

# Appalachian Region

## GEORGE A. HALL

It was a fairly normal summer. Temperatures were slightly warmer than normal, but there were few really hot spells. The period was drier than usual, and at Pittsburgh the season showed a deficiency of 1.28 inches of rainfall. Unfortunately rather few reports came in from observers, and it appeared that many Appalachian birders spent the summer traveling.

Most woodland species were in good numbers and enjoyed successful breeding seasons. Grassland species were generally thought to be low, but Don Henise reported that a census in the *Franklin*, Pennsylvania area revealed that most species were up to normal levels. In *Butler*, Pennsylvania an intensive effort failed to find nine "species of special concern" that had been confirmed as breeding in the county in the recent Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas.

The southward range expansions mentioned last year have continued, but the feature of this season was what I have called the "slightly out-of-range" group of species, whose occurrence a short distance beyond

the "known" range was noteworthy. In some cases these records came from the exploration of areas not covered before, and so the range extensions may not be recent. As is often the case, some of these species, which were expanding at the edge of the range, were in fact declining in numbers nearer the center of their ranges.

By the end of the period some warbler migration had started, but no great numbers of shorebirds had arrived.

ABBREVIATIONS: Ch.N.F. (*Chattahoochee Natl. Forest, GA*); G.B.W.M.A. (*Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell County, WV, formerly known as Glenwood Swamp*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co, PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); Sh.N.P. (*Shenandoah Natl. Park, VA*).

## Loons to Waterfowl

A Com. Loon in full breeding plumage remained in *Westmoreland, PA* through the period (RCL), and immatures were seen at *Pymatuning L., June 26* (RFL), *Tamarack L., PA June 26* (RFL), and *Stony River Reservoir, WV June 26* (AW). *Pied-billed Grebes* nested at *Scotia Pond, Centre, PA* (JP).

The Am. White Pelican in *Wood, WV* reported in the spring was not seen after the last week in June (JE). Up to 40 Double-crested Cormorants remained all summer at *Meander L., OH* (NB). Other reports came from *Erie, PA June 1* (JM); *Pymatuning L., PA* (RFL); *Warren, PA* (TG); and *Clarke-Frederick, VA* (V.S.O.).

In *Westmoreland, PA* a pair of sub-adults built a nest but did not lay any eggs (RCL).

An Am. Bittern at *Akeley Swamp, Warren, PA June 4* (TG) was rare for the area, and two were seen at *Conneaut Marsh, Crawford, PA June 5*, with one there *June 19* (RFL). The only report of Least Bitterns came from *Erie, PA* (JM). Great Blue Herons continued to do well. A heronry in *Brooke, WV* had 43 nests (JB), and there are now 3 heronries in *Jefferson, PA* (RB). There were few reports of Great Egrets: several in *Augusta, VA* (RS) and one at *G.B.W.M.A., June 14* (AW). The only Snowy Egret was reported from *Crawford, PA June 12* (TN), and the only Cattle Egret was seen in *Augusta, VA June 14* (AL). Black-crowned Night-Her-

