

**STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS  
USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS**

**Abbreviations used in  
place names:**

In most regions, place names given in  
italic type are counties.

**Other abbreviations:**

Cr	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile(s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

**Abbreviations used in the  
names of birds:**

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	European or Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

**Other abbreviations and symbols  
referring to birds:**

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juv. or juvenile
sp.	species
†	means that written details were submitted for a sighting
*	means that a specimen was collected
♂	male
♀	female
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

# THE SUMMER SEASON

June 1–July 31, 1991

<b>Atlantic Provinces Region</b> Bruce Mactavish	<b>1088</b>	<b>Southern Great Plains Region</b> Joseph A. Grzybowski	<b>1132</b>
<b>Quebec Region</b> Michael Gosselin, Richard Yank, and Yves Aubry	<b>1090</b>	<b>Texas Region</b> Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton	<b>1135</b>
<b>New England Region</b> Wayne R. Peterson	<b>1092</b>	<b>Idaho-Western Montana</b> Thomas H. Rogers	<b>1139</b>
<b>Hudson-Delaware Region</b> Robert O. Paxton, William J. Boyle, Jr., and David A. Cutler	<b>1097</b>	<b>Mountain West Region</b> Hugh E. Kingery	<b>1141</b>
<b>Middle Atlantic Coast Region</b> Henry T. Armistead	<b>1101</b>	<b>Southwest Region</b> Arizona: David Stejskal and Gary H. Rosenberg New Mexico: Sartor O. Williams III and John P. Hubbard	<b>1145</b>
<b>Southern Atlantic Coast Region</b> Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.	<b>1107</b>	<b>Alaska Region</b> T. G. Tobish, Jr. and M. E. Isleib	<b>1149</b>
<b>Ontario Region</b> Ron D. Weir	<b>1111</b>	<b>Oregon/Washington</b> Bill Tweit and Jim Johnson	<b>1152</b>
<b>Appalachian Region</b> George A. Hall	<b>1114</b>	<b>Middle Pacific Coast Region</b> David G. Yee, Bruce E. Deuel, and Stephen F. Bailey	<b>1156</b>
<b>Western Great Lakes Region</b> Daryl D. Tessen	<b>1117</b>	<b>Southern Pacific Coast Region</b> Guy McCaskie	<b>1160</b>
<b>Midwestern Prairie Region</b> Bruce G. Peterjohn	<b>1120</b>	<b>Hawaiian Islands Region</b> Robert L. Pyle	<b>1163</b>
<b>Central Southern Region</b> Robert D. Purrington	<b>1124</b>	<b>West Indies Region (Spring 1991 Report)</b> Robert L. Norton	<b>1165</b>
<b>Prairie Provinces Region</b> Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor	<b>1128</b>	<b>West Indies Region</b> Robert L. Norton	<b>1166</b>
<b>Northern Great Plains Region</b> Gordon Berkey	<b>1130</b>		

# ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

With completion of the fieldwork for the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas in 1990, there were fewer field observers in the breeding season this year. Predictably, the result was fewer Regional breakthroughs in breeding bird knowledge. With this said, few were prepared for the exciting discovery of a large Yellow Rail breeding colony in central New Brunswick. Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland each added one new breeding species.

**Abbreviations:** S.P.M. (*Saint Pierre et Miquelon*).

## LOONS TO HERONS

A few nonbreeding Red-throated Loons summered on the n. Newfoundland coast: one June 27, calling as it flew over Birchy L., NF, was most unusual because it was at an inland location (BMT). A significant portion of the world's Greater Shearwaters spend June and July in Newfoundland waters, molting wing feathers while gorging on spawning capelin. The effect of the delayed, reduced capelin spawning season of 1991 on Greater Shearwaters is not likely to be known. Numbers from traditional spawning beaches on the s. Avalon Pen. were typically in the low tens of thousands; however, they were feeding much closer to shore (actually in the beach surf), as opposed to the couple of hundred yards or more from shore of recent years (KK, BMT, JW). Manx Shearwaters continue to scout Colombier I., S.P.M., in earnest, with 2 of the 3 artificial burrows being occupied by pairs, and several others calling in nearby crevices July 12 & 13 (RE *et al.*). Fourteen Manx Shearwaters off Brier I., NS, July 15 was a fairly good count for that location (FL).

A surprising five Least Bitterns were in New Brunswick, where it is a rare but regular breeder: Musquash, June 1 (JWi); Mistake Intervale, June 1 (SM); Anagance, June 29 (ST); Daley Creek Marsh, June 29 (RW *et al.*), and Red Head Marsh July 27 (DC). Nine Great Blue Herons June 23 at the Grand Codroy R. estuary, NF, must be breeding locally, but at present there is no provincial breeding record (JP).

"Southern herons" were not so

## S.A.

While most of the Region experienced above-average temperatures and below-normal rainfall, Newfoundland was held in bizarre winter-like conditions through June and early July. Prevailing northerly winds from March through June kept heavy pack ice and a great abundance of icebergs in tight along much of Newfoundland's east coast until late June and early July. The effect on avifauna was felt both at sea and on land.

Ocean temperatures remained below normal through the summer. This prevented or seriously delayed the marine fish, capelin (*Mallotus villosus*), from spawning in its usual time period, mid-June to early July. The effect of this alone caused major disruptions in life cycles of the higher end of the marine ecosystem.

Cod fish did not come inshore, resulting in a nearly complete failure of the Newfoundland fishery. Several nesting seabird species that depend on the capelin spawning season to coincide with hatching and feeding of young were especially hard hit. Only 30% of Black-legged Kittiwake nests contained eggs in June. Part of the reason was extra predation by Herring Gulls, which also depend on capelin as a June food source. Common Murres and Atlantic Puffins laid eggs about three weeks behind schedule. The success rate of these chicks, fledged three weeks late, remains to be seen. Herring, Great Black-backed, and Ring-billed gull colonies were full of adult birds, but very few young were raised. In June, large numbers of desperate Herring Gulls turned to the streets of St. John's for food, causing concern among the human population and a high number of vehicle/gull collisions.

The effect of the cold weather on passerines was more difficult to see. Three east Newfoundland snowfalls in the first ten days of June surely had a negative impact. Only a couple of dead Blackpoll Warblers were found. By mid-summer, all warbler species seemed as common as always. Some observers in the St. John's area noted a lack of Tree Swallows around their homes.

Western Newfoundland did not escape the cold. On June 16, with a midday temperature of 6° C, some 20 Olive-sided Flycatchers hovered along a 100-m stretch of beach by the Deer Lake power plant, taking advantage of a local insect hatch. Despite vegetation being two to three weeks behind schedule, there was no detectable passerine population decline.

numerous they can't all be listed. New Brunswick had single Great Egrets at Shediac Bay June 7–July 31 (DC *et al.*) and at Portabell Stream July 9 (PP *et al.*); and a Tricolored Heron June 1 at Saint Rest Marsh (Don Gibson *et al.*). Nova Scotia had a Little Egret returning for its 2nd summer to Bon Portage I.

June and July (m.ob.); seven Snowy Egrets late June at Bon Portage I. (J & GT *et al.*); and one Little Blue Heron July 28 at Fox Harbour (JT *et al.*).

## WATERFOWL

Four Wood Ducks July 4 near Adies Lakes, NF, were far from the closest known Nova Scotia breeding sites (BMT). Nova Scotia's first Garganey was seen at Annapolis Royal on 3 occasions from late May to mid-June by a single observer, who unfortunately did not spread the news in time for others to see it (*vide* BMy). After 5 consecutive spring and early summer appearances in the lower Grand Codroy R., NF, Northern Shoveler was at last confirmed as breeding when a female with eight young was observed June 23 (CB), a provincial first. Elsewhere, N. Shovelers maintained the high numbers of recent breeding seasons. Gadwalls, less numerous than the preceding species, are on a slow increase as Regional breeders. A brood of seven June 17 at Sussex, NB, sewage lagoon, signalled a new breeding location (BD); extralimital records were one June 21 at W. Lawrencetown, NS (BMy, BS) and a pair July 7 at St. Paul's, NF (ST). Summer ♂ Eur. Wigeons always evoke thoughts of possible Regional breeding, or at least hybridization with locally common Am. Wigeon; so far nei-



ther has been proven. This summer there were single drakes June 24 at lower Grand Codroy R., NF (CB *et al.*) and July 5 at Grassy I., NB (P. Keough).

Out of the present-day breeding range, but possibly within the breeding range of the near future, were a ♂ Redhead June 21–July 15 (RF) and a pair of Greater Scaup all summer (BMy *et al.*) at W. Lawrencetown, NS; and a ♂ Lesser Scaup all summer at Cape Brule, NB (ST). A ♀ Harlequin Duck with seven young July 23 on Doctor's Brook, Great Northern Pen., NF, furnished the first breeding record for insular Newfoundland since 1976 (JG, IG). Another female was seen July 25 in Candlestick R. in Gros Morne N.P., NF, where breeding occurred in 1974 (HD). The Regional movements, origin, and purpose of summer scoters is largely a mystery; most are males, probably subadults. A flock of 900 White-winged Scoters June 15 at Cape Tormentine, NB, were considered late migrants (ST); but 200 July 5 at Cape Ray, NF, were probably nonbreeding subadults (ST). Almost unheard of in summer until recent years, this season's Ruddy Ducks were: two males courting a female all summer at Sackville, NB (ST *et al.*); two males June 8 at Musquash, NB (BD); and two birds July 28 at Wallace, NS (JT *et al.*).

#### **RAPTORS TO RAILS**

Five pairs of Peregrine Falcons, all from restocking programs, bred on the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Fundy (*vide* RW). An astonished group of weathermen saw a white-morph Gyrfalcon kill a gull and spend an hour eating it, right in front of the airport weather tower at the St. John's, NF, on the amazing date of July 4 (*vide* CB).

Exciting was the discovery of 20 **Yellow Rails** at Grand Lake Meadows, near Fredericton, NB, in mid-July (PP *et al.*). The most recent of several historic Regional summer records are several at Midgic, NB, in the 1970s; it likely goes undetected at other locations.

#### **SHOREBIRDS**

The **Northern Lapwing** discovered at Aulac, NB, in May remained in the area throughout the period, during which time it courted an unobliging Killdeer (ST, m.ob.). Birdwatchers from all over North America travelled to Aulac to see the bird, the most obliging lapwing in recent history. Spring Lesser Golden-Plovers are rare in the Region. Individuals were carefully identified June 7 & 8 at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (AK, GB), June 22 at Miquelon, S.P.M. (GB), and June 14 at St. John's (CB *et al.*).

The first Regionwide organized Piping Plover survey produced fairly good results, with adult totals observed being 203 in New Brunswick, 112 in Nova Scotia, 108 in Prince Edward I., seven in Newfoundland, and four in S.P.M. Nesting Piping Plovers are receiving some protection from man-caused disturbance. A combination of high tides and

winds June 20 destroyed many Piping Plover nests in Prince Edward Island and adjacent New Brunswick areas, but happily these areas experienced good renesting success.

One thousand Semipalmated Plovers at Cook's Beach near Yarmouth, NS, July 30 was impressive, even for this ubiquitous bird (FL). There appears to be a genuine increase in number of extralimital Willets n.e. of the breeding range over the past 5 summers. This season Newfoundland had singles June 8 at Custletts (JW *et al.*); June 10 at Ramea (RN); June 24 at Grand Codroy R. (JW *et al.*); and July 16 at Renewes (BMT). In addition, there were two June 15 at Miquelon (RE) and one June 19 at Grand Barachois (*vide* RE), S.P.M. There were already 30 Whimbrel at Miquelon, S.P.M., July 2 (RE). Unprecedented in spring was a flock of seven godwits June 14 at Cole Harbor, NS; they were presumably Hudsonian, although only one was seen well enough to identify as that species (PM, BS). Typically impressive counts of southbound Hudsonian Godwits from e. New Brunswick were 45 July 20, Robichaud, and 20 July 28, Cape Jourimain (ST).

No Semipalmated Sandpipers counts from the famous Bay of Fundy stopover locations were received, but 85,000 were estimated at Dorchester Cape, NB, July 23 (ST). An early W. Sandpiper July 28 was at Kouchibouguac N.P., NB (D. Thompson). Breeding-plumaged **Curlew Sandpipers** were at Grand Desert, NS, July 20 (PM, BS) and Evangeline Beach, NS, July 20–29 (G & JT *et al.*). A Ruff, said to be an "immature," was at Grand Desert, NS, July 23 (D. Coddling). The only reported Stilt Sandpiper was an adult July 28 at Cape Jourimain, NB (ST). High counts of Short-billed Dowitchers were 3000 July 20 at Grand Desert, NS (BMy), and 1500 July 28 at Three Fathom Harbor, NS (FL). The only Wilson's Phalarope reports were of breeding occurrences in New Brunswick: 12 July 6 at Grassy I. (PP) and at least two adults and three juveniles July 25 at Sackville (ST). Arrival dates of southbound Red and Red-necked phalarope in the Region are difficult to obtain because of their pelagic nature, but totals of 100 and 40, respectively, on July 15 off Brier I., NS, suggest that they probably arrive in early July like most Arctic breeding shorebird species (FL).

#### **JAEGERS TO ALCIDS**

There were no skua reports and very few for jaegers, hinting at the inaccessibility of these birds to birders rather than scarcity. However, a Long-tailed Jaeger June 10 off Grand Manan I., NB, was a noteworthy record (BD). The only Laughing Gulls were three June 10 at widely separated locations on the s. Avalon Pen., NF (KK). Indicative of the late Newfoundland spring were seven Iceland Gulls still at Stephenville June 13 (BMT). The season's only Lesser Black-backed Gull was an adult June 15 at Cap Brule, NB (ST). A bird appearing to be a 2nd-summer Glaucous X Herring Gull hybrid was near Corner Brook,

NF, July 2 (BMT).

The origin of the Caspian Terns feeding at Birchy L., NF, with up to 11 a day through June, is a mystery, unless they commute the 50-mi round trip from the known breeding colony near Howley (BMT). A well-watched Common and Arctic tern colony on Peter's I., NS, experienced complete nesting failure owing to gull predation (*vide* BMy). A Black Tern June 13 was a stray as far east as Stephenville Crossing, NF (BMT). At least 15 young Black Terns were produced in the Region's easternmost breeding station at Eddy Marsh, NS, near the New Brunswick border (FL). A Razorbill inland at Deer L., NF, July 2 was an oddity (BMT).

#### **DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS**

**White-winged Dove**, a long-distance vagrant, occurs with surprising regularity: almost annually. Midsummer seems a good time for them, although they have occurred May through November. The first of 1991 was at Rob Walker's famous feeder at Alma, NB, June 28 & 29 (RW). A Chimney Swift June 9 at Miquelon, S.P.M. (MC), and Com Nighthawk June 8 at Ramea, NF (RN), were both n.w. of their breeding ranges. Up to four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in a back garden in the Codroy Valley in s.w. Newfoundland in June indicate local breeding, a rare provincial occurrence (*vide* JW). Two ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers defending breeding territories in June at Pasadena, NF, add some knowledge to its poorly understood provincial breeding range (BMT).

Fifteen singing Yellow-bellied Flycatchers along the road from Port Dufferin to Eagle L., NS, June 7 was considered a high number (BMy). An E. Wood-Pewee June 16 at Miquelon, S.P.M., was n.e. of the breeding range (RE). Five singing Least Flycatchers June 23 in the Codroy Valley, NF, was a favorable sign that they are becoming a firmly established breeding bird in s.w. Newfoundland (JW *et al.*). A singing E. Phoebe June 8 at Salmonier, NF, was quite unexpected (CB, JW). Nova Scotia's 5th **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was on Bon Portage I., NS, June 11–14 (*vide* FL), and New Brunswick's 2nd ever **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was found 100 mi away on the other side of the Bay of Fundy on Kent I. June 14–20 (*vide* DC). Both were immatures, and there was some thought that they could even be the same bird!

#### **SWALLOWS TO WARBLERS**

Purple Martin nesting colonies at Oxford and Amherst, NS, were back to about 50% their normal numbers after the devastation caused by the late cold wave in May 1990 (BMy). A juv. N. Rough-winged Swallow July 30 at Yarmouth, NS, raised hopes of a first provincial nesting record soon (FL). Roger Etcheberry was surprised to see a **Jackdaw** June 27–July 16 at Cape Miquelon, S.P.M., exactly where the species was present 1984 to April 1986. Presumably this was the same



**Greater Shearwaters and Black-legged Kittiwakes (and one Herring Gull) feeding on spawning capelin off St. Vincent's, Newfoundland, July 16, 1991. Part of a feeding swarm of 10,000 birds. The capelin spawned late and in low numbers this year, and behavior of many birds was affected; these normally pelagic birds were feeding in the beach surf and were photographed from shore. Photograph/Ken Knowles.**

bird that somehow went undetected for 5 years!

A small colony of five to 10 Marsh Wrens was at Midgic, NB, in late June (YC); just a few miles away, across the Nova Scotia border, the Eddy Marsh colony was estimated at 20 birds (FL). Winter Wrens were felt to be in average numbers in Nova Scotia and were found to be common on steep, wooded slopes in w. Newfoundland (BMt). Eastern Bluebirds continue to increase as New Brunswick and Nova Scotia breeders, with the most encouraging news coming from e. New Brunswick, with at least 6 nesting pairs in the Moncton/Sackville area (ST). Northern Mockingbird is becoming a real part of the breeding bird community in parts of s. New Brunswick, as demonstrated by 13 pairs and/or singing males in the Moncton/Sediac area (ST). A N. Mockingbird nest produced young at Mount Stewart, PEI, for a first confirmed provincial nesting (BP).

There was very little comment on warblers. Another confirmed New Brunswick Pine Warbler breeding record was established in July at Marysvale (SM). A singing Chestnut-sided Warbler near Little Grand L., NF, on June 26 was one of the few summer provincial sightings (BMt). Ten singing Bay-breasted Warblers at Adies Pond, NF, June 16 attest to its establishment as a w. Newfoundland breeder (BMt). Two others singing farther east at Miquelon, S.P.M., June 14 were more unusual (RE).

#### **TANAGERS TO FINCHES**

A Blue Grosbeak June 1 at Tryon, PEI, was probably a leftover from the spectacular late April flight of overshooting southern migrants (BH). Two pairs of Indigo Buntings at Westport Brier I., NS, one of which nested and fledged young for a 2nd provincial breeding record, may have been products of the same event (*vide* RS). Clay-colored Sparrows continue to tease New Brunswick's breeding bird buffs, with a singing male returning to last year's location at Grand Digue

to sing through the breeding season (DC *et al.*), and with another bird July 20–25 at Aldouane (D. Doucet). Far from being an annual Regional vagrant, a Lark Bunting June 3 at Sable I., NS, was particularly noteworthy because it was during spring migration rather than fall (*vide* BMy). A late Lapland Longspur was at Cape Spear, NF, appropriately during a late snowfall June 2 (BMt). An ad. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird shocked observers at Alma, NB, June 8 (RW *et al.*).

White-winged Crossbills were in good numbers in June. There was singing and nesting across New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. A suitable cone crop seemed to be developing to hold them through the fall and winter. In Newfoundland, White-winged Crossbill began appearing in mid-June, but almost always as singles or small groups high overhead. Red Crossbills were scarce. They began appearing in small numbers on the Avalon Pen., NF, in late June (KK). Pine Siskins were common in most areas. House Finches fledged young at Yarmouth, NS, the location of most of the very few provincial breeding records (FL).

**Addendum:** Two important Newfoundland sightings, received too late for the spring report, were of the European race of Whimbrel in late May at Ramea (RN) and an ad. Franklin's Gull May 16 at Stephenville Crossing (AW).

**Observers Cited:** (subregional editors in boldface) Chris Brown, David Christie, Yves Cormier, Brian Dalzell, Hank Deichmann, Jim Edsall, Roger Etcheberry, Roger Foxall, John Gibbons, Ian Goudie, Ben Hoteling, Ken Knowles, Fulton Lavender, Andrew MacFarlene, Peter MacLeod, Bruce MacTavish, Scott Makepeace, Blake Maybank, Richard Northcott, Peter Pearce, Bruce Pigot, Bev Sarty, Richard Stern, Jim Taylor, Stuart Tingley, Judy & Gordon Tufts, Rob Walker, John Wells, Jim Wilson.—BRUCE MACTAVISH, 37 Waterford Bridge Rd., St. John's, NFA1E 1C5.

## **QUEBEC REGION**

*Michel Gosselin, Richard Yank, and Yves Aubry*

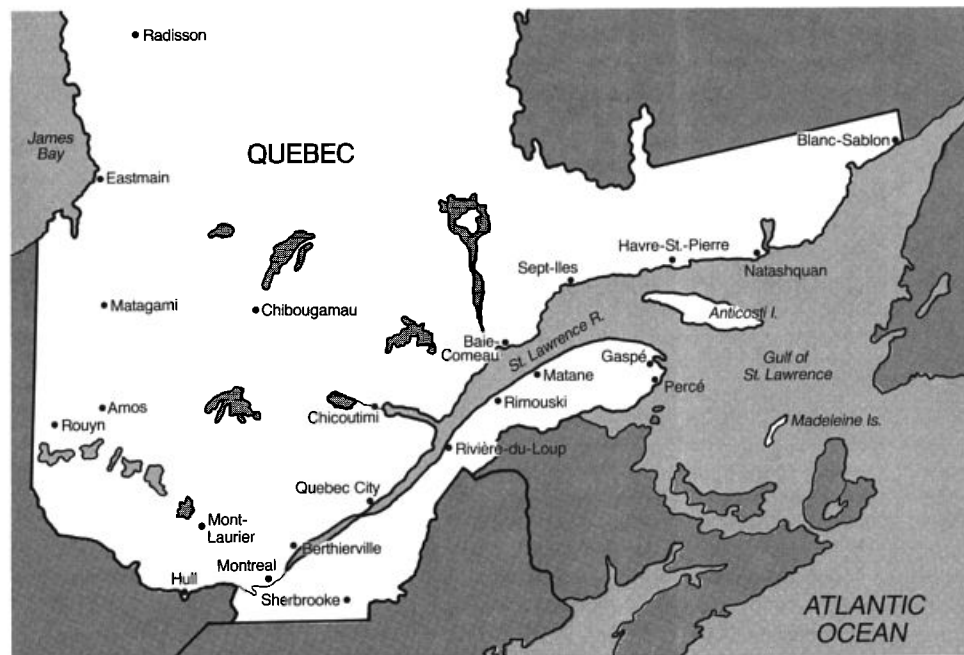
Across most of Quebec, sunny dry weather with above-average temperatures predominated. The Gulf of St. Lawrence proved an exception, with cool, wet conditions prevailing. Several field observer teams were once again active in areas bordering eastern James Bay, adding to our knowledge of breeding birds in this little-explored area. With the usual summer sparseness of vagrants, this report will again focus on recent changes in distribution and status of Quebec's breeding birds.

#### **PELICANS TO WATERFOWL**

An imm. Brown Pelican was at Dundee July 11 (MR, RB), providing Quebec's first report of this species. Unfortunately, an air search the next day failed to relocate the bird. Four active Double-crested Cormorant nests were discovered at Baie-du-Febvre June 29 (DJ, JP, NL). The species had not nested on L. Saint-Pierre since the 1950s, and this now represents the province's only known freshwater colony. A lone Double-crested Cormorant was far inland at Val-Barrette June 17 (FR, RA).

Several Great Blue Heron colonies have shown substantial growth in the past decade. On Heron I., 105 platforms were visible from the LaSalle shore Apr. 13 (PB) compared to 40 censused there in 1979. The Grande I. colony on L. Saint-Pierre now supports approximately 950 pairs, where fewer than 300 pairs nested a decade ago (*vide* DJ). This may constitute the largest North American colony. At this species' n. limit, a single Great Blue Heron nest contained 8 eggs on L. Kapwakami (53°04'N, 78°22'W) in early August (JRd, DL), and some 20 Great Blue Herons summered on Anticosti I., where breeding has yet to be recorded (PS). The province's only Great Egret colony, on Dickerson I., also appears to be growing; 12 active nests were there Apr. 27 (PB *et al.*), while 50 birds were counted July 12 (ND, DD, GD). A wandering Great Egret reached Saint-Fulgence June 15 (CC, GS), and likely the same bird was subsequently at L. Kénogami until August (AP, m.ob.). The only other s. heron was a Tricolored Heron that reached Havre-aux-Basques June 9–17 (FS *et al.*).

Summering geese are becoming commonplace in s. Quebec. In the St. Lawrence estuary, 3 Snow Goose broods were observed on Battures aux Loups-Marin, where the species bred last summer (AR *et al.*); scores of adults summered on Brulée I. (JRd); and a pair frequented I. aux Lièvres, where a family group was later seen nearby, indicating successful nesting (JB). Our knowledge of Snow Goose habitat requirements leads us to doubt that recent nesting along the St. Lawrence will ev-



er grow to involve large numbers. Two or three Snow Geese, as well as two unbanded Bar-headed Geese, accompanied a flock of 325 Canada Geese that spent the period at Saint-Fulgence (CC, GS); and 2 broods of Canada Geese were on I. aux Fermiers May 20 (*vide* JMG). The latter species was also widespread along the Ottawa R. (*vide* RLD). Three Gadwall broods were at Cacouna July 31 (RD), and of interest were two ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Havre-aux-Basques June 23 (JG *et al.*). Surveys of areas e. of James and Hudson bays produced 147 Harlequin Ducks, including 57 pairs (*vide* FM); this represents an important and little-known component of the small e. population. As in 1990, Barrow's Goldeneyes were on L. Chauvin, s. of their expected summer range; 12 birds there June 10 (PO) included 4 pairs. Two pairs of Barrow's were also along Petite Baleine R., e. of Hudson Bay (Nd'A, RL). Noteworthy was a pair of Buffleheads on L. des Moules, *Abitibi*, June 8 (DP, JDG).

#### VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS

Hawkwatchers at Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer identified the Region's 10th Black Vulture as it passed overhead June 3 (RP, GGe). A N. Harrier was also n. of its known range at Poste-de-la-Baleine July 1 (GB). Cooper's Hawks, on the rise in s. Quebec, are being found to nest near heavily populated areas: active nests were located at Chambly (MR) and Laval (PB). A dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk was seen throughout the season at Saint-Bruno, *L. Saint-Jean*, where it is uncommon in summer (GGi, AG).

Yellow Rails received good coverage. Not surprisingly, five were detected at Cabbage-Willows Bay, e. of James Bay, June 17 (PB *et al.*). One was heard on I. du Moine June 30 (DJ), where the species was last recorded in 1980; but for the 2nd consecutive year none

could be found at Saint-Fulgence (*vide* GS). East of Quebec City, one–two birds were at Cap-Tourmente June 18–26 (ACo), while five were on nearby I. aux Grues July 1 (DD *et al.*). On July 10, two were heard at Barachois (PP, JRL), where the species is regular, but one heard at Fatima June 24 (DP, BL) furnished only the 2nd Magdalen Is. record. Saint-Fulgence hosted three Am. Coots throughout June, suggesting local nesting (*vide* GS).

On July 4, a Piping Plover nest was discovered on Brion I. for the first time (Ld'A *et al.*), while a Lesser Yellowlegs nest was found in mid-June in bogs n. of L. Bienville (*vide* FM), a new nesting locale for this species, where a lone bird was observed in 1990. Upland Sandpipers continue to turn up at new sites in the Upper Saguenay: one was at Saint-Honoré June 10 (FG). Southbound Whimbrel were early, with 20 on the Magdalen Is. July 3 (*vide* PF) and perhaps as many as 160 on Anticosti I. July 8 (PS). Further evidence was collected of Marbled Godwits nesting at Cabbage-Willows Bay. Eighty birds were there June 15 (PB *et al.*), and copulation was observed the next day (DD). On July 21, two very agitated birds were there (MR, AM). A Ruff was observed at Saint-Hyacinthe June 23 (RR *et al.*). Also of interest were a displaying Am. Woodcock on I. Cap aux Meules June 8 (FS) and a pair of Red-necked Phalaropes at L. Bienville (date?, *vide* FM). Suggesting nesting on the Quebec side of James Bay, a group of 12 Wilson's Phalaropes included at least four individuals in juv. plumage at Boatswain Bay Aug. 11–13 (MR).

#### GULLS TO OWLS

An ad. Bonaparte's Gull was at Havre-aux-Basques July 24 (FS, NP), where a pair had nested in 1990. This year, however, the single

bird was apparently paired with a Com. Black-headed Gull. An imm. Lesser Black-backed Gull visited Rivière-Ouelle June 5 (CA). We do not fully understand the status of summer Caspian Terns in s.w. Quebec. One was noted on I. aux Fermiers June 9 (DD), eight frequented the LaSalle waterfront June 23–26 (PB), and up to eight (the same?) were downstream at Notre-Dame-de-Pierreville June 29–July 14 (DJ, JP, NL). A group of 13 Black Terns at Boatswain Bay Aug. 9 (MR, AM) included adults feeding fledglings; these birds were n. of their normal range.

As many as eight Ringed Turtle-Doves were released at Bic, and one–two of these birds were later seen in the surrounding area (*vide* JL), while a successful Mourning Dove nest was considered a rare find at Chandler (JRL). A Monk Parakeet was reported at Tadoussac from June 19 onwards (GC).

Black-billed Cuckoos drew little comment except in the Outaouais region, where there were tent caterpillar outbreaks, such as along the Ottawa R. (*vide* RLD). Only one Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported this summer: at Windsor June 16 (YB). A Boreal Owl responded to a tape at L. Nixon, *Chicoutimi*, July 28 (CC, GS).

#### GOATSUCKERS TO SHRIKES

A Com. Nighthawk in broken-wing display at Havre-aux-Maisons June 18 (DP) provided strong evidence of breeding, while locally rare was a Whip-poor-will in flight at Sainte-Rose-du-Nord June 19 (JI, TM, FI). At the limit of the species' range was a Pileated Woodpecker 100 km n. of Matagami (date?, *vide* YA), while a nest of the latter with two young in the Port-Daniel W.R. June 22 (PP *et al.*) represented one of the few breeding records for the Gaspé Peninsula. Most notable among reports of extralimital Willow Flycatchers were two at Pointe-à-la-Croix June 20 (JP, NL).

Rare in the Region in summer, a Carolina Wren remained at Pointe-Claire throughout the period (FC). Late in the season, two were at Lachine July 29 (VS), one at Kirkland Aug. 1 (PT), and another sang exceptionally far north at Petite-Rivière-Saint-François Aug. 7–9 (YB). Two E. Bluebirds were singing s. of Rupert Bay, remarkably far north, June 16 (PB *et al.*), while a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Rivière-Eternité June 17 was worthy of mention (GL). A Wood Thrush at Baie-Comeau June 4 (GC) furnished possibly our most easterly record along the N. Shore.

Contributors noted that N. Mockingbirds were more numerous than usual in the Upper Saguenay (*vide* GS), while a Brown Thrasher was unexpected at Cap-Gaspé July 24 (YA). In the Broadback R. estuary July 21 (MR), an agitated Am. Pipit suggested breeding slight-

ly s. of known range. Bohemian Waxwings were regularly encountered from mid-June to late July along the Broadback, Rupert, and Nottaway rivers (*vide* FM), and two (a pair?) were at km 271 of the James Bay road July 25 (MR, DD, AM). Two pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes successfully bred in s. Quebec this year (*vide* PL), twice as many as in 1990!

### VIREOS TO FINCHES

A Warbling Vireo was beyond its established range at Causapscal June 20 (JP, NL), while a Philadelphia Vireo nest was uncovered near Némiscau, at the n. limit of its range (*vide* YA).

A Tennessee Warbler at Poste-de-la-Baleine July 21 (GB) was slightly n. of its normal range, while a pair of Cerulean Warblers was a good find in Gatineau N.P. July 16–23 (SB *et al.*). No longer unexpected in the lower St. Lawrence was a ♀ N. Cardinal at Saint-Simon June 27 (GR). A ♂ Dickcissel appeared at Saint-David-de-Lévis June 24 (MAL, LL), while an Am. Tree Sparrow was in Aiguebelle W.R. on the unusual date of June 8–9 (DP, JDG).

Lone Clay-colored Sparrows were detected at Grondines June 5 (MR) and Melbourne July 17 (DJ, MR), while the species again nested at Saint-Honoré (*vide* GS). Through the use of satellite photography to identify potentially suitable habitat in the Outaouais region of w. Quebec, 8 new sites were found to support a total of 16 territorial ♂ Grasshopper Sparrows (DSH). Up to five territorial Le Conte's Sparrows frequented Saint-Fulgence, where they are irregular, June 12–July 28 (LI, JV, m.ob.). A Smith's Longspur, only Quebec's 3rd, was belatedly reported at Cabbage-Willows Bay Apr. 29 (FB *et al.*).

As many as 30 Bobolinks were observed at Port-Menier July 8–14 (PS); breeding has yet to be confirmed on Anticosti I., but the species has apparently been found there each summer in recent years. Exceptionally far north was an ad. Red Crossbill feeding a downy young near Némiscau in mid-June (*vide* FM), while at the s. edge of their summer range were two Com. Redpolls in the Broadback R. estuary July 21 (DD, MR). Locally rare was a ♀ Evening Grosbeak feeding young in Gatineau N.P. in June (EC, ACL).

**Contributors and Observers:** R. Alie, L. d'Amours, N. d'Astous, C. Auchu, Y. Bachand, P. Bannon, S. Barrette, J. Bédard, R. Benoit, F. Bolduc, G. Breton, F. Cliff, A. Cloutier (ACI), E. Cloutier, C. Cormier, A. Côté (ACo), G. Cyr, D. Daigneault, N. David, R. Deschênes, R.L. Dubois, G. Duquette, P. Fradette, F. Gagnon, J. Gaudreault, J.D. Gauvreau, G. Gendron (GGe), A. Girdard, G. Girard (GGi), J.M. Giroux, J. Ibarzabal, T. Ibarzabal, L. Imbeau, D. Jauvin, N. Landry, P. Laporte, J. Larivée, B. Leblanc, D. Leclair, G. Lemelin, M.A. Lemieux, R. Lemieux, J.R. Lepage, L. Longchamps, L. Messely, F. Morneau, A. Morrier, T. Morrisette, P. Otis, J. Paquin, D. Perreault, A. Perron, R. Pitre, N. Poirier, P. Poulin, A. Reed, F. Renaud, G. Rioux, M. Robert, J. Rodrigue (JRd), J. Rosa (JR), R. Roy, P. Samson, G. Savard, F. Shaffer, V. Sheridan, D. St-Hilaire, P. Tarasoff, J. Villeneuve.—MICHEL GOSSELIN, Ornithology Section, Canadian Museum of Nature, 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.

## NEW ENGLAND REGION

Wayne R. Petersen

Early summer weather was sunny and warm; June was the warmest since 1983. The average Massachusetts monthly temperature was 70 °F, 2 degrees above normal; a high of 97° on June 28 tied an all-time record for the date. Nesting birds were essentially unbothered by cold, rainy weather; in most areas rainfall was below normal. July weather was similarly benign. Rainfall that occurred did not seem to significantly affect bird activity.

The star-studded cast of vagrants that punctuated this script last year was slightly diminished by a "return to normalcy" this season. Nonetheless, two range extensions—Forster's Tern and American Pipit—were significant, as were first state records for Rufous Hummingbird in Connecticut and Curlew Sandpiper in Vermont. Breeding trends included continued success for Common Loons, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Piping Plovers (in Massachusetts), while concerns were raised over breeding success in several tern species and for Golden-winged Warblers.

**Abbreviations:** B.I.A. (Bradley International Airport); D.C.W.M.A. (Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, VT).

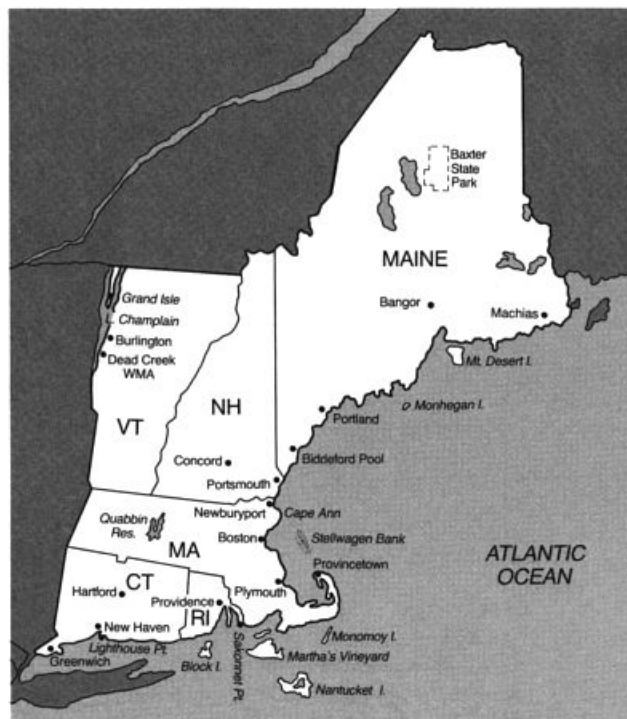
### LOONS TO CORMORANTS

A summering Red-throated Loon at Rye, NH, July 19 (PH, TL) was the latest of several reports for the season. Common Loons had a productive summer. In New Hampshire, 408 adults raised 85 chicks (*vide* DD), while Vermont census efforts produced 15 pairs and 14 swimming young (CR). At the species' Regional southern nesting terminus in Massachusetts, 9 pairs raised 8 chicks (*vide* BB).

Pied-billed Grebe continues to struggle as a breeder, despite increasing marsh bird census and detection work in several New England states. Definite breeding was reported at only 2 sites, one being the traditional Stratford, CT, location, where 2 families were observed June 1 and July 6 (JB, CB). The other location, the only one reported from n. New England, was at Berlin, Washington, VT, where a pair and three young were seen July 28 (TAv). Other grebe reports included a lingering Horned Grebe June 8 at West Haven,

CT (PL), and the following Red-necked Grebe reports: three at Rockport June 22 and one at Biddeford Pool, ME, July 21 (W. & B. Sumner); and one at L. Memphramagog, Derby, Orleans, VT, July 30 (TH).

For at least the 3rd summer in a row, inshore pelagic bird numbers were significantly depressed on Stellwagen Bank. The only report of any magnitude was a maximum of 800 Wilson's Storm-Petrels June 28 (KJ). Farther offshore, an estimated 10,000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and 31 N. Fulmars were observed June 24 at Cashes Ledge, 75 mi e. of Cape Ann, MA (RA). Inshore numbers of fulmars have declined significantly compared to 1970s counts. Shearwater numbers were highlighted by 400 Sooty Shearwaters off Menemsha, Martha's Vineyard, June 5 (VL) and a Manx Shearwater flying in front of waterfront lights at 10:00 p.m. along Nantasket Beach, Hull,



MA, July 28 (DM). Twenty-three Audubon's Shearwaters were noted on the edge of the continental shelf in the vicinity of Lydonia Canyon July 5 (M. Gooley, *vide* B.O.). At Penikese I. in Buzzards Bay, MA, for many years Leach's Storm-Petrels have maintained their southernmost breeding outpost in e. North America. Four nests were located there this year, and four birds were trapped that had been banded in 1983 (TF).

In Vermont, 502 tree-nesting Double-crested Cormorants were counted at Young I., as well as the first local ground-nesting of an additional 25 pairs June 18 (CR).

## HERONS TO WATERFOWL

Regionwide, Least Bitterns were reported from 6 localities, most notable being singles at Durham, NH, June 1 (A & BD), E. Alberg, VT, June 9 (SW), and Ferrisburg, VT, June 25 (M. & J. Dye). Every 2 years the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife conducts a statewide census of Great Blue Herons. This season, 402 pairs at 37 sites were counted June 12–25 (*vide* BB), an increase of 51% from 1989. As more evidence of this population's health, 903 young were produced, averaging 2.71 young per nest. Coastal nesting heron data were incomplete except for counts of pairs at Kettle I., Manchester, MA, June 2 (SP). Totals there included 27 Great Egrets, 150 Snowy Egrets, 22 Little Blue Herons, and 14 Glossy Ibises. In Rhode Island, a new nesting site for Great Egret was found at Sandy Point I. June 1 (RF); a new colony on Sarah I., Hingham, MA, was found to contain about 40 pairs each of Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons June 3 (Lawry Sager). Cattle Egret reports included at least 8 nesting pairs in June at Young I. in L. Champlain (CR), along with impressive counts of 34 at Grand Isle, VT, July 27 (DH) and 36 at Ipswich, MA, July 31 (TA). All inland reports of *Plegadis* ibis increasingly raise the question of specific identity, but the following reports were apparently referable to Glossy Ibis: one at Pittsfield, MA, July 21 (Bob Goodrich); two at D.C.W.M.A. July 31 (Peter Ridley); and 29 at Durham, NH, July 19 (SM). Remaining unusual heron reports included five Tricolored Herons at Scarborough, ME, July 31, (*vide* JD) and an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron inland at Agawan, MA, July 27–28 (TG).

In Vermont, 11 Brant at Young I. June 8 were on the tardy side of the ledger, while in Massachusetts, one–two summered at Plum I. (*vide* B.O.). A brood of N. Shovelers was at a traditional breeding site at Easton, *Aroostook*, ME, July 28 (MT), where the same observer recorded a family of Am. Wigeon July 15. Other Regional breeding wigeon were 3 broods at Grand Isle, VT, June 28–30 (DH). Gadwalls were also confirmed breeding at L. Champlain, since 5 broods were at Bixby and Young I. June 23 (DH). This species is obviously continuing to colonize the Champlain Valley after their first Vermont nesting 1980.

Among the unusual summering waterfowl were a ♀ Redhead at Newburyport, MA, July 5 (RAF), single King Eiders at Ninigret Breachway, RI, July 13 (PB, DR), and Plum I., MA, July 5–27 (RAF *et al.*), and a Bufflehead at Dorchester, MA, June 11–17 (RD). More routine but nonetheless uncommon were 2 families of Com. Mergansers in w. Massachusetts at Florence June 15 (TG) and Deerfield June 30 (DS), along with two nonbreeders on the Blackstone R., RI (LS). Five Ruddy Ducks at S. Monomoy I., MA, throughout the period apparently showed no indication of nesting (BN).

## RAPTORS

Marginally extralimital Black Vultures appeared at Kent, CT, where two were found June 10 & 18 (John Maynard, NC) and Ware, MA, where a single bird was seen July 6 (RPF, Alan Leggett). More curious was a Black Vulture captured alive on Nauset Beach, Orleans, MA, July 3 and later released July 12 after treatment at a local animal rehabilitation center (*vide* Rene Roberts). Apparent proof of one of the few confirmed Vermont Turkey Vulture breeding records was six adults and one juvenile at Eagle Mt., Milton, July 27 (DH). Ospreys continued their

(RA) continued the trend that brought three or four to New England in April and May. Bald Eagles are increasingly establishing themselves as New England breeders away from historic Maine locales. A New Hampshire pair raised a single young at L. Umbagog (*vide* DD), while out of 5 territorial Massachusetts pairs, 2 pairs raised four young (*vide* BB). With luck, next year's summary will be able to report a successful Connecticut Bald Eagle nesting, since this summer a prebreeding pair built a nest at Barkhamsted (*vide* BK). An interesting description of Red-tailed Hawk at B.I.A., Windsor Locks, CT, July 20 (JM) suggested that the bird may have represented either a dark morph or one of the western races, either of which would be very rare in New England.

While hard data are scant, indications are that Am. Kestrels are steadily slipping away as breeders. This year Seth Kellogg reported kestrels from only 14 w. Massachusetts locations; last year's total of 16 was considered below average. On the other hand, Merlins have nested at Cutler, *Washington*, ME, for 3 of the past 4 years. This year's confirmation came when an ad. female was observed and young were calling July 13 (CD, Ilze Balodis). A very late migrant Merlin was



**This Black Vulture captured alive at the northerly location of Nauset Beach, Orleans, Massachusetts, on July 3, 1991, was released after rehabilitation. Photograph/Rene Roberts.**

spread or else remained stable at most locales. There were 17 active nests in New Hampshire, with 11 pairs successfully raising 25 young (*vide* DD); out of 5 active Vermont nests, 4 pairs raised seven young (CR). Total Massachusetts Osprey population now exceeds 200 pairs (*vide* TF), including the first attempted nesting in *Essex* this century (JB).

American Swallow-tailed Kites continued to delight New England observers, with single birds appearing in Massachusetts at S. Wellfleet June 5 (DRe) and Hyannis June 17 (Bob Pease), as well as at Mansfield, CT, during a 2-week July period (*vide* BK). A single ad. Mississippi Kite at Hingham, MA, June 8

recorded at Lancaster, MA, June 4 (ML). Peregrine Falcons continue to flourish, reflected by the attempted New Hampshire nesting of 6 pairs, where 3 pairs raised seven young (*vide* DD) and 7 nesting pairs in Vermont that raised 13 young (CR). In Massachusetts, 2 pairs of urban Peregrines in Boston and Springfield raised five young, three of which were killed by late summer (*vide* TF).

## GROUSE TO SHOREBIRDS

In Vermont, where the Spruce Grouse population appears to be in trouble, a count of 20



At Whiting, Vermont, this Common Crane caused excitement in June 1991, but it was apparently an escapee from an exotic bird collection in the Catskills. Photograph/John B. Martin.

individuals (if accurate) would seem a significant number (*vide* Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept.).

Following the May appearance of a calling Black Rail at Stratford, CT, the presence of one that continuously vocalized in mid-morning June 20–23 was intriguing (NC, Jeff Fongler) and became all the more so when an alleged pair was heard there July 4 (Charles Barnard). The only recent suggestion of Connecticut breeding was in summer 1980 (see *AB* 34: 876). Ever rare as a Regional breeder, two King Rails nesting at Winnapaug Pond, CT, June 1 (RW) are noteworthy. Despite their continued New England decline, breeding Com. Moorhens were recorded from at least 4 locales, including Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, ME, July 21 (JB); West Rutland, VT, July 24 (WN); D.C.W.M.A. July 31 (Peter Riley); and 2 pairs at S. Egremont in June (*vide* SK). Reports of single moorhens at 2 Nantucket I. locales June 3 & 23 (*vide* B.O.) suggests breeding in an area where there is at least sporadic precedent.

The now-annual Sandhill Crane occurrence was perpetuated by one appearing at Plum I., MA, July 13–15 (RS). More astounding, but more readily accounted for, was a single Common Crane at Whiting, VT, June 9–10 (JP, WE, NM). Close scrutiny revealed the presence of the same “stiff toes” on its left foot that were present on a Com. Crane observed in April at Red Hoop, NY, which was determined to be an escapee from a Catskill Mts. aviculturist. However interesting, this record is best considered bogus in light of the bird’s origin.

While the New England shorebird picture may never again match last year’s treasure trove, this season was not without highlights.

In the good news department was an increase over last year in the total of 158 breeding pairs of Piping Plovers in Massachusetts (*vide* BB), where the species has its most significant Regional stronghold, as well as a stable total of 26 Rhode Island pairs (CRa). Eight Am. Oystercatchers at Popham Beach S.P., ME, July 17 (TAv) suggests this species may have plans for further expanding its range northward beyond Boston Harbor, where a pair and three young were found at Sheep I. June 3 (JH) this year. An especially early migrant Solitary Sandpiper was at Hadley, MA, June 24 (*vide* SK), while at North Monomoy I., 15 migrant “Western” Willets were among 250 Willets July 22 (BN). Vermont surveys of Upland Sandpipers at approximately 50 sites, mainly in the c. Champlain Valley, produced 127 birds in June and early July (JP). At Pease Air Force Base, NH, 7–10 pairs were present, with 48 individuals counted by the 3rd week of July (DD). In Connecticut as in Massachusetts, Upland Sandpipers are primarily concentrated at airports, demonstrated by 30–35 individuals at B.I.A., Windsor Locks, July 20 (JM).

Twenty-four Whimbrels at Seabrook, NH, July 19 (PH, TL) and a maximum evening roost count of 722 at North Monomoy I. July 27 (W. Harrington *et al.*) clearly reflect the timing of ad. Whimbrel migration in New England. Early reports of godwits at North Monomoy I. included three Hudsonian Godwits June 25 (BN) and one Marbled Godwit June 19 (BN). The high Hudsonian Godwit count for the season was 70 at North Monomoy I. July 22 (BM). As a reminder of how close in time the last northbound shorebirds are to the vanguard of the fall flight, this season offered some typical contrasts. Clearly

in the northbound category were: 220 Ruddy Turnstones at North Monomoy I. June 2 (BN); 150 White-rumped Sandpipers there June 6 (BN); single Curlew Sandpipers at Plymouth, MA, June 1 (Gd’E) and Scarborough Marsh, ME, June 9 (S. Pollock *et al.*). Apparently headed S were three Lesser Yellowlegs at Adamsville, RI, July 1 (RB); single Ruffs at Newburyport July 5 (RAF) and at Panton, VT, July 6 & 7 (BG, JN); Vermont’s first ever Curlew Sandpiper at D.C.W.M.A., Addison, July 13 (DC, THa, CP *et al.*); and 200 Short-billed Dowitchers at Newburyport July 7 (KJ).

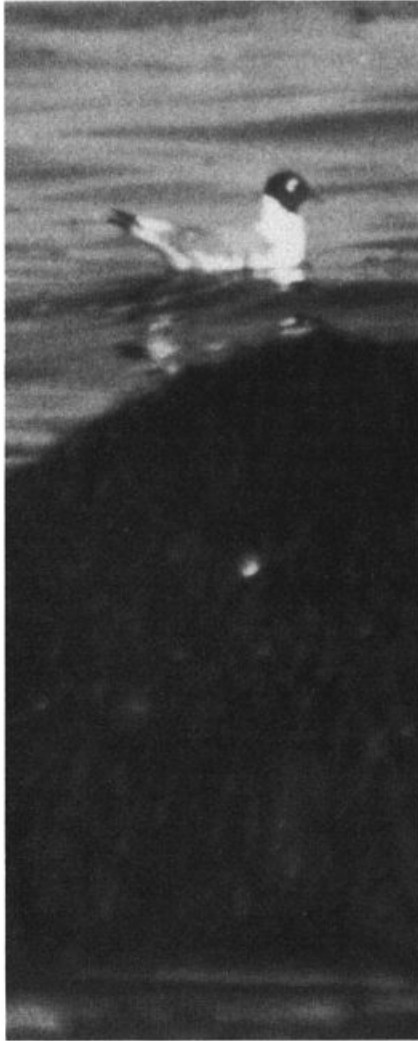
Other interesting shorebird reports included five inland Sanderlings at Longmeadow, MA, July 27 (TG); a W. Sandpiper at Ninigrit Pond, RI, July 1 (PB); 1500 Least Sandpipers, North Monomoy I. July 18 (BN); a Curlew Sandpiper at South Beach I., Chatham, MA, July 18 & 20 (BN *et al.*); 4500 Short-billed Dowitchers at North Monomoy I. July 18 (BN) and single Wilson’s Phalaropes in Maine at Scarborough June 15 (JD) and Easton July 28 (MT). Although definite evidence of Wilson’s Phalarope breeding in Massachusetts is sporadic, five birds at Plum I. June 29 (*vide* B.O.) certainly indicates probable breeding this season.

#### JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

The only jaeger was a single Pomarine at Provincetown, MA, June 12 (CL), an extension of the previously mentioned midsummer dearth of pelagic birds on Stellwagen Bank. Laughing Gulls at New I., Orleans, MA, numbered 1285 pairs (*vide* BB), up slightly from the 1990 total. A clearly photographed ad. Franklin’s Gull in breeding plumage at Rye Harbor, NH, June 1 (SM) constituted only the 2nd New Hampshire record. In Massachusetts, imm. Little Gulls appeared near tern colonies at Bird I., Marion, June 25–July 31 (IN) and New I., Orleans, July 22 (IN), while Com. Black-headed Gull reports included singles at E. Boston June 9 (JQ), Lynn June 25 (JQ), and Darien, CT, June 15–23 (*vide* BK). A gathering of 773 Bonaparte’s Gulls at the n. end of L. Champlain July 30 (CR) very likely represented S migrating post-breeding adults, although the ages of most were unspecified. Unseasonal dates for Glaucous Gulls involved single immatures at Turner, ME, June 10 (JD) and Lynn, MA, June 17 and July 22 (JQ).

Yet another summer Gull-billed Tern appeared in New England: one at Quonochontaug, RI, July 21 (RW), the first state record in 6 years. Interesting were two Caspian Terns at D.C.W.M.A. July 29 (CR, Mark LaBarr); coincidental were two Royal Terns June 28 at both Block I. (Rick Enser) and Milford Pt., CT (Flo McBride). Tern nesting data received mixed reviews, the overall picture not being terribly optimistic. Despite a 12% increase in Roseate Terns at Bird I.,





**Adult Franklin's Gull just north of Jeness Beach, Rye, New Hampshire, June 1, 1991. Second state record. Photograph/Steve Mirick.**

MA, the 1776 pairs there represented 97 percent of Massachusetts pairs, which is approximately half the n.e. United States population (*fide* BB). This species is clearly engaged in a survival strategy best likened to Russian roulette! In Massachusetts, 9835 pairs of Com. Terns was down slightly from 1990; productivity was reduced, most notably at New I., where Great Horned Owl predation was the reason (*fide* BB). Similarly, 5 Com. Terns colonies in New Hampshire produced very few chicks (DD). In contrast, 60 L. Champlain pairs yielded 41 young, the highest productivity since 1980 (CR). Wandering individual Com. Terns appeared at 2 inland locales: Hadley, MA, July 8 (Peter Yeskie) and Pittsburg, NH, June 29 (RPF). Arctic Terns, at their southern breeding terminus in Massachusetts, declined to a state total of 11 pairs, their lowest in over 50 years (*fide* BB). The ever-resilient Least Tern maintained fairly stable numbers, with an estimated 2356 Massachusetts pairs, including a new colony at Boston's Logan Airport, which continues to be a model of urban habitat usage (*fide* BB).

#### S.A.

Undoubtedly the season's tern highlight was the first nesting of Forster's Tern in New England. Following the appearance of an apparently mated pair at the Parker River N.W.R., Plum I., last summer, it was advised that this species be closely watched for future breeding. Like a prophecy fulfilled, on June 10 David Rimmer and Russ Hopping discovered a mated pair and a nest with 2 eggs amid a small colony of salt marsh nesting Com. Terns. Unfortunately, the final outcome of the nesting attempt was not documented. Nonetheless, this represents a significant northward step from the nearest breeding station, on Long Island, NY.

#### CUCKOOS TO SHRIKES

Despite heavy Gypsy Moth infestations throughout Massachusetts, cuckoo numbers there were not exceptional. Twenty-eight w. Massachusetts reports were considered above average (SK), but a corresponding total of 27 reports in the e. part of the state hardly seemed inflated.

Always local and unpredictable as s. New England breeders, two N. Saw-whet Owls

calling regularly at Myles Standish S.F., Plymouth, MA, June 6–July 18 (Gd'E) certainly suggested nesting activity. Still more mysterious is the summer status of Chuck-will's-widow on the s. New England islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. For a series of years in the 1970s, the species gave every indication of trying to establish a breeding toehold there, yet breeding confirmation was never accomplished and the species seemingly phased out in the following decade. With that history, a calling Chuck-will's-widow at Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, July 10 (Scott Jackson) is most intriguing. In the epicenter of Regional Whip-poor-will abundance, this year's maximum count in Plymouth's Myles Standish S.F. was 42 calling June 6 (Gd'E). A first state record for Rufous Hummingbird was established with the discovery and photo of an ad. male at New Hartford, CT, July 21–27 (Dawn Gallo, *fide* Jay Kaplan, BK). Needless to say, after the Massachusetts occurrence of Allen's Hummingbird in 1988, all future Regional *Selasphorus* hummingbirds require exceedingly detailed supporting evidence.

A Red-headed Woodpecker at Wallum L., RI, June 10 (Sigrid Miller, *fide* DE) apparently gave no indication of nesting, but a Red-bellied Woodpecker with two young at Medford, MA, June 15 (Marge Rines *et al.*) provided further confirmation of this species'

#### S.A.

After a number of years of anticipation, American Pipits finally established a new southernmost breeding station in e. North America: Mt. Washington, NH. On June 29, Chris Rimmer discovered 3 pipit pairs in the vicinity of the Alpine Garden, where he was able to successfully photograph a nest with 5 eggs. On July 12, two ad. pipits were feeding two young in the vicinity (PH, PM), suggesting a successful nesting attempt. At least one pipit of undetermined age was still near the Mt. Washington summit Aug. 9 (SS).



**Nest of American Pipit on Mount Washington, New Hampshire, June 29, 1991. This site marked a new southern limit for breeding by the species in eastern North America. Photograph/Chris Rimmer.**

Massachusetts colonization. In New Hampshire, a Red-bellied Woodpecker at Warner June 18 (*vide* DD) gave promise of the species' continued northward pioneering attempts.

A tally of five Olive-sided Flycatchers at Plum I. June 1 (Andy Dassinger, *vide* B.O.) represents a very notable concentration of migrants. Equally noteworthy were eight singing Acadian Flycatchers at Granville, MA, in June (SK); three at S. Quabbin, MA, June 22 (ML); and a surprisingly northern bird at Pawtuckaway S.P., Nottingham, NH, July 7–13 (SM). Most notable of this season's flycatcher reports were single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in New Hampshire at Star I., Isles of Shoals, June 19 (Paul Smith), and Rumney June 27 (Al Ports, Tom Sears *et al.*). A 33-pair colony of Cliff Swallows at Marshfield, MA, June 14 (*vide* David Clapp) is seemingly the largest in e. Massachusetts.

Fish Crows are finally appearing to colonize Cape Cod after what, for years, seemed like a distributional anomaly. Two birds were at Wellfleet June 21 (BN), and up to nine individuals were at Yarmouthport throughout June (Ken Hamilton, *vide* B.O.). Since first nesting in Connecticut in 1987, the state's Com. Raven population has now grown to at least 6 successful nest sites this year (Dave Rosgen, *vide* BK), while in Massachusetts at least 20 nest sites were located (TF).

Carolina Wrens continue to surge northward as they consolidate the permanency (?) of their New England range: two birds in the Northeast Kingdom, VT, July 16 (THa), a single at Burlington, VT, July 29 (M. and J. Dye), and what was described as a first confirmed New Hampshire breeding record at Durham July 19 (PH, TL *et al.*). In actuality, Carolina Wrens have been resident on Star I., Isles of Shoals, for several years; in all probability they have nested there as well. A nest-building Sedge Wren at Whiting, VT, June 20 (JN, BG) was certainly of interest, as were murmurings of 3 pairs n. of Bangor, ME, in June (*vide* Peter Vickery). Seventeen singing ♂ Winter Wrens at Mt. Mansfield, VT, June 18 (CR) is indicative of the fact that this short-distance migrant seems to be flourishing within n. New England's Canadian Zone forests.

The continued health of Connecticut's E. Bluebird population was demonstrated by a statewide estimate of 1200 pairs (Dave Rosgen, *vide* BK). Less secure in the Region, counts of nine ♂ Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Mt. Mansfield June 18 and six males at Camel's Hump, VT, June 6 (CR) are comforting; but observers are encouraged to report all summer sightings of this fading *Catharus*.

For the 2nd year in a row, an out-of-season Loggerhead Shrike made an anomalous appearance, this year at Newbury, MA, June 8 & 9 (Herman Weissberg *et al.*, *vide* B.O.). Do these June occurrences represent floating males, disrupted breeders, or lonely prospectors?

## VIREOS TO FINCHES

For a never-before Vermont breeder, a singing ♂ White-eyed Vireo at Maidstone, Essex, VT, June 26–July 2 (JO) was decidedly noteworthy, despite the fact that no further indication of nesting was observed. The continued struggle for genetic supremacy of Blue-winged Warbler over Golden-winged Warbler is reflected in the increasing numbers of hybrids each season. This year totals of five "Brewster's" Warblers and two "Lawrence's" Warblers were reported in New Hampshire (*vide* DD), Massachusetts (*vide* B.O.), and Rhode Island (*vide* DE) compared to Golden-winged Warblers from only 2 Massachusetts (*vide* B.O.) and one Vermont location (TA<sub>v</sub>).

On Cape Cod, where N. Parulas are making their last Massachusetts stand, only three individuals could be found between June 15–July 4 (BN); in Maine, Charlie Duncan reported only one pair of Cape May Warblers in 15 days of fieldwork in the Whitneyville, Washington, area, significantly lower than normal. On the positive side of the ledger were Yellow-throated Warblers nesting for the 2nd year in a row at Kent, CT (*vide* BK); 42 Prairie Warblers recorded along a single power line survey at Groveland, MA, June 8 (RS); at least three Cerulean Warblers at S. Quabbin in June (*vide* SK); a ♂ Prothonotary Warbler at the Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, MA, June 1–July 14 (*vide* B.O.); 9 pairs of Worm-eating Warblers at Tiverton, RI, June 23–25 (RF); nine Hooded Warblers at 3 Rhode Island locales June 1–14 (*vide* DE); 47 Mourning Warblers in 9 w. Massachusetts towns (*vide* SK); and two Yellow-breasted Chats at Newbury, MA, June 1–8 (*vide* B.O.).

Of unique interest was a well-described "Mourning-type" Warbler at Mt. Graylock, MA, June 9 (DS<sub>m</sub> *et al.*). The bird sang a perfect Com. Yellowthroat song, yet it possessed a gray hood "that ended rather abruptly on the upper chest at the base of a whitish throat." The remainder of the underparts, including undertail coverts, were bright yellow. The observers' impression was that this aberrant bird most closely resembled a hybrid Mourning Warbler x Com. Yellowthroat—a precedent established by a bird collected in Connecticut in 1955 (see Bledsoe 1988, *Wilson Bulletin* 100: 1–8).

A ♂ Blue Grosbeak that vigorously defended a territory throughout the period at Worcester, MA (*vide* B.O.), was apparently a lonely bachelor, since no evidence of a female or nesting activity was observed. A similarly solitary female was at Jamestown, RI, July 2 (William Gardner, *vide* DE). Too bad! Very unusual in summer was a meticulously described Lark Sparrow at Dorchester, MA, June 5 (RD). As Grasshopper Sparrows are steadily fading away in many parts of the Region, reports of four at Falmouth, MA, June 22 (BN), and four at Windsor Locks (one of Connecticut's last sites) July 20 (JM) are worth highlighting, as are out-of-place

White-throated Sparrows at Wellfleet, MA, June 20 (KH) and Boston July 1–15 (Ken Hudson).

A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird at a Rockport, MA, feeder June 1–3 (Debra Ramsen) was significantly later than most Regional spring records, as was a migrant Rusty Blackbird at George Washington S.F., RI, June 11, (Janice St. Jean, Barbara Gearhart, *vide* DE) Mercifully, Chris Rimmer failed to record Brown-headed Cowbirds at Vermont interior forest monitoring sites; however, 53 were recorded on a Groveland, MA, powerline survey June 9 (RS), where there were only 18 in 1990. A female and two young Orchard Orioles at Portland, ME, June 15 (JD, George Carson) were at one of the very few reliable Maine nesting areas. Six lingering Red Crossbills were still at Quabbin June 6 (DS<sub>m</sub>); a more intriguing report involved an imm. White-winged Crossbill sitting on a N Adams, MA, roadside July 7 (WP). Very late Evening Grosbeaks included a female at Nantucket I. June 14–18 (EA); a possible nesting pair at E. Hartland, CT, July 22 (Edith Leopold, *vide* BK); and a definitely breeding pair that brought two juveniles to a Princeton, MA, feeder July 4 & 5 (SP), one of very few confirmed state nesting records.

**Observers (subregional editors in boldface, contributors in italics):** Robert Abrams, Ted Allen, Edith Andrews, *Tom Aversa* (TA<sub>v</sub>), Jim Bair, Charles Barnard, *Jim Berry*, **Bird Observer**, *Brad Blodget*, Paul Buckley, Dwight Cargill, Neil Currie, *Allen & Barbara Delorey*, **Diane DeLuca**, Glenn d'Entremont, **Jody Despres**, Ron Donovan, Walter Ellison, Richard Ferren, Richard A. Forster (RAF), Robert Fox (RPF), *Tom French*, Tom Gagnon, Betty Gillson, Terry Hall (THa), Jeremy Hatch, Tom Hickox, David Hoag, Peter Hunt, *Kyle Jones*, **Betty Kleiner**, Vernon Laux, Tony Leukering, Chris Leahy, Patrick Leahy, Mark Lynch, Peter Marra, Nancy Martin, *Steven Mirick*, Joe Morin, David Morimoto, **Julie Nicholson**, **Blair Nikula**, *Ian Nisbet*, William Norse, Judy Peterson, *Stacey Poor*, Craig Provost, John Quigley, *Chris Raitthel* (Ra), *Don Reid* (Dre), *Chris Rimmer*, David Roche, *David Small*, David Stemple, *Stanley Stohl*, **Robert Stymeist**, Lewis Symynkiewicz, Mark Trombley, **Vermont Institute of Natural Science**, Robert Wadman, Susan Wetmore.—WAYNE R. PETERSEN, Conservation Department, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.

# HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

Summer 1991 was very hot and very dry. In Philadelphia, where temperature exceeded 90° on 49 of the 90 days beginning June 1, this summer nosed out 1988 and 1990 as the hottest on record. Even as far north as Rochester, temperatures exceeded 90 degrees much of the third week of July.

Money, however, influenced this column more than temperature. Budget crises caused many state conservation agencies to reduce or cancel their colonial waterbirds and endangered species surveys, which have usually formed the backbone of this breeding season column. We will have a much less comprehensive view this season than in the past of breeding colonies of herons, terns, and the like, which are among this Region's glories. Since too few individuals send us information in summer, our coverage has gaps. Readers, send us your summer observations by August 31 next year!

**Abbreviations:** Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook Natl Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Natl Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co., NJ*); Conejohela Flats (*Susquehanna R., at Washington Boro, Lancaster Co., PA*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., PA*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City*); Lakehurst (*U.S. Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, Ocean Co., NJ*); Little Creek (*Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, DE*); LI (*Long Island, NY*); Little Galloo (*Little Galloo I., in e. Lake Ontario, off Henderson Harbor, NY*); Port Mahon (*marshes and bay shore east of Little Creek, Kent Co., DE*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth Co., NJ*); SBC (*Summer Bird Count*); S.C.M.M. (*South Cape May Meadows, Cape May, NJ*).

## LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Two Red-throated Loons at Sandy Hook in late June and early July (RDi, AH) were unusual. As this summer began, the Regional total of breeding Com. Loons was believed to be about 180 pairs, all in 14 New York counties in and around the Adirondacks, slightly up from 154 in 1986 (*N.Y. Times*, Feb. 24, 1991). Seven Com. Loons summering in basic plumage in Fire I. Inlet, LI, were way above normal (AJL); they were widespread on the Atlantic Ocean (RZ, SS, m.ob.) and present on the Great Lakes (e.g., Shadigee, NY, June 22, Watson). A welcome addition to the slender list of New Jersey Pied-billed Grebe nesting sites is the new Manasquan River Res., *Ocean*, where 3 pairs were present (RB).

Several pelagic trips produced nothing special, although 200+ Greater Shearwaters 55 mi off Lewes, DE, June 29 (WFi) constituted a healthy count; one Manx Shearwater on the same trip (WFi) was our only report. Wilson's Storm-Petrels began to be seen, as usual, in modest numbers off the Jersey shore in July.

An imm. **Brown Booby** off Fire I. Inlet July 14 (AJL, ABA) was the 2nd LI record in as many years for this exceptional rarity.

