photo/John Petery.

—S.A.—

The occurrence of **Jackdaws** near Lewisburg, Pa., was reported in the spring account but the following details can be added. The strange birds were first seen inside the Federal Penitentiary in mid-March by prison personnel, and were finally identified in late May. A pair was seen off and on through the summer, and they were seen in early June to be gathering nesting material and in mid-June to be carrying food. It is not known if this nesting was successful, although apparently the birds evicted Eur. Starlings from the immediate area. They continued to be seen in the prison in the early mornings through July but apparently left the prison for most of the day. There were few sightings outside of the prison, which must have been frustrating for local birders, although the Jackdaws did appear on local television in late June [JPe].



Two Jackdaws on a roof at the Federal Penitentiary, Lewisburg, Pa., July 11, 1985. Photo/John Petery.

(DF), at Conneaut, Pa., July 20 (RFL, RCL) and near Uniontown, Pa. [V]].

Golden-crowned Kinglets have been found to be much more common as breeders in the State College, Pa., area than had been thought (TS), and they nested again in *Indiana*, Pa. (R & MHi). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen in late June on Grandfather Mt., N.C. (DL), but it was not certain that this species had really made such a major breeding range extension. At Warren, Pa., E. Bluebird nesting success was up 10% over last year with 525 birds fledged in 250 boxes (WH). Hermit Thrushes nested at McElhattan, Pa., at an elevation of about 1000 ft (PS), they again occurred on Grandfather Mt., N.C. (DL), and they were found at

lower-than-normal elevations at Scotia Barrens, Pa. (TS, HH). Veeries were seen at the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., in July (HD), and they have been nesting at lower elevations in s. Pennsylvania in recent years (RM). The puzzle of the early migrant (?) thrushes continued, with a Hermit Thrush seen in *Allegheny*, Pa., July 29 (DF), nine Veeries banded at P.N.R., July 3-27, and the first Swainson's Thrush banded Aug. 2 (RM). Most of these banded birds were either molting or unmolted. A very late Water Pipit was seen at Latrobe, Pa., June 7 (TV). The only reports of Loggerhead Shrikes came from near Chattanooga, Tenn. (RR), and from *Huntingdon*, Pa., where a nesting pair was found (DM). A Cedar Waxwing nest in *Polk*, Tenn., was the first known for that county (RR).

**WARBLERS**— Although the spring migration had been poor there were quite a few migrant warblers still in the Region in early June. Most of the "normal" nesting species seemed to be in good numbers despite the low counts made this spring. Several of the n. species continued to extend their nesting ranges S. A recently-fledged Nashville Warbler was found near P.N.R. (RCL). Chestnut-sided Warblers nested in *Allegheny* (JG) and *Butler* (PH), Pa. Magnolia Warbler also nested near P.N.R., a low elevation for the species (RC), and was found on Grandfather Mt., N.C. (DL). Yellow-rumped Warbler continued its expansion S, being present in good numbers at high elevations near State College, Pa. (TS), and a pair was seen in June at Heart's Content, Pa. (TG). The Mourning Warbler was present again this summer on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Fairview, N.C., and this year a female was seen near Asheville, N.C., in early June (RY). The first nesting of Canada Warbler in the Cumberland Mts. of Tennessee was discovered July 4 on Frozen Head Mt. (CN), and the species was found at lower-than-normal elevation in the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga. (HD).

The Yellow-throated Warbler continued its advance N and was found this year in *Huntingdon*, Pa. (HH), at least three were in the Pittsburgh region (*fide* PH), and at least three singing males were at P.N.R. (RM). There were 3 locations for Prothonotary Warblers near Erie (JM), a pair was found at Conneaut Marsh, Pa., June 30 (RFL), at least 3 pairs nested in the Glenwood Swamp near Huntington, W.Va. (TI), and they were present at Mosquito L., O., and the G.R.W.M.A. (CB). Swainson's Warbler was found near Bent Cr., N.C., June 18 (JY, RY), but there was a noticeable decline of this species in e. Tennessee (CN, JC).

From the above one notes the contrast of probably being able to hear both Yellow-throated and Magnolia warblers at the same time at P.N.R., and the fact that Hooded and Mourning warblers are both common at Scandia, Pa. (HJ).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES**— Bobolinks nested unsuccessfully near Clarksville, Pa., the first such attempt in 20 years (RB). The W. Meadowlark reported from Butler, Pa., in spring remained there until at least July 23 (R & JBu). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were thought to be 20% below average in the Pittsburgh area (DF). This species nested successfully in the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga. (HD). Blue Grosbeaks were fairly common in the Elizabethton, Tenn., area (GE), and one was seen at Fairview, N.C., July 29 (R & JY), but they were not found in *Mason*, W.Va., where they had been in other years (GB).

The Clay-colored Sparrow reported from Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., in spring remained there until June 4 (R & MHi). Field Sparrows were 80% below the 12-year average on a *Butler-Clarion*, Pa., B.B.S. route and were also in reduced numbers elsewhere in w. Pennsylvania. Atlas studies as well as B.B.S. routes showed Vesper Sparrows to be in greatly reduced numbers in w. Pennsylvania (PH). Two Vesper Sparrows were found June 11 at Sky Valley, Ga., s. of the known breeding range (FM, *fide* TM). Henslow's Sparrow continued its erratic way

but this year there was more good news than bad. The species was scarce in the Pittsburgh area (PH) and nearly absent at Erie (JM), but it was found on 6 Atlas blocks in *Greene*, Pa. (RB), and there were 10 pairs at P.N.R. (RM). They were found near Port Matilda, Pa., a new location (J & BP), and three singing males were found in Lycoming, Pa., June 27 and July 1 (SS). Two colonies were found in *Washington*, O. (GB), and several were seen at the Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, Ky. (FB). Atlas work has shown that the Savannah Sparrow is much more numerous in the n. part of the Region than had previously been thought, and a possible nesting pair was observed near Lyndhurst, Va. (MH), s. of the expected range. The Grasshopper Sparrow seems to be doing well at most places, in contrast to the situation a few years ago. There was a confirmed nesting record for White-throated Sparrow in *Huntingdon*, Pa. (DM), but while the species did not nest in Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., again this year (TS), a singing male was heard in non-suitable habitat near Julian, Pa., June 24 (BAC). Dark-eyed Juncos were found to be more widespread in the State College region than had been thought (TS), and they nested more commonly than usual and lower than usual at Chattahoochee N.F., Ga. (HD).

A singing ♂ Purple Finch was found in *Washington*, O., in mid-June (*fide* LR). Twelve Pine Siskins were visiting a feeder at Cherry Grove, Pa., through June and July (JD) and one was also coming to a feeder at Fairview, N.C., June 21 to the end of the period (R & JY). The only report of Red Crossbill came from Grandfather Mt., N.C. (DL), and most remarkable was a lone White-winged Crossbill coming to a feeder at Lincolnville, *Crawford*, Pa., July 10-18 (A & AG).

**EXOTICS** — Ringed Turtle-Doves of uncertain history were found at Roanoke, June 19 (MS) and at Lock Haven in late July (PS).

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

June was cool with light frost still occurring in mid-month. Precipitation proved highly variable. For both Wisconsin and Minnesota rainfall was above average, except for the southern one-third of Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota where the lack of rain approached drought conditions. Michigan was slightly drier than normal. July had more normal temperatures and rainfall except again for southern Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota. There were no extended hot, humid periods like those that characterized previous summers, making this one of the most pleasant in years. The only negative aspect proved to be the occasionally severe storms that laced various areas, often accompanied by heavy rain, hail, and strong winds.

With the unusually warm May most birds arrived and nested earlier than normal in Wisconsin and Michigan. Consequently bird song diminished significantly by early July, unusually early for the Region. The one exception was northern Minnesota where the migration was very late, with nesting delayed by the cool, wet weather. Consequently passerines were still singing in late July, exceptionally late. There was little excitement this summer. Numerous observers characterized it as boring, like previous summers. Wisconsin generated the most excitement with a Mississippi Kite, California Gull, and Chuck-will's-widow and a possible Royal Tern (awaiting photograph examination), while Minnesota had a Harlequin Duck and Golden Eagle, and Michigan had a possible Long-tailed Jaeger (also awaiting photograph examination).

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Place names in *italics* are counties.



**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — A Horned Grebe summered at Grand Marais, Minn. (K & MH). Nesting success of the Red-necked Grebe at Wisconsin's Rush L. was considerably below average, due to a very high water level. The Eared Grebe that appeared during mid-May at Wilson Pond, *Dunn*, lingered until June 8 (m.ob.). Also in Wisconsin was a pair June 9-14 at Manitowoc (m.ob.). They proved absurdly tame, often feeding and sleeping next to the shoreline and walkway. Michigan had one June 10 & 14 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (GW). Several W. Grebes were found e. of their normal Minnesota range, including adults with young July 29 at Lake of the Woods (MJ) and summering birds at French and Diamond L., *Hennepin* (OJ).

The only Am. White Pelican sighting from the e. two-thirds of the Region was of a pair in *Chippewa*, Mich., until early July

(*vide* MP) Double-crested Cormorant sighting and nesting increases were again noted this summer. Continuing scarce were s heron sightings Regionwide. The only Snowy Egret nesting occurred again at Green Bay, with at least one additional adult present (m.ob.). Michigan had one June 2 in *Monroe* (JF, TH, DW) while Minnesota had 2 June sightings (m.ob.). The only Little Blue Heron sighting was of an immature June 17 in Michigan's *Midland* (CF, DJ, BG). The first confirmed Cattle Egret nesting for Michigan occurred at the Saginaw River I., *Bay* (CF, GK *et al.*). One was in *Allegan* July 30 (KK). At the heron-cormorant rookery at Green Bay 20-30 pairs again nested this summer (m.ob.), but none was seen elsewhere in Wisconsin. Minnesota had 3 sightings including June 29 at Agassiz N.W.R. (JMa), 24 June 21 at Grant (S & DM), and successful nesting at L. Johanna, *Pope* (BH). Adult Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in Wisconsin June 2 in *Rock* (RH) and June 26 in *Crawford* (EE, MM), and an immature was in Milwaukee July 27 + (WM). For Minnesota the only sightings occurred in the Twin Cities.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES**— A Tundra Swan summered at Crex Meadows W.M.A., Wis. (JH). One was present during late June at Seney N.W.R., Mich. (DE). Out of range Ring-necked Ducks in Wisconsin included a summering pair at Goose Pond, *Columbia*, and one June 19 at Manitowoc (CS). A late Greater Scaup was at Superior's Wisconsin Pt., June 2 (DT). Lesser Scaup were found at 5 Wisconsin locations and one in Michigan. There were several exceptional duck sightings this summer. By far the best was of an ad. ♂ **Harlequin Duck** seen July 8 at Grand Marais (K & MH, WP). This constituted the first summer record for Minnesota. Most unusual was the recording of all 3 scoter species. A Surf Scoter appeared at Manitowoc, Wis., June 17-19 (CS, TS, JB *et al.*), with a Black Scoter there June 19-24 (CS *et al.*). A Surf Scoter was in Grand Marais, Minn., June 16-23 (m.ob.). And to complete the picture Michigan recorded White-wingeds with two June 3 at Whitefish Pt. (TW) and one June 24 in *Mackinac* (VY). Less unusual were the three Com. Goldeneyes that appeared at Manitowoc commencing June 18. At least one summered there (CS), with one found at Sheboygan July 12 (D & MB). A ♂ Bufflehead was in Michigan's *Leelanau* June 29 (LG). In Minnesota a female with six young at Agassiz N.W.R. (*vide* JMa) represented the 5th nesting record. A Red-breasted Merganser was found June 9 in *Dane* and June 14 in *Sauk*, Wis. (DC).

South of their normal range were Ospreys at Horicon N.W.R., with one June 20 and three July 22 (staff). A **Mississippi Kite** was observed by Foster and Emlen during the early morning June 25 in Wisconsin's *Dane*. The ad. Golden Eagle seen July 22 at Agassiz N.W.R. (JM) represented only the 2nd Minnesota summer record. A Peregrine Falcon was at Crex Meadows W.M.A., Wis., through June 3 (JH).

Spruce Grouse were seen in Michigan's *Chippewa* and *Iron* and Wisconsin's *Forest*. Yellow Rails were found during June at 2 locations in Michigan's Seney N.W.R. (DE). Also in Michigan, three to four King Rails were reported from Pt. Mouillee (JF, TH, DW). In Wisconsin single birds were found in *Marinette* (MM) and *Green Lake* (MM) and a dead one in *Monroe* (EE), plus five at Horicon N.W.R. (staff). There were more than the usual number of Com. Moorhen sightings in Minnesota.

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS**— At least 25 species continued their spring migration during the first 2-3 weeks of June. Michigan's most interesting sightings included two Piping Plovers June 1 at Whitefish Pt. (TW), 13 Red Knots June 2 in *Monroe* (JF, TH, DW), and mid-June White-rumped Sandpipers at the Muskegon Wastewater System (GW) and Freeland Sewage Lagoon (CF). For Wisconsin there were numerous interesting/unusual records. They included Lesser Golden-Plover June 9 at Manitowoc (TS) and June 10 at Crex Meadows W.M.A. (JP), mid-June Semipalmated Plovers at Manitowoc (CS), a June 23

Lesser Yellowlegs at Horicon N W R (WM) with another accompanied by a Solitary Sandpiper also June 23 in *Pierce* (JP), and a Willet at Manitowoc, likewise June 23 (CS). Whimbrels continued migrating at Manitowoc until June 9 (CS *et al.*) with one at LaCrosse June 5 (FL). Both godwits were found during June with single Hudsonians at Superior June 1 (RJ), Horicon N.W.R., June 7 (JB), and *Fond du Lac* June 9 (TS), while a Marbled was found at Horicon N.W.R., June 24 (staff). Red Knots (six to eight) were at Superior in early June (RJ, DT) with one at Horicon N.W.R., June 7 (JB). At Manitowoc Sanderlings were present through June 17 (JB *et al.*) and Least Sandpipers through June 19 (CS) while Semipalmated and White-rumped sandpipers reportedly summered (CS *et al.*). A W. Sandpiper was found at Superior June 2 (DT) and a tardy Pectoral Sandpiper June 23 at Horicon N.W.R. (WM), with 3000 Dunlins present at the latter refuge June 1 (staff). Lastly, a Long-billed Dowitcher was observed June 8 in *Dane* (DT).

Piping Plover nesting was even more disastrous than last summer. Wisconsin had no nesting although a pair was found at Long I., *Ashland* (MM). For Minnesota a very high water level at L. of the Woods flooded out most of the nests on Pine and Curry islands (*vide* KE). Summering/fall migration sightings for Michigan included two June 22 at Muskegon S.P. (SM) and two July 9 at Muskegon Wastewater System (GW). In Wisconsin one appeared July 26 at Manitowoc (*vide* CS), remaining into August. American Avocets nested in Minnesota with 7 nests at Agassiz N.W.R. (JMa) and one nest at Cottonwood (HK).

There was a scattering of fall migrant sightings in late June but the main movement did not commence until July. Of particular interest were single Willets at Port Sheldon, Mich., July 10 (JM, CR) and at Green Bay July 31 (ECL), and single Whimbrels at Duluth July 21 (LE) and Manitowoc July 26 (DT). A W Sandpiper was also at the latter locale July 26 (DT). Three Hudsonian Godwits were at Cottonwood, Minn., July 21 (HK) with a **Ruff** there July 18-19 (HK).

Some of the most interesting summer sightings involved larvae. In several instances identification was tentative, awaiting confirmation from the photographs. A jaeger was found on Drummond I., *Chippewa*, June 27 (DE). It was thought to be a Long-tailed but positive I.D. awaits photograph examination. If accepted, it would represent Michigan's 2nd consecutive summer record. The ad. Laughing Gull (photographed) reappeared at Manitowoc June 14, this time accompanied by an immature. They remained through June 23 (CS, TS, JB *et al.*). Franklin's Gulls were found at 3 Wisconsin sites including *Chippewa* June 28 (JP) and *LaCrosse* July 5 (FL), and five during the period at Manitowoc (m.ob.). Little Gulls again summered at Manitowoc with at least six present (m.ob.), and a single bird was at Green Bay June 10 (MM). Wisconsin had its first confirmed **California Gull** sighting. A 3rd-year bird, approaching full breeding plumage, was discovered by Tessen at Manitowoc's impoundment June 13. It was subsequently seen by other birders (CS, JB, DG, JI) intermittently on ensuing days with the last sighting July 3. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was watched July 2 at Waughshance Pt., *Emmet*, Mich. (CM). This was a most unusual summer sighting, especially on L. Michigan.

Substantial numbers of Caspian Terns were noted in Minnesota and Wisconsin, e.g., 300 at Manitowoc. Certainly the most unusual summer sighting, if accepted by Wisconsin's Records Committee, was that of a breeding-plumaged ad. **Royal Tern** at Manitowoc. It was discovered and photographed by Schultz and Baughman June 18. The bird proved somewhat elusive although it was seen intermittently into July (CS *et al.*). Black Tern nesting in Wisconsin was *very low* (MM). Unusually high lake levels were a prime inhibitory factor. A similar situation existed in Michigan but on a more localized scale (EC).

**OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES**— A Com. Barn-Owl nested at Deerfield, Wis., where it fledged four young. Apparently this was the 2nd consecutive year it had nested here (MM). A N Saw-whet Owl at Manitowoc July 18 was s. of its normal range

(CS) Wisconsin recorded its 7th **Chuck-will's-widow** with the confirmation of two singing birds at the Humphrey (JHu) residence in *Adams* (SR, DF, MP, DT). According to the Humphreys the birds had also been present the previous summer! The observation of ad. Three-toed Woodpeckers with one juvenile represented Minnesota's 3rd confirmed nesting. Stensaas observed the family group July 11-16 at Seagull L., *Cook*. Another bird was seen July 30 in *St. Louis* (KB). Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in 5 Michigan counties but Wisconsin had only 2 reporting counties, one representing a successful nesting (Price, KS). This species was harder to locate this summer in Wisconsin than it had been for many years.

Late spring migrants included Olive-sided Flycatchers June 13 in *Ramsey*, Minn. (RHo), and June 16 at Manitowoc, Wis. (CS), and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher June 12 near Hortonville, Wis. (SR). Late migrating W. Kingbirds were also observed in Wisconsin. Two were seen at Wisconsin Pt., Superior, June 2 (DT), with single birds in *St. Croix* June 6 (TG) and *Taylor* June 9 (SR). Wisconsin had an increased number of Acadian Flycatcher sightings including from areas where they are normally not reported.

A Black-billed Magpie family group June 30 at Bluestem Prairie, Minn. (KE, L & CF), was s. of its normal range. In Wisconsin, Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee sightings were considerably fewer than typical of previous summers. All 3 states had Red-breasted Nuthatch sightings far s. of the normal range. Brown Creepers were also noted s. of their usual range in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Region's only Carolina Wren report was of one July 20-31 at Greenfield Village, Mich. (JF). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Madison, Wis., July 5 (TSu) was unusually far s. Eastern Bluebird sightings and nesting success were notably up in Wisconsin, an encouraging sign. Minnesota and Wisconsin had 2 reports each of N. Mockingbirds. Late migrating Water Pipits were found June 2 at Wisconsin Pt., Superior (DT), and June 7 at Grand Marais, Minn. (K & MH). The Loggerhead Shrike picture proved similar to that of last summer—bleak to cautiously optimistic. While Michigan had no reports, both Wisconsin and Minnesota had several. In the former there were 5-6 sightings including 2 successful nestings (one and five fledged young) while in the latter there were 9 sightings including 3 nestings.

**VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES** — Territorial White-eyed Vireos included birds at Cadiz S.P. (DT) and Yellowstone Lake S.P. (JB, TS), Wis., and four at Lost Nation S.G.A. (JR), Mich., plus single sightings in Milwaukee June 13 (WW) and *Kalamazoo* in late June (RA). Bell's Vireo reports included 12 in Wisconsin, three in Minnesota and one in Michigan. The Yellow-throated Vireo returned to nest in Duluth for the 2nd consecutive year. A Philadelphia Vireo was found June 28 in *Presque Isle*, Mich. (BE).

About 15 warbler species were migrating well into June, with Michigan and especially Minnesota noting greater numbers and variety than Wisconsin. Especially late were Minnesota observations of a Pine Warbler June 18 in *Ramsey* (RHo) and a Palm Warbler June 17 in *Blue Earth* (MF). Out-of-range sightings for Minnesota included Blue-winged and Cerulean warblers at Flandrau S.P. (JS), and 2-3 pairs of Prothonotaries at New Ulm all summer (JS), all farther w. than usual. Farther s. was a Nashville Warbler July 10-20 in *Ramsey* (m.ob.). For Michigan the sightings included a Magnolia July 13 in *Ottawa* (SM), Black-throated Blues June 14 & 21 in Muskegon S.P. (GW) and June 23 in *Ottawa* (SM), and Ceruleans during late June in *Midland* and *Saginaw* (CF, BG) and a Prothonotary June 24 at Shiawassee N.W.R. (CF, BG). In Wisconsin several Canada Warblers were found in *Crawford* (EE) and *Milwaukee* (JFr), s. of the usual range.

Interesting records included a territorial Tennessee Warbler in Johnson's (R) yard at Superior until July 18, with another June 26 in *Price* (MH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found

June 2 along the Sugar R., *Rock*, Wis., just across the state line (RH). In Michigan the species was present at its usual nesting site near Three Oaks until July 7 (DP, HE). Wisconsin had two rare Prairie Warbler sightings. A pair was in *Ozaukee* until June 19, although nesting could not be confirmed (JFr *et al.*), and a territorial male was s.w. of Eau Claire through June 12 (JP *et al.*) Michigan had two territorial birds in *Benzie* during June (CFr) Unusual were 3 sightings of Palm Warblers, 2 in Michigan (*Chippewa* and *Luce*) and one in Wisconsin (*Douglas*—MM) Two pairs of Worm-eating Warblers were again found in Wisconsin's *Sauk*, with one pair in *Ottawa*, Mich. Kentucky Warblers were reported from 4 Wisconsin and one Michigan counties. Michigan had at least 13 territorial Hooded Warblers including sightings unusually far n. in *Antrim* (DR) and *Benzie* (CFr). Wisconsin had four territorial males, including a sighting from *Shawano* (MPe), n. of the normal range. Surprising were Wilson's Warblers found in 6 different locations in the Upper Peninsula; no nesting has been verified to date. Yellow-breasted Chats were recorded in all 3 states including 13 in Michigan, five in Wisconsin, and three in Minnesota.

Both Michigan and Wisconsin had fewer than normal Dickcissel reports with 3 and 10 counties, respectively. Found farther s. than expected were Le Conte's Sparrows July 5 in *Hennepin*, Minn. (SC), and White-throated Sparrows July 5-19 in *Wabaska*, Minn. (D & WM). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in 2 Wisconsin locales, a few into early June s. of Chippewa Falls (CK *et al.*), and several until mid-June at Crex Meadows W.A. (m.ob.). Late was a White-crowned Sparrow June 3 at Whitefish Pt. (TW, TC).

Purple Finch sightings were up Regionwide with birds farther s. than usual. The House Finch expansion continued in the s. Lower Peninsula. For example, Cox banded 82 in her Detroit backyard in one day plus seeing many unbanded birds. Sightings were occurring as far n. as *Montcalm* (JHa). Minnesota had one at LeSueur July 6-7 (H & JC). Flocks of Red Crossbills were observed migrating in n. Wisconsin and Michigan during early June. Thereafter there were only a few sightings Regionwide. There were even fewer White-winged Crossbill reports (4 Michigan, 2 Wisconsin, one Minnesota). Migrating flocks of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were observed at Wisconsin Pt. in early June (DT). Pine Siskins were found at several s. Minnesota locations including nesting at 3 sites.

**ADDENDUM** — A ♂ **Painted Bunting** was at Mrs. McNamara's feeder in *Door*, Wis., May 9-11 (photographed). This was about the 5th state record.

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## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

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While the summer season tends to be uneventful, this year it was exceptionally so. Breeding bird atlas projects in several states increased observer activity but produced only a handful of new nesting records in addition to documenting range expansions that had been underway for several years. However, these surveys should eventually substantially improve our knowledge of breeding bird distribution within the Region. While unusual sightings are not normally expected during the nesting season, even the returning fall migrants were accompanied by few rarities.

Despite the absence of rarities, many observers felt it was a successful year for most nesting birds. Weather conditions were conducive for most species, with below-normal temperatures during both months, and excessive rainfall was restricted to southern areas during June. The only negative comments came from Kentucky, where June thunderstorms destroyed some nests, and Iowa, where below-normal precipitation adversely affected wetland nesting species.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — M.M.W.A. = Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area, O.; Spfld. = Springfield, Ill. *Italicized* place names are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Nonbreeding Com. Loons were detected at 8 locations this summer. Pied-billed Grebes experienced good nesting success in the n. states, especially in Illinois where broods were observed at 10 sites. A Horned Grebe remained at Cleveland throughout the period (m.ob.), providing one of very few summer records for Ohio. Nonbreeding Eared Grebes were reported only from w. Iowa where they are apparently rare but regular during summer. Reports of summering Am. White Pelicans continued to increase. They appeared at 5 Iowa and 2 Missouri locations with a maximum of 300 at Spirit L., Ia. (DH). Farther e., two were noted in *Mason*, Ill., July 8-31 + (KR, m.ob.), while different individuals were reported June 20-21 (BP, m.ob.) and July 27 + (LRa *et al.*) from Louisville, where there are few previous records during any season. Three Double-crested Cormorant colonies contained 50 nests along the Mississippi R. between Fulton and Spring Lake N.W.R., Ill., and additional nests were apparently located on the Iowa side of the river. A new nesting colony near Bartonville, Ill., hosted 3 pairs (KR). Small numbers of nonbreeding cormorants were discovered at 13 additional locations in all states except Indiana.

The fortunes of Am. Bitterns continued to decline with only 8 summering reports and no nests this year. Least Bitterns were faring much better with increased reports from all states except Kentucky. Great Blue Herons remained stable with 127 nesting colonies in Missouri and 35 in Illinois while an exceptionally large postbreeding congregation totalled 960 in *Mason*, Ill., July 18 (KR). Great Egrets received mixed reports. Only 2 colonies remained in Missouri while 19 were noted in Illinois; postbreeding concentrations peaked at 235-286 in n. Illinois. Small numbers of Snowy Egrets nested at traditional heronries in Caruthersville, Mo., Sikeston, Mo., and E. St. Louis, Ill. Postbreeders wandered N to s.w. Iowa and n. Illinois while an unusually large total of 39 congregated at Horseshoe L., Ill., Aug. 4 (SR).

Indiana's first nesting record for Little Blue Heron was established in *Vigo* June 8 (+M & CBr, EMu), and Kentucky's 2nd breeding location was confirmed by a nest at Louisville (BP, JMo). The Mississippi R. colonies remained stable with 1000 nests at Caruthersville, 900 at Sikeston, and 25-95 at 2 s. Illinois sites. Tricolored Herons appeared at their traditional areas with one or more summering in the w. Lake Erie marshes (JP) and



another at L. Calumet, Ill., June 8 and July 1 (CM, JL). Cattle Egrets nested at Louisville for the 2nd consecutive year while the Mississippi R. colonies continued to thrive with 1500 nests at Caruthersville, 1650 at Sikeston, and 100+ in a new heronry in *Alexander*, Ill. (JR). Postbreeders were decidedly scarce with a maximum of only six in s.w. Iowa. Black-crowned Night-Herons remained stable with 37-520 nests in 6 Illinois heronries, 100-150 nests at 2 Missouri sites, and 300 nests at Louisville. It was a normal year for Yellow-crowned Night-Herons with 21 reports n. to the Great Lakes including nesting records for Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS** — Nesting waterfowl generally experienced a productive summer. Broods of Green-winged Teal at Barberton, O. (LR) and *LaPorte*, Ind. (D & SP) were away from known breeding locations. Northern Pintails nested in 3 n. Iowa marshes where they are regular in small numbers. Increased numbers of Blue-winged Teal in Illinois included a brood s. to *Randolph* (JR, TF), where they are casual nesters. A pair summered in w. Kentucky in *Hickman* (CP), where there are few breeding records. Northern Shovelers are also rare but regular breeders in n. Iowa, where they nested at 3 locations this summer, while a pair possibly nested at Barrington, Ill. (RMO). A brood of Ring-necked Ducks in *Calhoun* June 22 (SD) provided a rare recent nesting record for Iowa. Hooded Mergansers continued to increase with broods reported from 9 locations in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri. Ruddy Ducks nested at one n. Iowa and 2 n.e. Illinois locations where they are probably regular in small numbers while 3 broods at Arcola (RCH) provided an unusual nesting record for c. Illinois.

The expected numbers of nonbreeding waterfowl appeared in most states. The most noteworthy nonbreeding records included a summering Tundra Swan at St. Louis (DJ), Greater Scaup at Spfld. through June 25 (H), and White-winged Scoter at Chicago June 13 (HR), plus a number of sightings of summering Com. and Red-breasted mergansers.

A Black Vulture nest was discovered in *Lawrence* (JC); there are few recent confirmed breeding records for s. Indiana. Summering Ospreys increased dramatically with 17 reports this year. An extensive survey of Mississippi Kites in Missouri produced sightings of as many as 14 adults from 9 s.e. locations n. to Cape Girardeau and w. to Wappapello L. (*vide* JW). Normal numbers were reported from s. Illinois. Bald Eagles increased to 7 pairs in Ohio with a new pair discovered in *Ashtabula*. Elsewhere, they nested successfully at one c. Missouri site, Mingo N.W.R., Mo. (*vide* JW), and in *Jo Daviess*, Ill. (TI), while the nest at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., was destroyed (JR), and the pair apparently deserted at *Allamakee*, Ia. (FL). Intensive field work this summer uncovered more nesting N. Harriers. Single nests were reported from Union Slough N.W.R., Ia. (JF), *Ashtabula*,

O (D & JHo), Killdeer Plains W M A , O (J, JM), Warrick, Ind (JCa), Vermilion, Ill. (SB *et al.*), Pike, Ill. (*fide* CB), Jasper, Ill. (SS), and Taberville Prairie, Mo., while 8 were located at Prairie S P., Mo. (BT). Scattered summering birds in all states except Kentucky included a number of suspected breeding attempts. These reports were probably indicative of the small, locally-distributed remnant populations that have been previously overlooked in most states, rather than a substantial population increase.

Accipiter reports also benefitted from increased survey efforts. Nesting Sharp-shinned were noted in Missouri, Indiana, and Ohio, while Cooper's Hawks continued to improve with 17 nests located in s. Missouri and at least 21 sightings distributed throughout Ohio. Red-shouldered Hawk populations have apparently stabilized, and remain healthy in many s. locations. Swainson's Hawks are erratic breeders in Iowa where a nest in *Osceola* was noteworthy. They returned to their traditional Kane, Ill., nesting location, and summering birds were reported from 2 n. Iowa and 3 s.w. Missouri sites.

**GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Gray Partridges are expanding S in Iowa with sightings in *Johnson* (JFu) and *Cedar* (T). A Ruffed Grouse in *Grayson* July 28 (KC) was outside its normal Kentucky range. The outlook for N. Bobwhite improved somewhat. Indiana populations increased 18 percent, and local increases were noted in most states. Largest populations are still restricted to s. portions of the Region. Nesting King Rails were restricted to Illinois with reports from Havana, Bartonville (KR), *Jasper* (SS), and L. Calumet (CM, JL). Summering birds were detected at 3 additional Illinois sites and 7 marshes along w Lake Erie. Summering Virginia Rails in *Cass*, Mo. (JG), and 3 c. Illinois marshes were near the s. limits of the breeding range, as were small numbers of summering Soras at 5 c. Illinois locations.

The unpredictable Purple Gallinule wandered to Indiana Dunes S.P., Ind., June 5 (+JPa). It was a good year for Com. Moorhens with successful nesting reported from many areas. Increased numbers were conspicuous in s. areas where moorhens are casual or rare during summer; these reports included a nest at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo. (JSm), 5 c. and s. Illinois reports s. to *Randolph* (BM, JR), and three summering birds through mid-June at Frankfort, Ky. (SE, *fide* BP). Indiana's "white-shielded" coot spent the summer at E. Chicago and mated with a typical Am. Coot. Coots were also more numerous than normal in c. and s. Illinois including 20+ broods at Arcola (Rch) and summering birds s. to *Randolph*. A nonbreeding Sandhill Crane was noted in c. Indiana during July.

Reports of late spring migrant or nonbreeding shorebirds increased this summer, particularly in Iowa where many species remained through mid-June. Most noteworthy of the summering reports included Lesser Golden-Plovers in Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois, a Whimbrel along w. Lake Erie through July 5 and a Marbled Godwit there through mid-June (JP), another Marbled Godwit at Hendrickson Marsh, Ia., June 23 (HZ), and a Red Knot along w. Lake Erie through July 1. With so many summering shorebirds, it was difficult to separate the first fall migrants from the nonbreeders. However, migration was well underway by early July and locally suitable habitat produced large July concentrations in Iowa and Illinois.

Piping Plovers nested in w. Iowa again with 6 pairs at the IPL ponds, *Pottawattamie*, and a nest at Sioux City (BW, m.ob.). Four sightings of July migrants from Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois were normal for recent years. A congregation of 675 Killdeer at Chicago July 28 (JL) was unusually large. Returning Am. Avocets were noted at 6 locations in Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana during July with maxima of 12 along L. Erie and 11 at Spfld., July 26 (H). Lesser Yellowlegs were locally abundant with peaks of 1890 at L. Calumet, Ill., July 28 (JL), 1750 in *Mason*, Ill., July 29 (KR), and 1450 at Union Slough N.W.R., Ia., July 29 (SD, GB). A total of 422 Solitary Sandpipers at L. Calumet July 28 was truly remarkable. Migrant Willets returned to 9 locations,

mostly along the Great Lakes and in Iowa, although inland singles at Louisville July 5 (BP) and Terre Haute, Ind., July 23 (RE) were locally unusual.

A Spotted Sandpiper nested at Louisville (BP *et al.*) where it is a rare resident. Increased field work uncovered more nesting Upland Sandpipers although they remained rare and locally-distributed in most areas. Migrants peaked with an exceptional 96 in *Ottawa*, O., July 25 (JP). Migrant Whimbrels were restricted to L. Erie while fall Marbled Godwits consisted of a L. Erie sighting and one at Rend L., Ill., July 20-21 (+JR, m.ob.). Semipalmated Sandpipers peaked at 600 in *Mason*, Ill., July 29 (KR). The expected small numbers of W. Sandpipers appeared during July with a maximum of eight at Louisville. A total of 2200 Pectoral Sandpipers in *Mason*, Ill., July 29 was remarkable for fall as was the total of 925 at Union Slough N.W.R., Ia., on the same date (SD, GB). Stilt Sandpipers also peaked at Union Slough N.W.R., July 29 when 135 were counted.

Two early Buff-breasted Sandpipers returned to L. Calumet, Ill., July 28 (JL) where the season's only Ruff was also present July 4-14 (RB, +m.ob.). Summering Com. Snipe were reported from n.e. Ohio in *Carroll* (TBA) and *Portage* (LR) and at Morse L., Ia. (SD), while one in *Randolph*, Ill., July 3 (JR, TF) could conceivably have been an early migrant. An early Am. Woodcock brood was discovered at L. George, Ind., Apr. 23 (KB). Wilson's Phalaropes were not found nesting in the Region this year and only small numbers of July migrants were detected.

**GULLS, TERNS** — Single Laughing Gulls appeared on L. Erie and L. Michigan, where they are annually observed during summer, and two adults were noted at Spfld., July 10 (H). Nonbreeding Franklin's Gulls were more widely reported than normal with sightings from all states except Missouri. An imm. Little Gull provided a rare summer record for the Cleveland-Lorain lakefront June 2-5 (DC, TL). Breeding Ring-billed Gulls remained stable with 3000 nests at Oregon, O. (ET), and 3000-4000 at L. Calumet, Ill. (JL). There are few summer records of California Gulls from this Region. Hence, an adult at Spfld., July 9 and a subadult there July 30-31 (+H) were unexpected. Indiana's first nesting record for Herring Gull was provided by 2 pairs at Port of Indiana (KB). Other Great Lakes colonies harbored 600-700 nests at L. Calumet and 120 at Oregon, O. This adaptable species has discovered that goose tubs provide suitable nesting sites on inland reservoirs in Ohio, where 2 pairs nested at L. Rockwell (LR) and another possibly nested at L. St Mary's (J, DR). Should this behavior continue to flourish, inland range expansion of Herring Gulls may be an unintentional result of Canada Goose management practices.

Small numbers of nonbreeding Caspian Terns summered along the Great Lakes and at several inland locations while fall migrants peaked with 76 along L. Erie in late July. Populations of our breeding terns remained precariously low. Common Terns attempted to nest only in the Chicago area where 16-18 pairs were unsuccessful (JL). Forster's Terns were discovered nesting at 2 n. Iowa marshes where they are regular, and a maximum of 180 accumulated in *Lake*, Ill., July 6 (JL). Breeding Least Terns returned to the IPL ponds in w. Iowa where 9 pairs were present (BW). The Mississippi R. colonies were not systematically censused this year but numbers appeared to be lower. In Missouri, the largest colony comprised 18 nests and only one new colony was located (*fide* JSm). The imm. Least Tern noted at Waukegan, Ill., this spring was rediscovered July 24 (CM, JL). Small numbers of Black Terns nested at 3 sites in n. Iowa and 2 in n.e. Illinois, while fall migrants peaked at 106-113 in the w. states.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH CREEPER** — Cuckoos elicited mixed reports. Black-billed were widespread only in Illinois and Iowa; 3 Kentucky reports s. to *Harrison* (BP, BA) were near the s. boundary of its range. Yellow-billed were distinctly scarce except in Illinois where large numbers took advantage of emerging cicadas. The fortunes of Com. Barn-Owls have not im-

proved, with 10 nests found in Missouri plus single nests in *Ottawa*, O. (JP) and *Stanley*, Ky. (RI). There are few recent nesting records for Burrowing Owl in Iowa; hence, four young discovered near *Aurelia* June 5 (†DB) were noteworthy. The only Long-eared Owl nest located was at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O. (J, JM). Summering Short-eared Owls at *Mode*, Ill. (KF), and *Maumee Bay S.P.*, O. (ET, JP *et al.*), were suspected of nesting. Chuck-will's-widows have increased in Ohio with 60+ males present throughout *Adams* (m.ob.) and a nest in nearby *Pike* (*vide* DR). They returned to traditional summering sites in the other states. Unusual in w. Iowa, Whip-poor-wills were reported from *Cherokee* (DB, MB) and *Woodbury* (TB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds received mixed reports without an apparent Regionwide trend. An ad. ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** was documented from n.w. Missouri near *Corning* July 25+ (†EW, m.ob.) where the species is still thought to be an accidental visitor. Red-headed Woodpeckers remained locally scarce in portions of Ohio, Missouri, and Kentucky. A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested at *Mississippi Palisades S.P.* (RC), providing Illinois' first breeding record in many years. A total of 43 observations including nests in *Allamakee* and *Winneshiak* (DK) were reported from n.e. Iowa, where sapsuckers were previously thought to be rare during summer. Additional Iowa summering birds were noted at *Volga River S.P.*, July 7 (FM) and two in *Lyon* July 18 (DH).

As expected, the spring flycatcher migration continued into early June while the first fall migrants returned in late July. Breeding Alder Flycatchers increased dramatically in n. Ohio where as many as nine were discovered at 15 locations; a summering male in *Holmes* (J) was s. of its expected range. One or two males at *Braidwood* through June 25 (JMi) and at *L. Calumet* June 15 (RP) were unexpected, since Alders are not known to breed in n. Illinois. Willow Flycatcher reports from the s. edge of its range included 6 nests at *Louisville* (BP, JMo) plus summering birds at *Farmington*, Mo. (BR) and *Jackson*, Ill. (JR). The 16 reports of Least Flycatchers from Ohio, Iowa, and Illinois were indicative of slowly increasing populations. Normal numbers of W. Kingbirds appeared in the w. states while Illinois sightings consisted of a nest at *Charleston* (SSt, BH, m.ob.) and singles at *Freeport* June 19 (DWi) and *Spring Lake W.M.A.*, July 4 (KR), in addition to two at the regular *Alton* location.

Purple Martins experienced good nesting success. Migration roosts of martins totalled 17,000 at *Jeffersonville*, Ind., July 19 (BP) and 4500 at *Keokuk*, Ia., July 28 (RC). Tree Swallows continued to expand in Kentucky and s. Illinois. The discovery of new or larger Cliff Swallow colonies indicated populations were still increasing in most states. Despite their virtual absence last winter, unusual numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were discovered this summer. They nested at *Dundee*, Ill. (RMO), and *Lucas*, O. (TBa), and noteworthy summering records included singles in *DuPage*, Ill., June 17 (JMi), *Sioux Center*, Ia., June 30-July 25 (JV), and *Grinnel*, Ia., July 15 (DK), and two at *Champaign*, Ill., July 17-30 (BC) plus sightings from 4 n. Ohio sites. Missouri's first recent Brown Creeper nest was discovered at *Big Oak Tree S.P.*, May 13-14 (MR). A small population remains in s. Illinois with sightings from *Crab Orchard N.W.R.*, June 18-20 and *Heron Pond Nature Preserve* June 30 (JR). A nest in *Montgomery* was s. of its normal range in Ohio (JWh).

**WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS**— Carolina Wrens elicited mixed comments from the s. areas and remained very scarce in n. portions of the Region. Bewick's Wrens were described as more numerous throughout s. Missouri. The only other reports received were from 4 Kentucky locations. Few Sedge Wrens were detected in the e. states, although four summering in *Livingston* (BP, RCa) were unusual in Kentucky. However, they were widespread in n. and c. Illinois. Eastern Bluebirds received mixed reports without any apparent Regionwide trends although nesting success was reported as good or excellent at a number of localities. Veeries were still increasing in n. areas and appeared s. to c. Illinois at *Sand Ridge S.F.* (RBj) and *L.*



*Juvenile Loggerhead Shrike in eastern Kendall County, Ill., June 24, 1985. Photo/ Joe B. Milosevich.*

*Shelbyville* (AR). An unmated Swainson's Thrush remained at M.M.W.A. all summer (JP). Although they can be late spring and early fall migrants, there are few summering records from the Region. Cedar Waxwings were abundant throughout the n. states and summered s. to *Taylor*, Ky., and *Farmington*, Mo. Numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes remained distressingly low in the n. states where there were 15 reports this summer.

More Bell's Vireos were evident along the e. edge of their range. In Ohio, a pair nested at *Columbus* (RCo, m.ob.) and summering males were reported in *Buck Creek S.P.* (†DO), *Franklin* (Fry) and *Stark* (LR); a nest in *Stueben* (DW) was unusual for n.e. Indiana. Normal numbers were detected elsewhere. A Solitary Vireo at *Waubonsie S.P.*, July 13 (RC, FM) provided a first summer record for Iowa. The expected small numbers were discovered at 7 locations in n. Ohio and one in n. Indiana. Yellow-throated Vireos remained in good numbers.

Golden-winged Warbler has virtually disappeared as a nesting species. This summer's only sighting was of a male in *Coshocton*, O., June 10 (J, DR). The expected small numbers of Chestnut-sided Warblers were detected in the n. states s. to *Coshocton*, O. Magnolia Warblers appeared at regular haunts in n. Ohio including nests at *Lake* and *Lorain*. In addition to reports from traditional nesting areas, apparent nonbreeding Black-throated Green Warblers included a noteworthy individual at *Mississippi Palisades S.P.*, Ill., June 12 (RG); they are not known to nest in Illinois. A summering Blackburnian Warbler returned to *L. Rockwell*, O. (LR), while one at *Pigeon River W.M.A.*, Ind., June 15-22 was thought to be a nonbreeder (Haw *et al.*). Yellow-throated Warblers continued to be discovered at new locations along the n. edge of the Region. Prairie Warblers, also expanding N, included one at *Shimek S.F.*, Ia., July 4-26 (†RC, m.ob.); they are still considered casual visitors in Iowa and are not known to nest. A Blackpoll Warbler summering at M.M.W.A. (JP) was probably a first for Ohio although this male did not have the slightest chance of attracting a mate.

Increased numbers of Worm-eating Warblers in Iowa included 11 males and a possible nest at *Shimek S.F.* (RC *et al.*) and one at *Ledges S.P.*, July 1 (SD). A summering male in *Summit* (LR) was n. of its normal Ohio range. Habitat destruction may have seriously depleted Swainson's Warblers in s. Illinois where only one bird could be located. They were unreported elsewhere. Northern Waterthrushes may be rare but regular residents in n.e. Ohio where they summered in *Portage* and *Geauga* this year (LR). Improved numbers of Kentucky Warblers in Iowa included numerous reports w. to *Ledges S.P.* Late migrant Connecticut and Mourning warblers lingered until mid-June in Indiana and Iowa, respectively. However, small numbers of summering Mournings were detected in n. Ohio for the 2nd consecutive year with reports from *Lake* (LR), *Geauga* (*vide* LR), and *Maumee S.F.* (TBa). Wilson's Warblers also remained beyond normal departure dates with sightings June 15-19 in Indiana and Illinois. Small numbers of Canada Warblers were noted at traditional summer locations in Iowa, n.e. Ohio, and n. Illinois.



Male Summer Tanager in western Will County, Ill., June 3, 1985. Photo/ Joe B. Milosevich.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES**— The N expanding Summer Tanager bred in n.e. Illinois for the first time with 2 nests in *Will* (JMi). Summering birds were also reported from one site in n. Indiana and 2 in n. Ohio. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued their S expansion, appearing at new locations in s. Illinois and s. Ohio. Blue Grosbeaks also continued their range expansion. They have almost reached L. Erie with a male in *Erie*, O. (+TBa, m.ob.), while sightings at Shimek S.F., Ia., June 7 (M & BPr) and *Coshocton*, O. (J, DR), were outside their previous range. Above-normal numbers of Dickcissels were noted in all states for the 2nd consecutive year.

