

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).

**Contributors:** Michael Arabia, Wendell Argabrite, Carole Babyak, Mark Barb, James Barker (JBa), John Bazuin (JBz), Ralph Bell, George Breiding, Dave Brinker, Paul Brown, Edward Brucker, Nancy Brundage, Jay Buckelew, Suzanne Butcher, Linda Christenson, John Dalmas, David Davis, Barb Dean, Harriett Di-Gioia, Mike Donahue, Jackie Elmore (JEL), Jeanette Esker (JE), Laura Farnham, Dot Freeman, Ted Grisez, Greg Grove, John Heninger, Don Henise (DH), Mozelle Henkel, Paul Hess, William Highhouse, David Hochadel (DHo) Bill Hunley, Lloyd Jones, Barry Kinzie, Rick Knight, Allen Larner, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Anthony Marich, Jerry McWilliams, Gary Moorman, Robert Mulvihill, Thomas Nicolls, Bill Opengari, Becky Peplinski, John Peplinski, Doug Poffenberger, Geoff Robinson, Rex Rymer, Rob Simpson (RSi), Michael G. Smith (MGS), Mike Smith (MS), Ruth Snyder (RS) Ann Stamm, Sally Stebbins (SS), Stephen Stedman (Sat), Jean Stull, Virginia Society for Ornithology Foray (V.S.O.), Don Watts (DW), Andy Weakes, Gene Wilhelm, Keith Wooster —George A. Hall, P.O. Box 6045, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506–6045.

# 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 lackluster. 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).

Snowy Egrets again nested (2 pairs) at Green Bay (TE). Michigan had non-nesting birds at 3 sites: three at Nayanquing Pt., June 17 (JG); Shiawassee N.W.R., June 3–July 21 (m.ob.); and five at Pt. Mouillee July 1–31 (m.ob.). Little Blue Herons were found in Wisconsin July 11 at Milwaukee (MF), and in Michigan July 20–24 at Nayanquing Pt. (m.ob.) and July 23–30 at Chippewa Nature Center (m.ob.). A Tricolored Heron spent the last half of July at Pt. Mouillee (m.ob.). All 3 states recorded Cattle Egrets, with nesting at Wisconsin's Green Bay (28 nests) and Minnesota's *Lac Qui Parle*. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in all 3 states, with nesting suspected in Wisconsin. Two imm. *Plegadis* ibises were watched in *Bigston*, MN July 23 (AH *et al.*).

### Swans to Cranes

An injured, but able to fly, Tundra Swan summered at Madison, WI (m.ob.). Canvasbacks were found in 2 Wisconsin counties, while Lesser Scaup were in 4 counties. Tardy were single Oldsquaws at W.P.B.O., June 1 (staff) and June 7 in Door, WI (GH, BS). Also tardy were 15 White-winged Scoters June 1 at W.P.B.O. Out-of-range sightings included a ♂ Bufflehead in Michigan's Iosco during July (m.ob.) and a Red-breasted Merganser in Wisconsin's Winnebago June 4–17 (DN).

Ospreys again nested in *Winona*, one of the few nestings for this Minnesota region. Two Broad-winged Hawk kettles (each about 30) were counted June 18 in Wisconsin's *Door* (MBo, JS). Ashman found

this species nesting in Madison, far south for Wisconsin. The discovery of nesting Merlins in *Door* was the first since 1896 (TE). Minnesota reported Gray Partridge from only 10 counties, the fewest since 1984. Yellow Rails were found in 2 Minnesota counties, *Aitkin* and *St. Louis*. There were the usual King Rail reports in Wisconsin and Michigan.

### Shorebirds

Wisconsin had 16 species that extended their spring migration into June. The more interesting sightings included an Am. Avocet June 1 at Ashland (IB), three Whimbrels June 2 in *Oconto* (J&KS), 743 Semipalmated Sandpipers June 1 at Madison (EH), and Dunlins at Manitowoc until June 24 (CS). Hard to classify (north or southbound, or wanderer?): Black-bellied Plover at Manitowoc June 20–21 (CS) and Madison June 22 (EH); Lesser Yellowlegs from June 19 at Madison (PA); Least Sandpiper June 27 at Manitowoc (CS); and White-rumped Sandpiper June 22 at Manitowoc (CS) and June 23 in *Oconto* (SR).

