

Bronte Creek P.P., *Halton*, May 16+ (GE *et al.*) and near Fenella May 25–July 8 (DAS, v.o.). Southern warblers n. of range included a Prothonotary near Baillieboro June 2 (PB) and a Hooded at Murphey Pt., *Manitoulin*, June 6 (AC). Several very late spring migrants included a Cape May at Pelee June 2 (AW, RE), a Black-throated Blue at T.C.B.O., June 7, a Yellow-rumped and a Prairie, both record late, at Pelee June 10 (AW), two Palms at T.C.B.O., June 2, another one record late at Long Pt., June 15 (GG), and a Wilson's at Pelee June 13 (AW, RE).

— A ♂ Summer Tanager at Long Pt., June 4 (LB) was the last of a normal spring incursion for this species. This species may, in fact, breed in the province on occasion, though this has never been conclusively proven. A Blue Grosbeak at Pelee June 1 (AW) was a record-late wanderer there, while a pair was found at Cedar Springs May 31 (D&NBa). Both birds were seen for 2 weeks, then the female disappeared. The male remained until July 8. The pair was observed copulating (PAW), though no further evidence of breeding was found. There is, as yet, no breeding record for this species in the province. Since this species is slowly expanding its breeding range northward in Ohio, it may not be unreasonable to expect breeding in s. Ontario at some point. A Dickcissel at Sylvan Valley May 31–June 2 (DS) was noteworthy. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Long Pt., June 2–3 (PL *et al.*) was notable given the species rarity in the southward during spring migration. A White-throated Sparrow at Pelee June 10 (AW, RE) was very late there, while a White-crowned there June 9 (AW, RE) was record late. A Bobolink heard heading S at Dorland on the night of June 23 (JMH) may have been a record-early fall migrant; L.P.B.O.'s first fall migrant record is July 1. The *Bruce* population of Brewer's Blackbirds totaled at least 90 pairs, a slight increase over previous years (MW, DF). At Pelee, Orchard Orioles numbered at least 70 pairs (AW). The importance of this park to provincially uncommon breeders such as Orchard Oriole and Yellow-breasted Chat cannot be underestimated. Reports of n. finches were few in number. Twenty Red Crossbills at T.C.B.O., June 3 were the only ones reported from the north, though others were undoubtedly present. Three in the York Reg. Forest June 22 (EG) furnished a rare summer record there.

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Appalachian Region

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Mediocre! The summer season in the Appalachians could only be described thusly. Some reporters did not report, and many of those who did sent only meager notes. It was a hot period, with both months registering temperature excesses of over 120 day-degrees at the Pittsburgh weather station. June precipitation was about normal and July showed a slight deficiency. But this hot weather was only a prelude to a really hot late summer.

— The weather may have curtailed birders' activities, but most birds had very successful breeding seasons. While there was great variation from place to place, it would appear that most of the Neotropical migrants are doing fairly well in this Region. The long-term trend for southern species moving north continued for such species as Yellow-throated Warbler, and the parallel trend for northern species moving south also continued, with Cliff Swallows, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Magnolia Warblers, and Savannah Sparrows all summering south of their ranges, as these have been commonly understood.

There were a few late spring migrants remaining after the first of June, but no real fall migration had started by the end of the period.

Abbreviations: Ch.N.F. (*Chattahoochee N.F.*, GA); G.R.W.A. (*Grand R. Wildlife Area*, Trumbull Co., OH); M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery*, Rowan Co., KY); M.W.A. (*Mosquito Wildlife Area*, Trumbull Co., OH); P.L.-S.P. (*Presque Isle S.P.*, Erie Co., PA); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve*, Westmoreland Co., PA).



Loons to Herons

A pair of Com. Loons spent the summer at a small private lake in *Crawford*, PA. The isolated lake would have been suitable for nesting, but a followup was not possible (LM, LF). Other summer records were from High Point L., *Somerset*, PA all season (JT, AM), Summit L., *Greenbrier*, WV June 17 (J&TD), and Pymatuning L., PA June 21 and July 2 (RCL). Pied-billed Grebes successfully nested in *Butler*, PA (SB, RC), and at the M.W.A. and the G.L.W.A., *Trumbull*, OH (J&DH). An unusual late straggler was a Red-necked Grebe on the Ohio R. at Paden City, WV June 8 (B.B.C.F.).

The Am. White Pelican reported from e. Tennessee in the 2 previous reports remained there at least until mid-June (RK). Two adult and one imm. Double-crested Cormorants were seen on Tellico L., TN June 21 (WP). Other reports were from New Martinsville, WV (B.B.C.F.), and late migrants on 2 lakes in *Somerset*, PA (JT).

