

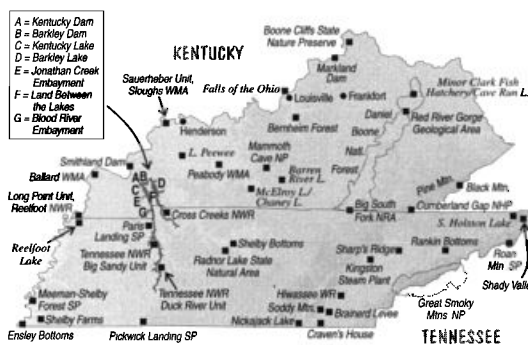
**Cited observers** (subregional coordinators in boldface): Danny Akers, Pam Allen, Reid Allen, Elliott Bedow, John Bissell, Aaron Brees, Dennis Carter, **James Dinsmore**, Stephen Dinsmore, Michael Dooley, Joe Eades, David Easterla, Bruce Ehresman, Bery Engebretsen, Andrew Forbes, Jay Gilliam, Bill Goodge, Rita Goranson, Larry Herbert,

Paul Hertz, Jack Hilsabeck, Bill Huser, Ann Johnson, Matthew Kenne, Steve Kinder, Darwin Koenig, Larry Lade, Jeff Livingston, Charlene Malone, Jim Malone, Nathan Miller, Wolf Oesterreich, Katy Patterson, Shane Patterson, Mark Proescholdt, Dean Rising, Larry Rizzo, Tommy Rogers, Paul Rosien, Bill Rowe, Bill Scheible, Pat Schlar-

baum, Lee Schoenewe, Scott Schuette, Jim Sinclair, Ed Thelen, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Edge Wade, Hank Zaletel. An additional 23 uncited individuals contributed to the report; all have our thanks. ☺

**James J. Dinsmore**, 646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, Florida 32162, (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

## Tennessee & Kentucky



### WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

As has become expected in recent summers, a few ducks—at least some likely injured during the previous winter's hunting season—lingered at White L.; this year's reports included a Gadwall 11 Jun (WGC, KL), a Blue-winged Teal and a Green-winged Teal 14 & 25 Jun (WGC, KL, BL), 3 Northern Shovelers 14 Jun–26 Jul (WGC, KL, BL), and 2-3 Northern Pintails 6-26 Jul

(WGC, KL, BL). Single male Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals summered in *Washington*, TN (*fide* RK); a female Hooded Merganser was there 23 Jun (RK). The Region's only breeding record for Blue-winged Teal during this season was represented by a family group of 5 in *Union*, KY 5 Jul (BPa, JB). A male Blue-winged Teal and a male Ruddy Duck at Cane Creek Park, *Putnam*, TN 28 Jun (SJS) furnished first summer records for that county. Single Ruddies were present at *Lexington*, KY during the first half of Jul (SM) and in *Ballard*, KY 29 Jul (ME).

Single Common Loons turned up in *Letcher*, KY in early Jun (*fide* BPa) and in *Pulaski*, KY in mid-Jul (*fide* SB). Several family groups of Pied-billed Grebes were again present in *Union*, KY this summer (BPa et al.). Four American White Pelicans were rather unusual in *Muhlenberg*, KY 21 Jul+ (DR et al.). A **Brown Pelican** observed flying up the Ohio R. at the Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson* 3 Jun (†TB, MT) will provide Kentucky with its 3rd record if accepted by the Kentucky B.R.C. The discovery of 33 Double-crested Cormorant nests at *Cherokee L.*, *Grainger*, TN 3 Jun (MS) added yet another breeding location for this expanding species; four Great Egret nests in the same colony furnished a first breeding record for that species there as well. Two ad. Anhingas were at White L. 11 Jun, with a juv. there 26 Jul (WGC, KL).

