

**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
PP.	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.	juvinal 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, 1993

Atlantic Provinces Region Bruce Mactavish	1084	Northern Great Plains Region Gordon Berkey	1120
Quebec Region Richard Yank and Yves Aubry	1086	Southern Great Plains Region Joseph A. Grzybowski	1122
New England Region Wayne R. Petersen	1088	Texas Region Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton	1124
Hudson-Delaware Region Robert O. Paxton, William J. Boyle, Jr., and David A. Cutler	1092	Idaho-Western Montana Region Thomas H. Rogers and Dan Svingen	1128
Middle Atlantic Coast Region Eirik A. T. Blom, Michael O'Brien, Brian Patteson, and Eugene J. Scarpulla	1096	Mountain West Region Hugh E. Kingery	1130
Southern Atlantic Coast Region Ricky Davis	1099	Southwest Region Arizona: David Stejskal and Gary H. Rosenberg New Mexico: Sartor O. Williams III	1133 1136
Florida Region Richard T. Paul and Ann F. Schnapf	1101	Alaska Region T. G. Tobish, Jr.	1138
Ontario Region Ron Ridout	1104	British Columbia/Yukon Region Chris Siddle	1141
Appalachian Region George A. Hall	1106	Oregon/Washington Region Bill Tweit and Jim Johnson	1143
Western Great Lakes Region Daryl D. Tessen	1109	Middle Pacific Coast Region Stephen F. Bailey, David G. Yee, and Bruce E. Deuel	1145
Midwestern Prairie Region Kenneth J. Brock	1112	Southern Pacific Coast Region Guy McCaskie	1149
Central Southern Region Robert D. Purrington	1115	Hawaiian Islands Region Robert L. Pyle	1152
Prairie Provinces Region Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor	1118	West Indies Region Robert J. Norton	1153

ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

It was a cold, wet June and July across the Region. There were no reports of any ill effects of the inclement weather on the nesting success of birds. In fact, reports on birds were lacking for the writing of this review. A population explosion of meadow voles in Newfoundland resulted in widespread nesting of Rough-legged Hawks and good nesting success among owls. Many of the rarities found are part of a growing trend, like Black Vulture, American Oystercatcher, Royal Tern, White-winged Dove, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The Yellow-nosed Albatross and Garganey were at the extreme end of the rarities scale. The author's favorite rarities were the odd occurrences of two separate female Western Tangers, unprecendented in summer in the Region.

Abbreviations: G.M.I. (*Grand Manan I.*).

LOONS TO HERONS

The astounding Yellow-nosed Albatross photographed at Moncton, NB May 24 (ST) was apparently seen again June 20, a few miles farther upriver, soaring overhead for 45 minutes (I. Gunn, *vide* ST). A July 1 Cory's Shearwater, on the North Sydney, NS to Argentia, NF ferry in Newfoundland waters was early and near the n. limit of its range (BMy). The usual swarms of Greater and Sooty shearwaters were attracted to the annual capelin *Mallotus villosus* spawning phenomenon around Newfoundland's coast. Greater's usually outnumber Sooties by at least 5:1. This year several observers noted higher than usual numbers of Sooty Shearwaters. Sample counts include 12,000 Greater and 8000 Sooty shearwaters on the North Sydney, NS to Argentia, NF ferry July 1 (BMy) and 1500 Greater and 1500 Sooty shearwaters at Cape Spear July 19 (BMT). Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels in the Straits of Belle I., NF July 25 were far north in the Region (BMT, ST). Prolonged NE winds and fog along Newfoundland's e. coast in June resulted in many reports of Leach's Storm-Petrel found dead and alive in sheltered coves.

The only "southern herons" reported were single Great Egrets at

Conrad's Beach, NS June 10 (*vide* BMy), at Seaforth, NS June 28 (IM) and Lamèque I., NB June 28 (HC); a Snowy Egret at Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche, NB June 21 (BH); and a Little Blue Heron in n.e. New Brunswick at Wishart's Pt., May 31 (RD).

WATERFOWL, DIURNAL RAPTORS

A laggard Snow Goose was found at Waterside, NB June 1 (AC). With reports of three ♂ Eur. Wigeons in June at widely scattered locations in New Brunswick, Cape Jourimain (CA), Cape Brulé (RD), and Wishart's Pt. (RD), we again posit that the species might indeed breed in the Region. A Garganey found at Priest Pd., PEI May 10 was still present July 31 (RC *et al.*). An unseasonal and adventurous ♂ Redhead was on Sable I., NS July 3 (ZL). An ad. ♂ King Eider lingered at Misocu I., NB until mid-June (m.ob.). Several pairs of Harlequin Ducks found on the Torrent R., NF in June strongly suggests nesting on this previously unexplored waterway (*vide* BMT). Two pairs of Ruddy Ducks on the Tracadie sewage lagoon remained through June without breeding (*vide* ST)

A Black Vulture was viewed in a backyard near Canso Town, NS June 22 (NP). The species has recently become an annual stray to the Region, with this being the easternmost to date. Very scarce breeders in the Region, an actual nest of Cooper's Hawk was found in a remote area of s.-c. New Brunswick (DM). Northern Harriers were

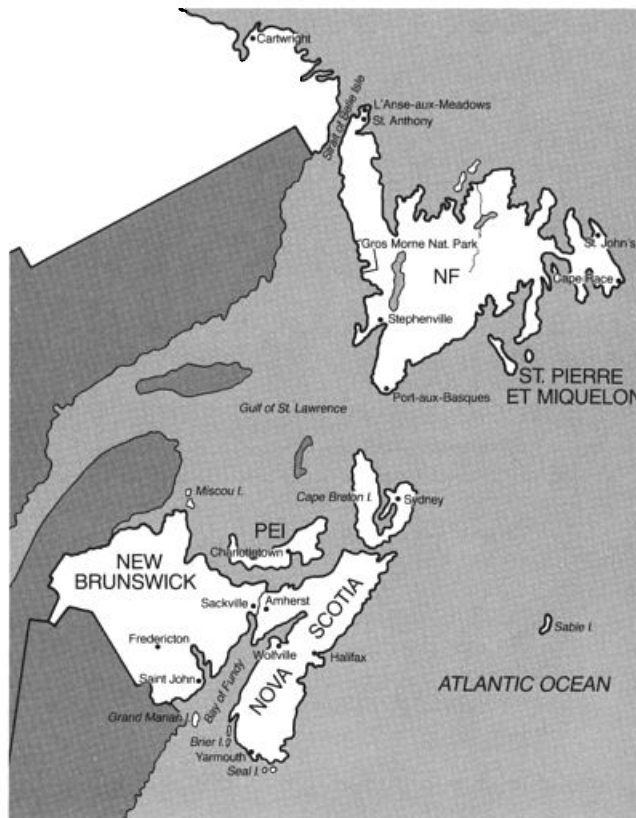
very common on the Great Northern Pen. of Newfoundland and were expected to have good nesting success because of the high meadow vole population. Rough-legged Hawks benefited in a big way from the high meadow vole numbers in Newfoundland. Nests were found throughout the island, even in forest cutovers, but were most numerous on the Great Northern Pen. Dark morphs were outnumbered by light morphs. A Rough-legged Hawk at Kentville, NS was unseasonal June 6 (RS *et al.*). A very rare summer Gyrfalcon sighting came in from G.M.I., NB June 16 (BD).

GROUSES TO SHOREBIRDS

Sandhill Cranes continue a record of occurring almost anywhere at anytime. One Sandhill turned up May 25-27 at Windsor, NS (*vide* JT) and two on Brier I., NS June 1 & 2 (PM). American Oystercatcher is now an annual event in the s. extreme of the Region. Two at Matthew's L., NS July 9-11 raises the possibility of eventual breeding in the Region (DY *et al.*). An Am. Woodcock displaying at Pasadena, NF June 3-17 (BMT) and three calling at the mouth of the Serpentine R., NF June 13 (GK) garnered rare summer records for the province.

Upland Sandpipers continue to make headway in the Region, with new breeding locations found at the Fredricton and Moncton, NB airports (*vide* ST); and a group of 13 was at the Charlottetown, PEI airport (RP). High counts of early southbound shorebirds were 35 Lesser Yellowlegs July 1 at W. Lawrencetown, NS and 300 Short-billed Dowitchers July 10 at Three Fathom Harbor, NS (IM). The 250,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Cape Sable, NS July 25 (IM) may have accounted for the apparent shortage at the traditional Minas Basin, NS sites, where the highest count was 30,000 at Windsor July 20 (JT).

Two ad. W. Sandpipers sighted July 16 at White Head I., NB were early for this rare migrant (GW). The highest count of Hudsonian Godwit was 35 at Robichaud, NB July 31 (*vide* ST). Early Stilt Sandpipers were singles June 27 at Upper Canard, NS (JT) and July 10 at Three Fathom Harbor, NS (IM). The only Wilson's Phalaropes were two through June at Cape Jourimain, NB (CA) and a juvenile July 31 at Inkerman (RD). Rarities were two Ruffs in mid-July at Brier I., NS (PM) and two Curlew Sandpipers July 11 at Cape Sable I., NS (WA).



JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Good summer counts of subadult jaegers in Newfoundland were 50 Pomarine and 10 Parasitic July 3 at St. Vincent's/Pt. La Haya (CB); 20 Pomarine and two Parasitic July 20 off *Argentia* (BMT, ST), and 14 Pomarine and two Parasitic July 25 from the Straits of the Belle I. ferry (BMT, ST). A Long-tailed Jaeger off the mouth of the Pinware R., Labrador July 13 (BMy) was not as out of the ordinary as were 5 sub-adults on the beach at e. tip of Sable I., NS July 29 (ZL).

Newfoundland had the lion's share of Laughing Gulls, with three of the total of five reported in the Region: one adult early June at St. John's, NF (m.ob.); one 2nd-summer July 6 at Stephenville Crossing, NF (BMT); one 2nd-summer July 16 & 19 at St. Vincent's NF (JG *et al.*); one adult June 14 at St. Andrews, NB (RD), and one July 4 Bird I., Cape Breton I., NS (KM). Much rarer was an ad. Franklin's Gull June 27 inland at Deer L., NF, for the 13th provincial record, but the first away from the coast (BMT). A first-summer Little Gull was at the Tracadie, NB sewage lagoon July 5–Aug. 15 (RD). The maximum Com. Black-headed Gull count at Stephenville Crossing was six (5 adults and one first-summer) July 6 (BMT). The same location had two ad. hybrid Com. Black-headed × Ring-billed gulls throughout the period, including the individual noted there in summer 1992 (BMT). Less than annual in summer, an ad. Mew Gull was at the mouth of the Pinware R., Labrador July 13 (BMy). Summer Lesser Black-backed Gull reports seem to be decreasing, perhaps because less effort is directed at summer gulls. The one report for the season was of an adult sighted July 13 at Pinware R., Labrador (BMy). A Black-legged Kittiwake exhibiting melanistic characteristics, uniform smoky gray with the darker pattern of 2nd-summer plumage showing through, was studied at Sally's Cove, NF July 25 (BMT, ST). An ad. Ross' Gull in high breeding plumage was photographed at Ramea I. off the south coast of Newfoundland on the surprising date of June 10 (RN). This bird represents the 7th record for the province, the first for early May and mid-August.

Single ad. Royal Terns graced Castalia Marsh, G.M.I., NB June 17 (BD) and Three Fathom Harbor, NS June 4 (BMy). After 2 years of suspicious activity, a pair of Black Terns actually nested at Grand Barachois, St. Pierre et Miquelon (RE). This unexpected breeding record is 350 mi e. of the nearest known breeding site in New Brunswick. Summer Dovekie records are often suspect, especially when young Dovekie-size murre begin to leave the nesting ledges during the 3rd week of July. The summer tally included 2 reliable Dovekie reports, both of single



Adult Northern Hawk Owl at a nest site near Deer Lake, Newfoundland, on June 26, 1993. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

birds from the Straits of Belle I. ferry, detected July 12 (BMy) & 25 (BMT, ST). Common Murre still awaits confirmation as a breeder in the Bay of Fundy, but with 12 adults and 3 juveniles seen around the Wolf Is., NB, we are getting very close (*vide* BD).

DOVES TO VIREOS

A White-winged Dove at Grand Harbor, G.M.I., NB June 2 furnished the 3rd record for the islands (H. Cossaboom)! A Black-

S.A.

Newfoundland's high meadow vole population provided a bounty for owls. At least *four* Snowy Owls remained through July on the barrens of the s. Avalon Pen. (m.ob.). Short-eared Owls were common along coastal lowlands. Three Boreal Owl nests in one park fledged young. Several N. Hawk Owls were seen in w. Newfoundland, including a nest near Deer L. that fledged 5 robust young (BMT).

billed Cuckoo was lost on the edge of a balsam fir forest in w. Newfoundland July 4 (BMT *et al.*). The species had a banner year around Fredricton, NB, in response to an outbreak of tent caterpillars.

A Boreal Owl calling at Port Dufferin, NS June 5 provided a rare summer record for the province, and the first outside Cape Breton I. (BMy *et al.*). A Red-headed Woodpecker June 10 at Lower Jemseg, NB was a rare summer occurrence for the Region (*vide* DM). Up to three Willow Flycatchers were singing at Avonport, NS June 13–July 6 (Sherman Williams *et al.*). The species was also singing at 4 locations in s. New Brunswick (*vide* ST). A W. Kingbird at Pictou, NS June 10 was unseasonable for this regular autumn stray (KM). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at North Head, G.M.I., NB June 22–29 staked the

same location and date as one last year (MH *et al.*)

There several reports of the rare Regional breeder, N. Rough-winged Swallow, from Mace's Bay, NB during July (*vide* ST). A House Wren sang June 13 at the same location, Grand Harbor, G.M.I., NB, where one had sung for most of June–July 1992 (BD). A Sedge Wren singing in a small meadow in Musquash, NB in mid-July was the only report of this erratic and scarce Regional breeder (RW). Very late spring Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were singles at Pictou, NS June 9 (KM) and East Pt., PEI in mid-June (AS). Ten "Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrushes were singing June 19 at French Mt. and Cape North, Cape Breton I., NS (BMy). A Brown Thrasher June 6 at Upper Stewiacke, NS was late for a spring migrant (SG).

A Warbling Vireo sang at its usual Wolfville, NS haunt all summer (*vide* BMy). This is a very scarce summer resident in the province.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

As an illustration of just how early Yellow Warblers begin their migration, 10 were found at various locations on Sable I., NS during the last week of July (ZL). A Yellow-breasted Chat singing in Lower Prince William, NB in mid-June was extraordinary (DM). Chats are among the regular strays to the Region in autumn, but they are rare in spring and almost unheard of in June!

Western Tanager is a less-than-annual vagrant to the Region, with almost all records noted for fall and early winter. So it comes as a surprise to receive 2 excellent reports of Western Tanager for this summer season: one male June 5 & 7 at Brown's Arm, Bay of Exploits, NF (D. Gaskin, D. Fancy) and another male July 5 on Sable I., NS (ZL). A ♂ Painted Bunting was photographed on a one-day visit to a bird feeder at Red R., Cape Breton I., NS June 2 (A. Timmons). Another male was at a feeder in Pictou, NS June 17–18 (*vide* T. Bunbury). Painted Buntings in the Region are tainted buntings because we never really know whether they are truly wild vagrants or escapees from captivity. Scarce vagrants to the Region, appearing this time during late spring migration, were a Rufous-sided Towhee June 6 and a Grasshopper Sparrow June 8, both on the tiny island known as Gannet Rock, in the Bay of Fundy (RM). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow in proper breeding habitat at Mummichog P.P., NF July 15 represented only the 5th record for the province, and first outside of autumn migration (BMy).

Finches kept a low profile. Only Pine Siskins did anything extreme. They were very common in flocks throughout Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. They made it to

DIURNAL RAPTORS TO ALCIDS

The most notable Turkey Vulture sighting of the season was of an adult at Percé, *Gaspé* June 16 (*vide* PP). Rough-legged Hawks nested farther S than usual, building a nest on the man-made cliffs at LG-2 dam e. of James Bay (R. Alvo), while an apparently non-breeding individual lingered at L. Saint-Jean July 11 (CC, GS). A ♀ Wild Turkey was encountered with her brood at Saint-Pierre, *Châteauguay* June 6 (MM).

S.A.

A study conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service on I. aux Grues, off Montmagny, and at Cacouna clarified the status of the Yellow Rail, considered a vulnerable species in the Region. As many as 15 and seven rails, respectively, were heard at the 2 sites. Twenty-one, 20 of them males, were banded June 15–July 22. Many were recaptured locally. Among them was a male banded at Cacouna June 17, recaptured there July 20, but this time on I. aux Grues, located about 125 km w. of the banding site (MR, PL).



One of the 21 Yellow Rails that were banded in Quebec during summer 1993. Photograph/Michel Robert.

Two Yellow Rails were also detected at nearby Cap-Tourmente July 8 (R. Gingras). Noteworthy was an ad. Com. Moorhen with 9 young on I. aux Oies July 18 (MR *et al.*); while the species has nested as far east as Cacouna, it is still rare anywhere e. of Quebec City. A group of six Sandhill Cranes reported on I. d'Orléans, near Quebec City June 22 (A. Durand, *vide* PE) was quite unexpected, while a lone crane heard in a bog near L'Ascension, L. Saint-Jean, not far from where several birds were sighted back in May, was possibly a local nester (JFR, CM).

Shorebirds had a rather uneventful season. Lone Willets turned up at all 3 sites along the St. Lawrence estuary (GB, A. Duval, CA, M.A. Rubénovitch, PF, B. Bernier), while a Marbled Godwit at Saint-Barthélémy, *Berthier* June 10–14 (C. Nadeau,

YA, L. Breton) was likely the same bird viewed at Baie-du-Febvre in May. Notably early (or late!) on the Magdalen Is. was a Ruddy Turnstone at Grande-Entrée June 18 (FS *et al.*) and two Red Knots at Pointe-aux-Loups June 29 (FS, AR). Also in this category was a Stilt Sandpiper in alternate plumage at Brome L. June 19 (I. Ferrier). The Upland Sandpiper appears to be consolidating its status at the n. limits of its range, with a new colony containing 13 birds at Saint-Louis-du-Ha!Ha!, *Témiscouata* June 27 (MB) and others found at Notre-Dame-du-Portage, *Rivière-du-Loup* July 1 (MB, A. Beaulieu) and Sainte-Marguerite-Marie, L. Saint-Jean, through July 9 (CM, JFR). A Com. Snipe encountered at Povungnituk July 7 represented our most northerly sighting of this species (YG). Uncommon gulls included single ad. Laughing Gulls inland at Aylmer June 1 (J. Dubois) and along the St. Lawrence at Rivière-Ouelle June 8 (CA), the Gaspé's first Franklin's Gull at Barachois June 6 (S. Marchand *et al.*), and another at Rivière-Ouelle July 5 (CA). Though incomplete, the description of a larid at La Martre, *Gaspé* July 2 was consistent with that of an ad. California Gull (J.F. Ouellet)—the bird was compared directly with both Ring-billed and Herring gulls. Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were identified at Pabos, *Gaspé* June 4–12 (ML, EL, m.ob.), at Bird Rocks, Magdalen Is., June 14 (FS, AR, SC), and at Château-Richer, *Montmorency* July 24–30 (G. Harvey). A Bonaparte's Gull in breeding plumage defended a territory at Havre-aux-Basques on the Magdalen Is., June 26 (FS, PL, AR), where the species nested quite exceptionally in 1990 (see AB 44:1111). One, and possibly 2, Ring-billed Gull nests discovered in a tern colony at Grande-Entrée constituted a first for the archipelago—certainly unwelcome news for resident terns (FS, AR). Two Great Black-backed Gulls were found at Akulivik July 9 (YG). Several Caspian Terns were noted along the St. Lawrence; the species was absent, however, from Fog I., along the Lower North Shore. This is the only known nesting site in the province, and the search this year uncovered evidence of recent eggging by local natives (GCh). A thorough search of the Magdalen Is. for the rare Roseate Tern produced 3 pairs; a ♀ Roseate mated with a Common tern, while another Common found dead at Grande-Entrée June 18 had been banded in Brazil (FS, AR). Major tern colonies on the Gaspé Pen. failed totally as a result of predation by foxes and Herring Gulls (M. Guillemette). Only three Atlantic Puffins were seen at Bird Rocks, Magdalen Is., June 14 (AR, FS), down from ca. 100 birds that had occupied this colony in 1989.

DOVES TO THRASHERS

A Mourning Dove at Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon June 26 (JN) was a rare sight along the Lower North Shore, as was a Black-billed Cuckoo at Cap-aux-Meules, Magdalen Is., June 20 (FS). And a Barn Owl was found hunting over fields at Cap-Tourmente June 14–17 (J. Lachance, C. Deschênes, m.ob.). A Snowy Owl summered at Grosse-Ile, Magdalen Is. (BL *et al.*), while the sighting of an apparent juv. N. Hawk Owl at Sainte-Marguerite-Marie July 8 raised the possibility of nesting in the L. Saint-Jean area (JFR, CM).

Whip-poor-wills are still found along the n. shore of L. Sainte-Jean, at Vauvert June 3–21 (JFR, CM) and La Doré June 12 (CC, GS, NB). A Chimney Swift was locally rare at Grand-Ruisseau, Magdalen Is., June 6 (*vide* BL). Also rare at Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon was an E. Kingbird found July 10 (JN). East of their current breeding range was a pair of Purple Martins observed at L'Islet-sur-Mer July 10 and a lone N. Rough-winged Swallow at Rivière-Ouelle June 25 (CA). Barn Swallows have not bred on the Magdalen Is. since the 1970s, so sightings at Havre-aux-Basques June 2 (BL, C. Roy), Bassin June 5 (SC), and Havre-Aubert June 20 (FS, AR) were a treat. Marsh Wrens appear to be extending their range eastward, noted on I. aux Oies throughout the summer and at Cacouna (MR). Enriching our knowledge of the distribution of N. Wheatears in Quebec were sightings of adults defending young at Inukjuak and Akulivik July 9 & 13–14, respectively (YG); both sites are south of the published breeding range. A ♀ Mountain Bluebird at Pointe-aux-Loups, Magdalen Is., June 27–29 represented the first documented record for the Region (J. Hardy, v.o.). What was very likely the same bird was seen July 1 at nearby Etang-du-Nord (D.G. Audet, C.A. Audet). "Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush, whose status and distribution are still poorly known in s. Quebec, was identified at 3 new locations. Single birds were calling on Mt. Tremblant in June (P. Dupuy), in Montmorency Forest June 9 (F. Bébard), and at Viller L., *Maskinongé* July 25 (B. Asselin *et al.*). The Brown Thrasher appears to be doing well at the e. limit of its range, with two seen at Chandler June 7 (LL, AC), one found at Baie-Comeau July 5 (GB), and at least one pair summering at Rimouski (J. Boulva, *vide* PF).

VIREOS TO GROSBEAKS

A Warbling Vireo seen at Métabetchouan June 5 (CC, GS) was well n. of its breeding range, while a ♂ Golden-winged Warbler sighted at Doyley L., *Gatineau* June 2 (M. Aubé, S. Barrette) was a first for this locale. A search of the pinery at Saint-Lazare, *Vau-*

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DOVES TO THRASHERS

A Mourning Dove at Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon June 26 (JN) was a rare sight along the Lower North Shore, as was a Black-billed Cuckoo at Cap-aux-Meules, Magdalen Is., June 20 (FS). And a Barn Owl was found hunting over fields at Cap-Tourmente June 14–17 (J. Lachance, C. Deschênes, m.ob.). A Snowy Owl summered at Grosse-Ile, Magdalen Is. (BL *et al.*), while the sighting of an apparent juv. N. Hawk Owl at Sainte-Marguerite-Marie July 8 raised the possibility of nesting in the L. Saint-Jean area (JFR, CM).

Whip-poor-wills are still found along the n. shore of L. Saint-Jean, at Vauvert June 3–21 (JFR, CM) and La Doré June 12 (CC, GS, NB). A Chimney Swift was locally rare at Grand-Ruisseau, Magdalen Is., June 6 (*fide* BL). Also rare at Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon was an E. Kingbird found July 10 (JN). East of their current breeding range was a pair of Purple Martins observed at L'Islet-sur-Mer July 10 and a lone N. Rough-winged Swallow at Rivière-Ouelle June 25 (CA). Barn Swallows have not bred on the Magdalen Is. since the 1970s, so sightings at Havre-aux-Basques June 2 (BL, C. Roy), Bassin June 5 (SC), and Havre-Aubert June 20 (FS, AR) were a treat. Marsh Wrens appear to be extending their range eastward, noted on I. aux Oies throughout the summer and at Cacouna (MR). Enriching our knowledge of the distribution of N. Wheatears in Quebec were sightings of adults defending young at Inukjuak and Akulivik July 9 & 13–14, respectively (YG); both sites are south of the published breeding range. A ♀ Mountain Bluebird at Pointe-aux-Loups, Magdalen Is., June 27–29 represented the first documented record for the Region (J. Hardy, v.o.). What was very likely the same bird was seen July 1 at nearby Etang-du-Nord (D.G. Audet, C.A. Audet) "Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush, whose status and distribution are still poorly known in s. Quebec, was identified at 3 new locations. Single birds were calling on Mt. Tremblant in June (P. Dupuy), in Montmorency Forest June 9 (F. Bédard), and at Viller L., *Maskinongé* July 25 (B. Asselin *et al.*). The Brown Thrasher appears to be doing well at the e. limit of its range, with two seen at Chandler June 7 (LL, AC), one found at Baie-Comeau July 5 (GB), and at least one pair summering at Rimouski (J. Boulva, *fide* PF).

VIREOS TO GROSBILLS

A Warbling Vireo seen at Métabetchouan June 5 (CC, GS) was well n. of its breeding range, while a ♂ Golden-winged Warbler sighted at Doyley L., *Gatineau* June 2 (M. Aubé, S. Barrette) was a first for this locale. A search of the pinery at Saint-Lazare, *Vau-*

dreuil July 2 produced a ♂ Tennessee Warbler and eight Cape Mays (PB). At least one nesting pair of the latter established a first breeding record for the Montreal area. Both boreal species were s. of their usual summer range. Palm Warblers were apparently more common than usual in the Lower St. Lawrence, with 14 counted in a bog near Rivière-du-Loup June 15–July 7 (CM, JFR) and at Pointe-au-Père June 20–25 (J.L. Martel). Breeding of the Cerulean Warbler was confirmed at Pte. du Gouvernement, *Iberville*, for the first time (PB, N. Roy, DD); a remarkable concentration of five Ceruleans turned up in Gatineau N.P., June 19–20 (B.M. DiLabio, *vide* M. Gosselin). A Louisiana Waterthrush was at La Blanche L., *Papineau* June 23–July 1 (C. Baumann).

Out of range were a Scarlet Tanager at Franquelin June 11 (GB) and a ♀ N. Cardinal at Grand-Lac-Victoria, *Pontiac* June 14 (E. Artigau). Single ♂ Indigo Buntings observed at Bonaventure June 2 (R. Jean, *vide* J.M. Pitre) and Lavernière, Magdalen Is., June 5–8 (JBo, BL) were remnants of the late May influx into e. Quebec.

Rufous-sided Towhees may have bred farther east than usual, with a pair frequenting the Rimouski W.M.A., June 16–July 19 (E.

Bélanger, L. Brisson) and singles noted near Lévis June 12 (A. Desrochers) and at Beauport, *Québec* June 21 (D. Campeau). Lone Clay-colored Sparrows were found at Granby (R. Bannon) and Saint-Polycarpe, *Soulanges* June 12 & 13 (B. Barnhurst, MM), while a Lark Sparrow showed up at Chandler, *Gaspé* June 5 (LL, AC *et al.*), to furnish our first June record. This species appears more regularly as a fall vagrant. Outside their *Abitibi* stronghold, Le Conte's Sparrows were detected at 6 locations, including Saint-Fulgence in June (CC, GS *et al.*) and I. aux Grues June 4–July 14 (MR). The brackish marsh at Saint-Fulgence also produced a Sharp-tailed Sparrow June 21 (J. Ibarzabal), while a White-crowned lingered at a feeder at Sainte-Hedwige, *L. Saint-Jean*, until the late date of June 12 (NB, C. Bouchard).

A beaver pond near Wemindji, James Bay, hosted at least four ♂ Red-winged Blackbirds June 19 (PD), providing evidence of a n. range extension. Western visitants included a W. Meadowlark in song at Saint-Edouard, *Lotbinière* June 24 (G. Lepage, R. Lepage) and lone Yellow-headed Blackbirds even farther e. at Cascapédia, Gaspé Pen., June 6 (MLr, EL) and at Cacouna June 14–5 (CM, JFR, v.o.). In addition to the spring

influx of N. Orioles onto the Gaspé Pen., 2 birds brightened the Magdalen Is. at Bassin (SC) and Grand-Ruisseau (N. Richard) June 5 & 6. Small numbers of Red Crossbills were widely reported in June, including 2 adults feeding 3 young at Saint-Fulgence June 25 (L. Imbeau). Irregular in the Magdalen Is., Evening Grosbeaks were sighted there on 4 occasions in June, with a maximum count of 10 at Lavernière June 26 (JBo, BL).

Initialed observers and area editors (in bold-face): C. Auchu, P. Bannon, M. Beaulieu, N. Binet, G. Bouchard, J. Bourque (JBo), J. Brisson, G. Chapdelaine (GCh), A. Charette, C. Cormier, G. Cyr, S. Cyr, D. Daigneault, P. Dorais, P. Ethier, P. Fradette, Y. Gauthier, D. Jauvin, M. Lalancette, L. Lake, P. Laporte, M. Larrivée (MLr), E. Lavoie, B. Leblanc, C. Marcotte, M. McIntosh, L. Messely, J. Nove, P. Poulin, A. Richard, M. Robert, J.F. Rousseau, G. Savard, F. Shaffer.—RICHARD YANK, 566 Chester Rd., 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

Weather in New England could only be described as sunny, warm, and dry. In southern New England, June temperatures were less than 2°F above normal, and rainfall totaled only 1.75 inches. July's weather nearly paralleled that of June. Although the average temperature was a mere 1.2°F above normal, sizzling 99°F weather July 7 topped a record set in 1883, and 8 days hit the 90°F mark. Despite the severe heat in the first half of July, the lack of heavy rain may have spared nesting birds the high mortality that rainy weather so often brings.

Outstanding among the grains garnered from the season's chaff were continued nesting successes among New England's Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Piping Plover, and tern populations; the continuation and expansion of a "Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush breeding survey in n. New England; a comprehensive inventory of grassland birds in Massachusetts; unusual nesting records of Pied-billed Grebe and Hooded Merganser in Rhode Island and Lincoln's Sparrow in Massachusetts, and an unprecedented midsum-

mer Evening Grosbeak incursion. Never without rarities, the Region also managed to produce records of Little Egret, Long-billed Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit, White-winged Dove, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

In addition to the usual scattered reports of lingering Red-throated Loons, a bird in basic plumage at Napatree Pt., RI June 1 was judged to be a Pacific Loon (CRa). This is the 2nd such Regional summer report in 5 years of this tricky-to-identify species. If only they were in breeding plumage! The nesting success of New England Com. Loons was dim this summer, apparently due to heavy predation. In Massachusetts, 8 pairs raised only 4 chicks, the fewest since 1985; and at L. Winnepesaukee, NH, 18 pairs hatched a paltry 3 chicks, of which none survived (BB). Vermont loons fared slightly better, with 15 nesting pairs fledging 12 chicks (CR). On a more positive note, a single concentration of 75 non-breeders in upper Buzzards Bay, MA July 1 (*vide* SAP) was higher than normal.

Southern New England's diminishing population of breeding Pied-billed Grebes was highlighted by the presence of an adult with 4 young at Rhode Island's Trustom Pond N.W.R., July 1–8 (*vide* J. Osborn). This species was unrecorded as a breeder in Rhode Island during a breeding bird atlas conducted 1982–1987. A summering Horned

Grebe was seen at Rye, NH July 24 (SM), while more unusual were three non-breeding Red-necked Grebes at Rockland, ME June 19 (GS, JP) and one viewed throughout July at Chatham, MA, (v.o.).

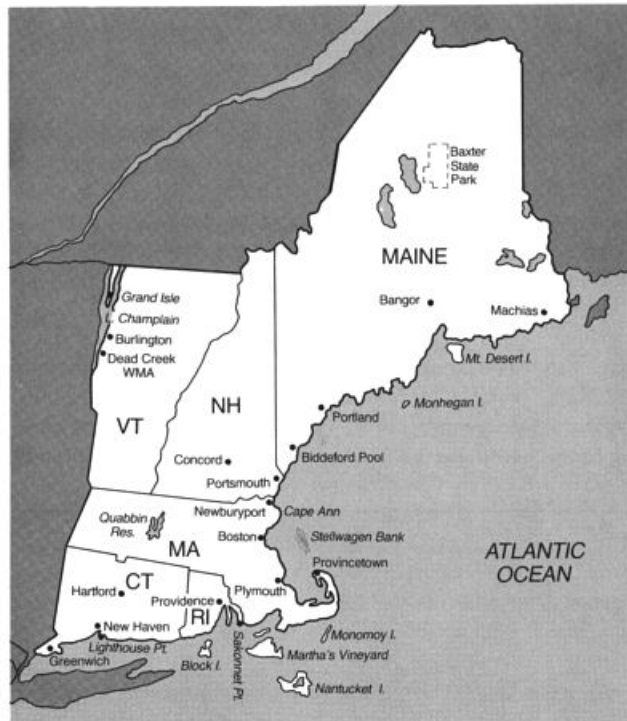
Continuing the tradition of the last several summers, pelagic species were generally scarce within the boundaries of the newly designated Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary, the Region's most accessible inshore commercial fishing area. Only Wilson's Storm-Petrels were consistently present there, the maximum count being 300 June 19 (E. Salmela). In nearby Cape Cod Bay, a count of 400 Wilson's and 12 Leach's storm-petrels was made July 20 (PT). Other Regional pelagic bird maxima included 300 Cory's Shearwaters at Cox's Ledge July 22 (DE, DF), 100 Greater Shearwaters at the same site July 8 (DF), 200 Sooties off Chatham June 5–6 (WH), five Manx Shearwaters at Cox's Ledge July 15 (DF) and one near the mouth of Long Island Sound off Stonington, CT July 14 (R. Amodei *et al.*), and one Audubon's Shearwater in warm water near Cox's Ledge July 8 (DF).

Shoaling bait fish were apparently responsible for concentrating 100 N. Gannets off Chatham June 5–6 (WH), and 60 seen off Rockport, MA June 7 (CL) may have been part of the same late-moving flight of gannets. In the ever-expanding world of the Double-crested Cormorant, numbers of

pairs in Rhode Island this year reached 1971, compared with 18 in 1981 (J. Meyers, R. Ferren), while at Young I. in L. Champlain, a minimum of 340 nests were counted July 14 (CR). Although increasingly frequent, inland reports of Great Cormorants in summer are still notable, so singles at Harrisville, NH June 13 (K. Kotila) and at Lakeville, MA July 3 (K. Anderson) deserve mention.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

A count of four Least Bitterns throughout June at Wayland, MA (SA) was the highest in the Region for this reclusive species, while a pair at Cape Elizabeth, ME July 4 (JB) represented the northernmost report. Breeding data on colonial long-legged waders in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were the most complete in several seasons. In Massachusetts, Catherine Parsons provided information for several colonies. At Middle Brewster, Gallops, and Sarah islands, all in the Boston Harbor/Hingham Harbor area, nest counts included the following: Great Egret, 6; Snowy Egret, 266; Black-crowned Night-Heron, 731; and Glossy Ibis, 3. On Cape Cod, Sampson's I., *Barnstable* contained the nests of six Great Egrets, 40 Snowy Egrets, and 155 Black-crowned Night-Herons. At Coattue on Nantucket, the nest tally was 5 for Great Egret, 48 for Snowy Egret, and 70 for Black-crowned Night-Heron. Overall, Parsons' research in Massachusetts suggests that there has been a 16% decline for all the listed heron species since 1977–1984, with a drop of 32% since 1984. One hypothesis to explain this decline is thought to be related to increasing PCB contamination at certain suboptimal rookery sites near urban areas. In an annual survey of heronries in Narragansett Bay, RI, J. Meyers and R. Ferren provided the following nest counts: Great Egret, 160; Snowy Egret, 150; Little Blue Heron, 5; Cattle Egret, six; Black-crowned Night-Heron, 394; and Glossy Ibis, 297. The Great Egret and Snowy Egret totals showed a dramatic increase from 1992, when counts were 110 and 23, respectively; however, these figures are less impressive as compared with 1991 counts. Other noteworthy reports of long-legged waders included 18 Great Egrets and 11 Snowy Egrets inland along the lower Connecticut R. in Massachusetts July 29 & 28–30, respectively (*vide* SK). The **Little Egret** present at Nantucket I. since May remained throughout the period (v.o.). Five Tricolored Herons were reported Region-wide, although current breeding of this



species in New England seems to be marginal at best. In Vermont, the Cattle Egret colony at Young I., L. Champlain, contained at least 15 nests with young, July 14 (CR). A tally of four Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Hingham, MA throughout June (K. Ward) strongly suggested the possibility of local breeding by this solitary nester.

Three Whooper Swans in Massachusetts continued to be seen in the Beverly/Plum I. area throughout June and July (v.o.). As described by Simon Perkins in the Spring Report, the origin of these birds was definitely suspect. Perhaps more meaningful was the first confirmed breeding of the Mute Swan in Vermont, where a pair raised 3 young in Georgia (M. Zetterstrom), as well as an increase in New Hampshire as reflected by 4 pairs and 10 yearlings in the Newmarket/Durham area (SM). Two notably late Brants appeared in Seabrook Harbor, NH July 24 (D. Abbott).

In *Aroostook* ME, where last year's first Maine nesting record for N. Pintail was obtained, 17 pintails and 100 Am. Wigeons were counted at Ft. Fairfield during mid-July (W. Sheehan). Four pairs of nesting wigeons were located at Grand I., VT during July (D. Hoag), and three apparently non-breeding individuals were found at Rye, NH July 24 (SM). More enigmatic was a drake Eur. Wigeon found at Newport, RI June 25 (C. Manning). Bewildered can only describe the condition of a hen Com. Eider that hit a truck the evening of July 29, far inland at Jackman, ME, practically on the Quebec border (*vide* C. Duncan). A maximum of 28 eiders at Sakonnet Pt., RI throughout the period was significantly higher than usual in

that area (DE). In Rhode Island, Hooded Mergansers were only confirmed once as breeders during 1982–1987, so the discovery of a brood of 11 young at Summit June 22 (R. Champlin) was a notable event. Especially intriguing was the appearance of two Ruddy Ducks at Trustom Pond N.W.R., June 12 (C. Harten). This species has a history of irregular breeding in s. New England, so all summer occurrences should be viewed with that possibility in mind.

RAPTORS

Three single reports of the ever-increasing Black Vulture were received, in Sheffield, MA June 4–5 (*vide* SK), Cranston, RI July 16 (J. & R. Gee), and N. Kingston, RI July 21 (J. Gee). Breeding success of Ospreys was apparently better than last year, when a number of young had died of starvation. In

New Hampshire, 14 successful nests produced 25 chicks (DD), while in Connecticut, 65 nests fledged 119 young—a 23% increase from 1992. The now routine northward wandering of Swallow-tailed Kites this year manifested in the form of reports from Brewster, MA June 11 (T. & R. Noyes) and Acoaxet, MA June 30 (R. Clifton).

Bald Eagles continue to flourish in their newly consolidated breeding areas. At L. Umbagog, NH, a single pair brought off 2 young (DD) and at Barkhamsted Res., CT, a single young, plus a foster chick from Massachusetts, were successfully fledged (*vide* BK). In Massachusetts, the s. New England stronghold of the Bald Eagle, 6 pairs fledged 10 chicks, including a pair in Middleboro, Plymouth, for the first confirmed nesting in e. Massachusetts this century (*vide* B. Davis).

A single-site tally of 17 Am. Kestrels in Middleboro, MA July 31 (WRP) was indicative of a post-breeding gathering at an optimum foraging location. A small, but apparently regular, breeding population of Merlins in e. Maine was exemplified this year by a pair in Cutler, Washington, in late June (*vide* JD). As with Bald Eagles, the hacking efforts with Peregrine Falcons during the 1980s are steadily reaping rewards. For example, in Maine, a pair at Acadia N.P. raised 4 young (m.ob.); in Vermont, 10 nesting pairs produced a spectacular 21 chicks (CR); in New Hampshire, 5 pairs fledged 11 young—the best in 13 years (DD); and in Massachusetts, 2 pairs raised 5 young (TF).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A convincing description of a calling Yellow Rail in the Sebasticook Watershed, Somerset

ME June 14 (J. Pinchbeck *et al.*) offers compelling support to the notion that this secretive rail may be a rare breeder in the northern recesses of the Region. Perhaps equally unusual was the persuasive sighting of a King Rail at Scarborough, *Cumberland* ME June 13–22 (S. Pollock m.ob.). The precise current breeding status of this species in the Region is very poorly known, even in s. New England. Only slightly less scarce than the King Rail these days, Com. Moorhens were reported from a meager 5 localities. The single confirmed breeding report was of 2 pairs with 6 chicks at Stratton I., Saco, *York* ME July 17 (G. Carson *et al.*). With the virtual abandonment of the Region by nesting Am. Coots since the early 1970s, the appearance of a single individual at Milford, MA June 26 (TA) was intriguing. The increasingly regular Sandhill Crane made a token appearance in New England this summer, with one at Sharon, CT July 17–31 (L. Whittlesey *et al.*). An Am. Golden-Plover at Hadley, MA July 9 (S. Surner, P. Yeskie) was early by more than a month. On the nesting front, Piping Plovers continue to increase in most areas. In Maine, 32 pairs were found breeding (*vide* M.A.S.); in Massachusetts, 287 pairs statewide totaled twice that of 1990 (SH), and in Rhode Island, 8 pairs at Quicksand Pt. produced 21 young (CRa). Only in Connecticut were numbers reportedly down, although precise figures were not available at the time of writing (*vide* BK).

American Oystercatchers numbered 9 breeding pairs in Narragansett Bay, RI (*vide* DE), and respectable numbers of Willets were represented by counts of 32 at Seabrook Harbor, NH, July 24 (A. & B. Delorey) and 200 at N. Monomoy I., MA during July (BN). The decline of grassland birds throughout the Region has increasingly been identified as cause for concern. In an effort to properly assess the populations of several of the most characteristic grassland species this season, an intensive statewide survey was undertaken in Massachusetts by Andrea Jones working under the direction of Peter Vickery of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. One result of this survey was the discovery that only 61 pairs of Upland Sandpipers are currently breeding in Massachusetts and that these pairs are concentrated at 11 sites, only 5 of which contain 4 or more pairs. In Vermont, Upland Sandpipers were noted at 14 sites (JP); at Pease International Tradeport, NH, 10–12 pairs produced 15 young (DD); and in Connecticut, 1–10 birds were present at Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, throughout the period (J. Morin), and three were seen at Sikorsky Airport, Stratford July 7 (B. O'Toole). Overall, the passage of ad. arctic-breeding shorebirds was on schedule and of a magnitude consis-

tent with that of most recent years. Because conditions in Alaska and arctic Canada were advanced and considerably warmer than usual in some regions, unlike 1992, the arrival of southbound adult shorebirds was slightly later than last year, suggesting that breeding activity may have been more normal. A Whimbrel noted at Scituate, MA June 18 (SH) could not confidently be determined as late or early; however, 493 entering an evening roost at N. Monomoy I., July 24 (WH) was clearly the period peak count. A white-rumped Whimbrel of one of the Old World races also appeared at the N. Monomoy I. roost, July 11 (WH). A briefly seen Long-billed Curlew at S. Dartmouth, MA July 14 (M. Sylvia) was one of very few modern occurrences in the Region. Could it have been the same individual seen in Rhode Island in 1991? Undoubtedly the premiere shorebird of the season was a Black-tailed Godwit in alternate plumage at N. Monomoy I., June 23–July 7 (ph., BN m.ob.). This striking individual represented only the 2nd recorded in New England, with the previous record back in April 23, 1967 at S. Dartmouth, MA. Among Blair Nikula's other godwit records of interest at N. Monomoy I. were an early Hudsonian, June 29; the period's highest tally of 105, seen July 25; and the first Marbled Godwit of the summer, July 17.

A maximum count of 2500 Sanderlings in Chatham, MA July 31 (BN) seems paltry as compared with some of the great aggregations recorded in that area 40 years ago. Peeps had not distinguished themselves by the end of July, and only a late, northbound group of 50 White-rumped Sandpipers at N. Monomoy I., June 8 (BN) was worthy of comment. A Pectoral Sandpiper at N. Monomoy I., June 8 (BN) was decidedly late but was considerably eclipsed by 12 Purple Sandpipers at Matinicus Rock, Knox, ME July 19 (*vide* M.A.S.). The Region's only Curlew Sandpiper visited N. Monomoy I., July 25–31 (BN). The first southbound Short-billed Dowitcher appeared at N. Monomoy I., June 17 (BN), shortly to be followed by a peak count of 2000 at the same site July 2 (v.o.). A total of seven Wilson's Phalaropes at S. Monomoy I., July 11 (D. Scott) represented a notably high count for that locality.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

The most inexplicable jaeger report involved a Pomarine Jaeger that was picked up alive approximately 10 mi from the coast on a turf farm in Richmond, RI July 30 (M. & S. Carr). The bird was taken to a rehabilitation center, where it eventually died. Laughing Gulls established a new beachhead this summer, when 10 pairs began nesting adjacent to

the tern colony at Plymouth, MA (*vide* SH). Other gulls distinguished themselves with appearances by a Little Gull at Barnstable, MA July 26 (BN), an uncommon mid-summer Lesser Black-backed at Ninigrit Conservation Area, RI June 16 (PB), and a most unusual Sabine's Gull in first-summer plumage at Nauset Beach, Eastham, MA July 1 (J. Sones). What was probably the same individual appeared at Chatham July 25 (BN).

The most outstanding tern reports of the season involved a Gull-billed Tern at N. Monomoy I., July 5 (M. Sylvia), an early Caspian Tern at Milford Pt., CT July 21 (J. Young), and a total of at least eight Royal Terns, all in s. New England. In Massachusetts, the season's totals for breeding pairs of terns included 1351 Roseate, 8891 Common, seven Arctic, and 2614 Least, as well as three Black Skimmers (*vide* SH). Particularly interesting was the discovery in mid-July of a Roseate Tern at Bird I., MA that had been banded in Dublin, Ireland in July 1991 (I. Nisbet). Could this individual possibly provide a clue to solving the mystery of where North American Roseate Terns spend the winter? At L. Champlain, 120 pairs of Com. Terns fledged a record 75 young this season (CR).

DOVES TO PIPITS

A White-winged Dove at Chappaquiddick I., Martha's Vineyard June 12–13 (E. Potter, v.o.) represented yet another in an irregular series of summer reports for this itinerant columbid. In Massachusetts, the first confirmed nesting of the Monk Parakeet occurred when a nest was located at Taunton June 1 (DE). Very likely, this pair originated at a not-too-distant colony in Warwick, RI.

A pair of Barn Owls very close to the regular n. limit of their breeding range successfully nested at Newburyport, MA for at least the 2nd consecutive year (TF). In mid-June, an emaciated Snowy Owl was captured alive and taken to a rehabilitation center after it was found harassing terns in the colony at Seal I., Knox, ME (*vide* W. Townsend). An impressive total of 20 N. Saw-whet Owls was located in n. *Berkshire*, MA during June and July (R. Rancatti). Glenn d'Entremont's annual Whip-poor-will surveys in the Myles Standish S.F., Plymouth, MA, produced a maximum total of 30 calling birds June 24. In Connecticut, 13 birds were heard calling in the Pachaug S.F., Voluntown, June 19–July 4 (D. Provencher).

The Region's meager population of Red-headed Woodpeckers this year included a total of 6 reported breeding pairs, 3 of which were in Vermont and the others in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Nesting Yellow-bellied Flycatchers have yet to be confirmed

in Massachusetts, so 2 singing individuals in Windsor, *Windsor* MA June 19 (CQ) were tantalizing. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared at Barn I., Stonington, CT June 3 (D. Provencher) and at Chatham, MA June 27 (R. Heil, J. Smith), while a rare-in-spring Fork-tailed Flycatcher briefly graced Ram I., Mattapoisett, MA June 29 (R. Andrews, BB).

At Lebanon, NH, a flock of 250 ad. and juv. Cliff Swallows, July 25 (P. Hunt) was noteworthy, and in Massachusetts, respectable tallies included 63 active nests at Williamsburg (M. Silver) and 33 active nests at Marshfield (D. Clapp). It is almost scary to find that 25 pairs of House Wrens at the High Ridge W.M.A., Gardner, MA, fledged 147 young (BB) out of a total of 117 boxes posted for E. Bluebirds! For at least the 2nd consecutive year, Winter Wrens were heard singing in late July in the state forest on Martha's Vineyard (A. Keith, PB). If nesting occurred there, it would represent a significant departure from the usual breeding haunts of this species elsewhere in New England. Sedge Wrens definitely had a presence in Massachusetts this season, as reflected by one in Lincoln June 15–July 7 (S. Ells), two in Brookfield June 21 (T. Swochak, K. Fay), and 2–3 pairs in Windsor (CQ, v.o.). In Connecticut, a Sedge Wren was present at New Milford, June 6–18 (C. Wood).

As with Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets are found occasionally in summer in the hill country of w. Massachusetts. Yet breeding ruby-crowns have only been confirmed a handful of times. This year's tease came in the form of a "probable nesting pair" at Hill 51, Savoy June 7–12 (CQ). Despite the previously mentioned plethora of House Wrens at High Ridge W.M.A., 5 pairs of E. Bluebirds did successfully fledge 32 healthy young at this location (BB). In this, the 2nd year of a breeding survey of "Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrushes in n. New England, the presence of thrushes was confirmed at 10 new localities in Vermont, bringing the total to 79 sites out of 135 mountains sampled in that state during 1992–1993 (CR). Chris Rimmer's work at Mt. Mansfield, VT suggests that the thrush density at that site may approach 40–55 pairs per 100 acres. In Maine, "Bicknell's" Thrushes were found on 55 of 65 mountain peaks surveyed, and they appear to be occupying a higher percentage of suitable high elevation habitat than in other n.e. states. The continued nesting of Am. Pipits on Mt. Washington, NH (first discovered last year) was suggested by the presence of 10 birds there during June and July (v.o).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

A White-eyed Vireo banded at Wells, *York ME* in mid-July (*fide* M.A.S.) was consider-

ably north of the species' regular summer range. A pitiful 8 Regional reports during June, all from Massachusetts, were received for the rapidly disappearing Golden-winged Warbler (*fide* B.O. and SK). Three reports of "Brewster's" and 2 of "Lawrence's" warblers in the Massachusetts area underscore the continuing genetic problem for the beleaguered Golden-winged Warbler. Particularly early signs of southward warbler movement were reflected by a report of single Tennessee and Cape May warblers in Petersham, MA July 18 (J. Baird), while seemingly late spring migrants at Plum I., MA included a Palm Warbler June 12 (RAF) and a Blackpoll Warbler June 27 (E. Salmela). A handful of Cerulean Warblers were reported from traditional breeding localities in Rhode Island and Massachusetts (v.o.) and at Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, MA, a ♂ Prothonotary Warbler was present throughout June for the 3rd consecutive summer (v.o.). Six Worm-eating Warblers at Freetown State Forest, *Bristol* MA July 24 (TA) possibly represent a previously undiscovered breeding station, while 23 Hoodeds at 2 sites in s.w. Rhode Island during June (CR) are indicative of that species' solid foothold in s. New England.

In the out-of-season department were a Summer Tanager in Acoaxet, MA July 18 (*fide* R. Bowen) and a Blue Grosbeak in Braintree, MA June 12 (ph, G. Hutchinson).

S.A.

As described in the Upland Sandpiper summary, this season saw an extensive grassland bird survey take place in Massachusetts. Andrea Jones visited 71 sites throughout the Bay State, including small hayfields, farm pastures, both private and public airports, and large military air bases. Additional visits were made to Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Is. Using point count and broadcast vocalization methodologies, as well as data provided by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Jones confirmed the presence of the following numbers of pairs: Vesper Sparrow, 72 at 22 sites; Savannah Sparrow, 312 at 44 sites; Grasshopper Sparrow, 300 at 23 sites; Bobolink, 277 at 32 sites; and E. Meadowlark, 148 at 25 sites. The most outstanding feature of these results is the fact that a relatively large number of birds are concentrated at a limited number of optimum sites. Among future agendas will be attempts to initiate appropriate management strategies at the most critical sites for these habitat-sensitive grassland species.

S.A.

More noteworthy was an unprecedented mid-summer influx of Evening Grosbeaks into s. New England. Beginning in late June, small numbers of grosbeaks began to appear in n. *Worcester* and *Franklin* MA, so that by late July, more than 150 birds had been reported from a wide scattering of localities, including several areas in which positive nesting took place (*fide* WRP, D. Small). This species has always been a rare peripheral breeder in Massachusetts and, although some of the flying young noted may have been fledged N of the Bay State, a number clearly were not. South of Massachusetts, there were at least 10 reports from Rhode Island (*fide* DE) and 6 from Connecticut (*fide* BK).

Less colorful, but no less interesting, were a singing Dickcissel in Franklin Park, Boston June 2 (TA); no fewer than five Clay-colored Sparrows distributed among Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts (*fide* JD, DD, B.O.); four Seaside Sparrows at the extreme n. limit of the species' range at Hampton, NH June 26 (SM); three different singing Fox Sparrows in suitable nesting habitat in n. Maine during late June (*fide* JD); and only the 2nd ever confirmed breeding of Lincoln's Sparrow in Massachusetts in Florida, *Berkshire* June 10–18 (R. Rancatti, R. Daub).

For the 2nd consecutive summer, a Rusty Blackbird nest was found in Monroe, *Franklin* MA June 8 (R. Daub), as well as confirmation of what is believed to be the first nesting record of Orchard Oriole at the well-worked Parker River N.W.R., Plum I., MA June 12 (RAF). Three wandering Red Crossbills were found at Quabbin Res., MA July 28 (J. Murray), and a slightly less anomalous Pine Siskin appeared in Rockport, MA July 17 (CL).

Subregional editors (boldface), contributors (italics), and observers: *Steve Arena, Tom Aversa, Jim Berry, Bird Observer, Brad Blodgett, Paul Buckley, Diane DeLuca, Jody Depres, David Emerson, Dan Finizia, Richard A. Forster, Tom French, Winty Harrington, Scott Hecker, Andrea Jones, Seth Kellogg, Betty Kleiner, Chris Leahy, Maine Audubon Society, Blair Nikula, Catherine Parsons, Simon A. Perkins, Judy Peterson, Jim Potyraj, Charles Quinlan, Chris Raitchel (CRa), Chris Rimmer, Gene Scarpulla, Peter Trimble.*—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 1993 will be remembered for North America's first Whiskered Tern: It made the front page of *The New York Times* and set off a great migration of birders. The ensuing intense coverage of central Delaware's rich bay-shore marshes revealed that all three of the world's species of marsh terns, *Chlidonias*, were present there at the end of July. Many unusual waders were turned up as well. In New York State, Wilson's Phalarope was finally confirmed as a breeder in this Region.

