

The ♂ hybrid Mountain x 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.

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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-

billed Grebe concentration consisted of >120 (adult and young of all ages) at Horseshoe L., IL July 12–20 (KM_c). The Region's Am. White Pelican population is expanding; in addition to expected numbers in Iowa and Missouri, one summered at McGinnis Slough, Palos, IL (AS) and another wandered E to the Maumee R. near Waterville, OH July 20 (MA). Double-crested Cormorants continued their upward trend with 10 nests at Coralville Res., IA June 19 (TK) and an estimated 218 nests at the established L. Renwick, IL colony June 5 (WM). A new colony, discovered in Riverdale, Cook, IL had 71 nests May 28, but was abandoned by June 5 (WM). Accidental in the Region just a few years ago, the Neotropic Cormorant is becoming regular. This summer's addition to the growing list of records was a well-seen adult at S.C.R., July 20 (†DE).

American Bitterns were reported at only 2 locations: a singleton at Goose Lake Prairie S.P., July 7 & 11 (JM) and two at Trumbull L., IA June 23 (E&EA). In contrast, the summer Least Bittern picture was quite encouraging, with reports from every state except Kentucky. The most impressive counts included 45 Least and 13 nests at S.C.R., June 10 (JW *et al.*), and a total of 15 birds from 7 Illinois locations. Noteworthy among a myriad of Great Blue Heron reports were 923 nests at Clear L., IL June 3 (RBj) and >1200 birds at Rice Lake W.M.A., IL July 8 (KR). Excellent Great Egret counts were made in every state; peak tallies included 368 (adult and young) at L. Renwick, IL June 30 (JM) and 250 at Turtle Creek W.M.A., OH July 30 (RH_a). Snowy

Egrets were fairly widespread, but failed to nest at the traditional Charleston, MO site, apparently due to tree mortality (LA). Post-nesting Little Blue Herons invaded central portions of the Region: high counts included 60 in Bond, IL July 20 (KM_c) and 16 in Gibson, IN July 24–31 (GB, LCr). The Region's only Tricolored Heron was at Rend L., IL July 10 (KM_c). Cattle Egrets nested in Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio; in Missouri, however, they failed to nest at the established Charleston colony. Abandonment of the Big Marsh Black-crowned Night-Heron colony at L. Cal. (reported in the spring) apparently involved a reshuffling of birds among the 3 local colonies; total nests in the L. Cal. area was estimated at 700 (JL), comparable to recent years. In Ohio Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested in Toledo (MA) and Montgomery (DO), and breeding was suspected in Allen, IN (Haw). The only identified ibis was an ad. White-faced Ibis in Delaware, OH June 6 (†KA).

Waterfowl to Cranes

Iowa's second Fulvous Whistling-Duck was discovered at Goose L., Clinton July 17, remaining until at least July 24 (†SD, †SG, †m.ob). Notable among the smattering of nonbreeding waterfowl were: Greater White-fronted Geese at 3 Iowa locations, a ♂ N. Pintail near Havana, IL July 2 (RCh), two Am. Wigeon at L. Rockwell, OH June 5–8 (LR), a Redhead in Jefferson, IL June 27 (TF), and a ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Michigan City, IN throughout July (JWh *et al.*). Blue-winged Teal produced broods at traditional sites in the Chicago area (WM,



This Osprey in Will County, Illinois, July 9, 1994, apparently was summering in the area. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.

EW) and at Blue L., IA (PE); the latter site is outside this species' normal nesting range. Hooded Mergansers successfully nested at 3 Illinois locations, 4 Iowa sites, and one in e. Missouri. Broods of Ruddy Ducks were found at Havana, IL (RCh), Horseshoe L., IL (3 broods with 16 young, KM_c), and at Blue L., IA (PE).

Black Vultures were reported in every state except Illinois and Iowa; the largest accumulation consisted of 23 observed wading in a shallow pool with egrets s. of Hickman, KY (CPE, SS). The only confirmed Osprey breeding was at the traditional Brookville Res., IN site, where one young was banded (JCt); however, midsummer reports came from 2 central Missouri locations (DH, GS) and another apparently summered in n.e. Illinois (JM). Mississippi Kites again summered at Indiana's new breeding area in Pike (JCb, ML). In addition, four extralimital Mississippi Kites—three adults and one immature—were at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., MO June 14 (JW, BJ *et al.*) and 20 more were counted at 5 other s.e. Missouri locations. One of the latter reports involved a failed nesting in Jasper; where the parent apparently abandoned the nest following harassment by Blue Jays (LH). In concert with the Bald Eagle expansion, nesting was reported from every state except Kentucky. Noteworthy was breeding at L. Rockwell, OH, which provided Ohio's first successful Bald Eagle nesting since the mid-1930s (*vide* LR). Summer N. Harriers were detected in all 6 states, with nesting confirmed in Illinois and Iowa. Nesting Cooper's Hawks were found at many Illinois sites and 2 Missouri locations; summer reports were numerous throughout the Region. Red-shouldered Hawks, also prospering as summer birds, were reported in every state, with nesting confirmed at Shades S.P., IN (AB), Boone, MO (BG), and Oak Openings, OH (MA). The small n.e. Illinois Swainson's Hawk population also had a productive season. Two adults and two young were noted at a Kane nest July 11 (MM, m.ob.) and a pair was observed carrying food



