

tailed Grackles continued their eastward expansion across Missouri. Eurasian Tree Sparrows were recorded in Des Moines, IA June 15 (PP), a new site for this expanding species.

### Corrigendum

The Green-tailed Towhee, seen at Fleming Park, MO during the winter of 1994–1995 (AFN 49:154) was discovered by James and Ellen Zellmer. My apologies for inadvertently omitting their names.

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# Central Southern Region

## ROBERT D. PURRINGTON

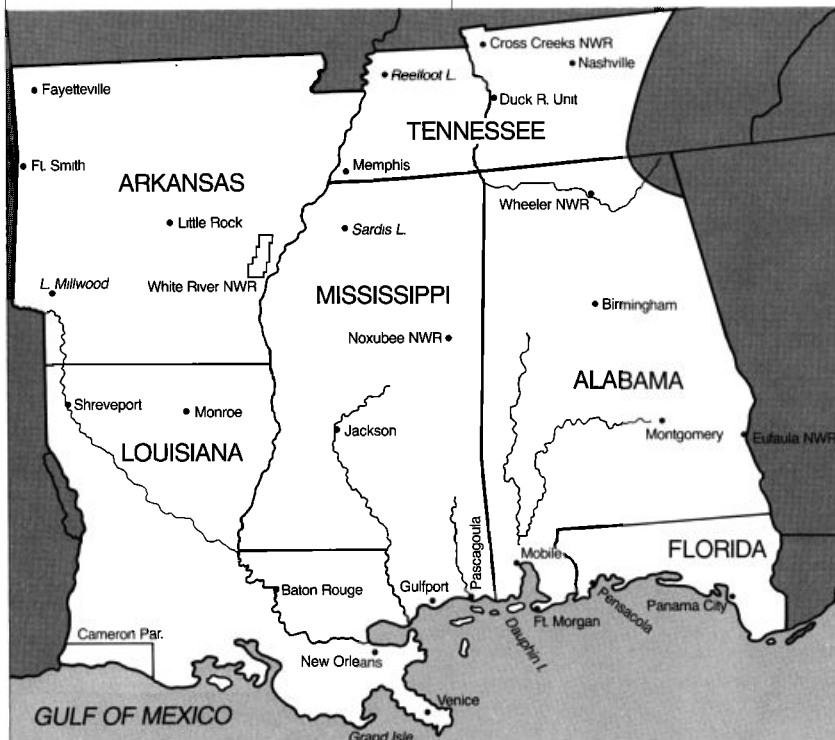
Generally the season was hot and dry, with July temperatures consistently at or near record highs over much of the area. On the other hand, May had been quite wet, so that water levels were mostly high, at least into July. Nearly one-half of the records received were from Louisiana, no doubt a consequence of the second year of censusing in the Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas Program, which, coincidentally, yielded fully as many interesting records of non-breeding as breeding species. Hurricane Erin made landfall near Pensacola in July, but in the absence of any records from northwest Florida, its effects remain obscure.

Approximately half the records received were at least suggestive of nesting; the others were of transients of one kind or another.

## Records of nesting or suspected nesting:

### Hérons to Waterfowl

Ten adult and six young Pied-billed Grebes seen in *Tallahatchie* July 29 (GK,SK) represented the first nesting in the 7 county Starkville area of Mississippi. A pair of Least Bitterns in *Shelby*, TN throughout the period (JRW) were in an area where they breed annually, and a calling male in *Maury*, TN June 12 (SJS) also suggested nesting. At least 34 young were fledged from a Great Blue Heron colony, with  $\geq 80$  nests (JRW) in *Shelby*; at White's L. in *Dyer*, TN,  $\leq 60$  adult, first-year, and juv. Black-crowned Night-Herons were noted in July (JRW, JJ); elsewhere, one July 30 in *Benton*, AR (MMI) was an early fall migrant for n.w. Arkansas. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks are regular in s.w. Louisiana only at Lacassine N.W.R.; six there July 16 (JK, DR, RR) were thus not unexpected, but four (paired) in *Acadia* June 13 (BE, JW) were unusual, and an adult at Millwood L., AR June 24 (KN, LN) was very remarkable. Mottled Ducks apparently had a poor nesting year in the lower Atchafalaya R. basin (BR), at least in part due to very high water. A pair far inland in *Concordia*, LA June 21 (BR) may have been a product of that high water, but >ten Mallards on a crawfish pond in *Vermilion* June 23 (SWC, DLD) in the company of Mottled Ducks raised the troubling possibility that the latter might eventually be genetically swamped by the Mallard, which heretofore has been rare in s. Louisiana in the breeding season.