For the rest, our reports were a bit thin. Atlasing continues only in New Jersey, where results were still preliminary at press time. After a cold spring that damaged some nesting, summer weather was painfully hot and humid. Well north into New York State the temperature exceeded 90° during the first week of July at Rochester and exceeded 100° in Dutchess County July 8–10. New York City had twenty days over 90° in July, a record. But human disturbances interfered far more than natural ones with the breeding season.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Brig. (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic NJ*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery PA*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City*); Little Cr. (*Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Kent, DE*); Logan Tract (*Ted Harvey W.M.A., s. of Kitt's Hummock, Kent, DE*); Little Galloo (*Little Galloo I., in e. Lake Ontario, off Henderson Harbor, Jefferson NY*); Port Mahon (*marshes and bay shore e. of Little Cr., Kent, DE*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth NJ*); SBC (*Summer Bird Count*); S.C.M.M. (*South Cape May Meadows, Cape May NJ*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Though their slow decline continues in most of our area, Pied-billed Grebes were found breeding in 8 locations in Clinton NY (MGr), more than in the Atlas. Large concentrations of tubenoses gathered off c. Long Island from late June into early July, for unknown reasons. More than 1000 shearwa-

ters were counted off Fire I. Inlet at the beginning of July (mostly Greater, as expected at that date; J. Passie *et al.*). Exceptional numbers were visible from ashore in the rain on s.e. winds at Democrat Pt., July 3: 90 Cory's, 30 Greater, four Manx, and one Sooty shearwater, plus 150 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and a dozen immature N. Gannets (AJL, ABa). Numbers were closer to the normal dozen or two per trip off New Jersey.

An Am. White Pelican, possibly the same reported in late May from the lower Hudson R. and at Jamaica Bay, was in the Hackensack Meadows, Bergen NJ in early July. Brown Pelicans wandered into this area later and in smaller numbers than in recent summers, and they did not repeat last summer's practice nests. The maximum was only about a dozen at Indian R. Inlet, DE July 3 (WWF), a similar number around Cape May, and up to three off Long Island in July (ABa, J. Fritz, N. Zurcher).

Double-crested Cormorants continued their rapid increase throughout the Region. Although they are everywhere on the coast, we know of no new colonies there. On the Great Lakes, a new colony was begun at Perch River W. M. A., Jefferson NY, and last year's new colony at Buckhorn I. S.P. in the Niagara R. in Erie NY continued with 7 nests (W. Watson). This establishes an apparent foothold on w. Lake Ontario after one previous attempt on the Canadian side in 1983. Last year's nesting near Rochester was not repeated, but cormorants continued to attempt to nest on Oneida L.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

Yet again we cannot comment on general trends among breeding waders, for lack of survey data. A juv. dark-morph Reddish Egret at the Logan Tract July 29 until late August (DAC, m.ob.) provided only the 2nd Delaware record. A group of up to seven Cattle Egrets was well north of known breeding areas at Point-au-Roche, Clinton on L. Champlain June 29 into mid-July (WK, C. Mitchell), as was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Gula Res., Montgomery, PA July 30 (P. Morris, BLM).

Two imm. White Ibises were at the Logan Tract in late July; one was even farther afield at Marsh Creek S.P., Chester PA July 30 (PHu, G. Saunders). Glossy Ibises seemed to do well in the s. part of the Region (APE *et al.*), and one wandered as far as Ithaca, NY July 29 (M. Amy, *fide* NBr). Single White-faced Ibises, now found almost annually somewhere in this Region, were reported at Bombay Hook June 25 (B. Peterjohn) and at Brig., July 18 (PBa). One at Lawrence, Suffolk, LI for about 10 days after June 6 (AJL, ABa, JAs, A. Guthrie) was joined by another June 19 (TWW)

Northern Pintails bred at Cicero Swamp, Oswego NY (D. Nash) for the first time since the nesting of some released birds 30 years ago, and they were believed to have bred at Braddock Bay, Monroe NY, a local first (BE *et al.*). One to three were present in June in Clinton NY (J&RH, MGr). American Wigeon continues to establish itself as an uncommon breeder in n.w. New York, young were observed at Buffalo in July (RA), and they were believed to have bred in Clinton (MGr). Redheads bred at the Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee-Orleans NY, where they have been stocked, but they no longer breed in Jamaica Bay.

Twelve Com. Goldeneye eggs in a nest box at Monty Bay, on L. Champlain, Clinton NY June 4 (MGr) marked one of the few documented nests at the very s. edge of its range. Common Mergansers continue to breed successfully on the upper Susquehanna R. and in Bucks, s.e. Pennsylvania (WR, KK).

RAPTORS

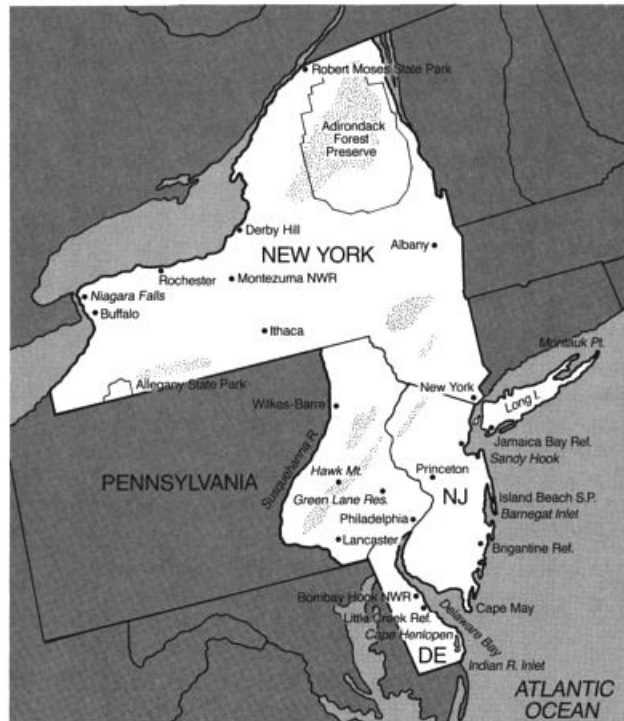
Another summer passed without discovery of the Black Vulture nest that must exist somewhere in s.e. New York. Ospreys did well in New Jersey, where an aerial survey revealed a new high of 200 nests, up from 158 sighted 2 years ago (CCI), and of 250 pairs on Long Island (MS). Within New York City, a 2nd pair took up residence at Jamaica Bay (DR) and a first pair on Staten Island (MS). Ospreys in upstate New York produced fewer young than last year, however, particularly in the Adirondacks, where only 18 of 41 active nests produced young according to an aerial survey (V. Gilligan). Of particular interest is the successful use of hacking to hasten the building of inland populations. Eastern Pennsylvania now has about 30 adults, including 10 active pairs. The hacking program begun in 1990 at Tioga Hammond Lakes, Tioga PA, in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers, has led to the formation of the first 2 pairs at that site (LR). A nesting pair of apparently hacked origin established since last year on the Delaware R. at the Gilbert Power Station, near Riegelsville, Hunterdon NJ, constitutes the first nest away from tidewater in New Jersey in this century (LR, CCI). In Delaware, where storms have destroyed duck blinds used for nesting, Osprey nests declined for the 2nd year (LG-I).

Following a very busy spring for Mississippi Kites, only one hung around Cape May into early June. But wandering singles were widespread once again: a sub-adult at Mt Misery, Burlington NJ June 11 (G. Cannon), an immature at Elmer, Salem NJ July 12 (J Haag), one June 8 at New Hope, Bucks PA (*fide* AH), and an adult near Mecklenberg,

Tompkins NY July 9 (J. & S. Greigore). Thirty-two individual N. Harriers in *Clinton* NY, between April and August (MGr) were impressive; a good report away from their remaining strongholds on the coast and in upstate New York was a pair at Long Pond, *Monroe* PA (BLM, P. Morris).

Bald Eagles continue their long-term upward trend as the mass of floating immatures reaches breeding age. We intimated in our spring report that late snowstorms in April had adversely affected breeding, however, and final figures now confirm that. In New York, 18 pairs increased to 20 in 1993. But while 16 of those laid eggs, young hatched in only seven of them. In the end, 11 young fledged, compared with 24 last year. Four of 5 of the n. nests and 2 of 3 w. nests failed; most of the young were produced in the newly established population in the reservoirs of s.e. New York (P. Nye, NYDEC). In Pennsylvania, although 2 new pairs were established in n.w. *Lancaster*, 5 of the 6 nests e. of the Susquehanna failed (JHa, DB, Pa. Game Commission). Only 3 of New Jersey's 6 pairs were successful, producing 6 young (CCL). The exception was Delaware, where 5 of 7 pairs had successful nests, produced 9 young, the best in recent times (LG-I). Not one Sharp-shinned Hawk nest was reported to us, although we learned of Cooper's Hawk nests as far south as Princeton, NJ and the Wertheim N.W.R., LI (R. Parris).

Merlins nested in New York State for the 2nd year. One was observed around Blue Mt. L., *Hamilton* July 19-24 (TWB), and a nest was found at the L. Placid Golf Club, *Essex* Aug. 4 (G. & S. Cameron, m.ob.). Peregrine Falcons had a "really good year" in New York. Actively breeding pairs increased from 15 to 18, half in the New York City area and half on natural sites in the Adirondacks. While the production of young upstate has remained steady at around a dozen for several years, production in pigeon-rich New York's 9 nests soared to 33 young fledged (21 last year). Six sites fledged 4 young each, and one fledged a record 5 (BL). The lower Delaware R. Valley now has 13 actively breeding pairs on both the New Jersey and the Pennsylvania sides. The New Jersey nests produced young at the good rate of 2.0 young per pair. The New Jersey Commission of Fish, Game, & Wildlife and the Pennsylvania Game Commission jointly hacked young Peregrines in the cities of Trenton, Reading, Harrisburg, and Williamsport, in a



program funded by the William Penn Foundation (CCL, JHa).

TURKEYS TO SHOREBIRDS

While Ring-necked Pheasant and N. Bobwhite numbers dwindle, Wild Turkeys continue to prove themselves the gallinaceous species most adaptable to this Region's extensive outer suburbia. Perhaps they can protect their young better than the others from raccoons and cats. A release program at 8 sites in New Jersey has led to increased natural nestings, poults being reported from several areas, including Assunpink W.M.A., *Monmouth*, and Sourlands, *Somerset* (R. Brown, T. Bailey, F. Ward, H. Suthers). A new population is also producing young at Bombay Hook.

A Yellow Rail was reported calling on L. Champlain at Ausable Marsh S.W.M.A., *Clinton* NY June 28, along with the expected Virginia Rails and Soras (J&RH); although this species breeds nearby in s. Ontario, the existence of breeding has never been proven in the Region.

A Sandhill Crane at Braddock Bay, *Monroe* NY June 22 (BE) may have been the same that was nearby in May. Another fed and danced with a Com. Crane (believed escaped) June 2-Aug. 11 at Lowville, *Lewis* NY (REL). A few vagrant cranes now turn up practically every season, particularly in the n. part of this Region.

Hot, dry conditions were good for shorebirds at Jamaica Bay, where 5000 on the East Pond alone July 31 were the most in many years (RJK). Raymond Pool at Bombay Hook, however, was completely dry by the end of the period, while L. Ontario was too

high for good shorebirding until season's end.

Somewhat higher numbers of late migrant shorebirds lingered into early June than usual, perhaps as a result of the cold spring. Five Lesser Golden-Plovers in *Monroe* NY June 4 (CCa) was highly unusual in spring (RGS). A Hudsonian Godwit June 4 and two Willets June 6 were unexpected on L. Champlain at Gravelle's Farm, *Clinton* (WK, m.ob.), and five Semipalmated Sandpipers were record late at Green Lane June 10 (K. Crilley). Early returnees were in evidence a mere 3 weeks later: Two Least Sandpipers were at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* PA June 30 (S. Farbotnick), and Short-billed Dowitcher numbers swelled from one to 30 at S.C.M.M. June 29-30 (DSi, F. Mears). But which way was the Solitary Sandpiper headed June 21 in Ashford Twp.,

Cattaraugus NY? (W. D'Anna, B. Potter)—and the Short-billed Dowitcher seen June 15 at Gravelle's Farm on L. Champlain, *Clinton* NY (WK, L. Stevenson)?

Piping Plovers inched upward to 190 pairs on Long Island (MS), perhaps aided by the metal cages used again this year in Babylon Twp., *Suffolk*, to reduce predation. The town offered a \$1500 reward for information regarding the vandalism of 2 of the cages. Piping Plovers had a "terrible season" from Holgate south in New Jersey, where beach erosion pushed them closer to human use. The 4th of July weekend took a big toll. Predation from foxes, gulls, and crows was heavy (DJ). At their last stand in Delaware, C. Henlopen, 11 eggs were hatched, but only one young was fledged (J. Sebastiani).

Three Am. Avocets at the Conejohela flats July 11 provided only the 3rd record for *Lancaster* PA (R. Schutsky, m.ob.). Atlas work turned up 9 pairs of Upland Sandpipers at McGuire AFB, *Burlington* NJ (P. Warren). A careful survey would underline how important airports are to the survival of this species as a breeder in all of this Region, except n. New York State. Migrants peaked at an encouraging 45 at Wilmington Airport July 31 (APE).

Thirty-seven Whimbrels at Jamaica Bay July 29 (*fide* TWB) was almost like the old days. But the best Hudsonian Godwit count was only nine on the Line Is., Great South Bay, *Suffolk* LI (AJL). Only a few single Marbled Godwits were found on the coast; one at the Braddock Bay hawk watch, *Monroe* NY July 27 (BE) was a good record. Ruddy Turnstones remained until mid-June and destroyed every Com. Tern egg at the

Oneida L. colonies (*fide* DC). Two, possibly three, Curlew Sandpipers arrived during the last week of July in the central Delaware marsh pools (Little Cr., Logan Tract, Bombay Hook) that have been for the last 10 or 15 years their most reliable spot in North America. Individuals were also at Brig. (J. Danzenbaker, *fide* JKM) and Jamaica Bay (RJK *et al.*) at the end of July. Buff-breasted Sandpipers showed up all over the place in the last days of July, so early that one wonders about problems on the breeding ground: *Wayne* NY (J. Gregoire); Democrat Pt., *Suffolk*, LI (RJK); Clarksville sod farm, *Burlington* NJ. (WD); along Route 9 and near Dover AFB (DE, B&NM, L. & D. Simonson). About four Ruffs were in c. Delaware (Bombay Hook, Logan Tract) at the end of July (SD, m.ob.), and singles were at Jamaica Bay and at Riverhead, *Suffolk*, LI (†ES).

S.A.

After many tantalizing hints of possible breeding from upstate New York to Delaware, Wilson's Phalarope has finally been confirmed as a breeder in this Region, as foreseen in the spring report. An ad. male and 3 chicks were videotaped June 18 at Gravelle's Farm, on L. Champlain, *Clinton* (WK). The nearest known breeding areas are s. Ontario and, occasionally, the Massachusetts coast. Red-necked Phalaropes were early at Jamaica Bay July 10-11 and unexpected in *Wayne* NY July 27 (J. Gregoire).

GULLS TO SKIMMER

The New York Port Authority continued to shoot Laughing Gulls over the runways at JFK Airport in an effort to reduce aircraft-bird collisions, despite a lawsuit by Friends of Animals against agencies of the federal government. Estimates of the numbers killed this summer varied from 6000 to 10,000 (DR, PAB). Even so, New York's only Laughing Gull colony at nearby Jamaica Bay continued to hold about 6000 pairs (DR). A Laughing Gull on L. Ontario at Charlotte, *Monroe* NY was rare but not unprecedented (RGS).

The only Franklin's Gull reported was an adult at the S.C.M.M., July 12 (DSi, L. Zemaitis, R. Schwartz). Ring-billed Gull continues to expand as a breeding species in c. New York. The colony at Watkins Glen, L. Cayuga, new since the Atlas, was finally successful in its 2nd year, producing 20 young (J. O'Malley), while a first effort at Elmira with about 49 nests on islands in the Chemung R., near the Pennsylvania border,

does not seem to have produced any (D. Russell).

Gull-billed Terns, which have long bred at Brig., did so for the first time in Hereford Inlet, *Cape May* NJ (DJ), while several were present all summer in c. Delaware, where they are uncommon (APE, CDC). Although there was no report of breeding on Long Island, one explored as far as Marshlands Conservatory, Rye, *Westchester* NY July 26 (*fide* TWB). As usual, a few Royal, Sandwich, and Roseate terns hung around Cape May without signs of breeding. Roseate Terns were back up to 1400 pairs on Great Gull I. (HH), likely the largest colony in the world. Another 140 pairs were at several small Long Island colonies. An estimated 19,406 pairs of Com. Terns were on Long Island (MS), 7000 of them at the very successful Great Gull I. colony (HH). The other great colony, at Cedar Beach, ended up with only about one-quarter of its normal nests because of food shortages and predation by squirrels, grackles, crows, gulls, and Am. Oystercatchers (JB). New York's first substantial Forster's Tern colony, in Jamaica Bay, continued for its 2nd year, slightly reduced to 40 pairs (DR). Salt marsh colonies of Common and Forster's terns are "way down" in Delaware, perhaps due to weather, gull predation, and human activity (LG-I). Least Terns seemed to be holding their own on Long Island, with an estimated 3210 pairs (MS). In New Jersey, nests slipped slightly to 754, and a reproduction rate of only 0.46 there was disappointing (JB).

North America's first Whiskered Tern appeared in breeding plumage at S.C.M.M., July 12 (m.ob.) and was seen at Cape May Pt. the following morning and again 2 days later. After a hiatus, it turned up July 19 in c. Delaware at the Logan Tract and was there or along the nearby Pickering Beach Road into late August. Birders flocked to c. Delaware from all over the country and, since the bird was not easy to find, many spent several days in the search. The result was the discovery of many more rarities. A White-winged Tern sighted July 17 (CDC, E. Short, m.ob.) was followed a week later by a 2nd individual (APE, P. DuMont, m.ob.). Some birders had the heady experience of seeing all the world's marsh terns of the genus *Chlidonias* in one binocular field, plausible in the e. Mediterranean but hardly dreamed of in North America. That presumption is strengthened by a 19th century Barbados record, which the A.O.U. Checklist Committee rejected as being "of doubtful origin" (A.O.U. Checklist, 6th Ed., 1983, p.782).

The Whiskered Tern has a broad breeding range from the Mediterranean slope of Europe and s. Russia to China, India, Australia, and s. Africa. Its range is the most

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southerly of the 3 species of marsh tern, approaching North America neither in Siberia nor in n. Europe. Thus Whiskered Tern is the most unexpected of the 3 species of *Chlidonias* in North America. As has been speculated for the White-winged Tern, it is conceivable that this bird consorted with Black Terns in the wintering range in coastal West Africa and returned with them to North America.

Black Tern production was slightly better than last year at 3 sites in *Jefferson* NY under close study by NYDEC. Eighty-six nests there produced at least 60 young; the total breeding population in the state is 250-300 pairs (Bmi).

Black Skimmers had a good year in New Jersey, with nests slightly up, to 838, and a reproduction rate of 1.14 (JB).

OWLS TO SHRIKES

Northern Saw-Whet Owls probably breed more frequently in this Region than we realize. Adults found with fledglings in June at Carverville, *Bucks* (M. Rutbell) continued to spur a series of recent reports in e. Pennsylvania.

Acadian Flycatchers with young were confirmed near their n. breeding limit at Lake View, *Erie* (RA *et al.*) and Van Buren Twp., *Onondaga* NY (DC). A minor flurry of rare midsummer Scissor-tailed Flycatcher records included two for Long Island, at Manorville June 12 (J. Clinton, S. Biasetti, C. Storce) and at East Hampton airport July 25 (K. Sabin); one at Woodbine, *Cape May* NJ July 16 (P. Kosten), and an immature at Bombay Hook July 24 (†G. Scarpula, P. DuMont), garnering Delaware's 3rd record and first in midsummer. Most previous records have typically occurred in late spring.

Delaware's first Cliff Swallow colony, on Route 9 at Taylor's Bridge, *New Castle*, noted in the spring report, swelled to 7 active nests in July (APE). This species continues to spread S and E of its traditional range, making use of concrete bridges.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion seems to be brewing. Yunick banded a record 45 from June into August at Jenny L., *Saratoga* NY. Highly unusual southerly records included 2 locations near Allentown, PA (N. & J. Boter, P. Morris), probable breeding at W. Nyack, *Rockland* NY (I. Bein) and near Swarthmore, *Delaware* PA (NP), several locations in *Cape May* NJ, and "all over" *Burlington* NJ (WD).

Sedge Wrens summered at Buckhorn Island S.P., *Erie* NY (M. Galas, W. Watson); *Onondaga* NY (5 birds, W. Purcell, m.ob.); S.C.M.M. and Jake's Landing Road, *Cape May* NJ (T. Torlach, R. Crossley); and Bombay Hook. They "exploded" along the St. Lawrence R. in the towns of Lisbon, Oswegatchie, and Morristown, NJ, perhaps due to late mowing. Thirteen sites held 32 singing males (REL, D. Prosser, DDiT). Loggerhead Shrikes went unreported this season.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A N. Parula with young observed June 27 in Van Buren Twp., *Onandaga* (M. Rusk) was the first confirmed nesting in modern times in New York away from the Adirondacks for this drastically reduced species. Up to three Yellow-throated Warblers were present in Allegany S.P., NY (L. Holmes), where the first New York nest was discovered in 1984. Cerulean Warblers were confirmed nesting for the 2nd time on e. Long Island (P. Lindsay). A Prothonotary Warbler nest on the *Seneca-Wayne* line June 27 (W. Evans, K. David, NB *et al.*) was n. of its usual limit in c. New York, which is at Montezuma N.W.R.

A Clay-colored Sparrow present in *Franklin* NY in July (T. Hall) suggests further eastward expansion of this recent arrival. Atlasers found 115 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrow at McGuire AFB, *Burlington* NJ (P. Warren), but they were scarce away from such specialized habitats. Henslow's Sparrows summered at 2 locations in *Wyoming* and at one in *Luzerne* PA (WR), but farther east none was reported south of c. New York State, and even there they were missing from familiar areas around Rochester (RGS) and the Oneida L. Basin (DC). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow banded at Manitou June 2 (†R. McKinny) provided the 5th such late-spring record in *Monroe* NY (RGS). A report of a singing male July 8 in Canton Twp., *St. Lawrence* (DDiT) has been referred to NYSARC. A Dark-eyed Junco at Montchanin, DE (H. Brokaw) was unprecedented; some n. breeding areas reported this species to continue in low numbers (RPY).

Following scattered Red Crossbill nestings in New York State reported in the spring report, a pair attempted to breed on the *Wyoming-Sullivan* PA border, the first in n.e. Pennsylvania since 1980 (DB).



Adult Curlew Sandpiper (with Semipalmated Sandpipers) at Port Mahon, Delaware, July 24, 1993.
Photograph/Colin Campbell.

EXOTICS

A Black Swan at Octarara Res., *Chester* PA in early July (Phila. Birdline) and a Chiloe Wigeon at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, *Westchester* NY June 4-6 were no doubt escapes.

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

*Eirik A. T. Blom,
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Rainfall and temperatures were normal in June, but July was hot and dry, with 15 days of 90° temperatures. Reservoirs remained high, so there were few inland places for early migrant shorebirds to stop. Coastal coverage was down from last year's intensive effort, and there were no organized pelagic trips in the Region, although there were several reports from fishing forays. The number of reports always drops off in summer, and this year the excitement in nearby Delaware seduced many local birders. As usual, reports from the VSO Breeding Bird Foray; Bill Williams, who conducts colonial waterbird censuses in coastal Virginia; and Glenn Therres at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, were invaluable.

Abbreviations: E.N.N.W.R. (*Eastern Neck N.W.R.*); P.L.S.P. (*Point Lookout S.P.*); P.N.A.S. (*Patuxent Naval Air Station*).

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Eight reports of summering Com. Loons were slightly above average, with birds seen both along the coast and at a few inland reservoirs. Deal I. W.M.A., *Somerset* MD,

harbors most of the Region's breeding Pied-billed Grebes, with a high count of 56 sighted July 17 (HTA). Elsewhere in the Region they are irregular and ephemeral in summer. Singles, perhaps representing breeding attempts, were at P.L.S.P., *St. Mary's* MD June 6 & 10 (PC); and Myrtle Grove, *Charles* MD June 19 (GJ). One at Wilde L., *Howard* MD July 24 (MC) was almost certainly an early migrant. The latest N. Gannets were 2 at Ocean City, *Worcester* MD June 14 (BD). Unremarkable were the small numbers of Greater and Sooty shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels reported from shore and from fishing trips. None of the reports involved unexpected dates, numbers, or species. Brown Pelicans, now commonplace along the coast, continue to expand in the Chesapeake Bay, with several reports from P.L.S.P. (PC, DL, KR), where they have been rare. At the South Pt. Spoils colony, *Worcester*, 17 pairs fledged 23 young (GT). The big increase was at Fisherman's I., VA. Last year's record total of 102 nests more than tripled to 324 (BW), and on Cheeseman I., just south of the MD/VA in the Bay where last year's single pair (first Bay nests record) became 35-50 pairs fledging 57 young (DB). The annual White Pelican was at Flounder Pt., near Cedar and Metomkin Is. in coastal VA (BW). Double-crested Cormorants are solidifying their hold as breeding birds in the c. Bay. The large colony at Poplar I., *Talbot* MD had nearly 300 pairs and a new nesting location on a small island s. of Barren I., *Dorchester* MD represents the first nest record for the county. There were only two ground nests, but 300 birds were sitting around waiting for next year (GT). Double-crests are beginning to show up as summer birds at a growing number of inland sites as

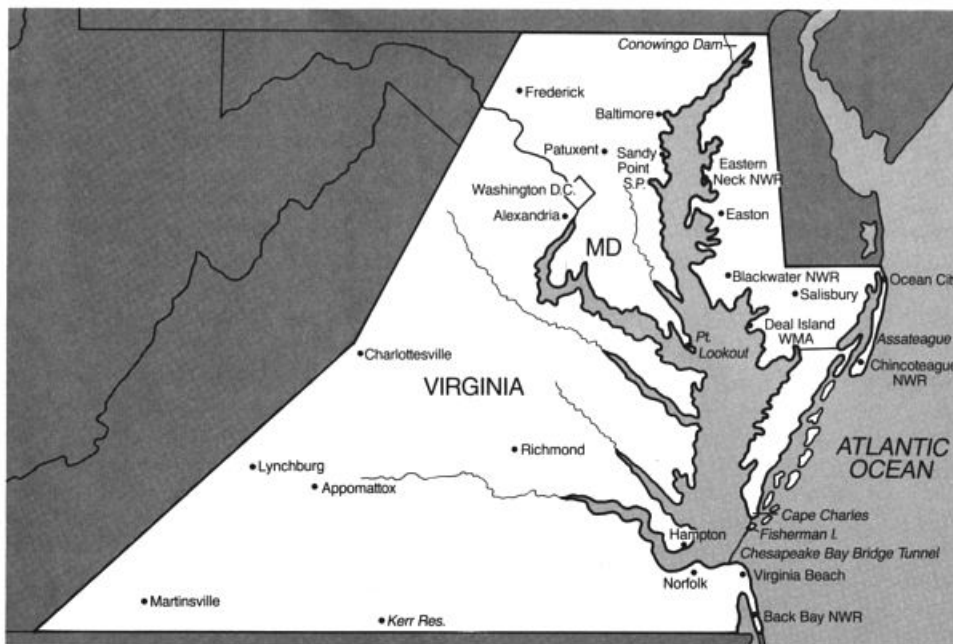
well, although none has been suggestive of breeding yet. This year there were four reports from *Howard* alone (JKS *et al.*). A Great Cormorant in ad. plumage summered at Ocean City (DB). A single Anhinga was at Stumpy L., VA July 10 (MW).

HERONS

S.A.

The big dispersal story was White Ibis, which made its largest late-summer incursion into the Region in more than a decade. A flabbergasting 150 were in the Back Bay-False Cape are of Virginia July 14 (DS), and 40 were inland at Hog I., *Surrey* July 7, all immature birds (TD). A single immature was at Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery* MD July 30 (GG, MO, TW *et al.*). The northward and westward dispersal continued well into August. White Ibis began breeding at Fisherman's I. on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel in 1977, but that small population does not explain this movement.

American Bitterns, rare in summer in the Region, were at Centennial Park, *Howard* July 7-8 (CB), and Deal I. July 17 (HTA), one of the few places they have bred. Great Blue Herons are doing well on the Bay islands. The July 4 tally included 120 active nests on Bloodworth I. and the 18 artificial nest platforms along Fin Cr. contained 2 to 4 active nests each (HTA). The platforms have been in place at least 10 years. There was a slight but significant increase in Great Blues at Fisherman's I., where last year's nesting established the first for the VA barrier islands (BW). Cattle Egret numbers at Holland I., *Dorchester*, were "definitely up compared to the last few years" (HTA), and 90 at Scotland, *St. Mary's* July 25 (PC) was an unusually high number for the Western Shore in recent years. For the 2nd consecutive year, a Little Egret was at Chincoteague N.W.R., VA. First found by Pearce July 24, this bird lacked the nuptial head plumes present on last year's visitor but may have been the same individual in a later stage of molt. It was present through the end of the period (v.o.). Black-crowned Night-Herons continue to decline in *Dorchester*, as they do on the Eastern Shore of Virginia (HTA). For the first time in several years, the dispersal of herons N and W into the Piedmont was substantial.



Great and Snowy egrets and Little Blue Herons were well reported (m.ob.), and a juv. Tricolored Heron at Lily Ponds, *Frederick* July 29–31 (SM, MO, RFR) was a first for the county and the westernmost ever reported for MD.

WATERFOWL

Mute Swans ("sky carp," HTA) continue to increase, with an unprecedented 48 on the Bay islands in *Dorchester* July 4. Of particular concern is their spread into areas such as Adam., N. Pone, S. Pone, and Spring Is., where submerged aquatic vegetation is still doing well (HTA). MD DNR surveys in the core Eastern Shore breeding range of *Kent*, *Queen Annes*, *Talbot*, and *Dorchester counties* this year found 154 pairs, 382 young, and more than 1300 non-breeding birds. The total of 2047 birds compares with 611 found in the same area in 1989 and only 265 in 1984 (GT). A growing number of waterfowl biologists recognize that such growth cannot go unchecked, but public opinion still favors the swans. Another not-quite-native, the Mallard, is also penetrating the Bay islands, with a record 74 in the area July 4 (HTA). The introduced breeding population of Canada Geese shows no signs of slowing down; 105 inland at Lilypons, *Frederick*, was nearly expected.

S.A.

The lingering duck story of the summer was the pair of Ring-neckeds that stayed, and bred, at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, *Anne Arundel*, providing the first for Maryland and the Region (P.W.R.C. personnel). The birds, unenticed and unaided by researchers, were found in an area that had been added to the center when the Army closed Ft. Meade. The male and female were seen on June 11, accompanied by 5 ducklings, and the nest was discovered later among bales of hay on a small island on the pond. The pond is a created wetland, part of a mitigation project, and the bales of hay were in place to reduce sedimentation and run-off. Large numbers of Ring-neckeds winter at PWRC, although not on the pond where nesting occurred. Details will be published elsewhere.

The number and diversity on lingering ducks were higher than usual, as indicated by the following list of birds summering well south of their breeding ranges: ♀ N. Shoveler and ♂ Lesser Scaup at Piscataway Cr., *Prince George's* MD July 18 (PN); a pair of Ring-necked Ducks at a pond in *Howard* late

April to July (MW); a Com. Eider at Ocean City throughout the summer (JR, DB) and another at Poplar I., *Talbot* July 13, where 14 White-winged, 13 Surf, and four unidentified scoters, and an Oldsquaw were also found in July (DB); an Oldsquaw on the Honga R., *Dorchester*, June 22 (*vide* DB); a Bufflehead at P.N.A.S., *St. Mary's* MD June 24 (KR, DL); ♂ Com. Merganser at Triadelphia Res., *Howard* July 5 (NM); a Red-breasted Merganser at P.L.S.P., June 12 (PC, JBo), and another at Cedar I., VA June 22 (JV); and a Ruddy Duck at Chestertown, *Kent* MD July 13 (J&TG). The VSO's breeding bird foray onto the n. necks during the first week in June added one Tundra Swan, a Canvasback, a Lesser Scaup, a Surf Scoter, a Red-breasted Merganser, and a Ruddy Duck (*vide* JD).

RAPTORS TO RALLIDS

Mississippi Kites were again along the Meherrin R. in *Greenville* VA where breeding is suspected, with a high of three sighted June 29 (SA). One seen during a VSO foray near Farnham, *Richmond* VA, was more likely an overshoot (MP). A pair of Osprey nested successfully at Triadelphia Res., *Montgomery* (JKS *et al.*), one of the few recent inland records for MD and perhaps the 2nd for the county. The first ever Bald Eagle nesting for *Howard*, reported in the spring, resulted in one fledged young (JKS *et al.*). The nesting pair at Loch Raven Res., *Baltimore* MD, the first breeding attempt at this inland location, failed (SWS). Fifty-two Bald Eagles (22 adults, 30 immatures) along the Rappahannock R., VA June 2 was an excellent count (JD, BPo). Bald Eagles in Maryland had a slightly below-average season, with 168 young fledged. Most of the failures were attributed to late winter storms (GT). Northern Harriers are widespread uncommon breeders in Bay marshes, but the only report was 6, including a family group, at Deal I., July 17 (HTA). American Kestrels were reported to be in slightly above-average numbers on the Eastern Shore (v.o.). A Merlin reported in late July from the Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R. (BW *et al.*) should have been somewhere else. Peregrine Falcons nested at 8 traditional Maryland sites and fledged 17 young at 6 of the locations, including four from the U.S.F.&G. building in downtown Baltimore (GT). Ring-necked Pheasants are rapidly disappearing from the former breeding range in *Howard* and *Montgomery*, to the point where any report is noteworthy (JKS). By contrast, an increase in reports from the c. Eastern Shore (v.o.) is the result of extensive local releases (GT). Northern Bobwhites continue to decline significantly and are in real trouble in much of

the Region (GT). A Sora found in *Essex* VA June 3 was south of the expected breeding range, but could not be relocated during subsequent trips (JD).

SHOREBIRDS TO ALCIDS

American Oystercatchers declined for the 2nd straight year on the Virginia barrier islands (BW). Black-necked Stilts continue to breed at Deal I., with a high count of 15, including 2–3 juveniles, July 27 (DB). Three at Craney I., VA are also probably breeding birds. Bill Williams reports that winter storms created excellent plover habitat at Cedar and Assawoman Is. on coastal VA, contributing to stable populations of our 2 rarest beach nesting species, Wilson's and Piping plovers. Upland Sandpipers are very rare breeders in the Region, so it was encouraging to hear that one was near Lilypons June 13 (PN), the same site at which one had appeared last year; this was the last known place in Maryland, back in the 1970s, at which regular breeding had occurred. Four there July 31 (RFR) may have been migrants. With high water inland and low coverage along the coast, reports of migrant shorebirds were nearly nonexistent, with no notable numbers reported anywhere. Unusual were single Marbled Godwits in VA at Ship Shoal I., June 21 (BW), Hog I., June 23 (BW), and Craney I., *Portsmouth* June 28 (TD), all at the wrong season to be going in either direction. Unexpected was a report of Long-billed Dowitchers on the beach at Back Bay July 14 (DS).

One of the most exciting and obliging birds of the season was the ad. light-morph Pomarine Jaeger at Beaverdam Res., *Loudon* VA in late July. First found by Larkin July 16, it was present through July 28 and photographed by Abbott July 25 & 26. Patteson believes that inland occurrences may be more frequent than the reports indicate, especially at large inland lakes with few birders. A nearly all-white Ring-billed Gull that hung around Ocean City during the summer (DB *et al.*) was the source of occasional consternation for the unwary. Herring Gull numbers continue to increase; the largest colony ever found in *Dorchester* had 765 birds, including approximately 85 nests, July 4 (HTA), and the colony in Baltimore Harbor, the northernmost in the Bay, now exceeds 500 pairs (DB). The MD breeding population now exceeds 3000 pairs (DB). The only Lesser Black-backed Gull was at E.N.N.W.R., *Kent* July 31 (J&TG). Hart-Miller I., long a centerpiece of these reports, is now dried up, and the summer concentrations of young Lessers must be elsewhere. Laughing Gull populations on the Virginia barrier islands declined for the second year, dropping to just under 7000, down from over 12,000 2

years ago (BW). The species disappeared as a breeder in Maryland in 1991. A first-summer Com. Black-headed Gull was on the beach at Back Bay July 14 (DS). Common Terns continue to decline as breeders in *Dorchester*, with very few found this year (HTA). On the other hand, 97 Royal Terns was the highest in Armistead's 26 years of Bay island surveys. Maryland's only confirmed breeding colony of Royals, at Ocean City, ballooned to 350 pairs, one of the largest colonies ever reported (DB). Least Terns continue to colonize rooftops as natural habitat becomes increasingly inhospitable. About 45 were at an industrial complex in *Harford* MD July 4 (PP), having moved there after the small island they favored had acquired rats (DB), and 22 were over a school roof in St. Michaels *Talbot* June 27 (JR). Brinker reports that in 1986 about 90% of Least Tern nests in MD were on natural sites, but that by this year the pattern is reversed, with more than 90% on rooftops. Increasingly rare, the only Black Tern was near Choptank, *Dorchester* July 8 (DF). Black Skimmers colonized several new sites in the Virginia barrier islands, but the overall totals continued an eight-year decline (BW). This year's winner in the "Gee, I must have overslept" category was a Dovekie off Virginia Beach in late July (BWa).

CUCKOOS TO SHRIKES

After a good spring flight, Black-billed Cuckoo numbers remained slightly above average, but the Yellow-billed totals seemed low (HTA, RFR). For the past few years, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers have been barely hanging on in VA, with all known clans in *Sussex County*, so one in s.e. *Greenville* (SA) was somewhat encouraging, although there have been records of wanderers and no breeding evidence is available yet. Interesting *Empidonax* flycatcher reports included a late Yellow-bellied at Lucketts, *Loudon* June 6 (JA, RA) and an early Least at Beaverdam Res., *Loudon* July 31 (DFA). Eastern Phoebe numbers seemed down this season, raising concern that they may have suffered from the March blizzard (RFR). The first concentrations of migrants Tree Swallows were 250 at Chestertown, *Kent* July 19, with 500 there July 24 (J&TG). This species no longer nests on the Bay islands in *Dorchester* (HTA). Top counts of N. Rough-winged Swallows were from *Kent*, with 200 at Fairlee July 16 and 300 at Chestertown July 24 (J&TG). Also at Fairlee July 16 were 350 Bank Swallows and 200 Barn Swallows. Fifteen Cliff Swallow nests were on a shopping center in Eldersburg, *Carroll* MD this summer (RFR). Migrant Blue Jays are often seen into early June, but two flying over Baltimore June 18 were particularly late (RFR)

Most unusual were 2 summer reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch; individuals at Courthouse Pt., *Cecil* July 5 (PP), and Kiptopeake July 31 (MD). An excellent count of Marsh Wrens was 120 at McGuire Cr., *Richmond* June 4 (JB, TK, BPO). Veeries are uncommon breeders in the Piedmont, but quite a few reports were received, suggesting a possible increase (JH, v.o.). Brown Thrashers continue their downward spiral and were in poor numbers (RFR, MO). The Loggerhead Shrike still teeters on the edge of extirpation; only 2 reports were received this summer, one at Lilypons (BD, PN) and one near Gum Spring, VA June 12+ (BT).

VIREOS TO ICTERIDS

As usual, there were very few reports of land-birds, with the focus on the unusual and the gaudy. Many passerines are declining in the Region but, with the conclusion of Breeding Bird Atlas work in both states, observers are paying little attention to most nesting birds.

A Warbling Vireo noted June 2 at Smith Mt. Landing, *Westmoreland* VA was probably a late migrant (*vide* JD). A Black-throated Green Warbler in *Essex* June 5 (JD, TD) was either extremely tardy or from the tiny population of suspected Wayne's Black-throated Greens breeding in the Region. A pair of Prothonotary Warblers along the Patapsco R. provided the first breeding record for *Howard* (CB, JKS *et al.*). The Grubers noted a few early migrant passerines at their banding station at E.N.N.W.R., including a Wood Thrush July 21 and a Veery July 30, three Yellow Warblers July 21, a Chestnut-sided July 18, an Ovenbird July 18, N. Waterthrushes July 30 & 31, a Louisiana Waterthrush July 18, and an Am. Redstart July 31. Many passerines begin their migration in late July, but these go largely unnoticed by birders. Late spring migrants included a Blackburnian Warbler at Denton, *Caroline* MD June 2 (MN), a Black-poll Warbler on the Appalachian Trail n. of Frederick, MD June 10 (JF), and a N. Waterthrush in *Henrico* VA June 7 (FD). As usual, there were a few Dickcissel reports, testament to the tenacity of a bird that seems destined to vanish from the Region. Singles were near Leedstown, *Westmoreland* June 5 (JD, TD), in *Essex* June 12 (TK), and near Lilypons June 13 (PN). The only concentration was at the Curles Neck Farm, VA June 3–July 16, with a peak of 5 males and 2–3 females June 16 (FD). Rufous-sided Towhees continue to be in low numbers (v.o.). The possible Clay-colored × Field Sparrow near Salisbury, *Wicomico* MD continued to sing a modified Clay-colored song through July 16 (SD). As birders continue to search regenerating clear-cuts in s.e. Virginia, the known range of *Bachman's Sparrow* keeps expanding. Once thought to

be extirpated from the Region, the species has either started to come back or was being overlooked in some areas. This year up to 11 were found in *Nottoway* during May (TO). These birds were almost certainly breeders. Much less expected was the discovery of a few birds in *Caroline* (*vide* TO).

Very rare in early summer was a Lark Sparrow at a feeder in Queenstown, *Caroline*, MD June 9 (DP). The VSO Foray turned up a Vesper Sparrow in *Northumberland* June 2, where it is a scarce breeder (JD). Sixteen Seaside Sparrows along McGuire Cr., *Richmond*, and three near Lewisetta, *Northumberland*, were farther upriver than any reported during the VA Breeding Bird Atlas project (JD); 165 at Deal I., July 17, was an excellent count (HTA). Bobolinks are very rare breeders in the Region, but they returned to the 2 most reliable locations, near Keysville, *Carroll*, where 12 males and 3 females were present June 19 (RFR); and to Fair Hill, *Cecil*, where Henslow's Sparrows were found several years ago. Eastern Meadowlarks, rapidly disappearing from most of the Region, were in low numbers everywhere (v.o.) and apparently no longer nest on the lower Bay islands in *Dorchester* (HTA).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Ricky Davis

Two words could describe the summer of 1993—*hot* and *dry*! In many areas June was the driest on record, and July the hottest. These conditions were generally good for nesting birds but horrible for the birders. Some observers believed that their local birds did not fare well in the heat, but it was more likely that the birders just did not get out as often. Despite the usual mixed reviews regarding nesting success, the consensus was that the season went well. Once again, pelagic birding provided most of the exciting records during the summer. Let's hope that the pursuit of understanding our Regional nesting birds does not take a back seat to chasing rarities over the open ocean!

Abbreviations: C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras); H.B.S.P. (*Huntington Beach S.P.*); S.R.S.S. (*Savannah R. Spoil Site*). Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

A bizarre sight was an alternate-plumaged Com. Loon resting on a canal bank in Alligator R., N.W.R., NC July 14 (HL). The bird must have been sick or injured, as summer lingerers are rarely in this plumage. Another breeding-plumaged summering bird was a Horned Grebe at C. Hatt. Pt., NC (m.ob.).

Pelagic birding brought much excitement with good numbers of most species and several rarities. Black-capped Petrel was recorded off all 3 states, with the best count 212 off Oregon Inlet, NC July 31 (BP, NB *et al.*). A possible record count for Georgia was 112 spotted July 10 (TH). The dark-phase **Herald Petrel** off Oregon Inlet July 31 provided about the 7th record for NC (BP, NB *et al.*). The most exciting reports involved the **Bermuda Petrel**, seen for about 5 minutes by the same group attending the Oregon Inlet foray. T. Hass also observed one off Charleston, SC the same day. In both cases, field marks and flight behavior were reported and, if proven conclusive, will rule out the *supposedly* similar Black-capped. Expect to see more documentation on these amazing sightings later. Shearwater numbers were higher than in past seasons, with 168 Greaters off Oregon Inlet, NC July 31 (BP, NB *et al.*), and record counts for SC of 375 Audubon's and 677 Cory's July 27 (TH). Storm-Petrels were also seen frequently, with Band-rumpeds found on all NC trips. A count of 5 off McClellanville, Aug. 1 (TH) was high for South Carolina. An early **White-faced Storm-Petrel** off Oregon Inlet, NC July 24 (MT *et al.*) was videotaped, demonstrating this species' characteristic flight style. A minimum of six White-tailed Tropicbirds were sighted off NC this season and, not to be outdone, SC had at least 3 reports. One Masked Booby was reported off Cape Lookout, NC in mid-July (SHy, *vide* JF). Three Frigatebirds 30 mi. e. of C. Hatt., June 7 (NB *et al.*) was extremely unusual in that almost all records for NC are from inshore waters!

BITTERNS TO KESTREL

Least Bitterns were reportedly doing fine at several locations, such as n. *Greene*, GA (PS) and Pamlico Pt., NC (JF). Nesting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in the Atlanta, GA area, with 2 young found in each of 2 nests June 6 (JS, CL). Inland wandering herons and egrets were in good supply across the Region, attributed to the good nesting success in most coastal heronries this summer. White Ibises also wandered in good numbers, with Atlanta, GA experiencing an invasion (MO, JS, PR). It is important to monitor roosts of troubled species; therefore, the Wood Stork roost in Jackson, SC at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary has become a key inland site, with up to 24 in late July (AW).

Most unusual among several reports of lingering waterfowl was the Com. Eider that spent the entire period at the tidal pool at C. Hatt. Pt. (m.ob.). Fussell did some field work in and around the Pamlico Pt., NC area in June and found that Black Ducks and Gadwalls are still nesting in this infrequently birded area.

Swallow-tailed Kites were last seen in the Buxton, NC area June 23 (LL, JB), while two along the Great Pee Dee R., *Horry* July 4 were near the n. breeding range in SC (RC, CE). Mississippi Kites were well reported, highlighted by a bird in Chapel Hill, NC July 26 (TH) and a good count of 40 along the Great Pee Dee R., *Marlboro* SC June 1 (LG, JC). The inland nesting Ospreys at Greensboro, NC successfully raised 3 young from 2 nests (HH); an unusual record for the Atlanta, GA area was provided by 2 birds building a nest in early July (JS, BD). At Portsmouth I., Dinsmore photographed a

N. Harrier nest containing 5 eggs, for one of the rarely documented breeding records in NC. He also saw a pair with 2 recently fledged siblings at Pea I. N.W.R., NC in July. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were reported in all 3 states, but the only evidence of breeding was an ad. Cooper's working in tandem with an immature to defend a nest in *Orange* NC (SH). Broad-wingeds are always reported near the edge of their breeding range, but one displaying territorial behavior within the Wilmington, NC city limits June 27 (SC) was definitely out of range. Two Merlins flying by Kennesaw Mt., July 31 may have been extremely early migrants (BD). The only breeding report for Am. Kestrel was of a pair with an immature at the Cherry Hospital grounds in Goldsboro, NC (GH, v.o.).



RAILS TO TERNS

The n. *Greene* GA area hosted King and Black rails during the summer (PS), and Virginias at 2 sites near Atlanta, GA in early June were suspected of breeding (JS, CL). Ten eggs of the Black Rail were discovered in the stomach of a King Snake collected from Piney I., NC. It seems that these birds have many problems to contend with (JG, *fide* JF).

Piping Plovers continue to be monitored along the NC Outer Banks, with 12 pairs along C. Hatt., N.S. and 27 pairs along N. Core Banks (SW, SP, *fide* JF). Black-necked Stilts seem to be doing well, as evidenced by a record count of 250 pairs nesting at Altamaha Waterfowl Area, Darien, GA in June (MH, *fide* JS). Also, 800 birds at S.R.S.S., SC July 22 (LG) is probably a record count for the Region. The Spotted Sandpiper is rarely documented as a breeder in the Region, so the report of 2 nesting records in *Forsyth* NC is of interest. One adult and 2 young, July 31 (RS *et al.*) and a pair with 4 young, Aug. 1 (RB, JM, *fide* RS) were at 2 sewage treatment plants, to mop up first and 2nd county records. Migrant Upland Sandpipers returned to the usual haunts, with one near Goldsboro, NC June 25 (ED) a little early. The only Long-billed Curlew sightings were of one that remained at Portsmouth I., NC June to July (SD). Marbled Godwits are rare inland transients, making one seen near Charlotte Aug. 1 (TP) and one in Goldsboro July 26 noteworthy for NC. Southbound migrant shorebirds returned on schedule to the usual haunts, but a Ruff spied June 17 at Bodie I. pond on the Outer Banks of NC defied categorizing (SM *et al.*). Curlew Sandpipers were recorded twice in July on the Outer Banks as well. There were no early reports of the rarer peeps, such as Baird's. Wilson's Phalaropes were recorded at 2 sites in NC: three at Pea I. N.W.R. in early July, and three at Portsmouth I., July 19 & 20 (SD).

South Polar Skua was recorded twice off NC and once off GA. A light-morph individual was videotaped July 9 (TH). A Parasitic Jaeger was discovered hanging around the C. Hatt. Pt., NC area June 20 (RM *et al.*). Lesser Black-backed Gulls lingered through the summer in NC, with at least 5 birds found along the Outer Banks in June and July (SD). What were three Arctic Terns off Charleston, SC June 18 (ND, EB, JP) doing in Regional waters, at this time? Roseate Tern was found in NC only twice, but the Sooty made news this season at C. Hatt. Pt. Numbers peaked at 5 adults July 27, and hatching chicks provided what is probably the first documented record of nesting success in NC (SD).

DOVES TO THRUSHES

Always worthy of note, a Com. Ground-Dove was detected away from the coast in s

Lee SC July 10 (RC, CE). May observers commented on the above-average numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in their areas, while the Black-billed was reported away from the mountains only twice, with the evidence of breeding. One ad. ♂ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed at the n. end of Ocracoke I., NC June 30, for the only Regional report (SW, *fide* SD). Gray Kingbirds are casual breeders at best in SC, so a pair with an immature in coastal *Georgetown* SC July 13 was of interest (LG). The adults had been present since June. Purple Martins regularly congregate in mid-summer in large roosts, but the one that made local headlines around L. Murray, SC contained an estimated 25,000 birds (LG, RC, CE, JC). Not much to report regarding the breeding success of the thrushes, but an unusual record portrayed a Veery singing and behaving territorially in Fernbank Forest, Atlanta, GA June 18 (GS).

VIROES TO GRACKLES

The disjunct population of Warbling Vireos at Santee N.W.R., SC was still intact this summer, with 3 singing birds present June 5 (LG *et al.*). On a BBS in Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, Lynch noted amazing totals for several warbler species. Counts of 93 Prairie, 70 Prothonotary, and 24 Worm-eating warblers suggest that this coastal area has healthy populations of these birds that are struggling elsewhere. Cerulean Warblers were not reported in NC, but Kennesaw Mt. near Atlanta, GA was home to good numbers, with six to 14 present in late July (GB, BD). Several observers noted that Black-and-White Warblers, Am. Redstarts, and Ovenbirds appeared to be more common than usual in the coastal plain areas of SC and GA. American Redstarts were observed in Francis Marion N.F. in coastal SC, with a juvenile begging for food June 25 (ND, J&SS). Also increasing are Indigo Buntings Regionwide and Scarlet Tanagers eastward. Dickcissels bred in 2 areas: 3 birds near Goldsboro in June (ED, GH) and 6 (including a fledgling!) near Fountain Inn, *Laurens* SC in June and July (TK). A count of 13 Bachman's Sparrows at Merry Oaks, *Chatham* NC July 18 was good for this piedmont spot (RM). Henslow's Sparrow continues to do well at several e. NC sites, with 40 birds at the VOA-B site in Pitt Co. and 17 at the VOA-A site in Beaufort Co., during the period (JW). North Carolina's had its 7th and 8th Shiny Cowbird records: an imm. male at Figure Eight I., June 12 (DC) and a male at Cape Lookout June 10 (SD). In SC the Orangeburg Sod Farm was the site of the county's 2nd record of Boat-tailed Grackle, with a male seen June 1 (RC, CE).

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SPRING 1992

A Cape Verde Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*) was photographed e. of C. Hatt., NC May 24 (MT, BP, HL, RD, m.ob.), providing what should be the first documented record of this form of the "Soft-plumaged" Petrel complex in North American waters. The first spring record of Bar-tailed Godwit was photographed at Portsmouth I., May 8-9 (SD) North Carolina has several fall records, but South Carolina and Georgia have yet to record the species. Most unusual for the Region was a singing Northern (Bullock's) Oriole in a yard near Mayesville, SC May 10-11 (EDa).

FALL 1992

A light-phase Herald Petrel was photographed off Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 8 (BP, AB). Another rare pelagic species, the White-faced Storm-Petrel, was found off Oregon Inlet Sept. 5 (TH). The summer and fall produced a record invasion of Reddish Egrets—10-11 in NC, four or more in SC, and at least two in GA! What's going on with this species? Georgia had its 4th or 5th record of Brown Noddy, one off Jekyll I., Aug. 30 (BD *et al.*). Huntington Beach S.P., SC was the site of a well-seen and photographed Black Guillemot, that lingered from early November until spring (m.ob.). It counted as the first record for the Region, although SC did have an earlier sight record at the same locality in 1975. A ♂ Townsend's Warbler was found at Pea I., NC Nov. 7 (RM) The observer was lucky enough to get photos, which could turn out to be the first well-documented record for the Region. North Carolina had its 5th record of the increasing Shiny Cowbird, with one to two males at a feeder in C. Carteret throughout the season (BE, JF, HHA, m.ob.).

WINTER 1992-1993

South Carolina's first Pacific Loon was found at Huntington Beach S.P., Dec. 2 (DF, RC)—in same month and area as the Guillemot. South Carolina's 2nd Snowy Plover was recorded in January at North I., *Georgetown*

(MS, LG), the same site as the previous year. North Carolina obtained photographic documentation of two rare gulls this winter. An ad. California Gull at the Newport Landfill in late January (SD, JF, JN) would be the state's first (p.a. by the N.C.B.R.C.). A **Mew (Common) Gull** at C. Hatt. Pt., Feb. 19 (SD, JF, JN) furnished the state's 3rd record of this race.

S.A.

Georgia witnessed a humdinger of an influx of wintering hummingbirds in 1992-1993, with all the birds documented by banding (B&MS). Two ♀ **Magnificent Hummingbirds** were found: one at St. Catherine's I., Sept. 14 & 15, and another that settled in Winder November through the winter. One ♀ **Anna's Hummingbird** spent January to March in Walnut Grove. There were two **Black-chinned Hummingbirds**: a male in Fitzgerald in December, and a female in Valdosta December to January. An imm. ♂ (?) **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in Tifton was present October to February. A ♂ **Allen's Hummingbird** stayed in Sandy Springs December to February. The Magnificents, Anna's, Broad-tailed, and Allen's hummingbirds garnered first state and Regional records. At least four Rufous, and the expected Ruby-throateds, rounded out the invasion.