The Brown Pelican invasion that began in the spring not only continued the downward trend of recent years; they also seemed less attached to favored areas. A major concentration of 33 was at Sunset Beach, *Cape May, NJ*, June 7 (G. Dodge, M. Smith); the same day one was outlandishly off course over the DuPont Country Club near Wilmington (C. Shock). Thereafter, they dispersed. Small numbers scattered along the New Jersey coast and as far n. as mid-LI. A few penetrated up the Delaware R. as far as Reed's Beach in early July (*vide*

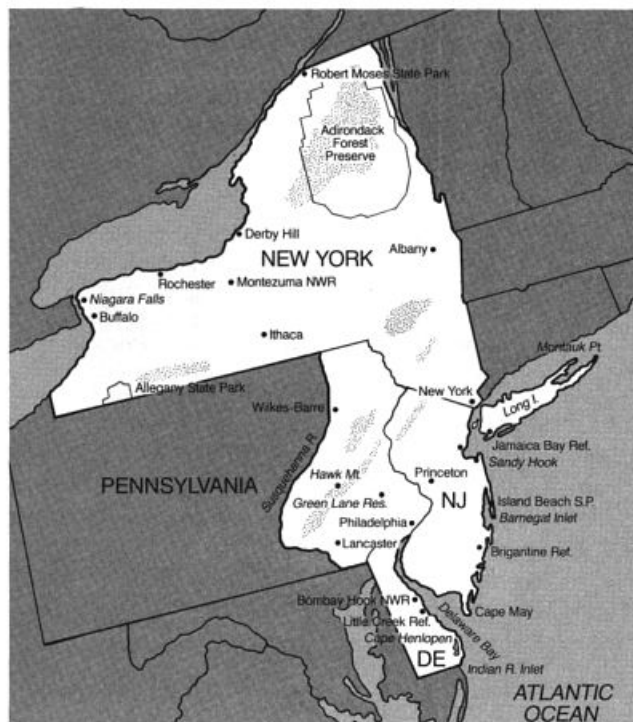
AH). At the very end of the period, dispersal from the south brought new concentrations. At the end of July, 35 were on their favored island in Hereford Inlet; surprisingly, a good group of at least 16 was at Atlantic Beach, *Nassau, LI*, Aug. 1 (B. Pettit, AJL). We need better information about age; we assume that mostly young wanderers are involved. Breeding seems farther away than during the great invasions of 1983-1987.

The Double-crested Cormorant explosion continues. The mega-colony on Little Galloo expanded again by 30%, to 5319 nests (BM); most nests are on the ground. The 445 nests on Four Brothers I. in L. Champlain was 10% above last year (JMCP). New Jersey's first breeding colony, reported last summer, w. of Shooter's I. in New York Harbor, grew to 55 nests (KP). Breeding was fully confirmed in Delaware by nests on pilings at Port Mahon (DAC); last summer's state breeding report remained unconfirmed. Elsewhere, they are near any sizable body of water; breeding is possible almost anywhere in the Region.

## HERONS TO WATERFOWL

### S.A.

The importance of New York harbor as a breeding site for colonial waterbirds was dramatically underlined by last year's massive oil spills. Since the 1970s, cleaner water conditions in New York Harbor have permitted the heronries there, which today represent 40% of the entire coastal population of long-legged waders in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. During a series of 1990 oil spills in the waterways between Staten I. and New Jersey, 3 heronries there (Prall's I., Shooter's I., and Isle of Meadows) were already under close study by the Harbor Herons Project, operated by the Manomet Bird Observatory in cooperation with the NYC Audubon, NYC Department of Parks, Trust for Public Land, and NY State Department of Environmental Conservation. The project was thus well placed to analyze the effects of oil pollution in an estuarine environment (most oil pollution studies have dealt with ocean coastlines). In 1990, even more herons returned to these colonies than before the spills, carried by the momentum of the previous years' breeding success. Species that feed primarily in the tidal shallows, however (Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibis) had poor productivity. In 1991, Glossy Ibis, which had soared since 1982 from 7 pairs to 250, dropped to less than half that. Snowy Egret declined on 2 of the islands and compensated on the 3rd, perhaps buoyed along by subadults coming into breeding condition. By contrast, Black-crowned Night-Herons, which feed in garbage dumps and other upland habitats, enjoyed a 40% increase. Cattle Egrets also feed in garbage dumps but were down slightly (KP).





**Reddish Egret at Port Maine near Little Creek, Delaware, July 2, 1991. First confirmed state record. Photograph/A.P. Ednie.**

Since this was another "off" year for the New Jersey colonial waterbird survey, our information is fragmentary about herons. Great Blue Herons are doing well almost everywhere. For example, the only known colony in Berks, PA, produced 20 young, twice last year's figure (RKe). This species breeds only upland in this Region except in Delaware, where a few nest coastally in mixed colonies in Rehoboth Bay and Indian R. Inlet. Each season we learn of a few more new upland colonies. This season's discoveries were in *Dutchess*, NY (HM) and *Somerset*, NJ (LL). The vast colony at Ironside I., in the Saint Lawrence R., *Jefferson*, NY, contained 1000 pairs; it was exceeded in New York and in the Region only by Valcor I., in L. Champlain, and in the Oak Orchard area, *Erie-Niagara-Orleans-Genesee*, NY (JS).

Following the remarkable May record at Jamaica Bay, Delaware's first confirmed Reddish Egret (in red morph, like the Jamaica Bay bird, and conceivably the same) turned up at Port Mahon July 2 (CDC); it was seen sporadically the following week (ph. APE, †MO'B, B & NM, m.ob.). The white-morph bird reported last spring was not accepted by the New Jersey Bird Records Committee.

Since their sudden and still-unexplained abandonment of Rookery I. 2 years ago, in the Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, Cattle Egrets no longer breed in Pennsylvania.

Black-crowned Night-Herons had varying success. Generally, they seem down inland and up on the coast. Cormorants are crowding them out on Little Galloo (JS), but the 2 have "made their peace" on Four Brothers (JMPC). A prodigious count of 250+ at Brig July 20 (RKa) reflects this species' relative success near urban development (see above). Following the spring's White-faced Ibis mini-invasion, at least two, possibly three, subadults summered in the Bombay Hook area (MO'B *et al.*).

Mute Swans are unwelcome new breeders, now in their 3rd year, near Rochester (RGS). Canada Geese, the starlings of the waterfowl world, reached 2.5 times the 10-year average

on the s. *Lancaster*, PA, SBC (RMS). The Greater White-fronted Goose in *Berks*, PA, from late June through the season, was considered an escape (SSa).

Among leftover winter waterfowl that summered were the usual scattering of coastal Brant, Snow Geese (including one unusual inland at Green Lane, GLF), Greater Scaup (RJK, RDi, IB), and scoters—typically, mostly Surf (e.g., seven at Cape May). More remarkably, a drake Com. Goldeneye was on the Raritan R., *Middlesex*, NJ, July 10 (M. Rothkopf). An emaciated imm. ♂ King Eider was rehabilitated at Cape May June 12 (RKa, P. Kane); one thought to be a female was at Cape Henlopen, DE, July 11 (*vide* AH).

A remarkable count of 620 Mallards at Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee-Orleans*, NY, June 22 (WD'A, BP) illustrates the long-term progress of this once-western breeder. A N. Shoveller at Green Lane June 15 (GLF) was the first Allentown-area summer record for this mainly western species.

Common Mergansers hold on as lower Susquehanna R. breeders. Five were at Wrightsville, *Lancaster*, PA, June 9 (J. & L. Downs); 17 young were at New Hope, *Bucks*, PA, June 7 (B. Hoehne). A brood in the town of Belvedere, *Warren*, NJ (R. Coppersmith) marked a new s. breeding limit on the Delaware R. (GHa).

#### RAPTORS

A Black Vulture nest at Gandy's Beach June 1 (B. Barber) was the first proven *Cumberland* breeding; this species is filling in its previous gap in s.e. New Jersey. At the n. frontier, individuals wandered as far as Montauk Pt., LI, June 28 (J. Fritz) and *Putnam* (H. Turner), but we still have no proof of the nesting which must now be occurring in s.e. New York. A Turkey Vulture was out of place over Shinnecock Inlet, LI, June 11 (J. Fritz).

Some Osprey expansion is still occurring along the St. Lawrence R., where active nests in *Jefferson* and *St. Lawrence* grew from 8 to 13; the first nest on the river was established on an unused Hemlock I. buoy. Of the 4 nests at Perch River W.M.A., *Jefferson*, NY,

one was in a tree and 3 used geese-tubs (BL). As usual, about three-fourths of the 44 nests in Delaware's lower bays were on duck blinds (LG-I).

Following the spring's kite bonanza, an *American Swallow-tailed Kite* was at Cape May, NJ, June 22 (E. David, M. Caplan). Mississippi Kites hung around Cape May into early June (KB, RB, P. Dunne, A. Keith, J. Palumbo) as expected. More unusual were birds there later: June 22 (E. David, M. Caplan) and July 9 (F. Mears). Since there is no Regional proof of nesting, it is important to determine whether any of these mid-summer birds are juveniles.

Bald Eagle nests increased again. In Pennsylvania, the *Lancaster* pair that produced young for the past 2 seasons failed this year; the 6 successful Pennsylvania nests were all w. of the Susquehanna and thus outside our Region (C.W. DuBrock, Pennsylvania Bureau of Game Management). New York state now has 16 territorial pairs (2 more than last year), which fledged 16 young (one more than last year). Particularly encouraging is their increase in the upper Delaware R. drainage in s.e. New York (BL). New Jersey had 5 nests with eggs (4 last year), which fledged seven birds (three last year). All were on the Delaware Bay shore (LN). Delaware's 6 nests produced eight young, but there is concern about the impact of development on at least 2 of these nests (LG-I).

We received evidence of breeding N. Goshawks from *Westchester*, NY (TWB) and n.e. Pennsylvania (WR); two birds were observed in the Pequannock Watershed, *Passaic-Sussex*, NJ (PBa). Red-shouldered Hawks give cause for concern in the s. part of this Region. The species was missed on the s. *Lancaster*, PA, SBC for the first time since 1985; Ednie knew of only 2 nesting pairs in upstate Delaware. More hopefully, nests were found at new sites in New York: *Dutchess* (M. Key, m.ob.), *Amity* L., *Allegany* (VP), and *Jenny* L., *Saratoga*, where a pair supplanted the usual Broad-winged Hawks (RPY). A resident pair was located at Lakehurst (RRa).

Red-tailed Hawks are doing well, perhaps aided by increasing tolerance of suburban conditions. A pair nested in Pelham Bay Park, NYC. On the s. *Lancaster*, PA, SBC they reached 2.5 times the 10-year average (RMS). The Rough-legged Hawk at Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, NY, June 10 (C. Cass) was an unusual holdover, while the imm. Golden Eagle that was carefully described at Brookhaven National Laboratory, *Suffolk*, LI (R. Sautkulis, JCI), was unprecedented in summer.

Following another poor spring at the hawk watches, Am. Kestrels seemed in "real trouble" in c. New Jersey (LL), LI (JJR, JCI), and was missed altogether on the *Westchester*, NY, SBC June 15–16. On the other hand, they were above average on the s. *Lancaster*, PA, SBC and seemed in good numbers in July in *Dutchess*, NY, and at certain favored sites such as Floyd Bennett Field, Gateway N.P., NYC, where 4 pairs bred. This is a species

that needs close watching and that might respond to a nest box program. Oddly, they seem to adapt well to inner cities; near Philadelphia they prey on starlings around shopping center trash bins (DAC).

Eighteen pairs of Peregrine Falcon produced 29 young in New York state (four more than last year). These birds steadily colonize new bridge sites around NYC. This year, they added the Marine Park Bridge in Brooklyn, bringing the downstate population up to 10 active pairs, whose 7 nests produced 15 young. Upstate, the most encouraging development was the establishment of 2 cliff sites near L. George (BL).

## TURKEYS TO SHOREBIRDS

Wild Turkey broods were reported widely from e. Pennsylvania (GLF, B. McNaught). Thirty or more turkeys are even living in n.e. Philadelphia around Lorimer and Pennypack parks (*fide* AH). This species' proliferation in Delaware, where it was only recently reestablished, was demonstrated by a hunters' bag of 90 in the spring season (APA).

Four Black Rails on the e. side of Moriches Inlet, LI, July 28 (ABa *et al.*) could mark a range expansion e. of the only known New York breeding area, at Oak Beach Marsh. Soras were in some unusual places, such as the interior Adirondacks (JMCP). In Delaware, where they were absent during the atlas project, they were found in July at Port Penn (APE), Augustine Beach (CDC), and Thousand Acre Marsh (APE). A Sandhill Crane touched down at the S.C.M.M. June 14 (A. Eastwill, J. Herder), this season's only record.

Shorebirding was poor on L. Ontario, where water levels were high, but was excellent at such prime coastal sites as Jamaica Bay, where the E. Pond was drawn down this summer, in keeping with the management plan, and Bombay Hook. Late northbound shorebirds were still moving through in early June, such as the flocks of 100–200 Black-bellied Plovers flying up the Delaware R. June 2 (CDC) and the Semipalmated Plover at Green Lane June 7 (K. Crilley). Many shorebirds returned early from the arctic, keeping up the rhythm of the early spring. The picture was complicated by an unusual number of shorebirds that seemed to stay around all summer. Thus, it is hard to determine how many of the 11–12 shorebird species in *Cape May*, NJ, June 20, and 15 species at Bombay Hook June 22 (B & NM) were nonbreeding summerers and how many were early returnees. A few Least and a White-rumped Sandpiper at Cape May on the precocious date of June 21 seemed to be southbound arrivals. By late July, Raymond Pool at Bombay Hook was a "carpet of shorebirds" (AH), and the Hackensack Meadows Environmental Center at Lyndhurst, *Bergen*, NJ, held 700 Semipalmated Sandpipers (RKA).

An ad. Lesser Golden-Plover was unexpected at Bombay Hook June 20 (NH). An International Piping Plover survey began this

year; such basic data as the complete winter range is not yet known (A. Hecht). Breeding populations seemed stable in New York and New Jersey (c. 261 individuals, D. Jenkins, NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife). Fencing and marking colonies often proved effective. The remnant Delaware population held on by a toenail. Feral cats killed four adults; young were lost to predators and human disturbance. The net yield was eight young produced by 2 pairs (LG-I). Reid reported a Killdeer and a Com. Nighthawk competing for the same roof in Tunkhannock, *Wyoming*, PA (WR).

Thirty Am. Oystercatchers with three young on the e. side of Rehoboth Bay (WWF, W & SFi) show improvement in Delaware; this species has already shifted successfully in New Jersey and on LI from the outer beaches to salt marshes. It increases steadily well inland at JFK Airport (SC) and at Jamaica Bay, where it has bred about 10 years (DR). One was prospecting unusually far up the bay at Bombay Hook June 6 (APE). Black-necked Stilt nested again at Bombay Hook, but of 61 nests begun, only 5 were still active by June 23; others had been exposed to predation by drying pond beds (NH). Each summer a few nonbreeding Am. Avocets remain at Bombay Hook; 10–15 remained this summer before the post-breeding buildup began (NH, APE). A solitary adventurer reached as far as Jamaica Bay from July 31 into August (DMi, m.ob.).

Our obituary of Upland Sandpiper as a New Jersey nesting species was premature. Radis' grassland survey at Lakehurst revealed 5 pairs (RRA); others are believed to inhabit the Atlantic City Airport. In n.w. New Jersey, only one pair remained: in Linvale, *Hunterdon* (GHa). We have often commented on the very large role that airports, such as JFK, play in this species' survival in the s. part of this Region. Upstate New York has the largest breeding population of Upland Sandpipers of all 13 n.e. states (K. Schneider, Heritage Program). Many observers thought that population was slipping, despite a few good spots (such as about 8 pairs in Northumberland town, *Saratoga*, NY, KA), but we have no hard data.

A few Red Knots seem to have summered in the Cape May-Hereford Inlet area (KBr); 200 were in Hereford Inlet June 16 (D. Githen). On the return flight, Red Knot numbers seemed seriously reduced in Delaware Bay, which Ednie suspected might be caused by horseshoe crab harvesting for medical and agricultural purposes (APE). White-rumped Sandpipers also seemed to never leave Bombay Hook; 12 were there June 15 (NH).

Two spring Curlew Sandpipers remained into early June at Bombay Hook. A returnee arrived early at Brig July 5 (JKM, JDD, J. Dawson). Singles arrived at Jamaica Bay on the July 28 cold front (P. Kaufman, RJK, JJR, m.ob.), Bombay Hook (WJB), and Port Mahon (P. Guris). Bombay Hook had what looked like a genuine lek. At least three Ruffs

in breeding plumage—white, black, and brown ("variety pack," somebody noted in the refuge log), along with two Reeves (NH) spent June there (APE, B & NM, m.ob.). When will the years of speculation about North American breeding be resolved by a discovery in Delaware or s. New Jersey? A Com. Snipe was remarkable at Bombay Hook June 3 (NH).

After all three of the world's phalaropes were found in Delaware within about 3 hours on May 20 (H. Brokaw), anything seemed possible with this group. Summer produced record numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes. The Bombay Hook population built up without apparent interruption through June (NH) to 41 on July 2 (CDC), surely a Regional record. It remained in the 30–40 range through July (APE). There were no signs of breeding.

## GULLS TO SKIMMER

New York's principal Laughing Gull colony, awkwardly situated at the end of a major JFK Airport runway, grew again, despite last summer's experimental control project. A careful survey suggests the presence of about 20,000 breeding and nonbreeding individuals around the colony (SC). The Port Authority limited its summer gull-control actions to shooting 100–200 gulls that flew across the runway, which seemed to have the desired effect of teaching gulls to stay away from the runway (DR).

Allentown, PA's first summer record of Herring Gull, at a K-Mart July 21 (BLM), brought little rejoicing. Four Herring Gulls banded as chicks at the Four Brothers Is. in L. Champlain have been recovered over the years in the surprising location of the Gulf of Mexico, off Campeche (JMCP). A first-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull at Port Mahon July 8 (MO'B) was a 2nd Delaware summer record.

The Region's only Caspian Tern colony, on Little Galloo, remained about steady, with 576 adults (BM). Mid-June stragglers were found at Green Lane (three June 15, GLF), Iroquois N.W.R., NY (WD'A, BP), and the Conejohela Flats (J. Book), but none was breeding in New Jersey. Young Royal Terns accompanied the late summer buildup in Hereford Inlet, *Cape May*, NJ, but these almost certainly were panhandling their parents from some s. colony.

Nationally endangered Roseate Terns continue to hang around the New Jersey coast in June. Up to three adults, all banded, were at Cape May June 29 (F. Tetlow). They did well at the 2 remaining LI colonies. Researchers on Great Gull I. marked 1190 nests (HH), and the Cedar Beach colony reached 120 pairs (JB). Burger and Gochfeld noted that this species may not breed every year; some Cedar Beach birds breed every 2nd or 3rd year, and they do not shift in intervening years to other colonies, which are closely surveyed. The fact that this species is now reduced to 4 colonies in n e. North America in-



**Adult White-winged Tern near Rochester, New York, June 19, 1991. First state record to be photographically documented. Photograph/ Brian W. Keelan.**

creases its vulnerability. Common Terns increased again at the mammoth Great Gull I. colony, as more space was cleared for them; 8900 nests were marked (HH). This is surely now the world's largest Com. Tern colony.

New Jersey had only 11 Least Tern colonies, containing 1098 pairs, slightly down from last year. Productivity was "pretty good" at 942 chicks (JB). On LI, 27 colonies containing 1474 pairs (4177 adults were censused in 67 colonies in 1989) produced a dishearteningly low total of 251 chicks. The rest were lost to people and other predators, since bad weather was not to blame (JB). Four Delaware sites were occupied, and we have figures for 2: 561 nests at Delaware Beach S.P. and about 50 breeding pairs at Cape Henlopen (LG-I).

This season's **White-winged Tern** was coming rather than going. Soon after Lauro's May LI sight record, an adult was photographed at Salmon Creek near Rochester, NY, June 19, for the first fully documented New York state record (S. Skelly, †ph. B. Keelan, †J. Skelly, †J. Bouton *et al.*). It accompanied Black Terns, as have most U.S. breeding season records. None turned up at Little

Creek in July, however, for the first time in several seasons.

On LI, several Black Skimmer colonies, containing 277 pairs, produced a healthy 227 chicks (JB). In 1989, the NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation reported 520 pairs in 10 colonies. In New Jersey, 14 Black Skimmer colonies containing 745 pairs produced 582 chicks. The main trouble in New Jersey seems to have been a local early July storm at Holgate that wiped out the first try in the 2nd largest colony; Hurricane Bob wiped out the re-nesting in mid-August, leaving only 60 chicks fledged, for a colony of about 200 pairs. The state's biggest colony, 338 pairs on Champagne I., Hereford Inlet, *Cape May*, had an excellent fledging rate of 1.14 (JB). Delaware had one colony of 20–30 pairs in Delaware Seashore S.P., plus scattered single pairs (LG-I). A few have apparently been breeding for some time as far up the Delaware R. as Little Creek (DAC); five or six were even farther upriver at Bombay Hook in early June (M. Anthony, *vide* APE). This suggests that this species is prospecting for new salt marsh sites to replace outer beaches overrun by vacationers.

#### **OWLS TO SHRIKES**

Barred Owls were reported rather widely from e. Pennsylvania, including the Unami Creek Valley (GLF) and the very edge of Philadelphia at Fort Washington S.P. (B & NM). Two *Berks* nests were the first in that area s. of the Kittatinny Ridge since 1888 (R. Bonnett, C. Elwell). A Long-eared Owl heard through June near Hellerton, *Northampton*, PA (D. & E. Mease) was a very rare summer report there. A N. Saw-whet Owl feeding a fledgling at Carversville, PA, in early June (M. Rutbell) adds an additional nesting site in *Bucks*. In the New Jersey Pine Barrens, they are still present in the Chatsworth area, *Ocean* (GHa).

Urban roofs had long seemed the salvation of Com. Nighthawks, but an alarming number of long-established city populations crashed this summer. They have vanished from Wilmington (APE), Philadelphia (DAC), perhaps Albany (KA), and declined in Syracuse (PDeB), Scranton and Wilkes-Barre (WR). The only positive reports come from smaller cities in n.e. Pennsylvania: Easton, *Northampton* (GHa), and Hazleton, *Luzerne* (WR). Whip-poor-wills continued to be scarce, with the exception of Penn Forest Preserve, *Carbon*, PA, where De Reamus' headlights picked up 22 in the road.

An ad. ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** at New Lisbon, *Burlington*, NJ, July 2–3 (H. Wilson) has been accepted by the New Jersey Bird Records Committee.

Scattered hints that Willow Flycatchers are prospering came from several singing males in 2 New York locations where they were not found in the atlas project: South Beach, Staten I. (RZ), and Ausable Pt. on L. Champlain, *Clinton*, NY (JMCP). The season's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed July 16

from a window in n. Manhattan by an experienced observer (S. Saphir). Tree Swallows were hatching good broods in several upstate New York localities, only to lose many to severe raccoon predation (VP, RPY). Having attempted to breed last spring for the first time in n.w. New Jersey, Com. Ravens are "burgeoning" (KA) in c. New York; nests were reported from *Allegany* (EB) and *Columbia* (KA).

Tufted Titmice continue to expand around Buffalo (RA) and Rochester (RGS) and reached a record high on the s. *Lancaster*, PA, SBC. Carolina Wrens are increasing virtually throughout the Region, filling in by-passed areas and moving up into the highlands of w. New York (e.g., *Amity L.*, *Allegany*, July 18, VP). Winter Wrens have not heard about global warming. One that summered at Philadelphia's Wissahickon Creek, and apparently was joined by another in July, furnished the first summer record there since 1972 (AH). A pair with young June 16 at Greenbrook Sanctuary, *Bergen*, NJ (N. Slowick) constituted a first breeding record there. Continuing the spring's run of Sedge Wren reports, the small Bombay Hook colony was active again; recently established populations continued in *Onandago*, NY (GHu, D. Crumb). The *Sussex*, NJ, spring birds were carrying food in July (WJB).

Raccoons were also a major problem for a number of successful E. Bluebird trails. Summer Bird Counts, our best indicator of breeding population trends, offered conflicting results for Wood Thrush, a species whose decline in many areas has caused concern. While they reached a 15-year high on the s. *Lancaster* SBC (RMS), they declined in c. *Suffolk*, LI (JJR, JCI).

One of the most remarkable reports in many a season was a bird identified as a **Sprague's Pipit** at Bombay Hook July 31 (†JKM, JDD); the description went beyond the pink legs, to note other features, such as pale coloration and eye ring. Only somewhat less far out of place was a single Bohemian Waxwing carefully described in York, near Rochester, NY, July 5 (†G. Hartenstein). Not a single Loggerhead Shrike was reported.

#### **WARBLERS TO FINCHES**

Warbler migration was evident at Cape May by the end of July, when 13 species were counted there. Indeed, late July marks the migration peak there for such southerly breeders as Louisiana Waterthrush and Cerulean Warbler.

Our evidence about breeding warblers is too fragmentary and impressionistic to show many clear trends. What can one conclude, for example, from the results of our 2 long-running SBCs that show Black-and-white Warbler up in s. *Lancaster*, PA (RMS) and down in c. *Suffolk*, LI (JJR, JCL)? About all we can claim with certainty is that Yellow-rumped and Yellow Warblers and Com. Yellowthroats are prospering, and that Golden-winged Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats

are not. Northern Parulas continue their comeback in s. and w. New Jersey. Prairie Warblers continued expansion in far upstate New York, with a new site in *Lewis* (D. DiTommaso). A serious kill-off of Hemlocks by a Japanese scale insect, the Woolly Adelgid, is reducing Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Magnolia warblers in n.w. New Jersey (PBa, D. Miranda). Hooded Warblers show a steady rise in a 5-year study of Doodletown, *Rockland*, NY (RJK); the species seems to be doing well elsewhere.

Following late spring's record near Rochester, a singing ♂ Blue Grosbeak near Lowville, *Lewis*, in June and July (D. DiTommaso) was a first record for New York's St. Lawrence region.

Clay-colored Sparrows were present in June near known breeding areas in *Allegany*, NY (EB). Only seven Field Sparrows in 30 stops on grassland surveys in n. *Wyoming* and s. *Susquehanna*, PA (WR) was an ominously low count for a species we tend to take for granted. The more closely watched Grasshopper Sparrow has disappeared from some areas, such as *Nassau*, LI (SS); but there are pockets of abundance, such as the 67 pairs at Lakehurst (RRa) and Calverton, *Suffolk*, LI (10 on June 23, RJK).

Henslow's Sparrows reappeared as possible breeders in the s. of this Region after nearly a decade's absence, with one at Lakehurst June 24 (RRa, H. Wallum). Reports were mixed in upstate New York: holding steady around Albany (KA) and nearly gone near Rochester (RGS). Only one site was in n.e. Pennsylvania near W. Nicholson, *Wyoming* (WR).

Bobolinks were already migrating at Cape May on June 30. A W. Meadowlark sang intermittently at Point Peninsula, *Jefferson*, in hayfields with some w. plant affinities (JS). Common Grackles repeatedly killed young birds at Cape May (B. Colameco).

Pine Siskins, locally abundant last winter in the Adirondacks, probably bred in upstate New York; one was at *Allegany* S.P. June 1, and a hatching-year bird was banded at Jenny L., *Saratoga*, Aug. 3 (RPY). Evening Grosbeaks bred for the 3rd consecutive year at Jenny L. (RPY).

**Observers:** (Subregional compilers in bold-face) **Ken Able** (Hudson-Mohawk Region, NY Dept. of Biology, SUNY, Albany, NY 12222), Robert Andriele, Peter Bacinski (PBa) (coastal NJ: 260 Page Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ 07071), Andy Baldelli (ABa), **Irving Black** (northeast NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), Kate Brethwaite, Elizabeth Brooks, Rich Brown, T. W. **Burke** (NY Rare Bird Alert), Joanna Burger, K.L. **Crowell** (St. Lawrence region, NY: RD 4, Box 97, Canton, NY 13617), C.D. Campbell, Cathy Clark (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife), Sammy Chevalier, Jim Clinton, Sr. (JCl), William D'Anna, J.D. Danzenbaker, **Ward Dasey** (southwest NJ: 29 Ark Road, Medford, NJ 08055), Paul DeBenedictis, Rich Ditch (RDl), **A.P. Ednie** (*New Castle and Kent*, DE: 59 Lawson Ave.,

Claymont, Delaware 19703), Ken Feustel, William Fintel (WFi), **W.W. Frech** (*Sussex*, DE: Carr. Rt. 3, Box 1144, Lewes, DE 19958), G.L. Freed, Ron French, Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer (Delaware Div. of Fish and Wildlife), Mike Gochfeld, Laurie Goodrich (Hawk Mountain), **K.C. Griffith** (Genesee Region, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), **Greg Hanisek** (GHa) (northwest NJ: 4 Marnel Rd., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865), Dorothy Hartmann, Helen Hays (Great Gull I.), Ann Hecht (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), **Armas Hill** (Philadelphia Birdline), Norman Holgerson, **Gene Hugins** (GHu) (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 1065 Westmoreland Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210), Dave Jenkins (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife), Rich Kane (RKa), Rudy Keller (RKe), R.J. Kurtz, **Laurie Larsen** (north-central NJ: 90 N. Stanworth Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540), A.J. Lauro, S.R. Lawrence, Barbara Loucks (NY Dept. of Environ. Conserv.), **Helen Manson** (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: Moores Mill, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569), **C.K. Melin** (Finger Lakes Region, NY: 449 Irish Settlement Rd., Freeville, NY 13068), J.K. Meritt, Bob Miller (NY Dept. of Environ. Conserv.), **B.L. Morris** (eastern PA: 825 Muhlenberg St., Allentown, PA 18104), Bill & Naomi Murphy, Larry Niles (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game and Wildlife), Peter Nye (NY Dept. of Environ. Conserv.), Michael O'Brien, Kathy Parsons (Manomet Bird Observ.), **J.M.C. Peterson** (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Rich Radis (RRa), **William Reid** (northeast PA: 73 N. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Don Riepe (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref.), **G.R. Rising** (Niagara Frontier, NY: 295 Robinhill Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221), J.J. Ruscica, Steve Santner (SSa), Mike Scheibel (NY Dept. of Environ. Conserv.), **Sy Schiff** (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550), R.M. Schutsky, Jerry Smith (St. Lawrence Region, NY: Box 498, Mexico, NY 13114), **R.G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), Pat Sutton (Cape May Bird Observatory), J.P. Tramontano (*Orange and Sullivan*, NY: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Eric Witmer, **Al Wollin** (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), R.P. Yunick, Richard ZainEldeen.—**ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 460 Riverside Drive, 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

Henry T. Armistead

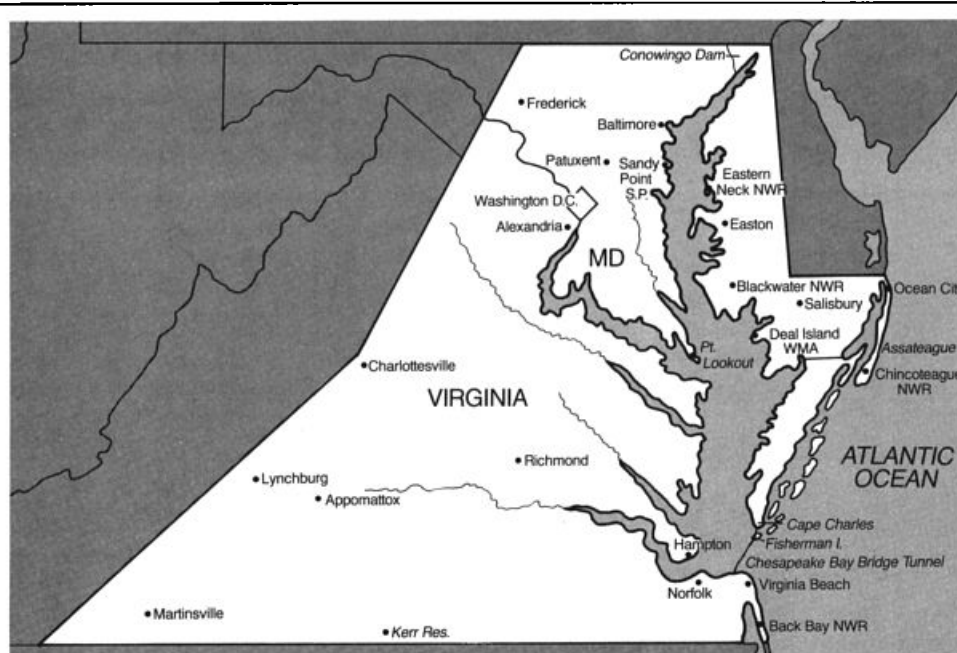
This was a rather hot, dry summer, but not unusually so. Deviation from normal of temperature (°F) were June +2.3 and July +2.1; and of precipitation June -0.3" and July -0.6". However, combined with an extremely hot, dry May, these conditions made for a hot, dry breeding season. Many birds began nesting early since weather was abnormally mild through winter and spring. Barrier island ground-nesting species were plagued by several storms, causing washovers. Brown Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase as breeders. Herons and terns mostly continue to decline. Bald Eagles again did well. This season there were few rarities and limited birding activity. Thank heaven for the shorebirds.

**Abbreviations:** Assat. (*Assateague I.*, MD); the Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague Natl Wildlife Ref.*, VA); Craney (*Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA*); Deal (*Deal I. W.M.A.*, MD); D.C. (*Washington, D.C.*); E.S. (*Eastern Shore of MD or VA*); E.S. of VA N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of Virginia Natl Wildlife Ref.*); Fish, I. (*Fisherman Island Natl Wildlife Ref.*, VA); Hart (*Hart and Miller Is., Baltimore Co., MD*); Hog I. (*Hog I., Northampton of the E.S. of VA, not Hog I. W.M.A. in Surry, VA*); H.M.C.P. (*Huntley Meadows County Park, Fairfax, VA*).

### LOONS TO IBISES

Late Com. Loon migrants included three at Hog I. on the E.S. of VA June 5 (SR) and six off Ocean City, MD, the next day (MO, HLW). It is not unusual to see northbound individuals on mornings in the first week of June. Breeding Pied-billed Grebes were at Deal June 26 (adult with two young; EL) and H.M.C.P. June 4–July 25 (pair with two young; EPW *et al.*). A dead Cory's Shearwater was found on Cobb I., VA, July 18 (SR), and dead Greater Shearwaters were on Hog I. June 27 and Fish I. June 28 (SR *et al.*). Live birds were two Greater Shearwaters and 10 Wilson's Storm-Petrels off Virginia Beach, VA, June 1 (EMW) and inshore Wilson's June 18 at both Ocean City inlet (MO) and Metomkin I., VA (SR). Late N. Gannets were two at Ocean City inlet June 4 (MO, HLW) and one at Hog I. June 5 (SR). An Am. White Pelican again haunted islands of the E.S. of VA, from Fish I. north, through the period (BW, SR *et al.*, ph.).

For the 17th consecutive year, Williams *et al.* conducted a breeding waterbird survey June 16–19 on the E.S. of VA barrier islands from Assawoman to Fish I. As usual, numbers reported herein are adults. The biggest mixed colonies of herons and their allies were



## WATERFOWL

Mute Swans continue to increase, with up to 67 at Chinc. along with over 800 Canada Geese in late July (JR); 98 Gadwalls and 21 Blue-winged Teal were here in late June as well. The huge Mute Swan population in the Hooper's/Barren Is. area is finally starting to spread south; one was at Holland I. (first record), two were at Bloodsworth I. (2nd record), and two adults with six downy young were at Spring I., these all in *Dorchester*, MD, in the c. Bay, June 15 (HTA, GLA). A summering Brant was in Chinc. Bay, MD, June 20 (MO *et al.*). Six Wood Ducks hatched from a chimney nest at Denton, *Caroline*, MD, July 1 (*fide* AJF). One-two Green-winged Teal were at Fish I. through the period (SR), and two were at Chinc. July 30 (JR). Blue-winged Teal were more widely reported than usual, with a

## S.A.

Brown Pelicans again nested successfully in both states, with 94 nests on Fish I. June 16, including 15 nests with eggs, 8 nests with hatchlings less than a week old, and 121 large downy young (BW *et al.*), and several hundred flying birds in attendance there from May onward. Other impressive Virginia nonbreeder counts were 175 at Hog I. July 10 (SR), 216 at Wallops I. July 24 (CRV), and 59 at Chinc. at the end of July (JR). South of Ocean City, MD, a record 20 pairs nested, with productivity of about two per nest and 30 young banded Aug. 13 (DB *et al.*). At this same site Double-crested Cormorants nested for the first time on the Maryland coast, in live red cedar and Am. hackberries. Five early nesting pairs raised seven young, and seven later nesting pairs established nests in late July but failed by mid-August, probably due to a severe storm Aug. 9. Egg remains had been found here in 1989, but no nests were constructed then (DB, GDT). These cormorants nested for the first time in Maryland last year, on Poplar I. in the c. Bay, where there were about 85 pairs this year, in live, dying, and dead loblolly pines in the midst of a large mixed heronry (DB, GDT). Some 111 were in the Bloodsworth I. area, MD, June 15 (HTA, GLA); about 80 pairs also nested again in Virginia, near Hopewell (FRS, MAB), where there has been a good-sized colony mixed with Cattle Egrets since 1978. About 45 mi farther downriver, on the James River Bridge power line towers, just s. of Newport News, there were at least 8 nests (BA, JV, BW). Last year several nests were discovered there for the first time. Forty-one were in the Buggs I./Kerr Res. area July 14, inland near the North Carolina/Virginia line (JB). Everyone should keep their eyes on pelicans and cormorants; their status is dynamic.

at Cobb, Wreck, and Fish Is. and Chimney Pole, with Fish I. having the largest numbers of 6 species: Little Blue Heron 41; Cattle Egret 101; Great Egret 318; Snowy Egret 141; Black-crowned Night-Heron 287; and a record 11 White Ibises. Another White Ibis was at Wreck I., where there were 166 Tricolored Herons and 83 Glossy Ibis. The survey total of only 125 Glossy Ibises was the lowest in its 17 years. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons continue a drastic decline, being present on only 3 islands: eight at Chimney Pole, two at Cobb, and five at Fish I. Williams *et al.* found a new mixed heronry outside their survey area, just n. of Cedar I. at Flounder Point, with 105 Snowy Egrets and smaller numbers of 3 other herons.

Most breeding herons were in lower numbers in the Region than in the 1970s, when they were first systematically surveyed, al-

though all 10 regularly breeding Regional species were found for the first time in several years on Holland I., MD; and 111 pairs of Great Blues (about par) were at nearby Bloodsworth I. June 15 (HTA, GLA). New (?), small Great Blue colonies continue to be discovered, testament to how widespread and successful they are, such as 2 with 14 and 3 nests in *Mathews* (JBB), and one with 7 nests inland at Emporia in June (CES) in Virginia. Other information on Maryland heron types are forthcoming in the fall report. American Bitterns were barely detected at H.M.C.P. (KH, EPW), where they have bred previously; one was at Elliott I., MD, June 8 (JM *et al.*). Fifteen fledgling Black-crowned Night-Herons plus two still in nests were at the famous National Zoo colony, D.C., July 7 (DC), and 85 were at a *Mathews* roost July 3 at Horn Harbor (JBB).

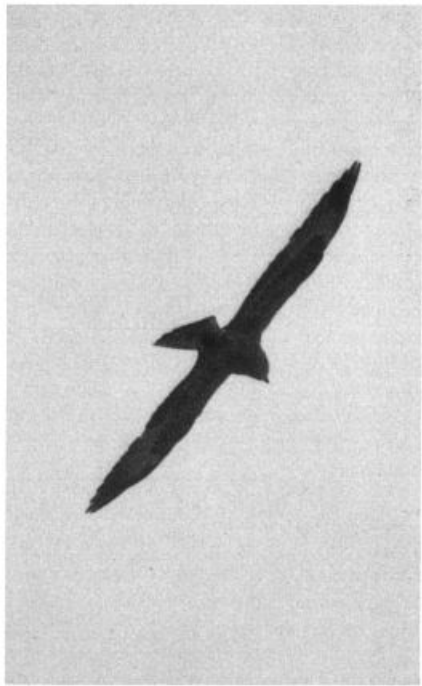
nest with 7 eggs on Bloodsworth I. July 17 (KR), a nest with seven young at Fish I. June 16 (JV, RB), and 11 adults with 2 broods on Hog I. June 19 (SR, MB). Eleven, plus six Green-winged Teal and a N. Pintail were at Easton sewage lagoons, *Talbot*, MD, on the odd date of July 11; 25, plus 15 Green-winged Teal, were here July 29 (JE). Rottenborn and R. Beck found three juv. *Northern Shovelers* on Hog I. July 10 and state that although no adults had been seen at this pond earlier, and these young were capable of flight, they still may have been raised nearby. There are no previous Virginia breeding records.

Gadwalls did well on the E.S. of VA, with 70 adults and 30 broods on Hog I. June 19 (SR, MB), and 26 adults with 10 broods at Fish I. June 21 (SR). An Am. Wigeon was at Fish I. July 27 (SR, FD), and one was at Hart June 15 (PW, JLS, SRI). Unprecedented were one or two King Eiders at Ocean City through the period until early August (MO, HLW, DB, ph.). Hooded Mergansers continued their strong showing from the spring, with single females at Banister River W.M.A. in interior Piedmont, VA, June 23 (JB), Violet's Lock, n. of D.C. in Maryland, June 1 (RH), nearby at Mckee-Beshers W.M.A., MD, June 14 (DC), and in a beaver pond near Gloucester, VA, June 24–July 2 (TK). Ruddy Ducks summered at Easton sewage lagoons (MO) and Hart in Maryland (BD, PW *et al.*).

## RAPTORS TO RAILS

Mississippi Kites were near Emporia in s. Virginia in the Meherrin R. drainage system, where they have been seen recently in previous summers, from May 18 (MO, RH, AB, PO, DSY, JD, AL *et al.*), with as many as one adult and seven immatures in June (DM *et al.*). Much more unusual, and one of the few records for the Delmarva Pen., were two adults at E.S. of VA N.W.R. June 21 (SR *et*





**Immature Mississippi Kite in Greensville County, Virginia, June 6, 1991. Photograph/ M. R. Boatwright.**

al.). Ospreys finally bred successfully in D.C. (not for lack of previous trying), with a nest with two large young July 14 (DC); 27 nests were found in the prime area of Bloodsworth I. June 15 (GLA, HTA). Also of interest was nest building in landlocked *Howard*, MD, at Greenbridge July 6 & 20, by which time most Regional young had fledged (MC, JF).

#### S.A.

Bald Eagles had another successful year. In Maryland, 203 nests were surveyed: 123 of them were active; 92 successful nests produced 169 young. These all the best figures since the survey began in 1977 (GDT & Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources); however, nest success percent and productivity were slightly lower than average for the years since 1986, although the young per successful nest—1.88—ties the highest on record (1985). The 3 most productive counties were Dorchester (48 young), Charles (20), and Talbot (19). Virginia eagles also did very well, with 111 active nests (94 nests, or 85% productive), producing 157 young fledged, all record numbers, although fledglings per productive nest (1.67) and fledglings per active nest (1.41) were somewhat below the best previous years (MAB *et al.*). The Rappahannock/Piankatank Rivers held the greatest number of Virginia eagle nests, with 54. The grand total of 234 active nests produced 326 young for the Bay—certainly impressive and heartening. Byrd's July survey of roosting eagles produced a maximum of 137 birds on the James R.; Portlock saw a maximum of 23 immatures and 14 adults on the Rappahannock R. July 10.



**Northern Harrier nest with eggs on Cobb Island, Virginia, June 1, 1991. Photograph/ Stephen Rottenborn.**

Rottenborn made careful checks for N. Harriers on the E.S. of VA, finding a minimum of 9 pairs with 6 confirmed breeding; other pairs were at Craney and Plum Tree I. N.W.R., VA (RB). Most unexpected were three Sharp-shinned Hawk sightings: at Brandywine, *Prince Georges*, MD, June 6 by Reese; Reston, VA, July 28 (DFA); and Denton, MD, July 26 (LTS). Cooper's Hawks were reported from 6 locations, slightly more than usual. Anomalous was a Broad-winged Hawk at E.S. of VA N.W.R. June 24 (SR), far from the nearest known Regional breeding area. In Piedmont, VA, in the Nokesville area, 222 young Am. Kestrels were banded in 49 nest boxes (MCy, *vide* KHB). In Maryland, 9 pairs of Peregrine Falcons attempted breeding and were successful at 6 places, producing 16 young—quite a good year. They were not as successful in Virginia, although one E.S. of VA nest fledged four females (MAB).

Maryland night surveys of breeding rails in the Bay area continued into a 2nd year, touching on 225 sample points on the lower E.S., most of which were visited 2 or more times (MO, HLW). Some 146 Black Rails were located at 76 of these points, with maximum concentrations at Elliott I: 42 birds at 12 points. Nineteen Soras were found at 6 points. "The breeding status of these birds is very unclear. Virginia Rails and Clapper Rails were found in abundance at expected locations" (MO). Forty-seven King Rails were at 17 points, the upper Choptank R. being best for Kings. Common Moorhens and Least Bitterns were in very low numbers, although certainly the bitterns would be better sampled in the first hours of daylight rather than in the darkness of the survey's mandated hours. Rails were again sought in the Saxis I.,

VA, area on the Bay w. of Chinc., with seven Black, 10 Clapper, and 14 Virginia rails heard the night of June 3–4 (SR, TO), and eight Black and 15 Virginia rails the night of June 20–21 (SR, RB, BW). Black Rails called spontaneously in daylight at Elliott I. June 13, with two beginning at 7:39 P.M. and another at 7:53 P.M. (HTA, GLA, CM). Eleven Clapper Rails were heard at Hooper's I., MD, June 2 (HTA). An ad. King Rail at H.M.C.P. was accompanied by 14 young in late June, the family dwindling to eight or nine young in the course of the summer (RLH, EPW, ER, KH, ph.). Single Am. Coots were at Deal I. June 17, where they sometimes breed (MO) and in D.C. July 14 (DC).

#### SHOREBIRDS

The Virginia barrier island survey (which does not include Assat. or Wallops Is.) located 971 Am. Oystercatchers (4th lowest in 17 years), 147 Piping Plovers, and 85 Wilson's Plovers; plover totals are encouraging, all-time highs. On Assat., Piping Plover productivity averaged 0.79 young per pair, lower than is estimated as necessary for population maintenance; however, it is felt that previous estimates of levels were too high and that a level such as 0.79 may be satisfactory (KT). Vaughn found 116 oystercatchers, 50 Whimbrel, and two Marbled Godwits at Wallops I. July 24. The only Lesser Golden-Plover was one in a field near Cheriton, VA, July 28 (SR). Killdeer had another good summer and were more widespread than in most recent years (MO, ELP, HTA).

Five Black-necked Stilts were at Deal I., MD, June 17, and Dyke saw a pair with two young there July 7, the only site where they have been found breeding in the state. Two were at Chinc. June 26 (SR *et al.*). A first

breeding record for Virginia was at Craney July 22, when four adult and two young **American Avocets** were seen (MRB), and July 29, when two adults with one small chick were seen (SR). The first southbound Lesser Yellowlegs were three at Fairmount W.M.A., *Somerset*, MD, June 24 (MO). Some tremendous counts of Willets were 426 at s. Assat. on the strange date of June 19 (MO, HLW, DB), with western race individuals there on 7 dates June 18–July 16 (MO), 415 at Hog I. July 9 (SR), and 436 at Smith and Myrtle Is., VA, July 17 (SR, RB, BW). The northernmost breeding ever in the Bay occurred at Kent Narrows in *Queen Annes*, MD, where two adults with a nest and young were seen in June and July (MI, JGR). Upland Sandpipers were found on record early fall dates, presumably since they do not breed in these areas: one at Pocomoke City June 24 (MO), two at Queen Anne June 30 (WR), and one at Easton July 3 (SF), all in Maryland. Eighty Whimbrel were at Hog I. as early as July 9 (SR).

Unprecedented was a Hudsonian Godwit at Myrtle I., VA, on the peculiar date of June 17 (RB). At Oyster, VA, 41 Marbled Godwits were present July 31 (BPK); 11 were at Hog I. July 10 (SR); small numbers of Marbleds were also at Ship Shoal, Chinc., Cobb, and Smith Is., all in Virginia. June migrants at Ocean City and environs June 4 included 350 Ruddy Turnstones, 2000 Sanderlings, 5500 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 100 Red Knots (MO, HLW). Good Red Knot totals were 495 at Hog I. June 6 (SR, RB). Interesting totals from Chinc. were 46 Red Knots and 18 Whimbrels June 25; 2402 Sanderlings, 47 Piping Plovers, and 99 Whimbrel July 23; 5093 Sanderlings, 167 Whimbrel, 78 Piping Plovers, 884 Semipalmated Plovers, 1604 Semipalmated Sandpipers, four Marbled Godwits, and three Black-necked Stilts July 30–31 (P & AS). Rottenborn counted 4332 Sanderlings on Hog I. July 31. Two ad. Baird's Sandpipers were carefully observed at Cobb I. July 31 (SR). An extremely late Purple Sandpiper was at Ocean City June 3 (MO, HLW). In interior Piedmont Virginia, a Stilt Sandpiper was at Nokesville July 19 (KHB). In the Smith-Myrtle Is. area, 1530 Short-billed Dowitchers were seen July 17 (SR, RB, BW). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were at Chinc. July 25 (SR, TO), and six were at nearby Wallops I. July 27 (CRV) along with one Am. Avocet.

Six trips were made to Hart, which must be accessed by boat, 3 in each month. As usual, some of the Region's best shorebirding was here. Hart is a large dredge spoil area, managed in part for wildlife in the Bay e. of Baltimore. Here are some of the most notable totals (BD, SW, JLS, SRI, *et al.*): two Black-necked Stilts, 25 Ruddy Turnstones, 34 Red Knots, and 20 Least Sandpipers June 4; four White-rumped Sandpipers June 9; a Willet June 15; 29 Greater Yellowlegs, 1200 Lesser Yellowlegs, a Ruff, and 425 Short-billed Dowitchers July 14; 1000 Lesser Yellowlegs, 27 Spotted Sandpipers, and 2500 Semipal-

mated Sandpipers July 21, 128 Semipalmated Plovers, 1100 Lesser Yellowlegs, 20 Sanderlings, 148 Least Sandpipers, 59 Pectoral Sandpipers, 14 Stilt Sandpipers, and a Ruff July 28. A Reeve and a Baird's Sandpiper were at Chinc., also on July 28 (MRB).

#### GULLS TO SKIMMERS

For the first time in several years, a Laughing Gull colony was established in coastal Maryland in *Worcester*, one of about 25 pairs; it failed (DB). The Virginia barrier islands survey found the following adult bird numbers in June (BW *et al.*): 3660 Herring Gulls (7 islands), 12,065 Laughing Gulls (all on Wreck I.), 334 Great Black-backed Gulls (6 islands; 3rd highest in 17 years), 375 Gull-billed Terns (6 islands; slight increase over some recent years but still way down), 2330 Com. Terns (9 islands), 837 Least Terns (7 islands), 4999 Royal Terns (3 islands), 44 Sandwich Terns (2 islands: Little Cobb and Fish), four Caspian Terns (2 islands: Cedar and Little Cobb), 76 Forster's Terns (2 islands), and 2722 Black Skimmers (5 islands). Many of these birds fared poorly this summer, especially Black Skimmers, which have been in decline here for years. "Beach nesting species were pounded by storms at about 2 week intervals after June 1. Washouts happened June 6 and June 22/23 and a substantial one in late July" (BW).

Royal Terns attempted to breed at Ocean City: 8 pairs with only two or three chicks, and little likelihood of others hatching due to washouts. Least Terns again nested on school roofs on the E.S. of MD at Cambridge, Easton, and St. Michaels (JGR, HTA); "currently over one-half of Maryland's Least Tern population nests on building roofs" (DB). In the Baltimore area, a colony of 500 pairs of Herring plus a few Great Black-backed gulls nested on the Bethlehem Steel property at Sparrow's Point (DB). After a nearly complete flop last year, colonies of a few hundred Forster's and Common terns were again established at traditional areas in *Dorchester*, MD, at Barren and Spring Is. (HTA, GLA). Of note at Hart were these (BD, PW, SRI *et al.*): a Little Gull June 9–July 28, a Bonaparte's Gull July 14–21, 2500 Herring Gulls June 2, 1000 Ring-billed Gulls June 9, a Glaucous Gull July 21, 370 Great Black-backed Gulls July 28, four Gull-billed Terns June 9 (exceptionally rare this far n. in the Bay), 120 Caspian Terns June 2–9 and 264 July 28, three Black Terns June 2 and seven June 15. Unique were single Franklin's and Lesser Black-backed gulls at Sandy Point S.P. near Annapolis June 17 (MO); an Iceland Gull was at Cedar I., VA, June 18 (BA, JV, ph.). An imm. Glaucous Gull was at Ocean City June 20, July 2–3 (MO, HLW, DB). Gull-billed Terns of interest were one at Easton, MD, July 19 (JE) and 104 adults plus 27 immatures between Eastville and E.S. of VA N.W.R. July 26 (SR).

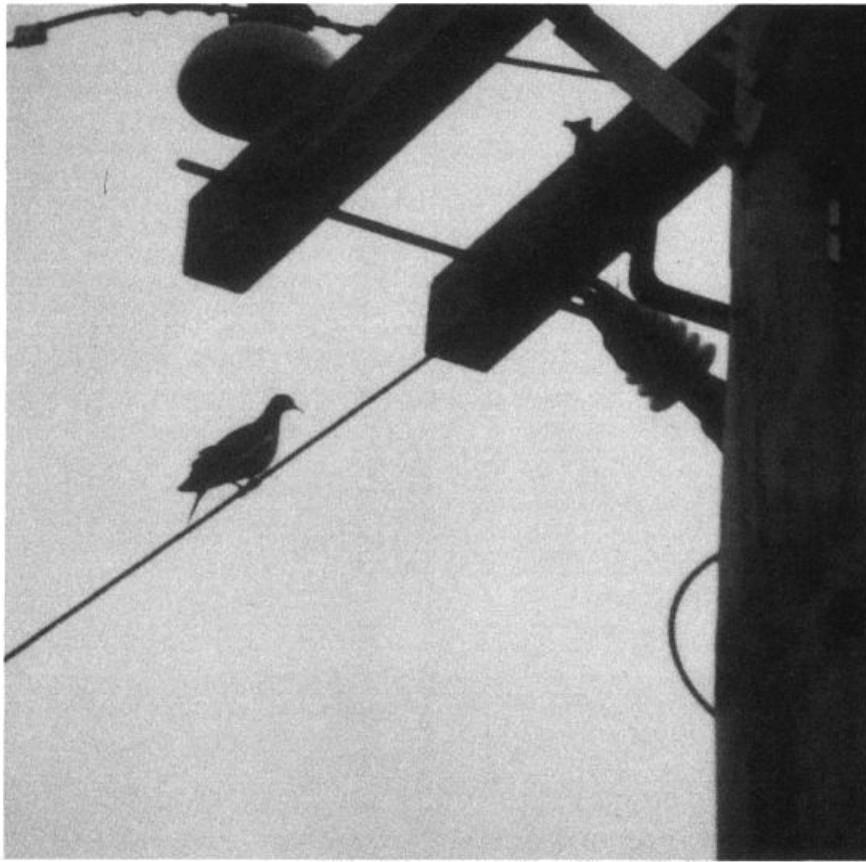
Weske *et al.* continued their roundups of young terns, banding 2599 Royal and 16

Sandwich terns on Fish. I. July 9, missing many young of both species because permission for access to this colony was delayed. At this time there were still 500 Royal nests with eggs, but these later failed; a planned 2nd visit to band more young was therefore not accomplished. There were small additional Royal colonies at Metomkin inlet, where 20 young were banded July 17 & 29, and some 60 pairs at Little Cobb I., which was washed out July 28 (RB, BT, *fide* JSW). One–three Sandwich Terns, always scarce in Maryland, were in the Ocean City/Assat. area June 4–July 17 (MO *et al.*). Rarities included a Roseate Tern at Ocean City inlet June 18 (MO), an Arctic Tern on the 4th St. flats at Ocean City July 2 (MO), and a Sooty Tern consorting with 8 other tern species at Little Cobb I. June 25 following 2 days of strong easterly winds (SR, RB, SH). A colony of Least Terns, with 60 nests found and 280 ad birds present, suffered heavy Fish and Am crow predation and was ultimately washed out June 23 at Bethel Beach, *Mathews*, VA (JBB). The high count of Black Terns was but 12 at Chinc. July 25 (SR, TO) and July 28 (MRB). Two were at Hog I. June 17 (BW), and one was at Cedar I., VA, June 18 (SR). Seaside marshes on the E.S. of VA were surveyed by Rottenborn, complementing the barrier islands survey with these results (breeding pairs): 161 Gull-billed Terns, two Caspian Terns, 176 Com. Terns, and 110 Black Skimmers (SR).

#### DOVES TO SHRIKES

Only the 3rd Virginia record, a **White-winged Dove** was at E.S. of VA N.W.R. July 26–28 (SR, BPa, TO, ph.), the first documented photographically. Cuckoos are often very late spring migrants, evidenced by a Black-billed and six Yellow-billed flying over Hooper's I., MD, the night of June 14 (MO). Bass continued his work with Barn Owls in the Nokesville area, where they are doing well, and banded 106 young this season, mostly in boxes. Just received is a report of a possible Burrowing Owl, seen several times near Craney the last week of December 1990 (DD *et al.*). The owl was flushed several times from woodchuck burrows, was seen standing on the ground, was between the size of an E. Screech-Owl and a Short-eared Owl, and unfortunately was not seen or described well enough to merit submitting a rarities committee report. A Com. Nighthawk nest with one young was on Wreck I., VA, June 17 (SR, BW, ph.); other nighthawks were on Ship Shoal and Myrtle Is., VA (BW *et al.*) In spite of extensive night work on the E S of VA, the only Whip-poor-will heard was one at Saxis June 4 (SR, TO).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds continue at depressed levels (v.o.). Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were at *Sussex*, VA, June 1 & 6 (BTb, MRB). In fact, the two observers saw not only this species but also Mississippi Kite and Bachman's Sparrow on those dates, something of a grand slam for s. Virginia



**White-winged Dove just north of the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge on July 26, 1991. Third Virginia record. Photograph/Stephen Rottenborn.**



**Purple Martins at a colony on the Choptank River, Maryland, July 6, 1991. Photograph/David Czaplak.**

Willow Flycatchers were reported from at least 6 locales in the greater D.C. area, including seven plus four young at Centennial L., *Howard*, MD, July 26 (JS, BO). One singing at Saxis July 24 (SR) was completely unexpected and extremely far s. on the Atlantic coastal plain. A bird thought to be an E. X W. Kingbird hybrid was photographed at E.S. of VA N.W.R. June 1 (SR). Breeding barrier island Horned Larks were on Metomkin, Cedar, Hog, Fish, and Wallops Is., VA (BW, SR *et al.*). Purple Martins had a very poor breeding season (MKK). Good counts of postbreeding N. Rough-winged Swallows included 150 at Violet's Lock, MD, July 19 (MO) and 150 at Algonkian Regional Park, Loudoun, VA, July 27 (DFA).

Two Cliff Swallows at Sandy Point S.P. July 8 were probably early migrants (MO, GG). A Com. Raven was at Little Seneca Res., *Montgomery*, MD, June 21 (DC), about as far s.e. as they ever get in Maryland. The only reports of Brown Creepers were a few from H.M.C.P. (EPW, KH). Far from a known breeding area, a Winter Wren was singing at Cunningham Falls S.P. in w. *Frederick*, MD, June 16 (WHH, MD). The only Sedge Wrens were six at Saxis the night of June 3-4 (SR); none was found here later in the summer. Eastern Bluebirds had a good year, and 400+ young fledged at Newport News City Park, VA (DM). A late Swainson's Thrush was heard flying over the night of June 7 in *Somerset*, MD (MO). Cedar Waxwings were widely reported but in low numbers compared with several recent breeding seasons. Loggerhead Shrikes were at 4 places, the most unusual being *Queen Annes*, MD, where one was seen July 15 & 16 (J & PG).

#### **VIREOS TO BLACKBIRDS**

The only Solitary Vireo was one in *Greensville*, VA, June 7 (RHP); they are uncommon breeders on the Virginia Piedmont. A ♂ Blue-winged Warbler was singing at Nassawango Creek in the Pocomoke drainage June 22 & 25 in an area where breeding was suspected in 1984 (SHD). Very unusual that far e. and s. on the Virginia Piedmont was a Cerulean Warbler in *Greensville*, VA, June 5 along Rt. 624 (C & MH). A ♀ Am. Redstart at Accomac, VA, July 27 was probably an extremely early migrant. Very early N. Waterthrush migrants were at Sycamore Landing, MD, near D.C. July 29 (GG); three were at E.S. of VA N.W.R. July 31 (TO), with one there Aug. 1 (SR). Dickcissels were in Maryland at Massey, *Kent*, June 8 (five, JE *et al.*), New Design Rd. in *Frederick* June 2 (four, DC), in the Queen Anne area June 11 (J & PG), June 30 & July 21 (WR), and in Virginia at *Campbell* (*fide* J & TD) and E.S. of VA N.W.R. July 28 (MRB). Bachman's Sparrows were monitored in s. Virginia in several counties on the Piedmont near the NC border, with four found (plus six Henslow's Sparrows) near Emporia June 22 (MO, RH, PO, AB), eight near Brunswick June 4, (RH) and four



Grasshopper Sparrow at Lilypons, Maryland, July 13, 1991. Photograph/David Czaplak.

in Sussex in July (RH, J & TD, GM, BC). A few Henslow's Sparrows were also in Charlotte and Campbell, VA (fide J & TD).

#### S.A.

High Sharp-tailed Sparrow counts were 94 at Saxis July 24 along with 127 Seaside Sparrows (SR), and 119 at Elliott I. June 13 (HTA, GLA, CM). Sharp-taileds seem to be increasing. They are especially fond of pure *Spartina patens* marsh meadows, which are dense, bright green, low, and lovely in June and easy to walk through. Curiously, they seldom sing there. Reese found four Seaside Sparrows at Kent Narrows near the Bay bridge to Annapolis July 9, about as far up the Bay as they regularly breed; 105 were at Cobb I. June 6 (SR). In contrast to the Sharp-taileds, Seasides sing like crazy from early April through July and prefer different vegetation, especially *Juncus roemerianus* and *Spartina alterniflora*. They are also much more likely to perch in small snags of *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Iva frutescens*, and *Spartina cynosuroides*, to sing or otherwise hold forth. When you flush them, Seasides seem dusky, larger than Sharp-taileds, and rather nondescript. In contrast, Sharp-taileds are a much warmer brown, have fine markings, and seem smaller and trimmer. In spite of these differences, separating the two can be surprisingly tricky at times. Sharp-taileds are often somewhat difficult to locate until mid-May whereas Seasides are all over the place almost a month earlier. In winter, the situation changes and the Sharp-tailed Sparrow is by far the easiest to locate, the Seaside being uncommon in Bay marshes then; most of them remaining this far north elect to stay in the seaside marshes. Young Seasides are browner than adults and can be more easily confused with Sharp-taileds.

Presumably breeding birds, two Swamp Sparrows were singing at Dyke Marsh, VA, near D.C. June 8 by Wilson; one was at Sandy Point S.P. June 8 (MI). In contrast to the Delaware Bay marshes, where they are common, they are scarce and local breeders in the upper Bay marshes. Ringler found up to nine Bobolinks at Keysville, Carroll, MD, June 9, where they may breed, and also detected two early migrants nearby at Piney Run nearby on July 7. Five late migrants were at Wingate June 1, Dorchester, MD (HTA). It is normal for a few to still be heading N the first week of June. The curious thing is that in early July there is sometimes an influx of the first southbound birds. Six were at Drawbridge, Dorchester, MD, July 9, and 88 were at Choptank Wetlands Reserve on the Choptank R., MD, the same day (MO). Reese also noticed a small wave of Bobolinks in early July in adjacent Talbot, MD. On their fall passage they often roost in *Phragmites*. Six Boat-tailed Grackles were at Tilghman I., Talbot, MD, June 14 (MO), as of this spring, their n. breeding outpost on the Bay; four were there June 23 (JE), including a male carrying food.

**Observers:** D.F. Abbott, Bill Akers, J.M. Anderson, G.L. Armistead, K.H. Bass, J.B. Bazuin, Michael Beck, Ruth Beck, Jeff Blalock, M.R. Boatwright, Dave Brinker, Allen Bryan, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Mark Causey (MCy), Martha Chestem, Barry Cooper, David Czaplak, John & Thelma Dalmas, Douglas Davis, Fenton Day, Bob Dixon, Marlyn Drake, Sam Droege, S.H. Dyke, Stephen Eccles, Jeff Effinger, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, A.J. Fletcher (Caroline, MD), Steve Ford, J.S. Gottschalk, Greg Gough, Jim & Patricia Gruber, Charles & Melva Hansrote, Sandra Hazlett, Robert Hilton, R.L. Homan, Ken Howard, W.H. Howe, Marshall Iliff, George Jett, Teta Kain, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, V.B. Kitchens, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Ellen Lawler, Gail MacKier-

nan, Carolyn Mills, Dorothy Mitchell, Jim Morrin, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Tim O'Connell, Bonnie Ott, Jared & Zach Parks, Brian Patteson (BPa), R.H. Peake, Bruce Peterjohn, E.L. Pitney (lower E.S. of MD), Bill Portlock (BPk), Kyle Rambo, J.G. Reese (Talbot, MD), Ed Regan, Sue Ricciardi (SRi), J. Richardson, R.F. Ringler (state of MD), Wilbur Rittenhouse, Barbara Ross, Stephen Rottenborn, E.S. of VA), Don Schwab, F.R. Scott, Allen Sharrett, L.T. Short, Dot Silsby (DSy), S.W. Simon, T.W. Simpson, Paul & Ann Smith, Jo Solem (Howard, MD), J.L. Stasz, C.E. Stevens, P.W. Sykes, Brian Taber (BTb), Brent Tarter, Karen Terwilliger, G.D. Therres, M.A. Todd, Barry Truitt (BTt), C.R. Vaughn, Jerry Via, Pete Webb, E.P. Weigel, J.S. Weske, H.L. Wierenga, Bill Williams (Virginia barrier island survey), E.M. Wilson.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

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# SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

It was another season of above normal temperatures, and some weather stations recorded their 18th and 19th consecutive months of warmer than normal readings. June was somewhat dry, but many areas were deluged in July, with a few spots having over ten inches of rain. Some colonial waterbirds probably did not fare well in July, but otherwise there was little comment on the overall breeding success.

The unseasonably mild weather in the Southeast last winter presumably allowed most songbirds to survive the winter. It should thus be little surprise that observers remarked on the unusual abundance of Southeast-wintering species such as Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Grasshopper Sparrow during the breeding season. The highlight of the season was the excellent results generated by several South Carolina birders doing Breeding Bird Atlas work, particularly in the Coastal Plain. The breeding ranges of many warblers, for example, are much better understood now than just two years ago. It is hoped that next year (1) the atlasers in North Carolina will be more giving of their data to this writer, and (2) that birders in Georgia will actually begin an atlas project.

## LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

An out-of-season Red-throated Loon was at Charleston, SC, June 12 (PL), and inland Com. Loons were in Georgia at Fort Gaines June 9-16 (EC) and L. Oconee June 21 (DD). Seldom lingering inland in summer, a Horned Grebe was surprising June 20 at Goldsboro, NC (ED).

After the exciting flurry of pelagic birding in late May (see Table 1), things returned to normal in summer, with very few reports of note, despite several pelagic trips. Leach's Storm-Petrel, thought to be simply a spring and fall transient 10 years ago, again was found in surprising numbers in mid-summer, confirming what Dave Lee had reported in the past decade. A trip off Oregon Inlet, NC, July 27 found 10 birds (MT, HL *et al.*), along with three of the more expected Band-rumped Storm-Petrels. Belatedly reported was a flurry of sightings from shore of obviously exhausted Leach's Storm-Petrels at Sapelo I., GA, May 25-26 (TSP, ALL). Although there were a few previous sight records, photos of both live and dead birds provide the first documentation for the state. The birds were clearly pushed ashore by the



strong NE and E winds from the back-door cold front a week earlier, even though winds during the observations were light. Another Leach's was a good find off Charleston May 1 (DF), and a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was seen off Oregon Inlet July 13 (PD party). A White-tailed Tropicbird was seen on the lat-



Leach's Storm-Petrel just offshore at Sapelo Island, Georgia, late May 1991. First documented state record. Photograph/T. S. Parsons and A. L. Lang.

ter pelagic trip (PD party), and a tropicbird of unknown identity was seen on the previous day (July 12) off Beaufort Inlet, NC (BH).