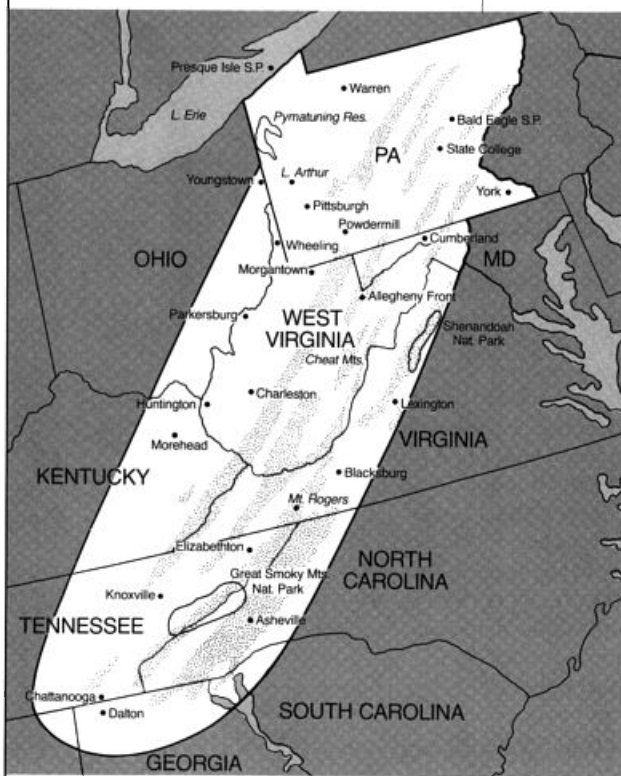
ons were seen near *Waynesboro, VA July 28*, with four adults and two immatures (MH); at *Conneaut Marsh, PA* (JBa); and, more unusual, at *Natrona Heights, PA* (PH). The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron has not been numerous in this Region, so nesting reports from *West Fairview, PA* (DH) and near *Roanoke, VA* (MS), and an immature at *G.B.W.M.A., July 30* (WA) were noteworthy. An imm. White Ibis was seen in mid-July in *Botetourt, VA* (BO).

The number of Canada Geese at *Pymatuning L., PA* was estimated at 2800 (RFL), and there were small numbers breeding throughout almost all the n. part of the Region. As usual, Mallards and Wood Ducks bred in the Region, although water levels in *L. Somerset* were so low that only one brood of Mallards was raised (AM). Hooded Mergansers nested at *Pymatuning L., PA* (RFL, RCL), and were seen in *Augusta, VA June 19* (AL) and in *Somerset, PA July 1* (AM). As usual there were reports of non-breeders summering in the Region: Gadwall, Redhead, Com. Goldeneye, and Common and Red-breasted mergansers were found at *P.I.S.P. (JM)*; Green-winged Teal at *Pymatuning L., PA* (RCL); Ruddy Duck in *Frederick, VA* (V.S.O.); and Blue-winged Teal in *Clarke, VA* (V.S.O.).

## Raptors to Gulls

A Black Vulture in *Centre, PA June 17* was slightly out of range (JP). The Osprey restoration program seems to be working well. There were 4 nests in the *Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania* (RCL). In *Somerset, PA*, there were 3 nesting attempts: one pair raising two young, another failed, and at a third nest no eggs were laid. (AM). There was some nest building but no eggs were laid by the population on *Blennerhassett I. on the Ohio R.* (JE). Two Ospreys in *Huntingdon, PA July 16* (GM) and *July 23* (JP, BP) were far from any known nesting territory. There was an unusual number of Bald Eagles reports: an immature at *P.I.S.P., July 4* (JM); *Columbus, PA. July 14* (TG); two immatures at *Kinzua Res., PA July 15* (*vide* WH); an adult at *Frederick, VA June 10* (V.S.O.); one adult and two immatures at *Clarke, VA June 11* (V.S.O.), and *Swoope L., Augusta, VA June 27–July 20* (AL).

Northern Harriers continued to do well in the Region with a summer record as far south as *Clarke, VA June 10* (V.S.O.). A N. Goshawk was seen on *Cheat Mt., WV July 24* (WA) and the other two accipiters were in good numbers. Four nests of Red-shouldered Hawk near *Warren, OH* (CB) were noteworthy. There were no other comments of *buteos*.



In *Warren*, PA, Am. Kestrels nested in 32 out of 37 boxes and raised 136 young (DW). Most remarkable was a Merlin near Meadville, PA on an unspecified date (RFL). The only report of a Peregrine came from P.I.S.P., July 13 (JS), and there was no further word on the fate of the Pittsburgh nestlings.

The Ring-necked Pheasant population in the Newville, PA region is back to normal (DH), and one was found in *Clarke*, VA June 11 (V.S.O.), one of the few places south of the Mason-Dixon Line where this bird can be found. In view of the continuing scarcity of N. Bobwhites, two heard near Davis, WV at a relatively high elevation is noteworthy (AW).

