

Qu'Appelle Valley, SK (v.ob.). A territorial Field Sparrow frequented a meadow near Traverse Bay, MB June 9–23 (PT, m.ob.), and two returned to Roche Percee, SK (BL). Also well out-of-range was a Lark Sparrow near Raven July 1 (JRo).

Only two Lark Buntings were seen all summer in s.w. Manitoba (KD). Twenty-five Grasshopper Sparrows were found on a 3-mi transect near Brooks, AB July 18 (WS). A Le Conte's Sparrow was a good find at Churchill June 25 (ph. MM). A Snow Bunting was extremely late at St. Ambrose, MB June 1 (CCt *et al.*). Unfortunately, details are lacking on two **Scott's Orioles** reported at Medicine Hat (BV *et al.*). White-winged Crossbills invaded parts of s.e. Manitoba in June; 71 were tallied at 24 stops on the Springer L. BBS June 23 (PT, DR). Several Com. Redpolls apparently summered near Tantallon, SK (*vide* TH).

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): Mary Allen (MAI), Joyce Anaka, Mike Anderson (MAAn), Dennis Baresco (DBa), Greg Barrows, Denis Bellamy (DBe), Andy Belyk (ABe), Lloyd Bennett, Stephen Bonneville, Albert Bruns (ABr), Muriel Carlson, Bonnie Chartier, John Christie, Adam Cooper, Carolyn Curtis (CCs), Calvin Cuthbert (CCt), Ken De Smet, Roger and Jeanette Dezall, Ross Dickson, Teresa Dolman, Gary Donovan, Dennis Fast (DFa), Dan Fisher (DFi), Michelle Fitzsimmons, N. Fraiser, Ken Gardner, Colin Gilmour, Paul Goossen, Bob Greggs, Gordon Grief, Trevor Herriot, Irvine Hiebert, George Holland, Stuart Holohan (SHI), Ron Hooper, Brian Horbey, Stuart Houston (SHs), Daryll Hutchinson, Alvaro Jaramillo, Joseph Jehl Jr, Rudolf Koes (RKO), Terry Korolyk, **Robert Kreba** (RKr), Tom Liston, Bob Luterbach, Malcolm & Joan McDonald, Mike McEvoy, Anthony McGeehan, Glenn McMaster, Pat Marklevitz, Jean Moore, R. Pellerin, Curtis Pollock, Myrna Priebe, Daniel Rädström, John Riddell (JRi), Jason Rogers (JRo), Larry Roy, Spencer Sealy (SSE), Stan Shadick (SSH), Ed Shaeffer, Kim Shepherd, **Peter Sherrington**, Doris Silcox, Ian Sinclair, Brent Skidmore, Wayne Smith, John Steeves, Mark Stevenson, Andrew Stiles, Peter Taylor, Richard Thomas, Terry Thormin, Mary Vask, Ben Velner, Adam Walley, Cliff Wallis, Peter Whelan, Reto Zach.

—Rudolf F. Koes, 135 Rossmere Cres., Winnipeg, MB R2K 0G1 and Peter Taylor, Box 597, Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0.

Northern Great Plains

GORDON BERKEY

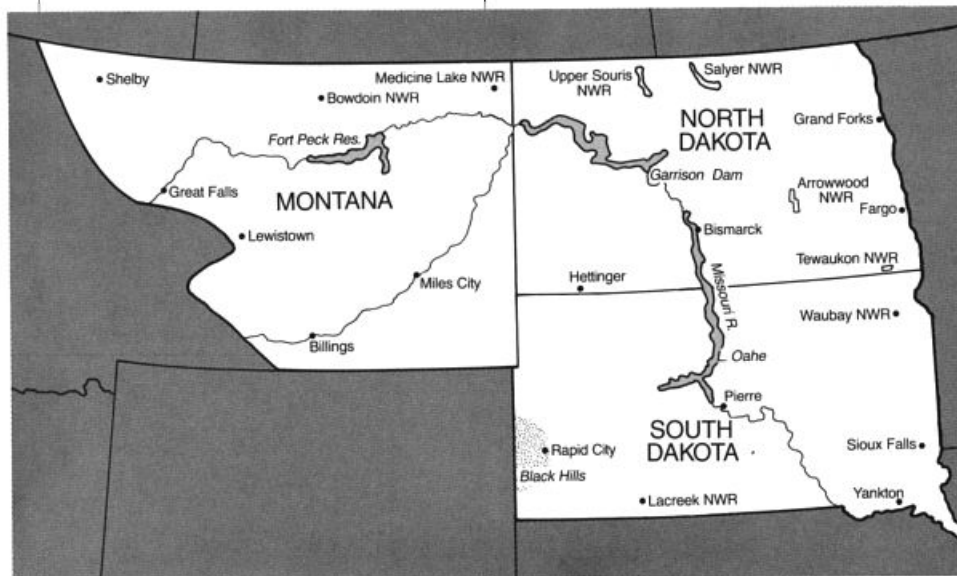
Precipitation was variable and somewhat spotty, with the western portion of the Region quite dry. Overall rainfall was about average in contrast to the previous three wet years. Wetlands in the Dakotas remain in good condition and waterbirds had another banner reproductive season. The recent pattern of cold springs, however, was repeated, and the breeding season was again very late. Additions to state lists included Hooded Warbler and Great-tailed Grackle in Montana and possible Glossy Ibis in North Dakota.