## Diurnal Raptors

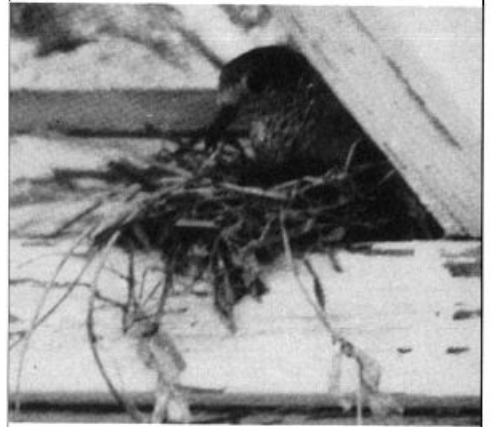
Ospreys were found nesting in *Rapides*, LA near Boyce June 12 (RJB), and a pair in Chalmette, LA July 11 (JOC, TDC) and a single bird in *St. Martin* July 26 (MJM), thought to be a fledgling, suggested breeding. There were at least 8 reports of Swallow-tailed Kites from Louisiana, totaling  $\geq 47$  individuals. Most interesting were the reports of four and 21 individuals near Pearl R., June 22 & 25 (JOC, TDC, JW, RCH) respectively, including three juveniles, and 14 in the Atchafalaya spillway in *Iberville* July 2 & 9 (WC, LC). One well n. of I-10 in *Evangeline* June 11 (NLN, DP) was thought unusual. White-tailed Kites, which have begun to nest sparingly in s.w. Louisiana, were noted in *Cameron* June 23 (one adult) & 24 (DLD, SWC; two adults, one immature). The latter record, involving a full-sized juvenile, was near where the species nested this spring. A concentration of  $> 35$  Mississippi Kites in Ouachita June 14 (DT) was impressive, but not unprecedented. The only reports of Bald Eagle were of three (two adults and one immature) at Millwood L., AR June 4 (CM), which was the first date the eaglet was noted away from the nest, and one "near adult" in *Okibbeha*, MS June 12 (TS). Rare for the Starkville, MS area was an ad. Mississippi Kite in *Lowndes* June 13 (TS); the area is at the n. edge of its breeding range. Single N. Harriers were noted in Tennessee June 15 in *Dyer* (WGC), and June 25 in *Lake*, TN (JRW), and July 28 in *White*, AR (KN, LN); only the latter might plausibly be explained as an early southbound migrant. Five records were received of breeding-season Cooper's Hawks: an adult and two juveniles July 10 & 12 in *Putnam*, TN (SJS), records from Louisiana of single birds July 13 & 14 in *Desoto* and *Nachitoches*, respectively (JOC, TDC), and an immature in *Washington*, AR July 29 (MMI). If an ad. Swainson's Hawk at L. Charles, LA July 3 (WC) was remarkable and conceivably (but not likely) breeding nearby, two adults in *Benton*, AR July 22 (MMI) quite plausibly were nesting locally. Although the Crested Caracara seen in *Cameron*, LA July 22 (MP, GP) was unusual in having strayed to the coast, the species breeds, if sparingly, nearby.