Only a few Piping Plovers nested in Minnesota (JB, TS). Interesting fall migrants included Am. Avocet July 3 at Pt. Mouillee, MI (m.ob.); single Willets July 5 in *Anoka* (P&KL), July 31 in *Kandiyohi* (RF), and both Minnesota and in Milwaukee July 31 (RW). Outstanding was the Curlew Sandpiper seen by many birders at Pt. Mouillee July 30. A Red-necked Phalarope spent several days in n. *Dane*, WI July 25–29 (v.o.).

### Gulls to Woodpeckers

The only Laughing Gull sightings occurred in New Buffalo, MI between June 15–July 19 (m.ob.). Single Franklin's Gulls were seen in Wisconsin June 4 in *Dunn* (JP) and July 16 in Milwaukee (DT). Little Gulls were uncharacteristically hard to find in Wisconsin, with two in *Oconto* in early June and two at Manitowoc only intermittently during June. Michigan had Little Gulls at Pt. Mouillee June 12–20. Also at Pt. Mouillee was a Com. Black-headed Gull July 14 (m.ob.). Different Lesser Black-backed Gulls were watched by Byrne in Michigan's *Berrien*. A 3rd-summer bird was in New Buffalo June 8, while an adult was at St. Joseph July 25. Glaucous Gulls lingered at Manitowoc/Two Rivers until June 6 (CS). Wisconsin had its first **Great Black-backed Gull** nesting record when Stromborg found two young about to fledge in a nest on Spider I., *Door*. Michigan birders observed an Arctic Tern at Pt. Mouillee between June 18–July 1.

Fledged owls included two Great Gray and five Long-eared from single nests in *Aitkin*, MN (WN). Short-eared Owls were reported in 3 Minnesota counties. In Wisconsin, Erdman found Great Gray Owls in *Forest*. The only exciting find during this summer was a *Selasphorus* hummingbird that Cheryl Powell discovered fighting with the Ruby-throateds at her feeders near Butternut, WI July 12. Local birders joined her for the duration of the afternoon watching and photographing what appeared to be an imm. Rufous. It returned briefly the next morning before departing. Positive identification, if possible, is currently incomplete. A pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers used the same tree in *St. Louis* as in 1993, providing Minnesota with its 4th nesting record (SS).

### Flycatchers to Shrikes

Early fall migrants were an Olive-sided Flycatcher July 31 in *Columbia* (PA) and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher July 30 in *Walworth* (DT), both Wisconsin. The Acadian Flycatcher continues to expand its range in Minnesota. Noteworthy was an individual in *Swift* June 10 (RG). Tardy spring migrant W. Kingbirds were found in Michigan's *Kalamazoo* June 3 (m.ob.) and Wisconsin's *Vilas* June 11 (BM). Red-breasted Nuthatches nested in *Winnebago*, WI (DN). After the hard winter it was not surprising that few Carolina Wrens were reported. For example Wisconsin had only one, in Madison. Golden-crowned Kinglets summered in *Portage*, WI (MB). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at W.P.B.O. June 6 (staff).



The ♂ hybrid Mountain × Eastern Bluebird found in *Todd*, MN this spring was last seen June 5 (S&DM). Early fall migrant Swainson's Thrushes in Wisconsin were recorded in Manitowoc July 26 (CS) and Madison July 28 (EH).

Northern Mockingbirds were found in all 3 states. Michigan's lone contribution was at W.P.B.O., June 6 (staff). Wisconsin had single birds in *Douglas* June 7 (RJ), *Portage* July 13 (MB) and at Harrington Beach S.P., July 24 (RW). In Minnesota they were found in *St. Louis*, *Aitkin*, and *Wilkin* (m.ob.). A Sprague's Pipit was in Minnesota's *Clay* June 25 (CG, BM). There were a few more Loggerhead Shrike nestings and sightings in the Region than in past years. It would be nice if this would develop into a trend. Michigan had a nest with two young in *Ogenaw* (m.ob.). Wisconsin had 5 successful nests with a total of 11 young in *St. Croix* and *Pierce* (BB, MB), with 4 additional sightings. Minnesota had nesting in 2 counties, each with two–four young, with additional sightings in 5 counties.

