

Wango, *Wicomico*, MD, where they are rare breeders. The rare "Lawrence's" Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrid was noted at Marriottsville, MD on the *Carroll Howard* line June 11 (D&MH) while a strange Yellow-throated Warbler there July 16 with an unusual amount of white on its back was singing an imperfect Cerulean Warbler song (JS, JF). A Tennessee Warbler singing at Arnold, *Anne Arundel*, June 16 (LD) was extraordinary being 2 weeks later than the latest spring migrant recorded for Maryland and more than a month before the earliest record of a fall migrant. A Blackburnian Warbler was discovered on Bull Mt., *Patrick*, VA at only 1600 ft., June 10 (WS, EC). A Prothonotary Warbler along the Smith R. in Martinsville, *Henry*, VA was found at the exact spot where the only other county record was obtained 9 years ago (RC)! The two Swainson's Warblers at Great Falls, *Fairfax*, VA persisted through at least July 17 (SHi) while the one at Wango, *Wicomico*, MD was last reported June 20 (SHD). Disappointingly, Dalmas' Breeding Bird Foray into *Patrick* and *Henry*, VA June 6-11 produced only two Summer Tanagers, despite thorough coverage.

Several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen and heard singing June 24 along Fishing Cr. Road, in the Catoctins Mts., *Frederick*, MD, where they are rare breeders (GJ). Dickcissels put on a fair showing in the Region, with singles being found in Virginia at the U.S. Naval Radio Station, *Portsmouth*, May 31 (KB) and Curles Neck Farm, near Richmond, June 3 (NB), and two in *Loudoun* July 30 (DA). Reports from Maryland included two at De-tour, *Carroll* (RFR) and three singing males near Lilypons, *Frederick*, MD (v.o.), which remained until their respective fields were mowed in mid-June, as well as another male singing from a cornfield bordering an alfalfa field near Research Farm, *Queen Anne's*, July 9 & 16 (JLS, GJ, MJI, RFR).

Bachman's Sparrows continue to hang on in s.e. Virginia, with four reported from Fort Pickett in *Knottaway* June 13 and three reported from Fort Pickett in *Dinwiddy* June 14 (KK), as well as one on the *Brunswick Greenville* line June 4 (PGD). Up to five Vesper Sparrows were found in July along A. E. Mullinix Rd., the same location that this rare *Howard* breeder was last reported summering in the county in the late 1980s (JWi, JS, JF). The stellar count of 337 Seaside Sparrows July 10 at Deal Island W.M.A., MD was the product of a 7-mi walk around the impoundments and a whole lot of fishing. However, only six Sharp-tailed Sparrows was a remarkably low count (HTA). Swamp Sparrows were singing at King's Cr., *Talbot*, MD June 10 (JRe) and Eastern Neck N.W.R., MD July 16 (MJI, GJ, JLS, RFR). Bobolinks found in *Frederick*, MD (GJ) and *Carroll*, MD (RFR)

in June were breeders, while the male at Ash-ton June 12 may have been a very late spring migrant or a summer wanderer (RS). A Boat-tailed Grackle nest with young was found June 11 at Tilghman I., *Talbot*, MD where they are scarce and local breeders (JRe). A Pine Siskin visiting a feeder in Davidsonville, *Anne Arundel*, MD July 3 (P&BD †, ph.) was extraordinary considering how poor the previous winter had been for the species, not to mention the exceptionally late date, which is several weeks later than any other reported away from *Garrett* in Maryland in summer.