## Grouse to Hummingbirds

A Ruffed Grouse heard drumming on a BBS route in *Newton*, AR June 23 (LP) was evidently part of a group introduced in the area last year in an on-going attempt to reestablish grouse in the Ozarks. The breeding suggested by  $\leq 21$  Am. Coots, including at least 4 pairs, in e. *Cameron*, LA during June, was realized by two downy chicks found July 22-23 (SWC, DLD), and the first evidence of nesting in the Starkville, MS area was

found July 23 (GK, SK; two adults, one immature). Other unusual records were of one in *Benton*, AR June 1 (MMI) and  $\leq 4$  in *Shelby*, TN June 3 (JRW). Inland records of nesting Black-necked Stilts included 37 adults and 2 nests with 4 eggs each June 13 in *White*, AR (KN, LN), four young in *Tallahatchie*, MS July 2 (GK, SK), two adults and two young in *Concordia*, LA July 14 (BR), and 117 (56 adults, 61 immatures) along the Mississippi R. in w. Tennessee July 29 (JRW; specific locality not given). The late rise of the river (due to late heavy snows in the mountains) forced many to attempt re-nesting (JRW). Also affected by the high river stage, which submerged sandbars, were Least Terns, who attempted to nest in farm fields in *Lauderdale*, TN (JRW), apparently without much success. A similar colony in *White*, AR, which June 13 had 26 adults with 15 on nests (KN, LN), may have fledged several young. Inland non-breeding records included single birds in *Benton*, AR June 15 (MMI) and *Rapides*, LA July 29 (RJB, BB). The Gull-billed Tern colony on a shopping center rooftop (mentioned in the spring report) produced at least 70 young (GG).

Eurasian Collared-Doves, well established in s.e. Louisiana (and now accepted on the Louisiana list), have reached the s.w. corner of the state, as evidenced by two in *Cameron* June 24 (DLD, SWC), and Arkansas had its 2nd record this summer: three in *Jefferson* July 1 (FF, WS *et al.*). White-winged Doves, which previously had nested only in extreme s.e. Louisiana, now are breeding in *Cameron*, evidenced this season by six (two calling, one immature) there June 24 and another about 10 mi e. the following day (SWC, DLD). There were 5 records of Inca Doves totaling eight individuals from Louisiana, ranging from as far east as *St. James* to as far west as *Vernon*. The first



**Common Ground-Dove on nest in George County, Mississippi, June 18, 1995. First state nesting record. Photograph/Chita Cassibry.**

attempted nesting for Arkansas was terminated by predation, with the fate of the near-fledged nestlings unknown (CM); the male persisted in the area until July 9 (CM, KN, LN). More successful was the nesting of a Common Ground-Dove pair in *George*, MS in June, which fledged two young from a nest in a greenhouse observed June 18-28 (LJ, CC, m.ob.), the first nesting record for Mississippi. In Abita Springs, LA, Clifton reported that Ruby-throated Hummingbirds seemed to be present in reduced numbers and speculated that an early return of males to feeders in her yard might have signaled an early end to the breeding season (OC, *vide NN*).

## Flycatchers to Warblers

The only reference to nesting empids this season was of three singing  $\delta$  Willow Flycatchers in *Maurry*, TN June 12 (SJS). The e. edge of the breeding range of W. Kingbird is notably ragged, which made the discovery of



**Adult Western Kingbird in Shelby County, Tennessee, July 2, 1995. This adult was accompanied by three young birds, strongly suggesting that local nesting had occurred. Photograph/J. R. Wilson.**

