

markable (FM). A Blue-winged Warbler was singing at Frelighsburg June 28–July 1 (RG, m.ob.). Two Connecticut Warblers were observed near Myrica Camp in mixed poplar-spruce stands June 2, while two other individuals were located at L. Mithisso in Black Spruce bogs June 12 (LI, FG). A molting Summer Tanager was found at Lorbinère June 21 (F. Gérardin, †). The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported from Port-Menier, *Anticosti I.*, June 5 (*vide* D. Morin), while a Indigo Bunting sighted at Saint-Eusèbe June 13 (MB) was e. of its usual range.

Clay-colored Sparrow sightings included singles near L. Abitibi in late June (S. Bérubé *et al.*) and L'Ascension, *Saguenay*, June 27–July 3 (S. Boivin), and two at Saint-Honoré, *Saguenay*, throughout the summer (*vide* GS). A male present at La Pocatière May 22–June 23 was singing like a Chipping Sparrow and was paired with a female of the latter species; their nest, which contained one cowbird egg in addition to 2 of their own June 13, was found empty June 20. The hypothesis that the male was a *pallidax passerina* hybrid is certainly of interest. A Grasshopper Sparrow closely studied at Cap-à-l'Aigle, *Charlevoix*, June 17 (LM, D. Labrecque) was quite a long distance from its known breeding range, while the species was found breeding within its normal range in the Outaouais-Pontiac region at Shawville and Wyman (m.ob.). Again this summer Le Conte's Sparrow was observed along the St. Lawrence Valley, with birds at the Cap Tourmente N.W.A., July 8 (M.A. Brochu), five birds at La Pocatière throughout the summer (CA), and singles at L'Isle-Verte July 7 (MR, CM) and Cacouna June 13 (MR, CM). Owl surveys conducted in the Saguenay-L.-Saint-Jean region concurrently led to the discovery of at least 14 birds singing during the night at Saint-Fulgence, Saint-Honoré, Jonquière, Chambord, Saint-Léon and Chicoutimi (*vide* M. Savard). Also, two were found at Latulippe, *Témiscamingue*, June 30 (*vide* DS). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported at Maria, *Gaspé*, June 1 (L. Picard, R. Caissey, *vide* PP).

Noteworthy fringilids included an orange-morph House Finch at a Bonaventure feeder, *Gaspé*, in July (JMP), ≤100 Red Crossbills in the Saint-Lazare pinery, *Vaudreuil*, in June (R. Séguin, PB, m.ob.), and a young Com. Redpoll capable of flight at L. Dalcourt July 9 (LI, FG), well s. of their known range. A nest of the latter species at Kuujuaq, *Ungava*, contained four young at the early date of June 16 (Y. Gauthier).

Exotics

A Chukar was hidden in a garage at Grande-Rivière, *Gaspé*, July 10 (R. Garrett). A N. Bobwhite was singing in a cornfield at Saint-Hyacinthe July 30–31 (H. Deschênes, *vide* NR). A ♀ Ring-necked Pheasant was sitting on a nest containing 6 eggs and three young at Grand-Ruisseau, *Magdalen Is.*, July 29 (AR). A Ringed Turtle-Dove showed up at Rivière-Ouelle July 17 (CA). A Monk Parakeet was identified at Chandler in July (P. Roy, J. Roy). A Yellow-fronted Canary astounded observers present at La Salle, July 27 (PB *et al.*). A Nutmeg Mannikin was carefully studied at Rivière-Portneuf, *Saguenay*, July 21 (M&C Dixon).

Initialed observers and area editors: M. Aubé, C. Auchu, M. Beaulieu, J.M. Béliveau, G. Bouchard, C. Cormier, A. Côté, G. Cyr, D. Daigneault, B. Dumont, R. Foxall, P. Fradette, D. Gagné, F. Gagnon, D.G. Gaudet, G. Gendron, F. Gérardin, F. Grenon (FGr), R. Guillet, L. Imbeau, D. Jauvin, R. Laberge, P. Labonté, J. Lachance, P. Lane, J. Larivée, J. Maltais, C. Marcotte, L. Messely, F. Morneau, C. Nadeau, J.P. Ouellet, J.G. Papineau, J.R. Pelletier, J.M. Pitre, P. Poulin, A. Richard, M. Robert, N. Roy, G. Savard, F. Shaffer, D. St-Hilaire, D. Tousseint, R. Turgeon.

