

The Nesting Season

June 1—July 31, 1988

ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

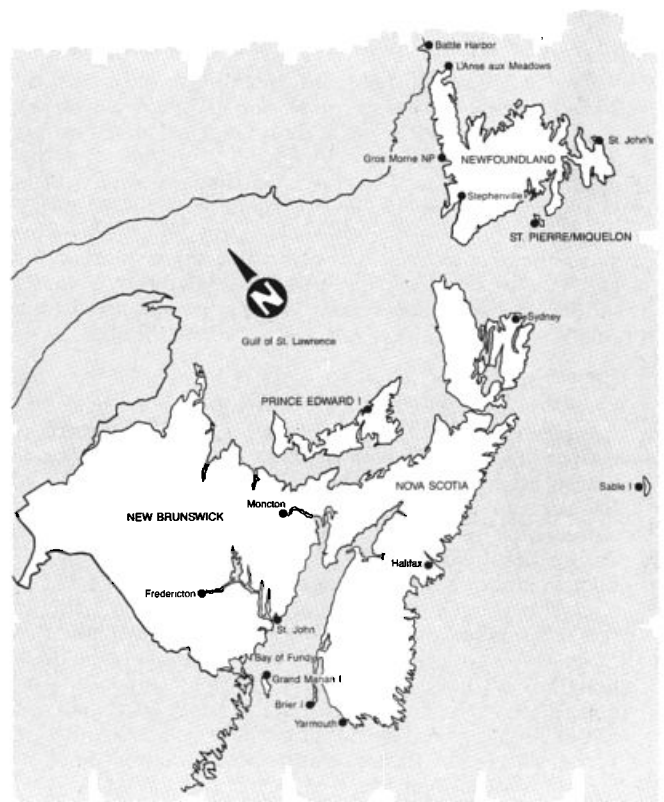
The Region experienced a cool, cloudy June and a warmer, sunnier July. Rainfall was near normal. Descriptions of the cone crop on the white spruce and balsam fir across the entire Region ranged from phenomenal to incredible. White-winged Crossbills were sent into a breeding frenzy in some areas.

The ongoing breeding bird atlasing project in the Maritime Provinces turned up more surprises. The most notable was a confirmed breeding record of Solitary Sandpiper in New Brunswick. Some birds reaching their northern breeding limits in southern New Brunswick were found to be more numerous than expected.

Major rarities were a White-winged Tern and Black Vulture in New Brunswick and a Black-tailed Godwit in St. Pierre et Miquelon.

Reporting was excellent from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and St. Pierre et Miquelon but nil or next to nil from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The 4 Atlantic Provinces and St. Pierre et Miquelon are now unified into one Region. We hope that observers will have more incentive to contribute to something that is closer to being their own. There will be more space to elaborate on bird sightings significant to this specific Region. Coverage will be more thorough from people who are very knowledgeable about the area and are very active in the field.

ABBREVIATIONS — St. Pierre et Miquelon = S.P.M. Place names in *italics* are counties.



LOONS TO WATERFOWL — South of Labrador, Miquelon, S.P.M. is the only location where Red-throated Loons are known to nest regularly in the Region. This season a few pairs and one occupied nest were found there (RE). Nonbreeding Red-throated Loons are routine through the summer in n. Newfoundland; one June 5 near N. Sydney, NS (RB), and one July 24 at Outer Cove, NF (KK), were more unusual.

Most visiting birdwatchers complained about the scarcity of Greater and Sooty shearwaters seen from the Newfoundland ferries in July. The few who came in June saw the usual thousands of shearwaters that were brought in close to shore by spawning capelin. Manx Shearwaters continued to be heard at night at seabird colonies in S.P.M. and Newfoundland. Again this summer they were heard vocalizing inside deep crevices on Columbian I., S.P.M. (AD, RE), and on Gull I., Witless Bay, NF (WAM). Actual nesting is difficult to prove because of their nocturnal habits and underground nesting sites. To date the only breeding location known in the Region is at Middle Lawn I., Burin Pen., NF.

"Southern" herons reported were single Little Blue Herons at Moncton, NB, July 15-16 (m.ob.) and Cow Head, NF, July 8 (fide HD) and a Tricolored Heron June 21-30 at Saint John, NB (Alde Robichaud *et al.*). A family group of five Green-backed Herons late July near Moncton, NB, furnished a rare provincial breeding record (RWa).

A Wood Duck June 5 at Carmanville, NF, was well northeast of its known breeding range (fide GB). An ad. ♂ Eur. Wigeon was at Tabusintac, NB, June 15-July 3 (HC). A Eur. Green-winged Teal present at St. John's, NF, from May remained until the late date of June 10 (CBu). A ♀ duck with a brood on S.P.M. was probably a Greater Scaup, a species not previously known to nest there. Postbreeding concentrations of ♂ Greater Scaup in w. Newfoundland were of flocks of seven and 16 in late June and July at River of Ponds (BMt) and 20 July 16 at Stephenville Crossing (ST).

Common Eiders had tremendous breeding success in the Bay of Fundy. Usually 80%-90% of the young are lost due to gull predation, but this summer virtually all survived because the gulls were feeding on an unusual abundance of herring (Peter Hicklin).

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS — A **Black Vulture** June 22 at Nacawick, NB, added yet another sighting to the province's high all-time total, which is approaching 20 (CJ). Single Turkey Vultures June 13 at North Head, Grand Manan I. (Frank Longstaff), and June 15 at Caine's Pt. (DAC) were comparatively routine (Frank Longstaff). Northern Harriers appeared to be in good numbers throughout Newfoundland, perhaps taking advantage of the high meadow vole populations (m.ob.). Atlassing produced Red-shouldered Hawk from 6 locations in Charlotte in s.w. New Brunswick (BD). A Red-shouldered Hawk June 24 at Shulie R., NS, provided an intriguing summer sighting from a province where it is very rare at any season (BMy).

S.A.

Unusually high numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were seen during the summer throughout Newfoundland. The species normally nests sparingly in the province. At least one nest was found this summer. Several other pairs were seen in courtship. They were particularly noticed on the Great Northern Pen., where several local outdoorsmen commented on their unusual abundance and appearance in places where not expected. Ten to 15 different individuals were present in the unlikely habitat of logged-out forest in the area between Daniels Harbour and Port-au-Choix through July. The high meadow vole population in Newfoundland and the very low vole population in Labrador may explain this phenomenon (RB, WAM, BMt *et al.*). Farther south a Rough-legged Hawk was present in Riverside, NB, June 21-28 (RWa).

An ad Golden Eagle July 23 at Hare Bay, NF, was quite notable for both location and date (IG). Another spent the summer on Grand Manan I., NB, where there have been summer sightings in the previous 3 years (BD). A family group of Merlins at Campobello I., NB, provided one of the few breeding records for s. New Brunswick (Wayne Petersen). An unseasonal Peregrine Falcon in early June was at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (BL).

A pair of Com. Moorhens with fledglings July 22 at Hillsborough, NB, was at a new nesting location (RWa). An absurdly tame Sandhill Crane was seen at Shediac in late June and at Chaleur, NB, July 24 & 27 (m.ob.).

Outstanding was a pair of **Solitary Sandpipers** with two young late July at Cold Brook on the Caines R., Kent, NB (DAC). This represents probably the first breeding record south of c. Quebec and Labrador in the east. A **Black-tailed Godwit** June 12 at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., was presumed to have been the same bird seen there in early May (AD). An Am. Woodcock June 4 was unusual at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (BL).

GULLS TO ALCIDS — Laughing Gulls do not breed in the Region but are annual in summer. St. Pierre et Miquelon had an immature June 2 and an adult June 6 & 9 (RE, AD). In Newfoundland single adults were in St. John's June 9-11 (MP *et al.*), Pt. May June 21, and Grand Beach June 22 (CBr, PG), and a 2nd-summer bird was at Stephenville Crossing July 16 (ST). First-summer Com. Black-headed Gulls in Newfoundland were four June 19 at Bellevue Beach (CBr) and two July 19 at Riverhead, Conception Bay (RB). Single ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull were at Stephenville Crossing, NF, July 17 (ST) and at Biscay Bay, NF, July 15 (KE).

Adult Caspian Terns in Newfoundland away from known breeding colonies were 2 pairs June 19 at Bellevue Beach among a Ring-billed Gull colony (CBr), one June 22 at Deer L. (BMt), and nine July 16 at Stephenville Crossing (ST). Four hundred fifty Arctic Terns June 22 at Grand Beach, Burin Pen., NF, included many breeding pairs and good numbers of first-summer birds (CBr). A **Least Tern** June 19 at Bear Cove, Avalon Pen., NF, was a provincial first, though perhaps overdue (William Threlfall). Black Terns were singles at Garnish, NF, June 20 (CBr, PG) and at L'Anse-aux-Meadows in late June (DA). A **White-winged Tern** July 9 at Cap Pele, NB, furnished the 4th provincial record (DAC). More details are expected on a sighting of what may have been a White-winged Tern at St. Paul's, NF, June 16.

Summer Dovekie sightings were singles east of N. Sydney, NS, June 5 (RB); Placentia Bay, NF, July 11 (KE); and S.P.M. July 29 (MJB). An albino Atlantic Puffin, completely white with a uniform orange bill, was at the large seabird colony in Witless Bay, NF, July 14 (KE).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS — An E. Screech-Owl was heard calling at Big Indian L. near Saint John, NB, June 25 (RWe). The species may breed in small numbers in that province. An unusual number of Snowy Owls were seen in June in Newfoundland: two early June in Gander (fide WAM), "several" in L'Anse-aux-Meadows (DA), one June 9 at St. John's (fide DP), and one June 21 at Cape St. Mary's (fide PL). A N. Hawk-Owl fledgling was seen with an adult on the Bay d'Espoir Hwy, NF, July 1 (RB). Boreal Owls nested in a nest box at a provincial park in e. Newfoundland (fide BMt). Short-eared Owl sightings were widespread in Newfoundland, where the owls must have found the abundance of mice favorable for producing large families.

A Chimney Swift was east of the known breeding range at S.P.M. June 10 (MJB).

The atlassing project in the Maritimes turned up a number of Willow Flycatchers: five around Fredericton (PP), one June 11 at Moncton (ST), one June 20 at Millstream (RWe) (all in New Brunswick), and one June 25 at Cape Dor, NS (BMy). A rare midsummer sighting of W. Kingbird was made at Riverside, NB, July 2 (RWa).

WRENS TO WARBLERS — A singing House Wren June 9 was at St Andrews, NB (RB). Golden-crowned Kinglets often go unnoticed in the breeding season but were thought to be very much more numerous than in recent summers in New Brunswick (DAC). Eastern Bluebirds appeared to be doing quite well in New Brunswick especially in the southwest, where they were found in 12 atlas squares (BD). Seven atlas squares along the New Brunswick shore of the Bay of Fundy contained Gray-cheeked Thrushes to the surprise of some (BD). Another was singing at W. Advocate, NS, June 24 (BMy). Northern Mockingbirds away from breeding areas in the s. part of the Region were singles from Newfoundland in mid-June near Trout R. and July 6 at Trepassy (fide RB). More unusual was a Brown Thrasher at a feeder in Curling, NF, July 1-29 (BR).

Four N. Parulas were singing at widely separated locations in Newfoundland, where a first provincial breeding record is awaiting discovery (RB, BMt). A singing Chestnut-sided Warbler July 1 near Grand Falls, NF, provided the first definite record of singing in the province (MP). Only recently discovered breeding in s.w. New Brunswick, further field work has shown that Pine Warblers are "as easy to find in Charlotte County as a good stand of white pine" (BD). Bay-breasted Warbler is a recent addition to the breeding avifauna of Newfoundland and is now widespread in the s.w. corner of the province. Four single males, a pair, and a ♀ Bay-breasted Warbler June 22-July 29 near River of Ponds, half way up the Great Northern Pen. of Newfoundland, indicated that they are spreading north (BMt). A singing Canada Warbler June 20 in Gros Morne N.P., NF, furnished one of the few summer reports in the province (RB).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A ♀ Blue Grosbeak July 3 at Alma, NB, furnished a rare midsummer occurrence (Angus MacLean). An ad. ♂ Indigo Bunting June 11 at St. Andrews, NB, could have been a lingering spring overshoot (RB). There are no breeding records for Rufous-sided Towhee in the Region, but two males sang 100 yards apart from each other June 10-July 27 at the mouth of the Bocabee R., NB (BD). Yellow-headed Blackbirds are annual in the fall to the Region but very rare in spring. Two late spring vagrants were ad. males at Carman-

ville, NF, in early June (fide GB) and near Saint John, NB, June 17 (fide JW). A ♀ N. Oriole June 7 at S P M had a yellow breast and undertail coverts with a gray belly, suggesting the race *bullockii* (RE).

Pine Grosbeaks were particularly numerous on the Great Northern Pen., NF, in late June and July (BMt). Pine Siskins were widespread and common throughout the Region. Red Crossbills were very scarce in Newfoundland but present in small flocks in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

S.A.

The big finch story involved the White-winged Crossbill. Simultaneously they began appearing in New Brunswick and w. Newfoundland during the last third of June. Throughout July they were "just everywhere, singing so loudly that it was almost impossible to hear anything else!" (RWa). Only adults were seen, and females began disappearing in late July, presumably to sit on nests. The birth of an invasion. All of Atlantic Canada experienced an exceedingly heavy crop of cones on the white spruce and balsam fir, which probably triggered the intensive singing and breeding, but how did they find out about it and where did they come from? The arrival en masse over such a broad front was as if they had all read about the cone crop in the newspaper.

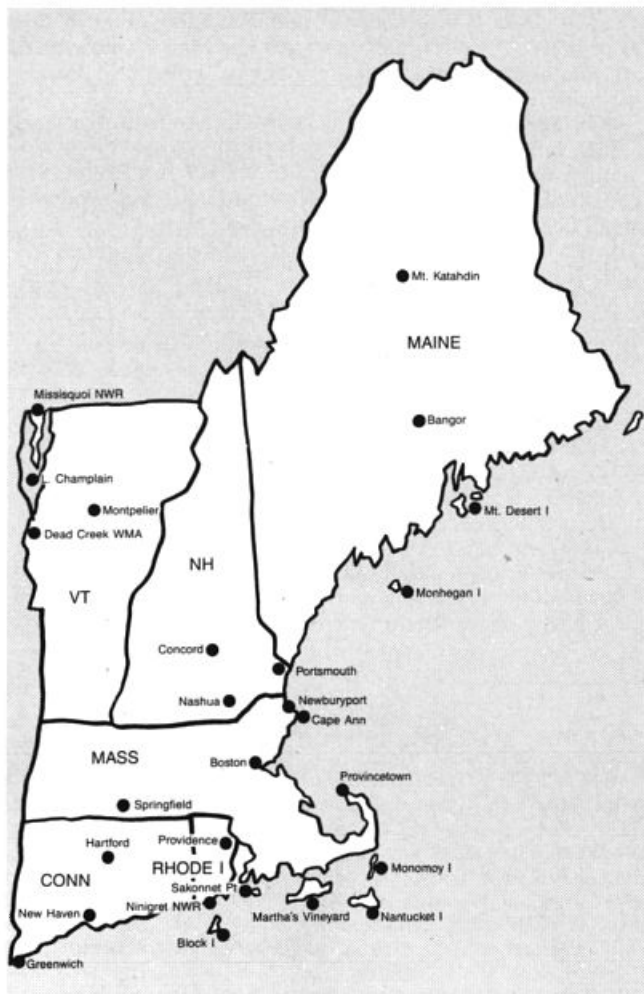
CONTRIBUTORS (subregional editors in boldface) — De-
lena Anderson, Michel J. Borora, **George Brinson**, Chris Brown (CBr), **Roger Burrows**, Clarence Burry (CBu), Hilaire Chiasson, **David A. Christie**, Brian Dalzell, Hank Deichmann, Alain Desbrosse, Kim Eckert, **Roger Etcheberry**, Ian Goudie, Patricia Greene, Cecil Johnston, Ken Knowles, Bruno Letournel, Paul Linegar, **Bruce Mactavish** (BMt), **Blake Maybank** (BMy), William A. Montevecchi, Mike Parmenter, Peter Pearce, Doug Phelan, **Barb Roberts**, Stuart Tingley, **Rob Walker** (RWa), Ron Weir (RWe), **Jim Wilson**. — **BRUCE MACTAVISH, 37 Waterford Bridge Rd., St. John's, NF A1E 1C5.**

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Wayne R. Petersen

It is with pride and pleasure that this editor christens the newly established New England Region. For many years, regional editors in the Northeastern Maritime Region have labored over the diversity created by areas as different as the islands of St. Pierre, Monhegan, and Monomoy; coastal vantage points as unique as L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Newfoundland, Provincetown, Massachusetts, and Lighthouse Point, Connecticut; and uplands as varied as the Cape Breton Highlands of Nova Scotia, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and the Berkshires of Massachusetts. While the Northeastern Maritime Region always made exciting reading it often failed to provide the continuity desirable for such an ornithologically important region. With the creation of the New England Region, including Vermont as a rightful member of the six state area, it is hoped that greater biological integrity will be insured, along with making possible a more manageable reporting network between contributors and editors.

As a reminder to all readers, both old and new, New England represents an interface between biotic communities having both northern and southern affinities. As examples, such Canadian Zone species as Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Gray Jay nest in appropriate spruce-fir habitat in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont while in the rich, temperate forests of the Carolinian Zone of southern Connecticut and Rhode Island, breeding species such as Red-bellied Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, and Hooded Warbler are to be expected. Throughout much of New England's Transition Zone, a broad array of bird species nest, each one seeking its own preferred habitat from among the diverse options afforded by the countryside of central New England. Similarly, coastal New England offers an environmental spectrum ranging from the rocky seabird islands of Maine, complete with nesting Leach's Storm-Petrels, Razorbills, and Atlantic Puffins, to the sandy barrier islands of Massachusetts and Connecticut



with their attendant American Oystercatchers, Laughing Gulls, and Least Terns. And finally, the Atlantic Ocean provides habitat for a multiplicity of bird species including littoral and inshore migrants such as shorebirds and waterfowl to true pelagic species like procellariids and jaegers. It is within this context that future efforts to characterize the patterns of New England birdlife will be discussed and described, and readers are encouraged to keep this profile in mind as they peruse the seasonal reviews in the months ahead.

Early summer weather in New England was characterized by a very dry June and a very wet July. Connecticut meteorologists called June the driest on record and July the wettest. Similarly, drought conditions prevailed in June in Rhode Island while rain in July was described as being 100 percent above normal, most of it falling during the last half of the month.

In spite of such contrasting weather patterns, several observers noted that breeding birds generally seemed to enjoy a successful breeding season, and it was apparently a banner year for several species of colonial waterbirds. Extreme drought in the nation's mid-section, which possibly interrupted nesting in the affected areas, may have had some residual effects in New England as reflected by the July appearance of Lark Sparrows, Lark Bunting, and an amazing single parent nesting attempt by Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Maine.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A census of Vermont's Com. Loon population July 16 produced a total of 59

individuals, of which 12 nesting pairs fledged nine chicks (*vide CR*). In Massachusetts, nine pairs at 5 sites fledged nine young—the highest totals since the species reestablished itself in the state in 1975 (*vide BB*). Most exceptional was a very well described basic-plumaged **Pacific/Arctic Loon** at Plum I., MA, July 24 (ML *et al.*). As previously advised in Blair Nikula's Winter Season report, specific determination of loons of this type is at best presumptive until supporting specimen evidence can be obtained. There is speculation that this individual may have been the same bird that was reported from nearby Rockport during the winter. Especially tardy were four Red-necked Grebes at Falmouth, ME, June 15 (RRE).

With the return in abundance of Sand Lance (*Ammodytes* sp.) to inshore waters in the s. Gulf of Maine, higher than normal numbers of shearwaters, as well as Humpback Whales, were noted off the Massachusetts coast. Perhaps most significant were the inflated totals of Manx Shearwaters noted by observers aboard whale watching boats, the maximum count being 200 at Stellwagen Bank July 18 (EN). Other noteworthy tallies included 1000 Sooty Shearwaters 20–30 mi s.e. of Chatham, MA, and 1100+ at Stellwagen Bank June 5 and July 31 respectively (*vide RHS*). A **Red-billed Tropicbird** possibly (?) the same individual first reported during the fall of 1986, sporadically appeared off Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, on dates beginning June 14 (M. Davis) and continuing into July (*v.ob.*). No less astonishing were three **Brown Pelicans** seen fishing off the n. end of Block I., RI, July 7 (*vide H. Calhoun*). This observation constitutes one of the few occurrences in New England of Brown Pelicans not having been visibly storm-assisted. A report of an imm. Great Cormorant at Lakeville, MA, July 3 (WRP) was unusual both by its date and its inland locality. The continuing proliferation of Double-crested Cormorants was dramatized by Rhode Island's Sakonnet Point colony which was initiated in 1981 and now holds 730 nesting pairs (*vide DLE*).

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — The nesting population of Great Egrets on islands in Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay reached an all-time-high of 99 nests (RLF, JEM, CR) while Black-crowned Night-Herons had their best year there since 1985. A similar trend was noted in Connecticut where 1044 nests were counted on Chimon I., which marked a significant increase over the past maximum of 800 pairs (*vide M. Bull*). Other herons were generally described as having had good breeding success, except in Rhode Island where Snowy Egret numbers were substantially lower than normal and where Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets have practically ceased nesting (*vide DLE*). Elsewhere in the Region, seven to eight Cattle Egret nests were counted at Young I. in Lake Champlain, VT (*vide CR*), and several probable breeding pairs were noted at Eagle I., Salem, MA (*vide SP*). In the peripheral range category belong a Tricolored Heron at Petit Manan N.W.R., Steuben, ME, June 11 (RW) and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Scarborough, ME, July 21 (*vide JD*). Three adult and one imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Plum I., MA, throughout July (*v.ob.*) strongly suggested local nesting in the n.e. corner of the species' breeding range. Enigmatic, but not without precedent, was a flamingo identified and apparently photographed as being a Chilean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*) at Sachuest Pt., RI, July 2 (G. Sprague, *vide DLE*). The same bird was apparently spotted a few days earlier at Prudent I. and at the Newport Naval Base. It was described as appearing healthy and in unworn plumage, much like a similar individual that haunted the New England coast during the summer of 1985. The origin of Chilean Flamingos on the Atlantic Coast is wide open for speculation.

WATERFOWL — Easton, Aroostook, ME, was the site of several interesting waterfowl records, most notable being a single brood of N. Shovelers, where the species first nested in Maine in 1979, and a family of Am. Wigeon, both July 20 (MT, *vide JD*). Equally unusual there was a rare Maine summer oc-

currence of a Eur. Wigeon June 10 (MT) Lingering King Eiders included two at Little Compton, RI, June 26 (DLE), an imm male at Petit Manan N.W.R., ME, July 4 (RW, *vide* JD), and a female at Kennebunk, ME, July 18–25 (JW, RRE, PDV, *vide* JD). Similarly tardy were a Com. Merganser at E. Providence, RI, June 4 (*vide* DLE) and a Ruddy Duck at Lower Richardson L., Oxford, ME, June 28 & 29 (*vide* JD).

RAPTORS — Unusual at any season in New England, a Black Vulture at Alford, MA, July 24 (P. Newman) was noteworthy, as was a total of 16 Turkey Vultures, including some immatures, in one tree in Tiverton, RI, July 14 (*vide* DLE). While precise data on breeding Ospreys in Massachusetts was not available at the time of writing, indications are that that population continued to show increased colonization efforts. In Connecticut the number of active nests rose to 51 and there was a 23 percent increase in productivity from 1987 (*vide* R. Duclos). In Vermont, two pairs of nesting Ospreys produced young, however, the locations are being withheld for protective security (*vide* CR). Itinerant best describes an ad. Bald Eagle seen in mid-June at Sherman, CT (*vide* T. Rochovansky), and an immature at Harwich, MA, June 6 (BN). Considerably more sedentary was a mated pair of pre-breeders at a nest at Quabbin Res., Franklin, MA, where six hacked young birds were released this summer. This brought the grand total of hacked Bald Eagles in Massachusetts to 41 in this, the final year of the project that had its inception in 1982 (*vide* BB). Hopes are running high that 1989 will see Bald Eagles nesting in the Bay State. Most exceptional was a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks with young seen in late July at S. Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA (J. Green, *vide* Robert Prescott). Always considered a rarity as a breeder in e. Massachusetts in recent years, its occurrence as a nester on outer Cape Cod is particularly remarkable. A late Rough-legged Hawk at Kennebunkport, ME, June 8 (JW) and two Golden Eagles at Moosehorn N.W.R., Washington, ME, July 10 (M&D Hastings, *vide* JD) were upstaged by a pair of Merlins that undoubtedly nested on the Cutler Naval Base, Washington, ME, during June and July. A pair of adults, calling young and a probably used nest were variously noted June 1–July 31 (CDD, I. Balodis, P. Donahue). For years considered a controversial nesting bird in Maine, this account adds yet another piece of evidence to the mounting pile in favor of positively adding the Merlin to New England's breeding avifauna. Available New England Peregrine Falcon data showed that a pair of Peregrines successfully fledged two young in June from a ledge on Boston's Custom House Tower (BB) and that five nesting pairs in Vermont fledged five young (*vide* CR). In Maine, 14 Peregrine Falcons were hacked at 2 locations (*vide* WT) and five were released on the campus of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (BB, M.D.F.W.).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — A King Rail, always elusive at the n.e. periphery of its range, made an extended appearance in a small marsh at Rockport, MA, June 1–12 (v.ob.). Easton, Aroostook, ME, made additional headlines when a pair of Com. Moorhens and two young were located July 20, roughly 100 mi n.e. of the nearest confirmed breeding location in Maine (MT, *vide* JD). The same hot spot further produced an uncommon nesting record when three adult and three young Am. Coots were noted July 3 (MT, *vide* JD).

Shorebird migrants seemed to arrive on schedule with the first major flights recorded in the last half of July. The increasingly publicized Piping Plover showed the Massachusetts population to contain approximately 142 pairs (*vide* BB), while in Rhode Island a minimum of 11 pairs produced at least 17 young (*vide* DLE) and in Connecticut, 27 pairs produced 47 young, a 35 percent increase from 1987 (*vide* R. Duclos). Increased numbers and productivity in this beleaguered species are in part attributable to the success attained through the increased use of enclosure nesting fences and beach fencing efforts. A pair of Am. Oystercatchers successfully extended the n. limit

of the species' breeding range when a pair with three young was found on Sheep I., Boston Harbor, MA, July 3 (PS, *vide* SP). The highest nesting densities of oystercatchers in New England were 19 pairs at Nantucket I. (M. Litchfield, *vide* RHS) and 17 pairs at Monomoy N.W.R. (D. Houghton, *vide* RHS). In Massachusetts, airports apparently support the highest densities of nesting Upland Sandpipers as shown by 13 throughout July at Otis Air Force Base, Barnstable, (P. Trimble, *vide* RHS) and seven adults and two young at Hanscom Air Force Base, Bedford, July 3 (J. Carter, *vide* RHS). The highest Whimbrel tally at the traditional N. Monomoy I., MA, roost this season was 410 on July 27 (BN). At the same location, Nikula also noted a maximum of 42 Hudsonian Godwits in late July, an early Marbled Godwit July 3–9, and a Bar-tailed Godwit July 31. The Bar-tailed was especially notable because it was of the large Alaskan/Siberian race (*baueri*), clearly possessing a dark rump and heavily barred tail, axillaries, and wing linings. Certainly unique for the Northeast, it appears that this represents the first such individual ever recorded on the Atlantic Coast of the United States. Among the other noteworthy shorebird reports were a W. Sandpiper in basic plumage on N. Monomoy I., June 12 (BN) and single Ruff reports at Scarborough, ME, July 19 (PDV), and in Massachusetts at Plum I., July 9 (C. Schubarth, *vide* SP) and Newburyport July 24 (R. Forster, *vide* RHS). At their presumed breeding station at Plum I., MA, a maximum of six Wilson's Phalaropes were noted June 25 (*vide* RHS) and at least three were noted at Scarborough, ME, June 4–15 (v.ob.).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — An early Pomarine Jaeger appeared off Matinicus Rock, ME, July 9 (G. Cooperman, *vide* JD). The previously mentioned concentrations of bait fish in Massachusetts coastal waters very likely accounted for the premature appearance of a Parasitic Jaeger at Stellwagen Bank, June 25 (WE) and 12 in the same waters July 24 (WRP). New England's largest Laughing Gull colony at New I., Orleans, MA, held approximately 1100 pairs this year (*vide* BB), while a late spring census of Ring-billed Gulls at Young I., Lake Champlain, produced 11,500 pairs—clear evidence of the continued growth of this species' population in n. New England. An ad. Franklin's Gull in breeding plumage was seen at Plum I., MA, July 17 (ML, S. Carroll) where two to three Little Gulls were reported throughout July (v.ob.). Lingering winter gulls included an Iceland Gull June 5 at Matinicus Rock (*vide* JD) and 50+ Black-legged Kittiwakes the same day 20–30 mi s.e. of Chatham (BN). The only Lesser Black-backed Gull of the season was an immature at Kennebunk, ME, July 8 (JW).

An early Caspian Tern appeared at Plum I., MA, July 11 (D. Oliver, *vide* RHS), as did an ad. Forster's Tern at N. Monomoy I. (BN). Roseate Tern numbers remained stable at their Bird I., MA, stronghold and the state's total nesting population consisted of 1657 pairs (*vide* BB). In Maine, 40 pairs were counted at Petit Manan I., June 22 (*vide* CDD) and six pairs were at Kennebunkport June 16 and Harpswell June 21 (*vide* JD). In Vermont, where the Com. Tern is listed as State Endangered, 60–70 pairs fledged only five young, apparently because the five Lake Champlain colonies were victimized by predators ranging from Black-crowned Night-Herons and Great Horned Owls to Tiny Thief Ants (*Solenopsis molesta*) (CR). In Massachusetts, by contrast, a state total of 9533 pairs of Com. Terns was the highest in two decades (*vide* BB). Even more impressive was the Massachusetts state total of 2681 Least Tern pairs, an increase of 27 percent from 1987 and 11 percent from all previous records (*vide* BB). In fact, this resilient little seabird has actually reflected an upward trend over the last 20 years. In Connecticut, the figure of 849 pairs statewide was identical to 1987, however, productivity decreased by a dramatic 61 percent from last year (*vide* R. Duclos). Black-crowned Night-Heron, Striped Skunk, and Raccoon predation were said to be the causative agents accounting for this precipitous decline. In Massachusetts, two pairs of Black Skimmers at the n. terminus of their range fledged four young at New I., Orleans, in

July (fide BB). A Thick-billed Murre in breeding plumage 5 mi s. of Great Duck Light, Hancock, ME, July 25 (B Agler, fide JD) was a most unusual find in mid-summer.

PARROTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — At Bridgeport and Fairfield, CT, up to 50 Monk Parakeets are well established as breeders with 13–15 nests being present in at least one large fir tree (M. Bull, fide FM). Residents in the area claim the birds have been present for 20 years! At Westport, CT, a pair of Black-hooded Parakeets nested at Sherwood I.S.P. (fide FM). What next?

At Nantucket I., the Region's Short-eared Owl capitol, 13 territories were located this year, which included 8 nests and the production of 10 young (fide BB). Two Chuck-will's-widows on Cape Cod, one calling at Chatham June 10 (WB) and one found dead at Eastham June 7 (fide R. Prescott) provide continued hope that the species may someday be proven to nest in Massachusetts. Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported at Orwell, VT, June 28 (WHB) and at Topsfield, MA, June 19 (J. Brown, fide RHS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — A Willow Flycatcher singing at E. Machias, ME, June 21 (CDD) was rare that far e. in Maine. A pair of Acadian Flycatchers at a nest in Plymouth, MA, June 13–16 (WRP) provided one of the few confirmed nesting attempts in e. Massachusetts and a count of 27 Least Flycatchers at Quabbin, Worcester, MA, June 18 (ML) was notably in excess of most recent Massachusetts summer reports.

S.A.

Undoubtedly the most startling event of the season was the attempted nesting of a single Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Wells, ME, June 18–July 15. While first reported on a blueberry barren (the Kennebunk Plains) by Norm Famous June 18, the bird was not seen to fly to a nest until June 26. On that date Richard Eakin and Kathryn Disney located and described the nest as being about 10 meters from the ground in an isolated group of 11 Pitch Pines. On July 2 the nest tree was climbed by Geoffrey Listen, who noted four eggs in the nest. At no time was a second adult seen, and apparently the nesting was unsuccessful. While certainly bizarre, this species has twice been documented nesting in South Carolina, well east of its normal range. One has to speculate on whether severe drought conditions in the western plains states this summer may have triggered this bird's valiant effort at procreation so far from home.

A pair of N. Rough-winged Swallows nesting at Nantucket I., July 4 (SP) represented only the 2nd such breeding record for the island. A well documented singing ♂ Sedge Wren near Lake Chickawaukee, Rockland, ME, July 11–31 (JW, PP et al.) was seen carrying nesting material, but neither a nest nor a second bird were ever positively located. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen gathering nesting material at Barnstable, MA, June 19 (BN) furnished only the 2nd documented nesting attempt in Barnstable. A Loggerhead Shrike at Petit Manan N.W.R., Steuben, ME, June 4 & 6 (RW) was exceptional, both as to date and location.

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS — A concentration of seven plus Yellow-rumped Warblers in mature White Pine growth in the Myles Standish S.F., Plymouth, MA, June 16 (WRP) suggested yet another outpost for the species in s.e. Massachusetts. A bird seen at Mashpee, Barnstable June 18 (BN) may also belong in this category. Cerulean Warblers definitely nested in Vermont at Milton, July 16 (CR) and in Rhode Island at Scituate, July 31 (fide DLE), and prospecting (?) males were found in Massachusetts at Boxford June 1–14 (fide RHS) and Princeton, June 14–29 (fide N. Sferra). Similarly unattached ♂ Kentucky Warblers were noted in Massachusetts at Milton June 11 (fide RHS) and Topsfield June 19 (fide RHS).

Highly unusual in Vermont was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Woodstock, July 3–6 (AS, NM, CR et al.). More intriguing was an apparent pair which sang and scolded as though defending territory at the Fort Devens military base in Ayer, MA, June 6–10 (RM et al.). How much longer will it be before this eastward-expanding *Spizella* is found breeding in New England? Two ad. Lark Sparrows at Scituate, MA, July 23–25 (RA) and an ad. **Lark Bunting** at Plum I., during the same period (P&F Vale, fide RHS) were, like the Maine Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, possibly disrupted breeders from drought-affected areas farther west. Most extraordinary of all the unseasonal records this summer was a Snow Bunting in breeding plumage at Katama, Martha's Vineyard, July 21 (S. Whiting, fide SP).

SUBREGIONAL EDITORS (boldface), **CONTRIBUTORS** (italics), **AND OBSERVERS**—Robert Abrams, Wallace Bailey, William H. Barnard, Brad Blodget, Jody Despres, Charles D. Duncan, Richard R. Eakin, Walter Ellison, David L. Emerson, Richard L. Ferren, Mark Lynch, Robert Marshall, Nancy Martin, Frank Mautlik, Eric Nielsen, Blair Nikula, Paul Palmer, Simon Perkins, Chris Raithe (CRa), Chris Rimmer, Allan Stimson, Robert H. Stymeist, William Townsend, Melvin Trembley, Peter D. Vickery, Jeff Wells, Ralph Widrig.—**WAYNE R. PETERSEN, Conservation Department, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.**

QUEBEC REGION

Michel Gosselin, Richard Yank, and Yves Aubry

June was cool across the province. Rainfall ranged from 50% of normal in the north to 150% of normal along the Gulf of St. Lawrence. July was generally dry, with southwestern Quebec experiencing its warmest temperatures in recent years.

Wet and record cold weather during the last week of June may have disrupted the breeding season for insectivores. Observers in the Eastern Townships reported that a number of young Tree Swallows died on the nest during this period.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in italics are counties.

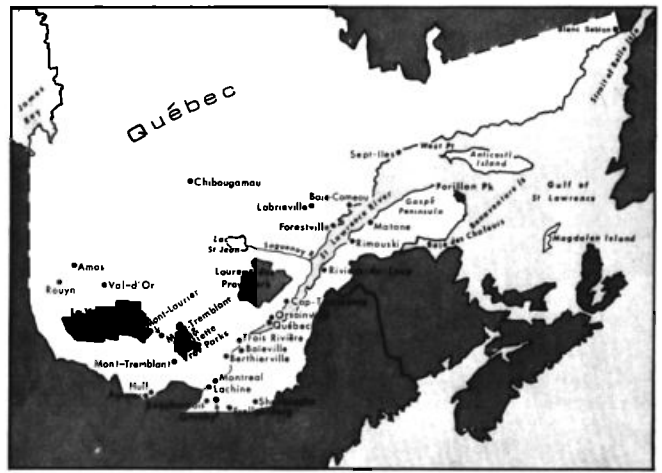
LOONS TO WATERFOWL — A subad. Pacific Loon viewed from shore at Pointe-au-Père June 24 (DR, GG) provided our 3rd record from this locality, all during summer. A storm downed 90 Com. Loons at Saint-Fulgence on the very early date of July 27 (CC, GS). Adding to recent late summer sightings of Manx Shearwaters were singles off Trois-Pistoles July 23 (ML, JPO) and Kégashka July 24 (RK et al.). On June 19, a National Audubon Society cruise tallied 61 N. Fulmars and four Wilson's Storm-Petrels between Pointe-des-Monts and Anticosti Island (RY et al.). Wilson's Storm-Petrels are typically confined to the gulf in summer; two spotted from the Matane ferry June 4 (JLc, CGa, JLR) and two off Trois-Pistoles July 23 (ML, JPO) represented the first summer sightings within the estuary.

At Barachois July 8 (KJZ), a blue-morph Snow Goose was of particular interest—any other arctic goose summering so far south would probably have been dismissed as an escapee! One Snow Goose and 100 Canada Geese summered at Saint-Fulgence (fide GS), as did small groups of Canada Geese at Bic and Pointe-au-Père (fide JLR). This appears to be an emerging pattern as goose populations continue their dramatic increase. Ninety-three Brant passed Saint-Fulgence June 4 (GS, JJ). This species is likely a regular spring migrant along the Saguenay R., although no more than a handful of records exist (see J. Field Orn. 59:110–119 for a discussion of recent changes in migration patterns).

Wood Ducks were seen on 5 occasions on the Madeleine Is. this summer, suggesting they may eventually nest there, and 25 Gadwall were observed at Havre aux Basques July 31 (PF), where the species first bred in 1987. Single ♂ Eur. Wigeon were noted at the latter site June 11–12 (PF) and at Cacouna June 19–25 (DR, GG, m.ob.). Twenty-four ♂ Harlequin Ducks made a larger than usual aggregation at Bonaventure I., July 9 (KJZ). Two ♀ Surf Scoters accompanied broods of downy young on L. Malbaie, Charlevoix, July 7 (GB)—well s. of their known c. Quebec breeding range. Five Barrow's Goldeneyes (three males, two females) at Cacouna July 1 (FH, PM) represented a most unusual summer sighting, while 3 broods of Buffleheads 25 km n. of Villebois July 12–14 (YA, SB) furnished a new breeding site for this species. Also rare in s. Quebec in summer, a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers was on L. Brompton June 11 (DL). Ruddy Ducks were present in above-average numbers: a pair bred at Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois (PBa, JLu), and one to three birds were noted at 5 other locations.

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS — No longer surprising, four somewhat northerly Turkey Vultures fed on a carcass June 10–11 near Parent, where the species was also sighted last year (SL, fide PG), and 25 roosted at Saint-Cléophas July 25 (M & MBd). Related perhaps to a reported crash in lemming populations, Rough-legged Hawks lingered in s. Quebec. One was at Tracy June 26 (SC, JCr), four were seen near Val-Paradis in July (YA, SB), six were counted between Berthier-sur-Mer and Cacouna July 4 (JLc), and six more frequented farmlands bordering L. Saint-Jean in early July (fide GS). In the Madeleine Is., where the species has seldom been documented, two Virginia Rails were seen at Fatima July 3 (PF), and a family was detected at Grosse-île Aug. 3 (FG, CR). At the n. edge of their range, Am. Coots bred in unprecedented numbers. Four families frequented Saint-Gédéon marsh (CGi, MS, RB), and at least 5 nests were found in Abitibi and Témiscamingue: at Amos, Rivière-Héva, Roquemaure, Rouyn, and Montbeillard (fide SG). An extralimital coot (sp.) turned up at Harrington-Harbour June 24 (fide PBr).

The Region's first Greater Golden-Plover records involved a molting immature at Cacouna June 21–25 (JPO, GB, m.ob.) and an adult near Trois-Pistoles July 30 (JPO, ML)—in each case the white underwing coverts were well seen. Presumably, these individuals were remnants of last spring's coastal invasion. A C.W.S. survey of suitable beaches along Baie des Chaleurs and 380 km of the North Shore, from Port-Cartier to Kégashka, failed to produce any Piping Plovers (fide PL). An exciting find was Quebec's first Black-necked Stilt described by visiting birders at Havre aux Basques July 3 (SO, CO, fide PF). A pair of Solitary Sandpipers with two downy young were 80 km e. of Témiscamingue June 24 (YA), somewhat s. of their normal breeding range. An exceptional number and variety of southbound shorebirds appeared early in s. Quebec, suggesting an aborted breeding season. These included 20 Whimbrels on the Madeleine Is. July 3 (PF) and three at L'Isle-Verte July 9 (JPO), 19 Hudsonian Godwits on the Madeleine Is. June



28 (PF) and one at Pointe-au-Père July 2 (JLM), five Pectoral Sandpipers at Cacouna July 5 (JPO, ML), a Stilt Sandpiper at Longueuil July 1 (DDi), five Short-billed Dowitchers at Cacouna June 29 (FH, PM), and 10 more Short-billeds on the Madeleine Is. July 3 that increased to 650 by July 17 (PF). Reports of a lone Marbled Godwit at Pointe-au-Père June 3–4 (DR, GG, JLc) and Cacouna July 11 (JPO, ML) could have pertained to the bird found at nearby Rimouski in late May. Single Ruffs were good finds at Cacouna June 11 (JPO, ML) and Fatima July 17 (PF). A Wilson's Phalarope reached Havre aux Basques June 11 and July 4 (PF).

JAEGERS TO TERNS — An ad. Pomarine Jaeger was noteworthy in mid-summer off Saint-Fabien June 24 (RY), while two ad. Long-tailed Jaegers at Saint-Fulgence June 3 (JI, CGi)—the first ever noted along the Saguenay R.—suggested an inland migration pattern similar to that of the Arctic Tern. Single breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gulls wandered to Inukjuak June 12–15 (GB) and Longueuil July 2–3 (DDi, m.ob.). After 6 years of unsuccessful nesting attempts, Little Gulls failed to return to LaSalle (PBa). Havre-Saint-Pierre became the 2nd breeding locale for Com. Black-headed Gulls in the province when, on June 11, a nest containing 3 eggs was discovered within a Ring-billed Gull colony (SP). This site produced the Region's first record of this larid, in 1951 (AFN 17:337–338). A previously unknown colony of Bonaparte's Gulls was found on L. Fleuricourt July 8 (DB) and, extremely rare inland, a pair of Great Black-backed Gulls hatched two young at Alma (CGi, MS). Seldom encountered in summer, an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared at Saint-Fulgence June 3 (JI, CGi), and three (adult, first-summer, and 2nd-summer) were seen at Aylmer during the period (BMD, DDI, RS, JD). Fifteen Caspian Terns and one nest on Fog I. June 14 (PBr) provided evidence that this isolated North Shore population may be recovering from the historically low levels of the 1970s. On Aug. 10, six ad. Roseate Terns with at least two chicks were on I. aux Cochons (FG, PF et al.)—a new site and the highest count ever for the Madeleine Is. Seven Arctic Terns at Saint-Fulgence June 9 (GS), and a concentration of 1000 off Trois-Pistoles June 13 (CGi, JJ), helped to further clarify the emerging pattern of overland migration for this species. A displaced Black Tern reached Havre aux Basques May 28 (PF).

OWLS TO SHRIKES — On the heels of last winter's invasion, and following the pattern of the 1986–1987 invasion, three Snowy Owls summered on Brion I. (PF), two others lingered at Betsiamites June 3–4 (RG, AG), and two N. Hawk-Owls were found on I. aux Coudres July 31 (DT). In w. Quebec,

Great Gray Owls were encountered repeatedly by atlas workers near Beaucanton and Val-Clermont (YA, SB), while a female hit by a car at Sainte-Gertrude-de-Villeneuve, near Amos, Apr. 14 (*vide* MP, PE) displayed a brood patch, and offered the first breeding evidence for the province. A downy Long-eared Owl at Grande-Entrée July 30–31 (MAV) furnished the first breeding evidence for the Madeleine Is. Intriguing was a Boreal Owl calling in Jacques-Cartier P.P., June 1–16 (VL), while N. Saw-whet Owls bred at Drummondville (JPR, DJ) and Carillon (BB, MMc).

S.A.

The new specific status of the Red-naped Sapsucker has triggered a renewed interest in sapsuckers in the East. All red-naped sapsuckers are not Red-naped Sapsuckers, however! A nesting red-naped male found at Saint-Jacques-de-Leeds in late June proved to be a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (CN, CV, MG, ph. ND). Indeed, a very small percentage of ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have a red nape. The extent of black on the throat, ear patch, and back, must be checked carefully in order to identify a Red-naped Sapsucker as such (*California Birds* 1:47–76). Red-naped Sapsuckers have been reported in Louisiana, and sapsuckers seen at unusual dates in the East should be closely scrutinized.

Two Willow Flycatchers at Saint-Ignace-du-Lac in June (FH) further extended the rapidly growing range of this species, while an E. Kingbird strayed to the Sainte-Marie Is. in late June (PBr). A Barn Swallow at Inukjuak June 8 (GB) was well n. of its range, but was closely examined to eliminate the potential European subspecies. Boreal Chickadees were confirmed nesting at Lemieux, and at Maple-Grove and Vianney in *Mégantic* (*vide* JP); these sites are in the St. Lawrence Valley, outside the Appalachian range where the species is resident. A Tufted Titmouse visited a feeder at Saint-Bruno June 4 (CF) and another was noted at Victoriaville June 12 & 18 (JGH, CH). These constituted our first summer records. A Marsh Wren sang at Saint-Gédéon for several days in late July (CGi, MS, RB); the species has never before reached the L. Saint-Jean area. At Inukjuak, one to three N. Wheatears were noted May 31–June 8 (GB), and a pair apparently lingered there during subsequent weeks.

Observers continue to comment on the improving status of E. Bluebirds; in early July, atlasers found a number of males occupying logged and burned-over sites in Abitibi, including a nest 55 km n. of Villebois (YA, SB). The breeding range of Gray Catbirds was extended to Bergeronnes, where a nest was discovered June 15 (JI, CGi), while a bird reached Grosse-île June 3 (PF). A pair of N. Mockingbirds transporting nest material at Pointe de l'Est June 22 (PF) provided the first breeding evidence for the Madeleine Is., while a Brown Thrasher at Betsiamites June 4 (RG, AG) was beyond its usual range. The status of Loggerhead Shrikes remains of concern as there was no evidence of breeding this year.

VIREOS TO FINCHES — A Warbling Vireo, casual on the Gaspé Pen., was observed at New-Richmond June 27 (PP). Unusual for s.w. Quebec, a pair of Philadelphia Vireos was feeding young at Oka June 22 (PBa), and Palm Warblers were found to be well established in the peat bogs of *Lotbinière* (JP). The Gaspé Pen. had its first Blue-winged Warbler, at Anse à Beauvils June 14–15 (JW), while single "Brewster's" Warblers brightened Huntingdon May 12 (JLc *et al.*) and Frelighsburg June 16 (CM). The Region's 5th **Louisiana Waterthrush** was described on Mt. Hereford June 22 (DL)—all earlier sightings being from the Gatineau P.P. area. Connecticut Warblers are fairly widely distributed in w. Quebec, as demonstrated by a pair at Ville-Marie July 7 (DDL) and seven birds in bogs n. of Villebois July 9–14 (YA). Previously, the species had been known exclusively

from jack pine stands in Quebec. At least seven males were singing at Saint-Honoré June 24–July 19 (MBu, JI), extending the species' range e. of L. Saint-Jean, and breeding was confirmed near Notre-Dame-de-la-Doré in June (GB)—a first for the Region. A Yellow-breasted Chat paused briefly at Cap-Tourmente June 3 (ND, MR).

A ♀ **Summer Tanager** on Bonaventure I., June 11 (JPO, PP *et al.*), was Quebec's 10th. Rare for the Madeleine Is. were single ♂ **Scarlet Tanagers** at Grande-Entrée May 25 and June 28 (LC), as well as 3 summer sightings of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*vide* PF), and only the 2nd **Indigo Bunting** ever for the archipelago, on Brion I., June 15–16 (PF). **Clay-colored Sparrows** successfully nested at Saint-Honoré (MBu, JI *et al.*)—a first for the Saguenay area—and one was observed at Bury in July (VL). One dozen or more **Grasshopper Sparrows** occupied 3 sites near Laprairie and Chambly in July (PBa); historically, the species was found at the latter site intermittently from 1920 to 1951. For the 2nd consecutive year, two **Le Conte's Sparrows** had returned to *Métabetchouan* by June 22 (GB). A singing **Fox Sparrow** at L. Matawin June 12 (PBa) and three more at L. aux Poissons, *Labelle*, June 28 (PBa) were well s. of their usual summer range. Two ♂ **Red-winged Blackbirds** were considered rarities at *La Romaine* June 13 (PBr). *Témiscouata* hosted its first **House Finch**, a male at Saint-Eusèbe July 4 (MBe).

ADVENTIVES — As in 1985 (AB 39:149), **Ringed Turtle-Doves** laid their eggs in an old robin nest in Hull (*vide* JCh). These birds are apparently kept in a semi-feral state by a local fancier.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — P. Bannon (PBa), B. Barnhurst, S. Barrette, M. Beaulieu (MBe), D. Bordage, G. Bouchard, R. Bouchard, M. Boudreau (MBu), M. & M. Boulard (M & MBd), F. Bourret, P. Brousseau (PBr), J. Chabot (JCh), C. Cormier, S. Cournoyer, J. Crépeau (JCr), G. Cyr, L. Cyr, D. Daigneault (DDi), D. Dallaire (DDI), N. David, B.M. DiLabio, J. Dubois, P. Ethier, C. Field, P. Fradette, S. Gagnon, J. Gaudreault, C. Gauthier (CGa), G. Gendron, R. Gilbert, P. Gingras, C. Girard (CGi), A. Gosselin, F. Grenon, F. Hilton, C. Houle, J-G Houle, J. Ibarzabal, D. Jauvin, R. Knaption, J. Lachance (JLc), S. Laferrière, M. Lafleur, P. Laporte, J. Larivée (JLr), D. Lepage, V. Létourneau, J. Luce (JLu), C. Marcotte, J-L Martel, M. Martineau (MMA), M. McIntosh (MMc), P. Mitchell, C. Nadeau, C. Ormsley, S. Ormsley, J-P Ouellet, M. Pageau, J. Paquin, S. Paradis, P. Poulin, J-P Raïche, M. Robert, C. Rony, D. Ruest, G. Savard, M. Savard, R. Schryer, F. Shaffer, D. Talbot, C. Vachon, M-A Villard, J. Wiseman, K.J. Zimmer.—MICHEL GOSSELIN, Ornithology Section, National Museum of Natural Sciences, P.O. Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, ON, K1P 6P4, RICHARD YANK, 566 Chester Road, Beaconsfield, PQ, H9W 3K1, and YVES AUBRY, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, PQ, G1V 4H5.



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

With this column we inaugurate the revised Hudson-Delaware Region, which now includes all of New York State. We can make sense of this huge and varied territory only if many observers send us reports. Of course we need news of rarities, documented at least by a careful written description if photographs are not possible. But we are no less interested in trends in ordinary species, documented by numbers whenever possible. Some of the best evidence we received this season came from census routes, nest documentation projects, and Summer Bird Counts, especially when, like the one in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, ups and downs are highlighted by comparison with a running ten-year average (RMS).

The season began unusually cold, extending the rainy chill of May, and then inflicted punishing heat and drought on birds and birders alike. After a record low of 38 in Albany on June 11, the thermometer soared to a record high of 96 there June 15. Records were broken again in late June (100 in Philadelphia on June 22), and the temperature reached the upper 90s for much of the first three weeks of July. The mercury topped out at 102 in southern New Jersey July 16 and 17. June had only about half normal rainfall, but many thunderstorms broke the drought after July 27. The rain and cold of May probably damaged bird nesting more than the heat of June, however. Heat may possibly have reduced Osprey productivity and killed some box-nesting Eastern Bluebirds, but, for the most part, the nesting season was favorable. Most of the difficulties came from the onslaughts of human recreation and development (see Piping Plover, grassland species).

The season's highlights included the greatest summer invasion ever of Brown Pelicans, New Jersey's first nesting Royal Tern, yet another White-winged Tern in Delaware, a late summer influx of Dickcissels, Sedge Wrens, and a possible Bell's Vireo, the last three probably refugees from the drought-stricken Midwest.

ABBREVIATIONS — Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE; Brig = Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic, NJ; Del.D.N.R.E.C. = Delaware Division of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; H.M. = Hackensack Marshes, between E. Rutherford and Kearny, Bergen and Hudson, NJ; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City; Little Creek = Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, DE; N.J.D.F.G.W. = New Jersey Dep't of Fish, Game, and Wildlife; N.Y.D.E.C. = New York Department of Environmental Conservation; S.C.M.M. = South Cape May Meadows, Cape May, NJ; SBC = Summer Bird Count. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS — In addition to the usual scattered summering Com. Loons on the coast and one inland at Beltzville L., Carbon, PA [J. Wink], a more unusual Red-throated Loon summered at Henlopen S. P., DE (WWF). Another was in the H.M. June 4 [SW].

Pelagics were not very abundant on the handful of offshore trips reported to us. A Manx Shearwater was reported at the mouth of Fire Island Inlet June 11 (M. Cooper). The most interesting finds were single Audubon's Shearwaters off Beach Haven, NJ, June 25 [HA] and 15 mi off Stone Harbor, NJ, July 16 [CS]. Only a handful of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were inshore, all in the Cape May area.

After a modest influx last summer, Brown Pelicans outdid themselves in their 5th consecutive invasion. First reported



off New Jersey May 11, they became part of the daily scene there and in coastal Delaware from June into mid-August. They reached Long Island in unprecedented numbers (and even farther northeast—see New England Region). The peak count in Delaware was of 100 at Indian River Inlet July 25 (WWF), in New Jersey 106 going to roost at dusk June 27 on a sand bar in Hereford Inlet, Cape May (MF), and on Long Island 31 entering Fire Island Inlet July 31 (L. Merryman). They penetrated much farther up the Delaware R. than ever before, reaching the Bombay Hook river front May 23 (C. Pelizza, refuge personnel). Numbers declined rapidly after the end of July, although 47 were still in Hereford Inlet August 14 (BMo) and a few into early October. The rumor that a pair bred successfully in Delaware turned out to be unfounded. After nesting last summer in Virginia and Maryland, could this Region be next?

Double-crested Cormorants continued their rapid increase, although known breeding colonies remained unchanged at 3 in upstate New York (Oneida L. was added last summer) and 4 in the Long Island–New York City area. Breeding is still unproven in New Jersey, although the birds are everywhere. Some of the colonies are beginning to pose public relations problems. The Gardiner's Island, L.I., colony, with about 1200 adults, is killing its original trees and spreading outward (MS). The Little Galloo colony, off Henderson Harbor, Jefferson, NY, on L. Ontario, reached 3400 pairs and set off what the Syracuse *Herald American* called a "cormorant war" between fishermen and environmentalists. The Four Brothers Is., on L. Champlain, contained a record 263 active nests (JMCP). Stragglers turned up more and more widely, such as Yunick's first two in 18 years at Jenny L., Saratoga, NY (RPY).

HERONS TO WATERFOWL — Since no aerial surveys of heronries were undertaken this season, we have only partial local figures. The great Pea Patch Island heronry in Delaware increased 60% to over 10,000 adults (JTh, Del.D.N.R.E.C.) (see detailed figures in our summer 1987 column). Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, and Glossy Ibis all increased there, although on Long Island Glossy Ibis slipped a bit (AD-O).

Five Great Egrets at Forty-Fort, Luzerne, July 20 (WR) were precursors of a fairly good season for wandering post-breeding herons in n.e. Pennsylvania. A Tricolored Heron at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA, after July 23 (K. Crilley, m.ob.) furnished only the 3rd record for the Allentown area. A record 163 nestling Black-crowned Night-Herons were banded on Four Brothers Island "B", Essex, NY (JMCP), but this species has abandoned previous colonies in n.e. Pennsylvania, where it is now scarce (WR). It also declined on Long Island (AD-O). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons prospected rather widely from their strictly coastal breeding range, reaching the H.M. July 2 (3rd or 4th record in 5 years, PBA); Dutchess, NY, June 11, the first county record since 1976 (A. Jones); and a remarkable two at the Tonowanda W.M.A., Erie et al., NY, June 26–July 24 (DE, m.ob.).

Single imm. White Ibises now more than annual in the s. part of this Region, were at Oyster Rock Rd., Sussex, DE, July 26–28 (WWF) and near Riverhead, L.I., July 2 (C. Helms). Two Glossy Ibises were far afield July 27 in Chester, PA (PH). Atlasers in n.e. Pennsylvania were astonished to see an imm. **Wood Stork** flying SE over Little Spruce L., Wayne, June 17 (H. McWilliams).

A ♂ Eur. Wigeon in molt was an uncommon summer visitor at J.B.W.R. June 27–July 17 (N. Larsen et al.) A subad. ♂ Ring-necked Duck summered at Hyper Humus Marsh, Sussex, NJ (J. Zamos), far south of its Adirondack breeding range in this Region. Fewer sea ducks than usual lingered over the summer. A subad. ♂ Com. Eider was seen often around Cape May, and another at Montauk; a handful of all three scoter species summered on the New Jersey coast, and one Black and two Surf scoters at Henlopen S.P., DE (WWF); as usual, White-winged Scoter, the most numerous in winter, was least common among summer stragglers. A Hooded Merganser with three young was at Speedwell Forge L., n. Lancaster (AH), and possibly another on the Delaware R. near Tunkhannock, Wyoming (J. Shoemaker); this species breeds only sparingly in e. Pennsylvania.

RAPTORS — Following New Jersey's 2nd and 3rd known Black Vulture nests, reported last spring, 20 or more birds could be seen along the Delaware R. near Frenchtown, Hunterdon, NJ, but one over Wycombe, Susquehanna (AH) was well north of known Pennsylvania breeding areas.

Ospreys continued their recovery as a nesting species on Long Island and in Pennsylvania, although nesting pairs declined slightly in New Jersey and perhaps even more in Delaware. Productivity, too, was disquietingly low in some areas. Of 43 active nests in the Adirondacks only 13 fledged young, possibly because fish were driven deeper in unnaturally warm like waters (L. Champlain reached a tropical 77 degrees Aug. 1) (JMCP). Active pairs in upstate New York outside the Adirondacks included one at Montezuma N.W.R., Seneca, productive for the first time, and one at Three Rivers W.M.A., Onandaga (BL, N.Y.D.E.C.). The Long Island population did well: 165 nests produced 215 young (well above last year's 152 active nests and 164 young) (MS). Southern Nassau's active nests increased from 2 to 3 (JZy), and the J.B.W.R. pair built several dummy nests this year (CP), signs that the Long Island population is building successfully westward into suburbia. New Jersey's 133 nests and 152 young were slightly below last year (LN, N.J.D.F.G.W.). All of the 11 nests in Salem were on transmission towers (JKM). Of 37 active nests censused in Delaware (68 last year in a more complete census), only 58% had hatching success, with 46 young fledged. Most of these nests were on duck blinds (JTh, Del.D.N.R.E.C.). Inland, in e. Pennsylvania, where breeding was reestablished in 1986 in the Delaware Water Gap, Northampton, active nests more than doubled from 4 to 9, and 12 young were fledged (L. Rymon).

As usual, a few Mississippi Kites hung around into early June. One was unexpected at the New Jersey end of the Tacony-Palmyra bridge, Philadelphia, June 2 (W. Dasey), and another, more normally, was at S.C.M.M. June 9 (RC). Breeding pairs of Bald Eagles increased substantially over last year, at

least partly the result of widespread stocking programs. New York had 8 territorial pairs and 6 active nests with eggs, 3 of which produced five young (P. Nye, N.Y.D.E.C.). Three of the territorial pairs were in c. and w. New York, and 4 in the northern part of the state. The pair in the Sullivan reservoir area of s.e. New York, a New York-hacked bird and a Pennsylvania-hacked bird, suggest that this recently established major wintering area may become a historically new breeding site as well. An amazing 12 eagles lingered there this summer (JPT). New Jersey doubled from one active nest to 2, one of which was successful; 3 other pairs were being watched (LN, N.J.D.F.G.W.). Delaware had 6 active nests, 4 of which successfully raised five young, twice last year's figures (JTh, Del.D.N.R.E.C.). Wandering individual eagles were far too widespread to summarize; they were found from the coastal plain, such as Montauk, L.I. (*vide* ES), and the Cape May area, to hitherto unfrequented upland areas such as Yunick's first in 18 years at Jenny Lake, Saratoga, NY. This bird's wing tag indicated that it had been hacked in Florida (RPY). There were just a lot of young Bald Eagles around.

The increase in Cooper's Hawks mentioned in our spring report was further documented this summer. Their reappearance in the coastal plain, following a similar development in Delaware, produced the first nests there in perhaps 50 years (CS). In addition to the 2 coastal plain nests mentioned in the spring report, we learned of another nest in Gloucester, four other individuals in s. New Jersey (CS), and one at Primehook N.W.R., on the Delaware coast, July 31 (WWF). An additional upland New Jersey nest was found in Hunterdon (GH, JDeM) Fledglings were found in 2 Pennsylvania localities: near the Dreher'sville game lands, Schuylkill (J. Olmes), and in one out of 10 Atlas blocks in Berks (RKe). Our most solid information about the density of hawks comes from a N.J.D.F.G.W. survey in 5 counties in n. New Jersey. Out of a total of 87 stops on these routes, hawks responded to a Great Horned Owl tape at least once at the following number of stops: Red-tailed Hawk, 14; Broad-winged Hawk, 12; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; and Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 (MV). One imm. Golden Eagle was reported at Slide Mt., Ulster, in the Catskills, July 17 (M. Kleinbaum).

New York had by far its best year of the new Peregrine era 16 natural young fledged in 10 active nests (five young last year, nine in 1986). Six of these active nests were in the Adirondacks, on cliff sites, and 4 were in the New York City area, 3 on bridges and one (a new successful pair) on the Cornell Medical Center/New York Hospital building (BL, N.Y.D.E.C.; JMCP). Some captive-reared fledglings were hacked in New York as well, and some eggs were taken for captive breeding. New Jersey increased to 12 pairs, of which 9 fledged 23 young (eight of them captive-hatched). Two pairs attempted unsuccessfully to nest on bridges in Delaware, and 2—possibly 3—on bridges around Philadelphia. In addition to these active nests there were more non-breeding Peregrines around than ever, among them two in mid-town Manhattan (SW), and one in downtown Buffalo June 14 (RA). (We thank Dr. Tom Cade for help with this whole paragraph).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS — The Black Rail survey mentioned in our spring column also reported "probably a few dozen" King Rails in Delaware Bay coastal marsh in s. New Jersey (PKe). Elsewhere we had more King Rail reports than usual, from Morganville, Monmouth, June 19 (E. Hays), Brig July 9 (PBA), and around Cape May (m.ob.), all in New Jersey, and from Tonawanda W.M.A., Niagara et al., NY, July 19 (Rising, m.ob.). Two Soras calling at J.B.W.R. July 29 (AM) were in less usual brackish habitat, at a site where the species was not recorded during the New York Atlas project. A Com. Moorhen that spent July in a drainage pond behind a shopping center in Allentown, PA, made a first Lehigh summer record (BLM).

Spring shorebird passage, which peaked in this Region in early June, almost met the first returning fall migrants. Nearly 23,000 shorebirds, mostly Semipalmated Sandpipers, were still

in Delaware Bay June 9 (aerial survey, Del.D.N.R.E.C., N.J.D.G.F.W.). Fall returns were exceptionally early. Notably early records include 14 Black-bellied Plovers at Hereford Inlet, Cape May, NJ, June 27 (MF), a Lesser Golden-Plover at Island Farm, Sussex, DE, from June 30 into July (WWF), four Lesser Yellowlegs at S.C.M.M. June 22 (CS) and nine there the next day (RK), a Red Knot at Hereford Inlet June 27 (MF), a W. Sandpiper record-early at J.B.W.R. July 8 (AM), individual Least Sandpipers record-early June 25 at J.B.W.R. (AM) and June 29 at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA (GAF), Stilt Sandpiper record-early July 5 at J.B.W.R. (AM), a White-rumped Sandpiper at S.C.M.M. June 26 (V. Elia, PK), and 120 Short-billed Dowitchers at Woodland Beach, DE, June 26 (CP). These were all adults, of course; the first juveniles were just appearing as this season ended, as usual.

This Region hosts a substantial proportion of the Piping Plover population, but they are subject to intense pressure from human beach use. Censuses showed increases on both Long Island (an estimated 168 pairs, AD-O), and in New Jersey (an estimated 105 pairs, DJ, N.J.D.F.G.W.), but these increases may be due to closer scrutiny. We do not yet have good figures on whether they produced young at a rate sufficient to maintain this population. Delaware was a disaster area. The state's population was down to six adults, and all of their progeny was wiped out by predators or by heavy beach use during the July 4 weekend (JTh, DAC). For the first time, not one Piping Plover seems to have been raised in Delaware. Two Killdeer nests were successful on gravel roofs of the Alfred Tech campus, Allegany, NY (EB).

American Avocets wandered to the H.M. in July (RK), and, far more surprisingly, to Dunkirk Harbor, on Lake Erie, July 11, the first Chautauqua, NY, record (ph. J. Gula, BS, Watson, TDM). Willets are still "increasing phenomenally" on w. Long Island, where 59 at J.B.W.R. July 21 was the largest count ever in the shorebird survey begun by Tom Davis and continued by Art Morris. Upland Sandpipers continue fairly widespread in upstate New York, but downstate, the best remaining site is still JFK airport, where there are an estimated 20 pairs (SC). They may also have bred at Westhampton airport, L.I. (ES), and seven were at Blue Chip Farm, Ulster, June 11 (SW). In New Jersey, where they are in trouble, the best place is the Federal Aviation Authority facility at Pomona, Atlantic. About 27 birds were present there at the end of May (PP et al.). Aside from a few scattered pairs, the only other major New Jersey sites were Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Ocean, where eight birds responded to taped calls in early June (DJ, N.J.D.F.G.W.), and Sharptown, Salem, with 10 birds June 29 (JKM), an area slated for development. Up to 12 were reported near E. Berlin, York, PA (AH). In Delaware, Wilmington International Airport had none until mid-July (L. Falk), which suggests that the late July concentrations there are all migrants [24 on July 22 was this year's peak].

A Marbled Godwit at Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA, July 31 furnished only about a 3rd county record (EW). At least four and possibly six Ruffs were at Bombay Hook through July, including a resplendent red-headed black and white male June 27 which faded rapidly thereafter (CP, ph. BMi, m.ob.); one was at Island Farm, Sussex, DE, June 30-July 1 (WWF). The only June record of Wilson's Phalarope was of a female feeding with Killdeer in the dry bed of Basic Creek Res., Albany, NY, on the 12th (LA). They arrived on the coast only on July 3 (WWF), and their numbers built up only modestly by the end of July (e.g., six at Bombay Hook July 30, and 11 the following week there, Aug. 5 [CP]). No exotic peeps or concentrations of godwits were reported this season—maybe it was just too hot to look.

GULLS TO SKIMMER — Great Black-backed and Herring gulls continued to encroach on Com. Tern colonies on Long Island (AD-O), and no doubt elsewhere. Exotic gulls went unreported.



American Avocet at Dunkirk Harbor, Lake Ontario, New York, July 11, 1988. Photograph/Joe Gula, Jr.

Gull-billed Terns seem solidly established on Long Island, having missed only one season since they were first discovered breeding in 1975. This summer one certain pair and two possibles were found in the Great South Bay of Long Island (JZy). A good count at Brig, their principal Regional breeding location, was of 35 with young July 21 (D. Rich et al.). New York's new Caspian Tern colony, established in 1986 on L. Ontario at Little Galloo I., Jefferson, has reached about 100 pairs (GS). A pair of Caspian Terns bred again in New Jersey for the 5th year in a row, on Tow I., off Tuckerton, Ocean, NJ, and a few feet away was New Jersey's (and the Region's) first breeding pair of **Royal Terns** (JB, MG). Newly fledged young were observed July 30. This species, a frequent straggler in June and a common post-breeding wanderer, had previously bred only as close as Maryland.