Corrigendum: In AB47: 403, the report of two different "soft-plumaged" petrels off Oregon Inlet, N.C., should be deleted. The birds were not seen well enough to identify to species.

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FLORIDA REGION

*Richard T. Paul
and Ann F. Schnappf*

Throughout the Region, the unseasonable rains of January to April were followed by unseasonable drought in May to July. Colonial waterbird nesting was greatly affected by this pattern in both south and central Florida, but in vastly different ways. In the Everglades, January rainfall exceeding 8 inches ended any chance for Wood Stork nesting and dampened the early efforts of White Ibis and other waders. At Corkscrew Swamp, where 426 pairs of storks had begun nesting in December, the entire colony failed. In the Tampa Bay area, however, early rains "set the table" for improving wetland conditions before the onset of nestling food demands were at their highest; wetland dry-downs ensured favorable foraging conditions into July. Furthermore, the lack of storms minimized "natural" failures of ground-nesting gulls, terns, skimmers, and other species normally vulnerable to flooding. Overall, it was the best year for nesting colonial waterbirds the Tampa Bay area had seen in a decade.

Even the storm of March 13-14 had little long-lasting effect. Winds of 60 to 80 mph or more, tides 5 to 12 feet above normal, and locally severe erosion occurred along a broad portion of the Florida Gulf coast. At Alafia Bank in Hillsborough Bay, 60% of the 280 active Brown Pelican nests were destroyed. Most birds managed to re-nest, however, and Regional population surveys showed no decline. Most other species had not yet begun to nest. Likewise, 70% of the Snail Kite nests on L. Okeechobee were lost in the storm, but the birds re-nested (J.A. Rodgers). Re-nesting was not an option for Bald Eagles; a dip in nesting success was attributed to storm losses. Concern was also expressed for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

As always, this report is an amalgam of breeding records, late spring migrant sightings, and early fall reports. Unfortunately, rigid space limitations have forced radical compression and, too often, omission of noteworthy records.

Abbreviations: A.B.S. (*Archbold Biological Sta.*); C.C.N.S. (*Cape Canaveral Nati'l Seashore*); G.F.C. (*Fla. Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission*); J.I.S.P. (*Jack Island State Preserve*); L.A.S.F. (*Lake Arbuckle State Forest*); M.I.N.W.R. (*Merritt Island N.W.R.*); S.G.I. (*St. George I.*).

LOONS TO PELICANS

Three summering Com. Loons were found, one in the Halifax R. at Daytona Beach June 2 (JD) and two near St. Marks Light July 9 (L&JE). Mid-June brought a remarkable array of pelagics to the Atlantic coast. Counts of shearwaters at Turtle Mound, C.C.N.S., peaked June 16, with 62 Cory's, 20 Greater, and one Audubon's (HR). Many died, with 70+ dead Greaters recovered over the next few days between Cape Canaveral and W. Palm Beach (HK, m.ob.; *several collections). At C.C.N.S. June 18 were 47 Wilson's and 10 Leach's storm-petrels, and one Band-rumped June 16 (HR, HK). Also recorded were an ad. Brown Booby at New Smyrna Beach June 19 and an imm. Red-footed Booby, plus a number of northbound N. Gannets near Turtle Mound, C.C.N.S., June 16 (HR). Did a loop of the Gulf Stream pinch off and wander shoreward, carrying these pelagics with it and starving them as it came?

Forty Am. White Pelicans at Capri Pass June 5 marked the first summer *Collier* record of more than one bird (TB), while 13-16 birds at Mayport Pond June 25-27 furnished the first summer *Duval* report (BR, JW). Some 8866 nesting pairs of Brown Pelicans were estimated in the annual G.F.C. aerial survey in late April, slightly below 1992's estimate of 9335 (SN). Some observers blamed the 50% drop (2000 pairs) in the Tampa Bay area population on excessive commercial bait fish harvest. This year, numbers stabilized and nesting success improved (RLP). The small colony of Brown Pelicans first discovered in s. L. Okeechobee in 1991 was not reported this year.

HERONS TO STORKS

Responding to favorable foraging conditions, heron and especially White Ibis nesting efforts rebounded at Tampa Bay area colonies. More than 8800 pairs of 13 species of heron, ibis, and spoonbill nested at Alafia Bank, and 3000 pairs used the Washburn Sanctuary in Terra Ceia Bay (RLP, AS). These numbers represented increases of 60% and 100%, respectively, over 1992 nesting estimates. At M.I.N.W.R., 2850 pairs of 11 species were found at 12 colonies (BS, DB). Near Marco I., 2250 pairs of 7 species at 5 sites were regarded as an average effort, but nesting success was good (TB). Furthermore, the Rookery Bay roost built up quickly in late July to a high of more than 4400 waders, the most ever recorded there by TB.

About 45 pairs of Reddish Egrets nested in 3 Tampa Bay colonies and one near Clearwater, fewer than expected (RLP, AS), while 17 pairs were at 3 M.I.N.W.R. heronries (BS). Ten Reddish Egrets in the Big Bend area in

mid-July indicated a strong post-breeding movement (m.ob.). Although White Ibis fared poorly in the Everglades, large nesting efforts were reported from 2 areas: Tampa Bay, with 8000 pairs at 4 colonies (RLP, AS), and M.I.N.W.R., with 1700 at 7 sites (BS, DB). At the w. limit of their breeding range in Florida were 4 pairs of Glossy Ibis found nesting in the East R. Pool Rookery at St. Marks N.W.R., July 3 (RG).

A year ago, 999 Roseate Spoonbill nests were found in a survey of all known nesting sites. Of these, 880 were in Florida Bay (RB). This year, no comprehensive estimates were available, but a record 106 pairs were found at 3 Tampa Bay sites (RLP, AS), and 14 pairs at 5 sites at M.I.N.W.R. colonies (BS, DB). Wood Stork surveys by the G.F.C. and collaborators tallied 4400 pairs of storks at 29 sites despite the washout of the Everglades and Corkscrew colonies (JRo).

DUCKS TO CRANES

An apparently wild-plumaged ♂ Muscovy Duck was present May 27–June 6 with a pair of Wood Ducks at A.B.S., an area not yet infected by feral waterfowl (DSt, AB, BP). One N. Shoveler lingered S of Mulberry at the Phosphoria phosphate mine until June 27 (PF), and a Surf Scoter off Alligator Pt. in *Franklin* July 28 provided a rare summer record (GF, RG). Noteworthy duck nesting records were furnished by a Hooded Merganser with 6 ducklings near Wilma, *Liberty* April 13 (JP), and a Ruddy Duck with 7 downy young in an artificial impoundment near Hillsborough Bay May 4 (RLP, AS, ML). Two ♂ Ruddies were seen June 27 in separate *Polk* phosphate mines (PF).

Very scarce residents in s.-c. Fla., a single ad. White-tailed Kite was found in e. *Highlands* June 23 (DSt). Snail Kite nesting surveys in L. Okeechobee and the Kissimmee R. basin produced a total of 202 nests, a nice increase over last year. Nesting success averaged about one young per nest despite the Mar. 13–14 storm, also a healthy improvement (JRo). Bald Eagles continued their remarkable increase, with 667 active territories found this year. That's up 52% in just 4 years! Florida eagles represent 70% of the known breeding population of the southeastern United States (SN). With less fanfare, Cooper's Hawks also seem to be making a comeback. Brian Millsap reported 12 nests found in 4 northern counties in only cursory field effort and opined that "Cooper's are more common than Red-taileds in uplands of

north and central Florida." Several other reports seemed to lend credence to an increase in this species (m.ob.). A dark-morph Short-tailed Hawk seen June 6 and July 15 at Brooker Cr. Preserve, *Pinellas* was probably a resident (DSu, HM), while an imm. Am. Kestrel at Ft. DeSoto July 4 was very unusual (A&RS).

A Black Rail was heard at Paynes Prairie July 10 (RR), where they are rarely detected but are probably permanent residents (BM). Of 14 Whooping Cranes experimentally released in *Osceola* in January, nine had been killed by bobcats by Aug. 1. Pre-release conditioning will be modified to make captive-reared birds less vulnerable to predation. The survivors all used appropriate crane habitat in s. *Osceola*, and three traveled up to 125 mi from the release site (SN).

SHOREBIRDS

The first 2 Snowy Plover nests in s. *Pinellas* "in many years" were watched through the season at Shell Key, Pass-a-Grille, with a high of eight adults recorded July 21 (PB, BA, LH, RS). Nesting pairs were also recorded at Sanibel (DSt, FM) and Dog Is. (DE, LM). Three adults were also reported from the Phipps Preserve, Alligator Pt., July 28 (GF, RG). Piping Plovers spend two-thirds of the year on their "wintering" grounds; early returns included one at Dog I., July 11 (DE, LM), 16 at Three Rooker Bar near Honey-moon I., July 20 (RLP, AS), and 30 more at Dog I., July 22 (DE, LM).

Black-necked Stilts apparently nested successfully throughout the state, as indicated



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by reports from St. Marks N.W.R., Occidental Phosphate in *Hamilton*, Kennedy Space Center, and Tampa Bay (NW, JK, MJB, ML). At St. Marks, where nesting was first reported 3 years ago, 7 pairs were found (NW). Four hundred Willets at Shell Key July 15 was a very high early number (PB), while a single bird flying over L. Lochloosa SE of Gainesville July 27 (RR) marked only the 4th area record (BM). Other early-returning shorebirds included a Whimbrel at Alafia Bank July 3 (AS), single Long-billed Curlews at Alafia Bank July 3 (AS) and Ft. Myers Beach July 25 (NP), 40 Marbled Godwits in Hillsborough Bay July 5 (RLP), and 200 Red Knots at Shell Key July 15 (PB, RS). Single White-rumped Sandpipers at Dog I. were presumably northbound June 6 and southbound July 18 & 22 (DE, LM). A Pectoral Sandpiper on Dog I., July 18 was an unusual coastal find (DE, LM). Seven Wilson's Phalaropes seen July 21 in a spoil disposal lagoon near Gibsonton were very rare for the local area (RLP).

SKUAS TO SKIMMERS

A South Polar Skua found and photographed on the beach near Melbourne June 17 (D. Wilson) furnished the first fully verified Florida record, and 2nd summer report (*vide* BP). Laughing Gull numbers at the big Hillsborough Bay colonies continued their recent slide due to habitat changes (RLP), and the gulls began to occupy new sites. Some 700 pairs nested at Alafia Bank (RLP), 150 at Shell Key (PB), and about 4000 at Three Rooker Bar (AS, RLP). Fifteen "Laughter" nests were found at the S.G.I. Causeway June 1 (JG, EE, HS). Two Great Black-backed Gulls in 2nd alternate plumage summered at Shell Key (PB, BA, LH, RS), and an adult was found at Melbourne Beach July 3 (RLP, LA).

Three nests of Gull-billed Terns,



Present at least April to July 1993 (and photographed here on June 17) was this adult Bahama Mockingbird in Key West, Florida. Photograph/Steve Metz.

rare breeders in the Panhandle, were found at the S.G.I. Causeway June 1 (JG, EE, HS). The largest Royal Tern colony in the state in recent years has annually occurred at Passage Key N.W.R. An estimated 2100 pairs were tallied May 19 (RLP, AS), down about 20% from recent years. Royals also nested at 4 other Gulf coast sites, including Lanark Reef (139 nests June 1 (JG, EE, HS) and Three Rooker Bar (65 pairs July 20 (RLP, AS). Two Royals seen July 9 at Newnans L., e. of Gainesville (RR), provided the area's 2nd summer record (BM). A total of 190 pairs of Sandwich Terns nested at just 2 Florida colonies, both in Tampa Bay (RLP, AS). At least 200 (mostly juvenile) Com. Terns summered at Marco I. (TB, WBU). Another 230 Commons, including just 3 adults, were found on Dog I., July 18 (DE, LM). Eleven reports totaling some 600 pairs of Least Terns from all over the state (m.ob.) defied simple generalization, but the 13 pairs that fledged 11 young from an artificial platform at St Marks N.W.R. (JR, RW) deserved honorable mention. Several surveys allowed possibly the first good statewide estimate of Black Skimmers: about 1800 pairs at 25 sites (JG, JH, RLP *et al.*). More than one-half were at 10 Tampa Bay area colonies. Nesting was highly successful in the latter area for the first time since at least 1980 (RLP, AS), and less so elsewhere (JG, JH).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

Ringed Turtle-Doves at Fernandina Beach have increased from a single pair released 4 years ago, to 15 birds (E. Colborn). A Chestnut-fronted Macaw and two Blue-crowned Parakeets summered in St. Petersburg; the macaw represents an addition to the local exotics list (RS). Mangrove Cuckoos aren't exactly songbirds, but two calling in Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Preserve July 24 charmed even a grizzled field veteran (TB).

Common Nighthawks near Gainesville may be decreasing (BM). Any thoughts, readers? From the Ripley's Department comes the report of a Chimney Swift nest at Edith Miller's Sarasota home. Dislodged by a

mid-June rainstorm, it landed intact in the mouth of the fireplace with the young still in it. The adults continued to feed them until they fledged (*fide* A. Stedman).

Two Acadian Flycatchers seen June 12 at Blackwater Cr. in Seminole State Forest, Lake were at the edge of the known breeding range for this species (L. Malo). Eleven Gray Kingbirds, including several fledglings at Weeden I. State Preserve July 23, was an encouraging find, in view of recent declines in the St. Petersburg area (RS). Only sporadic breeders near Jacksonville, the first pair in some years was seen July 17 with 2 fledged young (JW). Extremely rare in Florida, an adult Fork-tailed Flycatcher was seen July 16 on Buck Island Ranch, Highlands (JF, LC).

JAYS TO FINCHES

Three Scrub Jays near a feeder just n. of Guana R. S.P. in St. Johns July 27-28, constituted the first verified report of this species in the area in many years (*fide* PP). Two Brown-headed Nuthatches made a first-ever appearance at A.B.S., July 7 (AB), and five more were found at Brooker Cr. Preserve, Pinellas July 31 (HK). Sparse breeders in c. Florida, a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers with 2 fledglings was found at A.B.S., June 12 (DSt). Eastern Bluebirds responded well to a nest box project at the Avon Park Air Force Range and adjacent L.A.S.F. Bluebirds occupied 67 of 105 boxes, producing 330 young (D&CF *et al.*). An Am. Robin at Longwood June 23 was very late (JR). Lingering at least through the period was the Bahama Mockingbird present in Key West since April (JOn). Remarkably, this bird was photographed feeding what appeared to be a young N. Mockingbird June 17 (S. Metz).

S.A.

The decline of Black-whiskered Vireos seems to be continuing. None was found (again) during boat surveys in Tampa and Sarasota Bays throughout spring and summer, and only one was heard in Gasparilla Sound June 23 (RLP, AS). Jim Beever also believes that they are becoming scarce in Collier. On the Atlantic side, just one ♂ Black-whiskered was heard singing at J.I.S.P., St. Lucie, where in past years several could be found (JB). We repeat the warnings of past years: *This species is threatened by cowbird nest parasitism. A cowbird control program is urgently needed.*

A high number of 38 N. Parulas was recorded at Saddle Cr. Park July 24, of which one-third were young (PF). Just four territorial

Prairie Warblers were found at Ft. DeSoto in repeated visits, far below numbers detected at the start of the Breeding Bird Atlas in 1986 (RS, BA). Brown-headed Cowbirds, the suspected villains, were seen on each visit. Dog Island's first-ever Prairie Warbler was found July 17, no doubt a migrant (DE, LM). Likewise on the move was the Cerulean Warbler 3 mi s. of Tallahassee July 27 (TM). Swainson's Warblers were reported from 2 sites. One was seen June 5 near Callahan, Nassau—an excellent find (BR). Up to four found throughout the season at the new Steinhatchee Springs W.M.A. in s.w. Lafayette probably nested (BM *et al.*).

Blue Grosbeaks were believed to be nesting at 3 sites this summer in s.e. Highlands, at the edge of their known breeding range (D&CF, B&MK, DSt). Two Shiny Cowbirds, an ad. male and an imm. male, made an appearance at East R. Pool, St. Marks N.W.R., July 10 (NW). Occasional in recent summers, two ♂ Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen June 14 at J.I.S.P. (JB). Their presence may explain the local rarity of Black-whiskered Vireos noted above. House Finches were present throughout the period at the home of James Easterley in Lake City (*fide* JK).

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ONTARIO REGION

Ron Ridout

During the summer of 1993, the province was sharply divided east to west along a line running through Lake Superior. Observers west of this line lamented a second consecutive summer of cool, wet weather and spoke of conditions that were not amenable for breeding success. East of the line, the province experienced very warm and generally dry conditions, which presumably aided many species in recovering from the disastrous breeding season of 1992.

Among interesting inclinations was the continuing increase of breeding records of traditionally "western" waterfowl in southern Ontario. The appeal of sewage lagoons to some species cannot be denied. Sandhill Cranes continued their gradual reclamation of former breeding range in the south, following the path of Bald Eagles, though for different reasons.

Spring's cool conditions retarded north-bound passerine movement in the south, resulting in several very late passage dates. Rarities included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Least Tern, Gray Flycatcher, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. All rarities mentioned in this report are subject to the approval of the Ontario Bird Records Committee.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Pt. Pelee N.P.*); P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Pt.*); L.P.B.O. (*Long Pt. Bird Observatory*); T.C.B.O. (*Thunder Cape Bird Observatory*); Algonquin, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Summering Red-throated Loons were noted in above-average numbers on the Great Lakes. Individuals were seen at T.C.B.O., July 5 & 7 (DS, MD) and at Toronto July 8 (TS) & 20, when 2 birds were seen (RY). The last migrants in the south were singles on L. Ontario at Mississauga June 13 (KM) and P.E.Pt., June 16 (RR). Summering Red-necked Grebes numbered 16 on L. Ontario off Burlington June 24 (RvV). In the north, a record 150 pairs were censused at Whitefish L., *Thunder Bay* July 1 (TR). A Snowy Egret at Rattray's Marsh, *Peel* June 27-28 (DP *et al.*) provided the only occurrence for the period. The Little Blue Heron at Long Pt., June 15 & 29 (DAS) was probably the same individual seen there in May. Two Cattle Egrets were at Hamilton June 16 (BM), and one was seen June 21 at Presqu'ile (KC), where the species has bred in the past. Single Glossy Ibises were at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* June 10-11 (BA, MB) and St. Clair NWA, *Kent* June 18-26 (RB *et al.*).

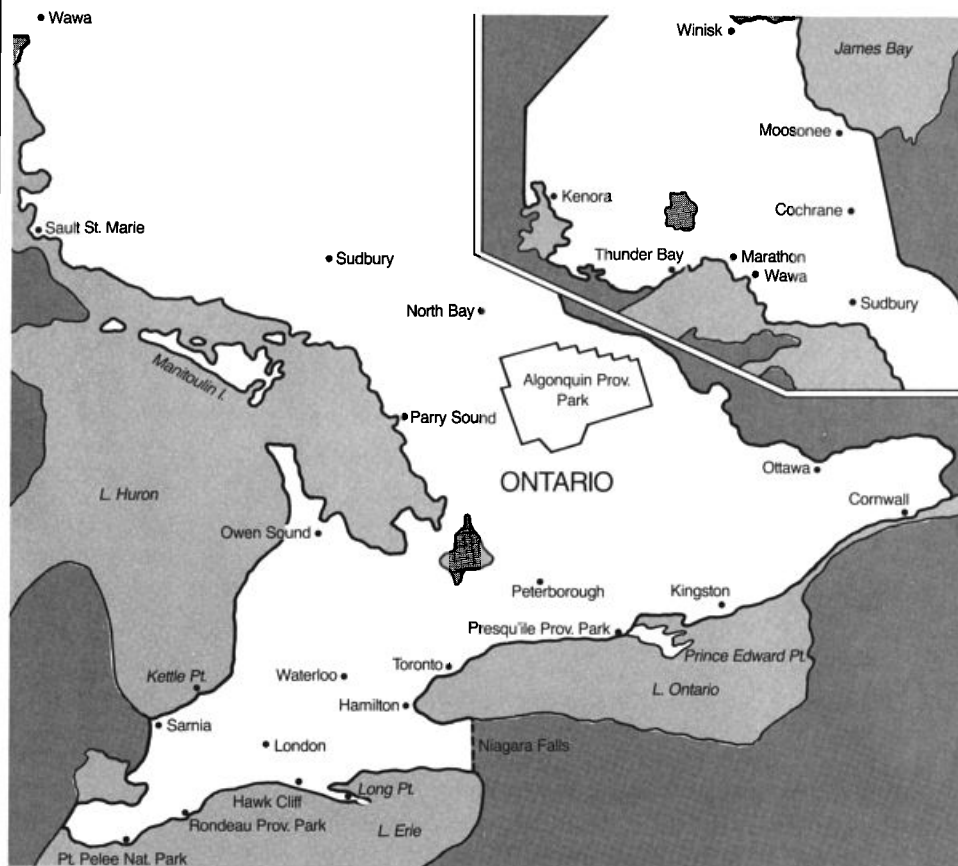
The nine Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks discovered at a sod farm near Blezard Valley June 17 (FM, DK, m.ob.) lingered until July 7, providing a first record for the province.

These were likely the same birds seen earlier in June in Quebec. Brants continued to move through the e. part of the Region into early June; a flock of 24 at Darlington P.P., June 11 (RP) was a good number for the date. Several interesting waterfowl breeding records included a ♀ Green-winged Teal with 5 downy young at Wainfleet Bog June 6 (BF, MJ, RK), one ♀ N. Pintail with 2 downy young at Presqu'ile July 22 (TB), 3 ad. N. Shovelers with 10 young at Wiarion July 14 (JJ), a ♀ N. Shoveler with 7 downy young at Desbarats July 25 (EC, AWa), and a ♀ Am. Wigeon with one young at Hamilton's Windemere Basin July 17 (KM). Two pairs of Ruddy Ducks nesting at Tavistock provided the first breeding record for *Oxford* (JMH). Individuals of various species of diving duck have been known to summer in the south. Noteworthy records this year included a ♂ Greater Scaup at Hamilton June 6+ (KM), at least one of 2 ad. ♀ Lesser Scaup at Hillman Marsh *Essex* June 10 (AW) that was thought to have summered, 2 males at Toronto June 21 & 24 (MM), one at Tavistock July 7 (JMH), a ♂ Oldsquaw at Pittock L., *Oxford* July 4 (JMH), three lingering Buffleheads at Toronto June 22 (HS), and a ♀ Bufflehead at the Nonquon lagoons *Durham* July 10 (RT). Eleven ♀ Oldsquaws that turned up at St. Isidore June 26 (BD) were likely very late spring migrants.

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

One Bald Eagle, of a pair nesting at Owen Sound, carried a patagial tag denoting it as a bird fledged at Long Pt., the first proof that the s. Ontario population is recruiting from its own ranks (*vide* PH). Four pairs at Long Pt. fledged 6 young, the highest total in several years (JM). A N. Goshawk observed at Pinery P.P., July 22 (AR) may have been a local breeder. A Red-shouldered Hawk nest with 3 young found on St. Joe I., June 12 (m.ob.) provided *Algoma's* first breeding record. After several years, the Peregrine hacking program has begun to show results in the province. Of a record 4 pairs with nests in *Thunder Bay* district, 4 of the adults were banded, two from the Ontario program (NE). Lone birds in the south were seen at Tillsonburg June 6 (JMH), Hamilton June 8 (RvV) and July 25 (RD, BC), Purvilleville *York* June 15 (GB), and Wolfe Is., *Frontenac* June 23 (S&AT).

Yellow Rails, in traditional sites, included one in the Richmond Fen June 12 (VL) and observations from





Scissor-tailed Flycatcher east of Terrace Bay, Ontario, June 13, 1993. Photograph/Frank Leppanen.

5 sites in the Rainy R. area June 15 (DG). Always rare in the province, King Rails were noted at Long Pt., July 5 & 12 (DAS); several were heard at St. Clair NWA during the period (JH). Breeding of Sandhill Cranes was finally confirmed at Long Pt. in June with the observation of a pair with flightless young (KBr). Tardy northbound littorals included a Black-bellied Plover at Hamilton June 27–July 1 (KM), Greater Yellowlegs at Aylmer June 4 (DM) and Tavistock June 5 (JMH), a Whimbrel at Pelee June 7 (AW), Ruddy Turnstones at Port Stanley June 26 (SP, LW) and Bright's Grove June 29 (AR), two Semipalmated Sandpipers at Bright's Grove June 27 (AR), and a Dunlin at Presqu'île June 24 (M&JS). A Semipalmated Plover at Russell June 26 (BD) was considered an early fall migrant. Other early birds heading S consisted of two Greater Yellowlegs at Wolfe Is., *Frontenac* June 23 (S&AT), 11 Sanderlings at Pelee July 14 (AW, RC), a record-early juv. Least Sandpiper at Essex July 21 (DC), two Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Erieau July 19 (KB), and an ad. Long-billed Dowitcher at Schomberg July 10–13 (GB *et al.*). Unusual shorebirds included the Am. Avocet found at Holland Landing May 22, which remained until June 2 (GB, JMa), a Willet on Amherst I., *Lennox Addington* July 9 (RE, KE), lone Marbled Godwits at Kagawong June 8 (SM) and Thunder Bay June 8–9 (BA, AH), single W. Sandpipers at Kincardine June 4 (JMc, AM) and Rock Pt. P.P., *Haldimand* July 24 (KR), the Curlew Sandpiper discovered May 30 at Oshawa, which remained until June 3 (m.ob.), and a cinnamon-collared Ruff at Munster July 11 (BS *et al.*).

JAEGERS TO GOATSUCKERS

An imm. Parasitic Jaeger at T.C.B.O., June 3 was an unusual sighting. Laughing Gulls have decreased in the province over the past few years, so one at Blenheim July 9 (KB) was unique. The same can be said for the Franklin's Gull at Pelee June 2 (NS). A juv. Bonaparte's Gull at Pelee July 27 (AW) tied the area's record-early arrival date for young of the year. Sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls consisted of a first-summer bird at

Wheatley Harbour June 19 & 30 (AW) and a juvenile at Long Pt., July 28 (JMH), begging the question: Where are these birds nesting in the Region? Lingered Glaucous Gulls were seen in the south at Fifty Pt., *Niagara* June 15 (RD) and Maple June 18–July 9 (GB). Fifty-two Caspian Terns at the Non-quon lagoons *Durham* July 10 (MB) was a high inland count, while one Caspian at Pickerel L., *Rainy River* July 30 (DS) furnished only the 2nd record for Quetico P.P. The last northbound Arctic Terns moving up the Ottawa R. were six June 1 and three June 6 (BD). An ad. **Least Tern** observed off Wheatley Harbour June 9 (AW) was only the 2nd ever for the province.

Cuckoos occurred in higher-than-usual numbers. In the southwest, Black-billed numbered 30 at Rondeau June 6 (KB, JB, SC) and seven at Pelee July 22 (AW). Yellow-billed were widely scattered across central and eastern Ontario. Great Gray Owl sightings in Algonquin included one adult at Otterslide Cr., July 16 (BN) and 2 juveniles at Dickson L., July 23 (AS, JSi), securing the 2nd confirmed breeding record for the park. A Chuck-will's-widow seen at Long Pt. in June (DB) was believed to be paired with the territorial male found there in May. The male located on Manitoulin I. was last heard July 31 (RTi, v.o.).

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

A walk from Pelee's Visitor Centre to the Tip June 7 netted 6 species of *Empidonax* flycatcher, comprising a record 68 Yellow-bellied and Ontario's 2nd record of **Gray Flycatcher**, which was well observed and documented (†AW). Observations of Acadian Flycatchers included 2 singing males at Pelee June 7–10 (AW, KS *et al.*) & 11 (AW), several territorial males at Rondeau (PAW), 2 males in the Wilson Tract *Norfolk* through June (DAS), and a territorial male in the Black Cr. swamp *Oxford* (JMH *et al.*). The first southbound Least Flycatcher appeared at Pelee June 23 (AW), just 16 days after the last spring migrant. Individual W. Kingbirds were noted at T.C.B.O., June 11 (DS), Heron Bay June 12 (DT), Goulais Bay *Algoma* June 15 (CS), and near Rutherglen June 26 (†RTa). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed along the Prairie R., e. of Terrace Bay June 13 (FL).

Continuing the strong spring passage at L.P.B.O., Bank Swallows numbered in the tens of thousands on several evenings in early July as they flew to roost in the Long Pt. marshes (DAS, RR *et al.*). Barn Swallows attained a maximum count of 2300 at Presqu'île July 19 (SL). Five Blue Jays at Pelee June 16 (AW) were late spring migrants. Red-breasted Nuthatches moving S included record-early birds at Erie Beach June 12 (KB),

Pelee June 16 (AW), and Dorland June 23 (JMH). These may be the precursors of a heavy fall passage. Despite the harsher winter of 1992–1993, Carolina Wrens seemed to hold their own at the n. edge of their range in the province, although no further northward expansion was noted. House Wrens at their n. limit included singles at Matachewan June 10 (LT) and at Algonquin June 24 (MR, MH). In a former low-density area, Golden-crowned Kinglets are on the increase in *Oxford*, with an estimated 30 breeding pairs reported (JMH). As pine plantations mature, numbers of this species should be expected to expand accordingly. A Swainson's Thrush at Pelee July 18 (AW) was a record-early migrant. By July 22, 5 birds had arrived (AW). Reports of N. Mockingbirds continue to increase across the province as far north as Sudbury and Thunder Bay, but one north of Hawley L. on the Sutton R. *Cochrane* June 25 (JT) was a truly outstanding find. Loggerhead Shrikes continued their precarious breeding status in the province with an estimated 50 pairs surveyed during June and July (*vide* O.M.N.R.). The last spring migrant was seen at Pelee June 10 (AW).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

A White-eyed Vireo nest with 4 eggs June 11 (DB, PB) was only the 3rd ever found at Long Pt., where a singing male was observed June 29 (RDM, LE, GG). Five breeding pairs were reported at Pelee (AW, v.o.). A Philadelphia Vireo at Uxbridge June 13 (MB) was somewhat tardy in its northbound migration. The Blue-winged–Golden-winged warbler story continues to ebb and flow across south and central Ontario. Some areas report Blue-wingeds as almost totally dominant, while others see no serious inroads into the Golden-winged populations. At Pelee, a record-late migrant Golden-winged was seen June 2 (KS, AW). The first southbound Tennessee Warblers were three at Pelee (AW) and one at Dorland (JMH) July 17. An ad. Nashville Warbler with a juvenile in the Sweaburg Swamp June 30 (JMH) provided a rare breeding record for *Oxford*. Yellow Warblers began massing for migration with a high count of 300 at P.E.Pt., July 4 (RDW, JE). A singing ♂ Magnolia Warbler at Mud L., *Oxford* June 30 (DBu) furnished a rare summering record. A female at Pelee July 17 (AW) was a record-early migrant. Two territorial ♂ Black-throated Blue Warblers in *Oxford* (JMH) provided isolated records south of their normal range. Three pairs of Yellow-rumped at Presqu'île June 30 (RDM) was a high count. A singing ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler at Long Pt., June 23 (DB, PB) surprised observers. Apparently the bird was passing through, as it could not be found subsequent

to the initial observation. After a 5-year absence of the species, a ♂ Prairie Warbler established a territory at St. Williams through most of June (MSt, v.o.). The presence of a female was not detected. Two Black-and-white Warblers at Pelee July 18 (AW) were record-early fall migrants. A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler at the Black Cr. Swamp in June (RS) provided Oxford's first summer record. A singing ♂ Worm-eating Warbler at Utica June 11 (GS) was the northernmost sighting during the spring. Equally intriguing was a singing ♂ Kentucky Warbler at Fonthill June 12 (RK). Six ♂ Hooded Warblers, three of which were paired, were discovered at Fonthill June 20 (RK, v.o.). Two of the pairs were later found with fledged young. *Hamilton Wentworth* had its first breeding record of Hooded Warbler with the discovery of a nest with 2 eggs at Ancaster July 2 (MG, PC).

A late spring migrant Dickcissel was observed at the tip of Pelee June 4 (L&KS). A male and a female were observed on separate occasions in June near Smiths Falls (RW). This presumed pair was in suitable habitat, but breeding was not confirmed. Another bird was observed nearby at Merrickville June 15 (BB). A Lark Sparrow was found s.w. of Thunder Bay June 10 (JW). A week later, what was probably the same bird was seen a few miles away. Three sightings of ♂ Lark Buntings represent an excellent season's total—one at Kingston June 5 (AV), another at Pelee June 29 (AW), and the latest at Sault Ste. Marie July 25 (GSa). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported widely across their range in the province and appear to be on the increase. Three singing males on St. Joe I., *Algoma* July 25 (AWa, EC) were significantly n.e. of their breeding range. An intensive survey for Henslow's Sparrows in former breeding areas in the province revealed only one pair (L.P.B.O.). The fortunes of this species have plummeted over the past decade, and extirpation seems imminent. A colony of 5 singing ♂ Le Conte's Sparrows at Hilliardton June 12 (WM) was new but well within the species' provincial range. Two

were seen at Burwash Farm, *Sudbury* in July (HB). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the Richmond Fen June 12 (VL) was a late migrant.

Single W. Meadowlarks were observed in June at Bleazard Valley (JL) and in s. *Durham* (BH, AJ). A strong showing of up to 25 pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were counted at the St. Clair NWA in June (JH). The territorial male at Long Pt. remained until the end of June (DAS). Another bird at Kirkland L., June 2 (WM) had ventured even farther afield. A survey of *Bruce* in June came up with about 75 pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds, a strong showing (JJ, DF). Breeding at Pelee were approximately 50 pairs of Orchard Orioles, up from 1992 (AW). Sixty juveniles were counted along Pelee's w. beach July 17 (AW). A pair of Purple Finches nested at Wildwood L., *Oxford*, the county's only known site (JMH). Continuing a good spring movement in the province, 400 Pine Siskins at T.C.B.O., June 7 (DS) was the peak of a strong passage there. Nine Evening Grosbeaks at various spots in *Leeds* during June (N.L.B.) furnished rare summer records. They may be the forerunners of this species' return to s. Ontario after a noticeable absence.

Corrigenda: *AB* 45:440, correct Mississippi Kite at Pelee to read: one adult May 17–18 (G. Catley, A. Sims, T. Osborne *et al.*) and one first-summer immature May 19–20 (K. Thorpe, J. Linder *et al.*); *AB* 45:441, delete Laughing Gull at Pelee May 11; *AB* 46:416, Eared Grebe at Hamilton Apr. 29–May 1 should be Apr. 19–May 1; *AB* 46:416, Eur. Wigeon "singles in the Dundas marsh and area Mar. 8, 26–27, Apr. 5 (N. Murr, RGF, GP)," should read "singles in the Dundas marsh Mar. 8, 26–27 (N. Murr, RGF *et al.*), at Cayuga Apr. 5 (GP)"; *AB* 46:417, Harlequin Duck at Burlington Mar. 8–May 31 should be Mar. 8–May 1; *AB* 46:417, add "for spring" to the record high count of 18 Surf Scoters at Pelee Apr. 25; *AB* 46:419, change location of Blue Grosbeak at Pelee May 16 to Pelee Is. and the total records for the spring to five; *AB* 47:89, change one Black-legged Kittiwake at Hamilton Sept. 5

to three; *AB* 47:89, change N. Hawk Owl at Milton Nov. 11–19 to Nov. 19–25; *AB* 47:90, change Worm-eating Warbler at Pelee Aug 29 to Aug. 29–Sept. 2; *AB* 47:90, change Harris' Sparrow at Pelee Oct. 3 to Oct. 3–4

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It was a fascinating summer, even though many people failed to go afield. The paucity of rarities frustrated some birders, but those who are interested in the ebb and flow of

breeding ranges or in the fluctuation of populations had much to ponder, and perhaps argue about.

The weather was hot and dry. June temperatures were about normal, but July was much warmer than normal, with a 116 day-degree excess at Pittsburgh and 25 days of 90-plus temperatures at Elizabethton, TN. Official rainfall for both months was slightly below normal in Pittsburgh, but what rain occurred was highly localized.

The hot weather seemed to have more of an effect on the birders, who were not very

active, than on the birds. Food crops appeared good despite the lack of rain, and at most places nesting proved successful. In n Pennsylvania, an outbreak of the elm spanworm provided abundant food for nestlings, and the resultant defoliation made the birds easy to see. Gypsy moth outbreaks also occurred. By contrast, insect populations were sorely lacking in the Pittsburgh region, leading to the poor nesting success of several common species (PH).

At Powdermill Nature Reserve, a total of 1325 birds were banded during the period,

compared with a 7-year average of 805. Several species were banded in record numbers for the season, and the number of young birds was high (RCL, RM).

A sample of how many species are in the Region in summer is given by the 108 species counted on the Carter, TN, second annual summer count, and the 132 species listed on the Brooks Bird Club Foray in the Cheat Mountains of West Virginia.

The long-term trend for some so-called northern species to nest farther south or at lower elevations was especially noteworthy this year. The opposite trend for southern species was not as pronounced. The following account deviates from the usual checklist order to emphasize these range extensions.

Abbreviations: Ch.N.F. (*Chattahoochee Natl. Forest, GA*), G.B.W.M.A. (*Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell Co., WV, formerly known as Glenwood Swamp*), G.S.M.N.P. (*Great Smoky Mt. N.P., TN/NC*), P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co, PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO DUCKS

Stray Com. Loons were reported from P.I.S.P., June 26 (LM), Pymatuning L., PA, June 28 (RFL), and Ripshin L., TN, June



13-18 (RMA). Pied-billed Grebes nested at G.B.W.M.A. (WA); one was seen at L. Somerset, PA, July 1 (AM). Up to 30 Double-crested Cormorants were at Meander Res., OH, through the season (NB).

The only Am. Bittern reports came from Conneaut Marsh, PA, June 3 (DB) & 21 (RFL), while Least Bitterns were seen at the same place, July 25 (RFL) and at P.I.S.P., June 6-7 & 16-18 (JM). Great Blue Herons con-

tinue to increase in the Region, with reports from many places, and new nesting colonies reported from Greene (RB) and Butler PA (CBI). A Great Egret at Edinboro, PA, June 2 (JH) was an unusual sighting, but the normal number of reports came in July. The Snowy Egret was not reported, but single imm. Little Blue Herons were found at Bristol, TN, July 9-10 (WC), Lyndhurst, VA, July 29 & 30 (MH, RS), and at least six, including 2 adults, were at G.B.W.M.A., July 27-31 (MG, WA). Immature Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at several places, but no actual nesting was reported. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen in Morgan, TN, June 6 (SSt) and an injured immature brought to a rehabilitation center July 21 came from McDowell WV (*vide* CS). Immature White Ibises were seen at New Hope, VA, July 20-21 (SSp)(3rd county record) and at

McClintic W.M.A., WV, July 12-22 (ph.) (SM *et al.*)

An unusual number of straggler waterfowl was reported. Tundra Swans were seen at Mill Village, PA, June 9 (DP) and at Pymatuning L., PA, June 20-July 25 (m.ob.). At P.I.S.P., N. Pintail (first summer record for the county), N. Shoveler, Gadwall, and Am. Wigeon were all reported in July (JM, DS). Two nestings of Hooded Mergansers were firsts for the L. Arthur, PA, region (GW) and a Com. Merganser near Bartow, WV, in early June (B.B.C.F.) was remarkable.

RAPTORS TO GULLS

Osprey hacking was successful, with six hacked at L. Arthur, PA (PH) and 11 at Blennerhasset I., WV (JE). A White-tailed Kite in Haywood NC, July 23 (N&BS) was a Regional first. In addition to the three Bald Eagle nestings in n.e. Ohio and the two in w. Pennsylvania mentioned in the Spring report, 2 pairs nested in Bath, VA (RS). Individual eagles were reported from P.I.S.P. (JM), Pocahontas WV (B.B.C.F.), Augusta VA (YL), and Rockingham VA (CM). Sharp-shinned Hawks were generally in good numbers, but Cooper's Hawk continues to decline, and the only report of N. Goshawk was of a single in Warren PA, June 22 (CP). Red-taileds continue to do well, but Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in low numbers, except at P.N.R., where they are doing well (RCL, RM). A provocative observation came from Massanutten Mt., VA, where a group of 14 Broad-winged Hawks

S.A.

Northern Species Moving South

Least Flycatchers were found at 3100 ft on Pocosin Mt., VA, for the first records there since 1987 (MS) and were seen on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Botetourt, VA at 3900 ft (KP). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found at 2000 ft in Lycoming PA (SS), at 2000 ft at Michaux S.F., PA (CG, DH), and on a BBS route in Augusta, VA (YL). A stray turned up at Edinboro, PA, June 15 (DS). Golden-crowned Kinglets nested at 1600 ft at P.N.R. (RCL, RM) and were found at Caesar's Head S.P., SC, June 22 (JD). In Pennsylvania Hermit Thrushes were found at lower elevations in: Lycoming PA at 2000 ft (SS), at Michaux S.F. PA, (DH), and at Scotia Barrens, PA (JP). Hermit Thrushes are consolidating their recent incursion into the the highlands of Tennessee-North Carolina with records from Roan Mt. (RK, JD).

Several warblers provided the most interesting records. At least 10 Magnolia Warblers spent their 3rd summer on Unaka Mt., TN (RMA). The Yellow-rumped Warbler continues its rapid range expansion. It was found this summer in new stations in Pennsylvania in Lycoming (SS) and Michaux S.F. (DH). The real prize was the successful fledging of Yellow-rumpeds on the North Carolina side of Roan Mt. (RK), a first for the state and a major extension of the breeding range. Judging from its record in West Virginia, it should soon be found throughout the subalpine forest of the Region. A Canada Warbler was found at 4100 ft on Slaughter Mt., GA, a new location for that state (DF). What to make of this? A singing ♂ Blackpoll Warbler at the Sinks of Gandy Cr., WV, in early June of 1992 was considered a late migrant, but a singing male, possibly the same, spent the month of June this year at the same site (TF, GE).

Pine Siskins were seen on Clingman's Dome, TN, June 22 (JD) and a nesting was observed in July on the North Carolina side of Roan Mt., the 3rd nesting for that state (RK).

S.A.

Southern Species Moving North

Acadian Flycatchers nested in the Scotia Barrens of Centre PA, in atypical habitat, oak-maple with no stream (JP). Northern Mockingbirds nested for the first time in Trumbull, OH (CB), and one was seen at P.I.S.P., July 20 (DS). The Yellow-throated Warbler continues to push N. The species was seen at Irvine, Warren PA, June 1, 30 (DW), and in a Greene PA, BBS route a count of 6 was an all-time high (RB). A Swainson's Warbler at Jefferson Lake S.P., OH, June 29 (NB) was far out of range, but this species has shown a tendency to overfly. A singing ♂ Blue Grosbeak spent the summer near Ft. McCord, PA (CG), and one was seen at an unusually high elevation in Pocahontas WV (B.B.C.F.).

"kettled" to the top of a thermal and then pealed off and headed S in typical mid-September fashion—this occurred July 21 (CM). Explanation, please! There was a report of a Golden Eagle at Massanutten Mt. during the period (*vide* CM).

In Warren PA, the 41 nest boxes containing Am. Kestrels produced 197 eggs from which 141 young fledged, the best year ever for that project (DW, BW). The Peregrines nesting in downtown Pittsburgh fledged 2 young, one of which was killed by flying into a wall shortly after fledging (PH).

A BBS count in Cumberland PA, turned up 14 Ring-necked Pheasants, compared with a previous high of four (DH). Ruffed Grouse appear to be at a high point in the cycle in West Virginia (GB). The N. Bobwhite has all but disappeared from the Region, so the report of two heard in Augusta VA (RS) was welcome news. More intriguing was the one heard on the summit of Roan Mt., TN, in July (RK).

Three pairs of Virginia Rails nested at G.B.W.M.A. (WA), and one answered a tape call in Trumbull OH, June 6 (CB). A late report of a Sora May 8 at 3200 ft in Ch.N.F. (HD) was most interesting, and a brood of young Soras was seen in Crawford PA, June 21 (RFL, RCL). Common Moorhens produced young at G.B.W.M.A. (MG, WA) and at Hartstown Marsh, PA (RFL).

Summering Upland Sandpipers were reported from Cumberland and Adams PA (DH), Somerset PA (AM), and Jefferson OH (MA). A Com. Snipe was found in the mountains of Randolph WV, in June (B.B.C.F.). And a Lesser Yellowlegs was at P.I.S.P., June 16–27 (JM).

A few shorebirds were still moving N in early June, and a Wilson's Phalarope was seen

at Conneaut Marsh, Crawford PA, June 4 (DS). The southbound flight started by mid-July but, except for both species of yellowlegs and Solitary, Least, and Pectoral sandpipers, not much had arrived by the end of the period. Most of the unusual records came from P.I.S.P., comprising Am. Avocet July 19 (JM), Whimbrel July 26 & 27 (JM), Red Knot July 30–31 (JM), White-rumped Sandpiper July 30 (JM), and Stilt Sandpiper July 19 (DS). Other noteworthy records were of a Willet at Cherokee L., TN, July 16 (RMA); Short-billed Dowitchers at Cherokee L., TN, July 16 (RMA), at McClintic W.M.A., July 12–20 (SM, WA) and G.B.W.M.A., July 20 (WA).

A Caspian Tern on the Ohio R. at Blennerhassett I., July 19 (JE *et al.*) was unusual, as was the Com. Tern at S. Holston L., TN, sighted June 28 (WC). Forster's Terns were found at P.I.S.P., June 4 (JM), Pymatuning L., PA June 24 (RCL), and Boone L., TN July 10 (RK). At P.I.S.P., Black Terns were seen carrying food to a nesting site June 6–23. They were not seen later, nor was there evidence regarding the success of the nesting (JM). Black Terns failed to appear this year at the previous nesting site at Hartstown, PA (RFL).

CUCKOOS TO WRENS

Black-billed Cuckoo populations are increasing, particularly in the south. By contrast, the Yellow-billed is generally declining, except where occupied with the abundant gypsy moth in Centre PA (JP).

In line with the usual findings, the only reports of Com. Barn Owl came from Augusta VA (2 sites)(RS) and Elizabethton,



Adult Little Blue Heron at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, West Virginia, July 27, 1993. Photograph/Mike Griffith.

TN (one site) (RK). A Short-eared Owl seen in Clearfield PA, June 21 (PS, GS), was east of the known summer range in the state. Reports of N. Saw-whet Owls from Gaudineer Knob, WV, June 3 (GAH) and Unaka Mt. TN, June 7 (RMA) were noteworthy but not unexpected at those locations. The Whip-poor-will was more widely reported than in recent summers, but it is still a declining species in the Region.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported in above-average numbers. Is this a real increase, or is it an artifact of the prolif-

eration of feeders? The only reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from Augusta VA (MS), and Pocahontas WV (B.B.C.F.). Three to four Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found near Cumberland Falls, Whitley KY, on a summer count, and another was seen at a known colony in Laurel KY, July 22 (*vide* JEI, BM). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested in Elk PA (LC) and in Pocahontas WV (B.B.C.F.).

Most areas reported low numbers of E. Wood Pewees, but Willow Flycatchers are doing well, with generally increasing numbers in the newly established range. At P.N.R. the last northbound Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded June 6, and the first southbound specimen was netted July 31 (RM, RCL). Concern for E. Phoebe numbers after the "Blizzard of '93" turned out to be unfounded, as populations were normal. Both Great Crested Flycatchers and E. Kingbirds were generally in low numbers. Noteworthy was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Whitfield GA, June 17 (JHa *vide* HD).

Tree Swallows continue to do well at the edge of their range, and in Pocahontas WV, they were more common than N. Rough-winged Swallows (B.B.C.F.). The latter species was in short supply almost everywhere. A colony of 40 nests of Bank Swallows was found in Wood WV (JE). The recently established Cliff Swallow colonies in the south continue to grow. For example, one colony in e. Tennessee swelled from 41 nests in 1992 to 71 in 1993 (RK). P.N.R. had 2 new colonies, although an established one had declined (RCL, RM). Reporters did not give much attention to Barn Swallows, but my impression is that numbers were lower than normal.

Brown-headed Nuthatches in Union GA were at a new location (DF). Carolina Wrens came through the "Blizzard" in good shape at most places, although their numbers were below normal on 3 BBS routes in Rockingham VA (CM). The B.B.C.F. recorded a Bewick's Wren on Allegheny Mt. at the Virginia–West Virginia border. Winter Wrens were in good numbers in the highlands, and were nesting at P.N.R. at lower-than-normal altitudes (RCL, RM).

KINGLETS TO FINCHES

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Carter TN, June 13 (GWA, FW) was most probably a late migrant, but perhaps this species, which is not known to nest anywhere in the Region, is the next candidate for major range expansion.

Both E. Bluebirds and Wood Thrushes had an excellent breeding season at P.N.R. (RM, RCL), but most areas reported a disappointing breeding season for Am. Robins, the first nestings having been almost a total loss. Veery populations on a Pocosin Mt., VA, census



Four American Avocets at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, July 19, 1993.
Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

were up 30% (MS). In the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia, Swainson's had the edge over Hermit Thrush (B.B.C.F., GAH, GB). The Swainson's Thrush at Slippery Rock, PA, June 8 (GW) was probably a late migrant.

Gray Catbirds in w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia had a disappointing season (PH, GB, GAH). An Am. Pipit at P.I.S.P., June 1 (DS) was an unusual sighting. Good news for Loggerhead Shrikes: pairs accompanied by young were reported at *Franklin* PA (CG, DH), *Pocahontas* WV (B.B.C.F.), and *Washington* TN (RK); the species was also recorded on a BBS route in *Augusta* VA (YL). Solitary Vireos had a nice showing, found nesting at lower elevations. They nested for the first time in the Scotia Barrens of *Centre* PA, where White-eyed Vireos were also discovered nearby (JP).

Despite recent hand-wringing over the plight of Neotropical migrants, most of the nesting warbler species arrived in good numbers. This was true not only for the lowland species but for the high-country northern forest species as well. At P.N.R. summer bandings of Am. Redstarts, Ovenbirds, and Hooded Warblers exceeded the 7-year average, and the Yellow Warbler population was the highest in several years (RCL, RM). Hooded Warblers were up 24% on a census on Pocosin Mt., VA (MS). Exceptions were Black-and-White Warblers in *Elk* PA (LC) and Yellow-breasted Chats almost everywhere. Sadly, the Golden-winged Warbler apparently continues its march toward oblivion. There were only 2 reports of Prairie Warbler in n.e. Tennessee (RK), and they are almost gone from the Morgantown, WV, region (GAH). In *Centre* PA, low Pine Warbler numbers were attributed to "blizzard" casualties (JP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were abundant in *Elk* PA (LC), and 41 were banded at P.N.R. (average 18.5) (RM, RCL). At State College, PA, grosbeaks were unusually common at feeders, with a simultaneous sighting of 5 males and one female (JP). Indigo Bunting numbers were up by as much as 35% on the Pocosin Mt., VA, census (MS).

A grassland census for *Cumberland* PA, found Savannah Sparrows faring well and

Grasshopper Sparrows slightly sub-par (DH). Savannah Sparrows were at the *Johnson* TN, site for the 3rd year and were found at 2 new locations in the n.e. Tennessee region (RK). The almost vanished Henslow's Sparrow was reported from Dan's Rock, MD, June 5 & 6 (RKi) and from a recovered surface mine in *Jefferson* OH (MA). A White-throated Sparrow at Kingsport, TN, June 6 (AS) was certainly a straggling migrant, but one in *Pocahontas* WV (B.B.C.F.) may have been affiliated with the sporadic nesting population in the Cheat Mts.

Eastern Meadowlarks continue to decline, as told by a n. West Virginia BBS route count of only seven, an all-time low (RB). Welcome news, however, were the reports of near absence of Brown-headed Cowbirds from P.N.R. (RCL, RM), Morgantown (GAH), and a *Greene* PA, BBS route (RB).

Pine Siskins were found in early June in *Elk* PA (LC) and *Warren* PA (DW). Red Crossbills were reported from Clingman's Dome and Newfound Gap in G.S.M.N.P., June 23 (JD); Unaka Mt. (June 7 (RM) and Roan Mt., TN, July 3 & 16 (RMa, RK), and the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia in early June (B.B.C.F.). However, the permanent residents at Shenandoah Mt., VA, were seen only once on 16 visits to the site (CM).

Late Reports: A Franklin's Gull was at Ft. Loudon, Dam, TN, Apr. 24 (AC). A N. Shrike spent the winter at Finzel, MD (DB).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

Weather was the news this summer. Both Wisconsin and Minnesota saw unbelievable rainfall during June and July. Numerous storms would dump as much as 7 to 12 inches of rain, only to be followed a few days later by another wave of torrential rains. Flooding was copious throughout both states, with more than 50% of the counties in both states being declared disaster areas. During July the Mississippi River became the sixth Great Lake, with worse flooding south of the region. Temperatures were cool, with many areas never recording even a single 90° day! By contrast, Michigan's weather was far less extreme. While precipitation was above average in June, it was nowhere near record levels. Rainfall in July was generally below average. Temperature during both months, while punctuated by cool periods, was close to normal.

The effect of the cool, wet conditions on nesting species was hard to ascertain. The high water levels of lakes and wetlands undoubtedly flooded out nests and delayed nesting attempts. The cutting of hay was considerably delayed, which should have aided grassland species. In addition, insects were extremely abundant. However, the excessive mosquitoes made it difficult for many birders as the summer progressed.

This summer proved to be one of the quietest on record. No outstanding rarities appeared Regionwide, certainly a first. The cool spring delayed the expected migrants. The fall passerine migration was also late, perhaps a result of the late nesting season. Minnesota found good numbers of shorebirds as July progressed, but Wisconsin and Michigan had no similar buildup. If you did not bird much this summer because of the conditions, you really did not miss a great deal.

Abbreviations: P.M.S.G.A. (*Pr. Mouillee State Game Area*, MI). County names are in *italics*.

LOONS TO IBISES

Two Red-throated Loons June 28 on L. Superior in *St. Louis* MN were probably late spring migrants (TB). Seven Common Loons were in Madison, WI July 3 (KB), undoubtedly representing wandering birds. A Horned Grebe was present at East Tawas, MI until June 25 (DP). No less than 4 Wisconsin sites had Eared Grebes. They included *Dane* until June 10 (v.o.), *Dunn*

Yellow Rails were found in 3 Minnesota counties, the usual *Aitken* (WN *et al.*), *Cook* with two into early June (m.ob.) and *St. Louis*, with a maximum of 14 (KR *et al.*). Birds called into August in the latter county. Shiawassee NWR, MI recorded its first King Rail with one present June 23 (DP, SL).

SHOREBIRDS

Despite the very poor spring migration, 17 species lingered into June in Wisconsin. The most significant observations included two Whimbrels until June 2 at Mead WA (DB), single Marbled Godwits in *Washington* June 2 (BD) and *Dodge* June 4 (MK), Ruddy Turnstones, Semipalmated and White-rumped sandpipers at Manitowoc until June 22 (CS), a W. Sandpiper in *Oconto* June 14 (JS), and a Reeve at the flooded fields n. of Beaver Dam June 3 (MP). Interesting late spring

migrants for Michigan included a Willet June 5 near P.M.S.G.A. (v.o.), a Whimbrel June 5 at North Pt., *Alpena* (RA), and a Marbled Godwit June 1–10 at East Lansing (RP *et al.*).