Downy young Virginia Rails were found in *Marshall*, WV July 21 (AW). Young Com. Moorhens were found at P.I.S.P. in July (JM), and at G.B.W.M., June 19 & 30 (AW). An adult was seen at Swoope L., *Augusta*, VA June 13 (AL). The two Sandhill Cranes seen throughout the summer in *Lawrence* and *Mercer*, PA were probably the ones that nested in that region last year, but no evidence of nesting was obtained this summer (PH).

There were a few reports of lingering northbound shorebirds in early June and only a trickling of the southbound flight had appeared by the end of the period. Which way was the Lesser Yellowlegs at Pymatuning L., PA June 19 (RFL) going? The only concentration reported came from *Augusta*, VA, July 21 with 250 birds of 13 species, including such Regional rarities as Willet, Stilt Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher. (AL). Other unusual records were a northbound Whimbrel at P.I.S.P., June 1, and a southbound (?) one there July 13 (GR); Sanderling at L. Somerset June 4 (AM); three White-rumped Sandpipers at P.I.S.P., June 11 (JM); and both Short-billed (July 11) and Long-billed (July 11 & 31) dowitchers at Pymatuning L., PA (RCL, RFL).

Five Upland Sandpipers seen near Shipensburg, PA July 11 may have been local breeders (DH).

A **Laughing Gull** at P.I.S.P., June 21 was noteworthy for that area, but one on the Shenandoah R., near Bentonville June 1 provided the first n.w. Virginia record (DP, *vide* RSi). A **Common Black-headed Gull** at Pymatuning L., PA July 17 (†RFL) was one of the few Pennsylvania records away from L. Erie. A Bonaparte's Gull in winter plumage was seen in *Crawford*, PA June 25 (RFL). The Herring Gulls that nested on the Allegheny R. near Pittsburgh fledged three young (PH).

This Region seldom has summer records for terns other than the Black Tern, so noteworthy were two Caspians in Slip-

pery Rock Township, *Butler*, PA June 6 (GW); Com. Terns at *Wood*, WV June 9 (JE) and Woodcock L., *Crawford*, PA June 30 (RCL); and Forster's Terns at Boone L., TN July 10 (LJ), Summersville, WV July 10 (JE), and Pymatuning L., PA July 8 & 17 (RFL). The Black Terns at P.I.S.P. did not succeed in nesting, but others were seen carrying food to young birds at Pymatuning L., PA June 30 (RCL). An unusual inland record came from *Allegheny*, PA in late July (PB).

### Cuckoos to Wrens

Both species of cuckoo were more widely reported and were in greater numbers than normal. The Black-billed Cuckoo was reported from more southerly locations than in the past. Barn Owls nested at Waynesboro, VA as usual (RS), and a nest with four young was found near Berryville, VA June 11 (V.S.O.). Eastern Screech-Owl numbers were thought to be 50% below normal at Bethany, WV (JB). The N. Saw-whet Owl nested in *Warren*, PA (DW). Two nests on Roan Mt., TN fledged four young each, but a nest on Unaka Mt. failed (MB). A concentrated survey using tape recordings and mist nets in 4 locations in the Monongahela N.F., WV located at last 8 Saw-whets and banded five (DB).

The increasingly uncommon Red-headed Woodpecker was located at 2 sites near Berryville, VA in mid-June (JBz). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported from 2 locations in *Crawford*, PA, where they have only recently appeared (RFL).

Most areas reported a shortage of the small flycatchers—E. Wood-Pewee, and Acadian, Willow, and Least flycatchers. However, Least Flycatchers in *Rabun*, GA June 29 (DF) and Apple Orchard Mt., *Botetourt*, VA June 30 (BH & MD) and Willow Flycatchers feeding young in *Dillard*, GA June 29 (DF) were slightly out-of-normal range. Acadian Flycatchers numbers were up 80% over the 8-year mean in a census in Sh. N.P. (MGS). However, E. Kingbirds in *Greene*, PA (RB) and Great Crested Flycatchers at P.N.R. (RCL) were in unusually good numbers.