Up to two Least Bitterns were at P.I.S.P. until at least July 1 (JF). The Great Blue Heron continues to thrive and increase in the Region, with reports of ≤ 20 birds at many localities. Near Lordstown, *Trumbull*, OH, a heronry had 427 nests in 112 trees (CB). Most remarkable was the discovery of one-two nests on Middle Mt., WV, at an elevation of about 3200 ft (DM). Nesting was also reported from *Murray*, GA (HD). Great Egrets were reported from 12 locations throughout the Region in late June and July. A Snowy Egret at M.C.F.H., July 23 provided a 3rd local record (FB). An ad. Little Blue Heron was seen in *Crawford*, PA June 28 (RCL), an adult with two immatures was at M.C.F.H., July 23 (FB), and four were at a pond near Dahlonega, GA in July, the first in ten years there (KF *vide* JS). Immature Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported from M.C.F.H. (FB), and from P.I.S.P., July 21 (JM).

Waterfowl to Rails

Am imm. Snow Goose was found associating with a flock of 150 Canada Geese at the Hannibal Lock and Dam on the Ohio R. (B.B.C.F.). Canada Geese continue to nest widely in the Region in small groups and are beginning to be recognized as a pest at some places. More than usual numbers of Mallards, Am. Black Ducks, and Wood Ducks apparently nested in the Region. Along a 25 mi stretch of the Little Kanawha R. in c. West Virginia 23 ♀ Wood Ducks with broods were counted (TF). There was also an unusual number of reports of other waterfowl, some of which were late spring migrants, some early fall migrants, and some also summered and nested. Four Green-winged Teal were at Pymatuning L., PA July

15–29 (RFL); Blue-winged Teal nested at Imperial, PA (CT, SSI), and were seen in the Ch.N.F. (JSp) and the G.R.W.A., OH (D&JH); a ♀ N. Shoveler was at Pymatuning L., PA (RFL); Redhead and Lesser Scaup graced P.I.S.P. until July 8 (JM); and Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Duck were reported in early June at Deer Valley L., PA (JT). Hooded Mergansers nested at Erie N.W.R., PA (RCL) and in *Butler*, PA (SB, RC), and were seen at Pymatuning Fish Hatchery, PA (RFL) and *Wetzel*, WV in early June (B.B.C.F.). A ♀ Com. Merganser with seven young was on the Clarion R., PA June 16 (DW), and two Red-breasted Mergansers were at P.I.S.P. until July 28 (JM). Three ad. Ruddy Ducks were seen at Pymatuning L., PA June 20 (RCL), and an immature was at Conneaut Marsh, PA July 28 (IF).

There was an interesting report of a flock of 25 Turkey Vultures roosting on the ground in an open field near a meat-packing plant in *Trumbull*, OH (J&DH). An Osprey nest at Rayland, *Jefferson*, OH was the first for the state since 1913 (local newspapers). There were 4 nestings of Ospreys in the *Westmoreland-Somerset* area near P.N.R. (*vide* RCL, RM). Thirty-two young Ospreys were hatched at Moraine S.P., PA (*vide* PH). Ten Bald Eagles were reported from 6 locations as far south as *Augusta* (Y&AL) and *Bath*, VA (J&TD). Two imm. Bald Eagles attempted to nest in *Murray*, GA but abandoned the eggs after 45 days of incubation (*vide* HD). Of the 5 nests reported in the spring for West Virginia, 4 were successful and the fate of the 5th unknown (CS).

Probable nestings of N. Harriers were reported from Elk Twp., Erie, where one was seen carrying food June 13 (DS), and from M.W.A., OH, where a female defended an area against Red-tailed Hawks (J&DH). Harriers were also seen on recovered surface mines in *Jefferson*, OH in July (MA). There were more reports of Cooper's Hawks than usual, but most reporters felt they were still in low numbers. The only N. Goshawk report was from the Deer Valley, PA in June and early July (JT). The reports of 2 pairs of Red-shouldered Hawks fledging young near P.N.R. (RCL, RM), a pair with two young in the Allegheny N.E., PA in late June (DW), and three young fledged at Howland, OH (CB) were encouraging for this species, which has not been reported widely in the past. At Niles, OH 2 nests failed (CB). Besides the successful nesting at Pittsburgh mentioned in the spring account, the only reports of Peregrine came from *Transylvania*, NC, where six young fledged from 2 nests, and Whiteside Mt., NC, where two were fledged (MP).