Loon to Rails

Common Loons are now absent from Pickerel and Enemy Swim Lakes, SD, since jet skis have become popular (DS). Breeding grebes continued to rebound from the drought year lows. Pied-billed, Eared, and Western have recovered; Horned is still below its former abundance but is increasing. Among the less common species, Red-necked Grebes nested in *Roberts* and *McPherson*, SD (BKH, JDW) and ≤ 25 Clark's Grebes were in the *aechmophorus* colony at Alkaline L. in s. *Kidder*, ND (KR). Up to six Clark's were present at Bowdoin N.W.R., and they were called "abundant" at Medicine Lake N.W.R., MT (LK). Waders were undoubtedly even more numerous than last sum-

mer. New county confirmations for South Dakota included Great Egret in *McPherson* and *Codington*, Snowy Egret in *Codington*, and Cattle Egret in *McPherson* and *Butte* (JDW, BKH, SW). In addition to the 3 North Dakota Great Egret breeding locations reported in the spring Northern Great Plains report 25 nests were at Grass L., *Richland*, July 7 (RO, RM). Green Heron was confirmed in *Codington* June 1 (JCS), while one s. of Bismarck June 22 (CE) was well w. of the known North Dakota breeding range. A yearling **White Ibis** at Long Lake N.W.R., ND June 14 (PVN, BS, ph.) was the 2nd for the state. A possible **Glossy Ibis** at DeWald Slough in *Kidder*, ND June 15 was observed in difficult light conditions (PSt); there are no previous records in the state. **Trumpeter Swan** (origin?) was confirmed breeding in *Meade*, SD June 13 (EEM). Breeding ducks had another good year in the prairie pothole region. A **White-winged Scoter** at the Grand Forks, ND, lagoons June 15–July 12 (EF) was highly unusual for the season.

A total 22 Cooper's Hawk nests were located at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., ND, with densities at about one pair per square mi in aspen parkland (MN). Cooper's continue to increase and spread to new habitats in North Dakota, and it is no longer a surprise to see them in farming country, where they appear to be adapting to nesting in shelterbelts. A sub-ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Montana's Little Rockies June 16 would be only the 3rd for the state (SD,†). A very early fall migrant Merlin was at Salyer July 9 (EMM). While Gray Partridge are still scarce, there are signs that the population has bottomed out and a slight increase was noted in the Richardton, ND, area (JWH). **Yellow Rail**



may have extended its breeding range farther south, as it was heard at Long L., *Sanborn*, SD June 17–19 (RR) for the first South Dakota report in many years, and at McKenzie Slough in *Burleigh*, ND June 13 (HCT); they were again present in good numbers in North Dakota.

Shorebirds to Cuckoos

A pair of Black-necked Stilts was found in *Edmunds*, SD June 12 and one was seen distracting the next day (MM, DT). A stilt was seen at the Nature Conservancy's John E. Williams Nature Preserve, *McLean*, ND June 26–27 (JL). June shorebird migrants in South Dakota included an early fall Greater Yellowlegs in *Perkins* June 14 (JPS) and a late spring Solitary Sandpiper in *Edmunds* June 9 (JDW). Over 100 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted w. of Oldham, SD July 27 (JP). Rare shorebirds at Bowdoin included a Buff-breasted July 11 and seven Hudsonian Godwits July 29 (SD). A good peak of 165 Spotted Sandpipers was at the Minot, ND, lagoons July 26 (RM).