Tree Swallows were widely reported as having very successful breeding seasons. A Bank Swallow colony of 40 nests in *Wood*, WV was noteworthy (JE). At L. Arthur, PA the Cliff Swallow nesting population doubled to 108 nests (GW), and a colony of 60 nests was found in *Wood*, WV (JE). A Com. Raven in *Braxton*, WV was slightly out of normal range (AW), and one was reported from *Harlan*, KY June 12 (JEL). Red-breasted Nuthatches nested at Michaux S.F., PA again this year (DH); one near Minnehaha Springs, WV June 9 was an-

other "slightly out-of-range" report (MGS). Brown Creepers nested at Mosquito L., OH (DHo), and summer records came from *Crawford*, PA July 8 (RFL) and *Frederick*, VA June 9 (V.S.O.). Carolina Wrens were in very low numbers throughout the Region, but by the end of the period at least one—two were present at most places. A drastic decline in House Wrens was reported from Girard, OH (DHo). Is it too redundant to again remark that Bewick's Wrens were unreported?

### Kinglets to Vireos

An extremely early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen with a flock of early warblers July 18 at Roanoke, VA (MS). On censuses in Sh. N.P., Veery numbers were down 51% and Wood Thrush down 35% over the 8-year averages (MGS). But Veery populations were high at P.N.R. (RCL, RM), and they were reported from Ch. N.F., June 24 (KW, RR). Two singing Swainson's Thrushes were heard in *Warren*, PA July 17 (TG). Two singing Hermit Thrushes on Roan Mt., TN June 4 (RK) point to the continued range expansion of this species.

Range expansions were also indicated by N. Mockingbirds nesting in Niles, OH for the 2nd year (CB), and by 2 nests in *Lawrence*, PA, the only county *not* reporting this species on the state breeding bird atlas (SB, BD). Two pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes nested in *Franklin*, PA (DH), and single nestings were reported from both *Clarke* and *Frederick*, VA (V.S.O.). White-eyed Vireos were at an all-time high at P.N.R. (RCL), and birds at P.I.S.P., June 14 (GR) and *Crawford*, PA July 8 (RCL) were slightly n. of normal range. Kentucky had Solitary Vireos in *Harlan*, June 12 (JEL), *Whitley* June 3 (Sat), and *Knott* June 18 (Sat); they were s. and w. of the usual range.

### Warblers to Finches

While there were the usual conflicting reports of warblers, the positives outnumbered the negatives. Chestnut-sideds in *Harlan*, KY (Sat), Magnolias in Mill Creek Park, OH (NB), Black-throated Blues in Michaux S.F., PA (DH), and a Mourning at Meadville, PA (RFL) were in the "slightly out-of-range" group. In Slippery Rock gorge, *Butler*, PA, 18 species of warblers including a mixture of s. and n. species (Yellow-throated, Magnolia, and Blackburnian) were found nesting (GW *et al.*). At P.N.R. Kentucky and Chestnut-sided warblers and N. Parulas had their best populations in years (RCL). A "Brewster's" Warbler was seen in *Centre*, PA July 2 (JP, BP); a ♂ "Lawrence's" Warbler nested in *Butler*, PA, but the identity of the female was not

reported (GW *et al.*). The Yellow-rumped Warbler continued to expand its range. A lone male was on territory on Roan Mt., TN, where it nested last year (RK); two males and a female were seen in *Adams*, PA in early June (DH); and one at P.I.S.P., July 3 (JM) provided the first July record for the county. In Sh. N.P., a 15-acre census area had five singing ♂ Cerulean Warblers (MGS), but the most remarkable report was a total of 205 singing males on 16 mi of trail in the Frozen Head State Natural Area, TN June 4–5 (Sat).