The declining Bachman's Sparrow was detected only near Hamlin, Ky., where 2 pairs were reported (CP). A Clay-colored Sparrow returned to Volga River S.P., Ia., July 7 (+FM, JFu) where they have been observed since 1981 but nesting has not been confirmed. Since Lark Sparrows have almost disappeared from Ohio, the discovery of small numbers at 3 new n. locations was encouraging. A wandering ♂ **Lark Bunting** appeared at Indiana Dunes S.P., June 2 (+JS *et al.*). There were only 4 previous records from Indiana. The expanding Savannah Sparrow was discovered at 3 Kentucky sites s. to Lexington (MF, RM). Encouraging numbers of Grasshopper Sparrows were reported including 100 in *Stark*, O. (LR), and 50 in *Vermilion*, Ill. (SB). Normal numbers of Henslow's Sparrows were noted in all states except Iowa and Missouri, including sightings from 4 Kentucky locations. Two Swamp Sparrows in s.w. Ohio at Beaver Creek June 5 (DN) were outside their normal range. Late White-throated Sparrows remained in Ohio and Illinois through June 14. Nesting Dark-eyed Juncos increased in n.e. Ohio where there were 6 sightings including a nest in *Cuyahoga* (TL). Nonbreeders remained in Indiana and Illinois through June 28-July 2.

Bobolink numbers were generally good. Since they are normally rare in Kentucky during summer, 40+ at Lexington were remarkable (MF, RM). Nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported only along the Great Lakes from 4 n.e. Illinois marshes while an extralimital bird appeared at Havana, Ill., July 1 (KR). A pair of Brewer's Blackbirds was noted at Illinois Beach S.P., Ill., June 23 (JL), where they have nested in the past. Great-tailed Grackles apparently nested at Forney L., Ia., where a female was carrying food July 7 (PL) and at least four were present July 13+ (m.ob.). The only Missouri report was from Schell-Osage W.M.A., July 8 (PL). Orchard Oriole numbers continued to improve in the n. areas.

Purple Finches were reported only from their normal n. Ohio locations. House Finches nested in Missouri for the first time, with young observed at Cape Girardeau July 10 (JPe, JW). One appeared July 8 in Iowa at Ames (+PM), where they are still casual visitors. Farther e., nesting birds were noted at 6 Illinois locations, and 125 were banded at Marion, Ind. (CW). Summering Pine Siskins were rather widespread despite their scarcity in the e. states last winter. They were observed in all states except Kentucky with nests at Ames, Ia. (EM), Marshalltown, Ia. (T), Howarden, Ia. (JV), Cincinnati (FR), and Urbana, Ill. (DE).

**CORRIGENDUM**— The Rock Wren reported from *Shannon*, Mo., Oct. 7, 1984 (AB 39:62) provided Missouri's 5th record, not its 3rd sighting.

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## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

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### Jerome A. Jackson

**I**t was a pretty humdrum season weatherwise in the mid-South. The only really bad weather for nesting birds included strong winds and rain the first week of June in western Arkansas, and excessive rain in early July in southern parts of the Region—but by then, the peak of nesting was past.

Laurels for the season go to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who cooperated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice and with the thousands of birds that nested on Gaillard Island in Mobile Bay, by ceasing operations on the island until fall. The result has to be the highlight of the season: 300+ Brown Pelicans and thousands of gulls and terns nested there!

Other positive news included a number of pelagic reports, and good nesting seasons for Ospreys, many herons, interior and coastal populations of Least Terns, and Cliff Swallows. House Finches continued to expand, with a first nest record

for Arkansas and new localities in Tennessee. Red Crossbills may also have nested in Arkansas.

On the negative side, there were no reports of Black-shouldered Kites, and the Atchafalaya Basin population of American Swallow-tailed Kites seemed down.

Reporting of some pelagics left a lot to be desired in terms of presenting them in this report. Precise coordinates were included and are needed for the files, but they are meaningless to the casual reader. Observers should also report distance and direction from specific points on the mainland. Weather conditions that might have resulted in unusual sightings should be included to facilitate interpretation. Other reporting problems included a large number of records with no observer names on them and many with observer and location names identified only by initials! For the sake of accuracy and to give credit where credit is due, please supply all information (including state!) with names and locations very carefully written out. Many illegible, incomplete, or "wrong season" records could not be used.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — P.B.I.P. = Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock Co., Miss.; D.R.U. = Duck River Unit, Tennessee Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Tenn.; P.R.M. = Pascagoula River Marsh, Miss. Place names in *italics* are parishes (Louisiana) or counties.

**LOONS THROUGH STORKS** — A Com. Loon at Waterloo, Ala., June 1 was late for the Tennessee Valley (GJ, HK). Another in breeding plumage was at Ft. Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, Fla., June 22, and loons in basic plumage were seen there July 12 & 31 (DW, BP). An ad. Pied-billed Grebe with two chicks was at Ft. Polk, *Vernon*, La., sewage ponds June 16 (HG). Arkansas reports of Pied-billed Grebes included records from *Lonoke* (TH), *Benton* (EN *et al.*), and *Washington* (RB, *fide* EN).

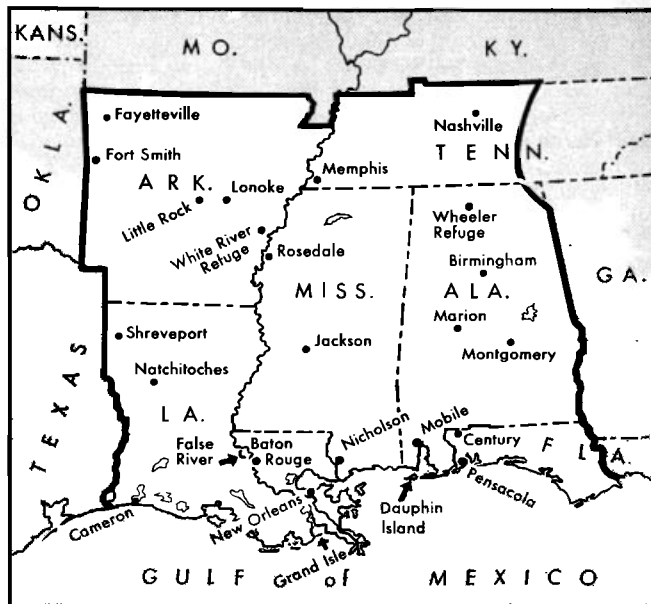
A large shearwater (sp.) was seen June 9 about 20 mi s.e. of the s.w. Pass of the Mississippi R. (BMM). BMM recorded one to four Wilson's Storm-Petrels June 10-11 about 20 mi s.e. of the s.w. Pass of the Mississippi R., and June 30-July 29 at about 62 naut. mi s. of Raccoon Point—wherever that is! SC and DD sighted one to 12 Wilson's Storm-Petrels 8-10 mi s. of the Louisiana coast July 15-17, and saw a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel July 16—if supporting details are accepted, this would be the first record of the species for Louisiana.

Storms in the Gulf with high onshore winds may have been why at Panama City Beach, Fla., RD saw an adult leading two imm. Masked Boobies in the morning and an imm. Brown Booby in the evening, all about 300 yards offshore. On July 19 BMM saw an ad. Masked Booby about 62 naut. mi s. of Raccoon Point. An imm. Brown Booby stayed at about 20 mi s.e. of the s.w. Pass of the Mississippi R., June 1-8 (ph. BMM). A lone Am. White Pelican was in the marsh at the old mouth of the Mermentau R., *Cameron*, La., June 13 (SC, DD), 38 were seen in *Cameron* July 9, 15 there July 10 (DD, DM, SC), and 150 at the Morganza Spillway, *Pointe Coupee*, La., July 13 (BC, R & MN, LH). In Arkansas 54 were at an Arkansas R. island in *Sebastian* July 2 (WS, KS). The Brown Pelican colony on Gaillard I., Mobile Bay, Ala., mushroomed to at least 150 nests this year (CDC)!

At Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., one or two Double-crested Cormorants were seen June 22-July 14 for the first local summer records (RC, NN, RS, MW). Other Louisiana records included one on Fourchon Rd. near Grand I., June 22 (AS, GS, JSe), and a lone immature at Cross L., *Caddo*, June 16 (CM, MA). In Mississippi two were at Sardis Waterfowl Ref., *Lafayette*, during July and August (MD, GK, VT). In Tennessee one was at Old Hickory L., *Sumner* and *Davidson*, June 15 (JP).

More than 35 Magnificent Frigatebirds, including one ad. male, were at Grand I., June 30 (BC, LH, RN, MS, DH); 170+ were off Grand Terre I. and barrier islands 10 mi e., July 15, and small numbers were off *Cameron* June 30-July 10 (SC, DD).

Anhingas were at cooling ponds at Big Point, *Jackson*, Miss., June 13 (JT, DK, MD), and eight adults with 3 nests and 10 young were found July 24-29 (JT, DK, JD), for the first coastal



Mississippi breeding record. Another new breeding locale was the Reelfoot Lake W.M.A. n. of Tiptonville, Tenn., where 3+ nests were found in July (RF, m.ob.). With fishing back to normal at Bluff L., Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., the Anhingas that nested there while fishing was stopped have not returned (JJ).

Least Bitterns may be increasing in numbers—at least they were being seen with increasing frequency at Noxubee N.W.R. (JJ). An adult and immature were at P.B.I.P., June 15 (JT, DK, GM), and two were at Bayou Caddy, *Hancock*, July 2 (JT, GM). In n. Mississippi, MD *et al.* found five immatures at a pond n.e. of Oxford July 23, providing the first breeding evidence for the area. At the D.R.U., two Least Bitterns were seen June 22 (SJS, BHS, LR).

A previously-unreported Great Blue heronry with about 150 nests was found 5 mi n.w. of Cord, *Independence*, Ark. (EH, RoH). Great Blue Herons had a banner year at D.R.U. where there were 200+ active nests (SJS, BHS). No data were available on the other known large Tennessee heronry near Tullahoma. The Great Egret is a species of special concern in Arkansas where summer reports included one at L. Sequoyah, *Washington*, June 13 (DJ), and 15 near Callie L., *Desha*, July 2-3 (LP *et al.*). Ponds at Clermont Harbor, *Hancock*, Miss., hosted 70 Great Egrets June 9 (JT, DK), but June 15 must have been a special day for herons, since the ponds at Clermont Harbor then attracted 12 Great Blues, 298 Great Egrets, 270 Snowy Egrets, 85 Little Blues, 12 Tricoloreds, and 15 Green-backed Herons (JT, DK, GM). At Audubon I., *Bay*, 20-30 Snowy Egrets were fledged this year, for the first breeding record for n.w. Florida (TF). A Snowy Egret was seen June 13 at L. Sequoyah, Ark. (DJ).

A group of 40 all-white imm. Little Blue Herons at the Waveland sewage lagoons, *Hancock*, Miss., June 28 suggested local breeding. An imm. Tricolored Heron was at Escatawpa, Miss., July 7 (JT). Cattle Egrets were common in pastures throughout coastal Mississippi (m.ob.). It was downright patriotic: an imm. Tricolored Heron in Memphis on July 4! It provided the 4th w. Tennessee record (BBC, LC). At least 16 imm. Reddish Egrets near Grand Island S.P., *Jefferson*, La., June 30 suggested good breeding success in the Barataria Bay area (BC *et al.*). A Reddish Egret was on the beach at Waveland, Miss., June 26 (MD), six were in *Hancock* and one in *Harrison*, Miss., July 18 (JT, DK, JS, AB), and July 10 a new Mississippi mainland high of 10 was found between Waveland and Gulfport (JT, DK, MB). As yet there are no breeding records for Mississippi, but surely it is just a matter of looking. As this species increases in Mississippi, it would be of value for observers to note the color phase of individuals observed.

Up to 150 Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen near Nashville during the period and the Bordeaux heronry in Nashville did well this year (MPS, m.ob.). At the Nixon Fish Farm at Lonoke, Ark., six ad. and 16 imm. Black-crowned Night-Herons were congregated with six ad. and 29 imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at dusk (TH). Other Arkansas Yellow-crowned Night-Heron records included two in *Desha* July 2-3 (LP *et al.*), and one adult at L. Sequoyah June 13 (DJ, JN, JF). In Tennessee Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported in *Davidson*, *Stewart*, *Lawrence*, *Cheatham*, *Sumner*, and *Humphreys* (JP, m.ob.).

A flock of 15 imm. White Ibises was seen July 17 in *Harrison*, Miss. (JT, DK). In Alabama 16 were along the Mobile R. at Mt. Vernon June 4, and up to 40 were near Polecat Bay in the lower Delta June 25-28 (JML); at Leighton, *Colbert*, one was seen July 6 (NP). The seemingly obligatory middle Tennessee record of a summer White Ibis was of an immature at Cross Creeks N.W.R., July 13-14 (SJS, DB). In Arkansas, one White Ibis at Pine Bluff June 6 (EDM) and three immatures in *Little River* June 9 (H & MP) were considered early transients; 52 imm. White Ibises in *Jefferson* June 16 marked both a high number and an early date (JES, GH). An ad. Glossy Ibis was near the Gibbstown Bridge, *Cameron*, July 10 (SC, DM, DD). A lone Roseate Spoonbill was feeding at Morganza Spillway, *Pointe Coupee*, La., July 12 (DG). Wood Storks were drastically down in numbers at Indigo I. Research Station, *Iberville*, La., where only one to four were seen June 18-July 9 (RM), although sightings at the Morganza Spillway included 52 July 4 (DG) and about 135 immatures July 13 (BC, R & MN, LH). In *Cameron* 26 were in the Hackberry Ridge area June 30 (SC, DD), and 10 were in the Garner Ridge area July 9 (DD, DM, SC). In Arkansas about 25 were in the Pine Prairie area of *Bradley* July 20 (VF). At Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., up to 35 were present by late July (DI, JJ, m.ob.), a welcome return after several years' absence, but with numbers far below those of the early 1970s.

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS**—Mottled Ducks may have nested at Blakely I., Mobile, Ala., where four were seen July 14 (GJ). Blue-winged Teal were present during June and July far s. of their normal breeding range, suggesting that their breeding range may be spreading on a broad front in the mid-South. Louisiana records included two ad. males at Cameron sewage ponds June 13 (SC, DD), one ad. male at Johnson's Bayou June 30 (SC, DD), 12 volant birds including two ad. males in the Garner Ridge area July 9 (DM, SC, DD), and three at Morganza July 31 (DG). Mississippi records included two females at ponds near Sardis L., July 18 (MD). A solitary ♂ N. Shoveler was at Cameron sewage ponds June 13 (SC, DD), and a lone female was at the Bonnet Carre Spillway July 13 (MW). An eclipse plumaged Ring-necked Duck was at Swan Creek W.M.A., Ala., July 20 (GJ, BG). Four presumed late migrant Lesser Scaup were at Justine Bay, Ala., June 2-3 (JML); and the Cameron sewage ponds also sheltered two ad. ♂ Lesser Scaup June 13-July 10, and another male able to fly well was near Johnsons Bayou School, *Cameron*, July 9 (SC, DM, DD). At LaBranche, *St. Charles*, nine Lesser Scaup furnished a first summer record for the area (RS, MW, MAy).

Two pairs of Wood Ducks were at cooling ponds at Big Pt., *Jackson*, Miss., June 13 & 22 (JT, DK, MD), and about 50, including grown young, were at Bayard Swamp, Waveland, Miss., July 26 (JT, DK, MB). Adults and seven young Mottled Ducks were at Clermont Harbor, Miss., June 15 (JT, GM, DK), and JT and DK also found 20 at P.R.M. and 20 at Greenwood I., *Jackson*, Miss., July 17.

The Hooded Merganser is an unusual breeding bird in Arkansas, so two females at Lunda Landing, *Chicot*, June 3 were noteworthy (JES, CSi). A report of two ♂ Ruddy Ducks in breeding plumage at the Canton sewage lagoon June 21 (MD) was quite unusual for Mississippi, but might have been the result of bird farm breeding of the species in the state—a few years ago JJ and BJ visited a bird farm in n.e. Mississippi and were surprised to find a Ruddy Duck sitting on a nest near a Rhea pasture: it

was a captive duck, but free-roaming. We just don't think in terms of such species being captive birds.

A group of 12 Black Vultures was sunning near Big Pt., Miss., June 13, and 11 were seen June 26 at DeSoto N.F., *Harrison*, Miss. (JT, DK). Turkey Vulture numbers seemed low in coastal Mississippi this season, with a high of 12 seen July 2 (JT, DK). Osprey populations throughout the mid-South continue to grow—perhaps our most tangible evidence of the significance of the ban on DDT. At Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., BP notes that they are seen on most field trips in appropriate habitat. An Osprey nest on a transmission tower at Gravine I. in the lower Tensaw R., Ala., had fledged two young by June 8; another nest along Bayou Sara was located April 25, but not checked later (JML). The Mississippi coast Osprey population continued to prosper this year, with about 40 nests evenly divided between barrier islands and mainland *Jackson* (JJ); one was at Bay St. Louis July 26 (JT, DK, MB). In n. Mississippi, a pair of Ospreys summered at Sardis L. for the 3rd year in a row; although they built a nest, there has been no sign of young (VT, GK, MD). At D.R.U. the only known middle Tennessee Osprey nest was active for the 2nd straight year and fledged one young in mid-July (SJS, m.ob.). An Osprey or two were also near the hack site at Percy Priest L., *Rutherford*, for the 3rd year, but there has been no sign of nesting (RH). However, Ospreys were seen copulating and carrying sticks to the top of a light pole and a crane at the Gallatin Steam Plant, *Sumner*, June 23 & 26, suggesting that another nesting locality is in the offing (DTC, JPC).

During June and July JT *et al.* found Am. Swallow-tailed Kites at Logtown and Pearlinton, *Hancock*, and at the Pascagoula W.M.A. in *Jackson*, Miss. In *Baldwin*, Ala., two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were feeding over the Tensaw R. near Gravine I., June 25 (RCh, JML). In the Atchafalaya Basin, however, only one was reported this year (PM, *vide* BC), although the Mississippi Kite population there seemed normal, with 93 counted in about 6.5 hours July 27 (BC, LH, R & MN). Up to 15, including two juveniles, were seen in a Baton Rouge subdivision through the season (BC). Only nine Mississippi Kites were seen in coastal Mississippi during the period (JT, DK). LP *et al.* counted 65 + Mississippi Kites in *Desha*, Ark., July 2-3. As mysteriously as they came, they have disappeared: Black-shouldered Kites made news as unusual additions to the mid-South breeding avifauna in the past 2 years, but this year there were no reports from Louisiana or Mississippi, although efforts were made to locate the Mississippi birds (JJ, BJ).

Of 5 Bald Eagle nests in *Stewart*, *Humphreys*, and *Coffee* in middle Tennessee, 2 fledged a total of three young and 3 failed, as did the nest at L. Isom N.W.R., in w. Tennessee (PBH, m.ob.) A late immature was in *Robertson* June 6 (PBH).

Sharp-shinned Hawks are uncommon in the lower South during summer, but one was at Durham, Ark., June 30 (KiS, CH); one was seen July 24 s. of Malvern, *Hot Springs*, Ark. (WS, TH); and an immature was near Reserve, *St. John*, La., July 30 (MW). JMc saw a Cooper's Hawk at Hickory, *Newton*, Miss., on 5 dates June 12-July 2. Cooper's Hawks were also seen June 13 near Durham and June 23 w. of St. Paul, Ark. (DJ). In Tennessee the only reports came from *Davidson* (DV, RP), *Williamson* (SJS, BHS), and *Humphreys* (SJS, BHS, DV).

Nine Red-shouldered Hawks were distributed among 6 coastal Mississippi localities this season (JT), and a recently-fledged young was seen in Comite R. hardwoods in *E. Baton Rouge* June 3 (PM, WB). WS and TK found two recently-fledged Red-shouldered Hawks at Little Rock, Ark., June 7. JT and DK found two Broad-winged Hawks at Hurley, *Jackson*, Mississippi, June 13, and had 6 other sightings in *Hancock* during the period. An out-of-season Swainson's Hawk was spotted June 14 at Fayetteville, Ark. (BS). An ad. Red-tailed Hawk was 2 mi s. of L.S.U., *E. Baton Rouge*, July 31 (VR).

American Kestrels produced at least one young at a nest on a downtown Gulfport, Miss., building, and seemed to be feeding on Least Tern chicks (JT, DK). Other coastal Mississippi kestrels were at Waveland June 15 (JT, GM, DK) and Pearlinton June 10 and July 18 (JT, JS, DK, AB).

**RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS**—King Rail seemed to be a common resident of marshes in the lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta, Ala., with at least 10 heard June 3 and two seen June 27 (JML). In spite of several June trips to the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, JML found only a single Purple Gallinule June 25. A Purple Gallinule with six downy chicks was at Big Pt., Jackson, Miss. June 13 (JT, DK); two were at P.B.I.P., June 15 and four there July 18 (JT, DK); one was at Marsh I. Golf Course, Ocean Springs, June 22 (JT, MD); and a Mississippi coast high of 19 adults, 10 immatures was tallied at 4 Hancock localities July 26 (JT, DK, MB). An adult with two chicks was found June 29 in Vermilion, La (PM, BL). Common Moorhens were indeed common in bays of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta in June (JML), and did well on the Mississippi coast this summer, with a high of 20 adults and many young of various ages at Fayard Swamp, Waveland, July 26 (JT). An adult was at the Monsanto Ponds, Maury, Tenn., May 18 and June 11 (KA, DTC, JPC). In the lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta an Am. Coot was found June 6, and two were found June 25 & 27 along the Cochran Causeway (JML). In Mississippi, Am Coots were at Fayard Swamp June 15, P.R.M., June 16, and Clermont Harbor July 26 (JT, DK). In Louisiana coot records came from s. of Gibbstown Bridge July 10 (DM, SC) and n.e. of Cameron June 13 (DD, SC). No sign of nesting was detected at any of these locales. Again this year, there were no known Mississippi mainland nestings of Snowy Plovers; the Gulfport Least Tern area, where the plovers had begun nesting in previous years as early as March, seemed to be the focus of an unprecedented number of sun worshippers in March and April (JJ). [It's too bad this species isn't as conspicuous as the Least Terns—a little public relations hype may be all that can save it as a member of our mainland avifauna.]

Summering Black-bellied Plovers included 15 June 13, 30 June 30 (DD, SC), and two molting birds July 7 (BC, LH) on the Cameron coast. In s. Alabama, 40 were found at Blakeley I. tailings ponds June 27 (JML). Very late Lesser Golden-Plovers included three in basic plumage and one in partial alternate plumage June 13 near the mouth of the old Mermentau R., Cameron (SC); early fall migrants included single birds at Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery, Lonoke, Ark., July 8 & 22 (H & MP, TH). Wilson's Plovers continued to fare well at P.R.M., with a high of 26 seen July 24 (JT, DK, JD); one adult and one immature were also found at Greenwood I., Jackson, June 22, a new breeding location for Mississippi (JT, MD). At Gaillard I., Mobile Bay, Ala., CDC noted 5 pairs of Wilson's Plovers on territories, but saw no nests or young. At Swan Creek W.M.A., Ala., two Semipalmated Plovers put in an appearance July 20 (GJ, BG) and one was at Leighton, Colbert, July 28 (NP, TD); although there were no Semipalmated Plovers at P.R.M. on June 16, 20 were there June 22 and two July 17 (JT, DK, MD); about 10 were on the beach at Waveland, Miss., July 26 (JT, DK, MB). Nine were in coastal Cameron June 13, and four remained June 30 (DD, SC); 24 were at Grand I., June 22 (NoN, DP), and one was at Morganza, La., July 31 (DG). An alternate-plumaged ad. ♂ Piping Plover was near Calcasieu Pass July 10, where none had been seen since April (DD, DM). A visit to w. Chandeleur Sound June 15 revealed three Am. Oystercatchers and a nest with 2 eggs on Chicot I. and two adults on Deadman I. (SC, DD).

The nesting Black-necked Stilt population at P.R.M. has seemed relatively stable over the past few years (JJ); 40 adults and three small young were seen June 16, and 70 adults were there July 17 (JT, DK); 30 adults, some giving distraction displays July 17, suggested nesting at Greenwood I., Jackson, Miss. (JT, DK). Stilts had a successful season at Blakely I., Ala., where 17 adults and 10 flightless juveniles were seen June 5 (JML) and 200+ adults and 18 young were found June 25 (JML, RCh, DoM). At Morganza Spillway stilts were in evidence through the season, with a high of 32 noted July 6 (DG). JT *et al.* also found six Am. Avocets in breeding plumage at P.R.M., July 24. In Louisiana one was at Grand I., June 22 (NoN, DP), a cripple was e of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass, and 11 were in marsh near the old Mermentau R. mouth June 30 (DD, SC).

In Cameron, 77 Lesser Yellowlegs were tallied in 2 groups

June 30, and three Greater and 150 Lesser yellowlegs were seen July 9 (DM, SC, DD). While there were only 14 Lesser Yellowlegs at Morganza Spillway June 30, by July 6 there were hundreds present (DG). At Florence, Ala., four Lesser Yellowlegs appeared July 4, while a Greater Yellowlegs had been there since June 30 (NP). Near Johnsons Bayou School, Cameron, five Greater Yellowlegs were seen June 30 (SC, DD). At Indigo I Research Station, Iberville, La., one Greater Yellowlegs appeared July 3 and two were present July 11 (RM). Both yellowlegs species appeared at P.R.M., July 17 (JT, DK). At Leighton, Colbert, Ala., a Solitary Sandpiper was seen June 29 and daily through the summer (NP); on July 28, there were 28 there (NP, TD). Another early Solitary Sandpiper was at the Ben Hur Research Farms, E. Baton Rouge, July 11 (PM, LaH), and five were considered early at Swan Creek W.M.A., Ala., July 20 (GJ, BG). The first Spotted Sandpiper of the season in Cameron was found July 9 (DM, DD, SC); one was at Morganza Spillway July 14 (DG). Arrival of four at P.R.M. was July 17 (JT, DK); three in Lafayette July 18 provided an early date for n. Mississippi (MD). At Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., 15 Upland Sandpipers made a very early appearance July 12-19 (DW).

A flock of six Long-billed Curlews was in marsh near the old Mermentau R. mouth June 30 (DD, SC), and another was 1 mi e of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass July 9-10 (DD, SC, DM). Solitary Marbled Godwits were found near Calcasieu Pass June 30 and July 10 (SC, DD). Late migrant or summering Ruddy Turnstones included two near Calcasieu Pass June 13 and three there June 30 (DD, SC). At Deadman I., w. Chandeleur Sound, three Red Knots were seen June 15 (DD), and an incredible 125 Red Knots, most in basic plumage, were 1 mi e. of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass June 30 (DD, SC), while a lone Red Knot in basic plumage was at Waveland, Miss., July 26 (JT, DK, MB). In Alabama, a Sanderling set an early record for the mountain region at Bessemer July 30 (TI, JI, BHJ, FD). Sanderlings apparently summered in coastal Cameron where six were seen June 13 and two June 30 (DD, SC). Two were at the Bonnet Carre Spillway July 27 (MW, MA), and they made their fall debut in Jackson, Miss., July 24 when JT, DK, and JD found 16, most in breeding plumage; by July 26, 50 were at Waveland, Miss. (JT, DK, MB). Calcasieu Pass had three Semipalmated Sandpipers June 13 and six June 30 (DD, SC). A new Alabama early date for Semipalmated Sandpiper was established by one July 14 at Blakely I. (GJ). In Mississippi, five Semipalmated Sandpipers showed up at P.R.M., July 17 (JT, DK). A few W. Sandpipers may also have summered in the Region: one was at Calcasieu Pass June 13, and 11 were there June 30 (DD, SC). At Waveland, 10 W. Sandpipers arrived July 11 (JT, DK); by July 26, about 100 were on the same beach (JT, DK, MB). Two Least Sandpipers were at Florence, Lauderdale, Ala., July 4 (NP); 10 were at Blakely I., Ala., July 14 (GJ); and about 100 arrived at P.R.M., July 17 (JT, DK). A possible summering Least Sandpiper was in Cameron June 30 (SC, DD).

The last "spring" dates for White-rumped Sandpipers were June 13 for about 50 in Cameron (DD, SC), and June 16 for three at P.R.M. (JT, DK). Pectoral Sandpipers may have summered in Cameron, where one to two birds were seen June 13 & 30 and July 9 (DD, SC); other single birds were at Morganza Spillway July 4 (DG) and at Bonnet Carre Spillway June 29 and July 13+ (MW). In Alabama, three early Pectorals stopped at Florence July 6 (NP). Southbound migrants appeared on schedule July 17 at P.R.M. (JT, DK). Stilt Sandpiper arrivals included 75 in alternate plumage July 9 in Cameron Par.; three (\*L.S.U.M.Z.) were very fat (DM, SC, DD). At Blakely I. a molting Stilt Sandpiper tied the early Alabama record July 14 (GJ). In Mississippi two in breeding plumage July 17, and 18 July 26, were at P.R.M. (JT, DK). Scattered records of Short-billed Dowitchers spanned the season: three June 13 in Cameron (DD, SC); 29 June 15 on Deadman and Chicot islands, St. Bernard, La. (DD, SC); and six at Morganza Spillway July 4 (DG). About 50 Short-billed Dowitchers, most in breeding plumage, were at P.R.M., July 17 (JT, DK). DG also found three Long-billed Dowitchers at Morganza Spillway July 6. To the few summer records of Am

Woodcock in Arkansas we can add one s of Malvern, *Hot Springs*, June 6 & 21 (TH).

A lone Wilson's Phalarope at P.R.M., June 16, may have still been headed N (JT, DK), while two there July 24 were likely the fall vanguard (JT, DK, JD), as were two at Morganza, La., July 31 (DG).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS**— Pomarine Jaeger reports included an adult about 62 naut. mi s. of Raccoon Pt., June 29 (BMM) and a subad. light-phase bird sighted somewhere [?] in the Gulf s. of the Louisiana mainland July 17 (SC, DD). Parasitic Jaegers included two seen July 7 about 62 naut. mi s. of Raccoon Pt. (BMM). Although there is still no confirmed mainland Mississippi breeding site for Laughing Gulls, a juvenile capable of only short flight was picked up by tourists in Biloxi July 8. It was nothing short of phenomenal: an estimated 12,000 pairs of Laughing Gulls nested on Gaillard I., Ala., this year (CDC). By July 26, about 2000 adult and 2nd-year Laughing Gulls, accompanied by about 50 hatching-year birds, gathered along the beach in *Harrison* (JT, DK, MB). Late Franklin's Gull records included two June 7 and one June 16 at Cross L., *Caddo*, La. (CM, MA). Adult Herring Gulls are rare for the Gulf coast in summer, but two were seen in *Cameron* June 30 and July 10 (DD).

Although JJ found no Gull-billed Terns at P.R.M. in early June, JT and DK found 25 adults and 13 juveniles there July 17. Those might have been overflow from the 200 pairs that nested on Gaillard I., Ala., along with an estimated 1000 pairs of Caspian Terns, 400 pairs of Royal Terns, 10 pairs of Com. Terns, and 450 pairs of Black Skimmers (CDC). The Waveland, Miss.,

#### S.A.

It is as if being declared an endangered species is all it takes, but perhaps it is just a combination of a concerted effort to locate colonies of the Interior Least Tern coupled with a particularly good season that has resulted in a flurry of reports from mid-South waters. A rare inland Alabama record was of one adult at Florence, July 28 (NP, TD). An ad. Least Tern was seen at D.R.U., June 22 (LR, SJS, BHS). The really big news came from Arkansas: LP *et al.* boated from Callie L. to the mouth of the Arkansas R., July 2-3 and located about 20 terns; then, July 1-19, WS and KS located nesting colonies of 15, 30, 10, 98, and 21 birds. On July 27, WS and MS added another colony with six adults and two juveniles. The large numbers largely represent young, and the trouble in "River City" is amply exemplified by the abundance of 3-wheeler tracks and spent fireworks at one island colony. Far from being out of trouble, these colonies nonetheless provide hope for the species.

The Least Tern story on the Mississippi coast was pretty much a repeat of successes of recent years. Numbers of nests this year included 2500+ at the main Gulfport colony, 150 on the Singing R. Mall roof, 50 on the Gautier K-Mart roof, about 15 on a dike at P.R.M., and at least 1500 nests scattered in clusters of 100+ along the beach from Pass Christian to Gulfport. The terns seem to have abandoned some of the small beach colonies to the e. of the large Gulfport colony (JJ, BJ). No data were available for the barrier islands. Heavy rains July 5 resulted in loss of many eggs and young (JT, GM, DK). At Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., Least Terns seemed down considerably—with the number of young raised this year perhaps only 10% of last year (BP); in the Pensacola area, however, Least Terns promptly occupied the roof of a shopping center that was just completed prior to the breeding season (CLK).

beach hosted two adult and two imm Caspian Terns July 26 (JT, DK, MB). About 100 Sandwich Terns in a feeding frenzy July 7 were at the Escatawpa R. marsh, *Jackson*, Miss., after a heavy rain (JT). JT noted that following heavy rains of July 5-10, there was an abrupt appearance on *Harrison*, Miss., beaches of adults of some species not seen earlier in the season: these included about 60 Caspian Terns, 200 Royal Terns, and 50 Sandwich Terns. It is possible that these were birds that lost their eggs or young during the wet weather. July 11 at Waveland, there were four Com. Terns molting from juv. to imm. plumage; two more in this intermediate plumage were at P.R.M., July 17 (JT, DK). By July 26, numbers of imm. Com. Terns on the Waveland beach reached about 110 birds (JT, DK, MB). Although not yet confirmed to breed in Mississippi, an ad. Forster's Tern was feeding two volant young June 16 at P.R.M., and six adults and four immatures were at the Waveland sewage lagoon June 28 (JT).

An adult and three imm. Bridled Terns were about 20 mi s.s.e. of the s.w. pass of the Mississippi R., June 10 (BMM), and four were seen about 25 mi s. of Dauphin I., Ala., June 18 (GJ). The beginning of the usual late summer buildup of Black Terns included six adults and two immatures at P.R.M., July 17 (JT, DK), and about 40 at Waveland July 26 (JT, DK, MB). Black Skimmers further settled in at the Gulfport Least Tern colony, with a nesting colony including about 130 nests firmly ensconced in the middle of the tern area (JJ, BJ, JT). In contrast, the skimmers made no nesting efforts at P.R.M. this year, although up to 100 adults were seen at various times (JJ, m.ob.).

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS**— At Montgomery, Ala., groups of 40 to 86+ Ringed Turtle-Doves were common at a feeder all summer; the species has been established in the wild there for at least 30 years (Mrs. BLP, *fide* BG). Inca Doves were discovered breeding in the Lake Charles, La., area last year and a count this year included a minimum of 28 July 7 (BC, LH). A Com. Ground-Dove was w. of White Castle, *Iberville*, La., July 11 (RM, RY, DHa).

A few years ago the birding world was confronted with the idea that the exotic Monk Parakeet might become another starling, but reports of the species thus far remain few. At Metairie, La., however, there were 2 nests this year, both built on power poles (DP). In spite of activity all summer, the success of the efforts is not known.

A wave of Yellow-billed Cuckoos passing through the Garner Ridge area, *Cameron*, was accompanied by two Black-billed Cuckoos June 13, late for spring migrants (SC, DD). Equally surprising was a fully-feathered juvenile collected there the same date (SC, DD)! Single Black-billed Cuckoos were also found e. of Cookeville, *Putnam*, May 25 and June 22 (RWS), and in *White*, Tenn., June 7 (PBH). At Clarksville, *Montgomery*, Tenn., EW and AH found Com. Barn-Owls June 3 & 13; adults and two young were also found in Gulfport, Miss., July 2 (JT). At least 10 Com. Nighthawks were seen at P.B.I.P., June 15 (JT, DK). DJ found an adult with two downy young Chuck-will's-widows near Durham, Ark., July 17. BBC and LC continued their long-term studies of caprimulgid populations in the mid-South and this year have provided comparative data for *Sharp* and *Fulton*, Ark., demonstrating increases in Whip-poor-will populations and slight declines in Chuck-will's-widow populations (Table 1).

In *E. Baton Rouge*, 51 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded and four were recaptured June 28 (PM, N & SN). Of the recaptures, three were banded as adults in 1982, thus were at least 4 years old! During July PM estimated 200-300+ Ruby-throateds coming to his 12 feeders. An estimated 30-40% were ad. males and about 5% were marked. Activity greatly accelerated following thunderstorms. An imm. ♂ *Selasphorus* sp appeared among the Ruby-throateds and stayed July 31-Aug 4 (PM, BC, MS, D & KH, LH). It was studied by m.ob. and photographed; detailed notes suggest it might have been an Allen's Hummingbird.

Belted Kingfisher counts during June and July included eight



**Table 1.** Changes in the relative abundance of Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills in Fulton and Sharp cos., Arkansas. Data from Ben and Lula Coffey.

County	Date	Number of Whip-poor-will	Number of Chuck-will's-widow
Fulton			
(Nine-mile-trail towards Saddle 5 mi.)			
	2 July 1955	5	20
	28 June 1985	11	14
Fulton			
(3 mi.) and Sharpe (near Wirth; 29 mi.)			
	2 July 1955	11	136
	28 June 1985	87	81
Sharp			
(Ark. 58 from Spring R. to Sitka to Ark. 354; 10.8 mi.)			
	3 July 1954	0	31
	2 July 1961	15	58
	29 June 1985	34	21

in *Hancock*, three in *Harrison*, and six in *Jackson*, Miss. (JT). Red-headed Woodpeckers seemed relatively common at Ocean Springs (JJ), but JT and DK found only 17 in *Hancock* and 18 in *Jackson* during the period and felt that numbers were lower than usual. In New Orleans up to 4 pairs nested on the lakefront (AS, GS). The "tweet" of the season for unusual behavior goes to L & TJ who photographed a ♂ Red-bellied Woodpecker as it fed suet to a young Northern Flicker in *Davidson*, Tenn., July 8. Hairy Woodpecker numbers in the deep South are typically low, and JT *et al.* could find only five during the period. A Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony at Cocodrie L., *Rapides*, La., is still active after several years (EL, JID, HG). At Noxubee N.W.R., Red-cockaded Woodpecker numbers continued to decline, with only 3 nests found this year among 9 active colonies (JJ).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A season tally of E Wood-Pewees for coastal Mississippi totalled 8 sightings: 5 in *Hancock* and 3 in *Jackson* (JT, DK). Lone Acadian Flycatchers were calling at Logtown June 15 and at the Pascagoula W.M.A., July 29 (JT, DK). In middle Tennessee, one to two Willow Flycatchers were heard at sites in *Davidson*, *Humphreys*, *Maury*, *Cheatham*, and *Montgomery* during May-July (SJS). A Least Flycatcher collected at Cameron July 10 may have set a new early record for a fall migrant in Louisiana (SC, DD, DM). A W. Kingbird put in a one-day appearance at Durham, Ark., June 7 (CH). A lone Gray Kingbird was spotted about 20 mi s.s.e. of the s.w. pass of the Mississippi R., May 30 (BMM). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continued to increase in numbers in the Arkansas lowlands of *Independence* where several were seen July 15 (EH). In n.e. Arkansas, four Scissor-taileds were seen in *Fulton* June 29 (BBC, LC). In n.w. Arkansas, adults were still feeding nestlings at Fayetteville Aug. 6 (DJ). A single Scissor-tailed was seen at the *Rutherford*, Tenn., site where the species has nested for the past several years. A nest was built, but there was no later evidence of eggs or young (RVM, SJS, BHS, m.ob.). Horned Larks may have nested at the Red River Valley Experiment Station, *Bossier*, La., where two were seen May 5 and three were found June 16 (CM, MA). June records of Horned Larks also came from *Humphreys* (SJS, BHS) and *Lawrence* (DS, RNe), Tenn.

A lone ♀ Purple Martin was already wending her way S across the Gulf of Mexico July 10 when spotted by BMM about 62 naut. mi s. of Raccoon Pt., La. Tree Swallows nested in *Lawrence*, Tenn., only 20 mi from Alabama, continuing their expansion S (NP, DS, MDW). Other middle Tennessee records included nesting in *Humphreys* (SJS), and probable nesting in *Sumner* (JPC) and *Maury* (KA). Tree Swallows at Hatchie N.W.R., *Haywood*, Tenn., June 15 (GP) were not there June 24 (BBC, LC). Northern Rough-winged Swallows nested sparingly

in coastal Mississippi and were absent from a number of former nesting locations. The season total included six at 2 locations in *Jackson* and seven at one location in *Hancock* (JT). There may have been 20 holes, but only one Bank Swallow was seen at a colony down the Arkansas R. from Callie L., *Desha*, Ark., July 2-3 (LP *et al.*). Cliff Swallows had a good year at old sites and continued to establish new nesting colonies around the mid-South: reports included nests at several locations along I-10 bridges across the lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta in *Baldwin* and *Mobile*, Ala. (JML); 4 colonies on cliffs at Beaver L., *Carroll*, Ark (DJ, LA); on the Ark. 289 bridge over the S. Fork of the Spring R., *Fulton* (BBC, LC); at Cherokee Village, L. Omaha, *Fulton* (BBC, LC); and on bridges on the U.S. 45 by-pass near Verona, Miss (BBC, LC). Former sites in *Sharp*, Ark., were not used this year (BBC, LC). In Tennessee 1600+ Cliff Swallows were estimated at colonies at Ashland City and Cheatham L. (CGD). A late migrant Barn Swallow was still winging its way N about 20 mi s.s.e. of the s.w. Pass of the Mississippi R., June 2 (BMM). Barn Swallows are now well-established in s. Louisiana, where 200+ were found nesting under I-10 and I-55 bridges and culverts in *St. Charles* and *St. John* (RS, MW).

**WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Bewick's Wren is now scarce throughout most of the mid-South, so any records are welcomed. This year in Arkansas, two were near Coal Hill, *Johnson*, June 9 (TH); one was heard on a B.B.S. route in *Benton* June 9 (EN); and a pair had newly-hatched young n.e. of Mayflower July 4 (WS, MS). In Tennessee, May-June reports came from *Wilson*, *Lawrence*, *Rutherford*, *Williamson*, *Maury*, and *Sumner*, but numbers were only 1-2 sites per county and considered low (SJS). House Wrens were firmly entrenched in *Davidson* and *Sumner*, Tenn. (SJS), nested successfully at Florence, Ala. (DKo, NP, PK), and seemed to be gaining a good foothold in n. Alabama (TI). JN & EN reported that House Wrens were common and widespread in *Washington* and *Benton*, Ark., this summer. A few Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested in coastal Mississippi, including 10 sightings in *Jackson* and 18 in *Hancock* (JT). At least one pair nested in the Comite R. bottomlands of *E. Baton Rouge* where adults with two juveniles were found June 1 (PM, MiD, HE). Tallies from Mississippi B.B.S. routes included 22 E. Bluebirds in *Hancock* (JT, DK) and 22 in *Jackson* (JT, MB, GM). At least four Wood Thrushes were found in *Hancock* June 15, and another four were found along the Tuxachanie Trail, *Harrison*, Miss., July 11 (JT, DK). Southern summer records of Am. Robins in Louisiana included single birds in *Evangeline* (HG), *St. Landry* (DG), and *Pointe Coupee* (DG), and a successful nest at Reserve (LM, RS). At Pensacola, Fla., Am. Robins nested successfully for the 2nd straight year (TT, *fide* BO). There seemed to be an abundance of Gray Catbirds much farther s. than usual this year: the first coastal Mississippi summer record included two at Greenwood I., June 22 (JT, MD); one was collected in *Cameron* June 13 (DD, SC); and one was seen at Grand I., June 22, where adults and a newly fledged young July 21 established a first s.e. Louisiana nesting record (DP, NoN).

Cedar Waxwings nested at Waterloo, Ala., in 1984 and may have in 1985 also, although the only report was of a lone bird seen Aug. 11 (NP, DS). Loggerhead Shrikes seemed to fare well in coastal Mississippi, where 13, including an adult feeding a juvenile, were found June 13 in *Jackson*, and 20 were found during the season in *Hancock* (JT, DK *et al.*). In *Baldwin*, Ala., they were uncommon (JML).

Yellow-throated Vireos were singing at Logtown, Miss., June 9 & 11, where they have been found in most recent years (JT), and one was singing at the Pascagoula W.M.A., June 13 (JT, DK). At least 10 Red-eyed Vireos were also found at the latter area June 13. A 3-star bird for the season was the **Black-whiskered Vireo** at Grand I., La. The first teaser was one heard but not seen by DP June 22. Fortunately two were seen and one heard by AS, GS, and JSe at the same location the same day. The next day DP followed a singing male for an hour and photographed it. There

are no nest records for Louisiana, but there was a June 1971 record. Subsequent attempts to relocate the birds failed.