—*Yves Aubry, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, Qc, G1V 4H5, and Pierre Bannon, 1517, Leprobon, Montréal, Qc, H4E 1P1.*

New England Region

WAYNE R. PETERSEN

June and July proved to be the fifth and sixth consecutive dry months. Although June temperatures and rainfall frequency were near normal, precipitation amounts fell more than an inch below the average and continued the dry trend of the past several summers. July was especially hot, and the average Boston temperature of 75.9°F was 2.4°F above normal, and 100°F temperatures July 14 were the hottest since the record-setting 102°F July 21, 1977. Rainfall during July was also slightly less than normal. Despite the continuing hot and dry trend of New England's weather, there were seemingly few detectable weather-related perturbations in the Region's bird populations this year.

Under the guidance of *Partners in Flight* (PIF; a national migratory bird conservation program), a number of states are beginning to initiate various monitoring programs to better track the future of North American migratory birds. One of the primary objec-



tives of PIF is to establish a species prioritization ranking system that will identify those species in greatest need of protection and conservation efforts. As regional species prioritization lists become finalized throughout North America, the potential for using the lists to guide future monitoring and management activities for breeding bird populations could be considerable. Birders in the Northeast are especially fortunate that a recent report on the *Importance of Geographic Areas to Neotropical Migrant Birds in the Northeast* (1995) by K. Rosenberg and J. Wells at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology already provides a Regional perspective not currently available for most other areas of the country. It is recommended reading for all serious birders in New England, and it will hopefully provide new insight into how we view Regional summer bird populations.

< Before describing the season's events in detail, special mention should be made of first state records of Mississippi Kite in Connecticut and Band-tailed Pigeon (from May) in Massachusetts; the first state nesting of Seaside Sparrow in Maine; the first Regional nesting of Boat-tailed Grackle in Connecticut; and the first Regional occurrence of Black-tailed Gull in Rhode Island, which was also only the third ever on the Atlantic Coast of North America.

Abbreviations: Connecticut D.E.P. (*Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection*); N. Monomoy I., MA (*Monomoy N. W.R.*); Plum I., MA (*Parker River N. W.R.*).

Loons to Cormorants

The ever uncommon summering Red-throated Loon in New England this year was represented by the presence of one at Middletown, RI July 5 (RF), while in Vermont Com. Loon breeding success was indicated by the survival of 19 chicks produced by 19 nesting pairs (CR). With the continued steady decline of breeding Pied-billed Grebes in s. New England, a probable nesting pair at Stamford, CT was intriguing (FM). In the lingering department, three Red-necked Grebes at Falmouth, ME July 11 (*fide* JD) were most notable.

The number of tubenoses recorded Regionwide showed the kind of fluctuations that ordinarily characterize this unpredictable and difficult-to-monitor group of seabirds. Two N. Fulmars at Fippenies Ledge e. of Stellwagen Bank undoubtedly represented wandering nonbreeders. More typical were 75 Cory's Shearwaters at Cox's Ledge s. of Block I., RI July 24 (DE); however, three over the cool waters of Stellwagen Bank off Massachusetts, July 28 (SH) were more unusual so early in the summer. In the Gulf of Maine, numbers of most other

pelagic species were modest throughout the season, with the notable exception of >2500 Greater, >1000 Sooty, and five Manx shearwaters, along with 1000s of Wilson's Storm-Petrels tallied on a series of research transects across Stellwagen Bank July 28 (SH). The Region's only Audubon's Shearwater was at Cox's Ledge, July 20 (JO). In Connecticut, Wilson's Storm-Petrels created excitement when as many as 45 appeared in apparently unprecedented numbers off Groton July 14-16 (DP *et al.*).