Single Sandwich Terns were reported occasionally throughout June around Cape May (RC, MF), but no breeding is known nearer than Maryland. Ever more Roseate Terns hang around coastal New Jersey, where breeding has not been confirmed in modern times (although the substantial Long Island population is growing slightly). Single birds were at Henlopen S.P., DE, June 8 (WWF), off and on through July around Cape May (RC, JDo, D. Roche), and at Stone Harbor July 16 (CS), and a pair was at Brig July 23 (PBa, P. Dunne). We expected this one to turn up breeding in New Jersey before Royal Tern! In the absence of systematic surveys of coastal colonies in New Jersey and on Long Island this summer, we can state only that Com. Terns seemed to have done well. Forster's Tern does not appear to have bred on Long Island this year.

Least Terns declined in all 3 coastal states. In New Jersey, despite protection, breeding pairs dropped from about 2900 to 1600 (DJ, N.J.D.F.G.W.). In Delaware, where only 3 colonies are left, 783 adults was the 2nd-lowest figure in the last 10 years (JTh, Del.D.N.R.E.C.). On Long Island, the population has slipped for the last 2 summers from the high of about 3000 pairs in 1986 (AD-O).



White-winged Tern in flight near Kitt's Hummock, Delaware, Aug. 11, 1988. Mostly in basic (winter) plumage, this bird retains some telltale black on the underprimary-coverts, a mark not shared by Black Tern. Photograph/Bob Mitchell.

A major event of the season was the **White-winged Tern** discovered well into winter plumage at the Ted Harvey W.M.A., Logan Lane tract, near Kitt's Hummock, DE, July 30 (CP). It remained through at least Aug. 28 (ph. BMi, HA, C. Wilds, m.ob.). This was the 6th record for coastal Delaware since 1974, all of them up to now at Little Creek, and this time only a few miles away. The Black Tern returned to the Com. Tern colony at Three Mile Harbor, L.I., for the 4th successive summer (ES). The best migrant concentration of these declining birds was of nine at the Ted Harvey W.M.A. July 30, accompanying the White-winged Tern; they had increased to 12 on Aug. 2 (CP). Black Skimmers have declined on Long Island over 2 summers from about 1100 adults to about 720 (AD-O), but maintain their toehold in Delaware with about 50 adults (JTh).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS—The prodigiously successful Mourning Dove keeps advancing. At Jenny L., n. Saratoga, in the Adirondacks, where they first appeared in 1982, Yunick banded a record 33. They were about 60% above the 10-year average on the s. Lancaster, PA, SBC (RMS). Both cuckoos were again abundant, except on Long Island, and not quite to the high levels of the early 1970s and 1980–1982. A half dozen breeding pairs of Short-eared Owls west of Rochester (F. Nicoletti) provided a good report, but we have no information about coastal breeding, except for several present at JFK airport (SC). A pair of territorial N. Saw-whet Owls was a very good find near Hawk Mt., PA (LG); our only other report this season was at Taughannock, Tompkins, NY, July 17 (F. Marcham).

Common Nighthawks seemed down in n.e. Pennsylvania cities like Wilkes-Barre and Scranton (WR), but as in the past 4 or 5 years, a few were present in downtown Manhattan and Brooklyn. Only one Whip-poor-will was found in n.e. Pennsylvania, in a replanted strip-mine site at the Nanticoke Industrial Park (M. Blauer), but on e. Long Island they persist where pine barrens remain reasonably undisturbed (ES). Chuck-will's-widows have levelled off after their rapid expansion into coastal Long Island, and "have again become rare" (ES). A report of an ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at a feeder near Ithaca, NY, July 7–8 (S. Sibley) has been referred to the N.Y. State Avian Rarities Committee.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers "virtually swarmed" on e. Long Island, where they have only recently penetrated (ES), and set

a 12-year high in the carefully documented SBC in Lancaster, PA (RMS). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was found a 2nd year at Mehoopany, Wyoming, PA, although the date this time (July 29) could indicate early fall dispersal (WR). Another July 25 at White's Mill, Montgomery, PA (J. Horn), was certainly an early fall migrant.

Two more Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported, one from Bayshore, L.I., June 11 (M. Wilson) and another, the first for the Buffalo area, at Ellicot, Chautauqua, NY, June 4 (ph. L. Kipler et al.). Both records are typical of late spring prospecting by this species now expanding into the s.e. United States (it has bred in the Carolinas).

LARKS TO SHRIKES—Our remark last summer that breeding Horned Larks have nearly disappeared away from the beach has elicited information about some remaining inland breeding areas. About 20 were at Leaser L., n.w. Lehigh, PA, July 23 (BLM, F. Brock), and six were at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, NJ, in July (R. Radis). The best breeding population in New Jersey is the reconditioned mine site at Manchester, Ocean, where Sutton censused 77 adults and 40 juveniles June 7 (CS). They also breed inland on e. Long Island (ES).

The expansion of Fish Crows beyond the coast and major river systems continued to draw widespread comment. They pushed up the Susquehanna as far as White's Ferry, Wyoming, where the first county nest was confirmed (WR). They were believed to have bred in residential Schenectady (RPY) and summered for the first time in Middletown, Orange, NY (JPT), but on the barrier beach of s. Long Island they seem to be losing out to Am. Crows (ROP). Common Raven nests were found at Rickett's Glen, Luzerne, PA (MB) and in Ward township, Allegany (E. Schriver, VP, EB), the first confirmed nest in w. New York in this century (SWE). This resourceful scavenger is rapidly reoccupying its former range between strongholds in the Adirondacks and the s. Appalachians.

The Tufted Titmouse frontier is still advancing across this Region. On extreme e. Long Island, where it was unknown 15 years ago, it is now found everywhere in inhabited areas (ES). Yunick banded his first immature at Jenny L., n. Saratoga, NY, where it probably also bred last year (RPY), and in w. New York Allegany's 2nd nest was found (VP). One of the more remarkable events of the season was a late incursion of Sedge Wrens into coastal New Jersey and Delaware, where they have not bred in recent years. Four or more singing males appeared at S.C.M.M. July 29 (DS) and were observed regularly into early September. Although some were seen carrying nesting material, breeding could not be proven. Another small colony was at Port Mahon, DE, after Aug. 13 (CP, D. Shoch). Less unusually, in upstate New York, two were at Hogansburg, in extreme n. Franklin, June 4 (H. White), three at Smith Ridge Road, Madison, July 18 (FGS), and two at Iroquois N.W.R., Orleans-Genesee, July 19 (DE). Marsh Wrens have become scarce in formerly good habitat in c. and e. Long Island (ES, ROP), but this is a species about which we receive little information.

A singing male and several ♀ Golden-crowned Kinglets in a plantation of Norway Spruce and other conifers near Oley, Berks, in July (RKø) suggested further range extension southward in Pennsylvania, always in artificial habitats. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reduced to one-third of their 10-year average on the s. Lancaster SBC, and seemed down on e. Long Island as well (ES). Our only report of the endangered Loggerhead Shrike was of a single adult June 18–20 in Orleans, NY, where it was last known to have bred successfully in 1983 (D. Tetlow, J. Skelly).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES—Eight out of 15 warbler species recorded June 4 on the s. Lancaster SBC were below their 10-year average (RMS). Many of those doing better than average are species that winter mostly (Pine Warbler) or partly (Yellow Warbler, Com. Yellowthroat, Ovenbird) within North America,

although some exclusively tropical winterers (N Parula) were also doing well locally. The severest decline was in Louisiana Waterthrush, which was only at one-fourth of the 10-year average (RMS).

"Lawrence's" Warblers were found at Easton, PA, July 7 (A. Koch) and, very late, near Wilkes-Barre, PA, July 23 (AH). A singing ♂ Tennessee Warbler at the N. end of Whitney Point Res., Broome, NY, July 1 (H. Marsi) was well south of breeding range, and another at Moorestown, Burlington, NJ, July 4 was amazing (BMo). Yellow-rumped Warblers are prospering, as indicated by widespread reports of pairs and fledglings in Carbon, PA (BLM, A. Koch) and up to five singing males in one Red Pine plantation in the Pequannock watershed of n.w. New Jersey (PBa). Yunick banded 20 immatures and five adults at Jenny L., Saratoga, NY, his largest June–July total in 18 years (RPY). New York's 3rd confirmed Yellow-throated Warbler nest was found in Allegany S.P., one of the locations where they were first found breeding in New York in 1984 (BS et al.). A good-sized population of Prairie Warblers breeds well to the north of the distribution shown in the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, in the alvar grasslands and pavement barrens of w. Jefferson (GS). The presence of 2 territorial pairs of Palm Warblers at Spring Pond Bog, Franklin, NY, for the 2nd summer out of the past 3 (K. Eagleson, JCMP), suggests that the first New York breeding record nearby in 1984 represented a small permanent breeding population and not an isolated case.

A singing ♂ Summer Tanager and a pair were present all summer on e. Long Island (J. Clinton, H. McGuinness), although this species is not known to nest north of c. New Jersey. Delaware's first Rose-breasted Grosbeak nest was found in University Woods, Newark, in June (R. Roth, *vide* R. West, G. Hess). Expanding Blue Grosbeaks were pioneering as far north in Pennsylvania as Berks, but no positive proof of nesting was found (RKe).

S.A.

It was "the summer of the Dickcissel," one of our correspondents wrote. In mid-summer they moved into the western part of the Region (and adjacent regions) in numbers unprecedented since the bird's disappearance as a breeding species in the late 19th century. A nest in Andover town, Allegany, June 29 was the first confirmed New York nest since 1955 (EB); a singing male was at Fairport, Monroe, NY, July 11 (R. Mulvihill). In New Jersey, individual singing males were at Alpha, Warren, July 3–16 (RWr, BMo, J. Ebner), in Morris in early June (F. Weinfeld), in the H.M. July 23 (D. Freeland), and at Dividing Creek, Cumberland, July 9 (AH). No proof of breeding could be obtained, however; the 1974 nest in the H.M. remains New Jersey's only known 20th century breeding record. Pennsylvania had by far the most. A colony of six to 10 birds was definitely breeding near Collinsville and two birds were near E. Berlin, York (RMS, DC, m.ob.). Up to 14 birds were in Middle Creek W.M.A., n. Lancaster (R. Miller, *vide* RMS). These were widely believed to be refugees from the drought-stricken Midwest, but possibly some recolonization of the old breeding range may come of it.

One or 2 pairs of Clay-colored Sparrows were still present at their eastern frontier of recent years in Allegany, NY, in Christmas tree plantations as usual (EB). Much farther east a singing male was near Limerick, Jefferson, NY (GS). A newly-studied grassland area in Millstone township, Monmouth, NJ (CS), adds 4 or 5 pairs of Vesper Sparrows to last year's 15–16 total for the state (RK). Elsewhere they were thought to be increasing, from e. Long Island (ES) to York (DC) and Lancaster (RMS), PA. "Incredible numbers" of Grasshopper Sparrows were found at the Federal Aviation Authority facility, Pomona, Atlantic, NJ (PP), and Sutton counted 54 singing males in a

partially rehabilitated 800-acre strip-mining site at Manchester, Ocean, NJ. Such opportunistic use of reconditioned mine sites has been well documented before (*Am. Birds* 34:13–14, January 1980), and is of course an essentially temporary phenomenon. Elsewhere they seemed to be doing well except on e. Long Island (ES) and in Delaware. A small colony near Bombay Hook (AH) was the only one noted in that state where "development and increased population have eliminated many grass fields, and most old dirt roads are now paved and have housing developments on them" (WWF). A singing ♂ Henslow's Sparrow at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Ocean, NJ July 19 (R. Radis) was a good find, since this species has disappeared from the southern half of this Region. They were also apparently absent from their Galesville airport site, Ulster, NY (SW) and a good recent area has been lost in Chenango (JGL), but we have reports of active sites in Madison (FGS), Genesee (C. Cass et al.), Allegany (EB, VP), and Chautauqua (TDM), in c. and w. New York. In n.e. Pennsylvania, although the familiar places of 2 years ago were vacant (WR), small colonies were found near Tunkhannock, Wyoming (R. Pote), and near Lemon, Wyalusing, and Stowell, Bradford (WR, F. & B. Haas). A singing Lincoln's Sparrow at 2300 ft July 24 at Rickett's Glen S.P., Luzerne, PA (MB) was unprecedented; it could not be found again.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird frequented a feeder at Beach Haven, Ocean, NJ (AH). A group of 5 to 10 pairs of Boat-tailed Grackles at Jones Beach S.P. (B. & A. Lauro) may indicate new range expansion E on Long Island. At a Purple Finch nest near Alfred, Allegany, NY, the female was accompanied during feeding her young by a ♂ House Finch (EB). House Finches continue their "fantastic population explosion," as evidenced by a count nearly 4 times the 10-year average on the s. Lancaster, PA, SBC (RMS). We had a report from Bucks, PA, of "serious crop damage" to rapeseed and peach crops by "hordes" of House Finches (DH). Our spring prediction that some lingering Red Crossbills would remain to breed was borne out by 2 groups including juveniles on e. Long Island (J. Clinton, ES), where this species breeds sparingly in the pine barrens. Pine Siskins left over from the massive invasion of last winter were widespread as far south as Delaware and s.w. New Jersey (JKM). We received rather few breeding reports, however; the most unusual was of a nest with young in District township June 5, the first Berks, PA, record (the young turned out to be a Brown-headed Cowbird) (RKe). Other certain breeding records were in Monroe (R. O'Hara) and Saratoga, NY, where Yunick banded a record total of 204, and for only the 3rd time since 1970 banded them into June (41) and July (1) (RPY).

EXOTICS — A Chilean Flamingo hung around Mecox and Montauk Pt., L.I., from late June through August (JJR, ES, m.ob.).

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — A Bell's Vireo was heard singing for 5 minutes at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, NJ, July 16 by an observer familiar with its unmistakable song (RWr) This record seems convincing, but the bird could not be seen. Possibly another refugee from the Midwestern drought?

OBSERVERS (Subregional compilers in boldface) — Janet Anderson, Robert Andrie, Harry Armistead, **Linda Armstrong** (Hudson-Mohawk Region, NY: RD 1, Box 159, Feura Bush, NY 12067), **Peter Bacinski** (PBa) (coastal NJ): 511 Prospect Place, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071, **Irving Black** (n.e. NJ): Eagle Rock Village, Bldg 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), Mark Blauer, **R.J. Blicharz** (n.c. NJ): 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, NJ 08638), Elizabeth Brooks, Joanna Burger, **T.W. Burke** (s.e. NY: 235 Highland Ave., Rye, NY 10580), Cayuga Bird Club, Sam Chevalier, Dick Cleary, Richard Crossley, **Kenneth Crowell** (St. Lawrence Region, NY: RD 4, Box 97, Canton, NY 13617), **Paul DeBenedictis** (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210), John DeMarras, **Peter Derven** (PDe) (Rockland, NY: 70 Third Ave., Nyack, NY 10960), Anne Ducey-Ortiz (Seatuck Research Project), Peter Dunne, **S.W. Eaton** (Niagara Frontier, NY: Ten Mile Rd., Allegany, NY

14706], **A.P. Ednie** (New Castle and Kent, DE: 21 N. Wells Ave., Glenolden, PA 19036), D. Endres, Ed Fingerhood, Bill & Sally Fintel (B & SF), G.A. Franchois, **W.W. Frech** (Sussex, DE: 301 County Rd., Lewes, DE 19958), G.L. Freed, Mike Fritz, Ken Fuestel, Michael Gochfeld, Laurie Goodrich (Hawk Mountain), **Kevin Griffith** (Genesee Region, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Al Guarente, **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. NJ: RD 3, Box 263, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865), Dorothy Hartmann, High Peaks Audubon Society, Armas Hill (Philadelphia Birdline), Phyllis Hurlock, Dave Jenkins (N.J.D.F.G.W.), Rich Kane, Rudy Keller (RKe), Paul Kerlinger (PKe), R.J. Kurtz, S.R. Lawrence, **Jay G. Lehman** (Susquehanna Region, NY: RD 2, Box 68C, Norwich, NY 11815), Barbara Loucks (N.Y.D.E.C.), **Helen Manson** (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: Moores Mill, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569), **C.K. Melin** (Finger Lakes Region, NY: 84-A Turkey Hill Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850), **J.K. Meritt** (s.w. NJ: 809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, NJ 08012), Bob Mitchell (BMi), Arthur Morris, **B.L. Morris** (e. PA: 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown, PA 18104), Brian Moscatello (BMo), T.D. Mosher, Larry Niles (N.J.D.F.G.W.), Peter Nye (N.Y.D.E.C.), Carl Perry, **J.M.C. Pe-**

terson (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Clive Pinnock (J.B.W.R.), Eleanor Pink (R.T. Waterman Bird Club), Vivian Pitzrick, Peter Plage, **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), John Ruscica, Eric Salzman, Mike Scheibel (N.Y.D.E.C.), F.G. Scheider, **Sy Schiff** (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), **Gerald Smith** (St. Lawrence Region, NY: Box 498, Mexico, NY 13114), R.M. Schutsky, R.G. Spahn (Genesee Ornithological Society), Bob Sundell, Clay & Pat Sutton, William Symonds (Rochester Birding Association), Janis Thomas (JTh) (Del.D.N.R.E.C.), **J.P. Tramontano** (Orange and Sullivan, NY: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Mike Valent (N.J.D.F.G.W.), Steve Walter, Dave Ward (DWa), W.J. Wayne, Rick Wiltraut, Eric Witmer, **Al Wollin** (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), Rick Wright (RWr), R.P. Yunick, John Zarudsky (JZy).—**ROBERT O. PAXTON, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027, WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., 12 Glenwood Road, Denville, NJ 07834, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.**

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

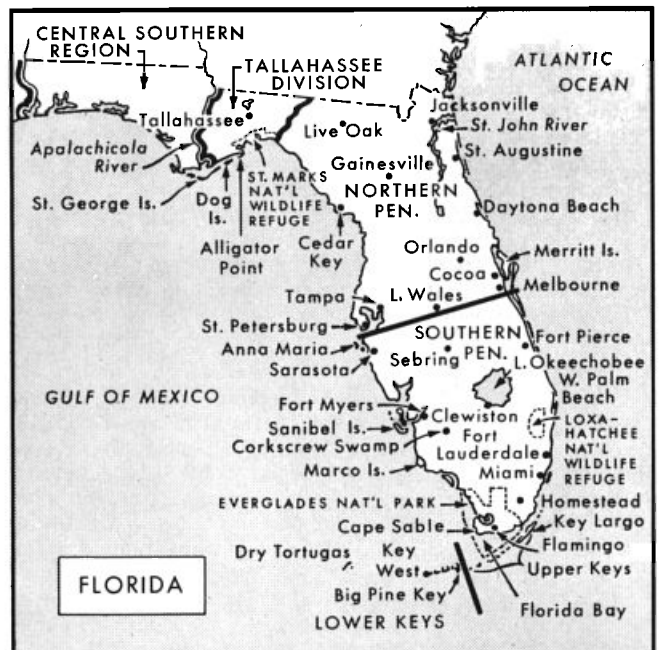
We regret that at press time, we have not received the Middle Atlantic Coast and Southern Atlantic Coast regional reports. Look for them in our Spring, 1989 issue.

FLORIDA REGION

Richard T. Paul

For the third straight year, weather patterns in peninsular Florida were marked by drier-than-normal spring conditions followed by delayed onset of the rainy season. The only real exception was in southeast Florida, where rains began in late May and the Homestead-Miami area endured some of the wettest conditions ever recorded through June and July. It was so wet in Everglades National Park in June that John Ogden reported walking catfish humping their way across roads in the park's pinelands. A few wading bird colonies benefitted from the wet conditions, notably the summertime Taylor Slough heronry—which forms only in wet years—and the largest Everglades nesting of White Ibises in many years. But observers elsewhere, particularly along the Gulf Coast and in north Florida, noted rather severe drought conditions and generally reduced, delayed or interrupted nesting efforts by pelicans, herons, ibises, and storks.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.B.S. = Archbold Biological Station; C.S.M. = Clear Springs Mine; E.N.P. = Everglades National Park; F.F.N. = Fla. Field Naturalist; F.O.S.R.C. = Fla. Ornithological Society Records Committee; G.F.C. = Fla. Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission; M.I.N.W.R. = Merritt Island N.W.R. Place names in italics are counties.



LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Two late (summering?) Com. Loons were reported from Barefoot Bay, Indian River June 9 & 16 (NS, DD), and another from Port Canaveral June 27 (JJ). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were reported only from the Keys: 15 were found June 4 at the "Hump", a coral outcrop *s e* of Islamorada which causes a local upwelling at the edge of the Gulf Stream (AS, WH), and six over the Gulf Stream off Conch Key June 11 (HD). Although Am. White Pelicans summer at scattered localities in Florida, 25 at Zellwood July 16 (DWF, JNO) and one at Rookery Bay July 24 (THB) were thought unusual. Brown Pelican nesting efforts were off sharply this year at colonies on both coasts numbers declined by up to 40%, nesting was 4–8 weeks late, and the average brood size was down (RTP, THB, SAN, LLA). At Tampa Bay colonies in particular over one-half of all nests failed and the estimated nesting success was no more than 0.6 young/nest—about one-half that of recent years (RTP). About 350–400 Magnificent Frigatebirds were counted at the Seahorse Key N.W.R. roost in June (LLA).

WADING BIRDS — There were widespread reports of wading bird nesting failures associated with drought conditions, but also some scattered successes. On the positive side the largest Everglades system nesting effort of White Ibis since the mid-1970s occurred at Loxahatchee N.W.R., where 8800 pairs nested successfully (M. Maffei). Another 9000 pairs of 10 wader species were found in aerial surveys of E.N.P. and the Water Conservation Areas, for an Everglades system total of 17,000–20,000 breeding pairs (GTB, PF *et al.*). The nesting season in this area was not thought "unusual" as it was elsewhere, but it should be pointed out that "normal" populations appear to be far smaller than just 15 years ago (see also John Ogden's comments, AB 42:253). Also heartening was the outstanding success of the Corkscrew Swamp Wood Stork colony, where 760 pairs began nesting in mid-March—an astonishingly late start—and fledged 1900 healthy young (PH). This was possible only because of the unusually prolonged dry season, which lasted until mid-July. Other good news included the reports of 6500 pairs of 9 species of waders near Lake Hancock (Polk) including 5000 pairs of White Ibis (NE), and 5400 pairs of 11 species on 2 islands at Haulover Canal, M.I.N.W.R. (DC).

Elsewhere the news was mixed, but mostly negative. The 5 species of herons nesting near Marco I. suffered only moderate declines, but it was the first time THB had seen them all down at once. Colonies of small herons in interior Florida were mostly late, and at least 2 near Bradford and Arcadia failed in June as the sites dried up (PDS, BAM). Waders at Seahorse Key N W R. declined dramatically, with White Ibis the loss leader—down 95% from last year, to 430 pairs (BB, LLA). The decrease was attributed to very dry conditions in foraging areas (BB). At the Alafia Bank colony in Tampa Bay, White Ibises declined 33% to 4000 pairs, but Glossies inexplicably increased to a new local high of 540 pairs (RTP).

Among other reports, the following deserved particular notice: a "Wurdemann's" Heron at Kanapaha Prairie June 19, was unusual inland and so far north (SAN). A rare mixed pair of Great Blue Herons at Cortez produced two white and one blue young in July (RTP). Reddish Egrets showed continuing signs of increase in Tampa Bay, with at least 59 pairs nesting at 3 sites (RTP). Nine Reddish Egrets were seen at Coral Cr., near Placida July 12 (RWR), an intriguing observation since nesting has not yet been documented at that locality. A single Reddish Egret was at Wards Bank July 7, still an unusual sighting in Duval (PDS). A Scarlet Ibis roosted at Rodgers River Bay, E N P. June 22 & 30 (AS, RS, SDJ), while another was present Mar. 6–July 2 at Lower Matecumbe Key (WH *et al.*). Roseate Spoonbills nesting in winter in Florida Bay appear stable for the last 4 years at about 500 pairs, less than one-half the population of a dozen years ago (GVNP, RB). Perhaps a few are moving N; numbers at Alafia Bank doubled to 80–100 pairs (RTP), and quadrupled to four at M.I.N.W.R. (BS). Nonbreeding spoonbills turned up in July at 4 unusual localities including Bartow, St. Marks Light, Gainesville and Zellwood (m.ob.), and

the summer flock of 150 birds at M.I.N W.R. was larger than usual (DS).

Although the Wood Storks at Corkscrew did well, just 100 mi away at Cuthbert, E.N.P., they did not. Some 220 pairs nested late, and when the first heavy rains arrived in late May, one-half the 425 young died. About 200 fledged but left the colony in poor condition (JCO). In n. and c. Florida, JAR found stork colonies somewhat smaller than usual but nesting success about normal.

DUCKS THROUGH HAWKS — Three Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Zellwood July 30 (J.F. Easley and R.M. Hoekstra) were noteworthy finds. A pair of Blue-winged Teal at the Occidental phosphate mine in Hamilton June 9 (PDS) was possibly nesting, while 25 were seen at M.I.N.W.R., June 13 (DS) and four at C.S.M. near Bartow July 2 (PJF).

Sightings of Am. Swallow-tailed Kites throughout the period at Gainesville, as last year, and also West Palm Beach suggested nesting at those localities (BPM, CHP). Two Swallow-taileds at s. Jacksonville July 28 (JPC) were unusual there, while a new roost at Corkscrew peaked at 210 birds in the last week of July (S. McGehee, PH). A new Snail Kite "colony" of 7 nests in headwater wetlands of the St. Johns River, at Fellsmere Marsh, Indian River, was so late that 3 were active into August (JAR). South of normal range was the imm. Mississippi Kite as Wekiva Springs S.P. (m.ob.). The annual G.F.C. survey of Bald Eagle nests continues to bring good news: 399 pairs produced 448 young, both new highs (SAN). Including E.N.P. nests, the statewide population appears to be about 450 active pairs. Seven reports of Short-tailed Hawks in Polk included 3 pairs on territories, suggesting a local population near L. Arbuckle worth further study (BAM, PJF, PT).

RAILS THROUGH SANDPIPERS — A Black Rail heard at Payne's Prairie June 1 provided the 2nd Gainesville area record (SAN). Was it nesting? An Am. Coot at Key West June 14 was south of normal summer range (HD). Extremely rare breeders as far south as E.N.P., a Sandhill Crane near Mahogany Hammock, June 12 (HN, M. Bruening) and a pair south of Loop Road June 19 (BDN) were good finds. Apparently overlooked in recent years, cranes nested in w. Palm Beach at 2 new golf courses (*vide* CHP).

Six nesting pairs of Snowy Plovers were confirmed along beaches near Sarasota (BP), and another at the Phipps Preserve, Alligator Pt. (C. Watt). American Oystercatchers continued to increase in the Tampa Bay system, with 66 pairs counted on the spoil islands of Hillsborough Bay in May and June (RTP). A pair of Am. Oystercatchers fed young on a Port Canaveral building rooftop (FF, JJ, MH, KB). Black-necked Stilts at Bartow-area phosphate mines peaked at 301 on July 2 (PJF), the highest count for the area. Migrant shorebird reports were sparse this year, with 100+ Pectoral Sandpipers at Zellwood July 23 (JJ, NS, KB) and 25 White-rumped Sandpipers at M.I.N.W.R. June 5 (DS) the most interesting.

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS — A Laughing Gull in alternate plumage was a rare visitor to Gainesville July 23 (MER) On June 22 a small island off Lanark contained 100–200 pairs of Laughing Gulls, the first Franklin nesting record (NW).

Only sporadic breeders in Florida, at least 12 pairs of Gull-billed Terns were nesting in the large Royal Tern colony in Nassau Sound May 17 (PDS). The Caspian Tern colony in Tampa Bay increased to 65 nests, but produced fewer than 30 young despite mild weather (RTP). Royal Terns, on the other hand, did extremely well. At least 1500 pairs at Passage Key N.W.R. produced over 1400 young (RTP). Also successful was the rarely surveyed colony at Bird Island, Nassau Sound, where the preliminary estimate from a late-May survey was of "more

than 2000 pairs" (PDS). Another 125 pairs of Royals nested at the Banana River spoil islands (DC). A new Sandwich Tern colony was found at Passage Key where an astonishing 80 pairs were counted June 15 (PDH). Sandwich Terns "in traffic" at Nassau Sound also suggested nesting there (PDS).

On June 1, 250–300 pairs of Roseate Terns were found nesting on Tank Island off Key West (FTH). The entire colony failed, for reasons unknown; however the colony was less than a mile from the Key West sewage outfall, and the few eggs analyzed were found to contain *E. coli*. A single Roseate was seen offshore from Tavernier June 4 (WH, AS). At Bartow July 2, a count of 360 Forster's Terns was the area's highest summer tally (PJF).

Once again Least Tern colonies were reported from all around the state, including 19 on rooftops (m.ob.). Two large colonies near Marco I. again totalled about 1000 pairs (THB), but high tides and possibly a food shortage caused widespread nesting failures. At that, an estimated 500 young fledged. A count of 153 Least Terns at C.S.M., including 10 breeding pairs, on July 2 was the highest ever at that inland site (PJF).

As noted previously, the "Hump" off Islamorada is the site of a local upwelling. Long a favorite fishing spot, it should be worked for birds too: terns there on June 4 included 30 Bridled, two Sooty, four Black, and two Brown Noddies (AS, WH). Another Sooty was found moribund in West Palm Beach during the mild tropical wave of July 3–7 (CHP; * to Fla. Atlantic University). Black Skimmers were reported nesting at Ward's Bank (100 pairs; PDS), Marco I. (100 pairs; THB) and Tampa Bay (425 pairs at 5 sites; RTP, PDH). Skimmers were seen carrying food at Opa-Locka, but nests were not located (DO). In the Bartow mine district, 240 skimmers July 2 was the season high count (PJF).

PIGEONS THROUGH SWIFTS — On June 19, JO had 40 White-crowned Pigeons feeding on white millet at his Key West home, the first time I have ever heard of this species as a "feeder bird". Also at Key West, a White-winged Dove made a June 11 appearance (JO). **Zenaida Doves** are very rare vagrants from the West Indies, but this season brought reports of two. One was seen well on N. Key Largo June 19–22 (PWS, SAS; note to F.F.N.), while the second—or was it the same bird?—was found in Key West July 22 (LB) and July 28 (MCW, VPE). Two pairs of Monk Parakeets in Delray Beach produced at least one young in June before the nest was removed (CHP).

Three pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos with young w. of Ft. Pierce were seen through July 11, for the first documented St. Lucie nesting records (H&WD). Noss and Muschlitz both reported Yellow-billed to be more numerous than usual in the Gainesville area. Mangrove cuckoos in Little Cockroach Bay (e. side of Tampa Bay) responded to a tape throughout the period (GP), establishing the presence of a previously unknown resident population. Burrowing Owls are usually considered uncommon and local in Florida. Local they may be, but at least at Cape Coral it is now clear that they are quite common. In this sprawling community the owl population was conservatively estimated at 1000 pairs (BAM)! Apparently there has been a massive population increase in response to clearing of the pine forests years ago.

Thirteen Antillean Nighthawks were observed overhead at Key West July 21, a locally high number (JO). Although not yet known to breed in Dade, Chimney Swifts have been regular if local for the last several years. This year again, there were repeated reports from several areas, including three to five birds at sites in Coral Gables, South Miami, Kendall and elsewhere (BDN). Swifts apparently also summered in Homestead where they were recorded on 7 dates during the period (JCO, MB). On the Gulf Coast, the southernmost report was of a single swift at Marco I., July 8 (HMS).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WRENS — Extremely scarce nesters in south Florida, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird again nested at Corkscrew Swamp and produced two young

(PH, HCC). Belted Kingfishers normally begin to return to south Florida in July, this year's early birds were found at the Card Sound bridge s. of Homestead July 3 (VPE, MCW) and near Clewistown July 7 (HMS). On July 26 a roosting flock of "thousands" of Purple Martins was reported near Gainesville (J W Hardy). The **Bahama Swallow** found with nesting Cave Swallows at Cutler Ridge in May remained through June 11 (MCW, m.ob.). Six N. Rough-winged Swallows were present at C.S.M., July 2, where they are rare summer nesters (PJF). In the past 2 years Barn Swallows have nested at scattered localities s. to Islamorada; this year nesting was reported under highway bridges at S.R. 6 × Withlacoochee R., July 1 (*Madison-Hamilton* line, HMS) and Micanopy July 23 (MER), and strongly suspected at I-10 × S.R. 257, Jefferson, June 4 (HMS). A single Barn Swallow was seen June 26 at Carysfort Yacht Club, N. Key Largo, status unknown (BDN), while 43 at Key West July 25 were clearly migrants (JO).

Scrub jays still persist in relict pockets of scrub in the Juno-Jupiter area. Plockelman found one to three pairs hanging on at each of seven such sites, but one was lost to the bulldozer's blade before the end of the period. Although common in the Big Cypress, Tufted Titmice are rare in E.N.P.; therefore one seen June 19 at Shark Valley was of interest (BDN, HN). In July, Worthington's Marsh Wren populations in Duval and Nassau marshes were checked for the first time since 1975—and found to be unchanged (HWK, TP).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers feeding young on the Loop Road in Dade June 5 (MCW, HN) and also in w. St. Lucie (two pairs through July 11; H&WD) were at the southern limit of breeding range. Also at their southern range limit were two Wood Thrushes in song in e. Franklin June 20 & 22 (NW). Very late Am. Robins were found at Melbourne June 6 (two birds; NS) and at the E.N.P. Research Center until June 9 (WBR, JCO). Also late were two Yellow-throated Vireos at Corkscrew June 14 (HCC). A pair of Red-eyed Vireos with young in w. St. Lucie June 3–July 12 furnished the first confirmed county nesting record (H&WD) and south of usual breeding range. Three Red-eyeds carefully identified July 27 at the Deering Estate in Miami were considered early southbound migrants (VPE).

Black-whiskered Vireos were conspicuous this season by their complete absence along a major section of the Gulf Coast. Several active observers reported their failure to find any despite intensive field activities in their areas, which included Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota (LA, DG, GP, RTP, S&AS). All suspect population collapse due to nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Still another first St. Lucie nesting record was the pair of N. Parulas with young July 4, for a slight range extension (H&WD). Scattered Prairie Warblers were heard singing in mangrove habitats from Tampa to Sarasota, another species that must be considered vulnerable to cowbird parasitism (RTP).

A Black-and-white Warbler at Wakulla Springs near Tallahassee July 4 (J. Epler) was extremely early (*vide* HMS), while an Am. Redstart at Key West June 3 was late (JO). Three Prothonotary Warblers in the w. Green Swamp June 12 provided the first confirmed Polk nesting record (PJF), while another Prothonotary and a N. Waterthrush among Big Torch Key mangroves July 16 were early southbound migrants (J. Brooks). South of normal breeding range was a Kentucky Warbler singing near Bloody Bluff Landing (Apalachicola R., Franklin) on June 1 & 13 (NW).

SPARROWS THROUGH PLOCEIDS — Muschlitz was surprised to find many singing Bachman's Sparrows during the period in young, weedy slash pine plantations in Union. RFN found them in similar habitat in Alachua, Levy, Gilchrist and Suwannee, and with R. W. Simons estimated the age of the pines at 5–8 years. Asked RFN: Is this marginal habitat,

used by floater males? Singing ♂ Field Sparrows were found on territories at 5-6 sites in July in s. Suwannee (RFN), extending the range expansion reported last year. As in 1975, (MacGillivray's) Seaside Sparrows were abundant in Duval and Nassau marshes in a July survey (HWK, TP).

S.A.

Reports of Shiny and Brown-headed Cowbirds suggest that populations of both are beginning to increase dramatically. A ♂ Shiny in the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow colony near Mahogany Hammock, E.N.P. June 12 hinted uncomfortably at the vulnerability of this local subspecies to brood parasitism (BDN, HN, M. Brueninger). Several birds at Flamingo, both males and females were reported repeatedly (m.ob., *fide* BDN). Two more males were seen June 16 at the n. end of the Card Sound Bridge south of Homestead (BDN). The most surprising Shiny report was from Jacksonville, where one was present from June 22 through the end of the period at a feeder (PCP, RKR). Brown-headed of both sexes were found in mangrove habitats on nearly every day afield in coastal Pinellas, especially Ft. DeSoto, and from lower Tampa Bay south to Sarasota, (RTP, LA, DG). Farther south, an immature Brown-headed was seen at Nine Mile Pond, E.N.P. June 12 (BDN) and two adults June 25 in southwest Dade (BDN). But the granddaddy report was from the home of Cliff Miles south of Florida City, where a flock of 1000+ Brown-headed, plus six ♂ Shiny Cowbirds and possibly some females and immatures, were present from July 24 to the end of the period (BDN). Neville's pithy summary: "Significance: the end of birding as we know it in south Florida." Don't laugh.

A ♀ Orchard Oriole at Winter Springs June 18 was 15 mi south of a 1986 confirmed nesting site (G. Minor). Quite unusual was the ♀ N. Oriole at St. Marks N.W.R., July 9, just the 3rd July record for the state (DK); details to F.O.S.R.C.). Present in spring, two House Finches returned to Tallahassee July 3 (NW), while 2-3 more were at St. Marks Light through the latter half of the month (NW). An Am. Goldfinch, present at a Tallahassee feeder June 12-17 provided the 3rd June record for the state (DCB). A white Java Sparrow found July 30 in Key West was almost certainly an escape (BDN, JO); BDN reports that this exotic no longer occurs in the "wild" in Dade, but is again increasing in local pet stores.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — Area editors in boldface. Laurence A. Alexander, **Lyn Atherton**, G. Thomas Bancroft, Bob Bell, **Ted H. Below**, Ken Bennett, Maryann Biggar, Robin Bjork, Linda Bremer, Dana C. Bryan, Julie P. Cocke, H.C. Colter-yahn, Dwight Cooley, Harry Darrow, Don Divitt, **Helen & William Dowling**, Naomi Edelson, Virginia P. Edens, **Paul J. Fellers**, Frau File, Peter Frederick, **Dot W. Freeman**, **Chuck Geanangel**, Wally George, Dave Goodwin, Patrick D. Hagan, Frances T. Hames, Mary Harrell, Paul Hinchcliff, Wayne Hoffman, Susan D. Jewell, **Johnnie Johnson**, Dean K. Jue, Herbert W. Kale, Cecil Kilmer, Howard Langridge, **Fred E. Lohrer**, Brian A. Millsap, **Barbara P. Muschlitz**, Hannah Nadel, Stephen A. Nesbitt, **Bruce D. Neville**, Reed F. Noss, John C. Ogden, Dennis Olle, Joe Ondrejko, Jan N. Overton, Gail Parsons, Tom Pearrow, Belinda Perry, Cynthia H. Plockelman, George V.N. Powell, **Peggy C. Powell**, Raymond Powers, Robert W. Repenning, Michael E. Resch, William B. Robertson, James A. Rodgers, Rex K. Rowan, Rick Sawicki, Nedra Sekera, David Simpson, Becky Smith, P. William Smith, Susan A. Smith, Peter D. Southall, Stanley & Annette Stedman, **Henry M. Stevenson**, **Karen Strobel**, Allan Strong, Pete Timmer, Noel Wamer, Mickey C. Wheeler. — **Richard T. Paul**, National Audubon Society, Tampa Bay Sanctuaries, 410 Ware Blvd., Suite 500, Tampa FL 33619.

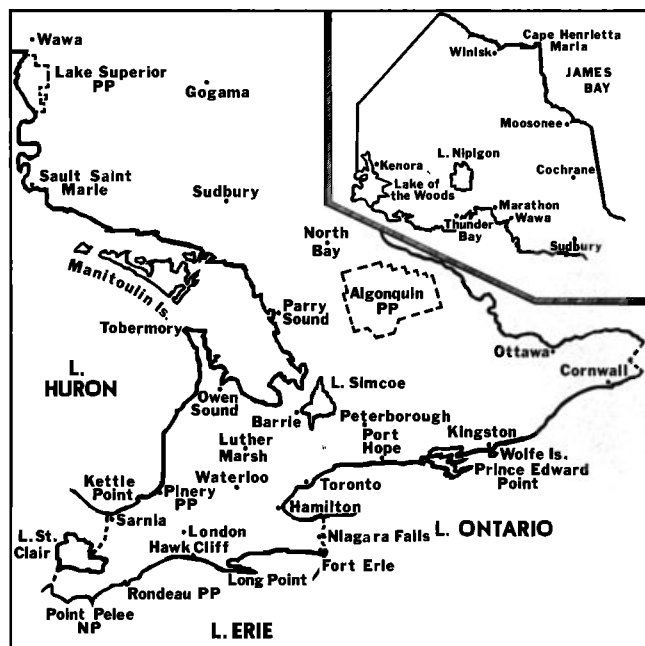
ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

The weather over much of Ontario was dominated by lengthy hot periods with attendant drought conditions, which seemed to have been less severe than those on the prairies. Some deleterious effects on the breeding birds were noted, but the overall impact seems not to have been serious. Reduced clutch sizes and fewer fledged young were reported among some passerines, and waterfowl were forced to abandon shallow ponds that dried up 6 weeks ahead of schedule. In western Ontario, waterfowl numbers increased probably as a result of displacement from the parched Great Plains. The Dickcissel stole the show and irrupted into the province in unprecedented numbers to nest. It too was likely forced off the Great Plains by the drought.

ABBREVIATIONS — Pelee = Point Pelee National Park and vicinity; P.E. Pt. = Prince Edward Point; Algonquin, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are provincial parks. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS — Up to five Red-throated Loons remained in Neys P.P. near Marathon to June 30 (DHE, EP, SO),



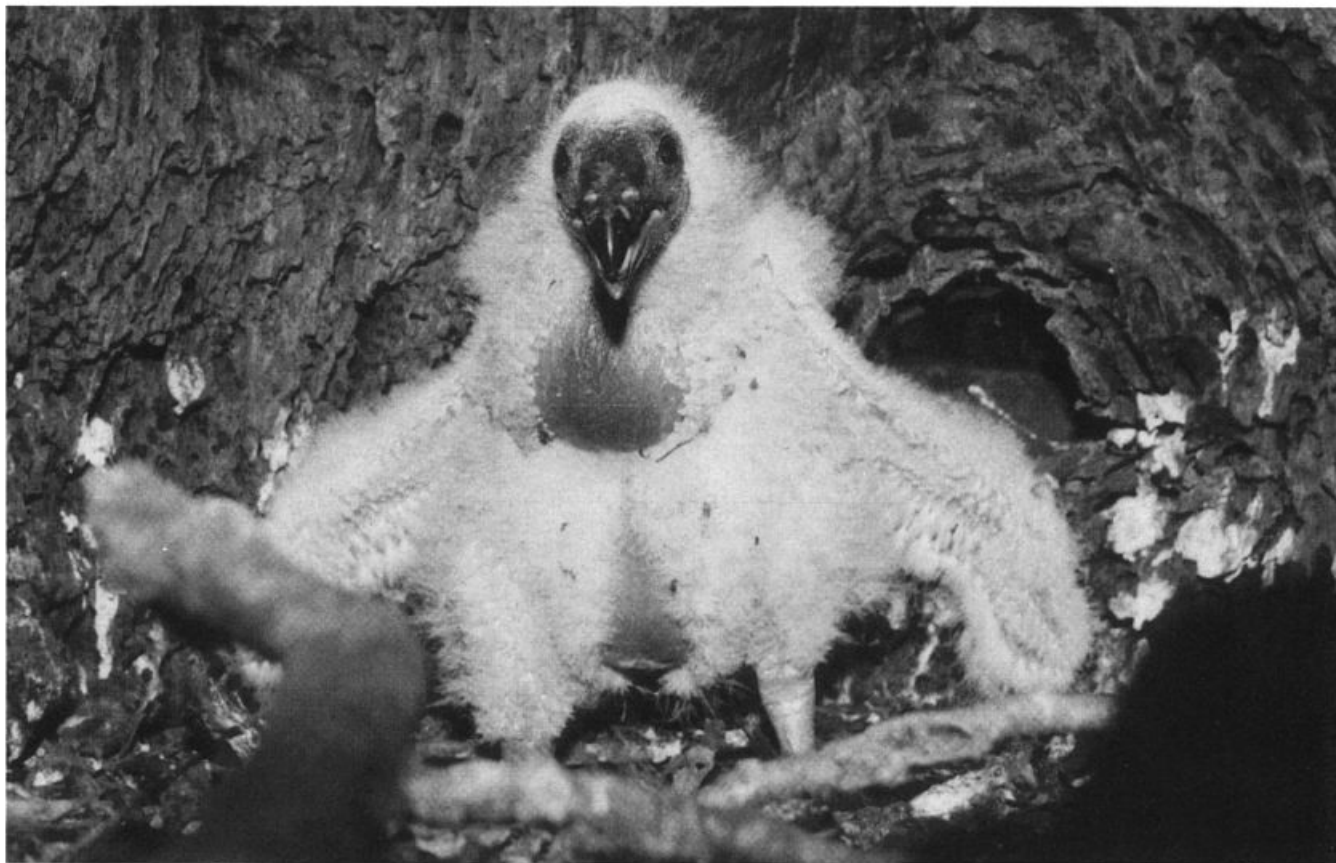
some 800 km south of the main breeding range, and five adults were further south at Whitby July 18–21 (BH, NLV). At least 40 nests of Red-necked Grebes were found in the Thunder Bay area during the period (NGE, TR, AGH), which constituted a good tally. The ad. Eared Grebe in breeding plumage was well east of range in the Lindsay sewage lagoon July 6–Aug. 1 (RJP, RDM et al.). The only Am. White Pelican reported was the single at Omemee, Victoria, June 15–16 (ph. JS et al.).

Drought conditions served to concentrate Great Blue Herons at strategic ponds; 317 were at one water hole at Holiday Beach July 17, and 113 appeared at Pelee July 10 (AW). Some 1086 active Great Egret nests were tallied on East Sister I., Essex, during the period (PAW, MDO, DV et al.), but only four birds were reported away from the southwest. Singles were at Toronto's Rattray Marsh July 24–30 (EJ, LA), Whitby's Cranberry Marsh July 24 (fide MJB), Port Hope July 28 (NA), and Kingston July 28 (HR, AEB). The single Tricolored Herons feeding at Tiny Marsh, Simcoe, June 4 (GMB, DVW) and flying along Toronto's waterfront June 20 (HGC) raised this year's total to four, tying the record high of 1984. The **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, reported in the spring period at the e. Headland in Toronto, remained there throughout summer (N. Mann, MWD). Another appeared in w. Hamilton Bay June 24 (C & SW), the first adult for that area. The ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron at Dorset Muskoka, July 11 (M. Buss) was north of range.

WATERFOWL TO CRANES — The lone Tundra Swan in Thunder Bay July 24 (AGH) was far south of range, and the five Mute Swans at Marathon May 30–June 10 were the first there in several years (WSC). Late Brant were singles at Whitby June 3 (MJB), Bronte June 12 (MWJ), and Presqu'île to June 15

(fide SML). Oxford's first nesting N. Shoveler was the hen with four chicks in the Norwich sewage lagoon June 27 (JMH). One Gadwall in Minden July 21 (RJP) was a rare occurrence, and the two in Algonquin July 22 (PB, DT) furnished only the 4th park record. Summer occurrences of the Harlequin Duck in Ontario are extremely rare, but one visited Providence Bay, Manitoulin I., June 1 & 17 (DBF). The 10 Oldsquaws, off Whitby July 21–28 (BH, MJB) were more than usually found at one time overwintering on the Great Lakes, and the lone imm. Black Scoter at Thunder Bay June 24–July 31 (NGE et al.) constituted an outstanding find for summer. Some 240 Red-breasted Mergansers were still at Pelee June 2, and 90 were left June 5 (AW, RPM). The only nesting Ruddy Duck noted among 14 reports was July 16 at Casselman, where one female tended 6 chicks (BMD).

Among late migrating Turkey Vultures were 23 at Pelee June 4 (AW) and 13 over Amherst I. June 15 (N.L.B.C.). The 24 at Mountsberg, Wellington, July 15 were eating dead fish lining a dried reservoir (MLW). The nest with one young at Pelee June 29 (ph. RTD, GM et al.) provided the first local breeding record. Successful nests were reported for Cooper's Hawk at Puslinch and Portland and for N. Goshawk at Delhi, Tillsonburg, Englehart, and Kingston. The lone Broad-winged Hawk moving along Toronto's Don Valley June 11 was a late migrant (DPe). An unusual number of Rough-legged Hawks lingered south of the breeding areas and included singles at Pefferlaw, York, June 3 (FF); Matachewan June 8 (LT); Jarvis June 10 (AW); and Conn, Grey, June 11 (RVT). One ad. Golden Eagle near Delta, Leeds, July 18 (DW) was the only one reported. The Merlin at the Long Pt. causeway July 25 provided that area's first July occurrence (RDM). Single Peregrine Falcons were near Lansdowne July 2 (DW), Toronto's Don Valley July 6 (DPe),



Young Turkey Vulture in tree-cavity nest at Point Pelee, Ontario, June 29, 1988. First local breeding record. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

Chalk R July 30 (WW, JMB, CM), and a pair appeared on a TV antenna atop a Toronto high rise July 5 (CMcE).

Four Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported at Rainy R. June 4 (AGC, RS), which constituted a good find. The milder winters of recent years appeared to have helped the N. Bobwhite. At least 10 were on Walpole I. June 17 (SAC, DPa), and 2 pairs overwintered at Melbourne (DM, WP). The 500 Am. Coots in the Walpole I. marshes July 22 (PAW) were more typical of numbers seen in fall migration rather than in the nesting season. Perhaps the drought was responsible for such an extraordinary concentration. The pair of Sandhill Cranes with two young near Navan June 24 (JVL, BMD) furnished this species' first breeding record in the Ottawa area and occurred where two overwintered in 1986 but without evidence of nesting. Other sightings of this species, which is expanding its range southeast, included two over Magnetawan, Parry Sound, June 23 (CL); three at Presqu'île June 28 (S & DH, JB, JPC); and one at Long Pt. June 27 (JM).

SHOREBIRDS — The last of the northbound ad. Black-bellied Plovers and Semipalmated Plovers were at Presqu'île June 24 (fide SML) and Pelee July 4 (AW), respectively. Only two Piping Plovers were noted at Rainy R. June 4 (AGC, RS), which is the most reliable location for this species in Ontario, and a spring migrant in the south was at Darlington June 3 (fide MJB). Postbreeding congregations included 481 Killdeer and 80 Spotted Sandpipers at Pelee July 10, both for record highs (AW). The two juv. Upland Sandpipers discovered at Huntingdon June 13 (R & SS) provided one of the few nesting records for this species over the past 20 years in Oxford. Non-breeding Whimbrels in the south were two at Pelee June 17 (AW) and one at Collingwood to June 29 (DB). Late migrant Marbled Godwits were the impressive 16 at Rainy R. June 4 (AGC, RS) and one well east of range at St. Isidore, Prescott, June 4 (GP, LN). Whether the bird at Thunder Bay June 26 (WZ) was heading N or S remained a mystery. Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted regularly until June 19 with a high of 550 at Presqu'île June 4 (IR). One in basic plumage at Pelee June 18–27 was the first in summer for the park (AW). The last of the northward migrant White-rumpeds were seen at Presqu'île, Oshawa, Pelee, Blenheim, and Thunder Bay June 12–30. The single Red-necked Phalarope at Russell June 1 and three at Embrun also June 1 (BMD et al.) raised this spring's total to eight birds, double the spring average.

The vanguard of southbound shorebirds reached many locations at record early dates of which there were far too many to list individually. Adult Semipalmated Plovers arrived at Presqu'île July 22 (IR, CF), Kingston July 23 (RDW), and Pelee July 25 (AW). The ad. Piping Plover at Embrun July 1 provided only the 6th district record (BMD), and another was at Ft. Erie July 23 (fide RFA). Two adult-plumaged Am. Avocets were very early at Pelee June 19 (JW), and another appeared at Dundas Marsh July 21–22 (BP et al.). At Pelee the juv. Greater Yellowlegs July 31 and seven Lessers were record early (AW, STP, JL). Adult Lessers returned to many sites in the south by June 21. Noteworthy concentrations were the 253 at Pelee July 25 (AW) and 200 at Port Perry July 27 (AGC, TB, DMO). The ad. Solitary Sandpiper at Norwich June 27 (JMH) was early, and the juvenile at Pelee July 28 set an early-arrival record (AW). Single Willets were the adults at Long Pt. July 10 (GEW et al.) and Pelee July 25 (AW) and the juvenile at Pelee July 31 (AW, JL, STP). Seven and 23 Whimbrels arrived at Ottawa July 25 & 30, respectively (RPH, TFMB), and their pattern during recent years suggests migration down the Ottawa R. The two Hudsonian Godwits at Long Pt. July 9 (RB) furnished only the 2nd July record for the area and were extremely early for any location south of James Bay.

Other early shorebirds were the single ad. Ruddy Turnstones on Amherst I. from July 20 (JCN) and at Pelee July 22 (AW) and the 10 Red Knots at Grand Bend July 31 (AHR). The juv. Least Sandpiper at Pelee July 25 was a record early arrival (AW), and ad. Baird's were east to Whitby's Cranberry Marsh

July 17 (BH) and Amherst I July 23 (RDW). The early Pectoral Sandpiper movement showed the characteristics of the strong flight of 1985. The 835 at the overnight roost in Pelee July 31 provided an all-time high tally there (AW), and the 450 at Tavistock also July 31 were noteworthy (JMH). Stilt Sandpipers totaled an impressive 113 July 4–31, and early birds were an adult and four juveniles at Pelee July 4 & 31, respectively (AW) and two adults at Embrun July 10 (BMD). The only Ruff reported, the 3rd during summer since 1984, was a male at Embrun July 3–5 (R) et al.). Single ad. Long-billed Dowitchers on Amherst I. July 23 (RDW) and at Port Perry July 27 (AGC, DMO, TB) were early migrants. The impact of the drought through much of s. Ontario likely forced the three Am. Woodcock to feed on the open mudflats at midday in Pelee July 10 (AW). The only reports of southbound Red-necked Phalarope were of the singles at Ottawa July 24 & 30 (TFMB, BMD).

JAEGERS TO TERNS — The ad. light-phased Parasitic Jaeger at the tip of Pelee June 2 (RPN) constituted only the 5th spring occurrence in the province since 1981. The only Franklin's Gull reported was in first-summer plumage at Presqu'île June 16 (IR, JAND). Southbound ad. Bonaparte's Gulls reached Pelee July 20 (AW) and Beaverton on L. Simcoe and Kingston July 23 (RJP, RDW). The first juveniles reached Pelee July 28 (AW) and Ottawa July 30 (BMD). Ontario's 9th Mew Gull was an adult well studied for an hour in Dundas Marsh July 22 (RC) and was the first for July. Summering white-winged gulls were a first-summer-plumaged Iceland at the Lindsay dump June 4 (RJP, RGT) and single Glaucous in Ottawa June 4 & 10 (BMD) plus two at the Vaughan dump in Maple June 17–July 31 (GMB). Lesser Black-backed Gulls totaled seven or eight birds, i.e., five or six immatures, one adult, and one whose age was not reported. Three or four were at Pelee June 2–July 29 (fide AW), three were at Ottawa June 25–July 31 (BMD et al.), and one was on Pelee I. June 17 (fide KJB). The total compares with only 5 previous summer records since the gulls were first reported in the summer of 1983. The 165 imm. Great Black-backed at Pelee June 17 (AW) indicated the growing number of summering immatures in s. Ontario.

An ad. Sandwich Tern remained at Presqu'île June 14–25 (JMR, IR et al.) and was seen by many observers. It was probably the same individual noted in the spring report farther west on L. Ontario and on L. Erie. Arctic Tern migration continued into early June along the Ottawa R. with 30 at L. Clear, Renfrew, June 1 (CM) and one, 11, and two at Ottawa June 4, 10, & 12, respectively (BMD). Numbers of Forster's Terns were up in Kent during summer perhaps due to lower water levels (KJB), and the 26 juveniles at Pelee July 6 were early for such a



Sandwich Tern at Presqu'île Provincial Park, Ontario, June 16, 1988. A remarkable record so far from the ocean. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

concentration (AW). Away from the extreme southwest, birds were at Sky L., Bruce, June 27 for the 2nd consecutive summer (JMB), and one in first-summer plumage surprised observers in Dundas Marsh July 17 (KAM, WS).

CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS — Infestations of caterpillars through much of forested Ontario coincided with sharply increased numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos in Algonquin, Ottawa-Carleton, Lanark, Leeds, Frontenac, Peterborough, Northumberland, Durham, and at Long Pt., Atikokan, and Rainy River. Yellow-billed Cuckoo numbers were also up at Pelee, Long Pt., and Peterborough, and notable for the northerly location was the one killed at a window in North Bay during June (RT). The only Snowy Owl reported was the ad. female at Toronto's e. Headland June 1–July 31 (DD). In the southwest, nesting Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported at Melbourne, New Glasgow, and Delaware (*vide* WRJ), and birds were east to Port Hope July 20 (ERM), Portland June 9 (HP), and Presqu'île June 1–July 31, where a pair was present (*vide* SML).

The Olive-sided Flycatcher at Opinicon July 11 (WB) was extremely early if a southbound migrant, but the possibility of a summering bird cannot be ruled out. Migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers first appeared at Pelee July 22 (AW) and Long Pt. July 25 (GEW). Summering Acadians were at Pelee (CLx, AW), Dutton (RPO), one Elgin site (MEG), Listowel (JC), and 2 Oxford sites (JMH); three were netted at Mountsberg, Wellington, July 23 (MLW). Early southbound Empidonaces included Alder Flycatchers at Pelee from July 19 (AW) and Least at Long Pt. from July 10 (GEW). The 39 Least at Pelee July 19 were all adults (AW), which is consistent with banding work showing that adults leave Ontario prior to Aug. 1 for a postbreeding molt in the tropics. The outstanding flycatcher sighting of the summer period was of Ontario's 8th Say's Phoebe, which appeared near Rainy R. July 31–Aug. 1 (ph. RPa, DHE). Of the previous occurrences beginning in 1948, six arrived between August and November and one during May. The pair of Western Kingbirds that provided Ontario's first confirmed nesting in 1987 returned to the same site near Rainy R. by June 4 (AGC, RS). The cold snap in Temiskaming during late June exacted a heavy toll among nestling Tree Swallows. In nest boxes monitored at Matachewan, some 214 out of 334 young perished because of the cold weather that presumably wiped out the insect population (LT). The early congregations of Bank Swallows at Long Pt. contained up to 20,000 birds (GEW). The 15 pairs of nesting Cliff Swallows at Bronte June 12 were at a new locale in the Hamilton area (MWJ) as this species' numbers slowly rise in s. Ontario.

MAGPIES TO THRUSHES — Ten Black-billed Magpies were noted at Rainy R. June 4–6, and one active nest was located (AGC, RS). The Com. Raven continued to strengthen its hold on recently occupied territory along the s. edge of the Shield in Frontenac and Leeds. The four at Chaffey's Locks June 24 (WB), five at Portland July 20 (PM), and 12+ overwintering just north of Kingston (K.F.N.) represented big gains. The only notable Red-breasted Nuthatch was the late migrant at Pelee June 4 (AW). Summering Carolina Wrens were in their best numbers in at least a decade as the results of several successive easy winters took hold. The 20+ pairs on Pelee I. during the period and the 19 at Pelee July 19 (AW) led the way. Nest construction was reported at Vineland June 6–8 but was later abandoned (MEF), and the most easterly station was Kingston, where a male sang on territory July 17–25 (VPM). The singing ♂ House Wren at Marathon June 19 (NGE) was north of range, and the 50 Sedge Wrens at Rainy R. June 3–5 constituted a noteworthy concentration (AGC, RS). Reforestation with conifers was responsible for summering pairs of Golden-crowned Kinglets near Kleinburg (GMB) and at 3 sites in Oxford, where the species was formerly absent (JMH). The nest box project in Matachewan, where the Tree Swallow nestlings were devastated by cold in late June, enjoyed a high success rate in the

production of E. Bluebirds. Some 128 of the 141 nestlings present in late June fledged successfully (LT), suggesting a food supply less affected by the freezing temperatures. Swainson's Thrushes were heading S by the 3rd week of July and reached Long Pt. July 20 (GEW); Mountsberg, Wellington, July 23 (MLW), Pelee July 25 (AW); and Woodstock July 28 (JMH). For the 2nd consecutive summer a Varied Thrush remained in s. Ontario, raising the question about possible breeding. This year's bird was a female at Owen Sound; she was last seen July 17 (BS) along the escarpment.

MOCKINGBIRDS TO WARBLERS — North of the usual range were single N. Mockingbirds on territory in Marathon June 1–30 (SP) and North Bay June 1–July 31 (BR). In the south its numbers were up significantly at Long Pt., Grimsby (MEG), Brighton (HS), Prince Edward, and Kingston (KFN). The only Water Pipit reported was the very late bird at the Tavistock lagoons June 1 (JSk, JMH). The two Bohemian Waxwings near Magnetawan, Parry Sound, June 23 (G & MC) gave no indication of attempted nesting. This species is unprecedented this far south during summer. Nesting success by the hard-pressed Loggerhead Shrike was mixed. Two families with one young each were at Jasper, Leeds, July 18 (CH), and nine adults were nesting at 4 of Kingston's traditional sites (PG). However, only 2 pairs were noted in Peterborough (TB), where the population is thought to have collapsed (DCS). Only four other singles were noted at Hepworth, Oliphant (PMi), Manitoulin I. (JCN), and in Victoria (RGT, RJP). Increased numbers of nesting Solitary Vireos were a welcome find in the hemlock ravines of Long Pt. (MEG), and the nest at Komoka was the first for Middlesex (PAR).

The Blue-winged Warbler continued its expansion in Oxford by appearing at 7 new sites (JMH), but the species were confined mainly to the southwest. The only exceptions were the single males at 2 Kingston sites June 11 (KFN). More than the usual numbers of N. Parulas were found in the south, including the three at Long Pt. during the period (MEG) and singing males at Big Otter Cr., Oxford, June 1–27 (JMH, JSk), Whitby June 12–27 (DBa), Turkey Pt. June 16 (RR), and Skunk's Misery, Lambton, during June (SAC). Two nests of Prothonotary Warbler were located at Long Pt. (JM), and numbers were lower at Rondeau as a result of reduced water levels (KJB). The only report of the Worm-eating Warbler came from Pelee July 23 (AW), which was the park's 7th ever in autumn migration; the only Kentucky Warbler was the male at Vanessa, Haldimand-Norfolk, June 6–7 (DG). Confirmed nestings of Hooded Warbler numbered 15 near Walsingham, four in east Elgin (DG, MEG), and one at Tillsonburg (JMH). The nest of the Wilson's Warbler at Falls L. June 23 (WRL) was the first for Manitoulin I.

Early southbound warblers at Pelee were Chestnut-sided and Magnolia July 25, Blackburnian and Black-and-white July 19 (AW); at Long Pt., Cape May and Bay-breasted July 23 (RDL). The two ♂ Tennessees at Presqu'île July 1 (MB) and the ♂ Wilson's at Windsor July 17 (STP) were also early.

BUNTINGS TO FINCHES — The two ♂ Indigo Buntings well north at Marathon were notable (NGE *et al.*).

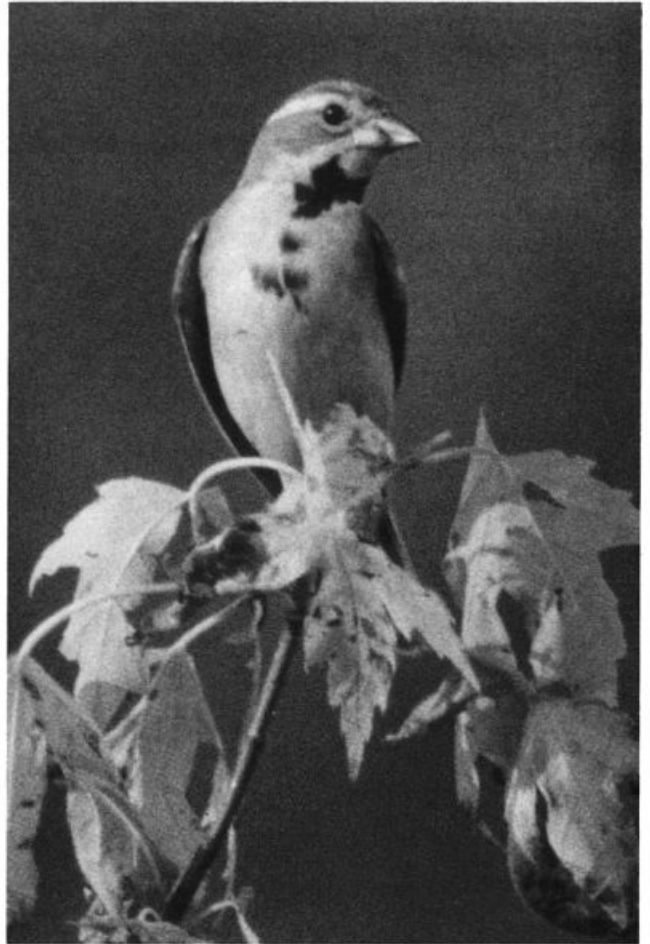
Clay-colored Sparrows continued to call in the 2 colonies near Harwood until July 28 (BCO), and the male in e. Oxford from June 30 was the first in summer for that county (JMH). The elusive and late Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found at Rainy R. June 4 (AGC, RS), and the one at Pelee June 3 appeared to be of the James Bay *altera* race, which provided the first spring record there for this subspecies (AW). Single ♂ W. Meadowlarks continued to sing on Manitoulin I. to June 30 (JCN), Guelph to July 24 (RVT), and near Woodstock to the end of the period (JMH). Thunder Bay's first breeding Yellow-headed Blackbird was found when a nest holding 2 eggs was discovered July 3 (AGH). A female frequented the golf course in Bolton June 3

S.A.

To label 1988 as the year of the Dickcissel would be no understatement. The five birds reported during the past spring, although representing a very strong flight, gave no indication of the extent of what was to follow. This species is one of the rarest breeding birds in Ontario, where prior to 1988 only 4 nestings were known, 3 of which were in the late 1800s and one during 1972. The 31 nests reported so far this summer are therefore unprecedented! An invasion of such proportions begs the question about what was its cause and at the same time suggests some catastrophic event over a wide area of the normal breeding range. It is tempting to suggest that the serious drought in the United States forced these Dickcissels northeast into Ontario to nest.

Twenty-four nests were found in the extreme southwest. These included 12 nests at Pelee involving at least eight polygynous males and 12 females (AW), 4 nests at Ruthven plus 2 at Marshfield in Essex (AW), 5 on Pelee I. (fide AW), and one in Wheatley P.P., Kent (PDP). From 17 of these nests 28 young were fledged (AW). Elsewhere, 2 nests were discovered in the Sarnia area during July, but at least eight males were on territory there (PAR, DFR, AHR). Farther east in Niagara, 4 more nests were present at Port Colborne, where young fledged and at least six males were on territory (BF, RBy, GBe, MEG). Another pair fledged two young at Richmond Hill July 16 (HGC, HK, GC), which was the most northerly report of confirmed nesting. However, one pair well north at Dyer's Bay, Bruce, June 19–July 7 was suspected of having nested, but this was not confirmed (TC, JF). An imm. male was also at this site July 3 (TC). The evidence so far indicates that only one brood was raised per nest in Ontario, whereas the normal number is 2. This is consistent with the species' arrival, perhaps after having attempted a nesting within its normal breeding range. Whether some of these young return to this province next summer will be an important matter to determine, since this is one mechanism by which range extensions occur.

Male Dickcissel at Hillman Marsh, Point Pelee, Ontario, July 11, 1988. Photograph/Alan Wormington.



Proof of nesting: Dickcissel fledgling at Hillman Marsh, Point Pelee, Ontario, July 11, 1988. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

(GMB), and an imm. male remained at Harrow June 7–23 (AW, JL). The 28,000 Com. Grackles entering a roost at Pelee July 6 were early for such numbers (AW). The only noteworthy Orchard Orioles were reported from 2 new Oxford sites, where they overwintered at Norwich and Innerkip (JMH).

The House Finch continued to spread into the tiny villages between larger urban areas where the species is flourishing. In the Kingston area the expansion is occurring between Belleville, Napanee, Kingston, and Smith Falls. The female at Pefferlaw, York, June 23 (FF) was the first noted there, and several hundred pairs were tallied at West Lorne, Elgin, during the summer (JMR). Following the massive irruption by the Red Crossbill this past spring, its numbers dissipated by early June. The eight at Pittock L., Woodstock (JMH), and the few near St. Williams from July 19 (GEW) provided the only reports south of Algonquin, where only a few were noted among pines on the e. side of the park (RGT). White-winged Crossbills, confined to the n. except for a few after mid-July along Hwy 60 in Algonquin (RGT), were noted by the hundreds at Armstrong July 2, along L. Nipegon, and at Matachewan throughout July (NGE, LT). The Pine Siskin nest at London during June was the first for Middlesex (MW).