An early fall migration was suggested by three Yellow Warblers at P.R.M., July 17 (JT, DK); nearly 50 were at the Waveland sewage lagoons July 26 (JT, DK, MB). At least 23 singing Prairie Warblers were located in June in *Hancock*, Miss., and 22 were found in *Jackson* (JT, DK *et al.*). LP *et al.* found two Cerulean Warblers in tall pecan-cottonwood stands in *Desha*, Ark., July 2-3. Black-and-white Warblers were found at 3 *Cameron* localities July 9 & 10 (SC, DD, DM); a female was at Cocodrie L., *Evangeline*, La., July 16 (JDH, DL, HG), and imm. Black-and-white Warblers were at Logtown, Miss., July 18 (JT, DK, AB) and Gulfport July 25 (JT). At least three singing Swainson's Warblers were located at Logtown during June; singles were also heard in n. *Hancock* and Pearlinton June 9, on the Tuxachanie Trail July 11, and n. of Vancleave July 29 (JT, DK). At Hatchie N.W.R., Tenn., BBC, LC, and JG heard 14 on June 15. In Arkansas two were seen July 2-3 at Big I., *Desha* (LP *et al.*). A N. Waterthrush was found along Colvin Cr., *Lincoln*, La., June 30 (JGo). Kentucky Warblers with two fledged young were in Co-mite R. bottomlands June 3 (PM, WB). Several Kentucky Warblers were singing along the Tombigbee R. in s. *Clarke*, Ala., June 1-2 (JML). A ♀ Am. Redstart about 20 mi s.s.e. of the s.w. Pass of the Mississippi R., June 8 may have been the latest migrant ever for Louisiana. Another female n. of Vancleave, Miss., July 29 suggested possible breeding in the area (JT, DK). Kentucky and Hooded warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats were all readily found in proper habitats in coastal Mississippi this season (JT).

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES** — Summer Tanagers were heard at 13 locations in *Hancock*, Miss., during the season (JT, DK). At Tannehill S.P., Ala., an ad. ♂ Scarlet Tanager July 30 suggested possible local breeding (JI, TI, BHJ, FD). R & BPe saw a ♂ **Western Tanager** n. of Samburg, *Obion*, Tenn., June 19, and LC heard it there June 21; this was only the 3rd record for the species in w. Tennessee. A total of 23 Blue Grosbeaks was tallied in *Hancock* during the period (JT *et al.*). At Ft. Polk, two were carrying nest material June 15 (HG). A singing Painted Bunting was at Blakely I., Ala. (JML), June 7; and in Mississippi others were at P.B.I.P. (six) and Bayou Caddy (two), *Hancock*, and at Greenwood I., *Jackson* (five) (JT, DK). At P.B.I.P., Painted and Indigo buntings nested within 200 ft of each other (JT). In s. *Calcasieu*, La., along Hwy 27, PM & LU found four singing Dickcissels where they also had been found in late April. Dickcissels had an excellent year in middle Tennessee, with reports coming from *Humphreys* (SJS, BHS), *Marshall* (DV), *Sumner* (JPC), *Bedford* (SJS), *Rutherford* (TW, RVM), *Lawrence* (DJS), *Stewart* (DB), *Maury* (MM), *Williamson* (SJS), and *Montgomery* (AH). The Rufous-sided Towhee expansion into s.e. Arkansas was further documented by six found in *Ashley* n. and s. of Crossett June 9 (D & CSi).

Numbers of Bachman's Sparrows were down in coastal Mississippi, but the species was still widespread there (JT); in *Baldwin*, Ala., it was easily found in June in open pine habitats (JML). Several Bachman's Sparrows were singing in *Lawrence*, Tenn., about 5 mi n. of the Alabama line (DS, NP). At Fall River, *Giles*, Tenn., MDW & m.ob. found three singing and one juvenile, for the first record in the area in 10 years. In Arkansas one was seen at Pinnacle Mountain S.P., June 15 (WS), one was heard n.e. of Mayflower June 22 (WS), and an adult and fledgling were found n. of Edinburg June 19 (WS, MS). Only one Rufous-crowned Sparrow could be found on Magazine Mt., Ark., July 6 (WS, MS). Near the dam at L. Sequoyah, Ark., BS, CK, and NW found three Lark Sparrows July 12. Lark Sparrows were also found at 3 sites each in *Rutherford* and *Wilson* and one site in *Giles*, Tenn. (RVM, MDW, m.ob.). In Tennessee a lone Grasshopper Sparrow was heard June 2 n.n.w. of Brownsville, *Haywood* (GP); other records came from *Stewart*, *Williamson*, *Wilson*, *Macon*, *Sumner*, and *Cannon* (SJS). Song Sparrows continued to widen their grip on middle Tennessee, with reports coming from *Maury*, *Clay*, *Macon*, *Stewart*, *Hum-*

*phreys*, *White*, *Sumner*, *Wilson*, and *Davidson*. At least 25 pairs were known in *Davidson* (SJS). A White-throated Sparrow was at Gallatin, Tenn., through June 23 (DTC, JPC).

A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird photographed at Sardis Waterfowl Refuge June 26 furnished a rare Mississippi record (VT). Great-tailed Grackles showed up at 4 stops on the Ashdown B.B.S. route, *Little River*, Ark., June 9 (H & MP). BBC & LC note that Brown-headed Cowbirds in the Memphis area have greatly increased during the breeding season over the past decade—to the point that they now outnumber Eur. Starlings! The Bronzed Cowbird now seems to be a widespread and regular spring and summer resident of *St. John* and *St. Charles*, La., where 15-20 were found at Norco, Reserve, and LaPlace during June and early July (RS, MW, MAy). A male was also in Metairie from May through the end of the period (DP). BB found 3 pairs of N. Orioles at Ft. Smith, Ark., along the Arkansas R., June 6. Although N. Orioles were common in middle Tennessee 30 years ago, they are rare breeders there now: reports of no more than a pair of birds each came from *Sumner* (KG), *Williamson* (SJS), and *Montgomery* (PBH). The coastal cheniers from *Cameron* to *Garner Ridge* were devoid of Orchard Orioles during visits May 14-15 & 30-31 and June 1 & 13, but on June 30, flocks of 20+ birds were evident; most were imm. males with a few adults (no juveniles) (SC, DD, DM). Orchard Orioles were well-distributed throughout coastal Mississippi during the period (JT).

At Jonesboro, up to three House Finches visited a feeder May 21-July 31 and hopes were high for a first breeding record for the state—those hopes were realized when adults brought a fledgling to the feeder Aug. 11 (CS). In Tennessee, new House Finch nest records came from *Sumner*, *Lawrence*, *Wilson*, and *Williamson*, and the species nested again this year in *Davidson* (m.ob.). Other exciting finches for Arkansas were Red Crossbills in *Hot Spring*: three June 8, one to three heard July 15, and an adult feeding a heavily streaked, but cross-billed juvenile July 23 (TH).

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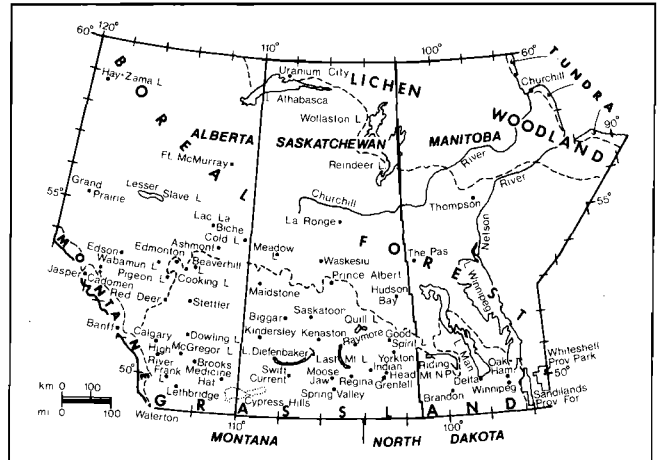
Wayne C. Harris

In southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan, extreme drought conditions persisted with less than 10% of the normal precipitation being reported. This resulted in a reduction of available water and further reductions in already low populations of water-dependent species. Outside of this area water supplies were excellent but duck populations, in particular those of Mallards, showed little positive response with nesting populations remaining low. Also the unseasonably cool, wet, and stormy June was apparently responsible for a late hatch of many dabbling duck broods (MAG). July was very hot and dry throughout, resulting in grasshopper population explosions, especially in southern areas. The resulting heavy use of insecticides to control the outbreak would appear to have been devastating to insectivorous passerine populations in some areas. Both Carol Bjorklund at Bromhead, Saskatchewan, and Ruth McKague at Tribune, Saskatchewan, commented on the virtual disappearance of normally common species such as American Robin, Yellow Warbler, and Northern Flicker. Whether the insecticides are to blame can not be conclusively proven but the potential for negative impact is certainly there with millions of acres having been sprayed.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Manitoba's 3rd and 4th **Yellow-billed Loon** records occurred at Churchill when one was seen June 3 and two June 4 (M. Masse). If observations of this summer are any indication, "Clark's" Grebes are exceedingly rare in this Region; there was only one report, June 4 at Regina (BL). American White Pelican nesting success in Saskatchewan was excellent with 192 young banded at Redberry L. (most since 1958) and over 800 young at Suggi L. (most ever). Likewise Double-crested Cormorant production was up at Last Mountain L. (e. of Penzance) with 1300 young, Redberry L. with 92 young, and Suggi L. with 800+ young (CSH). American Bittern numbers responded favorably to the improved water conditions of c. Saskatchewan and Alberta (WCH, GRAE) but remained very low in the drought-stricken s. (MAG, FB, CB). A **Green-backed Heron** at Calgary June 9 provided only the 2nd record for Alberta (*vide* DC).

Trumpeter Swans were down at Grande Prairie where there were only 27 broods totalling 104 young (KRL). There were unusual numbers of Snow Goose reports with a single blue-phased bird at Oak Hammock July 13 (DF, RFK, PT) and in Saskatchewan single white-phased birds at Buck L. s. of Regina (BL) and at Luck L., Little Quill L., and Silver L., and two s.w. of Dafoe (MAG). Also unusual were four Ross' Geese on Street L., June 13 (MAG). Cinnamon Teal were more common in s.w. Alberta than usual (DC), and there were more beyond their normal range with reports from Saskatoon (CJE), Regina (BL), Glen Kerr, Sask. (D. Neeves), n. end of Last Mountain L. (WCH), and Oak Hammock (*vide* HWRC). At Churchill a ♂ Gadwall June 1 and single Ring-necked Ducks June 17 & 21 and a pair June 22 were n. of their normal ranges (BC, PEL, GMcC). Saskatchewan's first summer record of Barrow's Goldeneye was provided by two ad. males at Regina June 2 (BL, TR), while at Grande Prairie they were well out into the farmland regions where they are not normally seen (KRL).

**RAPTORS THROUGH GULLS** — Near Loon L., Sask., 11 of 25 pairs of Osprey failed to produce young but those that did averaged more than two young per nest (CSH). Also at Loon L., Bald Eagles are now nesting after nearly 30 years' absence. A female incubated in 1983 but produced no young, and in 1984 one young was raised. In 1985 2 nests were found and four



young were raised (CSH). Swainson's Hawk production was about average in the Kindersley area with 56 nests producing 121 young while the Ferruginous Hawk production was above average with 30 nests producing 82 young (JMH).

At Big Quill L., most of the migrant shorebird species were present throughout the summer for the 2nd consecutive year. The S migration began earlier than normal with some excellent numbers by July 6 at Big Quill L.: 8500 Lesser Yellowlegs, 500 Greater Yellowlegs, 400 Red Knots, 350 Pectoral Sandpipers, 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 1200 Marbled Godwits, and an amazing 10,000 Stilt Sandpipers. By July 13 the Stilt Sandpiper numbers had increased to 13,600 (WCH, SML). Rarities reported included single Whimbrels at Magrath, Alta., June 2 and Calgary July 3 (G. Merrich, JBS); two W. Sandpipers July 7 and four July 19 at Calgary (LG, JBS); and a Ruff near Lloydminster, Alta., July 23 (GG).

A Long-tailed Jaeger near Seven Sisters June 14-17 furnished the 7th sighting for s. Manitoba (PT, m.ob.). There was an ad **Laughing Gull** June 8-9 at Oak Hammock (RFK, RTP, DF, m.ob.), an ad. Little Gull at Churchill June 25 (GMcC), and a Glaucous Gull at Winnipeg June 7, all rarities (*vide* RFK, HWRC). Manitoba's 4th **Great Black-backed Gull** was at Seven Sisters June 15-16 (PT, m.ob., ph.). At Turtle L., Sask., 23 Sabine's Gulls were found June 2 (SJS, MC).

**PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Band-tailed Pigeon was seen at Moose Jaw June 12 (*vide* LMK). In s. Manitoba and s.e. Saskatchewan Black-billed Cuckoos were present in excellent numbers but elsewhere they were scarce (RFK, RMcC, JHP, WCH).

By coincidence (?), both Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba had what were probably their first summer records of Snowy Owl with singles July 13 at Big Quill L. and July 24 at Oak Hammock (WCH, SML, RFK). In s.e. Manitoba there were no known active Great Gray Owl nests, an unusual occurrence there (RWN, HWRC). Short-eared Owls were virtually nonexistent with no reports from either Manitoba or Alberta and only 5 from all of Saskatchewan (RFK, HWRC, WCH) and Long-eared Owls fared no better. In fact where were the owls, they were all very scarce.

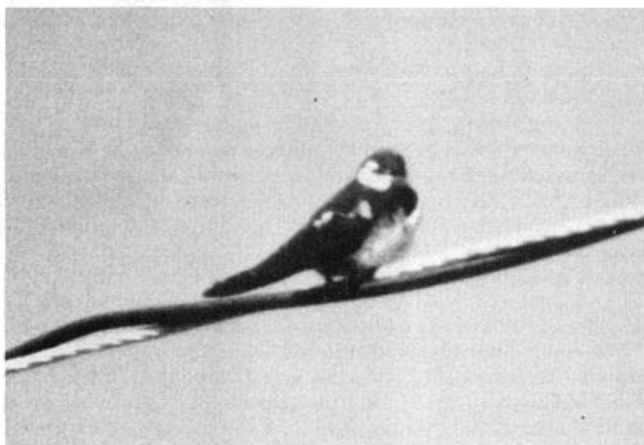
Two rare hummingbird species were reported. A **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was seen w. of Edmonton July 31 (EP, *vide* GRAE) and Rufous Hummingbird reports were received from Medicine Hat, Maple Creek (a male July 1-14), and from Moose Jaw where (a family group?) a male, a female, and two ♂-plumaged birds were seen July 28-29 (RG, E. Watson, SGW, PRK).

### S.A.

In Saskatchewan the 10-year cycle of Snowshoe Hares and Great Horned Owls appears to have "bottomed out" in 1985, with the fewest young owls banded (106 young in 55 nests) since the last low in 1974. In the "snowshoe hare country" at Birch Hills, Crystal Springs, Yellow Creek, Cudworth, Humboldt, Lanigan, and Hendon, few owls remained and only a very few attempted nesting; the last female incubating on 9 May had an empty nest on 19 May. Not a single nest with young could be located by regular farmer nest-finders in that entire region, where in an average year there would be 19 nests, and in a peak year (1981), 42 nests. In the mixed "snowshoe hare-jack rabbit country" at Kenaston, Kelliher, Raymore, Simpson, Strasbourg, Duval, and Bullyea, there were only 20 successful nests which produced only 37 young. This area normally averages 30 nests but in 1981 produced 42 nests with 118 young. Only in the more open "jack rabbit country" to the w. (Beechy, Elrose, Kyle, Mantario) were Great Horned Owls in normal numbers, with average nesting success (2.2 young per successful nest). Indeed, there were more than usual at Mantario (CSH).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Both Western and Eastern wood-pewees were more common on the peripheries of their ranges. On the e. front there were Westerns present in good numbers (12 reports) in Riding Mountain N.P. and 3 sightings in s.e. Manitoba: Beaudry Park June 8, Winnipeg June 10, and Patricia Beach July 13 (DF, KD, GH, RFK, PT). In the w., Easterns were more common with 5 reports June 28-July 15 at Moose Mountain P.P., Sask. (CJE, BL), one at Good Spirit L., July 3 (WJA), and Saskatchewan's most westerly record to date at Turtle L., June 14 (MC). More knowledge was gained as to the Willow Flycatcher's range in this area. In Manitoba three were heard at Cartwright, about 90 mi e. of previously-known locations (KD, WNe). In Saskatchewan they were found at Craven in the Qu'Appelle Valley n. and e. of previously-known locations (BL, TR).

At Churchill a pair of Barn Swallows successfully raised three young (BC). A Violet-green Swallow photographed at Churchill June 24 (PEL, GMcC, CM) provided Manitoba with its 3rd record. A N. Mockingbird June 15 at Churchill was far to the n. of its normal haunts (V. Emanuel). Also at Churchill was a Brown Thrasher June 8 & 22 (*vide* BC, PEL, GMcC, JO, CM). A Sage Thrasher at Bromhead July 2 was a first for s.e. Saskatchewan.



Violet-green Swallow at Churchill, Man., June 24, 1985. Photo/Paul Lehman.

Loggerhead Shrike populations are not doing well in this Region. Few nests were reported, and several areas reported further reductions from the low populations of the past few years. In long-term monitoring of populations in the Last Mountain L.-Raymore area, populations were lower this year than at any time since 1971. Only at the Last Mountain L. Wildlife Management Unit was nesting very successful. There 7 nests produced 28 young but in the surrounding farmland only 2 nests were successful (nine young), 11 nests failed (no sign of predation), and 7 pairs apparently did not nest. All this in a year when the main food supply (grasshoppers) was in abundance (WCH).

**VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES** — Saskatchewan's 6th Yellow-throated Vireo record was of a single male found in Moose Mountain P.P., June 20 (PEL, CM). Subsequent visits by other birders revealed a second male at a separate location which was seen with a female July 15 (BL, TR). A ♂ N. Parula was seen at Riding Mountain N.P., June 27, about 120 mi w. of its usual range (GMcC, PEL, CM, JO). A single Chestnut-sided Warbler June 1-23 at Bow Valley P.P., Alta., was well s.w. of its normal range as was a Bay-breasted Warbler at Fish Creek P.P., Alta., June 1 (DE, RS, EH). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Souris, Man., June 18 provided only the 4th provincial record in the past 20 years (J. Christie).

Lazuli Buntings were much more common than usual. There were at least 5 territories in the Regina area, 4 at Calgary plus a nest, 3 at Medicine Hat, 3 in the Maple Creek-Cypress Hills area, and one at Raymore (CA, DC, RG, WCH), and numbers were up at Lethbridge (MOS). A ♂ Dickcissel at Cypress R., Man., July 7 and two males there July 9 furnished one of very few recent records (KD, CC). A McCown's Longspur was found nesting at Bromhead, an area not normally associated with this species (CB). Orchard Oriole continue to increase in s.e. Sask. to the point where it is now an uncommon breeding species. Two pairs fledged eight young at Tribune (RMcK), 2 pairs produced seven young at Bromhead (CB), and there were pairs or males at Oxbow, Lampman, Midale, Avonlea, and Weyburn (JHP, BL, TR, NP). This is an excellent example of how fast a species can expand its range given the right conditions. The first Orchard Oriole in Saskatchewan occurred in 1972, the first breeding was in 1974, and as recently as 1980 they were still rare enough that a sighting warranted its reporting to rare bird alerts in the province.

A major invasion of both crossbill species and Pine Siskins occurred during July. There were large numbers scattered throughout the farmland/grassland of s. portions of the Region. Even Am. Goldfinches were more common than usual in this same area.

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## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Craig A. Faanes

Weather played a dominant role in the ecology of prairie birds this summer. Virtually everyone commented on the unusually cold temperatures and windy conditions that prevailed through June. The combination of low temperatures and 40-50 mph winds for three continuous days in June literally "freeze-dried" vegetables growing in Berkey's Minot garden. Drought conditions increased through the summer. June precipitation was 1.6 inches below normal at Fargo, and most of western North Dakota and eastern Montana were considered extremely dry.

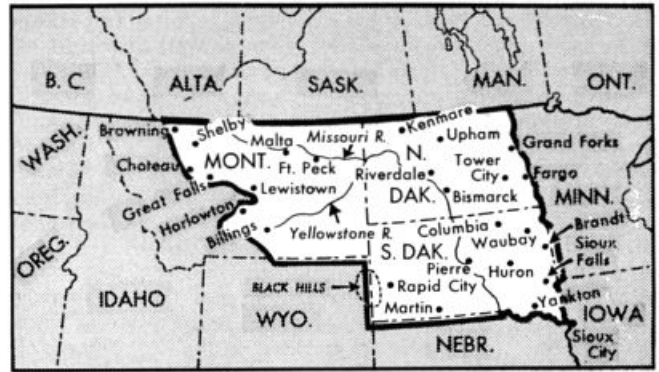
The mixed nesting colony of Ring-billed Gulls, California Gulls, Double-crested Cormorants, and pelicans which nested on a Lake Laretta, North Dakota, island in recent years did not do so this year, no doubt in response to markedly reduced water levels. Waterfowl observers throughout the prairie pothole region reported extremely low populations. As a result, waterfowl hunting seasons will probably be shortened and bag limits much reduced when compared to the high limits of the previous four years.

Wetland drainage has certainly taken its toll in the pothole region of North Dakota where over 20,000 acres of natural basin wetlands are drained yearly. In response to massive drainage programs in areas such as the Starkweather Watershed, water levels of Devil's Lake have increased dramatically in recent years. As a result, the west bay of the lake, known locally as the Minnewaukan Flats, has become probably the most productive waterbird area in North Dakota. Hundreds of acres of newly flooded land are being occupied by a luxuriant growth of cattails that serve as a primary nesting location for literally thousands of grebes, egrets, herons, gulls, terns, and other marsh birds.

Among the highlights of the season were additional records of "Clark's" Grebe from Montana and North Dakota, the first record of Olivaceous Cormorant in South Dakota, encouraging numbers of Cooper's Hawks, South Dakota's (long overdue) first confirmed nest of Common Poorwill, a nesting Common Barn-Owl in North Dakota, and the apparent loss of Lark Bunting over much of the eastern portion of the prairie region.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — the Flats = the Minnewaukan Flats, Benson Co., North Dakota. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Only 10 Com. Loons were reported from across the Region this summer. The Eared Grebe colony at the Flats, estimated at "a few thousand" pairs by DOL, may be the largest ever known from North Dakota. The 2nd through 4th North Dakota records of "Clark's" Grebe were of birds in *Ward* June 29 and July 20 (REM, GB), at Grand Forks July 2 (PL, CM, Lambeths), and at the Flats July 21 (SOL). Montana's 2nd was at Ft. Peck June 1 (CC). One hundred Am. White Pelican nests in Coddington Apr. 10 were the earliest ever recorded from South Dakota (BE, GBu). The Drywood colony supported 1272 nests, and 898 nests were found at Piyas L. this summer (KHH, MJR). Probably the most enigmatic bird of the year was South Dakota's first **Olivaceous Cormorant** observed and photographed at Pierre July 3-Aug. 16 (AO *et al.*). About 375 Double-crested Cormorant nests were reported from 2 c. North Dakota locations, and 909 nests were in 2 South Dakota colonies. Two nests were found on a man-made island at Tewaukon N.W.R., June 5, for the first nest record there since 1979 (DGP).



One Am. Bittern nest was found in *Ward* June 28. One Least Bittern was in *Edmunds*, S.D., July 24 (MM), and up to six were at Tewaukon July 7-20 (DGP, DOL, SOL). Early post-breeding dispersal among Great Egrets was apparent at the Flats July 21. Snowy Egret nests included 25 from 3 e. South Dakota locations. Three Little Blue Heron nests at L. Andes N.W.R., July 1 established only the 2nd confirmed breeding record for South Dakota. At least 130 Cattle Egret nests were found in e. South Dakota. The presence of over 200 Cattle Egrets on the Flats July 22 (RWS) indicated that a major nesting colony now exists there. North Dakota's 2nd confirmed nest of Green-backed Heron was photographed June 16 along the Wild Rice R., *Sargent* (PJC). Two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were in *Hanson*, S.D., June 11-Aug. 8 (JP, SP, GP), and one was at L. Andes (JJ, DH). White-faced Ibises probably nested at Rush L., *Day* and in *Kingsbury*, S.D. (KHH, MJR).

About 750 post-breeding Wood Ducks had massed at Tewaukon July 1 (DGP). Documentation was received of a ♂ Cinnamon Teal May 20 in *Cavalier*, N.D. (D. Hultman). Another male was in *Hanson*, S.D., July 2 (SP, GP). Five Bufflehead broods were observed in *Bottineau*, N.D., June 30 (GB). South Dakota's 2nd confirmed Com. Merganser nest was reported from Rapid City in June (*vide* NRW). This species was also found in 3 e. South Dakota locations.

**RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS** — Two Ospreys were reported from the Dakotas. South Dakota's 4th confirmed Sharp-shinned Hawk nest was found in *Custer* (RAP). This was apparently a very productive year for Cooper's Hawk. A nest with four young was found July 1 in *Pennington*, S.D. (MM). At least 3 active nests were located in e. North Dakota, and one nest at Lostwood N.W.R. in w. North Dakota produced five young in late July (RKM). Berkey and Martin observed Cooper's Hawks in 12 *Ward* townships this summer. Swainson's Hawk was reported as the most common raptor between Devil's Lake and Tewaukon N.W.R., July 19-21 (DOL, SOL). This was especially encouraging in that the bird seems to be holding its own as the rapacious advance of agriculture converts more and more e. North Dakota prairie and shelterbelts to other uses. A pair of Ferruginous Hawks in e. *Eddy* July 21 provided the easternmost North Dakota nesting season record in many years. Stewart (1975) indicated only pre-1950 records for that region. A young Peregrine Falcon was out of season July 24 at the Grand Forks lagoons (DOL, GSL).

The Greater Prairie-Chicken cross-fostering project at Arrowwood N.W.R. was successful in hatching 43 prairie-chicken eggs from Sharp-tailed Grouse nests. DLK discovered a previously-unknown breeding location for Yellow Rail in wet meadows e. of Dunseith, N.D. A Sandhill Crane June 6 at the Ordway Prairie Preserve, *McPherson*, S.D., was totally out of season (BKH). Adding to further speculation about the breeding

status of Sandhills in North Dakota were two seen July 24 & 29 in hayfields at Salyer N.W.R. (FG). Also, "a few" were reported by a Rugby, N.D., farmer in July.

Two Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Grand Forks July 3 (PL, CM, GSL). The Ft. Peck Piping Plover nest reported last season was apparently successful (CC). Two nests were also at Medicine Lake N.W.R. (*vide* F. Maiss). The Black-necked Stilt nest reported last period was apparently abandoned in response to heavy late May rain. Upland Sandpipers were considered abundant on recently-burned native prairie grasslands at Lostwood N.W.R. (RKM). Three ad. Short-billed Dowitchers (*L.g. hendersoni*) were at Medicine Lake N.W.R., June 19 (PL, CM). Two recently-fledged Com. Snipe July 19 made up the first confirmed nest record for *Ward*, N.D. (REM, GB). An ad. Am. Woodcock with five young was photographed on the lawn at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., June 20 (MJR *et al.*). Two woodcocks were reported from e. North Dakota in early July. Over 500 Wilson's Phalaropes were congregated on the Grand Forks lagoons June 19 (DOL). A breeding-plumaged ♀ **Red Phalarope** at Bowdoin N.W.R., July 21 provided Montana's 6th record (KK, DK, ph.).

Large colonies of Franklin's Gulls were nesting at the Flats and at Salyer N.W.R. Up to 25 Bonaparte's Gulls were out of season June 9-July 28 at Devil's L. (DLK). California Gulls were present all summer at the Grand Forks lagoons, with the first juvenile there July 18 (DOL). About 22 nests were found in *Day*, S.D., June 7 (KHH, MJR *et al.*). Caspian Terns nested again on Gull I., Ft. Peck Res. A 2nd Montana nesting location was found at Medicine Lake N.W.R. Elsewhere, one was at Sand Lake N.W.R., June 27, and 10 were at Grand Forks July 2. One positive benefit of the drought was the lack of flooding along the Missouri R., where Dryer found 114 ad. Least Terns in July.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WRENS** — A Black-billed Cuckoo nest with 3 cuckoo eggs and one Brown Thrasher egg was among 25 cuckoo nests found by Berkey and Martin as they neared the completion of their very intensive mapping project in *Ward*. Probably the most exciting North Dakota nest record this year was of the state's 2nd Com. Barn-Owl nest found in a Wood Duck box at Arrowwood N.W.R., July 31 (PCV, RFJ). Stewart (1975) listed only one previous confirmed nest, at Chaffee, *Cass*, Sept. 7, 1952. Two Barred Owls responded to taped calls along the Sheyenne R., *Richland*, July 4 (PL, CM). A Com. Poorwill nest with two young in n. *Harding* June 28 provided South Dakota's long-overdue first confirmed breeding record (PRS). An active White-throated Swift nest at Silver Peak July 17 was at a new Montana breeding location (DP).

Seven Lewis' Woodpeckers in the Little Rockies, Mont., July 16-17 provided the first indication of nesting in latilong L20 (DP). Three Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nests June 21 were the first confirmed for *Ward* (REM, GB).

A ♂ Olive-sided Flycatcher in *Custer* June 27 added credence to the possibility of nesting in the Black Hills (NRW). Western Wood-Pewees were found in 2 separate *Ward* locations June 29-July 28 (REM, GB). Two Alder Flycatcher pairs were in extreme s.e. *LaMoure*, N.D., June 4-8, where a pair had apparently nested the last 3 years. This constituted a considerable s.e. extension of the known breeding range in North Dakota (CTC). The nest and eggs of Dusky Flycatcher found June 22 in *Pennington* established one of few confirmed breeding records for South Dakota (PRS). One Say's Phoebe was seen at Grafton, *Walsh*, N.D., June 2 and a nest was located amidst 4 previous ones July 1 (DOL, SOL). Another nest was found in extreme s.w. *Ransom* June 4 (CTC), and a nest in n.e. *Barnes* was at a location where the species has bred for 10 consecutive years. All records are from the e. limit of the known nesting range in North America.

An ad. Clark's Nutcracker feeding young in *Custer* Apr. 29 made the first confirmed South Dakota nesting record (RAP). Also, surprisingly, one was e. of the Missouri R. in *Hughes* July 17. There were only 2-3 previous records along and e. of the Missouri, none in summer. Unusual and out of place was the

Black-billed Magpie at Fargo June 23 (AJL). Young Red-breasted Nuthatches fledged June 8 or 9 from a Bismarck nest (RNR). What may be an indication of things to come this fall were single Red-breasted in *Ward* June 2-July 20 and at Salyer July 11, and three in Fargo July 31. Rock Wrens nested again on coal mine spoil piles in *Ward* (GB). Sedge Wrens were reported in markedly reduced numbers this summer.

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS** — A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Newton Hills S.P., June 13-14 (PRS) and still present July 13, provided the 4th occurrence of the species in 4 years at this South Dakota location. A well-documented Swainson's Thrush was at Newton Hills July 5 (!) (PL, CM). Wood Thrush nested in *Lincoln*, S.D., in May (RDB), and eight were at Newton Hills July 5 (PL, CM). A single N. Mockingbird was in *McLean*, N.D., June 19 (REM, GB). Springer found a Sage Thrasher in *Harding* June 25, at one of very few consistent locations for the species in South Dakota.

Probably in response to the extremely dry conditions, only one Sprague's Pipit was found during intensive surveys of Ordway Prairie in June (BKH). Thirteen Loggerhead Shrikes (including a nest with young) were reported from North Dakota. That state's only reliable Bell's Vireo location—below Garrison Dam—produced one male June 16 & 29 (REM, GB). A nest was found in *Charles Mix*, S.D., July 17 (DRS). Yellow-throated Vireos were reported from 7 e. North Dakota locations.

Without doubt, determining status of Tennessee Warblers in North Dakota in summer is extremely frustrating. Do they or do they not nest? In most years, Tennessees can be found consistently through late May and then again, almost like clockwork, on July 4. This year, DOL found one singing in the Grand Forks cemetery June 22. Lehman found one at Mirror Pool July 4, one was singing n. of the Univ. of North Dakota campus July 12, DLK found one at Hope July 21, and GSL found an adult and an immature at Turtle River S.P., July 23. Most confusing is the fact that these birds are present during the "proper" season, but are not located during subsequent searches.

Three ♂ Orange-crowned Warblers were in the Pembina R gorge July 2 (PL *et al.*), where the species *must* nest but, contributing to the tradition of many years past, no nests could be found. A ♂ N. Parula was in Newton Hills S.P., July 5 (PL, CM). Two Cerulean Warblers were at Newton Hills June 15, and a well-documented individual was singing there July 5 (PL, CM). The singing Audubon's Warbler in the Grand Forks cemetery June 19 (DOL, SOL) was at least 350 mi from the nearest known nesting area. South Dakota's 2nd Black-and-white Warbler nest was found in the Black Hills in July (H. Behrens). A ♂ Connecticut Warbler was singing in suitable nesting habitat in the Turtle Mts., June 15 (DLK). There are no known nest records for North Dakota. Separate Mourning were in the Turtle Mts., June 2 & 15 (DLK), and at Gunlogson Arboretum in the n.e. corner of North Dakota July 2 (PL, CM *et al.*).

**DICKCISSEL THROUGH SISKIN** — Only 18 Dickcissels were reported from the Region, all from 5 e. North Dakota locations. The first South Dakota nest of the "Eastern" Rufous-sided Towhee was found at Sica Hollow June 19 (PRS). Eight Brewer's Sparrows were in *Fall R.*, June 30 (RAP, JLB). At least 95 Baird's Sparrows were found at the Ordway Prairie in June (BKH). Two Swamp Sparrows were in a *Kidder* fen July 25 (DLK). This is one of only 3 reliable locations for the species in North Dakota. Quite unusual was the White-crowned Sparrow seen numerous times near Crystal, N.D., May 2-late June by LM, who found a dead White-crowned in her garden July 1. A Dark-eyed Junco was seen well in the Grand Forks cemetery June 27 (DOL).

What may well be a symptom of the never-ending destruction of native grasslands continued to be reflected in the extremely low numbers of W. Meadowlark reported from the Nash B B S route in e. North Dakota. So few Lark Buntings were reported again this year from the Dakotas that I am becoming very con-

cerned for its future survival here. Recent evidence from Christmas Bird Counts suggests strongly that more than "normal yearly fluctuations" are affecting the species. A ♂ Cassin's Finch was at a Joliet, Mont., feeder July 13 (BHi). The last echo of the past winter's crossbill incursion was the departure in late June of a flock of Reds from a Grand Forks feeder. Six White-winged Crossbills were in *Pennington* June 6 (RAP), and a ♂-plumaged bird was in Turtle River S.P., June 30 (Lambeths). Pine Siskin nesting was widespread across South Dakota. Up to 40 frequented a Grand Forks feeder until June 25 when the feeder was removed in hopes that the birds would finally leave!

**CONTRIBUTORS** (Area editors in boldface). MONTANA—**Chuck Carlson**, Billie Hicks, Dale Karlson, Kevin Karlson, Dwain

Prellwitz, and two other observers. NORTH DAKOTA—Gordon Berkey, Paul J. Christensen, Charles T. Clark, Mark Dryer, Fred Giese, Robert F. Johnson, Donald L. Kubischta, **David O. Lambeth**, Greg S. Lambeth, Sharon O. Lambeth, Paul Lehman, Art J. Lies, Curt Marantz, **Ron E. Martin**, Laura Mitchell, Robert K. Murphy, David G. Potter, Robert N. Randall, Rick W. Schnaderbeck, Paul C. Van Ningen, and 30 other observers. SOUTH DAKOTA—Jocelyn L. Baker, Harry Behrens, Robert D. Buckman, Gordon Burke (GBu), Bob Eubank, **Bruce K. Harris**, Dave Hilley, Ken H. Husmann, John Jave, Paul Lehman, Curt Marantz, Mike Melius, Alan Oleson, Richard A. Peterson, Greg Purdy, John Purdy, Scott Purdy, Mike J. Rapenberg, Dennis R. Skadsen, Paul R. Springer, Nat R. Whitney, and 15 other observers.—**CRAIG A. FAANES**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

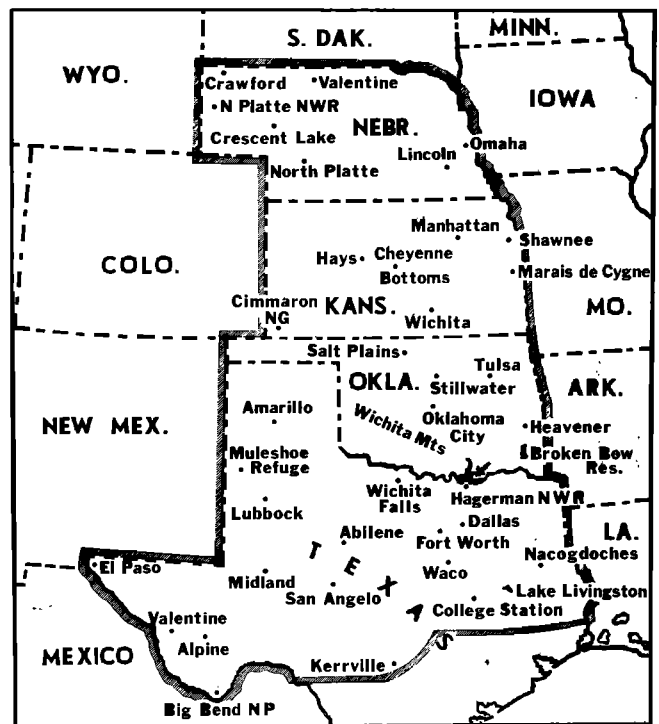
### Frances Williams

The common theme in this summer's reports was concern over the parasitism by cowbirds on small nesting birds. In Presidio County, Texas, Hooded Orioles and Blue Grosbeaks raised Bronzed Cowbirds (JMi). In Douglas County, Kansas, the only Wood Thrush nest found held a Brown-headed Cowbird (RLB). In Texas' Big Thicket, Prairie Warblers were parasitized (AM). In Oklahoma, the list of victims was long: wood-pewees, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Warbling, Bell's, and Black-capped vireos, and Orchard Orioles (JN). In Canadian County, Oklahoma, where a cowbird trap was installed, three pairs of Black-capped Vireos successfully fledged more than ten young, whereas in the previous years no vireo young were raised (JAG). At least 72% of Black-capped Vireo nests in Kerr County, Texas, contained cowbird eggs (JAG). Lasley commented, "We need to start eliminating cowbirds in their large winter flocks if any of our open-cup nesters are to survive."

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.B. = Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Kans.; B.B.N.P. = Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex.; B.B.S. = Breeding Bird Survey; G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park, Texas. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Pied-billed Grebes nested successfully at Midland, Tex., providing a new breeding record there (JM, m.ob.). One was seen in *Kerr*, Tex., where the species is unusual in summer, July 3 (E & KM). A Red-necked Grebe was discovered in *Lancaster*, Neb., June 16 (BG). Two W. Grebes visited C.B., July 3-6 (SS), and one was present in *Sheridan*, Neb., June 19-20 (JD). A flock of about 40 Am. White Pelicans remained at *Quivira* N.W.R., Kans., all summer. Some had breeding horns and might have nested if an adequate nesting island were available (RLB). Thirty Am. White Pelicans were counted in *Douglas*, Neb., July 4. Double-crested Cormorants nested at *Sequoyah* N.W.R., Okla., and at C.B., while four in *Tarrant*, Tex., June 14 were in full breeding attire. Eleven imm. Olivaceous Cormorants summered in *Tarrant*, four at Oklahoma City were also immature, and at C.B., there were three adults and one immature. Anhingas were seen at Ft. Worth June 14-18.

Two Least Bittern nests were found in *Lancaster*, Neb. (BG). A large heronry at Wichita, Kans., was inhabited by the following breeding pairs: Little Blue Heron 1000, Cattle Egret 900, Snowy Egret 150, Great Egret 15, Black-crowned Night-Heron 10 (*vide* RLB). Eleven Great Egrets visited Midland, where no more than three had been seen before, in mid-July. Tricolored Herons hatched three young at C.B. in mid-June (EM). Non-breeding Tricolored Herons visited *Kerr* July 25, Dallas July 15, and Qui-



vira July 10. A Black-crowned Night-Heron colony at Amarillo contained more than 40 active nests and many young June 28 (KS). In *Fillmore*, Neb., a colony of Black-crowneds had 20 nests June 23 and many were still under construction (BG), while 3 nests were found in *Sheridan*, Neb., July 4 (L & BP). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in *Swisher*, Tex., July 21 provided a rare summer record (KS). Three imm. White Ibises visited *Tarrant* June 29-July 13 (BM, m.ob.), and 35 were seen in *Van Zandt*, Tex., June 17 (RK). Four Roseate Spoonbills were observed at Dallas July 15 and one was at Ft. Worth July 13.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks summered at Dallas (m.ob.) and visited *Jefferson*, Tex., July 10 (AM). A Tundra Swan in *Moore* July 13 provided a first summer record for the Texas Panhandle (KS). Three Greater White-fronted Geese remained in *Boone*, Neb., until June 24, and two Snow Geese summered in *Hudspeth*, Tex. A Mottled Duck with five young was found in *Rains*, Tex. A Gadwall with seven ducklings in *Cimarron* Aug. 1 provided a first breeding record for Oklahoma (JAG). A pair of Gadwalls in *Tarrant* June 11-14 provided one of the few summer records there. Five Lesser Scaup were seen at Amarillo

June 12 Totally inexplicable was a juv Hooded Merganser in *Armstrong*, Tex., July 7 (KS). In *Trego*, Kans., a Com. Merganser lingered until the late date of June 4 (SS).

**RAPTORS** — Two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites graced *Tyler*, Tex., June 7 (AM). A nest of Mississippi Kites with two young was found near Keene, Tex., July 2 (CE), and another near Burleson, Tex., had two young July 20 (WP, CBH). Mississippi Kites continued to harass golfers and homeowners who were so unfortunate as to pass near an occupied nest. The remedy has been to take the young and give them to a licensed rehabilitator to raise, usually a successful undertaking. At Ft. Worth, Mississippi Kites were seen catching Purple Martins (AB). An imm. Bald Eagle was discovered in *Polk*, Tex., July 16 (AM). An ad. ♀ N Harrier with one fledged young was encountered in *Hutchinson* July 4, providing the first evidence of nesting in the Texas Panhandle since 1941 (KS). This species also summered in *Midland* and *Young*, Tex. There was apparently only one breeding pair of N. Harriers remaining in *Washington*, Okla. (ED, DV). In Nebraska, N. Harriers nested in *Deuel* and *Lancaster*.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk in *Cleveland* June 12 provided a first summer record for Oklahoma (JAG). Cooper's Hawks nested in *Osage*, Okla., for the first time since 1960 (BS). In *Kerr*, Tex., 2 Cooper's Hawk nests were located within ½ mi of each other (E & KM). Swainson's Hawks continued to be very scarce throughout the Region. A Zone-tailed Hawk nest was found in Black Gap W.M.A., *Brewster*, Tex., Apr. 14 (BMcK). A Ferruginous Hawk was seen in Black Mesa S.P., Okla., July 7 (DV). A Golden Eagle rested briefly in *Parker*, Tex., July 22 (KD). Crested Caracaras were sighted in *Van Zandt*, Tex., July 1 (RK) and *Kaufman*, Tex., Aug. 4 (JA). American Kestrels have moved onto the skyscrapers of Dallas and Bartlesville. Two very early Merlins were observed in *Crosby*, Tex., July 29 (ML). Although Peregrine Falcons were present in G.M.N.P. during the entire season, they did not nest. Unusual summer sightings of Peregrines were in *Caddo*, Okla., July 20 (JDT, DCT) and *Taylor*, Tex., June 18. The latter had a broken wing, but under treatment it seemed to be recovering (*fide* BH). A Prairie Falcon was observed at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., July 4 (FR).

**RAILS THROUGH TERNS** — King Rails were seen in *Muskogee*, Okla., July 17 (JNo) and *Lancaster*, Neb., June 12 (P & KK). Virginia Rails summered in *Gray* and *Midland*, Tex., for the first time. Soras remained in *Midland* throughout the season, but birds found dead in *Henderson*, Tex., July 28 and *Denton*, Tex., Aug. 1 may have been migrants. A Purple Gallinule visited Ft. Worth June 22 (CBH). At least 2 pairs of Com. Moorhens fledged young in *Midland*, providing a new breeding record there. At Dallas, 43 young Com. Moorhens were counted; in *Hutchinson*, Tex., the species seems to have supplanted the Am. Coot. In *Lancaster* a Com. Moorhen nest held 9 eggs and in *Fillmore*, Neb., a nest with 11 eggs was found. A Sandhill Crane in *Moore*, Tex., July 13 may have been injured (KS).

Over the past 5 years, the breeding population of Snowy Plovers has decreased at Quivira, C.B., and the Cimarron R. in *Woods*, Okla. (RLB). Two Piping Plovers were on Platte R. sandbars in *Sarpy*, Neb., June 1 (RW). Three nests of Mountain Plovers were located in *Jeff Davis*, Tex., May 6-14. A severe hailstorm probably killed some of the young, and all plovers were gone from the area by June 24 (PE). Six Mountain Plovers were found in *Dallam*, Tex., June 15 (KS). A pair of Black-necked Stilts with three downy chicks provided a new breeding record in *Carson*, Tex., June 23 (KS, PA). A Solitary Sandpiper summered in Boone, Neb. (WJM). In *Pioneers P.*, Lincoln, Neb., an Upland Sandpiper with young was seen in one of the animal pastures June 20 (MBO). In *Cotton*, Okla., 51 Upland Sandpipers were seen June 22 (JDT), and three were tallied on the *Young*, Tex., B.B.S., June 16 (KN). Bartlesville birders who participated in the new "sensitive species survey" of the Oklahoma

Dept of Wildlife Conservation found that Upland Sandpipers average about three to every 10 mi in the right habitat. During the *Dallam*, Tex., B.B.S., Seyffert had help from a coyote in counting Long-billed Curlews: it trotted across a field, stirring up the birds, and 72 individuals were counted instead of the average 35. Despite the lack of stones to turn, a Ruddy Turnstone was at C.B., July 10 (SS, PL). A Red Knot in *Crosby*, Tex., July 31 provided a 2nd county record (ML). A flock of Baird's Sandpipers comprising 2000 birds in *Texas*, Okla., Aug 1 was unusual for the area (JAG). Five Short-billed Dowitchers were carefully identified by plumage and voice at C.B., July 9 (SS, PL). An Am. Woodcock was discovered in *Saunders*, Neb., June 15 (RC, AR).