at least four (one adult, three immatures) in Memphis, TN July 2 (JRW, BF, MG *et al.*) interesting. Some of the birds were present for at least a week and an adult was seen feeding at least one of the young (GK), who were fully able to fly. This is the first July record for Tennessee, and clearly suggests nesting. A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nesting in Jefferson, AL from July 6+ (PHF, m.ob.) established the first breeding record for the state's mountain region, and a pair nested in Morgan, AL for the 3rd consecutive year (SM). One at Pickwick Dam S.P. in w. Tennessee June 20 (CE) was also of interest. Reports of Tree Swallows included probable nesting in Maury, TN June 12 (SJS), 5 nesting pairs in Putnam, TN (SJS, BHS), a lone bird in Jackson, AR June 17 (LP) which suggested nesting, and an immature in Oktibbeha, MS June 29 (TS). Several new Cliff Swallow nesting sites were found in the Starkville, MS area, including the first for Oktibbeha (TS). July reports from other areas probably were of early migrants. There were 2 reports of singing Veeries in adjacent Newton and Pope in the Arkansas Ozarks, establishing the first breeding season records for the state: June 5 & 6 in Newton (DL) and June 17 near Pelsor (WS). While three N. Parula Warblers, a pair and singing male, at Grand Chenier in Cameron June 25 (SWC, DLD) were unusual at this coastal location, single Black-throated Green Warblers in Shelby, TN June 3 (JRW) and in Newton and Johnson, AR June 7 (DL) & 13 (JO), respectively, may or may not have been breeding. American Redstarts continue to be found breeding in substantial numbers locally in the Pearl R. bottoms of s.e. Louisiana, at the s. limit of their range (RDP). The results of the first 2 years of the Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas Program will clarify the range of this species in Louisiana.

### Tanagers to Crossbills

The first evidence that Scarlet Tanager may nest in Louisiana came when a singing territorial male was found in Union in the extreme n.c. part of the state June 30 and July 1 (MS). The Dickcissel is another bird with a very ragged (disjunct) distribution, especially near the edge of its breeding range; a total of nine in Williamson and Bedford June 8-9 (SJS) represented good numbers for middle Tennessee. Only a rare nester in the Starkville, MS area, an ad. ♂ Lark Sparrow was seen in Tallahatchie July 2 (GK, SK). Breeding information on Grasshopper Sparrows in w. Tennessee included a total of six-ten individuals at 2 Shelby locations between June 18-July 23, highlighted by a nest with four young June 22 (JRW). One was seen carrying food to a nest in DeSoto, MS, where it is a rare breeder, June 3 (GK, SK).



In view of the fact that the Region is at the s. limit of breeding of Song Sparrows, one found on a BBS route in Mississippi, AR in June (JB) was notable. One does not report with enthusiasm that Shiny Cowbird has already reached w. Tennessee, but such is the case, as Tennessee's first Shiny Cowbird (a male) was present in Shelby July 6-21 (MLG, MGW, WW, m.ob., ph.); there was apparently also at least one female (JRW, MG, SK, GK). Although Bronzed Cowbirds breed in substantial numbers in the greater New Orleans area, they have been almost unknown at coastal Grand Isle until recently. This season, however, they appeared there in some numbers and bred, as evidenced by fledged young being fed by Orchard Orioles June 25 (DM, RDP). Further evidence of the breeding of House Finches (to complete this depressing litany) in New Orleans and its suburbs was provided by Newfield. At least eight Red Crossbills in Dallas, AR July 10 (HP, MP) including at least one juvenile been fed by an adult; while not definitive evidence of nesting, it was at least suggestive of that possibility.

### Records presumed to be of migrants, vagrants, and other transients:

#### Grebes to Waders

An alternate-plumaged Eared Grebe in Benton, AR June 1 (MMI) was the latest for the state (?) and provided the first June record. Much to the envy of Louisiana seabird enthusiasts, who have not yet ventured this far off-shore, a sub-ad. White-tailed Tropicbird was seen 80 mi s. of South Pass of the Mississippi R., July 22 (CD). There is perhaps only one previous record off s.e. Louisiana and few Louisiana records, all far from shore. Three records of N. Gannets, all single immatures, from coastal Louisiana confirmed that this species is present in summer in

### Marking another advance in the invasion of the Shiny Cowbird, this male was in Shelby County, Tennessee, July 7, 1995, for a first state record. Photograph/Murray L. Gardler.

small numbers: off Rutherford Beach in Cameron June 23 and July 22 (DLD, SWC), and a decomposing bird on the beach at Grand Isle July 16 (MPo, GP).