SUBREGIONAL EDITORS (boldface), CONTRIBUTORS (italics), AND CITED OBSERVERS—N. Aldworth, R.F. Andrie, L. Anglin, M.J. Bain, J.J. Barker, D. Barry (DBa), M. Barry, T.F.M. Beck, A.E. Bell, G. Bellerby (GBe), G.M. Bennett, T. Bigg,

J.M. Bouvier, H. Bremner, J. Briseboise (JB), D. Bucknell (DB), R. Bullman (RB), K.J. Burk, P. Burke, W. Burke, R. Byron (RBy), A.G. Carpentier, J. Cartwright, G. & M. Caudwell, J.P. Cheff, T. Cheskey, W.S. Climie, G. Coady, S.A. Connop, H.G. Currie, R. Curry, M.P. Davis, M.W. DeLorey, B.M. DiLabio, J.A.N. Dowall, R.T. Dowhan, D. Duckworth, D.H. Elder, N.G. Escott, B. Farnan, D.B. Ferguson, J. Flynn, M.E. Foley, F. Foster, C. Francis, M.E. Gartshore, P. Good, D. Graham, S. & D. Hadlington, C. Hanrahan, A.G. Harris, M. Hendrick, B. Henshaw, J.M. Holdsworth, R.D. Holland, W.R. Jarman, E. Jefferson, M.W. Jennings, R. John, H. Kerr, Kingston Field Naturalists (K.F.N.), S.M. LaForest, J.V. Lagemaat, J. Larson, C. Lemieux (CLx), N. LeVay, C. Levering (CL), W.R. Lowe, R.D. Ludlein, V.P. Mackenzie, R.P. Martins, T.D. Marwood, J. McCracken (JM), E.R. McDonald, C. McEvoy (CMcE), K. McKeever, J.R. McKishnie, K.A. McLaughlin, P. McManus, R.D. McRae, J.K. Meritt, C. Michener, P. Middleton (PMi), J.B. Miles, D. Monkman (DMo), G. Moulard, D. Murray (DM), T.R. Murray, L. Neily, J.C. Nicholson, North Leeds Bird Club (N.L.B.C.), S. O'Donnell, M.D. Oldham, B.C. Olson, D. Parsons (DPa), R. Parsons (RPa), S.F. Peruniak, H. Peters, D. Peuramak (DPe), S.T. Pike, R.J. Pittaway, R. Pokraka (RPo), B. Pomfret, E. Poropat, P.D. Pratt, W. Prieksaitsis, G. Pringle, B. Ralph, P.A. Read, I. Richards, J.M. Richards, P.W. Richter, A.H. Rider, R. Ridout, H. Riley, T. Ross, D.F. Rupert, D.C. Sadler, J. Sadler, H. Saunders, J. Skevington (JSk), R. & S. Skevington, B. Smith, R. Smith, W. Smith, R. Tafel, L. Tamen, D. Tate, R.G. Tozer, R.V. Twest, M. Wake, W. Walker, G.E. Wallace, R.D. Weir, M.L. Wernaart, D.V. Weseloh, M.P. Whelan, D. Willison (DW), J. Wladarski, C. & S. Wood, P.A. Woodliffe, A. Wormington, B.K. Wyatt, W. Zarrowky.—RON D. WEIR, 294 Elmwood St., Kingston, ON K7M 2Y6.

APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

As with the rest of the eastern part of the country it was a hot, dry summer. In Pittsburgh, June was about normal in temperature but greatly deficient in rainfall; July was much warmer than normal and only slightly drier. Other regions reported similar conditions with eastern Tennessee having the driest June since 1936. Early June was quite cool in the north, with possible subfreezing temperatures in the West Virginia mountains, but by the end of June and into July temperatures soared and often reached 100°.

The mild, dry weather of early June resulted in a fairly successful breeding season for first nesting attempts, but many observers felt that many species, such as robins and bluebirds, did not attempt 2nd nestings as the heat increased. The general drought may have caused an influx of western birds, such as Bobolinks and Dickcissels into the area.

Over the years the accounts from this Region have called attention to the movement of so-called "southern" birds to higher latitudes and higher elevations as well as the opposite movement of the "northern" species to lower latitudes and lower elevations. This year both of these trends continued at an accelerated pace, and the account below contains many examples, especially of the southward range extension of some of the northern warblers.

ABBREVIATIONS—C.N.F. = Chattahoochee National Forest, GA; E.B.F.H. = Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Anderson, TN; G.S.M.N.P. = Great Smoky Mountains National Park; K.C.P.P. = Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia, OH; P. N. R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland, PA; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS—A Red-throated Loon at Lake City, PA, June 17 provided the first Erie summer record (JB). There were reports of Com. Loons from Woodcock L., PA, June 16 (DSn); Allegheny Res., PA, July 1 (KC); Cherokee L., TN, June 19 (RK); and Clinton, TN, July 19 (WJ). Pied-billed Grebes are rarely reported in summer in this Region, but they were seen in Warren, PA, June 16 (TG); Lycoming, PA, June 17 (DG); K.C.P.P. July 26 (TI); and White, TN, June 21 & 29 (SSt). The only summer records for Double-crested Cormorants came



from Warren, PA, where up to eight could be seen on the Allegheny R. (MB) and Meander Res., Mahoning, OH, July 30 (NB).

An Am. Bittern was at Salem, OH, all season (WB). A Least Bittern nest was found at P.I.S.P. in early June for the first confirmed nesting in recent years (SS), and one at P.N.R. July 17 provided the 2nd summer sighting there (RM). A few Great Blue Herons were seen in the Region, but no new nesting colonies were found. The Great Egret was present in small numbers in Tennessee, Virginia, and s. West Virginia. Little Blue Herons were reported from K.C.P.P. June 23–26 (TI, WA); Botetourt, VA, June 26 (BHu); and E.B.F.H. July 26 (CN). A Cattle Egret was seen in Hamblen, TN, June 12 (RK). There were more reports of nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons than usual with 7 pairs nesting at Elkton, VA (KF); 60 nests at F. Loudoun L., TN (RC); and a maximum of 75 birds at Cherokee L., TN, with the present nesting site not yet located (RK). Other reports came from the Pipestem Atlas Block, WV, June 11 (JP) and Waynesboro, VA, June 21 (RS). Perhaps 2 pairs of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested at the traditional site near Elizabethton, TN (RK); an immature was seen near Staunton, VA, July 19 (YL); young birds were being fed at Roanoke, VA, July 29 (BO); and an adult was photographed at Point Pleasant, WV, July 23–24 (WA, TI).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — An unusual 7 species of nonbreeding waterfowl remained in the Region into the summer: Gadwall at L. Somerset, PA, June 9 (AM); Greater Scaup still at K.C.P.P. July 16 (WA); Lesser Scaup at Johnson City, TN, all summer (RK); and Ruddy Duck at Siegal Marsh, Erie, PA, June 7 (JM). At P.I.S.P. there were Green-winged Teal June 28 (JM), Com. Goldeneye June 8–26 (SS, JM), and Red-breasted Merganser—one to mid-June (SS) and two July 2 (JM).

The Am. Black Duck continued to decline in n.e. Pennsylvania (DG). A Hooded Merganser seen on the Shenango R. in Mercer, PA, July 21 (CB) may have nested; 2 pairs nested in Sullivan, PA (RCO, CM), and another brood of young were seen there (DG). Several pairs of Com. Mergansers nested on the west branch of the Susquehanna R. in Lycoming, PA (DG).

Two Black Vultures near Mainville, Columbia, PA, June 29 and later furnished the first records for that far north (DG). An Osprey nesting near Kingsport, TN (FA), established the first local record, and one near Clinton, TN, provided the first record for Anderson (CN). Ospreys were also sighted in July at Edinboro, PA (DSn); P.I.S.P. (JM); Starbuck, PA (JSc); K.C.P.P. (WA), and Botetourt, VA (BK). After the spring records for the Region a **Mississippi Kite** in Highland, VA, June 23 (LT) still constituted the best raptor record of the season. Bald Eagles nested near Titusville, PA, but apparently did not fledge any young there (*vide* WH). The original West Virginia nest lost its female, but a new nesting at an undisclosed site fledged one young (JC). Eagle sightings came from Edinboro, PA, June 9 (SH), Hartstown, PA, July 30 (two adults and two immatures) (CB); Salem, OH, June 27 (WB); Bath, VA, June 1 (RS, LT); and Tellico L., TN, June 16 (BST). Northern Harriers were reported from 3 locations in Erie, PA, but nesting there has not been confirmed (JS, RSw, RG). They were also found in the Cheat Mt. area of West Virginia (B.B.C.F.). More unusual was a record at Fairview, NC, July 3 (R & JY).

Atlas work is showing that Cooper's Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks are somewhat more common than had been thought. Sharp-shinned Hawks were also fairly common with a record in Lewis, KY, July 6 being unusual (AB, MS). Two pairs of N. Goshawks nested in Sullivan, PA, but one nest was abandoned (DG). Adult Red-shouldered Hawks with young in Hawkins, TN, were unusual for the area (RK), but none could be found on 12 Atlas trips in good habitat in Warren, PA (WH). In s.w. Pennsylvania 26 of 29 Atlas blocks had nesting Red-taileds, and there appeared to be many young for the year (RB).

Those of us who keep hoping that Golden Eagles still nest in the highlands were encouraged by the report of one "plum-

meting" onto some sort of prey on the median strip of I-64 in Alleghany, VA, July 31 (CH) and the report of two adults on Peter's Mt., Monroe (AMc). Peregrine hacking in West Virginia apparently fledged 16 young, although a wild subad. female appeared at one site and drove off two of the newly fledged birds (JC). Peregrines were also sighted in the C.N.F. June 25 (HD); Ashton, WV, July 23 (TI); and Lewisburg, WV, July 24 (D & BH). In Warren, PA, 29 of 37 boxes were used by nesting Am. Kestrels, which produced over 100 young (D & BW).

TURKEY TO LARIDS — Wild Turkeys were reported as having an excellent nesting season in the C.N.F. (HD), and many broods of young were found in relatively agricultural Greene, PA (RB). In the north the N. Bobwhite is making a steady but slow recovery from the winterkills of a decade ago, and two calling males above 5500 ft on Roan Mt., TN, June 21 were noteworthy (RK). A juv. Virginia Rail was found at L. Somerset, PA, June 18 (AM), and Soras nested in Washington, OH (LB). American Coots in Pocahontas, WV, in early June (B.B.C.F.) and at P.I.S.P. July 20 (DSn) were noteworthy. Two Sandhill Cranes at Edinboro, PA, June 26 constituted only the 2nd summer record for the area (RBu).

There were no reports of straggling northbound shorebirds after June 1. The southbound flight began about July 12–17, and reports were mixed. Generally no large numbers had appeared by the end of the period, but the commoner "peep," yellowlegs, and Solitary Sandpipers had appeared in small numbers at most sites. Many small ponds had dried up completely, and in some reservoirs the levels were too high. Plant succession has deteriorated the shorebird habitat on Gull Pt., P.I.S.P. (JM), so that birds find little place to rest. Some of the other highlights: After a 3-year absence Piping Plover appeared at P.I.S.P.—two July 22 (J & LM) and one July 24 (JS, EK). An Am. Avocet was at E.B.F.H. July 13 (BF). Upland Sandpipers were seen with fledglings at Conneautville, PA, June 22 (TN), and one at P.I.S.P. July 26 (JM) was rare at that locality. A Whimbrel was at P.I.S.P. July 23, and 23 were seen there July 26 (JM). One at Apple Grove, Mason, WV, July 25 (GR) provided the first local record and one of the few for the state. Of the rare shorebirds for this Region two Baird's Sandpipers were seen at P.I.S.P. July 24 (EK); Stilt Sandpipers were at P.I.S.P. July 22 (JM) & 31 (EK) and at E.B.F.H. July 26 (CN); and Short-billed Dowitchers were at Donegal L., PA, July 20 (RM, RCL) and at Lyndhurst, VA, July 23 (MH). A dowitcher of undetermined species was at K.C.P.P. July 23 (WA).

A Bonaparte's Gull at Roanoke, VA, June 20 (MD) furnished an unusual summer record. Ring-billed Gulls were reported away from L. Erie more commonly than is usual for our summer season. There were several unusual tern records. Three Caspian terns were seen at Watauga L., TN, June 8 (FA), and three were at Pymatuning L., PA, July 3 (LR). Common Terns were at Woodcock L., PA, June 27 (RCL) and Cherokee L., TN, June 12 (RK). A Forster's Tern was at Pymatuning L., PA, July 3 (LR), and a juvenile was at P.I.S.P. July 22 (JM). Black Terns nested at Hartstown, PA, and there were sightings at several other places in that area (RFL). Black Terns were also seen at P.I.S.P. in June (SS) and early July (JM, EK); at Roanoke, VA, June 20 (MD); and at Stuart's Draft, VA, July 22 (YL).

CUCKOOS TO HUMMINGBIRDS — Both species of cuckoo were more common than usual in parts of w. Pennsylvania, which was generally attributed to the gypsy moth outbreak. On the other hand they were scarce at Salem, OH (WB), and Morgantown, WV (GAH). Common Barn-Owls were known to have nested at Fishersville, VA (*vide* SR); Harrisonburg, VA (KF); Johnson City, TN (a new nest site) (RK); and Murray, GA (HD). Long-eared Owls were reported from Canton, PA, June 17 (RY) and at Teegarden, OH, July 3 (WB). A Short-eared Owl at P.I.S.P. July 30 (BSc) established the 2nd summer record for Erie, PA, and 2 nestings in Clarion, PA, provided w. Pennsyl-

vania firsts (WF). There were reports of N. Saw-whet Owls from Centre, PA (HH); Erie, PA (window kill) (TK); Grayson Highland S.P., VA (BP); Whitetop Mt., VA (DS); and Watauga, NC, at an elevation of 4300 ft, the lowest known in the state (HL, ML). The only confirmed nesting of this species came from Northumberland, PA, where the young were being fed gypsy moths (DG).

Common Nighthawks were thought to be in lower than normal numbers in the Shenandoah Valley (RS, KF) and n. Georgia (HD). A Chuck-will's-widow was heard at Cumberland Gap N.P., KY, in mid-June (fide SR), and one was present at Parkersburg, WV, July 4 (fide LRo). Whip-poor-wills continued to be scarce, but several records came from n.c. Pennsylvania (DG), and a newspaper story brought several reports to West Virginia Atlassers (JP, CS). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were thought to be scarce throughout the Region despite the increase in feeders.

WOODPECKERS TO WRENS — Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported more widely and in greater numbers than in recent years, but they remain scarce. The Red-bellied Woodpecker continued its northward movement. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Pymatuning L., PA, July 3 was somewhat out of range (LR). Activity associated with Red-cockaded Woodpeckers was found at 4 sites in the Daniel Boone N.F., KY (DD).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were in Cherokee N.F., TN, at the low elevation of 2200 ft June 10 (CN) and Rosecrans, PA, June 9 (P & GS) but were not present at their sometime location at Cranberry Glades, WV (GB). A nest of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Pocahontas, WV, was the first for the state (GW). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were also found in Tiadaghton S.P., PA (adults with young) (DG), and in McKean, PA (TG). The Alder Flycatcher nested on Roan Mt., TN, where six to eight singing males were found (RK), and several new stations were found in the Laurel Mts. of Pennsylvania (RM, RCL). Other reports of this species came from traditional high elevation sites in West Virginia and Virginia. The Willow Flycatcher continued to expand its range with new sites in e. Tennessee (CN, RK) and south into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (RS). Both species were reported from Hidden Valley, VA (LT, DS), and Columbiana, OH (WB).

The Bank Swallow has not been common in this Region, so reports of new colonies in the Shenandoah Valley, VA (CT, MS), were of interest as was the colony of 53 nests at Salona, PA (PS). The Cliff Swallow continued to increase southward with colonies in Rowan, KY (MSt); a new colony at Johnson City and 6 colonies at Cherokee L., TN (RK); and a colony of 60 nests at Cook Forest S.P., PA (JG).

The Com. Raven continued to expand in n.c. Pennsylvania, and two adults and two young were seen in Johnson, TN, June 2 (RK). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from 3 Atlas blocks in Clinton, PA (PS), and from Corry, PA, June 13 (JS) but were low in numbers in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia (GAH). A Brown Creeper at the low elevation of 2500 ft in Cherokee N.F., TN, in July was unusual (CN) as was one in Mahoning, OH, July 26 (WB).

The Carolina Wren continued its recovery and is now at about the 1975 levels in the n. part of the Region. The first reports of Bewick's Wren in several seasons came from Grant, WV, in mid-June (B.B.C.S.) and from Cherokee N.F. June 7 (but not later) (BSt). House Wrens were reported from 5 counties in e. Tennessee, the s. extremity of their range (CN). The only report of Marsh Wren came from Mercer, PA, where they were feeding young June 26 (CB).

KINGLETS TO WARBLERS — The Golden-crowned Kinglet continued to increase southward wherever there were conifer plantings and were found as low as 1800 ft in w. Pennsylvania (RM, RCL) and 2800 ft. in e. Tennessee (RK). Ruby-

crowned Kinglets have not been known to nest in the Region, but one was heard June 19 at the Locust Spring Campground, Highland, VA, for the 2nd summer record for the state (DS), and a singing male was at 6100 ft on Roan Mt., TN, June 21 but not on the 27th (RK). A presumed straggler was near Parkersburg, WV, June 4 (LRO).

At Warren, PA, E. Bluebirds had a successful nesting season, and 12 of 36 boxes had double broods (WH); in Bradford, PA, 60 boxes had 18 double broods (RYo). Swainson's Thrushes were slightly above the numbers of recent years in West Virginia's Cheat Mts. (GAH). This species was found in Tiadaghton S.P., PA, June 24; six singing males were found in Sullivan, PA (DG); and one was heard at Scandia, PA, June 5 & 28 (TG). Atlas workers found Hermit Thrushes at lower than expected elevations in s.w. Pennsylvania (RM). Wood Thrushes were absent from Fairview, NC (RY), and were thought to be in some trouble in Clinton, PA, where Atlas workers counted only 24 Woods to 60 Hermits (PS).

Nesting records of Cedar Waxwings increased in e. Tennessee (CN). The Loggerhead Shrike picture looked better than it has for some years with reports from about a dozen sites in e. Tennessee (CN, RK) as well as Highlands, VA (LT), and Monroe and Pocahontas, WV (JP). White-eyed Vireos were at Tionesta, PA, June 23 (TG) and Saybrook, PA, July 8-9 (MN). Solitary Vireos have moved south and downslope as records from Pymatuning L., PA, July 4 (LR) and Monterey, TN (BSt), indicated.

Several of the "northern" warblers are moving either south or to elevations lower than those they previously occupied. The Magnolia Warbler was found in Watauga, NC, June 19 (HL, ML); a singing male was found June 21, but not relocated June 27, on the n.c. side of Roan Mt. (RK); and one was seen twice in June in Erie, PA, well away from the normal range. Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported from Heart's Content, Warren, PA, and Forest, PA, in June (TG) and in Luzerne, PA, from May until early July (DG). The population in the Cheat Mts., WV, continued to increase slowly (GAH). A Blackburnian Warbler was found at 3600 ft (low) in Johnson for the first local record (RK). Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in several places where they are unexpected. Mourning Warblers were common in Crawford (RFL) and were also found in Lycoming, PA (DB), both out of the usual range. Sightings on Paddy Knob, VA, June 4 & 19 (DS) and in Ashe, NC, July 23 (ED) were well south of the expected range. Canada Warblers nested in Cross, TN, for the first local record (CN).

The Yellow-throated Warbler continued to expand northward and was found at 3 locations in June in Pennsylvania, in



Nestling Yellow-throated Warbler in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, July 1988. The species is generally spreading north in this area. Photograph/Dan Brauning.

Lycoming (DB), in Huntingdon (June 5) (DBo), and in Somerset, where they were found within earshot of several Golden-crowned Kinglets (RM, RCL). Cerulean Warblers in Lycoming, PA (DG), were north of the usual range, and a Kentucky Warbler at 3900 ft in the Virginia Mts. was well above the usual limits (CT). Atlas work has found Swainson's Warblers to be more common than thought in w. Virginia, s. West Virginia, and e. Tennessee. They were also found in the Daniel Boone N F in e. Kentucky (*vide* AS).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Summer Tanagers were in 13 of 29 Atlas blocks in Greene, PA (RB). Blue Grosbeaks continued to spread and increase in numbers, particularly in the Ohio Valley. One was seen at an elevation of almost 2800 ft in Grant, WV (GAH, GE).

S.A.

The Dickcissel staged what one observer called a "mini-invasion" and was easily the bird of the summer. A few had appeared before the end of May but in early and mid-June they were to be found in widespread but small colonies of up to five or six birds. They were at some 30 locations in Pennsylvania (RM), most of these in the southwest but extending to Warren, Lycoming, Clearfield, and Erie in the north. Numerous records came from e. West Virginia and w. Virginia as far south as Tazewell. There were a few records for e. Ohio, one report from e. Kentucky, and numerous records from as far south as e. Tennessee. Nesting was confirmed in several places. In Pennsylvania none remained after the end of July (RM), and many of those in Virginia left after the hay fields were mowed. It was widely speculated that these birds had fled their more normal haunts because of the prolonged drought in the Midwest.

A Lark Sparrow was found in Hamblen, TN, July 27 (RK), and a Savannah Sparrow in Cocke, TN, July 2 (CN) was far to the south. Both Grasshopper Sparrows and Henslow's Sparrows proved to be more numerous than had been supposed in pre-Atlas days. Several White-throated Sparrows were found in Wyoming (DG) and Sullivan (RCo). At Mountain L., VA, Dark-eyed Juncos had the most successful breeding season in the several years of an ongoing study (CZ).

Bobolinks at Burke's Garden, VA, in June (JP) and Swoope, VA, June 17 (RS) were well south of expected sightings. Orchard Orioles were unusually numerous in Grant (B.B.C.F.) and at Ona, WV (LW), and had a successful breeding season at Fairview, NC (R & JY).

Besides the usual locations on Shenandoah Mt., VA, and in G.S.M.N.P., Red Crossbills were found on North Fork Mt., WV (CS), and at Mount Storm L., WV (GAH). A few Pine Siskins remained in the Region through the summer. Evening Grosbeaks at a feeder in Warren, PA, June 4 (DDo) and at Monterey, VA, July 5 (LT) makes one wonder if this species too will eventually remain to nest this far south.

CONTRIBUTORS

— Fred Alsop, Wendell Argabrite, Carole Babyak, William Baker, Lynn Barnhart, Alan Barron, Jim Baxter, Ralph Bell (RB), Mike Bleech, Dorothy Bordner (DBo), Dan Brauning (DB), George Breiding, Brooks Bird Club Foray (B.B.C.F.), Brooks Bird Club Sortie (B.B.C.S.), Nancy Brundage, Ralph Burbridge (RBu), Richard Clark (RC), Roger Conant (RCo), Keith Confer, Jim Crum, Dennis Daniel (DD), David Davis, Eric Dean, Thomas Dick, Harriett DiGioia, Dan Doherty (DDo), Mike Donahue, Greg Eddy, Kathleen Finnegan, Barry Fleming, Tom Fox, Walter Fye, Rod Gehrlein, Steven Grado, Ted Grisez, Joseph Grom, Douglas Gross, Ben Handley (BH), Charles Handley, Darlene Handley, Harry Henderson, John Heninger, Mozelle Henkel (MH), Margaret Higbee, William Highhouse, Shayne Hoachlander, Bill Hunley (BHU), Tom Igou, Wesley James, Ted Kimmel, Barry Kinzie, Rick Knight, Ed Kwater, Nevada Laitsch, YuLee Lerner, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Harry Legrand, Merrill Lynch, Anthony Marich, Chris McCabe, Ann McCrae, Jerry McWilliams, Linda McWilliams, Robert Mulvihill, Marge Neel, Charles Nicholson, Bill Opengari, Brian Patteson, John Peplinski, James Phillips (JP), Gary Rankin, Sue Ridd, Lorraine Rollefson (LRO), Larry Rosche (LR), John Schultz (JSc), Glenna Schwalbe, Paul Schwalbe (PS), Bob Scribner (BSC), Boyd Sharp (BS), David Shoch (DS), Robert Simpson, Mike Smith (MS), Don Snyder (DSn), Ruth Snyder (RS), Barbara Stedman (BSst), Stephen Stedman (SSt), Ann Stamm, Craig Stihler, Mike Stimson (MSt), Jean Stull (JS), Sam Stull (SS), Ruth Swaney (RSw), Leonard Teuber, Craig Tumer, Beth Watts, Don Watts, Leon Wilson, Merrill Wood, Gary Worthington, Jerry Young, Ronald Young (RYo), Ruth Young (RY), Charles Ziegenfus.—**GEORGE A. HALL, P.O. Box 6045, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6045.**

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

This was a summer of record heat and near record drought. An exceptionally dry April and May further intensified the situation. The number of 90° days set records Regionwide. Many sites, that is, Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Twin Cities, Duluth, Marquette, and Detroit had never recorded so many 90° (35–45) or 100° (3–6) days. When a rare cool front moved through, it was characteristically dry and "lowered" temperatures to the mid to upper 80s. Eventually these readings felt cool!

The lack of rainfall was staggering. Across the Region the deficiency ranged between 4 to 10+ inches. Crops withered and dried up. Lake and river levels dropped at an alarming rate with numerous smaller lakes and ponds completely drying. The only relief came in mid-July, when



1–4-inch rains occurred across much of the Region. Thereafter localized rains and storms were more numerous for about 1½ weeks. Everyone began hoping this indicated the return to a more normal summer pattern. Such thoughts were quickly shattered when even hotter (95°–105°) and drier weather returned in late July, continuing relentlessly into August.

The effect on birds was devastating. This was especially true for water birds as nesting habitat rapidly disappeared for grebes, bitterns, ducks, rails, and others. In addition many birders felt that these conditions had a highly negative effect on land birds because of fewer insects and berries during the critical period after the young had hatched.

It is paradoxical that in this hot summer there was an abnormal number of rarities. And this became apparent despite the exceptionally small number of seasonal reports submitted for all three states. One wonders what was missed because so many of us stayed home with our air conditioners. One small plus from the weather was the development of excellent shorebird habitat. Concentrations of 300–1000 birds were already being noted by late July. Perhaps the most notable event of the summer was the Dickcissel invasion. It blanketed all three states with birds almost as common in the northern as in the southern parts of each state. Numbers rivaled the best previous invasions, but coverage was easily the greatest ever.

The best finds this summer included for Wisconsin a Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and eight Kirtland's Warblers; for Michigan a Brown Pelican, Black Rail, Black-necked Stilt, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Rock Wren; for Minnesota a Say's Phoebe, Sage Thrasher, and six Lark Buntings. Add to this many other unusual or range-extending species and what follows is an account of what many of us missed.

ABBREVIATIONS — U.P. = Michigan's Upper Peninsula; W.P.B.O. = Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, MI. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS — Tardy Red-throated Loons were at Superior through June 9 [RJ], and four were present at W.P.B.O. June 11 with three there June 17. Unusual were Com. Loons summering at Madison, WI, during July with a maximum of 12 July 6 (m.ob.). Disturbing was the Red-necked Grebe nesting summary from Wisconsin's Rush L. Success was down almost 90% apparently because of excessively high water levels that destroyed nesting habitat. This is the major site for the species in the state with only a few additional pairs nesting elsewhere. An Eared Grebe was found June 1 in Midland, MI (RW). Minnesota had more wandering Am. White Pelicans than normal, perhaps caused by lack of nesting success. Especially noteworthy were the two at Duluth July 20 (DK). In the other 2 states there were almost no wanderers as indicated by single birds during June at Seney N.W.R., MI (JK), and June 18 at Rush L., WI (TZ). Michigan recorded its 6th **Brown Pelican** when one was at AuSable L., Oscoda, June 24 (LC, ph.).

Few southern herons were found Regionally. Minnesota had a total of six Snowy Egrets at 3 sites; none were in the other states. The only Little Blue Herons were two at Pigs Eye L., MN. Cattle Egrets were scarce, for the first time in this Region in years. Minnesota and Michigan had a few birds at 2 sites, and in Wisconsin they were noted briefly at only one spot. No nesting was reported. What a contrast to a few years ago. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron sightings decreased to only a few. For Wisconsin only one bird could be located, at Horicon N.W.R. during early July [TS]; Minnesota had them only in the Twin Cities; and Michigan had four July 7 and later in Berrien (m.ob.) and one July 29 at Pt. Mouillee (TC).



Two Harlequin Ducks at Sheboygan, Wisconsin, early June 1988, an odd season for the location. Photograph/David and Margaret Brasser.

SWANS TO RAILS — Lone Tundra Swans were seen in Wisconsin June 4 in Brown (WA) and June 11 in Door (R & CL). Minnesota had its first nesting Mute Swan record with a pair successfully raising one cygnet at Duluth. Snow Geese during the summer are unexpected. Thus five found June 16 in Lac Qui Parle, MN, by Litkey and one July 10 in St. Croix, WI, by Smith were surprising. Noteworthy duck sightings included those of single Canvasbacks at 3 Wisconsin and Michigan sites. A Redhead was at Milwaukee July 28 (JF). A ♂ Greater Scaup spent July 4–30 at Superior (RJ). Lesser Scaups were found in Wisconsin at LaCrosse, Dunn, Manitowoc, and Ashland. Most unusual were two **Harlequin Ducks** at Sheboygan, WI, June 3–4 (D & MB, ph.). Undoubtedly these were two of the three that had wintered at Racine and moved N along L. Michigan during late spring. Also unusual was a ♂ Oldsquaw between Manitowoc and Two Rivers on L. Michigan July 18 (DT). A ♂ Bufflehead lingered at Madison through June 1 (SR). Minnesota had about its 5th nesting record when a female accompanied by two young was noted on L. Bemidji (GB). A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser summered at Manitowoc (m.ob.).

An Osprey in Columbia, WI, June 25 was out of range (PA). The successful Bald Eagle nest at Lac Qui Parle L. represented the first nest in s.w. Minnesota this century. A Swainson's Hawk was in Michigan's Alpena June 11 (RP, MP, MO). There are very few Rough-legged Hawk summer records for all 3 states. Therefore most unexpected were not fewer than 2 sightings from each state. In Michigan one was present June 3 in Chippewa (DE) and two June 13 at W.P.B.O. (staff). Wisconsin had a pair at Thunder Lake Wildlife Area into late May with one still present June 1 (Oneida, SS). One was in Burnett June 26 (RH). Minnesota had one June 23 at Rice Lake N.W.R. and two June 28 at the Sax-Zim bog, St. Louis (KE). Minnesota had 2 nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons, in downtown Minneapolis and along L. Superior at Palisade Head. At the latter site two young were fledged, representing the first in 20+ years along the lake.

A Spruce Grouse in Iosco July 8 was one of very few Lower Pen. observations (SK). In Minnesota, N. Bobwhites were found in Blue Mounds S.P., representing the first record in this s.w. section since the early 1980s. A Yellow Rail was in Barron, WI, June 25 (RH). Outstanding was a most cooperative Black Rail that often appeared for 2 hours before sunset in Michigan's Ottawa June 12–27 (PC, SM et al.). This allowed many birders the unexpected luxury of seeing and taping it and represented the 7th state record. King Rails were at 2 Wisconsin and Michigan locales.

SHOREBIRDS — Eighteen species were migrating N during the first half of June, down from last year's impressive 23 species. Tardy or interesting records included Lesser Golden-Plovers June 15–16 in Trempealeau, WI (TH), and through June 22 at Duluth (m.ob.) with one June 23 at Shiawasee N.W.R., MI (RW). Semipalmated Plovers lingered until June 11 at Manitowoc, WI (CS). A **Black-necked Stilt** discovered and photographed June 13 at Oscoda, MI (PR et al.), represented the 2nd state and first confirmed record. Also in Michigan a Willet was at Fish Pt. July 11 (RW). A Whimbrel was at Manitowoc June 16 (CS). Late godwits included Hudsonians in Wisconsin's Columbia and Dane through June 12 (PA, BM) with a Marbled in Columbia June 5 (PA). Red Knots were found at 2 Michigan sites in early June. Ruddy Turnstones lingered at Manitowoc until June 21 (CS) with Semipalmated and Least sandpipers seen intermittently during the period at Manitowoc (CS) and Ashland (DV), respectively. White-rumped Sandpipers were at Manitowoc until June 16 (CS), Baird's Sandpipers at Sheboygan June 11 (D & MB), and Dunlins at Milwaukee until June 16 (PS). A total of nine Red-necked Phalaropes were found in early June, eight in Michigan and one in Wisconsin.

Eight Piping Plover nests were found at Pine-Currys L. in Minnesota's Lake of the Woods. Traditional sites, that is, Duluth, Superior, Long Island-Ashland, of several years ago remained inactive. The only other sighting was of a migrant at Milwaukee July 9 (TS). The fall shorebird migration commenced June 20–21 with a few individuals appearing. Within the week 10 species had returned with good numbers already being noted. By late July concentrations of several species were substantial (100s–1000+) owing mainly to the excellent habitat created as lakes and rivers dried. In Wisconsin among the earliest arrivals were Great and Lesser yellowlegs, June 21, Columbia (EH); Solitary Sandpiper June 20, Jackson (JP); Marbled Godwit, June 25, Columbia (PA); and June 26 Semipalmated Sandpiper (Crex Meadows [RH]), Least Sandpiper (Dunn [JP], Brown [MW], Burnett [RH]), and Stilt Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher (Crex Meadows [RH]).

There was the usual number of interesting early fall reports. A Black-bellied Plover was in Freeborn, MN, July 16 (NH). American Avocets were found in all 3 states: seven July 2 at Black Dog L., MN (TT); one July 8 at Ashland, WI (DV); and two July 11 at New Buffalo, MI (DE, JG). Willets were seen in Michigan July 4 & 13 in Berrien (PC) with one in Houghton (no date, AW). Wisconsin had lone individuals at Manitowoc intermittently July 8–12 (CS, DT et al.) with one in Columbia July 11 (RH). A Whimbrel was found at Warren Dunes S.P. July 10 (TSm); a Marbled Godwit was in Bay July 7 (JS) (both Michigan). A Hudsonian Godwit, rare in fall, was seen at Manitowoc July 21 (SR). There were Sandpiper sightings in Wisconsin (five + birds) and Michigan (5 birds). Early were two Buff-breasted Sandpipers July 30 in Columbia (PL). A breeding-plumaged **Ruff** spent June 26–30 at Pt. Mouillee for an unusual summer record (JP, RA, DP, PC).

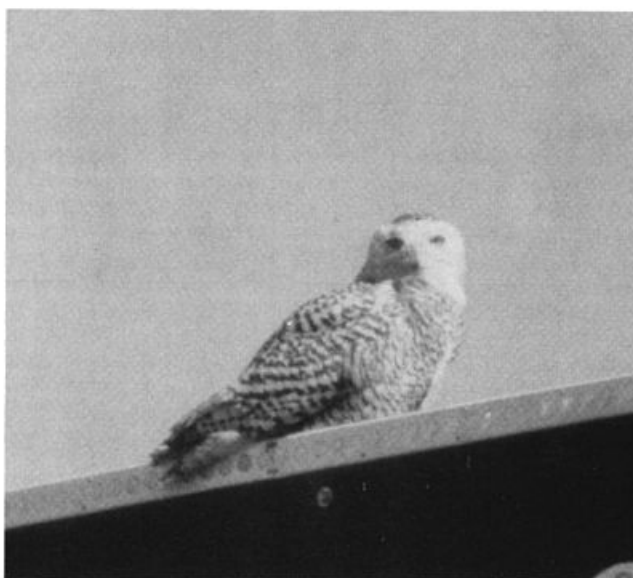
LARIDS — No fewer than five Laughing Gulls were found this summer, more than usual. In Michigan single birds were at Nayanquin Pt. June 1 (JR), W.P.B.O. June 7 (TW), Oscoda June 14 (JKa, LD), and in Berrien during June (RS). Wisconsin had one at Manitowoc June 21–30 (CS). Considerably fewer Franklin's Gulls were present this summer. Only single birds were at 3 Wisconsin sites (Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Ashland) with one to three birds at 3 Michigan sites (St. Joseph, Oscoda, and Roscommon). A maximum of five Little Gulls were at both Manitowoc and Milwaukee during the summer. One was found at Saugatuck, MI, July 31. Wisconsin had only its 2nd **Lesser Black-backed Gull** record when Verch discovered and photographed one at Ashland during the early morning of June 4. It could not be relocated later that day or on ensuing days. For Michigan the one discovered July 1 in Berrien pre-



Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull (with Ring-billed) at Superior, Wisconsin, June 4, 1988. Photograph/Dick Verch.

sented about the 10th state record. It proved more cooperative, as it remained through July 13 (RS, PC et al.). A Glaucous Gull was at Manitowoc June 22 (CS) with one in Presque Isle, MI, July 5 (BG). Single Arctic Terns were found at Manitowoc June 11 (CS) and July 16 (WM).

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS — Both cuckoo species were more common than usual in Wisconsin and Minnesota, perhaps owing to the tent caterpillar outbreak in localized sections of both states. There were 2 unexpected Snowy Owl reports. One was found by Leshner June 10 in Chippewa, WI (ph.). The other may have summered near Traverse City, MI (BE). Short-eared Owls were found in all 3 states with nesting at Crex Meadows, WI. In Minnesota numbers were above average, especially in Aitkin, where 12 birds were seen (WNe).



Snowy Owl in Chippewa County, Wisconsin, on the surprisingly late date of June 10, 1988. Photograph/Fred Leshner.

Arriving too late for the spring article was information on Wisconsin's first nesting **Great Gray Owl** record. The nest was on one of 30 platforms erected by Keith Merkel in 1985-1986. It was located near Clam L. in a lowland hardwood (mainly black ash) habitat in Ashland. On April 2, 1988, Merkel discovered a female on the nest. By the end of April three young were seen, and on May 7 four were noted. At this time all four young and the female were banded by Merkel and Ken Luepke. By mid-May three young had left the nest, and on May 21 all four had left. This was the last day the family was seen.

Michigan had N. Saw-whet Owls, which were south of their normal range, in *Schoolcraft*, *Alger*, and *Tuscola*. In Minnesota a successful nest in *Hennepin* along the Mississippi R. (BH) represented only the 2nd nesting record for the s. part of the state. The **Chuck-will's-widow** in Wisconsin's *Polk* was last heard June 28 (JH).

A Red-bellied Woodpecker was in *Bayfield*, WI, June 15 (SS), showing its continued northward expansion. A pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers were observed at a nesting cavity near *Isabella*. If confirmed this would represent Minnesota's 4th nesting record. There were the usual Black-backed Woodpecker sightings in the n. third of the Region, that is, 6 Michigan and 5 Wisconsin counties. Representing late spring migrants in Wisconsin were the Olive-sided Flycatchers at *Milwaukee* June 10 (WW) and in *Waupaca* June 11 (DT); a very early fall migrant was in *Fond du Lac* July 26 (SS). Another tardy spring migrant was the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seen June 11 in *Waupaca* (DT). Unusual were Acadian Flycatchers north of their normal range in Wisconsin. Several birds were found in the c. and e.c. parts of the state during June. A singing Willow Flycatcher June 23 at Rice Lake N.W.R. (KE) represented only the 2nd n.e. Minnesota record. A Say's Phoebe was at Blue Mounds S.P. late May-July (m.ob.). Western Kingbird numbers were greatly reduced in Minnesota this summer. However, Michigan had its 3rd nesting when one mated with an E. Kingbird (half record?). The nest containing three young was found July 8 in *Isabella* (JR *et al.*). The young were forced out of the nest July 14 because of mite infestation. Two died but the 3rd was successfully raised and released.

Certainly the find of the season occurred when Johnson and Penning were doing A.B.A. pre-convention scouting in *Douglas*, WI, June 24. As they searched the e. part of the county, a long-tailed flycatcher flew toward them. For the next half hour they were entertained by a **Ford-tailed Flycatcher** as it moved between a fence line and adjacent trees. Unfortunately it could not be relocated on subsequent days. This represented only the 2nd Wisconsin record (ph.).

MAGPIES TO SHRIKES — A Black-billed Magpie family (five young) found in *Aitkin* by Nelson represented one of the few n.e. Minnesota nesting records. Five Com. Ravens in *Iosco* July 8 were south of their normal Michigan range (DE). South of its range were three Red-breasted Nuthatches in *Madison*, WI, June 26-28 (PA, EH). A **Rock Wren** was found by Binford and Clark at an abandoned mine at *Centennial* July 10. It remained into August, affording other Michigan birders the luxury of viewing it. This represented the 5th state record (ph.). Seven Carolina Wrens were present this summer. Single birds were in Michigan's *St. Joseph* July 12 (RA), *Alcona* July 15 (Jka), *Wayne* July 22-29 (AC, TC), and *Calhoun* July 24 (RA). In Wisconsin one was discovered by Swengel June 29 as he camped at Nelson Dewey S.P. A pair was found by Hansen in the University of Wisconsin Arboretum at *Madison* July 17. They remained into August, enabling other birders to enjoy them and their song.

An early fall migrant was the Ruby-crowned Kinglet July 27 in *Stevens*, MN (EL). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Waldenco* July 30 was out of range. The species continues to expand

north and west in Minnesota. Eastern Bluebird numbers or nestings were up in Wisconsin and the Duluth area. Michigan had its 12th state and first summer record for **Townsend's Solitaire** when one was observed at W.P.B.O. June 15 (TW). Early was a Swainson's Thrush July 26 in *Hennepin*, MN. Northern Mockingbird sightings were above normal as shown by 10 in Michigan and three in Wisconsin. A **Sage Thrasher** discovered in Minneapolis June 17 provided the state's 5th record (PCo *et al.*). A Sprague's Pipit in *Aitkin* June 26 represented the first summer record away from w. Minnesota (GS). The Loggerhead Shrike presented a mixed picture this summer. Minnesota had another good season. Michigan had 6 reporting sites; of these 3 had nesting pairs, 2 of which fledged young, one twice. Wisconsin had few sightings but did record 2-3 successful nesting pairs.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — White-eyed Vireo reports decreased this summer with four birds in Michigan and only two to three in Wisconsin. All 3 states recorded Bell's Vireos although there were fewer reports from Wisconsin than there were last summer. The Yellow-throated Vireo apparently is expanding its range northward in all 3 states as evidenced by sightings in *Bayfield*, WI, *Baraga*, MI, and *Duluth* and *Isabella*, MN.

Late spring migrating warbler sightings included an Orange-crowned June 15 in *Presque Isle*, MI (BG); a Black-throated Blue June 5 in *Carver*, MN (PSv); two Bay-breasteds June 14 in *Bayfield*, WI (SS); Blackpolls June 2 at *Manitowoc* (CS) and June 8 in *Barry*, MI (RB); and a Wilson's June 14 in *Chippewa*, MI (DE, JG). In Michigan, out of range observations included three Golden-winged during June in *Houghton* (LB), a Tennessee July 2 in *Muskegon* (DP), a N. Parula June 10 in *Cass* (DE), a Cerulean June 22 in *Menominee* (LD), a Louisiana Waterthrush June 18 in *Alcona* (MWi), a Mourning June 28 at *Lost Nation State Game Area* (JR), and a Yellow-breasted Chat June 26 in *Baraga* (LB). The chat sighting represented only the 2nd for the U.P. For Wisconsin the out of range birds included N. Parula June 11 in *Menominee* (MPe) and a Cerulean June 12 in *Forest* (SR).

Interesting breeding and summering records for Wisconsin included the Yellow-throated Warbler again along the *Sugar R.* in s. *Rock* (TS, ST *et al.*); two Prairies in *Jackson* June 5 & 16 (JP) and one in *Adams* June 10-17 (SR, DT); Worm-eating Warbler in *Sauk*; Kentuckys in *Dane*, *Sauk*, *Grant*, and *Waukesha*; Hoodeds in *Waukesha* and *Dane*; and Yellow-breasted Chats in *Dane*, *Rock*, *Grant*, and *Milwaukee*.

The event of the summer was the surprising discovery of eight territorial ♂ **Kirtland's Warblers** in c. and n. Wisconsin. The state Department of Natural Resources undertook a limited canvas of suitable Kirtland's habitat during June and was amazed when, with a small group of observers, birds were found in *Douglas* (two), *Washburn* (two), and *Jackson* (four). In the latter county two to three males had been found about 10 years ago. This year's observations commenced May 30 and continued until June 24. Only several males could be relocated of which two were banded (*vide* KF). A more thorough survey is already being planned for next year.

Michigan's breeding and summering sightings of note included 14 (!) Yellow-throated Warblers along the S. Branch *Galien R.* in *Berrien* June 8-9 (DE *et al.*); one was in *Branch* June 9 (JR). Prairies were in *Newaygo* (GM), *Van Buren* (DE), and *Lapeer* (MW) with four in *Mason* (DE) in June. A pair of Kentuckys was at *Lost Nation State Game Area* (JR). Minnesota again had a nesting pair of Hooded Warblers at *Murphy-Hanrehan Park* with one at *Lebanon Hills Park* June 15-July 2 (TT). A Yellow-breasted Chat was banded in early July in *Ramsey* (RC).

Again this summer the fall warbler migration commenced by mid-July in Wisconsin and Minnesota, gaining momentum for the duration of the month. As in last year it included the s. counties, which made the movement a major, not just a localized, event. As in last year the spring was unusually warm, making for an early spring movement and nesting. Certainly this must be one contributing factor to what is starting to become an annual occurrence. The key will perhaps be when we have a spring that is unusually wet and cold, retarding early nesters. What will happen then? Examples of early fall movement in Minnesota included Chestnut-sided July 11, Tennessee July 16, and N. Parula July 19 (all in Hennepin) and Nashville July 11 in Murray. Wisconsin's representatives included Tennessee July 15 in Brown, Orange-crested July 27 in Ashland, Cape May July 21 in Ozaukee and July 22 at Manitowoc, Yellow-rumped July 21 at Manitowoc, Bay-breasted July 22 at Manitowoc, and one banded July 30 at Honey Cr.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Single Summer Tanagers were in Michigan's Berrien during June (WB et al.) and St. Joseph July 12 (RA). Northern Cardinals at Moorhead and White Earth L., MN, were farther north than usual. A Blue Grosbeak at Felton Prairie July 1 (AB) provided the first record from n. Minnesota. The bird eliciting the most comment this summer was the Dickcissel. It covered all 3 states in unprecedented numbers. Wherever there was suitable habitat there were summering or nesting birds. They were even abundant in the n. areas with first nesting records coming from n. counties in all 3 states. While only a few previous invasions have rivaled or surpassed it in numbers, this year's was easily the most extensive ever recorded. It was indeed the summer of heat, drought, and the Dickcissel!

A Lark Sparrow at McGregor June 23 furnished the first summer record from n.e. Minnesota (fide KE). Perhaps following the Dickcissel example there was a surprising number of Lark Bunting reports—7. A male was photographed June 1 at W.P.B.O. (JKa, TL, LD) for only the 11th Michigan record. Minnesota had six from Clay, Big Stone, and Aitkin. A pair was seen copulating June 20 in Big Stone (BH). There have been no nesting records since 1964. Two singing ♂ Baird's Sparrows June 24 at Minnesota's Felton Prairie (KE et al.) represented only the 2nd record since 1980. Grasshopper Sparrows were present in unusually high numbers in parts of Minnesota

and Wisconsin, including areas where they are normally not recorded (i.e., n.e. Minnesota, n.w. Wisconsin). Beyond their normal range were Henslow's Sparrows at Big Stone N.W.R. and Aitkin, MN. Unusual was the Fox Sparrow that lingered near Haslett, MI, until June 28 (AA, DM). Besides at Felton Prairie, Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found elsewhere in Big Stone, on June 14 (BH). Western Meadowlarks in St. Louis and Cook, MN, were further northeast than usual. Unexpected was a Rusty Blackbird at Betsy L., MI, June 15 (DE, JG).

House Finches continued their phenomenal increase in Michigan and Wisconsin. They are increasing at an amazing rate in the s. halves of both states as well as extending their range northward. The species has not invaded Minnesota yet as witnessed by only 2 reports—Albert Lea (RJo) and St. Paul (AB). Be patient, they are coming! There were the usual Red Crossbill sightings in n. Wisconsin and Michigan. Curiously, Minnesota reported none this summer. Only a very few White-winged Crossbills were found in Wisconsin, none elsewhere. Pine Siskins nested in Madison, in Appleton, and especially in Manitowoc (all in the southern half of Wisconsin). Evening Grosbeaks were found south of their normal range in Wisconsin during July, with 15 on July 21 in Menominee (DT).

CONTRIBUTORS — Ray Adams, Andy Ammann, Philip Ashman, G. Berkey, Laurie Binford, Al Bolduc, Walter Booth, David & Margaret Brasser, Richard Brewer, Lynda Camburn, Art Carpenter, Tom Carpenter, R. Christman, Phil Chu, Charles Clark, P. Coin (PCo), Louie Dombroski, Kim Eckert (Minnesota), Bob English, Dave Evers, Jim Frank, Kathleen Fruth, Jim Granlund (Michigan), Bill Grigg, Ellen Hansen, Bruce Harris (BH), B. Hitman, Randy Hoffman, Nancy Holway, Joe Hudick, Thomas Hunter, Robbye Johnson, Robert Jorgensen (RJo), Joe Kaplan (JKa), Jim Kesel, D. Kienholz, Steve Kitler, Ellen Lawler, Fred Leshner, Tony Leukering, Peggy Lison, B. Litkey, Ken Luepke, Roy & Charlotte Lukes, Gail McPeck, Doug McWhirter, Bob Mead, Keith Merkel, Steve Minard, William Mueller, Warren Nelson (WNe), William Norris, Mary Oulette, Jim Paton, Bill Penning, Mark Peterson (MPe), Marlene Planck, Rod Planck, Janine Polk, Dave Powell (Michigan), Jack Reinoehl, Peggy Ridgeway, Sam Robbins, Jerry Smith, Roy Smith, Tom Smythe (TSm), Joe Soehnel, Charles Sontag, Tom Soulen, Paul Sunby, Peger Svingen (PSv), Gary Swanson, Scott Swengel, Daryl Tessen (Wisconsin), Tom Tustison, Dick Verch, Arthur Weaver, Ron Weeks, Terry Wiens, Melvin Wierzbicki, Myles Willard (MWi), Winnie Woodmansee, W.P.B.O. staff, Tom Ziebell.—**DARYL D. TESSEN, 2 Pioneer Park Pl., Elgin, IL 60123.**

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

The summer of 1988 can be characterized by one word: drought. This drought was easily the worst since the 1930s. June rainfall was virtually nonexistent as marshes dried up and crops wilted in the excessive heat. Temperatures averaged considerably above normal and exceeded 90°F on most days. While the extreme heat continued through July, precipitation approached normal levels. The July rainfall did not markedly improve conditions but prevented further reductions in water levels. At the end of July many areas had received less than 50% of their normal precipitation, with no end in sight of the hot and dry weather.

The drought's effects on breeding birds varied considerably from species to species. Waterfowl, rails, and other



occupants of wetlands generally experienced poor nesting success. Cavity nesters also suffered from excessive mortality of adults and young. Many of the early nesting passerines had reasonably good success although most multiple-brooded species failed to successfully raise more than one brood. The breeding season was not a complete disaster, but overall success was generally reduced when compared with a normal year.

These unusual conditions also triggered a remarkably early southward migration, especially in late July, when migrant passerines trickled through the northern states. Shorebirds also appeared early, taking advantage of exposed mudflats along reservoirs and reduced water levels in the few remaining marshes.

Despite the unbearable conditions, many observers remained active throughout the summer. Breeding bird atlas projects expanded our knowledge of bird distribution patterns, information that may prove useful when determining the long-term effects of the drought on the abundance and distribution of our breeding avifauna.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.C.R. = Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, MO; O.W.R. = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, OH. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES — Nonbreeding Com. Loons were noted at 6 locations, normal numbers for recent years. Pied-billed Grebes experienced local declines although the remaining suitable marshes hosted expected numbers in the n. states. Rare summer residents in Missouri, Pied-billed Grebes nested at Ted Shanks W.M.A. and appeared at 3 other locations south to Springfield (*vide JW*). A Horned Grebe at Illinois Beach S.P. July 6 (SH) established one of the few midsummer records for Illinois. Western Grebes nested in w. Iowa, where eight adults and a nest were located at Rush L. June 12 (SD, EM) and young grebes were observed June 22 (DH). A.W. Grebe returned to Port of Indiana, IN, July 12–31 (CF *et al.*), probably the same individual that appeared at this location last summer.

The drought displaced Am. White Pelicans into Iowa, where they were reported from 8 sites with a maximum of 82 at Forney L. (SD *et al.*). Other nonbreeding pelicans were unexpected at Louisville June 25 (KC *et al.*) and in the Chicago area, where the same bird moved from Cook, IL, June 8–9 (RB, m.ob.) to West Beach, IN, June 16–17 (JN, JS) and back to L. Calumet, IL, throughout July (m.ob.). Breeding Double-crested Cormorants expanded in Illinois, where colonies were reported from L. Renwick (41 nests—JM), Barrington (2 nests—WM), and Carlyle L. (25 nests—*vide RH*). Nonbreeding cormorants were widely reported in the n. states and appeared at one Kentucky location.

Heron fared reasonably well despite the drought. A shortage of suitable feeding habitats was not reported, and most colonies produced young. The only report of excessive mortality was in a large Black-crowned Night-Heron colony along w. L. Erie, where adults and young died from the extreme heat (MS). Reduced water levels in most marshes were detrimental to nesting bitterns. Summering Am. Bitterns were reported from only 5 locations as they remained critically low. Least Bitterns appeared in every state except Kentucky, generally in reduced numbers with few successful nests. Nesting Great Egrets were stable although their numbers remained very low in the s. states with only 3 small colonies in s.e. Missouri and 2 pairs in w. Kentucky. Summering and postbreeding Great Egrets were widely reported with maxima of 110–350 in Illinois and Ohio. As many as 20–40 pairs of Snowy Egrets were estimated in each of 3 s.e. Missouri heronries (*vide JW*). A few pairs still nested along w. L. Erie. Snowies summered in the Chicago-Joliet area with up to five July 7–Aug. 3 (JM) at L. Renwick, where nesting is possible. The only wandering Snowies appeared at 3 sites in Iowa.

Each s.e. Missouri colony supported an estimated 160–320 pairs of Little Blue Herons (*vide JW*). This species may have nested at Louisville, and a few pairs bred along w. L. Erie. Extralimital Little Blues were not plentiful with up to four herons scattered across 16 locations in the n. states. Single Tricolored Herons returned to L. Calumet, IL, and the w. L. Erie marshes during June, where they are regularly observed. Another Tricolored Heron at Horseshoe L. July 23–24 (†DBz, JZ) was exceptional for s. Illinois. Cattle Egrets still predominate in the s.e. Missouri heronries with 400+ nests at each, but they may be declining at the n. edge of their range. They may have abandoned one of Ohio's colonies although a few pairs still nest in Erie (*vide MS*). Elsewhere, 22 nests were counted at L. Renwick, IL (JM), and 3 pairs at Louisville. Wandering Cattle Egrets were detected only in Iowa. Green-backed Herons received mixed reports but remained locally scarce. Black-crowned Night-Herons also received mixed reports. The 691 active nests at L. Calumet, IL (SE *et al.*), represented a substantial increase, but their numbers may be decreasing along w. L. Erie. Stable numbers elsewhere included 300 nests at Louisville and 10–80 pairs at scattered heronries in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons appeared at several new locations near the Great Lakes, and expected numbers were elsewhere. The only Glossy Ibis was a closely studied adult at Horseshoe L., IL, June 28–July 2 (†DBz *et al.*), and three White-faced Ibises were noted at S.C.R. June 23 (BJ). Unidentified Plegadis were also reported from Ohio and Missouri.

WATERFOWL — Not surprisingly, these species experienced very poor nesting success as a result of the drought. Even Wood Ducks and Mallards produced fewer young as habitat conditions deteriorated. The drought displaced few nesting ducks. These few records included a brood of Green-winged Teal at Barberton, OH (LR), unusual in n.e. Ohio, and six N. Shoveler nests at Ventura Marsh, IA (TL). A Canvasback nest at Rush L. (SD, EM) furnished Iowa's first breeding record in nearly 50 years but was surpassed by a brood discovered at Gayoso Bend W.M.A., MO, June 19 (BBR). Expanding Hooded Mergansers appeared at new locations in the n. states, particularly Ohio and Iowa, where small populations are firmly established. A Ruddy Duck brood at Barberton (LR, RHa) was also unexpected in n.e. Ohio.

The drought produced an unusual number of nonbreeding waterfowl. These summering birds were most prevalent in the w. states with smaller numbers elsewhere except Kentucky. They appeared throughout the season, some lingering for only a few days and others remaining for a month or longer. Nearly every species was detected. The most noteworthy records included two Greater White-fronted Geese at New L., IA, June 27 (SD); 35 Snow Geese at Badger L., IA (EA); a Ross' Goose at Bays Branch W.M.A. throughout the season, establishing Iowa's first summer record (SD); Blue-winged Teal in s.e. Missouri in Mississippi (*vide JW*); a Redhead at Caruthersville, MO, June 5 (BJ); a White-winged Scoter lingering at Keokuk, IA, through June 5 (RC); and a Bufflehead at O.W.R. through July 10 (KA).

HAWKS TO CRANES — Kentucky's nesting Ospreys included the established pair in Livingston and a possible nest on Stewart's I. (BP). Nonbreeding Ospreys were widely distributed with a total of 13 records. Mississippi Kites are expanding in Missouri. As many as six kites appeared near St Louis, where a nest was located (DC). Single kites near Clinton June 7 (DCo) and Schell-Osage W.M.A. July 21 (JW, BJ) were unusual in w. Missouri. Within their traditional range along the Mississippi R., 21 kites were counted at Union County Conservation Area, IL, July 6 (DR). It was a banner year for Bald Eagles with additional breeding pairs in nearly every state, including 5 pairs in Illinois and Missouri, 6 in Iowa, and 12 in

Ohio. Most pairs successfully fledged young. Northern Harriers were more widely reported although many were probably nonbreeders displaced by the drought. Wandering harriers returned to L. Erie by June 20 and were apparent in every state except Kentucky during July. Nesting was confirmed at only 3 locations in Iowa and 3 in s.w. Missouri but was also suspected in n.e. Ohio. The continued recovery of both *Accipiter* species was gratifying. Small numbers of Sharp-shinned were reported from every state except Indiana, including 3 nests in Missouri and 4 reports from Kentucky, where there are surprisingly few summer records. Breeding Buteos remained stable and were apparently unaffected by the drought. Nesting Swainson's Hawks were reported from Iowa at Osceola (DB), at George Wyth S. P. (FM), near Mason City (JWa), plus at their traditional site in Kane, IL (JKM). Summering Swainson's were also detected in 2 locations in Iowa and 3 in s.w. Missouri. The Peregrine Falcon introduction program resulted in nesting pairs at Chicago (m.ob.) and Toledo (MA, MS). Both pairs fledged two young. Another Peregrine summered at Kansas City (TN), and an unbanded immature found dead in Sioux, IA, July 8 (DH) may not have been an introduced bird.

Most gallinaceous birds benefited from last winter's mild weather although the drought's effects on their populations remains to be determined. As a result of their expansion in Iowa, **Gray Partridges** have spread into Missouri with the first reports from Atchison (RS) and Knox (JV, ST) this summer. Ring-necked Pheasants increased by 11% in Illinois, and N. Bobwhites improved by 12%–13% in Indiana and Illinois. These increases represented improved numbers throughout their ranges.

Rails undoubtedly suffered from the drought although firm data was hard to obtain. Exceptional in any state, a calling Black Rail in DuPage, IL, July 1 (fEW) provided an unexpected summer record. The drought did not improve the fortunes of King Rails. Nesting was only confirmed in Illinois at Banner Marsh (TF) and Lockport (JM), and summering rails were detected at 5 scattered locations in Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri. A King Rail catching crayfish along a river in Clermont, OH, June 15–16 (J) was undoubtedly displaced by the drought. Casual summer visitors to s.e. Missouri, Purple Gallinules were reported from Mingo N.W.R. and Duck Creek W.M.A. without any indication of nesting (fide JW). Another Purple Gallinule wandered to Burlington June 20–July 1 (fRC et al.), furnishing Iowa's first record in 5 years. Common Moorhens elicited mixed reports but were successful where habitats remained suitable; for example 66 adults and young were counted at L. Calumet, IL, July 30 (JL). Two Sandhill Cranes were unexpected in Howard July 23 (HM et al.), providing Iowa's first summer record of this century. These nonbreeders probably wandered from Wisconsin.

SHOREBIRDS — As expected, the spring shorebird migration continued into the first half of June. The late spring migrants must have encountered the first returning shorebirds, which appeared by June 19–23. The fall migration was relatively early with adults and juveniles of many species arriving before traditional arrival dates. These migrants were widely distributed as low water levels in ponds and lakes provided abundant habitats.

Midsummer records of Lesser Golden-Plovers in every n. state probably represented nonbreeders; a Semipalmated Plover apparently summered at O.W.R. The prospects for Iowa's breeding Piping Plover population appear bleak. Only 2–3 pairs were noted at traditional locations near Sioux City and Council Bluffs, and they may not have produced any young (SD). The only migrant Piping Plover visited n. Illinois during July. An Am. Avocet at L. Calumet, IL, June 14 (JP) may have been an early fall migrant. Other migrants appeared during July with no more than two avocets scattered at 6 locations near both Great Lakes and in Iowa. This summer's shorebird prize was the **Black-necked Stilt** at L. Calumet, IL, June 10



Piping Plover at Fermilab, DuPage County, Illinois, July 31, 1988. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.



Black-necked Stilt at Lake Calumet, Illinois, June 10, 1988. Photograph/Jim Landing.

(FS, f.m.ob., ph.), perhaps the same individual observed near Peoria, IL, in late May. This stilt established Chicago's first record since 1968.

A concentration of 129 Solitary Sandpipers at Union Slough N.W.R. July 26 (SD, MP) was exceptional for Iowa. The earliest Willets returned to the Great Lakes and Iowa by June 16–22, staging a good flight with a total of 18+ reports from every state except Missouri. However, no sizeable flocks were reported. Breeding Upland Sandpipers were described as "wide-spread" in Iowa with reports from 13 counties, including an impressive 40 in Adair (fide JD). Smaller numbers summered at expected locations in other n. states. The only fall flock totaled 18 Uplands in n.w. Indiana.

On June 26 an early fall Whimbrel returned to Algona, IA (M & KK), where they are exceptionally rare. Regular migrants along both Great Lakes, as many as four Whimbrels were noted on 6 dates during July. The most noteworthy of these records was of a white-rumped Whimbrel thought to be one of the Eurasian races on the Maumee R. near Toledo July 10–18 (†MA, TK et al.). The heavily barred underwings, breast streaking extending to the legs, and lightly barred rump were more suggestive of the Siberian race *variegatus* than of the European race *phaeopus*.

Marbled Godwits were mostly restricted to L. Erie, where as many as three appeared at 3 locations during July. The only other Marbled was discovered at Rice Lake Conservation Area, IL, July 30 (RP, BC). Western Sandpipers were more widely distributed than normal, beginning with early arrivals in Ohio and Iowa July 7–8. Spring White-rumped Sandpipers peaked with 241 at Blue L., IA, June 1 (SD), and small numbers lingered throughout June in Ohio and Iowa. Since few ad. Baird's Sandpipers wander E of the Mississippi R., one in Ottawa, OH, July 16 (J, MG) was unexpected. Pectoral Sandpipers were plentiful, including exceptional concentrations of 5100 at Union Slough N.W.R., IA, July 26 (SD, MP) and 1800+ at L. Calumet, IL, during July (JL). Union Slough N.W.R. also hosted the only sizeable Stilt Sandpiper flock with 136 on July 26 (SD, MP). An early Buff-breasted Sandpiper returned to Hendrickson Marsh, IA, July 29 (SD); the only documented Ruff was discovered at Rice Lake Conservation Area, IL, July 30 (†RP, †RCh et al.). Short-billed Dowitchers were widely reported with a maximum of 450 along w. L. Erie. Summering Com. Snipe appeared in n. Illinois and n.w. Ohio without any indication of nesting. American Woodcock suffered during the drought and reportedly fed on watered lawns at Cincinnati (W). Ohio's 2nd nesting record for Wilson's Phalarope was established by an unsuccessful attempt at O.W.R. (KA, JPo).

GULLS, TERNS — Laughing Gulls were scarce, with only one along L. Erie July 3, providing surprisingly few records given their relative abundance in recent years. Small numbers of nonbreeding Franklin's Gulls were scattered across the n. states east to L. Erie. The sizeable Ring-billed Gull colonies at L. Calumet, IL, and Oregon, OH, remained intact and numbered in the thousands of pairs. The Illinois colony was successful (JL), but excessive heat caused considerable mortality of adults and young in Ohio (MS). An additional small colony was reported from Zion, IL (EW). Herring Gulls thrived at the large colonies at L. Calumet and Oregon, successfully raising many young. Small colonies and pairs were scattered along L. Erie and reported from Zion, IL. A first-year Lesser Black-backed Gull was sporadically observed at Huron throughout the summer (ph. KA), furnishing only the 2nd confirmed summer record for Ohio.

Only small numbers of Caspian Terns were scattered across most states, including nonbreeders at several inland locations. By far the most unexpected tern was an ad. **Royal Tern** photographed at Chicago June 13 (RHu), furnishing the 2nd record for Illinois. Breeding Com. Terns were represented by small colonies at Zion, IL (EW), Oregon, OH (MS), and Erie, OH (J, MG). The first 2 colonies raised a few young. Their status remained precarious although lower water levels along the Great Lakes may provide additional nesting sites for this beleaguered species. No sizeable concentrations developed during July. Forster's Terns nested in Iowa at Rush L. and Eagle L. (SD et al.). Migrant Forster's returned to most states during July and outnumbered Commons at most locations. Least Terns were among few species benefitting from the drought. Nest sites were plentiful along the Mississippi R. although some colonies were disturbed when their sand bars became accessible from land. Along the river in Missouri, 19 colonies supported 420

nests and produced 480 young (JSm). Other colonies included 17 nests in Alexander, IL (EdA), and 11 nests producing six young at Council Bluffs, IA (SD). The only extralimital report consisted of three Least along the Mississippi R. in Hancock, IL, July 31 (RC). The drought reduced nesting Black Terns to a few colonies in Iowa and n. Illinois as most former nesting sites were unsuitable due to low water levels. Very few young were raised.

CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS — Both cuckoos were universally scarce. The only noteworthy sighting was of a Black-billed June 26 in Taylor, KY (BP), where they are very rare summer residents. Missouri's small population of Greater Roadrunners was represented by periodic observations in Toney (PM). The status of Com. Barn-Owls in Ohio was indicated by 17 active nests plus summer sightings at 2 other locations (JH, fide MG). These nests resulted from an extensive study and do not necessarily imply improved numbers. Other reports consisted of 4 nests and 4 summer reports from Missouri, 3 nests in s. Indiana, a nest in Illinois, and a pair in Iowa, normal numbers for recent years. The only Long-eared Owl nest was discovered in Clark, IA (BB, fide JSi). Short-eared Owls nested in Emmet (BM), furnishing one of few recent breeding records from Iowa. A pair possibly nested near Montour, IA (MB), while the appearance of one at Huron, OH, July 14–31 (TLe, m.ob) was difficult to explain.

Reduced numbers of Com. Nighthawks were evident in several states. Chuck-will's-widows were found at new locations in Iowa with 3 records in Fremont plus reports from Pottawattamie, Shimek State Forest (SD), and Big Sand Mound Preserve (TB, fide P). Expected numbers were detected at traditional sites in other states. Whip-poor-wills were noted as locally common residents in s. Iowa as evidenced by tallies of 64 in Lee July 1 and 53 in Fremont June 9 (SD, JD). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds suffered during the drought as many plants failed to produce flowers. They were mostly concentrated at feeders and apparently raised few young. Woodpeckers were not immune to the effects of the drought; both Red-bellieds and Downies were reported as visitors to hummingbird feeders in Indiana (fide ABr). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested at 3 locations in Winneshiek (DK) within their traditional range in n.e. Iowa.

Southward migration of flycatchers began early with Yellow-bellieds, Alders, and Least returning to L. Erie by July 23–26. Breeding flycatchers produced few surprises. Summering Alders were reported mostly from established sites in n. Ohio although as many as three males summered at Palos, IL (JM, JL), where they have not been known to nest. Willow Flycatchers are increasing in s. areas and were at new locations in Kentucky. The expanding Least Flycatcher nested at Lake Hope S.P. (SR), furnishing the first confirmed breeding record for s. Ohio. Other extralimital Least established territories south to Lucas, IA (BE), Clark, OH (DO), and DeWitt, IL (RP). Breeding W. Kingbirds were widely noted in w. Iowa, and a pair returned to their regular site near St. Louis (DA). The only extralimital W. Kingbird was noted in White, IL, June 1 (AB). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers wandered E to Busch W.M.A., MO (fide JW), and N to Treynor, IA, June 3 (SD).