SA Dinsmore's many interesting shorebird peaks at Bowdoin may be more indicative of a lack of past observations than unusual numbers, as there should normally be good habitat on this large lake in arid country. Good peaks of possible staging breeders were 592 Marbled Godwits July 3, 265 Willets July 11, 408 Am. Avocets July 23, and 191 Long-billed Curlews and 2950 Wilson's Phalaropes July 29. Peaks of migrants included 220 Stilt Sandpipers July 11, 408 Lesser Yellowlegs and 1170 Semipalmated Sandpipers July 18, 27 Sanderlings July 23, 113 Baird's Sandpipers and 285 Red-necked Phalaropes July 23, and 632 Long-billed Dowitchers July 29.

There were more reports of summering Bonaparte's Gull in the Region, including ≥ 23 at Bowdoin. Up to 20 Chimney Swifts were at Ft. Peck, MT, this breeding season (CC). A Barred Owl was reported at Sioux Falls, SD June 1 (AH, †). Seven Long-eared Owl nests were located incidentally during the Cooper's Hawk project at Salyer (MN). As no systematic search was made for this species, it is conceivable that they have a density as high as that of Cooper's! A systematic search of former Burrowing Owl sites in *Divide*, ND, turned up birds at only 4 sites. Ruby-throated Hummingbird was again present in w. North Dakota, with regular observations at Sawyer and a late July bird (possibly a migrant) at Bismarck; a pair was

again present at the west-most location in *McKenzie* (BCH). Black-billed Cuckoo is perhaps our latest breeder to arrive, but the increase in calling about July 1 noted by several observers was 2–4 weeks later than expected; did birds actually arrive this late or did they not become territorial until the weather warmed?

Passerines

A Cordilleran Flycatcher nest with eggs was found in Vanacker Canyon, *Meade*, SD July 3 (EEM). A Carolina Wren sang from the South Dakota side of the Big Sioux R. e. of Canton June 29 (LS, TP, †). A Sprague's Pipit in *Custer*, SD June 1 (MM, TJ) was well s. of the normal breeding range. Several e. warblers were of interest: a Black-throated Blue Warbler was in *Lawrence*, SD June 6 (DGP, †), a singing Prairie Warbler was at Wind Cave N.P. June 24–26 (RP, NW, †), and Montana's first Hooded Warbler posed for a photo on a fence in Marble's yard in Chester, MT June 6. Several Nashville Warblers were again on territory in Jay Wessels W.M.A. in *Pambina*, ND, in mid-June (DL). Bandings of late migrant warblers at Aberdeen included Connecticut June 3 and Mourning June 5 (DT). Dickcissels increased in extreme w. South Dakota and in North Dakota as the good daily total of 18 in *Burleigh* July 17 would attest (HCT). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow also increased. There were several reports from South Dakota, where they are very rare breeders. Six were at Long L., *Sanborn*, SD June 16 (RR) and eight were in *Sheridan*, ND June 7 (RM). Le Conte's Sparrows had another fabulous year, while Baird's were down from the last 2 years, but still in good numbers. Montana was the last state in the Region to record Great-tailed Grackle, but had the dubious distinction of being the first to confirm breeding. A pair observed at Bowdoin June 16–July 18 was seen carrying nesting material (SD, ph). The six Red Crossbills at Mandan June 23 (CE) and nine in *Day*, SD July 2 (DS) were the vanguard of the fine movement that was to occur in the fall. A very late White-winged Crossbill was at Fargo, where they bred this spring, June 4 (TA).

Corrigendum

The White Ibis from South Dakota last summer provided the 4th record for that state, not the first, as stated.

Contributors (state editors in boldface): MONTANA: Charles Carlson, Steve Dinsmore, Layne Krumweide, Harriet Marble. NORTH DAKOTA: Terry

Adams, Gordon Berkey, Corey Ellington, Eve Freeberg, Justin Hoff, Bernice C Houser, David Lambeth, Jennifer Last, Elizabeth M. Madden, Ron Martin, Melvin Nenneman, Robert O'Connor, Kim Risen, Barry Sova, Pedar Svingen, H Clark Talkington, Paul VanNingen
SOUTH DAKOTA: Bruce K. Harris, Augie Hoeger, Todd Jensen, Michael Melius, Ernest E. Miller, Jeffrey Palmer, Thomas Parlman, Richard Peterson, D George Pribbe, Robert Rogers, Lee Schoenewe, Dennis Skadsen, Joe P. Staub, Jerry C. Stanford, Dan Tallman, Sheila West, J David Williams, Nathaniel Whitney.

—Gordon Berkey, Division of Science, Minot State University, Minot, ND 58707.