A N. Gannet was notable in midsummer at a pond at Cape Hatteras point, NC, June 20-24 (P & NM, JW). On the other hand, only one Am. White Pelican report was made for the season, that of two birds at Bear Island W.M.A., SC, June 5 (JEC). Hardly unusual any more in summer in North Carolina, two subad. Great Cormorants were found at Cape Lookout June 7 (JF). An excellent count of 25+ nests of Double-crested Cormorants was tallied at Jordan L., NC, this summer (PSa), and birds are still nesting at L. Ellis Simon (JFP), the only other nesting lo-

cale in the state. In Georgia, where cormorants nested for the first time last summer, three nests were found at the Huie facility in Clayton, with young in the nests Aug. 22 (PB *et al.*). The only report of Magnificent Frigatebird was one (reported on a Rare Bird Alert) at Sunset Beach, NC, in late July (CH).

## WADERS TO WATERFOWL

An apparently new heronry, near the Fall Line, was found at Matheson's Mill Pond near Bennettsville, SC. On June 18, Glover noted Great and Cattle egrets, Little Blue and Green-backed herons, and Anhingas nesting. The breeding distribution of Am. Bittern in the Region is poorly known, though it nests sparingly near the coast, mainly in e. North Carolina. Who knows if birds seen July 10 at Bear I., SC (JEC) and July 23 at Eagle I., NC (JW) were breeders or migrants? For one reason or another, the post-breeding dispersal of waders to Piedmont waters was very light, with hardly any significant reports in July. Completely unprecedented in the Region was an ad. Reddish Egret that was present in a heronry at Ocracoke, NC, in June (JFP); the thought of breeding by the species there would be nearly preposterous. The usual few imm. Reddish Egrets were found, but only in North Carolina, where two were at Sunset Beach July 13-22 (RM, MO, H & ELi). Piedmont nesting by Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is very spotty, yet a pair nested successfully in a park in Winston-Salem, NC, this summer (HC *et al.*).

Wood Storks breed in a handful of colonies in South Carolina and Georgia, but the only nesting data came from the Birdsville colony in Georgia, where approximately 260 nests produced about 2.7 fledged

young per nest (*vide* AW). Although **Roseate Spoonbills** are somewhat regular in late summer and fall in coastal Georgia, reports in the Carolinas cause great excitement. Birds were found at 2 sites near the s. coast of South Carolina. Two were present at Lady's I. and vicinity June 11 to early July (GD, m.ob.), and the spoil area in s. *Jasper* contained two spoonbills July 21 and *five* Aug. 4 (RC, CE, LG). The latter is a record count, by one individual, for South Carolina.

As usual in summer, the majority of the significant waterfowl reports relate to non-breeding lingerers, which most certainly applies to the Brant seen much of the summer, at least to July 28, at Pea I., NC (MT, HL *et al.*). At Goldsboro there were out of season Green-winged Teal June 1–24 and Am. Wigeon June 17–July 25 (ED), whereas a ♀ N. Pintail and a ♂ Ring-necked Duck spent the entire season at *Clayton*, GA (PB *et al.*). The only noteworthy breeding record was of two duckling Hooded Mergansers with a brood of Wood Ducks near McBee, SC, June 26 (LG), a rare merganser nesting record for the state.

#### **HAWKS TO GALLINULES**

American Swallow-tailed Kites had never been found nesting in South Carolina between Francis Marion N.F. and the Savannah R. until this summer, when Cely noted a nest in a cypress in *Dorchester*. An overshooting migrant Swallow-tailed was seen at Cape Hatteras June 6 (Sch), and a Mississippi Kite was in this general area June 3–4 (MaL). A nest of Mississippi Kite still has not been found in North Carolina, but reports from potential "new" areas were received. An adult and two immatures were seen at Fishing Cr. along the *Edgecombe–Halifax* line Aug. 3 (JW, PW), several were seen in June along the Neuse R. near Smithfield (MTh), and one was seen in e. *Columbus* near the Cape Fear R., July 22 (JW). Glover, in his extensive at-lassing work, found a Mississippi Kite nest in Lee S.P., SC, June 28, and another nest was reported, for the 3rd consecutive summer, in downtown Camden, SC (LG *et al.*). Glover also saw six kites around Thompson Cr. near Cheraw June 7.

Bald Eagles had a terrible nesting season in North Carolina, where the 7 or 8 pairs produced only four young (*vide* TH). In South Carolina, where DDT and other pesticides did not wipe out the entire breeding population a few decades ago, 67 occupied territories were counted; of these, 60 nests were active, 50 being successful. A total of 81 chicks were fledged, as opposed to 68 fledged in 1990, the first post-Hugo nesting season (JEC). Summer sightings of N. Harriers in North Carolina at Pea I. (PS), Hatteras village (D & KL), and Cedar I. (PSa) might all have been breeding birds. Glover's discovery of an ad. Sharp-shinned Hawk feeding a fledgling not capable of flight n.e. of Kershaw, SC, July 11 was one of the few breeding records for that state. Simon Thompson saw

a Sharp-shinned carrying food June 14 near Lattimore, NC, strongly suggesting local breeding. As usual, there were a handful of other sightings, from all 3 states, as well as the customary handful of summer sightings of Cooper's Hawks, none strongly indicative of breeding.

Broad-winged Hawks presumably nest over nearly all the Piedmont, but are poorly known as breeders in the Coastal Plain. At-lassing by Kalbach and Glover turned up many new records for the South Carolina Coastal Plain, with reports from the following counties: *Calhoun*, *Chesterfield*, *Clarendon*, *Darlington*, *Georgetown*, and *Williamsburg*. More importantly, an active nest with two young was found in Camden, near the Fall Line (BWo *et al.*). Notable for c. Georgia, where quite rare, were an ad. Broad-winged June 5 and an immature in July near Dublin (TKP), and one of unspecified age at Eastman June 29 (DS). Not to be forgotten, Coastal Plain birds in North Carolina were seen in June in *Craven* (JF), *Jones* (RB, WF), and *Lenoir* (RB, WF). Kalbach found Am. Kestrels at several clearcuts in *Berkeley* and *Georgetown*, SC, plus a pair in a powerline clearing in *Williamsburg* during the summer. A very late Merlin was seen at Cape Hatteras point June 6 (Sch). Along the edge of the Blue Ridge, Peregrine Falcons did not nest successfully at Chimney Rock, NC (ST), but three young were fledged at Table Rock, SC (*vide* JEC), the 2nd consecutive summer of successful nesting there.

Black Rails were heard at several sites again at Bear I., SC (m.ob.), but I still wonder if birders are looking and listening elsewhere in that state's marshes. Fortunately, someone in North Carolina did just that, stopping at dusk to listen at a brackish marsh at the Pungo R. near Leechville June 24. John Wright heard three or four Black Rails calling, along with Virginia and King rails. It is clear that, in North Carolina at least, Black Rails are "common" in many brackish marshes. Virginia Rail, considered very rare to casual as a breeder in Georgia, was detected in a marsh near Woodstock. Two were seen June 6 (GB) and one was heard calling June 29 (GB, TM), perhaps suggesting breeding at the site. A Purple Gallinule, barely hanging on as a breeder in North Carolina, was seen at a new site near Southport on several dates this summer (JW *et al.*).

#### **SHOREBIRDS**

The tragic news was bound to come for Piping Plovers in North Carolina. Despite hardly any successful reproduction over the past few years, breeding pairs remained at a surprisingly high 50 to 55 pairs. That poor reproduction revealed itself in 1991, when only 30 pairs were counted (JN, NM). Reproductive success was not reported, but I am sure it would make all of us cry. This species probably should be listed as Endangered on the Atlantic Coast in a few years, unless federal and state agencies make a stronger effort to control vehicles and people on beaches. The

birds have enough problems with mammalian and avian predators (including the ever increasing gull populations in summer) and summer storms, without having to worry about chicks and eggs being stepped on or run over. Black-necked Stilts had a good nesting season at Eagle I., NC, where 15 young were counted July 16 (SC). An Upland Sandpiper was rare July 21 at a turf farm near Blackville, SC (TK). Not often reported in summer, Long-billed Curlew was noted at three North Carolina sites—Shackleford Banks on June 6 (JF, NM, JN), Ocracoke I on July 3 (FW, P & NM), and Ft. Fisher on July 23 (JW). Fussell and party had a good June tally of 20 Marbled Godwits on the 6th at Barden's Inlet, NC, and a Western Sandpiper was very rare June 8 at Bear I., SC (TK). The easily overlooked Baird's Sandpiper was noted twice at Pea I., NC: one July 22 (BH, WF) and two July 26 (JW). Pea I. again became a predictable summer spot for the Curlew Sandpiper, hosting two in breeding plumage July 17 (DC, MaL, JD), with one remaining at least to July 28 (DC *et al.*). Ruffs tend to avoid the heavily birded ponds and impoundments at Pea and Bodie Is., seemingly preferring dredge spoil ponds and other out of the way coastal pools. A ♂ Ruff, still in partial breeding plumage, was very conspicuous July 5–11 at the spoil pond on Eagle I (SC, HL, JW), where the species has been found on several previous occasions. Cooper noted the first Stilt Sandpiper at Eagle I on June 29 and had a remarkable July peak of 224 at the spoil ponds there. Wilson's Phalaropes were surprisingly scarce in July at Pea I., but singles were found elsewhere at the Beaufort - Morehead City, NC, causeway July 29–Aug. 5 (BH, JF) and inland in n.e. *Laurens*, GA, July 27 (TKP). A late report, of a "late" Red-necked Phalarope found dead at Ridgeway Gold Mine, *Fairfield*, SC, May 27 (JEC), provided one of just a few inland records for that state.

#### **JAEGERS TO TERNS**

Single Pomarine Jaegers were observed on pelagic trips off Oregon Inlet July 13 (PD) and July 27 (MT party), whereas one was unusual on a beach at Jekyll I., GA, July 27 (BDr *et al.*). A good summer tally of three Parasitic Jaegers was made off Beaufort Inlet, NC, July 12 (BH). I received very little information about nesting of gulls, terns, and skimmers along the coast this season. The situation is starting to become precarious in North Carolina for most of the terns and skimmers. The birds, pushed off most of the barrier islands by development a few decades ago, readily inhabited dredge spoil islands that were created by the Corps of Engineers, who unknowingly provided much-needed sand flat habitat for the birds. However, state and federal agencies concerned with protecting shellfish and other organisms of the estuary bottoms have tightened the rules concerning placement of spoil. Most spoil is now dumped on beaches, in diked impound-

ments, or offshore, thus unusable for the colonial waterbirds. Much red tape is now involved in the placement of sand on dredge islands for the benefit of the birds.

Thank goodness there wasn't a dearth of significant reports of nonbreeding larids. An imm. Iceland Gull, in 2nd-year plumage, was remarkably late and rare at Sapelo I., GA, May 28 (TSP). It was just a matter of time until Lesser Black-backed Gull would be found in summer. An adult was seen at Bird I near Sunset Beach, NC, June 13 (HW), and a subadult was seen at N. Topsail Beach, NC, June 23 and July 18 (GG). Bad news indeed was the sighting of a pair of Great Black-backed Gulls, believed to be nesting, at Sandbag I. near Cape Lookout (JF); this is now the s. limit of breeding along the Atlantic coast. Four ad. Caspian Terns were seen June 5 at New R. Inlet, NC, and five adults were farther east at Bogue Inlet June 18 (JF), but no nesting evidence was found. These sites are farther south than known breeding sites in that state. There were a number of June and July sightings again of a single ad. Roseate Tern at Cape Hatteras point (m.ob.); there is still no evidence of breeding at this locale. Reports are not available whether Sooty Tern attempted to nest in North Carolina this summer. In fact, the only reports of the species received were offshore: one off Charleston July 25 (KC, LG) and two s e of Cape Hatteras July 28 (GM, MB). A Black Tern was early (?) at Cape Hatteras point June 24 (JW, PWt). Highly unusual were two offshore sightings of **Brown Noddy**, seldom found in the Region except after hurricanes. One was seen May 25 east of Cape Hatteras (MT party), and a 2nd was noted in this general area July 28 (GM, MB).

#### DOVES TO LARKS

Common Ground-Dove is now essentially gone from North Carolina; despite a moderate amount of searching on the s. barrier islands, none have been reported in 1991. The disappearance is a mystery, as habitat is still somewhat suitable. It should be noted that the South Carolina population has declined markedly also in the past decade, with no obvious answers. In Georgia, one individual was rather far inland at Hamburg S.P., July 13 (NI). Another species believed to be on the decline is the Barn Owl; however, Dunning and Watts surveyed abandoned farm buildings in the Athens, GA, area on the night of Apr. 25 and found fresh owl pellets in five of six buildings checked. Unlike other species, this is one that humans *can* help directly by placement of nest boxes in suitable habitat and by retaining old barns for breeding sites.

The demographics of goatsuckers in the Region, and in the East, needs investigating. Whip-poor-wills, seemingly declining north of the Region, appear to definitely be spreading into the Coastal Plain and likely are displacing Chuck-will's-widows, but the jury is still out whether the latter species is declin-

ing. Nine Whip-poor-wills was an excellent total near L. Ellis Simon in Croatan N.F., NC, June 17, but only one Chuck-will's-widow was heard (RB, WF). The most notable of a number of other Coastal Plain reports was one calling at Beaverdam W.M.A., *Laurens*, GA, June 7 & 13 (TKP), south of the known breeding range.

South Carolina's first confirmed breeding of **Willow Flycatcher** occurred June 23, when Kalbach found an active nest along the N. Pacolet R., *Spartanburg*; S. Thompson had found a population of the birds there earlier in the season. The extralimital population in *Greene*, GA, contained four singing birds June 8 (PS, PY), and a new Piedmont locale was discovered in North Carolina, where two singing birds were found near Yadkin Valley community, *Caldwell*, May 8-19 (ML *et al.*). It is not clear whether E. Phoebes are expanding eastward into the upper Coastal Plain of South Carolina, but they certainly are widespread there now, with nests seemingly beneath every streamside bridge (*fide* LG). They were considered up in the Augusta, GA, vicinity (AW), as well. A Gray Kingbird was seen on a wire at Bodie I., NC, May 27 (LW), one of "many" reports from the Outer Banks in late May over the past decades. Horned Larks seem to be expanding their range well into the Coastal Plain. Notably south of the range was a pair at the Dublin, GA, airport, with young noted June 27 and July 2 (TKP, DS). Atlassing work in South Carolina turned up Coastal Plain larks in *Barnwell*, *Calhoun*, *Clarendon*, *Florence*, *Orangeburg*, and *Williamsburg*, likely indicating an expansion southeastward.

#### SWALLOWS TO VIREOS

Tree Swallows were again seen this season at Jordan L., NC, and were presumed nesting (PSa). Again there was no indication of potential breeding by Bank Swallows in the Region, but a few new sites for Cliff Swallow were reported. About 50 pairs nested at the Long Cane Cr. bridge on SC 28, *McCormick*, SC (JEC); 11 nests were under the US 278 bridge over L. Oconee, GA (PS, BB, PY); and at least two pairs were at the Dyar Pasture bridge, n. *Greene*, GA (PS, PY). Twelve birds were again seen at the bridge at Oriental, NC, this year on July 1 (RB); this is an isolated "coastal" nesting area for Cliff Swallow. Fish Crows are no longer of note in the Atlanta area, though the species still has yet to colonize the extreme upper Piedmont, except in South Carolina. At least three Common Ravens were seen at Hanging Rock S.P., NC, Apr. 16 (TG), and one was at nearby Sauratown Mt., Apr. 10 (TG). Breeding has yet to be confirmed on these monadnocks, although the species been found nesting farther east in one or 2 quarries.

House Wrens continue to intrigue as a breeding species. Fussell heard at least four singing at the Millis Rd. Savanna, *Carteret*, NC, this season, but despite intensive field work found no wrens at nearby Camp Leje-

une. Another House Wren was found nearby at Camp Bryan June 17 (RB, WF). Most significant was the finding of a nest in a burned-over clearcut 7 mi n.w. of Fort Lawn, SC, June 9; the nest was in a hole in a pine stub (KH). Other notable records of the species were a male on territory through June near Georgetown, SC (BP), one on the Stockbridge BBS route, GA, June 2 (TM), and six on July 28 in *Clayton*, GA (JS, CS). American Robins are expanding their breeding range into the Charleston area, with records for many locales, even on the coast at Isle of Palms (DF, DH *et al.*). Cedar Waxwings did not stage a breeding season "invasion" this summer. An active nest was found in June in n.e. *Yadkin*, NC (KH), but more unusual was Coastal Plain nesting at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R., SC, where Glover saw an adult carrying food to a nest or fledgling (begging calls heard) June 26.

A Solitary Vireo singing July 4 in a pine plantation near Tillman, *Jasper*, SC (RC, CE) was definitely out of range. Closer to expected range was a singing bird at Harbison S.F., *Richland*, SC, July 14 (RC, CE). Notable in the Piedmont were at least three singing near Price, N.C., June 14-24 (HH); two adults and a young in *Haralson*, GA, June 23 (PR), and an adult with a young at Lawrenceville, GA, June 16 (JH). Kalbach put the finishing touch on one of the most bizarre breeding season records in the Region in many a year. He succeeded in locating a nest of **Warbling Vireo** at Santee N.W.R., SC. This disjunct population has apparently grown this summer, as at least three singing males were believed to be present (TK, RC *et al.*). Nowhere else in the Region is Warbling Vireo known to nest at present, but it would be no surprise if a few are breeding somewhere in the upper Piedmont of North Carolina. Defying explanation, although obviously disoriented, was the singing ♂ Philadelphia Vireo at Lee S.P., SC, June 11 (LG)!

#### WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler, which nests in the Region sparingly in n. Georgia but is seldom reported, was noted at Dawson Demonstration Forest, *Dawson*, where two were singing June 23 (PS, JSy). Worthington noted Black-throated Green Warblers in n. *Greenville*, SC, as low as 1200 feet, and he had an early migrant Blackburnian Warbler at Simpsonville, SC, July 25. Other unseasonable migrants in that state were an early Palm July 27 in s *Jasper* (LG) and a late Blackpoll June 9 in n *Fairfield* (RC). Glover had many breeding records for Black-and-white Warbler in Fall Line counties of n.e. South Carolina. Normally, one might assume that this indicates an eastward range extension, but the species is fairly widespread though uncommon in adjacent North Carolina, meaning that perhaps n.e. South Carolina had been poorly birded previously. Farther coastward, Kalbach found several Black-and-white Warblers on territory in *Georgetown*. American Redstart has a spotty breeding range in South

Carolina, but breeding was confirmed in *Chesterfield* (LG) and *Laurens* (PW), and a singing ad. male was near Pineville, *Berkeley*, SC, June 4 (TK). Worm-eating Warblers are absent as breeders over most of the Piedmont, except for the foothills, but it seems that nobody but Regional birders know how widespread the species is in much of the Coastal Plain of North Carolina and adjacent South Carolina (see range maps in field guides). Notable records for the latter state were fledglings with an adult June 5 near Plantersville, *Georgetown* (BP), singing males June 7 near Summerville (TK) and June 27 near Pageland (LG), and adults carrying food June 23 near Dalzell, *Sumter* (LG) and July 12 near Jefferson (LG). Other notable reports for the species were several in n. *Pitt*, NC, June 23 (JW) and one near Watson Springs, *Greene*, GA, June 22 (PS). Atlas work turned up many records for Ovenbird near the coast in *Georgetown*, SC (TK,BP), and birds were also noted in *Berkeley* and *Orangeburg* in that state (TK). Glover saw a bird he is convinced was a Northern Waterthrush at a beaver dam near McBee, SC, June 7 and again June 26. The bird responded to a taped song of Northern but not to the song of Louisiana Waterthrush; the bird fed another waterthrush (sp?) on the latter date. The nearest breeding Northern are in the mountains of Virginia. Kalbach had singing Louisiana Waterthrushes May 23, but not on later dates, at 2 sites in *Calhoun*, SC; this is somewhere near the s. limit of the breeding range.

#### TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

Scarlet Tanager, which definitely is extending its range eastward into the Coastal Plain, was noted this season south to *Madison*, *Clarke*, and *Greene* in Georgia (PS,PY,JSeg), as far southeast as *Richland* in South Carolina (RC,CE), and at several sites in *Pitt* in North Carolina (JW). Are Painted Buntings moving inland in South Carolina, or have they always been there? Formerly known inland mostly from the floodplain of the Santee/Congaree and Savannah rivers, they are showing up in many counties, and Kalbach found the species in 12 atlas blocks in six counties—*Berkeley*, *Calhoun*, *Clarendon*, *Dorchester*, *Orangeburg*, and *Williamsburg*. Glover even saw a pair carrying food s.w. of Ruby, *Chesterfield*, SC, July 12. This latter town is not far from North Carolina, where the species is supposedly limited to the coastal zone. Single Dickcissels were found singing at two adjacent sites near Maxton, NC, June 1 (HL) and June 15 (RC,CE), and singing males were found in n.w. *Gaston*, NC, June 14 (ST), also at two sites. Although Bachman's Sparrows are undoubtedly decreasing on private lands in the Coastal Plain as a result of habitat loss and fire suppression, a tally of 55 territorial males during the season at Camp Lejeune, NC (JF) attests to how numerous the species can be in proper fire-maintained pine stands. Grasshopper Sparrows were "everywhere" on

Table 1. Pelagic Observations along the North Carolina Coast, May 1991

	B.I.	O.I.	C.H.	H.I.	C.H.	O.I.	B.I.	O.I.	C.H.
	11	18	21	22	24	25	25	26	26
	(RD)	(MT)	(RA)	(RA)	(KC)	(MT)	(JW)	(ML)	(MT)
Black-capped Petrel		120		30		9		30	
Herald Petrel				1-2					
Soft-plumaged Petrel						1			
Cory's Shearwater		7	2	150	8	43	3	3	
Greater Shearwater				20					
Sooty Shearwater			50	6	44	5		3	3
Manx Shearwater			1	1					
Audubon's Shearwater		18		8	1	34		3	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	25	165	20	120	1	109	40	72	4
Leach's Storm-Petrel	1		6	15	1	2	3	4	3
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel						?	1		
tropicbird (sp?)							1		
N. Gannet		1			8	4			3
Red-necked Phalarope	35	37				4	6		
Red Phalarope	3								
jaeger (sp?)	2					10			
Pomarine Jaeger	1	1	15	22	5	10	10	6	
Parasitic Jaeger			3	2		2	1		1
Long-tailed Jaeger	1		3	7	1		1		
South Polar Skua				2		4			
Black-legged Kittiwake			3		4				
Roseate Tern	1								
Arctic Tern	3	3	?			8		5	
Bridled Tern		1						3	
Sooty Tern				2					
Brown Noddy						1			

B.I.—off Beaufort Inlet; O.I.—off Oregon Inlet; C.H.—from shore at Cape Hatteras point; H.I.—off Hatteras Inlet

BBS routes and Atlas blocks. I believe that these numbers are directly attributable to a very high winter survivability, based on the exceedingly mild winter in the Southeast; breeding habitat availability is not the answer to this obvious single-season rise in numbers. The most significant report of the species was that large numbers bred at the Dublin, GA, airport and in pastures n.e. of that town (TKP, DS), somewhat south of the usual breeding range. The Shiny Cowbird struck again, though all reports came from Post's yard at Sullivan's Island, SC. From Apr. 30–July 13, he noted as many as three males and two females; two birds were collected (\*C.M.). Simon Thompson continued to find a few nesting Northern Orioles in the foothills near Tryon, NC, but the best report of the species was a nest in e. *Yadkin*, NC, June 11 (KH).

**Observers:** Maurice Barnhill, Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee, Rich Boyd, Patrick Brisse, Kevin Calhoun, Derb Carter, Robin Carter, Hartsell Cash, J.E. Cely, Charleston Museum, Ethel Chastain, Shawn Childress (SCh), Sam Cooper, Dale Davis, Eric Dean, Jan De-

Blieu, Bruce Dralle (BDr), Graham Dugas, Paul DuMont, Barney Dunning, Caroline Eastman, Dennis Forsythe, Wade Fuller, John Fussell, Lex Glover, Toby Gordon, Gilbert Grant, Herb Hendrickson, Kevin Hennings, Tom Henson, Catherine Higgins, Joel Hitt, Bob Holmes, David Huff, Nancy Iha, Tim Kalbach, A.L. Lang, Dee & Ken Lapeyre, Pete Laurie, Harry LeGrand, Henry & Elizabeth Link (H & ELi), Merrill Lynch, Marcia Lyons (MaL), Greg Massey, Roger McNeill, Pat & Neal Moore, Terry Moore, Nora Murdock, Janice Nicholls, Megan O'Connor, J.F. Parnell, T.S. Parsons, T.K. Patterson, Will Post, Bill Pulliam, Paul Raney, Paul Saraceni (PSa), Donald Screws, John Seginak (JSeg), Carol Sewell, Jeff Sewell, Joan Sykes (JSy), Paul Sykes, Mark Thompson (MTh), Simon Thompson, Mike Tove, Anne Waters, Bryan Watts, Harriett Whitsett, Leslie Willis, Frank Witebsky, Bob Wood (BWo), Peter Worthington, John Wright, Paula Wright (PWt), Peter Yaukey.—HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., N.C. Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611.



# ONTARIO REGION

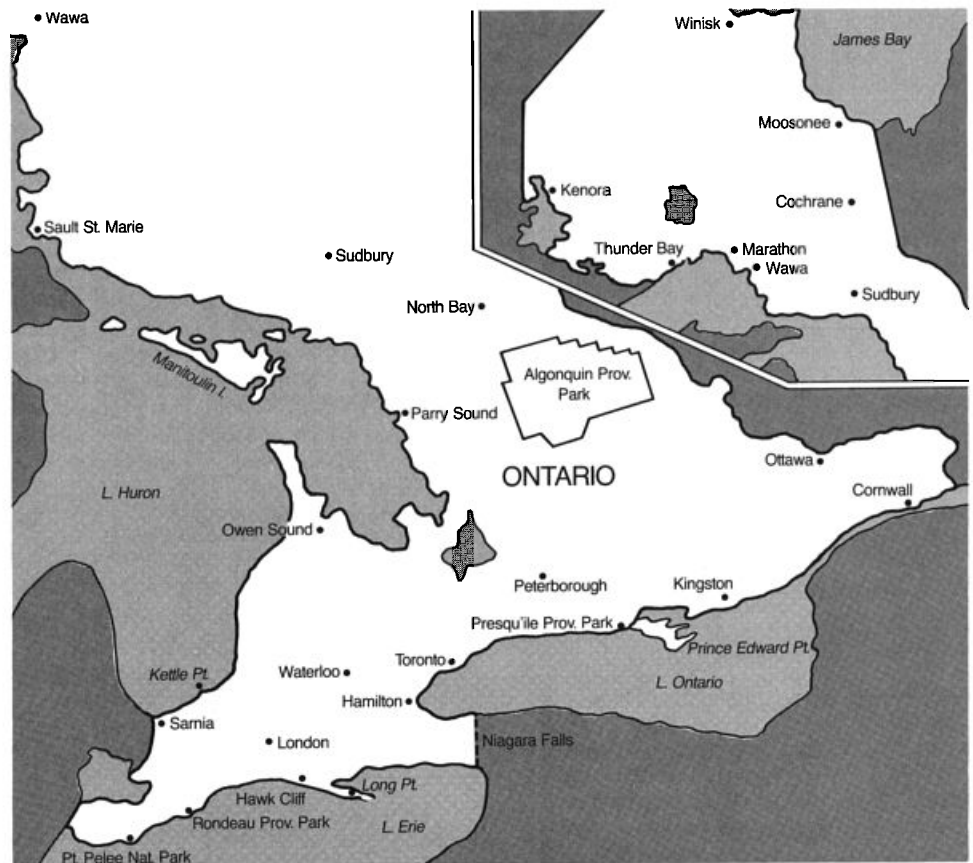
Ron D. Weir

Warm, dry conditions over much of Ontario the past spring gave way to hot, even more arid summer weather. The devastating cold snaps that often occur in June in the middle latitudes of this province did not materialize; insectivorous birds reaped the benefits. Unbeknownst to the tens of thousands of migrant passerines that usually flood into Ontario June 1–15, these weather conditions were ideal for nesting. Their genes have encoded the arrival timetable for survival in an average spring, based on their 5000–10,000 years experience since ice sheets last retreated from the landscape. In summer 1991, benefits accrued to early arrivals.

The breeding season was reported successful for most species. Nesting was advanced by at least two weeks nearly everywhere south of Sudbury, resulting in multiple nestings by many species and early migration staging by others. Along the Hudson and James Bay coasts in the Hudson Bay lowlands, the Habitat Based Wildlife Assessment project was again conducted by staff from the Moosonee office of the Ministry of Natural Resources, with some volunteer naturalists. The three field stations were located at Moosonee, at Longridge Point (about 60 kilometers north of Moosonee on James Bay), and on the Brant River (some 10 kilometers inland from Hudson Bay and 140 kilometers east of Winisk) (referred to as Brant R. below). Longridge Point extends several kilometers into James Bay, with tidal flats and supertidal marshes, an ideal site for viewing the migrant flow to and from Arctic regions. Six hundred Black-bellied Plovers and 450 Ruddy Turnstones were some of its impressive June 6 concentrations of northbound littorals. Southbound totals are described in the text.

Candidates for the season's nesting initiative award include the pair of Sudbury Tree Swallows that nested successfully inside a hollow, 8-cm-diameter shaft of a 5-m stainless propeller screw stacked on a rack at the nickel plant, and a pair of Carolina Wrens near St. Thomas whose nest covered a flower pot. To water the plant daily, the wren nest had to be lifted from the pot and replaced afterward. All this occurred with the apparent approval of the long-suffering female. A plastic filling tube inserted between the nest and plant would probably have made life easier for all concerned!

Among the rarities was a Green Violet-ear, a Central American hummingbird never before recorded in Canada. A host of interesting discoveries is described in the following text. Information has been drawn from



Breeding Bird Surveys, Forest Monitoring Surveys, special censuses and studies, in addition to informal exploring by individual birders. Not bad for a season when many observers hang up their binoculars until September.

**Abbreviations:** P.E. Pt. (*Prince Edward Pt.*); Pelee (*Point Pelee Nat'l Park and vicinity*); Algonquin and Presqu'ile are provincial parks.

## LOONS TO HERONS

Typical for the season were the single Red-throated Loons at Whitby June 9 (JH) and at Toronto's Sunnyside June 18 (RY). The 22 Pacific Loons at Brant R. June 27 (*fide* RDM) were a good number for the n. coast, where the species is an uncommon, local resident. Lingering grebes in the south included one and three Horneds at Adolphustown June 9 (KHg) and Burlington June 11 & 20 (KAM), respectively, and one and 11 Red-neckeds at Whitby June 8–9 (BH *et al.*) and Burlington June 11 (KAM), respectively. One Eared Grebe remained at the Aylmer lagoons June 8–10 (DAM *et al.*), for the 5th consecutive summer Ontario occurrence. One pair of courting **Western Grebes** was studied closely in the Lake-of-the-Woods P.P. June 23–24 (SAC, JN), but no nest was found for this occasional visitor.

A breeding range extension was noted for Am. White Pelican; 3 nests were on a L. Nipigon island June 17 (NGE *et al.*). Thirty ad. pelicans were in the colony, 500 km e. of the only other known Ontario nesting site on

Lake-of-the-Woods. Out-of-range pelicans were two each e. to Rank R., *Bruce*, June 9 (WDM), Oliphant, *Bruce*, June 11 (DF) (probably the same birds), and Luther marsh, *Wellington*, June 16 (MDC *et al.*). An aerial survey July 10 from Hannah Bay to East Pt. along James Bay, e. of Moosonee, revealed 26 Double-crested Cormorants (MAK). The species was extirpated from the n. coast and is apparently staging a comeback.

Extralimital Great Egrets were singles e. to Kearney near Algonquin June 6 (ph. GL, RL), Whitby's Cranberry marsh June 15–July 10 (*fide* MJB), and Smiths Falls July 17–21 (HVU). One at Allenford, *Bruce*, June 11 (AWM) was thought to have wandered from the colony near Southampton. Two at Wildwood L. June 1–July 31 were the first ever summering birds in *Oxford* (JMH). The only report of Cattle Egret was the single at Meldrum Bay June 25–July 2 (JJ *et al.*), for the 6th ever on Manitoulin I. The 7 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests in Presqu'ile June 21 were the first in 16 years (SML).

## WATERFOWL TO CRANES

The largest number of Tundra Swans on the n. coast were 14 at Brant R. July 17 (RDM *et al.*). In the south, nonbreeding singles were at the Aylmer lagoons June 1–July 31 (DAM), Killarney June 9–18 (CGB, JGL), and Long Pt. July 29 (VF). Late northbound Brant numbered 14 over Sudbury June 1 (CJW), only the 2nd ever in spring, 100 over Peterborough June 6 (AGC), three at Wildwood L. June 7 (JMH), only *Oxford's* 2nd ever, and



Immature male King Eider at St. Catharines, Ontario, May 11, 1991. This bird remained into early June. Photograph/Kayo J. Roy.

20 at Smiths Falls June 14 (HVU).

Out-of-range Canvasbacks were two at Presqu'île June 4–5 (RR), and singles at Port Rowan June 1–15 (L.P.B.O.), L. Simcoe June 21 (AJ), and Port Perry July 28 (BH, KH). Up to 14 Redheads were in Presqu'île June 1–15 (*fide* SML), where two Ring-necked Ducks remained June 21–28 (S & DH *et al.*). Other Ring-neckeds s. of the Shield (where they are rare in summer), were a male at Pelee until June 10 (AW *et al.*), another at Tavistock July 18–31 (JMH), and 11 in Bruce June 23–July 16 (JWJ); these were unusually high numbers. *Oxford's* first Lesser Scaup in summer was a male at Tavistock July 7–11 (JMH). The imm. ♂ King Eider at St. Catharines remained until June 2 (ph. MEH, KJR); the same individual probably appeared off Whitby June 8 (GMF, BH *et al.*). The 2600 ♂ Black Scoters roosting off Longridge Pt., James Bay, June 8 were noteworthy, and by late July virtually all had departed (*fide* RDM). Greater-than-usual numbers of Bufflehead tarried in the south; the Algonquin pair June 6 was possibly breeding (KR). The others were three at Whitby June 2–July 6 (*fide* MGB), singles at Amherstview June 7–18 (PG, KHg), Gormley Quarry, York, June 7 (AJ), and Turkey Pt. June 25 (JDM). The Sudbury male June 27 was the area's first in summer (JCN).

Turkey Vulture nests included one near Warton at the same nest site for 7 consecutive years (JWJ) and another at an abandoned farmhouse near Merrickville (JB). The largest concentrations were 72 at Hagersville July 29 (WS) and 25 at Pelee June 3 (JNF, JMG). Six successful Bald Eagle nests were along the lower Great Lakes. Some 46 Bald Eagles were tallied in a survey along L. Nipigon June 16–21 (NGE). Three Cooper's Hawks were fledged from the nest monitored in Algonquin June 6–July 28 (MR, GEW *et al.*), the park's first ever. The juv. Red-shoul-

dered at Tillsonburg June 29 had recently fledged (JMH), providing *Oxford's* first confirmed breeding in many years. The *Elgin* nest box program for Am. Kestrel resulted in a high productivity rate; by July 31 some 317 young had been banded (*fide* MSS).

A ♀ Spruce Grouse with five young near Pointe Au Baril, *Parry Sound*, June 15 were some 40 km s. of the nearest breeding areas defined by the Breeding Bird Atlas 1981–85 (MAK). Noteworthy confirmed breeding records for Am. Coot were the nest with 7 eggs in Cook's Bay L., *Simcoe*, June 21 (AJ) and the adult with 14 young in Presqu'île June 15 (*fide* SML). Sandhill Cranes were summering in greater numbers on Manitoulin I. (JCN). Those away from known breeding areas included a pair all summer at Turkey Pt. (RWK, L.P.B.O.), two at Britt, *Parry Sound*, to June 14 (MAK), two at the Luther marsh, *Wellington*, June 16 (MDC *et al.*), two to Ingersoll July 1 (DNB), and three on Walpole I. (*fide* SAC). Number of sightings of this hard-to-miss species continues to rise.

#### SHOREBIRDS

The Piping Plover's future as an Ontario summer resident is bleak. Surveys of its last stronghold on Lake-of-the-Woods revealed only one pair June 9–24 (DHE, SAC, JN). A single appeared in Sault Ste. Marie June 23 (AWr *et al.*). Ontario's 6th Black-necked Stilt was a male at the Parkhill lagoons, *Middlesex*, June 1–2 (JS, RH, J & MD). Four of these occurred in June. The American Avocet at Longridge Pt. June 6 (*fide* RDM) was the first for the Hudson Bay lowlands and was way n. of range. Stray Willets were singles at Saudusk L., *Haldimand*, June 4 (HMS) and Aylmer June 9 (GLB, MFB *et al.*). Way off course was the ad. Marbled Godwit at Casselman, *Prescott*, June 16 (BP *et al.*). The one at Longridge Pt. June 7 was the only record

along the n. coast during the survey (*fide* RDM), where the species is a rare summer resident. The lone basic-plumage Semipalmated Sandpiper at Pelee June 16 was the 2nd ever local summer record (AW). Juvenile Wilson's Phalaropes numbered eight at Embrun July 14 (BMD), 10 at Alfred July 20 (BMD), and one in e. Hamilton Bay July 6 (KAM), as this species consolidates its expanded breeding range by relying on sewage lagoons.

The last of the migrant White-rumped Sandpipers winging N were six at Pelee June 16 (AW) and one in e. Hamilton Bay June 18 (KAM). The two ♀ Red-necked Phalaropes at Sudbury June 3 were the 4th ever in spring for that region (JCN). Typically, southbound shorebirds migrated early, with adults appearing s. of breeding areas within a few weeks of the last northbound birds. The Semipalmated Plover at Presqu'île July 2 was early (TFMB), as were the ad. Greater Yellowlegs at Casselman June 23 (BMD) and Pelee June 29 (AW). Five Greaters were migrating along the Hudson Bay at Brand R. June 26 (*fide* RDM). Record early arriving Lesser Yellowlegs were widespread, reaching Hamilton June 19 (AW), Cressy, *Prince Edward*, June 22 (KHg), Forfar, *Leeds*, June 22 (MH), Beaverton June 22 (MJB), and Pelee June 22 (AW). Earliest of many Solitary Sandpipers was the record-setting Pelee bird June 29 (AW). The 20 at Wildwood L., *Oxford*, July 26 were a noteworthy concentration (JMH). The 75 Upland Sandpipers staging near Kirkfield, *Victoria*, July 9 were thought to have originated from the major breeding area of Carden Township (RJP). Forty migrant Whimbrel appeared at Moosonee July 1 (RDM, VS); birds reached the s. at Whitby, Hamilton, Blenheim, and Ottawa July 10–17 (m.ob.). Peak tallies from Longridge Pt. along James Bay included 216 Hudsonian Godwits July 27, 600 Ruddy Turnstones July 26, and 460 White-rumped Sandpipers July 26 (*fide* RDM), none of which were reported in the s. by season's end.

The peak tally of Red Knots at Longridge Pt. reached 1600 July 26 (*fide* RDM), but the species had arrived at Hamilton and Whitby July 2 (KAM, BH *et al.*). For Sanderlings, comparable data were 250 at Longridge Pt. July 26 (*fide* RDM) and arrival at Whitby July 27 (AJ, PH) and Darlington July 28 (BH). Single W. Sandpipers were at Bright's Grove July 21 (SAC, JN) and Smithville July 28 (AE, MS). The 19 Baird's in the south were a record high number for the summer period; its passage appears to have shifted earlier by 2 weeks. Record early single adults arrived at Alfred July 14 (BMD), Tavistock July 18 (JMH), and Pelee July 21 (AW). Early Pectorals reached Schomberg, *York*, June 23 (TH), and Pelee June 29–30, where 83 appeared July 21 (AW). The Stilt Sandpiper flight was remarkably light at 37 birds, but the two adults at Pelee June 30 were record-early arrivals (AW). A Buff-breasted at Atikokan July 22 was early (DHE) and the only report.

A record early ad. Short-billed Dowitcher, *L. g. hendersoni*, was at Pelee June 22–23 (AW); another *L. g. hendersoni* was at Holland Landing July 4 (AJ). The one and two Short-billeds, *L. g. griseus*, at Beaverton June 29 (RJP) and Norwich June 29 (JMH), respectively, were very early. The high tallies for Short-billeds were 114 at Pelee July 13 (AW) and 110 in Hamilton July 11 (KAM). Long-billed Dowitchers were two adults at Port Perry July 15 (RJP) and another at Alfred July 20 (BMD). The only Red-necked Phalarope was a molting female at Port Perry July 13–16 (MJB, BH). Observers noted visible signs of plumage change from one day to the next.

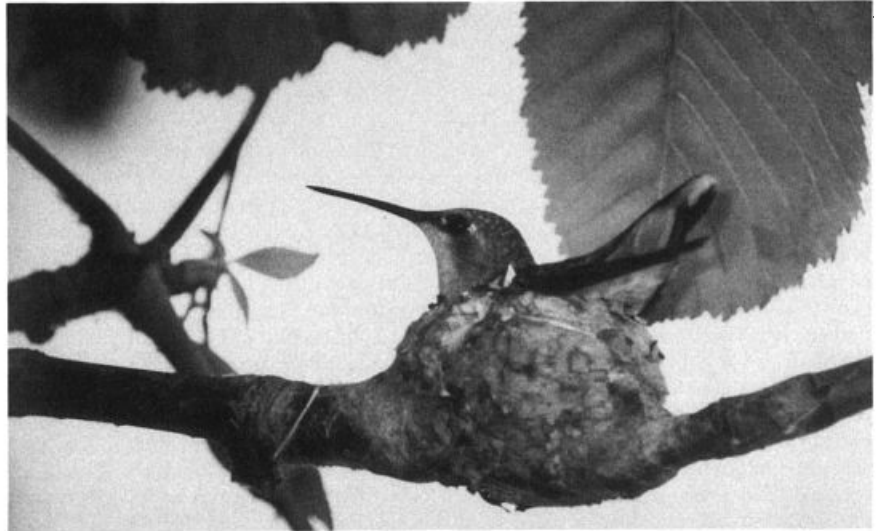
#### JAEGERS TO TERNS

One ad. dark-morph Parasitic Jaeger was offshore Ship Sands I., Moosonee, July 30 (MAK, IT), possibly having wandered south from breeding areas along Hudson Bay. The lone Long-tailed at Longridge Pt. June 11 was a good find (*vide* RDM). The 2 Laughing Gull sightings were one in 2nd-summer plumage at Blenheim June 4 (KJB) and another adult s. of Jarvis, *Haldimand*, on L. Erie (JBM). Some 13 have occurred the past 9 summers. In the south, the only Franklin's Gull was a single at Whitby July 6 in first summer feather (MJB, BH). The 35 Little Gulls in the southwest were about double the summer norm for breeding areas; the only one away from traditional sites was at Beaverton June 15 & 23 (MJB, RGT, DT). Along the n. coast, three adults were at Ship Sands I., Moosonee, July 12 (MAK); another appeared at Longridge Pt. July 31 (*vide* RDM).

The Common Black-headed Gull in breeding plumage at Longridge Pt. July 31 (RHC *et al.*) constituted the first Hudson Bay Lowlands occurrence for this Eurasian straggler. Single Lesser Black-backed were at Long Pt. June 5 (L.P.B.O.) and July 24 (JMH) and at Aldershot July 26 (RZD), providing Hamilton's first summer occurrence. These three equal exactly the 8-year summer average of sightings. One Great Black-backed Gull in 3rd summer plumage was on Ship Sands I. July 11 (MAK), where the species is a rare straggler all along the n. coast. In the south, its numbers continue to rise slowly at Ottawa, where 19 were present June 14 (BMD). *Oxford's* first in summer was in Tillsonburg June 21 (JMH). Among 135 Com. Terns in Whitby harbor July 19 was one adult with its underparts dyed orange (MJB).

#### DOVES TO SHRIKES

Up to 12 Mourning Doves summered in Moosonee; these increased numbers should soon result in nesting (*vide* RDM). Black-billed Cuckoo numbers increased sharply throughout most of s. Ontario; especially large concentrations were reported from *Leeds, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, Algonquin, Durham, Huron, Parry Sound*, and N. Bay. One strayed north to Moosonee July 7 (MAK). The Barn Owl in the Niagara region



Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird on a nest at Port Stanley, Ontario, June 28, 1991. Photograph/Marvin S. Smout.

June 7 (HMS *et al.*) was a good find for this rare species. One ♂ Chuck-will's-widow summered at the tip of Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.), and the ♂ Whip-poor-will in Tillsonburg June 21 was unusual (JMH). The rarity of the period had to be the Green Violet-ear, whose normal range extends from Mexico southward. The brilliantly plumaged bird in Kakabeka Falls, 40 km w. of Thunder Bay, June 30–July 3 (R. Broome *et al.*) was Canada's first.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher spring migration continued until the 2nd week of June, which is typical; but one in Toronto June 24 was extremely tardy (RY). Four ♂ Acadians summered at Walsingham (MEG), as did two in *Oxford* (JMH). Single males were in Pelee June 1 & 16 (NFS *et al.*; AW). A pair of Alder Flycatchers remained in Windsor June 8–15, unusual for *Essex* (AW). The W. Kingbird near Melbourne June 9 (A. White) was the 6th annual occurrence in early June in the past 8 years. Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were an ad. male at Long Pt. June 1 (MD, PJD) and an adult near Spring Bay, Manitoulin I., June 1 (DBF, BF) (1978–90 spring average was 1). Bank Swallows were 1000 at Vroomanton, *Durham*, July 7 (MJB) and 5000 at Wildwood L., *Oxford*, June 30 (JMH), both which were earlier congregations than usual. The Tufted Titmouse at Presqu'île June 22–24 (B & MC) was the only report. Single Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared at Pelee July 11 (GTH) and Long Pt. P.P. July 24 (JMH), which were early arrivals.

Carolina Wrens are prospering! Up to 40 pairs nested in the Long Pt. area (L.P.B.O.), and many nested at Pelee (AW). Five other successful nests were reported in the southwest, and birds summered in Whitby and Kingston. One was in Tobermory in late July (MW). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Kirkfield, *Victoria*, July 11 was the only one n. of range (RJP). Eastern Bluebird breeding success continued to rise, aided by nest boxes.

Some 200 young were raised in a box program near Port Stanley (RAH); the 35 nests with eggs in late July at Matatchewan were 2nd or 3rd broods (LT). Higher numbers were tallied in *Waterloo, Wellington, Oxford*, and Long Pt. The Swainson's Thrush at Woodstock July 21 (JMH) was an early migrant. Wood Thrushes were widespread and common through the Niagara region (J. Jalava). Their numbers remained high on Breeding Bird Surveys through *Leeds, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington*, and *Hastings*.

Successful nesting by N. Mockingbirds was noted at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.), Pickering, for *Durham's* 4th ever (BH *et al.*), Brighton (S & DH), and Ottawa (BMD). Pairs summered north to Matatchewan (LT) and Moosonee (DT *et al.*). A lone Brown Thrasher was n. to Longridge Pt. June 6 (*vide* RDM), where the species is a vagrant in the Hudson Bay lowlands. From this region came the only Bohemian Waxwing report: four at Moosonee June 4 (*vide* RDM). Loggerhead Shrikes raised young at sites in *Middlesex, Victoria, Lanark*, and Ottawa.

#### VIREOS TO FINCHES

Among the late spring migrants were a Solitary Vireo, 50 Red-eyed Vireos, and 25 Am. Redstarts at Long Pt. June 1 (JMH, WL). One Brewster's hybrid was in the Britton Tract, *Haldimand*, June 2 (GMF), and single Lawrence's hybrids were in Ancaster June 6 & 8 (TT, LF), Tillsonburg June 21 (JMH) and Walsingham about July 15 (MEG). The Tennessee Warbler at the tip of Long Pt. June 17 set a record late date (L.P.B.O.), less than 2 weeks before the first southbound migrant was found at Woodstock June 29 (JMH). The Tennessee at Pelee July 13 was considered on time for the first "autumn" migrants (AW), but the Nashville there July 11 set a record early arrival date (GTH). The ad. Yellow-rumped with downy young at the Long Sault Conservation Area, *Durham*, July 26 furnished the first confirmed county breed-

ing (BH). Farther s.w., at Arkell, a ♂ Prairie was on territory June 22–29, for *Wellington's* 3rd ever and the first in summer (RVT). Manitoulin I.'s 3rd Cerulean ever was a male at Windfall L. June 23 (DBF, BF). The strong Kentucky Warbler showing this past spring spilled over into this period, with a male at P.E.Pt. June 1–2 (RTS *et al.*), for the 2nd there of the season. A ♂ Connecticut Warbler remained in suitable habitat at Marsh L., Manitoulin I., June 1–2 & 26 (CJW, CTB *et al.*) but presumably pushed on to the north. The vagrant Hooded Warbler at Presqu'île this past spring remained until July 1, making it the park's first in summer (*vide* SML). Some 22 nests were near Walsingham, *Norfolk*, this summer as part of a special survey of several species (MEG). The ♂ Yellow-breasted Chat at Sarnia June 5 was the only one away from its usual range (SAC).

The ♂ Summer Tanager near Walsingham July 27 was the first July sighting in the Long Pt. area; the species is vagrant anywhere in the south. The Dickcissel pair on Pelee I. in the summer nested twice (PAW), the first provincial nesting since the 1988 invasion. A Vesper Sparrow appeared at Moosonee July 23 (*vide* RDM), where it is an occasional visitor from further south. Up to 8 pairs of Lincoln's Sparrows summered at Wilfred and Sunderland, *Durham* (MJB), s. of the species' main range along the Shield. Also s. of its breeding range was the Dark-eyed Junco at the tip of Long Pt. June 25–26 (L.P.B.O.). Two ♂ Bobolinks at the n. edge of the nesting range were at Gull Bay June 18, about halfway along the w. side of L. Nipigon (NGE). Brewer's Blackbird numbers and range continue to slowly expand. Several new nest sites were along the *Bruce* peninsula (JWJ) and within *Parry Sound*, where numbers of breeders also rose (AM, MAK). Others were in suitable habitat near Kirkfield, *Victoria*, June 15–19 and July 13 (RJP, MJB). Orchard Oriole nestings were reported from *Elgin*, *Waterloo*, *Niagara*, and Toronto's High Park. One bird was in Port Hope June 2 (ERM).

Crossbills remained scarce. The 16 Reds in the Long Sault C.A. in July provided *Durham's* first successful breeding (BH, DHoy); the only others were a pair on Manitoulin I. June 12 (DEB) plus three in Algonquin June 26 (RR, SB). White-winged were more elusive, with about six in Moosonee June 3–5 (RDM), a small group in Matachewan June 23 (LT), and 2 sightings in Algonquin at the end of July (SB). The Evening Grosbeak nest in Smiths Falls, reported in the spring season, resulted in one fledged young June 3 (F & DR).

#### EXOTICS

A free-flying Black Swan at Long Pt. June 9–July 31 associated with a small group of Mute Swans (JDM, RWK); at Presqu'île one Bar-headed Goose appeared June 23 (*vide* SML). A lone Ringed Turtle-Dove frequented a Port Hope feeder July 5–31 (ERM).

**Addenda and Corrigenda:** AB 45:98, col. 4, l.

5, replace Pelee with Kettle Pt.; p. 99, col. 4, l. 13, replace AW with DGC; p. 100, col. 2, l. 18 from bottom, for the *selasphorus*, after Nov. 30 insert "and until Dec. 10"; p. 100, col. 3, l. 15, after the Say's Phoebe entry, insert "An imm. E. Phoebe was n. to Moosonee Aug. 3–4, the area's first (AW, DSh *et al.*)"; p. 100, col. 4, l. 5 from bottom, replace SAC with D & K. McNorton; p. 100, col. 2/3, and p. 101, col. 1/2, for Belted Kingfisher, N. Wheatear, Com. Yellowthroat, Brown-headed Cowbird, Ekwan Pt. lies along James Bay, not Hudson Bay; p. 101, col. 2, l. 3, replace Ontario's 6th Cassin's Sparrow with 7th; p. 101 and 271, col. 3, cited observers, replace Argo with Agro; p. 268, col. 2, last line, replace two adults with one adult; p. 269, col. 3, l. 11, delete AW; p. 269, col. 4, l. 8, replace 116 with 16; p. 270, col. 2, l. 13–14, replace single Red-headed with single Red-bellied; p. 270, col. 3, l. 7 of Thrushes, replace Dec. 3 with Dec. 30; p. 270, col. 4, l. 7, replace Jan. 1–2 with Jan. 1–21; p. 271, col. 2, l. 4 from bottom, replace Ontario's 2nd ever Brambling with Ontario's 3rd.

#### Subregional editors (boldface), contributors (italics), and cited observers:

R.F. Andrie, D.E. Bailey, M.J. Bain, T.F.M. Beck, C.T. Bell, *G. Bellerby*, S. Blaney, C.G. Blomme, G.L. Bowlby, M.F. Bowlby, R.L. Bowles, *H. Bremner*, D.N. Bucknell, K.J. Burke, K. Burtch, J. Bushley, M.D. Cadman, *A.G. Carpentier*, T. Cheskey, B. & M. Collins, S.A. Connop, *H.G. Currie*, R.H. Curry, D.P. Davis, J. & M. Dawdy, P.J. Derbyshire, B.M. DiLabio, *D.C. Dister*, R.Z. Dobos, M. Dyer, D.H. Elder, A. Epp, N.G. Escott, G.M. Fairfield, L. Fazio, V. Fazio, B. Ferguson, D.B. Ferguson, D. Fidler, J.N. Flynn, *F. Foster*, M.E. Gartshore, P. Good, J.M. Gordon, S. & D. Hadlington, R. Hayward, M.E. Hebb, M. Hendrick (MH), K. Hennige (KHg), B. Henshaw, K. Henshaw (KH), J. Heslop, G.T. Hince, T. Hofmann, P. Holder, J.M. Holdsworth, K. Hooles (KHo), R.A. Hurst, A. Jaramillo, J.W. Johnson, J. Joyce (JJ), R.W. Knapton, M.A. Kubisz, S.M. LaForest, R. Lambert, G. Lannan, J.G. Lemon, W. Lindley, Long Point Bird Observatory, D.A. Martin, J.D. McCracken, E.R. McDonald, W.D. McIlveen, *K. McKeever*, K.A. McLaughlin, S.R. McLeod, R.D. McRae, A.W. McTavish, *C. Michener*, J.B. Miles, A. Mills, T.R. Murray, J. Neil (JN), J.C. Nicholson, B. Pensey, S.F. Peruniak, *R.J. Pittaway*, P.A. Read, P.W. Richter, *A.H. Rider*, F. & D. Robinson, K. Ross, K.J. Roy, M. Runtz, R. Russell, D.C. Sadler, N.F. Sherwood, J. Skevington, W. Smith, M.S. Smout, R.T. Sprague, H.M. Street, V. Sutherland, R.D. Tafel, T. Talevi, L. Taman, J.E. Thompson, W. Thompson, D. Tozer, R.G. Tozer, I. Turner, R.V. Twest, H.V. Ulden, A. Walker (AWr), G.E. Wallace, R.D. Weir, C.J. Whitelaw, M. Wiercinski, P.A. Woodliffe, A. Wormington (AW), B.K. Wyatt, R. Yukich.—RON D. WEIR, 294 Elmwood Street, Kingston, ON K7M 2Y8.

## APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

The mild spring was followed by a hot summer. At Pittsburgh, the two months accumulated a temperature excess of 247 day-degrees. It was also very dry at most places. What rainfall there was came in the form of heavy downpours; while total precipitations seemed satisfactory, most of it was rapid runoff. Water levels were greatly lowered in many places. The high temperatures and low precipitation produced an early beginning of autumn conditions in late July, as trees began to turn and leaves to fall.

The warm, dry weather made for good nesting conditions; most birds seemed to have good breeding success. Berry and other wild fruit crops were heavy in most places. Eastern West Virginia and Western Virginia experienced another heavy infestation of gypsy moths.

An unusual number of spring migrants remained in the Region after June 1; the fall migration also began rather early.

From reports on hand, it was not possible to comment on many population trends. However, there were more reports of species in low than in high numbers. Fewer than normal reports came in this summer. Does the absence of reports for most warbler species mean that populations were low, or did birders just not investigate them?

The trend for some northern species to extend their breeding ranges southward (or downslope) continues, as will be noted for Hermit Thrush and Magnolia Warbler, among others. This year the Savannah Sparrow also got into the act. Blue Grosbeak and Yellow-throated Warbler continued their northward expansions. There were a few rarities, including a new species for the Pennsylvania list.

Finally, we remark upon the young Woodchuck that ate a Cardinal and Blue Jay in a Canfield, Ohio, backyard (NB).

**Abbreviations:** B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); Ch.N.F. (*Chattahoochee Natl. Forest, GA*); K.C.P.P. (*Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia Co., OH*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*).

#### LOONS TO HERONS

A Com. Loon was on Mosquito L., OH, all season (D & JH, CB); at least six other birds were reported, ranging from Pymatuning L., PA (RFL, EB) to S. Holston L., TN (SS) A Pied-billed Grebe at B.E.S.P. July 21 may have nested there (MW), and young grebes were at Blennerhassett Is., WV, July 2 (KC).

The bird of the season was a **Brown Pelican** seen at several locations along the L. Erie shore in *Erie*, PA, and *Ashabula*, OH, July

22 (JB, *vide* JM). If approved by the Records Committee, this will be the first Pennsylvania record. Double-crested Cormorants continued to be sighted throughout the summer, at 7 locations in Pennsylvania and 2 in Ohio; as yet there have been no breeding reports. Cormorants were also in *Pendleton*, WV, June 12 (SM), *Buncombe*, NC, June 25 (RY), Watauga L., TN, June 14 (RK), and S. Holston L., TN (SS).

Three Least Bitterns were heard at Akeley Swamp, *Warren*, PA, June 5 (TG & DW). The *Mercer*, PA, heronries had a count of 840 adults, who produced 880 chicks (EB). Two nests of Great Blue Herons were near Stahlstown, PA (RCL & RM). Great Egrets were present all season in *Erie*, PA (RMc), *Wood*, WV (JE), and the Knoxville, TN, area (A & RH). The only report of Little Blue Heron was an immature at Roanoke, VA, July 27 (MS, MA, MD). Ten ad. Cattle Egrets with at least 5 nests were in *Jefferson*, TN, June 27 (RH). This was probably the first nesting in e. Tennessee. Green-backed Herons were thought to be more common than usual in *Elk*, PA (LC). There was a colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons with 22 nests near Elkton, VA (CT); this species also apparently nested near Waynesboro, VA (RS). Up to 18 birds were present all season at Boone L., TN (SS). Two nests of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Elizabethton, TN (RK).

#### WATERFOWL TO RAILS

Summer waterfowl records are usually in short supply, but this year an unusual number of species were reported. Perhaps the most unusual was an imm. Snow Goose at Pymatuning L., PA, July 13 (RFL). From P.I.S.P. came reports of Gadwall June 16, Redhead June 6, Lesser Scaup June 13, Com. Goldeneye all season, Bufflehead July 31, and Red-breasted Merganser June 12 (JM). A pair of Ring-necked Ducks were at Somerset L., PA, until June 24, with the female remaining until the end of the period (AM); a male was at Hartstown, PA June 25–July 2 (RCL). More suggestive of possible nesting were several Green-winged Teal records: a pair at P.I.S.P. June 12 (DS), one at Warren, PA, June 26 (CP), and one in *Washington*, TN, until June 11 (RK). A ♂ Hooded Merganser at the Kingston Steam Plant, TN, Aug. 1 (AH) was very early if a migrant.

Black Vultures at Ravenswood, WV, June 6 and *Washington*, OH, June 10 (RJ), and *Fayette*, WV, June 27 (GB) were slightly n. of the normal range. The Ospreys nesting in *Somerset*, PA, lost one of their two young in stormy weather but apparently raised the other one (AM). An Osprey all summer at



Blennerhassett Is., WV, may have been one hatched there in 1989. An *American Swallow-tailed Kite* was at Latrobe Res., PA, June 22, the first w. Pennsylvania record accepted by the Records Committee (R & BM).

The Bald Eagle picture continues to be rosy. The 3 W. Virginia nests fledged five young (CS); at Pymatuning L., PA, the nest failed, but 2 nests in *Crawford* had five eaglets (EB); the *Butler*, PA, nest fledged three (PH),

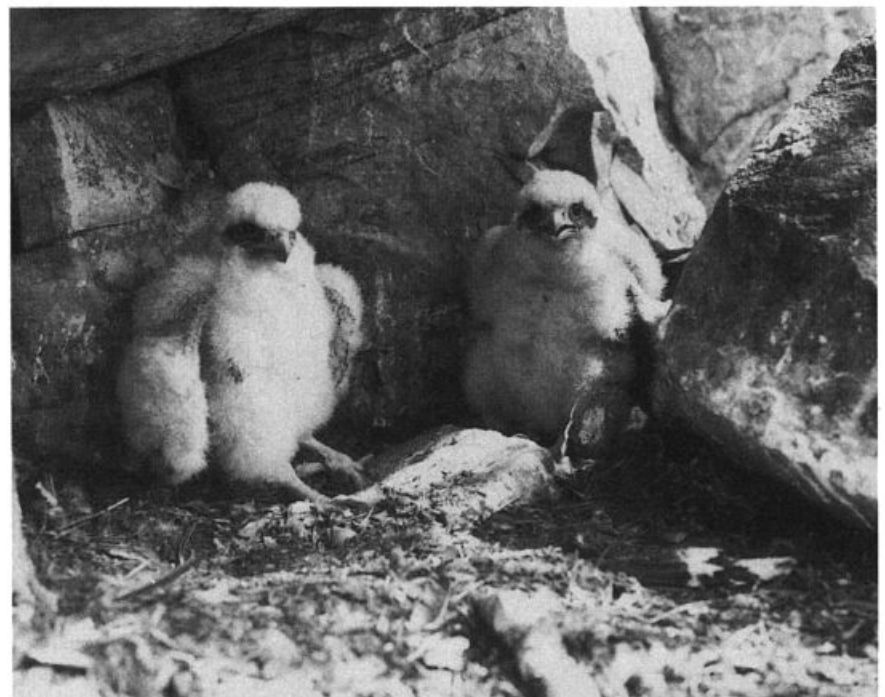
and the Mosquito L., OH, nest fledged one (DH). In addition to the nestings, there were single sightings, mostly of immatures from 7 locations from P.I.S.P. (JM) in the north to *Union*, GA in the south (DF).

The N. Harrier continues to be more common than in the past, particularly on restored surface mines, but no confirmed nestings were reported this year. They were present all season at P.I.S.P. (JM) and in *Somerset*, PA (AM); other reports came from Scandia, PA, June 15–16 (DW) and Pymatuning L., PA, June 22 (RFL). An active N. Goshawk nest was located in *Elk*, PA, June 23 (DWO). Other summer reports came from near Warren, PA, July 17 (TK) and North Fork Mt., WV, June 20 (MG). There were very few comments about the other hawk species. Broad-winged Hawks were felt to be in below-normal numbers in parts of W. Virginia (GB).

Of 43 nest boxes for Am. Kestrels in *Warren*, PA, 35

were occupied, 170 eggs were laid, 116 were hatched, and 113 birds were fledged (DW). On the unusual side was a flock of 10 Kestrels in *Somerset*, PA, July 19 (AM). The Peregrine nest on North Fork Mt., *Grant*, WV, fledged two young (ph.), but the *Pendleton* nest on the same mountain failed (CS).

In Ch.N.E., there were fewer than normal young Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkeys (HD), while in the Shenandoah Valley, VA,



Two Peregrine Falcon chicks in a nest in Grant County, West Virginia, June 7, 1991. Photograph/Craig Stihler.

broods were smaller than normal, although more numerous. Two ad. and 12 young Virginia Rails were near Edinboro, PA, June 1, the first local breeding confirmation in this century (DS). A juv. Virginia Rail was at K.C.P.P. June 8 & 15 (WA, MG). Three Virginia Rails were in *Trumbull*, OH, June 10 (CB) and July 14 (DH). Common Moorhens were reports from *Trumbull*, OH, June 10 (CB) and Akeley Swamp, *Warren*, PA, July 15 (BW), while 35, including several young, were at Hartstown Marsh, *Crawford*, PA, June 22 (RFL & RCL). An Am. Coot at K.C.P.P. July 27 was unusual (MG).

#### SHOREBIRDS TO WOODPECKERS

There were still a few northbound shorebirds in early June, and apparently southbound birds showed up before July 1. Most of these were the common "Peeps" and the two Yellowlegs, but a few more interesting things were noted. As usual, most rarities were reported from P.I.S.P.: Am. Avocet (13th county record), July 21 (F & BH); Willet, June 7 and July 7 (JM), Whimbrel July 12, 13, & 25 (m.ob.), and Marbled Godwit July 7 (13th record) (JM, GR). Black-bellied Plovers were reported from P.I.S.P. June 8 (GR) and Roanoke, VA, June 1 (MB). More W. Sandpipers were reported than usual. There was an unusual number of Short-billed Dowitchers: *Crawford*, PA, July 2-22 (10 on July 13) (RFL); *Cumberland*, MD, June 23 (MT); *Harrisonburg*, VA (CM, KF); *Washington*, TN, July 19-20 (RK, DHu); and E.B.F.H.

July 18 (AH). The dry summer will have mixed results on the rest of the fall migration, as the birds will be concentrated in the few remaining wet areas.

An ad. Ring-billed Gull at Kingston Steam Plant, TN, Aug. 1 was unusual (AH). Two Caspian Terns were seen at Shawnee S.P., PA, July 18 (LC). Six Com. Terns were at Burr Oak L., *Morgan*, OH, June 1 (LB), while Forster's Terns were reported from Mosquito L., OH, July 8 (DH) and 3 locations in *Erie* July 13 (EK, JM). Only one pair of Black Terns was found in June at the Hartstown Marsh, PA (RFL), and one was seen at Pyramating L., PA, June 2 (DH).

An indication of the increasing Mourning Dove population was 69 at an *Elk* feeder July 2 (LC). Cuckoos brought mixed reactions. Both species were almost completely absent from most of W. Virginia, but in w. Pennsylvania both were exceptionally common (PH), possibly due to the gypsy moth infestation. At Pipestem S.P., WV, both species showed up in late July, coincident with a white tussock moth outbreak (JP). In the Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, Black-billed Cuckoos were more common than Yellow-billed, a reversal of the usual situation (CM). The only report of Barn Owl came from *Augusta*, VA, where one nesting was confirmed as well as fresh pellets; however, no owls were seen at a previous nest site (RS). A N. Saw-whet Owl was heard at the Barrens, *Centre*, PA, June 2 (JPe). Chuck-will's-widows were calling in *Fulton*, PA, from late May to mid-June (CG, KG). Whip-poor-will seems al-

most gone from the Region. Only one was heard at Elkton, VA (MSm), but numbers were good at *Centre*, PA (JPe). There was good news about Red-headed Woodpeckers, which were reported from *Trumbull*, OH (DH), *Mifflin*, PA (JPe), *Rockingham*, VA (CM), and *Washington* and *Sullivan*, TN (RK). Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to increase in the north, with a record count of 19 on a n. W. Virginia B.B.S. count (RB).

#### FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

The only reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers came from Cranberry Glades, WV, and another *Pocahontas*, WV, location July 20 (GB). The E. Wood-Pewee was in below-normal numbers in the State College, PA, region (JPe) and in n.e. W. Virginia (GAH). Two Yellow-bellied Flycatcher nestings were discovered in *Sullivan*, PA (DG). Acadian Flycatchers were in unusually large numbers in w. Pennsylvania (PH, JPe) and n. W. Virginia (RB). Alder Flycatchers were in increased numbers in the *Centre*, PA, Barrens (JPe) and were found for the 2nd year at an elevation of 2500 ft. near Elizabethton, TN, as well as on Roan Mt. (RK). Thirty-three singing ♂ Willow Flycatchers were in s.w. *Athens*, OH, and another 16 in the e. part of the county, indicating a range expansion in that area (VF). They occurred at Princeton, WV, for the first time in several years (JP). The first migrant Least Flycatchers were at P.N.R. July 11 (RM & RCL), and migrants were at Clarksville, PA, July 9 (RB).

There was one pair of Tree Swallows nesting in *Sullivan* and *Washington*, TN (RK), and young were fledged at Elkton, VA (MSm). Two new Bank Swallows nesting sites were reported: *Conneaut Marsh*, PA (50 adults) (RFL) and *Gavin Power Plant*, OH (10-12 nests) (WA), but a previous site at Gallipolis Dam on the Ohio R. has been destroyed by new construction (WA). The Cliff Swallow continues to increase in the north, with a colony of 40 nests at *Moraine S.P.*, PA, where there were 5 last year (PH), and 3 colonies in *Crawford*, PA (RFL). They are also increasing to the south, where the biggest colony near Elizabethton, TN, now has 45 nests (RK).