Ruffed Grouse were abundant in *Somerset*, PA (JT) and *Pocahontas*, WV (TF), while

a brood of 12–15 young with adults at Ch.N.F. was the first seen there in 7 years (HD). Northern Bobwhite remain very scarce; the only reports came from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (RS, MGS). Ring-necked Pheasants were reported on only one of 3 BBS check routes in the Pittsburgh area (PH). Wild Turkeys continue to thrive and increase throughout the Region.

Young Virginia Rails were found in *Butler* (RC) and *Mercer*, PA (SB) and sightings were reported from *Allegheny*, PA (CT), Youngwood Swamp, *Westmoreland*, PA June 11 (DSm), and M.W.A. (D&JH). Soras were found at Guilford L., OH June 13 (NB), M.W.A. (J&DH), and Youngwood Swamp, PA (DSm). A pair of Com. Moorhens was seen at M.W.A., June 9 and an adult with three juveniles were at Shenango Wildlife Area, OH July 20 (J&DH). An Am. Coot was at Austin Springs, TN June 4 (RK).

Cranes to Owls

The Sandhill Cranes nesting in *Mercer/Lawrence*, PA raised two young (SB). Upland Sandpipers summered at The High Point L., PA area (JT, AM), and breeding was confirmed in *Venango*, PA (BD).

The southbound shorebird flight began as early as July 2 at Pymatuning L., PA (RFL), July 8 at P.N.R. (RM, RCL), and July 19 at Pittsburgh (PH), but by the end of the period only small numbers of shorebirds had appeared. Most of the arrivals were the common "peep" species, both yellowlegs, and Solitary Sandpipers. A juv. Piping Plover was at P.I.S.P., July 29 (JM, EK). As usual, P.I.S.P. reported the only unusual species: three Whimbrels July 21 (JM) & 25 (GR); Marbled Godwit July 21 (JM); Sanderling July 29 (JM); and Western Sandpiper July 23 (JM). The Western Sandpiper banded at P.N.R. was the first banding for that station and a first record for the Region (RCL, RM). Short-billed Dowitchers were found at the G.R.W.A., July 18 & 31 (J&DH) and at Sand Cr. Marsh, *Wood*, WV July 21 (JE).

At P.I.S.P., a gull colony with >50 Ring-billed and one Herring gull nests (first *Erie* nesting) was a total failure (JM), and another failed Herring Gull nest was found nearby (DS). A Ring-billed Gull was seen on L. Somerset, PA July 18 (M&EW).

Three Caspian Terns at Rocky Gap S.P., MD June 29 (MT) were remarkably early, as was one at L. Somerset, PA July 18 (E&MW). Another was seen at Pymatuning L., PA July 30 (IF). The Com. Tern nest at P.I.S.P. reported in the spring was unsuccessful, as was a 2nd nesting attempt at the same place (JM). A Com. Tern was at Pymatuning L., PA June 26 (RCL). Four Forster's Terns were reported at Tamarack L., PA July 5

(RCL), and four were at P.I.S.P., July 18 (JM). Two Black Terns were at Imperial, PA June 12 (B&GD), and single birds were at Hartstown, PA June 24 (RCL) and Pymatuning Fish Hatchery, PA July 30 (IF).

The high numbers of both cuckoos species reported in the spring did not continue into the summer. At P.N.R., only one Yellow-billed and four Black-billed cuckoos were banded (RCL, RM). Black-billed cuckoos were, however, more numerous than usual in the south. Barn Owls nested at Dalton, GA (HD); the only other record was from near Waynesboro, VA (RS). A N. Saw-whet Owl was seen and heard near the summit of Laurel Hill, PA on 2 days in mid-June (CL), and, most remarkably, a juvenile collided with a window in a Pittsburgh suburb July 21. The bird was given to a rehabilitator, subsequently recovered, and was released (*vide* CT).

Goatsuckers to Wrens

Both Com. Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills continue to decline as breeding birds in the Region. Is the population of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds actually increasing, or are the increased number of feeders simply making the birds more evident than in the past?

Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to have good reports, with nestings reported from 3 locations in *Trumbull*, OH (J&DH), *Mahoning*, OH (NB), West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle (RD), *Highland*, VA (JB), and *Murray*, GA (HD). But only one was reported on 3 BBS routes in *Butler*, PA (PH). Breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are seldom reported from the highlands of the Region, so the report of strong populations in n.c. Pennsylvania was good news (G&PS).