Reduced numbers of Purple Martins were reported as they continued to decline. Mortality of adults and young was widely noted during the hot weather although some colonies had excellent nesting success. The only late-summer roost totaled 4000 martins at Louisville July 16 (DN). The drought affected N. Rough-winged Swallows as they produced few young and departed very early. Bank Swallows were mostly reported from traditional colonies, and migrants peaked with 7000 in Hancock, IL, July 31 (RC) and 2500 at Barberton, OH, July 27 (LR). The expanding Cliff Swallow appeared at new locations east of the Mississippi R. A survey in s. Illinois resulted in the discovery of 15 colonies and 2384 nests (DR), an indication of their local abundance. The only fall concentration totaled 1000 Cliffs at Big Wall L., IA, July 26 (SD, MP).

S.A.

While Fish Crows were formerly restricted to the vicinity of the Mississippi R. north to St. Louis, recent sightings indicate they are rapidly expanding their breeding range. This expansion is most apparent along the Ohio R., where single crows were noted upstream to Union, KY, July 29 (fide BP) and Henderson, KY, June 16 (AB). Since the latter crow was observed on both sides of the river, its presence in Vanderburgh established the first **Fish Crow** record for Indiana. These crows were also wandering away from the large rivers with sightings near Pleasant Valley, KY, June 24 (MSt) and Johnson, IL, June 10 (K).

The only summer report of Red-breasted Nuthatch was of a family group at Maumee State Forest, OH, June 17 (TK). They have become rare but fairly regular residents in n. Ohio. After summering at Axe L., KY, for several years, Brown Creepers were finally confirmed as nesting June 2 (BP, WH), establishing the first definite breeding record for the state. An ad. creeper with young at Potato Creek S.P. June 11 (T & LSt) furnished one of few confirmed nesting records for Indiana. The expected small numbers of territorial creepers were scattered elsewhere in the n. states.

The mild winter benefitted Carolina Wrens, which noticeably increased in every state. A total of 12 Carolinas at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. July 17 (RC) provided an exceptional count for Iowa. The prospects are not very optimistic for Bewick's Wrens. Their numbers were significantly reduced in s.w. Missouri, their last real stronghold in this Region. The only other reports were from Kentucky with single wrens in Breckenridge (AB), Grant (MSt), and Owen (LM). House Wrens reportedly experienced poor nesting success, and their numbers were reduced in most s. areas. Adult Winter Wrens with three young in Dubuque June 18 (DK) furnished one of few confirmed nesting records from n.e. Iowa. Sedge Wrens exhibited their typically unpredictable distribution. They staged a noticeable July invasion of Missouri, although this movement was not apparent elsewhere. They were very locally distributed east of the Mississippi R., where one in Breckenridge June 8 (AB) and seven in Henderson July 31 (BP, DE) were noteworthy for Kentucky.



Golden-crowned Kinglet nest in Morton Arboretum, DuPage County, Illinois, July 9, 1988. Photograph/Eric Walters.

Two pairs of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** attempted to nest at Morton Arboretum near Chicago. These pairs produced 3 clutches although only one brood was successfully raised (EW, TBr), furnishing the first breeding record for Illinois and only the 2nd Regional nesting record.

The heat and drought also affected E. Bluebirds. Most pairs successfully raised their first broods, but few young were raised after early June. Early migrant thrushes included a Gray-cheeked in DuPage, IL, July 30 (EW) and a Swainson's on S. Bass I., OH, July 26 (KA). A Hermit Thrush nest was observed under construction in Hocking, OH (J), where a small breeding population may be established. Brown Thrashers were migrating early with 12 at Headlands S.P., OH, July 25 (LR). Increased numbers of Cedar Waxwings were prevalent in Kentucky and Missouri, where they are normally scarce summer residents. Loggerhead Shrikes proved to be widely distributed residents in Iowa, where sightings from 13 counties included a remarkable 70+ nests in Adair (DD, fide JD). Expected numbers of shrikes were reported from the other states. The 7 reports from c. and n. Illinois included 2 nests from the Chicago area, which has few recent breeding records. Vireos yielded few surprises. Bell's Vireos appeared at new locations, most notably in Kentucky, where the only established breeding location was supplemented by 10–12 males near Waverly (AB et al.) and a male in Meade (BP et al.). Breeding Bell's were recorded east to Clark, OH, while 12 in Mahaska July 26 (DK) constituted a sizeable number for Iowa. Breeding Solitary Vireos are becoming firmly established in n.e. Ohio, where they appeared at a number of new locations.

WARBLERS — Warblers initiated an early start to their fall migration, no doubt a result of the drought and their reduced breeding success. Early migrants such as Yellow Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrush peaked during July and mostly departed by the end of the month. A number of other species returned remarkably early. These early migrants included Tennessees at Guthrie, IA, July 16 (SD) and Clark, OH, July 23 (DO); Nashville at Colo, IA, July 29 (EM); Magnolia and Cape May at S. Bass I., OH, July 26 (KA); Balckburnian at Chicago July 31 (JL); Bay-breasted near Lucas, OH, Aug. 6 (KM); Blackpolls at Huron, OH, July 25 (KA) and Beverly Shores, IN, July 31 (KB); and Black-and-whites in most n. states by July 4–12.

Breeding warblers generally conformed to patterns established in recent years. Summering Golden-winged were restricted to n. Ohio with single males in Lucas throughout June (MA) and another in Cuyahoga through June 18 (RH). A N. Parula in Monona June 12 (JF) was outside of its normal range in w. Iowa. A Magnolia Warbler in Farmington, MO, June 6 was a late spring migrant, and singing male Black-throated Greens at Riverdale, IL, June 7 (WM) and Potato Creek S.P., IN, June 11 (T & LSt) were either late migrants or nonbreeding summer visitors. Yellow-throated Warblers continued to colonize the n. edge of the Region, appearing north to Hardin, IA (MP, BPr), and Winnebago, IL (DCe). Male Yellow-throateds at Lucas, OH, June 4 (MA) and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, IN, June 6 (CF) represented first summer records for those locations. A Pine Warbler near Dayton June 11 (C & DBo) may have established a first summer record for s.w. Ohio. A territorial Swainson's Warbler in New Madrid (BJ, JW) was at a new site in s.e. Missouri; the expected small numbers were detected at traditional sites in s. Illinois and s. Missouri. Rare summer residents in n.e. Ohio, three N. Waterthrushes were discovered at L. Rockwell June 26 and one at Mogadore Res. June 27 (LR). A Mourning Warbler at Chicago June 14 (HR) was probably a late migrant, and another in Boone, IA, June 20 (EM) may have been a nonbreeding summer visitor. The small breeding population in n.e. Ohio was represented by Mournings at 4 locations in Geauga, Portage, and Ashtabula (LR, RH). Hooded Warblers continued to slowly expand in most n. states; summering Canadas were reported from n. Illinois and e. Ohio.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Breeding Summer Tanagers returned to Will in n. Illinois, and males at Dunes S.P., IN, June 11 (KB et al.) and Lucas, OH, throughout June (MA) were unexpected at those n. locations. Expanding Rose-breasted Grosbeaks returned to s. Missouri at St. Francois (BR), and a pair produced young in Alexander (K et al.) for a first breeding record for s. Illinois. Blue Grosbeaks continued to make news. An unsuccessful nest in Will (JM) established a first breeding record for n.e. Illinois, and an unsuccessful nest in Lucas (TK, m.ob.) furnished a first breeding record for n. Ohio. A single grosbeak at Big Sand Mound Preserve July 4 (TB, fide P) was unexpected in e. Iowa. A tally of 20 Blue Grosbeaks in w. Kentucky and a seasonal total of 26 in w. Iowa were representative of their expanding populations within their normal range. Missouri's small resident population of Painted Buntings was represented by 3 sightings in the s.w. counties north to Lawrence, and an extralimital male appeared at Watkins Mill S.P. in w.c. Missouri (fide JW). Dickcissels remained numerous in most states with pairs reported east to Holmes, OH (ES).

Bachman's Sparrows were detected at 2 regular sites in s.w. Missouri plus a new location in Ozark (EG), and 2 males summered in their traditional Calloway, KY, location (CP). A Clay-colored Sparrow was reported June 3 near Larchwood, IA (JD), where breeding has never been confirmed. Rare summer residents in Missouri, Vesper Sparrows were reported south to St. Clair and Caldwell (RF). Lark Sparrows were mostly reported in expected numbers although one in Breckenridge June 6 (AB, MSt) provided one of few recent summer records from Kentucky. The season's most unexpected bird was a ♂ **Black-throated Sparrow** discovered during a breeding bird survey at Hambden Orchard W.M.A., OH, June 4 (AF, fm.ob., ph.). This male established a territory and was regularly observed throughout June and intermittently into late July, furnishing Ohio's 2nd record and perhaps the first summer sighting anywhere east of the Mississippi R. Rare summer residents in Kentucky, Savannah Sparrows were detected in Oldham (BP) and Lewis (AB). Grasshopper Sparrows were markedly reduced in several states. Henslow's Sparrows received mixed reports. Increased numbers in Iowa consisted of 5 sightings in s. counties with a maximum of 14 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. during July (MP, BPr et al.). Illinois records included six males in DuPage

(EW) and 2 pairs in Pope (TF, DR), 6 scattered sightings constituted "good numbers" for Kentucky. Conversely, Ohio's sizeable population was significantly reduced, and several large colonies disappeared entirely. A ♂ White-throated Sparrow in Madison, IA, June 20 (E & EA) was probably a nonbreeding visitor. Breeding Dark-eyed Juncos were reported only from expected localities in n.e. Ohio.

Bobolinks are rare summer residents in Kentucky, where they were detected in Shelby and Bourbon (BP). Their migration started early with movement along L. Erie by July 3. Great-tailed Grackles continued to expand in Iowa. They were reported from Forney L., Big Wall L., and Keg L., and a nest at Eagle L. in Hancock (SD et al.) represented a substantial north-eastward range expansion. The only Missouri report was from S.C.R.

A Purple Finch at Morton Arboretum, DuPage, July 23–Aug. 6 (EW) established a first summer record for Illinois. They are increasing in n.e. Ohio, where summer Purple Finches were reported south to Tuscarawas (ES). The vanguard of the House Finch invasion reached the w. boundary of this Region. Iowa nests were reported from Cherokee (DB, MBr) and Waterloo (OU), and as many as 25 finches were counted at Davenport (P). In Missouri they were described as "numerous" at St. Louis, Cape Girardeau, and Columbia, and nests were discovered in the n.w. counties at St. Joseph (TLy) and Maryville (DEa). This year's Red Crossbill invasion produced an unsuccessful nest at Morton Arboretum, IL (EW). The only June sighting consisted of three Reds in Geauga, OH, June 5 (PH, RH). Pine Siskins were reported through July 18 in Ohio. Breeding records consisted of 4+ nests at Morton Arboretum, IL (EW); single nests at Kent, OH (LR), and Champaign, IL (DEN); plus nest construction at Burlington, IA (RC).

ADDENDA — Among the late spring reports that were submitted, two sightings certainly warrant mention. A **Curve-billed Thrasher** was photographed at Badger L. May 13 (TS, DG—ph.), furnishing the 4th record for Iowa. A **Hermit Warbler** was discovered at Chicago Apr. 24 (†RB, †MBi) for the first sight record for Illinois.

CONTRIBUTORS (Subregional editors' names are in bold-face; contributors are requested to send reports to them.) — K. Alexander, D. Anderson, E. Anderson (EA), Ed Anderson (EdA), M. Anderson, E. & E. Armstrong (E & EA), A. Barron (AB), D. Bierman (DB), M. Biss (MBi), R. Biss, C. & D. Bowsher (C & DBo), D. Bozay (DBz), B. Brandel (BBr), M. Brewer (MBr), M. Bro (MB), K. Brock, B. Brown (BB), T. Brown (TBr), **Alan Bruner** (ABr) (Indiana), T. Brush (TB), R. Cecil (RC), D. Cederstrom (DCe), R. Chapel (RCh), B. Chato, K. Clay, D. Coles (DC), D. Cornelius (DCo), D. DeGeus, **James Dinsmore** (Iowa), S. Dinsmore, D. Easterla (DEa), D. Ebel (DE), B. Ehresman, S. Elston, D. Enstrom (DEn), C. Fields, T. Fink, R. Fisher, A. Fondryk, J. Fuller, E. Gaines, D. Gifford, M. Gustafson, W. Haag, P. Haddad, R. Hannikman (RHn), R. Harlan (RH), D. Harr, M. Hartogh, R. Hayes (RH), J. Henry, S. Hickman, R. Hughes (RHu), B. Jacobs, T. Kemp, M. & K. Kenne, **Vernon Kleen** (K) (Illinois), D. Koenig, T. LaGrange (TL), J. Landing, T. LePage (TL), T. Lynch (TLy), P. Mahnkey, W. Marcisz, L. McNeely, K. Metcalf, J. Milosevich, B. Moats, F. Moore, E. Munson, T. Noack, D. Noonan, J. Nozrick, D. Overacker, R. Palmer, B. Palmer-Ball (BP), **Bruce Peterjohn** (J) (Ohio), P. Petersen (P), C. Peterson, J. Pogacnik (JPo), J. Pollick (JP), B. Proescholdt (BPr), M. Proescholdt, B. Reeves, K. Richmond, D. Robinson, L. Rosche, S. Russell, H. Rylaarsdam, E. Schlabach, M. Shieldcastle, J. Shiras (JS), J. Sinclair (JSi), J. Smith (JSm), T. Sorenson, R. Sperber, **Anne Stamm** (Kentucky), T. & L. Stankus (T & LSt), M. Stinson (MSt), F. Stoop, S. Turner, O. Uher, J. Vance, J. Walter (JWa), E. Walters, **Jim Wilson** (JW) (Missouri), A. Wiseman (W), J. Ziebol. In addition, many persons who could not be individually acknowledged submitted notes to the various subregional reports.—**BRUCE G. PETERJOHN, 105-K E. Ticonderoga Dr., Westerville, OH 43081.**



Blue Grosbeak nest with two young in Will County, Illinois, August 12, 1988. First nesting for northeastern Illinois. Photo-graph/ Joe B. Milosevich.

CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Jerome A. Jackson

Of course the news of the season was the drought that prevailed throughout the Region and elsewhere, and if the predictions relative to the greenhouse effect hold true, this may just be the beginning. As one who is in the field a great deal, there was one blessing among the problems caused by the dry hot weather: not nearly as many chiggers or mosquitos! I was also able to jauntily walk into swamp areas that previously required the slow effort of pulling first one foot out of the muck and then the other again and again. For the birds, however, the dry weather meant less food: fewer insects and greatly diminished fruit and seed crops. Hummingbirds came to feeders in record numbers, no doubt because of the lack of nectar producing flowers. Sewage lagoons and fish farms took on new importance as havens for water and shore birds.

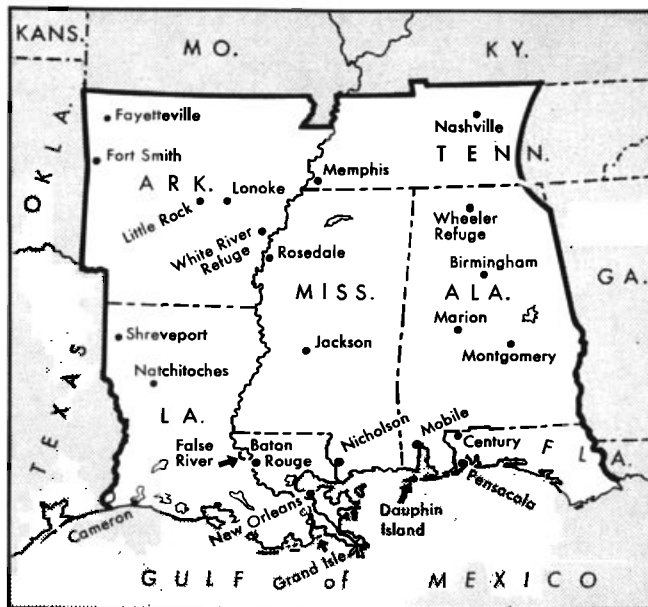
ABBREVIATIONS — LSUMZ = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; PRM = Pascagoula river marsh south of U.S. 90, Jackson Co., Miss. Place names in *italics* are countries.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A Pacific Loon in basic plumage was e. of Pensacola Beach June 1 (TAI, JTF), and one in alternate plumage was at Ft. Pickens Pass June 18 (GF, PT), apparently the 4th and 5th area records. A few summer records of basic-plumaged Com. Loons are normal on the Gulf Coast, such as one on the w. side of Curlew I., in the Chandeleurs June 2 (JO, TAP, CF). Summer inland records are unusual, but may increase as a result of reservoir development. WFK & BB found one at DeGray L., Ark., June 17. Another was found in a yard (!) in Loretto, Tenn., July 22, and released on Laurel Hill L. (DKS, DJS).

Pied-billed Grebes were present during the season at Decatur, Ala. (DGJ, GDJ); L. Elmdale and Centerton Fish Hatchery, Ark. (MM); with three young at the Holiday Isle pond, Destin, Fla. (DW); at borrow pits in Madison (HM, JBe), across the Mississippi R. from Ft. Adams, Miss. (DWG), at Morganza Spillway bay (DWG), and on Capitol L., behind the capitol building in Baton Rouge, La. (RSB); and at Blount Pond, Hickory, Miss. (JMM). A Cory's Shearwater was reported June 1, e. of Pensacola Beach (TAI, JF). Masked Booby records included two subadults seen at Pensacola Pass, Escambia, Fla., June 8 & 11 (KW, RAD); six subadults at Romar Beach, Baldwin, Ala., June 27–July 2 (RAD, RSD); and four near adults at the w. end of Dauphin I., Ala., July 23 (BCG, HHK). Up to five N. Gannets were found from Romar Beach, Baldwin, Ala., June 27–July 2 (RAD, RSD); and an immature was found dead on the beach (LSUMZ) at Port Fourchon, La., July 26.

Summer records for Am. White Pelicans included 100+ June 6 (SWC, DLD), 15 on June 22 (SWC), and 100+ on July 7 (SWC) in Cameron, La. CCS found 16 near the center of L. Pontchartrain, La., July 2. In Arkansas, sightings included five at L. Millwood, Ark., June 16 (CM), two there June 19 (CM, HP, MP), 20 at L. Chicot S. P., June 15 (DRS), and nine at a borrow pit s. of Grand L., Chicot, July 19 (DRS). In the Chandeleurs on June 2, 200–300 Brown Pelicans were at Curlew I., and 200+, including 6–8 nests (a new colony) were on Chicot I. (JPO, TAP, CF).

As fish farming increases in the mid-South, we can expect populations of fish-eating birds to build up. Double-crested Cormorants seem to already be on the move. Ten nests at L. Millwood, Ark., June 19 were the first in Arkansas since 1951 (CM, HP, MP). Other records included one at the Barataria



Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historic Park, June 3 (AS); one sub-adult at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., June 4 (MFH, JAJ); two in the Johnson's Bayou area, Cameron, La., June 5 (VR, MSw); two at Parker Farm, Pulaski, Ark., June 16 (BL, PL); and one at L. Sequoyah, Washington, Ark., July 3 & 13 (MM). Lone Anhingas were reported at Lakeland Farms, Marion, Ala., July 18 (GDJ), and at DeGray S. P., Ark., July 27 (WFK).

Bittern reports for the season included only one of each: an American at E. Jetty Woods, Cameron, La., July 7 (SWC); and a Least at Hulsey Fish Hatchery, Garland, Ark., July 18 (BL, CM). Least Bitterns ought to be relatively common nesting birds in cattails throughout the Region and would certainly be worthy of more attention. A lone Great Egret graced the Tenn-Tom Waterway, Lowndes, Miss., June 11 (MFH, TS); post-breeding summer reports from Tennessee came from Sumner, Stewart, Lawrence, and Putnam (SJS). Reports of the bird with the golden slippers—our Snowy Egret—were widely scattered: in Tennessee one at the Gallatin Steam Plant Sumner (DC, PC), and up to four at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Stewart (DWB, JCR) through the summer; in Arkansas six at the S. Jackson Water Treatment Plant, Union, June 6 (HHS, LS); in central Mississippi one at the Eupora Sewage Ponds, July 15 (TS), up to seven at Blount Pond, Newton, July 25–26 (JMM), and one at L. Lowndes S. P., Lowndes, July 28–30 (TS).

A most interesting show of Little Blue Heron site tenacity was the establishment of a colony including ca 50 nests within about 3 blocks of a 1987 site that was bulldozed to prevent their return (JCN). The appearance of a lone Little Blue at Noxubee N.W.R., July 9 (MFH, TS) was a sad reminder of nesting colonies on the refuge a few years ago when feathered fishermen took precedence over the human variety with boats of unlimited horsepower. On Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., 121 Little Blues were counted going to roost July 31 (JCR).

Reddish Egrets kept to coastal areas as usual, with subadults in June at Cameron, La. (DLD, SWC); nine on July 10 in La-fourche, La. (AS, GS, MM); and two arrivals in Harrison, Miss., July 17 (JAT). The Tricolored Heron was a "Louisiana" Heron this year, with reports coming from Pointe Coupe (DWG), St. Martin (DLD), East Baton Rouge (DLD), and Concordia (July 19; DWG). Post-breeding Arkansas records included three at Lake Chicot S. P., July 25–29 (DRS, CS), and one at a borrow pit near Lakeport, Chicot, July 19–29 (DRS). Two immatures

appeared in Newton, Miss., June 15 and remained through July (JMM). About 15 years ago we were inundated with Cattle Egret records—not so any more. TS found seven near Macon, Miss., June 15; about 40 showed up with Little Blue Herons June 26 in Fayetteville, Ark. (JCN); and a loner found its way to Cherokee, Colbert, Ala., June 27 (NP).

Black-crowned Night-Heron records came only from Arkansas: one at Centerton Fish Hatchery, Denton, June 19 (MM), and two immatures at a borrow pit near Grand L., Chicot, July 19 (DRS). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons also made few lists this season: one immature in Cameron, La., June 21 (SWC, DLD); 3 adults, 9 immatures in West Carroll, La., July 13 (CMD); and single June and July birds from Warren, Coffee, and White, Tenn. (DFV, CP, SJS).

IBISES THROUGH DUCKS — White Ibises continue to show up in new places around the mid-South in summer, although all reports this year were of immatures. Arkansas records included two in Desha, June 27 (JES, GEH, HBS); one in Chicot, July 10 (DRS); and one-24 in Howard July 17–24 (CM, EP). Mississippi records were: three in Newton July 16 (JMM, JG); one in Yalobusha July 23 (GK, SK); and 15 in Noxubee July 31 (MFH, TS). One adult and one immature Glossy Ibises were carefully identified in a flock of 15–20 White-faced Ibises in Cameron, La., July 8 (DLD, SWC).

Roseate Spoonbills didn't make the splash this year that they did last, but at least seven immatures were in Madison, La., July 23 (JTB, HM), and one made a rare visit (the first since 1971—TAI) to Mobile, Ala., July 20–30 (DP, MF, GDJ, m.ob.). It was comforting to see Wood Storks widespread this year, with congregations along the Mississippi R. often exceeding 100 birds. The first were 12 in Concordia, La., July 5 (DWG), but within a week others were found and remained through the season in Louisiana (Madison—JTB, HM, CC; East Carroll—HM, CC; Pointe Coupee—DWG), Mississippi (Noxubee—TS, MFH; Lafayette—VT, MD, GK, SK; Bolivar—JCH, NH; Washington—JCH, NH), and Alabama (Greene—MO, SO, BCG, JH; Hale—RRS, MGS; Perry—GDJ; Marengo—GDJ). The earliest for Arkansas were a whopping 462+ along the Mississippi levee at L. Chicot, Chicot, July 19 (DRS, CS).

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were in Arkansas at the OK Hunting Club Reservoir, Poinsett, June 5 (JHL, PH), and one was seen in Pulaski, July 16 (JTB, AEC). Four were photographed at Ensley, Memphis, Tenn., June 17–18 (JRW). Late nesting by Wood Ducks was indicated by a half-grown downy chick at Loakfoma L., Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., July 31 (MFH). A smattering of few individuals of other duck species is usual in summer, most probably being cripples from the previous hunting season. We report them because it is hard to know which may truly be taking a liking to the Region and which simply couldn't move on. Time will tell! A ♂ Green-winged Teal summered at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn. (JCR). Records of Am. Black Duck came only from Humphreys (May 30; BHS), and Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tn. (June 15; JCR). The only report of Mottled Ducks was of 30 in freshwater at Kiln, Hancock, Miss., June 9 (JAT). Three male and three ♀ Mallards at a catfish pond in Humphreys, Miss., June 14, may provide further evidence of the positive influence of fish farming on aquatic birds (MFH); four others were at Noxubee, July 31 (MFH). A lone ♀ N. Pintail was at Cross Creeks, June 29 (JCR). Blue-winged Teal was the summer duck this year, with reports of one-three coming from Humphreys (MFH) and Hancock (JAT), Miss.; Sumner (PC) and Stewart (JCR), Tenn.; and Benton (MM), Chicot (DRS), and Washington (MM), Ark. An imm. ♂ N. Shoveler was at a Humphreys, Miss. catfish farm June 14 (MFH). The season's Gadwall was a male June 22 at Cameron, La. (DLD). A ♂ Am. Wigeon was at Cross Creeks, Tenn. June 29 (JCR), and a ♀ Ring-necked Duck was at a Lonoke, Ark. fish farm June 11 (HP, MP). In Mississippi Lesser Scaup included three males and three females at Humphreys fish farms June 15 (MFH), and a female in Hancock July 9 (JAT). More unusual was a ♀ Surf

Scoter in Cameron, La., June 21 (SWC, DLD). Although a mid-South breeder, the only Hooded Merganser records were of three immature in Chicot, Ark., June 6 (DRS), and three in Stewart, Tenn., June 4–12 (DJS, TBE, JCR). A ♂ Red-breasted Merganser was at Paris Landing S. P., Tenn., June 22 and July 9 (DJS, JCR). Mississippi Ruddy Ducks included 12 males and five females lingering on a Humphreys fish farm June 14–15 (MFH), and a male in Hancock, June 17 (JAT). In Lonoke, Ark., a male was at the Holt fish farm and a female at Anderson's fish farm July 9 (HP, MP).

RAPTORS — DI, DR, and MFH found two Black Vultures near fledging in an abandoned building in Lowndes, Miss., June 2. A lone Osprey was seen at L. Millwood, Hempstead, Howard, and Little River, June 16, July 1 & 3 (CM), and July 9 (EP, BP). It's too bad closer tabs aren't being kept on the coastal populations of Ospreys. This species is a good environmental barometer and we need documentation of its year-to-year status.

All three kite species made the list again. The dry weather made fair skies for flying, but also reduced insect populations. I predict fewer kites next year—again, it's too bad we don't have a good set of year-to-year census data for comparison. Mississippi Kites topped out with 88 seen on Lower Hatchie N.W.R., Tenn., June 13 (MGW, CHB); nine were at Great River Road S. P., Bolivar, Miss. June 22 (TS); and one was spotted in Stewart, Tenn., June 24 (DWB). Swallow-tailed Kites were found in St. Bernard June 2 (JPO, TAP, CF), St. Tammany June 2 and July 2 (CB, PS, AM AR), and Pointe Coupee July 10 (DWG), La., and in Gulf, Fla., July 28 (VR, CCu). The only two Black-shouldered Kite records came from Cameron and Calcasieu, La., both July 7 (DLD, SWC).

PRD and her ornithology class were lucky to find a 2–3-year old Bald Eagle at the junction of the Caddo and Ouachita rivers, Ark., July 20. A N. Harrier put in a rare June 17 appearance in White, Tenn. (SJS). JMM reports a Cooper's Hawk that has been making an annual mid-June appearance to terrorize Purple Martin colonies in Newton, Miss.; in Grant, La., MSw reported one being harassed by martins June 27. Tennessee records came from Wilson, Coffee, Smith, Putnam, and Rutherford (m.ob.). A ratty-looking Red-shouldered Hawk was at Cameron June 5 (VR). TAI reported the 3rd and northwesternmost Fla record of a Short-tailed Hawk at Westville, Holmes, June 4.

A light-phase Swainson's Hawk near Fayetteville, June 28, was a rare summer record for Arkansas (MM). Three June reports of Red-tailed Hawks in Lafourche, La., suggest that this species may not be so rare in Louisiana as thought (RSB, MSw). Although rare along the coast, summer Am. Kestrel records came from Hancock, Miss. (JAT), and Fountainbleau S. P., La. (MSw). A Peregrine Falcon was sighted at Lower Hatchie N.W.R., Tenn., June 13 (CHB, MGW).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — We don't hear much about Ruffed Grouse in the mid-South, but natural populations remain in Tennessee and they used to occur in Arkansas and n. Alabama. They have been reintroduced to the latter areas and observers should be on the alert for them. A June 6 report of a lone bird came from Putnam, Tenn. (RWS).

American Coot is one of those species known to hang around when conditions are right. This season's records came from Benton and Madison, Ark. (MM), Cameron (SWC, DLD) and Orleans (RSB), La., and Colbert (GNP) and Marshall (GDJ, DGJ), Ala.

There's nothing unusual about Black-bellied Plovers spending the summer on the coast, but 21 June 6 & 23, on June 21–22 in Cameron, La., were worth noting (DLD, SWC). Lesser Golden-Plovers are a different story: one at Ensley, Memphis, Tenn., June 18 & 20 (JRW, JCR, DJS) provided a first June record for w. Tennessee, and one along Rutherford Beach Rd., Cameron, La., June 21–22 furnished only the 2nd summer record for Louisiana (DLD, SWC). Up to 20 Semipalmated Plovers were tallied in coastal Cameron, La. June 5–22 (SWC, DLD); one was at PRM July 10 (JAT, CD); and 12 were n.w. of Lake Village,

Chicot, Ark., July 31 (H & MP, DS) The sole Piping Plover report was of one n.w. of Lake Village July 31 (H & MP). A Snowy Plover one mi. e. of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass, Cameron, La., June 5, furnished the first June record for Louisiana (DLD); unfortunately there was no sign of nesting Snowies on the mainland beaches of Mississippi (JA, BJSJ).

Such elegant birds as stilts and avocets deserve to do well—and apparently they are! In Arkansas, a Black-necked Stilt was in Yell, June 2 (JBr), a nest was found at the Holt fish farm, Lonoke, June 9 (BS, BoS), and an adult with two downy young were at the Rowland Minnow Farm, Lonoke, July 13—the first documented successful nesting in Arkansas (H & MP). Louisiana records included two pairs nesting near Geismar, Ascension June 16 (VG, fide VR), and chicks at the forebay of Morganza Spillway Pointe Coupee June 25, where up to 52 birds were seen July 30 (DWG). Others were six on July 14 and 11 on July 23 (HM, JBe), and one on July 27 and six on July 31 (JTB), all 6 mi. s.w. of Delta on the Mississippi R. levee, Madison (JTB). In Mississippi, one was at the Seaman Rd. sewage lagoons, Jackson, July 17 (MFH), and up to 75 were at PRM July 25 (JAT, CC, JP). High numbers for the season were a breeding group of 290+ stilts at Blakely I., Mobile, Ala., July 20 (TAI). Florida records included two at the Okaloosa sewage ponds June 3 (DW), and one at Pensacola Beach, Escambia June 18 (CW, fide CLK). American Avocets in Louisiana included 22 on June 5, 19 on June 6, one mile e. of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass (DLD, SWC), three in Rutherford Beach Rd. marshes June 6 (DLD), four one mi. n. of Cameron June 22 (SWC), and eight at Elmer's I., Jefferson, July 24 (RSB). Mississippi records were quite scattered: one at a fish farm in Humphreys June 14 (MFH), five at Graysport Landing at Grenada L., Grenada, July 9 (SK, GK), and six at PRM July 25 (JAT, CC, JP). A flock of 55 at Blakely I., Mobile, Ala. July 20 included 10–15 juveniles, suggesting local breeding (TAI).

Greater Yellowlegs seemed to summer in Cameron, La., with records of from one (June 5; VR, MSw) to five (June 22; SWC, DLD) birds from coastal wetlands. Six at L. Millwood, Hempstead, Ark., June 16 were the first local June records (CM). In Mississippi, records were of four at PRM July 10 (JAT, CD) and one at Starkville July 17 (TS). Blakely I., Mobile, Ala. sported about 50 July 20 (TAI, JAI). Lesser Yellowlegs were often nearby: Cameron, La., two on June 5, seven on June 22 (DLD, SWC); Pointe Coupee, two on June 24, 29 on July 3 (DWG); PRM, four on July 10 (JAT, CD), Starkville, Miss., six on July 17 (TS); Colbert, Ala., one July 3 (GNP), Blakely I., 100 July 20 (TAI, JAI). Mississippi had a monopoly on Solitary Sandpiper records: singles on July 17, Waveland lagoon (JAT); July 18, Starkville (MFH) and Hickory (JMM); and eight at Loakfoma L., Noxubee N.W.R., July 31 (MFH, TS).

Inland Willet records included Arkansas loners at L. Millwood, Little River, June 17 (CM); Centerton fish hatchery, Benton, July 2 (MM); DeGray S. P., Clark, July 8 (NM); and two at L. Millwood, Hempstead July 10 (CM). Two were at Memphis, Tenn., July 31 (JRW), and one at Sardis Waterfowl Ref., Miss., July 20 (VT, GK, SK). Alabama records were of loners in Colbert, July 3 (GNP), and Morgan, July 6 (GDJ, DGJ). Spotted Sandpipers were at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., June 2 & 26 (JCR), and individuals in alternate plumage were in Cameron, La., June 5–6 (VR, MSw, SWC, DLD). An adult with a non-flying juvenile at the Ensley sewage lagoon June 9 provided the first breeding record for Shelby, Tenn. (MD, JRW) and up to three adults were found 3 mi. s. June 18 (JRW, DD). Mississippi reports on July 17 included Starkville (TS) and Waveland (JAT, CC, JP), with ten at PRM July 25 (JAT, CC, JP). Two were at Blakely I., Ala., July 20 (TAI, JAI). The only Upland Sandpiper record was of ten at the Craft Turf Farm, Baldwin, July 22 (JPf, MJP, OF), an early date for coastal Alabama. Two Whimbrels were still around Cameron, La., June 6 (DLD, SWC). A Long-billed Curlew was at Cameron, La., June 5 (DLD), & 21 (SWC, DLD). The earliest fall arrival for Long-billed Curlew in Alabama was on present at Pinto Pass, Mobile, July 20–31 (DP, MF, GDJ, m.ob.).

Marbled Godwit records began with one in Cameron, La., June 5 (DLD), and 40 at Fourchon Rd., Lafourche, La., July 10 (MMy, GS, AS), where water conditions were apparently just right. The first n.w. Arkansas record was of three at Centerton fish hatchery, Benton, July 19 (MM). Summer Ruddy Turnstones included 20 on June 5, and 15 on June 22 in Cameron, La. (SWC, DLD), and one at Bay St. Louis, Miss., July 19 (JAT). Two Red Knots were in Cameron, La., June 2 (DLD, SWC), but a mass of 80 were at Fourchon Rd., Lafourche, La., July 10 (GS, MMy, AS). Cameron was the spot to be for Sanderlings, where 60 (most basic plumage) were found June 5, and 86 counted June 22 (SWC, DLD). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Cameron June 22 (DLD, SWC) and two arrived in Starkville, Miss., July 26 (TS). Small numbers of W. Sandpipers apparently summered in Cameron (DLD, SWC); ten were at Blakely I., Ala., July 20 (TAI, JAI); one was in Starkville, Miss., July 17 (TS), and a mixed group of 500+ Western and Least sandpipers were at PRM July 25 (JAT, CC, JP). Other Least records were of one June 5, and four June 21 in Cameron (DLD, SWC), and four in Starkville, Miss., July 17 (TS). Two White-rumped Sandpipers were at Memphis June 2 (CHB, VBR, MGW); 14 there June 5 (JRW); and two on Island 13, Lake, Tenn., June 6 (WGC). In Louisiana, 39 were at Morganza Spillway, June 11 (DWG), and one in Cameron June 22 (SWC, DLD). Miss. Records included 12 at Kiln, Hancock, June 9 (JAT), and one in Humphreys June 14 (MFH). Pectoral Sandpipers as with many of our shorebirds probably met themselves going and coming—and perhaps a few just never left. June reports of lone birds included June 5, Cameron, La. (VR, MSw, SWC, DLD); June 6 Okaloosa, Fla (DW); June 25, Benton, Ark. (MM). Early returnees came en masse: 11 on July 17, Starkville, Miss. (TS); ten on July 20, Blakely I., Ala. (TAI, JAI); ca 100 on July 25, Jackson, Miss (JAT, CC, JP); and 50, July 31, Noxubee N.W.R., Miss. (MFH, TS). The only Dunlins reported were two June 5–6, Cameron, La. (SWC, DLD); and one at Okaloosa, Fla., July 19 (RAD). There were only July records for Stilt Sandpipers. In Louisiana: four Pointe Coupee, July 3 (DWG); one Lafourche, July 10 (AS, GS, MMy). In Mississippi: two in Starkville, July 17 (TS); 13, Sardis Waterfowl Ref., July 20 (GK, SK, VT); one in Starkville, July 21 (MFH, TS); and ca 30 at PRM (JAT, CC, JP). Two were at Ft. Morgan, Ala., July 19 (TAI, JAI), and one at Gulf Shores, July 24 (PB, OF). The dowitcher clan included five Short-billed at Cameron, La., June 5–6 and 8 there June 22 (SWC, DLD), two were at Morganza spillway July 3 (DWG). By July 10, 850+ had gathered at Fourchon Rd. and beach, Lafourche, La. (AS, MMy, GS). In Mississippi, 19 were at Grenada L., Grenada, July 19 (SK, GK), and ca 50 were at PRM July 25 (JAT, CC, JP). Alabama checked in with one in alternate plumage July 10 (GDJ, DGJ) at Decatur. Long-billed Dowitchers included one at Seaman Rd. lagoons, Jackson, Miss., July 25 (JAT, JP, CC), and 150 (by call) at Blakely I., Ala., July 20 (TAI, JAI).

The only phalaropes for the season were Wilson's: one at Port Fourchon, La., July 10 (AS, GS, MMy); two on July 20, at Blakely I., Ala. (TAI, JAI); and two on July 25 at PRM (JAT, JP, CC).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — A Parasitic Jaeger specimen that just came to light was picked up May 10 on Pensacola Beach Escambia, Fla., and died later (NT, fide RAD). A whopping 60,000–80,000 Laughing Gulls were nesting on Curlew I., St. Bernard, La., June 2 (JPO, TAP, CF). Inland records of Laughing Gulls were of single adults July 5 at the U.S. 82 bridge over the Mississippi River (DRS), and July 31 at Loakfoma L., Noxubee N.W.R., Miss. (MFH, TS).

Franklin's Gulls included an adult and a second-year bird at Cameron, La., June 5 (DLD, SWC), and a 2–3-year old there June 21 (DLD, SWC). In Alabama two adults constituted a rare summer record for Guntersville, July 9–Aug. 10 (LBR, CWS, GDJ, DGJ). As usual, a few Ring-billed Gulls were evident in the Region: at Cameron eight were present June 5–6, and 24

were there June 21–22 (SWC, DLD) One was at Percy Priest L., Wilson, Tenn., June 21 (MLM); one at Morganza spillway July 3 (DWG); 10 at Guntersville, Ala., July 6 (GDJ, DGJ); and two at Long Beach, Miss., July 17 (JAT). A second-summer California Gull was collected (L.S.U.M.Z.) in Cameron July 21 (SWC, DLD). Old "One Foot"—reported in the past as Lesser Black-backed, California, or Lesser Black-backed x Herring gull—was back at Pensacola, Fla., June 23–25 (RAD). Won't someone get a confirmation on this bird's ID? It has been appearing irregularly each year since 1980! Up to a dozen Herring Gulls were reported in June in Cameron, La. (SWC, DLD); two in first summer plumage and one in fourth summer plumage were at Pass Christian, Miss., July 17 (JAT).

A Gull-billed Tern was over the Empire Canal, Plaquemines, La., June 2 (AS); others nested successfully on the roof of the Univ. of New Orleans Arena, East Campus, possibly the first rooftop nesting for this species (AS, GS). Many Caspian and Sandwich terns were nesting on Curlew I., Chandeleurs, June 2 (JPO, TAP, CF); and 500+ were at Blakely I., Ala., July 20 (TAI, JAI). At least seven Com. Terns remained in Cameron, La., June 21–22 (SWC, DLD). An ad. Arctic Tern was collected at Cameron, La., June 5, and another adult was seen and an immature collected (L.S.U.M.Z.) there June 21 (DLD, SWC). Five Forster's Terns appeared at L. Millwood, Little River, Ark., June 17 (CM); nine at L. Elmdale, Washington, Ark., July 9; and seven at Oktibbeha County L., Miss., July 17 (TS).

Either people are finding more Least Terns on the Mississippi R. because they're looking for them, or there really are more of them. In either case, the outlook for this species in the mid-South is now guardedly positive. A Least Tern colony including 25–60 birds with nests was found on Racetrack Towhead I., part in Madison, La., part in Warren, Miss. (HM). Through June and July at Lake Chicot S. P., Chicot, Ark., DRS watched terns feeding on shad, often flying toward the Mississippi R., with the fish. A colony of 25+ pairs was on East Jetty Beach (SWC, DLD), and one with 100+ pairs was at the w. end of Rutherford Beach Cameron, La. (SWC). Ten adult and eight new chicks were on a river sandbar at Great River Road S. P., Bolivar, Miss. June 22 (TS). Two birds were seen at Morganza spillway, La., June 24 (DWG). On the Mississippi coast, colonies on the beach at Pass Christian, Long Beach, and Gulfport were active much as in recent years (JAJ, BJSJ). Rooftop colonies in the area did not fare so well; no chicks were known to fledge from any Mississippi roof—possibly because of the heat, in part due to Fish Crow predation, and possibly influenced by human disturbance (JAJ). An adult was at L. Sequoyah, Washington, Ark., July 28 (MM).

Approximately 40 pairs of Sooty Terns nested on Curlew I., St. Bernard, La. (JPO, TAP, CF). Records of Black Terns were of: four at Morganza spillway, La., June 24 (DWG); six on Mississippi R. levee, Madison, La., July 10 (JTB); one at L. Sequoyah, Washington, Ark., July 13 (MM); one at Oktibbeha County L., Miss., July 17 (TS); and six at Starkville, Miss., July 21 (MFH, TS).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Single White-winged Doves were found at Chalmette, St. Bernard, La., June 12 (GO); and at Ft. Morgan, Ala., July 7, where two had been reported in May (PB). Two pairs of Common Ground-Doves were w. of Thibodaux, Lafourche, La., June 21, where they have been found in recent years (MSw). A lone Black-billed Cuckoo was seen June 6 at East Jetty Woods, Cameron, La. (DLD). JMM found no Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Newton, Miss. this summer, but JAJ saw them regularly in Starkville—probably reflecting local availability of caterpillars. A Greater Roadrunner was at the edge of a clearcut in Natchitoches, La., June 25 (MSw).

An ad. Great Horned Owl and two juveniles calling for food were along the Arkansas R. levee between Gould and Pendleton, Lincoln, Ark., July 17 (H & MP, MPL). BBC & LCC made

their usual runs for Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills in the mid-South; their results are summarized in Table 1 TS noted that Whip-poor-wills outnumbered Chuck-will's-widows 10:1 in young pine plantations in Webster, Miss., June 25–26.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds really homed in on feeders in July; no doubt because of the drought and lack of natural nectar supplies (JAJ). RRS & MGS said they used 2.5–3 gallons of sugar water in all of 1987, compared to 2 gallons in 7 days this year!

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers nested about 2 weeks late and often not at all at colonies on Ft. Polk, La., and at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., apparently a response to drought conditions (poor food supply?) (JAJ). MSw reports the Red-cockaded colony at the Fluker Exit of I-55 remains active, but midstory hardwoods need to be removed.

Table 1. Relative abundance of Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills in the mid-South as reported by BBC & LCC from nocturnal call counts.

County	Distance Travelled (miles)	Chucks (N)	Whups (N)
Arkansas (N. end of Crowley's Ridge, [no date] 1988)			
Clay	31	200	5
Greene	9	67	1
Craighead	8.5	78	0
Mississippi (Natchez Trace Parkway, 29 May 1988)			
Lee	10.8	25	3
Itawamba	4.2	7	2
Prentiss	8.8	40	7
Tishomingo	17.3	73	29
Tennessee (May 28–30)			
Chester	56.2	149	171
McNairy	38	157	98
Hardeman	23.3	98	48

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — An E. Wood-pewee was apparently a late migrant in Cameron, La., June 5 (VR, SWC, DLD). Willow Flycatcher records included 18 (including young) at Ensley, Memphis, June 19 (JRW), a first-summer record for Shelby. Elsewhere in Tennessee, a nest with two eggs was at Cross Creeks N.W.R., June 19 (JCR); an adult was found at Lower Hatchie N.W.R., Tipton, June 20 (CHB, MGW, LW); one was at Hatchie N.W.R. Haywood (JRW); and an adult was feeding young at Britton Ford, Henry, July 23 (JCR, TF, DR). Breeding range extensions for the E. Phoebe included a nest on a porch one mi. w. of Hensley, Pulaski, Ark., June 4 (JES, MPL); and a nest with four young under a bridge over Pond Creek on Florida; two near Laurel Hill, Okaloosa, May 29—the first breeding record for Florida (DN, CS, Ji & SB, GeO, DW, HK, WB). Western Kingbirds included one June 5 at Memphis (JRW); and one collected June 6 at Cameron, La. (SWC, DLD). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher records for the mid-South are on the increase. This year reports came from: Fulton, Ark., June 7 (H & MP), and July 7 (BBC, LCC); w. of Walls, Desoto, Miss., June 19 (JRW); Memphis, June 20 (DJS, TES); 5 mi. n.w. of Folsom, St. Tammany, La., June 21 (CCS); 2 mi. s. of Cameron, La., June 21 (DLD) & July 7 (SWC); and two adults plus one immature were 5 mi. n. of Crowville, Franklin, La., July 23 (DG).

Horned Larks were reported from several new areas this summer: in Mississippi two different areas of the Sabougla Creek bottoms, Webster, June 12 & 18 (TS); and sod fields in Lafayette, s. of Oxford, July 21 (GK); in Louisiana, an adult and immature n.e. of Mound, July 10 (JTB); in Tennessee, records from Stewart (JCR). Coffee (DFV), and Dickson (BHS).

Across the Region, Purple Martins seemed to stage and leave colony areas early (m.ob.). The expansion of Tree Swallows provided few new locality records this year. In Tennessee, nest records came from Humphreys (BHS) and Coffee (MH); in Arkansas, nest records included Bobb Kidd L., Washington, (MM), and possible nesting at L. Millwood (CM, H & MP). Bank Swallow colonies were reported on the e. bank of the Mississippi R., n. of the Hatchie R., Lauderdale, and s. of the Hatchie R., Tipton, Tenn. (MGW). Reports of migrants included one at Centerton fish hatchery, Benton, Ark., July 19 (MM), and 30 at Columbus L., Lowndes, Miss., July 30 (TS). Cliff Swallows nested under the U.S. 63 bridge over the Spring R., Lawrence/Randolph, Ark. (LCC, BBC). Migrants showed up in Starkville, Miss., July 26, and in Lowndes, Miss., July 30 (TS).

In Cameron, La., a Veery was collected (L.S.U.M.Z.) June 5 (SWC, VR), and a Gray-cheeked Thrush, June 6 (SWC, DLD). The first breeding record of an Am. Robin in Iberia, La., was in a New Iberia city park (MJM). For the 2nd year in a row, a Gray Catbird was found at DeFuniak Springs, Walton, Fla. (June 3; TAJ). Another was n. of Sneads, Jackson, Fla., June 5 (TAJ). One was collected (L.S.U.M.Z.) in Cameron, La., June 5 and another seen June 6 (SWC). At Crestview, Okaloosa, Fla., a pair was nesting June 12 (Ji & SB). A juvenile and two singing adults were at Grand Isle, La., July 10 (AS, GS, MMY).

WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS — This was a banner year for Cedar Waxwings in middle Tennessee (m.ob.), with nests observed in Trousdale, Smith, and Pickett, and juveniles being fed in Jackson. JAT located 6 family groups of Loggerhead Shrikes in Hancock, Miss., June 19. Black-whiskered Vireos were collected (L.S.U.M.Z.) in Cameron, June 5 (VR), & 6 (SWC, DLD). In Hancock, Miss., JAT found two singing Yellow-throated Vireos June 9.

A Blue-winged Warbler was at Jean Lafitte N. P., Jefferson, La., July 31 (GO). Yellow Warblers included a late migrant at Hickory, Miss., June 2 (JMM); a female in Cameron, La., June 5 (SWC); L. Bentonville, Benton, Ark., June 19 (MM); an immature at Waveland, Miss. lagoon July 17 (JAT); one at Bob Kidd L., Washington, Ark., July 24 (MM); and three in Lowndes, Miss., July 30 (TS). Three Magnolia Warblers, a ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler, and a very late ♀ Black-and-white Warbler were collected (L.S.U.M.Z.) in Cameron, La., June 5 (SWC, VR, MSw). A Prothonotary Warbler was found July 10 on Grand Isle, La. (MMY, GS, AS). Swainson's Warbler localities in Mississippi included n.e. of Pheba, Lowndes (MFH, DJI, DR); along Buttahatchie Cr. in Lowndes and Monroe, where ten were heard singing June 11 (TS, MFH); and at the Eupora sewage ponds, Webster (TS). A male was in a backyard in Malvern, Ark., June 29 (H & MP). A N. Waterthrush was very late at Cameron, La., June 5 (VR); and a Louisiana Waterthrush was at least late singing July 23 at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss. (MFH, TS).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — JMM suggests that Summer Tanagers were down in Newton, Miss. this summer. A ♀ Indigo Bunting in Cameron, La., June 5 was later than usual (VR). A ♂ Painted Bunting provided rainbows in a yard at Cauthron, Scott, Ark., June 2 (GeO, GwO); as did a male singing June 8 in s. Monroe, Miss. (MFH); a male was displaying to a female on the ground at Parker Farm, Pulaski, Ark., July 18 (H & MP). Dickcissels were reported to have an "average year" in middle Tennessee (SJS), but a singing male in Pascagoula, Miss., June 11, 18, & 25, provided an unusual record for the coast (CC, CD). TS & MFH found two in the Sabougla

Creek bottoms, Webster, Miss., June 12 & 18. In Cameron, La there seemed to be a strange influx of Dickcissels July 7-8, when up to ten were found singing (SWC).

A ♂ Rufous-sided Towhee was at the Byrd Lake Natural Area, Pine Bluff, Ark., July 3 (JES, MPL). Bachman's Sparrows were located during Breeding Bird Surveys in Clark (June 1) and Hempstead (June 2), Ark. (H & MP). One was singing in Webster, Miss., June 12 (MFH), and eight were singing July 17 near Logtown, Hancock, Miss., (JAT). Reports from the Rufous-crowned Sparrow population in Arkansas included a nest with four eggs June 11 at Sunrise Point, Mt. Nebo (WMS, HF); and two adults and an immature June 18 on Mount Magazine (Dn & DIH, NV, JBo, HFi). Tennessee reports of Lark Sparrow came from near Henry Horton S.P., Marshall (DFV) and near Blue Hill, Warren (SJS), both June 7. As many as 19 adult and six juvenile Grasshopper Sparrows were tallied at Ensley, Memphis, June 11-29 (JRW). One carrying nesting material was seen at War Eagle Minnow Farm, Madison, Ark., July 3 (MM); one was in a hayfield across from Faulkner L., Pulaski, Ark., July 1 (H & MP, FM, DM). A White-throated Sparrow had it too good to leave in Finger P., Fayetteville, Ark., where it was singing June 8 (MM).

A ♂ Bobolink lingered at Cross Creek N.W.R., Stewart, Tenn., June 10 (JCR). The first July record of a Yellow-headed Blackbird for Mississippi was of an ad. male at Woolmarket, Harrison, July 30 (JAT). Northern Orioles were reported from Humphreys, Davidson, Wilson, Franklin, Coffee, and Trousdale, Tenn. (m.ob.). The continuing saga of House Finch expansion included feeder birds with two juveniles in Baton Rouge, La (HMo, JMB, TSc, KR, m.ob.); and a male in N. Little Rock, Ark., July 22-23, (R & JC). In commercial pinelands s. of Crossett, Ark., three to four Red Crossbills, including two in juvenile plumage, were seen July 16 (WMS, JCN, DJ, TJ, TH).

CONTRIBUTORS — (Subregional editors' names are in bold-face; contributors are requested to send reports to them.)—T Baldwin, B. Bariola, J.M. Bates, J.T. Battalio (JBa), R.S. Bello, J. Bennett (JBe), W. Biggs, P. Blevins, D.W. Blunk, J. Bowden (JBo), C. Brantley, J. & S. Brickell (Ji & SB), J. Brown (JBr), C.H. Bullock, Steven W. Cardiff (La.), C. Cassibry, Ben B. Coffey (w. Tenn.), L.C. Coffey, R. & J. Crabtree, A.E. Crany, D. Crawford, P. Crawford, W.G. Criswell, C. Crowther (CCR), C. Cummins (CCu), D. Dailey, M. Davis, C. Delmas, Donna L. Dittman (La.), P.R. Dorris, C.M. Drane, Robert A. Duncan (n.w. Fla.), R.S. Duncan, T.B. Easterla, T.B. Estelle (TEs), P. Ezell, O. Fang, H. Findlay, T. Fink, H. Fisher (HFi), G. Fleming, M. Floyd, C. Frank, J.T. Fulton, J. Gallaspy, B.C. Garmyn, V. Gordon, D. Griffing, D.W. Gustin, T. Hall, G.E. Hancock, Dn & DI Harrington (Dn & DIH), J. Harris, J.C. & N. Herbert, M. Hernandez, M.F. Hodges, Jr., P. Honey, J.A. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof (Ala.), D.J. Ingold, B.J.S. Jackson, D.G. & G.D. Jackson, Jerome A. Jackson (Miss.), D. James, T. Jordan, H. Kale, W.F. Keck, Curtis L. Kingsbery, H.H. Kittinger, G. Knight, S. Knight, J.H. Lammons, B. Lisowsky, P. Lisowsky, M.P. Locke, F. Mallard, M.L. Mann, J.M. McGee, A. Meier, Jr., D. Metcalf, N. Milam, C. Mills, M. Mlodinow, H. Moore, G. Morgan, H. Moyses (HMo), M.J. Musumeche, M. Myers (MMY), J.C. Neal, D. Nicholson, Ge & Gw Oakes, G. Oakes, J.P. O'Neill, G. Ousset (GOu), M. Owens, Helen & Max Parker (Ark.), T.A. Parker, III, D. Patterson, C. Peebles, J. Pennell, J. Pfeiffer (JPf), M.J. Pfeiffer, G.N. Piper, B. Price, E. Price, A. Rebertus, V. Remsen, L.B. Reynolds, V.B. Reynolds, D. Richardson, D. Robinson (DRo), J.C. Robinson, K. Rosenberg, H.B. Sanders, R.R. & M.G. Sargent, T. Schiefer, T. Schulenberg (TSc), P. Scott, C. Shaeffer, W.M. Shepherd, H.H. Shugart, L. Shugart, D.J. Simbeck, D.K. Simbeck, R.W. Simmers, Jr., C. Simons, D.R. Simons, A. Smalley, G. Smalley, B. Smothers, B. Smothers, Jr. (BSm), C.C. Sorrels, B.H. Stedman, Steven J. Stedman (middle Tenn.), M. Stennis, J.E. Stern, C.W. Summerour, M. Swan (MSw), P. Tetlow, V. Theobald, Judith A. Toups (coastal Miss.), N. Trieber, N. Varner, D.F. Vogt, M.G. Waldron, D. Ware, L. Waters, C. Willis, J.R. Wilson, K. Wright.—JEROME A. JACKSON, Department of Biological Sciences, Mississippi State University, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Bernard Gollop

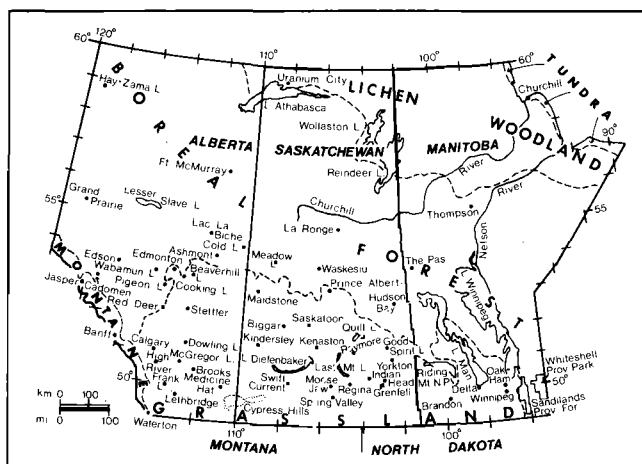
June 1988 was the warmest June ever in the southern agricultural parts of the Region with mean temperatures 4° to 7°C above normal and some stations reaching 44°C. July temperatures averaged from normal to 2°C above. June precipitation in Saskatchewan and Manitoba continued below normal at 50% to 100% of average, and Alberta had 75% to 200% of normal. July rainfall was 50% to 150% of average across most of the southern half of the Region. There were 1.0 million ponds in the southern part of the region in July. This compares with a peak of 2.8 million in 1974 and was 38% below average and 18% below 1987 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service).

It was a good summer for rarities, particularly in Alberta and at Churchill. Lark Buntings showed up more commonly than usual from Lethbridge through Saskatchewan to Brandon.

ABBREVIATIONS — AB = Alberta; MB = Manitoba; SK = Saskatchewan.

LOONS TO RAPTORS — There were concentrations of 300± Red-throated Loons at Churchill June 5 (BC) and 147 Com. Loons on Muriel L., AB, July 25 (BR). Clark's Grebes were apparently breeding sparingly across the s. parts of all 3 provinces: three at Pelican L., MB, June 17 & 20 (KDS, MC); one at Turtle L., SK, June 2 (MC), six at the n. end of Last Mountain L. June 14 & 15 (CJ, PhT, SW, BD), and one at Cypress L. July 6 (G & SW); and up to eight, including young, on Crow Indian L., 80 km southeast of Lethbridge July 15 & 31 (RKL, RS). Oak Hammock Marsh hosted a Least Bittern June 6 and a Green-backed Heron June 25 and July 23 (RP, RKO, PeT); both are rarities in the Region. Another Least was found on a Winnipeg sewage lagoon June 4 (SHI). Manitoba's 11th record for Yellow-crowned Night-Herons was furnished by a bird at Mariapolis June 22–26 (MS, RP). Only one White-faced Ibis was reported: June 16 on Crane L., north of Piapot, SK (MG). A brood of five Trumpeter Swans was found east of the normal breeding range near St. Paul, AB, in June (BR). A Greater White-fronted Goose thought to be of the Greenland form was seen with a Canada Goose of the same size at Churchill June 17 & 20 (SP). The Pinawa sewage lagoons had more Com. Goldeneye young than usual with 102 on June 22 (PeT).

For the 2nd year in a row a Turkey Vulture was seen far north of its breeding range, 135± km northeast of The Pas June 15 (SP). An early concentration of more than 100 Swainson's Hawks spent the last half of July south of Regina 24 km (CBj). Ferruginous Hawks continued to increase in s.w. Manitoba with 32 active nests compared to 10 last year. However, only 15 of this year's nesting pairs produced young (KDS). Two Rough-legged Hawks were found far south of their breeding range June 23 at Oak Hammock (GG, GH). The breeding population of Merlins in Winnipeg increased from one to "several" nesting pairs (RKO, fide RP). The first attempt to establish Peregrine Falcons in Regina involved five young introduced to a hack box on the Avord Tower. They were adopted by an ad. male hacked out in Saskatoon in 1986. The three females were trapped in late July to ensure their survival for re-release next year. The two males and their foster father were still in Regina July 31 (JT).



RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS — Five Virginia Rails were unusual for so rare a species at Churchill (BC). Summer records of Whooping Cranes are unusual for the Prairie Provinces, however, reliable records of singles came from Delta Marsh for June 14 and July 16 & 29 (DBr, G & MR) and from Meadow L. July 24–28 (Y & LC). Saskatchewan's known Snowy Plover population went from six in 1987 to one on Big Quill L. in 1988 (WH). West Shoal L. and the w. side of L. Winnipeg had good numbers of Piping Plovers: 109 adults and 53 young (WKZ). In an aerial survey July 4, 1100± nonbreeding Am. Avocets were found on Little Quill L. and 1125± Marbled Godwits around the n. end of Last Mountain L. (MG). Further evidence of nonbreeding was provided by a flock of 343 Willets on Antelope L. north of Gull L., SK, June 6 (DW). The most productive part of a May–June survey of Long-billed Curlews in s.w. Saskatchewan turned up 117 birds in 790 km² (304 mi²). The estimated number of curlews in the province is 1400–1500 (ED) Alberta's 4th Curlew Sandpiper record was of a bird feeding with Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpipers on Postil L. e. of Red Deer July 8 (WS). More than 500 Wilson's Phalaropes had gathered on the Moose Jaw sewage lagoons by July 20 (PK).

GULLS TO OWLS — A Laughing Gull remained at Oak Hammock Marsh May 25 through June 19; there are fewer than 10 records for the Region (GH, RP, GG). Churchill's Ross' Gull population apparently included 2 pairs in June and an incubating adult in July at a 3rd location (JL). Single flying young were seen July 16 and Aug. 26 (BC, RR). Possible Arctic Terns, a species not definitely recorded in s. Saskatchewan, were reported in 2 localities: one among Com. Terns May 31 at Wascana L., Regina, identified on the basis of a solid bright red bill (EF), and two on Round L. May 25 (FBr, JM, DC) A Band-tailed Pigeon, with fewer than 10 Saskatchewan records, was photographed near White Bear while it was present July 27–29 (SJ). Saskatchewan's 2nd Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported from Roche Percee July 22, based on 2 sets of calls checked against a tape in the field (PC). That province's first fully documented breeding of Eastern Screech-Owl included 12 young banded in 3 boxes erected for them in the Estevan–Glen Ewen area (SHs, BF).

More Short-eared Owls were reported from Churchill (six on June 15; SS) than from across the s. part of the Region singles were from only 4 localities: Pense (PC, TE), Leader (WKt) and the n. end of Last Mountain L., SK (BD), and Medicine Hat (MO, DBa).

Operation Burrowing Owl located 855 pairs of this threatened species in s. Saskatchewan, up from the 828 pairs in 1987. Not all last year's sites were checked, so the total population is probably larger. Conservation agreements have been signed with landowners to protect habitat for 740 pairs on 293 sites totaling 25,830 acres. About 22 pairs are in nest boxes. In one instance eggs were successfully transferred to a box when road work at Eston threatened to destroy the clutch. Operation Burrowing Owl is sponsored by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society; World Wildlife Fund; Saskatchewan Parks, Recreation, and Culture; Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation; and Wildlife Habitat Canada (DH).

A family of Burrowing Owls was the biggest attraction at Fair Days in Estevan, SK. Because the birds had established their burrow on the fairgrounds, they were fenced in for the July 1-3 exhibition. On July 29, five of the owls were perched on the fence (NP).

SWIFTS TO WARBLERS — A swift was reported from Churchill without enough details to determine the species (*vide* RP) Alberta's first **Costa's Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Ponoka from June 13 into August (EM, m.ob.). A White-headed Woodpecker, reported without details July 17 in the foothills west of Pincher Cr., may be another first for Alberta (KO). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher nest near Oyen was south of its published breeding range in Alberta (DBa). There was a significant increase in Say's Phoebes in s.w. Manitoba (KDS). A W Kingbird at Churchill June 25 was a rarity that far north (JL, m.ob.). Lone Scissor-tailed Flycatchers turned up near Cavendish, AB, June 14 (WS) and in a backyard at St. Laurent, MB, June 19 (FK, RKO, WN). A picture-book **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was studied June 1 near Drumheller for Alberta's first and Canada's 6th record of this neotropical species (JW, TP).

A Rock Wren nest with three young provided a rare event at Churchill June 28 (DS, m.ob.) as did a **Northern Wheatear**, singing June 1 & 8 (BC, m.ob.). Churchill's first Varied Thrush was observed, photographed, and taped by many birders June 13-25 (BC, JL, GL). Other firsts there were a Gray Catbird June 16 (SS) and a N. Mockingbird June 9 (CBe). **Sage Thrashers** were relatively abundant, furnishing what is apparently a 5th Alberta record. A nest with three young and 2 other pairs were found 28 km south of Medicine Hat July 9 (RKL, MO, LG). Loggerhead Shrike, a threatened species, was reported as up, down, and holding its own.

Saskatchewan added White-eyed Vireo to its hypothetical list with a carefully studied bird found May 19 in Regina (FBr). Alberta had 2 firsts for warblers. A probable Virginia's Warbler report (Canada's 3rd) was based on a fairly complete description of a bird seen July 28, 10 km west of Nordegg (JSI, JSt). The closest breeding area is s. Idaho. A **Kentucky Warbler** was

photographed and taped in Calgary June 18 & 19 (TK, m.ob.). It established Alberta's first and the Region's 2nd record of this species, which normally nests no closer than Nebraska.

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS — Churchill had its first W Tanager, a male, June 8 (L & LK). Two ♂ Black-headed Grosbeaks, north of the normal Alberta range during the breeding season, were seen and heard in Calgary June 20 (WW). Hudson Bay is a long way from its Montana breeding range, but a **Green-tailed Towhee** was seen at La Pérouse Bay July 11 & 12 for Manitoba's 3rd record (BC, m.ob.). Two Brewer's Sparrows were found June 17 in a Calgary flower bed and remained there until city crews cut the "weeds" June 21 (WW, m.ob.) Another **Brewer's Sparrow** in Douglas Marsh, near Brandon, July 2-7 provided Manitoba's 2nd record (CC, m.ob.). Several observers saw and heard a **Field Sparrow** in Weyburn June 4, 6, & 9 for Saskatchewan's 2nd summer record (NP). A ♂ Lark Sparrow became Churchill's first June 3-7 (BC).

"Hundreds" of Lark Buntings occurred in s.w. Manitoba (east to Glenboro and north to St. Lazare), the most in 25 years (JM, RW, KDS); they were more common than usual in s. Saskatchewan (PC, S & BE, CBj), were usually abundant in the Medicine Hat area, and experienced a "mini-invasion" around Lethbridge (MO, TD). A male even reached Churchill June 8 (*vide* BC) for another first there. Baird's Sparrows were noticeably more common than usual in s.w. Manitoba (KDS), and one was found just beyond its published breeding range, 25 km northwest of Maidstone, June 1 (WH). Single Le Conte's and Sharp-tailed sparrows July 4 and June 26-July 2, respectively, were rarities at Churchill (RKO, TB).

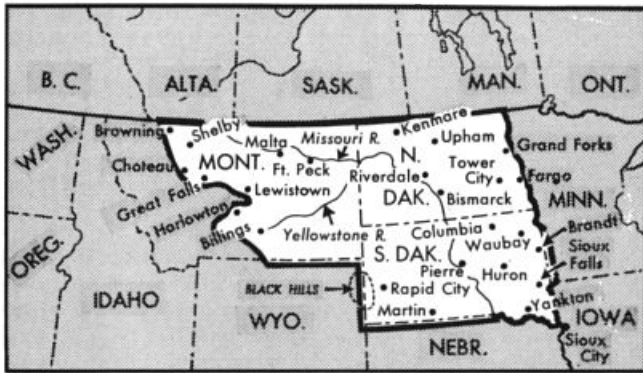
OBSERVERS (provincial compilers in boldface, local compilers in italics) — *Dennis Baresco* (DBa), Tony Beck, Chris Bennis (CBe), Carol Bjorklund (CBj), *Flossie Bogdan* (FBo), D. Bradley (DBr), *Frank Brazier* (FBr), Muriel Carlson, *Bonnie Chartier*, David Chaskavich, Paul Chytk, Y. & L. Cockrum, Mike Conrad, **Herb Copland**, Calvin Cuthbert, Brenda Dale, Ken De Smet, Teresa Dolman, Ed Driver, Tom Ethier, Sandra & Bob Ewart, Bob Finley, Elmer Fox, Mike Gollop, Gordon Grief, Louis Guillemette, Wayne Harris, Dale Hjertaas, George Holland, Stewart Holohan (SHI), Stuart Houston (SHs), *Sig Jordheim*, Clint Jorgenson, Pat Kern, Richard Klauke (RKL), *Leith Knight*, Louise & Linda Koch, Rudy Koes (RKO), William Koonz (WKz), Terry Korolyk, Wally Kost (WKT), Frieda Krpan, Jeri Langham, Greg Lasley, Ethel McLellan, John Murray, Wayne Neily, John Nelson, K. Olchoway, *Michael O'Shea*, Rob Parsons, Thelma Pepper, Simon Perkins, *Nick Postey*, *Blair Rippin*, G. & M. Robinson, Robert Rockwell, *Stan Shadick*, David Sibley, Martin Siepman, Judy Slimmon (JSI), Wayne Smith, Jeff Stewart (JSt), R. Storms, Peter Taylor (PeT), Phil Taylor (PhT), Jon Triffo, R. Wang, *Guy Wapple*, Sandra Wapple, Jim Wedgwood, Don Weidl, William Wilson, Stan Woynarski—**BERNARD GOLLOP**, 2202 York Ave., Saskatoon, SK S7J 1J1.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon Berkey

Heat and drought continued to plague the Region. Conditions so severe effect drastic changes in vegetation. Wild roses, ferns, and young trees turned brown and appeared dead; leaves on larger trees dried up while still green. Such stresses necessarily change bird distribution. A major theme of this report will be to document the changes observed. Unfortunately, the oppressive heat and drought sapped the energies of birders as well as that of birds, and many interesting questions remain unanswered because birders spent less time afield in such conditions.