Two Brown Creeper nests were at Mosquito L., OH, in June (D & JH), while one at a State College, PA, feeder July 18 (MW), and 3 in Shenandoah N.P. July 31 (MSm) indicated possible breeding at those locations. Carolina Wren populations are booming throughout the Region, even in the north, and they were found at 4000 ft. in West Virginia (GB). Bewick's Wren was unreported again. There were 3 summer records for Winter Wrens in Shenandoah N.P., where they have not been known to breed (MSm). A Sedge Wren was reported from Mosquito L., OH, July 8-9 (DH). Marsh Wrens were reported from *Columbiana*, OH, June 11 (NB) and from the Shenango Wildlife Management Area, *Trumbull*, OH, July 14 (DH).

In *Augusta*, VA, 38 nest boxes produced an



Marbled Godwit [center] at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1991. Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

estimated 180 young E. Bluebirds (RS). The Veery is declining as an *Erie*, PA, breeding bird (JM) but was unusually numerous in the Michaux S.F., PA (CG); two were heard in *Columbiana*, OH, June 9 (NB). A Swainson's Thrush was heard in *Forest*, PA (CP), and the disjunct population in the Cheat Mts. of W. Virginia was in good numbers this year (GAH). A Hermit Thrush was on Roan Mt., TN, June 11 (RK). No breeding has been established there, but for the last 10 years or so one or two birds have been seen per year. The Wood Thrush seems to be doing better; most observers reported them in better numbers than in recent years, although they were still scarce in some places.

Cedar Waxwings were more common than normal at most places. In the Shenandoah Valley, this was attributed to the gypsy moth outbreak (CM). The only Loggerhead Shrikes report was 3 sightings in *Washington*, TN (RK). Solitary Vireos were at elevations below 2000 ft. in *Buncombe*, NC (RY).

### WARBLERS TO FINCHES

There was general agreement that Ovenbirds, Yellow-breasted Chats, Prairie Warblers, and Yellow Warblers were in low numbers, but most other species brought mixed reports, with more lows than highs. Several species drew no comments at all. In the subalpine area of West Virginia, Blackburnian and Black-throated Green warblers were in low numbers, but the other residents seemed normal (GAH).

A "Brewster's" Warbler was at Michaux S.P., PA, June 14-21 (CG). The N. Parula continues to adapt to ornamental conifers of sufficient age and is becoming a "domestic" bird in places. Magnolia Warbler has been moving its range S and was found this summer on Unaka Mt., TN (FA & JN). As yet, no state nesting has been confirmed. Yellow-rumped Warbler has now extended its range to include most of the spruce belt in West Virginia and should be expected s. of there soon. An expansion in the other direction was shown by the Yellow-throated Warbler, which is still moving N and still increasing in the south.

A Cerulean Warbler in *Buncombe*, NC, July 14 was noteworthy for that area. No other reporter mentioned this species, which is thought to be in trouble. On the bright side, Prothonotary Warblers were more common than usual at Blennerhassett Is., WV (JE), and 3 nests were at Mosquito L., OH (J & DH). Swainson's Warbler was reported as holding its own in s. W. Virginia (GB). One was in Green Ridge S.P., MD, June 6 (MT); they were found at a new location in *Johnson*, TN (RK).

Two early fall migrants at P.N.R. were N. Waterthrush July 22 and Tennessee Warbler July 25 (RM & RCL).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have increased as breeding birds in *Greene*, PA, a lower elevation than the normal range (RB). Blue Gros-

beaks are another expanding species and are now found even in the mountain valleys of n.e. Tennessee (RK), as well as the hill country of s.e. Ohio (VF). The only reports of Dickcissel came from e. Tennessee: *Washington*, mid-May to mid-July (DHu), and *Blount* July 13 (A & RH).

Grassland sparrows seem to be doing well at most places, but they were scarce in *Centre*, PA (JPe). Grasshopper Sparrow was in better numbers than in recent years and was found at locations in *Athens*, OH, where the recently completed Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas had failed to locate them (VF). After several years of scarcity, Henslow's Sparrow was widely reported and was generally in good numbers. At least 10 singing ♂ Savannah Sparrows appeared in *Johnson*, TN, where there had been only 4 previous summer records. Copulation was observed, but no nests were found. Savannah Sparrows in *Athens*, OH (VF) and *Augusta*, VA (RS) were out of the normal range. A White-crowned Sparrow at P.I.S.P. June 12 was remarkably late (DS).

Three hundred or more Bobolinks in McKean Township, *Erie*, PA, through July was a noteworthy number. A N. Oriole in *Wilson*, TN, June 23 was unusual that far south (R & AH). Red Crossbills were thought to be in lower-than-normal numbers at the regular station in Shenandoah Mt., VA (CM). There were two unusually late strays from the winter-spring season: two Pine Siskins at a *Centre*, PA, feeder (MW) and an Evening Grosbeak at an Edinboro, PA, feeder until June 11 (JHo).

**Contributors:** Richard Almy, Fred Alsop, Wendell Argabrite, Jim Ayres, Carol Babyak, Lynn Barnhart, James Baxter, Ralph Bell, George Breiding, Edward Brucker, Nancy Brundage, Kathy Cane, Linda Christenson, John Churchill, Alan Clark, David Davis, Harriet DiGioia, Mike Donahue, Jeanette Esker, Victor Fazio, Kathleen Finnegan, Dot Freeman, Ken Gabler, Carl Garner, Steven Grado, Mike Griffith, Ted Grisez, Doug Gross, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, John Heninger, Paul Hess, William Highhouse, Robert Hilton, David Hochadel (DH), Judy Hochadel (JH), Audrey Hoff, Ron Hoff, Joan Howlett (JHo), Dan Huffine (DHu), Rexine Johnson, Ted Kirsch, Rick Knight, Ed Kwater, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Steven Manns, Anthony Marich, Robin McClanahan (RMc), Jerry McWilliams, Clair Mellinger, Bonnie Mulvihill, Robert Mulvihill (RM), Jerry Nagle, John Peplinski (JPe), Jim Phillips (JP), Chase Putnam, Geoffrey Robinson, Mike Smith (MS) (Roanoke), Mike Smith (MSm) (Elkton), Donald Snyder, Ruth Snyder, Craig Stihler, Stan Strickland, Craig Tumer, Mary Twigg, Brenda Watts, Don Watts (DW), David Wolfe (DWO), Merrill Wood, Ruth Young.—**GEORGE A. HALL, P. O. Box 6045, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6045.**

## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

Weather conditions were highly variable. Parts of the Region suffered from excessive rainfall, with considerable flooding (i.e., southern Minnesota, Mississippi River), while others had drought (i.e., southern Wisconsin, northwestern Minnesota). Sections were declared disaster areas for both excessive and inadequate precipitation.

Temperatures followed a similar pattern, at times fluctuating like a roller coaster, but generally averaging above normal. Minnesota characterized the period as pleasant. Wisconsin had temperatures that altered between excessively hot and unusually cool. Both months were hot in Michigan.

Rainfall varied considerably in each state and between the months. The spring had been unusually moist, yielding a remarkably lush, green canopy. Thus it was surprising for many areas to suddenly find drought conditions quickly appearing in June. Relief from this dry period was variable. Some sections began receiving replenishing rain in July, while others began drawing parallels to the 1988 drought. Minnesota had adequate to excessive rainfall for most sections except the northwest corner. For Wisconsin, it ranged between excellent in the north to drought in the south. In Michigan, June was dry, but July precipitation returned to normal.

If last summer was dull, how does one characterize this year? It was exceptionally quiet, with few rarities. As June commenced, some passerines were still migrating north. Shorebird movement was better than last year (18 vs. 12 species) but was still below previous summers. In fact, shorebird movement for the entire period was very poor. The one exception was Michigan's Point Mouillee, where impressive numbers were recorded in late July. In contrast to last year, there was a detectable fall passerine movement in July, but it was not of the dimension of preceding summers. In summary, this was a summer with too much contrasting weather and too little ornithological excitement.

**Abbreviations:** P.M.S.G.A. (*Point Mouillee State Game Area, MI*); W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa Co., MI*).

### LOONS TO IBISES

The Red-throated Loon June 1 at W.B.P.O. was a late spring migrant (DK). The individual seen July 1 in *St. Louis* (M & DE) represented only the 4th July sighting for Minnesota. A Horned Grebe was tardy June 9 at Metrobeach, MI (DL). Red-necked Grebes were breeding in at least 4 Wisconsin counties, with maximum totals of 14 at L. Maria (TSh) and 60 at Rush L. (Z). The Eared



Hawks made news in Minnesota, with 3 unusual sightings. An ad. Ferruginous Hawk was found July 22 (KE *et al.*), with a first summer bird present July 24 (PS) in *Clay*. A Rough-legged Hawk was present June 28–30 in *Aitkin* (WN *et al.*), for one of the state's few summer sightings. Last, a Prairie Falcon was seen July 24 in *Marshall* (AJ, MHe), for the state's first July record. Disconcerting was the small number of Yellow and King rail reports. Was this because both species were scarce this summer, or that observers failed to check suitable habitat?

### SHOREBIRDS

Eighteen species extended their spring migration into June. The fall migration commenced as early as June 23, with very little distinction between late spring migrants, summering individuals, and the return of fall migrants. All 3 states had interesting sightings, although habitat in Wisconsin and Michigan

was considered poor. While Minnesota had excellent habitat, especially in the s. areas, observers nevertheless lamented the poor movement. Wisconsin's observations of note included Semipalmated Plover until June 13 at Milwaukee (RD), with the first fall migrant at Manitowoc June 29 (TS). Greater Yellowlegs commenced returning early, with individuals in *Winnebago* June 25 and later (TZ), while Lesser Yellowlegs appeared June 23 at Madison (EH). Willets were found at Superior June 27 (RJo) and at Milwaukee June 26 (BB, RD) and July 20 (MK). Whimbrels lingered into early June at Ashland (Tsy) and Manitowoc (CS), with an injured bird in *Sheboygan* June 22 (D & MB, RD). As usual, Ruddy Turnstones remained at Manitowoc into June, with 175 on June 1 and the last migrant on June 22 (CS). Summering/fall migrants appeared at Sheboygan thereafter (D & MB). A tardy Sanderling was at Milwaukee June 20 (MK). Both Semipalmated and Least sandpipers began migrating S June 23, with birds found at Madison (EH). White-rumped Sandpipers were at Milwaukee June 12–27 (RD). Dunlins lingered until June 25 at Manitowoc (CS) and June 27 at Milwaukee (RD). Very early was a Short-billed Dowitcher at Milwaukee June 24 and later (BB).

Grebe June 2 at Houghton L., *Roscommon*, MI (DB) was a tardy migrant, but the individual in *Newaygo*, MI, June 18–25 and July 9–17 (ES, GW) was undoubtedly summering. Again this year, Eareds summered on Rush L., WI. However, the pair only remained through June 25 (TZ). Good numbers of Eareds were reported in Minnesota (PS), where they are more common. Again, this summer a pair of W. Grebes nested at Rush L., where last year they established Wisconsin's first nesting record. Unfortunately, the nest was found destroyed on June 25 (TZ). Good numbers were found in Minnesota, including nesting in *Hennepin* (OJ). Minnesota had its first *Clark's Grebe* nesting record, when a pair with two young was discovered July 27+ on L. Traverse (KE *et al.*). As the lake forms the boundary between Minnesota and South Dakota, it is unknown which state actually contained the nest. In addition, one was reported June 8 in *Big Stone* (PS *et al.*). These 2 sightings represented the 5th and 6th state records.

A *Brown Pelican* was watched July 26 at Munising, MI (*fide* MH). American White Pelicans were increasing in e. Minnesota. Observations in the other 2 states were limited, with Wisconsin having two at Green Bay June 16 into July (m.ob.) and one at Milwaukee July 22 (RD), while Michigan had two June 3–5 on Muskegon L. (m.ob.). Southern herons continue to be scarce in the Region, with the exception of Cattle Egrets, which showed a limited increase. Snowy Egrets totaled six in Wisconsin (five at Green Bay, where it nested), three for Michigan, and two in Minnesota. Single Little Blue Herons were found June 1 at Galien (JJ) and between June 8–July 14 (DC, DB *et al.*), both Michigan, and June 14 in *Rock*, MN (ND *et al.*). Michigan had a maximum of four Cattle Egrets,

but Wisconsin had a good nesting colony (18 pairs) at Green Bay (TE), while Minnesota had multiple sightings in 5 counties. Wisconsin had nesting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, again along the Sugar R. in *Rock* (m.ob.), while one was seen at Green Bay June 2–6 (MK, RD). One was seen June 10 in *Dakota*, MI (PS). Belated reports for ibises included a White-faced May 20 at Waseca, MN (WS) and three *Plegadis* intermittently at Heron L., *Jackson*, MN, in mid-May. For the summer, a *Plegadis* was seen July 14 in *Traverse*, MN (IL), and four Glossy Ibises were at P.M.S.G.A. between June 29–July 27 (m.ob.).

### SWANS TO RAILS

A Tundra Swan summered at Ashland, WI (DV), with one present June 8–22 at P.M.S.G.A. (PC). Most unusual was a Brant at Marquette, MI, July 3–22 (NI, WP, TR, ph.). Northern Pintails bred in Nyanquing W.A. (RWO), a rare record for Michigan. Summer records of Canvasbacks included Port Washington, WI, June 30 (BG), Nyanquing W.A. July 13 (RW), and eight at P.M.S.G.A. (PC, DB *et al.*). In Wisconsin, other unusual duck sightings included Ring-necked in *Columbia* and *Dane*, Greater Scaup at Manitowoc until July 11 (CS *et al.*), Lesser Scaups in 5 counties, an Oldsquaw on the absurd date of June 4 at Manitowoc (CSO), and Red-breasted Mergansers in 3 s. Lake Michigan counties. Also unusual was an imm. ♂ Surf Scoter that summered in *Cook*, MI (R & DR).

Out-of-range Ospreys included June 11 in *Lafayette*, WI (JF), July 24 in *Dane*, WI (KB), and July 20 at Berrien Springs, MI (CH). The N. Goshawk that attempted to nest in *Kalamazoo*, MI, was s. of its normal range.

Minnesota had no Piping Plover sightings, which was unusual for the state. Five counties reported Am. Avocets. Two of these attempted nesting, with both nests in *Polk* unsuccessful due to high water levels (PS), while the nest in *Lac Qui Parle* fledged one young (m.ob.). Both yellowlegs began fall migration early, with five Greater in *Lyon* June 21 (HK) and both species in Winona June 23 (CSc). Willets appeared in *Traverse* July 29 (C & MB) and *Big Stone* (July 0 (HK)). Twenty Marbled Godwits were present June 13 in *Polk* (PS). A juv. W. Sandpiper was seen July

was considered poor. While Minnesota had excellent habitat, especially in the s. areas, observers nevertheless lamented the poor movement. Wisconsin's observations of note included Semipalmated Plover until June 13 at Milwaukee (RD), with the first fall migrant at Manitowoc June 29 (TS). Greater Yellowlegs commenced returning early, with individuals in *Winnebago* June 25 and later (TZ), while Lesser Yellowlegs appeared June 23 at Madison (EH). Willets were found at Superior June 27 (RJo) and at Milwaukee June 26 (BB, RD) and July 20 (MK). Whimbrels lingered into early June at Ashland (Tsy) and Manitowoc (CS), with an injured bird in *Sheboygan* June 22 (D & MB, RD). As usual, Ruddy Turnstones remained at Manitowoc into June, with 175 on June 1 and the last migrant on June 22 (CS). Summering/fall migrants appeared at Sheboygan thereafter (D & MB). A tardy Sanderling was at Milwaukee June 20 (MK). Both Semipalmated and Least sandpipers began migrating S June 23, with birds found at Madison (EH). White-rumped Sandpipers were at Milwaukee June 12–27 (RD). Dunlins lingered until June 25 at Manitowoc (CS) and June 27 at Milwaukee (RD). Very early was a Short-billed Dowitcher at Milwaukee June 24 and later (BB).



27 in *Martin* (RG, RJ). Least Sandpipers appeared June 23 in Winona (CS). A Reeve was watched by Svingen in *Anoka* July 31. The Short-billed Dowitcher June 29 in *Sibley* was the 2nd earliest fall record for Minnesota (RJ). Representing the 3rd earliest fall record was the Long-billed Dowitcher July 10 in *Polk* (PS).

Michigan's contributions included single Piping Plovers June 10 at Deer Park (DE), June 15 at Cheboygan (DE), July 18 at St. Joseph (RS), and two July 6 at Tawas Pt. S.P. (RW). Four Am. Avocets were at Port Sheldon July 17 (C & CP, FS, JW *et al.*). Up to four Willets were in *Berrien* between June 8–July 23 (RSc, RS, IG *et al.*). Spring migrant Whimbrels included 20 June 1 at W.P.B.O. (DB) and one June 8 at P.M.S.G.A. (PC, JR), while fall migrants included three July 13 at Karn Plant (MW, RW) and one July 14 at P.M.S.G.A. (DB). A Marbled Godwit was also at the Karn Plant June 15 (JS). Leasure identified a W. Sandpiper at the Chesterfield Ponds July 19. A tardy Red-necked Phalarope was at the Dow Ponds June 4–6 (RW). Impressive numbers of fall migrants at P.M.S.G.A. included 660 L. Yellowlegs and 840 Semipalmated Sandpipers July 27 (PC, GB, CP), 800 Least Sandpipers, and 1300 Short-billed Dowitchers July 13 (PC, TSm, TW).

#### GULLS TO FLYCATCHERS

Laughing Gulls made a surprising showing in Wisconsin, with three adults present at Green Bay (TE), four (three adults, one immature) at Manitowoc until July 7 (CS *et al.*), while six (three adults, three immatures) were present at Milwaukee (BB, RD, MK *et al.*). Michigan had one June 22 at St. Joseph (RS). Franklin's Gulls were also found at Manitowoc and Milwaukee, providing excellent side-by-side comparisons to the Laughings. At Manitowoc, two were present June 12–July 11, with four all summer at Milwaukee. In addition, birds were present at Ashland June 16–July 14 (DV). Michigan had two between June 23–July 25 in *Berrien* (RS, DC). Manitowoc had the summer monopoly on Little Gulls, with a maximum of 16 (the most in years) (m.ob.). Sontag discovered an ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** at the Manitowoc impoundment June 11. A few lucky birders were able to see it before it disappeared June 13 (K & DL, JN). Michigan had a more cooperative individual between June 22–29 at the Erie Marsh Preserve (PC, TW *et al.*). Wisconsin recorded its 3rd **California Gull** (all hypothetical owing to no photos or multiple sightings), when Robbins and Foster found an adult at Two Rivers July 22. Diligent searching by many birders failed to relocate it on ensuing days. Most unusual was an Iceland Gull that remained at Manitowoc through June 29 (CS *et al.*). Impressive were the 550 Black Terns at P.M.S.G.A. July 27 (PC, GB, CP).

At least two **Great Gray Owls** were found in *Douglas*, WI, between June 20–July 16 (LS

*et al.*). A family of Long-eared Owls in *Kandiyohi* represented a rare breeding record for s. Minnesota (JRo). A **Chuck-will's-widow**, discovered in late May in *Oconto*, WI, called well into July (m.ob.). A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** visited the Burgbacher feeder in *Price*, WI, July 20–22. This represents one of the few state records for this species. Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in 5 Wisconsin counties, with the pair June 13 in *Monominee* exceptionally far south (RH). Michigan had no summer sightings, which was unusual. The Olive-sided Flycatcher in *Adams*, WI, July 28 undoubtedly represented an early fall migrant (KB). A W. Kingbird summered near Winn, MI (HD, DC), as last year. Minnesota had good numbers in *Traverse*, but in the s.w. section numbers remained low. At least two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in Minnesota. An immature was present July 10–11 in *Lac Qui Parle* (C & MB), while probably the same adult was found July 15 in *Anoka* (RK) and July 19 in *St. Louis* (BU, KE).

#### SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

Black-billed Magpies again nested in *Aitkin*, MN (WN). Only one Red-breasted Nuthatch was present in Madison, WI, this summer, where a pair fledged young last year. Carolina Wrens were found in 8 Michigan counties, with nesting confirmed in four. Wisconsin had observations from 3 sites, including L. Geneva July 31 (PP), a new locale. Hard to explain was a Golden-crowned Kinglet July 2 in *Waukesha*, WI (KB) and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet June 11 in *Green*, WI (K & DL).

Minnesota's Mountain Bluebird pair again nested in *Marshall*, with six fledged from the first brood June 6 (JRm). There was an additional individual in *Kittson* July 9 (AJ, MH). Very early fall migrant Swainson's Thrushes were in *Hennepin*, MN, July 26 (SC) and in Madison, WI, July 28 (EH). Northern Mockingbirds were in all 3 states, led by Michigan's four, followed by Wisconsin with two and Minnesota with one. Regionally, the Loggerhead Shrike picture continues to be bleak. Minnesota had the only reason for guarded optimism, with a minimum of 32 birds in 8 counties, including at least 4 pairs with young. Wisconsin had 2 confirmed nests in *Oconto*, with a total of 14 birds there in July, and sightings from 3 additional sites but none from the traditional w. counties. Michigan had one nesting pair.

#### VIREOS, WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireos were in all 3 states. Michigan had four at Lost Nation S.G.A. (JR), Wisconsin had territorial birds in *Grant* and *Green* (m.ob.), while Minnesota had two in *Houston* (m.ob.). Likewise, Bell's Vireos were found in all 3 states, with Wisconsin having 4 reporting counties and Minnesota and Michigan having one. A tardy spring migrant was the Philadelphia Vireo found by Schultz at Green Bay June 7.

Late spring migrant warblers included a N. Parula and Magnolia in Milwaukee June 15 (KB, WW), Yellow-rumped in Manitowoc June 16 (KB) and Bay-breasted in Milwaukee June 1 (MK). Interesting summer sightings included Yellow-throated Warblers at no fewer than 3 Wisconsin sites. The usual birds were present along the Sugar R. in *Rock* (K & DL *et al.*), but two territorial males were found in July in Wyalusing S.P. (RD, KB, TS) and another was observed June 16–July 4 in Terry Andrae S.P. (D & MB *et al.*). This represents the most single summer sightings in years. Wisconsin's **Kirtland's Warbler** returned to its *Jackson* site (JP *et al.*). It had disappeared by late June. Encouraging news from Michigan was of the 347 singing ♂ Kirtland's tallied this summer, up from last year's 265.

Michigan recorded the only Prairie Warblers: one June 8 in *Crawford* (DP) and three until July 5 at Good Hope Bay (CF, PC, TW). Worm-eating Warblers were in Michigan and Wisconsin, although decreased numbers were noted in the latter state. Likewise, Kentucky Warblers were in the same 2 states; it was locally common in several Wisconsin sites. Hooded Warblers were in Minnesota (rare) and Wisconsin. A pair of Wilson's Warblers was watched at Thunder Lake W.A. in *Oneida*, WI, July 4–6 by Spahn (RSp). There are no nesting records for the state. Yellow-breasted Chats were in 4 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin counties.

In contrast to last year, warblers commenced migrating in July. The unusually warm weather in the last half of May perhaps encouraged earlier nesting than last year's cool May, allowing for an earlier dispersal. Examples included Tennessee Warblers in *Sauk*, WI, July 26 (KB) and *Dane*, WI, July 27 (SR), Nashville and Yellow-rumped warblers in *Lafayette*, WI, July 17 (KB), a Nashville in *Hennepin*, MI, July 8 (SC) and a N. Waterthrush in *Brown*, MN July 28 (JSp). Minnesota observers noted low to scarce numbers of Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers in their breeding habitat.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Five Blue Grosbeaks were found June 2 in *Lincoln* (PS), n. of their usual s.w. Minnesota location. Dickcissels were in good numbers in many Wisconsin counties but were considered scarce in Michigan. Single ♂ Lark Buntings were in *Chippewa*, MN, June 23 (C & MB) and Mead W.A., WI, June 26 (BBr). A Baird's Sparrow was seen June 1 in *Clay*, MN (KR). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were still present July 7 at Crex Meadows W.A., WI (TS).

An imm. ♂ **Cassin's Finch** came to the Buers' feeder July 9–11 in *Lac Qui Parle*. If accepted by Minnesota's record committee, it will represent only the 2nd state record. The House Finch continues its northward expansion, with sightings now commencing in extreme n. Wisconsin and n.w. Minnesota. Red

Crossbills were in n. Wisconsin counties. There were only single sightings of White-winged Crossbills in both Wisconsin and Minnesota.

**Contributors:** Glenn Belyea, Brian Boldt, David & Margaret Brassler, Bill Bresnan (BBr), Don Brooks, Chuck & Micki Buer, Kay Burcar, Steve Carlson, Don Chalfant, Phil Chu, Harriet Davidson, Nelvina DeKam, Robert Domagalski, Kim Eckert, Tom Erdman, Mary & David Evans, David Ewert, Bill Foster, Chip Francke, Jim Frank, Ilse Gebhard, Ray Glassel, **Jim Granlund** (Michigan), Ellen Hansen, Michael Hedemark (MHe), Curtis Heinrichs, Randy Hoffman, Mark Hubinger, Nick Illnicky, Robert Janssen, Arlyne Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Robbye Johnson (RJo), John Juhasz, Doug Klein, Robert Koenig, Mark Korducki, Henry Kyllingstad, Irene Larson, Dick Leasure, Karl & Dorothy Legler, Warren Nelson, John Nielsen, Pat Parsons, W. Pesola, Cal & Carolyn Pmarius, Curt Powell, David Powell, Jack Reinoehl, Kim Risen, Sam Robbins, Joanne Robinson (JRo), John Rominski (JRm), R. & D. Rosche, T. Royal, Frank Schermers, Russ Schipper (RSc), Tom Schultz (TSh), Carol Schumacker (CSc), Larry Semo, Ellen Slater, Tim Smart (TSm), Roy Smith, Joe Soehnel, Charles Sontag, Tom Soulen, Robert Spahn (RSp), Jack Sprenger (JSp), **Peder Svingen** (Minnesota), Wally Swanson, Tom Syverud (TSy), **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Bob Ulang, Dick Verch, Ron Weeks, Tex Wells, George Wickstrom, John Will, Myles Willard, Winnie Woodmansee, Tom Ziebell.—**DARYL D. TESSEN**, 2 Pioneer Park Place, Elgin, IL 60123.

## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

*Bruce G. Peterjohn*

Summer weather patterns were fairly uniform across the Region. Temperatures averaged at least 2–3 degrees above normal both months. Rainfall totals were several inches below normal in some areas and virtually nonexistent in others. By mid-July, drought conditions returned to portions of every state but were most widespread east of the Mississippi River.

Warm weather in May initiated an early start to the nesting season. Many species were feeding fledglings out of the nest the first week in June, one or two weeks ahead of schedule and before the effects of the drought were very apparent. Nesting success appeared to be good, although survival rates of the recently produced young during the July and August drought are unknown. The hot, dry weather sharply curtailed second broods and re-nesting attempts of most species, and few young birds were produced after July 1. Whether or not this summer's drought will noticeably reduce populations of most breeding birds, as occurred following the drought of 1989, remains to be determined.

**Abbreviations:** L.B.L. (*Land between the Lakes, KY*); U.S.N.R. (*Union Slough Nat'l. Wildlife Ref., IA*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

### LOONS TO IBISES

An imm. Pacific Loon was present in June in Lake, IL (DJ, m.ob.—ph.), furnishing the first Regional summer record of this rare visitor to the Midwest. A first-summer Com. Loon showed up nearby in July, staying into the fall, and this bird was also well docu-

mented (ph. DJ). Nonbreeding Common Loons were represented by three or fewer at a total of 8 lakes in every state; singles at Taylorsville L., KY, June 22 (DC) and *Jefferson*, MO, July 24 (DBe) were noteworthy. Despite the drought, Pied-billed Grebes appeared in expected numbers; summering individuals were noted s. to *Gibson*, IN, and *St. Charles*, MO. Other summering grebes were restricted to Iowa, with three Eareds in *Kosuth* June 2 (MK), five Eareds at Rush L. June 22 (E & EA), and two Westerns at U.S.N.R. July 3 (MK).

Nonbreeding Am. White Pelicans were scattered across the w. states, where 500 congregated at U.S.N.R. June 30 (MK), 200 in *Guthrie*, IA, June 29 (E & EA), and 90 at Swan L., MO, July 14 (BG). The **Brown Pelican** at L. Wappanello, MO, remained through June (m.ob.). Another **Brown Pelican** briefly visited *Ashtabula*, OH, July 22 (†J & CB), although it spent most of its time on the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. It furnished Ohio's 2nd acceptable record, although there have also been several other unconfirmed sightings in the past 2 years. Double-crested Cormorants continued to expand, forming new small colonies at U.S.N.R. (MK), Coralville Res., IA (TK), and Carlyle L., IL (VK). The largest reported colonies totalled 200+ nests on the Mississippi R. at Elk River Slough, IA (VK), 111 nests at L. Renwick, IL, and 75 nests in *Fulton*, IL (RCh). Nonbreeders appeared in most states, but in smaller numbers than in recent summers.

American Bitterns retained their precarious foothold, producing a total of 7 records from Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana but no confirmed nests. Least Bitterns remained stable, with the expected small numbers scattered across the n. states. Aerial surveys of Illinois heronries June 4–5 provided new insight on the current status and distribution of these species. Along the Mississippi R., there



Young Great Egrets and Double-crested Cormorants on nests in the Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, Will County, Illinois, July 11, 1991. The colony had 234 egret nests and 111 cormorant nests in 1991. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.



were 17 active Great Blue colonies, with approximately 4000 nests. Nesting Great Egrets were in 16 of these colonies, totaling nearly 900 nests. Along the Illinois R. and in s. Illinois, this survey counted 12 Great Blue colonies, with nearly 2900 nests, and 7 Great Egret colonies, with 275+ nests (VK). In addition, large colonies in *Mason* and L. Renwick were still active. In Iowa, small numbers of Great Egrets were discovered nesting at West Swan L. and Saylorville Res. (SD), and breeding was suspected at 2 other sites, an indication of their expanding population in the state. Post-breeding concentrations included 424 at L. Renwick, IL, July 11 (JM) and 150 near Hickman, KY, July 7 (KB).

A remarkable 125 Snowy Egrets were counted at the recently relocated Caruthersville, MO, heronry June 24 (TB, PM), indicating greatly increased numbers in s.e. Missouri. Small numbers are apparently still nesting along w. Lake Erie. Nonbreeding Snowies appeared at 6 locations, including 4 reports from the Chicago, IL-Indiana Dunes, IN area. Illinois colonies of Little Blue Herons were limited to approximately 75 nests at Pontoon Beach and an unknown number of nests near Alorton, both in the E. St. Louis area (VK). Extralimital Little Blues were scattered across Illinois and Indiana but were scarce elsewhere. Cattle Egrets established a new breeding location in n. Illinois, producing young in *Du Page* (WM *et al.*). Other Illinois colonies consisted of 50+ nests at Pontoon Beach, 5 nests at L. Renwick, and an unknown number at Alorton. These egrets were numerous along the lower Mississippi R., but there were only single extralimital records from Iowa and Illinois. A statewide survey of Black-crowned Night-Heron colonies in Illinois located 8 active heronries with 1450+ nests. Their numbers

improved at the Caruthersville, MO, heronry, where 125 were counted June 29 (TB, PM). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were generally encountered at traditional locations. An ad. White Ibis, a casual visitor to Missouri, was studied at Ted Shanks W.M.A. June 13 (†PMa).

#### WATERFOWL TO CRANES

It was an uneventful season for breeding waterfowl, with most records from their established ranges in Iowa and along w. Lake Erie. Relatively few displaced breeding pairs were noted, perhaps reflecting the reduced continental populations of many species or better nesting conditions elsewhere. Extralimital nesting records were limited to a brood of Blue-winged Teal at Table Rock L., MO (m.ob.), a N. Shoveler brood of Blue-winged Teal at Table Rock L., MO (m.ob.), a N. Shoveler brood in *Du Page*, IL, July 5 (EW), and a Redhead brood at L. Calumet, IL (m.ob.). Breeding Ruddy Ducks were widespread in Iowa and appeared at 4 locations in n.e. Illinois. As usual, a wide assortment of nonbreeding waterfowl was scattered across the n. states. The most noteworthy records included a Greater White-fronted Goose near Sioux City, IA, June 23 (BH), up to seven Green-winged Teal summering at L. Calumet, IL (m.ob.), a Redhead at Buck Creek S.P., OH, June 22 (DO), a Common Goldeneye at Spfld. June 9-16 (DB), single Buffleheads through June 17 at Braidwood, IL (JM), June 22 at Buck Creek S.P., OH (DO), and "late" June at Potato Creek S.P., IN (RG), and Common Mergansers at Joliet through July 26 (JM).

The Osprey introduction program in w. Kentucky has been successful; 6 pairs produced nine young at LBL this summer (WB).

A nest was also established at Brookeville Res., IN (JC). Nonbreeders were increasing in the n. states, where additional nesting attempts are distinct possibilities. Mississippi Kites are proving to be rather numerous near the Mississippi R. in s.e. Missouri, where an impressive 73 were counted in *New Madrid* June 30 (PM *et al.*). Fifteen nests were also discovered in this portion of the state. Extralimital records included a pair returning to Webster Groves, MO (YB) and a nonbreeding adult at Kingsbury W.M.A., IN, June 22 (CH), but these records were overshadowed by two Mississippi Kites at *Clive*, IA, June 22-July 31 (†RC, m.ob., ph.). This pair was building a nest, but no eggs were produced. They are accidental visitors to Iowa, with fewer than 5 confirmed records, and the closest established breeding population is more than 300 mi from this location.

The fortunes of Bald Eagles continued to improve, as indicated by 8 nests producing 13 young in Missouri, 2 nests producing three young at L.B.L., and successful Indiana nests at Monroe Res. and *Clay*. Two new pairs were established at inland locations in Ohio, but their nesting success along w. Lake Erie was rather poor. Numbers of N. Harriers were reduced from last year. Nesting was confirmed at only 3 locations in Missouri and was suspected at one Iowa site; nonbreeders were noted at 14 other areas. Cooper's Hawks continue to increase, especially e. of the Mississippi R. Nesting Swainson's Hawks were only noted at *Osceola*, IA (JF) and 2 sites near Springfield, MO (DBI). No information was received from the Illinois nest site. Peregrine Falcon introduction programs have resulted in the establishment of single pairs at Toledo, OH, Cleveland, and St. Louis, as well as 2 pairs in the Gary, IN, area. Hacked young are released from a number of sites and are responsible for summer records scattered across the Region.

Gray Partridge continued to spread into n. Missouri from s. Iowa, with an unsuccessful nest near Maryville, MO, June 20 (DE) and three partridges in *Achinson*, MO, July 6 (TB). Illinois populations of N. Bobwhites declined by 9% from 1990, but similar data were not available from the other states. Few nesting rails were reported, and drought conditions certainly did not help their nesting success. The only King Rails were found in Illinois, with broods at Goose Lake Prairie S.P. July 2 (EW) and *Will* June 26-28 (AD). Normal numbers of Com. Moorhen peaked, with 13 broods at L. Calumet, IL (JL, m.ob.). American Coots were widespread in portions of Iowa and n.e. Illinois, while one at Kentucky L. July 12 (*vide* CP) furnished an unusual summer record for Kentucky. Rare breeders in n. Illinois, a pair of Sandhill

Cranes nested in *Kane* (AH). Two cranes summering in *Jackson*, IA (*fide* PP) and another in *Lorain*, OH, in June (*fide* LR) were believed to be nonbreeders, while two near Elizabethtown, KY, June 4 (SB, BM) were probably late migrants.

#### SHOREBIRDS

The drought lowered water levels at most bodies of water, creating plentiful habitat for returning shorebirds. Unfortunately, these habitats allowed migrants to disperse widely, and few sizable concentrations developed. Single nonbreeding Lesser Golden-Plovers appeared at Spfld. June 13 (DB) and Colo, IA, June 19 (HZ), while four migrants returned to *Stoddard*, MO, June 29–30 (PM *et al.*). A Semipalmated Plover at L. Calumet, IL, June 28 (EW) was also early. Breeding Piping Plovers had a successful season in w. Iowa. At least 11 adults near Council Bluffs produced 3 broods and 3 nests (B & LPa, SD), and 2 pairs near Sioux City were both accompanied by two young (BH). The only migrant Piping Plover was discovered in Iowa July 21.

Young Killdeer were noted at Science Hill, KY, as early as Apr. 4 (JE). While 650 Killdeer congregated in the rice fields of *Stoddard* in s.e. Missouri June 29, the main attraction of these fields was 16 Black-necked Stilts, including 2 pairs that were apparently incubating June 29–30 (†PM *et al.*). This was the 2nd consecutive summer for nesting stilts in these fields. Two stilts wandered n. to *St. Charles*, MO, June 3 (RW), where one remained through June 10 (m.ob.). A poor flight of Am. Avocets produced a single migrant in n. Illinois and four near Dayton, OH, Aug. 1 (TL). *Stoddard*, MO, rice fields hosted a number of early returning shorebirds, such as 90 Greater Yellowlegs June 29 and 125 Lesser Yellowlegs the next day (PM *et al.*). An impressive 202 Solitary Sandpipers were tallied at Coralville Res., IA, July 20 (RP). Willets staged a moderate movement across the n. states, producing 14+ records. The largest flocks totalled 8–9 Willets, and as usual, most appeared between June 26–July 10. Upland Sandpiper declined in n.w. Indiana, but expected numbers appeared elsewhere. Three late Whimbrels at Dune S.P., IN, June 5 (LC) were headed N, while early fall migrants returned to Waukegan, IL, June 22–29 (DDz) and Illinois Beach S.P., IL, July 2 (KH).

Marbled Godwits were restricted to Iowa, where two at New L. June 16 (BH) may have been nonbreeders, while two in *Kossuth* June 29 (MK) were probably fall migrants. A few Ruddy Turnstones lingered in the Chicago area through June 30; the only Red Knot was noted there July 15–21. As expected, small numbers of W. Sandpipers filtered through the Region in July. Representative sandpiper concentrations totaled 1000 Least at Rice Lake Conservation Area, IL, July 14 (RCh), 650 Pectorals in *Kossuth*, IA, July 26, and 60 Stilts in *Kossuth* July 21 (MK). The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper returned to Iowa by

July 28. A striking **Ruff** was an accidental visitor to *Stoddard*, MO, July 14 (ph. TB). Casual fall migrants through Illinois, a Reeve paid a visit to Rice Lake Conservation Area July 26–27 (RCh *et al.*). As many as nine Com. Snipe at Goose Lake Prairie S.P., IL, through July 4 (EW, WS *et al.*), and a pair summering in *Lucas*, OH (MA) were suspected of nesting. Singles in *Will*, IL, June 15 (JM) and *Kossuth*, IA, June 26 (MK) may have been nonbreeders. A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes in *Hancock*, IA, June 7 may have been nesting (SD). Fall migrants were generally scarce.

#### GULLS, TERNS

An accidental visitor to Iowa, a juv. **Laughing Gull** at Saylorville Res. July 15 (†BE) probably wandered to Red Rock Res., IA, where it

summer visitor to Chicago July 28 (HRy).

It was a poor summer for most terns; the expected late summer concentration failed to materialize in most areas. Caspian Terns were surprisingly scarce, reaching a maximum of 26 in n. Illinois. There were no reports from the few remaining Com. Tern colonies on the Great Lakes; the largest flock totalled 87 along w. Lake Erie. At least 35 pairs of Forster's Terns nested in *Lake*, IL (RH); breeding was also suspected in Iowa at *Hancock* (SD) and *Dickinson* (NB). Prospects for Least Terns remain somewhat encouraging. A survey of the Mississippi R. in Missouri produced 14 colonies, with approximately 1200 nests n. to Cape Girardeau (RR). At other established breeding sites, there were 11 nests near Council Bluffs, IA (B & LPa), and a maximum of 11 adults appeared at the



Laughing Gull [front] at Michigan City harbor, Indiana, June 4, 1991. Photograph/Dick Plank.

was widely observed July 17–29 (†m.ob.). Other inland records included four Laughing Gulls in *St. Charles*, MO, June 23 (G & TB) and one summering at L. St. Mary's, OH (DD, m.ob.). Scattered singles also appeared at 3 sites along the Great Lakes. As usual, small numbers of nonbreeding Franklin's Gulls were scattered across the n. states. A Little Gull in *Porter*, IN, July 28 (†SBa) furnished the first summer record for the Indiana Dunes area. Indiana's first nesting record for Ring-billed Gull was provided by a small colony in *Lake*, where 72 young were produced (KG, HR). No reports were received from the other Great Lakes colonies. A pair of Herring Gulls nested at Ft. Wayne, IN (TH), and inland pairs continued to spread in n.e. Ohio. As nesting colonies become saturated on the Great Lakes, the numbers of inland breeding records will most likely increase in coming years. Rarely encountered in summer, a Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted at Michigan City, IN, July 14 (LH). An ad. Great-backed Gull was an unexpected

*Gibson*, IN, colony (GB). The only extralimital Least Tern wandered to Sangchris L., IL, June 23 (DB). The precarious status of nesting Black Terns has not improved. The only confirmed nests were in n.w. Indiana, where 7 pairs produced at least five young in *La-Porte* (LH, JT). Nesting was also suspected at single locations in Iowa and n. Illinois. The only migrant flocks were detected in Iowa, where 160 were tallied in *Kossuth* July 21 (MK) and 137 in *Lee* July 31 (RC).

#### CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS

While there were some local exceptions, both cuckoos generally appeared in improved numbers. Single Black-billed in *Boone*, KY, July 4 (LM) and *Holt*, MO, July 5 (TB) were near the s. limit of their normal range. Greater Roadrunners persist in s.w. Missouri, with reports from *Taney* and *Christian* this summer. Owls elicited few comments. Barn Owls were represented by a brood in *Taylor*, IA (E & EA) and 3 Missouri nests; no infor-

mation was received from statewide surveys in Ohio and Indiana. An exceptionally early E Screech-Owl nest produced recently fledged young in *Cuyahoga*, OH, Mar. 19 (LRi). Range expansion by Chuck-will's-widows has generally stalled. Small numbers remain at traditional locations in the n. states; the only new summering site was in w. Iowa near Westfield, where a singing male was heard June 13 (*fide* BH). Sand Ridge S.F., IL, continues to host a sizable populations of Whip-poor-wills: 134 males were counted there in a June survey (RB).

Red-headed Woodpeckers are disappearing from portions of Ohio and Indiana, but similar trends were not apparent elsewhere. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker entering a cavity in South Bend, IN (CR) raised suspicions of breeding, but a nest was never confirmed. They are not known to breed in n. Indiana. Small numbers of sapsuckers regularly reside in n. Iowa, where broods were located in *Al-lamakee* (PP) and *Algona* (MK); single birds were noted at 2 other sites. A confused Downy Woodpecker was feeding suet to fledgling House Sparrows in *Algona*, IA, this summer (MK).

A pair of Alder Flycatchers summered at *Palos*, *Cook*, IL (EW, m.ob.); another singing male was at a nearby *Cook* location July 13-18 (*fide* EW). Nesting was not confirmed at either site. Alders are not currently known to breed in Illinois, but nesting is a possibility, given their breeding distribution in s. Wisconsin. The only summering Least Flycatcher outside its normal range was in *Montgomery*, OH, June 12-23 (DD). Extralimital breeding attempts by W. Kingbirds included a brood near *Des Moines*, IA, July 13 (SS), a successful nest near *Kennett*, MO, June 6, with four adults there July 16 (HS, JW), and 2 nests in the *St. Louis* area (m.ob.). Wandering flycatchers included a W. Kingbird in *Clinton*, IA, July 18 (*fide* PP) and single Scissor-tailed at *Iowa City*, IA, June 5 (†BB), *Mills*, IA, June 16 (DR), and *Parnell*, IL, June 16 (†RPa, †MD). A nesting pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers near *Eureka* were e. of their normal Missouri range (ASh).

Purple Martins had a successful year in *Elkhart*, IA, where 90 nests produced 374 young (DM). This species received favorable comments from several other locations. Except for *Cliff Swallows*, which continued to expand in most states, the other resident swallows elicited few comments. Perhaps the most surprising record of the summer was a *Violet-green Swallow*, carefully studied at *Wilmette*, IL, July 18 (†EW). It furnished the 2nd state record and one of very few documented sightings from the Midwest. Sizable flocks of migrant swallows were scarce but included 5000 Banks at *Rice Lake Conservation Area*, IL, July 27 (RCh *et al.*) and 2000 Barns in *St. Charles*, MO, July 20 (PS, DA).

#### NUTHATCHES TO SHRIKES

Following a dismal flight last winter, Red-breasted Nuthatches were restricted to Ohio,

with a nest at *Canton* (BBl) and one summering in *Lucas* (MA, TKe). Summering Brown Creepers were found only at traditional locations. Carolina Wrens continued to increase, returning to the population levels of the mid-1970s at many locations and becoming regular residents along the n. margin of the Region. Increased sightings of Bewick's Wrens were encouraging, although numbers remain critically low in all states except Missouri. A handful of reports from Kentucky included adults with young in *Hardin* (GE). Elsewhere, broods were reported from *Decatur*, IL (MD), and *Wyandot*, OH (TBt), and a single wren appeared in *Lee*, IA, June 12-22 (BPr *et al.*). Nesting Winter Wrens were restricted to established sites in *Geauga*, OH. Sedge Wrens staged a noticeable movement into n. Illinois in June, producing concentrations such as 31 at *Goose Lake Prairie* S.P. July 4 (EW).

Breeding Golden-crowned Kinglets were confirmed in Ohio for the first time. A nest in *Maumee* S.F. (TKe) was near the location of the year's summer records. Another nest was discovered in *Summit* (MRe, LR). Both were located in areas where planted conifers were plentiful, habitats frequently utilized by breeding kinglets in the e. United States. Are these records the beginning of a range expansion into the lower Great Lakes region?

At least two ♂ Hermit Thrushes summered in *Lucas* (MA, TKe), a first for n.w. Ohio. Their breeding status was unknown. Small numbers were also encountered at traditional sites in s.e. Ohio, where they have been established for 10+ years. Wood Thrushes received mixed reports, with a prevalence of negative comments concerning continued declines. However, their numbers improved somewhat at a few sites, so there is some hope that their declining fortunes may be reversed. Cedar Waxwings were not particularly numerous along the s. edge of their range, although at least 3 nests were documented from n. Kentucky. The status of Loggerhead Shrikes has not appreciably changed. Within the n. portion of the Region, where their declines have been most apparent, there were sightings from at least 14 Iowa counties and 9 locations in c. and n. Illinois. Elsewhere, a nest was discovered in *LaPorte*, IN (DP); 2 Ohio reports included 2 pairs in *Holmes* (ES).

#### VIREOS, WARBLERS

Based on comments received, vireo numbers appeared normal. Since Bell's Vireos are declining in most of their range, their status here deserves comment. Reports from the w. states included a maximum of nine from 11 Iowa counties and 11 singing males from a small area near *Maryville*, MO (MR). The expected small numbers were scattered across Illinois; they were noted from single locations in Ohio and Indiana. At this time, numbers appear reasonably stable. Ohio's small population of Solitary Vireos may be declining, based on reduced numbers at locations in the n w and n e counties

Breeding warblers generally conformed to expected patterns. Northern Parulas continued to appear at new locations. Yellow Warblers are doing well if the tally of 92 males at *Beverly Shores*, IN (DP) indicates their Regional populations. Chestnut-sided Warblers at *Springfield*, MO, June 9 (DRi) and *Spfld* June 12 (DB) may have been wandering non-breeders or late migrants. Small numbers of Magnolia Warblers continue to breed in the hemlock woods of e. Ohio. Exceptionally late migrant Yellow-rumped Warblers were singles at *Ottawa N.W.R.*, OH, June 2 (EP) and in *Lucas*, OH, June 11 (MA, TKe). Single Black-throated Greens in *Lucas*, OH, through June 9 (MA, TKe) and along the *Eleven Points R.*, MO, June 12 (TB), were outside their known breeding range and were probably wandering nonbreeders. A Blackburnian Warbler in *Hocking* June 15 (TBt) was probably part of the tiny breeding population in s.e. Ohio. Summering Yellow-throated Warblers returned to the n. edge of the Region, with reports from *Winnebago*, IL (DC) and *Lucas*, OH (MA, TKe). A Pine Warbler at *Beverly Shores* June 23 (CF) furnished an unusual summer record for the *Indiana Dunes*.

Black-and-white Warblers at *Waubonsie* S.P., IA, June 4-21 (B & LPa) and *Decatur*, IL, July 6 (RPa, MD) were outside their normal range. Unusual in w. Iowa, a brood of Prothonotary Warblers was noted in *Dickinson* June 23 (LS). The only extralimital Worm-eating Warblers were noted in the *Spfld.* area (DB). Swainson's Warblers were only reported from s. Missouri, with eight along the *Eleven Point R.* June 12-13 (TB) Northern Waterthrushes can be early fall migrants, but one at *Decatur*, IL, July 6 (RPa, MD) may have been a nonbreeding summer visitor. Both Louisiana Waterthrushes and Kentucky Warblers were sprinkled across the n. edge of the Region; the latter species was noted n. to *Coralville Res.*, IA, July 14 (TK). A Canada Warbler in *Lucas* June 5-15 (MA, TKe) furnished one of very few summer records for n.w. Ohio. Small numbers were also found at established sites in e. Ohio.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Summer Tanagers at the n. edge of their range included up to six in *Will*, IL (JM) and one in *Lucas*, OH, June 2-12 (MA, TKe). Summering Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted at two n. Kentucky locations, including nest building in *Boone* (LM). This range expansion is not too surprising given their increasing numbers in s.w. Ohio in the 1980s. Blue Grosbeaks continue to appear at new sites in the n. states, producing scattered records n. to *Van Buren*, IA, *Will*, IL, *Hancock*, OH, and *Lucas*, OH. The expected small numbers of Painted Buntings were detected in s.w. Missouri. Dickcissels have declined 30% in portions of Iowa, but they remain plentiful elsewhere in the w. states and portions of Illinois. Few were along the e margin of the Region, where they have been



**At the northern edge of their breeding range, up to six Summer Tanagers were found this season in Will County, Illinois. This female was photographed there July 16, 1991. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.**

scarce the past few years.

Sparrows elicited few comments. The only Bachman's Sparrows were in s.w. Missouri. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Ames, IA, June 23 (JD) added to the summer records from that state, where they are not known to nest. Lark Sparrows appear stable along the e. margin of their range. Summering Savannah Sparrows were noted s. to the Lexington, KY, area, but no sizable numbers were reported. Grasshopper Sparrows were locally plentiful. Rare in Illinois, Henslow's Sparrow reports consisted of 15 at Goose Lake Prairie S.P. July 4 (EW), seven at 3 sites in *Du Page* June 29 (*fide* EW), and singles in *Pope* May 21 (TF) and *Saline* Aug. 8 (JDe). They were also noted at one site in Iowa and 4 Kentucky locations. Their Ohio numbers may be declining. A non-breeding White-crowned Sparrow remained in Chicago July 2–19 (KH). Other non-breeders included single Dark-eyed Juncos at Dunes S.P., IN, June 8 (LC) and in *Champaign*, IL, July 8 (EC). Small numbers continued to nest at established sites in n.e. Ohio.

Bobolinks were declining in some areas, and their status deserves attention. Migrant flocks began to accumulate in mid-July, producing groups of 41–74 in Illinois July 17–18. The only extralimital W. Meadowlark was discovered in *Sandusky*, OH (TBt). Breeding Yellow-headed Blackbirds were locally distributed within their established range east to n.e. Illinois, but they were unreported from Ohio and Indiana. No extralimital individuals were noted. Great-tailed Grackles received little attention ex-

cept for a new colony in *Nodaway*, MO. Their expansion in the w. states appears to be slowing. Orchard Orioles received mixed reports but were common in portions of n. Illinois, as witnessed by 10–22 reported from 2 locations this summer.

Summering Purple Finches were restricted to Ohio, with normal numbers in the n.e. counties and three summering males in *Lucas* (MA, TKe). A surprising number of Red Crossbills lingered into June, with a total of 4 reports from Iowa, Kentucky, and Ohio. The latest crossbill was noted June 22 near Luther, IA (*fide* JD). Nesting was only reported from Illinois Beach S.P., IL (ASi) but was suspected at several other sites. Few Pine Siskins attempted to breed this year, no doubt reflecting the poor winter numbers. Nest construction was only reported from *Du Page*, IL (EW) and *Hocking*, OH (Fry), but they were probably not successful at either site.

**Addendum:** A Solitary Vireo exhibiting characteristics of the race *plumbeus* was carefully described from Chicago Apr. 30, 1990 (†TS).

**Contributors:** (Subregional editors in bold-face) D. Anderson, M. Anderson, E. & E. Armstrong, S. Bagby (SBA), B. Ball (BBI), Y. Balsinger, G. & T. Barker (G & TB), T. Barksdale, T. Bartlett (TBt), J. & C. Baxter, D. Beffa (DBe), N. Bernstein, R. Bjorklund, D. Blevins (DBI), B. Boggess (BB), D. Bohlen (DB), G. Bowman, M. Braswell, W. Brines, **Ken Brock** (n.w. Indiana), S. Brown, **Alan Bruner** (Indiana), L. Carter, J. Castrale, R. Cecil (RC), D. Cederstrom, R. Chapel (RCh), E. Chato, D. Coates, M. Deaton, J. DeNeal (JDe), D. Diaz (DDz), **James Dinsmore** (JD) (Iowa), S. Dinsmore, D. Dister, A. Duke, D. Easterla, G. Elliot, J. Elmore, B. Engebretsen, C. Fields, T. Fink, J. Fry (Fry), J. Fuller, R. Glassman, B. Gooode, A. Haverstock, T. Heemstra, R. Heidorn, L. Hinchman, K. Hirabyishi, C. Hoyer, B. Huser, D. Johnson, T. Kemp (TKe), M. Kenne, T. Kent, **Vernon Kleen** (Illinois), J. Landing, T. Little, P. Magee (PMa), W. Marcisz, P. McKenzie (PM), L. McNeely, J. Milosevich, B. Monroe, D. Mosman, D. Overacker, B. & L. Padelford (B & LPa), R. Palmer (RPa), P. Petersen, C. Peterson, E. Pierce, R. Pinkston (RP), D. Plank, B. Proescholdt (BPr), M. Reinthal (MRE), R. Renken, L. Richardson (LRi), C. Riewe, D. Rising (DRI), M. Robbins, H. Rooney (HR), **Larry Rosche** (LR) (Ohio), D. Rose (DR), H. Rylaarsdam (HRy), H. Schanda, E. Schlabach, L. Schoenewe, T. Schulenberg, W. Serafin, A. Shock (ASh), A. Sigler (ASi), P. Snetsinger, S. Spieker, **Anne Stamm** (AS) (Kentucky), J. Tucker, E. Walters, R. Wiedman, **Jim Wilson** (Missouri), H. Zaletel. In addition, many persons who could not be individually acknowledged submitted notes to the subregional reports.—**BRUCE G. PETERJOHN**, Patuxent Wildlife Res. Center, Laurel, MD 20708.

## CENTRAL-SOUTHERN REGION

Robert D. Purrington

The spring was wet and warm Regionwide—in many places *extremely* wet—resulting in high water levels almost everywhere. According to Schiefer of the Mississippi Entomological Museum, food resources for insectivorous species were abundant (probably because of the warm winter and wet spring). Every month of the year produced above-average rainfall at New Orleans; the city was 45" above normal by the end of July (84", one inch short of an annual record). June rainfall was above average in Alabama but only average in northern Mississippi. July was very dry in many areas, the exception being southeast Louisiana.

It is difficult to assess the effects of all this rainfall and high water levels, though conditions in coastal marshes were certainly favorable. At Starkville, nesting success was judged especially good for a number of species (TS). On the other hand, as already reported in this journal, heavy January rains may have been responsible for a Brown Pelican nesting failure on Queen Bess Island in southeast Louisiana. High tides associated with late spring storms may have disrupted or delayed nesting on the low-lying barrier islands off the Louisiana coast. Wet areas in the rice-growing/prairie areas of south-central Louisiana provided good foraging habitat for a number of shorebird species that "lingered" through the summer hiatus in shorebird migration (see below). By the end of the period, there had been nothing resembling tropical weather in the gulf.

A few observers provided quantitative data based on the BBS and other censuses; it is hoped the practice will become more widespread in the future. Of course, some distillation and interpretation should accompany such data. General comments on climatic factors, wild food crops, or nesting success is welcome and will be incorporated into the seasonal summary. I especially thank Steve Stedman and Donald Ware for their detailed nesting season data.

**Abbreviations:** B.B.S. (*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey*); L.S.U.M.N.S. (*Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science*).

### NESTING RECORDS, OR RECORDS SUGGESTING NESTING:

#### GREBES TO DIURNAL RAPTORS

An ad. Pied-billed Grebe in *Putnam*, TN, June 17–18 (SJS) was the first June record for the county, although there had been hints of nesting there in the 1970s. Approximately 100 pairs of Brown Pelicans nested for perhaps the first time on Curlew I. in Louisiana's



**Black-shouldered Kite in Humphreys County, Tennessee, June 22, 1991. Notice the molt in the outer primaries (more obvious on the near wing). Photograph/Vic Fazio.**



**Immature Brown Pelican far inland at De Queen Lake, Sevier County, Arkansas, June 13, 1991. Photograph/Max Parker.**

Chandleur chain (LO'M), and there were extremely unusual records far inland in *Sevier*, AR, June 10–17 (WHA *et al.*, ph.; imm.), in *Pointe Coupee*, LA, at the Morganza Spillway (JK—two), and at Shreveport's Cross L. July 3 (LMH, JM, JMcB, LRR, ph.; imm.).

Although Least Bitterns breed in lowlands throughout the Region, they are local and sparse away from the coast. Reports were received of a total of eight in *Lake Noxubee*, and *Okibbeha*, MS, from June 4–July 11 (TS), of one in *Lake*, TN, June 14 (JRW), and of three in *Jefferson*, AR, June 28 (HP, MP). Numbers in s.e. Louisiana may have been above recent years. A Cattle Egret colony of 20+ pairs in a dense stand of young baldcypress, seen July 5–14 in *Colbert*, represented the first nesting in n.w. Alabama (NP, WB, PDK), as did up to four Black-crowned Night-Herons in this colony, if indeed they nested. Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Mergansers, and Wood Ducks, all with young, were among the 10 duck species in *Lake*, TN, June 15–16 (JRW). Ten ♀ Mallards in *Lafayette*, MS, July 20 and 15 there Aug. 6 (WMD) showed no evidence of nesting, nor did Blue-winged Teal in *Washington*, AR, June 27 (MMI) and in *Okibbeha*, MS, July 10 & 26 (TS). A pair of Hooded Mergansers, rare summer residents in n.w. Arkansas, were present in *Benton* June 2–July 24 (MMI). Seven Ruddy Ducks at Pine Bluff, LA, were unusual, but they have previously nested in Arkansas.

There were 5 records of Osprey from s. Louisiana, where breeding is often suspected but is supported by only one record in the past half-century: June 16 in *St. Bernard* (GO—3), July 20 at the Bonnet Carre' Spillway (RJS), July 30 in the Morganza Spillway (JK), and July 31 in *Cameron* (JK). Records

from *Conway*, AR, July 18 (WMS) and in Little Rock July 28 (WMS) were evidently early fall migrants, as perhaps were the July birds from Louisiana. The 4 records of Swallow-tailed Kites in or near Louisiana's Atchafalaya basin, along with a few from the Pearl R. basin, shed little light on populations in these areas, which should be given more attention. The only Black-shouldered Kite from coastal Mississippi was one June 16 in *Hancock* (JT); one was near Waverly, TN, June 22 (VF), and there were indications that at least two may have been present the past 2 years. The soaring flock of 35 Mississippi Kites at Violet, LA, June 29 (GO) was unusual for so early in the breeding season. There were 4 reports of Bald Eagles, including an immature on the nest June 7 at L. Millwood (CM); the other records were June 8 & 22 in *Lake*, TN (JRW), an immature and adult, respectively, and June 30 in *Grenada*, MS (GK, SK—2a). There were at least 7 reports of Cooper's Hawks, which breed rather sparsely in the Region, rarely near the coast. One was in *Benton*, AR, June 2 (MMI); at least five were in *Putnam* and *White*, TN, in June (SJS, BHS); and one was in *Johnson*, AR, June 15 (WMS, BH). The 4 Louisiana records included one in *Iberville* June 5 (VR), 2 sightings near Pointe-a-la-Hache in *Plaquemines*, LA, June 9 BBS (DM), and one at Lafitte N.P., LA, June 26 (DM). Single Am. Kestrels at Birmingham, AL, June 9 (TAI—BBS) and July 7 & 11 (TAI) were noteworthy.

#### **PLOVERS TO HUMMINGBIRDS**

A total of 47 Wilson's Plovers counted along

4 mi of Fourchon Beach, LA, June 23 (RDP) provide some indication of this shorebird's populations, which breeds on the beach ridge sand-strand habitat. Fifteen reports were received of Black-necked Stilts, totaling well over 200 individuals, from inland locations in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, where their occurrence was noteworthy. Wilson counted 129 while traveling through portions of those states July 7 (JRW); they are normally considered to nest only along the coast. Two inland at Baton Rouge, LA, June 6 (SWC, JB) were also unusual, and coastal populations in s. Louisiana were high, with July counts of 200+ routine near Port Fourchon, Lafourche, LA. A single Willet in Shelby, TN, July 20 (JRW) was very far inland. The first nesting ever of the Spotted Sandpiper for Lake, TN, was documented July 6 (WGC—3 a, 3 imm.). Gull-billed Terns nested in at least 2 rooftop locations in the New Orleans area, along with Least Terns and Black Skimmers. Although Sandwich Terns breed on the barrier islands off the Mississippi R. delta, post-breeding and winter populations are usually modest. A total of 810 on Fourchon Beach June 23 (RDP) was a record for s.e. Louisiana, away from breeding grounds. A helicopter survey of Least Tern nesting sites on the Arkansas R. by the Corps of Engineers and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, from the Oklahoma line to the Mississippi R. June 13 (WMS, SS, JH, CVH, CG), counted 133 individuals; a follow-up survey of 14 sites yielded 202 adults, 30 juveniles, 82 eggs, and 262 nests (CG *et al.*). O'Mealie made 2 trips to the Chandeleur Is. and found colonial tern and gull numbers reduced by about 60% and nesting very late, perhaps due to the effects of very high tides in late spring.

There were 2 new records of Eur. Collared-Doves, in addition to their continuing presence at Ft. Pike, Orleans, LA, where they were first seen in the Region in 1988 (NN): a probable record of one July 1 in Jackson (JRW) would be the first Mississippi record; another was in Jefferson Davis, LA, July 30 (SWC, DLD, CAM). Monk Parakeets continue to be seen during the breeding season in s. Louisiana, in the New Orleans area, and, since 1990, in Lafayette (MM, SG, GB, CAB). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo nest (1 a, 2 eggs) in Benton, AR, July 22 (PEH) was the first documented nesting in the e. Arkansas Ozarks. Four reports of Greater Roadrunners were received from Baxter, Newton, and Pope, AR (HP, MP; PEH). Reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visiting feeders in the breeding season included a remarkable total of 317 visits in 15 minutes after rain at one set of feeders in Iberville July 21 (VR), with an estimate of 100+ individuals, and sizeable numbers at feeders in Thibodeaux, LA, in June and July (RSB, EJB).

#### FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

There were 2 reports of territorial Willow Flycatchers two in Lake, TN, June 14

(JRW), and two in Benton, AR, June 16 (MMI). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers on the coast in Cameron, LA, June 3 (SWC, DLD) and on a BBS route in Newton, AR, June 26 (HP, MP) were suggestive of nesting. One at Ft. Morgan July 13 (PB...) was the 3rd July record for the Alabama coast. There were Horned Lark records from 2 locations in Putnam, TN: in June, which indicated breeding (SJS, BHS), and July 19 in Lafayette, MS (GK).

There were 3 Tree Swallow reports suggestive of nesting: June 2 in Benton, AR (MMI—2), one entering and leaving a cavity; June 4 in Noxubee, MS, June 4 (TS)—they are not known to nest in Mississippi; and June 15 in Walker, AL (TAI, DWi—3), the 3rd record for Alabama's Mountain Region. At least six Bank Swallows were entering nest holes at Blakely Mountain Dam, Garland, AR, June 2 (SW). Records of breeding Cliff Swallows included 300+ in Yalobusha, MS, June 30 in a late nest-building effort delayed by high water (GK, SK); 168 nests under the Hwy 82 bridge over the Tombigbee Waterway in Lowndes, MS, July 13 (TS); and a high count for Mississippi of 1000+ feeding near Kiln, MS, July 29 (TS).

Aggregations of 12–30 Fish Crows in Lafayette and Panola, MS, in June and July suggest continued increase in breeding populations in n. Mississippi (WMD); 17 were in Jefferson, AL, May 30–July 28 (TAI, *et al.*). Noteworthy because of the species' decline e. of the Mississippi were 2 reports of singing ♂ Bewick's Wrens in middle Tennessee: June 1 in Williamson (SJS) and June 5 in White (SJS). On June 14 in Cookeville, TN, Stedman counted 18 House Wrens singing and estimated that the town's population was more than 5 times that number. A Wood Thrush singing in upper Plaquemines, LA, June 29 (GO) furnished one of very few summer records s. of L. Pontchartrain; a summering Am. Robin in Harrison, MS, June 14 (TD) was similarly unusual.

Gray Catbirds in E. Baton Rouge and Iberville June 2 (VR) and 18 (SWC), respectively, raise the possibility of local breeding. Small numbers of summering Cedar Waxwings in middle and w. Tennessee—Putnam (SJS) and Bartlett (JRW)—in June also suggested nesting, but without any evidence. The only mention of Swainson's Warbler was a male in Carroll, AR, June 1–30 (MMI). A measure of the density of breeding Ovenbirds in Newton, AR, is provided by the 26 heard on a total of 18 stops on the BBS route there (HP).

#### BUNTINGS TO FINCHES

Single ad. ♂ Painted Buntings in Oktibbeha June 29 (MC, m.ob.), present since May 14, and in Grenada the next day (GK, SK), were near the n.e. edge of their range in n. Mississippi, whereas 3 singing Dickcissels in Putnam, TN, where they are rare breeders, June 1–18 (SJS), were near the s. edge of their range Bachman's Sparrows, which now re-

quire close attention because of their apparent decline, were recorded in n. Mississippi in Webster on the Embry BBS route June 7 (TS—1), at 2 locations in Oktibbeha July 6 & 14 (TS, MC—3), and in Winston July 20 (TS—1). This species is a rare nester in the area. Lark Sparrows in the same area June 2 (TS) on the Macon BBS route and June 18 in Lowndes (TS) were unusual for the same reason, as was one singing in Desoto, MS, July 13 (JRW). One in New Orleans July 28 (NN) was an early fall migrant. Although ostensibly breeding over much of the Region, the Grasshopper Sparrow was represented by only a single report, in Lake, TN, June 15 (JRW, WGC).

The Shiny Cowbird insinuated its way onto the Mississippi state list when one turned up at a feeder in Hancock, MS, June 12 (JT, RR, LS, ph.). There have been no new Louisiana records (present total, 7). Bronzed Cowbirds continue to increase in numbers in the New Orleans area, where they are conspicuous between April–August; up to 20 or more at one time could be found near the lakefront in Metairie (RDP) and New Orleans (NN). The N. Oriole, a scarce breeder in middle Tennessee and elsewhere, was noted in Putnam between June 4–July 31 (SJS, BHS); the three or more birds included one juvenile.