The fall migration started somewhat later than usual as migrants commenced appearing from very late June into early July. No Piping Plovers were found in Wisconsin and Minnesota, an indication of the bleak outlook for this species. Single birds were observed at Sangatuck Dunes SP (SM *et al.*) and Tawas Pt. (RW), Michigan. Am. Avocets attempted to nest in *Becker* MN, but the heavy rains flooded out the nest (TWMN). An avocet was in *LaCrosse* WI July 10 (JD), with one at Benton harbor MI July 26 (RS, KM). Willets were found on July 31 in Milwaukee (MK) and *Goodhue* MN (RJ). Michigan totaled 15 birds from 5 sites June 25–July 29, an excellent showing. A Whimbrel was observed along the L. Michigan beach harassed by gulls July 31 in *Sheboygan* WI (D&MB). Five Hudsonian Godwits were in *Yellow Medicine* MN July 18 (HK). Single Marbled Godwits were found at St. Joseph, MI June 25 and July 12–13 (WB, RS). Western Sandpipers were at P.M.S.G.A., July 16–22 (m.ob.) and New Buffalo July 24 (KM).

GULLS TO FLYCATCHERS

Only two Laughing Gulls were found in Wisconsin. The first was at Madison's Nine Springs Sewage Plant June 11–14 (EH *et al.*), while the other was more expectedly at Manitowoc June 28–July 1 (CS *et al.*). One was at New Buffalo, MI June 26 (KM). Only three

where two were present until June 22 (JPo), *Dodge* until early July (m.ob.), and Goose Pond *Columbia*, where 5 adults were found, including a pair that successfully nested (m.ob.). This is one of the few nesting records for the state. It was found at 2 Michigan sites: Muskegon Wastewater System June 13 and July 9–31 (JP *et al.*) and Three Oaks July 31 (WB, RS). The Clark's Grebe that was in *Traverse* MN during May remained until June 8 (PS). Another was seen June 20 on Long L., *Meeker* (AB) for about the 11th Minnesota record. The W. Grebe colony on Diamond L., MN totaled 232 adults/immatures by July 31 (*vide* PB).

Again this summer, Am. White Pelicans were common in Wisconsin. Numbers ranging to 25 were found in 5+ sites, plus an impressive 215 on the Mississippi R. in *Vernon* (v.o.). Michigan had nine July 31 near Rapid River (m.ob.). Snowy Egrets again nested at Green Bay. One was present in Minnesota's *Kandiyouki* during mid-June (SE), with three in *Lac Qui Parle* July 30 (FE). Michigan had one June 12 at the Erie Marsh Preserve (PC, TW), two July 15–29 at the Karn Plant (MW *et al.*), one July 15 at Nyanquing Pt. (MW) and two July 24 at P.M.S.G.A. (MPe). A Tricolored Heron was also at P.M.S.G.A., July 11–12 (m.ob.). Cattle Egrets were found in several Minnesota and Wisconsin counties, with nesting occurring at Green Bay. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen June 5 in *Cottonwood* MN (RJ). Michigan had an adult during May–June 6 at Maple River SGA (m.ob.) while an immature was at New Buffalo July 1 (RS).

DUCKS TO RAILS

Tundra Swans were present at Fish Pt., July 1 (MW) and Nyanquing Pt., July 27 (TW, DC), both MI. A ♂ Canvasback was also at Nyanquing Pt., June 12 and July 21 (RW) with two at P.M.S.G.A., July 3 (JG). Three Greater Scaup summered at Milwaukee (MK *et al.*) with one lingering into June in Oconto WI (JS). Three were at P.M.S.G.A., July 3 (JG). Lesser Scaup were found in 11 Wisconsin counties, several of which had summered. A Harlequin Duck was photographed near Ashland June 28 (*vide* DV) for a rare Wisconsin summer sighting. A tardy Oldsquaw was at Tawas Pt., MI June 5 (MW). Three White-winged Scoters were observed by Weeks June 12, also at Tawas Pt. A ♀ Bufflehead was discovered by Burcar in a flooded field north of Beaver Dam, WI July 18. Single birds were at Nyanquing Pt., June 5 (JS) and Muskegon Wastewater System July 25 (JP). A Com. Merganser lingered through June at Menasha, WI (DN).

The nesting pair of Ospreys in *Winona* was one of the few records s.e. of the Twin Cities (HVA). Also out of range for Minnesota was a nesting pair of Red-shouldered Hawks in *Becker* (m.ob.). Very unusual was an ad. Swainson's Hawk at Wisconsin's Mead, WA July 7 (MPI). Also unusual was an individual in n.e. Minnesota's *St. Louis* that was captured July 8 (*vide* SW). It subsequently died. No less than three imm. Ferruginous Hawks were recorded in Minnesota—June 5 in *Wilkin* (KBa), June 15 in *Traverse* (BF), and June 16 in *Clay* (BF).

Gray Partridge is declining in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Minnesota had only 14 reporting counties, the fewest since 1984.



Franklin's Gulls appeared in Wisconsin, at Madison, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan. Michigan also had three, at New Buffalo and St. Joseph. During the spring Little Gulls were late in arriving at Manitowoc, but the numbers increased during the summer. A maximum of eight could easily be found (m.ob.). One Little Gull was watched and photographed by the Boltes July 23–24 in *Koochiching* MN, and another was seen at Benton Harbor July 31 (RS). An ad. California Gull was watched by Miller June 14 at New Buffalo, MI; this sighting is subject to records committee acceptance. A Thayer's Gull was at Madison, WI July 1 (EH). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Pt. LaBarbe June 30 (JG), while an immature was in St. Joseph June 19 and July 19 (JG), both in Michigan. Glaucous Gulls were found July 1 at Madison (EH) as well as July 10 at Manitowoc (CS). Unusual inland were four Caspian Terns that summered at Madison. A Least Tern was watched by Regan for more than an hour at Green Bay July 7, subject to records committee acceptance.

North of the normal range was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Minnesota's *Roseau* June 26 (PS). Great Gray Owls nested in *Aitkin*, with each of the 2 nests fledging two young (WN). Also in Minnesota, 6 birds were seen in the Sax-Zim bog *St. Louis* (fide KE). The Chuck-will's-widow near Hintz, WI sang until mid-July. Minnesota "logged" its 3rd record of a nesting Three-toed Woodpecker when a logger discovered a nest in an active logging area in *St. Louis* (SS *et al.*). A Black-backed Woodpecker nest was also nearby.

Late spring migrating flycatchers included an Olive-sided June 5 in *Washington* WI (BD) and a Yellow-bellied June 9 in Milwaukee (MK). In contrast was an Olive-sided Flycatcher July 31 in *Rock*, for the 2nd earliest fall date in s. Minnesota (KE *et al.*). Western Kingbirds were found in Wisconsin's *Lafayette* June 8 (KC) and in *Columbia* June 21 (EH). Numbers were down in s.w. Minnesota (m.ob.). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared in Minnesota's *St. Louis* June 10 (TWi) and *Hubbard* July 25–26 (AB, RG).

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

Three Black-billed Magpie nests in Minnesota's *Aitkin* produced a total of 14 young (WN). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in the s. half of Wisconsin, with nesting occurring in Appleton and Madison, and summering birds in 4 additional counties. Brown Creepers also appeared in several s. counties. Good numbers of Carolina Wren continue to be seen in Wisconsin. South of their normal range were Winter Wrens in *Houston* and *Scott*, with evidence of nesting in *Winona* (MCBS), all in Minnesota.

Late migrating Swainson's Thrushes in-

cluded June 6 in *Sheboygan*, WI (D&MB), and June 9 in *Hennepin* MN (DZ). A N. Mockingbird was present in *Watonswan* MN during June (fide ED). The dismal Loggerhead Shrike picture continued as Minnesota and Wisconsin each had only one confirmed nesting. Minnesota had an additional 15 individuals from 9 counties, while Wisconsin had only one additional sighting.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

The White-eyed Vireo was reported in only one Wisconsin county, unusually scarce. Bell's Vireos were found in 4 Wisconsin counties and 1 Michigan county. A very tardy spring migrant was a Solitary Vireo spotted June 6 in *Hennepin* MN (TT). Also late was a Philadelphia Vireo June 2 in *Washington* WI (BD). Blue-winged Warblers continued their range expansion into n.w. Minnesota, as evidenced by one nesting with a Golden-winged in *Becker* (PS *et al.*). Hard to explain was a singing Tennessee Warbler in Wisconsin's *Dodge* June 22 (TS). Fall migrant Ten-



Wisconsin's third confirmed nesting of Great Gray Owl was discovered in spring 1993. This adult was photographed near the nest in Ashland County, Wisconsin. Photograph/Keith Merkel.

nessees included July 12 in *Anoka* (CF), the 2nd earliest date for s. Minnesota, and July 20 in *Portage* WI (MB). A singing Orange-crowned Warbler was in Michigan's *Newaygo* June 12 (SR, BR). Out of range was a Nashville Warbler in *Dane* WI June 3–18 (PA). Tying the latest date for a spring migrant in s. Minnesota was a N. Parula in *Nicollet* June 5 (SC). Another enigmatic sighting was a Yellow-rumped Warbler June 28 in *Stevens* MN (BB). Extending the nesting range for Wisconsin was a Yellow-rumped observed carrying nesting material at Point Beach S.P., July 4 (DN). Late migrating Blackburnian Warblers were observed June 3 in *Murray* MN (ND) and June 11 in *Outagamie* WI (JA). The former was a record late date. Yellow-throated Warblers were again found this summer at Tower Hills S.P. (two) and Wyalusing S.P. (one), both Wisconsin (m.ob.). In Michigan, birds were present until July 20 in *Berrien* and June 23 along the Kalamazoo R. *Allegan* (RS). For the first time in 5 years, no Kirtland's Warblers could be located in Wisconsin. The

picture in Michigan was the brightest since 1961, with 485 singing ♂ Kirtland's Warblers tallied.

The Prairie Warbler present during May in Wisconsin's *Sheboygan* sang well into July (m.ob.). The July 16 Bay-breasted Warbler in Minnesota's *Clay* (LCF) was a record-early fall migrant. Worm-eating Warblers were at 2 sites in *Sauk* WI. Six were found during the summer at *Allegan* SGA, MI (m.ob.). Minnesota had a record number of Kentucky Warbler sightings this spring and summer, with at least 5 individuals. The *Nicollet* bird remained on territory through June 26 (m.ob.). Good numbers of Kentucky Warbler were found in s. Wisconsin, particularly at Wyalusing S.P. Michigan had from at least four 3 sites. Hooded Warblers were recorded in surprising numbers in s. Wisconsin, repeating last summer's picture. The evidence indicates that this species is more common than originally believed. Yellow-breasted Chats were found in 4 Wisconsin counties, while Minnesota had none for the 5th consecutive year.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Summer Tanager was at Ann Arbor June 13 (DC). Schnieder observed a Black-headed Grosbeak June 9 in *Jackson* MN. Dickcissels made what was characterized as an impressive showing in Minnesota, with more than 27 reporting counties. However, Wisconsin numbers were down dramatically. A ♂ Lark Bunting was seen by Bolduan June 1 in *Pope* MN. At least three Baird's Sparrows were present at the Felton Prairie, *Clay* MN, June 26–July 5 (KE *et al.*). Henslow's Sparrows continue to decline regionwide. This is definitely a species that needs to be closely monitored, as do many grassland species. Several Sharp-tailed Sparrows were still singing July 12 at Wisconsin's Crex Meadows WA (TSO). Were they nesting? The July 29 Lincoln's Sparrow in *Hennepin* (SC) was the 2nd earliest fall date for s. Minnesota. Hard to explain were the two White-crowned Sparrows at Michigan's Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory June 30 (JG). A Dark-eyed Junco was at the Mosquito Hill Nature Center July 10 in *Outagamie* WI (JA). No surprise was the confirmed nesting of House Finches in *Douglas*. This now blankets Wisconsin, except for the n.e. forests. White-winged Crossbills appeared during the 2nd half of July in *Douglas* (LS). Far south was a Pine Siskin in Milwaukee June 20 (MK).

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MIDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Kenneth J. Brock

Dick Anderson's explanation for his abbreviated St. Louis-area summer bird report aptly captured the season's picture. The full-page color photograph of the inundated Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area showed only treetops. After a wet spring, the entire Region experienced unusually high precipitation in June. In the western states, July rainfall increased to deluge levels that continued through the month. Accordingly, Iowa, Missouri, and western Illinois suffered the brunt of the flooding. By mid-month, record July precipitation caused swollen rivers to breach levees and inundate floodplains in those beleaguered states.

High waters along major waterways had an immediate and obvious effect on Cattle Egret rookeries and Least Tern colonies along the Mississippi River. Inland effects were more subtle and difficult to evaluate.

Some ground-nesting species suffered measurable declines, and marsh-breeding Forster's and Black terns failed to nest in the Region. However, the relatively late date of serious flooding no doubt allowed may breeders to complete their nesting cycles. Indeed, the greatest impact may be seen next year, when birds return to damaged breeding sites and to less productive foraging habitats.

Abbreviations: I.P.L. Ponds (*Iowa Power and Lights, Pottawattamie Co.*), L. Cal. (*L. Calumet, Chicago*); R.E.D.A. (*Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles, MO*), S.C.R., (*Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

LOONS TO IBISES

As occurs most summers, small numbers of Com. Loon were scattered across the n. states. Pied-billed Grebes did well Regionally, enjoying especially good nesting success in Illinois. A pair of **Red-necked Grebes** observed constructing a nest in a restored wetland w. of Estherville, IA June 9, provided Iowa's first summer record. The nest was abandoned and the site deserted the following day (†BE, MF). Within their normal

summer range, Am. White Pelican numbers were typical, but counts of 30 in *Carroll IL* June 23 (EA) and of 100 at S.C.R., July 24 (RBe) were unusual. Expansion of the Double-crested Cormorant population continued this summer, with 780 nests in one Mississippi R. colony; 55 of the nests were in *Carroll IL*, and the balance across the river in Iowa (LW). Colonies containing more than 200 nests were also reported in Iowa and n. Illinois. Flooding along the Mississippi R. contributed to the discovery of an ad. ♂ Anhinga on Fountain Cr., five mi. s.w. of Columbia, IL July 21 & 23 (†KMc).

Refreshingly, summer bittern reports were not gloomy. American Bitterns were reported in every state except Indiana and Kentucky; nesting was confirmed at Spring Run W.M.A. in *Dickinson IA*, with probable nesting in 4 other Iowa counties (JSc, *vide JD*). Notable among numerous Least Bittern nesting reports was the discovery of 45 nests, each containing at least 5 eggs, at S.C.R., June 9 (JHi, RBe, DE). Great Blue Heron and Great Egret numbers were up across the Region. Snowy Egrets occupied heron colonies in E. St. Louis, IL, and Charleston, MO (at least 20 nests) (RMc).

Little Blue Herons had a successful nesting season; the largest count consisted of about 500 in 4 colonies at Charleston, MO, (RMc). A Tricolored Heron at the Charleston, MO heronry July 30 (BL) provided that state's second summer record. Despite destruction of the *Carroll IL*, colony by flooding, Cattle Egrets fared extremely well in Iowa and Missouri. In s.w. Iowa 1067 were counted at 4 sites in *Fremont (BP, LP)*, and another 1000 were at the Charleston, MO rookery (RMc). A May 27 survey of the Big Marsh Black-crowned Night-Heron colony at L. Cal. yielded 572 active nests (SE); 2 nearby colonies, one among the cottonwoods and the other in at home in the phragmites, were estimated to contain at least 100 additional nests (WM). Another impressive Black-crowned colony, located at



the Louisville (KY) Zoo, contained ca. 200 nests (BM, MS). An imm. **White Ibis**, discovered at Rocky R., *Cuyahoga* OH July 19 (JA, LA, †RHa), provided Ohio's 3rd record.

WATERFOWL TO CRANES

Taking full advantage of high water levels, many ducks lingered within the Region. Notable among these were: an Am. Black Duck in *Champaign* IL July 4 (RCh), an Am. Wigeon at Conneaut, OH July 30 (KM), a Canvasback at R.E.D.A., June 19 (KP), a pair of Ring-necked Ducks at Horseshoe L., MO June 17 (DE, JHi), a Com. Goldeneye at R.E.D.A., June 19 (KP), a Com. Merganser at Rocky R., OH June 5 (RHa), and a free-flying ♀ Red-breasted Merganser in *Nodaway* MO July 29 (DE). The list of breeding ducks included a pair of Green-winged Teal that nested in flooded fields near Fireside, OH (TB), a female and eight young N. Shovelers in Havana, IL June 28 (KR), a brood of three Canvasbacks at Big Wall L., IA July 22 (TK), nesting Hooded Mergansers in every state except Missouri, and a ♀ Ruddy Duck with 6 young at Frontenac Marsh, *DuPage* IL July 24–31 (JM, ph.).

Impressive Black Vulture counts included 50 at Boaz, IL May 22 (VK, TF) and 47 in *Johnson* IL July 6 (JHo). Summer Ospreys appeared in Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio, but nesting was not observed. Raccoon predation at the traditional Brookville Res., IN Osprey nest site resulted in an unsuccessful season (*vide* JC). Among the pioneering Mississippi Kites were a pair observed carrying nesting material at Clive, IA June 19–20 (FC, *vide* †RPi); an adult near L. Ozark S.P., MO June 2, joined by an immature, June 24 (TN *et al.*); a pair summering at Eureka, MO (DC); and 2 adults at Pike S.F., IN Aug. 7 (JDu, SU). Bald Eagles nested successfully in every state. Northern Harriers had a good summer, with nesting reported in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio. Among these, Missouri had the greatest activity, with 6 nests—two located in n.e. *Linn* successfully fledged young from nests separated by only 150 yards (WB). The Regional Red-shouldered Hawk population appears to be faring well; nesting was reported in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Ohio. Adult Swainson's Hawks were observed at the traditional *Kane* IL site in June (RPa) and August (CMc, JMc). In conjunction with the restocking program, Peregrine Falcons nested in every state except Kentucky.

The wet spring and summer apparently contributed to poor Ring-necked Pheasant productivity; the Illinois statewide index was 1.6% below the 5-year mean (LD) and numbers on the *Cherokee* IA Breeding Bird Survey were the lowest in 13 years (DBi). Wet conditions, however, may have benefited

rails; two ad. King Rails with 4 young were reported at Beardstown, IL Aug. 1 (PW), and nesting occurred at Clearance Cannon N.W.R., MO June 8–10 (LM, SHu). Similarly, summer Virginia Rails and Soras were reported in every state except Kentucky. Common Moorhens showed encouraging evidence both in n.e. Illinois, where broods were reported at 3 locations, and in Missouri, where nesting also occurred at 3 sites. Iowa's 2nd and 3rd Sandhill Crane nesting records were established when a nest containing 2 eggs, discovered in *Jackson* Apr. 29, was later destroyed by high water (RR, *vide* LJ), and a young bird was observed with adults at Otter Cr. in late June or July (TK *et al.*).

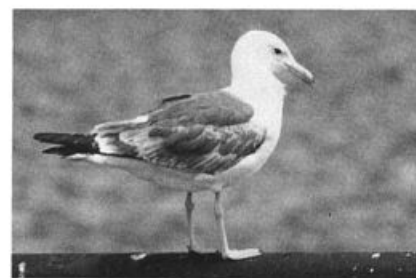
SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

Two midsummer Lesser Golden-Plovers appeared June 26 near Union Slough N.W.R., IA (MK), and a singleton was in *Sangamon* IL (DBo) July 14. Three pairs of Piping Plovers nested at I.P.L. Ponds, producing at least 5 young; 7 adults were seen at that location July 23 (BP, LP). Elsewhere, migrants were seen June 8 and July 22 at Conneaut, OH (JP) and June 30 and July 28 at Decatur, IL (DBo).

S.A.

Accidental less than a decade ago, the **Black-necked Stilt** is clearly expanding into the Region. This summer nesting was reported in 3 states. A June bird, observed feigning injury in s.w. *Jackson* (TF *et al.*), provided Illinois' first nesting record. Kentucky's 2nd Black-necked Stilt, discovered June 6 (MB), at Sassafras Ridge in *Fulton*, proved to be the vanguard of that state's first nesting record. Eight adults and 16 young were observed at that site in late June (BM, MMo, CMS). And in Missouri, 23 Stilts and 2 nests were found on a June 16–17 survey of *Stoddard* rice fields; 30 birds, but no nests, were found July 7 when the survey was repeated (SHu, LM, BJ, JW).

American Avocets were scarce, with only 3 reports involving five birds. Willets on L. Michigan staged their best movement in years, with 20 reported at Beverly Shores, IN June 25 (JWh) and 67 at Michigan City harbor, IN July 9 (SB). The Region's peak Upland Sandpiper count was made at the Joliet Arsenal, *Will*IL, where an impressive 55 adults were seen May 12–14; 18 young were noted in June (BGa). The situation was dismal at the S. Bend Airport, Indiana's premier breeding location, where Uplands failed to nest this year (VR). An ad. Whimbrel was



Lesser Black-backed Gull, apparently in third-summer plumage, on the Lake Michigan shore in Porter County, Indiana, on July 6, 1993. Photograph/Clyde Fields.

seen in Decatur, IL June 25 (†RPa, †MD *et al.*), three were at Headland Beach S.P., OH July 25 (LR), and one was at Lorain, OH July 31 (TL). A Hudsonian Godwit at Ottawa N.W.R., OH June 6 (EP), was an extremely late migrant. Single Marbled Godwits appeared in *Mason* IL June 26 (DBo), at the Port of Indiana July 3 (KB *et al.*), and at Lorain, OH July 31 (TL). A Ruddy Turnstone at the I.P.L. Ponds June 1 (BP, LP) was unusual for Iowa. The summer's only Ruff was reported at Ottawa N.W.R., OH July 12 (TB). A Long-billed Dowitcher found in *Whitley* IN July 18, identified by plumage and call (DB), provided the first well-documented summer record for the state. In n.e. Illinois, summer Com. Snipe records came from Goose Lake Prairie S.P. June 5 (JM) and the Joliet Arsenal June 9 (BGa). The Wilson's Phalarope nest reported at S.C.R. in the spring was ultimately destroyed (DE). A Red-necked Phalarope, seen in Champaign, IL July 31 (RC), provided the Region's only record.

Small numbers of ad. and imm. Laughing Gulls appeared across the Region; most notable was a bird that wandered W to S.C.R., June 9 (JHi, RBe, DE). Expansion of the L. Michigan Ring-billed Gull population continued unabated. In addition to the 10,000+ Ring-billed Gull nests at L. Cal. (JL), new colonies have appeared in n.w. Indiana and n.e. Illinois. Among these, a new site, which contained 20 nests with eggs and young May 15, appeared at Dresden L., in *Will*IL, providing a first nesting record for that county (JM, ph.). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported on L. Michigan, and a 2nd-year bird wandered S to Spfld., where it was seen July 26–31 (DBo). Oddly, no Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from L. Erie.

Summer Caspian Terns were reported from every state except Kentucky; an impressive count of 24+ was made at flooded R.E.D.A., June 10 (BL). Illinois' 3rd **Royal Tern** was observed for three or four minutes at Montrose Beach, Chicago June 18 (†JO, DM). For the 2nd consecutive summer, two **Arctic Terns** appeared in the Region. This



Probably a very early migrant was this adult male Tennessee Warbler captured for banding in Greene County, Ohio, on July 23, 1993. Photograph/Larry Gara.

year's birds, which constitute Ohio's 2nd record, appeared June 5, when 2 adults were identified at Alum Cr. Res., Delaware OH (†BP). Although June Forster's Terns were reported in 8 Iowa counties, none was confirmed to have nested (JD). The Least Tern nesting report was mixed. This species failed to nest at the I.P.L. Ponds (BP, LP), and Missouri nesting sites along the Mississippi R. were disrupted by flooding (JW). By contrast, the Indiana site (in Gibson) had an astonishing 18 nests (*vide* JC). An extralimital first-year Least Tern appeared at L. Cal. July 4–11 (BQ, WM, m.ob), providing a rare summer record for the L. Michigan area. The Black Tern report remained bleak; there were no confirmed nestings in the Region, including the normal breeding areas in Iowa.

CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS

Both Cuckoos were scarce. The Region's only Greater Roadrunner was seen in Stone MO June 19 (TBk). Successful Barn Owl nesting occurred in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri; at least 18 young fledged at the latter state (JW). A dead Long-eared Owl possessing a brood patch was found May 19 in Ogle IL (†MBm, SBm, ph.), where a live bird was seen about a week later. The Region's only nesting Short-eared Owl report came from Franklin IL, where 5 young were seen June 16 (LS). Two Chuck-wills-widows were heard in Adams OH June 26 (JD, SU). An impressive 141 Whip-poor-will territories were located in Sand Ridge S.F., IL June 5–10 (RBj). Low Ruby-throated Hummingbird numbers were cause for concern.

A late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was observed at Cooley L., MO June 5 (MMc) and an Alder Flycatcher, detected on a Lewis MO BBS June 12, established a new late record for that state. It was a good summer for Least Flycatchers. Nesting was confirmed in Champaign IL (†RCh), Pokagon S.P., IN (AS), and at least 5 territories were located at Ravenna, OH (LR). Additionally, for the 2nd consecutive summer a Least was recorded in Missouri; a singing Least was detected on a BBS in Sullivan June 11 (SHe). Indiana's first nesting Western Kingbirds

successfully fledged 4 young just w. of Kingsbury W.M.A., in s. LaPorte (BGr, m.ob. ph.). July 25, when the family group was discovered, fledglings could barely fly; they remained in the area for several weeks. An extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared at Perks, IL July 10 (†CMc, JMc, ph.). The only sizable swallow accumulation consisted of at least 1200 Purple Martins in Chicago July 10 (JL).

NUTHATCHES TO VIREOS

Out-of-range Red-breasted Nuthatches were recorded at 3 locations: a nest was discovered in Pokagon S.P., IN June 15 (AS), one was seen near Iowa City, IA June 29 (JF), and a singleton was at Shades S.P., IN July 20 (AB). Brown Creepers likely nested at 3 Mississippi R. Valley sites in Iowa (JD). The Region's only Bewick's Wren report came from Havana, IL June 19 (KR). Sedge Wrens did well this summer with encouraging reports from every state except Kentucky; the peak count was 15 males in Boone IL July 22 (ABr, MR). Golden-crowned Kinglets nested successfully in Medina OH (RHa), providing that state's 2nd confirmed breeding record. A very late Ruby-crowned Kinglet migrant was observed at Spfld., June 1 (DBo).



Cassin's Sparrow in Whitley County, Indiana, on June 13, 1993. Second state record. Photograph/Jim Haw.

The verdict for Veeries? Abundant in Ohio, as evidenced at Ravenna (LR), and also by deft detection of a nest in Clinton (a significant finding for that location) (LG). A singing Hermit Thrush, heard near Indiana Dunes S.P., July 11 (SP, JO *et al.*), provided Indiana's first July record. Northern Mockingbirds continued their push northward, with 4 young seen June 1 and 3 eggs discovered June 11 at Braidwood in n.e. IL (JM, ph.), as well as 5 observed in Lagrange, in n.e. Indiana, June 19 (Haw, DR). Loggerhead Shrikes did extremely well in Illinois—18 nests were reported. The most productive location was the Joliet Arsenal, where 9 young fledged (BGa). Extralimital Bell's Vireos were logged at Buck Creek S.P., OH June 6–12, when two males were discovered (DO). A Solitary Vireo, discovered at Cooley L., June 5 (MMc), constituted only the second summer record for Missouri. A singing Solitary was

observed feeding a fledgling Cowbird in Brown S.P., IN June 26 (JD, SU); previous nesting has occurred at this site.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Nesting warblers were generally recorded in good numbers across the Region. A Golden-winged Warbler at Urbana, IL July 16–28 (†EC), was most unusual. July 23, a Tennessee Warbler was banded and photographed at Spring Valley Marsh, OH (LG), providing one of very few summer records for Ohio. Also out of place was a Nashville Warbler in e. Will IL July 7 (†JM). Northern Parulas were believed to be expanding in Wyandot and in Seneca OH, where 6 birds were found along the Sandusky R. in late June (TB). A Yellow Warbler was discovered in Hopkins, KY June 2 (JHa), where this species is quite rare locally. Observations of ♂ Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported for 2 Missouri sites: in Spfld., June 7–8 (SD) and in Morgan June 28 (JW). Most remarkable among a number of summer ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler reports were: Missouri's third summer record which was found near Otterville, MO June 11 (SHa) and a singleton in Will IL June 21 (JM). The Region's breeding population may be centered in Mohican S.P., OH, where 33 Black-throated Greens were counted July 3 (LY). The latter site also yielded two Blackburnian Warblers July 3 (LY), and the nesting of this species was confirmed in Medina OH June 9 (RHa). Prairie Warblers appear to have established a foothold in s.e. Iowa where several observers reported birds in the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F., where a pair was noted June 24 (JF). A first Hooded Warbler breeding record for Will IL was established when a nest containing 3 eggs was located June 30 (JM, ph.). Farther east an impressive 10 Hoodeds were counted in Salamonie Res. S.F., June 22 (Haw), suggesting that this species is flourishing along the n. borders of its range.

Summer Tanagers spent the season in Indiana Dunes S.P. (CF), well n. of their normal range. Blue Grosbeaks continued their northward expansion, with reports beyond the n. periphery of their range across all the n. states. Three June Dickcissels at Oak Openings, OH (MA), constituted a good local record. Bachman's Sparrows were restricted to their normal range in s.w. Missouri (Ozark and Taney), where at least 3 pairs successfully fledged young (RCb). Indiana's 2nd Cassin's Sparrow was discovered in Whitley June 12, a location only 60 mi from the site of the state's previous record. The bird, which was singing and apparently on territory, remained until June 16 (JMo, †Haw *et al.*, ph.). Lark Sparrows returned to their traditional nest site in Oak Openings, OH and were seen June 16 (RHa). Henslow's Sparrows received positive commentary



Yellow-headed Blackbirds nested for the first time in Will County, Illinois, where this male was defending fledged young on June 6, 1993. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.

across the Region. A ♂ Henslow's was detected in Cook IL June 6 (WM), 15 singing males were heard on Tucker Prairie, MO June 11 (PMc), nine were counted at the Ravenna Arsenal, OH July 3 (LR), and a singleton in Marshall IA June 10 (MP, *fide* JD) occupied a new site. In Ohio, summer White-throated Sparrows are generally restricted to areas along L. Erie; consequently, the singing bird discovered in Holmes July 15 was noteworthy (EY, BGI).

The Region's easternmost W. Meadowlark was recorded in Holmes OH June 5-6 (RY, ES). Yellow-headed Blackbirds established a new n. Illinois breeding site in Will, where a nest containing 4 eggs was located May 16 (JM, ph.). An extralimital Yellow-headed was recorded in LaPorte IN June 1 (DP).

Great-tailed Grackles expanded into the Red Tail Ridge area of Cherokee IA, where a nest containing 3 young June 4 was subsequently destroyed (DBi). A nesting colony farther s. at Horseshoe L., MO comprised more than 200 Great-taileds June 24 (DE). House Finches are completing their invasion of the Region with expansion into Spfld., in s.w. Missouri (*fide* JW). An ad. Pine Siskin with a brood was seen in late June in Glenwood, IA, for the Region's only breeding record.

Corrigenda: The Black-necked Stilt reported in Chicago, Apr. 22, 1992 (AB 46:430), was actually seen in North Chicago (Lake IL). The Chestnut-sided Warbler at Joliet, IL June 8, 1992 (AB 46:1143) was a personal first, not a first-summer record for Will.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Robert D. Purrington

The season was one that will be remembered, at least by Louisiana observers, more for an event that occurred just after the season's end, and several thousand miles away: the death, in Ecuador, of Ted Parker, August 4. Anyone who birded with Ted knew of his great gifts as a field ornithologist, but Ted was far more than just the sum of these. He will be sorely missed as a scientist and as a human being.

As is sometimes their wont, observers in the Region failed to provide much information on the effects of weather, rainfall especially, on nesting. Often the causal relationships are obscure, but at least one ought to have the meteorological data at hand when trying to understand the patterns that developed. This is especially true this year, when the author of this report had been abroad during the entire nesting season. But proceed we shall, noting merely the heavy rains of the midwest that led to record floods on

the Mississippi R., as well as very dry conditions along the Gulf coast. In Birmingham, for example, July registered a temperature excess of about 120°F and a precipitation deficiency of more than 4 inches, and the weather was hotter and drier than normal in Nashville. There was no tropical weather.

Abbreviations: M.F.W.C. (*Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Com.*); N.W.R. (*Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*).

I. NESTING, RANGE EXTENSION

GREBES TO EGRETS

Pied-billed Grebes are known to breed sparingly along the coast, as buttressed by the observation of six (2 adults, 4 juveniles) in Iberville LA July 8 (CGB). Seven Neotropical Cormorants in Acadia and Vermilion July 31 (MMS, CAM), were substantially inland of their normal coastal nesting areas. A persuasive description was submitted of a single adult in Lake June 19-20 (JRW, m.ob.), which would constitute the first Tennessee record. Photographs showed a small, long-tailed cormorant and the drawing submitted represented the shape of the gular pouch well. Several records of Anhingas from Hempstead and Lonoke AR (HP, MP, MH—

total of 9) and Okitibbeha, Noxubee, and Grenada MS (TS, MC, GK, PH—8) added to knowledge of their status as somewhat scarce breeders in n. Mississippi and Arkansas. Other records from Shelby and Lake TN June 12-July 24 (JRW, JH, KJ, PH, DJ) involved at least 6 individuals. While a single Snowy Egret in Marion AR May 6 & 8 (DM) did not in itself suggest nesting, a series of sightings in Okitibbeha and Noxubee MS June 8-30 (TS, MC), totaling 15 individuals did. There has been no known nesting since the 1970s. A concentration of more than 1200 Little Blue Herons in Washington and Humphreys MS July 17 (GK, SK) seemed to consist entirely of adults. Unusual records of Tricolored Heron included two in Lauderdale TN June 10 (CHB, LVZ, MGW, VBR), two in Noxubee MS June 25 (TS) that apparently included one fledged young, and 2 near-coastal, but inland, records July 31 in Acadia LA (CAM, MMS) and Adams MS (TS). Cattle Egrets had a banner year in n. Mississippi, with perhaps 4000 pairs nesting at Noxubee N.W.R., representing the first breeding there (TS, MC), and about 2400 pairs re-establishing a colony on the Ross Barnett Res. in Madison, which had been abandoned in 1986 after M.F.W.C. cut back vegetation (DW, m.ob.).



DUCKS TO HAWKS

The only reports of nesting Blue-winged Teals came June 19 from *Lake and Dyer TN* June 19 (JRW), when 72 were counted along the Great R. Road and July 6–Aug. 5 from *Benton AR* (MMI), where a female apparently succeeded in raising 7 young. Records of Am. Swallow-tailed Kites included 14 seen on a 22-mi trip by canoe on the Pascagoula R. below Merrill, MS (BR, MH) and 12 adults along Whiskey Bay Road in the Atchafalaya Basin, LA June 26 (DLD, SWC). While a single Mississippi Kite near Starkville June 4 (TS) was locally unusual, counts of 79 along a 30-mi. stretch of the Mississippi R. levee in *Washington and Bolivar MS* July 18 (GK, SK), 40 feeding over fields near Ocean Springs, MS July 14 (KH), and 21 in *Adams MS* July 31 (TS, MHu) represented good numbers of probably post-breeding/migrating individuals. Thirteen seen earlier on a 22-mi canoe trip on the Pascagoula R, in *George MS* (BR, MH) were more representative of breeding density. Numbers reported from W. Tennessee included 49 June 5 in *Lake* (WGC) and 28 June 10 at LH N.W.R. (*vide* MGW). The only report of Bald Eagle was of an adult seen at Sardis L., MS June 31 (VT). Two reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks, June 2 in *Lafayette MS* (GK) and June 20 in *Pope, AR* (PR) were very interesting, in view of the fact that the species is not known to breed in either state. Records of single accipiters June 1 & 30 and July 5 in n.w. AR (MMI) were thought to be of Cooper's Hawks, which are scarce nesters in the state. Of 4 reports of Ospreys from inland Tennessee and Alabama, 2 clearly

involved the possibility of nesting: One June 2 in *Williamson TN* (SJS), which was an odd time and place, but the Osprey is increasing as a nesting bird in middle Tennessee (*vide* SJS). Another was seen carrying sticks in *Morgan AL* July 9 (SM). The other records were of one in *Shelby, TN* June 13 (JRW), and two at Reelfoot L., TN June 29 (WGC).

PLOVERS TO DOVES

Remarkably, in view of the pressures of civilization, and the resultant lack of undisturbed sand strand habitat, Snowy Plovers still breed on West Ship I., MS, where 5 birds were found during the summer, including one nest with 2 eggs (BR, GH). Pairs of Am. Oystercatchers, which also have to contend with recreationists sharing their breeding habitat, were seen on Petit Bois I. and West Ship I., MS, both during the first week of June (BR, GH, SF). There were inland records of Black-necked Stilts in *Adams MS* during July, with 10–15 nests (RA, NH) and as many as 47 July 31; records came from *Ponte Coupee* and *St. Landry LA* (CGB, TGH) totaling 11 birds, and two each in *Monroe AR* June 17 (RHD) and in *Poinsett AR* July 18–22 (MH, HH). The discovery of an ad. Spotted Sandpiper with three "two-thirds-grown" downy young in *Williams June 8* (SJS) represented one of only a few nesting records for the Nashville area. Least and Gull-billed Terns continued to nest on shopping center rooftops in the New Orleans area, along with Black Skimmers. Interior Least Terns, which nest on sand bars on the Mississippi R., had poor nesting success because of the season's extraordinary

high water. Some birds apparently moved from islands in the river to nest on land along the river, with some success. One in *Colbert AL* June 20 (SM) was unexpected at this inland location. Far from the Chandeleur I., LA nesting colony was a Sooty Tern found dead on Rutherford Beach, *Cameron July 11* (SWC, DLD, PG). Although the only report of Collared Dove was from Reserve, LA, where up to three were seen (RJS), they continue to be present in extreme s.e. Louisiana, without showing much sign of growing in numbers. White-winged Doves, which have nested only in the Louisiana delta, as far back as the 1970s, are becoming increasingly regular in the town of Cameron (DLD, SWC). Inca Doves also persist in small numbers in s.w. Louisiana, as evidenced by two individuals in separate locations in *Cameron, July 10 & 11* (SWC *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS TO WAXWINGS

An E. Wood-Pewee heard intermittently during June and July in New Orleans (DPM) provided only the 2nd summering record s. of L. Pontchartrain. According to James and Neal (*Arkansas Birds*), Willow Flycatcher is now at best a scarce breeder in Arkansas, which gives importance to one found calling repeatedly in Benton, AR July 4 (MMI). Although nesting of Least Flycatcher has not been confirmed in Arkansas, a total of three in song in the vicinity of Scotland, *Van Buren June 30* (TBW) raised that possibility. A single Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that exhibited nesting behavior on the Nicholls State campus in Thibodaux during the 2nd half of May (RSB, MR, GW) was far E and S of its normal summering range in Louisiana; several were noted on a BBS census in *Independence AR* June 21 (HP, MP). Also noted on a BBS route were seven Tree Swallows in *Desha AR* June 1 (HP, MP), which probably were nesting locally; several in *Maury TN* June 7 (SJS) were significant in view of recent declines in nesting. By June 15 about one-half the 400 Bank Swallow nesting holes at a site in *Lauderdale TN* were occupied (CHB, MGW). Nesting of Cliff Swallows in *Clay MS* June 6 (TS) and in *Cameron LA* July 4 (RJS, MW, JB) was suspected, but not confirmed, and the same was true of a Sedge Wren in *Lake TN* June 26 (JH, DJ, JRW). House Wrens, which are very rare nesters in n.w. Alabama, were seen with young in a wren box June 11 in *Colbert* (PK, SW, WB). The first summer and breeding record of E. Bluebird in *St. John LA* was of five (2 adults, 3 immatures) there in July (RJS). The 5 reports of Cedar Waxwings from n.w. Arkansas June 9–July 10 were probably all of breeding birds. Actual nesting was confirmed in *Franklin* June 19–July 2 (two adults, four immatures) (JT, MR) and

in *Pope* July 5 (PR). There was a single record from *Morgan* AL July 9 (SM), of a bird presumed to be nesting.

COWBIRDS TO CROSSBILLS

Bronzed Cowbirds have apparently expanded their breeding range in Louisiana to the north of L. Pontchartrain, where for the first time an ad. male was seen in summer, June 18 and July 1 in *St. Tammany* (HLP); sadly, numbers continue to increase in the New Orleans area. There were 5 reports of House Finches from Louisiana, where the species has now begun nesting (MJM, DF, HLP). Gene Knight reported at least 6 nest sites, all in hanging ferns in *Lafayette* MS June–July. Although Red Crossbills occasionally summer in Arkansas, there is apparently still no nesting record. Similarly ambiguous was this year's record of an individual seen in *Clark* June 5 (HP, MP).

WARBLERS TO SPARROWS

Although a singing ♂ Yellow Warbler found at Ft. Chaffe, AR June 6 (MMI) was in an area of the Ozarks where it is an uncommon



The smaller of these two birds [found June 19, 1993, in Lake County, Tennessee] was identified as an adult Neotropical Cormorant. If accepted, this would furnish a first state record. Photograph/J. R. Wilson.

breeder, four singing ♂ Chestnut-sided Warblers in clear-cut areas at about 2000-ft elevation in *Pope* during June and July (PR) represented the first summer record for Arkansas and perhaps the entire Ozark region. Also unprecedented were 12–14 singing ♂ Black-throated Green Warblers, plus 3 females and at least 5 juveniles, in *Pope* June–July (PR *et al.*); another male was recorded in *Pope* July 8 (MWh). There were no previous nesting records for Arkansas. Twelve in a well-known breeding site in *Putnam* TN—among the westernmost in Tennessee—June 10 (SJS, JLL) represented a high number for that locale. Although Cerulean Warblers are known to breed in the Arkansas highlands, a total of 20 singing males, many with mates, in *Polk* near Pelsor June–July (PR) was significant. Despite the fact that a Swainson's Warbler at Noxubee N.W.R. June 27 (TS) was regarded as unusual for the 7 county area of N. Mississippi regularly birded by Schiefer, one

guesses that it would turn out to be regular in good habitat. Since Dickcissels breed only sparingly and erratically in s.e. LA, four territorial males (and one female) at the Bonnet Carre Spillway during July (RJS) were of interest. While a singing ♂ Rufous-crowned Sparrow on Magazine Mt., *Logan* June 7 (WMS, RO *et al.*) was in its traditional location in Arkansas, two in Pinnacle Mt. S.P., *Pulaski* AR Aug. 5 (MWh) represented perhaps the easternmost U.S. record. Single Lark Sparrows showed up in *Noxubee* and *Lowndes* MS June 5 (TS, MC), the latter record involving an adult with 5 eggs in the only known regular nesting area in the state, and a pair apparently raised young in *Lawrence* AL based on sightings of May 20–July 4 (SM); the species is at best a rare breeder in the Tennessee Valley. According to Schiefer, it appears to nest only in the Black Belt Prairie region of Mississippi. Territorial Grasshopper Sparrows, which also seem to be confined to that region of Mississippi (plus the Delta) were recorded on a BBS route in Monroe, MS June 6 (TS, MC—2) and on the Mississippi R. levee in *Bolivar* MS July 18 (GK, SK—3), as well as in Arkansas near Eudora June 7 (DRS, CS) and in *Lake* TN June 26 (JRW). Stedman encountered the species on several BBS routes in middle Tennessee. A possible breeding pair of Song Sparrows, including a singing male, was noted on a BBS route near Wilson, AR June 22 (HP, MP).

II. MIGRANTS, NON-BREEDERS, POST-BREEDING WANDERERS

LOONS TO HAWKS

A Com. Loon in *Panola* MS June 1 (GK) was perhaps the same bird present in spring. Also out of season, though not unprecedented, was an imm. N. Gannet seen over the gulf off *Cameron* LA July 11 (DLD, SWC *et al.*). A White Pelican in *Baxter* AR July 31 (DM) was reported as a very early fall migrant, but 200 the same day in *Adams* MS (TS, MHu) were merely noted as a large concentration for an inland Mississippi location in summer. There were reports of Magnificent Frigatebirds from *Cameron*, LA July 4 (RJS, MW, JB) and July 10 & 11 (DLD, SWC *et al.*); the species is scarce in s.w. Louisiana. Among herons and allies that dispersed away from coastal breeding sites were 75 Great Egrets at Sardis Waterfowl Ref., July 23 (VT, GK), an early White Ibis at Noxubee N.W.R., June 25 (TS), another in *Dyer* TN July 13 (WGC), eight and 45 July 17 and 21, respectively, in *Grenada* MS (GK, SK, PR), one in *Shelby* TN July 24 (JRW), and another at Decatur, AL the next day (SM). Glossy Ibises in *Lake* and *Dyer* TN June–July (WGC) were also far

from coastal breeding locations, as were two imm. Roseate Spoonbills in *Adams* MS July 31 (TS, MHu). The Region had a near-explosion of Wood Storks, with 12 reports totaling more than 1000 individuals sighted June 6–July 31, at *Acadia* and *Vermilion* July 5 (GB, JD, DMa, PM) & 20 (SWC, DLD) and a month later DP, CAB, ph.), at *Pointe Coupé* LA July 13 (CGB, TGH), and at *Adams* MS July 31 (TS, MH). A single bird in *George* MS June 6 (BR) was apparently the earliest ever for S. Mississippi. Records of lingering waterfowl included ♂ Gadwalls in Maury, TN June 7 (SJS) and in *Benton* AR during July (MMI *et al.*), a healthy Canvasback in *Lauderdale* TN June 26 (JRW, ph.), a non-flying Ring-necked Duck July 11 in *Jefferson Davis* LA (SWC, DLD), and records of Ruddy Ducks that consisted of two on Robco L. in *Shelby* TN, where some summer regularly (but do not nest) and 14 in *Humphreys* MS July 17 (GK, SK). The only report of non-breeding raptors was of a Swainson's Hawk in *Benton* AR July 11 (MMI).

SHOREBIRDS

Shorebirds figured prominently among non-breeding birds, with 30 reports received. These include, at least in principle, both northbound and southbound migrants and non-breeding lingerers whose destination or direction is unknown (perhaps to the birds as well). Among these records are a Black-bellied Plover June 10 & 15 in *Dyer* TN (WGC); a Semipalmated Plover in *Lake* TN July 8 (WGC), early for W. Tennessee; an early Piping Plover in *Benton* AR July 4 (MMI); a Greater Yellowlegs in *Shelby* TN July 3 (CHB, RDH, PM, MGW), also early; three late (early?) Lesser Yellowlegs in *Benton* AR June 20 (MMI); and Willets near Kingston, AR June 21 (PR), in *Benton* AR July 5 (MMI), and at L. Millwood, AR July 24 (CM). An Upland Sandpiper was in *Benton* AR on the early date of July 2 (MMI), a Whimbrel was seen in *Lake* TN on the unusual date of June 1 (WGC), a Marbled Godwit was also unexpected in the rice fields of *Acadia* LA July 31 (CAM, MMS), and single Sanderlings were noted in *Tallahatchie* MS July 26–27 (GK, SK, PH), in *Benton* AR July 27 (MMI), and in *Acadia* LA July 31 (MMS, CAM). Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Starkville MS June 10 (TS), the latest there by 10 days and in *Acadia* LA July 31 (CAM), while an early Least Sandpiper was seen in *Benton* July 1 (MMI). Up to 17 northbound White-rumped Sandpipers were in *Shelby* TN June 5/6 (JRW), single Baird's Sandpipers were there June 5 and July 20 (JRW), clearly moving in opposite directions, a full alternate-plumaged Dunlin was seen in *Vermilion* July 31 (MMS, CAM), and a Buff-breasted Sand-

pipec recorded July 22/23 in *Lafayette* MS (GK, VT, PH) provided Oxford area's 2nd July record. Common Snipes in Shelby June 10 (JRW) equaled the earliest ever record for E. Tennessee; the first 2 July records of the species for the n.-c. MS/Oxford area consisted of one in *Lafayette* July 23 (GK, PH) and two in *Tallahatchie* July 26 (GK, SK). Records of Wilson's Phalarope included one at Reelfoot L., TN July 8 (WGC), five in *Benton AR* July 25 (MMI), and a total of three July 26-27 in *Tallahatchie* MS (GK, SK, PH), for the first July record. Worthy of separate note, perhaps, were a record of Long-billed Dowitcher July 6 in *Benton AR* (MMI), which was regarded as some two days early, and another in *Tallahatchie* MS July 26 (GK, SK), which was the first ever for July there. *Benton* is, of course, in far n.w. Arkansas.

GULLS TO SISKINS

An ad. jaeger seen soaring over the Decatur boat harbor for about 5 minutes June 20 (SM, PD) represented only the 2nd inland record of any jaeger for Alabama. Although a number of details indicated Pomarine, a definite identification was impossible. A Bonaparte's Gull in *Shelby TN* June 1 (JRW) possibly represented the first June record for the state, while a Ring-billed Gull at Sardis L., MS June 22-23 (GK, VT, PH) provided the 4th July record for that area. Two imm. Lesser Black-backed Gulls, perhaps molting

out of first-winter plumage, were seen in *Lafourche* June 27 (DPM, MM, ph., NN, RDP); there are only a handful of June records for Louisiana. All other larid records were inland: three Caspian Terns in *Benton AR* on the early date of July 8 (MB, MMI), Forster's Terns July 12 & 22 in *Lafayette* MS (VT, GK), the 3rd and 4th July records for the area, and Black Terns in *Shelby TN* July 11 & 24 (JRW), in *Baxter AR* July 18 (DM) & 26 in *Tallahatchie* (GK, SK). Perhaps the bird of the season was an ad. ♂ **Magnificent Hummingbird** in *Clark AR* July 18 (DH, DIH, WG, HF, CM, ph.), furnishing the first record for Arkansas. Taken together, the 10 photographs by Charles Mills submitted to the writer are definitive, with one showing the bird's purple crown. An ad. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird in *Benton* July 18 (MMI) was distinctly out of season. But the fully ad. alternate-plumaged ♂ **Chestnut-collared Longspur** on Rutherford Beach, Cameron, LA July 11 (SWC, DLD *et al.*) provided what is presumably the first record for the Gulf coast in summer; this find demonstrates that *anything* can happen. Similarly out of season, if substantially less exotic, was a Pine Siskin at Malvern, AR June 28 (HP, MP), securing the 2nd June record for the state.

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolph F. Koes and Peter Taylor

Only a few warm, sunny days punctuated a cool, wet summer across the southern half of the Region. Conditions were drier in the north, and many forest fires broke out in northern Saskatchewan and northwestern Manitoba in June. Bonnie Chartier made us envious with her report of an "incredibly beautiful summer" at Churchill. Although we were not inundated as badly as parts of the American Great Plains and the Midwest, flooding was locally severe in July and early August. According to one insurance adjuster, Winnipeg received a century's worth of lousy weather in just 5 weeks. Some species suffered a devastating breeding season, especially in southern Saskatchewan. Birding was lackluster.

Abbreviations: L.M.L. (*Last Mountain Lake, SK*); O.H.M. (*Oak Hammock W.M.A., MB*).

LOONS TO FALCONS

An ad. Pacific Loon graced Charron L., AB July 2 (BRp). Common Loons occupied new territory, nesting at Nickle L. near Weyburn, SK (NP) and in new irrigation reservoirs near Brooks, AB (*fide* WS). Also unusual were Red-necked Grebe nests in Regina (BD *et al.*) and near Taber, AB (LB). One Great Egret visited Delta, MB July 31-Aug. 1 (*fide* VF), and single Green Herons were noted near Luck L., SK June 5 (FR), Regina July 17, and St. Adolphe, MB June 20 (AC).

A Trumpeter Swan was well seen at O.H.M., June 10 (RP, LS, ASk). The largest group of Snow Geese summering in the

south comprised seven at O.H.M., July 20 (Rko); most surprising was an unconfirmed report of nesting Snow Geese near Melfort, SK (*fide* FM).

A ♀ Wood Duck entered a nest cavity at Moose Mountain P.P., SK June 9 (FR). Saskatchewan's Cinnamon Teal population was far below last year's census, with all of 4 birds reported (all by BL); a single ♂ Cinnamon Teal visited St. Alphonse, MB July 1 (PGr, DBo, MS). No Ring-necked Duck broods could be found in e.-c. Saskatchewan (BL), but at least 15 broods near Pinawa, MB in July (PT) was a normal total. Eight White-winged Scoters at Delta July 13 (*fide*

S.A.

After 5 consecutive years of poor productivity, the fortunes of Swainson's Hawks plummeted further in most of their Saskatchewan range. The number of pairs was down, half of them were not even trying to nest, and most that did try retained just a single young by early July. The ratio of 1.27 young per successful nest was the lowest in 30 years of banding records (SH); a key factor in the decline is the extreme scarcity of Richardson's Ground Squirrel (SH). Ferruginous Hawks also suffered about 50% nest failure in Saskatchewan (CB), whereas N. Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks appeared to manage rather better.



A peak concentration of 1000 Ruddy Turnstones, 500 Red Knots (a provincial record total), and 300 Sanderlings was exceptional at Delta June 2 (PGr *et al.*). Saskatchewan's first confirmed Least Sandpiper nest contained 4 eggs near Close L., SK June 24 (WH, DWe). Single ♀ Red Phalaropes were found near Elk I., AB July 2 (AH) and Willingdon, AB July 8–10 (BRr, BCa *et al.*).

A delightful story of chumming by canoe came from Lac la Plonge, SK June 10. A Pomarine Jaeger was eventually coaxed into snatching food from an outstretched hand (RWA, BK). Guess who wished he'd packed a camera? An unidentified jaeger visited Beaverhill L., AB June 16 (BCa). As usual, Churchill dominated the rare gull scene. Highlights were one Little Gull June 18 (PL), a California

VF) was an interesting booty. Do they signal the recovery of lost breeding territory in s. Manitoba? A successful Bufflehead nest at Moose Jaw, SK (DCe) was 150 mi from the nearest known breeding population. A ♀ Hooded Merganser with downy young was a rare find at Waterton Lakes, AB June 22 (CG).

Some Rough-legged Hawks lingered well into June s. of Regina (CB, PGe), and one was seen at Nokomis, SK July 27 (RL). Three pairs of Golden Eagles nested in the Swift Current Cr., SK area (FR). Peregrine Falcons raised one young at Brandon, MB, a site of recent releases (*fide* RWi).

RAILS TO WOODPECKERS

S.A.

Sad news continues for the Burrowing Owl in Saskatchewan, its last Canadian stronghold. It may be the beginning of the end, some observers fear. Returning pairs were down by at least 50% in the Regina–Moose Jaw area (PJ). Elsewhere, most observers reported none or only isolated pairs. For those that did nest, the cool, wet weather resulted in very heavy nestling mortality (*fide* RKr).