It is perhaps deplorable that this writer does not have hard numbers to offer on the continuing growth of the Louisiana population of Brown Pelicans 2 decades after the start of the reintroduction program; at the same time, recent trips to Grand Isle and to S.W. Pass of the Mississippi provide ample anecdotal evidence of their breeding success, and records from Cameron in the s.w. corner of the state, including that of a single bird June 9 (MPo, GP) and six July 16 (JK, DR, RR) confirm the trend. A Double-crested Cormorant on University L. in Baton Rouge intermittently during June and July (VR) was notable, as was an immature in Noxubee, MS July 15 (TS, MS), and four Anhingas in the Starkville, MS area between July 23 and the end of the period (GK, SK, TS) were unusual. As part of the fairly normal post-breeding dispersal of waders, several species were noted at inland localities, where they are uncommon. Among these were a Tricolored Heron in Little River, AR June 24 (CM, KN, LN), and ≤50 White Ibis in the same area June 4-July 20 (CM). It was speculated by D. James that several which had pinkish blotches on the head and neck might have some Scarlet Ibis genes as a result of introduction of the latter species into Florida some years ago. An ad. White-faced Ibis in Dyer June 25 (JRW; red eye noted) was thought to provide the 3rd or 4th Tennessee record. The most interesting post-breeding records of Roseate Spoonbill in Louisiana were of single birds in Evangeline June 11

(NLN, DP) and *Rapides* July 29 (RB, BB). Spoonbills have become regular after breeding in coastal s.e. Louisiana as far east as Grand Isle and S.W. Pass. Elsewhere, two immatures were noted in *Mobile*, AL from July 20+ (CK), and another was present in *Shelby*, AL from July 23+ (RRe). These furnish the 10th and 11th state records. The only record of Wood Stork received was of 45 in *Vermilion* July 22 (SWC, DLD).

### Waterfowl to Diurnal Raptors

As usual, a number of waterfowl lingered through the summer, some cripples, of course, most non-breeding; only the most interesting will be reported here. Sixteen Fulvous Whistling-Ducks seen in *Rapides* July 22 (RB, BB) were unexpected so far from the rice fields of s.c. Louisiana north, and an imm. blue-morph Snow Goose noted at Lacassine N.W.R., June 16 (MPo, GP) was far out of season, as was a ♂ N. Pintail in *Calcasieu* July 8 (MPo, GP). Blue-winged Teal were noted in scattered locations, but in w. Tennessee they were seen in smaller numbers than usual (JRW). Other records included a N. Shoveler in *Cameron* in June (DLD, SWC), two Am. Wigeon in *Lonoke*, AR June 23 (KN, LN), the first July record of Ring-necked Duck for the Starkville, MS area July 23 (GK, SK), and 4 reports of late or summering Lesser Scaup: two-four in *Cameron*, LA during June (SWC, DLD), one in *Shelby*, TN from June 3+ (JRW), and records from *Washington* and *Benton*, AR from early June-mid-July (MMI). Arguably the most interesting of the waterfowl records was a ♀ **Ferruginous Duck** near Memphis June 16-July 4 (JF, MLG, JRW, m.ob., ph. Although Francis found the bird, it is not entirely clear to whom the credit goes for identification), whose provenance is unknown. A very late or summering ♀ Black Scoter at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, LA June 4 (MPo, GP) was

almost as surprising. Hooded Mergansers were noted, presumably away from breeding areas in *Benton* and *Washington*, AR (MMI), as well as in *Putnam*, TN (SJS) in June and July. Also interesting were a ♀ Red-breasted Merganser in *Lake*, TN July 3 (JRW, MG) and a ♂ Ruddy Duck in basic or eclipse plumage near New Orleans July 2 (JOC, TDC), the first summer record for s.e. Louisiana. Certainly worthy of note was an ad. Peregrine Falcon seen at Moss Island N.W.R., TN June 27.