in *McHenry* July 4 (CMc, JMc). Resurgence of the Peregrine Falcon population was punctuated by breeding reports from every state except Kentucky.

The report on Greater Prairie-Chickens was far less promising. Despite the release of 96 prairie-chickens (50 females and 46 males) in *Jasper*, IL, this spring, only 22 males were observed on the *Jasper* booming grounds (*fide* VK). On a somewhat brighter note the 100 prairie-chickens released in *Sullivan*, MO, for the 2nd consecutive year, had better reproductive success than last year (*fide* JW). King Rails fared extremely well with successful nesting at 5 Illinois sites: one nearly grown young at L. Cal., Aug. 7 (WM *et al.*), a pair with six young at Goose Lake Prairie S.P., July 7 (JM), a pair with 4 young at Sand L. (MD, RCh), and six adults and five young at Bogota in July (TE). In addition, one-two King Rails were also reported from Indiana, Iowa, and at 2 sites in Missouri. Virginia Rails were considerably less widespread, with reports from Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa; the only confirmed breeding was in Iowa, where broods were found n. of Silver L. and at State Line Marsh (E&EA). The largest Virginia Rail count also came from Iowa, where 18 were found at Big Wall L., June 5 (SD). Common Moorhens nested at 6 Illinois locations, including a high count of 76 (adult and young) at L. Cal., July 17 (WM). Iowa also enjoyed a fine moorhen season with breeding at 5 locations, the best in 4 years (*fide* JD). Two Com. Moorhen nests were also discovered at S.C.R., June 20 (DE). The Region's summer Sandhill Crane population continued to expand with two adults and one young at Denny Road Marsh, *Kane*, IL July 11 (DSh); a remarkable 17 cranes at Pigeon River W.M.A., IN July 17 (BEt); a pair with a grown immature in w. *Steuben*, IN July 24 (Haw); 5 reports (but no evidence of nest-

ing) from Iowa; and two at Grand Pass Conservation Area, MO July 12 (SH).

Shorebirds

Only one pair of Piping Plovers nested at the I.P.L. Ponds this year; two adults and two young were noted June 17 (JF). As usual a handful of migrant Piping Plovers were detected during the summer. Sizable Killdeer concentrations included 330 in *Jefferson*, IL July 22 (TF) and >325 at S.C.R., July 8 (MR). Illinois' first Black-necked Stilt nesting was confirmed when 4 eggs were found at Grand Tower June 4 (CMc, JMc *et al.*). Other breeding activity in Illinois included a copulating pair at Sand L., *Mason* May 15–June 1 (RS, KR, m.ob.), a nest containing 4 eggs in *Jackson* June 11 (TF), a nest destroyed by high water at L. Chautauqua July 3 (KR), and one-four birds in w. *Mason* throughout July (KR). The peak count consisted of six birds at Gorham, *Jackson* June 4 (CMc, JMc). Outside Illinois, one Black-necked Stilt wandered E to *Gibson*, IN June 1 (CMI, JCb ph.), where it provided that state's 2nd confirmed record; two were in *Stoddard*, MO June 18–19 (JWa). An Am. Avocet in Decatur, IL June 26 (MD) was presumably a very early migrant.