Many Piping Plover nests were flooded in Saskatchewan; 90% of eggs at Diefenbaker were lost as lakewater rose in late June (FR). An agitated pair of Lesser Yellowlegs near Camper, MB June 28 likely nested nearby (KG). An impressive 1280 Hudsonian Godwits were at Luck L., July 24 (FR). High

counts of Marbled Godwits included 1000+ at Bassano, AB June 20 (JR), 430 near Lost L., AB June 27, and another 100 at Stirling L., AB July 4 (LB), and 92 near Camper, MB June 28 (KG).

S.A.

How did passerines fare in this cool, wet summer? For Tree Swallows, the answer is unequivocal: very poorly. From Saskatoon, veteran observer Stuart Houston wrote: "We have never seen anything like it! Box after box after box filled with dead young." An amazing total of 28 ad. Tree Swallows cooperated to feed one family of surviving young; five or six were seen at several other nests (SH). Only 28% of 137 monitored nests near Saskatoon were successful, down from normal values well over 70%. More than 50% of Tree Swallow nests in the Edmonton area were wiped out as well (SJ). Earlier-nesting Mt. Bluebirds avoided the killer spell in late June, and did much better with a slightly depressed 61% success rate in the Saskatoon area (SH).

It is much harder to assess most other passerine species; perhaps future BBS reports will bear the summer's imprint. Many Saskatchewan observers noted reduced numbers of W. Kingbird; also reported was abandonment of nesting territories in June. Fall migration was well under way for many passerines at the Delta banding station by the end of July (VF); noteworthy totals included 18 Swainson's Thrushes July 24, 15 Tennessee Warblers (all adults) July 17 & 21, and 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks July 31.

Gull (only the 2nd for Churchill) June 20 (JK, ph.), up to four Ross' Gulls in June, and up to 18 Sabine's June 17–24 (m.ob.). An Arctic Tern was closely compared with a Com. Tern at the n. end of L.M.L., June 1 (RKr).

A Band-tailed Pigeon visited Edson, AB July 28 (*fide* PM). At least two Yellow-billed were at the scene of last year's sightings at Coulter, MB June 18–July 18 (Rko, GG *et al.*), raising suspicions of nesting. A red-morph E. Screech-Owl's late-morning bath was interrupted by mobbing Com. Grackles in Winnipeg June 6 (JI). And, despite the milling (m.ob.) scene near Churchill, in the face of constant harassment by birders and photographers, N. Hawk Owls fledged 3 young; 2 other nests were rumored. A Boreal Owl was calling at 11 a.m. June 20 at Narrow Hills P.P., SK (TH). Up to 11 Black Swifts were seen through the period in the Mt. Lorette–Ribbon Cr. area, AB (PS), and five Vaux's Swifts were counted over Waterton townsite, AB June 5 (DBa, DD, DWA). Unusual woodpeckers were one Red-bellied at Woodmore, MB June 8–July 3 (HB, *fide* DH) and a nesting pair of three-toeds near Elkwater (CG *et al.*). A Black-backed Woodpecker at Churchill June 18 (PL) was the first reported there.

FLYCATCHERS TO FINCHES

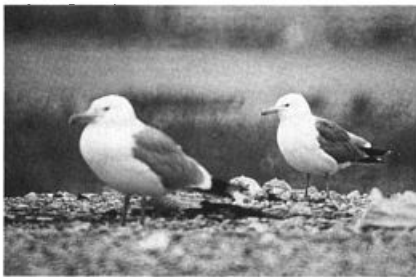
Several flycatchers appeared beyond their normal range limits: three W. Wood-Pewees near Carberry, MB in June (GH) and two near Camper, MB June 28 (KG); a Willow Flycatcher at Poplar Pt., MB June 13 (Rko); Say's Phoebe nesting at the ghost town of Mowbray, MB (DS, *fide* AC); single W. Kingbirds at Vegreville, AB June 9–10 (RH) and Beaverhill L., AB June 28 (BCa); and an

E. Kingbird at Churchill June 11 (*fide* BCh). A count of 35,000 Tree Swallows at Delta July 19 (*fide* VF) was an impressive peak, but not a record.

Brown Creeper nests were found at Churchill in July (m.ob., *fide* BCh) and Duck Mountain P.P., SK June 19 (RKr). Edging into the rare-but-regular category was a N. Wheatear at Churchill June 9 (*fide* BCh). No E. Bluebirds were reported in Saskatchewan, and the species seemed scarce in Manitoba. The W. Bluebird pair at Kootenay Plains, AB raised another brood (*ET*). An ad. Townsend's Solitaire accompanied a fledgling July 9 at the Conglomerate Cliffs, Cypress Hills P.P., the site of Saskatchewan's only other breeding record, in 1979; another adult was found singing in the park July 10 (TH).

Single N. Mockingbirds were found at Regina June 1 (DBr), at Lethbridge, AB June 25 (DWA), and at Strasbourg, SK through most of July (*fide* FB). There were 3 reports of Sage Thrasher in the Govenlock-Consul, SK area (BL, WH). A Bohemian Waxwing nest near McArthur R. Mine June 21-25 (DWe) was apparently the first reported for Saskatchewan.

A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler was discovered singing at Narrow Hills P.P., June 21



Adult California Gull (right—with adult Herring Gull) at Churchill, Manitoba, June 20, 1993. Only the second record for this well-watched locale. Photograph/John G. Keenleyside.

(TH). A ♂ Scarlet Tanager, very far west near Cavendish, AB June 18 (J&MM, DCr), was accompanied by an unidentified ♀ tanager. Twenty-two territorial Scarlet Tanagers were counted in a season-long survey at Spruce Woods P.P., MB (GH)—a surprising total so far west. A vocalizing W. Tanager in Duck Mountain P.P., SK June 20 was almost at the Manitoba border (RKr, BL). Two N. Cardinal nests in Winnipeg had a successful outcome, and a female visited Woodmore, MB July 7-9 (*fide* DH); the resident ♂ N. Cardinal at Moose Mt., SK was heard singing June 12 & 13 (BL). A Black-headed Grosbeak sang in Calgary for 2 weeks in early July (ASl *et al.*). Two Dickcissels at Lyleton, MB July 18 (WN) were the only ones reported. A Green-tailed Towhee at a Lethbridge feeder June 17 (RM, RN) provided an overdue first record for Alberta.

Rare observations at Churchill were a Lark Sparrow June 9 & 17 (JJ, PL) and a LeConte's Sparrow June 21-22 (PL, JK). An E. Meadowlark near Cypress R., June 25-27 (GH *et al.*) was about the 6th recorded in Manitoba. Several records this summer (RKr, BL, CP) indicate that the Orchard Oriole is edging into the Regina area, where it was formerly a rare spring migrant.

A pair of "Gray-crowned" Rosy Finches foraged together, possibly collecting nesting material, at Marten Mt., just e. of Lesser Slave L., June 2 (SJ). The "mountain," 250 mi from the Rockies, features a small clearing for a fire watchtower, as well as a rock-covered slope. No further House Finch advances were reported this summer. More than 20 Red Crossbills (likely *L.c. minor*) were seen near McArthur R. Mine June 21-25 (DWe). White-winged Crossbills were widespread in small flocks s. and w. of Grand Rapids, MB in early July (PT). Fair numbers of both crossbill species were found in Alberta (*fide* PS). A passing Redpoll (sp.) in Winnipeg July 13 (RKO) presented an enigma: Was it 2 months late or 3 months early?

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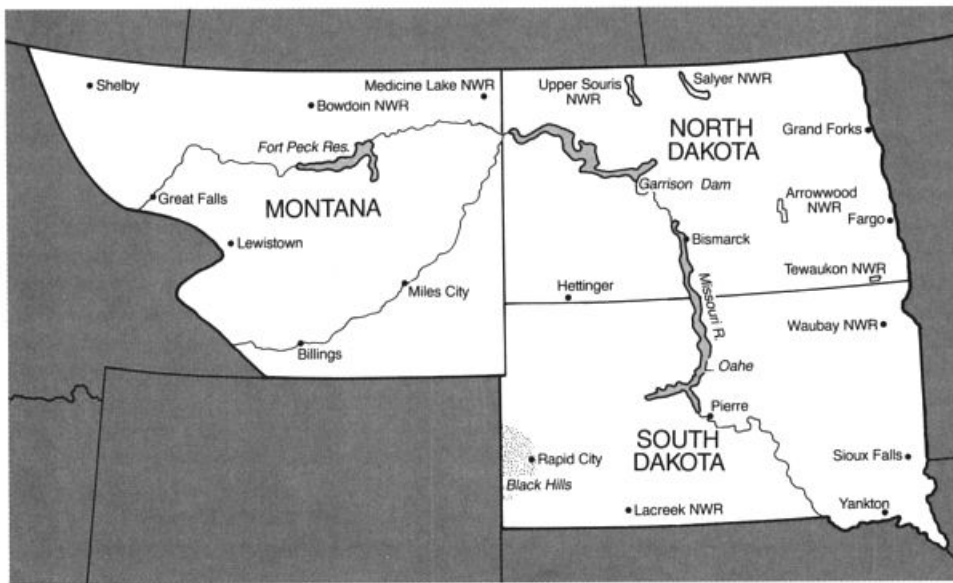
NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

Gordon Berkey

The severe drought of the past several years seems to have come to an end in two months. Every reporting station in N. Dakota reported record July precipitation, with Bismarck receiving a whopping 13.75 inches. The summer was also extremely cool; Minot did not reach 90°F through the entire year of 1993! The long-term effects of the moisture will be positive, but flooding certainly affects ground-dwelling birds even more seriously than it does humans. In addition, the cool weather kept down populations of most insects, although all observers would agree that the rains brought an abundance of mosquitoes. The cool weather and excess moisture were responsible for the poor reproductive success of many species, but late re-nesting by waterfowl was a positive sign.

GREBES TO CRANES

A brood of Pied-billed Grebes at Grand Forks June 2 was early (EF). Late June winds of more than 90 mph destroyed most Red-necked Grebe nests at Freezeout L., MT, but 2 broods were seen in July (MS). Up to 700 Am. White Pelicans lingered at Kelly's Slough N.W.R. near Grand Forks (DL). Uncommon for S. Dakota were the Least Bittern in Jerauld, SD, June 29 (JB) and the Little Blue Heron in Clark June 28 (BH). The Green Heron at Bowdoin was last seen June 2 (DP). A Green Heron nest in Day, SD, containing 3 eggs June 10 (DS) was later blown down. The copious moisture reached much of the Region after most breeding waterfowl had migrated, but indications are that birds were already benefiting. While N. Dakota pair counts were down, July brood counts increased 34%, and the average brood of 7.7 ducklings was the highest since 1975. The picture would look even brighter if the large numbers of very late broods seen beyond August are included. While the breeding season is encouraging, the number of unusual summer waterfowl records was far above normal. Perhaps the wet, cool weather was to blame. Tundra Swans and Com. Mergansers at Devils L., June 4 (REM) were late, as was the Greater Scaup at Grand Forks through June 25 (EF). Greater White-fronted Goose was found in McLean, Kidder, and Grand Forks June 9, 18, & 21. Snow Goose was reported from 4 N. Dakota and two S. Dakota locations as late as June 24, but most puzzling were the three apparent



Grand Forks in late July indicated at least fair reproduction. Caspian Terns, apparently on the move, were reported from 5 widespread locations in the Dakotas June 18–30. One observed flying over Aberdeen, SD, June 18 provided a choice “yard bird” (DT). Up to four Caspian Terns were present at Bowdoin N.W.R. and Nelson Res. (TF, DP). An Arctic Tern at the Minot lagoons June 20 (REM, doc.) was the 3rd for the state. Up to six Least Terns foraging in the Ft. Peck area in June and early July were thought to be displaced non-breeders (CC).

A White-winged Dove photographed in Edmunds June 7 & 8 (JDW, doc.) will be the first for the

juv. “Blue” Geese at the Minot Lagoons July 26 (GB). A Trumpeter Swan remained at Freezeout L. throughout the season. Montana’s first Garganey, which had arrived in May, was seen at Bowdoin through at least June 26. But most unusual for summer was the ♂ Black Scoter, which remained at the Grand Forks lagoons throughout; up to two immatures/females were also seen intermittently (EF). Bufflehead numbers were high s. of their breeding range. A total of 23 was found in Kidder, ND, June 18, and a female was in Clark, SD, June 28.

There were also a large number of late raptors. Turkey Vulture was present in Traill, ND (RK) and one was at Waubay N.W.R., June 13. Breeding has not been recorded in these areas. Osprey nested again at Pactola Res., SD (NW). Lingering Osprey were near Bowdoin June 7 (DP) and in Cass, ND, June 24 (GN). A Bald Eagle was in Union, SD, June 17 (EL), and an adult was in the N. Unit, Theodore Roosevelt N.P., June 19 (DL). No evidence of breeding was found in either instance. Two imm. Golden Eagles were reported from Ransom, ND (DE). They do not usually linger so far east in summer. A Peregrine Falcon at the Grand Forks lagoons June 18 was very late.

Gallinids, being ground-nesters, were apparently very hard hit by the rains. Few broods were seen and some had only a few chicks. Soras rebounded quickly, readily reoccupying areas that had been dry for the past several years. A report of three downy young Common Moorhens in Brown, SD, July 12 & 29 (JS) will be considered by the records committee; there are no definite breeding records for the state. A young Sandhill Crane at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. (GE) in July provided the first N. Dakota breeding confirmation since a young bird was seen there in 1973.

SHOREBIRDS TO SWIFTS

Breeding of Piping Plovers was severely curtailed by rising water levels. There was no reproduction at Nelson Res., MT, for the first time since surveys began in 1986. Rising water levels of Ft. Peck and Sakakawea Lakes extended into beach vegetation, making resting impossible. At Lostwood N.W.R., where about 40 pairs use natural salt lakes, early nests were flooded but many pairs were able to re-nest on higher open shoreline (RKM). A downy young and ad. Black-necked Stilt discovered in mid-August at the Devils L. lagoons by Eldon Anderson and Bruce Burkett provided a long overdue first breeding record for N. Dakota. Another stilt was in Grand Forks June 1 (EF). Early fall migrant shorebirds were displaced from traditional staging areas to flooded agricultural fields. The resulting dispersal, coupled with impassible roads, made them more difficult to find. A flock of 50 Marbled Godwits was sighted in Edmunds, SD, July 8 (MZ). Least Sandpipers at the Minot lagoons June 20 and in Grand Forks June 21 were very early fall migrants. A Stilt Sandpiper at Kellys Slough June 17 may have been a very late spring migrant.

American Woodcocks were found along both the North and Little North Pembina Rivers in Cavalier, ND in early June and are probably generally distributed along those drainages (DL). A breeding-plumaged ♀ Red Phalarope at the Grand Forks lagoons June 3 & 4 (EF) was the 7th for the state.

Several N. Dakota areas had unusually high summer numbers of Franklin’s Gulls. Peaks away from nesting colonies included 5000 at Minot July 26, 800 at Grand Forks June 6 and July 24, 550 at Lostwood June 16, and 180 at Fargo July 11. It seemed plausible that birds had been displaced from flooded breeding colonies, but the number of juveniles appearing among flocks at Minot and

state if accepted by the records committee. A flightless Snowy Owl captured near Powers L., ND, June 16 was injured too severely to be released (RKM). A Long-eared Owl was heard calling in Marshall, SD, June 2 (PS), and one was on a nest in Stanley June 5 (DB).

The single Short-eared Owl territory at Lostwood was the first for that refuge since 1982, when they were common. The first Com. Nighthawks were not noted at Ft. Peck until June 3 and at Malta until June 4. This species was absent from urban Minot for the first time in at least 17 years. Interesting transient nightjars included calling Com. Poorwill in Minot June 4 (GB) and Whip-poor-will in Mayville, ND, July 12 (RK). A Chimney Swift nest with 2 eggs was found in Edmunds July 5 (MZ).

PASSERINES

Last dates for Olive-sided Flycatcher were June 2 in Marshall, SD, and June 7 in Cavalier, ND. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was rather late June 5 at Hope, ND (DK), as was an Alder Flycatcher in Lake, SD (JP). An imm. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Bowdoin June 22 (TK) would be the 7th for Montana if accepted by the committee. Purple Martins continue to decline in N. Dakota. The pair of Common Ravens at Jay Wessels W.M.A, Cavalier, June 6 & 7 (DL) is intriguing, as the species was extirpated from N. Dakota in the 1880s, probably because of poisoning of wolves. Red-breasted Nuthatches, which have not made a major incursion for a few years, began movement in N. Dakota as early as July 1 when singles were seen at Grand Forks and Portland. They were said to be “quite abundant” at Malta, MT, July 18–24 (D&TP). A Sedge Wren nest building in Walworth, SD, is significant for that state; although the species is regularly found singing in the east there are no previous records of nests. A Wood

Thrush was heard singing in Marshall, SD, June 1 (PS); the species is a rare breeder in the n.e. part of the state. The Dakotas tallied five N. Mockingbird reports. Loggerhead Shrikes had a good year in N. Dakota, as numbers were up in Stark and around Minot. Two pairs bred in Grand Forks, and two were found in town at Fargo June 27 (L&CF).

Philadelphia Vireo seems to have nearly disappeared as a breeder in N. Dakota. It has not been found in the Turtle Mts. for the past several years, and Lambeth was able to find only a single singing male in the Pembina Hills this June.

An unusual number of late migrant warblers, were discovered, including several rare to accidental species. A pair of Golden-winged Warblers in Lake, SD, June 19 (JP) was exceptionally late, if they were migrants. A N. Parula in Buffalo, SD, July 1 was unexpected for that date, while a Chestnut-sided in Custer June 9 was very late (JB). The sighting of a ♀ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Ft. Peck June 15 (CC) has been submitted to the Montana records committee. A Blackburnian Warbler was very late at Grand Forks June 9 (EF). A ♂ Pine Warbler at Arrowwood N.W.R. (BS) June 8 represents the latest spring record for this casual species in N. Dakota. A Cerulean Warbler was in Roberts June 5 & 6 (BH). An early fall

migrant ♀ Tennessee Warbler banded at Aberdeen July 16 still retained its brood patch (DT). A singing Tennessee July 3 in a bog in Pembina, ND, was possibly on territory. Breeding Orange-crowned Warblers were found to be fairly common in the Pembina Hills, with up to 20 singing per day in early June (DL). For the 2nd consecutive year, one was on territory in the International Peace Gardens in the Turtle Mts. (REM). Four singing **Nashville Warblers** in the Pembina Hills June 5–7 was an exciting indication of previously unsuspected breeding in N. Dakota; on July 3 one was found repeatedly carrying food into a thicket at Jay Wessels adding a new breeding species to the state (DL). Four singing "Myrtle" Warblers at the Peace Gardens June 11 leave little doubt that this subspecies breeds in N. Dakota. A Black-and-white Warbler in Marshall June 2 (PS) may have been on territory. A singing N. Waterthrush in the Goose R. Valley near Portland July 1 (DK) was in good habitat but in an area for which there is no previous breeding record.

Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in Walworth, SD, June 20 and a Swamp Sparrow nest, the first for the state since 1921, was found in Walworth July 10 (JDW, MZ). Three or four **Dark-eyed Juncos**, presumably "white-wingeds," were found in the Ponderosa Pines in Slope, ND, July 1 (BH).

There is one other breeding season record for this area, and it is possible that there is a small breeding population there. Two singing McCown's Longspurs in Harding, SD, June 15 (GB) were the first on breeding territory in the state in some time. Birds were still on the site July 1 (BH). This may have been a disastrous reproductive year for N. Oriole in N. Dakota, with only 2 reports of nests or young. A ♀ Red Crossbill with 3 dependent young was in Day, SD, June 10 (DS). Pine Siskins were numerous in e. N. Dakota and were present throughout the state.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

The word of the season was *water!* In the often parched and drought-besieged plains, there was lots of it this summer, but much of it came in the wrong manner and stayed in ways most of us plains folk don't ever worry about. In northwestern Nebraska, the Rosches report that it came with 100-mph winds that interrupted the nesting of most waterbirds. Along most of the eastern margin of the Region, it was the Flood of the Century, leaving many reservoirs too high for any marsh vegetation, or even that weedy, scrubby cover that many birds use along the edge. But, water did not fall everywhere; it was dry in southwestern Oklahoma through most of the period.

The rains and storms meant significant failures for many waterfowl and riverbottom species; fortunately, results are often mixed. Late season success may offset the early season vagaries. Some species, such as Pied-billed Grebes, if sub-regionally dampened,

likely averaged better across the Region. Least Bitterns may have had more habitat, but from greatly reduced populations there were few birds to benefit from the more recent windfalls. And, while mudflats usually mean more shorebirds, the caked remains of receding floods left precious little to be desired for birds and humans alike. Although wet and muddy in many places, shorebirding was generally poor.

Abbreviations: McConaughy (*L. McConaughy, Keith Co., NE*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS*); Salt Plains (*Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa Co., OK*); Wichita Mts. (*Wichita Mts. Wildlife Ref., Comanche Co., OK*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

The only report of Com. Loons was of one sighted July 30 on L. Ogallala, *Keith NE* (RCR, DJR). June storms and high water levels meant few early broods of Pied-billed and Eared grebes in w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). However, higher water on McConaughy this year provided habitat for at least 3 broods of W. Grebes (RCR, DJR), two Clark's Grebe young (recently hatched July 31), and two young attended by a mixed

pair of W. and Clark's grebes (carefully studied adults and also recently hatched young July 31; RCR, DJR). The Clark's Grebe young provided the first nesting record for Nebraska. An additional 475 ad. W. Grebes were present there July 31 (RCR, DJR). A single Clark's Grebe was noted in *Garden NE* June 14 (NR).

A Brown Pelican observed June 12–24 in *Russell KS* (KP) is one of an almost annual occurrence. Only one Anhinga was noted in *McCurtain OK* (BH, JM, JN). Least Bitterns were reported at 4 localities in *Tulsa JA*, and one in *Osage OK* (DLR). In *Oklahoma*, in marshes where bitterns had been common in previous years, only one could be found (JGN). Cattle Egrets appeared to have a banner year in e. Kansas (LM) and along the Missouri R. in Nebraska (BP), but numbers in s.-c. Oklahoma seemed lower than in previous years (JAG). A colony of 3000–5000 herons and ibises (mostly Cattle and Snowy egrets and Little Blue Herons) has developed at Quivira, higher numbers than in previous years (*vide* LM). Among the rare vagrant ardeids and ibises were three Tricolored Herons July 27 and Aug. 14 in *Bryan OK* (JWe) and one at *Quivira* July 12 (MR), as well as a White Ibis June 28 (JM, JR) to July 5

(DLR) in *Okmulgee* OK, and another June 24 and July 1 in *Bryan* OK (JWe).

A Ross' Goose noted in *Phelps* NE (RH, LR) was a peculiar surprise. Most unusual for season and location was an Am. Black Duck in *Sioux* NE June 20 (RS). Male Cinnamon Teals were observed June 6 in *Logan* NE (TB, JT, JAu), June 14 in *Garden* NE (NR), June 19 in *Phelps* NE (RH, LR), July 10 in *Sheridan* NE, and July 15 in *Dawes* NE (RCR, DJR)—many more than the usual number of reports, and among only a pittance of summer records for the Region. A Hooded Merganser July 19 at Keystone L., *Keith* NE was unusual (RCR, DJR), as were two females July 5 in *Phelps* NE (RH, LR). A pair of Com. Mergansers summered in *Keith* NE (RCR, DJR).



RAPTORS TO TERNS

An Osprey June 2 in *Sedgwick* KS (RW) was lingering or summering. Sketchy details were received of an Am. Swallow-tailed Kite detected June 7 in *McCurtain* OK (DC, MT). At least five Bald Eagle chicks hatched in Nebraska, more in a year than in over 100 years. However, Swainson's Hawks appeared to have had a poor breeding season in Nebraska (RCR).

S.A.

Black-necked Stilts have been known to breed regularly at Quivira and irregularly at a few sites in w. Nebraska. At least 25 adults were observed at Quivira June 25 (PJ), and up to five were observed in *Sheridan* NE, July 18 (TB). However, there were no breeding records for Oklahoma until this year. Three stilts, observed by Marcus Koenen at the Salt Plains throughout the period, were heard giving distress calls June 17. Two possible stilt nests were discovered; an adult stilt was flushed from one nest June 25. The first young from this nest hatched July 2 and provided the first observed nesting for Oklahoma. But, in *Garfield* OK, John Key also discovered a group of stilts July 1. In the ensuing weeks, 2 broods totaling 6 young, and a nest with 4 eggs were observed, providing yet additional records of stilt nesting for Oklahoma.

A Lesser Golden-Plover in breeding plumage at the Salt Plains June 23 (MK), and a Black-bellied Plover in *Phelps* NE June 19

(RH, LR) were likely summer vagrants. Perhaps 6–7 pairs of Snowy Plovers nested in *Cleveland* OK, further re-establishing a population disappeared in the 1960s.

Piping Plovers appeared July 7 in *Tulsa* (JA) and July 8 in *Texas* OK (KN)—both early. A group of about 500 Am. Avocets in *Texas* OK, July 8 (KN) was substantial. Along with eight Marbled Godwits, also in *Texas*, July 8 (KN), however, they may reflect early terminations of breeding. No long-billed Curlew broods were noted this year in w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR), and Wilson's Phalaropes may have suffered a parallel fate (RCR, DJR). Two ad. Piping Plovers were seen July 25 in *Cleveland* OK (VB), a more normal migration date, and Long-billed Curlews July 18 (one bird) & 24 (4 birds) in *Cleveland* OK are among rare sightings for c. Oklahoma.

Among the collection of early migrants noted July 8 in *Texas* OK, were a Ruddy Turnstone (very early), 75 Lesser Yellowlegs, 6 W. Sandpipers and 20 Baird's Sandpipers (KN). Even earlier were 40 Lesser Yellowlegs and a Baird's Sandpiper June 25 at Quivira (PJ), with another Baird's June 26 in *Cleveland* OK (VB). Two ad. W. Sandpipers arrived in *Sheridan* NE by July 10 (RCR, DJR). Also early was a Sanderling July 19 in *Cherry* NE (TB). The only claim for Short-billed Dowitcher was one July 31 in *Tulsa* (TM, JW, BC). All in all, the shorebird tally was unimpressive.

With the increase in Laughing Gulls observed in the Region, more have been adults, and more are occurring outside the fall period. This season, an ad. Laughing Gull was seen July 15–20 in *Tulsa* (BC *et al.*). Five Franklin's Gulls, uncommon in summer, appeared in *Tulsa* July 6 (AR *et al.*). Up

to four California Gulls were noted in *Keith* NE at the end of July (RCR, DJR).

Ten Caspian Terns were also noted in *Keith* NE, July 30, an exceptional number for w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). In spite of disasters for other species, Black Tern nests fared the June rains and winds well (RCR, DJR). An uncommon Com. Tern was spotted July 18 in *Douglas* NE (JT). Thirty pairs of Least Terns fledged 55 young in *Cleveland* OK (VB), making for a reasonably successful season.

DOVES TO SWALLOWS

A Black-billed Cuckoo was found in *Buffalo* NE, June 6 (RH, LR). Long-eared Owls fledged three young in *Thomas* NE, June 6 (TB, JAa, JT). With the presence of Com. Poorwills in the Flint Hills of

Kansas known for some time, it was expected that they should be discovered in the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Oklahoma. Such happened. A nest with 2 eggs was observed July 9–20 (TW, MP, CG) before it failed, only the 6th nesting recorded for Oklahoma. A imm. *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbird was seen briefly coming to a set of feeders attended simultaneously by at least 25–30 Black-chinned Hummingbirds in the Wichita Mts., July 20 (JAG). Black-chinneds were regularly observed through the season, where only 3 years ago they were rare (JAG).

The latest migrant Olive-sided Flycatcher report was of one observed June 10 in *Thomas* NE (TB). Our knowledge of nesting Willow Flycatchers is peculiarly spotty. A recently fledged brood of four was observed in *Keith* NE, July 31 (RCR, DJR). Banders are adding to our knowledge of their migration. Four "Traill's" Flycatchers were netted in *Washington*, and *Osage* OK, June 4–5 OK (R&AA, LB, NV); others were netted June 5 & 12 in *Wagoner* OK (DV, JM). Most were identified as Willows. The Cordilleran Flycatcher in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* NE, the only breeding locality known for years, has at least one neighbor in Monroe Canyon (RS). Purple Martins appeared down in c. Oklahoma (JAG), but a roost of 2500 was noted July 27 in *Tulsa* (JL, PS).

JAYS TO VIREOS

A small population of Verdins persists in s. *Jackson* OK (PS, DI, JL). A Sedge Wren was spotted July 26 in *Sarpy* NE (BJR). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher observed June 16 had made it out to *Kimball* NE (RS). Kansas atlasers turned up nesting Cedar Waxwings in *Harvey* (CS, BD), substantially out of normal range limits.

A pair of Black-capped Vireos discovered in *Cleveland* OK, June 27 (KR) verified local breeding suspected from the observation of a male about 5 mi from the site 2 fall seasons ago. The pair was observed feeding at least one fledged vireo young by early August (JS, MN). Populations of vireos in the Wichita Mts. and in *Blaine* OK, underwent slight declines after last year's poor reproductive effort. Cowbird trapping in the Wichitas reduced parasitism to less than 10% and produced one of the best breeding seasons recorded for the vireo (JAG); trapping was not as successful in *Blaine* OK, however, where numbers of vireos are low and reproductive success was below the mark for a 2nd year (NJ).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Blue-winged (JG) and Cerulean warblers (BP, LP) were noted in Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy* NE, June 11 & 26, respectively. Among only scattered reports for the species were three Yellow-throated Warblers June 8 in *Tulsa* (AR *et al.*). Seven of a series of nesting boxes for Prothonotary Warblers in *Oklahoma* were used between floods; young were raised from only one of these (JGN). Little River N.W.R., *McCurtain* OK, continues to be a reliable locality for Swainson's Warbler, with four observed June 7 (JN, JM, BH). Louisiana Waterthrushes found June 24 in *Butler* KS, provided a first county record (PJ). At least three Hooded Warblers set up shop in *Tulsa* June 17–July 8 (BC, m.ob.), now for the 3rd consecutive summer.

A Summer Tanager noted June 16 in *Thomas* NE (DB, DR) and Scarlet Tanager



Part of a recently-realized but extensive population in Oklahoma was this Henslow's Sparrow singing in Tulsa County on June 26, 1993. Photograph/Pat Seibert.

June 26 in *Brown* NE (RH, LR) were clearly west of most occurrences. Along the way of the Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeaks may be next. They appear to be less and less common with each passing year in c. and s.w. Oklahoma (JAG, JGN). Dickcissels were common in n. *Tulsa*, with 350 counted June 24 (PS, JL).

Up to 14 Henslow's Sparrows were seen in n. *Tulsa* July 10 (JA), part of a clearly well-established group in this tall-grass prairie area. Better than average numbers were in e. Kansas (JZ). Three Swamp Sparrows noted July 25 in *Phelps* NE (RH, LR) were extralimital.

A Brewer's Blackbird was observed building a nest in *Dawes* NE, May 12; one in *Buffalo* NE, June 11 (LR) was also unusual. Two pairs of Great-tailed Grackles nested successfully in *Keith* NE (RCR, DJR); this represents the westernmost nesting in Nebraska to date. Orchard Orioles had a very successful nesting season in w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR), but it has not benefited what must be consid-

ered extirpated populations in c. and w.-c. Oklahoma.

House Finches were reported by numerous individuals across Oklahoma this summer. Pine Siskins appear to be re-establishing themselves spottily in w. Nebraska after several years of near absence. One in *McCurtain* OK, June 4–7 was a surprise (BH). Again, the only Evening Grosbeaks to report were in *Dawes* NE, where up to 3 birds were noted coming to a feeder (RCR, DJR).

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TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

It was the wettest of times, it was the driest of times. With apologies to Charles Dickens, we couldn't find a better way to describe this season of contrasts. Spring rains continued into June around the state. Tropical Storm *Arlene* exacerbated the situation by dumping 13 to 20 inches of rain on various parts of the upper Texas coast June 19–21. On or about June 26, over most of the state, the spigot just simply turned off. The middle of the state settled into 100°F weather. San Antonio, Austin, and Kerrville headed into what would become record-breaking rainless droughts by late August. June brought continuous high winds to the Panhandle, exceeding the expectations of residents in that normally windy region. As a counterpoint to July's withering effects, a heavy

"monsoon" pattern of summer thunderstorms struck the far reaches of the Trans-Pecos, producing verdant habitat conditions. Big Bend and the Davis Mountains were at the eastern edge of that greenery, although the High Plains and Panhandle got some localized deluges in July.

These striking weather patterns had intriguing effects on avian life, to the extent that we had observers afield to spot them. Heavy June rains may have contributed to the poor success of ground nesters such as Attwater's Greater Prairie-Chicken and Cassin's Sparrows, but abundant summer insect and seed crops were a benefit to many other species. *Arlene* had relatively localized effects; there were a few errant Brown Pelicans (some of which had not waited for a tropical storm to prompt them to wander inland), a single significant shearwater record on the beach, and a few Sooty Terns a short ways inland. There was a significant influx of coastal ardeids into the interior, but

much of that movement had apparently begun well before *Arlene* or the onset of the drought. In central Texas, we noticed that some of the southbound waterbirds that normally show up in numbers by the end of the season were uncharacteristically sparse (e.g., Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Blue-winged Teal); we speculate that the wet weather patterns and flooding in states to the north of us may be responsible for a shortfall of some southbound migrants held back by poor traveling conditions or by enticing habitats.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); S.S.W.T.P. (*South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee, Texas Ornithological Society*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, Texas A&M University*); U.S.F.W.S. (*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*);

U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Attwater, Bentsen, Big Bend, Hagerman, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, and Santa Ana.

GREBES TO FLAMINGOS

The high water levels in ponds and lakes from the wet spring led to a successful nesting season for Least Grebes in the L.R.G.V.; Pied-billed also seemed more conspicuous on c. Texas lakes this season. Eared Grebes summered in the Panhandle counties of *Hartley, Moore, and Randall* (*vide* KS), but nesting was not confirmed. An exhausted **Manx Shearwater**, undoubtedly grounded by tropical storm *Arlene*, was discovered on Mustang I., *Nueces* June 21 (†ph., A&MC, WS). This record provides another caution for birders who might be quick to identify any small summer shearwater as an Audubon's. Most incredible was a juv. **Blue-footed Booby** that showed up at L. Lyndon B. Johnson, *Burnet*, 60 mi n.w. of Austin, June 2 (MB, JF). This bird, the 2nd for Texas, was not brought to the attention of the active birding crowd until late August, so watch for more information in our fall report. Within recent years, we have regarded inland records of Brown Pelicans as unusual. As reports continue to increase, we are going to have to re-evaluate the inland status of this species. An imm. Brown Pelican was at San Antonio June 16 (WS), while another was at Midland June 26–27 (RMS). Several other Brown Pelicans were over *Atas-*

cosa and *Live Oak* June 27 (BD, MH), probably blown inland by tropical storm *Arlene*. Five pairs of Double-crested Cormorants built nests on pumpjacks on an otherwise barren playa in *Midland*. First found June 26, they were still on eggs July 31, providing the first nesting record for that area (RMS, FW *et al.*). As many as 53 Neotropical Cormorants summered at Mitchell L., where Sekula discovered 7 nests, providing a notable record. Another at Hagerman, June 22 (KH) was the most northerly Neotropical Cormorant reported. Substantial rookeries of colonial waterbirds developed w. of Fal-



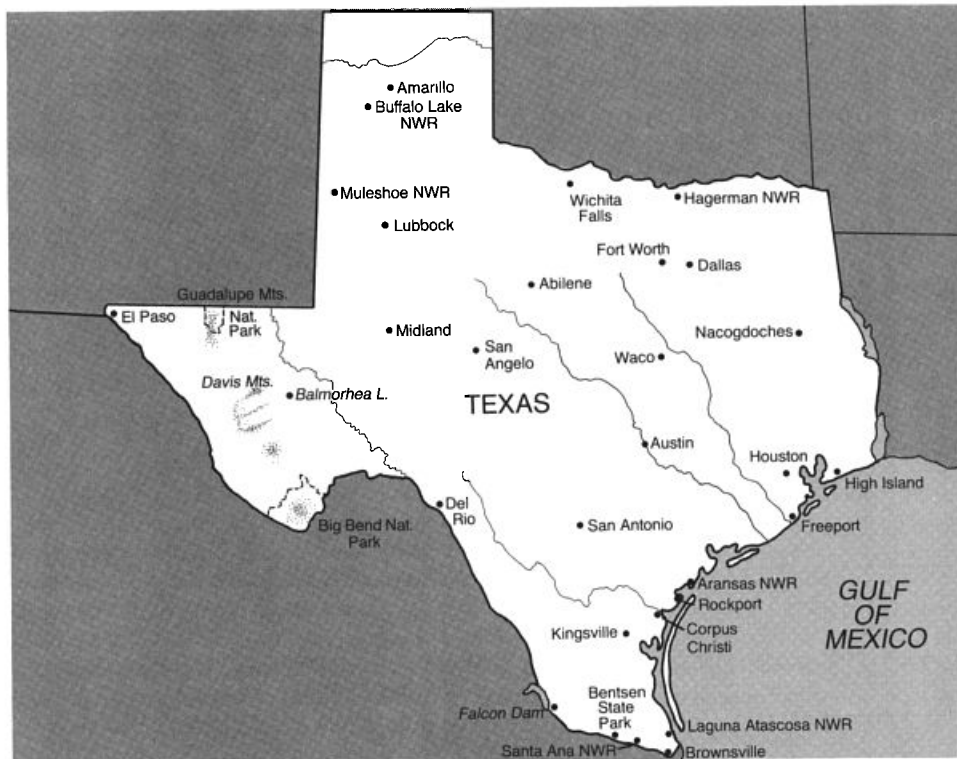
Apparent Manx Shearwater found on the beach at Mustang Island, Texas, on June 21, 1993, just after the passage of tropical storm *Arlene*. Photograph/Arie and Mel Cooksey.

furrias and e. of Riviera thanks to the unusual wealth of water (*vide* PP). By contrast, rookeries of Little Blue Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets in n.-c. Texas were low in number, with many abandoned presumably due to the drought conditions of July (MW, CH, m.ob.). A Little Blue Heron showed up at El Paso's Feather L., July 10 and remained through the season (JSp); the species is not

expected regularly in that area. An imm. white-morph Reddish Egret surprised observers at L. Balmorhea, *Reeves* July 2 (MR, JG, KB *et al.*); this species is a very rare wanderer to the Trans-Pecos region. White Ibises seemed to wander inland from coastal rookeries earlier and in greater numbers than usual. Single imm. White Ibises were at L. Tawakoni June 9 (RK) and at Hagerman June 15 (KH). Four others were in far n.e. Texas in *Gregg* June 15 (PHA), eight were in *Grimes* June 19 (BFz), and four were in *Travis* July 5 (BFR). Roseate Spoonbills, like White Ibises, showed up at inland locations earlier than usual. A single spoonbill was at S.S.W.T.P., June 13 (BG, PB), one was at Hunt, *Kerr* June 16 (*vide* KM, SWie) and three were at Austin July 10 (EK).

WATERFOWL

Both species of whistling-duck nested in abundance at Falfurrias (AO) as well as at several other s. Texas locations. Usually uncommon in summer at Anahuac, 135 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, many with young, were present at that location during July (GDL). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Austin's Hornsby Bend June 6–10 (BFR) was unexpected, as were 15 Black-bellieds in the pineywoods of *Bastrop* July 25 (EK). Mute Swan is not accepted on the Texas list of birds, but we get occasional reports of this species away from urban areas. This summer we got a few reports from the Panhandle; three were on an *Oldham* pond June 2 (KS) and four more were discovered on a playa near Etter, *Moore* July 5–18 (KS, CSt). The farmer who owns the playa told Seyffert the birds had arrived on their own. Wood Ducks and Mallards nested in above-average numbers in n.-c. Texas (CH). A ♀ Wood Duck swimming with young in *Stephens* June 5 provided a first nesting record for that area (RR). Mottled Ducks reportedly had excellent nesting success in *Brooks* (AO). A N. Pintail, rare in mid-summer, was at Hagerman July 13–20 (KH, m.ob.). A pair of Blue-winged Teals nested in *Jim Wells* (AO). While not a common nester, this species has at least a few nesting records in most counties in that area of s. Texas (PP). Single summering Blue-winged Teals were at L. Arrowhead June 12 (CH) and at Millers Creek L., July 9 (KN). The latter bird nested. A pair of out-of-season Cinnamon Teals was near Riviera July 23 (WS). One of the best finds of the season in n.-c. Texas was two ♀ Gadwalls, each with a brood of

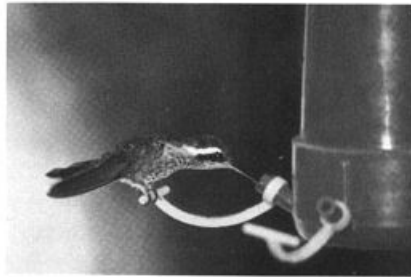


young, on a small pond in *Throckmorton* June 19–July 9 (KN). There are very few Texas nesting records of this species. Among 7 species of waterfowl present at S.S.W.T.P., July 10, the most notable was an Am. Wigeon (JHa, EW); few July records exist for Texas. Although there are few nesting records, Redheads can be a common summering duck in the Panhandle; 40 (almost all males) were on L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley*, June 10 (KS) and 210 (again almost all males) were on an Amarillo sewage pond July 4 (KS). Unexpected summer records of Lesser Scaups were provided by a bird at Ft. Bliss June 11 (BZ), another at Aransas June 24 (*vide* ME), and two in *Jeff Davis* July 2 (SW). A Com. Goldeneye in *Calhoun* June 18 (PH) and a Red-breasted Merganser in *Freestone* June 9 (ph., JT, SKi) provided rare Texas summer records. Two Com. Mergansers showed up on L. Tanglewood in the Panhandle in early July and remained through the period (TLJ). The Masked Duck “madness” (GDL) continued this season. At least 4 pairs of Masked Ducks remained until late June at the *San Patricio* site, where record numbers had been present last winter and spring (TBl, JAn). At least one nest was under construction there June 22–24, but we have not been advised of the outcome. At least one breeding-plumaged ♂ Masked Duck was on a *Walker* lake June 10 (ph., RM), providing a first record for that area. Farther s. we received reports of as many as five ad. Masked Ducks and seven young in s. *Jim Wells* July 8–29 (*vide* AO).

RAPTORS

Black Vultures generally do not stray as far w. as the rolling plains of n.-c. Texas, so one seen June 5 over Ft. Richardson, *Jack* (DMc) was newsworthy. Ospreys are only known to breed in far e. Texas, but we continue to receive isolated summer sightings. This year we had 5 reports of single birds scattered from Dallas to the Rio Grande. There were sightings of single Am. Swallow-tailed Kites July 4 & 15 in *Newton* (BuH) but still no confirmation of nesting there. Kinney was startled by an imm. Bald Eagle over L. Tawakoni July 14. This is probably a first summer record for that area of Texas. A Sharp-shinned Hawk in G.M.N.P., July 3 (KN) was noteworthy. A first-summer *Palo Pinto* record was provided by a Cooper’s Hawk near Possum Kingdom L., July 10 (KN). At least one Cooper’s Hawk nest fledged young at Falfurrias (AO), while another nest was discovered on the new Balcones Canyonlands N.W.R. in *Travis* (DKH). Gray Hawks were reported at Big Bend’s Rio Grande Village and at Santa Ana. We continued to receive a few 3rd-hand reports, without documentation, of a Roadside Hawk at Bentsen

during the season. A most unusual sighting was an ad. Broad-winged Hawk soaring over Big Bend near Boot Canyon July 31 (BZ, DT). In busy n. Dallas, a pair of Swainson’s Hawks nested near a site they used 2 years ago, but development pressures make chances of future successes there remote (AV). Swainson’s Hawks nested in *Nueces* during the season (N&PP); there are few nesting records in that area of the c. coast. A Ferruginous Hawk nest in *Dallam* last occupied in 1983 was again used this summer; Seyffert saw young in the nest June 12. A pair of Crested Caracaras may have nested this



White-eared Hummingbird in the Davis Mountains, Texas, on June 25, 1993. At least two individuals were visiting this feeder. Texas had only three previous well-documented records. Photograph/Melby B. Bryan.

summer in n.-c. Texas in *Kaufman*, where the species is scarce (BSc). Other unexpected Crested Caracara records included one in *Utopia* June 9 (E&SWie) and another near *Mason* July 23 (BFa). The Aplomado Falcon hacking program at Laguna Atascosa released another 28 birds there during the season. An early Peregrine Falcon was at *Salineno* July 10 (TB), while another was at S.S.W.T.P., July 14–27 (BG, JHa).

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS TO SHOREBIRDS

Brood surveys of *Attwater’s* Prairie-Chickens conducted at *Attwater* refuge in July detected a disappointing 17 adults and 3 young. Hoskins speculates that heavy June rains may have affected the nesting success of these birds. Two calling Black Rails were in *Calhoun* June 26 (PH) and another July 4 (ME). Two more Black Rails were in *Matagorda* June 29 (BO). A surprising record was of five calling King/Clapper Rails at a freshwater marsh at L. Balmorhea July 2 (KB, MR, GL *et al.*). One of the birds was photographed, but we are still not certain of the species. Some races of Clapper Rail from the interior of Mexico appear visibly brighter than their saltwater relatives approaching the brightness of Kings. Either species would represent a significant record for the Trans-Pecos region. Following up on our spring report of calling Virginia Rails in the Davis Mts. we can confirm that at least 10 calling birds remained there through the season (KB *et al.*); several were tape-recorded July 1

(GL). No nests could be located, but it is strongly suspected that nesting did occur. Tim Brush reported an unseasonable 315 Black-bellied Plovers at Laguna Atascosa July 12. Two Snowy Plovers July 21 at Ft. Bliss (BZ) and nine at Austin July 25 (CS) provided unusual area records. Significant inland records of Piping Plovers this season included one in *Harrison* July 12 & 17 (D&LB, GLu, KN *et al.*), another at *Hagerman* July 20 (KH, m.ob.) and one at *Cooper L.*, July 26 (MW), the latter providing a first *Delta* record. Black-necked Stilts nested in the Panhandle counties of *Moore*, *Randall*, and *Swisher* (KS). Willets wandered widely in w. Texas, with one at Ft. Bliss June 29 (BZ), eight at L. Balmorhea July 2 (MR, JG *et al.*), one at *Amarillo*, *Randall* July 4 (KS), and 11 at Ft. Bliss July 11 (BZ) especially notable. An Upland Sandpiper seen June 12 on the prairies s. of *Henrietta*, *Clay* was near the site at which a pair presumably nested last year (CH). A very late Whimbrel was on *Mustang I.*, June 11 (CC); another at *Hagerman* July 25 provided only the 2nd recent refuge record (KH, LLe). Long-billed Curlews are fairly common birds in summer in *Dallam*, but there are few nesting records; Seyffert found a pair with a young bird there June 11. A Marbled Godwit July 4 at *Amarillo* (KS) and another at Ft. Bliss July 7–11 (BZ) were unexpected sightings. Typically scarce in n. Texas, a Red Knot in breeding plumage hung around *Hagerman* July 18–29 (KH, m.ob.) and an amazing 8 birds were at S.S.W.T.P., July 27 (BG, PB). White-rumped Sandpipers are rare anywhere in Texas in July. This year we had a single bird in Austin July 17–Aug. 16 (CS, GL, m.ob.); others were at *McAllen* July 25 (*vide* TP) and five more at *Laguna Atascosa* July 27 (TB). A rare record was provided by a calling Short-billed Dowitcher in far n.e. Texas in *Harrison* July 17 (D&LB, GLu *et al.*). A Com. Snipe in *Carson* July 25 (KS) furnished just the 2nd July record for that area.

GULLS TO SKIMMER

In the midst of the heat and drought of July, a few ad. and juv. Laughing Gulls wandered up into c. and n. Texas. Of more significance were two ad. Laughing Gulls at *Imperial Res.*, *Pecos*, July 5 (1st co. record)(BJP) and a juv. at Ft. Hancock, *Hudspeth* July 29 for the 2nd co. record (BZ, DT). A Caspian Tern photographed in Austin July 25 (CS) provided a first-summer record there. Early southbound Forster’s Terns were noted July 10–17 from far w. to c. Texas. Two Sooty Terns were found exhausted near *Falfurrias*, *Brooks*, one June 20 and one June 21 in the wake of tropical storm *Arlene* (*vide* AO). Both birds later died (*T.C.W.C.). This summer a portion of *San Luis Pass* was

fenced off by Houston Audubon Society with grant money provided by the U.S.F.W.S. The protected area hosted 300 pairs of Black Skimmers, where only 50–100 pairs had nested historically. The skimmers fledged over 100 chicks this year compared to a total of only 3 chicks in 1992 (*vide* GDL).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

A remarkable number of White-winged Dove sightings in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex suggested that the species may be colonizing that area (*vide* JWS, CP, m.ob.). *Hunt* got its first Inca Dove record June 9 near Quinlan (RK, GH). A Com. Ground-Dove at Quitman, *Wood* July 28 (MW) secured one of the few records for n.e. Texas. A Groove-billed Ani sighted June 6 at Big Bend's Dugout Wells (GT) is not expected there during summer. A pair courting in *Bexar* June 16 signaled possible nesting again (WS), while three in *Travis* July 4 (BFR) provided a significant record. Following on last spring's report from G.M.N.P., a N. Saw-whet Owl was seen and heard at the same location July 3 (†BS). An unusual urban record was provided by Com. Poorwills nesting atop a university building at Kingsville (*vide* PP). After 3 successive years of obscure reports in *Kerr*, a Green Violet-ear was finally well described in *Hunt* July 18 (CCA).

S.A.

Clearly the rarity event of the season in the Trans-Pecos was the presence of two, and possibly three, White-eared Hummingbirds at a private residence in *Jeff Davis* June 20–July 10 (C&RAS, ph., †KB, GDL, TJ, GL, m.ob.). One of the birds was thought to be a juv., prompting speculation of possible local breeding. There were only 3 previous documented records of this species in Texas.

A Blue-throated Hummingbird visiting the same feeders as the White-eareds June 25–July 1 (ph., GDL, KB, GL) provided a first Davis Mts. record. Up to 15 Magnificent Hummingbirds were also in evidence at these same feeders during June and July; the species is known to breed in the Davis Mts., but this was an unprecedented number at one location. Single Calliope Hummingbirds were present in Midland July 27–29 (FW, m.ob.) where the sp. is rare, and in Pampa, *Gray* July 24–25 (F&JE, E&SWil) where it is accidental. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen June 13 in El Paso's Franklin Mts. (BZ), where breeding is unknown.

FLYCATCHERS TO THRASHERS

There were perhaps more encounters with N. Beardless-Tyrannulets than in a typical summer: 3 pairs were at Bentsen, 2 more birds were at Santa Ana, and at least 6 more were located on 3 *Brooks* ranches (m.ob.). An out-of-season Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Corpus Christi June 21 (GS). The W. Wood-Pewee is a notoriously late migrant; one singing in *Lipscomb* June 6 (KS), however, was unexpected so far east. A Willow Flycatcher was seen and heard singing along Musquiz Cr., *Jeff Davis* July 2 (SW); the nesting status of this species in Texas is poorly known. Dusky Flycatchers were reported from Dog Canyon, G.M.N.P., June 8 (GT) and July 4 (KN); this is the only location in Texas where nesting is suspected. One and possibly 2 Vermilion Flycatcher nests in *Midland* represented the first there since 1978 (DK, m.ob.). A significant nesting record was provided by Great Kiskadees at Ft. Clark Springs, *Kinney*, where Lockwood discovered a pair with 2 fledglings June 20. A massive Purple Martin roost, containing at least 10,000 birds, assembled at dusk each evening in an Austin hackberry grove July 23 through early August (GL, CS, m.ob.). A very early Tree Swallow was at Ft. Bliss July 5 (BZ). A Green Jay provided a first *Goliad* record July 18 (ME). There are few records of Fish Crow in *Walker*, so it was a surprise to find one there July 20 (DP). The Carolina Wren at Amarillo reported in the spring season remained through the summer, and another was at Palo Duro Canyon July 7 (KS). The only documented Clay-colored Robin record for the season was a singing bird in McAllen July 17 (GDL); the bird reportedly remained through the season. A new breeding record for *Kleberg* was established by Am. Robins observed with newly fledged young at the end of the season in Kingsville (TH). American Robins were more in evidence as breeders in Austin this season than in recent memory (GL, CS). Another unexpected summer record was provided by a singing Gray Catbird in Amarillo, *Randall* June 14–18 (RS). Two unseasonable Brown Thrashers were in s. *Jim Wells* June 1 (JBo), and a Long-billed Thrasher was n. of its normal range at San Marcos July 1 (DBe).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

The first summer record of White-eyed Vireo in *Midland* was provided by a singing bird July 15–31 (D&JM); neither a mate nor a nest could be found (*vide* FW). New sites for Bell's Vireo were discovered in *Shackleford* and *Palo Pinto* during the season (KN). Lockwood reports a mediocre breeding season for Black-capped Vireos at Kickapoo where 229 fledglings were produced from 138 known territories. This may seem like a lot of

young birds, but the number per nesting attempt is about one bird lower than tallied for the past 2 years. A family group of Black-capped with 3 young was seen on the Window Trail in Big Bend July 30 (BZ, DT). The Yellow-green Vireo in *Travis* remained through the period. A Virginia's Warbler in the mountains of Big Bend June 24 (GDL) was unexpected; it breeds in small numbers in both the Davis and the Guadalupe Mts. but is not known to breed in the Chisos. Tropical Parulas were reported at Sarita and at Santa Ana during the period (*vide* TP, JI). We received a well-described report of a singing Crescent-chested Warbler in Big Bend's Boot Canyon June 2 (†E&RWO), but later observers were not able to locate the bird. All accepted U.S. records of this species are from s.e. Arizona, but it is a bird we have expected here. Documentation has been submitted to the T.B.R.C. Pine Warblers nested in apparently good numbers in s.e. *Van Zandt*, confirming their summer residency in n.-c. Texas (RK, GH). Solid confirmation of nesting Black-and-white Warblers still eludes *Tarrant*, but a juvenile seen in the Ft. Worth Nature Center July 5 comes tantalizingly close (CH). Two Black-and-whites in the mountains of Big Bend July 31 were unexpected (BZ, DT), while a Swainson's Warbler at Aransas June 11 (*vide* ME) was also of interest; the sp. bred at Aransas for the 1st time in 1988. Never has a Louisiana Waterthrush oversummered so far west in n.-c. Texas as one did this year near Weatherford, *Parker* (BoH); another at Hagerman July 18 was unexpected (RR). Kentucky Warblers may have nested for the first time in *Hunt* where three singing males were noted all summer long (RK, GH, JN). A MacGillivray's Warbler was in the Davis Mts., June 11 (KB); it is not known to nest in Texas, but a few recent June observations have Bryan on the lookout. Yet another intriguing record of a bird not known to nest in Texas was provided by two singing Wilson's Warblers at L. Tanglewood, *Randall*, from late June to July 5 (TLJ). An apparent Red-faced Warbler was seen at Lost Maples, *Bandera* June 5 (†TH). Although well out of range, our previous experience with this warbler in Texas indicates that it can turn up just about anywhere in the w. half of the state. If accepted this record will be the 10th documented for the state. Four Painted Redstarts near Big Bend's Boot Canyon June 24 were the only ones reported all season (GDL).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

An unusual imm. ♂ *Piranga* tanager (Hepatic or Summer?) was in *Bastrop* June 6–July 19 (BFR, AD, m.ob.). Vocalizations connoted Hepatic, but most visible field characters pointed to a Summer Tanager. A Rose-

breasted Grosbeak at Big Bend June 8–15 (BiH *et al.*) and another in far n.e. Texas in *Smith* during late June (BG) were out of place; the species is not known to nest in Texas. An extraordinary report of a ♂ **Blue Bunting** along the Window Trail in Big Bend July 29 was received. The bird was well described by an observer familiar with the species (ET). If accepted by the T.B.R.C., this would represent the first record for the Trans-Pecos. Seyffert points out that despite what some field guides show, Painted Buntings are common in some areas of the s. Panhandle, particularly in Palo Duro Canyon. Dickcissels were in above average numbers in n.e. Texas this summer (MW) and common in the e. Panhandle; a nest with young in *Moore* June 28 (CSt) was a first for that county. Olive Sparrows, at the edges of their range, were in Utopia, *Uvalde* June 9 (SWie) and *Karnes* May 31 (ME). Thirty singing Olive Sparrows in *Goliad* July 18 (ME) was surprisingly high for that area. A Canyon Towhee near Albany June 12 provided a rare *Shackelford* record (KN). O'Neil suggested that decreases in Cassin's Sparrow nests in the Falfurrias area may have been due to the heavy rains of June. By contrast, Seyffert reports that Cassin's Sparrows nested in abundance in the Panhandle this season. There were strong indications of nesting by Yellow-headed Blackbirds at L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley* June 10 (KS), while a singing male at Plata, *Presidio* June 10 (KB, TJ) was at an

unexpected location. *Midland* got an unwanted 2nd Bronzed Cowbird record June 8–July 12 (D&JM). Finally, a Lesser Goldfinch at a Ft. Worth feeder June 4 (GK, MP, JWS, m.ob.) provided the first *Tarrant* record in more than 20 years.