A singing ♂ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was found in *Clearfield*, PA June 21 (P&GS) and one was present on Mt. Davis, PA during June and most of July (JT). The first southbound migrants were banded at P.N.R., July 26 (RM, RCL). Acadian Flycatchers were reported to be in good numbers at most places. Alder Flycatchers were reported as still being on territory at the Shenango Wildlife Area, OH July 20 (D&JH), and were found, as usual in recent years, on Roan Mt., TN (RK). Willow Flycatchers nested near Dillard, GA (*vide* JS). Single Least Flycatchers were defending a territory in Shenandoah N.P., June 2-12 (MGS), and M.W.A., June 9 (J&DH) respectively. The first fall migrant was banded at P.N.R., July 3, with eight banded by the end of July (RCL, RM). The 73 E. Phoebes banded at P.N.R. during June and July may provide a record number for that location (RCL, RM).

Great Crested Flycatchers were thought to be in good numbers at P.N.R. (RM, RCL), but west of there, away from the mountains, they were scarce in s.w. *Westmoreland*, PA (DK), and were in lower than usual numbers on 2 BBS routes in *Greene*, PA (RB).

The 23 Tree Swallows banded at P.N.R. indicated a below-average production of young (RM, RCL); at Sleepy Creek L., WV (a recent impoundment), Tree Swallow numbers are declining as the trees killed by inundation disappear (RD). The usual late summer concentration of Rough-winged Swallows at Elkton, VA built up to 308 birds by July 30 (MGS). Four Bank Swallows in *Butler*, PA July 3 provided a noteworthy record for that area (BD, BW). Five pairs of Cliff Swallows nesting in *Laurel*, KY were unusual for that area (CBI), and the flock of 25 at Carter's L., *Gilmer* (JN), was at a new location for n. Georgia. At the Pymatuning Fish Hatchery, PA, only 4 of the 93 nests from last year were occupied (RFL).

Fish Crows are now the common breeding crow in the Martinsburg, WV region (RD). The Com. Raven continues to thrive, with the best numbers in 5 years reported from s. West Virginia (GB), and there were more reports than usual in the Georgia mountains (JS). Red-breasted Nuthatches at Rabun Bald, GA (WB) and another at *Rabun*, GA (DFo) furnished unusual summer records. Two successful nests of the Brown Creeper were found at M.W.A. (J&DH).

Carolina Wren populations are making a slight comeback but still remain low. A *Wetzel*, WV BBS which listed 18 in 1993 had none this year (RB). Once again, Bewick's Wren was unreported. House Wrens were in low numbers in *Elk*, PA (LC) and *Calhoun*, WV (TF). On the other hand, Winter Wrens were unusually common in *Elk*, PA (LC) and in the Cheat Mts, WV (GAH). A juvenile banded at P.N.R., July 13 (RCL, RM) raised questions about the breeding range in that area. A small colony of Sedge Wrens was discovered at M.W.A., where a nest was found in June (D&JH, NB). A Marsh Wren was at Youngwood Swamp, PA June 11, but no nesting evidence was found (DSm); four were found in *Mercer*, PA July 2 (SB).

Thrushes to Warblers

Veery populations were low in *Elk*, PA (LC), and in a Shenandoah N.P. study area populations had a mean decline of 34% (MGS). But both numbers and nesting success were good in *Westmoreland*, PA (RM, RCL), the Cheat Mts. (GAH), the *Allegheny/Butler* PA area (PH), and Brasstown Bald, GA (WB). Hermit Thrushes were in

good numbers in the Cheat Mts. (GAH) and in n.c. Pennsylvania (C&GS). There were three singing ♂ Hermit Thrushes on Roan Mt., TN (RK), which may be the southernmost point of its range. Swainson's Thrushes were in normal numbers in the Cheat Mts. (GAH) and, as is often the case, an early post-breeding season wanderer was banded at P.N.R., July 26 (RCL, RM) Wood Thrushes also brought mixed reports: good numbers in the Pittsburgh area (PH) and in West Virginia's E. Panhandle (RD), average numbers of bandings at P.N.R. (RM, RCL), and declining numbers at Jersey Shore, PA (P&GS) and near Elkton, VA (MGS).

Reports of N. Mockingbird from 20 BBS routes in *Allegheny*, PA and 5 routes in *Butler*, PA (PH), as well as a summer record from Niles, OH (CB), indicate continued northward range expansion. Cedar Waxwings nested in *Lumpkin* and *White*, GA (DF) and on Brasstown Bald, GA (WB) Five nests of Loggerhead Shrikes were found in the *Berkeley/Jefferson*, WV region (RD). Near the n. limit of its range, the White-eyed Vireo seems to be decreasing after several years of expansion (PH). Solitary Vireos were in above-average numbers in its normal range, and were discovered at low elevations in the south: *Whitley*, *Knoff*, and *Pike*, KY (SSt), Breaks Interstate Park, KY (FR), Elkton, VA (MGS), and nesting at Ch.N.F. (HD). Warbling Vireos were in good numbers at most places.