A very early imm. Bonaparte's Gull was discovered in *Texas*, Okla., July 28 (WMD). A Caspian Tern at Midland June 5 provided a new county record (m.ob.). Prof. Boyd's report on Least Terns was discouraging: at Quivira, the population seemed to be stable even though production was low, while on the Cimarron R. in w. *Woods*, Okla., there were only 4 colonies where there had been 9 in 1983. Decreased water flow for sandbar construction, fish availability and increased Tamarisk are the problems there. A relatively new colony at Optima Res., *Texas*, Okla., produced at least eight fledglings. Considerable human disturbance is a factor at this colony. On the Arkansas R at Tulsa, Pinalto monitored Least Tern nest sites almost daily. Three nests were washed out by high water at the end of May. By the end of July there were 18 adults and 14 chicks present. There were 7 pairs of Least Terns on the Arkansas R. in *Muskogee*, Okla. (JNo). In *Douglas*, Neb., 2 pairs of Least Terns were presumed nesting at a sandpit (BJR). Two Least Terns were at Dallas, where they are seldom seen, June 30 and July 2 (GG).

**DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — Two White-winged Doves were found in *Upton*, Tex., n. of their usual range, June 13 (CCW). A Groove-billed Ani was photographed at Ft. Worth June 9 (LS). A pair of Long-eared Owls with three fledged young was seen in *Lancaster*, Neb., June 13 (BH). A Lesser Nighthawk was banded in *Taylor*, Tex., considerably n. and e. of its usual range, July 13 (RB). A Chuck-will's-widow was heard in *Otoe*, Neb., June 16 (L & BP). Chimney Swifts in *Cimarron*, Okla., Aug. 1 provided one of the few records there. Two ♂ Magnificent Hummingbirds perched together in B.B.N.P., June 2 (RS), and the species was noted in G.M.N.P., June 16 and July 30 (DM, BJ). A Lucifer Hummingbird fed at a *Presidio*, Tex., feeder until mid-July (JMi). A ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird graced an Amarillo garden June 2 (RR). A pair of Anna's Hummingbirds enjoyed a Kerrville feeder June 22-July 31 (*fide* E & KM), and two males brightened the Davis Mts., June 20 and July 24 (*fide* PE). A Calliope Hummingbird arrived in G.M.N.P., July 30 (BJ).

Bartlesville observers reported some bizarre behavior by Belted Kingfishers: three kingfishers attacked a Snowy Egret (ED), and another dove into a wading pool scaring 2 little girls, then plunged into the birdbath, and finally slammed into a hummingbird feeder. Did the latter have impaired vision (MD)? Red-cockaded Woodpeckers had the most successful breeding season in 10 years in the Big Thicket (AM).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Tulsa on the late date of June 22. A W. Wood-Pewee was found at Muleshoe N.W.R. on the unusual date of July 4 (FR). A Black Phoebe nest was a not-unexpected discovery in G.M.N.P., June 15 (DM). Electronic bug-zappers provide many ready-cooked meals for a wide variety of birds, but a pair of E. Phoebes near Bartlesville sat on a fence near the zapper and caught the bugs before they were zapped to feed to their three large fledglings (MD). Say's Phoebes had three nestlings in *Polk*, Neb., June 11 (TB, BW). Five nestling Ash-throated Flycatchers which provided a first breeding record for *Hood*, Tex., were taken by a predator (CBH). A **Thick-billed Kingbird** was discovered in B.B.N.P., July 30 (RBH) and was subsequently confirmed (CS). There had been one previous park record.



**SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS**—Tree Swallows nested at Sequoyah N.W.R., Okla. (CH). Six Bank Swallows at Ft. Worth June 11 furnished one of the few summer records for *Tarrant* (JS). Every one of 5 colonies of Cliff Swallows near College Station, Tex., had problems with fire ants, and 2 were hard hit by water snakes. A large number of swallows re-nested in one culvert, but abandoned the colony in late July (KA). At least 20 pairs of Cave Swallows nested at McNary in far w. Texas (BZ), and nests with young were found in a culvert along Hwy 187 in *Bandera*, Tex. Black-billed Magpies fledged three young in *Meade*, Kans. (RLB). Carolina Chickadees were found in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., June 25, providing a first summer record there (KS). In *Cimarron*, Okla., Mountain Chickadees provided a first breeding record for the state (EG *et al.*). A Plain Titmouse was found in *Crosby*, Tex., July 3 (ML). A Red-breasted Nuthatch lingered in *Cimarron* into June.

House Wrens were located in 3 s.w. Oklahoma counties, and a nest in *Stephens* June 8 provided the southernmost record in Oklahoma (JDT, JSS). In *Kent*, Tex., E. Bluebirds nested for the first time (DS). Two birds thought to be juv. Mountain Bluebirds were found in *Upton*, Tex., May 30. No adults were nearby and no suitable nest sites were available, so their presence was a mystery (CCW). In *Dawes*, Neb., a ♀ Mountain Bluebird and a ♂ E. Bluebird fledged four young June 8 (TB, BW). A Wood Thrush in B.B.N.P., June 1 was a late migrant. Wood Thrushes at Great Salt Plains N.W.R., July 11 and *Caddo*, Okla., July 12 (PL, JAG) were rather far w.

Gray Catbirds remained in the Davis Mts. until June 16 and one was seen at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., June 19. There was no evidence of nesting at either locality. A Sage Thrasher in *Cimarron* Aug. 2 was an early migrant (JAG). A Brown Thrasher was banded in *Brewster*, Tex., July 11 (BMcK). Two Curve-billed Thrasher nests with eggs were found in *Oldham*, Tex., June 30 (KS, PA). Five Sprague's Pipits were seen on Bohemia Prairie, *Knox*, Neb., June 9 (JD). A Phainopepla graced *Floyd*, Tex., June 25 (ML). Loggerhead Shrikes were abundant: 42 nests or family groups were counted in *Comanche*, Okla., while in *Washington* and *Nowata*, Okla., 85 shrikes were tallied in 50 mi. Loggerhead Shrikes with young were found in *Gage* and *Johnson*, Neb. White-eyed Vireos could not be found at Tulsa. Reports of Bell's Vireos were scarce. Black-capped Vireos were found in B.B.N.P., *Terrell*, Tex., and Dinosaur Valley S.P., Tex. A special search in Oklahoma found 30 males at 14 localities. Yellow-throated Vireos again summered in the Davis Mts., and one was found dead July 21 (PE). Unusual summer sightings of Red-eyed Vireos in G.M.N.P. occurred June 28 and July 2 (BJ).

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**—Northern Parulas summered w. to *Medina* and *Tarrant*, Tex. A singing Lucy's Warbler was at Cottonwood campground, B.B.N.P., June 3 (RS). Golden-cheeked Warblers nested in good numbers at Dinosaur Valley S.P. Cerulean Warblers found nest-building near Baldwin, Kans., May 26, were feeding young June 16, providing a new state breeding record (RLB). A Cerulean Warbler was sighted in Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy*, Neb., June 1 (BSt). A singing ♂ Black-

and-white Warbler was observed in B B N P, June 2 (RS) and one in *Cherry*, Neb., June 9 was also very far w. (JD). A Prothonotary Warbler was found at Great Salt Plains July 11 (PL). A Worm-eating Warbler in B.B.N.P., June 6 was late (K & DK). Louisiana Waterthrushes were w. of their usual range in Texas at Enchanted Rock S.P., July 21 (JNa), Dinosaur Valley July 21 (CBH), and *Tarrant* July 27 (CBH). A Kentucky Warbler provided a first record at G.M.N.P., June 1 (BJ). A Mourning Warbler sang in Fontenelle Forest June 9 (L & BP). Unusual summer records were provided by Yellow-breasted Chats in *Midland* and *Potter*, Tex. In *Cherry*, Neb., Yellow-breasted Chats moved into a shrubby area which grew when grazing was eliminated (JD).

Summer Tanagers are reported in lower numbers each year. Lazuli Buntings were found in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., June 25. This species is not known to nest in the Texas Panhandle, but the Indigo Bunting does, and singing males of both species were found in *Potter* July 10 (KS). Two pairs of Varied Buntings summered in *Kimble*, Tex. (N & DJ). A Rufous-sided Towhee in *Canadian*, Okla., June 13 was far w. of its usual range (JAG). An Olive Sparrow was reported in B.B.N.P., July 2 (BMcK). Three singing Field Sparrows in *Armstrong*, Tex., July 17 were unusually far w. Black-throated Sparrows were found in *Shackelford* and *Young*, Tex. Nesting of Swamp Sparrows in *Rock*, Neb., provided a new county record (JD). An out-of-season Dark-eyed Junco appeared in *Kerr* July 28 (MS *et al.*). A first summer record was provided by a singing W. Meadowlark in *Kerr*, Tex. (E & KM). Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were observed in *Caddo*, Okla., June 20 (JDT). More than 100 pairs of Great-tailed Grackles inhabited the heronry in Wichita, Kans., and this pest increased in n.e. Nebraska.

A Red Crossbill was sighted in G.M.N.P., June 16 (OVO). Pine Siskins remained at Omaha and Lincoln until June 10. Evening Grosbeaks lingered in G.M.N.P. through June (DM, BJ).

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## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

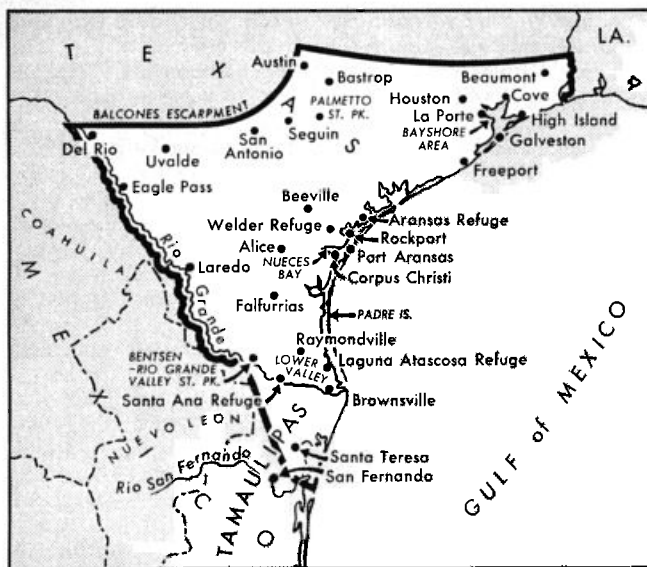
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Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

**A**s happens occasionally in the unpredictable Texas climate, two distinctly different phases marked this season's weather. The late spring and early summer were moist and cool throughout the Region. There were substantial rains Regionwide in June. Austin, in fact, was blessed with

three cool fronts in June—an unprecedented sequence for that time of year. Rains continued to be widespread in early July, and heavy rains fell on the Upper Texas Coast July 15-22. But most of July for most of the Region was very hot, sunny, and dry, contrasting starkly with June.

The net result of the earlier moisture was a phenomenal wildflower bloom, which, of course, translated into abun-



dant cover and food (seeds and insects) for our nesting species. Generally, all reporters commented on this abundance early in the season. The heat and dryness later probably did not affect many species seriously except for later broods of multi-brooded species.

There were a few anomalies, however. Nesting of several species in the Lower Rio Grande Valley was delayed (or at least not successful) until July. Labuda suggested that the very heavy rains with high winds and hail at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge June 16-22 may have destroyed earlier nests. The account below cites other examples.

By late season, the harsh, dry conditions took their toll on lakes and ponds in the interior. Freshwater ponds around Rockport were beginning to get low, and some shallow ones had dried up despite near-normal rainfall earlier in the summer.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Ref. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS** — A Com. Loon at Austin June 13 (PH) and another near Rockport July 21 (EP) provided rare summer records for the Region. Least Grebes apparently had a good nesting season in the L.R.G.V.; they were reported from many areas. A pelagic trip off Port Aransas June 15 turned up a subad. Masked Booby (SBu, WS *et al.*). Brown Pelicans again had a good year on the Texas coast with 300 hatched at Pelican I., Corpus Christi (EP).

The first comprehensive survey for breeding Least Bitterns in the Austin area revealed 11 territorial birds at L. Walter Long June 13 (PH *et al.*). This constituted a substantial inland nesting population of a very local breeder. Waders in general had an excellent nesting season in all coastal locations. Payne conducts yearly surveys at Pelican I. (Corpus Christi). Her census this year tallied 73 nesting pairs of Great Blue Herons, 73 of Great Egrets, 242 of Snowy Egrets, 11 of Little Blue Herons, 987 of Tricolored Herons, 177 of Reddish Egrets, 140 of Cattle Egrets, 48 of Black-crowned Night-Herons, 3 of White Ibises, and 225 of White-faced Ibises. She noted there was very little problem with parasites on the young and very little mortality among nestlings. At L. Gonzales only one Little Blue Heron was seen during the summer, a sharp decline from the previous 2 years (PH). A Reddish Egret again showed up in Karnes July 25 (WS), 85 mi inland. Green-backed Herons and Yellow-crowned

Night-Herons were in normal numbers at most inland locations. Wood Storks were widely reported June 23+.

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were at San Antonio July 2, considerably w. of their usual range (WS). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks nested late at Santa Ana; the first hatchlings were not reported until July 14 (SL). The species was reported in normal numbers at most traditional nesting areas in the Region, and was substantially more numerous at Austin area sewer ponds all season in comparison to the last few years. A Red-breasted Merganser at Corpus Christi June 16 (WS) was quite unexpected.

The Hook-billed Kites that began a nest near Falcon Dam in May were unsuccessful in fledging any young. A 2nd attempt by the pair was reportedly underway by late in the period. An ad. Mississippi Kite near Austin July 19 (BB) was probably an early migrant. Small numbers of the species were reported throughout the period from the Houston area, where it nests on a somewhat regular basis. An adult and two imm. Bald Eagles were seen July 20 over the Colorado R. in *Bastrop* (C & MKS) near a nesting site first discovered last year. An imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk at San Antonio July 2 (WS) was unexpected. Cooper's Hawks apparently nested in several locations in the Region this summer. A Cooper's on a nest in *Kenedy* Apr. 30 (DW) provided a new county nesting record. Another nesting pair was found in extreme s. *Kenedy* July 6 (*vide* SL) and an ad. Cooper's was seen in *Brooks* June 15 & 29 (AO).

An ad. Gray Hawk in *Brooks* July 18 (AO *et al.*) was well n. of its regular haunts along the Rio Grande, and paralleled a similar spring sighting near the same latitude in *Kleberg*. Broad-winged Hawks nest sporadically in the far e. part of the Region but individuals in *Bexar* June 19 (RH), Austin July 20 (PH), and *Bastrop* July 20 (C & MKS) were out-of-range. Swainson's Hawks (rare nesters in the Region) nested in Falfurrias and fledged two young June 1 (AO). Other reports of ad. Swainson's included one in *Duval* June 22 (E & NA), one at Austin July 5 (PH), two in *Brooks* July 9 (WS), and one daily throughout July near Houston (RP). A subad. Peregrine Falcon at a San Antonio sewer pond July 16 (CB, WS) was a surprise.

**CHACHALACA THROUGH SKIMMER** — Plain Chachalacas, like many other L.R.G.V. birds this year, nested very late. The first young at Santa Ana were not seen until July 9 (SL). Wild Turkeys and N. Bobwhites reportedly had a very successful nesting season in Falfurrias (AO). Three calling Black Rails were heard July 6 in a *Brazoria* marsh (MA). Purple Gallinule numbers were down sharply at L. Gonzales, where they had been common nesters in recent years. A maximum of only 12 birds could be found this year (PH). The species did well elsewhere, however.

A Lesser Golden-Plover in San Antonio June 2 (SHn) was very late. Black-necked Stilts again nested commonly at San Antonio with over 70 present at one sewage pond June 2 (D & SHn). A pair of Black-necked Stilts also nested successfully in Austin with four chicks seen Aug. 3. This was only the 2nd nesting record for *Travis* (EK, BF, GL). Abundant spring rains produced lush grasslands in many areas of the Region through June. In one such area in *Atascosa*, S. Hanselmann found three Upland Sandpipers June 16 and six Long-billed Curlews July 3. He described the scene as reminiscent of "the prairies of Nebraska," but no evidence of a nesting attempt by either species could be found. Short-billed Dowitchers of the race *hendersoni* were noted as early as July 19 in Portland (CC). An Am. Woodcock in Houston July 1 (WC) suggested nesting in that area.

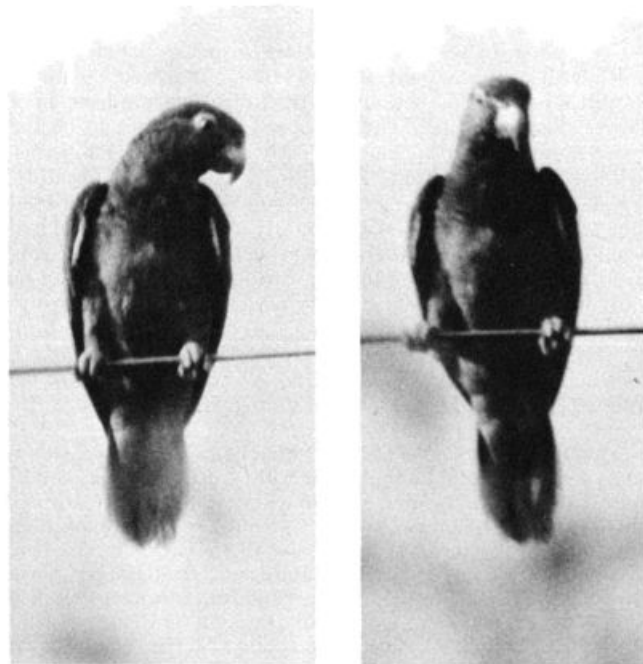
A Laughing Gull was out of place at Austin June 13 (PH). A Gull-billed Tern aggressively defended a site near the edge of a tidal lagoon at Galveston July 7 (RP). The species has not nested at that area for several years. Payne was pleased to find 7 nesting pairs of Gull-billeds on Pelican I. (Corpus Christi) during the season, and the species reportedly nested commonly at other c. coast locations (C & HK). The only report of Forster's

Terns concerned a colony at a *Galveston* site. In 1984, there were 75 nesting pairs at the location, but none could be found this year (RP). The grass had grown tall at the site, which may have inhibited the terns this year. Least Terns had good success on the c. coast where they took advantage of a newly-protected area on the Rockport beach and several protected spoil islands (C & HK). A lost imm. Black Skimmer was seen in San Antonio July 27 (D & SHn).

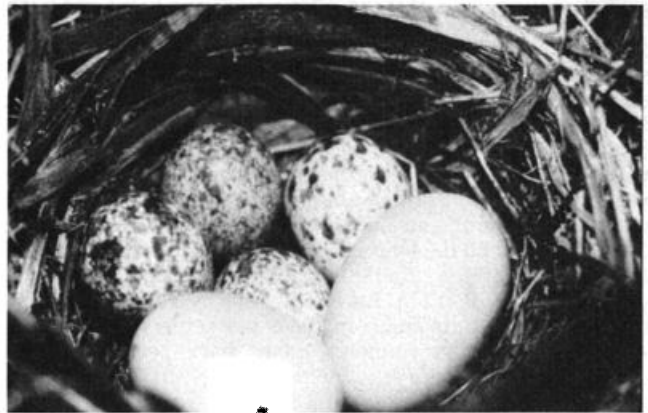
**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — White-winged Doves generally had a poor reproductive season all over s. Texas. The low nesting success caused the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. to close the fall White-winged hunting season this year. The only report of a successful White-winged breeding season was from the Kingsville area where it was reported that the species is expanding its nesting areas (N & PP, SB). Mourning Doves had an excellent season Regionwide. Common Ground-Doves were reported to be more numerous this year in *Brooks* (AO) and *Jim Wells* (KA). A White-tipped Dove June 16 in *Brooks* (AO) provided a new county record, continuing a recent string of sightings n. of the species' regular range.

In recent years, most of the Green Parakeet sightings occurred outside the breeding season. It was assumed that the species retreated back to Mexico to nest. This year, however, there were scattered reports from Harlingen, McAllen, and other areas, and a flock of six was seen July 18 near Santa Maria (*fide* SL). These reports added more confusion to the already-confusing topic regarding the origin of the birds. The same comments could be made for Red-crowned Parrots. They remained at scattered locations throughout the L.R.G.V., and one pair successfully fledged a young bird from a nest in a palm tree at Harlingen July 7 (J & MP).

Female Red-crowned Parrot from a pair that nested in Harlingen, Tex. Photo/John Pace on June 28, 1985.



Male Red-crowned Parrot from a pair that nested in Harlingen, Tex. Photo/John Pace on June 28, 1985.



Two Yellow-billed Cuckoo eggs and four N. Cardinal eggs in a cardinal nest at McKinney Falls S.P., Tex., July 1, 1985. Photo/Lou Jost.



Two young Yellow-billed Cuckoos in a N. Cardinal nest at McKinney Falls S.P., Tex., July 4, 1985. The adult cardinals fed the young cuckoos for a week. Photo/Lou Jost.

A surprising find at McKinney Falls S.P. near Austin July 1 was a N. Cardinal nest with 4 cardinal eggs and 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoo eggs in it. The cuckoo eggs hatched, the cardinal eggs did not, and the pair of cardinals fed the young cuckoos for about a week until the entire nest was raided by a predator July 12 (BB, ph. LJ). A determined pair of Greater Roadrunners hatched 3 broods of young (losing one brood to a cat) in *Karnes* (WS) during the period. Groove-billed Anis had a good season in the L.R.G.V., and two anis in *Atascosa* June 16 (SHn) were n. of their known breeding range. Two Lesser Nighthawk nests were found in *Bexar* June 30 (D & SHn) at the n. edge of their range. Common Nighthawks continued to be very scarce in Beaumont, but were still in reasonable numbers directly along the coastal strip (WG). Graber questioned why the birds are still found "within sight and sound of the surf" but are disappearing in the city. In contrast, the species is still found in cities such as San Antonio and Austin in normal numbers.

Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were present all summer in Kingsville, Falfurrias, Corpus Christi, and elsewhere, but there were no reports of nests observed. It is assumed the species nested successfully. Two pairs of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fledged a total of four young in April and May in Kingsville (AO), for a new *Kleberg* record. A Green Kingfisher at L. Gonzales in early June (PH) was an encouraging report in view of decreased sightings in the Austin area in recent seasons. Resident Red-headed Woodpeckers were thought to be in lower-than-normal numbers in the Beaumont area (WG).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS**— Vermilion Flycatchers were more obvious in *Brooks* than they had been in several recent breeding seasons (AO). A pair of Great Kiskadees nested successfully in a Purple Martin house in Kingsville (N & PP, SB), at the n. edge of the species' breeding range. Western Kingbirds continued to fill vacant niches within their normal range and nested again e. of their typical range. Several pairs were in evidence all summer in Pearsall, *Frio* (DS), where they are usually just migrants. In 1980, W. Kingbird was considered a very rare bird on the Upper Texas Coast in summer; this year at least 14 nests were found in s.w. Houston near an electric power station (RP *et al.*). An E. Kingbird in Alice July 7 (RA) furnished a rare summer record. Several observers felt that Scissor-tailed Flycatcher numbers might have been decreased somewhat in the Austin area, but the species was reported to be doing well in all other areas. Bank Swallows were again present in San Antonio all summer (WS).



Great Kiskadee outside its nest hole in a martin house at Kingsville, Tex., June 5, 1985. This nesting was notable both for the odd site and for the northerly locality. Photo/Paul Palmer.

S.A.

The Cave Swallow range expansion described last year has continued. The birds returned to nest in all of the counties where they had nested last year and added 2 new counties. The s. edge of the breeding range this year (like last year) could be drawn by a line between Zapata and Riviera. Cave Swallows pushed farther e. this year to nest on the concrete structure of the Wesley Seale Dam at L. Corpus Christi (RA, CC *et al.*). Nests were also found in numerous highway culverts in *Jim Wells* and *San Patricio*, new county records. Albert found many nests near Alice under new concrete bridge structures that had been completed only a few months earlier. This push to the s. and e. by the species was apparently not being matched to the n. An extensive search during June and July just s. and w. of Austin failed to turn up any of the birds (PH, JC).

The left-overs of last fall's Blue Jay invasion into deep s. Texas were still with us. Blue Jays successfully nested in Falfurrias (AO) and Corpus Christi (CC). Bewick's Wrens seemed to be bouncing back after a 5-year decline in the Falfurrias area; O'Neil was relieved to see a "fairly good" nesting season for the species there. Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in oak trees and three Black-tailed Gnatcatchers in scrub growth June 16 & 30

near Encino were good finds (AO). The former is a rare and localized nester in s. Texas and the latter was at the very e. edge of its range. A persistent pair of Clay-colored Robins at Bentsen Rio Grande S.P. lost 2 broods in May and June to unknown predators before finally fledging three healthy young Aug. 11 (J & MP) in their 3rd brood. An Am. Robin carrying food June 19 in *Kendall* (E & SW) was s. of the species' regular nesting range. Three pairs of Am. Robins again nested successfully in Falfurrias, producing 12 young (AO). Both Long-billed and Curve-billed thrashers were reported to be suffering habitat loss in *Brooks* due to continued brush clearing.

**VIREOS THROUGH ORIOLES**— White-eyed and Bell's vireos were absent again from the Falfurrias area (AO). Singing, territorial Bell's were, however, noted in San Antonio June 2 (SHn) and Aransas Pass June 20 (E & NA), locations where the species is not usually expected.

S.A.

There was some good news this year from an Austin population of Black-capped Vireos. An intensive cowbird-trapping program was begun in an effort to decrease the pressure on the vireos, and the vireos responded! Twenty-four young vireos were produced from 33 nests in the same area where only four young hatched last year. Sixteen nests were not parasitized at all this season. Fifty Brown-headed and four Bronzed cowbirds were removed from the area. The program will continue next year (JO, JG).

Golden-cheeked Warblers continue to hold their own in the hills just w. of Austin. Nesting success is high where the birds can find proper habitat, a task that grows more difficult each year as more people move into the area and the land development continues. Black-and-white Warblers were unexpected in *Kenedy* July 6, *Hidalgo* July 12 (*fide* SL), and *Jim Wells* July 13 (KA). A territorial ♂ Prothonotary Warbler June 11 in *Hidalgo* (SD, DD) was most unusual, 130 mi s.w. of the species' regular breeding range. Swainson's Warblers at the w. edge of their range were in *Bastrop* June 9+ (RF, GP) and at Palmetto S.P., June 15 (RHe).

Up to three singing Varied Buntings, a species usually found much farther w., were seen June 15+ in s. *Brooks* (AO). Painted Buntings had a good season in Austin, recovering from poor success last year (BB). Their success was thought to be the result of the wetter spring and early summer. In Falfurrias, Painted Buntings had an extraordinary year. As an example, O'Neil reported 62 singing males along a 14 mi stretch of road June 16. Dickcissels nested abundantly in *Bexar* (SHn) and had a good season in most other areas as well. This is another species that does well in the Region during wet years but can be virtually absent as a breeder in dry periods. Botteri's Sparrows again had a successful season in *Cameron*, *Willacy*, and *Kenedy*. Cassin's Sparrows were in very low numbers in *Brooks*, a continuation of a 3 or 4 year decline. A Scott's Oriole in *Duval* June 20 (WS) was far s. and e. of its regular range.

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Helmut Grünberg

After a late spring, June turned out to be very cool in many parts of the Region. A mean temperature of 9.7 degrees Celsius in Whitehorse was 2.3 degrees below normal. There were four nights with temperatures below the freezing point. June precipitation was twice as high as in normal years. July's mean temperature of 13.9 degrees Celsius was very close to the long-term average. Precipitation was one-third less than normal during this month.

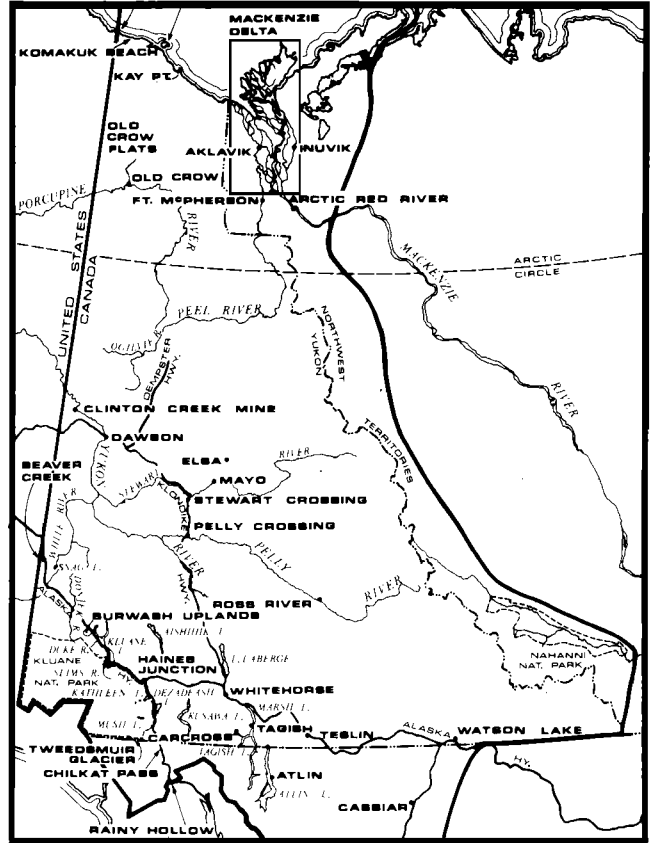
Forty-one observers recorded 212 species. In this report, an emphasis will be placed on songbird observations from areas between Fort Nelson, British Columbia, and the Yukon border, since we hardly ever receive contributions from this part of the Region. This area is interesting for Yukon birders since a number of bird species that have never been identified in the Yukon but could be expected here (if we had a regular birdwatcher in the southeastern Yukon) apparently reach their northern limit at, or north of, Fort Nelson.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.W.S. = Canadian Wildlife Service program in the northern Yukon; F.N. = Fort Nelson, B.C.; F.S.J. = Fort St John, B.C.; Whse. = Whitehorse, Yukon.

**LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS** — Two Yellow-billed Loons were observed at Trout L., Babbage R. area, n. Yukon July 12 (JH, C.W.S.). An Eared Grebe was seen as far n. as Fireside, B.C., June 28 (SyC, BMcD). Up to 90 Greater White-fronted Geese and up to 50 Brant were recorded daily at Moose Channel, MacKenzie Delta, n. Yukon June 19-30 (JH, C.W.S.). Two Cinnamon Teal were seen near F.S.J., June 2 (CS), and a male was recorded at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., June 8 & 23 (HG, TMu). A Gadwall was observed at Swan L., June 23 for the first record in this area (HG); an amazingly large number of Gadwalls was reported from Moose Channel: one male June 20, 10 June 24, two June 26, four June 27, two June 28, and 12 June 30 (JH, C.W.S.). The first breeding record of Redheads was obtained for the Peace R./B.C. area when a female with seven young was seen in the F.S.J. area (CS).

After record high numbers of N. Harriers were observed during the spring season, we received few reports of this common species during June and July. For the first time a Swainson's Hawk (light phase) was noted at Swan L., July 16 (HG, DR). An imm Peregrine Falcon made a rare summer appearance in the F.S.J. area (MS, *vide* CS). A Gyrfalcon was seen at Moose Channel June 23 (JH, C.W.S.).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Two Greater Yellowlegs exhibited breeding behavior near Tagish, Yukon, June 27 (WH); eight adults and immatures were seen s.w. of Clarke L., F.N. area, July 3, and an adult with one young was observed July 5+ near Cleedo Cr., F.N. area (JB). A Whimbrel was seen at Judas Cr., Marsh L. area, s. Yukon June 7-8 (JH), and one was noted 10 km w. of Marsh L., June 8 (WN, JP); one was also observed at km 94 Dempster Hwy, c. Yukon, July 4 (SyC) and up to four at Moose Channel, MacKenzie Delta, n. Yukon, June 20-27 (JH, C.W.S.). One or two Hudsonian Godwits were observed in the latter area June 19, 24, 28, & 30 (JH, C.W.S.).



Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, White-rumped Sandpipers, and Stilt Sandpipers were reported to have been more common than usual in the Ft. Providence area, southwestern N.W.T., in June (PR). Four Ruddy Turnstones were seen in Wood Buffalo N.P., June 2 (AB, JS). A color-tagged Sanderling, banded in Peru in March 1985, was observed in the Ft. Providence area June 9 (PR). The first Stilt Sandpiper on migration S was seen near F.S.J., July 13 (CS). Up to seven Short-billed Dowitchers were seen in 3 areas of the s. Yukon by 7 observers, June 7-July 16. Wilson's Phalaropes, with peak numbers of 20 birds June 16, were seen at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., by 6 observers June 8-July 16; the first of several young birds were noted near Ft. Providence July 27, suggesting that they now breed in the N.W.T. (PR).

One to five Parasitic Jaegers were seen regularly at Moose Channel, MacKenzie Delta, n. Yukon June 19-30 (JH, C.W.S.). One of few records for the Yukon and certainly the northernmost one of **Ring-billed Gull** was received when two were observed at Moose Channel June 23 (JH, C.W.S.). The first record for the Yukon of a **Slaty-backed Gull** was obtained when one was seen at the Dezadeash dump, s.w. Yukon, June 19 (MS, DS, TP *et al.*). An imm. Glaucous Gull appeared at the Whse. dump June 9 (HG). A Black Tern observation in July came from the F.N. area (JB).

Black Guillemots were observed on Herschel I., Yukon n. coast, June 23 (WN, C.W.S.). A Great Gray Owl was reported 8 km e. of Dawson, Yukon, in June (WC). The first well-documented sight record of a Long-eared Owl for the Peace R./B.C. area was reported from F.S.J., June 8 (CS). A Short-eared Owl was seen in the F.N. area in July (JB). In the Ft. Providence area, a Pileated Woodpecker was heard July 22 (PR).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS**— A pair of Dusky Flycatchers was breeding at Kledo Cr., F.N. area, in July (JB). At least eight **Western Flycatchers** were observed in detail near the Peace R. just e. of Hudson Hope July 26 & 28 (CS, KB). This was the first record for the Peace R./B.C. area. An E. Phoebe and an E. Kingbird were seen in the F.N. area in July (JB). Bank Swallows apparently are rare in the F.N. area; however, about 6 active nests were found near Kledo Cr., July 28 (JB). A Barn Swallow appeared as far n. as Moose Channel, MacKenzie Delta, n. Yukon, June 19 & 26 (JH, C.W.S.). A Mountain Chickadee with food in its bill was observed near Tagish, s. Yukon, June 15 (WH). In a spruce forest near Tagish, a **Brown Creeper** was seen June 30 (WH). This species is considered accidental, and this observation was the first in many years. A Marsh Wren was noted at Parker L., F.N. area, in July (JB).

The 2nd Peace R. record of N. Mockingbird was obtained when one male was observed near F.S.J., imitating at least 12 other bird species (CS). Solitary, Warbling, Philadelphia, and Red-eyed vireos were noted in the F.N. area during July (JB). Warbling Vireos were observed in 4 different locations in the s. Yukon by 5 observers during June; a male singing from the nest at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., June 16 (HG, TH), provided the first documented breeding record of this elusive species. A Red-eyed Vireo was reported as far n. as the Liard Hotsprings, north-eastern B.C., June 28 (SyC, BMcD).

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**— Magnolia Warblers were reported from 3 locations along the Liard Hwy in n.e. British Columbia and s.w. Northwest Territories, as well as from the Liard Hotsprings, B.C., June 25-28 (SyC, BMcD), and from the F.N. area during July (JB). A ♂ Cape May Warbler was feeding young fledglings at Kledo Cr., F.N. area, July 5 (JB). Two Palm Warblers each were observed at km 83 Liard Hwy, B.C., and Liard Hotsprings June 25-27 (SyC, BMcD), and one was noted in the F.N. area (JB). A Black-and-white Warbler was reported from Kledo Creek P.P., June 27 (SyC, BMcD), and another one from the F.N. area during July (JB). An Am. Redstart and an Ovenbird were noted near F.N. in July (JB). Ovenbirds were located 4 times in n.e. British Columbia by SyC and BMcD

June 25-28 A Connecticut Warbler was noted at Beaver L., km 10 Liard Hwy, B.C., June 25 (SyC, BMcD). A Mourning Warbler was observed at Charlie L., F.S.J. area, June 23 and another one at Liard Hwy, B.C., June 26 (SyC, BMcD). A pair was nesting at the confluence of Fort Nelson and Muskwa rivers in July (JB). At Liard Hotsprings, a MacGillivray's Warbler was observed June 27 (SyC, BMcD), and a Canada Warbler was recorded near F.N. in July (JB).

A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Kledo Creek P.P., June 27, and one was observed at Liard Hotsprings June 28 (SyC, BMcD); one was also noted in the F.N. area in July (JB). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was identified at Boundary L., F.S.J. area, June 16 & 23 (CS). Along the Dempster Hwy, a ♂ Harris' Sparrow was observed at Midway L., Peel R. Plateau, N.W.T., July 8 (SyC). An unconfirmed but very likely sighting of a ♂ Brewer's Blackbird with three young at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., July 16 (DR) was very intriguing as this species has been considered only accidental in the Yukon but may have been overlooked. A N. Oriole was observed at Liard Hotsprings June 28 (SyC, BMcD). A ♂ **Evening Grosbeak**, an accidental species in the Yukon, was seen at Teslin, s. Yukon, June 5 (D & PD) & 7 (BS), this was about the 3rd record for the Yukon.

**ADDENDUM**— An ad. **Forster's Tern** was seen closely in the F.S.J. area for the first reported record of the Region and the 2nd Peace R./B.C. record, May 25 (CS, JJ).

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## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

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### Thomas H. Rogers

Summer over most of the Region this year could be summarized by one word: drought. Success of ground-nesting water-related birds, principally waterfowl, was seriously reduced by lack of water in some areas and helped in others where flooding was prevented. Migrating shorebirds found extensive mudflats to their liking but were forced to bypass ponds that had dried up completely. Conversely, the cold wet spring in the southern Okanagan Valley of British Columbia caused very low nesting success for Ring-necked Pheasants. The larger hawks were scarce in many areas, but apparently because of low prey populations. Marked local decreases in a very few species were reported but in general birds seemed to show few abnormal effects from weather. Numerous fires, especially in forested areas, drastically altered habitats and promised to bring about changes in bird distribution and numbers.

**ABBREVIATIONS**— C.G. = Campground; G.S. = Guard Station; Hart Mt. N.A.R. = Hart Mountain Nat'l Antelope Range; N.F. = National Forest; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS**— Forty pairs of nesting Common Loons were reported in w. Montana but the 12 birds found in Idaho showed no indication of breeding (CHT). An immature found June 18 on Hart Mt. N.A.R. died the next day (WHP *et al.*) A pair of Red-necked Grebes was nesting for the 3rd consecutive year at Henrys L., Fremont, Ida. (CHT), and an adult was feeding a nearly adult-sized juvenile at Elk River, Ida., July 27 (MK, PP). A pair nested at Bull L. near Fortine, Mont., for the 2nd record in 51 years (WW), and a pair was on Indian L., 25 mi e. of Pilot Rock, Ore. (SM). On the other hand, Kootenai NWR, Bonners Ferry, Ida., had only 2 nesting pairs compared to 20 birds last year. Lake Helena near Helena, Mont., becoming shallower as it fills with sediment, hosted nesting W. Grebes for the first time; 80 nests were counted (GH, SMA). A brood of two young grebes was with an ad. W. Grebe and a "Clark's" Grebe on Flagstaff L., w. of Hart Mountain N.A.R., June 28 (WHP *et al.*) Several pairs of "Clark's" nested at Malheur, where W. Grebe numbers were down from previous years (CDL), as were they at Stuart L., w. of Prince George, B.C. (GRAE).

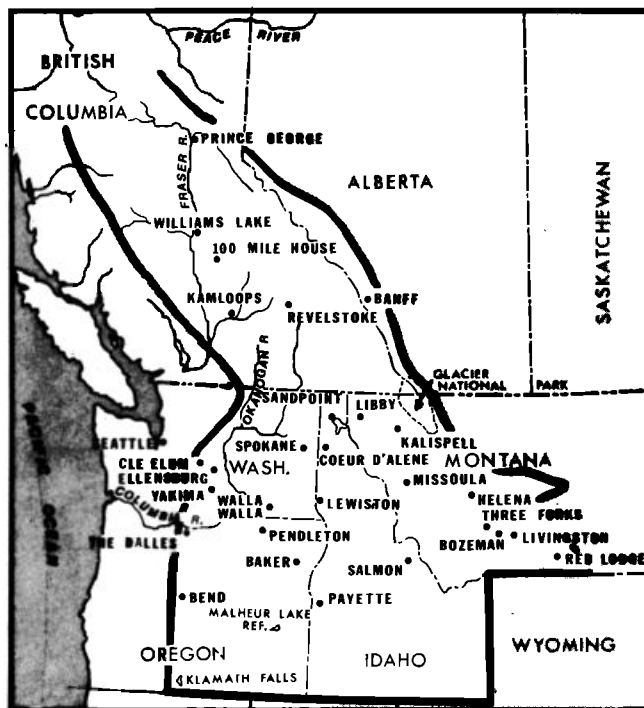
American White Pelicans numbered 76 adults and 100 young at Pelican L., Adel, Ore. (WHP *et al.*). Many adults were at Malheur but only one egg was found, that one apparently dumped. American Falls Res. in s. Idaho had up to 1500 of the

species but no breeding. Double-crested Cormorant pairs numbered 739 at Malheur, down from last year but still the 2nd-highest figure ever. Great Blue Heron pairs at Malheur stood at 331, compared to last year's 572.

The Great Blue Heron colony at Otter L., n. of Vernon, B.C., was unoccupied, perhaps because it was raided frequently by a Golden Eagle last year (JG). Great Egret numbers remained stable in the Malheur Basin with an estimated 562 pairs. The only others reported were two at Mud Lake W.M.A., Hamer, Ida., and one at American Falls Res. (CHT). Snowy Egrets set a record at Malheur with an estimated 227 pairs—the previous high had been 175 pairs in 1982. Flight counts for the birds in s. Idaho were up at American Falls Res., Oxford, and Minidoka N.W.R., and they reappeared at Market Lake W.M.A., Roberts, Ida., indicating a recovery from their slump in the early 1980s (CHT). Cattle Egrets were reported nesting at 3 places in the Pocatello, Ida., area and three were sighted at Minidoka N.W.R. (CHT). Two pairs of the species were nesting for the 3rd year near Malheur (CDL). The only Green-backed Heron sighting was of one along the Snake R. in the Pocatello area (CHT). Black-crowned Night-Herons showed a big increase at Malheur with 629 pairs (245 last year). In s. Idaho the birds seemed to be recovering from their big decrease of the 1970s; they were again nesting at Blackfoot Res. and numbers were up at Minidoka N.W.R. (CHT). White-faced Ibises set a new abundance record at Malheur with 1220 pairs. Most unusual were 120 pairs nesting at Knox Pond on the refuge. The species was also regularly seen in the Alvord Desert, *Harney*, and in the Warner Valley, *Lake*, the highest count being of 82 at Hart L. meadows. In the latter area breeding was suspected—the last breeding there was in 1963 (WHP *et al.*). The species' numbers appeared very good in s. Idaho.

**WATERFOWL** — Trumpeter Swans had their best production in 6 years at Red Rock Lakes, Lima, Mont., with 59 cygnets. The dry weather minimized flooding of nests there. Conversely, the species did very poorly at Malheur, with only two cygnets surviving to the period's end. A lone Tundra Swan was at Hope, Ida., June 24, and six appeared at Harrison, Ida., June 28 (JMS). Canada Geese did very well at Kootenai N.W.R., fledging 155 young compared to 47 last year, and duck production looked good there. On the other hand ducks did poorly at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., and at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. Wood Duck numbers appeared definitely up in the Salmon, Ida., area. An albino ♀ Cinnamon Teal accompanied a normally-colored male at Malheur June 3 (GI, AB). Up to 87 Ring-necked Ducks were sighted at Hart Mt. N.A.R., suggesting breeding there (WHP). Broods of that species and of Lesser Scaup were down in numbers in the Fortine, Mont., area. Harlequin Ducks were not seen after June 2 in their usual breeding locality at Kootenai Falls w. of Libby, Mont., with fishermen and tourists being the suspected cause (DH). However, a brood was seen on McDonald Cr., Glacier N.P., Mont. (WW). Two Surf Scoters were sighted on Stuart L., w. of Prince George, B.C., June 25 and six White-winged Scoters appeared in that area for the first sighting in 5 years (GRAE).