Addendum: We received several belated reports from the spring season at Big Bend. Among the more significant was a Red-faced Warbler Apr. 30 (RSi *et al.*) and an Elegant Trogon Apr. 29 (BJV). Documentation has been submitted to the T.B.R.C.

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): James Anderson (JAn), Duane Berry (DBc), Peter Billingham, Terry Blankenship (TBl), John Boerjan (JBo), Duane & Luanne Brotherton, Tim Brush, Kelly Bryan, Marge Bryant, Winnie Burkett, Caroline Callery (CCa), Charlie Clark, Arlie & Mel Cooksey, Billy Davidson, April Day, Fred & Jan Elston, Mark Elwonger, Janie Flack, Bobbye Frazier (BFa), Brush Freeman (BFr), Bert Frenz (BFz), **Tony Gallucci** (c. Texas: PO Box 6, Camp Verde, TX 78010), Red & Louise Gambill, John Gee, Brian Gibbons, Phil Glass (PGl), Karl Haller, Peggy Harding (PHa), George Harmon, Joe Harris (JHa), **Carl Haynie** (n.-c. Texas: 737 Meadowcrest, Azle, TX 76020), Tom Hays, Petra Hockey, Bob Holland (BoH), Buddy Hollis (BuH), Bill Holmes (BiH), Mark Howell, P.D. Hulce, Joe Ideker, Thomas L. Johnson

(TLJ), Tom Johnson, Greg Keiran, Donna Kelly, Dean Keddy-Hector, Sammy King (SKi), Richard Kinney, Ed Kutac, Greg Lasley, Lee Lemmons (LLe), Mark Lockwood, **Gail Diane Luckner** (e. Texas: 13708 Bohemian Hall, Crosby, TX 77532-6320), Guy Luneau (GLu), Debra McKee (DMc), Don & Joann Merritt, Ralph Moldenhauer, Kay Mueller, Kenneth Nanney, Julius Nussbaum, Andy O'Neil, Brent Ortego, Nancy Palmer, **Paul Palmer** (s. Texas: 615 South Wanda, Kingsville, TX 78363), Jim Paton, Mike Patterson, Dick Payne, Tom Pincelli, Charles Potter, Barbara Jean Potthast, Ross Rasmussen, Martin Reid, Bob Scott (BSc), Rosemary Scott, Willie Sekula, Chuck Sexton, **Ken Seyffert** (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), J.W. Sifford (JWS), Richard Sims (RSi), Clyde & Ruth Ann Smith, John Sproul (JSp), Carolyn Stallwitz (CSt), Byron Stone, Rose Marie Stortz (RMS), Glenn Swartz, Drew Thate, James Thomas, Elliot Tramer, Gary Tuggart, Al Valentine, Beverly J. VanDyke, Steve West, Ed Wetzel, Matt White, Egon & Sue Wiedenfeld (E&SWie), Ed & Sandy Williams (E&SWil), Frances Williams, Elizabeth & Ron Wolfe, **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 St., Austin, TX 78751.**

IDAHO—WESTERN MONTANA REGION

Thomas H. Rogers
and Dan Svingen

Though a welcome change from last year's drought, the 1993 summer was generally unfavorable both to birds and to birders. Record low temperatures and high precipitation discouraged bird trips and dampened bird reproduction. At Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Lima, Montana, many Trumpeter Swans failed to breed, and duck nesting was delayed (KN). However, an abundance of shallow wetlands around Helena, Montana, produced the best Northern Pintail crop of the past decade. Hummingbirds were scarce throughout the Region. Nest box monitoring in the Coeur d'Alene, ID vicinity revealed that many bluebird and swallow nestlings failed to survive the moderate temperatures and low insect supply (GHa, SS). Vireo and warbler numbers were down in the vicinity of Troy, MT (KB). Deaths at feeders were reported

from w. Montana, attributed to the cool, wet weather. Two Evening Grosbeaks were determined to have died of salmonellosis (DS, *vide* GH).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

A Pacific Loon at Clark Canyon Res. s. of Dillon, MT July 11 (DS) will, if accepted, provide the 3rd Montana record and the first for the summer period (DS). Red-necked Grebes were absent from Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID; last year their nesting attempts proved unsuccessful there (JR). Grebes apparently did not mount an effort to nest at L. Helena, MT, as cool, cloudy weather kept emergent vegetation from reaching the surface (GH). More than 150 Am. White Pelicans returned to a breeding colony on Blackfoot Res., *Caribou* ID for the first time since their elimination caused by disturbance in 1961 (CHT). Single imm. Double-crested Cormorants were seen on the Salmon R. upstream from Riggins, ID July 1 and at Boise, ID July 31 (DJ). The St. Maries, ID Great Egret present since May was observed sporadically (m.ob.). Another (or possibly the same) bird visited Thompson Lake W.M.A., Kootenai ID July 22 (JN)

The species was prominent in s.e. Idaho, with 2 to 3 birds seen at 5 locations (CHT). The **Reddish Egret** reported from Am. Falls Res., June 11 (†AG) would be a first for Idaho if accepted, and an amazing distance from its normal range. A Black-crowned Night-Heron appeared at Thompson L., *Kootenai* ID July 28 (JN). A colony of White-faced Ibis containing 13 nests provided the first documentation of nesting at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT (KN).

A Snow Goose in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, ID June 1 was unusual for both location and date (KS, SHS, JW, PW). Three pairs of Greater Scaup, very rare Regionally in summer, were seen at Georgetown L. w. of Anaconda, MT (WEH); a pair was sighted near E. Glacier Park, MT June 15 (DC), and a male was at Mud Lake W.M.A., Hamer, ID June 15 (CHT). An unseasonable sighting of a Red-breasted Merganser was made at Ennis L., *Madison* MT June 22 (WEH). A Lesser Scaup and several Ruddy Ducks summered at St. Maries (DSv), and a N. Shoveler and a Bufflehead raised broods there for the latilong's first breeding records (DSv, SHS, CV). A ♂ Harlequin Duck was still at Avery, ID June 20 (DSv)



A pair of Greater Scaup with one male Lesser Scaup on Georgetown Lake, Montana, June 28, 1993. Photograph/W. Edward Harper.

RAPTOR TO GULLS

Bald Eagles fledged 2 young in July at Kootenai N.W.R. (JR), 4 at Three Forks, MT (SMS, WEH), and 2 at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (KN). Twenty Golden Eagles were counted along a 25-mi stretch of road near Albion, ID July 21 (MRC, FK). Peregrine Falcons reports included nesting at 2 sites a sighting of one bird. A "red-billed coot-like bird" seen July 22 at Mud Lake W.M.A. may have been Idaho's 3rd Com. Moorhen (TM). Spending another summer at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. was a lone Whooping Crane from Grays L. foster-rearing project (KN). A Black-bellied Plover arrived at Island Park Res., Fremont ID July 17, for a latilong first (CHT). Noteworthy were two Solitary Sandpipers at Hubbard Res. s. of Meridian, ID July 25 (MRC, FK). An Upland Sandpiper was again on territory near Round Valley, not far from Cascade, ID, June 18 (AL) and July 27 (MRC, FK). A Long-billed Curlew near Elk City, ID June 26 suggested breeding in a new latilong (KD). Market Lake W.M.A., in Roberts, ID, had two Stilt Sandpipers July 21 (CHT). A Short-billed Dowitcher was spotted at Hells Gate S.P., Lewiston, ID July 17 (RG, MK), and seven appeared close to Aberdeen, ID July 13 (CHT *et al.*).

A first-summer Bonaparte's Gull at St. Maries July 18 provided the area's first July record (†DSv). Six Caspian Terns were on Coeur d'Alene L., n. ID June 17 (ES, SHS), with single birds seen near Ennis, MT June 26 (EWH, SMS). Eleven Caspians were seen near Ennis, MT June 26 (EWH, SMS), and a pair was observed near Somers, MT July 5 (DC). Nesting colonies of this species were discovered at Mormon Res. and Blackfoot Res. in s.e. Idaho (CHT). American Falls Res. hosted up to 11 (non-breeding?) Com. Terns June 8–July 2 (CHT);

an ad. Arctic Tern appeared July 27, followed by two to three more July 29 (†CHT). The species has been seen less than 10 times in the state.

OWLS TO WRENS

Barn Owls, formerly rare in the Moscow, ID area, fledged 4 young from a nest box (KD). A Flammulated Owl responded to a tape near New Meadows, ID July 30 (MRC, FK). Black Swifts were noted at lower elevations in the Flathead Valley of n.w. Montana, presumably to escape the cold, wet weather (DC, DL, JM). White-throated Swifts were seen with Black Swifts at Polson, MT July 10 (DL), and a pair of White-throateds was seen at Granite Cr. s.w. of Riggins, ID June 23 (DK). Two ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were sighted in the Kilgore, ID vicinity June 25; a displaying male was found about 35 mi n.e. of this area, at Quake L., MT the next day (WEH).

The Black-headed Woodpecker was noted as "very uncommon" in the St. Maries area (DSv), and the species was found e. of Riggins during July (MRC). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers was discovered at Daggett Cr. n.e. of Boise (AL, HL). Many Ash-throated Flycatchers worked the juniper habitat w. of Black Pine, ID June 27 (CHT). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher showed up June 25 in w. Montana's Bitterroot Valley for the state's 7th record (ph. BG, JJ). Several latilong firsts were garnered in Idaho: two Boreal Chickadees along the Selway R., Idaho (MRC), a Plain Titmouse at Mores Cr. n.e. of Boise June 13 (MRC, FK), and a

White-breasted Nuthatch on Sawtelle Peak, Fremont (CHT). The harsh winter of 1992–1993 and the wet, cool spring apparently discouraged the recent advance of Bewick's Wren in n. Idaho.

THRUSHES TO FINCHES

Swainson's Thrushes declined by more than 50% from the long-term BBS average for Mivoden (n. of Coeur d'Alene, ID) (SHS). Numbers appeared to be normal elsewhere. A singing Hermit Thrush near Wallace, ID July 9 was presumably nesting (SHS). A N. Mockingbird at Salmon continued to be seen into mid-June (HBR). The species was also observed at Bozeman, MT June 26 (WEH, JBH) and near Apgar, MT July 1 (†WEH, JBH). The Brown Thrasher sighted June 22 near Melville, MT made a latilong first. The Reedpoint, MT BBS found a Sprague's Pipit June 20. The location is on the fringe of the species' range and has been found on only 3 such surveys held there over the past 15 years (WEH). On the warbler scene, a singing Tennessee was at St. Maries July 5; this was a latilong first. And a ♂ Virginia's Warbler was near Twin Falls, ID July 21 (MRC, FK). The story for the Yellow Warbler was one of apparent decline in n. Idaho; they were absent from some of the usual locales (DSv, SHS). Montana's 7th record was furnished by a singing Chestnut-sided Warbler near Libby, MT June 22–July 9 (DC, JM, DS, m.ob.). A N. Waterthrush was found singing June 28 at Island Park Res. (MRC, FK); that vicinity is a likely nesting area (CHT). The Summer Tanager reported

in Idaho Falls in May was again seen near Market Lake W.M.A., June 11 (JS *et al.*). A singing ♂ Blue Grosbeak brightened a BBS route near Daniels Res., n.w. of Malad, ID June 11 (CHT). Rare in W. Montana, Clay-colored Sparrows bred at the National Bison Range, Moiese, MT, for the range's first record (*vide* PLW). A very late Harris' Sparrow was spotted near Culesac, ID June 11 (HH), and a Com. Grackle was present at Somers, MT June 31 (DC). An imm. ♂ Purple Finch was seen at Mores Cr. n.e. of Boise June 13 (MRC, FK).

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Holton, Jon Jackson, Don Johnson (DJo), Dean Jones, Dwight Kilgore, Florence Knoll, Merlene Koliner, Dan Lane, Al & Hilda Larson, Mary Manning, John Martin, Ruth McCombs, Tom Moeder, Kenneth Niethammer, John Nigh, Jimmie Reynolds,

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MOUNTAIN WEST

Hugh E. Kingery

Utah recorded one new species (White-rumped Sandpiper) and Colorado has a new breeding species (Golden-winged Warbler). Nesting waders in Nevada began to recover from years of drought. In Colorado, nesting success of Piping and Snowy plovers and of Least Terns declined; Snowies had a poor year in Utah and Nevada, too. All parts of the Region reported cool and wet weather in early June. Combined with a cool May, the snow melt came late; snow-covered ground and cold temperatures kept many mountain birds from their nesting habitats until mid-June. Vegetation and bird activity in some areas lagged 3 weeks behind normal. (The rest of the summer was mostly warm and dry.) Despite late nesting starts (nest building in July by juncos and flycatchers) most birds seem to have enjoyed normal reproduction. A major windstorm blew through n.c. Colorado on July 3—94 m.p.h. at Fort Collins, where at Lone Tree Res. wind knocked 30 of 200 young Great Blue Herons out of their nests (DL). Of 36 Eared Grebe nests at Loveland, the wind destroyed 24; the

remaining 12 succumbed when rising water flooded them (AM). At Eagle, CO, one of many winds broke off a tree 20 ft up, probably at an old flicker hole. Midway down a young flicker's head stuck out of a hole; "he must have had an exciting time" (JM).

COLORADO ATLAS WORK

Many reports that fill in or expand breeding ranges come from field work by Colorado atlasers. One striking group of records originates from a 70-mi stretch between Hugo and Colorado Springs. In this stretch of plains, the Kuennings and Pantles found Mountain Plovers in 7 blocks, Long-billed Curlews in 4, Burrowing Owls in 7, Chestnut-collared Longspurs in 3, and McCown's Longspurs in 2. This adds, for the plovers and curlews, 4 1st Lat breeding records in previously unknown breeding clusters and extends both longspurs' breeding ranges 60 mi S from their prior limits.

Abbreviations: L.L.B.L. (*Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); G.S.L. (*Great Salt Lake*); R.E. (*Regional Editor*); 1st Lat (*first latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, and measures about 50 by 70 mi]*); ph. (*photograph on file with R.E.*); † (*written description on file with R.E.*); ‡ (*written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee*).

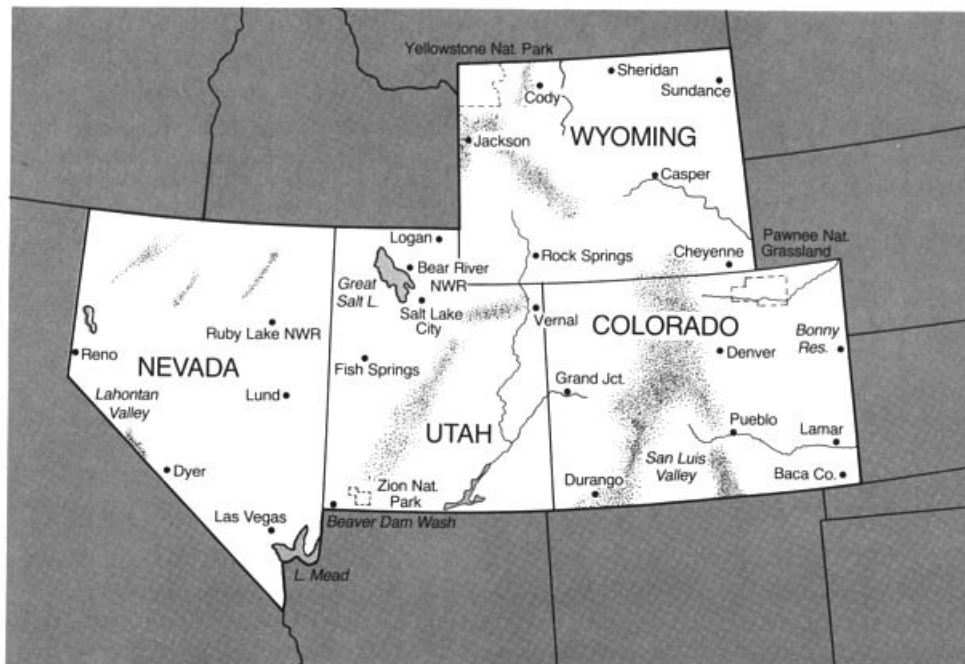
GREBES TO IBISES

Two Pied-billed Grebe families found during Atlas work confirmed nesting for the first time in the San Juan Basin of s.w. Colorado (RL, HEK). Eared Grebes had 100 nests at Walden and 25 immatures at L. John in North Park, CO, and fledglings in 2 isolated ponds in the San Luis Valley, CO (RL, HEK). In n.w. Nevada, researchers found 30–35 W. Grebe nests in the Stillwater Ref.–Winnemucca area (LN). At Anaho Ref., NV, 3500 Am. White Pelican nests produced only 1300–1500 young (LN). Colorado's 3 pelican colonies had a good year and produced, at Riverside Res., Antero Res., and N. Park, respectively, 1000+, 200+, and 75+ young (RAR). At a new nesting site, Yellowtail Res. near Lovell, WY, 3 nests fledged 6 young. Anaho's colony of Double-crested Cormorants produced 1300 young from 820 nests. Riverside and Antero each produced 100–200 young cormorants, 10 pairs nested at Ruby L. N.W.R., NV, North Park's production increased, and Cody, WY, hosted a new colony.

In w. Nevada production by big waders burgeoned. The Lahontan Val. nest count, including Carson L. and Stillwater N.W.R., had 30 Great Blue Herons and 52 Great, 51 Snowy, and 27 Cattle egrets (LN). Near Winnemucca, Iron Pt. contained 20 Great, 180 Snowy, and 2 Cattle egret nests plus 225 Black-crowned Night-Herons. In the Denver area C.D.O.W. reported a nest

count of 357 cormorants, 291 great blues, and 325 Black-crowned Night-Herons. Four pairs of Great Egrets nested in Colorado—Riverside Res., Boulder, and a new site, San Luis L. in the San Luis Val. (RAR). Snowy Egrets had 6 nests at Mason Val. Ref., NV, 10 at Farmington Bay, UT (PP, CK), and 30 at San Luis L. Fish Spgs. N.W.R., UT, had 157–321 birds through the summer (JB). Farmington Bay had 5 nesting pairs of Cattle Egrets; 6 pairs nested at San Luis L., Green Herons nested in Ft. Collins—the first in n. Colorado and only the 4th site in the state—and fledged 4 young (DL).

Black-crowned Night-Herons nested for the first time in s.e. Utah, with 4 nests at Moab (NB). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron



stood stock still for a British visitor at Loveland, CO, June 30 (†EM). White-faced Ibis staged a comeback: 2385 nesting pairs in w. Nevada at Stillwater, Sleeper, Iron Pt., and Rye Patch Res., good production at Ruby L., 200 young at Fish Spgs., 100 nesting pairs at Farmington Bay, 100 pairs and 150 young in the San Luis Valley. Wanderers appeared in mid-July at Washoe L. near Reno, Casper, WY, and Cortez, Grand Jct., Jefferson, and Ft. Morgan, CO.

WATERFOWL TO HAWKS

The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck that arrived at Las Vegas May 17, Nevada's 3rd, stayed all summer (J&MC). An apparently healthy Snow Goose visited Rawhide July 21–25 (RAR). The Nevada wildlife agency rounded up Canada Geese at Virginia Park in Reno and sent some out of state (EK); considering how geese have multiplied all over the country and become urban pests, one wonders who would want transplants. Wood Ducks bred for the first time in 2 s.e. Colorado latilongs, at Carrizo Canyon (KN, ph.) and McClave (HEK). In w. Colorado atlasers found 2 Ring-necked Duck nests, both first Lat breeding records, near Craig and Pagosa Springs (RL, HEK). Two first-year MA Red-breasted Mergansers were near Rangely June 22 (CD).

Colorado's 10th American Swallow-tailed Kite perched and flew among the Mississippi Kites in the Lamar City Park July 5 (‡WH). Observers noted few N. Harriers (only one all summer at G.S.L.—PP), though in 2 Atlas blocks on the plains near Burlington June 24 agitated males defended territories from a Great Horned Owl and a crow (HEK). Out of season Broad-winged Hawks stopped at Ayers Natural Bridge, n.e. WY, June 4 (J&VH) and Pueblo, CO July 24 (CW *et al.*). Along a mile of road near Hugo, CO, 36 Swainson's Hawks aggregated on July 10 within a mile, apparently waiting for a farmer's plow to stir up grasshoppers (W&RK). Swainson's sometimes flock before migrating; a kettle of 98 occurred near Cheyenne Wells, CO, June 23, 1992 (HEK).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS

Observers heard the Arkansas Val. Black Rail throughout June (NE, DN, KS). An extraordinary three Com. Moorhens boosted Colorado to 16 records: Boulder May 20 (†SF), Pueblo June 21 (†RD, †DS), and Monte Vista N.W.R., July 5 (†KN). Sandhill Cranes expanded their nesting range; a pair SW of Grand Jct. fledged 2 young (CD), as did a pair near Richfield, UT (for the 2nd year—AS). Two at Sheldon N.W.R. in n.w. Nevada June 23 might have nested (LN).

Snowy Plovers had poor nesting success in w. Nevada (84 adults produced 27 imma-

tures—LN) and G.S.L.—503 birds July 28 but with fewer juveniles than the last 3 years (PP). At the Great Plains Reservoirs N of Lamar 14 pairs fledged one young. Piping Plovers also had a poor year in Colorado: 9 pairs fledged only 3 young; 5 others hatched but fell prey to stalking Great Blue Herons (which also enjoyed eggs from at least 2 Snowy Plover nests) (DN). A Piping Plover stopped July 11 at Casper, WY (†J&GL). Near Vernal, researchers for U.D.W.R. found at least 8 Mountain Plover broods, including 3 nests—the first confirmed nesting in Utah [except for a possible nesting in 1978, the details of which are buried in Bureau of Land Management Files] (KD, NB; details to be published elsewhere). Heavy predation (revealed by radio transmitters) by unknown predators hurt Mt. Plovers in Pawnee Grassland (FK). In the Shirley Basin near Casper, WY, 10 adults herded 5 chicks (J&GL). The first report in several years from near Denver came on B.B.S., which counted 5 on June 6 (JTb), and one was near Alamosa July 2 (BP). (Also see above about the birds near Hugo.)

At Farmington Bay, 30,000 Black-necked Stilts and 10,000 Am. Avocets began to nest, but inexplicably a Davis Co. agency flooded the area and destroyed about one-half of the nests (PP). Downy Willet chicks ran around Soda L. at Casper July 11 (J&VH). Atlasers found ad. Willets in North Park away from Arapaho Ref. (the one known current Colorado nest site), and at Lay, CO (RL). The G.S.L. shorebird survey found Whimbrels throughout June—5 June 10 and one June 2, 8, & 23, in 3 different sites (PP, CK): Casper had one July 11 (J&VH). A Baca, CO, B.B.S. route counted 37 ad. Long-billed Curlews (21 last year) and 20 were at Two Buttes in Baca June 17. Atlasers located one June 30 at Maybell in n.w. Colorado (RL). Curlews at G.S.L. had relatively poor success—18 birds produced only 2 broods (PP, CK). Marbled Godwits occurred throughout June at G.S.L.—from ones June 3 and 4 to 61 godwits on June 25 (PP, CK). A tardy Red Knot provided a June 8 record at Layton, UT (PP, CK), and one to two stopped at Casper July 11–18 (†J&GL). A 30-second observation on June one of two White-rumped Sandpipers (†PP) will add that species to the state list if the State Records Committee approves. At Stillwater Ref., NV, 1500 Long-billed Dowitchers had arrived by July 16 (LN). Massive flocks of Wilson's Phalaropes on G.S.L. assembled early: 125,000 at Ogden July 1 and 175,000 at Layton July 7—by mid-July down to 2500 and 11,000 (PP, CK).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Utah's 6th Long-tailed Jaeger displayed its long tail feathers to several observers at Fish

Spgs., June 9 (‡SF). Ogden had 100–200 nesting pairs of Franklin's Gulls; at Farmington Bay the G.S.L. population swelled to 6450 July 16. By July 28, 400 had arrived at Wiggins, CO (JCR). Bear R. Ref. had 3 Bonaparte's Gulls on June 23 (PP, CK). At 3 Colorado colonies (Riverside, Walden, and Antero) thriving California Gulls produced 966, 200, and 2000 young (RAR). Curiously, they and white pelicans nest at the same sites. Colorado's 4th colony, near Las Animas, attracted only a fraction of last year's numbers and the returnees had an unsuccessful nesting season (DN). Anaho Ref. had 5300 nests, and more than 3000 thronged the nest island at Casper. At Anaho Caspian Terns had 25–30 nests May 23, but none on June 29. At Bear R. 20 pairs nested July strays showed up at Casper, Colorado City, and Julesburg, CO. Of 57 nesting Forster's Tern pairs reported in the Region, only some at Sleeper, NV, fledged young Fish Springs Ref. reported bird numbers, not nests, but its 94 Forster's on June 8 dropped to 18 July 21, suggesting unsuccessful nesting there too.

Predators and habitat problems doomed s.e. Colorado Least Terns. At Blue L. near Rocky Ford 10 nesting pairs fledged 14 young, down from 23 pairs last year. High water raised the lake level to the tree line: 4 C.D.O.W. researchers chopped down 15,000 trees in order to provide a nesting area—in time for the terns, too late for the Piping Plovers. At the Great Plains Res., 6 pairs of Least Terns built 11 nests; all succumbed to predators. In order to penetrate enclosures built to protect Piping Plover nests the culprits had to be small-bodied non-flying animals, probably weasels. A deep hole at another nest fingerprinted a skunk (DN) Black Terns also had bleak results—2 nests in Nevada, 75 birds in the Bear R. colony, and some success in the San Luis Val. By July 15, 50 had appeared at the sewer pond at Walsh, CO—far from any known nest sites.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

A White-winged Dove, described orally, visited Pueblo June 26 (VT, *fide* DS). Colorado atlasers and others found 3 Barn Owl nests and 6 other likely nesting sites; one nest had 3 adults attending it (RAR). Atlasers reported Flammulated Owls from 12 sites W. Screech-Owls nested at Cody, WY, and perhaps at Lyons, CO (the "perhaps" refers to the identity, not the nesting; logically, Lyons lies within the range of the Eastern Screech-Owl. The owls sounded like Westerns (MG, †DVK, BPr). At Rocky Mt Arsenal near Denver, 43 pairs of Burrowing Owls produced 156 young; in the Denver area C.D.O.W. reported 16 other pairs with 38 young Two U S F & W biologists report-



This Sedge Wren behaved as if it were on territory near Wellington, Colorado, in late June 1993. Colorado has had similar summer records, but no confirmation of actual breeding. Photograph/David Leatherman.

edly observed a Spotted Owl in an old-growth red fir forest W of Carson City, and collected pellets at a roost site; if documented, this would provide Nevada's 2nd record (*vide* LN). West of Pueblo 5–6 pairs of Spotted Owls nested (DR). A Long-eared Owl with 2 fledglings provided s.e. Utah's 2nd nesting record (NB). Logan observers, for the first time, saw no Short-eared Owls—a “precipitous crash” (KA). The only Regional reports came of 2 broods fledged at Carson L., NV, and of one to two that summered at Fish Spgs., N.W.R. Nest boxes on Grand Mesa National Forest, CO, attracted an incredible 16 pairs of Boreal Owls this summer (U.S.F.S.). To protect the birds from disturbance by listeners the location was not released. Black Swifts strayed 25–50 mi from their nest sites to Denver's Chatfield State Park and the San Juan R. upstream from Navajo Res. in early June, and to Pueblo and Colorado City in July. While Chimney Swifts occur in most Colorado plains towns, observers have had trouble confirming breeding. This summer Rigli found a small colony nesting in tall chimneys in Ft. Morgan. Reno reported an Anna's Hummingbird June 20 (EK). A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird heard June 16 at Peetz had traveled 125 mi E of the foothills (DAL). Rufous arrived a week late, the first reports from Logan July 3 (KA) and Mogote, Conejos, CO, July 7 (AV). A recent article in AB asserted that Red-naped Sapsuckers prefer to nest close to willow carrs. Merchant reports that of 6 nests he found this summer, one was 1/4 mi. and one 1/2 mi. from the nearest willows, and that both had scrub oak nearby. Since their nests are fairly easy to find, more Mt. West observers could test this theory.

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

Observers and BBS data suggest a decline of Olive-sided Flycatchers. Anecdotal data from AB contributors probably sheds little light on their actual status; however Evergreen, CO, observers have complained for several years about their disappearance (WWB). On the other hand, 2 Colorado atlasers recorded 35 observations between them.

S.A.

U.S.F.&W. may designate the s.w. Willow Flycatcher a *threatened* species. That subspecies was thought to occur only in Colorado in the San Juan Basin. Recently examined specimens in Denver Museum of Natural History, from Rifle on the Colorado R. (*vide* CA), expand the range (though not necessarily the breeding range) to the S two-thirds of w. Colorado, and implies distribution in s. Utah as well. Our contributors found Willows (mostly singing males) within this territory at Torrey, UT, and Pagosa Spgs., CO; they also reported them from 6 other sites in n.w. Colorado. The species prefers willow carrs at mid-elevations in the mountains.

At McClave, CO, a pair of E. Phoebes fed young under a bridge for a first Lat nesting record, June 8 (HEK). The Ash-throated Flycatcher found July 30 at Jackson, WY, had wandered N or E to a new Latilong (†BR). At Corn Cr. near Las Vegas pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers behaved territorially all summer, but observers saw no nest or fledglings (J&MC). Dexter found possibly nesting Cassin's Kingbirds in in Atlas blocks near Meeker and Maybell, in 2 n.w. Colorado latilongs without confirmed breeding. A ♀ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher built a nest at Glenwood Spgs., CO—325 mi n.w. of the nearest breeding site, in Baca—and stayed on territory all summer. Not surprisingly that far from its normal haunts, she had no mate (VZ, CD). Large numbers of Clark's Nutcrackers cruised the pinyon pine woodlands—from Antonito and Pagosa Spgs., N to Nathrop and Canon City (AV). Nutcrackers throng these woodlands all year, but so far no one has confirmed actual nesting there.

A family of Chihuahuan Ravens in the Carracas Atlas block near Navajo Res. confirmed breeding for the first time in w. Colorado (HEK). The stilt and avocet colonies at G.S.L. attracted numerous Com. Ravens—a peak of 61 on June 29—which preyed on the eggs of the vulnerable shorebirds (PP, CK). In Yellowstone June 29, a

raven feasted on baby flickers (J&VH). A Sedge Wren sang on territory June 15–27 at Wellington, CO; by responding to playbacks of a tape recording of its own voice, he posed for photographs. He disappeared when the irrigated hayfield he had inhabited dried up (†DL, SM). This is the 4th similar summer record in Colorado—no breeding confirmed.

GNATCATCHERS TO CHAT

We continue to puzzle over gnatcatchers with black undertails. Two observed June 24–27 at Red Rocks Park near Denver, and photographed, had black undertails and black caps (‡BJR); unfortunately, other observers found only Blue-grays in the same place on the same dates. A Gray Catbird summered at Torrey, UT (AS); Jackson, WY, had five June 13 (BR). Three Bendire's Thrashers held territories at Del Norte, CO, June 19 (†HEK). The decline in Bell's Vireos may have reached Colorado: Two observers, who saw one each in July, agreed on their scarcity (DL, CW). A Red-eyed Vireo was at Logan June 11 (KF). Colorado recorded its first nesting **Golden-winged Warblers**: a male (no female observed) fed a fledgling July 17–19 at Roxborough Park near Denver (†CW, †SS, JBH ph.). Orange-crowned Warblers (adults carrying food and fledglings) S of Rock Spgs., WY, provided a *first Lat* breeding record (RS). Two Black-throated Gray Warblers strayed N to Tensleep, WY, June 4 (J&GL). One or 2 singing Grace's Warblers near Wetmore, CO June 19 (DR, *first Lat*) augment the sporadic breeding records from Rye, 50 mi S. Perhaps, like Chestnut-sided Warblers along the Colorado Front Range, scattered pairs of Grace's breed in this area. An Am. Redstart visited Kremmling, CO, June 19 (†NBa). A male Prothonotary Warbler sang, preened, fed, and rested in dense foliage in a Colo. Spgs. yard June 1–8 (†JR). Convincing details, largely based on song, describe Wyoming's 2nd **Mourning Warbler** at Tensleep June 4 (‡J&GL).

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

Two ad. and a fledgling Hepatic Tanager confirmed breeding at Cedarwood, Pueblo (DJ, 1st Lat). Eight answers to a newspaper notice from the Colorado Atlas asking about nesting N. Cardinals confirmed breeding by cardinals in Wray and Beecher I., CO. Nine Dickcissels sang at the Fondis, CO, Atlas block July 12 (VD), and 15 were at Red Lion S.W.A., CO, July 23 (BPr). At Bonanza 3–6 MA Lark Buntings larked and sang June 11–14; a female fed fledglings July 22, for a rare Utah breeding record (NB). A pair of Fox Sparrows, carrying food, confirmed nesting S of Rock Spgs., WY, June 12 (RS, 1st

Lat). After researching Bobolinks for many years, Martin started to create habitat for them at Wellington. This year, success: 2–3 pairs nested in their special field. Since Bobolinks have strong site fidelity, he expects them to return next year. Hooded Orioles continued their n. Nevada forays, with 2 all summer at Fernley (†DT) and a male July 23 at Reno (†EK).

Undocumented Rarities: This report omits the following rarities because the observers did not provide details of the observations: Blue-footed Booby and Little Blue Heron in Nevada, Mt. Plover in Utah, and Blue-throated Hummingbird and Band-tailed Pigeon in Wyoming.

Corrigenda: Boldface and italics disappeared from the Mt. West Winter report (AB 47:281). Boldface should have highlighted the following records: Trumpeter Swans, Baikal Teal, Dunlins, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Long-billed Thrasher, Ovenbird, and Rufous-Crowned Sparrow. Also, the swan poachers paid a fine of \$6500.

Compilers (boldface, contributors in italics, and cited observers): C. Aid, Keith Archibald (18 observers), Lu Bainbridge, Jay Banta, Norm Barrett (NBa), Nelson Boschen (4), W.W. Brockner (27), CO Div. of Wildlife, J. & M. Cressman, K. Day, V. Dayhoff, Denver Field Ornithologists, Coen Dexter, R. Dickson, B. Dillon, N. Erthal, S. Fennell, K. Flannery, M. Griest, Dave Hallock (28), May Hanesworth (21), J.B. Hayes, Steve Hedges, Mark Janos, D. Johnson, B. Kaempfer, Ursula Kepler, Merlin Killpack, D.W. King, C. Kneedy, F. Knopf, W. & R. Kuenning, Edward Kurtz, Jim & Gloria Lawrence (16), David Leatherman (14), R. Lentz, Rich Levad, Bill Lisowsky, Jeff Mackay, E. Marshall, S. Martin, Linda McMenamy, Ann Means (26), Jack Merchant (4), Vince Mowbray (8), Kenneth Nanney, Larry Neel (3), D. Nelson, D. & S. Pantle, Peter Paton, B. Percival, B. Prather (BPr), Bert Raynes (20), J.C. Rigli, J. Romero, B. J. Rose, D. Roth, Robert Rothe (17), R.A. Ryder, Alan Schmierer, K. Schofield (KS), Kathy Sieminski, Dave Silverman (15), **ELLA SORENSEN** (Utah Editor, 3868 Marsha Dr., West Valley UT 84120), S. Stachowiak, Rick Steenberg, Joe Tenbrink, Janeal Thompson, D. Trousdale, U.S. Forest Service, D. Wheeler, Christopher Wood, V. Zerbi.—**HUGH KINGERY, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver CO 80206.**

SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona

*David Stejskal and
Gary H. Rosenberg*

Abbreviations: G.F.P. (*Gila Farms Pond*); L.C.R.V. (*Lower Colorado R. Valley*); M.F.L. (*Many Farms L.*); P.R.D. (*Painted Rock Dam*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro R.*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO STORKS

Mid-summer Com. Loon records in Arizona are few, so an alternate-plumaged bird July 11 s. of Willow Beach, L.C.R.V. (T. Baumgarten) is worthy of mention. As many as 35 W. Grebes were seen at Mormon L. from early June through the end of the period (EM, VG). During this time, several pairs were observed performing courtship displays, and one bird was seen attending a nest June 9. Water levels on the lake dropped in July, and the birds were forced to move to another area on the lake where no subsequent breeding or courtship activity was observed. Western Grebes are not known to nest in Arizona away from the L.C.R.V., P.R.D. (1980, 1991, and 1992 only), and M.F.L. (probably annually since 1988). A single W. Grebe was seen at Willcox July 3–4 (m.ob.); there are few mid-summer records of this bird from s.e. Arizona. A single Clark's Grebe, possibly one of two present there in May, was at Willcox July 14 (MS). Eared Grebes nested successfully for only the 2nd year this summer at Willcox, where at least 10 adults with 4 young were seen July 14 (MS). Additionally, a flock of 12 ad. Eared Grebes was seen at L. Pleasant in late July (MJ); most summer records from the Arizona lowlands are of single, subadult birds.

Immature Brown Pelicans were found in Green Valley July 4 (L. Speros), at Tubac July 12 (MB), and in Scottsdale July 12–27 (JiB); another was found dead at the top of Mt. Wrightson July 19 (L. Nistas). Extraordinary was the discovery of an imm. **Blue-footed Booby** that landed on Hwy 89 near Cameron, *Coconino*, July 27 (*fide* TC). The bird was caught but attempts made to rehabilitate it failed (*N. Ariz. Univ.). This provided Arizona with only its 2nd record since 1977, and the first for n. Arizona away from the L.C.R.V. Double-crested Cormorants were again found nesting at Scholz L. near Williams (9 nests) June 13 (EM). It was erroneously reported in the spring 1992 report that Scholz L. was a new nesting area for this

species, they have been found nesting there for at least 6 years (*fide* EM). Individual Magnificent Frigatebirds were reported for the period with one over Green Valley July 3 (G. White), and another over Tucson July 24 (MB).

A Least Bittern was reported from Roper L. S.P. near Safford through June (K. Williams). This species is almost unknown in the state e. of Picacho Res. Very surprising was an ad. Tricolored Heron at Keams Canyon June 9 (CL); this represents only about the 3rd record for n. Arizona and the first for *Navajo*.

GEESE TO RAILS

A Canada Goose, rarely reported in the state during the summer months, was seen on Black Mesa June 14 (CL). Four ♀ Com. Mergansers on Black Mesa June 9 were possibly late migrants (CL).

No fewer than 13 White-tailed Kites were reported from scattered localities in s.c. Arizona throughout the period (m.ob.), but the only report of successful nesting came from near Buckeye in mid-June (J. Bartley). Vagrant Mississippi Kites were reported from Patagonia June 2–12 (DJ0), and from the Big Sandy R. near Wikieup May 5 and June 4 (J. Bridges, R. Glinski). A pair of ad. N. Harriers was found in mesquite/grassland habitat on the n. side of the Santa Rita Mts., June 26, with the female seen there again July 17 (DTr). Most recent June records for Arizona have involved single birds. During the past 20 years, there have been few nesting records of Com. Black-Hawk in Arizona s. of the Gila R. away from the Aravaipa Canyon area, so 2 active nests on the lower S.P.R. near Winkelman were interesting (TC). An additional ad. bird near Hwy. 90 on the upper S.P.R., June 30 may have just been a wandering, non-breeding individual (JWh). Gray Hawks were reported to be doing well on the upper S.P.R., with as many as 27 pairs and 18 nests located (JWh). This species was thought to also be on the increase on the lower S.P.R. between Cascabel and Winkelman, where a number of nesting pairs were found this year (*fide* TC). A wandering ad. Gray Hawk was seen at the Hassayampa Preserve near Wickenburg July 18 (S. Miller, P. Friederici), representing the 4th record for *Maricopa*.

An ad. **Purple Gallinule** was an exciting discovery near the mouth of Tonto Cr. near Roosevelt L., July 20 (H. Messing *et al.*) This bird, which remained in the area into August, represents only about the 12th record for Arizona.

SHOREBIRDS TO CUCKOOS

It was somewhat surprising to find Long-billed Curlews nesting w of Eagar June 21



S.A.

The birding phenomenon during the summer period in Arizona revolved around the presence of water backed up behind P.R.D. on the Gila R. w. of Gila Bend. Heavy rains and subsequent flooding of the Gila and its tributaries during the winter months produced attractive habitat for a wide variety of waterbirds. This huge lake went inexplicably unbirded until July 10, when D. Kaplan and MS visited the area, to find a few Snowy Plovers breeding near the s.w. corner of the lake (only the 3rd nesting record for this locale), a basic-plumaged Com. Loon, several Brown Pelicans, and a smattering of shorebirds. July 14 turned up an incredible (for Arizona) array of waterbirds (GHR, DS, KK, GM), highlighted by Arizona's 4th or 5th **Black Skimmer** (ph. GHR). From that date on, P.R.D. was visited nearly every other day by birders from Phoenix, Tucson, and California. The most significant records from this productive area may be summarized as follows: W. Grebes, totaling ca. 40–50 birds, were vigorously calling and displaying July 14 and later (m.ob.); two ad. Clark's Grebes were seen July 27 (DS); Am. White Pelicans were seen in small groups at various spots on the lake, with a high count of 75 July 14 (m.ob.); imm. Brown Pelicans were present into August, with a high count of 17 on July 14 (m.ob.); ca. 100 Double-crested Cormorants, possibly more, were seen through the end of the period, with ca. 30 active nests found below the dam; two to four Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen sporadically July 21–24 (A. Tarby, S. Barns *et al.*); Great Blue Herons and Great and Snowy egrets were all found nesting below the dam, and large numbers of Great, Snowy, and Cattle egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons were all suspected of breeding upstream from the dam; an ad. Little Blue Heron was found July 24 (ph., + R. & J. Jones *et al.*) and was seen into August, when it was joined by an imm. bird Aug. 2 (†GMcK); a single imm. Wood Stork was found below the dam July 24–25 (CBa *et al.*); multiple ad. Black-bellied Plovers (total number probably not exceeding 10–12) were found July 14 and into August, with a high of six Aug. 2 (GMcK *et al.*); large numbers of Snowy Plovers were present through July, with a high count of 120 July 27 (DS *et al.*); numbers of Semipalmated Plovers built up from four July 14 to more than 250 July 27 (DS *et al.*); single Whimbrels were reported on 5 days July 18–29 (JH, JBo *et al.*) and may have involved just a single bird; two to four ad. Ruddy Turnstones were seen sporadically July 27–Aug. 2 (DS *et al.*); multiple ad. Red Knots were found July 15–Aug. 2 (DJo, MS *et al.*), with a high of six on July 29 (KLG); eight to fifteen ad. Sanderlings were seen July 28–Aug. 2 (PL, SF *et al.*); an early Pectoral Sandpiper was found Aug. 2 (B. Tweit, B. Labar); between one and four ad. Stilt Sandpipers were found July 27–29 (GHR *et al.*); one to four Short-billed Dowitchers were recorded July 14–Aug. 2 (DS *et al.*); a high count of 300 Long-billed Dowitchers was reported Aug. 2 (GMcK); two ad. **Laughing Gulls** were discovered Aug. 2 (†GMcK); numbers of California Gulls, mostly 2nd-summer birds, were present July 14 into August, with a high count of 75 July 27 and Aug. 2 (m.ob.); as many as seven Caspian Terns were seen July 14 into August (m.ob.); and a single sub-ad. Com. Tern was found among more the numerous Forster's July 14 (KK *et al.*).

(†DJo). Two ad. birds with three half-grown chicks were seen feeding adjacent to a road on that date while the observer was censusing a breeding bird atlas block. This represents the first breeding evidence of this species in Arizona. Two ad. Ruddy Turnstones, very rare migrants in the state, were found at G.F.P., July 31 (CBa). Very surprising, and nearly unprecedented in the state, was the discovery of a very early alternate-plumaged Dunlin at Kayenta S.T.P., July 19–21 (CL). Fall Dunlins do not normally appear in the state until the first week of October. Two ad. Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported for the period, with one at Sierra Vista S.T.P., July 10 (DJo),

and another the same day at Snyder Hill S.T.P. (DS); these represent the earliest fall records for this species in the state. An ad. Stilt Sandpiper at Kayenta S.T.P., July 26 (CL), and 5 adults at Willcox the next day (R. Tweit) are noteworthy. An ad. Short-billed Dowitcher was found at Snyder Hill S.T.P., July 18 (DS). Two pairs (including a nest with 4 eggs) of Com. Snipe, a very rare and local breeder in the state, were found e. of Alpine along the San Francisco R., July 1 (TC). Single early Red-necked Phalaropes were seen at Nogales S.T.P., July 8 (H. Winkler) and at Willcox July 13 (J. Gottlieb).

Single Inca Doves strayed to the Chiricahuas, with one near Paradise June 22, and another in Portal during early July (DJa). A wandering Yellow-billed Cuckoo at P.R.D., July 14 was some distance from any known breeding area (KK). A hopelessly lost Groove-billed Ani was spotted along I-8 w. of Gila Bend July 27 (DS, GHR *et al.*).

OWLS TO KINGFISHERS

An Elf Owl along Oak Cr. near Cornville was n. of that species' normal range in Arizona (D. Orsborn). Intriguing was the report of two Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls heard in Bass Canyon, Muleshoe Preserve July 22 (JWh). This area is well e. of any previous records for this species in the state. A Long-eared Owl on Black Mesa June 18, with the remains of another or the same found there July 14, provide interesting summer records for that part of the state (CL). Between June 1 & July 7 on Black Mesa, CL saw one N. Saw-whet Owl, found roosting sites for two others, and found the remains of yet another; these records follow the relatively numerous reports for n.e. Arizona during the winter and spring periods. A Com. Nighthawk heard in Green Valley July 2 was a new locality for that species in s.e. Arizona (LD).

A Black Swift was reported from Sedona July 16 (†A. Thornburg); this species has yet to be documented by photo or specimen for the state. Two Chimney Swifts were reported from Tucson July 11 in the same general area reported historically (PM). Another unidentified *Chaetura* species was seen near here July 30 (SGo). A ♂ Berylline Hummingbird was banded June 29 in Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. and was last seen the next day (*fide* DJa). Violet-crowned Hummingbirds away from the traditional Patagonia feeders included one in Ramsey Canyon June 6–July 4 (SW), one in Madera Canyon June 14–July 29 (LD), three to five at Portal from late June through the period (DJa), and another at Ramsey Canyon July 28 into August (SW). Other than the now-regular White-eared Hummingbirds at Ramsey Canyon, a single ♂ White-eared was at Madera Canyon, where quite rare, June 30 through the end of the period (D. Fugate), another male was seen at Comfort Spring, Huachuca Mts., July 19 (GHR), and yet another was at a feeder in the Santa Catalina Mts. in July (RS *et al.*).

A single ♂ Eared Trogon was infrequently reported from Ramsey Canyon throughout the period (*fide* SW). A pair of Belted Kingfishers was seen at what surely must have been an active nest burrow (the male was seen carrying a fish into the burrow) in a road cut well above the Little Colorado R. near Greer, White Mts., June 29 (TC), representing a new nesting locality in the state for that species. Less surprising was the report of a nestling being caught by a cat near Cornville on the same day (D. Orsborn); most recent nesting records of Belted Kingfisher in Arizona come from this area. Additionally, a female, present in the area since May, was last reported in the Coon Bluff area on the Salt R., June 20 (TGa). Along the upper S.P.R. between Charleston and Hereford, 15 Green Kingfishers were counted (date?), indicating a rather healthy population along this stretch of river (T. Velasco, *fide* JWh). Additional single birds were reported from Kino Springs and Sonoita Cr. during the period (m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

A pair of Greater Pewees building a nest in an oak in French Joe Canyon, Whetstone Mts., May 24 (TM) provided the first nesting record for that range. Censusing done by Arizona Game & Fish personnel during the period reportedly identified ca. 70 Willow Flycatcher territories in the state, with most being found in the lower S.P.R. region, and in the White Mts. (*fide* TC); it is unclear how many of these birds represent singing migrants still heading n. during the first half of June. The breeding subspecies of Willow

Flycatcher in the Southwest (*E. t. extimus*) is critically endangered due to habitat loss. Ten singing Gray Flycatchers e. of Young June 22 suggests local breeding and would significantly extend the summer range of that species to the southwest if actually found nesting there (TM). A pair of Cordilleran Flycatchers building a nest n. of Big Springs on the N. Kaibab Plateau 20 June amazingly represents the first evidence of breeding for that region n. of the Grand Canyon (J. Spence, TC). Two pairs of Buff-breasted Flycatchers, suspected of nesting, were found in French Joe Canyon, Whetstone Mts., July 28 (TM), representing what is probably a first record for that range. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Bass Canyon, Muleshoe Preserve, July 28 represents a new locality for that species in Arizona (T. Godfrey, DJo), and



White-eared Hummingbirds were found at four Arizona sites this season. This one was at Ramsey Canyon, the most reliable spot in recent years, on July 16, 1993. Photograph/Matt Heindel.

another in Brown Canyon, Baboquivari Mts. (date ?) is one of only a few records for that range (TU). A pair of Tropical Kingbirds found nesting just s. of the Hwy 90 bridge, upper S.P.R., July 24 represents a first local nesting (JWh). Farther n., multiple pairs were found nesting during the period on the lower S.P.R. between Cascabel and Winkleman (TC), representing a significant increase there. Thick-billed Kingbirds were likewise found in higher numbers along the same stretch of river, with 4 or 5 pairs detected (TC *et al.*). An E. Kingbird was photographed at San Bernardino Ranch e. of Douglas June 27 (ph. AM, D. Danforth). An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a surprising find near Kayenta June 24 (CL).

A late ad. Tree Swallow was headed n. near Cascabel, lower S.P.R., June 6 (D. Felley). Barn Swallow is a surprisingly rare breeder in n.e. Arizona, so 2 active nests found at Teec Nos Pos July 6 were worthy of note (CL).

THRUSHES TO TANAGERS

A very late Swainson's Thrush (race?) was uncovered on the upper S.P.R., June 19 (JWh). The Brown Thrasher first reported in Portal during the spring was last seen there on the very late date of July 6 (DJa). Unexpected was a singing White-eyed Vireo

along the lower S.P.R., July 30 (ph., †TC), providing about the 11th record for the state. The Yellow-throated Vireo found on the upper S.P.R. in May was seen there through the period (m.ob.), and another was discovered along Sonoita Cr., July 4–10 (DJo).

Two Black-and-white Warblers were reported for the period, with one at the Haysayampa Preserve June 28 (S. Miller, P. Friederici), and a male at Cook's L., July 30 (DS, R. & R. Colwell). An imm. ♂ Am. Redstart, another rare migrant, was found on the upper S.P.R., June 30 (JWh). More unusual was a ♀ Hooded Warbler found near there, possibly the same individual found there in May, July 10 (T. Godfrey, DJo). Outclassing all of these warblers was the discovery July 24 of a Rufous-capped Warbler in California Gulch, providing the state with only the 5th record of this rare vagrant from Mexico (†RS *et al.*).

The famous pair of Flame-colored Tanagers in Ramsey Canyon hatched three nestlings in early June, but the female, unfortunately, disappeared around June 8, possibly falling prey to an unknown predator. The nestlings, now with only one parent to care for them, vanished from the nest soon thereafter, also likely victims of an unknown predator. The lone male was last reported in the canyon July 29 (*fide* SW). Such are the perils of colonizers.

GROSBEAKS TO ORIOLES

The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported for the period was one near Sedona June 25 (B. Pierce). Varied Buntings continue to establish themselves at the n. end of the Chiricahuas; an imm. male and two female-plumaged birds were seen near Portal during the period (date?), and two more males and a female were noted at Willow Tank s.e. of Portal July 11–31 (DJa). A ♂ Painted Bunting was found on the upper S.P.R. s. of Hwy 90 July 3–5 (B. Lyon, C. Cathers), a dull female-plumaged bird was seen in California Gulch July 25 (TC, DTr), another dull bird was uncovered at Patagonia July 30–Aug. 1 (GHR, DS), and yet another bird, an ad. female, was discovered near St. David during the period (date?) (DK). A few Black-chinned Sparrows were heard singing in Peppersauce Canyon on the n. side of the Santa Catalina Mts. in early July (*fide* SGo); this species is not known definitely to breed in this range. A couple of late White-crowned Sparrows were reported in early June, with one at Kino Springs June 7 (C. DeWaard), and another on Black Mesa June 8 (CL).

A ♂ Hooded Oriole wandered N. to Lyman L. n. of Springerville July 4 (MS). A complete surprise was the discovery of a male and two ♀ Streak-backed Orioles with 2 nests on the lower S.P.R., June 6–7 (TC,

GM). The male and one of the females paired with it successfully hatched and probably fledged an undetermined number of young in late July to early August. Details of this first nesting record for this species n. of Mexico will be published elsewhere.