With the exception of the Golden-winged Warbler and the Yellow-breasted Chat, most warbler species were in good numbers, and the breeding season seemed to be quite successful for most. Blue-winged Warblers were in unusual numbers near Pittsburgh (PH). *Raleigh*, WV has been one place where Golden-winged Warblers remain fairly numerous. During an intensive study of hybridization there, 111 birds (adults and nestlings) were banded (RCa). Chestnut-sided Warblers were quite common through the mountains, and were reported in *Whitley*, KY (SSt). There were five singing ♂ Magnolia Warblers on Unaka Mt., TN, a recent range extension (FA). Yellow-throated Warblers continue to move northward, and were found in *Venango*, PA (DS, JM) Worm-eating and Kentucky warblers were also found at this location, n. of the usual range (JM). The 125 Am. Redstarts banded during June and July at P.N.R. (RM, RCL) furnished an indication of the healthy population throughout the Region. Prothonotary Warblers nested at 2 locations near Mosquito L., OH (CB, D&JH), and at Conneaut Marsh, PA (Jbk, IF). Swainson's Warblers were found in

Pike, KY (SSt), and Breaks Interstate Park, KY/VA (FR).

— A "Brewster's" Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler was seen in *Tyler*, WV in early June (B.B.C.F.), a "Lawrence's" Warbler was banded at the *Raleigh*, WV study site (RCa), but a most remarkable report was of *three* "Lawrence's" Warblers seen at a campground in Allegheny N.E., PA July 16 (PY).

— The first signs of fall migration came from Morgantown, WV, where small flocks of Am. Redstarts and Black-and-white Warblers were seen in late July (SS).

Tanagers to Finches

Only 13 Scarlet Tanagers were reported on 3 BBS areas in the Pittsburgh area (PH), but most other areas found normal numbers. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak had a good nesting season at P.N.R. (RM, RCL) at the Mt. Davis, PA area (JT) and seems to be increasing at low elevations in w. Pennsylvania (DK), but they were thought to be scarce at Brassstown Bald, GA at the s. extremity of the range (WB). After being present in the spring in the *Jefferson/Berkeley*, WV region, the Blue Grosbeak disappeared in June but began to reappear in July (RD). Blue Grosbeaks were also reported from Elkton, VA June 24 & 25 (MGS) and, most interestingly, nested at Imperial, PA, the 2nd year at that station, the first in w. Pennsylvania (ME, WS).

— The Savannah Sparrow is consolidating its new range in the south. They were present at Waynesboro, VA in June and July (RS); four singing males were found in *Patrick*, VA at an elevation of 3100–3200 ft., and in *Bath*, VA, at 2000 ft., July 6 (J&TD); and singing males were found in *Washington* and *Johnson*, TN (FA). Henslow's Sparrows were reported only from near Cranesville, WV (GB) and near Steubenville, OH, where 12 were found on a recovered surface mine (MA). Swamp Sparrows were at Guilford L., OH June 13 (NB) and, surprisingly, nested at Morgantown, WV (SS). White-throated Sparrows were at Mt. Davis, PA all season (JT) and one was at Howland, OH June 13 (CB).

— Purple Finches brought young to a feeder in *Mahoning* (NB), and were at feeders at 2 locations in *Trumbull*, OH (CB, J&DH). Pine Siskins brought young to a feeder at Terra Alta, *Preston*, WV (WW), and 2 nestings were observed at the Fort Hill, PA area (JT). Small numbers were found on Roan and Unaka mountains, TN (RK, FA). Red Crossbills were found in *Highland*, VA July 28–31 (JB), on Roan Mt., TN June 9–10 (RK), and Unaka Mt., TN June 9 (RMA).

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Western Great Lakes Region

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Weather conditions were highly variable, not only Regionally, but within each state. This was especially true for rainfall, with some areas in Minnesota and Wisconsin *extremely dry*, while others had average or above-average amounts. Particularly dry were northeastern Minnesota (Boundary Waters Canoe Area) and the eastern third of Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Green Bay, Fox Cities). Michigan had slightly less variable rainfall, averaging normal to slightly above.

— Early June was a continuation of the spring—cool, cloudy, and moist. However, things commenced changing by mid-month. The last half had the first of several heat waves, with temperatures consistently in the 90s° F., accompanied by exceptionally high humidity. After a brief respite in early July, the second heat wave arrived. Temperatures ranged between the mid-90s to the low 100s. Many cities had record highs between