Drastic changes took place in nesting populations of several species. While reduction in nesting populations of species dependent on wetlands is a foregone conclusion, many grassland species dramatically increased. The reductions are easy to explain, but reasons for the increases are varied. Dickcissels and Lark Buntings, whose ranges extend far to the south of us, pushed farther north because habitat was unsuitable to the south. In other cases reasons for the increases are less obvious. Reproductive success is generally more difficult to assess than populations, as extensive field work and rigorous methodology are required to obtain valid



results. While general impressions of nesting success of several species will be mentioned, one must treat them cautiously. A few definite effects, such as the failure of young to survive the heat, are positive evidence.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.S. = Breeding Bird Survey; C.R.P. = Conservation Reserve Program. Place names in italics are counties.

GREBES TO WATERFOWL — As Pied-billed and Horned Grebes are partial to small wetlands, they were severely affected by the drought. There were no reported observations of Horneds after early June except for a few on the Minot sewage lagoons, which have no nesting habitat. Red-necked Grebes may have fared better; 5 nests were found in Bottineau, ND, July 8 (GB), and the species was present at traditional sites on the Missouri Coteau. Western Grebes nested uncharacteristically in the open on sago pondweed at Arrowwood N.W.R. (PV). Apparently displaced Westerns numbered at least 134 at Ft. Peck Res. June 26, and they had increased to several hundred July 15 (CC). At least five Clark's Grebes were among the Westerns June 26. Over 100 Am. White Pelicans had died of botulism at Long Lake N.W.R. by July 13 (MG).

Least Bittern is rare in North Dakota, so the pair this summer at DeWald Slough in w. Kidder (MG) and the single east of Hope July 30 (DK) were of interest. Nestling Great Blue Herons below Ft. Peck appeared to have succumbed to the heat as few were seen in mid-July (CC). Three Snowy Egrets were entering the marsh at DeWald Slough July 23, and flightless young were flushed from a nest and photographed Aug. 7, providing the 2nd confirmed nesting site for North Dakota (RM, GB). Snowy Egrets were present throughout the season at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT, peaking at eight June 10 (DP). Three Cattle Egret nests were found at DeWald Slough (MG), and there were several sightings of this species at Bowdoin (KS). Four White-faced Ibis nests were found in 3 locations in Kidder and Burleigh (MG); there are fewer than 10 documented nestings for the state.

A Mute Swan in Lake, SD, July 14 (RB, BH), if accepted as wild by the state records committee, will be the first for the state. Waterfowl pair counts at Long L. were half of those of 1987, and dragging at Bowdoin located only 102 waterfowl nests, about half the historical average. On 5 n.w. North Dakota 1988 B.B.S. routes, ducks were at 65% of the 1981-1987 average, but if Mallards are thrown out the other species were at only 29% of the long-term average (GB, RM). Mallards may have adapted better than most species; many broods were seen in s.w. North Dakota (C & DG). Numerous waterfowl died of botulism in the Long L. area in June and July; botulism usually is most severe in August. A ♂ Harlequin Duck, rare in e. Montana, was at Bowdoin July 8 (J & KS).

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS — The first successful Bald Eagle nest in North Dakota since 1974 was along the Missouri R. (North Dakota Fish and Game). Swainson's Hawk seemed

up in the Westby, MT, area (TN). An ad. Ferruginous Hawk on a nest in Roberts, SD (DS), was a first for the county, and about 50 mi east of the known range.

Reports on gallinids were mixed. Gray Partridge more than doubled the long-term average on 5 n.w. North Dakota B.B.S. routes, and nesting success seemed good, but other w. North Dakota observers thought that success was poor. Reproductive success of Sharp-tailed Grouse seemed low; a hen was found dead and dehydrated on pipped eggs at Bowdoin (DP). Wild Turkeys continued to do well in the North Dakota badlands (JH). Recent North Dakota sightings of Chukar near Hettinger and N. Bobwhite at Fargo were indicative of the warm weather; despite repeated releases, neither species has ever become established in the state.

Yellow Rails were located in Eddy (RH), McHenry, and Kidder, ND, with a high of nine calling west of Horsehead L. in Kidder June 3 (RM, GB); the last area also had approximately 20 Virginia Rail and 30 Sora territories. Sora, which make heavy use of small wetlands, were down drastically. A nearly dry marsh near Devils L. concentrated rails along a roadside ditch July 31, and 60 Virginia Rails and 49 Soras were tallied in 0.7 mi (DL, SL). Three Sandhill Cranes at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. June 26 (JP) may have been nesters; probable migrants were heard in Bottineau July 8.

Piping Plover surveys turned up 47 pairs in 3 n.c. North Dakota counties (AB) and 9 pairs with at least 16 young at Nelson Res. in Montana (MA). Killdeer numbers were but 62% of average on n.w. North Dakota B.B.S.; nesting success, however, seemed good. Seven Upland Sandpiper nests were found at Bowdoin for a new nesting confirmation for the latilong (DP), and the 12 at UL Bend N.W.R. June 16 were the most ever there at that season (LM); 5 B.B.S. routes in n.w. North Dakota showed a 24% increase. The species has also increased in the Westby area, where it is likely that they benefited from grasslands created by C.R.P.

Low water levels created gigantic mudflats attractive to migrating shorebirds. "Hundreds" of Semipalmated Plovers were at J. Clark Salyer by the end of July (AV). A Hudsonian Godwit in Burleigh July 15 (RM) tied the earliest-ever North Dakota fall date, and a Least Sandpiper at Fargo June 26 (BK) was the earliest for that species. Ruddy Turnstone in Hamlin July 26 and Dunlin in Deuel July 22 (BH) were the earliest ever for South Dakota. There were five Buff-breasted Sandpipers July 23 (MB) and 14 July 31 (DK) in Cass, ND. Common Snipe were way down in North Dakota, being restricted largely to the more stable fern habitat this summer.

TERNs TO WOODPECKERS — A Caspian Tern was in Hamlin, SD, July 26 (BH). On June 6 a pair of Least Terns was at the island in Ft. Peck Res., where they attempted nesting last year, but they were gone the following week. A survey of the Missouri R. in Montana from the dam to the North Dakota border turned up colonies of 3 and 5 pairs; Montana had only 3 previous records of the species, but it undoubtedly nests occasionally on the river sandbars. A Common Barn-Owl nest, later abandoned, in Carbon, MT (KH), was the first for the state. A Snowy Owl in Meade, SD, July 2 (EM) was the first one observed in summer in that state. A N. Saw-whet Owl that had arrived in April continued to call in a deciduous coulee in Hard, ND, until June 11 (RM). The Common Poorwill nest photographed in Slope, ND, in June (RR, MT) was the first documented in the state, although the species is regular in the badlands. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest in Roberts, SD, June 27 (BH) was the 2nd one for the state in recent years. A ♀ Rufous Hummingbird was in Custer, SD, July 16 (MP), and two near Lewistown, MT, July 19 (LM) provided a new latilong record.

A nest attended by two sapsuckers of questionable identity was found at Upper Hanson Cr. near Lewistown July 8; another nest with a pair of normal Red-naped was found one-half mi away (LM). Birders in the Region should be working to delineate the ranges of Red-naped and Yellow-bellied sapsuckers.

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS — Alder Flycatcher was again found on territory in LaMoure, ND (CTC), by far the southernmost location for the species in the Region. A pair of Purple Martins were observed feeding young in Westby, MT; 2 years ago they nested in the tower containing the fire siren, and the nests were destroyed when the siren was used (TN). The species was up from the past several years in Bismarck (RH). Cliff Swallows were down at many bridges over small streams that dried up, either because of lack of insects or unavailability of mud. They drove Barn Swallows off nests at Petersburg, ND, and completed their nests using them as a base (UF). Heat was blamed for the death of young Barn Swallows in nests at Fargo.

A Clark's Nutcracker June 6 in Pennington, SD (RP), was interesting given the recent nestings in the Black Hills. A successful Red-breasted Nuthatch nest in Grand Forks, ND (DL), was the 2nd definite state nesting out of the Slope ponderosa pine area. Montana had only 6 records of Sedge Wren prior to this spring, but these birds were found in several locations in the Westby area, and nesting was confirmed when food carrying and four to five fledglings were seen (TN). The species was up dramatically in adjoining n.w. North Dakota, as the rank growth in small dry sloughs was to their liking. Second broods of E. Bluebirds suffered high mortality at Waubay N W R., SD, and abandoned eggs with dehydrated yolks were found. At Fargo, ND, a Wood Thrush was singing June 8 & 21 (LF), and an apparently territorial N. Mockingbird was singing from June 7 through July 11 (RK). Mockingbirds in South Dakota included a pair with young in Meade June 22 (EM), a singing male in Perkins July 10 (C & DG), and one in Bennett July 27. A Sage Thrasher near Malta, MT, June 29 provided a new latilong record (KS), and one was found east of Ft. Peck June 2 (CC).

There are no nesting records in N. Dakota for Tennessee Warbler, and most summer observations are of transient singing males out of suitable nesting habitat. Two singing males in aspen forest in Bottineau July 8 may have been nesters (GB). Early southbound warblers at Grand Forks, ND, were three Nashvilles July 24, a Yellow-rumped July 26–29, and a Blackburnian July 27 (EF); the latter was the earliest ever for the state. South Dakota breeding bird atlas coordinator RP discovered a ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler, a rare transient east and accidental west in the state, in Custer; the bird was present June 26 through July 20. While searching for it July 28, he and BH found a Canada Warbler, probably an early fall migrant and definitely out of range. The Townsend's Warbler in Montana's Bear Paw Mts. May 28 (HM) furnished a new latilong record.

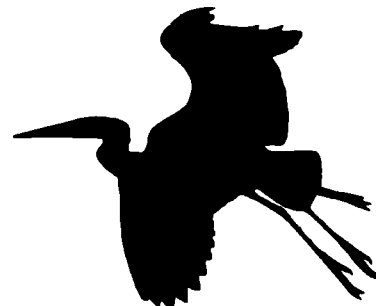
CARDINALS TO FINCHES — The pair of N. Cardinals in Fargo July 17 (TD) was of interest given the species' apparent demise as a breeder there after the park board cleared brush from a city park several years ago.

Grasshopper and Baird's sparrows numbers were double the long-term average on n.w. North Dakota B.B.S. routes. Nearly all North Dakota observers commented on the abundance of Grasshopper Sparrows. By contrast, Savannah, Le Conte's, and Sharp-tailed sparrows were all down due to the drought. An agitated pair of Swamp Sparrows with food in Kidder, ND, July 23 provided one of few nesting confirmations for the state (RM). Two Harris' Sparrows discovered by 4 Mississippi birders at Arrowwood July 3 (MH) furnished the 2nd July observation of the species in the state. A 2nd Eastern Meadowlark was found on territory in Grand Forks June 28 through July 12; the first remained through mid-July but was identified by call note as it no longer was singing (DL). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were absent from many of the usual nesting sites, but the 1070 on the Horsehead Lake B.B.S. may be an indication that this colonial species concentrated in even higher numbers in suitable habitat. There were strong indications that House Finch nested in Fargo for the 2nd consecutive year. To the west, adults were seen feeding flying young at 2 Lewistown, MT, feeders (LM) for the first breeding record for the latilong.

S.A.

The reaction of Dickcissels and Lark Buntings to climatic changes is dramatic and almost instantaneous. Both species increased in North Dakota, apparently in response to conditions unfavorable for nesting to the south. Simultaneous increases in these 2 species has occurred during other hot, dry years dating back to at least 1901, as documented by Louis B. Bishop in an unpublished manuscript entitled "Birds of the Turtle Mtn.—Devils Lake Region of North Dakota." In summer 1988 singing ♂ Dickcissels reached as high as 15 per mi in Grand Forks, and on a trip from n.e. to s.w. North Dakota June 18 & 19 DL reported that they could be "found almost anywhere there seemed to be suitable habitat including Slope which does not have much habitat." There were also scattered observations in n.c. and n.w. North Dakota. While the birds invaded in numbers, nesting success was likely very poor because of early haying of C.R.P. acres, which they favored. Lark Buntings were present in numbers north to the Canadian border and east to the Red River Valley. DL estimated at least 100 males in 2 Grand Forks townships; he had only 2 observations of singles in the county in the previous 10 years! The 5 n.w. North Dakota B.B.S. routes showed nearly 3 times the long-term average. While Lark Buntings were down from last year on Malone's B.B.S. routes in Montana, observers in the Lewistown area commented to him on the large numbers present. In contrast to Dickcissels they appeared to have done well as there were several reports of fledglings.

OBSERVERS (area compilers in boldface) — Montana: Mike Anderson, **Chuck Carlson**, Larry Malone, Harriet Marble, Ted Nordhagen, Dwain Prellwitz, Jim & Karen Stutzman. North Dakota: Mary Bergan, **Gordon Berkey**, Andra Buchl, Charles T. Clark, Tom Dahlen, Larry Falk, Ursula Flem, Eve Freeberg, Michael Goos, Carolyn & David Griffiths, John Heiser, Randy Hill, Mal Hodges, Ralph Kain, Donald Kubischta, **David Lambeth**, Sharon Lambeth, Ron Martin, Jay Peterson, Ron Royer, Michael Thompson, Paul Van Ningen (PV), Anna Vos. South Dakota: Robert Buckman, Bruce Harris, Ernest Miller, Marjorie Parker, Richard Peterson, **Dennis Skadsen**.—**GORDON BERKEY**, Div. of Sci., Minot State Univ., Minot, ND 58701.



Joseph A. Grzybowski

The dry and hot conditions of spring persisted through June over most of the Region. For a change, temperatures were hotter in eastern and central Nebraska and Kansas than in Oklahoma. Seltman reported nine days topping the 100 degree mark during June in central Kansas. July should have been hotter, but it wasn't.

However, many ponds and normally flowing streams across Oklahoma were dry in June. Flow rates in the Platte River in central Nebraska were minimal, and water levels were down at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira in central Kansas. Again, July was somewhat better, instead of worse (as in more normal years), but still "not so hot." Interestingly, the normally dryer western Oklahoma panhandle received enough rain to give farmers in Boise City little to complain about.

All this was not so good for waterbirds. Rosche labeled it a DISASTER in north western Nebraska, particularly for Eared Grebes and dabblers. Shorebirds seemed to show up earlier this year than most, perhaps in response to generalized drought conditions, and highlighted the season.

Insectivores also appeared to suffer substantially from the drought. Droege embellishes my and other observers' sentiments on passerine production with the comment that the Western Kingbirds and Scissortails did not line up their fledglings on the telephone wires as they do every other year. High fliers, particularly Purple Martins, may have taken a beating, though Chimney Swifts seemed just as common as usual.

ABBREVIATIONS — Cheyenne Bottoms = Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS; Fontenelle Forest = Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE; Oologah = Oologah Res., Nowata and Rogers cos., OK; Quivira = Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Summering Com. Loons were located in Dodge, NE June 19 (NR), and Tulsa June 4. The status of a Com. Loon at Dawes, NE on July 31 (RCR, DJR) is uncertain. Eared Grebes had a disastrous nesting season in w. Nebraska. The only young found were two in Sioux, NE; this also provided the first nesting record of Eared Grebes in this county (RCR, DJR). Western Grebes fared only slightly better; 25 adults in Sheridan, NE attended only six juvenile and two downy young on July 15, low, compared to other years. (RCR, DJR). A W. Grebe was also reported in Dawson, NE July 21 (PB). Four Double-crested Cormorants lingered in Cleveland, OK June 1 (PBe).

Nebraska observers commented on higher than usual numbers of herons and egrets this summer. Vagrant herons and ibises north included a **Tricolored Heron** (no documentation provided) and 30 **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at Quivira July 23 (SS, DS). Two **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were also noted in Fontenelle Forest June 29 (RB). **Little Blue Herons** were unusually common in Phelps, NE (PB). **Great Egrets** appeared at Fontenelle Forest and in Douglas, NE July 13 (JT). An imm. **White Ibis** discovered July 14 at Perry L., Douglas, KS was seen by many observers (fide TTC).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Cheyenne Bottoms June 1 (TTC) may have been one of the four birds noted at Quivira Apr. 30. A **Ruddy Duck** was located as far south as Copan Res., Washington, OK July 22 (DV), and a **Hooded Merganser** observed at Tulsa June 26 (FP) provided one of a few but increasing number of summer records.



RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Known as a migrant in the Region, an Osprey June 27 in Dawson, NE (PB) was unusual. An ad. Mississippi Kite reported in Hall, NE June 12 (PB) was n. of its range. For the 2nd consecutive year, a pair of Bald Eagles tried to nest in Garden, NE, but ended short, simply adding more sticks to an old Red-tailed Hawk nest (RCR, DJR). An ad. Bald Eagle was seen July 5 & 26 along the Platte R., in Gosper, NE (PB).

Black Rails have been observed sporadically at Quivira over the past 8 years. Only July 7, two-three Black Rails were heard calling there (SS, DS, LM). Then again, July 24, up to five were heard calling persistently during the night at the same locality (GG et al.) suggesting breeding activity during this period. Birders are asked to observe proper etiquette if pursuing this species.

Always rare (or overlooked), a King Rail was noted in Cherry, n.w. NE (RCR, DJR). South of its breeding range was a Sora July 16 at Oologah, OK (DV, JH).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Many of these long distance wanderers seem to have a special appeal all the time. Perhaps we travel with them in our minds; perhaps they are just easier to look at in shorts during the hot summer lull. Whatever, this year, many appeared early.

First, the breeders: Piping Plovers nested for a 2nd consecutive year at Optima Res., Texas, OK (JS)—only the 2nd record ever for Oklahoma. However, they produced no young. On the Platte R. in central Nebraska, 68 young hatched from 45 Piping Plover nests. Survival of these young is unknown (PB).

An isolated population of Black-necked Stilts at Quivira produced at least 10 young by July 2 (SS). Far more unusual, seven young stilts were produced from 2 nestings in Sheridan, NE, only the 3rd year they have ever nested in Nebraska—all since 1986 (RCR, DJR). The status of six Upland Sandpipers in Cotton, OK June 19 (JDT) is uncertain. This is only slightly ahead of the first normally noted migrants, and on what may be the southern edge of their breeding range. But then, Rosche reports that they had a very poor nesting success in w. Nebraska, and may have moved S. earlier.

Late spring migrants included a Semipalmated Plover June 3 at Copan Res., Washington, OK (DV), eight Sanderling June 2 in Buffalo, NE, and a Dunlin June 4 at Copan Lake, Washington, OK (DV).

Migrant Piping Plovers were observed July 15–Aug. 2 at Oologah (RP, DV, MD). One was also observed at Lake Hefner, Oklahoma, July 19 (JGN). A Black-necked Stilt photographed at Optima Res. July 2 provided the first county record for Texas, OK (MO). A Long-billed Curlew in Canadian, OK July 16 (MO) was at the eastern fringe of the species' migration corridor. A high count of 11 Marbled Godwits, rare in fall migration, were present at Oologah July 10 (DV *et al.*). Others were also observed in mid-July. An injured White-rumped Sandpiper summered at Oologah (DV *et al.*). Though northwardbound White-rumpeds are common through mid-June, almost none are observed southbound. Thus, one in Tulsa July 31 was unusual (TM *et al.*).

The status of Short-billed Dowitchers in the southern plains has always been confounded by identification problems, caution, and a number of late June and early July specimens of Long-billed Dowitchers. Some observers birding Oologah Res., however, now claim to identify ad. Short-billed Dowitchers during July, mostly by call. Twelve birds were so noted July 8, and 21 were counted (in the absence of Long-billeds) July 10 (DV *et al.*). Nonetheless, some caution is still advised, as Long-billeds also have a "tu" call (virtually unnoted in North American field guides), given softly, and which can be given in series and interpreted as that of a Short-billed by both novice and experienced birders (and even half-hardies like myself; see Cramp *et al.* 1983. Handbook of the birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol. III. Oxford Univ. Press, NY).

Early, a breeding-plumaged and an alternate-plumaged Lesser Golden-Plover were noted June 28 at Oologah (DV, MG). Even one day earlier, a golden plover in breeding color was observed in Canadian, OK (MO). Also early were Semipalmated Plovers at Quivira July 2 (SS).

Other early fall records included a Greater Yellowlegs June 23 in Blaine, OK (JAG), and three Lesser Yellowlegs June 16 at Oologah (DV, MG, MD). Hundreds of the latter were reported by the first week in July. Willets appeared by June 17 at Phelps, NE (BJR); Solitary Sandpipers by July 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms (SS) and Douglas, NE (JK, SK). Three Ruddy Turnstones observed at Lake Hefner, Oklahoma July 25 (JAG), and two Sanderlings noted July 23 at Oologah (MD, DV) were also earlier than normal.

More: A Semipalmated Sandpiper was spotted at Oologah June 25 (DV, MG). Fifteen W. Sandpipers were already present July 2 at Quivira (SS), and a Pectoral Sandpiper was photographed June 25 at Oologah (DV, MG).

Much rarer in spring than fall, an ad. Laughing Gull was photographed June 28 at Oologah (DV, MG). Quite late was a Bonaparte's Gull in alternate plumage in Washington, OK June 3–4 (DV). Franklin's Gulls and Forster's Terns summered at a number of locations, including Oologah Res., OK. Caspian Terns were first noted at Oologah June 24 (DV).

Least Terns nested on the Canadian River, Cleveland, OK for the first time since the early 1960s. Three flightless chicks were found July 14 (PBe, PF). Eileen Kirsch counted 188 juv. Least Terns on the Lower Platte in NE.

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS — Not often noted, a Black-billed Cuckoo was netted in Oklahoma June 4 (HH). Another was reported from Hall, NE June 24 (PB). A Greater Roadrunner at Geary, KS was n. of its historic range (*fide* TTC). An ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird visited a feeder at Dawes, NE July 29 (RCR, DJR).

Western and E. wood-pewees were heard singing side by side in Sheridan, NE during late June (WM). An Empidonax nest with 2 eggs, probably of Willow Flycatcher, was found July 24 in an extensive stand of willows at Lake Echo, Delaware,

OK (M&FB). Few records exist for several species, such as the Willow Flycatcher, which summer regularly just across the border in Arkansas. Migrant Least Flycatchers were noted as late as June 5 at Tulsa (PS *et al.*), and were returning a little earlier this year, with one July 12 at Washington, OK (MD). A W. Flycatcher was singing at Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux, NE (RCR, DJR), the only known nesting locality in the Region. In July, broods of three to four W. Kingbird young normally adorn the telephone wires in residential Norman, OK. This year only 2 broods of one and two young were observed. Tree Swallows were at the southern fringe of their plains range at Washington, OK (DV, MD), and Wagoner, OK (JN, DG).

JAYS THROUGH VIREOS — Carolina Wren populations, still recovering from blizzards in the late 1970s, have made a significant comeback over the last 2 years in suitable habitat along the Missouri R. in Nebraska (BP, LP). A small colony of Sedge Wrens has established itself at Copan Res., Washington, OK. Up to eight birds have been observed (DV). Sedge Wrens were also singing in Hall, NE July 26 (PB), and several were located in Douglas (JT) and Washington, NE (BP, TB).

A Townsend's Solitaire was observed in Sioux, NE (RCR, DJR). A late migrant Swainson's Thrush was singing in Cleveland, OK June 11 (JAG). A migrant, or post-season dispersing Sage Thrasher appeared in Dawes, NE July 31 (RCR, DJR).

No White-eyed Vireos were reported from the Bartlesville, OK area. Red-eyed Vireos also appear to be getting scarcer there (MD), and Bell's and Warbling vireos are hard to find anywhere in Oklahoma. With the aid of cowbird removal, production of young by Black-capped Vireos in the Wichita Mountains N.W.R., Comanche, OK was estimated at 1.5 young/pair this year, about a 50% increase over previous years, and almost 5 times the production noted without cowbird removal (JAG, VF). However, all 10 nests found in Oklahoma this year outside the Wichita Mountains were parasitized by cowbirds (JAG).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ N. Parula singing in Red Rock Canyon S.P., Caddo, OK (MO) was the only report from this w. fringe of its Oklahoma range in some years. A Yellow-throated Warbler was singing in the Fontenelle Forest, NE July 13 (BP). Louisiana Waterthrushes were found carrying food in Washington, NE July 7 (AG), and feeding young in Richardson, July 25 (AG *et al.*). At least seven waterthrushes were located in the Wichita Mtns. N.W.R., Comanche, s.w. OK.

Summer Tanagers in Nebraska are unusual. Two were located in the Fontenelle Forest (BP), one in Washington (AG), and another in Richardson (BP, TB, AG).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak, rare in central Oklahoma, fledged two young during late June in Oklahoma City (BO). A Black-headed Grosbeak June 2 in Payne, OK may have been a late migrant (FW).

Don Verser has located Henslow's Sparrows at a number of localities in Washington, and adjacent Osage, OK. Perhaps 25 adult males have actually been counted. This may represent the southern tip of this species range in the Osage Prairies. John Zimmerman has documented them from numerous localities through e. Kansas. Four or five Song Sparrows singing at Lake Perry, Douglas, KS (TTS, SS) implicate a potential range expansion S. into KS. A new colony of the uncommon and very local Swamp Sparrows was located at Cody Lake, Cherry, NE July 10 (RCR, DJR). Bobolinks were present the first 2 weeks of June in Barton, KS, where they may nest (TTC). Except for migrants, Orchard Orioles are virtually gone as a breeding species in c. and w. Oklahoma, where 10 years ago they were considered common (JGN, JAG). Cowbirds!!!?

House Finches, believed of eastern origin, fed fledglings at Topeka, Shawnee, KS in mid-June (E&EL). Several were also

reported from Tulsa (fide JL). From the western side, over 40 were banded in Elk City, Custer, OK. Red Crossbills moved into the Nebraska Pine Ridge in early July; dozens could be located (RCR, DJR). Pine Siskins were reported from Pontotoc, OK June 10–11 (WAC) and Comanche, OK June 16 (JAG, VF), possibly late migrants, breeding, or summer vagrants. A ♂ Lesser Goldfinch, rare in Oklahoma, was observed in Canadian, OK July 26 (JAG).

CITED OBSERVERS (area editors boldfaced) — KANSAS—Ted T. Cable, Gregory Griffith, Eugene & Eulalia Lewis, Lloyd

Moore, Diane Seltman, **Scott Seltman**. NEBRASKA—Paul Bedell, Rose Benedict, Tanya Bray, Alan Grenon, Wayne Mollhoff, **Babs Padelford**, **Loren Padelford**, Neal Ratzlaff, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, B.J. Rose, Terry Toll. OKLAHOMA—Fred & Marguerite Baumgartner, Pat Bergey (PBe), William A. Carter, **Melinda Droege**, Vic Fazio, Pat Folley, David Gill, Hubert Harris, Jim Hoffman, **Jo Loyd**, Steve Metz, Terry Mitchell, **John G. Newell**, Jimmie Norman, Mitchell Oliphant, Bruce Ostyn, Fred Pianalto, Randy Porter, John Shackford, Pat Seibert, Jack D. Tyler, Don Ver-ser, Florence Wass.—**JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI**, 1701 Lenox, Norman, OK 73069.

TEXAS REGION

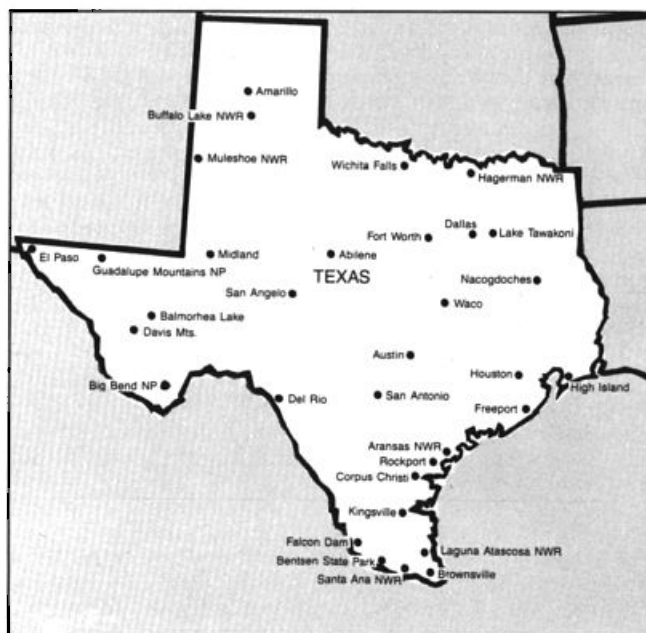
Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

Drought gripped the majority of the state through the summer season, although the tightness of that hold varied substantially between regions. The most unrelenting drought effects plagued a broad swath through the state's mid section from northeastern and north-central portions south through central Texas and over most of the southern third. These areas had periodic brief local rainshowers but nothing truly significant or widespread. The moist southeasterlies thankfully returned in July to replenish and refresh the upper coastal and southeast counties, but further inland and southward no relief came. The Trans-Pecos, High Plains, and Panhandle contrasted markedly with the rest of the state; "lush and green" were a universal declaration in these regions. By late June and early July the "expected" summer rains began in force in the Trans-Pecos; precipitation thereafter was well above normal. In Midland, there had been less than five inches of rain from May 1987 to May 1988. But in late June–early July they got over eight inches, an unheard of deluge for that season. Northward, amazed observers found the month of July "unbelievable" with numerous gentle showers. Irrespective of droughts or deluges, no one mentioned temperatures to be particularly excessive or noteworthy, a minor glimmer of good news around the mostly arid landscapes.

Effects of the drought conditions were varied. Nesting of some waterfowl and waterbirds (except waders) was generally delayed or nonexistent. Coastal waterbirds and waders, however, had generally good success as detailed below. In east Texas, the species that seemed to be affected most negatively were riparian bottomland passerines. Eubanks suggested the low rainfall produced relatively low humidities which, in turn, produced low insect populations. The result was poor reproduction among woodland flycatchers, vireos, warblers and tanagers.

Despite the lush conditions, there were generally few observers in the Trans-Pecos to chronicle effects on avian populations. Statewide, the Breeding Bird Atlas project (now in its second year) was a common inspiration to get observers out during the normal summer doldrums and into unexplored areas.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Sabal Palms = Nat'l Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary (Brownsville); U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. The following shortened names are used for their namesake state parks, state natural areas, nat'l parks, nat'l wildlife ref., and wildlife management areas: Anahuac, Aransas, Attwater (Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R.), Bentsen, Big Bend, G.M.N.P. (Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park), Hagerman, Kickapoo (Kickapoo Caverns S.P.), Laguna Atascosa, and Santa Ana. Place names in italics are counties.



LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Lingering Com. Loons included individuals at L. Tawakoni in Rains June 1 (RK), and near Aransas Bay June 16 (JG). Three Com. Loons were present in Redfish Bay June 16–19 (J&SH, CR). A pair of Least Grebes attempted to nest at Panna Maria in Karnes, but abandoned the nest in the first week of June (WS). Another pair of Least Grebes was present in Bastrop through the period (RFr) but no evidence of nesting was observed. Both of the above locations are north and/or east of the typical nesting range of the species. Farther south, several observers noted that the dry conditions were responsible for a generally poor nesting season for the species. Pied-billed Grebes nested successfully in Hall and Castro in the Panhandle (KS) with other notable nesting success at Belton L. near Temple (CJ, TA) July 28. On the U.T.C. Eubanks noted that low water levels and late season algae blooms on the U.T.C. aided nesting Pied-billed Grebes. Pied-billed Grebes failed to nest at Midland in contrast to several previous years (FW). Eared Grebes continued nesting in El Paso for at least the 6th straight year, in one of very few nesting colonies in Texas (BZ). Five W. Grebes at L. Balmorhea July 4 (PH) seemed out-of-season, and two Clark's Grebes which had been present since late winter lingered at Ft. Hancock Res., Hudspeth, until June 24 (BZ). An ad. Masked Booby July 23 and an immature July 28 on Matagorda I. (BJ) provided notable records. Out of place Am. White Pelicans included up to 26 at San Antonio's Mitchell L. during the period (WS), six at Midland July 15–31 (GG, m.ob.) and several reports during June and July at reservoirs from Kaufman to Throck-

morton in n c Texas (fide CH) Brown Pelicans again continued their dramatic recovery in the state with excellent success reported on the c. coast. Brown Pelicans were noted regularly on the U.T.C. during the period but no nesting sites were located (TE). Eubanks noted that many of these non-breeders were young birds possibly spending their first few years learning the lay of the land. Of great interest were Brown Pelicans banded at Corpus Christi Bay showing up in Mobile Bay, Ala. (nesting), and in Naples, Fla. Two Double-crested Cormorants spent the summer at San Antonio (CB) with another noted at Koscuisko June 19 (WS) and another at L. Buchanan July 15 (fide EK). Double-crested Cormorants remained in "impressive numbers" (BZ) in El Paso and Hudspeth during the summer. This summer, Young and Throckmorton were added to the growing list of counties where Olivaceous Cormorant has been found summering in n.c. Texas (WP, KN). At least two Anhingas nested at Waco during June (MB, ph. JY) providing a first McLennan nesting record. These nests were at an upland rookery; apparently the first known nesting of this species in a non-aquatic situation in Texas (fide FG, RTe). Magnificent Frigatebirds were unusually widespread and common on the U.T.C. this season. As many as 60 frigatebirds summered off Smith's Point and a noteworthy single flock total of 38 was reported from W. Galveston Bay July 16, (TE).

COLONIAL WATERBIRDS — Results of coastal and inland waterbird colonies differed markedly. Feeding areas for rookeries in Van Zandt, as an example, dried up, leading to many starved young and failed nests. Near Kingsville and elsewhere off the immediate coast, nesting activity at rookeries essentially never got started (N&PP). There were a few isolated points of interest: A new Great Blue Heron colony was discovered in Palo Pinto (KN). Great Egrets were on nests as early as Apr. 9 in Waller (TE); the latter county hosted some nesting Roseate Spoonbills, well away from the coast. Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned night-herons nested successfully at Waco (JV, fide LB) for the first documented McLennan nesting records.

Coastal waterbirds apparently fared well (JG, M&RF). The absence of tropical storms and their accompanying high tides certainly helped, as did a lack of estuarine floodwaters or salinity changes from any heavy summer rains. Green I., in the lower Laguna Madre, continued to recover from the raccoon predation that devastated that island during 1984-1986. Thankfully, there were no reports of "egging" of colonies this season. Tremendous coverage in local and even national media must certainly have helped, although Grantham was still concerned that the season's rough waters on Matagorda Bay, fortuitously holding boats in port, may also have played a role. Numerical highlights included increases of Royal Terns on Sundown I., from 3000 (1987) to 9000 nesting pairs, and Sandwich Terns there increasing from 25 (in 1987) to 4000 pairs.

HERONS THROUGH STORKS — An Am. Bittern visited the Eagle Mountain Fish Hatchery in Tarrant June 26 (BE, CH) providing only the 2nd summer record for n.c. Texas away from the Red River. Two Great Egrets strayed N to Briscoe July 10 and a rare Panhandle record was provided by a Snowy Egret near Umbarger in Randall July 31 (KS). An ad. Little Blue Heron appeared in El Paso June 24 (BZ) where the species is a casual post-nesting visitor. A Tricolored Heron wandered N to Hagerman July 30 (RR) and another turned up on the same date in Dallas (JP). Fifty Reddish Egrets at Drum Point on Baffin Bay July 29 (N&PP) was a large concentration away from a colony. Seyffert noted that the presence of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in the Panhandle raised the possibility of nesting in that region: one was at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., July 4 and two were seen together in Gray July 14. White Ibises showed up in e. Texas in impressive numbers with 13 in Henderson June

11 (RK), and others noted there July 8-31 (GS). Four White Ibises were also seen in Walker June 30 (WC) and two were in Smith June 23 (GS), the latter report representing the first county record since 1972. An imm. White Ibis at San Antonio July 22 (WS, MH) was unusual. The spring "invasion" of Glossy Ibises on the U.T.C. continued into the summer season with a breeding-plumaged Glossy reported from Brazoria June 4 (WPr, EMi, TT). Panhandle records of White-faced Ibises continue to increase. Seyffert reported several records of from 4 to 43 White-faced seen during the period in Carson, Hansford, Oldham, Randall, and Castro. These sightings are of particular interest since the species was discovered nesting in Castro in July and August 1985. Elsewhere, five White-faced Ibises summering at Eagle Mountain Fish Hatchery (CH, m.ob.) and a single bird at Uvalde June 10 (E&KM) were interesting. Inland records of Roseate Spoonbills always draw attention. San Antonio's Mitchell L. again played host to from one to three spoonbills during the period. Two Roseate Spoonbills July 13 & Aug. 2 on the Llano R. provided a first record for Mason (K&MM) and another on Eagle Mountain L., July 22-26 (DG) furnished a first record for Wise. A wandering Wood Stork visited Mitchell L., June 30 (WS).

WATERFOWL — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks continued to recover on the U.T.C. by reoccupying Galveston I.; two pair successfully nested near Sea Isle (TE). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to do quite well in s. Texas, but were affected by the dry conditions in many areas. The Palmers noted that the species was numerous as usual in Kingsville, but no nesting activity was seen. They felt that the nesting cycle of the species seemed to be more influenced by rainfall than the calendar. In contrast, O'Neil reported the species had good nesting success in Falfurrias despite the drought, remarking that one nest seen at the edge of a sewer pond. Sewer ponds around Austin and San Antonio are the preferred habitat for nesting Black-bellied in those areas, and both locations reported several successful nests again this year. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Midland July 31 (D&JM) provided a 2nd county record (fide FW). A nesting pair of Wood Ducks at Meridian S.P. (WC) was not expected. A ♀ Blue-winged Teal was flushed from a nest containing one egg near Vega, Oldham June 30 (KS). Seyffert commented that this date is illustrative of how late in the season waterfowl will nest in the Panhandle when June rains fill heretofore dry playas. Blue-winged Teal are sporadic nesters on the U.T.C. and Eubanks found adults with young on Galveston I., July 2 and at Anahuac July 4. A pair of Blue-wingeds also nested successfully at Harlingen (OC). A ♀ Redhead with nine downy chicks was observed on a playa within the city limits of Hart in Castro July 31 (KS). The species is a fairly common summer resident in the Panhandle but has rarely been found nesting. Carl Haynie's comment from n.c. Texas that "this was a season for out-of-season ducks" could apply for the entire state. A lone ♂ Cinnamon Teal lingered at Possum Kingdom L. until July 2 (KN) representing possibly the first summer record for n.c. Texas. Two Redheads were also sweating it out at the same location and date. Stranger still were the five Ring-necked Ducks that summered in Van Zandt (fide CH), and another Ring-necked Duck at El Paso June 1-17 (BZ). Eleven species of ducks summered at Mitchell L., including Mallard, N. Pintail, all three teal, N. Shoveler, Gadwall, Am Wigeon, Redhead, and Ruddy (MH, WS et al.). An unusual summer record was provided by a White-winged Scoter June 16-19 at Redfish Bay near Corpus Christi (J&SH, CR). Two Hooded Mergansers summered at Edgewood City in Van Zandt (fide CH) and a Red-breasted Merganser seen at Aransas Bay June 16 was late (JG). One hundred Ruddy Ducks on a Kingsville pond June 9 (N&PP) provided an unusual record, and six ad. Ruddies with nine ducklings provided a rare Panhandle nesting record in Castro July 31 (KS). The Masked Duck reported at San Benito in the spring report was last seen June 18 (OC).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Turkey Vultures are not very common in the c. and w. Panhandle in summer, making the 100 or more found concentrated in a group at Buffalo Lake N.W.R. July 4 truly unusual (KS); such groups are more normally seen later in the fall. Ospreys continue to be reported from scattered areas around the state during summer. This season Ospreys were seen in *Brazoria* (WPr, JR) and *Travis* (PH) June 12, in *Palo Pinto* July 3 (KN), with other reports from *Bastrop* (RFR) and *Harris* (*fide* TE) during the season. Unexpected reports of Swallow-tailed Kites included two seen during the first week of June (SS, *fide* RFR) and three seen July 11 (RFR) in *Bastrop*. Five pairs of Black-shouldered Kites that were seen regularly during the period in *Edwards* (KB) were unusual. Black-shouldered Kites have been on the advance in n.c. Texas with over 2 dozen records during the past 8 years (*fide* CH). This year one was found in *Young* June 12 (KN) furnishing a 2nd record there. Mississippi Kites continue to be seen with increasing frequency throughout much of the Panhandle and n.c. Texas (KS, CH). A concentration of 100 ad. Mississippis in *Hall* July 2 (KS) was gratifying. Farther south, Mississippi Kites were seen regularly in *Walker*, with one bird seen carrying nesting material June 9 (RMO, AP). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks fledged two young in late May near *Encino* (AO) and the species was seen regularly through the summer near *Falfurrias*; nesting reports of this species in Texas are few. Single Cooper's Hawks were seen in *Van Zandt* June 4 & 15 (RK), in *Edwards* June 9 (*fide* E&KM), in *Cooke* June 11 (CH, TR), and in *Waller* June 18 (TE). As mentioned by Eubanks, these individuals may have been late spring migrants, but since little is known of the breeding range of this species in Texas any summer record should be viewed as a possible local breeder. A pair of Cooper's Hawks nested at *Harper* in *Gillespie* (*fide* E&KM). At least six pairs of Harris' Hawks fledged young near *Falfurrias*, but O'Neil commented that their overall success seemed less than in the past several years. A pair of Gray Hawks apparently nested at *Rio Grande Village* in *Big Bend* for the first *Brewster* nesting record (*fide* CC). The species was sporadically reported from *Santa Ana* as well. Broad-winged Hawks nested near *L. Grapevine* in *Denton* (GK) and probably nested at *Hagerman* where begging young were found (RR, BG). Broad-wingeds were seen regularly June 25–July 25 in *Johnson* (CE) but no nests were found in the thick woodland. Five adults in *Nacogdoches* Apr. 20, "all either calling vigorously, soaring and calling, or swooping, chasing and calling", had settled down by mid-May and were seen thereafter only infrequently (DW). The secretive nature of this species makes detection exceedingly difficult in the deep pineywoods of far e. Texas (TE). Elsewhere, Broad-wingeds raised more questions when at least two were present at *Austin* from May into mid-July (PH, GL), two seen at *San Antonio* June 24 (B&CY), and a single bird wandered to *Tarrant* June 16 (CH). Swainson's Hawks appeared at predictable locations on the U.T.C. this summer although Eubanks felt that their recent expansion there appears to have lost momentum. Swainson's Hawks were scarce in the *Midland* area (FW) in contrast to recent years, but they were reported from *Austin* and *San Antonio* in higher than normal numbers. Thirty-four Swainson's eating grasshoppers in *Wilson* July 2 (WS) was an impressive sight. *Midland's* first nesting record for Red-tailed Hawk occurred in *March* (AW, *fide* FW). An Am. Kestrel near *Oilton* in *Webb* June 21 (PP, SB, JG) was at the same spot where a pair nested last year. A pair of Am. Kestrels nested in the press box of a local football stadium in *Big Spring* (BT, SC) for a rare *Howard* record. *Cureton* found summering Am. Kestrels in *Walker* for the 3rd summer in a row. The group of three there June 30 included one possible juvenal. An ad. Merlin at *Austin* July 24 (CS) provided the first summer record for that area. We received no information this season on the current status of the *Aplomado* Falcon hacking program that has been underway at *Laguna Atascosa* for the past 2 years. An ad. Peregrine Falcon chased shorebirds about the Ft. Bliss sewage ponds June 21 (B&YZ) for only the 2nd summer record for the *El Paso* area,

and an imm. Peregrine at *Waco* July 30 seemed early (JMu) Single Prairie Falcons just s.e. of *Amarillo* (KS) and at *Midland* (RMS, GG) both on July 9 furnished unexpected summer records for Texas.

S.A.

The news about *Attwater's* Greater Prairie-Chicken continues to be very discouraging. Brood counts by *Attwater* staff revealed a pathetic 13 young produced by 156 adults (CF). The U.S. F&WS management plan implemented during the past few years, which included removal of telephone poles that served as roosts for White-tailed Hawks (under the assumption that White-tailed Hawks prey on young prairie-chickens), has yet to produce any significant results.

O'Neil commented that "it was absolutely too dry for the Wild Turkeys to nest" in the *Falfurrias* area. Northern Bobwhites were also negatively impacted by the drought in s Texas, but even more alarming were reports that the species has been "wiped out" in several *Bastrop* locations by fire ants (RFR, JT). In contrast, N. Bobwhites seemed abundant around *Midland* this season (FW). Four Soras in a marsh near *Amarillo* July 23 (PA, KS) were a little early. Both Com. Moorhens and Purple Gallinules bred at *Anahuac* in prodigious numbers Eubanks found both species with hundreds of downy young there July 4. In n.c. Texas Com. Moorhen is a rare summer resident so an apparent nesting pair with an immature in *Throckmorton* July 3 (KN) was a good find. Two sub-ad Whooping Cranes summered at *Aransas*, an unusual record (B).

PLOVERS THROUGH SKIMMER — As Eubanks remarked "Summer is the nadir of wader watching on the U T C (and the rest of Texas as well). Summer for shorebirds may be only one month (June) in duration, but even a short shorebird summer is still depressing. In 1988, however, shorebirds observed no summer. Migrants lingered in an unprecedented diversity and volume, and several species established new late departure (or early arrival?) dates." Several observers speculated that shorebirds may have had a poor nesting season to the north due to the fact that so many species arrived back so early. Late Black-bellied Plovers included one June 1 at *San Antonio* (WS, MH), two in *Kleberg* June 2 (N&PP), one June 4–8 at *El Paso* (BZ), and one on a drying *Waller* rice pond June 19 (TE). As many as 11 lingering Lesser Golden-Plovers were found at seven locations in the e. half of the state June 2–July 3 (m.ob.). Some of the latter dates may have included early returning birds. Snowy Plovers nested locally in several regions of Texas. At *Midland*, *Frances Williams* commented that the species nested in nearly dry playas at three locations. Young were fledged before the playas were filled by local July rains. Six young Snowy Plovers were seen at *Encino* June 30 (AO), and an adult was found on a nest at *Cape Valero* in *Aransas* July 4 (E&NA). At *Possum Kingdom L.*, a Snowy Plover gave every indication of defending a nest June 26 (KN); The species has not been found nesting in n.c. Texas since 1929. A Snowy Plover in *Waller* June 19 (TE) provided a rare June and inland record for the U.T.C., and four Snowies at *El Paso* June 1 (BZ) were noteworthy. A Piping Plover July 11 in *Rains* (GH, RK) was early for the n.c. region. Mountain Plovers apparently failed to nest this year in the *Davis Mts.* (PE). Unexpected groups of up to 40 Am. Oystercatchers were noted during July on *S. Padre I.* (OC). Black-necked Stilts may have nested at *Miller's Creek Res.* in *Throckmorton* as two exhibited distraction displays there June 11 (KN). The species has nested only twice before in n.c. Texas. Other inland nesting stilts included

about 50 pairs at Mitchell L. (although rats ate many eggs there) (WS), and at least one pair at Austin American Avocets are uncommon nesters in Texas, especially inland so a pair that was incubating eggs May 17 and later fledged one young at Mitchell L. was noteworthy (WS). Avocets are not known to nest in n.c. Texas, however, three pairs at Miller's Creek June 11 (KN) gave strong indications that they had nesting in mind. Four Greater Yellowlegs lingered in Waller until June 19 with others seen June 29 (TE). The species was also noted in small numbers throughout the summer at Mitchell L. (MH, WS). Eubanks noted up to 10 Lesser Yellowlegs in Waller June 19 & 29 Summering Spotted Sandpipers continue to intrigue Panhandle observers. One was found at a marsh near the Canadian R. in Oldham June 21 (KS), the same location where one was observed last year on June 26. Another was present throughout the season in suitable breeding habitat at L. Tanglewood in Randall (TJ). There are only 2 nesting records for the Panhandle (KS). Five Upland Sandpipers June 26 near Greenville in Hunt included at least one juvenile. The group was found again July 2 & 14 leading observers to suspect possible nesting in the area (CS, AV). To illustrate how early Upland Sandpipers start south, one was heard migrating over Amarillo in the early morning hours of July 1 (KS). Several Upland Sandpipers were seen throughout the period near Smithville in Bastrop (RFR), an unusual summer record. No nesting evidence was found. A Whimbrel and a Long-billed Curlew in Bexar July 14 (WS) were unusual. A Long-billed Curlew in Swisher June 23 (KS) was thought to be an early migrant rather than a summering bird, and another July 2 in Hall was unexpected. Marbled Godwit sightings at Mitchell L., June 22-26, July 17 & 27 were noteworthy (MH, WS). Unexpected Semipalmated Sandpiper records included two at El Paso June 1-3 (BZ), one in Waller June 19 (TE), and two at Mitchell L., June 28 (WS). White-rumped Sandpipers are typically late migrants, however this year they set several area records for late departures. Single White-rumped were recorded at San Luis Pass June 11 and in Waller June 19 (TE), one was at El Paso June 1-3 and another was there June 24 (BZ), two were at Mitchell L., June 24 (B&CY), and three were reported there July 24 (JMu) for a very rare record. A Baird's Sandpiper June 6 at Mitchell L. was late (WS). Two Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded in Waller June 19 & 22 (TE), and one was at Mitchell L., June 24 (B&CY). A flock of 80 Stilt Sandpipers at the Ft. Bliss Sewage Ponds in El Paso July 27 (BZ, DD) was an impressive sight for that area. Eubanks was amazed to find 12-14 Buff-breasted Sandpipers June 19 & 22 lingering in Waller for a new late record for the area (and the state?). Two apparently injured Short-billed Dowitchers June 23 seen on the King Ranch were thought to be of the race *griseus* (N&PP).

Two Laughing Gulls over Feather L., June 25 (JS *et al.*) and another at Ft. Bliss July 18 (B&YZ) provided the 2nd and 3rd El Paso records. Laughing Gulls were also seen in small numbers during the period at San Antonio (MH, WS *et al.*). Four Franklin's Gulls lingered at Mitchell L. until June 26, and two spent the entire summer there (MH, WS). A Ring-billed Gull at L. Waco July 5-19 (JMu) provided a rare local record. Four Ring-billed Gulls in El Paso July 2 (JS) and five in Hudspeth July 28-29 (DD, BZ) were also out-of-season. Grantham noted that Gull-billed Terns were still incubating eggs in the Corpus Christi area on the late date of June 30. A Caspian Tern at Mitchell L., June 14 was odd (WS), as were two breeding plumaged Royal Terns there July 14 following several days of strong SE winds. A Sandwich Tern at Bentsen June 11 (OC) was an unusual location and date. Alan Mueller reported that Gull-billed Terns, Least Terns, and Black Skimmers were nesting successfully on gravel rooftops of warehouses in Galveston. Several pairs of Least Terns nested at Miller's Creek Res. during July providing a first nesting record for Baylor (KN). Ten pairs were observed earlier in the season in adjacent Throckmorton but the birds vanished when vegetation changes forced them out. One or two Least Terns were at Hagerman July 23 & 30 (BG, RR), and 10 were noted at Laredo's L. Casa Blanca July 1

(B&CY) Coastal Least Tern colonies appeared on the gravel roads at a bridge construction site in Baytown on the U T C , and on a parking lot in the Exxon refinery there. In both cases industry cooperated with local environmentalists, and both colonies successfully produced young (TE). Sooty Terns nested in their normal small number in the lower Laguna Madre and possibly in Corpus Christi Bay (M&RF, JG). Black Skimmers apparently had a successful season on the c. coast with many still on eggs in that area June 30 (JG). The Rockport Beach City Park purposefully created habitat for Black Skimmers and Least Terns, which took to this new nesting area readily (JG).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Ringed Turtle-Doves nested in Dallas in June (WP). White-winged Doves continue to expand northward with individuals noted in Waco May 3 (GLu, *fide* LB) and Temple May 5 (C&JJ). The species is now locally quite common as far n. as Austin. Up to 12 Green Parakeets were observed occasionally in McAllen during the period (SWe) and 25 were counted at Brownsville June 28 (B&CY). Red-crowned Parrots nested successfully at Harlingen (OC) with about 35 present through the period there. Other Red-crowns were reported in Brownsville and McAllen. In Portland on the c. coast Grantham reports on a pair of Red-crowned Parrots investigating a nest hole during late May. The same nest had earlier been robbed of its chicks by some parrot enthusiast. We received several reports of up to 10 Yellow-headed Parrots at various L.R.G.V. locations during the period. A pair of Groove-billed Anis was copulating in Wilson June 18 (WS), farther n. than their normal breeding range. We received a curious report of a juv. Groove-billed Ani being fed by a pair of N. Cardinals at Kingsville during the last week of June (MT *fide* N&PP). Four or five Flammulated Owls were heard calling in G.M.N.P., July 1 (OO), an unusual concentration for this relatively rare and local species. A Burrowing Owl was discovered w. of Jacksboro June 13 representing a first record for Jack (KO), but no nesting evidence was found. Single Barred Owls at Ft. Clark Springs in Kinney June 9, Kerr June 30 (E&KM), and at L. Corpus Christi July 3 (JG) were at the extreme edges of their breeding range. The Com. Nighthawk bag is mixed. Graber again noted little nesting activity in Beaumont and Eubanks reported the same from Houston. Rural areas on the U.T.C. however, supported large numbers of nighthawks. Large coastal Texas cities such as Beaumont and Houston have regular pesticides spraying programs to combat resident mosquito populations. Could such a liberal and frequent use of pesticides be having a detrimental effect on breeding insectivores such as the Com. Nighthawk (TE)? Elsewhere in Texas the species seems to be doing quite well. A late Whip-poor-will was calling in Bastrop June 4 (RFR).

Buff-bellied Hummingbirds continued to do very well in s. Texas. Up to 75 frequented feeders at a ranch near Encino during June (AO), and the species was recorded regularly during the period in Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, Kingsville, Harlingen and Brownsville (m.ob.). At least three Magnificent Hummingbirds were present in Dog Canyon in G.M.N.P. during the summer (*fide* OO). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Kickapoo June 14-16 (KB) provided the first park record. A Ringed Kingfisher June 29 at Normandy in Maverick (StW) adds to a growing list of "upriver" records. A Red-headed Woodpecker at Ricardo in Kleberg all summer (N&PP) may be the same bird present there for a year or so. Another Red-headed at San Antonio June 1 was out of place (MH). Golden-fronted Woodpeckers continued to increase as nesters in Big Bend and Alpine (ML).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS — An Olive-sided Flycatcher July 29 at Tornillo in Hudspeth (BZ, DD) was a very early migrant. Two W. Wood-Pewees that remained together were observed at length in the Thompson Picnic Grove

n.e. of Texline in Dallam June 11 (KS). Single birds have been seen at this same site in summer sporadically since 1980 leading to speculation of nesting. The grove is a small oasis in a sea of grassland. A very late W. Wood-Pewee was at El Paso June 21 (B&YZ). A singing E. Wood-Pewee was found in Hutchinson June 18 (KS), a first reported summer record from that area. A bird carefully identified as a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen July 22 at La Copita in Jim Wells (DaC, KBe). This may represent a new early fall date for Texas. At the edge of their range, Acadian Flycatchers were finally confirmed nesting in Van Zandt in n.c. Texas June 15 (RK). Least Flycatchers were reported from several locations in s. Texas July 20-25, earlier than most observers are aware to look for them. An Eastern Phoebe nested under a bridge in Nacogdoches in Apr. (DW). Although a common breeder in many other areas of Texas, this location is at the s. limit of this sp. breeding range in e. Texas. Palmer reports that a Vermilion Flycatcher observed June 23 on the King Ranch was the first record in Kleberg during the breeding season. A Great Crested Flycatcher in Abilene May 23-July 10 (BH) was unusual, but nesting evidence was not found. A single Brown-crested Flycatcher at Ft. Stockton May 13 (ML) was notable. A pair of Brown-crested nested as far n.e. as Victoria (D&RM). A Cassin's Kingbird at El Paso June 4 (B&YZ) was an unusual record, and an Eastern Kingbird photographed there July 27 (BZ, DD) provided a 4th area record and the first for summer. A Purple Martin in Spearman, Hansford June 5 (KS) was the first reported summer record for that location. East Texas Purple Martin roosts often contain remarkable numbers of individuals. Smith reports a single roost in Tyler in July that contained 10,000 to 15,000 martins. By the end of July Purple Martins had assembled in numbers reaching 5000 birds in Arlington (fide CH). A Tree Swallow at the Ft. Bliss Sewage Ponds July 10 was weeks ahead of schedule (JS et al.). Northern Rough-winged Swallows nested under a bridge at Attwater, a first for the refuge and one of very few records for the U.T.C. area (MC et al.). A Cliff Swallow colony in Waller was at the e. edge of the species' breeding range on the U.T.C. (TE). The saga of the expanding range of the Cave Swallow continues. Although no new nesting counties were found this year, Carmona reported a sight record of the species in Willacy in May, a location the species had not been recorded before. Cave Swallows nested on the rafters of a picnic shelter at Choke Canyon S.P. in McMullen (EK, TM), and continued nesting in similar structures in Uvalde. In a phenomenon first reported last year in McMullen, Cave Swallow nests were photographed in Mason June 11 & 30 that appeared to have been begun by Barn Swallows (BF, DE). In a new twist, Palmer reported that some Cave Swallows near La Pryor in Zavala put nests together into "apartments" by refurbishing Cliff Swallow nests from previous years. This sp. is truly showing amazing adaptability in nest location and construction. A presumed Cliff/Barn Swallow hybrid was observed near Kingsville June 12 (N&PP). Farther n. in Bandera, Mason believes that Cave Swallows in that area are raising three broods in a season. Blue Jays nested in Rocksprings which is a first Edwards nesting record (KB). Pinyon Jays heard calling in G.M.N.P., June 11 (OO) provided a notable summer record. Verdins were discovered n. to Archer in n.c. Texas June 12 in a Breeding Bird Survey there (CH). Two White-breasted Nuthatches July 31 at L. Palestine in Smith provided an unusual summer record (NPe). Cactus Wrens continue to increase in the w. portions of n.c. Texas; eight were seen in Shackelford June 5 (KN). A Carolina Wren July 18 in Midland was an unexpected record for a species that does not nest in that area. (FW). Three Bewick's Wrens were on territory near Ft. Quitman in Hudspeth June 18 (JS) in an area where they are not known to breed. Prior to 1987 the last suspected nesting for House Wren in this state was in 1958. Last year's atlas project established it as a breeding species in the Panhandle and this year the nesting information continues to grow. Nesting behavior was noted by at least two pairs in Lipscomb June 4 (KS), 15 adult and four newly fledged young were seen along White Deer Creek in Hutchinson June 18 (KS). An ad. House Wren

was seen feeding young in the nest at L. Marvin in Hemphill June 26 (PA, E&NE, KS). Unexpected was a singing House Wren in Bastrop June 19 (RFR). Originally Shoveler Pond at Anahuac was an ephemeral wetland, and in mid-summer would often become completely dry. A canal, constructed a few years ago, now supplies a permanent water supply to the pond and water-loving species such as the Marsh Wren have responded with flourishing breeding populations there (TE). A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher in McMullen June 3 (SB et al.) was the first noted in that area in several years. Ostyn found a Clay-colored Robin nest at Bentsen in May. He noted that the eggs hatched May 14 and he observed the adult feeding young on that date. Up to three Clay-colored Robins were seen there through the period (m.ob.). The Gray Catbird is a rather common urban breeding bird in northeast Texas, but a nest with eggs in Nacogdoches June 29 (MW) was at the s. limit of its nesting range. Haynie remarked that it is only a matter of time before observers find Gray Catbirds nesting in Denton: one was seen there June 27 (fide WP). A Long-billed Thrasher was still present during the period in Midland at the same spot where four had been last year (FW).

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS — Loggerhead Shrikes, typically very rare nesters in far s. Texas were confirmed nesting in several locations; Palmer reports on at least 5 nests located in Kleberg and others in Nueces and Duval, while Wessling observed an ad. shrike with four young June 20 near Alamo in Hidalgo. A White-eyed Vireo June 3-5 in G.M.N.P. provided a first park record (fide OO). A singing Bell's Vireo in Midland throughout July intrigued local observers; no nesting by the species has occurred there for almost 20 years (FW).

S.A.

Fort Hood laid claim to the largest number of Black-capped Vireos with over 130 territories encountered (fide JOD) but nesting success there and at Austin continued at levels too low to sustain the population. Concern about the vireo (among other species) prompted an effort to draft a municipal endangered species ordinance in Austin. For a long-range solution to minimize impacts of urbanization on vireos in that area, a regional habitat conservation plan (under the federal Endangered Species Act) is being contemplated. Both of these efforts would help protect the Golden-cheeked Warbler as well.

Gray Vireos again nested at Kickapoo (KB). A Yellow-throated Vireo furnished a first Palo Pinto record when one was seen there June 5 (CH, KMo, TR). Smith reported a singing Warbling Vireo from Smith July 7. This species has a very restricted breeding population in e. Texas. In the Panhandle, however, Seyffert reports the species is more common and widespread than generally thought. A young bird was seen begging food at L. McClellan in Gray July 14 (KS) and singing birds were found as far w. as Hutchinson and Randall. A Red-eyed Vireo at G.M.N.P., June 3-July 8 (OO) was noteworthy. A pair of **Yellow-green Vireos** at Laguna Atascosa, originally discovered July 2, nested and fledged several young later in the month (fRT, MA, KA et al.). Lucy's Warblers again apparently nested at Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend (CC et al.). A Tropical Parula nest with three young at Sarita in June (JKI) was the first confirmed nesting at that location in several years. A singing Yellow Warbler was found in Lipscomb June 4 (KS) at the same site of a similar occurrence in 1984 leading to further speculation of nesting. A Golden-cheeked Warbler was feeding young near Harper on the late date of July 27 (BM, fide E&KM). Pulich's 1976 monograph on the species described the late date for attended youth as June 26. An Am. Redstart in w. Harris June 5 could have been a late migrant. However,

the site, a mixed hackberry/oak woodland bordering a stream is reminiscent of the species' preferred Texas breeding habitat (fide TE). For the third summer in a row significant numbers of Swainson's Warblers have been singing a widely scattered areas of Aransas. Barry Jones observed ad. Swainson's Warblers feeding young at one area on the refuge June 26 and recorded the species at 8 other sites there thus confirming the bird as breeding in the county for the first time. Louisiana Waterthrushes wandered to Ft. Worth July 2 (JK) & 24 (BD). Others were reported at Hagerman July 17, 23, & 30 (RR, BG) and at Santa Ana July 17 (OC). At the edge of their range, Kentucky Warblers nested successfully in Van Zandt June 15 (RK). A Mourning Warbler near Santo in Palo Pinto June 5 (CH, KM, TR) was quite late and previously unrecorded for the co. Later still was a Mourning Warbler which was singing conspicuously at Driftwood near Austin Jun. 10-22 (DC et al.), apparently a new late record for the state. A MacGillivray's Warbler July 10 in Midland was out-of-season (AW, fide FW). A singing Com. Yellowthroat at Buffalo Springs in Dallam June 11 represents the first reported summer record from that area. The Brownsville race of the Com. Yellowthroat, thought by some to be extinct, was "rediscovered" this summer. Research by Klicka turned up at least four nests near Sabal Palms; the first nest fledged young May 20.

TANAGERS THROUGH SISKIN — A well-described Hepatic Tanager at San Antonio's Frederick Park June 20-21 was well out-of-range (RH). A pair of Indigo Buntings in Caprocks Canyon S.O., Briscoe June 17-19 (PA), and a singing male at another location outside the park July 10 (KS) are the first reported summer records from the area and further evidence of an expanding range. An Indigo Bunting at G.M.N.P. July 8 (JG, fide OO) was out of place. Olive Sparrows were in higher than normal numbers in the Kingsville area (N&PP). Several Botteri's Sparrows were netted and photographed in the hand July 22 & 23 just s. of Alice in Jim Wells (DaC, KBe); an unexpected location for a species that is usually found in habitat much closer to the coast in Texas. Cassin's, Botteri's, and Lark Sparrows all reportedly had good nesting success in the Port Mansfield area (OC) with Cassin's also reported in good numbers in Kingsville (N&PP). Cassin's Sparrows were present at Attwater June 6-24 (MC, CF). The sp. is quite uncommon in that area and extremely rare to the e. along the U.T.C. (TE). A Field Sparrow June 2 at Sarita (JKL) was out of place. Lark Sparrows were present in El Paso through June (BZ) where breeding has never been documented. A pair of Lark Buntings in breeding plumage July 13 s. of Alpine (KB, DS) were thought to be non-breeders, but a Lark Bunting nest was reported near Alpine July 10 by different observers (fide KB). In contrast to last year, Bryan reported that there were no Grasshopper Sparrows or Dickcissels at Kickapoo this season, probably due to the dry conditions. Eastern Meadowlarks at Caprock Canyons S.P. July 10 (KS) were firsts for that location. A pair of Yellow-headed Blackbirds exhibiting nesting behavior at a playa near Spearman in Hansford June 5 (KS) was noteworthy. The species has been noted at the site in previous summers and further work may disclose this as a new nesting area in the Panhandle. Elsewhere, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seasonally out of place at many locations; 12 near Del Rio July 3 & 4 (DS), 25 at Black Gap W.M.A., July 13 (KB, DS), and 4 in Bastrop July 30 (RFR) were noteworthy. A Com. Grackle June 27 in Kingsville (DO, fide PP) was unusual. Palmer reports that both cowbird species are present at "plague levels" in Kingsville and are heavily parasitizing N. Cardinals, Hooded Orioles and probably Audubon's Orioles. Farther w. in El Paso Zimmer reports that Bronzed Cowbirds continue to increase dramatically in that area. An ad. Orchard Oriole brought its young to a nectar feeder in Kingsville July 27 (MT, fide N&PP) for what appears to be the first confirmed nesting record for Kleberg. Klicka found 18 pairs of Hooded Orioles between Bishop and Raymondville along U.S. 77. He also found the species in

"abundance" at several locations near Uvalde. By season's end however, Palmer reported only limited evidence of successful nesting in the Kingsville area with few young birds present. By more closely examining oriole nests Palmer has discovered that Altamira Orioles have apparently been nesting in the Kingsville area since at least 1986. An Audubon's Oriole and an Altamira Oriole were seen paired up at Kingsville June 27 (N&PP). The birds built a nest (Altamira type) and attempted to mate (JKL). Palmer reports that the orioles "stuck together like glue" but there is no evidence that this unlikely pair produced any eggs. Of nine Northern Orioles seen in w. Lipscomb June 4 (KS), seven were identified by sight as Baltimore Farther w. in Hutchinson both Baltimore and Bullock's were found nesting and several hybrids were seen June 18. A Pine Siskin still coming to an Amarillo feeder through June (E&NE) was curious.