### Vireos to Finches

Both White-eyed and Bell's vireos were resident in several s. Wisconsin counties. A Solitary Vireo was in *Portage* July 9 (MB) and a Philadelphia Vireo was in *Oconto* June 19 (J&KS), both Wisconsin. Unusually far south was Golden-winged Warbler in *Winona*, MN June 28 (JPo) and July 23 (CSc). "Lawrence's" Warblers were found in both Wisconsin's *Sauk* and Michigan's *Washtenaw*. The Tennessee Warbler July 12 in *Hennepin* (*vide* SC) tied the 2nd earliest fall arrival date for s. Minnesota. The three singing ♂ Yellow-throated Warblers remained into July at *Wyalusing* S.P., WI, as did the one singing male in *Kandiyohi*, MN. In Wisconsin, a Prairie Warbler was seen in *Portage* June 11 (MB), while one in *Sheboygan* remained through the period. Six Palm Warblers were also present in *Portage*, WI (MB). Out of place was a Cerulean Warbler in *Rock*, MN June 25 (ND). Worm-eating Warblers were found in Michigan's *Allegan* (>three males) and Wisconsin's *Sauk* (one–two males). **Kentucky Warbler** nesting had been suspected for 2 years in Minnesota's *Nicollet*. This year it was confirmed with one fledged young (BF), thus providing the state with its first nesting record. In addition to the number of territorial Hooded Warblers in s. Wisconsin, birds were found in the n. counties of *Marquette* and *Vilas*. Three Wilson's Warblers were found in Minnesota's *Cook* and *Lake* (m.ob.). Yellow-breasted Chats were found in 4 Wisconsin counties, this after a poor spring migration.

A Summer Tanager was present June 26 in *Rock*, MN (*vide* PB). Dickcissels were reported as common in Michigan's s. 3 tiers of counties. In contrast, Wisconsin found unusually low numbers. The ♂ Lark Bunting watched by Barton and Svingen June 4 in *Roseau*, MN was a late spring migrant. Henslow's Sparrow observations continued in low (Wisconsin) or nonexistent numbers (Minnesota). The Sharp-tailed Sparrows present at Wisconsin's *Crex Meadows* W.A., *Burnett* lingered into early/mid-June (MP). Minnesota reporters felt the Orchard Oriole population was stable, with 20 reporting counties.

Finches elicited few comments this summer. Among those were 90 White-winged Crossbills July 3 and late spring migrating Com. Redpolls June 2, both at W.P.B.O. And last, Wisconsin reporters in various n. and central locales commented on good Evening Grosbeak numbers.

**Contributors:** Philip Ashman, Parker Backstrom, Bruce Bacon, Sue Barton, Murray Berner, Janet Boe, Marilyn Bontly (MBo), Irv Bretting, Kay Burcar, Adam Byrne, Steve Carlson, Nelvina DeKam, Tom Erdman, Bruce Fall, Mark Feider, Randy Friederickson, Jack Gillespie, Ray Glassel, Charlie Greenman, Ellen Hansen, Anthony Hertz, Gloria Hoffman, Robert Janssen (RJ), Robby Johnson, **Michael Kielb** (Michigan), Pat & Ken LaFond, Fred Lesh, Bob Mead, Steve & Diane Millard, Bonnie Mulligan, Warren Nelson, Don Nussbaum, Dave Peters, Mark Peterson, Janine Polk, Jennifer Pospichal (JBo), Sam Robbins, Steve Schon, Carol Schumacher (CSc), Jerry & Karen Smith, Charles Sontag, Thom Soule, Barbara Stover, Jean Strelka, Ken Stromborg, **Peder Svingen** (Minnesota), **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Ron Wood, W.P.B.O. staff.

— *Daryl D. Tessen, 3118 N. Oneida St., Appleton, WI 54911.*

# Middle-western Prairie Region

### KENNETH J. BROCK

Summer temperatures were about average and, mercifully, precipitation returned to more normal levels, avoiding a repeat of last summer's extensive flooding. Assessments of the flood's impact on breeding birds yielded, as the popular cliché goes, both good and bad news. The bad news included significant tree loss at one major egret colony and local replacement of some flood plain marsh habitat by ragweed. Tree loss was believed to have contributed to the absence of breeding Snowy and Cattle egrets at the important Charleston, Missouri site. The good news involved greatly improved nesting habitat for Least Terns on the Mississippi River islands. No doubt the final chapter in this saga is yet to be written.

A common theme among summer correspondents was a positive evaluation of the breeding season. Though serious problems remain, especially with marsh nesting species, breeding populations of many birds were greatly improved. Selected prairie species fared better than normal, and the discovery of previously unknown breeding populations in northern Illinois highlighted a Region-wide favorable report on neotropical warblers. Without implying a return to the halcyon days of midcentury, the summer report contains sufficient enthusiasm to render even the crustiest pessimist guardedly optimistic.

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

### Loons to Ibises

A basic-plumed **Pacific Loon** at Anderson L., *Hamilton*, IA July 13+ (†SD, †JD, †m.ob), provided Iowa's first summer record and one of very few summer records for the Region. By far the largest reported Pied-