Single N. Gannets off Hammonasset Beach S.P., June 12 and Old Lyme July 29 (JH) were thought to represent the first summer Connecticut records. The recent increase in Regional Brown Pelican reports was demonstrated by single birds at Pt. Judith, RI June 10 (DF); W. Gloucester, MA June 12 (H. Lacey); and Cohasset, MA June 21 (C. Campbell). Such reports are not surprising in light of the increase in pelicans occurring just to the south of New England. A Great Cormorant was unusual at N. Hero, VT July 8 (TM). Regional Double-crested Cormorant numbers show little evidence of decreasing, and at L. Champlain, VT their presence at one Black-crowned Night-Heron colony has forced the herons to nest on the ground (CR).

Hérons to Waterfowl

The elusive Least Bittern was reported from 7 scattered localities throughout the Region, with a maximum count of three at Wayland, MA June 25 (SA). Unfortunately, inclusive wading bird nesting data for the Region was not available; however, by 1996 the data from the last 2 years' United States Fish & Wildlife Service colonial waterbird census for the Atlantic Coast should be compiled so that a more complete Regional assessment can be provided. Wading bird nest counts from Gould I., RI included 113 Great Egrets, 41 Snowy Egrets, three Cattle Egrets, and 33 Glossy Ibises (DF). Similarly, a pair count at Kettle I., MA produced 52 Great Egrets, 200 Snowy Egrets, 15 Little Blue Herons, one Cattle Egret, and 40 Glossy Ibises (SP). At Connecticut's Chimon I. heronry, combined numbers of all breeding species decreased from 1021 pairs in 1989 to zero in 1995, although a new (?) colony at Cokenoe I., Westport, rose from zero in 1992 to 87 pairs in 1995 (*fide* FM). In Vermont, Cattle Egrets were absent from Young I. in L. Champlain for the first time in over ten years (CR), and in Connecticut the species is apparently "becoming rare" (FM). Clearly, it is important to carefully track the future of herons and egrets breeding in New England; indications are that things may not be as rosy as during the 1970s, when many of the southern breeding species colonized

the Region. As noted in the Spring Season report, a Little Egret at Nantucket I. for the 4th consecutive year continued until at least July 6 (B. Hallet). A minimum of ten Tricolored Herons Regionwide was spearheaded by six at Scarborough, ME June 3 (LB). The first attempted nesting of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Maine at Phippsburg reported in the Spring Season was apparently unsuccessful (*fide* JD); however, a pair did breed for the first time at Gould I., RI (RF).

↪ Inexplicable was the fly-by appearance of an ad. Tundra Swan at Sherwood Island S.P., CT June 15 (RW, R. Soffer), while a Snow Goose at Norwich, VT June 16 (CR) was simply a lingerer from May. Similarly lingering Brant included one at Scarborough, ME July 19 (LB) and six throughout the period at West Haven, CT (v.o.). Although the exponential increase of resident Canada Geese hardly needs emphasis, the results of Connecticut's D.E.P. inland waterfowl breeding survey provides startling affirmation when the 1995 state total of 10,100 is compared to a total of 5400 only 7 years ago! Other seasonal waterfowl highlights included: N. Shoveler at Fort Fairfield, Aroostook, ME July 18 (*fide* JD); two Lesser Scaup at Lakeville, MA June 16 (SA) and a single at Stamford, CT June 11-18 (FM); a downy Com. Eider at Rye, NH July 15 (A&BD) and a record 32 summering birds at Sakonnet Pt., RI (*fide* DE); a tarrying Harlequin Duck at Phippsburg, ME June 19 (*fide* WT); and similarly late Ruddy Ducks at Stamford, CT June 11 (PD), Pembroke, MA throughout the period (WP), and three at S. Momomoy I., MA June 28-29 (S. Ware).