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New Mexico

Sartor O. Williams III

Abbreviations: Bitter L. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque Ref. (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*). Guadalupe, Skeleton, and Post Office canyons refer to those portions in *Hidalgo*, New Mexico. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO DUCKS

Two Com. Loons lingered into the summer, one each at Hayden L., July 11 (PRS, MM) and Eagle Nest L., June 23 (CR). The 1250 Eared Grebe nests at Stinking L., July 10 (DS) amounted to less than one-half the 1990 nest total there; 100 nests were at Horse L., June 29 (DS) and 165 nests at 3 Zuni sites June 19–July 31 (DC), while southerly but apparently non-breeding were nine Eareds near Hatch July 4 (CS) and seven at Holloman L., June 25 (CR, CS). Thirteen W. Grebe nests were active at Horse L., June 28 (DS), but only one nest was at Stinking L.,

June 13–14 (DS); a possible juv. Clark's was at Storrie L., June 11 (JH). Late were 52 Am. White Pelicans near Tajique June 9 (HS); others were in *Colfax* June 1–July (v.o.). A juv. Brown Pelican literally crashed and burned, a victim of power lines at San Miguel, *Dona Ana* July 25 (H. Bigelow). Double-crested Cormorants again nested at Abiquiu L., with at least 6 nests June 2 (JH, EE) and July 2 (CR, PRS); westerly was a Double-crested at L. Roberts July 13 (EL). Least Bitterns at sites rarely reported included two to three at Tucumcari L. in July (CR, PI, JP) and one at Albuquerque July 7 (BW). Black-crowned Night-Herons had a record year at Stinking L., with 24 nests found and 42 young banded (DS). White-faced Ibises were likewise successful at Stinking L., with at least 39 nests found June 28–July 10 and 38 young banded (DS); the 6 ibis nests located earlier at Zuni succumbed to predators by June 22 (DC, SA). Wood Ducks away from usual areas included three at Strubblefield L. June 11 (CR), one at the Gray Ranch June 9 (SOW), and a pair at Mesilla June 13 (RM). A Gadwall brood at an e. plains wetland near San Jon June 17 (JH) was noteworthy, as were single Redhead broods at 2 Zuni locales June 30 and July 9 (DC).

RAPTORS TO QUAILS

Enthusiasm over the recent discovery of two nesting Osprey pairs in n. New Mexico was dampened by the disturbance-related failure of the Heron L. nest; however, the El Vado L. nest successfully fledged 4 young in July (DS). The sighting of an ad. Osprey at L. Roberts (RF) hinted that the species may also begin summering in the southwest. White-tailed Kites remained in evidence in the south, with two near Lordsburg June 19 (SOW) and singles at Rodeo July 15 (J. Dunn) and at Mesilla July 7 (RM). Mississippi Kites showed further evidence of recolonizing the middle Rio Grande Valley, with one at Albuquerque July 6 (DL) and eight near Los Lunas June 29 (DL, JB). New Mexico's 2 known Bald Eagle nests were successful, the one in *Colfax* fledging three by June 25 (SOW) and that in *Sierra* fledging two (GE *et al.*). Four N. Harriers were near Rattlesnake Springs July 5, where a "local" juvenile was found shot the same date (SW, TH); the species is a scarce breeder in New Mexico. An ad. Com. Black-Hawk on the w. slope of the San Mateo Mts. in Water Canyon July 3 (P. Stacey) may be a first for that range. A sextet of Harris' Hawks near Gage June 17 (SOW) suggested continuing success in the *Luna* area. Swainson's Hawk numbers in the southwest were described as down considerably from 1970 levels (D&MZ). A Gambel's Quail of Mt Tay-

lor June 15 (JT, BW) may have been the product of past introductions.

PLOVERS TO TERNS

A Black-bellied Plover was late at Holloman L., June 6–7 (GE), while four Semipalmateds were early at Zuni July 27 (DC). Snowy Plovers were successful at Holloman L. (GE, CR, CS), with a high of 62, including nine young plus 6 active nests June 24 (CS). Numbers remained low in the Laguna Grande area, where only 14 were sighted June 5 (SW). The only Mt. Plovers reported from the northeast were two each near Farley June 4 (GF) and Grenville June 11 (KS), the latter down considerably from 1970 levels; more encouraging were two found June 6 near Datil, where they are rarely reported (LE), migrants were at Los Lunas by July 7 (JP, BP) with 64 there July 17 (JP). Unusual for summer was a Black-necked Stilt at Zuni June 23–July 27 (ph. DC). Notably early was a Willet at Holloman L., June 25 (CR, CS), others were at 6 locales July 4–27 (v.o.), including 11 near Tucumcari July 9 (CR, PI). Rarer shorebirds included a Marbled Godwit at Storrie L., July 11 (BF) and five Marbleds plus a Pectoral at Tucumcari L., July 9 (CR, PI). Summering Com. Snipes included singles at Sargent W.M.A., June 4 (JH), Los Ojos June 5 (JH, RD), and Valle Grande June 10 (DS), plus nine in the Angel Fire–Black L. area June 23 (CR). Wilson's Phalaropes again bred in the Wagon Mound area (JH, RD), while a new breeding site was confirmed at Zuni June 14 (SA) when an adult flushed from a nest with eggs; a return trip June 22 found up to 20 adults (ph. DC) with distraction displays observed. Two possible **Laughing Gulls**, described as an adult and a 2nd-year bird, were at Maxwell N.W.R., June 10 (CB). Moderate numbers of California Gulls again summered at Heron L. (v.o.), but nesting was not discovered; single Californias were at Eagle Nest L., June 23 (CR) and Storrie L., June 11 (JH). Unusual were three Forester's Terns at L. Carlsbad June 2 (SW); the only additional June report was of a single at Bitter L., June 18 (SW). The small population of Least Terns at Bitter L. numbered 7 nesting pairs (SOW, G. Knadle), the most there in almost 2 decades. The only June report of Black Terns was of 14 non-breeders at Bitter L., June 23 (SOW).

PIGEONS TO SWIFTS

Band-tailed Pigeons continued to be widely reported in n., w., and s.-c. montane areas (v.o.); a vagrant was at Mesilla July 5 (GE). Far n. of the usual range was a White-winged Dove at Carson, *Taos* July 3 (J. Healy, *vide* PRS). Strengthening their colonization of Albuquerque, White-wingeds were reported there at up to 7 locales (v.o.), three were at

Valencia June 5 (HS) and one at Los Lunas June 28 (DL, JB); in the southeast, seven in the Guadalupe Mts. at Queen June 26 (SW) furnished a local first. The only Com. Ground-Dove was a single at Hill, *Dona Ana* June 8 (RM). Yellow-billed Cuckoos where they are seldom reported included singles at Tucumcari and Apache Cr., at San Simon Cienega (v.o.); highs were 10 along the Rio Grande between Rincon and Leasburg July 4 (CS) and nine at Rattlesnake Springs June 13 (SW, TH). A Greater Roadrunner was at Perico Cr., near Clayton June 24 (HS); the species is very local in n.e. New Mexico. Concern was expressed over possible Burrowing Owl declines in the southwest (D&MZ) and southeast (SW). A Whip-poor-will at Water Canyon June 5 (CR) was near the n. limit of the usual range. A probable Black Swift was at Sargent W.M.A., June 4 (RD, *fide* JH); at Jemez Falls, five Black Swifts were on nests July 16 (CR), but by July 25 only 4 nests were left (CS). The only Chimney Swifts were one to three at Tucumcari L., July 9 (CR, PI) & 24 (JP). Easterly were two White-throated Swifts near Montoya, *Quay* June 17 (JH).

HUMMINGBIRDS TO FLYCATCHERS

Two northerly ♂ **White-eared Hummingbirds** were near L. Roberts, *Grant* July 9+ (v.o., ph. D&MZ); even farther n. was a possible White-eared at Holy Ghost C.G., near Terrero, *San Miguel* July 25 (T. & S. Shane). Blue-throated Hummingbirds were near Post Office Canyon and 2 Peloncillo Mt. sites (v.o.). Lucifers were restricted to the Peloncillo Mts., with 4–6 pairs in Post Office Canyon (RS) and a male and 2 females in Skeleton Canyon June 17–18 (SOW). Anna's Hummingbirds were largely absent from the Silver City area in June but were conspicuous—and singing—in July (D&MZ); other Anna's were at Post Office Canyon (RS), Skeleton Canyon June 17–18 (SOW) and July 4 (JP *et al.*), and Guadalupe Canyon July 3 (JP *et al.*). Two ♂ **Costa's Hummingbirds** were seen June 9–11 in Guadalupe Canyon, where several had been seen in spring (SOW), but none was reported thereafter. Easterly were a ♂ Black-chinned at Ute Cr., near Logan June 17 (JH) and a ♂ Magnificent at High Rolls, *Otero* July 3 (L&JS); an early Rufous was viewed at Santa Fe June 25 (SOW). A probable **Elegant Trogon** was in the Mimbres Mts., s.w. of Emory Pass June 23 (S. Brown); at least one pair of Elegants was in Skeleton Canyon June 17–18 (SOW). Single Belted Kingfishers were at Rattlesnake Springs June 8 (SW) and at the upper Black R., July 5 (SW, TH); the species is rare in summer in *Eddy*. An active Lewis' Woodpecker nest at Mule Cr., July 2 (JH, EE) may be the first for *Grant*. Westerly; a

Red-headed Woodpecker was in a new locale, at Gallo Arroyo s.e. of Corona June 12 (DM), while southerly and unusual for summer were single Downies in the Bosque Ref. area June 5 (JP, L. Gorbet) & 27 (N&SC). Northern Beardless Tyrannulets were at 5 Guadalupe Canyon sites June 10 (SOW), where this and other species may be benefiting from the exclusion of livestock grazing from the canyon's riparian zone.

Concern for the welfare of the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher prompted statewide surveys. June 10–July 20, 31 pairs or singing males were recorded at 15 locations.

S.A.

Concern for the welfare of the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, a riparian obligate that has suffered declines in numbers and range in recent years, prompted a multi-agency/organization survey effort sponsored by the New Mexico Partners in Flight program. During June 10–July 20, 30 pairs or singing males were recorded at 14 locations, but many additional areas produced none (m.ob.). The taxon was proposed by the U. S. F. & W. S. for federal listing as endangered on July 23.

A Dusky Flycatcher was southerly near Vick's Peak, San Mateo Mts., June 27 (GS); one near Tijeras July 22 (CR) may have been an early migrant. A Cordilleran singing at Mesilla was late, June 9 (RM). Single E. Phoebes were at Folsom Falls June 5 (DC) and e. of Sabinoso June 10 (CR). Westerly E. Kingbirds were one at Los Ojos June 5 (JH, RD) and "2 adults plus 2 juveniles" at Sandia Pueblo July 12 (DL, JB).

CORVIDS TO PHAINOPEPLA

Away from expected habitat were 16 Pinyon Jays at Bosque Ref., June 1 (RT *et al.*). Easterly Com. Ravens included two at Newkirk June 17 (JH) plus a nest with young on Perico Cr., near Clayton June 25 (HS). A Black-capped Chickadee at Sargent W.M.A. near Chama June 4–5 (JH) was noteworthy. A Plain Titmouse was banded at Dripping Springs, Organ Mts., July 8 (CS), where the species is scarce. Three Verdins at La Luz June 25 (CR) were at the n. edge of their range. Early for the s. lowlands were single Red-breasted Nuthatches at Percha July 20 (DL, JB) and Mesilla July 30 (RM). Cactus Wrens continued to press N, with June reports at Cerro Verde, *Cibola* (GF) and Glenrio, *Quay* (JH); noteworthy were eight plus a nest structure on the n.e. flank of the Capitan Mts., e. *Lincoln* (BW). Easterly was

a singing Canyon Wren near Grenville June 11 (KS). Marsh Wrens, only recently found nesting at Stinking L., had a record season there, with 11 nests containing eggs or young June 13–14 (DS), plus 3 more nests with eggs found July 10 (DS). Nine E. Bluebirds, described as 3 family groups each, with at least one juvenile, were in a Mesilla pecan orchard July 24 (RM), providing the first solid evidence of local breeding; singing males had been present there since May. One to two Veeries singing along the Rio Pueblo e. of Vadito, *Taos* June 20 (SW) & 26 (JT) furnished further evidence of probable local breeding. Swainson's Thrushes in new areas were found singing in Felipito Canyon, *Rio Arriba* June 24 (CB) and e. of Talpa, *Taos* July 7 (C. Milensky); one to two were near Red R., July 29 (JH). Gray Catbirds south of known summering areas were one at Cottonwood Canyon, Zuni Mts., July 14 (HS) and two at Mescalero June 28 (RG). A Brown Thrasher was at Albuquerque June 14 (S. Segal), where it is casual in summer. Bendire's Thrashers were noted frequently in the west, from Crownpoint (GS), Nageezi (GS), and Counselor (GS) south to Cerro Verde (GF), Datil (LE), and the San Augustin Plains (JP, BP) and at Rodeo (CS) and the Animas Valley (JP, BP); out of range was one singing near Las Cruces June 5 (RM). Several Am. Pipits were a good find at Brazos Ridge, *Rio Arriba* July 23 (JH, EE). Phainopepla north of their usual range included one near Alma June 30 (JH, EE), two at La Joya July 16 (CR, PI), and three near San Antonio June 27 (N&SC); 20 were sighted June 9–10 at San Andres N.W.R. (GF, MW); the species was still there in July (MW).

VIREOS TO TANAGERS

The large "colony" of Gray Vireos recently discovered on the w. slope of the Manzano Mts. at Kirtland A.F.B. had a minimum of 25 territories June 17–July 7 (CB); a nest with eggs was found July 6 (CB, HS). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Boone's Draw was late, June 3 (CB). Westerly Red-eyed Vireos were singles at Isleta Pueblo July 6 (DL, JB) and Water Canyon June 4 (AS). On the warbler front, an Orange-crowned at Hill, *Dona Ana* June 20 (RM) was late, a N. Parula was singing at Tolby C.G. e. of Eagle Nest June 9 (CB), a ♂ Magnolia was at Albuquerque July 7 (DL, JB), an Am. Redstart was at Ojo Caliente, *Taos* July 1 (CR), a late Ovenbird was at a migrant trap in *Roosevelt* June 3 (CB), and one to two late Wilson's were at Six Mile Canyon, Magdalena Mts., June 5 (CR) and Post Office Canyon June 6 (RS). Seven Red-faced Warblers in Copper Canyon, Magdalena Mts., June 15 (HS) was a good number for that northerly locale;

numbers of Red-faced were up generally in the southwest (D&MZ), including 22 near Emory Pass June 12 (PFB), and one was near Cloudcroft June 25 (CR, CS). Northerly was a Painted Redstart at Sawmill Spring, Magdalena Mts., June 11 (HS). Far north of the known range were four probable Olive Warblers at Mt. Taylor July 4 (GF). Continuing the spring trend was a northerly Summer Tanager at Bernalillo June 25 (RD).

BUNTINGS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was observed feeding young at Zuni July 9 (DC), where breeding is rare; southerly reports of Lazulis included single singing males at Glenwood July 6 (JP, BP), Bosque Ref., July 17 (CR *et al.*), Percha July 17 (RM), and Mescalero June 28 (RG), as well as a pair at Garfield July 23 (RM). San Andres N.W.R. in July (MW) provided a new locale for two Varied Buntings and continued the string of recent reports from s.-c. New Mexico. Single ♂ Painted Buntings were a welcome sight near both Leasburg June 13 (RM) and El Paso Gap, *Eddy* June 12 (L. Foster, *fide* SW), the latter the first for *Eddy* w. of the Guadalupe Mts. Two Dickcissels were singing at Maxwell N.W.R., June 4 (ph. DC) & 10 (CB); three near Clovis June 4 (CB) furnished a new locale. Two **Botteri's Sparrows** were singing in the Animas Valley July 5 (JP, BP), marking the 3rd consecutive year for the species at that site. Westerly Cassin's Sparrows included three at Zuni June 19 (DC) and 17 near Datil June 13 (LE); local highs included 10 near Valencia June 4 (HS), and 59 north of Lordsburg June 19 (SOW). Three Chipping Sparrows were late at San Marcial June 10 (RM), while one was early at Mesilla July 24 (RM). Brewer's Sparrows in areas in which they are not known to breed included one at Melrose Bombing Range, *Roosevelt* June 25–27 (GF) and four s. of Encino June 24 (CR). Savannah Sparrows were reported from 9 locales in *Rio Arriba*, *Cofax*, and *Mora* June 4–July 8 (v.o.), but no nesting was documented; unusual were four at Zuni June 22 (DC). Southerly Song Sparrows included three singing along Bluewater Cr., Zuni Mts., June 18 (HS) and two at Zuni July 9 (DC). Lincoln's Sparrows were relatively numerous in the San Juan, Jemez, and Sangre de Cristo ranges (v.o.); one in the Zuni Mts., July 2 (DC) was unusual, while three near Cloudcroft June 25 (CR, CS) continued recent summer records there. Seven **Bobolinks** at Los Ojos July 2, including a stub-tailed juvenile being fed by an adult (CR, PRS), provided the first solid evidence of nesting in New Mexico. Eastern Meadowlarks were found N to Zuni (DC), Sevilla N.W.R. (RT *et al.*), Storrie L. (BF), and near Nara Visa (JH) Southerly Brewer's

Blackbirds included 10 between Moriarty and Estancia June 23 (JH, EE) and three at Sandia Park June 25 (JH, EE). Bronzed Cowbirds continued much in evidence in the southwest, with reports of one to five from at least 10 locales (v.o.). Orchard Orioles made a good showing in the northeast, with one to two in the Dry Cimarron Valley June 5 (DC), Nara Visa June 18 (JH), and Glenrio June 17 (JH). Worthy of note, a Hooded Oriole was at Ropes Spring, San Andres N.W.R., June 9–10 (GF, MW) and in July (MW), while a northeasterly Scott's was seen in *Harding* June 2 (SOW). Red Crossbills were widespread and relatively numerous after mid-June, particularly in the n. highlands (v.o.) but also in smaller ranges from Mt. Taylor and the Datils south to the Sacramentos (v.O.); fledged juveniles were at 2 locales in the San Juan Mts. (JH, EE, CR) and near L. Roberts (CR). Summering Am. Goldfinches were at Sargent W.M.A., June 5 (JH), Los Ojos July 2 (CR, PRS), Espanola July 11 (MM), Coyote Cr. S.P., June 23 (CR), and Zuni June 23 & 30 (DC); a straggler was at Bosque Ref., June 5 (CR *et al.*). Evening Grosbeaks were relatively numerous in a variety of habitats in the n. highlands (v.o.), but outlying reports came only from Mt. Taylor (JT, BW) and High Rolls, Sacramento Mts. (L&JS).

Addendum and Corrigendum: Received late was news of a Broad-billed Hummingbird at Las Cruces July 12, 1992 (ph. B. Thompson). The Least Tern at Nutria L. July 8, 1992 was in *McKinley*, not *Cibola*.

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ALASKA REGION

T. G. Tobish, Jr.

Thanks to a major southward drift of the Aleutian Low well into the N. Pacific, the entire Region baked in record warm temperatures and extensive high pressure. Prolonged deviations above historical high temperatures were reported at stations Regionwide, including peripheral sites on the North Slope, across most of Southeast, and on the Bering Sea coast. Precipitation was well below average through July and, coupled with the heat, likely compromised local nesting conditions. Nesting success, when it was summarized, was very sporadic, especially for waterbirds. Young-of-the-year non-alpine breeding passerines and dabbling ducks Regionwide were evident very early, thanks no doubt to the unseasonably warm and early spring. Although survey results had not been summarized by the season's deadline, preliminary indications were that it was an above-average year for the traditional drought-displaced n. prairie species, especially in the eastern Interior. Seabird nesting success was also sporadic, with local failures noted especially in the Gulf of Alaska colonies. Southbound shorebird migration was early, uneventful, and without notable concentrations, even at standard staging areas. Nevertheless, summer 1993 was not without highlights, this year concentrated in Southeast and on the North Slope.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

A pair of Arctic Loons exhibited site tenacity around the same area of coastal tundra and nearshore waters near Safety Lagoon out of Nome well into June (ATTOUR, KK). This pair frequently flew inland and back to the coast and was indicative of nesting or nest prospecting behavior. There are no breeding records of Arctic Loon s. of Nome. The season's Short-tailed Albatross report came from the Kodiak I. area, where a brown-plumaged immature was reported over the Continental Shelf e. of Kodiak June 11 (JBA) The Region's 2nd **American White Pelican** wandered into SE and offshore to Klawock on Prince of Wales I., June 23–27 (DJ, KL ph.). Another (or the same) bird was seen independently well to the east near Ketchikan June 25–26 (LS, *fide* SCH). The only previous record was of a single bird from Petersburg in summer 1981. Most unexpected was a single ad. Trumpeter Swan near Safety Lagoon June 9–10 (VENT ph., SC ph) The only other documented record of



in the e. Interior nearly at the U.S.–Canada border at Border City Lodge June 9 (TJD ph.). There is now documentation for about 3 Killdeer nests from the Region. Following past circumstantial nesting evidence, the Kodiak Archipelago's first Spotted Sandpiper nest was documented June 24 from the American R. near Chiniak Bay (RAM ph., WD).

What may have been the same ad. **Franklin's Gull** that had appeared in Anchorage in the spring season (q.v.), turned up at Homer June 13 (DT, GCW ph.). Likely the same ad. **Black-tailed Gull** from fall 1992 reappeared briefly at the Ketchikan waterfront July 5 (†SCH). It was not relocated

this taiga breeder from the Seward Pen. is an eggset collected in 1902 60 km “northeast of Cape Nome.” The e. Interior Trumpeter Swan nesting population continued its recent expansion after several new territories were located in the Upper Tanana V. this June (TJD). Low brood success was noted, however, in the Tanana Basin and in the Copper R. Delta area (REF).

The North Slope's first summer and 3rd ever **Baikal Teal** was found with other dabblers w. of Prudhoe Bay near Milne Pt., June 13 (TM *et al.*). This gaudy drake displayed to ♀ N. Pintails; it remained for at least 5 weeks and was last seen in early stages of molt. Dabbling duck production was found to be the lowest ever recorded in the Upper Tanana V. this season (TJD). Unusual summer reports of single drake Eur. Wigeon came from Solomon, e. of Nome June 11 (VENT) and Kotzebue June 14–15 (ER, JR). Non-breeding itinerant Lesser Scaup were more widespread than usual, with extralimital birds at Barrow, a single female June 26 (VENT), and a flock of five at Prudhoe Bay June 27–July 7 (RF, NW, SW, KTK). Lesser Scaup were also more common than the norm in Southcoastal, at least at Anchorage, where easily 200+ summered at the key large waterbodies (TGT, RLS), and in the Cordova area, where they were reported as “the most numerous ever in summer” (REF). At least 5 broods were evident on Anchorage's L. Hood July 17 (RLS), for the first documented nest records in Southcoastal. An above-average count of 19 Ruddy Ducks, consisting mostly of pairs, was tallied on the expansive e. Interior lake system July 15–16 (TJD), centered around Tetlin. A female with 7 young at the traditional Northway nesting site July 26–28 (LC, BC, TJD) secured the only certain breeding record for the season.

RAILS TO ALCIDS

Five Soras were reported from the e. Interior, mostly along the Alaska Hwy. e. to Yarger L. June 19–July 15 (TJD). None was reported from the Stikine R. area from mainland SE. Over the past 5 years, Soras have been far more regular in the e. Interior than had historically been believed. American Coots made a strong showing and bred in the e. Interior, with a total of 32 adults and 21 young-of-the-year seen July 15–16 in the vicinity of Tetlin (TJD). As evidenced in the past, Am. Coots remain to breed in the e. Interior lake systems when enough birds appear to stimulate breeding. Noteworthy extralimital shorebird reports included the following: a single Mongolian Plover from Nome June 30 (= latest Seward Pen. record, +WS); **Black-tailed Godwit** at Prudhoe Bay June 24 (= first Beaufort Sea record, +RF); Marbled Godwit at Izembek Lagoon July 6 (= westernmost for the Region, CPD, REG); a remarkable flyby flock of six Great Knots at St. Lawrence I.'s Northwest Cape June 7 (†KJZ); an ad. Sanderling well inland, where it is very rare, at L. Louise s. of Glennallen July 15 (TP); above-average numbers of Rufous-necked Stints, in the Nome area, with up to seven per day June 14–17 (VENT, KK), and two adults near Nome June 30 (WS ph.), and five at St. Paul I., June 15–17 (VENT); **Spoonbill Sandpiper** at Barrow June 27 (= first Beaufort Sea and 4th state record, KJZ, ph. VENT); a single Reeve at Prudhoe Bay June 14–15 (m.ob., *fide* RF); and an alternate-plumaged ♂ Red Phalarope on fresh water at Anchorage July 11–12 (= first Upper Cook Inlet and one of very few inland Southcoastal records (DWS, RLS). Killdeer wandered to unusual sites, with singles found at Prudhoe Bay, where it is casual June 10–11 (KTK) and on the Denali Hwy. in the Alaska Range Foothills June 15 (DDG). Another Killdeer nest was located

among the gull masses. Unusual summering Ring-billed Gulls were reported from the Ketchikan area with up to 4 first- and 2nd-summer individuals present June 14–26+ (SCH). The first post-breeding wanderers appeared in the Region at Ketchikan, on time, with two there July 26 (SCH). Petersburg's first **Western Gull** was an adult picked out of the gull hordes at the canneries along the Narrows July 25–26 (PJW ph.). Most records of this casual visitant are from late summer into early fall. Extralimital Glaucous-winged Gulls wandered well inland to Fairbanks for the first summer record, with two adults there June 10 (DS, GHR, TGT), and up the Copper R. to Chitna, where a 2nd-summer bird was seen June 15 (TGT, RLS). A hybrid Glaucous-winged × Herring adult was also identified at the Fairbanks dump June 10 (DS, GHR, TGT). Rare in the N. Gulf Coast area especially in early summer, and most unusual inshore, was a Red-legged Kittiwake in the intertidal zone of Kodiak's Womens Bay June 22 (†RAM). It was a quiet year for Caspian Terns, and few were noted around the Copper R.–Cordova area, where this pioneer breeds. A single ad. Caspian Tern appeared far from the coast at L. Louise, s. of Glennallen June 15 (TP), providing a 3rd inland report for the Region.

Excellent concentrations of Marbled Murrelets were reported from s. SE this season, where there are few such mid-summer data. More than 100 were counted off Gravina I. near Ketchikan June 26–July 17 (SCH), another loose group of 100+ was tallied to the south in Nichols Passage July 17 (SCH), and 130+ were in nearby Clover Pass in late June (RL). Northwest of these in Thorne Bay on Prince of Wales I. was a group of 200+ July 24 (MAA). An unusual Marbled Murrelet nest was found on a moss-covered cliff ledge in the Thorne Bay area of Prince of Wales I., July 23 (CF, *fide* MAA).



American White Pelican at Klawock, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, on June 25, 1993. Second state record. Photograph/Kelli Loudon.

OWLS TO CORVIDS

Of the scattered few mid-summer N. Pygmy Owl reports, mostly from Mitkof I., most significant was one farther off the mainland on Kupreanof I., June 18 (PJW). Single Barred Owls were located at each end of Revillagigedo I. at Roosevelt Lagoon June 3 (RL) and s. of Ketchikan July 7+ (HK, fide SCH) and throughout July n. of Juneau (DWS). Both areas appear to support resident Barred Owls. The Region's 5th summer Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a singing bird, appeared off the SE mainland at Mitkof I., June 23–25 (*PJW). For the first summer in several years, Least Flycatcher went unreported in the Region. Western Kingbird,

Swallows at St. Paul I. in the Pribilofs June 8–10 showed very dark plumage characters, often attributed to Palearctic *R. r. ijimae*, which is now considered invalid. A pioneering pair of Barn Swallows were building a nest and later seen feeding young on a shed at Portage June 16 (WINGS) until July 3+ (CM). This constitutes the 2nd recent breeding record of this casual visitant to the Cook Inlet basin.

The Hyder area Am. Crow population produced a very low count of only 2 birds July 2–3 (SCH). Whether this pioneer population has declined or birds were off at nest sites and tending young was not clear.

Prudhoe Bay's 2nd Red-throated Pipit was a singing male in the same area as last year's female June 20–25 (KTK *et al.*). There are now about 3 Beaufort Sea coast records in Alaska. New data from SE in the alpine area above Ketchikan outlined a clearer picture of the breeding status of Am. Pipit. Twenty-plus ad. birds and a number of begging young were counted July 10 along 2 mi of ridgeline above 800 m (SCH). These represent the first recent breeding records from the Alexander Archipelago and demonstrate an unexpected high density. Cedar Waxwings are very rare away from the SE mainland, so two at Sitka June 18–24 (MLW) and a single at Thorne Bay, Prince of Wales I., July 18–19 (MAA) were noteworthy.

known nesting areas approximately 200 km to the east in s.w. Yukon–n.w. British Columbia for *S. b. taverneri*. Another White-throated Sparrow wandered W of the species range in the Yukon into the e. Interior at Scottie Cr., June 16 (†TJD). This dry land pine forest nester is casual in spring in the e. Interior. As a follow-up to last year's e. Interior records, a Western Meadowlark reached Tok June 15 (†RS). After at least a decade hiatus, an imm. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared in the Region, this time at Barrow July 13 (= 2nd local record, RSu).

Red Crossbills exploded into most of s. SE, including at least Prince of Wales I., while White-wingeds were scattered and locally uncommon mostly in the Interior w. to at least Fairbanks. Perplexing and without



As a long-distance migrant, Franklin's Gull has the potential for showing up well outside its normal range. This adult was at Homer, Alaska, on June 13, 1993. Photograph/George C. West.

explanation is the only way to characterize the appearance of a ♂ House Sparrow at Gambell June 13–14 (*BK, JWF *et al.*). Although there is apparently a n. Japan record, it's a guess how this individual arrived at St. Lawrence I. There are now 2 Alaska records.

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S.A.

The ATTOUR group witnessed an unprecedented passage of Arctic Warblers along the Seward Pen. coast on the Teller–Nome Road June 8. In the 65 km between Woolley Lagoon and Nome, every stop revealed a frenzy of 10–15 singing birds and dozens of others skulking through the willows. Proctor estimated that total numbers had to include thousands of birds. No other species appeared to be moving with the warblers as they streamed across the Bering Strait. No previous one-day count comes close to this number of Arctic Warblers for the Region.

recently annual in SE, appeared this year in the Juneau area on Douglas I., June 6–7 (RJG, MWS). Far more expected in Hyder than in the N. Slope, where last year's first state record was furnished, was an Eastern Phoebe in "downtown" Hyder June 21 (JM, LM). This flycatcher occurs regularly as close as e.-c. BC. After several years of few or no summer records, an E. Kingbird was reported from Petersburg July 5 (PJW). Notable extralimital swallow reports came from the North Slope around Prudhoe Bay, with one Bank Swallow June 2 (TM *et al.*), and a Cliff Swallow June 9 (MI). Two Bank

VIREOS TO PASSER

One of the two Juneau area Solitary Vireos was still present and singing near the Mendenhall Glacier June 26 (MWS). Most surprising was an aggregation of at least five singing Tennessee Warblers outside of Juneau in uncharacteristic evergreen woods July 3–11 (MCW). Two other Tennessees were noted for only the 2nd time in summer near Petersburg June 19 and July 1 (PJW). Tennessee Warbler is typically a very rare summer bird, usually scattered in the riparian zone along a few mainland SE rivers. Walsh found the Petersburg area's 2nd-summer Magnolia Warblers, two birds June 5 (PJW), while likely the same territorial Magnolia was relocated in the Fish Cr. woods near Hyder July 2 (SCH) for the 3rd successive year. Noteworthy extralimital warbler records included a Blackpoll at Barrow, where it is casual on the N. Slope, June 16–18 (MJ, KB, KF) and a singing Com. Yellowthroat 65 km s. of Tok June 24 (†TJD). Following last summer's (q.v.) single-observer sight record, Brewer's Sparrow was substantiated in Alaska near Gold Hill in the Wrangell Mts., s.e. of Nabesna July 17 (†TJD, DWS ph., PDM). The bird was observed feeding a single young in an open scrub willow situation on a s.e. slope close to 1500 m. This habitat resembles the closest

BRITISH COLUMBIA/ YUKON REGION

Chris Siddle

The season was wet throughout British Columbia. However, no reports of the weather's effects on birdlife were received. This summer saw the continued proliferation of "seadoos," little one-person ski-doo-jet boats that can travel through marsh and wetland with devastating noise and disturbance. No one in authority seems concerned at this point about possible wildlife/waterfowl disturbance, so once again it's up to naturalists and birders to document carefully and bring to official attention cases of seadoo-wildlife conflict.

Dedicated investigators like Anna Roberts exploring the Fraser and Chilcotin River benchlands, Rev. Peter Hamel traveling along the Nass River, and Mark Phinney, Laird Law, and Sandra Kinsey working the South Peace turned up many species north of their known ranges. In some cases vagrants are involved, but in many others, hitherto unsuspected populations of species better known in southern British Columbia are being discovered. British Columbia's ornithological map continues to gain detail.

Abbreviations: P.G. (*Prince George*); Van. (*Vancouver*); Van. I. (*Vancouver I.*); Vic. (*Victoria*), Y.N.C. (*Yukon north coast*).

PELICANS TO TERNS

The only Brown Pelican reported was one at Quadra I. n. of Campbell River July 31 (B MacKinnon). A small colony of Great Blue Herons nested in Beacon Hill Park, Vic. Six adults and 5 juveniles were noted June 16 (RS). Great Egret sightings continue as the species spreads into BC. One adult was near Summit L., 50 km n. of P.G., June 3 off and on to June 30 (SK, LL, MP, m.ob.). This was a new species to the P.G. checklist. Another was at Kamloops June 5 (SR). Two Greater White-fronted Geese at Kamloops June 5 and one June 13 were very unusual (SR). Six Emperor Geese wintered at Sandspit, QCL, Jan. 29 to April 10 (one absent after Mar. 24) (MH, ph. BBo). This ties with a Dec. 1930 record (Estevan Pt.) for the largest flock ever encountered in B.C. of this very rare migrant and winter

visitor. Four Brant June 18 (LJ, OG, ph.) provided a first record for Revelstoke and a very rare interior record. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Iona June 14-17 provided the 2nd summer record for Van. (WCW, GA, RT, m.ob.). Very high numbers of Harlequin Ducks appeared around Sandspit Jan. 23 (645 birds) and Feb. 6 (685). In both cases, storm force winds concentrated the ducks in Shingle Bay. They scattered when each storm abated (MH). Ferruginous Hawks are very rare stragglers to the province. This season's bird was a light-phase adult atop Mt. Kobau, Osoyoos, June 4 (†CC, †DB). British Columbia's first and 2nd Mongolian Plovers were an ad. male at Rose Spit, QCL, June 22 (†MH, †PH) and an ad. male at Esquimalt Lagoon, Vic., July 26-29 (RY, ST ph., TZ ph., m.ob.). A pair of Upland Sandpipers mobbed an observer at Riske Cr. in early July (AR), an event suggesting that breeding was in force. Twenty-three Marbled Godwits at Sandspit Apr. 30 represented the peak of migration for this species, rare on the coast (MH). A late Marbled and a Hudsonian Godwit were at McQueen Slough, Dawson Cr., June 12 (SK, LL, MP, G&LM). A Bar-tailed Godwit, casual on the coast, at Sandspit May 14 was well described (†MH, RT). An ad. Thayer's Gull at Summit L, 80 km w. of Ft. Nelson July 2 (CA ph.) provided one of very few records for n.e. BC, where it is a rare transient. A Forster's Tern at McQueen's Slough, Dawson Cr., June 12 (SK, LL, MP, G&LM) adds to the records suggesting that Forster's is a annual transient to BC's Peace R. Three hundred seventeen ad. and 12 juv.



Four Brant at Revelstoke, British Columbia, on June 18, 1993. The species is very rare in the interior of the province. Photograph/Orville Gordon.

Caspian Terns may have been the highest count yet in BC, July 25 at Roberts Bank (MP-L).

ALCIDS TO NIGHTJARS

More alcids summered off s. Van I. than usual. Common Murres were very abundant, with 300 near Portland I., July 8 (BW), 350 flying past Beaver Pt., Saltspring I., July 9 and 1500 off Clover Pt., July 22 (RS). Cassin's Auklets, normally very rare or absent from s. Van I., appeared in very small numbers. Reports of one to three birds from mid June onward came from Clover Pt., Ogden Pt., Esquimalt, and Sooke (RWB). Rhinoceros Auklets also were more common than usual around s. Van. I. and Pt. Roberts.

The disjunct population of Band-tailed Pigeons often seen along the TransCanada Hwy. between Kamloops and Revelstoke still exists. Small numbers were in Revelstoke all period (DP).

Flammulated Owls were discovered in areas e. and w. of their usual range. Anna Roberts surveying the benchlands along the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers heard several hooting birds between May 24 and Aug. 13. One at 940 m in the Empire Valley was considered exceptionally high (AR, *vide* PR). Single Flammulated Owls heard at Columbia L. Eco. Res., May 31 and at Windermere Cr., June 2 (LH) were the 2nd and 3rd East Kootenay records.

Common Nighthawks were reported as rarer than usual from



the N. Okanagan (CS) and Revelstoke (DP). However, in the S. Okanagan, the Okanagan R. just below the OK Falls Hwy. bridge continues to draw large flocks at dusk, a phenomenon first noted in 1990. Five hundred nighthawks fed over the river's surface June 16 and 100 July 25 (DS). Sightings also increased from Van. with 27 submitted. Does this simply mean that the bird is becoming so uncommon that it is turning into a species of note?

Common Poorwill distribution is slowly better understood as field work reveals new locations w. and e. of the known range. Anna Roberts found poorwills frequent along the benchlands of the Fraser and Chilcotin Rivers in the Chilcotin. In the E. Kootenays, one called May 30 at the Columbia L. Eco. Res. n. of Canal Flats (MPo). A 2nd was



Nest of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher east of Prince George, British Columbia, on July 20, 1993. Photograph/Jack Bowling.

heard at Stoddart Cr., s.w. Kootenay N.P., June 17 (LH). These 2 records suggest a range extension along the Rocky Mt. Trench.

SWIFTS TO SWALLOWS

As expected during a stormy summer, Black Swift sightings were more common than usual except in Van., where the high was a puny 61 at Whistler Valley June 11 (MG). P.G.'s high at the extreme n of the species' range was 15–20 at Punchaw L., 50 km SSW July 15 (JB, TF). Several reports confirmed the regular occurrence of Calliope Hummingbirds in n.-c. BC: males at Donna Cr. 80 km WNW of Mackenzie May 22–23 (MDP, KS); a male 30 km farther to s.e., June 28 (CB, MDP, KS); a pair at Manson Cr. store June 28 (V. & L. Dyck); a male 30 km s. of Dawson Cr., June 9 (SK, LL, MP); and a male at a Mackenzie feeder July 3 (K&MB). A pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers nested at Lightning Lakes, Manning P.P., for the first time since

about 1982 (DF). Two Three-toed Woodpeckers at Croteau L., Strathcona PP, June 13 (WGH) were good finds, as the species is rare and local on Van. I.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers returned to the P.G. area, where a nest with eggs was discovered July 13, incubation lasted until at least July 21, and hatchlings were seen July 25 (JB ph., m.ob.). By August 2 the nest was empty. This may be the first nest ever found w. of the Rockies. Other Yellow-bellied Flycatcher observations included one in P.G., June 7 (LL); several males in the Donna Cr. area about 80 km WNW of Mackenzie June 13, 16, 26, & 29 (MDP, KS, CB); and a male 50 km NW of P.G., June 17 (DW). A Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Fort St. John in early June was one of very few North Peace records (G&LM). An E. Phoebe 45 km W of Mackenzie May 19 (MDP) was w. of its known BC range but another at Stewart June 27 (PH) on the uppermost BC coast was way out of range. Ash-throated Flycatchers are increasing as transients to the s.w. coast. This season's bird was a well described individual July 16 at Martindale Flats (†GA, †BB, m.ob.). A ♀ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher photographed on the Iona I. jetty June 16 (ST ph., †WCW) provided one of very few BC records for this vagrant.

The flight song of a Purple Martin was heard over S. Surrey June 24 by a very experienced observer (†JAM). Fortunately, martin nest boxes have already been erected at the Nicomekl R. mouth, within the former range of this provincially endangered species, and await expansion of the Washington population. Observations of Purple Martins at higher elevations than usual (no other details) in the Vic. area may be a suggestion of expanded breeding but field investigation is needed. Ten pairs of Bank Swallows were nesting n. of the species' known range 9 June at Babbage R., YT (MCo, DSe, CE, PS).

THRUSHES TO SPARROWS

Two Veeries were recorded at Stewart June 26 (PH), a regular location for this species since it has been reported here several times in the past few years. More impressive was a total of 39 singing Veeries tallied between Canyon City and Greenville on the road beside the lower Nass R., June 29 (PH). Several Gray-cheeked Thrushes were found at Donna Cr. 80 km WNW of Mackenzie June 4–July 14 (MDP, RT, CB). Further field work is needed to establish the s. boundary of this poorly known species' BC range. A pair of N. Mockingbirds nested at Princeton and were seen feeding 3 fledglings July 31 (†JAM, m.ob.). This is said to be the second nesting ever for BC. Other mockingbirds included singles at Stewart June 26 (PH), Black Rock,



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Richmond, British Columbia, on June 16, 1993. Photograph/Sharon Toochn.

June 2–23 (CWM), and Pt. Roberts June 5 (JI, RO).

The Rev. Peter Hamel investigated the Nass River of BC's upper coast and found several species in June nw of their known BC range. These included single Solitary Vireos at New Aiyansh June 28, at Kitsault Road June 25 and at Stewart June 26 (PH). He also found Red-eyed Vireos, with three heard and seen on the Canyon City–Greenville Road June 29 and one at Kitsault June 25. A Philadelphia Vireo at Tesla R. Campground June 24 represents a new locale for this rare species (D&EJ). Other Philadelphias were found at Boundary L., June 28 (D&EJ), and Beatton PP in early June (G&LM). The Yukon's first Magnolia Warbler was a male feeding young at Liard R. n.w. of Watson L., July 14 (CE, PS). Both Mourning and MacGillivray's warblers were found on the same brushy cutblock 50 km s. of Dawson Cr. during the latter half of June (SK, LL, MP). A Yellow-breasted Chat, far north of its usual range, was singing at Alkali L., June 14–21 (AR).

Having lost their only Van. breeding pond to expansion of the International Airport Yellow-headed Blackbirds shifted to Iona I. where 4 pairs bred in a rehabilitated marsh outside the sewage plant and one pair bred at a sewage pond (LGI Associates). Two pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds at New Aiyansh in late June were nw of their known BC range (PH). Far north of its known breeding range was a juv. Brown-headed Cowbird attended by 2 Savanna Sparrows at Komakuk Beach, YNC June 27 (CE, PS). Of 72 Warbling Vireo nests found in the Okanagan, 80% contained at least one cowbird egg this season! Other Okanagan parasitism rates included 35% for Willow Flycatchers and Chipping Sparrows, and 30% for Veeries (DWa). Stray ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks

were found at Westbank June 10 (†AC, DB), Vernon June 19 (MC), Revelstoke July 31 (DP), Liard Hot Springs PP June 15 (G&LM), and Burnaby July 8–31 (†JD, m.ob.). A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak near Greenville June 29 (PH) was well to the n of the species' usual range. A ♂ Indigo Bunting and a probable ♂ Indigo × Lazuli Bunting were at the Premier Landfill, North Van., June 13 (†JL, †MP-L) to July 1 (†JAM). The Indigo became Van.'s 3rd ever. Three Lazuli Buntings, very rare on Van. I., present at Mt. Douglas since late May, remained into June, with the last reported June 17. The ♂ Dickcissel present in Ucluelet May 23–24 was relocated June 2–7 at a Tofino feeder (RP). Red and White-winged crossbills were very numerous in n. BC this summer. White-wingeds were believed to be slightly more common, with the main influx occurring in early June around P.G. (JB). Many White-wingeds were noted between Ft. St. John and Ft. Nelson July 1 (CA).

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OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

Bill Tweit and Jim Johnson

June weather was about normal—which is never really pleasant—but July was extremely wet and cold throughout the Region. Several local records for precipitation or cold, or both, were set. Nobody seems to know whether the extreme weather reflected an unprecedented second successive summer of El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions; last summer ENSO appeared to have been responsible for the drought conditions.

The summer of 1993, so different from 1992 onshore, seemed identical to it on the ocean. For many seabird species, especially cormorants and murrelets, breeding success was either poor or nonexistent; other species, such as Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets, shifted their feeding patterns to the inside marine waters, which seemed more productive.

There was some indication that south-bound passerine migration in the interior began earlier than usual, with a few warblers and vireos appearing up to two weeks early. The shorebird migration was apparently unremarkable.

Abbreviations: Fields (*Fields, Harney, OR*); Malheur (*Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR*); O.S. (Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor WA*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia, OR*); S.J.C.R. (*s. jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop, OR*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

A pair of Com. Loons, a vanishing breeder in Washington, bred on Lost L., *Okanagan* (TW); breeding was also noted here in 1991. The 2 chicks with a pair of Red-necked Grebes seen July 25–26 provided a first Malheur breeding record (T. Love); the Klamath region is the only part of Oregon in which this species breeds regularly. Medium numbers of N. Fulmars were found off Washington this summer, with 10–30 per day off Neah Bay in June (PA) and 68 off Westport July 17 (TW). Numbers of summering fulmars vary annually, absent in 1992 yet quite common in 1991. A beached Buller's Shearwater at Waldport, *Lincoln* OR June 10 (RL) probably represented the earliest record for the Region. Very low Sooty Shearwater numbers were probably reflective of ENSO conditions; less than 2000 were seen off Westport, WA July 17 (TW). One Sooty at the east end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca July 6 (PL, SF) was another indication that some seabirds shifted their distribution to the

inland waters. The count of 602 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels off Westport, WA July 17 (TW) was outstanding, as they virtually disappeared later in the year.

The unusual numbers of Am. White Pelican in w. Washington this spring were followed by a total of five at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* June 2–6 (L. Vicencio); one spent the summer in *Whatcom* (TW). Brown Pelicans were abundant on the s. Washington coast (BT), an indicator of ENSO conditions. The ENSO apparently hindered cormorant breeding success: 68% of the Pelagic Cormorant nests were abandoned on the *Lincoln* OR coast by mid-July (RL) and the number of Brandt's Cormorants nesting at Sea Lion Caves, *Lincoln* was much lower than average (RL). A pair of Cattle Egret was found nesting near Malheur (RV); they are only sporadic breeders in the Region. An ad **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Walla Walla, WA May 30–June 13 (MD, m.ob., ph.), totally unexpected, secured a first Regional record.

Single Mute Swans found at Malheur twice during the period (GI) may be indicative of a rapid spread in the Region. The season brought several unusual waterfowl breeding records. Forest Grove, *Washington* OR July 10 had a brood of Blue-winged Teals (GG), a rare breeder in the Willamette Valley. Rare breeders in WA were Lesser Scaup, with broods at Everett July 18 (SM) and at Royal Slough, *Grant* July 22 (AS) and 2 broods of Buffleheads and one of Com Goldeneyes, at Big Meadow L., *Pend Oreille* (AS *et al.*) June 26. Two broods of Buffleheads on Upper Midway Res., *Klamath* OR June 17 (RH, HH) were less than 10 mi from the California border.

KITES TO PHALAROPEs

The pair of White-tailed Kites at Brookings, *Curry* OR through June 12 (AB) and three in the Rogue Valley, OR in July (MM) were in expected locales. Two kites in Curtis, *Lewis* June 9 (BT) followed the spring report of a courting pair there and may indicate a 2nd breeding locale in Washington. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks found 5 mi up the Rogue R., June 12 (CD) had ventured to a new site in *Curry*. The Merlin seen at Sequim, *Clallam* WA July 6 (BT) and the Peregrine at Tacoma, WA July 28 (J. Lyles) were both probably summering non-breeders. Prairie Falcons are unusual even in winter in the Puget lowlands, so one at Bellingham, WA July 23 (†C. Blake) was a surprise.

Sandhill Cranes apparently bred at Diamond L. in the s. Oregon Cascades in June (R. Maerz), for a first *Douglas* record. Two cranes remained on Sauvie (DB) for the 3rd of the last 5 summers; there were no summer records prior to then An Am Golden-

Plover at O.S., July 4 (RW) was early, the only report of either species this summer. A Snowy Plover count of 201 at Malheur June 15–18 (RV) was heartening, but 182 at Abert L., Lake OR (G. Keister) was not much higher than the record low of 170. Both Black-necked Stilts and Am. Avocets were much less common in the Columbia Basin than any of the previous 10 years (G&WH, RW, BT). Department of Wildlife staff observed no Upland Sandpipers this summer in their only known breeding area in Washington. The count of 65 Lesser Yellowlegs at Royal Slough, Grant WA July 22 (AS) was the only notable peak. An ad. Rufous-necked Stint at Whidbey I., July 18 (†SM) provided a first (but a single-person) report for Washington. The details will be evaluated by the Records Committee. Fall records of ad. Stilt Sandpipers are very

unusual in the Region, so one at S.J.C.R., July 2 (MP) was noteworthy, foreshadowing a good fall flight of this species. Interior records of the scarce Short-billed Dowitcher included an ad. *caurinus* at Potholes Res., Grant WA July 3 (DP), and singles at Wamic, Wasco OR July 17 (DL), Ochoco L., Crook OR July 18 (L. Rems), and Summer L., Lake OR July 10 (SS).

GULLS TO ALCIDIS

The S. Polar Skua off Westport, WA July 17 (TW) was early. Up to 14 Franklin's Gulls were at the Walla Walla R. Delta, Walla Walla WA through June 5 (EH, BT); they are not known to breed in Washington, but summer records are increasing in frequency. The newly established (1992) Caspian Tern colony at Everett, WA numbered 1500 adults and 200 young. Three pairs of Arctic Terns, also nesting there, fledged 3 young (SM). The Elegant Tern flight that we have begun to associate with ENSO summers was much less impressive than the hundreds noted in 1992. The first two reported were at Brookings, Curry OR July 11 (D. Pederson), followed by 15 at O.S., July 13 (BS), and 20+ were at nearby Westport July 15 (BT, TW), and four reached Puget Sound at Crockett L., Island July 25 (†SM). One Black Tern at Barnaby Slough, Skagit June 2 (SJ) and two near Bellingham June 3 (M. Sandsberry) were unusual wanderers to northwest Washington.

In contrast to the murre situation, Pigeon Guillemots apparently bred successfully in some Oregon coastal locations (RL, RB).



two (RL), two at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln OR July 21 (RL), and two at Boiler Bay, Lincoln OR July 24 (GL). Up to 40 Marbled Murrelets were censused off Browns Pt., Pierce WA May 26–June 3, a surprisingly high number for s. Puget Sound waters (TB). The Rhinoceros Auklets that foraged on Puget Sound apparently fared better than their alcid brethren on the ocean, as burrow occupancy on Protection I., Jefferson was reportedly higher than average this year (UW). The final piece of gloomy ocean news: Tufted Puffin breeding success was much lower than normal (RL).

OWLS TO MIMIDS

A Barred Owl heard calling near Coupeville, WA in late July (CCh) is an Island first. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, not found regularly anywhere in Oregon, were near Brogan, Malheur June 2 (†BC) and at Malheur June 5–6 (†HH). Both states were showered with Least Flycatchers.

The highest number of summer records ever (17) included two on Hart Mt., Lake OR June 1–5 (AC), one at Malheur June 3 (ShJ, RS), one at Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark WA June 10–15 (†SJ), four at Clyde Holliday S.P., Grant OR June 12 (SR), one on the Owyhee R., Malheur OR June 13 (AC), two near Curlew, Ferry WA June 13 (AS), one near Woodland, Cowlitz WA June 13 (†SJ), one at Dishman Hills, Spokane WA June 15–16 (†JA), one at Davis L., Pend Oreille WA June 17 (†JA), a pair at Sullivan L., Pend Oreille WA June 24 (RW), and one at Ft. Lewis, Pierce WA June 30–July 3 (†CCh). Dusky Flycatchers near Skykomish, Snohomish WA July 7 (BBo) and several, thought to be nesting, in the Burnt Bridge/Bear Camp area, Curry OR (CD) were distant from their only known west side breeding area in the s. Oregon Cascades. Other unusual flycatcher breeding records for the west side included W. Kingbird nesting near Spanaway, Pierce WA (S. Agnew) and at Oak Flat, OR July 20 (CD) for probably the 1st Curry breeding record, E. Kingbirds nesting near Ft. Lewis, Pierce WA June 24–July 31 (C. Sheridan), and another pair possibly nesting near the mouth of the Sandy R., Multnomah OR (B. Altman).

The report of Bank Swallows nesting along the Skykomish R. near Monroe, Snohomish (BBo) would be a first w. Washington breeding record in recent times. Purple Martins, a greatly reduced breeder in w. Washington, were found nesting at Everett (SM), at Shilshole in Seattle (W. Beecher) and possibly in Hoquaim, Grays Harbor (G&WH).

S.A.

Common Murres failed to breed successfully in either Washington or Oregon (UW, RL); it has been at least 3 summers since these populations have had a productive breeding season. They deserted the colonies during June and moved N early, as indicated by counts of 2500 at O.S., June 5 (G&WH) and 10,000 flying N past S.J.C.R., June 21 (MP). Most of the population apparently moved off the ocean and into the inland waters; 100+ were viewed off Pt. Wilson, Jefferson WA by July 6 (BT, PL, SF). This early movement into inland waters set the stage for a large kill of murres by gillnets fishing for salmon in Puget Sound in August.

Cassin's Auklets, another apparent victim of ENSO, were common near their colonies off Neah Bay, WA in May, but had vanished by mid-June (PA). Only three were found off Westport, WA July 17 (TW). Some Cassin's apparently shifted to the inside waters, spawning the largest number ever reported in a season on Puget Sound: 10 at Pt. Wilson, Jefferson July 6 (BT, PL, SF), singles on each side of Whidbey I., July 25 (SM), two in the San Juan Is., July 25 (MD), and another two there July 30 (TW). Unusual numbers of Ancient Murrelets summered in the Region: one at Pt. Wilson, Jefferson WA July 6 (PL, SF, BT), one at Whidbey I., WA July 18 (SM), two near Netarts, Tillamook OR July

More news from the frontlines of the Scrub Jay range expansion: one in W. Seattle June 13–15 (G. Henikoff), a pair in Normandy Park, King WA during June (*vide* F. Wood), a nest in Astoria, Clatsop OR (MP), and in the interior one at the north end of the Alvord Basin, Harney June 13 (HN). Canyon Wrens are expanding their range W; one was at a potential nest site on Mt. Index, Snohomish WA June 21 (BBo). A Rock Wren pair with 3 juveniles on Mary's Peak, Benton July 17–23 (BB) furnished a first breeding record for the Oregon Coast Range. The N. Mockingbird reports consisted of two in w. Oregon (*vide* HN) and seven from e. Oregon (m.ob.).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

The zone of intergradation for Hermit and Townsend's warblers includes the Kitsap Pen. in Washington; intergrades were fairly common at Tahuya State Forest, Mason (CCh). A ♂ Hermit Warbler was at Fields June 3 (JG, HH); this west side warbler is accidental in Harney. Three territorial Black-throated Gray Warblers were found June 20 on Bald Mt., OR (SS); they are not known as Klamath breeders. The typical handful of vagrant warblers reports, all from Oregon, included a singing ♂ N. Parula at the mouth of the Winchuck R., Curry June 17 (AB, †CD) and another at Bayocean Spit, Tillamook July 24 (†GG), for the 4th and 5th w. Oregon records; a singing ♂ Am. Redstart at Detroit June 17–20 (BB) for a Marion first, and at least eight in e. Oregon away from their known breeding areas (m.ob.); and Ovenbirds in the Catlow Valley, Harney June 3–4 (ShJ, RS, HH) and near Red Bridge S.P., Union June 12 (SR).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, found almost annually in Harney, were at 2 locations June 5–10 (B. Ullenberg, E. Scheuring). A ♂ Indigo Bunting, another regular vagrant, was at Alvord Ranch, Harney June 12 (†JJ). Singing ♂ Clay-colored Sparrows, a rare e. Washington breeder, were found at 2 sites near Omak, Okanogan July 3 (WW) and near Rocklyn, WA July 11–12 (†JA). The Lark Sparrow at Barnaby Slough, WA June 3 (†SJ) was a Skagit first. The pair of Black-throated Sparrows found e. of Yakima June 5–27 (AS), were a 1st Yakima record and the 1st summer record in Washington since the small breeding colony near Vantage disappeared in 1991.