Two Least Bitterns at *Kyker Bottoms*,

*Blount*, TN 15 Jun (CM) were likely breeding, at *Standifer Gap*, 25 nests were located 2-4 Jul (DP), with at least 18 young fledging. Additional reports of Least Bittern included one at *Ensley* 29 Jul (JRW) and one to 2 at single sites in *Muhlenberg* and *Union*, KY (BPa). An American Bittern at *Shady Valley*, *Johnson*, TN 8-12 Jun (RK, WC et al.) was a local first for summer; one in a hayfield in *Jefferson*, KY 17 Jul (BPa) must have been a post-breeding wanderer or early migrant. The species has been reported nesting in the Region only once (1976) since the mid-1940s. Snowy Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Cattle Egrets, and White Ibis were all reported in above-average numbers from e. Tennessee. Fledgling Little Blue Herons were observed at *Woods Res.*, *Franklin*, TN 12 Jul (†JI, D&JS), furnishing an extremely rare breeding record in recent years away from the w. portion of the Region. White L. hosted an exceptional 3 Tricolored Herons 23 Jul (WGC, KL, BL). Small numbers of Snowy Egrets were again present this year at the heronry on n. L. *Barkley*, *Lyon*, KY (ME). The only reports of nesting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Kentucky, where it is a less common breeder than in Tennessee, came from *Lexington* (PD, *fide* JW) and along *Grays Branch*, *Hopkins/Christian* line (BPa). A **Wood Stork** at *Rankin Bottoms*, *Cocke*, TN 30 Jul (RK, MS) furnished one of only a handful of records for e. Tennessee.

A Northern Harrier nest with 5 young in *Hopkins*, KY in early Jun (ph. BPa) represented a first confirmed breeding record for that county. The only extralimital Mississippi Kite in the Region was one at *Lexington*, KY 11 Jun (JB). An ad. female Peregrine Falcon at *Roan Mt.* 11 Jun (FA) was unexpected; at least 2 fledglings were still present at the regular nest site on the railroad bridge below *Chickamauga Dam*, *Hamilton*, TN 13 Jun (HS). In Kentucky, four new nesting sites were discovered, doubling the state's known tally of breeding pairs, all of which occur along the Ohio R. corridor (BV, SV, AS).

### Chris Sloan | Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Weather conditions during the summer season 2006 were relatively normal, although there was some variation across the Region. In general, precipitation was higher (slightly above normal) in the northern portion, but lower (slightly below to below normal) in the southern and eastern portions. Temperatures were relatively consistent across the Region, with slightly cooler-than-normal readings in the northern portion in June but warmer-than-normal readings Regionwide during July. Rarity highlights in the Region included a Brown Pelican, several White Ibis, and a Ruff. Nesting Least Terns experienced mixed results, with low water conditions on the Mississippi River resulting in relatively good success, while small rises on the lower Ohio River (where nesting sites are not as high above normal water level) caused much failure in early nestings there.

**Abbreviations:** Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. *Shelby*, TN); Heritage Marsh (*White*, TN); Kentucky Dam (at the n. end of Kentucky L., *Livingston/Marshall*, KY); Lake No. 9 (*Fulton*, KY); Roan Mt. (*Carter*, TN); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN); White L. (White L. W.M.A., *Dyer*, TN).

## RAILS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

An apparently window-killed King Rail in Knoxville, TN 5 Jun (KDE) was a rare find for e Tennessee. No Virginia Rails were found at Standifer Gap (DP et al.), where the species has been a regular breeder in recent years. Two Virginias were at Shady Valley, Johnson, TN, where they have bred previously, through the season (RC, BSt); on the other hand, up to 4 Soras there 26 May–8 Jun (TM, WC, RK et al.) furnished the first local summer record; breeding was presumed but not confirmed. A Common Moorhen was at Kyker Bottoms, Blount, TN 10 Jun (RH); 11 ads. were present near Morganfield, Union, KY 20 Jun, with at least one family group present there 5 Jul (BPa).