The earliest fall Greater Yellowlegs arrived at L. Cal., July 2 (EW); the only sizable Lesser Yellowlegs concentration consisted of 450 at S.C.R., July 20 (DE). Willets were widespread, with reports from all 4 n. states; the peak count was >60 at Michigan City harbor, IN July 7 (CPI). Upland Sandpipers were reported in every state except Kentucky; the largest count by far was on the Dunn Ranch in Missouri, where an impressive 74 were found June 19 (DE). The summer's only Whimbrels appeared in Ohio, where singles were reported at Conneaut July 15 & 22 (RHa, JP) and in Ashtabula July 27 (JP). This summer's Marbled Godwit reports were in Illinois, with singles in *Jefferson* July 9 (TF) and at Fishhook Lake W.M.A., July 16 (RCh). Noteworthy inland migrants included a Red Knot at L. Chautauqua, IL June 5 (KR). The only Semipalmated Sandpiper count exceeding 100 birds was made in *Jefferson*, IL July 24 (TF) when 142 were seen. Peak Least Sandpiper tallies included 340 at S.C.R., June 20 (DE) and 152 in *Jefferson*, IL July 17 (TF). As expected, northbound White-rumped Sandpipers lingered well into June; the latest report consisted of 10 in Decatur, IL June 14 (MD). Other tardy spring migrants included a very late Pectoral Sandpiper at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH June 18 (RHa) and a Dunlin at Decatur, IL June 13 (MD). Pectoral Sandpiper numbers improved slightly over recent summers, with a maximum count of 600 at S.C.R., June 20 (DE). Unanimous choice for the season's most striking shorebird was Kentucky's first

Curlew Sandpiper, a breeding-plumaged adult that decorated McElroy L., *Warren* July 9–11 (BPB, ph. m.ob.). The 625 Stilt Sandpipers at S.C.R., June 20 (DE) exceeded the Region's next highest count by an order of magnitude. An ad. ♂ Ruff of the white form was enjoyed by many at Decatur, IL June 27 (†MD, m.ob.). Though summer Com. Snipes are encountered with modest frequency, nests are rarely found; consequently, the two adults and two young at Goose Lake Prairie S.P., IL May 20 (CMc, JMc) and a nest in *Dickenson*, IA June 17 (*fide* NB) are noteworthy. Phalaropes remained scarce, with the only five Wilson's recorded in the Region.

Gulls to Woodpeckers

The 15 Laughing Gulls discovered across the Region constituted a typical summer total. Franklin's Gulls were unusually common in Iowa, where the peak count was 200 at Trumbull L., July 31 (LS). The estimated 7500 Ring-billed Gull nests at the established L. Cal. colony May 7 (WM) represented a 25% decline from last year. Also in n.e. Illinois, the Dresden cooling lake colony (*Will*) had >100 Ring-billed nests (JM), and a nest containing 5 eggs was found at Heidecke L., *Grundy* May 25 (JM). At least 2 Herring Gull nests were detected at the L. Cal. Ring-billed colony (WM). The summer's only Lesser Black-backed Gulls consisted of single adults seen at Michigan City harbor June 13 (JMy) and July 26 (SB). The breeding news on Com. Terns was somewhat brighter, with the report of 5 nests at Johns Mansville, *Lake* IL July 16 (AS). This constituted the first reported nesting among the Great Lakes colonies since 1990. Forster's Tern nesting was also confirmed at Grover and Big Wall Lakes, IA (SD).

SA The Region's Least Tern news was exciting. The established colony in *Gibson*, IN produced 16 fledglings (CMI) and at least one pair nested at the I.P.L. Ponds in w. Iowa (JF). Far more intriguing, however, were results of a June 7–8 Mississippi R. survey conducted by McKenzie in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers. The route, which extended from Cape Girardeau, MO to Blytheville, AR, yielded a phenomenal 2738 Least Terns and 208 nests. Most nests contained 3 eggs, some had one-two eggs, and a few nests contained chicks. McKenzie hypothesized that the high waters of the 1993 flood, which denuded most islands of vegetation and large debris, produced an abundance of nesting habitat. The entire survey, which extended south to Louisiana, yielded 650 nests. Sadly, the nest failure was estimated at 95% when the river rose in July (RR).



The Sandhill Crane population in the Midwestern Prairie Region seems to be on the rise. However, this individual in Will County, Illinois, June 26, 1994, was evidently alone and not a part of any breeding attempt. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.

Breeding Black Terns were reported only in Iowa and Indiana. In Iowa nesting was confirmed at Big Wall, Eagle, and Grover Lakes (SJ), and Indiana's dwindling colony in *LaPorte* apparently produced no fledglings (*vide* JCT).

In Ohio both cuckoos were observed in above-average numbers (*vide* LR). The breeding status of Barn Owls in the Region is improving; nesting was reported in every state except Indiana and Ohio (one Missouri nest reportedly fledged 10 young). Most encouraging, however, was the discovery of an adult with young in a Carrollton, KY residential area July 17 (J&CC, *vide* LMc); adaptation of Barn Owls to the ever-expanding residential habitat bodes well for that species' future. Short-eared Owls nested in *Jasper*, IL, where 2 broods fledged May 27 (TE); Short-eareds may have nested near Kirksville, MO, where three birds were seen June 13 & 17 (FC). Several birders in the St. Louis area deemed Com. Nighthawk less common than in previous years (*vide* DA). A most impressive 134 ♂ Whip-poor-wills were reported in Sand Ridge S.F., IL June 24–25 (RBj). Other favorable news included good numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Kentucky, with a maximum count of 15 at Big Pond Sanctuary in July (KC, HC), and unusually numerous Red-headed Woodpeckers in e. Missouri (JB).