Raptors

The continued (from April) presence of ≤four Black Vultures at Kent, CT June 6 (LBe, DP) keeps speculations of future breeding alive in a state where the species now appears annually in early summer. A single Black Vulture was also seen at Manchester, MA June 21 (C. Corley). In Connecticut, a record high 103 Osprey nests fledged 148 young, no doubt a result of the steadily increasing numbers of returning first-time breeders (*fide* Connecticut D.E.P.). Although intriguing, a report of a White-tailed Kite at Wakefield, RI June 7 (*fide* DE) lacked enough details to warrant little more than mention. More concrete were Connecticut's first state records of Mississippi Kite at Newtown June 3 (N. Currie), Stamford June 13 & 16 (PD, M. Moccio), and Darien June 17 (J. Mehmél *et al.*). It is uncertain how many kites were actually involved, but it is not unreasonable to think that there may have been some overlap between these, and also between one or more Mississippi Kites in Massachusetts at Truro

June 17 (*vide* K. Jones), Wellfleet June 18 (J. Sones), and two at Orleans June 19 (K. Ryan). This situation clearly underscores the importance of providing as much plumage detail as possible when documenting such unusual records.

↪ In Massachusetts 8 Bald Eagle nests fledged 13 young, including two foster chicks (*vide* TF), while at Barkhamsted, CT a pair in their 4th consecutive year of breeding fledged one chick (*vide* Connecticut D.E.P.). Widely scattered wandering imm. birds throughout the Region give added promise of increased future breeding potential. The documented fledgling of three young Cooper's Hawks from a nest at Lincoln, MA (WP) was indicative of the general proliferation of this species throughout s. New England during the past decade. Fifteen imm. Broad-winged Hawks at Provincetown, MA June 6 (J. Johnson) were perfectly in keeping with the routine late-spring passage of sub-ad. nonbreeders. Something definitely seems to be happening with Merlins. New possible breeding localities in Maine, where the species was first confirmed in 1988, were suggested by the presence of birds at 6 locations this season (*vide* JD), and a bird at Pittsburg, NH June 18 (T. Young) could also be suspect. And is it a coincidence that unseasonably early migrants appeared at South Boston, MA July 4 (R. Donovan), Old Lyme, CT July 28 (JH), and Plum I., MA July 30 (WP)? Peregrine Falcons also continue to flourish, as shown by the production of 24 young at 12 eyries in Vermont (CR); five young at 2 sites in Massachusetts (*vide* TF); and a minimum of four young at 3 Maine localities (*vide* AB).

Grouse to Shorebirds

Although hard data is lacking for most locations in n. New England, there are indications that Spruce Grouse may be declining in certain areas. Consequently, a total of three adults—including one with two young and one with four young at Pittsburg, NH July 16–17 (A & BD)—was gratifying, as was a Vermont report, where the species is state listed, of a hen with four young at Brighton June 28 (RP). The locally scarce King Rail made itself know at 3 s. New England localities, including a bird in a reclaimed wetland at Middleborough, MA June 1–July 14 (SA *et al.*). Although not as exceptional in appropriate habitat, a single morning tally of 34 Virginia Rails at Wayland, MA June 3 and the discovery of five Soras and a nest with eggs at West Bridgewater, MA June 9 (SA) illustrate the value of systematically conducting wetland bird surveys. Nesting Com. Moorhens were confirmed at Bangor and Stratton Is., ME (*vide* JD) and a probable breeding pair was noted

at Sharon, CT throughout June (*vide* FM).

↪ Among the shorebirds breeding in New England, intensive conservation efforts are being directed at monitoring and restoring Piping Plover and Upland Sandpiper populations. These efforts have been especially successful in the case of the plovers, where the Massachusetts total of breeding pairs was 447, an increase of 27% from 1994 (*vide* BB). In Connecticut, 32 pairs similarly represented an increase from last season's total. Continuing statewide surveys conducted by the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Grassland Bird Program indicate that Bay State Upland Sandpiper populations are currently confined to a paucity of sites and that the total number of pairs at half of these sites is under 20 (*vide* AJ). The largest single concentration this year was 95 birds at Westover A.F.B., Chicopee (AJ).