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Southern Atlantic Coast Region

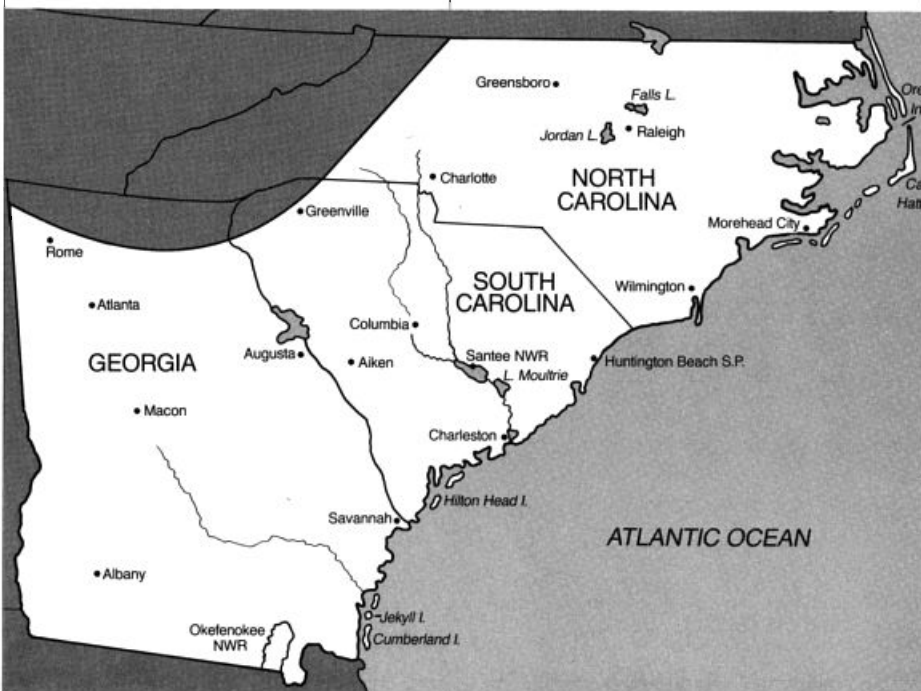
RICKY DAVIS

The weather this summer was a study in contrasts. Over most of the Region, June was very wet and July was very hot and dry. Many areas had record rainfall early and then had record heat later. In spite of these extreme conditions, there were very few reports of negative impact on the breeding birds. Highlights this season included a wealth of tropicbirds off North Carolina, and South Carolina had its first good Roseate Tern record. Also of interest was North Carolina's first record of breeding Mississippi Kites.

Abbreviations: C. Hatt. (*Cape Hatteras, NC*); E.L.H. (*E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co., GA*); K.Mt. (*Kennesaw Mt. Park, GA*); W.M.A. (*Wildlife Management Area*)

Loons to Wood Stork

Lingering loons made news this summer. Two Red-throated in the surf at Kill Devil



Hills, NC June 13 (SC) were very late. Georgia had two late Commons in Doboy Sound June 6–10 (BW, DCo) and one summered on DeKalb Res. (JS). A Common in alternate plumage was found at Murrell's Inlet, SC on the surprising date of July 18 (JP, BM, LG). The most amazing loon report involved the basic-plumaged Pacific found at Pine I. Sanctuary, *Currituck*, NC July 28 (WC, NB). The bird was in poor health but was not found again.

In North Carolina, pelagic trips produced normal numbers of most species with a few exceptions. The Cape Verde Petrel was found on 3 trips out of Oregon Inlet: June 4 and July 30 (AH *et al.*) and June 9 (BP *et al.*). Not to be outdone, Herald Petrels were found off Oregon Inlet June 3 (AH *et al.*) and off Hatteras July 23 (BP *et al.*). Concerning these two *Pterodromas*, observers need to remain aware of the difficulties involved in the at-sea identification of these forms. There is a definite need for thoroughness and caution in reporting these birds on any pelagic trips. It was definitely the summer for tropicbirds! No less than 14 White-taileds were found during June and July, with peak one-day counts being four off Hatteras July 16 (BP) & 30 (BP *et al.*). The Red-billed Tropicbird continued its recent increase with an adult July 9 and an immature July 29 off Hatteras (BP *et al.*). And, finally, Masked Booby was found twice; an adult off Oregon Inlet July 24 and a sub-

adult off Hatteras July 30 (BP *et al.*).