### Shorebirds to Larids

Fully one-third of the non-breeding records received were of shorebirds, representing the usual mix of late spring and early fall migrants, plus some probable non-breeding lingering birds. Among the late spring migrants were two Semipalmated Plovers in *Benton*, AR June 10 (MMI) and a Piping Plover in *Cameron* June 8 (SWC, DLD). Records of single Piping Plovers June 16 in *Dyer*, TN (JRW) and in coastal *Cameron*, LA (JK, DR, RR) were evidently early migrants, as were seven at South Pass of the Mississippi R., July 18 (BR). If an Am. Avocet in *Vermilion* June 20 (PC) is difficult to classify, 22 there July 6 (PC) could plausibly be considered early fall migrants. One in *Garland*, AR July 1 (LA) was thought to be very late, but could just as well have been an early fall migrant, although another in *Benton* July 24 (MMI) was earliest in fall for n.w. Arkansas. Two July 25 in w. Tennessee (NM) were the earliest ever there. A Greater Yellowlegs June 23 in *Cameron* (DLD, SWC) was in the classic "in-between" period on the gulf coast, and the same could be said of one near Memphis June 24-25 (WGC). One in *Garland*, AR July 1 (LA), however, could well have been an early migrant. Latest ever for Tennessee was a Solitary Sandpiper in Memphis June 10 (MLG, MGW). Unexpected, but not unprecedented, were a Wil-

let near Memphis June 29 (WGC), three in *Cleburne* in N. Arkansas July 5 (KN, LN), and five in *Panola*, MS July 15 (WMD). Although Cardiff and Dittmann suggested that an Upland Sandpiper near Creole, LA June 23 might be a very early southbound migrant, the date doesn't permit much more than speculation. Similarly enigmatic were single Whimbrels in *Cameron*, LA June 8 & 23 and July 23 (SWC, DLD)—the first possibly a late northbound migrant, the last an early fall migrant, plus Long-billed Curlews on June 23 (one) & 25 (two) in *Cameron* (DLD, SWC). The first June record for Tennessee of Marbled Godwit was of one on the Mississippi R. in *Lake* June 24 (WGC), and one on Fourchon Beach, *Lafourche*, LA July 2 (RSB, GW) was evidently an early southbound migrant. Single Sanderlings in *Lake*, TN July 16 (JRW) and *Benton*, AR July 24 (MMI) were quite early, and the latter record, in n.w. Arkansas, would have been unusual at any time. Early as southbound migrants were a Least Sandpiper in Center-ton, AR July 7 (MMI), five Baird's Sandpipers in *Benton*, AR July 22 (MMI), a Pectoral Sandpiper in *Vermilion*, LA July 1 (PC), a Stilt Sandpiper in *Benton* July 5 (MMI)—earliest ever for n.w. Arkansas, and Stilt Sandpipers July 8 in *Natchitoches*, LA (RJB, CL) and July 16 in *Cameron* (JK, DR, RR; 23). Also earliest ever—for Alabama's Tennessee Valley—was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper July 30 (SM). A late Short-billed Dowitcher in *Benton*, AR June 3 (MMI) provided perhaps the first June record for Arkansas, and one near Memphis June 29 (WGC) *did* furnish the first June Tennessee record. Also late were two Wilson's Phalaropes in *Benton* June 6 (MMI). An individual of this species in *Vermilion*, LA July 6 (PC) was very early for a southbound migrant.