As is the norm, a few presumed north-bound shorebirds lingered later than normal and included a Lesser Yellowlegs and a Least Sandpiper in w. Fulton, KY 3 Jun (HC, ME) and 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Ensley through 10 Jun (JRW), plus one in Pulaski, KY through 12 Jun (RD). Unusually early returning fall shorebirds included 2 American Golden-Plovers in Union, KY 20 Jun (ph. BPa); a Lesser Yellowlegs 24 Jun and 2 Greater 4 Jul at Ensley (JRW); single Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers at Island 13, Lake, TN 25 Jun (WGC, KL, BL); a Semipalmated and 2 Western Sandpipers at Ensley 8 Jul (JRW); a Long-billed Dowitcher in Pulaski, KY 29 Jul (ph. RD); and a Wilson's Phalarope at Lake No. 9 on 27 Jul (DR). A Solitary Sandpiper at White L. 14 Jun (WGC) was in between extreme late spring and early fall dates for the species. A few ad. Sanderlings passed through the Region in late Jul. Relatively impressive was an early-season count of 250 Pectoral Sandpipers at Lake No. 9 on 27 Jul (DR, HC). The shorebird of the season was a Ruff molting out of alternate plumage at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan, KY 8 Jul (MG, ph. LH et al.).

An impressive 1300 Ring-billed Gulls had returned to the Kentucky Dam vicinity by 28 Jul (DR). Three Caspian Terns were still at Kentucky Dam 3 Jun (BPa), with one on the Ohio R., McCracken, KY 24 Jun (BPa, JB, GB). It was a good year for nesting Least Terns on the Mississippi R.; although low water levels allowed for some access by ATVs and canine predators, mid-season nesting surveys suggested much success (KJ, RR et al.). Most sites on the lower Ohio R. were inundated by a rise in the river during early Jul, but later nesting efforts were more successful (JB, GB). Sixty Black Terns at Mud 1., Shelby, TN 29 Jul (JRW) was a noteworthy high count for that early in the season.

A count of 3 Black-billed Cuckoos at Fish-

trap Lake W.M.A., Pike 9 Jun (SF) was the only report for Kentucky. An ad. male Rufous Hummingbird was present at Corbin, Knox, KY 28 Jul (JP), in the same yard where an ad. male was present the previous winter; unfortunately, the bird was not seen again.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A singing Least Flycatcher in Pulaski, KY 1 Jun (RD) was likely a tardy migrant. Single Willow Flycatchers at Heritage Marsh 24 Jun (SJS, DD) and in Jackson, TN 29 Jun (SJS, BHS) were noteworthy for the Upper Cumberland region. Four Western Kingbird nests were found in Memphis during the period



This Northern Harrier nest (8 June 2006) represented a first breeding record for Hopkins County, Kentucky. The species is locally distributed as a breeder in the western-central part of the state, mostly on reclaimed mine land. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

(JRW). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nested again at their regular breeding locations in Marion and Bledsoe, TN, and in Livingston and Lyon, KY; a pair on President's I., Shelby, TN had 3 fledglings 8 Jul (JRW). Bell's Vireo nests in Christian, Livingston, and Union, KY (BPa) represented the first confirmed breeding records for those counties.

At least one and possibly 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches along the Obed Wild and Scenic R., Morgan, TN 4 & 10 Jun (BHS) and one heard in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Fentress, TN 14 Jun (SJS) were all in suitable breeding habitat and represented the first reports in summer for the respective counties. One Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed at the traditional Wolfe, KY breeding location 11 Jun (FR, VR). Two singing Sedge Wrens were at Heritage Marsh, where breeding has been previously

confirmed, 22 (SJS, DD) & 27 Jul (SJS, SGS); small numbers of likely breeding birds were reported in Fulton, Henderson, Hopkins, Jessamine, and Ohio, KY (m.ob.). Quite unusual was the observation of the use by Eastern Bluebirds of an abandoned American Robin nest on a drainpipe under the eave of a home in Calloway, KY (KCo). A singing Swainson's Thrush lingered at Frankfort, KY through 4 Jun (BPa). Up to 4 singing Hermit Thrushes were at Roan Mt. through the season; 2 at Roger's Ridge, Johnson, TN 16 Jun (JMC) established a new possible breeding location. Up to 3 singing Magnolia Warblers and a singing Yellow-rumped Warbler were also at Roan Mt. through Jun (RK et al.). A tardy Blackburnian Warbler was still in se. Jefferson, KY 3 Jun (EH). Quite remarkable was a male Northern Waterthrush banded at Clarks River N.W.R., Marshall, KY 30 Jun (ph. HC). A tardy Connecticut Warbler was seen in w. Fulton, KY 3 Jun (HC).