Rare onshore reports of pelagic birds included a Greater Shearwater in Winyah Bay, SC July 1 (W&DA, *fide* JP); an Audubon's Shearwater in the surf at Long Beach, NC July 30 (RD); a Wilson's Storm-Petrel in Winyah Bay, SC July 1 (G&RM, *fide* JP); and another Wilson's behind Cumberland I., GA June 24 (MW, *fide* TM). The flock of Am. White Pelicans in coastal *Camden*, GA contained at least 75 June 8 (PS) and good numbers remained into the summer (v.o.). In North Carolina, Magnificent Frigatebirds were found in larger than normal numbers. Usually only one–two wandering birds are found each summer, but this year there were at least 5, and possibly more, reports! One was photographed perched (a rare event!) in Back Sound, *Carteret*, June 2 (TD, PSp); one was offshore (unusual at sea) out of Oregon Inlet June 4 (AH *et al.*); one was at Figure Eight I., June 13 (AC) and another there June 24 (DC); and two were at Ocracoke July 11 (BMC, *fide* TH).

Nesting evidence of Least Bittern is always important, thus of note was the presence of at least 2 family groups at a marsh in n. *Greene*, GA during the summer (PS, B&BD, GB). The Great "White" Heron at Pea I., NC was still present (from last summer) and will probably remain for as long as possible. Another one was at Altamaha W.M.A., GA June 10 (PR, *fide* TM) for a rare report. Inland wandering herons and

egrets were in above-average numbers across the Region, with the best counts being seven Little Blues in n. *Greene*, GA July 5 (GB, KD), 22 Great Egrets in *Polk*, NC June 25 (ST), and the presence of ≤ 100 Greats, Little Blues, and Snowies at E.L.H., GA July 7 (CL). Reddish Egrets continue to increase in the Region, with all 3 states having multiple birds. The highlights were the two white-phase birds found, one at St. Simon's I., GA June 14 (JS, PH) and the other on Shackleford Banks, *Carteret*, NC July 4 (TD). Proof that this species is on the increase was the presence of eight at Ossabaw I., GA July 28 (BW, JO), providing a record count for the Region. From one–three Roseate Spoonbills were reported from the usual Jekyll I., GA causeway area in early June (JS, CL, PH, PR); one was in *Camden*, GA June 20 (PS); one was at Ossabaw I., GA July 2 (BW); and the presence of three at s. Hilton Head I., SC July 16–Aug. 3 (GD *et al.*) provided a locally rare report. Wood Storks had one of their better breeding seasons of late, with good counts coming from Georgia and South Carolina. Of the many reports, the best total was the >300 at Bear Island W.M.A., SC July 3 (ST). The most northerly usual location for the species—Sunset Beach, NC—had >30 July 31 (RD).

Waterfowl to Coot

Summering waterfowl included an ad. Mute Swan at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC from mid-June into the fall (m.ob.), and a white-morph Snow Goose in *Camden*, GA (PS) present since fall 1994. Some of the more unusual lingering ducks included a Green-winged Teal at E.L.H., GA June 13 (CL) and a Surf Scoter near Southport, NC June 10 (DK, WG *et al.*). Reports of Mottled Ducks are increasing in the Region. Large flocks have been reported from Georgia and South Carolina, no doubt due to the apparent success of Mottleds being released in a couple of areas of South Carolina. There have even been possible Mottleds in North Carolina. Observers should be aware of the possibility of this bird being found more often, and all reports should be well documented to rule out the similar Mallard/Black Duck types and the likelihood of hybrid forms (which some observers have already mentioned).