Flycatchers to Vireos

Typically, migrant Alder Flycatchers lingered in the n. states through early June; however, late singletons in Jefferson City, MO June 10 (†BJ, JW *et al.*) and *Cook*, IL July 2 (EW) warrant closer scrutiny. A significant breeding population of Least Flycatchers was discovered during systematic surveys of the Lowden-Miller S.F. and Castle Rock S.P., *Ogle*, IL (SR). Extralimital W. Kingbirds successfully nested in E. St. Louis, IL, where a pair and two young were observed July 12–19; two fledglings were noted July 12 at the *LaPorte*, IN site where nesting occurred last year (CF, SB). Breeding Tree Swallows continued to flourish in Kentucky, with nesting for the 2nd consecutive year in *Boone* (LMc), 13–15 pairs in *Hart* (*vide* SKs), and 6 active nest boxes in *Pulaski* (JE). The magnitude of late July post-breeding flocks suggested that Bank Swallows fared well; counts exceeding 1000 birds were made in Illinois, Iowa, and at 3 Ohio locations, with a maximum of 3000 at Winous Pt., July 30 (RHa). Nesting Cliff Swallows were reported in Illinois, Iowa, and Kentucky. The most remarkable swallow report involved a ♀ Violet-green Swallow that appeared at Shirland, *Winnegago*, IL about June 5 and remained through at



This ♀ Violet-green Swallow paired with a ♂ Tree Swallow and was observed nest-building in Winnebago County, Illinois, in early June 1994. Violet-green Swallow is quite rare this far east, and Illinois had no previous records of attempted nesting. Photograph/David B. Johnson.

least June 8 (LJ, JM, ph. m.ob.). Interestingly, the bird paired with a ♂ Tree Swallow at a nest box. Two Brown Creepers in Spfld., June 15 (DBo) were unexpected, but an adult with fledgling in forested bottomland at Fort Leonard Wood, *Phelps*, MO (†LMF) constituted a major surprise. The only Bewick Wren reports outside the rural areas of s.w. Missouri was one in *Owen*, KY June 1 (LMc). It was a good summer for Sedge Wrens, with breeding period reports from 4 states. The largest count consisted of >100 at Iroquois County W.M.A., IL June 25 (RCh). The discovery of territorial ♂ Golden-crowned Kinglets in Lowden-Miller S.F. in June (*vide* SR) provided a pleasant addition to that state's handful of summer records. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Cerro Gordo*, IA June 15 (RG) was somewhat out of its normal range. Good numbers of Veeries were reported at Lowden-Miller S.F., and a new nesting pop-

ulation was discovered in nearby Castle Rock S.P.; both locations are in *Ogle*, IL (*vide* SR). Excellent Wood Thrush reports came from several states, but the most glowing news was from Iowa, where reports of this species were the most widespread in a decade (*vide* JD). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported in every state except Kentucky, with nesting in Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa.

Bell's Vireos were widespread, with reports from all 6 states. Notable among these were two seen at Homestead W.M.A., *Ohio*, KY June 4 (KC, HC, *et al.*) and one at Gilmore Ponds in s.w. Ohio July 19–29 (DSt). Other noteworthy vireo reports included ten Solitaries at Stebbins Gulch, OH July 13 (Rha) and a northerly Yellow-throated at Lake Paho W.M.A., MO (SKn).

Warblers to Finches

It was a good summer for warblers, with positive reports for several species of concern. Especially bright were assessments of Chestnut-sided, Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Ovenbird, Kentucky, and Hooded warblers. Other noteworthy observations included: a Blue-winged nest in *Newton*, MO, only a mile from the Kansas line (LCh); n.e. Ohio's first N. Parula nest at Brecksville Park July 5 (DC, m.ob.); three singing Magnolias in suitable nesting habitat at Shades S.P., IN June 7–16 (AB); a singing Black-throated Green in Des Moines, IA July 3 (BEn); and a Pine at Baskett W.M.A., MO throughout July, where this species nested in 1992 (BG, KP). A superlative July 2 count was made at Mohican S.P., OH when a singing ♂ and ♀ or imm. Yellow-rumped, 38 Black-throated Green, and two Blackburnian warblers were tallied (†LY).



Adult Lark Sparrow defending fledged young at Braidwood, Will County, Illinois, July 9, 1994. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.