↪ At least two Black-necked Stilts graced the Region this summer, one at Plum I., MA June 19–July 17 (S. Grinley, v.o.) and another at Little Compton, RI July 21–30 (DE, v.o.). Unseasonably early (and late) migrant shorebirds included an Am. Golden-Plover at Phippsburg, ME July 4 (PV); two Marbled Godwits at N. Monomoy I., MA July 8 (RH); and a W. Sandpiper at Milford Pt., CT June 6 (DP, LBe). Without doubt, the fanciest shorebird of the season was a **Long-billed Curlew** at Connecticut's Windham Airport July 10–16 (MS, LBe *et al.*), representing the first fully documented record for the state.

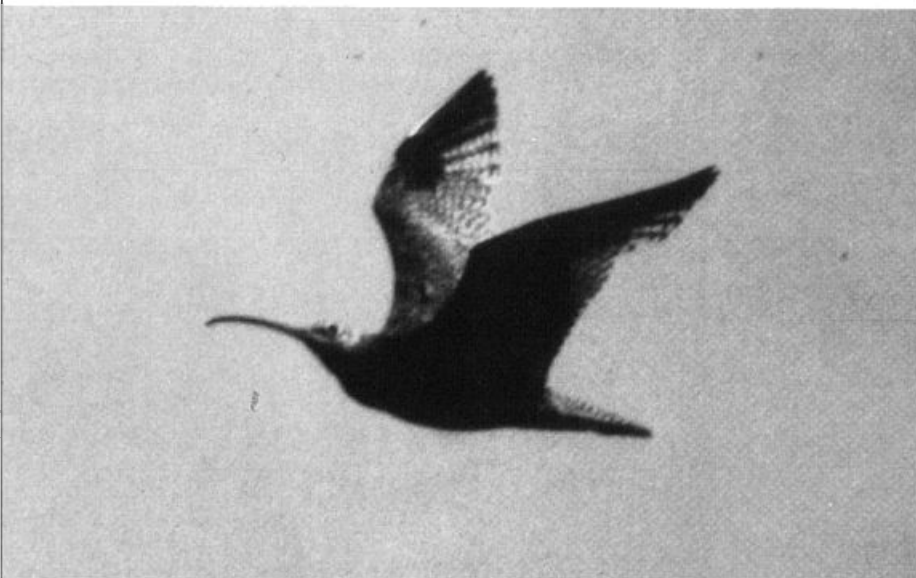
↪ Mentionable peak numbers of south-bound Arctic breeders included 800 Lesser Yellowlegs at Newburyport, MA July 23 (RH); 437 Whimbrels at N. Monomoy I., July 30 (WH); 800 Red Knots and 1200 Sanderlings at Chatham, MA July 30 (BN);

>5000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Newburyport July 23 (RH); >700 Least Sandpipers at N. Monomoy I., July 13 (ML); 16 Stilt Sandpipers and 6 Long-billed Dowitchers at Plum I., MA July 22 (WP); and a disappointingly low peak of 1400 Short-billed Dowitchers at N. Monomoy I., July 28 (BN).

↪ Especially notable was a fallout of nine Red Knots and a photographed Baird's Sandpiper amidst 35 Ruddy Turnstones and 60 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Grand Isle, VT June 3 (DH). At least three of these species quite possibly came directly from Delaware Bay, where all are abundant in late spring; however, a Baird's Sandpiper anywhere in the e. United States at this time of year is most unusual. If accepted by the Vermont Records Committee, it will constitute the first spring confirmation in New England. Also of interest were two Ruffs at Portsmouth, RI July 2 (DF, WB) and another at Plum I., MA June 27–July 9 (RL, v.o.).