Reports of Mississippi Kite in the Region continue to increase. The farthest inland were two near Tryon, *Polk*, NC July 6 into August (ST, m.ob.), providing a first county record. The highlight, though, was the discovery of North Carolina's first nesting of the species in Laurinburg, *Scotland*, during June and July (MWe, HB, v.o.). Photos were obtained of the young fledgling, documenting this event. What is even more amazing is



Magnificent Frigatebird is a scarce visitor in North Carolina, and seldom seen perched there. This immature was at Back Sound, Carteret County, June 2, 1995. Photograph/Trip Dennis.

that the first nest record in the state did not come from the only known, well-established population along the Roanoke River! Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were reported in above-average numbers. All 3 states had both species, with actual nesting evidence found in North Carolina. Sharp-shinned nested near Southern Pines for the 2nd consecutive year (MG, THo, HL), and a remarkable 5 different nests were monitored in *Forsyth* (LR, RS, m.ob.), where all raised young successfully! Broad-winged Hawks are very rare breeders in the coastal areas of the Region, thus of interest was one near Midway, GA June 9 (PS) and another present all summer at Cedar I., NC (TD). Also, a dark-morph Broad-winged was found in *Greene*, GA June 17 (JS, CL, GG) for an extremely rare Regional (and eastern) report. All 3 states reported the usual handful of breeding Am. Kestrels, but the presence of a **Merlin** at E.L.H., GA June 18 (JS, CL) was a major surprise. This provided the first summer record for Georgia (and most likely the Region) and had to have been a very late migrant or wandering non-breeder.

The marsh in n. *Greene*, GA once again hosted Black and Virginia rails this summer. A peak of seven Blacks were heard calling June 24 (PS, BB) and six Virginias were calling July 1-5 (PS, B&BD, GB, KD). There is still no documented breeding of these species at this site. Also, two Virginias were found at a K.Mt., GA marsh June 17 (GB) providing another breeding season locality. In Georgia, summering Am. Coots were found at Harris Neck N.W.R. June 12 (DCo), E.L.H. all summer (JS, CL), and at DeKalb Res. all summer (JS, CL). In North Carolina two summered near Sneads Ferry (NM), but no evidence of nesting could be found.

Shorebirds to Skimmer

Black-necked Stilts were reported from a couple of unusual locations. Five near L. Mattamuskeet, NC June 10 (KDa) were locally rare, while three near Valdosta, GA June 3 (KD) were very rare that far inland. Another rare inland shorebird was the Willet found at L. Juliette, *Monroe*, GA July 26 (TJ). Upland Sandpipers, found at most of the usual locations, were down somewhat this year compared to past years. The peak total reported was ten at the Orangeburg Sod Farms, SC July 8 (LG, MT). Interesting Marbled Godwit reports included 20 at Shackleford Banks, *Carteret*, NC June 20 (TD) and nine at the Altamaha estuary, GA June 29-July 7 (BW). These are good totals for that time of summer. Inland shorebirding across the Region was not as productive due to higher water levels. Some areas not dependent on water, such

as sod farms, did have the usual assortment of birds.

Of particular interest were two Baird's Sandpipers. Most records are of young birds during the fall (August-September), but this year adults were found at Pea Island N.W.R., NC July 21 (TH) and St. Catherine's I., GA July 22 (HP), providing truly rare reports. True to form, the only Curlew Sandpipers were found on North Carolina's Outer Banks with from one-two at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., July 31-Aug. 2 (v.o.). A locally rare summer report involved a Am. Woodcock near Darien, GA June 29 (BW). Breeding season records from the coastal regions are very hard to come by. The only phalaropes reported were at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, where two Wilson's July 22 (R&PT) and one Red-necked July 23 (HW) were found.

Jaeger reports of note included one Parasitic at St. Simon's I., GA June 17 (BBE, *fide* DCo), one Long-tailed from C. Hatt., NC June 1 (DO), and another Long-tailed off of Murrell's Inlet, SC June 4 (JP, TS, PRo) for about the 3rd state record! In North Carolina, S. Polar Skuas were reported from the C. Hatt. point June 1 (DO) & 2 (TD); and offshore one was seen out of Hatteras July 30 (BP *et al.*). Georgia's first Little Gull, found at St. Simon's I. in May, was relocated there June 6-10 (MH, KT, PR), providing an amazing summer occurrence!