**HAWKS THROUGH CRANES** — A pair of Ospreys again nested at Thompson Res., 15 mi s. of Silver Lake, Ore., and Canyon Meadows Res. s.s.e. of John Day, Ore., had one or two (CHT). A survey of Osprey nests in *Boundary*, Ida., found 14 active nests fledging 24 young. Twelve active nests of the species were observed in *Lincoln*, Mont., mostly along L. Koo-canusa. A Black-shouldered Kite, very rare in Washington, was identified in the Wenatchee vicinity June 27 (S & MH). In n. Idaho a pair of Bald Eagles fledged two young at Kootenai N.W.R. (RDC) and another pair fledged one along the Kootenai R. near Bonners Ferry (PRS). A pair at Libby Dam, *Lincoln*, Mont., produced two fledglings (DH). A N. Goshawk nest with two nearly-grown young was found near Keno, Ore., July 10 (SS). Northern Harrier, Red-tailed and Swainson's hawk, and



Am. Kestrel numbers at Columbia N.W.R. were only 50% of last year's. Adult Ferruginous Hawks and Golden Eagles were seen regularly on Hart Mt. N.A.R. but no nesting was noted. Jackrabbits, upon which both species depend, remained very low in numbers. Swainson's and Ferruginous hawks seemed generally scarce in s.e. Oregon. A Ferruginous Hawk near Leadore, Ida., made only the 2nd Salmon R. valley sighting for Roberts. In the Okanogan Valley, Wash., Am. Kestrels did very well; Brady banded 185 nestlings and 12 adults, compared to 42 young in 1984. The only falcon sighting other than Am. Kestrels were 3 of Prairie Falcons and 2 of Peregrine Falcons. Two small flocks of N. Bobwhites were heard in the Pocatello vicinity (KBP).

Greater Sandhill Cranes again had low nesting success at Malheur as predators continued to cause problems. Success was 38.5% and few young were known to be alive at the close of the period. Sandhills appeared on numerous occasions in the Salmon area and a pair with two young was sighted near Leadore, Ida., June 15 (HBR). A sighting of the species at Davis L., *Klamath*, Ore., July 16 was unusual (PES). A Whooping Crane, one of those hatched by foster parents at Grays Lake N.W.R., summered at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (TM).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS** — About 20 Snowy Plovers were sighted at Summer Lake W.M.A., *Lake*, Ore., July 13. None was seen on Malheur as high water continued to inundate their nesting habitat (CDL). Black-necked Stilts were sustaining their increases of the last 3 years at Malheur. The only other report was of two stilts near Fields, Ore. (SS). Migrating Am. Avocets in the vicinity of May, Ore., were gone by early June (SV). Two Greater Yellowlegs returned to the Bend, Ore., area June 28 (CM), and a Lesser was at nearby Tumalo Res., July 28 (TC, CM). Willets were heard migrating from Malheur during the early morning hours July 30. An unverified report of six Upland Sandpipers came from the vicinity of Smith's Ferry, Ida. (CHT). At least two of this species were again reported in Bear Valley, *Grant*, Ore. (M & AA) and two adults and one young bird were found on the traditional site in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane, Wash. (REW, CW, BW, JW). A Semipalmated Sandpiper in breeding plumage appeared at Bend July 7 for the 3rd county record (TC) and a juvenile was there July 31 (CM). A Red-necked Phalarope appeared at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. for the first record there (TM).

Franklin's Gulls again failed to nest at Market Lake W M A Over 100 were at American Falls Res., July 3, raising suspicions of a new nesting colony (CHT). The species' nesting at Malheur L. was drastically reduced by high water, with only 180 pairs compared to 1330 pairs in 1981. An ad. Franklin's at Kootenai N.W.R., June 3 was noteworthy (RDC). One or two Franklin's Gulls and a Bonaparte's Gull were with Ring-billed Gulls at College Place, Wash., June 29 (CS). A first-summer Bonaparte's Gull appeared at Malheur June 9 (JC) & 15 (MA) and an adult was at Bend July 21 (TC). An adult was at Richland, Wash., July 14 for R.E. Woodley's only July record there. High water in Malheur L. resulted in an increase in nesting Ring-billed Gulls to 550 pairs; 520 pairs of California Gulls nested there. A total of 66 young Herring Gulls was banded at Stuart L. (GRAE). A single Herring was at Malheur June 15 (MA).

Caspian Terns nested at Malheur L. for the 2nd year; one colony of 350 pairs there appeared to have good nesting success. Four Caspian Terns appeared on the Pack R. flats, Pend Oreille L., e. of Sandpoint, Ida. (PRS), and six were on the Snake R. between Clarkston and Asotin, Wash., July 20 (MK, PP). Several Com. Terns were sighted near Roberts, Ida., June 18, and up to 25 at American Falls Res. in late June-early July were suspected of nesting (CHT, JMS). Breeding of Black Terns at Kootenai N.W.R. was substantiated, 9 pairs producing about 20 young (RDC). One Black Tern near May, Ida., in early June was noteworthy (SV).

**CUCKOOS AND OWLS** — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo stayed around Rupert, Ida., June 26-July 29 (WHS, JMS) and one was heard at Swan Falls Dam near Boise, Ida., June 22 (CHT). Up to three were spotted in the Pocatello-American Falls Res. area in July (JT, CW). A Com. Barn-Owl that suffered a broken wing in a collision with a car near Vernon, B.C., July 1 recovered and was released (RD, JG). Another was sighted near Beresford, B.C., July 29 (WC, RH). One or two Flammulated Owls were found near Prairie, Ida. (KBP); near Starr Ridge C.G., s. of John Day, Ore., where a pair has nested in the same cavity for at least 6 years (M & AA, JC, PES); and near Calamity Butte, 30 mi n.n.e. of Burns, Ore. (M & AA). Sixteen were heard in one night in June at Mt. Wheeler near Kamloops, B.C. (RH). Two N. Hawk-Owls remained until the 3rd week of June in the Selkirk Mts., n.w. of Creston, B.C., but no indication of nesting was observed (PRS). Burrowing Owls continue to become scarcer in the Richland area as development spreads; one pair was observed regularly there (REW). A pair of Spotted Owls with two young was located in Kittitas, Wash., for reportedly the only successful nesting this year n. of California (BW).

Two Barred Owls were sighted at Loup Loup C.G., e. of Twisp, Wash., June 19 (EH, NH). The continuing owl survey in Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille, Wash., noted 6 pairs plus nine individual Barred Owls on 7 occasions at 15 locations, and one or two Boreal Owls on 2 occasions at one location. Some observations may have been duplicate finds, but all sites visited were different from those of the spring survey (BW). An ad. Boreal Owl was found at Sullivan L. near Metaline Falls, Wash., June 14 (RK). Seven Great Gray Owl nests were discovered in n. Deschutes, Ore. (TW), and one was noted at Lapine, Ore., July 17 (PES). One bird visited Rupert, Ida., July 26 (WHS) and one on Mt. Spokane, Spokane, Wash., was a county and latilong first (RP). A N. Saw-whet Owl made a rare summer visit to Malheur July 5, surviving a crash with a window (CDL).

**POORWILL THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Several Com. Poorwills were seen in the Salmon area in mid-June for Roberts's first sighting there. Up to 20 Black Swifts were observed at Kootenai N.W.R. during the summer (RDC) and 12 ± were over Big Meadow L., n. of Colville, Wash., for the first county record (BW). First for the latilong were 25 + Black Swifts at Clark Fork, Ida., June 24 (JMS). Several hundred Vaux's Swifts stayed in Walla Walla, Wash., all summer, many using a chimney on Whitman College campus (SM). Some 300 of this species fed over Canyon Meadows Res., July 23.

The ♂ Costa's Hummingbird that appeared in the spring at Bend was last seen around July 1 (TC) and another was seen in Sunriver, Ore., for several weeks starting June 11 (DD). An ad ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird was identified July 12 at Wenatchee G.S. in the Blue Mts., Asotin, Wash., for that area's first record (BW).

Several pairs of Red-breasted Sapsuckers were sighted in Fremont N.F., s. of Silver Lake, Ore., during June and July (CDL). A Williamson's Sapsucker at Salmow L. s. of Kamloops July 29 was the first for that area (WC). A few Least Flycatchers were seen and heard at Clyde Holliday S.P., Mt. Vernon, Ore., on several dates in June (T & AM, M & AA, PW, REW, JC). One Least was seen and heard at Sullivan L., June 15, for apparently the 3rd latilong record (RK), and a calling male was identified at Big Meadow L., June 24 (BW). An adult and a fledgling were carefully identified along the Little Pend Oreille R., Stevens, Wash., July 4 (KB). Least Flycatchers were also noted at Stuart L. (GRAE) and one was at Barnhartvale, B.C., July 1 (RH). Single Dusky Flycatchers appeared at Malheur and Fields, Ore., June 6 (SS). A few Gray Flycatchers and a nest with young were found near Pocatello June 15 (CW). Single carefully-identified Gray Flycatchers were sighted along the Little Pend Oreille R., July 4 (KB) and at Panhandle L. w. of Newport, Wash., July 31 (EJL). Western Flycatchers were again nesting on Scout Mt. s. of Pocatello (JS) and one bird was at Elba, Ida., July 1 (JMS, WHS). Cliff Swallows were migrating in large numbers in July in s.e. Oregon; 1500 were noted at Frenchlen.

**JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The only Blue Jay reported was one in the upper Wenatchee valley, Wash., in June (*vide* RO). A flock of 200+ Am. Crows circled over Walla Walla in mid-July, apparently looking for a roosting place. Nine pairs of Plain Titmouse and three individual birds were seen behaving territorially, inspecting cavities or carrying nesting material in juniper woodland on Hart Mt. N.A.R. (WHP *et al.*). Seven pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were on territory in the Warner Cr. basin, Hart Mt. N.A.R.; one nest with young was found (WHP *et al.*).

Western and Mountain bluebirds were totally absent from the Kootenai N.W.R. area, apparently having been displaced by Tree Swallows. Mountain Bluebirds were down sharply in numbers in Asotin and Garfield, Wash. (MPF). On the other hand, Mountain Bluebird numbers were up in the valley around Fortine, supposedly as a result of extensive placing of nest boxes (WW). A N. Mockingbird was sighted at Cottonwood Cr., s. of Fields for the first summer record there (T & AM, JC, SS *et al.*). The N. Mockingbird that appeared at Mountain Home, Ida., remained at least until June 5 (KBP). Twelve Sage Thrashers were counted in the Yakima R. canyon s. of Ellensburg, Wash., June 2 (Y.A.S.). Five Sprague's Pipits sighted at Barnaby L., w. of Fortine, provided the latilong's first record (WW).

A Red-eyed Vireo at Malheur June 6 supplied one of very few records there (SS) and a singing male was along the Grande Ronde R. near Fields Spring S.P., Asotin, Wash., June 8 (SM). A Tennessee Warbler was sighted at Dorr-Skeels C.G., s. of Troy, Mont., June 16 (DH), and Nakusp, B.C., had one July 10 (GD). An Orange-crowned Warbler nested near Calamity Butte, n. Harney, Ore. (MA). A ♀ N. Parula stopped at Malheur June 1-8 (M & AA, JC, CDL, T & AM, SS) and a ♀ Magnolia Warbler was sighted there June 1-2 (DS *et al.*, M & AA, T & AM). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler was identified at Fields June 1 (M & AA, B & JK, JJ *et al.*). A ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler at Fields Spring S.P., June 11 was the latilong's first (RK). Page Spring C.G. on Malheur N.W.R. had three of these birds June 5; breeding was suspected (JC). Malheur had Oregon's first **Yellow-throated Warbler**, a male, June 9-12 (JC, JuC, M & AA, JG1, m.ob.). A ♂ Palm Warbler was spotted at Fields June 7 (JC, T & AM, SS). A singing ♂ Black-and-white Warbler was seen along the Grande Ronde R. a few mi upstream from Hilgard Junction S.P., Ore., June 12 (T & AM) and July 6 (JC, SS). American Redstarts were believed to be definitely established near Ardenvoir, Wash. (RO). Three or four singing males of the species





Male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Fields, Ore., June 1, 1985.  
Photo/Jim Johnson.

were found along Coppei Cr., n.e. of Dixie, Wash., in June (BH, REW) and one individual was detected along Crescent Cr., *Klamath*, Ore., July 16 (PES). Noteworthy were two territorial males at Island Park Res., *Fremont*, Ida., June 19 (CHT). Several redstarts were found in mid-June at Hughes Cr., n. of North Fork, Ida., for Roberts' 2nd record in the Salmon area. Malheur had an Ovenbird June 1 (M & AA, T & AM). Northern Waterthrushes had returned by early June to their only known breeding site in Oregon, along the Little Deschutes R. near Gilchrist (AC).

**GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES** — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was sighted near Trout L., n.w. *Klickitat*, Wash., in mid-June (RHu). A ♂ Indigo Bunting was singing 15 mi n. of Long Creek June 13 (T & AM) & 22 (M & AA) for probably Oregon's most northerly record. One at Milepost 77, Hwy 395, *Grant*, Ore., July 19 was perhaps the same bird (PES). In s.e. Oregon a female of the species was sighted at Fields June 6 (T & AM, SS, m.ob.) and a male was singing at Cottonwood Cr. in proximity to Lazuli Buntings (JC). The nest of a pair of Green-tailed Towhees at Wenatchee G.S. contained 3 eggs July 11 (BW). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Nakusp, B.C., July 10 was noteworthy (GD). A singing ♂ Vesper Sparrow w. of Keno, Ore., showed possible adaptability of the species for spreading its range into Cascade Mts. clearcuts (SS). Twelve Sage Sparrows were found on the Yakima Firing Range June 2 (Y.A.S.). Single ♂ Lark Buntings were seen in s.e. Idaho, s.e. of Blackfoot June 16 and near Grays L. the next day (JT, CHT). A White-crowned Sparrow was carrying food to young (heard only) July 4 near L. Kookanusa, Mont. (DH). Adults and a fledgling White-crowned Sparrow were sighted e. of Trout L., June 20 (TS).

The Bobolink colony at Prairie, Ida., was growing and spread-



Male Great-tailed Grackle at Oxford L., Ida., May 12, 1985.  
Photo/C.H. Trost.

ing (KBP). Elba, Ida., had a ♂ Bobolink July 1 (JMS). The Great-tailed Grackle that appeared this spring at Oxford L., *Franklin* (s. of Downey) was last seen June 9 (CHT), and the individual at Malheur lingered until late June (CDL). A pair of Black-throated Sparrows at Malheur reared a Brown-headed Cowbird (CHT). The N. "Baltimore" Oriole at Malheur was last sighted June 8 (M & AA, JC, T & AM, SS).

A singing Purple Finch was at Stuart L., June 27 (GRAE) and a female accompanied by an imm. bird visited a feeder at Libby July 19 (DH). House Finch success appeared very low in the Okanogan Valley, Wash., for Brady caught and banded only two young compared to 42 last year. Red Crossbills were abundant in *Deschutes*, *Fremont*, and *Malheur*, Ore., and in extreme n. Idaho and n.w. Montana. A flock of 50+ White-winged Crossbills flew over the Stuart L. area in late June (GRAE). They were abundant at higher elevations in extreme n. Idaho, correlating with an excellent cone crop (PRS), and were sighted in adjacent n. *Pend Oreille*, Wash. (BW). White-winged Crossbills were also common in upper elevation spruce forest and at lower elevations in s.e. British Columbia (JG). Three Lesser Goldfinches were sighted near Frenchglen, Ore., July 5 (CDL).

**ADDENDA** — The mouth of the Klickitat R., Lyle, Wash., had a Great Egret May 27 (EH, NH). A ♀ Com. Merganser with 10 chicks was along the Klickitat R. near Lyle May 25 and an Anna's Hummingbird was sighted there May 25-27 (EH, S.A.S.). A Scrub Jay was sighted in White Salmon, Wash., May 25 (EH, S.A.S.). Single N. Mockingbirds appeared in late May along Crab Cr., w. of Othello, Wash. (LG), and along Dodson Road n.w. of Othello (BM). Two singing ♂ White-crowned Sparrows, race *pugetensis*, were found at Conboy N.W.R., n. of Lyle, May 25 (PM).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The Rose-breasted Grosbeak sighting credited to WHS in the spring 1985 report was made at Ketchum, Ida., not Rupert.

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## MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

For an arid Region our report seems to use a large amount of space on waterbirds and shorebirds. The reasons—it is easier to observe them and to single out their habitats, and it is easier to focus on rarer species. As usual, we have little data on the success of the typical Mountain West nesting species like those in the cottonwood river bottoms and lake sides, conifer forests, and tundra. Our water birds stop mainly at hundreds of artificial reservoirs filled with water which would otherwise flow, mostly in other seasons, and often in other river basins.

Reflecting that anomaly, the two boldfaced state records—Colorado's first White Ibis and Wyoming's second Common Moorhen—occurred in water habitats, one natural and one man-made.

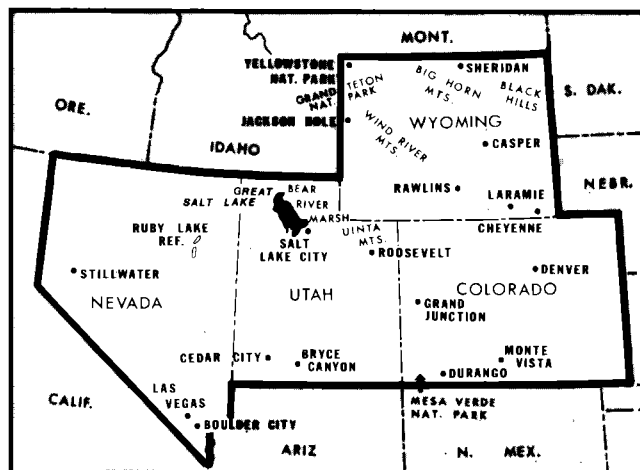
Newspapers reported that a grasshopper plague caused agricultural authorities to spray 6,000,000 acres in Utah and 7,000,000 in Idaho (BR). The spruce budworm caused forest officials to spray with carbaryl west of Colorado Springs; at Westcreek, Winn saw few or no young solitaires, Mountain Bluebirds, and swallows. She declined to make a firm connection, but wondered if one exists. Also note pesticide connections with Peregrine planting and Bobolink fields.

Careful field work produced 21 new Latilong breeding records in southwestern Wyoming and 16 in northern Utah from three observers (MA, FL, CK). (A Latilong is that piece of geography outlined by degrees of longitude and latitude.) The knowledge of bird populations and distribution in that part of Wyoming has multiplied with their work.

**TOURISTS** — We Mountain Westerners welcome you to our scenic states, and urge you to let us know if you find birds of interest. Call a local bird watcher if you find a rare bird; the locals would like to see your exciting finds too. If you do not know someone where you are visiting, call me. In Yellowstone Park, leave a note at the Albright Visitor Center at Mammoth or call 344-7381 x 2338 to report rare birds or for bird tips. Joe Zarki welcomes your calls.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — B.B.C. = Breeding Bird count (conducted like a Christmas Bird Count); B.B.S. = Breeding Bird Survey (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service); 1st Lat = first latilong record (usually breeding); ph = party-hour.

**LOONS TO GREBES** — The Region had unusual summer loons in non-breeding areas. For the 2nd year, an Arctic Loon summered in the Region, this year at Jackson, Wyo. (JGm). Observers found Com. Loons apparently summering at Durango, Colo. (EF), and Denver (the latter probably present since winter and probably unable to fly—LH). Other loons were w. of Carson City, Nev., June 22 (JB), 5 observations at Sheridan, and on July 28 singles 200 mi apart at Rocky Ford and Julesburg, Colo. Birds in Yellowstone and the breeding pair in Wyoming e. of Ashton, Idaho, were within the known breeding range (JZ, CT). Two family groups of Pied-billed Grebes provided Zion's first nesting record, at the site which has provided so many new waterbird records—the sewage ponds (JG). A Red-necked Grebe was found in Yellowstone July 30 (S & LF). Nesting Eared Grebes increased at Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., at a colony in semi-ephemeral habitat surrounding the permanent marsh (CE). Other reports included 30 nests plus 18 pairs backpacking young at Cody, Wyo., July 26, 200 nesting pairs at Casper, Wyo., 25 pairs with young at Walden, Colo., Aug. 4, and 30 pairs in the San Luis Valley, s.c. Colorado, July 20, each with at least two 'grebelets' (LH). Western Grebes nested commonly at Ruby Lakes; at Delta, Colo., production numbered 70 adults with 110 immatures July 30 (MJ).



**PELICANS TO IBISES** — Our first information in several years on Yellowstone's Am. White Pelicans reported 320+ young pelicans fledging (KDM, *vide* JZ). Riverside Res., near Masters, Colo., has an increasing pelican population, with 2500 birds estimated June 22 (D.F.O.). Clear L., Utah, had 200 nests (DG), but we received no information on nesting at Great Salt L., Pyramid L., Nev., or the Wyoming sites. Double-crested Cormorants increased at Casper (from 75 nesting pairs last year to 125—JH), Sheridan (59 nests—HD), and Utah L. (no count), at Chatfield Res., Denver, the 146 nests compared with 148 last year (HEK). An **Olivaceous Cormorant** appeared at Julesburg, Colo., July 28 (+LH, D.F.O.) for the 5th Colorado record and the 2nd from the same n.e. Colorado site in 4 years.

Great Blue Herons nested in normal numbers at Ruby L., and established a new nest site at nearby Franklin L., with two to three young in 10-15 nests built on small islands covered with greasewood (CE). They held steady at Chatfield with 148 nests (HEK). A spate of Great Blues in s.w. Utah—Cedar City, St George, and Zion—might have reflected a pattern of dispersal related to the flooding Great Salt L. The Great Egret continued to nest in its one Colorado site at Boulder, with three juveniles Aug. 4 (LH). Snowy Egrets have declined in the Region in recent years; hence the significance of reports of "phenomenal success" from Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah (518 birds July 25—CD) and 78 nests at Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., 8 in a new colony (EM). Four locations in Colorado reported Little Blue Herons one May 18 at Ft. Collins, one June 22 at Riverside Res., one July 4 at Pueblo, and two juveniles July 27 at Ordway. Colorado has had about 30 records, in 10 of its 28 latilongs, in the past 20 years. A group of three Green-backed Herons was at Chatfield June 22 (D.F.O.). Black-crowned Night-Herons echoed nesting Great Blues: 20-25 nests in flooded greasewood at Ruby L., 200 birds showing "phenomenal success" at Fish Springs, 150 nests in 2 colonies at Monte Vista. Colorado had two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons—one at Denver July 14 (BD) and one at Julesburg July 28 (+LH, D.F.O.).

A plethora of birdwatchers saw Colorado's first **White Ibis** near Lamar July 23-28, a first-fall bird which thrilled observers with its striking black-and-white underwing pattern (DB, +VZ *et al.*). White-faced Ibises at Ruby L. nested abundantly in several colonies (although one colony with 27 adults failed because of disturbance by refuge visitors) and had 65-70 nests at nearby Franklin L. Birds from the latter colony fed on the abundant grasshoppers populating the dry shrub/grass uplands of the refuge. Other nesting ibises reported: 300 nests at Clear L., Utah, and 74 at Monte Vista. Possibly negative was the number of observations from non-breeding areas: several flocks at Cheyenne including 200 July 5 flying over a highway, and one to 75

in late July at Las Vegas, Eureka, Nev., Jackson, Delta, Colo., and s.e. Colorado.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS** — Ruby Lake N.W.R. reported paradoxical nesting. The good news—6800 N. Pintails and 9000 Cinnamon Teal, way above normal. The bad news—an abundant population of Redheads, so abundant that they parasitized Canvasback nests causing widespread abandonment—but the nesting of both species was delayed so long because of high water that even the Redheads had poor success (CE). Fish Springs had 3261 birds June 25, with waterfowl production much improved over 1984 (CD). Monte Vista's production increased 24%, to 25,600 young, mostly Mallards (EM). Nearby at Alamosa N.W.R. the total of 6000 young was down 26% from last year, probably because one-third of the refuge was underwater during the nesting season (EM).

A Tundra Swan summered at Provo, Utah, but no one has seen it fly (DF). The Trumpeter Swan Society reported good news from its January survey of Trumpeters in the tri-state area of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. In Wyoming 247 wintering swans included 15 cygnets; total for the tri-state area was 1516 swans including 190 cygnets. Good production 1981-1984 has doubled the tri-state population from 725 in 1976. However, the cygnet count last winter was 332, 55% more than this year. Yellowstone this summer had 25 adults May 24, with 3 active nests; the one nest checked fledged three cygnets (JZ). Two early Snow Geese arrived at Lamar, Colo., July 26-28 (JR, MJ). A Wood Duck was observed at Boulder, Colo., with 19 young (BJ). A pair of Blue-winged Teal stayed to June 24 at Zion, and at McCoy, Colo., a female had five young (ME).

An improved ground squirrel population received credit for better nesting success of Utah N. Goshawks and Red-tailed and Swainson's hawks (DF). At Yellowstone, of 39 active Osprey nests, 24 successfully fledged 42 young with some young still in nests at report time (JZ). Ospreys at Casper fledged one young (JH) and 2 nests at Sheridan both had young, no report on success. In 1980 Mississippi Kites moved W up the Arkansas R. to Pueblo, Colo., where 2-3 pairs nested this year. Yellowstone had 9 active Bald Eagle nests, which fledged five eaglets (JZ). One Sheridan pair fledged three young (AH) and another failed, perhaps due to a low prey base. In Colorado 6 pairs nested, one on the plains as last year and 5 in w. Colorado on 2 rivers and 2 reservoirs (JC). Swainson's Hawks began flocking early: 40 at Holton, Utah, July 11 (DG) and 25 July 26 riding thermals with 100 ravens in the Raft River Mts. in n.w. Utah (JN).

In 1025 square mi of the Colorado Front Range from Golden to the Wyoming line, 10 of 15 historical Golden Eagle nest sites had nesting pairs, and eagles have established 4 new territories (MF). Merlins had 2 nests in the Green R., Wyo., area (FL). Colorado this year had 13 nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons—6 banded pairs and the others from wild stock (JC). Eight new aeries lifted the population in s.w. Utah to 20 pairs (SH). Near Vernal, Utah, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture sprayed Sevin for grasshoppers so close to Peregrine aeries that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service aborted planting five young Peregrines. Fish & Wildlife officials said they had no direct evidence of effects of spraying, but in 1982, six Peregrines disappeared within 10 days of a similar spraying operation (*Salt Lake Tribune*).

**MOORHEN THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Wyoming's 2nd Common Moorhen report came from Hutton Lake N.W.R., June 10 (+WD). Another was at Salt Lake City July 14 (DJ). At Ruby L., Am Coots have steadily increased over the past 3 years—20,000 adults and young this year (CE). Sandhill Cranes did not fare so well there: no young survived past the downy chick stage, probably because of coyotes (CE). Single Whooping Cranes summered at Kemmerer, Wyo. (CK) and Yellowstone (JZ).

Southbound shorebirds had reached s.w. Utah by July 15 (SH), and 1000s had reached s.e. Colorado by July 28 (MJ). June migrants, which could have been headed N or S or neither,

included one Semipalmated Plover June 25 at Utah L., possibly furnishing the only June record for Utah (SH), one to five Greater Yellowlegs at Salt Lake City, Sheridan, and Zion, 15 Lesser Yellowlegs at Salt Lake City June 16 and one at Brush, Colo., a Solitary at Crook, Colo., single Marbled Godwits at Denver and Rocky Ford, Colo., on June 15 at Rocky Ford 10 Semipalmated and two Baird's sandpipers in partial alternate plumage and 25 White-rumped and one Stilt Sandpiper in full alternate plumage (LH), and a Red-necked Phalarope at Boulder June 14. The record 186 Willets and 27 Marbled Godwits at Sheridan June 26 were not breeders; the previous high count was of 70 Willets July 3, 1983 (HD, MC). Similarly, the groups of Marbled Godwits at Yellowstone probably do not nest; park observers saw 95 on 8 different days June 9+ (JZ) and Sheridan had 27 June 26 (HD).

Utah reported 2 pairs of Snowy Plovers probably nesting at Clear L. (DG) and two birds at Desert Lake W.M.A. putting on the broken-wing display (FL). Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, had 23 Snowies July 25 (CD). Clear L. had 1000 Black-necked Stilts in July (DG), and Bear R. had at least 200 June 12; the refuge staff did not provide a report this season so that this column lacks their more extensive counts. The four adults with three young Am. Avocets at Minersville, Utah, July 16 provided a 1st Lat breeding record (SH). Willets nested in Yellowstone, and observers reported 118 observations over the summer (JZ). A Spotted Sandpiper had a late clutch of 4 eggs July 26 at 11,000' in the Uinta Mts. of n.e. Utah (CK). A Red Knot was reported at Denver July 24 (JR). Las Vegas had an unusually high count of 100+ Wilson's Phalaropes all summer (VM).

**JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS** — A Parasitic Jaeger at Sheridan June 21 with short, even, sharp-pointed tail feathers quarreled with gulls over dead fish which neither wanted the other to have (+HD, MC). A brief description and an inconclusive slide accompanied a report of a Long-tailed Jaeger at Ouray N.W.R., Utah. If accepted by the state records committee, it would furnish Utah's 2nd record. Laughing Gull reports came from Rocky Ford June 15 (+LH), Ordway, Colo., July 27 (+LH), and two—an adult and an immature—at Denver July 24 (JR, D.F.O.). A Bonaparte's Gull had arrived at Julesburg July 28 (LH). Near Great Salt L., 1000 gulls died in a copper mining effluent pond which they had never frequented before; possibly the changed habitat of Great Salt L. directed a change to the gulls' movements (*Salt Lake Tribune*). At Casper 500 pairs nested (JH). California Gulls took over the usual nesting area of Caspian Terns in Yellowstone, so the terns did not nest (KD, *vide* JZ). Ten Caspians were at Delta, Utah, July 6 (DG) and singles were at Rocky Ford June 15 (LH), Casper June 21 (JH), and Sheridan July 15 (HD).

Band-tailed Pigeons deserted Evergreen, Colo., but a flock of 200 visited Florence, Colo., June 1 & 14 (RW). In s.w. Utah, Hedges found no Yellow-billed Cuckoos at historic and potentially suitable nesting habitat, including sites which had nesting pairs 1979-1982. Their Utah troubles stem from loss of habitat. They also were missing throughout most of e. Colorado; the tent caterpillar likewise was missing (JR). A single cuckoo summered at Smithfield, Utah (SV). One at Orangeville, Utah, June 29 (FL) and another which slammed into a window at Dubois, Wyo. (EB) provided 1st Lat records. Three Com. Barn-Owls summered at Las Vegas: two adults and one immature; they might have nested (VM). The Baca County, Colo., screech-owl discussion continues (see AB 39:84). In Carrizo/Cottonwood Canyon, six Westerns were heard and seen June 15-16 (LH). The observer says he has also heard E. Screech-Owls in the same vicinity. In Sheridan, also on the e. edge of the range, was a family with four young Westerns June 1 (KK).

**SWIFTS TO SWALLOWS** — Probably 10-20 pairs of Black Swifts nest in some unknown site in Provo Canyon, thought to be the only breeding locale in Utah (DF). Cedar City and Zion reported fewer hummingbirds this summer—only 800 or so at the 2 Giffords' feeders at Zion. At Westcreek, Colo., feeder

watchers attracted more, one observer used 100 lbs of sugar last year and 280 lbs. this year by Aug. 1 (RW). The Front Range foothills had two Magnificent Hummingbirds in July, near Idaho Springs and at Bailey for the 3rd year (KM, D.F.O.). Sheridan reported 30 Calliope Hummingbirds in July, including a nest 25' up in a silver maple (BC). Ogden's spring Calliope stayed all summer (JN). Colorado reported Calliopes in 4 locations in July (probably post-breeding migrants like the state's legions of Rufous): Evergreen, Eldora, South Park, and Glenwood Springs. Rufous Hummingbirds arrived first in the s.w., later at points farther e. and n.: June 21 at Zion, June 26 at Cedar City, July 1 at Eagle, July 6 at Evergreen, and July 2 at Sheridan.

Lewis' Woodpeckers, which have a spotty distribution, declined at Sheridan with one successful nest and another deserted after harassment by kestrels nesting in the same tree (kestrels may nab the young woodpeckers when they fledge—HD). One at Yellowstone and two in Utah, at Glendale and Fillmore, added to the Region's sporadic observations. They nested as usual at Boulder, Sedalia, and Baca County, Colo.

Figgs and Hallock conducted 7 breeding bird transects in the Indian Peaks area in the mountains w. of Boulder for the 2nd year. Olive-sided and W. flycatchers both increased, with counts of eight and 15 *cf.* four and three respectively, and on the B.B.C., increases from .04/party hour to .13/ph and .24/ph to 35/ph respectively. A Willow Flycatcher pair that nested in the dead top of a haw shrub, exposed to full view at the edge of a busy road, not only hatched three young July 6, but also gave Sheridan its 1st *Lat* nesting record (HD). July 25 saw 5 family groups of Gray Flycatchers at Rock Springs, Wyo., at the n. rim of their range (TK). A Black Phoebe was at Natural Bridges N.M., July 26 (DC). Say's Phoebes nested successfully at Jackson, Wyo. (1st *Lat*—BR) and unsuccessfully at Ft. Morgan, Colo., where Barn Swallows drove them out (JCR). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers strayed to n.e. Colorado; the Denver bird seen in the spring stayed to June 5 (D.F.O.), others were at Crook May 31 and Boulder June 22 (both LH).

Horned Larks showed a thriving population on a Casper B.B.S.—142 counted *cf.* 42 last year (JH). Colorado has a 2nd established nesting site for Purple Martins, on McClure Pass near Carbondale; this year 3 pairs nested in flicker holes near an extensive network of beaver ponds. They did not use sapsucker holes, which apparently are too small (VZ, JM). A pair seen June 9 and one July 7 on the Uncompahgre Plateau w. of Delta, Colo., suggested another place to look for nesting (A.S.W.C., MJ). At Bear R. the high water flooded the bridges under which Barn Swallows usually nest. When Nelson visited the area June 12, "They seemed desperate—within minutes they investigated the inside of my camper and one pair started a nest over the right door of my pickup truck."

**NUTCRACKER TO VIREOS**—Clark's Nutcrackers' populations have rebounded according to the Indian Peaks transects (21 *cf.* 11) and the Indian Peaks B.B.C. (.26/ph *cf.* .14/ph). At Eureka, Nev., 200 Com. Ravens roosted nightly, and Austin, Nev., had 500 July 5 (JE). The Indian Peaks' population of Mountain Chickadees dropped 40% from last year (DH), probably a natural fluctuation. Two Bushtits, rare in summer, visited Beaver Dam Wash July 26 (SH). At Ogden pairs of House Wrens and Tree Swallows fed young in the same cavity (JBm). A Winter Wren poured out its song June 28 at Afton, Wyo., adding to the Region's series of similar records with no nesting confirmed (CK). High water forced Marsh Wrens at Bear R. to nest in dead willows along the one remaining dike, like last year (JN). On Indian Peaks transects, Ruby-crowned Kinglets doubled, to 56 on 7 transects.

Eastern Bluebirds nesting in a box at Sundance, Wyo., provided the first n. Wyoming breeding record (FL, JAd). Sheridan pronounced 1985 the "Year of the Veery." Collins had 3 families in her yard at once (12 birds), and July 15 Downing saw a peak count of 16. A Swainson's Thrush June 16 at Cedar City provided a 1st *Lat* summer record (SH), and one in Cedar Breaks N.M. a few miles e., also June 16, provided a rare summer

record (PL). Hermit Thrushes tripled on the Indian Peaks transects, from 11 to 33, and doubled on the B.B.C. to .6/ph. In s w Utah, N. Mockingbirds displayed increasing numbers: up 33% in Beaver County, up 20% in Cedar City, and up a little in Washington County (SH). At Fontanelle, Wyo., a Brown Thrasher sang June 1 & 9 (FL, MA). A debate about Bendire's Thrashers in Colorado's San Luis Valley has a new dimension on June 19 Zerbi played tapes of both Sage and Bendire's, the subject thrashers reacted only to the latter, and in response sang for 5-10 minutes. Halsey also called them Bendire's July 20 (†C.F.O.). Two begging juv. Cedar Waxwings at Battle Cr Campground in Medicine Bow N.F., s. Wyoming, provided a 1st *Lat* breeding record (CK). A Red-eyed Vireo visited Logan June 6 (KA).

**WARBLERS TO SPARROWS**—A mostly "Brewster's"-type Warbler perched briefly on the tip of a maple tree outside a 3rd-floor window in a Denver office park June 6 (†HEK); Colorado has a handful of records of this hybrid. Summer reports of Orange-crowns on possible breeding grounds came from Cedar City, Cedar Breaks N.M., Rock Springs, Yellowstone, Dillon, Colo., and Gilman, Colo. Watched until the observers tired of it on June 1, a Chestnut-sided Warbler fed leisurely in a cottonwood at Fontanelle, Wyo. (†FL). A Townsend's Warbler was at Yellowstone July 4 (JZ). At Logan a juniper/maple/mountain mahogany community attracted Utah's 4th Palm Warbler June 21 (†EH). Either observers or Ovenbirds staked out a new nesting territory for the latter s.w. of Sedalia, Colo., with singing birds found July 1 & 22 (AB, WWB). Two pairs of Wilson's Warblers at Beaver, Utah, provided a summer 1st *Lat* (SH). Near Kim, Colo., observers have now found Hepatic Tanagers for several years in several narrow ravines 100-150' deep and covered with ponderosa pine and oak brush (LH, JR, VZ). The property owners, with one exception, refuse entry to bird watchers. Western Tanagers lingered on the plains to June 8 at Boulder and June 10 at Ft. Morgan (LHe, JCR).

Black-headed Grosbeaks burgeoned in Ogden, Utah; after banding four in 1984, Killpack banded 47 this year—37 juveniles and 10 adults. Three Black-headed at Alamosa N.W.R., July 22 provided a first refuge record (DC). Blue Grosbeaks prospered, especially in Wyoming. At Green R., flightless young out of the nest July 15 provided a 1st *Lat* (FL, MA). They also nested at Casper and Cheyenne (JH, FLe, D & EH). A 1984 nest from the Cheyenne pair resides in the Hanesworth apartment. As Blue Grosbeaks move N into new nesting territories in Wyoming, they also encroach into the Great Basin, with 3 pairs in Cedar City; only one pair had been there for the past 6 years (SH). At Sheridan an Indigo Bunting sang from perches in a circular territory 0.5 km in diameter June 7-July 31 but attracted no female; the ♀ Lazulis paid no attention to him (SJ). Another Indigo sang from a phone line at Casper July 7 (CK).

Dickcissels that inhabited a hayfield between Florence and Canon City, Colo., disappeared within a week after hay cutting (RW). Cassin's Sparrows returned to n. Colorado, with pairs seen at Ft. Morgan and Pawnee Nat'l Grassland in July (DG). At Sheridan Lark Buntings recovered from their crash of 2 years ago, with 301 on the Wyarno B.B.S., June 19, and 558 counted July 15 (HD). Observers found a few Grasshopper Sparrows in several places in e. Colorado, but not as many as in 1983. Casper had 1-2 observations (none last year—JH). The Uncompahgre Plateau area near Delta, Colo., sported five singing Fox Sparrows on a June 18 B.B.S. (MJ), one sang near Idaho Springs, Colo., June 16 (WWB), and w. of Granite, Colo., another skulked in a willow carr July 31 (HEK). Indian Peaks' counts of Lincoln's Sparrows doubled—1.0/ph on the B.B.C. and 71 on the transects.

**BOBOLINK THROUGH FINCHES**—Observers reported Bobolinks at Ruby Valley, Provo, Boulder, Norwood, Colo., and Sheridan. One of the Sheridan observations did not bode well, however; on June 20 a spray plane spread malathion, aimed at grasshoppers, all over a Bobolink field (HD). Brewer's Black-

birds thrived, with a Casper B.B.S. counting 79 (21 last year) and high counts of 500 July 20 at Casper and 2162 July 30 at Sheridan (JH, HD). Cedar City had its first nesting record for Great-tailed Grackles (BB). Two Com. Grackles were seen at Timpie Springs, Utah, June 2 (CKn). An Orchard Oriole stayed at Florence June 13-15 (MP, NP, RW). A Baltimore (N.) Oriole was at Ogden July 14 (CKn).

On top of Kings Peak, at 13,528 the highest point in Utah, a Black Rosy Finch "behaved like park pigeon, eating cast peanuts tamely and passing within 3 feet of resting climbers; this guy has learned 'camp robber' behavior" (CK). House Finches collected the most bands in Ogden: 477 juveniles plus 35 adults (36 in all last summer—MK). Wyoming and Colorado reported only a few Red Crossbills, including 2 plains records: one found dead June 3 in e. Denver and 12 flying over a park entrance in s.w. Denver June 4. Provo had White-winged Crossbills all summer with the last four, possibly a family group, seen July 16 (DF). Lesser Goldfinches strayed N to Cheyenne June 1-2 (AK) and to Casper June 27 and July 14 (JH). Staying until June 8, Evening Grosbeaks nested in Cheyenne (1st Lat—MS). They entertained elsewhere—in Sheridan one found a tube feeder too small for it to extract seeds so it flew at it in order to knock the seeds to the ground. In Westcreek they appeared within 5 minutes of the first seed infusion ("I hadn't seen them before so how did they know?"—RWi).

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

### Arizona, Sonora

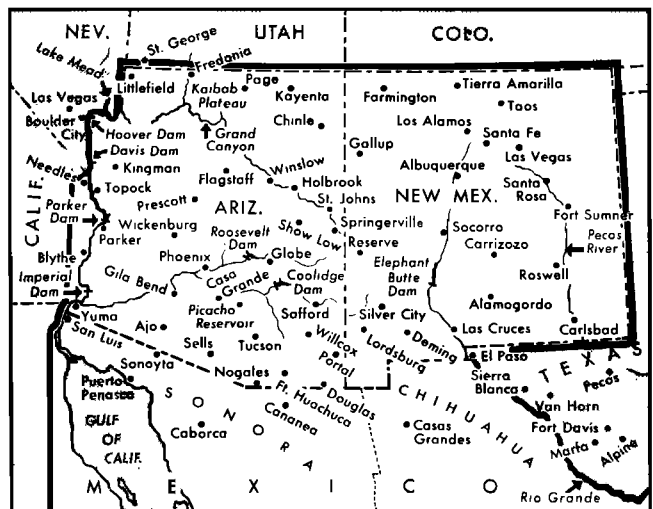
#### Janet Witzeman and David Stejskal

This summer two areas were covered more thoroughly than ever before, enabling us to fill in more of the gaps in our knowledge of the state. An intensive study was made along the San Pedro River, Gila River, and lower Bonita Creek in the southeast, and along the lower Gila River in the southwest. And now that we have a resident birder in the northeast corner, that area has been providing some significant records as well. Another set of records was provided from the newly opened Granite Reef Aqueduct (part of the Central Arizona Project) that is transferring water (and wildlife) from the Colorado River to central Arizona.

Visitors from south of the border provided excitement as usual—a new state record, two new nesting records, and a surprising quantity and quality of hummingbirds.

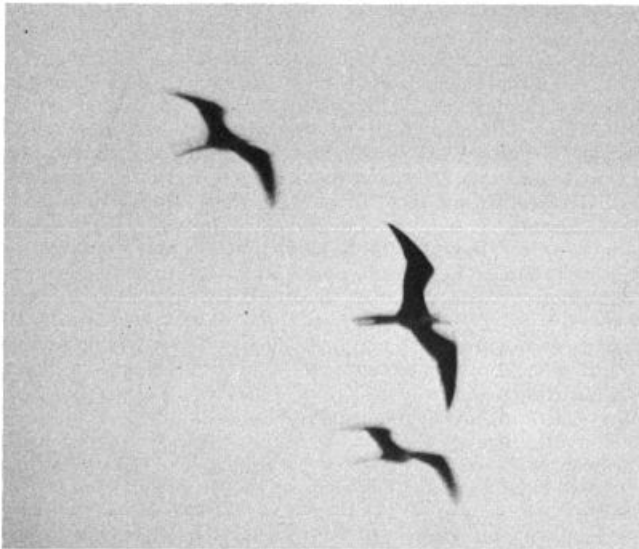
**ABBREVIATIONS**—G.R.A. = Granite Reef Aqueduct; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; S.P.R. = San Pedro River.

**GREBES THROUGH HERONS**—Both Western and "Clark's" grebes remained at Prescott again for the 2nd summer, with a maximum of 17 individuals June 14 and diminishing numbers thereafter (CT). Only one Am. White Pelican was recorded this season; it was at Tucson July 7 (R. Kennedy). Individual imm. Brown Pelicans were reported at 3 areas in Tucson June 29-July 19, plus one in Green Valley, s. of Tucson, in late July (*vide* SSu). Another immature was along the G.R.A. at Vicksburg July 27-28 (SF, MC). The imm. Olivaceous Cormorant at Willcox since early spring was still present July 2 (GM). More Magnificent Frigatebirds than we have had in recent years were reported; six were observed over Yuma July 10 (†E. & L. Schmidt, F. & J. Szeher), and three were carried E to the mouth of Madera Canyon during a storm July 6 (ph. BZ, B. Drummond, JD *et al.*). One June 5 at Yuma (GR) represented the earliest date



for the state and only the 3rd for June. The majority have been recorded from July to October.

A Least Bittern at Guevavi Ranch, Nogales, June 15-25 + (JBo, SK, ph. SSu) was in a new locality and represented one of only a few records for s.e. Arizona. A Snowy Egret was present on and off all summer at Prescott where the species is usually only a migrant (CT). A late Snowy Egret was at Willcox June 9 (BC), and five were along the G.R.A., e. of Vicksburg, all period (SF, MC). An early Tricolored Heron was at Willcox June 9 (†BC, LH) and apparently remained until July 24 when it or another was reported there (M. Garland). There are now almost 2 dozen state records of this straggler from the south. A Cattle Egret, uncommon anywhere in the state in summer, especially in n. Arizona, was at Prescott June 6-14 (CT). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Dudleyville June 26-July 12 + (JS, ph. SSu) was probably the same individual as was there in May 1984.