A ♂ Lark Bunting in Walla Walla June 2 (K&JW) secured Washington's 10th record. Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were well above average in the Okanogan (AS) and in s.e. Washington (BT). They are casual breeders in the Willamette Valley. A singing male was at Baskett Slough N.W.R., June 20+ (BB) for the 3rd or 4th year at this location. A territorial ♂ LeConte's Sparrow was found at Deep L., Stevens June 18–29 (†EH,

m.ob.) for the 3rd Washington record. Tricolored Blackbirds are recent arrivals in e. Oregon: 25 males were at the Camp Hancock Marsh May 29 (DL), and a male was at Wamic, Wasco July 11 (DL). The Bobolink population increased at Malheur; 301 males were counted, compared with 110 in 1992 and 206 in 1991 (RV). At least four Great-tailed Grackles were found in Harney during June (K. & J. Kearney, HN, GI); can a breeding record be far behind? A Com. Grackle in Port Orford, Curry June 6–July 13 (A. Pfand, †CD) was the 6th for w. Oregon, and three found in Fields June 1 (JG) add to a number of Harney records.

A ♂ Pine Grosbeak was at Tenmile, Douglas July 30 (A. Adams); despite many summer records from the Oregon Cascades, there is no evidence of breeding yet. Red Crossbills remained scarce through June (SJ, BT) but increased in abundance during July throughout the Region (CCh, BT, HN, MM, AS). The only White-winged Crossbill report was of one on Mt. Spokane, WA July 25 (JA) and another at Deep L., Stevens WA June 25 (AS). After impressive spring numbers, Evening Grosbeaks bred in Olympia, WA (G&WH) and probably at numerous other locations in the lowlands (SJ, BT). They were very common in the Oregon Cascades this summer (DL, HN). Pine Siskins were also common and widespread, with very good nesting success (HN).

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

Rare and occasionally high numbers of seabirds reflected a persisting warm water pattern along the coast. The breaking of the drought led to extensive waterfowl production in several areas. For example, 1350 chicks from more than 200 broods were found at one lake east of the Sierra Nevada. The emphasis on breeding birds reflected the work of countrywide atlas projects. Readers are encouraged to participate in local efforts.

Continuing the pattern set in spring, vagrant landbirds were few and far between. If not for a decent May, the vagrant warbler season would have been a washout.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (*Big Sur Ornithology Lab., Monterey*); C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Cr. Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); Cyn. (*Canyon*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon I., S.F.*); P.R.B.O. (*Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional Editors*). All records from F.I. and Palomarin should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

Many loons summer along our coast, but few go inland. *Trinity* had an alternate-plumaged Pacific Loon on Lewiston Res., and a basic-plumaged Com. Loon on Trinity Res., both July 31 (†R.W. Hewitt, †GjH, DFx). Conversely, the alternate-plumaged Horned Grebe at the Elk R. mouth, Humboldt Bay July 4 (BED) was rarer because it was coastal. A count of 1080 Eared Grebe nests at Crowley L., Mono July 20–21 was the highest ever at that locale (PJM). Three W Grebe nests and a Clark's nest at Calaveras Res., June 10 (SCR, MMR) were firsts in *Santa Clara*. Most of the 496 W. Grebes and 233 Clark's Grebes counted on L. San Antonio, *Monterey* June 14 were nesting or courting in now-flooded brush that grew in during the 6-year drought (SFB). These were the first nestings in *Monterey* since the species were distinguished.

Two Laysan Albatrosses were scarce in summer, but we now find a few year-round. Two hours of seawatching at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* July 18 tallied 125 Pink-footed Shearwaters, an exceptional number from shore (RSTh). As in recent years, Black-vented Shearwaters arrived early. The first one was

at Pigeon Pt., July 18 (RSTh), with six there (BS) and eight off *Monterey* (ASH, DLSh) July 25. Five species of storm-petrel at Cordell Bank, *Marin*, June 19 included a Wilson's and 15 Blacks (both very early), along with five Fork-taileds, 18 Leach's, and 90 Ashies (C. Lieurance, DLSh). A Fork-tailed at Ano Nuevo I., *San Mateo* July 13 (GJS, *fide* RSTh) adds another island where nesting might be found in the future. A Fork-tailed over S.F. Bay at *Alameda* June 3 (RJR) was a vagrant.

Only 2 mi n.w. of Pt. Lobos, a **Red-billed Tropicbird** at *Monterey* July 25 (DLSh) was very close to shore and reflected a warm water pattern. A juv. Brown Pelican flying W at Los Banos, *Merced* July 5 (†SCR) was seasonally unprecedented, as all 5 previous C.V. records have been in fall. Nesting Double-crested Cormorants at S.F. Bay increased in both *San Mateo* (RSTh) and *Santa Clara* (MMR, PJM, MJM). Five sightings of frigatebirds, all presumed imm. Magnificents, probably represented two to four individuals. Birds at F.I., June 8 and at Sausalito and Tiburon, *Marin* June 16–17 (†J.R. Blair, B. Randolph) preceded the one watched by many fishing boat skippers flying N from Pt. Sur to Pacific Grove, *Monterey* June 25. The final reports were from Limantour Spit, *Marrin* July 13 (J. Dineen) and flying S past Devil's Slide, *San Mateo* July 25 (BS, *fide* RSTh).

BITTERNS TO DUCKS

A Least Bittern found on S. Coyote Slough, *Santa Clara* July 3 (MJM *et al.*) was considered a non-breeding stray. This bird is still rarely seen anywhere in the Region. An ad. Little Blue Heron at the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve June 5–9 (SCR *et al.*) was only the 2nd for *San Mateo*, in spite of their presence for years in adjacent *Santa Clara*, where up to 3 adults and a nest were found in the Alviso heronry this summer (m.ob.). Nesting Cattle Egrets were reported from S. Wilbur Flood Area, *Kings* (J. Engler, 32 nests) and the Alviso heronry (PJM *et al.*, 2 nests). Until we obtain a complete report from all nesting areas, we will not be able to determine the true status of Cattle Egret in the Region. The species continues to explore new areas, with four at San Felipe L., June 21 (B. Merrill) comprising the first summer record for *San Benito*. White-faced Ibis nesting was documented at S. Wilbur Flood Area, with 117 nests (J.

Engler). This is another species with a population in a state of flux, making a more thorough survey of its nesting status desirable.

A Tundra Swan, probably injured, summered at Humboldt Bay (*fide* Sandpiper). The N. Pintail responds better than most ducks to opportunistic breeding conditions, as evidenced by the 29 broods found at Pixley N.W.R., *Tulare*, after the wet winter (J. Engler). A brood of Canvasbacks in Sierra V., June 15 (LJ) was the first known from *Plumas*, and *Mono's* 2nd Ring-necked Duck nesting was documented when broods were seen at Crowley L., July 20 (PJM). Single ♂ Harlequin Ducks lingered in *Monterey* at the Big Sur R. mouth to July 17 (m.ob.) and *Monterey* to June 4 (m.ob.). An Oldsquaw present at the Pescadero Cr. mouth, *San Mateo* Apr. 18–July 27 (m.ob.) was variously called a female, an imm. male, and an ad. male in partial breeding plumage, suggesting that we all need to study up on Oldsquaw plumages. Continuing the recent expansion of coastal breeding records, a Com. Merganser brood was discovered at the Pescadero Cr. mouth June 22 to the end of the period (RSTh *et al.*).

RAPTORS

Among the widespread records of Bald Eagles, most surprising was the adult flying E over Casa de Fruta June 18 (†SCR), for the first recent summer record for *Santa Clara*. A Bald Eagle nest in *Napa* was active at least until June 11 (G. Gamble), much later than recent aborted nesting attempts. More accipiters are nesting in urban areas. A Sharp-

shinned Hawk nest that fledged four in Pacific Grove June 26 (K. Travaille, RC, DR, SFB) was the first proven nest in *Monterey* since Joseph Grinnell found one near Carmel in 1901. A Sharp-shinned nest with 3 young, near Calistoga June 14 (BiG), was the first nesting known in *Napa* since 1939. Two Cooper's Hawk nests were successful in *Sacramento* (E. Vak, H. & C. Smith), and Cooper's continue to expand through cities around S.F. Bay.

Large concentrations of Swainson's Hawks in the C.V. probably represented non-breeders hunting concentrated prey. First and largest was the 150 near Los Banos, *Merced* June 7 (KHt). Eighty-seven at Mountain House, *Alameda* June 17 (RJR) lingered in decreasing numbers throughout the period (SAG, R. Cimino). Sixty-five kettled 1/2 mi s. of Stockton July 11 (ShH), 50 were in fields and overhead in *Sutter* July 19 (JAM), and 17 attended a field near Davis, *Yolo* July 26 (GeM). Three ad. Ferruginous Hawks n.e. of Ravendale, *Lassen* June 20 (TDM, AM) were close to where they were recently found nesting (AB 44:1182).

SHOREBIRDS

An extremely rare summer Lesser Golden-Plover, unidentifiable as to race, was at the C.C.R.S., *Santa Clara* July 24 (SCR, MMR). Snowy Plovers studied in *Humboldt* and *Del Norte* produced no young from 17 nests (M. Fisher), illustrating why this population was recently listed as *threatened*. A Semipalmated Plover at MacKerricker S.P., *Mendocino* June 10 (DT) was a late spring migrant. A pair of Am. Avocets with chicks at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., June 15 (K. Forester) represented the first confirmed nesting on the n. coast. A Solitary Sandpiper was considered early at *Mono L.*, July 24 (R. Scaff) and was the only one reported.

A flock of 2185 Long-billed Curlews at the S. Wilbur Flood Area June 27–July 7 (J. Engler) was impressive, though not unprecedented for the C.V. Although Black Turnstones are sometimes found within S.F. Bay, a bird in alternate plumage at the Alviso salt ponds July 31 (PJM) was very rare for the locale. An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper at the Pescadero Marsh June 27 (RSTh) provided one of very few June records, while 12 coastal reports July 18–31 was an above-normal number.

Occasionally, Pectoral Sandpipers return in July. This year's was at Pescadero Marsh July 25



(RSTh). Ruffs were reported from Lower Coyote Cr. W.M.A., *Santa Clara* July 16 (R. Colwell) and Tulare L. Drainage District, *Kings* July 25 (†R. Saval, B. Barnes, J. Wilson). In contrast to previously published reports, there are now records from every month of the year in the S.J. Valley. A Com. Snipe in the Arcata Bottoms June 26 (TWL, J. Hunter) was a very rare find in summer for *Humboldt*, while one at Ft. Hunter-Liggett July 4 (CHo, JDv, S. Rovell) was the earliest by a month for *Monterey*.

LARIDS, ALCIDS

An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Pacifica, *San Mateo* July 19 (BS, *fide* RSTh) was an exceptional sighting before August. Five Franklin's Gulls in the Great Basin was expected, but a first-summer bird in Sierra Valley June 15 (†KL) was only the 2nd for *Plumas*. A Mew Gull at Hayward Shoreline July 17 (RJR) plus two Mew and two Herring gulls summering in *Santa Clara* were rare (PJM, SCR). A new California Gull colony at the Mountain View salt ponds fledged 50+ (PJM). Sabine's Gull was again at Cordell Bank in June, with five June 19 (C. Lieurance, DLSh), while 103 offshore *Monterey* July 25 (DLSh, ASH) demonstrated a strong early migration.

Caspian Terns nested at San Felipe L., June 21 (RMrr) for a *San Benito* first. Seven Arctic Terns tarried at Cordell Bank June 19 (C. Lieurance, DLSh), and singles strayed shoreward to Hayward Shoreline June 1 (R. Lindeman, RJR) and Bolinas Lagoon July 6 (KH). Four **Black Skimmers** at the Tulare L. basin July 8 (C. Marn, *fide* J. Engler) made only the 2nd C.V. record, though skimmers nested there in 1986 (AB 40:1251).

Used Marbled Murrelet nests were found in Jedediah Smith S.P., *Del Norte*, and Prairie Creek S.P., *Humboldt*, by searching for dropped eggshells (*fide* R.W. Hewitt). An unseasonal Ancient Murrelet visited Ano Nuevo July 14 (GJS, *fide* RSTh). At least 3 pairs of Rhinoceros Auklet still nest at Davenport, *Santa Cruz* (RMrr, DLSu), where they were first confirmed in 1987.

OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

A dead Long-eared Owl at Pixley N.W.R., *Tulare* June 6 (J. Engler) and one in Petaluma, *Sonoma* July 23 (BBu) were from areas with no nesting precedent. However, summer wanderings do occur, as evident by one at Pt. Reyes July 11 (G. Griffith) and these at F.I. (i.e., two July 29 and one Aug. 4). Common Nighthawks are rarely noted in migration, especially from the C.V. floor. Actively calling birds at Citrus Heights June 18 (EKS) and at Fair Oaks June 23 (†BMo) provided first mid-summer records for the valley floor of *Sacramento*. However, another



This first-year male Indigo Bunting mated with a female Lazuli Bunting and attempted nesting in Santa Clara County, California, in June 1993. Photograph/Mike M. Rogers.

at Folsom, *Sacramento* July 24 (AEn) in the neighboring e. foothills may have indicated local nesting.

Not surprisingly, Black-chinned Hummingbirds appeared to be doing more home-steading in the s. S.F. Bay area, as 2 pairs were noted along Coyote Cr., June 15 (SCR), 15 mi from the breeding population at C.C.R.S.. Regional range expansion among Costa's Hummingbirds has been occurring, as demonstrated by regular extralimital records. After its incipient discovery in our Great Basin district last year, they invaded *Mono*. An amazing 27 birds, including 2 nests, were discovered at Owens R. Gorge June 13 (PJM), with at least five more in the Mono Basin June 12–July 22 (PJM, DJK, †ES, M. McClaskey). Farther north, one at Indian Valley May 27–June 11 (M. & B. McMillan, G. Rotta, †LJ) was a first for *Plumas*. A displaying male at Colorado Cr., June 1 (MMR, SCR) was a first probable nesting for *Santa Clara*, while a possible pair at Prunedale, *Monterey* July 21–31 (KVV) was well away from known breeding sites. Finally, the seemingly resident male at Fair Oaks, *Sacramento* was last seen June 30 (GEw). A Calliope Hummingbird was again found nesting at low elevations around Granite Bay, Folsom L., *Placer* June 6 (BW).

WOODPECKERS TO VIREOS

Arousing nesting suspicions, the Red-breasted Sapsucker at L. Elizabeth, *San Mateo* June 6 (RSTh, MFe) was probably a late migrant. Nine Ash-throated Flycatchers along coastal *Del Norte* June 1–18 (ADB, J. Gartland *et al.*) was a hefty showing for the n. coast. Giving us a discourse on upslope post-breeding dispersal, a W. Kingbird elevated to 8100 ft. at Sawmill Meadows, *Mono*

July 17 (PJM). After a strong May showing, only four E. Kingbirds appeared coastically June 5–July 2. Another was in Sierra Valley July 11 (†LJ, KL), the 2nd for *Plumas*. The Dusky Flycatcher at F.I., July 9 provided an odd mid-summer record, as all Regional sightings from this time period are from breeding grounds.

The Am. Pipit at Crescent City, *Del Norte* July 12 (ADB) was a real head-scratcher, the Region's first summer record away from local breeding populations in the Sierra Nevada. Up to six Cedar Waxwings at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* June 24 (B.S.O.L., SFB, BW) were very late, even for this traditionally late-moving migrant. The birds may have nested locally, as suspected in recent recent years. Likewise, three Loggerhead Shrikes spent the summer at the Big Sur R. mouth for the first time (B.S.O.L.), suggesting local nesting. Regionally, Loggerheads rarely nest anywhere on the unprotected outer coast.

A territorial ♂ Bell's Vireo on the Salinas R. at Bradley, *Monterey* June 14–July 4 (†SFB, DR, RC) brought cheers for the underdog. Though there were no signs of nesting, its presence was very encouraging. Their numbers have been increasing in s. California, thanks to strategic cowbird trap-pings; *always* look for color bands. The last Regional nesting birds were at this same location in 1983. The banded Red-eyed Vireo at B.S.O.L., July 10 was likely the bird banded there in May and would constitute the Region's first record of a truly summering individual.

WOOD WARBLERS

A juv. Orange-crowned Warbler in Wildrose Cyn., *Mono* July 19 (PJM) was of the expected Great Basin race *orestera*. The breeding status of the Orange-crowned in the Region's Great Basin district away from the Warner Mts. remains unclear. Little Sulphur Cr. held nesting Nashville Warbler, as an adult fed 3 fledglings June 20 (†LLu, C. Lieurance, S. Coogan). This was *Sonoma's* first nesting record; they traditionally breed at the e. edge of the coastal forest along the n. coast, so this record is not unexpected. For the 3rd consecutive year, N. Parulas successfully bred along the c. coast. In *Marin*, a male fed 2 young near Samuel P. Taylor S.P., June 17–20 (RS); a territorial pair in Olema May 21–June 5 (RS, m.ob.) and a singing male at Tomales Bay S.P., June 12–20 (A. Tabor, RS) were also noteworthy. Successful breeding again occurred along Gazos Cr. Road, *San Mateo*, as up to four singing males, one female, and a juvenile were observed May 29–July 17 (PJM, †RSTh, m.ob.). Four additional June birds were spotted along the c. coast, including *Napa's* first at L. Berryessa

June 11 (†R. Bertoli, G. Ganble, J. O'Connell).

Apparently lacking precedent on the C.V. floor during July, a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Fair Oaks, *Sacramento* July 30 (GEW) was either a very early fall migrant or a non-breeding dispersant. The breeding status of the Black-throated Gray Warbler in *Alameda* was again affirmed during the county's first breeding bird atlas year, when five territorial males were at Alameda Cr., June 16 (KGH). Confirmed breeding was the word for Hermit Warbler in *Santa Clara*, as an adult was feeding young in Upper Stevens Cr. S.P., in the Santa Cruz Mts., July 21 (SCR). The Region's 4th spring *Prairie Warbler* was at the Big Sur R. mouth June 8 (JDv). In addition to a Blackpoll Warbler at F.I., July 9, one found inland at Davis, *Yolo*



Male Dickcissel [with Brown-headed Cowbirds] at Mono City, California, on June 12, 1993. First record for the interior of northern California. Photograph/Jean Collins.

June 18 (ph. J. Whitcombe, †ECB *et al.*) was exceptional during spring.

Coastally, three Black-and-white Warblers June 13–July 12 was an average tally, but 15 Am. redstarts June 1–July 12 along with the four in May was above average. Three Ovenbirds at F.I., July 9–11 epitomized the poor vagrant season. The Hooded Warbler at B.S.O.L. from last season lingered to June 12; additional birds in *Monterey* were at Pacific Grove June 12 (SFB) and San Jose Cr., July 17 (BHG, KK). Another Hooded at Arcata, *Humboldt* June 25 (†PFS) made it another healthy spring for the species. Two singing ♂ Yellow-breasted Chats at the Big Sur R. mouth May–June 17 (BW) suggested local nesting. They are very rare nesters along the coast s. of *Mendocino*.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Our lone Summer Tanager was at Stanford, *Santa Clara* June 5 (DS). Breeding W. Tanagers at Rose Peak June 26 (RJR) provided *Alameda's* first nesting record in 29 years. Add the seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks along the c. coast June–July 9 to the 13 present in

May and you have an above-average showing. As with *N. Parula*, Indigo Bunting is definitely undergoing a range expansion in the c. portion of the state, especially along the c. coast. *Santa Clara* established its first breeding record when a first-year male and a ♀ Lazuli Bunting nested, had 2 eggs, but eventually abandoned the nest along Colorado Cr. in the San Antonio Valley June 1–12 (†SCR, ph. MMR). An apparent pair was at the Big Sur R. mouth July 18 (B.S.O.L.), and another pair on Woodbridge Road June 19 (†D. Hoffman, †RAR) would be *San Joaquin's* first (p.a. Sacramento Bird Records Committee). Three more coastal birds were observed July 4–13.

The **Dickcissel** at Mono City, *Mono* June 12 (†ph. J. Collins, G. Zeitlin, S. Jewett) was the Region's first for the interior. Confirmation of nesting Rufous-crowned Sparrow for *Mendocino* at Dos Rios July 4 (DT) was overdue. *Sierra's* first Black-throated Sparrow was at Knudsen Meadow June 13 (R. Little); the bird is a regular breeder just to the east. Widespread nesting Grasshopper Sparrows were along the *Monterey* coast from the Big Sur R. mouth to Marina. These areas lacked nesting birds during the drought because of insufficient grass (DR). A Bobolink was at the Big Sur R. mouth July 1 (JDv). The Region averages a couple each spring. Two Hooded Orioles at Ft. Bragg July 3–5 (JRW, DT) were coastal *Mendocino's* first.

S.A.

The Great-tailed Grackle saga in the West continued. Having their best year Regionally (see last season), they persisted in our Great Basin district into June with singles near Likely June 11 and Modoc N.W.R., June 21, both *Modoc* (RLR), Benton Hot Springs, *Mono* June 17 (PJM), and Mapes Ranch, *Lassen* June 19 (TDM, AM). Another at MacKeriker S.P., *Mendocino* July 15–26 (†DT, ph. JRW *et al.*) was the n. coast's first above *Marin*. This invader from Middle America was initially detected in Arizona in 1935, in s. California in 1964, and Regionally in 1978; records in Oregon are now annual, and they have recently descended on Washington. Their spectacular expansion, however, has not been met all that favorably, as they are very aggressive and have been known to uproot native nesters, such as Com. Grackles in the Midwest. They have even been blamed for the extinction of the Slender-billed Grackle in w. Mexico during the early part of the century (C. Oberholser, *Birds of Texas*, 1974, University of Texas Press, Austin).

Always unpredictable, Red Crossbills staged a small summer invasion on the c. coast from *Monterey* to *Sonoma*, as groups of more than 20 were observed July 3–30 (m.ob.). Five in Davis, *Yolo* July 13 (MP) were most unseasonal for the C.V. A pair of Lawrence's Goldfinches at Beegum, *Tehama* June 26 was at the n. limit of their range Regionally, but the species is probably regular in *Tehama* and *Shasta* despite the paucity of records (BY, CY). An Evening Grosbeak at Bale Mill, *Napa* June 13–26 (†G. Statton) has few summer precedents s. of *Humboldt* in the Coast Ranges.

Corrigendum: In *AB* 46:1174, the reference to a breeding range extension for Willets should be deleted. They are known to nest much farther south in the Great Basin.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

The weather was milder than normal, with relatively cool temperatures along the coast. An abundance of water and lush growths of vegetation throughout the Region enabled water and landbirds alike to explore new breeding areas, giving us some interesting nesting records. The expected arrival of southbound shorebirds in late June, and an interesting variety of wood warblers throughout the summer, made for an exciting season.

Abbreviations: C.L. (*China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); E.A.F.B. (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley Nat'l Monument, Inyo*); N.E.S.S. (*n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.E.S.S. (*s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); S.F.K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern R.*). As virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. 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

Up to 14 basic-plumaged Com. Loons on L. Mathews, *Riverside* during June and July (SJM, CMcG) were unexpected since only a few have previously been found summering inland in S. California.

About 1500 Black Storm-Petrels in the San Pedro Channel June 5 (KLG) was a large number for this early in the year, and suggests breeding failures to the south.

An imm. Blue-footed Booby at N.E.S.S., July 25 (RMcK) is the first to be found in California since the influx in 1990 (AB 44:1184-1188, 1990). Brown Pelican numbers built up to more than 600 on the Salton Sea in late June and remained at this level through the end of the period; this species regularly disperses northward from the Gulf of California after nesting. An early influx of Magnificent Frigatebirds produced an immature over San Pedro, *Los Angeles* June 4 (JAJ), five more immatures along the coast June 26-July 11 (BED, PHB, BHa, PEL, GR), and at least five inland on the Salton Sea June 20-27 (KLG, GMcC, BM), but a single individual at Del Mar, *San Diego* Aug.

3 (H&JB) was the only one reported after that time.

S.A.

Unexpected were 4 normally pelagic birds inland on the Salton Sea July 10. A Cook's Petrel was at N.E.S.S., July 10-12 (GMcC, REW, MAP), believed to be the same bird seen at S.E.S.S., July 17 (GMcC, MAP) and back at N.E.S.S., July 25-Aug. 6 (RMcK, PEL, SEF, KLG, AS); remarkably, this is the 2nd to be found on this inland body of water, the previous one having been present 24-29 July 1984 (AB 38:1060-1063, 1984). A *Bulweria*, believed to be a Bulwer's Petrel, was watched in flight at 150-200 yards as it coursed back and forth across the mouth of the Whitewater R. at N.E.S.S. for about 3 minutes July 10 (GMcC, GH, TC); it was clearly a *procellariidae*, intermediate in size between a Black Storm-Petrel and a Cook's Petrel; it had long narrow wings pushed forward at the carpal joints and had a long tail that appeared pointed at the tip. A large dark shearwater off Salton City July 10 (MAP, GMcC) was too distant to be identified as to species. A Least Storm-Petrel at N.E.S.S., July 10 (REW, RAE, GMcC, MAP, MSM) gives us the 2nd record for this species inland, the previous record being of hundreds deposited on the Salton Sea and the Lower Colorado River by tropical storm *Kathleen* in September 1976 (AB 31:142-152).

There are now 18 records of 9 species of *Procellariiformes* on the Salton Sea. All are believed to have reached this area by way of the Gulf of California. Most have appeared during calm conditions, the only obvious storm-related occurrences involving a Leach's and numerous Least Storm-Petrels immediately following tropical storm *Kathleen* in 1976. However, tropical storms in the East Pacific off the s. tip of Baja California could displace birds into the mouth of the Gulf of California; some might then move N to the head of the Gulf, become confused, and cross the c. 120 miles of low-lying land to the Salton Sea. It is therefore noteworthy that a tropical storm was off s. Baja during the first week of July 1993.

EGRETS TO RAILS

Great Egrets have only recently been found nesting away from the Colorado R. and the Salton Sea; therefore, the presence of at least 10 nests in a mixed colony of Snowy and Cattle Egrets s.e. of Bakersfield, *Kern* in May (SRG) and another with Great Blue Herons at the Jess Ranch in Apple Valley, *San Bernardino*, in April (SJM) are of interest.

Two pairs of Little Blue Herons nesting among 35 pairs of Snowy Egrets on the grounds of Sea World in San Diego fledged 5 young this summer (JRJ), and one or two more pairs were suspected nesting around nearby Imperial Beach at the same time (GMcC), but this species went unreported away from coastal *San Diego*. The maximum number of Wood Storks at S.E.S.S. this summer was 21 Aug. 8 (KM); the declining numbers of these birds reaching California undoubtedly reflecting breeding failures to the south in W. Mexico.

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck near Lakeview, *Riverside* July 17 (C-TL) is one of a very few found away from S.E.S.S. in recent years. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at N.E.S.S., July 12 (GH) is only the 2nd to be found away from the S.E.S.S. and establishes the 12th record for California. A pair of Wood Ducks near Pauma Valley, *San Diego* Mar. 29 (PU) were quite far south if nesting. Most unusual were two pairs of Blue-winged Teal, one accompanied by 11 flightless young, on E. Cronese L. near Baker, *San Bernardino* July 5 (SJM) since nesting is previously unrecorded in the e. portion of this Region; three pairs fledged young in Bolsa Chica in June (RAH) to establish the first nesting records in *Orange*. A Surf Scoter at N.E.S.S., June 9 (GH), and two more there July 3 through the end of the period (MAP, REW), were the only ones found on the Salton Sea this summer. A Com. Merganser accompanied by 10 young on Piru Cr. 1 mi upstream from L. Piru June 9 (SJM) provides the first evidence of nesting in *Ventura*.

A pair of White-tailed Kites near Cantil, where they are previously unrecorded in summer, during June and July (MTH) probably nested; a pair at a nest at S.E.S.S. throughout June (GMcC) and a recently fledged juvenile ca. 5 mi away June 2 (GMcC) gives us additional evidence of nesting in the Imperial Valley. An imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk at the base of the San Bernardino Mts. in San Bernardino July 12 (SJM) is one of a very few found in S. California in summer. A pair of N. Goshawks was on Mt. Pinos, *Kern* June 18 (KFC) where nesting was recently confirmed, one or two were in the Cottonwood Basin of the White Mts., *Mono* July 23 (REW) where nesting is suspected, and another was near Papoose Flats in the Inyo Mts. July 24 (REW) where previously unrecorded. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk perched near a known nest on Hot Springs Mt., *San Diego* June 26 (GMcC) strongly suggested breeding at this site this summer.

Two Blue Grouse flushed on the e. slope of Sawmill Mt., *Kern* May 1 (MOC) indicate that a small population still persists at this isolated location. A minimum of 96 Clapper



Rails at S.E.S.S. this summer (MR) was well above average.

PLOVERS TO ALCIDIS

An Am. Golden-Plover at C.L., July 12 (DVB) is one of a few to be found inland in this Region. A Pacific Golden-Plover near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara* July 27 (JMC) was the first to be found this fall. The first Solitary Sandpiper of the fall was one on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo* July 29 (T&JH). A group of five Black Turnstones on Mullet I. at S.E.S.S., June 17 (KM), with four July 10 (RMcK) and three still there July 16 (WRR), are the first to be found in summer on the Salton Sea. A Red Knot on Tinnemaha Reservoir July 29 (T&JH) was only the 3rd to be found in *Inyo*. The only Sanderlings found inland away from the Salton Sea were two at E.A.F.B., July 24 (MTH) and one to two on Tinnemaha Res., July 21–29 (T&JH). An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper in Goleta, *Santa Barbara* July 22–25 (SEF), another near the Kern N.W.R., July 25 (JCW), and single juveniles in Goleta July 24–29 (SEF) and Irvine, *Orange* July 29–30 (RAH), were the earliest this fall. An ad. Baird's Sandpiper at the Santa Maria R. mouth, *Santa Barbara* July 6 (BHe) and a juvenile in Irvine July 30 (BED) were the earliest of each this fall. An ad. Pectoral Sandpiper in Goleta July 25–26 (PEL) was somewhat early. A molting ♂ Ruff, always an exciting find, was in Goleta July 20–Aug. 5 (PEL). A Com. Snipe near Anza, *Riverside* June 5 (GH) was thought to be on nesting territory, but another at Boulevard, *San Diego* July 6 (PU) was far from any suspected

breeding locality. Unexpected, considering the location and time of year, were two Red Phalaropes on Owens L., *Inyo* July 8 (T&JH).

An ad. Pomarine Jaeger at S.E.S.S., July 10 (GMcC, MAP) and another at N.E.S.S., Aug. 3 (PEL) may have moved N onto the Salton Sea during July; most of the previous Pomarine Jaegers seen on the Salton Sea were found during June and July. A S. Polar Skua in the San Pedro Channel June 5 (KLG) was at the peak of northward migration for this species off S. California, but six 2–3 mi. s. of the w. end of Santa Cruz I., July 24 (MH) was more unusual. The arrival of an ad. Laughing Gull on San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* July 6 through the end of the period (DP) coincided with the annual influx of post-breeding birds onto the Salton Sea from the Gulf of California. Ten pairs of Gull-billed Terns successfully nested on s. San Diego Bay (JK, DS), this being the only locality on the coast of California where this species occurs; another 120 pairs successfully nested on the Salton Sea (KM), where they have breed since the 1920s. Caspian Terns again bred at S.E.S.S., with 60 found on Mullet I. in June (KM). Three pairs of Royal Terns successfully bred among the more than 1600 pairs of Elegant Terns at Bolsa Chica this summer (CTC). An Elegant Tern at S.E.S.S., July 10 (C-TL) is one of only a very few to be found away from the coast. An ad. Arctic Tern at S.E.S.S., June 27 (GMcC) and another at C.L., June 18 (DVB) were probably very late spring transients. A Least Tern, rare on the Salton Sea, was at N.E.S.S., June 9 (GH), two were there June 20 with one still

present June 27 (GMcC), and two more were at S.E.S.S., June 22 (CB). Most intriguing was an ad. Gray-backed/Bridled Tern at Bolsa Chica June 12 (LS); a similar bird was at this exact location in 1990 (*AB* 44:1187, 1990). Between 250 and 300 pairs of Black Skimmers successfully nested on the Salton Sea (KM) and more than 300 pairs successfully nested on the coast in Bolsa Chica (CTC).

A pair of Pigeon Guillemots at San Nicolas I., June 29 (GeM) was noteworthy because this species is not known to nest at this locality, and one flying past Crystal Cove S.P., *Orange* July 11 (MTH) was unusually far south. A Marbled Murrelet off San Simeon, *San Luis Obispo* July 6 (GPS) was at the s. limit of this species range.

CUCKOOS TO PIPITS

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Ridgecrest, *Kern* June 13 (DVB) and another on the coast in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara* July 19 (RWH) were away from any known breeding locality; 21 pairs at S.F.K.R.P. during June and July (SL) and up to seven individuals near Big Pine after June 28 (SL) were at known breeding localities. Long-eared Owls were more numerous and widespread than usual, with nests found along the coast at *Ventura* (VK), inland, near Shandon, *San Luis Obispo* (RZ); the high desert, at Antelope Valley (KLG); Owens Valley, near Olancho (T&JH); Death Valley Nat'l Monument, F.C.R. (GMcC); and the low desert, Coachella Valley N.W.R. (WRR). A pair of Short-eared Owls, a species now somewhat rare in S. California, near Lancaster, *Los Angeles* during May (KLG) probably attempted nesting. Calling Whip-poor-wills were at Hart Bar Campground in the San Bernardino Mts. in June (REW), around L. Fulmor in the San Jacinto Mts. in May and June (HK) and on Clark Mt. in e. *San Bernardino* May 22 (SBT). Forty Black Swifts were flying low over L. Elsinor, *Riverside*, during heavy rain on June 5 (HK, BM). An Anna's Hummingbird feeding a recently fledged young at F.C.R. May 21 (PAG) documents nesting at this locality. Two Williamson's Sapsuckers, including one carrying food near Papoose Flats in the Inyo Mts., July 24 (REW) were in an area where unknown as a breeding species. A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers at Mojave Narrows Regional Park near Victorville, *San Bernardino* May 30 (SJM) and at least 3 pairs at S.F.K.R.P. throughout the summer (SL) were at the w. extreme of this species' known breeding range. Single E. Kingbirds along

the coast near Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo* July 1-2 (TME), around Lompoc, *Santa Barbara* June 25 (GL) and July 3-4 (BHi), and a 4th inland at S.E.S.S., July 10 (MAP) were unseasonable. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on San Nicolas I. June 9 (GeM) was undoubtedly a late spring vagrant.

Purple Martins, decreasing in numbers as a nesting bird in S. California, were found on Breckenridge Mt., *Kern* (one July 11, MOC) over the mouth of Big Santa Anita Canyon, *Los Angeles* (2 regularly May 31-June 24, MSM), along the E. Fork of Hemlock Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts. (A pair at a nest cavity May 14, SJM), near L. Hemet in the San Jacinto Mts. (one July 10, GH), around Volcan Mt. near Julian (3-4 individuals during May and June, PU) and in the nearby Laguna Mts. (3-4 pairs at nest holes during May and June, PAG).

A Swainson's Thrush near Cantil July 10 (MTH) was remarkably out of season. The presence of one to two Hermit Thrushes on Volcan Mt., May 31 (PU) suggests nesting at this location, which is just to the south of the s. extreme of this species' known range in California. A Varied Thrush on Big Pine Mt., *Santa Barbara* June 11 (TDW) was totally out of season. A pair of Bendire's Thrashers that fledged one young from a nest near Ocotillo Wells in e. *San Diego* in late April (PU) gives us the first record for breeding in the w. Colorado Desert. Two Am. Pipits at the summit of Telescope Peak in the Panamint Mts. June 12-24 (REW) and another at the summit of Mt. San Gorgonio in the San Bernardino Mts., June 29 (REW) were probably on breeding territories.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS

Bell's Vireos appeared to be more numerous and widespread than normal this summer, with territorial males found as far north as the mouth of the Santa Maria R., *San Luis Obispo* May 26-June 5 (RAH) and at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat'l Monument in late May and early June (REW, T&JH), and encouraging numbers such as 40 adults fledging 70 young along the Santa Clara R. in *Ventura* (JMG). A singing Red-eyed Vireo photographed near Big Pine July 3-7 (T&JH), another at c. 7500 ft along Cottonwood Cr. in the White Mts., July 23 (REW) and a 3rd at S.F.K.R.P. all summer (SL) were unexpected considering the time of year.

At least 4 pairs of Lucy's Warblers near Borrego Springs in e. *San Diego* this summer (PU) were at the w. extreme of this species' breeding range. A Virginia's Warbler at Onyx Summit in the San Bernardino Mts., July 27 (RMCK) was in an area in which nesting has previously been suspected, but the date does not rule out an early migrant. A pair of N. Parulas successfully fledged at least 2 young

in Nojoqui Falls Park, *Santa Barbara* in late July (CMcG, BHi), providing documentation of the 2nd nesting in S. California; other sightings of this species include single birds at Wildrose Ranger St. in the Panamint Mts., June 12 (REW), at S.F.K.R.P. all summer (SL), at San Marcos Pass near Santa Barbara June 13-15 (JH), at Charlton Flat in the San Gabriel Mts. July 2-3 (JG), at Mountain Home Village in the San Bernardino Mts. June 30 (REW), at Cactus Flat in the same mountains July 8 (REW) and at 5800 ft in the Laguna Mts., June 5 (CGE). A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Butterbredt Spring near Cantil June 13 (JCW) was a late spring vagrant. A Magnolia Warbler at Butterbredt Spring June 12-13 (MTH) was also a late spring vagrant, but a male at c. 7000 ft on Wyman Creek in the White Mts., *Inyo* July 16-18 (REW) was most unusual for summer. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler in Pine Valley, *San Diego* June 23 (CGE) was believed to be a late spring vagrant. A Black-and-White Warbler in Irvine, *Orange* June 25 (ADB) was unusual, considering the time of year, and the same can be said of two Am. Redstarts at the same location June 25 (ADB), another at Charlton Flat in the San Gabriel Mts., June 27 (JF) and a fourth in Encinitas, *San Diego* June 30 (BED). A Prothonotary Warbler in Carpinteria July 22 through the end of the period (SEF) had probably been present since late spring. Two Kentucky Warblers were found this summer, with a male in Encinitas June 30-July 19 (BED, DRW) and another male at c. 5000 ft. on Wyman Cr. in the White Mts. July 16-18 (REW). Single Hooded Warblers at Galileo Hill in e. *Kern* June 11 (RS), at Butterbredt Spring June 13-19 (SL) and June 19 (SL), around Charlton Flat in the San Gabriel Mts. June 27-July 8 (KLG, BE) and near Boulder Oaks, *San Diego*, June 14 (PU) were the ones found this summer—a far cry from the numbers present a year ago. A Painted Redstart at Cloudburst Summit in the San Gabriel Mts., June 29 (KLG) was probably a lost summer wanderer.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Four territorial Hepatic Tanagers on Clark Mt., May 22 (SBT) were at a seldom visited but long suspected breeding locality. Single Summer Tanagers near Pala, *San Diego* July 2 (JCL), near Banning, *Riverside* July 12 (RMCK), in Riverside July 15 through the end of the period (MAP), along San Francisco Canyon near Newhall, Los Angeles May 21 (SJM) and near Big Pine all summer (T&JH) were west and north of this species' known breeding range in California. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Galileo Hill July 10 (MTH) would appear lost. A ♂ Indigo Bunting paired with a Lazuli Bunting near

Ramona, *San Diego* May 28 (CGE) was believed to have successfully fledged young; other reports of Indigo Buntings included four at S.F.K.R.P. all summer (SL), and single birds near Big Pine June 10 (T&JH), on Vandenberg A.F.B., May 21-July 6 (MW), at 3500 ft in the San Gabriel Mts., June 7-July 6 (C-TL), at ca. 6000 ft along Arrastre Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts., June 24 (REW), at Cushenbury Springs, *San Bernardino* July 8 (REW), in Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino* June 12-19 (MAP), and near Pine Valley June 17-24 (CGE), most appearing to be first-summer males.

Black-chinned Sparrows arrived earlier than normal (eight singing males near Santee, *San Diego* Mar. 18, HLJ), were more widespread on the coastal slope than normal (3 on the Palos Verdes Pen. May 12, MCW) and pushed farther N than usual in the e. portion of the Region (one at 7800 ft above Big Pine May 22, T&JH). Six to eight juv. Sage Sparrows of the race *canescens* were on the coastal slope of the San Gabriel Mts., June 27-July 4 (JF); these sightings confirmed the pattern noted by Ned K. Johnson of desert-slope breeding *canescens* moving up-mountain and coastward after breeding, bringing some into contact with coastal *bellii*. A Savannah Sparrow carrying nesting materials on the Carrizo Plain, *San Luis Obispo* Apr. 28 (KAH), a nest near Cantil in June (MTH), and a recently fledged juvenile accompanied by an adult at E. Cronese L., July 16 (GH), were all far from any previously known nesting localities. Grasshopper Sparrows appeared more numerous and widespread than usual, as suggested by a singing bird in Malibu Cr. S.P., *Los Angeles* June 5-6 (RB), some 75 around L. Skinner, *Riverside* throughout the summer (RMCK), and multiple singing birds at half-a-dozen sites around San Diego (CGE, JCL) in May. A White-crowned Sparrow near Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts., June 19 (HEC) was identified as *oriantha*, the race suspected to occasionally breed this far south.

Great-tailed Grackles continue to expand their range in S. California with breeding, or suspected breeding, as far north as Oceano, *San Luis Obispo* (female carrying nesting materials May 16, KAR), the Buena Vista L. Rec. Area near Bakersfield (two males displaying May 2-5, SRG) and Bishop, *Inyo* (multiple pairs nesting, T&JH). A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird was well north of its known range at F.C.R., June 13 (REW).

Red Crossbills moved into the Coastal Mountains this summer as indicated by up to 14 on Big Pine Mt. during July (JMG, MAH), up to 16 on nearby Figueroa Mt. in late July (JH, JEL), 20 on Mt. Pinos after early June (BHe, JEL), up to 30 in the San Bernardino Mts. during July (HK, REW),

one or two in the San Jacinto Mts. in early July (PU), and up to 15 around the Laguna Mts. during the last half of July (GLR, PAG).

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

Although late summer rainfall was ample, the state was still feeling long-term effects from the extremely dry winter and spring resulting from the El Niño conditions of last fall and winter. The endemic Laysan Ducks fledged no young at all this year, and the breeding season for endemic forestbirds at Hakalau N.W.R. was largely a bust. On the bright side, Puaiohi were sighted twice in the Koke'e/Alaka'i area, the first reports of any of Kauai's rare forestbirds since hurricane *Iniki* struck last September.

S.A.

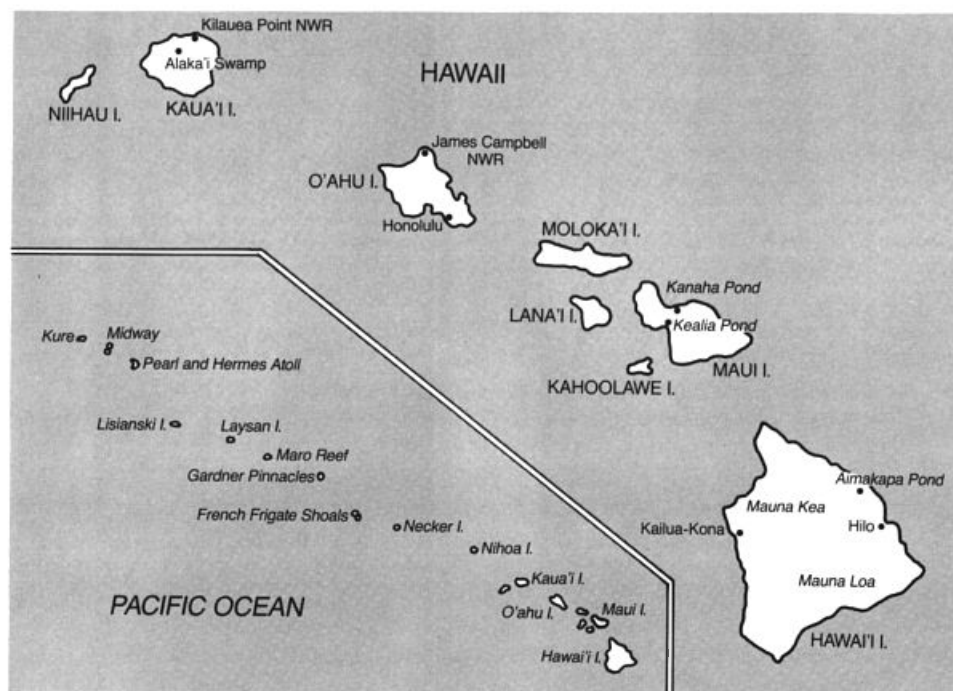
Newell's Shearwaters (*threatened*) are not known to have bred on O'ahu, in this century at least, but stragglers are occasionally found there on beaches. This year five were turned in to Sea Life Park, all during June and July. One was healthy and was banded and released, but the others were weak and soon died (MB). One Newell's was found on O'ahu July 27 dead on Pali Highway just w. of the Nuuanu Pali tunnels (DW). Other Newell's have been found there in past years among the many Wedge-tailed blown by strong winds through the gap above the tunnels and down on to the highway into night-time headlights. Observing from a charter boat, 21 Newell's were counted July 28 in the channel between Kauai and Ni'ihau, and 31 Newell's Aug. 19 in the channel between Kauai and O'ahu (JM). Finally, and most significantly, 13 Newell's were detected after dusk July 23 in Puulena Crater in the Puna District of Hawai'i I., by F.W.S. biologists searching for Newell nesting sites (M. Reynolds *et al.*, *vide* BD, TS). Lesser numbers were detected there later in July and August. This crater is close to the Kalapana area, where many Newell's were heard one evening last summer, streaming toward the mountains (AB 46:1181).

Abbreviations: H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kauai I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*).

GREBES TO STORM-PETRELS

A Pied-billed Grebe sighted July 29 at Nuu Pond on the s. coast of Maui (VG) may well have come from the new breeding colony at Aimakapa Pond on the n.w. coast of Hawai'i I., since mainland stragglers would not be likely at this season. Three Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrels (*Endangered*) seen flying inland from the sea at Haena on the n. coast of Kauai at dusk June 25 (TS), and one turned in to the shearwater aid station at Lihue in late July (TT), provide more fragmentary evidence that this species may be increasing as a breeder on Kauai. Some 150–200 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters in a foraging flock in Ma'alaea Bay, just offshore Kealia Pond (JO), was an unusually high count for Maui waters.

A total of 27 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, in several flocks of 8–10 birds, were sighted July 28 from a charter vessel in the channel w. of Kauai (JM). It was dark



Aug.19 when he passed back through the channel, but later that day he did see one bird about 80 km w. of O'ahu. One storm-petrel, reported to be a Band-rumped, was found dead in downtown Hilo, H., July 28 and was turned in to F.W.S. (*vide* BD). This species has long been suspected of breeding on Kaua'i, and perhaps also on Hawai'i I. The Hawaiian Is. population is a candidate for listing as an *Endangered* species.

TROPICBIRDS TO OWLS

A White-tailed Tropicbird was seen in Haleakala Crater, M., July 6 (VG), an unusual locality. Great Frigatebirds, uncommonly reported in the s. Main islands, were seen this season along Ma'alaea Bay shoreline, M. (3, June 13, JO), off Ho'okipa Park M. (1, June 20 and July 24, JO), and at Honaunau, H. (5, soaring high June 30, KW). An ad. **Little Blue Heron** was found July 28 at West Loch Shores Park (BE), the same general area in which all of the state's dozen or so occurrences have been recorded over the past 30 years. It was seen repeatedly through August (m.ob.). A White-faced Ibis reported at Aimakapa Pond in late July (MM) and Aug.1 (RD) is especially interesting since the sighting of one there last fall, and one reported in winter on Kaua'i.

Following the extremely dry winter and spring, the lake on Laysan I. dropped to its lowest level in recent memory. Laysan Ducks (*Endangered*) failed to fledge any young birds this year, although adults seemed to have survived in normal numbers. More rain in late spring and summer restored the lake to expected level, but too late for the ducks to start nesting (F.W.S., *vide* BF). Koloa (Hawaiian Duck, *Endangered*) were already nesting this summer in the new Kawaele sanctuary being developed from sand-mining pits near Barking Sands, K. (TT).

At Hakalau Forest N.W.R., H., June 20, an 'Io (Hawaiian Hawk) was seen to catch and eat a young 'Akepa—another instance of an endangered predator eating endangered prey (JL).

One Semipalmated Plover and at least eight Bristle-thighed Curlews overwintered at Sand I., Midway Atoll (*vide* BF). The first fall Bristle-thighed was found at Kahuku Pt., O., July 28 (EV), and two were there Aug.1 (RLP, PD). Four early Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at Amoriant Aquafarm, O. the same date (EV). A S. Polar Skua was seen July 28 from a vessel between Kaua'i and Ni'ihau; another sighted s. of Kaua'i Aug.19 might have been the same bird (JM). Both were

with flocks of foraging shearwaters. At Midway Atoll, two ad. Least or Little Terns were observed frequently on Sand I., July 5–Aug.8, and an immature was on Spit I., July 22 (LT, BF *et al.*). Seven White Tern chicks from Midway Atoll, displaced by cleanup activities prior to closing the Navy base there, were brought to Sea Life Park, O., June 24 to be raised for release (MB).

Remains of a dead 'Apapane and an 'Tiwi were found under a Barn Owl nest in Hakalau N.W.R., H., and bones of drepanids and other small birds were found in pellets nearby. Last year, no dead birds were noticed at this nest, and only rodent bones were found in the pellets. One young owl fledged from the nest in late June (JL).

'ALALA TO HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS

The five 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow, critically *Endangered*) hatched from wild eggs, referenced in last season's report, were fitted with radio transmitters and released from the hacking aviary during the 4th week of August. Monitoring of their subsequent movements and interactions with wild adults indicates that all is going well thus far. The very late egg mentioned last season did hatch successfully, and that young chick was placed in the captive flock at Olinda, M. Sadly, the one young bird hatched earlier at Olinda died there in mid-August of undetermined causes; initial necropsy revealed no disease or injury. Thirteen birds now remain in the captive flock, and 17 in the wild on Hawai'i I. (F.W.S.).

An adult and a separate juv. Puaiohi (*Endangered*) were well observed July 13 along Mohihi Trail in the Koke'e/Alaka'i area of Kaua'i (JD). One had been seen in this same locality in July 1991. Another Puaiohi was seen July 2 on lower Pihea Trail near the Sugi

Grove (DA). These are the first reports of any of Kauai's critically rare forestbirds since hurricane *Iniki* struck last September. Puaiohi was the most likely species to be found, since pre-*Iniki* numbers were considered to be larger for Puaiohi than for the other rare ones.

Fifty-six nests of Palila (*Endangered*) had been found by mid-August in the study area at Mauna Kea, H., compared to none last year during the height of the El Niño-related drought. Return of the rains in late spring and summer this year evidently was a factor (T.Pratt *vide* BD). Another Maui Parrotbill (*Endangered*) was spotted along the nature trail at Hosmer Grove, M. July 5 (LP). Only one male 'Akiapola'au (*Endangered*) was found this summer in the research area on Mauna Kea, where three males had been under study last year (T.Pratt *vide* BD). However, a pair was reported seen at Pu'u La'u June 28 & 30, and one along Mauna Loa Strip Rd., H. July 2 (KW).

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WEST INDIES REGION

Robert J. Norton

Two brief reports are offered from the U.S. Virgin Islands and Cuba. The latter report represents observations made by some of the 100 members of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, which met in Havana late this summer. Previous reports from Cuba came primarily in the spring season, when the optimum number of species may be encountered. However, with several members and resident guides keen on seeing every bird that the w. provinces, Pinar del Rio and Matanzas, had to offer, the species list was still very impressive. Since the bulk of the report overlaps with the fall season, look for the balance in the next seasonal report.

Precipitation, measured at the National Park Service, Cruz Bay, StJ, was less than 0.5% below the 100-year period of record for the summer season: June +17% and July -16%.

Abbreviations: StJ (*St. Johns*); StT (*St. Thomas*).

EGRETS TO SANDPIPERS

A Reddish Egret was noted in Pinar del Rio Province (PWS *et al.*). Ruddy Ducks were

found on small roadside ponds in San Diego de los Banos, Cuba. The Cuban endemic race of Broad-winged Hawk was sighted at La Guira National Park, Pinar del Rio Prov. (PWS *et al.*) July 31.

A Semipalmated Plover seen July 31 (PWS *et al.*) in Pinar del Rio Prov. may have been oversummering. Killdeer, common and widespread in Cuba, where they are recorded as breeding residents (Garrido and Kirkconnel), were first noted by members of the S.C.O., July 30 at the Havana airport. A Spotted Sandpiper, which may have oversummered, was seen at a roadside pond in Pinar del Rio Prov., July 31 (PWS *et al.*). Two Least Sandpipers were at Salt Pond, StJ July 11 (EH), suggesting an departure from breeding areas. Four breeding-plumaged Long-billed Dowitchers, rare in the West Indies, were spotted at a roadside pond in Cuba, on the July 31 foray in Pinar del Rio Prov. Apparently the females had already left the tundra breeding areas.

CUCKOOS TO SPARROWS

Although fairly common and widespread in Cuba, the Great Lizard Cuckoo, first noted July 31 by S.C.O. members, awed observers with its size and resemblance to prehistoric birds. Two of the most delightful endemics of Cuba are the Cuban Trogon and the Cuban Tody; the latter is superior to all others of this genus in the West Indies (RLN).

The Greater Antillean Pewee has 3 distinct forms: the Jamaican Pewee (*C. pallidus*), Hispaniolan Pewee (*C. hispaniolensis*), and the Greater Antillean form found in Cuba and the Bahamas (Reynard *et al.*, 1993). In Cuba, its single-note call could be heard easily in most woodland habitats (PWS *et al.*). A Puerto Rican Flycatcher, resident in the Virgin Is., was observed July 11 on the w. end of StL, near the airport (EH). This *Myiarchus* flycatcher seems to be much less common on StL than on StJ, although its abundance is not well known among the other islands of the e. Puerto Rico Bank (RLN). The endemic Cuban Martin rounded out the list at San Diego de los Banos July 31 (PWS *et al.*). It was only a matter of time before the House Sparrow would be recorded from Cruz Bay, StJ, where 2 birds were carefully noted over a span of 4 days, July 12-15 (EH). Until 1981, House Sparrows were apparently extant in Charlotte Amalie, StL, where one was observed entering a ceiling cavity in the shopping district (RLN).

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