Inland terns are somewhat expected in summer, but imagine the surprise Davis and Beaton had when they found a Royal at Falls Lake, NC June 23. The presence of this bird at an inland lake cannot be explained, since there were no recent storms that could have brought it in. North Carolina's 2nd "Cayenne" Tern in 2 years was photographed on a radio tower off Oregon Inlet July 31 (BP *et al.*). This report makes one wonder just what is going on with this form. A well-described **Roseate Tern** was at Huntington Beach S.P., SC July 2 (JP). If accepted by the South Carolina Bird Records Committee, it would provide the first good state record. Least Terns continue to use roof tops as nesting sites. This year a new site was on a building in Nags Head, NC in July (SC, JF). Rare inland sightings of Least included six e. of Ayden July 30 (R&PT) and one at Bethel June 25 (RD), both in *Pitt*. Sooty Terns again spent the summer at C. Hatt., NC, with one-two birds present and one attending a nest (m.ob.). No nesting success was documented. Locally rare was the Black Skimmer found sick along the causeway of L. Mattamuskeet, NC in early July (*fide* KDa); it died later. This site is somewhat inland for skimmers and they are only occasionally found there.

Doves to Vireos

Eurasian Collared-Dove reports continue to increase. There are seemingly new outposts every season, so the species' population must really be exploding in the Region. The farthest north report for Com. Ground-Dove involved one at Figure Eight I., NC June 24 (DC). The Burrowing Owls found at Bainbridge, GA in the spring remained into June, when one was still present (m.ob.). At this time no nesting evidence had been obtained.

Highlights among the flycatchers included a Willow in n. *Greene*, GA June 17 (JS, CL, B&BD) and July 5 (GB, KD); Gray Kingbirds in *Camden*, GA June 8 (PS) and near Southport, NC June 10 (DK, WG); and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Valdosta, GA June 15 (KA, *fide* TM). A Barn Swallow colony of over 40 nests was found on a concrete pier in *Camden*, GA June 8 (PS). This represents the most southerly nesting locale for the species along the Georgia coast. Another occurrence s. of the normal range involved a singing Horned Lark only 25 mi n. of the Florida state line in *Decatur*, GA June 15 (RW). Was this bird successful in finding a mate? Reports involving wrens, thrushes, and shrikes were practically nonexistent, leading one to assume that no news is good news! In Georgia, Solitary Vireos made news, with one singing in n. *Greene* July 1 (PS) being locally unusual; one at K.Mt., July 16 (BDr) providing a first summer record; and five at Piedmont N.W.R. n. of Macon June 11 (J&MA) providing an exceptional count for that locality.

Warblers to Cowbirds

A Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid was found at Augusta, GA on the perplexing date of June 29 (RL). Was this bird an absurdly early fall migrant? A Black-throated Blue Warbler in coastal *McIntosh*, GA June 2 (DCo) was without question an absurdly late spring transient! Some early fall migrant warblers at K.Mt., GA included two-six Black-throated Greens July 6-28 (GB *et al.*), single Blackburnians July 19 & 28 (GB, KD), and three Ceruleans July 9 (BDr). A Prairie Warbler on Sapelo I., GA July 2 (HP) provided a locally rare summer record. A Cerulean Warbler was a window casualty in Winston-Salem, NC June 27 (HH, *fide* RS). The date and location of the record defies explanation, with the best guess being a very early migrant. Fussell tallied an amazing 81 singing Prothonotary Warblers June 2 along a 3.5 mi stretch of road in *Dare*, NC. This adds further to the belief that the mainland part of the county is of vital importance to this species and others. Other interesting warbler records in Georgia involved a territorial Swainson's

along the immediate coast (where rare) in *McIntosh* during June and July (DCo), and an Ovenbird nest found at Piedmont N.W.R. in June (JL, *vide* NG), a locally rare occurrence.