Three Magnificent Frigatebirds near Madera Canyon, Ariz., during a storm July 6, 1985. Photo/Barry Zimmer.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS** — Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were present at the Patagonia Sanctuary all summer for the first time (R. Baxter). Wood Ducks nested again at Prescott (at least one pair) and at Clarkdale (at least 2 pairs) in June (CT). A Green-winged Teal (an uncommon nester) remained into July in Prescott (CT), and one was observed at Green Valley July 18 (TM). Two Mallards with "Mexican Duck" characteristics, observed on the Gila R. near Kearny July 26, were n. and w. of the normal distribution of this form (†CH, TC).

Two ♂ Blue-winged Teal and a female were at McNeal June 24 (AM); the species is uncommon in s.e. Arizona in summer. One to eight Cinnamon Teal were at Willcox June 9-13 (BC, AM, BrJ), and a ♀ Cinnamon Teal with four ducklings were observed at Tucson June 19 (GM); there are very few nesting records for the s.e. The species was found breeding again at Buckeye, w. of Phoenix, in June (CH, TC), and a few were present all period along the G.R.A. (SF, MC). Gadwalls nested for the 3rd consecutive year at Prescott (CT).

Small numbers of non-breeding summering Redheads were reported at Willcox, Tucson, Painted Rock Dam, G.R.A., and Prescott. A Ring-necked Duck, uncommon away from the White Mts. in summer, was at Guevavi Ranch July 14 (PL).

Common Merganser is known to breed in small numbers only in the White Mts. and below the Mogollon Rim. A ♀ Com. Merganser seen flying over Bonita Cr. and the Gila R. e. of Safford June 7 was in suitable breeding habitat, and not far from where the species has been found breeding in New Mexico (CH, TC). A ♀ Com. Merganser at Many Farms L., n.e. Arizona, June 19 (BrJ) was also in an area where it had not been recorded previously during the summer.

Summer records of Osprey away from the White Mts. are scarce; one spent the entire period at Prescott (CT). This summer's reports of Black-shouldered Kites included an adult and five immatures at Elfrida June 24, two adults and an immature at Douglas June 24, two adults at the San Bernardino Ranch e. of Douglas June 27 (AM), and one w. of Nogales near Ruby July 15 (†MJ). Records of Mississippi Kites away from the S.P.R. were of two flying w. of Sonoita July 25 (GM) and one along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix at Buckeye July 30 (†TC, CH).

Suspicions that a pair of N. Harriers at the San Bernardino Ranch May 25 might have been nesting proved to be correct. The pair was still present June 14, but when the nest was checked June 27 it was found to have been abandoned, with one broken egg and a whole egg containing an embryo (AM *et al.*). This represented the 2nd known nesting attempt away from n.e. Arizona, where the species has not been found nesting since 1890.

A pair of Com. Black-Hawks that raised two fledglings along the S.P.R. near Mammoth represented the first known successful nesting of the species on the river since 1977. However, only one nesting pair was found along lower Bonita Cr., where more (3+) had been recorded in past years, and this pair did not successfully raise young (CH, TC). The Ferruginous Hawk is an uncommon resident of n. Arizona, and only formerly near Prescott, so of interest was the adult near Sullivan L., n. of Prescott, July 28 (H & AG).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — Two Clapper Rails along the Gila R. e. of Buckeye all period were in a new location (CH, TC).

Again as last year, a very late Black-bellied Plover was at Willcox June 2 (JBo). A Snowy Plover, scarce in n.e. Arizona, was at Many Farms L., July 20 (BrJ). One at Willcox, where it has been rare in recent years, was seen June 9 (BC).

Records of Black-necked Stilts are uncommon in extreme s.e. Arizona and also at Prescott, so of interest were three at Willcox June 13 (AM, BrJ) and a few at Prescott all period (CT). Forty Black-necked Stilts were counted along G.R.A., e. of the Haysayampa R., during the period (SF, MC). Am. Avocets at new summer locations were an adult and chick at Moaning L., n.e. Arizona, in early June (BrJ), a pair on the S.P.R. near Winkelman in mid-June (CH, TC), 13 at the Mammoth sewage ponds June 27 (GM), and five along the G.R.A. e. of Vicksburg all period (SF, MC). Ten were at McNeal June 24 (AM), where the species has been found only since 1983.

An ad. **Northern Jacana**, a first for the state, was found at Kino springs June 7 (†R. & E. Hellman *et al.*), then disappeared and was re-discovered June 15 at nearby Guevavi Ranch (SK, JBo, m.ob., ph. EH, PL, BZ) where it remained through the period at least into September. There are no records for Sonora, Mexico, so it was surprisingly far n. of n. Sinaloa where the species is known to occur. This represented the first record in the United States w. of c. Texas, where records have been sparse in recent years.



Northern Jacana near Nogales, Ariz., July 21, 1985. First Arizona record. Photo/Ed Harper.

Sixty Willets at Prescott June 26 (BT) made a large concentration, especially on that early date. Early single Long-billed Curlews were at Vicksburg June 17 (SF, MC), at Many Farms L., June 24 (BrJ), and at Prescott June 26 (BT); another one was at Prescott July 5 (CT), and a large concentration of 25 was at Willcox July 14 (PL). Early Marbled Godwits were four at Many Farms L., June 24 (BrJ), and one at Prescott June 29 (BT); a large group of 28 was at Prescott July 18 (BT).

Two early Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at Willcox July 20 (†BP, DH, BCo). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Willcox June 13 (AM, BrJ) represented either the latest spring record or the

earliest fall record for the state. Again, increased coverage in n.e. Arizona has resulted in our learning that Stilt Sandpiper is not as scarce a migrant there as the few past records had indicated; individuals were observed at Round Rock L. and Many Farms L., July 20 (Brj). Also, one was at Prescott July 18 (BT) where there are only a few records. An adult at Willcox July 14 (PL) was one of the earliest for the state.

A breeding-plumaged ad. Short-billed Dowitcher, seen and heard at Willcox on the late date of June 9, appeared to be of the race *hendersoni* (+BC, LH). An ad. Com. Snipe at Willcox July 14 (PL) was the earliest on record, and may have summered there.

**JAEGERS THROUGH NIGHTJARS**— An ad. **Pomarine Jaeger** discovered at L. Pleasant, n.w. of Phoenix, June 7-10 (C. Berginc, +RBr, CB, PB, TC, SD, RF, HL, CK) provided a first local record and the 4th for the state. As suggested by TGz, it may have arrived at that locale by having followed the G.R.A.

An imm. **Laughing Gull** at Willcox June 9 (+BC, +JS), represented the 4th record for s.e. Arizona and about the 8th overall for the state. A very late, or summering, non-breeding ad. Franklin's Gull was at Many Farms L., June 19 (Brj). An imm. Ring-billed Gull, uncommon in summer, was at Willcox June 9 with an imm. California Gull, which is rare so far e. and represented one of the few summer records for the state (+BC).

A breeding-plumaged ad. **Gull-billed Tern** was carefully studied at Willow L., Prescott, July 4 (+BT, CT, H & AG *et al.*). This represented the first record for n. Arizona and only the 4th for the state, the others having been in spring in w. and s. Arizona.

Band-tailed Pigeons remained at the lower-elevation riparian area in the Verde Valley through June into July when they normally move up higher into the forest (CT).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** seen and heard at Many Farms L., July 9 (+Brj) represented the 4th state record, although the species has not yet been documented with a photograph and is still on the hypothetical list. The previous records were from s.e. Arizona. Censusing in appropriate habitat on the S.P.R. and Gila R. revealed surprisingly few Yellow-billed Cuckoos; only near Pima, n.w. of Safford, were they found to be common. West of Phoenix, along the Gila R., numbers were found to be stable in cottonwood-willow habitats regenerated since the 1980 floods, but numbers were sparse in similar habitat between Laguna and Imperial dams on the L.C.R. (CH, TC). A Groove-billed Ani was at Buckeye July 30 (+TC, CH); there have been only 4 other records of this scarce straggler in the past 6 years.

A Flammulated Owl was heard calling in the Lukachukai Cr.



Juvenile *N. Saw-whet Owl* near Pinery Campground, Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., May 28, 1985. Photo/Joe & Cathy Pope.

area, n.e. Arizona, July 1 (Brj); although not surprising, this represented a record from a little-known part of the state. A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl found at Dudleyville July 17 (BS) and heard there July 29 (SSu) was in a new locality and represented the first record for the S.P.R. The four young Long-eared Owls from the nest near Rock Pt., Navajo Reservation, were still present in mid-June (J. & T. Willetto, Brj). A 2nd indication of *N. Saw-whet Owl* nesting in the Chiricahua Mts. this year was provided by the sighting of a juvenile at Pinery Campground May 28 (ph. +J. & C. Pope) and a pair in the same area in early July (EG).

A new nesting record for Arizona and the United States was provided by a pair of **Buff-collared Nightjars** below the entrance to Madera Canyon that produced two young in mid-July (+EH, +MJ, m.ob.). There were also records of individuals e. of Tucson July 1 (CdeW, SSu) and at Catalina S.P., July 3 (SSu).



*Buff-collared Nightjar* below Madera Canyon, Ariz., July 7, 1985. Fledglings were found later at this site, for the first confirmed U.S. nesting. Photo/Barry Zimmer.

**HUMMINGBIRDS**— Unprecedented numbers of four rare hummingbird species occurred this summer. A ♂ **White-eared Hummingbird** seen on the S. Fork trail, Portal, July 6 (SF<sub>i</sub>), plus three to four observed in S. Fork July 11 (RM), preceded the discovery of a nest there July 13 (A. Clay)—the first for Arizona and the United States. And still more—a male that visited feeders at Shannon Campground, Pinaleno Mts., July 3-7+ (ph., *fide* SSu) was the first for that area; and a female frequented a feeder in Madera Canyon July 12-27+ (KK, m.ob.) where there had been only 2 previous records.

There were four **Berylline Hummingbirds**: one at Patagonia June 8 (+R. Long), the first for that locale, one in S. Fork, Portal, June 29-30 (ph. BZ, +JC, m.ob.), one at Silver Cr. Spring, n.w. of Portal, July 2 (RM), and one higher up in the Chiricahua Mts., near Barfoot Crossing, Rustler Park Trail July 18 (+BP, DH, BCo). Two **Plain-capped Starthroats** at a feeder in Whitetail Canyon, Chiricahuas, July 10, and at least one to July 27+ (RT, m.ob.) provided about the 10th record for the state.

Seven **Lucifer Hummingbirds** occurred, the majority in the Chiricahuas as usual; one in a peripheral area was a female or immature at Madera Canyon July 12-27+ (KK, m.ob.). Two ♂ **Lucifers** were present again for the 2nd year near Sonoita from late June to early July (*fide* SSu). In the Chiricahuas an ad. male was seen along the road to Cave Cr. Canyon June 2 (+BC, LH), and single ♂ **Lucifers** were at S. Fork July 5 (SF<sub>i</sub>), at Silver Cr. Spring July 5 (E. Froelich), and at Portal in mid-July (m.ob.).

Single **Broad-billed Hummingbirds**, uncommon in the Chiricahuas, were recorded in 2 canyons there in July (RM, RT). A ♀ **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** on a nest was found along the S.



*Berylline Hummingbird* in S. Fork, Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., June 29, 1985. Photo/Barry Zimmer.

Fork trail July 20 (TM). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Madera Canyon, where it has been recorded only the past 3 years, was present through July. Allen's Hummingbird is an uncommon migrant; a male frequented a feeder in Madera Canyon July 12 [KK, M] *et al.*, and one was examined in the hand on Signal Peak, Pinal Mts., July 26 (R. Heffernon).

**KINGFISHERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS**— Summer records of Belted Kingfisher in the White Mts. cause speculation of possible nesting there; two males were at Greer and one male at Sunrise L., July 4 (TC), and a pair at S. Fork, Little Colorado R., July 21 (DS). The ♀ Green Kingfisher at Kino Springs was seen again June 22 (DS, CH, RN) and it, or another, was found at nearby Guevavi Ranch July 21-27+ (ph. EH, TM *et al.*).

A ♀ Three-toed Woodpecker seen s.w. of Matthew Peak, Chuska Mts., extreme n.e. Arizona, July 23 (BrJ) furnished one of the few records for that little-worked area. Two pairs were recorded on the road to Blue, White Mts., July 7 (RBr).

An extralimital N. Beardless-Tyrannulet at lower Bonita Cr., July 25+, was isolated from traditional breeding areas, the closest being Arivaipa Cr. near Klondyke (+CH, TC). Willow Flycatcher has not been known to breed or summer regularly away from the higher elevation riparian areas in the state since the 1960s, so of interest was the number of singing birds along the S.P.R. all summer (five or more at Dudleyville and three at San Manuel) plus a breeding pair near Ft. Thomas on the Gila R. (CH, TC). An early Gray Flycatcher was at Bonita Cr. near the Gila R., July 25 (+CH). A Buff-breasted Flycatcher was in Rose Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., June 20 (BS), where the species has been re-found in recent years; one at Baldy Saddle, Santa Rita Mts. in early July (T. Strong) was the 2nd there this year, but also only the 2nd since before 1920. As suggested 2 years ago, the species seems to be reclaiming its former range.

A very worn *Myiarchus* sp. flycatcher that was mist-netted and photographed in hand at Elgin July 15 had features that indicated it may have been a Nutting's (RBo, BD). The photographs are being examined. There is one definite record of Nutting's for Arizona and the United States. Tropical Kingbirds recorded near Winkleman a year ago were thought to be out-of-range, however, throughout this summer the species was found to be a fairly common breeder on the S.P.R. from w. of Hayden (2 pairs) on the Gila R., at Hayden (one pair), Dudleyville (5+ pairs), and San Manuel (2 pairs). This represented a significant increase in the breeding range, as the only previous nesting records on the S.P.R. have been at Cook's L., and there only in the past 10 years (CH, TC).

An ad. Thick-billed Kingbird strayed farther N than ever in Arizona, to Prescott, where it was found July 22 (+H & AG). One was at Portal June 8 (L. Elliott) where it has straggled twice before. An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher observed at Many

Farms L., July 2 (BrJ), was only the 3rd for n.e. Arizona. Seven occupied nests of Rose-throated Becards were counted at Arivaipa June 24 (GM, TH). An individual was at Madera Canyon June 1 (JS) where the species had been recorded only once previously.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS**— In mid-July, nests of both Tree Swallows and Violet-green Swallows were found in bluebird nesting boxes at Parks, n.w. of Flagstaff; in the 2 Tree Swallow nests, three young were fledged from one and five from the other (G. Bateman). The ♀ Cave Swallow's attempt to nest with a Cliff Swallow at Tucson was a failure (TH). A Barn Swallow nest found June 11 at Navajo Community College, Tsaila, n.e. Arizona, later proved to be successful (BrJ) and represented the first for that area. Barn Swallows also nested at Prescott again for the 2nd year (CT). Several in Globe from May to mid-July suggested that they may have been breeding there as well (BeJ).

A Clark's Nutcracker was seen July 13 on Fly Peak, Chiricahua Mts. (EG), where it is not known to breed. One hundred Black-billed Magpies (including 75 young) were counted in July at Many Farms L. (BrJ) where the species has increased in numbers in recent years.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch at S. Fork, Chiricahuas, July 14 (PL) was at an exceptionally low elevation for this season. White-breasted Nuthatches were found to be uncommon but regular breeders near San Manuel, S.P.R., representing the lowest elevation for breeding of this species in Arizona (CH, TC). A singing Winter Wren along the W. Fork of Oak Cr. near Sedona June 10-16 (A. Greene, V. Gilmore *et al.*) represented the first summer record for the state. A Gray Catbird in Dudleyville July 18 (+TC) marked an unusual date for it to be away from its regular breeding area.

Suspected nesting of Phainopepla in n.e. Arizona was unconfirmed until this summer, when a pair found nesting at St. Johns June 30+ fledged two young; several other individuals were seen in town from late June on (BH).

Bell's Vireo was found to be common and widespread along the S.P.R., and widespread and less common near Ft. Thomas, Gila R. However, along the L.C.R., only one male was found near Laguna Dam, and it subsequently disappeared, leaving no known individuals in an area considered to be the last stronghold of the species on the L.C.R. Willows and cottonwoods destroyed in the 1983 flood in that area are regenerating and, it is hoped, will allow for the return of the species there in the future (CH, TC). Individual Red-eyed Vireos were at Pipe Springs N.M., June 2 (PB, CH *et al.*) and at Portal June 8 (RM).

An Orange-crowned Warbler was observed at Bear Wallow, Mt. Lemmon, July 16 (TM); the species is only a sparse and local breeder in the Santa Catalina Mts. Yellow Warbler was found to be a common to abundant breeder in the S.P.R. valley, and less common near Ft. Thomas and Bonita Cr. However, no breeding or summering individuals were found on the Gila R. w. of Phoenix or along the L.C.R. (CH, TC). Olive Warblers were present all summer at the upper end of Oak Cr. Canyon, on the Mogollon Rim and above at Mt. Eldon, and bred again in the Sierra Prieta Mts. near Prescott (CT).

There were 2 records of Worm-eating Warbler in the Chiricahuas: one at S. Fork June 24 (G. & J. Maender) and one in Whitetail Canyon July 14 (RT, +PL, +C. Marantz). Of the 2 dozen or so previous records there had been only 2 in mid-summer. A Louisiana Waterthrush in Ramsey Canyon July 18-20 (+TGn *et al.*) furnished the 4th late July record for the state; there have now been about 14 records overall.

Although there are a few summer records of Black-and-white Warbler, the singing male at Prescott June 11 (CT) was probably a late migrant. A ♀ Am. Redstart at Buckeye June 24-25 (+TC, CH) and a male at Patagonia July 23 (C. McCaugh, T. Myers) added to the growing number of non-breeding summer records in the state. A very late N. Waterthrush at S. Fork, Chiricahuas, June 21 (+S. Sloane, A. Stern) was only the 2nd in summer for



the state The ♂ Hooded Warbler at Page Springs remained through its 3rd summer there and on into the fall (*vide* CT). Another was in Ramsey Canyon June 30 (†M. Newstrom *et al.*), for one of several summer records for the Huachuca Mts.

## New Mexico

John P. Hubbard

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Place names in *italics* are counties.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES** — The ♂ Flame-colored Tanager and ♀ W. Tanager in Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahuas, nested a 2nd time with only one young surviving this time, having fledged in mid-July (SSu, m.ob.). Summer Tanagers were found to be common on the S.P.R. and Gila R. at Ft. Thomas, but there was none found w. of Phoenix on the lower Gila R. or L.C.R. between Imperial and Laguna dams, an area where they were fairly common prior to the 1983 floods (CH, TC) Two Summer Tanagers were observed near Heber July 20-21 (BH); the species is a sparse transient in n.e. Arizona, especially at that elevation.

Varied Buntings at interesting locations were a male at Portal June 10 (†F. Hamlen), a male in the Swisshelm Mts. near Elfrida July 22 (AM), and one in Davidson Canyon, about 25 mi n. of Sonoita, July 25 (GM). A ♂ Painted Bunting, a late summer visitor, was seen at a ranch near Hereford July 20 (†TGn).

Six adults and two young Green-tailed Towhees on top of the Carrizo Mts., n.e. Arizona, July 6 (Brj, C. LaRue) added new information from this little-worked area. Six to eight Black-chinned Sparrows with some young found e. of Sycamore Res., Santa Catalina Mts., June 22 (JBa, JBo), represented the first breeding evidence for that mountain range. The species breeds more commonly farther n. in Arizona and only sparsely and locally in other parts of s.e. Arizona.

Two ad. Grasshopper Sparrows with a juvenile were studied at Chino Valley, n. of Prescott, July 28-29 (†H & AG, BT). Except for a possible nesting record at Camp Verde in 1916, this was the first evidence of the species' nesting away from s.e. Arizona. Of interest is the fact that a male was found at Chino Valley in July 1973. It may have been nesting there earlier and overlooked. An unseasonal White-crowned Sparrow (*gambelii*) at a Portal feeder July 5 (ph. S & WSp) provided one of only a few summer records for s. Arizona.

Three Orchard Orioles were reported, two (a singing imm. male and a female) near Kino Springs June 8 (GM, F. Scheider), and a female in n.w. Tucson July 23 (RBo). A late Red Crossbill was at Phoenix June 6 (DS), and a late Pine Siskin was near Hayden June 3 (CH).

**CORRIGENDUM** — Great Egret is, and has been, a fairly common resident on the L.C.R., nesting mainly at Topock Marsh but also at a number of smaller rookeries. The report that nesting of Great Egret near Yuma in 1984 was the first confirmed breeding in the state in a decade (AB 38:1048) was incorrect

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**GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Late Eared Grebes included two near Ft. Union, *Mora*, June 9-21 (RP) and two at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 1-21 (KW). Young W. Grebes were at El Vado L., *Rio Arriba*, June 21 (PS), while an injured adult was at Zuni June 30 (JT). An apparent "Clark's" Grebe was at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., June 24 (RT *et al.*). Late were three Am White Pelicans at Bitter Lake N.W.R. through June 21 (KW), plus another three at L. McMillan, *Eddy*, June 13 (WH). A new breeding locality for Double-crested Cormorant was Santa Rosa Res., *Guadalupe*, where several nests were found in the period (R. Hayes).

Great Blue Herons were again breeding in the San Francisco Valley area near Alma, with nestlings observed July 4 (JH). A new heronry for the species was also established, this one being at Glenwood next to a state trout hatchery (R. Skaggs *et al.*)! Two Snowy Egret heronries were again occupied in the lower Pecos Valley (WH), while six birds near Tularosa June 4 (O.C.B.C.) could have been late migrants or members of a yet-undiscovered breeding population there. Three recently-fledged Cattle Egrets near Loving July 3 (WH) indicated continued breeding in that area. Small numbers of this species near Bosque del Apache N.W.R. in the period (RT *et al.*) suggested that it may be breeding there as well. On June 3-July 8, a Green-backed Heron was at Mangas Springs, *Grant*, in which area the species is very local—especially in summer. Late White-faced Ibises included one near Ft. Union June 21 (RP), 24 at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., June 6-7 (BHn, PI), and several at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 1-21 (KW). Two at the latter locale July 13 (PL), plus 16 near Tierra Amarilla, *Rio Arriba*, July 27 (D & JH), were apparently early migrants.

Single crippled Greater White-fronted and Ross' geese were at Bitter Lake N.W.R., July 13-19 and June 1-July 19, respectively (KW). Canada Geese bred near Ft. Union, with young there June 9-21 (RP). **Wood Ducks** were found breeding for the first time in the lower Rio Grande Valley, with a female and downy young at Percha Dam, *Sierra*, June 17 (TH, BO) and another such group s. of Las Cruces June 30 (D. Weinstein, *vide* BZ). A female and two possible juv. males were at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., July 30 (D & JH), suggesting breeding farther n. in the valley as well. Other notable breeding records included Cinnamon Teal in the Zuni Mts. near McGaffey June 23 (AS) and Gadwall near Ft. Union June 19 (RP). Ruddy Ducks were displaying and probably breeding e. of Grants and at Quemado L., July 3-4 (JH). Unusual for summer were Canvasbacks at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 1-21 (KW), Ring-necked Ducks there June 1-14 (KW) and at Zuni July 2 (JT), Lesser Scaup at the latter place June 30 (JT) and near Ft. Union June 6-21 (RP), and Bufflehead at Zuni June 29-July 2 (JT) and at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 1-7 (KW). There were also scattered summer reports of N. Pintails, N. Shovelers, Am. Wigeons, and Redheads in places where breeding is rare or unknown (v.o.).

**RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS** — The 3rd confirmed **Black-shouldered Kite** for the state was a subadult photographed near Mesilla, *Dona Ana*, July 28-Aug. 1 (E. Wooten *et al.*). A vagrant Mississippi Kite was near Cliff June 23 (RF); otherwise, the species was reported only at Roswell (KW *et al.*) and in the Clovis area (A. L. Gennaro)—with breeding at both locales Quite unusual was an ad. Bald Eagle at Maxwell N.W.R. in July (W. Mobley). Northern Harriers apparently bred at L. McMillan

(WH) and at least summered at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW), a vagrant was e. of Laguna Grande, *Eddy*, June 8 (WH). A N. Goshawk nest near Silver City was abandoned, with dead embryos found in it July 3 (*vide* RF); abandonment was apparently caused by a mining operation in the area. A Swainson's Hawk w of Hopewell L., *Rio Arriba*, June 22 (JH) may have been breeding, although the montane meadows there are over 9500 ft and interspersed with conifer forests. A Ferruginous Hawk near Quemado July 9-10 (WH) suggested that the species still breeds in the area, which would be at the s.w. limit for such in the state.

Broods of White-tailed Ptarmigan were observed in the Truchas Peak area July 11 (M. Frenzel) & 14 (R. Berry); this species was transplanted into that area several years ago and apparently has become well-established there. On June 15, four to five N. Bobwhites were at Conchas L., *San Miguel* (PS), a w. locale for the species. Two broods of the Gould's race of Wild Turkey were found in the S. Peloncillo Mts. (*vide* S. Schemnitz). Over 300 Snowy Plovers were at Bitter Lake N.W.R., July 19 (KW), an excellent count for the species. Mountain Plovers appeared to be breeding n.e. of Tres Piedras, with six there June 22 (JH); also notable were 20 near Moriarty July 30 (WH). Late were Black-bellied Plover and Lesser Golden-Plover at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 1-14 (KW). Other late-lingering (to early or mid-June) shorebirds reported there included Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Curlew, Wilson's Phalarope, and Solitary, Spotted, Western, Least, Baird's, and Stilt sandpipers; in addition, autumn migrants of several of these reappeared at the refuge as early as mid-July (KW). Six Wilson's Phalaropes at Laguna Grande June 17 and 15 June 24 (WH) were either late spring or early autumn migrants.

Stragglers in the Carlsbad area included an ad. Franklin's Gull at Otis June 5, plus an immature at L. McMillan June 13—the latter along with a possible Common, two Forster's, and four Black terns (WH). The last 2 species lingered at Bitter Lake N.W.R. through June 21, while autumn migrants were there as early as July 19 (KW). The Least Tern population at the refuge was lower than last year, with a maximum of only six birds reported (KW). An ad. California Gull near Ft. Union June 21 (RP) was e. of the usual range.

**PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — Thirty-five Band-tailed Pigeons at Cedar Crest in June and early July (GH, D. Ligon) were unusual for the area. The White-winged Dove was reported nesting for the first time in Roswell (*vide* KW), where previously only a straggler. Inca Doves appear to be established now in Alamogordo, where up to four were reported through June (O.C.B.C.). Yellow-billed Cuckoos in areas where seldom reported included up to four at Conchas L., June 15 (PS), plus singles at Alamogordo June 22 (O.C.B.C.) and e. of Carlsbad June 14 (WH). A Com. Barn-Owl heard at Santa Fe July 27 (JH) was unusual. A family of N. Pygmy-Owls at Cienega Campground June 25 & 27 (W. Aeschliman) represented one of the few breeding records for the Sandia Mts. Well out-of-range was a **Buff-collared Nightjar** heard calling in the Dona Ana Mts., *Dona Ana*, June 12-13 (LS, P. Seibert); also notable were two to three reported in Guadalupe Canyon June 8-9 (JDo).

Outside the usual range were two Magnificent Hummingbirds reported near Cloudcroft in June (O.C.B.C.). Even more unusual was a female or imm. **Lucifer Hummingbird** at Silver City July 27 (N. & L. Strickling *et al.*; ph. RF). Notable was a pair of Belted Kingfishers s. of Las Cruces all summer (BZ *et al.*); other summer records included one to three birds at Zuni June 29-July 2 (JT), Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 15-21 (KW), and Glenwood June 11 (BHn, PI). A Lewis' Woodpecker nest in downtown Santa Fe apparently fledged young in mid-July (W. Baltosser, JH), in spite of the presence of many nesting Eur. Starlings in the area. A pair of Acorn Woodpeckers nested near Los Alamos (BH), an area where the species is very local. Nestling Red-naped Sapsuckers were at McGaffey June 23 (AS).

At least two N. Beardless-Tyrannulets were present June 18 in Guadalupe Canyon (TH, BO), where perhaps absent in some

years—at least in the New Mexico section of the canyon. A Least Flycatcher was banded at Bell L., *Lea*, June 1 (WH). Two Dusky Flycatchers were singing at Heron L., *Rio Arriba*, June 22-23 (JH). Six Black Phoebes at Zuni July 2 (JT) constituted a very high count for the area. Peripheral Cassin's Kingbirds included three near Grenville June 16 (KS), four at Trujillo Canyon, *San Miguel*, June 15 (JH), and a pair with fledglings at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*, July 3 (WH). Up to 3 pairs of Thick-billed Kingbirds were present in June in Guadalupe Canyon (JDo *et al.*), which is the usual count. Up to 30 pairs of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were e. of Laguna Grande, with 20 nestlings banded. Farther w., a nesting pair was at Otis June 12 and an adult in Carlsbad June 13 (WH). Three E. Kingbirds were present July 13 in Oasis S.P. (PL), where the species is irregular in occurrence.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH TANAGERS** — Purple Martins were again at Willow Spring Campground, *San Miguel*, with up to six reported there June 14-16 (RT); the species is quite local in the upper Pecos Basin. Likely breeding Tree Swallows included a pair at Clayton L., June 15 (KS) and at least two birds at Quemado L., *Catron*, July 3-4 (JH). Good counts of Barn Swallows for the southwesternmost area of the state—where this species remains a very local breeder—included eight near Rodeo June 10 (RS) and 19 near Gage June 2 (BHy); the species again nested at Pleasanton (JH). East of the usual range were 12 Clark's Nutcrackers on Turkey Mt., June 10, and also notable were Am. Crows near Ft. Union June 9-21 (RP). Two Black-tailed Gnatcatchers were reported June 18-19 at San Simon Cienega, *Hidalgo* (LS), where the species is seldom recorded. East of the usual range was a singing Townsend's Solitaire on Turkey Mt., June 11 (RP), while also notable was one at Zuni June 30 (JT). A straggling Swainson's Thrush was at Cedar Crest July 8 (GH). A Gray Catbird at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 7 (KW) and Brown Thrasher at Bell L., June 1 (WH) were probably late spring migrants. At n.e. limits was a Phainopepla near Alamogordo June 24 (O.C.B.C.).

Notable reports of Gray Vireos were of four at Zuni June 30 (JT) and two n. of Quemado July 8-10 (WH). Two Solitary Vireos (plumbeous race) were singing in Trujillo Canyon June 15 (JH), which is near an e. limit for summering birds. Two Warbling Vireos were at Zuni June 29, and a nest was found there in a cottonwood stand (JT). An ad. Orange-crowned Warbler was seen carrying food in an area of narrowleaf cottonwoods and associated riparian growth s. of Quemado July 8 (WH); normally, this species is considered to be restricted as a breeder in this Region to shrubby habitats in montane forests. Two singing Virginia's Warblers in Trujillo Canyon June 15 were further evidence of summering by the species at that locale; one at Santa Fe July 27 (JH) was an early migrant. Lower than expected for summering birds were two Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warblers at Quemado L., July 3-4 (JH), one at nearby Largo Canyon July 8 (WH), and another at the Cooney Place, *Grant*, in the upper Mimbres Valley July 6 (JH). Northerly Hepatic Tanagers were 2 nesting pairs near Los Alamos June 28-July 7 (WH), one bird on Turkey Mt., June 11 (RP), another in Trujillo Canyon June 15 (JH), and two at Zuni June 30 (JT).

**CARDINAL THROUGH CARDUELINE FINCHES** — Unusual was a pair of **Northern Cardinals** at Randals Pool, s. *Dona Ana*, all summer (JDs, BZ). Blue Grosbeaks in areas where infrequently recorded were two all summer near Los Alamos (BL), one at Cedar Crest July 10 (GH), and two to three singing near Quemado July 8-10 (WH). Unusual was a singing Lazuli Bunting at Mangas Springs June 29 (D. Zimmerman); also worth noting were one near Los Alamos July 14 (BL), three near Santa Fe July 13 (PI), and one to two at Zuni June 29-July 2 (JT). Two Indigo Buntings were near Alamogordo June 15 (O.C.B.C.), while the count of Varied Buntings in Guadalupe Canyon was three June 19 (JDo). Outside the usual summer range were three Painted Buntings e. of Laguna Grande June 16 & 26 (WH). Very

unusual were two **Dickcissels** heard singing near Grenville June 16 (KS), plus a male singing near Watrous, *Mora*, June 20-21 (RP, SP). A Green-tailed Towhee near Alamogordo June 15 (O.C.B.C.) was notable. Rufous-sided Towhees were numerous July 2 in the area n. of L. McMillan (WH), which is the species' only place of regular summer occurrence in the lower Pecos Valley. Outside the usual reported range were 3 pairs of Brown Towhees e. of Laguna Grande, with a nest and eggs found June 14 (WH).

Cassin's Sparrows outside the usual range included two near Valencia June 7 (J. Durrie, P. Fitzsimmons) and four n. of Quemado July 8-10 (WH). The only early summer reports of the species in the s.w. were of one near Rodeo June 10 (RS) and two near Gage June 2 (BHy). On June 13, a pair of Rufous-crowned Sparrows was found near L. McMillan (WH), where the species may be regular in grassy cliffs along the Pecos Valley. A pair of Chipping Sparrows near Anthony through June (JDs, BZ) was unusual in being outside the normal breeding range and habitat for the Region. A **Field Sparrow** was reported singing near Grenville June 16 (KS), for a first summer record for the state. The Black-chinned Sparrow was again present in Trujillo Canyon, with two to three there June 15 (JH). On June 9-21, several Vesper Sparrows were near Ft. Union (RP), an area where the species has seldom been reported. Lark Buntings were present in small to moderate numbers in the n.e., including near Grenville June 16 (KS), and in the Ocate to Trujillo area June 9-21 (JH, RP). The only summer record of Grasshopper Sparrow was of five birds near Grenville June 16 (KS). Fledgling Song Sparrows were seen near Los Alamos June 6 (BL), and the species was present at La Cueva July 6 (PI *et al.*).

Eastern Meadowlarks outnumbered Westerns n. of Quemado July 8-10 by about 2:1 (WH); a single Eastern was at Zuni July 2 (JT), while unusual was a Western near Rodeo June 10 (RS). Also unusual were Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 1-21 (KW), while noteworthy as well were birds at Ceniza, *McKinley*, all summer (AS), plus four at Quemado L., July 3-4 (JH). Apparent late migrants were Brewer's Blackbirds reported at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 1-14 (KW), and 12 near Gage June 6 (BH). Breeding colonies of Great-tailed Grackles were at Ceniza and Ft. Wingate, where 15-20 birds were present and young were being fed June 23 (AS). Also notable were 20 at Zuni June 30 (JT), plus a pair—the female carrying food—at Quemado L., July 3-4 (JH) & 8-9 (WH). A few Com. Grackles were in Gallup and Ceniza during the summer (AS), for the only

reports w of the Rio Grande Valley. Notable was a pair of Bronzed Cowbirds in Silver City all summer (RF). A pair of Orchard Orioles was nesting e. of Laguna Grande June 8 (WH), outside the usual breeding range. The male, apparent hybrid **Orchard x Hooded Oriole** was still present at Rattlesnake Spring and associated with a ♀ Hooded July 2 (WH).

Cassin's Finch appears to summer most regularly in the state in the Jemez Mts.; fledglings were there in the La Cueva area July 20-26 (MS), and a nest near Los Alamos June 1 was later destroyed (BL). Ten-plus Red Crossbills were at Santa Fe June 1-3 (JH), while almost certainly of this species was a flock of crossbills on Turkey Mt., June 11 (RP). Possible White-winged Crossbills were one at Santa Fe June 3 (JH) and two at nearby Lake Peak July 29 (W. Eley, G. Schmitt). A nest of Pine Siskins at McGaffey June 23 (AS) was one of the few for the Zuni Mts., fledglings were at La Cueva July 22-31 (MS), and the only bird reported at Santa Fe was one July 27-28 (JH). Very unusual were a pair and a grown juvenile of **American Goldfinches** at Zuni July 3 (JT), for what was the closest yet to proof that the species breeds in New Mexico. Also notable were singing males at Rattlesnake Spring June 13 and July 2 (WH). Fledgling Evening Grosbeaks were at La Cueva July 9-20 (MS); other summer records in probable breeding areas were of two birds near Hopewell L., June 22 (JH), and others near Cloudcroft in June (O.C.B.C.). Apparent early migrants were three in Santa Fe July 11, with 13 or more July 26-28 (JH).

**ADDENDA** — An E. Phoebe was seen along the Rio Bonito, *Lincoln*, May 21-23 (JE); the late date could indicate breeding, although no others of the species were seen. A pair of Red-faced Warblers, possibly plus another singing bird, at Padilla Spring May 21-23 (JE) apparently represented the first record of the species from the Capitan Mts.

**INITIALED OBSERVERS** — Jim Dominic (JDo), Jeff Donaldson (JDs), John Egbert, Ralph Fisher, Bowie Hannah (BHn), Bruce Hayward (BHy), Geoff Hill, Dick & Jean Hoffman, William Howe, John Hubbard, Tyler Huning, Pat Insley, Paul Lehman, Burt Lewis, Bruce Ostyn, Otero County Bird Club, Robert Paxton, Sarah Plimpton, Al Schmierer, Robert Scholes, Linda Seibert, Kenneth Seyffert, Paul Steel, Marge Swain, Ross Teuber, John Trochet, Kathy Wood, Barry Zimmer. —**JOHN P. HUBBARD, 655 Galisteo, No. 2, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

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## ALASKA REGION

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### D. D. Gibson

**F**ollowing a late spring, cool and wet weather persisted through June and well into July and began anew shortly after the first of August. The last three weeks of July were all we had of a summer in 1985. Most observers referred to 1985 as a distinctly poor, but not disastrous, year for breeding birds.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — All written details (+), photographs (ph.), and specimens (\*) mentioned below are *on file* at the University of Alaska Museum.

**WATERFOWL** — Conant and Hodges (1985, "Alaska-Yukon Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey, May 15 to June 21, 1985," U.S.F.W.S., Juneau), in discussing weather and habitat conditions in the Region, stated, "This year Alaska experienced one of the latest spring breakups in recent history. It was . . . widespread and rivaled or surpassed the previous record year of 1964 . . . Western coastal tundra habitat opened up extremely late. Ice and snow were persistent in mid June. Some Eskimos

reported the latest breakup on coastal rivers in memory. An oldtimer at Kotzebue stated it was the latest spring in the past 42 years . . . Major widespread flooding occurred in the Koyukuk and Innok areas . . . and also along the lower Yukon." Their "preliminary impressions from plot studies on the Yukon Delta" indicated "spotty production" for Brant and for Canada (*B. c. minima*), Emperor, and Greater White-fronted geese. Late phenology and high fox populations were expected to deleteriously affect production. Their area-wide assessment of ducks was also pessimistic: Green-winged Teal down 15% from 1984 and up 01% from the 10-year mean of these surveys; Mallard -57% and -34%, respectively; N. Pintail -32% and -43%; N. Shoveler -25% and -21%; Am. Wigeon -38% and -26%; Canvasback -33% and -18%; scaup -25% and -19%; Oldsquaw +10% and -29%; and Bufflehead -03% and -33%.

Four Tufted Ducks were noted near L. Andrew, Adak I., c Aleutians, June 30 (C & TE), and five (four males and one female) were seen in the same area July 1 (JMA, RR). There are very few Alaska records in midsummer, when the species is quite rare.



**RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — A bright facet of a bleak season was the apparent reproductive success of Rough-legged Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, and Gyrfalcons in the Colville (TS, MA) and Sagavanirktok (RJR, JS) river drainages, N Alaska. Seventy Peregrine young were produced in this area in 1985, vs. 54 in 1984; Rough-legged Hawks, which produced 265 young there this year, flourished atop a high rodent population (*vide* REA). In C Alaska productivity of Peregrines and Bald Eagles was down somewhat from 1984; breeding was distinctly late in e.-C Alaska, where a copulating pair of Peregrines was seen in early June—a very late date for such activity (REA).

A Com. Greenshank at St. Paul the first one-half of June (SZ, PS, *vide* GVB) was a casual visitant at that location, and late. Bristle-thighed Curlews nested in (apparently characteristic) low densities in the hills between St. Michael and St. Marys, where they have been found in the past. An incubating bird, which was not flushed because of the proximity of jaegers, was found near the headwaters of the Pikhiktalik R., June 25 and a pair of adults with a chick were seen just e. of Curlew L., July 2 (BJM). Much wild, bleak, and poorly-explored tundra constitutes the breeding range of this Alaska native, and if very few nests have been discovered, even fewer downies have ever been seen.

A Least Sandpiper nest with 4 eggs was discovered at St. Paul June 19 (GVB, DD, LS). On June 26 the full clutch was still present, and on July 5 two adults were seen in distraction display near the empty nest, but no young were found. Although Least Sandpiper occurs there annually, this record substantiates for the first time nesting in the Pribilofs, which, with the e. Aleutians, form the w. end of the species' breeding range. A Long-toed Stint studied at Upper L., St. George, June 14 (GVB) was, like the greenshank, late and casual in the Pribilofs. A juv. Wilson's Phalarope observed with juv. Lesser Yellowlegs at Fairbanks July 24 (DDG) was 900+ km n.w. of the nearest known breeding area—the vicinity of Whitehorse, Yukon. There have been very few prior C Alaska records of the species, all of them May-June visitants.

**LARIDS TO ALCIDS** — Scarce and not reported annually in Alaska waters of the N. Pacific, a S. Polar Skua was observed

s.w. of Kodiak I. [at 55°33'N 154°09'W] July 3 (RHD). A full-breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gull was observed as it fed amid fulmars about a research vessel on oceanographic station in the N. Pacific, at 53°N 155°W (= 125 ± naut. mi s. of Kodiak I.), July 5-6 (TRHD). Having provided Alaska's 5th record, it departed when the ship got under way.

Black-legged Kittiwakes, which have had poor reproductive success at various Alaska breeding stations in recent years, underwent widespread breeding failure in 1985 (GVB, SAH, ECM, AMS, JLT *et al.*). Most Gulf of Alaska colonies failed miserably—Middleton I., Kodiak I., and the Semidi Is.—although in Prince William Sound some colonies did moderately well and others did not at all: overall it was a failure of a year in the Gulf (*e.g.*, 0.4 young/nest at Middleton, zero young at Kodiak). In the Bering Sea, Black-legged Kittiwakes did better than in the Gulf. They did moderately well at the Pribilofs, where perhaps 20% of nests produced young. All locations to the n. were (perhaps perilously) late. St. Matthew Island was so, but 10-20% of nests produced young; at Bluff, Seward Peninsula, the birds did not even build nests this year; but at Little Diomedede I., about 33% of nests seen had single large young (*in early September*). In the Chukchi Sea at Cape Lisburne, the n. end of the species' breeding range in this Region, kittiwakes had hatched no eggs by early August, and only 25% of nests had eggs at all, all single-, not double-, egg clutches. With breeding phenology so late in 1985, it seems unlikely that a large percentage of the young hatched at these n. locations survived to fledging.

In its 5th consecutive year in Alaska, Caspian Tern was reported from 3 widely-separated localities: one at Ketchikan June 22 (DJM); two together at Anchorage July 2 (DWS); and two together on the Yukon R., 10 mi upriver from Circle, July 16 (REA, RBH)—the same date as last year's upper Yukon R. sighting, the only prior C Alaska record. It would appear that the species is reaching us from interior Canada as well as via the Pacific coast to the south. The first Black Terns recorded in Alaska in years were those few that turned up on a broad front in summer 1985: one at Mile 50 Denali Hwy June 23 (DRH, ph.); two together at Potter Marsh, Anchorage, July 4 (FC); and one in the Northway area July 13 (RLS). In view of the cold, late, wet spring, what phenomena might have prompted these birds to move N and W of the breeding range—an event made curious by Black Tern's *not* being a bird that has been involved in this well-known response of many prairie-nesting waterbirds to drought conditions?

Recent bird surveys at St. Matthew have added that island to the limited Alaska range of Dovekie; one seen July 10 amid auklets at Bull Seal Pt. (ALS, *vide* GVB) provided the only 1985 report.

**CUCKOOS TO FINCHES** — Following several spring records (*q.v.*), single cuckoos (*Cuculus* sp.) were found in the w. Aleutians, at Kiska June 10 (FD, CA, JMA, RR, LW) and at Attu "in late June" (GFW, *vide* CFZ). Of the common and widespread passerines, some failed to fill in to usual population levels (*e.g.*, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow at Fairbanks [BK]; and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow and Wilson's warblers, White-crowned Sparrow at Anchorage [TGT]) or did so quite late and produced few young (*e.g.*, Violet-green Swallow at Anchorage [TGT]). Three Siberian Tits (two adv., one juv.) observed together July 27 near the Noatak/Kelly river confluence (†WSD, HJD, GJT, MMT, HHS) were in an area where the species has been found before.

Several Arctic Warblers were present at St. Matthew July 6-13 (PDM *et al.*, GVB *et al.*); the only specimen taken (\*BAC) proved to be *P. b. borealis*, from Asia. Since the observers arrived in early July, it was not known how long the birds had been on the island. Arctic Warblers (*P. b. kennicottii*) were exceedingly numerous along the Denali Hwy after their arrival there in late June (RHA, RJG, DDG, RSH). A ♀ Red-breasted Flycatcher that

came aboard ship in the s. Bering Sea (at 56°30'N 175°W) June 23 (†RHD) provided the only 1985 report and the latest seasonal occurrence of the 8 Alaska reports since 1977.

A Siberian Rubythroat was observed at Kiska June 13-15 (FD *et al.*), and "several singing males" at Attu through most of June had departed by the end of that month (GFW, *vide* CFZ). Several pairs of territorial Bluethroats were observed in the Sagwon Bluffs area, Mile 386 Dalton Hwy, June 14, and one nest was discovered (RHM, CTS *et al.*). There are few records of this bird e. of the Sagavanirktok. July 29 was a peculiar date at St. George for a N. Wheatear (MH, SW, *vide* GVB), a casual spring/fall visitant in the Pribilofs.