CONTRIBUTORS AND CITED OBSERVERS (Subregional editors in boldface) — Joel Abramson, Peggy Acord, Tom Actkinson, Kathy Adams, Richard Albert, Eddie & Nina Arnold, Keith Arnold (KAR), Mike Austin, Sharon Bartels, Charles Bender, Karen Benson (KBe), Hugh Brown, Lillian Brown, Kelly Bryan, Mary Bush, Charlie Callagan, Oscar Carmona, Stan Casto (SCa), Don Connell, Dawn Conway (DaC), Sue Corson, Marilyn Crane, Wesley Cureton, Bill Davis, Dale Delaney, Charles Easley, Dixie Edmiston, Bill Edwards, Hazel Ekholm, Ed & Nancy Elliott, Pansy Espy, **Ted Eubanks, Jr.** (East Texas: 2701 Amherst, Houston, TX 77005), Mike & Rose Farmer, Joe Farrell, Cathy Foster, Bobbie Frazier, Robert Freeman (RFR), Duane Gage, John Gee (JGe), Fred Gehlbach, Brian Gibbons, Bill Graber (BGR), Jesse Grantham, Gene Grimes, Adele Harding, George Harmon, Pat Hartigan, **Carl Haynie** (North Central Texas: 737 Meadowcrest, Azle, TX 76020), Mitch Heindel, Joan & Scott Holt, Ron Huffman, Bill Hunt, Joe Ideker, Debbie & Nick Jackson, Corky & Joye Johnson, Tom Johnson, Barry Jones, Joann Karges, Greg Keiran, Richard Kinney, John Klicka (JKL), Ed Kutac, Steve Labuda, Greg Lasley, Bill Lawley, Mark Lockwood, Gwen Luikart (GLu), Judy Mason, Tom McCuller, Kathy & Mike McElveen (K&MM), Bob McKennon, Bonnie McKinney (BonM), Don & Ruthie Melton, Don & Joan Merritt (D&JM), Ellen Michaels (EMi), Ralph Moldenhauer (RMO), Kenneth Moore (KMo), Jim Morgan (JMo), Alan Mueller, Ernie & Kay Mueller, John Muldrow (JMu), Derek Muschalek, Kenneth Nanney, Jim O'Donnell (JOD), Andy O'Neil, Ken Ofill, Ollie Olsen, June Ornelas, Bruce Ostyn, Doug Ott, Nancy & Paul Palmer (N&PP), Dick Payne, Jim Peterson, Noel Pettingell (NPe), Randy Pinkston, Charles Potter, Allan Pritchard, Warren Pruess (WPr), Warren Pulich, Ross Rasmussen, Jim Renfro, Cecilia Riley, Teresa Risdon, Willie Sekula, Chuck Sexton, **Ken Seyffert** (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), Gerald Smith, Christopher Snook, John Sproul, Stanley Stewart, Rose Marie Stortz (RMS), David Stuart, Tom Taroni, Bev Taylor, Ray Telfair II (RTe), Robert Thacker, Mary Tryer, Jim Tucker, Allen Valentine, Sally Weeks (SWe), Allen Wemple, Bert Wessling, Steve West (StW), Egon & Sue Wiedenfeld, Frances Williams, David & Mimi Wolf, Joe Yelderman, Bob & Carol Yutzky, **Barry Zimmer** (Trans-Pecos: 6720 Heartstone Ct., El Paso, TX 79924), Yvonne Zimmer.—**GREG W. LASLEY, 1507 Alameda, Austin, TX 78704, and CHUCK SEXTON, 101 E. 54th Street, Austin, TX 78751.**



Chris Siddle

Summer was wetter than usual with very heavy rains in extreme northern British Columbia and the southern Yukon in July. I received reports covering Hershel Island, Kluane Lake, Whitehorse, and northeastern British Columbia. The support of Helmut Grünberg in Whitehorse and Magi Nams and Nick Folkard of the Arctic Institute of North America, Kluane Lake, is deeply appreciated.

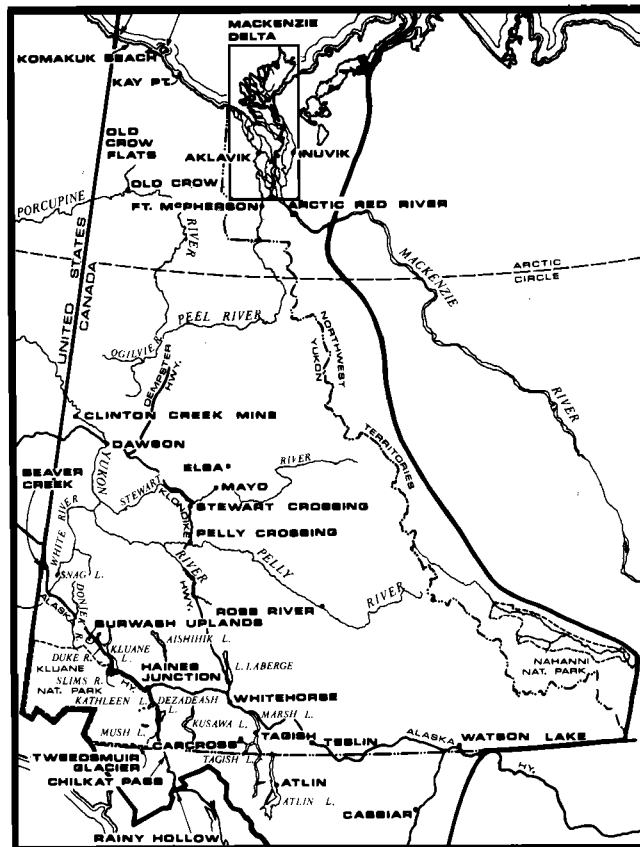
ABBREVIATIONS — F.N. = Fort Nelson, BC; F.S.J. = Fort St. John, BC; BC = British Columbia; NWT = Northwest Territories; YT = Yukon Territory.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL — A pair of Pacific Loons nested near Whitehorse this year. HG found an old nest (this year's) at a small lake June 11. A Pacific Loon was still present on the lake June 25. An adult-plumaged **Yellow-billed Loon** swam 10 ft from shore at Muncho Lake P.P. July 24 (GA). This is a very rare summer vagrant to boreal lakes. This species was seen in Nahanni N.P., in the extreme southwest of the NWT, during July 1975 (see Birds of Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories, Scotter et al., 1985) (CS). Fifteen ad. and 15 juv. Horned Grebes, an unusually high number, were on Swan L., 20 km south of Whitehorse, July 26 (HG). Eared Grebe colonies did well this summer in the Peace R. area. An estimated 1000 pairs nested on Cecil L. during June as did about 400 pairs at Boundary L. Even the N. Sewage Lagoons at F.S.J. had 9-10 pairs whose young had hatched by July 13 (CS).

Brant were seen on Hershel I. during the last week of July (AA, FM). For the 2nd June in a row six ad. Tundra Swans summered at Cecil L. One also appeared at the N. Sewage Lagoons June 26 (CS). A hybrid drake Mallard x Am. Black Duck was seen at the N. Sewage Lagoons, F.S.J., June 4 (AW, MB, FF, CS). Unusual was the sighting of a ♂ Green-winged Teal showing all of the field marks of either the *nimia* or the *crecca* subspecies at the N. Sewage Lagoons, F.S.J., June 4 (AW, MB, FF, CS et al.). Three Gadwalls appeared at Swan L., YT, June 25 for a first local record. One had a white crown from the eye up, suggesting possibly hybridizing with wigeon (?) (HG).

On Cecil L. 400 ♂ Canvasbacks were in one raft June 13 (CS). A high count of Redheads in the Yukon involved eight male and two female-plumaged birds at Swan L. south of Whitehorse June 25 (HG). A ♂ Greater Scaup was at Swan L., YT, July 26 (HG), and 15 were on Kluane L. July 4 (NF). A single ♂ Harlequin Duck was near mi 1054, Alaska Hwy, June 6 (NF). All three scoters were recorded at Hershel I. (AA, FM). Ruddy Ducks continued to be recorded in the s. Yukon, where they are scarce breeders. Two males and a female were on Swan L., YT, June 25 (HG).

RAPTORS, GROUSE — A N. Harrier was flushed from its nest at the edge of an upland aspen grove on the e. side of Charlie L. June 10. The nest contained 5 eggs and one recently hatched chick (DT, CS). Two other harrier nests were found near mi 1054, Alaska Hwy, during the summer. A large ad. ♀ Cooper's Hawk staged a dramatic flyby, coming within inches of a group of birders at Boundary L. June 19, as if to proclaim once and for all that Cooper's Hawks do occasionally occur as far north as 56° N (GA, MB, MT, CS). Northern Goshawks remained rare with an adult seen at St. John Cr. just north of F.S.J. June 20 (MB) and an immature at Boundary L. June 5 (CS). Four immatures and one adult were recorded within 25 km of mi 1054, Alaska Hwy. NF speculated that this species



did not breed in the Kluane area this year. Broad-winged Hawks quicken the pulses of most British Columbia listers. The latest spot where a person should look for the Broad-winged, a very rare summer resident in the Peace, is the young aspen forests north of Charlie Lake Golf Course, F.S.J. Two adults circled over these woods calling to each other July 27 (CS). There have been 2 other records of Broad-winged in the same area in the past 4 years.

A hyperaggressive Red-tailed Hawk flew out of the forest north of F.S.J. and attacked a truck that was being driven fast along a busy gravel road during the evening of June 27 TG, the perplexed driver, stopped. The hawk then flew directly at the back of the truck, clearing the cab by inches, and settled on a nearby snag to scream at the truck. TG could see no nest nearby. Two Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks were seen at Burwash Landing, YT, Aug. 6 (GA). Another Harlan's was at Swan L., YT, June 25 (HG). Rough-legged Hawks were found breeding in every drainage on Hershel I. (AA, FM). A Peregrine Falcon was at the summit of Chilkat Pass, Haines area, BC, July 1 (FM), and a Gyrfalcon was spotted near the summit of the Dempster Hwy July 20 (AA, FM).

A ♀ Spruce Grouse was spotted north of Boundary L. June 28 (MT). A female with three young was at Swan L., YT, June 25 (HG). Two broods of six to eight young Willow Ptarmigan were encountered at North Fork Pass, km 70-85, Dempster Hwy, July 31 (HG). Two White-tailed Ptarmigan were seen on Montana Mt. south of Carcross, YT, June 12 (HG).

SHOREBIRDS TO WOODPECKERS — The largest numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs came at the beginning of the "fall," mostly because a pond had just been lowered at the N. Sewage

Lagoons, F.S.J.; 240 were counted June 30 (CS). A territorial Upland Sandpiper was seen east of F.S.J. June 19, and the first fall migrant Uplands were recorded at F.S.J. July 17 (CS). Two **Whimbrels**, which have been recorded in the Peace R. area less than half a dozen times, were seen at the N. Sewage Lagoons June 24 (TG, MB). On June 26, 250 Semipalmated Sandpipers descended on the N. Sewage Lagoons, F.S.J. The first juvenile of the season was seen there July 17 (CS). By July 20 a flock of 30 Semipalmated Sandpipers at the lagoons contained 10 juveniles (CS). A late White-rumped Sandpiper was seen at the same lagoons June 15 (CS). Baird's Sandpipers were present in low numbers all period at the N. Sewage Lagoons. A typical sighting was of 34 on June 28 (T & AM). Two Baird's were also seen at Swan L., YT, June 25 (HG).

The first Stilt Sandpiper of the fall was a worn adult at the N. Sewage Lagoons, F.S.J., July 13 (CS). An ad. Short-billed Dowitcher at the N. Sewage Lagoons June 21 was probably southbound (CS). Sixty-six ad. Long-billed Dowitchers at the N. Sewage Lagoons constituted the first sizeable fall flock (CS). Wilson's Phalaropes are quite rare in the Yukon; therefore, the following sightings are of note. Six were seen June 4 at a pond between the Yukon R. and the Takhini Trailer Park (HG). Twelve males and a female were at Swan L., YT, June 25, and one bird was present there July 27 (HG).

Two Long-tailed Jaegers were at North Fork Pass, Dempster Hwy, July 31 (HG). Glaucous, Slaty-backed, and Ivory gulls were reported without details from Hershel I., YT (AA, FM). Four hundred ad. Franklin's Gulls appeared briefly around June 15 on Charlie L., but by the 27th only two birds, both immature, could be found there (CS). As usual a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls visited Charlie L. to summer. Numbered at 2100 on July 27, the first day that they were noticed, the flock consisted of about 60% adults and 40% juveniles (CS).

During a prolonged rain storm June 6, 4 species of terns rested at the s. end of Charlie L. There were four Forster's Terns (two adults and two first summers), one ad. Common Tern, and one ad. Arctic Tern as well as 50 Black Terns. All species were photographed (CS). While Commons and Arctics are uncommon migrants, Forster's are only casual to the Peace R. region. This was the first time that the species has been photographed in the area. The s. Yukon remains a good place to see Arctic Terns. One passed over Whitehorse June 5, and four were noted at Schwatka L. near Whitehorse July 23 (HG). A census showed that the Boundary L. colony of Black Terns numbered at least 90 adults June 5 (CS).

A pair of Mourning Doves, rare vagrants in the Peace region, took up residence along the Alaska Hwy between F.S.J. and Taylor July 31 (CS). HG reassures everyone that the Whitehorse Rock Dove population seemed to be recovering; it now numbers 30 birds. While southerners may scoff, we northerners appreciate ALL of our birds.

Snowy Owls were breeding on Hershel I.; about 20 birds were seen (AA, FM). There were several N. Hawk-Owl records. One was along the Osalinka R., at the n.w. end of Williston L., June 10-11 (TG); another was 20 km north of Haines Jct., YT, July 28 (GA). A 3rd hawk-owl was at Tombstone Campsite, North Fork Pass, Dempster Hwy, July 31 (HG). Very exciting news—3 hawk-owl nests were found within 30 km of mi 1054, Alaska Hwy (NF). Six or seven Boreal Owls were heard calling within 25 km of mi 1054 in early May (NF). Hummingbirds at a feeder in the Pine Pass west of Chetwynd July 1 were all Rufous Hummingbirds (CS). A Black-backed Woodpecker was at Swan L., YT, July 27 (HG). Another was reported from Kluane L. July 9 (FM).

FLYCATCHERS TO BLACKBIRDS — Eight Olive-sided Flycatchers formed an unusual concentration at Swan L., YT, July 27 (HG). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen again at Parker L. near F.N. this summer. MT saw one there June 24,

and GA saw a pair July 24. Very unusual was a territorial Dusky Flycatcher at Taylor, BC, June 12 & 21. The bird's song was compared in the field with recorded songs of all other *Empidonax* species (CS, PK).

A N. Rough-winged Swallow 35 km west of Charlie L. June 11 provided a 2nd record ever for the Peace R. area. Cliff Swallows were noted as common this summer with HG commenting on colonies "under every bridge." The first Blue Jay fledglings began to appear at an F.S.J. feeder July 6 (R-A D). A Brown Creeper seen May 9 and June 4 in old forest near km 1692, Alaska Hwy, was considered rare for that far north (NF).

Tennessee Warblers remained uncommon this summer in the Peace area. Only four adults were recorded during the reporting period. In the Yukon, where Tennessees are rare but regular, one was noted east of Rancheria, Alaska Hwy, June 20 (HG). Cape May Warblers were a little more common than usual. There were two males at Beaton P.P. June 3; one male at Taylor June 12 (PK); one male at Moberley P.P. near Chetwynd June 18 (MT); one pair at the F.N. Airport June 24 (MT); and 2 pairs at Keldo Cr., mi 335, Alaska Hwy, June 22 (MT). A Townsend's Warbler was seen east of Rancheria June 20 (HG). A ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler was recorded at One Island Lake P.P. south of Dawson Cr. June 21 (TG, MB). Two ♂ Bay-breasted Warblers were at Kledo Cr. June 22 (MT). A ♂ Connecticut Warbler stayed in a dry aspen forest near F.S.J. for only 2 days. The bird was first seen June 26 (MB, TG, CS). Mourning Warblers bred at Taylor as usual. A female was seen feeding a juv. cowbird July 21 (CS, MG).

An Am. Tree Sparrow was heard July 27 at Swan L., YT (HG), a regular spring and summer locale for this species. A Brewer's Sparrow was recorded at Sheep Cr. in Kluane N.P. June 26 (HG, MS). Sharp-tailed Sparrows did not appear at their only reliable spot in British Columbia, the s. half of Boundary L., until June 21 (GA). The maximum number recorded was three, all males, June 28 (MT). Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen on Montana Mt. south of Carcross, YT, June 12 (HG), and two were seen feeding young on Grey Mt. near Whitehorse July 24 (HG, EH, FH, HR). Lapland Longspurs left the Kluane Park region in the 2nd week of May, to reappear Aug. 20 (NF). For the 2nd summer in a row a W Meadowlark appeared at the F.N. Airport, this time on June 21 (MT). An unusual record was of a pair of Brewer's Blackbirds acting agitated as if near their nest in a large tract of muskeg near Goodlow, BC, June 19 (GA, MT, MB, TG, CS). All field marks were checked. This was the first time this Regional Editor ever saw Brewer's Blackbirds so comfortable in what is usually Rusty Blackbird habitat. A ♀ Brown-headed Cowbird was seen at km 1681, Alaska Hwy, July 19, rare so far north (NF).

CONTRIBUTORS — Anders Angebjorn, Gerry Ansell, Mike Bentley, Miép Burgerjon, Ruth-Ann Darnall, Finola Findlay, Nick Folkard, Martin Gebauer, Helmut Grünberg, Tony Greenfield, Erika Hesser, Florian Hesser, Peter Kennedy, Xaiver Lambir, Fritz Mueller, Tom & Allison Mickel, Magi Nams, Helmut Rathgen, Merna Singh, Mike Tootchin, Dennis Troudt, Al Wilson.—CHRIS SIDDLE, 9535 112th Ave., Fort St. John, BC V1J 2W1.



NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

June weather was erratic, at first cool and wet, then hot and dry, then with some rain near the end. July started cool, then turned hot and dry, with no rain after mid-month. Drought conditions reduced waterfowl nesting success in some places and probably were responsible for some nesting species seeking more northerly or higher localities. On the other hand low water benefited migrating shorebirds by exposing mud flats. An exception was at the Yakima River mouth, Richland, Washington, where water levels remained high.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.G. = Campground; Hq. = Headquarters. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES — A scattering of Com. Loons occurred in localities where they are not known to breed. Of special interest was a breeding-plumaged adult accompanied by an unidentified chick on the Columbia R. near White Bluffs north of Richland, WA, July 7 (WRR). The only positive breeding report was of a nest at Bull L. southeast of Fortine, MT (WW).

Pied-billed Grebes were absent for the first time in many years' observing at several lakes in the Fortine area, the drought supposedly the reason (WW). A pair of Red-necked Grebes with their nest and young were found on Indian L. southeast of Pilot Rock, OR, in July (DM, DPg). Nineteen Red-necked Grebes were counted on Upper Klamath L., OR, July 7 (RG, FI). Seven pairs of Eared Grebes were incubating on Royal Slough, Columbia N.W.R., Othello, WA, for the first documented nesting since 1963 (WRR). Western Grebes nested at Ochoco L., Crook, OR; four adults and 11 chicks were seen (CSt). Single Clark's Grebes were reported at Ninepipe N.W.R., Lake, MT (DT), and at Banks L., Coulee City, WA (EH).

Of the 1500 Am. White Pelican nests at Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR, 800 were abandoned after unknown persons trespassed on nesting islands. The other 700 nests fledged about 760 young (GI). Massacre Rocks S.P. on the Snake R. below American Falls Res. had 150 pelicans June 8 (DJo et al.). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT, had hundreds (many more than last year) of the species (JB). The sighting of up to 75 at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, WA, raised speculation that they were nesting on Columbia R. islands (MD, MLD). Twelve Am. White Pelicans on Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., in n. Idaho June 10-11 were noteworthy (ph. PF, RY) as were five at McArthur Lake W.M.A., south of Bonners Ferry, ID (LDN). A Double-crested Cormorant was observed on the Kootenai R. near Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, June 8 (LDN). Forty or more of the species were reported to have occurred on MacArthur L. (no dates given) (MB, *vide* LDN). A few appeared on the Snake R. near Bruneau and Hammett, ID, in June (DJo). Up to 28 were sighted at the Yakima R. mouth (REW et al.).

Two pairs of Great Blue Herons nested at Saddle Mountain N.W.R. west of Othello for the first breeding record there (WRR). A new heronry of the species brought the Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. total to 3. Great Egrets showed an increase in the Springfield Bottoms area around American Falls Res. in s.e. Idaho with a high of seven June 29 (CHT). One appeared at Cloverdale, Deschutes, OR, July 30 (LR) as did one at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, WA (JW). One was west of Burleigh, ID, and two were at Banbury Hot Springs north-northwest of Buhl, ID, along with a Black-crowned Night-Heron June 9 (DJo). The hot springs had nine Snowy Egrets the next day (DJo). Up to five Black-crowneds were sighted at Lewiston, ID, the first week of June (WH, JM). A Green-backed Heron was seen at Mosier, OR, July 30 (DL).



Over 1200 White-faced Ibises were counted July 1 along the mud flats at American Falls Res., and another 1000 were seen along the flats south of the Snake R. in that vicinity. Dropping water levels provided much feeding area (CHT). No sightings of the species have been obtained since May in c. Washington (RF).

WATERFOWL — It was another excellent year for Trumpeter Swans at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. and the Centennial Valley, MT. Up to 161 cygnets and 312 adults were counted there (JB). Four of five pairs of Trumpeters nesting at Malheur hatched 12 young, but only seven young were seen on an aerial count July 28. Canada Goose production at Kootenai N.W.R. was a little more than half of last year's due to increased nest predation (LDN). At Malheur the species' production was estimated at 1560 fledged. Although duck production there was close to the 10-year average, most surface-feeding species, particularly Mallards and Cinnamon Teal, showed large increases, but success for most diving ducks dropped markedly. Canvas-back production was only 273 compared to the 10-year average of 661. Wood Duck numbers at Columbia N.W.R. increased, with peaks of about 25, but as a whole duck numbers were down there (WRR). Only 3 of 9 Wood Duck nesting attempts on Rock Island Pool near Wenatchee, WA, were successful, compared to 8 last year (RF). Two records of Wood Ducks and one of a Hooded Merganser at Malheur were noteworthy. The latter had died of avian botulism (GI). A ♀ Wood Duck at Red Rock Lakes made a very rare appearance there (JB). The drought was believed to be the reason that Mallards reared 6 broods at 6400 ft elevation at Crystal L. in the Lewiston, MT, area (LM). A Blue-winged Teal at the Hood R. mouth, OR, June 4 was a rarity (DL). Fourteen broods of Com. Goldeneye were sighted in the Fortine vicinity, the most since 1978 (WW). A ♂ Hooded Merganser at Richland July 23 supplied Woodley's first summer record there.

HAWKS TO CRANES — At least 3 nesting pairs of Ospreys were found along the Salmon R. near Salmon, ID (HR), and one at the Yakima R. mouth June 23 and July 18 suggested breeding in that vicinity (REW). The species' numbers in n.c. Washington seem to be increasing (RF). Seventy-six young Ospreys were banded in the Coeur d' Alene L. and R. area (DJ). Of 3 Bald Eagle nests in the vicinity of Kootenai N.W.R., 2 were known to have fledged two young each (LDN). One nest in the Centennial Valley fledged one young (JB). A N. Goshawk nest in the Hayden L. area, ID, contained three young (JS). A phenomenal concentration of raptors near Rockland, ID, attracted by a vole population explosion, consisted mainly of Swainson's Hawks; up to 77 were counted July 28 (FR). Thirty Golden Eagle territories monitored each year on and adjacent to Malheur fledged 33 young, a record number, apparently in response to high jackrabbit populations (GI). Of 68 Golden Eagle nesting territories surveyed in Okanogan, WA, 32 were occupied, 16 of them producing 21 young, close to the long-term average (VM).

A Gray Partridge was found near White River Canyon, Wasco, OR. The species is rare and declining in this county (DL, VT). A Wild Turkey was sighted at Joseph Creek Wildlife Refuge Area south of Asotin, WA (C.B., B.H.A.S.), and a female was observed near Hines, OR (EC). In s.e. Oregon, where they are rare, two Gray Partridges were sighted at Cottonwood Cr. near Fields (AM), and one was seen south of Burns (GI).

Eleven Yellow Rails were counted in the Ft. Klamath, OR, area July 8 (TS). A Sora nest at Coeur d' Alene L. contained 13 eggs June 11 and seven young and 6 eggs June 24 (CS). Numerous Sandhill Cranes were noted in the Salmon area, where they still appear to be increasing (HR). Notable were two at Cascade Res., Valley, ID (RV), and two near Cape Horn, ID, in late June (JD, Djo, RV).

PLOVERS TO TERNS — Two pairs of Snowy Plovers at Springfield Bottoms by American Falls Res. were strongly suspected of nesting (BJ, CHT). A pair of Semipalmated Plovers appeared at Stinking L., Malheur, the same place where the species nested in 1987 (GI). One bird was at Haystack Res. south of Madras, OR, July 17 (TC), and two were at Summer L., OR, July 14 (MA).

Black-necked Stilts nested in large numbers at Columbia N W R. but had a poor production year (WRR). Bruneau Sand Dunes S.P. had seven June 14 (JD, Djo). Two appeared at Two Rivers S.P. near Pasco, WA, June 4 (MD), and the species appeared at Crooked Knee L. and Sheep L., n.w. Whitman, July 2 (DP, JP). Whether or not the 2 stilt nests at Reardan, WA, were successful was not determined. Up to 1288 Am. Avocets were counted at Springfield Bottoms in July (CHT). Large numbers nested at Columbia N.W.R. but with little success (WRR). Adult and chicken Am. Avocets were observed June 15 at Reardan for the first nesting record there (JA).

A Willet was reported near Leadore, ID, June 29 (HR). An ad. Upland Sandpiper accompanied by four chicks was observed in Round Valley south of Cascade, ID. The valley is threatened by a proposed dam that would flood nearly all the birds' habitat there (JMa). An in-depth study, under the direction of the Washington State Department of Wildlife at the species' nesting grounds along the Washington-Idaho border east of Spokane, found 2 territorial pairs plus a trio, which were believed to be nesting (LT). A scattering of shorebirds of many species was arriving from Canada in July. Three sightings of single Whimbrels were made in the vicinity of American Falls Res. in July (BJ, JTi). In Oregon one appeared at Hatfield L., Bend, July 13 (TC, CM), and another was at Upper Klamath L. July 7 (FI, RG). An unusual gathering of 30 Long-billed Curlews occurred June 24 near Lowden, WA (LG, BR). An unprecedented eight Marbled Godwits stopped at Hatfield L. June 25 for the 3rd record for *Deschutes*, OR (TC). Another was at Upper Klamath L. July 7 (FI, RG). Four were sighted at Unity Res. north of Unity, OR, June 28 (CC, MC), and six were at the

Yakima R. mouth July 11 (REW). Melheur L. had a total of 16 of the species July 19 (DPa). A Stilt Sandpiper essentially in breeding plumage was at Reardan on the unprecedented date of July 24—ordinarily, only juveniles occur there, and they arrive after Aug. 15 (JA). One was seen at Springfield Bottoms July 8 (CHT). A Short-billed Dowitcher appeared near Frenchtown, MT, July 23–24 (DH). A carefully examined **Red Phalarope** appeared at a pond north of Helena, MT, June 7–8 for the latilong's first and only the state's 6th (GO).

Up to 13 Franklin's Gulls were sighted in the Lewiston, ID-Clarkston, WA, vicinity in June (WHe, LL, PP, LP, CV). One in breeding plumage was sighted at Wallula June 25 (MD), and Abert L., Lake, OR, had two June 30 (MA). Virtually no Franklin's were present at Red Rock Lakes, in contrast with hundreds last year; the gull nesting colony was completely absent there this year (JB). Two Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at Clarkston June 7 (LL, LS) and one at Sheep L. July 2 (DP, JP). Two winter-plumaged birds were at Wallula June 25, and two appeared there July 17 (MD). One was present on Migraine L., Columbia N.W.R., during June and July (WRR), and two were at Wentathee L., Chelan, WA, July 12 (WD). "Hundreds" of Caspian Terns were reported at Wallula July 17 for one of many reports (MD). Two flying over Yakima, WA, June 7 were very unusual (BB, DG). A few appeared in the Lewiston-Clarkston area (m.ob.) as did a Forster's Tern (LL, LS). Over 40 pairs of Black Terns were reported at Goose L. southeast of Omak, WA (LPo, VM). They may constitute the largest nesting concentration in n.c. Washington (RF).

CUCKOOS TO HUMMINGBIRDS — A Singing Black-billed Cuckoo was observed at length at Davis L., Pend Oreille, WA, June 19 (JA, WH). Two of these birds were found at L. Helena July 9 for the 2nd report in the Helena area in 20 years (Sma). At least four Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found along the Snake R. above American Falls Res. June 12 (CHT), and one was reported in Rexburg, ID (*vide* CHT). One became a window casualty 7 mi east of Stevensville, MT, June 7 (JC, *U.M.).

A Flamulated Owl was sighted in Bear Valley south of John Day, OR, June 19 (SM), and one, on Idaho's rare bird list, was sighted at Coeur d' Alene July 5 (GH). An ad. and an imm. Spotted Owl were found in the Easton, WA, area July 21 (DP, JP). Two Barred Owls were heard and one seen at Big Meadow L. west of Ione, WA, June 4 (DP, JP), and two were found along Upper Priest R. in n. Idaho July 16 (SHS). The species appears to be on the increase in this area. A nest of this species with two young was found south of Coeur d' Alene (ph. CS), and a pair with a fledgling was sighted July 24 along the Little Pend Oreille R., Pend Oreille, WA (BW). Great Gray Owls were located near Lolo Pass on the Idaho-Montana border, and four Boreal Owls fledged there (DH). An imm. N. Saw-whet Owl was reported at Malheur Hq. June 25 (CDL).

A Com. Poorwill, rare in Jefferson, OR, was found near Camp Sherman north of Sisters July 26 (LR). Also unusual was one at Carmen Cr. north of Salmon, ID, July 22 (HR). The Snake R. from Asotin, WA, up to Buffalo Rapids yielded 50 Vaux's Swifts June 5 (LL, CV, B.H.A.S.). A ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird at Calamity Butte Lookout north-northeast of Burns, OR, July 17 made the first record there (MA), and up to two frequented a Dayville, OR, feeder in June and July (PS). Territorial ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were again located at Quake L., Madison (or Gallatin?), MT (EHa). Probable Broad-tailed, a male and two females, frequented feeders all summer at Hayden L., ID (PH). Rufous Hummingbirds were observed during the entire period in Othello and at Columbia N.W.R., leading to suspicion of breeding (WRR).

WOODPECKERS TO PIPITS — Sightings of Lewis' Woodpeckers in Chelan, Okanogan, and Yakima, WA, were encouraging. At least 15 active nests were found at Ft. Simcoe

(BB). Two birds thought to be ad. ♂ Yellow-bellied x Red-naped Sapsuckers were carefully identified at Fields Spring S.P., Asotin, WA, July 5 (BW). Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported in the mountains of Chelan and Okanogan. White-headed Woodpeckers appear to be decreasing in the e. Cascade Mts., WA, as a result of more logging of old-growth ponderosa pines (AS, BB). A pair was feeding nestlings at Fields Spring S.P. (m.ob.).

A Least Flycatcher was reported at Malheur Hq. June 4 (PPI). Two singing males were found 10 mi west of Oroville, WA, June 4-6 (WWe) and one at Patterson L. west of Winthrop, WA (DHu). Two pairs of Ash-throated Flycatchers nested in blue-bird boxes in the Wenas Valley northwest of Yakima for that area's first breeding record. Both nests apparently fledged three young (ED, HV, VV). Another pair was at a nest box along Umtanum Rd. south of Ellensburg, WA (DP, JP, DG, AS). One was observed at Malheur Hq. June 11 (RH). Four pairs of Tree Swallows at Fortine raised 2nd broods, the first time, with one exception, that this has happened there since 1944 (WW). About 500 pairs of Bank Swallows fledged young at Saddle Mountain N.W.R. Unusual was a concentration of 200+ Cliff Swallows north of Lowden, WA, nowhere near a nesting site July 3 (SM).

Two Scrub Jays were sighted at Tygh Valley, Wasco, WA, where they are rare (DL, VT). Two Boreal Chickadees visited a feeder at Hayden L., Kootenai, ID, July 24 & 26 (PH). Chestnut-backed Chickadees have been reported in the Coeur d'Alene area in summer for the last 3 years (fide SHS). Some 15 Rock Wrens were entering holes in soft-cut banks northwest of Lowden in an area of wheat fields with no sign of rocky outcroppings (SM). Canyon Wrens were observed at Perma, MT, in late June (RL, DT). A Bewick's Wren appeared at P-Ranch, Malheur, June 27 (CDL), and one was singing at Rose Creek Preserve near Albion, WA (DP, JP). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen near Page Springs C.G., Frenchglen, OR, June 3 (PS). A pair of W. Bluebirds was presumably nesting near Calamity Butte Lookout (MA). A Varied Thrush was reported at Fields, OR, June 8, and a Gray Catbird was sighted at Malheur Hq. the same day (DB, JG). One of the latter species was found along the Yakima R. at Richland July 23 for Woodley's 2nd sighting there in 17 years. One appeared near Dayville, OR, June 1 (PS). A N. Mockingbird was observed near Mansfield, OR, June 2 (RF), and another appeared northeast of Wallowa, OR, June 21 (TS). One was sighted in the Cusick, WA, vicinity June 5 (DP, JP). Malheur Hq. had a Brown Thrasher June 7 (DB, JG). A carefully described **Sprague's Pipit** along Double-O Ranch Rd. at Malheur June 4 was apparently Oregon's first (GL, BRo, TS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Malheur had 2 Red-eyed Vireo sightings in June (fide GI, NB). Two were found at 5600 ft elevation in the Snowy Mts. south of Lewiston June 4 (LKM). A Tennessee Warbler was heard singing at Fields (fide GI). At least seven N. Parulas were found in e. Oregon, all but one in Harney (TC et al.). One was identified west of Lolo, MT (AB, DH). Indian Ford C.G. near Sisters, OR, had a Chestnut-sided Warbler June 17 for the county's first record (BL, LLu), and one was at Benson Pond, Malheur, June 10 (AM). Malheur Hq. had a Magnolia Warbler June 7 (DB, JG) and a pair of Townsend's Warblers June 2 (PS).

Two singing Black-throated Gray Warblers were sighted near Mission Ridge west of Wenatchee June 16 (JT). Hermit Warblers were found nesting on Simnasho Butte, Wasco, OR (DL), and one was singing on Bald Mt. southwest of Cliffdell, WA, June 1 (WC). Fields reported a Blackburnian Warbler June 7 (RS). A Blackpoll Warbler was noted at Malheur Hq. June 7 (DB, JG) and a Black-and-white Warbler at Andrews, OR, June 4 (DB, JG). A singing male of the latter species was viewed near Cusick, WA, June 25 (DG, AS), and one was at Fields Spring S.P. June 5 (KB, RSm). Single Am. Redstarts appeared at Malheur, Fields, and Hart L., Lake, OR. An Ovenbird was observed at Fields

(JG), and two were singing at Benson Pond June 5 (PPI). Palouse Falls S.P., Franklin, WA, had one June 11 (WH). Two N. Waterthrushes were sighted at Crescent Creek C.G., Klamath, OR (AC).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES — A singing Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Vantage, WA, June 24 (PM). One was observed at Malheur Hq. June 4 (PPI et al.), and the ♂ Indigo Bunting there in the spring was last seen June 3 (GI). A Clay-colored Sparrow was singing near State Line, ID, June 18 (JA). A Black-throated Sparrow was singing on the escarpment above Greaser Res. in Warner Valley, Lake, OR, July 1 (MA). Two to three of the species, one singing, were again found near Wanapum S.P., Vantage, WA (JA, DP, JP, m.ob.), and a singing male was located in the Horse Lake Rd. area west of Wenatchee June 11 (JT). Lark Buntings were singing on territory at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JB). They also appeared at Sheridan, MT, and along Skalkaho Rd., Granite, MT (DS), west of their normal range. The species was increasing in the desert around Arco, ID (TR); and a flock of 10-15 appeared to be nesting in the Lemhi River Valley in s.e. Idaho (HR). A major movement of Lark Buntings occurred in the Helena area, where they remained well into July (GHo). At least six to eight Grasshopper Sparrows were singing on territory at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JB). Three Bobolinks at Mt. Vernon, OR, in mid-July made a rare sighting (PS), and one at Baker, ID, June 14 was noteworthy (HR). The colony of Bobolinks southwest of Toppenish, WA, appeared to be doing well with 15-20 displaying males seen (BB). Several Com. Grackles were seen in their nesting area at Soda Springs, ID (CHT). Possible Purple Finches were reported in the Hayden L. and Thompson L. vicinities and on Joseph Plain west of Whitebird, ID. The Cusick area provided sightings in several fields (DP, JP). Several **Lesser Goldfinches** were sighted at Pocatello (CHT et al.), and a family group with five begging young was along Mink Cr. north of Cherry Springs, ID, for apparently the state's first breeding record (CW, DS, CHT).

CORRIGENDUM — Of the Boreal Owls reported in AB 42 107, only eight were found in Oregon; the other nine were in Columbia, WA.

OBSERVERS CITED (Subregional Editors in boldface) — James Acton, Merle Archie, D. Bailey, Janissa Balcomb, Black Hills Audubon Society (B.H.A.S.), N. Bock-Larson, **Bob Boekelheide** (Yakima area), Arnold Bolle, Keith Brady, Mel Branch, Wilson Cady, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Jean Collins, Alan Contreras, Craig & Marion Corder, **Tom Crabtree** (e. Oregon), E. Curry, Merry Lynn & Mike Denny, Ed Derry, Wayne Doane, Jo Dodds, Pat Flammia, **Ron Friesz** (c. Washington), Jeff Gilligan, Rebecca Goggins, Larry Goodhew, Denny Granstrand, Warren Hall (WH), Gertie Hanson (GH), Ed Harper (EHa), R. Hayes, Winnie Hepburn (WHe), Denver Holt (DH), **George Holton** (GHo) (Helena area), Peg Hughes, Eugene Hunn (EH), Dave Hutchinson (DHu), Frank Isaacs, Gary Ivey, Bryan Jamison, Don Johnson (DJ), **Dean Jones** (DJo) (s.w. Idaho), **Merlene Koliner** (Lewiston-Clarkston area), Louise La Voie (LL), Rose Leach, Gerard Lillie, C.D. Littlefield, Bob & Louise Lucas (LLu), Donna Luthoff, Larry Malone, Jeff Marks (JMa), Verne Marr, Sid Martin (SMa), Joanne McCormack (JM), Phil Mattocks, A. McGie, Craig Miller, Dirk & **Shirley Muse** (SM) (Walla Walla area), Larry D Napier, George Oberst, Doug Page (DPg), Deanna (DP) & Jeff Palmer, D. Paullin (DPa), P. Pickering (PPI), Linda Poole (LPo), Lou Potter (LP), Peggy Pedigo (PP), William R. Radke, Bob Ramsey (BR), Lou Rems, Frank Renn, Tim Reynolds, Hadley Roberts, Bob Rodgers (Bro), Charles Schwartz (CS), R. Smith (RS), Ron Smithrud (RSm), Jim Spohn, Christy Steck (CSt), Dan Stephens, Andy Stepniewski, Don Stoecher, Tom Stoudt, **Shirley H. Sturts** (n. Idaho), Luke Su, Paul Sullivan, Jerry Tangren (JT), Verda Teale, Larry Thiemann, Joel Tinsley (JT), **C.H. Trost** (s.e. Idaho), Dave Truchel, University of Montana (U.M.), Carole Vande Voorde, Rick Veach, Harold & Virginia Vredenburg, Cheryl Webb, Wayne Weber (WWe), Winton Weydemeyer (WW), Bart Whelton, Jeff Wisman, **Robert E. Woodley** (Pasco-Richland area), **Philip L. Wright** (n.w. Montana), Roger Young. — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

Hugh E. Kingery

Smokey haze, mainly from fires in Yellowstone National Park, filled the skies of Wyoming and Colorado during preparation of this report. Those Yellowstone fires are the most important, lasting event of the 1988 summer and fall. By September 15 the fires had roared over 40% of the park's area—883,000 acres (1380 square miles; Rhode Island has 1058 square miles). Yellowstone naturalist Joe Zarki said that the fires consumed only about half of the vegetation within the burn areas; the fires leave a mosaic pattern of burned and unburned trees.

In the arid West, unlike in wetter, warmer climates, fire is the primary agent to recycle nutrients. "Dead litter covering the forest floor does not decay or rot, it simply piles up until released by wildfire" (George Wuerthner, in *High Country News*). For the next decade Zarki expects lots of woodpeckers and other hole-nesting birds and increases in birds of meadows and open areas.

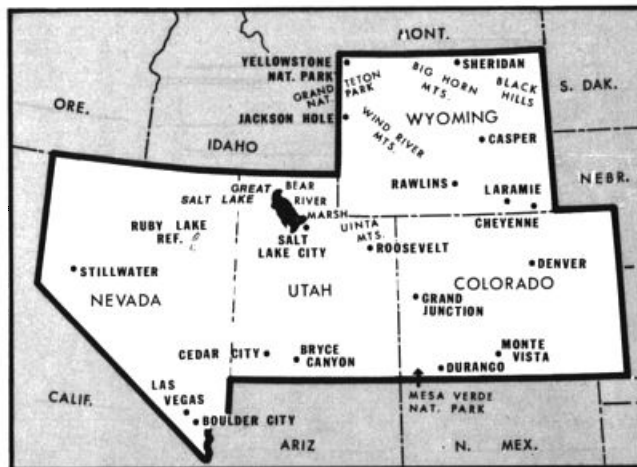
The Mountain West shared the drought with the rest of the nation, with hot and dry weather throughout (the extreme was in Las Vegas—100-degree temperatures daily from June 19 on). It dried wetlands at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada; caused the level of Great Salt Lake to plummet and leave high and dry the nesting sites for avocets, terns, and ducks; and reduced the insect population at places like Jackson, Wyoming, with a concomitant reduction in insect-eating birds like flycatchers, swallows, nighthawks, and kestrels.

Despite these adverse conditions, Colorado (which did not suffer as severely from the drought) recorded 3 new nesting species (Little Blue Heron, Least and Great Crested flycatchers) and almost-records of 2 more, Barrow's Goldeneye and White-winged Crossbill.

BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS — The most common birds on 5 Fish and Wildlife Service surveys (B.B.S.) in eastern Colorado were Horned Lark (1208), Lark Bunting (1075), Western Meadowlark (919), Mourning Dove (464), Red-winged Blackbird (364), and Grasshopper Sparrow (312). Their numbers were within 10% of the 1987 surveys, indicating steady populations, at least for 2 years. At Sheridan, Wyoming, 10 years of records on 4 B.B.S. and 2 riparian routes showed steady populations for robins, Yellow Warblers, and Vesper Sparrows, a drop for Common Yellowthroat, and increases in Western Meadowlarks and Rufous-sided Towhees.

ABBREVIATIONS — L/L/B/L = Longmont, Lyons, Berthoud, Loveland area, CO; R.M.N.P. = Rocky Mountain National Park; 1st Lat = first latilong record (a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, and measures about 50 by 70 miles); + = written description submitted to Reg. Ed.; ++ = written description submitted to state or local records committee. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES — Yellowstone had 11 and Teton, WY, had 6 breeding pairs of Com. Loons. A surprising 16 loons popped up from Denver and Sterling, CO, to Las Vegas and even to s. Utah at Santa Clara and Minersville. A Red-necked Grebe stopped at Two Ocean L., Grand Teton N.P., July 19 (+SF). Nesting Eared Grebes at Casper doubled, with 500–1000 in July. A few Clark's Grebes summered in Yellowstone, and they bred at Ft. Collins, CO. The 125 nests of Double-crested Cormorants at Casper, WY, and 46 nests at Sheridan, WY, equaled last year's counts. The D.F.O. count of 550 cormorants



at Chatfield Res. near Denver July 16 implied good success there. Anaho Island N.W.R. had one positive count from Nevada: 488 Double-crested Cormorant nests. An **Olivaceous Cormorant** visited Lamar, CO, from July 17 into August (+M] *et al.*). Utah recorded its 2nd **Tricolored Heron** at Salem June 15–16 (++)HC, ++MW). Seven pairs of Cattle Egrets nested in the San Luis Valley, CO. Green-backed Herons wandered, with Yellowstone's first July 6 (++)DD) and late July records near Capitol Reef N.P. (PW) and Beaver Dam Wash (CK), both in s. Utah. At Grand Junction, CO, an immature was seen Aug. 8 in the same place as an adult seen June 28 (CD, RL).

American White Pelicans at Anaho I. (where 6000 young fledged last year) had a terrible year: only 100 pairs attempted to nest, and they produced only 20 young (TB). At the Lahontan Valley refuges near Fallon, NV (Stillwater N.W.R., Walker L., and Carson L.), herons and cormorants suffered similar disasters (TB). Fish Springs N.W.R., UT, also had poor production. Biologists found many young herons, egrets, and ibises dead in their nests and attributed the losses to 10 July days of 100-degree temperatures (CDa). See Tables 1 & 2.

In the San Luis Valley, CO, nest counts of 4 colonies totaled 75 Snowy Egrets (30% of 1986–1987), 65 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 225 White-faced Ibises (up from 115 and 150 in 1986 and 1987, respectively, RR). The colonies suffered heavy

Table 1. Nesting Pairs—Lahontan Valley, NV

Species	Number of Nesting Pairs		
	1988	1987	1986
Species with Decreases			
Eared Grebe	50	60	250
American White Pelican	0	0	350
Double-crested Cormorant	0	450	125
Great Blue Heron	10	560	640
Great Egret	80	485	214
Snowy Egret	225	330	313
Black-crowned Night Heron	770	1805	745
California Gull	0	2700	1200
Caspian Tern	0	110	475
Total	1135	6500	4312
Species with Increases			
Cattle Egret	215	10	0
White-faced Ibis	3430	4250	2100

TABLE 2. Nesting Pairs—Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, UT

Species	Number of Nesting Pairs		
	1988	1987	1986
American Bittern	50	—	—
Great Blue Heron	10	—	—
Snowy Egret	200	300	430
Black-crowned Night-Heron	10	100	250
White-faced Ibis	100	350	300
Total	370	650	980

predation, from ravens, magpies, Great Horned Owls, and raccoons. **Little Blue Herons** nested definitely for the first time in Colorado: of 2 nests at Monte Vista N.W.R. one had four dead young and one egg on July 5, and the outcome of the other was unknown (RR, RS).

WATERFOWL TO HAWKS — Fish Springs saw waterfowl production drop 20%–50% for most species; its peak counts were of 450 Cinnamon Teal, 350 pintails, and 260 Mallards. In n.w. Wyoming, non–Yellowstone Trumpeter Swans had 27 cygnets compared with six last year. A tardy Surf Scoter was at Pueblo, CO, June 5 (+DS, VT). Yellowstone observers reported a gross total of 1125 Barrow's Goldeneyes. Two tantalizing reports of Barrow's Goldeneyes came from n.w. Colorado, where in this century no one has found them nesting. A male was on the Green R. in Dinosaur Nat'l Monument (an unlikely nesting location) on June 23 (CD). Two females loafed, fed, and prospected for nest holes June 27–28 in the Flat Tops Wilderness; an Aug. 3 return trip found no ducklings, only a female in molt (HEK). Colorado has no records of nesting Buffleheads, but D.F.O. found five individuals near Walden July 2–3.

Of the 65 Osprey nests in Yellowstone, fires destroyed at least 3. In n.e. Wyoming 5 nests were reported and Flaming Gorge Nat'l Refuge Area, UT, boasted 22 nesting pairs. Yellowstone had 13 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles for its highest count in recent years, but with unknown success. Of 42 Ferruginous Hawk nesting territories in the Cisco Desert near Moab, UT, 11 nests produced 25 young (14 nests, 31 young last year—NB).

RAILS TO TERNS — Yellowstone reported a probable Com. Moorhen July 19—the description seemed to be that of a juvenile (++)MC). If accepted by the Park records committee, it will become Wyoming's 2nd record.

Migrants: Many observers had the impression of an early and heavy return migration by shorebirds. Numbers and dates for the last 3 B.B.S. years support half the theory: they arrived early but not in greater numbers. Sixteen species had arrived in Wyoming and Colorado by July 31, only 3 of which were not reported in both 1986 and 1987 (Sanderling, Stilt Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher). The numbers seemed typical for most species, but the first arrival dates were 1–2 weeks earlier than usual. Representative dates and numbers included a total of 77 Greater Yellowlegs, the first at Yellowstone June 19 and Pueblo, CO, June 26; 326 Lesser Yellowlegs, including the highest count ever recorded at Sheridan, 111 on July 12; 110 Least Sandpipers at Lamar, CO, July 8; and a total of 68 Stilt Sandpipers, the first four at Lamar July 8. Three flocks of Short-billed Dowitchers (probably all *hendersoni*) stopped in the Region July 16–24: 25 at Myton, UT (++)E & RS), three at Yellowstone (+JZ, TM), and three near Gunnison, CO (++)CD, ph.). At Great Salt L. 100,000–150,000 Red-necked Phalaropes had arrived by July 29—forerunners of the million expected in August (DP, *fide* MHa).

Breeders. Utah and Nevada conducted Snowy Plover surveys June 24–29, apparently before young had fledged. See table for results. At least one pair nested at Sugar City, CO, where four were counted June 26.

Snowy Plover Survey			
Location	Number		
	Adults	Young	
Stillwater Ref. & Carson Sink, NV	303	19	Down 50% from 1980
Washoe & Humboldt Counties, NV	46	8	
Fish Springs N.W.R., UT	13		
Great Salt Lake, UT	444	19	+7 nests
Logan, UT	17	3	
Central Utah	13	4	
Total	836	53	

Neither Black-necked Stilts nor Am. Avocets fledged any young at Stillwater Ref., but they had good productivity at Great Salt L. and Fish Springs (500 counted July 28). Stilts doubled their production at Casper, and avocets there numbered 324 on June 23, a large increase. Fourteen nests at Rawhide Power Plant near Wellington, CO, produced seven young June 9, but due to predation probably none fledged. Casper had its 1st Lat breeding record for Willet, with two downy young found July 15.

A jaeger (sp.) visited Antero Res. near Hartsel, CO, July 12–22 (JG). A B.B.S count of 71 Franklin's Gulls near Hudson, CO, seemed surprising for June 12 (WH). Single Bonaparte's Gulls made unusual summer appearances at Grand Junction, CO, July 13–14 (CD) and Casper July 31 (J & VH). Janos located a 3rd Colorado nesting colony of California Gulls, near Las Animas; on July 8 it had 140 adults and 44 juveniles, and he counted 100 juveniles July 30. Anaho I. refuge hosted 1700 California Gull nests, double last year's count. Receding waters of the Great Salt L. defeated nesting Forster's and Black terns, and none have bred at Stillwater since 1986. Other Regional nesting sites reported normal numbers. Observers found one to four Least Terns at their nest site near Las Animas, CO (omitted from the survey described in AB 42:195); Colorado this year added it and the Snowy Plover to the state Endangered Species List.

CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS — Rare Yellow-billed Cuckoos stopped July 9 in Lahontan Valley (++)LN) and June 10 in Desolation Canyon north of Green R., UT (CD). Sorensen says cuckoos "continue to frustrate (Utah) birders. . . . Since 1985, eight specimens have been found, two killed by flying into plate glass and six (two each year) recovered among prey remains of the Peregrine Falcons on a downtown Salt Lake City hotel. A U.D.W.R.-sponsored cuckoo survey found no cuckoos, and the only live confirmed report from the Salt Lake area was one in 1987." A screech-owl found dead at Yellowstone matched the description of an Eastern—a range extension if accurate (+JZ, *Yellowstone Nat'l Park Museum). Burrowing Owls have declined fairly drastically from Ft. Collins to Denver. Owls have disappeared even from 2 Denver-area state parks, perhaps because of prairie dog population- or disease-control efforts. Elsewhere they have declined in Morgan and Weld prairies, but small groups subsist in less populated ranch areas

in e Colorado, Wyoming, and Nevada. Long-eared Owl nests and young at Eagle, Walden, and Towaoc, CO, all established 1st Lat breeding records. Nine locations reported Short-eared Owls as definitely or possibly nesting, a substantial increase over the last 2 years. An ad. Boreal Owl found June 15 and an adult and immature in the same tree at Centennial Aug. 1 hinted at breeding, but Wyoming has no confirmed breeding record (BH, V & JH). Of 90 boxes put out for Am. Kestrels near Dinosaur Nat'l Monument, N. Saw-whet Owls occupied 2 (BP, 1st Lat).

Several feeder watchers complained about a scarcity of hummingbirds in Colorado, but the sum of Regional reports indicated that these were temporary or local problems; most observers reported normal or above-normal numbers. The only controlled count, at Indian Peaks west of Boulder, tallied 2.52/hour, up from 1.7/hour in 1982; the increase occurred despite fewer reports from feeders. Calliopes seemed extra common: a Sheridan ranch had 50/day in June, and from June 18 on they spread E to Sundance and Casper, WY, and S to Salem and Salt Lake City, UT, and to 7 Colorado locations. Rufous Hummingbirds arrived a week late—July 1 in Dubois, WY, and July 3 in Rocky Mountain N.P.—and even engaged in courting behavior July 15–17 near Grand Junction (CD). Red-headed Woodpeckers ventured W to Eagle, CO, June 17–18, for the 2nd record there (JM), and to Florence, CO, July 15–18 (NP).

FLYCATCHERS TO THRASHERS — Colorado's first **Least Flycatcher** nest found near Lyons, CO, July 5 after 8 hours of study (BP) fledged young July 17; a 2nd pair 40 ft away had two fledged young (DM et al.). Leasts sang at Ovid and Crook, CO, July 26–27 (WH). A Black Phoebe strayed N to Bonny Res. June 12 (PG, 1st Lat), and on June 27 an E. Phoebe sang from an elm branch in Thermopolis, WY (+SF, 1st Lat). Vermilion Flycatchers bred at Las Vegas for the first time in 15 years, and fledged two young (VM). Two young **Great Crested Flycatchers** called constantly to parents as they foraged in a willow-cottonwood mott at Prewitt Res. near Sterling, providing the first Colorado breeding record (G & JH, ++JR). Within 45 mi of Prewitt they also occurred June 8–11 at 3 other sites along the South Platte R. (WH). The nesting Ash-throated Flycatchers in Eagle provided a 1st Lat breeding. The 1st Lat Cassin's Kingbird at Creede, CO, had strayed to 10,000 ft July 21 (CD). Sheridan reported high numbers of kingbirds July 10; along a 45-mi route, 165 Westerns and 76 Easterns (MC, HD). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continued their spring wandering, with one to Denver June 11 (DH, DN ph.) and two July 1–15 to Casper but with no evidence of nesting (AW, +V & JH).

Purple Martins nested again on the Uncompahgre Plateau southwest of Grand Junction (RL). Observers reported large colonies of Bank Swallows, 150–800 at 5 sites in Wyoming and Colorado. Rawhide power plant had 300 pairs of Banks and 400–500 pairs of Cliffs. A pair of Barns nested at 10,200 ft on Cameron Pass west of Ft. Collins and at a similar elevation in R.M.N.P. (RR). Nesting Am. Crows, rare in n. Utah, had six young in a nest in Tooele June 4 (CK, 1st Lat). Nesting White-breasted Nuthatches, rare in n.e. Colorado, had three fledglings at Ovid June 8 (WH, 1st Lat). A **Sedge Wren** sang on territory at Arapaho N.W.R., Walden, CO, June 15–July 11, and even carried a blade of grass as if to a nest, but observers saw no mate (+WH). Colorado has no nesting records. Kinglets increased on the Indian Peaks count June 11: .17/hour for Golden-crowned and 2.66/hour for Ruby-crowned (319 total); previous highs were .11 and 1.44, respectively. The dry weather may have induced earlier breeding, i.e., earlier singing. Ruby-crowneds were the 2nd most abundant breeder (after robin) in 4 Atlas blocks in R.M.N.P. (RR). A Wood Thrush somehow showed up at Barr L. near Denver July 4 (JK, BC). Two N. Mockingbirds spent June 6–July 7 at Fish Springs but did not satisfy us with a nesting record (CDA). A Brown Thrasher stayed in Salt Lake City June 19–21 (SL, BH, CK).

WARBLERS TO BUNTINGS — A Blue-winged Warbler stopped at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland May 19 (+JP). A Golden-winged Warbler remained at Denver's Chatfield Park June 23–26 (DH, DM et al.). Other June migrants included a Nashville June 1 at Lindon, CO; a N. Parula at Ft. Morgan, CO, June 5, a Magnolia at Fontanelle, WY, June 4 (FL; seen 3 of the last 4 springs); and a Blackburnian at Lindon June 1 (H & UK). Las Vegas had 2 early July migrants: a N. Parula July 16 (J & MCr) and a Black-and-white July 14 (MCR). An Ovenbird was banded at Ogden, UT, July 29 (+JN, ph.).

A Chestnut-sided Warbler stayed in Grand Teton N.P. June 16–July 21 (BRI, JK), apparently a repeat from last year. A singing Hooded Warbler performed for many observers at Boulder, CO, June 19–July 12 (TC, DN, DM). The Indian Peaks count tallied 303 Wilson's Warblers, 2.52/hour (1.96 is the average) Yellow-breasted Chat counts doubled on D.F.O. field trips; a July 16 trip to Chatfield produced 35. Chatfield also had a Summer Tanager July 12 (MZ).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak sang at Ovid, CO, May 29–June 8 (WH). MK banded more Black-headed Grosbeaks at Ogden this year—48 adults and 60 young during the season, up from 31 adults and 38 young last year—but fewer Lazuli Buntings—15 adults and 39 young (41 and 30 in 1987). Indigo Buntings made a comeback, with birds seen at Salt Lake City, Sundance, Grand Junction, Colorado City, and L/L/B/L.

DICKCISSEL TO FINCHES — On the e. Colorado plains Dickcissels and Cassin's Sparrows seemed unusually common. Dickcissels sang "from virtually every weedy field from Crook to Julesburg" (30 mi; WH), and reports came from throughout n.e. Colorado, along with nesting confirmation at Rye, in the foothills (DS, 1st Lat). Six n.e. Colorado B.B.S. routes recorded only four but probably occurred too early in June for Dickcissels. Those B.B.S. routes tallied 125 Cassin's Sparrows in n.e. Colorado (where they cycle up and down), and in s.e. Colorado the Campo route counted 110.

Above timberline in the Flat Tops, Brewer's Sparrows sang from dry willow brush in June, and in August young birds chased their parents; ordinarily Brewer's favor lower elevation sagebrush (HEK). A Field Sparrow sang June 3 & 5 at Crook, CO (WH). Lark Buntings cycled way up this year all over e. Colorado and Wyoming. They nested for the first time in Yellowstone (JZ) and visited Grand Teton N.P. and Layton, UT. Counts included 960 along a 45-mi route at Sheridan July 10, 1000 flocking on roads near Bennett, CO, July 21; and 1075 on 5 n.e. Colorado B.B.S. routes. Observers see more and more breeding Fox Sparrows in Colorado; whether that represents a real increase or better observation is problematical. The Indian Peaks, however, has seen a steady increase from .04/hr in 1982 to .22/hr in 1988. A B.B.S. at Anton, CO, found two singing Chestnut-collared Longspurs June 9 for a 1st Lat (JR). At Lindon a Red-winged Blackbird built her nest in tumbleweeds piled up against a fence crossing a draw; a month later tumbleweeds, nest, and blackbird were gone.

A Weld, CO, B.B.S. turned up an **Eastern Meadowlark**, identified by song and by plumage; a Questar inspection indicated that it had less white in the tail than the southwestern subspecies (+WH et 75 al. June 12–July 6). Another meadowlark at Crook June 6 sang the typical Eastern song for 5–10 minutes, but a W. Meadowlark drove it away and it did not return (WH). At Sheridan, W. Meadowlarks continued to increase after a drastic decline in the early 1970s; 5 B.B.S. routes counted 1182 against a 10-year average of 656. Yellow-headed Blackbirds increased in the Eagle–Glenwood Springs area, from 14 pairs at 3 sites last year to 58 this year. At the same site as last year's first Sheridan-area nest, ad. Orchard Orioles carried food to an unseen nest site; Gillette, WY, had its first nesting record this year (MA, 1st Lat). Only a few small flocks of Red Crossbills plied the Region, although they did wander to Ft. Collins, Sleeping Ute Mt. near Towaoc, and Salt Lake City. Two pairs of White-winged Crossbills near Cameron Pass, CO, had young with them too independent to qualify for Colorado's

first breeding record (JCo). Near Steamboat Springs 35-70 White-winged flocks together June 13 (+BRi), and one was reported near Evergreen July 10. Lesser Goldfinches increased in n. Utah; one visited Salt Lake City June 7-15 (P & TS), and 20 breeding pairs were in Desolation Canyon June 9-10 (CD, 1st Lat).

EXOTICS (Chapter 3) — [In Chapter 2 [previous issue] the Red-backed Buzzard of Gunnison, CO, mated with a Swainson's Hawk and flew to a nest in a cottonwood.] The nest had 2 eggs; on July 16 the nest held one young bird about 3 weeks old. A Peregrine recovery team banded the ad. Swainson's and the young bird but couldn't catch the buzzard. The young fledged, with plumage like a Swainson's. All three summered within a 2-mi-diameter circle (RM).

The debate over the "validity" of this as a North American species continues, with the evidence FOR becoming stronger.

CORRIGENDA — Hotchkiss is in Colorado; Yellowstone and Casper are in Wyoming (AB 42:301).

COMPILERS (boldface), **CONTRIBUTORS** (italics), **AND CITED OBSERVERS** — Jean Adams, Marie Adams, Keith Arch-

ibald (5 observers), Audubon Society of Western Colorado, **Mary Back** (7), Lu Bainbridge, D. Bolster, Nelson Boschen, **Tim Bowman** (4), Shirley Boyce, **W.W. Brockner** (15), **Alex & Gillian Brown** (24), **Diane Brown** (10), Jerry Cairo, H. Clayson, B. Cockrell, M. Collins, M. Cook, T. Cooper, J. Coss (JCo), J. & M. Cressman (J & MCr), Charles Darling, Denver Field Ornithologists, Coen Dexter, **Keith Dixon** (5), **Helen Downing** (36), D. Dulen, Ruby Ebright, Margaret Ewing, Janet Eyre, Sam Fitton, Jewel Gifford, A. Gingert, J. Guarino, G. & J. Hageman, **Dave Hallock** (10), Margy Halpin, **May Hanesworth** (12), **Phil Hayes** (18), Bruce Heath, Steve Hedges, **Jim Herold** (8), Verna Herold, Joe Himmel, D. Horton, **William Howe** (3), Mark Janos, David Jensen, J. Kellner, Merlin Killpack, J. Kingery, U. Kingery, Craig Kneedy, Ed Kurtz, S. Larsen, **Dave Leatherman** (7), Rich Levad, Forrest Luke, **David Martin** (40), T. McEneaney, **Ann Means** (29), **Jack Merchant** (5), R. Meyer, **Vince Mowbray** (3), D. Nelson, John Nelson, **Paul Opler** (7), D. Paul, B. Peterson, N. Peterson, B. Prather, J. Prather, **Bert Raynes** (20), **Jack Reddall**, B. Righter, J.C. Rigli, **Ron Ryder**, Pam & Terry Sadler, **Tyrell Seager**, Rick Schnaderbeck, D. Schottler (DSc), **David Silverman** (13), **Ella Sorensen**, UTAH REPORTER (18), R. Sorensen, **Bob Spahn**, **Bert Tignor** (15), V. Truan, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, P. Wagner, Bob Walters, Rosie Watts, M. Webb, A. Wilson, Robert Winn (RWi), Brenda Wright (BWr), **Joe Zarki** (12), M. Zoetewey. — **HUGH E. KINGERY, 869 Milwaukee, Denver, CO 80206.**

SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona

Gary H. Rosenberg and David Stejskal

We would like to begin this report by praising our friend Janet Witzeman, who has been involved with the Arizona section of *American Birds* since 1975. Her enthusiasm and dedication to Arizona ornithology has been an inspiration to all of us interested in the distribution of Arizona birds. We thank her for the many years she has dedicated herself to compiling records and writing this report and hope she will continue to be involved in some capacity for years to come. Janet is still secretary of the Arizona Bird Committee, and all details of rarities within Arizona should be sent to her at 4619 East Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, Arizona, 85018.

The season began extremely dry throughout the state with Arizona experiencing the summer drought that plagued most of the nation. Then the summer rains began, about a week late, but did it ever rain. This must have been one of the wettest summers on record; in one day the Southwestern Research Station in Cave Creek Canyon measured 2.8 inches of precipitation. Many areas in south-east Arizona were so green that they more resembled Colorado than the arid Southwest. Grassland sparrows had a field day and were more abundance than we have ever seen them.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.B.C. = Arizona Bird Committee; S.P.R. = San Pedro River. Place names in italics are counties.

GREBES TO DUCKS — A very late Eared Grebe was found dead on the new, paved road near L. Pleasant (RC, CH). Since W. and Clark's grebes have been split into 2 species by the A.O.U., each season brings us closer to understanding the distributional limits of the 2 forms in Arizona. Cow Springs L., Coconino, where three W. Grebes were sighted June 30, (CL)



may represent a new nesting area for this species in n. Arizona away from the Colorado R.

Incredibly, Arizona's 2nd record of **Laysan Albatross** was provided when on July 18 one was found dead along the Gila Gravity Main Canal, near Interstate 8 on the e. side of Yuma (ph. T. Peeples, fide B. Grossi). Arizona's previous record was also from Yuma May 14, 1981. This represented at least the 5th inland w. U.S. record, all from spring or summer. Unfortunately, the specimen was discarded! An Am. White Pelican on Willow L. near Prescott through June 13 (CT) was late; there are no confirmed breeding records for Arizona. The only reports of Brown Pelican came from Tucson, where one was observed July 11 (J. Bartell) and another (or same?) was seen by thousands on the local news July 19-20 (SG et al.) on the other side of the city. Great Egret, a sparse transient in n. Ar-

izona, was seen at Prescott July 20 (CT). Three separate reports of Tricolored Heron from the Santa Cruz Valley might have been of one wandering individual; one was at the Tucson Sewage Ponds June 21 (WD), one was at Green Valley July 22–27 (DG *et al.*), and one was at Tanque Verde Ranch in e. Tucson (CD, CC). Two Green-backed Herons (possibly breeding?) at Cow Springs L. June 30 (CL) would provide the first nesting record of this species in Arizona north of the Mogollon Rim. Six Black-crowned Night-Herons also seen at Cow Springs L. June 30 (CL) may have been at a new nesting locality in Arizona, where its distributional limits are poorly known.

Seven Canada Geese on Becker L., Springerville, June 1 (DS) were most likely part of an introduced population, but two at Many Farms L. June 4 (DS) were thought to be wild birds. A ♀ Cinnamon Teal with 12 downy young along the Salt R. in s.w. Phoenix July 3 (D & PS) further suggested that this species is a regular nester in the Phoenix area. Nonbreeding summer records of Redhead, a sparse nesting species in Arizona, are not unusual, but a flock of 20 at Gila Farms Pond south of Phoenix July 26 (DS) represented a very high number away from the mountains; it was thought to have been present all summer. Two ♀ Red-breasted Mergansers were present throughout the period at Kayenta (CL); this species has summered irregularly on the Colorado R. but never in n. Arizona.

RAPTORS TO TERNS — Black-shouldered Kite numbers in Arizona continued to increase with at least 2 pairs attempting nesting this summer; two present along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia all spring were apparently unsuccessful, with one of the pair being found dead (R. Baxter). A 2nd pair present all period near Hereford on the upper S.P.R. (DK, TC) tried to test twice but was unsuccessful. Another kite was seen near Madera Canyon July 30 (HM). A brown-plumaged N. Harrier July 13 at Kayenta (CL) probably was an early migrant. Unusual was an ad. Com. Black-Hawk May 4–June 16 along the upper S.P.R. (DK, TC), where there are few recent summer records. Gray Hawks were very successful along the upper S.P.R., where 11 nests produced 18 fledglings (DK, TC); this sensitive area supports the highest density of Gray Hawk in the United States. An interesting report of a possible ad. Short-tailed Hawk (light-phased) was received from Sawmill Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 21 (JD); although this would represent a first Arizona (w. U.S.) record, the observer did not officially submit the record because of lack of photo or specimen. It is interesting to note that this is the 2nd late summer sighting in recent years by very reliable observers and may reflect dispersal from w. Mexico. An ad. Swainson's Hawk in s.w. Phoenix July 10 (DS) was at a location where this species is not known to nest.

An imm. Virginia Rail captured live near the Snyder Hill Sewage Ponds, s.w. Tucson, (*vide* GM,* U. of A.) was well away from known nesting areas in s. Arizona. Likewise, a pair (?) of Sora present all period at a pond at the Twin Lakes Golf Course near Willcox may have provided a new nesting locality for s. Arizona. Three present at Keams Canyon July 31 (CL) probably suggested local nesting. An ad. Com. Moorhen at Ganado L. June 3 (DS) provided only the 2nd record for n.e. Arizona.

In recent years shorebird habitat in the Phoenix area has fluctuated wildly, sometimes supporting nesting Am. Avocets. This year 9 pairs (with at least three young) were present July 3 along the Salt R. in s.w. Phoenix, confirming local nesting. A Long-billed Curlew June 2 at Lyman L. south of St. Johns provided one of few spring records for Apache. Several early Semipalmated Sandpipers (presumably all juveniles) were reported as follows: one at Ruthrauff Ponds, Tucson, July 26–28 (JS) with two there July 30 (DH), and two at Willcox July 30–31 (WR, JS, DJ). Thirty-eight Baird's Sandpipers were at Willcox July 23 (JK *et al.*), an early date for such a large concentration. Three ad. Stilt Sandpipers were seen at Willcox July 23 (JK *et al.*). Another uncommon fall transient, Short-billed Dowitcher, was present in w. Phoenix at the Avondale Sewage Treatment Plant, where three adults were seen July 14 (DS). An ad. Long-

billed Dowitcher June 3 south of Chinle (DS) provided one of the few June records for Arizona.