Jaegers to Skimmer

The first Pomarine Jaegers of the season were singles at Cox's Ledge July 24 (DF) and Stellwagen Bank July 30 (Gd'E), and a total of 12 Parasitic Jaegers was noted Regionwide within the period. Exceptional (?) was a Long-tailed Jaeger at Cox's Ledge on the inexplicable date of July 1 (DF), only 5 days apart from a similar offshore report last season. The precise migrational timing of this elegant seabird continues to be something of a mystery. The same observer also reported a South Polar Skua at Cox's Ledge July 11 for one of the few Regional reports within the past few years. Although skuas are routine in mid-summer off the New England coast,



Long-billed Curlew seen at Windham Airport, Windham, Connecticut, July 10–16, 1995 for a first fully documented state record. Photograph by Mark Szantyr.



Adult Franklin's Gull (center, with Laughing and Ring-billed gulls) at Middletown, Rhode Island, July 28, 1995. Photograph/Lysle Brinker.

there are few cases where observers can properly document their presence and precise status in the offshore waters. An ad. Franklin's Gull was well photographed at Middletown, RI July 27 (LB). Three Little Gulls at Revere, MA June 18 (S. Zende) furnished a respectable number, but reports of five singles at 4 additional scattered locations were more in keeping with the current trend. The only Com. Black-headed Gulls reported were singles at Cutler, ME June 9 and July 8 (*fide* AB) and Plum I., July 1 (RH).

SA Unquestionably the Regional highlight of the season was a nearly ad. Black-tailed Gull that appeared June 24 and spent the rest of the summer in the vicinity of Third Beach, Middletown, RI (PO'N, v.o.). Ogled, photographed, and listed by hundreds of visiting birders, this individual not only represented the first in the Region, but—remarkably—the 2nd on the Atlantic Coast this year, the first being an adult in Virginia in March. The only additional East Coast record is a bird photographed in Maryland July 1984 [see *AB* 38:1007]. While there may be a temptation to be suspect of the origin of this relatively sedentary visitor from the North Pacific, the existence of two separate individuals in e. North America in the same year, a well-described and photographed individual in Belize in 1988 (P. Donahue, R. Abrams *pers. comm.*), a specimen taken in California in 1954 [*A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds*, 1983], and nearly ten documented records from Alaska within the last 15 years all suggest that *Larus crassirostris* may do a good deal more wandering than previously suspected.

As if Franklin's and Black-tailed gulls were not enough, Middletown, RI also enjoyed the presence of one of the Region's two Lesser Black-backed Gulls July 4–31 (PO'N, v.o.). Besides the usual scattering of Caspian and Royal tern reports, more unusual tern sightings included a Gull-billed Tern at Plum I., July 29 (R. Petersen, *fide* B.O.) and Sandwich Terns at Plymouth, MA June 6 (C. Paine) and Nantucket I., July 16

(E. Ray). Numbers of breeding tern pairs in Massachusetts generally increased from 1994: Roseate 1478 (10%), Common 9939 (6%), and Least 2733 (5%) (*fide* BB). Contrastingly, the Arctic Tern is marginally holding on at the s. periphery of its range with only 4 nesting pairs in the Bay State this season. A maximum of 20 Forster's Terns at Old Lyme, CT July 28 (JH) was considered noteworthy, as was a breeding pair of Black Terns at Petit Manan I., ME throughout the period (*fide* AB). Without a doubt, the most exceptional tern report was of a **Bridled Tern** that appeared at Bird I., MA June 8 (IN) following the passage of tropical storm *Allison* the day before. In addition to 5 pairs of breeding Black Skimmers at Orleans, MA (*fide* BB), there were reports of at least nine individuals from 6 additional Massachusetts locations (*B.O.*). A noteworthy alcid was an ad. Atlantic Puffin at Jeffries Ledge in the s. Gulf of Maine July 9 (S. Charette).