Mountain Bluebirds were of interest in e.-C Alaska again this summer (see AB 38:1053). A male was seen on an old burn at Mile 25 Elliott Hwy, n. of Fairbanks, May 27 (RGH); a male was seen at Hurricane, Mile 170 Alaska Railroad (on the s. slope of the Alaska Range), June 11 (NSP); a pair bred again on the Rosie Cr. burn, w. of Fairbanks, in June (WAL, RLS *et al.*); and a few pairs apparently bred on the upper Yukon R. (one fledged young Aug. 6, 30 mi downriver from Eagle, and other birds seen at intervals [REA, RBH]). A Fieldfare observed well in the n. foothills of the Brooks Range—at Castle Mt., Gates of the Arctic N.P.—June 20 (†MLW, RPW), for the 4th Alaska record of the species, was most interesting both for its being a midsummer record and for its being away from the coast.

White-winged Crossbills were scarce in SE Alaska (Juneau,

RJK; Petersburg, DJK), in SC Alaska (Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula, TGT), and in the Fairbanks area (DDG), but, judging from the remains of numerous ad. males in Peregrine aeries on the upper Yukon River (REA), the species must have been fairly conspicuous in that part of C Alaska this summer. An ad. ♂ White-winged Crossbill at St. Paul June 22 (GVB *et al.*, PS ph.) was out of place; there have been very few records on islands of the Bering Sea. A Hawfinch seen at Kiska June 14-18 (FD *et al.*) and one at Attu "in late June" (GFW, *vide* CFZ) were the first such late records since 1971 (see AB 25:786 & 895).

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Bill Harrington-Tweit and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

A warm, dry July followed a June that was somewhat damper and cooler than usual. Passerine nesting success, as reported by observers conducting studies, seemed normal or better. The northeast Pacific Ocean circulation patterns and temperatures returned to more usual patterns, following two years of El Nino/Southern Oscillation type patterns. However, seabird breeding success still appears to be below normal for some species.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — R.D. = Ranger District; S.J.C.R. = South Jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg.; Q.C.Is. = Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — A Pacific Loon migration was noted in Hecate Strait, Q.C.Is., in early June (TW). None was noted farther s. Six Yellow-billed Loons in basic plumage were noted in the Q.C.Is., June 1-9 (TW). Non-breeders have summered in this area regularly. Other single Yellow-billed Loons in basic plumage were found at Vancouver, B.C., June 1 (MP *et al.*) for Vancouver's 2nd summer record, and on Yaquina Bay, Oreg., July 20 with a large fishhook in its breast (MH). The hook was removed, and the bird released, but Oregon's 2nd summer record only survived a few more weeks. Eared Grebes do not breed in our Region and are rarely reported in summer. Breeding-plumaged birds were noted June 1-5 at Oak Bay, V.I. (ME), and June 15 at Kent, King, Wash. (EH). The only 2 areas in our Region from which summering W. Grebes are reported annually are Bellingham Bay, Wash., where up to 200 were noted (TW), and in the Victoria, V.I., area with up to 10 this summer (VG).

There were 6 pelagic trips reported this summer: June 6 off Cape St. James, Q.C.Is. (TW), June 30 off Cape Flattery, Wash. (TW), July 26 to LaPerouse Bank, V.I. (DS), July 25 & 28 off Westport, Wash. (TW), and July 29 in Queen Charlotte Sound



(JM). Northern Fulmars were noted on all 6 trips, with a peak of 343 off Westport. They have been noted summering in the Region annually since 1981. Counts for other tubenoses ranged from one Black-footed Albatross at LaPerouse to 74 off Westport, no Pink-footed Shearwaters off Cape St. James to 102 off Westport, 30 Sooty Shearwaters at LaPerouse Bank to 2300 off

Westport, one Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel off Cape St James to 26 at LaPerouse Bank and no Leach's Storm-Petrels most places to 1000 in Queen Charlotte Sound. A single Flesh-footed Shearwater was off Westport and two were in Queen Charlotte Sound. The highest counts of Sooty Shearwaters during the period were from shore: 3000 at Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, Wash., July 20 (DP) and several thousand the same day at S J C.R. (BO, *fide* HN). Brown Pelicans came N in good numbers, with a high proportion of immatures. By mid-July, hundreds were at Tillamook, Oreg. (DB, *fide* HN) and some were beginning to appear along the n. coast of Washington (SS). A group of five Am. White Pelicans was in the Vancouver area June 3-6 (MF), for the 4th summer record for that area. Interestingly, most of the summer sightings of this species in our Region are made in the s. British Columbia and n.w. Washington area.

**DUCKS THROUGH FALCONS** — The count of 250 Blue-winged Teals at Iona I., Vancouver, B.C., June 6 (MP) was a record high count for that area, and probably for the Region. However, there were no breeding reports from anywhere in the Region. Four broods of N. Shovelers were found in the Victoria area (VG). The first nesting record there was in 1984. Another three-four broods were noted in Seattle, Wash. (ER). Shovelers have a very scattered breeding distribution in this Region. Two broods of Am. Wigeons were found in the Vancouver, B.C., area (MP, DK). There are still very few breeding records for the Region. A brood of Ruddy Ducks, another species with a very local breeding distribution, at the Montlake Fill in Seattle July 30 (ER) was a first for that locality. Five broods of Gadwalls and 4 of Cinnamon Teals were reported from Seattle (ER) and 6 teal broods from Victoria (VG). There were no other breeding reports from the n. one-half of the Region where these species breed locally. A Harlequin Duck with two young June 8 in N. Vancouver, B.C. (MD), provided one of few breeding records for that area.

Of the 24 Osprey nests reported, all but 3 or 4 were active. There were 2 new nests found in the Victoria area (VG). The pair of Black-shouldered Kites that had been resident near Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor*, Wash., has not been reported since April. In fact, there was only one report of kites from the entire Region. Were there no others seen? Seven N. Harriers were noted from Washington and British Columbia, but no breeding evidence was reported. A Sharp-shinned Hawk nest found on the Diamond Lake R.D., *Douglas*, Oreg. (DF), and a Cooper's Hawk nest on Maury I., *King*, Wash. (JN) were the only active *Accipiter* nests reported. There were 4 other sightings of Sharp-shinned and 11 of Cooper's. Three or four pairs of Golden Eagles were reported nesting on San Juan I., Wash. (ML), where a small population has long been known. Other sightings were from the nearby n. Olympic Pen., Wash. (DS) and s. V.I. (VG). A brood of Peregrine Falcons were noted on s. V.I. (VG). A brood of Peregrine Falcons was noted on s. V.I. (VG) at a site where nesting had been suspected previously. There were 3 sightings of Merlins, all from s. British Columbia (*fide* VG, MF), and 5 others of Peregrines, 2 from Vancouver (MP, BK), and one each from s. V.I. (DFr), coastal Washington (BP), and coastal Oregon (HN).

**PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES** — Black-bellied Plovers were noted in June near Victoria (KT), and at the Hump-tulips R. mouth, *Grays Harbor*, Wash. (G & WH). Both of these spots are regular summering locations. There were 2 rare June records of Lesser Golden-Plovers: June 15 on San Juan I., Wash. (ML) and June 20 at Ocean Shores (G & WH). The first fall migrants were noted in late July (DP). Out of 7 pairs of Snowy Plovers at least one somehow produced two chicks amidst the commotion of all-terrain vehicles at Ocean Shores (JA, EC). This outpost remains the northernmost breeding locale for the species on the Pacific Coast. There were June records of summering Semipalmated Plovers from Yaquina Bay and Tillamook (HN), Ocean Shores (G & WH), and Vancouver, B.C. (DK),

no breeding attempts were noted. The peak July count was 600 at Tillamook July 24 (HN). The 225 at Vancouver, B.C., July 27 (MP) was a record high count for that area.

There were 7 June reports of summering Whimbrels at the usual locations: from Yaquina Bay (HN), Ocean Shores (G & WH), Sooke R., V.I. (BH) and Blackie Spit, Vancouver, B.C. (JW). The peak July count was of 300 at Ocean Shores July 20-21 (DP). There were 3 records of Willets (JS, DuK, WW *et al.*), five plus of Long-billed Curlews and more than one of Marbled Godwit. A breeding-plumaged Hudsonian Godwit, quite rare in summer, was at Vancouver, B.C., June 8 (AS *et al.*). The rock shorebirds, Surfbirds and the two turnstones, arrived later than usual. In most cases large flocks were not reported until the last 5 days in July (HN, VG), and some areas never reported large numbers (G & WH, DP). This is 5-10 days later than normal. Peak *Calidris* numbers were: 110 Sanderlings July 20 at Ocean Shores (DP), 94 (!) Semipalmateds at Vancouver, B.C., July 31 (MF), 15,000 Westerns at Vancouver, B.C., July 13 (MP), and 700 Least at Tillamook July 21 (JG). An ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** at Bandon, Oreg., July 25 + (JJ, VT, *fide* HN, ph.OS) in breeding plumage is the first photographed record for the state. Most counts of Short-billed Dowitchers were <100, except for the 2000 + noted at Ocean Shores July 20 (DP). The 110 Long-billed Dowitchers at Vancouver, B.C., July 30 (MF) was the peak count. Wilson's Phalaropes bred at Iona I. (BK). This species is not reported breeding in our Region annually. There were only 6 reports of Red-necked Phalaropes, totalling six individuals, which is well below normal for this species.

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — On the 6 pelagic trips a total of five Pomarine, five Parasitic and one Long-tailed jaegers, and one S. Polar Skua were reported. An ad. **Little Gull** seen June 24 in Thatcher Pass, *San Juan* (DPo, *fide* TW) is about the 4th summer Regional record. Bonaparte's Gulls in good numbers in mid-July in the Bellingham and Victoria areas were unusually early (TW, VG). Heermann's Gulls did not appear in large numbers on the coast until mid-July, which is a bit late. Thousands of California Gulls were found in the Straits of Juan de Fuca (VG) and off Westport, Wash. (TW) after July 20, large numbers for these areas at this time. Very small numbers of summering Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported from the S.J.C.R. (HN, BO), *Grays Harbor* (DP, TW), Victoria (DS) and Vancouver (BK). Since 1979 only 2 summers, 1982 and 1983, have seen large numbers of summering kittiwakes. There were no reports of Sabine's Gulls this season, which is quite unusual.

Caspian Terns were reported in flocks of up to 50 from s. V I (BH *et al.*), none were found in the Q.C.Is. (TW). A record count of almost 5450 pairs nested in Willapa Bay and *Grays Harbor* (SS). Though there were no new nesting locations, it is obvious that the population is steadily increasing. Southbound Com Terns appeared in lower numbers than usual. The 5 sightings reported totalled only 11 birds. The small colony of Arctic Terns that has nested intermittently in Puget Sound on a dredge spoil island off Everett, Wash., since at least 1977 was located nearby on the mainland this summer. Seven young were observed June 30 (ER), and photos were obtained on 3 dates (PM, GG, DP).

VG noted that there were only nine Com. Murres observed in the Victoria area this summer, compared to the hundreds reported during the last 2 summers. We hope this means that the murres breeding on the Washington coast, and perhaps Oregon as well, stayed at their colonies much longer this year than the last two. Indeed, better numbers of murre chicks were seen in late July off Westport (TW) than in the last 2 years. However, HN felt that murres on the Oregon coast may not have done well and SS noted that the murre colony at Grenville Arch, *Grays Harbor*, essentially failed to fledge birds. Murre reproduction may be slowly moving back towards pre- "El Nino" levels. The same may not be true for Cassin's Auklets. Counts at sea off Westport remain at the very low levels of the past 2 summers. None was seen at sea off Cape Flattery and in Queen Charlotte

Sound, and only one was seen off Q C Is (TW), even though birds were active on colonies there at night. Fewer data are available for Tufted Puffins; HN reported that the Cape Mearns, Oreg. colony stayed at only six to eight pairs this summer, but at the Grenville Arch colony four to six pairs successfully colonized a new area on the mainland (SS).

Good numbers of Rhinoceros Auklets were observed from shore at Grays Harbor in July (DP, TW) and Victoria (*vide* VG). These concentrations probably reflect local feeding conditions. Several Horned Puffins were observed in the s. Q.C.Is. this summer. One was at a Tufted Puffin colony on Kerouard I., June 5 (TW) and three were near Flatrock I., July 30-31 (JM). The colony in the n. Q.C.Is., is the only one known in the Region. There have been no sightings s. of there since 1980. There were 2 interesting observations regarding Marbled Murrelet breeding. Murrelets were heard calling in the early morning of June 2, apparently from trees, at Rockfish Harbor on Louise I., Q.C.Is. (TW) and a juvenile was found dead on the beach at Ocean Shores on the early date of June 30 (DP, \*U.W. Burke Museum).

**OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — DF located two **Flammulated Owls** at Perry Butte Stub Trailhead, Diamond Lake R D, Douglas, Oreg., that were behaving as if breeding in the area. He noted that the presence of Ponderosa Pines in the stand, dominated by Douglas-fir, made the area appear similar to Flammulated habitat on the e. slope of the Cascades or farther s. in California. There is only one previous breeding record for our Region (AB 37:217, 1982), a chick brought in to a raptor rehabilitation center in Grants Pass, Oreg. It seems likely that a small population, perhaps contiguous with the n. California population, exists in the upper Umpqua and Rogue R. drainages. Several Spotted Owls were found on the w. slope of the Olympics and on the coastal strip of Olympic N.P., Wash. (ES, *vide* DSm) this summer. Spotted Owls were also found at 2 new locations in s.w. British Columbia (*vide* DK). A Barred Owl, still rarely reported from w. Oregon, was at Glide June 15 (KK). A pair of Barred Owls, with several fledglings, found in the Queets corridor on the w. side of Olympic N.P. (ES, *vide* DSm) represents the first breeding record for the Olympic Peninsula, and one of still very few for the Region. Up to 10 Black Swifts at Salt Creek Falls, Lane, Oreg. (DF, HN) during June were probably nesting, but no further evidence was observed. There are no known nesting locations for this swift in w. Oregon. The 27 reports of Rufous Hummingbird from the Victoria area, with only one nest found, were well below normal. VG thought that there had been no recovery from the decline of 1984. No other areas have reported declines.

Williamson's Sapsuckers are occasionally found just w. of the Cascade Crest in our Region. This season, two were seen in Washington (G & WH, EH, PM) and one in Oregon (SH). Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported more commonly than usual this summer, from as far s. as the n.w. side of Mt. Adams (CC), and n. to W. Vancouver (EM). Western Wood-Pewees and Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted as scarce in the upper Umpqua drainage (DF). Both were virtually unreported elsewhere. A Least Flycatcher at Pemberton Meadows, B.C., June 9 (MP *et al.*) furnished the 4th Vancouver area record. Dusky Flycatchers were observed more frequently than in 1984 on Diamond Lake R D (DF). Eastern Kingbird nesting pairs were found at Agassiz Slough, B.C., July 18 (MS) and 18km n.w. of Pemberton, B.C., July 14 (WW). Both locales are areas where they may breed regularly.

**LARKS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Four Horned Larks near the Portland Airport, Oreg., June 9 (DB) were at a historic nesting area where they have not been noted in recent years. A singing male was noted in Fort Lewis, Wash., in May (GW). These were the only sightings of larks from the lowland valley population that seems to have almost disappeared. The Purple Martin breeding reports were as follows: two pairs bred at Cowichan Bay, V.I. (VG), birds were seen at the L. Sammamish

colony, e. of Seattle, as usual (EH, GG), a few were noted in downtown Seattle (DP) and at pilings on Totten Inlet, *Mason*, Wash. (PM), at least 15 pairs nested in Ft. Lewis (GW), a colony near the Portland airport was active (HN), and 6-10 adults were noted near a burn full of big snags w. of Roseburg, Oreg. (DF *et al.*). Barn Swallows were noted to have had excellent reproductive success (VG, HN, DF).

The fantastic Iona I. sewage ponds produce more than rare shorebirds, they also harbor Com. Ravens of unusual intelligence. On 2 occasions this summer they were noted eating starlings (BK, MP). Rock Wrens, either vagrants from the e. or products of isolated local populations, were seen on Saddle Mt., Clatsop, Oreg. (HN), near Mt. Rainier N.P., Wash. (TM), and on Mt. Si, King, Wash. (Twe). The W. Bluebird population in Ft. Lewis this year had the highest number of known nesting pairs to date, and the highest percentage of 2nd nestings (GW). Only one pair of W. Bluebirds was at Victoria, their northernmost breeding locale in the Region, and no nesting activity was documented there (*vide* VG). There were 2 reports of N. Mockingbird; one June 2 at Victoria (KT, TZ) and the other at the mouth of the Pistol R., Curry, Oreg., June 9 (JG, OS).

Groups of Bohemian Waxwings, irregular breeders in the mountainous parts of the n. one-half of our Region, were noted at 3 locations along the United States/Canada border in late July: at Manning P.P., B.C. (MS), and at Harts Pass (ST) and Rainy Pass (DP) in Wash. Red-eyed Vireos were reported from several locales in w. Oregon, where their range is quite limited. Individuals were noted near Estacada (*vide* HN), w. of Elsie in the Coast Range (HN), and at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene (SH). A pair bred at the Scappoose Airport, n.w. of Portland (JG). Reports on Nashville Warblers ranged from "such hordes" in the Douglas Cascades (DF) and many in the subalpine zone on the slopes of Mt. Adams mid-July (CC), to usual numbers present in the Skagit valley, Wash. (TW). A ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was found July 18 (MDo *et al.*) near Naches Pass, King, Wash. Interestingly, this bird was not only outside the mid-June period of all 4 previous sightings, but was at a bog at 5500' in otherwise continuous Douglas-fir forest. The bird was searched for, but not found, subsequently. The small population of Hermit Warblers near McCleary, *Mason*, Wash., was noted June 26 (PM). This is the only known population of this species nesting near sea level around Puget Sound, and it is the southernmost of the small populations breeding on the e. slope of the Olympics. A singing ♂ **Black-and-white Warbler**, a rare vagrant, was reported from Portland June 8 (KTr, *vide* HN). A singing **Ovenbird** June 16 at Vancouver (WW *et al.*) provided the first record for s.w. British Columbia.

**BUNTINGS TO FINCHES** — There was an unprecedented number of sightings of Lazuli Buntings in the Vancouver, B.C., area this summer (DK). It is normally a casual species there. A ♂ **Indigo Bunting** at Vancouver, B.C., June 4 (MW *et al.*) furnished the 2nd area record. The first breeding record for **Brewer's Sparrow** in the Region came from clearcuts at 3500' along the Emigrant Pass Hwy., Lane, in the Oregon Cascades. Four singing males were recorded and an incubating female was photographed on the nest in checks of the area June 23-July 1 (SH, MH, T & AM). Additionally, two adults and four immatures found at Fern Ridge Res., Oreg., July 31 (ph., MH, SH *et al.*) may have bred there. A single adult was found at Cottage Grove Res., July 31 (MH, SH). A Black-throated Sparrow at W. Vancouver, B.C., June 2 (JM, CA *et al.*) adds to the records from this spring's echo from the 1984 May-June flight. A breeding-plumaged male **Chestnut-collared Longspur** at S.J.C.R., July 18+ (HN, *et al.*, ph.) provided the 5th summer record for the Region. The previous 4 were also all ad. males. **Tricolored Blackbirds** apparently bred at Portland again this summer, at a location near that used last year (HN). Small numbers of Red Crossbills were reported from s. British Columbia (DK), w. Washington, V.I. (VG), and the s. Oregon Cascades (DF), but no nesting was reported.

**White-winged Crossbills** invaded the Cascades of s. British Columbia and Washington during July in large numbers. The first report was from the Vancouver area in mid-June (BK). The next was from the British Columbia Cascades July 6 (WW), and by the end of July they were the most abundant, visible and vocal birds in the subalpine forests of s. British Columbia and n. Washington. In the Washington Cascades, they were locally common as far s. as the slopes of Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens, just n. of the Columbia R. (CC). The widespread appearance in mid-summer follows the pattern of the smaller, previous irruption in 1978. Courtship behaviors and copulation were widely noted and fledglings are expected in early fall.

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## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

Kurt F. Campbell, Richard A. Erickson,  
and Stephen F. Bailey

The passerine nest season was very early and generally very successful, a result of dry, mostly warm-to-hot conditions after an adequately wet winter. In this regard, post-breeding dispersal was notably strong and early as well. There was little correlation among the vagrants as to whether this was a good season or not, some showing strongly, others little at all.

Despite radical alteration and development that has taken place on the Tulare Lake basin in the southern Central Valley over the last century, that area remains abundant and critical wildlife habitat; note here the many records by GG for that area. It is hard to imagine its one-time magnificence. There was much new information this season for the Region; observers are to be congratulated for their explorations, and are encouraged to ponder the results.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; W.A. = Wildlife Area; ph. = photo *on file* with the Regional Editors. Italicized names refer to counties. All sightings from Palomar and S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter P.R.B.O.). References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is currently written by SFB.

**GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Nesting phenology of Eared Grebes varies markedly among years at Lower Klamath and Tule Lake refuges. This year they only became abundant and bred in numbers in late July and August (MR, m.ob.). Large W. Grebe colonies at L. Almanor, *Plumas* (1000+ nests), and Mountain Meadows Res., *Lassen* (50-100 nests), were not used this year, apparently due to low water levels (DAA, BED). Other colonies in n.e. California seemed okay (BED). At Bridgeport L., *Mono*, there were 118 W. Grebe nests and 4 of "Clark's" Grebe. Of pairs on the lake, many were Westerns, 2 were Clark's, and none was mixed (RS *et al.*). Twenty non-breeding individuals at Corcoran Irrigation District Ponds, *Kings*, July 1 were all "Clark's" (GG). Three "Clark's" at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, June 8 represented the 2nd summer record for the county (DR), but few people have looked for this "new" species more than a few years.



A Laysan Albatross was reported 9 mi w. of Pt. Reyes May 27 (BW, *vide* GSL). Northern Fulmars were unusually numerous for summer, with 10 on trips beyond the Cordell Banks, *Marin*, June 23 & 30 and up to five on most Monterey area trips (DLS, AB). A Solander's Petrel was reported 15 mi w. of F.I., June 3 (DGA, LS), but we have received no details. Six probable **Cook's Petrels** were off the Continental Shelf s.w. of Cordell Banks June 23 (+REW, +JML, +JM, +ph. DR, +BDP, DLS). Based on precedent (*e.g.*, the Nov. 17, 1983 Santa Cruz specimen) and known range at sea, these were most probably Cook's Petrels, but to rule out the very similar *Pterodroma defillipiana* or even *P. pycrofti* will require more research. Another "Cookilaria" petrel was seen 15 mi w.n.w. of Pt. Pinos July 13 (JM). No species identification was possible.

Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were off Monterey July 13 (JM, ph. SFB, DLS) and beyond F.I., July 7 (KH, DY). A rather early Buller's Shearwater was also beyond F.I., July 7 (JM, DY).



Virtually all feeding by the 1,000,000+ Sooty Shearwaters in Monterey Bay was done on the *Santa Cruz* side, especially inshore (DLS, AB). Black-vented Shearwaters arrived astoundingly early, with three to six near F.I., June 16 & 30 (TJ, *fide Gull*) and in Monterey Bay June 29 and July 13 (AB, SFB, DLS). A Townsend's Shearwater was reported following a boat from Cordell Banks to 15 mi w. of *Marin* June 16 (DGA, LS), but we have received no details.

Up to 50 Fork-tailed and 43 Leach's storm-petrels were estimated beyond Cordell Banks June 23 (AB, DLS). Thirty Leach's were 20-25 mi w. of the Monterey Peninsula July 11 (RT, *fide DLS*). These observations reflected our exploration of waters farther offshore. Over 1000 Leach's showed "considerable nesting activity" at Tepuna and Button Rocks in Trinidad Bay, *Humboldt* (GSL *et al.*).

Brown Pelicans peaked at 592 on F.I., July 2 (P.R.B.O.). The largest known roost for this species inside San Francisco Bay is the breakwater island at Alameda Naval Air Station, where there were 630 July 7 (SFB, LDC). About twice as many Brandt's and Pelagic cormorants nested at Pt. Lobos as in 1984. Both had great success, e.g., 700 Brandt's nests with large young June 30 (AB).

**HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Single Least Bitterns near Glenn June 4 and at Little Butte Cr. marsh, *Butte*, July 14 were away from traditional C.V. locations (JS), but more unusual was one at 8000 ft in the Sierra Nevada at June L., *Mono*, June 3 (LRB). Fifteen Great Egrets at L. Almanor July 30 (DAA) represented an exceptional concentration for this mountain location. For the 8th summer in a row, Little Blue Herons frequented south S.F. Bay with one or more adults present at Palo Alto/Mt. View July 28-Aug. 3 (*fide WGB; fide Gull*). To follow up Cattle Egret sightings from the spring report: 3 nests were located in the large heronry at Oroville W.A., May 1 (JS) for the first confirmed *Butte* nesting (suspected there in 1984), and 3 pairs at the Woodland sugar ponds, *Yolo*, had all fledged young by July 18 (TB). At *Humboldt Bay* 100+ summered in the Arcata Bottoms (GSL *et al.*) but surprisingly there has been no evidence of nesting there since 1980. One in alternate plumage at Tule Lake N.W.R., June 16 (MR) was not unprecedented for the Klamath Basin in summer.

White-faced Ibises continued to make news in regaining old territory and warming the hearts of many observers. The first *Siskiyou* nesting in 25 years was established by 12 nests in 2 colonies at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (SS *et al.*). Seven at Goose L., *Modoc*, June 5 were the first there in 12 years of surveys (BED). Nesting has been suspected for several years at Colusa N.W.R., but was confirmed this year when 28 nests with young and 100 birds were found June 21 (*fide BED*). At the Woodland sugar ponds 55-60 were seen June 15 with 8-10 nesting pairs noted the following day and 16 young present by July 21 (T & AM, TB *et al.*). Two imm. **Wood Storks** at San Luis N.W.R., *Merced*, "most of July" to Aug. 1 (JM *et al.*; *fide Gull*) were exceptionally rare dispersants to our Region.

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks are always of note in this Region, especially in light of their recent scarcity in s. California; two were reported from the Tulare L. basin, *Kings*, July 19 (GG). The following unseasonal geese were capable of flight and thus presumably healthy: two Greater White-fronteds overwintering at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (MR *et al.*); three Snows overwintering at Tule Lake N.W.R. (MR *et al.*), and one in the Tulare L. basin June 25 (GG); a Ross' at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 17 (SS); a Brant in the Tulare L. basin July 2-19 (GG) for the first summer record from the interior of the Region; and two "Cackling" Canada Geese (*B. c. minima*) overwintering at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (MR *et al.*). A Greater White-fronted Goose in the Tulare L. basin July 2 (GG) and five Aleutian Canada Geese (*B. c. leucopareia*) on Castle Rock, *Del Norte*, July 7 (PFS) were not seen in flight but otherwise appeared healthy. Additional "crippled geese" overwintering in the Klamath Basin were not reported to us in any detail.

An eclipse ♂ Wood Duck at Bridgeport Res., June 18 (RS) was out of place. The newly "discovered" Las Gallinas sewage ponds in Novato hosted a ♀ N. Shoveler with three young July 7 (DAH) for heavily-worked *Marin*'s first breeding record. A pair of Redheads at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara*, June 7 further suggested continued nesting on south S.F. Bay; at least 2 pairs were said to have nested nearby in 1984 (all *fide WGB*). Near L. Earl in coastal *Del Norte*, Ring-necked Ducks were confirmed nesting for the 2nd consecutive year when a female with 10 small ducklings was seen July 7 (PFS). Two additional pairs and another male were on L. Earl the same day (PFS). A ♂ Greater Scaup reported with scant details from the Tulare sewer farm July 10 (GG) would represent the first C.V. summer record if correct.

Oldsquaws were reported for the 6th consecutive summer: a male at Moss Landing June 8-July 22 (DR *et al.*) and a female at the Salinas R. mouth June 7-July 22 (JL, DGe *et al.*). A count of 390 Surf Scoters at Pt. Reyes June 3 (LCB) gave some indication of how numerous this species can be on the California coast in summer, but even higher numbers are on file. At Eagle L., *Lassen*, an ad. ♂ White-winged Scoter well seen June 22 (OJK) established the first inland summer record for the Region. *San Mateo*'s first summer Com. Mergansers were four immatures at Pescadero Marsh July 31 (PJM), but two to three Red-breasted Mergansers at Mono L., June 15 (HG, PJM) were preceded by 2 June records there (see also this spring's report).

**VULTURES THROUGH CRANES** — Reports of single ad California Condors in s.w. *San Mateo* in late May and near Watsonville, *Santa Cruz*, in early June (*fide BGE*) were received with few or no details and must therefore be questioned. A pair of Ospreys nesting on tufa at fishless Mono L. in June (HG, RS *et al.*) were apparently subsisting on trout from nearby Rush Cr. Good news from L. Almanor was that 83% of 34 Osprey nests occupied were successful (DAA). Bald Eagles, however, suffered their 2nd consecutive year of poor production at L. Almanor (DAA) and apparently nearly all nestings in n.e. *Shasta* failed this year (*fide DAA*). On the coast, an immature at Crescent City June 12 (ADB) provided *Del Norte*'s first summer record.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Palomar July 22 (DDeS, P.R.B.O.) and a Cooper's Hawk at Pacific Grove July 27 (DR) were the earliest reported fall dispersants. A pair of N. Goshawks again nested near Branscomb, *Mendocino* (*fide JSt*); nesting was first detected at this low-elevation, nearly-coastal site in 1977. Seven goshawk nests in a population involved in a long-term banding study in the McCloud, *Siskiyou*, area averaged 3.0 young each (PhD). A Merlin reported from the Tulare L. basin July 23 (GG) added to a number of sight records dating from early in the century and spanning the period between late May and late August, when established records end and begin. The brief details provided suggest this bird was correctly identified, but in our opinion no unequivocal June/July record exists for California.

Industrialization of the Mountain View shoreline (more specifically the runoff from industry air conditioners) is apparently creating habitat for freshwater marsh species. Calling Virginia Rails and Soras at Mt. View Forebay June 1 provided the first local summer records (*fide WGB*). A Com. Moorhen just n. of the Gualala R. mouth June 8 (BDP) furnished one of very few *Mendocino* records. A Sandhill Crane on the C.V. floor 6 mi w. of Gridley June 7 provided the 2nd June *Butte* record in 3 years (*fide BED*).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Shorebirds are conspicuous and easily monitored at prime locations so that actual movements through an area can often be very accurately determined, a fact put to much use in the accounts which follow. A flock of nine Black-bellied Plovers at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 16 contained one Lesser Golden-Plover (*P. d. dominica*) in partial alternate

plumage (MR); all were apparently northbound migrants (see comments under "peeps" below). Well over 100 pairs of Snowy Plovers were found nesting in the Tulare L. basin (GG), an area all but omitted from the statewide survey of this species in 1977 and 1978 (*W. Birds* 12:1-40). Semipalmated Plovers were again seen throughout June at Crescent City but peaked at nine June 16 (northbound?—see below; RAE *et al.*). Black-necked Stilts continued to increase in the Region with an impressive jump in the breeding range to Humboldt Bay this year. Two pairs were found in Eureka June 13 (GSL) and their nests were located June 26 & 29 (RAE, GJS, GSL *et al.*). Six young were fledged and dispersed N to Arcata in August with the adults (GSL *et al.*). *Del Norte's* first June Greater Yellowlegs records were as follows: singles at well-covered Crescent City harbor June 2 & 9-11 and at the Smith R. estuary June 24, with two at the harbor June 25 (RAE *et al.*). The former two birds were believed northbound and the latter three southbound. The following were also believed southbound: two at Eureka June 26 (RAE *et al.*), two at Charleston Slough July 1 (WGB), one at the Tulare sewer farm July 1 (GG), one near Galt, *Sacramento*, July 4 (T & AM), and one Lesser Yellowlegs at Eureka June 26 (RAE *et al.*). The degree of "random wandering" among summer shorebirds is, however, unknown.

The first returning Willets were two back at Crescent City harbor June 19 (GSL, GJS) and small numbers were present in the Tulare L. basin after June 20 (not checked earlier; GG). A Wandering Tattler s. of Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, June 18 (DSc) was difficult to assign direction to, but fell toward the start of the June 12-July 7 gap in records this year at F.I. Whimbrels regularly summer along the coast but records of up to five overwintering at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (SS *et al.*) and one near Nelson, *Butte*, June 27 (JS) were unexpected. Long-billed Curlews heavily use the s. San Joaquin Valley; this year 307 were in the Tulare L. basin as early as June 26 and 1500 were near Corcoran July 26 (GG). Was one at the Stockton sewage ponds June 15 (KS) overwintering in the Region? Small numbers of Marbled Godwits were present in the Tulare L. basin from June 20 on (not checked earlier; GG) where a few overwinter at least occasionally (present from late May through June in 1983—KH, RH). One Marbled Godwit was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 13 (SS) and one at Crescent City June 16 (ADB) was assumed to be a southbound migrant, but note its connection with several apparent northbound migrants at the same time and place. Unlike the others, however, this is not an arctic-nesting species.

The only inland Sanderling reported was at the Tulare L. basin July 31 (GG). The season's first Semipalmated Sandpipers were an adult at Eureka July 22-26 and a juvenile at Ft. Bragg July 30, *Mendocino's* first (both JSt). Two Western and one Least sandpiper and two Dunlins at Crescent City appeared during the mini-wave of shorebirds June 16 (ADB, RAE). The former 2 species might have been assumed early southbound migrants but few would suggest that of the latter. Most likely all were tardy northbound birds. This of course leaves out in the cold an alternate-plumaged Least Sandpiper June 18 at the Stockton sewage ponds (DY). As long as we are dealing with probabilities, some records will go unresolved. Single ad. Baird's Sandpipers were at Moss Landing July 8 (†DGe) and Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 17 (MR); juveniles appeared by the end of the month. An alternate-plumaged Stilt Sandpiper was at Arcata July 10-17 (F. Broerman *et al.*) and another of this very rare species (in our Region) was at Limantour Estero, *Marin*, July 19-20 (*fide Gull*).

The only June dowitcher reports were of a Short-billed on L. Earl June 12 (ADB) and a Long-billed at Eureka June 26 (RAE, GSL, GJS), both in alternate plumage but presumably heading in opposite directions. For the 5th year in a row, migrant Com. Snipes first appeared in July with singles at F.I., July 18 & 24, Tulare L. basin July 23 (GG), and the Bolinas sewage ponds July 28 (DAH); the main arrival is not until September. The best year on record for Wilson's Phalaropes on the n. coast continued with at least five seen in *Del Norte* (including a pair June 12-20

near Ft. Dick suggesting possible breeding—RAE, GSL, GJS) and eight in *Humboldt* (JSt *et al.*). Ten at Bodega Bay July 13 (NTC) was also a notable concentration, and farther s., 400+ were at Moss Landing by June 25 (DGe). Inland, 2 pairs were defending territories near Richvale, *Butte*, June 25 as was first noted in 1982 (JS) and nearly 12,000 were in the Tulare L. basin July 11 (GG). The last noted northbound Red-necked Phalarope was at Crescent City June 10 (ADB).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS**—Up to three Pomarine Jaegers were found in the Cordell Banks area June 23 and off *Monterey* June 29 and July 28 (AB, DLS). South Polar Skuas appeared in unprecedented numbers for summer. Three were beyond Cordell Banks June 23 (DR, DLS *et al.*) and one was there July 25 (RS, JW). Off *Monterey*, singles were seen June 29 and July 1, and four were counted July 28 (DLS, AB).

Two first-summer Mew Gulls were at Crescent City Harbor June 1-16 & 9-14 (RAE, GSL, ADB). At Goose L., *Modoc*, high water covered a California Gull colony's island and only a fraction of the pairs nested on a nearby peninsula (BED). Conversely, California Gulls continued to increase at Lower Klamath N.W.R. and they achieved "outstanding" success this year. "Several thousand juveniles could be seen from the tour route . . . mid-June through July" (MR, m.ob.). A first-summer Glaucous Gull roamed around Crescent City June 20-21 (GJS, GSL, ADB). Perhaps it was the same bird seen there May 14. Seven Sabine's Gulls were beyond Cordell Banks June 23, and eight were off *Monterey* July 28 (AB, DLS, REW). These numbers are surprising for these dates but may become less so as summer pelagic birding becomes more thorough. An oiled Sabine's Gull was near F.I., June 16.

A breeding-plumaged, unbanded Swallow-tailed Gull appeared at Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove, June 6-7 (†AB, ph. †m.ob.). This fantastic bird roosted on the rocks by day,



Swallow-tailed Gull at Moss Landing, Cal., June 8, 1985. Photo/Ed Harper.



Swallow-tailed Gull at Hopkins Marine Station, Cal., June 7, 1985. Photo/Peter M. LaTourrette.

became more active late in the day, and presumably flew out to sea at night to feed, returning about 7:30 a.m. on June 7. It was rediscovered at Moss Landing June 8 (ph. EH, †REW). The origin of this gull was predictably controversial. Theories ranged from a delayed result of El Niño to ship-assisted passage.

The new Caspian Tern colony at Alameda Naval Air Station produced at least 100 fledglings (LDC). About 400 pairs nested at the S. Evaporation Basins, *Kings* (GG). Caspian Terns at Goose L. suffered the same fate as the California Gulls (see above) (BED). Two ad. Com. Terns at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 1 provided the first spring record for *Siskiyou* (RE, CY). Two Arctic Terns (adult and first-summer) beyond Cordell Banks June 23 (DR, DLS) were unexpected. Least Terns experienced their 2nd-best reproductive success since intensive monitoring and colony protection began. Results were: Alameda Naval Air Station 52-53 pairs, 35-60 (probably about 57) fledglings; Oakland Airport 10-14 pairs, 8-10 fledglings; W. Pittsburg, *Contra Costa*, 3-4 pairs, three to four fledglings. The only other known nesting attempts were single failed nests at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, *Alameda*, and the Baumberg Tract, Hayward (all LDC). An ad. Least Tern strayed inland to Stockton sewage ponds June 13-14, as one did in 1984 (†DY). Another ad. Least Tern visited Crescent City Harbor June 23 for the first *Del Norte* record (†ADB *et al.*).

Survival of juv. Com. Murres and Pigeon Guillemots was very high in *Monterey* (AB). A Com. Murre was found apparently wire-killed about 3 mi inland from Crescent City during foggy weather (ADB). As many as 15 Xantus' Murrelets were as far n. as the Cordell Banks area as early as June 23 (AB, DLS), and smaller numbers persisted off *Monterey* and *Marin*. A foraging flock of 2000 Cassin's Auklets over the w. slope of Cordell Banks June 23 (AB, DLS) presumably represented F.I. breeders. An unusual number of Rhinoceros Auklets summered. Peak counts offshore were 35 in the Cordell Banks area June 23 and 40 off *Monterey* July 28 (DLS *et al.*). Four or five Tufted Puffins were reported offshore. Five more **Horned Puffins** delighted observers: 5 mi off Pt. Arena *Mendocino* June 21 (BW, *fide* GSL), two n.e. of the Cordell Banks, *Sonoma* (first county record) and *Marin* June 23 (BLaB, †ph. DR *et al.*), 0.6 mi off Jade Cove, *Monterey*, June 28 (*fide* AB), and *Monterey Bay* June 29 (DLS *et al.*).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Yellow-billed Cuckoos are now known only as rare Sacramento Valley breeders and coastal vagrants in our Region. This summer singles were discovered on territory at 4 new locales: along the Sacramento R., *Tehama* (June 25), in The Nature Conservancy's Ox-bow Preserve, *Glenn* (July 1), by Butte City, *Glenn* (July 17; all 3 locales, JS), and at the Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary, *Sutter* (June 13, EH). One was at Bidwell S.P., *Butte* (July 4, KLH and July 27, BDP), where last reported in 1977. Coastally, one at Atherton June 30 (†M. Rothkopf, *fide* WGB) provided a 4th record for *San Mateo*.

New information on Flammulated Owls continues to accumulate. In *Humboldt*, where they have been considered rare and local, five were noted s.e. of Orleans June 27 (RAE *et al.*) and "many" were in the Buck Mt. area "this year" (J. Brack, *fide* RAE). A Burrowing Owl on F.I., June 14 was seasonally exceptional, most for there being fall/winter birds. No Short-eared Owls were reported for the first summer in 10+ years; I am unaware of any formal efforts to study or manage this vanishing species in our Region. A Lesser Nighthawk at outer Pt. Reyes June 19 (JM) was near the peak of our 45+ coastal vagrant records, but a Com. Nighthawk there June 11 (†RS), for a first or 2nd *Marin* record, simply had too little precedent on the s. or c. coast to allow interpretation. Welcome were breeding confirmations for Black Swifts in 2 new areas: two to six entering nest sites at Grizzly L., *Trinity*, June 20-22 (DAH), and a pair at a closely-examined nest on Nobe Young Cr., *Tulare*, June 9 (JdL). Both were apparently first definite breeding records for their counties. Aside from a very few summer sightings in the last 10 years, Vaux's Swifts are known in our Great Basin/e. Sierran

areas only as rare spring migrants, so 4 records there suggestive of breeding were exciting news: 10 ± at Thoms Cr. and Hwy 299, *Modoc*, June 5 (JG), one at Clear Cr., s.w. *Lassen*, July 13 (JH), two to three over Clear L., *Modoc*, July 15 (DS, DB), and seven at the Paha Campground near Bridgeport July 20 (HG). Additionally, courtship flight over the Big Sur R. mouth June 8 (DR) implied breeding well s. of the established range; it is interesting in light of these observations to recall the recent increase of winter sightings (see last winter's report). White-throated Swifts fledged four young at Tule Lake N.W.R. in mid-July (MR *et al.*) for the "first definite record for *Siskiyou* in 50 years. First recorded nesting ever in this county."

A late report is of California's first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, a male at Sagehen Cr. near Truckee, *Nevada*, May 15, 1984 (\*Univ. Calif. at Davis, *fide* BDP). This record has been accepted by the C.B.R.C. In light of this record, a "♀" hummingbird reported from Mono L. County P., July 15 as Black-chinned (PJM; no details) is best treated as *Archilochus* sp. An imm. ♂ Costa's Hummingbird in Santa Cruz July 15-19 (BS, *fide* BLaB) provided a first definite county record; others at Palomarin July 12 (banded) and Killgore Hills, *Siskiyou* (imm. male; RE) were also displaced.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — A W. Wood-Pewee at the Mokelumne Sink Hunt Club July 4 (TM *et al.*) was apparently noteworthy because, surprisingly, there are no nest records in Sacramento, although they breed to the n., s., and w. in the C.V. Three singing Willow Flycatchers at separate locales in *Del Norte* (RST, JSt, GSL *et al.*) were on territory; RAE stated, "we continue to flirt with a nest record here." The species was also reported from several spots in its more expected interior mountain/Great Basin range. Least Flycatchers could *not* be refound at last year's nest area (Thoms Cr., *Modoc*), despite a good search June 2-8 (JG). A Black Phoebe at Mono L., July 4 (DS *et al.*) had only a few spring sightings as precedent there. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Crane Flat, Yosemite N.P., June 12 was exceptional at 6000 ft (RoM), as was the one July 27 on the L. Almanor Pen. (DAA: "I had never found one here in 5+ years."). A strong showing of Ash-throateds for *Del Norte* continued from the spring period, the total reaching eight to 10, May 9 through June 14 (RAE, m.ob.). A remarkable *seven to nine* E. Kingbirds included one or 2 pairs at traditional breeding spots in *Siskiyou* (KLH, RE *et al.*), one interior vagrant in the Mineral King Valley July 8 (†LLN) for a first Sequoia N.P. (and *Tulare*?) record, and *four* coastal vagrants: outer Pt. Reyes June 2 (*fide* Gull), 12-13 (JM; *fide* Gull), & 30 (*fide* Gull), and Dry Lagoon, *Humboldt*, June 26 (J. Hewston *et al.*, *fide* JSt).

Encouraging were Purple Martin reports from 11 locales through the Region. Those away from established, current breeding sites included one June 2 on the Even Cheaper Thrills Spring Bird Count (*Marin/Sonoma*, *fide* DS), two June 8 on Hatchet Mountain Rd., *Shasta* (B & CY *et al.*), 10 July 14 at Cassel, *Shasta* (S. Brown, *fide* BY: "evidence nested in martin house"), two July 14 on the w. side of Eagle L., *Lassen* ("♂ & ♀ at nest hole"—DS, DB) and one or more July 26 over San Jose (PF, *fide* WGB), the latter probably a dispersant, not a local breeder. Away from the Great Basin the high elevation record for nesting Cliff Swallows was apparently at Hetch Hetchy Dam, *Tuolumne* (3800 ft), but this year several pairs nested on the dam at L. Van Norden, *Nevada* (July 6, TB *et al.*), at 6700 ft! Several pairs of Barn Swallows nesting there (TB *et al.*, same day) were almost as unprecedented, although they are possibly occasional nesters through much of the Sierra.

No evidence of a Clark's Nutcracker invasion remained, except for one June 21 near Long L. in extreme w.-c. *Plumas*. "In an area not known to be inhabited by this species during the breeding season" (JS), and another June 8 at only 4500 ft elevation on Hatchet Mountain Rd., *Shasta* (B & CY *et al.*). House Wrens are among our most common upslope, post-breeding dispersants, but three together June 22 n. of Harden L., Yosemite N.P., at 7400 ft (WGB) were a month earlier than usual for the species at such height.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet June 14-18 was studied closely on outer Pt. Reyes (LCB), there is but *one* other acceptable lowland record for the Region between June 4 and Aug. 14 (AB 35:976). Forty Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the Even Cheaper Thrills Spring Bird Count June 2 in *Marin* & *Sonoma* (fide DS) was more than twice the previous 7-yr. average; 93 on the Palo Alto Spring Bird Count June 1 (fide CB) was a new high. A Hermit Thrush on outer Pt. Reyes June 23 (RS) had tan sides and flanks and brown breast spotting, and like last year's similar spring bird was probably from an e. population (*C. g. faxoni* racial group). A ♀ **Gray Catbird** on F.I., June 24 (with a brood patch!) (†JPe—P.R.B.O.) was less than a month later than our last record, also on F.I.