A dozen separate records of House Finches were submitted: 3 each from Mississippi and Louisiana and the remainder from Arkansas. The 3 Mississippi records represented nesting: Harrison, May 15–30 (*vide* JT), at Kiln June 28 (RR), and in Brandon June 29 (MH). Louisiana records include up to 7 in Slidell from Dec. 16, 1990 into August (RC, PS, BB) and Baton Rouge records between June 9–July 3 (RC, CAM). Four of the Arkansas records, which totaled 18 individuals and spanned June 3–July 31, were of definite nestings. There were 3 records of Red Crossbill: June 3 in Clark, AR (HP, MP) and June 9 in Cleburne, AR (BV)—the species is considered a rare but unverified state breeder, and July 20 in Shelby, TN (RS, BS). Quite surprising was that all 4 records of Am Goldfinches were from coastal or near-coastal Mississippi and Louisiana. Three of the records of lingering birds were from Harrison, MS: June 12–20 (MB), June 21 (KS), and June 22 (DC). At Slidell, LA, two females were at feeders as late as June 16 (RC), the latest ever for s.e. Louisiana by 2 days

#### NONBREEDING RECORDS

#### LOONS TO DIURNAL RAPTORS

There were 4 records of basic-plumaged Com. Loons: one at Radnor L., Davidson, TN, June 1 (SJS), 3 in Cameron, LA, June 3 (SWC, DLD), one in Cleburne, AR, June 23 (BV), and one at Mandeville, LA, June 1–Ju-



ly 2 (RC, PS). American White Pelicans were on the Arkansas R. June 13 (WMS, SS—several flocks), at Arkadelphia, AR, July 4 & 28 (DIH, DnH), and in *Pointe Coupee*, LA (JK—57) July 30. There were the usual lingering birds in coastal Louisiana. There were 3 July records of Double-crested Cormorant from Louisiana: in *Sabine* (CGB), *Iberville* (DLD), and *St. Tammany* (CGB). They are not known to breed in the state; the first mid-summer record for the 7-county area near Starkville, MS, was July 13 in *Lowndes* (TS).

A ♂ Anhinga in Centerton, AR, June 15 (MMI) provided the first record for the Arkansas Ozarks. The sight of 200 Magnificent Frigatebirds rather far inland in *Plaquemines*, LA, June 9 BBS (DM) was unprecedented in the absence of tropical weather. Two Tricolored Herons in *Jefferson*, AR, July 30–31 (HP, MP) were unusual, as were single Cattle Egrets in *Lafayette*, MS, July 4 and Aug. 3 (WMD); there was one prior July record for the Oxford area. The following records of Wood Storks were received: 16 on July 7 at Noxubee N.W.R., MS (MBe) and 30 there July 11 (TS); 45 at St. Francisville, LA, July 30 (JK).

Ten species of (normally) nonbreeding ducks were reported across the Region, including single Green-winged Teal and Am. Black Duck in *Lake*, TN, June 15–16 (JRW; WGC), a Pintail in *Orleans* July 28 (NN), the first July record for s.e. Louisiana, a N. Shoveler in *Lake* June 15–23 (JRW; WGC), the 3rd summer record for Tennessee. There were 4 records of Ring-necked Ducks: one in *Lake*, TN, June 15–16 (JRW), 1-3 birds July 14 & 30 in *Vermilion*, LA (SWC, DLD, JMB, CAM), and one in *Yalobusha*, MS, June 30 (GK, SK), the first June record for that area. Single Lesser Scaup were in *Lake*, TN, June 15–16 (JRW) and in *St. Bernard*, LA, June 16 (GO); an Am. Goldeneye was among ducks in *Lake*, TN, June 15–16 (JRW). Many of these records were in flooded fields; several observers commented on the role that high water may have played.

James and Neal (*Arkansas Birds*) mention one summer record of Swainson's Hawk for the state (July 8–Sept. 1969); this summer, one was seen at the same location: the Centerton Fish Hatchery in *Benton* July 13 (MMI).

## SHOREBIRDS

Twenty-seven species of strictly migratory shorebirds were reported (plus 4 breeding species), including at least twelve in the June 15–July 5 period when "summering" is perhaps the best description of their status. Such birds would be expected to be in basic plumage; i.e., in nonbreeding condition, though in fact many were not. Black-bellied Plovers were in *Lake*, TN, June 21–22 (JRW—1), on Fourchon Beach, *Lafourche*, LA, June 23 (RDP—5), at Ft. Morgan, AL, June 22–23 (GDJ, DGJ), and at Vincent Ref. in *Vermilion*, LA, from July 14 on (SWC, DLD, JMB, CAM—21). Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Vincent Ref. June 9 (CS,

PW—1), in *Lake*, TN, June 21–22 (JRW—3), July 1 in *Jackson*, MS (JRW), and in *Jefferson Davis*, LA, July 14 (DLD, SWC, JMB). Golden-Plovers are rare in fall anywhere in the Region. The only record of Snowy Plover was from Gulf Shores, AL, June 2 (AWK, CW). Four records of Piping Plover included reports from Fourchon Beach, LA, July 21 (GW—5), 26 (RSB, GW—4), & 28 (RDP, GC—6), and one individual near Oxford, MS, July 25 (GK), the first July record there.

Also in the mid- to late June "hiatus" were 10 Lesser Yellowlegs at Vincent Ref. June 9 (CS, PW) and one in *Lake*, TN, June 22 (JRW), as was a Solitary Sandpiper at the latter location June 15 (WGC, JRW). Solitary Sandpipers were early in *Benton*, AR, July 4 (MMI); in *Yalobusha*, MS, July 5 (GK, SK), the earliest ever by 2 weeks; in New Orleans July 26 (NN), the earliest for s.e. Louisiana; and at Mobile July 27 (PB, GF, et al.), earliest for the Alabama gulf coast. There were 7 records of Whimbrels, which are not only extremely rare in summer but are scarce in fall migration as well. The earliest, June 1 in *Lafourche*, LA (CS, PW), represented the latest date for s.e. Louisiana of a presumed northbound migrant; 6 in *Cameron* June 8–9 (CS, PW) were very late for s.w. Louisiana. Records of one in *Jackson*, MS, June 30–July 1 (JRW), *Cameron* July 6–7 (RJS, MW), and *Lafourche*, LA, sightings July 7 (RSB, GW—1) and July 28 (RDP, GC—4) are difficult to categorize because of the infrequency of fall records.

A Ruddy Turnstone in *Benton*, AR, June 2 (MMI) may have been a late (and rare) spring migrant, but two at Ft. Morgan, AL, June 22–23 (GDJ, DGJ) and 24 on Fourchon Beach, *Plaquemines*, LA, June 23 (RDP) were apparently "summering," as were the surprising number of 156 Sanderlings, on the same date and location (RDP). Another equivocal record was a Semipalmated Sandpiper June 22 in *Lake*, AR (JRW), the only one reported. There was a W. Sandpiper at Ft. Morgan June 22 (GDJ, DGJ); merely early were sightings of W. Sandpipers July 7 on Fourchon Beach, LA (RSB, GW—7), the earliest for s.e. Louisiana by one day; one in *Lafayette*, MS, the next day (GK), the earliest there by 19 days; another July 11 in Starkville, MS (TS) was the earliest ever there by 5 days. The pattern with Least Sandpipers was similar: three June 14–22 in *Lake*, TN (JRW, GWC), plus early arrivals in *Benton*, AR, July 4 (MMI), the earliest for the state; July 5 in *Yalobusha*, MS (GK, SK—2), earliest for the area by 8 days; and July 10 at Starkville (TS—3).

White-rumped Sandpipers in *Benton*, AR, June 29 (MMI—2) and in the Vincent Ref. area of *Vermilion*, LA, July 14 & 30 (DLD, SWC, JMB, CAM—4) were apparently summering, in the latter case for the 3rd year in a row. Early as well was a Pectoral Sandpiper in *Oktibbeha* July 11 (TS) and five at Gulf Shores, AL, July 13 (PB). Dunlin records consisted of 6 late spring migrants in *Vermilion* June 9 (CS, PW) and up to three

summering birds (alternate plumage) at the same location July 14 & 30 (DLD, SWC, JMB, CAM), plus one in *Cameron*, LA, July 6–7 (RJS, MW). Nearly a month later than their expected departure dates, if migrants, were 12 Stilt Sandpipers in *Vermilion*, LA, June 9 (CS, PW). A count of 110 Stilt Sandpipers in *Cameron*, nearly all in breeding plumage, was surprisingly large for the early date of July 31 (JK).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers were exceptionally early in *Oktibbeha*, MS, July 26 (TS—2), the earliest for the state by 3 days, and near Oxford, MS, July 29 (GK), the area's first July record. A total of 31 Short-billed Dowitchers in the Grand Isle area July 7 (RSB, GW), in wet fields created by heavy spring rains, were about 3 weeks early for fall migrants; six Long-billed Dowitchers were early in *Benton*, AR, July 13 (MMI, MBI). The first June and July records of Com. Snipe for w. Tennessee were established by single birds in *Dyer* June 8 and July 6 (WGC). The few records of Wilson's Phalaropes were quite early: July 1 in *Jackson*, MS (JRW) and July 14 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TS, MC), the 4th area record.

## GULLS TO BLACKBIRDS

There were 2 June records of Franklin's Gull June 2 in *Desoto*, MS (JRW) and June 9 in *Cameron*, LA (CS, PW). Although both were very late, the Louisiana bird was probably the state's latest ever in spring. Two ad. Ring-billed Gulls in *Panola*, MS, July 24 (WMD) represented the 2nd July record in the Sardis L. area.

Among inland records of Caspian Tern in June and July, the pair feeding a young bird July 1 in *Jackson*, MS (JRW) was especially interesting. Presumably the adults had bred on the gulf coast. Common Terns again summered on the Louisiana coast, evidenced by 41 in *Lafourche* June 23 (RDP), 60 there July 28 (RDP), and 95 in *Cameron* July 6–7 (RJS, MW). Whatever their past temporal distribution may have been, they are now regular in moderate numbers on s.e. Louisiana beaches from May–August. Forster's Terns in *Lowndes*, MS, July 13 (TS) were early fall migrants, the earliest there by 4 days; one a day later in *Grenada*, MS (WMD) was the first July record for the Sardis L. area. Demonstrating that Black Terns are not found in "summer" only on the coast were 500+ in *Jackson*, MS, July 1 (JRW); the 2900+ on Fourchon Beach, LA, July 28 (RDP, GC) were probably a maximum count for s.e. Louisiana.

Almost unprecedented was a White-winged Dove at Ft. Morgan, AL, June 22 (GF, PB); the species has nested in the lower Louisiana delta. A Black-billed Cuckoo June 3 in *Cameron* was a very late migrant; one in *Putnam*, TN, June 8 (BHS) was the county's only summering record. Although a W. Wood-Pewee near Oxford, MS, July 28 (GK) was singing, information submitted was sketchy. An E. Wood-Pewee on the coast in *Cameron*, LA, June 3 (SWC) was a very late

migrant. Although Rough-winged Swallows breed n. of L. Pontchartrain, one June 9 in *Plaquemines*, LA, June 9 (DM) was far from likely breeding habitat.

A ♂ Yellow Warbler in *Cameron*, LA, June 3 (SWC) was a very late spring migrant, as were a ♀ Blackpoll (SWC) and a N. Waterthrush (DLD, SWC) there on the same date. Louisiana Waterthrushes were first noted migrating in *Iberville*, LA, July 6–8 (VR, CC, DLD, SWC) and were seen daily throughout July. One in the coastal woods at Rutherford, *Cameron*, LA, July 6 (RJS, MW) was quite unusual since it nests at least 50 mi away from the coast. A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird July 24 in *Benton* (MMI) was Arkansas's first for July.

**Corrigendum:** The following important Louisiana records either arrived too late to be included in last year's report or were overlooked by the writer: Black Scoter in *Cameron* June 23 (DLD, SWC), Louisiana's first record between May–October; Surf Scoter, *Cameron*, June 23–24 (SWC, DLD), about the 3rd state record between May–October; a pair of Ospreys fledged one young at Black L., *Natchitoches*, where they have now bred for several years; Glaucous Gull in *Cameron* June 10–22 (SWC, DLD—ph. L.S.U.M.N.S.) furnished the first state record between early May and late fall.

**Contributors and Observers:** Leif Anderson, W.H. Arbour, Mickey Baker, John M. Bates, Mary Bell, Elizabeth J. Bello, Richard S. Bello, Mike Biven, Paul Blevins, Christopher G. Brantley, George Broussard, Bedford Brown, Walt Burch, Charles A. Butterworth, Ralph Cambre, Steven W. Cardiff (Louisiana), David Carter, Margaret Copeland, Gay Craft, William G. Criswell, Catherine Cummins, Thomas Davis, W. Marvin Davis, Donna L. Dittmann (Louisiana), Gene Fleming, Steve Gary, Clyde Gates, Barry Haas, L.M. Hardy, Dolores Harrington, Donald Harrington, Jerry Harris, Mickey Hawkins, Phillip E. Hyatt, Thomas A. Imhof, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson (Alabama), Jerome Jackson (Mississippi), Paul D. Kittle, Joe Kleiman, Gene Knight, Sharon Knight, Andrew W. Kratter, Curtis A. Marantz, Jim McBride, Charles Mills, Mike Mlodinow, Mike Musemeche, David Muth, Mac Myers, Norton Nelkin, Larry O'Mealie, Glenn Ousset, Helen and Max Parker (Arkansas), Ned Piper, Robert D. Purrington, Van Remsen, Ray Russell, Terence Schiefer (N. Mississippi), Lydia Schultz, Kathy Selmer, William M. Shepherd, Peggy Siegert, Sherman Snyder, Curt Sorrels, Beverly Spore, Richard Spore, Barbara H. Stedman, Steven J. Stedman (Middle Tennessee), Ronald J. Stein, Judith Toups (Coastal Mississippi), Clay Van Horn, Bo Verser, Phillip Wallace, Carol Walton, Melvin Weber, Don Williams, J.R. Wilson, Gary Worthington.—ROBERT D. PURRINGTON, Department of Physics, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118.

## PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor

After years of drought, exceptionally wet conditions prevailed across much of the Region, especially the south and west, until mid-July. For example, Regina received almost 10 inches of rain between June 1 and July 1, about four times the long-term average. Effects of the rain on bird populations were mixed (as discussed in the S.A.), while impassable minor roads and exceptional numbers of mosquitos made birding difficult in many areas.

**Abbreviations:** C.F.B. (*Canadian Forces Base*); O.H.M. (*Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., MB*).

### S.A.

Many factors contribute to breeding season success for any species; rainfall was obviously a dominant factor on the prairies this summer. When could they last be described as lush? Some species seemed to "appear out of nowhere" to occupy newly wet areas in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Most conspicuous in this respect were Blue-winged Teal, Sora, Am. Coot, Com. Snipe, Sedge Wren, and Le Conte's Sparrow.

The rain's effects were by no means all positive. There was evidence that many duck nests were washed out in the Calgary district (RD). Wet conditions reduced grasshopper numbers and made them hard to find for Loggerhead Shrikes in s.e. Alberta (RD). Saskatchewan's Swainson's Hawks suffered a 4th poor year in a row, perhaps due to flooding of Richardson's Ground Squirrels, as well as the direct impact of rain on incubation and feeding (SH). At least 17 of 24 Swainson's Hawk nests failed near Kindersley (Jean Harris); overall, only 132 young were banded in 86 nests. The most encouraging Saskatchewan raptor numbers were 29 young in 12 monitored Osprey nests and 26 young in 7 Prairie Falcon nests (SH).

For some species, mixed reports suggested redistribution to accommodate changing conditions. Lark Buntings began to withdraw from s.w. Manitoba, as expected (KDS), and showed some increases near Medicine Hat, AB (DBo). The picture is less clear regarding Am. Avocets. In the Calgary area, numbers were uniformly low, along with those of Willet and Marbled Godwit, irrespective of water levels (JSt). Saskatchewan's Avocets appeared to be pushed toward their n. limit, with 300 at Turtle L. (MCa). Regina's nesting attempts were abandoned when sloughs dried up in spring; birds did not return when the sloughs refilled (overfilled?) in June.

## LOONS TO FALCONS

A Red-throated Loon nest near Churchill June 25 may have been the first confirmed for Manitoba (BC, m.ob.). Over 150 Com. Loons were counted June 28 at Athapuskow L. near Flin Flon, MB, where summer flocks have been reported before (JSh). Horned Grebes appeared to be declining in Saskatchewan, whereas Eared Grebes showed some increases (FR, m.ob.). Red-necked Grebes with four juveniles near Regina furnished a locally rare breeding record. Three Am. White Pelicans were far north at York Factory, MB, July 1 (JH, AI). At Pelican L., 150 mi n. of Edmonton, 2110 Am. White Pelican and 1754 Double-crested Cormorant nests were many more than expected May 30 (BRi).

A flock of five Snowy Egrets was exceptional at Delta, MB, June 11 (Sse, DN); one was at O.H.M. July 31 (RKO, RP). Other Oak Hammock highlights were a Tricolored Heron June 17 (RP, DB, RW) and up to six ad. Cattle Egrets through the summer (m.ob.). At least six more Cattle Egrets were at Chaplin Marsh, SK, July 28–31 (RKR, PCK *et al.*). Few details are available for a Green-backed Heron at Calgary (PCn); the spring visitor near Hodgeville, SK, remained until June 10 (MPr). Three young Green-backed Herons fledged from the Region's first recorded nest at Tourond Creek D.U. project near Niverville, MB, June 29; an old nest nearby was collected (AC, CC, RKO). Rounding out an excellent season for uncommon waders in Manitoba were an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at O.H.M. June 16–July 31 (GH, DHa, RP), and single White-faced Ibises at O.H.M. June 16–July 14 (NH, RP *et al.*) and near Coulter July 22 (GM, KM, SD).

One cygnet hatched from e. Saskatchewan's first Trumpeter Swan nest at Greenwater P.P., but did not survive (RB, *vide* DHo). A few Snow Geese often linger into June in the south, but 9000 on Russell L. near Edam, SK, June 1 were exceptional (TT). A molting ♂ Garganey near Taber, AB, was seen on the same pond by the same observer as the May 1990 bird (LBe). Outside their breeding ranges were a ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Raven L., near Livelong, SK, June 14 (DHo, LBa) and a White-winged Scoter at O.H.M. July 31 (RKO). Four Com. Goldeneye and 3 Bufflehead nests in boxes at Good Spirit Lake P.P., SK, all contained mixed clutches (BA). A Barrow's Goldeneye, rare in Saskatchewan in any season, was especially so at Wakaw June 11 (SSh). Flightless young Com. Mergansers were unusually far south at Saskatchewan Landing P.P. June 9 (SS, MW) and Horseshoe L., SK, July 19 (FR, LBk).

City-nesting raptors included: Ospreys for the 2nd year at a Calgary industrial landfill (RD); N. Goshawks, the female very aggressive, at a Calgary park (RD); and 2 pairs of Swainson's Hawks in Regina, one of which achieved televised notoriety by attacking cus-



Red Phalarope near Brant, Alberta, June 27, 1991. Photograph/Terry Korolyk.

tomers at a nearby strip-mall (RKr). Also in Calgary, a ♀ Peregrine Falcon nested for the 9th consecutive year with a new mate, her 3rd (RD).

**GROUSE TO WOODPECKERS**

A Greater Prairie-Chicken (recently declared extirpated in Canada) was convincingly described n. of Big Muddy L., SK, July 28 (CB). Up to three Yellow Rails near Craven, SK, around June 22 were the first in the Regina area since 1976 (BL, RKr, JP). A total of 1156 Piping Plovers censused in Saskatchewan doubled the expected number (MS). In Manitoba, however, only 80 birds were at 40 sites, down from 130 in 1990; just 20 chicks were seen with 32 pairs (BK). On the s. fringe of their Alberta range, Piping Plovers fledged two chicks at Keho L. (*vide* RD) and one at Frank L. (WS). A Mountain Plover s.w. of Mankota June 13 was the 6th or 7th for Saskatchewan (CB).

One 3-km transect at C.F.B. Shilo, MB, produced 27 Upland Sandpipers June 23

(GH). There are no recent confirmed records of Long-billed Curlew in Manitoba; details of two reported at Pierson June 8 (TM) would be welcome. Three thousand Ruddy Turnstones were in the Churchill area May 28 (BC). Excellent Sanderlings numbers in Saskatchewan included 2000 at Chaplin L. June 1 (RKr, BL) and 1500 at L. Frederick June 6 (TB, MCr). Single Red Phalaropes were well-documented near Dunkirk, SK, June 5 (TB, MCr) and photographed near Brant, AB, June 26–27 (RS, TK, m.ob.).

Gull numbers were low at Churchill; highlights were a Franklin's Gull June 9 (V.E.N.T.), a maximum of six Little Gulls July 6 (JK), and a Mew Gull June 9 (V.E.N.T. *et al.*). A Mew Gull nest was a good find at Close L., n.c. Saskatchewan, July 24 (DW). Caspian Terns ranged farther than usual, with up to three at Churchill in July (RKo *et al.*), 14 at Fincastle L. e. of Lethbridge, AB, July 21 (LBn), and 2 nests with young at Lost L., n. of Taber, AB (*vide* RD). Two Black Guillemots were at Eskimo Pt., Churchill, in July (RKo *et al.*).

Hearing is not believing with cuckoos; one of three Black-billed Cuckoos at Elcott, SK, June 30 called much like a Yellow-billed (SS, MCa). On the Tyndall, MB, Breeding Bird Survey, 24 Black-billed Cuckoos far exceeded the 10-year average of 4.1 and the previous high of 14 (RKo). Four scattered N. Hawk-Owls were in c. and e. Manitoba (DB, PTa). A late-calling Boreal Owl was heard at North Wabasca L., AB, June 24 (SJ).

Common Nighthawk numbers appear to continue in decline (m.ob.), although they seem to be holding steady around Medicine Hat (RD). Sixty Com. Poorwills were in Cypress Hills P.P., SK, in June; the province's 2nd nest was found near Ft. Walsh (RC, MK). Chicks were lost to predation, but 2 eggs in a new nest hatched Aug. 21. The Great Sandhills, SK, Poorwill population also persists but was not censused. Red-headed Woodpeckers

were observed at nest-holes in Caragana and Pelly, SK, and just inside Saskatchewan near Empress, AB (DH, LBa; MCa, MH, SH; SSh). These were the first indications of Saskatchewan nesting since 1980; the Pelly nest appears to be the province's first known success. A Red-headed Woodpecker also visited Calgary June 20 (DM). A drumming ♂ Red-bellied Woodpecker was a good find near Shilo, MB, June 11 (GH).

**FLYCATCHERS TO WEAVERS**

Western Wood-Pewee and Alder and Olive-sided flycatchers all seemed scarce in the foothills near Calgary (JSt), but Alder Flycatchers were common and widespread in c. Manitoba, especially in burned forests (PTa). A Great Crested Flycatcher was out of range near Turner Valley, s.w. of Calgary, June 8 (TW); this species seems to be increasing near St. Paul in e.c. Alberta (BRi).

Purple Martins raised two young at a L. Chestermere nest-house, the first nesting near Calgary since the mid-1970s (RD); this species is very locally distributed in Alberta. At least 34 nest-boxes were used by Tree Swallows at Churchill, a high count (BC); in Saskatchewan, spring mortality reduced nesting numbers in some areas (m.ob.). Northern Rough-winged Swallow family groups totalled at least 25 birds at Moose Jaw, SK, July 10 (RKr). Churchill's first Bank Swallow colony had 7 active nests in July (VG, m.ob.). Sedge Wrens were near Kinuso (two) and Wabasca, AB, June 21 & 23, respectively (SJ).

Eastern Bluebirds produced one young 10 mi n.e. of Red Deer, AB (MPe, m.ob.); Saskatchewan nests were found at Good Spirit L. (two, BA), Wapella (JP), and s. of Oxbow (HP). Especially rare was a Western Bluebird nest, with three young raised, at Saskatchewan Crossing, 80 mi n.w. of Banff,

AB (GC, m.ob.). Mountain Bluebirds had their 2nd-best production in s. Saskatchewan since 1966, with 402 banded, just short of the 1976 peak of 410 (MH); this represents an 8-year recovery since disastrous May snowfalls in 1982 and 1983. Two Mt. Bluebird nests were in grain augers, near Oxbow and Kenaston, SK (HP, LBk), while a pair raised four young in a disused cannon at C.F.B. Shilo (GH)! A Hermit Thrush summered n.w. of Saskatoon (FR); two were singing in that area July 24 (BG).

Northern Mockingbirds nested near Pierston, MB (KDS) and Regina (PTu, RKr, FL); others were observed near Jenner, AB (two) June 3 (DC, RD, DP), Rockglen, SK, June 24 (BRa), and Churchill, MB, June 8–18 (GO, m.ob.). Churchill's 5th Sprague's Pipit was found June 13 (SSH). Loggerhead Shrikes suffered heavy predation, poor hatching rates, and poor fledging success n. of Medicine Hat (*fide* RD); however, the species appeared to do well in Saskatchewan (*fide* RKr); 610 young were banded in s.w. Manitoba (KDS). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was n.w. of the known range at N. Wabasca L., AB, June 25 (SJ). In the same area, Canada Warblers were particularly numerous in late June (SJ), as they were w. of Easterville, MB (PTa). Ten Yellow-breasted Chats were between Matador and Stuart Valley, SK, June 18–21 (FR).

A Lazuli Bunting visited C.F.B. Shilo June 23 (GH). A singing ♂ Indigo Bunting at the n. end of L. Winnipegosis, MB, June 21 was well out of range (PTa), as were two in the Qu'Appelle Valley near Craven, SK, July 6 (RKr, MH). Sixteen singing Rufous-sided Towhees at C.F.B. Shilo June 18 (GH) is an exceptionally high Manitoba count. Three singing Field Sparrows were along the Souris R., s.e. Saskatchewan, June 15; at least one remained to July 1 (BL *et al.*); there are only 9 previous provincial records. Top bird of the season, however, was Saskatchewan's first **Black-throated Sparrow**, photographed 10 mi n. of Hodgeville June 6 (MPr). Baird's Sparrow reports were uniformly encouraging (RD, DBo, RKr *et al.*), with the exception of a slight decline in Manitoba (KDS). Very late or misplaced were two White-crowned Sparrows at L. Frederick, SK, June 6 (MC) and a Harris' Sparrow at St. Adolphe, MB, June 4 (AC).

A "Bullock's" Oriole nest near Carlyle, SK, was the easternmost provincial record (DS). June visits by **House Finches** to a Winnipeg feeder culminated on June 28, when one of two males fed two juveniles, providing the first provincial breeding record (DBu, RP). Another nesting occurred in Brandon, MB, where a ♂ House Finch accompanied six young to a feeder in July; they were first seen on the 8th (CS, *fide* JHo). A male and female at separate Calgary feeders July 15–31 indicate that the city is also at the leading edge of their range expansion (KB, JB *et al.*). White-winged Crossbills were well represented in all three provinces, mainly in forested areas. Hoary Redpolls were particularly scarce at

Churchill (BC, RKO), increasing House Sparrows at that northern outpost (200+) are unlikely to enhance the birding tour business.

**Addendum:** The N. Hawk-Owl and Great Gray Owl nests "rumored" at Churchill in 1990 have been fully documented in a manuscript by Anthony Lang *et al.*; we thank the authors and other correspondents for details (BM, ST).

**Observers:** (subregional compilers in bold-face) Bill Anaka, L. Baker (LBA), Dennis Baresco (DBo), Doug Barry (DBY), Thomas Bartlett, R. Beaulieu, L. Beckie (LBk), Lloyd Bennett (LBn), Carol Bjorklund, Joan Brown, Kent Brown, Dan Bulloch (DBu), Muriel Carlson (MCA), Bonnie Chartier, Peter Christensen (PCn), Paul Chyryk (PCK), Garry Clarke, Doug Collister, Andy Courcelles, Chantal Courcelles, Mike Crofts (MCR), Ryan Csada, Steve Davis, Ken De Smet (KDS), **Ross Dickson**, Ken Gardner, Bernie Gollop, Vera Gould, Norm Hansley, David Hatch (DHa), John Hatley Jr., Malcolm Hayes, George Holland, Donald Hooper (DHo), Jean Horton (JHo), Mary Houston, Stuart Houston, Andrea Iwanowsky, Stefan Jungkind, Matina Kalcounis, Jeff Kingery, Rudolf Koes (RKO), Bill Koonz, Terry Korolyk, **Robert Kreba** (RKr), Fred Lahrman, Bob Luterbach, Bruce Mactavish, Kurt Mazer, Doug McLeod, Glen McMaster, Diane Neudorf, Gary Otnes, Robert Parsons, H. Patton, Myrna Pearman (MPe), John Pollock, David Prescott, Myrna Priebe (MPR), Bob Rafuse (BRa), Blair Rippen (BRi), Frank Roy, Carol Sangster, Spencer Sealy (SSE), Stan Shadick (SSH), John Shearer (JSh), Doris Silcox, Margaret Skeel, John Steeves (JSt), Robert Storms, Jeff Suggitt (JSu), Peter Taylor (PTa), Tom Terpstra, Stuart Tingley, Pat Tunison (PTu), Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours, Tom Webb, Don Weidl, Renee Will, M. Williams.—**RUDOLF F. KOES, 135 Rossmere Cres., Winnipeg, MB R2K 0G1 and PETER TAYLOR, Box 597, Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0.**

## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon Berkey

This summer brought average to above-average precipitation over most of the Region. The prairies remained greener through the summer than they had for several years. June 1991 was one of the wettest in Montana's history, but as editor Carlson points out, it is much too early to proclaim the drought over. In some areas, stock ponds and wetlands are still dry. Wetlands and subsoil moisture have not yet recovered because they are dependent on winter snows. Many wetland species had passed through before the rains arrived and thus did not benefit.

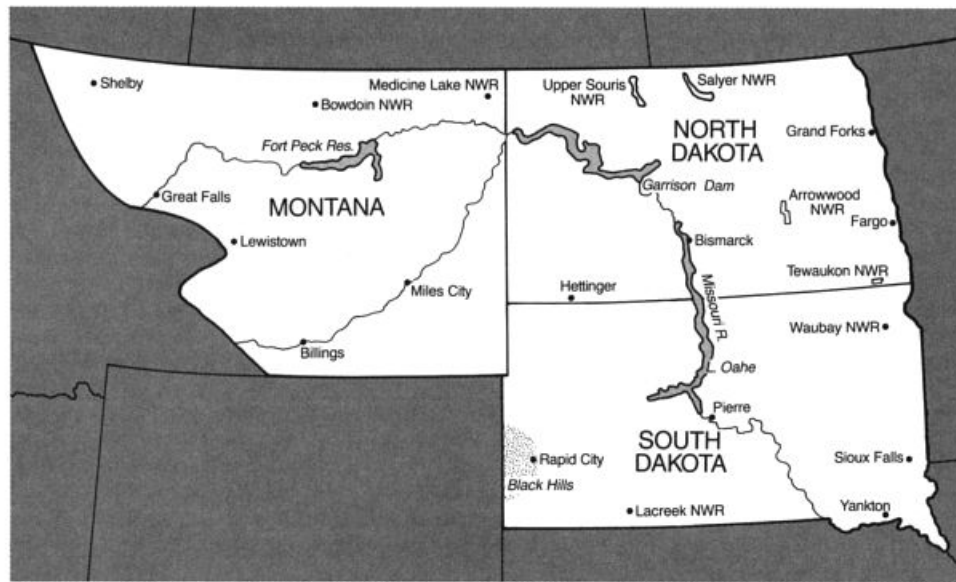
### GREBES TO TURKEYS

Breeding Horned Grebes have all but disappeared on the Missouri Coteau because of drought. A pair of Clark's Grebes feeding young in *Roberts*, SD, July 27 (KE) provided the 2nd state breeding confirmation, while an adult with two young on its back at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT, July 9 (DP) represented the first refuge and latilong nesting confirmation. A Least Bittern was on territory in *Kidder*, ND, June 1 (DL). Up to 21 White-faced Ibis were at Waubay N.W.R. in early July, while an agitated pair at Stone L. in *Sully*, SD, June 18 (PS) was w. of the main breeding population in that state.

As in several recent summers, Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, and Greater White-fronted Goose were present in North Dakota, and there were 2 early June sightings each of the latter two species in South Dakota. Among the dabbling ducks, N. Pintail has been hit hardest by the drought; U.S. Fish and Wildlife estimates placed the 1991 population at only one-third of the long-term average. Approximately 100 pairs apparently arrived in June, quite late, at Benton Lake N.W.R., MT (SJM); Carlson speculates that they may have tried to nest elsewhere, then returned to spend the summer. In contrast to most dabblers, Gadwall continue to do well.

A pair of Greater Scaup at the Grand Forks lagoons June 23 (EF) represented an extremely unusual summer record, if identified correctly. The first South Dakota breeding confirmation for **Bufflehead** was obtained when a nest with 6 eggs was found in a nesting box at Oakwood Lakes in *Brookings* May 22 (LP). Three of 7 Hooded Merganser nests were successful along the Big Sioux R. (JR), the only known South Dakota breeding locality.

The **Osprey** nest with young at Pactola Res., *Pennington*, SD, July 25 (RP) provided the 2nd state confirmation and came 108 years after the first! An Osprey was carrying prey June 6 in *Lawrence*, SD (EM). Three imm. Osprey began several nests on power poles at Ft. Peck, MT, but no eggs were laid



(CC). Nesting platforms were built to raise nests above the wires, and it is hoped that they will breed successfully in the future. An agitated Merlin June 8 in *Meade*, SD (PS) was e. of the main breeding range. An apparently nonbreeding Merlin was reported from Fargo, ND, June 14 (LF). A Peregrine Falcon at the Grand Forks, ND, lagoons June 20 & 21 (EF) was carefully described.

Mild winters and good nesting cover contributed to an average of 25+ Ring-necked Pheasant on 8 c. North Dakota BBS routes, more than double the 10-year average. On the other hand, a severe winter kill of Wild Turkeys occurred in *Slope*, ND (John Hanson).

### RAILS TO TERNS

The Virginia Rail that responded to a tape recording near Plevna, MT, July 9 (WR) may have been a first for latilong 35. A juv. Sora walking around a farmyard July 18 was brought to New Town for identification (BH). A pair of Sandhill Cranes at Bowdoin through July was suspected to be nesting, but no young were seen (DP). This species was present as late as June 6 in *Hamlin*, SD (SD).

Two pairs of Piping Plovers on the Black-foot Res., MT, in latilong 4 July 10 (MTS) yielded the westernmost record for the state; one pair had two young. Ten plovers were at Nelson Res., but June hailstorms may have cut reproduction to one brood (KS). A Black-necked Stilt found at Minnewaukan, ND, July 11 (EF) remained for over a month. Shorebird dates from North Dakota that were difficult to categorize as either "spring" or "fall" migrants included Lesser Yellowlegs June 1 & 5, Least and Pectoral sandpipers June 21 & 17, and Red-necked Phalarope June 19 & 21. Four young Long-billed Curlews at Rhame Prairie in *Bowman*, ND, July 14 (RM) provided one of few recent nesting confirmations for this declining species. A northbound Long-billed Dowitcher in *Ziebach*, SD, June 7 (PS) was record late,

while southbound Short-billeds arrived record early at Grand Forks June 20 (EF) and at Minot June 21. A Shortbilled was also very early at Badlands N.P., SD, June 30 (BJ). A Caspian Tern pair was territorial at Bowdoin July 22 (DP). A single Least Tern in *Ward*, ND, June 25 (GB) was a first for the county and only the 2nd in the state out of the Missouri watershed.

### CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoos were numerous in the e. two-thirds of North Dakota. Some pairs of Burrowing Owls disappeared from territories near Hettinger, ND, in late June (D & CG). A Long-eared Owl was carrying prey at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., ND, July 6 (RM).

### S.A.

Because of its nocturnal habits, the range, habitat usage, and abundance of Com. Poorwill in the Dakotas are poorly understood. It may be locally distributed over the entire w. half of North Dakota and has been found using Ponderosa Pine forest, cedar draws, and varying amounts of deciduous cover at buttes, river breaks, and sandhills. Several new breeding areas were discovered in North Dakota this year. Within the previously known range, five were calling at the Limber Pine area in *Slope* May 31, and four were at Sentinel Butte in *Golden Valley* June 1, for a new county record; five were also heard along the White Earth R. in *Mountrail* June, another county record and out of the known range (GB). Farther east, two were calling July 6 at Salyer (RM), where they nested last year. Poorwill was also e. of the Missouri R. in *Faulk*, South Dakota, July 20 (MM).

The probable Chuck-will's-widow seen and heard in Union, SD, June 16 (Bill Huser,

*vide* PS) would be the state's 5th if accepted by the records committee. On July 7, one pair each of Black-chinned, Calliope, Rufous, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were at a feeder in the Pryor Mts., MT, and a ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker was also in the same latilong, e. of the normal range, July 3 (WR).

### FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

One or two singing Olive-sided Flycatchers June 16 in Custer S.P. (PS) represented about the 6th summer record for the Black Hills, where they may nest. Western Wood-Pewee is uncommon but widespread in cottonwoods along the Missouri and Little Missouri in North Dakota, so the first breeding confirmation was long overdue; adults (also calling) were feeding two recently fledged young in the S. Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P. Aug. 6 (JC). A new county breeding season record for E. Wood-Pewee in *Dickey*, ND, was at Johnson's Gulch W.M.A. June 8 in one of the few heavily wooded draws on the e. slope of the Missouri Coteau. At least five territorial Alder Flycatchers were in the Turtle Mtns., ND, June 23 and July 5 (RM). A Cordilleran Flycatcher nest was located at the e. limit of the range in an ice cave in the Pryor Mtns. July 18 (JP). A pair of Cassin's Kingbirds at a nest in *Bennett*, SD, July 3, and another pair in *Shannon* July 5, provided the 2nd and 3rd nesting confirmations for the state (PS).

### S.A.

Several new North Dakota breeding locations for Violet-green Swallow were discovered. In addition to the six near the campground in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P. May 29, a pair was about 4 mi w. of there June 3 (JAH). New for *Billings* were two adults and an immature near Sheep Butte in the S. Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P. June 27 (JC), a single bird on the Moody Plateau s.e. of Medora May 23 (SPM), and an active nest on Bullion Butte June 1 (RM). In all, 10 adults and 5 territories were found on Bullion Butte, with at least one territory in *Golden Valley*, another new county record. Prior to 1989, there had been only three observations for the state. It now seems probable that the species is a rare and local but regular breeder that had been overlooked. It uses both floodplain cottonwoods along the Little Missouri R. and buttes. Further effort is needed to determine its range and abundance.

### CORVIDS TO SHRIKES

A Clark's Nutcracker, irregular in the Black

Hills, was in *Custer* June 7, and two were in *Pennington* June 13 (RP). The report of a Com. Raven near New Town June 14 was intriguing since the species has not nested in the Dakotas this century, but no details were given. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches carrying food into an active nest at a Williston, ND, cemetery June 26 (GB) represents the first confirmed breeding for *Williams*. A Canyon Wren July 26 in Badlands N.P. (JB) was unusual e. of the Black Hills. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest with young at Newton Hills S.P. (MSS) provided the first successful nesting of the species in South Dakota; a nest constructed there in 1986 was abandoned.

Eastern Bluebirds continued to increase in *Stark*, ND, fledging 87 young (JWH). At the w. edge of the range, 2 pairs nested at Ft. Peck (CC), and a family group of five was seen near Lame Deer, MT, July 8 (WR). The Mountain Bluebirds attempting to nest at Icelandic S.P. in n.e. North Dakota were unsuccessful (HD). The ♂ N. Mockingbird s. of Chester June 11 (GN) yielded a first latilong record. There were only 8 previous Sage Thrasher records for North Dakota, so the four on w. river road s. of Marmath July 8 (†RW) were of particular interest. All were in suitable habitat, within 2 to 9 mi of the South Dakota border. A well-described adult seen at close range behaved like a bird foraging for food for young, although no food carrying was seen; the other three were singing males. Efforts to relocate the birds 6 days later were unsuccessful. The area should be checked in the future because there is no confirmed breeding for the state.

Sprague's Pipit was heard July 7 at the w. limit of its range at Bean L., 40 mi s.s.w. of Choteau, MT (MTS) for the 3rd consecutive year. Loggerhead Shrike, currently under consideration for federal listing, seems to be doing well east to the c. Dakotas. Much higher numbers and many fledglings were noted in the Malta/Bowdoin, MT, area (DP); Griffiths reported good reproduction, with a pair in almost every grove in the Hettinger, ND, area; 22 were found July 22 in *Bowman*, ND (RM); six were in the Sheyenne National Grasslands July 20 (RO), one of the best locations for the species in e. North Dakota.

#### VIREOS TO ORIOLES

A Philadelphia Vireo at Fargo July 12 (LF) was a record early fall migrant by 16 days. Efforts to find this species in former breeding range in the Turtle Mtns. and Pembina Hills were unsuccessful, and it is not clear whether it still breeds regularly in the state. A Tennessee Warbler banded in *Day*, SD, July 4 (SD) was well within range for an early fall migrant; the species arrived at 2 s.e. North Dakota locations the same day. Singing "Myrtle" Warblers were once again present in the International Peace Gardens, ND, where the subspecies undoubtedly breeds. An ad. Cerulean Warbler carrying food July 8 at Newton Hills S.P., *Lincoln*, SD (MSS), provided a rare breeding confirmation Ameri-

can Redstart was confirmed in *Union* (SC) and *Lincoln* and appears to be again breeding regularly in s.e. South Dakota. At J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. July 6, a N. Waterthrush feeding young provided the first breeding confirmation for *McHenry* and the entire Souris R. loop in North Dakota (RM); another bird was on territory in the Denbigh Bog July 5. A singing Connecticut Warbler at the Peace Gardens July 13 (GB) was in potential breeding habitat but was probably a late spring migrant as it could not be found subsequently.

A W. Tanager carrying food in *Bennett*, SD, July 3 (PS) was e. of the Black Hills range of the species. A Blue Grosbeak was at Bowman-Haley Res., ND, July 27 (CG). Lark Buntings were present by the hundreds along a BBS route in *Dickey*, in s.c. North Dakota May 28, but only four were found when the route was run June 8. The area is within nesting range, but apparently the birds found the area too wet this year and moved on. They were also nearly absent in the Chester, MT, area this summer (HM). While increased rains may have caused Lark Buntings to avoid portions of the edge of their range, at Ft. Peck June rains induced males to repeat in July the intense courting activity of May (CC). McCown's Longspurs increased in the Sweetgrass, MT area (HM).

In *Union*, SD, July 1, two E. Meadowlarks (PS) were outside the limited state breeding range of *Bennett* and *Todd*. Singing Orchard Orioles at Malta June 27 (DP) and Bowdoin June 30 (GS) indicate that the species is still moving farther west.

**Contributors:** (State editors in boldface) MONTANA: Charles Carlson, Harriet Marble, Stephen J. Martin, Gregory Neudecker, James Phelps, Dwain Prellwitz, William Roney, Michael T. Schwitters, Gene Sipe, Karen Stutsman; NORTH DAKOTA: Gordon Berkey, Jeff Chynoweth, Henry Duray, Larry Falk, Eve Freeberg, David & Carolyn Griffiths, John A. Heiser, Justin W. Hoff, Bernice Houser, David Lambeth, Ron Martin, Steve P. Millard, Robert O'Connor, Richard Waldrop; SOUTH DAKOTA: John Blake, Sheldon Cooper, Stephen Dinsmore, Kim Eckert, Barry Jones, Michael Melius, Ernest Miller, Richard Peterson, James Rorah, Dennis Skadsen, Mark S. Skadsen, Paul Springer.—GORDON B. BERKEY, Division of Science, Minot State University, Minot, ND 58701.

## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

The successes and failures of the breeding season have an inevitable effect on many birding finds for other seasons and years. Thus, summer patterns and trends may tell us about the future, both near and far. What patterns should we look for? How can we decipher them? What can we do about those that are lasting and less desirable?

We could invoke the theories of island biogeography and metapopulation dynamics, which are current buzzwords among many conservation biologists, to perhaps enhance this "crystal ball." In some ways, it may be discomfiting to contemplate what this and our experience over the last 10 years tell us about what birding will be like in the relatively short window of the coming 10 years. Frank Graham's recent article in *American Birds* has certainly posed the question for a select group of species.

Given the mid-continent refuge system, many waterbirds, particularly those that can nest in some density, will likely maintain their current status. Birds that tolerate and/or thrive in man-modified environments will likely increase. Growth in populations of Great-tailed Grackles and House Finches are recent examples.

However, there are growing fears that for other species, we may already have passed those critical thresholds in metapopulation dynamics where recolonizations balance extinctions. For some populations, the large extinction-resistant blocks may be the now-unachievable norm in an increasingly fragmented environment. Theory will tell us that a decreasing proportion of these groupings should persist for some time, but with an inevitable eventual result. We may simply be watching these time-lags between the critical events and the final outcome. Changes in other populations may be unfolding in a manner that makes our perceptions and impressions from only a few birds trivial.

Living in the mid-continent ecotone, many of us have already witnessed range withdrawals of a number of species. Environments in this Region for many marsh- and forest-dwelling birds may be naturally fragmented, and are now simply more fragmented. But these species still occur from time to time. Will that rate of appearance decline next? And then? What will that mean for the potential of finding gallinules, rails, bitterns, and several species of vireos and warblers? Ten years from now, will we be citing every Blue Grosbeak or Northern Oriole record Regionwide? I am already tempted to do so for nesting Orchard Orioles in central Oklahoma, where I simply "x-ed" them in my notes 10–15 years ago.

This season was peculiar in having desirable amounts of rainfall in most areas. It was

wetter than average in southwestern to central Oklahoma. However, it was very dry in Wichita and northern Oklahoma.

Some waterfowl numbers are rebounding from the last drought a few years ago, including Eared Grebes, Northern Pintails, and Ruddy Ducks in western Nebraska. Although Eared Grebes did not have very successful early nesting attempts in western Nebraska, the Rosches indicated that they appeared to do better late in the season.

Other species also seemed to be rebounding from drier years. In central and western Oklahoma, these included Carolina Wrens, Roadrunners, and some local populations of Rock Wrens, Canyon Wrens, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. A number of observers indicated that Green-backed Herons were more common this year. Populations of Indigo Buntings and Bell's Vireos were also up a little in Oklahoma, as well as those of Say's Phoebe and Loggerhead Shrikes in western Nebraska.

Populations of some other species seemed to be lagging or declining. Western Kingbird numbers in Oklahoma do not appear to have recovered yet from the drought a few years back. Peculiarly, numbers of Great-tailed Grackles were also down, though they appeared to have had a very good reproductive season. In addition, several observers commented that numbers of species such as Great Crested Flycatcher, Northern Oriole, and Blue Grosbeak were also down this year. For some along edges or in discontinuities of their ranges (i.e., Wood Thrushes, Warbling Vireos, Northern Parulas, and Prairie Warblers), the fragmented habitats, cowbird threats, and decreased densities may simply be running their courses.

**Abbreviations:** Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE*); McConaughy (*Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., NE*); Salt Plains (*Great Salt Plains Natl Wildlife Ref., Alfalfa Co., OK*).

### LOONS TO CRANES

Summering Com. Loons were noted in *Keith, NE*, June 21 (MB), *Holt, NE*, June 21 (JD), and *McConaughy* July 28 (SD). Western Grebe numbers at *McConaughy* were estimated at 350 July 27 (BP, LP). Several Clark's Grebes were also observed, including one June 2 in *Cherry, NE* (SD) and one in *Chase, NE*, June 19 (MB). More than 200 Double-crested Cormorant nests were at *Cherry, NE* (SD).

A vagrant imm. Little Blue Heron was noted July 27 in *Harlan, NE* (BP, LP). White-faced Ibises were apparently scattered over the w. portions of the region.

A few Greater White-fronted Geese sum-



mered in 1991 compared to a very successful 1990 season (RCR, DJR). Six nests of Ferruginous Hawks in w. Nebraska produced only four young (RCR, DJR).

A Purple Gallinule, now very rarely reported, was found dead July 4 in *Atoka, OK* (NH, *vide* WP). Lingered were two Sandhill Cranes June 18 in *Hall, NE*, one with an injured leg (TB, JT), the other its potentially faithful mate.

### SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

A nesting Snowy Plover on the Canadian R. in *Cleveland, OK* (VB) provided the first breeding there since the 1960s. One—two observed on *McConaughy* June 4 & 5 (MP, RP) were well n. of current breeding populations. Perhaps the first extensive search of *McConaughy* for Piping Plovers found 66 adults, more than ex-

pected (MP). A Black-bellied Plover was noted as late as June 8 in *Sheridan, NE* (RCR, DJR). Two pairs of Black-necked Stilts again nested in *Sheridan, NE*, but were unsuccessful (RCR, DJR). Apparently a highway proposal will destroy this site (MKC). Long-billed Curlews had a good nesting season in the Nebraska Sandhills; 100 were together on a meadow in *Sheridan, NE* (RCR, DJR). A Long-billed Curlew July 31 at the Salt Plains was unusual (SD). Thirteen Marbled Godwits were in *Keith, NE* July 28 (SD). A flock of 20 July 5 in *Sheridan, NE* (RCR, DJR) may indicate a poor nesting season elsewhere for this early migrating group. Occasional large groups of Baird's Sandpipers have been noted in the fall. This year about 5000 were estimated July 27 & 28 at

mered in *York, NE* (TB, JT), and another at *McConaughy* (SD, RCR, DJR) was equally unusual. Among the less common ducks were a Cinnamon Teal in *Scotts Bluff, NE* (RS) and another in *Sheridan, NE* (RCR, DJR), both June 8; a ♀ Bufflehead July 28 at *McConaughy* (SD); and two Com. Mergansers in *Lincoln, NE*, June 26 (TB, JT) and two at *Keith, NE*, July 21 (RCR, DJR). A ♀ Com. Goldeneye summered in *Keith, NE* (RCR, DJR). Two Hooded Mergansers were in *Tulsa* June 8 (TM *et al.*).

Bald Eagles have recently attempted nesting several times in Oklahoma. This year, they finally fledged two young in *Haskell, OK* (*vide* JL). Another pair in *Douglas, NE*, was also successful in fledging a young, the first in modern times for Nebraska (*vide* RCR, DJR). Swainson's Hawks produced few

young in 1991 compared to a very successful 1990 season (RCR, DJR). Six nests of Ferruginous Hawks in w. Nebraska produced only four young (RCR, DJR). A Purple Gallinule, now very rarely reported, was found dead July 4 in *Atoka, OK* (NH, *vide* WP). Lingered were two Sandhill Cranes June 18 in *Hall, NE*, one with an injured leg (TB, JT), the other its potentially faithful mate.



This Black Skimmer at Lake Overholser, Oklahoma City, on June 3, 1991, provided the third record for the state. Photograph/Mitchell Oliphant.

McConaughy (SD), and about 2400 were observed at the Salt Plains July 31 (SD). A number of smaller but sizable flocks were also reported. Lingering or early was a Pectoral Sandpiper June 22 in *Canadian*, OK (JGN). The only reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were one July 27 in Tulsa (JL, PS), and one juvenile at the Salt Plains July 31 (SD).

A dowitcher June 22 in *Canadian*, OK, was early, whichever the species. A Short-billed Dowitcher report came from Tulsa June 25. Two possible Short-billeds were noted July 10–15 in *Carter*, OK (BF). A Common Snipe flushed from a nest June 24 in *Lincoln*, NE (TB, JT) was outside the expected breeding range.

California Gull numbers continue to increase in w. Nebraska. Fifty-four (44 adults, three 3rd-year, two 2nd-year, and six immatures) were present July 28 at McConaughy (SD), with one ill Herring Gull there July 27 (SD). The "scoop" of the season was a **Black Skimmer** July 3–8 at L. Overholser, *Oklahoma* (MO *et al.*). This is only the 3rd Oklahoma record of this species.

The number of observers looking after Least Terns has been increasing in recent years. Up to five were noted in *Oklahoma*, but none nested (JGN). Nineteen pairs along the Canadian R., *Cleveland-McClain*, OK, produced a modest 21 young (VB). About 30 pairs were located on Arkansas R. between Muskogee and Okay, OK, more than in recent years (JM). In Tulsa, 62 young Least Terns were fledged (*fide* JL).

#### OWLS TO SWALLOWS

Burrowing Owls were observed east to *Knox*, NE, July 5 (MB). Not often noted together were Com. Poorwills and Whip-poor-wills calling June 8 on the Bohemia Prairie, *Knox*, NE (BP, LP, MB) and June 22 in *Thomas*, NE (TB, JT). A Chuck-wills-widow July 2 in *Dakota*, NE, was at the n. limits of its range (MB).

Black-chinned Hummingbirds appeared to have a banner year in the Wichita Mts., OK. While some are present at local feeders many years, they were common at and away from these feeders throughout the summer (JAG *et al.*). One was noted east to *Carter*, OK (BF). Perhaps the only location for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in the Region outside the McCurtain County W.A. in s.e. Oklahoma is one in *Pushmataha*, OK, where at least one bird was observed June 10 (JM).

A W. Wood-Pewee June 29–June 2 in *Garden*, NE (TB, JT) was e. of many occurrences. Late and a little w. of most occurrences was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher June 1 in *Cherry*, NE (SD); also noted were two Alder Flycatchers (SD). A pair of Acadian Flycatchers nesting in *Cleveland*, OK, provided one of very few local records for c. Oklahoma (VB). They were nesting as far n. as *Douglas*, NE, but disappeared after a storm June 22 (BP *et al.*). Least Flycatchers were at 2 locations around McConaughy June 11 (LC) and July 2 (TB, JT). Willow Flycatchers

were observed June 29 and July 2 in *Garden*, NE (TB, JT), and a migrant was identified July 29 in *Comanche*, OK (JG). Irregular in occurrence, a ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher was noted June 15 in *Greer*, OK (JDT).

#### CROWS TO VIREOS

Fish Crows (seven) were again in *Cherokee*, KS, July 6 (DK). At the edge of their range, Brown-headed Nuthatches were still in *Pittsburgh*, OK, June 1 (WAC). Out of range were a Red-breasted Nuthatch June 23 in *Thomas*, NE (TB, JT) and a Brown Creeper July 16 in Fontenelle Forest (BP). A few Rock Wrens probed e. to *Lincoln*, NE (TB, JT). Wood Thrushes were on the edge of their range and beyond in *Carter*, OK, July 10 (BF), *Cleveland*, OK, June 13 (VB), and *Comanche*, OK, June 14 (JAG). Also pushing east was a Sage Thrasher photographed July 11 in *Kimball*, NE (SD). Two Curve-billed Thrashers in *Greer*, OK, June 14 (JDT) provided the first county record.

Black-capped Vireo numbers were stable in the Wichita Mts., OK (JAG). The number observed in *Blaine*, OK, increased from 6 pairs in 1990 to 23 adults in 1991. Five of the 13 males were in their first year and likely benefited from cowbird trapping by the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy at this site.

Hubert Harris banded 23 Bell's Vireos in *Oklahoma*, of which 11 were young. He also banded several Warbling Vireos. Vicki Byre thought Bell's were very common along the Canadian R. in *Cleveland* but observed one feeding a cowbird fledgling. Only migrant Bell's and Warbling vireos could be found in *Pontotoc*, OK (WAC), and the Padelfords assembled information for only 7 localities where Bell's Vireos were located in June in e. Nebraska. One Warbling Vireo was noted June 2–6 in *Comanche*, OK (JMc). A White-eyed Vireo feeding a fledgling June 26 provided the first nesting record for the Wichita Mountains N.W.R., OK (JAG). Pairs of Red-eyed Vireos and Black-capped Vireos nearby attended cowbirds.

#### WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Outlier N. Parulas were noted in *Carter*, OK (BF). A Yellow-throated Warbler lurched N to Fontenelle Forest again this year (BP). Cerulean Warblers were in *Douglas*, NE, June 22 and July 14 (BP, LP) and Fontenelle Forest July 17 (BP, LP).

Prairie Warblers appear to have contracted their range eastward in recent decades. Two or three June 30 and July 6 near Hulah Res., *Osage*, OK, may be among a few excursionists along the edge of their current range (DV). Also outliers were Hooded Warblers still singing on territory June 9 in Tulsa (PS, JL).

Cassin's Sparrows made it back to *Dundy*, NE (SD). Of this northerly group were two adults feeding three young in *Box Butte*, NE, July 5 (RCR, DJR) and a male in *Sioux*, NE, on the same date (RCR, DJR). The

Henslow's Sparrow population discovered in recent years in the Osage prairies of Oklahoma was observed in several localities again this year (DV).

Swamp Sparrows noted in *Blaine*, NE, June 23 (2–3 singing males; TB, JT), and 2 locations in *Lincoln*, NE (TB, JT) were unexpected. A Harris' Sparrow lingered in *Cherry*, NE, until June 3 (SD). A McCown's Longspur was observed with newly hatched young in *Kimball*, NE, June 16 (SD). The species apparently had an excellent nesting season in *Sioux*, NE, where hundreds were flushed July 13 (RCR, DJR).

Bill Carter reports that N. Oriole numbers were down in *Pontotoc*, OK; Orchard Orioles were absent (WAC). A countable six Orchard Orioles were noted by 2 observers in Tulsa—not many. Three pairs were recorded in *Carter*, OK (BF).

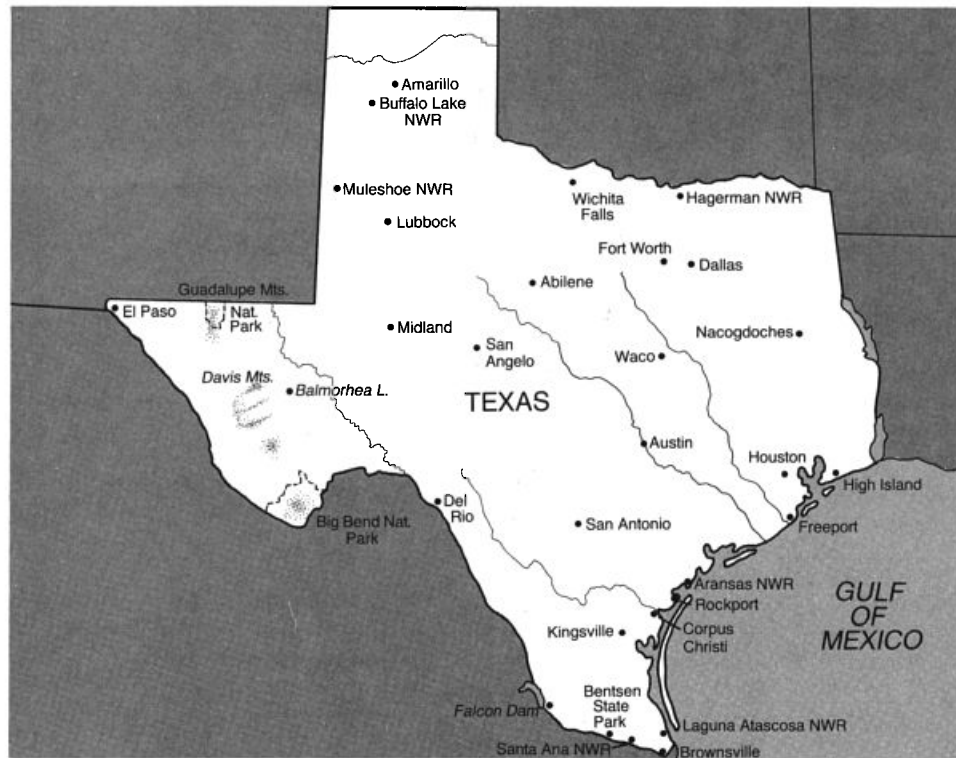
House Finches were not observed in Tulsa (JL). Four nestling House Finches in *Comanche*, OK, June 20 (JDT) later fledged (*fide* LM). House Finches in *Richardson*, NE, July 5 provided a first county record (BP, LP).

Red Crossbills lingered in *Cleveland*, OK, June 3 (SS) and to June 9 in *Delaware*, OK (B & EW). Continuing a pattern for over a year, Pine Siskin numbers were down: very few in winter, and almost none in breeding locations in w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). A juv Evening Grosbeak at a *Dawes*, NE, feeder July 13 is only the 2nd confirmed nesting for this area in recent years (D & BF).

**Corrigenda:** The Greater White-fronted Goose observed July 27, 1990, in *Keith*, NE (AB 44:1152) was with Canada Geese, not Snow Geese. The Marbled Godwits providing the first nesting record for the Region (AB 44:1153) did so in *Sheridan*, NE, not *Dawes*, NE. The late June 1990 observations of Cassin's and Savannah sparrows in Nebraska (AB 44:1154) were made in *Box Butte*.

**Cited Observers:** (area editors in boldface) KANSAS—Dan Kilby; NEBRASKA—Tanya Bray, Mark Brogie, Mary Kay Clausen, Linda Cooper, Steve Dinsmore, James Ducey, Deb & Bruce Ford, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Mark Peyton, Rocky Pletner, Dorothy J. Rosche, Richard C. Rosche, Ross Silcock, Jerry Toll; OKLAHOMA—Vicki Byre, William A. Carter, Brush Freeman, Hubert Harris, Nancy Hillstromb, Jo Loyd, Louis McGee, Janet McGee (JMc), Jeri McMahan, Terry Mitchell, John G. Newell, Mitchell Oliphant, Warren Pullich, Pat Seibert, Susy Smeal, Jack D. Tyler, Don Verser, Bill & Elli Womack.—JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI, 1701 Lenox, Norman, OK 73069.





## TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

Most of the state received (or continued to receive) abundant moisture through June and July, with many areas equalling their normal annual totals by the end of the season. East Texas was particularly waterlogged, as was Big Bend, for the second summer in a row. North-central Texas and some parts of south Texas (but not the Lower Rio Grande Valley) were among the few regions reporting below-normal rainfall. Almost no one complained of excessively hot weather. These conditions resulted in a bountiful production of young birds of almost all nesting species. The rains in the high plains and the Panhandle may have been too late to help nesting waterbirds in most cases.

Many researchers kept up the effort to complete the fifth and final year of the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas project. Seyffert, Peterson, Nanney, the Brothertons, and others reported several "tantalizing finds" that showed where future work needs to be done to confirm nesting. Poorly known ornithological horizons were explored, with concerted efforts in June in the Davis Mountains and in a few offshore birding trips out of Port Aransas; both these efforts yielded many exciting finds.

Don Alexander, an active Texas observer, died in June. He will be missed by his many birding friends. We dedicate this column to his memory.

**Abbreviations:** G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The fol-

lowing are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anzalduas, Aransas, Bentsen, Big Bend, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Sabal Palm, and Santa Ana.

### LOONS TO STORM-PETRELS

An imm. Com. Loon on L. Weatherford June 25–July 7 (BM) furnished one of the very few summer records for n.c. Texas. Other news of summering Com. Loons came from *Delta*, with two seen June 15 (MWh), and from *Walker*, with two June 30–July 6 at Huntsville (DP). Least Grebes may have fared a little better in the L.R.G.V. than in recent years: 3 pairs nested successfully at Laguna Atascosa (*vide* LL), and we heard of several observations in nearby areas. New locations for nesting Pied-billed Grebes included Tradinghouse L., *McLennan* (FB) and Grand Saline, *Van Zandt*, June 22 (RK, GH, JN). In June, a large colony of nesting Eared Grebes was found s. of Lubbock, with another smaller one in *Parmer* (JRa). The former group occupied a playa lake that was devoid of emergent vegetation. Four W. Grebes were at L. Balmorhea June 10 (MR, MP, GK), with at least two lingering throughout the summer. Very surprising was a single Clark's Grebe photographed there June 10, probably the first documented summer record for the state (MP, MR, GK).

Most Texas observers do not look for pelagic birds in summer; results of this summer's efforts may change that. A *Leach's Storm-Petrel* was carefully described June 1 about 30 mi s.e. of Port Aransas (†CS, PR, N & RA). Another Leach's was identified June 15 about 50 mi e. of Port Aransas (†MA, P & TF, WS *et al.*). The latter trip also uncovered

a *Band-rumped Storm-Petrel* in the same area (†CS, MA, P & TF *et al.*)! Prior to this summer there were but 3 accepted Texas records for Leach's and 6 for Band-rumped. The 3 petrel records have been submitted to the T.B.R.C.

### PELICANS TO STORKS

Over 190 nonbreeding Am. White Pelicans summered at San Antonio's Mitchell L. (WS). We received no firm news of Brown Pelican nesting success, but indications are that it was good. Inland Brown Pelicans continue to surprise observers. One immature was at L. Balmorhea June 1 (ph., GL, JP); another was at Ft. Hancock, *Hudspeth*, June 9 (LJ). An imm. and an ad. Brown Pelican were also seen at several San Antonio area lakes (WS). In the past, it has been a rule of thumb that Texas summer cormorants are probably Neotropical. That assumption has become speculative at best with some recent observations. In n.e. Texas, we received reports of three Double-crested Cormorants in *Delta* (MWh); three others spent time in *Panola* (PH). More intriguing were 18 pairs on nests at L. Fork, *Wood*, June 8 (D & LB). A group of 114 Neotropical Cormorants summered at Brauning L., *Bexar* (WS), a high number for that area. Several Neotropical Cormorants at L. Daniel, *Stephens*, June 8 (KN) represented a first county record.

A pair of Least Bitterns attended two downy young at Grand Saline June 30 (RK, GH, JN, MWh), providing a new nesting record for *Van Zandt*. Up to eight Least Bitterns were at Tradinghouse L., *McLennan*, but nesting could not be confirmed (FB). Cattle Egret has yet to be confirmed as a nester in n.w. Texas, so nine seen in a large Black-crowned Night-Heron rookery in *Crosby* in June was interesting (JS, DA). Also noteworthy was a Cattle Egret in *Briscoe* June 3 (BP) and four in *Sherman* July 4 (KS), the latter a new county record. New Black-crowned Night-Heron nesting colonies were discovered in *Crosby* (JS, DA) and *Sherman* (KS).

A White Ibis in mid-June (RK) and on July 14 (RK, GH, JN) in *Van Zandt* was rare for n.c. Texas. Elsewhere, an imm. White Ibis showed up at Austin's Hornsby Bend July 20 (BF) and remained through the period. A breeding-plumaged Glossy Ibis July 21 in *Dallas* (†CH, EW, TR) provided a first county record. Most, and possibly all Roseate Spoonbill rookeries in *Aransas* and *Nueces* were completely inactive owing to swarming fire ants (*vide* PP). Other ground nesters on these islands were similarly affected. Wood Storks were conspicuous at several locations in s. Texas by late June. A group of 34 at Mitchell L. June 30 was notable (WS).

## WATERFOWL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to explore beyond their normal range. Noteworthy reports include one at L. Fork, *Wood*, June 8 (D & LBr), one at Seymour, *Baylor*, June 17-18 (KO), and another in *Dallas* July 4 (EW). A pair nested in a tree cavity in Bellmead, *McLennan*, for a first county nesting record (*vide* FB). A Snow Goose lingered in Lubbock until mid-June (LMK *et al.*) A Ross' Goose, apparently unable to fly well, was photographed in Hot Springs Canyon, Big Bend, June 6-7 (J & BH). Wood Ducks showed up at unexpected locations: a hen with 8-10 ducklings at Kingsville in mid-July was certainly unexpected (*vide* PP).

Three Mottled Ducks in *Delta* July 7 (MWh) added to a growing number of n.e. Texas records. Elsewhere, a pair of Mottleds with five young on L. Buchanan n.w. of Austin in late May (EK) provided a first area nesting record. Gadwalls are very rare Texas nesters, so the observation of a pair in *Deaf Smith* June 15-17 (MP) was of interest. A ♀ Gadwall with eight young at Mitchell L. July 23 (WS) provided the 2nd recent nesting record in that area. A Red-breasted Merganser in *Titus* June 4 was very late (D & LBr). Some observers are surprised to see Ruddy Ducks in the L.R.G.V. in summer; they breed regularly there in small numbers if water levels are right. A Masked Duck was reported near Mission, *Hidalgo*, July 14 (TG).

## RAPTORS

Ospreys summering in the e. half of the state included one at Dinosaur Valley S.P. June 19 (MR), one at Austin June 22 (WS, GL), one near San Juan, *Hidalgo*, July 5 (HW), and one at L. Tawakoni July 10 (RK). The species was also noted all season at Laguna Atascosa (*vide* LL). Ospreys nested for the 6th consecutive year at Sam Rayburn Res. in e. Texas, but expanded their efforts this year to 2 nests, fledging five young (MK, *vide* JE). These remain the only known nesters in the state. The Am. Swallow-tailed Kite again proved a fairly elusive nester in Texas. Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. surveys located 4 pairs this year, duplicating last year's group in *Jefferson*, *Newton*, *Orange*, and *Tyler* (DaBo, JE, TE *et al.*). Mississippi Kites continue to increase in several areas. The species was described as very numerous in Abilene, with a population that seems to increase yearly (LB). Elsewhere, 9 active nests were discovered in *Johnson* (CE), and one was finally located in *Azle*, *Tarrant* (*vide* GK).