At least 6 singing male Savannah Sparrows were in Washington, TN, where they have bred previously, through the season (RK et al.). A Lark Sparrow in Rutherford, TN 14 Jun (SC, GC) and 2 in Henry, TN 26 Jun (MT) were in traditional breeding areas; the only one reported in Kentucky was at Lake No. 9 on 27 Jul (DR). Henslow's Sparrows continue to increase in Tennessee; 43 singing males were at Bark Camp Barrens W.M.A., Coffee 1 Jun (SC). Several new breeding colonies were reported in Tennessee: up to 3 birds in Lewis 10-19 Jun (BPu, SN, CR); at least 5 birds in DeKalb 27 Jun–1 Jul (SJS, CW, MH, JF), although that field was mowed 4 Jul (CW); and at least 80 singing males e. of Mayland, Cumberland, during Jul (SJS, JMa, EL). In Kentucky, new colonies of Henslow's Sparrows were located in Boyd, Christian, Hopkins, Jessamine, and Todd (m. ob.). Again this summer, up to 2 White-throated Sparrows lingered in Jefferson, KY into Jun, with at least one still present 17 Jul (BW). Three male and 2 female Bobolinks were in Washington, TN 15 May–7 Jul (DH, RK); the species has been present there for five summers, and nesting is suspected but has yet to be confirmed. In Kentucky, small breeding colonies were documented in n. Jessamine (JL), nw. Mercer (KD), and n. Shelby (BSm).

Cited contributors (subregional editors in boldface): Fred Alsop, Steve Beam, Tom Becker, John Brunjes, Gerald Burnett, Kevin Calhoun (se. Tennessee), Phillip Casteel (middle Tennessee), Hap Chambers, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Wallace Coffey, Kathy Cohen (KCo), W. Glen Criswell, Rack Cross, Phyllis Deal; Roseanna Denton, Kurt Dor-

man, Douglas Downs, Melissa Easley, K. Dean Edwards, Janie Finch, Scott Freidhof, Mike Griffith, Michael Hawkins, Lana Hays, Ron Hoff, Don Holt, Eddie Huber, Jerry Ingles, Rachel Jenkins, Kenneth Jones, Rick Knight (e. Tennessee), Joe Lacefield, Betty Leggett, Ken Leggett, Edmund LeGrand, Scott Marsh, Joseph Mast (JMa), Joe McGuinness (JMc), Tom McNeil, Charlie Muise, Shane Newbold, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPa), David Patter-

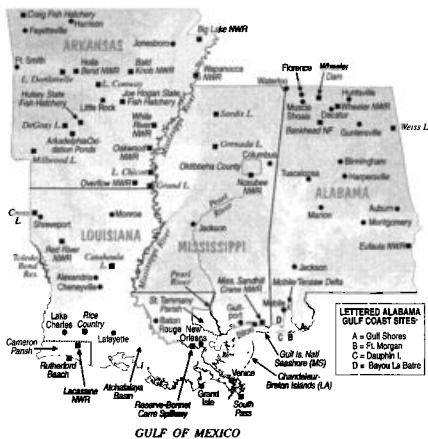
son, W. Rob Peeples (w. Tennessee), June Perkins, Bill Pulliam (BPu), Frank Renfrow, Veronica Renfrow, Rochelle Renken, David Roemer, Cynthia Rohrbach, Harold Sharp, Michael Sledjeski, Adam Smith, Brian Smith (BSm), Scott G. Somershoe, Barbara H. Stedman (BHS), Stephen J. Stedman, Bryan Stevens (BSt), Dale & Jean Swant, Mark Trabue; Budd Veverka, Shawchyi Vorisek, Carol Williams, Jim Williams (JWi), Jeff R. Wilson,

Barbara Woerner. Many thanks go to the numerous additional individuals who contributed information that was used in this report. ☺

**Chris Sloan**, 224 Hicks Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37221, (chris.sloan@comcast.net);

**Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.**, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, (brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov)