Unlike many spring migrants whose movements display military precision, Cedar Waxwings straggle irregularly from their winter areas, with a few normally reported there into June. Rarely, singles and small flocks probably oversummer away from their "normal" breeding range, as indicated by 4 records this summer: two or more seen June 1-July 10 at Fall River Mills, *Shasta* (S. Brown, fide BY), 12 July 6 over Lafayette, *Contra Costa* (LF), one July 20 at Baum L., *Shasta* (B. Peck, fide BY), and four July 24 over the Gualala R. mouth, *Sonoma/Mendocino* (LCB). A ♀ Phainopepla feeding nestlings in Almaden July 8 (JMa) apparently gave us a first *Santa Clara* breeding record (fide WGB). A singing Hutton's Vireo June 6 at Caswell S.P., San Joaquin, was noteworthy, as it was reported the species was formerly known to nest there (DY). Two Warbling Vireos arriving on F.I., June 21 were the first ever noted there between June 6 and July 20 and could easily have been e. vagrants; hopefully they were carefully measured (wing chord, bill size, etc.). At Lodi L. in *San Joaquin*, a singing Warbling Vireo July 12 preceded a sighting of two juveniles there by 13 days (both DY), strongly implying breeding for the C.V. floor, where they once bred regularly. All four Red-eyed Vireos, June 10-23, were coastal, one-day-only birds.

**WARBLERS**— Three Tennessee Warblers were on the immediate coast June 20-22, while one along San Francisquito Cr., on the *San Mateo/Santa Clara* line June 1 (†DSu) had but one precedent on the *Santa Clara* side (more in *San Mateo*). Single Orange-crowned Warblers June 7 at Reichmuth P. (TM) and June 14 at Durham Ferry (DY) were non- or post-breeding wanderers (see Gaines, *Birds of Yosemite*, 1977). Of nine N. Parulas (our best-ever showing in June/July), five were females on F.I., arriving June 12 or 24, and 2 pairs were located: Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore Headquarters June 1-4 (male to June 28; fide Gull, LCB, DAH, m.ob.), and Five Brooks Stables, 6 mi away, June 19 (female to June 29; RS and fide Gull). Nesting was apparently unproven for either pair. Nevertheless, taken with the last several years of sightings, it is clear a colony exists here; its size and viability remain in doubt, awaiting a birder with enough energy and curiosity to pursue the questions. In Menlo Park a ♂ Yellow Warbler was observed attending an active Am. Robin nest July 16 (B. Groce, fide WGB), staying to help feed the nestlings through fledging. This is apparently not so rare as one might expect (see Terres, *Audubon Society Encyclopedia of N. Am. Birds*, 1980, under "Helpers Among Birds").

Of five Chestnut-sided Warblers, all coastal, June 2-23, one singing near Branscomb, *Mendocino*, June 2-16 (†CaB) was probably territorial. Two Magnolia Warblers were on F.I., June 12, and a singing male at Foothill College, June 13 (†DSu) was a first for *Santa Clara*. A ♀ Cape May Warbler visited F.I., June 22, but a male July 13 at Pumice Flat Campground, *Madera*, at 7700 ft (MC) provided the Region's first record away from the immediate coast. A ♀ "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler was on outer Pt. Reyes June 20 (RS). Three Black-throated Gray Warblers at Bridalveil Campground, Yosemite N.P. (7000 ft), June 20 (JML) were far upslope for such an early date. A Blackburnian Warbler stopped in at outer Pt. Reyes June 13 (fide Gull). A report of a Prairie Warbler June 1-2 at Dehavin Cr. mouth, *Mendocino*

(JSt *et al.*, no details) would furnish a first-ever spring record for the Region, *if documented*. Note that the 3 spring records for California are all from the far interior; a July 19, 1973 *Monterey* report cited in Roberson, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*, 1980, is in my opinion best considered an early "fall" record. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was on F.I., June 23; our recent average for the period is three to four. Three Black-and-white Warblers June 12-July 3 was a little low.

American Redstarts (up to 15+) were noted in the summers of 1980, 1981, and 1982 at the mouth of the Klamath R., *Del Norte* (GSL, RAE *et al.*) without breeding confirmation; the site was not checked in 1983 or 1984. This year four or more adults (including territorial males) were noted June 23-July 21, and on the latter date a female was accompanied by a juvenile (ADB, RE, MR)—first *Del Norte* breeding proof, and 4th for the Region (AB 26:898, 34:928, and 36:1014—juvenile banded July 6, 1982). Another female summered in Salinas June 28 to late July (BG *et al.*). Quite impressive were 10 Ovenbirds; nine were coastal June 12-29, and one singing June 1 at Monte Bello O.S.P. (†PN) was a first for *Santa Clara*. The only N. Waterthrush was at Searsville L., *San Mateo*, July 29-30 (†B & JC). In comment about his discovery of a singing Com. Yellowthroat at Moke-lumne Sink Hunt Club July 4, TM noted the species is now a "very rare breeder in *Sacramento* away from the (*Sacramento R.*) Delta." Of six Hooded Warblers, all coastal (our average for the period is about two), at least two summered: Patrick's Point S.P., June 10-Aug. 17 (†EM *et al.*), and Tomales Bay S.P., June 15-28 (KLH, JM, m.ob.; fide Gull).

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES** — Three Summer Tanagers were noted coastally: June 6-7 (DR) and June 24 (M. Nelson, fide DR), both Pacific Grove, and July 19 in Berkeley (fide Gull). Thirteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the period was average. Two were away from the immediate coast: June 28 and July 1, Los Gatos (J. DuBois, fide WGB), and Nicasio, *Marin*, June 2 (JE). A male and a female together July 14, 10 ± mi n. of Gualala, *Mendocino* (fide Gull), raised the question of breeding, as yet undiscovered in our Region. A singing Black-headed Grosbeak June 22 n. of Harden L., Yosemite N.P. (WGB), was at the high elevation of 7400 ft, and a first-year ♂ Blue Grosbeak singing June 16 at Briones Regional P., *Contra Costa* (fide Gull) was displaced a little west. All of the six or seven Indigo Buntings, June 7-July 28, were coastward. A ♀ Dickcissel on F.I., June 19 was a rare straggler; there are only about 2 dozen records Regionally, all coastal (about half on F.I.).

A Rufous-crowned Sparrow singing on Old La Honda Rd., *San Mateo*, June 1 and July 20 (WGB *et al.*) was at the site of the earlier county records; the species is probably regular there. One Clay-colored Sparrow was at F.I., June 12, whence have come all but 2 of the Region's May/June records. Black-chinned Sparrows were reported from 5 locales in June (4 locales repeats from last year's strong showing), but breeding was apparently not documented (or looked for?). It was documented for the Vesper Sparrows noted n. of L. Talawa for the last several summers, when two adults accompanying three young there July 7 (PFS) added to *Del Norte's* breeding bird list. A juv. Black-throated Sparrow found dead at the Ash Mt. Administration Building in the chaparral foothills of Sequoia N.P., *Tulare*, July 23 (†LLN) furnished the park's 8th record. This is far from known breeding sites. Four Sage Sparrows July 1 & 19 were at the northernmost point of the range of *A. b. belli* at French Gulch, *Shasta* (BV). Three Grasshopper Sparrows June 1 along Alderpoint Rd., 5 ± mi e. of Garberville, *Humboldt* (RAE *et al.*) gave us a 5th June/July *Humboldt* locale reported in the last 10 years. This species is surely *not* just a casual breeder in that county (as listed in Harris, *Field Checklist of N.W. California Birds*, 1984). Along with records of 17+ Grasshopper Sparrows from *Santa Clara* this season (WGB, DSu *et al.*), WGB commented, "There are at least 3 colonies in *Santa Clara* now, and probably many more (would be found) if we searched appropriate habitat." One at Foresta June 15 (RS) furnished a first Yosemite N.P. record.

An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow in non-breeding plumage July 1 at the Killgore Hills, *Siskiyou* (RE), was the Region's 3rd for July. A black-lored White-crowned Sparrow was on F.I., June 24, with the only spring precedents there singles May 31, 1973 and July 1, 1968. Either *Z. l. leucophrys* (eastern U.S.) or *oriantha* (Sierra, Cascades, etc.) is possible, but I favor the former; the bird arrived the same day as a Gray Catbird and two N. Parulas, with typical e. vagrant timing. Observers are strongly encouraged to watch for black-lored White-crowneds in the lowlands; their status there is poorly known, but they do occur.

Bobolinks were noted as follows: a male June 18-22 at Palomar, a female June 30 at Las Gallinas sewage ponds, *Marin* (*fide* Gull) and a male July 8 near Callahan, *Siskiyou* (R. Moore, *fide* MR); the latter bird was not present thereafter. A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird on outer Pt. Reyes June 21 (R. Wimpfheimer, DT, *fide* RS) furnished our latest-ever spring record for the coast; there are in fact only 4 other June records on file for the coast. Hooded Orioles continued to be well-reported through the Region [see last spring's report]. Notable were 40+ in the Arcata/Eureka area this season (S. Fitton, *fide* JSt) where there were only "a couple of reports prior to 1979." The huge irruption of Red Crossbills has clearly passed, with numbers after mid-June essentially "normal." Breeding was confirmed near Mammoth Crater in *Siskiyou* July 16 (DS, DB) with nest-building seen in a Jeffrey Pine, and just e. of Ebbetts Pass, *Alpine*, July 18 (RS), with adults feeding fledglings. Lawrence's Goldfinches not only quit their irruption, they went unreported except for a male July 21 at McGurk Meadow (7000 ft elevation!), Yosemite N.P. (+JML), and four along Mines Rd., *Alameda*, the same day (ALE)—a regular locale.

**ADDENDUM** — Received late was a report of *San Mateo's* 2nd-ever Bay-breasted Warbler: a male along Gazos Creek Rd., June 13, 1984 (+JMJ).

**CORRIGENDUM** — In last summer's report, the locale of the Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler should have been the Westwood sewage ponds [not "Wetwood"]. Note also that Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes has commented after examining this bird

that it is "clearly of the category called 'heterozygous Golden-wing' in my 1951 paper, with the genotype WsSpp (note that there is a typographical error in the caption to the plate in this paper; the heterozygous Golden-wing genotype is erroneously given as WsSsPP). This genotype can be obtained by various backcrosses, such as between an F<sub>1</sub> 'Brewster's' and a Golden-winged Warbler." I was thus incorrect in calling it a "Lawrence's" type.

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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

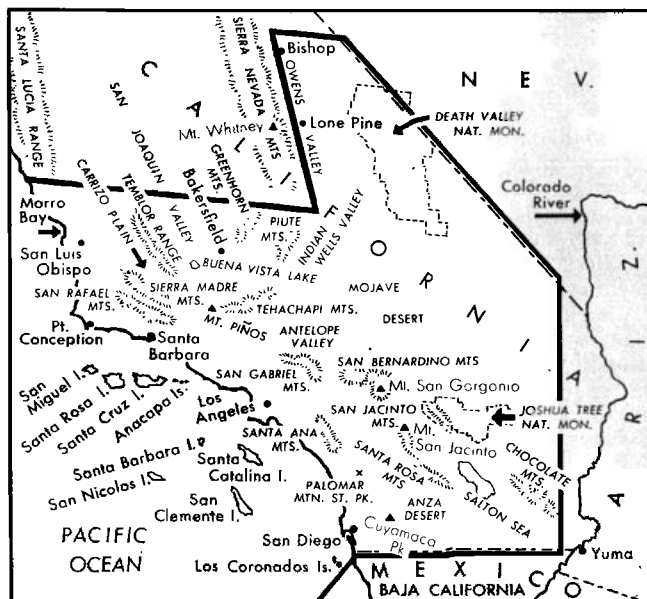
Guy McCaskie

The summer was uneventful with stable weather conditions and average temperatures for this time of the year. A scattering of rarities kept birders looking, but no significant movements or trends could be detected.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.; S.K.R.P. = South Kern River Preserve. As virtually all rarities found in s. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — A Com. Loon flying N over N.E.S.S., June 15 (GMcC) was obviously a very late spring migrant. A Horned Grebe at Bolsa Chica to at least July 10 (BED) was clearly attempting to summer locally; summer records of this species are few indeed. About 1000 Eared Grebes nesting on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. in June (RMcK) was a large number for a species considered to be a local and irregular breeder in s. California.

Brown Pelicans moved N out of the Gulf of California into the Salton Sea in force in early July with more than 100 present by



the end of the period (GMcC), one on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County June 1-5 (RH) and another on the Colorado R. n. of Blythe June 22 (SC) were both at unusual localities. An ad. **Olivaceous Cormorant** at N.E.S.S., July 27 + (DRW) was at the same place a similar bird was seen at this time of year in 1982 and 1983, and it is quite possible all sightings pertain to the same bird returning to this locality year after year. An early imm. Magnificent Frigatebird along the coast in Santa Barbara June 11 (JB) was followed by 7 sightings of single birds July 6-14 between San Diego and Santa Barbara, including one over Santa Catalina I., July 11 (JH); at the Salton Sea two were over Bombay Beach June 18 (RMcK) and four were at N.E.S.S., July 13 (GMcC), and elsewhere inland one was seen over Castaic Res., Los Angeles Co., July 18 (MCL).

Three pairs of Great Egrets successfully nested among breeding Great Blue Herons at Morro Bay this summer (TME); this is the only location on the coast of s. California where this species has been found nesting, and nesting there was unknown prior to 1982 (AB 36:1015). The presence of small numbers of Great Egrets in coastal Orange and San Diego counties for the 2nd summer (DRW, EC) indicated a change in this species' habit of evacuating this area during the breeding season, and observers are urged to watch for nesting in future years. Little Blue Herons again nested near Imperial Beach, with five adults and one active nest seen June 16 (EC); an immature at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., July 26 (DK) was probably one of the offspring from the Imperial Beach birds; the adult found in Carpinteria May 22 was present through Aug. 4 (JLD) and another adult was at S.E.S.S., June 26 (GEM). A Tricolored Heron at Bolsa Chica July 4 (LRH) was among a very few ever found on the coast in summer. Two White-faced Ibis near Cayucos June 25 (TME) were at an unusual locality.

**DUCKS, RAPTORS**— Two **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at S.E.S.S., May 28-June 22 (BH) established the 6th record for this species in s. California. Since documented occurrences of nesting Wood Ducks in s. California are few, the presence of 15 pairs with 8 broods at S.K.R.P. during June and July (SAL), and a female accompanying a juvenile at the Prado Basin, Riverside Co., July 2 (RAE), were of interest; two at Twitchell Res., Santa Barbara Co., July 17 (LB) and two more at Tapia Park in the Santa Monica Mts., June 27 (KLG) were noteworthy. One or two Canvasbacks, rare in s. California in summer, were on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. during June and July (REW, BED), and a female on Goose L., Kern Co., June 26 was accompanied by three young (GG). A flock of 250 Redheads on Baldwin L., June 29 (REW), 225 at N.E.S.S., June 29-30 (REW), and 125 at S.E.S.S., June 30 (REW) were unusually large concentrations. Four Ring-necked Ducks, rare in summer, were on Baldwin L., June 29 (REW), one was on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., through the period (KW), and another was on Otay L. near San Diego June 30 (KAH). A ♀ Greater Scaup at N.E.S.S., June 15 (GMcC) was among a very few ever found in summer. An Oldsquaw was present on Morro Bay all summer (GPS), one was at Marina del Rey June 4 (H & PB), another was near Oceanside June 2 (LRH), and a 4th was on San Diego Bay throughout June and July (RR). A ♀ Black Scoter, most unusual in summer, was on s. San Diego Bay during June and July (GMcC).

Attempts by 2 pairs of Ospreys to nest on L. Isabella, Kern Co., failed due to disturbances by boaters (RS). A Black-shouldered Kite at N.E.S.S., June 1 (CMcG) was at an unusual locality. A subad. Mississippi Kite at Blythe July 24 (TM) was the first to have been found in Riverside County. An ad. N. Goshawk near Twitchell Res., July 17 (LB) was at an unexpected lowland locality some distance from the nearest known nesting area. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk near Blythe June 3 (SC) was far outside the species' normal range. A Peregrine Falcon at N.E.S.S., July 15-21 (JO) and another at S.E.S.S., July 15 + (GMcC) were probably wanderers from the breeding population in the Gulf of California.

**PLOVERS THROUGH ALCIDS**— The presence of 75 adult and young Snowy Plovers around Tulare L., Kern Co., July 20 (MOC) indicated this species nested successfully there this summer. Two or three Black Oystercatchers on the breakwater at Marina del Rey during June and July (H & PB) were possibly nesting. A Willet at Klondike L. in the Owens Valley May 28 (SAL) acted as if it were defending a nest. A Surfbird on San Diego Bay June 12 (REW) was one of a very few ever found summering along the coast; two at N.E.S.S., June 8-15 (EAC) were inland where considered casual. Single ad. Red Knots at N.E.S.S., June 29 (REW) and July 16 (PEL) were early fall migrants. Two Baird's Sandpipers near Santa Maria July 20-29 (PEL) and another on L. Isabella July 29 (SAL) were the first of the fall migrants. An ad. Pectoral Sandpiper near Santa Maria July 20 was early. A Stilt Sandpiper at Tulare L., July 24 (GG) was the first to have been found in Kern County. A ♂ Ruff near Imperial Beach July 28 + (BMcN) was evidently the same bird present on s. San Diego Bay during the past 2 winters. Ten pairs of Com. Snipe at S.K.R.P. during June and July (SAL) were at the s. limit of this species' breeding range. Twenty to thirty thousand Wilson's Phalaropes around Tulare L., July 13-20 (MH) was a significant concentration.

One to two Parasitic Jaegers at N.E.S.S., July 13-20 (JML, GMcC) may well have been present most of the summer, having arrived in spring from the Gulf of California. Two ad. Franklin's Gulls at N.E.S.S., June 2-15 (JML) and a first-summer bird there June 29-July 27 (REW) were the only ones found. An ad. Heermann's Gull, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S., June 20 (CMcG) and up to two were on L. Henshaw July 5-7 (RH). A first-summer Mew Gull at N.E.S.S., June 29 (REW) and a 2nd-summer bird at the same location July 16 (PEL) both probably summered locally. Two Herring Gulls, remarkably rare in summer, were present at N.E.S.S. throughout most of the period.

An ad. Gull-billed Tern over s. San Diego Bay July 15 (EC) was the first to have been found along the coast of California, although the species breeds on the Salton Sea. A pair of Royal Terns was accompanying a large chick among nesting Elegant Terns on s. San Diego Bay June 12-15 (REW) to give one more of a very few positive nesting records in California. An ad. **Sandwich Tern** on s. San Diego Bay June 12-14 (REW) was believed to be the same bird present here in 1980 and 1982. Two Least Terns on Morro Bay July 20 (JMcD) were only the 2nd and 3rd to have been seen here in recent years. At least 150 pairs of Black Skimmers nested on s. San Diego Bay this summer (EC), and 10 pairs were on nests at Bolsa Chica at the end of the period (LRH) for the first occurrence of breeding n. of San Diego; Black Skimmers were few indeed on the Salton Sea through much of the summer, but a major influx in late July brought at least 400 to the area, with 350 attending nests at S.E.S.S., Aug. 14 (JML).

A Marbled Murrelet in Santa Barbara July 29 (BB) was s of the species' normal range.

**DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS**— Two Com. Ground-Doves near Carpinteria June 26 (TW) were at the extreme n w corner of the species' expanding range. Eighteen pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos at S.K.R.P. throughout the period (SAL) was a good number, but this is the only stronghold remaining in California; one in California City June 5 (MH) and another in Goleta June 18-25 (GT) were spring migrants/vagrants. Calling Flammulated Owls were heard at Tiger Flat, Greenhorn Mts., during June (MOC), an active nest was found at Buckhorn Campground, San Gabriel Mts., in June (KLG), one or two were heard at San Geronio Campground, San Bernardino Mts., in June (RMcK), and a pair was seen on Hot Springs Mt., San Diego Co., June 8 (PU); we still have much to learn about the status and distribution of this small secretive bird. Four to six Elf Owls nesting in an isolated mesquite thicket along the Colorado R. n. of Needles this summer (JML) were apparently the total population now left in California. The presence of three juv. N. Saw-whet Owls at Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel

Mts clearly documented successful nesting at that location

Calling Whip-poor-wills at the Arch Picnic Area in the San Gabriel Mts. in June (KLG), at Angeles Oaks in the San Bernardino Mts. all summer (REW), and at L. Fulmar in the San Jacinto Mts. in May and June (EAC) were believed to be breeding, but no nests or young have yet been found in California. Two Chimney Swifts in courtship flight over Deep Springs June 15-17 (PJM) may have nested locally, and up to 16 over downtown Los Angeles May 6+ (KLG) were in an area where small numbers are found each summer. Most unusual was a calling Vaux's Swift carefully identified over downtown Los Angeles June 26-28 (KLG); there are only 2 previous acceptable summer records for s. California, and these were from mountain localities.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Carpinteria June 20 (JEL) was in an area where breeding is unrecorded but should be looked for. A singing Dusky Flycatcher on Hot Springs Mt., June 8 (PU) was at the s. extreme of the species' breeding range. A Vermilion Flycatcher in Whitewater Canyon June 9-13 (DH) was away from any known nesting locality. A pair of Cassin's Kingbirds again nested along the Colorado R., n. of Blythe, fledging three young in June (SC). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was in Goleta June 30 (RAH) and another was at Big Pine July 31 (MCS). Most interesting were 3-4 pairs of Purple Martins nesting in a "bird house" placed on top of a large dead tree on Mt. Palomar in June (JR) as I know of no other instance of this species nesting in "bird houses" in California.

**JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS**— A Steller's Jay in Norwalk June 4 (JS) was in the lowlands where unexpected. A Red-breasted Nuthatch on Hot Springs Mt., June 8 (PU) was away from any known breeding locality but in suitable nesting habitat. A juv. House Wren near Seeley, Imperial Co., Aug. 4 (PU) had undoubtedly hatched locally; there were no previous nesting records for this area of California. An Am. Dipper in Whitewater Canyon July 24-26 (DH) was at an unusually low elevation. A juv. Am. Robin in Whitewater Canyon July 13 (DH) was believed to have been hatched locally; this species is establishing itself as a nesting species in many areas outside its "old" range, apparently encouraged by the presence of well-irrigated lawns, etc. A Bendire's Thrasher in Irvine July 21 (DRW) was the first to have been found in Orange County; this species departs early from its desert nesting range with small numbers straying to the coast each year. An ad. Water Pipit seen feeding young at San Geronio Peak June 18-19 (AK) was at the same place where s. California's only 2 nesting records occurred.

A pair of Bell's Vireos at Saticoy, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 14+ (SR) was in an area where previously unrecorded. Three to 4 pairs of Gray Vireos around Bob's Gap near Valyermo from April into June (KLG, BWK) were the first to have been found in Los Angeles County in many years. Five singing Solitary Vireos of the w. race *cassinii* w. of L. Hughs, Los Angeles Co., in June (KLG) were in ideal breeding habitat; an encouraging number for an apparently declining population. A Red-eyed Vireo at L. Fulmar in the San Jacinto Mts., June 16 (BMcI) was a late spring vagrant.

A Tennessee Warbler on Pt. Loma June 10 (REW) was a late spring vagrant. A Nashville Warbler at Green Valley Campground in the San Bernardino Mts., July 11 (BED) was in an area where breeding has long been suspected, but is yet to be proven. A ♂ N. Parula in Valyermo June 15 (JKA) was probably a late spring vagrant, but a pair at S.K.R.P., July 6 (SAL) may well have been summering. A Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler at California City July 3 (SAL) was most unusual considering the time of the year. A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler in Charmlee P., Santa Monica Mts., June 23 (KLG) was a summer straggler. An Am. Redstart that came aboard a boat off Cambria June 12 (JMcD) was clearly a late spring vagrant, as was a N. Waterthrush at Oasis June 16 (PJM). Up to six territorial MacGillivray's Warblers around Lopez L., San Luis Obispo Co., during May and June (CM) were at the species' s. limit of the breeding range along the coast; a pair in the Tehachapi Mts., July 15-16

(AK) were the first to have been found in this area in summer, and a juvenile at Humber P. in the San Jacinto Mts., July 20 (AK) indicated nesting at that locality. Up to three ad. Wilson's Warblers along with at least three juveniles near Carpinteria during June and July (LRB) suggested renewed breeding in an area where considered extirpated as a nester. A Painted Redstart at 6500 ft along Wildhorse Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts., June 23 (H & PB) added one more record to the ever-increasing number of sightings from s. California mountains in summer.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES**— A pair of Hepatic Tanagers again successfully nested along the upper portion of Arastre Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts. (EAC), and a female at Lower Shake Campground w. of L. Hughs June 8 (KLG) was in suitable nesting habitat, but was never refound on later dates. Thirty-five singing ♂ Summer Tanagers at S.K.R.P. (SAL), three at Valyermo (H & PB), a pair at Castaic Junction (KS), a pair at Yucca Valley (RMcK), 4 pairs at Morongo Valley (RMcK), 3 pairs in Whitewater Canyon (DH), and 5 pairs in the area of San Geronio Pass (RMcK) marked the w. limit of this species' breeding range in s. California; a male in Santa Barbara July 15-Aug. 4 (CB), a female in the Santa Monica Mts., July 12 (KLG), and a male and female on Pt. Loma June 15-16 (BLaB) were summer wanderers, probably of the e. race *rubra*. Two pairs of N. Cardinals along the Colorado R. at the San Bernardino/Riverside Co. line between April and July (JML, RAE) were believed to be the only ones now in California. Seven ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks found in various areas of s. California in June and July were more than usual for this time of year. Thirteen singing Indigo Buntings were located on the S.K.R.P. in June and July (SAL), indicating a healthy breeding population exists in this area; a singing male in the Prado Basin, Riverside Co., July 2 (RAE) was the only other one reported.

Two singing Rufous-crowned Sparrows in the Coxcomb Mts. of Joshua Tree N.M. in May (RMcK) were in an area where previously unrecorded, and were thought to be of the race *scottii*. A pair of Lincoln's Sparrows in the San Jacinto Mts., July 20 (AK) indicated this species continues to breed this far south. Great-tailed Grackles continued to spread W with a male at Whittier Narrows, Los Angeles Co., June 30 (MCL). A ♀ Bronzed Cowbird in Niland June 1-2 (BED), a male at Brock Ranch June 15 (JO), and a male in Brawley July 1 (RAE) were all in Imperial County w. of the Colorado R. valley. Up to two Red Crossbills, stragglers from last winter, remained in Long Beach through June and July (BED). A Pine Siskin at Los Osos June 9 (GPS) was in an area where breeding has long been suspected but has yet to be proven. Two Evening Grosbeaks at S.K.R.P., June 26 (SAL) came as a surprise considering the time of year

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## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

**D**ry and hot were the watchwords for Summer 1985 in Hawaii. June-July rainfall was below average at 22 stations and exceeded average at only eight. Summer warmth was intensified during periods of diminished trade winds. During one such period in mid-July, temperatures at Honolulu Airport equalled or surpassed the previous record high for the date on seven consecutive days.

**ABBREVIATIONS**—H. = Hawaii I.; K. = Kauai I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = Oahu I.; K.M.C.A.S. = Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Oahu; P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref.

**GREBES THROUGH COOTS** — The pair of Pied-billed Grebes at Aimakapa Pond, H., appeared with a 4-5 day old chick July 27 (RD). This evidently represented their 3rd nesting attempt there this year. The large juvenile hatched in early spring remained at the pond through the summer, but the nest with eggs found and photographed in early April apparently came to naught. Prior to this year the species had occurred in Hawaii only as a vagrant.

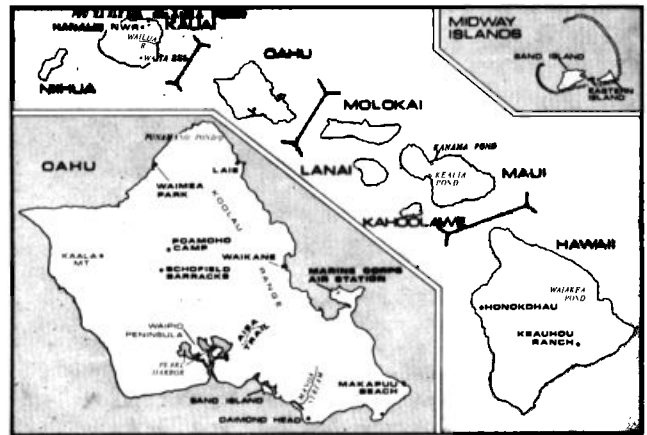
At Manana I., O., 6 active Bulwer's Petrel nests were found June 15 (JE), and at least seven chicks were known to have hatched there during June and July (JS). 'U'au (Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel, Endangered) and Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened) were both heard occasionally in the s. portion of the Alakai Swamp, K., during the U.S.F. & W.S. survey in mid-June (SM). The former are known from Kauai only by occasional fledglings turned in to the shearwater aid stations in fall. A Newell's Shearwater was watched for 3 minutes as it fluttered around street lights in a Honolulu residential area the evening of July 19 (AEn). This species is very rarely reported on Oahu.

Red-tailed Tropicbirds nesting on Manana I., O., had better fledging success this year. Of 11 nests found, 7 fledged young successfully and 2 others were still active at the end of July (JS). Five of 10 nests fledged successfully last year. At least 15 Black-crowned Night-Herons were on Manana I., June 15 (JE), an unusually high count. Also, at Aimakapa Pond, these herons have been preying more this year on coot nests (RD, see below).

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks produced at least 2 broods this summer at Kii and Amorion Ponds, O. (SBe, PD). One ad. Fulvous Whistling-Duck found at Kealia Pond, M., July 11 (SBe, TO) provided the first record of this species from Maui. The Canada Goose seen at Amorion Ponds, O., this spring was still there July 22 (PD), evidently overwintering.

Two Gray Francolins seen on Diamond Head near the Campbell Ave. end of Na La'au Trail July 14 (PD, RLP) and other sightings on the crater slope indicate that this small Oahu population is still flourishing. Two Com. Moorhens (Hawaiian Gallinules, Endangered) with five chicks were observed well July 6 in taro fields at the e. end of Hanalei Village, K. (SBI). Black-crowned Night-Herons were observed twice this summer raiding nests of Hawaiian (Am.) Coots (Endangered) at Aimakapa Pond, H. One coot spent several hours trying to get an egg back into its nest. Other nests were seen with dead chicks, possibly resulting from heron predation (RD).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS** — Reports of 150-175 Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (Endangered) at Waipio, O., in late July (PD) were good counts for recent years there. But these were well below the post-breeding numbers of a decade ago at this wetland where habitats are modified annually for sugar cane operations. Up to three Wandering Tattlers at Aimakapa Pond during July (RD, AEn) were possibly overwintering. But several Ruddy Turnstones in near breeding plumage there July 27 (RD) were presumably early fall migrants. From four to 10



Ruddies were seen at 4 Oahu localities during July (PD, JS). Several Sanderlings seen July 11 at Kealia Pond, M. (SBe, TO) were a significant mid-summer occurrence as this species is rarely reported overwintering in Hawaii.

Two Laughing Gulls in imm. plumage at Kanaha Pond, M., July 11 (SBe, TO) may have been the same birds reported there last spring. The same observers also found a summer-plumaged Laughing Gull at nearby Kealia Pond, M., on the same date. One Caspian Tern was last reported at Pa'akai Pond, K.M.C.A.S., July 5 (AEd). Single Least/Little Terns were at Kealia Pond, M., July 11 (imm.—SBe, TO) and at Waiawa Unit, P.H.N.W.R., July 19 (PD). Two were found at Pa'akai Pond during the statewide waterbird count July 30 (MM, RLP). Two adults with an immature observed during the summer at Pearl & Hermes Reef in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (SC) will be reported in detail elsewhere.

Sooty Terns returned to breed on Manana I., O., in increased numbers again this year (JS), and many were incubating eggs May 11 (fide JE). On June 15, young were fully fledged, but comprised only about 5% of the Sooty population (JE). Numbers had thinned considerably by July 28, still with a low proportion of juveniles (AN). All Sooties had departed by Aug. 24 (DH), an unusually early date. Brown Noddies were present on Manana I. in substantial numbers in May and June but the small breeding peak that has typically occurred early in the season was not evident this year as no recently-fledged young were seen in June (JS, JE). Increased numbers of spring-nesting Sooty Terns may have been a factor. However, normal summer nesting by Brown Noddies was under way by July 28 (AN), and eggs and chicks were present Aug. 24 (DH), although apparently in lower numbers than in recent years.

An unusual concentration of 150-200 Black Noddies was observed July 27 resting on rocks at the water's edge near Yokohama Beach, O. (JE). Only 2 eggs of White Tern were found in June on Johnston I., 2000 km s.w. of Oahu, when around 100 or so would normally be expected (RS).

**DOVES THROUGH CANARIES** — Mourning Doves were found in good numbers in June near Napo'opo'o, H. (FD). This species was introduced as a game bird several decades ago, and heretofore has been considered rare and local on the n. Kona coast of Hawaii I. A Pueo (Hawaiian Short-eared Owl) was found freshly dead (\*—BPBM 161857) July 7 on a street on the n. slope of Koko Crater in Hawaii Kai, O. (GM). This was the last locality in s.e. Oahu where this owl was occasionally seen, but with increasing residential development in the area it had been unreported there for at least 5 years. A Red-vented Bulbul seen clearly as it flew across the highway near Anahola, K., June 1 (AEn) provided the first report of this species on Kauai. Several



Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrushes were coming to a feeder in Lawai, K., regularly through the spring but were not seen after July 10 (RK). Four Yellow-fronted Canaries were found July 7 at Hinaka Crater above Kaloko Mauka on Hualalai Mt., H. (AEn).

**HAWAIIAN ENDEMIC FOREST BIRDS** — The U.S.F. & W.S. party surveying the s. Alakai area of Kauai in June (*vide* SM) reported sightings of all but one of the island's super-rare species, all Endangered. These included 2 observations of **Kamao** and 12-15 of **Puaiohi** (formerly the Kauai race of Hawaiian Thrush, and Small Kauai Thrush, respectively). One 'O'o'a'a was found again near the traditional site, and three 'O'u were recorded. The **Nuku-pu'u** observations by this party mentioned in last season's report comprised 3 separate sightings on June 11 & 13 (but not on the 12th) by 4 observers. The party did not find the Kauai 'Akialoa, a unique species last reported in 1965 which may be the first Kauai endemic (of those seen alive by western man) to have become extinct.

Following these Nuku-pu'u sightings and the one last season at the other end of the Alakai came still a 3rd report of Kauai Nuku-pu'u this year! This one was June 22 in the parking lot at Pu'u o Kila Lookout, well away from the Alakai area, where a bird was watched closely as it foraged on the underside of a large limb (TM).

The semi-annual survey of Palila (Endangered) on Mauna Kea, H., in July resulted in an estimated total population of

1850 birds, up markedly from the 1300 estimated last February. The July distribution was quite different from previous surveys, showing a partial population shift from the s.w. to the e. slopes of the mountain and also recording one bird in the n.w. quadrant for the first time (SM). 'Akiapola'au also were found on the survey: small numbers in the Pu'u La'au area and one on the n.e. slope of Mauna Kea (SM).

**ESTRILIDS** — Two Lavender Waxbills near the Campbell Ave. end of Na La'au trail, O., June 29 (DM) and four at the same spot July 14 (PD, RLP) indicated the species is still hanging on in this area. A small flock of Chestnut Mannikins was seen July 5 at Kualoa P., on the n.e. coast of Oahu (AEd), an unusual locality for the species. A large flock of 72 Java Sparrows was feeding on the lawn of the State Court Bldg. in downtown Honolulu June 7 (JE). This species now is increasing and spreading to other parts of Oahu.

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## WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

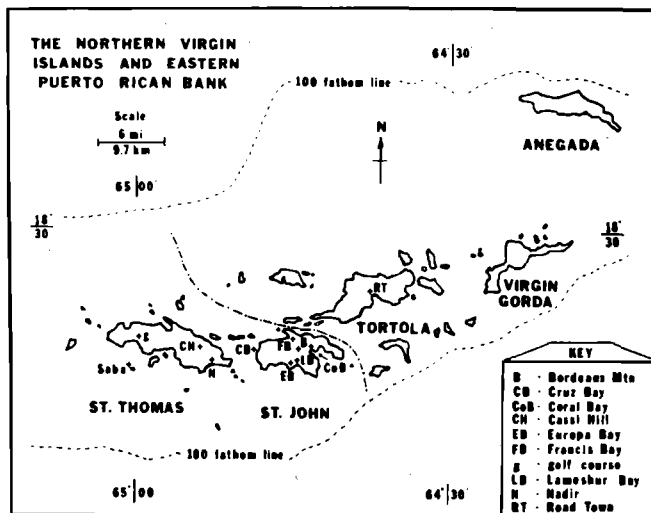
The big story this season was the weather. Rainfall as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, by the National Park Service, was 79% below average for June and July. The total for the first seven months of the year was an incredible 36% below average (60 yr POR). Nutrient loading in coastal bays and reefs was low and this was expected to influence local seabird populations. Terrestrial avifauna was also likely to be affected from reduced moisture supporting frugivores and insectivores.

The *San Juan Star* (July 4, 1985) reported that rainfall in June may have been the lowest on record. Rainfall has been sporadic in the Caribbean since the 1982 ENSO event, save moments of torrential downpour, but otherwise lacking. Agriculture in the Greater Antilles, particularly in Jamaica, Haiti, and Puerto Rico (*San Juan Star*, July 16, 1985) has been hard hit by lack of rain. When commercial growers are seeing drastic losses and imports are ordered, avian frugivores must surely be in an extremely competitive situation during these conditions. Temperatures were recorded in the range of 93° to 95°F for three or four days in July.

During the first week of June, RLN visited 12 colony sites of Roseate Terns, considered by Nisbet (1980) and Buckley and Buckley (1983) to be in need of formal endangered species status, in order to determine their population status on the eastern Puerto Rico Bank (Culebra to Anegada). Other tern populations were also noted and RvH reported on the status of terns from a continental island off Venezuela.

Late reports from regular contributors appear here from the Cayman Islands group, Mona Island, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — P.R. = Puerto Rico; St. C. = St. Croix; St. J. = St. John; St. T. = St. Thomas; V.I. = Virgin Islands.



**SHEARWATERS THROUGH TERNS** — Audubon's Shearwaters nested again at Cayo Matoho, Culebra, where near-fledgling chicks were measured (JT, RLN) June 6. Sladen observed 16 Audubon's off St. C., June 9. Four White-tailed Tropicbirds were also noted off St. C. on that date. Single Great Blue Herons were noted at Anegada June 8 (KH, RLN) and near eastern St. T., June 14 (RLN), supporting the suspicion of very localized nesting in the n. Virgin Islands. White-cheeked Pintails numbered 12 on St. C. (FS) June 1 and 48 at Anegada June 8 (KH, RLN). One of the very few records of Clapper Rail from Anegada was noted June 7-8 (RLN, KH).

There were signs of early shorebird movement to the West Indies and looks at breeding-plumaged scolopacids which may have over-summered in the V.I. Black-bellied Plovers were noted at St. C. (10—FS) and Anegada (two—RLN, KH) June 7, and

**Table 2.** The status of nesting pairs of light-backed terns on the eastern Puerto Rico and St Croix Banks and Aruba in June 1985.

Island Date	Culebra 6/14 (JT)	St. T. 6/1 (RLN)	Anegada 6/7 (KH, RLN)	St. C. 6/8 (FS)	Aruba 6/- (RvH)
Royal Tern	87	46	30	—	—
Sandwich Tern	104	43	708	—	—
Cayenne Tern	—	1	13	—	2,300
Roseate Tern	541	1,637	28	2*	70
Common Tern	—	—	—	2*	30
Least Tern	—	—	44	195	141

\*Unconfirmed nesting.

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again July 26 at St. C. (24—FS). Snowy Plovers were found nesting at Winlass Bay, Anegada, June 8 (KH, RLN). Eight Semipalmated Plovers were noted at St. C., June 22 (FS) and 12 were at Anegada June 8. Sladen counted 46 Killdeers June 3 at St. C., where nests have been monitored since spring. Lesser Yellowlegs increased in numbers from June 1 (six) to July 30 (78), as noted by FS. Willets, found nesting at St. C. in spring, numbered four on June 12 (FS). At Anegada, RLN found a nest of a Willet June 8. Whimbrels were also noted at Anegada (four) June 8 and St. C. (two) July 30 (FS).

Sladen recorded a Red Knot at St. C., July 26, plus four Sanderlings June 18 and six July 9. On June 7, FS counted 120 Semipalmated Sandpipers while KH and RLN noted 70 at Anegada June 8. On July 26, FS counted 301 Semipalmateds at St. C. Large numbers of Least Sandpipers were recorded at St. C., June 7 (34) and July 26 (212). The first Pectoral Sandpiper of the season in the V.I. was noted July 29 (RR, PP) on St. C. Stilt Sandpipers seen at St. C. were 20 June 1 and 18 July 26 (FS), with two breeding-plumaged birds noted July 19. Short-billed Dowitchers were seen at St. C. on June 7 (one), July 21 (8 breeding-plumaged), and July 26 (22—FS). Nine dowitchers were noted at Anegada June 9 (RLN, KH).

Gull-billed Terns appear to be nesting in smaller numbers at Anegada than in previous years (RLN); only 6 nests were counted June 8. Sight records of Gull-billeds at St. C. continue to raise questions as to where a small, yet undiscovered group may be nesting there (FS). Breeding-plumaged Roseate and Common terns were also seen at St. C. (FS) June 7 and July 5, respectively, suggesting breeding in the immediate area. The status of other light-backed terns breeding on the e. Puerto Rico and St. Croix Banks and the continental island of Aruba is offered (Table 1).

Least Terns were confirmed as nesting at Buck Island, St. C., Virgin Islands N.P. (FS) on July 14.

**PARAKEETS THROUGH BULLFINCH** — Brown-throated Parakeets, introduced to St. T. over 125 years ago, are now quite common in the e. sections and not established on St. J. as the A.O.U. Check-list (1983) suggests. Puerto Rican Screech-Owls were common near El Yunque, Caribbean N.F., P.R., July 19 (PG, RLN). Antillean Nighthawks were common at Anegada June 8 (KH, RLN) and three were also noted at St. C., July 14 (FS) where some localized nesting is suspected. Four Antillean Nighthawks were also noted on July 19 near Carolina, P.R. (RLN, PG). Two Barn Swallows were noted crossing Pillsbury Sound, St. J., July 29 (RLN) indicating the beginning of the landbird migration at least at this latitude. Moreover, the appearance of carefully noted **Purple Martins** at St. C., July 21 (FS) & 29 (RR), probably the same bird, suggested a migration of swallows well in advance of other passerines. Black-whiskered Vireos have apparently increased and are presumed to be established breeders at Anegada where RLN and KH heard an average of two per day, June 7-9. This population may be migratory, because LaBastille and Richmond (1973) did not encounter the

vireo in January 1970 and only one in April. At St. J. the vireo can be found in winter (GW). Lesser Antillean Bullfinch is apparently established at St. C., as FS has seen it away from the original site location reported earlier.

**ADDENDUM** — Late reports from regular contributors include observations from Mona Island, P.R. (DL), March 12-16, the Cayman Islands (PB), Sept.-Nov. 1984; and from the Dominican Republic, Nov. 12-21, 1984. From Mona, DL gave a conservative estimate of 800 pairs of Red-footed Boobies attending eggs in mid-March, 1985. A White-crowned Pigeon was noted there Mar. 23, and 25+ Yellow-shouldered Blackbirds were seen in the vicinity of the lighthouse, thus documenting the status of the isolated Mona population of this endangered species. A Peregrine Falcon was noted Mar. 13 providing further support to the notion that Peregrines habitually visit booby colonies on migration, and perhaps for the juv. birds all winter. From the Cayman Islands, PB reported a **Wilson's Phalarope** Sept. 8, a Whimbrel Nov. 18, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** feeding in grass at the Cayman Brac airstrip Sept. 25, and a Lesser Golden-Plover Oct. 1, as well as a Glossy Ibis Sept. 25. Antillean and Common nighthawks were also noted by PB Oct. 14 & 24, respectively, separated on the basis of their calls. From Puerta Plata, D.R., Keenleyside reports that a Gray Catbird, **American Robin** and ♀ Blue Grosbeak were seen Nov. 12-21 as well as eight White-collared Swifts. An Osprey (*P. h. carolinensis*) was noted at Culebra (RLN) June 6, 1985.

**S.A.**

There is more news regarding the status of **Western Reef-Heron** in the West Indies (*vide* PWS). Once the "ice is broken," it seems earlier reports gain credence. At Graeme Hall Swamp, Barbados, between June 29 and July 18, 1975, RW *et al.* observed what they considered to be a hybrid Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron and described in some detail (RW *in litt.*) what other observers at Martha's Vineyard thought at first was a hybrid as well. This new information would appear to push back the date of invasion of *E. garzetta* to the West Indies to the early 1970s and possibly earlier (Bond 1979: 240). Rumors, only rumors, are beginning to surface as to other reef-herons in the Region. Stay tuned.

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