Bald Eagles had another banner year in e. Texas, with a total of 34 active nests in 26 counties. Twenty-three nests fledged 40 young, up from 20 nests and 29 young last year (*vide* JE). A Sharp-shinned Hawk surprised observers with a July 14 showing at Longview (G & JLu). Cooper's Hawk is the expected summer *Accipiter* in Texas away from the Trans-Pecos. Kinney and White sighted a remarkable seven Cooper's Hawks between June 13 and July 23 in *Van Zandt* and *Hunt*. A pair of Com. Black-Hawks

fledged two young from Limpia Canyon in the Davis Mts. by late July (KB). At least one additional pair was active in the Davis Mts. in June (JP, KB, GL). Gray Hawks were again present in Big Bend and the L.R.G.V. in small numbers.

Broad-winged Hawks can be difficult to confirm as nesters, so the nest found in *Nacogdoches* Apr. 21 is noteworthy (CSh, *vide* DW). Another pair of Broad-wingeds was seen regularly in n.w. Austin, where nesting was suspected (BA). The first Austin nesting record occurred 2 years ago. A pair of Swainson's Hawks fledged 3 young in *Collin* in July, a first county nesting record (ph. HH). Gallucci made a concerted effort to locate nesting Zone-tailed Hawks in the Hill Country; 8 pairs were located in *Real*, *Kerr*, *Kinney*, *Edwards*, *Bandera*, and *Medina*. Nesting Ferruginous Hawks can still be found in *Dallam*, as evidenced by an adult with 3 young there June 26 (HS). Single ad. Ferruginous Hawks were in *Hartley* June 4 and *Deaf Smith* June 23 (KS).

A Crested Caracara, very rare in the Trans-Pecos, was reported at Big Bend July 10 (*vide* RRo). Additional records of nesting Am. Kestrels in s. Texas continue to surface; a pair with young was found in *Dimmit* (SB), and another bird was in *Webb* (AC). Unexpected were 4 kestrel nests in the Angelina and Davy Crockett N.F. in e. Texas (CR, RSc, DW). Farther west, a kestrel at Austin July 27 (BF, DoB) provided a first July record for that area. Peregrine Falcons successfully fledged three young from an eyrie in G.M.N.P. June 1 (MF). An early migrant Peregrine was over San Antonio July 7 (WS). A well-described Prairie Falcon harassed small birds near e. Ft. Worth July 21 (BM), providing one of very few summer records for n.c. Texas.

## TURKEYS TO SHOREBIRDS

Wild Turkeys apparently had a successful season in most areas of s. and c. Texas. Northern Bobwhites had mixed nesting success. They were reported as having very good breeding success in s. Texas, from *Kleberg* and *Brooks* south into Laguna Atascosa (PP, AO, LL *et al.*). In areas around Abilene, they were described as being fewer in number (LB), and at Midland, Frances Williams reports there were no quail chicks of this species or Scaled Quail. There was no rain in that area from January to June, then heavy rains occurred in late July (up to 8" in 4 days), which would have flooded nests and/or drowned chicks.

Several pairs of Purple Gallinules raised at least 13 young at Mitchell L. (WS). Observers in n.e. Texas have been turning up a plethora of new records for little-birded counties. Observations of Com. Moorhens provided 2 such records this summer. A first *Delta* record was provided by a moorhen at Big Creek L. June 13-15 (MWh). This species' first confirmed n.e. Texas nesting record occurred at Grand Saline June 28, where a pair with six young were seen June 16-28 (MWh, RK). A pair of Am. Coots

with young near Alpine July 5 (ph. ML) provided a first nesting record for *Jeff Davis*. A single Whooping Crane summered at Aransas.

Snowy Plovers had a very successful season in the Midland area, where 28 (half of them juveniles) were counted along a 100-yard stretch of lakeshore July 13 (FW). Elsewhere, Snowies at a playa edge near Weinert, *Haskell*, June 15 & 22 (KN) behaved as if nesting, and several pairs nested successfully near Baffin Bay, *Kleberg* (PP). Mountain Plovers once again nested successfully in the Davis Mts. Completely unexpected was the Mt. Plover in basic plumage on Bolivar Pen June 30 (WG *et al.*). No records for this species have been accepted on the U.T.C. before this season. Two pairs of Black-necked Stilts brought off five young at the Amarillo sewage ponds, for a rare Panhandle nesting record (KS). Elsewhere, Black-necked Stilts made news with successful nesting in *Haskell* (KN), Austin (BF *et al.*), Midland (FW), and Waco (first county nesting record) (FB). A population of 125 Am. Avocets nested in *Haskell* (KN); the species had a successful season at Midland as well (FW).

For the 5th year, Gallucci noted Spotted Sandpipers throughout the breeding season along the Guadalupe R. in *Kerr*. No nesting evidence has been found, but the species' presence there is certainly of interest. Tantalizing, but as yet unconfirmed as nesting in Texas, were several reports of Upland Sandpipers. One was seen June 8 in the Panhandle in *Hansford* (KS); one was over *Wilson* June 17 (WS); and a trio was near Gainesville, *Cooke*, June 23 (CH, TR). The species is said to have bred at the latter location in the 19th century (Oberholser 1974). Two Long-billed Curlews over Kickapoo July 8 (OC) provided a first summer record for that area.

Two Ruddy Turnstones at Mitchell L. June 6 (WS) were unexpected, as was one at Johnson City July 5 (TH, RMc). The latter bird provided only the 2nd July record for the Austin region. Six White-rumped Sandpipers at Hornsby Bend July 3 (BF) were probably very late migrants. Two Silt Sandpipers at Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, *El Paso*, July 25 (BZ, PE) were early. A Short-billed Dowitcher was seen and heard at L. Tawakoni July 10 (RK), while two ad. Short-billeds were at Village Creek, *Tarrant*, July 25-27 (†MR, RR, JWS). An Am. Woodcock with three chicks in n. *Angelina* Mar. 9 provided a rare e. Texas confirmation of nesting, though displaying birds are often seen there in late winter (LD, NB, *vide* DW).

## GULLS TO ANIS

An ad. Franklin's Gull at Austin June 22 (GL, WS) and two at El Paso June 30 (BZ, PE) provided rare summer records. Two Caspian Terns in late July at L. Tawakoni surprised observers (MWh, RK). Common Terns made news in several areas this summer, it was a former breeding species in the state, but there are no recent records. A Com. Tern lin-

gered until June 1 in *Titus* in n.e. Texas (DBr); others were at Port Aransas the same day (CS). Up to 20 Com. Terns were at Bolivar Flats June 9–July 28 (WG). The June 1 pelagic trip off Port Aransas turned up some intriguing terns. A possible Arctic Tern teased observers but was not close enough for photos; there are no fully accepted Texas records of this species (CS, PRo).

#### S.A.

Nesting Least Terns of the endangered inland race staged their strongest comeback yet in n. Texas since their decline there, well over 30 years ago. First clues came June 2, when a bird was seen at Big Creek L., *Delta* (MWh) and June 4, when a pair of birds at Valley L. in *Fannin* exhibited courtship behavior (RR). A colony of six Least Terns was then discovered June 18 nesting at L. Kemp, *Baylor* (KO). One tern in a group of 3 w. of Weinert, *Haskell*, June 22 appeared to be brooding (KN), while in s.e. *Dallas*, 3 pairs were feeding juveniles July 14 (MWh, JCu) and July 20–21 (EW, CH, TR, ph.).

A count of 13–20 juv. and subadult **Bridled Terns** was made on the June 1 Port Aransas pelagic (ph. CS, PRo *et al.*). Another Bridled was at Rollover Pass, *Galveston*, June 9 (†WG *et al.*). The only previously accepted records of this species in Texas are associated with the passage of Hurricane Gilbert in Sept. 1988. Black Skimmers nested at several sites in *Nueces* and *San Patricio*, again suffering considerable disturbance: caught between the human traffic and high tides (PP).

Up to four Ringed Turtle-Doves spent the summer in Arlington (B & NH), a new location for this introduced species of uncertain Texas status. White-winged Doves continued to move northward; a record in *Clay* June 15 (CH, TR) provided the first for that area. Inca Doves have expanded greatly in the past 10 years in e. Texas and are now widespread in small numbers in many towns in that region. A new n. outpost was established in *Angelina* early this year (*vide DW*). A calling Inca Dove in *Dallam* June 23 (BO) provided a new county record and one of only a few in the Panhandle. White-tipped Doves continue to push at the n. limit of their range; they were found in *Refugio* (GB, *vide SB*).

One of the most exciting records was of a **Mangrove Cuckoo** at Laguna Atascosa June 11 (†BA *et al.*). If accepted by the T.B.R.C., this will be the 4th state record. Groove-billed Ani enjoyed a successful season in s. Texas (PP, AO, m.ob.). In a repeat of last year, a Groove-billed Ani was carrying nesting material at San Antonio's Mitchell L. July 17 (WS), and a possibly breeding pair was seen in Yancey, *Medina* (BA).

#### OWLS TO SAPSUCKERS

June exploration into private land in the high elevations of the Davis Mtns. produced a number of exciting finds. Among these was Flammulated Owl, a species little known from that area. Up to 15 Flammulated Owls were there June 3–19 (ML, JP, KB, GL). A lone report of yet another Flammulated Owl came from G.M.N.P. June 7 (MR, MP, GK); the species was also more common than usual in Big Bend. Once considered an abundant nester in n.c. Texas, the Burrowing Owl is now scarce in that area. It was encouraging to learn of a group of five setting up residence (nesting?) at a prairie dog town n. of Wichita Falls June 18–July 9 (DMc). The most exciting owl, however, was an ad. N. Saw-whet Owl calling June 3 in the Davis Mtns. (ph. ML). This species is a very rare nester in G.M.N.P. but had never been documented in the Davis Mtns.

Chimney Swifts were present through the season in Alpine, where the species seems to be increasing (ML). An imm. or ♀ **White-eared Hummingbird** was well-described from G.M.N.P. June 7 (†MR, MP, GK). Most observers this year reported that Buff-bellied Hummingbirds departed the Coastal Bend, *Brooks*, and *Kenedy* by the end of May. There were only 4 s. Texas sightings of Buff-bellied all summer: 3 at Santa Ana and one at Bentsen (*vide JI*). Five Lucifer Hummingbirds in the Glass Mtns. of n. *Brewster* July 2 (ML) may represent an unknown breeding population there. In El Paso, a Lucifer visited a feeder July 23 (A & MGa), for only the 2nd record there. O'Neil reported an extraordinary scarcity of hummingbird sightings of any species in the usually productive Falfurrias area.

A ♀ Ringed Kingfisher was present all summer on the Guadalupe R. near Ingram dam, *Kerr*. Another female was on the same river near Comfort. Gallucci suspects a small breeding colony in the area... the only problem is that he has not yet seen a male. Elsewhere, a ♂ Ringed Kingfisher in *Washington* June 17 (TG) provided the next-to-easternmost record in Texas (and the U.S.). Extraordinarily late for n.c. Texas was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Bedford June 16 (BM).

#### FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

Six Olive-sided Flycatchers, including a copulating pair, were in the high Davis Mtns. in early June (JP, KB, GL). The species has not been noted in that area before in mid-summer. An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Corpus Christi June 9 (WS, GB) was considered a very late migrant. Although known as a late migrant, mid-June sightings of W. Wood-Pewees continue to raise questions of possible nesting in the n. Panhandle area. Single calling birds June 8 just s. of the Oklahoma line in *Hansford* and June 15 in *Dallam* (KS) were noteworthy. An E. Wood-Pewee June 9 in *Young* was unusual (KN). Seyffert poses the question: "Do *Empidonax* flycatchers nest in

the Panhandle?" Four, thought to be Wil-lows, were found at 3 sites in *Deaf Smith* June 15 (MP). A Hammond's Flycatcher, a species whose status in the Guadalupe Mtns. is uncertain, was reported from G.M.N.P. June 7 (MR, MP, GK); it may have been a late migrant.

#### S.A.

Last summer we reported the first Texas nesting record of Gray Flycatcher when several (including a bird building a nest) were on private property in the Davis Mtns. Following up on that report, several observers (JP, KB, GL) gained access to the same area and spent June 1–8 investigating the Gray Flycatcher nesting situation. The results were amazing! A total of 32 Gray Flycatcher nesting territories were mapped. Numerous singing birds were taped and photographed. A nest with three young was located and photographed June 8. Additional investigations by Lockwood in a nearby area in mid-June located a few additional Gray Flycatchers and one more nest. The closest known nesting area to this group of birds is in c. New Mexico. It will take further investigations to reveal the complete status of nesting Gray Flycatchers in the Davis Mtns., but they are certainly common in some areas.

A Say's Phoebe near Falcon Dam June 23 (OC) was well away from its normal nesting range. A pair of **Dusky-capped Flycatchers** was found June 4 near Mt. Livermore in the Davis Mtns. (†ph., GL, KB, JP); a single bird was in the same vicinity June 19 (†ML). A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers feeding young at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend July 23 (JG) provided a very rare nesting record for the park. Other noteworthy Brown-crested Flycatchers included a pair feeding young June 17–20 in n.w. *Real* (JG) and another nesting pair in *Victoria*, apparently the northeasternmost nesting record in the state (*vide PR*). The Tropical Kingbirds that nested at Brownsville continued to be reported through the period; they were feeding two fledglings July 14 (TG). Another kingbird, vocalizing like a Tropical, was heard at Falcon Dam June 26 (†NL). The Thick-billed Kingbirds that again nested at Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend were present at least until July 26 (BZ, PE). Another pair at Rio Grande Village was last reported in early June (*vide RRo*).

An early Tree Swallow at El Paso July 25 (BZ, PE) provided only the 2nd summer record for that area. A Bank Swallow July 21 in *Dallas* was out of season there (CH, EW, TR). A few Cliff Swallows continue at what are now predominantly Cave Swallow colonies in *Kleberg* and *Kenedy*. The Palmers found and photographed a few nests at one site s. of Sarita, which had originally been built by Barn Swallows, had been remodeled

## S.A.

Tree Swallows were the highlight of the season for several observers in n.e. Texas. Nesting birds were independently discovered by 3 observers at 2 locations in June. A pair was at Big Creek L., *Delta*, June 2 (MWh); the following day they were feeding young. Another adult was feeding young in a nest hole at L. Fork, *Wood*, June 8 (D & LBr). Their last known Texas nesting was early this century.

into Cave Swallow nests from 1986 onward, and this season were rebuilt by Cliff Swallows. Cliff Swallows were nesting near Crockett, *Houston*, in May (DW) and were most surprisingly at Toledo Bend Res., *Sabine*, on the Texas/Louisiana border in May and June (JSt), adding to the Piney Woods records mentioned last summer.

## CROWS TO WAXWINGS

A few Mexican Crows were observed all summer near Brownsville (m.ob.) and at Laguna Atascosa (*vide* LL). Palmer speculates that we may see this species begin to "spread out a bit" in that area. Two Brown Creepers, unexpected in summer, foraged in the Davis Mtns. June 27 (ML) but showed no signs of territoriality. The first nesting White-breasted Nuthatches in *Nacogdoches* in over a decade were there in early May (R & SH, *vide* DW), with another family group near Crockett, *Houston*, June 18 (DW). A Carolina Wren again frequented Midland in July (*vide* FW). The species is not known to nest within 100 mi of that location. Prior to this season, House Wrens were not known or even suspected of breeding in the Davis Mtns. About a dozen pairs were there in June (JP, KB, GL, ML), although no nests were located.

Wood Thrush populations were found to be fairly high in the Huntsville area, for the 3rd consecutive year after several years of decline (DP). Two Clay-colored Robins were reported at Anzalduas in June (TBA *et al.*). American Robins were more abundant and widespread in several areas. In San Marcos, Archer found eight adults and 11 young; this was the largest number ever seen there in summer. The species also nested more commonly in and around Austin (T.A.S.) and was noted at Kingsville and Falfurrias (PP, AO). American Robins are seen regularly in the summer in a few spots in the Davis Mtns., but a nest with young photographed there June 8 (KB) probably provided the first documented nesting record. Unexpected were two Gray Catbird sightings in *Lubbock* June 2 (JCI) and June 9 (DS *et al.*). A Curve-billed Thrasher near Possum Kingdom L., *Palo Pinto*, June 22 was e. of its normal range (KN). A Cedar Waxwing was unexpected at Kickapoo June 11 (OC).

## VIREOS, WARBLERS

A White-eyed Vireo in *Archer* June 15 (DMc) was unusual for the Wichita Falls area. Bell's Vireos, once common in e. Texas, then in serious decline, have been garnering more notice. This summer, singing males were in *Franklin* June 11 (MWh), *Hopkins* June 30 (MWh), *Delta* July 7 (MWh), *Nacogdoches* (DW), and *Harrison* July 12 (GLu). In n.c. Texas, about a half dozen Bell's Vireos nested or defended territories in the vicinity of railroad right-of-ways around Campbell, *Hunt*; however, vegetation-control herbicide threatened their habitat (MWh). Fledging success for Black-capped Vireos at Kickapoo was the greatest since researchers began monitoring that site (KB, DStu, OC). This contrasted with the Austin region, where nesting success was moderate to low and probably insufficient to offset population losses (*vide* D. Steed). A Black-capped Vireo was in *Mason* June 1 (DF, DR), where the species had not been documented in this century. A Black-capped singing near Hubbard Creek L., *Stephens*, June 8 was in a new location; three between Brad and the Brazos R., *Palo Pinto*, June 23 were also rare finds (KN). The Yellow-throated Vireo in G.M.N.P. in April was still present June 29 (MF). A lone Hutton's Vireo in G.M.N.P. June 7 (MR, MP, GK) was at a location where the species is only known as a rare migrant. A pair of Warbling Vireos photographed on a nest in the Davis Mtns. June 6 provided a rare nesting record there (GL, KB, JP). An out-of-season Red-eyed Vireo was at Santa Ana June 10 (RRi, FP). Yellow-green Vireos continued to be reported, without documentation, at Laguna Atascosa through July 14, with others reported at Sabal Palms and Santa Ana.

An Orange-crowned Warbler was carrying nest material in the Davis Mtns. June 8 (JP); before last year, the species was not considered a Texas nester except in the Guadalupe Mtns. Four singing Virginia's Warblers were also located in the Davis Mtns. the first week of June (JP, KB, GL). There were several reports of N. Parulas foraging in cottonwoods along the Rio Grande in Big Bend July 23–28 (m.ob.). Groups of up to six Tropical Parulas were noted at Bentsen and Santa Ana in late July (*vide* JI). Three singing Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers were in the Davis Mtns. in early June (JP *et al.*).

Golden-cheeked Warblers had a 2nd very successful nesting season in a row. Continued research efforts on the species began to focus on habitat occupancy and how species such as Blue Jay may be affecting Golden-cheeked around urbanizing areas (TEen, CP, CS). Although known as a late migrant, a Blackpoll Warbler in *Lubbock* June 1 was noteworthy (GJ). A Worm-eating Warbler was feeding young in the Angelina N.F., *San Augustine*, June 20 (CSh). Always uncommon in summer, this species has greatly declined in e. Texas over the past 2 decades and must now be considered rare and local as a nester. A MacGillivray's Warbler in *Mason* June 1 (DF, DR) was late, as was another the

same date in Amarillo (KS). Common Yellowthroat is now a common summer resident along Monahans Draw in *Midland*; nesting is not yet confirmed there (FW). Yellow-breasted Chats may still nest in isolated pockets in n.c. Texas, evidenced by three in *Palo Pinto* June 23 (KN).

## TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Scarlet Tanager in Big Bend June 23 (*vide* RRo) provided one of few Trans-Pecos records. Also unusual was another ♂ Scarlet Tanager in *Crosby* July 20 (AG). An Indigo Bunting in s. *Taylor* in early June represented the first summer record for the Abilene area (*vide* LB). A Varied Bunting was unexpected in the Davis Mtns. June 11 (MP). Up to 6 territories of Green-tailed Towhees were in the Davis Mtns. in early June (JP, KB, GL), with another bird detected June 7 in G.M.N.P., where they are also very rare (MR, MP, GK).

Bachman's Sparrows were described as "among the most common birds" in proper habitat on commercial forest lands in *Trinity*, *Polk*, and *Tyler* July 12 (DP). Several ad. and juv. Brewer's Sparrows were found June 23 in the very n.w. corner of the Panhandle in Dallam (BO). There are apparently no confirmed nesting records this century in Texas, but the species is known to have nested 30 mi to the north in Oklahoma (*vide* KS). On June 29, Field Sparrows were found to be unexpectedly common as far w. as *Armstrong* (*vide* KS). A singing Black-throated Sparrow in *Oldham* June 4 (KS) was at an unexpected location. Incredible were two Savannah Sparrows that were carefully identified near Kingsville July 15 (PP, AW). The species nests nowhere near Texas that we are aware of. Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows on Bolivar Pen. July 28 were exceptional for the date, whether summering or migrants (WG). An oddity was a singing White-throated Sparrow June 23 in *Van Zandt* (RK). The only other Texas summer record is listed for the same area by Oberholser (1974).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird near the McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mtns. July 11 (MP) was out of place. Two or three Brewer's Blackbirds in *Hartley* June 23 (BO) were noteworthy since only one or 2 definite nesting records exist for Texas. Bronzed Cowbirds continue to expand their range, evidenced by a bird at Hueco Tanks S.P. June 1 (JSp) (first park record), as well as birds in courtship on Houston's Rice University campus and other areas in *Harris* (WR). A count of 40 Orchard Orioles was made near Lasara, *Willacy*, July 19 (JAn *et al.*). Among this group of early migrants was an albino. A most unexpected Scott's Oriole was in *Webb* (AC).

Following their invasion last winter, a recently fledged House Finch spent late July in *Dallas* (*vide* JP); a juvenile and an adult made sporadic visits all summer to Azle, *Tarrant* (CH, TR). The species also apparently nested in Houston (*vide* WR). A pair of Red

Crossbills was in the Davis Mtns. June 5 & 7 (ph., GL, JP), a first summer record for that area. Reports of Lesser Goldfinches in the Panhandle were widespread this summer. Two Evening Grosbeaks, sporadic in summer, were in G.M.N.P. June 29 (*fide* MF).

**Addendum:** A **White-eared Hummingbird** was photographed July 14–16, 1990 near Rio Grande City, *Starr* († to T.B.R.C., DH *et al.*). This is the first report of the species outside of the Trans-Pecos and may represent its easternmost U.S. record. A Painted Redstart was well described at Santa Ana Mar. 14 (CBu).

**Corrigendum:** In the spring column, we reported on what we thought was the first Texas nesting record for wild Canada Geese. We have since learned of 2 earlier records not reported here before. A pair of Canada Geese raised five young in *Archer* in 1988 (*fide* JP), and another pair nested in *Clay* in 1989 (*fide* DMc).

**Contributors and Cited Observers:** (Subregional editors in boldface) Donna Alexander, Tony Amos, Jon Andrew (JAn), Ben Archer, Nanett & Rich Armstrong, Mike Austin, Sharon Bartels, John Battalio, Chris Best, Nancy Bird, Gene Blacklock, Johnny Boerjan, Doug Booher (DoB), Dan Boone (DaBo), David & Luanne Brotherton (D & LBr), Hugh Brown, Kelly Bryan, Frank Bumgardner, Christopher Burns (CBu), Jer-

ry Carlman, Oscar Carmona, Allan Chaney, Jeremy Clark (JCl), Jane Cumming (JCu), Louis Debetaz, Gladys Donohue, Charles Easley, John Economidy, Tom Engles (TEen), Peter English, Bonnie Fairbanks, Dixie Feuerbacher, Mark Flipppo, John & Melissa Forsythe, Phyllis & Tony Frank, Bobbye Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman, **Tony Gallucci** (East Texas: P.O. Box 6, Camp Verde, TX 78010), Al & Madeline Gavit (A & MGa), John Gee, Brian Gibbons, Alice Gomez, William Graber, III, Todd Haas, Peggy Harding, George Harmon, **Carl Haynie** (North Central Texas: 737 Meadow Crest, Azle, TX 76020), Dick Heller, Bob & Nancy Highgate, Helen Hoffman, Roger & Shirley Hughes, Joe Ideker, Tom Johnson, Larry Jordan, George Jury, Lois Marie Keeton (LMK), Greg Keiran, Richard Kinney, Mike Kruger, Ed Kutac, Linda Laack, L.E.A.S. (Llano Estacado Audubon Society), Greg Lasley, Nick Lethaby, Mark Lockwood, Gut & Joan Luneau (G & JLu), Debra McKee (DMc), Roger McNeill (RMc), Bob Menten, John Muldrow (JMu), Kenneth Nanney, N.E.T.F.O. (Northeast Texas Field Ornithologists), Julius Nussbaum, John & Holly O'Dell, Ken Offill, Andy O'Neil, Brent Ortego, Nancy Palmer, **Paul Palmer** (South Texas: Dept. of History, Texas A & I University, Kingsville, TX 78363), Michael Patterson, Dick Payne, Craig Pease, Jim Peterson, Barbara Porthast, Frederick Pratt, Ross Rasmussen, Danette Ray, Jim Ray (JRa), Martin Reid, Richard Rickard (RRi), Peter Riesz, Teresa Risdon, Jan & Will Risser, Phil Rostron (PRo), Robert Rothe (RRo), Craig Rudolph, S.A.A.S. (San Antonio Audubon Society), Rich Schaefer (RSc), Hart Schwarz, Willie Sekula, Jeff Selleck, Chuck Sexton, **Ken Seyffert** (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), Cliff Shackelford (CSh), J.W. Sifford, Jane Smith, John Sproul (JSp), Darleen Stevens, James Stewart (JSt), David Stuart (DStu), T.A.S. (Travis Audubon Society), T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee—Texas Ornithological Society); Mary Tryer, Richard Uzar, Allen Valentine, Davis Weaver (DWe), Herbert Wessling, Ed Wetzel, Matt White (MWh), Anse Windham, David Wolf, **Barry Zimmer** (Trans-Pecos: 6720 Heartstone Ct., El Paso, TX 79924).—**GREG W. LASLEY**, 305 Loganberry Ct., Austin, TX 78745, and **CHUCK SEXTON**, 101 E. 54th Street, Austin, TX 78751.

## IDAHO-WESTERN MONTANA REGION

*Thomas H. Rogers*

June was cold and wet, an exception being Boise, Idaho, with significant rain only the first and last weeks. July temperatures were generally on the hot side, with deficient precipitation. Again, Boise was an exception, with temperatures about normal and precipitation a bit above the usual scant amount, but all of it falling on one day!

**Abbreviations:** BBS (*Breeding Bird Survey*).

### LOONS TO QUAIL

Two Com. Loons on the Clearwater R. at Lewiston, ID, June 18 were unusual, as was a Red-necked Grebe there June 11 (JM). The latter were nest-building at Georgetown L. w. of Anaconda, MT, June 29 (WEH). At least one pair bred at Harriman S.P. near Island Park, ID (CHT), and 2 pairs bred on Henrys L. n. of there (EA). Their numbers continued low at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID; only one pair and no young were seen there (JJR). One was sighted June 11 on Clearwater R. at Lewiston, ID (JM).

Reports of up to five to 10 Double-crested Cormorants came from the Flathead R. near Kalispell, but no nesting was noted (DC). A Green-backed Heron along the Snake R. in Blackfoot, ID, was carrying a stick into a dense shrub, strongly indicating nesting, which would be the first state record (LB, CHT).

An ad. Tundra Swan on the Snake R. w. of Hammett, ID, June 3 was either attempting to summer or was perhaps injured (PL). Trumpeter Swans were observed at Silver L., Harriman S.P. June 27, and two adults with four young were on Swan L. s. of Island Park Res. the same day (WEH). Canada Goose success was good at Kootenai N.W.R., with 144 goslings raised. Ducks there had greatly reduced success, however; the cold, wet spring was evidently the reason. Principal nesters there were Mallards and Cinnamon Teal (JJR), but on sloughs s. of Kalispell, MT, it was Mallards and Com. Goldeneyes (DC). The latter species was the most common nester in the Fortine, MT, area as well, but Lesser Scaup nesting gains in recent years there were losing out (WW). A ♀ Harlequin Duck and three young were noted at Apgar, Glacier N.P., MT, July 1 (WEH). A comprehensive study of the species indicates fewer than 50 pairs nesting in Idaho (FC). A vocalizing ♂ Oldsquaw lingered very late on a slough at Somers, MT, June 8. A brood of Hooded Mergansers on Spring Creek n. of Kalispell was somewhat notable (DC).

Ospreys are becoming firmly established in the Three Forks, MT, area (WEH). Bald Eagle nests in n. Idaho totalled 14. In that area, 3 new nests were found, one each at

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Twin Lakes, Robinson L., and along the Kootenai R. (JMc). Included were the Kootenai N.W.R. nests and the Kootenai R. nest e. of Bonners Ferry, each of which fledged one young (JJR). Henrys L. had three imm. Bald Eagles June 27 (WEH). Two eaglets fledged at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (KN). Four Peregrine Falcons, six Prairie Falcons, and three Merlins were reported. White-tailed Ptarmigan were viewed at Logan Pass, Glacier N.P., in early July (WEH). A N. Bobwhite appeared in Hells Gate S.P., Lewiston, June 9 (LL).

### CRANES TO OWLS

A single Whooping Crane spent June–July at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT (KN). Two or three Yellow Rails were with Soras and Virginia Rails at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, MT (DT *vide* PLW).

A pair of Black-necked Stilts with a juvenile was sighted near Post Creek, MT, June 30 (SAW). An Upland Sandpiper with young was near Smith's Ferry, ID, in mid-July (TE, CHT). The species is very rare in the state. A Whimbrel was with Marbled Godwits at Mud Lake M.W.A., Hamer, ID, July 18 (CHT); about 25 of the latter migrated through Red Rock Lakes June 30 (KN). Market Lake W.M.A., Roberts, ID, had a Stilt Sandpiper about July 15 (BH). A Franklin's Gull was at Lewiston June 21 (CV). C.J. Strike Res. near Bruneau, ID, hosted three Franklin's Gulls, eight Bonaparte's Gulls, and 35 Caspian Terns June 3 (Paul Lehman). The latter were present again at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, MT, where they nested successfully last year (MB). An ad. Arctic Tern was carefully identified at C.J. Strike Res.

June 3 (SF, PL). Three Com. Terns again appeared along the Snake R. w. of Blackfoot, ID, June 7 (CHT). Black Tern numbers peaked at 60 at Kootenai N.W.R., then most mysteriously disappeared; no nesting was observed, although they normally produce 15–30 young there each year (JJR).

Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were calling along the S. Fork of the Snake R. near Rexburg, ID, at the end of June (VS); at least three were along the Snake R. between Blackfoot and American Falls Res. about July 4 (JT). Several Flammulated Owls were near the Magic Mt. ski area s. of Twin Falls, ID, in early June (JTr); at least six were noted on Scout Mt. s.

of Pocatello in early July (CHT, JT). They responded on 4 different BBS routes in the Missoula, MT, area (DH). An abandoned nestling fell from a nest hole s.w. of Helena July 26 and was cared for by the finders (B & LN). This may be Montana's first definite breeding record (GH). One or two Flammulated Owls responded to tapes in the Libby, MT, area in June (MS). A N. Pygmy-Owl was s. of Twin Falls in early June (JTr); one was on Scout Mt. June 18 (CHT *et al.*). A Great Gray Owl was identified up the Yaak R. n. of Troy, MT, in June (JH, MS). The crash of *Microtus* rodent levels last winter in the Flathead Valley of w. Montana resulted in reduced nesting by Short-eared Owls (PLW).

### HUMMINGBIRDS TO WAXWINGS

Two ♀ Broad-tailed Hummingbirds came to a Coeur d'Alene, ID, feeder (RB, *vide* SHS). Black Swifts were over the Flathead R. at Columbia Falls about July 20 (DC). The only Lewis' Woodpeckers were two at the National Bison Range, Moiese, MT, June 30 (WEH). Three nests of Williamson's Sapsucker were along the Yale-Kilgore road near Island Park June 27 (WEH). Two were tallied on the Avery, ID, BBS (SHS, SW); a pair was found s. of Helena, e. of the Continental Divide, the female carrying food to a nest hole (GT *vide* GH). A ♀ Cordilleran Flycatcher was on a nest along the Middle Fork of the Flathead R. e. of Columbia Falls June 29, for the latilong's first confirmed breeding record (DC). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher June 15 (K & TM *et al.*).

A Canyon Wren was calling at Headwaters S.P., Three Forks, MT, July 9. The species was regular there about 10 years ago, but a

very cold winter was believed to have wiped out the birds (WEH). Silver Creek, near Pikabo, ID, was visited by a N. Mockingbird about June 1 (JTr). Cedar Waxwings were abundant in the upper Flathead Valley, MT, similar to the situation last year, when they far exceeded their numbers of the previous 6 years (DC). They were also abundant in the Libby, MT, area (DS).

### WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Single Tennessee Warblers were in Glacier N.P., July 1–2 (WEH). An imm. ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler appeared 13 mi n. of Ola, ID, July 22–23 (CFZ, MZ). Hauser L., Kootenai, ID, had a singing Am. Redstart June 23, for the only report (BM). A singing Ovenbird apparently was on territory at the mouth of the Snake R. at American Falls Res., June 30 (JD, JT, CHT). A N. Waterthrush was singing on territory in a swamp s. of Columbia Falls, MT, June 3–5 (THR). Two Wilson's Warblers sang in mature w. larch forest at Martin City, MT, June 1 (DC). A Yellow-breasted Chat was heard June 25 & 29 at Missouri Headwaters S.P., Three Works, MT, for the only report (WEH).

An ad. ♂ Scarlet Tanager appeared along Hungry Horse Res. s.e. of Hungry Horse, MT, July 16 (DC). A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder in Gardiner, MT, June

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18 (JQ). Two or three Lazuli Buntings were at Hauser L. June 23 (BM). A singing ♂ Indigo Bunting was in the Centennial Mts. n. of Kilgore, ID, June 22 (SP); another appeared at Eagle Creek near Gardiner June 16 (TM, JR *et al.*). Western Montana had 2 sightings of Clay-colored Sparrows in July: one just w. of Missoula (TT) and one at the Bison Range (DH). Six were observed along the Gallatin R., *Gallatin*, MT, July 29 (WEH). Two singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrows were just s. of Missoula (DH). The species was noted as common around Pocatello (CHT). A Lark Bunting was sighted near Townsend, MT, July 4 (WEH). Four Baird's Sparrows were n. of Dupuyer, MT, July 4 (WEH).

House Finches are well established in Montana's Gallatin Valley (WEH) and continue to increase in the upper Flathead Valley (DC). One even got as far up the North Fork of the Flathead R. as Polebridge (DO). About 50 Red Crossbills appeared along Skyline Drive n. of Moscow, ID, after being observed all winter and spring in the general area (C.B.). The species seemed particularly abundant in the Libby area as well (DS). Common Grackles continue to increase in s. Idaho; at least 10 were around Pocatello in May and June (CHT), and one appeared at Ketchum around July 17 (BS). Common Redpolls lingered in the Helena area until June 8, for a new late record (SR). Courtship feeding by Lesser Goldfinches was observed at Mink Creek s. of Pocatello in early June (BA); one was near the entrance to Caribou N.F. in s.e. Idaho (CHT). One was in Rogerson, ID, July 1 (PL). An albino Evening Grosbeak was at Lewiston Orchards June 8 (CG).

**Observers:** (subregional editors in boldface) Bill Akersten, Susie Archibald-Wilson, Eric Atkinson, Richard Beeks, Linda Beidelman, Marcy Bishop, Canyon Birders (C.B.), **Dan Casey**, Frances Cassirer, Judy Davis, Terry Edwards, Shawnee Finnegan, Charlene Gaiser, Jean Habeck, Brad Hammond, W. Edward Harper, Denver Holt, **George Holton**, **Merlene Koliner**, Louise La Voie, Paul Lehman, Joanne McCormack (JM), Karen & **Terry McEneaney**, Jack McNeel (JMc), Brian Miller, Kenneth Niethammer, Betsy & Larry Nordell, Dan Owens, Susan Patla, Joyce Queckborner, Jimmie J. Reynolds, Sandra Riggs, Jim Rogers, Thomas H. Rogers, Vickie Saab, **Don Skaar**, Brian Sturges, **Shirley H. Sturts**, Marge Swanson, Gordon Thompson, Joel Tinsley (JT), Terry Toppins, Dorinda Trautman, **Charles H. Trost**, Jack Trotter (JT), Carole Vande Voorde, Susan Weller, Winton Weydemeyer, **Philip L. Wright**, C. Fred & Melly Zeilemaker.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, 10820 E. Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

## MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

*Hugh E. Kingery*

Six new state breeding birds, an impressive inventory of Snowy Plovers in Utah, and expanded Least Tern nesting marked a productive summer season. Nevada had three new breeders: Common Loon, Clark's Grebe, and Indigo Bunting (male mated with female Lazuli). Colorado reported two new ones: Franklin's Gull and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher; the latter was even a new Colorado bird. Only circumstantial evidence supported Wyoming's one new breeder—Northern Waterthrush.

Despite a normal to wetter-than-normal spring and summer, the overall effects of five years of drought dominated breeding at the Region's wildlife refuges. Stillwater and the nearby state refuges in Nevada's Lahontan Valley noted dismal breeding by herons, pelicans, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Diligent field work around the Great Salt Lake turned up impressive numbers of shorebirds, including 1343 Snowy Plovers; this inventory has no baseline for comparison. In Colorado's Arkansas Valley, Least Terns had 50% more nests than last year—up to 23 this year—but the small colony of Snowy and Piping plovers declined. Passerines enjoyed a banner nesting season, responding to a spring and summer that produced abundant insect and plant food, including berries and conifer seeds.

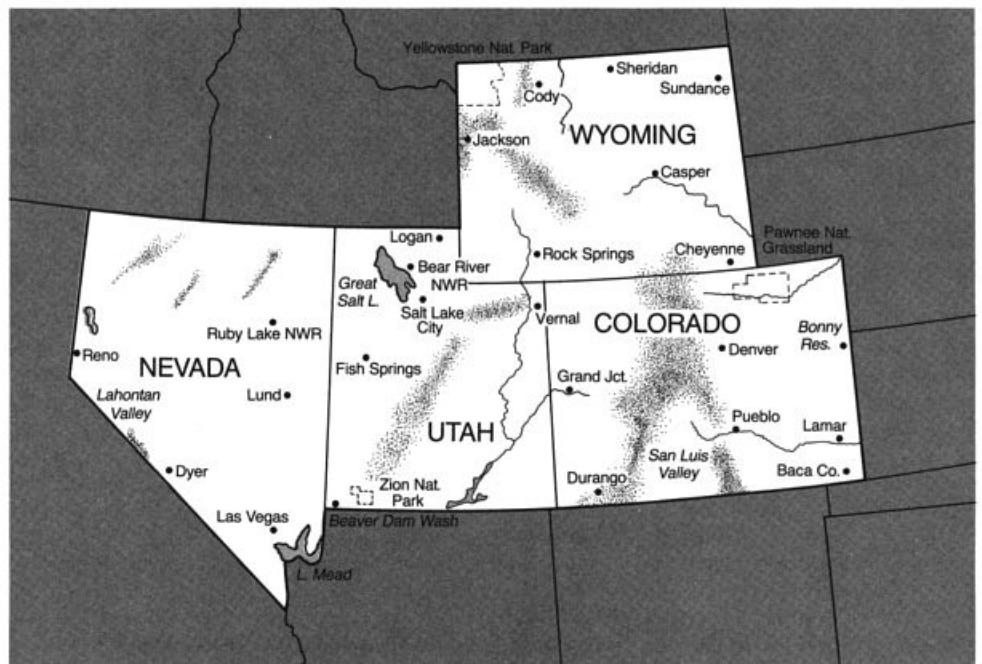
**Abbreviations:** † (*written description on file with Regional editor*); †† (*written description on file wish, and subject to approval of state or local records committee*); I.P.B.C. (*Indian Peaks, CO, Summer Bird Count*); L/L/B/L (*Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); ph. (*photograph on file with Regional Editor*);

ph.? (*photographed but not submitted to R.E.*); 1st Lat (*first latilong record*).

### LOONS TO IBIS

Nevada recorded its first breeding **Common Loons**: at Pyramid L. June 15; six young rode on a parent's back (CP *vide* JT). Loons summered at Delta and Blue Mesa Res., CO; other summer records came from Morgan, UT, Antero Res., CO, and Hasty, CO. Dexter wonders if they may soon nest in Colorado. These reservoirs have a reliable food supply (but may lack proper nesting habitat); except for Antero, they have hotter climates than is consistent with our stereotype of this loon as a boreal breeder. Single Red-necked Grebes stayed at Yellowstone N.P. June 5–11 (TM) and foraged at Jackson L., WY, July 24 (†WB). The two Eared Grebe chicks at Las Vegas July 13, swimming with two adults, established s. Nevada's first breeding record (MC). Two reservoirs near Walden, CO, each had 500+ Eared Grebe nests; high water destroyed 5 nests at Loveland, CO. Fifteen non-nesting birds summered at Cortez, CO. The puzzle of Western vs. Clark's Grebes continues. An adult and chick **Clark's Grebe** July 30 at Overton W.M.A. established a first breeding record for s. Nevada (MC) and probably the first for the state.

American White Pelicans began a 3rd Colorado nesting colony, the 2nd new colony in 2 years: 42 pairs nested near Walden (MS). At Riverside Res. near Ft. Morgan, the oldest colony produced 800–1000 young; Antero Res. near Fairplay had 100 young (RR). As usual, flocks of nonbreeding pelicans cruised all over e. Colorado waters; the most was 400 at Lamar June 1; most surprising was a flock of 35 at Red Feather Lakes, in the mountains w. of Ft. Collins. The Anaho Island N.W.R., NV, colony had 1335 nests May 18 but fledged a paltry nine young; the prolonged Nevada drought probably had negative side





**Brown Pelican (with American White Pelicans) at Antero Reservoir, Colorado, July 9, 1991. Photograph/Charles Loeffler.**

effects on food supply and predator-proof nest sites.

**Brown Pelicans** went on a Colorado odyssey. An immature paused briefly on the roof of a McDonald's in Limon, 90 mi s.e. of Denver, on May 9. On June 1–2, adults appeared at 4 plains and one mountain reservoirs: Union Res. near Longmont June 3–9, then 3 Denver-area reservoirs—Chatfield June 23, Chatfield and Barr June 24, two at Chatfield June 26—then 75 mi west in the mountains at Antero Res., one July 1–9 (ph. †LH, ph. †CL), then back in Denver at Cherry Creek Res. July 22–25. If all June observations records involved but two birds, in 2 months they ranged back and forth between reservoirs 90 mi apart, not implausible for an oceanic vagrant to the high country.

Despite the White Pelican disaster, Anaho I. had 590 nearly fledged young Double-crested Cormorants July 31 (LN, AJ, BH). Antero, Chatfield, Walden, Barr L., and Riverside had about 100 nests each. American Bittern reports continue to drop (this summer only four birds): at Fish Springs (1–2 all summer), Yellowstone, and Pawnee Grassland, CO. In 7 years, D.F.O. trips have seen only one. The Region reported almost as many Least Bitterns: one each at Longmont, CO, June 2 (B.A.S.) and Overton, NV, July 2 (MC). White-faced Ibis failed to nest at Stillwater Ref., although juveniles nearby in August suggested that some nesting occurred at a nearby gun club.

#### **WATERFOWL, RAPTORS**

Ducks in San Luis Valley, CO, dropped 40% from previous years. Good habitat existed, but production dropped to a success rate of 29% (*cf.* a 20-year average of 49%). Only three Trumpeter Swan cygnets survived at Yellowstone; floods and bad weather inhibited successful nesting. A molting ad. Snow Goose was at Antero Res. July 9 (RR). Red-heads produced five ducklings at Las Vegas, a rare breeding record there (MC). A ♀ Greater Scaup that arrived Apr. 30 summered

at Grand Jct., CO (CD). Perhaps waiting for snowmelt, three Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Dotsero, CO, June 1 (JWi); on July 20, in the nearby Flattops Wilderness, Reichert found 2 broods in the Oyster L. atlas block. Summer records of Hooded Mergansers came from Yellowstone, Grand Jct., and Denver.

Near Boulder Aug. 11, two young huddled in the 3rd Colorado Turkey Vulture nest found in 2 years (AW). Colorado reported new Osprey nests at Pueblo (MY) and Red Feather L. (J & AC). At Yellowstone 16 pairs of Bald Eagles fledged only 11 young; all nest failures were weather-related (TM). Salt Lake City's Peregrine Falcons did not breed downtown but moved to a nearby cliff; two young fledged July 5 (JV). In s.e. Utah, Peregrines occupied 10 aeries, 3 of them new (DW). An unbanded pair nested close to Boulder and fledged three young; the city restricted rock climbers to protect them. Ruffed Grouse w. of Salt Lake City in the Stansbury Mts. could represent either a spread or a transplant (1st Lat, JV).

#### **RAILS TO PHALAROPES**

The **Black Rail** that Bridges found in May at La Junta remained on territory until June 22 (A.V.A.S.). At Genoa, NV, a Sandhill Crane chick confirmed the first w. Nevada nesting in many years (RL). In Yellowstone a Whooping Crane summered with a Sandhill (TM).

An intensive survey by 31 observers found 1343 **Snowy Plovers** in the Great Salt L. area (PP *et al.*). Paton found 185 nests. Flooding and Red Fox predation were responsible for "terrible" nest success until July. The Lahontan Valley has seen a dramatic drop in Snowies: 162 this year, including 23 young, down 57% from 1988, and down 82% from the 878 in 1980. Only 8 pairs nested at Lamar (DN). At the same site, Piping Plovers made only 2 nest attempts. Both failed; wind and predation were the culprits. Two other

birds at Rocky Ford stayed only one week (DN). A flock of 50 Mt. Plovers at Two Buttes, CO, July 16–30 (JnlT) belied the concern over the status of this prairie nester. The nesting population on the Pawnee Grassland has dropped alarmingly since studies in the 1960s.

Black-necked Stilts had a disastrous nesting season: only 21 chicks from 12 nests in the Lahontan Valley (JA; 500 nesting pairs in 1986) and almost no successful reproduction at Layton, UT, because of raven and gull predation. In contrast, the 500 chicks at Ogden, UT, was an excellent number (PP). The small contingent of 15 pairs at Cheraw, CO, had 15 young on July 20. Lahontan Valley Am. Avocets suffered similarly: 66 nests, with no chicks because of predators (AJ, LN, BH; 5000 nesting pairs in 1986); but they did very well at Ogden, with 1000 chicks. Eastern Colorado had successful nesting at scattered, small water bodies (RR, JBr).

Are June shorebirds coming or going? The Greater Yellowlegs June 18 at Great Salt L. probably was southbound. "Although Paton surveyed almost daily in June, he had no records for yellowlegs prior to June 18, giving weight to the position that these are early fall migrants" (ES). Late June records for Lesser Yellowlegs came from Ft. Collins, Casper, and Green R., WY. A few Willets nest at one known site in n. Colorado, so scattered s. Colorado June records seemed puzzling (June 1–2 and 17–30). A Whimbrel summered at Las Vegas (MC), and singles occurred June 4 & 7 along Great Salt L. (PP). A remarkable 79 Marbled Godwits graced Rocky Ford, CO, July 3 (DN). A Ruddy Turnstone in breeding plumage visited Rawhide Res. July 21, near Windsor, CO (RR); a similarly dressed Red Knot was at Lamar, CO, July 24 (DN). The 3000 W. Sandpipers July 24 at Ogden made it the most numerous migrant shorebird (PP), though the 940 Stilt Sandpipers at Rocky Ford July 30 were more surprising (DN). A Short-billed Dowitcher was at La Junta, CO, July 27 (MJ). Wilson's Phalarope was the most numerous shorebird, with 10,000 at Ogden June 27 (PP). Huge numbers mass annually along the lake shore after nesting "but go unreported, partially because of limited access to their staging areas" (ES). Ordway had one Red-necked Phalarope June 4 (VT) and 20 July 20 (MJ), and Yellowstone had 2 July 18 (†DSt).

#### **JAEGERS TO TERNS**

Two Pomarine Jaegers in any season is unusual in the Mountain West; two in June was amazing. One visited Stillwater N.W.R. June 24 (†LN, †AJ, †BH) (one was reported from L. Tahoe June 20; see Middle Pacific Coast Region). Then one arrived June 29 at Barr L., near Denver, and was observed through July 6 for Colorado's 13th record (†LHa *et al.*). A Laughing Gull visited Rocky Ford June 10 (DN). Colorado added a 2nd gull to its breeding bird list, when a small group of





**Adult Heermann's Gull at Reno, Nevada, June 3, 1991. Photograph/Jane Thompson.**

Franklin's Gulls (5–20 pairs) nested at Walden (MS); 300 nested at Ogden. Utah had Bonaparte's Gulls most of the summer, with singles at Locomotive Springs W.M.A. June 4 and July 9–10, one at Ogden June 9, and 20 July 3 (PP), plus one at Morgan July 28 (AS, found dead). Six in nonbreeding plumage visited Lahontan Valley July 8 (LN, BH, AJ). A Heermann's Gull stayed in Reno, NV, June 3–8 (†DM, ph. JT). California Gulls had 2000 nests on Anaho I. July 19. In Colorado they fledged 1500 young at Antero Res., 1000 at Riverside Res., and 100 at Walden (RR). The state's 4th site, new this year at Rocky Ford, had 68 nests by June 1 (DN). Nesting Caspian Terns at Anaho shrunk to 2 pairs. Caspians appeared at 7

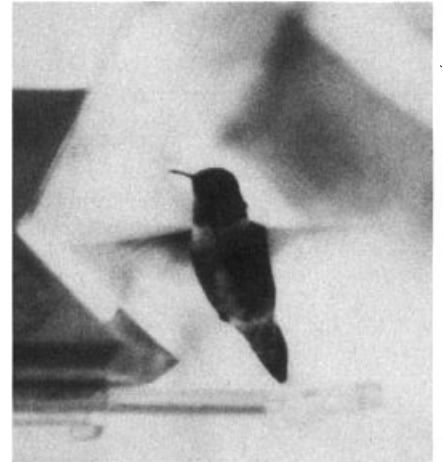
Colorado locations. An Arctic Tern described from Rocky Ford June 12 will undergo scrutiny for approval as Colorado's 3rd record (ph.? ††DN). An excellent description supports Wyoming's 7th Least Tern, at Hawk Springs Res., *Goshen* (†FL). Least Tern nesting ballooned in e. Colorado—23 nests, up from 15 last year: 19 at Rocky Ford, and 4 at Lamar. Ten pairs of Least Terns at 2 locations laid 3 eggs each; last year 15 pairs laid 2.2 eggs each (DN).

#### **CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS**

Sheridan reported 5 Black-billed Cuckoo observations. Salt Lake City recorded its usual type of Yellow-billed Cuckoo record—a win-



**California Gull on a nest at Rocky Ford, the fourth and newest colony site in Colorado, on May 22, 1991. Photograph/Duane Nelson.**



**This hummingbird at Rye, Colorado, on July 13, 1991, was apparently a male Ruby-throated; there are no previous state records. Photograph/Tom Shane.**

dow kill—but at Moab, Lea found live ones: one feeding a fledgling July 30–31, for s.e. Utah's first breeding record. Two stayed at Corn Cr., *Clark*, NV, June 13–30 (MC). Lea found another new s.e. Utah breeder: three nestling Com. Barn-Owls in a nest in a 12-foot cement bridge abutment. They also nested at Chatfield S.P. near Denver (1st Lat), and 13 young were banded in n.e. Colorado (RR, JBr). Morgan, UT, reported 7 pairs of Flammulated Owls; *Boulder* counted 15 singing in June; and Colorado atlasers found them in 7 blocks. An atlas block at Fruita, CO, held 11 pairs of W. Screech-Owls (RLv). Logan, UT, reported its first nesting Burrowing Owls; little owls apparently had a good year on the Pawnee Nat'l Grassland (DL) and the Colorado plains (10 young huddled by a burrow in an atlas block near Flagler, HEK). In s.w. Utah, searches found Spotted Owls at 5 new locations. The Colorado team found the state's first Spotted Owl nest at Mesa Verde N.P. (where fledglings excited visitors to the Cliff Palace in 1988 [AB 42(3):468,372]); they also found 10–15 at Cortez, Wetmore, and Cripple Creek.

Two Magnificent Hummingbirds were at Aspen, CO, July 18 and later (DD, †JM). Supplementing a convincing description of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird July 13–14 at Rye, a dark photograph showed the red throat but perhaps not every other character necessary for identification (††DS, ph. ††TS). Colorado has no accepted records as yet. A few Calliope and many Rufous hummingbirds arrived in Colorado from the north; the first Calliope arrived at San Isabel July 2, with 13 others in July and the first Rufous on Uncompahgre Plateau s. of Grand Jct. June 28. For some reason the first reports almost always come from s. Colorado. Yellowstone recorded its first nesting Lewis' Woodpeckers, a pair taking food into a nest hole June 26–28 (†RC). A Red-headed Woodpecker strayed W to Fontanelle, WY, June 2–3 (JL).

## FLYCATCHERS TO PIPITS

An E. Wood-Pewee stayed on territory in the Chatfield atlas block near Denver June 18+ (HEK). The same block had one Least Flycatcher nest and another singing male in the same area, which last year had the 2nd Colorado nest. All afternoon on June 26 at Dyer, NV, a lone ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher deposited nesting material in "nests" that were never completed (DaN). In the Deadmans Camp SW atlas block, Ash-throated Flycatchers nested for the first time in the San Luis Valley (HEK, 1st Lat). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** wandered to Yellowstone June 1-7 (†LHe, 1st Lat); Wyoming has 3-5 acceptable records. Purple Martins nested at the Logan, UT, and Meeker and McClure Pass, CO, atlas blocks. An atlas foray found a colony of Cliff Swallows nesting above the timberline at 12,000' near Silverton, CO (HEK, DG), the 3rd such site found by atlas work. Bewick's Wrens nested in a bluebird box at Rock Springs, WY, at the n. edge of their range. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers fledged young at Lyons, CO, July 12 (DWK).

### S.A.

Colorado tallied a surprising new state bird when the Armstrongs, looking for Chukars near Cameo on July 7, found instead three **Black-tailed Gnatcatchers**. Colorado birders who flocked to the site not only confirmed the identification but discovered that the birds were *breeding*. At least 2 observers saw the female building and sitting on a nest July 12; the birds remained into August (ph. †CD, †VZ).

Supplementing the spring report, E. Bluebirds fledged young at Crow Valley campground in the Pawnee Grassland (TCA, SB, BK, 1st Lat). A family was observed in the River Bend atlas block, near Limon, CO, June 17 (PH, MG, 1st Lat). A Veery stayed near Denver June 13-23 (SS). The I.P.B.C. June 8 found two singing Veeries, 21 Swainson's, and 151 Hermits, along with 377 Am. Robins. Atlas and B.B.S. observers found Am. Pipits in subalpine meadows *below* the timberline at 3 Colorado sites; apparently pipits nest in similar Wyoming sites.

## VIREOS TO WARBLERS

Las Vegas reported a Bell's Vireo June 12 (MC). In s.e. Colorado, atlasers confirmed nesting Gray Vireos for the 2nd year near Kim, CO, and at Farisita (†DS, 1st Lat).

Two out-of-range warblers sang on territory for over a week: two Blue-winged in a scrub oak zone at Castlewood S.P., CO, June 4-5, and one June 6-19 (T.B., D.F.O.), and a N. Parula at Sheridan June 18-28 (†HD, †EM). A pair of Chestnut-sideds built a nest

at Golden, CO, but laid no eggs (DG *et al.*). A ♀ Townsend's June 8 carried nesting material at Yellowstone, where it is a rare breeder (†MGr). Northern Waterthrushes apparently nested successfully at Grand Teton N.P., WY: 2 parties July 3-4 saw an adult feeding in driftwood on Jackson L. dam, repeatedly carry food into the same bush, and emerge without it; they did not locate nest or fledglings (††J & WR, ††MM). This provides (almost) a first Wyoming breeding record, 125 mi s. of the closest confirmed breeding site, in the Bozeman, MT, latilong.

Out-of-season warblers included an Orange-crowned at Barr L. June 15; a Nashville at Golden, CO, July 5; a surprising three more N. Parulas—Las Vegas June 12, 60 mi s. of Green R. (RM), WY, June 29 (†FL, RS), and Chatfield S.P. June 9 (HEK)—a ♀ Chestnut-sided at Fontanelle June 1 (FL); a Magnolia at Crow Valley campground June 1 (TCA); a **Grace's Warbler** that spent June 20-22 catching insects on the main street of Jarbidge, NV, and—10 mi from Idaho—a northerly record for this species; a singing imm. ♂ Am. Redstart at Reno June 28 (EK); and an Ovenbird at Dyer, NV, June 26 (DaN).

## CARDINALS TO GOLDFINCHES

Denver sported a N. Cardinal June 29 (AH). A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited a Cheyenne feeder 3-4 times a day June 1-July 8 (DP); Wyoming has one breeding record, from Casper in 1983 (*AB* 37(6):1012). Nevada's first breeding (or half-breed) record of **Indigo Buntings** surprisingly came from the n.w. corner: a ♂ Indigo and ♀ Lazuli feeding two fledglings at Sheldon N.W.R. July 25-29; many Lazuli Buntings nested in the same canyon (†B & DS). Dickcissels in e. Colorado took advantage of the federal Conservation Reserve Program to nest in fields left in alfalfa; they occurred in 6 atlas blocks with C.R.P. land (PO, HEK).

Three singing **Cassin's Sparrows** June 22 occupied a breeding colony near Torrington, WY (FL), where a B.B.S. found three last year. Savannah Sparrows thrived in 3 isolated tracts: 16 singing males June 4-14 at Muddy Gap, WY, 25 July 6 near Jefferson, CO, and 17 adults near Boulder through the summer. Grasshopper Sparrows also burgeoned in e. Colorado, with high counts on B.B.S. routes, atlas blocks, and Rocky Mountain Arsenal. An atlas trip found over 100 Fox Sparrows on Stewart Peak in the La Garita Wilderness, Gunnison, CO (CD). Atlas blocks near Elba produced 1st Lat nesting records for both McCown's Longspur (fledgling on June 20) and Chestnut-collared (fledglings July 29, from some of 25 pairs seen June 20, HEK). This moves the breeding range of both species south 50 mi from Pawnee Grassland.

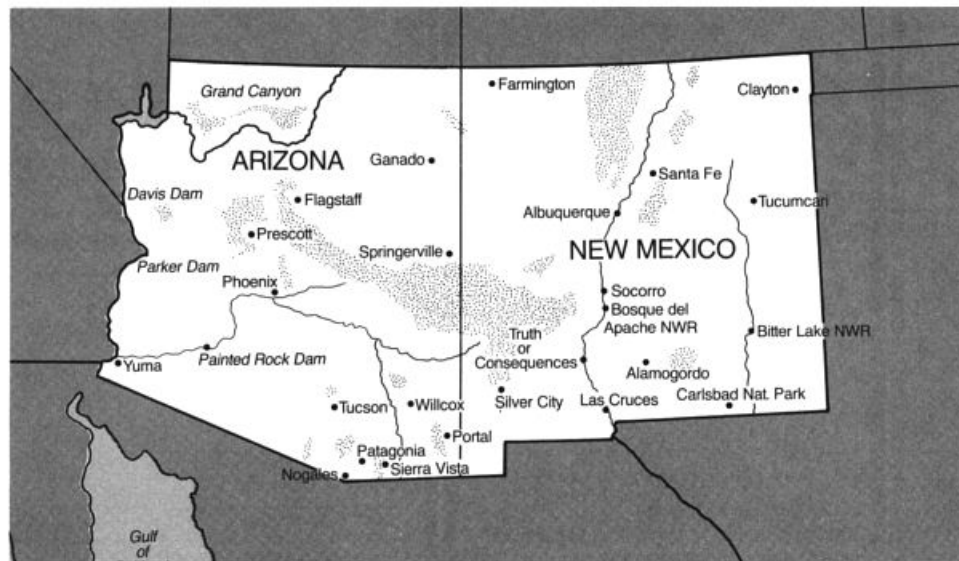
Great-tailed Grackles nested in 2 new Colorado latilongs (at Fruita and Burlington); they now breed in 10 of 28 latilongs and remain unrecorded in only 7. In Utah Com. Grackles nested in Morgan and Logan, as well as the older site in Roosevelt. They over-

whelmed observers in e. Colorado; L/L/B/L counted 1094 (611 last year), and D.F.O. reported 210 (previous high 192). Red Crossbills bred throughout Colorado and Wyoming; Cedar City, UT, had 100 July 5, and even Las Vegas reported "several" June 5 and one July 25. Lesser Goldfinches (no Wyoming breeding records) 60 mi s. of Green R. June 29 acted at home—feeding, singing, chasing—but there was no definitive evidence of nesting (†FL).

## EXOTICS

Periodic reports come from Great Salt L. of flamingos; this year it was one July 26 at Layton. The Red-backed Buzzard returned to Gunnison, CO, for the 4th year. A Monk Parakeet was at Reno, NV, June 17 (†EK).

**Compilers (boldface), contributors (italics), and cited observers:** J. Alberico, Keith Archibald (8 observers), Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, R. & N. Armstrong, *Lu Bainbridge*, *Jay Banta*, J. Barber (JBr), **Dean Bjerke** (16), **Jan & Steve Borichevsky** (20), **Nelson Boschen** (6), Boulder Audubon Society, W. Bousman, **W.W. Brockner** (14), R. Cocinber, **Marian Cressman** (4), J. & A. Cringan, D. Daggett, Denver Field Ornithologists, **Coen Dexter** (6), **Keith Dixon** (8), Helen Downing, K. Duffy, *Ruby Ebrigh*, *Margaret Ewing*, Foothills Audubon Club, *Jewel Gifford*, M. Graves, M. Green (MGr), D. Gulbenkian, L. Hall (LHa), **Dave Hallock** (17), Laurens Halsey, **May Hanesworth** (24), A. Hay, **Phil Hayes** (14), **Steve Hedges** (4), *Bill Henry*, L. Heycock (LHe), *Anne Janik*, *Mark Janos*, B. Kaempfer, *Merlin Killpack*, C. Kneedy, *Edward Kurtz*, J. Larsen, G. Lea, R. Leach, **David Leatherman** (13), *Paul Lehman*, R. Levad (RLv), C. Loeffler, **Forrest Luke** (8), *Larry Malone*, R. McCarther, **Terry McEneaney** (41), D. McNinch, E. McWilliams, **Ann Means** (31), **John Merchant** (7), *Anne Morkill* (AMo), Martin Myers, *Larry Neel*, *Dan Nelson* (DaN), *Duane Nelson*, **Paul Opler** (13), D. Parolicki, *Peter Paton*, B. Percival (BPc), *Norma Peterson*, C. Pevney, B. Prather, John & *Elizabeth Rawinski*, **Bert Raynes**, J. Reddall, C. Reichert, Bob Righter (BRi), J.C. Rigli, J. & W. Risser, Ron Ryder, B. & D. St. George, T. Shane, **Dave Silverman** (15), *Arnold Smith*, **ELLA SORENSEN** (Utah editor; 10 observers), S. Stachowiak, R. Steenberg, D. Straley (DSt), M. Szymczak, **Jane Thomson** (5), *Janeal Thompson* (JnT), D. Trousdale, Tuesday Birders, *Julie Van Moorhem*, *Alan Versaw*, *Judy Ward*, *Jim & Rosie Watts*, D. Wiard (DWd), A. Wichmann, D. Willey, J. Wilson (JWi), Roberta Winn (RWi), M. Yaeger, *Vic Zerbi*.—**HUGH E. KINGERY**, 869 Milwaukee Street, Denver, CO 80206.



## SOUTHWEST REGION

### Arizona

David Stejskal and Gary H. Rosenberg

Summer 1991 was characterized by milder than normal temperatures, almost complete lack of rainfall, and an abnormal paucity of interesting birds. There were a few reports of some exceptional rarities, however, including Arizona's first summer record of Ruddy Ground-Dove (far to the north at Camp Verde no less!), a single Groove-billed Ani in Tucson, the fourth nesting record for Berylline Hummingbird, a reasonably reliable pair of Eared Trogons in the Chiricahuas, and the fourth record for Blue-winged Warbler. A few of these species kept some Arizona birders occupied, but we can't help but wonder where all of the other good birds were that usually make for an exciting summer season. Mind-boggling is the fact that we only received significant records for a mere eight passerine species!

**Abbreviations:** A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.T.A. (*Boyce Thompson Arboretum*); L.C.R. (*Lower Colorado River*); M.F.L. (*Many Farms Lake*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro River*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*); V.O.C. (*Village of Oak Creek*).

#### GREBES TO DUCKS

A single W. Grebe at Lakeside in the White Mts. June 22 (MS) was an interesting mid-summer record and probably represented a very late spring migrant. This species is not known to nest closer than M.F.L., in the extreme n.e. portion of the state. Somewhat earlier than usual were Phoenix-area reports of three Brown Pelicans, presumably all immatures, with one in Scottsdale June 20 (MJ), another in Gilbert June 28 (SGa), and

one more in Scottsdale in early July (*vide* SGa). For the 2nd summer in a row, Double-crested Cormorants were in the Lakeside area, with four there June 22 (MS); this species is not known to nest in the White Mts. region.

Least Bittern has been suspected of nesting at Picacho Res. since at least 1976; although no nest has been found to date, the presence of an estimated 100 birds there July 24 (GM) strongly suggested breeding. A Tricolored Heron was at Guevavi Ranch near Nogales July 25 into August (JK, PS, J. Peterson *et al.*); this species is an irregular late spring and summer visitor. Long overdue was Arizona's first nesting record for Cattle Egret, which was dramatically obtained when at least 500 pairs were located in a citrus orchard s. of Yuma (B. Henry). This record was considered overdue since thousands of Cattle Egrets nest nearby in the s. California's Imperial Valley (see Garrett & Dunn, *Birds of Southern California*, 1981). A single Cattle Egret at Kayenta July 31 (CL) provided one of n.e. Arizona's few summer records. Fourteen White-faced Ibises at Willcox were early (or late?) July 6 (PS).

Wood Duck has been slowly establishing itself as a c. Arizona breeder in the past 5 years, so eight immatures at Peck's L. July 31 (VG) were noteworthy. Numbers of "Mexican"-type Mallards increased dramatically in the upper S.P.R. valley this summer, presumably owing to the increase in low, dense groundcover along the riparian corridor, where cattle grazing has been eliminated very recently (*vide* DK). A ♀ Cinnamon Teal with eight young June 2 at Empire Cienega, near Sonoita, provided one of only a dozen or so breeding records for the s. half of the state (DS, GW). A Blue-winged Teal was at Willcox June 18-19 (GM); there are very few summer records from s. Arizona. Unusual for midsummer were six Canvasbacks at White Mountain Res., near Sunrise L., July 20 (TC); these birds probably summered locally. Casual in the summer season, a ♀ Bufflehead was at Becker L., Springerville, July 20 (TC).

Exceptional was a single Red-breasted Merganser at Picacho Res. July 24 (GM).

#### RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

Somewhat early for southbound migrants (but possibly attempting to summer locally) were N. Harriers at the Santa Rita Grasslands near the mouth of Madera Canyon July 12 (C. McGaugh) and at Guadalupe Canyon July 13 (GHR, PL, SF). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk at Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., July 30 (JK) provided probably the first midsummer record and the 3rd for this year. There are still only about 20 records of Broad-winged Hawk for the state.

American Avocet nested in the Tucson area for the 2nd year in a

row; four adults and four juveniles were at the Snyder Hill S.T.P. w. of Tucson June 30, with one juvenile remaining until July 26 (MS). American Avocet appears to be on the increase as a nester, with many of the new breeding locales being established at sewage treatment facilities.