An ad. Laughing Gull was reported from Willcox June 15 (†DK) and again June 25–26 (D. Pearson, BS). Written details submitted suggested Laughing but lacked critical characteristics (*i.e.*, direct comparisons with Franklin's). Unfortunately, no photos were taken despite the fact that several observers saw the bird on at least 3 different days. If accepted by the A.B.C., it would establish about a 10th state record. Also present at Willcox during the period were several Franklin's Gulls: eight there June 12 (DK, TC); one there June 15–27 (DK *et al.*); and three there July 2 (WD). Another was present in Tucson July 10 (JS). In n. Arizona two adults were at Ganado L. June 2 (DS), one 2nd summer was south of Chinle June 3 (DS), and another 2nd summer was at Cow Springs L. west of Kayenta June 29 (CL). Very unusual for summer was a Bonaparte's Gull June 15 at Parker Canyon L. (S. Levy). A Caspian Tern at Ganado L. June 3 (DS) provided only the 2nd n.e. Arizona record. Three adults at Prescott July 8 (CT) furnished the first-ever summer records for the Prescott area.

CUCKOOS TO KINGFISHERS — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported nesting at Picacho Res. (CB) and along the Hassayampa R. near Wickenburg July 28 (Jeff Cooper). On the upper S.P.R., research revealed a density of about eight birds per 40 hectares. A pair and nest of Com. Nighthawk were found at Meadow Valley east of Patagonia on the very early date of June 6 (S. Levy).

Throughout s.e. Arizona, hummingbird numbers appeared drastically down from past years, at least as suggested by vast reductions of hummingbird use of regular feeders. In Cave Creek Canyon, R. Morse estimated an 80% reduction of individuals attending his feeders (based upon sugar-water use), and similar reductions of resident hummingbirds were reported at all the regular feeder localities. Numbers appeared normal at the beginning of the season but rapidly decreased throughout the month of July. It was unbelievable to sit at the feeders at The Mile Hi in Ramsey Canyon for 2 hours and see only two or three individual hummingbirds! It was also our impression that numbers appeared to be even further reduced at those feeders that allowed extensive banding (Madera Canyon and Mile Hi), and we wonder whether or not the banding had an adverse effect on the residents, further reducing an already low population.

Rarities were reduced as much as residents this summer. A White-eared Hummingbird was seen away from feeders below the S. Fork Campground, Cave Creek Canyon, July 2–4 (JK), and another was reported at Madera Canyon July 7 (R. Freeman). Broad-billed Hummingbirds were reported away from their normal nesting areas; one was at Globe through late June (C. McKusick), and another frequented the feeders above Portal in mid-July (W & SSp). The ad. Berylline Hummingbird present at the feeders at Madera Canyon in May remained until June 5 (m.ob.). At least four individual Lucifer Hummingbirds were seen at feeders between late June and mid-July; a female was present at Spofford's feeder June 27 into July (*vide* SSp); a male was at Madera Canyon July 5–7 (D. Suddjian, GP), and an imm male there July 9 was joined by two more males July 10 (JS). Two Lucifers were last seen at Madera July 17. The only report of Allen's Hummingbird received this summer was of an ad male at Madera Canyon July 10 (JS, JH).

Further evidence that Belted Kingfisher nests in c. Arizona came from Granite Cr. near Prescott, where two were present throughout the period. Also one was seen July 9 at S. Fork in the White Mts. (TC), where they have been suspected of nesting for some time. A pair of kingfishers were also present throughout the period at Page Springs south of Sedona, where they successfully nested last year, but this year no young were found (JC).

Another ♀ Green Kingfisher was seen July 26 in California Gulch (RBo).

The most exciting news of the summer was provided by the successful nesting of Green Kingfisher along the Upper San Pedro R. about one mi north of the Hwy 90 bridge. A pair has been present along this stretch of river for 2 years and thought to have nested last year as well. D. Krueper and T. Corman first observed a female leaving a burrow June 3. From that date on both a male and female were seen frequenting the burrow until June 21, when both adults were seen entering the burrow with food many times over a 3-hour observation period. On June 30 the male was again observed entering the burrow with food several times. On July 16 both the male and female were observed feeding two fledglings outside the burrow about one mi to the south of the nesting area. To the best of our knowledge, this represented the first nesting record for Arizona and the first U.S. nesting record outside of Texas.

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS — Surprising was a singing N. Beardless-Tyrannulet at Cave Creek Ranch, Portal, July 19 (JD et al.). Two Buff-breasted Flycatchers were found again in Pine Canyon June 8 on the w. side of the Chiricahua Mts., where the species has been found nesting for the past 4 years (RM). A pair of Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers at the Roadside Rest, Sonoita Cr., were present all period and were suspected of nesting. This locality would be a new and unusually low elevation breeding area in s.e. Arizona. Nesting was confirmed for Dusky-capped Flycatcher on the upper S.P.R. for the first time, when two adults with three fledglings were seen west of Fairbank June 17 (TC). A Thick-billed Kingbird was out of its normal range in White-tail Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., June 12 (RT). The only report of E. Kingbird came from Kayenta June 4 (DS), and an ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in Peppersauce Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., July 20 (†T. Metcalf, D. Bennett).

A ♀ Purple Martin June 6 on the Upper S.P.R. (DK) was at an unusual locality and was probably a northbound migrant. Very late was a single Bank Swallow June 2 at Lyman L. (DS), providing the first June record for the state. A singing ♂ House Wren was at an unusually low elevation July 20 on the Upper S.P.R. south of Hwy 90 (DK). An Am. Dipper seen carrying food 2 mi above Herb Martyr Dam on Cave Cr., Chiricahua Mts., June 17 (R. Plage) may have represented only the 2nd nesting attempt for this mountain range; an unsuccessful nest was found in Cave Creek Canyon in May 1973 (W. Spofford). A pair of Am. Robins nested again in Phoenix with young fledged in early July (P. Barnes, *vide* S. Demaree).

A report of a singing ♂ **White-eyed Vireo**, apparently also tape-recorded, in E. Whitetail Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., June 11 (RT, RM) would represent only the 5th or 6th state record. Gray Vireo was found again at Redington Pass June 8 in the Rincon Mts. (JBo), where it has been known to nest in the past. A single Red-eyed Vireo was found at Dudleyville on the Lower S.P.R. June 4 (E. Dunn).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES — A ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler 2 mi south of Charleston on the upper S.P.R. June 10 (DK) provided only the 3rd June record for the state. A ♀ Black-and-white Warbler July 16 at Cook's L., Lower S.P.R. (DS et al.), was very early. Four Am. Redstarts were reported during the period: one female at Becker L., Springerville, June 1 (DS); one imm. male along Ganado Wash June 3 (DS); one (sex?) along Sonoita Cr. July 9 (CD); and one imm. male south of St. David June 21 (TC). An Ovenbird was seen in S. Fork, Cave Creek Canyon, June 13–14 (J & G. Maender, RM). A singing ♂ Com. Yellowthroat at Keams Canyon July 30 (CL) provided a first local record. Hooded Warblers were reported with greater

than normal frequency in s.e. Arizona this summer. One female was at Portal June 8 (B. Phillip, *vide* SSp), a singing male first found May 29 south of Charleston, Upper S.P.R. (DK), remained until June 10; another singing male was found south of Fairbank, Upper S.P.R., June 8 (TC, DK); and two were reported from the Roadside Rest, Sonoita Cr., June 27 (D. Wimpfheimer, S. Sapphire). A well-described Slate-throated Redstart was reported from Sawmill Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 13 (†R. Buttery, W. Dilley, B. Gardner) but could not be relocated despite intense searching. If accepted by the A.B.C., it would represent only the 3rd Arizona record.

A ♂ Yellow Grosbeak was reported from Onion Saddle, Chiricahua Mts., July 17 (J. & P. Wright); virtually all of the Arizona records are from June or July. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Ganado June 3 (DS); this species appears regularly as a spring migrant in n.e. Arizona. Varied Buntings were found north of their normal breeding range; three males at Catalina S.P., Santa Catalina Mts., June 8–July 13 (CT) were at the n limit of their expected range, and two to three imm. males with one female gathering nesting material July 29 at Boyce Thompson Arboretum east of Phoenix were well north of their previously known nesting localities (CT).

Cassin's Sparrows were abundant throughout s.e. Arizona beginning with the onset of the summer monsoons, so it was not surprising to find them extraliminally; two males July 11, three males July 18, and four males with two females Aug. 1 approximately 7 mi east of Prescott at the edge of the Prescott Valley (CT) were the farthest northwest the species has been found in the state. A Savannah Sparrow July 30 at Keams Canyon (CL) was at an unusual locality. An ad. (dark-colored) White-crowned Sparrow north of Hwy 90, Upper S.P.R., June 30 (TC) was exceptional considering all previous summer records for the lower Sonoran Zone were of the race *Z. l. gambelii*. Pine Siskins were found nesting at lower than normal elevations this summer; an adult was seen feeding a fledgling in S. Fork, Chiricahua Mts., July 9, and two were seen at Sunny Flat Campground, Chiricahua Mts., July 8–12 (D. Suddjian).

CONTRIBUTORS — Charles Babbitt, Jerry Bock, Rick Bowers (RBo), Ron Christofferson, John Coons, C. Corchran, Troy Corman, Doug Danforth, William Davis, Salome Demaree, Carol DeWard, Jon Dunn, Tom Gatz, Sharon Goldwasser, Jack Holloway, Craig Heath, Dave Hoffman, **Betty Jackson** (Globe), Dan Jones, Kenn Kaufman, **Jeff Kingery** (Tucson), **Dave Krueper** (upper S.P.R.), Chuck LaRue, Seymour Levy, Henry Messing, Gale Monson, Robert Morse, Georgia Porter, Will Russell, John Saba, **Sally Spofford** (SSp) (Portal), Walter Spofford, Patrick Stejskal, Bill Sutton, Rick Taylor, **Carl Tomoff** (Prescott), **Janet Witzeman** (Phoenix).—**GARY H. ROSENBERG**, 5441 N. Swan Rd., Apt. 313, Tucson, AZ 85718; **DAVID STEJSKAL**, 8032 N. 11th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021.

New Mexico

John P. Hubbard

Breeding Bird Surveys were repeated this year at Burford (Stinking) Lake on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation by DS et al. and at Tucumcari Lake by WU (see *Am Birds*. 41[5]:1473, Winter 1987). In addition, LM conducted a survey of breeding birds in the Pecos area of San Miguel County.

ABBREVIATIONS — Bitter Lake = Bitter Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge; Bosque Refuge = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, La Joya = La Joya State Game Refuge; T or C = Truth or Consequences; Wagon Mound = Wagon Mound State Game Refuge. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Com. Loon summered at Bitter Lake (LBM *et al.*). Nesting Eared Grebes near Ft. Union (Mora) July 10 were in a new area (E. Espinoza *et al.*), and ten pairs may have been breeding at Wagon Mound June 25 (JH). At least 60 W. Grebes were at Burford L., but only 2 nesting attempts were documented (DS *et al.*). Clark's Grebes at new summer localities included one-two at Burford L. (B Halstead, BL), near La Cueva in Mora (PI, CR), Las Vegas N.W.R. (CR), and Bosque Ref. (D&RR), plus five at L. McMillan in Eddy (OO, SW). One-two Am. White Pelicans were at El Vado L. in Rio Arriba (DS *et al.*) and Tucumcari L. (WU) in June, while peripheral Double-crested Cormorants included a few in the Chuska Mts. (DC) and at Las Vegas N.W.R. (CR). Least Bitterns again summered in the Tucumcari area (WU). A new area for nesting Great Blue Herons was Apache Cr., near Clayton, where a pair fledged young this year and in 1987 (*vide* WC). At the heronry near Loving, Snowy Egrets were much fewer, Cattle Egrets apparently absent, and Black-crowned Night-Herons unchanged from 1987; a new heronry to the e. contained all 3 species, but most Eddy Cattle Egrets were near Artesia—with 80+ June 17 (OO, SW). A Cattle Egret was near Tularosa June 14 (J & N Hutto). Five Black-crowned Night-Heron nests were near Burford L. (DS *et al.*), several juveniles in the Tucumcari area (WU), and birds near Navajo L. (AN), Las Vegas N.W.R. (CR), and Zuni (DC). Other herons included one-two Little Blues at Bitter L. (LBM *et al.*) and near Artesia (OO, SW) in June and a Tricolored at Bosque Ref., June 10 (JB *et al.*). The state's 2nd breeding area for the White-faced Ibis is Burford L., with up to 13 nests June 25–July 24—although none appeared successful (DS *et al.*). Records elsewhere totaled about 140 birds almost statewide (*v.ob.*), including three immatures with molting primaries at Las Vegas N.W.R., July 17 (CR). Introduced Canada Geese were at 8 sites, including 46 in the Chuska Mts. (DC) and up to 33 at La Joya (PJ). Single Wood Ducks were near La Cueva (PI, CR), Socorro (D&RR), and Holloman L. in Otero (SS), and up to five were in the Tucumcari area (WU). Notable duck broods included N. Shovelers at Las Vegas N.W.R., July 2 (CR); Gadwall at Hopewell L., in Rio Arriba June 19 (PI *et al.*); Am. Wigeons at Dry L., July 15 (WU), Canvasback at Canjilon Lakes in Rio Arriba July 6–7 (M A Root); Redheads in the Chuska Mts., July 7 (DC) and Burford L., in July (DS *et al.*); Com. Mergansers near Pecos June 16–17 (LM) and Pleasanton in Catron July 28 (JH); and Ruddy at Dry L., July 15 (WU). Also notable were small numbers of Am Wigeons at Morgan L., June 30 (PJ), Zuni in late June and July 25 (DC), La Joya June 26 (PJ), and L. McMillan June 17 (OO, SW); single Canvasbacks near Burford L., July 24 (BL), La Joya July 29 (PJ, JS), and Bitter L., June 10–24 (LBM *et al.*); one-two Ring-necked Ducks in the Chuska Mts., June 11 & 20 (T. Gatz *et al.*), Zuni in late June (DC) and Roberts L., June 18 (D&RR); up to four Lesser Scaup in the Chuska Mts., June 20, Zuni June 15–30 (DC), and La Joya June 26 (PJ), plus an injured one at Glenwood July 22 (JH); and three Ruddies near Carlsbad June 11 (SW).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS — Unusual were an Osprey at Heron L., June 18 (W. Evans) and an immature Bald Eagle at Lake Valley (San Juan) June 30 (PJ). Ninety-one Mississippi Kite nests were found in the Clovis-Hobbs-Roswell triangle (A.L. Gennaro *et al.*), while westerly reports were of a pair near Albuquerque (P. Elliston) and an immature at Percha Dam (Sierra) June 6 (T. Huning *et al.*). Single N. Harriers were at Zuni July 4–6 (DC) and near Lake Valley (Sierra) June 10 (DM), and an out-of-range Harris' Hawk was near Deming July 15 (W. Eacles, DS). A Zone-tailed Hawk was near Nogal June 25 (CR), and Ferruginous Hawk records included a nest near Caprock June 9 (SOW) and birds near Logan (SOW), Clines Corners (JH), and Los Lunas (HS) June 5–24. The first United States nest of the Gould's race of Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo mexicana*) was near Cloverdale (Hidalgo) June 16—with seven poults present June 24 (SS *et al.*). A vagrant **Purple**

Gallinule was at Jal L., June 17 (SW), and a brood of Com Moorhens was near Socorro June 13 (D&RR). Notable was a Sanderling at Laguna Grande (Eddy) June 4–5, with Western and Least sandpipers (OO, SW). Presumed breeding Com. Snipe were in the Chama-Los Ojos area and near Canjilon Lakes in June (JH *et al.*). Mainly small numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes were present in early-mid June southward to Bosque Ref. (D&RR), Bitter Lake (LBM *et al.*), and Laguna Grande (SW), except for a "nesty" pair at Burford L., June 12 (DS *et al.*), there is no suggestion of breeding. Notable were several Ring-billed Gulls at Evans L. (Grant) June 4 (RF) and Californias at Morgan L. (PJ), Eagle Nest L. (PS), and Zuni (DC) June 30–July 25. Unusual were two **Caspian Terns** at Morgan L., June 30 (ph. PJ) and one at Bitter Lake June 19 (ph. PK). Two Forster's Terns at Bitter L., June 3 were late, while early were three June 24 (LBM *et al.*). A maximum of three ad. pairs and two immature Least Terns were in the Roswell area (PJK). Up to 27 Black Terns summered at Bitter Lake (LBM *et al.*), with no indication of breeding.

DOVES THROUGH LARKS — Unusual were three White-winged Doves at Bosque Ref., June 13 (D&RR); maxima elsewhere included four at Socorro (PJ *et al.*) and ten at T or C (DM). An Inca Dove was near Redrock June 1–19 (A. Ford), and a few were present at Socorro (JS), T or C (DM), and in the Alamogordo area (J. Talley *et al.*). Westerly was a Greater Roadrunner at Zuni June 27 (DC), while high were a Com Barn-Owl at 7300 ft. near Burford L., June 11 (DS) and a Long-eared Owl at about 10,000 ft. on Brazos Ridge (Rio Arriba) July 4 (PJ). Northerly were several Lesser Nighthawks at La Joya June 26 and July 28 (PJ), while a Whip-poor-will was in the Magdalena Mts., June 4 (JB *et al.*). A probable Black Swift was over Santa Fe July 31 (CR), while a few Chimneys were at Tucumcari June 16 & 23 (WU) and Carlsbad June 2 (SW). Unusual hummingbirds were a sub-ad. ♂ Calliope netted at Glenwood June 4 (B. McKnight), a **Broad-billed Hummingbird** at Las Cruces May 19–July 31 (ph. E. Wootten), and a singing ♂ **Anna's Hummingbird** in P.O. Canyon in the Peloncillo Mts., June 30–July 12 and later (RS). Late was a Belted Kingfisher in Guadalupe Canyon (Hidalgo) June 1 (SOW), while one near Tucumcari July 17 (WU) may have been an early autumn migrant. Southerly Williamson's Sapsuckers were in the San Mateo Mts. (PJ, T. Johnson) and the Magdalena Mts. (JB *et al.*) June 4–10, and a Red-naped nest was a Los Ojos June 17 (PJ). Three-toed Woodpeckers feeding young in Pajarito Canyon July 31 (C & T Jervis) constituted the second breeding record for Los Alamos. Two-three Olive-sided Flycatchers were in the Chuska Mts. in June–July (DC) and another present in Waterfall Canyon in the Sandia Mts. (HS). The first confirmed state record of the **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was a singing bird tape-recorded at Santa Fe June 11 (JH). The only Willow Flycatchers reported were two each on the Zuni Reservation (DC) and at Bosque Ref. (D&RR) in mid-June. A Dusky Flycatcher was singing in the Rincon area of the Sandia Mts., July 6 (HS), while southerly Gray Flycatchers were two each in the Magdalena Mts., June 4 (JB *et al.*) and near White Oaks (Lincoln) June 23 (SOW). A Black Phoebe was near Pecos June 16 and an E. Phoebe nest there June 20 (LM). North of the usual range was a Vermilion Flycatcher near Gallegos (San Miguel) June 16 (SOW). Only one-two Thick-billed Kingbirds were seen in Guadalupe Canyon June 1 (SOW) and July 15 (PJ, JS). An E Kingbird was near Eagle Nest July 21 (PS) and a vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Espanola July 2–3 (CR *et al.*). Up to four Horned Larks were in high montane meadows (ca 10,000 ft) on Brazos Ridge June 18 and July 3–4 (PJ).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS — Unusual were single Tree Swallows in the Magdalena Mts., June 4 (JB *et al.*) and at Bosque Ref. June 13 (D&RR), plus nine at High Rolls (Otero) June 18 (R. Jenness *et al.*). Northern Rough-winged

Swallow nests at Carlsbad June 10 and July 3 were the first reported for Eddy since 1966 (SW). Up to 20 Bank Swallows were nesting at San Juan Pueblo (Rio Arriba) June 24 (JH), and a new colony of 100± birds was w. of Corrales June 21 (J. Lang et al.). Barn Swallow nests at Silver City and Riverside in Grant (RF) were in areas where the species is a very local as a breeder. Two Gray Jays were e. of Black Lake (Colfax) June 18 (PI, CR). Westerly Blue Jays were at Roswell and Carlsbad (SW et al.), plus seven were at Tucumcari July 11 (WU). Fledgling Pinyon Jays were at Santa Fe June 6–July 4 and near El Malpais, N.M., July 30 (JH). Clark's Nutcracker was locally common in June–July in the Sandia Mts. (HS), while unusual was a fledgling on Rowe Mesa (San Miguel) June 18 (JH). Three fledgling Am. Crows on Rowe Mesa June 18 were light gray with blackish heads, wings, and tails—thus resembling the Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone*) of Europe (JH)! Crows were also present in the Chuska Mts. (DC), near Logan (SOW), at Cochiti Dam (CR), on Cedros Peak in the Manzano Mts., and near Los Lunas—with 36 Chihuahuan Ravens w. of there June 7 (HS). A Bridled Titmouse in Estaline Canyon in the San Mateo Mts., June 6 (PJ) was a local first, while southerly was a pair of Plain Titmice in Guadalupe Canyon June 1 (SOW). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was at Santa Fe June 5 & 7 (L. Herrmann), while five were in the Gallinas Mts. (Lincoln) June 24 (SOW). A probable Cactus Wren, singing and seen in silhouette, was e. of Sabinoso (San Miguel) June 18 (CR, PI)—well n. of the usual range. Easterly were two Bewick's Wrens at Bell L. (Lea) June 17 (OO, SW), while dependent young House Wrens were n. of Navajo L., June 17 (AN). Five Am. Dippers were in Chama Canyon n. of Abiquiu L., July 30–31 (PI et al.). Three Ruby-crowned Kinglets and six Mountain Bluebirds were in the Magdalena Mts., June 4 (JB et al.). The only E. Bluebird reported was at Rattlesnake Springs July 31 (fide CW). Townsend's Solitaires were "unusually common" in the Rincon area of the Sandia Mts. in June–July (HS). A Veery was e. of Penasco (Taos) June 30 (J. Travis) and a Hermit Thrush heard at Vaughn July 2 (SW). Southerly were Sage Thrashers between Magdalena and Aragon June 14–15 (D&RR), while three in Juan Tabo Canyon in the Sandia Mts., July 11 (HS) may have been early migrants. Northerly was a pair of Crissal Thrashers w. of Santa Fe June 24 (BL). Cedar Waxwings, including immatures, at Farmington July 22–31 (H.H. Lesperance) may have been early migrants. Northerly were up to three Phainopeplas and a Bell's Vireo in the San Acacia-Bosque Ref. area June 12–13 (D&RR). An early Virginia's Warbler was in Guadalupe Canyon July 16 (JS, PJ). Presumably breeding Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warblers were in Chama Canyon (PI et al.), on Cedros Peak (HS), and in the Magdalena (JB et al.), San Mateo (PJ), and Gallinas (SOW) mountains. Four Com. Yellowthroats were near Cloudcroft June 25 (CR), while northerly were ten Red-faced Warblers in the Magdalena Mts., June 4 (JB et al.) and six in the San Mateos June 10 (PJ, JS). Vagrant warblers included a N. Parula near Pecos June 15 (LM), a Black-and-white at Bitter Lake June 1–10 (LBM et al.), and Am. Redstarts near Caprock June 13 (L. Gorbet) and in the Burro Mts., June 16 (D&RR).

FINCHES THROUGH SPARROWS — Out-of-range were a N. Cardinal in the northeast near Wheelers, OK (WC) and several in s. Eddy—including a female with a brood patch netted June 12 (SW et al.). Unusual was a Pyrrhuloxia in Guadalupe Canyon July 15 (JS). Eight Lazuli and 11 Indigo buntings near Jemez Springs June 22–July 4 (B. Ostyn), while nine Indigos were in Six-Mile Canyon in the Magdalenas June 4 (JS). New Mexico's first reported Dickcissel nest was at Tucumcari L., July 7–27, although the young may not have fledged (WU). Other likely breeders were up to nine each at Maxwell N.W.R., July 6 (PS) and Las Vegas N.W.R., July 2 & 17 (CR), plus three near Ft. Sumner June 17 (SOW). Southerly were four Green-tailed Towhees in the Magdalena Mts., June 4 (JB et al.), while westerly were single Browns near Crownpoint June 6 (GS) and e. of Fence L., June 12 (DC). Cassin's Sparrows

occurred more widely and in greater numbers in the northwest in June than usual, including up to 46 near Zuni June 17 & 27 (DC), six between Magdalena and Horse Springs June 15 (D&RR), and seven near Animas June 5 (RS). Also notable were two w. of the Sandia Mts., July 10 & 24 (HS) and one near Crownpoint June 6 (GS). South of the usual range were single singing Brewer's Sparrows in Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts., July 10 (HS) and near Willard June 24 (CR), although these may have been early migrants. Black-chinned Sparrows were again in Trujillo Canyon (JH), and 12 were in the Magdalena Mts., June 4 (JB et al.). Four Vesper Sparrows near Cochiti L., July 4 (CR) were in an area where not previously reported in summer, while several were at about 10,000 ft., on the Brazos Ridge, June 18 and July 4 (PJ) and in Cedros Peak area June 1–14 (HS). Lark Buntings were numerous in the northeast in June and westward/southward at least locally to the vicinity of Wagon Mound and Las Vegas (JH et al.)—with westerly stragglers near Aztec (DC), Santa Fe (BL), and Estancia (CR) June 18–24. Grasshopper Sparrows at new sites were up to six (including an apparently fledgling) at Las Vegas N.W.R., July 2 & 17 (CR) and a bird near Wagon Mound June 18 (PI, CR). Others included one s.w. of Roswell, nine near Caprock, and 15 in the Animas Valley in Hidalgo (SOW) June 2–18. Unusual were six Lincoln's Sparrows near Cloudcroft June 25 (CR).

ICTERIDS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW — Three Bobolinks were at Los Ojos June 5 (J & L Schulte), while unusual were at least six E. Meadowlarks in lower Bear Canyon in the Sandia Mts., July 10 (HS). Southerly were a few W. Meadowlarks near Horse Springs (DC), Engle (DM), Mangas Springs (RF), and Las Cruces (CR), plus 13 n. of the Magdalena Mts., June 4 (JB et al.). A new breeding area for the Yellow-headed Blackbird in Quay was Hudson L., with hundreds of birds and a nest July 17 (WU). Peripheral Great-tailed Grackles included up to four in the Chuska Mts. (DC), at Los Ojos (PJ), Corona (CR), and Apache Creek (JH). A Com. Grackle nest was at Tucumcari L., June 6 (WU), and the species summered at Carlsbad (SW). Two Bronzed Cowbirds were at Alamogordo June 11–July 31 (W. Wells), while other reports included up to five birds in Socorro (JS), near Engle (DM), and at T or C (DM). A summer first were five Pine Grosbeaks in the Chuska Mts., July 8–9, with two Cassin's Finches there June 19–20 (DC). A few Cassin's Finches were also in the San Juan Mts. (PJ et al.) and Jemez Mts. (M. Swain et al.), plus up to 10 in the Sandia Mts., June 13 and July 15–30 (PS). Red Crossbills were noted in the San Juan, Jemez, and Sangre de Cristo mountains (v.ob.). Pine Siskins were present in variable numbers in the northern highlands (v.ob.) and in Sandia (PS), Manzano (HS), and Magdalena (JB et al.) mountains, plus a few in the lowlands in early June and again in late June–early July (v.ob.). Several Am. Goldfinches were at Los Ojos June 17–18 (PJ), Bitter Lake June 1–3 (LBM et al.), and Rattlesnake Springs July 17 (fide CW). A local first were a pair of adults with two "shaggy-headed young" Evening Grosbeaks in the Farmington area July 31 (B Carr, fide AN). All other reports of the species were in and near the northern highlands and the Sandia Mts. (v.ob.), except for one-two in the Magdalena Mts., June 4 (JB et al.) and near the Gila Cliff Dwellings July 28 (B. Hayward). A pair of House Sparrows was feeding an immature Brown-headed Cowbird at T or C June 2 (DM).

ADDENDUM — A Black Vulture was well seen and described in flight over Los Lunas Jan. 31 (L. Daly, S. Hoffman), the species remains unverified in the state.

OBSERVERS — James Black, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Ralph Fisher, John Hubbard, Pat Insley, Philip Johnson, Peter Jungemann (PKJ), Burton Lewis, Lee Marlatt (LBM), Doris Miller, Leona Mukai, Alan Nelson, Orlando Ornelas, Dorothy & Richard Rosche, Christopher Rustay, Sanford Schemnitz, Gregory Schmitt, Robert Scholes, Hart Schwarz, John Shipman, Dale Stahlecker, Paul Steel, William Uihlein III, Steve West, Sartor O. Williams III (SOW), Christina Wright.—**JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

D.D. Gibson, T.G. Tobish, Jr., and M.E. Isleib

Much of the mainland enjoyed above-average temperatures in summer 1988, and precipitation was several inches short of the norm in Interior and South-coastal Alaska throughout the period. A result of these conditions was that forest fires burned 2,000,000 acres in this Region this summer, the same amount of acreage reported to have burned in all of the Lower Forty-eight states during this time (fide Bureau of Land Management). In Southwestern Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands, the summer was also particularly dry, marked by an absence of low pressure systems. Southeastern Alaska registered the most

nearly normal weather for the season—cool, cloudy, and wet. Temperatures at Juneau, for example, averaged seven degrees lower than normal and, while no records were set, it rained there on twenty-three days of June and on twenty-nine days of July.

Many observers commented that breeding activity was early and generally successful, and that southward departures were relatively early. Following a late spring in the Aleutians, however, nesting phenology was somewhat delayed. A continuing reduction in the numbers of nesting swallows (Tree and Barn) in the Juneau area is of concern; possible causes are not known.

LOONS TO HERONS —

S.A.

Recognition of the closely related Arctic and Pacific loons as separate species has predictably inundated us with reports of the former, most of them without details. Our caveat here is that throat color is not alone an unequivocal field mark, despite the scientific name of the eastern subspecies of Arctic, *viridigularis*, which means green-throated. Beware that Pacific Loons in western and northern Alaska often show intergradation in this character, exhibiting in good light a green flash from one direction, purple from another. There is little overlap in size of the birds, however. The subspecies of Arctic in Alaska has longer bill, wing, and tarsus than has Pacific and resembles in build a rangy Common Loon rather than the smaller Pacific.

An ad. Short-tailed Albatross was reported south of Unalaska I., e. Aleutians, and one and possibly two immatures were seen at 2 locations southeast of the Shumagin Is. in July (SZ, fide RAM). Another immature was seen 40 mi northeast of St. Paul about July 1 (EM, fide RAM). Mottled Petrels were found in about average numbers between the n. Gulf of Alaska and the w. Aleutians. Two birds were noted June 4 in Amukta Pass (JW, JP, AM); one was seen inshore at Kodiak I., in Chiniak Bay, July 15 (JBA); and one was noted in Buldir Pass July 30 (JW).

A breeding-plumaged Cattle Egret found dead at Agattu I., w. Aleutians, June 19 (*EVK) provided the first Alaska record of *B. i. coromandus*, the Asiatic subspecies. The few prior Regional records of Cattle Egret, late fall or early winter records from Southeastern or South-coastal Alaska, have been of *B. i. ibis* (see Gibson and Hogg 1982, *Am. Birds* 36:335). Thus the Cattle Egret provides, in these 2 subspecies, the most recent addition to a small, interesting assemblage of closely related pairs of extralimital taxa—one each from Asia and from North America—separated from each other by Alaska (or by northwesternmost North America and northeasternmost Asia). Other examples include 2 subspecies of Black-crowned Night-Heron that have reached Southwestern and Southeastern Alaska, one from Asia and one from elsewhere in North America; the congeneric Hawfinch and Evening Grosbeak and congeneric Com. Rosefinch and Purple Finch, each of which pair has a member that barely reaches Alaska from Asia or from North America to the east of us. None of them breeds here.



WATERFOWL — In the annual report of the “Alaska-Yukon waterfowl breeding population survey,” conducted from May 15 to June 15, B. Conant and J.I. Hodges (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Juneau) reported that habitat conditions were generally favorable for waterfowl nesting here in 1988, except on the North Slope, where ice and snow persisted. They stated that dabblers were up 22% from 1987, up 15% from the 10-year average, and up 57% from the long-term mean. Divers were down 3%, however, remaining 14% below the 10-year average and 7% below the long-term mean. Goose production was expected to be good to average, with the exceptions of Canada Geese on the Copper River Delta and those geese nesting north of the Brooks Range. Again except on the North Slope, swan production was expected to be good to excellent.

The resident Tundra Swan population on the Alaska Peninsula had reduced nesting success in 1988, however, down 64% from its 8-year mean; total swan numbers in this population were down 48%, estimated to be the result of emigration of birds in winter 1987–1988 (CPD). One Emperor Goose at Kodiak June 18 (DRN) provided the first June record for that archipelago, the east end of the species’ winter range; one re-

ported on the Colville River Delta June 25–26 (RHM) may have furnished the first record of the species in Northern Alaska east of Pt. Barrow.

An ad. ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Potter Marsh June 26 (RSH) provided only the 2nd record at Anchorage. It was not seen again. A bird at Kodiak in June 1986 (AB 40:1243) had furnished Southcoastal Alaska's only prior midsummer record. Drought-displaced ducks from elsewhere appeared in small and large concentrations here and there around the state. Northern Shovelers were seen at Safety Sound, near Nome, in good numbers in June (e.g., 12 on June 21, FPNT). American Wigeon were abundant in upper Cook Inlet coastal habitats, where many, most of them males, remained to molt (m.ob.). Normally found only in the Interior and in small numbers, Redheads were scattered beyond. A male was seen at Narrow Cape June 20, for the first summer record in the Kodiak archipelago (RAM, DWM); two males were seen at Nome June 21 (FPNT); up to six summered in Anchorage, where this diver is casual after spring migration (RLS, Wings); and a pair was observed at Kokechik Bay, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, July 2 (FG). Two ♂ Tufted Ducks were found at Kodiak June 7 (JM) and one lingered through June 20, when it was seen displaying to and apparently paired with a ♀ Greater Scaup (RAM). Tufted Duck is a casual winter visitant there, and this record is the Kodiak area's first in summer. Lesser Scaup numbers were well above average in Southcoastal Alaska, no doubt augmented by prairie populations. In Anchorage, for example, an uncharacteristic several hundred birds remained all season on freshwater and in intertidal habitats. Single ♂ Ruddy Ducks were noted at Northway, where a pair nested in 1987, and at Kenney L., June 17 (MEI).

HAWKS — A pair of Red-tailed "Harlan's" Hawks along the ridge east of Homer provided a first local nesting record (EPB, *fide* GCW). This form, and intergrades with red-tailed birds, nest mainly north of the Kenai Mountains. Although Merlin's are known in small numbers at Kodiak in summer, a pair nesting in an old magpie nest at Olga Bay June 27 (DWM & DZ) confirmed the first actual breeding record for the archipelago.

SHOREBIRDS — Ending "spring migration" for the purposes of this journal on May 31 has always presented reporting problems in Alaska, since spring migration continues here well into the month of June. It thus winds up reported in fragmented fashion in 2 different seasonal reports. Among the late spring highlights were up to three Mongolian Plovers at Buldir I., June 18–22 (GVB, JW); single Gray-tailed Tattlers at Buldir June 8 (GVB, JW) and at St. Paul I., June 23 (NW), and up to two at Attu I., June 8–11 (Attour); a Terek Sandpiper at Agattu June 9–11 (GVB); a Far Eastern Curlew at Buldir June 15 (GVB, JW, JP, AM); and a Little Stint at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., May 31–June 3 (+Wings; NBB ph.).

A Black Turnstone observed at Barrow June 21 (VENT) provided one of few high arctic Alaska records, all of them recent. Southbound sandpipers arrived on time June 20–22 at North Pacific Coast staging areas, but numbers at least at Homer and Anchorage were below average. Peak counts of Semipalmated and Western sandpipers at Anchorage mudflats, for instance, never reached the normal 200 and 600, respectively (RLS, DWS). Fine, clear weather (*i.e.*, good flying weather) in Southcoastal Alaska throughout July perhaps kept these birds moving before large aggregations developed. Numbers of Westerns at Kodiak arrived on time, June 20, but peaked some 2 weeks later than usual—650 on July 30 (RAM).

A site-tenacious pair of **Wilson's Phalaropes** on the Ft. Richardson, Anchorage, bombing range was last seen June 24 (JPk). The subsequent observation, July 15, of a flying juvenile in the same area was quite unexpected (MRD, +TGT) and provided Alaska's first circumstantial evidence of breeding for this species; a juvenile foraging with Lesser Yellowlegs at Fairbanks July 24, 1985 (AB 35:952), furnished the only prior Alaska record of a Wilson's Phalarope of this age.

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — An ad. California Gull off Narrow Cape, Kodiak, July 1 (JBA) was early and well west of the normal summer pattern for this species, which usually brings small numbers to the Stikine River delta by mid-July. Not far west of the Stikine, one subadult was reported at Sitka June 3 (SJ). There are few records of the species west of the Anchorage area at any season. Common Terns (*S. h. longipennis*) appeared in June at Agattu, on the 15th (JW, JP), and at St. Paul, on the 23rd (NW). Providing a first upper Cook Inlet summer record, up to seven Com. Murres on the turbid glacial waters of upper Turnagain Arm, at Girdwood, July 25 (C&PK) were in the same area where several had occurred in late winter.

DOVES TO CUCKOOS — Mourning Dove is a rare fall migrant in Southeastern Alaska and casual at any other season, so one seen June 8 and another June 11–26 on Mitkof I. (PJW) were noteworthy. Following the first arrivals June 8, at Attu (see the Spring report) and at Agattu (GVB, JW), Com. Cuckoos were as widespread as, if less numerous than, observers in the w. one-half of the Aleutians, where small numbers were seen at Buldir (LC, CB), Kiska (DB, JF), Tanaga (TRE), and Adak (LL, TRE, RW, JR). The latest report was July 9 at Attu (GVB *et al.*) (There were no additional records to parallel the Seward Peninsula bird included in the last report.)

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS — An injured N. Pygmy-Owl found along the highway near Haines June 19 (*fide* BW) may represent breeding at the n. end of Southeastern Alaska (see Spring 1988 for first Alaska breeding record). **Barred Owl** was confirmed as an Alaska breeding bird this season when two downy young were found June 1 amid the limbs and stumps of felled trees in a logging operation of old-growth forest some 10 mi. e. of Ketchikan, Revillagigedo I., Southeastern Alaska (REW ph.). So far as the editors know, both young are thriving in captivity. For the first time in several years, a Barred Owl was reported in the Juneau area, one heard calling the night of July 15 (RHA). Two Great Gray Owl nests were reported in the Wasilla-Big Lake area, n. of Anchorage, in June (GN, MTB), and, although many of them included no details, there were many more reports than usual of this retiring species in the vast Interior. Apparently-suitable breeding habitat for this owl is widespread in Alaska, but, as is true for not a few other taxa as well, the gaps where no definite breeding evidence has been reported are more extensive than the areas in which it is certainly known to breed.

Three-toed Woodpeckers invaded the spruce bark-beetle-infested forests on the w. Kenai Peninsula over the past winter and remained to breed in impressive concentrations. Several nests were reported between Kenai L. and the w. end of Skilak L. (DWS, others).

FLYCATCHERS TO STARLING — For the 2nd year of the last 3, Least Flycatchers were found on song territories along the Edgerton Hwy, at Kenney L. in the upper Copper River drainage, two on June 24 (RLS). The only other report this year was from Hyder at the end of May (see the Spring report). A ♂ **Willow Flycatcher** holding a song territory at 1700 ft above Anchorage July 16–24 (DWS *et al.*,*) was an astounding find. This individual sang from within an alder-lined drainage above tree limit. Alaska's only other record of the species is from summer 1986 (q.v.). The only tyrant-flycatcher whose breeding range extends to the very northwestern edge of the continent, Say's Phoebe nested in 1988 at Cape Thompson, where a pair fledged at least one young (PGR *et al.*). Farther south, on the n. Seward Peninsula, a pair probably nested in Deering, a nest in an abandoned house at Utica contained 5 eggs June 10, and the species was also observed at each of 2 gold dredges in the area (JWa). The only two E. Kingbirds reported were one on the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, June 19 (DEM) and one at the Denali Hwy crossing of the Susitna R., June 22 (RSH).

Eurasian Skylark records in summer are few, so one bird at Attu July 8 (JW, JP, AM) and two singing at neighboring Shemya I., July 12 (AM, JW) were most interesting. There is one previous summer observation from Attu, in July. A skylark found dead at Gambell June 3 (*Wings) provided the 3rd record for St. Lawrence I. Two Barn Swallows at Cape Thompson July 20 (PGR *et al.*) were casual midsummer visitants there. Probably the latest Alaska record for the peripheral N. Rough-winged Swallow was one seen at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, Aug 7 (MEI, MWS). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported this summer at Glacier Bay (BBP), at Mitkof I. (PJW), and at Juneau, where recently-fledged young were coming to feeders with their parents during the first 2 weeks of August (MEI). Several territorial Arctic Warblers were once again found on the northeast slopes of Gunsight Mountain in June (RLS, TGT). This area is roughly 50 mi n. of Palmer, in the extreme southeastern section of the Talkeetna Mountains and forms the southeasternmost extension of this species' range in North America (and see AB 41:1477, 1987). Following below-average numbers of the species at Attu in spring (q.v.), single ♂ Siberian Rubythroats were observed at Alaid I., June 9 (MA, KH), at Agattu June 15 (JW, JP), and at Buldir June 19 (GVB *et al.*). A flock of 43 Mountain Bluebirds (two ad. males, nine ad. females, and 32 immatures) feeding in a hayfield near Delta Junction July 10 (JFK) is quite without parallel in this Region; an additional ad. female about 2 miles away suggested to the observer that not all local bluebirds had finished with nesting at that date. Alaska's Eur. Starling stronghold, the Palmer area, produced numerous young this summer. Up to 40 juvenals could be found at one livestock farm in July (TGT, DWS); individual starlings were reported west to nearby Wasilla in mid-June (Wings).

WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES — A singing ♂ Magnolia Warbler was observed along Montana Creek, Juneau, June 12 (MWS). Although quite rare, the species is now being found each year on the Southeastern Mainland. Two extralimital Com. Yellowthroats involved a singing male June 22 at Anchorage (TGT *et al.*), where it provided a first summer and 3rd Southcoastal record, and a singing male July 3-4 at Cape Thompson (PGR, DMT, DGR), the first record anywhere in

northern or western Alaska. The latter bird was last seen flying W over a Chukchi Sea full of ice floes, headed in the direction of Siberia! Cape Thompson is some 1950 km northwest of the species' nearest known breeding areas, in northwestern British Columbia and northern Southeastern Alaska.

A pair of Chipping Sparrows nested at the south end of Mitkof I., between June 19 and July 17 (PJW), apparently fledging three young and providing the first such record in the Alexander Archipelago. Most of the appropriate habitat for this species in Southeastern Alaska is confined to the Mainland. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Cape Chiniak July 14 (JBA, DWS) furnished Kodiak's first summer record. The species had been known there only as a rare winter visitor.

Red Crossbills remained fairly common at Kodiak and at Seward, where the species appeared in numbers in summer and fall 1987, and in Southeastern Alaska (m.ob.). The species was recorded north of Seward June 25 to about Trail River (FieldGuides). Following breeding this spring (q.v.) in the Interior and probably elsewhere, White-winged Crossbills quietly disappeared from the State in midsummer (m.ob.). Pine Siskins were widespread in Southeastern in moderate numbers (m.ob.)

CONTRIBUTORS, OBSERVERS, ABBREVIATIONS — J.B. Allen, M. Amaral, R.H. Armstrong, D. Backstrom, C. Baggot, E.P. Bailey, N.B. Broadbooks, M.T. Bronson, G.V. Byrd, L. Climo, M.R. Dalton, C.P. Dau, T.R. Edgerton, FieldGuides (B. Whitney *et al.*), Four Points Nature Tour (B. Hallett *et al.*), J. Fuller, F. Gerhardt, R.S. Heil, K. Hellman, S. Johnston, J.F. Kelly, E.V. Klett, C. & P. Kline, L. Lauber, R.A. MacIntosh, A. McCharles, J. McCrary, D.E. McKnight, R.H. Meehan, D.W. Menke, E. Munk, G., Nielson, D.R. Nysewander, B.B. Paige, J. Parker (JPk), J. Piatt, J. Robinette, P.G. Rodewald, D.G. Roseneau, R.L. Scher, M.W. Schwan, D.W. Sonneborn, D.M. Taylor, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (D.E. Wolf, E.S. Hunn *et al.*), P.J. Walsh, J. Walters (JWa), J. Wells, G.C. West, Wings (J.L. Dunn, G. Rosenberg, D. Sibley *et al.*), R. Winkler, B. Wood, R.E. Wood, N. Wottrick, S. Zenger, D. Zwiefelhofer; *specimen on deposit U.A.M.; ph. photo on deposit U.A.M.; + written details on file U.A.M.—D.D. GIBSON, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775; T.G. TOBISH, JR., 2510 Foraker Drive, Anchorage, AK 99517; and M.E. ISLEIB, 9229 Emily Way, Juneau, AK 99801.

Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

It was generally a cool, wet spring in the Northwest. Seattle experienced its first month of above-average rainfall since May 1987, and water reservoirs were almost back to normal. Following a balmy February and March that were dryer and warmer than usual, April and May were much wetter with about normal temperatures. Correspondingly, early migrants tended to be earlier than usual while late-season birds were delayed.

The summary of sightings from Vancouver Island was not available. However, reports from the Queen Charlotte Islands and the Inside Passage of British Columbia provided welcome input from the relatively unknown northern third of this Region.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia River, OR. V.I. = Vancouver Island. Place names in *italics* are counties.



LOONS TO IBISES — Yellow-billed Loons were noted in Port Townsend Mar. 6–10 (Bruce Marsden) and at Tokeland, WA, Apr. 10 (BSu); in Vancouver, BC, Apr. 4 (MP); and at the unusual location of Timothy L., south of Mt. Hood in Clackamas, OR, May 15 (Tim Shelmerdine, ph. LW). Three Yellow-billed Loons, still in nonbreeding plumage, were seen in Hecate Strait from the Skidegate–Prince Rupert, BC, ferry Apr. 12 (MH, PH). Two W. Grebes were near the n.w. limit of their range at Lucy I. in Chatham Sound near Prince Rupert, BC, May 20 (SJ). A Clark's Grebe at Ocean Shores Mar. 11 (†G & WH) and two in Seattle Mar. 28–Apr. 8 (KA, TH) provided the 12th and 13th records for w. Washington. Other Clark's were noted Mar. 6 in Portland (JJ) and May 14 on nearby Sauvie I. (Mike Houck, David Marshall).

The 173 Black-footed Albatrosses seen off Westport Apr. 23 and 130 there May 7 represented the highest-ever counts in



Yellow-billed Loon on Timothy Lake, Oregon, May 16, 1988. Photograph/Linda Weiland.

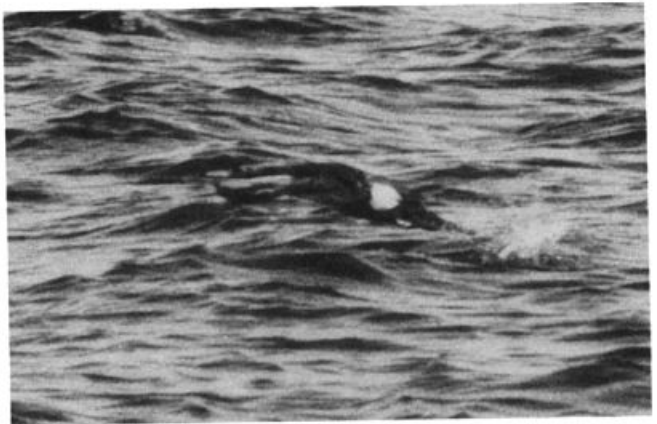
21 years of pelagic trips from Washington (TW). Fifty Black-footeds were noted 25 mi west of Florence, OR, May 31 (TT). A Laysan Albatross was seen Mar. 31 only 10 mi off Newport, OR (Mike Burger), and another was seen May 16–31 from 25–40 mi off Florence (Mike Pettis, TT).

Only eight Pink-footed Shearwaters off Westport May 7 (BT) and five 15 mi off Florence Apr. 13 (TT) provided the highest counts reported. Three Flesh-footed Shearwaters seen May 7 off Westport (BT) furnished the only report, as usual. Two Short-tailed Shearwaters were noted Mar. 6 at Boiler Bay, OR (PP), and 11 were seen in Hecate Strait east of the Queen Charlotte Is. Apr. 12 (MH, PH). Sooty Shearwaters were reported in their usual large numbers. Twenty Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen Apr. 20 about 15 mi off Pacific City, OR (TT), and several were seen at night in the lights of the boat during the previous week.

The first Brown Pelican reported this season was an immature seen Apr. 17 flying N past the North jetty of the Columbia R., WA (DPa). Thereafter four were north to Westport May 14 (EH et al.). However, most were in Oregon, with 20 counted May 29 on Gull Rock, Coos (Roy Lowe, JA), and about 20 noted May 30 on the North Spit of Coos Bay (LT).

An ad. **Red-faced Cormorant** in breeding plumage was seen Apr. 10–11 near Old Massett, at the n. end of the Queen Charlotte Is. for the first record for Canada (Rick Howe, Charlie Bellis, †PH, ph. MH). The nearest colony is on Kayak I. east of Cordova, AK, about 600 mi to the northwest.

The last of the wintering Great Egrets were two in the Vancouver, BC, area Mar. 6–12 (MP, JJ) and five in Washington up to May 10. A breeding-plumaged Snowy Egret at the Diamond L. sewage pond May 26 (DFi) established a surprising first record for the Toketee Ranger District, OR. A flock of 15+ White-faced Ibises flew by the Yaquina, OR, jetty May 21 (Walt Youngen, fide BB). Then four were seen briefly in N. Portland May 22 (JJ, DBa) and at nearby Ridgefield N.W.R., WA, May 23 (Marguerite Hills). A lone ibis spent the afternoon of May 25 in a field near Sequim, WA (C & RR). In addition to the 29 ibises at Coos Bay last year a flock of 37 was near Astoria May 12–14, 1987 (AR et al.).



Red-faced Cormorant at Old Massett, British Columbia, April 11, 1988. Photograph/Margo Hearne.

GEESSE TO FALCONS — Twenty thousand Greater White-fronted Geese were counted passing NNW over Diamond L., just northwest of Crater Lake N.P., OR, Apr. 26–27 (DFi; see also *Oregon Birds* 14:243–246, 1988) presumably from wintering or staging areas in the Klamath basin to the generally coastal migration route farther north. A "Blue" Snow Goose stopped at Howard Prairie L., e. Jackson, OR, Mar. 5 (BrS). The Ross' Goose that wintered on Sauvie I. was last seen Mar. 12 (DL). It or another was nearby at Jackson Bottoms, Hillsboro, OR, Apr. 17 (†DL, LW, Pat Muller). Single Emperor Geese stayed in Saanich, V.I., to at least Mar. 6 (J.B. Tatum); at Glide, Douglas, OR, Mar. 13–20 (Paul Osburn, Steve Jagers, Ron Maertz, DFi);

and at Tokeland, WA, Apr 1–24 (m ob , ph DJ) Two Emperor Geese were seen Apr 7 on the Cardy Unit, Ridgefield N W R (Dan Bolton). Daily counts of the Snow Geese on Reifel I., BC, noted 10,000 there Mar. 13, 7000 Apr. 17, 4000 Apr. 25, and the last 100 Apr. 29 (JI).

A "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal at the Nehalem meadows Apr. 19 (DI, PP) was the latest of the five reported in Oregon. Another was in Seattle Mar. 11 (BSu). A ♂ Blue-winged Teal at Ridgefield N.W.R., WA, Mar. 6 (JE) was early, as was a pair at Emigrant L., Ashland, OR, Mar. 12 (BrS). Widespread arrival was Apr. 17, also early. Cinnamon Teal numbers increased steadily following first arrivals in late February, to 24 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., near Salem, OR, Mar. 11 (DPe) and 50 at Ridgefield N.W.R. Mar. 21 (Wilson Cady). A bird identified as a ♂ Redhead x Greater Scaup again visited Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC, Mar. 18–May 6 (†BK; MP). The ♂ Tufted Duck found in February at Meares L., Tillamook, OR, was seen through Mar. 19 (†DL, †LW, m.ob.). Others were on Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, WA, Mar. 13 (Georgia Ramsey); at the Monmouth sedimentation ponds Mar. 28 (RG); and on Green L. in Seattle Apr. 1–2 (Martin Muller, †EH). The bird believed to be a hybrid Tufted Duck x Greater Scaup was seen again at Green L. Apr. 10 (†AR).

Pairs of Black-shouldered Kites were observed during May at Raymond, WA (m.ob.), on the Nehalem meadows, OR (John Fitcher, HN), and along the Coquille R. at Myrtle Point, OR (LT, DFi *et al.*). An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk was north to the Salmon R. meadows, OR, Mar. 6 (HN), and a Swainson's Hawk was west of the Cascades to the Nisqually N.W.R., WA, May 1 (†Mike Denny *et al.*). "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were noted in early March at Auburn (†DBe) and Sequim (†DJ), WA, and at the Nehalem meadows (JE, HN). Very few Rough-legged Hawks were reported, continuing the trend of the last few years. One still at Coos Bay, OR, Apr. 21 was the latest this season (LT). Golden Eagles nested near Medford, OR (Ed Abbott, MM), and on San Juan I., WA (ML). All other reports, including one bird at Reifel I., BC, May 14–20 (JI), were within flight distance of these sites.

The normal number of Merlin reports included a very pale brown bird seen Apr. 9 at Yelm, WA (†RA, †Hal Opperman *et al.*), believed to be of the race *richardsoni*. One Merlin May 6 at Ocean Shores, WA, was the latest ever there (G & WH), and another was still at Reifel I., BC, May 21 (JI). Two Prairie Falcons on the Skagit flats, WA, Mar. 5 (Bud Anderson) and one in Coquitlam, BC, Apr. 7 (†GT) were unusual at those locations. Others were in Oregon, at Emigrant L. Mar. 2 (MM), in Salem Mar. 22 (Barb Combs), and at the Bandon marsh Apr. 24 for only the 2nd Coos record (LT).

SHOREBIRDS — Sixty Black-bellied Plovers on the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, BC, May 24 provided the high count reported (WW), down from the usual several hundred. Correspondingly, only six Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported, all in Washington, Apr. 23–May 16. Groups of three Black-necked Stilts were west to the Nisqually N.W.R. Apr. 15 (Verna Timm, Sam Agnew) for only the 7th record for w. Washington; to Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, OR, Apr. 16 (SH, DFi); and to Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Salem, OR, May 10 (DPe). Single stilts were farther north to the Serpentine Fen, BC, May 2 (†WW) and the Montlake fill, Seattle, May 12 (CEV, m.ob.) for the first King record. One–two Am. Avocets also wandered W to Seattle Mar. 31 (KA *et al.*); to the Serpentine Fen Apr. 25 (WW); Vancouver L., Clark, WA, Apr. 30 (PB); near Sequim, WA, May 11–14 (D & SSm, Joyce Collins); and N. Portland May 23–24 (JE, HN). Three–five avocets then settled in May 10 at the Serpentine Fen (WW).

Peak counts of Greater Yellowlegs were of 107 in the Green River Valley, Auburn, WA, Apr. 2 (JG), 154 there Apr. 9 (DBe), and 125 on Reifel I. Apr. 17 (JI). As usual, Lesser Yellowlegs were relatively scarce in the spring, with 11 at Reifel I. Apr. 25 (JI) and 12 at the Forest Grove, OR, sewage ponds Apr. 26

(JE) the high counts. The 14 Solitary Sandpipers reported, Apr 12–May 14, represented almost normal numbers. One–two Long-billed Curlews were reported from 9 locations, with two at Tillamook May 18 (JE, HN) and one at Bandon May 22 (LT) the latest.

Four **Bar-tailed Godwits** were observed May 14 at Bandon (†DFi, Kevin Sands, HS, Martha Sawyer) for the 4th spring record for Oregon. A Hudsonian Godwit was seen May 30 on Reifel I. (JI). One hundred Marbled Godwits were still at Tokeland Apr. 15 (G & WH), and 250 were at Bandon Apr. 27 (LT). Only eight remained at Tokeland May 9 (EH, PM). Two on Sequim Bay, WA, May 28 (Fred Sharpe) and one on Yaquina Bay, OR, May 29 (DFa) were the latest. Thirty Ruddy Turnstones also at Bandon May 14 (DFi *et al.*) furnished the high count for the season.

Four Red Knots at Tokeland, WA, Apr. 15 (G & WH) were early. Their passage was marked by counts of 600 at the nearby Elk R. mouth May 7 (BT) and of 1000 between Tokeland–Westport May 14 (EH *et al.*). Ten⁺ at Newport, OR, Apr. 28 (Robert Olson) represented the high count elsewhere. Two at Bandon May 14–22 (DFi, LT) and one at the Serpentine Fen May 24 (WW) were the latest.

A breeding-plumaged ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper was noted Apr. 27–29 at the Forest Grove, OR, sewage ponds (HN, JE, DL). The 10,000 W. Sandpipers Apr. 30 in Delta, BC (WW), and the 500 Least Sandpipers at the S.J.C.R. and 200 at Tillamook May 4 (HN) marked the peak passage of these species. The 5 Pectoral Sandpiper sightings were spread Apr. 8–May 25 and were many fewer than usual. Likewise, the only Baird's Sandpiper reported was one Apr. 27 at Bandon (Jack Thomas). A **Stilt Sandpiper** observed May 15 at the Serpentine Fen (†Jo Ann & Hue MacKenzie) furnished one of very few spring records. Two thousand Short-billed Dowitchers along Willapa Bay, WA, Apr. 15–16 (DPa) represented by far the largest concentration noted.

Twenty-five Wilson's Phalaropes were at the Kirtland ponds, Medford, OR, May 10 (MM); 20 were in N. Portland May 22+ (JJ, DBa *et al.*); and pairs were scattered during May from Bandon, where they were the first Coos record since 1978 (LT), to the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, BC (WW *et al.*). A count of 574 Red-necked Phalaropes was made off Westport May 7 (BT), and another 1500 were noted May 19 in Jane Passage near Klemtu north of Bella Bella, BC (SJ). No Red Phalaropes were seen on 3 trips out of Westport Apr. 22–May 7 (BT, TW).

JAEGERS TO PUFFINS — A Pomarine Jaeger was noted Apr. 12 in Hecate Strait, BC (MH, PH), and another was near Westport Apr. 19 (George Gerdt). Nine others were seen offshore Westport Apr. 22–May 7 (TW) and coastal Oregon Apr. 25 and May 31 (TT). An ad. **Franklin's Gull** found at ocean Shores, WA, May 15–16 (Jeff Palmer, BT *et al.*) established only the 2nd spring record for w. Washington. Another Franklin's was seen May 26 at the Kirtland Rd. ponds, Medford, OR (Mike Robbins). One of the Little Gulls that wintered near Tacoma, WA, was last seen Mar. 20 (DL, Verda Teale). Another was sighted Apr. 11 at Manitou Beach, Bainbridge I., WA (IP). Nine Glaucous Gulls were reported, a typical number, with seven of these found on the Oregon coast.

The first Caspian Tern of the season was early at Naselle, WA, Mar. 8 (AR, AM). Widespread arrival on the Oregon coast was in late March (HN *et al.*). Four Caspian Terns reached Roberts Bank, Delta, BC, Apr. 30 (WW), and 21 were at nearby Iona I. May 22 (Lynn Miller, BK). Sixty Com. Terns off Steveston, BC, May 7 (WW *et al.*) and 50 at Westport May 9 (EH, PM) provided the high counts. Two Arctic Terns had arrived at their beleaguered nesting outpost in Everett, WA, by Apr. 27 (Ken Brunner). Nine Forster's Terns were sighted in w. Oregon this May. Three were at the Kirtland Rd. ponds in Medford May 16 (MM). Others were at Baskett Slough N.W.R. for the only Polk records in the last 7 years, the Forest Grove sewage ponds, Denman N.W.R., and Diamond L. in e. Douglas. Single

Black Terns were also at the Kirtland Rd. ponds, Baskett Slough N.W.R., and Sauvie I May 14–24, and two were on the Snohomish, WA, sewage ponds May 21–26 (TS et al., Charlotte Albright).

Three Ancient Murrelets were seen at sea off Westport May 7 (TW). The 22 Cassin's Auklets seen off Westport Apr. 23 and the 12 there May 7 represented a decrease from the last 2 years of high counts. Tufted Puffins returned early to their nesting colonies at Bandon, OR (B & ZSt), and Mandarte I., BC (ML). The 12 puffins on Colony Rock at Yaquina Head May 12 (Kathy Liska) furnished "the highest number there in years" (DFa). The Cape Meares, OR, site was apparently not used this year (HN).

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS — First arrivals of Band-tailed Pigeons at several w. Oregon locales were Apr. 10 (BB, Wes & Florence Bell). Band-taileds winter regularly around Puget Sound, but the 330 gathered May 1 on the Stillwater Unit near Carnation, WA, were migrants (GA), as were the 250 on Sauvie I., OR, May 8–12 (HN).

A Burrowing Owl along Modoc Rd. near Medford Mar. 22 (Loral & Evelyn Leavitt) and another at a burrow along Hwy 140 east of Medford Mar. 28 (HS) were intriguing as potential nesters. The Burrowing Owl seen Apr. 20 at the S.J.C.R. (HN) was surprising. Great Gray Owls were seen in early April at the n. end of Howard Prairie L., e. Jackson, OR (June Babcock), and southwest of that lake toward Hyatt L. (Jerry & Karen Kearney).

Very early Com. Nighthawks were noted May 15 at Bandon, OR (BG, LT et al.), and May 21 near Salem (RG). There were no reports from farther north. A Com. Poorwill was calling May 21 in Eden Valley, OR (Geoff Keller), for the first Coos record (*fide* LT). The first sighting of Black Swifts this spring was of a flock of 250 at Pt. Grey in Vancouver, BC, May 16 (MP, KY). Another 250 were over Pitt Meadows, BC, May 28 (WW), and 100 were over the Kent, WA, sewage ponds May 29 (IP). The first Vaux's Swifts were noted Apr. 15 at Myrtle Pt. (LT), Roseburg (DFi), and Corvallis (M & EE), OR; Apr. 29 in Vancouver, BC (MP, BK); and Apr. 30 at Carnation, WA (TS).

Four Calliope Hummingbirds in the lowlands of w. Oregon and one near Nehalem, WA, May 15 (TW) were in areas where the species is considered a regular spring visitor. Male Calliopes were also seen near Tacoma, WA, Apr. 23–24 (R & PS) and at Duvall, King, WA, May 19–20 (GA).

A Lewis' Woodpecker was present at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, at least from Mar. 12–Apr. 16 (SH, DFi, HN) for the only report this season of a now very scarce migrant in the Willamette Valley. Several Acorn Woodpeckers were noted at their n. outpost near McMinnville, southwest of Portland (Tom Love *fide* HN). Red-naped Sapsuckers, an eastside species occurring here as a migrant, were noted Mar. 19 at Carnation, WA (BSu); Apr. 18 in Vancouver, BC (†Carlo Giovanella et al.); Apr. 20–27 on Waldron I., WA (Charles & Mildred Ludwig *fide* ML); May 6 at Pt. Grey, Vancouver, BC (†MP); and May 7 at Oxbow Park east of Gresham, OR (JE). A White-headed Woodpecker was located Apr. 9 & 20 on the Weir Prairie near Rainier, Thurston, for the first record for w. Washington (†RA et al., George Walter).

FLYCATCHERS TO THRASHERS — Olive-sided Flycatchers and W. Wood-Pewees arrived distinctly late. First reports of Olive-sideds from all reporting areas were May 10–19; W. Wood-Pewee, May 10–17. Willow Flycatchers arrived in lowland Oregon May 8–15 and in the Oregon Cascades, Washington, and the Vancouver, BC, area, May 21–26. Hammond's Flycatchers were first noted in Eugene Apr. 16 (SH) and were throughout the Region by May 1. The first W. Flycatchers reported were in Puget Sound Apr. 9–15 (CE, ML), and by May 2 they were also throughout the Region.

Dusky Flycatchers arrived at their Thorn Prairie breeding site near the Toketee Ranger Station Apr. 23 (DFi) and were noted in Portland and Ashland, OR, May 3–8 (JJ, B & ZSt).

Three Duskie singing May 22 at Scoggins Valley Park near Forest Grove, OR, were unusual (DL). Gray Flycatchers, rare in the Region, were found Apr. 14 & 24 (probably separate birds) at the Santiam flats near Detroit, e. Marion, OR (†BB, †RG, Bill Tice). Others were seen at Toketee L. Apr. 29 (†DFi), on Upper Table Rock near Medford May 4 (Ray Ekstrom), and in the Applegate Valley west of Medford May 30 (John Keller).

Say's Phoebes wandered W to near Seattle Mar. 11 (CEv) and American Camp on San Juan I., WA, Apr. 10 (MO). The **Vermilion Flycatcher** found in Redmond, WA, this winter was last seen Mar. 17 (Lorraine & Rick Halpin). Western Kingbirds overflowed their usual nesting locales in c. Oregon, reaching the n. Oregon coast Apr. 19–28 (DI, PP, Dfa, JA). Three were present on the Nehalem meadows May 4 (HN). At least 11 W. Kingbirds were found in w. Washington, from Apr. 30 at Vancouver L. (PB) and including four at Port Williams near Sequim May 16–19 (CR et al.), and one was north to Sea I. near Vancouver, BC, May 16 (MP, KY).

Surveys of American Camp on San Juan I., WA, found that the vole population had crashed from a year ago, the Eur. Rabbit numbers had tripled, and the usual 10+ Eur. Skylarks were present (ML). The first Purple Martins were reported Apr. 10–11 from Toledo and Portland, OR (DFa, JJ, DI). The first N Rough-winged Swallow reports were Mar. 18 in Talent, OR (MM); Apr. 2–3 in Auburn and Seattle, WA (JG, DBE); and Apr. 10–11 in Vancouver, BC (MP) and the San Juan Is. (ML). The first Cliff Swallows were noted in Oregon, Washington, and s.w. British Columbia Mar. 29–Apr. 3. Barn Swallows were along the Oregon coast Mar. 27–30 (Jeff Gilligan, SH, HN) and arrived in the San Juan Is. and Vancouver, BC, Apr. 8 (ML, WW).

A Rock Wren was present in a clearcut above Scoggins Valley Park west of Portland May 20 (JE). A Canyon Wren was seen well Apr. 23 at the foot of the Carbon Glacier on the n. side of Mt. Rainier for the 3rd w. Washington record (Ruth Taylor). Both Rock and Canyon wrens were resident at a quarry beside Emigrant L., Ashland, OR (MM). House Wrens arrived at their now relatively numerous breeding localities in the Region Apr. 15 and later.

Mountain Bluebirds wandered to Vashon I., WA, Apr. 7 (CE), American Camp on San Juan I. Apr. 10 (MO); and W. Dungeness, WA, Apr. 24 (SSm). Arrival of Swainson's Thrushes in Oregon was Apr. 28–May 5 (BB, HN), the San Juan Is. May 8 (ML), and Burnaby, BC, May 10 (WW). A N. Mockingbird was at Ankeny N.W.R., OR, in February and again Apr. 28–May 9 (Maeve Loftin, m.ob.), and another was at North Bend, OR, Mar. 26 (LW et al.). Westward wandering Sage Thrashers were found Apr. 21 at the Santiam flats near Detroit, e. Marion, OR (†BB), and May 10 at the Ocean Shores, WA, jetty (ph. Jeff Skritletz).

VIREOS TO SPARROWS — Solitary Vireos arrived on schedule in Washington Apr. 11–19 (ML, Murray Hansen). Warbling Vireos arrived in Oregon Apr. 25–May 1 and in Washington and s.w. British Columbia May 10–12. A Red-eyed Vireo on Sauvie I. May 10 was early (HN). Black-throated Gray Warblers were first reported from the Willamette Valley Apr. 2 (M & EE), w. Washington Apr. 9–11 (CE, DB), the Oregon coast Apr. 15 (Ben Fawver, Dfa), and Vancouver, BC, Apr. 16 (DSO). Migrant Townsend's Warblers were observed 15+ mi offshore Florence, OR, Apr. 13–20 (TT), and the first arrival in Vancouver, BC, was Apr. 21 (MP). Hermit Warblers returned later than usual, with first reports Apr. 28–May 3 in Oregon (DFi, Dfa).