— A Scarlet Tanager was seen feeding a fledgling in n.e. *Harris*, GA July 1 (LH, *vide* TM), providing a locally rare record. This and the Piedmont N.W.R. (n. of Macon) birds (NG) could possibly represent the southernmost breeding locations for the species in the Region! Another species found s. of its usual summer range in Georgia was Rose-breasted Grosbeak: A pair was at a Union City (s.w. of Atlanta) feeder June 28 (JLi, *vide* JS). One wonders if these birds attempted to nest, and just how close by did they try? Breeding Dickcissels were not reported this year, although one was found in North Carolina in July and two were in Georgia in June. The only sparrow report of interest was of Lark Sparrows in *Aiken*, SC. Two pairs were found June 8 (LG) and they were observed carrying food. This is possibly the first real evidence of nesting in South Carolina for the species. An absurdly late bird was the Dark-eyed Junco found in I'On Swamp, Francis Marion N.F., SC June 10 (SG, CB). And a pair of Shiny Cowbirds was found at Mt. Pleasant, SC July 4 (ST) for the only report this season. What is disturbing is that the birds were courting, with the male displaying in front of the female. Does this mean trouble or what!

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Florida Region

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For the 2nd consecutive year, above-normal rainfall throughout the Region followed a dry spring—except in south Florida, where exceptional rainfall since last November was topped off by an out-and-out monsoon. At Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, 24.2 inches were recorded in June–July, 150% of normal, and water levels were the highest in 30 years. Predictably, “dry-season” (winter–spring) wading bird nesting efforts in the Everglades were poor (*see also the Winter 1994–1995 report*), although Ted Below noted that southwest coast colonies seemed little affected. Tampa Bay area waders enjoyed an outstanding year, and a satisfying increase was also noted at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Despite the active tropical storm season, just one system affected the Region during this period. Hurricane Allison came ashore near St. Marks June 5, weakened, and veered northeast into Georgia. A storm surge of eight feet caused flooding and shoreline erosion in *Franklin* and *Wakulla*. Flooding was less severe along Pinellas beach communities and in Tampa Bay, but most skimmer and oystercatcher nests washed out. The fate of ground-nesters closer to the storm track was unknown.

It is our sad duty to record the death of Herbert W. Kale II, age 63, July 16. Herb died too soon of natural causes in Apalachicola, almost literally with his boots on after a day in the field checking on Seaside Sparrows. No one was better loved among the Florida family of birders and ornithologists. Herb, this one's for you.

Abbreviations: A.B.S. (*Archbold Biological Station*), A.P.A.F.R. (*Avon Park Air Force Range*), E.M.C.A. (*Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area*), F.F.N. (*Florida Field Naturalist*), F.O.S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society*)

Records Committee), G.F.C. (*Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission*), R.S.R.S.R. (*Rock Springs Run State Reserve*).

Loons to Frigatebirds

Scattered Com. Loons summered on both coasts (AFS, MB, CB). More surprising was a Horned Grebe, in breeding plumage, at the Palm Harbor sewage plant July 15 (RWS, PB) and again July 22 (KN) for the first summer *Pinellas* report. Three boat trips off Plantation Key (July 2 & 3) and Marathon (July 7) yielded the following pelagic species: five Cory's, three Greater, one Sooty, and 21 Audubon's shearwaters, plus one Wilson's and two Band-rumped storm-petrels (PH).

The annual G.F.C. aerial survey of nesting Brown Pelicans tallied 10,277 pairs at 39 sites, including a first-ever *Wakulla* colony of 50 pairs at Palmetto I. in Oyster Bay. Nesting success was good on both coasts, averaging >1.5 young per brood at 7 sites (SN, JR). Summer surveys of Anhingas at E.M.C.A. (*Lake*) peaked at a remarkable 661 July 29 (JM *et al.*). Over 100 Magnificent Frigatebirds passed along the *Pasco* coast June 5 following Allison (DR) for the largest county report (*vide* BP). Another 84 seen over L. Maggiore, St. Petersburg, July 9 were not weather-related (DG).

Egrets to Flamingo

At E.M.C.A., 287 Great Egrets June 24 marked the summer high count (JM *et al.*). An unusual increase of imm. Little Blue