A Lesser Yellowlegs at Willcox June 22 (TC) must be considered an exceptionally early southbound migrant. At least 25 Spotted Sandpipers at Kachina Village s. of Flagstaff July 2 (AG, VG) was an unusually high concentration for the species this season. Marginally early were two Marbled Godwits at Willcox June 23 (JBo) and one there June 30 (PS). Two ad. Baird's Sandpipers were at Willcox June 27 (KK). A variety of other regular shorebirds, including Greater Yellowlegs and Solitary and Western sandpipers, appeared at Willcox the first week of July, somewhat earlier than usual. It is unknown whether these represent actual early arrivals or increased coverage by observers. As one might guess, in the often oppressive heat of late June and early July, shorebirding is only undertaken by a few hardy birders; consequently, relatively little is known about shorebird passage. An ad. Stilt Sandpiper at Willcox July 22 (GHR, E. Rosenberg) and another two at Picacho Res. July 27 (G. Hummel) were the only reported adults. Four ♀ Wilson's Phalaropes at Willcox June 19-22 (GM, TC) most likely represented southbound migrants. Somewhat early was a Red-necked Phalarope at Snyder Hill S.T.P. July 20 (RS).

#### DOVES TO KINGFISHERS

Ruddy Ground-Dove records have steadily increased in recent years throughout the southwest, but have been confined to the fall and winter seasons. A male (with a possible female) at Camp Verde June 10 (ph. V. Vaughn) not only represents the northernmost Arizona record but also the first summer record. A Groove-billed Ani at Sabino Canyon, Tucson, June 28-30 (D. Lazaroff,

WR *et al.*) provided one of few Arizona records in the past 10 years. A N. Pygmy-Owl above 10,000 ft on the Mt. Baldy Trail, White Mts., July 21 (TC) was at an unusually high altitude for this species. An Elf Owl along Oak Cr. at Cornville July 2 (D. Orsborne) was possibly the same bird reported from that locality one year ago. Elf Owls are generally sparse summer residents n. of *Mari-copa* in c. Arizona. At least 2 Elf Owl pairs were along the riparian corridor in the upper S.P.R. (DK). Although this species is common in the nearby Huachuca and Mule Mts., it has rarely been encountered along the S.P.R. A calling Buff-collared Nightjar was detected in Arivaipa Canyon July 4 (PS); since this species' discovery in Florida Wash several years ago, few observers have bothered to monitor the bird's status in historical locations, all of which are more difficult to access.

No fewer than eight White-eared Hummingbirds were reported from s.e. Arizona. Other than four birds that had frequented Ramsey Canyon feeders since May, additional birds were sighted as follows: a female away from feeders along the s. fork of Cave Creek Canyon July 14 (†PL, †SF), a male away from feeders in Carr Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 17 (JD), a male at Summerhaven, Santa Catalina Mts., July 19 (RS), and another male away from feeders along the s. fork of Cave Creek Canyon July 21 (GHR). Even more exciting was the presence of a ♀ Berylline Hummingbird at Ramsey Canyon June 21 through the end of the period (m.ob.). On July 16, this bird began constructing a nest and was observed incubating eggs by the end of the period. There were unconfirmed reports of a male here June 21–25. Berylline Hummingbird has been recorded every year since 1982; there were only 3 other confirmed nesting attempts (2 successful) for this rare Arizona hummer. Not quite as rare, a single Violet-crowned Hummingbird along the s. fork of Cave Creek Canyon was collecting nesting material July 7 (PS). A few reports were received of Magnificent Hummingbirds away from their usual haunts, with one in Oak Creek Canyon June 15–22 (AG, VG *et al.*), another there July 12 (A. Earnshaw), and one more at Mormon L. throughout the period (R. Musgrave). One to two ♂ Lucifer Hummingbirds were reported from the Portal area (m.ob.), and another bird was at Madera Canyon July 20 into August (PS *et al.*). A late migrating ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird flew N over the mesquite grasslands of Empire Cienega June 2 (DS, GW).

Once again, Eared Trogon made an appearance in the s.e. corner of the state, with a female discovered along the s. fork of Cave Creek Canyon June 9 (†DJa *et al.*). A male was with her June 22–July 13 but was not seen afterward (†JWh *et al.*), but the female was seen sporadically into early August by numerous observers. To the delight of many, these birds were by far the most cooperative Eared Trogons since the original 1977 sightings. A pair of Belted Kingfishers along the s.

fork of the Little Colorado R., White Mts., June 23 (MS) and another female near Greer added to the growing number of midsummer records in the White Mts. region, where it surely must breed. The pair of Green Kingfishers on the upper S.P.R. remained in the area of the Hwy 90 bridge, but there was no evidence of successful nesting (m.ob.). Another Green Kingfisher was at Kino Springs near Nogales July 31 (RS *et al.*).

#### FLYCATCHERS TO ICTERIDS

No fewer than six singing ♂ N. Beardless-Tyrannulets were along the upper S.P.R. between St. David and Hereford through the period (DK); until recently, this species had been rarely reported from this area in spite of abundant suitable habitat along this section of the upper S.P.R. Very unusual was a Gray Catbird near Tucson at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum July 29 (T. Crabtree); there are few summer records away from known nesting areas in the White Mts.

Very exciting was the discovery of a Blue-winged Warbler, one of the rarest e. vagrant warblers in the West, near the confluence of the Salt and Verde rivers e. of Phoenix June 14 (†BD). This provided only the 4th state record ever and the 2nd for spring migration. Two ♂ Hooded Warblers were in the s.e. portion of the state, which we have come to more or less expect. The first was at the Southwestern Research Station, Chiricahua Mts., June 28 (†DJa, *et al.*), and another was in Carr Canyon, Huachuca Mts., June 30 (J. O'Brien).

At least three Varied Buntings in Gold Gulch near Bisbee July 26 (JWh) represented a new location for this species. This species is extremely local e. of the Sonoita Cr./Santa Rita Mts. area. A very late White-crowned Sparrow was found along Tonto Cr., near Roosevelt L., June 19 (H. Messing, D. Laush). Out of place was a ♂ Bobolink near Apache, Cochise, July 20 (†P. Super). A single E. Meadowlark on Black Mesa June 3–4 (CL) probably represents the first record n. of the Little Colorado River valley. Utah birders should note the close proximity to the border.

**Contributors:** (Area compilers in boldface) Charles Babbitt, Pat Beall, Chris D. Benesh, Jerry Bock (JBo), Robert Bradley, Jim Burns (JBU), Josh Burns (JoB), **John Coons** (Flagstaff), Troy Corman, William Davis, Bix Demaree, Jon Dunn, Rich Ferguson, Shawneen Finnegan, Steve Ganley (SGa), Tom Gatz, Virginia Gilmore, Sharon Goldwasser (SGo), **Alma Greene** (Sedona), Grace Gregg, Paul Hammerton, Jack Holloway (Tucson), Marty Jakle, Dave Jasper (DJa), Dan Jones (DJo), Kenn Kaufman, Lynn Kaufman, Jeff Kingery, **Dave Krueper** (Sierra Vista), **Chuck LaRue** (Kayenta), Paul Lehman, Gale Monson, **Robert Morse** (Portal), Robert Norton, Jim Paton, Don Rosie, Will Russell, John Saba (Jsa), **John Spencer** (JSp) (Globe), Walter & Sally Spofford, Rich

Stallcup, Mark Stevenson, Paul Sunby, Rick Taylor, Dick Todd, **Carl S. Tomoff** (Prescott), Greer Warren, Jack Whetstone (JWh), **Janet Witzeman** (JWi) (Phoenix), Robert Witzeman.—**DAVID STEJSKAL**, 5755 E. River Rd., Apt. 703, Tucson, AZ 85715; **GARY H. ROSENBERG**, 5441 N. Swan Rd., Apt. 313, Tucson, AZ 85718.

## New Mexico

*Sartor O. Williams III and John P. Hubbard*

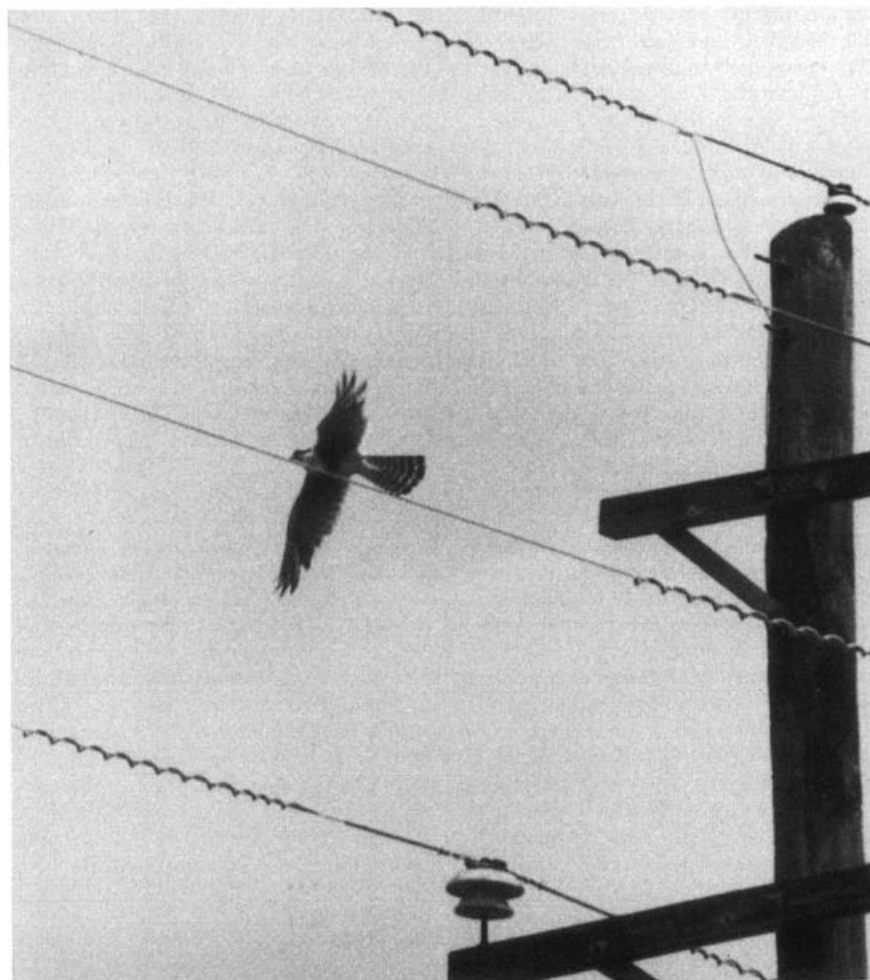
**Abbreviations:** Bosque Ref. (*Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*); P. O. Canyon (*Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.*); T/C (*Truth or Consequences*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

#### GREBES TO QUAIL

A substantial population of Eared Grebes was at Wheeler L. near Ft. Union, Mora, where 139 nests were counted June 26 (RP, SP); early were two at Evans L., Grant, July 18 (RF). Both W. and Clark's grebes remained in small numbers at L.V.N.W.R. and Bosque Ref (v.o.); at Caballo L., over 100 *Aechmophorus* grebes, including some juveniles, were present July 6 (CS), while late were apparently one of each species at Evans L. June 6 (RF). Early returning Am. White Pelicans were two at Bosque Ref. July 7 (JP) and 10 at Caballo L. July 6 (CS); by July 24–26 there were 19 at Maxwell N.W.R. (PES) and 35 at Bosque Ref. (RT).

"Scores" of Double-crested Cormorants were nesting at Jemez Canyon L., *Sandoval*, June 9 (JH), and 28 active nests were at Santa Rosa L. June 12 (SOW); however, only 5 nests were active at Caballo L. July 6 (CS). Elsewhere, a few Double-crested were in the Ft. Union-Las Vegas area in late June and July (v.o.). For the 2nd consecutive year, Great Blue Herons nested at Caballo L., where there were 6 nests July 6 (CS). On June 19, the Artesia heron colony contained 2 Little Blue Heron nests among 78 Snowy and 54 Cattle Egret nests and 7 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests (SOW). Noteworthy were 80–85 Cattle Egrets at Bosque Ref. July 26–27 (DC, JP) and 21 near Caballo L. July 6 (CS), plus Snowies probably nesting at Jemez Canyon L. June 2 (JH). Early White-faced Ibises included 12 at Chama July 3, plus others there (LS) and at Zuni (DC), Cochiti L. (PES), and L.V.N.W.R. (CR) July 11–14.

Lingering geese at Bosque Ref. included an ad. **Greater White-fronted Goose** June 16–July 27 (JP) and one–two Snows June 1–16 (CS, PRS); an ad. **Ross' Goose**, capable of strong flight, was at Wagon Mound July



**Aplomado Falcon on the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, June 25, 1991. This photo shows the narrow white band on the long black tail, the long-winged shape, and the black band below the pale chest. Questions were raised about the origins of this bird. Photograph/Kevin Martin.**

13 & 20 (CR, LH). Canada Geese continued to increase near Ft. Union, where there were 145 in June, including juveniles (RP, SP); the thriving population at Bosque Ref. numbered over 850 June 15 (PI *et al.*), and an adult with three young was near Hondo, Lincoln, June 17 (SW). The only Wood Duck was a female at Albuquerque July 21 & 28 (JP). At Zuni, 320 Redheads were on 2 lakes July 14–15 (DC); elsewhere, there were eight near Ft. Union in June (RP, SP), two–three at L.V.N.W.R. June 30 (PRS), with 27 there July 14 (CR), one at Isleta June 14 (SW), and two–five at Bosque Ref. June 1 & 14 (PB *et al.*, PRS). Lingering at L.V.N.W.R. were up to 10 Ring-necked Ducks and five Lesser Scaup June 22 (JP) and a ♀ Bufflehead and a ♂ Hooded Merganser June 30 (CR, PRS). Stragglers elsewhere included single Ring-neckeds at Zuni July 14 (DC), Ft. Union in June (RP, SP), and Bosque Ref. June 11 and July 7 (JP), 10 Lesser Scaup at Maxwell N.W.R. June 22 (JP), and four Buffleheads at Bosque Ref. June 15 (PI *et al.*). Adults with three young Ruddy Ducks were at Zuni July 14 (DC); up to 16 Ruddies were at Wagon Mound June 6 (JH) and July 14 (CR), but no breeding was detected.

A pair of Mississippi Kites again nested at

Mesilla, with two fledglings there July 25–26 (CS, GE). Unusual in summer were single ad. Bald Eagles at Maxwell N.W.R. in July (W.J. Mobley) and near Ft. Union June 23 (RP, SP). Out of range was an ad. Com. Black-Hawk in Guadalupe Canyon June 6 (SOW). One–two Harris' Hawks were near Cotton City June 13 (RF) and July 27 (EL); in Eddy, numbers were reportedly rebounding, with some reoccupancy of vacant areas (*fide* SW). Highly unusual was an ad. dark morph possible Broad-winged Hawk in the Jemez Mts. June 5 (JB, B. Black), while also notable was a Zone-tailed at Rattlesnake Springs June 4 (DC). Certainly intriguing was the repeated sighting of a single subadult Aplomado Falcon at a restricted portion of White Sands Missile Range in June–July, originally discovered there by A. Montoya and photographed June 25 by K. Martin (*fide* D. Taylor). With the nearest natural population on the savannas of coastal Veracruz, the bird's origin was a mystery.

Northern Bobwhites were calling at the e. base of the Guadalupe Mts., Eddy, June 19 (SOW); on a Breeding Bird Survey in Lea, bobwhites outnumbered Scaled Quail 25 to 10 (GS).



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## GALLINULES TO TERNS

The Purple Gallinule at Bosque Ref. was last seen June 6 (*fide* PRS, ph. DC). Northerly was a Com. Moorhen at Zuni July 14 (ph. DC). Two ad. Snowy Plovers with three chicks were at Bosque Ref. July 19 (AW), where breeding is irregular; Snowy numbers were down at Holloman L. in June (*fide* GE), and only six adults and four chicks were found July 18 (CS); the species appeared to have undergone a "severe decline" in the Laguna Grande area (*fide* SW). Mountain Plovers were reportedly scarce in Union (*fide* WC) but were "widespread" near Ft. Union (RP, SP); noteworthy were six at Los Lunas June 15 (PI *et al.*) and up to 55 at Moriarty July 17 & 26 (DC, PES). Two Am. Avocets were on nests at Los Lunas June 16 (HS).

A Greater Yellowlegs was at Artesia June 19 (SOW) and two Lessers at Laguna Grande June 10 (SW); presumed early returnees were three Greater near Caballo L. July 6 (CS) and five Lessers at Wagon Mound July 14 (CR). Early Solitary Sandpipers were singles at Jornada (CS) and Las Cruces (CS) July 9–13. At least 15 Long-billed Curlews were present and probably breeding near Ft. Union in June (RP, SP); 13 e. of Las Vegas June 30 (CR, PRS) was a high number for that location. Somewhat early were one–two Marbled Godwits at L.V.N.W.R. July 21–25 (PRS, CR); most unusual were two at Bosque Ref. June 24 (JB, CB), where there was also

an ad. Dunlin July 10 (AW). A possible Semipalmated Sandpiper was with two Westerns at Zuni July 22 (DC). A vocal Short-billed Dowitcher was at Zuni July 22 (ph. DC), and five were seen and heard with Long-billeds at Bosque Ref. July 31 (AW). Seven Wilson's Phalaropes at Wheeler L. June 26 did not appear to be breeding (RP, SP); at nearby Wagon Mound, up to 10 were present June 6 (JH), and ad. males with at least two apparently flightless juveniles were seen July 20 (CR, LH).

Unusual were 10 Franklin's Gulls, along with five Californias, at Maxwell N.W.R. June 22 (JP). Other Californias were two at Wagon Mound July 14 (CR), five adults at L.V.N.W.R. June 5 (JH), and one-two there July 21-25 (CR, PRS). Of 5 Least Tern nests at Bitter Lake N.W.R., three hatched a total of five chicks by June 26; apparently only one chick fledged (M. Peckinpough). Vagrant was a subadult at Bosque Ref. July 1 (AW, P. Mitchusson). The latest Black Terns were three at L.V.N.W.R. June 5 (JH); the earliest were two at Wagon Mound (PRS) July 21 and 69 at Maxwell N.W.R. July 24 (PES).

#### DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

For the 2nd consecutive year, White-winged Doves nested northward to Albuquerque, with a pair accompanying a stub-tailed young there July 10 (BO). Unusual were several Inca Doves at Portales (*vide* A. Gennaro); elsewhere there were small numbers at Socorro, Roswell, T/C, Las Cruces, and Carlsbad (v.o.). Two Com. Ground-Doves near Cliff June 4 (RF *et al.*) were noteworthy. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were more frequent than usual, including small numbers in *Union* (WC), in the Rio Grande Valley at Bosque Ref. (GE), Williamsburg (CS), the Pecos Valley from Ft. Sumner (SOW) southward, the middle and lower Gila Valley (RF, JP), and in Guadalupe Canyon (JP). Greater Roadrunners are local in the eastern plains, so noteworthy were reports from Clayton (WC) and Floyd (WU).

A pair of **Whiskered Screech-Owls** in the Animas Mts. June 23 (JB, CB) was the first report from that range; in the Peloncillo Mts., individuals were again in Clanton Canyon July 27 & 31 (PRS, DC), and a pair was in a canyon n. of there June 30 (SOW). Notable were a N. Pygmy-Owl in the Peloncillo Mts. July 4 (JP, BP) and five Long-eareds in the Magdalena Mts. July 15 (JB, CB). Unusual were 2 Common Nighthawk nests in the Gila Valley near Cliff, each with 2 eggs (*vide* RF). At least 2 Black Swift nests were active at Jemez Falls July 11 (G. Parker *vide* HS); single birds were at Jemez Canyon L. June 2 (JH) and near Jemez Springs July 7 (*vide* PRS). Unusual were two-four Chimney Swifts at Las Vegas July 27 & 29 (CR).

Two ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbirds were in Guadalupe Canyon June 5-6 (SOW) and July 4 (JP, BP). Violet-crowneds had returned to Guadalupe Canyon by June 6, when a male was singing and a female was collecting

nest material; two-three were there July 4 (JP, BP). Northerly, and local firsts, were a ♂ **Blue-throated Hummingbird** near Jemez Springs June 17 (G. McGrath) and a female, possibly of the species, in Six Mile Canyon, Magdalena Mts., June 1 (P. McConnell). Magnificents made a good showing in the southwest, with one-three males in the Magdalena Mts. June 29 (JB, CB), near Alma July 26-28 (S. & B. Rothman), and at Signal Peak, Pinos Altos Mts. (JP, RF) and at nearby Roberts L. (RF). In P. O. Canyon, 15-20 Lucifer Hummingbirds, including fledged juveniles, were present in July (RS); elsewhere in the Peloncillo Mts., a female was in Clanton Canyon July 5 (JP) and a pair was in a canyon n. of there June 5 (SOW). Noteworthy were one-two ♂ Anna's at a Silver City feeder July 9-18 (EL); another male was singing at P. O. Canyon June 11 (RS).

After going unreported from New Mexico for 5 years, **Elegant Trogons** were found at 2 sites in *Hidalgo*: a possibly breeding pair in the Peloncillo Mts. June 4-5 & 30 (SOW) and a male in the Animas Mts. June 24 (CB, ph. JB). A Belted Kingfisher was carrying food into an apparent nest at Zuni July 14 (DC); elsewhere, a bird was near Logan June 12 (CR), and three were at Ft. Sumner June 2 (SOW). At least 10 Gila Woodpeckers were in Guadalupe Canyon June 6 (SOW) and July 4 (JP, BP), and four were at Animas Cr., *Hidalgo*, June 23 (JB, CB). A ♀ Three-toed was at Jemez Falls July 13 (JP), while one-two Yellow-shafted (Northern) Flickers in *Union* in the period (WC) were unusual.

#### FLYCATCHERS TO DIPPER

Three calling N. Beardless-Tyrannulets in Guadalupe Canyon July 4 (JP, BP) were typical of recent years there. Early was an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Ft. Bayard July 17 (RF). Single Willow Flycatchers were singing at Bosque Ref. July 7 (JP, BP) and Mangas Springs June 5 (RF). Seven Gray Flycatchers each were s. of Rowe, *San Miguel*, June 14 (CR) and in the Magdalena Mts. June 1 (JB *et al.*); other singing birds were one-two in the Gallinas Mts. June 16 (SOW), near White Oaks June 17 (SOW), and near Roberts L., *Grant*, June 8 (RF *et al.*). Northerly was a Black Phoebe at Pecos Nat'l Mon. June 14 (CR), while unusual was an E. Phoebe at L.V.N.W.R. July 19 (CS). Two Brown-crested Flycatchers were in Guadalupe Canyon June 6 (SOW) and July 4 (JP, BP), where they were greatly outnumbered by Dusky-capped and Ash-throateds. Seven E. Kingbirds were at Maxwell N.W.R. June 6 (JP), while one-two were at La Cueva, *Mora*, July 20 (CR, LH), Watrous June 28 (RP, SP), and Ft. Sumner June 2 (SOW). Unusual was a juv. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Moriarty July 26 (PES).

A pair of Tree Swallows was at a nest cavity near Los Ojos June 27 (LS). At least 12 Bank Swallow burrows were still active in Albuquerque July 13 (HS); young were likely still in them when they were razed by the city July

17 (*vide* HS). Very unusual was a Blue Jay in Albuquerque July 23-24 (BO), while juv Pinyon Jays were in Santa Fe in July (JH) Easterly Am. Crows were three near Grenville June 16 (KS) and singles near Laguna Huerfana, *San Miguel*, June 6 (JH) and at Ute Cr., *Harding*, June 12 (CR); others were at Pleasanton July 29 (JH), where they were infrequently reported in recent years. Northerly Chihuahuan Ravens were four w. of Sabinoso June 24 (CR). Other peripheral reports included two fledged s. of Clayton June 27 (HS), six birds near Grenville June 16 (KS), two at Albuquerque's West Mesa July 28 (HS), 10 near Los Lunas June 2 (HS), and 2 active nests near Belen June 11 (B. Willard)

Southerly were three Black-capped Chickadees near Los Lunas June 2 (HS). Notable were Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Animas Mts. in mid-June (JB, CB), while Pygmies were present in unusually large numbers in the Jemez Mts. in July (*vide* B. Lewis). One in Santa Fe July 7 (JH) was a local first and probably a vagrant. Cactus Wrens n. of their expected range were one-two e. of Sabinoso June 24 for the 3rd consecutive year (CR), w. of Logan June 12 (CR), and near Cerro Verde, *Cibola*, June 9 (GF). Easterly were four Rock Wrens near Grenville June 16 (KS). The **Carolina Wren** present in the Sandia Mts. since April was still singing there June 7 (HS). Noteworthy was an Am. Dipper in the Rio Grande Gorge July 29 (CS).

#### KINGLETS TO TANAGERS

Nesting Golden-crowned Kinglets were "fairly common" in the Sandia Mts. (*vide* HS); noteworthy were one in the Magdalena Mts. June 1 (JB *et al.*), where nesting is not confirmed, and 16 near Cloudcroft June 25 (CR, LH). A possible Black-tailed Gnatcatcher was n. of Lordsburg July 5 (JP, BP), where the species' status is very poorly understood. Extraordinary and a first for w. New Mexico was a pair of **Eastern Bluebirds** nesting near Cliff, where at least two fledged June 3-4 (RF *et al.*). Further evidence of the **Veery** summering in the state was one singing w. of Vadito, *Taos*, June 28 (JT). Two Gray Catbirds at Albuquerque July 28 (JP) may have been early migrants, while unusual was a Brown Thrasher at Ft. Union June 23 (RP, SP). Northeasterly Curve-billed Thrashers were two-three near Sabinoso June 24 (CR), Logan June 12 (CR), and Floyd June 27 (WU), while a Crissal was on the W. Mesa July 28 (HS). An Am. Pipit at Bosque Ref. June 14 (PRS *et al.*) appeared injured; late was one in the Magdalena Mts. June 1 (JB *et al.*) Northerly were one-two Phainopeplas at Socorro June 18 (CR) and July 27 (JP); easterly were two males near Sitting Bull Falls, *Eddy*, June 14 (*vide* SW).

A possible **White-eyed Vireo** was in the Magdalena Mts. June 1 (JB *et al.*). Northerly were two Bell's Vireos singing w. of Roswell June 10 (SOW); another was at Hope (SW) Highly unusual and a local first was a probable Gray Vireo at the Rio Grande Gorge July

29 (CS), elsewhere, there were 2 pairs in the n Sandia Mts. in June (HS) and 2 pairs plus three singing males in Big Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., June 18 (SOW).

Single Virginia's Warblers were in the Peloncillo Mts. June 5 (SOW) and July 5 (JP, BO). Unusual was a ♂ Northern Parula at Roswell June 1–2 (S. Bixler *et al.*). Interesting was a ♂ Yellow Warbler with a reddish-streaked head at L.V.N.W.R. June 30 (CR, PRS). Audubon's Warblers in mid-June in peripheral areas included one–two in the Gallinas and Jicarilla Mts., Lincoln (SOW), and others in the Animas Mts. (JB, CB). Easterly was a Grace's in the Turkey Mts., Mora, June 25 (RP, SP), while 12 Red-faceds in the Magdalena Mts. June 1 (JB *et al.*) was a high number for the area. Western Tanagers in the Animas Mts. mid-June (JB, CB) were at the s. edge of the breeding range, while unusual was a Hepatic at L.V.N.W.R. July 18 (CR).

### CARDINALS TO CARDUELINES

A N. Cardinal was w. of Roswell June 10 (SOW) for the 2nd consecutive year, and two Indigo Buntings were in the Peloncillo Mts. July 17 (GE). Three ♂ Varied Buntings were in Guadalupe Canyon June 6 (SOW); a possible juvenile was with a female there July 4 (JP, BP). At least one Dickcissel was singing at Maxwell N.W.R. June 22 (JP) and July 21 (PRS) and was another at Ft. Sumner June 2 (SOW); but none was at Ft. Union (*fide* RP, SP), where they were present in previous years.

A possible Botteri's Sparrow was flushed from sacaton grasses in the Animas Valley June 7 (SOW); the species remains unconfirmed in the state. Cassin's Sparrows were widespread and numerous in the east, including in Union, where there was a nest with eggs June 27 (HS); westerly reports of small to moderate numbers in June included Ft. Union (RP, SP), Crownpoint (CS), Los Lunas (HS), and Sevilleta N.W.R. (PB *et al.*), and in the southwest near Animas (RS) and the s. Animas Valley (JB, CB). A new locality for the Rufous-crowned Sparrow was L.V.N.W.R., with three seen there July 18 (CR). Black-chinned Sparrows were again present in Trujillo Canyon, San Miguel, with two singing there June 6 (JH); another was in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona June 16 (SOW). Unusual were two Black-throateds at Lamy June 4 (CR) and eight Sages at Sevilleta N.W.R. June 6 (PB *et al.*).

Twenty-three Lark Buntings were near Grenville June 16 (KS), but otherwise only scattered birds were present in June, including singles at Maxwell N.W.R. (JP), Ft. Union (RP, SP), and e. of Las Vegas (CR), and 12 apparent late migrants near the Magdalena Mts. on June 1 (JB *et al.*). Several Savannah Sparrows were singing at Maxwell N.W.R. June 22 (JP), and another was near Wagon Mound July 20 (CR, LH). Grasshopper Sparrows were relatively plentiful in the northeast, including 25 at Maxwell N.W.R.

June 22 (JP), one near Abbott, Colfax, June 28 (HR), "fair numbers" near Clayton in June (HS, WC), and six at L.V.N.W.R. July 25 (CR); in the southwest, one was near Nutt June 12 (GS) and 37 near Cloverdale June 7 (SOW). Two Lincoln's Sparrows near Cloudcroft June 25 (CR) provided additional evidence of possible local breeding there, while notable was a Song at L.V.N.W.R. July 19 & 25 (CR) and Zuni July 23 (DC). Very late White-crowned Sparrows were singles at Bosque Ref. June 16 (JP) and the Animas Valley June 23 (JB, CB). At least one juv. Yellow-eyed Junco was in the Animas Mts. in mid-June (JB, CB).

Northerly E. Meadowlarks singing were five s. of Clayton June 27 (HS), two–five near Lamy June 4 & 11 (CR), and 22 in Cibola June 9 (GF). Northerly Bronzed Cowbirds were one–three at Glenwood July 28–29 (JH) and T/C June–July (DM). Three Pine Grosbeaks, including a singing male, were in the mountains w. of Las Vegas July 21 (CR). Outside the Jemez Mts., a few Cassin's Finches were present at Chama June 26 (LS), near Las Vegas July 13 (CR), and at Capulin Spring in the Sandia Mts. all summer (HS *et al.*). Early Pine Siskins were a few at lowland sites, such as Bosque Ref. (JP) and Pleasanton (JH) July 27–30. Unusual were single Am. Goldfinches at Deer Cr., Animas Mts., June 18–19 (JB, CB) and less so at Zuni July 15 (DC); the species was reported through June and July near Chama (LS). Red Crossbills in smaller mountain ranges in June included those reported in the Sandias (PES), Magdalenas (JB *et al.*), Sacramentos (CR, LH), and Animas (JB, CB). Evening Grosbeaks were reported from the Sandia Mts. (PES) and the Gallinas Mts. near Corona (SOW); late was one at Santa Fe June 8 (JH).

**Cited Observers:** Pat Basham, Charles Black, James Black, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Gordon Ewing, Greg Farley, Ralph Fisher, Lois Herrmann, John Hubbard, Pat Inasley, Eugene Lewis, Doris Miller, Bruce Osryn, Benjamin Parmeter, John Parmeter, Robert Paxton, Sara Plimpton, Christopher Rustay, Catherine Sandell, Gregory Schmitt, Robert Scholes, Lorraine Schulte, Hart Schwarz, Kenneth Seyffert, Patricia R. Snider, Paul E. Steel, Ross Teuber, James Travis, William Uihlein, Steve West, Ann Whitehead, S.O. Williams.—SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III and JOHN P. HUBBARD, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, NM 87503.

## ALASKA REGION

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

Summer 1991 began slowly throughout the Region as the widespread, unseasonably cool weather of April and May continued into June. But by the second week of June, the Aleutian low had drifted north, making way for a prolonged sequence of very warm high-pressure systems. The northwest coast appeared to benefit the most from this weather pattern, as a long period of high-precipitation, low-pressure cycles was broken by a month of record-breaking high temperatures. On the Gulf of Alaska coast, from eastern Prince William Sound to the Alaska Peninsula, cool weather continued to retard an already late thaw and new groundcover growth. Southeast Alaska was seemingly encased in clouds, rain, and wind all summer except for late June, but this weather likely bothered birders more than the nesters that were accustomed to rainforest conditions.

It is typically the early June weather patterns that exert the most influence on the nesting success of all forms throughout the mainland, so that except for the Gulf Coast, nesting populations and general breeding activity seemed at least average, if not a little late. The breeding season otherwise progressed uneventfully, and southbound shorebirds appeared at traditional sites about on time and in standard numbers.

Rare species were well represented this summer; each subregion provided at least one very interesting record. Two species were added to the state list, and a third was added to the Unsubstantiated list. Extensive coverage of the Hyder area in the extreme southeast corner of the state produced a number of very interesting records and additional new information on this unique-to-Alaska locale. As is the case each year in late June, once visiting bird tours leave the state, reports from the Bering Sea islands dropped way off.

### WATERFOWL

The Whooper Swan that has been found in Safety Lagoon near Nome in May was seen sporadically in the same general area till at least June 24 (GHR). Unusual for the s.e., especially in summer, was a Greater White-fronted Goose up the river from Haines June 19 (MEI, RLS, TGT). This may represent the first summer record for s.e. Alaska. Waterfowl production was down dramatically from the long-term average in the e. interior (TJD), while over 1000 km to the northeast, waterfowl production was reported as well above average around Kotzebue Sound (WRU). Most unusual for the e. interior was a drake Eur. Wigeon on the Yukon R. at Eagle June 22 (CS). Canvasbacks and Redheads continue to breed successfully in the Kotzebue Sound area, where broods of both species appeared widespread in late June (WRU). Redheads were nesting along the outer coast



count, up one from last year's survey. No broods were located. From these surveys, it has become apparent that Ruddy Duck is annual in the e. interior and is not, as previously thought, present only in prairie drought seasons.

### RAPTORS TO GULLS

For the 3rd consecutive summer, the ad. Steller's Sea-Eagle was easily located on the lower Taku R. (m.ob.). Given the usual assumption that subarctic environments are less productive than areas further south, 1991 nest density and productivity of Golden Eagles in s.w. Alaska's Kisaralik watershed are remarkable. Preliminary nest success in this very productive raptor breeding riparian corridor was 83%, while the number of young per nest was 1.83 (BJM). Soras made a good showing away from

of the Yukon Delta N.W.R., where field crews reported several instances of egg-dumping into nests of other species and at least one nest with an incubating female in July (*vide* BJM). Discouraging news continued for Spectacled Eiders in s.w. Alaska in the Yukon Delta N.W.R., where for the first time, the refuge-wide breeding population estimate fell below 2000 pairs (BJM). This total pales in comparison to the 1970s estimate of 50,000–70,000 pairs, and there is serious concern for the continued viability of this population. Distressing news also came in from Prince William Sound, where a State

Fish and Game press release announced a "significant failure of Harlequin Ducks to reproduce in the western Sound." Production was apparently way off pre-*Exxon Valdez* spill numbers, but population and nest data remained confidential. Hooded Mergansers successfully bred n. of traditional nesting areas. Two broods were located, one up river from Haines June 19 (MEI, RLS, TGT) and another out on the Cooper River Hwy e. of Cordova July 7 (REF). The e. interior waterfowl survey produced a total of 23 Ruddy Ducks on the lake system near Tetlin July 17 (TJD). This tally sets a new Region high

the Stikine R. delta, where the species has bred. Single calling birds were recorded in late June, in a marsh on the upper Chilkat R. on June 19 (TGT, RLS, MEI), in the e. Interior at Mile 1258 of the Alaska Hwy on June 20 (TJD+, CS), and in the upper Copper R. valley at Kenny L. on June 29 (RLS). Casual at both locations, single Sandhill Cranes appeared at Buldir I. June 19 (the 4th summer Aleutian record, KR *et al.*) and at Kodiak June 27 (DWS).

Killdeer was finally confirmed as a nester in Anchorage when a single half-grown chick was found with a pair on a sod farm July 15



**Whooper Swan (the standing bird that shows a largely pale bill) with Tundra Swans at Safety Lagoon near Nome, Alaska, May 31, 1991. This individual was present until late June. Photograph/Kevin J. Zimmer.**



(TGT). Another brood was at Tok in July (TJD). This plover must become paired in migration since few displaying individuals are ever found anywhere in the Region where it nests; we have fewer records of nests or juveniles. This summer produced few unusual southbound or wandering shorebirds in the Bering Sea area, the only notable highlight being four Wood Sandpipers at Buldir I. June 16 (GVB, *et al.*). Although Black Oystercatcher is a common nester on the outer Kenai Pen. coast, there had not been a breeding record for Kachemak Bay until this summer. At least one pair nested in the Bay on Cohen I., where a pair with two newly hatched young were found July 8 (EM).

Satisfactory photos of an ad. **Black-tailed Gull** were obtained from pelagic waters off Buldir I. June 19 (GVB *et al.*, ph.). Three of the four Alaska Black-tailed Gull records are photographs. Two Ring-billed Gulls at Hyder June 15 (MEI *et al.*) and a juvenile at Ketchikan July 26 (SH) were the season's only reports. A juv. Ross's Gull was nicely described from inshore wetlands near Prudhoe Bay July 25 (RNF). Ross' Gull is casual in the e Beaufort Sea area in summer. Single extralimital Caspian Terns were over an Anchorage neighborhood July 6 (REG) and at Homer July 8 (CF). The Copper R. delta population was noted again this year, with flying, begging juveniles by late July (MEI).

#### **CUCKOOS TO CORVIDS**

After the lesson of this spring's Attu Oriental Cuckoo (see spring 1991), the cuckoo at St. Paul I. June 12-18 (RH, LP, BS, ph. KJZ *et al.*) shall remain *Cuculus* sp.; both details and photos were inconclusive. From the photos received, this individual was very similar to the Attu spring bird, which had been identified in the field as a ♂ Common but keyed to a ♀ Oriental in the hand. Another unidentified *Cuculus* hung around Amitignak I. from "late June to early July" (EB), and a hepatic female, identified as a Common (without details) remained at Buldir I. June 22-July 7 (ILJ *et al.*). For the first time in several years, we received no summer reports of Barred Owl. Two N. Pygmy-Owls on Mitkof I. June 1 and July 8-24 (PJW) were noteworthy summer records from the Alexander Archipelago. Most surprisingly was a Com. Nighthawk, seen both perched and in-flight along the lower Noatak R. July 27-28 (WEH, ph.) for a first w. Alaska record.

This summer's Least Flycatcher records were singles at Fairbanks June 11-12 (DDG), at Hyder June 15-18 (SH, *et al.*), and in the upper Copper R. drainage near Copper Center June 29 (RLS). Single **Western Kingbirds** were at Hyder June 16 (MEI, RLS & SH ph., TGT), for the 3rd successive year, and at Sitka June 23 (MW†). These are the Region's 8th and 9th records. Only one E. Kingbird turned up this summer, at Kodiak July 14 (RAM, MM, IRM, ph.), a 2nd island record and one of very few from SC Alaska. In the only location where the species is regu-

lar and likely breeds in the Region, up to four n. Rough-winged Swallows were present at Hyder June 15-18 (MEI, RLS, SH, TGT). One pair was investigating exposed banks well inland. Casual is the w. Aleutians, a single Bank Swallow was at Buldir June 9-10 (ILJ, JW). Unseasonably persistent cold weather in early June on the North Gulf of Alaska coast hit swallows hard at Cordova, where hundreds were dying (*fide* REF). Extralimital swallow reports included singles as overshoots at Prudhoe Bay: Barn Swallow June 19 (RNF, the 8th North Slope report), and Tree Swallow June 20 (KK).

The Hyder **American Crow** population continues to thrive; this area's summer peak count of juveniles and adults reached 30+ June 17 (RLS, *et al.*). Most unusual was a report of two Northwestern Crows at Puale Bay on the Alaskan Pen. June 21 and July 24 (TB, JM, CB). This area is on the mainland across Shelikof Strait from the n.w. corner of Kodiak I., where this corvid reaches its western-most breeding limits.

#### **MUSCICAPIDS TO WARBLERS**

Most observers from s.e. to s.c. Alaska commented on a distinct lack of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, usually one of the most common breeding passerines in those areas. This North Gulf Coast population winters in California, where a December cold snap hit this species especially hard (see AB 45(2): 315). Following this spring's heard-only report from Hyder (q.v.), a singing **Veery** was in dense riparian alder thickets there June 14 (†SH, †TGT, †RLS, MEI, tape). Tape playback brought this bird into view and substantiated Alaska's first record. A territorial pair of Red-throated Pipits on Nome's Anvil Mtn. June 12 (KJZ, VENT) was noteworthy since this form breeds mainly well north on the Seward Peninsula. European Starling nested in the Anchorage area for the 2nd successive year. This year's nest was found in a tail section of a wrecked plane near L. Hood in late June (DWS). A family group of seven starlings was also seen across town July 29 (SS).

Alaska's 2nd **Solitary Vireo** was a singing *cassini* type in the Fish Cr. woods near Hyder June 15-17 (†SH, †TGT, †RLS, MEI, tape). This bird was in the same area where two were singing in June 1986. Singing for one week in late June (June 21-28) was an extralimital Warbling Vireo in an Anchorage neighborhood (DFD, m.ob.). This vireo is casual away from the southeast's mainland river corridors; there are 2 previous early summer Anchorage records. Red-eyed Vireo made a good showing in the southeast at traditional sites. Three to four were up the Stikine R. on territory in June and July (PJW), and one was singing on Mitkof I. July 2 (PJW). Two Red-eyes were picked out of thickets at Hyder June 16-17 (SH, RLS, TGT). The season's only Tennessee Warbler report came from up the Stikine R. July 4 (PJW), where this species is probably annual. As close to the Region as this warbler breeds,

across a broad front just e. of the Coast Range, north to the s.w. Yukon, it remains very rare. Following a May report from the same area (q.v.), at least four Magnolia Warblers, including a territorial pair, were located near Hyder June 15-17 (SH, RLS, TGT, MEI, tape).

#### **SPARROWS TO FRINGILLIDS**

Completely unexpected was an ad. **Lark Sparrow** at the Tetlin N.W.R. visitor center, about 5 mi. w. of the Canada border along the Alaska Hwy, July 12 (†TJD, ph.). We had considered this open country sparrow, which breeds only as close as s. interior British Columbia, as a fall possibility in the coastal southeast. Alaska's 2nd **Bobolink** was a brilliant male on the Hyder sedge flats June 14 (RLS, MEI, SH, TGT, ph., \*). Brown-headed Cowbirds made an onslaught at Hyder in mid-June, where at least eight could be seen June 14-17 (MEI *et al.*). These birds were displaying and copulating actively.

We received very convincing details of a ♀ **House Finch** July 12 from a Haines feeder (†BM). We have no previous Alaska reports of this species, which breeds in s. and e.c. British Columbia. Crossbills were widespread in about average numbers in June except in the interior and n. SC, where White-winged only appeared in low numbers after late June (m.ob.). Crossbills thinned out in parts of the southeast by July. Also new for the Region and most unexpected was a bright ♂ **American Goldfinch**, photographed at Ketchikan in "mid-June" (JS, ph.). This bird likely originated from coastal British Columbia populations. There is one previous unsubstantiated sight record from Juneau. One of very few true summer reports, an itinerant Hawfinch was content to remain at Buldir I. July 9-26 (ILJ *et al.*).

**Contributors and Observers:** E. Bailey, C. Berkman, T. Burke, G.V. Byrd, D.F. Delap, T.J. Doyle, R.E. Fairall, C. Findora, R.N. Fraker, D.D. Gibson, R.E. Gill, W.E. Harper, S. Heintz, R. Hotham, M.E. Isleib, I.L. Jones, K. Kertell, I.R. MacIntosh, M. MacIntosh, R.A. MacIntosh, B. Maybank, B.J. McCaffery, J. McCarthy, D.W. Menke, E. Murphy, L. Philemonoff, G.H. Rosenberg, K. Russell, R.L. Scher, B. Schram, S. Senner, J. Silberling, D.W. Sonneborn, C. Stemler, T.G. Tobish, W.R. Uhl, P.J. Walsh, M. Ward, G.C. West, J. Williams, K.J. Zimmer.—**T. G. TOBISH, JR., 2510 Foraker Dr., Anchorage, AK 99517; M. E. ISLEIB, 9229 Emily Way, Juneau, AK 99801.**

# OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

Bill Tweit and Jim Johnson

Overall, it was a mild summer in the Region, after the last of the cold, wet spring storms hit southeastern Oregon June 4. The average temperature in most of the Region was a few degrees cooler than normal during both June and July, but precipitation levels were about average.

In Washington, intensive survey work in *Okanogan* for the breeding bird atlas, Dept. of Wildlife research and the annual Washington Ornithological Society convention led to numerous exciting discoveries, such as breeding Lesser Scaup, White-tailed Ptarmigan, potentially territorial Semipalmated Plover and Greater Yellowlegs, potential Great Gray Owl breeding, confirmed nests of Boreal Chickadee, and territorial Clay-colored Sparrows.

Oregon highlights included the first breeding record of Costa's Hummingbird and an interesting wave of vagrants in early June in *Harney* that was late but high in quality, including the first state records for Philadelphia Vireo and Scott's Oriole.

The late, heavy snowpack may have delayed breeding of many subalpine species (CCh), otherwise the lousy spring weather and cool summer were not noted to have decreased breeding success. There was some additional evidence of the very delayed passerine spring migration that was apparently caused by the spring weather.

**Abbreviations:** Davis (*Davis L., Klamath and Deschutes counties, OR*); Fields (*Fields, Harney Co., OR*); Malheur (*Malheur Natl Wildlife Ref., Harney Co., OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA*); Sauvie (*Sauvie Island, Columbia Co., OR*); S.J.C.R. (*south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., OR*).

## LOONS TO DUCKS

Pacific Loons were still migrating N in late June: 60 per hour were flying past Yaquina Bay, OR, June 20 (HN). Common Loons have almost disappeared as breeders in recent years, so an adult with a young bird on Lost L., *Okanogan, WA*, June 22 (*fide AS*) and a territorial pair on L. Quinault, *Grays Harbor, WA* (FS) were noteworthy. Summering birds were noted at six locations in Oregon (m.ob.); it is unlikely any of these were breeding attempts. For the 2nd year in a row, no W. Grebe nests were found at Malheur or in the surrounding Harney Basin, and only one small colony of Eared Grebes nested in the Basin (RV). Six pairs of Clark's Grebe were found July 24 with one immature at Saddle Mountain N.W.R., *Grant, WA* (RH), adding to the few known breeding locales in



the Region. In Oregon, single Clark's Grebes were found at six locales (m.ob.), mostly in the interior, and one group of seven was at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes*, July 30 (CM).

Three pelagic trips were ventured: two from Westport, WA, July 13 & 27 (TW) and one off the Columbia R. mouth June 8 (JJ). Northern Fulmar were found on all 3 trips: numbers were comparable to higher levels seen prior to 1988 instead of the lower numbers of the last 3 years. A single Flesh-footed Shearwater off Westport July 27 was noteworthy, as the species is becoming scarcer in the Region. Thirty Leach's Storm-Petrels were found 50 mi off the Columbia R. mouth June 8 (JJ); Leach's have become hard to find at sea in this Region in recent years.

Owing to receding water levels on Malheur and the lack of suitable nesting sites, Am. White Pelicans failed to nest in the Harney Basin this year (RV). A few non-breeders were found at other e. Oregon locations and, in e. Washington, the high counts of non-breeders were 52 at Sprague L., *Adams*, July 7 (JA) and 30 on the Columbia R. above Richland June 11 (RH). These numbers are much lower than those of the last 2 summers; they apparently went elsewhere this summer. A Brown Pelican seen flying down the Columbia R. at Portland July 21 (PO) was unusually far from the ocean.

Ardeid nest counts in the Harney Basin this summer included 80 Great Blue Heron, 172 Great Egret, 31 Snowy Egret, 64 Black-crowned Night-Heron, and 3,415 White-faced Ibis (RV). The Cattle Egrets noted during the spring at Malheur apparently did not nest; they went unreported after the late May observations. The only e. Washington colony of Great Egrets at Potholes Res., *Grant*, held 39+ nests in June (SJ).

in Oregon were extended somewhat when nests were found on Ladd Marsh, *Union*, during June (Dave Bronson). Lesser Scaup are rare breeders in the Region. A female was flushed from the nest at Molson L., *Okanogan, WA* (SJ) and they were found in mid-June on Delintment L., *Grant, OR* (Cecil Gagnon). Bufflehead are also scarce breeders, but a brood at Turnbull N.W.R., *Spokane, WA*, July 14 (AS) was from an area with several previous breeding records.

## KITES TO PHALAROPES

At least one pair of Black-shouldered Kites nested at Raymond, *Pacific* (Jeff Skriletz), the only known breeding location in Washington. There were no Oregon reports. SJ found Swainson's Hawks at 2 locations near Molson, *Okanogan, WA*; they apparently had not been recorded from the county previously. There were three summer Merlin reports. One at Finley N.W.R., OR, June 7 (*fide ME*) was late, but two birds in 2 locations on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington during June (FS) were possibly breeding birds. A Peregrine of the *anatum* race was photographed at O.S. June 13 (DP); it would seem that the coastal *pealeii* would be a more likely lingerer in the area.

Two female and six imm. White-tailed Ptarmigan atop Chopaka Mt., *Okanogan*, July 25 (SJ, RF) establish this site as the farthest east breeding locale in Washington. This spring, the Nature Conservancy and the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife released 33 Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Clear Lake Ridge area of *Walloua*. Apparently 2 pairs attempted to nest: one pair produced infertile eggs and the other nest was destroyed by coyotes (Berta Youtie, The Nature Conservancy).

An ad. Trumpeter Swan on Calispell L., *Pend Oreille, WA*, June 17 (DC) may have been a stray from the Turnbull N.W.R. population; they are not known to nest elsewhere in the state. Six pairs of Trumpeters at Malheur raised 14 young, the most cygnets raised since 1987 (RV). Small numbers of summering Brant included five at Yaquina Head, OR (Kathy Merrifield), seven at Tillamook Bay, OR (HN), and ten at Dungeness, WA (D & SS). A few Brant probably summer annually, but they are not always this widely reported. The known breeding ranges of Am. Wigeon and N. Pintail

The last native Sharp-taileds were observed in Oregon in the 1950s and this is the first reintroduction attempt.

Three pairs of Sandhill Crane attempted to breed at Conboy N.W.R., *Klickitat* (DP), their only regular breeding locale in Washington. Two cranes still present on Sauvie on the very late date of June 9 (JJ) may have been attempting to summer. The only Snowy Plover reports were five in the interior at Borax L., *Harney*, OR, June 9 (TC, JG) and five at Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific*, WA, July 15 (NL). A pair of Semipalmated Plover on Big Goose L., *Okanogan*, WA, were very far south for attempted breeding, although they have bred rarely on the Washington coast. The peak migratory count of Semipalmated Plover was 800 at Leadbetter Pt. July 27 (MP). Black-necked Stilts bred at Reardan, *Lincoln* (JA), at the northeasternmost part of their Washington range.

Four Greater Yellowlegs on Muskrat L., *Okanogan*, June 21 (SJ) were described as acting "agitated," indicating possible breeding activity. There are no breeding records for Washington, but a few days later both species of yellowlegs were present at the lake and the southern migration had begun. Only two Solitary Sandpipers were reported, both from e. Washington (SJ). One of those was seen June 24 on Round L., *Okanogan*, again raising suspicions of breeding in the area. Only one Upland Sandpiper was reported from the last Washington breeding location near Spokane (JA); they appear to be essentially extinct as breeders in the state. An ad. Red Knot at Reardan, *Lincoln*, WA, July 28 (†JA) and an ad. Sanderling near Rufus, *Sherman*, OR, July 27 (CM) were rare in the interior. Peak numbers of W. Sandpipers were 5000 on the coast at Youngs Bay, *Clatsop*, OR, July 17 (MP) and 800 in the interior at *Deschutes*, OR, July 7 (CM). Similar peaks for Least Sandpiper were 200 at Sauvie July 18 (HN) and 100 in *Deschutes* July 11 (CM). The Short-billed Dowitcher peak was 2000 at Leadbetter Pt. July 15 (NL) and the Long-billed peak was 350 at Sauvie July 23 (HN). None of these peak counts were particularly impressive, although the interior numbers were relatively better than the coast. Very low numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were found on pelagic trips and only a handful were seen onshore as well. Two Red Phalaropes off the Columbia R. mouth in June (JJ) were unanticipated, as they are not regularly found on spring pelagic trips.

#### GULLS TO OWLS

The S. Polar Skua seen June 8 about 35 mi off the Columbia R. mouth (JJ) was very early, and another seen at S.J.C.R. July 28 (†ME) was an unusual onshore record. Franklin's Gulls bred in excellent numbers in the Harney Basin this year; 550 nests were censused at Malheur (RV). Perhaps related to these high numbers were five adults at Potholes Res., *Grant*, WA, June 20 (Bill Shelmerdine) and one at Sauvie June 7 (NL).

Franklin's Gulls have not been found breeding in the Region away from s.e. Oregon. The early northward movement of Heermann's Gulls observed this May was followed by exceptionally large numbers appearing in July on the Washington coast. At O.S. on July 26, G & WH noted that their numbers were impossible to estimate, but that they seemed ten times as abundant as ever before. A 2nd-year Glaucous Gull at O.S. June 14 (ph. M & MLD) may be less surprising this summer than others, as last winter saw record numbers of Glaucous. Black-legged Kittiwakes were unreported this summer, for at least the third consecutive summer.

Two Potholes Res. colonies of Caspian Terns in e. Washington were censused this summer: 268 adults were found (SJ, RF). There was no additional information on the newly-formed Puget Sound colony mentioned this spring. The Puget Sound colony of Arctic Terns at Everett had at least seven birds July 4 (AS). For the 2nd summer in a row, Arctic Terns have turned up in very unexpected places: one was in the interior near Wamic, *Wasco*, OR, June 30 (†DL) and another was on the coast at Yaquina Bay, OR, July 5 (ME). On the pelagic trips, one Arctic Tern was noted in June off the Columbia R. mouth (JJ) and two were seen on the July 13 trip off Westport (TW). At least seven Marbled Murrelet were seen in the old growth forest at Saddle Mt., *Clatsop*, OR, July 20 (MP). A Xantus' Murrelet off Westport July 27 (TW) is the first Washington report since 1987.

A lone Band-tailed Pigeon was found July 7 at Silver L., *Lake* (Priscilla Summers) for a very rare e. Oregon sighting.

#### S.A.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo status may be changing in the Region, as the number of reports has dramatically increased these last two years. Prior to the summer of 1990, there were only six modern, confirmed records in Oregon and even fewer in Washington. Last summer there were three Oregon records, and this summer there were four more. One was in Fields June 9 (†JG), one was at Malheur June 10 (†JG, JJ), another was at Malheur June 23 (*fide* TC) and one was in Logan valley, *Grant* in early June (Jerry Scoville). In e. Washington, there were unconfirmed reports of one Yellow-billed Cuckoo along the Okanogan R. in July (*fide* RF).

A migrant Flammulated Owl at Malheur June 6 (TC, PL) equalled the previous late date for spring migrants on the refuge. According to staff at the Salem District of B.L.M., Spotted Owl nesting activity was very low with only four juveniles confirmed from their known nesting sites, compared with about 30 young produced in 1990 (SD). Reasons for the reduced nesting activity are not known, although B.L.M. staff con-

jecture that the harsh winter may be explain some of the decrease. B.L.M. surveys of their holdings on the west side of the Oregon Cascades located two Barred Owls on the Santiam Resource Area and two more on the Clackamas Resource Area (*fide* SD). U.S. Forest Service staff found a probable Great Gray Owl nest site in Malheur N.F. near Wolf Mt., *Grant* (*fide* RV). This area is between the known Oregon Great Gray Owl breeding areas on the east slope of the Cascades and in the Wallowa Mts. In Washington, two Great Gray Owl nests were reportedly found in *Okanogan* this summer (*fide* AS). There are no confirmed breeding records for the state. No Boreal Owls were reported.

#### POORWILL TO THRUSHES

B.L.M. staff found Com. Poorwill at two sites on the west slope of the Oregon Cascades in *Linn* in May (David & Lynne Larson, Alison McCaull). Last summer, a few *P. n. californicus* were found in the *Douglas* Cascades over 100 mi to the south. The eastside race, *P. n. nuttalli*, is unknown as a breeder on the west slope. An imm. Anna's Hummingbird in Silver L., *Lake*, June 23 (SS) was away from their only regular locale in e. Oregon in the Bend area. *Costa's Hummingbird* has become a scarce but annual post-breeding visitant to Oregon, but this summer a female attempted to nest. The nest with two eggs was found on the s. Oregon coast, in Harbor, *Curry* June 16 (AB, CD). Unfortunately, the next day a car antenna swiped the nest and both eggs were destroyed. The nest and destroyed egg were collected when the female was last seen on June 21 (\* W.F.V.Z.). A ♀ Broad-tailed Hummingbird was reported from the Steens Mts., *Harney*, July 27 (TL) and others were observed at a feeder in LaGrande, *Union*, during May and June (Bill & Chris Dowdy). Broad-taileds are uncommon and local in Oregon.

A Red-naped Sapsucker was unusual on the westside at Big Four Marsh, *Snohomish*, WA, June 9 (CCh) as was a Williamson's Sapsucker in the Breitenbush area, *Marion*, OR (*fide* BB). A pair of Downy Woodpeckers on an island in Potholes Res., *Grant*, WA, June 9-10 (SJ) was unexpected, as they are quite rare in the summer in the low parts of the Columbia Basin. It was a good summer for Least Flycatchers. In Washington, territorial males were found at 3 locations on the eastside (WW, M & MLD, JW), and one was in Seattle June 22 (Mark Egger). In Oregon, a territorial male on Sauvie June 2-July 4 (JJ) was the first for *Multnomah*. Eastern Oregon had three to four at Clyde Holliday S.P., *Grant* from late May into July (Grant Co. Bird Club), a migrant at Malheur June 8 (Sheran Jones), and one near Gilchrist, *Klamath* June 7 (Skip Russell). Territorial Least had been found at Clyde Holliday in the past, but not for several years. Although at least two birds were showing a strong pair bond and defending a territory, no nest was

found. An actual nest of Least Flycatcher has yet to be found in Oregon.

A ♂ Dusky Flycatcher along the S. Fork of the Stillaguamish R., *Snohomish*, July 7–9 (CCh) furnished one of few w. Washington records. This summer's records of Gray Flycatcher extended their breeding range another 50 mi to the north and east in Washington, following the 30 mi extension recorded last summer. JA found them in 4 locations in *Spokane*, including the first county breeding record, in 3 *Stevens* locations, and 4 new locations in *Lincoln*. There is still much to learn about the distribution of the "Western" Flycatcher complex in our Region. DC reported that most of the birds he taped this summer in the interior "seem to have marginally Cordilleran songs and obvious Pacific-slope calls"; he found birds in *Stevens* and *Ferry* of n.e. Washington. A Pacific-slope Flycatcher was reported from Fields June 7 (TC, JG, PL); all previous records of "Westerns" in s.e. Oregon were thought to be Cordilleran. Given the preponderance of Pacific-slope Flycatchers in areas to the north of eastern Oregon, it seems unlikely that Cordilleran are the only species found in migration and it may be unlikely that they are even the majority of the "Western" migrants. A "Western" in the arid Columbia Basin at Saddle Mountain N.W.R. June 20 (RH) was undoubtedly a late migrant.

Washington's 2nd Eastern Phoebe was a calling male found in *Okanogan* (of course!) June 22–July 3 (†TB, Pat Knopp, m.ob.). The adult Ash-throated Flycatchers found feeding young along Crab Cr., *Grant*, July 9 (RH) were the first reports of this isolated breeding population in several years. Additionally, a pair apparently nesting s.e. of Wenatchee, WA, June 20 (G & WH) were at least 60 mi north of other breeding locales. Seven pairs of Bank Swallows were at the only known westside colony, which was discovered a few years ago 4.5 mi up the Chetco R., *Curry*, OR, June 6 (AB). American Crows were found nesting at two locations in the central Columbia Basin of Washington: in Othello, *Adams* (RH) and along Dodson Rd., *Grant* (SJ). Crows have only recently appeared in these areas.

Two nests of Boreal Chickadee found in *Okanogan* June 22 and 23 (BT, AS, LW, PMu) appear to be the first actual nests found in Washington. Winter Wrens were on territory at 6000 ft on Mt. Rainier during the 3rd week of June, although several feet of snow still completely covered the ground (CCh). Western Bluebirds were found north of their current breeding range: in two locations on the Olympic Peninsula where two adults with two immatures were at Forks, *Jefferson*, June 24 (FS) and one male was near Blynn, *Clallam* (D & SS), and at one location in north Puget Sound near Mt. Vernon, *Skagit* July 27 (Scott Atkinson). Presumably, they once nested in all these areas, before they nearly disappeared from w. Washington. The first breeding record of Mountain Bluebird from the Puget Lowlands was of a female

found dead in a nest box on Ft. Lewis, *Pierce* (George Walter, DP). A ♂ W. Bluebird appeared to have been attending the box. A Veery found at Fields June 1 (PMu, LW) could have been a vagrant. Varied Thrushes on territory on Mt. Rainier during the third week of June were facing the same conditions described for Winter Wrens.

#### MIMIDS TO WARBLERS

Gray Catbirds were found at 2 locations on the Warm Springs Reservation, *Wasco*, OR, June 30 and July 13 (DL). Even though they breed south to Yakima on the east slope of the Washington Cascades, they have not been found breeding in the e. Oregon Cascades. The usual handful of N. Mockingbird reports included five from e. Oregon, one from w. Washington, and the most interesting was a bird seen carrying food July 15 (AS) at the same *Grant* location where the first Washington breeding record was obtained last summer. A Brown Thrasher, a rare Oregon vagrant, appeared at Fields June 3–4 (TC, ph. JG).

Oregon's first verified Philadelphia Vireo was photographed at Fields June 3 (†JG). A ♂ Red-eyed Vireo at L. Quinault, *Grays Harbor*, June 7 (FS) furnished the westernmost Washington record. The vagrant list from *Harney* was extensive: a ♂ Tennessee Warbler at Fields June 3–6 (JG), a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Malheur June 9 (*vide* TC), a Mag-nolia Warbler at Malheur June 1 (Dennis

Arendt), a ♂ Cape May Warbler at Malheur June 1 (†TC, PMu, LW) for about the 6th state record, a ♂ Blackpoll Warbler at Fields June 4–5 (Richard Smith), two Black-and-White Warblers at Fields June 1–6 (JG), at least six Am. Redstarts at Malheur and three near Fields (m.ob.), an Ovenbird at Fields June 3–5 (JG), one near Alvord L. June 7 (TL), and another at Malheur June 5 & 10 (TC, CM) and a N. Waterthrush at Fields June 4–5 (JG). There were three other Blackpoll Warbler reports, an unusually high number for spring vagrants. In Oregon, a male was at Davis June 6 (ph. Howard Sands) and a male was at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, June 7 (†Kamal Islam). The ♂ Blackpoll Warbler in Spokane May 17 (†JA) was about the fifth for Washington and was on a very early date for a vagrant. A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Vantage, *Kittitas*, June 17 (†Andrew Balland) provided about the 6th Washington record. And finally, an Ovenbird was in the Richland area, WA, June 4–6 (†Tony Greager).

There were three reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, now annual vagrants in the Region: a female at Fields June 6 (†JG), a territorial male at Turnbull N.W.R., *Spokane*, WA, July 7–14 (JW, m.ob.), and the male at a feeder on Tiger Mt., *King*, WA, June 20–July 30 (Sherry Mottaz, ph. DP) was seen feeding a juv. Black-headed Grosbeak in late July (Merilyn Hatheway). There are still fewer than 15 records for this species in Washington. Malheur had its first Black-headed Grosbeak nesting records this summer, with two



Philadelphia Vireo at Fields, Oregon, June 3, 1991. First verified state record. Photograph/Jeff Gilligan.

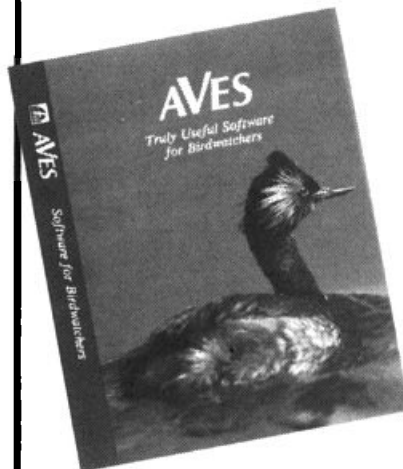
nests found (BM). At the opposite corner of the Region, on the Olympic Peninsula, a male on June 1 near Sequim, *Clallam* (D & SS) furnished only the 2nd local record of Black-headed Grosbeak in 15 years. A ♂ Indigo Bunting, a rare spring vagrant, was along VanHorn Cr. in the Pueblo Mts., *Harney*, June 7 (Phil Pickering).

The first Malheur breeding record of Rufous-sided Towhee was near Frenchglen July 20 (BM). At least three territorial male Clay-colored Sparrows were found in *Okanogan* (AS, DC, m.ob.). A Lark Sparrow near Coquille, *Coos*, June 29 (PO) was very unusual for coastal Oregon. Despite several searches, no Black-throated Sparrows were found this summer at the only known Washington breeding locale, near Vantage. Grasshopper Sparrows occasionally breed in w. Oregon; two singing birds were at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, July 6 (*fide* ME). One White-throated Sparrow at Harbor, *Curry*, June 21 (AB) was very late and provides quite a contrast to the Costa's Hummingbird nest in the same area! A dark-lored White-crowned Sparrow in Fields June 7 (PL, SF) was also quite late for a migrant.

The spate of spring records of Tricolored Blackbird records in Oregon seemed not to result in much successful breeding. The two males at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, remained through at least June 9 (*fide* BB), but no breeding was noted. Only one or two males were all that remained June 2 (DL) of the large flock found near Wamic, *Wasco*, in May. Up to 13 males were in the marsh near Hermiston, *Umatilla*, June 16 (PS) where they have occurred for three years. From June 4 through 8, Fields was the oriole capitol of Oregon, with a ♂ Orchard Oriole (ph. JG, †PL), a ♀ Scott's Oriole (ph. SF, †PL) and a male "Baltimore" Oriole (JG) keeping company with several "Bullock's." The Scott's furnished the first state record and the Orchard was the fourth.

Beginning in July, Red Crossbills were moderately common throughout the Washington Cascades and Okanogan Highlands (SJ, AS). The only ones identified to Type were II and IV noted south of Mt. Adams July 19-21 (DP). In Oregon, Red Crossbills were scarce all summer (HN), and few were found in the w. Washington lowlands (BT, CCh, G & WH) or s.e. Washington (M & MLD). Moderate numbers of White-winged Crossbills appeared in late July in the Cascades and *Okanogan*, although none were noted south of *Kittitas* (AS, PM). Several Lesser Goldfinches near Chiloquin, *Klamath*, OR, July 18 (HN) were locally unusual. An adult and two fledgling Evening Grosbeaks at Malheur June 25 (RV) were thought to have bred locally, which would have been a first breeding record for the refuge and probably indicates displacement from their normal higher elevation breeding areas.

**Initialed observers:** (with subregional editors in boldface) Jim Acton, Alan Barron, Barb Bellin (Salem area), Thais Bock (Tacoma



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area), Dick Cannings, Chris Chappel (CCh), Tom Crabtree (e. Oregon), Mike & Merry L. Denny, Colin Dillingham, Stephen Dowlan, Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth (Corvallis area), Shawneen Finnegan, Jeff Gilligan, Randy Hill, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Stuart Johnston, Paul Lehman, Nick Lethaby, Tom Love, Donna Lusthoff, Phil Mattocks, Craig Miller, Marjorie Moore (Rogue valley), Brett Moyer, Pat Muller (PMu), Harry Nehls (w. Oregon), Paul Osburn, Mike Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Tom Rogers (e. Washington), Fred Sharpe, Dory & Stan Smith, Andy Stepnewski, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Rick Vetter, Terry Wahl, Wayne Weber, Linda Weiland, Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Jeff Wisman.—**BILL TWEIT**, P.O. Box 1271, Olympia, WA 98507, and **JIM JOHNSON**, 3244 NE Brazee St., Portland, OR 97212.