The **Blackburnian Warbler** found last fall on the Nehalem meadows, OR, was last seen Mar. 9 (JE, HN). Palm Warblers, scarce in spring, were seen Mar. 2 at Yaquina Bay, OR (JE, HN), and Mar. 5–Apr. 2 at the Raymond, WA, airport (Bob Morse, PS). A Black-and-white Warbler was observed May 23 in Fraser River Park, Vancouver, BC (†Catherine Aitchison, DSo), for one of few spring records.

First arrival dates for MacGillivray's Warblers were later than usual, Apr. 20–May 9, at several Oregon locations. Common Yellowthroats were noted Mar. 25 at both Ashland, OR (BrS), and Auburn, WA (JG). Local first arrivals were reported throughout the Region through Apr. 12. A ♂ Wilson's Warbler near Finley N.W.R., Corvallis, OR, Apr. 3 was the earliest ever there (Anthony Floyd *et al.*). Elsewhere, arrival was Apr. 13 and later, and 75 were still in migration at the S.J.C.R. May 18 (JE, HN).

A W. Tanager at Reifel I., BC, Apr. 15 (JI) was very early. Arrivals in Oregon were on schedule Apr. 26–May 3; in Washington and s.w. British Columbia, May 7–13. Black-headed Grosbeak arrival was similar and only a few days later. An early bird was in Salem, OR, Apr. 23 (DPe). Arrivals in Oregon were May 1–5; in Washington and s.w. British Columbia, May 11–15. The first Lazuli Bunting was noted Apr. 15 in Roseburg, OR (DFi), and 35 were gathered at a feeder at the Toketee Ranger Station May 17 (DFi, Sue Gordy).

A ♂ Dickcissel in breeding plumage stayed Mar. 19–Apr. 18 at a feeder in North Bend, OR, for the 2nd state and Coos records (BG, †LW, m.ob.). Seven Green-tailed Towhees were singing May 17 at their breeding outpost at Thorn Prairie, e. Douglas (DFi, DI, PP). An Am. Tree Sparrow stayed at the Nehalem meadows until Mar. 9 (JE, HN), and another was on Reifel I. Mar. 12 (JI). A Vesper Sparrow at Green L. in Seattle Apr. 3 (EH) was early and at an unusual (urban) location. A Sage Sparrow found Apr. 1 in Roseburg provided one of very few records for w. Oregon (†DFi) and was within the same early time span as the 3 w. Washington spring sightings. Several Savannah Sparrows and a Fox Sparrow were observed 15+ mi offshore Florence, OR, Apr. 14–20 (TT).

Three Swamp Sparrows were still near Tillamook, OR, Mar. 6 (PP). Another found Mar. 6 on the Cardy Unit, Ridgefield N.W.R., furnished only the 20th record for Washington (JE—excellent sketch). Late records were set by individuals near Corvallis Apr. 3 (DPe) and on the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, BC, Apr. 29 (†GT). Nine White-throated Sparrows were reported in Oregon with one Apr. 17 on Sauvie I. the latest (JJ). A White-throated found on the Stillwater Unit near Carnation, WA, stayed to Apr. 25 (TH *et al.*, PM). Birds believed to be hybrid Golden-crowned x White-crowned sparrows were closely studied at feeders in Bellingham Apr. 28–29 (†TW) and at the Toketee Ranger Station (†DFi). Arrival dates for the pugetensis race of the White-crowned Sparrow in Washington were Mar. 23 in Naselle (AR, AM), Mar. 25 in Federal Way (Thais Bock), and Mar. 27 at Vashon I. (CE) and Seattle (DBe). Only three Harris' Sparrows were found, which is well below average. Singles were at Nehalem meadows, OR, Mar. 9 (JE, HN); in Eagle point near Medford Mar. 25–26 (HS); and near Carnation, WA, Apr. 16 (TH).

LONGSPURS TO FINCHES — The small wintering flock of longspurs and buntings at Ocean Shores, WA, provided the only report of these species (Mike Carmody). The **McKay's Bunting** reported in winter was last seen Apr. 1. A Snow Bunting lingered until Apr. 21, and a few Lapland Longspurs stayed until May 6 (G & WH).

Even more Yellow-headed Blackbirds than usual were reported this season from about 20 locations. Most sightings were in May, none was on the outer coast, and the only report of more than eight birds was of 50 in N. Portland May 22 (JJ, DBa). An ad. ♀ Rusty Blackbird, possibly from the group that wintered on nearby Sauvie I., was seen Mar. 13–15 in Commonwealth Park, Beaverton, OR (JE, HN). A bird identified as a white-eyed ♀ Brewer's Blackbird was seen in this same park through March (ph. HN). Several similar birds have been photographed or collected in the Northwest in recent years, and in each case bill length and size have been definitive.

Northern Orioles arrived in the Willamette Valley on schedule Apr. 26–May 1 (PP, BB). Individuals were on the Oregon coast near Newport May 10 (DFa) and at Sea I. near Vancouver, BC, May 16 (MP, KY). An **Orchard Oriole**, providing the 3rd record for Oregon, stayed around a feeder at the Toketee Ranger Station May 8–10 (†DFi, ph. Jeff Moffett).

A few Cassin's Finches were at feeders in Ashland and near Medford, OR, during March (Ray Skibby, Mike Uhtoff, HS), and several were in the Cascades of e. Douglas at the Toketee Ranger Station all spring (DFi). Flocks of Red Crossbills were noted in all reporting areas of the Region. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce, with only a few feeder concentrations mentioned

INITIALED OBSERVERS (Subregional Editors in bold-face) — Kevin Aanerud, Gerry Adams, Jon Anderson, Robert Ashbaugh, David Bailey (DBa), Dave Beaudette (DBe), Barb Bellin, Patsy Benson, Carole Elder (CE), Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, Charles Evans (CEv), Darrel Faxon (DFa), **David Fix** (DFi), John Gatchet, Roy Gerig, Barbara Griffin, Peter Hamel, Todd Hass, Margo Hearne, Steve Heintz, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Don Johnson, Jim Johnson, Stuart Johnston, Brian Kautesk, **Doug Kragh**, Mark Lewis, Donna Luthoff, Marjorie Moore, Ann Musche, **Harry Nehls**, Mark Oberle, Ian Paulsen, Dennis Paulson (DPA), Don Pederson (DPe), Phil Pickering, Michael Price, Alan Richards, Carrie & Rick Rodlend, Howard Sands, Tom Schooley, Dory & Stan Smith (D & SSm), Daphne Solecki (DSO), Bruce Stewart (BrS), Bill & Zanah Stotz (B & ZSt), Ruth & Patrick Sullivan, Bob Sundstrom (BSu), Terry Thompson, Glen Thomsen, Larry Thornburg, **Bill Tweit**, Terry Wahl, Wayne Weber, Linda Weiland, K. Youngs.—**PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR., 915 E. Third Ave., Ellensburg, WA 98926.**

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

**David G. Yee, Richard A. Erickson,
and Stephen F. Bailey**

Many Great Basin lakes were dry or too low for nesting by waterbirds such as *Aechmophorus* grebes and Am. White Pelicans, some of which may have returned early to coastal waters instead of breeding this year. Farallon Island seabirds showed excellent reproductive success, with Cassin's Auklets double-clutching. Knowledge of our breeding landbirds has greatly increased as birders in more areas conduct breeding bird atlases or counts. Late spring vagrant waves were notable for their quantity rather than

quality, as many of our "regulars" were observed in near-record numbers.

We thank Kurt F. Campbell for compiling the landbird reports for Yee's analysis.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; Cyn. = Canyon; F.I. = S.E. Farallon I.; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. Use of "Period" and "Region" (capitalized) refers to these terms as defined for *American Birds*. All records from S.E. Farallon I. and Palomarin should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.). Place names in *italics* are counties.



GREBES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD — Late grebes included two Horneds on southern S.F. Bay June 4 (CB, G. Hoyt) and a Red-necked at Pt. Reyes June 15 (RS). *Aechmophorus* grebe counts in n.e. Monterey Bay declined to 1247 by June 30, then increased to 2721 by July 29 (DLSu). Clark's Grebes averaged 15.9% of those identified in these surveys. Among the major *Aechmophorus* colonies that did not exist this summer due to low water levels were those at Bridgeport L., Mono (RS) and Mountain Meadows Res., Lassen (SFB).

Tubenoses were generally scarce, except for Sooty Shearwaters in n.e. Monterey Bay. After a lull in the afternoon visits of large Sooty flocks to Santa Cruz waters, 1,200,000 returned June 19 (DLSu). An adult or near-adult **Brown Booby** roosted at Pt. Lobos, Monterey in the afternoons of June 15-19 (P. Mosimann, M. Trocme, †AB, †DR, †ALE). Perhaps this represented a continuation of last year's booby irruption.

Boat surveys of the bridge colonies of Double-crested Cormorants found 350-375 nests on the S.F. Bay Bridge, Alameda and 275-300 nests on the Richmond Bridge, Contra Costa (M. Rauzon, HRC). Counts of 900-1100 of this species in the central Baumberg salt ponds, Hayward, Alameda through July (SFB) were considered typical (LRF) for this major habitat for piscivores. An all-time high 1522 Brandt's Cormorant nests with young were visible from public trails at Pt. Lobos, Monterey July 2 (AB). The count of 28 Pelagic Cormorant nests there was considered "good", but 30 Pelagic nests were active under the Monterey Bay Aquarium, with others elsewhere along Cannery Row (AB). This illustrates the shift to man-made nest substrates by this species as well as by the Double-crested. A ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird flying S at Capitola, Santa Cruz July 20 (†CKf) continued S past Zmudowski State Beach, Monterey the same day (K. Kwan).

HERONS TO WATERFOWL — A Least Bittern at Joyce I. Solano June 21 (RS) was at a new location. Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets were reported nesting at Alviso, unfortunately without details (WGB). An apparent Little Blue Heron x Snowy Egret hybrid was at the Stockton sewage ponds July 11-15 (†DGY, †JM). There are few unequivocal Regional records of this form or imm. Little Blue Heron. A few Little Blue Herons have presumably been breeding on S.F. Bay, and occasionally elsewhere in the Region, for many years. Hybrid offspring and, worse yet, backcross offspring would seem to be as numerous

as pure Little Blue Heron offspring. The identification of these forms has not yet been adequately studied. Especially confusing is that dusky wingtips are almost never seen on these birds.

Estimates of the number of White-faced Ibises at the Woodland Sugar Ponds in mid-June ranged from 100+ to 1000; many were nesting (fide TDM, HG). One thousand were estimated present in the central Sacramento Valley this summer with 300 active nests at Colusa N.W.R. (fide BED). Numbers dropped off dramatically in Stanislaus after May with the last bird seen June 19 (HMR).

A Greater White-fronted Goose near Newark July 10 (LRF) was the Region's first coastal summer record. Two others were reported inland. Brant have the reverse pattern with over 150 along the coast being far overshadowed by singles in Mono at Bridgeport Res. May 28 (DS) and Mono L. July 27 (PJM). Canada Geese are now so commonly released that interpreting their natural summer distribution is almost hopeless. California Fish & Game plantings in the Arcata Bottoms and Eel R. delta this spring resulted in numerous sightings in the Humboldt Bay area (fide PFS, RAE).

A Mallard brood at 10,850' Evolution L., Fresno July 20 (HG) is our highest nesting record ever. A ♂ **Garganey** at the Woodland Sugar Ponds June 19 (GEw; details to C.B.R.C.) was in a sensitive wader nesting area so news of its discovery was suppressed. The date may be prohibitively late for a naturally occurring bird as 4 previously accepted California records span Mar. 10-Apr. 29. The bird's rumored presence a week or so later is further damaging and will be considered in the C.B.R.C. decision-making process.

Lesser Scaup again nested near S.F. Bay. A female with chicks was at Palo Alto Flood Control Basin July 3 (PMB). An Oldsquaw remained at Pt. Reyes to at least July 5 (JMR et al.). An imm. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Tule Lake N.W.R., Siskiyou June 26 (†RE) was the first summer Period record in over 50 years. With another Siskiyou record from May 1987, hope remains alive that we may see this species once again nesting in California.

RAPTORS — An unusual total of nine summer reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk in greater S.F. Bay Area counties included Santa Cruz's 2nd nesting, on Pine Mt. near last year's first (RAM). Cooper's Hawks continued expanding their breeding range in San Mateo, especially in urban habitats (PJM, RSTh, D. Keller).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Sora landed aboard a U.S. naval vessel 80 miles W of San Francisco Aug. 1 (J. Harris). A Com. Moorhen at Arcata Marsh June 5-8 (FJB et al.) may have been the same individual seen there in April.

S.A.

Intensive coverage of n. Humboldt Bay this summer (33 visits May 15-July 4) by Broerman et al. gave us our best estimate to date of the number of truly overwintering shorebirds on a major estuarine system. Their results: 148 Black-bellied Plovers, 3 Greater Yellowlegs, 4-5 Willets, 44 Whimbrels, 125 Long-billed Curlews, 105 Marbled Godwits, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, 15 Red Knots, 3+ W. Sandpipers, and 7 dowitchers (only Short-billed identified). As expected, the highest numbers were of the larger species, which presumably take longer to reach sexual maturity. Most surprising were the absence of any Semipalmated Plovers (no reports Regionwide in June) and the low number of Willets.

Adult Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Samoa, Humboldt June 12 (FJB), Limantour Estero, Marin July 16 (D Bromley), and Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes July 29-31 (RS, †DAH). The former was *fulva*, the latter *dominica*, and the other unspecified. San Francisco Bay continues to host Black Oystercatchers. A brood was seen at W. Marin I. this summer (M.J. Rauson, HRC) for the first time.

The first juv. Lesser Yellowlegs reported was in the Arcata Bottoms July 21-23 (FJB). Three Solitary Sandpipers were found in the last 10 days of July, all inland. A basic-plumaged Wandering Tattler at Scott Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz June 18 (DEG) is one of very few potentially oversummering records. Nesting Spotted Sandpipers on the American R. Parkway, near Watt Ave. June 17 into July (DoM) and at Arden Bar June 26 (DJo), were the first such records for Sacramento.

Eight to nine Semipalmated Sandpipers were found in July with two in Eureka July 7 (FJB) our earliest ever. The first juv. Semipalmated, Western, and Least Sandpipers were all found July 24-25 (RSTh, FJB). For the second consecutive year, an alternate-plumaged Baird's Sandpiper lingered on the n. Santa Cruz coast, this one at Wilder Cr. Beach June 17-18 (†DEG). The first fall migrants were adults at Abbotts Lagoon July 20 (PP) and Moss Landing July 21 (DR) and juveniles at Hayward Regional Shoreline July 22 (RJR) and Moss Landing (4) July 24 (DR, DLSu *et al.*).

Three Dunlins in the first 5 days of June were considered late spring migrants, one in basic plumage at Hayward July 16 (†SFB) was probably summering, and two in alternate plumage at Hayward Regional Shoreline July 30 were considered possibly very early fall migrants (RJR). An alternate-plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher on Pt. Reyes June 10-12 (†DAH, JM) was the only June report. Wilson's Phalaropes began staging very early at Mono L. with 7900 present by June 16; the widespread drought in the prairies was thought possibly responsible (JRJ)

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS — Four reports of single S. Polar Skuas July 9-23 spanned the full length of our Region's coast. An ad. Laughing Gull on F.I. June 2-4 (ph.PP) was the Island's second ever. An ad. Franklin's Gull flying N past Pigeon Pt. June 23 (BS) was followed by a conspecific at Modesto sewage ponds July 3 (ph.†ERC). The systematic counts along the Santa Cruz coast found fewer Heermann's Gulls than last year, with the Palm Beach to New Brighton Beach segment peaking at 3596 July 19 versus 7442 last year (DLSu). Boat surveys of nesting W. Gulls in S.F. and San Pablo Bays tallied 580-650+ nests in 27 colonies (M. Rauson, HRC), despite not censusing the second largest colony in these bays, the Alameda Naval Air Station breakwater (SFB). The number of new sites, including many single nests on channel marker piles, adds to the picture of the W. Gull's great expansion into the Bay system. An imm. Glaucous-winged Gull at Bridgeport Res., June 20 (†PJM) was Mono's first. The now-annual summer occurrence of Sabine's Gull continued as 30 were offshore Monterey July 23 and two were near F.I. the next day (both ToJ).

Eighty-eight more observations were made of Caspian Terns apparently commuting over the Santa Cruz Mts. in Santa Cruz (DLSu, RAM, GAB, CKf, BSch—see A.B. 41:1483). Analysis supports "the hypothesis that most . . . are breeding in the south S.F. Bay . . . commuting S at a wide variety of times to forage Monterey Bay . . . staying late [perhaps] to maximize their take" (DLSu). Apparent migrants were headed N in spring, adults carried fish (all N) by mid-June, and fledglings followed adults (all but one flying S). The huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters fish these waters only during the afternoon, so an advantage to late foraging seems likely.

Despite the early spring flight of Elegant Terns, this species was much less numerous than in any of the last 10 years, except 1982. For example, Suddjian's Palm Beach to New Brighton Beach count July 29 was only 102, versus 1924 July

27, 1987. Least Terns had another good year at Alameda Naval Air Station, with 58-67 pairs (79 nesting attempts) producing 80-87+ fledglings (LDC). At most one other fledgling resulted from 11 nests at the other 3 colonies in the Region (LDC) A pair of Black Skimmers at Pajaro R. mouth, Monterey/Santa Cruz June 21 (C. Bissel) was followed by a pair along Elkhorn Slough, Monterey July 24-28 (MJL, J. Marshman, L. Love).

Pigeon Guillemots were down sharply in all segments of the Santa Cruz coast (DLSu). The total decrease was 57%, and it was 72% in the area of highest population density. Marbled Murrelets were almost absent in these same waters (DLSu), but 251 by adjacent Ano Nuevo Reserve July 31 (GJS) indicated where many of them went. Eight more reports of Horned Puffins arrived. One was 4 mi W of Point St. George, Del Norte July 10 (†GSL, NEC, †RAE). Another was at F.I. June 17, and singles were in the Gulf of the Farallones June 9 (S. Cooper) and July 24 (ToJ), and two birds there July 31 (ToJ). Singles were offshore Monterey July 17, 23, and 24 (DLm, ToJ, RER) Each of the Farallon or Monterey birds could have been seen more than once, as many boats scoured these waters.

CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS — Excitement caused by eight Yellow-billed Cuckoos along the immediate coast (Marin & S.F.) during the Period was overshadowed by 34-37 pairs along the Sacramento R. from Woodson Bridge S.R.A., Tehama, to Colusa June 16-July 31 (MDH). While this appears to conflict with past statements about their status in our Region (AB 41 1484), no mention of reproductive success was received. Their troubles in the state should not be underrated. There are few summer records of Long-eared Owl along the coast n. of Monterey, so two in Humboldt, which has at least one breeding record, were noteworthy: Snow Camp Mt. June 20 (KI) and near Ettersberg July 15 (JCS). Santa Cruz had its first breeding record in over 41 years as an adult attended a juvenile on Santa Rosalie Mt. July 21 (DLSu).

A Com. Nighthawk at Waddell Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz June 5 (GJS) was rare for the central coast. Efforts to understand the breeding status of Black Swift in Santa Cruz produced some eye-opening results: an estimated 17-20 pairs were observed along the coast with 9 nests located (C. Himmelwright, †DLSu) Our only extralimital Costa's Hummingbird was in Eureka July 1-4 (GSL, RAE *et al.*) An ad. ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Plumas-Eureka S.P. June 20 (DoM) was a first for Plumas and only the 3rd sighting n. of Mono in the e. part of the state.

Statistics produced by the Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count have clearly revealed the coastward expansion of breeding Nuttall's Woodpeckers. Since the first individual was observed on the lower S.F. Peninsula Mar. 6, 1969, "the rise in the population appears nearly exponential and it is now the most abundant woodpecker with the exception of Acorn Woodpecker" (WGB). Interestingly, this increase has occurred without a decrease in numbers of its long-established congeners, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers (WGB). Continued coastal nesting was also noted in Santa Cruz (DLSu) and Sonoma (NTC) An ad. ♂ "Yellow-shafted" N. Flicker at El Granada, San Mateo, June 22 (BS) was considered "pure," and furnished a first in our files for this form in June. After Alameda's first Pileated Woodpecker last Season, Contra Costa had its first and outdid its neighbor by garnishing itself with another: a female along Curry Canyon, Mt. Diablo S.P., June 5-6 (†KGGH *et al.*) was joined by a male June 11 (GFf, JMR *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS TO PIPITS — Dusky Flycatcher breeding was confirmed on San Benito Mt., San Benito, when 2 nests with fledglings were discovered June 18 (see last Season). A single Gray Flycatcher was observed the same day (both †DSg). Pushing for a Regional altitude record of 10,850 ft was a Black Phoebe at Evolution L., Fresno, July 20 (HG). Vagrant E. King-

birds were at Pt. Reyes June 15 (RS) and the Big Sur R mouth June 30 (BGE). Our 2nd Scissor-tailed Flycatcher of the year dazzled only one lucky observer at the Moss Landing W.A. July 21 (†Bill Niendorff).

A summer trek to the Lassic Mts. produced two Clark's Nutcrackers: one at Red Lassic, Trinity, and another along the Trinity/Humboldt line at Black Lassic June 13 (PFS). They appear to be very rare in summer in this section of the Coast Ranges. American Crows are expanding their range as breeders along the central coast, especially in urban areas; several new nest sites were discovered in Santa Cruz (RAM), and San Mateo had its first confirmed breeding record (WGB).

A pair of Bushtits with young at Mono L. June 12–13 (HG, PDG) represented one of several noteworthy events in the Mono Basin this Season. A pair of Bewick's Wrens at the same locale June 20 (PJM) beckoned interest, as the only breeding record of this species for the area was in June 1984. The aftermath of the Mono Basin's first W. Bluebirds last fall at Lee Vining was a pair feeding a fledgling there June 23 (PJM).

Two Hermit Thrushes appearing to be of an eastern race were on F.I. June 11 & 14, while one (race?) in Carmichael, Sacramento, June 18 (V. Vandermeer) was observed on a very odd date for the C.V. A couple of Brown Thrashers paid Humboldt a visit: Eureka July 1 (SWH) and Lanphere Dunes July 11 (D. Ralph, CJR). Up to 15 Water Pipits including a fledgling were observed in the high Sierra at Evolution Basin, Fresno, July 19–22 (†HG) where breeding was suspected 11 years ago. This species is known to breed at several locales in this section of the Sierra.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A plumbeus Solitary Vireo at Mono L. July 26 (PJM) was near areas where this form has bred. A singing Philadelphia Vireo in Golden Gate Park June 15–17 (ASH, †SFB, JM) was only the Region's 2nd during spring. Our only Red-eyed Vireo visited F.I. June 11.

Tennessee Warblers were scarce with only one at Pt. Reyes June 16–17 (RS et al.). A singing N. Parula was at L. Talawa, Del Norte, July 4–9 (PFS et al.) while the singing male at Sycamore Grove, Santa Cruz, remained through July 25 (BMMo, m.ob.). On the latter date the bird was observed feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird chick! No other Parula nor nesting activity by this bird was ever observed, so it was assumed he was only responding to the begging stimulus and the chick was not "his" (DLSu). Four Chestnut-sided Warblers June 16–July 4 and 10 Magnolia Warblers June 11–17 were all coastal. Two Cape May Warblers on F.I. June 14–16 while four "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers there June 15–22 were probably of eastern origins.

Three territorial ♂ Black-throated Gray Warblers and one female were in Mt. Diablo's Pine Cyn. for over a month June 13+ (KGH, CTH), for their first evidence of breeding in Contra Costa. A single Black-throated Green Warbler on F.I. June 14–16 met our spring average. Also in the singular was a Bay-breasted Warbler at Pt. Reyes June 15–17 (DWe et al.) while five Blackpoll Warblers were shared between Pt. Reyes and F.I. June 16–July 12. Eight Black-and-white Warblers June 11–July 12 were all coastal save one netted at Modoc N.W.R. July 15. Interestingly, this bird was two-thirds through a prebasic molt suggesting it spent the summer (†EckB).

A rather impressive 16 Am. Redstarts were observed June 12–July 24: 14 coastal and two inland in Mono. An even more impressive 13 Ovenbirds were found with all but one (Pt. Reyes) on F.I. June 11–July 21. A singing N. Waterthrush near Silver L., Mono June 17–23 (BHG et al.) mirrored the dates and location of last year's singing bird. Rare Oporornis warblers treated only observers on F.I.: a Kentucky June 17 (†PP) and a Mourning June 14–15 (†PP). A singing ♂ MacGillivray's Warbler at the Consumnes R. Preserve, Sacramento June 25 (MP) was unusual for the C.V.; it was probably a nonbreeding wanderer. For the 11th consecutive spring Hooded Warbler was found in the Region: a singing male in S.F. June 21 (ASH, JM, MLR).

Solano's first confirmed breeding record of Wilson's Warbler (!) came from Wild Horse Cr. June 4 (†MBG, JCL) as a pair was observed raising a family. Was a singing Yellow-breasted Chat at Mono L. June 21–23 (PJM) on territory? Mono Basin breeding records are few.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Western Tanagers are known to breed as low as 700 ft. in the Sierran foothills, but a male observed in appropriate habitat below Jenny Lind, Calaveras June 18 (DGY) was at only 200 ft. Twenty-three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (21 coastal, two interior) almost doubled our 10-year average for the Period! Of interest was the ad male along Gazos Cr. Road, San Mateo June 23–30 (GJS, BS et al.); the same site where an ad. male courted a ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak last summer for a month. Both of our coastal Blue Grosbeaks appeared in San Mateo (its first for spring): El Granada June 1 (BS) and Pacifica June 18 (S. Smithson). Indigo Buntings made quite a splash this spring as a total of 18 were sighted during the Period to add to the six from the spring report. Fifteen were coastal while three were from the interior one at Mono L. June 11 (AME, HG, ES) and two along the Sacramento R., Glenn June 15–July 9 (MDH).

Typical of our spring Clay-colored Sparrow records, two were on F.I. June 11 & 21. However, our 3rd for the mainland during spring showed up at Pt. Reyes June 16 (†DAH, JM). The only extralimital Brewer's Sparrow was on F.I. June 1. A Black-throated Sparrow singing in Butte Valley, Siskiyou June 16 (MFRb) was in an area where they are not known to breed. The arrival dates of breeding coastal Grasshopper Sparrows versus those in the interior were hinted at by DR who first noted three singing males in Robinson Cyn., Monterey during the first part of June (a new locale) while those in the e. part of the county arrive in late March. Lingering Zonotrichia sparrows included an unhealthy Golden-crowned in Menlo Park, San Mateo May 23–June 8 (BGr) and a healthy "Gambel's" White-crowned in Del Puerto Cyn., Stanislaus June 19 (†HMR).

Four Bobolinks made an average showing: one at Pebble Beach, Monterey June 4 (D. Donnelly), two at Ft. Dick, Del Norte June 14–16 (RSTr), and one at Mono L. June 20 (PJM). Great-tailed Grackles continue to trickle into our Region as about our 11th was in the Marin Headlands June 15–17 (CLF, BiL, RS). Two very rare spring Orchard Orioles were noted a female on F.I. June 11 and an ad. male in Alamo, Contra Costa June 22 (†J. Ketsdever). A vagrant "Baltimore" N. Oriole was at Pt. Reyes June 12 (AG, m.ob.). An estimated 12 Cassin's Finches around Mt. Lassic, Humboldt/Trinity June 24–25 (GSL, LPL) were from an area where their breeding status still needs to be assessed. It was difficult to surmise what Evening Grosbeaks were up to this summer as up to 15 birds were reported from coastal lowland areas during the Period and two were over Redding in the C.V. June 3 (BAP). Most intriguing was a pair with three immatures at Inverness, Marin June 7 (RS).

CITED CONTRIBUTORS (sub-regional editors in bold-face) — Alan Baldrige, C. Bissel, Clark Blake, E. Clark Bloom (EckB), William G. Bousman, Fred J. Broerman, Geraldine A. Brown, Phylliss M. Browning, Eric R. Caine, Harry R. Carter, Neal E. Clark, Laura D. Collins, Nancy T. Couzett, Bruce E. Deuel, Daniel Donnelly, Arthur L. Edwards, Alan M. Eisner, Ray Ekstrom, Bruce G. Elliott, Gil C. Ewing (GEw), Carter L. Faust, Leora Feeney, George Finger (GF), Douglas E. George, Bruce H. Gerow, Ron H. Gerstenberg, Albert Ghiorso, Helen Green, Paul D. Green, Betty Groce, Marguerite B. Gross, Mary D. Halterman, Stanley W. Harris, Craig Himmelmwright, Charles T. Hines, Jr., Kevin G. Hints, David A. Holway, Alan S. Hopkins, Grant Hoyt, Ken Irwin, Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., Dick Johnson, Tom Johnson (ToJ), D. Keller, Clay Kempf (CKf), James Ketsdever, K. Kwan, David Lemon (DLm), Bill Lenarz (BiL), Gary S. Lester, Lauren P. Lester, Michael J. Lippmeyer, L. Love,

John C. Lovio, Timothy D. Manolis, J. Marshman, Peter J. Metropoulos, Randall A. Morgan, Bryan M. Mori (BMMo), Joseph Morlan, P. Mosimann, Don Munson (DoM), Bill Niendorff, Barbara A. Peck, Michael Perrone, Peter Pyle, C. John Ralph, Duncan Ralph, M. Raouz, Harold M. Reeve, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Michael F. Robbins, Don Roberson, Robin E. Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Barry Sauppe, Barbara Scharfenstein (BSch), David Shuford, Daniel Singer (DSg), Scott Smithson, Paul F. Springer, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, Gary J. Strachan, Emilie Strauss, David L. Suddjian (DLSu), Ronald S. Thorn (RSTh), M. Trocme,

Richard S. Tryon (RSTr), Virginia Vandermeer, Kent Van Vuren, David Weiss (DWw), Jerry R. White, Bob Yutzky. Many more contributors were not specifically cited; all are appreciated.—STEPHEN F. BAILEY (grebes through frigatebird, raptors, skuas through alcids), Dept. of Ornithology & Mammology, Calif. Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate P., San Francisco, CA 94118; RICHARD A. ERICKSON (herons through waterfowl, rails through shorebirds), P.O. box 523, Bayside, CA 95524; DAVID G. YEE (Cuckoos through Finches), 2930 Driftwood Pl., #39, Stockton, CA 95207.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

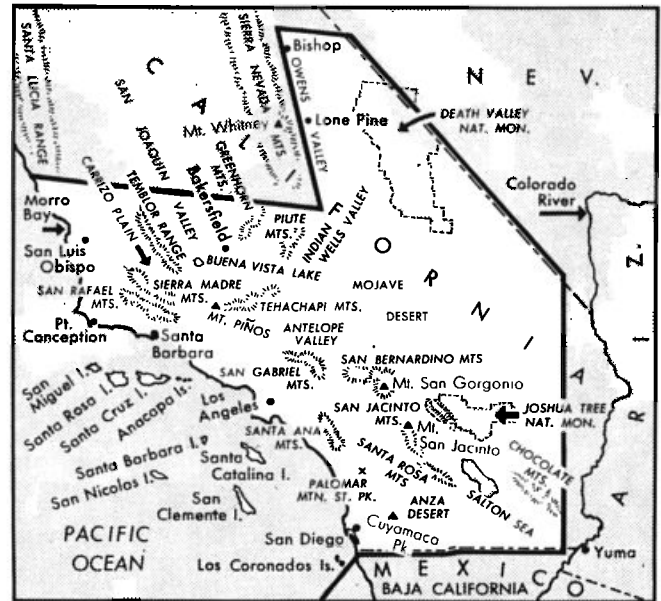
The summer season was uneventful with no unusual weather. However, an interesting variety of birds was found, including a couple of unexpected shorebirds and an unexpected number of eastern wood warblers.

ABBREVIATIONS — H.D.L. = Harper Dry Lake northeast of Barstow; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside; S.B.M.N.H. = Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial. Place names in *italics* are counties. 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 with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report. Records submitted without documentation are not published.

SHEARWATERS TO STORKS — By far the most unusual bird of the summer was a dark-morph **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** at N.E.S.S. July 31 (REW, GMcC)—it was not only the 2nd ever to be found in California and North America but it was also inland. Robert L. Pitman (*Atlas of Seabird Distribution and Relative Abundance in the Eastern Tropical Pacific*, 1986) indicates this species occurs off w. Mexico to as far north as near the tip of Baja California, and Warren B. King (*Pelagic Studies of Seabirds in the Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean*, 1974) indicates relatively large numbers of dark-morph birds present off w. Mexico in July. One can reasonably speculate the July 31 bird reached the Salton Sea by way of the Gulf of California from off w. Mexico, but I cannot suggest why.

Brown Pelicans were more numerous than usual on the Salton Sea with 500+ present at the end of the period (GMcC), but one on Puddingstone Res., Los Angeles, July 25 (KR), three on L. Mathews, Riverside, June 3 (AMC), and another near Lakeview, Riverside, June 24 (AMC) were the only ones reported inland away from the Salton Sea; each year these birds move northward from the Gulf of California into the s.e. portion of this Region after nesting. Five active Double-crested Cormorant nests at a deserted Great Blue Heron nesting colony in Anaheim July 12 (DRW) provided us with the first evidence for breeding in Orange and one of a very few nesting records for the coastal mainland. At least 20 imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen along the coast, including exceptionally early individuals over Santa Barbara June 5 (SP) and at Santa Catalina I. June 6 (ST), as well as four together at Balboa June 28 (BA) and two that went to roost in Cayucos, San Luis Obispo, during the evening of June 30 (GPS). Single birds at N.E.S.S. July 2 (GMcC) & 31 (JO) were the only ones found inland.

The presence of two to three Am. Bitterns in the Prado Basin of extreme n.w. Riverside throughout the summer (LRH) and a "booming" bird near Imperial Beach during June (GMcC) strongly suggested nesting at those 2 localities. Single Least Bitterns on Vandenberg A.F.B. June 18 (KH) and at Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo, July 5 (CM) were along the n. coast of the Region, where considered rare. A pair of Great Egrets was seen nest building near Imperial Beach during April (GMcC), but even though the birds



were present through the summer there was no evidence of young; 17 occupied nests at Morro Bay S.P. in April (TME) are the only active nests known in s. California away from the Salton Sea, though small numbers now regularly summer along the coast. Up to 20 Great Egrets were present in the Prado Basin during June and July (LRH). Two pairs of Little Blue Herons successfully fledged five young near Imperial Beach in early July (GMcC), and approximately 15 were around s. San Diego Bay at the end of the month (JO'B) along with one more in Carlsbad, San Diego, July 31 (SM). About 80 ad. White-faced Ibis were at Piute Ponds near Lancaster, Los Angeles, from May 25 through the end of the period (AS) with several juveniles seen at the end of July (NBB, JLD) giving us the first record for nesting in this area. Although small numbers were present at various localities along the coast, along with up to 20 in the Prado Basin (LRH) and large numbers around the Salton Sea, no other reports of nesting were received. An imm. Wood Stork was at Piute Ponds near Lancaster in July (AS) for the 3rd record ever for the desert region of e. California.

WATERFOWL — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were more numerous than usual around S.E.S.S., with approximately 100 present during July (GMcC), and nesting confirmed at Finney L. and near Rock Hill. A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at S.E.S.S. July 2-10 (GMcC) furnished us with the 8th record for this species in California. Two Ross' Geese that initially arrived in Lompoc in 1986 were still present July 4 (RPH), and the one found at N.E.S.S. May 7 was still present at the end of the period (MAP) to furnish us with the first summer records for

this species in s. California. As usual a few Brant remained along the coast with approximately 35 reported from at least 10 localities between Morro Bay and San Diego Bay during June and July, but 80–100 on the Salton Sea (most at N.E.S.S.) during the same period was a greater number than normal. Since Wood Ducks have been considered rare to casual in s. California in summer with few documented records of nesting, a group of up to 21 on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara, July 23–29 (RPH), along with two females accompanied by three young in Atascadero in June (JMcD) and a pair at a suitable nesting cavity in a large tree stump in the Prado Basin Apr. 21 (DRW) were of interest.

A N. Pintail, an uncommon and local nester, was sitting on 7 eggs at H.D.L. in May and accompanying young in June (EAC), and another was accompanying young near Lakeview Aug. 16 (AMC). A N. Shoveler, now extremely rare as a nesting species in s. California, was seen accompanying five young near Cartago, Inyo, May 18 (REW), and a pair was with young at Pt. Mugu, Ventura, July 24 (JSR). A Canvasback in Pico Rivera, Los Angeles, July 31 (JKA), another in the Prado Basin Aug. 5 (MAP), and a 3rd at S.E.S.S. July 31 (REW) were all believed to have summered locally as did a ♂ Ring-necked Duck at Atascadero July 9–31 (CM) and 10 on L. Cachuma July 16–29 (PEL); both species are considered casual during July. An Oldsquaw, rare at any time of year in s. California, initially found in Santa Barbara Jan. 16 was still present July 19 (PEL), and a Black Scoter, exceptionally rare in summer, was along the coast of Vandenberg A.F.B. July 7 (PEL). A White-winged Scoter spent the summer inland at N.E.S.S. being present June 25–July 31 (GMcC) and was accompanying up to three Surf Scoters present May 14 through July 31 (GMcC).

RAPTORS — A Black-shouldered Kite at H.D.L. June 16 (EAC) was far from any area of normal occurrence. The presence of 15 N. Harriers, including six young of the year, at H.D.L. June 16 (CMcG) showed this to be an important area for this species. A Sharp-shinned Hawk over Orange July 3 (MAP) and another at Upper Newport Bay, Orange, July 9 (BED) were totally unexpected since summer sightings at lowland locations are virtually nonexistent. A loose flock of up to 10 Swainson's Hawks was present along the coast near Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, after July 3 (BrS). A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks again nested on Hot Springs Mt. in e. San Diego. An imm. Peregrine Falcon at N.E.S.S. July 2–31 (MAP) and an adult at S.E.S.S. July 9–31 (GMcC) were the only ones found away from the coast, where numbers are being released into the wild.

SHOREBIRDS — A flock of 135 Black-bellied Plovers at the Santa Maria R. mouth throughout June (CM) constituted a large number for summer at this location. An ad. Lesser Golden-Plover that showed characteristics of the Asiatic "race" *fulva* at S.E.S.S. July 2 (DRW) was an early migrant. Thirty Semipalmated Plovers along the coast of Orange during June (LRH) represented a large number for this time of the year. A Lesser Yellowlegs in Goleta July 3 (RAH) was an early fall migrant. A Solitary Sandpiper at N.E.S.S. July 23 (GMcC) was the earliest this fall. A Wandering Tattler in Santa Barbara June 8 through July (GT) clearly summered locally, and three in nonbreeding plumage on the coast of Vandenberg A.F.B. July 7 (PEL) were also likely to have summered locally. The presence of an ad. Spotted Sandpiper accompanying four young in Atascadero July 16 provided us the 2nd record for nesting in San Luis Obispo, and an adult was seen with a fledgling at L. Isabella, Kern, July 6 (RS). A pair of Long-billed Curlews was accompanying two young near Bishop June 14 (JRJ); there is one previous record for nesting in this Region, that being in 1978 here in the Owens Valley, where small numbers are present every summer and where it may regularly nest. A

Ruddy Turnstone near Lancaster July 24 (JKA) and four at S.E.S.S. July 31 (REW) were inland. A Black Turnstone in nonbreeding plumage in Santa Barbara June 8 (GT) and another on s. San Diego Bay June 24 (JO'B) were believed to have been summering locally, but one in breeding plumage along the coast of Vandenberg A.F.B. July 7 (PEL) was undoubtedly an early fall migrant. Three breeding-plumaged Surfbirds on s. San Diego Bay June 24–July 3 (JO'B) were remarkably early if fall migrants.

Red Knots were on the move during July with one at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 1 (CM) being the earliest; more than 30 were seen inland on the Salton Sea after July 9 (GMcC), and another was inland near Bakersfield July 24 (MH). More than the expected numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers were found: single adults were at S.E.S.S. July 9 (GMcC), on Upper Newport Bay July 10 (GMcC), and in Anaheim July 15 (DRW), two were at S.E.S.S. July 30 (REW); at least five juveniles were along the coast after July 25 (PEL, CM, GMcC); and two more were inland near Lancaster July 30 (JLD). Two W. Sandpipers on Upper Newport Bay June 12 (DRW) and another on Morro Bay June 15 (TME) were undoubtedly summering locally, but 104 adults in Goleta June 24 (PEL) were early fall migrants. A brightly colored **Little Stint** was carefully studied on Upper Newport Bay July 10 (MH) by an observer familiar with the species from living in Saudia Arabia; two juveniles have been found in n. California but this was the first adult for California. The first Baird's Sandpipers of the fall were two at Edwards, Kern, July 23 (MH) with half a dozen more found at various localities within the Region by the end of the month.

An ad. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** in Goleta July 21 (RAH) and another (the same?) on Batiqitos Lagoon, San Diego, July 24–25 (JO, GMcC) were totally unexpected since no adult has previously been found anywhere along the West Coast south of Alaska in fall, all other records being of juveniles much later in the year. Breeding-plumaged Dunlins at S.E.S.S. July 2 (MAP) and on Batiqitos Lagoon July 24–Aug. 3 (GMcC) were exceptionally early fall migrants; one at S.C.R.E. June 14 (JSR) and another on Morro Bay June 15 (TME) could have been very late spring migrants or were summering locally. Twenty Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S. July 23 (MAP) were the earliest this fall, and one in Chino July 26 (MAP) was only the 2nd ever to be found in San Bernardino. An ad. ♀ Ruff was inland near S.E.S.S. July 29–31 (RH). Unexpected were 3–4 pairs of Com. Snipe in the Garner Valley of the San Jacinto Mts. that managed to fledge at least seven young during the summer (RMcK); this species was thought to have been extirpated as a nesting bird in s. California away from the Owens Valley. Female Wilson's Phalaropes seen pursuing males in slow flight at a marsh near Cartago, Inyo, May 25 (REW) were at the s. extreme of the species' breeding range.

GULLS TO ALCIDS — A Franklin's Gull, rare at any time of the year in California, was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara, June 26 (AA) and was followed by one at N.E.S.S. July 2–9 (MAP), another at Bolsa Chica July 17 (DRW), two together near Bakersfield July 23 (DB), and a juvenile near Lancaster July 24–30 (KLG). A Heermann's Gull, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S. July 23 (GMcC). A W. Gull, formerly considered accidental inland but proving to be regular in very limited numbers on the Salton Sea, was carefully compared to accompanying Yellow-footed Gulls at Salton City June 25 (MAP)

Gull-billed Terns again nested along the coast on s. San Diego Bay with at least 5 pairs fledging at least seven young (EC) The recently formed Caspian Tern nesting colony at Bolsa Chica contained 73 active nests June 6 with many juveniles present in July (BiS); it was also used by 3 pairs of Royal Terns and about 500 pairs of Elegant Terns, the former fledging two young to establish the first record of nesting in California away from s. San Diego Bay. Three Elegant Terns were inland at N.E.S.S. June 11 (GH), for the 3rd occurrence at this locality at this time of year. Nesting Forster's Terns, first found at Bolsa Chica in 1987, increased to about 100 pairs with 50 fledglings present by June 6 (BiS). Black Skimmers were found nesting

at N.E.S.S (50+ pairs), s San Diego Bay (200+ pairs), Upper Newport Bay (4 pairs), and at Bolsa Chica (70 pairs), stragglers were found along the entire coast with one in Santa Barbara June 2 (HM), two at the Santa Ynez R. mouth June 24–July 21 (KH), one on Morro Bay June 15 (TME). Two more at Morro Bay July 16–22 (JMcD) were the northernmost.

Up to eight Marbled Murrelets off San Simeon July 30–31 (TME) were in an area where the species is regularly found. A **Parakeet Auklet** found dead (about one week) on the beach about one mi south of the Santa Ynez R. mouth July 4 (RPH, *S.B.M.N.H.) furnished us the 3rd record for s. California; no living birds of this species have been found in California since Rollo H. Beck collected 14 on Monterey Bay during the winter of 1907–1908. Up to seven Rhinoceros Auklets off Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo, June 18–July 24 (JMcD) and up to nine along the Santa Barbara coast between Pt. Arguello and Pt. Peder-nales throughout the summer (PEL) were all in breeding plumage and could well have been nesting locally.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — Up to four Com. Ground-Doves were found in citrus orchards in Goleta July 19–31 (KB) indicating the species has now spread as far north as this area. The only Yellow-billed Cuckoos reported this summer were 3 pairs along with three to four unmated males around Weldon, Kern (SL), and one pair along with five unmated males in the Prado Basin (LRH) indicating just how scarce the population really is in s. California. Some six to eight Flammulated Owls were on Black Mt. in the San Jacinto Mts. May 15–July 4 (RMcK) indicating just how common this secretive bird can be in suitable habitat. Up to two Elf Owls near Needles Mar. 30–Apr. 8 (BED, MAP) may have been the last of this species in California. The presence of a young Short-eared Owl accompanied by an adult at H.D.L. June 16 (EAC) documented the 2nd occurrence of nesting in s. California. Two Com. Nighthawks on Black Mt. in the San Jacinto Mts. July 1–2 (RMcK) were the first to be found in Riverside, and a calling bird over El Cajon July 6 (G & RL) was along the coast, where considered accidental. Single Black Swifts around Ragged Pt. in extreme n.w. San Luis Obispo May 26–July 8 (GPS) were thought to be nesting locally. The only Chimney Swifts found this summer were one or two over downtown Los Angeles June 8–Aug. 4 (KLG). An Acorn Woodpecker in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside, June 10 (DCH) was a little out of range.

FLYCATCHERS TO WOOD WARBLERS — A “Traill’s Flycatcher” near L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego June 12 (MAP) was giving calls attributed to the Alder Flycatcher (*Birding* 18:153–159, 1986). A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers successfully fledged one young in Camarillo, Ventura, in June (JSR) and was the only pair ever to have nested on the coast outside San Diego. Three Brown-crested Flycatchers near Weldon during the summer (SL) were at the n.w. extreme of the species’ range. An E. Kingbird at H.D.L. June 6 (AM) was a spring vagrant, but another in Santa Barbara June 29 (TEW) must have been lost. Two Am. Dippers in Whitewater Canyon after July 13 (DCH) were at an unusual locality. A Gray Catbird on Pt. Loma July 11–17 (B & IM) was in heavy molt and undoubtedly summered locally, giving us the first midsummer record for s. California. A Brown Thrasher at Yaqui Wells in e. San Diego June 19–21 (LW) was exceptionally late for a spring vagrant. A pair of Cedar Waxwings unsuccessfully attempted to nest in Oceano in June (CM); a pair that fledged young in Orange in 1965 represents the only proven occurrence for nesting in s. California.

A ♂ N. Parula in Los Osos June 16 (MC) and a female at Nojoqui Falls June 6 (CMcG) were both probably late spring vagrants. A singing ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler in montane cha-

parral at the 5500-ft level on the w side of the San Gabriel Mts June 18 (JKA) was at a most unusual locality and late for a spring vagrant; another singing male in Irvine June 29 into August (DRW) was the first ever to be found summering in s. California. A ♂ Magnolia Warbler at S.C.R.E. July 2–3 (JSR) was believed to be summering locally, and if so, would be the first ever to do so in s. California. A Yellow-rumped Warbler in Cuyamaca S.P. in the mountains of San Diego June 12 (JH) was in an area where nesting is suspected but yet to be proved. A Black-and-white Warbler, most unusual in summer, was in Arcadia July 30 (LF). Single Am. Redstarts at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts. of Inyo June 12 (AME) and another in Goleta June 15 (KB) were undoubtedly late spring stragglers, but one near Weldon July 10 (SL), another in Long Beach July 18–28 (BED), and a third in Malibu July 31–Aug. 15 (KLG) were believed to have summered locally. A ♂ Ovenbird in San Diego June 16–18 (B & IM) was late for a spring straggler. Two MacGillivray’s Warblers on Black Mt. in the San Jacinto Mts June 14 (RMcK) were undoubtedly nesting, though breeding is still to be documented in this mountain range.

TANAGERS TO CROSSBILLS — A Summer Tanager at Oasis June 12 (AME) and another near Santa Barbara June 3–6 (NS) were late spring vagrants; 30 territorial males around Weldon throughout the summer (SL) were at the n.w. extreme of the species’ breeding range. Two singing ♂ W. Tanagers in the Santa Lucia Mts. June 18–July 9 (EVJ) could have been nesting, and if so, would be the first to do so in San Luis Obispo. A pair of N. Cardinals was still along the Colorado R. at the San Bernardino/Riverside line Mar. 31 (BED). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak, rare in summer, was in Goleta June 6 (LL), and another was in Altadena June 27 (BN). At least 20 Indigo Buntings were reported from various localities within the Region, including seven territorial males around Weldon throughout the summer (SL). A Vesper Sparrow in the Garner Valley of the San Bernardino Mts. throughout the summer (RMcK) was south of the southernmost known breeding locality in the San Bernardino Mts. Two pairs of Savannah Sparrow were found nesting at H.D.L. May 19 (AM), and another was seen carrying food to a nest in the Garner Valley in June, adding 2 more localities to the list of breeding localities for this species in s. California. Two singing ♂ White-crowned Sparrows remained around Bluff L. in the San Bernardino Mts. all summer (BAC), which would be a very low elevation for nesting.

The presence of an ad. Brewer’s Blackbird feeding three recently fledged young in Brawley May 7 (GMcC) provided the first evidence of nesting in the Imperial Valley. Two pairs of Great-tailed Grackles successfully fledged young near Imperial Beach in July (GMcC), and stragglers were found elsewhere along the coast at the S.C.R.E. (AB) and in Oceano June 10–July 14 (CM). At least six Bronzed Cowbirds were present throughout the season in Brawley (GMcC), indicating the species is now established as a regular summer visitor to this locality.

Red Crossbills continued to be reported into the summer with a dead male found in Los Osos June 28 (PP), small numbers found on Big Pine Mt. of Santa Barbara and on Mt. Pinos in June and July (PWC, MAH, AB), and one on Greenhorn Mt., Kern, July 18 (MOC).

ADDENDA — A report of an imm. Little Gull on the Salton Sea near Salton City May 8 (DS) and of single Least Terns inland at Tecopa, Inyo, May 21 (DS) and on Owens L., Inyo, May 23–24 (DS) were received too late to be included in the spring report.

CONTRIBUTORS (county coordinators in boldface) — Alex Abela, Jonathan K. Alderfer, Bob Anderson, Allyn Bissell, David Blue, Karen Bridgers, N. Bruce Broadbooks, **Eugene A. Cardiff** (San Bernardino), Barbara A. Carlson, **Mark O. Chichester** (Kern), Paul

W. Collins, **Elizabeth Copper** (San Diego), Alan M. Craig, Michael Craig, Brian E. Daniels, Jon L. Dunn, **Tom E. Edell** (San Luis Obispo), Alan M. Eisner, Louis Fulmer, **Kimball L. Garrett** (Los Angeles), Robb A. Hamilton, David C. Hatch, Loren R. Hays, Gjon Hazard, Matt Heindel, Jeri Hershburg, Roger Higson, Ron P. Hirst, Ken Hollinga, Mark A. Holmgren, Joseph R. Jehl, Eric V. Johnson, Steve Laymon, **Paul E. Lehman** (Santa Barbara), Geoffrey and Renee Levin (G & RL), Linda Lissy, Curtis Marantz, Betty and Ida Mazin (B & IM), John McDonald (JMcD), Chet McGaugh (CMcG), **Robert McKernan** (RMcK) (Riverside), Anthony Metcalf, Steve

Mrudinov, Bob Neuwirth, John O'Brien (JO'B), Jerry Oldenettel, Michael A. Patten, Peggy Peters, Sally Pierce, Kurt Radamaker, **Jim S. Royer** (Ventura), Rick Saval, Bill Schew (BiS), Brad Schram (BrS), Dave Shuford, Arnold Small, Gregory P. Smith, Nancy States, Sherry Teresa, Guy Tingos, Laurie Walton, Richard E. Webster, **Douglas R. Willick** (Orange), Tom E. Wurster. An additional 50 some observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.—**GUY McCASKIE**, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

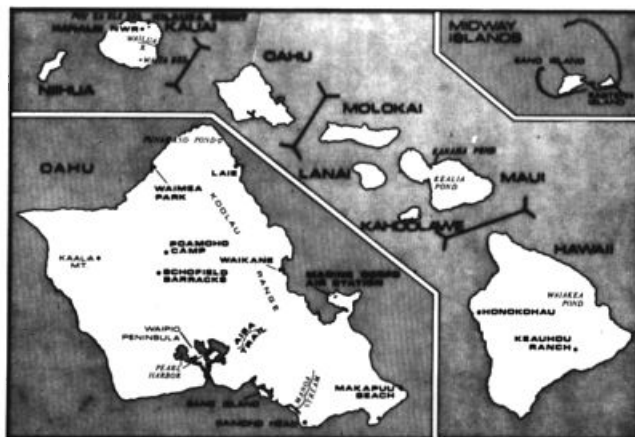
Late spring and summer are normally the driest months in Hawaii. Thus, the below-average rainfall in June–July 1988 at 29 of the 33 reporting stations in the main islands brought no relief from the already dry conditions in at least the lowland portions of the state. Bird highlights included the first captive hatching of an 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow) in 8 years and first reports of two introduced species spreading to new islands.

ABBREVIATIONS — H. = Hawai'i I.; K. = Kaua'i I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = O'ahu I.

GREBES TO TROPICBIRDS — Eleven Pied-billed Grebes and 3 active nests were counted at Aimakapa Pond, H., July 29 (RLP). Presumably all of this flourishing population are derived from one pair of stragglers who first nested there 3½ years ago. In 2.5 hours of observation from a research vessel between 100 and 200 km east-southeast of South Pt., H., during the early morning of June 3, an experienced seabird observer (LS) tallied four **Kermadec Petrels**, five **Black-winged Petrels**, one Bulwer's Petrel, 30 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, one Newell's Shearwater, and one Great Frigatebird, along with 17 Sooty Terns and one White Tern. These standardized comparative counts give valuable insight on the mix of species to be seen beyond the inshore waters. Kermadec and Black-winged petrels are rarely reported except in such surveys.

At least 5 nest sites occupied by one or two ad. Bulwer's Petrels, and one with a downy chick estimated to be about 10 days old, were found on a group trip to Manana I., off O'ahu, July 20 (RLP). A few Christmas Shearwaters and (Hawaiian) Dark-rumped Petrels (Endangered) were reported offshore of the n. and w. coasts of Moloka'i I. July 2–4 (CC, fide BE). Three Red-tailed Tropicbirds flying by Laie Pt. near the n. tip of O'ahu July 2 (AE) provided an interesting locality record. One full-grown chick and 10–12 ad. Red-taileds were found July 20 (RLP) on Manana I. off s.e. O'ahu, where they nest regularly.

FALCONS TO TERNS — A large falcon seen circling high over Honolulu July 2 could have been a Peregrine (AE), which occurs occasionally in Hawaii but heretofore only in the cold half of the year. Several Gray Francolins were heard calling June 6 on Na La'au Trail on the slope of Diamond Head, O. (PD), where a small population has apparently gained a foothold in recent years. Seven Lesser Golden-Plovers at Amorient Aquafarm, O., July 10 (AE) may have been early fall arrivals. At Aimakapa Reef, H., where 2 of Hawaii's 4 records of Rufous-necked Stint were recorded in Aug. 1983 and Aug. 1986, a **Rufous-necked Stint** in splendid, nearly full breeding plumage was observed and photographed July 29 (RD, RLP). Same individual (see 'Elepaio 48:71)?



A small tern at Aimakapa Pond, H., carefully watched July 24 (AE, RD) & 26 (BM) was reported to be a **Little Tern** based on a very pale upper tail contrasting with the gray rump and mantle. No vocalizations were heard; other observed details are being analysed. The first and probably only prior record of Little Tern in the A.O.U. Check-List area was of a specimen taken at French Frigate Shoals in 1985. Barely 200 ad. Sooty Terns and no live juveniles were found July 20 on Manana I. (RLP), where normally many more adults and juveniles remain from the spring nesting. However, Brown Noddies (which nest later) were there in more expectable numbers (5000–10,000) with numerous eggs but no chicks yet hatched.

PARAKEETS TO BUSH-WARBLERS — Eight Rose-ringed Parakeets on Na La'au Trail, O., June 6 (PD) were close to Kapiolani Park, where individuals and groups have been seen occasionally over the past 20 years but with no firm evidence of breeding. One individual was reported flying over Captain Cook, H., during the first week of June (BM). A roost of *Amazona* parrots in the lower forest above Pearl City, O., has been monitored repeatedly this spring and summer. At day's end June 22 the incoming flock included 26 Red-crowned Parrots, one Blue-fronted Amazon, and one Blue-crowned Conure (TP, AE). At least two and probably three different (Hawaiian) Short-eared Owls (Pueo) were recorded within an hour in Lualualei Valley, O., July 12 (BE), an unusual grouping for O'ahu, where the species is on the state endangered list.

The first reports of 2 commonly introduced species spreading to new islands were recorded this season. One Red-vented Bulbul coming repeatedly to a feeder in Hilo, H., was first seen June 20 (JJ, fide AE). This furnished the 2nd report of the species on Hawai'i I. but probably does not yet signal a new established population there. But the Japanese Bush-Warbler introduced

S.A.

The really exciting event of this season was the successful hatching of one 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow, critically Endangered) at the Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility, M., June 11 (FD). As of mid-August it was strong and growing. Despite nest building and egg laying every year by the captive birds, this was the first successful hatching since 1981. It was one of 13 eggs laid this year in May and June, far more than in any prior year. Eight of the eggs from one female, including the hatchling, were fertile. Because much was learned this season about proper incubation temperature and procedures, hopes are high that next year a much larger percentage of the fertile eggs can be hatched successfully (FD). The transfer of the captive flock 18 months ago from Pohakuloa, H., to much improved modern rearing facilities at Olinda, M., probably also contributed to the significantly higher egg productivity this year. The current outlook is one of cautious optimism that the dire status of this critically endangered species may have bottomed out at last. And none too soon, since only eight adult 'Alala remain in the captive flock, and perhaps the same number or substantially fewer remain alive in the wild.

years ago on O'ahu has now apparently established a population on Kaua'i. At least 15 were heard June 17-23 in gulches and canyons in a remote locality on Namolokama Peak (TT) near Mt. Waialeale, one of the world's wettest spots. Bush-Warblers have recently become locally abundant in higher mountain areas of Moloka'i and Lana'i and have also been reported from Maui.

HWAMEI TO ESTRILDIDS — Several Hwamei (Melodious Laughing-thrush) an ♂ Red-billed Leiothrix, both scarce on

O'ahu in recent years, were heard along Waialae-iki Trail June 19 (TP, BE) Three to four leiothrix also were recorded along Woodlawn Trail back of Honolulu June 6 (PD). A pair of Red-crested Cardinals was seen and heard June 18 along the beach at Wawau Pt. near Spreckelsville, M. (TP), a new locality for the species on Maui, where it is scarce. A Yellow-faced Grassquit heard twice June 19 on the upper part of Waialae-iki Trail in the s. Koolau Mts. of O'ahu (TP, BE, RLP) was a bit south of the species' heretofore known range. Saffron Finches, thought to be virtually extirpated on O'ahu, still persist in Blaisdell Park near Pearl Harbor. Up to three individuals were seen there several times in July (MM).

The ♀ Great-tailed Grackle that has frequented Waipi'o Pen since 1980 was seen there again near Walker Bay June 6 (PD) This was clearly a different bird from the male found at Ala Moana Park in late May (see last season's report). A strange black bird that may have been the ♂ grackle was reported several times during July by a citizen (JK) on Mokuea I. in Keehi Lagoon, about 5 km along the Honolulu waterfront from Ala Moana Park. Common Waxbills, now locally common at numerous locations on O'ahu, were reported at 3 interesting localities this season. Three were on the lawn at the state office building in Honolulu June 23 (TP); a flock of 63 was feeding in grass in Campbell Industrial Park at the s.w. corner of the island July 3 (MM); and they were reported to be numerous, with adults feeding some juveniles, on Sacred Falls Trail on the n.e. coast July 17 (BE, TP). Four Warbling Silverbills were found at Kapiolani Park June 29 (MM). Although common on Maui and Hawai'i, this species is now beginning to appear more frequently on O'ahu.

CONTRIBUTORS — Chris Chesne, Reggie David, Peter Donaldson, Fern Duvall, Bruce Eilerts, Andrew Engilis, Lenny Freed, Jack Jeffrey, John Kaohelauii, Brien Meilleur, Mike Moulton, Thane Pratt, Larry Spear, Jeffrey Stewart, Tom Telfer.—**ROBERT L. PYLE, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734.**

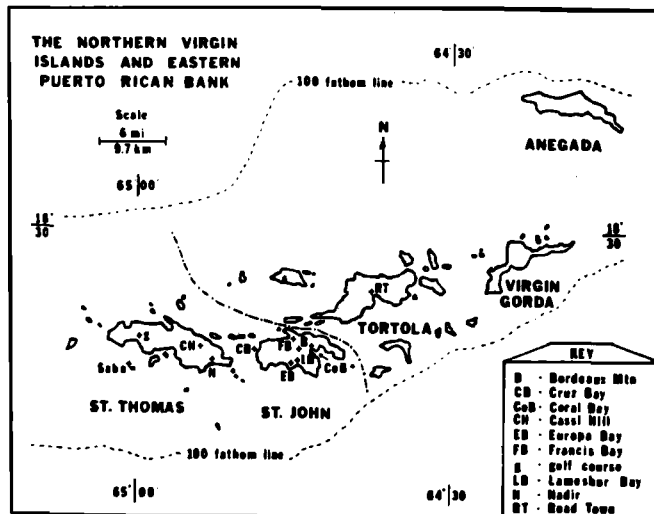
WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

High temperatures (10 days above 92°) and below average rainfall (June -45%, July -10%) were characteristic of the Virgin Islands' climate based on data collected at Cruz Bay, St. John (hereafter, St. J.), U.S. Virgin Islands. Water conservation measures were instituted in Jamaica (The Island Sun, British V.I., July 6) as a result of a 60% decrease in rainfall in April and May. Rainfall there in June and July was also reported to be below average according to the government's meteorologist, who termed the drought a problem other Caribbean countries have also had to face in previous months.

Anguilla's natural habitats may be faced with future stress as the tourism boom levels off, according to Wauer, and the island's vulnerable species may face continued pressure.

TROPICBIRDS TO JAEGER — Two pairs of White-tailed Tropicbirds were noted in courtship flight at Cooper I., British Virgin Islands (hereafter, B.V.I.) June 16 (RLN). A Great Blue



Heron at Buck I, B.V.I., July 30 (RLN) may have been a local, post-breeding waif, but another seen farther s. at St. Kitts (hereafter, St. K.) July 23 (RLN) was rather early for the Lesser Antilles. Ospreys were seen during the summer at 2 widely separated locations; Hodges Creek, Tortola, B.V.I. (RLN) July 17, and St. K., July 23 (RLN) providing further support of over-summering juveniles in the tropics as opposed to adult nesting, which has not been critically proven (e.g., Nellis 1974), yet widely accepted. White-cheeked Pintails were found nesting (seven eggs) June 16 (RLN) at Anegada, B.V.I. Nineteen juv. White-cheekeds were noted at Anguilla, (hereafter, Ag.) (RW) July 3. Two ad. Willets and an immature were noted at Ag., July 1 (RW) providing strong evidence of a breeding record (A.O.U. 1983) there, and a post-breeding plumaged Willet was seen at Great Salt Pond, St. K., July 23 (RLN) for the first record from that island.

An ad. Ring-billed Gull seen July 24 (RW) at Krause Lagoon, St. Croix (hereafter, St. C.) formerly the largest mangrove complex in the Virgin Islands provided the first summer record for the Virgin Islands. The small group of Gull-billed Terns at Anegada, B.V.I. are facing a serious problem with no known cause at this time. Only two pairs were noted there June 17 (RLN) when up to five or six pairs have been seen there in the past. There is abundant terrestrial feeding available for this tern as evidenced by one adult carrying a lizard (RLN), which are common in this dry regime habitat. A Com. Tern seen at Shoal Bay, Ag. (RW) July 2 adds to the suspicion that this species breeds at some isolated site in the n.e. Caribbean. Observers (JS, JC, FS, RB, JCz, RLN) on the e. Puerto Rico Bank reported that the tern-nesting season was late. Roseate Terns, for example, did not hit their peak until the 2nd week of June, and their nests numbered at least 1753; Sandwich 723; and Royal 153. More than 85% of Roseate nests counted were in the U.S.V.I. Roseate Terns were found nesting at additional sites in the B.V.I. at Round Rock on June 16 (RLN), Watson Rock, near Great Tobago (RLN) and off the w. point of Jost Van Dyke July 15. Four juv. Roseate Terns were noted among 20 Roseates July 24 at Ballast Bay, St. K. suggesting nesting occurred in the immediate area (RLN). Wauer noted three Sandwich Terns at Sandy Point N.W.R., St. C., June 18, although this tern has not been found nesting at that island. Five pure-featured Cayenne Terns were noted among the Sandwich Tern colonies in the B.V.I. (2) and U.S.V.I. (3) in June. A small islet off Virgin Gorda, B.V.I. with dense vegetation is home to about 25 pairs of Sooty Terns as noted on June 16, which apparently represents one-half the nation's entire population (RLN). Bridled Terns numbered about 20 pairs at Carvel Rock, B.V.I. (RLN). Least Terns did not fare well on Anegada, B.V.I. in June as attested by only two pairs noted in an area where greater numbers have been counted (RLN). A juv. **Parasitic Jaeger** was observed (RLN) harassing a Royal Tern July 17 at Hodges Creek, Tortola, B.V.I., providing one of the few July records (Bond 1985) for the Region and the first for the Virgin Islands.

NIGHTHAWKS TO COWBIRDS — From three to ten Antillean Nighthawks were seen at St. C. (RW) June 6–24 providing evidence of sustained breeding in the U.S.V.I., where observers have felt that the introduced mongoose (*Herpestes auro-punctatus*) may have extirpated or limited the species in the Territory. An incredibly high density of century plants (*Agave americana*) bloomed in the Virgin Islands in April and early May giving rise to a wider distribution, hopefully, of resident hummingbirds including the rare, relict of the Virgin Islands—the Antillean Mango. All 3 species of resident hummers (Antillean Crested Hummingbird, Green-throated Carib and Antillean Mango) were noted at a single century plant at Anegada, B.V.I. on June 16, but only three Mangos were noted among several accommodating Caribs. Barn Swallows (8) noted at Krause Lagoon, St. C. (RW) July 21 were considered early there.

A cruise ship based in San Juan, P.R. has called at the port of Road Town, Tortola and Castriers, St. Lucia during the spring and summer of 1988. While this is no great surprise to the passengers, it is a "cow's cud" for avian biogeographers. Some of its passengers included nesting Cave Swallows! Interviews (RLN) with staff of the vessel and a Tortola dive boat operation confirmed that swallows were seen during June visits in both ports of call. The swallows flew in and out of, and presumably nested in, several small drain ports in the bow and aft sections of the cruiseship (*vide SA*). Cave Swallows are common breeders in Puerto Rico and have been reported (Sorrie 1975) to nest in a barge transported from Puerto Rico to Vieques, 18 km to the se. This transient nesting of a localized land bird is the first such report from widely separated islands in the Region. The role of cruise ships as an agent of human-induced (Norton 1979) introductions in the Region looms even larger now. Bond suggested that the appearance of Lesser Antillean Bullfinch in the Virgin Islands may have been attributed to cruise ships (Raffaele 1972).

A singing **Northern Parula** was noted June 26 (RW) for the latest spring record at this latitude of the species in the Region. A single Shiny Cowbird was seen at Anegada, B.V.I., June 17 (RLN), the 2nd such summer report from that island in recent years indicating this parasitic nester has colonized the major islands of the Virgin Islands archipelago.

Exotics Red Bishops (a male and two females) were noted near South Gate, St. C., July 25–30 (RW) for the first report from the Virgin Islands. There is an apparent increase of exotics in the Virgin Islands recently which warrants monitoring as suggested by Raffaele in Puerto Rico.

ADDENDUM — Wilson's Storm-Petrels were frequently seen May 29 and 30, especially along the 100 fathom isobath along the s.e. coast of the B.V.I. (RLN). Brown-throated Parakeets were noted at Fat Hogs Bay, Tortola, B.V.I., May 18 (BL, BH) and a small flock was seen at Lind Point, St. John (JM). Wauer reported a White-collared Swift at Saba, Neth. Antilles Apr. 27 for one of the few reports from the Lesser Antilles.

CONTRIBUTORS — Steve Ashby, Rafe Boulon, Jamie Collazo, Judy Czarnecki, Brian Holloway, Bertrand Lettsome, John Miller, Jorge Saliva, Fred Sladen, Ro Wauer.—**Robert L. Norton, Box 243, Cruz Bay, St. John, USVI 00831.**