Pigeons to Shrikes

The first fully documented and photographed Massachusetts **Band-tailed Pi-**



Black-tailed Gull at Middletown, Rhode Island, July 22, 1995. A first for New England, and only the third Atlantic Coast record of this Asiatic species. Photograph/Robert H. Lewis.

geon initially appeared in May and remained at Brookline until June 4 (M. Vose). Since their recent "legitimization" in Connecticut, lots of new Monk Parakeet nests were reported in that state (*vide* GH) and new, if not the first successful, nesting attempts in Massachusetts were documented at Blackstone (ML, v.o.) and Taunton (WP, v.o.). The only reported Chuck-will's-widow was one at Nantucket I., June 25 (P. Dunning, *vide* B.O.). Systematic efforts to tally Whip-poor-wills at Myles Standish S.F., Plymouth, MA since 1989 have produced an average census high count of 43 individuals. This year's record low of 22 calling birds (Gd'E) appears to echo both Regional and national trends for this significantly declining and habitat-sensitive nightjar.

The always scarce and local Red-headed Woodpecker evidently nested this season at Moultenborough, NH (A&BD), and at traditional spots at Bridport, VT (JP) and Sherborn, MA (ET). Following specifically expressed concern for declining New England Olive-sided Flycatcher populations last season, a count of 17 in the Pittsburg, NH area June 16–19 (A&BD) was particularly heartening. The same observers also logged 23 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and at Mt. Mansfield, VT, at least nine–ten pairs bred (CR). In Maine, a singing Acadian Flycatcher was noteworthy at Scarborough June 19 (LB) since the Pine Tree State has yet to get a breeding record.

Cliff Swallows continue to maintain somewhat precarious breeding populations in s. New England. For example, at Williamsburg, the largest and best-monitored breeding site in Massachusetts, 45–50 pairs arrived June 5, of which only 26 pairs finally nested (MS). However, at Weston/Redding, CT, 14 new pairs were discovered (RW). Apart from singing birds at Canaan and Biddeford Pool, ME in early July (*vide* JD), there was no other suggestion of nesting Sedge Wrens anywhere in the Region.

The continued increase of E. Bluebirds in New England is exemplified by 339 young raised by 60 pairs along one "bluebird trail" in Rhode Island (RM) and a total of 40–50 birds in Sherborn, MA throughout the period (ET). For anyone desiring to see Bicknell's Thrush, Mt. Mansfield, VT, is a premiere locality. Monitoring efforts there this season projected a breeding population of 200 nesting pairs, which is in line with estimates during the last 3 summers (CR, K. McFarland). Of significance, however, may be the fact that only two young successfully fledged out of 7 monitored nests. No less interesting is the fact that a Bicknell's Thrush banded at Manomet Observatory, Manomet, MA June 6 (MO staff, *vide* B.O.) was one of only a handful since the Observa-

tory's initiation of its banding program in 1969. A Loggerhead Shrike at Greenwich, CT July 26 (TB) apparently gave no clue as to what it was doing in New England in mid-summer.

Vireos to Warblers

A singing White-eyed Vireo at Naples, Oxford, ME July 31 (R. Norton) was unusual both seasonally and at the location, and the anomalous, yet recurring, presence of Solitary Vireos in s.e. Massachusetts was indicated by singles at Fall River June 13 (TA) and Halifax July 15 (WP). Following a plea last year for any evidence of Golden-winged Warblers breeding in New England, the sole report this year of two young hybrids fledged by a Golden-winged x Blue-winged pair at Groveland, MA July 1 (RL) did little to bolster spirits over the future of this stunning warbler's future in the Region. A wandering or very late Tennessee Warbler appeared at Princeton, MA July 13 (B. Van Dusen), while a Louisiana Waterthrush quite a distance from any known nesting areas at Provincetown, MA July 28 (TA) undoubtedly represented a migrant individual of this early-to-depart species. Other notable wood-warbler reports included a possibly territorial ♂ N. Parula at Middleborough, MA July 4 (WP); single Yellow-throated Warblers at Chatham, MA June 10 (E. Crowley) and Kent, CT June 6–26 (v.o.) for the 6th consecutive year; a 3rd Vermont breeding record of Bay-breasted Warbler at Brighton June 28 (RP); a Cerulean Warbler at Pawtuckaway S.P., Nottingham, NH July 1 (A & BD) for the 4th consecutive year; a singing Kentucky Warbler at Canaan, Somerset, ME June 17 (W. Sumner); and the return of last year's probable hybrid Mourning Warbler x Com. Yellowthroat at Williamsburg, MA June 7 (ph. C. Quinlan, v.o.).