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

David G. Yee, Bruce E. Deuel, and Stephen F. Bailey

Highlighting this season were the many quality rarities on Southeast Farallon Island and in Mono County. Vagrant warblers led the way, as they padded an impressive list of 33 total warblers seen in the Region. A midsummer long-distant pelagic trip began to fill the gaps in our knowledge of far-offshore birds during these months. And since this is the "nesting" season, we were pleased to receive a good number of breeding records. Although only the highlights are mentioned owing to

space limitations, we welcome any bird breeding news.

**Abbreviations:** C.V. (*Central Valley*); Cyn. (*Canyon*); F.I. (*Southwest Farallon Island*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional Editors*). All records from F.I. and Palomar should be credited to Points Reyes Bird Observatory.

### GREBES TO FRIGATEBIRDS

Two seasonally rare Red-necked Grebes were found: at Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, July 7–19 (B. Jording) and "s. of Ano Nuevo" July 8 (SGI). A mixed colony of Western and Clark's grebes on L. Hennessy (RLCL, E. Sabine), had 5 Clark's nests by July 20 (ph. ABt, J. Karr). These are the first known Clark's nestings in *Napa*.

As offshore boat trips become year-round, so do sightings of Laysan Albatross. There were 4 summer reports, which were formerly very rare in these months. Three early Black-vented Shearwaters were offshore Monterey July 27 (AB, DLSh). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel was described far s.w. of Pt. Reyes July 28 (L. Terrill, †SBT, RN). Leach's Storm-Petrel was the only common bird on that trip, which scouted as far as 100 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes in *Marin* and *San Mateo*. Of the 200+ seen, at least four were all-dark, and three had only small ovals of white beside the rump (SFB, AdW, m.ob.). These dark morphs did not necessarily come from s. of the Region, as D.G. Ainley (1980, *Auk* 97: 837–853) has found all morphs on F.I., although most F.I. birds have a white rump with a median line.

The large colony of Double-crested Cormorants nesting on the Bay Bridge has expanded across the county line (SFB) for the first modern nesting in San Francisco. A Magnificent Frigatebird was independently reported July 21 from Angel I. (S. Michalowski) and just e. of the Golden Gate Bridge (G. Moore, N. Peterson); both locales are along the *San Francisco/Marin* line.

### BITTERNS TO DUCKS

Common nowhere in the Region, a Least Bittern at Half Moon Bay June 3 (SBT) was only *San Mateo's* 2nd. As usual, a Little Blue Heron was at the Alviso heronry, *San Clara*, June 11 (MiF). The Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret hybrid also summered there. Cattle Egrets have reached the nadir of observer interest, with only one report, a bird in San Jose July 3 (WGB). The White-faced Ibis "invasion" seems to have receded, with no C.V., one coastal, and 3 Great Basin reports totaling fewer than 30 birds. Inland Brant, unknown in summer just 5 years ago, involved 10 birds at Crowley L. June 11, including two color-marked individuals (PJM); one there July 6 (GMCC *et al.*); and singles in the Mono Basin June 15 (D. Keller) and June 26 (D. Taylor), all *Mono*. Introduced coastal populations of Canada Geese continue to expand, evidenced by new nest-

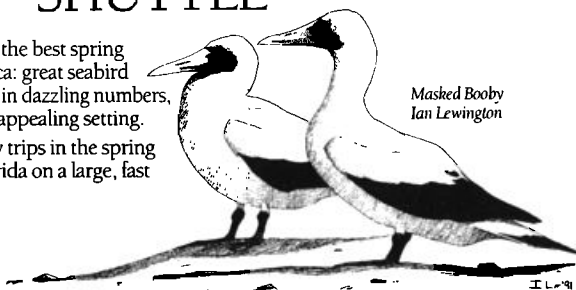
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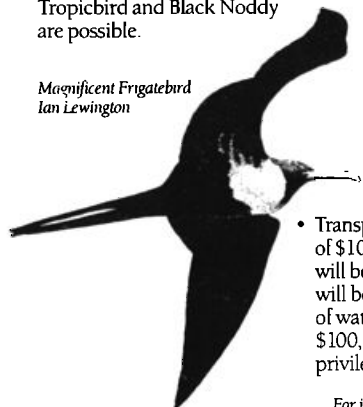


Masked Booby  
Ian Lewington

- Trip cost \$250/person sharing a twin berth; \$290/person single berth. Ten percent discount for groups of 10 or more. Trips begin at 6 a.m. on Day 1 and conclude at 5 p.m. on Day 3. Free berths available on board at 10 p.m. the night before departure. Meals not included in the price, but full galley service is available. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 holds a space. The balance is due 10 weeks prior to departure.

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Magnificent Frigatebird  
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ing locales in *Mendocino*, *San Mateo*, and *Monterey*.

A ♂ Mallard X N. Pintail summered at Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin* (CLF). Blue-winged Teal were widely reported, including a brood at the Napa sewer mitigation ponds June 15 (RLCL); actual nesting attempts are rarely recorded. A Gadwall brood at the Stockton sewer ponds July 8 (DGY) comprised one of very few *San Joaquin* breeding records. The southward breeding expansion of Am. Wigeon continued, with 2 broods at Hot Creek Fish Hatchery, *Mono*, July 23 (PJM). Pochards made rare summer appearances: three Redheads at Ft. Dick June 17 (ADB) (2nd *Del Norte*), a Ring-necked Duck at the Modesto sewer ponds July 29 (HMR) (2nd or 3rd *Stanislaus*), and a brood at Crowley L. July 21 (PJM) (first *Mono* nesting); a Greater Scaup at the Stockton sewer ponds June 28 (DGY) (first *San Joaquin*); and a Lesser Scaup at the Hollister sewer ponds (first *San Benito*). A ♂ Tufted Duck summering at the Hayward Regional Shoreline, *Alameda* (†RJR) is likely the same bird from the previous year.

The ♀ King Eider reported from *Monterey* in spring reappeared at Moss Landing June 2 and remained through the period (C. Johnson, †RSTh, †DR). Single Oldsquaws summered at Pt. Reyes (m.ob.), Princeton Harbor, *San Mateo* (m.ob.), and Ft. Bragg (DT). Up to 20 Black Scoters at Pt. Reyes was a good summer showing. A Barrow's Goldeneye at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, July 28 (NEC, RE, MFRb) was quite unseasonal. A Com. Merganser was at Bear Gulch Res., *San Mateo*, June 1 (*fide* WGB); surprisingly, there are no previous May or June records for the county. A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Crowley L. July 21 (PJM) was extremely rare e. of the Sierras.

#### RAPTORS

An Osprey nest near LaGrange was *Stanislaus's* first, but it appeared unsuccessful (B. Corey, HMR, SLR). A Ferruginous Hawk at Killgore Hills, *Siskiyou*, July 24 was possibly nesting in the area (RE).

#### QUAIL TO SHOREBIRDS

A California Quail at Fish Camp (4500'), *Mariposa*, July 10 (RAE) was above normal altitudinal range. A Clapper Rail at Redwood Shores June 27 (RSTh) was one of very few remaining in *San Mateo*, while a Sora heard s. of Half Moon Bay June 30 (BS) was tantalizing since there are no county nesting records. At the periphery of their range, Com. Moorhens dispersed to *Mendocino*, *Monterey*, and *Mono*, with a first confirmed *Napa* breeding.

The known nesting range of Black-necked



#### LARIDS, ALCIDS

An ad. or subad. Pomarine Jaeger at South L. Tahoe June 20–21 (†D.L. Moody) was the Region's 3rd for the interior; both previous records were from *Mono* in mid-September. Three Long-tailed Jaegers and a S. Polar Skua were tallied up to 100 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes July 28 (SNGH, AdW, SFB, SBT).

An ad. Laughing Gull at the S. Jetty of Humboldt Bay July 31 (†BBA) was the 3rd for Humboldt and the north coast. Single ad. Franklin's Gulls were at the Gualala R. mouth, *Sonoma/Mendocino* (first for the latter county) June 1 (†BDP) and at Bolinas Lagoon June 11 (KH). Closer to breeding sites, four ad. Franklin's Gulls were at Goose L., *Modoc*, June 9 (DGY, S. Yee), and an immature was at Lower Klamath N.W.R. July 28 (NEC, RE, MFRb).

Crowley L., *Mono*, gathered an impressive assortment of gulls and terns. The 120 Bonaparte's Gulls there July 21–22 (PJM) was a large number to summer e. of the Sierra.

Stilt was expanded with the finding of chicks at Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey*, July 30 (DEG) and at Hollister sewer ponds July 19 (KVV), a *San Benito* first. Very early was a Lesser Yellowlegs at Bridgeport Reservoir, *Mono*, July 6 (BS, RSTh). A Wandering Tattler in basic plumage in Monterey harbor June 17 (MP) was felt to be the first summering bird in the county. A rare C.V. "fall" Whimbrel record was obtained when two adults appeared at the Stockton sewer ponds July 17–19 (DGY). Twelve Long-billed Curlews, mostly in pairs, were in *Mono* in June (v.o.), where nesting is unknown. A large number for inland, 20 Marbled Godwits were at Modoc N.W.R. July 5 (GMCC *et al.*).

Semipalmated Sandpiper records included adults near Woodland, *Yolo*, July 20 (MJL) and Humboldt Bay July 23 (BBA), and a juvenile at L. Merced, S.F., July 25–27 (ASH, SFB, JMHu). Baird's Sandpiper sightings were limited to an adult at Hollister sewer ponds July 19 (KVV) and a juvenile at the Hayward Shoreline July 26 (RJR). An ad. Pectoral Sandpiper at the Salinas sewer ponds July 21 (K. Monahan) may have been *Monterey's* earliest fall bird. A Dunlin in alternate plumage with very worn primaries at Abbot's Lagoon, *Marin*, June 8 (SFB) probably summered, as did 5–6 birds at the Hayward Shoreline June 13–July 17 (RJR).

The Region's 5th summer Ruff appeared at Pt. Reyes July 20–22 (S. Wight, †m.ob.). Two alternate plumage Long-billed Dowitchers near Ft. Dick June 17 (ADB) were *Del Norte's* first for June. A ♀ Red Phalarope in alternate plumage at MacKerricker S.P. June 1 (DT) was the only one noted on shore.

A juv. Heermann's Gull July 27 (†JHd, ph. †THd) furnished the 2nd record for the Region's Great Basin district (see AB 43: 533). An ad. Herring Gull June 11–July 22 (PJM) was seasonally rare, especially inland, but the lake's best larid was the Region's first Yellow-footed Gull, a juvenile July 21–29 (†PJM, PEG). Both the Heermann's and the Yellow-footed presumably wandered N across the desert and up the Owens Valley.

Beleaguered terns had very good nesting seasons at Alameda Naval Air Station. As the introduced Red Fox destroyed colonies elsewhere around S.F. Bay, an estimated 1020 Caspian Tern nests at Alameda seemed to be fledging most of their young (SFB). The Station's colony of Least Terns, now with all but two of the Region's nesting pairs, fledged a record 131–144 young from 120 nests (108–114 separate pairs—LDC).

Crowley L. hosted an ad. Arctic Tern July 6 (†GMCC, B.E. Daniels, NBB), the Region's 5th truly inland record (beyond S.F. Bay). Two ad. Least Terns, at Bridgeport Res., *Mono*, July 4 (†RSTh) were the first for the Region's Great Basin district. Most likely they came from the south, although records from the Mojave Desert are very few. A migrant concentration of 34 ad. Black Terns at Crowley L. July 22 (PJM) was unprecedented for *Mono*.

A Xantus' Murrelet 1–2 mi s.w. of E.I. June 21 (SBT, G. Bauer) continued a recent pattern of May–June sightings there. When will they be found nesting? A basic-plumaged Ancient Murrelet off Gazos Cr. July 28 (†RSTh, GJS) was the first in summer for *San Mateo*.

## DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

A White-tipped Dove was well studied off Hwy 198 just e. of the California Aqueduct, Fresno, June 4–mid July (†RH *et al.*). We consider it a probable escapee owing to its long stay in unnatural habitat, far from its neotropical range, and without a suitable pattern of vagrancy. However, we welcome sightings and information on the status and captivity of potential vagrant species. Sadly, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo at F.I. July 8–12 was only the 2nd spring coastal record in 2 years. More disturbingly, *no* nesting reports have been received in 2 years. Is the Region on the verge of losing this species? Future comments on Burrowing Owl may carry a similar tenor. The Redwood City pair June 27 was speculated to be the last nesting pair in *San Mateo* (PJM). A freshly dead Short-eared Owl at Mono L. June 19 (D. Parker) was noteworthy because the species has not bred in the Mono Basin in recent memory.

Five Lesser Nighthawks at F.I. June 5–July 22 and another at Bodega Bay June 10 (DN) was one of their best spring coastal showings ever. Single Chimney Swifts were over Pt. Reyes June 3 (RS) and F.I. July 9. While this species is very rare, this is the 4th spring in the past 5 that they have been detected along the c. coast. Vaux' Swift breeding has not been confirmed in *Monterey*, but one at Part-

ington Cyn. June 29 (DR, RC) fits a pattern of recent summer sightings in suitable breeding habitat within the county.

The summer status of Lewis' Woodpecker in w. *Siskiyou* is uncertain, so one along the Klamath R. June 6 (HG) was of interest. A vocalizing Red-breasted Sapsucker at Annapolis, *Sonoma*, July 6 (BDP) was at the s. boundary of the species' breeding range along the coast. Meanwhile, up in the Sierra at 10,600', a nesting pair at Hall Natural Area, *Mono*, July 27 (DDeS) probably set an altitude record.

## FLYCATCHERS TO THRASHERS

Breeding bird atlassing finally confirmed Dusky Flycatcher breeding in *Monterey* near Cone Peak July 26 (DR), though breeding has been suspected since 1969. Difficulty in distinguishing between Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers in areas of sympatry was well presented by our neighbors to the north (*AB* 44: 1179). Such difficulties may exist in the n.e. corner of California as well. Indeed, several observers commented on their confusion at hearing call notes from "W. Flycatchers" that appeared to range the spectrum of the two "species" in the Warner Mts., *Modoc*, July 5–6 (GMCC, RAE *et al.*). Johnson and Marten (1988 *Auk* 105: 177–191) considered all Warner Mt. breed-

ing birds to be Cordilleran Flycatchers. Readers interested in some good counterpoints to the "W. Flycatcher" split should refer to Phillips (1991, *Known Birds of North and Middle America*, part 2).

An E. Phoebe at F.I. June 2 was only the island's 4th in spring. F.I. islanders were treated to royalty June 6–7 as both **Tropical Kingbird** and Cassin's Kingbird paid visits (†PP); the former was the Region's 2nd in spring, the latter the island's first in spring. The family of W. Kingbirds at Bridgeport, *Mono*, July 6 (RSTh) provided a first confirmed nesting for the Mono Basin. Four E. Kingbirds at F.I. June 11–July 19 and another three along the c. coast June 20–July 23 made for one of their best showings away from breeding grounds during summer.

Common Ravens established a nesting first for the Sutter Buttes June 4 (WA). The rediscovery of nesting Mountain Chickadees near Cone Peak July 26 was considered *Monterey's* bird "event of the summer" (DR). A small population was presents until at least 1960, but recent visits failed to find them. It had been speculated that the species was extirpated by the huge Marble Cone fire of 1977. If recolonization has truly occurred, it is amazing considering that the nearest resident birds are in *Santa Barbara* 150 mi to the south, with no records in between (DR). A Mountain Chickadee at Pt. Reyes June 14



**Tropical Kingbird on Southeast Farallon Island, California, June 6, 1991. Second spring record for northern California. Photograph/Peter Pyle.**



(G. Byron) appeared to be *Marin's* first since 1984; the majority of this county's records are for June. After 2 years of scrutiny, Canyon Wren was confirmed nesting on Mt. Diablo June 26 (†KGH, RJR—*Contra Costa's* first); three fledglings were observed.

Unexpected were nesting **Varied Thrushes** at Butano S.P. and Butano Cr., *San Mateo*, June 21, and at Cascade Cr., *Santa Cruz*, July 2. Single nests were confirmed at each locale, with territorial birds at 6 other spots in the former areas June 6–July 11 (all DLSu *fide* *Albatross*). There were formerly no nesting records s. of *Humboldt*; however, summering birds were detected just to the n. of these areas in La Honda in 1986. Vagrant thrashers included the Region's 4th spring **Gray Catbird** at F.I. June 23, a Sage Thrasher at F.I. June 23–26, and single Brown Thrashers at Mono L. County Park June 10 (†PJM, †DS) and Newark, *Alameda*, June 23 (M. Lewis).

#### VIREOS, WARBLERS

In recent years, short visits to Glass Mt., *Mono*, have revealed breeding *plumbeus* Solitary Vireos, but little was known of this population. This season, much more thorough surveys found 12+ birds June 13–29 (DS, PJM), leading to the conclusion that the bird is a widespread, fairly numerous breeder from at least 6800–8800' in the Glass Mt. area, primarily in pinyon-pine woodland, and secondarily in open Jeffrey Pine Forest (DS). Single Red-eyed Vireos in Pacifica, *San Mateo*, July 1 (S. Smithson), Stinson Beach, *Marin*, July 7 (DaS), and F.I. July 21 were expected, but singing males at Lee Vining June 9 (†PJM) and Glass Mt. June 29 (†DS) provided first and 2nd records for the Mono Basin.

The Region's 4th spring **Golden-winged Warbler** at F.I. June 3 (ph. †pp) was overshadowed by the state's and Region's 3rd **Blue-winged x Golden-winged warbler** at F.I. June 6 (ph. †pp). The hybrid was a ♂ "Brewster's type." In addition to the five Tennessee Warblers at F.I. June 2–4, two birds were at Pt. Reyes June 3 (RS, ASH), with one of them sporting a shiny new band, undoubtedly from F.I. the day before. On Glass Mt., a pair of Virginia's Warblers in Kely Cyn. June 25 and 10+ birds (with confirmed breeding) in Frazier Cyn. June 29 (DS) indicated that



**Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers are both very rare in western North America, and their hybrids are even more so. This "Brewster's" warbler found June 6, 1991, on Southeast Farallon Island, California, provided only the third state record of such a hybrid. Photograph/Peter Pyle.**

this species probably breeds regularly there, the only such Regional site. A pair of N. Parulas at Gazos Cr., *San Mateo*, May 28–July 2 nested and successfully raised young (RSTh, PJM, SBT, m.ob.). The Region's first nesting record was in *Monterey* in 1952. Other nesting records come from *Marin* where, indeed, they seemingly nested again as a territorial pair, with the female carrying food at Five Brooks June 16–July 3 (RS, DaS). The male singing in May at Olema remained until June 25 (G. Byron).

Four Chestnut-sided Warblers were at F.I. June 2–July 7, with another at Half Moon Bay June 4 (BS). The state's first summering **Magnolia Warbler** at Gazos Cr. June 23–July 25 (BS, m.ob.) surpassed six additional coastal birds June 7–19. Birds in Visalia, *Tulare*, June 4 (RH), and lower Walker Cr., *Mono*, June 15 (†ES) appeared to be only the Region's 2nd and 3rd interior spring records.

At Pt. Reyes, a Black-throated Green Warbler June 6–7 (AG, SMO *et al.*) and a Blackburnian Warbler June 2 (RS) met their respective spring averages. Near the top of the season's outstanding warbler list was the Region's first **Grace's Warbler**, a female at Deer Spring, Glass Mt., *Mono*, June 26 (†DS). Single Bay-breasted Warblers at Half Moon Bay June 2–3 (RSTh, SBT), Pt. Reyes June 6 (JM *et al.*), and F.I. June 7 represented an above-average display. Three Blackpoll Warblers were along the c. coast June 6–10. In addition to eight Black-and-white Warblers along the c. coast June 1–10, an impressive three were in *Mono*: Lee Vining Cr. June 10 (†ES *et al.*), lower Walker Cr. June 15–July 1 (†ES), and upper Owens R. June 18 (ES). Eight Am. Redstarts spanned the summer along the c. coast June 6–July 28. Ovenbirds were at F.I. and Pt. Reyes in an 8:2 ratio June 4–10, which are expected areas, numbers, and dates. The lone maverick was at Dexter Cr., *Mono*, June 12 (†PJM, DS). Northern Waterthrushes were well represented, with three c. coastal birds June 1–10 to supplement the two from spring. Completely unexpected was the Region's first and the state's 5th (2nd in spring) **Louisiana Waterthrush** at F.I. June 2–3 (ph. †PP). Augmenting F.I.'s early June warbler frenzy were a Kentucky June 2–4 (†PP), Mourning June 7–11 (†PP), and two

Hoodeds June 7 & 19. Another Hooded Warbler was in S.F. June 8–11 (DSg, ASH). Our lone Canada Warbler was at Pt. Reyes June 6 (KH, JM *et al.*).

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A Summer Tanager was at F.I. June 6. The S.F. East Bay received a jolt when ad. ♂ Scarlet Tanagers were at Tilden Regional Park, *Contra Costa*, June 4 (†M. Nordstrom) and Hayward, *Alameda*, June 30 (†D. Hamilton). All 13 previous Regional records were along the immediate coast. A healthy 16 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were along the c. coast June 1–July 29. Indigo Buntings were scarce, with only five along the c. coast June 2–July 21. A Dickcissel put in a rare spring visit at F.I. July 7. Vagrant *Spizella* sparrows included a Clay-colored at F.I. June 12 and a Brewer's at Pt. Reyes June 7 (JEP). The Swamp Sparrow at McGee Meadows (8600'), Glass

Mt., June 13 (†DS, †PJM) was only the Region's 3rd in June.

Single Bobolinks at River Spring L., *Mono*, June 14 (PJM, DS) and the Marin headlands July 3 (CLF *et al.*) met the recent spring average. *Napa's* breeding bird atlassers were rewarded with their first nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds: 10 pairs at American Canyon Cr. June 29 (C. Wilcox, BWk, RLCL, ph. ABtt). The female of S.F.'s legendary pair of Great-tailed Grackles was still observed as of June 22 (SFB). The male appears to have passed on, not having been seen in over a year. It has been 13 years since he established the Region's first record, with his faithful mate appearing the following year. A Cassin's Finch at Snow Mountain Wilderness, *Lake*, July 10 (B. McIntosh) would suggest nesting, a possibility since the high mountain forests where they breed in *Humboldt/Trinity* remains contiguous s. to about this point in the Inner Coast Range.

**Cited Contributors:** (Subregional editors in boldface) Brooks B. Allen, Walt Anderson, Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldrige, Alan D. Barron, Anthony Battiste (ABtt), William G. Bousman, Rita Carratello, Neal E. Clark, Laura D. Collins, David DeSante (DDeS), Bruce E. Deuel, Ray Ekstrom, Richard A. Erickson, Carter L. Faust, Mike Feighner (MiF), Douglas E. George, Ron H. Gerstenberg, Albert Ghiorso, Steve Glover, Philip E. Gordon, Helen Green, Keith Hansen, Rob Hansen, Jo Heindel (JHd), Tom Heindel (THd), Kevin G. Hinsta, Alan S. Hopkins, Steve N. G. Howell, Joan M. Humphrey (JMHu), Lin Jensen, Robert J. Keiffer, Dan J. Keller, Robin L. C. Leong, Michael J. Lippsmeyer, Timothy D. Manolis, Guy McCaskie (GMcC), Peter J. Metropulos, Joseph Morlan, Scott Morrical (SMo), Dan Nelson, Ron Norden, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John E. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Peter Pyle, Harold M. Reeve, Sherrie L. Reeve, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Michael F. Robbins (MFRb), Don Roberson, Ruth A. Rudesill, Barry Sauppe, Debra L. Shearwater (DLSh), David Shuford, David Sibley (DaS), Daniel Singer (DSg), Rich Stallcup, Bradley M. Stovall, Gary J. Strachan, Emilie Strauss, David L. Suddjian (DLSu), Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn (RSTh), Dorothy Tobkin, Kent Van Vuren, Bruce Walker (BWk), Adrian Wander (AdW), Jerry R. White, David G. Yee, Bob Yutzy. Many more contributors were not specifically cited; all are appreciated.—STEPHEN F. BAILEY (grebes through frigatebirds, raptors, larids and alcids), Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118; BRUCE E. DEUEL (bitterns through ducks, quail through shorebirds), 18730 Live Oak Rd., Red Bluff, CA 96080; DAVID G. YEE (doves through finches), 2930 Driftwood Pl. ♀39, Stockton, CA 95219.

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

This season was somewhat uneventful, especially so compared with the excitement of a year ago. Cooler-than-normal temperatures throughout the period, along with some heavy rains from the south in late June, helped drought conditions. However, the Region is still crying for water.

**Abbreviations:** C.L.N.W.C. (*China Lake Naval Weapons Center, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.*); L.A.C.N.H.M. (*Los Angeles County Natural History Museum*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino County Museum*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara River Estuary, near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.D.N.H.M. (*San Diego Natural History Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); S.F.K.R. (*Nature Conservancy preserve, along the South Fork of the Kern R. near Weldon, Kern Co.*); W.F.V.Z. (*Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Los Angeles*). As virtually all s. California rarities are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is noted. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515) for all rarities listed in this report; records submitted without documentation are not published.

### LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

A Com. Loon flying N over the N.E.S.S. June 8 (GMcC) was late for a spring migrant. An alternate-plumage Horned Grebe at S.E.S.S. June 28 (KLG) was probably summering locally. A pair of Eared Grebes with two young in Santa Barbara Aug. 4 (PEL) established the first record for nesting in *Santa Barbara*. Likewise, 2 family groups (six chicks) of Clark's Grebes on L. Cachuma Aug. 19 (PEL) also established the first nesting record for *Santa Barbara*.

Of extreme interest, but just outside of North American waters, was a **Dark-rumped Petrel** (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) 226 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Miguel I. Aug. 2 (PP), placing yet another seabird on the list of species to be looked for in California's waters. A Cook's Petrel 178 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. July 26 (PP), eight more between 265 and 295 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. July 27 (PP), and a 10th 196 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Miguel I. Aug. 2 (PP) were over waters where this species undoubtedly occurs regularly. Two Sooty Shearwaters were inland around the Salton Sea, with one captured on a road near Seeley, *Imperial*, July 6 (RH \*

S.D.N.H.M.), and the other was flying S over the Salton Sea off Salton City, *Imperial*, July 13 (GMcC), this giving us 5 records for this general area. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel 4 nautical mi w. of Manhattan Beach July 30 (PP) is one of a very few ever found in s. California waters and the first in *Orange*.

Four Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen between July 25 & 29, with one 44 nautical mi s.w. of San Clemente I. July 25 (PP), another 161 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. July 26 (PP), and two together 23 nautical mi w. of San Clemente I. July 29 (PP). What was probably a Red-tailed Tropicbird was seen 44 nautical mi w.n.w. of San Miguel I. Aug. 5 (PP). An ad. Brown Booby, a casual straggler to the coast of California, was seen to land on Arch Pt. on Santa Barbara I. Aug. 8 (PP) Brown Pelican numbers on the Salton Sea built up to about 950 in late July (WRR), but one in Chino, *San Bernardino* July 26 (JEP) was the only one reported inland away from the Salton Sea. Magnificent Frigatebirds were scarce, with an immature over La Jolla, *San Diego*, July 24 (J & DMcM), another over Malibu July 13 (CB), one over Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, July 18 (DS), another near Ventura Aug. 1 (HG), and what was probably the same bird over Carpinteria Aug. 2 (PT), and an immature inland at N.E.S.S. July 27 (MAP) being the only five reported.

### HERONS TO GROUSE

At least six ad. Little Blue Herons were around s. San Diego Bay throughout the summer, with a nest containing three young ready to fly along the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach June 23 (GMcC). A Little Blue Heron's nest about 10 mi e. of Brawley, *Imperial*, July 7 (CGE) contained two well-grown young July 5 (MAP) and is only the 2nd nest found away from San Diego in s. California, a lone adult was at S.E.S.S. June 24 (WWR) An ad. Tricolored Heron, a casual straggler to the Salton Sea, was at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. May 26 (R & RC), and another was at N.E.S.S. July 27 (GMcC) and Aug. 24 (CMcG). A 2nd-year Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, a casual straggler to California, was along the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach June 16–23 (GMcC). White-faced Ibis were nesting near Lancaster, *Los Angeles* (10–20 pairs, KLG) at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area near Lakeview, *Riverside* (two recently fledged juveniles seen July 27, CMcG) and at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. (at least 100 pairs, GMcC). A pair of Wood Storks was attending a nest in a mixed colony of Great Blue Herons (10 pairs) and Great Egrets (30 pairs) near Escondido, *San Diego*, May 12–22 (JO'B); a check of the area in July indicated that the nesting attempt was unsuccessful, though the pair was still present. Two Wood Storks at S.E.S.S. May 29 (KLG) were the first found there this summer, with numbers building up to about 70 in July (WRR), an immature at N.E.S.S. June 28–29 (GMcC) is one of a very few found away from the S.E.S.S. in recent years



Ruddy Turnstone at S.E.S.S. June 8–22 (REW) gives us the first summer record for the Salton Sea; one at N.E.S.S. July 27 (GMcC) was the only fall migrant away from the coast. An ad. Red Knot photographed on Owens L. July 25 (T & JH) was only the 2nd ever found in *Inyo*; one near Lancaster July 20 (LS) was the only other found away from the Salton Sea. A Sanderling near Lancaster July 26 (KLG) was the only one reported away from the Salton Sea. An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper was at C.L.N.W.C. July 19 (DVB), and another on Baticuitos Lagoon, *San Diego*, July 28 (GMcC) was the first juvenile found this fall. Some 60 W. Sandpipers at the mouth of the New R. at the S.E.S.S. throughout June (GMcC) was a large number for summer. An ad. Baird's Sandpiper at S.E.S.S. July 5 (MAP) was very early, followed by at least six more between July 13 and the end of the period. A Pectoral Sandpiper was near Cayucos on the unexpected date of June 14 (TME), and a somewhat early adult was near Lan-

Two Brant on Klondike L. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, June 25 (T & JH) and another near Lost Hills, *Kern*, July 14 (MOC) were probably lost spring migrants and the only ones reported inland away from the Salton Sea. A pair of Canada Geese with four half-grown goslings in Cartago, *Inyo*, June 4 (T & JH) gives us our first record for nesting for wild birds. Three pairs of Blue-winged Teal near Cantil, *Kern*, all summer (MTH) were suspected of nesting. A Ring-necked Duck, rare in summer, was in Atascadero June 27 (TME), four were on L. Cachuma July 19–Aug. 19 (PEL), another was at the S.C.R.E. July 8–13 (SEF), two more were on L. Cuyamaca in the mountains of *San Diego* July 4 (REW), and a group of three were well inland near Cantil July 4 (MTH). The two Harlequin Ducks at Pt. Mugu in the winter were still present Aug. 4 (FH). An Oldsquaw, very rare in summer along the coast, was present on Morro Bay throughout the period (MW). Two Black Scoters, exceptionally rare in summer, remained at Pt. Mugu throughout the period (FH), and another was at Pt. Sal, *Santa Barbara*, July 7 (PEL). The two White-winged Scoters present at N.E.S.S. since Apr. 13 continued through June (GMcC), with one remaining through June 29 (MAP); a third was at S.E.S.S. June 6 (SB). A Com. Goldeneye on Upper Newport Bay in June and July (SM) was one of few ever to have summered in s. California. A Bufflehead at Bolsa Chica in June and July (SM) is the first found in *Orange* in summer; one was on Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts. June 8 (SM), and another was on L. Cuyamaca in the mountains of *San Diego* July 21 (DKi).

Two N. Goshawks on Mt. Pinos July 19–20 (FS) were in the area where a pair nest-

ed last summer, and another near L. Fulmer June 22 (DRW) is one of a very few ever reported in the San Jacinto Mts. A flock of up to 34 subadult Swainson's Hawks near Big Pine June 19–July 4 (T & JH) was an unusual concentration for this time of year; at least 2 pairs nested (one produced one chick) between Edison and Caliente in the s. San Joaquin Valley (SF), and at least one, and probably as many as 3 pairs, nested near Lancaster this summer (KLG, SS), this being the first confirmation of breeding in these areas in over 5 years. An imm. Peregrine Falcon at N.E.S.S. July 20 (MAP) was the only one at the Salton Sea this summer, an area where birds dispersing from nest sites in the Gulf of California are regular.

The first reports of Blue Grouse on Mt. Pinos since the 1960s was made by U.S. Forestry Service personnel in July, when one or two birds were found.

#### GALLINULES TO ALCIDS

A pair of Com. Moorhens accompanied by four young near Santa Margarite L. July 25 (JMCD) gave us one of very few confirmed breeding records for *San Luis Obispo*.

An alternate-plumaged Lesser (Am.) Golden-Plover at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 6 (JSR) was an early fall migrant. Sixty-two Greater Yellowlegs around San Diego Bay June 15 (REW) was an exceptional number for summer. An ad. Solitary Sandpiper on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine July 24 (T & JH) was the earliest reported this fall and was followed by six more in the e. portion of the Region by the end of the month. A Whimbrel, scarce in the n.e. portion of the Region, was on Tinnemaha Res. July 24 (T & JH). A

Dunlin at S.E.S.S. June 22 (GMcC) was one of very few found in s. California in summer. A Stilt Sandpiper at S.E.S.S. June 29 (MAP) tied the earliest date for a fall migrant; an adult photographed on Tinnemaha Res. July 20 (T & JH) was one of very few found in this area of California. A ♂ Ruff near Lancaster July 20 (LS) was at an inland locality; another in Goleta July 31 onward (SEF) was believed to be the same bird that was present here this time last year. A pair of Com. Snipe was nesting in the Garner Valley in the San Jacinto Mts., *Riverside*, this summer (RMcK), this locality being at the s. extreme of this species' breeding range.

An unidentified jaeger at N.E.S.S. Aug. 3 (MAP) was probably the ad. Pomarine Jaeger photographed there Aug. 10–24 (GMcC \* S.B.C.M.) and had probably been present on the Salton Sea all summer. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger 149 nautical mi w. of San Nicolas I. Aug. 1 (PP) and a subadult 95 nautical mi w. of San Miguel I. Aug. 5 (PP) were early for s. California waters. Two S. Polar Skuas, somewhat rare in s. California waters, were 148 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. July 26 (PP). Post-breeding Laughing Gulls appeared on the Salton Sea in June, as expected, with a maximum of 350 on June 15 (GMcC). A first-summer Franklin's Gull was near Lancaster July 13 (KLG). An ad. Heermann's Gull was at S.E.S.S. July 19 (KLG \* S.B.C.M.), and two juveniles were together in Salton City on the Salton Sea Aug. 3 (GMcC). A first-summer Glaucous Gull photographed at the S.C.R.E. June 1–22 (BS) was one of a very few found in s. California in summer. A Sabine's Gull, probably a first-summer bird, at N.E.S.S. July 4 (SM) may

have been summering on this inland body of water.

At least 60 pairs of Gull-billed Terns successfully nested at S.E.S.S. this summer (KCM), and 30 nests were found around the s. end of San Diego Bay in June (EC), these being the only 2 localities in California where this species occurs in California. A basic-plumaged Royal Tern at N.E.S.S. July 4 (SM) is only the 3rd ever reported inland in California. A basic-plumaged **Sandwich Tern** was with nesting Elegant Terns at Bolsa Chica June 29–July 16 (BED); this could be the same individual seen on Malibu Lagoon May 20, and even the same bird present around San Diego in the 1980s. However, this species is relatively common along the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica in winter, where they associate with Elegant Terns, suggesting that occurrences with Elegant Terns on the coast of California are not completely unexpected. Two ad. Arctic Terns, casual inland, at S.E.S.S. June 22 (GMCC) were probably very late spring stragglers. Three Forster's Tern nests were at S.E.S.S. in June but appeared to be deserted by mid-July (KCM), there being few documented records for breeding for this species at the Salton Sea. Three Least Terns around S.E.S.S. June 2 (REW) and a first-summer-plumage bird there June 29 (GMCC) were inland, where considered casual. Although some 480 Black Skimmers were present around S.E.S.S. this summer, only 80 pairs attempted nesting; and most of these failed (KCM, WRR). Nesting was also reported on s. San Diego Bay and at Bolsa Chica, but the number of nests and their success was not known.

A Pigeon Guillemot flying past Pt. Dume, Los Angeles, June 6 (KLG) was along the s. coast, where very rare. Two Craver's Murrelets flying N 137 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. July 26 (PP), and a pair with a young bird still showing down 132 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. July 28 (PP) were farther offshore than previously recorded.

## CUCKOOS TO DIPPERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported to have had their best breeding season in recent years in the S.F.K.R., with 11–13 pairs producing 20–30 young (SL). In addition, one was near Lone Pine, Inyo, June 15 (AK & JW), 3 or 4 pairs were present near Big Pine June 22 through the end of the period (EG, T & JH), one or two were at China Ranch near Tecopa, Inyo, July 1–3 (T & JH), one was at the Saucito Ranch on the Carrizo Plain July 30–Aug. 1 (JK), and one was in Granada Hills in the San Fernando Valley July 10 (DM). This is most encouraging news about this declining species. Two Flammulated Owls, a poorly known species, were on Big Pine Mt., Santa Barbara, June 25 (SEF), 21 calling birds were in the San Bernardino Mts., and 2 or 3 more were located on Black Mt. in the San Jacinto Mts. during the season (RMCK), with most of the vocalization recorded in May. Two Whip-poor-wills were

calling near L. Fulmer in the San Jacinto Mts. June 21 (DRW), this being one of about a half-dozen localities in California where the species undoubtedly breeds, although actual nesting in California is still to be documented.

The only Black Swifts reported were up to four over Forest Falls in the San Bernardino Mts. June 9–July 6 (SM, DRW), where they undoubtedly breed; small numbers foraging over the S.F.K.R. throughout the period (MTH); and one in the Piute Mts., July 21 (SF). Up to 20 Chimney Swifts were around downtown Los Angeles, where small numbers are found every summer, July 11 through the end of the period (KLG). At least six Vaux's Swifts with Chimney Swifts over downtown Los Angeles July 12 (KLG) gives us one of a very few s. California summer records. A bird identified as a ♀ Broad-tailed Hummingbird was on a nest in California City May 16; this location is w. of their known range, away from the mountains, and only the 2nd individual ever recorded in Kern. The nest was found deserted May 27, and the nest with two young in it was recovered (MTH \* W.F.V.Z.). A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker at Grassy Hollow Campground in the San Gabriel Mts. June 17 (JAJ) is one of a very few found in Los Angeles in summer.

A Brown-crested Flycatcher near Big Pine June 4–7 (BED) was n.w. of this species' known range but was in suitable nesting habitat and appeared to be defending a territory. Four pairs were present in the S.F.K.R. in June and July (SL), this being the n.w. extreme of this species' breeding range; single pairs at Cushenbury Springs, San Bernardino, June 11 (RMCK) and in Morongo Valley all summer (MAP) were along the w. extreme of this species' breeding range. An E. Kingbird near Spring Valley, San Diego, June 15 (PU) was undoubtedly a late spring straggler. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a very rare to casual straggler to California, was at L. Cuyamaca in the mountains of San Diego June 25–29 (DDG), and another was near Lakeview July 7 (SM).

A juv. Am. Dipper in Icehouse Canyon of the San Gabriel Mts. July 14 (KR) was undoubtedly hatched locally. A Hermit Thrush in the Cuyamaca Mts. of San Diego July 4 (REW) was outside the species' known breeding range.

## VIREOS TO FINCHES

A Gray Vireo in the Inyo portion of the Grapevine Mts. June 10 (T & JH) gives us the first reliable record of this species in this area of California in many years. A pair of Plumbeous Solitary Vireos (*Vireo solitarius plumbeus*) near Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts. July 6 (DRW) were in habitat more suitable for *cassinii*. Three Red-eyed Vireos were in the n.e. portion of the Region, with one at China Ranch near Tecopa July 3 (T & JH), a singing male near Independence, Inyo, July 3–6 (JW), and another male near Big Pine June 29–July 15 (T & JH). Most

unusual was a pair of Lucy's Warblers with two young at the S.F.K.R. July 27 (SL), this being well to the n.w. of this species' known breeding range. A ♂ N. Parula in Huntington Beach June 12 (SM) and another near Pala, San Diego, July 12 (ERL) were probably late spring stragglers, but another in extensive riparian growth near Norco, Riverside, June 27 (JEP) may have been summering locally. A Black-and-white Warbler in Goleta June 15 (RGJ) is best considered a late spring vagrant, but another in San Diego July 10–11 (BHa) may have been summering locally. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler at Morongo Valley Aug. 25–Sept. 2 (MAP) may have been the individual rumored to be present on June 26 (*vide* EC). A singing ♂ Hooded Warbler at Morongo Valley July 11 (ERL) was still present Sept. 2 (MAP) and is best considered to have summered locally.

A pair of Summer Tanagers at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley National Monument in late May was still present Aug. 31 (BED) and was feeding a fledged juvenile, documenting nesting at this locality; another pair near Big Pine June 23–July 21 (T & JH) may have nested (male seen carrying food on July 10). These locations were n. of the northwesternmost known breeding locality at the S.F.K.R., where about 60 birds are believed to have been present this summer (SL); elsewhere, summer stragglers included a male near Lompoc, Santa Barbara, June 30 (JMC), a male found dead in Halsey Canyon, Los Angeles, June 19 (DKa \* L.A.C.N.H.M.), another male in Huntington Beach July 28–Aug. 22 (DP), and a 4th male in Solana Beach July 13 (RP). A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at China Ranch near Tecopa July 2 (T & JH), a singing male at the S.F.K.R. June 11 (PLW), another male near Heart Bar Campground in the San Bernardino Mts. June 16 (GR), and a 4th male in La Jolla June 29–30 (JN) were summer stragglers. A ♂ Indigo Bunting initially near L. Cuyamaca in the mountains of San Diego May 22 (RF) was found again July 3 (CGE), mated with a Lazuli Bunting and feeding a recently fledged young. Other reports of Indigo Buntings included a territorial male near Tinnemaha Res. in the Owens Valley June 19–July 31 (T & JH), a female near Big Pine June 20 (T & JH), a male at China Ranch near Tecopa July 4 (T & JH), and another territorial male on the S.F.K.R. all summer (SL); in addition, what was considered a ♂ Indigo X Lazuli Bunting was near Morro Bay June 22 (JSR).

A Green-tailed Towhee in suitable breeding habitat on Big Pine Mt. June 27 (JEL) was the first ever in Santa Barbara in summer. A California Towhee photographed at Sage Flat 5 mi s. of Olanchia June 16 (T & JH) was probably of the race *kernensis*, and if so, extends the range of that race eastward into Inyo. A Brewer's Sparrow feeding two recently fledged juveniles in an area of coastal sage scrub near Yucaipa, San Bernardino, June 25 (CMCG) and another pair feeding young near Highland, San Bernardino, June 2 (RM-

ck) were s.w. of this species' known California breeding range. Two Large-billed [Savannah] Sparrows (*Ammodramus [sandwichensis] rostratus*) at Pt. Mugu June 20–29 (RJM) were somewhat early. Up to 15 Grasshopper Sparrows in the San Joaquin Hills near Irvine in June and July (RAE) was an encouraging number for the s. coast.

A ♂ Bobolink on Vandenberg A.F.B. June 12 (BHi) was a late spring vagrant. A Yellow-headed Blackbird, rare along the coast in summer, was in Goleta June 25 (PEL); two more were at Pt. Mugu July 20 (RJM). Small numbers of Great-tailed Grackles were scattered throughout the Owens Valley n. to Bishop (T & JH); at least five were around C L N.W.C. (DVB); a minimum of 15 pairs were in California City (MOC); and up to six were near Lancaster throughout the summer (KLG). These localities mark the n.w. limit of this species' current breeding range in California. In addition, single birds were along the coast and north of any known breeding locations, including one in Ventura June 5 (RJM) and another near Santa Paula July 28 (MAH). At least five Bronzed Cowbirds were in Brawley the westernmost locality of regular summer occurrence, with the first seen Apr 21 (REW) and a juvenile being fed by a Brewer's Blackbird June 21–22 (KLG).

A pair of Red Crossbills accompanied by a streaked juvenile at Yucca Valley, *San Bernardino*, June 8 (MAP) were suspected to have nested at this high desert locality; up to 40 in a day in the Mt. Pinos/Mt. Able area in June and July (RJM, JEL), 8 on Pine Mt. June 8 (JEL), 12 at Fish Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts. June 8 (SM), and two more at nearby Bluff L. July 6 and another near L. Fulmer in the San Jacinto Mts. June 22 (DRW) were in more suitable nesting habitat, and one in Los Osos June 14 (JSR) was on the immediate coast. An Evening Grosbeak on Mt. Able, *Ventura*, June 8 (RJM) was unexpected for the time of year.

**Corrigendum:** The "Philadelphia Vireo" collected at H.D.L. Sept. 30, 1990 (*AB* 45:152) has been reidentified as a Warbling Vireo.

**Cited Contributors:** (County coordinators in boldface) Stephen Bernal, David V. Blue, Chuck Bush, Eugene A. Cardiff (*San Bernardino*), Jamie M. Chavez, Mark O. Chichester (*Kern*), Rita & Rob Colwell (R & RC), Elizabeth Copper (*San Diego*), Brian E. Daniels, Tom M. Edell (*San Luis Obispo*), Claud G. Edwards, Richard A. Erickson, Shawneen E. Finnegan, San Fitton, Rosemary Ford, Earl Gann, Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Daphne D. Gemmill, Harland Goldwater, Bill Haas (BHa), Fred Heath, Matt T. Heindel, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Roger Higson, Brad Hines (BHi), Mark A. Holmgren, Richard G. Jeffers, Jerry A. Johnson, Dan Kahane (DKa), John Karges, Dave King (DKi), Andrew Kirk, Steve Laymon, Paul E. Lehman (*Santa Barbara & Ventura*), Joan A. Lentz, Eric L. Lichtwardt, Doug Martin, John McDonald, Chet McLaugh,

Robert McKernan (*Riverside*), Jeri & Don McMahon (J & DMcM), Steven Mlodinow, Kathy C. Molina, Randy J. More, Joan Nemick, John O'Brian, Michael A. Patten, Robert Patton, James E. Pike, Dick Purvis, Peter Pyle, Kurt Rademaker, William R. Radke, Geoff Rogers, Jim S. Royer, Florence Sanchez, Larry Sansone, Dale Schafer, Brad Sillasen, Sherman Suter, Patty Tunnicliffe, Philip Unitt, Richard E. Webster, Judy Wickman, Pamela L. Williams, Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), Mark Wymer. An additional 50+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged also 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

Rainfall was near or slightly below normal at most Hawaiian stations for the short summer period during the normally dry season. Post-breeding activity was quiet, and no interesting fall migrants had been reported by the end of July.

**Abbreviations:** H. (*Hawai'i I.*); J.C.N.W.R. (*James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, O.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); K.P.N.W.R. (*Kilauea Point Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, O.*); M. (*Mau'i I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*); P.H.N.W.R. (*Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, O.*).

### ALBATROSSES TO SHEARWATERS

Laysan Albatross nested successfully on Kaua'i this year. Of the 23 chicks hatched last winter at K.P.N.W.R., 16 fledged between

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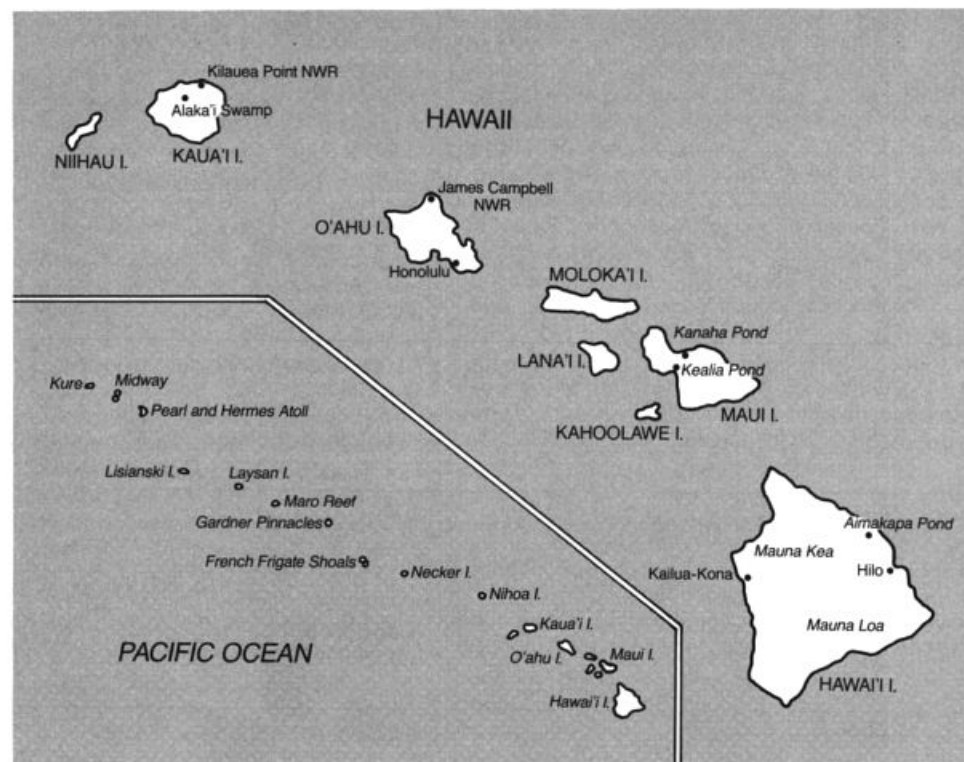
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June 30 and July 31, with one more late hatchling about ready to go (KF). This compares to 14 fledged last year and none the year before. In 1989, *all* chicks were lost to predators. This year only one chick vanished, possibly to a predator; the other casualties were dead but unharmed in their nests (KF).

An experienced pelagic observer aboard a research vessel in the n.w. Hawaiian islands reported three interesting procellarids June 15, about 30 mi s.e. of Pearl and Hermes Reef. He identified these as a *Stejneger's Petrel* (one prior record for Hawaii), a Black-winged Petrel (the most frequently reported nonbreeding *Pterodroma*), and a Short-tailed Shearwater (probably regular in migration but scarcer than Sooty) (†JM). Hawaiian breeders were the only other species reported during the trip.

At K.P.N.W.R., the first Wedge-tailed Shearwater chick was found June 30 (KF); hatching will continue into August. Fourteen ad. Newell's Shearwaters (*Threatened*) were picked up along the coastal highway between Kapaa and Kilauea, K., from Apr. 9 through July 28. Thirteen were dead; the live one was banded and released (KF). Newells in the "spring fallout" are adults who collide with autos or utility wires at night while en route to their nesting burrows in the interior mountains. The "fall fallout" is much more extensive and almost entirely involves juveniles departing their burrows at night who become confused by coastal lights. Almost all are healthy, banded, and released.

#### DUCKS TO TERNS

Five ducks, almost entirely Koloa (Hawaiian Duck, *Endangered*), were seen June 4 in a cat-

tle pond along Keanakolu Road on the s.e. slope of Mauna Kea (JL). Common (Hawaiian) Moorhens (*Endangered*) were nesting in greater numbers than the usually more numerous Am. (Hawaiian) Coots (*Endangered*) at Hanalei N.W.R., K., this summer (KF).

A group of 40 Lesser Golden-Plovers at Sand Island Park, O., June 4, and another flock of 17 at Bellows Field, O., July 5 were probably over-summering (PB). About half of each flock were in partial (half or more) breeding plumage. A flock of 10 at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R. July 16 may have been early returnees (PD). With these plovers on the same dates were 50 Ruddy Turnstones at Sand I. and 187 Ruddies at Bellows, the latter an extremely high mid-summer count (PB). Thirty Ruddies were at Coconut I. in Hilo, H., July 16 (KI). Migratory status of these early summer turnstones is open to conjecture. Seventy full-grown Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (*Endangered*) and 4 chicks were counted at Kanaha Pond, M., July 7, and 6 chicks were noted there July 13 (JO). At Kealia Pond, M., no chicks were seen during frequent summer visits, despite counts of 75 and 131 full-grown birds June 27 July 3 (JO).

Following the minor spring influx of Franklin's Gulls (see *AB* spring report), one late bird in breeding plumage was at Laysan I. on June 3 only (JM). On a visit to Manana islet off O'ahu July 13, JE found thousands of adult Sooty Terns but saw no dark-plumaged young birds, which are normally there in the hundreds after a successful spring breeding. A similar complete absence of young sooties was reported last year at Manana (*AB* 44:1190), now giving added concern that some factor may be seriously impacting Sooty Terns breeding there. Brown Noddies,

on the other hand, which breed later than Sooties, had many eggs and young chicks July 13 this year (JE), as they did last year.

#### CROWS TO GRACKLES

An 'Oma'o nest with a large chick was at Hakalau N.W.R., H., June 24; later in the day the chick was gone, possibly fledged (JL). Single juv. Puaiohi (*critically Endangered*) were seen July 5 at 2 spots one mile apart on the trail westward from Koaie Stream cabin in the Alaka'i area of Kaua'i (†ph. JD).

"Lots" of Yellow-faced Grassquits were seen well along Manana Trail, O., by Audubon trip participants July 28 (PD). This is the trail where the bird were originally discovered in 1974 and is still where they may be found most dependably. The ♂ Great-tailed Grackle was seen regularly at Sand Island Park in Honolulu in June and July (LL, PB) and was vocalizing energetically on several occasions beginning June 4 (*not* July 14, as misstated in last season's *AB* report).

#### S.A.

For the captive flock of Hawaiian Crow ('Alala, *critically Endangered*) at Olinda Endangered Species Facility, M., this year's breeding season had both encouraging and discouraging aspects. For the first time ever, all four ad. pairs went through courtship and completed their nests for laying. Three of the four females actually laid eggs, another first for the captive breeding program. Altogether, 9 eggs were laid in May and June, including 2 clutches by one female from two males. Unfortunately, 5 of the 9 eggs were abnormal in size, shape, or structure. Six of the eggs were infertile, and the 7th was broken by the male within minutes of laying. One fertile egg died within 48 hours; the other fertile egg developed to full term, but the chick died before starting to pip the eggshell (FD). As a final disappointment, the ♀ Mana, champion producer of abnormal eggs, died July 28 of yolk peritonitis.

The abnormal, infertile eggs, and behavior abnormalities almost certainly result from extreme inbreeding. The seven adults and three younger birds are almost all related as siblings or parents. If this captive breeding program is to succeed, some added genetic diversity is desperately needed. But this can come only from wild birds, which number perhaps barely more than the 10 in the captive flock. State and federal agencies and the owner of the ranchland where almost all the wild birds reside must agree soon on a management strategy if this unique species is to be saved from early extinction.

## ESTRILDIDS

At least 10 Red-cheeked Cordon-bleus were found July 14 (DP) at a new site not far from the Pu'uuanahulu area, where they have been seen in ones and twos for many years. Five Lavender Waxbills were observed around private residences adjoining Pu'uuhonua Nat'l. Historical Park, H., July 10 (DP), a southward extension from their current and expanding range. Two Orange-cheeked Waxbills were located July 4 at Ho'omaluhia Park, O. (KI), one of a very few local spots known for this species. The scarcest waxbill in Hawaii, the Black-rumped, was reported again in the Pu'uuanahulu area of Hawaii I. An estimated 12 were seen July 11 at the Pu'uuanahulu hillside site; two were at nearby Pu'u Lani Estates subdivision July 15 (DP).

Common Waxbills, the "commonest" waxbills on O'ahu, are least common in the s.e. portion of the island. Thus, a flock of 10-15, including some juveniles at Ho'omaluhia Park in Kane'ohe is interesting. A few waxbills, probably Common, were included in a large mixed flock of 40+ Red Avadavats and 40+ Chestnut Mannikins, found July 2 on the Waianae coast at the beginning of the trail to Kaena Pt. (TC). The numbers of avadavats and mannikins are remarkable for this arid locality. Finally, a flock of 40-50 Nutmeg Mannikins foraging in grassy weeds on Manana islet off O'ahu July 13 (JE) was significant in that this landbird species has been reported rarely if at all on O'ahu's offshore islets.

**Contributors:** Eddie Andrade, Phil Bruner, Theresa Cabrera, Paul Chang, Jim Denny, Peter Donaldson, Fern Duvall, John Engbring, Kathleen Fruth, Kamal Islam, Jaan Lepson, Lynne Lewis, Jeff Marks, Steve Montgomery, Jerry Oldnettel, Doug Pratt, Tom Telfer.—**ROBERT L. PYLE**, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734.

## WEST INDIES REGION

(SPRING 1991 REPORT)

Robert L. Norton

Precipitation for the spring period was 21% below the 100-year average as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. March was -5%, April +21%, and May -50%. This spring period precipitation follows last spring's below-average balance. It has been suggested that this dry period correlates with a break in the drought in the Sahel region of western Africa; climatic conditions in that area may affect disturbances throughout the North Atlantic.

During the last decade of the drought, the severity of cyclonic disturbances emanating from the Guinea Coast may have contributed to the increasing number of New World sightings of Old World ardeids: Gray Heron, Little Egret, and Western Reef-Heron. P. William Smith and Susan Smith have pointed out, for example, that 279 Gray Herons were discovered in Iceland from 1979 to 1985. This period is consistent with drought year (1970-1987) storms that swept north through the tropical North Atlantic.

North Americans birding Cuba have shared much with *American Birds* readers since 1988 about this intriguing island (see *AB* 42:327; 43:542; 44:336). Ro Wauer's report this season was garnished with many tidbits of local Cuban knowledge too lengthy to include here, but his list of 158 species in six days in the vicinity of Zapata National Park attests to the richness of that area.

**Abbreviations:** Z.N.P. (*Zapata National Park, Cuba*).

## SHEARWATERS TO TERNS

Eggs and young Audubon's Shearwaters were found May 29 (DL, MC) in a large colony at Long Cay, Exuma, Bahamas, where Lee estimated 2000-3000 pairs. At least three Greater Flamingos and 66 Roseate Spoonbills were seen Mar. 26 at Salinas, Z.N.P. (RW *et al.*). Four escaped Greater Flamingos from Guana Island nature reserve have delighted the West End residents and visitors to Belmont Pond, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, since late last year. Belmont Pond should be considered for protection, as it is one of the few remaining wetlands capable of supporting unique waterfowl: migrant, resident, or introduced.

Six West Indian Whistling-Ducks were seen Mar. 27 at Los Chuzos, Z.N.P. (RW *et al.*). The rare Gundlach's Hawk was seen (AK *et al.*) at Los Canales, Z.N.P., Mar. 26. A Merlin at Exuma May 22 (DL) provided a late date for the Bahamas and the Region. A Peregrine Falcon was noted Mar. 31 at 2 locations on St. Thomas (WW). Two Whimbrels

were seen at Salt Pond, St. Croix, Mar. 28, and a Laughing Gull at St. Thomas Mar. 30 was slightly early for the Virgin Islands (DM).

Lee, Buden, Clark, and Franz conducted a fairly exhaustive field study of the breeding seabirds of the Exuma chain from May 22 to June 1. Chief among the reports were records of breeding Roseate Terns, listed as threatened in the West Indies. Roseates were noted near Marion Cay and near Sandy Cay (about 20 pairs) May 25, and two pairs were on eggs May 29 at Lightning Rock, where 4 pairs of Sandwich Terns were also on eggs. The timing of breeding activities in the Puerto Rico / Virgin Islands colonies, the largest in the Region, is generally the same although peak egg-laying occurs during the first week of June. A Common Tern seen Mar. 10 at St. Thomas (DG) furnished one of few spring reports for the Region.

## PIGEONS TO SPARROWS

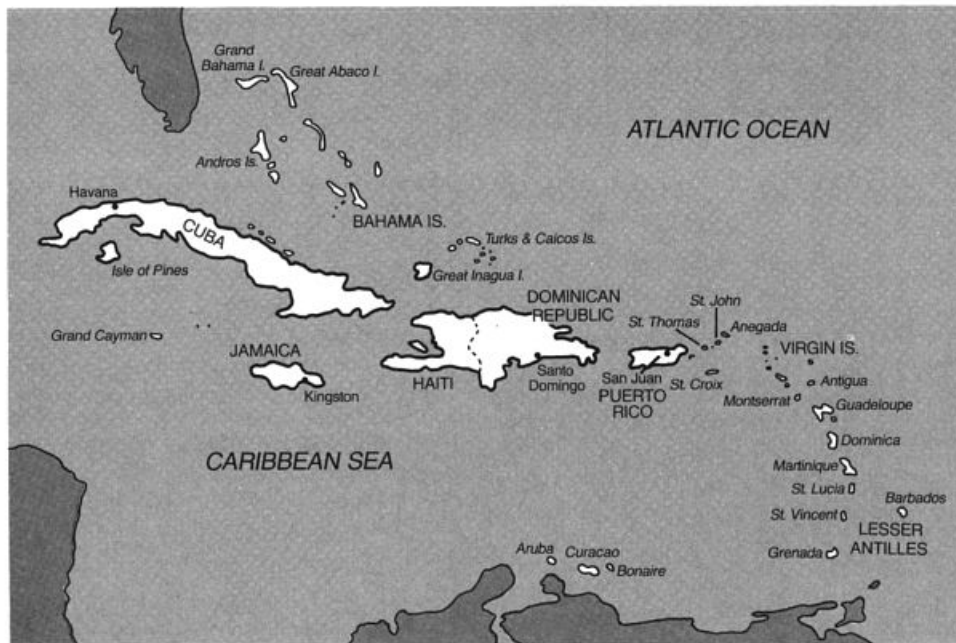
White-crowned Pigeons were found nesting at several out-islands off Exuma, including Little Bell's Cay on May 28 (DL, MC). Ten species of columbids were seen in the Z.N.P. Mar. 24-29, including six Gray-headed Quail-Doves and three Blue-headed Quail-Doves (RW). Barn and Burrowing owls were noted at Exuma during late May (DL *et al.*). Chuck-will's-widows were heard frequently May 25-30 at Exuma (DL); the date and the vocalizations are both rare for the West Indies, suggesting that the species is resident there. Antillean Nighthawk was also found nesting at Exuma, on May 23 (DL).

## S.A.

Puerto Rican Woodpeckers were not found in three previously known nesting areas on Vieques during a Mar. 6-10 annual site visit (DG). Gemmill reports that "the devastation of Hurricane Hugo is still very evident." Young mangroves were sprouting around the bases of the dead or dying older growth. Little cover was available for herons and egrets. Formerly accessible trails were blocked by downed trees. In addition to the woodpecker, DG noticed an apparent absence of Grasshopper Sparrow and Shiny Cowbird.

The living laboratory of this island is offering a test of dynamic biogeography and avian turnover, should the absence of these species be confirmed. Since Vieques lies only a short distance from Puerto Rico proper, distance should not pose a significant barrier to recolonization. But habitat on Vieques may have been altered enough to preclude reestablishment, at least in the short term.

Swainson's Warbler, rarely reported from this Region, was noted Mar. 25 at Los



Cenotes, Z.N.P. (RW *et al.*). Migrant warblers seen on St. John, Virgin Islands, included Yellow-rumped Warbler Mar. 11 (DG) and N. Parula and N. Waterthrush Apr. 4 (WW). At Los Canales, Z.N.P., RW discovered Cuba's 3rd recorded Yellow-breasted Chat on Mar. 26. An invasion of Blue Grosbeaks (four males, eight ♀-plumaged) was noted at Caneel Bay, St. John, Mar. 29 (DM). Birders visiting Cuba reported seeing two each of Zapata Wren and Zapata Sparrow, two of the rarest species of the Region, on Mar. 27 (CM *et al.*).

**Contributors:** Donald Buden, Mary Clark, Ken Dodd, Nelson Garcia, Rogelio Garcia, Daphne Gemmill, Arturo Kirkconnell, David Lee, Chino Martinez, Don Messersmith, Ro Wauer, Warren Whaley.—**ROBERT L. NORTON, 3408 N.W. 27th Terrace, Gaineville, FL 32605.**

## WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Little birdwatching activity was reported to this editor during the summer period. Exceptions were reports, all from the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos, from Bill and Susan Smith, who visited during a season when tourists are rarer than birds; from Tom Palmer, who visited Great Guana Cay, Abaco, Bahamas; and from Dave Lee, whose spring report on nesting seabirds of the Exuma cays included some June 1 observations from Andros.

The Smiths contributed observations that confirmed breeding for some commonly seen species. They also raised hopes that the national bird of the Turks and Caicos, Greater Flamingo, will not abandon its namesake pond adjacent to the airport (which the "old people" say was responsible for its disappearance some years ago). Palmer's report indicates that nature tourism flourishes in some out-of-the-way spots with great results; and Lee *et al.* provided some early season morsels that had to wait until now.

**Abbreviations:** T & C (*Turks and Caicos*).

### SHEARWATERS TO SHOREBIRDS

From a cruise ship west of Abaco June 26, small groups (six or more) of Audubon's Shearwaters were noted in late afternoon (TP); these may have included fledged chicks from breeding cays of the Little Bahamas Bank or farther to the south. These flocks also included two Brown Boobies, north of their normal breeding range. Multiple pairs of White-tailed Tropicbirds wheeled about cliffs of Water Cay, Providenciales, T & C, and one pair entered a crevice at Pine Cay on June 24, suggesting a pre-fledging chick there (PWS, SS).

A concentration of about 1500 Greater Flamingos seen June 24 at Flamingo Pond, North Caicos, included only one juvenile. That afternoon, eight flamingos (including at least one juvenile) were seen feeding along the beach at Dellis Cay between North Caicos and Providenciales (PWS, SS). West Indian Whistling-Ducks were not seen at Mally Pond or Sawgrass Pond, North Caicos, where Norton and Clarke had seen large family groups in 1989. However, White-cheeked Pintails were noted at Mally Pond June 24 and others were seen occasionally elsewhere on North Caicos and Providenciales (PWS, SS). Three nestling Am. Kestrels noted June

24 at Grace Bay, Providenciales, appeared to be of the white-breasted form *F. s. sparveroides* of the s. Bahamas and Cuba or, less likely, *F. s. dominicensis* from Hispaniola.

Some migratory shorebirds were apparently overwintering, as evidenced by Black-bellied Plovers: "a few at Mally Pond and a few at Providenciales in nonbreeding plumage" (PWS, SS) on June 24, as well as Ruddy Turnstones at Flamingo Pond, North Caicos. Ruddy Turnstone was also seen June 1 at Staniel Cay Town, Andros (DL, MC). A pair of Willets and one chick were seen at a roadside pond near Whitby, North Caicos, for the first confirmed breeding in the T & C (PWS, SS). Other Willets were seen at Flamingo Pond, and apparently territorial birds were seen at Juba Pt., Providenciales, June 24 (PWS, SS).

### GULLS TO SPARROWS

Larids were fairly common in the T & C June 23–24 with resident Laughing Gulls common and widespread at Grace Bay, Providenciales; Gull-billed Terns at Cottage Pond, a very deep freshwater sinkhole on North Caicos; Royal Terns along the coastlines; Sandwich Terns at Grace Bay; Roseate Terns from Leeward, Providenciales, along the coast; and only a few Least Terns at Flamingo Pond, North Caicos (PWS, SS). A pair of Least Terns was also noted at Great Guana Cay, Abaco, June 24–25 (TP). A Sooty Tern and hundreds of nesting Brown Noddies were noted June 1 on two islands in the harbor of Staniel Cay Town, Andros (DL, MC).

A Eur. Collared-Dove seen June 25 at Man of War Cay, Abaco, suggested to Palmer that these birds are spreading everywhere. A Cuban Crow near Leeward, Providenciales, June 24 (PWS, SS) furnished one of few reports from that island. Fledgling Blue-gray Gnatcatchers attended by adults were seen June 25 at Great Guana Cay, Abaco (TP). Five Bahama Swallows were seen at Andros Island airport June 1 (DL, MC).

In the T & C in late June, Yellow Warblers were common near wet areas on Providenciales, but apparently very uncommon on North Caicos (PWS, SS). The bird of the season was a **Boat-tailed Grackle** seen at the airport on Andros Island June 1 (DL, MC). This represents the first record for the Bahamas and for the West Indies Region. House Sparrows, including juveniles, were seen June 25 around the tourist areas on Great Guana Cay, Abaco (TP).

**Contributors:** Mary Clark, David Lee, Tom Palmer, P. William Smith, Susan Smith.—**ROBERT L. NORTON, 3408 N.W. 27th Terrace, Gaineville, FL 32605.**





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