## Central Southern



### Robert D. Purrington

**D**ominating all other issues this breeding season, especially along the Gulf coast, was the question of survival of resident landbirds in areas devastated by Hurricanes *Katrina* and *Rita* in 2005. Anecdotal reports uniformly decried the paucity of such species as Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Cardinal, and other passerines, though hard data have been difficult to come by. Christie Riehl observed that cavity nesters were especially hard hit and noted, as others have, that Loggerhead Shrike numbers seem to have taken a dive. Last winter's Christmas Bird Counts have provided much of the actual data, which have been analyzed by Peter Yaukey. Although his summer transects in New Orleans have not yet been fully processed, he suggested that while the breeding season started with many species at very low levels, reproductive success seemed to be high.

Ned Boyajian (writing in the Mississippi Ornithological Society newsletter) described the effect on breeding birds of a small woodland in coastal Hancock County, Mississippi, where

the number of nesting species dropped after *Katrina* to 13 from 30 or more, and from 180 to 22 breeding pairs. Although his impression was that permanent residents suffered more than summer residents, as one would expect, the data did not bear this out. Common Grackles and European Starlings seemed to benefit from the fragmented conditions.

As if the hurricanes were not a sufficient blow, much of the Region suffered from prolonged drought conditions immediately following the departure of last summer's storms. The drought persisted through August 2006, leaving New Orleans as much as 51 cm below normal precipitation by late summer. Although the normal subtropical rainfall patterns resumed in July and August along the coast, the drought can be assumed to have affected breeding in the spring and early summer, and water levels were very low in non-tidal areas.

Louisiana's Chandeleur Islands were cut to ribbons by *Katrina*, and islands like Curlew and Grand Gosier that usually host huge Royal and Sandwich Tern colonies were reduced to shoals or worse. Some of the birds had moved to spoil islands near the mouth of Baptiste Collette Bayou in Plaquemines Parish. Michael Carloss of the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission reported that there was no nesting habitat left on the Chandeleurs, with the entire beach rim being gone, but that was under storm tide conditions. Richard DeMay of Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program said that "not much of the chain was above water," but that North Breton Island had 2625 pairs of Sandwich Terns, 350 pairs of Royal Terns, and 525 pairs of Gull-billed Terns. North Island in the Chandeleurs had 450 pairs of Sandwich Terns, and Bird Island, near Baptiste Collette, had 1900 pairs of Sandwich Terns. The good news, if there is any, is that after the devastating Hurricane *Camille* in 1969, which also washed away the

islands, birds were back nesting on Curlew and Gosier by 1973 or 1974—though *Katrina*'s effects seem considerably worse.

This is the final column to countenance bird records across the mega-region called the "Central Southern," which a decade ago included western Florida and most of Tennessee, in addition to the current four states. In subsequent issues of this journal, bird records from this area will be further divided into two-state regions, "Alabama & Mississippi" and "Louisiana & Arkansas." (Please refer to the Editor's Notebook in this issue for information on new Regional Editors.) It has been a pleasure to edit this column in one form or another for nearly 40 years, and for *North American Birds*, along with my colleagues Phillip Wallace and Bob and Lucy Duncan, for the past six years. We will continue to work with new and returning veteran Regional Editors—Steve Cardiff (Louisiana & Arkansas) and Dwight Cooley, Greg Jackson, and Steve McConnell (Alabama & Mississippi)—and want to thank the many contributors of bird records for their hard work and generosity. Your contributions have made our task in composing this column most enjoyable.

### WATERFOWL THROUGH STORK

The eastward and northward range expansion of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck continues unabated, as evidenced by seven reports from cen. and se. Louisiana and one from Arkansas. They bred again on Bayou Sauvage N.W.R. in New Orleans (PW); there were 44 ads. with 19 young in the McElroy Swamp near Sorrento, LA 19 Jul (JH); 2 were seen in lower *Plaquemines*, LA 24 Jul (DLD,PC); and 2 in *Sevier*, AR 17 Jun (DA) were the first for that area. Three Snow Geese 16 Jun in *Lee*, AL (BKF) were unusual, as was one 29 Jun in *Sunflower*, MS; a Ross's Goose was at the latter location as well (both SJD). There were four reports of nesting