A total of six Franklin's Gulls seen in *Cameron* June 8 (four) & 23 (SWC, DLD) were very late migrants or "summering," and a Bonaparte's Gull at Fort Walton Beach, FL July 14 (OF) was far out of season. Two dark-mantled gulls seen during an aerial survey on the "mud lumps" at the mouth of South Pass of the Mississippi R., June 14 (BV, MC), in the midst of a tern and Laughing Gull colony, may have been nesting. They were thought to be too small to be *L. marinus*, turning speculation to *fuscus* or *dominicanus*. As many as four Caspian Terns which spent June and July in *Shelby*, TN (MLG, ViR, CHB, MGW, JRW), were probably the first ever to "summer" in that area, and six Forster's Terns in *Rapides*, LA June 22 (RJB, BB) were also unusual there. A Sooty Tern seen 30 mi s.w. of Ft. Morgan, AL June 3 (CD, BM) was far from the nearest nesting colony on Louisiana's Chandeleur Is.



Of uncertain origins was this female Ferruginous Duck (a Eurasian species) in Shelby County, Tennessee, June 28, 1995. Photograph/Murray L. Gardler.

### Flycatchers to Warblers

Very far from its normal breeding range was a ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher June 13 in *Washington*, AR (RS). Lone Bank Swallows were very late in *Benton*, AR June 3 (MMI, DC) and quite early in St. Gabriel, LA July 15 (VR). A singing Swainson's Thrush in *Shelby*, TN June 3 (JRW, MG) was late even for a species which traditionally straggles into late May in its spring migration. There were 5 reports of Cedar Waxwings between June 16 and the end of the period, highlighted by 20 in *Beauregard*, LA on the very late date of June 16 (MPo, GP) and 4 records totaling 11 individuals by Mlodinow between June 27–July 30 in *Benton* and *Washington*, AR. The species is rare in summer in Arkansas. Also out of season was a Solitary Vireo in Conway, AR July 11 (RS). It is interesting that a Yellow Warbler in the well-birded Starkville, MS area July 27 (TS) was the earliest ever by one day, given that south-bound migrants reach the gulf coast a week or 2 earlier. A Cerulean Warbler in the same area July 30 (TS) furnished only the 2nd summer record.

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# Prairie Provinces Region

### RUDOLF F. KOES AND PETER TAYLOR

Weather conditions varied greatly across the Region. Southern Alberta was cool and very wet, with some severe flooding in early June, whereas southern Manitoba was mostly hot, windy and dry, especially in June. In the north, more seasonal conditions in June and early July gave way to very cool and wet weather later. It was another major forest-fire season in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. A good waterfowl nesting season was tempered by concerns for a number of grassland birds. There was an excellent array of rarities Regionwide.

### Loons to Falcons

A **Yellow-billed Loon** at Churchill June 9, Manitoba's 6th, was reported without details (*vide* BC). Several large concentrations of Am. White Pelicans in Alberta included >1000 at St. Mary's Res. spillway June 23 (LS, AH), and three visited Churchill June 25–26 (*vide* BC). Another sparse crop of s. herons included a Great Egret near Morse, SK June 17–29 (MP, RKr), Alberta's 2nd **Little Blue Heron** at Fort McMurray June 29 (FK, ph.), and a Cattle Egret at Oak Lake, MB June 29 (PGr, DBo).

A Cinnamon Teal visited Coulter, MB June 30 (R&TW), and 3 Saskatchewan reports involved seven birds, a rather low total after this spring's influx. Two ♂ Harlequin Ducks at Katepwa L., SK June 17–24 (TR, BL) may have been escapes; one had 2 unrecognized bands. A pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes lingered through June at Old Channel L., Medicine Hat, AB, well e. of their breeding range (GN, BV, MV).

Turkey Vultures seem to be expanding their range on the prairies: Two were flushed from abandoned farmhouses at Minnedosa, MB in June (CCt), one appeared over Regina July 16 (BL), and scattered records across s. Alberta included ≤five at Medicine Hat (m.ob.). Somewhat out-of-range were an Osprey at Cypress Hills P.P., SK June 16 (RKr) and a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Churchill June 26 (W&SW).



**Turkey Vulture near Irricana, Alberta, July 23, 1995. The species seems to be spreading in the southern Prairie Provinces. Photograph/Terry Korolyk.**