Tanagers to Finches

Slightly tardy Summer Tanagers included single individuals June 2 at Medford, MA (MR) and Appeldore I., ME (DH) and another at Old Lyme, CT June 16 (JH). More unusual was a singing Blue Grosbeak at Windsor, CT June 4–6 (FM) and a Dickcissel at Bridport, VT from May–June 28 (v.o.). Also holding over from May at Bridport was a Clay-colored Sparrow June 1 (*vide* JP). Continuing grassland bird surveys conducted by the Massachusetts Audubon Society produced totals of 58 singing Vesper Sparrows at 8 Massachusetts sites and 320 Grasshopper Sparrows at ten sites (*vide* AJ). These sparrows have both been proposed for endangered status in Massachusetts as a result of growing concern over their accelerating decline. Ironically, 3 new Grasshopper Sparrow breeding sites were identified in

Connecticut this summer (*vide* FM). With the probable future split of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow into "Nelson's" Sharp-tailed Sparrow and "Salt-marsh" Sharp-tailed Sparrow, it may be worth noting that an informal survey at Scarborough, ME, revealed that both "species" were present in the salt marshes there in nearly equal numbers (LB, PV, *vide* JD). Readers desiring more information on this fascinating subject are encouraged to see the recent article by P.A. DeBenedictis in *Birding* (27:312–314). Although suspected of nesting in Maine for several years, this summer was the first time a Seaside Sparrow nest with eggs was discovered and photographed, June 27–30 (LB, ph. PV); unfortunately the nesting was unsuccessful.

A singing W. Meadowlark at Turner, Andorscoggin, ME June 21 (JD) provided one of <5 state records and is a species that seems to have become increasingly rare throughout the Region since the 1960s. Boat-tailed Grackle finally nested for the first time in New England when a male holding territory and one of two females present was observed carrying food at Stratford, CT June 1–July 2 (ph. FM, CB, GH, NC *et al.*). While seemingly nowhere numerous this summer, small flocks of White-winged Crossbills containing a few juveniles were seen throughout the period at Mt. Mansfield, VT (CR); at the same locality Pine Siskins were described as abundant in June (CR). Slightly out of place were two Evening Grosbeaks at Barkhamsted, CT June 9 (JK) and six at Saunderson, RI July 5 (PB).

Subregional editors (boldface), contributors (italics), and observers: Steve Arena, Tom Aversa, Ann Bacon, Tom Baptist, Charles Barnard, Jim Berry, Louis Bevier (LBe), Bird Observer, Brad Blodget, William Bosse, Richard Bowen, Lysle Brinker, Paul Buckley, Connecticut Department of Environmental Management, Alan & Barbara Delorey, Glen d'Entremont, Jody Despres, Patrick Dugan, David Emerson, Rick Enser, Hugh Ferguson, Richard Ferren, Dan Finizia, Tom French, Jay Hand, Greg Hanisek, Winty Harrington, Scott Hecker, Rick Heil, Seward Highley, David Hoag, David Holmes, Andrea Jones, Jay Kaplan, Mark Kasprzyk, Ron Lockwood, Mark Lynch, Frank Mantlik, Curtis Marantz, Ray Marr, Ted Murin, Blair Nikula, Ian Nisbet, Patty O'Neill, Jim Osborn, Simon Perkins, Judy Peterson, Roy Pilcher, David Provencher, Chris Rimmer, Marj Rines, Mark Szantyr, Wayne Scott, Mara Silver, Eliot Taylor, William Townsend, Peter Vickery, Rob Winkler.

—Wayne R. Petersen, Center for Biological Conservation, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.