There were 6 reports of nesting Prothonotary Warbler: P.I.S.P., June 5 (JM); Newville, PA, (DH); on the *Somerset/Fayette*, PA line (first s.w Pennsylvania nesting record, RCL); Blennerhassett I., *Wood*, WV (JE); G.B.W.M.A. (AW); and *Botetourt*, VA (BK). More noteworthy were the reports of nesting Swainson's Warblers in *Nicholas* (GB) and *Roan*, WV (AW), and *Laurel*, KY (JEL). Ovenbirds were up 104% of the 9-year average on census plots in Sh. N.P. (MGS), and a *Greene*, PA B.B.S. route listed the most ever (RB). The southbound migration of Yellow Warblers began as early as July 14 at P.N.R., and the first migrant N. Waterthrushes and Mourning Warblers arrived there July 27 (RCL, RM).

At Morgantown, WV, Scarlet Tanagers were considered scarce, but very high concentrations were reported in w. *Frederick*, VA (JBz). Blue Grosbeaks were found at Lyndhurst, VA June 10 and July 29 (RS) and in *Hardy*, WV June 20 (AW). Two pairs of Dickcissels nested successfully in *Lawrence*, PA and 4 pairs were located in *Venango*, PA (GW *et al.*) Two pairs of Dickcissels attempted to nest in *Botetourt*, VA, the first local record (MS, BK).

Grassland sparrow populations continued to be low at most places, but summer records of Savannah Sparrows came from *Wood*, WV (JE), *Frederick*, VA (V.S.O.), and *Augusta*, VA (RS), all at or near the s. extremity of the range. Ten–twelve singing ♂ Henslow's Sparrows were found in recovered surface mines in *Jefferson*, PA and six males were located one field in *Ohio*, WV (JB). This species was also found near Parkersburg, WV (JE).

Bobolinks at low elevations as far south as Blosserville, PA (DH) and *Clarke* and *Frederick*, VA (V.S.O.) were noteworthy. Eastern Meadowlarks continue their downward slide. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Siegel Marsh, *Erie*, PA June 11 (LF). A positive note was the total absence of Brown-headed Cowbirds on a B.B.S. route in *Greene*, PA, which had averaged 10 per year (RB). This same route produced 18 N. Orioles, well above the long-term average of 10.3 (RB).

Purple Finches were feeding young at Girard, OH June 30(DHo). The only reports of Red Crossbills came from the Cranberry Glades in West Virginia June 29 (GB) and July 23 (WA). Pine Siskins remained in the area as late as June 5 in *Huntingdon*, PA (GG) and June 9 at St. Marys, PA (LC). One also appeared at St. Marys July 29 (LC).

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# Western Great Lakes Region

## DARYL D. TESSEN

Summer was unusually quiet. After a cool start, June provided some hot, humid weather in the latter half of the month. Thereafter temperatures turned decidedly cooler and generally remained that way for the duration. Precipitation was quite spotty during June, with just enough in some areas to maintain good plant growth. However, rainfall markedly increased in July, with many Wisconsin locales reporting record precipitation for the month.

Birders characterized the season as lack-luster. Often state and local hot lines were forced to fill in with general information due to the lack of exciting reports. The most noteworthy find of the season, a *Selasphorus* hummingbird, awaits positive identification. In addition, it remained scarcely two days, needing to be elsewhere—which apparently was true of other rarities this summer. The only significant news for the season was first nesting records in Wisconsin and Minnesota, each with two.

Abbreviations: W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, MI*).

## Loons to Ibises

A Horned Grebe was at Saginaw Bay S.P., MI June 6 (JG). One was in Minnesota's *Marshall* June 25 (JB, TS). A Red-necked Grebe was out of range at W.P.B.O., June 22 (staff). Eared Grebes were again present in Wisconsin with one June 18 in *Dane* (KB) and two July 10 in *Columbia* (PA). Minnesota had its first nesting record for *Clark's Grebe* when one adult was seen with young July 9–22 in *Fairbault* (RJe *et al.*). Wisconsin had its first Am. White Pelican nesting record when 2 nests were found at Green Bay. Unfortunately neither was successful (TE). A maximum of 85 birds was present there by the period's conclusion. Additional numbers included 55 at LaCrosse (FL). In Michigan six summered at Pt. Mouillee (m.ob.), with a Brown Pelican joining them June 2–5 (m.ob.). Another Am. White Pelican was sighted at Shiawassee N.W.R., June 9 (DP).