SA Most encouraging was Robinson's discovery of breeding populations of several neotropical migrants during a census in the n. Illinois county of *Ogle*, especially Lowden-Miller State Forest. Robinson's survey revealed significant breeding populations of the following warblers: Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Mourning, and Canada. Good numbers of Cerulean Warblers, Am. Redstarts, and Ovenbirds were also noted. In all, 20 species of warblers were detected, providing the highest warbler diversity in the state (*vide* SR). Other noteworthy breeding species detected during the survey included: Least Flycatchers, Brown Creepers, Veeries, Wood Thrushes, and Pine Siskins.

The summer Swainson's Warbler news was also positive. A bird was heard June 18 at Cane Creek W.M.A., KY (JE), and four Swainson's were detected during a June 7-8 float trip down the Current R., MO (PMc).

Blue Grosbeaks continued their Regional incursion with nesting in *Will*, IL (JM), ten birds in *Hopkins*, KY June 6 (JH), and one-two birds in 6 other Kentucky counties (LMc, KC, HC). Within their normal haunts in s.w. Missouri's *Taney*, Painted Buntings were described as "not especially unusual" (BR); one pair also nested in Henning W.M.A., MO (AR). Dickcissels had a good season, with fine reports from every state except Missouri. Clay-colored Sparrows appeared in their normal n. Illinois breeding areas; a singleton at Lime Cr. Nature Center, IA June 2 (RG) was likely a migrant. Both Field and Vesper sparrow counts were down on e. Iowa breeding bird surveys (*vide* JD). The Region's only Bachman's Sparrow was found in *Ozark*, MO in early June (LRz). Lark Sparrows summered in Kentucky 5 mi w. of Harrodsburg (FL, WK), and ≤five were discovered at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH in late June (DO, RHa); the latter is a new Ohio location for Lark Sparrows. Three singing Grasshopper Sparrows, found 2 mi e. of Monticello, KY June 4 (HC, KC), were unexpected. Henslow's Sparrows had a banner year in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri; the peak count was 40 at Prairie S.P., MO June 10 (BR). Henslow's were also reported in Indiana and Ohio. Summer Dark-eyed Juncos were discovered at a new Ohio location in Hinkley June 19 (RHa).

Good Bobolink counts came from every state. In Illinois Yellow-headed Blackbirds nested at established sites and Brewer's Blackbirds at Illinois Beach S.P. produced fledglings by July (AS). Great-tailed Grackles continued their expansion into the Re-

gion in the w. states. A House Finch survey in Joplin, MO produced 19 House Finches in 14 blocks (LH), and a pair of Pine Siskins were discovered in *Christian*, MO July 11 (CW).

Addendum

An S.A. (AB 48:114) reported the absence of proof that Reddish Egrets photographed at L. Cal. and Kingsbury W.M.A., IN involved different birds. Subsequently, Sherman Suter reported seeing the Illinois bird on the evening of Aug. 21, at exactly the same time the Indiana bird was being viewed. It must be concluded, therefore, that two individuals were present.

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Central Southern Region

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Generally speaking, the season was wetter and cooler than normal, usually a prescription for a good nesting season for birds and birders alike (no double *entendre* intended). Nevertheless—but not untypically, given the unsystematic character of the attention given to nesting species—it was not easy to discern any substantial effect of the weather on breeding success (I should add that some observers are indeed systematic in their study of the nesting season, if most of us are not).

Obviously the seasonal reports are enriched by the efforts made in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey coverage (B.B.S.), which involves dozens of observers over the six states in the Region. Unfortunately, the data submitted to the writer often consist only of unusual nesting records rather than information on abundance and population trends. One of the notable features of this breeding season was the inauguration of the Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas program, directed by David Wiedenfeld. Between 180-200 7 1/2' quadrangles, representing about one-third of the state, were covered by 160 volunteers; some of the Louisiana records reported below resulted from this coverage. Apparently Arkansas also initiated its breeding bird atlas program this season, although no data were received by this writer. As of the end of the period (and indeed through August), there had been no tropical weather of any kind, probably ensuring a successful season for the colonial breeding birds of Louisiana's (and other) barrier islands, whose nests are often less than a meter above mean high tide.

Loons to Rails

Five basic-plumage Com. Loons in the gulf off Santa Rosa I., FL July 31 (DM) represented an unusually large number of summering individuals. A group of one ad. and five juv. Pied-billed Grebes, a species which nests only sparingly in Arkansas—usually in the lowlands, was seen in *Washington* July 24 (MMI). Also a sparse breeder in Arkansas is Anhinga; there was a single